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Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a permanent employee, working as a Registered Nurse/Midwife, currently earning around 38.00 per hour.

I am a 40 year career registered nurse midwife who is the primary wage earner for my family. I have a mortgage, I have just completed a PhD.

If penalty rates were abolished... nurses wouldn't earn enough money to live on. Today, nurses are already paid less than some casual check out operators for a foreign grocery store. No nurse would work weekends giving up family time, social time with friends without appropriate remuneration.

There is already a global nurse shortage. To pay less to those who are already poorly paid will guarantee there will be not enough nurses in our hospitals. That means

people will die.

It is irrelevant whether the weekends are important or not. People work weekends because of financial necessity - not choice.

The abolition of weekend penalty rates again reinforces the lack of connection between this government and those of us who live from week to week.

I give up time with my family and my new grandbabies because I need to keep the bank away from my door and put food on the table.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. This state is already taxed to breaking point. Weekend penalty rates are not a luxury, they make up part of the everyday salary.

Weekend penalty rates are compensation for working antisocial hours. When you work weekends, you give up your kids sports matches, weddings and Christmas.

Taking penalty rates away is just an act of mean spiritedness and yet another ludicrious cash grab by the incompetent O'Farrell government.

Submitted by
Kathrine Grover
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