

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

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

I am a permanent employee, working as a nurses union organiser, currently earning around 47 per hour.

I am a worker who listens all day to people talking about their personal financial situations.

If penalty rates were abolished... many nurses working in small aged care facilities would lose their penalty rates - they are often single mum's with great responsibilities who work the weekends or night shifts just to earn enough to survive.

My weekends are important to all workers so that they can see their kids participate in sport - meet with friends or take care of parents.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates for those on already very low incomes - small business owners should look at their own business practices before blaming the cost of staff for their own ineptness and poor management. A good product will always do well - trying to do it on the cheap just causes misery.

Submitted by

karen sheridan

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