Kathryn Powell

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PO Box 6100

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 Registered Nurse, currently earning around $42 per hour.

I have a morgage, and for several year mine was the only income. I enjoy nursing. I have been nursing for 37 years. When I get out of bed in the morning my body tells me, what a toll those 37 years have had. It has been had heavy work. And has been proven, that shift workers have a shorter life expecidency.

If penalty rates were abolished, count me in as one of the many hundreds, who will only work Monday - Friday. Will have to sell my house and most likely go and live in my tent I use for camping. I have not had a holiday for over five years, so without the penalties that would be less likely.

My weekends are important to me because, as I would be able to do all the things that "normal" people do, go to sport, fairs, etc that are always on on the weekends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates, as we work darn hard for them and deserve them in return for what we give up. Also to be able to maintain my current life style, at least. We struggle enough as it is.

Submitted by
Kathryn Powell
Friday 28th of September 2012