Thomas Swift

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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, currently earning around $38 per hour.

I have worked full time since registering in 1994.This has included working a seven day rotating roster & includes all shifts on every day of the year including all public holidays which other workers get to have off with their families-quite a sacrifice I think.Would Mr O'Farrell be prepared to make this sort of comittent to patient care?

If penalty rates were abolished my partner & I would have our incomes reduced significantly. As we are both aged 57 we are concerned that our ability to retire comfortably will be compromised which politicians do not have to be concerned about. Why should we be penalised like this?

My weekends are important to me because it allows people to do the things people do-live a social life which once was held up as a right ALL Australians. Workers who give up this right should & must continue to be adequately compensated.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Nursing is under considerable stress to maintain existing experienced staff & attract new staff to commit to this profession. In an aging population experienced staff will be vital to meet this need that Australians expect & deserve.

Submitted by
Thomas Swift
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