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Committee Secretary

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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 health services manager, currently earning around 42 per hour.

I raised a family as a single mother, no child support. I put myself through university with the support of my teenagers at the time. I have worked hard to get to my position. While I was studying fulltime I had to earn an income to support my family. I worked casually and got penalty rates which meant my family could eat healthy foods during that time. It also meant that I could afford to work fewer hours so that I could be there for them. My daughter works in hospitality and has a young family and my son is in the police force. I would hate to think that they commit to the hours expected and make the family sacrifices without adequate recompence.

If penalty rates were abolished...

this would affect my family, as mentioned above.

My weekends are important to me because...
It is the only time I get to spend time with my family and when my children work the weekends it impacts on the whole family.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.
Keep the families together. Our society is becoming more and more me oriented and devaluing this time would only contribute to this. Bring the family back together and recongnise the importance of this time together. We need our social supports and connectedness to ensure our wellbeing. The Government is the place to start to ensure we have a culture that values these human needs.

Submitted by
Kim Grundy
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