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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 midwife, currently earning around 31 per hour.

I am a midwife, and I have a family with 2 little boys. My partner is a tradie that works 6 days a week. With little family support, I work part time and weekends occasionally. We only just pay the bills. I am glad of the flexible hours and the penalties are helpful but the extra money and its fair to the other staff, is the only reason I would work weekends and nights.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would not want to work weekends or nights at all. My husband is only available Sundays and I don't wish to be rostered on at this time. Night duty is very taxing for a "hands on mum" Everyone hates nights, but you have to do them!

My weekends are important to me because...my kids play sports and I love to watch them, family get togethers are always on weekends. I have attended maybe 2 new years parties since I was 18 and have missed many a Christmas day! Much to my protests!!!

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Somebody has to work during these anti social hours. I would not work weekends unless i was made to. I also recall being a student, needing the weekends and late shifts to support my studies. The industry already takes advantage of this.

Submitted by
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