

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 \$32 per hour.

I am a mother of 2 children, have a mortgage and also doing full time studies in order to try to get out of nursing and into a job of my dreams

If penalty rates were abolished I would lose several hundred dollars per fortnight which would mean our mortgage would go backwards as we live off my income and use my husband's to pay our mortgage. We are considered low income earners when we do our tax and losing my penalties would put the whole family under severe financial hardship

My weekends are important to me because this is the time I spend working to support

my family. This allows me to be home with the children during the week and also attend university to change my career to something I can cope with instead of a job with severe strain

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.

It is not just myself who would be affected. There are many mothers who are nurses who work weekends to help make ends meet when their husbands/partners are home to care for their children. It is often the only way to cope without paying huge fees in childcare which can cripple family budgets. Give us shift workers and those who give up their weekends to work a fair go. Not everybody works a weekend so those who do should be fairly compensated with their penalties.

Submitted by

Elizabeth Horsburgh

Wednesday 26th of September 2012