

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 nurse, currently earning around 33.00 per hour.

I have a mortgage which will take another 15 years to finish paying. I work alternate weekends & public holidays.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would earn much less & would have to work for longer to pay my bills. My penalties afford me the extra funds to have on standby for the big bills & unexpected costs as all utilities rise etc. I am making this submission as I believe that all workers have the right to penalty rates, now & for the future generations. It compensates for the services provided in what is normally accepted as family & home time.

My weekends are important to me because...

When I am off work on a weekend I am able to catch up with my family, or do simple social activities with friends. I like to attend local community functions, outdoor activities etc

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. As a nurse, I would reconsider my work/job, because if I was not receiving the extra penalties then my income would drop drastically. I would not work weeknds without the penalties. Already there is a shortage of nurses in the workforce.

Submitted by

Sorell Masters

Saturday 29th of September 2012