

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 \$37 per hour.

I am a permanent part-time employee, working as a registered nurse, currently earning around \$37-\$38 per hour.

I am currently the only working member in our marriage, as my husband has a form of leukaemia. Not an aggressive leukaemia, but it makes him tired and he is often unwell. We are a middle-aged couple, so have some savings, but not enough superannuation to be able to retire, as super was non-existent in our earlier working years.

If penalty rates were abolished, I would have to work full time in order for us to survive.

This would necessitate my husband being hospitalised at times, as I would be unable to care for him at home, being at work every day for the full working day.

Hospitalisation every time my husband is unwell, would cost the government a considerable amount of money on an ongoing and recurring basis. Currently I don't receive a carer's pension, we manage ourselves and occasionally he works, when he is able and well enough, within his health limitations. If I didn't work full time, I would certainly apply for the carer's pension, as I would need the extra money to survive. There is no guarantee from one day to the next, whether he is well, or whether I have to be caring for him.

My weekends are important to me because that is when we are able to travel to visit family and grandchildren, who do not live in our town. Week days they would be at work and school, so there would be no point travelling to visit them. There have been many, many times when I have been unable to attend events, both chosen or family events, due to being rostered to work weekends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I will most certainly looking for a nine to five weekday job if penalty rates are removed, or will consider being unemployed and taking up the carer's pension, together with any other subsidies, benefits, or contributions that may be available in our situation.

Submitted by

Isobel Brown

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