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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 RN, currently earning around 30 per hour.

I am a full-time working mum, with 4 children and a mortgage. I am also studying part-time.

If penalty rates were abolished...
It certainly wouldn't be worth doing shift work or working weekends. My family is penalised for me being a shift worker, my husband and children go without me due to my shift work. Not to mention I don't get to enjoy weekends or evenings with my family, like a regular 9 to 5 Mon-Fri employee. Then there are the negative repercussions on my health due to working shifts, my body clock and functioning is negatively affected especially by night shift (and the measily penalty rates we currently receive certainly don't compensate for this).

My weekends are important to me because...
I regularly miss out on family time, special events and my childrens sporting events due to being a shift worker. My family time is negatively affected due to my shift work. Having to juggle shift work and my personal commitments currently is not compensated by the penalty rates we receive. It certainly wouldn't be worth being a shift worker without our shift penalties.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Does the committee work 24/7? Respect what shift workers maintain for society, and what we go without. WITHOUT PENALTY RATES, shift work would certainly not be worth doing.

Submitted by
Kayleen O\'Reilly
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