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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 28 per hour.

I have worked as an RN for about a year and a half. I have my HECS and also personal loans to cover my study years.

If penalty rates were abolished, there wouldn't be many people willing to work weekend shifts.
A lot of people will switch to working casual so that they could elect not to work weekends. I am one of them.

My weekends are important to me because I am a fully committed practising Catholic, and working on Sunday is not something I relish. But the penalty rates compensate a little for having to work on a Sabbath (as well as it being a corporal act of mercy).

On top of that, that is also the time I get to spend in fellowship with my friends and socialize. As with some shifts, especially PM shifts, you won't get time to catch up with friends. Even now, I hardly see my housemates being that I'm at work when they're at home and when I'm at home, they're at work.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Because there is no benefit at all to abolishing it. It's actually disappointing that powers-to-be are so myopic in their vision that they even considered getting rid of penalty rates.

Submitted by
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