Pavla Munclinger

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 employee, working as a Registered Nurse, currently earning around $39 per hour.

I have a husband with a disability which affects his ability to earn a living although he does the best he can. I have 3 children, one still at primary school, one at university and one living at home to help save money for her own morgage. Therefore my income supports this family and we make ends meet. I don't earn enough money to buy my own house and therefore I rent on the private market. However, we don't take welfare from the government , eg disability pension, as we try to support ourselves.

The abolishion of penalty rates is an outrage, if I worked on weekends, I would expect to be appropriately renumerated for giving up the most important things in my life - ie. time spent with my family and friends. My life would be much more financilly

comfortable if I worked weekends with penalty rates and I would consider this when my children leave home. I would definitely not work weekends if there were no penalty rates attached to this. It is disgusting that this is being proposed and the people who will again suffer the most are the people on the lowest incomes who can't afford to say NO to weekend work and are taken away from their families.

My weekends are important to me because... I currently choose not to do weekend work as I want to spend time with my children when they are not at school (this is important for family life and the positive future of my children and therefore indirectly for the future of our society).
I volunteer my time at the local netball association each Saturday. Our friends and extended family vist on weekends and we catch up with them over shared meals. As a nurse I have done my fair share of weekend work in the past and it interferes significantly with family and social life, which has a direct impact on mental health. I did this work as it was essential to patient care, however expect to be paid appropriately for this contribution and sacrifice I made and may make in the future.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Please do not even consider passing Mr. Xenophon's draconian and discriminatory bill.
I have owned my own resturant and understand how difficult it is to run a small business, especially with the staff wages, however I don't think that making the "poor people poorer" is the solution to the problem.

Submitted by
Pavla Munclinger
Tuesday 2nd of October 2012