

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 casual employee, working as a Rn, currently earning around 40 per hour.

Recent emigrant

No family to help with three children

Work at weekends because husband works during the week

If penalty rates were abolished... My weekly wage would be reduced to a critical level as I am only able to work the weekends-hence mortgage payments and general living expenses would be in serious troubles.

As a young working family it seems extremely unfair that as a result of this poor decision we would be forced to put our children into childcare just to work to pay the bills and make up the shortfall that this ruling would result in.

Family time is so important while the children are young and we are working and not claiming government benefits and trying to live honestly. However faced with the decision of having to work increased days I feel the number of nurses choosing to leave the profession and be stay at home mums would increase-hence increasing the drain on government benefits.

My weekends are important to me because. That is the only time I can work.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. In order that I can remain in the nursing profession as without weekend rates I am extremely unsure whether I would continue with work and as a casual I am aware of the shortage of nurses and the number of nurses who would leave the profession also so if you don't want patient care to suffer do the right thing. We are payed bad enough guys!!

Submitted by

Karen Eddie

Sunday 30th of September 2012