Kate Stewart

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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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 Registered Nurse, currently earning around 33.00 per hour.

In 5th year of my nursing career, quite enthusiastic about nursing and keen to become an educator in the future. I have a personal loan and am currently saving to purchase my first home. I live with my boyfriend whom is a bar manager.

If penalty rates were abolished... I wouldn't work on the weekends! I am reliant on penalty rates to pay off debts and save for a home. I currently work on a medical ward where I am rostered 24/7 on a rotating basis. The weekend/night/afternoon penalties enhance my pay significantly, by about $450 dollars per fortnight.

My weekends are important to me because... The rest of my social group, family and

friends work during the week and socialise on weekends.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. A sure fire way to make weekends matter again, and lets face it, as aussies we LOVE our weekends, would be to abolish penalty rates for weekend work. No one would want to work weekends, we'd all be requesting to work monday to friday day shifts. Are we really a 24/7 society now? In my local area, the shops are shut on sundays, only open half the day on saturadays and I'm pretty sure schools operate from monday to friday. Get real Xenophon. Or better yet, I invite you to do some weekend work with me and see how you like working on the weekends with less medical/imaging/pathology/management support.

Submitted by
Kate Stewart
Tuesday 25th of September 2012