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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 Nepean Hospital, currently earning around 25.00 per hour.

I am a endorsed enrolled nurse, currently on work cover. Many a time I had worked weekends and public holidays like Christmas and Easter Weekends and Public Holidays. There were times especially when the children were small I would go days without seeing them as the hours I worked were not compatible to their school hours, especially if I have had to work a double shift then having an early in the morning. Other times I had done call for theatres and every night I would be called in, that is on top of a 7am start every morning. I also have a mortgage and other bills that require big payments, the mortgage is $600:00 per week. Now I am work cover I do not receive any extra rates, I get to spend time with my family. But when my kids were young, I didn't get to see their face when santa had been, this alone is not a happy

memory of family growing up, but I was paid for it, take that away from these services and it is not worth working weekends or public holidays.

If penalty rates were abolished...
I would find it hard to afford a holiday.

My weekends are important to me because...
Family life, I may travel to see my kids and grandkids. A "Normal Life" much like what the politicians have, only we only get up to 3% pay rise and they get 30%. I am not a communist but I do think the government need to take a good hard look at Emergency places incomes and what they have to contend with and their wages and what they have to contend with.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.
Unless there is penalty rates those People who are expected to look after the sick and impaired will be the families of the patients, There will be no worth to be a nurse, we already have heavy workloads and high expectations put on us by governing officials and hierarchy of the hospitals, constantly cutting back and staff are not getting replaced in administrative roles.

Submitted by
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