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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 , currently earning around 39.97 per hour.

I am married, no children yet, I am currently studying towards achieving my Masters degree In Nursing And we Pay mortgage on our small appartment as we cannot afford to live In a house. Mortgage bites around 60% of my Pay And can be hard to afford studies. I chose Nursing because I feel is great to be Able to live out of caring for others. However, even though my pay is much less than what I deserve by caring for lives and I do need to study And live as we wished, weekend penalties do not make up for the low pay, but surely make a difference as it is not a highly paid job.

If penalty rates were abolished... Professions such as nursing which already face shortage Will certainly Be In crisis And the exit from hospital settings Would certainly increase as penalties not just help us to have better control over our low Pay, but

rewards for weekends away from family, nights out of home And awake. With all the Health consequences relates to shift Work, shift workers should be compensated for increased Health risks such as cÃ¢ncer, anxiety, obesity, depression And lack of social life

My weekends are important to me because... It is the time to spend With my Husband And Anyone who respects family Would understand it. Numerous times I have missed out on friends birthdays And other importante social events because of my job And do not have penalties for being Doing my job properly Seems cruel to me.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. As people Work shift Work And weekends not because they like to but because there is a real need for it In the system or because they need the penalty to make up for their pay. And considering all the impact on social life And Health, penalties should never be extincted. I believe Anyone who ever needed to leave their homes And families on weekends to Work or earn the extra money to complement their wage Would know that! However Someone who never Had to do it, Would never know it!

Submitted by
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