

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 permanent employee, working as a Registered Nurse, currently earning around \$40 per hour.

I have 3 grown children and a grand child, all of whom I help financially on a regular basis. Whether that be to help pay for trips to the dentist, groceries, and child care fees. All of them work, however their pay/s do not cover all of their expenses. I also have financial commitments, a mortgage, rates, insurance, electricity, food etc.

If penalty rates were abolished... I would have to declare bankruptcy. There is no way that I could meet my financial commitments of my own, nor help my family out, if it were not for the penalty rates which I earn each week.

My weekends are important to me because... it is the only time that I get to see any of

my children, my grand child, to share a meal with them, attend sporting events, shop and generally to be part of their lives. However, I can only do these things on a Saturday, because I work each and every Sunday, so that I can afford to live, to meet my financial commitments and to help them with their bills too.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I personally know and have canvassed small business' in my area. Whilst they acknowledge that penalty rates are an extra expense for their business they ALL stated to me that they understand that their staff COULD NOT pay their bills if it weren't for penalty rates in the pay/s. NOR COULD I. This proposal is anti social, subversive and a blatant greedy profit grab by an out of touch right wing government. IT WILL NOT STAND! If you want to GUARANTEE losses in both houses at the next election.... pass it. If not, DON'T. It's that simple.

Submitted by

Mark Huxstep

Wednesday 26th of September 2012