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 Clinical nurse, currently earning around 40.00 per hour.

Family 3 kids and married. House mortgage and car loan. 1 child in school

If penalty rates were abolished... I would have to move closer to work to afford fuel, take my child out of curre nt school. Possibly look for another job. My wife would have to return to work sooner after the birth of our child.

My weekends are important to me because...I get 1 or 2 weekends off a month to spend time with my children and own family. I have missed countless events including Christmas, Easter, birthdays, anniversaries, sports events, concerts, school events and

many more. Hospitals are 24 hrs and I have put work before many of these events and should be compensated.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. There is more to society than productivity. People deserve to be compensated for working extended hours, weekends and public holidays. The Australian lifestyle is encouraged,advertised, idolised however the Australian lifestyle has never been fully achieved by those who have to work Australia day, Christmas day, weekends in summer or long weekends throughout the year. I and others deserve to be compensated for missing these events and working around the clock to provide vital services. Otherwise it would be a shame to have no staff wanting to work extended hours in a hospital on a weekend when you have something wrong with your family. Think about getting rid of working the weekends instead.

Submitted by
Adam Bennett
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