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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 EEN, currently earning around 26.70 per hour.

I have a family and a mortgage and rely on my wage to pay for everything. I work weekends to help make ends meet. What a disgrace to even think about ceasing these penalty rates.

If penalty rates were abolished, I believe their will be huge gaps in Patient care. Nurses on the weekends manage the ward with only limited Dr coverage or by phone contact. Pt Care and Safety will be compromised. I personally would not put my hand up to work w/end shifts in this case.

My weekends are important to me because I am a Mother and have many activities to

attend for the family. I feel Patient's deserve a high level of nursing care at all times. Staffing of wards will be a nightmare if penalty rates were abolished.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates.
Value Nurses and their contibution to Patient care. Pay nurses fairly for their work.
Abolishing penalty rates devalues Nurses & will impact on Patient safety & care.
Nurses need support in their increasing demaning role - not taking away a pay rate that they have worked so hard for !!!

Submitted by
MELISSA DIXON
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