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 casual employee, working as a Reg Nurse, currently earning around $40,000 per year.

Reg Nurse for 44 years Neither of the above now.
When I was working in the community Monday to 0830 to 1700 hrs shift. For 17 years. It is was a struggle to pay the mortage,rates, electricity , town water when the tank ran dry.I had to do overtime with penalty rates that got me through.
Which meant working 5 hours extra doing escort duty in a car with another nurse transporting psychiatric pts from Glen Innes to Tamworth then having to turn up to work at 0830 the next day.

You do shift work and tell me how you feel ?.
I do not do night duty any more as I cannot sleep during the day,.

I have 44 years of working as a nurse and I can tell you I wouldnt have done it if it wasent for the penalty rates.
From Psy Units to Community to Aged Care and Developmentally Disorder.

Every day off is important to me.
Too many to count

You may think it is alright to be paided by me as a politician and not get penalty rates .
You as a politican might have to work the weekend and not get paid for it.
But you have never had a real job worked as hard as Nurses do. I am now worn out from the long shifts the demands of the pts , being threatened and attacked by them which is happening in my present situation.
So yes the extra pay helps me a lot so I can at least enjoy the my retirment in peace and security

Submitted by
Bob Innis
Friday 14th of September 2012