

# 4 Day Week Australia



**Better Ways, Better Days**

## **ACT makes moves to a four-day week: recommending trial for public service**

14 September 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Committee of the ACT Legislative Assembly, tasked with considering the future of the working week, has recommended a trial in the ACT for a reduced time four-day work week, with no loss in pay or conditions. This trial has been recommended to include the ACT public service, with the option for private organisations to join.

This report is now sitting with the ACT Government to respond to by the end of the year.

4 Day Week Australia welcomes this result and was grateful to contribute to this Committee through providing evidence. We now ask that the ACT Government agree to this report and commit to set a trial date.

"We call on the ACT Government to agree to the report recommendations and commit to a four-day week trial. The evidence of the benefits of a four-day week is sound. Community survey results from Canberrans showed 86% of respondents support a four-day work week. ACT Labor also recently voted to endorse a four-day week as a party policy." said Alyssa Shaw, Campaign Co-Director of 4 Day Week Australia.

This is the second major finding on the four-day week this year, following on from the Senate Select Committee on Work and Care's recommendation of a four-day week trial in March. The Federal Government is yet to respond to this.

Evidence from companies in Australia and overseas shows that companies and workers benefit from the four-day week. There is a growing body of international research that shows the four-day week is a critical public policy concept that has support across the world because of the benefits to health and wellbeing, productivity, gender equity and the environment.

Across Australia, companies have already moved to a four-day week: from an accounting firm on the Sunshine Coast and a marketing agency in Melbourne, to a consultancy in Darwin and property managers in Perth.

"A four-day week is happening in individual businesses and organisations across Australia. It is time for governments to get involved and trial how it can be effectively implemented across the entire workforce. All workers deserve reduced hours at no less pay and it is up to governments to ensure that no workers are left behind," said Adrian McMahon, Campaign Co-Director of 4 Day Week Australia.

### **Background:**

4 Day Week Australia is an independent and non-partisan movement dedicated to fearlessly and proudly leading Australia toward more considered and inclusive modern workplaces that champion a culture of wellbeing. We work with a range of stakeholders including businesses, unions, community and interest groups. We are proudly founded and run by and for workers in Australia and work collaboratively with international groups, such as 4 Day Week Global, 4 Day Week Campaign (UK) and the Work Time Reduction Centre of Excellence.

The ACT Committee recommendations:

- The ACT convenes a working group including but not limited to ACTPS Executive representatives, employees and employee representatives to develop a roadmap to inform a future trial within the ACTPS of a reduction model of the Four Day Work Week with no loss of pay or conditions for ACTPS employees and that trial areas incorporate administrative and frontline business unit and employees on full time and non-full time employment arrangements.
- The ACT Government develop a pilot program with any necessary support structures for private sector employers who would like to voluntarily trial a four-day work week with this pilot program drawing on the UK pilot program as the preferred model.

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