



DO AUSSIE WORKERS NEED TO TAKE MORE HOLIDAYS?

When you encounter a headline like 'Aussies working world's longest hours', you're likely to pay attention — especially if, like me, you've just come off a week with several 14-hour workdays. However, it turns out that what's actually being discussed is the unwillingness of Australians to take holidays. According to a Tourism Australia survey, one-third of us won't take official leave this year. Leaving aside the likely possibility that the whole thing is designed to encourage domestic travel now that *Australia* the movie hasn't given inbound tourism much of a fillip, I'm wondering: why aren't people taking holidays? Is it a lack of other people to fill in while you're away? Fear of being fired? A desire to have an insurance policy if you do get fired? Being self-employed and hence having no options? Share your non-vacation aspirations in the comments.

Comments

canberracubicle

January 12, 2009 at 2:41 PM

I'm saving up leave for my Honeymoon in April. Apart from that I dont think I can afford time off this year. Doesnt look like we will be putting on staff this year and a week off equals a load of lead up work and catch up on return. Long weekends are going to have to be it for me this year.

Sam

January 12, 2009 at 3:46 PM

I'm not sure it's the same as other countries, but I think a lot of it comes down to the standard 4 weeks leave a year really only giving you time for 2 weeks away on an official holiday (1 weeks gets eaten up from a day here and a day there running errands and such, another for time off at Christmas, which a lot of people don't like go away at due to crowds), and try to save it up so they can go away for a month or more.

What Holiday?

January 15, 2009 at 12:37 PM

I have the same problem as canberracubicle. I dread taking holidays because I know how much work I will have to catch up on when I return. I'm a huge offender at work to (35 days AL and 7 weeks of long service leave) my boss comes over each week asking me when I'm taking some leave. My answer "When you see me naked on the roof with a high

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Angus Kidman, www.lifehacker.com.au January 12, 2009

