



Aussies expected to work for free

By Nicki Bourlioufas
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- **Survey shows more than 90 per cent work overtime**
- **74 per cent of workers who do overtime aren't paid**
- **Multimedia: Readers' ideas to dodge working overtime**
(http://media.news.com.au/multimedia/2007/05/28_overtime/index.html)

AUSTRALIANS are slogging their guts out working overtime and most employees don't get much thanks, with the bulk of overtime done being unpaid.

Respondents to a survey conducted by *NEWS.com.au* and Coredata reported what most of us already know – we're working overtime largely because we have to, and not because we want to.

A survey of 2931 *NEWS.com.au* readers revealed 91 per cent of those employed worked overtime in the week before the survey was conducted, with an average 9 and a half hours spent working extra.

While most people said they are required by their employer to put in additional hours beyond their standard working week, a whopping 74 per cent of those employed did not get paid.

VIDEO: Aussies working harder than ever for the money

(http://video.news.com.au/videoplayer?channel=National+News&clipid=1094_114868&bitrate=300&format=wmp)

The survey was conducted from May 10 to 15. Australians reported working an average 39.7 hours in a typical working week

The real impact

Employers are getting their pound of flesh, and that bit extra, which is helping to boost their bottom line, but at the expense of employees, who are feeling stressed, unhappy and are spending less time with their families.

Workers reported feeling stressed (51 per cent) and said they spent less time with their families (63 per cent) and had less time for relaxation (60 per cent).

One in five respondents or 20 per cent said their family life was less happy as a result of working the overtime.

Just 14 per cent of the respondents said working overtime enabled them to make more money.

No choice involved

A resounding 89 per cent of respondents believe their job requires them to work overtime.

Many of the respondents were in higher-end jobs and working at relatively high salaries, with 74 per cent earning more than \$50,000 a year and 28 per cent earning more than \$100,000.

Indeed, almost half (49 per cent) of respondents said the primary reason why they choose to work overtime is because they have no choice – they need to finish the work

Only 11 per cent of those surveyed indicated their job doesn't require them to work overtime.

Not surprisingly, 53 per cent of respondents said they tried to avoid working overtime with the survey revealing there was little variation in hours worked across the income brackets.


Employers are reluctant to allow workers to conduct overtime from home, with more than half of those surveyed saying their employer does not allow them to take the work home to complete.

Respondents said they worked longer because their boss demands it (14 per cent) and they want to set a good example (10 per cent).

Surprisingly, only 6 per cent work overtime to try and get a promotion.

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Reality ... we're working overtime largely because we have to / File

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