



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Submission Cover sheet

Inquiry into the future of the working week

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Regarding: Inquiry into the future of the working week

I'm interested in a flexible full time work week, for example, a four day work week, where you can work 9.5 hours per day for four days. (Sometimes called a Compressed Work Week.) Another possibility is to consider 36 hours as full time, since many jurisdictions globally classify 35 hours as full time, and in that case, a 9 hour work day for four days will fulfill full time.

In New York City as far as back as the nineteen seventies, nurses and other unions, have negotiated a 35 hour full time work week.

I'm an Australian citizen originally from the United States. When I emigrated here in 2008, I had been on a full time, four day work week, working Monday through Thursday, at 10 hours a day. This was in place for me for 15 years, prior to my arrival. This was very helpful for having a day to conduct personal business, when many businesses are not open on the weekends. It was possible to schedule any personal business on Fridays, without taking time off to do so.

I'm sure there are many other reasons for having a compressed work week, for example if parents can do this alternately, then someone can be home for the children, Mondays and Fridays, with childcare only needed on 3 days.

I was very surprised when I arrived in Australia to discover that employers don't routinely consider this option.

I thank you kindly for your interest.

Sincerely,
Gail Langendorf