



WORKPLACE SURVEY 2002 FACT SHEET

KEY FINDINGS

The ACTU's *National Survey of Workplace Issues 2002* is Australia's largest employee survey excluding the Census - 8,259 completed questionnaires were processed from across Australia in the survey period May to August 2002.

TOP 10 AREAS OF CONCERN:

(% reporting *somewhat concerned* or *very concerned*)

1. Change/restructuring	76%	6. Lack of consultation	66%
2. High executive salaries	74%	7. Low rate of pay of others	63%
3. Stress/pressure at work	68%	8. Working more intensely	62%
4. Job security	66%	9. Workload	61%
5. Security of entitlements	66%	10. My rate of pay	61%

LIVING STANDARDS:

- 69% experienced financial difficulty
- 63% worse off since the GST
- 48% said savings decreased
- 37% said debt increased
- 19% could not pay bills
- 12% borrowed from friends/ family
- 12% self or family relied on welfare

WORK AND FAMILY:

- 82% said workplace laws should incorporate more family friendly provisions
- 55% reported increased impact of work on personal life in the last few years:
 - 75% of these reported a negative impact on family life
- 38% of all respondents said work had a negative impact on personal/family life
- 78% wanted additional leave to care for sick family members
- 45% had taken days off in the last year to care for a sick family member:
 - 41% of these claimed carer's leave

PARENTAL LEAVE:

- 29% of parents said they had taken parental leave:
 - 53% of these said the mother is not entitled to PAID maternity leave
 - 52% of these combined parental leave with other forms of leave
- 66% of all respondents said a period of maternity leave should be paid
- 68% said parents should be able to return part-time after parental leave
- 61% said there should be an option to extend unpaid parental leave to two years

LONG HOURS AND UNPAID OVERTIME:

- 79% support cap on weekly hours
- 78% report understaffing
- 78% report work overload
- 51% concerned about long hours
- 32% work more than 40 hrs/week
- 28% want fewer hours
- 54% work overtime each week
- 29% receive paid overtime

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- 92% said employees are more protected when they negotiate collectively
- 80% want more say in workplace decisions affecting them
- 80% support unfair dismissal laws
- 70% said their union had been effective in improving working conditions
- 50% did not agree that *employers can generally be trusted*

- 30% felt less secure in their job than they did a year ago – 39% for casuals.