

JUNIOR A, ROUND ONE

TOPIC: *that we should adopt a four day work week*

1. Type of Topic

This is a normative debate. This means that the Affirmative should propose a 'model' (a policy on how this idea would be implemented). This model should be clearly described to outline what changes the Affirmative team will make to the status quo, and how these changes will be enacted. The Negative team can either support the status quo or propose a counter-model. This counter-model must be different from the status quo, but also different from the model the Affirmative team is suggesting. The Negative team should ensure they clearly identify whether they are supporting the status quo or proposing a counter-model.

2. Background / Context

Flexible working arrangements are a common perk of the job, with an increase in options such as 'flexi-time' seen in government and independent occupations. While this may be attractive to workers for personal reasons, it may be a restriction on productivity.

Growing competition within industry and increasing productivity goals often leads to fatigue, 'burn-out' and an overall decrease in job satisfaction. It is also important to note that an increasing set within our society is affected by an increase in the cost of living.

This debate considers the viability of a model where the Australian workforce moves from the status quo, where 'full-time' employment spans across a five-day work week (typically 8 hours per day) to a four-day work week. This may mean that workers are expected to work extra hours to compensate for the extra day off.

3. Questions for Consideration

- Is this a viable option for all sectors and industries?
 - Consider the impact on industries such as healthcare, agriculture, mining, defence, emergency services, as well as corporate, hospitality, sales etc.
- How can a company implement a four-day work week while maintaining productivity?
- What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of transitioning to the reformed model?
- How does a four-day work week impact employee morale and job satisfaction?
- What strategies can companies use to effectively manage teams in a four-day work week?
- How does a four-day work week affect overtime policies and compensation structures?
- What role does technology play in facilitating a successful transition to a four-day work week?
- How do cultural norms and societal expectations influence the adoption of alternative work schedules?

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