

For immediate release

24 February, 2017

One in seven Aussies chucked a sickie to go to the beach over Summer

- ➔ 14% of Australians admit they have called in sick to spend the day at the beach
- ➔ Absenteeism costing Australian businesses a whopping \$645 million in lost productivity
- ➔ Why you should keep your sick leave up your sleeve coming into flu season

24 February, 2017, Sydney, Australia – Fourteen per cent of Australians admit they have ‘chucked a sickie’ to spend a day at the beach, new research from finder.com.au, Australia’s most visited comparison website¹ shows.

A survey of 2,031 Australians found women were more likely than men to have called in sick if the beach conditions were too good to pass up, while West Australians were most likely to take a sick day to hit the beach, followed by Queenslanders.

Skipping work to hit the surf is costing employers about \$645 million a year in lost productivity and payroll costs, finder.com.au can reveal.

Bessie Hassan, Money Expert at finder.com.au says good beach conditions were not an acceptable reason to take a day off.

“Over 1.6 million workers have given work the flick to go to the beach - at a cost of about \$380 per worker per day,” she said.

“We’ve sweated through one of the hottest Summers on record - and the temptation of the beach has been too much for some,” she said.

¹ Experian Hitwise 2015

She urged workers to lodge an annual leave day rather than chucking a sickie.

“There’s a bit of a culture in Australia where we think it’s ‘our right’ to take sickies - when in fact sick leave should be viewed as a safety net if a family member or yourself gets an illness or injury that forces you to take a day off,” she said.

“It’s also worth reading the fine print of your employment contract and income protection policy before calling in sick,” said Ms Hassan.

“Most companies have strict policies when it comes to how and when you can use your sick leave, and income protection usually comes with a waiting period before you’re eligible to start receiving benefit payments,” she said.

Depending on the policy, [income protection waiting periods](#) can range from 14 days up to 720 days.

The research revealed one in five Generation Y workers (those aged 18-34) had taken a sickie to take a midweek beach break, compared to 15% of Generation X (aged 35-54) and just 8% of Baby Boomers (aged 55-74).

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