

# Australian law will let workers ignore bosses' messages after work – EASY

---

 [practicewithnews.com/australian-law-will-let-workers-ignore-bosses-messages-after-work-easy/](https://practicewithnews.com/australian-law-will-let-workers-ignore-bosses-messages-after-work-easy/)

February 10, 2024

Business, Easy level, Politics

Australia will have a new **law**. The law says workers don't have to **answer** their phone or emails after work.

The **rule** is called "**right to disconnect**". It will help workers have a good **work-life balance**. France and Spain have this rule, too.

If a company doesn't **follow this rule**, the company has to pay a **fine**.

Some workers work extra hours but do not get paid. This rule will stop that. The **prime minister** of Australia, Anthony Albanese, **supports** the new rule.

Some people do not like the new rule. They think it will be bad for businesses. They also think it will be bad for people who like **flexible** working time.

Every year, Australians work about six extra weeks without pay. Companies save about A\$92 **billion** (\$60.13 billion) every year because of the extra work.

## Vocabulary

---

- **Law** – a rule, regulation, or guideline set by the government
- **Answer** – to response or react to a phone call, email, letter or question; to reply; to pick up a phone that is ringing
- **Rule** – A guideline or regulation; sometimes a law; A guide that tells us what we should or shouldn't do
- **Right** – the fact that a person or animal can expect to be treated in a fair, morally acceptable, or legal way, or to have the things that are necessary for life;
- **Disconnect** – To stop being in contact or communication; To stop being connected or reachable; to "unplug" your electrical devices
- **Work-life balance** – Having a good amount of time for work and for other parts of your life; Making sure work and personal life are both good
- **Follow a rule** – Do what the rule says; To do what the guideline or instruction says
- **Fine** – a penalty or punishment you have to pay with money
- **Prime Minister** – the head or leader of an elected government of a country; similar to a "president"
- **Support** – to agree with a person or idea; to approve of an idea; promote; to help
- **Flexible** – able to bend or change shape easily without breaking; adapt easily; change easily; not restricted by time

- **Billion** – 1,000,000,000 = one-billion

## Discussion Questions

---

- Do you think the “right to disconnect” law is a good idea? Why or why not?
- Do you have similar laws in your country? If not, would this law work well in your country?
- How do you think this law will affect workers’ lives?
- What are some other ways the government can help workers’ rights and make work-life balance better?

## Original Story

---

edition.cnn.com



Australia to allow workers to ignore unreasonable after-hours calls and messages from bosses | CNN Business

Australia will introduce laws giving workers the right to ignore unreasonable calls and messages from their bosses outside of work hours without penalty, with potential fines for employers that breach the rule.

## Fill-in-the-Blank Listening Practice

---

Australia will have a \_\_\_\_\_ law. The law says workers don't have to answer their \_\_\_\_\_ or emails after work.

The rule is \_\_\_\_\_ “right to disconnect”. It will help workers have a good work-life balance. \_\_\_\_\_ and Spain have this rule, too.

If a \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't follow this rule, the company has to pay a \_\_\_\_\_.

Some workers work \_\_\_\_\_ hours but do not get paid. This rule will stop that. The \_\_\_\_\_ minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, supports the \_\_\_\_\_ rule.

Some people do not \_\_\_\_\_ the new rule. They think it will be bad for \_\_\_\_\_. They also think it will be bad for people who like \_\_\_\_\_ working time.

Every year, Australians work about \_\_\_\_\_ extra weeks without pay. Companies save about A\$\_\_\_\_\_ billion (\$60.13 billion) every year because of the extra \_\_\_\_\_.