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FINANCIAL PRESSURES HINDER CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

One out of three Australians are planning to send fewer gifts by mail this Christmas due to high parcel delivery costs, according to new consumer research from Officeworks.

The survey¹ into Christmas mailing habits has revealed 91% of those planning to send fewer presents say cost is the main barrier, with 84% stating queuing headaches is the other reason they'll avoid sending gifts.

Compared to last year, the amount of people opting out of sending parcels has increased due to the financial strain. Those who have no choice but to cop inflated prices to ensure parcels reach family and friends in time for Christmas say cost is the number one consideration when selecting a delivery service.

In response, Officeworks' parcel delivery service, Mailman, has recently introduced parcel delivery from \$7 and a new convenient range of pre-paid satchels from \$7.50 to provide a more competitive offer for shoppers, with no hidden fees or surcharges for delivery to regional or remote locations. Mailman already offers the lowest national flat rate guaranteed.

Officeworks National Merchandise Manager, Jim Berndelis, said, "There is no doubt Christmas can be stressful, especially if people are met with additional financial pressures when sending gifts to friends and family.

"Mailman is a flexible parcel delivery service that saves Australians valuable time at the busiest time of year. The introduction of the new 500g flat rate satchel – a product which 58% of people are planning to use this year – allows customers value for money when sending parcels near and far this Christmas," he said.

The study uncovered that sending and receiving Christmas gifts via mail is something that Australians relish, with 96% placing importance on showing a loved one how much they care with a posted present, and 96% also expressing a feeling of joy when opening a present received in the post.

To browse Officeworks' range of mailing products and services, or for more information about Mailman, visit www.officeworks.com.au/mailman

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[†] 2016 research conducted among 1,000 Australians (aged 18-60+ years of age) and 2015 research conducted among 1005 Australians (aged 18 – 60+).

About Officeworks:

Established in Richmond in 1994, Officeworks is Australia's leading retailer and supplier of office supplies, tech and furniture solutions for home, business and education needs. With three easy ways to shop - in store, online or by phone, you'll be sure to find exactly what you need with our widest range, when you need, and all at the lowest prices. Plus, you'll enjoy friendly expert advice and helpful services. Officeworks offers customers more than 20,000 products on its [website](#), operates a national customer service centre and has a growing team of expert business specialists to cater for micro, small and medium business customers. As part of the Wesfarmers' group, Officeworks has an extensive national footprint operating 159+ retail stores and employing more than 6,500 team members. Join Officeworks' online communities on [Facebook](#), [Linked In](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) as well as at its hubs [Work Wise](#) and [Work Style](#) for inspiration to help you make bigger things happen.

For further information about Mailman or interview opportunities, please contact

Katy Curley at Haystac:

katy.curley@haystac.com.au | 03 9693 5986 | 0435 939 761