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OFFICEWORKS LAUNCHES FLEXIWORKS TO SUPPORT A FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE

With working from anywhere here to stay, Officeworks is introducing Flexiworks, a streamlined service to support Australia's new way of work.

Supporting flexible workers with the equipment they need to work productively and safely away from the office just became easier with the launch of Flexiworks, Officeworks' customisable office supplies and services platform designed to service the future of work.

Flexiworks enables businesses to select a range of fit-for-purpose office supplies, furniture or technology for their employees. Each employee is then set up with an allowance to access and order what they need to work effectively from anywhere, at any time.

More than 70 per-cent of Australian employees reported experiencing adverse impacts on their health while working from home; 41 per-cent citing back or neck pain and 31 per-cent reporting eye strain. To combat this, Flexiworks offers ergonomic design advice and recommendations on products that may improve their work environment and assist in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of employees.

Officeworks Managing Director Sarah Hunter says, "Working from anywhere is here to stay. Flexiworks is a platform for employers to ensure their hybrid workforce is always supported with what they need to work productively and safely from home, or anywhere. Flexiworks will save employers time on time-consuming logistical and administrative work, it will also make setting up or upgrading home offices easier for employees," Ms Hunter said.

"We supported Australians to work from home safely throughout the pandemic and Flexiworks is our solution to help make a remote workforce as sustainable and supported as its traditional equivalent. Our omni-channel strategy means we are well positioned to support the future of work."

Research commissioned* by Officeworks also found that almost two-thirds of employees reported being more satisfied (65 per-cent) and productive (62 per-cent) with their work from home arrangements than previous in-office arrangements, with 76 per-cent agreeing flexibility helped them maintain a better work-life balance. It's no surprise that as a result, the same number of employees (two-thirds) indicated that they would not consider a workplace if there was no working from anywhere or flexible working option available.

Only half (55 per-cent) of employees said they had worked in a dedicated office or study when working from home, with the other half repurposing areas of the home such as the kitchen or living area (32 per-cent), spare room (29 per-cent), or bedroom (22 per-cent) to become workstations.

Ergonomics consultant Brendan Grimes says, "Not only is occupational health and safety a joint responsibility of employers and employees, no matter where the work is carried out, it is also now the preference for many workers and employers around the country. Flexiworks as a workplace solution is

a great option for businesses enabling employees access to ergonomic advice and assessments to enhance the wellbeing, safety, and productivity of their employees.”

The Flexiworks platform includes an Online Ergonomic Assessment Tool for employees to complete upon signing up, allowing them to receive personalised recommendations based on their survey results. Features such as in-home office, and tech setup and furniture assembly are also available for employees who require additional support.

Business decision makers can provide their employees with a once-off, monthly or annual allowance to shop for products and services they need to work from home or anywhere. For more information about the Flexiworks offering, visit www.flexiworks.com.au.

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***Research:**

This report has been prepared with the assistance of Empirica Research who developed and conducted an online survey on behalf of Officeworks.

The research was conducted with:

- 1,000 Australian employees
- 504 Australian employers (management or senior decision makers)

Participants were recruited via a verified consumer research panel.

About Officeworks:

Established 28 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 167 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow.

Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site and remote tech support through Geeks2U - delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop.

Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the more than 9,000 team members it employs. It's also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.