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## **OFFICEWORKS STUDY REVEALS HOW AUSTRALIANS HAVE ADAPTED TO WORKING AND SCHOOLING FROM HOME ENVIRONMENT**

A new study from Officeworks has looked at Australians' behaviours and attitudes towards working and schooling from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study found 41 per-cent of respondents were enjoying working from home more than they anticipated, with 48 per-cent saying they would like to work from home all or most of the time, post COVID-19 restrictions.

This is despite only 41 per-cent of them having a dedicated office or study to work from and many improvising with their workspace furniture – a quarter (27 per-cent) not using a desk and 67 per-cent without a desk chair – instead, opting to use furniture from other parts of their home.

The research was undertaken in partnership with Empirica Research and surveyed 1,000 Australians from 22 - 30 April who have been working, and in some cases also schooling their children at home, since various government-imposed measures were put in place due to COVID-19.

Officeworks Chief Finance Officer, Michael Howard, said: "The research tells us that many Australians working from home have adapted to this new 'normal' as best they can and have found ways to improvise and create a working-from home environment that bests suit their needs and the needs of their family.

We know we have an important role to play in supplying products and services that enable them to safely work from home and school from home, but also in keeping thousands of small and medium sized businesses operating during this period.

As we look forward, with a potential shift to more professionals working from home in the future, we encourage everyone to remember to look at the ergonomic set up of their workspace at home. While improvising is a great short term solution, we'd encourage those working from the coffee table or kitchen stool to consider alternative options where possible to ensure they're getting the right levels of comfort and support in their work day, and prevent any avoidable injuries."

Of those surveyed, 35 per-cent were also home-schooling their children. 59 per-cent of parents claim they're feeling anxious about the balance of their work and their kid's schooling from home, with 64 per-cent saying they are doing some of their work at night or early in the morning so they can supervise their children during the day.

More than half (54 per-cent) of parents said that they need more activities to entertain their children during the day, with 67 per-cent of parents relying on TV as an activity for their children once their schoolwork is done.

"Having lived through it firsthand in my own home, the juggle between schooling your kids and doing your own work is a daily challenge. We have seen parents adapt their lifestyles and routines in ways they never may have considered until now.

We have been working hard to ensure that students and teachers across the country have had the required materials to navigate online learning and continue their education - from laptops PCs, tablets and desktop computers through to educational resources, desks and chairs.

This year has so far been a challenging one for many families and businesses around the country. As life

around us continues to look slightly different every week as we adjust to the 'new normal', we'll continue to do everything we can to ensure we safely support our customers and team now and as we emerge from this crisis," he said.

– ENDS –

**Notes to editor:**

For further information on the best practice health and safety measures Officeworks has introduced during COVID-19, please see links below:

- COVID-19 [fact sheet](#)
- Officeworks COVID-19 [web page](#)

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**About Officeworks:**

Established 25 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 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 8,000 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.

**About Officeworks study:**

An online survey of 1,000 Australians during 22-30 April 2020, undertaken by Empirica Research. All respondents were working from home since social distancing measures were put in place due to COVID-19. They did not work from home before social distancing measures.