

5th July 2003

Media alert

Attention: Radio and TV producers

Australians missing out on holidays

The Australia Institute has released a new report entitled *Annual leave in Australia: An analysis of entitlements, usage and preferences*. The report features prominently in *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* this weekend.

The report highlights the low level of annual leave available to most Australian employees when compared to the amount of leave available to European workers. A Newpoll survey commissioned by The Australia Institute found that:

- 57 per cent of full-time employees did not take their full four weeks of annual leave in 2002
- 42 per cent of those who did not take all their leave failed to do so because they were too busy at work or could not get time off that suited them
- 52 per cent of full-time employees would prefer an extra two weeks annual holiday to a four per cent pay rise.

A summary of the report can be found under What's New on the Institute's website – www.tai.org.au.

For comment, please contact:

Richard Denniss, report author and Senior Research Fellow, The Australia Institute on **02 6249 6221 (bh)** or **0419 222 511**

or

Dr Clive Hamilton, Executive Director, The Australia Institute on **0413 993 223**.

The Australia Institute is a public-interest think tank based in Canberra.

www.tai.org.au