

5 September 2005

Media release

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Happy Public Benevolence Day!

This Monday 5th September 2005 is 'Public Benevolence Day', the day on which Australians finally finish working for their own self-interest and begin contributing to the public good.

Public Benevolence Day is being celebrated by all those who object to the celebration of Tax Freedom Day promoted by free market extremists. The Centre for Independent Studies, a libertarian think tank, announced earlier this year that 29th April was 'Tax Freedom Day'.

"Most public spirited Australians are happy to pay their taxes because they understand that taxation is the price we pay for living in a civilised society", said Australia Institute Executive Director Dr Clive Hamilton.

"It is contrary to the interests of everyone when right-wing think tanks and conservative politicians actively undermine confidence in the taxation system by encouraging resentment at paying taxes.

"So I call on all decent Australians to celebrate Public Benevolence Day as a way of sending a message that they see themselves as citizens who value social cohesion rather than mean-spirited misers only interested in their personal bank balances."

To see how Public Benevolence Day is calculated see the media release titled 'Happy Tax Freedom Day' dated 29 April 2005 by the Centre for Independent Studies (<http://www.cis.org.au>).

www.tai.org.au