

**From:** Barry Shanahan <barry\_shanahan@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 August 2019 12:04 PM  
**To:** Publichol <publichol@oir.qld.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Christmas Eve part-day public holiday consultation.

Dear Premier,

I support the Christmas Eve part-day public holiday because...

Christmas is a time of year to be with family and friends, it is an institution in our society.

Big business, retailers and the hospitality industry spend a fortune every year selling their products and services during the Christmas period. They do this with advertisements linking them to the tradition of being with the family, resting and celebrating. Basically they are saying that the only way to have a nice time at Christmas is to buy their product and be with your family. This is the concept they present to the public in an attempt to make money.

Contrasting this is the fact that they expect their very own employees to be away from their family and friends at the very same time others are celebrating. Not only that, the employees are expected to do so for no extra benefit or incentive. Head offices close down for days over this time yet the average worker is expected to be on duty.

A part-day public holiday on Christmas eve would mean so much to the average worker. It would go some way to compensating for the time taken away from their loved ones at a special time of year. Time that they won't be able to get back. Special occasions, once missed, are gone.

I have worked many a Christmas Eve and can tell you that once 530pm arrives it's a ghost town. People are heading home to spend time with the family and prepare for a celebration. Somehow this is seen as a right for the general public and a privilege to be grovelled for by retail and hospitality employees.

The whole situation smacks of Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Tale.

A Christmas Eve part-day public holiday would mean that I would feel respected when working at a time that no one else wants to.

Kind Regards,

Barry Shanahan.