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*Christmas Eve Part-Day Public Holiday Consultation
Office of Industrial Relations
GPO Box 69
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August 26, 2019

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Ashley and I've been a night-fill team member at Woolworths for approximately 7 years now.

During this time I've had the vexation of working some Christmas Eve shifts in line with my contracted roster. As I live in Brisbane and all my family reside in Central Queensland, I, unfortunately, don't get the enjoyment of Christmas day as I once did.

My routine of having to work a Christmas Eve shift into Christmas Day has been to finish work at 4 am, then find the earliest flight to Rockhampton, sometimes of which the earliest flight has been around 10 am. Upon arriving I may get some breakfast and open some pressies and then because I haven't rested, I need sleep - therefore wasting the time I could be indulging with my family instead.

Arguments and discussions we've had with management over the years from their point of view are that the business still needs to run and the job still need to be done. We've learned from other nightfill employees that their store team members wrap up at midnight, giving them time to go home and get at least some hours sleep or travel while our store particularly is still forced to finish at our rostered work times.

In my opinion, Christmas is very much the one event of the year in which all businesses and companies need to close (or close early) and allow their staff and employees the option to go home. To rest. To Play. To spend time with their

family or whatever their tradition is. To generally enjoy what Christmas is all about instead of working for businesses and companies that feel the need that the mighty dollar is far more valuable than Christmas and family time.

I'm all in favour and I fully support a Christmas Eve public holiday, especially with our world practically a 24/7 economy. At the very least if businesses and companies feel the need to open or operate, then it should be the choice of the employee as to whether they work and be well-compensated for the time they're giving up, or to take the shift off to do with as they please.

I'm sure that if employees and staff at the National Retail Association and the Australian Industry Group were forced to work until midnight on Christmas Eve, many of them would like to have the choice that we are simply asking for.

In closing, I support Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, in legislating to make Christmas Eve a public holiday from 6 pm to midnight prior to Christmas this year and into the future.

Regards,

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