

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ACT
No. 71 of 1981
TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Section

1. Short title
2. Commencement
3. Repeal
4. Interpretation
5. Public holidays
6. Additional public holidays
7. Alteration of public holidays
8. Appointed public holidays
9. Notice of appointed public holidays
10. Payments and other acts on public holidays
11. Payments for public holidays
12. Exemptions
13. Employment records
14. Investigation by authorized person
15. Evasion, &c., of obligations
16. Offences
17. Regulations

SCHEDULE 1
SCHEDULE 2



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

No. 71 of 1981

AN ACT

Relating to public holidays

[Assented to 18 September 1981]

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory of Australia, with the assent as provided by the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* of the Commonwealth, as follows:

1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the Public Holidays Act 1981.

2. COMMENCEMENT

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Administrator by notice in the Gazette.

3. REPEAL

The Ordinances and Act specified in Schedule 1 are repealed.

4. INTERPRETATION

(1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears -

"award" means an award, order, industrial agreement or common rule declaration in force at the time of the employment of the employee under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904 of the Commonwealth and a determination made in pursuance of the Public Service Arbitration Act 1920 of the Commonwealth;

"casual employee" means a person who has entered into an arrangement with an employer under which -

- (a) the employment is irregular and not on fixed days or at fixed times;
- (b) employment is available and the person works only when required by the employer; and

Public Holidays

- (c) there is no continuing contract of employment with the employer requiring the person to work on a subsequent occasion at a specified time;

"employee" means a person to whom this Act applies who has entered into or works under a contract of service with an employer, whether the contract is express or implied, oral or in writing, on salary, wages or piecework rates or as a member of a butty gang, full-time or part-time, or casual or as an outworker, and includes an apprentice and a person remunerated by piecework rates;

"ordinary pay", in relation to an employee, means remuneration for the employee's normal weekly number of hours of work calculated at the ordinary time rate of pay of the employee and "ordinary rate of pay" has a corresponding meaning;

"ordinary time rate of pay" means -

- (a) in the case of an employee who is remunerated in relation to an ordinary time rate of pay fixed by the terms of employment of the employee, the time rate of pay so fixed; or

(b) in the case of an employee -

- (i) who is remunerated otherwise than in relation to an ordinary time rate of pay so fixed, or partly in relation to an ordinary time rate of pay so fixed and partly in relation to any other manner; or
- (ii) where no ordinary time rate of pay is so fixed for an employee's work under the terms of the employment,

the average time rate of pay earned by the employee during the period actually worked by the employee in the service of the employer during the period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the employee enters on leave or preceding the termination of the employment of the employee or the death of the employee, as the case may be;

"public holiday" means a day that is declared to be a public holiday and bank holiday under this Act;

"working day" means a day other than a public holiday or a Sunday.

(2) Where, by a provision of a law that governs an award applying to an employee in the Territory, a person is deemed, for the purposes of that law, to be the employer of another person, the person so deemed to be an employer shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be the employer of that other person.

Public Holidays

5. PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Subject to section 7, the days specified in Schedule 2 shall, in each year, be observed as public holidays in the Territory.

6. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, appoint a day to be a public holiday in addition to the public holidays specified in Schedule 2 to be observed as such -

- (a) in the Territory or such part or parts of the Territory as is or are specified in the notice; and
- (b) by all or such section or sections of the community of the Territory as is or are specified in the notice.

7. ALTERATION OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette -

- (a) declare that a day in a year that would, otherwise than by virtue of this Act, be observed as a public holiday shall not be so observed as a public holiday in that year; and
- (b) appoint another day in that year to be observed as a public holiday in its stead.

8. APPOINTED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

A day appointed as a public holiday under section 6, and a day appointed as a public holiday under section 7, shall each be observed as a public holiday in accordance with the terms of the notice, as the case requires.

9. NOTICE OF APPOINTED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

A notice under section 6 or 7 shall be published in the Gazette not less than 28 days before the public holiday appointed by the notice.

10. PAYMENTS AND OTHER ACTS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

When the day on which a payment, notice, act or thing should be made, given or done falls on a public holiday, it may be made, given or done on the working day next following the public holiday.

11. PAYMENTS FOR PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

(1) An employer may require an employee to work on a public holiday.

Public Holidays

(2) Where an employee is required by his employer to work on a public holiday but he fails to attend for work as directed, the employee shall not be entitled to be paid in respect of that public holiday.

(3) Where an employee is required by his employer to work on a public holiday and works on that day as directed and if the ordinary pay of the employee is less than \$300 per week - the employee shall be paid for each hour so worked at twice the ordinary time rate of pay (including any payment otherwise payable to the employee for that hour under the contract of employment) that he would have received if he had worked during his normal working hours on that day and that day had been a working day.

(4) Where an employee is not required by his employer to work on a public holiday -

(a) if the employee is a part-time employee who, in the normal course of his employment, would have worked on that day if it had not been a public holiday - the employee shall be entitled to be absent without loss of pay;

(b) if the employee is a casual employee - the employee shall not be entitled to any pay on that day; and

(c) in the case of any other employee - the employee shall be entitled to be absent without loss of pay.

(5) Where -

(a) an employee is not required by his employer to work on a public holiday; and

(b) the employee is absent from work without reasonable cause on the working day before or the working day after the public holiday,

the employee shall not be entitled to any pay in respect of that public holiday.

(6) This section does not apply to and in relation to -

(a) an employee within the meaning of the Public Service Act;

(b) an officer or employee within the meaning of the Public Service Act 1922 of the Commonwealth;

(c) an employee in the Public Service within the meaning of the Public Service Arbitration Act 1920 of the Commonwealth; or

(d) an employee to whom an award applies making provision for the payment for a public holiday or for work on a public holiday.

Public Holidays

(7) Nothing in this section affects the application of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

12. EXEMPTIONS

The Minister may, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit, by instrument in writing, exempt an employer or a class of employers from the operation of this Act or of a provision of this Act in respect of an employee or class of employees specified by the Minister, if the Minister is satisfied that the employee or class of employees is entitled to benefits in the nature of payment for work on a public holiday under a scheme conducted by or on behalf of the employer or class of employers not less favourable than those provided by this Act.

13. EMPLOYMENT RECORDS

(1) An employer shall, in respect of each of his employees, keep and maintain or cause to be kept and maintained, a record showing particulars of -

- (a) the name of the employee;
- (b) the date on which the employee commenced employment with the employer and the wages, salary or commission paid to such employee;
- (c) each occasion on which the employee has been absent from that employment; and
- (d) where the employee ceased to be employed by the employer - the date on which the employee ceased to be so employed.

(2) An employer shall retain a record referred to in sub-section (1) until the expiration of a period of 2 years after the date on which the person to whom the record relates ceased to be employed by the employer.

(3) A person shall not make a false or misleading statement in or a material omission from a record that is required to be kept under this section.

14. INVESTIGATION BY AUTHORIZED PERSON

- (1) A person authorized by the Minister may -
 - (a) conduct such investigations as the authorized person thinks fit to ascertain whether the provisions of this Act have been complied with; and
 - (b) for that purpose, require an employer to produce, at such reasonable time and place as the authorized person specifies, the records required to be kept under section 13.
- (2) An employer shall not fail to comply with a request given to him under sub-section (1).

Public Holidays

(3) An authorized person shall, if requested so to do by the Minister, as soon as practicable after conducting an investigation under this section, report in writing to the Minister the findings of the investigation.

15. EVASION, &c., OF OBLIGATIONS

(1) This Act has effect notwithstanding any agreement between an employer and his employee that confers on the employee rights that are not as advantageous to the employee as the rights conferred upon an employee by this Act.

(2) An employer shall not do an act or thing for the purpose of, or that has the effect of, in any way -

(a) avoiding or evading an obligation imposed on the employer by this Act; or

(b) defeating, evading, avoiding or preventing the operation of this Act in any respect.

16. OFFENCES

(1) A person shall not contravene or fail to comply with a provision of this Act applicable to him.

Penalty: \$1,000 or imprisonment for 6 months.

(2) Where a person is convicted of an offence against this Act, the court may, in addition to the imposition of any penalty, make such order with respect to any payment due under this Act to another person in respect of whom the offence was committed as it thinks just in the matter, including an order that the person convicted pay to the other person any sum that the court is satisfied is due from the person convicted to that other person in connection with the employment of that other person by him.

(3) Where a person convicted of an offence against this Act is a body corporate, each person who, at the time of the commission of the offence, was a director or officer of the body corporate shall also be deemed to have committed the like offence and is liable to the penalty provided by this Act for the offence unless the court is satisfied that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he used all diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.

17. REGULATIONS

The Administrator may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters that are required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed or are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

Public Holidays

SCHEDULE 1

Section 3

REPEALED ORDINANCES AND ACT

Holidays Ordinance 1957 (No. 33 of 1957)
Holidays Ordinance 1959 (No. 3 of 1959)
Holidays Ordinance 1960 (No. 5 of 1961)
Holidays Ordinance 1962 (No. 21 of 1962)
Holidays Ordinance (No. 2) 1962 (No. 41 of 1962)
Holidays Ordinance 1963 (No. 29 of 1963)
Holidays Ordinance 1967 (No. 52 of 1967)
Holidays Ordinance 1969 (No. 30 of 1970)
Holidays Ordinance 1973 (No. 3 of 1973)
Holidays Ordinance 1974 (No. 17 of 1974)
Holidays Amendment Act 1980 (No. 9 of 1981)

SCHEDULE 2

Section 5

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1 January (New Year's Day) or, if that day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday

26 January (Australia Day) or, if that day does not fall on a Monday, the following Monday

Good Friday

The Saturday following Good Friday

The Monday following Good Friday

25 April (Anzac Day) or, if that day falls on a Sunday, the following Monday

The first Monday in May (May Day)

The second Monday in June

The first Monday in August (Picnic Day)

25 December (Christmas Day) or, if that day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday

26 December (Boxing Day) or, if that day falls on a Saturday, the following Monday or, if 26 December falls on a Sunday or Monday, the following Tuesday