

WHAT NOT TO WEAR



The cringe-worthy poem sent to 1000 Melbourne call centre staff. It's edited, but you get the drift ...

*The weather's warming up and the beach looks so inviting.
Today you are at work; so you're looking clean and tidy.
Tempting as it is to put on a singlet and your thongs;
In our work environment we have some rights and wrongs ...*

*Shorts and singlets, little skirts and tiny summer dresses;
It's more important to work in clothes that properly impress us.
You don't have to dress too formal, you just need to know;
That beach outfits, while at work, are really not the go ...*

*The consequences of shabby clothing I really need to say;
Are as serious as formals and enforced leave without pay.
We hope this rhyme is clear enough to properly explain;
The dress code still applies at work in sunshine, snow and rain.*

• WORKPLACE DRESS

Rhyme no reason to smarten

Rebecca Beisler

A poem sent to more than 1000 workers at a Melbourne call centre telling them to up the dress code is likely to backfire in today's relaxed workplace, experts say.

The cringe-worthy ditty, reminiscent of *The Office*, warns employees that "Tempting as it is to put on your singlet and your thongs, in your work environment we have some rights and wrongs."

And it threatens - in rhyming couplets - to dock workers' pay if they don't toe the line.

Michael Dimopoulos, managing director for Recruitment Academy, said corporate wear was out in today's workplace.

"If we get (hot) days like we've

had this week, there needs to be a bit of give and take," Dimopoulos said.

"You have to have a bit of leeway or you will have people (call in sick and) in their open-toe shoes, shorts and singlets down on the beach."

Generation Y workers were more inclined to dress down at work, he said.

"The person with the open-toe shoe may have an amazing skill set. No one is going to be looking at their feet."

He said the poem would send a negative message at the time of year when workers started to loosen their ties a little.

RMIT workplace expert Sara Charlesworth said workers would likely take offence to the implied threat in the poem they could be docked a day's pay.

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