

When some workers won the Eight-hour Day

1855 NSW, 1856 Vic,
1858 Qld, 1873 SA,
1874 Tas (nine-hour
day), 1896 WA.
But in 1900 some men
and women were still
working 16 hours or
more a day.

Public holidays when the Eight-hour Day is remembered

Tas	Eight-hour Day, first Monday in March
WA	Labour Day, first Monday in March
Vic	Labour Day, second Monday in March
Qld	Labour Day, first Monday in May
NT	May Day, first Monday in May
NSW	Labour Day, first Monday in October
ACT	Labour Day, first Monday in October
SA	Labour Day, first Monday in October

The next steps

After Federation, the movement for shorter working hours entered the courts.
1939 – 44-hour week granted to some workers
1939 – 40-hour week granted to some miners
1947 – 40-hour week granted to some workers

A minimum wage for male workers

In 1907 the Commonwealth Arbitration Court introduced a 'living' or 'basic' (minimum) wage for male workers. This decision is known as the Harvester Judgement.

Select **one** of the following activities.

Activity A

- 1 Design a motif for the Eight-hour Day campaign, using the three 8s.
- 2 In your journal, explain why there are three 8s, not just one, in the symbol of the Eight-hour Day campaign.

Activity B

Choose an occupation and design a banner for workers to carry in an Eight-hour Day procession. Decide upon the picture, border, colours and slogan or title.

Activity C

Design a poster to tell other students about the Eight-hour Day in your state or territory: when did some workers win an eight-hour day, and when and how is it celebrated?