

Dear Prime Minister,

As you know, at school, students work. We talk, play sports, socialize, and learn. At work people work hard, and try to earn money to pay their bills. But at the end of a long week, everyone gets a two day rest. During this time we go to town, spend our pocket money and have a delicious lunch at the mall. People will spend time with friends and even go to another town for a small holiday!

But, what if there was an option to have a three day weekend? What if we could spend more time in town and getting new things? What if we had more time to go to another city or town? What if students, and workers, had more time to rest and relax? I think that a three day weekend could benefit many citizens in NZ.

First, on the topic of a student's benefit, they would get more time to rest and prepare for another week, they would get more time to sleep, and this could make them work more efficiently at school if they are energised and healthy. They could also get more time to spend with their friends, and go shopping and doing fun activities together. This statement brings me to the next part of my letter, how 3 day weekends could benefit our tourist businesses.

As I'm sure you know, tourist attractions and other companies like malls and ski fields will have been struggling, with many people losing their jobs and not having enough money to pay company bills, they need people to visit them. With a three day weekend, people have more time to visit these places, and to enjoy their hospitality. This would help companies recover surprisingly quickly, and people could get their jobs back, earning money again and being able to go to life as normal.

One of the final points about having a three day weekend is that people would have more family time. This would mean that families could bond and spend more time together, and do more activities together, as mentioned in paragraph one. As a parent, I'm sure you know what I mean. Parents would be less busy and would be able to spend more time with their kids, and taking them out places that they wouldn't have time for on a two day weekend. If it means going to the pools, or even visiting Franz Joesef.

Now, one of my classmates did some research on the microsoft company, whose workers are currently having three day weekends. A site showed that their workers work 40 percent more efficiently. That's amazing! That extra work almost makes up for the lost day, but I have a few other options in the next paragraph. This could work in schools, or any workplace.

You might wonder though, how will we make up for this lost day at work and at schools? Well, at school, we have a total of an hour and a half break at school. We could shorten this time and also have snacks whenever we want in class time. At work, you might have to have to work an extra half hour, or also shorten a workers lunch break. Students could also work later, or start earlier. There are many different options, I am just listing a few that I think are efficient and would work for most students and workers.

To conclude, I think that everyone, schools and companies alike, would benefit from a three day weekend. I hope that you will consider these benefits and decide this will be a permanent option for all of NZ. Thank you for reading this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Bradley

Dear Jacinda Ardern

I have heard of the possibility of a four day week and a three day weekend idea and I would like you to hear my opinion.

From my point of view, I think it would be great. There would be more time for rest after a hard school and work day. We would also have more time to do fun activities with friends and families. Sadly, If we did go down to four days, school hours would have to rise to cover thirty hours a week for our growing brains. We would have to have seven and half hours a day. I know that I am not the only kid who is tired from just six hours of school. This would increase a child's tiredness and laziness at home after school, making parents frustrated.

So maybe as an idea or solution, when on the third day weekend, students could do an hour or two at home on a device, or some sort of educational activity at home, just like we did in lockdown. Also at school, the teachers could use game time as learning by making the game a teamwork effort, teaching children the fundamental qualities for work in adulthood later on.

On the economic side of things, the company Microsoft, reduced their workers work days from five days a week, to four and their productivity increased by 40%, which is a lot in a business.

Through this Covid-19 Lockdown, there have been a lot of job losses, companies failing and New Zealand's economy is plummeting. So by having a 3 day weekend, we could have time to go to the mall more, or go to the ski fields and help other local shops. If we had a three day weekend, we could make up for all those jobs and get people working again.

Plus, it doesn't look like our borders are opening any time soon. Also as a country, New Zealand earns \$112 million per day with full tourists coming in and those companies that depend on those tourists coming in aren't earning any money soon. So we might be able to support them and by having a three day weekend, that would help speed that up.

So from my letter, I hope you have a few positives on a four day week before you make a decision for NZ. I know you will make the best decision for NZ.

Yours Sincerely

Luka Adamson
Tahuna Normal Intermediate School

Dear Jacinda Ardern,

Hello, my name is Seren Paige Watts and I am from Tahuna Normal Intermediate. I am writing to you today to explain something I would like you to consider.

I personally think it would be a great idea to have a four day week and a three day weekend. It would be great for businesses, as people in New Zealand can travel around the North and South Island and help out local businesses. It would help a lot of businesses to get up and running again due to their loss of income from international tourists.

Due to the working week getting shorter there will have to be a number of new rules created, for instance,

Start all schools at 8:30 and finish at 4:30 so we can still have heaps of learning. If that doesn't work another option is our morning tea could start at 10:00 until 10:10 and lunch could start at 12:30 until 1:00pm.

People who have jobs could figure out with their bosses what time they come to work and how many hours they should be doing per week.

It will be quite a while before we have international flights again due to the borders being closed, so lots of companies will not be making any money. If we want our businesses to still be working by the time the international flights are allowed we all will have to help them out.

That is why by having a three day weekend people in New Zealand can travel and buy lots of things from some local stores that may have a loss of money due to no tourists coming into the country.

Tourists usually spend \$2,557, sourced from wikipedia, per week in New Zealand now that there is no income, all of that money's gone.

The four day week and three day weekend would also be a great idea for families to become closer together for example, my dad leaves at 6am and gets home at 6pm, but on the weekends he doesn't have to work for long. Therefore, this gives very valuable and memory making family time.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concept. I know you will make the best decision for our country.

Thank you heaps for everything you have done. I really appreciate it.

Kind regards

Seren Paige Watts

Dear Jacinda Ardern

I think that having three days on weekends is a great idea and hopefully after this email you can agree.

Obviously there are more, well obvious reasons why I would like to have three days on the weekends like sit on my butt and do stuff that is completely irrelevant to learning.

But I generally think it's a good idea, I mean it helps with kids learning to do more stuff that they don't usually do around the house such as baking and spending more time with their family because in my family we don't get that very often due to our beds and devices existing and I'm sure a majority of kids would like a longer weekend as well. I Mean New Zealand gets a whole bunch of tourists and people coming to look at our beautiful landscape and country itself, I mean, think about the economy! We could be back to having this once we are done with covid 19...

Total annual tourism expenditure is \$40.9 billion – \$112 million per day, And How many tourists visit New Zealand each year? Over 3.8 million tourists and other travellers visited New Zealand for the year ending December 2019 International tourism saw an increase of 0.7% over the previous year.. Tourism is New Zealand's biggest export industry, contributing 20.4% of total export. Think how much more we could have with less school days and a longer weekend where we can travel to spend our money. Did you know that Annual domestic tourism expenditure is \$23.7 billion – \$65 million per day. That's a lot of money!

We would have to be more fair and say something like cut down the lunch times, and do more learning, basically just the boring stuff. There are many ways this could work, though there is always a way that it couldn't, but we don't see any downsides seeing as us children only care about less school when hearing this debate, and as much as I hate to say it but maybe more homework? But of course that is the last resort but online learning wasn't too bad as long as I'm not there till 3pm from 9am.

Please take this email into consideration because it took me a very solid 15+ minutes, with all seriousness please take a moment to think about it. This idea would be pretty cool if we can make it happen!

Yours sincerely

Noah Willmott

Dear Jacinda Ardern

Hi my name is Noah Brummitt from Tahuna Normal Intermediate School and I am writing this email to tell you my views on the four day week.

Firstly I would like to say thank you. Thank you for getting us out of this coronavirus mess, Thank you for being understanding of everyone's needs, thank you for keeping us all safe and thank you for everything else you have done thank you

Secondly I would like to say that I strongly agree with having this modification to NZ maybe not permanent, but long enough so that we can pump money into our economy. Let's get our economy thriving again. I suggest we could have a four day week every fortnight which would benefit our economy immensely.

I do have some questions about this for instance will we have to do the same hours of school and work in a week. If we do, some kids will be at school not for six hours but seven and a half hours. I personally think that might be a bit long. Also my dad works 40 hours a week he usually spends eight hours at work but if it's a four day week he would have to work 10 hours that's about half his day. Maybe we could use Friday as a day where people work from home. We have proven this is possible in the lockdown period.

Secondly I would like to point out that domestic tourism earns \$23.7 billion – \$65 million per day that's a lot of money and if we could extend the weekend people would be more likely to travel places and spend more money.

I also think that if we had a four day week people could rest longer and be better prepared for the working day. For example Microsoft tried this and their productivity increased by 40%. Also kids would get more sleep, parents would be less stressed and families could spend more time together and they can travel for the extended weekend and I think that would be very good for New Zealand.

Thank you for reading my letter. I really appreciate it. I hope that I have been able to get my voice across about the four day week.

Yours sincerely

Noah Brummitt