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Media Release

No rest for Aussie small businesses

- New research reveals almost a quarter of Australian small business owners haven't taken a holidays in two years
- More than half of Aussie business owners find it difficult to take time off work

3 December 2015 – With summer holidays just around the corner, new research released from cloud accounting leader [Xero](#) has revealed that more than half (55 per cent) of small businesses owners find it difficult to take time off work, with many (38 per cent) preferring to work through the summer holidays¹.

The survey from Xero looks at the behaviour of small business owners during the Christmas holiday period, and the technology they use within their organisation.

According to the survey, the key reasons Australian small business owners struggle to take time off are:

- They need to be available at all times as they are the decision maker (42 per cent)
- 37 per cent of business owners are unable to take holidays as they are the sole employee of their business
- They are just too busy to take holidays (25 per cent)
- A third (32 per cent) are unable to relax if they don't know what's going on in their business

For 57 per cent of Australian small business owners, it's been more than a year since their last holiday – and over two years for nearly a quarter (23 per cent) of owners. This inability to switch off is concerning, and when combined with limited time with family and friends, increases the potential of burnout.

For the lucky 45 per cent of small business owners who don't find it difficult to take time off from their business, the key to their relaxation is delegation and preparation. 19 per cent have hired employees that they trust to run the business in their absence.

¹ Xero In on Summer survey, October 2015. The survey was conducted by PureProfile and consisted of 515 Australian respondents who own or manage their own small business.

More than a third (33 per cent) of small business owners prepare for their break by doing extra work in the lead up, while others enforce mandatory shut down periods for the business (22 per cent).

Technology is a major factor in helping small business owners relax, with the survey finding:

- Only 12 per cent of owners use technology to do work and run their business remotely while on holidays.
- 13 per cent turn email notifications off, and 10 per cent take a vacation in locations without a phone signal
- More than half (56 per cent) of small business owners admitted that using mobile technology to manage their business or work remotely would make it easier to take more holidays

“We already knew that small business owners are hard workers, but the fact that almost a quarter haven’t taken a holiday in over two years is quite concerning,” said Chris Ridd, Xero Australia MD.

“There are plenty of tools to help small businesses manage their business and work remotely if need be, allowing them to check in on their business with the click of a button, no matter where they are. Having the ability to know what’s going on in your business whilst you’re away can lead to greater peace of mind, giving business owners more incentive to take time off from work.”

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About Xero

[Xero](#) is beautiful, easy-to-use online accounting software for small businesses and their advisors. The company has over 600,000 subscribers in more than 180 countries. Xero seamlessly integrates with over 400 third-party tools, and was ranked No.1 by Forbes as the [World's Most Innovative Growth Company](#) in 2014 and 2015.