



Media Release

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## **Aussies find love at work**

### **Survey reveals most Aussies have romanced a workmate**

#### **80% claim work is the ideal singles hunting ground**

A CareerOne.com.au survey has found 76 per cent of people have been romantically involved with someone in their workplace.

Of the people surveyed, 80 per cent consider their workplace an appropriate hunting ground for romance. Of the female respondents, 57 percent claim to have met their current spouse/partner at work.

Conducted by CoreData in partnership with CareerOne.com.au, the survey of 1151 respondents also found:

- 66 per cent of those people who met their current partner at work kept it a secret to begin with.
- 58 per cent of respondents said they would have no problem working with their partner but 31 per cent wanted their partner to be in a different team or division.
- 57 per cent of male respondents believe it's ethical to have a relationship with their boss.
- 60 per cent of women believe dating the boss is off limits.
- 59 per cent of respondents have witnessed colleagues using their looks or sexuality to get ahead at work. Tactics observed include wearing suggestive clothes, flirting with the boss and using casual touching to flirt.
- 88 per cent of respondents admitted that they have had a crush on a client or work colleague with 60 per cent saying they acted on their feelings.
- 60 per cent of women have felt uncomfortable around a colleague or client as a result of sexual advances, compared to only 33 per cent of men.

"I am not surprised so many people have found romance at work given the amount of time we all spend at work and therefore with colleagues," CareerOne.com.au editor, Kate Southam said.

"However, dating at the office is fraught with dangers so again I am not surprised 66 per cent of people kept their office romance a secret," Kate said.

"Employers can have policies around sexual harassment or harassment if a work relationship sours but they cannot create policies around co-workers dating," she said.

"However, at an individual level, there are definitely strategies and personal 'rules' to follow when it comes to workplace dating if you want to avoid a career backlash."

**To see the CareerOne.com.au story on the survey results visit:**

**[http://www.careerone.com.au/jobs/job-search/get-that-job/Office\\_Romance](http://www.careerone.com.au/jobs/job-search/get-that-job/Office_Romance)**

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