



Alas, Poor Yorick

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Working from home is a very old idea, becoming new again during this Age of the Internet.

COVID made telework something of a mania. But there's been some withdrawal of support for the arrangement from major corporations, and one of the main results of Elon Musk's DOGE effort in government was to bring government workers [back into the office](#).

Well, sort of. A few months later, [some of the measures](#) implemented by DOGE were halted or scaled back.

How goes the trend elsewhere? As soon as something becomes possible, someone in politics wants to make it mandatory. A *Reason* [article](#) by Reem Ibrahim takes a look Down Under: "Do You Have a Right To Work From Home? This Australian Politician Thinks So."

This politician being Victoria's Premier Jacinta Allan,

who aims to lead Australia into a new era of labor paradise, giving "all employees, regardless of the size of the business, the right to work from home. The legislation — which will be introduced in July as a provision of the Equal Opportunity Act and go into effect in September — does not include exemptions for small businesses.

"Working from home," Ibrahim writes, "is often a win-win for businesses and employees," but he fails to say it often *isn't*. How do you dig ditches or construct skyscrapers or fish in the deep sea from home? To handle the necessary exemptions and complexity, of course, plenty of red tape would be required, which Mr. Ibrahim does mention.

So, does Jacinta Allan advance this innovation because she is a leader of extraordinary foresight?

Doubtful. A few months ago she had to deal with a [mini-scandal](#): [Yorick Piper](#), her husband, was convicted of drunk driving and had his driver's license taken away.

Gotta get hubby back to work!

Well, it was a temporary license revocation. But alas, poor Yorick: see what you've spawned?!?

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.