

# Your involvement



# living

in Australia study

## ⇒ What participating can mean for you

You can influence Government decisions, be involved in a valuable community service and provide a voice for your community and family. It can even pay for a night out at the movies.

**Busy?** We can talk to you at a time and place that suits you.

**Worried about privacy?** We do not pass your contact details onto anyone. All the information you provide us is protected by strict guidelines and the law (Privacy Act, 1988).

**Not interested?** This study influences decisions made by communities and the Government that affect you.

**Feel uncomfortable?** You only need to answer the questions you feel comfortable answering.

### **Your answers are valuable!**

You represent 1200 other Australians and you are the voice of people in your age group.

## ⇒ Thank you

This year each person who participates in the study will receive a cheque for \$25 to thank you for your participation.

Once everyone in your household has taken part, your household will receive a bonus \$25.

## ⇒ Your thoughts

"Doing the survey each year is quite an enjoyable experience. Thanks for involving my family."

"Interesting and thought provoking questions."

"The interviewers have been great!"

"I am pleased to see the results used in the media."

## ⇒ Contact us

- Do you have any concerns or questions?
- Would you like to know more?
- Do you need to contact your interviewer?

We would like to hear from you and can be contacted on free call **1800 656 670** or via email [livinginaustralia@acnielsen.com.au](mailto:livinginaustralia@acnielsen.com.au).

FUB W6M

# Why your answers are important



[www.livinginaustralia.org](http://www.livinginaustralia.org)  
Free call 1800 656 670

# Message from the Project Director

# In the news



**The Living in Australia study is unique in the information it provides about Australian life.**

The research is used by both academics and Government to inform social and economic

decisions and is widely reported in the media. Recent topics of interest include work hours, wealth, poverty, relationships, retirement, fertility and childcare. Your answers provided information on all these topics and more.

By taking part, you make a significant contribution to Australia's future and I invite you to become involved and make a difference. An ACNielsen interviewer will be calling again in the next few days. I hope we will be able to talk to you soon.

*Mark P. Wooden*

Professor Mark Wooden  
HILDA Project Director  
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and  
Social Research  
University of Melbourne

**The Living in Australia study is also known in the media as the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) study.**

## Marriage lite takes heavy toll

Herald Sun 14/11/05, West Australian 14/11/05,  
Canberra Times 21/11/05

The trend towards couples living together instead of marrying has been described by social scientists as 'marriage lite'.

Living together or cohabitating in de facto relationships became popular in the 1970s when people entered into trial marriages before they officially married. However HILDA data shows that today many people are not progressing on to marriage once they start living together. Less than half of de facto couples go on to marry, while 38 percent separate.

## Your share of housework

The Sunday Age 14/5/06, Hobart Mercury 12/4/06

Women continue to perform the lion's share of housework.

The HILDA study shows that on average women spend more than twice the number of hours on housework and errands than men, regardless of whether they are working full-time or not.

Even so, men believe they do their fair share and both men and women report high levels of satisfaction with their relationships.

## The solitary confinement of the Aussie bloke

The Age 26/2/05

Loneliness in Australia has a masculine face. Men tend to experience the condition far more intensely than women, right through from early adulthood to old age. This gender gap peaks when males hit mid-life and from 35 to 44 years of age they feel the most isolated from friends and other supports, especially if they live alone. The HILDA study suggests that the loneliest people in the nation are sole fathers rearing children.