

2019

LIVING IN AUSTRALIA



FEATURING

FAMILY

RELATIONSHIPS

RETIREMENT



Message from Professor

Michaela Benzeval

HILDA provides unique insights into lives of Australians over time, which is important for science and policy in Australia and beyond.

As Director of Understanding Society (the UK equivalent of HILDA), I know beyond any doubt that the knowledge that scientists and policy makers have gained from the HILDA Study would not be possible without you carrying out your interview every year. Some people's lives change, others stay the same; hearing about both change and stability over time is important to learning about how different policies and changes in the economy or society more generally affect the lives of people in different situations.

One of the unique features of HILDA is, that by interviewing and following everyone in the household, researchers and policy makers can understand how changes in the health or lives of one family member may impact on the lives of others at the same time or later.

Talking to everyone in the household, in the good times and the bad, is therefore vital to help our understanding of how change might impact on different family members, and the breadth of policies that need to consider this.

While meeting with policy makers in Canberra last year, I was really impressed by the wide range of government departments, agencies, banks and charities that make use of the study to understand Australian lives and improve their policies.

HILDA is part of a family too; a family of international household panel studies. As well as HILDA and my own study in the UK, there are others in USA, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, Korea, Japan, China to name a few. We work together to learn from each other and also carry out research comparing findings in different countries to see how different government policies work in different communities and cultures.

But none of this would be possible without you and your family, and families like yours across the world, providing valuable information every year so that we can understand your lives within your household, within Australia and across the world.



Professor Michaela Benzeval

**Director, Understanding Society,
University of Essex**



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What's new this year?

This year, our nineteenth, HILDA (the Living in Australia) study will focus on life stages, relationships, family formation and retirement. Through the interview, we hope to gain a better understanding of how you and your households life may change as your priorities change, and gain insights into the issues that are important to you now and those that will become important to you in the future.

Why are you so important to this study?

The Living in Australia study is the only study of its kind that provides regular information on the household, economic and social experiences of the same Australians over time. By collecting data from the same people, we are able to put together a true, detailed story of Australian life. Strict statistical guidelines that the HILDA study adheres to mean that you cannot be replaced or represented by any other person. The ongoing success of this study is dependent upon your participation.

Our thanks to you

We greatly appreciate the time you spend with our interviewers each year. As a thank-you for your participation, we will give you \$40 cash at the end of your interview. When every eligible member in the household has taken part, your household will receive an additional \$40.

Just turned 15?

Young people, such as you, are critical to the future of Australia. By sharing your unique experience you are assisting all young Australians to influence their future.

Now that you have turned 15, we want to talk to you! Whether you are still at school, just started work or trying to figure out your next steps, you can make sure the young people in Australia are represented in this important study. For your time, you will receive a \$40 cash gift in thanks for your participation.

Offer to all Living in Australia participants

We are pleased to offer a free printed copy of the most recent HILDA Statistical Report, which provides analysis of trends and data over time. If you would like to receive your own Statistical Report, please ask your interviewer or call **1800 656 670**.

The report is also available for free download from: <https://livinginaustralia.org/#publications>



In the Media

Time spent in paid and unpaid work by working-age men and women

The HILDA Survey collects data on the number of hours and minutes spent in a typical week on paid and unpaid activities including travelling to and from work, household errands, housework, outdoor tasks and caring for family members. Analysis of this data allows us to explore how paid and unpaid work by men and women aged 15 to 64 has evolved between 2002 to 2016.

For men, in 2008, the average time spent on employment activities increased to 38.7 hours per week, decreasing to 35.9 hours per week by 2016. In 2016, men averaged 13.3 hours of housework, and since 2002, the time caring for family members has increased from an average of 4.8 hours per week to an average of 5.4 hours in 2016.

In 2002, women averaged more time on housework than on employment (22.8 hours versus 21.4 hours), but increases in time spent on employment and decreases in time spent on housework have seen this pattern reversed. Women's time spent on care has increased, from 9.7 hours per week in 2002 to 11.3 hours in 2016.

Average weekly time spent on employment for women
Aged 15 to 64 years



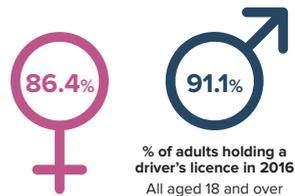
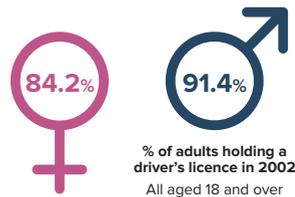
Average weekly time spent on housework for women
Aged 15 to 64 years



Who holds a driver's licence?

Holding a driver's licence can be important to work, family and social participation. For some, not holding a licence can constrain employment opportunities and inhibit many day-to-day activities. In 2012 and 2016, the HILDA Survey asked respondents to identify if they hold a current motor vehicle driver's licence (including a motorcycle licence).

The data shows us that the rate of licence-holding rises up until we reach the 35 to 44 age group, peaking at around 93% for women and 96% for men. As we move beyond 45 years, the rate of licence-holding declines. Overall, men are more likely than women to hold a licence, although the gap narrowed between 2012 and 2016. In 2012, 84.2% of adult women and 91.4% of adult men held a licence, whereas in 2016, 86.4% of adult women and 91.1% of adult men held a licence.





What about privacy?

Your information is protected.

The people involved in the study are committed to ethical research and legally bound to ensure your information is secure. All people involved in the project must sign and comply with the Privacy Act 1988. Your rights are protected by Australian law. Your identifying information is collected for the purpose of the Living in Australia study only. Access to your identifying information is restricted to only those who require it for the purpose of administering or conducting the study.

Thinking of moving?

Your participation is critical to the success of the study, so please let us know if you are moving.

Just freecall **1800 656 670** or email your new address to **HILDA@roymorgan.com**

More information about Living in Australia

If you have any questions, would like more information, or would like to contact your interviewer please freecall **1800 656 670** or visit us online at **www.livinginaustralia.org**

Your interviewer will also be able to help you with any queries you may have when he or she visits you.



This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: **+61 3 8344 2073** or Fax: **+61 3 9347 6739** or Email: **HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au** All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team (HILDA Survey) or the name or ethics ID number of the research project (ID no. 1647030).

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