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MABEL

Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life

2015

General Practitioner & GP Registrar

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MABEL has been endorsed by:

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MONASH University Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Space is provided at the end of this survey to make additional written comments. Please write responses in boxes provided using a dark pen. Check boxes can be ticked or crossed.

A About your current situation

1.	Are you currently doing any clinical medical work in Australia? ¹ Yes – If yes, please go to Section B below and complete the main survey ² No – Continue
2.	Are you permanently retired from all types of paid work? Yes – As you are permanently retired from all types of paid work you do not need to complete the rest of the survey. Please return this survey in the reply-paid envelope provided. Thank you for your participation.
3.	Which of the following statements describe your current situation? (Tick all that apply) Doing medical work in Australia that is non-clinical (e.g. medico-legal, teaching, research, committee work) Maternity leave Home duties/childcare Enrolled as a student Extended leave (e.g. sick leave, long service leave) Working outside Australia in a clinical role Working outside Australia in a non-clinical, but medical role Doing non-medical work in Australia. Please specify occupation:
4.	Do you intend to return to clinical medical work in Australia? ¹ Yes – Please go to Section G and complete the final two sections of the survey ² Unsure – Please go to Section G and complete the final two sections of the survey ³ No – As you do not intend returning to clinical work in Australia you do not need to complete the rest of the survey.

Please return this survey in the reply-paid envelope provided. Thank you for your participation.

B About your job satisfaction

5. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with each of the various aspects of your work as a doctor.

	Very Dissatisfied	Moderately Dissatisfied	Not Sure	Moderately Satisfied	Very Satisfied	N/A
Freedom to choose your own method of working	1	2	3	4	5	6
Amount of variety in your work		2	3	4	5	6
Physical working conditions		2	3	4	5	6
Opportunities to use your abilities		2	3	4	5	6
Your colleagues and fellow workers	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recognition you get for good work		2	3	4	5	6
Your hours of work	1	2	3	4	5	6
Your remuneration		2	3	4	5	6
Amount of responsibility you are given	1	2	3	4	5	6
Taking everything into consideration, how do you feel about your job?	1	2	3	4	5	6

6. Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

The amount of work I delegate to other health	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
professionals has increased in the past 12 months		2	3	4	5	6
The balance between my personal and professional commitments is about right	1	2	3	4	5	6
I have a poor support network of other doctors like me		2	3	4	5	6
It is difficult to take time off when I want to		2	3	4	5	6
I can take time off at short notice, for example if one of my children is ill or for a home emergency	1	2	3	4	5	6
My patients have unrealistic expectations about how I can help them	1	2	3	4	5	6
The majority of my patients have complex health and social problems		2	3	4	5	6
Running my practice is stressful most of the time		2	3	4	5	6
The hours I work are unpredictable		2	3	4	5	6
I have good supervision/mentoring support		2	3	4	5	6
I often undertake tasks that somebody less qualified could do	1	2	3	4	5	6
I normally consult with others in the practice about the management of patients with complex health and social problems	1	2	3	4	5	6
Formal structures are in place to encourage communication amongst practice staff (e.g. regular meetings)	1	2	3	4	5	6
My colleagues understand the need for work–life balance	¹	2	3	4	5	6
I cannot work my preferred hours due to a lack of jobs offering those hours	1	2	3	4	5	6

7. Would you like to change your hours of work (including day time and after hours)?

¹ No

2

2

Yes, I'd like to increase my hours

Yes, I'd like to decrease my hours

8. Imagine you would like to reduce your hours of work. How achievable is this? (Tick one box)

¹ This could be achieved easily within my current job

- ____ This could be achieved with some difficulty in my current job
- I would have to change jobs, but there are suitable opportunities in my local area
- I would have to change jobs, and such jobs are scarce
- This would be impossible

Don't know

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C About the places where you work

9. Excluding on-call, for how many HOURS in your MOST RECENT USUAL WEEK at work did you undertake work in each of the following settings? (Include ALL of the work you do as a doctor) (If none, write 0)

	work in each of the following settings: (Include ALL of the work you do as a doctor) (If hone, write o)	Actual house no	woold
		Actual hours per	7
	Private medical practitioner's rooms or surgery		hrs/wk
	Community health centre or other state-run primary care organisation		hrs/wk
	Public hospital (including psychiatric hospital)		hrs/wk
	Private hospital		hrs/wk
	Residential/aged care health facility (nursing/residential home, hospice etc.)		hrs/wk
	Aboriginal health service		hrs/wk
	Government department, agency or defence forces		hrs/wk
	Tertiary education institution		hrs/wk
	Other		hrs/wk
	TOTAL HOURS WORKED		hrs/wk
10.	How many GPs work in your current main practice? (Include yourself if applicable) (If none, write 0)		
	Full-tir	ne	Part-time
	No. of males		
	No. of females		
11.	How many other health workers or professionals are employed in your current main practice?		
	(If none, write 0) No. of nurses	Г	
	No. of allied health professionals	Г	
	No. of administrative staff	L	
	No. of other staff	L	
12.	Is your current main practice co-located with other health or welfare professionals?		
	Yes		
13.	What is your business relationship with your current main practice? (Tick one box)		
	Principal or partner		
	² Associate		

Salaried	employee	(e.g. receive	fixed	annual	salary	&	benefits	with	tax	deducted)

Contracted employee (e.g. receive fixed payment per session or a % of billings before tax)	
Locum	

⁶ Other (please specify) ______ 14. When did you start working at this practice?

	Year
15.	My opportunities for continuing medical education and professional development are:

Very	limited
Aver	age

Very good

16. Is your practice accredited?

1	Yes
2	No

17.	Does your practice claim the Practice Nurse Incentive Program payments?
18.	Do you currently work in a hospital? ¹ Yes ² No-Go to question 22
19.	How are you paid for this hospital work? Fee-for-service/bill patients directly Fixed payment per session or hour Salary with rights to private practice Other (please specify)
20.	What is the main hospital in which you work (i.e. spend most time)? Hospital name Postcode
21.	How long have you worked at this hospital? No. of years No. of months
D	About your workload
22.	Excluding on-call, how many HOURS in your MOST RECENT USUAL WEEK at work did you spend on the following activities? (Include ALL of the work you do as a doctor in ALL jobs/workplaces) (If none, write 0) TOTAL HOURS WORKED PER WEEK (Should equal the TOTAL in question 9) hrs/wk Direct patient care (face-to-face, phone consultations, home visits: with or without a medical student present) hrs/wk Indirect patient care (medical notes, reports, phone calls, meeting patients' families) hrs/wk Education activities (teaching, research, continuing medical education) hrs/wk Management and administration hrs/wk Other. hrs/wk
23.	In relation to education activities, are you involved in any of the following teaching or supervisory activities, including formal and informal teaching and supervision? (Tick all that apply) Teaching or supervising medical students Teaching or supervising interns and other pre-vocational trainees Teaching or supervising GP registrars No, I am not involved in any teaching or supervision
24.	In relation to non-clinical activities OUTSIDE your usual place of work, are you currently involved in any of the following activities? (Please tick all that apply) Elected office bearer (e.g. president, treasurer) or board member of a national or state-level professional organisation (e.g. the Australian Medical Association or a medical college). Committee member in a national or state-level professional organisation, advisory group and/or steering group. I am not currently involved in any of the activities listed above.
25.	Do you practise in any of the following areas? (Tick all that apply) Anaesthetics Obstetrics Surgery Emergency medicine None of the above

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26.	Do you have a special interest in a specific area of clinical practice? (By 'special interest' we mean that you have advanced skills, training or knowledge in a particular field of practice, and/or you undertake procedures or provide services that are outside the normal scope of practice for GPs.)
	Yes
	² No-Go to question 29
27.	If yes please indicate your main area of special interest practice. (Tick one box)
	Antenatal /Postnatal care
	² Women's health
	³ Psychological medicine / Mental health
	Skin cancer / Dermatology
	⁵ Child / Young persons' health
	Sports medicine
	⁷ Other (please specify)
28.	Approximately what proportion of your overall clinical practice hours are accounted for by your main area of special interest practice?
	25%
	² 25-50%
	³ 51-75%
	⁴ >75%
29.	In your most recent USUAL week at work, for around HOW MANY patients did you provide care? (Include face-to-face, out-of-hours and telephone consultations in ALL SETTINGS) (If none, write 0) Total number of patients seen in private consulting rooms
	Total number of patients seen in hospital or other settings
30.	Excluding emergencies or urgent needs, for how many days does a patient typically have to wait for an appointment with: (Please write average number of days)
	You, their preferred doctor in the practice? days
	Any doctor in the practice?
31.	How long does a NEW patient typically have to wait for an appointment in your practice?
	No. of days days
	No. of weeks
	Not taking new patients at present (Tick box)
32.	How long does an average consultation last? (Please write number of minutes) minutes)
33.	Approximately what percentage of patients do you bulk bill/charge no co-payment? %
34.	What is your current fee for a standard (level B) consultation? (Include Medicare rebate and patient co-payment. Please write dollar amount; write 0 if you bulk bill 100% of your patients) \$
35.	Do you do any on-call yourself? (Including public holidays, weekends and weekdays outside of 8am to 6pm)
	Yes
	² No-Go to question 39
36.	What are your on-call ratios for practice and hospital work? (For example, 5 weeknights per fortnight equals 1 in 2) Practice work
	1 weeknight in
	1 weekend in
	Not Applicable (Tick box)

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37.	In your last usual week at work, how many TIMES were you actually called out? (If none, write 0) Practice work Hospital work
	Weeknights: times per week
	Weekend: times per weekend
	Not Applicable (Tick box)
~~	
38.	If your on-call arrangements do not fit the above descriptions, please elaborate below:
39.	Arranging a locum at short notice is usually: (Tick one box)
	Moderately easy
	² Rather difficult
	³ Very difficult
	⁴ Not Applicable
40	Turning to time sport away from work: (If none write 0)
40.	Turning to time spent away from work: (If none, write 0) How many WEEKS holiday did you take in the past year? weeks
	How many WEEKS of parental or maternity leave did you take in the past year?
	Approximately how many DAYS off work due to illness did you have in the past year?
	Approximately how many DAYS off work did you have for other reasons in the past year? days
41.	How many vacancies for GPs does your (main) practice currently have advertised or registered
	with a recruitment or workforce agency? (If none, write 0) Number of vacancies
	Number of these vacancies which have been unfilled for three months or more?
	Don't Know (Tick box)
	Not Applicable (Tick box)
T	
Ľ	About your finances
The	following information will be used to examine the effect of financial issues on your work–life balance,
	will remain strictly confidential.
42	What are your (approximate) TOTAL PERSONAL earnings from ALL of the work you do as a doctor?
12.	(If possible, base this on your last personal income tax return or payslip.) This should be your personal earnings rather than total
	practice earnings. Please write in ONE COLUMN where you have the most accurate information and can best remember.
	Before tax (gross earnings) \$
	After tax (net earnings) \$
43.	In addition to this, did you receive any ongoing 'in kind' benefits or subsidies as part of your current job/s (e.g. car, house
	school fees, salary packaging)?
	Yes
	² No
Δ Δ	What is the approximate annual total value in dollars of these benefits?
	(If zero, write 0)
45	What is the total level of financial debt that you currently have as a result of your medical education and training?
+J.	(Give dollar amount; include HECS debt, other debt associated with training and living expenses) (If zero, write 0)
	\$
	P

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16	What is the total level of financial daht that you surroutly have from owning your practice or promises? (If sure white 0)
46.	What is the total level of financial debt that you currently have from owning your practice or premises? (If zero, write 0)
	\$
	Don't Know (Tick box)
	Not Applicable (Tick box)
47.	What is the status of your private practice for tax purposes?
	Sole trader
	² Partnership
	³ Company
	⁴ Trust
	5 Don't Know
	⁶ Not Applicable
48.	In the last year, approximately what percentage of your total gross earnings from medical work did you receive from each of the following sources? (Please enter percentage figure where applicable)
	Payments from patients for services covered by Medicare (include Medicare rebate and patient co-payment)%
	Payments from patients for services not covered by Medicare
	(e.g. insurance, certificates, private patients)
	Government incentive schemes and grants (e.g. rural incentives)
	Hospital work (salary and other payments)%
	Other sources of medical income (specify source and %)
	TOTAL
49.	How much personal gross income, in addition to income from your medical work, do you receive from other sources ead year? (e.g. bank interest, dividend income, rental income and profit from business interests) (If none, write 0)
	\$
50	Do you (or your employer) regularly contribute to a superannuation scheme?
50.	
	Yes 2
	No-Go to question 52
51	For how many years have you (and/or an employer on your behalf) contributed to a superannuation scheme?
51.	No. of years
52.	Please indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statement: "Given my current financial situation and prospects, I believe I will have enough to live on when I retire". (Tick one box)
	Strongly Disagree
	² Disagree
	³ Neutral
	4
	⁵ Agree
	Strongly Agree
53.	How much (in dollars) did you pay for professional medical liability,
	or malpractice, insurance premiums in the last year?
	(If this was provided by someone else on your behalf, write 0)
54.	What is your total gross and net HOUSEHOLD income? (Include your and your partner's earnings, income from other business
5.1	interests, dividends, interest etc.) The figures below should be equal to or greater than your personal earnings provided in question 42
	Please write in ONE COLUMN ONLY, where you have the most accurate information or can best remember.
	Annual OR Fortnightly
	Before tax (gross household income) \$
	After tax (net household income) \$

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F	About your	geographic	location
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	Town/Suburb						
	Postcode						
56.	Where do you live?						
	Town/Suburb						
	Postcode					· · · · L	
57.	Please indicate the degree to which you agree of	or disagree	e with the fo	llowing stat	ements.		
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
	I don't have many friends or family members in my current work location	1	2	3	4	5	6
	It is easy to pursue my hobbies and leisure interests in my current work location	1	2	3	4	5	6
	My partner does not have many friends or family members in this work location		2	3	4	5	6
	There are good employment opportunities for my partner in this work location	1	2	3	4	5	6
	The choice of schools for our children is adequate in this location	1	2	3	4	5	6
58.	For how many years did you live in a rural area left secondary school? (If none, write 0)						
59.	Please indicate the main rural area where you	lived up ur	til school le	aving age.			
	Town						
	State						
	Not Applicable (Tick box)						
60.	Are you subject to restrictions on where you pra	actise?					
	Yes—I am required to work in an Area of	Need					
	Yes—I am required to work in a District o	f Workford	e Shortage				
	No—Go to question 62						
61.	Please indicate the reason/s for these restriction	ns.					
	I hold a Permanent Resident Visa						
	I hold a Temporary Resident Visa	four o Mad	inal Dunal D		laushin au Di		Diese
	I am undertaking a return of service period I am undertaking a compulsory rural placer				larship or Bo	onded Medical	Place
	Other	none do po					
	Not Applicable						
62.	Do you travel to provide services/clinics in other	geograph	ic areas?				
	¹ Yes						
	² No – Go to question 64						
63.	Where are you providing these services? Please	list up to	three location	ons below.			
			own/Suburb			Post	code
	Location 1						
	Location 2						
	Location 3						

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G About your family circumstances

64.	Are you currently living with a partner or spouse? ¹ Yes ² No
65.	What is the employment status of your partner/spouse? Not in the labour force (e.g. caring for dependents, studying) Currently seeking work Full-time employment Not Applicable
66.	Is your partner/spouse also a medical doctor? ¹ Yes ² No ³ Not Applicable
67.	For how many years did your partner/spouse live in a rural area up until the age he/she left secondary school? (If none, write 0). Don't know (Tick box) Not Applicable (Tick box).
68.	Please indicate the main rural area where your partner/spouse lived up until school leaving age. Town State Don't know (Tick box) Not Applicable (Tick box)
69.	How many dependent children do you have? (If none, write 0 and skip the next two questions)
70.	What is the age in years of each dependent child? Not Applicable (Tick box) Child 1. Child 2. Child 3. Child 4. Child 5. Child 6.
71.	Which of the following forms of childcare are you using for your children of pre-school age? (Please tick all that apply) Relatives or friends Nannies Childcare at work (i.e. provided by an employer) Other day care (childcare centre, family day care, kindergarten etc.) Not Applicable

72.	Please indicate the degree to which you agree of		with the fol	lowing state	ements.		
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
	I am restricted in my employment and/or the time and hours I work due to a lack of available childcare	1	2	3	4	5	6
	My partner is restricted in his/her employment and/or the time and hours worked due to a lack of available childcare	1	2	3	4	5	6
	My partner is overqualified for his/her current job due to the limited availability of suitable jobs		2	3	4	5	6
H	About you						
73.	Year of birth			•••••			
74.	Gender						
	¹ Male						
	² Female						
75.	In what year did you complete your basic medic	al degree?		•••••			
76.	In which country did you complete your basic m	edical degr	ree?				
	A medical school in Australia						
	² A medical school in the country specified:						
77.	In which medical school in Australia did you con	nplete vour	· basic medic	cal degree?			
	¹ Not Applicable	1	2	1	of Newcast	le	
	³ University of Adelaide		4	- · · ·	of Notre Da		
	⁵ Australian National University		6			ame Sydney	
	⁷ Bond University		8	University			
	⁹ Deakin University		10	1	of Queensla	and	
	¹¹ Flinders University		12	1	of Sydney		
	¹³ Griffith University		14	1	of Tasmania	a	
	¹⁵ James Cook University		16			lergraduate)	
	¹⁷ University of Melbourne (undergraduate)		18	1	of WA (pos		
	¹⁹ University of Melbourne (postgraduate)		20] University	of Western	Sydney	
	²¹ Monash University (undergraduate)		22	1	of Wollong		
	²³ Monash University (postgraduate)						
	²⁴ University of New England & University o	f Newcastl	e Joint Medi	cal Program	ı		
78.	If you completed your medical degree in Austral country outside of Australia and New Zealand)?		ou an interna	ational stude	ent (i.e. wer	re you a citizen	of a
	¹ Yes						
	³ Not Applicable						
79.	If you did your medical degree at a medical school	ol outside A	Australia, hav	e you compl	eted the AN	IC Certificate e	examination?
	Yes						
	3 No						
	Not Applicable						

80.	If you completed your medical degree outside of Australia: What year did you first arrive in Australia? In what year were you first registered to work as a doctor in Australia? Not Applicable (Tick box)
81.	Do you have medical qualifications from overseas which are NOT recognised in Australia?
82.	Please indicate all medical qualifications that you have obtained in Australia. Number of qualifications Names of qualifications
	Masters degree
	PhD
	Postgraduate diploma/certificate
	Fellowship of college
00	
83.	Do you have a research-based degree from medical school in addition to your primary medical qualification? For example: BSc(Med)(Hons),BSc(Hons), MBBS(Hons). ¹ Yes ² No
84.	Please indicate how many other health and non-health related qualifications you have obtained in Australia. No. of qualifications
85.	If you are a GP Registrar: In what year did you start this training program? In what year do you expect to complete the program and become a Fellow? Are you training in your preferred specialty? (Please write 'yes' or 'no') Not Applicable (Tick box)
86.	Since you graduated, how many years and/or months have you spent NOT practising as a doctor? (Include time to bring up a family, time in non-medical jobs or study; exclude holidays and medically-related study leave) (If none, write 0) No. of years
	No. of months
87.	What is your residency status? (Tick one box) Australian citizen Permanent resident Temporary resident
88.	What type of medical registration do you have? (Please tick all that apply)
	General registration Provisional registration Limited registration Non-practising registration
89.	In general, would you say your health is: (Tick one box)
	 Lxcellent Very good Good Fair Poor

90.	All things of	onsidered, h	ow satisfied	are you with	n your life in	general? (Ti	ck one box)			
	Completely									Completely
	Dissatisfied									Satisfied
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

91. The statements below refer to the type of person you are. There is growing evidence that these characteristics are related to doctors' job satisfaction and decisions about work. The information you provide will remain strictly confidential and you will not be identifiable.

Please answer each of the following questions using a 1 to 7 point scale, where 1 means 'Does not apply to me at all' and 7 means 'Applies to me perfectly'.

and 7 means Applies to the perfectly.	Does not apply to me at all						Applies to me perfectly
I see myself as someone who:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Does a thorough job	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Is communicative, talkative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Is sometimes somewhat rude to others		2	3	4	5	6	7
Is original, comes up with new ideas		2	3	4	5	6	7
Worries a lot		2	3	4	5	6	7
Has a forgiving nature		2	3	4	5	6	7
Tends to be lazy		2	3	4	5	6	7
Is outgoing, sociable		2	3	4	5	6	7
Values artistic experiences		2	3	4	5	6	7
Gets nervous easily		2	3	4	5	6	7
Does things effectively and efficiently		2	3	4	5	6	7
Is reserved		2	3	4	5	6	7
Is considerate and kind to others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Has an active imagination	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Is relaxed, handles stress well	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

92. Please answer each of the following questions using a 1 to 7 point scale, where 1 means 'Strongly disagree' and 7 means 'Strongly agree'.

	Strongly disagree	e 2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree 7
I have little control over the things that happen to me		2	3	4	5	6	7
There is really no way I can solve some of the problems I have	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
There is little I can do to change mar of the important things in my life	ıy ₁	2	3	4	5	6	7
I often feel helpless in dealing with the problems of life	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sometimes I feel that I'm being pushed around in life	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
What happens to me in the future mostly depends on me	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I can do just about anything I really set my mind on doing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

93. This question asks about everyday risk-taking in relation to different types of activities. How likely are you to engage in each of the following activities (with a score of 1 being 'very unlikely' and 5 being 'very likely')? Very unlikely 1 2 3 4 5

	-	-			2
Financial risks (e.g. investments with an uncertain outcome)	1	2	3	4	5
Career and professional risks (e.g. publicly challenging your professional colleagues)	1	2	3	4	5
Clinical risks (e.g. recommending a treatment which is new to your usual practice or is controversial)	1	2	3	4	5

94. The personal life events listed below can have an important influence on a person's work-life balance. For each statement below, please indicate 'YES' or 'NO' as to whether you experienced the event during the past 12 months. For each statement you answer 'YES', please indicate how long ago the event occurred or commenced.

	No	Yes	If 'YES', 0 to 3 months ago	please indicate l 4 to 6 months ago	now long ago it 7 to 9 months ago	happened. 10 to 12 months ago
Serious personal injury or illness to self		2		2	3	4
Serious personal injury or illness to a close relative or family member	1	2	1	2	3	4
Death of spouse or child		2	1	2	3	4
Death of other close relative or family member (e.g. parent or sibling)	1	2	1	2	3	4
Death of a close friend		2	1	2	3	4
Victim of physical violence (e.g. assault)		2	1	2	3	4
Victim of a property crime (e.g. theft, housebreaking)	1	2	1	2	3	4
Named as defendant in a medical negligence claim		2	1	2	3	4

95. We would like your email address to assist us in contacting you in future Waves. If we are unable to contact you by mail when distributing the MABEL survey, we will contact you by email instead. This information will be used only for this purpose. If possible, please provide a non-work email address to facilitate contact in the event you change jobs.

Email address:

96. Thank you for completing the survey. Please provide any further comments below.

In case of loss of included reply-paid envelope, please forward survey to: Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research – MABEL Survey Reply Paid 84574 UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE VIC 3010
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