

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? All the information you provide us is protected by strict guidelines and the law (*Privacy Act, 1988*). Access to your identifying information will be restricted to only those who require it for the purpose of administering or conducting the study.

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.

↔ Your thoughts

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

"I really enjoy doing this study every year. It helps me to reflect on myself and my life."

"We have been very impressed with our interviewer over the past years. He is always very professional."

"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@nielsen.com.

↔ 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.



www.livinginaustralia.org
Free call 1800 656 670

Living in Australia in focus

Evidence about how our lives are changing or staying the same

The Living in Australia study is held in high regard, both in Australia and overseas. It provides a very rich and fascinating resource that grows in value each year.

A conference was held recently to discuss the findings from the study, which is known to researchers and the media as the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) study. Around 250 academic and government researchers attended the conference, including delegates from Chile, France, Germany, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand and the USA.

Among the presenters was one of the producers of ABC Radio National's *Life Matters* program who compiled a report on the conference acknowledging the diversity in the topics covered. The report concluded with the following thanks:

“If any of the 13,000 participants are listening – we thank you on behalf of the nation!”

There have been over 300 government reports, journal articles, conference papers and other publications produced using the data. Results from the study and the implications for our lives are also often reported in the news. Links to some of the media articles available online are listed in the Living in Australia website

www.livinginaustralia.org

A longitudinal study follows the lives of individuals over time. Rather than providing a snapshot or still photograph – like the Census does – a longitudinal study provides video evidence of how things are changing.

What this study has told us so far...

Work

- While in any year around 40% of those employed are not working the hours they want to work, many are working their preferred hours a few years later. People who wish to work more hours are more likely to achieve their desired number of hours than others.
- Casual work frequently provides a bridge between not working and ongoing employment.
- The short term evidence from this study suggests that investments in formal education and workplace training to improve skills is already paying off in increased earnings for men aged 25-54. For women, the payoff may take longer.

Family

- 86% of men and 62% of women with high levels of parenting stress are able to reduce their level of stress over a four year period.
- There is great diversity in who children live with while growing up in Australia and this is increasing over time. Grandparents, in particular, are having a larger role.
- Equal shared care of children after separation is very rare.

Income

- Most people who become poor (that is, earn less than half the income a typical Australian earns) soon cease to be poor. The longer a person has been poor, the less chance they have of moving out of that state.
- People more likely to be poor on an ongoing basis include elderly people living alone, single mothers, and working aged people living alone.
- Government pensions and benefits reduced the proportion of the population that would have been poor in all five years between 2001 and 2005 from 14.5 per cent to 3.3 per cent.