

LIVING IN AUSTRALIA



**YOUR CASH
BONUS AND
TERRIFIC
OFFER**



**YOUR PRIVACY
EXPLAINED**





THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

A message from Mark Wooden, the Project Director of the HILDA study

Dear Living in Australia study participant,

As most of you would be aware, the HILDA (or Living in Australia) study began over a decade ago in 2001. At that time there were many who said HILDA would not last more than a few years, let alone survive a decade. Ordinary Australians, they said, would not be willing to participate in this study year after year.

You, however, have proved the critics wrong.

By your willingness to spend between 30 and 60 minutes each year speaking to one of our interviewers, you have helped ensure that the HILDA study is now one of the prime sources of information that governments and researchers alike turn to when they want to understand what is happening in the lives of Australians.

Some of you, I know, often ask why we keep coming back when your lives don't change much. First, it is just as critical to know about lives that don't change much as it is to know about Australians leading more eventful lives. Second, many of you are probably unaware just how much your life has changed when you look back over a decade.

On behalf of all Australians, I thank you for your participation to date, and I hope you will continue to let our interviewers into your homes and lives (if ever so briefly) for many years to come.

Professor Mark Wooden

Project Director, HILDA study

Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.



What's new this year?

We feel an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude to you, our Living in Australia members, as we approach the twelfth year of the HILDA study. The distinct and truly indispensable results of the HILDA study continue to provide a valuable source of information to those making economic and social welfare decisions - decisions that affect us all.

This year the HILDA project has a new focus which looks at education, skills and abilities. Along with these new questions, we will also be asking you many of the questions you are familiar with from previous years. Understanding how your responses change to these key questions is one of the most important components of the HILDA study. These are the questions that paint the picture of how Australian households evolve and how even the big and small changes in our lives affect us all.

Why are YOU so important to this study?

It's not everyday someone asks you about your life in Australia. But you have been specifically chosen to tell us all about it! Your participation represents a voice for many other Australians just like you; in other words, your involvement is invaluable. By taking part in this important national study you are having a vital and long term impact on Australia's future.

Furthermore, the HILDA study is conducted by strict statistical guidelines and that means you are irreplaceable. The success of this study is dependent upon your participation.

Our thanks to you

With each year, your ongoing participation becomes more important to this study. Your information is building a unique picture of Australians that is helping shape our nation. For this support we are very grateful, and as a small gift we will be offering you \$30 for your participation. A further \$30 gift will be offered when every eligible member in the household has taken part.



Our study is BIG NEWS

Internet access at home

Access to the internet is increasingly seen as important to participation in the economic and social life of the community. For the first time in 2010, we asked respondents whether they had access to the internet at home.

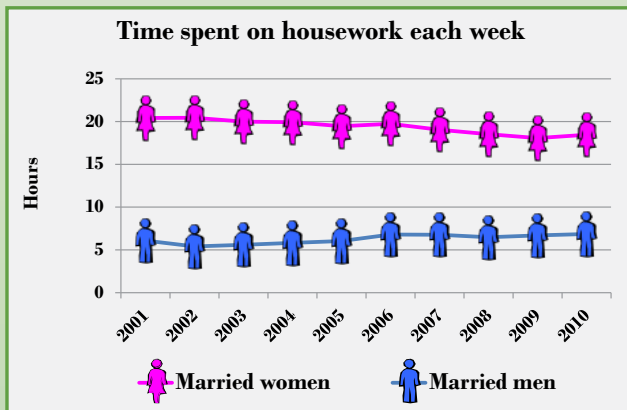
It was found that 84 per cent of the Australian population has access to the internet at home; however access varies considerably by age group, ranging from 93 per cent of those aged 15 to 24 down to 38 per cent of those aged 75 and over. There is also variation across regions, with 87 per cent of people living in major urban areas having internet access at home, compared 80 per cent of people living in other regions.



Time spent on housework

Traditionally, in married couples, women have carried out most of the housework and men have carried out most of the paid work. For some decades now, however, participation in paid employment by married women has been increasing. One might therefore expect married men's share of the housework to correspondingly increase, and that is indeed the case, as the graph shows. Since 2001, time spent on housework has declined noticeably for married women and increased correspondingly for married men.

Nevertheless, married women still carry out the bulk of the housework. In 2010, the average time spent on housework per week was 18.5 hours for married women and 6.9 hours for married men.

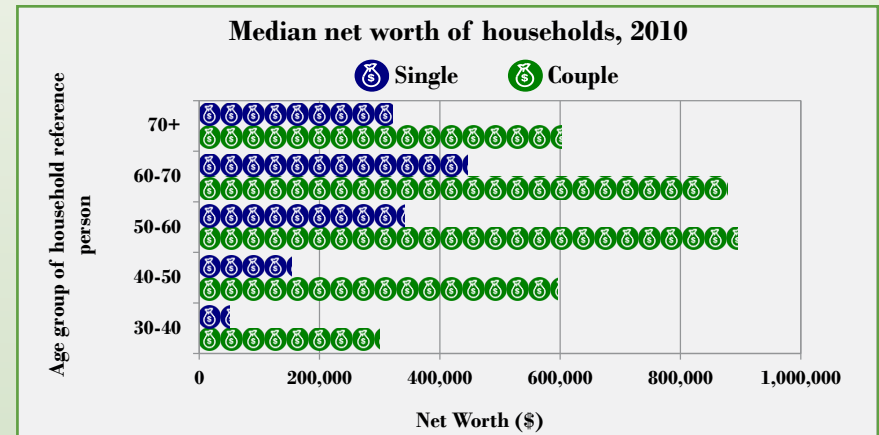


Of course there are many factors that may influence the amount of time spent on housework, including not only time spent in paid work, but also time spent on activities such as travelling, education, volunteer work, caring for others and physical exercise.

Household wealth

In 2010 the HILDA study collected information on households' financial assets and debts, allowing us to examine the 'net worth' (total assets minus total debts) of households. Research has found that couples aged between 50 and 70 years have the highest median net worth (nearly \$900,000), while singles aged between 30 and 40 years have the lowest median net worth (\$50,000).

As might be expected, singles tend to have lower net worth than couples. However, it is notable that, in each of the three youngest age groups, the median net worth of singles is less than half that of couples, but in the two oldest age groups, it is more than half that of couples.



Happy Life?

Based on article 'Better Schooling is not the road to a happy life' The Australian, 21/09/2011

"Better education does not always mean a happier life". Research using the HILDA study has reported younger people (born after 1955) have lower life satisfaction levels when compared to older people (born 1955 or before). The HILDA data shows that older people with a lower educational attainment were more satisfied than those in their group with a higher educational attainment. However, this is reversed for the young age group where life satisfaction increases with education.

It was found that for the older age group, those with a "graduate diploma or certificates or Year 11 or below are more satisfied with their lives on average when compared to those with a masters/doctorate, bachelor/honour degrees, or Year 12 only". However, for the younger age group, satisfaction with finances, health and safety increases with education.

The study noted that one reason for the differences in life satisfaction between the older group and the younger group may be that the latter had to sustain a "faster paced and more demanding lifestyle" and this could lead to stress and detract from satisfaction.





Meet the TEAM

Just turned 15?

Welcome to the Living in Australia study!



This is your opportunity to have your say and ensure the youth of Australia are adequately represented in this important study.

We understand that your experiences and opinions are unique and we think it's important you have an opportunity to express them. So we would like to extend a warm welcome to those turning 15 this year, and we hope that you will enjoy taking part for the first time!

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 comply with the Privacy Act 1998. Your rights are protected by Australian law.

Your identifying information is collected for the purpose of the Living in Australia study. Access to your identifying information will be restricted to those who require it for the purpose of administering or conducting the study.



I am very pleased and proud to have been involved with the HILDA study for some 5 years now. I have met some really interesting and lovely people from all walks of life, and, seen some people's lives change quite dramatically.

I really appreciate that people share with me their stories as their lives change, sometimes for the better, sometimes not. A lot of changes have happened in my life too- with both of our children recently married we are now empty nesters! We are all very lucky to live in Australia. I really look forward to seeing you all again this year.

Cathy, South Australia

I first started working in research in 1991 and was surprised to realise how much I enjoyed meeting with and talking to different people. I live in an area that is diverse and sometimes difficult with dirt roads, cyclones, floods, etc. but Cairns is a beautiful place. Just driving to and from work I get a buzz looking at the scenery that so many people from all over the world travel a long way to come to see.

It's been 10 years now that I've worked on HILDA and I can see the influence of the study in my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren's lives along with my respondents. All in all, HILDA has given me as much as it has the people of Australia.

Pam, Queensland



Those who know me know I love to talk and I really enjoy the company of others so interviewing just comes naturally.

In my job I often ask respondents about many aspects of their lives, and I too, sometimes get to share a bit of mine with them. The positive support I receive from my family and friends, the entire HILDA team and all of my respondents makes the HILDA study more than just a job to me. Not a lot of people can say how much they love their work, but I know that I am helping contribute to a study which is used to make important decisions for people- just like me- living in Australia.

Laurie, New South Wales

Information and Insight

Offer to all Living in Australia participants

We are pleased to offer a free printed copy of the most recent HILDA Statistical Report.

The report is full of interesting statistics about our nation.

If you would like to receive your own personal colour printed and bound report, simply call 1800 656 670.

The report is also available for free download from <http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/statreport.html>.



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.

If you should have any concerns about the conduct of this study, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics, The University of Melbourne by calling 03 8344 2073 or by sending a fax to 03 9347 6739.