

Young Australians

➡ In this issue of the Living in Australia Newsletter we would like to say a special hello to our youngest members of the study.

➡ Are you 15-17?

Once young people turn 15 they are eligible to take part and the information they provide is crucial to ensure researchers and policy makers are aware of the issues that are important to them.

Last year over 600 young people aged 15 to 17 took part in the Living in Australia study, which was fantastic. So thank you to all of you that took part last year and welcome to all the 15 year olds who will be taking part for the first time this year.



Did you know?

Here are some interesting facts about the 15 to 17 year olds who took part last year.

43%

have a job

Those who are working are mainly working as:

- sales assistants (34%)
- checkout operators and cashiers (9%)
- waiters (7%)
- kitchen hands (5%)

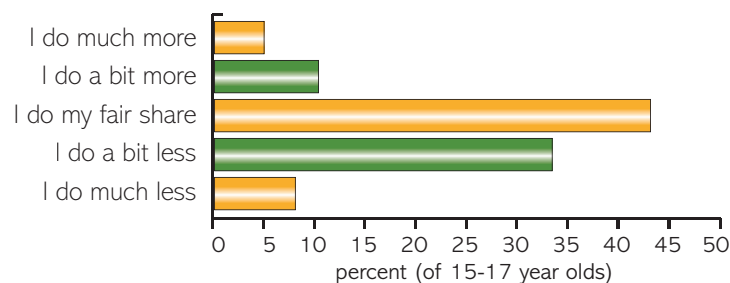
52%

Are an active member of a sporting, hobby or community based club or association.

9%

Volunteer or do charity work such as unpaid work for a community club or organisation.

➡ Do you think you do your fair share around the house?



➡ Why do I need to be interviewed every year?

The aim of the Living in Australia study is to get a picture of how Australian households change over time.

Therefore we need to return to every household that has previously participated in the study to see what has or hasn't changed.

Knowing that there has been no change is as important as knowing about the changes that have happened.

➡ Why am I asked the same questions each year?

The questions that we ask each year are important yearly measurements and they need to remain unchanged so that we can build up a picture over time.

In addition, each year we concentrate on a specific topic. For example, last year our topic was related to people in the 15-29 year old age group, their opinions about various aspects of living in Australia and their expectations for the future.

The previous year we concentrated on people aged 45 years and over and their plans for, and experiences of, retirement.

➡ Must I answer every question?

We recognise that some of the questions we ask can be uncomfortable for you for a variety of reasons, be they cultural, personal or religious.

While we would like to get everyone's input on every topic, if you would prefer not to answer a particular question then please

ask your interviewer to move on to the next question or topic. This way you can continue to provide us with information on most of the important issues that we cover.

➡ What about privacy?

We would like to assure you that the study has very strict guidelines to make sure that your identity is protected and the information you provide is kept in strict confidence at all times.

Any information that could identify you or any members of your household will be deleted before any researchers can use the data.

If you would like more details about the privacy guidelines please contact us via Email: livinginaustralia@acnielsen.com.au or Free call: 1800 656 670.

➡ More information

If you have any questions, need more information or want to get a message to your interviewer please telephone **1800 656 670** or visit the web site. When your interviewer arrives he or she will also be able to help with any queries you may have. Should you 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 sending a fax to **03 9347 6739**.

Thank you for your continued support of this important study.



living

in Australia newsletter



Shaping Australia's future

Inside

- Why the study is important
- Interesting facts from the study
- Co-ordinating research with the United Nations

Thanks to you

Life cycle changes

Retiring?

➡ The information that you provide is leading the way to a better understanding of the economic and social factors that affect all our lives.

➡ Why is the study so important?

The Living in Australia study is an essential tool for planning Australia's future.

Governments across Australia are using what we find out now to develop effective strategies in areas such as:

- Education
- Health
- Superannuation
- Child care
- Aged care
- Well-being
- Social Support programs
- Housing
- Financial hardship
- Employment

➡ What's new this year?

New questions.

The United Nations is currently coordinating an international research project that seeks to gain a better understanding of the decisions people make about whether and when to have children, and other related family issues.

We are extremely proud that the 2005 Living in Australia study has been chosen as the Australian study for these questions.

Your interviewer will be able to tell you more about this new topic.

Following feedback we received from you, we are changing the way we thank you.

This year we will send a \$25 cheque to each person who participates. Once everybody in your household has taken part, your household will receive a bonus \$25.



➡ www.livinginaustralia.org

If you would like to see some more results visit the web site which also includes:

- newspaper articles
- a link to the Melbourne Institute and published reports on the Living in Australia study, also known as the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) study
- frequently asked questions

➡ Moving house?

To ensure this study remains representative of people who move as well as those who don't, it is important that we keep your address details up to date.

You can do this by calling

■ 1800 656 670

or emailing your new address details to

■ livinginaustralia@acnielsen.com.au

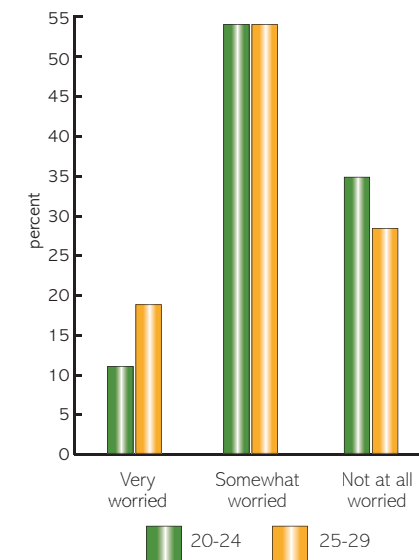
➡ New home buyers

Is the great Australian dream of owning our own home becoming unattainable?

The results from the 2004 Living in Australia study show that approximately 40% of 25 to 29 year olds had bought their first home. One in seven aged 20 to 24 had also bought their first home.

The vast majority aged 20 to 29 who had not yet bought their own home said they intended to do so in the future.

The graph to the right shows that over two thirds of this group were either somewhat or very worried about being able to afford their own home when the time came.



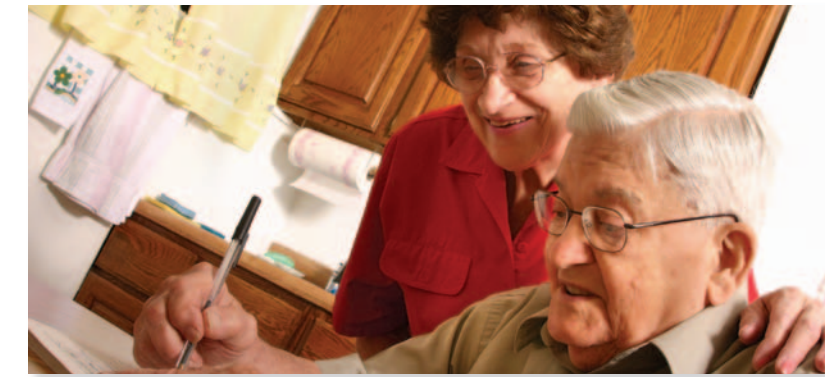
➡ Proportion of future first home buyers worried about being able to afford their own home

➡ What is important to you changes with time

The 2004 Living in Australia study asked people aged 15 to 29 to say how important various things were in their lives now and how important those things would be to them when they were 35.

The following table shows the top five important areas and how this changes with age.

➡ Top five most important things by age				
	15-19	20-24	25-29	At 35
1	Keeping fit	Keeping fit	Keeping fit	Saving and investing
2	Getting more education	Having a successful career	Saving and investing	Having a successful career
3	Having lots of friends	Getting more training to improve job skills	Living with someone in a long-term relationship	Keeping fit
4	Getting more training to improve job skills	Saving and investing	Having a successful career	Living with someone in a long-term relationship
5	Sports and hobbies	Sports and hobbies	Making a lot of money	Making a lot of money



➡ Retirement plans

There is currently considerable discussion about how Australia will support its ageing population.

The Australian Government has a number of strategies in place to respond to the ageing population, including encouraging people to plan and save for their retirement.

The 2003 Living in Australia study included some questions on retirement for those aged 45 and over. Your answers to these questions provided valuable input into the understanding we have of the issues surrounding retirement.

Some of the results from these questions are shown below.

- Most people in our study aged 45 years and over, and still in the workforce, expected to be retired by age 65 (77%).
- More said they would choose to retire earlier if they could afford to do so – 81% by age 65.
- The large majority of people already retired reported receiving the Age Pension, and in most cases the full pension.
- Relatively few (37%) aged 45 and over, and who were not yet retired, expected to rely on the pension as their main source of retirement income.
- Almost 60% thought their retirement income would be sufficient to maintain their current standard of living.
- Another 10% thought it would be more than enough, leaving 33% who believed they would be worse off.

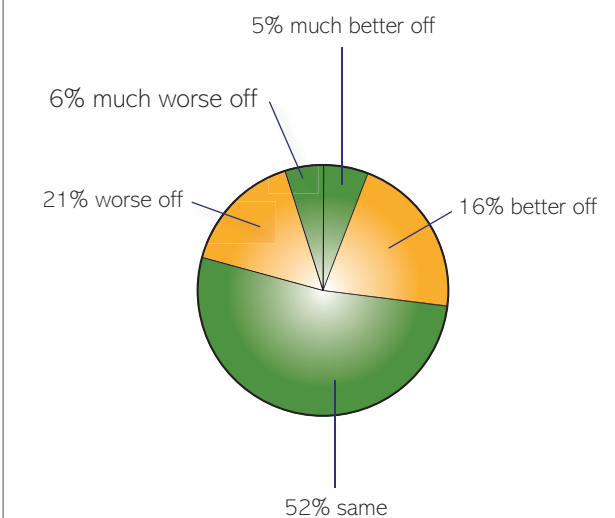
➡ People in retirement

If you were already retired, you seemed satisfied with your situation.

Most 'enjoyed being retired' and were 'well adjusted to the changes following retirement'.

Once retired, they did not feel that people respected them less than before.

In terms of their financial planning, 52% said they had about the same standard of living as when they were working, 21% saw themselves as better off, and 27% said they were worse off.



➡ Standard of living of retirees compared to when they were working