

# Our results

# Who will use this information?



# living

in Australia newsletter



## The next generation

- Four percent of women aged 18 to 44 were pregnant when we interviewed them last year.
- The average age of these pregnant women was 29.
- 11 percent of couples without children have a physical or health reason that makes it difficult for them to have children.

## Our thanks to you

**Once again, \$25 will be given to every person who participates in the study.**

When everyone in your household has taken part, your household will receive a bonus \$25.

Just a reminder that your cheque is only valid for 12 months after it has been issued.

## Are we happy with where we live?

**Most people are happy with where they live and those who aren't happy move.**

In 2001, 74 percent of people said they preferred to stay living in the same local area and only 10 percent of people wanted to move. Furthermore, over 77 percent of the people who said they wanted to move in 2001 had done so by 2003.

## Who is moving?

The majority of movers are young people who tend to stay in one place for around four years, while those aged 65 or more reported living in the same place for more than 20 years.

## Leisure time



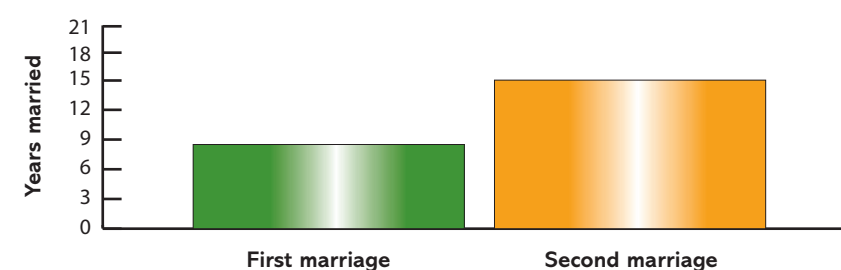
**It is hard for Australians to find free time.**

In 2004, 38 percent of people said they struggled to find free time, while 42 percent reported being unhappy with the amount of free time they had.

## Second marriages

**Second marriages are often more successful than the first.**

People who had re-married by the time of their 2004 interview reported that their first marriages lasted an average of 8.5 years while the average length of their second marriage was 15 years - double the average length of their first partnership.



## Who's in charge?

**The data is managed by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, and it takes the responsibility of maintaining the the integrity of the study very seriously.**

Access to the data is not automatic. Only users who can certify that they meet security requirements are allowed to use the de-identified data. It may only be used for social and economic research.

Data is typically used by Government researchers, academics undertaking research relating to social and economic policies, and welfare organisations.

## Privacy

Your information is protected. The Living in Australia study has strict guidelines to make sure your identity is protected and cannot be linked to the information you provide. The people involved in the study are legally bound to protect your information and are committed to ethical research.

## Meet the team

**We would like to introduce you to some of the 200 people from ACNielsen who, like you, contribute to the study each year.**



**David Hinds**

David is one of our dedicated Living in Australia interviewers. He is based in Victoria.

**Maria Gourdis**

Maria is a Living in Australia interviewer in Adelaide and has been talking to respondents since the start of the study in 2001.



## How will today's issues affect tomorrow?

### Inside

- What is happening to Australia's working hours?
- Do we have enough leisure time?
- Moving on - when and why do Australians move house?

## More information

If you have any questions, would like more information, or would like to contact your interviewer please telephone **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**.



[www.livinginaustralia.org](http://www.livinginaustralia.org)

Free call 1800 656 670



# How will today's issues affect tomorrow?

## Why we need you

## Why is the Living in Australia study so important?

### ⇒ Australia won't know unless you help

The Living in Australia study can help answer questions about today's issues.

Often referred to in the media as the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) study, the study is vital for Australia's future. The study asks questions on a range of topics such as workplace security, employment, income, family relationships and wellbeing.

One of the reasons the Living in Australia study is so important is because it is a longitudinal study. This means we ask the same people many of the same questions over time. It is the only way we can accurately understand how changes in society affect Australians.

For example, Living in Australia can tell us how our working patterns have changed:

- Are we changing careers during our life time?
- Are we changing from part time, casual, and full time employment at different times in our lives?
- How do changes in our work lives affect our personal lives?

This information helps the Government and other community organisations improve services for people who need support from time to time, and help people manage their lives and plan for the future.



### ⇒ But nothing in my life has changed

We are interested in you no matter what your circumstances!

It may be that nothing in your life has changed, or that there has only been minimal change. No change is just as important as change. Whatever your situation, we want to hear about it.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Children and Youth Affairs, the Honourable Sussan Ley, recently remarked that *'while the HILDA study has already proven its worth, the greatest contribution of the study is still to come. Its great strength is in the way that it looks at data in the context of people's lives'*.

It is for this reason that we talk to you each year about many of the same topics.

### ⇒ This is the only study of its kind in Australia

The Living in Australia study examines the economic and social welfare of Australians over time. There is no other nation-wide source that provides this type of regular feedback.

You represent a very important voice in our society that allows decision makers to hear what those living in circumstances like yours have to say.

Most importantly, because we are following strict statistical procedures, you cannot be replaced.

When people choose not to participate we get a less accurate view of Australia.



⇒ Every member of your household on average represents about 1200 other Australians.

### ⇒ Did you know...

...that people who start working long hours often continue to work long hours for several years?

More than half of the people working 50 hours or more per week in 2001 continued to work these hours for the next three years.

...life satisfaction for Australians has remained the same since 2001?

Despite the changes in our lives, our country and around the world, Australia is one of the happiest nations. Life satisfaction has been rated at an average of eight out of 10 since the start of this study.

### ⇒ Let us know if you're moving

Your participation is important to this study, so please let us know if you are moving by calling **1800 656 670** or emailing your new address details to **livinginaustralia@acnielsen.com.au**



### ⇒ Impact of the Living in Australia study

Australia has become part of an international move to build a strong knowledge of the needs of its people. Your participation ensures this study continues here in Australia.

The information you provide is having a long term impact on Australia's direction and is more than a quick-fix solution. Every year that you and other households respond, the study increases in value and in its power to influence decision making.

Similar studies have been, or are currently being conducted in Germany, Canada, USA, Britain, Israel, Sweden, Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Belgium, several of which have run for many years.

Here are some examples of how the Living in Australia study is influencing ideas and decisions:

- The study is being used to plan for our aging population. The Productivity Commission has used this data to help the Government understand how an older population will influence our future. This report is being used by all levels of Government and community organisations to help plan for Australia.
- Assisting the Government in understanding issues such as how long work hours are affecting families so that changes can be made to improve their lives.
- As an important way to assess and inform Government policy. This was reported in an address by Parliamentary Secretary Ley to the HILDA Conference in September 2005.
- As a source used by the Child Support Taskforce which is examining the child support scheme.