

Relationships Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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YOUNGER AUSTRALIANS DIFFERENT PRIORITIES: SURVEY

Gen Y have different priorities to their older siblings, parents and grandparents, according to the *2006 Relationships Indicators Survey* released today by Relationships Australia.

When asked how important earning a lot of money was in describing who they were, 60 per cent of 18-29 year olds said it was either important or very important, compared with 47 per cent in the 30-39 age group and just 35 per cent of those over 60 years. The percentage of all respondents who agreed that earning a lot of money was important or very important increased from 40 per cent to 47 per cent compared to when the same question was asked in the *2003 Relationships Indicators Survey*.

Younger respondents were also far more likely to attach importance to having a paid job, with 90 per cent of the 18 to 29 year age group agreeing that having a paid job was important. More than half of them (57 %) deemed it 'very important'. This compares with the overall result where 77 per cent of respondents thought having a paid job was important and only 45 per cent considered it 'very important'.

When asked about how important their actual job or occupation was, Gen Y were more likely to say it was important – 80 per cent compared with 74 per cent of all respondents, however, only 34 per cent of 18 to 29-year-olds considered their job or occupation to be 'very important' compared with 37 per cent overall. According to Anne Hollonds, Vice President, Relationships Australia: "The findings tend to support the view that younger workers, although attaching importance to their work overall, have different expectations and priorities when making work-life choices."

More young people (77%) than any other age group believe that people get married to signify life long commitment. When it comes to the importance of family, younger Australians place equally high importance to the relationship they have with their spouse or partner. Eighty-nine per cent of respondents aged 18-29 years considered being a good husband, wife or partner to be important in describing who they are. This is very similar to 91 per cent of all Australians.

When it comes to problems in their partner relationship, respondents aged 18-29 placed particular importance on turning to friends and family for assistance in overcoming relationship problems with their partner. They had consulted friends (79%), parents (46%), work colleagues (32%), siblings (29%) and other relatives (28%) for assistance, indicating the strong significance of close familial and friendship bonds in young Australians' lives.

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A full report of the Indicators Survey 2006 is on the Relationships Australia website: www.relationships.com.au
For further information or interviews please contact Angela Read, Reed Weir Communications
on T: 02 9436 2088 or E: angela@reedweir.com

AVAILABLE NOW: Broadcast quality radio grabs of Anne Hollonds, Vice President, Relationships Australia.
Go to www.mediagame.com.au It's simple and free to download for broadcast or websites.

2006 Relationship Indicators Survey, was conducted by Woolcott Research on behalf of Relationships Australia. It is conducted every two to four years as part of RA's ongoing commitment to understanding the nature of today's relationships and providing effective relationship intervention to Australians. The survey involved telephone interviews with 1,200 persons aged 18 years or older and was conducted in August 2006 in all Australian States and Territories.