The Future of Retirement

Social insights & demographic trends

Financial Services Council

Geoff Brailey
22nd Oct 2026



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THE FUTURE

Global megatrends

Work from home

Ageing population

AI & robotics

Increased longevity

Emerging industries

ChatGPT

Environment

VR & AR

Gig economy

Lifelong learning

Multiple careers

Geopolitical volatility

EVs & driverless

Generational change

Cultural diversity

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7 trends shaping the future of retirement in Australia

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The Global Generations

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The seven generations



Builders

Born: 1925-1945

Age: 81+



Boomers

Born: 1946-1964

Age: 62-80



Generation X

Born: 1965-1979

Age: 47-61



Generation Y

Born: 1980-1994

Age: 32-46



Generation Z

Born: 1995-2009

Age: 17-31



Gen Alpha

Born: 2010-2024

Age: 1-16



Gen Beta

Born: 2025

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01

Population growth

2026 population

28m



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2055 population

40m



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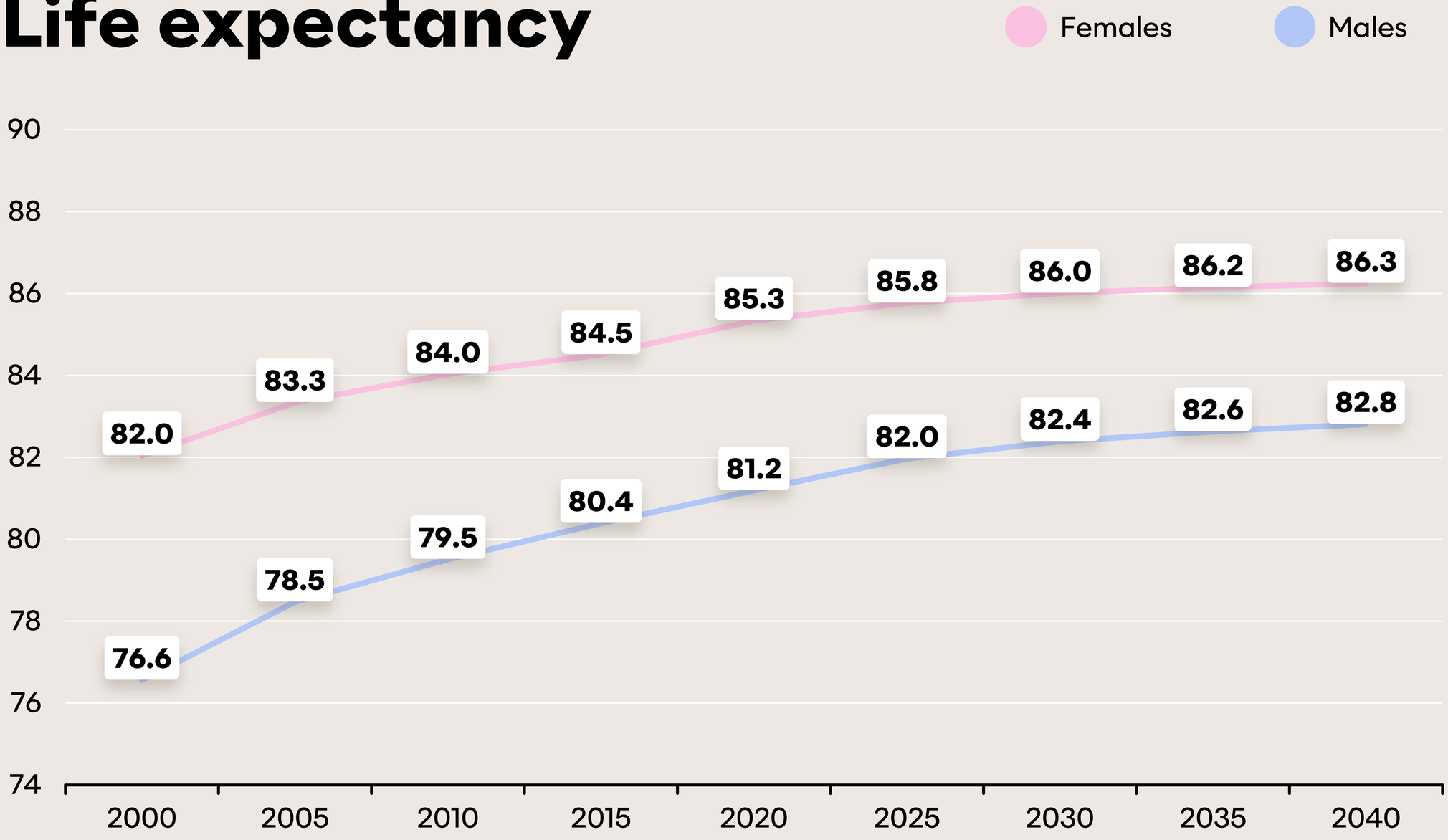
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Longevity boom

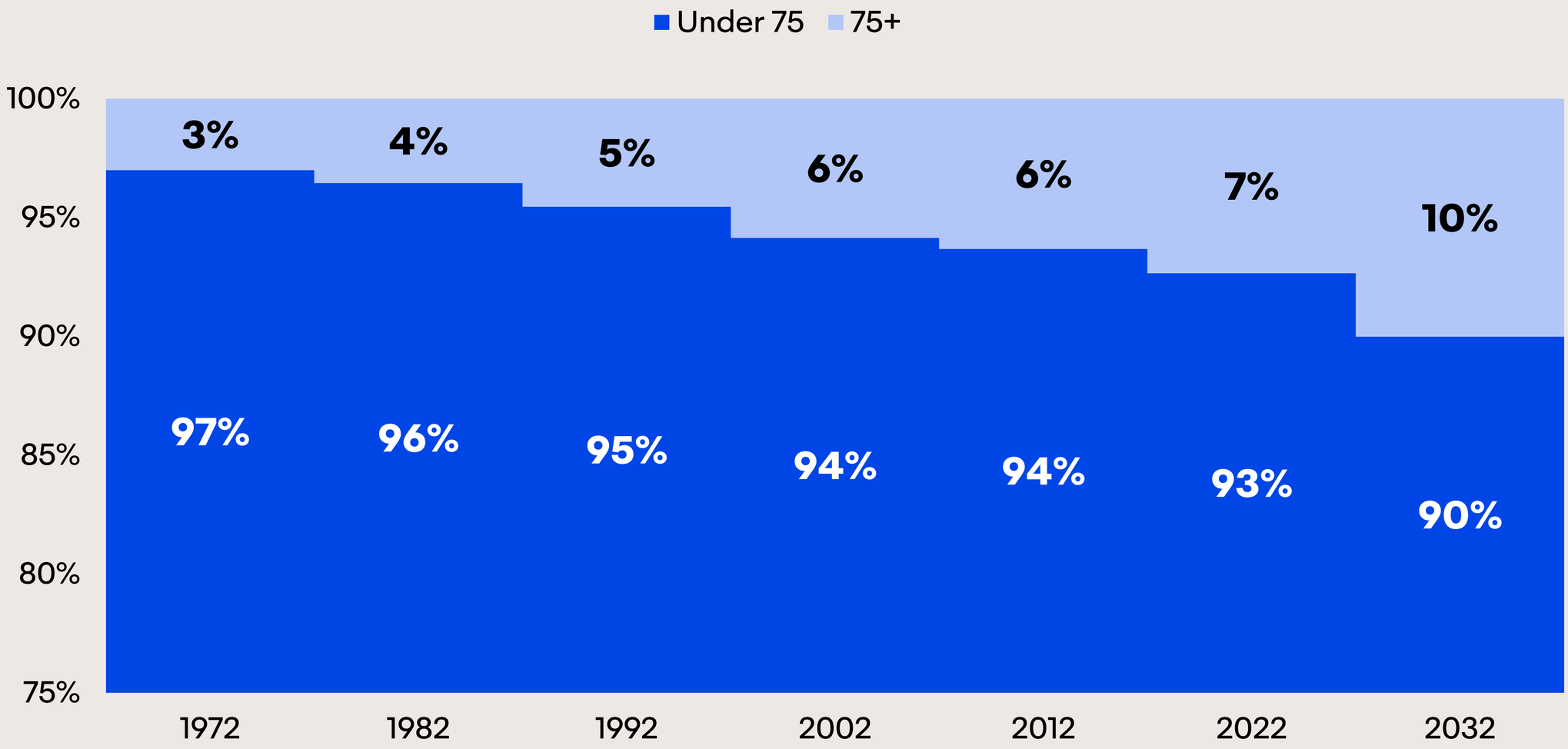
Life expectancy



Source: ABS

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Ageing profile



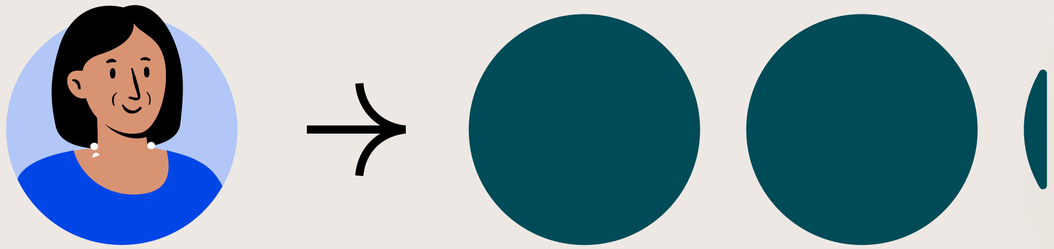
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The rapidly ageing population of Australia

Over the next 40 years...

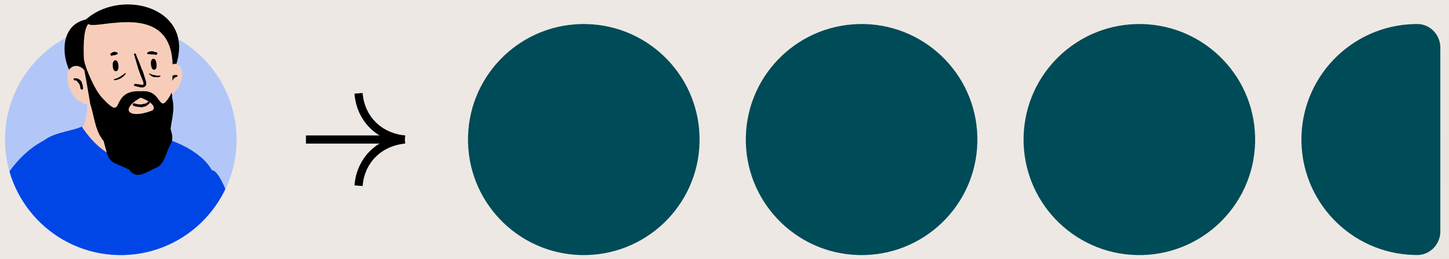
2024 2064

The Australian 65+ population will **double**



2.1x
OECD avg. 1.6x

And the 85+ population will **more than triple**



3.6x
OECD avg. 2.6x

Source: McCrindle - Living Longer Thriving Together, ABS, World Bank

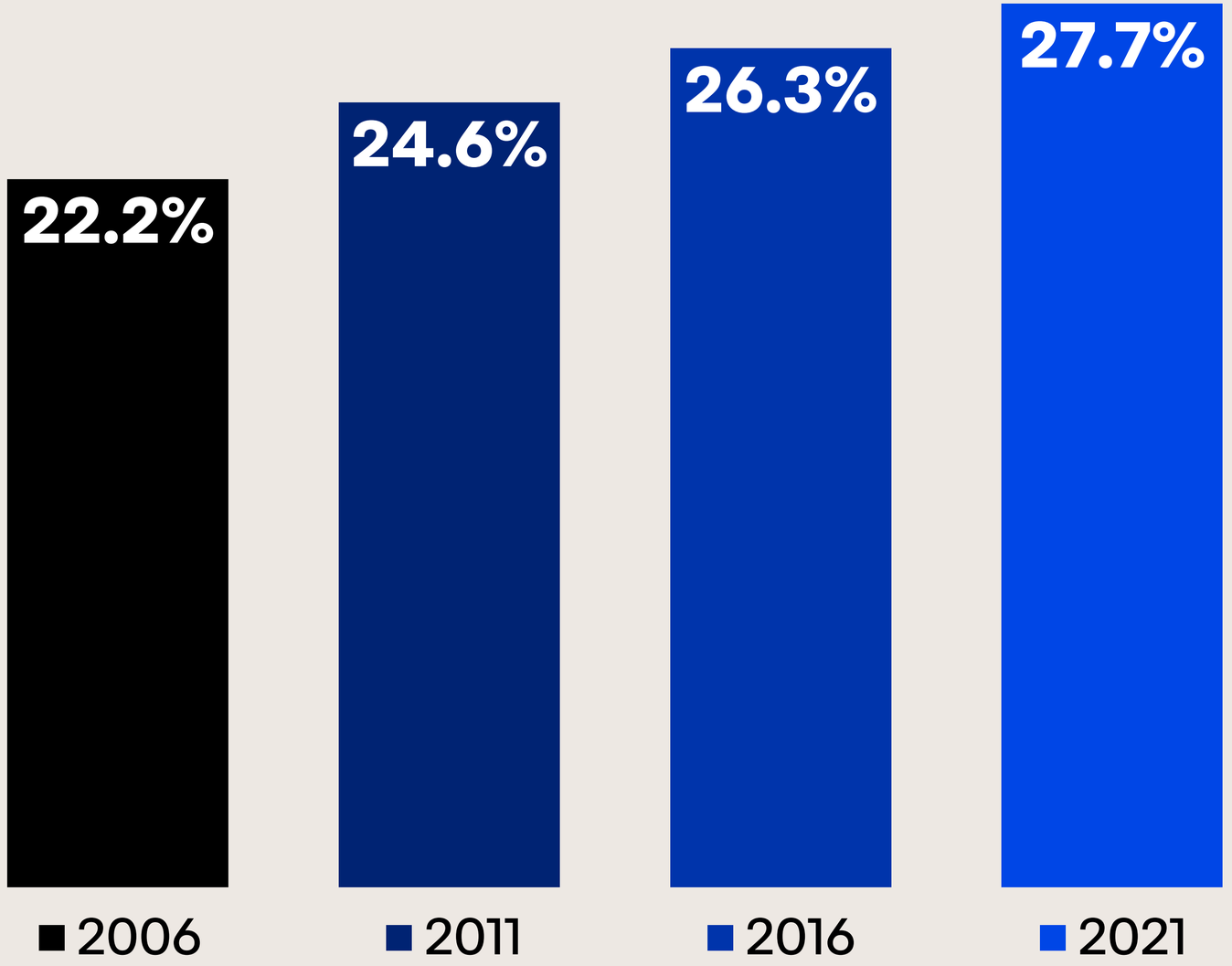
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Culturally diverse

% born overseas



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Largest growing communities

2018 - 2023



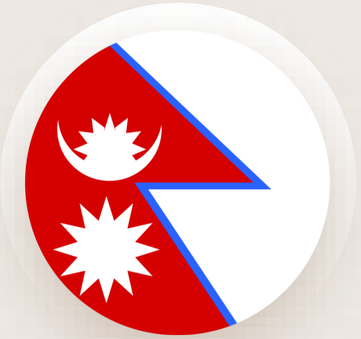
252,530

India



84,970

Philippines



84,080

Nepal



39,240

Vietnam



36,180

Pakistan

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Census is a demographer's dream day!



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04 Health challenges

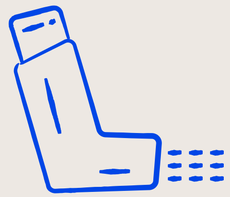
Top long-term health conditions by age



0-14 years

300,000

Asthma





15-34 years

740,000

Mental health conditions





35-64 years

1m

Mental health conditions





65+ years

1.3m

Arthritis



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Income & wealth disparity

AUSTRALIAN INCOME & WEALTH DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

% national population

% national wealth

Average annual household income



Gen Z/Y
25-34

15%

5%

$128k



Gen Y
35-44

14%

11%

$148k



Gen X
45-54

12%

17%

$158k



Younger
Boomers
55-64

11%

23%

$132k



Older
Boomers
65-74

9%

26%

$75k



Builders
75+

8%

18%

$54k

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Australia's Income and Wealth Distribution

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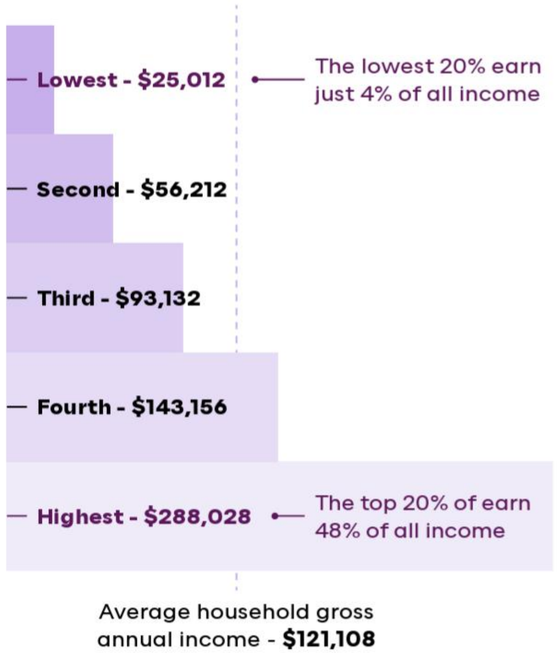
Average full-time annual earnings
$97,510

Median Australian house price
$1,008,988 → **10.3x** earnings

Median Australian unit price
$596,771 → **6.1x** earnings

Annual household income

By household quintiles



Average household gross annual income - **$121,108**

By State

% change in the last 24 months

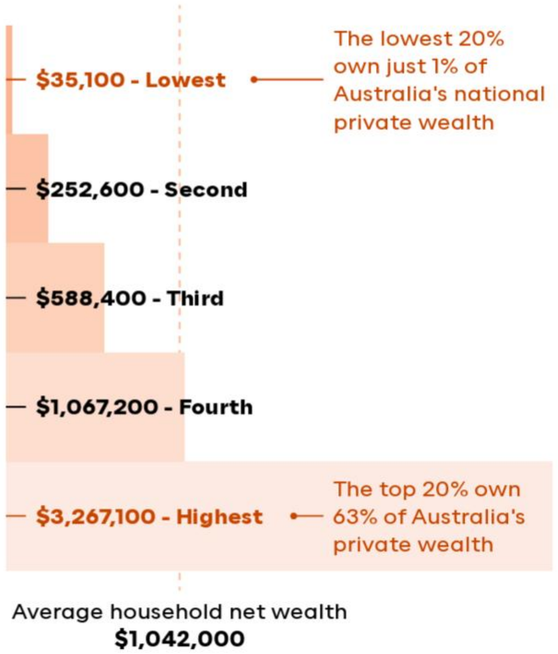


The average earnings of the top 20% are **12x** the average earnings of the bottom 20%



Household net wealth

By household quintiles



Average household net wealth **$1,042,000**

By State

% change in the last 24 months



The wealth of the average household in the top 20% is **93x** the average wealth of those in the bottom 20%



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THE REAL RETIREMENT REPORT

July 2026

Building foundations for a *glorious retirement*



Less than half of Australians are looking forward to retirement



46%

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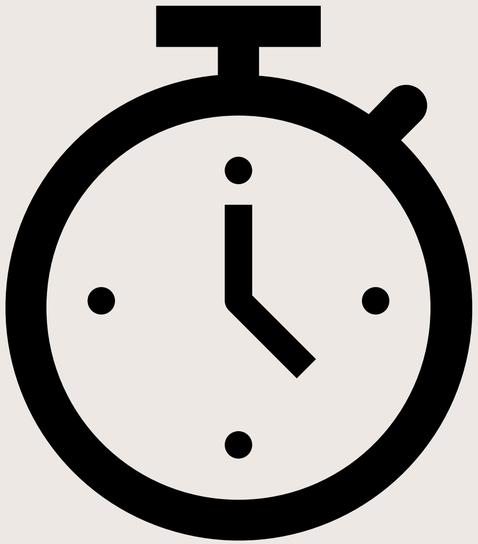
More than half of Australians say financial independence is their top life goal



54%

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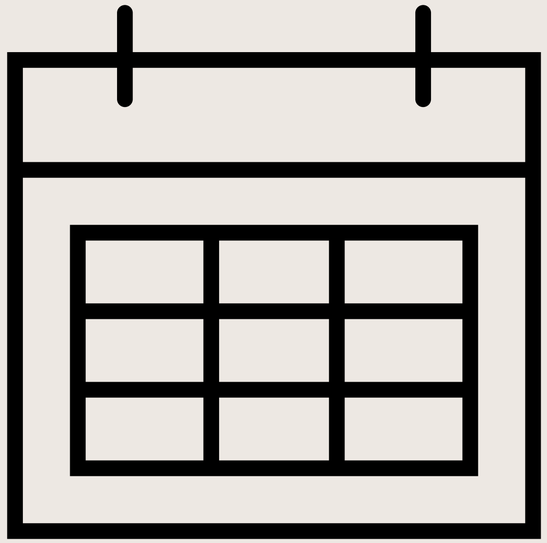
Less than a third of Australians believe they will be able to retire when they want to



31%

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Retirement anxiety to readiness



34% have a plan for how long their savings will need to last in retirement

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Addressing FORO

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FEAR OF RUNNING OUT



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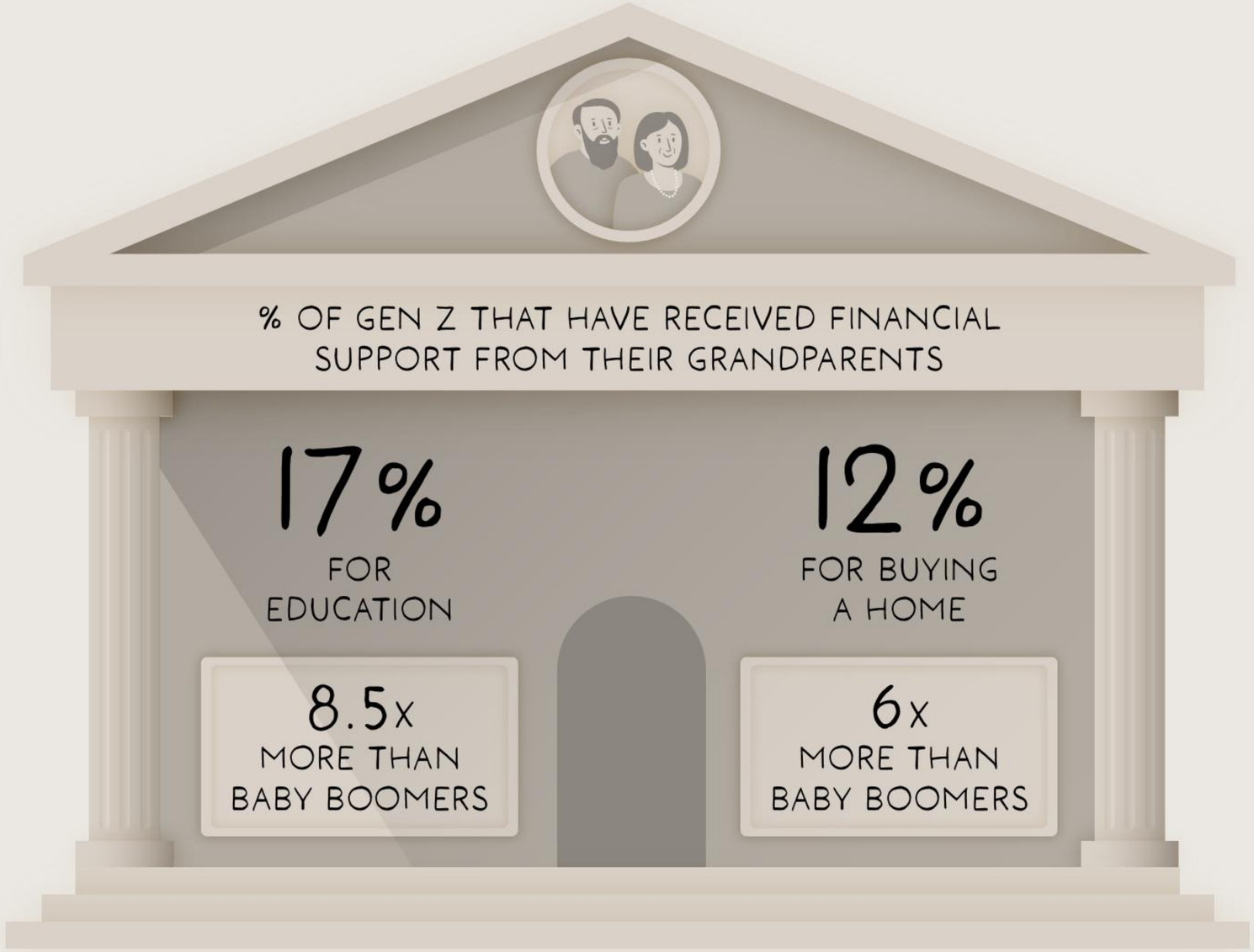
Redefining the role of grandparents



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THE BANK OF NAN AND POP



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Gen Z are more likely to receive support

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED FROM YOUR GRANDPARENTS?

Please select all that apply





	Gen Z	Baby Boomers	Difference
Financial support for overseas travel	16%	1%	16x
Financial support to buy a home	12%	2%	6x
Financial support for education	17%	2%	8.5x
Lived with them for free or reduced rent	20%	5%	4x

Source: McCrindle Trends of 2024

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Digital communication

THE GREAT SCREENAGE



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Panasonic
VTI


2:21
Clock
Toronto
Today
+0HRS
London
Today
+5HRS
Vancouver
Today
-3HRS
Tokyo
Today
+13HRS
Photos
Chrome
Notes
TD Canada
Wallet
WhatsApp
Weather
Spotify
App Store
Overcast
Instagram
Messenger
Twitter
Slack
YouTube

Marketing



Gen Alpha

2-16



Gen Z

17-31



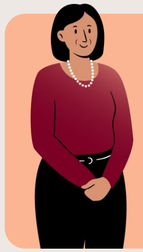
Gen Y

32-46



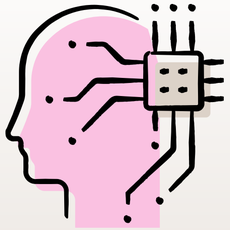
Gen X

47-61



Baby Boomers

62-80



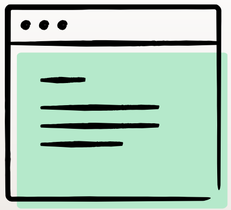
AI algorithm suggestions



Short-form video



Social media



Online media



Mass media (print, TV, radio)

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Used to learn new skills (daily)



Gen Z
18 - 28



Gen Y
29 - 43



Gen X
44 - 58



Boomers
59 - 77

TikTok (48%)	Websites (42%)	Websites (35%)	Websites (22%)
Instagram (46%)	YouTube (41%)	YouTube (27%)	Books (18%)
YouTube (42%)	Instagram (38%)	Instagram (16%)	YouTube (14%)

Source: McCrindle, Generations Defined Report, 2023

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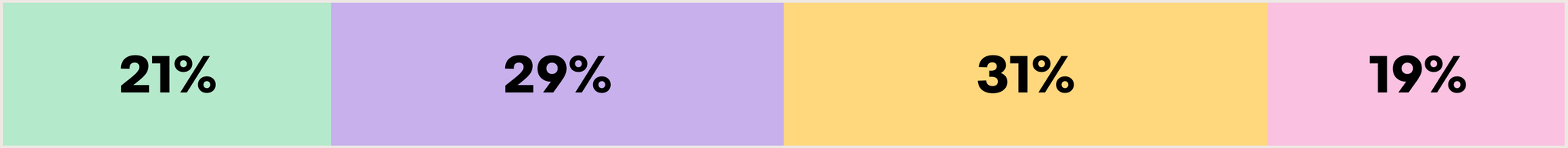
Workforce transformations

Workforce projections

Current (aged 18-67)



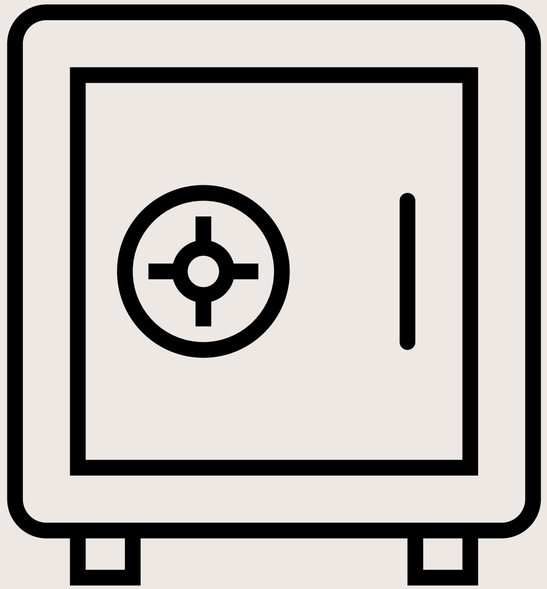
2035 (aged 18-70)



Boomer Gen X Gen Y Gen Z Gen Alpha

Source: UN Population Division estimate

One in three Australian workers are concerned about their future job security



34%

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Summary

Demographic – growing, ageing, changing population

Economic – disparate incomes, inflationary conditions

Social – cultural and community shifts

Technology – AI impacts amidst digital first consumers

Environment – Conscious consumers

Legislative – shifting sensitivities, adaptive approaches

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The success of a leader is measured not by what they achieve in their tenure, but by what they set in motion.


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The Generations Defined report
The factors disrupting the future of education report
The Future Donor report
Shaping thriving culture

Let’s connect!



Geoff Brailey
Social researcher
Leadership strategist
Trend analyst

in	geoffbrailey
Phone	1800 873 637
Email	geoff.brailey@mccrindle.com
Phone	mccrindle.com
Address	**Sydney office** Suite 105, 29 Solent Circuit Norwest, NSW 2153

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