



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP

Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sunshine Coast and WA Country and Perth Women among Longest Life Expectancy in the World

Australian women on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Western Australia's agriculture belt south east of Perth and Perth have amongst the longest life expectancies in the world.

The Sunshine Coast has Australia's longest life expectancy for women in Australia at 84.7 years and the Upper Great Southern Statistical Division (the agricultural area southeast of Perth) with an average of 84.6 years.

This is followed closely by Perth at 84.4 years, WA's Midlands, north of Perth at 84.3 years and outer Adelaide at 84.2 years.

For men, Canberra and Melbourne tie for the longest life expectancy in Australia at 80 years.

Overall, as a jurisdiction, the Australian Capital Territory has the highest life expectancy in Australia for both men and women at 80 and 83.9 years, respectively.

Australian men reaching the age of 65 can now expect to live to about 83 years and women to about 86 years – about six more than their counterparts a century ago.

The Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot today released the top 10 areas of Australia with the highest life expectancy for both men and women.

Mrs Elliot was drawing on new data compiled from recent ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) reports and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's *Australia's Health 2008* report.

2004-2006 Data is by Statistical Division from the ABS* (It is likely to be higher with more recent data when it becomes available)

Australian Women	
1. Sunshine Coast	84.7
2. Upper Great Southern (WA)	84.6
3. Perth	84.4
4. Midlands (WA)	84.3
5. Outer Adelaide	84.2
6. Melbourne	84.1
6. South East (SA)	84.1
7. South West (WA)	84.0
8. Canberra and entire ACT	83.9
8. Sydney	83.9
8. Gold Coast	83.9
9. Western Australia (total)	83.8
10. Victoria (total)	83.7

Australian Men	
1. Melbourne	80 years
1. Canberra and entire ACT	80
2. Perth	79.8
3. Sydney	79.7
4. Lower Great Southern (WA)	79.6
5. Sunshine Coast	79.4
5 South West (WA)	79.4
6 Victoria (total)	79.3
6. Brisbane	79.3
6. Gold Coast	79.3
7. Western Australia (total)	79.1
8. Outer Adelaide	79.0
9. Barwon	78.9
10. Darling Downs	78.8

Life Expectancy by Capital City

Capital City	Males years	Females years
Perth	79.8	84.4
Melbourne	80.0	84.1
Sydney	79.7	83.9
Canberra	80.0	83.9
Brisbane	79.3	83.6
Adelaide	78.7	83.6
Greater Hobart	77.7	82.3
Darwin	76.1	81.8
AUSTRALIA	78.7	83.5

International comparisons

Overall, as a nation, Australia is second at 81.4 years – after Japan.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, using World Health Organization 2007 figures for selected countries, report that overall, Australian women are fifth in longevity at 83.7 years and Australian men (79 years) are second after Icelanders. (This year, Australian men – for the first time - passed Japanese men.)

Selected Countries

Nation	Female life expectancy
Japan	85.5
France	83.9
Switzerland	83.8
Italy	83.8
Australia	83.7
Spain	83.6
Sweden	83.0
Iceland	82.8
Canada	82.7
Norway	82.4
Singapore	82.3
New Zealand	81.9
United Kingdom	81.1
United States	80.4

Selected Countries

Nation	Male life expectancy
Iceland	79.2
Australia	79.0
Japan	78.7
Switzerland	78.7
Sweden	78.7
Singapore	78.2
Canada	78.0
Italy	77.9
Norway	77.5
New Zealand	77.5
Spain	76.9
France	76.8
United Kingdom	76.6
United States	75.3

Mrs Elliot said: "Australians are living longer because of advances in medicine and active lifestyles. – particularly baby boomers.

"We are now seeing baby boomers begin to retire; they are changing ageing in forever. They are healthy, active and want to live at home as long as possible.

"An ageing population creates so many opportunities; we can learn so much from the wisdom, knowledge and experience of older Australians," Mrs Elliot said.

The Australian Government is responding to these challenges. Over the next four years, funding for aged and community care will reach record levels of more than \$40 billion -- \$28.6 billion on residential aged care alone and \$11.4 billion on home care.

"No government in Australian history has spent more on aged care and community care than this one. We are proud of our plans for aged and community care," Mrs Elliot said.

"This is about planning for Australia's future and the challenges of the 21st century.

"We want to ensure that older Australians can live independent lives and age in their own homes, but also have the option to enter aged care homes if they need to."

Currently, there are 2.8 million Australians aged 65 and over. Within 40 years the number of people aged over 65 will almost triple, from 2.8 million today to around 7.0million in 2047, or from around 13 per cent of the population today to over 25 per cent.

Currently, there are around 2,800 Australians aged 100 years or over and that is expected to increase to 78,000 by 2055.

However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy at birth is around 17 years less than for non-Indigenous Australians, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)'s Australia's Health 2008 has found.

In response, the Australian Government is investing \$334.8 million towards closing the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation.

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