

***APPENDICES TO
'A REPORT ON THE
TRANSITIONS IN AGEING
RESEARCH PROJECT'***

APPENDICES
TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDIX A – METHODOLOGY1 to 6

APPENDIX B – SIGNIFICANT SUB-GROUP DIFFERENCES.....1 to 34

APPENDIX C – QUESTIONNAIRE.....1 to 11

APPENDIX A – METHODOLOGY

METHOD

In order to preserve objectivity in the data collection process, Patterson Market Research was commissioned by OSIV to conduct the survey. The survey was structured to provide a representative sample of seniors aged 65 years of age and over throughout Western Australia. The research design was by way of an initial exploratory phase, followed by a high quality telephone survey.

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

To ensure consistency with the studies on which this research is based (as presented in Section 1.1), a formal quantitative questionnaire (consisting primarily of closed questions but including several important pre-coded open-ended questions) was used for both stages of the research. The questionnaire was tested in two ways. Firstly, the initial exploratory stage included 40 face-to-face interviews with a convenience sample of seniors aged 65 and over, which collected valuable feedback as well as assisting in refining the survey questions. The outcomes of the exploratory phase were reported to OSIV in July 2005.

Following the refinement of the questions, the second research stage commenced, with a formal pilot test of the survey instrument. The pilot test was completed via a telephone interview with a random sample of 20 seniors aged 65 and over. The questionnaire was revised again as a result of this pilot test. The final questionnaire used is included in Appendix B.

INTERVIEWING

As part of the data collection program for the telephone survey, Patterson Market Research implemented a 'multi-phase' call-back procedure to maximise the opportunity of producing a very high standard sample of both the more sedentary and more active seniors of the survey population. This call-back routine is effectively applied by using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). The random dial and call-back is summarised as follows:

- Initial telephone sampling from the 'White Pages on Disk'. This is a standard random dial procedure. In this case both metropolitan and country households were selected.
- Up to three calls were made to unanswered numbers after a minimum of two hours had elapsed, to give heightened opportunity for more mobile (and smaller) households to be included in the survey. In connection with this, answering machines were treated as a 'non-answer' and were called back over subsequent days, with a message to contact Patterson Market Research being the last resort. Engaged numbers were called back on 15 minute intervals in an attempt to secure an interview.
- Once contact was made with a household, a random selection of respondents was made (generally based on the 'birthday'¹⁷ method) and, if the nominated person was not available, up to two further calls were made to appointment in an effort to interview that randomly selected individual.

¹⁷ Respondents were selected by asking for the person aged 65 years or over who would next have a birthday.

- Substitutions from within a household were only accepted if the nominated person was to be continuously away from the home for the full duration of the survey.
- Work sessions were spread over several time periods and days to maximise the opportunity of catching shift workers or the socially very active.
- Patterson Market Research was prepared to make multiple calls to a respondent who agreed to take part in the survey, to arrive at a time at which the survey could be conducted at minimum inconvenience to the respondent.

Interviews were conducted by fully trained (IQCA accredited) and experienced market research interviewers from Patterson Market Research's in-house (CATI) telephone room. The survey period was from 3 to 23 August 2005. The survey was conducted on Patterson Market Research's CATI telephone interviewing system, but a hard copy of the questionnaire is attached (see Appendix B).

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

The majority of the data analysis was undertaken using the Surveycraft suite of analysis packages. Regression analysis was conducted using SPSS for Windows.

To enable a true picture of seniors' attitudes to be assessed from the survey, the survey data was weighted to reflect accurately the total population in terms of age, sex and region using the most recent (June 2004) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimated Resident Population data. The result is that the 'weighted sample' is an accurate reflection of the profile of the total population.

Copies of both the weighted and unweighted data analysis tables have been provided to OSIV.

In the summary tables and figures presented in the body of this report, weighted data has been used. Only statistically significant sub-group differences are reported in the results section. Significance testing was based on 95% confidence level and was conducted on the unweighted sample. As a result some sub-group differences may seem significant based on the data presented in the tables in the body of the report, when they were in fact not significant based on the unweighted data (and vice versa).

In all tables the number of respondents being considered has been indicated. The percentages presented in the tables are a measure of the ratio of the total number of responses to the total number of respondents being considered. All presented percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole figure. For example, a result of 15.6% would be reported as 16%. Similarly, a result of 1.4% would be reported as 1%. The percentages in all single response tables may not add to exactly 100% due to rounding. Some questions allowed for respondents to offer multiple responses. Consequently, results for these tables may add to more than 100%.

The findings from all questions have been reported in Section 4 (Results), with the exception of questions 25 to 27 (see Appendix C – Questionnaire), which were asked on behalf of the Western Australian Electoral Commission in return for their assistance in drawing the sample.

All questions were analysed by the complete set of analysis variables, and a great many significant sub-group differences were found. Significant differences in relation to gender, age and location of residence have been reported in the main text, but others (except where there are only two or three) were reported in a separate Appendix (see Appendix B – Significant Sub-Group Differences), to prevent the main text becoming too long due to detail that will not interest all readers.

LOGISTIC REGRESSIONS

Results from various logistic regressions are also included in the body of the report. These regressions aim to identify the variables that significantly predict certain results. For example, the regression tests whether variables such as income can predict to some extent an individual's rating of their current happiness. The 'enter' method was used for completing the regressions. All regressions were completed using unweighted data. The variables tested were entered in the following the order they appeared within the questionnaire, which is replicated in the following table.

Sub-group Name	High bound (+ Beta Coeff.)	Low bound (- Beta Coeff.)
Gender	Male	Female
Age Group	65-74 years	75 years plus
Location	Metro	Country
Valued by Community*	Valued	Not valued / neutral
Stage of Life*	Positive	Negative
Marital Status	Currently Married/Defacto	Not currently Married/Defacto
Ever had Children	Have Children	No Children
Physical Health	Excellent / Very good	Good / Poor
Contact with Relatives	Every day/Often	Once a fortnight or less often
Contact with Friends	Every day/Often	Once a fortnight or less often
Happiness	Very Happy	Less than Very happy
Energy level	More energy	Less Energy
Extent feel loved and cared about**	Great/Large Extent	Less than large extent
Felt depressed in last 2 weeks**	Have not (ie Strongly Disagree)	Have (ie Moderately Disagree or Agree)
Control of life**	In control	Not in control
Marriage happiness**	Happy	Unhappy
Education	Higher level (ie degree or uncompleted degree)	Lower level (trade certificate, secondary or less)
Financial position**	Well off	Not well off
Birthplace	English-speaking	Non-English-speaking

*Note, don't know and depends excluded

**Note, don't know excluded

Throughout the report the findings of the logistic regressions detail a 'beta coefficient' statistic as well as whether or not the independent variable can be used to predict (to some extent) the dependent variable being tested, at a statistically significant level.

The larger the beta coefficient, the greater the predictive power of the particular independent variable as part of the set of independent variables used in the analysis. The beta coefficient also demonstrates whether the trend is positive or negative, based on which codes (higher or lower) had the predictive power. To assist with interpreting these results, the high bound (positive coefficient) and low bound (negative coefficient)¹⁸ codes for each independent variable in the regression testing are presented in the table above.

SAMPLE PROFILE AND RELIABILITY

A target of 600 completed interviews was set for this project. Within this, quotas for age (200 in each of three groups: 65-69, 70-74 and 75-plus), gender (300 in each) and location (metro 450 and country 150) were applied. Overall, the survey result of 600 respondents provides data that is accurate to within $\pm 4\%$ of the population figures at the 95% level of confidence.

The survey results have quoted sample sizes in each of the tables and figures to provide a guide to the reader on the accuracy or the reliability of the data. Survey accuracy is a function of both the sample size and the distance that the survey result is from 50% (broadly, the further a survey estimate is from 50%, the more accurate it will be). Hence, while the exact confidence limits will vary according to the survey result itself, we have quoted some broad tolerance limit guidelines to provide the reader a guide as to the accuracy of the survey results.

Summarised in the following tables are the sample sizes (unweighted and weighted) and statistical survey errors for each of the sub-groups that are included in the data tables. These are the sub-groups on which significant differences were outlined, where relevant (testing completed on the unweighted data at the 95% confidence level).

¹⁸ Questionnaire in Appendix C has full listing of code frames.

Sample Reliability of Analysis Variables (First Banner)

Sub-group Name	Sub-group variables	Sample Size# (Unweighted)	Sample Size# (Weighted)	Margin of error at the 95% level of confidence*
Gender	Male	300	272	±5.7
	Female	300	328	±5.7
Age Group	65-69 years	199	182	±6.9
	70-74 years	200	146	±6.9
	75 years and over	201	272	±6.9
Location	Metropolitan Perth	450	445	±4.6
	Country WA	150	155	±8.0
Valued by Community	Valued	456	464	±4.6
	Not valued / neutral	117	107	±9.1
Stage of Life	Positive	334	329	±5.4
	Negative	241	246	±6.3
Marital Status	Married / Defacto	416	393	±4.8
	Divorced / Separated	46	43	±14.5
	Widowed	127	154	±8.7
	Never Married	11	9	±29.6
Ever had Children	Yes	567	565	±4.1
	No	33	35	±17.1
Physical Health	Excellent / Very good	297	293	±5.7
	Good / fair / Poor	303	307	±5.7
Contact with Relatives	Every day	147	139	±8.1
	Once or twice a week	353	357	±5.2
	Once a fortnight or less	100	103	±9.8
Contact with Friends	Every day	145	145	±8.1
	Once or twice a week	362	360	±5.2
	Once a fortnight or less	87	89	±10.2
TOTAL SAMPLE		600	600	± 4.0

Sub-group sample sizes may not add to 600 due to 'don't know' or similar neutral responses being excluded from the analysis variables.

* Based on a 50% result for unweighted sample sizes.

* Results for the total sample were weighted using 2004 ERP data

NB. In some cases the number of respondents being considered is small (<50). In these instances the data is presented as a guide only and caution should be exercised in drawing conclusions.

Sample Reliability of Analysis Variables (Second Banner)

Sub-group Name	Sub-group variables	Sample Size# (Unweighted)	Sample Size# (Weighted)	Margin of error at the 95% level of confidence*
Happiness	Very happy	296	298	±5.7
	Fairly happy & less	304	302	±5.7
Energy	More energy	336	341	±5.4
	Less energy	264	259	±6.0
Extent loved & cared about	Less than large extent	134	132	±8.5
	Large extent	155	147	±7.9
	Great extent	305	316	±5.6
Felt depressed in last 2 weeks	Agree	51	51	±13.2
	Moderately disagree	77	76	±11.2
	Strongly disagree	469	471	±4.5
Control of life	In control	502	498	±4.4
	Not in control	94	96	±10.1
Marriage happiness	Happy	559	560	±4.1
	Unhappy	28	29	±18.5
Education	Secondary & trade	489	489	±4.4
	Unfinished & finished degree	111	111	±9.3
Financial position	Well off	444	447	±4.7
	Not well off	151	149	±8.0
Birthplace	Australia	378	384	±5.0
	Other English-speaking country	166	159	±7.6
	Non-English-speaking country	56	58	±13.1
TOTAL SAMPLE		600	600	± 4.0

Sub-group sample sizes may not add to 600 due to 'don't know' or similar neutral responses being excluded from the analysis variables.

* Based on a 50% result for unweighted sample sizes.

* Results for the total sample were weighted using 2004 ERP data

NB. In some cases the number of respondents being considered is small (<50). In these instances the data is presented as a guide only and caution should be exercised in drawing conclusions.