



EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY 31st JANUARY 2006

Retired life in the lucky country – new study reveals Australian retirees among happiest in the world

Australia's retirees are among the happiest in the world according to the AXA Retirement Scope. The landmark international study found that 94 per cent of Australian retirees were happy and as many as 93 per cent believe that retirement is better in Australia than in any other country.

Aussies were just pipped at the happiness post by retirees from New Zealand, while retirees in Spain were the least happy of the lot.

The research also showed Australian retirees felt among the healthiest alongside retirees from Canada, USA and New Zealand. Both working and retired Australians valued good health and listed exercise and sports, a healthy diet and participation in hobbies and activities as the best way to stay in shape.

Australian retirees are also generous with their time, ranking second highest behind Canada in performing volunteer work.

AXA General Manager of Sales and Marketing, **Adrian Emery**, said the research showed Australians are convinced that they are in the best position and in the best country to enjoy their retirement.

"Australians are for the most part very positive about old age and retirement. Australians believe sufficiency of income, good health and frequent family contact are among the most important factors to guaranteeing a happy retirement," Mr Emery said.

Speaking on the AXA survey results, consumer and trends commentator **Bernard Salt** said that Australians in general were rejecting all the marks of old age, especially in terms of health and lifestyle.

"As Australia's baby boomers approach retirement age, they are rejecting the reality of physical ageing and the notion of slowing down; in fact according to the survey, today's workers don't think you're old until 73." Mr Salt said.

Continues...



news release

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The AXA Retirement Scope is a major benchmark study on retirement, measuring expectations and experiences of retirement in Australia and internationally.

World's Happiest Retirees:

	1. New Zealand	
	2. Australia	and  Canada (equal second)
	3. Belgium	and  UK (equal third)
	6. USA	
	7. Japan	
	8. France	
	9. Germany	
	10. Italy	
	11. Hong Kong	
	12. Spain	

Other key findings include:

- Australians are among the world's least family-oriented – we spend less time with our families
- Four out of five working Australians don't know their retirement income
- Most Australian workers haven't sought information about retirement
- Australians are among the most 'selfish' when it comes to inheritance – only 23 per cent of working Australians plan to maintain their savings to pass on to their children
- There is a very high expectation for retirement reform – especially the raising of the retirement age
- Stress is considered the number one health threat in Australia

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For more information, a copy of the full AXA Retirement Scope report or for an interview with Bernard Salt or Adrian Emery, please contact:

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AXA Australia has now been helping Australians provide for their financial future for over 100 years. AXA Australia is a member of the Global AXA Group, one of the largest financial services groups in the world with an enviable track record in meeting the superannuation, investment and insurance needs of 50 million customers worldwide. That makes AXA a winning combination of global strength and local knowledge - working for you.

With A\$57.2 billion funds under management, administration and advice (as at 30 June 2005) AXA Australia is a leading provider of wealth management and financial protection products and services through brands including Australian Casualty & Life, ipac and Summit.

Our commitment is to provide quality financial advice. Our professional financial advisers can help you to bring your plans to life with appropriate investment, insurance, retirement and superannuation solutions.