

SUBMISSION 101



GEOGRAPHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES  
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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24 July 2006

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Department of House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee

I am writing to make a supplementary submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters; my initial submission was made on 31 May 2006.

In the original submission, I presented to the Committee findings from a survey of Australians living in the United States that was completed as a part of my PhD research. The results I shared related to the participation of respondents in Australian elections, and their comments about Australian electoral matters. I have attached here a complete report of the responses to the survey, which can be used to add context to the results presented in the original submission.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Yours sincerely

KELLY PARKER

Attachments:  
Australians in the US survey results: Report 1

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## **Australians in the US survey results: Report 1**

TO: Committee for the inquiry into civics and electoral education

AUTHOR: Kelly Parker

DATE: 24 July 2006

## Introduction

1581 individuals answered the “Australians in the US” survey questionnaire, which was distributed as part of a PhD research project investigating the experiences of Australians living in the United States. The purpose of this document is to share basic results from the survey.

The document is organized into different sections based on themes in the survey. At the beginning of each section the data is briefly described in word form, then the data from relevant survey responses are shown in Tables and Figures. There is little attempt made in this report to examine how the results across different variables relate to each other; that will follow at a later stage.

The report concludes with a section on the survey sampling methodology used in data collection. This section can be used as reference to provide context to the results.

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# 1 Basic Demographics

## 1.1 Age and sex

The majority of survey respondents are aged between 30-44 (Table 1.1), ages in which individuals are most likely to be active members of the workforce.

There are slightly more female than male respondents (Table 1.2), and a somewhat younger age structure for females survey respondents compared to males (Figure 1.1).

**Table 1.1: Current age**

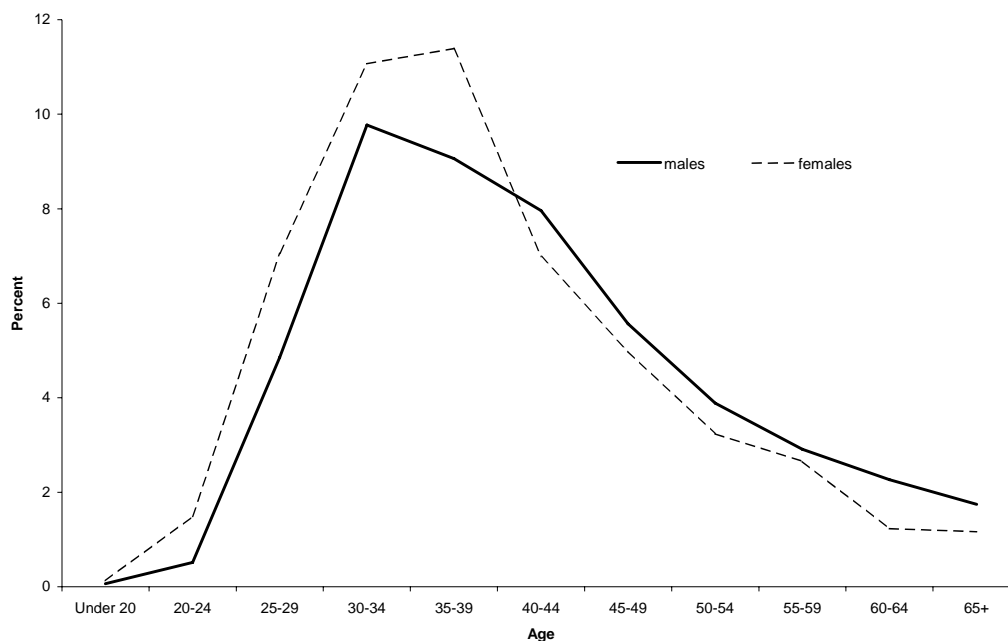
	n	%
Under 20	3	0.2
20-24	31	2.0
25-29	185	11.7
30-34	324	20.5
35-39	317	20.1
40-44	232	14.7
45-49	165	10.4
50-54	110	7.0
55-59	86	5.4
60-64	54	3.4
65+	45	2.8
Not stated	29	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1.2: Sex**

	n	%
Male	754	47.7
Female	799	50.5
Not stated	28	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Figure 1.1: Survey respondents by age and sex**



## 1.2 Country of birth, citizenship and residency

Most survey respondents were born in Australia. A total of 47 countries of birth were represented in responses, covering all regions of the globe (Table 1.3).

The majority of respondents are Australian citizens (Table 1.4). Survey respondents typically stated their country of residency as the USA (Table 1.5). What is not clear from country of residency results is if respondents disclosed where they have *legal* residency or simply where they are currently living.

**Table 1.3: Region/country of birth**

	n	%
Australia	1375	87.0
USA	36	2.3
Western Europe	70	4.4
Eastern Europe	10	0.6
Asia	41	2.6
Middle East	3	0.2
Africa	9	0.6
Americas (excl. USA)	9	0.6
Oceania (excl. Australia)	28	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1.4: Region/country(s) of citizenship**

	n	%
Australia	1504	95.1
USA	277	17.5
Western Europe	119	7.5
Eastern Europe	2	0.1
Asia	2	0.1
Middle East	3	0.2
Africa	0	0.0
Americas (other than the USA)	13	0.8
Oceania (other than Australia)	17	1.1

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

**Table 1.5: Region/country(s) of residency**

	n	%
Australia	146	9.2
USA	1476	93.4
Western Europe	11	0.7
Eastern Europe	0	0.0
Asia	2	0.1
Middle East	0	0.0
Africa	0	0.0
Americas (other than USA)	9	0.6
Oceania (other than Australia)	2	0.1

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

### 1.3 Arrival information

Most respondents had arrived in the US for the first time fairly recently; over 40% had arrived within the past five years, and over 75% had arrived within the past ten years (Table 1.6).

The majority of respondents were between 20-39 years of age on their first arrival in the US (Table 1.7). Both males and females were most likely to be in the 25-29 year age group on first arrival (Figure 1.2), although overall females were slightly younger at first US arrival compared to males.

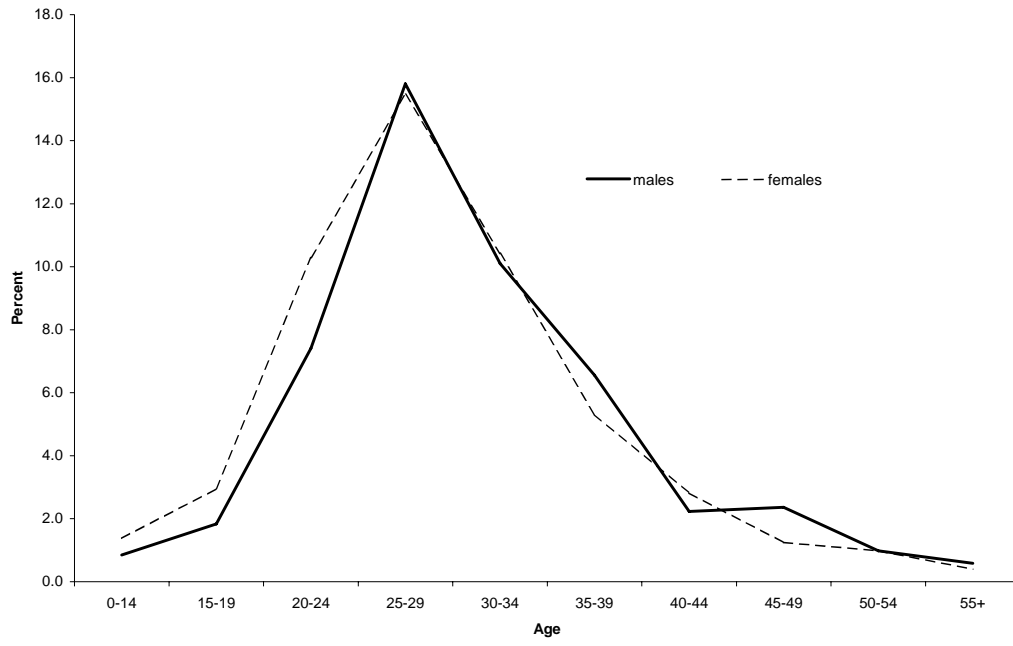
**Table 1.6: Year of first arrival in US**

	n	%
2006	19	1.2
2005	113	7.2
2004	138	8.7
2003	113	7.2
2002	133	8.4
2001	121	7.7
1996-2000	423	26.8
1991-1995	156	9.9
1986-1990	105	6.6
1976-1985	65	4.1
Before 1976	155	9.8
Unknown	40	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1.7: Age upon first arrival in the US**

	n	%
0-14	37	2.3
15-19	74	4.7
20-24	274	17.3
25-29	484	30.6
30-34	317	20.1
35-39	183	11.6
40-44	79	5.0
45-49	55	3.5
50-54	30	1.9
55+	15	0.9
Unknown	33	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Figure 1.2: Age at arrival in the US by sex



## 2 Reasons for moving to the US

‘International experience’ was the reason given by the largest percentage of respondents for a move to the US (Table 2.1). The type of international experience that inspired a move to the US is likely to be interpreted differently by each individual. More straightforward reasons for the decision to move were professional, employment and income improvements. Another reason important to many was ‘marriage/partnership’. It should be noted that ‘marriage/partnership’ was second only to ‘international experience’ in the percentage of respondents who stated this as a major reason for the decision to move to the US.

It makes sense then, that ‘spouse/partner working there’ was selected by the greatest number of respondents as a reason the US was chosen as a place to live over other international destinations (Table 2.2).

**Table 2.1: Main reasons for decision to move to the US**

	n	%
International experience	680	43.0
Marriage/partnership	577	36.5
Employment opportunities	515	32.6
Career and promotion opportunities	443	28.0
Professional development	406	25.7
Higher income	378	23.9
Education/Study	278	17.6
Overseas job transfer/exchange	252	15.9
Partners employment	205	13.0
Lifestyle	192	12.1
Other (stated)	191	12.1
More favourable income tax regime	178	11.3
Business opportunities	145	9.2
No equivalent jobs in Australia	121	7.7
Better educational institutions for skill training and upgrading	90	5.7
To be close to family/friends	73	4.6
More favourable business tax regime	57	3.6
Want to expand, establish or relocate a business to the US	47	3.0
Better employer supported or work-based training	42	2.7

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

**Table 2.2: Reasons the US was chosen over other destinations**

	n	%
Spouse/partner working there	569	36.0
Better opportunities	514	32.5
US only option considered	339	21.4
English speaking	323	20.4
Higher salaries	287	18.2
Other (specified)	282	17.8
Direct work or study transfer	254	16.1
Similar cultures	229	14.5

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

### 3 “Significant others”

#### 3.1 Marital status

Most survey respondents are married (Table 3.1), and nearly half have changed their marital status since leaving Australia (Table 3.2). Getting married was the most common reason for a change in marital status (Table 3.3). It is also interesting to note that over 10% of respondents have experienced multiple changes to their marital status since leaving Australia.

**Table 3.1: Marital Status**

	n	%
Never married	268	17.0
Separated/divorced	119	7.5
Widowed	16	1.0
Married (including de facto)	1149	72.7
Not stated	29	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 3.2: Marital status changed since leaving Australia**

	n	%
Yes	761	48.1
No	784	49.6
Not stated	36	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 3.3: Reasons for change in marital status (n=761)**

	n	%(n=761)*
Got married	417	54.8
Divorced/separated	31	4.1
Multiple changes**	80	10.5
Other	21	2.8

\*Question applies only to respondents who have had a change in marital status since leaving Australia.

\*\*For example married then divorced or divorced and remarried.

### 3.2 Information about respondents spouses

Most spouses of survey respondents were born in the USA, followed at a distant second place by Australia (Table 3.4). 63 countries were represented in ‘spouse country of birth’ responses.

Most spouses are citizens of the USA, followed by Australia (Table 3.5).

**Table 3.4: Spouse country/region of birth (n=1277)**

	n	%(n=1277)*
Australia	295	23.1
USA	767	60.1
United Kingdom	50	3.9
Canada	29	2.3
Other country stated	136	10.6

\*Percent is based on the number of respondents who filled in a country of birth for their spouse/partner.

**Table 3.5: Spouse region/country(s) of citizenship spouse (n=1265)**

	n	%(n=1265)*
Australia	377	29.8
USA	848	67.0
Western Europe	88	7.0
Eastern Europe	5	0.4
Asia	11	0.9
Middle East	3	0.2
Africa	1	0.1
Americas (other than the USA)	39	3.1
Oceania (other than Australia)	10	0.8

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

\*Percent based on the number of respondents who filled in country(s) of citizenship for their spouse/partner.

### 3.3 Children

Results are just about split down the middle between respondents with children and those with no children (Table 3.6). Of those respondents who do have children, the vast majority are living with them in the US.

Table 3.7 shows the age of respondents children. Percent of respondents with children in each age group are shown for both total survey respondents and those who answered ‘yes’ to having children living with them in the US. Over 60% of respondents who have



children living with them in the US have at least one child under the age of five. Over 85% have at least one child under the age of 10.

**Table 3.6: Children**

	n	%
Have no children	748	47.3
Have children living in the US	697	44.1
Have children living in Australia	146	9.2
Have children living in a country other than the US and Australia	31	2.0

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

**Table 3.7: Age of children living in the US**

	n	%	%(n=697)*
Birth to 1 year	150	9.5	21.5
1 - 5 years	270	17.1	38.7
6 - 10 years	174	11.0	25.0
11 - 15 years	148	9.4	21.2
16 - 18 years	83	5.2	11.9
Over 18 years	181	11.4	26.0
Have no children living in the US	544	34.4	
Not stated	31	2.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

\*Percent based on the number of respondents who have children living in the US.

## 4 Current situation in the US

### 4.1 US immigration status/visa type

65% of respondents are either a US citizen, resident or spouse of a resident and therefore do not require a US visa (Table 4.1). Of those respondents who do require a visa to live in the US, most are on a working visa.

**Table 4.1: US immigration status/visa type**

	n	%
Foreign government officials visa	46	2.9
Working visa	325	20.6
Treaty traders and investors (trade agreement visas)	46	2.9
Student visa	50	3.2
Fiancé of US citizen visa	17	1.1
US resident/spouse of resident	757	47.9
US citizen, no visa required	270	17.1
Other/unknown	70	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 4.2 Where respondents are living in the US

The most popular states of residence are shown in Table 4.2. It is clear that the largest percentages of respondents are living in California or New York. All US states were represented in responses except South Dakota.

The most popular US cities of residence are shown in Table 4.3. Many respondents live in or near a major US city.

**Table 4.2: US state where currently living**

	n	%
CA	281	17.8
NY	206	13.0
MA	120	7.6
TX	115	7.3
WA	94	5.9
VA	59	3.7
PA	53	3.4
CO	53	3.4
FL	50	3.2
AZ	30	1.9
MD	31	2.0
Other	489	30.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 4.3: Top US cities where currently living\***

	n	%
New York	155	9.8
Boston/Cambridge	88	5.6
Houston	63	4.0
Los Angeles	55	3.5
Seattle	49	3.1
San Francisco	40	2.5
Chicago	31	2.0
Washington DC	28	1.8
San Diego	26	1.6
Philadelphia	21	1.3
<b>Total main cities</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>35.2</b>

\*Data on some cities may be underrepresented. Unknown suburbs of major cities may not have been recoded to major cities.

## 5 Employment and education

### 5.1 Employment status

Most respondents were full-time employed before going overseas (Table 5.1), and an even larger percentage are full-time employed currently (Table 5.2). A greater percentage of respondents were students before going overseas compared to currently, and more are ‘not in the workforce’ currently compared to before going overseas.

**Table 5.1: Employment status before going overseas**

	n	%
Employed full-time	1107	70.0
Employed part-time	116	7.3
Unemployed	31	2.0
Not in workforce	69	4.4
Student	196	12.4
Unknown	62	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 5.2: Current employment status**

	n	%
Employed full-time	1180	74.6
Employed part-time	109	6.9
Unemployed	30	1.9
Not in workforce	165	10.4
Student	83	5.2
Unknown	14	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 5.2 Information about current employment

Most employed respondents are Professionals, followed by Managers and Directors (Table 5.3). As shown in Table 5.4, important industries of current employment include Information Technology and Education. Most employed respondents are working for wages, salary or commission, while about 15% of respondents own their own business (Table 5.5). The majority of employed respondents are permanently employed, while 14% are employed on contract (Table 5.6).

**Table 5.3: Current main occupation (n=1289)**

	n	%(n=1289)*
Managers and Directors	288	22.3
Professionals	648	50.3
Associate Professionals	111	8.6
Tradespersons and Related workers	30	2.3
Advanced Clerical and Service workers	25	1.9
Intermediate Clerical Sales and Service workers	109	8.5
Intermediate Production and Transport workers	7	0.5
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service workers	52	4.0
Labourers and related workers	14	1.1
Other	17	1.3

\*Question only asked of respondents who said they were full-time or part-time employed.

**Table 5.4: Industry currently employed in (n=1289)**

	n	%(n=1289)
Information technology	161	12.5
Education	149	11.6
Banking and finance	103	8.0
Health	94	7.3
Media, arts	72	5.6
Energy	58	4.5
Government	57	4.4
Tourism and hospitality	38	2.9
Construction and building	29	2.2
Law	26	2.0
Real Estate	23	1.8
Business and consulting	21	1.6
Other	458	35.5

\* Question only asked of respondents who said they were full-time or part-time employed.

**Table 5.5: Current job type (n=1289)**

	n	%(n=1289)*
Working for wages, salary or commission	1102	85.5
In own business and employing others	82	6.4
In own business but NOT employing others	101	7.8

\* Question only asked of respondents who said they were full-time or part-time employed.

**Table 5.6: Job permanent or contract**

	n	%(n=1289)*
Permanent	1101	85.4
Contract	180	14.0

\*Question only asked of respondent who said they were full-time or part-time employed.

### 5.3 Highest educational qualification

It is evident that survey respondents are generally a highly educated group; over 60% have at least a Bachelors/Honours degree; this includes over 25% who have a Masters or Doctoral degree (Table 5.7).

Most respondents acquired their highest educational qualification in Australia, followed by the US (Table 5.8). 17 countries were represented in responses to this question.

**Table 5.7: Highest completed educational qualification**

	n	%
Doctoral degree	178	11.3
Masters degree	257	16.3
Postgraduate diploma	115	7.3
Bachelors/Honours degree	479	30.3
Undergraduate diploma	181	11.4
Other degree/certificate	58	3.7
Some college	51	3.2
High school	128	8.1
Less than high school	23	1.5
Unknown	111	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 5.8: Country where highest educational qualification completed**

	n	%
Australia	990	62.6
USA	286	18.1
Other country	55	3.5
Not stated	250	15.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 6 Financial information

Over 45% of respondents stated an income between \$25,000 – 99,999 US dollars (Table 6.1). It is important to note that these results are based on total survey respondents, not just those who are currently employed.

Most respondents said that their individual and family financial situation had improved with their move to the US (Table 6.2). It is interesting that respondents were nearly twice as likely to say their *individual* financial situation got worse since moving to the US than to say that their *family* financial situation got worse since the move.

**Table 6.1: Income group (US\$)**

	n	%
Less than 25,000	197	12.5
25,000-49,999	279	17.6
50,000-74,999	246	15.6
75,000-99,999	223	14.1
100,000-124,999	166	10.5
125,000-149,999	115	7.3
150,000 - 174,999	55	3.5
175,000 - 199,999	42	2.7
200,000 - 300,000	74	4.7
More than 300,000	72	4.6
Refused to answer	51	3.2
Missing	61	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 6.2: Change in individual and family financial situation since going to the US**

	n	%
<b>Individual financial situation</b>		
improved	1077	68.1
got worse	212	13.4
stayed about the same	262	16.6
<b>Family financial situation*</b>		
improved	881	72.3
got worse	90	7.4
stayed about the same	201	16.5

\*n=1218 for family financial situation change; 363 respondents answered 'not applicable' to this question.



## 7 Background before arrival in the US

Most respondents moved to the US from Australia (Table 7.1), and most who came from Australia had been living in New South Wales or Victoria (Table 7.2). It is not surprising then that Sydney and Melbourne were the most common capital cities for respondents to have been living in before their move to the US (Table 7.3). About 10% of respondents had been living in a country other than Australia before arriving moving to the US.

**Table 7.1: Country left to go to the US**

	n	%
Australia	1409	89.1
United Kingdom	67	4.2
Other	105	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 7.2: State left to go to the US**

	n	%
NSW	528	33.4
VIC	383	24.2
QLD	190	12.0
WA	122	7.7
SA	108	6.8
ACT	58	3.7
TAS	15	1.0
NT	12	0.8
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>1416</b>	<b>89.6</b>
Overseas (not Australia)	150	9.5
Other USA	12	0.8
Not stated	3	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 7.3: Main city left when moved to US**

	n	%
Sydney	237	15.0
Melbourne	168	10.6
Brisbane	85	5.4
Perth	66	4.2
Adelaide	53	3.4
Canberra	42	2.7
Total Australian capital cities	651	41.2
London	38	2.4

\*Cities may be underrepresented. Unknown suburbs of major cities may not have been recoded to major cities

## 7.1 Networks and knowledge about opportunities in the US before moving

Most survey respondents had contacts in place in the US before moving there (Table 7.4). The most common ways of learning about opportunities in the US were having ‘been to the US before’, followed by ‘existing networks in the US’ (Table 7.5).

**Table 7.4: Contacts in place in US before moving there**

	n	%
Yes	1094	69.2
No	453	28.7
Not stated	34	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 7.5: How learned of opportunities in the US before moving there**

	n	%
Been to the US before	503	31.8
Existing networks in the US	423	26.8
Independent search	358	22.6
Other (commented)	358	22.6
Partner/family going there	328	20.7
Networks in Australia	275	17.4
Experience of others who have travelled to the US	233	14.7

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

## 8 International mobility

### 8.1 Moves back to Australia and living in other countries

Most respondents have not moved back to Australia at any time since first moving to the US, however it is significant that 16% have done so (Table 8.1).

It is apparent that respondents are a very ‘global’ group; nearly half have lived in countries besides Australia and the USA (Table 8.2). This is especially noteworthy given the age structure of respondents, indicating that these individuals are doing a lot of travelling early in their lives and careers.

Table 8.3 shows that of those who had lived in a country besides Australia and the US, ‘international experience’ and ‘employment/business’ were the most frequently selected reasons for living elsewhere.

**Table 8.1: Moved back to Australia at any time since moving to the US**

	n	%
Yes	255	16.1
No	1303	82.4
Not stated	23	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8.2: Lived in other countries besides Australia and the US**

	n	%
Yes	710	44.9
No	848	53.6
Not stated	23	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8.3: Reason for living in other countries besides Australia and the US**

	n	%(n=710)*
International experience	411	57.9
Employment/business reasons	313	44.1
Lifestyle	155	21.8
Other (specified)**	114	16.1
Education/study related reasons	105	14.8
Partners employment	66	9.3
To be close to family and friends	66	9.3
Marriage/partnership	45	6.3

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

\*Question only applies to respondents who answered 'yes' to having lived in another country besides Australia and the US.

\*\* 'Other' responses included being born in a country besides Australia and the US (about 10% of respondents).

## 8.2 Visits to Australia

Over 85% of respondents have made at least one visit back to Australia since first arriving in the US; this includes over 45% who have made at least four trips to Australia (Table 8.4). Most respondent's stay an average of two weeks – one month on visits to Australia (Table 8.5), and almost all said one of the main reasons for these trips is to visit with family and friends, followed by the large number of respondents who said they travel to Australia for a holiday (Table 8.6).

**Table 8.4: Number of visits to Australia since first arriving in US**

	n	%
None	210	13.3
One	241	15.2
Two	187	11.8
Three	178	11.3
Four - five	243	15.4
More than five	502	31.8
Not stated	20	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8.5: Average length of stay on visits to Australia (n=1351)**

	n	%(n=1351)*
Less than one week	20	1.5
One-two weeks	372	27.5
Two weeks to less than one month	648	48.0
One month to less than three months	248	18.4
Three months to less than six months	21	1.6
Six months or more	22	1.6

\*Question only applies to respondents who had made at least one visit to Australia.

**Table 8.6: Reasons for visits to Australia (n=1351)**

	n	%(n=1351)*
Visit family and friends	1344	99.5
Holiday	593	43.9
Employment/business related reasons	248	18.4
To attend a conference/meeting	132	9.8
Other (specified)	71	5.3
Education	18	1.3

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

\*Question applies only to respondents who had made at least one visit to Australia.

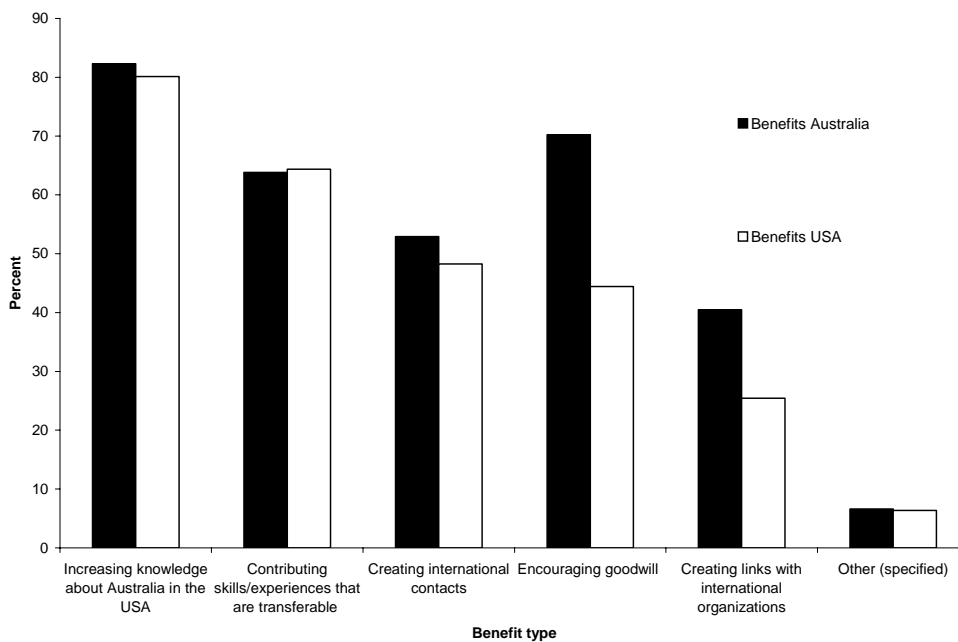
## 9 Opinions about the experience

Most think their presence in the US benefits both Australia and the US, however more respondents think the US benefits (Table 9.1). When it comes to opinions on how Australia and the US benefit from respondents presence in the US, most benefits are seen as equally important to both Australia and the US, but a larger percent think that Australia benefits more by ‘encouraging goodwill’ and ‘creating links with international organizations’ than does the US (Figure 9.1)

**Table 9.1: Respondents opinion of whether their presence in the US benefits Australia and US**

	Benefits Australia	Benefits USA
Yes	62.4	77.6
No	24.4	13.7
Undecided	11.4	8.7

**Figure 9.1: Respondents opinion of how their presence in the US benefits Australia and the USA**



## 10 Networks with Australia and Australians in the US

The majority of respondents have contact with other Australians in the US (Table 10.1). Most of this contact is social and employment/business related (Table 10.2).

39% of respondents said they participate in Australian clubs or organization in the US (Table 10.3).<sup>1</sup> Popular Australian clubs/organizations in the US are shown in Table 10.4. Percent of respondents in each club/organization are shown based both on total survey respondents and on the number of respondents who said they participate in Australian clubs/organizations. Advance was the organization of membership stated by the greatest number of respondents, followed by the American Australian Association.

**Table 10.1: Have contact with other Australians in the US**

	n	%
Yes	1210	76.5
No	371	23.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 10.2: Type of contact with other Australians in the US (n=1210)**

	n	%(n=1210)*
Social	1112	91.9
Employment/business related	546	45.1
Education/study related	116	9.6
Other (specified)	71	5.9

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

\*Question only applies to respondents who do have contact with other Australians in the US.

**Table 10.3: Participate in Australian clubs/organizations in the US**

	n	%
Yes	623	39.4
No	715	45.2
Not stated	243	15.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> It is interesting that there was not a higher rate of Australian club/organization membership stated, since it was assumed Australian clubs/organizations in the US were the major source of survey distribution.

**Table 10.4: Australian clubs/organizations respondents are a part of in the US**

	n	%	%(n=623)*
Advance	241	15.2	38.7
American Australian association	90	5.7	14.4
Australian rules football in the US	75	4.7	12.0
Australia-New Zealand groups	74	4.7	11.9
American Australian chamber of commerce	44	2.8	7.1
Mates up over (internet group)	32	2.0	5.1
Southern Cross group	23	1.5	3.7
Australian embassy/consulate	19	1.2	3.0
Other (stated)	7	0.4	1.1

\*Percent of respondents in each organization based on total of those who said they do participate in Australian clubs/orgs.



## 11 Networks with Australia

As shown in Table 11.1, more than 90% of survey respondents keep contact with people and/or organizations in Australia. All keep social links, and many also keep information/current affairs and employment/business related links (Table 11.2).

Table 11.3 shows that of those respondents who keep contact with Australia, over 30% made a comment about the professional links they keep with Australia.

Over half of respondents who keep contact with Australia say they do so at least once per week (Table 11.4), and most keep in touch by email/internet (Table 11.5).

**Table 11.1: Keep contact with people and/or organizations in Australia**

	n	%
Yes	1480	93.6
No	76	4.8
Not stated	25	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 11.2: Type of links kept with Australia (n=1480)**

	n	%(n=1480)*
Social	1513	102.2**
Information/Current Affairs	834	56.4
Employment/business related	597	40.3
Education/study related	202	13.6
Other (specified)	58	3.9

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

\*Question only applies to those who answered 'yes' to keeping contact with people/orgs in Australia.

\*\*Percentage over 100 indicates that some people who answered 'no' to keeping contacts with Australia ticked this response.

**Table 11.3: Comments about professional links kept with Australia**

	n	%	%(n=1480)*
Comments	468	29.6	31.6

\* Percent of respondents who left comments about professional links with Australia based on total of those who said they do participate in Australian clubs/orgs.

**Table 11.4: Frequency of contact with Australia (n=1480)**

	n	%(n=1480)*
At least once per week	756	51.1
Fortnightly	219	14.8
Monthly	250	16.9
Every three - six months	147	9.9
Less than every six months	72	4.9

\*Question only applies respondents who keep contacts with people/organizations in Australia.

**Table 11.5: Primary method of contact with Australia (n=1480)**

	n	%(n=1480)*
Email/internet	1084	73.2
Telephone	341	23.0
Other (stated)**	97	6.6
Post	30	2.0

\*Question only applies respondents who keep contacts with people/organizations in Australia.

\*\*Vast majority of 'other' statements are respondents explaining they used multiple methods of contact equally; i.e. phone and email.

## 11.1 Other connections with Australia

Nearly 25% of respondents voted in the last Australian election<sup>2</sup>(Table 11.6), and over 80% of respondents say they 'still call Australia home' (Table 11.7).

**Table 11.6: Vote in the last Australian election**

	n	%
Yes	387	24.5
No	1163	73.6
Not stated	31	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>2</sup> The results from this question were meant as an indicator of connectedness to Australia, with the hypothesis that greater levels of participation in the last Australian election would represent higher levels of connectedness with Australia. However one of the major themes in respondent comments at the end of the questionnaire was about their desire to participate in Australian elections but their inability to participate for some reason. Therefore results to this question may not necessarily indicate lack of involvement in Australian affairs.

**Table 11.7: Still consider Australia home**

	n	%
Yes	1271	80.4
No	107	6.7
Undecided	178	11.3
Not stated	25	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 12 Assets in the US and Australia

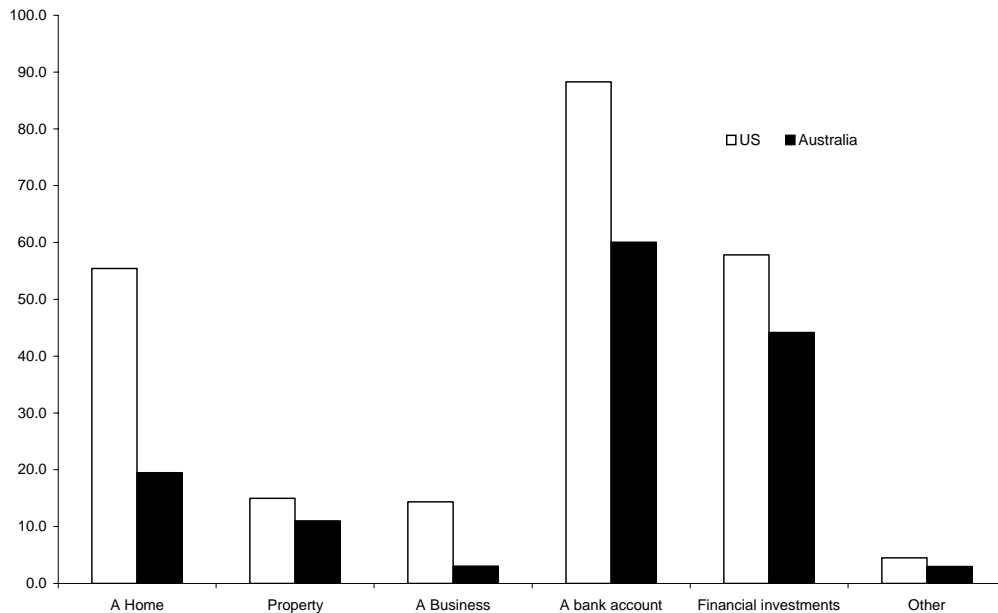
Nearly half of respondents are homeowners in the US (Table 12.1). ‘Renting’ follows as the second most common type of housing tenure.

Figure 12.1 shows the assets owned by respondents in the US and/or Australia. It is evident that respondents own a number of assets in Australia even though they are living in the US. Nearly 20% of respondents own a home in Australia and about 60% have an Australian bank account; many also have financial investments in Australia.

**Table 12.1: Housing tenure in the US**

	n	%
Homeowner	772	48.8
Purchasing home	106	6.7
Renting	643	40.7
Other/not stated	60	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 12.1: Assets owned in the US and/or Australia**



## 13 Previous intentions and future plans

### 13.1 Change in length of stay in the US

Over 60% of respondents are staying in the US for more time than originally intended (Table 13.1), with more than half of respondents stating a reason for the change in their length of stay in the US as employment related; nearly half also said a change in family situation was a reason for the change in length of stay (Table 13.2).

**Table 13.1: Length of stay in the US changed from intentions upon arrival**

	n	%
Staying away for MORE time than originally intended	970	61.4
Staying away for LESS time than originally intended	29	1.8
No	552	34.9
Not stated	30	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 13.2: Reasons for change in intended length of stay in the US**

	n	%(n=999)*
Employment related reasons	611	61.2
Family situation changed	478	47.8
Lifestyle considerations	321	32.1
US visa situation changed	169	16.9
Other (specified)	159	15.9
Want to be close to friends and family	108	10.8
Education opportunities changed	106	10.6

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

\*Question only applies to those who said they were staying in the US for more or less time than originally intended.

### 13.2 Future plans

Most respondents either plan to move back to Australia at some stage or are undecided if they will live in the US permanently (Table 13.3). 25% of respondents do plan to stay in the US permanently.

Of those who do not plan to live in the US permanently, over 30% are undecided about when they will leave the US and 18% don't plan to leave the US for at least five years (Table 13.4). About 35% plan to leave the US within two years.

Of those respondents who plan to leave the US at some stage, the most common reasons are to be close to family and friends and/or because they believe the lifestyle is better elsewhere (Table 13.5).

There were a number of important reasons given for being undecided/not planning to return to Australia (Table 13.6). Nearly half of respondents in this category said they were ‘established in their current location’, had better employment opportunities and incomes outside of Australia, and declare that marriage/partnership keeps them out of Australia.

**Table 13.3: Plan to live in the US permanently**

	n	%
No, plan to move back to Australia	565	35.7
No, plan to move to another country	85	5.4
Yes	401	25.4
Undecided	511	32.3
Not stated	19	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 13.4: When plan to leave the US (n=650)**

	n	%(n=650)*
Within one year	115	17.7
One - two years	112	17.2
Two - three years	94	14.5
Three - five years	94	14.5
More than five years	120	18.5
Undecided	215	33.1

\*Question applies to only those who are planning to leave the US.

**Table 13.5: Main reasons for plans to leave the US (n=650)**

	n	% (n=650)*
To be close to family/friends	491	75.5
Lifestyle better elsewhere	432	66.5
Other (specified)	130	20.0
Work opportunities elsewhere	115	17.7
End of employment contract	82	12.6
US visa expires	79	12.2
Education opportunities elsewhere	39	6.0

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

\*Question applies only to respondents who plan to leave the US.

**Table 13.6: Reasons not/undecided if returning to Australia (n=912)**

	n	% (n=912)*
Established in current location	489	53.6
Employment opportunities better outside of Australia	484	53.1
Marriage/partnership keeps me outside of Australia	459	50.3
Higher income outside of Australia	446	48.9
Partner's employment located outside of Australia	275	30.2
Cost of relocating back to Australia	260	28.5
Family/friends outside of Australia	227	24.9
Lifestyle more attractive outside of Australia	176	19.3
Other (specified)	140	15.4
Better educational institutions outside of Australia	126	13.8

Total does not equal 100% because multiple responses allowed.

\*Question applies only to respondents who were undecided or planned to live in the US permanently.

### 13.3 Where returning in Australia

Over 50% of respondents who plan to return to Australia plan to live in Sydney or Melbourne (Table 13.7).

**Table 13.7: If planning to return to Australia, city planning to live in (n=565)**

	n	%(n=565)*
Sydney	178	31.5
Melbourne	127	22.5
Brisbane	62	11.0
Perth	56	9.9
Adelaide	31	5.5
Unsure but a capital city	23	4.1
Canberra	12	2.1

\*Question only applies to respondents who said they planned to move back to Australia.



## **14 Survey sampling methodology**

Non-probability sampling methods were used (meaning not every Australian in the US had an equal chance of answering the survey) to acquire survey respondents; therefore findings from the survey cannot be generalized to a wider population (all Australians living in the US). That said, a major aim in survey distribution was that information and links to the survey be given to as extensive an array of Australians in the US as possible, in order to capture a wide range of experiences. It is evident in data collected that respondents represent a diverse group of Australians living in the US.

### **14.1 Sampling frame**

Those eligible to take the survey were individuals living in the United States who met at least one of the following criteria:

- Australian born
- An Australian citizen
- An Australian resident

1581 individuals who met these conditions answered the survey.

### **14.2 Sampling methods**

Convenience sampling and snowball sampling methods were used in survey distribution. A variety of organizations with links to Australians in the US participated in getting the word out about this research (convenience sampling). Survey respondents and other individuals with links to the relevant population were also asked to inform other Australians living in the US about the survey (snowball sampling).

Table 14.1 shows the type of organizations that participated in survey distribution (when known). Because there was no question in the survey on where the respondent had been notified about the study, there is no way to know how many people were referred to the survey from various sources. There is also likely to have been a lot of ‘snowball effect’ in getting word out about the survey, and there is no way to measure this.

Table 14.2 shows the US state where organizations known to have distributed links to the survey are based. In many cases, organizations that distributed the survey information were internet-based, therefore the state where the organization is headquartered is not important or is unknown.

**Table 14.1: Type of organization used for survey distribution**

	n
Social	8
Professional	6
Informational/networking	4

**Table 14.2: State where distribution organization based, when known**

	n
AZ	1
CA	4
IL	1
IN	1
MA	1
NY	2
WA	1
WI	2

### 14.3 Administrative information about survey response

Participating organizations and individuals distributed the survey at different times from February 2006 to June 2006. It is apparent in Table 14.3 that the vast majority of surveys were submitted in the month of April.

The only means of survey distribution was online, however there was the option to return the survey in email format or by post if preferred.

Table 14.4 shows that overwhelmingly surveys were submitted online.

**Table 14.3: Month of survey submission**

	n	%
Feb-06	62	3.9
Mar-06	4	0.3
Apr-06	1398	88.4
May-06	102	6.5
Jun-06	9	0.6
Unknown	6	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 14.4: Method of survey response**

	n	%
Online	1576	99.7
Email	2	0.1
Post	3	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>100.0</b>