

Passionate Planning

VOLUME 4 EDITION 3

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Are you relying on an inheritance to secure your retirement?

Almost one third of all Australians may be relying on the inheritance to pay off the mortgage and ensure their financial security in retirement, according to recent research from IPSOS and MLC, the “Australia today” report.

LIFESTYLE TRUMPS MORTGAGE AS A GOAL FOR THE FUTURE

The issue seems to be our ability to pay off the mortgage and maintain our lifestyle, with 78% of Australians agreeing the mortgage has a big impact on their lifestyle, regardless of their wealth.

Australians’ main goals for the future showed that ‘maintaining standard of living’ came out on top, with 67% of Australians citing this as a key goal for the future. Our mortgage still remains a key concern, with almost half of us (48%) indicating that paying off the mortgage is a key goal for the future.

Interestingly, we’re not confident about how we’ll maintain our lifestyle or pay off our mortgages, with 60% of Australians saying that their salary hasn’t kept up with their standard of living.

For many of us, we’re not sure how we’ll manage, and many

are leaving the mortgage up to a hopeful inheritance.

HIGHER LIFESTYLE COSTS MAKE BUDGETING DIFFICULT

The vast majority of Australians, 83%, believe today’s cost of living is much higher than it was 10 years ago and 69% believe that the high cost of living means that average Australians are struggling to make ends meet.

Many Australians are taking measures to improve their weekly budgets, with 59% shopping at discount supermarkets like Aldi and Costco in order to save money.

FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS OFFER GREATER FINANCIAL SECURITY

Many Australians across classes are not confident they have enough assets to support their retirement, so many are relying on the inheritance to pay off the mortgage.

While around 17% are definitely relying on the inheritance to pay off the mortgage, it’s also a possibility for an additional 14%. Interestingly, rates are higher for those in Melbourne, with 22% of people relying on the inheritance and people with children (20%).

Those already engaging the help of a financial professional are less likely to rely on an inheritance to pay off their mortgage or to ensure their financial security. Of those with financial planners or advisers, 77% disagree that they're relying on the inheritance as opposed to 67% of the total research sample.

BANKING ON A WISH AND A PRAYER

For many Australians, banking on the inheritance may be like banking on a wish and a prayer. Many baby boomers, who spent their 20s and 30s having children and working, far earlier than current generations, are now looking forward to enjoying their retirement, spending money traveling overseas and buying gifts for their children and grandchildren.

Laura Demasi from IPSOS Research agrees. "The baby boomers are the biggest travellers. The idea of spending the kids inheritance isn't ideal for them and most would like to give something to their children, but a lot will be forced to take out reverse mortgages for aged care."

The baby boomers are also living longer, and the longer we live, the more reliance we have on aged care assistance. The need for aged care is growing in Australia and many of our parents will need to draw down on their mortgage to help pay for aged care facilities.

Talk to your accountant or financial planner about how you can pay off your mortgage sooner using current income, with smart mortgage repayment strategies. Every year without a mortgage can make a big difference to your retirement savings. You can also set in place a regular household budget and stick to it.

It also helps to keep a good relationship with your parents, to actively care for them and help manage their aged care through their later years.

What does our focus on lifestyle mean for our futures?



of Australians will rely on the Age Pension in retirement.



of Australians will rely on the family inheritance to pay off the mortgage and secure their future.



of Australians are receiving financial advice and are less likely to rely on the Age Pension.

How can I close my Self Managed Superannuation Fund?

Before you start an SMSF it is important to have an exit strategy to help avoid costly conflicts in the future. There are many reasons people decide to get out of an SMSF including:

- Trustees find they don't have the time, resources, interest or expertise to run the SMSF anymore
- The breakdown of a relationship between members
- There are not enough funds in the SMSF to cover the ongoing operating costs
- All the members have moved to another fund or died
- The fund has paid the members all of their retirement savings
- One or more of the members have relocated overseas.

Each member is legally responsible for all the SMSF's decisions and your obligations cannot be outsourced to

another member or a professional. This means that if you are unable to run your SMSF anymore then you must either leave the SMSF or the SMSF must be wound up.

Careful planning is essential when getting out of an SMSF to minimise costs and risks to the members' retirement savings.

To get out of your SMSF you need to:

- Notify the ATO within 28 days
- Deal with all the assets of the fund so that the fund has no assets left
- Arrange a final audit of your fund
- Complete your reporting responsibilities.

Speak to an accountant or financial planner to discuss your options when looking to wind up your Self Managed Superannuation Fund.

The many ways to protect your family.

When it comes to the people that are important to us, we have an inbuilt desire to keep them safe. For the ones we love this is particularly true, so here are some areas to consider when keeping your family protected.

EMBRACE ONLINE BUT STAY MINDFUL

In an increasingly online world, things change fast but it's something we need to embrace. Here are a couple of tips to help stay protected:

- Use secure passwords
- Educate your family on potential risks when online
- Keep software and anti-virus up to date

SOCIAL MEDIA—FRIEND OR FOE?

Hashtags, snapchats and all that come with them are a reality of our socially connected world. With all the positives social media brings, there are also risks like online stalkers, cyber bullies and scammers. Resources like the government's E Safety website can help educate and provide strategies to keep your family safe.

ENSURE FINANCIAL SECURITY

Insurance can be an effective measure to help ensure financial security, particularly in unforeseen circumstances. Income Protection insurance can provide up to 75% of your

income should you be off work due to serious illness or injury, while life insurance provides a lump sum payment in the event of death or terminal illness that can be used to cover ongoing mortgage repayments, household costs or even provide for your children's education.

RAINY DAYS OR DREAM HOLIDAYS

Little amounts over a long time can add up to a lot. Tucking away whatever spare cash you can afford can grow into something more meaningful when you need it. Whether it is used for an emergency, or a holiday to bring the family together, it's an added piece of protection worth investing in.

KEEP AN OPEN DOOR

As they say, a problem shared is a problem halved. It might sound obvious, but being available to talk to your loved ones is extremely important when keeping your family protected. A relationship built on trust allows potential problems to be shared early so they can be overcome.

MAINTAIN YOUR AFFAIRS

Regardless of whether it happens tomorrow or in 50 years time, death will have a huge impact on the lives of the people you love. While not the nicest thing to think about, having an up to date will and power of attorney will reduce further heartache and ensure your family's interests are protected.

Career change—The jobs of the future

Recently futurists Mark McCrindle and Anders Sorman-Nilsson spoke about where the world is headed and what are the possible jobs of the future.

DRONE TRAFFIC MANAGER

With drones set to become a multi-billion dollar industry by the 2020s, the airspace up to 152m could become abuzz with drones – and some clever people, and computers, will have to monitor the chaos. Meanwhile the Defence Force will increasingly hire drone pilots. “Who will be the best person at flying a drone? Probably someone who grew up playing virtual computer games and is skilled with controls – it might be a kid who’s used to flying drone missions via simulator,” Sorman-Nilsson points out.

COGNITIVE COMPUTING ENGINEERS

It’s all well and good to have incredible new robotic capabilities, but people will remain crucial for bridging the gap between technology and the human experience. “Cognitive computing engineers understand robotics and technology but help those systems become more intuitive and human,” McCrindle explains. “Never before was a technologist required to have a behavioural science background.”

CODING ETHICISTS

As hands-free cars and technological automation becomes more commonplace, so too do the ethical dilemmas that face companies – and they’ll look to ethicists to problem solve likely legal scenarios. Say for example a self-driving vehicle is about to be in a dangerous collision with another car – which driver will be protected? “Coding is not just going to be about the ones and zeros but coding for ethical decision making,” Sorman-Nilsson says.

VIRTUAL MANAGERS

Simply being a charismatic leader may not be enough to stack up as a future workplace manager. Sorman-Nilsson says managers will need the skills to manage virtual teams, which could actually be developed playing something like World of Warcraft from a young age. “[Players] understand diversity and have never met their peers they are playing with,” Sorman Nilsson explains. “They might take that skill directly into working for American Express or any other global organisation where the workforce is distributed around the world.”

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATORS

Gen Y, Z and alphas might be dab hands at technology use but as the Baby Boomers stay working into their late 60s and 70s, they’re going to need to keep up – and that’s a real opening for tech savvy millennials. “An opportunity we are going to see is up-skilling baby boomers on technology,” man-Nilsson explains. “We need to invest in keeping our baby boomers and the experience they have in terms of human intelligence and experience, but they need to be complemented with great technology skills.”

CYBER SECURITY GUARDS

Beyond just hiring physical security at important events, organisations will increasingly employ cyber security personnel to protect events and companies from cyber attacks that could result in power outages or sound system failures. “Cyber security professionals will also be hired by everyone who has a mailing list or online store or collects data, so skills are required there,” McCrindle says.



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