# Generation whY?







#### NATSEM

Professor Ann Harding

AMP.Natsem Income & Wealth Reports



## Background

Comparison of Gen Y and Gen X
Gen Y: 1976 – 1991
Gen X: 1961 – 1975

Household and person characteristics

Analysis of Gen Y independent of Gen X





 Data sources – 1988/89 and 2003/04 ABS Households Expenditure Surveys, 2004 HILDA survey.

Descriptive statistics

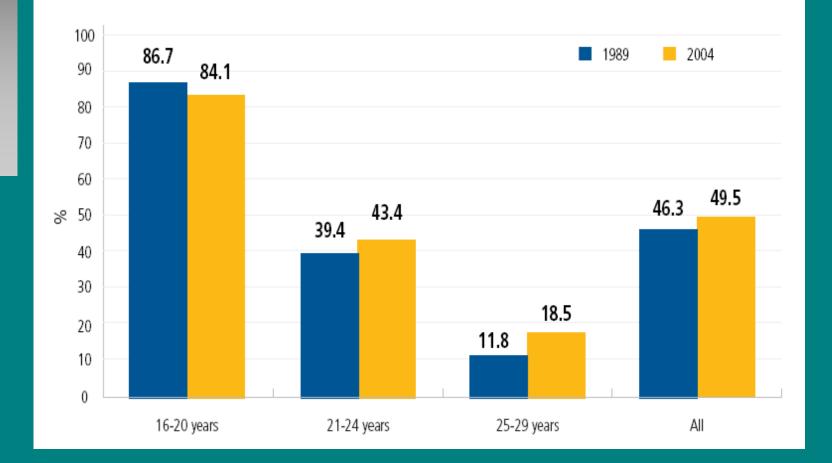
Variable descriptions – technical notes



# Will they ever leave home?

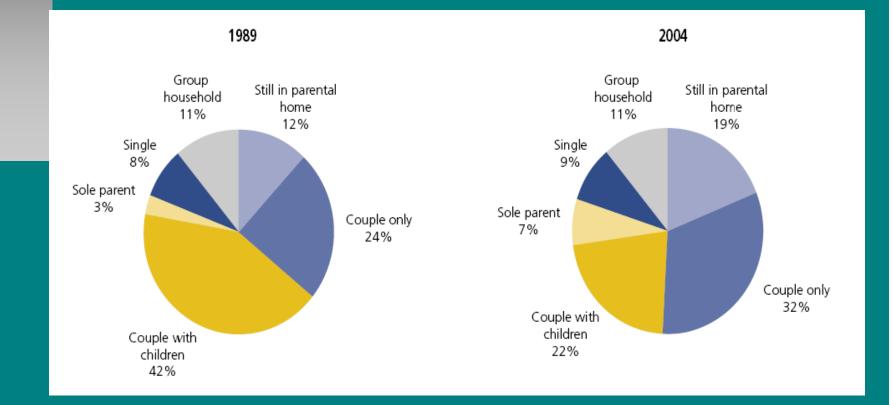


### *Still at home by age group – 1989 and 2004*





# *Living status - 25-29 year olds, 1989 and 2004*





## Hardworking or Sponging from Mum and Dad?



## Great Expectations

#### Important now

• Fitness, friends and successful career

#### Important at 35

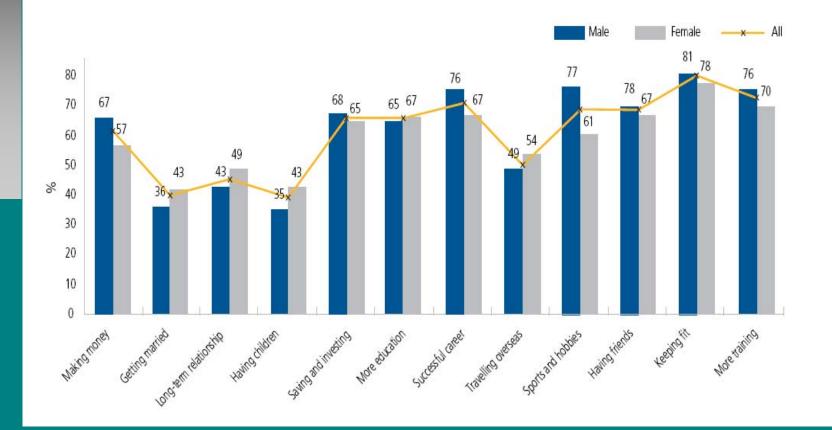
- Relationships, making money and children
- Gender differences fade out by 35



By 35, Gen Y men and women are in tune with what they want out of life.

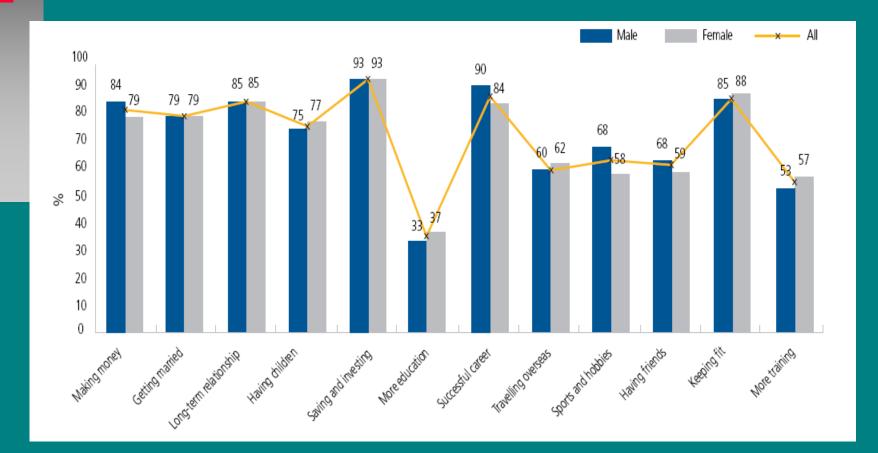


## *Important now, by gender, 2004*



NATSEM

## Important at 35, by gender, 2004



NATSEM



#### More educated and better employed

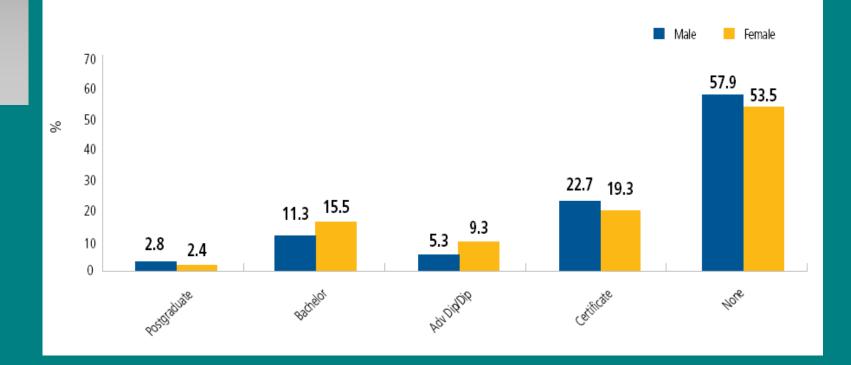
#### Less income and assets than Gen Y men



27 per cent of employed Gen Y women are professionals or associate professionals, compared with only 20 per cent of employed Gen Y men.

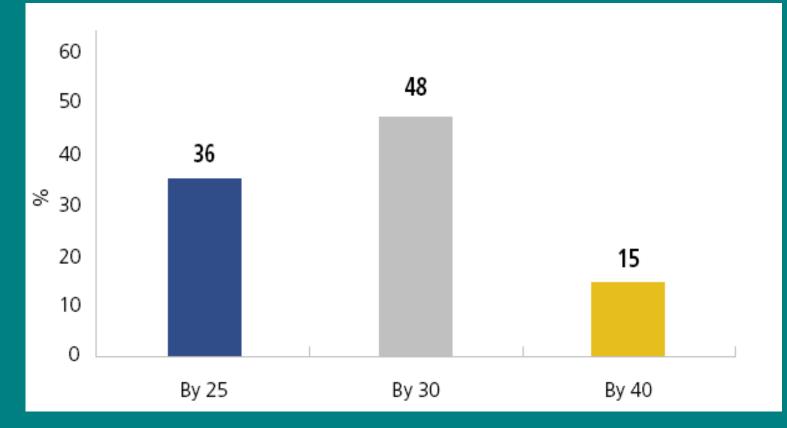


# *Highest non-school qualification by gender,* 2004



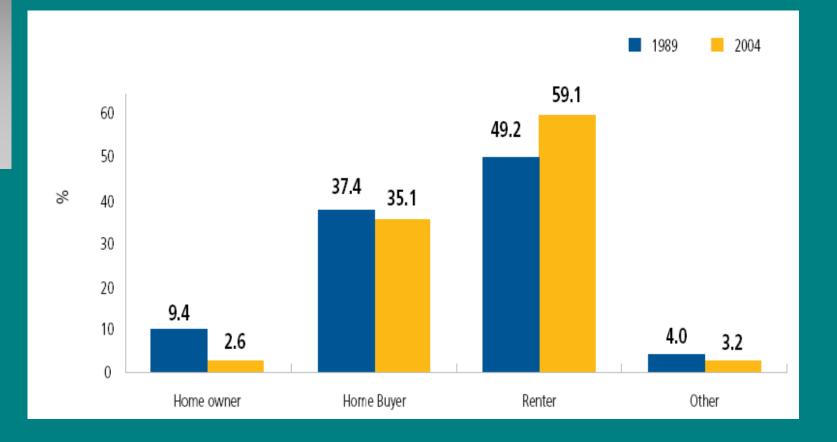


The great Australian housing dream Age at which Gen Y believe they will start buying home





# Housing tenure, 16-29 year olds not at home, 1989 and 2004.





## Income

#### Income

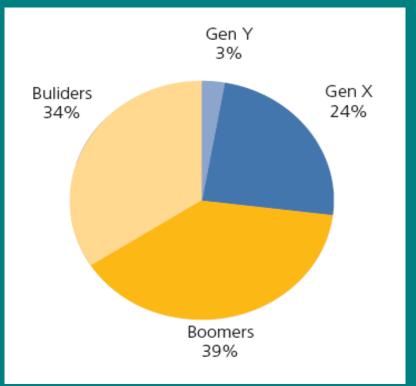
- Average weekly personal income \$416 per person
- Couple only households \$818 per person
- Average weekly household income \$1203 per household
- Those in top Gen Y quintile \$2,255 per household





#### Wealth

- Hold only 3% of total Australian wealth
- Net worth per person of \$80,000
- Average around \$10K in super
- Couple only households most prosperous
- Single men \$25K more than single women





## Spending and debt

## Spending

- Greatest household expenditure housing and transport
- Less on voluntary super and life insurance than Gen X

## Debt

- Gen Y households owe around \$60bn
- 75% is mortgage
- 1/4 Gen Y households have HECS debt



Gen Y is not spending great proportions on recreation and personal care, but large chunks of their expenditure are going towards housing and transport costs.



### Key findings

- Many still living @ home
- Studying and working hard
- Want a family but in their 30s, not 20s
- Women better educated and employed BUT still on the back foot with income and asset accumulation
- Want to own their own home
- Have little wealth compared to other generations
- Single men have more wealth than single women



## Rebecca Cassells Research Fellow, NATSEM

rebecca.cassells@natsem.canberra.edu.au

