



Australian Government

Australian Government Actuary

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIANS LIVING LONGER

Australians are now living longer, particularly older Australians. This is one of the key findings of the latest actuarial investigation into the mortality of the Australian population.

The Australian Government Actuary today released *Australian Life Tables 2000-02*, which reports on the mortality of Australians in the three years centred on the 2001 Census. *Australian Life Tables 2000-02* is the sixteenth in a series that commenced before Federation.

Key Findings

Mortality rates continued to fall at almost all ages. During 2000-02, the mortality rates of Australian males were about 10-15 per cent lower at many ages, compared with 1995-97. For older men, the improvement was even more dramatic. Mortality rates for males in their sixties were about 20 per cent lower than five years ago. Female mortality rates have also improved, especially for older women, with mortality rates for females in their sixties and seventies dropping by 15 per cent, compared with the period 1995-97.

Life expectancies at birth have increased by almost two years for males and a year and a half for females. Assuming the 2000-02 mortality rates applied throughout life, a male born in that period could expect to live for 77.6 years (up from 75.7 in 1995-97). The life expectancy for a female born in 2000-02 would be 82.9 years (up from 81.4).

Life expectancies at older ages have shown significant improvement. Based on 2000-02 mortality rates, a 65 year old man could expect to live for another 17.7 years. This is almost 45 per cent longer than just 30 years ago. A 65 year old woman could expect to live for another 21.1 years, an increase of over 30 per cent since the early 1970's.

Improvement in mortality has been a feature of life in Australia since the first mortality tables were published (ALT 1881-90). If mortality rates continue to improve, life expectancies will be higher than the figures quoted above. The report contains a discussion of mortality improvement.

The gap between male and female life expectancies has continued to narrow. Since 1980-82, the gap between male and female life expectancies has continued to narrow.

The 2000-02 Australian Life Tables may be purchased directly from the Australian Government Actuary. Contact Cathy Hogan on ph (02) 6263 4189, fax (02) 6263 2677, or email aga@aga.gov.au.

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