

## The Face of Australian Youth

Social researcher Mark McCrindle puts a face on the statistics of today's young Australians.

### Born in 1990

Statistically there are more teenagers turning 18 this year than there are teenagers of any other age. 1990 was a peak birth year with more babies born in Australia then (262,648) than for the previous 18 years (beaten only in 1971 and 1972). In fact only in 2006 did total births once again exceed those of 1990, largely because the population is now 24% larger than in 1990 (17.1 million compared to 21.2 million today).

### More likely to be male than female

For every 100 females there are 105 males born. In fact males outnumber females for the first 26 years of life. In Australia there are 7725 more 18 year old males than females.

### So his name is Matthew (or Jessica if female)

The most popular boys name given to babies in the early 1990's was Matthew. Today the most popular male baby name is Jack (Matthew is 19th). In the early 1990's Jessica was the dominant girl's name (today it is Ella, with Jessica now 8th).

***"Today's youth are all part of Generation Y and comprise almost 1 in 5 Australians. They are the world's first digital generation, the world's first global generation, and the most entertained and materially endowed generation Australia has ever seen. Even their "Youth Week" runs for 9 days!" stated Mark McCrindle.***

### He has two siblings and Boomer / Xer parents

In 1990 the total fertility rate was 1.9 babies per woman. Of those who started a family in the 1990's the most common number of children was three. His father is 45, making him one of the younger members of the Baby Boomer Generation, and his mother is 43, making her one of the older members of Generation X. His mother works between 20 and 30 hours a week, and his father over 40, earning between \$400-599 and \$1000-1299 a week, respectively. They are still paying off their family home. Matthew will not leave home before his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday and so he is a genuine KIPPER (Kids in Parents Pockets Eroding Retirement Savings).

### He lives in Greater Western Sydney

1 in 5 Australians live in Sydney, Australia's largest city. The fastest growing local government area in Sydney is the Blacktown Council area in greater western Sydney. This area also has one of Australia's youngest median ages (32, compared to 37 for the whole of Australia).

## Matthew is completing Year 12 and will study technology at University

77% of school students today go on to complete Year 12. The most popular pathway from school is university (29.8% of school leavers) then TAFE (24.4%), full-time work (17.2%), part-time work (12%), and unemployment (9%). There are more tertiary students enrolled in the area of technology (IT, engineering and related technologies) than any other category.

***“Not only are we dealing with the generation of young people who have had more education than ever, but they will have more careers than ever” states mark McCrindle. “They will live longer, work longer and have at least 5 careers and 20 employers in his life-time.”***

## Matthew can expect to enter his 80's and eventually die of cancer:

When he was born life expectancy for a male was 74, although today male life expectancy at birth is 78. If he makes it to 65, he will live (on average) to 81. 58.6% of Australian males are overweight or obese so on average Mathew will join their ranks at some point. He will eventually die of cancer (the leading cause of death today – a decade ago it was heart disease).

## Matthew's unprecedented times:

Matthew was born in 1990 when Bob Hawke was Prime Minister and Paul Keating was treasurer. It was the year that Iraq invaded Kuwait, Nelson Mandela was released from prison, and VFL became the AFL. It was the year that began the recession that “we had to have” and the year that Tim Berners-Lee wrote his World Wide Web project that was foundational to the internet. Parents have never been older (median age of a first time mum is 30.5), Australians have never been more educated (1 in 5 Australians are university educated), death rates have never been lower (5.93 per 1000), life expectancy has never been higher (M: 78, F: 83), and Australia's population has never been older (median age of an Australian is 37).

***“21st Century young Australians represented by this statistical Matthew live in unprecedented times. Not only have they not been compelled to fight in any wars- they haven't even had to dodge any! They have known only the last 17 years of economic growth, a labour market with more jobs than people, and parents who have the highest net worth of any previous generation” stated Mark McCrindle. “Yet while often described as the live for today, “whatever” generation, our ongoing research is showing a creeping level of uncertainty and insecurity residing with this generation.”***

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