



Media Release

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE 12:01AM WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2013

Rise of the Grudge Workforce

More than 1.3 million Australian Baby Boomers say they will be working beyond their 75th birthday because they don't have enough money for retirement according to stunning new research from Suncorp Superannuation.

Suncorp's *The Rise of the Grudge Years* report has uncovered a decade of disconnect between the ideal and real retirement age, leaving many Australians to remain in the workforce longer than they would like.

Suncorp's Head of Everyday Super Lisa Harrison warned of an unprecedented explosion in the grey collar workforce over the next ten years as many Australians will be forced to work through their golden years because they don't have enough money to retire.

"Adding a decade to your working life out of necessity, not choice, is a serious concern," Ms Harrison said.

"Our research reveals that retirement isn't a reality for a quarter of Australians over the age of 65. The saying 'working till the grave' is a worrying proposition for a growing number of Australians."

"The story is true across the generations. One third of all Australians think they will have to work ten or more years past the age they would like to stop working, and almost 1 in 5 think they will have to work 15 years past their ideal retirement age."

These findings contrast starkly with the fact that more than seven million Australians believe they won't be physically and mentally capable of working past their 80th birthday yet alarmingly, 2.6 million might not have a choice and in doing so create a massive 'grudge' workforce.

The findings are backed by trends that reveal more than a doubling of Australians working over the age of 55 years in the past decade¹.

The *Rise of the Grudge Workforce* report provides an in-depth look at the dramatic changes expected in Australia's ageing workforce, due to the disconnect between ideal and real retirement ages of Australians. The findings uncovered:

- Grey collar workforce to grow 52% in the next decade
- One in three Baby Boomers (1.8 million) need \$300,000 or more in their super before they retire

¹ <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6227.0May%202012?OpenDocument>



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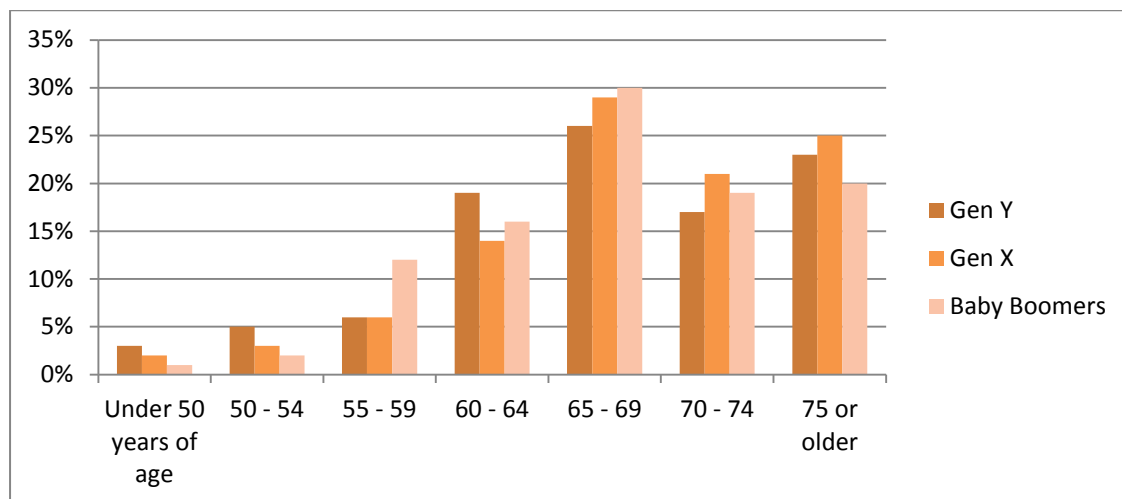
- For Baby Boomers the average age of entering an ideal retirement is 65, while the reality is almost half won't be able to retire until they are in their 70's.

“Australia’s fast-rising participation rates among older workers reflect changes in the economy, employer attitudes and aspirations of retirees,” Ms Harrison said.

“Working into your grey years should be a choice, not a grudge decision due to insufficient retirement savings. We urge Australians to consider earlier retirement planning, salary sacrifice where possible and consolidate super funds to be able to retire when you want.”

The findings are an insight into the changing dynamics of Australia’s workforce participation and an alarming warning for the generation closest to retirement.

Graph 1: Thinking about your retirement and the money needed. What age do you realistically expect to retire?



Graph 2: How much more super do you need for retirement?

