

Expect a longer lifetime

AUSTRALIANS are living longer than before, and those living in the capital can expect to outlive their fellow countryman.

A report, released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics yesterday, says life expectancy was the highest on record, and that a boy born today could expect to live 78.5 years.

A girl could expect to live 83.4 years.

Since 1985, life expectancy has increased by six years for men and 4½ years for women. The increase in life expectancy is one of the factors contributing to the ageing of Australia's population, the report said.

Australia's life expectancy is now among the highest in the world.

Life expectancy for males is exceeded only by Iceland and Hong Kong, both 79 years, while female life expectancy is exceeded only by Japan and Hong Kong at 85 years.

The Australian Capital Territory records the highest life expectancy for both males and females at 79.4 and 84 years, respectively.

The Northern Territory experienced the lowest life expectancy at 72.5 years for males and 78.2 years for females.

There were 130,766 registered deaths in 2005.

47,200 males and 83,500 females — about 1800 fewer than in 2004.

However, a survey released earlier yesterday showed that out of 10 Australians do not think they will have enough savings to fund retirement.

The survey by CPA Australia, one of the world's largest accounting bodies, found six out of 10 Australian women aged 41-55 did not expect to have enough to retire on.

However, 87 per cent of men and women in the 56-plus age range were confident they would.

The report found 85 per cent of Australians accept they are largely responsible for safeguarding their own retirement savings.

"These results challenge stakeholders that many Australians have their hands in the sand and are unaware of the need to save for their retirement," CPA Australia's chief executive Geoff Ranford said.

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