

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering

Linda Burney MP



30 December 2007

MEDIA RELEASE

YOUNG PEOPLE HAPPY TO SPEND SUMMER SEASON WITH THEIR OLDIES

Good news for parents is that it is a myth that their teenagers can't stand them, NSW Minister for Youth Linda Burney said, following the results of a major survey.

Ms Burney said the survey showed that young people are eager to reconnect with their parents, and that time together is a new luxury.

"Over a quarter of the sample surveyed want to spend more time with their parents and over half want to go on holidays as a family," Ms Burney said.

"This clearly dispels the misconception that youth want to get away from mum and dad.

"As far as these results indicate, Christmas couldn't have come sooner, as it gave them the chance to share family meals together, which 25 per cent of them want."

Ms Burney said young people are mostly happy with life today – 94 per cent are either very or quite happy with their life – and this has been mostly steady over the past few years.

"One of the realities facing children today is that their parents lead very busy lives, working full time and raising their families.

"This means that the amount of quality time is more limited so, while they want to spend more time with parents, friends have become more integral to their lives than ever. The survey shows an increase from 49 per cent in 2003 to 56 per cent this year in the importance of friendships.

"Friends fill the gap in those in-between times, when parents aren't home from work but kids are home from school.

"As a parent myself I was delighted to find out young people still look up to and admire their parents – when asked to nominate any three people they most admire, including celebrities and sportspeople – 62 per cent listed their mother and a further 52 per cent their father."

The results come from the latest YouthSCAN survey, a biennial study of young people in Australia, conducted by Quantum Market Research, that has been monitoring social values, attitudes and behaviours since the early 1990s. For more details on findings visit <http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/corporate/aboutus/fairtradingweek2007.html>.

Sponsored by the Office of Fair Trading, the research was conducted in NSW and Victoria involving 600 in-home interviews with 10-17 year olds and their parents.

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