



#### ***Intergenerational Transfers and Reproduction in Western Australian Women***

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Numerous examinations of historical populations document a positive impact of surviving extended kin (particularly grandmothers) on fertility and/or on the survival of children. However, some forms of intergenerational investments (e.g. education) are associated with lower fertility. We used an in-depth questionnaire to assess the impact of intergenerational supports on reproductive success and helping behaviour of contemporary women in Western Australia. "Pro-family" transfers are suggested to DECREASE age at first reproduction by facilitating marriage and childbearing through provisions of dowries, homes, and childrearing help. Educational transfers are conceptualized to INCREASE human capital of descendants, and thus their income earning potential, with negative impacts on number of descendants. Western Australian women between the ages of 45 and 75 completed a 12-17 page questionnaire detailing family structure and intergenerational resource transfers. 124 respondents (74% return) averaged 56.6 years of age. The mean sibship size of their natal family was 4.2 children. 80.5% grew up in 2-parent households. 25% experienced non-parental adults co-resident for some part of their childhood. Twenty (16.1%) had a grandmother co-residing at some point during their childhood, 20% of which were in the absence of one or both parents. The number of co-residing adults was not related to sibship size or to childhood survival. Ninety five percent of all respondents produced children ( $\chi^2=2.7$ ,  $SD=1.3$ ). Pro-family support from parents was associated with increased numbers of children ( $F_{3,120}=4.4$ ,  $p=.006$ ). Educational support from parents was not related to fertility ( $F_{4,83}=1.325$ ,  $p=.267$ ). Combined financial and emotional support received from parents was positively associated with respondents' help to their own children ( $r=0.182$ ,  $p=.047$ ). Pro-family support provided by respondents to children over the age of 20 years was positively associated with increased numbers of grandchildren ( $F_{2,247}=6.96$ ,  $p=.001$ ) whereas educational support from parents was negatively associated with numbers of children ( $F_{2,247}=15.756$ ,  $p<.001$ ). Having received support during development increased the help provided to children. Educational help increased SES over the childbearing period and higher incomes were associated with greater educational help to respondents' children. Educational help to these children was associated with reduced numbers of grandchildren. Pro-family support was associated with a child's lower age at first birth and a significantly greater number of grandchildren.