



## Australian Population Association

---

13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference

### Population Policy and Australia's Destiny

5-8 December 2006 - University of Adelaide

#### ***Will older Australian workers change their retirement plans in line with government calls for later retirement?***

**Natalie Jackson<sup>1</sup>, Maggie Walter<sup>2</sup>, Bruce Felmingham<sup>3,1</sup>** *Senior Lecturer in Social Demography, School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania*  
([Natalie.Jackson@utas.edu.au](mailto:Natalie.Jackson@utas.edu.au)) <sup>2</sup>*Lecturer in Sociology, School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania* <sup>3</sup>*Reader in Economics, School of Economics, University of Tasmania*

Recognising their long-term inability to increase the numbers of young labour market entrants, even via massive migration programs, the Australian government (along with the governments of most industrialised nations) is now anxious to maintain older workers in the workforce. This represents a significant shift in policy direction over recent years, during which older workers were strongly encouraged to retire early, and many did so. However, little research has yet been undertaken to assess the extent to which the new direction may (or may not) match the contemporary retirement expectations and orientation toward work of older workers, which may have altered along with their earlier expulsion from the workforce. This paper reports on the first findings from a national survey which has canvassed the acceptability of calls for later retirement and the conditions that may lead to a change in present plans.