



Fact Sheet

DEFINING MARRIAGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY



GUESTS:

Sabina Read - Sabina is a registered psychologist who has a Masters in Psychology, and broad experience in counselling, facilitating and consulting with individuals, including children and adolescents, as well as couples, families, groups, and organisations. Sabina works with individual and corporate clients addressing life transitions, work issues, marriage and couple challenges, parenting, as well as anxiety and depression across the lifespan. She has facilitated groups on topics including well-being, sleep, parenting, grief, job loss, and eating disorders.

Alix Bradfield - Alix was a marriage counsellor over 12 years with Relationships Australia (formerly the Marriage Guidance Council of Victoria) which gives her insight into personal, marital and family issues. As an instructor over seven years in Parent Effectiveness Training and trainer of facilitators, she learned about the different cultures of families and the dilemmas parents face. Alix served as Chairman of an independent school for six years, which included leading a Planning Committee as well as serving on Finance and Marketing Committees. She is co-author of *Job Loss: A Family Affair* and has been a columnist and reviewer of self-help books with the Melbourne Herald. She has been married for 45 years, is a mother of two (including the mother of Sabina Read) and a grandmother of two. She is also a busy daughter with parents who are 97 and 104 years old.



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STATISTICS:

- **NUMBER OF MARRIAGES** - The 121,752 marriages registered in 2011 represented an increase of 576 (0.5%) from the 121,176 marriages registered in Australia in 2010. This is the highest number of marriages registered in a single year and continues the relatively steady increase in marriages since 2001

- **Total marriages, Australia - 1991-2011**



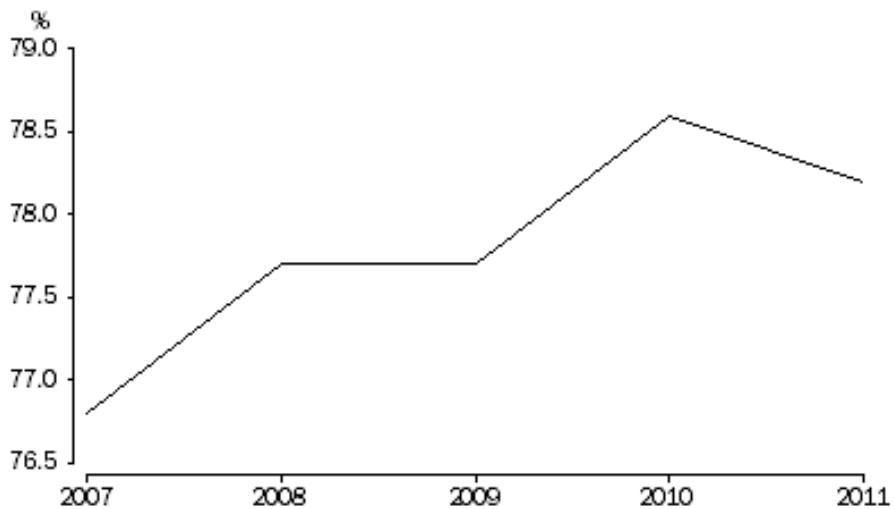
- **CRUDE MARRIAGE RATE** - The crude marriage rate represents the number of marriages registered during a calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of the same year. Although the number of marriages is now the highest recorded, the population has also increased substantially over time. As a result, the crude marriage rate is now lower than it was 20 years ago.
- In 2011, the crude marriage rate was 5.4 marriages per 1,000 estimated resident population, compared with 7.6 marriages per 1,000 estimated resident population in 1991. Between 1991 and 2001, the crude marriage rate declined from 7.6 to 5.3. Since 2001, the crude marriage rate has remained relatively steady.



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- **COHABITATION PRIOR TO MARRIAGE** - The majority of couples registering their marriage in 2011 cohabited prior marriage (78.2%). While the proportion of couples cohabiting prior to marriage decreased from 2010 to 2011, the number of couples cohabiting prior to marriage increased by 34.





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1.5 Age-specific marriage rates(a), Selected years - 1991-2011

Age Group (Years)	1991	2001	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Males							
16-19	1.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
20-24	40.6	21.8	17.8	17.3	17.0	16.1	15.9
25-29	53.0	47.2	46.0	45.0	44.0	43.7	43.2
30-34	27.6	30.6	36.5	36.6	35.8	35.7	35.8
35-39	14.9	16.2	19.7	20.1	19.9	19.9	19.3
40-44	9.5	9.7	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.4	11.4
45-49	7.4	6.9	8.1	8.1	7.9	8.1	8.1
50 and over	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5
Females							
16-19	9.2	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5
20-24	62.0	37.1	31.6	30.5	29.8	28.4	27.6
25-29	45.0	48.0	51.6	52.1	50.8	50.4	50.5
30-34	20.4	25.3	31.1	30.9	30.9	31.4	31.0
35-39	11.1	12.0	15.4	15.3	15.2	15.0	14.8
40-44	7.2	7.3	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.7
45-49	5.8	5.6	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.3
50 and over	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0



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WEB LINKS:

www.sabinareadpsychology.com.au

REFERENCE:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/B9660D8B6920EAFCCA257AC500112FB8?opendocument>