



MONTHLY UPDATES



AUSTRALIANA (December 2023)



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- ★ **“Study Reveals Australians Abandoning Traditional Definitions of Family”**
“Friends and pets are now considered more important than genetic ties, as Australians do away with traditional definitions of family.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/study-reveals-australians-abandoning-traditional-definitions-of-family-5543537
AIFS REPORT: aifs.gov.au/research/research-reports/what-is-family
- **“Over-Reliance on Migration Costing Each Australian \$80,000, Says Think Tank”**
“Australia’s over-reliance on immigration at the expense of real productivity growth is costing everyday Aussies tens of thousands, says free-market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA). According to an IPA research report released earlier this week, since the year 2000, Australians are \$80,038 (US\$53,771) worse off due to an increased reliance on population growth. This figure equates to just under a year’s income for most Australians, with the national average salary sitting at about \$90,800 per annum. IPA researchers modelled a scenario where population growth grew organically rather than with the assistance of immigration since the year 2000.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/over-reliance-on-migration-costing-each-australian-80000-says-think-tank-5547506
REPORT: ipa.org.au/research/addicted-to-migration-australias-falling-productivity-and-the-cost-of-relying-on-migration-for-economic-growth
- **“Savers Miss out as Australian Banks Exploit 'Consumer Inertia'”**
“Switching bank accounts and updating payment details is an inconvenience the consumer watchdog wants streamlined to stoke competition in the retail deposit market. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) said savers could be earning more money if it weren't for barriers preventing bank customers from searching for a better deal.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/savers-miss-out-as-banks-exploit-consumer-inertia-5547568

Positive Changes with the New Conservative NZ Government

- **“New Zealand to Mandate '3 Rs' Daily in Schools From Term One 2024”**
“All New Zealand primary and intermediate (Year 0 to 8) students are to be taught an average of an hour each of reading, writing, and maths from term one next year as part of the government's "back to basics" approach to education.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/new-zealand-to-mandate-3-rs-daily-in-schools-from-term-one-5549238
- **“New Kiwi Government Scraps \$7.4 Billion Transport Plan for Capital”**
“The campaign was criticised for excessive spending on consultants' fees that ballooned whilst planned infrastructure projects never materialised.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/7-4-billion-transport-plan-scrapped-for-nzs-capital-city-5548638

- **“NZ to Repeal 'Three Waters' Scheme, Future Direction Remains Unclear”**
“The cost of maintaining, repairing, and renewing New Zealand's failing water infrastructure will remain with local authorities, Minister for Local Government Simeon Brown has announced. Cabinet has agreed to introduce and pass legislation early next year that will repeal "Three Waters" legislation, which would have transferred ownership of—and responsibility for—drinking and wastewater assets to four newly constituted "water entities," each covering around a quarter of the country.”
 * www.theepochtimes.com/world/nz-to-repeal-three-waters-no-clear-direction-on-what-will-replace-it-5546677
- **“Australians May Need to Pay to Keep Using Cash: RBA Boss”**
“As more Australians use digital payments instead of cash, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) emphasised the importance of keeping access to cash available, although users might have to cover the costs... Still, National Australia Bank (NAB) Cashflow Solutions Executive Mark Raymer believes most Australian businesses will go cashless within five years, with small businesses likely to lead the way.”
 * www.theepochtimes.com/world/pay-to-use-cash-rba-on-how-to-keep-cash-usage-available-5545306
NAB REPORT: business.nab.com.au/is-it-time-to-prepare-for-a-cashless-australia-47593/

Laurence

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