

Appendix: Negotiating the Life Course Project

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Abstract This appendix provides an overview of the design and implementation of the first four waves of the Negotiating the Life Course project. The first section provides an outline of the questionnaire content, including a summation of the standard demographic questions as well as modules that were introduced after the first wave. In the second section we present an explanation of the sample design and sampling frame. This includes information about the interval between waves, the inclusion of a top-up sample ($N = 2,000$) in Wave 4, and the basic demographic characteristics of the respondents. We then describe the data collection method (CATI), and the strategies used to keep track of respondents between waves. The final section summarises non-response categories and attrition of the sample over time.

The Negotiating the Life Course project is aimed at improving our understanding of the work and family lives of Australian men and women. The project collects information about a broad range of demographic, social and economic characteristics including education and training, income and labour force participation, division of labour, relationship transitions, childbearing, and attitudes and values. Background variables collected also include the country of birth of individuals and their parents, religion, health, housing and household composition. While the Negotiating the Life Course project can be used as a cross-sectional survey, its strength lies in the ability to explore how individuals' life circumstances and experiences change over time. Used longitudinally, the data presents a number of analytical advantages (Lynn 2009). The data provides a rich source of time-related information which can be used to study the timing of events such as leaving home or entering a first union,

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or the duration of spells in a particular state such as unemployment. It is also ideally suited for examining the interaction between transitions and changes in one domain of life such as childbearing, on other areas such as labour force participation or the organisation of domestic work. The ability to observe the ordering of life events also means that research is able to go beyond descriptions of association and give greater insight into the causality behind changes in various areas of life.

This appendix provides an overview of the design and implementation of the first four waves of the survey. The first section includes an outline of the questionnaire content, followed in the second section by an explanation of the sample design and sampling frame. The third section deals with the panel maintenance efforts used to keep track of respondents between waves, and the final section discusses issues relating to non-response and attrition of the sample over time.

Questionnaire Content

The survey questions are designed to be retrospective in the first wave, and prospective in subsequent waves. The first time individuals were interviewed they were asked to provide information regarding their past experiences (retrospective), such as their work history to date since the time they were 15. In subsequent interviews, respondents are only asked about changes since the previous wave (prospective). In this way the data provides a detailed documentation of the continuous work, education, relationship, and childbearing histories of each respondent.

A key strength of the Negotiating the Life Course project is that it collects information not only about respondents, but also about their partners. The data on partners is collected prospectively and includes background variables such as the partner's age and country of birth as well as information about their partner's employment and education. The addition of the partner information gives a better context for understanding the circumstances of respondents as well as enabling examination of the effect of the interaction between the work and family lives of the two partners.

Table A.1 provides a broad overview of the major topic areas covered by the survey and the content of each wave. In addition to the core questions regarding employment, education, relationships, and children, a variety of additional modules have been included in particular waves to provide additional information on topical issues such as the Higher Education Contribution Scheme, maternity leave, retirement and contraception.

Sample Design and Sampling Frame

The Negotiating the Life Course project was designed to provide a national random sample of the Australian population aged 18–54 in wave 1. The initial sampling frame consisted of 7,721 telephone numbers randomly selected from the Electronic White Pages. However, since the unit of interest was the individual rather than the

Table A.1 Topics covered by the Negotiating the Life Course project, Waves 1–4

Topic	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4
	1997	2000	2003	2006
Demographics	•			• ^a
Partner's demographics	•	•	•	•
Parents' history	•			• ^a
Education	•	•	•	•
Employment	•	•	•	•
Partner's education	•	•	•	•
Partner's employment	•	•	•	•
Work and Study history	•	•	•	•
Income	•	•	•	•
Children and Childcare	•	•	•	•
Relationships	•	•	•	•
Caring and community work	•	•	•	•
Housework and household responsibilities	•	•	•	•
Housing and household information	•	•	•	•
Household composition	•	•	•	•
Attitudes and values	•	•	•	•
Religion	•	•	•	•
Health	•	•	•	•
HECS			•	
Contraception			•	•
Maternity leave			•	•
Retirement		•	•	•
Youth				•
Grandparents				•
Contact with family and friends				•

^aOnly asked of new respondents to Wave 4

household only one person per household was interviewed. In households with multiple eligible individuals aged 18–54, the person to be interviewed was chosen randomly on the basis of having the most recent birthday. The Electronic White Pages contains a comprehensive listing of residential numbers in Australia, excluding unlisted numbers, and in the late 1990s it provided a good coverage of the population of Australia living in households (Wilson et al. 1999). At the time of the first wave, in 1997, mobile phones were only beginning to be used regularly in Australia (Goggin 2006) and most people would still have used a home telephone number as their primary contact number.

In 2006, at the time of the Wave 4 interview, an additional top-up sample was introduced. These new respondents were sampled using random digit dialing. The random digit dialing did not include mobile phone numbers, and it is possible that this may have led to some bias if there are differences between young people living in households with fixed telephone lines, and those living in households with no fixed telephone lines. While mobile phones were not included in the sampling frame

for Wave 1 or the top-up sample in Wave 4, mobile phones were used as a means for contacting respondents if a mobile number was provided after the initial contact to the household.

Interval Between Waves

The survey is conducted roughly every 3 years, on an indefinite basis. The timing of each round of interviews in the first four waves, is shown in Fig. A.1. The first wave of data was collected between October–November 1996 and February–April 1997 by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. The second wave, collected by the University of Queensland’s Social Research Centre, took place between April 2000 and September 2000, Roy Morgan Research Pty Ltd collected the third wave between December 2003 and February 2004, and the fourth wave was collected by the Deakin Computer Assisted Research Facility between September 2006 and May 2007. Compared to other longitudinal surveys which may be conducted annually, the wave-to-wave interval of 3 years in the Negotiating the Life Course project has several advantages as well as disadvantages. From the respondent’s point of view, a gap of 3 years between surveys means that they may feel less burdened compared to a situation where they are re-interviewed every year. This could potentially lower the proportion of respondents who refuse to participate over time. On the other hand, particularly in the first few waves respondents may over the 3 years have enough time to forget that they have been interviewed before and may not feel the same investment and commitment to the survey as those who clearly remember taking part in previous waves, thus increasing refusal rates. A time frame of 3 years also increases the likelihood of respondents moving and changing telephone numbers between waves, making it more difficult to locate and contact them in subsequent waves.

Sample Size

A total of 2,231 persons were interviewed in the first wave. The Negotiating the Life Course project was initially intended to be a fixed panel survey, collecting data from these same individuals at every wave. However at the time of the Wave 3 survey, 6 years after the first round, only around half of the Wave 1 respondents remained in the survey. Furthermore, the remaining respondents had aged and were now around 24–61 years old.¹ The decision was therefore made to introduce a refresher sample into Wave 4, with the purpose of increasing the sample size as well as making the sample more representative of the Australian population, aged 18–63 in 2006. When selecting the members of the top-up sample, sample members were chosen from all ages between 18 and 63. However, a quota system was used to

¹Two individuals were aged over 61.

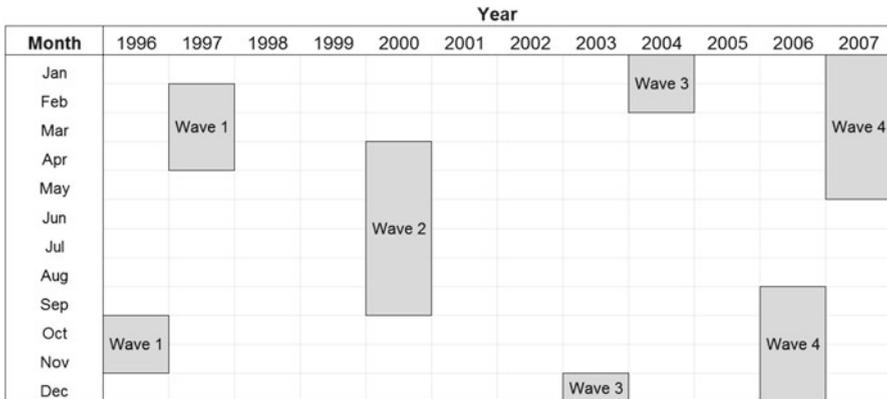


Fig. A.1 Dates of the Negotiating the Life Course project data collection, Waves 1–4

ensure that the proportion of 18–24 year olds in the sample matched the distribution of 18–24 year olds in Australian population in 2006. The top-up sample introduced 2,000 new sample members resulting in a total sample size of 3,138 in Wave 4. The evolution of the sample size is discussed in further detail below.

Table A.2 provides an overview of some of the major demographic characteristics of the 2,231 respondents at Wave 1. As is common in many surveys, women were over-represented in the sample compared to men. The higher response rate among women is usually attributed to the fact that they are more likely to be at home and therefore also to be successfully contacted. Analysis by McDonald et al. (2000) comparing the demographic characteristics of the Wave 1 sample with the Australian population aged 18–54 from the 1996 Census has shown that the Negotiating the Life Course sample broadly follows the age distribution of the Australian population. However, the initial sample is slightly biased towards those in the older age groups, with those aged under 25 being the most under-represented. Again this may be because older respondents are more likely to be at home and therefore easier to contact, compared to those aged under 25 (Stoop 2005).

Over half the respondents were legally married. Of those not legally married, around 18% were in a cohabiting relationship, and a further 18% were in a relationship but not living with their partner. Turning to country of birth, only around 9% of the initial sample was born in a non-English speaking country. According to the Australian Census, the corresponding figure in the Australian population² was around 16% and therefore this group is under-represented in the survey (McDonald et al. 2000). This is partly due to language difficulties among respondents whose first language was not English, which prevented them from participating in the survey. The proportion of respondents born in English-speaking countries other than Australia is very similar to that in the Australian population.

² Aged 15–54.

Table A.2 Sample characteristics at Wave 1

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Sex		
Male	983	44.1
Female	1,248	55.9
Age (grouped)		
18–24	293	13.1
25–29	295	13.2
30–34	368	16.5
35–39	399	17.9
40–44	362	16.2
45–49	273	12.2
50–54 ^a	241	10.8
Number of children		
0	767	34.4
1	294	13.2
2	617	27.7
3	358	16.0
4+	195	8.7
Marital status		
Never married	659	29.5
Divorced	219	9.8
Separated	86	3.9
Widowed	24	1.1
Married	1,243	55.7
Country of birth		
Australia	1,777	79.7
English-speaking country ^b	254	11.4
Non-English speaking country	200	9.0
Total	2,231	100.0

Source: NLC, Wave 1

^aIncludes three respondents aged 55^bUnited Kingdom, Ireland, USA, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand

Data Collection and Panel Maintenance

Interview Information

Information was collected at each wave using telephone interviews by trained CATI staff. Detailed instructions about the scope of the project were provided to all interview staff, with reluctant respondents allocated to more experienced interviewers. During the collection of the Wave 4 data there was a need to supply three participants with a printed version of the questionnaire. Two of the participants from the original sample had developed hearing difficulties over the course of the project and

found the long telephone interview was too difficult. A third participant did not have access to a telephone at the time the fieldwork was in progress. The latest collection began in February 2010. This fifth round of data is being collected via a mail out questionnaire comprising a shorter version of the telephone interview, with the intention of returning to a telephone interview for the sixth round.

During the earliest rounds of the data collection no incentives were offered to respondents for participation in the project. With the need to top up the sample size for Wave 4 a decision was made to run a lottery for all participants, whereby each completed interview resulted in an entry into a lottery to win \$1,000. All panel respondents who had participated in previous interviews, as well as new respondents from the top up sample were eligible to go into the draw.

The transition between the first two waves saw the inclusion of several items from the General Health Survey, and several questions about retirement intentions. Between Waves 2 and 3 questions regarding contraception and maternity leave were also added. The largest addition of questionnaire items occurred with the inclusion of modules for grandparents and youths in Wave 4, as well as a contact matrix for all participants, and a small set of questions for participants who regularly work from home. The longer format of the Wave 4 questionnaire led to a slightly longer average interview of 55 min in that wave, compared to 44 min which was the average time taken to complete interviews in Wave 3.³

Tracing

As with all longitudinal projects there has been a natural attrition of the sample due to out of date contact information (names, addresses and phone numbers), the death of some participants, as well as the right of refusal to participate in subsequent waves. It is relatively easy to collect information on both the first and last causes mentioned, but collating information about deceased respondents is more difficult. Australia does have a National Death Index which is updated monthly and has detailed information about all death records, however this database which is maintained by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is only available for use by medical researchers, at a cost and under strict guidelines. Death records are also held by each individual state, and while these are publicly available they only allow searches of deaths which occurred more than 30 years ago, and are therefore not useful for tracing respondents that may have passed away recently.

Over the course of the project, staff have been able to verify the deaths of three respondents between Waves 1 and 2, nine respondents between Waves 3 and 4, and to date, 4 respondents between Waves 4 and 5. Generally the confirmation of a death of a respondent has occurred when a family member or close friend is contacted, either on the phone number supplied as the contact number for the respondent, or when further tracing has meant follow up calls to relatives or friends when all primary

³ Average interview times for Waves 1 and 2 are not available.

contact information has been deemed invalid. The creation of an online database (The Ryerson Index: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswsdps/dpsindex.htm>) that lists obituaries from major Australian newspapers may permit researchers to determine accurate information regarding the deaths of respondents, however, this would take a substantial amount of time, as details of any participant who has not opted out and has not been contacted would need to be entered into the search engine individually.

Due to the length of the interval between interviews the Negotiating the Life Course project does lose track of some respondents. Prior to 2004 the only tracing efforts that occurred for the sample were by calling all contact numbers supplied by respondents at the end of each interview. If a respondent could not be found on any of those numbers they would be lost to the project. In mid 2004 a newsletter was sent to respondents. The newsletter provided some basic information and key findings from the project and had the benefit of providing project staff with information about respondents who had moved between waves. The first newsletter was posted to respondents a few months after they had completed the third round of interviews. At that time there were very few “return to senders,” with only around 40 newsletters being returned. The second newsletter was sent in mid 2006, just prior to the fourth round of interviews. By that time almost 3 years had passed since respondents had been interviewed. Just over 1,500 newsletters were posted, this included respondents not only from Wave 3 who had agreed to participate again, but also respondents from Wave 2 who had agreed to participate again, but had not been interviewed at Wave 3. Included with the newsletter was a “Change of address” form that respondents could fill in and return. Approximately 60 of these forms were returned with updated contact details, of course these could only be successful if the respondent received the newsletter (so only those with mail redirection or those moving out of a family home would have been able to send the form back). Approximately 170 newsletters were returned unopened. Extensive tracing using the electronic White Pages, Google searches and the Australian Electoral Roll began at this stage, to maximise the chances of retaining as many of the respondents as possible.

At the same time as this tracing was being conducted, the data collection agency had determined that around 300 phone numbers supplied by the project were no longer current and would also require extensive tracing to find the participant. The tracing efforts went on during the period from the second newsletter mail out through the entire data collection phase. During that time around 350 successful outcomes were achieved, mostly by calling participants on all numbers supplied, sending emails (for participants from Wave 3 only) and calling all secondary contacts supplied by the participants, as well as use of the Australian Electoral Roll (see Table A.3 for more details on successful tracing). It should be noted that while addresses were found using the Australian Electoral Roll, tracing was not always successful, as only respondents who were listed in the electronic White Pages could be contacted. For a number of respondents letters were sent to the address found on the roll giving information about the project and asking for telephone numbers to be supplied, but no response was received.

Table A.3 Successful tracing efforts made for Wave 4

Method	Number
Change of address form	59
Emails received after newsletter mail out	13
Phone calls received after newsletter mail out	15
Emails received in response to emails sent by NLC staff	32
Phone calls made by NLC staff	97
Australian Electoral Roll checks	137
Google traces	10
Total	363

As can be seen later in this chapter the attrition rate for Wave 4 was minimal, due in part to the extensive tracing efforts used, and by including the respondents who had not participated in Wave 3, but had indicated at Wave 2 that they would like to continue with the project.

Non-response and Attrition

Similar to cross-sectional surveys, longitudinal surveys such as the Negotiating the Life Course project have to deal with non-response at Wave 1. In addition to non-response at the initial wave however, longitudinal surveys also have to deal with non-response at every other wave, and the process of attrition or loss of sample members over time can have a negative effect on the final sample size. The following section outlines the level and pattern of non-response in the first wave of the Negotiating the Life Course project, as well as across the waves.

Non-response at the First Wave

In the first wave, the inclusion of a respondent into the initial sample is conditional on two processes, achieving contact with the individual and obtaining cooperation (Stoop 2005). The two main reasons why a targeted sample member may not end up being included in the survey is therefore non-contact, and refusal to participate. Non-contact may occur if telephone calls to a respondent's home are not answered due to the person being temporarily absent or out of the house. Making contact with a respondent is the first step, but non-response is still a possibility if the (eligible) individual makes the decision that they do not wish to participate in the survey. There are numerous reasons why individuals may refuse to participate including concerns about the length, burden and complexity of the survey as well as fears about privacy and confidentiality (Lynn et al. 2005).

Table A.4 Response rate at Wave 1

<i>Eligible</i>	
Interviewed	2,231
Refused but eligible	1,089
Partial interview	39
Language difficulty	174
<i>Ineligible</i>	2,283
<i>Unknown eligibility</i>	
Refused immediately	611
Interview not possible	150
Business number	154
Disconnected	561
Non-contactable	429
Total	7,721
Response rate (high)	63.0 %
Response rate (low)	52.0 %

Source: Adapted from McDonald et al. (2000:2)

In the first round of the Negotiating the Life Course project, out of 7,721 randomly selected telephone numbers, 2,231 respondents were interviewed. Table A.4, shows the numbers of households where there was an eligible respondent, where there was no eligible respondent and where eligibility was unable to be determined. The latter group resulted from households that were successfully contacted but refused to participate immediately, without answering the screening question which was used to determine if anyone in the household was eligible. In other households refusals to participate came after the screening question, in which case eligibility could be confirmed. The overall response rate is estimated to be between 52 and 63%. The high response rate estimate is based on including those 2,231 who were interviewed in the numerator and all those determined to be eligible in the denominator. The lower estimate is based on also including those of unknown eligibility in the denominator (McDonald et al. 2000).

Sample Attrition Across Waves

Non-contact

The reasons for non-response or attrition in later waves were similar to those at the first wave. Individuals may have failed to be contacted at their previously recorded location because they were unavailable at the time of calling, or alternatively they may have changed address since the time of the last survey. While newsletters and other mail sent to the respondents which were returned to sender provided evidence that the respondents had moved, it was not always possible to identify the reason for the failure to contact the individual.

Refusal to Participate

Other respondents were successfully re-contacted at subsequent waves, but refused to participate and therefore left the sample. The reasons for the refusal to participate in subsequent waves are the same as for the first wave, however a key difference is that after the first wave respondents also have additional information about what participating in the interview entails, and their choice to participate again will be partly influenced by their survey experience the previous time they were interviewed (Lynn et al. 2005). The strength of the effect of the prior wave experience on cooperation at later rounds is dependent on a number of factors including the salience of the previous experience, the time between waves, as well as the degree of contact with the respondent between waves (Lepkowski and Couper 2002:261).

Permanent and Temporary Attrition

When discussing attrition, an important issue is whether the attrition is of a permanent or temporary nature (Winkels and Withers 2000). In the former case, respondents leave the sample forever because they cannot be located or because they voice a wish to never be surveyed again. In the case of temporary attrition, a respondent does not participate for one or more waves but is then successfully re-interviewed at a subsequent wave. Again this may be because subsequent attempts to locate an individual are successful, or because the respondent does not wish to participate in one particular wave due to circumstances such as health or family problems but agrees to be contacted again at the next wave. Since the Negotiating the Life Course project is a survey of indefinite length it is difficult to make an exact distinction between permanent and temporary attrition, although in practice the difficulty of locating and contacting a respondent who has been missing for more than one wave (3 years) means that they can be classified as permanent losses.

Attrition in the Negotiating the Life Course project

The diagram below traces the evolution of the Negotiating the Life Course project sample size across the first four waves. The sample started with 2,231 respondents in Wave 1. At the time of the Wave 2 survey, nearly 80 % of respondents from the first wave were successfully contacted and re-interviewed. The 463 individuals who did not respond, may not have been able to be contacted, may have refused to participate, or may have died. Between Wave 2 and Wave 3 another 576 respondents were lost, however 224 of these respondents, only left the sample temporarily in Wave 3 and they were subsequently contacted and successfully interviewed at the time of the fourth wave in 2006. With the addition of the 2,000 members of the top-up sample that was introduced in Wave 4, the final sample size in that wave was 3,138 (Fig. A.2).

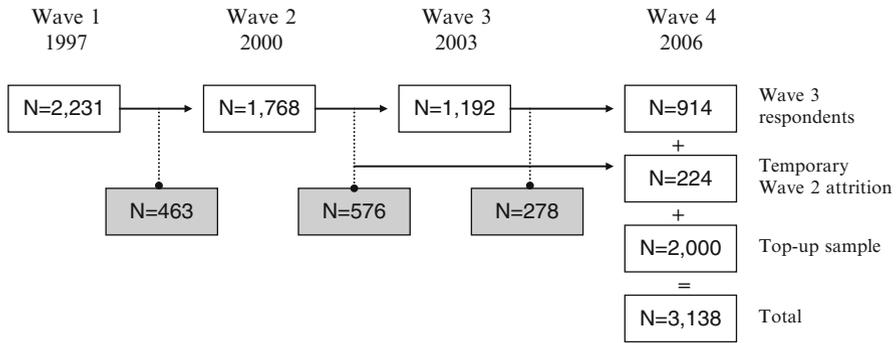


Fig. A.2 Evolution of the NLC sample, Waves 1–4

Attrition and Selectivity Bias

One reason why attrition raises concerns is that the overall decrease in the sample size has a negative effect on the precision of estimates. Another cause for concern is that, depending on the selectivity of the attrition, if those who drop-out of the sample are different from those who remain in the sample it may also introduce substantial bias to the estimates (Watson and Wooden 2009). Research has shown that the pattern and level of non-response across time, in longitudinal surveys may be affected by particular individual level characteristics such as age, education and marital status, but also that some of these determinants may vary in importance from country to country (Behr et al. 2005). It is also important to note that the degree of selectivity bias introduced by different types of non-response (non-contact, refusal, language difficulties) is likely to be quite different (Lynn and Clarke 2002).

Analysis of another Australian survey, the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey has shown that the probability of contacting an individual across the waves was higher for women and married persons, as well as those from English-speaking backgrounds (Watson and Wooden 2009). The study also found that contact probabilities increased with age, and that it was easier to contact those who were employed, with the exception of those working more than 55 hours a week. While HILDA uses a different form of data collection, namely face-to-face interviews at the respondents home, many of the individual determinants of having a high contact probability are likely to be the same for the Negotiating the Life Course project.

As mentioned earlier, non-contact across the waves may be due to a number of reasons including failing to reach the respondent at home or because the respondent has moved to an unknown new address. The characteristics mentioned above which resulted in higher or lower contact probabilities may be a result of both the at-

home patterns of individuals as well as their level of geographical mobility. In terms of establishing contact with someone known to be living at a particular address, men, younger persons, as well as those working more than 55 hours a week may be more difficult to catch at home, if they spend large parts of their days outside of the home. In terms of geographic mobility it is also known that young people tend to be more mobile than those in the older age groups. For example, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2003) between the 1996 and 2001 census, around 42 % of the Australian population aged 5 years and over changed their place of residence, but it was those in the age group 25–29 who were most mobile and also the most likely to move interstate. The age pattern of mobility is also related to the occurrence of key life events, such as births, marriage and job changes which often result in a household move (Lepkowski and Couper 2002).

In order to test for selectivity between responders and non-responders in longitudinal studies, a number of methods may be used ranging from bivariate tests to regression models (Miller and Wright 1995; Ahern and Le Broque 2005). Here we compare the demographic characteristics at Wave 1, 2 and 3 of respondents who proceed to the next wave with those who drop out, and test for statistical significance using a chi-square test. It should be noted that no distinction is made between attrition due to non-contact, refusal to participate or to the loss of sample members through death, as this information was not available in detail for all waves. The variables we examine are sex, age, marital status, employment, education and country of birth. All the variables except for sex and country of birth are time-varying in that they describe the characteristics at the each wave.

Men were significantly more likely to drop out in between Wave 1 and 2, and between Wave 3 and 4. In general, wave-on-wave participation also appeared to be positively related to age. At every wave, those aged between 18 and 24 and 25 and 29, were significantly more likely to leave the sample compared to those in the older age groups. This is likely to be associated with the higher mobility of respondents in these younger age groups. Attrition was also associated with legal marital status. At every wave, those who were never married were significantly more likely to be missing in the next subsequent rounds of interviews compared to those who were married. There may be an age effect behind this pattern, in that the younger individuals with higher mobility are also the most likely to be never married. Employment showed a mixed pattern. Respondents who were not employed (unemployed or not in the labour force) in Wave 1 were more likely to leave the sample by Wave 2. In Wave 2 there was no significant effect, while in Wave 3 the outcome was reversed with those in employment being more likely to be missing in Wave 4. Attrition also appeared to be associated with education level, university educated respondents in particular having lower percentages of wave-on-wave attrition. Finally respondents not born in Australia were significantly less likely to remain in the sample between Wave 1 and Wave 2, but after this initial attrition a country of birth effect on attrition was not evident in subsequent waves. Any bias introduced by the selective attrition of respondents over time, can be mitigated through the use of the post-stratification respondent weights, which are available for each wave of the NLC (Table A.5).

Table A.5 Percentage of respondents at Wave T who were interviewed or not interviewed, according to age, marital status and employment in Wave T-1

	Wave 1 respondents			Wave 2 respondents			Wave 3 respondents			Wave 4 outcome		
	Wave 2 outcome		N	Wave 3 outcome		N	Wave 4 outcome		N	Wave 5 outcome		N
	Interviewed	Missing		Interviewed	Missing		Interviewed	Missing		Interviewed	Missing	
Sex			**									**
Male	76.7	23.3	983	78.7	21.4	754	73.9	26.1	528			
Female	81.3	18.8	<i>1,248</i>	81.2	18.8	<i>1,014</i>	78.9	21.1	<i>664</i>			**
Age			**									**
18–24	72.0	28.0	293	58.3	41.7	108						
25–29	69.2	30.9	295	68.4	31.7	158	52.7	47.3	74			
30–39	79.8	20.2	767	78.9	21.1	544	68.6	31.4	264			
40–49	84.7	15.3	635	86.9	13.1	609	77.7	22.3	461			
50+	84.2	15.8	241	82.2	17.8	349	85.5	14.5	393			**
Marital status			**									**
Never married	72.2	27.8	659	71.5	28.5	403	66.2	33.8	210			
Married	82.9	17.1	<i>1,243</i>	84.2	15.9	<i>1,060</i>	80.8	19.2	771			
Divorced/separated/widowed	79.3	20.7	329	77.5	22.5	298	73.8	26.2	187			**
Employment			**									**
Employed	80.8	19.2	<i>1,742</i>	80.4	19.6	<i>1,433</i>	75.4	24.6	963			
Not employed	73.6	26.4	489	78.9	21.1	327	84.8	15.2	204			
Highest education			*									
Bachelor degree or higher	81.7	18.3	449	85.7	14.3	426	78.8	21.2	335			
Diploma	83.6	16.4	226	82.0	18.0	183	76.1	23.9	138			
Vocational qualification	77.9	22.1	498	79.3	20.7	497	76.5	23.5	353			
Secondary school	75.6	24.4	451	78.2	21.8	252	73.8	26.2	145			
Incomplete secondary or lower	79.6	20.4	607	75.6	24.4	406	75.7	24.3	218			
Country of birth			**									
Australia	81.4	18.6	<i>1,777</i>	80.4	19.6	<i>1,446</i>	76.8	23.2	974			
Other	70.9	29.1	454	78.9	21.1	322	76.2	23.9	218			
Total	79.3	20.8	<i>2,231</i>	80.1	19.9	<i>1,768</i>	76.7	23.3	<i>1,192</i>			

Note: Chi-square test results (***) $p < 0.05$, (*) $p < 0.10$

Figures provided in italics are frequencies rather than percentages

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