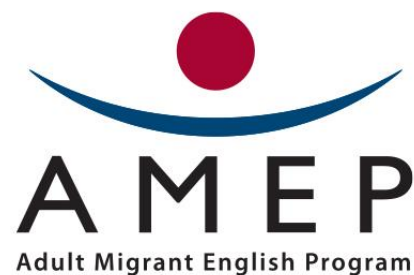




Australian Government  
Department of Education and Training



# Intermediate Housing Housing Worksheet 1: The Great Australian Dream

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## Worksheet 1: The Great Australian Dream



The Great Australian Dream is the desire for every Australian family to own their own home. Owning your own home on your own block of land was a symbol of success. But is the Great Australian Dream still possible? Or is it changing?

*A. Read these words. Look up the meanings of words you don't know in your dictionary.*

statistician	analysis	research
proportion	trend	century
unparalleled growth	property prices	benefit

*B. Read this article and underline any words you don't know. Look up the meanings in your dictionary.*

### **Is this the end of the Great Australian Dream?**

Families are giving up their back yards for shared laundries, community playgrounds and strata titles, according to a new analysis by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Furthermore, the Government statistician suggests that there is nothing especially Australian about the home ownership ideal. The number of households owning their homes has slipped to 69 per cent. This is less than New Zealand, no different to Britain and only slightly higher than the Unites States.

“Historically, the Great Australian dream is a relatively new idea. As far as we can work out, it occurred in the 1950’s” said the director of a property research company.

About half of Australian households owned their homes through the first half of the century, but the proportion jumped to more than 70 per cent in the 20 years after the World War II.

Some fear that rising property prices will reverse this trend. Property prices in Melbourne have enjoyed unparalleled growth in the past five years with housing prices rising 141 per cent and apartment prices 147 per cent in the last 6 years. First-home buyers are the lowest proportion of the buying market.

But the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) analysis suggests that home ownership is not dead. It is just changing. More people are opting for apartments. The reason may be the high cost of houses or it may be that some people are not convinced of the benefits of having their own backyard.

14 July 2003

**C. Tick True or False.**

	<b>True</b>	<b>False</b>
1. More people own their own homes in Australia than in the United States.		
2. Many more Australians began to own their own homes after World War II.		
3. House prices are falling in Melbourne.		
4. There are more people buying a home for the first time.		
5. More people are buying apartments instead of houses.		

**D. Discuss these questions.**

1. Do you rent or own your own place?
2. Is home ownership important in your country?
3. Do the majority of people from your country own or rent their home?
4. Do the majority of people live in a house or an apartment in your country?
5. Do you think it is better to live in an apartment or a house?
6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a house?
7. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in an apartment?
8. How important is it for you to own your own house or flat in Australia? Why? Why not?

