



# ***Australia's high labour force participation***

**Women changing the face of the workforce.**

## **KEY POINTS:**

### **Higher labour force participation, but changing patterns of work**

- In 2014, nearly 9.4 million people aged 25 to 64 were employed.
- The labour force participation rate of people in this age group increased from 74% to 79% between 1992 and 2014.
- More people are working part-time – in 2014, 25% of Australians aged 25–64 worked part-time, compared with 21% in 1992.
- With more Australians participating in the workforce, more families are relying on child care – almost half of all Australian children aged 0–12 (1.8 million children) regularly attended either formal or informal child care in 2014. Families are more likely to use grandparents for informal care than other types of care.

### **Greater proportion of older Australians participating in the labour force**

- The participation rate of the older members (aged 55 and over) of this age group has increased – from 23% in 1984 to 35% in 2014.

### **Women's role in changing the face of Australia's workforce**

- Between 1992 and 2014, the male labour force participation rate fell slightly from 87% to 86%, while the female labour force participation rate rose from 60% to 72%.
- Labour force participation rates for women in the prime child-bearing years of 25–34 have risen in recent decades. For example, in 1979, the labour force participation rate for women in this age group was 51% compared with 69% for those aged 20–24. By 2014, the labour force participation rate had climbed to 75%.
- Older women are also more likely than in previous years to be in the labour force. The participation rate for women aged 55–64 rose from 21% in 1979 to 56% in 2014, and the rate for women aged 65 and over rose from 2% to 8%.