

**Australia**  
**ISSP 1999 - Social Inequality III**  
**Questionnaire**

**The University of Melbourne**  
Melbourne Institute  
of Applied Economic and Social Research



and  
**Datacol**  
Canberra

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

**ISSSA**



**International  
Social Science Surveys  
Australia**

Australia - Austria - Bangladesh - Britain - Bulgaria - Canada - Chile - Cyprus  
Czech Republic - Denmark - France - Germany - Hungary - Ireland - Israel  
Italy - Japan - Latvia - Netherlands - New Zealand - Norway - Philippines  
Poland - Portugal - Russia - Slovakian Republic - Slovenia - South Africa  
Spain - Sweden - Switzerland - United States - Venezuela

**Confidential**

# International questions: Differences in Pay

>> *These questions are being asked in more than 30 nations throughout the world. They are very important and we think you will find them interesting.*

1. To begin, we have some questions about opportunities for getting ahead ...

a. How important is coming from a wealthy family?

**Essential      Very important      Fairly important      Not very important      Not important at all      (Can't choose)**

b. Knowing the right people?

**Essential      Very important      Fairly important      Not very important      Not important at all      (Can't choose)**

Yes!!	--	Strongly agree
Yes	--	Agree
??	--	Neither agree nor disagree
No	--	Disagree
No!!	--	Strongly disagree
-		(can't choose)



2. Do you agree or disagree ...

a. In Australia people get rewarded for their effort ..... **Yes!!    Yes    ??    No    No!!    -**

b. In Australia people get rewarded for their intelligence and skills..... **Yes!!    Yes    ??    No    No!!    -**

c. To get all the way to the top in Australia today, you have to be corrupt..... **Yes!!    Yes    ??    No    No!!    -**

3. Next, some questions about inequality ...

a. Inequality continues to exist because it benefits the rich and powerful..... **Yes!!    Yes    ??    No    No!!    -**

b. No one would study for years to become a lawyer or a doctor unless they expected to earn a lot more than ordinary workers ..... **Yes!!    Yes    ??    No    No!!    -**

c. Large differences in income are necessary for Australia's prosperity ..... **Yes!!    Yes    ??    No    No!!    -**

d. Inequality continues to exist because ordinary people don't join together to get rid of it ..... **Yes!!    Yes    ??    No    No!!    -**

e. Would you say that you earn ...

>> *If you are not working now, please tell us about your last job.*

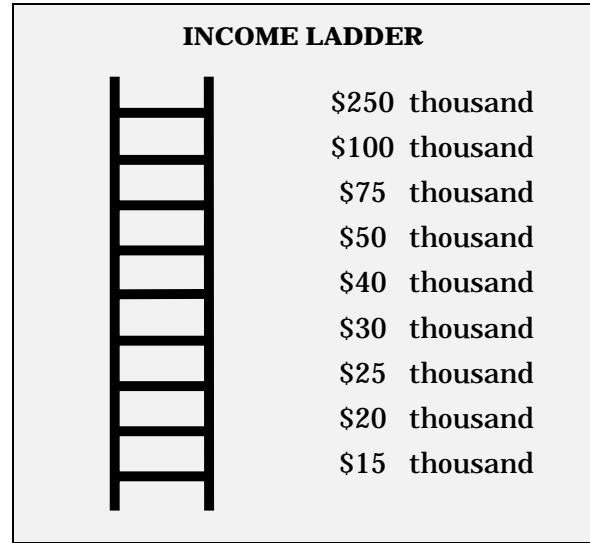
Much less than I deserve..... **1**  
 Less than I deserve..... **2**  
 What I deserve ..... **3**  
 More than I deserve..... **4**  
 Much more than I deserve..... **5**  
 (Can't choose) ..... -  
 (Never worked)..... +

4. We would like to know what you think people in these jobs **actually** earn...

>> Please choose how much you think they **usually** earn each year, before taxes.

>> Many people are not exactly sure about this, but your best guess will be close enough.

>> This is very important, but it may be difficult. So please try.



**ACTUALLY EARN EACH YEAR**

a. First, **about** how much do you think a skilled worker in a factory earns?.....  thousand

b. A doctor in general practice? .....  thousand

c. The chairman of a large national corporation? .....  thousand

d. A lawyer -- about how much do they actually earn, just your best guess? .....  thousand

e. A shop assistant? .....  thousand

f. The owner-manager of a large factory? .....  thousand

g. A judge in the High Court of Australia – about how much do they actually earn? .....  thousand

h. An unskilled worker in a factory? .....  thousand

i. A cabinet minister in the federal government? .....  thousand

j. And someone who works in **your** usual occupation? .....  thousand

>> If not working now, please tell about your last occupation.

>> If you have never worked, please write "NA"

5. Next, what do you think people in these jobs ought to be paid -- how much do you think they should earn each year before taxes, regardless of what they actually get...

**OUGHT TO EARN EACH YEAR**

- a. First, about how much do you think a skilled worker in a factory **ought** to earn? ..... \$  thousand
- b. A doctor in general practice? ..... \$  thousand
- c. The chairman of a large national corporation? ..... \$  thousand
- d. A lawyer -- about how much do you think a lawyer **ought** to earn? ..... \$  thousand
- e. A shop assistant? ..... \$  thousand
- f. The owner-manager of a large factory? ..... \$  thousand
- g. A judge in the High Court of Australia – about how much ought they to earn? ..... \$  thousand
- h. An unskilled worker in a factory? ..... \$  thousand
- i. A cabinet minister in the federal government? ..... \$  thousand
- j. And someone who works in **your** usual occupation? ..... \$  thousand  
 >> *If not working now, please tell about your last occupation*  
 >> *If you have never worked, please write "NA"*

6. Do you agree or disagree...

a. Differences in income in Australia are too large.

**Strongly agree    Agree    Neither agree nor disagree    Disagree    Strongly disagree    (can't say)**

b. It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes.

**Strongly agree    Agree    Neither agree nor disagree    Disagree    Strongly disagree    (can't say)**

7. Do you think people with high incomes should pay a larger share of their income in taxes than those with low incomes, the same share, or a smaller share?

**Much larger share<sub>1</sub>    Larger<sub>2</sub>    Same share<sub>3</sub>    Smaller<sub>4</sub>    Much smaller share<sub>5</sub>    (can't choose).**

8. Turning to international differences, do you agree or disagree...

a. Present economic differences between rich and poor countries are too large

**Strongly agree    Agree    Neither agree nor disagree    Disagree    Strongly disagree    (can't say)**

b. People in wealthy countries should make an additional tax contribution to help people in poor countries

**Strongly agree    Agree    Neither agree nor disagree    Disagree    Strongly disagree    (can't say)**

9. Is it just or unjust – right or wrong – that people with higher incomes can...

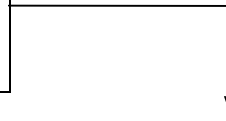
Just!!	--	Very just, definitely right
Just	--	Somewhat just
??	--	Neither just nor unjust, mixed feelings
Unjust	--	Somewhat unjust, wrong
Unjust!!	--	Very unjust
-		(can't choose)



- a. Buy better health care than people with lower incomes?.....**Just!! Just ?? Unjust Unjust!!** -
- b. Buy better education for their children than people with lower incomes? .....**Just!! Just ?? Unjust Unjust!!** -

10. In all countries, there are differences or even conflicts between different social groups. In your opinion, in Australia how much conflict is there between ...

Very strong	--	Very strong conflicts
Strong	--	Strong conflicts
Not very	--	Not very strong conflicts
None	--	There are no conflicts
-		(can't choose)



- a. Poor people and rich people?.....**Strong!! Strong Not very None** --
- b. The working class and the middle class?.....**Strong!! Strong Not very None** --
- c. Management and workers? .....**Strong!! Strong Not very None** --
- d. People at the top of society and people at the bottom?.....**Strong!! Strong Not very None** --
- e. Young people and older people? .....**Strong!! Strong Not very None** --

11. In our society there are some social groups which are higher and some which are lower. Where do you think you are on this scale? And ten years ago, where did you fit in then?

	NOW	TEN YEARS AGO
High.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Low .....	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
(Can't choose) .....	--	--

12. Please think of your present job (or your last one if you don't have one now). If you compare this job with the job your father had when you were 14, would you say that the level or status of your job is (or was)...

- Much higher than your father's ..... 1
- Higher..... 2
- About equal ..... 3
- Lower ..... 4
- Much lower than your father's..... 5
- (I never had a job) ..... -
- (I don't know what my father did) ..... +

13. In deciding how much people ought to earn, how important should each of these things be, in your opinion ...

Top	--	Essential
Very	--	Very important
Fairly	--	Fairly important
Not	--	Not very important
Not!!	--	Not important at all

**HOW IMPORTANT IN DECIDING PAY?**

- a. How much responsibility goes with the job -- how important do you think that ought to be in deciding pay? **Top Very Fairly Not Not!! -**
- b. The number of years spent in education and training?..... **Top Very Fairly Not Not!! -**
- c. Whether the job requires supervising others?..... **Top Very Fairly Not Not!! -**
- d. What is needed to support a family?..... **Top Very Fairly Not Not!! -**
- e. Whether the person has children to support -- how important should that be in deciding pay?..... **Top Very Fairly Not Not!! -**
- f. How well he or she does the job -- how important?..... **Top Very Fairly Not Not!! -**
- g. How hard he or she works at the job -- how important should that be in deciding pay?..... **Top Very Fairly Not Not!! -**

14. Is your pay just? We are not asking about what you do earn, nor what you would like to earn – but what you feel is just given your skills and effort. Is your pay ...

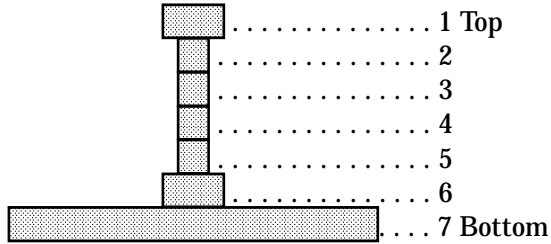
>> *If not working now, please tell about your last job.*

- Much less than is just..... 1
- A little less than is just..... 2
- About just for me ..... 3
- A little more than is just ..... 4
- Much more than is just..... 5
- (Can't choose) ..... -
- (Never had a job)..... +

These five diagrams show different kinds of society. Please read the descriptions and look at the diagrams and decide which you think best describes Australia today..

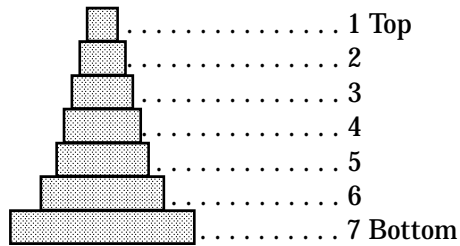
**Type A**

A small elite at the top, very few people in the middle and the great mass of people at the bottom



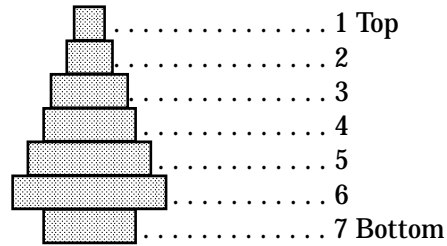
**Type B**

A society like a pyramid, with a small elite at the top, more people in the middle, and most at the bottom



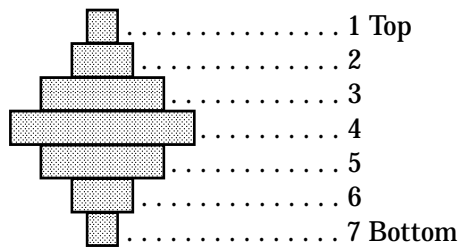
**Type C**

A pyramid except that just a few people are at the very bottom



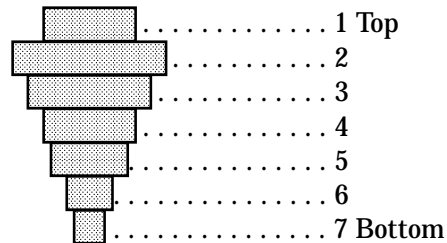
**Type D**

A society with most people in the middle



**Type E**

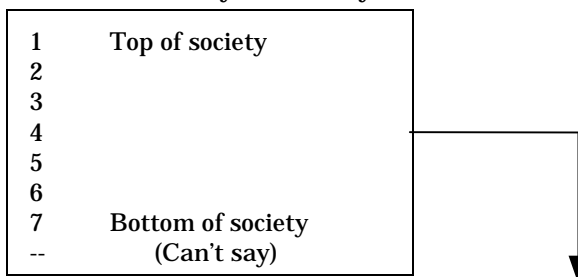
Many people near the top and only a few near the bottom



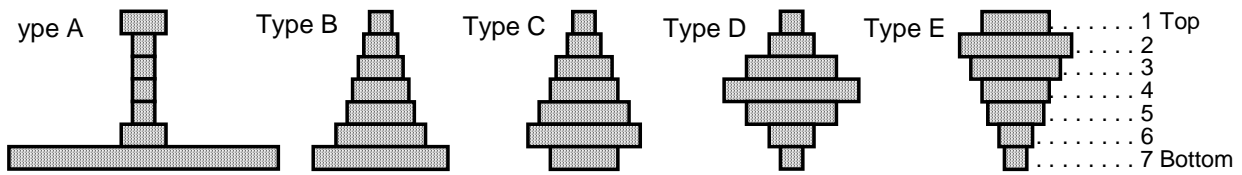


- 1a. First, what type of society is Australia today -- which diagram comes closest? .....
- |  |               |               |               |               |               |    |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----|
|  | <b>Type A</b> | <b>Type B</b> | <b>Type C</b> | <b>Type D</b> | <b>Type E</b> | -- |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----|
- b. What do you think Australia ought to be like -- which would you prefer? .....
- |  |               |               |               |               |               |    |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----|
|  | <b>Type A</b> | <b>Type B</b> | <b>Type C</b> | <b>Type D</b> | <b>Type E</b> | -- |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----|

2. Now we would like to know where you and other people fit in. Please look at the diagram you think best describes Australia today, the one you chose first...



	<b>TOP</b>						<b>BOTTOM</b>	
a. Where would you say you and your family actually are -- at the top, somewhere in the middle, or toward the bottom? .	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
b. Where would you say an unskilled worker in a factory fits in?.....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
c. The chairman of a large national corporation?.....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
d. A doctor in general practice?.....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
e. A lawyer?.....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
f. A skilled worker in a factory? .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
g. The owner-manager of a large factory? .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
h. A judge in the High Court of Australia – where would they fit in?.....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
i. A cabinet minister in the federal government?.....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
j. Your parents, while you were growing up? .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
k. And your husband or wife's (or ex's) parents?..... >> Write NA if never married	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
l. Your oldest son or daughter (if they are over age 17)? .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
m. Where would your best friend fit in? .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
n. A typical worker in <b>your</b> occupation? .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
o. The person you work with most closely in your job? .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
>> Or in your last job, if you no longer work								
p. Where did you (and your spouse) fit in back around 1985 when Bob Hawke was prime minister? .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--
q. And 5 years from now, in the future? .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	--



- 3a. Which diagram comes closest to what Australia was like 15 years ago, around 1985?.....
- b. What Australia was like back in the 1950s?.....
- c. What Australia will be like 30 years from now, in the future – just your best guess?.....
- d. What are poor countries like China, India, or Indonesia usually like – just your best guess? .....
- e. As poor countries' economies grow and they get richer, what will happen – just your best guess? .....
- f. What are most rich countries like the USA, Canada, or Switzerland like – your best guess?.....

Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E
Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E
Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E
Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E
Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E

Benefit!!	--	Much more benefits than harm
Benefit	--	More benefits than harm
Equal	--	As much benefit as harm
Harm	--	More harm than benefits
Harm!!	--	Only harm
--	--	(Can't say)



- 4a. Do you think the kind of economic system Australia had between 1950 and 1985 or so brought to the **majority of Australian people**.....
- b. And Australia's economic system **now**, does it bring the majority of Australians.....
- c. How about Australia's economic system over the **next 5 years**, is it likely to bring the majority of Australians .....

**MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIANS:**

Benefit!!	Benefit	Equal	Harm	Harm!!	--
Benefit!!	Benefit	Equal	Harm	Harm!!	--
Benefit!!	Benefit	Equal	Harm	Harm!!	--

5. Nowadays in Australia someone who left school at age 15 earns about \$25,000 a year by the time they are about 30 or 35 years old. Now please think about those who spend longer in school. >> *How much ought they to earn...*

- a. How much do you think someone about 30 years old who has finished **secondary school** should earn?.....
- b. How about a typical 30 year old **university graduate** ? .....
- c. How about someone who has completed a **PhD** (doctorate) degree?.....

**SHOULD EARN**

\$  thousand per year

\$  thousand per year

\$  thousand per year

6. Thinking back to your parents' **income and standard of living** when you were growing up, around age 14, were they near the top of society, near the bottom, or somewhere in between? And where was *your* income and standard of living 10 or 12 years ago? And your income and standard of living *now*?...

	<b>PARENTS' INCOME</b>	<b>YOU 12 YEARS AGO</b>	<b>YOUR INCOME NOW</b>
High.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Low.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
(Can't choose) .....	--	--	--

7. What is the approximate value of your home, car, savings, investments, and such?

>> *It may be hard to say what things are worth; your best guess will do.*

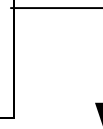
None      \$100,000      \$250,000      \$500,000      \$750,000      \$1,000,000+

8. Have you ever inherited a farm or business?

>> *If you got just part of it, only tell about your share*

- No, never ..... 1
- Yes, but it was not big enough to support a family ..... 2
- Yes, one just big enough to support one family ..... 3
- Yes, it was two or three times that size ..... 4
- Yes, one even bigger than that ..... 5

Benefit!!	--	Much more benefits than harm
Benefit	--	More benefits than harm
Equal	--	As much benefit as harm
Harm	--	More harm than benefits
Harm!!	--	Only harm
--	--	(Can't say)



9a. And the kind of economic system

Australia had between 1950 and 1985 or so, did it bring *you and your family*.....

**YOU AND YOUR FAMILY:**  
Benefit!!    Benefit    Equal    Harm    Harm!!    --

b. Thinking about Australia's economic system *now*, does it bring *you and your family*.....

Benefit!!    Benefit    Equal    Harm    Harm!!    --

c. How about Australia's economic system over the **next 5 years**, is it likely to bring you and your family.....

Benefit!!    Benefit    Equal    Harm    Harm!!    --