2-9-2018

<https://www.news.com.au/sport/tennis/roger-federer-defeats-nick-kyrgios-in-us-open-showdown/news-story/14ac71a9bc7436916e4bf3f5d89a603e>

American tennis legend John McEnroe again led the public criticism of Kyrgios’ performance — saying he simply hopes the Australian is able to learn from the lesson Federer handed out.

“I like Nick as a person, (but) you don’t want his behaviour rewarded,” McEnroe told ESPN.

“Some of his behaviour that is questioned. You need to be more dedicated if you want to be there with the big boys. So in a way it’s a good message and hopefully one he (Kyrgios) can learn from.”

**4/9/2018**

**Nicky Wang - LinkedIn**

A motivated executive with product, brand and marketing B2B & B2C experience; driven by meeting commercial targets; building and executing considered marketing/business plans to increase overall category growth across key customer segments within Australian and New Zealand marketplaces.  
  
Exemplary business performance ensures professional conduct and achievements within set parameters and time frames, with a proven ability to make trusting relationships within internal cross functional departments – Marketing, Segment, R&D, Supply (International – Europe & Asia), Demand, Sales and Finance – and external business areas.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ten-harsh-lessons-make-you-more-successful-dr-travis-bradberry/>

# Ten Harsh Lessons That Will Make You More Successful

* Published on August 29, 2018

**[](https://www.linkedin.com/in/travisbradberry/)**

## [Dr. Travis Bradberry Influencer](https://www.linkedin.com/in/travisbradberry/)

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Everyone fails in life, and failure can be a crushing experience. The only thing that separates successful people from the rest is how they respond after they fail.

When facing obstacles, you have to decide if you’re going to let them be the excuse for your failure or if you’re going to make them the story behind your success.

*"There is no failure. Only feedback." -Robert Allen*

When you adopt the right attitude, failure is a great teacher. Failure interrupts your routine and gives you an opportunity to explore new solutions, but only if you have the right attitude.

Psychologist Albert Bandura conducted a study that showed just how great a role our attitudes play in the face of failure. In the study, two groups of people were asked to complete an identical management task. The first group was told that the purpose of the task was to measure their management abilities. The other group was told that the skills required to complete the task were improvable and that the task was merely an opportunity to practice and improve. The trick was that the researchers made the task so difficult that all participants were bound to fail, and fail they did. The first group—feeling like failures because their skills weren’t up to snuff—made little or no improvement when they were given opportunities to repeat the task. The second group, however, saw each failure as a learning opportunity, and they performed at progressively higher levels each time they attempted the task. The second group even rated themselves as more confident than the first group.

Just like the participants in Bandura’s study, we can either view our failures as reflections of our abilities or as opportunities for growth. The next time you catch yourself wallowing in the self-pity that often accompanies failure, focus on what you can control: your attitude.

Some of the best lessons in life are also the toughest to accept and to adopt the right attitude toward. These are the lessons that challenge your flexibility and willingness to learn. When we don’t embrace them soon enough, the lessons we learn turn out to be harsh ones.

**The first step is always the hardest.** When you want to achieve something important, that first step is inevitably going to be daunting, even frightening. When you dare to make that first move, anxiety and fear dissipate in the name of action. People that dive headfirst into taking that brutal first step aren’t any stronger than the rest of us; they’ve simply learned that it yields great results. They know that the pain of getting started is inevitable and that procrastination only prolongs their suffering.

**Good things take time.** Success, above all, requires time and effort. Author Malcolm Gladwell suggested that mastery of anything requires 10,000 hours of tireless focus. Many successful people would agree. Consider Henry Ford, whose first two automobile businesses failed before he started Ford at the age of 45, or author Harry Bernstein, who dedicated his entire life to writing before he finally landed a best-seller at the age of 96. When you finally do succeed, you realize that the journey was the best part of it.

**Being busy does not equal being productive.** Look at everyone around you. They all seem so busy, running from meeting to meeting and firing off e-mails. Yet how many of them are really producing, really succeeding at a high level? Success doesn’t come from movement and activity; it comes from focus—from ensuring that your time is used efficiently and productively. You get the same number of hours in the day as everyone else, so use yours wisely. After all, you’re the product of your output not your effort. Make certain your efforts are dedicated to tasks that get results.

**You will always have less control than you want.** There are too many extenuating circumstances in life to control every outcome. You can, however, control how you react to things that are out of your control. Your reaction is what transforms a mistake into a learning experience and ensures that a victory doesn’t send your ego through the roof. You can’t win every battle, but with the right attitude, you can win the war.

**You're only as good as those you associate with.** You should strive to surround yourself with people who inspire you, people who make you want to be better. And you probably do. But what about the people who drag you down? Why do you allow them to be part of your life? Anyone who makes you feel worthless, anxious, or uninspired is wasting your time and, quite possibly, making you more like them. Life is too short to associate with people like this. Cut them loose.

**Your biggest problems are mental.** Almost all our problems occur because we time travel: we go to the past and regret things we’ve done, or we go to the future and feel anxious about events that haven’t even happened. It’s all too easy to slip into the past or jet into the future. When you do, you lose sight of the one thing that you can actually control—the present.

**Your self-worth must come from within.**When your sense of pleasure and satisfaction are derived from comparing yourself with others, you are no longer the master of your own destiny. When you feel good about something that you’ve done, don’t allow anyone’s opinions or accomplishments to take that away from you. While it’s impossible to turn off your reactions to what others think of you, you don’t have to compare yourself with others and you can always take people’s opinions with a grain of salt. That way, no matter what other people are thinking or doing, your self-worth comes from within. Regardless of what people think of you at any particular moment, one thing is certain—you’re never as good or bad as they say you are.

**Not everyone will support you.** In fact, most people won’t. Some people will inundate you with negativity, passive aggression, anger, or jealousy, but none of this matters, because, as Dr. Seuss said, “Those that matter don’t mind, and those that mind don’t matter.” We can’t possibly get support from everyone, and we definitely can’t spend our time and energy trying to win over the people who don’t support us. Letting go of the opinions of people who don’t matter frees up time and energy for the people and things that do.

**Perfection doesn’t exist.**Don’t seek perfection as your target. It doesn’t exist. Human beings, by our very nature, are fallible. When perfection is your goal, you’re always left with a nagging sense of failure that makes you want to give up or reduce your effort. You end up spending your time lamenting what you failed to accomplish and what you should have done differently, instead of moving forward, excited about what you've achieved and what you’ll accomplish in the future.

**Fear is the number one source of regret.** When all is said and done, you will lament the chances you didn’t take far more than you will your failures. Don’t be afraid to take risks. I often hear people say, “What’s the worst thing that can happen to you? Will it kill you?” Yet, death isn’t the worst thing that can happen to you—the worst thing that can happen to you is allowing yourself to die inside while you’re still alive.

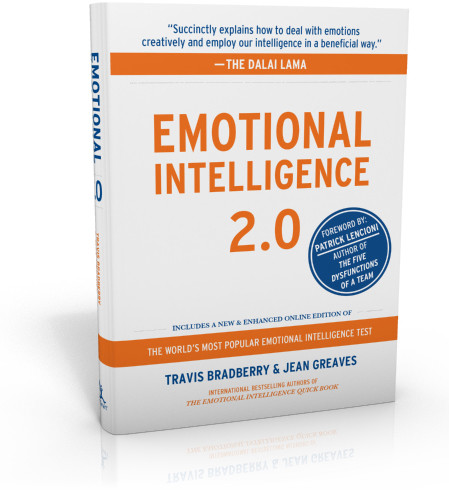
## Bringing It All Together

Successful people never stop learning. They learn from their mistakes and they learn from their triumphs, and they’re always changing themselves for the better.

What other harsh lessons have shaped who you are today? Please share your thoughts in the comments section below, as I learn just as much from you as you do from me.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Travis Bradberry is the award-winning co-author of the #1 bestselling book, [Emotional Intelligence 2.0](http://www.talentsmart.com/products/emotional-intelligence-2.0/), and the cofounder of [TalentSmart](http://www.talentsmart.com/" \t "_blank), the world's leading provider of [emotional intelligence tests](http://www.talentsmart.com/products/) and [training](http://www.talentsmart.com/services/train-the-trainer-certification.php), serving more than 75% of Fortune 500 companies. His bestselling books have been translated into 25 languages and are available in more than 150 countries. Dr. Bradberry has written for, or been covered by, Newsweek, BusinessWeek, Fortune, Forbes, Fast Company, Inc., USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and The Harvard Business Review.

[](http://www.talentsmart.com/products/emotional-intelligence-2.0/)

If you'd like to learn how to increase your emotional intelligence (EQ), consider taking the online Emotional Intelligence Appraisal test that's included with the [Emotional Intelligence 2.0](http://www.talentsmart.com/products/emotional-intelligence-2.0/) book. Your test results will pinpoint which of the book's 66 emotional intelligence strategies will increase your EQ the most.

5/9/2018

<https://medium.com/thrive-global/13-things-you-should-give-up-if-you-want-to-be-successful-1958b5aaf116>

# 13 Things You Should Give Up If You Want To Be Successful

#### ”Somebody once told me the definition of hell:

“On your last day on earth, the person you became will meet the person you could have become.” — Anonymous

Sometimes, to become successful and get closer to the person you can become, you don’t need to add more things — you need to give some of them up.

There are certain things that are universal, which will make you successful if you give up on them, even though each one of us could have a different definition of success.

You can give up on some of them as soon as today, while it might take a bit longer to give up on others.

## 1. Give Up On The Unhealthy Lifestyle

*“Take care of your body. It’s the only place you have to live.”* — Jim Rohn

If you want to achieve anything in life, everything starts here. First, you should take care of your health, and there are only three things you need to keep in mind:

1. Quality Sleep
2. Healthy Diet
3. Physical Activity

Small steps, but you will thank yourself one day.

## 2. Give Up The Short-term Mindset

*“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.*”**—**Mae West

Successful people set long-term goals, and they know these aims are merely the result of short-term habits that they need to do every day.

**These healthy habits shouldn’t be something you do; they should be something you embody.**

There is a difference between: “Working out to get a summer body” and“Working out because that’s who you are.”

## 3. Give Up On Playing Small

*“Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people will not feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone, and as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”*

**—**Marianne Williamson

If you never try and take great opportunities or allow your dreams to becomerealities, you will never unleash your true potential.

And the world will never benefit from what you could have achieved.

**So voice your ideas, don’t be afraid to fail, and certainly don’t be afraid to succeed.**

## 4. Give Up Your Excuses

*“It’s not about the cards you’re dealt, but how you play the hand.”*  
― Randy Pausch, The Last Lecture

Successful people know that they are responsible for their life, no matter theirstarting point, weaknesses, and past failures.

Realising that you are responsible for what happens next in your life is both frightening and exciting.

And when you do, that becomes the only way you can become successful,because excuses limit and prevent us from growing personally and professionally.

**Own your life; no one else will.**

## 5. Give Up The Fixed Mindset

*“The future belongs to those who learn more skills and combine them in creative ways.”* ― Robert Greene, Mastery

People with a fixed mindset think their intelligence or talents are pre-determined traits that cannot be changed. They also believe that talent alone leads to success — without hard work. But they’re wrong.

Successful people know this. They invest an immense amount of time on adaily basis to develop a growth mindset, acquire new knowledge, learn new skills and change their perception so that it can benefit their lives.

**Who you are today is not who you have to be tomorrow.**

## 6. Give Up Believing In The “Magic Bullet.”

*“Every day, in every way, I’m getting better and better”* — Émile Coué

Overnight success is a myth.

Successful people know that making small continuous improvement every day will be compounded over time and give them desired results.

That is why you should plan for the future, but focus on the day that’s ahead of you, and improve just 1% every day.

## 7. Give Up Your Perfectionism

*“Shipping beats perfection.”* — Khan Academy’s Development Mantra

Nothing will ever be perfect, no matter how much you try.

Fear of failure (or even fear of success) often prevents you from taking actionand putting your creation out there in the world. But a lot of opportunities will be lost if you wait for things to be right.

So “ship,” and then improve (that 1%).

## 8. Give Up Multi-tasking

*“Most of the time multitasking is an illusion. You think you are multitasking, but in reality, you are actually wasting time switching from one task to another “*

*— Bosco Tjan*

Successful people know this.

That’s why they choose one thing and then beat it into submission. No matter what it is — a business idea, a conversation, or a workout.

[Being fully present and committed to one task is indispensable.](https://www.zerotoskill.com/the-ultimate-productivity-cheat-sheet/)

## 9. Give Up Your Need to Control Everything

*“Some things are up to us, and some things are not up to us.”* — Epictetus

Differentiating these two is crucial.

Detach from the things you cannot control, focus on the ones you can, andknow that sometimes, the only thing you will be able to control is yourattitude towards something.

**Remember: nobody can be frustrated while saying “Bubbles” in an angry voice.**

## 10. Give Up On Saying YES To Things That Don’t Support Your Goals

*“He who would accomplish little must sacrifice little; he who would achieve much must sacrifice much; he who would attain highly must sacrifice greatly.”*

— James Allen

Successful people know that in order to accomplish their goals, they will have to say NO to certain tasks, activities, and demands from their friends, family, and colleagues.

In the short-term, you might sacrifice a bit of instant gratification, but when your goals come to fruition, it will all be worth it.

## 11. Give Up The Toxic People

*“Stay away from negative people. They have a problem for every solution.”*

*— Albert Einstein*

People you spend the most time with add up to who you become.

If you spend time with those who refuse to take responsibility for their life, always find excuses and blame others for the situation they are in, your average will go down, and with it your opportunity to succeed.

However, if you spend time with people who are trying to increase their standard of living, and grow personally and professionally, your average will go up, and you will become more successful.

Take a look at around you, and see if you need to make any changes.

## 12. Give Up Your Need To Be Liked

*“You can be the juiciest, ripest peach in the world, and there’s still going to be people who hate peaches.” — Dita Von Teese*

Think of yourself as a market niche.

There will be a lot of people who like that niche, and there will be individuals who don’t. And no matter what you do, you won’t be able to make the entire market like you.

This is completely natural, and there’s no need to justify yourself.

The only thing you can do is to remain authentic, improve and provide valueevery day, and know that the growing number of “haters” means that you are doing remarkable things.

## 13. Give Up Wasting Time

*“The trouble is, you think you have time”* — Jack Kornfield

You only have this one crazy and precious life. That’s why you owe it to yourself to see who you can become, and how far you can go.

However, to do that, you need to ditch meaningless time wasters and stop allowing them to be an escape from your most important goals.

To do that, you should learn how to take control over your focus, attention and make the most out of your 24 hours within a day.

Remember that you will die, so never stop creating your legacy and doing the things that will enrich your life.

Thank you for clapping 👏 this article up to 50 times — now other people can enjoy it as well! :)

### Want to Build a Better Life, One Habit at a Time?

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[***You can learn more here = >***](https://www.zerotoskill.com/membership/open-soon/)

The enrollment is open until September 1st.

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8/9/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/entertainment/celebrity-life/ariana-grandes-ex-boyfriend-mac-miller-dies-of-apparent-overdose/news-story/b6f5d95653898b38c69c2b41c0aaccdf>

“I have people that care about me and fans that love my music and it’s a beautiful relationship with them — people who have been with me through being a 19-year-old wide-eyed kid to being a self-destructive depressed drug user to making love music to all these different stages. Then they see something like that and they worry,” he said.

“How absurd that you minimise female self-respect and self-worth by saying someone should stay in a toxic relationship because he wrote an album about them, which btw isn’t the case (just Cinderella is ab me),” she wrote in a note posted to Twitter.

Grande indicated that addiction was part of the reason behind their break-up.

“I am not a babysitter or a mother and no woman should feel that they need to be. I have cared for him and tried to support his sobriety and prayed for his balance for years (and always will of course), but shaming/blaming women for a man’s inability to keep his shit together is a very major problem,” she tweeted.

He told [Vulture](http://www.vulture.com/2018/09/mac-miller-profile.html): “There’s pressure. A lot of times in my life I’ve put this pressure to hold myself to the standard of whatever I thought I was supposed to be, or how I was supposed to be perceived. And that creates pressure … It’s annoying to be out and have someone come up to me and think they know. They’re like “Yo, man, are you okay?” I’m like “Yeah, I’m fucking at the grocery store.” You know? It’s the job. This is what I signed up for. So, you just have to not. You have to have your own reality and that has to be the driving force of your life. Do I wish that every single thing I did when I was 19 wasn’t a discussion? Sure.”

When asked about his public image and how it may differ from who he really is out of the spotlight, Miller said: “I feel like the public perception of me varies on who you ask. But there’s a bit of a freedom in knowing that people are going to think all types of shit, no matter what. It actually makes me less stressed about how my actions are perceived. It’s out of my control. I mean, to a degree … I could control it. I could live this squeaky clean life and everything. I could try to control the media. But I’ve been finding freedom in just living and letting people say whatever the f\*\*k they want. Like, do I really care what Hollywood Life is saying? If I read a headline, and I’m like, ‘Wow, that’s completely untrue …’ I’m like, ‘That’s as far as it goes. Okay, cool. So a bunch of kids now think that.’ Fine. As long as I have people that are hearing my music, and there’s still that relationship … all that [other] shit lasts a day.”

So sad u gone home young Mac I had to post this to smile and think about the good Time we had on the set of this movie man god bless ya family. Pittsburg we lost a real one today 

love you bro

I dont know what to say Mac Miller took me on my second tour ever. But beyond helping me launch my career he was one of the sweetest guys I ever knew. Great man. I loved him for real. Im completely broken. God bless him.

Rest In Peace to Mac Miller I’m lost for words man you had a lot of love in your heart.

Rest In Peace to the great soul Mac Miller

Creativity identified as most overrated skill in survey of employer and student attitudes

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/work/at-work/creativity-identified-as-most-overrated-skill-in-survey-of-employer-and-student-attitudes/news-story/28dd43079bb975a896af65438f4d4b03>

The Canberra political nonsense has to end for all our sakes

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/work/leaders/the-canberra-political-nonsense-has-to-end-for-all-our-sakes/news-story/07e1e594dd00e7d016822322c2309828>

IF you don’t show up to vote in Australia on Election Day, you can expect to get a fine in the mail. Voting in this country is compulsory. But politicians listening to voters? Apparently that’s voluntary.

What we’ve learnt these past few years, culminating with this week’s [leadership spill](https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/the-race-is-on-bishop-to-run-turnbull-out-as-showdown-nears/news-story/5b48d2f4fa017cc30c93a301746f469d), is that in Australia the rules that the rest of us have to live by don’t seem to apply to politicians.

That they haven’t lived up to their side of the bargain has led to the diminishing of our faith, not just in our political parties, but in our political institutions and the system as a whole. It’s taken us to a dangerous place, where people shrug their shoulders and have given up caring, when really, we should care more than ever before.

Australians are sick of leadership spills, but our dissatisfaction runs deeper than that. We’re sick of the whole political game. Because although it’s a game for the politicians — tallying numbers like a scoreboard at the footy – for the rest of us, real life goes on.

Farmers suffering through drought? That’s real life, not a game.

Pensioners shivering through winter because they’re terrified of their heating bill for using their heater? That’s real life, not a game.

Young people who’ll never afford a home in a major city? That’s real, too.

This week’s leadership spill is only the latest chapter in our recent political history where we’ve seen that the real-life consequences experienced by the rest of us [just don’t apply to politicians.](https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/tony-abbott-answers-the-question-no-one-asked/news-story/3ff280c51bb32137009cedfdb2873c1b)

This past year, 15 members of parliament either resigned or were ruled ineligible by the High Court because they didn’t follow the rules and had failed to renounce their foreign citizenships. Not one or two. Fifteen. Careless with their paperwork and responsibility, they were still paid for the time they sat in Parliament without legitimacy. They didn’t have to pay back a cent. Their ineptitude cost us millions in by-elections and High Court hearings.

Ask someone who’s had their Centrelink payments overpaid how eagerly the government claws it back. Every last dollar and all the cents too. One rule for politicians, another rule for everyone else.

In June, politicians got a pay rise taking their base salaries to just under $200,000. It kicked in the same day that penalty rates were cut. Regular workers haven’t seen wage growth in years. One rule for politicians, another rule for everyone else.

But it’s not just unfairness and inequality that has politicians on the nose.

The [broken system that they can take advantage of](https://www.news.com.au/finance/work/leaders/opinion-julie-bishop-was-robbed-today/news-story/26ac2a09296709d9f5675b21b5b77c14) is a huge part of the problem.

Look at the Senate. At the ballot box, we’re handed papers so enormous and confusing they can’t possibly be read. Out of confusion, most people just put a “1” above the line and hope for the best, their votes decided by party preference deals.

Senators get voted in on party tickets, and then switch parties anyway. Cory Bernardi made sure he was on the Liberals ticket in 2016. Once in, he served briefly as an independent, before starting his own party, Australian Conservatives. No one has ever voted for this party in the Senate, yet it has its own Senator. Five other senators have also switched parties after being elected and there’s nothing we can do. How is that fair?

In the House of Representatives, we’ve become used to the leadership spills that decide who’ll be the prime minister. Never mind who was the leader at the election, they’ll change their minds on a whim anyway. New leaders bring new policies, of course. These days, we never get what we were originally sold. If a small business does that to a customer, they end up at consumer affairs. Again, its one rule for politicians, another rule for everyone else.

Friday’s vote didn’t resolve the leadership issue, it just spat out another prime minister to hold the fort until the next one. We know that by now. The same politicians and commentators who circled the ousted Malcolm Turnbull will circle Scott Morrison. They won’t think twice about it.

And even if he isn’t torn down before an election, neither he, nor a Labor leader either, can promise with any real conviction that they’ll deliver the policies they offer to us. We’re used to a system now where trust has been obliterated. We’ve seen the switch played on us time and time again. For them it's a game, for us it’s real life.

If there is one positive of this week, and these years of chaos, it’s that we can better see their true colours. We see our leaders standing beside a friend one day who they’ll throw to the wolves the next, for their own self-interest, vanity, ego or narcissism. We know now they will only pull the knife from the back of one colleague to plunge it into another. They couldn’t be more disingenuous, they couldn’t be more disloyal. If they’re disloyal to friends, what chance do we have of them being loyal to us? Our job now, having been scorned so frequently, is not to shrug our shoulders and look away, but to look closer.

“We’ve all got to live by the rules in this country,” Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in his first press conference yesterday.

We live by the rules, but all too frequently, he and his colleagues don’t.

The first step to mending the system, will be politicians showing us they can live by them too. They’ll be judged by their actions, not by their words.

9/9/18

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/interest-rates/rate-rise-fury-swamps-australia-with-many-homeowners-venting-their-frustrations-online/news-story/cf0f23bd737e5bfc305c127830e3ad76>

**Funding costs are rising**

But banks funding costs went up recently, right?

“Over the past six months, we have seen funding costs increase significantly,” said Commonwealth Bank executive Angus Sullivan when he admitted interest rates were rising.

“We have a responsibility to price our mortgage products in a way that reflects the reality of our funding costs,” said Westpac Consumer bank CEO George Frazis.

Are the banks just passing on those higher costs?

The answer is yes.

Some of the cash they lend comes from overseas, and interest rates in the rest of the world are rising.

So their costs are rising and they want to protect their profits.

Understandably.

But here’s the thing — that’s a huge luxury a lot of Aussie businesses don’t have.

In most of the economy, raising your profits is not so simple.

If Coles tries to boost its profits by putting up costs, Aldi releases an ad saying how much cheaper it is to shop at Aldi, and Coles loses sales.

Ask a business owner what happens if they try to tell their customers they will be paying more from now on.

They owner will say they expect the customer to laugh in their face and go somewhere else. That’s why business is tough in Australia.

It’s what competition looks like.

Competition doesn’t look like the banks — big and small — duly raising their prices each after the other.

—

15/9/18

A WOMAN has revealed how she earns $104,000 a year by working just 16 hours a week — as a controversial nude cleaner.

The woman said: “I have a great body, so why not show it off? I like being nude and enjoy the skin I’m in, so I really like the job.

Founder of Bare All Cleaning Service Brett Jones, who launched the booming business in May after moving from Byron Bay, said clients were strictly prohibited from making advances on staff.

Brett said: “To be clear, it’s a look-but-don’t-touch policy. Our cleaners aren’t there to perform anything other than a cleaning.

“There is no sexual activity other than entertainment.

“This is basically about making a mundane task cheeky and fun.

“Most people want to leave the house when a cleaner comes, but we’re trying to make it more welcoming to stay.”

Brett has 150 cleaners on his roster — 95 of them females — with prices starting at $90 an hour for lingerie, $140 for topless and $169 for fully nude.

Clients book through a website which identifies them via payment details, and cleaners check in with employers on arrival and departure from every address.

In addition, there is a security system allowing them to be swiftly evacuated if trouble arises.

But these measures have done little to assure veteran Gold Coast City councillor Dawn Crichlow, who had some strong words for Brett about how welcome he was in her neck of the woods.

Councillor Dawn said: “All I have to say is that the business is disgraceful and gives the Gold Coast a bad reputation.

Let them stay in Byron Bay.”

But Brett hit back at the councillor’s claims, claiming the business was completely within the law.

Brett said: “She has no idea what the business is really about. All we do is run a cleaning business with where people get paid a lot more to wear a lot less.

“We’re not breaking any laws and we’re not doing anything wrong.

“It’s not for everyone, but you can’t cater to everyone all of the time.”

20-09-2018

“It is now crystal clear ... when the minister told parliament he didn’t know anyone, he did. He did!

“He has been caught out. And that is why nothing could be more important than suspending standing orders to deal with this before Question Time.

“This is not about whether you agree with the decisions the minister has made. This is about whether ministers in this government can be trusted to tell the truth to the House.”

25-9-2018

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/online/ripped-off-your-data-is-making-other-people-insanely-rich/news-story/dca64299fee72aaf97089080d352d84b>

Ripped off: Your data is making other people insanely rich

IT’S the blatant rip-off nobody seems to notice.

Every day, businesses are using your data to rack up colossal profits without fairly compensating you.

But if a push by Prime Minister Scott Morrison succeeds, that will soon change.

“For too long, large companies have been able to hoover up data and profit off it, without paying a royalty to the people they got it off. It’s like pulling iron ore out of the ground,” Mr Morrison said in an interview with news.com.au.

“They’re doing it and not paying a royalty to the people that actually own it.

“In the digital economy, your data has value, and you should be able to get the benefits of your data, should you wish to use it in that way.”

[**RELATED: The industry that collects, shares and monetises all you do**](https://www.news.com.au/technology/online/they-operate-in-the-shadows-the-industry-that-collects-shares-and-monetises-all-you-do/news-story/8eed918c7cff92d12c5c5b3667d22429)

[**RELATED: PM’s ominous housing market warning**](https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/buying/inviting-a-crash-pm-issues-ominous-warning-as-he-defends-governments-housing-policies/news-story/4c7005bf1208054b4569eabecc78dfe2)

Data is an exceedingly tough topic to delve into, not least because the first mention of it causes many eyes — my own included — to instinctively glaze over.

Most of us are vaguely aware it’s a big deal, but as it doesn’t seem to have any obvious, immediate effect on us, we are content to let the issue simmer away in the background.

Whenever we do talk about data, it tends to be because we’re worried about our privacy or security.

Meanwhile, we are ignoring one of the biggest economic dilemmas of our time.

**DATA INSTEAD OF DOLLARS**

Practically every waking moment of your life feeds the data machine.

Your smartphone tracks your movements. Google remembers everything you search for. Facebook knows what you like, who your friends are and what you share with them.

It isn’t limited to the tech companies, either. Each time you shop online, someone is collecting your information. Your bank knows exactly how much money you have, and what you spend it on. Supermarkets track your purchases through their loyalty cards. Energy providers record your power consumption.

These companies are constantly building a clearer picture of who you are and what you’re interested in. They can then use that data in all kinds of interesting and profitable ways, the most lucrative of which is targeted, personally tailored advertising.

Last year, for instance, $US95 billion ($A130 billion) of Google’s $US110 billion ($A150 billion) [in revenue](https://www.statista.com/statistics/266206/googles-annual-global-revenue/) came from advertising, facilitated by its immense collection of data. The numbers were even more staggering for Facebook, which relied on ads for 98 per cent of its income.

Google and Facebook are both ostensibly free, but the truth is, you are paying them in data instead of dollars.

In the process, you’re making these private businesses richer than many countries.

When he spoke to news.com.au, Mr Morrison compared the data industry to mining. [A better analogy might be oil](https://www.economist.com/leaders/2017/05/06/the-worlds-most-valuable-resource-is-no-longer-oil-but-data) — the invaluable commodity which made a small group of people insanely wealthy in the early 20th century before governments were forced to step in.

Mark Zuckerberg and Jeff Bezos are the oil barons of the 21st century. But there is a key difference — oil was always a finite resource. Data is not.

As the world’s population rises and an ever greater part of our lives shifts online, the potential for profit grows exponentially larger.

**WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU**

Why does everyone use Google? Because it’s the best search engine by far. And why is it the best? Because it has more data than its competitors.

It’s a simple cycle. Google collects data from its customers. It uses that data to improve its services. The better services attract more users, who give Google even more data, which it uses to improve itself further, and so on.

The result is that big companies have become unassailably entrenched at the top of the economy. How can a small start-up realistically compete with Facebook, which has access to so much more information about its customers?

However, we all undeniably benefit from the arrangement. Mass data collection has made our lives far more convenient, and coupled with artificial intelligence, it could soon lead to more amazing advances in technology — self-driving cars spring to mind.

“I think it revolutionises how people can receive services, be empowered as customers, get access to things they could never get access to before,” Mr Morrison said.

“All of that is fantastic and we want to embrace it all, but it doesn’t get to exist in some sort of government free zone when it comes to protecting people’s liberty and citizens’ rights.”

So what’s the problem? The Prime Minister believes companies have profited without sufficiently compensating the people whose data they are using.

He is far from alone. Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes [wrote a notable](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/27/chris-hughes-facebook-google-data-tax-regulation) piece in *The Guardian* this year, arguing: “Companies that benefit from the data we so voluntarily provide should be required to share that wealth with the people who made it possible.”

Governments around the world are currently searching for ways to enforce that idea, and Australia is at the forefront.

**‘THEY’VE GOT TO PAY’**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is [currently developing](https://www.accc.gov.au/focus-areas/consumer-data-right) a regulatory framework for something called the Consumer Data Right, which would allow you to take charge of your own data and actively decide which service providers you wanted to share it with.

“The Consumer Data Right is essentially a data portability right,” ACCC chairman [Rod Sims told](https://www.accc.gov.au/speech/consumer-data-and-regulatory-reform) a conference in July.

It will be trialled in the banking and financial services sector first, starting in July next year. Mr Morrison then wants it extended to the energy industry.

“Once you’ve got it right, you can apply it right across the board,” he said.

How would it work in practice?

Say you were a Westpac customer, but wanted to switch. You could instruct Westpac to transfer your data to a different bank.

Alternatively, you could give your data to a third party, like a comparison website, which could use it to tell you which bank would give you the best deal.

The Government hopes this will foster more competition in the affected industries, driving down prices for customers.

A more generous version of the system, favoured by the Prime Minister, could even see companies paying you to use your data.

“A Consumer Data Right is what is missing in our law. And what that means is you own your data and you own its value and if people want to use it, they’ve got to pay you for it,” Mr Morrison said.

How much money would you earn? That is impossible to say with any certainty — there is no official value placed on one person’s data at the moment — but some experts have predicted you could end up with a yearly payment of [a few hundred dollars](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/27/chris-hughes-facebook-google-data-tax-regulation).

It seems this revolutionary new system is coming whether the companies like it or not.

“I’ve sat in the offices of Amazon in Seattle. I’ve sat in Google’s offices in Silicon Valley,” Mr Morrison said.

“The point I’ve made globally to these companies — I’ve said to them, you guys are creating this new economy. You need to work with governments all around the world to ensure that the rules used to govern the old economy can equally provide the same protections and guarantees in the new.

“You need to help us do this, because I guarantee if you don’t, governments will do it anyway and they will do it in a fairly clumsy fashion. And then you’ll be complaining about that. So you guys need to get on board and work with us here.”

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Five ways to actually work smarter, not harder

<https://www.news.com.au/features/v3/nlmd-2420/5-ways-to-actually-work-smarter-not-harder/?mvt=i&mvn=d548b04f831c4fbb9bd1ed8dd7a029e3&mvp=NA-NCAMANA-11238959&mvl=Key-1%7C1+Size-3x3+%5BHomepage+Mid+Rail+%5D>

**“WORK smarter, not harder” is the well-worn battle cry of small business and big corporates.**

But what does it actually mean? Psychologist, executive coach and innovation advocate Dr Christine Brown cites a question posed by workplace relations specialist, [Mary Ann Baynton](https://maryannbaynton.com/):

"What do I need to do to come to work and do my job and leave at the end of the day with energy left over?”

“If you’ve worked out a way to structure your workload and environment to achieve this goal, you know you’re working smarter,” Dr Brown says. Here are five tips to get you started:



## 1. MASTER TECHNOLOGY

Technology has advanced to make life easier for us. So why not take advantage of its fruits?

“Learn about the nitty gritty of your email program and task management system. A great starting point is a book called ‘Smart Work’ by Dermot Crowley,” she says. “He has some great strategies such as scheduling time to start (rather than finish) a project and having your email program open automatically on the calendar, not the inbox.”

Thanks to smart tech innovations, we now have a trove of tech helping us do our work more efficiently. Set up automation to help get the work done so you spend less time doing menial tasks and more time thinking strategically. Utilise video meetings to talk through complicated concepts, rather than ogling for hours at your screen, trying to explain it via email.

For small business owners, take advantage of fast payments and PayID. Australian financial institutions have worked together to develop faster, simpler and smarter payments. You can now send and receive fast payments, with funds generally transferred between participating financial institutions in under 60 seconds, 24/7.

Create and share your easy-to-remember business PayID instead of BSB and account number to make getting paid easier. Your PayID is your business’ unique identifier for receiving fast payments. It can be your business mobile number, email address or ABN — pick whichever’s easiest to remember. With fast payments, your business can pay suppliers within 60 seconds in most cases — and receive payments just as quickly.

## 2. SCHEDULE TIME FOR FOCUS WORK

Multi-taskers pride themselves on being able to get many things done at once. But what many of us are doing is what Dr Brown refers to as “switch-tasking”; humans are capable of doing many things at once but not completing them. Apart from the serious mental pressure it places on our brains, it’s been shown to reduce our IQ by 10 points, according to Dr Brown.

Yikes.



“I think we are slowly beginning to realise the importance of uninterrupted focus time in the workday,” says Dr Brown. “I think open-plan offices and 'hot desk' environments need to be replaced with office spaces that allow both opportunities for collaboration and solo deep-thinking, 'flow state' work.

“So many workers feel compelled to work after-hours just to get the peace and quiet they need for focus work. I see many businesses now experimenting with strategies such as meeting-free days and banning their employees from sending after-hours emails to try and give their employees more concentration and more downtime.”

## 3. KNOW YOUR LIMITS

The more work you take on, the more work you get done, right? Wrong. Dr Brown says attempting to wear the hats of a director, communicator, strategist and accountant all in the space of an eight-hour workday is a recipe for a burnout.

“Know what it is that only you can do. And do more of that. This means delegating if you can. For the self-employed, using an invoicing software tool such as [Freshbooks](https://www.freshbooks.com/) or hiring a virtual assistant can help you to concentrate on growing your business and doing what you do best,” Dr Brown suggests.

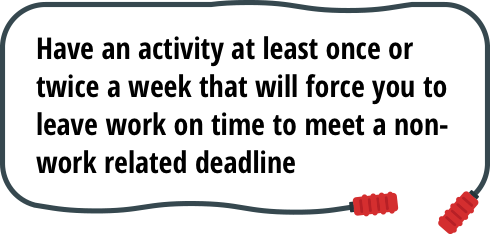
Working smarter is also about understanding your ultradian rhythm — the 90 to 120-minute bracket where your brain can work before it needs a break.

“Sitting at your desk for extra hours will only mean you work slower and your work will grow to fill the time available. This goes for those that work from home too,” she says.

Bottom line: you simply can’t be switched on all the time. Identify those moments of downtime and master the art of utilising peak states of productivity — leave mundane tasks for when you’re less inspired, Dr Brown recommends.

## 4. LEAVE WORK ON TIME (AND REGULARLY)

Work/life balance also seems to be an elusive element to the working week — particularly for people running their own business. But it’s important to step away from the desk and focus on life outside of work.



“Have an activity at least once or twice a week that will force you to leave work on time to meet a non-work related deadline,” Dr Brown says.

Staying at the desk beyond set work hours out of obligation is pointless and will slow you down. Step away, enjoy the time away from work and come back feeling rested and with a fresh perspective.

## 5. JOIN A HIGH PERFORMING TEAM

“The best work environment you can have is to be surrounded by dedicated high performers who manage their work and private time effectively and support others to work smart too,” explains Dr Brown.

There’s no way you’re going to be inspired to work smarter and more efficiently if you’re sitting next to someone day in, day out, who has the enthusiasm levels of a snail. Identify the go-getters in the business and work together to bounce off each other’s energy.

**Bottom line:** Whether you’re starting up your own business, or you’ve been in the game for years, there are smart ways to upgrade your daily grind, accomplish more and make the most of each day. You just need to learn what it actually means to work smarter, not harder; sometimes doing less actually achieves more.

*Fast payments and PayID are available within a class of products issued by National Australia Bank Ltd ABN 12 004 044 937 AFSL 230686 (‘NAB’). Any advice contained in article has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on any advice in this article, NAB recommends that you consider whether it is appropriate for your circumstances and that you review the relevant Product Disclosure Statement or Terms and Conditions.*

Say hello to faster, simpler and smarter payments with NAB. Make payments easier with PayID — it’s a simpler way to get paid. [Create your business PayID](https://ad.doubleclick.net/ddm/clk/417603100;225687338;b) with NAB today.

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26/9/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/unlimited-greed-dick-smith-unleashes-on-aldi/news-story/0c74569f4377d7c3820a227571dd0c24>

The supermarket openly admits it employs fewer workers than its rivals, but says that allows it to save customers money through lower prices.

It says it has a great relationship with its 1200 suppliers, about 1000 of whom are Australian.

“Our international heritage and global presence is no secret, nor are our intentions in Australia. We want to supply great quality products at affordable prices. We do this by adopting a distinct business model that is different to our competitors,” Aldi said.

“In addition to providing employment to tens of thousands of Australians, both directly and indirectly, we are proud to have influenced the entire grocery sector, which has lead to price deflation benefiting all Australian shoppers.

“Our estimates suggest that we are saving Australians more than $1.5 billion per year. This is money that is returned to the economy for bills, holidays, education and other vital expenses.

“We are not a business trying to artificially accelerate market share and we’re not looking to match the store count of our competitors. We do not cut corners, we do not abuse our market power, we do not mislead our customers. We do not avoid tax payments, we do not squeeze our suppliers. We keep things simple and we focus our attention on what matters most to consumers.”

In short, Aldi says its plan is to run a profitable business, not take over the world.

Its boss Tom Daunt expanded on that philosophy in [an extensive interview](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/the-deal-magazine/tom-daunt-ceo-aldi-australia/news-story/6cde6c6952ddbff0ab6683e63fc35cfa) with *The Deal* published last week.

Mr Daunt said the key to Aldi’s global success was one word: simplicity.

“It is choosing what not to do, right? And we decide every day things not to do because that keeps our business simpler and more efficient. And that efficiency is what underpins a very low cost of doing business, which underpins our ability to serve great quality products at the lowest price,” Mr Daunt said.

He also responded directly to the criticisms levelled by people such as Mr Smith.

“Look, I always hesitate to criticise anybody, whether it be a former Australian of the Year or anyone,” he said.

“We’ve got a lot of customers who are really loyal to us. The reality is that over 17 years we’ve built a market share of around 10 per cent now and ... by deduction, 90 per cent of all grocery business in Australia doesn’t occur inside Aldi.

“So I would politely say it’s a little bit of a long bow to draw a parallel between our entry and some of the accusations that have been made.”

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4/10/2018

# <https://www.news.com.au/technology/online/the-super-helpful-plugin-that-will-stop-you-screaming-at-your-computer/news-story/6e5e2c0717124e270aab2232abc394e4>

# The super helpful plug-in that will stop you screaming at your computer

**IF YOU love having too many tabs open while surfing the web, this super helpful browser extension is an absolute must.**

IF YOU’RE like me, when you spend time online it doesn’t take long until you have an almost endless number of tabs open.

It’s like an internet version of hoarding — you never know when you might need that tab. I’ll definitely come back and read that later, you tell yourself.

And sometimes it’s just so darn easy to go down the rabbit hole of hyperlink after hyperlink until you have a ridiculously crowded browser page with so many tabs bunched together you can’t tell what they are anymore.

The problem is, if you’re using popular web browser Google Chrome, it doesn’t take too long before it starts struggling under the weight of all those tabs.

It’s a good browser but compared to most other internet browsers, Chrome is super hungry for computing power and eats up your PC’s RAM like a starving man at a buffet.

All you need to do is look at your task manager, and you’ll see the sheer number of Chrome processes going on and the memory they chew up.

It has its reasons for using all this memory (aka RAM) but it does mean your PC can quickly reach its limit and begin slowing down.

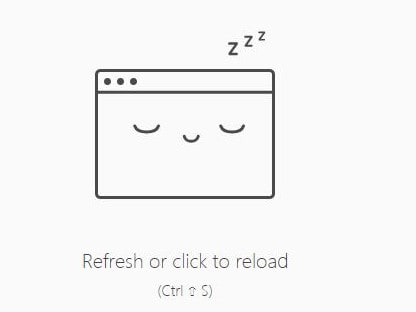
Even when you delete the tab, the browser is still holding on to much of that computing power in the background.

Thankfully, there are some tricks you can employ to free up some of that RAM and make things run much smoother. Perhaps the best one is a third party plug-in which changes how Chrome works such as [The Great Suspender](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/the-great-suspender/klbibkeccnjlkjkiokjodocebajanakg?hl=en).

The IT guys here at news.com.au put me onto it, and it’s made such a noticeable improvement to my browser performance that I feel I need to share it with you.

It works as a lightweight extension that helps reduce Chrome’s memory footprint for users by automatically suspending unused tabs to free up system resources.

“Tabs that have not been viewed after a configurable length of time will be automatically suspended in the background, freeing up the memory and CPU being consumed by that tab,” the plug-in page says.



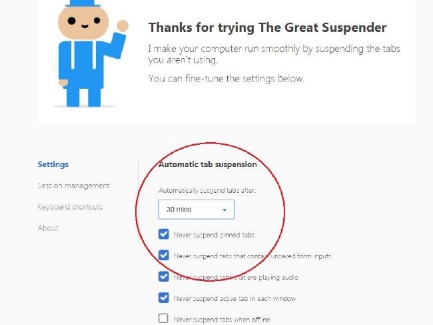
It’s completely free but it does have a very occasional pop-up that lets you donate if your gratitude compels you to do so.

You can set the time limit for when tabs go to sleep (and release the much-needed computing power) and if you want to bring it back, you just have to click the page.

To download the extension, all you need to do it hit the “Add to Chrome” button on the top right of the Great Suspender page.

You are then taken to a screen that lets you choose how long it takes for tabs to be rendered dormant — from 20 seconds to two weeks — as well as other settings like never suspending tabs that are playing audio, for example.

You can also whitelist specific URLs or domains that you do not want to suspend.



It’s easy to control how you want the settings.Source:Supplied

And that’s all you need to do. The extension will be installed and start working its magic.

There are other plug-ins out there that do the same sort of thing such as [Tab Wrangler](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/tab-wrangler/egnjhciaieeiiohknchakcodbpgjnchh?hl=en) and [One Tab](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/onetab/chphlpgkkbolifaimnlloiipkdnihall?hl=en). If you’re a Google Chrome user and love a good tab, it’s well worth trying one of them out.

It will probably stop you looking like the bloke below.

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8/10/2018

# ‘Blatant slander’: China loses its temper amid building tension

**CHINA has blown up at Australia, accusing a prominent senator of attacking it with “unwarranted invective” and “blatant slander”.**

CHINA has lost its temper with an Australian senator, accusing her of attacking it with “unwarranted invective” and “blatant slander”.

On Friday, Liberal senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells [issued a grim warning](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/concetta-fierravantiwells-warns-png-not-to-be-chinas-conduit/news-story/e78142bcc7e9fca523083c72f45fcc83) in *The Australian* newspaper, saying China was using “debt-trap diplomacy” to build its influence among the Pacific Island nations neighbouring Australia.

She claimed China was tempting poor countries with loans they couldn’t afford to repay — a strategy far less sinister than military expansion, but no less effective.

“Today, the sovereign threat is less confrontational but the debt-trap diplomacy just as insidious,” Ms Fierravanti-Wells wrote.

“Pacific countries need to use limited government reserves to meet their loan commitments to avoid defaulting. Domestic spending and important social programs are jeopardised.

“Consequently, the internal stability of these countries may be affected and greater demand is placed on overseas development assistance from countries such as Australia.

“In short, Australian taxpayers effectively will be subsidising repayment of loans to China.”

Ms Fierravanti-Wells has previously accused China of funding “useless buildings” and “roads to nowhere” in the island nations.

China has indeed showered countries such as Vanuatu, Tonga and the Solomon Islands with loans in recent years. Between 2006 and 2016, it invested $2.3 billion in the region, according to [analysis from The Lowy Institute](https://chineseaidmap.lowyinstitute.org/).

But in [a scathing response](http://au.china-embassy.org/eng/sghdxwfb_1/t1602189.htm) to Ms Fierravanti-Wells, China rejected any implication that its motives were not pure.

“The ridiculous and absurd allegation, filled with Cold War mentality, reflected the senator’s prejudice, arrogance and ignorance,” the Chinese Embassy said.

“The senator this time, in repeating the cliche of the so-called ‘debt trap’, attempted to prove her baseless accusations by quoting Tongan Prime Minister Akilisi Pohiva and citing the case of Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka.

“Prime Minister Pohiva has already clarified his earlier remarks, making it clear that ‘China has never claimed to collect the debts or take the assets from Tonga in any way, and the governments of Tonga and China have maintained contacts regarding the repayment of the concessional loans.’

“Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, has also publicly stated that ‘Sri Lanka was not falling into a debt trap caused by high-interest Chinese loans’ nor ‘ceding control of strategically vital ports to Chinese control’.”

The embassy insisted China wished to help the Pacific nations “with no political strings attached” and said any attempt to stymie its efforts would be “doomed to failure”.

“One can never win respect by smearing others. Whether China’s assistance is productive or not, and whether it is a pie or a pitfall, the people of the Island Countries have the best say,” it said.

“Over the years, China has provided assistance to relevant Island Countries within its capacity and with no political strings attached, based on fully respecting the will of the Pacific Island Countries’ governments and people and taking into full account of their development needs.

“China has also actively carried out mutually beneficial economic co-operation with these countries. All this has effectively promoted the economic and social development of Island Countries.

“Co-operation between China and the Island Countries is transparent and open. No one could deny the positive outcomes delivered by such co-operation with their assumption or imagination. Any attempt to obstruct the development of relations between China and the Island Countries is doomed to failure.”

This isn’t the first time China and Australia have sparred over the Pacific Islands issue. Earlier this year, Beijing’s state-run media went so far as to label Australia an “arrogant overlord”.

The biggest fear among China’s Australian critics is that it will use its financial leverage for nefarious means.

“Such indebtedness gives China significant leverage over Pacific Island countries and may see China place pressure on Pacific nations to convert loans into equity in infrastructure,” [The Lowy Institute warned](https://www.news.com.au/world/pacific/china-almost-has-australia-surrounded-but-its-debttrap-diplomacy-has-been-exposed/news-story/3f8d390e8c8e3b5158214836ee412aee).

“It’s not win-win for China and the recipient, but simply win for China, which not only gets access to local resources and new markets, and forward presence, but can coerce the recipient state to pay a ‘tribute’ to Beijing by ceding local assets when it can’t pay back its debts.”

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9/10/2018

# The Morrison government plans to impose new visa conditions forcing migrants to live outside Sydney and Melbourne

**THE Morrison government has proposed a radical new plan for migrants in the wake of our growing population crisis.**

OVERSEAS workers will be required to settle outside Sydney and Melbourne for five years as part of the Morrison government’s plan to address population growth.

It’s part of the new government’s landmark population policy to ease congestion in the two major cities.

Population and Urban ­Infrastructure Minister Alan Tudge will today discuss the forthcoming population policy in a speech to the Menzies Research Centre in Melbourne.

According to [*The Australian*](http://theaustralian.com.au/), he will say that our unplanned population growth has led to an infrastructure and settlement imbalance, costing the nation up to $25 billion per year due to congestion in capital cities.

He also warns this will reach more than $40 billion within 10 years.

“Overall, the costs of congestion to the economy are already great, and rising steeply,” he will say. “This is a serious challenge for families and a serious economic challenge for the nation. There was insufficient infrastructure built in the early 2000s, particularly in Melbourne and Sydney, to cater for forecast growth, let alone the actual growth.”

Mr Tudge will flag a new partnership between federal and state governments to manage infrastructure and population growth.

The new visa condition will be placed on a pool of skilled migrants who are not tied to geographic areas — like those sponsored by companies or granted family visas. According to [*The Australian*](http://theaustralian.com.au/), this accounts for around 45 per cent of the total intake.

Those who try to defy these conditions could have their visas revoked, or lose their chance at permanent residency to apply for citizenship.

“While the overall population of Australia has been growing at the rapid rate of 1.6 per cent per annum, our three large population centres have been some of the fastest-growing cities in the world,” Mr Tudge will say.

“Melbourne last year grew by 2.7 per cent, Sydney by 2.1 per cent and southeast Queensland by 2.3 per cent. We are working on measures to have more arrivals go to smaller states and regions and require them to be there for a few years. In that time, the evidence suggests, many will make it their home for the long term. This will require close co-­operation across different agencies, including regional develop­ment, to ensure we get the settings right so that those smaller states and regions can benefit economically from population growth.

“The main factor driving our growth has been net overseas migration, accounting for 60 per cent of population growth over the last decade, while the remaining growth has been due to natural increases.

“Most notably, there was a step change increase in population growth from 2007 under the Rudd government, almost entirely driven by lifting the immigration rate. The growth rate for our nation (and particularly our big cities) was well above projections.”

Over the past six months, concerns have been raised over whether our biggest cities can continue to cope under the strain of new arrivals, with Australia’s population surpassing 25 million earlier this month.

According to recent Department of Home Affairs figures, 87 per cent of the 111,000 skilled migrants who arrived in the country this past financial year had permanently settled in Sydney or Melbourne.

Between 2006 and 2016, the majority of arrivals have settled in Sydney or Melbourne, at 27.6 per cent and 26.3 per cent of total arrivals respectively.

By comparison, only 3.2 per cent moved to regional NSW, and 1.9 per cent to regional Victoria.

Under the new model, it’s understood the five-year period would be based on a threshold, after which migrants could stay in their location or move around.

**EXPERTS RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT NEW POLICY**

When Mr Morrison first proposed the plan in August, experts raised doubts about how effective the policy would be in practice.

Cities Research Institute’s Dr Tony Matthews questioned whether the model would be legally viable.

“The immigration system in the past has tried to encourage people to move to regions by giving them extra points. I’m not sure it’s legally viable,” he told news.com.au.

“It’s certainly unsustainable to continue with the current model with the bulk of immigrants going to Sydney and Melbourne because it’s creating significant pressure.”

He acknowledged there would be benefits both ways, including a boost to regional economies.

“You have to question immediately whether the economics of regional cities offer the employment opportunities those skilled migrants would need to access.

“You would have to try match up these skill shortages in specific regional cities to try and ensure there was continuity and connection between these skills. If it’s needed, but if you can’t match it, that seems counter-productive.”

Paul Burton, director of the institute, agreed, saying it was a surprising position for the Morrison government to take.

“Not only does it restrict the rights of some individuals to live where they choose but it interferes with market forces,” he told news.com.au.

“While it is difficult to imagine any government restricting the right of the vast majority of Australians to live where they like, we have of course been down this road before in forcing First Australians to live on missions and reservations. And, rightly, we have abandoned it.

“Just because this latest proposal could possibly be implemented through the imposition of visa conditions, doesn’t make it right. But how might it work out in practice?

“First, you would have to define the exclusion zone, presumably covering the whole of metropolitan Sydney and Melbourne rather than just the central area jurisdictions carrying those names.

“Second, you’d have to be clear that congested Brisbane or Perth didn’t also merit inclusion. Then, there would be possible exceptions to the rule. For example, if I chose to live in Newcastle, lost my job and was offered another and perhaps even better one in Sydney, would I have to turn it down and remain unemployed in Newcastle? Or perhaps I could commute? There are many difficulties like this that make this an impractical as well as an unreasonable policy proposal.”

He said this was a “symbolic policy”, noting Sydneysiders would not feel the difference if migrants were suddenly directed to regional areas. There are baseline issues in infrastructure and housing that need to be addressed.

“If we are serious about dealing with the uneven distribution of jobs, houses and infrastructure around the country, we need a coherent and comprehensive national settlement strategy that harnesses the powers and expertise of all three levels of government.

“Such a strategy will help guide the investment decisions of public and private sector service providers and might lead to smaller cities and towns beyond the congested capitals becoming more attractive places to live and work.

“Little visa sticks and small relocation inducement carrots will do little but annoy some people, disappoint others and waste some scarce public money. The new government needs to think bigger and more boldly if it is to manage the growing crisis in our cities.”

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11/10/2018

# New Zealand woman wins $19,000 compo after being sacked for stealing $1 bag of chips

**SACKING an employee after she wrongfully took a $1 bag of chips will cost a rest home nearly $19,000 in compensation.**

SACKING an employee after she wrongfully took a $1 bag of chips will cost a New Zealand rest home nearly $19,000 in compensation, plus thousands more in back pay and legal costs, after the employee successfully sued for wrongful dismissal.

The Employment Relations Authority yesterday ruled Birchleigh Management Services Ltd was “unnecessarily severe” when it dismissed Kaye Gillan in July 2016.

Ms Gillan — a caregiver who had worked for the rest home in Mosgiel, just outside of Dunedin, since 2004 — received a favourable performance review in March 2016.

However, on June 17, Ms Gillan took a small packet of potato chips from a cupboard where refreshments for Birchleigh residents were kept.

She tasted them, found they were stale and threw them away.

That snack resulted in Birchleigh management calling Ms Gillan to a meeting, at which she denied dishonest intent but accepted she had taken the chips. Birchleigh — which has strict policies concerning security of residents’ property — found Ms Gillan’s actions to be serious misconduct and dismissed her.

ERA member Christine Hickey said there was a “significant difference” between Ms Gillan taking a small bag of chips and any risk of her taking a resident’s personal possessions or money, or larger quantities of food or rest-home property.

“A fair and reasonable employer could have found that Mrs Gillan was guilty of serious misconduct,” the ERA determination said.

“However, such an employer could not have concluded, in all the circumstances, that the essential foundation of trust and confidence in Mrs Gillan had been undermined to such a significant degree to warrant her dismissal.”

The ERA awarded Ms Gillan $18,750 compensation for wrongful dismissal. She will also receive reimbursement for lost wages — a sum yet to be agreed by parties. Costs were reserved but would be sought.

In the months leading to the incident, Ms Gillan had told Birchleigh she had been bullied at work — claims the ERA did not make a finding on, but which it considered only when relevant to her dismissal.

Ms Gillan yesterday said the stress of the bullying, then her dismissal, severely affected her mental health.

She found a new job as a carer soon after her dismissal. Her new employer knew about her background and was supportive, she said.

Birchleigh said it was considering whether to appeal.

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11/10/2018

# Coles shopper awarded $90,000 after slipping on a grape

**SHE slipped on a grape and fell over while shopping at Coles, now this mother of two has been awarded $90,000 for negligence.**

A COLES shopper who slipped on a grape and injured her back while grocery shopping has been awarded more than $90,000 in damages.

Beautician Sangeeta Guru, 40, was walking through the fruit and vegetable section of the Western Sydney supermarket when she her right foot slid forward and she lurched onto the floor, hitting her left knee on a trolley and wrenching her back.

Ms Guru then looked at the bottom of her thong and found some squashed grape, before a staff member approached and admitted she had not had time to clean up, the District Court of NSW heard.

On Wednesday, Judge Leonard Levy found that Coles was negligent and failed to prevent the fallen fruit from posing a hazard when the incident occurred at the Cambridge Gardens store on October 19, 2012, awarding the plaintiff $90,130.

Ms Guru, a mother of two who runs her own beauty salon, had experienced ongoing pain and “emotional difficulties concerning her moods” since the accident, Judge Levy said in his written decision. “She has become an unhappy person. Her sleep is also impaired.”

Physical complaints attributed to the accident included neck, back, wrist and shoulder pain and stiffness, pain, swelling and numbness in three fingers, ankle pain with “associated occasional swelling and a burning sensation”, and “constant pain in her right knee”.

“I find the plaintiff to be impaired in her ability to participate in her pre-injury leisure pursuits, which included gymnasium exercise, hiking, kayaking, swimming, bushwalking, archery and dancing.

“Her ability to carry out housework has also been impaired. She uses painkilling medication to cope with her difficulties.”

Coles unsuccessfully argued “contributory negligence” on Ms Guru’s part, saying she should have been looking where she was walking.

But Judge Levy said it was reasonable for shoppers to expect supermarket operators to provide a safe environment in which to browse for groceries, and to rely on staff to inspect and clean the floor.

“The plaintiff was looking around her for items to purchase. Her surroundings were a supermarket where goods were attractively displayed to induce customers to select particular items for purchase,” he wrote.

“Whilst it is arguable that a reasonable person in the position of the plaintiff would have kept a proper lookout and cast an eye over the floor area where she was intending to walk, that consideration must be tempered by allowing scope for momentary inattention whilst looking at the goods on display.“

The court also rejected Coles’ argument that Ms Guru had not been to see a specialist for treatment “because she was no longer in pain”, accepting her evidence that she was on a waiting list to see an orthopedic surgeon, being unable to afford the $395 private consultation fee.

Ms Guru’s victory may be bittersweet, though, with the possibility of a hefty legal bill looming after Judge Levy flagged the possibility that a costs order might be varied to account for the fact that she “has not succeeded to the extent claimed on many of the items for assessment of damages”.

She had originally claimed more than $1 million in damages for economic loss and out-of-pocket expenses, but was found not to be entitled to damages for past economic loss or loss of superannuation.

Her original claim for $20,285 for out-of-pocket expenses was revised down drastically due to a lack of documentary evidence, with the court awarding just $1350.45 for this category of damages.

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12/10/2018

# The silent shame killing hordes of Australian tradies every year

**THE last time Jeremy Forbes saw his tradie mate Pete alive, he was bubbly and chatty. Two weeks later, he was dead.**

“But because of that culture of ‘be stoic, be strong and suck it up’, no one ever says anything. You just watch them go into that tunnel. And even if someone did admit they were struggling, what do you say? I didn’t know.”

News.com.au is highlighting men’s mental health issues as part of our campaign [*The silent killer: Let’s make some noise*](https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/mind/the-silent-killer/news-story/e90d5b706453335d04247be4a836b044) in support of [Gotcha4Life](https://gotcha4life.org/) and the [Movember Foundation](https://au.movember.com/" \t "_blank).

Gotcha4Life is dedicated to an in-school program which helps educate young men about resilience and the importance of friendships and a scholarship program with Lifeline, which aims to train more male counsellors — better appealing to men in crisis.

“The masculine, macho tradie culture makes blokes afraid to talk about anything for fear of being judged or seen as being weak, and so you push it down and down.”

The physical demands of the job, coupled with a general instability of work and finances, means those in construction juggle a lot of potentially negative forces.

“Not dealing with things often manifests itself in gambling, alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, relationship breakdowns, bad financial choices … so many awful things.

“For many men, one day the dam wall bursts. It’s kind of a perfect storm of factors.”

Mr Forbes held his first event shortly after his mate Pete’s death in the timber yard of a local hardware store.

“We called it the ‘save your bacon breakfast’ and put on bacon and egg rolls and had blokes come along. There was a bit of a social vibe so there was no pressure. Then everyone went away with a goodie bag.”

The focus of HALT is to bring tradies together at a grassroots, community level to have a yarn, enjoy some free food and then, subtly and without too much fuss, give them a bag full of pamphlets for support services.

“Every event we’ve had, at least one tradie has come up to me after and told me about their suicide attempt. They’ve never felt empowered or supported before to talk about it. They feel huge shame. But then they see they’re not the only one — that’s an incredible impact.

Mr Forbes has recognised that most men aren’t aware of the plethora of support services available to help in times of crisis.

Or they simply need a bit of encouragement to be able to reach out — to know that they’re not alone and that it’s “OK to put your hand up”.

“What we need to really help men is a connection in the community, in the spaces where men are and feel comfortable, to those support services. That’s what HALT is trying to do — build a bridge between them.”

Mr Forbes still doesn’t know why his mate Pete was so happy that day he saw him. That final 10-minute conversation — much longer than they normally spoke — still rings in his ears.

It’s the same sort of questions he and other friends had at that wake back in 2013, for which there were few answers.

And it’s those unanswered questions that continue to inspire Mr Forbes to do his bit for other men, even if it’s an incredibly hard slog running a national charity.

“The pain of regret is far greater than the pain of hard work,” he said.

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16/10/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/new-research-shows-tsunamis-threaten-sydney-harbour/news-story/7034a5972c0ba68fbf3cd69ec49446ba>

# New research shows tsunamis threaten Sydney Harbour

**NEW research has shown the places in Sydney most at risk of tsunami disaster. And it’s something we’re woefully unprepared for.**

Australians often feel safe from the threat of tsunamis because of our distance from earthquake-prone nations, but historically this has not shielded us from catastrophe.

“NSW has been affected by serious events in the past — for example the Chile earthquake in May 1960, which caused major disruption to Sydney Harbour,” Mr Kaya Wilson, co-author of the findings, said.

“When you broach the idea of Australia being susceptible to tsunami, you’re usually met with a dichotomy — either total disbelief that we’re at any risk, or panic as to what the threat means to the individual.”

From the modelling and research conducted, Dr Power is able to demonstrate a different kind of devastating tsunami washing over familiar Australian hot spots. “Hollywood sells us images of huge walls of water and engulfing waves, but in fact we’d be looking at something more like a significant and unpredictable tide moving in and out in minutes rather than hours.

“The water could be rapidly rising and falling, with current speeds changing direction every few minutes.”

In the past, tsunamis in Sydney have caused dangerous and powerful whirlpools around the Spit Bridge in Manly. Dr Power also warned of the serious possibility of the erosion of buildings and other infrastructure around waterways where there might be tsunami activity.

**THE LIKELIHOOD FOR AUSTRALIA**

While the probability of a tsunami hitting Sydney Harbour or other parts of NSW isn’t extremely high, the impact would be thoroughly devastating. The team’s research highlights Australia’s ill-preparedness.

The tsunami that hit Sydney Harbour in 1960 was significant. “We could expect a tsunami of a similar size in the harbour once every 50 to 100 years.”

Dr Power explains that the probability of this happening again is much more likely than we think.

“When we say something has a one in 20-year likelihood, that doesn’t mean it happens once every 20 years. It means that, on average, there is a one in 20 chance of that event happening every year,” she said.

“Whilst you might think a one in 100-year event is infrequent and unlikely to happen in your lifetime, in reality there’s a one in 100, or a 1 per cent, chance of it occurring every single year.

“If you translate that to something people might put more emphasis on, perhaps like their health, if there was a 1 per cent risk of a medical procedure going horribly wrong, you might rethink whether you wanted to have that operation.”

Since the release of the report, emergency services have “paid close attention” to the findings. For Dr Power, it’s all about raising public awareness.

“We need to put the risk in context for the general public, so that when we receive alerts warning of a potential tsunami threat, people take it seriously and act safely,” she said.

“That means following the instructions and warnings from our emergency services as advised, rather than trying to witness the event.”

[Tsunami in Australia:](https://news.com.au/technology/environment/new-research-shows-tsunamis-threaten-sydney-harbour/news-story/7034a5972c0ba68fbf3cd69ec49446ba)

19/10/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/the-reject-shop-feels-the-pain-as-it-faces-a-massive-slump-in-profits/news-story/8374dfe2a245a3793a8fb7c11c84f820>

# The Reject Shop feels the pain as it faces a massive slump in profits

**WE ALL love a bargain, but now one of our biggest discount chains is facing an uphill battle to survive. How on earth did it all go wrong?**

IF THERE’S one thing Aussies love more than anything else it’s a bargain.

We’re regularly making a name for ourselves as[one of the most expensive countries in the world](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/maps-and-graphics/mapped-the-cheapest-and-most-expensive-countries-to-live-in/), so it’s no wonder we start frothing at the mouth every time we see Tim Tams on special or grab a cheap snag every time we’re idling around Bunnings.

So how is it that one of our most popular discount variety store chains, The Reject Shop — which has 340 stores across Australia — is facing an uphill battle to survive?

Yesterday, the embattled chain slashed its profit forecast, triggering a whopping 44 per cent slump in its price — which was already at a worrying low.

It has had to slash its profit forecast from $17.7 million to between $10 million to $11 million for the first half of the year, unless there is a massive turnaround between now and Christmas.

So, how can this happen to a bargain lover’s paradise in a nation of bargain lovers?

Queensland University of Technology associate professor Gary Mortimer told news.com.au said there were a number of key factors making life extremely difficult for The Reject Shop, which began life as a single Melbourne store in 1981.

He says the gravest challenge to The Reject Shop’s model has been the rise of the discount department store, which offer pretty much the same things at the same prices.

“The appeal of The Reject Shop was that you could go in and buy a bag of lollies for $1 and a bottle of shampoo or conditioner for $2,” he said. “But, now you can go to stores like Kmart (and similar stores such as Big W and Target) and pick up pretty much the same thing for the same price.”

Business trends expert Dr Lauren Rosewarne from The University of Melbourne said Kmart, has rebranded dramatically in recent years, meaning customers can now buy low-priced goods “in an environment less ramshackle and a little more Zen than the Reject Shop offers”.

Not only that, the Aussie bargain market has a new and ever-expanding German kid on the block who has disrupted the industry in style, Aldi.

Mr Mortimer said the European supermarket has made a name for itself by cleverly switching up its specials — meaning shoppers can find new deals almost every time they shop.

“The growth of Aldi has also been a major challenge because they are very focused on low prices and they will constantly evolve their biweekly specials,” he said.

Mr Mortimer added that the supermarket launches these new offers on Wednesdays and Saturdays and The Reject Shop has found it difficult to keep up with an ever-changing array of merchandise in the German giant’s stores, which can range from blow-up mattresses to cheap guitars depending on the day.



The three-pronged attack is tipped by online traders, notably eBay and Aliexpress, according to Dr Rosewarne.

She said that, to deal with these threats, The Reject Shop needs some sort of experience to entice customers to visit its shops.

“The Reject Shop never had a ‘destination’ or ‘experience’ element to it for customers, nor an ability to truly offer visitors goods they couldn’t get elsewhere,” she said.

“These two things need to be worked on by chain retailers wanting to survive in a challenging space. A store needs to be more than a place to by an emergency roll of wrapping paper or a close-to-expiry box of cereal in 2018.”

However, the company’s managing director, Ross Sudano, said the sales slide is due to an “extremely challenging consumer environment”, rather than any problem with the company’s strategy or execution.

“The continuing absence of real wage growth and increases in the cost of many basic expenses (including mortgage rates) ensures that competition for the discretionary spend of consumers remains high,” he wrote in a market statement.

“In addition, we have seen increased investment in promotional pricing across many retailers, particularly in the fast-moving consumable goods (FMCG) space, resulting in additional investment in our FMCG pricing to ensure our value proposition is not damaged.”

Mr Mortimer says The Reject Shop still has its key quality going for it — it’s darn cheap.

“The Reject Shop often based itself on procuring cancelled orders and oversupplied products and tapping into parallel-sourced products manufactured for the Indonesian or Filipino market for example,” he said.

“It will source those products and supply them in store at a cheaper price than many other stores.”

However, the significant competition and ever-increasing cost of running stores in Australia

are making it a tough climate for all third-tier discount stores.

“Prices can’t keep coming down if the cost of rent is always going up, because that means wages go up and logistics go up too,” he said.

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5/11/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/gadgets/mobile-phones/this-smart-doorbell-helped-a-man-protect-his-home-from-alleged-breakin/news-story/f8e5843221549a1e212ac684d58bbcac>

# This smart doorbell helped a man protect his home from alleged break-in

**IT’S something we all fear — burglars breaking into our homes. But thanks to this clever device, one man was able to fight back.**

A HOMEOWNER has shared incredible video footage of the moment he was able to stop two men from allegedly breaking into his home with the help of a tiny hidden device.

Clem Ho lives in Edmonton, Canada and installed a smart doorbell at his front door.

The doorbell is fitted with a hidden camera that is synched to Mr Ho’s phone so he can monitor the front entrance of his house even when he isn’t there.

Posting the video to YouTube channel [Viral Hog](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3339WgBDKIcxTfywuSmG8w/featured) last week, Mr Ho said he had been at work when he received a “motion alert” on his phone that someone was at his front door.

“I activated the Live View feature on the app as it was unusual for someone to stop by my house in the middle of the day,” Mr Ho said.

Footage recorded on his doorbell shows one of the men, wearing a bright yellow reflective safety vest, knocking repeatedly on the door and ringing the doorbell.

He pulls a glove out of his pocket before testing the lock on the door.

The man is then seen motioning to an accomplice waiting out on the street to come over.

“Initially I wasn’t suspicious due to him being similarly dressed as utility and telecom workers in the area,” Mr Ho said.

“My suspicion was aroused when the individual started banging on the door and looking into the house through the window on the door.

“Shortly after, a person wearing an NY Yankees cap, a dark jacket and blue jeans came up the step,” he said.

“The person in the safety vest points to the video doorbell and the second person pulls a large screwdriver out of his backpack and hands it to the guy in the safety vest.”

While his friend appears to keep watch, the man uses a screwdriver to “violently pry the door open and break in”.

“He gets the door partially open and you can hear the alarm warning go off,” Mr Ho said.

But according to Mr Ho, this is where he sprang into action with the help of his smart doorbell.

“Just as he gets the door open, I am able to activate the two-way talk function and tell them to get away from the door,” he said.

“They both look shocked and take off.”

The pair are seen racing off the property before a loud alarm is activated.

Mr Ho’s quick thinking and warning message scared the pair off, but they did cause damage to his front door in the process.

Local police are investigating the attempted break-in and witnesses have come forward claiming to know the pair.

The incident comes after a Melbourne woman was caught [stealing her neighbour’s parcel](https://www.news.com.au/finance/money/costs/melbourne-mail-thiefs-convenient-excuse-after-being-caught-on-cctv/news-story/b19bd9dcd684d6a79ceb91ced8c6623a) on their apartment building CCTV.

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23/11/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/military/the-us-and-its-allies-need-to-get-serious-about-containing-china-warns-official/news-story/57bf7944239fc44d7527aa1a3acf2505>

Former deputy assistant secretary of defence, David Ochmanek, has warned that the US is at risk of losing the confidence of key allies in the Indo-Pacific, including Australia.

At the same time, China is pouring trillions of dollars into its army, military equipment and schemes squarely aimed at expanding its global influence.

On one hand, the Chinese Communist Party is making massive advancements to gain influence and power across Eurasia.

The country is projected to spend approximately $US1 trillion on its [Belt and Road Initiative over the next decade](https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/world-economy/china-wants-to-conquer-the-world-and-several-countries-are-now-swimming-in-debt-to-it/news-story/a8c743bd7021187e73817d59ca48cb6b) — an ambitious project that will see the power at the centre of a new global trade centre.

This rise didn’t come out of nowhere. According to Mr Ochmanek, China’s military modernisation over the past two decades has been “nothing short of remarkable”.

“China under Xi Jinping has demonstrated its readiness to exploit doubts and concerns that other states may have about US reliability and intentions,” Mr Ochmanek told news.com.au.

From a military perspective, this is concerning for a number of reasons.

“First, and most importantly, China is fielding a set of capabilities that, together, have the potential to frustrate US and allied efforts to defeat aggression by China in the Western Pacific,” he said. “Key elements of this challenge are China’s large force of modern ballistic and cruise missiles, sophisticated means for targeting those systems, advanced air defences, and threats to US and allied military satellites and means for command and control.

“Second, China is beginning to develop a network of relationships and bases throughout the Indo-Pacific that one day may give them the ability to project military power throughout the region.”

He said that — without increased efforts to address these challenges on America's part — its credibility would be questioned and peace and stability would be undermined.

**AMERICA IS DESTROYING ITS WORLD STANDING**

A key problem with China’s rise is that the US is moving in a dangerously insular direction.

It may sound promising that the country’s defence budget includes a 9.3 per cent increase. But Mr Ochmanek said most of this will go towards maintenance and training rather than being used to stay ahead of China and Russia.

At the same time, the current administration is embroiled in internal squabbles and an obsession with domestic issues like immigration and taxation, pushing America’s international relationships to the side.

“Statements and actions by the Trump Administration regarding the future US role in the Indo-Pacific and globally have been inconsistent,” he said.

“On the one hand, the Administration has declared its readiness to engage in a long-term strategic competition with China and Russia. At the same time, it has taken actions that raise questions about its commitment to the alliances that form the bedrock of US security.”

Because Trump seems to lack an appreciation for the importance of allies and international institutions, it is easy to imagine how greater damage could yet be done to our strategically important global relationships

“(Americans) now face two such adversaries — China and Russia; and war gaming and analysis show that US forces today are not well prepared for either of these challenges,” he said. “Unless these trends can be reversed, the consequences for US interests and for the stability of the Indo-Pacific and Europe could be stark.

“Should US allies and partners lose confidence in the ability of American forces to project conventional power into their regions, and to deter intimidation and defeat aggression, an important part of the glue that has held together the coalition keeping the peace and advancing common interests will be lost.”

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26/11/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/national/crime/islamic-states-dangerously-effective-recruitment-in-australia-how-they-radicalise-young-men/news-story/2d2b1a8c11e1d3572e4f4247d7df7ba8>

# slamic State’s ‘dangerously effective’ recruitment in Australia: How they radicalise young men

**Islamic State has a sophisticated recruitment strategy in Australia, to radicalise future homegrown terrorists - and now it’s been revealed.**

Television advertisements for the military in Australia often promise would-be recruits the chance to make a difference, learn new skills and go off on a life-changing adventure.

The campaigns are effective in selling soldiers the benefits of committing to a cause greater than themselves — of becoming better people and being part of something meaningful.

Ironically, the terrorist organisation Islamic State employs those same kind of tactics in its effort to radicalise young Australians.

And the strategy can be “dangerously effective”, says [Professor Greg Barton](http://www.deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/people/greg-barton), the Chair of Global Islamic Politics at the Alfred Deakin Institute at Deakin University.

“If you look at ISIL (Islamic State) propaganda, disregarding the deliberately provocative stuff like beheadings, a lot of it resembles mainstream military recruitment,” Professor Barton said.

“It sells itself as a way of being respected, learning skills, doing interesting things and making a difference for a so-called important cause.”

The messages could resonate strongly with those young men, who are deliberately targeted by Islamic State as the perfect candidates to be radicalised.

In another setting, that person might have been at risk of turning to a life of crime, drug and alcohol abuse, a gang or some other form of negative social behaviour, he said.

But if snared by those connected to terrorist elements, those men could be [convinced to carry out horrific and unpredictable attacks](https://www.news.com.au/technology/gadgets/mobile-phones/unacceptable-risk-the-secret-way-terrorists-and-criminals-are-communicating/news-story/731ca32e7432601d6b3ce5ca4f34bf80) on Australian soil.

**THE LIKELY TARGETS**

Professor Barton said [Islamic State’s ideal candidates](https://www.news.com.au/world/middle-east/we-have-lulled-ourselves-into-a-false-sense-of-security-about-is/news-story/73a4bd9c32dee9abba6d0dafd788eaa6) were typically vulnerable young men who lack strong role models, feel disconnected from broader society and yearn for purpose.

They might come into contact with someone, occasionally in person but usually online, who builds a friendship and a persuasive sense of trust, he said.

“Perhaps for the first time, they’ve met someone who listens to them, values them and affirms their sense of longing,” Professor Barton explained.

“Quite often there’s predatory behaviour involved. It can be quite cult-like.”

Should that group and its manipulative messaging come along at the wrong time, those at-risk youths can be sucked into the lure of Islamic State before they’re even aware of it.

“People can quite quickly end up doing things that they wouldn’t have imagined doing when it’s what the group does,” Professor Barton said.

The more involved they are with the group that’s welcomed them warmly, the more material they consume — which tends to become increasingly violent, Professor Barton said.

“For the person being recruited, it doesn’t initially seem like madness and it doesn’t feel bad. On the contrary. It sounds like a way to be a good person, someone who lives for others.

“They come in contact with someone online or in person who builds a sense of trust and friendship. At some point, they become convinced they want to be part of the group. It can happen quite quickly but also quite subtly. They don’t see it coming.”

ew people get into extremist movements convinced by a violent end goal, but rather arrive at that point gradually, he said.

“Being radicalised into a movement that uses violence, and then going ahead and using violence as a result, is a pretty rare thing. Most people don’t get that far.

“Some will get halfway down that path and the real problem is when they feel justified to use violence to advance their cause.”

“Of course, there’s religious material, but by and large it’s very positive and talks about being a better person, living a meaningful life, developing character and those things,” he said.

“I’m not whitewashing the religious element, but its role is generally not what you think.”

Australia’s geographic isolation, minimal involvement in foreign conflicts and lack of “strategic significance” meant terror groups weren’t overly interested.

But in the wake of the September 11 attacks in the US and Australia’s support of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, all of that changed, Mr Zammit said.

“This new global context facilitated jihadist radicalisation in Australia, leading to self-starting (or lone wolf) plots and attempts by Australians to get involved in jihadist activity (overseas),” he said.

- **AN APPEALING PROPOSITION**

The kinds of young men targeted by Islamic State are likely to have had former encounters with elements of criminality.

Some may have experienced personal difficulties, including marriage breakdowns, while many have been involved in alcohol and drugs.

Professor Barton said their involvement with IS is viewed as a kind of atonement for all of their past sins — an idea that becomes more potent the longer they are associated with the group.

The worst-case scenario is when someone becomes radicalised to the extent they are determined to carry out an attack.

Often their lives reach an almost pointless stage and they “decide to go out in a blaze of glory”, Professor Barton said.

“The propaganda of ISIL very much reinforces this idea of going out as a hero. It’s a case of believing if they do this one thing, they’ll become martyrs and go straight to (heaven),” he said.

“They see it as doing one last thing in life to be recognised as a hero. That is very, very dangerous.”

Someone that far down the path was unlikely to be brought back without significant difficulty.

Professor Barton said once an individual internalised those kinds of extreme ideas, they were deeply absorbed and held for a long period of time.

“People can and do change their thinking. It most often happens via a personal process when someone becomes disillusioned with an ideology they’ve adopted. But that is a long, personal journey. It’s not something we can easily control.”

Counter-terrorism policy in Australia now focused less on the notion of deradicalisation and more on “disengagement”, Professor Barton said.

“If violent extremism is the risk and the social network is the pathway, the focus is on reintegrating those people with friends and family, with mainstream society and with positive social networks,” he explained.

“They may still have strong ideas, but they’re more likely to decide not to use violence if disengagement is done effectively.”

How and why young men become radicalised by terror organisations is “a complex issue that requires a very nuanced response”, he said.

And Dr Jones isn’t convinced Australian authorities are doing well in this area.

In recent times, counter-terror strategy had shifted towards so-called “soft” approaches like countering violent extremism (CVE) strategies.

“At the moment, a lot of the CVE approaches are one-size-fits-all and top down. People want quick-fix solutions. The approach really needs to be bottom up.”

The current approach runs the risk of alienating communities that authorities need to work with, he said, and many CVE experts don’t adequately understand the issues at play.

“The fundamental thing we need to be doing is understand the community and the dynamics, what’s happening in them. It’s about developing long-term trusted relationships and partnerships. It must be about empowering communities and value-adding where you can.”

He also argued that the risk of radicalisation is low, as are instances of Australians being lured into groups like Islamic State.

Professor Barton is an advocate for CVE and said disengaging vulnerable young people from potentially radical elements was possible.

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27/11/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/australian-politics-live-tuesday-november-27/news-story/9bd4e3ca763cb24fc3c83e0b9eaea33f>

While Scott Morrison was holding that press conference in the Prime Minsiter’s courtyard, Liberal MP Julia Banks dropped an absolute bombshell in the House.

Ms Banks announced she was quitting the government to sit on the crossbench, cutting its number of MPs to 74.

She will guarantee confidence and supply, so there is no risk of the government falling, but it makes Mr Morrison’s job leading a minority government even harder.

It also raises the possibility of Ms Banks recontesting her seat, Chisolm, as an independent next year. She had previously indicated she would quit at the election.

Ms Banks has been an outspoken critic of the Liberal Party’s treatment of women since the week of leadership turmoil that led to Malcolm Turnbull’s downfall.

“The gift of time and reflection has provided some clarity regarding the brutal blow against the leadership,” Ms Banks said in her speech to the House a few moments ago.

“Led by members of the reactionary right wing, the coup was aided by many MPs trading their vote for a leadership change in exchange for their individual promotion, preselection endorsements or silence.

“Their actions were undeniably for themselves. For their position in the party. Their power. Their personal ambition. Not for the Australian people who we represent.”

Ms Banks said equal representation for men and women in parliament was “an urgent imperative which will create cultural change”.

“There’s the blinkered rejection of quotas and support of the merit myth, but this is more than a numbers game. Across both major parties, the level of regard and respect for women in politics is years behind the business world,” she said.

“Often when good women call out or are subjected to bad behaviour, the reprisals, backlash and commentary portrays them as the bad ones - the liar, the troublemaker, emotionally unstable or weak, or someone who should be silenced.

“To those who say politics is not for the faint hearted and that women have to ‘toughen up’, I say this. The hallmark characteristics of the Australian woman - and I’ve met thousands of them, be they in my local community, in politics, business, the media and sport – are resilience and a strong authentic independent spirit.”

Ms Banks described herself as a “sensible centrist”, echoing the words of new independent MP Kerryn Phelps yesterday.

“My sensible centrist values, belief in economic responsibility and focus on always putting the people first and acting in the nation’s interest have not changed. The Liberal Party has changed,” she said.

“Largely due to the actions of the reactionary and regressive right wing who talk to themselves rather than listening to the people.”

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/online/social/email-etiquette-exposed-what-those-phrases-really-mean/news-story/d97fb274e3ea22acafafce07e0137fd6>

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29/11/2018

In a handwritten statement to [*The Sun*](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/7850941/bully-syrian-classmates-waterboarded-blames-victim/), the boy denied he was a racist — just hours after he was charged with common assault by cops.

“I fully accept responsibility for my actions which I regret but wish to make it clear I was not responsible for breaking his arm, nor had I been bullying him over a period of time as has been reported,” he said.

“The incident was isolated and came about from an altercation between us earlier that day. The incident was not racial as up to that time we had been on good terms.

“I have now been charged with common assault, not racially-aggravated as has been reported.”

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/banking/twitter-fury-erupts-over-arrogant-snide-bank-boss/news-story/c5f0037ffa52eea5f470dcaba7edc426>

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5/12/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/selling/one-million-aussies-could-become-prisoners-in-their-own-home-as-falling-prices-put-them-in-negative-equity/news-story/1921b57f528eee0629ac52ab390b5816>

Hi Vicky

This is today's ready.

I have read it and the article has many useful expression - I even learn a idiom today ( better to share with Alfred & Morgan tonight ! )

**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?**

If a borrower goes into negative equity, the best thing to do is stay put and try to keep paying off their loan.

“People have gotten used to rising prices, but when we look historically the people that do well are those that hold through down and up cycles,” Ms Conisbee said.

“If we look at the worst price crash we’ve seen in the ‘80s, it took about four years for prices to recover. You need to be mindful property is a long-term game, it pays to hold, it doesn’t pay to panic sell.”

If you do have an investment property and it’s gone underwater but you have a stable tenant and can afford to pay off the loan, “try and get through this cycle”.

“The biggest problem when prices fall is that we start to see distressed sales when people can’t service the loan,” she said.

“We’re not yet at that situation. That typically happens is when we start to see rising unemployment. But it is possible we may start to see some panic selling if they think the value of their home or investment starts to drop rapidly.”

Mr Cooke said people with negative equity had very few options “except trying to pay it off and wait for the market to rise”.

Mr North agreed, saying the main thing is “don’t panic”. “If you are not forced to sell and can continue to make your payments, it’s a paper problem and most people will be in that situation,” he said.

If you are forced to sell, due to a change of circumstances such as the loss of a job, then you are in trouble. Australia has what’s known as “full recourse”, meaning your debt stays with you regardless of your financial situation.

“Unlike in the US where you can just hand the keys back and walk away, the banks have you by the short and curlies,” Mr North said.

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have (one) **by the short and curlies**. To have complete control or dominance over someone; to have someone at one's mercy. "The **short and curlies**" refers to the hairs on one's neck, despite popular misconceptions. With all that evidence against you, I'd say the police have you **by the short and curlies**.

Figurative reference to the method used by parents to force compliance of a child or adolescent. Erroneously believed to refer to pubic hair. Historic references in literature this expression to describe someone trapped by an inarguable fact or proposition and forced to concede, the way parents enforce compliance even from a willfully disobedient child by clamping a lock of this fine, short and often curly hair between their thumb and forefinger and lifting.

When the officer reminded me that writing me up for disorderly conduct would violate my parole, he had me by the **short and curlies**. I didn't dare protest further but remained silent while he continued to lecture me as if I were a child.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

Most obviously, it means you’ve lost any paper profit you had.

“Negative equity is a real bother, it really does have a very negative impact on the economy, households and the wealth effect,” Mr North said.

“The problem is this has been set up for decades by loose lending. There is a massive overhang of very highly indebted households, this was a correction that was always going to come — the question now is how far and how fast.”

Negative equity also causes banks to “get twitchy” because it means they now have a risk on their book, which could cause them to put up your interest rates.

“As the risk profile on that loan goes up the banks will probably put some sort of risk premium on the loan, and we already know many households are struggling with repayments because of flat incomes and rising costs,” Mr North said.

“If you do sell, chances are you still have a loan remaining. History teaches us people stay put. It basically means you’re stuck, you’re a prisoner in your own property.”

Mr Cooke has experienced it first-hand, having purchased an apartment in Ireland in 2008 around the peak of the real estate boom.

“That particular property has only recovered in value to around the cost of the mortgage now so many years later,” he said. “It can leave you trapped. I moved to Australia but wasn’t able to sell the property.”

[Click to add a signature](gwsig:addsig)

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17/12/2018

# British Prime Minister Theresa May clashes with Tony Blair over Brexit

**Amid the chaos of Brexit negotiations, two senior politicians are reportedly plotting something once considered unthinkable.**

Two senior politicians in the UK are reportedly plotting something once considered heretical.

They are seriously discussing the possibility of a second Brexit referendum.

According to the [BBC](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-46585914)and [The Sunday Times](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/), Chris Bryant, MP for Rhondda, said he spoke to Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington about the next steps.

Mr Bryant, staunchly in the remain camp, said he wanted the government to allow a second vote.

“Brexit is stuck in a logjam,” he told the [BBC.](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-46585914)

“The EU (isn’t) going to budge. The PM can’t get her deal through parliament. The Tories can’t get rid of their leader... time is running out.”

The United Kindom shocked the world by voting to withdraw from the European Union in a referendum on June 23, 2016.

Negotiations between the UK and EU about the terms of the separation have been taking place since then.

The UK is set to legally leave the EU on March 29, 2019.

But at least two of UK PM Theresa May’s most senior allies are preparing for a second referendum behind her back, according to the The Sunday Times.

David Lidington, a senior Tory, held talks with Labour MPs on Thursday in an effort to build a cross-party coalition for a new vote, [The Times](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/theresa-mays-team-plots-new-eu-referendum-cl5xrwh52) reported.

A second referendum has widely been considered as unthinkable until now, according to [CNN](https://edition.cnn.com/2018/12/16/uk/second-referendum-cabinet-gbr-scli-intl/index.html).

Numerous petitions have been launched calling for a second referendum.

Support for a second vote has slowly grown, and as early as July 27 this year, 42% of Britons were [polled](https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2018/07/27/first-time-more-people-support-second-referendum)as being in favour of a second referendum, with 40% in opposition.

Ms May slammed her predecessor Tony Blair on Sunday after he called for a second referendum.

She said his call was an “insult to the office he once held and the people he once served”.

Mr Blair hit back and said he was speaking in the national interest and in the interests of democracy.

“Far from being anti-democratic it would be the opposite, as indeed many senior figures in her party from past and present have been saying,” he said according to Press Association.

**PUBLIC ROW**

An extraordinary public row broke out between Ms May and former Labour Party leader Tony Blair on Sunday over the proposed Brexit “backdown”.

Ms May accused Mr Blair of insulting voters and trying to undermine her government with calls for a second referendum to break the political deadlock over the divorce deal she struck with the EU.

“For Tony Blair to go to Brussels and seek to undermine our negotiations by advocating for a second referendum is an insult to the office he once held and the people he once served,” Ms May said in a statement issued late Saturday.

“We cannot, as he would, abdicate responsibility for this decision. Parliament has a democratic duty to deliver what the British people voted for.”

Mr Blair, who was Labour prime minister between 1997 and 2007, then accused the Conservative leader of being “irresponsible”.

“The sensible thing is now to allow parliament to vote on each of the forms of Brexit canvassed, including the prime minister’s deal,” he said in a statement.

“If they can’t reach agreement then the logical thing is to go back to the people.”

He added: “What is irresponsible however is to try to steamroller MPs into accepting a deal they genuinely think is a bad one with the threat that if they do not fall into line, the government will have the country crash out (of the EU) without a deal.”

Mr Blair opposes Brexit and, as Ms May’s deal faces opposition on all sides of the House of Commons, he has stepped up calls for the public to vote again.

His latest speech on the issue came on Friday, as Ms May was meeting EU leaders in Brussels to discuss how to save the agreement.

Ms May has repeatedly ruled out holding a new referendum, saying the result in 2016 was clear.

But growing numbers of MPs believe a “people’s vote” is the only way to break an impasse that risks Britain leaving the EU on March 29 without any agreement at all.

Ms May’s chief of staff, Gavin Barwell, was forced on Sunday to deny reports that he was planning for such an outcome.

The same reports also said Ms May’s effective deputy, David Lidington, was in talks with opposition Labour MPs about a new vote.

Mr Lidington replied that he always listened to MPs’ views but pointed to recent remarks in parliament where he said a second referendum may not be decisive and could damage confidence in democracy.

Separately, Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt suggested Britain could thrive if it left the EU with no deal, and admitted he would like to “have a crack” at Ms May’s job.

“But I think the first thing is to get us through this challenging next few months and I passionately believe Theresa May is the person to do that,” he told the *Sunday Telegraph*.

**Repudiate**

1. **to**[**refuse**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/refuse)**to**[**accept**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/accept)**something or someone as**[**true**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/true)**, good, or**[**reasonable**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/reasonable)**:**

*He repudiated the*[*allegation*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/allegation)*/*[*charge*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/charge)*/*[*claim*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/claim)*that he had*[*tried*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/tried)*to*[*deceive*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/deceive)*them.*

*I*[*utterly*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/utter)*repudiate those*[*remarks*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/remark)*.*

1. **to**[**refuse**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/refuse)**to**[**accept**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/accept)**or**[**obey**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/obey)**something or someone;**[**reject**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/reject)**:**

*The*[*evidence*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/evidence)[*presented*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/present)*at the*[*trial*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/trial)*has since been repudiated.*

1. **to**[**decide**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/decide)**that an**[**agreement**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/agreement)**is no**[**longer**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/long)[**effective**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/effective)**and that you will not do what it says you must do:**

***repudiate a contract/agreement****Failure to*[*deliver*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/deliver)*on*[*time*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/time)*will*[*entitle*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/entitle)*the*[*buyer*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/buyer)*to repudiate the*[*contract*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/contract)*.*

1. FINANCE **to**[**decide**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/decide)**that you will not**[**pay**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/pay)**back**[**money**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/money)**that you**[**owe**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/owe)**:**

*The*[*Soviet*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/soviet)[*Union*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/european-union)***repudiated***[***its***](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/its)[***debt***](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/debt)*after the 1917*[*Revolution*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/agrarian-revolution)*.*

repudiate

/rɪˈpjuːdɪeɪt/

*verb*

verb: **repudiate**; 3rd person present: **repudiates**; past tense: **repudiated**; past participle: **repudiated**; gerund or present participle: **repudiating**

1. 1.

refuse to accept; reject.

"she has repudiated policies associated with previous party leaders"

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *synonyms:* | reject, renounce, abandon, forswear, give up, turn one's back on, have nothing more to do with, wash one's hands of, have no more truck with, abjure, disavow, recant, desert, discard, disown, cast off, lay aside, cut off, rebuff; More |
| *antonyms:* | embrace |

* + LAW

refuse to fulfil or discharge (an agreement, obligation, or debt).

"breach of a condition gives the other party the right to repudiate a contract"

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *synonyms:* | cancel, set aside, revoke, rescind, reverse, retract, overrule, override, overturn, invalidate, nullify, declare null and void, abrogate; More |
| *antonyms:* | ratify, accept, abide by |

* + (in the past or in non-Christian religions) disown or divorce (one's wife).

"Philip was excommunicated in 1095 because he had repudiated his wife"

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *synonyms:* | divorce, end one's marriage to  "he repudiated his first wife" |
| *antonyms:* | marry |

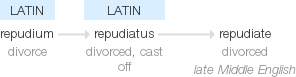
1. 2.

deny the truth or validity of.

"the minister repudiated allegations of human rights abuses"

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *synonyms:* | deny, refute, contradict, rebut, dispute, disclaim, disavow; More |
| *antonyms:* | confirm, acknowledge |

Origin



late Middle English (originally an adjective in the sense ‘divorced’): from Latin *repudiatus* ‘divorced, cast off’, from *repudium* ‘divorce’.

Translate repudiate to

*verb*

1. 1. 否认
2. 2. 拒绝
3. 3. 赖帐
4. 4. 拒付
5. 5. 辟
6. 6. 拒绝履行
7. 7. 推到

abdicate

/ˈabdɪkeɪt/

*verb*

1. 1.

(of a monarch) renounce one's throne.

"in 1918 Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated as German emperor"

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *synonyms:* | | resign, retire, quit, stand down, step down, bow out, renounce the throne; More |
|  |  |

1. 2.

fail to fulfil or undertake (a responsibility or duty).

"the government was accused of abdicating its responsibility"

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *synonyms:* | disown, turn down, spurn, reject, renounce, give up, avoid, refuse, abnegate, relinquish, abjure, repudiate, waive, yield, forgo, abandon, surrender, deliver up, disgorge, cast aside, drop, turn one's back on, wash one's hands of; More |

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18/12/2018

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/science/human-body/australias-major-cities-are-increasingly-vulnerable-to-future-influenza-pandemics/news-story/1e2141eacc412a70dd759736fe41bcdd>

# Australia’s major cities are increasingly vulnerable to future influenza pandemics

**The last major pandemic to hit our shores was the swine flu virus — but complex census data shows the next one will wreak havoc.**

Our cities are facing a growing vulnerability to pandemics, a University of Sydney research team has found.

A large jump in arrivals by air and urbanisation are the two main factors that are making it increasingly difficult to protect against fast-spreading diseases. Compounding the fears of researchers is the fact local population growth is outstripping the capacity of urban infrastructure to deal with disease outbreaks.

The study was carried out by the Centre for Complex Systems and the Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity at Sydney University.

The researchers used anonymised data from the 2006, 2011 and 2016 Australian censuses to create a refined simulator which tracked households, suburbs and the movement of people. The team of scientists studied their daily interactions to better understand how diseases spread and how to better prepare infrastructure to combat outbreaks.

“Air travel and Australians’ growing propensity to live near airports is increasing our population’s susceptibility to contagions, which has a significant impact on our health services, crisis response and pandemic preparedness,” said Professor Mikhail Prokopenko, director of the Complex Systems Research Group.

The study, which was [published last week](http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/12/eaau5294) in the journal *Science Advances*, is the first of its kind to use anonymised census data to underpin its modelling.

“The Australian Census has provided comprehensive data with which to calibrate a nation-level model of pandemic influenza spread and investigate the population’s vulnerability to the contagion over a period of rapid urbanisation,” Prof Prokopenko said.

He and his team transformed the census data into software agents, in a powerful number crunching program known as Agent-Based Modelling which allowed researchers to tinker with the data and run different “what if scenarios.”

“So say if the Census has 20 million respondents then we have 20 million agents, each with attributes of people,” Prof Prokopenko told news.com.au.

“It is done in such a way that all the characteristics of the population such as age and travel to work patterns are maintained ... It is quite sophisticated simulation.”

Deadly disease outbreaks like ebola and the zika virus have grabbed headlines in recent years but didn’t make it to Australia.

The last major pandemic to hit our shores was the H1N1 virus — commonly known as swine flu — which arrived in 2009. There were 37,500 confirmed cases in Australia, with 191 associated deaths.

According to the World Health Organisation, 18,000 people died from swine influenza around the world.

Researchers used the theoretical outbreak of such an influenza virus to test our defences. Across a number of different scenarios, they found the disease was doing more damage, more quickly.

“The peak of the epidemic happens sooner, the size of the peak goes higher and the second wave happens faster than the first wave,” Prof Prokopenko said, which is to say it spreads to rural areas quicker.

“More people get sick, sooner,” he said.

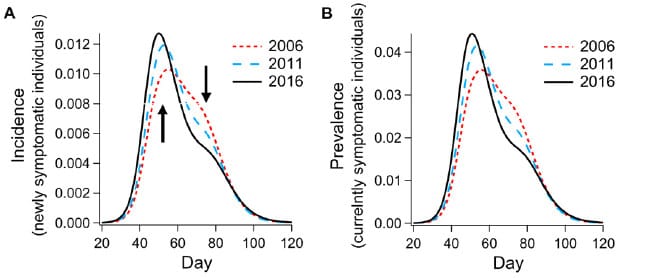
“The patterns are quite clear, which I think is why it got published,” he said of the modelling.

It’s the combination of rapid urbanisation and the growing rate of air traffic that will make future pandemics harder to thwart in Australia.

As of 2018, 90 per cent of the total population now resides in an urban setting, concentrated in just several major urban centres across the country. In the past decade, inbound international flights [increased significantly](https://bitre.gov.au/statistics/aviation/international.aspx) — nearly doubling from eleven million passengers over 2006-7 to almost 20 million passengers in 2016/17.

The nature of an increasingly globalised world makes pandemics more difficult to quickly contain.

Earlier this year, Bill Gates, Microsoft co-founder and Billionaire philanthropist who works to eradicate certain diseases, [warned the world could face a pandemic](https://www.afr.com/news/world/north-america/bill-gates-says-a-pandemic-could-kill-33-million-people-in-6-months-20180430-h0zezj) capable of killing 33 million people in six months.



The ensemble average of incidence of new infection, prevalence of infected agents, and cumulative infection temporal dynamics for simulated influenza in 2006, 2011, and 2016.Source:Supplied

Australia’s isolation once meant that it was spared from epidemics. “However Australia suffered from the 2009 swine flu pandemic, and has since experienced extreme seasons such as in 2017,” said Prof Prokopenko.

“I would say it’s almost inevitable that a major pandemic will strike at some point in the future.” The thing that matters is how prepared we are.

Despite an increase in medical infrastructure, many major hospitals in NSW routinely operate at one hundred per cent capacity.

“We should be wary of the tendency for local population growth to outstrip the carrying capacity of the urban infrastructure,” Dr Cameron Zachreson from the Complex Systems Research Group said in a statement.

“We hope that our research can lend strength to the argument that keeping hospital beds at a consistent ratio to the urban population is insufficient and will not account for the relative increases in disease prevalence that our simulation results suggest will occur,” he said.

Prof Prokopenko said he would like to see Australia be “more innovative with our intervention strategies” including broader vaccination programs and protocols to shut down transport systems and schools.

“We need to develop and maintain policies that are specific to Australia,” he said.

“We cannot blindly follow what has been established elsewhere.”

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### TRENDING IN TECHNOLOGY

* **332**

[[https://i1.wp.com/pixel.tcog.cp1.news.com.au/track/component/article/98b677728ada6874acd8ec41492a91b0?t_domain=news.com.au&t_product=newscomau&t_template=s3/ncatemp/bodyandsoul/fragment/thumbnail](https://news.com.au/technology/innovation/military/china-russia-reveal-secret-test-to-heat-atmosphere-and-jam-signals-such-as-gps/news-story/98b677728ada6874acd8ec41492a91b0)](https://news.com.au/technology/innovation/military/china-russia-reveal-secret-test-to-heat-atmosphere-and-jam-signals-such-as-gps/news-story/98b677728ada6874acd8ec41492a91b0)

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# Making selective schools entry test coach-proof

<https://www.smh.com.au/education/making-selective-schools-entry-test-coach-proof-20181216-p50mkx.html>

Entry tests for the state’s selective schools will be overhauled to increase the number of girls, poor, disabled and English students.

From 2020, the Department of Education will introduce the new test that is likely to use online technology that can adapt questions to students’ ability. Questions will also be less predictable, the element making them susceptible to coaching.

Education Minister Rob Stokes said changes planned for the 2019 test would be small, and not affect those preparing today. But they would make it fairer, removing a decades-old bias towards boys, maths and students with well-educated parents.

“Academic prowess does not discriminate by gender, ethnicity or postcode," he said.

"There are students with academic aptitude in every NSW school and I want them to have the opportunity to participate in a selective education option if they choose."

The Minister will on Monday release the long-awaited report on the selective school entrance test, which is used to decide which of almost 15,000 applicants should get the 4250 places in the state's 48 selective schools.

It finds that the entrance exams favour boys over girls, and students strong in maths over those who are good at English. Test questions are too predictable and too easy, limiting their ability to identify the state's brightest kids.

The test's structure also creates too many barriers for disadvantaged students. Disabled students face particular difficulties, because of the paper-only test format, the unfamiliar test site locations, and rigid test requirements.

Since 1991, students have sat three tests - reading, writing and general ability - for a score out of 200. They are also given a school assessment score out of 100, and the mark out of 300 determines if and where they are offered a place.

But an independent expert review panel found that the tests were too easy. When too many students got too many questions right, the test failed to pick up the brightest students.

An analysis of nine years' of data found the maths and general abilities questions tended to be more difficult than the reading ones, so the stand-out students were stronger in those fields than in English.

The report's authors suggested the new tests could use the same technology as NAPLAN online, which adapts to student ability; if they get answers right, the questions get harder. That would give a more precise indication of ability.

The panel could not find hard data on the influence of coaching on test scores, as students are not surveyed about it. But coaching was more likely to improve test performance if questions were predictable, the report said.

Their investigations also found students who were coached were rarely surprised by the questions in the tests, while those who were not coached were often surprised, or ran out of time, or struggled to understand questions.

Some schools helped their students prepare, while others did not. The report recommended the questions be made less predictable - which included increasing difficulty - and schools be given more support to prepare their students.

The report also identified a gender gap, with fewer places for girls, fewer applications from girls, and fewer spots offered to and accepted by girls (77 per cent of boys accept their offer, compared with 71 per cent of girls).

Boys achieve slightly higher scores than girls. While the difference is small - 2.26 points out of 300 - it could be enough to tip the scales in their favour. The department is investigating causes, but the weighting of maths over English is likely to be a big factor.

Girls also nominate single-sex schools at a higher rate, and might not take co-ed places when offered. The design of the 2019 test process will be adjusted to reduce gender effects, although the report didn't explain how that would happen.

Disadvantaged students - including Indigenous students - were also under-represented, the review panel found.

While children whose parents have a bachelor's degree or above make up 30 per cent of year six students, they make up 59 per cent of those who apply for the selective school test and 63 per cent of those who accept an offer.

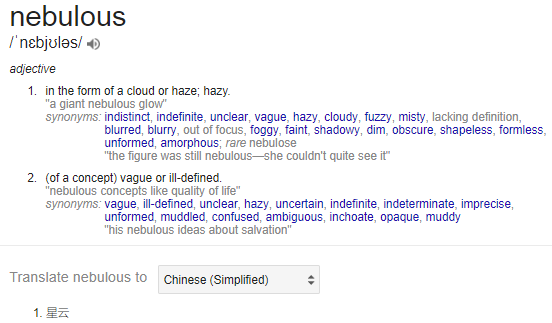
In response, the department will encourage more students from under-privileged backgrounds to apply for the selective school test, and introduce HSC-style special circumstances provisions for students with a disability.

The school assessment scores system should also be revised in consultation with teachers, parents and students, as it was inconsistent, the report recommended. Some schools only used classroom test scores, others had a more elaborate system. Private schools didn't need to provide school assessment scores at all, meaning their students' score was 100 per cent based on the test.

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Nebulour

Legion

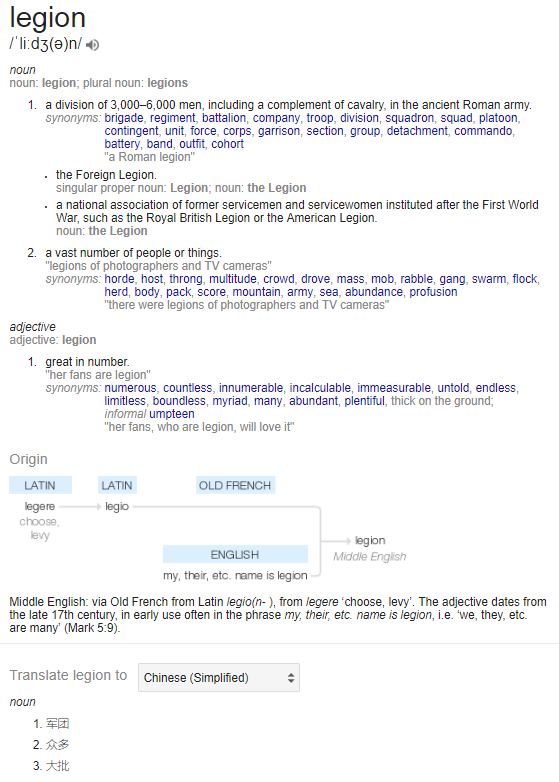


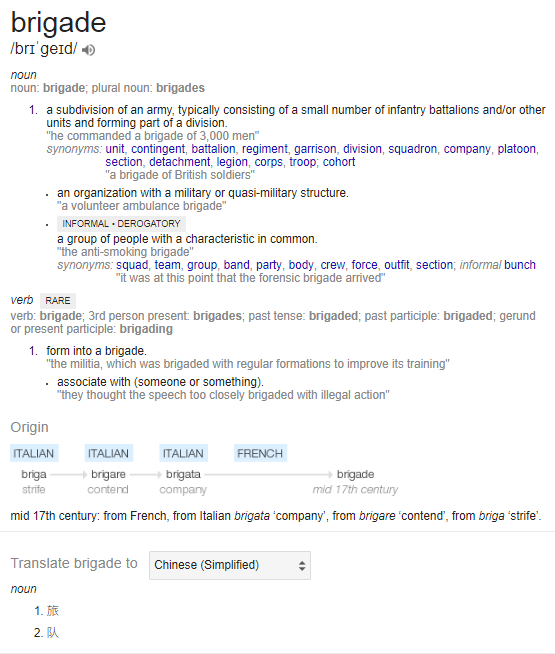
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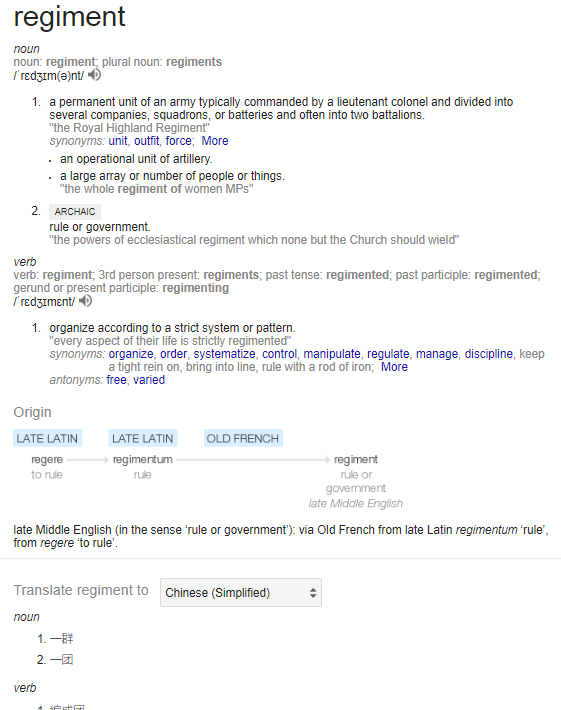
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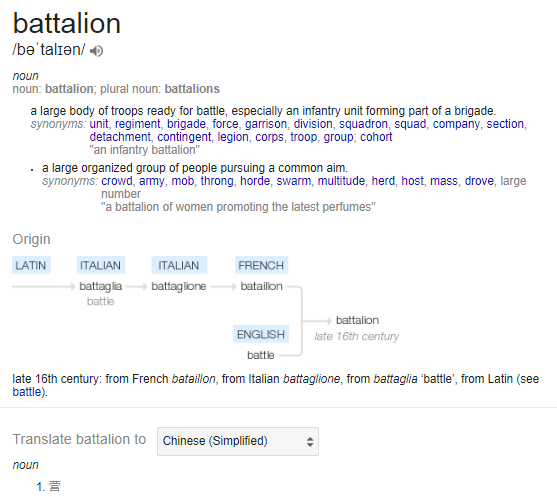
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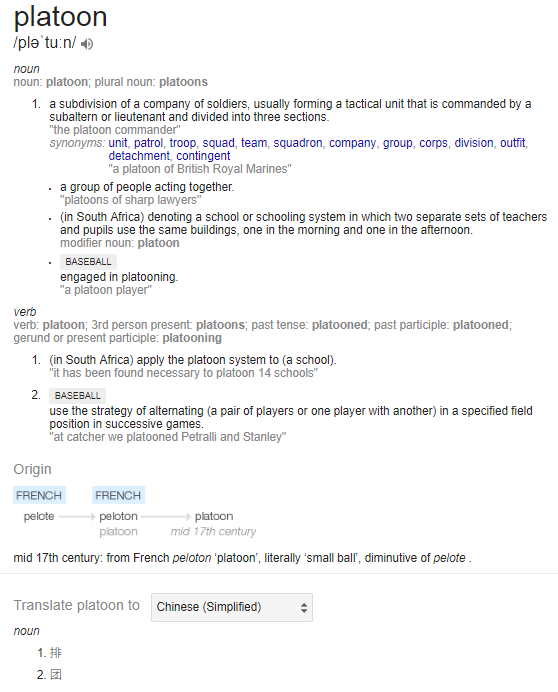
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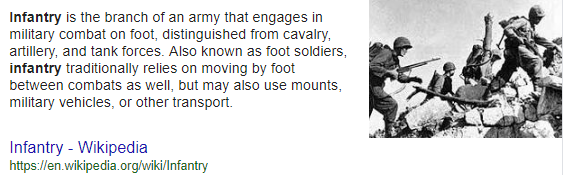


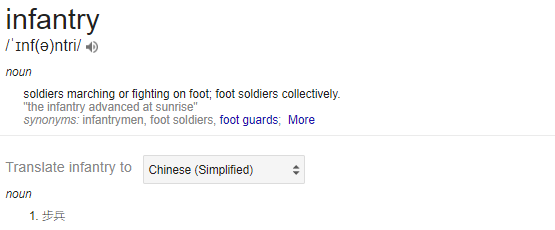












<https://www.news.com.au/finance/work/leaders/movie-stars-interpols-chief-and-more-a-look-at-who-went-missing-in-china-2018/news-story/3d2efd18136b3aadff9ec0d669cb6fd2>

# Movie stars, Interpol’s Chief and more: A look at who went missing in China 2018

**The list of high profile “disappeared” individuals in China expanded over the last year to include a Hollywood star and Interpol head.**

It’s not uncommon for individuals who speak out against the government to disappear in China, but the scope of the “disappeared” has expanded since President Xi Jinping came to power in 2013.

Not only dissidents and activists, but also high-level officials, Marxists, foreigners and even a movie star — people who never publicly opposed the ruling Communist Party — have been whisked away by police to unknown destinations.

The widening dragnet throws into stark relief the lengths to which Xi’s administration is willing to go to maintain its control and authority.

A look at some of the people who went missing in 2018 at the hands of the Chinese state.

**FOREIGN PAWNS**

China threatened “grave consequences” if Canada did not release hi-tech executive Meng Wanzhou, shortly after the Huawei chief financial officer was detained in Vancouver in December for possible extradition to the U.S.

The apparent consequences materialised within days, when two Canadian men went missing in China. Both turned up in the hands of state security on suspicion of endangering national security, a nebulous category of crimes that has been levied against foreigners in recent years.

Former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig was[taken by authorities from a Beijing street late in the evening](https://www.news.com.au/world/breaking-news/canada-us-slam-detention-of-2-canadians/news-story/8d6909719496814d4d09dbe8fa744435), a person familiar with his case said.

He is allowed one consular visit a month and has not been granted access to a lawyer, as is standard for state security cases.

Also detained is Michael Spavor, who organises tours to North Korea from the border city of Dandong. China has not said whether their detentions are related to Meng’s, but a similar scenario unfolded in the past.

A Canadian couple was detained in 2014 on national security grounds shortly after Canada arrested Su Bin, a Chinese man wanted for industrial espionage in the U.S.

Like Spavor, Kevin and Julia Garratt lived in Dandong, where they ran a popular coffee shop for nearly a decade. They also worked with a Christian charity that provided food to North Korean refugees.

While Julia Garratt was released on bail, her husband was held for more than two years before he was deported in September 2016 — about two months after Su pleaded guilty in the U.S.

**TAX-EVADING ACTOR**

Fan Bingbing was living every starlet’s dream.

Since a breakthrough role at the age of 17, Fan has headlined dozens of movies and TV series, and parlayed her success into modelling, fashion design and other ventures that have made her one of the highest-paid celebrities in the world.

All this made her a potent icon of China’s economic success, until authorities reminded Fan — and her legion of admirers — that even she was not untouchable.

For about four months, Fan vanished from public view. Her Weibo social media account, which has more than 63 million followers, fell silent.

Her management office in Beijing was vacated. Her birthday on September 16 came and went with only a handful of greetings from entertainment notables.

[When she finally resurfaced](https://www.news.com.au/entertainment/celebrity-life/chinese-actor-fan-bingbing-finally-addresses-public-for-first-time-in-months/news-story/4fd031be59f23ffc79c778199f372a6c), it was to apologise.

“I sincerely apologise to society, to the friends who love and care for me, to the people, and to the country’s tax bureau,” Fan said in a letter posted on Weibo on October 3.

She admitted to tax evasion. State news agency Xinhua reported that Fan and the companies she represents had been ordered to pay taxes and penalties totalling 900 million yuan ($181.1 million).

“Without the party and the country’s great policies, without the people’s loving care, there would be no Fan Bingbing,” she wrote, a cautionary tale for other Chinese celebrities.

Xinhua concurred in a commentary on her case: “Everyone is equal before the law, there are no “superstars” or “big shots.” No one can despise the law and hope to be lucky.”

**SECURITY INSIDER**

Unlike most swallowed up by China’s opaque security apparatuses, Meng Hongwei knew exactly what to expect.

Meng, no relation to the Huawei executive, is a vice minister of public security who was serving as head of Interpol, the France-based organisation that facilitates police co-operation across borders.

When he was appointed to the top post, human rights groups expressed concern that China would used Interpol as a tool to rein in political enemies around the world.

Instead, [he was captured by the same security forces he represented](https://www.news.com.au/world/europe/interpol-president-meng-hongwei-missing-after-trip-to-china/news-story/d1fb4add058fe6e1897ea56a16ffd32f).

In September, Meng became the latest high-ranking official caught in Xi’s banner anti-corruption campaign. The initiative is a major reason for the Chinese leader’s broad popularity, but he has been accused of using it to eliminate political rivals.

XI pledged to confront both high-level “tigers” and low-level “flies” in his crackdown on graft — a promise he has fulfilled by ensnaring prominent officials.

Meng was missing for weeks, before Chinese authorities said he was being investigated for taking bribes and other crimes. A Chinese delegation delivered a resignation letter from Meng to Interpol headquarters.

His wife Grace Meng told the AP that she does not believe the charges against her husband. The last message he sent her was an emoji of a knife.

**DARING PHOTOGRAPHER**

Lu Guang made his mark photographing the everyday lives of HIV patients in central China. They were poor villagers who had contracted the virus after selling their own blood to eke out a living — at a going rate of $7 a pint, they told Lu.

A former factory worker, Lu traversed China’s vast reaches to capture reality at its margins. He explored environmental degradation, industrial pollution and other gritty topics generally avoided by Chinese journalists, who risk punishment if they pursue stories considered to be sensitive or overly critical.

His work won him major accolades such as the World Press Photo prize, but his prominence likely also put him on the government’s radar.

This November, Lu was travelling through Xinjiang, the far west region that has deployed a vast security network in the name of fighting terrorism. He was participating in an exchange with other photographers, after which he was to meet a friend in nearby Sichuan province. He never showed up.

More than a month after he disappeared, his family was notified that he had been arrested in Xinjiang, according to his wife Xu Xiaoli. She declined to elaborate on the nature of the charges.

**STUDENT MARXIST**

In the past, the political activists jailed in China were primarily those who fought for democracy and an end to one-party rule. They posed a direct ideological threat to the Communist Party.

This year, the party locked in on a surprising new target: young Marxists.

About 50 students and recent graduates of the country’s most prestigious universities convened in August in Shenzhen, an electronics manufacturing hub, to rally for factory workers attempting to form a union.

Among them was Yue Xin, a 20-something fresh out of Peking University. Earlier this year, she made headlines by calling for the elite school to release the results of its investigation into a decades-old rape case.

This time, she was one of the most vocal leaders of the labour rights group, appearing in photographs with her fist up in a Marxist salute and wearing a T-shirt that said “Unity is strength” — the name of a patriotic Chinese communist song.

Yue, a passionate student of Marx and Mao Zedong, espoused the same values as the party. She wrote an open letter to XI and the party’s central leadership saying all the students wanted was justice for Jasic Technology labourers.

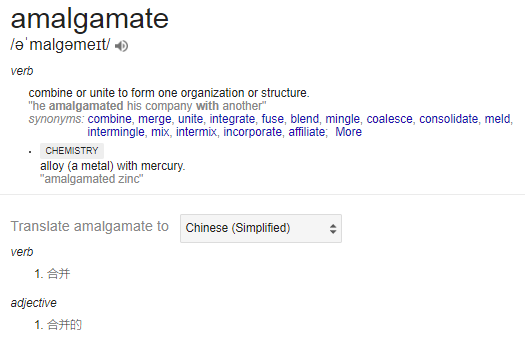
Her letter quoted Xi’s own remarks: “We must adhere to the guiding position of Marxism.” Yue called Marx “our mentor” and likened the ideas of him and Mao to spiritual sustenance.

Nonetheless, she ended up among those rounded up in a raid on the apartment the activists were staying at in Shenzhen. While most have been released, Yue remains unaccounted for. She has been missing for four months.

*- Associated Press writer Rob Gillies in Toronto contributed to this report.*

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14/1/2019



Splendid, magnificent, exquisite, marvellous, extraordinary, unbelievable,sublime/superb,remarkable,exceptional, outstanding

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<https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/world-economy/brexit-vote-house-of-commons-to-decide-on-theresa-mays-eu-divorce-plan/news-story/1cd1272cc59be825316d2b849c70d577>

Some good words:

The result was greeted by loud cheering in the British House of Commons and has set the scene for even more political upheaval in the days ahead - including a confidence motion tomorrow that could bring down her minority government.

Mrs May will fight for her political life in parliament tomorrow, as EU leaders wasted no time in warning “time is running out” and taunting MPs about who would have the “courage” to find a solution.

Speaking moments after the vote result was announced, Mrs May said it was clear Parliament did not support her bill - but it equally didn’t show [how Brexit should be managed](https://www.news.com.au/finance/work/leaders/britain-watches-in-horror-as-brexit-drama-takes-dangerous-turn/news-story/544f46ed8c328bfe623f86be238110a5).

“It is clear that the House does not support this deal, but tonight’s vote tells us nothing about what it does support.”

432 MPs voted against the deal, with only 202 backing the deal - but in a sign she has no plans to resign, Mrs May said she had every intention of honouring the will of the people and deliver Brexit.

That indicated she also planned to bring another deal back to parliament, assuming she wins the confidence vote tomorrow.

She said if her government survived the confidence vote she would attempt to break the impasse by meeting with Mps and party leaders from across the House to try and strike a deal.

She would then take it back to Brussels and EU leaders for a final renegotiation.

European Union leaders urged Britain to decide quickly how it will avoid a “no deal Brexit”.

“I urge the United Kingdom to clarify its intentions as soon as possible. Time is almost up,” warned Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Commission, adding that Brussels would step up contingency planning.

“If a deal is impossible, and no one wants no deal, then who will finally have the courage to say what the only positive solution is?” Tusk tweeted.

“The Withdrawal Agreement is a fair compromise and the best possible deal. It reduces the damage caused by Brexit for citizens and businesses across Europe. It is the only way to ensure an orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union,” Juncker added.

“The risk of a disorderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom has increased with this evening’s vote. While we do not want this to happen, the European Commission will continue its contingency work to help ensure the EU is fully prepared

“The responsibility of each and every one of us at this moment is profound, for this is a historic decision that will set the future of our country for generations,” she said to loud cheers and jeers.

She added: “This is the most significant vote any of us will take part of in any of our political careers after all the debate, disagreements,division...the time has come for all of us in the House to make a decision that would define our country for decades to come.”

She rejected extending Article 50, the trigger for the UK’s departure from the EU on March 29.

“The Government will work harder at taking Parliament with us. As we move to the next stage of negotiations we will be working harder with Parliament.

“A vote against this deal is a vote for nothing more than uncertainty, division and the very real risk of No Deal or no Brexit at all,” she said.

“It doesn’t have to be that way - tonight we can choose certainty over uncertainty, we can choose unity over division, we can choose to deliver on our promise to the British people and endanger trust in politics for a generation.”

Ms May and senior ministers in her minority government know the divorce deal she has negotiated with the European Union won’t be approved by the House of Commons. With time running out for any credible alternative, and parliament so badly divided that no option can seemingly muster a majority, Britain faces uncertain times. Will the country leave the EU on March 29? On what terms? And what will the consequences be? Will the PM or her government survive?

MPs will vote on whether they accept the deal of the so-called divorce which marks their departure from the EU. It makes provision for the rights of each other’s citizens, and most importantly allows for a transition period until December 2020 where things essentially stay the same.

That is to ensure there is a period of stability immediately after Brexit day which would allow the UK and EU to thrash out a trade deal and decide the details of their future relationship, which also includes movement between the two and security issues.

It includes the so-called backstop that will come into play if a new partnership is not signed and delivered by December 2020. It is controversial because it locks the UK, which includes Northern Ireland, into a customs union with the EU. That would allow frictionless trade between the UK and EU, and avoid a hard border with the Republic of Ireland, but it would prevent the UK striking new trade deals of its own.

An under-pressure Ms May warned the only alternatives to her agreement were a damaging, chaotic “no-deal” exit from the EU or a halt to Britain’s departure that would overturn what British voters decided in 2016.

18/1/2019

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/kmart-target-myer-performance-of-big-name-department-stores-in-the-spotlight/news-story/f702a9a493e23f2c3755cef35a0cf925>

# Kmart, Target, Myer: Performance of big name department stores in the spotlight

**It’s been adored by customers and loved by shareholders but Kmart is one of a number of big-name retailers that are starting to look decidedly shaky.**

It is the definitive example of a retail turnaround. The ugly duckling of Australian shopping that became the golden goose; adored by customers for its natty Nordic homewares and cheap jocks, and by shareholders for its ever-fattening profit margins.

But is Kmart losing its lustre?

Last year, the discounter booked profits of $470 million on sales growth of 5.4 per cent. However, in a trading update earlier this week, Kmart’s owner Wesfarmers said that sales had slipped by 0.6 per cent. Hardly huge, but a worrying wobble nonetheless.

A retail analyst has said: “Kmart’s streak of like for like sales growth outperformance in discount department stores has likely come to an end.”

Even Kmart’s own boss has admitted to in store hiccups in 2018 including a women’s wear range that failed to inspire and taking the pedal off price cuts.

Rob Scott, managing director of Wesfarmers that owns both Kmart and Target, said there was “more work to do” on the brand.

“Kmart is in a period of transition and the team are working through improving productivity and efficiency to support its next phase of growth”.

It’s not the only department store under pressure as Australians throttle back on spending.

On Thursday, corporate restructuring specialist James Stewart from turnaround firm Ferrier Hodgson said foot traffic at shopping centres had plummeted in the run-up to Christmas. He told [*The Australian*](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/)the retail market was the “worst in 20 years” with the number of shoppers down 15 per cent year-on-year in the week before Christmas.

Already this year [menswear chain Ed Harry has entered administration](https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/ed-harry-menswear-has-become-the-latest-victim-of-the-struggling-retail-sector/news-story/c316b3d411c2532034c320ae1a14c1ba) while Kathmandu has revealed it had a dire Christmas period.

Retail spending in Australia rose by a paltry 0.2 per cent in November from the month before.

The [Westpac-Melbourne Institute](https://www.westpac.com.au/content/dam/public/wbc/documents/pdf/aw/economics-research/er20181212BullConsumerSentiment.pdf)consumer sentiment index rose by just 0.1 per cent in December. The authors seemed surprised that it had gone up by that much noting: “With falling house prices in Sydney and Melbourne, falling share markets, ongoing concerns around global trade wars and political uncertainty, it is reasonable to question why consumer sentiment has held up so well.”

There are tentative signs Big W and Target could be getting back into their stride. But don’t be surprised if in 2019 some well-known department stores on the Australian main street struggle.

**IS KMART’S GOLDEN RUN OVER?**

Wesfarmers’ revelation that sales at Kmart has dropped by 0.6 per cent in the 2019 first half came as a shock.

With Wesfarmers’ sale of Coles last November, the success of Kmart is even more critical to the ongoing health of its parent’s bottom line.

The sales slowdown comes at a concerning time for Kmart. CEO Guy Russo, who was widely credited with turning around the chain by stripping out brands and cutting prices, retired in November.

One theory is Woolworths’ Big W has got a whole lot sharper in pricing and range with full year sales up 0.7 per cent.

Citi retail analyst Craig Woolford said in a note analysing Christmas trading that Kmart could begin to stutter: “After four strong years of outperformance, Kmart sales productivity appears to be stabilising at a high level.

“Kmart’s streak of like-for-like sales growth outperformance in discount department stores has likely come to an end, with Big W and potentially Target outperforming it in the second quarter of 2019.”

Wesfarmers’s Mr Scott said fewer price cuts and its ranging were behind what he described as a “slowing in momentum” at Kmart.

“In the prior corresponding period Kmart lowered prices significantly and achieved very strong volume growth. In total last year we sold over one billion units across the entire Kmart range. That placed a lot of pressure on stores and the supply chain.

“This year the Kmart team continued to drop prices but not to the same extent. They tried to get the balance right but didn’t get the same volume growth.”

Mr Scott said in the crucial womenswear category, Kmart needed “to make sure that we have products that are resonating strongly with customers.” But the homeware category — all those Nordic nik-naks — was doing well.

“We have more work to do to improve our efficiencies and the flow of stock, to manage the sheer volume of product we are selling. When we get our offer right, we generate good sales.”

Mr Scott declined to comment on a controversial decision that has ruffled some customers’ feathers — the moving of the [check-outs from the front to a bank in the middle of the store.](https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/kmarts-new-store-layout-is-driving-people-crazy/news-story/2a9a597b563ae3c948c7c3505d57e5f6)

[He’ll be hoping something as seemingly simple as that doesn’t send people elsewhere.](https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/kmarts-new-store-layout-is-driving-people-crazy/news-story/2a9a597b563ae3c948c7c3505d57e5f6)

**CAN TARGET TURN AROUND?**

For some time, Wesfarmers’ other department store chain Target has been the firm’s sickly child.

Its traditional market has been under siege from Kmart’s low prices and H&M and Zara snaffling away style-conscious customers.

Last year, Target booked a $306 million “impairment charge” as sales sank. [Speculation was rife its store network would be slashed or merged into Kmart and the Target name consigned to history.](https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/a-tale-of-two-retailers-target-stores-could-be-converted-into-kmart-following-profit-crash/news-story/5192e281d208cc143e963dd1dc67c7b4)

But something has changed. Wesfarmers said this week comparable sales at Target increased by 0.5 per cent. It’s a modest rise but it’s given the brand a lifeline.

Mr Scott was upbeat: “There has been an improvement in Target, off a low base, but we are pleased with the ongoing improvement we are seeing.”

Many an analyst has questioned the logic of Wesfarmers owning brands that are effectively in competition with one another. Mr Scott doesn’t see it that way.

“We see both Kmart and Target as having distinct offers to customers — Kmart will always focus on maintaining price leadership, delivering better products at even lower prices, and Target is focused on delivering amazing fashion and quality.

“We believe there’s a lot of market share we can access without fighting against each other. Some of our best performance Kmart stores are along strong performing Target stores in the same centre.”

Still, if Target can’t sustain its growth, questions on its future will remain.

**MYER VS DJs: WHO WILL PROSPER?**

It’s been six months since John King took up residence in Myer’s Melbourne HQ. He has a huge task ahead of him with Myer reporting a whopping loss of $476 million just before he signed on the dotted line. Last year sales declined 3.2 per cent.

“Myer is always in sales decline. It has been for the last 10 years as overseas retailers like Uniqlo, Sephora and Amazon take away from the heartland of department stores,” Retail consultant Brian Walker, of the Retail Doctor group, told news.com.au.

Stuck between David Jones and discounters, Myer had struggled to provide a clear reason for people to head in store, he said.

“The only real path is for Myer to downsize, grow online, sell exclusive brands and keep building loyalty,” he said.

That’s exactly what it was doing, said Myer which pointed news.com.au to comments Mr King made at the company’s annual general meeting in November where he said the customer was now the chain’s “absolute focus”.

However Mr Walker said there was a bigger problem — long running and expensive leases on less than spectacular stores that were difficult to wriggle out of.

Mr King said Myer was meeting with landlords and was looking at “right sizing”, read downsizing, some of its stores.

“It’s a floor here and floor there. Typically with three floors we fill it with stock but we can get the same level of space out of two (floors).”

He didn’t rule out store closures but insisted 60 out of 62 stores were profitable and they had a plan for each branch: “What we do is Townsville is different to what we do in Chadstone”.

David Jones was in a better position, Mr Walker said. The company had a clearer demographic and was experimenting with smaller format stores that cost less.

But crucially DJ’s was turning its stores into destinations in themselves. Its flagship Sydney CBD store now boasts a “shoe heaven” floor that will soon include a Champagne bar overlooking the Manolo Blahniks.

“Physical retail will change in terms of less shops but much more experience and interaction around them and that what retailers are toying with,” he said.

But even DJs has found Christmas a struggle, revealing on Thursday that sales growth had slowed during the festive period.

“Can Australia support both Myer and David Jones? The answer is no and we don’t rule out an acquisition of Myer.”

[***benedict.brook@news.com.au***](mailto:benedict.brook@news.com.au)

<https://www.news.com.au/sport/tennis/australian-open/australia-reacts-to-lleyton-hewitts-bombshell-response-to-bernard-tomic/news-story/70ba998e6cbacb8222de2221518f3980>

Lleyton Hewitt went just as hard at Bernard Tomic as the controversial star went at him in two press conferences that have rocked the Australian Open.

And not everyone is happy about it — including Tomic.

Hewitt had been backed into a corner by the world number 88 when [he levelled serious accusations of bias and misconduct at the Davis Cup captain](https://www.news.com.au/sport/tennis/australian-open/bernard-tomic-unleashes-bitter-spray-at-australian-davis-cup-captain-lleyton-hewitt/news-story/f507e44ea021cc3659d1cd7e586ef6d1) after bowing out of the opening grand slam of the year in the first round.

Hewitt, 37, faced calls from the tennis media to respond — and after an underwhelming interview with host broadcaster Channel 9 — finally fronted the press pack, albeit after being eliminated from the doubles competition on Thursday.

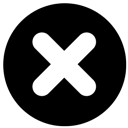
Seated beside playing partner John-Patrick Smith, Hewitt savagely returned serve at Tomic, revealing the personal abuse he’d experienced at the hands of the Queenslander, [which included allegations of physical threats and blackmail](https://www.news.com.au/sport/tennis/australian-open/lleyton-hewitt-has-revealed-threats-were-made-by-bernard-tomic-to-him-and-his-family/news-story/27e34e6d66231d8c4af857c7784b287a).

In a tit-for-tat that shows no sign of slowing, Tomic has returned serve. “I have never threatened his family,” Tomic told the [Herald Sun](https://www.heraldsun.com.au/).

“Nice, Lleyton. To think how low of a person you actually and (it’s) why the Australian public never liked you.

“I got nothing to do with your family and I don’t care what’s wrong with you, you liar.”

Hewitt’s claims, which also included alleged threats against his family, including wife Bec, dominated the headlines on a day the number of Australians who qualified for the third round grew to five with upset wins by wildcards Alex Bolt and Alexei Popyrin.



–– ADVERTISEMENT ––

And not everyone was happy at Hewitt’s spotlight-stealing interview, including his former coach Roger Rasheed.

“I wouldn’t have said a word,” Rasheed told SEN SA on Friday morning.

“I don’t like it when that is aired. Lleyton didn’t need to. What he’s done speaks for itself.

“He’s the Davis Cup captain so he can decide to lead the team and the culture you want in the team, that’s your prerogative.

“We want that stuff to be played out behind closed doors. and I think now there would need to be an investigation around it.

“I’m sure Tennis Australia and the management would want to lock this away, do their due diligence and try and move forward. They’ve (TA) got some really good stories on the tennis court and that’s what we should be celebrating.”

**CHANNEL 9 STAR’S FURIOUS RANT**

Channel 9 broadcaster Tony Jones also delivered a frustrated rant on Today, which was mainly directed at Tomic for creating the firestorm but also didn’t miss Hewitt.

“I can’t believe we are sitting here on a morning when we should be celebrating the fact that five Aussies are through to the third round and talking about things like that,” Jones said.

“To me, it is very, very sad when you have people like Rod Laver, who the main stadium is named after sitting court side most days, you have got ornaments like Evonne Goolagong-Cawley, who was just class personified when she played, and yet we have this wave of tennis players who are fortunately on the way out.

“I am not having a go at Lleyton Hewitt per se, by the way, I am having a go at the Bernard Tomics of this world. Bernard, pack your bags and go away. Really, you are a blot on the Australian sporting landscape and the more this is played out, the more Tennis Australia needs to intervene and say, ‘Enough is enough’.

“I know we (Channel 9) are a corporate partner, (but) Tennis Australia is sitting on its hands and it needs to do something now. Like today.”

“You call them together and say, ‘Enough is enough’,” Jones added. “They’ve got to call them in and say ‘enough is enough, Lleyton, don’t do that’.

“In a way Tennis Australia is its own worst enemy for allowing Bernard Tomic to get away with what he got away with early in the piece. They should have cracked down on it instead of being a toothless tiger and cowtailing it.

“I know Tennis Australia won’t like that. Nor will some of my bosses, but the simple fact is they have to do something so we don’t have the De Minaurs of this world and the Bolts of this world becoming the petulant brats some of these others have become.”

Tomic, a Wimbledon quarterfinalist in 2011, followed his first-round loss at the Australian Open by saying Hewitt should quit as Davis Cup captain because he favours certain players and is unpopular with others.

Hewitt, a two-time major winner, said their conflict originated more than a year ago with disagreements over whether he should grant Tomic wildcard invitations for tournaments.

Hewitt said he won’t allow Tomic to represent Australia in the Davis Cup “while I have anything to do with it.”

“For me, it was probably the abuse that I caught from him that, yeah, in the end I drew a line in the sand,” Hewitt said, adding that there was little chance of reconciliation.

“No. No. I think the threats that I’ve received, for me and my family ... I don’t think anyone would reach out to a person that speaks like that.”

Hewitt didn’t go into specifics about the alleged threats, except to say it revolved around wildcards and Davis Cup selection and that he didn’t feel personally threatened.

Asked if the threats were physical or verbal, Hewitt said it was both. Asked if he felt the threats were empty, Hewitt replies “Yes.”

Hewitt won the US Open in 2001, Wimbledon in 2002 and helped Australia win Davis Cup titles in 1999 and 2003. He became Davis Cup captain in 2016, soon after retiring from singles.

He said he’d tried to establish “cultural standards” for players representing Australia, and Tomic “hasn’t really been close to those in the last couple of years.”

“The biggest frustration is I feel like I really went out of my way to help Bernie ... spent a lot of time with him one-on-one at a lot of tournaments,” Hewitt said. “Tried to get a coaching structure around him to give him the best opportunity. He still kept making the wrong mistakes.”

The current friction in Australian men’s tennis contrasts with the gentility of past stars like Rod Laver and Ken Rosewall and more recently, the likes of Pat Rafter overruling line calls and giving points to his opponents long before video replays existed.

Australian men’s tennis is now marked by social media rants and embarrassing on-court comments. And, to make matters worse, few decent results from the senior players.

Former Australian star Jelena Dokic also weighed in on the matter when appearing on Nine’s *Today Show*and felt that it is time for Tomic to go and focus on his own game rather than worry about other issues.

“To hear that is pretty horrible,” Dokic said of the allegations made by Hewitt.

“It’s not the way you want to go about things, so absolutely something needs to be done.

“It’s just hard to be hearing all these things when for the first time in 15 years we’ve got five Aussies in the third round, which is incredible.

“It’s being a little bit overshadowed by this. With Bernie, you know, things have been coming out for a while.

“Look, he’s 26 now, I think he needs to turn his focus onto his tennis, and needs to go out, needs to work hard, and try and win some matches — that’s where his focus needs to be.”

— with AP

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1. <https://www.news.com.au/sport/tennis/australian-open/world-reacts-to-amazing-australian-open-womens-final/news-story/277c94e0b715d2902f27c00554416a46>

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## [australian open](https://www.news.com.au/sport/tennis/australian-open)

# World reacts to amazing Australian Open women’s final

**There was pure pandemonium in the women’s singles final at the Australian Open when World No. 1 Naomi Osaka reached breaking point.**

The 2019 Australian Open women’s singles final was simply epic.

Insane skills under fire. Crazy winners at the death. A rollercoaster of high drama. It had it all.

Naomi Osaka’s second set meltdown had the tennis world fearing a complete mental breakdown for the 21-year-old when she walked off court crying, hiding her head under a towel.

Instead, it was simply the turning point in one of the most unforgettable finals tennis has seen.

After failing to serve out the match in the second set and missing three match point chances, Osaka had to do it the hard way in the third set, finally securing her second consecutive grand slam crown 7-6 5-7 6-5 in two hours and 27 minutes.

Here’s how the world reacted to the outrageous contest.

**OSAKA’S HEROIC FIGHTBACK AFTER MELTDOWN MADNESS**

It was her youth that brought her to the brink, and her increasing tennis maturity that pulled herself back.

“These moments are all about character tests,” tennis legend Jim Courier said.

“Kvitova has already passed the biggest character test ... coming back from what she suffered from — a home invasion, the near loss of her professional career. Osaka, it is difficult to compare and I don’t really want to but her first grand slam win was easy, relatively speaking for her.

“But the fact that she has been in a winning position and got herself back into a third set. We are going to learn a lot about the character of Naomi Osaka, a different type of challenge for her.”

*New York Times*tennis expert Ben Rothenberg suggested midway through the match the controversy Osaka had been forced to deal with at Flushing Meadows last year — when Williams exploded and accused the umpire of bias, ruining Osaka’s biggest career achievement to date — had actually hardened her to withstand moments of adversity like she eventually overcame on Rod Laver Arena.

**CRAZY, CRAZY SCENES’**

The tennis world was left in awe of Naomi Osaka on Saturday night, but their greatest source of bewilderment was the moment she almost blew it in the second set.

**WHAT KVITOVA HAD TO SAY**

Kvitova showed more emotion in defeat than Naomi Osaka did in victory — none of it was negative.

The Czech star was all class even as tears appeared in her eyes when thanking the team that has stuck with her in her comeback from two years ago.

“It’s crazy. I can hardly believe that I just played in a Grand Slam (final) again,” she said after making a slam final for the first time since 2015.

“It was a great final. Well done to Naomi Osaka. To your team as well. You really played well and you deserve to be number one as well.

“To my team, thank you for everything. But mostly, thank you for sticking with me even when we didn’t know if I would able to hold a racquet again. Every single day you have been supporting me and staying positive for me, which I really needed. It probably was not easy, so thank you.”

**WHAT OSAKA HAD TO SAY**

Osaka was composed in victory, showing more anxiety than emotion when stepping up to the microphone on Rod Laver Arena with the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup in her hands.

There was speculation Osaka couldn’t let herself enjoy the moment, still kicking herself that she almost let the match slip through her fingers in her second set meltdown.

“Sorry, public speaking isn’t really my strong side,” she said.

“So I just hope that I can get through this. Huge congrats to you Petra. I’ve always wanted to play you and you have been through so much. Honestly, I wouldn’t have wanted this to be our first match.

“Huge congrats to you and your team and you are really amazing and I am really honoured to have played you in the final of a grand slam.”

Osaka also praised her team, saying: “I really don’t think that I would have made it through this week without you guys. Behind a tennis player is always a team and I am really grateful, so thank you guys.

“I read notes before this but I still forgot the rest of what I am supposed to say. Just thank you everyone and I am really honoured to have played in this final.”

**HISTORY CREATED BY EPIC WIN**

Osaka’s emotional win has broken a series of records and re-written some of the history books.

Osaka’s win means she is now the World No. 1 player — the first Asian player (man or woman) to ever reach the rankings summit.

She has also become the youngest World No. 1 since Caroline Wozniacki in 2010 to be recognised as the best player in the world.

The win also means Osaka is the first player since Jennifer Capriati in 2001 to win back-to-back slam titles after debuting as a major champion.

2. <https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/nike-plans-to-pack-up-and-move-almost-all-concessional-stores-out-of-myer/news-story/663ec8febc9ca9dac8e53d6f87a3a836>

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<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/other-industries/expert-reveals-where-it-all-went-wrong-for-celebrity-chef-jamie-oliver/news-story/34ba7db90c12c01fbe704f820f432591>

# Expert reveals where it all went wrong for celebrity chef Jamie Oliver

**For years, viewers couldn’t get enough of the cheeky, down-to-earth megastar. But today, Jamie Oliver’s once-booming empire is crumbling.**

When Jamie Oliver first landed on our TV screens back in 1999, he soon won over millions of fans thanks to his delicious recipes and cheeky, boyish charm.

Countless television appearances and cooking programs quickly followed his original series, *The Naked Chef*, along with cookbooks, advertising deals, charity campaigns and even his own chain of restaurants.

But today, a string of controversies coupled with [multimillion-dollar losses](https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/food/jamie-olivers-restaurant-business-racks-up-125m-in-debt/news-story/bce1141e3d8816c408952ab65914b206)has meant the shine has well and truly started to come off the 43-year-old Brit.

[**• Aussie sportswear icon faces bankruptcy**](https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/australian-sportswear-manufacturer-applies-for-bankruptcy/news-story/41fe674f0633794bccf561b5653453b4)

[**• Vogue’s embarrassing photo fail**](https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/media/woman-left-heartbroken-and-devastated-by-magazines-mistake/news-story/db828a2f28970fd38ceda7eb81d305b0)

[**• Sinister truth behind Fortnite craze**](https://www.news.com.au/finance/money/wealth/explosive-report-reveals-video-games-money-laundering-links/news-story/751f264a136b619e3c17877caadf8177)

So how did it all go so wrong for one of the world’s best-loved celebrity chefs?

According to Aussie public relations expert [Catriona Pollard](https://cpcommunications.com.au/), Oliver’s downfall was caused by a series of classic PR blunders including overexposure, a disconnect between his actions and his personal brand and a failure to address a number of controversies head-on.

**RESTAURANTS GO BUST**

Over the years, the father-of-five built a restaurant empire under the Jamie Oliver Restaurant Group, starting with the launch of Jamie’s Italian in 2008, followed by the Recipease cooking school and deli chain in 2009 and barbecue chain Barbecoa in 2011.

But in September 2017, Oliver was forced to inject $22.7 million of his own cash into Jamie’s Italian to [save it from collapsing](https://www.news.com.au/entertainment/celebrity-life/jamie-oliver-says-he-has-no-more-money-to-shore-up-struggling-restaurants/news-story/ae1b22ffe1cf50613b4b0166c1af8ef1).

All Recipease outlets were closed by late 2015 and last February Barbecoa Ltd went into administration.

Ms Pollard said one possible reason behind those failures was the mismatch between Oliver’s “average Joe” identity and the up-market feel of his eateries.

You can buy one of his books for $20, or watch his TV show for free. But a lot of his restaurants sold expensive meals … which didn’t really stack up for people,” she told [news.com.au](http://news.com.au/).

She said there was also a divide between Oliver’s relatable image and his [staggering fortune](https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/food/restaurants-bars/jamie-oliver-opens-up-about-the-moment-he-discovered-his-business-empire-was-collapsing/news-story/ba54df7cf46691f55cd45c59e676b366), estimated to be around $441 million.

“His personal brand is very much the ‘everyday lad’, but that doesn’t convert to a businessman who is so wealthy. There’s a disconnect between his everyday persona and his wealth,” she said.

Ms Pollard said it had also been a mistake to link his name so closely to his restaurants, as their failure was now inextricably linked to his personal reputation.

**SHELL AND OTHER SCANDALS**

Last year Oliver was accused of hypocrisy after signing a lucrative, $9.1 million deal with oil giant Shell to revamp its service station food offering.

But as Oliver had long been a supporter of climate change action, many considered a partnership with an oil company to be a serious betrayal.

Ms Pollard said Oliver’s decision to ignore the growing furore added another blow to his reputation.

“Jamie Oliver has a very distinct personal brand linked to very distinctive values. He’s so outspoken when it comes to things like healthy eating and the environmental impacts of climate change, which is great, but … the deal with Shell was seen as negatively straying from that very distinct brand,” she said.

“It gave people fodder and they started to change their opinions of him. That backlash was caused because people thought he wasn’t behaving the way they thought he should.

He also didn’t do any interviews about it, which may have caused people to think he was hiding something. People wanted information about (the deal), and instead he didn’t say publicly what was going on.”

Oliver also made headlines recently after revealing he had offered to cater for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s wedding, only to have that offer [snubbed by the royals](https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/snubbed-by-meghan-and-harry-and-167m-down-the-pan-how-it-all-went-wrong-for-jamie-oliver/news-story/e6dfda60b4ccd81cfe5ab65cb989e05c).

But Ms Pollard said it was a mistake to have gone public at all.

“He absolutely should have kept quiet at a time when people were already questioning his reputation — it was not a very sensible thing to do, to say he was snubbed by one of the most watched marriages in recent history,” she said.

“It made people think (the royals) didn’t want to be associated with him, which was a misstep.”

She said other public scandals — such as a nasty spat with fellow celebrity chef [Gordon Ramsay](https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/food/restaurants-bars/gordon-ramsay-blasts-jamie-oliver-over-comment-about-his-family-demands-apology/news-story/2655453a64104c7d1e21b3ff6afbc998) — had also damaged Oliver’s brand. 

**AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE**

Ms Pollard said those incidents coupled with general overexposure showed Oliver may have grown “blasé” about his personal brand — but she said it wasn’t too late to turn things around.

According to Ms Pollard, Oliver must now return to the fundamentals of why he was so popular in the first place — and be careful to avoid any more scandals in future.

“He needs to take a step back and not try to be something to everybody,” she said.

He needs to look at all his ventures and make sure his branding is consistent across all of them, and not make any more decisions based purely on money, such as the Shell deal.

“He’s absolutely not down and out — but he needs to think twice before saying something in future … and look back at what made him great in the first place, and make sure he stays aligned to those values people were attracted to.”

*Continue the conversation*[*@carey\_alexis*](https://twitter.com/carey_alexis) *|*[*alexis.carey@news.com.au*](mailto:alexis.carey@news.com.au)

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Inextricably

 is an adverb that means in a manner that is impossible to unravel or separate from something else. It usually modifies words like "linked" and "tied." To most Americans, Thanksgiving and turkey are *inextricably*linked.

*Inextricably* is the adverb form of the adjective *inextricable*, which comes from the Latin word *inextricabilis*, meaning "cannot be disentangled." In your mind, summer and the beach are inextricably tied together because you've spent your vacation at the shore for as long as you can remember. Circumstances might inextricably link you and your neighbor when you're trapped in an elevator together for the longest nine hours of your life.

Extricate

If you need to be untangled, set free or otherwise released from something or someone, you need to be extricated.

*Extricate* is a mixture of the prefix *ex*, which means "out" or "out of," and the Latin word *tricae*, which means "hindrances." So to extricate is to get out of what's hindering you. But it's not always so simple. You just try and extricate yourself from the loving death grip of a grandma who hasn't seen you in awhile!

Fodder

Fodder is cheap food, usually given to livestock animals like cows. If you gave a cow caviar or homemade scones, that would not be *fodder*. Try cornstalks.

*Fodder* is not just used to describe cattle feed. We use the word to talk about other kinds of feeding that don't involve actual food. A new celebrity marriage is fodder for gossip magazines. In war, the soldiers most likely to be killed, are called cannon fodder, from the times when armies used canons instead of drone aircraft dropping missiles.

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4/2/2019

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/banking/banking-royal-commission-final-report-to-be-released-what-will-it-mean-for-aussies/news-story/7f45f1e91033f5a47a438148618cb468>

# Banking Royal Commission final report to be released, what will it mean for Aussies?

**Bank greed and abuse revealed in the banking Royal Commission will finally be addressed today as the final report is released.**

Aussies knew our banks were imperfect. But over the last year, we have become ever more horrified at the sheer scale of the bad behaviour revealed by the banking Royal Commission.

Our financial sector has been ripping off all kinds of people — even the dead — and fattening their bottom lines on the proceeds.

Banks make huge profits from Australians and are an enormous part of Australia’s economy. They hold our life savings. Our superannuation depends on them. And let’s not forget — they also own a big chunk of most Australian’s homes. The financial sector — banks insurance, super funds and the rest — must be above reproach. It is absolutely essential we can have faith in them.

With the Royal Commission’s final report due to be released today, the big question is this: What will it take to restore Australians’ trust?

The banks’ litany of appalling behaviour is long. Here’s just a glimpse:

• A former CEO of Commonwealth bank allegedly told a staff member to “temper your sense of justice.” That staff member was complaining about selling insurance to people who would be unable to ever make claims.

• Customers were charged for life insurance even after they were dead.

• There have been allegations of criminal behaviour at multiple financial firms including several of our large banks.

• Companies lied to the regulators that were supposed to police them.

The work that needs to be done to restore trust is substantial. It will take years. But there are promising signs it could be about to begin.

**WHAT WILL ACTUALLY CHANGE**

The Royal Commission doesn’t make law. It just makes recommendations. The law-making has to happen in parliament.

Will this whole thing go nowhere or will we get real change? Much will depend on new Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and how he decides to respond. Frydenberg — who ascended into the Treasurer’s office when Scott Morrison became PM — hasn’t even handed down a Budget yet. This will be his opportunity to make a mark as top economic minister.

The banking industry’s lobby group will be whispering in his ear. Australia needs the Treasurer to have the guts to do what’s right.

Does he have the guts? We will soon find out.

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12/2/2019

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/work/careers/what-should-you-never-say-in-a-job-interview/news-story/b254c93175dcc5a2554d93c6edfb47f7>

## [careers](https://www.news.com.au/finance/work/careers)

# What should you never say in a job interview?

**A prominent career coach has revealed the five things employers hate hearing in a job interview — and number one might be controversial.**

**Dandan Zhu**



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As a headhunter, I’ve heard hiring managers complain about what they don’t like hearing when they’re interviewing a candidate.

This applies at all levels, for all types of roles and across all industries. Here are a few key phrases that [really turn employers off.](https://www.quora.com/What-words-should-you-never-say-when-being-interviewed-for-a-job/answer/Dandan-Zhu-2)

**1. WORK-LIFE BALANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT**

This would be fine to say for someone looking for service jobs, blue-collar roles or low-level white-collar (admin, office roles) jobs.

Essentially, jobs without career milestones, targets, a serious goal of upward mobility and career progression and don’t need highly-engaged staff who are long-term oriented.

For a waitressing job, I would just need to specify my hours/days I’d like to work, and that would be that. My employer couldn’t care less about what I do with my free time or my degree of commitment or focus on the job since it’s a highly substitutable, less-complicated job, where many people can do the role and there’s no shortage of workers or roles.

However, for individuals seeking to create a career and earn an employer’s long-term trust, especially in the corporate world, a big turn-off is letting your employer know you have already checked out before you even start the job.

For these roles, (1) the candidate competition is fierce, (2) the role demands and requirements are high and (3) the commitment level expected from the candidate is similarly aggressive.

For a global technology firm, for example, there are crucial deadlines and projects people need to adhere to, and that could change on a dime.

If someone is unwilling to be a team player, sacrifice their work-life balance during difficult

times with often almost impossible project deadlines, the whole business could suffer as a result. In these roles, someone who cares a lot about work-life balance will simply not match the business and job demands.

In roles like mine, sales and recruiting, we especially have to be career oriented. Work-life balance is second to client and business needs.

For the high incomes that come with white-collar roles and sales jobs like ours, we can’t ever shut off. When we are hiring for producers or any type of employee in our organisations, we run away from those who aren’t revenue-focused and are more lifestyle oriented.

**2. I’D RATHER DO SOMETHING ELSE**

Sometimes, employers will ask you what you envision your future to look like.

The fastest way to send an employer running is, in response to a question about long-term career goals, to discuss anything other than the career/job/role at hand. Don’t sell against the current role by saying you’d rather do something else.

For example, a candidate might answer they’d like to experiment, learn, and perhaps move into another job instead of progressing in the role they’re interviewing for. Or they might say they’d like to grow, develop, and become a leader in the role they’re interviewing for.

Who do you think is more likely to get hired?

**3. THE WORD ‘NO’**

This one is more about the mindset of the word ‘no’ rather than a mindset of ‘yes’.

Even if you *don’t* know how to do something or are not interested in something, an interviewer is looking for a candidate with a mindset that’s geared towards growth rather than limitations. Therefore, this issue is more attitude related.

If a candidate doesn’t know how to do something, they should still describe with their best effort how they’d adapt, learn how to do it, or have done something similar or transferable that will predict success in their new endeavour or opportunity.

The positive energy and potential that comes with a ‘yes’ mindset is also more attractive to most employers who are looking for candidates who embrace challenge rather than fear failure.

**4. TOO MUCH ‘WE’, NOT ENOUGH ‘I’**

In other words, focusing on team dependency rather than personal achievements.

Companies today are looking for autonomous, self-managing, and organised team players who ultimately can succeed in a team because of their individual capabilities.

Thus, while team orientation is important, employers want to hear about how you can succeed on your own and your own unique accomplishments.

Be careful — in an effort to seem humble, many candidates downplay their personal achievements and individual actions taken to reach success.

Instead of saying ‘I’, they rely too much on ‘we’ due to their discomfort related to self-promotion. Even if they are truly strong candidates, they end up selling themselves short.

Conversely, candidates who actually are objectively worse tend to oversell their capabilities and hog credit, which is why people sometimes have horrible colleagues and bosses in roles they don’t seem to deserve.

**5. INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE**

This includes unfriendly, derogatory, pessimistic, arrogant or abusive language. It goes without saying no employer wants to hire a lawsuit waiting to happen.

Jokes in poor taste about religion, race, gender, sexual orientation or anything that could be a sensitive topic to others, even if discussed offhandedly, will torpedo your chances of landing a job.

The solution is to find company cultures that fit your particular style. If you like to swear and make jokes freely, it’s easier to work in a sales culture than in a tight and regulated office environment. However, most company cultures will still be intolerant of egregious social boundary overstepping.

As a candidate, while you may have your own agenda you’re afraid to share, sometimes being too easy to read can hurt your chances of getting a job.

Understand where your employer is coming from and your interviewer’s vantage point. Then, formulate the right strategy to take in regarding your communication style and attitude.

Choose and pivot which pieces of your personality to highlight or downplay to put yourself in pole position to win.

**Dandan Zhu is chief executive and founder of Dandan Global Group**

*This article originally appeared on [Quora](https://www.quora.com/What-words-should-you-never-say-when-being-interviewed-for-a-job/answer/Dandan-Zhu-2) and was reproduced with permission*

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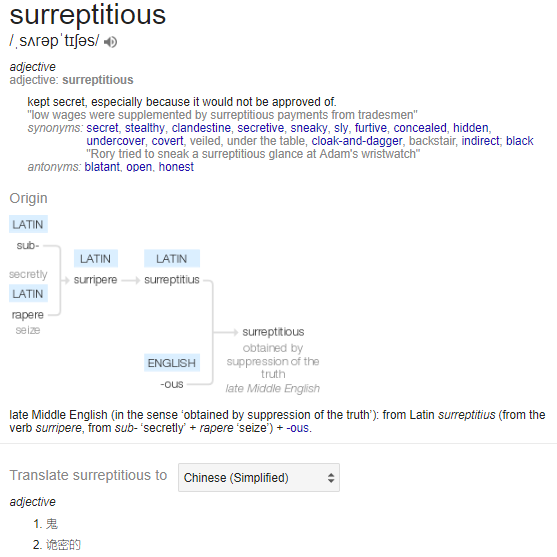
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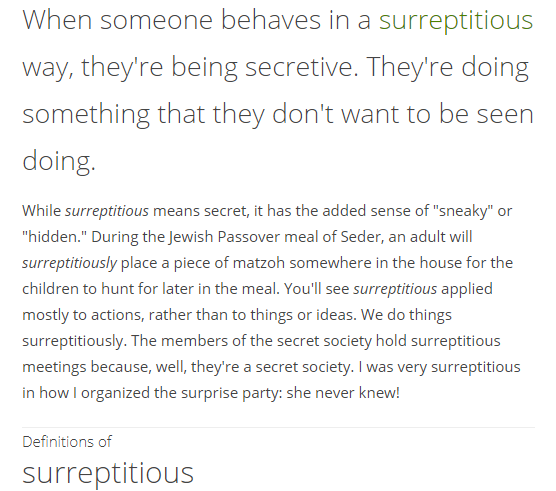
“We should not make unreasonable guesswork and randomly label other countries,” warned Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuan at a daily media briefing. “Irresponsible reporting, accusation, pressure and sanctions will only aggravate the tension and confrontation in cyberspace and poison the environment of co-operation.”

Hacking is becoming increasingly dangerous and hard to detect, as our reliance on technology develops and cyber attackers develop intricate new methods. While elections are a key target, hackers have also gone after nuclear plants and electrical grids. Foreign administrations can now spy on government or steal trade secrets, surreptitiously gathering powerful intelligence.

It is frightening both for our democratic processes and national decision-making but also for our individual safety.

It has become one of the best ways to attack without waging a military war — and the consequences can be even more devastating.





<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/woolworths-to-axe-1alitre-fresh-milk/news-story/3c7170e188ca85e0997577de1066527f>

Last week, Australia was shocked by images of thousands of dead cattle drowned by floods in northern Queensland.

Coles, Aldi and Woolworths have been under increasing pressure to raise the cost of fresh milk by the dairy industry that has long said $1 a litre is unsustainable and was sending farmers broke. However, Coles and Aldi have so far failed to respond to Woolies’ milk move.

In a statement released late yesterday, Coles said it would not be following suit and would instead explore “additional options...to best support Australia’s hardworking farmers”.

Woolworths acknowledged some customers would be dismayed by the price change.

“We’re acutely aware of the budgetary pressures facing many of our customers and have not taken this decision lightly,” Mr Banducci said.

“We believe it’s the right thing to do and a key step in shoring up fresh milk production in Australia. We’ll continue to work very hard to offer great value to our customers across their total shop.

Woolworths Group CEO Brad Banducci said times remained tough for farmers: “This is affecting milk production and farm viability, which is devastating for farmers and the regional communities in which they live. It’s clear something needs to change and we want to play a constructive role in making this happen.

“We believe the long term sustainability of our dairy industry — and the regional communities they help support — is incredibly important for Australia.”

Mr Banducci said the price hike would deliver higher milk prices to more than 450 Australian dairy farmers supplying Woolworths branded fresh milk.

“While we’re realistic this won’t solve broader structural issues, we hope it will help inject much needed confidence into the sector and the regional communities dairy farmers do so much to support,” he said.

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“We believe it’s the right thing to do and a key step in shoring up fresh milk production in Australia. We’ll continue to work very hard to offer great value to our customers across their total shop.

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<https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/australian-economy/let-the-bloodbath-begin-house-prices-in-sydney-and-melbourne-could-halve-in-worst-crash-since-1890s/news-story/5918ea13042d5f819cb13c77629f060a>

‘Let the bloodbath begin’: House prices in Sydney and Melbourne ‘could halve’ in worst crash since 1890s

**House prices could fall by more than 40 per cent in the “worst crash since the 1890s depression”, a new report warns. We’re now in stage two of the “bloodbath”.**

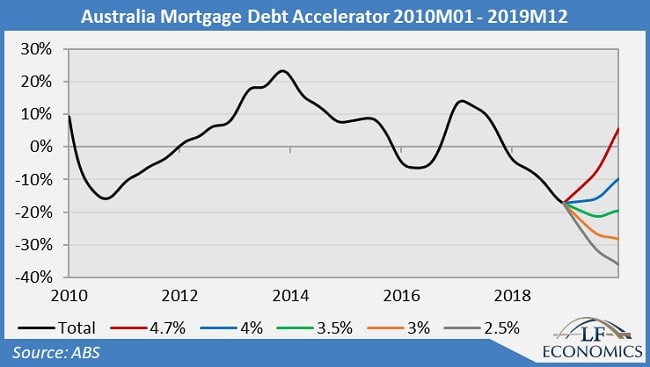
House prices in Sydney and Melbourne could fall by up to 25 per cent this year alone and “there’s a chance they could fall by half” in the coming “property bloodbath”, an economist has warned.

LF Economics founder Lindsay David, who has been warning of the looming property crash for the past five years, said in a report today the recent house price falls were just the beginning.

CoreLogic data for January showed Sydney and Melbourne prices were now 12.3 per cent and 8.7 per cent down from their respective peaks in July and November 2017, with Melbourne falling at [“the fastest rate ever seen”](https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/australian-economy/melbourne-house-prices-fall-at-fastest-quarterly-pace-on-record-as-sydney-enters-new-territory/news-story/e79281df6b5274a79793ad81941a7edb).

“We think there’s a chance property prices could fall by half in Sydney and Melbourne over the long run,” Mr David said. “I wouldn’t be surprised by falls of at least 40 per cent. When all hell breaks loose you’ve only got so many buyers out there.”

His base case of 20 per cent falls in calendar 2019 is significantly more bearish than other experts. AMP Capital is tipping total peak-to-trough falls of 25 per cent in Sydney and Melbourne, while UBS is tipping 25 per cent with a [“rising risk of 30 per cent”](https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/buying/value-of-sydney-and-melbourne-properties-tipped-to-fall-dramatically/news-story/a53b9afe8d0a3c46a60a144d8b62bea2).



Mr David bases his forecasts largely on the “debt accelerator”, which is strongly correlated with house price growth six months forward. Latest data indicates the debt accelerator is “falling sharply” in Sydney and Melbourne.

Growth in mortgage debt slowed from 6.3 per cent in December 2017 to 4.7 per cent in December 2018, with bank bosses tipping that number could fall to between 2 and 3 per cent in coming years.

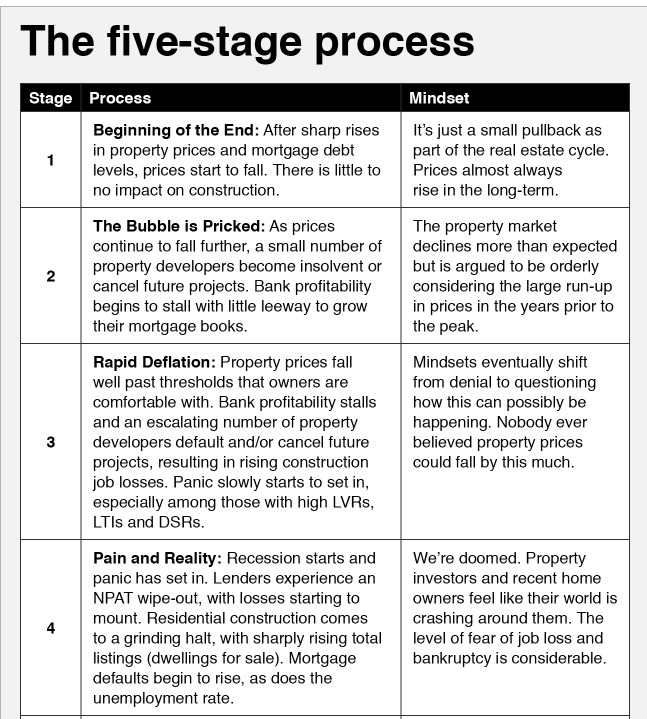
With a baseline of 3 per cent, the downturn in the debt accelerator “remains negative through to December 2019” at a minimum, suggesting prices could continue to fall through to June 2020.

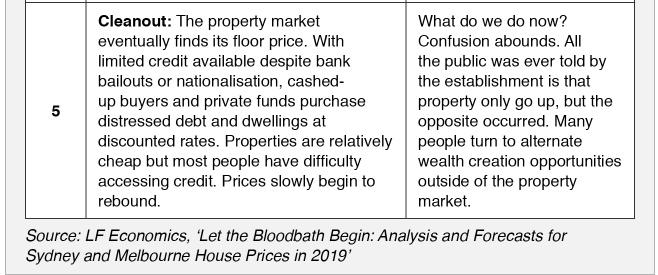
If that happens, Sydney and Melbourne “will suffer peak-to-trough falls never experienced before, outside of the 1890s depression and real estate collapse”.

Mr David’s report, *Let the Bloodbath Begin*, outlines no fewer than 18 separate headwinds facing the housing market, from the $120 billion interest-only loan rollover and mortgage broker exodus to the [Labor Party’s proposed tax reforms](https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/renting/rent-looms-as-key-election-issue-as-government-attacks-big-new-housing-tax/news-story/be34eb4823e199f3a73c3e6d687e5926).

He argues Australia is in stage two of a five-stage process as the country’s debt-financed asset bubble bursts. “The losses are going to mount, and start to mount faster because now you’ve got those economic headwinds involved with the bubble bursting,” he said.

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In stage one, prices start to fall after a sharp run-up, with most people believing it’s “just a small pullback”. Stage two is when prices fall further, small property developers start to go under or cancel future projects and bank profitability begins to stall.

The mindset in this stage is that the declines are “more than expected” but “orderly”. Stage three is when prices “fall well past thresholds owners are comfortable with”, banks take a further profit hit, more developers go under and construction job losses mount.

This is when “panic slowly starts to set in”, particularly among highly leveraged borrowers, and mindsets “eventually shift from denial to questioning how this can possibly be happening” as “nobody believed prices could fall by this much”.

“We are shifting from stage two of the bust to stage three,” Mr David said.

Stage four is when the recession starts. Banks suffer a profit “wipe-out”, residential construction comes to a “grinding halt”, properties go unsold as mortgage defaults and unemployment rise. The mindset is “we’re doomed”.

The final stage is when the property market finds its floor. Banks have been bailed out or nationalised but credit availability is still limited. Cashed-up buyers or private funds buy distressed debt and dwellings at discounted rates. Prices slowly begin to rebound.

“On the bright side house prices will become very affordable again,” Mr David said. “But it could be a horrible time for the economy. The risk of recession is really high.”

The early ’90s recession was “the recession we had to have”, but Mr David believes by the end of this year we could enter “the recession that’s really going to hurt”.

In the report he argues that the more time passes, the less chance the government or regulators can arrest the declines with a “bazooka stimulus that hits the bullseye from an ever-increasing distance”.

Even if the Reserve Bank cuts rates further from its record low of 1.5 per cent, banks will “only pass on a fraction” due to their reliance on overseas capital markets, where interest rates have been steadily rising.

The only path to reinflating prices would be to relax lending standards — the prudential regulator did lift its cap on interest-only loans last month — but the banking royal commission fallout has made that unlikely.

Mr David said the downturn signalled the end of the “Ponzi finance model”. “People have to understand that there are simply too many investors already tied up in the housing market and they can’t go and buy more real estate unless the value of their home rises,” he said.

“That’s how everyone was able to accumulate so many properties in such a short time. They bought a $500,000 investment property, 12 months later it’s worth $600,000, with that $100,000 equity you’re able to go and buy another $500,000 property. You can’t do that anymore, it’s in reverse.”

Mr David, who has often been criticised as a doomsayer, said the house price falls were “nothing to feel good about”. “It’s safe to say we have for quite some time been the most hated macroeconomic research company in Australia,” he said.

“But everything we have warned about has come to fruition — the mortgage fraud, illegal lending practices, the stupidness of the RBA to cut interest rates too early. But in reality these are people’s livelihoods we’re talking about.”

[*frank.chung@news.com.au*](mailto:frank.chung@news.com.au)

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<https://www.news.com.au/finance/the-true-extent-of-the-house-price-collapse-and-what-happens-next/news-story/eb428e6a50c6546d1195e7e42358faea>

# The true extent of the house price ‘collapse’ and what happens next

**This graph reveals what’s really happening in Australia’s slumping property markets — and what’s going to happen next.**

Certain pundits have described house price falls in Sydney and Melbourne as a catastrophic crash that will take years to recover from.

But one of Australia’s most respected economists has put the apparent market chaos into clear perspective.

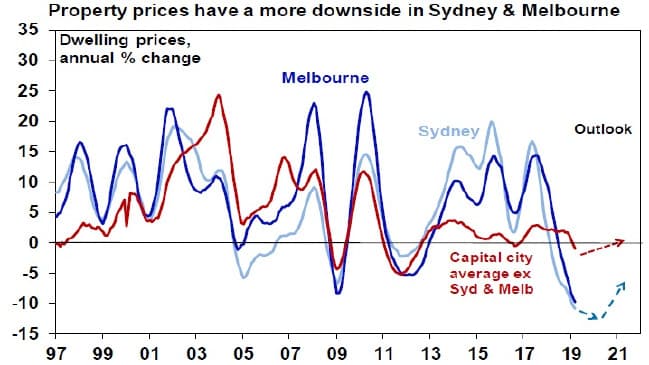
In fact, Shane Oliver, chief economist and head of investment strategy and economics at AMP Capital, said the [past 18 months of steep declines](https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/buying/house-values-to-fall-sharply-in-australias-capital-cities-across-the-year-says-moodys-analytics/news-story/877df6be9dda041feea3b051ac7bac4f) in the New South Wales and Victorian capitals “aren’t the end of the world”.

“I’m loathe to even call it a property crash,” Dr Oliver told news.com.au

He points to a graph to illustrate his point, which plots more than 20 years of property price movements in Sydney and Melbourne, as well as an average for the other capital cities.

“It shows the huge boom in property prices we saw in Sydney and Melbourne, with several years of very strong gains staring around 2012,” [Dr Oliver](https://www.ampcapital.com/au/en/insights-hub) said.

“It shows the recent slump in Sydney with prices coming off in July of 2017, and also in Melbourne, where prices peaked in November 2017.”



Property prices over the past 20 years with Shane Oliver's forecasts into 2021.Source:Supplied

House prices in Sydney exploded between the start of the boom and its end, rising by a whopping 72 per cent. In Melbourne, property values rose by a staggering 56 per cent over the course of its five-year boom.

“So far, Melbourne is down about 10 per cent and Sydney is down about 14 per cent,” Dr Oliver said. “So, to put it into perspective, prices are really just back at 2015 levels and on track to go back to 2014 levels.

“We had many years of very strong gains. We’re giving back some of that.”

And Dr Oliver said the graph also shows his forecast for the next few years — including when the market recovery will begin.

**WHAT HAPPENED?**

After years of speculation about [how hot real estate could get in Sydney](https://www.news.com.au/finance/thousands-of-people-are-fleeing-sydney-each-month-as-the-city-becomes-unliveable/news-story/0f75211c5b4acb406ec9bebe37e5249b) and Melbourne, prices began to cool substantially from the middle of 2017 onwards.

Dr Oliver said this occurred for a number of reasons, combining at a similar time to create a perfect storm.

A surge in new dwelling supply took place in both cities, flooding the market with apartments and houses, giving buyers more choice.

Foreign investors also fled, [with activity plummeting by two-thirds from 2016 onwards](https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/melbourne-vic/why-foreign-property-investment-has-fallen/news-story/c1d0d68dfde3408cf6956cae173c5e3e), due in large part to a government crackdown.

A significant tightening in lending conditions — banks made it more difficult to obtain a mortgage after pressure from regulators and in anticipation of the damaging royal commission — also impacted Sydney and Melbourne markets.

“And they also had much bigger speculative-driven investor activity,” Dr Oliver said.

As the chart above shows, Dr Oliver said the other capital cities — as a cumulative average — had been “pretty boring in the grand scheme of things”.

“The chart disguises a range of outcomes obviously though,” he added.

“Prices have come down quite dramatically in Perth and Darwin, gone up in Hobart, and not really done a lot in Adelaide, Brisbane and Canberra.

“Sydney and Melbourne had a massive boom and now they’re going through a bust. The other capital cities aren’t as vulnerable simply because they didn’t have a boom. They’re affected a little by the tightening in credit conditions and the decline in foreign demand.”



A massive construction boom in Melbourne saw the market flooded with supply, which contributed to downward pressure on property prices. Picture: Ian CurrieSource:News Corp Australia

But Dr Oliver is hesitant to describe conditions in Sydney and Melbourne as a crash, so much as a “subsidence after a long run-up”.

“A property crash is what you saw during the Global Financial Crisis in the US and parts of Europe was a lot more painful,” he said.

“People were losing their jobs and were unable to service their loans en masse, put their properties on the market and pushed prices down and kept the spiral going.

“In Australia, what we’re seeing — so far in any case — is a subsidence after a long run-up. We’re not seeing evidence of a panic in the market.

“Some people are panicking, sure. I call it FONGO — fear of not getting out. Some investors might’ve been hopeful of getting a 10 per cent return out of property, now all they’re getting is a rental yield of 2 per cent after costs, so they might want to get out.”

**WHAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN?**

The general consensus among economists and analysts is that the price declines in Sydney and Melbourne aren’t over yet.

Dr Oliver agrees and expects a total 25 per cent reduction “from top to bottom” in both cities.

“So far, [Melbourne is down about 10 per cent](https://www.realestate.com.au/news/melbourne-home-price-falls-starting-to-flatten-despite-another-drop/?rsf=syn:news:nca:hs:socref) and Sydney is down about 14 per cent, so we’re almost halfway through in Melbourne and past halfway in Sydney,” he said.

He projects falls to continue this year and into 2020 before a recovery begins, but he isn’t convinced that another boom will begin.

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Leading economist Shane Oliver from AMP expects the recovery phase from 2020 onwards to be ‘measured’ rather than the start of another boom.Source:Supplied

Not straight away, in any case.

“Hopefully all of this takes us back to what’s a more affordable market rather than a speculative one,” Dr Oliver said.

“My judgment is that it will be a more measured market, the recovery stage.

“Household debt in Australia these days is a lot higher than it was when the last surge in prices got underway. And so, people might not want to take on the debt they did.

“Secondly, lending standards are a lot tighter and tougher. The way (regulators) see things¸ particularly after the royal commission, it’s likely to remain that way for some time to come.

“And hopefully, the pick-up in supply we’ve seen, particularly from units, helps to head-off a return to a more speculative market.”



Shane Oliver expects a total 25 per cent fall in prices from top to bottom in Sydney and Melbourne. Picture: AAPSource:AAP

But the only major factor that could derail that “more constrained period of recovery” is developer confidence.

The downturn in Sydney and Melbourne, coupled with uncertainty over Labor’s proposed changes to capital gains tax and negative gearing, and the slump in foreign investor demand, could see residential construction projects shelved.

“I do wonder if this one is being so painfully felt by developers that they’re stopping projects and we’ll end up with another shortage and be back where we were at the start of the boom,” Dr Oliver said.

*Continue the conversation*[*shannon.molloy@news.com.au*](mailto:shannon.molloy@news.com.au)

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[Federal election date 2019: Scott Morrison confirms May 18 f...](https://news.com.au/finance/economy/federal-budget/federal-election-2019-what-you-need-to-know/news-story/33eeb154fd2a407adf0f505d2d9173d4)

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