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Slow Italian, Fast Learning

Ep.447: The young Australians giving up on parenthood

Italian	English
Dopo aver raggiunto il picco negli anni Sessanta, il tasso di fertilità in Australia è diminuito costantemente e, nel 2024, ha toccato un minimo di circa un figlio e mezzo per donna, secondo l'Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).	After peaking in the 1960s - Australia's fertility rate has consistently fallen - and in 2024, it hit a low of around 1-and-a-half babies per woman according to the ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Si tratta di una tendenza destinata con ogni probabilità a proseguire.	It's a trend likely to continue.
I giovani australiani, quando decidono se mettere su famiglia, valutano sempre più spesso fattori che vanno oltre il semplice desiderio di avere figli.	Young Australians are increasingly weighing up more than just their desire to have children when deciding whether to start a family.
Il 27enne Nickrod Vatandoust lavora nel settore finanziario e ha raccontato a SBS che lui e la sua compagna hanno scelto di rimandare l'idea di avere figli per concentrarsi prima sul pagamento del mutuo.	27-year-old Nickrod Vatandoust works in finance and has told SBS, he and his partner chose to delay having children in favour of servicing a mortgage.
Vatandoust spiega di aver cambiato casa decine di volte durante l'infanzia e di voler evitare che i propri figli si trovino nella stessa situazione quando deciderà di costruire una famiglia.	He says he moved dozens of times as a child and he wants to avoid that situation when he has his own family.
"My biggest dream was to have that stability, but I never had it. In this economy, how can I bring children into this world and create such instability for them? It just wouldn't be fair."	**"My biggest dream was to have that stability, but I never had it. In this economy, how can I bring children into this world and create such instability for them? It just wouldn't be fair."**
Nel frattempo, lui e la sua compagna gestiscono le proprie finanze con grande attenzione e lui è consapevole che ci vorrà del tempo prima di poter permettersi di avere dei figli.	In the meantime, he and his partner are being diligent about finances, and he knows it will take time to be able to afford to bring kids into the mix.

Special Broadcasting Service
PO Box 294, South Melbourne VIC 3205 Australia
Level 3, Alfred Deakin Building, Federation Square, Cnr Swanston & Flinders Streets Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia sbs.com.au
Tel: +61 3 9949 2122
ABN: 91 314 398 574

"Anyway, we look at our budget and we budget really aggressively - Our mortgage is 60, 70% of our budget. Adding a child into this, into this budget just will put us into the red every single week, every single week, every single month."	**"Anyway, we look at our budget and we budget really aggressively - Our mortgage is 60, 70% of our budget. Adding a child into this, into this budget just will put us into the red every single week, every single week, every single month."**
Jakub Kyral è agli inizi della sua carriera come urbanista e si è sposato di recente.	Jakub Kyral is early in his career as a town planner and recently got married.
Il ventinovenne afferma che anche lui e sua moglie stanno rimandando l'idea di avere figli a causa del costo delle abitazioni, perché vogliono assicurarsi di avere spazio sufficiente per crescerli.	The 29-year-old says he and his wife are also holding off having children due to the cost of housing - because they want to ensure they have the space to raise them.
"At the moment, we own an apartment, however because it is such a small apartment it is very hard to have any kids running around. Just especially with all the stairs and the building being very old itself. It does have the concerns of safety as well as apartments just cost a lot of money."	**"At the moment, we own an apartment, however because it is such a small apartment it is very hard to have any kids running around. Just especially with all the stairs and the building being very old itself. It does have the concerns of safety as well as apartments just cost a lot of money."**
Quasi due terzi degli australiani ventenni ritengono di dover possedere una casa prima di avere figli, nonostante le stime di AMP indichino che servono circa undici anni per risparmiare un anticipo del 20 per cento per l'acquisto di un'abitazione.	Nearly two-thirds of Australians in their twenties believe they need to own a home before having children - even as AMP modelling estimates it takes eleven years to save a twenty per cent deposit.
La direttrice crescita e soluzioni per i clienti di AMP, Julia Slapp, afferma che questa ricerca mette in evidenza una tendenza che si sta sviluppando da decenni.	AMP's director of growth and customer solutions, Julia Slapp, says the research spotlights a trend that's been happening over decades.
"In 1984 it used to only take 4 years to save a 20% deposit for a home. Today that is nearly 11 years on average, that is a big difference. And that is because people can't save as much, our property prices have been going up. So, people have been thinking about all the things that make their lifestyle worthwhile and that includes	**"In 1984 it used to only take 4 years to save a 20% deposit for a home. Today that is nearly 11 years on average, that is a big difference. And that is because people can't save as much, our property prices have been going up. So, people have been thinking about all the things that make their lifestyle worthwhile and that includes**

children. So, you can see that impact through a declining birthrate."	**children. So, you can see that impact through a declining birthrate."**
Ma il costo delle abitazioni è solo una parte del problema.	But housing is just one part of the equation.
Una nuova ricerca del gruppo per il diritto alla casa Everybody's Home rivela che tre quarti degli intervistati affermano che avrebbero difficoltà a far fronte a un aumento dell'affitto o del mutuo di appena venti dollari a settimana, con alcuni costretti a ridurre spese essenziali come cibo e medicinali.	New research from housing campaign group Everybody's Home reveals three quarters of respondents say they'd struggle with a rent or mortgage increase of just twenty dollars a week – with some forced to cut back on essentials like food and medication.
Anche l'assistenza all'infanzia rappresenta una spesa significativa per molte famiglie.	Childcare is another significant expense for many families.
La maggior parte delle famiglie oggi dipende da due redditi, il che significa che la cura dei figli deve essere affidata a parenti oppure pagata.	Most households now rely on double incomes - which means childcare has to be outsourced to relatives or paid for.
Come ha affermato Georgie Dent, amministratrice delegata del gruppo di advocacy The Parenthood, in un intervento al National Press Club il 23 settembre, i conti non tornano.	As Georgie Dent, the CEO of advocacy group, the Parenthood, said in a recent National Press Club Address 23 Sept - the maths is not adding up.
Dent ha citato dati economici secondo cui avere figli riduce in media i guadagni delle donne del 55 per cento nei primi cinque anni di genitorialità: si tratta di oltre la metà.	She cited economic data that reveals having children reduces the average woman's earnings by an average of 55 per cent - that's more than half - in the first five years of parenthood.
"When millions of families face the same obstacles, it is not a personal failure. It is a policy failure with profound economic consequences."	**"When millions of families face the same obstacles, it is not a personal failure. It is a policy failure with profound economic consequences."**
L'economista dell'Università del New South Wales, Gigi Foster, ha affermato che il calo del tasso di natalità nel Paese solleva importanti questioni sociali ed economiche.	Economist at the University of New South Wales, Professor Gigi Foster, says the nation's declining birthrate raises significant social and economic issues.
"I mean, ultimately, having kids is more important because demography is destiny. If we have no kids, if the birth rate plummets and those who carry the culture	**"I mean, ultimately, having kids is more important because demography is destiny. If we have no kids, if the birth rate**

forward are no more, then Australia dies as a culture, as what we know it today."	**plummets and those who carry the culture forward are no more, then Australia dies as a culture, as what we know it today."**
Le decisioni sulla pianificazione familiare vengono sempre più rivalutate tenendo conto del benessere finanziario a lungo termine.	Family planning decisions are also being revised with long-term financial wellbeing in mind.
Lo studio di AMP ha rilevato che il 57 per cento degli intervistati ritiene che avere figli renda più difficile andare in pensione in condizioni economiche agiate. La percentuale sale al 61 per cento tra le donne.	AMPs study found 57 per cent of those surveyed believe having children makes it harder to retire comfortably, rising to 61 per cent among women.
Il 71 per cento delle persone interpellate ha affermato di essere preoccupato per la futura sicurezza finanziaria dei propri figli.	71 per cent of those surveyed say they worried about the future financial security of their children.
La professoressa Foster ha affermato che, per chi desidera comunque avere figli in futuro, dal punto di vista economico l'opzione migliore è non rimandare troppo questo traguardo.	Professor Foster says for those who do want to ultimately have children, the better financial option is not to delay the milestone.
"You don't have to make this trade off, it is a false dichotomy this business of kids or finances and by the way, the children don't get that expensive until they're at least in high school. And when they're babies they're really not expensive at all. So, by the time they get to the age where you're really going to need to infuse cash you'll have made it. So if you want to have a healthy retirement, have your kids earlier, particularly for women."	**"You don't have to make this trade off, it is a false dichotomy this business of kids or finances and by the way, the children don't get that expensive until they're at least in high school. And when they're babies they're really not expensive at all. So, by the time they get to the age where you're really going to need to infuse cash you'll have made it. So if you want to have a healthy retirement, have your kids earlier, particularly for women."**
Il problema delle persone che rinunciano ad avere figli a causa dei costi è un fenomeno globale; discussioni e studi simili sono attualmente in corso nella maggior parte dei Paesi sviluppati.	The issue of parents being priced out is global; there are similar conversation and studies happening right now in most developed nations.
All'inizio di quest'anno, il governo francese ha inviato lettere alle donne di 29 anni per incoraggiarle ad avere figli o a congelare i propri ovuli mentre sono ancora fertili.	Earlier this year, the French Government famously sent letters to women aged 29, to encourage them to have children or freeze their eggs while they are still fertile.

Si è trattato di un metodo creativo per affrontare una questione sempre più urgente sia per i governi di tutto il mondo sia per i singoli cittadini.	It was a creative method to address an increasingly pressing issue for governments around the world - and individuals.

Report by Genevieve Lamond and Camille Bianchi for SBS News.

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