

Grand times indeed

HUNDREDS of grandmothers live in residential aged care facilities around Victoria.

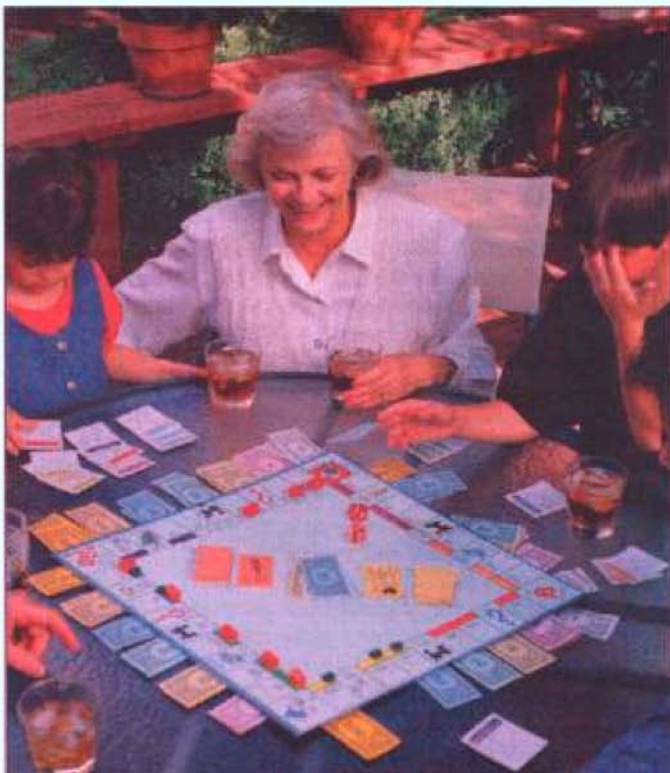
And if you care to listen, every one of them has a story to tell about the grandchildren.

Last year, Professor Susan Moore and Professor Doreen Rosenthal called for Australian grandmothers to share their thoughts and experiences on grandparenting. And now, almost 1000 stories later, they are calling for more contemporary grans, nannas and nonnas to join the project.

Having become grandmothers themselves, Professor Moore, from Swinburne, and Professor Rosenthal, from the University of Melbourne, decided to survey other women on their ideas about this challenging life stage.

"We've been overwhelmed by the sense of joy that emanates from the survey comments and emails that we've received so far," Professor Moore said.

"There is no doubt grandmothers love what they do. Many commented that they were more patient and relaxed than when bringing up their own children – perhaps because they had more time, fewer



GRANNIES RULE, OK? Grandmothers are being asked to share their experiences on grandparenting.

worries and pressures, perhaps just more confidence.

"There were also many comments about how having grandchildren can bring you closer to a son or daughter.

"It can make you feel more strongly part of a family, give you a sense of purpose and of being

needed – and even help heal family rifts."

Others said their grandchildren helped keep them young and up to date with what is happening in the world.

■ To take part in the anonymous survey, phone 1300-275-788, www.granresearch.com