

# Grans revamp role

**Family | Cassie Maher**

GONE are the days where being a grandma meant sitting in a rocking chair handing out sweets to the little ones.

Old stereotypes are being replaced with fun and fit grandmas who enjoy shopping, meeting friends for coffee and still working full-time.

Researchers from Swinburne University and the University of Melbourne are documenting the experiences of contem-

porary grandmas for a coming book.

Swinburne's Prof Susan Moore and Prof Doreen Rosenthal, who have 10 grandchildren between them, have surveyed about 1000 Australian grandmothers in the past year.

Prof Moore said grandmothers had commented that having grandchildren brought them closer to their son or daughter, made them feel more strongly part of a family and gave a sense of purpose and of being needed.

"We've been overwhelmed by the sense of joy that emanates from the survey comments and emails that we've received so far," Prof Moore said. "There is no doubt that grandmothers love what they do."

Some grandmothers said their grandchildren helped to keep them young, up to date with what was happening in the world, and motivated them to keep interested. To access the anonymous survey, visit [granresearch.com](http://granresearch.com) or call 1300 275 788 for a hard copy.



Professors Doreen Rosenthal (left) and Susan Moore have been surveying Australian grandmothers for the past year. With them is Ava, 2, Ms Rosenthal's granddaughter.

Picture: JOSIE HAYDEN N37PP: