



TOP GRAN – Are you the very model of a modern grandmother?

New Age nannas

GRANDMOTHERS are being asked to shed their image as frail ladies in lace and lavender and share their real experiences of grandparenting in the 21st century.

Professor Susan Moore from Swinburne University of Technology and collaborator Professor Doreen Rosenthal from the University of Melbourne, grandmothers themselves, hope to document the experiences of contemporary Australian grandmothers and collate them into a book.

“Most people eventually become grandparents, and an individual can expect to be in the role for about one

third of his or her life – an average of about 25 years,” Professor Moore said.

“There has been relatively little research into the expectations, experiences, meanings and satisfactions that the role holds for traditional, non-custodial grandparents.”

She said the research would focus on modern grandmothering and the ways women manage the transition to grandmothering within an often complex set of commitments.

Early results suggest great pleasure in the role for a range of reasons.

Tiredness, conflict over babysitting expectations, problems with in-laws and

feelings of being taken for granted also surfaced.

“So far, our data indicates that this is a generation of grandmothers who feel in excellent health and see themselves as younger in attitudes and behaviours than their own grandmothers were,” Professor Moore said.

“It’s still early days though, and more data from grandmothers in different situations is needed.”

To access the anonymous survey, go to www.granresearch.com

Hard copies of the survey with mail-back envelopes are available from Susan Moore at smoore@swin.edu.au