

upfront

Onwards

Health

Nutrition

Work

Style



BABY BOOM

Australia's birth rate just keeps climbing. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) recorded 301,000 births for the year ending June 30, 2009. This is the highest fertility rate in 30 years with each woman having just under two children.

In combination with immigration, this means our population has increased by 433,000 people from the previous year. The fastest population growth has been in Western Australia (3%), with Queensland (2.6%) and the Northern Territory (2.3%) not too far behind.

Tasmania has the highest fertility rate in the country, at 2.24 babies per woman, followed by the Northern Territory with 2.22 babies per woman, according to a separate ABS release in November 2009.



AROUND THE WORLD

When a couple is married in Norway their friends and neighbours plant two samurai pines on either side of the young couple's front door as a symbol of fertility and luck.

Go organic

Pamper yourself with SOTO, a new Australian Certified Organic skincare range. SOTO locally translates from the Japanese meaning 'the journey to a pure existence' and the products boast some delicious-sounding ingredients including Pomegranate oil, Siberian Ginseng and Australian clay. See your journey at www.sotocosmetics.com. Prices start at \$49.

Tough love

New research from the University of Wollongong shows that Australian children are getting less than 10% of the omega-3 fatty acids they need for heart health and brain development. Deficiencies may also be linked to learning and behavioural difficulties and increasing prevalence of ADHD and asthma. oily fish, such as salmon, herring and tuna, are excellent sources of omega-3.

The research team, which includes 515 British women in total, used data collected by the National Diet and Nutrition Survey, which included children aged more than 9,000 households in the UK. The researchers found a general style with warmth and discipline is more likely to produce children with good character qualities than authoritarian, laissez-faire or disengaged styles. Ian Lissner, the study's author, said: "It is confidence, warmth and consistent discipline that matter most."

According to the report, "tough love" encouraged application, self-regulation and empathy in children – skills that are integral to future success.



IT'S A STICK-UP

Little ones love to check things off their high chairs but this nifty little book has a suction cup on the back to make sure it stays put. Bright and colourful, Time To Eat (\$6.99, \$10.99) features over 50 easy meals babies and their food will taste.

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