

# Let pensioners work

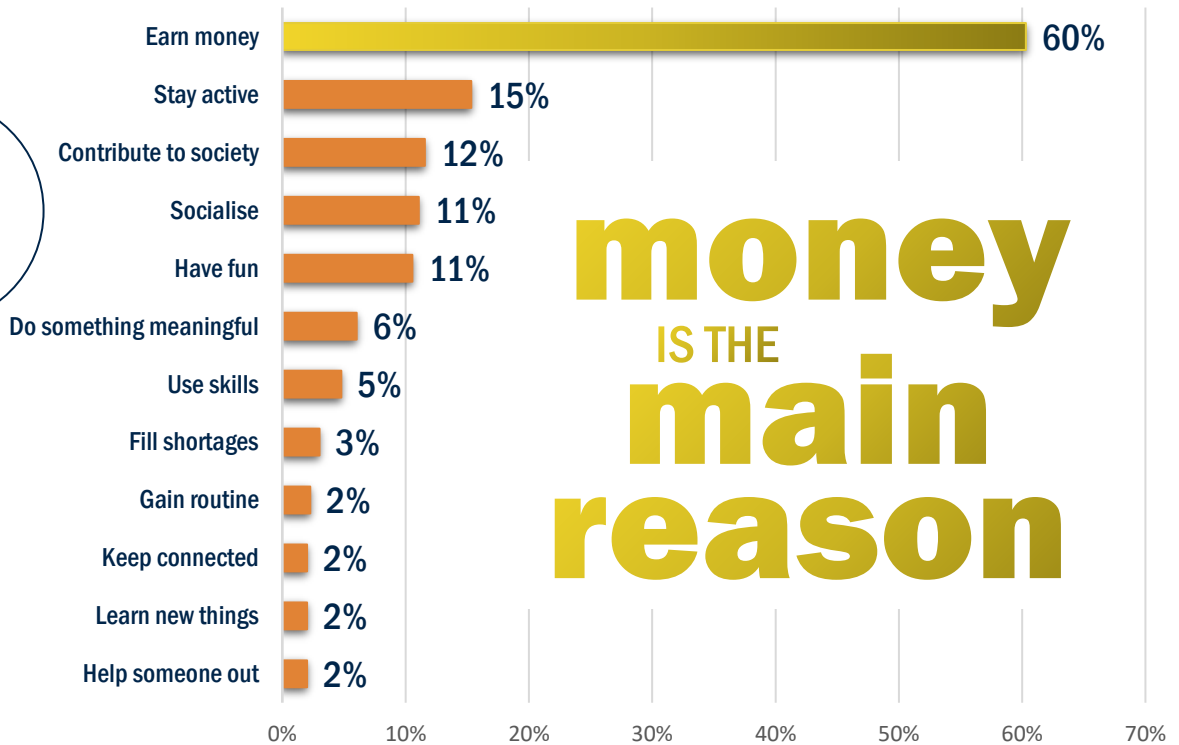
in February 2022 National Seniors asked 3937 older Australians about re-entering paid work after retirement

Of the 1249 age pensioners:

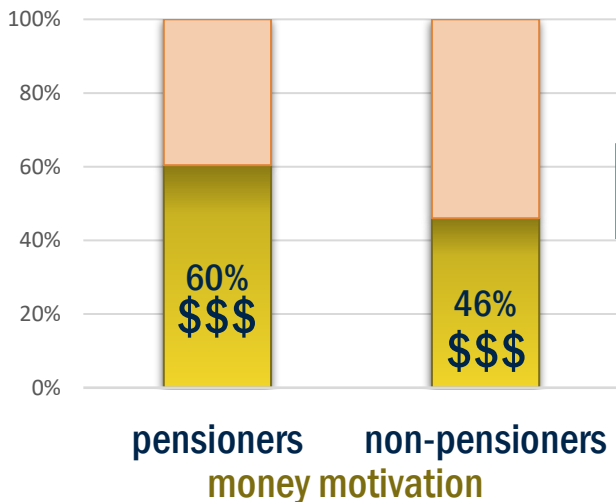
**16%** already re-entered paid work after retiring

**20%** would consider it now or in the future

why?



**money**  
IS THE  
**main**  
**reason**



FOR pensioners MORE THAN FOR others

National Seniors AUSTRALIA

The Pension is too low but pensioners are penalised for working Exempt employment income from the Age Pension means test

Numbers based on National Seniors' 10th Social Survey (total n=3937). We defined age pensioners as people aged 67+ who said they do or will receive the Age Pension after retirement. People in this category comprised just under a third of survey participants (n=1249).

# Let pensioners work

Some of the reasons older Australians **NEED** to work after retirement

“Living on the pension is very difficult so I needed to earn some extra money to be able to survive”

“Help balance high cost of living on a single pension”

“first time in my life meat and vegetables are a luxury (my mother raised three children by herself and worked full time in a factory)”

“My previous partner had a gambling problem so I had to earn what my pension allowed me to cover living expenses, I have no superannuation to fall back on”

“Currently only income is age pension and in private rental, so it's bloody tough!!”

“We have been scammed out of our retirement savings and despite my disability we need to find an income source”

“Got unexpectedly divorced 1 year after retirement. Returned to work ... because my retirement plans had evaporated with no partner”

“I'm desperate for money in order to pay my bills, rent and food”

“The cost of living is far too expensive”

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Some of the reasons older Australians **WANT** to work after retirement

“I would like to help being useful to the community”

“To support struggling small business operators or farmers in their inability to secure sufficient staff”

“I was a trained nurse, would love to help in these difficult times”

“To help support the healthcare workforce during the pandemic, I successfully sought work as a Covid-19 vaccinator”

“Worked in aged care, 20 years’ experience. Would be interested in going back into the industry but financially not worth it.”

“Helping out the community in areas I am good at, especially due to Covid issues”

“If I could help relieve the worker shortage due to COVID”

“If a need in society had to be filled”

“To help a farmer somewhere”

“To assist somewhere in an industry that is beneficial to the workforce.”

“If there was a great need for the country”

**National Seniors**  
AUSTRALIA

11 of the comments we received from 1026 older Australians in a 2022 survey about their motivations for working post-retirement

The Pension is too low but pensioners are penalised for working  
Exempt employment income from the Age Pension means test