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# *Life Chances*

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*Life Chances* traces the lives of seven families in the one Australian community. Each family has a child who will turn 10 in the year 2000. Although the families are all from the one locality, the reality of their lives and their expectations for their children are very different. The families are from different cultures and social backgrounds and have different education experiences and income levels.

*Life Chances* represents in a microcosm a range of family circumstances present in Australia today. By focusing on one child in each family, *Life Chances* looks at discrepancies between the opportunities and choices offered to each of the children.

This program is based on a longitudinal study by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and compares issues of income, education, health and community services. In exploring the intimacy and diversity of family life the issues of cultural identity and social change are also revealed. The expectations of new arrivals are contrasted with those of Australian born families.

Children are dependent on the family to provide the structure in their lives, so *Life Chances* looks at how the experience of the family shapes the children who are ultimately the future of Australia.

In documenting the Brotherhood of St Laurence study, *Life Chances* is itself an important and current document which reveals many of the economic and social factors which are influencing the changing character of Australia in 1995. This video is an enormously valuable resource for use in **Australian Studies, Studies of Society, Sociology, Welfare & Social Work, Teacher Education, Early Childhood Studies** and for **Public & Private sector professionals** involved in developing social policy.

Directed and Produced by Georgia Wallace-Crabbe and Gregroy Miller  
An FFC/SBS Accord documentary  
Distributed in Australia by Film Australia

Duration: 56 minutes  
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Format: Video only

