

FED: More families have Aussie holidays because mum works

By Nicky Park (with pic AAP510) (with Travel Qld Family).

SYDNEY, AAP - A record number of mothers entering the workforce has led to more families seeking holidays in Australia, a new survey has revealed.

Family travel magazine Holidays with Kids conducted the study of 2,500 Australians and found that nearly all of them (95 per cent) travel within the country annually.

More than two thirds took domestic breaks with their families three or more times a year.

In 2006 a similar survey found that 60 per cent of readers travelled domestically each year, with less than one third of them taking local breaks three or more times.

Tourism Australia says the family travel market is the fastest-growing sector of the nation's tourism industry.

The Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast topped the poll as the most popular family holiday destinations and the NSW Tweed Coast came a close second.

The top three all boast sun, surf and sand.

According to the Australian Institute of Family Studies, the proportion of families with dependent children who have both parents in the workforce has peaked this year at 57 per cent.

And the Australian Government's Office for Women says 4.7 million women are now employed, with an unprecedented one million entering the workforce over the last decade.

Women's salaries have risen 25 per cent over the last decade, providing more income for quality family holidays.

The magazine's editor, Cathy Wagstaff, says as more mothers get paid jobs and family lives become even busier, more parents, especially the mums, are organising short breaks around Australia each year.

This gives mums a chance to relax and spend quality time with their children and restore the all-important work/life balance, she says.

And, mothers who work often don't want to cook and clean during the holidays so they are opting for more luxurious holidays where they and their families can get the pampering they feel they deserve for all their hard work, Wagstaff says.

AAP nap/drp