

## GFC pain is fading

**A** SURVEY has found the global financial crisis is a distant memory for most Australians, who now believe the housing market is set to take off again.

"A surprising 73 per cent of respondents expect house prices to rise, which is the highest proportion for more than three years," said Phil Naylor, chief executive of the Mortgage and Finance Association of Australia.

The MFAA/Bankwest Home Finance Index canvassed the opinion of 850 people on a range of issues relating to the economy and housing market.

"Confidence in the housing market is not only pre-GFC – it is back where it was during the height of the housing boom," said Mr Naylor.

"But there are still some clouds on the horizon, with recent interest rate increases negatively impacting households."

Mr Naylor said that 15.9 per cent of respondents were struggling to meet repayments, up from 11.7 per cent in May 2009.

The survey found it was in the former boom state of Western Australia that most respondents claimed to be struggling in their repayments (25 per cent).

The least number of people struggling to meet repayments were in NSW (20.6 per cent).

# Come on get Happy



It has been the talk of the town since it arrived on the back of a truck and now the owner of the Gold Coast's first Happy Haus is feeding public curiosity and opening the doors of the architect-designed pre-made house.

The Currumbin beach home will be open to the public for today (Saturday) only.

Owner Peter Lewis moved into the residence last month and has since been inundated with inquiry as passersby stop to admire the house designed by Brisbane architects Owen and Vokes.

Happy Haus builder Hutchinson Builders took less than three months to produce the 320sq m house that



Currumbin's Happy Haus will be open to the public for one day only

was delivered on trucks in seven modules and craned into position just before Christmas.

Happy Haus managing director Toby Lewis, who launched the company in May 2009, said he was inspired by the efficiency of modular construction and modern design that complemented the Queensland landscape.

"Over 40 per cent of Queensland inquiry has come from the Gold Coast, including the Currumbin Ecovillage," he said.

"We are very grateful to our client who has agreed to showcase his beautiful home to the local market."

The four-bedroom house has a master suite with an ensuite and a walk-in wardrobe, an expansive living and dining area, a deck and a pool.

It was built and installed for \$700,000.

The house is at 814 Pacific Parade, Currumbin and is open between 10am and 2pm today. For more visit [happyhaus.com.au](http://happyhaus.com.au)

