



## The richest retirement years are measured in moments – Part 3

8 October

### When Retirement Becomes About People, Purpose and Legacy

Years after leaving work, the couple looked back at the retirement plans they had once carefully written.

Some had happened exactly as expected.

Others had changed completely.

There had been memorable holidays, long road trips and destinations that had sat on their wish list for decades. There had been renovations, family celebrations and countless lunches with friends.

But when they talked about their favourite retirement memories, something became obvious.

Very few involved money.

They remembered taking their grandchildren camping.

They remembered a family Christmas when everyone managed to be together.

They remembered sitting around a table with lifelong friends, telling the same stories they had heard countless times and laughing just as hard.

They remembered having the time to be present.

That became one of retirement's greatest lessons.

Money had played an important role, of course. Their financial position gave them choices and helped provide security.

But money had never been the destination.

It had been the vehicle that helped them live the life they valued.

Their relationship with their Financial Adviser had evolved too.

In the early years, conversations focused heavily on whether retirement was affordable. Later, they discussed investment strategies, retirement income and how much they could comfortably spend.

### Now the questions were different again.

How could they assist their children without compromising their own future?

What should they consider when thinking about their estate?

Were their financial affairs structured appropriately if one of them died?

Should they simplify investments and accounts?

What plans should be in place if health issues eventually made managing finances more difficult?

These weren't always easy conversations.

But they were important ones.

Their adviser helped bring structure to decisions that combined money, family and emotion. Where appropriate, other professionals such as accountants and estate planning lawyers could also become part of the conversation.

The couple began thinking less about accumulating wealth and more about what they wanted that wealth to achieve.

Their definition of legacy changed.

It wasn't simply about leaving assets behind.

They wanted to create memories while they were still there to share them.

So instead of only thinking about what their children might inherit one day, they occasionally helped them now. Instead of postponing another family holiday, they organised one while everyone was healthy enough to enjoy it.

They celebrated milestone birthdays properly.

They gathered friends together.

They travelled a little more slowly.

They stopped keeping their best plans for "someday".

#### **Their financial strategy adjusted with them.**

Regular reviews with their Financial Adviser helped ensure their income, investments and longer-term needs continued to be considered as circumstances evolved.

There were periods when they spent more and periods when they naturally spent less. Travel became different. Priorities changed. Health became more important.

#### **The plan changed because their lives changed.**

That adaptability became one of the greatest benefits of having ongoing advice.

Retirement had never been one financial decision made on the final day of work.

It was a journey involving hundreds of decisions across many years.

Some were financial.

Many were personal.

And often the two were closely connected.

Looking back, the couple realised their adviser had been alongside them through several versions of retirement — preparing for it, embracing it and eventually thinking about the legacy that would follow it.

But perhaps the greatest achievement wasn't found in an investment statement or retirement balance.

It was sitting around a crowded table surrounded by family and friends, knowing they had created the time and freedom to enjoy the people who mattered most.

Because ultimately, a rich retirement isn't measured only by what you have accumulated.

It can also be measured by the experiences you share, the people you love and the memories you have the freedom to create.

And with good planning and quality financial advice along the way, those years can become some of life's most rewarding.

If this article has inspired you to think about your unique situation and, more importantly, what you and your family are going through right now, please get in touch with your advice professional.

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