

Love is a numbers game

What's the point of pining for Mr Right, when there's a world of Mr Suitables out there? **Fiona Purdon** talks to relationship author **Allan Pease**



WORLD-renowned relationship guru Allan Pease does not believe that single people should be "looking for the one".

He can statistically prove there are 1.5 million perfect matches for every person.

"But then two out of three don't speak English and one is most likely to be Chinese so that leaves you with about 500,000 perfect matches," he says.

"The majority of people believe that there is one person out there for them. There are 1.5 million people who have the same core values and physical attraction as them in the world."

Pease and co-author and wife Barbara Pease have just released the third book in their best-selling relationship series which has a readership of about 300 million worldwide.

Pease says the book *Why Men Want Sex and Women Need Love* is the result of a decade of research for the Sunshine Coast couple.

He says Australia's high divorce rate - 49 per cent - proves not enough people do their research before committing to a relationship.

"Selecting a permanent partner and having a happy relationship is probably the most important thing in your life but so many people get it wrong," he says.

"If you had a business and someone applied for a job, then you would do a thorough check, such as talk to their past employers, to see whether they had filed for bankruptcy. A partner for life is more important than anything else so you've got to plan and put the work in."

Pease says too many people trust in chance meetings.

He says about 50 per cent of couples meet at work while the other half meet by accident, say through a mutual friend, at a nightclub or at a bus stop.

In *Why Men Want Sex and Women Need Love* Pease tells the story of his friend Graham Steele who listed the features he was looking for in an ideal partner for a classified ad.

Steele received more than 1000 replies and found three perfect matches. He has been happily married to one of them for about a decade.

"They are a perfectly suited couple," Pease says. "He played the numbers

because waiting for the right one to ring is not going to happen. You've got to knock on doors and present your case."

Pease married and divorced early. He wanted to "get it right" the next time so he put together a list of features he was looking for in a perfect partner, including physical characteristics and attitudes to life, money, sex and love.

Two years later, Barbara walked into a conference he was holding and he immediately knew she had the physical criteria. They have now been happily married for 20 years.

"I had a pretty strong job description," he says.

"It took two years but Barbara turned up in front of me with long legs, long blonde hair, blue eyes, like a young Brigitte Bardot and I was hooked."

But Pease says a rocky patch early in their relationship prompted his groundbreaking research into relationships and led to his book *Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps*. He regularly dips into a database of 500,000 people to survey statistics and opinions.

Pease says he discovered why couples

who marry young or who wed after only a short courtship have a higher percentage of failure.

For most people, the first nine months of a relationship is controlled by an addictive physical attraction. He says neurological research shows the chemical magnetism couples experience in the first few months of a relationship is more powerful than a cocaine addiction.

"When you are all fired up on hormones, it is using the cocaine part of the brain, and you lose your common sense," Pease says.

"You could be dating a murderer, a pedophile, someone who has filed for bankruptcy and you wouldn't know because you are besotted and smitten."

"The first three to nine months is a bonkerama but when the chemical attraction dies off, then you have to live with this person. You need to go out with a person with mutual values and beliefs."

Pease says it takes two years to thoroughly know someone and their habits which initially may be "cute and funny but could then become annoying".

The research has enabled him to

Allan Pease's tips on finding your perfect partner

1. Accept that men and women are different. They do not want the same things and are not motivated by the same things.

2. Write a list about your perfect partner including physical characteristics. You need to know what you are looking for when they cross your path.

3. You need to have the same core values and beliefs for a successful long-term relationship.

4. Chemistry is also important and comes second to core values.

5. Beware of the initial lust period which lasts on average three to nine months when hormones rule. Do not commit too early.

6. Finding the right partner requires work. You cannot sit and wait to be discovered. You have to actively find your perfect partner.

understand and strengthen his relationship with Barbara, who has supported him through two bouts of cancer.

When diagnosed with prostate cancer a decade ago, he was given three years to live but has been cancer-free for the past eight. The couple have four adult children as well as Brandon, 4, and Bella, 18 months, who was born through fertility treatment when Barbara was 46 and Alan 57.

Pease is a believer in positive thinking, which powered his faith in their book *Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps* at a time when the couple were struggling with financial and health issues. The book has sold 12 million copies and has been translated into 51 languages including Icelandic and African Zulu.

"People who read it think it's written for them," he says. "They think it's local but men and women everywhere in the world are dealing with the same issues."

"We are basically one tribe of human beings and just about everyone in the world has the same mutual problems with the opposite sex."

The couple started a 16-country tour of Europe and Asia last week and have a tour of the US planned for February.

Pease, a former door-to-door salesman and musician who says he played at Woodstock, rose to fame in the 1970s with his books and television show on body language.

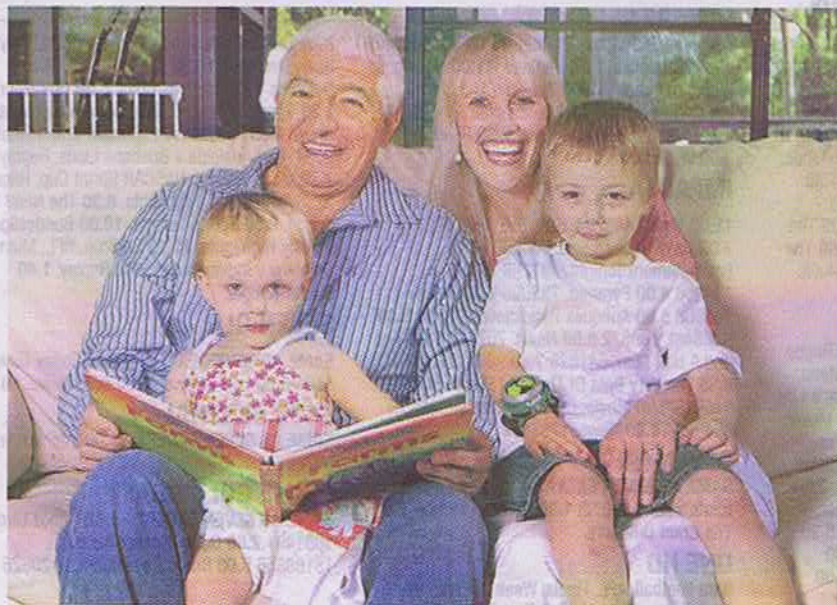
He says the past five decades have seen arguably the biggest social revolution in human history with the introduction of the Pill, more freedom in partner selection and more equality in the workforce.

But, he says, humans are still governed by the same biological needs of 50,000 years ago. He hopes people can use *Why Men Want Sex and Women Need Love* as "a GPS (global positioning system) for relationships, to give some direction and provide some strategies to try".

"We've got freedom now to do what we want but we are making a mess of it," he says. "The divorce rates are so high."

"We are living in times where it's fashionable to think men and women want the same things but when it comes to sex, love and romance, we don't."

Why Men Want Sex and Women Need Love, Allan and Barbara Pease, Pease International, \$29.95



STRIKING A MATCH: Allan and Barbara Pease with Bella and Brandon.