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MyPlace Green Square Community Survey 2023

Final Report

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Any opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Sydney. Any errors also remain the responsibility of the authors.

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Executive Summary

The Green Square urban renewal area stretches across 278 hectares in the City of Sydney Local Government Area, between the Central Business District and Sydney Airport (CoS 2015). It is one of the fastest growing areas in Sydney with 33,000 new residential dwellings built and 63,000 people expected to live in the area when complete (CoS 2023).

The City of Sydney has a vision for Green Square: it will be a vibrant, sustainable and connected community in which to live and work (CoS 2019). In order to support resilient and inclusive local communities, the City is working to ensure that residents and workers in Green Square have the facilities, resources, capacity and confidence to adapt to changing circumstances (CoS 2017). The City of Sydney created a new town centre in the area and have supported $22b of private development with $1.8b of public infrastructure in the area (CoS 2023).

The City of Sydney's vision for a socially sustainable city is a socially just and resilient city – a city for all (CoS 2019). The City's social sustainability policy includes ten guiding principles, six of which this survey contributes to (CoS 2019 pp. 19-20):

- "Sydney's communities' strengths are valued and supported."
- "Sydney is a welcoming, socially connected city that embraces diversity."
- "Sydney is a safe and accessible city for people of all ages and abilities."
- "Sydney's environment supports health and wellbeing."
- "Sydney is a democratic city where people can participate and influence local decisions."
- "Sydney is a collaborative city where responsibility for community wellbeing is shared."

So that the City can identify how it might best support communities' social wellbeing and resilience associated with environmental, economic and social changes, it is essential to collect information about the experiences and desires of residents and workers. This includes their satisfaction with, and feelings of attachment and belonging to, the places they live and work, the nature of their social interactions and social cohesion, and their plans and desires regarding their local areas. To this end, this report presents the results of a community survey of residents and workers in the Green Square Urban Renewal Area in Sydney, Australia. This survey is undertaken on a recurring basis every 2-3 years, to monitor changes to the social fabric over time as the urban renewal area develops.

Research aims

The study was undertaken by researchers at UNSW Sydney, with the assistance and support of the City of Sydney Council.

The aim of this research was to develop a survey tool for on-going assessment of social interactions and social cohesion at a large-scale urban renewal site that could be used to:

- Measure the nature of social cohesion and social interaction and identify opportunities and barriers residents face in contributing to social cohesion and community development.

- Understand the wellbeing of residents and workers, including their satisfaction with and attachment to the area, their local area preferences and desires, and their plans for the future.

Background

Urban renewal in brownfield areas is an important component of broader compact city policies in place in Sydney, around Australia, and elsewhere in the world. Local and state governments have an interest in understanding how well urban renewal areas are performing, including the satisfaction of residents and workers with these areas.

Understanding the satisfaction of residents and workers with these areas includes understanding resident and worker wellbeing, desires, patterns of facility and service use, social interaction and social cohesion. Social interaction is related to levels of neighbouring and refers to the nature and quality of interactions between people. Social cohesion is related to psychological sense of community and includes affective components of neighbourhood social life, including shared emotional connections, place attachment, membership, influence and sense of place.

Information collected in a tailored survey of social interaction and social cohesion in higher-density urban renewal sites, such as the survey presented in this report, can inform local land use planning, community development interventions, infrastructure investment and open space and public domain planning.

Survey development

The survey was designed as an on-going assessment tool for large-scale brownfield urban renewal sites dominated by private medium and high-density housing.

The survey focuses on the attitudes and behaviours of residents and workers. Information collected can be used to assess existing usage of services and facilities and to plan for new services and facilities provided by local council regarding their influence on social interaction and social cohesion. The survey is also designed to provide information on the influence of other factors (beyond the provision of services and facilities by the City of Sydney) on social interaction and social cohesion, which can inform changes and improvements in other areas such as community programs and events, adapting design requirements, responding to social issues or concerns, and encouraging grass-roots initiatives.

The survey tool was developed from a comprehensive research process, which included a pilot survey. Full surveys were run in 2014, 2017, 2020 and 2023. The survey was amended between 2014 and 2017 in response to consultations undertaken with a wide range of City of Sydney staff, with the main change being a reduction in the number of questions asked. In 2017 the boundaries of the survey were also expanded to incorporate surrounding areas – including the Ashmore Precinct and adjacent neighbourhoods, another significant urban renewal area. Results from this precinct are presented in a separate report, which can be access here – https://cityfutures.ada.unsw.edu.au/my-place-local-community-survey-2023/. The survey has retained the same questions since 2017, except for a change to the wording of the gender question in the 2023 survey.

In total, 2,288 people completed the survey in Green Square in 2023, including 1,960 residents and 841 workers (513 people both lived and worked in Green Square). The body of this report presents the findings for residents. With a weighting for age applied, the results for residents of Green Square can be understood as broadly representative of the total resident population of Green Square (with the

exception of language spoken at home) with a margin of error of less than 3%. After weighting for age, the survey significantly underrepresents people speaking a language other than English at home (14% of survey respondents compared to 49% of residents at the last Census) and somewhat under-represents men, private renters, single person households and residents in 4+ storey apartments.

Key findings

The results of the 2023 survey demonstrate the following:

Wellbeing of residents

- The majority of residents (79%) agreed that the area was a good place to live. This figure is notably lower than in the 2020 survey (90% agreed it was a good place to live) and the 2017 survey (87% agreed).
- Fewer residents agreed that it was a good place to raise children (48%) or retire (39%). However, 70% of households with children agreed the area is a good place to raise children and more than half of people aged over 50 (56%) think the area is a good place to retire.
- The most commonly selected reasons for moving to the area were proximity to the Sydney CBD (58%) and proximity to public transport (44%). These were also the most commonly mentioned reasons in 2020 and 2017.
- The things people most commonly said that they liked about living in Green Square were the proximity to the Sydney CBD (63%), convenience of the location (59%), access to public transport (53%), and parks and green spaces (48%). People also liked that there are good facilities and services like shops, schools and libraries in the area (42%).
- The things people most commonly said that they disliked about living in Green Square related to the impacts of construction on the area (42%) and its overall density (35%). Many people were also concerned about insufficient parking (33%) and traffic (31%). In addition, almost a quarter (24%) of families with children were concerned that there are not enough schools in the area.
- Just over one-third (36%) of people felt strongly or very strongly part of their community at the local neighbourhood level. This was higher than in 2020, when only 26% of people reported feeling connected to their local neighbourhood. People were more likely to feel strongly or very strongly connected to their suburb (39%), the inner city (44%), Sydney (55%) and Australia (54%). The lowest level of attachment was to the street on which they lived (32% felt strongly or very strongly attached), but this had increased since 2020 (when only 23% of people reported feeling attached to their street). A similar proportion of people felt strongly or very attached to the building where they live in 2023 (42%) as in 2020 (41%). These results are lower than for the City of Sydney area as a whole (44% of City residents were satisfied with feeling part of their community in their local area in the 2018 City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey), and reflect the lower score found in the Green Square sub-sample of the 2018 City Wellbeing Survey (39% satisfied), which has decreased over time.

- The majority (73%) of the residents who completed the survey had lived in Green Square for 5 years or less and the majority (70%) planned to remain residents in the area for a number of years.

- Only one-quarter (26%) of residents were satisfied with the level of social interaction they have with other people who live and work in Green Square, with the remaining 74% all wanting more interaction, including 35% who currently had no interaction with other people in the area. Satisfaction has declined since the 2020 survey, when 32% of residents were satisfied with their level of interaction with other people in Green Square. In 2023, the vast majority (80%) of new residents who have lived in the area for less than one year would like to have more involvement with others in the area.

- The most commonly mentioned improvements residents wanted in Green Square related to socialising opportunities, including the variety of cafés, restaurants and bars (60%) and the availability of evening activities (45%), especially amongst younger people. While remaining important, improvements to traffic management and better public transport connectivity were less important in 2023 than in 2020 or 2017.

- Most Green Square residents travel to work or study using public transport (55%), and most walk (74%) and/or drive (36%) to the supermarket or shops. Many people also walk (57%) and/or drive (36%) to other social, sport or recreational activities.

The nature of social interaction and social cohesion in the area

- While most people (85%) said they would help their neighbours if needed, fewer (53%) thought their neighbours would help them, repeating the findings from the 2017 and 2020 surveys. These figures are similar to the figures for the city as a whole (95% of people said they would help their neighbours and 50% said they could get help from their neighbours when needed in the 2018 City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey). A third of resident respondents (33%) borrowed things and exchanged favours with neighbours and 43% regularly stopped to talk with people in their neighbourhood, an increase from the 2020 survey (where the results were 22% and 30% respectively).

- Most (78%) resident survey respondents meet with friends, relatives or work colleagues at least weekly. A small proportion (7%) meet with friends, relatives or work colleagues less than once per month.

- The most common ways in which people have contact with other people while in Green Square were chatting on the street (46%) and socialising in cafés, restaurants and/or pubs (43%). Socialising in parks is becoming increasingly important (28% in 2017, 32% in 2020 and 34% in 2023).

- Incidental interaction (running into people you know) was most likely to occur at local streets (56%), a local café, restaurant or pub (56%), and local shops (56%). Other important locations for incidental interaction were the entrance to the building people live in (54%) and local parks (53%).

- Many residents said most of their friends were of a similar age (68%) and educational background (63%) and just less than half (45%) said that they were of a similar ethnic background.

- Participation in formal civic activities increased across almost all measures between the 2020 and 2023 surveys. While slightly fewer people had signed a petition in 2023 than 2020, across all other measures, participation in civic activity increased. Especially notable was that 45% of people had taken part in another research project in the past year (compared to 24% in 2020 and 31% in 2017), 33% had participated in an online discussion (17% in 2020 and 20% in 2017) and 24% had attended a community meeting or consultation event (12% in 2020 and 2017).

- One-third of residents thought that they understand the rights around urban development and planning for the local area (35%). A quarter felt that they had made a civic contribution by working with others to improve the area (26%) or contributing to shaping Green Square (24%). Almost one-third (29%) felt that their thoughts about local issues in Green Square could be heard by people who make a difference (an increase from 22% in 2020) and almost a third (29%) agreed that there was strong local leadership in the area (an increase from 18% in 2020).

- The majority of residents felt safe or unconcerned in all situations. The situation in which the highest proportion of people felt unsafe was walking in Green Square alone after dark, in which 16% of people felt unsafe or very unsafe. Women were more likely to feel unsafe walking alone after dark (19%) than men (12%).

- While the majority (58%) of people feel that most people can be trusted, a notable minority (12%) disagree. These findings show an improvement over time, with 51% and 50% of people agreeing with this statement in 2020 and 2017 respectively.

Opportunities and barriers residents face in contributing to social cohesion and community development

- The services and facilities in Green Square most commonly used by residents were local cafés and restaurants (86%), local parks (76%) and regional parks (63%), similar to the results of the 2017 and 2020 surveys. Compared to the results from the 2017 and 2020 surveys, many more people attended a community event or market (51%), community gardens (31%), community or neighbourhood centre (24%) and childcare centres (23%).

- The most common limitation people experience to socialising with others in the area is time constraints (43% often or all of the time). Other important limitations are difficulty in finding information about social activities (33% often or all of the time), not being interested (23% often or all of the time), and not being confident with strangers (22% often or all of the time).

- People would like to get information about opportunities to participate in social activities in their local area electronically such as via social media (73%) and e-mails (47%). Almost half (46%) would like to be notified via notice boards in public places and/or in their building. Preferences differ by age and language spoken at home, although social media is the preferred medium across all age and language groups.

Implications for practice

It is expected that the survey findings will be used to inform Council's investments and activities across a range of areas, including community development, civic engagement, communications, placemaking, open space and public domain planning, and local business development. The implications for practice

presented here are preliminary and it is expected that City staff will further analyse and apply the survey findings to inform their work going forward. The City intends for the survey to be undertaken on a recurring basis over coming years, to monitor changes to the social fabric over time as the urban renewal area develops.

Implications for community development

Green Square is an area with a large proportion of new residents (73% of survey respondents have lived in the area for 5 years or less) and high residential mobility (only 6% disagreed with the statement that people move in and out of the area quite often). However, the majority (70%) of people plan to remain resident in the area for a number of years and there is a more established resident base already in the area (26% of people who completed the survey had lived in the area for 6 years or more). Connection to community at the local level has increased in the 2023 survey compared to the 2020 and 2017 surveys at the scale of the inner city and surrounds (44% connected), suburb (40%), local neighbourhood area (36%), the street (32%) and the building (42%).

There is a desire to build more local connections, with almost three-quarters (74%) of residents wanting to have more interaction with others who live and work in the area. Younger people in particular desire more local social interactions, with 78% of 18-29 year olds wanting more social interaction, and 44% saying that they do not have any interaction with people in the local area but would like to. This suggests that programs targeting younger residents in Green Square might be attractive. Interventions to encourage social interaction will be needed that engage residents who demonstrated a desire for greater involvement in social interactions but are constrained because of a lack of time and/or knowledge about the opportunities available to them, and a lack of confidence when dealing with strangers. Notably, desire for more local social interaction was also high in the neighbouring Ashmore area, where 66% of residents wanted more local social interactions. Council may, therefore, consider interventions to encourage social interaction across the broader area.

Implications for civic engagement

Around a third (35%) of residents felt they understood their rights around planning and urban development in the local area, slightly higher than in 2020 (32%) and 2017 (27%). Around a quarter (26%) felt they had made a civic contribution by working with others to improve the area (higher than 2020 when the figure was only 17%). It is possible that this figure is partly explained by the activities of the Community Construction Liaison Group that provided a forum for dialogue between City project staff, the local community and local stakeholders involved in construction projects within and around the Green Square town centre. The group meetings were well attended by local residents during 2021 and early 2022. More than a quarter (29%) felt that their thoughts about local issues could be heard by people who make a difference (higher than in 2020 when the figure was 22%) and that there was strong local leadership in the area (also 29%, compared to only 18% in 2020).

There is potential for improved engagement amongst residents in the area as demonstrated by their willingness to be engaged in political discussions, with more residents having participated in other research (45%) and participated in an online discussion (33%). The survey also revealed that relationships between language spoken at home and civic engagement are complex. People who speak a language other than English at home were less likely to attend a community meeting or consultation event, participate in council planning processes, contact a local politician or contact a media outlet than people who speak English at home in 2023. However, in 2020, participation in council planning processes were equal or higher amongst people who speak a language other than English at

home. In 2023, people who speak a language other than English at home were more likely to have participated in another research study than people who speak English at home (and were also equally or more likely to do so in 2020).

There were also differences between people who speak a Chinese language and other language at home, with participation in online discussions being higher amongst Chinese speaking residents than those speaking another language other than English at home. In comparison, participation in a protest or demonstration and signing a petition was higher for those speaking English and another language at home compared to Chinese-speaking residents. These observed differences are based on small sample sizes and should, therefore, be treated with caution. However, they suggest that different strategies may be needed to encourage civic engagement of people who speak a language other than English at home and that different strategies may be more effective for different language groups.

Implications for communications

Aside from time constraints (43%), difficulty in finding information about social activities (33%) was the second most common limitation given by residents to socialising with others in the area. Difficulties finding information about social activities were more pronounced among people speaking languages other than English at home.

Residents would like to receive information about social activities through social media (73%), e-mails (43%), noticeboards in public places and their buildings (46%) and websites (37%). The City can provide such information through City-specific social media and through partnering with other social media platforms known to be actively used in the area, as well as collaborating with building managers. Social media was effective in promoting the survey to residents. Social media was the preferred means for receiving information about social activities across all age groups. There has been a significant change between the 2020 and 2023 surveys in this regard: in 2020, only 36% of people aged over 50 wished to receive information via social media while in 2023 the figure was 65% for those over 50. This may reflect a change in recruitment strategy for the 2023 survey with more promotion occurring via social media (11.4% of survey respondents accessed the survey through social media channels). There were some differences in preferences between ages across other media, with e-mails and websites more popular amongst residents aged over 50, and noticeboards more popular amongst residents under 50. People who speak a language other than English at home were more likely than English speakers to wish to receive information via noticeboards. These results indicate that social media is an effective communication tool, but that a variety of communication methods, including noticeboards, e-mails and websites will be needed to reach all groups.

Implications for placemaking

The majority of residents (79%) agreed that the area is a good place to live, indicating a reduction in satisfaction since 2020 (90% agreed) and 2017 (87% agreed). People aged 30-49 were more likely to agree that the area is a good place to live (82%) than older (76% for those aged 50+) and younger (75% for those aged 18-29) residents. The City may wish to explore the reasons for this further with members of the community. People felt more strongly connected to Australia, Sydney and the inner city and surrounds than to their local area, street or building, which was also the case during the 2020 survey. However, in 2023, the proportion of people feeling connected to their community at the local neighbourhood level was 36% (compared to only 26% during the 2020 survey). Connection to the street on which they live also increased between the 2020 survey (23%) and the 2023 survey (32%). This indicates increasing levels of attachment at the local scale, at the same time as a decline in satisfaction

overall. These increasing levels of attachment cannot be explained by the length of residence of survey respondents (28% of respondents in 2020 had lived in the area for more than 6 years compared to 26% in 2023).

Implications for land use planning and transport planning and programs

The things people most commonly said they disliked about the area related to the impacts of construction on the area (42%) and its overall density (35%). Many people were also concerned about insufficient parking (33%) and heavy traffic (31%). While improvements to traffic management and public transport were important in 2017 (mentioned by 49% and 50% of resident respectively), in 2020 they remained important but were less commonly mentioned (mentioned by 43% and 43% of residents respectively), and in 2023 they were mentioned by an even smaller proportion of respondents as an area for improvement (29% and 35%). In 2023, people were more likely to ask for a greater variety of cafés, restaurants and bars (60%) and more evening activities (45%). This likely reflects the gradual maturity of Green Square as a neighbourhood, where most hard infrastructure is now in place.

More than half (55%) of residents travel to work or study using public transport and almost half (44%) said they moved to the area because of the proximity to public transport, demonstrating the important role that public transport plays in the attractiveness of the area. However, use of a private car to travel to work/study increased to 32% (from 28% in 2020). Cycling to work also increased from 9% per cent in 2020 to 15% in 2023. These changes in mode of transport likely reflect a broader shift away from public transport use since the Covid-19 pandemic. The increase in cycling may also be related to substantial investment in new cycleways in the area since 2020 as well as investment in local courses, guided rides, try-a-bike events and e-bike lease trials.

Implications for open space, public domain and community facility planning

Parks and public spaces are significant locations for social interaction in Green Square and heavily used by residents. A third (34%) of survey respondents reported having socialised with other people in parks in the past month and 53% of people reported running into people they know in local parks. After cafés and restaurants (86%), local (76%) and regional (63%) parks were the most commonly used local facilities. This could influence future updates to local land use planning and infrastructure development in Green Square and in future urban renewal areas, as it further confirms that parks are important in facilitating local social interaction.

More than half of residents reported running into people they know in the local area in cafés, restaurants or pubs (56%), local shops (56%), on local streets (56%) and at the entrance to or near the building they live in (54%) and almost half (46%) reporting chatting to people on the street. Local streets are an important location for local social interaction, alongside parks, and one-third (33%) of people said that they would like to see improvements in landscaping in streets and parks.

This is also an important role for more formal community facilities. The use of community or neighbourhood centres increased significantly in 2023 (24%) compared to previous years (10% in 2020 and 13% in 2017). It is possible that this reflects an increased use of community events venues for hosting parties and other social activities. It is also possible that people have become more aware of the facilities available to them in their local area as a result of spending more time in the local area during the Covid-19 lockdowns. Notably, use of neighbourhood and community centres also increased in the neighbouring Ashmore Area over the same period.

Use of local childcare has also increased to 23% in 2023, compared to only 5% in 2020 (the proportion of respondents with children was 24% in 2023 and 15% in 2020). This means that almost all respondents with children have a child of pre-school age who they send to childcare locally. Between 2019/20 and 2021/22 an additional 306 childcare places (service approved by the Department of Education) were provided in the Green Square area. The high proportion of people sending children to childcare locally may also reflect an increase in people working from home. There are forward-planning implications of this with regard to available school spaces in the local area. Notably, the new Green Square public school is currently under construction, and the nearby Alexandria Park community school for grades kindergarten to year 12 has also been completed. This may have influenced the decisions of people with children to live in the area. Notably, use of local childcare also increased in the neighbouring Ashmore area over the same period.

Implications for local business

A large proportion of survey respondents (86%) had visited local cafés or restaurants in the past six months, and many (43%) reported socializing with other people in cafés, restaurants and/or pubs. Such businesses are therefore playing an important social role in the area, and 60% of residents said that they would like to see a wider variety of cafés, restaurants and bars in the area in the future. Residents in the neighbouring Ashmore Area also wanted more cafés, restaurants and/or pubs in the area. The planned development of the Green Square Town Centre should assist in this regard. This suggests that the ideal of mixed- use development encouraging greater social interaction is supported by the findings in this case and has implications for development application planners who are making decisions about new businesses in the area. The City may also consider these findings in targeting local economic development programs.

Credit: Anthony Kerr

Introduction

Green Square is one of the fastest growing areas in Sydney. According to the City of Sydney, the area will contain 33,000 new residential dwellings when complete, housing a total of 63,000 residents (CoS 2023).

The City of Sydney has a high-level vision for Green Square: it will be a vibrant, sustainable and connected community in which to live and work (CoS 19). In order to support resilient and inclusive local communities, the City is working to ensure that residents and workers in Green Square have the facilities, resources, capacity and confidence to adapt to changing circumstances (CoS 2017, Strategic Direction 6).

So that the City of Sydney can identify how it might best support communities' social wellbeing associated with environmental, economic and social changes, it is essential to collect information about the experiences and desires of residents and workers. This includes their satisfaction with, and feelings of attachment and belonging to, the places they live and work, the nature of their social interactions and social cohesion, and their plans and desires regarding their local areas. To this end, this report presents the results of a community survey of residents and workers in the Green Square Urban Renewal Area in Sydney, Australia.

The study was undertaken by researchers at City Futures Research Centre, UNSW Sydney, with the assistance and support of the City of Sydney Council.

Research aims

The aim of this research was to develop a survey tool for on-going assessment of social interactions and social cohesion at a large-scale urban renewal site that could be used to:

- Measure the nature of social cohesion and social interaction and identify opportunities and barriers residents face in contributing to social cohesion and community development.
- Understand the wellbeing of residents and workers, including their satisfaction with and attachment to the area, their local area preferences and desires, and their plans for the future.

Green Square

The Green Square urban renewal area covers 278 hectares, including a 14-hectare town centre that includes a library, public plaza, community park, creative hub and childcare centre (CoS 2015; CoS n.d.). Green Square includes the suburbs of Beaconsfield and Zetland and parts of Rosebery, Alexandria and Waterloo (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Map of Green Square Urban Renewal Area

Source: City of Sydney 2014

The area, which is four kilometres from the Sydney CBD, was earmarked as a major urban consolidation site in the 1995 metropolitan strategy (Searle 2007:8), and the NSW State Government set up the South Sydney Development Corporation to manage the redevelopment of the site along with three others in the state.

Subsequently, South Sydney Council, in its 1998 South Sydney Local Environment Plan (LEP), identified Green Square as a site for future renewal through compact mixed-used development and design. The LEP and supporting Development Control Plan made provisions for the future development of affordable rental housing, private medium- and high-density housing, retail, commercial and public civic spaces in Green Square. Subsequent local government restructuring dissolved the South Sydney Council, transferring the jurisdiction to the City of Sydney Council.

Prior to being earmarked for redevelopment, the area was characterised by industrial uses. Frith (2004:49) notes that many industries were active in the area from the first half of the 1800s until the 1960s, when the downturn in secondary industry in Sydney saw these industrial uses replaced with commercial businesses, warehouses and car sales lots. While much of the area was taken up with industrial and commercial uses, there is also an older community of residents in Green Square, many of whom worked in the area (Frith 2004:49).

As the renewal progresses, newly refurbished public spaces and new community facilities are gradually introduced. These include a new town centre, refurbishment of the Waterloo library, updates to the

Green Square train station and bus interchange, including improved access from the train station to the new residential towers and commercial and retail precinct.

Background

The previous (2020) MyPlace Community Survey report included a review of relevant literature on: urban consolidation and mixed-use development in brownfields; social sustainability; and the neighbourhood as a site of social interaction and cohesion. Please refer to that report (Easthope et al. 2020) for more detail on these issues, a summary of which is provided below.

Key points

- Urban renewal in brownfield areas is an important component of broader compact city policies in place in Sydney, around Australia, and elsewhere in the world.
- Local and state governments have an interest in understanding how well urban renewal areas are performing, including the satisfaction of residents and workers with these areas.
- Understanding the satisfaction of residents and workers with these areas includes understanding resident and worker wellbeing, desires, patterns of facility and service use, social interaction and social cohesion.
- Social interaction is related to levels of neighbouring and refers to the nature and quality of interactions between people.
- Social cohesion is related to psychological sense of community and includes affective components of neighbourhood social life, including shared emotional connections, place attachment, membership, influence and sense of place.

Most neighbourhood studies on urban renewal areas have focused on the renewal of areas identified as disadvantaged, often in the suburbs, and less attention has been paid to urban renewal in brownfield sites, or to areas dominated by private medium- and high-density housing. There are few systematic post- occupancy studies of social outcomes of these areas, which make up a large component of urban growth in central and inner areas of cities. This is a significant gap in knowledge around planning for these very important growth areas.

Information collected in a tailored survey of social interaction and social cohesion in higher-density urban renewal sites, such as the survey presented in this report, can inform local land use planning, community development interventions, infrastructure investment and open space and public domain planning.

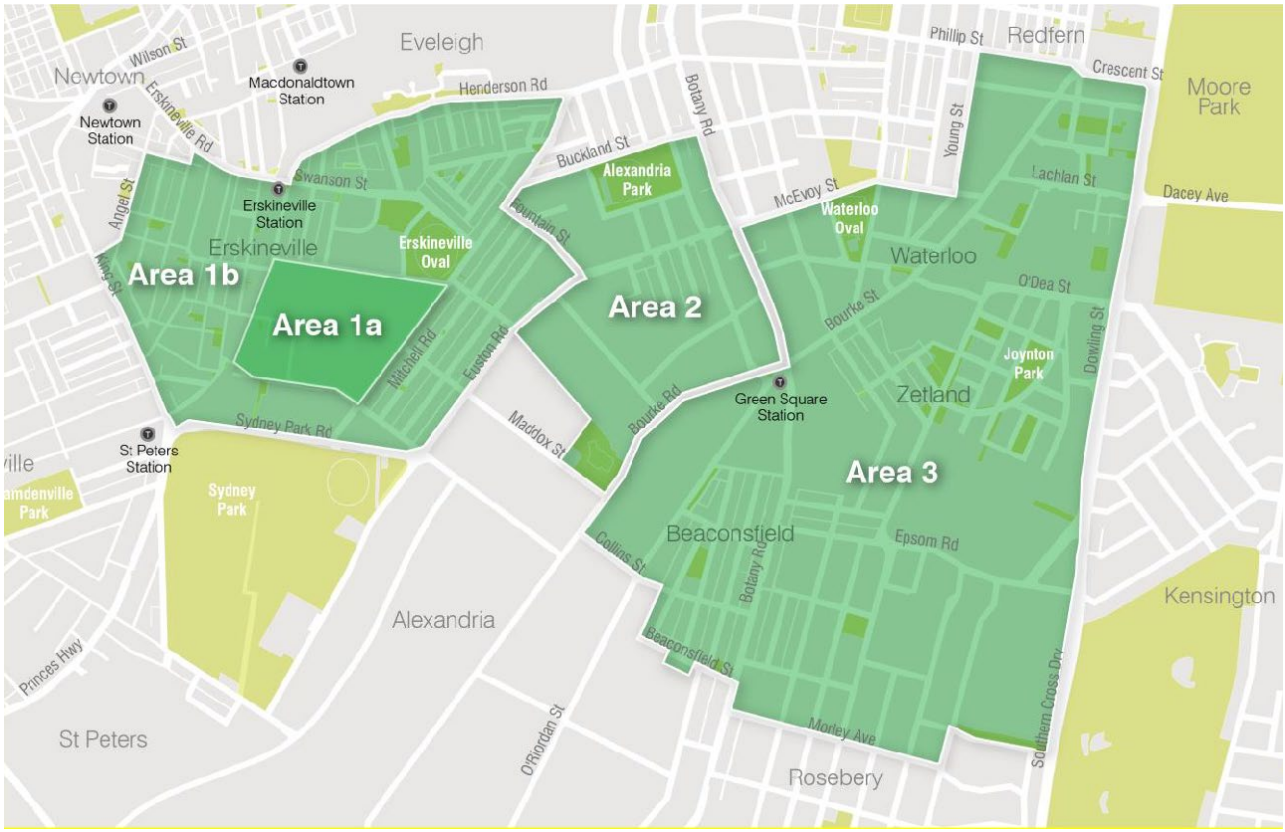
Survey development

This section of the report discusses the development and application of the survey tool for on-going assessment of social interaction and social cohesion at a large-scale urban renewal site.

The 2023 MyPlace community survey is the result of many years of development. There have been five surveys conducted to date in Green Square, including a pilot survey (2013), and three full surveys (2014, 2017 and 2020) prior to the 2023 survey presented here.

The pilot survey and 2014 survey focused on the Green Square urban renewal area. In 2017, the survey boundaries were extended to include the Ashmore Precinct and surrounding area. The map below shows the wider survey area. This report only reports on the data for residents within the Green Square urban renewal area (Areas 2 and 3 in Figure 2). A separate report on the survey findings for the Ashmore Estate Precinct and surrounding area (Areas 1a and 1b in Figure 2) is available at https://cityfutures.ada.unsw.edu.au/my-place-local-community-survey-2023/ (Easthope et al. 2023).

Figure 2: Wider Survey Area (Green Square covers Areas 2 and 3)



Survey design

The Green Square Community Survey was designed as an on-going assessment tool for large-scale brownfield urban renewal sites dominated by private medium- and high-density housing.

The survey focuses on the attitudes and behaviours of residents and workers. Information collected can be used to assess existing usage of services and facilities and plan for new services and facilities provided by local councils in regard to their influence on social interaction and social cohesion. The survey is also designed to provide information on the influence of other factors (beyond the provision of services and facilities by the City of Sydney) on social interaction and social cohesion, which can inform changes and improvements in areas such as adapting design requirements, responding to social issues

or concerns, and encouraging grass-roots initiatives. A copy of the full survey is available in Appendix 2.

The tool was developed from a comprehensive research process, outlined in the 2017 report (Easthope et al. 2017).

Survey promotion

Promotion for the 2023 survey commenced on the 1st of March when the online survey went live (as detailed in Table 1), while postcards containing a QR code directing people to the online survey were delivered as unaddressed mail to all residential and business addresses within the survey area. Residents were directed to complete the survey online, collect hard copies of the survey in either English or Simplified Chinese from the Green Square library (see Figure 3) or request a hardcopy be mailed to their home address by contacting the research team. Across the study area, only four people chose to complete a hardcopy survey with the online survey proving most popular.

Figure 3: Survey promotion at Green Square Library (credit: Edgar Liu)

Figure 4: Survey promotion at Green Square train station (credit: Sophie-May Kerr)

Posters and digital advertisements containing the survey QR code were displayed in local libraries (see Figure 3), community centres, train stations (see Figure 4), bus stops and public spaces. The survey was also promoted across City Futures' social media platforms as well as in several of the City of Sydney's online forums and e-newsletters. In addition, the City of Sydney promoted the survey via paid advertising on social media. UNSW staff promoted the survey in-person by handing out postcards across parks and public spaces, and via attendance at two community events: St Patrick's Day (18th March in Green Square Plaza) and child and family day (31st March in Tote Park, Zetland). Promotion of the survey continued throughout the life of the survey, which closed on the 12th of April. The date of each promotion was recorded, as well as the number of completions received over time. Survey completions continued to increase steadily over the period that the survey was open. There were notable spikes coinciding with the postcard letterbox drops, as well as following attendance at community events.

Table 1: Promotion of the Community Survey

Promotion type	**Details**
Postcards	Postcards containing a QR code directing community members to the online survey were distributed to 32,000 residential and mixed-use buildings within the broader study area.
Flyers, digital message boards, printed surveys and submission box.	Flyers, posters and digital advertisements both containing the survey QR code were distributed across local libraries, community centres, train stations, shopping centres, bus stops and public spaces. In addition, managers of selected residential and mixed-use buildings displayed posters in building foyers/lobbies. Printed copies of the survey were available at Green Square library, along with a submission box.
Attendance at community events and hand to hand postcard distribution.	UNSW staff promoted the survey in-person by handing out postcards across parks and public spaces, and via attendance at community events including St Patrick's Day (18th March in Green Square Plaza) and child and family day (31st March in Tote Park, Zetland).
E-news article and City of Sydney websites	Content article distributed via email to Green Square database (2,555 subscribers), Previous participants (865), CoS Digest (5,522 subscribers) and posted to several City of Sydney webpages.
City Futures website	Project page with survey link.
City of Sydney Facebook and Instagram accounts and City Futures Twitter and LinkedIn accounts	Multiple promotions of the survey through these media, including paid/boosted posts specifically targeted local audiences through City of Sydney Facebook and Instagram.

Survey sample and response

During the period that the survey was available, 2,288 complete and valid responses to the survey were received. Of those who completed the survey, 1,960 people (86%) lived in Green Square and 841 (37%) worked in Green Square at the time of the survey (see Table 2). These figures do not sum to 100

per cent as 513 of the respondents both lived and worked in Green Square. It is possible that many of these worker respondents were people working from home.

The completion rate of the survey was also recorded, giving indication of how many people finished all survey questions, versus people that started the survey and did not complete all questions. This gives some indication of the community interest in the survey and shows that 78% of respondents completed the survey in full. The number of people who answered each question is provided in the figure caption. Across the key findings, we have rounded to the nearest whole number and thus not all figures total 100 per cent.

The 2023 Green Square resident sample (1,960 people) compares to sample sizes for Green Square residents in the 2017 and 2020 surveys of 989 and 1,104 respectively.

Table 2: Total resident and working population in Green Square

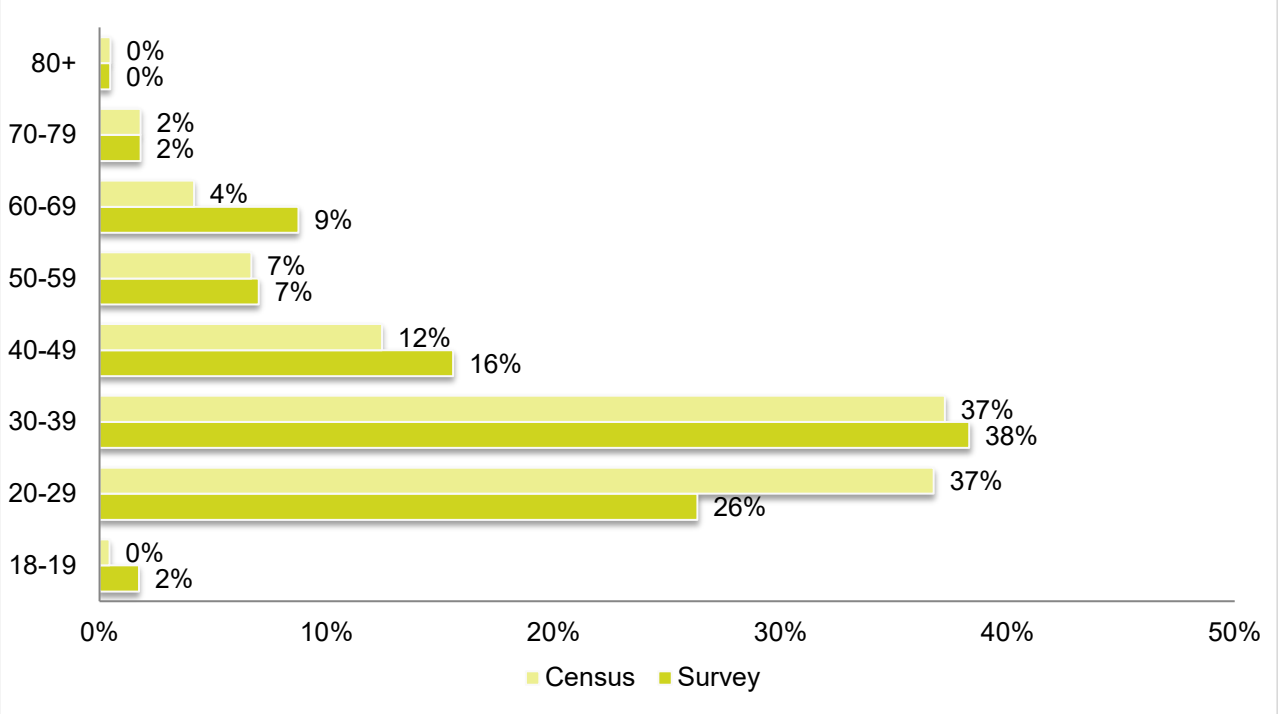
	Population	**Survey response**	**Survey response as a proportion of total population**	**Confidence interval at 95% confidence**
Total resident population	36,196	1,960	5.40%	2.15
Total working population	12,614	841	6.70%	3.26

Sources: resident data: ABS (2021); worker data: City of Sydney Floor Space and Employment Survey (2017)

Residents

Appendix 3 Demographic characteristics of resident survey respondents contains detailed information comparing the resident survey sample with the total resident population of the area. The profiles of the resident respondents were broadly representative of the total population of the area, with some exceptions, most notably the age of respondents (see Figure 5). In order to correct for this bias in the survey sample when compared to the total population, a weighting was applied to the survey results. This gives more weight to the responses given by people in under-represented age groups (in this case 20-29-year-olds) and less weight to the responses given by people in over-represented age groups. The weight is applied on the assumption that people with different demographic characteristics are likely to respond to questions differently. Compared to the population at the time of the last census (2021), also with a weighting for age applied, the results for residents of Green Square can be understood as broadly representative of the total resident population of Green Square with the exception of language spoken at home, with a margin of error of less than 3%. After weighting for age, the survey significantly under-represents people speaking a language other than English at home (14% of survey respondents compared to 49% of residents at the last Census) and somewhat under-represents men, private renters, single person households and residents in 4+ storey apartments. The full survey results, including all information collected about survey participants, are presented in Appendix 5.

Figure 5: Age of 2023 survey respondents compared to age of total adult population from 2021 Census



When reporting on residents' responses to the survey, confidence intervals for the survey are 2.15 at 95% confidence at 50% based on a total population of 36,196. This means that if 50% of residents who completed the survey answered a question in a particular way, we can be 95% confident that between 47.85% and 52.15% of all residents in the Green Square urban renewal area would have responded in that way.

Confidence intervals improve when the percentage response is greater than 50%. For example, if 75% of residents who completed the survey answered the question in a particular way, then we can be 95% sure that between 73.14% and 76.86% of the total residential population of the area would have responded in this way (i.e. the confidence interval is 1.86 at 95% confidence at 75%).

Thus, with the weighting for age applied, the results for residents of Green Square can be understood as broadly representative of the total resident population of Green Square, with a margin of error in responses of less than 3% (this margin will differ slightly depending on the question reported).

There is one further qualification to make regarding the sample. While the survey responses are broadly representative of the total resident population in terms of demographic factors, because the survey was an opt-in survey, it can be expected that people who are more involved with, and invested in, the local area might be more likely to complete the survey. This should be kept in mind when reviewing the survey results. In particular, this may have an influence on how positively people speak about their area and local communities, how long they are planning to remain in the area, and their degree of involvement in civic activities.

Workers

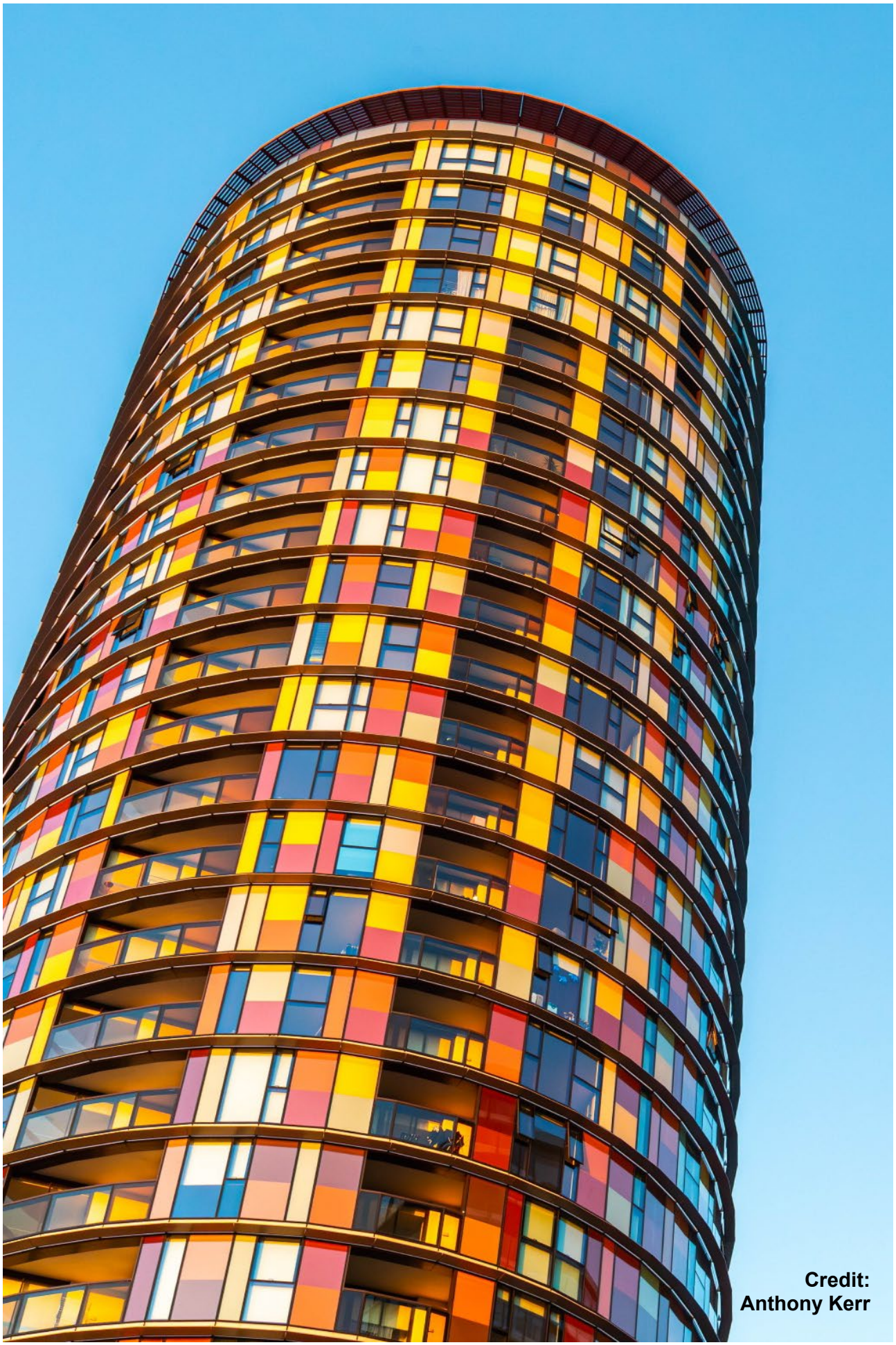
Comparing the working survey responses to the total working population in the area (see Table 2), 6.7% of the working population in Green Square completed the survey.

Similar demographic information to that available for residents through the Census is not available for people who work in Green Square and so it is not possible to comment on whether the survey sample reflects the demographic characteristics of the broader population of workers in the area. However, as outlined in Appendix 4, workers with a wide range of demographic characteristics completed the survey.

When reporting on workers, the confidence interval for the survey is 3.26 at 95% confidence at 50%, based on the 2017 City of Sydney Floor Space and Employment Survey data in lieu of more updated data. As such, while the confidence interval is at an acceptable level, the results for workers should not be considered representative of the total population of workers in Green Square as the total numbers of workers in the area may have also increased in line with local residential population. However, the findings from workers are still of interest and provide an indication of some of the experiences of workers in Green Square. Appendix 4 provides a summary of all the survey findings for workers.

Summary

In summary, 1,960 residents and 841 workers completed the survey in Green Square (513 respondents both lived and worked in Green Square). The survey results reasonably reflect the total residential population (with a margin of error of less than 3%) once a weighting has been applied to correct for a bias in the age of respondents. However, the survey results for workers also have a similar degree of error, it is based on a potentially outdated workers base population, and as such should not be considered representative of the total working population of the area.



Credit:
Anthony Kerr

Key findings

This section presents selected findings of the survey and discusses their relevance in regard to the aims of the survey. A report of the full survey findings for residents is available in Appendix 5.

Some of the questions asked in the survey can be benchmarked against other surveys that have asked the same questions. The comparative survey results for benchmarking are available in Appendix 6.

This section begins by presenting the survey findings that relate to the reported wellbeing of the resident population. The following sections report on the nature of social interaction and social cohesion for residents. The final section discusses opportunities and barriers to social interaction and social cohesion in the area.

Resident wellbeing

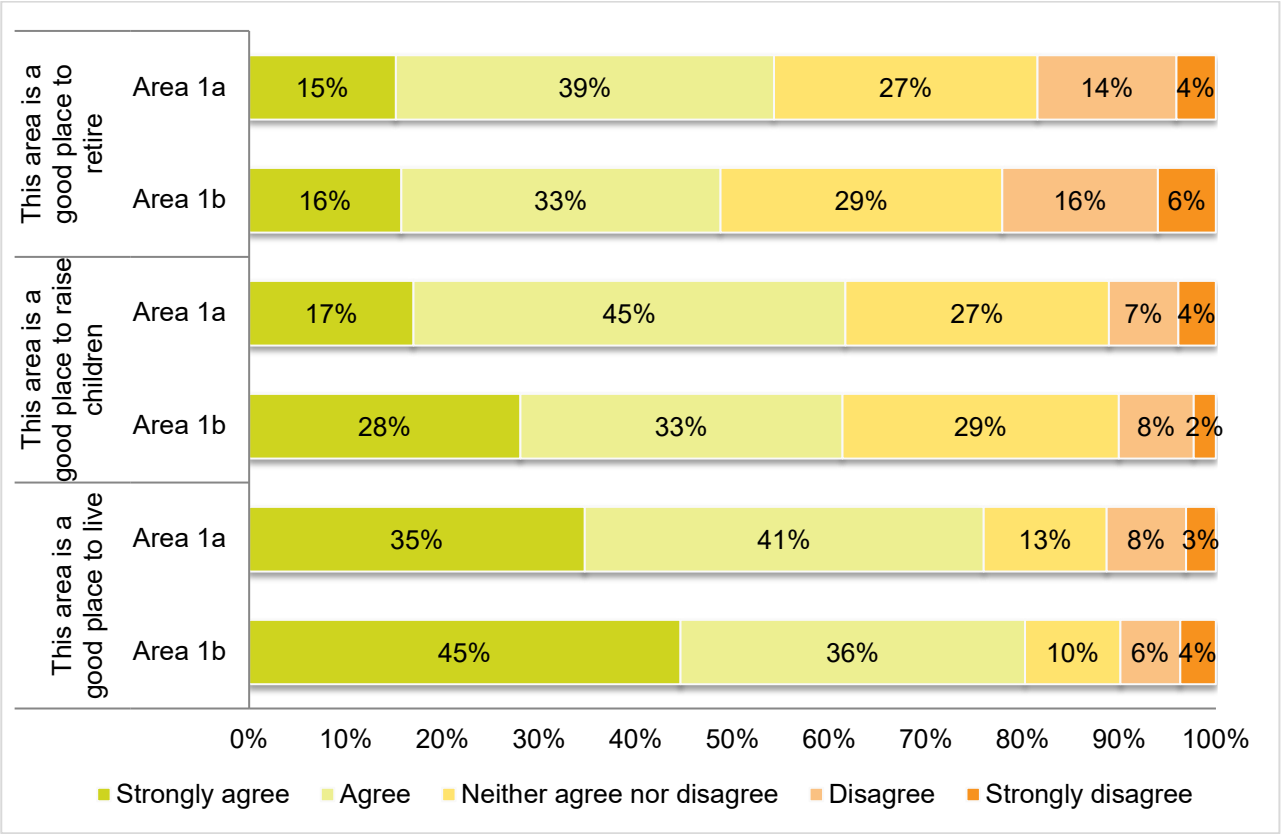
This section presents findings of the survey regarding satisfaction with the area, feelings of attachment and belonging and people's plans and desires regarding the area.

Satisfaction with area

Survey respondents were asked three direct questions about their satisfaction with the Green Square area. As can be seen in Figure 6, the vast majority of residents (79%) agreed that the area was a good place to live, while only 10% disagreed (11% neither agreed nor disagreed). However, when asked about whether Green Square was a good place for children and retirees, fewer respondents agreed (48% regarding children and 39% regarding retirees).

***Key finding**: The majority of residents (79%) agreed that the area was a good place to live, but fewer agreed that it was a good place to raise children (48%) or retire (39%). 70 per cent of households with children agreed the area is a good place to raise children and the majority of people aged over 50 (56%) think the area is a good place to retire.*

Figure 6: To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = various, 1495-1497)



These findings in the 2023 survey are very similar to those in the 2020 and 2017 surveys, with comparably fewer people agreeing that Green Square is a good place to live, though more now find it a better environment for children and to retire (see Figure 7 and Figure 8).

Figure 7: 2020 survey results for To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = various, 1091-1099)

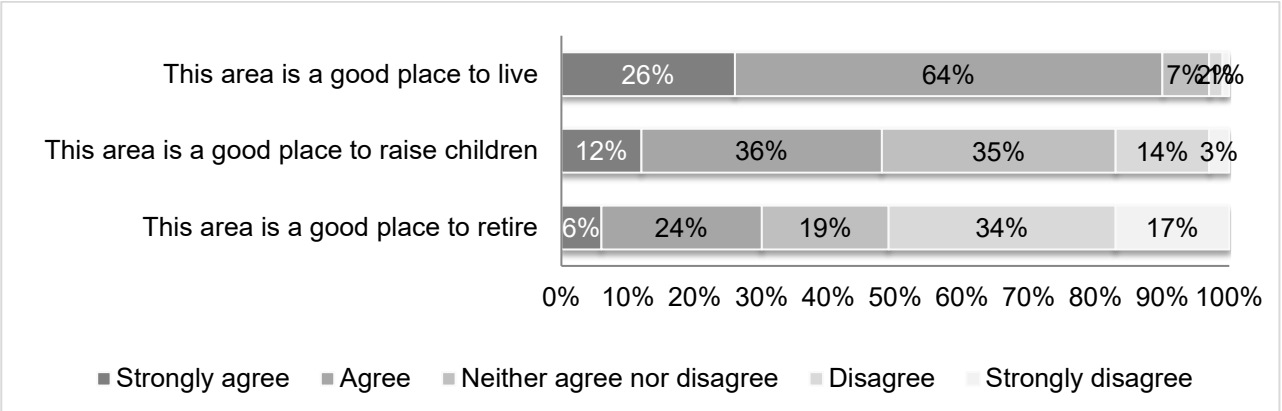
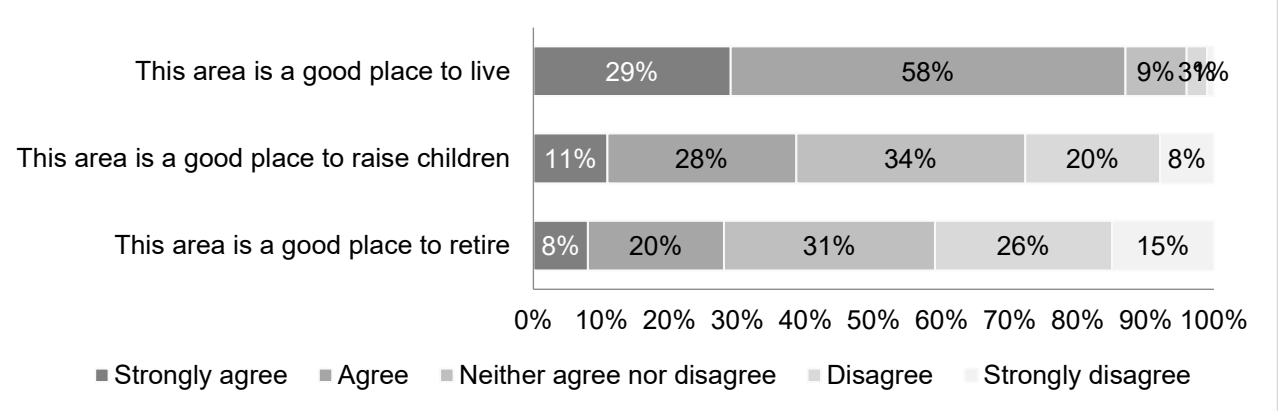
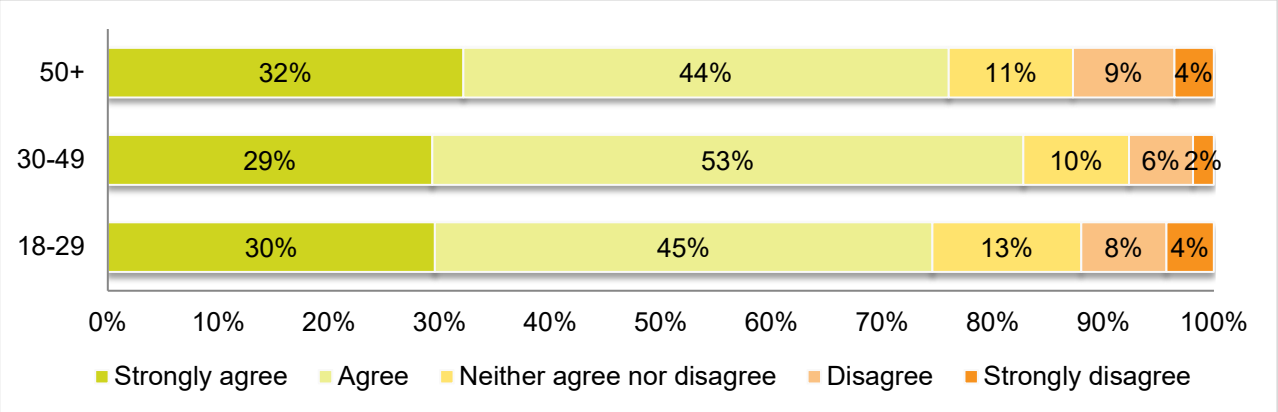


Figure 8: 2017 survey results for To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = various, 983-989)



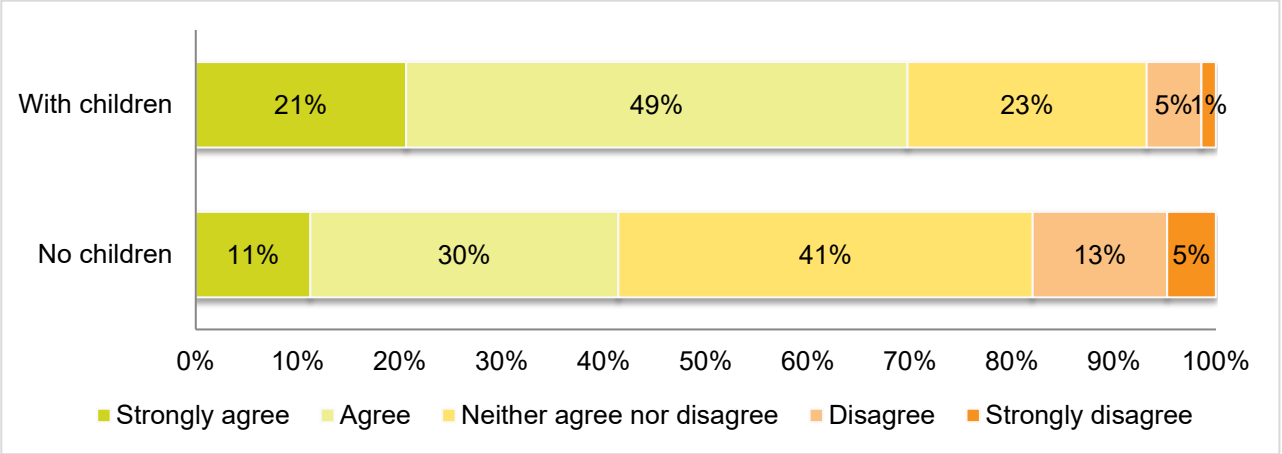
In the 2023 survey, when responses to the statement 'the area is a good place to live' were compared with the ages of respondents, more middle-aged people (82% of 30-49 year olds) agreed with this statement than people in younger (75% of 18-29 year olds) or older age groups (76% of people aged over 50; see Figure 9).

Figure 9: 'This is a good place to live' responses by age group (n18-29 = 558, n30-49 = 743, n50+ = 196)



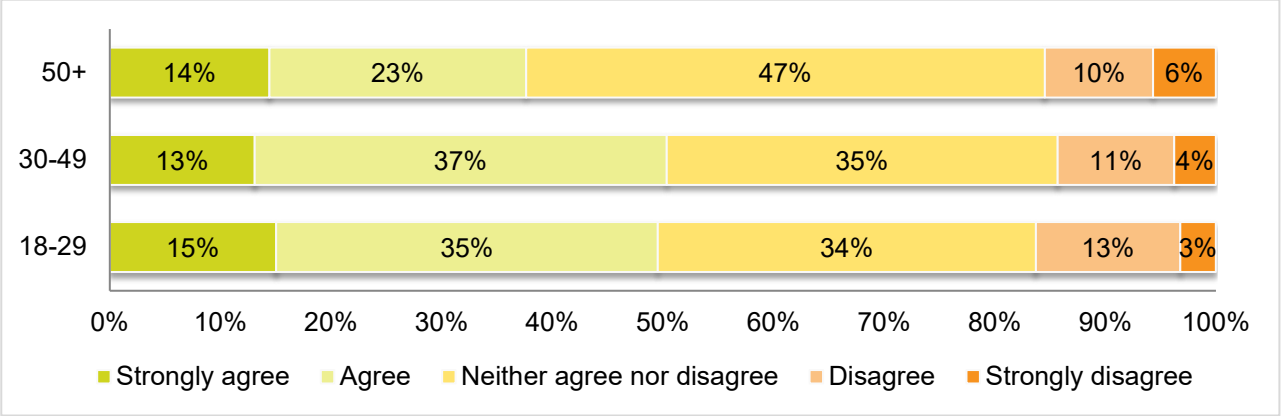
When responses to the statement 'this area is a good place to raise children' were compared with whether respondents lived in a household with children, more households with children (couple families plus children and single person plus children) agreed with the statement than people in households without children (couple no children, single person and other). Over two-thirds (70%) of those respondents living in the area with children believe the area is a good place to raise children with only 6% disagreeing (see Figure 10).

Figure 10: 'This area is a good place to raise children' responses by household type (nWith children = 354, nNo children = 1069)



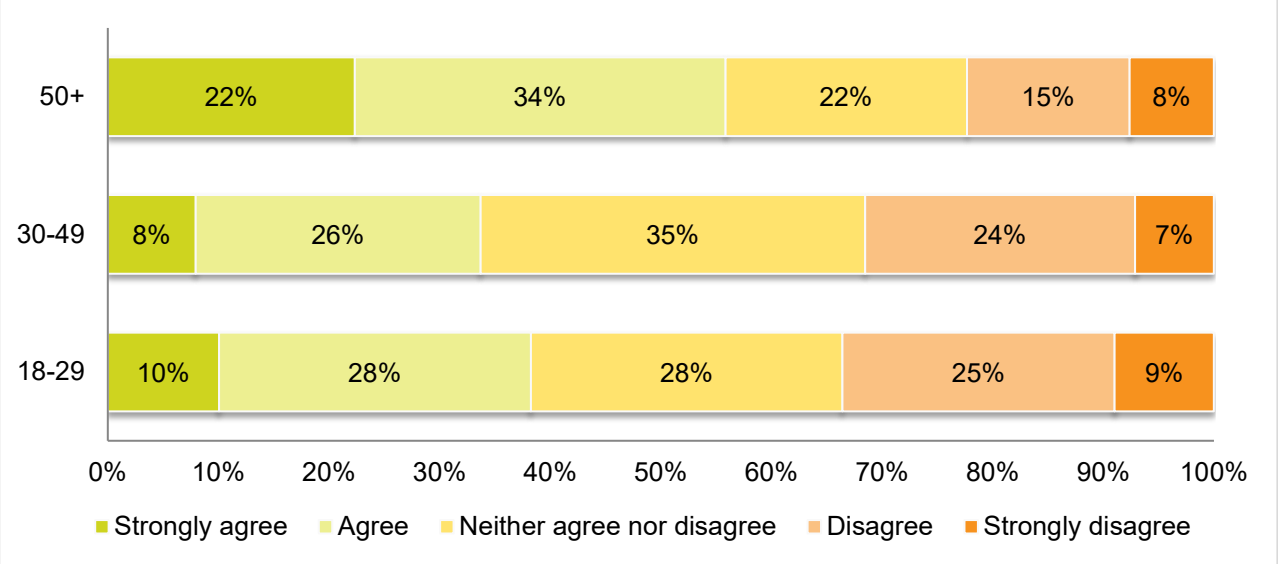
There was a notable difference between age groups on agreement that the area is a good place to raise children, with only 37% of people aged over 50 agreeing with this statement compared to 50% of people ages 18-29 and of people aged 30-49 (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: 'This area is a good place to raise children' responses by age group (n18-29=559, n30-49=741, n50+=194)



There were also differences in the response to the statement 'this area is a good place to retire' by age. While approximately two-fifths of people agreed that the area is a good place to retire (39%), 56% of those aged over 50 agreed that it was a good place to retire (with 23% disagreeing). Notably fewer people in the other age groups (38% of 18-29 year olds, and 34% of 30-49 year olds) saw Green Square as a good place for them to retire (see Figure 12).

Figure 12: 'This is a good place to retire' responses by age group (n18-29 = 557, n30-49 = 742, n50+ = 197)

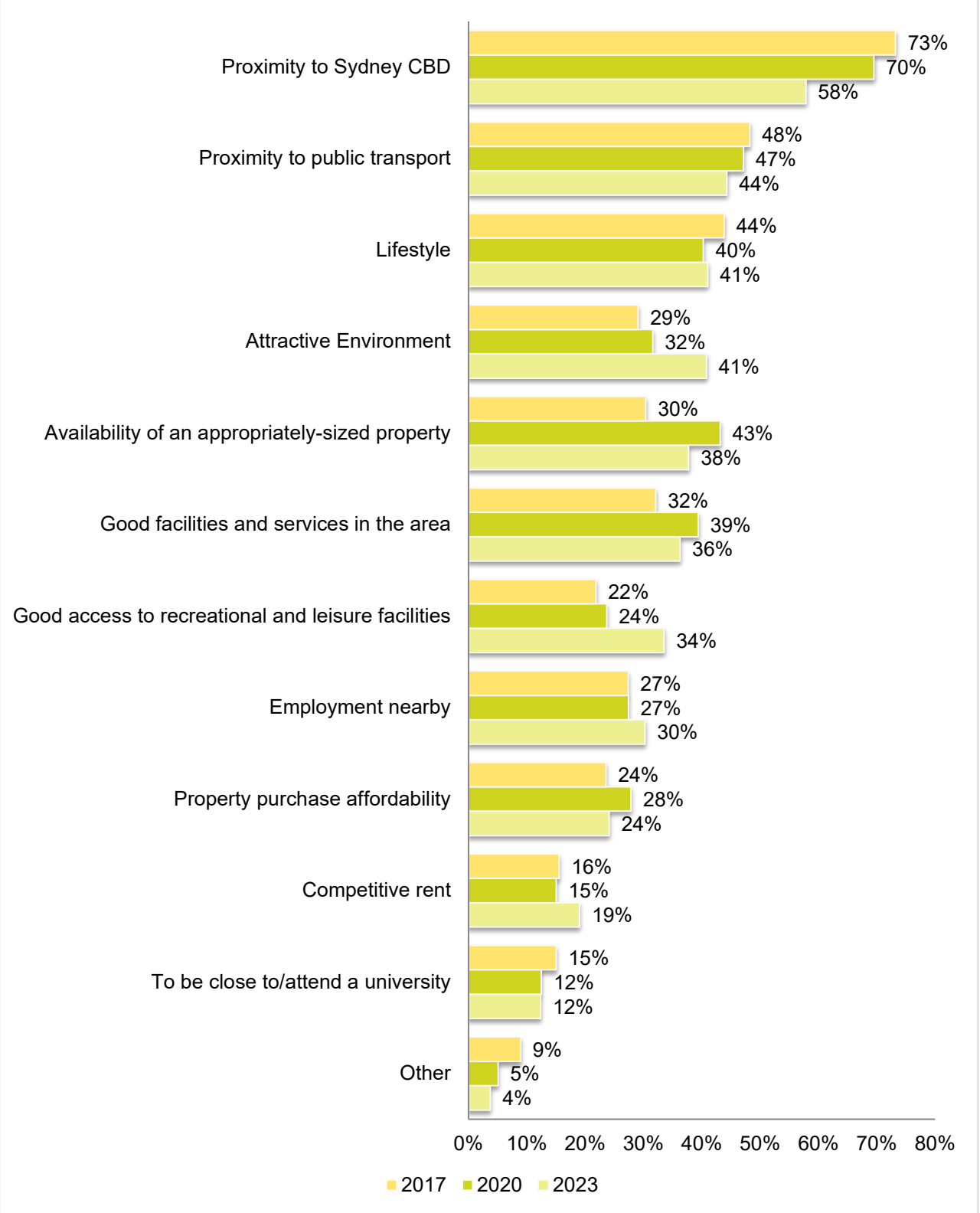


To understand whether people are satisfied with the area, it is also important to recognise why people moved to the area in the first place. Survey respondents were asked to select all of the reasons they thought were important from a list of possible area attractors (see Figure 13). The most selected reason for moving to the area was proximity to the Sydney CBD (58% of residents). Related to this, employment nearby (30%) and access to a university (12%) were also noted as important reasons for living in the area.

In addition to the convenient location of the area, several property-related factors were also noted as important by some respondents, including the availability of an appropriately sized property (38%), property purchase affordability (24%) and competitive rent (19%).

Lifestyle factors were also important for two-fifths of respondents (41%), and related to this, the attractive environment (41%), access to recreational and leisure facilities (34%) and good facilities and services (36%) were important. These results—except for proximity to the CBD, attractive environment, and good access to recreational and leisure facilities—are similar to those of the 2017 and 2020 surveys. Proximity to the CBD is now notably less important than previously, likely a reflection of our changed work patterns and locations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns. Relatedly, the increased importance of an attractive environment and having good access to recreational and leisure facilities also reflects this shift, with more residents likely spending a greater proportion of their workdays at or near home compared to pre-pandemic, and a greater awareness of the need for these amenities.

Figure 13: Why did you move to the area? Responses from 2023, 2020 and 2017 Green Square survey (1497 in 2023, n = 1105 in 2020, n = 997 in 2017)



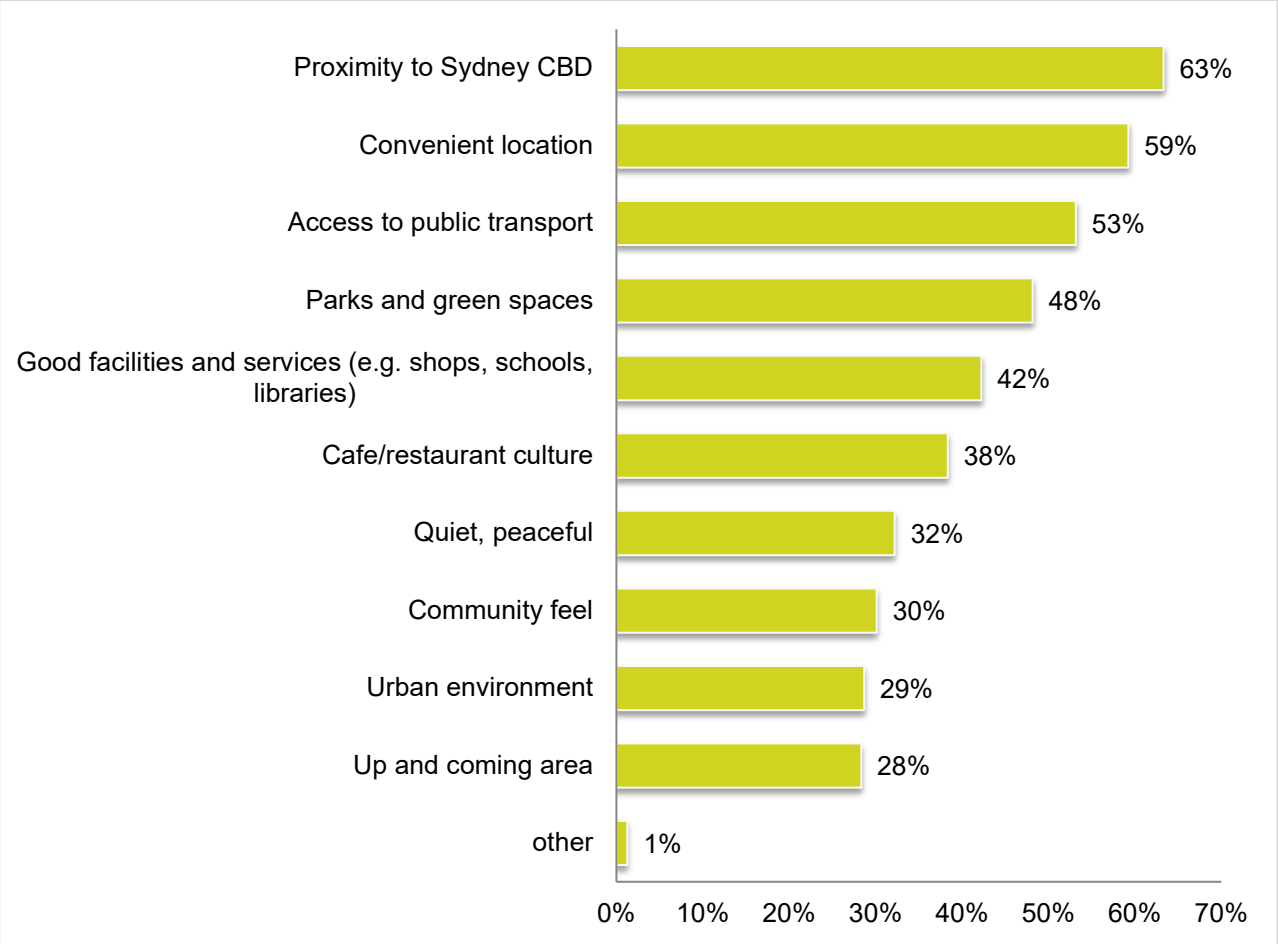
Key finding: *The most commonly selected reasons for moving to the area were proximity to the Sydney CBD (58%) and proximity to public transport (44%). These were also the most commonly mentioned in 2017, though proximity to the CBD is now less important than previously. However, the third most common reasons in 2023 was 'lifestyle' and 'attractive environment' (41% each), while it was availability of an appropriately sized property (43%) in 2020.*

Directly addressing the question of satisfaction with the area, survey respondents were asked what they liked the most and the least about living in Green Square. As indicated in Figure 14, the most common thing that people liked about living in Green Square was that it was close to the Sydney CBD, and a convenient location (63% and 59% respectively). Many people also indicated access to public transport as a benefit of living in the area (53%). Regarding public space, many people indicated being close to green space and parks as a benefit (48%).

People also indicated the positive atmosphere or feel of the area, with one-third indicating that it is quiet and peaceful (32%) with a community feel (30%), while others thought it was an urban (29%) or up and coming area (28%). Related to this, the restaurant and café culture was also singled out by many as a particular advantage of the area (38%). By comparison, the top response to this question in Ashmore was access to public transport (56%), followed by café/restaurant culture (54%), community feel (54%) and convenient location (54%). 'Other' open answer responses in Green Square included positive comments about proximity (12/37 responses), cycling and pedestrian infrastructure (8/37), safety (4/37) and the fact it is a pet-friendly area (4/37).

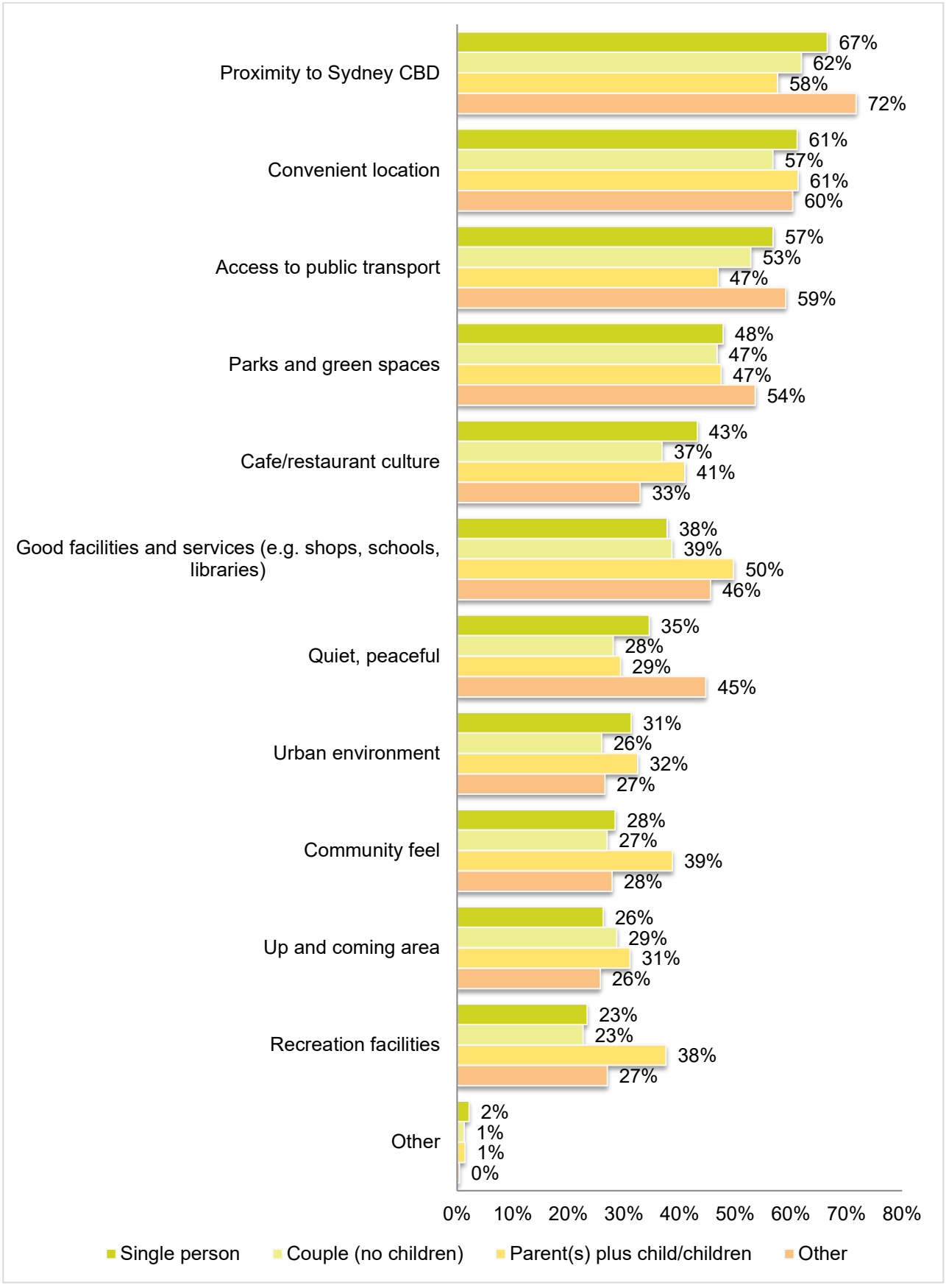
Key finding: *The things people most commonly said that they liked about living in Green Square were the proximity to the Sydney CBD (63%), convenience of the location (59%), access to public transport (53%), and parks and green spaces (48%). People also liked that there are good facilities and services like shops and schools in the area (42%).*

Figure 14: What do you like the most about living in the area? (n = 1497)



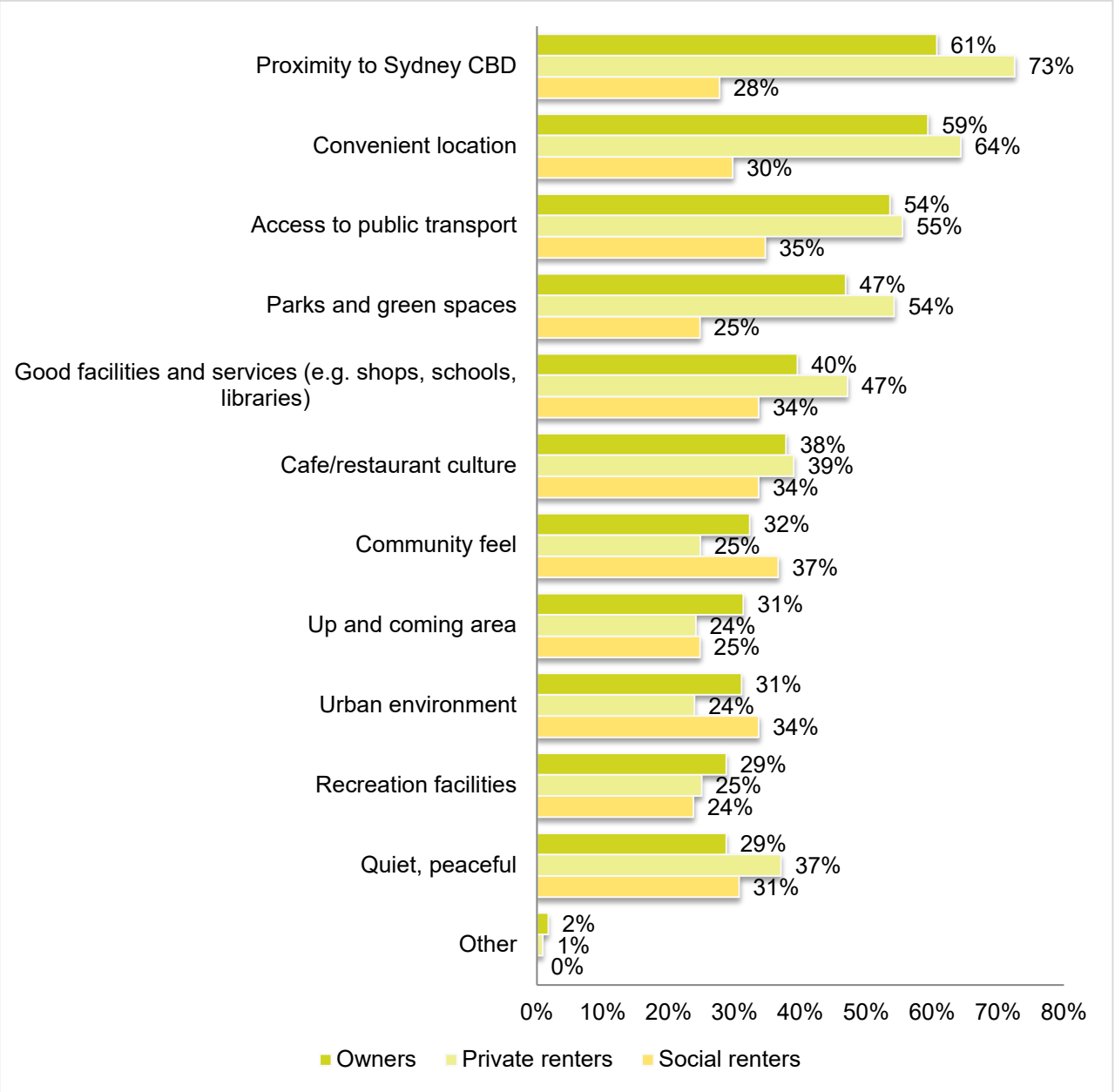
The aspects of living in Green Square that people like the most are very similar across all household types, with proximity to the Sydney CBD, the convenient location and access to public transport being the top three most important characteristics of the area for singles, couple, families with children and other households (Figure 15). Single-person households reported higher levels of satisfaction across many of these factors than the other household types.

Figure 15: What do you like the most about living in the area? (nSingle person = 278, nParent(s) with children = 354, nCouple = 627, nOther = 237)



The aspects of Green Square that people like the most are also similar across tenures (Figure 16), with convenience of location, access to public transport and parks and green spaces being important for all groups. Private renters, in general, were more likely to report higher levels of satisfaction on these factors than owners and social renters[1].

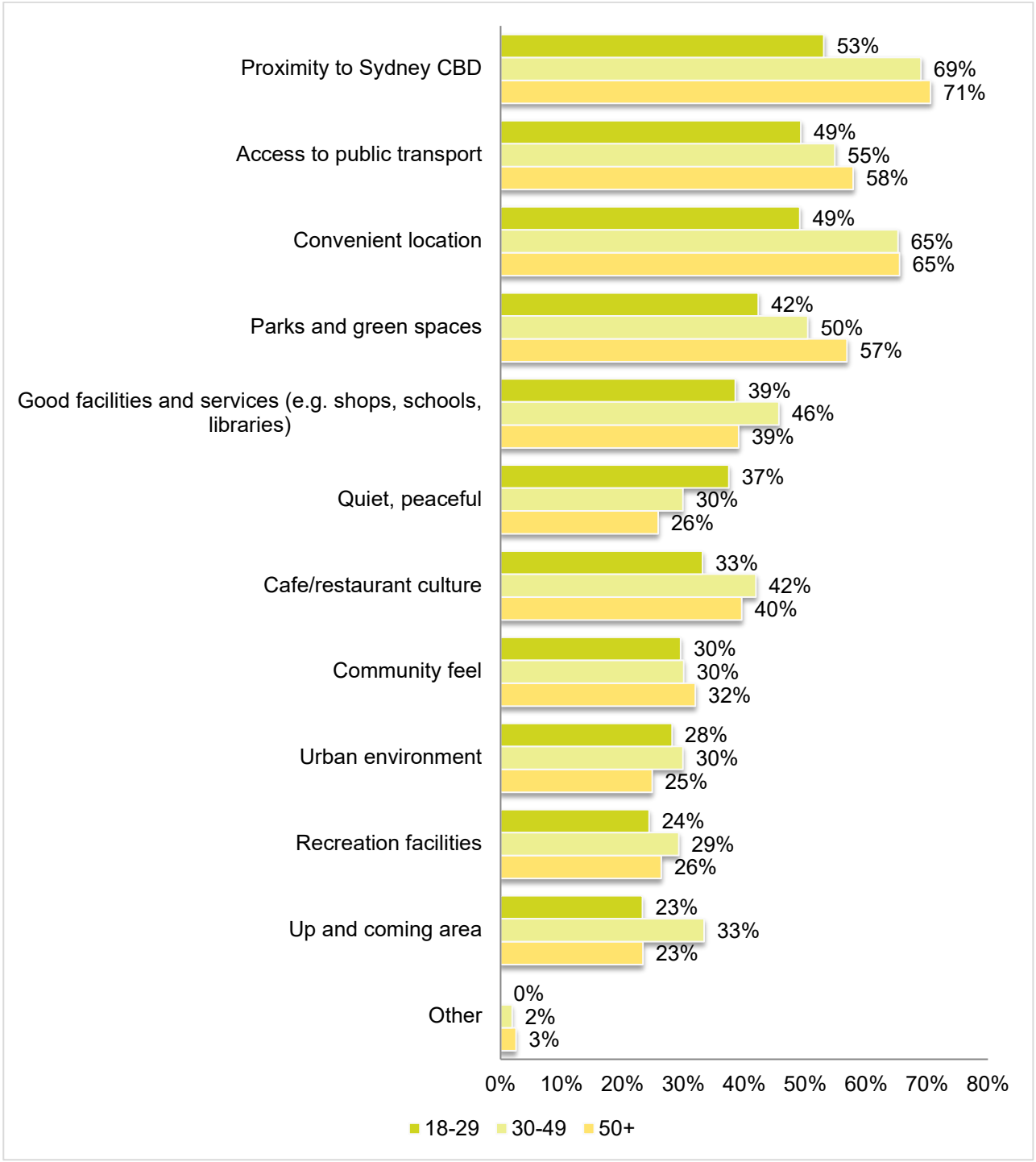
Figure 16: What do you like the most about living in the area? (nOwner = 817, nPrivate renter = 564, nSocial renter = 101)



[1] The very small sample size for social renters mean that these results have a high margin of error and should be treated cautiously.

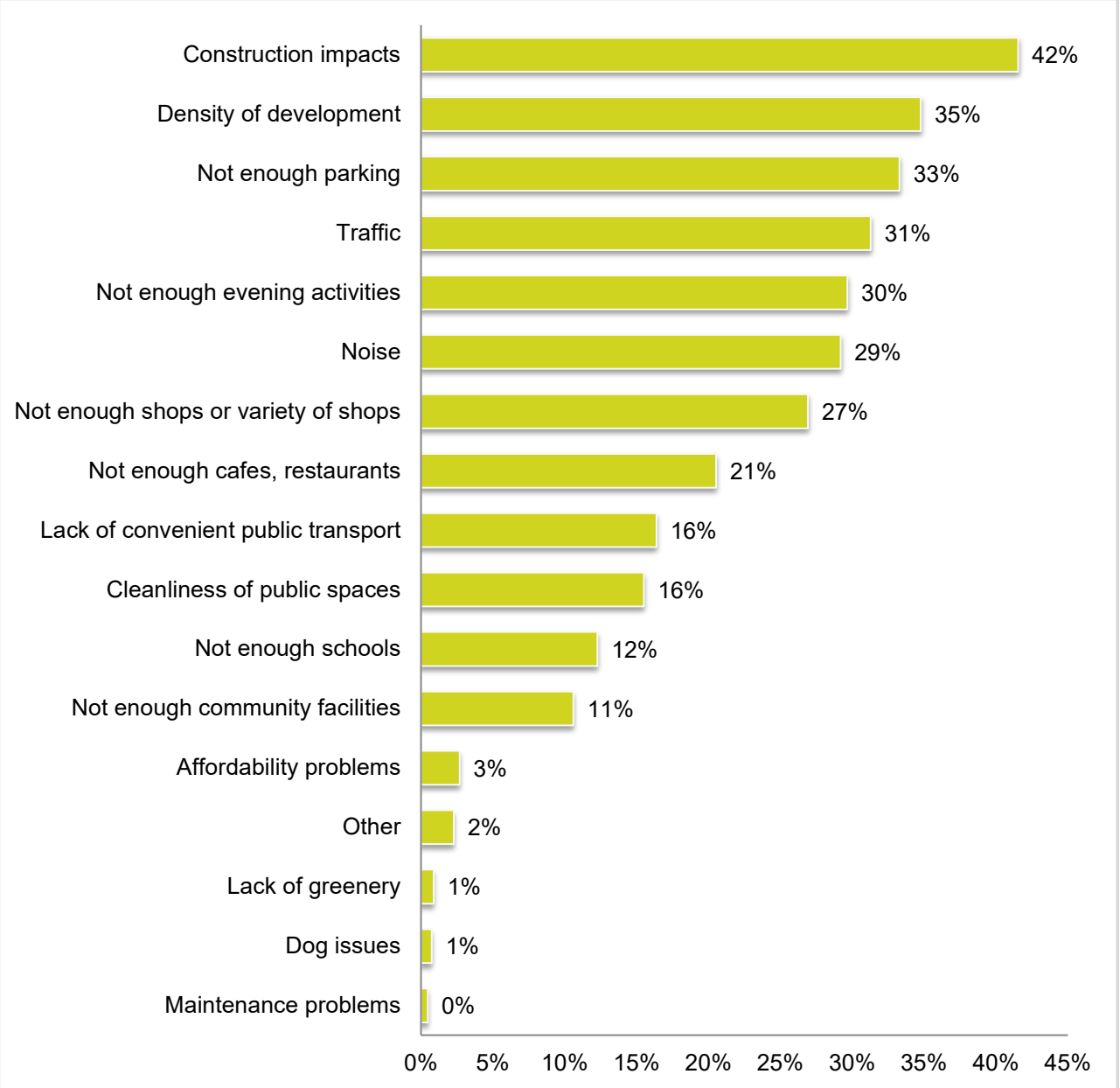
What people like the most is also similar across age groups (Figure 17), but with notable differences in the importance placed on parks and green spaces by people aged over 50 (57%) as well as differences between those in the 18-29 age group in the lesser importance of Green Square's proximity to the CBD and its overall convenience.

Figure 17: What do you like the most about living in the area? (n18-29 = 558, n30-49 = 742, n50+ = 197)



The most common thing that people indicated when asked what they liked the least about living in Green Square related to urban planning and development (see Figure 18). Most responses related to concerns about overdevelopment, such as construction impacts (42%) and density of development (35%). Respondents were also concerned about not having enough parking (33%), heavy traffic (31%) and noise disturbance in the area (29%). Concerns about services and facilities included not enough shops or variety of shops (27%) and not enough evening activities (30%). These concerns were similar to those raised by survey participants in 2020, when the top responses were construction (49%), traffic (48%) and density of development (46%).

Figure 18: What do you like the least about living in the area? (n = 1490)



Some people provided written responses to this question under 'other' that picked up on many of the same issues. For example:

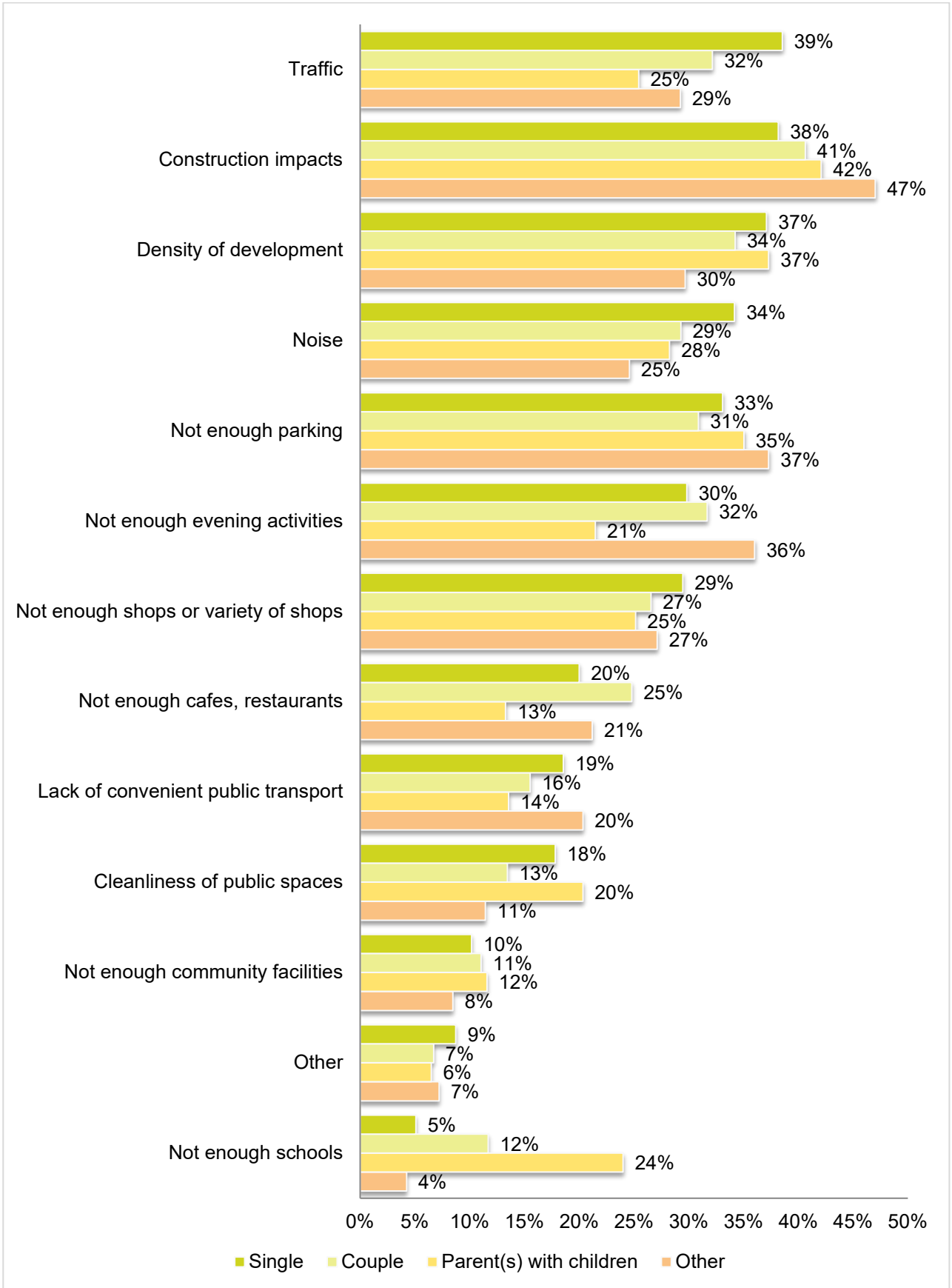
> *Would love a few more restaurants around Waterloo oval area and green square*
>
> *Walkability is hindered by lack of through streets, particularly in the older industrial section of Alexandria*
>
> *Too urban, not enough green and natural spaces, not enough privacy whilst in home due to density of development*
>
> *The rubbish situation is terrible. Every week there is a pile up of rubbish on the streets and hundreds of garbage bins awaiting collection. The smell and the look of it is disgusting. Also so many people moving out of the area and they put their lounges and furniture out on the street.*

Other open responses covered concern about affordability (37/227 responses), maintenance and cleanliness (16/227 responses), noise (16/227 responses), not enough parks and green space (15 respondents), dislike for certain groups of people (transient residents, public housing tenants, by ethnicity) (10 respondents), and disruption caused by many dogs (safety, noise, mess) (13 respondents). Some people also wrote answers indicating the types of services and community facilities that they would like to have access to in the area. These included a post office, exercise equipment for elderly residents, a large shopping centre, public swimming pool and more medical facilities.

***Key finding**: The things people most commonly said they disliked about living in Green Square related to the impacts of construction on the area (42%) and its overall density (35%). Many people were also concerned about not having enough parking (33%) and traffic (31%).*

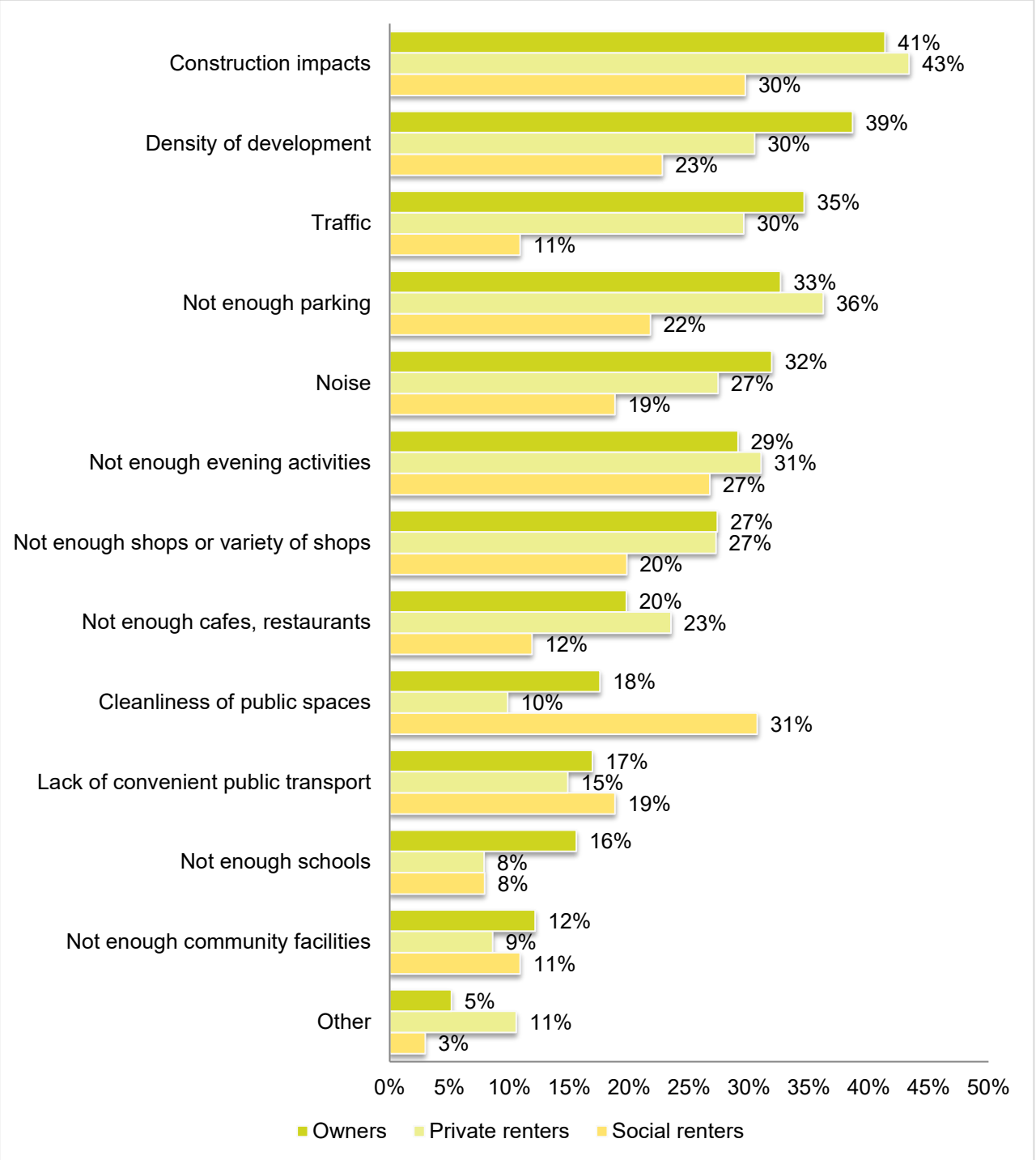
Responses to the question of what people like the least about living in the area differ between different types of households (Figure 19). While most shared concerns about overdevelopment and density, single-person households were more dissatisfied about traffic and lack of evening activities in the area. Families with children were far more concerned about not enough schools in the area than any other household types.

Figure 19: What do you like the least about living in the area? (nSingle person=275, nParent(s) with children =354, n Couple=625, nOther=236)



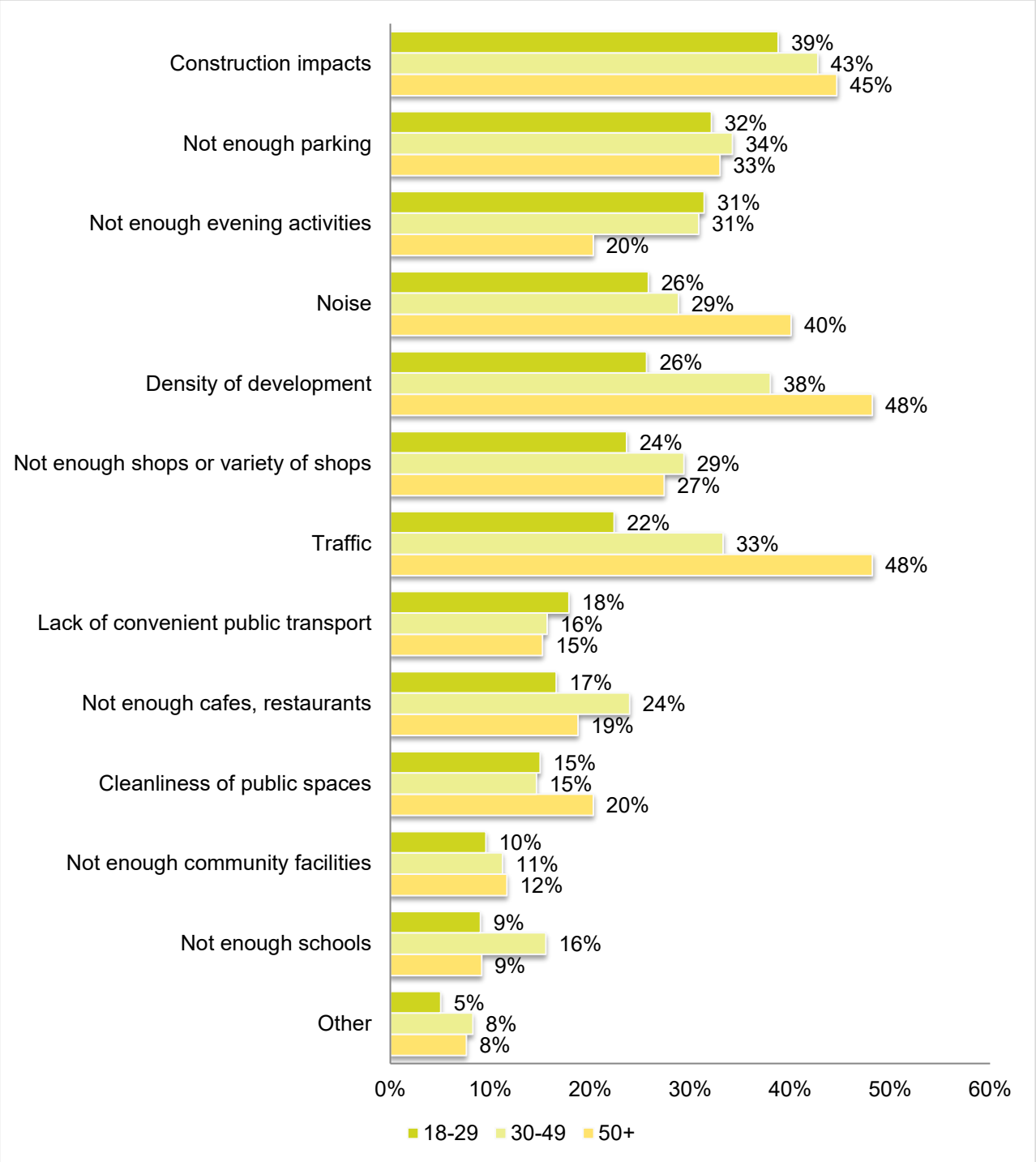
Responses also differed by tenure (Figure 20). Notably, the levels of dissatisfaction noted by owners and private renters were relatively similar, especially concerning construction impacts, not having enough evening activities and shops in the area. Owners were more concerned about overdevelopment and noise. Social renters were far more dissatisfied with the cleanliness of public spaces than households of other tenures.

Figure 20: What do you like the least about living in the area? (nOwners=815, nPrivate renters=558, nSocial renters=101)



Responses also differed by age group (Figure 21). People in the 18-29 and 30-49 age groups were more likely to respond similarly than those aged 50 or older. This was especially so concerning construction impacts, not having enough parking and/or evening activities. Older respondents expressed higher levels of dissatisfaction with noise, overdevelopment, and traffic than their younger counterparts.

Figure 21: What do you like the least about living in the area? (n18-29 = 554, n30-49 = 739, n50+ = 197)



Results from survey respondents who work in the area identified similar likes and dislikes (Figure 22 and Figure 23), possibly because so many of the workers who completed the survey also lived in the area.

Workers appreciated having good access to public transport, working close to where they lived, and the café and restaurant culture. Not having enough parking and not enough variety of shops were cited as primary concerns.

Figure 22: What do you like the most about working in the area? (n = 771)

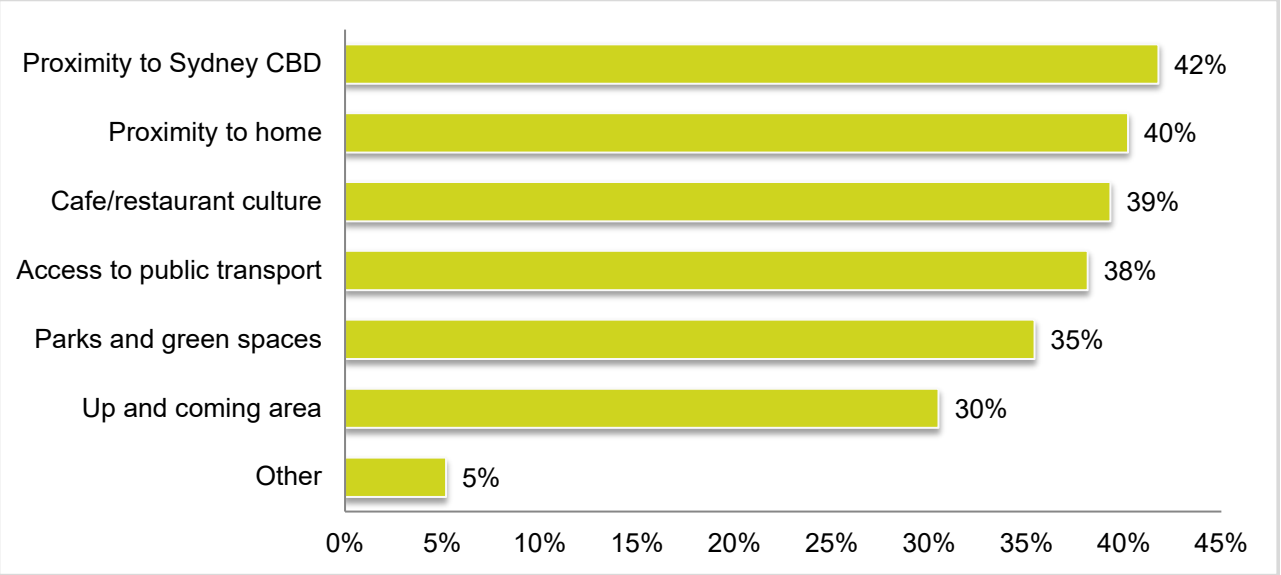
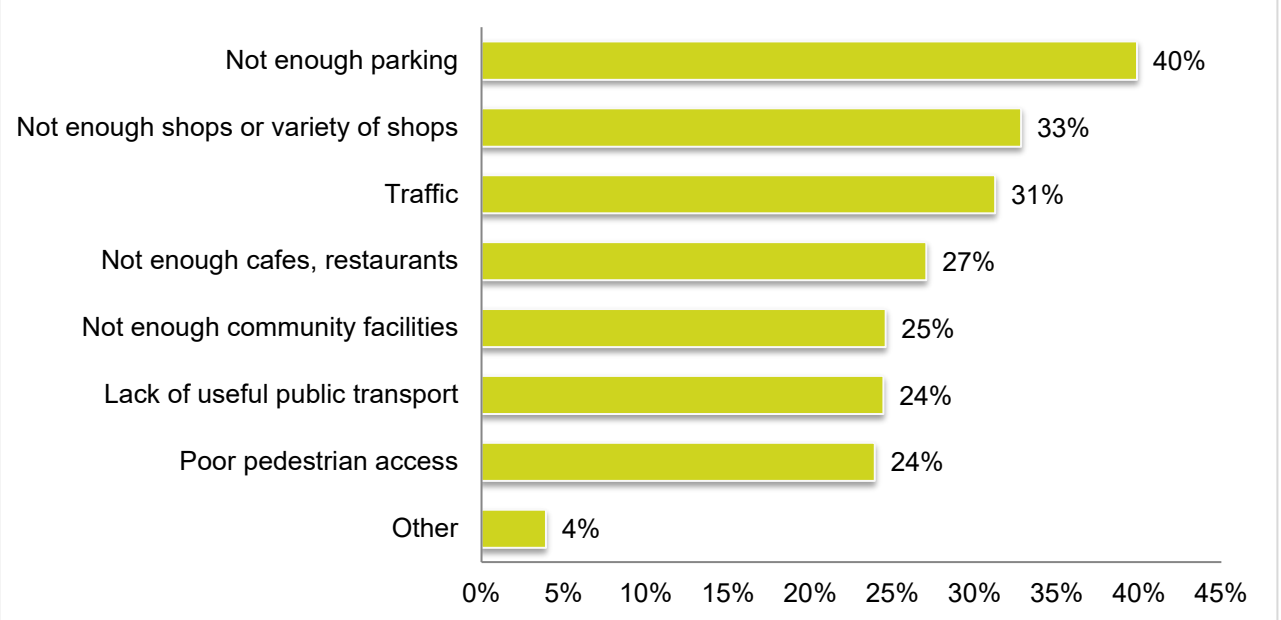


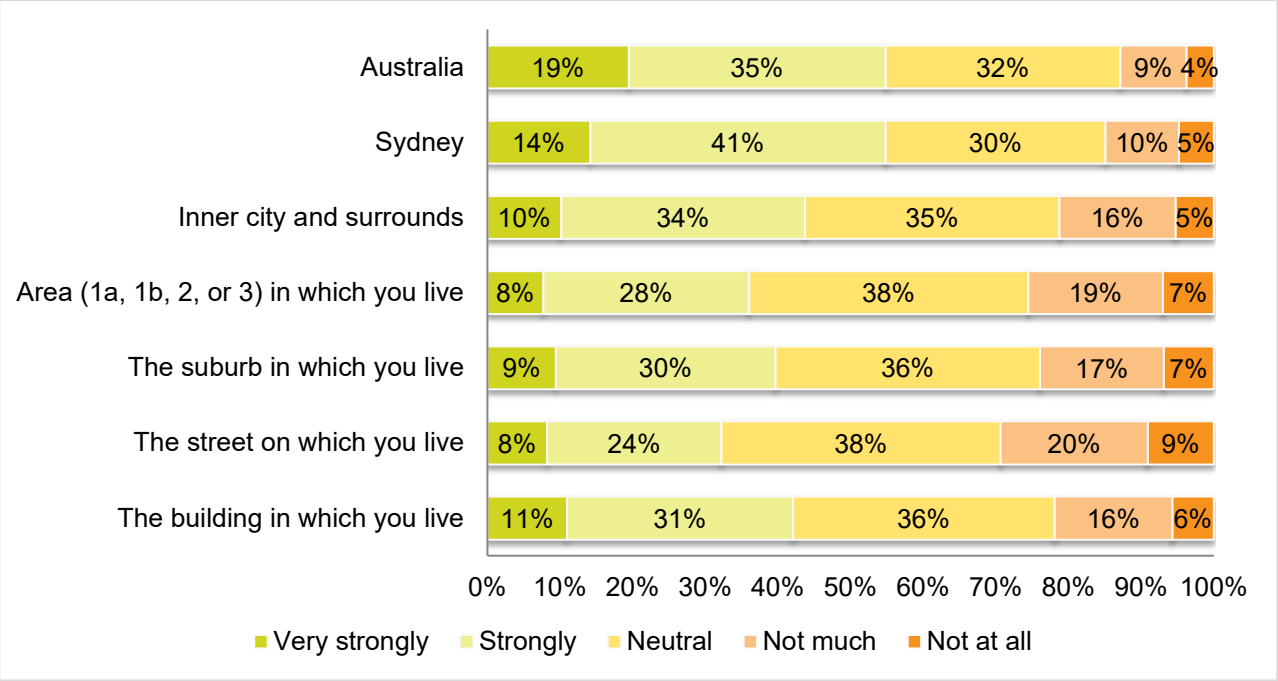
Figure 23: What do you like the least about working in the area? (n = 765



Selected findings from the survey provide information about people's sense of attachment to the area, whether they feel included or isolated, and whether people identify with particular communities in the area. People can identify with multiple communities and many different scales. In the survey, respondents were asked to what extent they felt part of the community in different places, at different scales (see Figure 24).

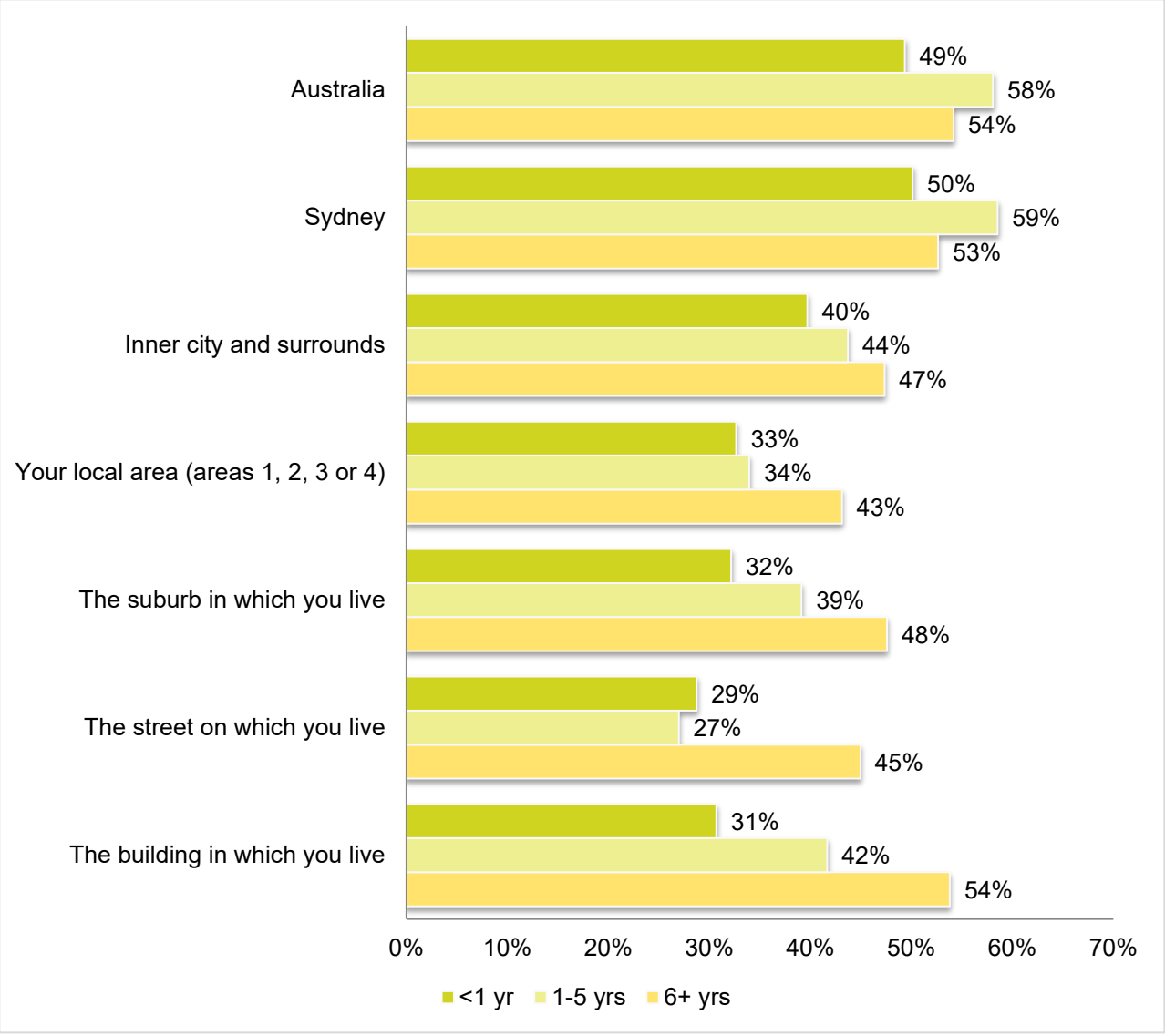
Of particular note, people were less likely to agree they felt part of the community in their street and more likely to disagree than in all of the other places listed. People felt most strongly part of the community in Australia and Sydney (54% and 55% strongly or very strongly attached respectively). Two-fifths of respondents (42%) also felt strongly or very strongly that they were part of the community in the building in which they lived, more so than in the street (32%), suburb (39%) and their local area (34%) (Figure 26).

Figure 24: To what extent do you feel that you are part of the community in…? (n = various, 1495-1497)



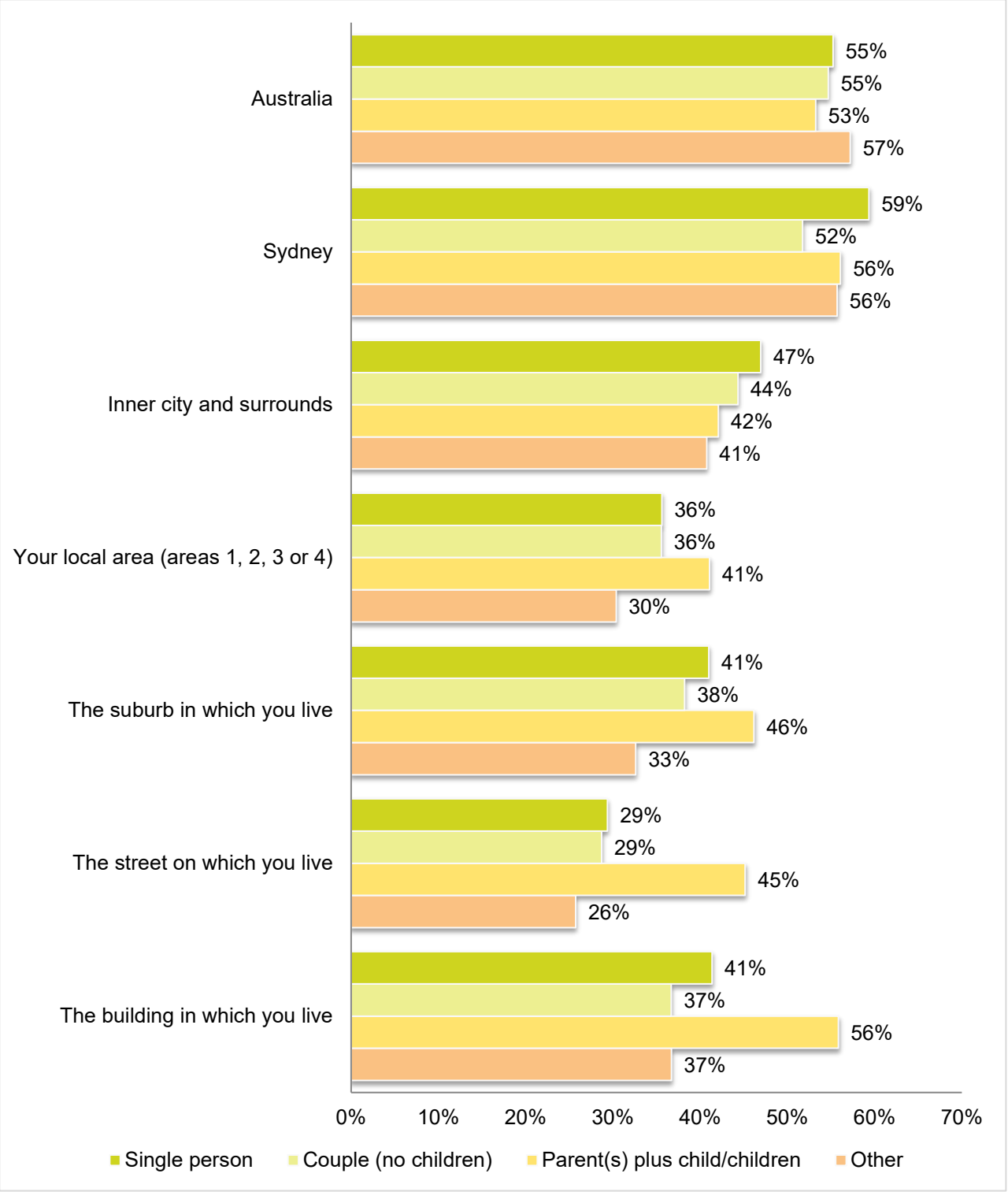
Length of residence in the area had a notable effect at local scales, with feelings of attachment generally increasing with length of residence, especially at the smaller scales of their local area, suburb, street and building (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Percentage feeling they are strongly/very strongly part of the community in... By length of residence (various, n<1 yr = 391-393, n1-5 yrs = 706-709, n6+ yrs = 394-396)



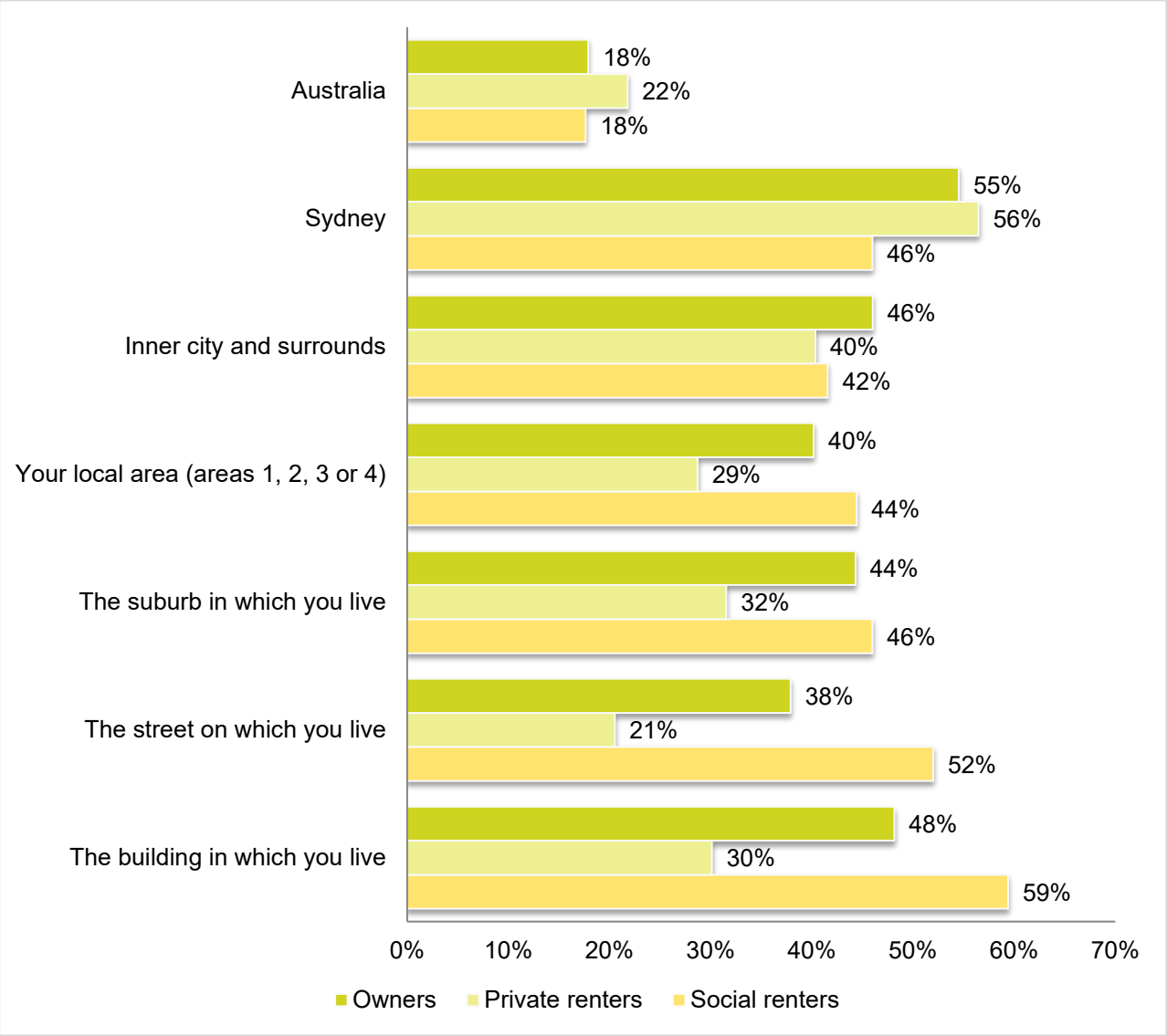
There were also differences in feelings of attachment between different household types. Most notably, households with children were more likely to feel part of the community at the local area, suburb, street and building levels than other households (Figure 26).

Figure 26: Percentage feeling they are strongly/very strongly part of the community in... (various, nSingle person = 277-279, nParent(s) with children = 351-354, nCouple = 627-629, nOther = 236-238)



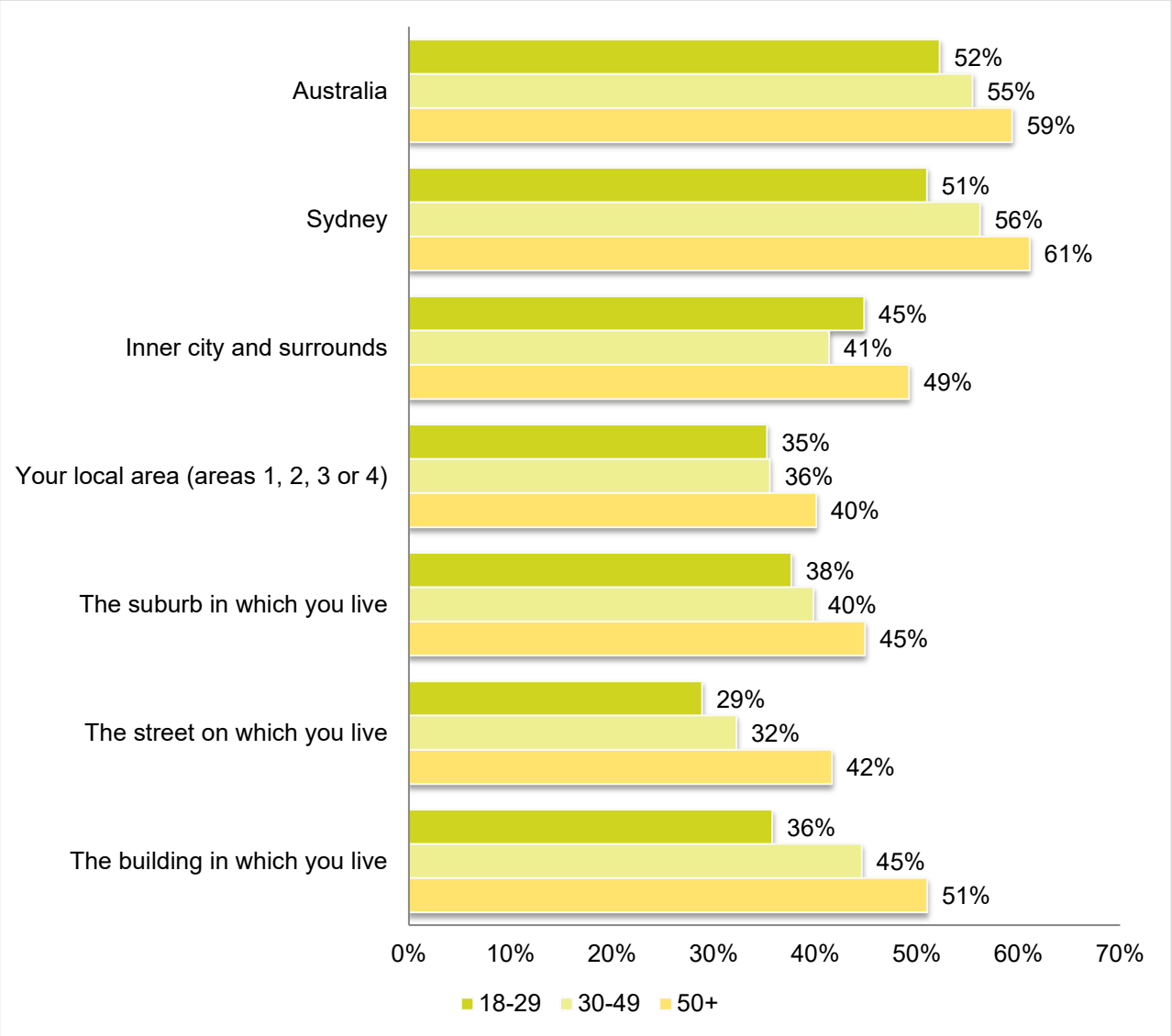
There were also differences in feelings of attachments between different tenures (Figure 27). Notably, social renters expressed higher levels of attachment to the small scales of their building, street, suburb or area than both owners and private renters. This is likely related to their likely longer length of residence.

Figure 27: Percentage feeling they are strongly/very strongly part of the community in... (various, nOwners = 814-818, nPrivate renters = 563-565, nSocial renters = 99 - 101)



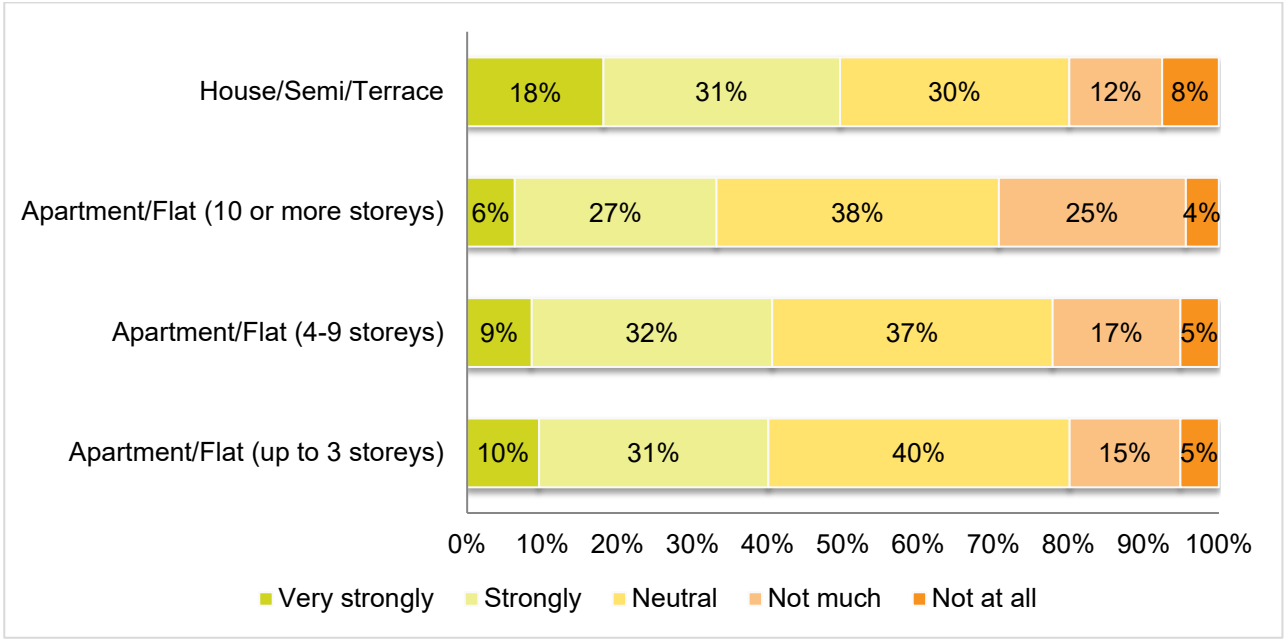
There were some differences in feelings of attachment by age. Older residents generally expressed higher levels of attachment across all scales than residents in the younger age groups. Residents aged 30-49 also expressed higher levels of attachment across all scales than those aged 18-29; the only exception being the Inner city and surrounds, where people aged 18-29 expressed a slightly higher level of attachment (Figure 28).

Figure 28: Percentage feeling they are strongly/very strongly part of the community in... (various, n18-29 = 557-559, n30-49 = 740-742, n50+ = 196-198)



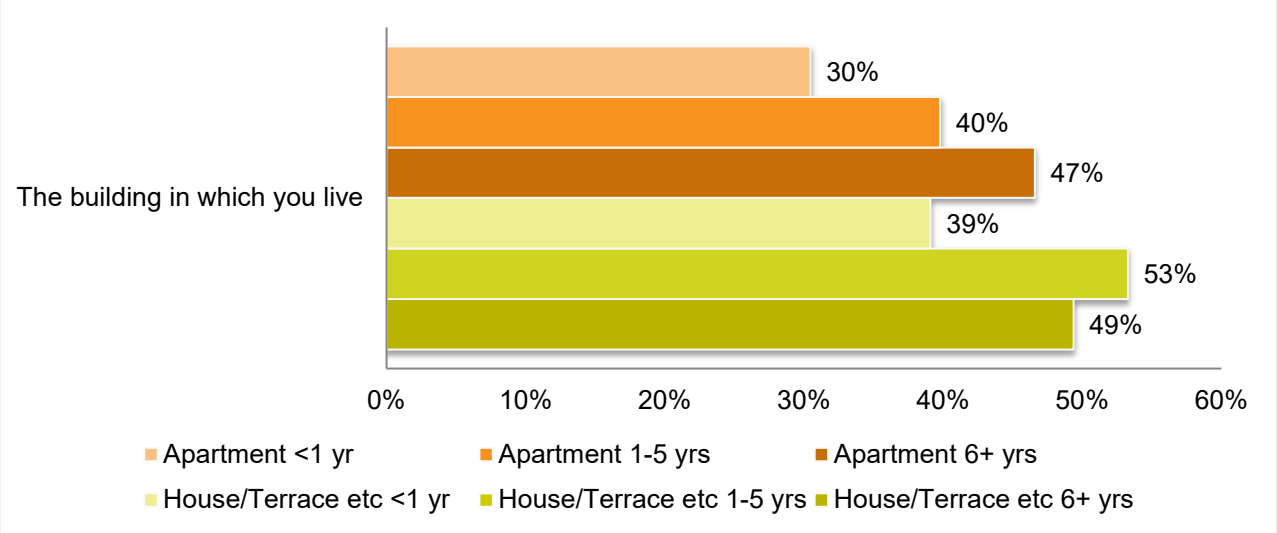
When attachment to the building in which one lives was compared with the dwelling types in which respondents lived, we found that residents of houses, semis and terraces were most likely to say that they feel attached to their building (49%) and people in larger apartment buildings of 10 or more storeys least likely to agree (33%) (Figure 29).

Figure 29: To what extent do you feel part of the community in the building in which you live? (nHouse/Semi/Terrace = 397, nApartment 10+ storeys = 205, nApartment 4-9 storeys = 606, nApartment up to 3 storeys = 272)



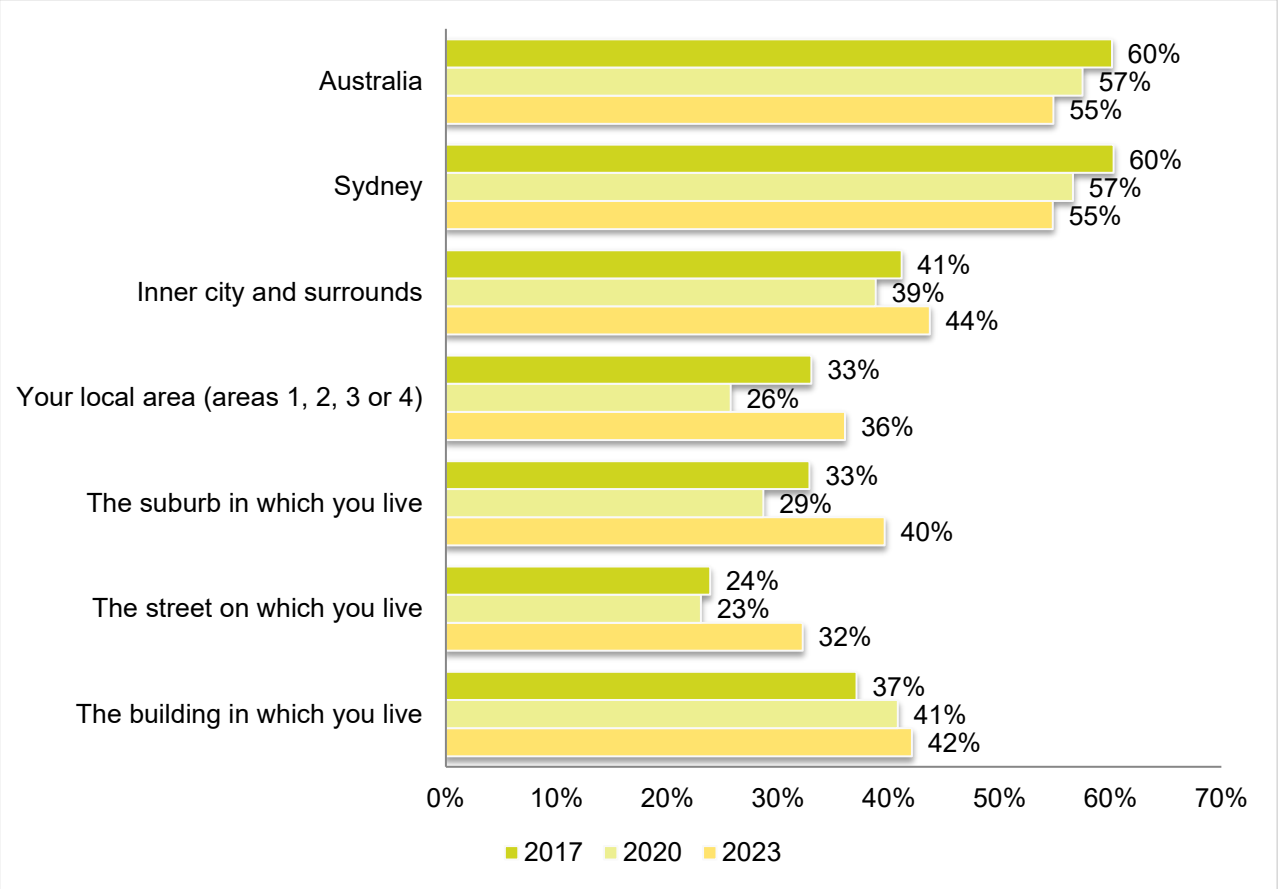
This relationship appears to be at least partially explained by length of residence. This is demonstrated in Figure 30, which shows that for apartment residents, feeling a part of the community in the building in which one lives increased by length of residence. Almost half (47%) of apartment residents who have lived in the area for 6 or more years agreed with this statement, compared to less than one-third (30%) of apartment residents who have lived in the area for less than 1 year.

Figure 30: Percentage feeling they are strongly/very strongly part of the community in... the building in which you live? By property type and length of residence (nApt <1 yr = 220, nApt 1-5 yrs = 563, nApt 6+ yrs = 279, nHouse/Terrace etc <1 yr = 133, nHouse/Ter



Results regarding attachment at different scales differed somewhat in the 2023 survey from the 2020 and 2017 surveys. Particularly notable differences include a higher proportion of people feeling attached at the smaller scales (e.g. their building, street, suburb and local area) in 2023 than in 2020 or 2017 (Figure 31). This may be the outcome of an increased familiarity with their immediate surroundings following the different waves of Covid-19 lockdowns, and also increased practice of working from home.

Figure 31: To what extent do you feel you are part of the community in…? Total strongly/very strongly in 2023, 2020 and 2017 (n = 1494-1495 in 2023, n = 1090-1100 in 2020, n = 975-985 in 2017)

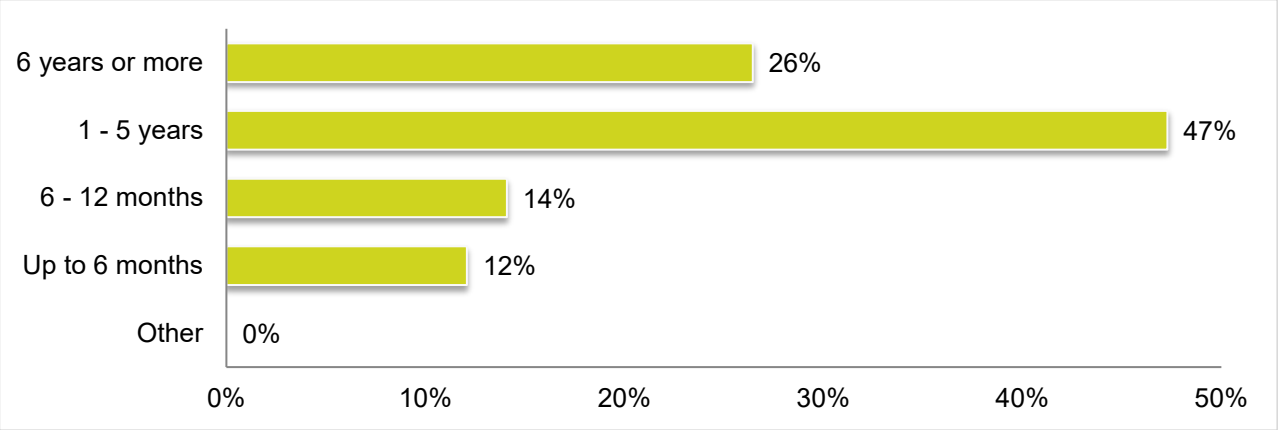


***Key finding**: People were less likely to feel a part of the community in their local area (36% 'strongly' or 'very strongly') than at larger geographical scales (55% 'strongly' or 'very strongly' for Sydney, 54% for Australia), and least likely at the scale of their street (32%). There have, however, been increasing feelings of attachments at these smaller scales between 2020 and 2023, likely from increase familiarity as an outcome of Covid-19 lockdowns and increased practice of working from home. These results are lower than for the City of Sydney area as a whole (44% of City residents were satisfied with feeling part of their community in their local area in the 2018 City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey), and reflect the lower score found in the Green Square sub-sample of the 2018 City Wellbeing Survey (39% satisfied), which has decreased over time.*

Selected findings from the survey provide information about people's intentions to remain in the area or not, whether they want their neighbourhood to change and whether they would prefer to be doing something differently in regard to social interaction.

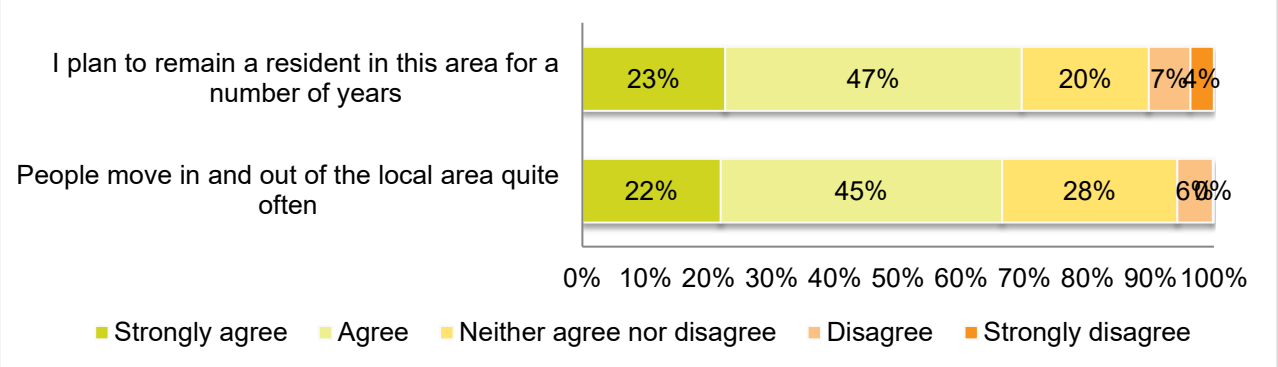
An important consideration when discussing social interaction and community cohesion in an area is how long people have lived in the area, and whether the population in the area is particularly mobile. In particular, multiple research projects undertaken in the Global North have found strong correlations between length of residence and attachment to place at the neighbourhood level (for a review of this literature, see Lewicka 2011). Around half of residents who completed the survey (47%) had lived in Green Square for 1-5 years (see Figure 32). This is to be expected as many new residential properties have been completed in the area over the past five years. However, one-quarter (26%) of respondents had also lived in Green Square for a relatively long period, of six years or more.

Figure 32: How long have you lived in Green Square? (n = 1497)



The survey asked people about their plans to stay in the area (see Figure 33). Almost three-quarters (70%) of respondents agreed that they planned to remain residents in the area for a number of years.

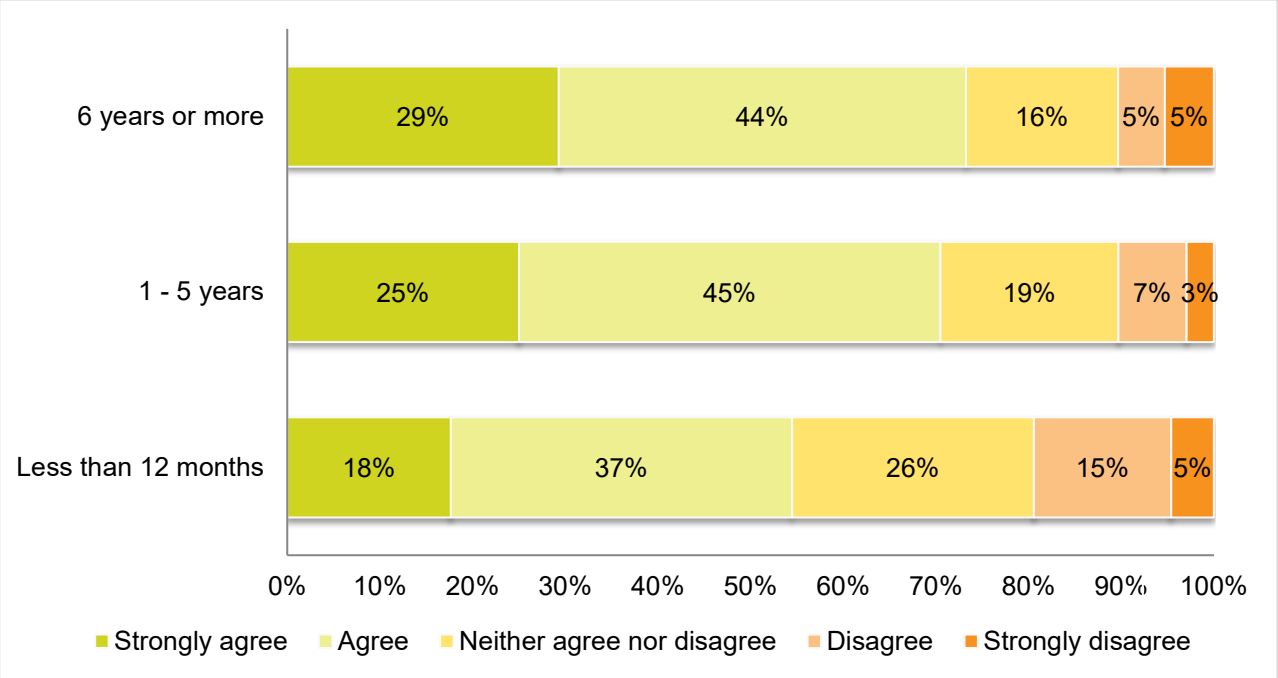
Figure 33: To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = various, 1495-1497)



When comparing respondents' plans to remain resident in the area with how long they have already been living in the area, there is a correlation with people who have lived in the area for longer (at least 1 year) being far more likely to intend to continue living in the area (Figure 34). Families with children were also more likely to plan to remain in the area (77%) compared to singles (65%), couples without children (64%) and other households (64%).

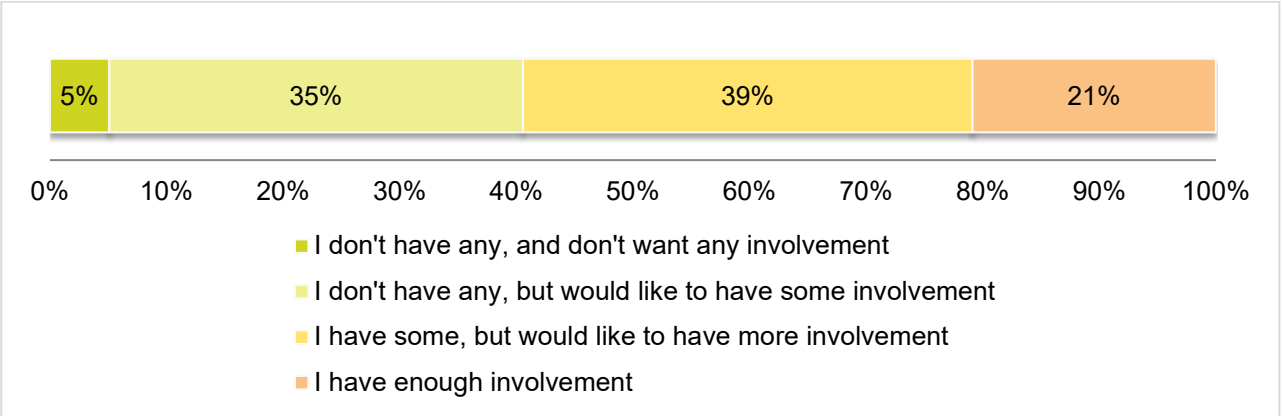
***Key finding**: Almost half (47%) of the residents who completed the survey had lived in Green Square for 1-5 years and the majority (70%) planned to remain residents in the area for a number of years.*

Figure 34: The extent to which people agree with the statement 'I plan to remain resident in this area' compared to their length of residence in the area (n6 years + = 396, n1-5 years = 708, nLess than 12 months = 391)



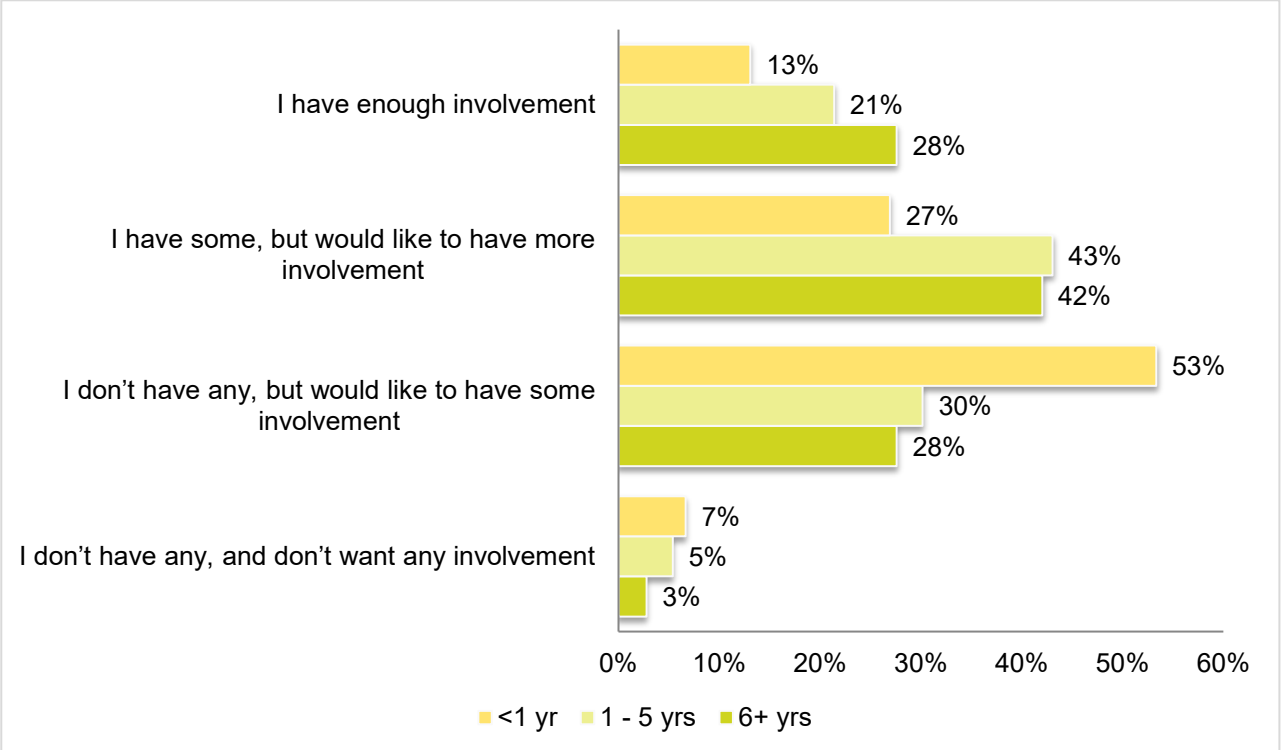
The survey also asked other questions about people's plans and desires, besides their intentions to remain living in the area. People were asked specifically about their satisfaction with their levels of interaction (Figure 35). Importantly, of those residents who completed the survey, only one-quarter were satisfied with their level of interaction with other people in Green Square (21% who had enough involvement and 5% who had none, but did not want any involvement). The remaining 74% all wanted to have more involvement with other people in Green Square, including one-third (35%) who currently had no involvement with other people in the area.

Figure 35: How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (n = 1494)



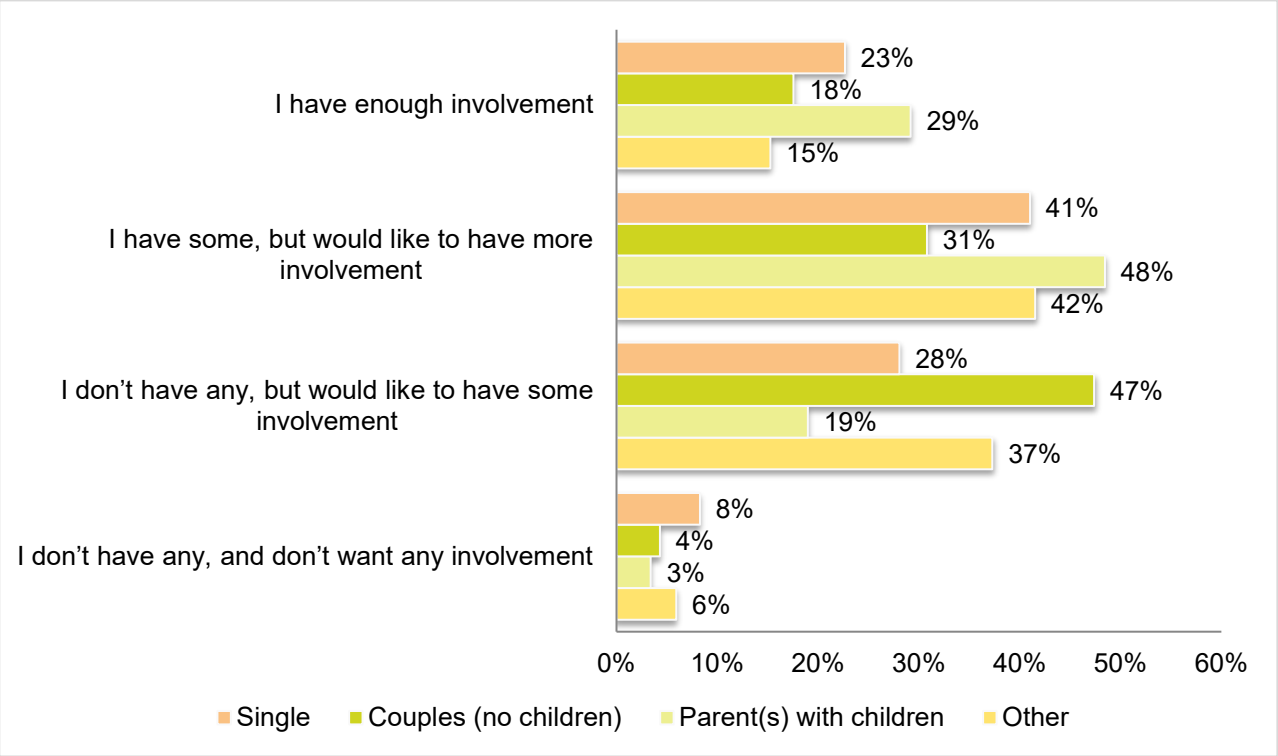
Responses to this question differed by length of residence (Figure 36), with people who had lived in the area for more than six years much more likely to feel that they have enough involvement (28%) and people who have lived in the area for less than one year being much more likely to say that they have no involvement with people in the local area, but would like some (53%).

Figure 36: How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? By length of residence (n<1 yr = 390, n1-5 yrs = 706, n6+ yrs = 395)



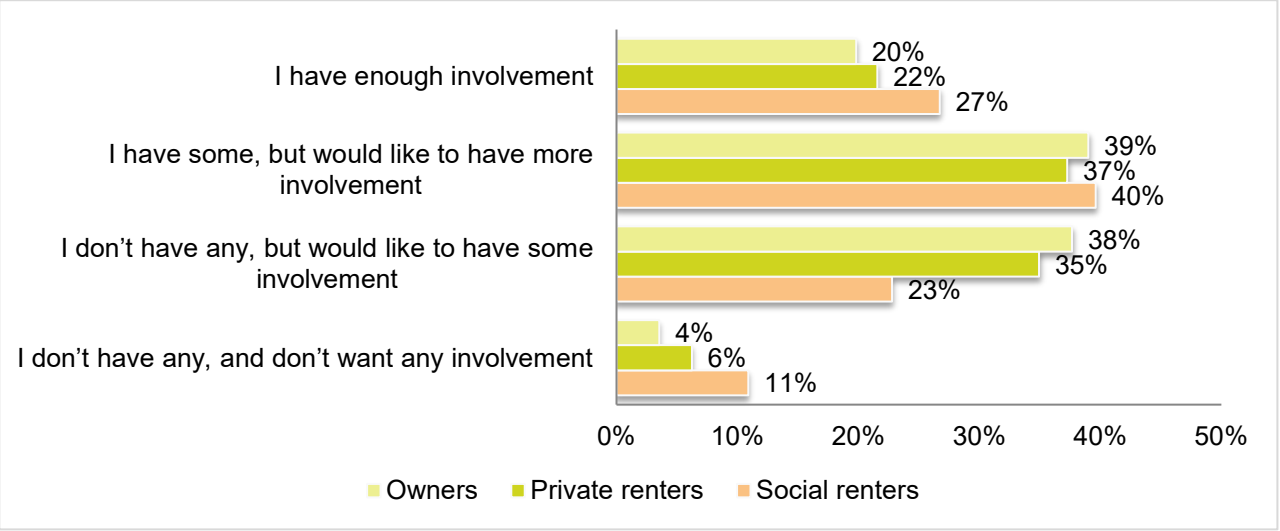
Responses to this question also differed between different household types (Figure 37). Most notably, parents living with children are more likely to feel they have enough involvement (29%), though half (48%) also noted they currently have some involvement but would like more. Couple-only households were most likely to not have any current involvement but want some involvement (47%).

Figure 37: How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (nSingle person = 278, nParent(s) with children = 353, nCouple = 627, nOther = 236)



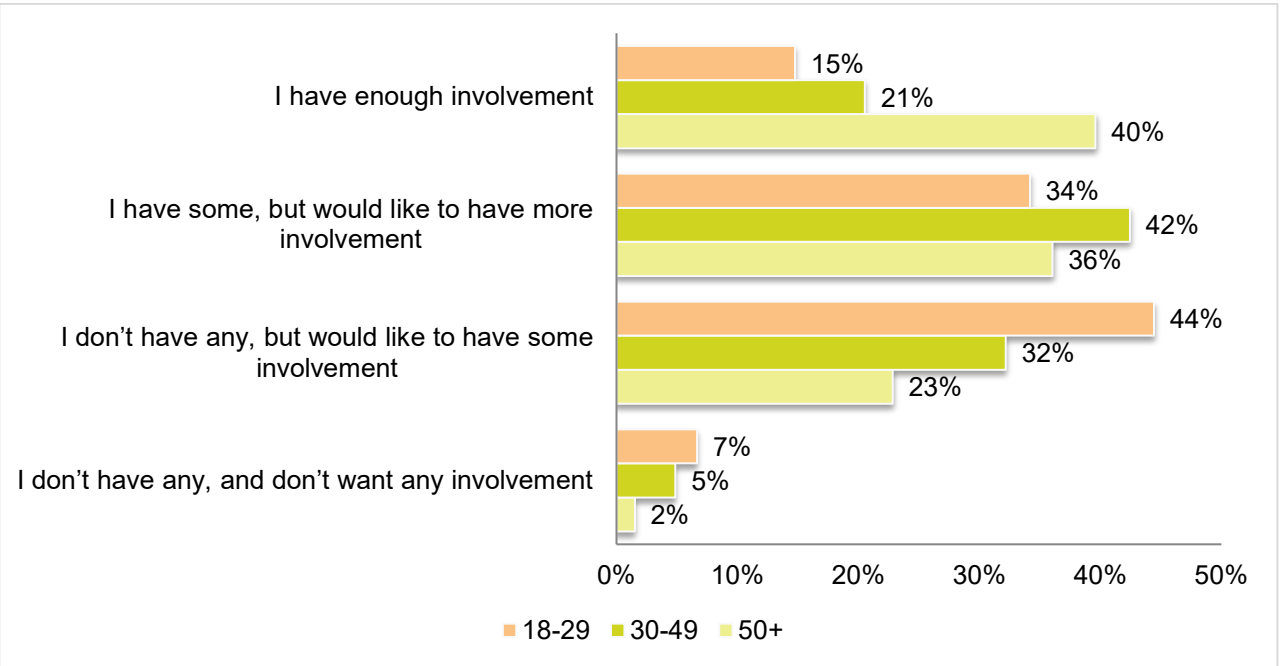
Responses varied slightly between tenures (Figure 38), with similar proportions noting they have some current involvements but would like more (around one-third across all tenures). Owners (38%) and private renters (35%) were more likely to not have any current involvement but would like some, while social renters (11%) were more likely to not have any and not want any involvement.

Figure 38: How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (nOwners = 818, nPrivate renters = 561, nSocial renters = 101)



Responses are also different for different age groups (Figure 39), with people aged over 50 more likely to feel they have enough involvement (40%) and people aged under 29 more likely to state that they do not have any but would like more involvement with people in the area (40%).

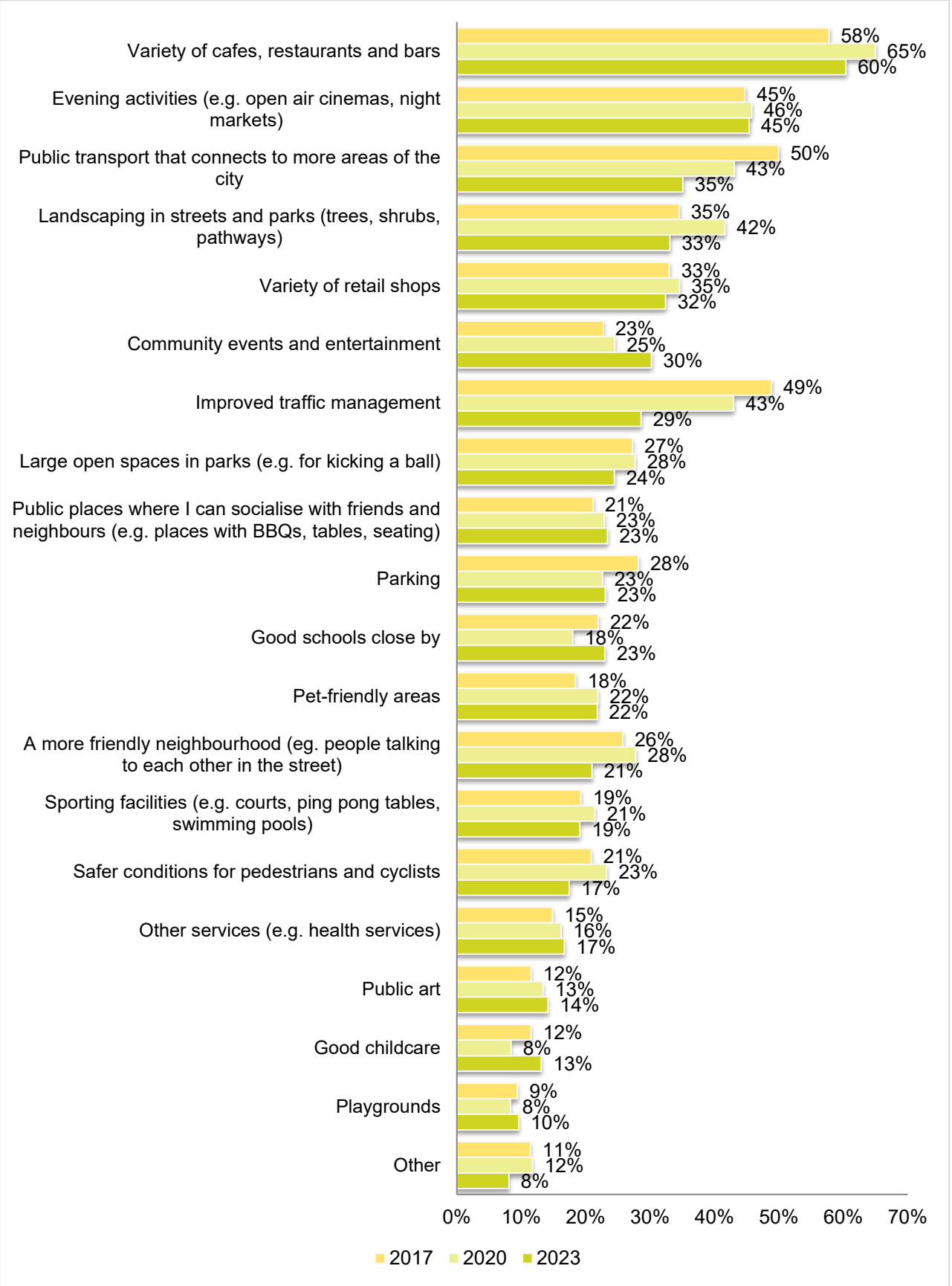
Figure 39: How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (n18-29 = 556, n30-49 = 740, n50+ = 197)



The survey also asked a question about a range of different things that would make Green Square a better place to live or work in order to understand the desires of Green Square residents and workers. Figure 40 presents the results for residents. Survey respondents were able to tick up to five responses and the results presented are the percentage of all residents who completed the survey who chose each option as one of their five options. The most mentioned improvements related to socialising opportunities, especially the variety of cafés, restaurants and bars (60%), and the availability of evening activities (45%). There are notable improvements across most other aspects since 2020. This was especially the case for improvements to traffic management, which decreased from 43% in 2020 to 29% in 2023. The only aspect that experienced notable increase in need for improvement concerned community events and entertainment (25% in 2020, 30% in 2023).

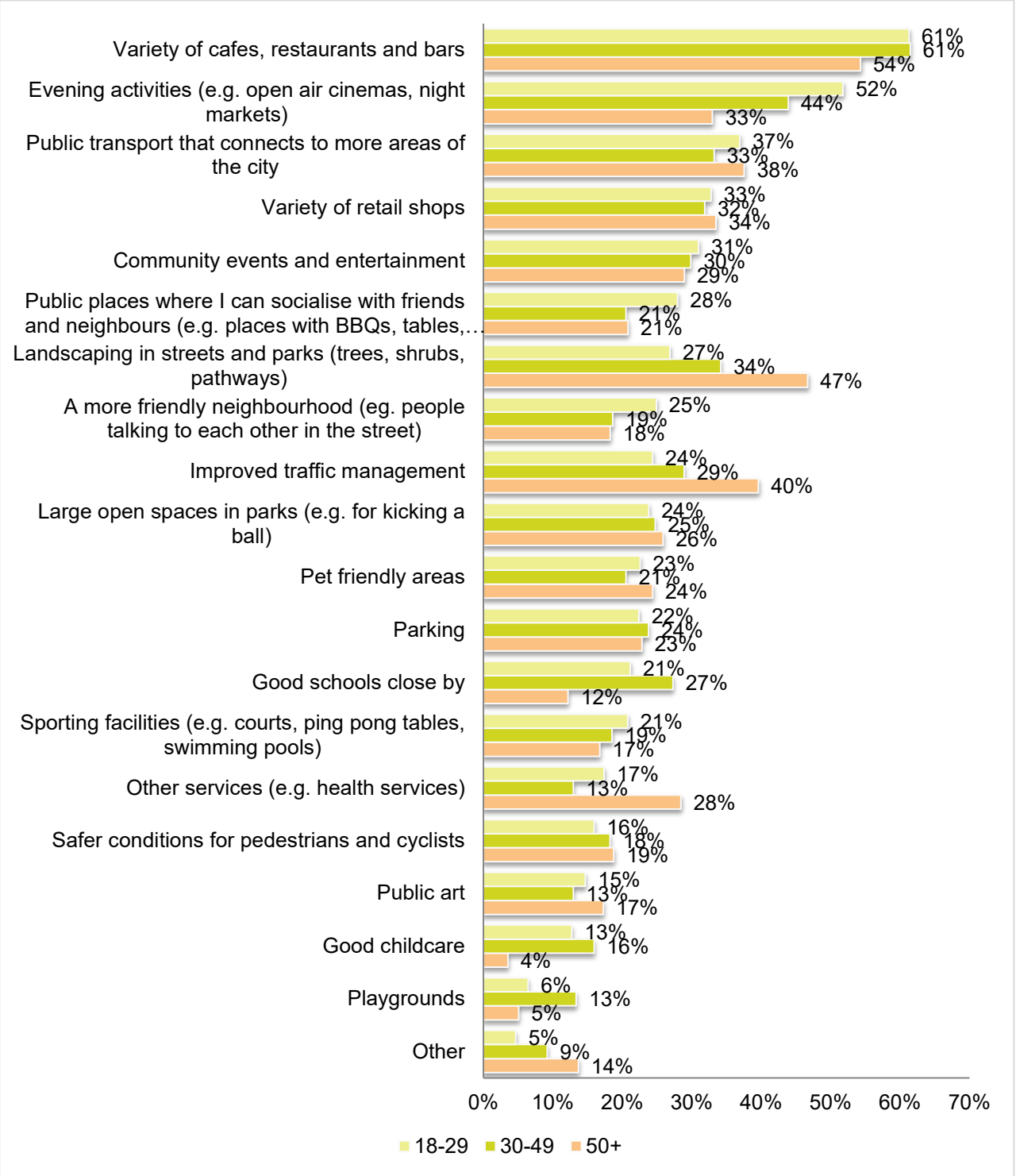
Key finding: *Only one-third (32%) of residents were satisfied with the level of social interaction they have with other people who live and work in Green Square, with the remaining 68% all wanting more interaction, including 29% who currently had no interaction with other people in the area. The vast majority (86%) of new residents who have lived in the area for less than one year would like to have more involvement with others in the area.*

Figure 40: Comparison of 2017, 2020 and 2022 results to: What are the top five things that would make the area a place you would want to live and/or work in the future? (n2023=1496, n2020=1105, n2017=997)



Responses differed by age (Figure 41), with younger people more likely to desire a greater variety of cafés, restaurants and bars, evening activities and public transport that connects to more parts of the city, while older people were more likely to desire landscaping in streets and parks, other services (e.g. health services) and improved traffic management.

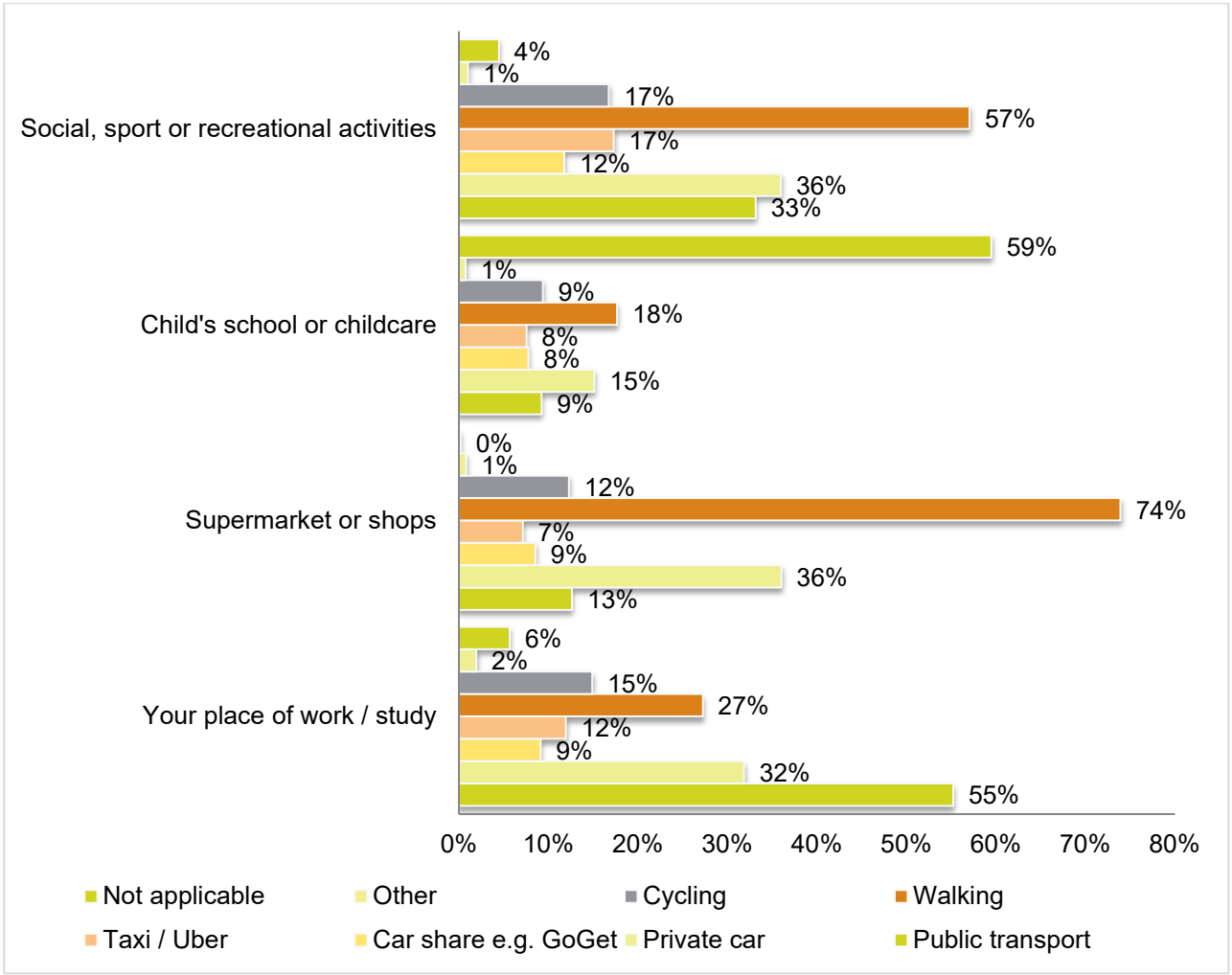
Figure 41: What are the top 5 things that would make the area the kind of place you would like to live and/or work in in the future? (n18-29 = 558, n30-49 = 740, n50+ = 197)



Key finding: *The most commonly mentioned group of improvements residents wanted in Green Square related to socialising opportunities, including the variety of cafés, restaurants and bars (60%) and the availability of evening activities (45%), especially amongst younger people. While remaining important, improvements to traffic management and better public transport connectivity were less important in 2022 than in 2020.*

The forms of transport Green Square residents use for various activities is an important consideration, given the respondents' indication of public transport access as a reason to live in Green Square and one of the things they like most in the area (Figure 13 and Figure 14), and that this was also seen as an aspect to improve upon in future (Figure 18). The survey asked Green Square residents how they travel to certain activities and places on a typical day (Figure 42). Most respondents (55%) travel to their locations of work or study via public transport, followed by private car (32%) and walking (27%). Cycling to work increased from 9% per cent in 2020 to 15% in 2023. Most people walked (74%) or drove in a private car (36%) to the supermarket or shops. Of the respondents who travelled to school or childcare, most walked (18%) or took a private car (15%). The modes of transport to social, sport or recreational activities were far more varied among respondents, with many people walking (57%), driving a private car (36%), taking public transport (33%) or catching a taxi or uber (17%) to the various activities.

Figure 42:On a typical day, how do you travel to … (n = various, 1481-1497)



Key finding: *Most Green Square residents travel to work or study using public transport (55%), and most walk (74%) and/or drive (36%) to the supermarket or shops. Many people also walk (57%) and/or drive (36%) to other social, sport or recreational activities.*

Nature of social interaction

This section presents the findings of the survey in regard to the nature of social interactions in the area. Selected findings from the survey provide information on the types of social interaction people engage in, the locations and frequency of that social interaction, who participates in social interactions, the nature of people's networks of friends and family in the area and the impact of design and spatial factors on social interaction.

The survey asked respondents to respond to a series of statements about their relationships with people in their neighbourhood (see Figure 43). Interestingly, while most people (83%) said that they would be willing to help their neighbours, fewer (53%) thought that they could rely on their neighbours for help, suggesting that people are more likely to help if asked, but reticent about asking for help themselves. These findings are slightly different to those in the 2020 survey, where more people (90%) would be willing to help, and fewer (43%) thought they could rely on their neighbours. They also reflect the findings of the City of Sydney's 2018 Wellbeing Survey for the Green Square and City South area, in which 96% said they would be willing to help their neighbours definitely or sometimes and 45% said they could sometimes or definitely get help from their neighbours.

There was little difference by household in response to being willing to help their neighbours, however families with children are more likely to feel that they can get help from neighbours (62%) compared to other household types. Owner occupiers were more likely to feel they could get help from neighbours (59%) than social renters (51%) or private renters (47%), however private renters were most likely to indicate willingness to help their neighbours (90%). Younger people are less likely to feel they can get help (46% of those aged 29 and under) than older people.

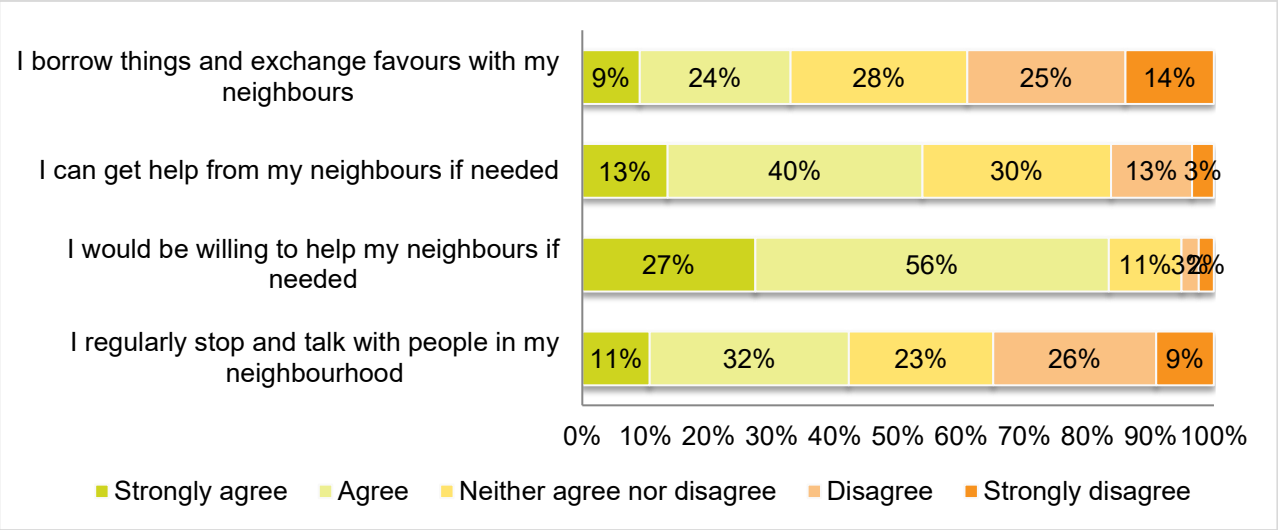
Less people agreed (33%) than disagreed (39%) that they borrowed things and exchanged favours with their neighbours, while more people also agreed (43%) than disagreed (35%) that they regularly stopped to talk with people in their neighbourhood. These all represent improvements since the 2020 survey, representing a stronger sense of neighbourliness in Green Square than previously.

Households with children (57%) were more likely to stop and talk with people in their neighbourhood than other households. Younger people were less likely to stop and talk with people in their neighbourhood (36% of people under 29, 44% of people aged 30-49 and 54% of people aged over 50). Younger people are also less likely to borrow things and exchange favours with their neighbours (only 28% of people aged under 29, compared to 35% of 30-49-year-olds and 38% of those aged over 50).

Owner occupiers (48%) and social renters (45%) were more likely to stop and talk with people in their neighbourhood than private renters (34%). Social renters were more likely to exchange favours with neighbours (47%) compared to owners (39%) and private renters (21%).

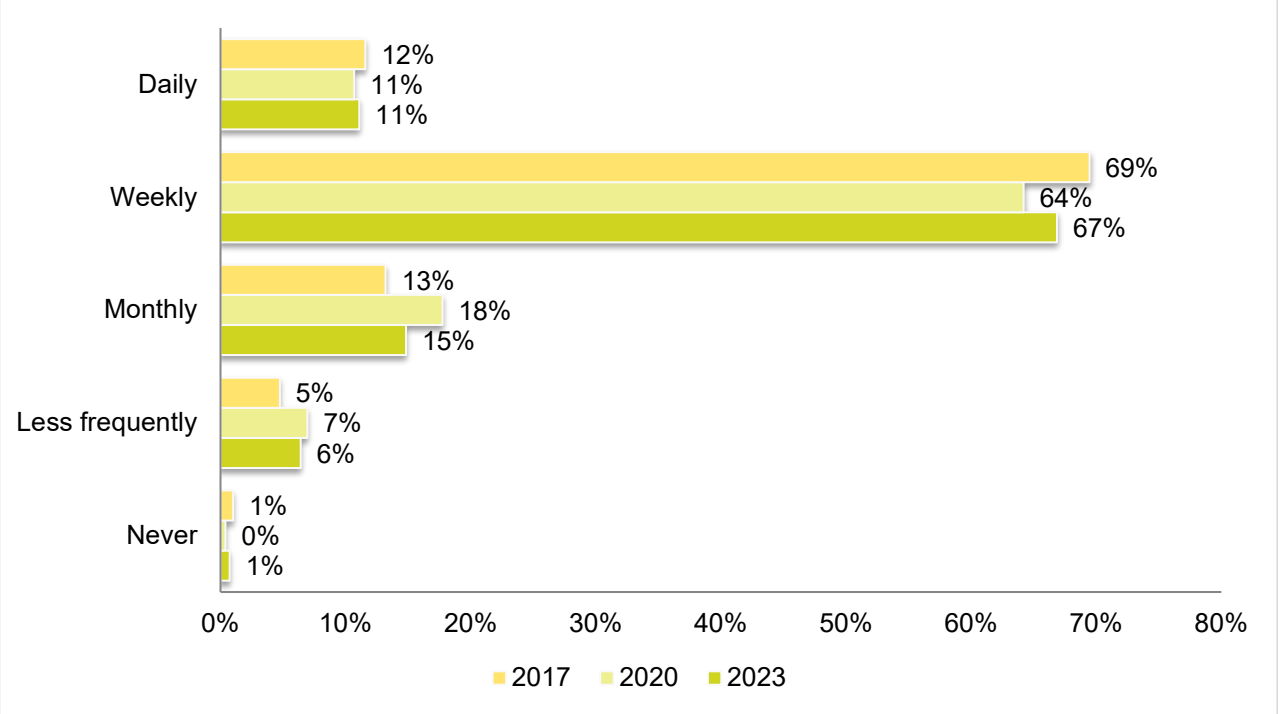
Key finding: *While most people (83%) said they would help their neighbours, fewer (53%) thought their neighbours would help them, a slight variation from the 2020 survey (90% and 43% respectively). These figures are similar to the figures for the city as a whole (95% of people said they would help their neighbours and 50% said they could get help from their neighbours when needed in the 2018 City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey). A third of resident respondents (33%) borrowed things and exchanged favours with neighbours and 43% regularly stopped to talk with people in their neighbourhood. Both of these percentages increased since the 2020 survey, reflecting a stronger sense of neighbourliness.*

Figure 43: To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = various, 1495-1497)



Regarding social interactions with friends, relatives or work colleagues, the majority of survey respondents met at least weekly (67% weekly and 11% daily), with the remainder meeting with these people less frequently (21%) and only several respondents (1%) never meeting with these people (Figure 44).

Figure 44: Comparison of 2017, 2020 and 2023 results to: How often do you meet with friends, relatives or work colleagues? (n2017=992, n2020=1093, n2023=1497)



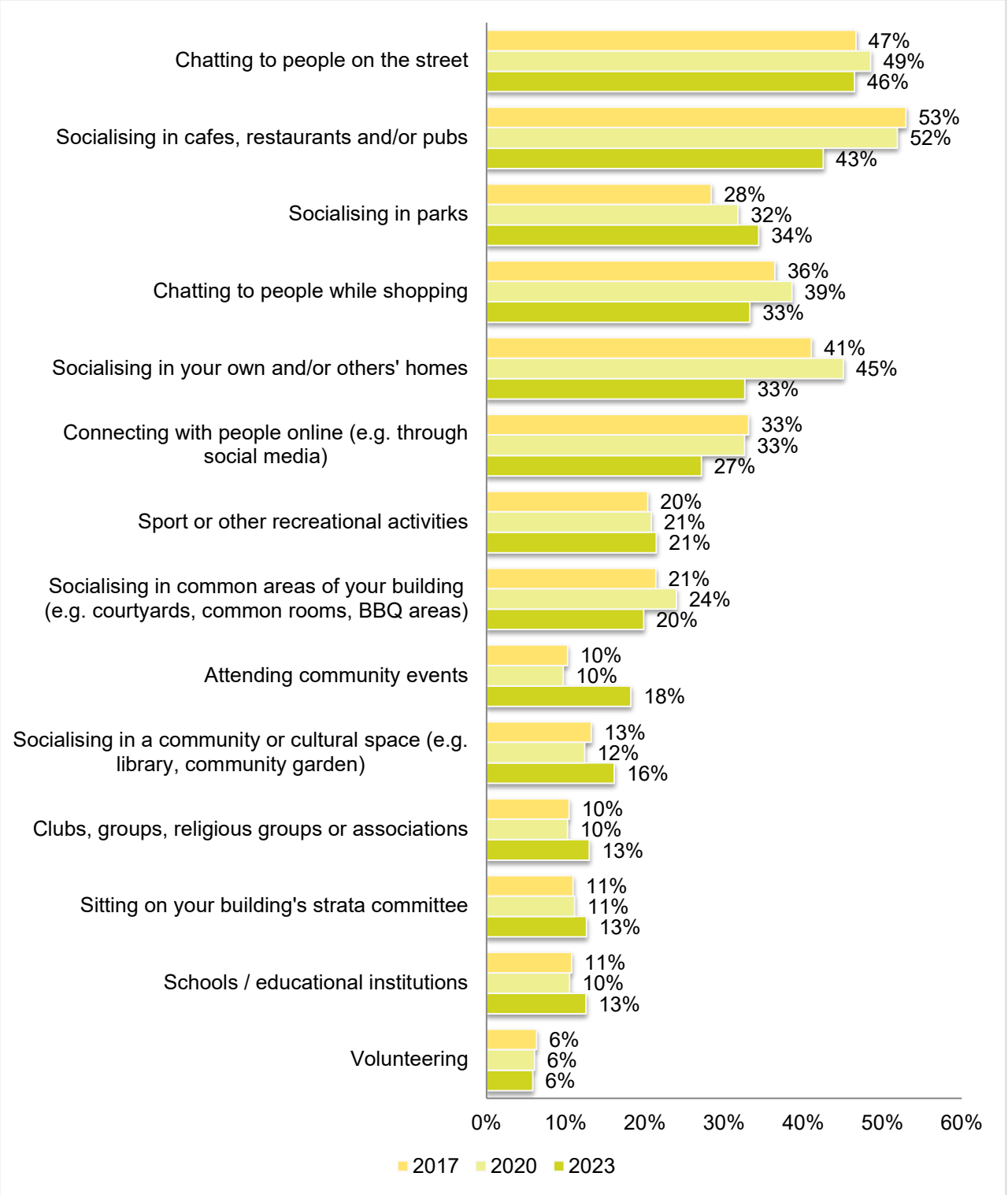
Key finding: *Most (78%) resident survey respondents meet with friends, relatives or work colleagues at least weekly. A small proportion (7%) meet with friends, relatives or work colleagues less than once per month.*

In regard to the ways in which people encounter others, the survey included a question about the ways in which people had contact with others in the past month (see Figure 45). Of particular note when examining these findings is that people most likely socialised by chatting to people on the street (46%), socialising in cafés, restaurants and/or pubs (43%), and socialising in parks (34%). Notable fewer people socialised in their own home or others' homes (33%) in 2023 than in 2020 (45%), perhaps a lingering legacy of Covid-19 pandemic precautions. Fewer people socialised in the common areas of their building, while more attended community events.

Key finding: *The most common ways in which people have contact with other people while in Green Square were and chatting on the street (46%), and socialising is in cafés, restaurants and/or pubs (43%) Socialising in their own or others' homes is becoming increasingly less important (45% in 2020, 33% in 2023).*

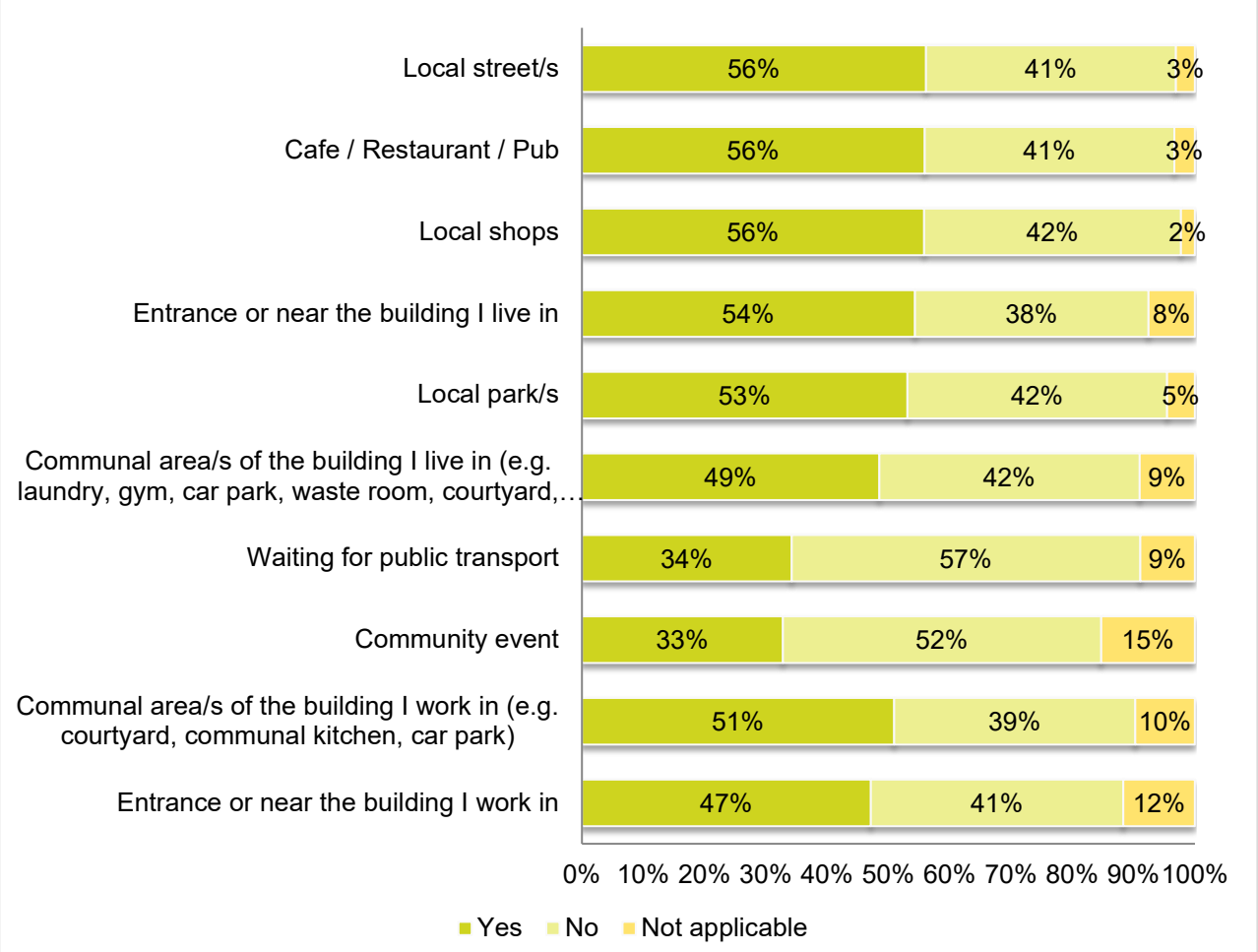
In terms of the activities that people were least likely to have contact with people, few people had contact with others through volunteering (6%), at school / educational institutes (13%), sitting on their building's strata committee (13%), or in clubs, groups, religious groups or associations (13%).

Figure 45: Comparison between 2017, 2020 and 2023 responses to: In the past month, have you had contact with people in any of the following ways? (n2017=997, n2020 = 1105, n2023 = 1371)



As well as the types of activities that involve social interaction with others, it is also important to understand in what locations social interactions occur as this has important implications for building and urban design practice. One question in the survey asked people whether they ran into people they knew (incidental interaction) in a range of different places (Figure 46). Importantly, these findings suggest that the building in which one lives is a very important location where incidental social interactions occur, with 54% of residents bumping into people they know at the entrance or near the building that they live in. Also important, with more than half of resident survey respondents bumping into people in these places, were local streets, cafés, restaurants and pubs, and local shops (all 56%).

Figure 46: Do you often run into people you know in the following places in the area? (n = various, 572-1494)



Key finding: *Incidental interaction (running into people you know) was most likely to occur on local streets (56%), at a local café, restaurant or pub (56%), at local shops (56%), or in the entrance or near the building in which people live (54%).*

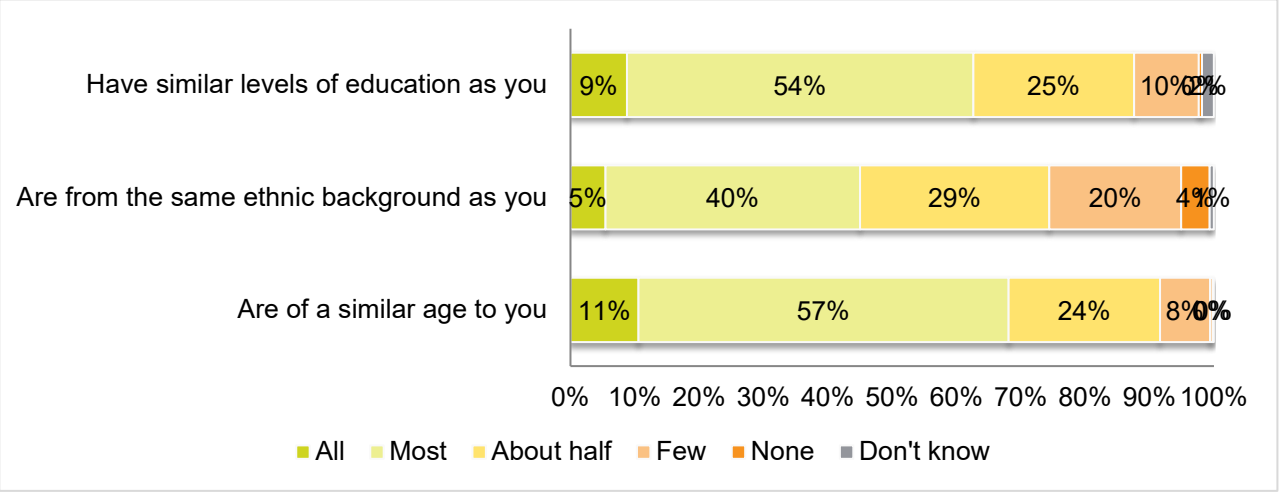
Nature of social cohesion

As discussed in the background section, social cohesion is a complex concept. This section presents findings of the survey that relate to social mix and social networks, civic culture and participation, and social order and control.

Social mix and social networks

The survey asked people to describe how diverse their friendship groups were as an indication of social mix and social networks in the area. Many (68%) residents said that most or all of their friends were of a similar age to them, just less than half (45%) said that many or most of their friends were of a similar ethnic background to them and 63% said that many or most of their friends had a similar educational background to them (see Figure 47). The same question was asked in the Australian General Social Survey (2010) (see Appendix 6).

Figure 47:Of your friends, how many…? (n = various, 1492-1494)



Interestingly, a slightly higher percentage of Green Square survey respondents said that their friends were of a similar age and a similar educational background. However, much fewer respondents to the Green Square survey said that most of their friends were of the same ethnic background as them, suggesting that friendship groups amongst Green Square residents are more ethnically mixed than the broader Australian population, where 73% of people said their friends were from similar ethnic backgrounds (Australian Social Survey 2010).

Key finding: *Many residents said most of their friends were of a similar age (68%) and educational background (63%) and just less than half (45%) said they were of a similar ethnic background.*

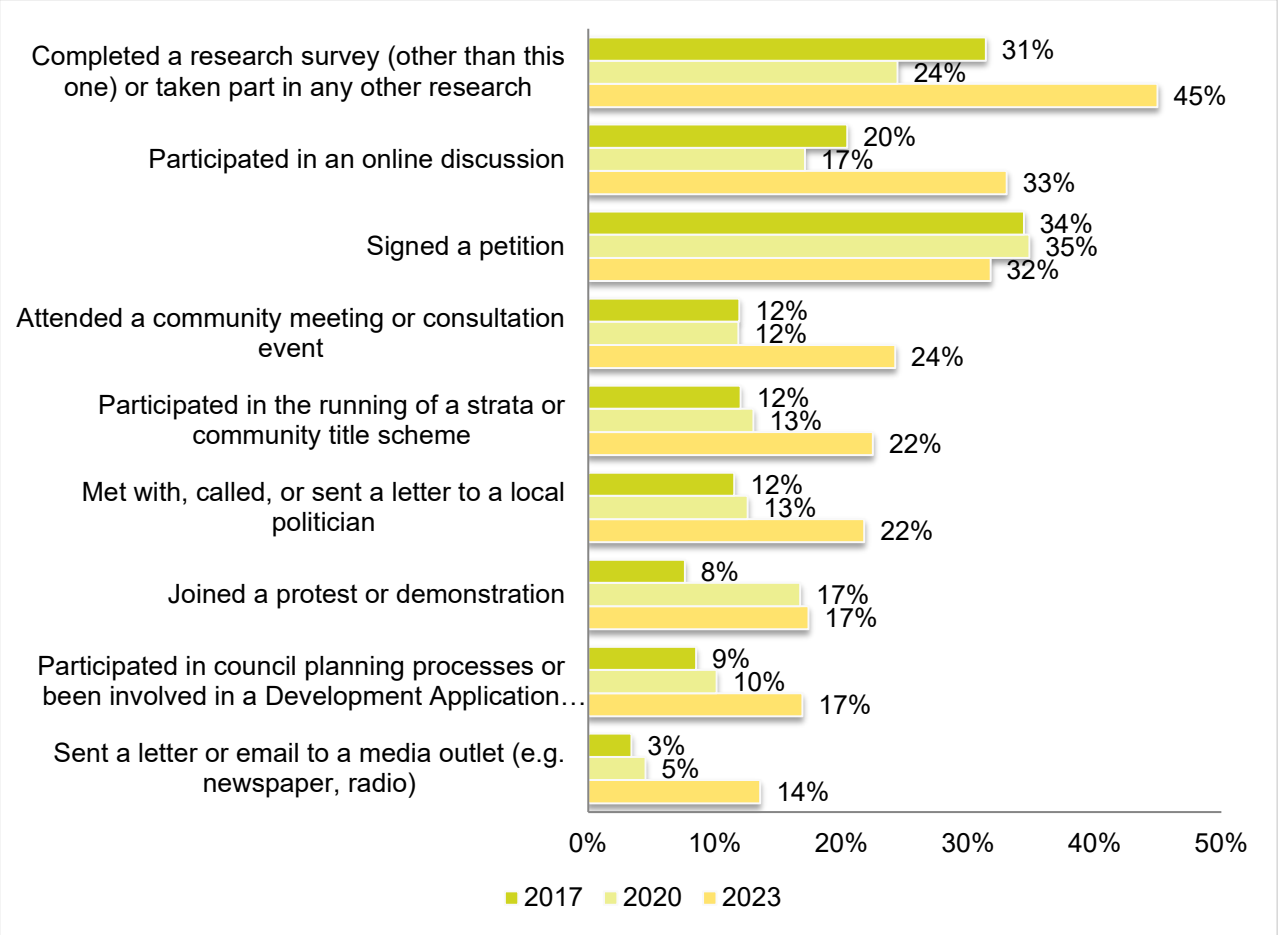
Civic culture and participation

Selected survey findings provide information about whether people feel that they can influence the nature of their community.

As demonstrated below (Figure 48), there was an observed increase in Green Square residents participating in civic activities. Almost half (45%) had completed a research survey or taken part in a research activity other than this MyPlace survey, and one-third (33%) had participated in online discussions. Both of these percentages are double those noted in the 2020 survey. While around one-third (32%) had signed a petition (similar to the 35% observed in 2020), significantly more people participated in other types of civic activities, with the exception of joining a protest or demonstration (17% in 2023 and in 2020). This shows that, overall, Green Square residents are becoming more civically active.

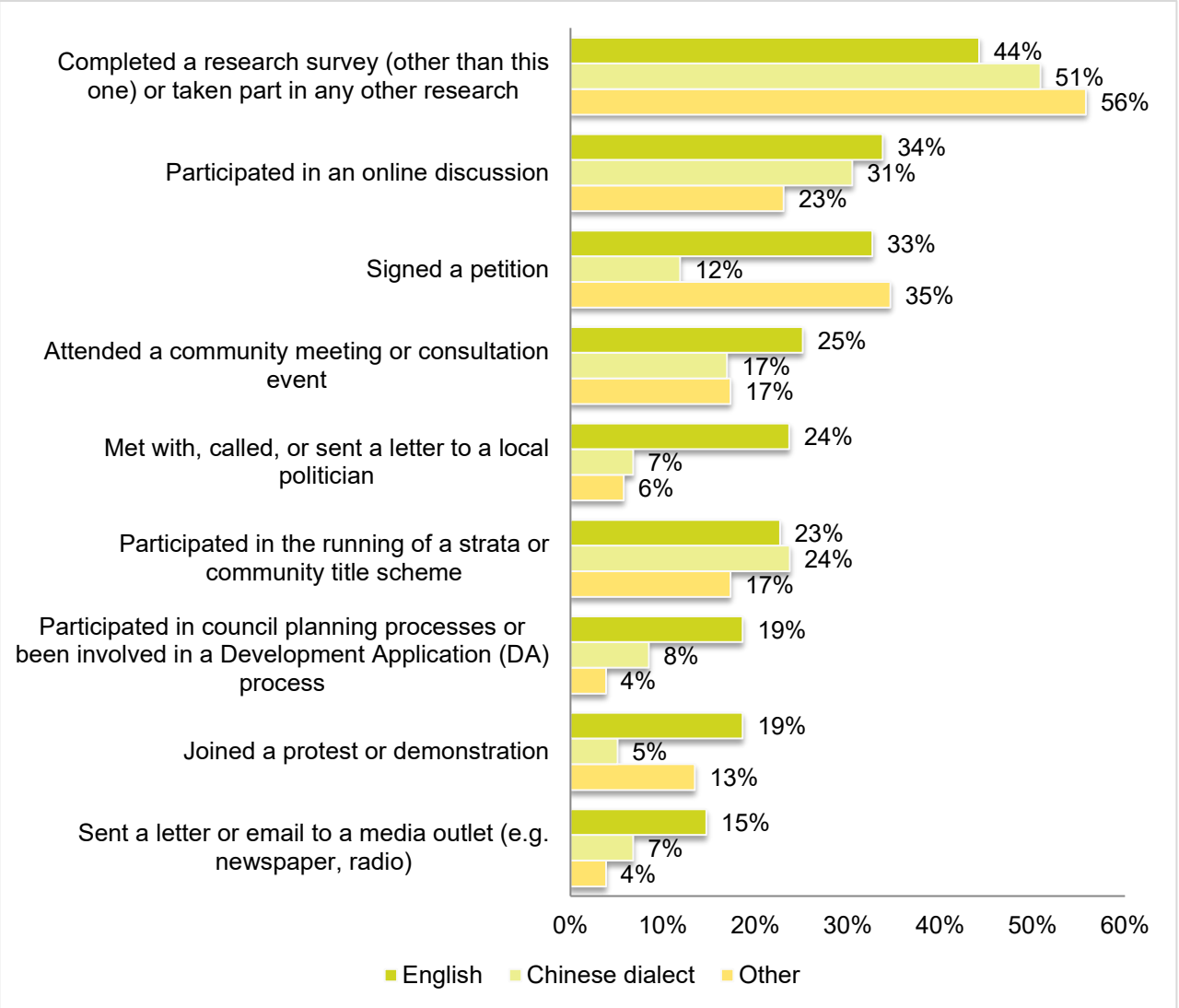
Key finding: *Most Green Square residents are becoming increasingly involved in formal civic activities. Participation across most civic activities listed doubled between 2020 and 2023. The only exceptions being signing petitions (a slight decline to 32%) and joining a protest or demonstration (17%, same as in 2020).*

Figure 48: Comparison of 2017, 2020 and 2023 responses to: In the past 12 months, have you …? (n2017=997, n2020 = 1105, n2023 = 1023)



When looking at the results broken down by language spoken at home, some interesting patterns emerge. Because Mandarin and Cantonese are the most common languages spoken in the area after English, we divided our analysis between speaking English at home, speaking a Chinese language and speaking another language at home (see Figure 49). People who speak a language other than English at home are generally less likely to participate in civic activities. The only notable exceptions were: people who speak a Chinese language at home were more likely to participate in the running of their strata or community title scheme; and people who spoke other languages at home were more likely to have participated in other research and signed a petition. These findings suggest not only that different strategies may be needed to encourage civic engagement of people who speak a language other than English at home, but that different strategies may be needed for different language groups[2].

Figure 49: In the past 12 months, have you …? By language spoken at home (nEnglish = 891, nChinese dialect=59, nOther = 52)



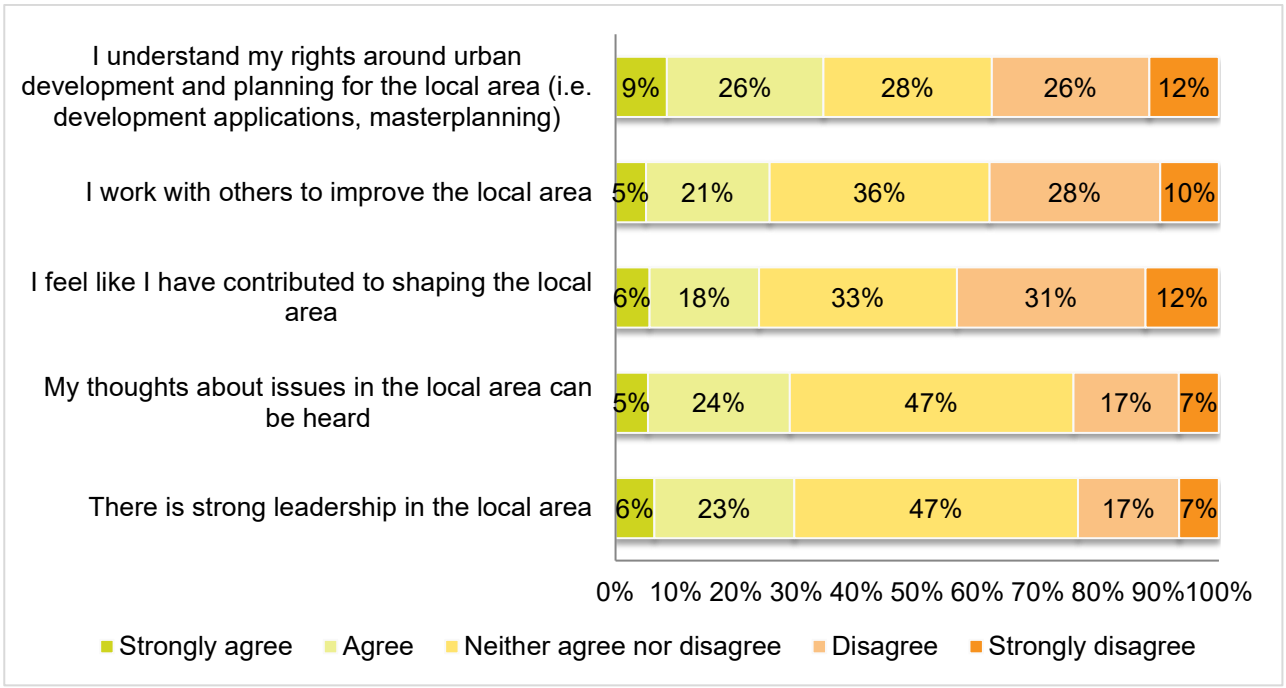
[2] The small sample size for language sub-groups mean that these results have a high margin of error and should be treated cautiously.

As well as asking people what they had done regarding civic engagement, the survey also asked people questions about their knowledge about how to get involved in civic engagement, and whether they thought they had made, or could make, a civic contribution to the local community (see Figure 50). The results of this question indicate that one-third of people think that they understand the rights around urban development and planning for the local area (35% agree or strongly agree), and around one-quarter feel that they have made a civic contribution in the area (26% of people said that they had worked with others to improve the area and 24% said that they had contributed to shaping Green Square). This is a notable increase from the 2020 survey (when the figures were 17% and 13% respectively).

Related to this, less than one-third (29%) of people agreed that there was strong local leadership in the community, and the same proportion felt that their thoughts about local issues in Green Square could be heard by people who make a difference.

Key finding: *One-third of residents thought that they understand the rights around urban development and planning for the local area (35%). However, smaller percentages felt that they had made a civic contribution by working with others to improve the area (26%) or contributing to shaping Green Square (24%). Related to this, only 29% felt that their thoughts about local issues in Green Square could be heard by people who make a difference, and the same proportion agreed that there was strong local leadership in the area.*

Figure 50:To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (n = various, 1492-1493)



Social order and control

The survey included a question to gauge how safe people feel in the Green Square area under different circumstances. As can be seen in Figure 51, the vast majority of people felt safe or unconcerned in all situations except for walking in Green Square alone after dark, when 16% of people felt unsafe or very unsafe. Women were more likely to feel unsafe walking in Green Square alone after dark (19%) than men (12%) (see Figure 52). The proportion of people feeling unsafe alone after dark in Green Square remains similar to 2020 (15%) but has dropped considerably from 27% in 2017. This proportion is also lower than for the wider City of Sydney area, where 20% of people reported feeling unsafe walking in the local area after dark in the 2018 City Wellbeing Survey.

Figure 51: How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? (n = 1497)

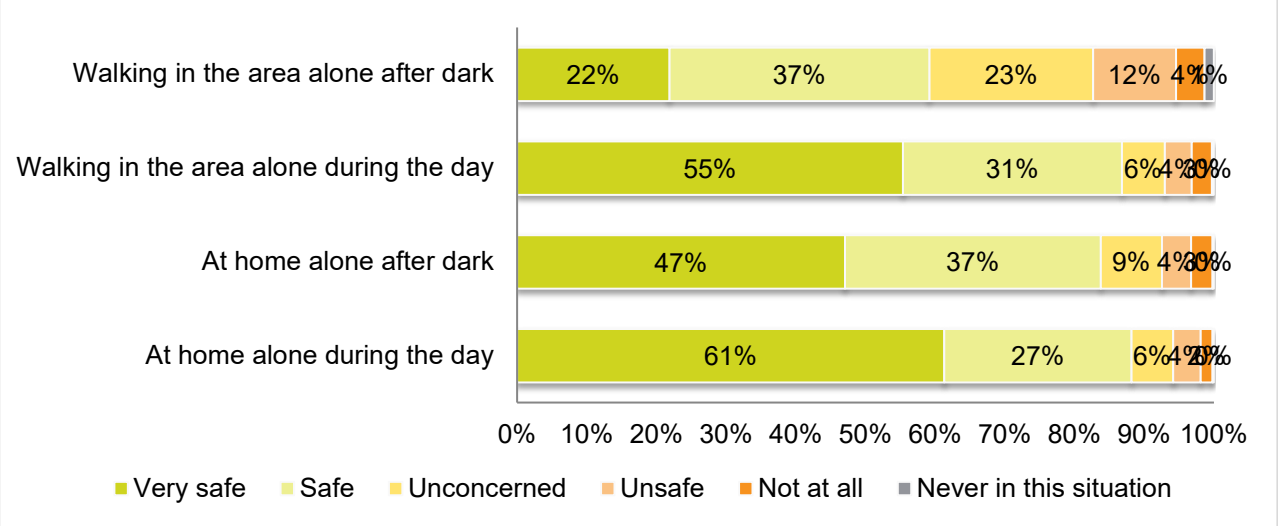
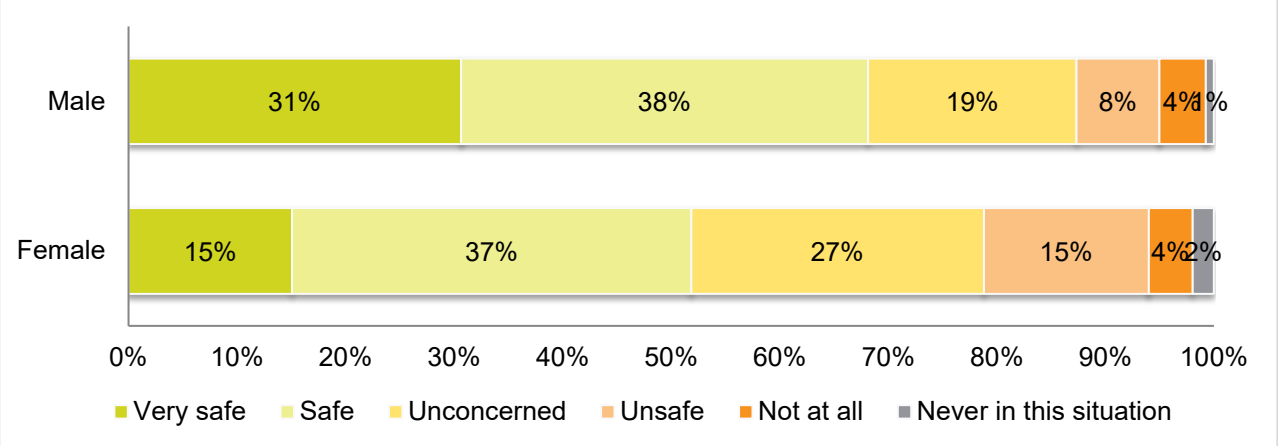


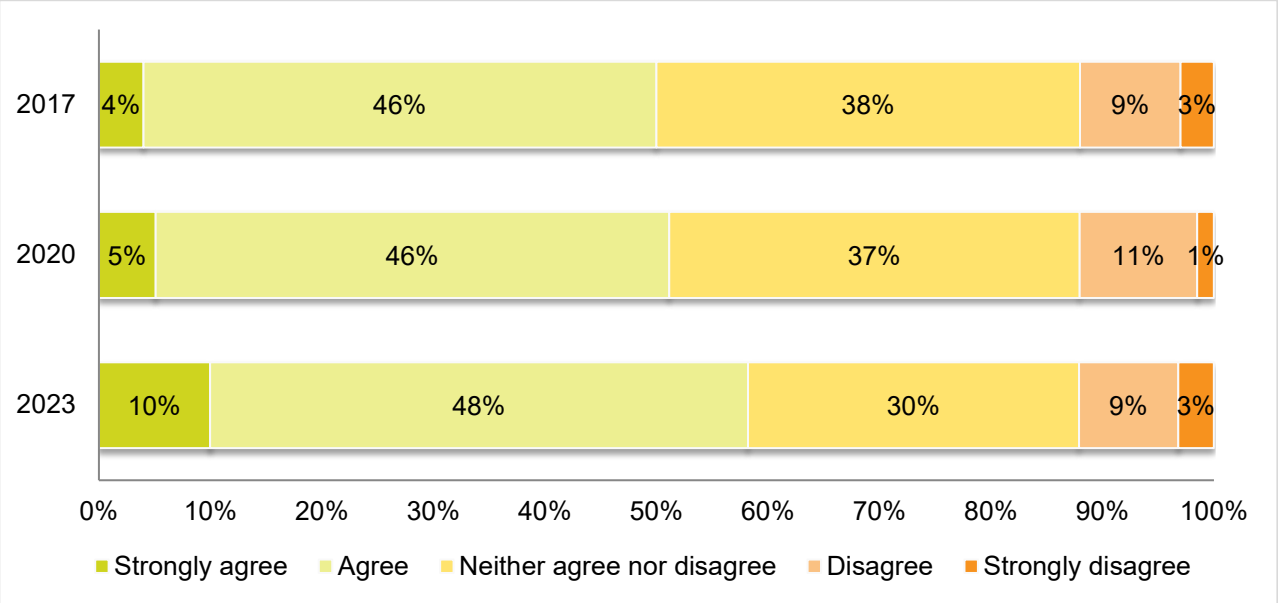
Figure 52: How safe do you feel walking in Green Square Area alone after dark? by gender (nMale = 656, nFemale = 816)



Key finding: *The majority of residents felt safe or unconcerned in all situations except for walking in Green Square alone after dark, in which circumstance 16% of people felt unsafe or very unsafe. This represents a notable improvement from the 2017 survey when 27% of respondents said that they felt unsafe in the area after dark.*

People were also asked whether they thought most people can be trusted. The majority of people agreed with this statement in 2023 (58%), but one in ten people (12%) disagreed. These results are improvements to those of 2020, when 51% felt most people could be trusted (Figure 53). This improvement in trust is in contrast to the overall results of the City's Wellbeing Survey between 2015-2018 both for the City total and the Green Square Village area, and the broader drop in personal wellbeing sentiment captured in other Wellbeing Survey questions.

Figure 53: Agreement with 'Most people can be trusted' (n2017=987, n2020 = 1097, n2023 = 1497)



Key finding: *While the majority (58%) of people feel that most people can be trusted, a notable minority (12%) disagree.*

Opportunities and barriers to social interaction and social cohesion

This section presents findings from the survey regarding opportunities and barriers to social interaction and social cohesion. Selected findings from the survey provide information about:

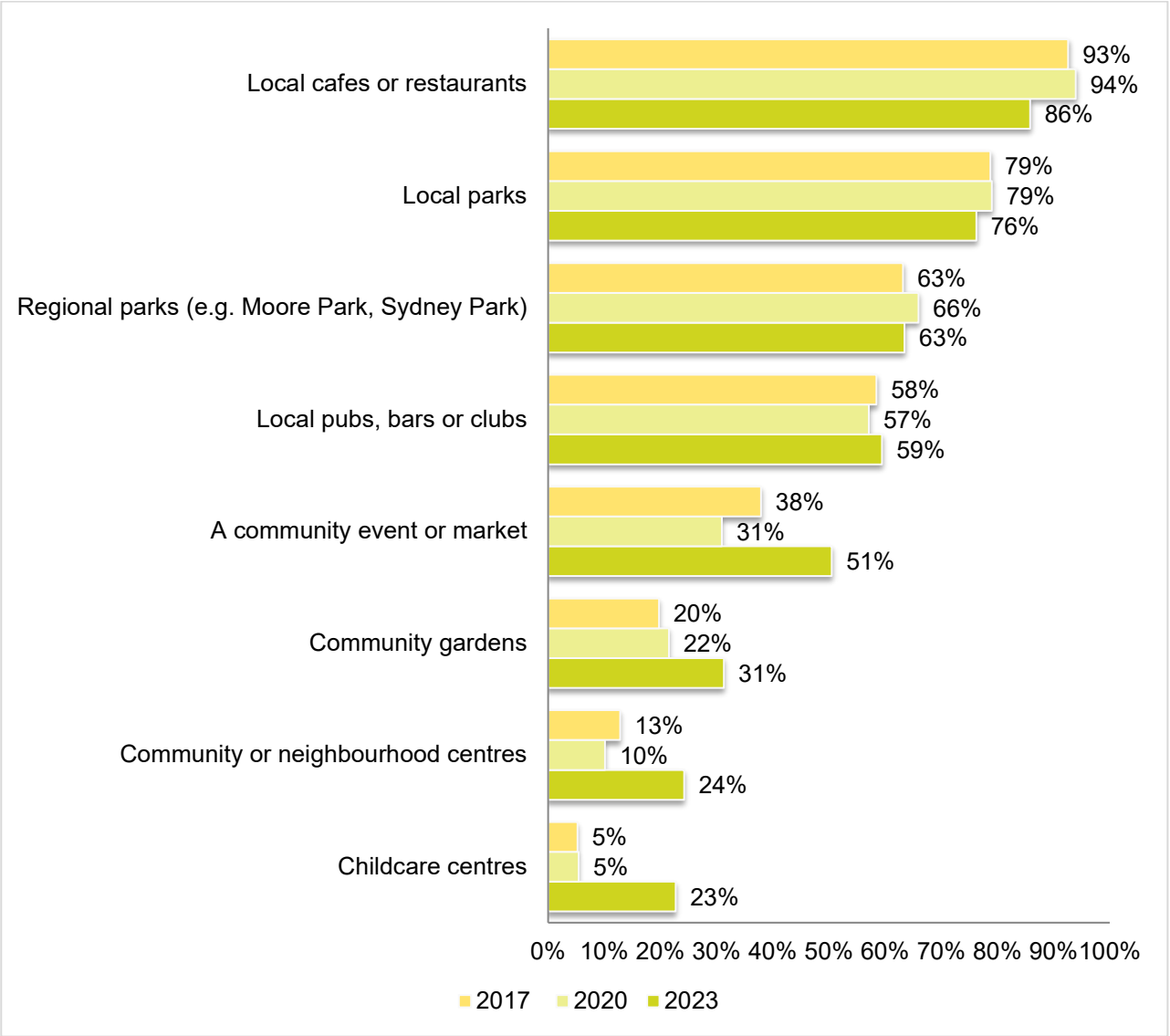
- people's awareness of and use of community services and facilities,
- the impact of the availability of information and personal factors on social interaction,
- design/spatial factors on social interaction and to what extent people feel excluded or comfortable in the area.

Regarding people's use of facilities, survey respondents were asked whether they had used a range of services and facilities in the area. Of the services and facilities listed (see Figure 54), most residents had used local cafés and restaurants (86%), and most had used local parks (76%). Two-thirds had used regional parks (63%), and more than half had been to local pubs, bars or clubs (59%).

Of the formal community infrastructure provided by the City in the area, much fewer people had used community or neighbourhood centres (24%). Community gardens, however, had been used by almost one-third (31%) of residents. Both of these represent notable increase in usable since 2020 (10% and 22% respectively). There was also much stronger participation in local community events or markets (51%) in 2023 than in 2020 (31%).

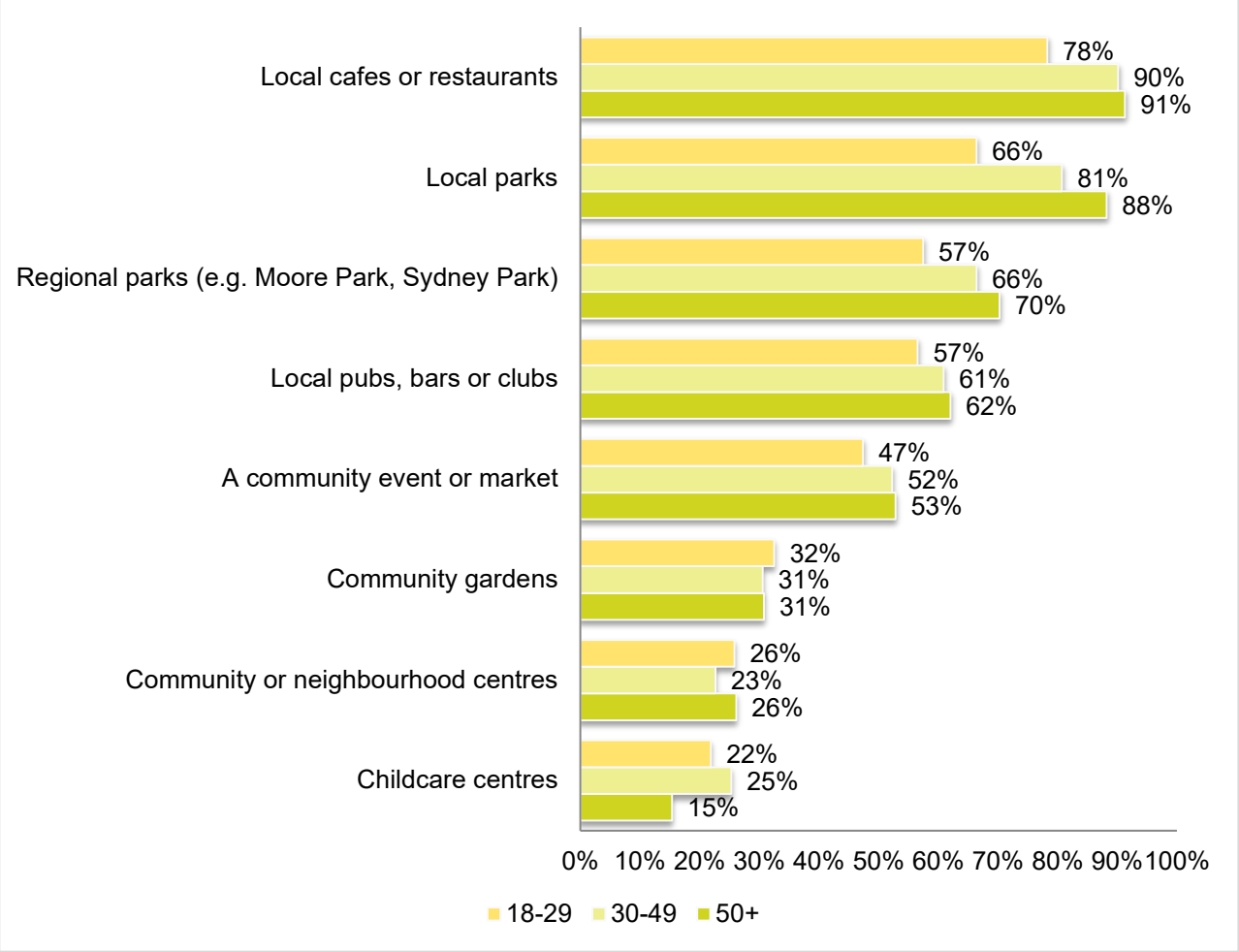
Key finding: *The services and facilities in Green Square most commonly used by residents were local cafés and restaurants (86%), local parks (76%) and regional parks (63%). There were notable increases in usage of formal community infrastructure like community or neighbourhood centres (24%) and community gardens (31%).*

Figure 54: Which services and facilities have you used within the area over the past six months? (n2023 = 1495, n2020=1105, n2017=997)



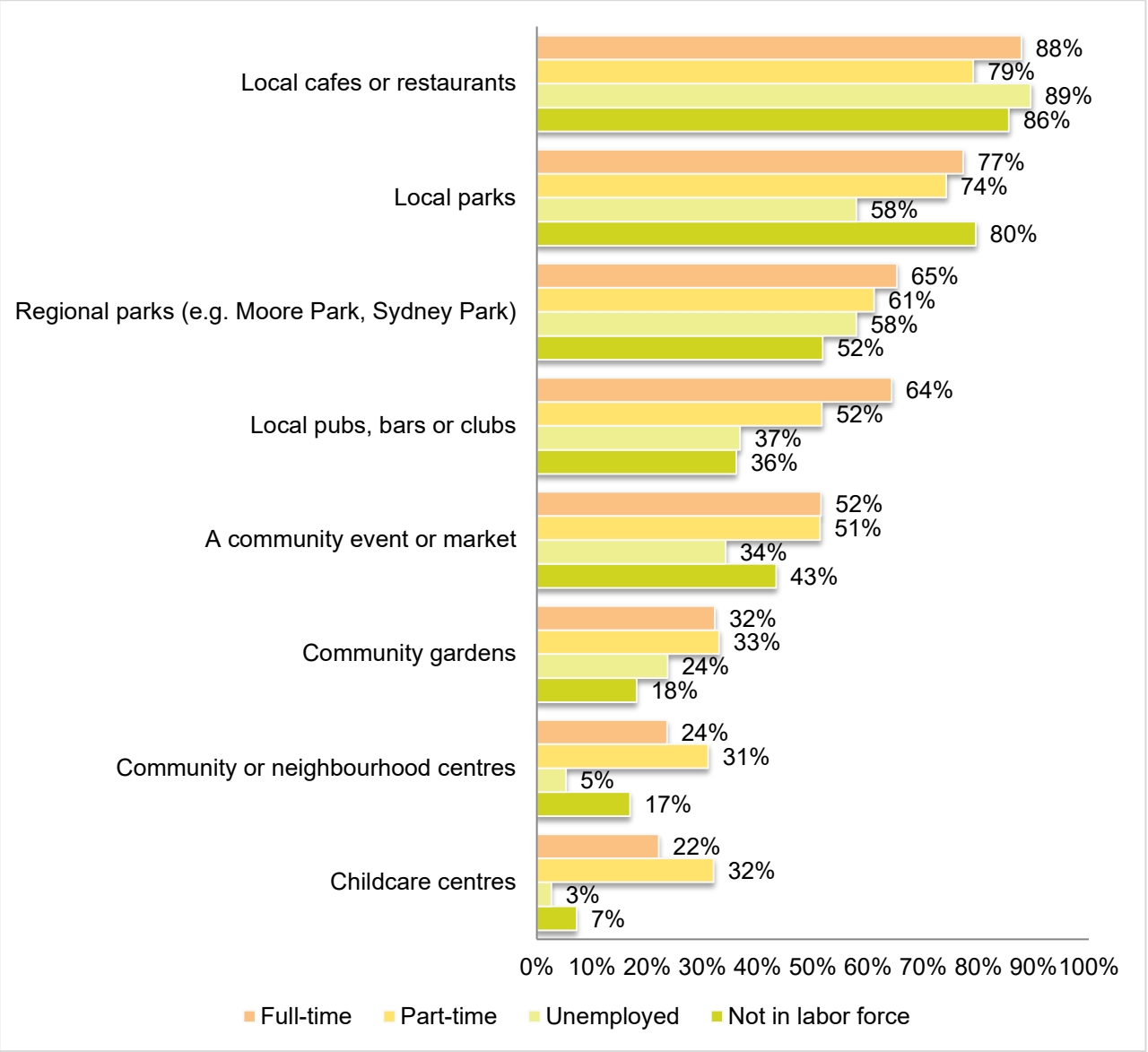
Responses varied slightly by age, with people over 50 less likely to use childcare centres, and people under 30 less likely to use local and regional parks (see Figure 55).

Figure 55: Which services and facilities have you used within the Green Square Area over the past six months? By age (n18-29 = 557, n30-49 = 742, n50+ = 195)



While the survey did not ask about household or individual income, Figure 56 provides a breakdown of responses by employment status (where full-time includes people working 35 hours or more per week, part time people working 34 hours or less, and not in labour force including people who are retired or otherwise not in the labour force). Of note, local cafés and restaurants and local parks are frequently used by all groups, but people who are unemployed or not in the labour force are less likely to use most services and facilities. This was especially the case for community and neighbourhood centres, and childcare centres, where only 5% and 3% of unemployed people used these facilities in 2023.

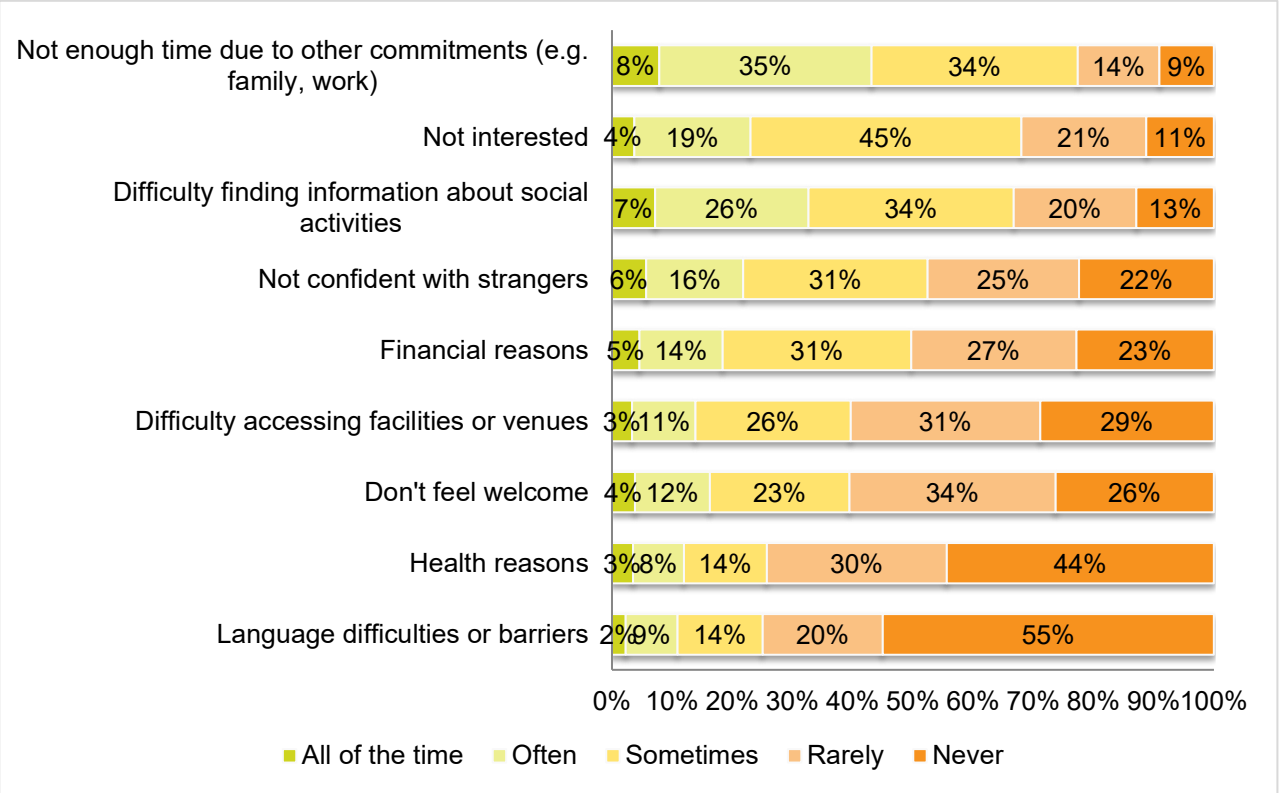
Figure 56: Which services and facilities have you used within the Green Square Area over the past six months? By employment status (nFull-time = 1064, nPart-time = 306, nUnemployed = 38, nNot in labour force = 83)



In addition to questions asking about the use and knowledge of different facilities in the Green Square area, the survey also included a question that directly asked people about factors that might limit the extent to which they socialise with other people in Green Square. As can be seen in Figure 57, the most common limitation people experience to socialising with other people in the area is time constraints, which impact on many people often (35%) or all of the time (8%). Other important reasons are difficulty in finding information about social activities (33% often or all of the time), not being interested (23% often or all of the time), and not being confident with strangers (22% often or all of the time). While other barriers to social interaction were mentioned less often by survey respondents, almost one-fifth said that financial reasons (19%) and one-sixth not feeling welcome (16%) limited their social interactions at least some of the time. Difficulty accessing facilities or venues (14%), language difficulties (11%) and health reasons (11%) also limited some people's social interactions at least some of the time.

These findings broadly reflect those of the City's 2018 Wellbeing Survey which found that the most common barriers limiting participation in the community across the City of Sydney were lack of time (67%), cost (47%), a shortage of activities or programs of interest (44%) and difficulty finding information about activities or programs available (36%).

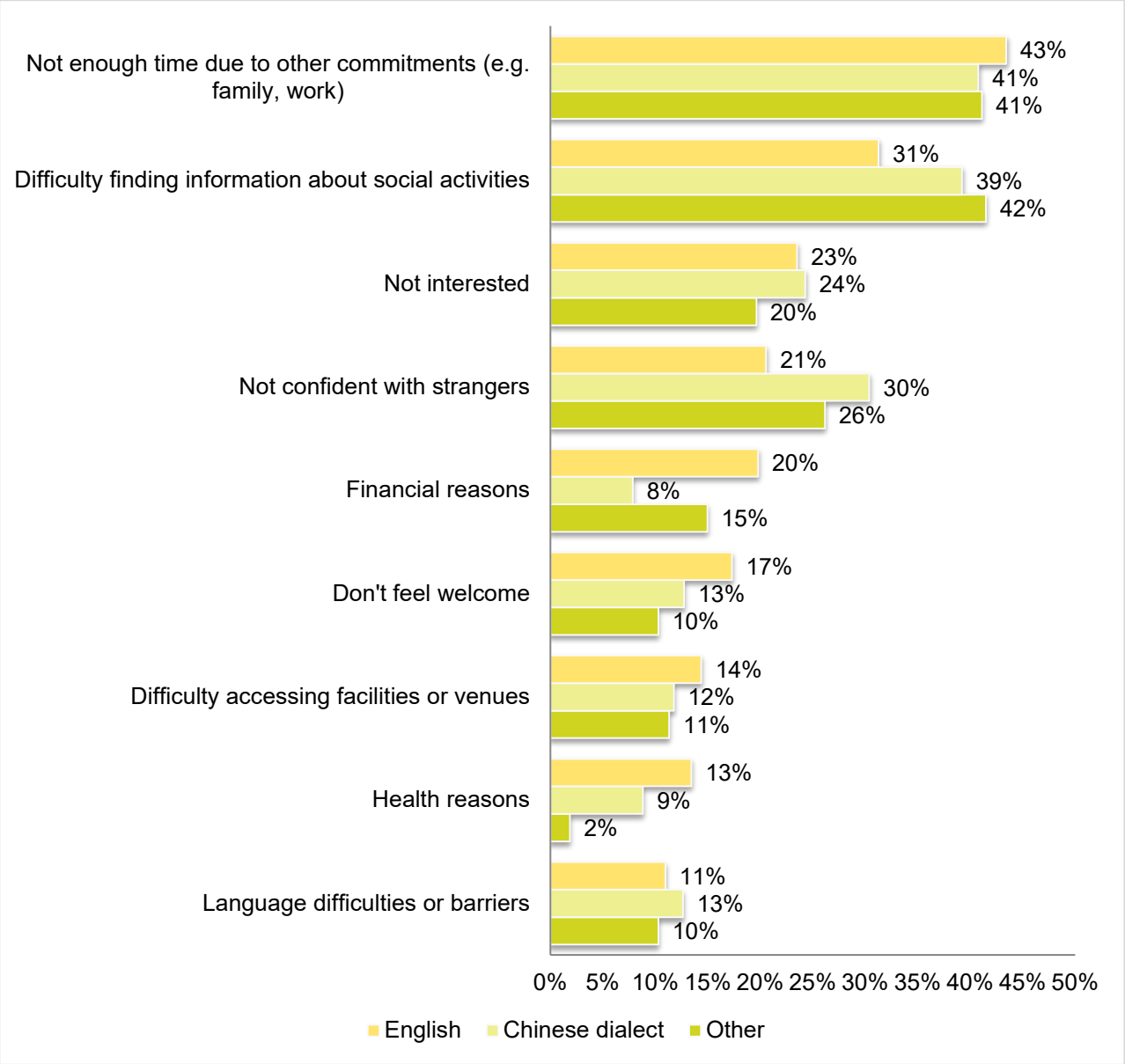
Figure 57: Do any of the following limit you from socialising or participating in organised social activities in the area? (n = various, 1486-1490)



The City of Sydney 2018 Wellbeing Survey demonstrated that barriers to participation in community activities were more pronounced among people speaking languages other than English at home. While all language groups encountered similar levels of difficulties, non-English speakers were more likely to note lack of confidence with strangers and difficulty finding information as barriers than English speakers (Figure 58). Non-English speakers, however, were less likely to experience health or financial reasons that preclude them from participating; they were also less likely to feel unwelcomed[3].

[3] The small sample size for language sub-groups mean that these results have a high margin of error and should be treated cautiously.

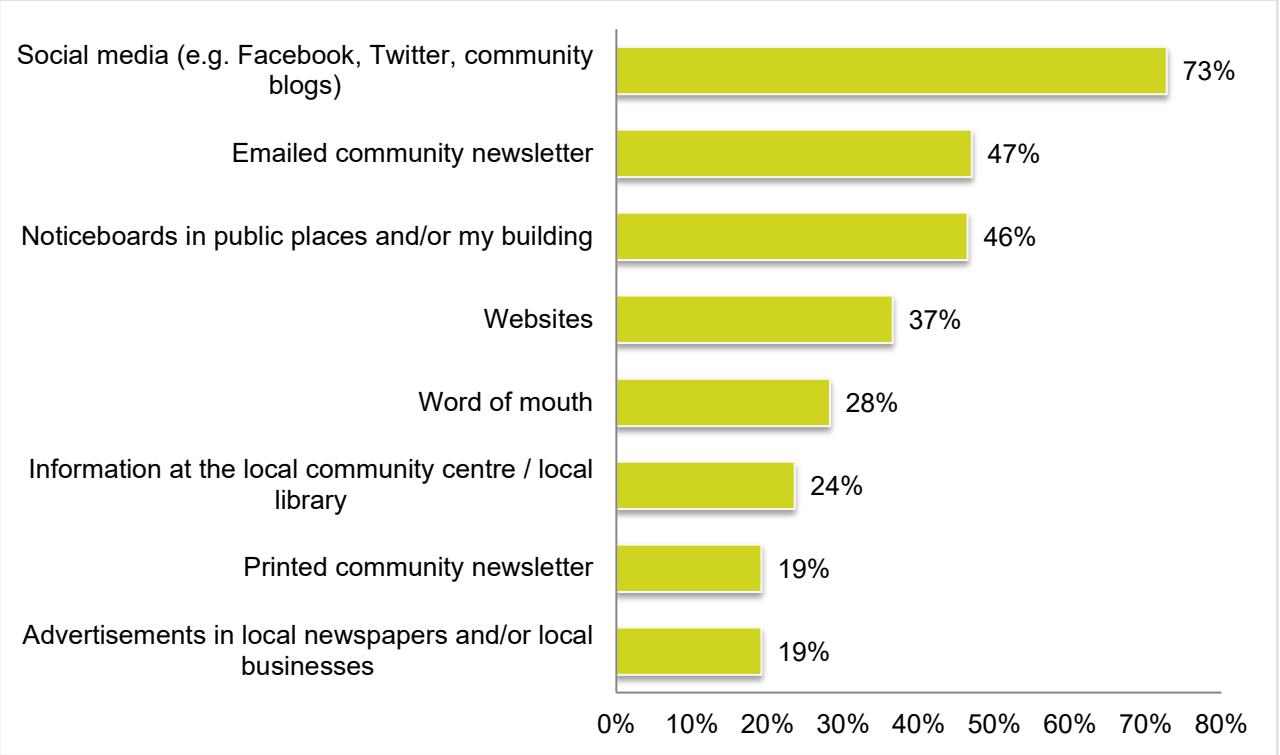
Figure 58: Do any of the following limit you from socialising or participating in organised social activities in the area? By language spoken at home (various, nEnglish = 1247-1251, nChinese dialect=102-103, nOther = 106-107)



These results suggest that some people in Green Square are unaware of the services and facilities, and opportunities for social interaction that exist for them in the area. The survey asked a question about how people would like to receive information about opportunities to participate in social activities in their local area (Figure 59). A large proportion of residents would like to receive information electronically such as through social media and emailed newsletters.

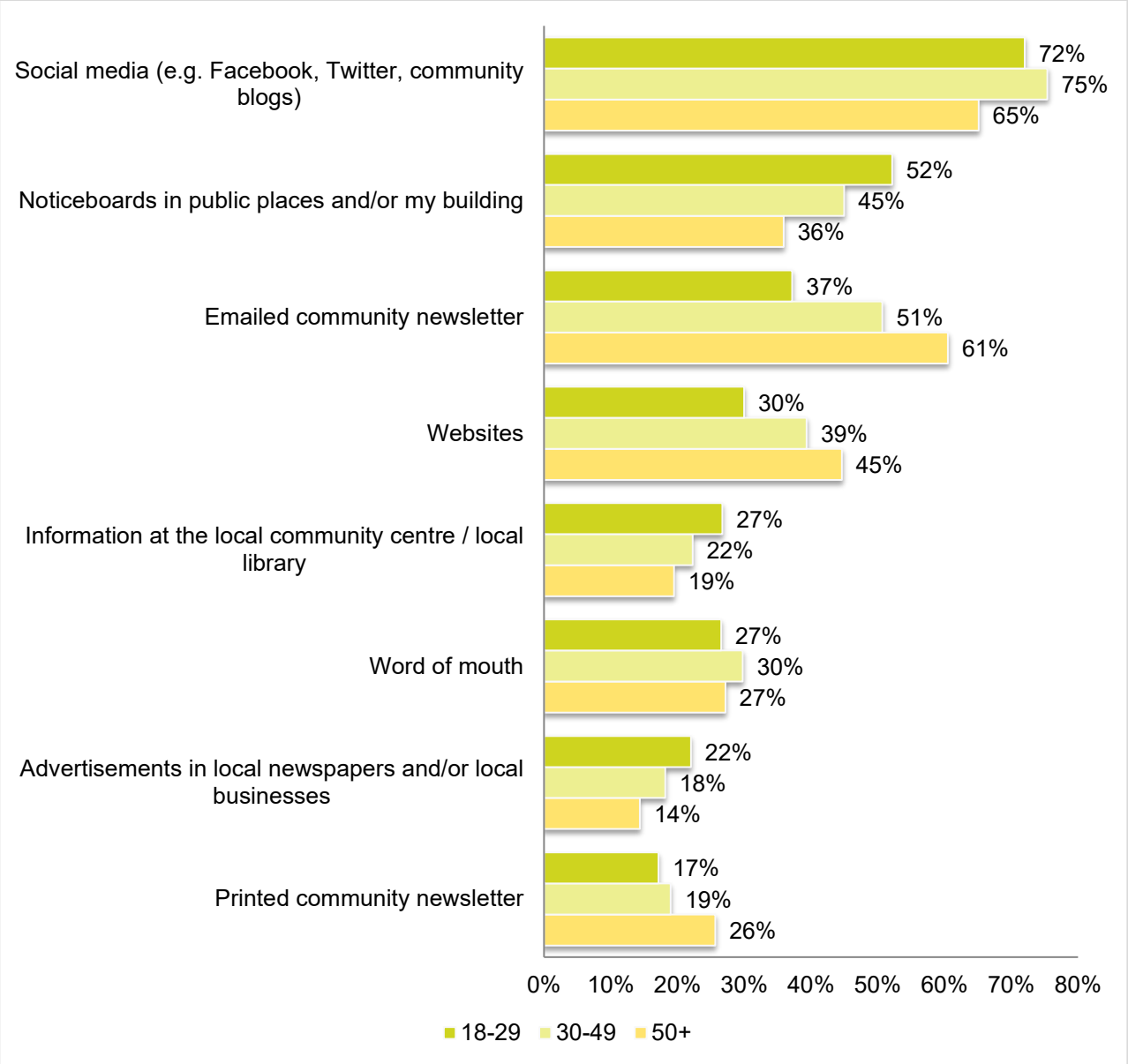
Key finding: *The most common limitation people experience to socialising with others in the area is time constraints (43% often or all of the time). Other important limitations are difficulty in finding information about social activities (33% often or all of the time), not being interested (23% often or all of the time), and not being confident with strangers (22% often or all of the time).*

Figure 59: How would you like to get information about opportunities to participate in social activities in your local area? (n = 1481)



Responses to this question differed by age (Figure 60). Notably, people aged over 50 were less likely to want to receive information via social media (65%) and more likely to want information in printed community newsletters (26%) compared to younger age groups. However, e-mailed community newsletters were a more popular option amongst this older age group (61%).

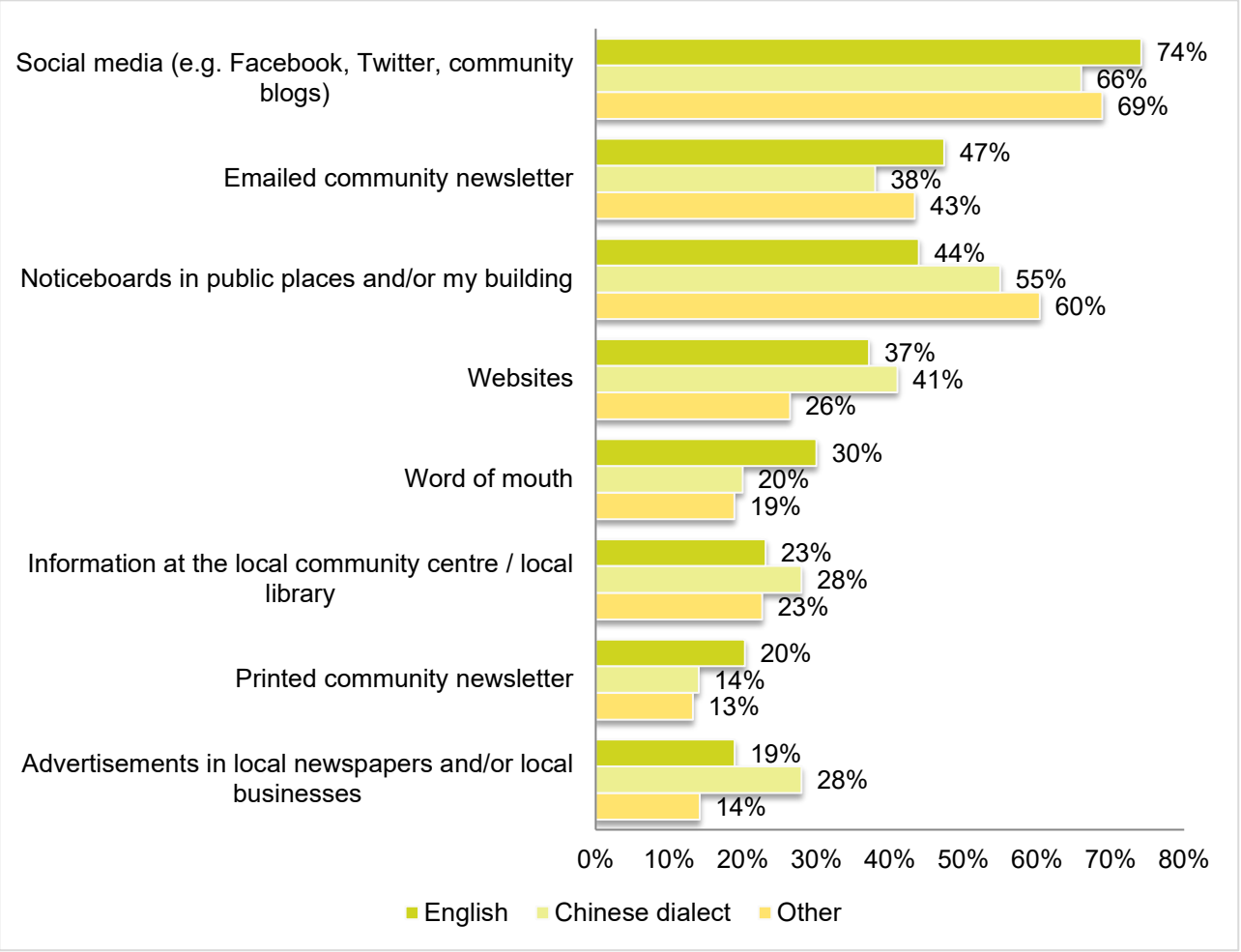
Figure 60: How would you like to get information about opportunities to participate in social activities in your local area? By age (n18-29 = 554, n30-49 = 732, n50+ = 195)



Responses were also different between people speaking different languages at home (Figure 61). Chinese-language speakers were more likely to want to receive information on websites, at the local community centre or library, and via advertisements in local newspapers or local businesses than

English and other language speakers. Other non-English language speakers, however, were more likely to want to receive information on noticeboards in public places and/or in their building[4].

Figure 61: How would you like to get information about opportunities to participate in social activities in your local area? By language spoken at home (nEnglish = 1243, nChinese dialect=100, nOther = 106)



Key finding: *People would like to get information about opportunities to participate in social activities in their local area electronically such as via social media (73%) and e-mails (47%). Slightly fewer people preferred to be notified via noticeboards in public places and/or in their building (46%). Preferences differ by age and language spoken at home.*

[4] The small sample size for language sub-groups mean that these results have a high margin of error and should be treated cautiously.

Credit: Anthony Kerr

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Boundaries of SA1s used to determine area population

This map shows the boundaries of the area from which the resident population figures presented in this report refer. It is a combination of 29 Statistical Area Ones (SA1s). There are some areas included in this map that are not in the Green Square urban renewal area. These are the areas protruding to the south west along O'Riordan Street, and Perry Park to the west. However, no residents live in these additional areas and so their inclusion will have no bearing on the population figures presented.

Appendix 2: Blank survey tool (English version)

CITY OF SYDNEY

My Place: Local Community Survey

We know that areas like Green Square and parts of Erskineville are going through a lot of change. Help us understand how you feel about life in your community now and what's important for the future.

我们诚邀您参与一个社区问卷调查。你能在网路上完成问卷：unsw.to/myplacezh，您也可以在您附近的图书馆索取纸本问卷 。

Complete the survey and go into the draw to win 1 of 8 $100 Visa gift cards

We would love to hear from you if you are over 18 and currently live or work in one of the areas shown above. We will use your feedback to continue to work with you to shape a more vibrant, inclusive and connected community.

This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and is also available online at **unsw.to/myplace**
Please post the survey back in the enclosed reply-paid envelope or drop it off at your local library. We encourage all adults in your household or workplace to complete the survey. You can do this online, or collect extra hard copies from your local library.

The information statement enclosed provides some background to this project and outlines how the information you provide will be used and how your confidentiality will be assured. Continuing with the survey indicates that, having read and understood the information provided in the information statement, you have decided to participate. If you have any questions please email us at myplacesurvey@unsw.edu.au

UNSW SYDNEY

UNSW City Futures

This research is being undertaken by the City Futures Research Centre at the University of New South Wales in partnership with the City of Sydney.

For your chance to win **one of eight $100 Visa gift cards**, please complete this survey by 12th April.

Section 1 - How you live or work in your local area

Q1. Which area do you live in (see map to the left)?

- O Area 1a
- O Area 1b
- O Area 2
- O Area 3
- O I do not live in the area, but I work here – *Go to Q8*

Q2. How long have you lived in the area? (Please mark one)

O Up to 6 months	O 6 years or more
O 6 - 12 months	O I am visiting
O 1 - 5 years	O Other (Please specify):

Q3. Why did you move to the area? (Mark all that apply)

O Attractive environment	O Lifestyle
O Availability of an appropriately-sized property	O Property purchase affordability
O Competitive rent	O Proximity to public transport
O Employment nearby	O Proximity to Sydney CBD
O Good access to recreational and leisure facilities (e.g. cycle ways, parks, children's playgrounds, sports fields)	O To be close to/attend a university
O Good facilities and services in the area (e.g. shops, schools, libraries)	O Other (Please specify):

Q4. What do you like the most about living in the area? (Mark all that apply)

O Access to public transport	O Proximity to Sydney CBD
O Café/restaurant culture	O Quiet, peaceful
O Community feel	O Recreation facilities
O Convenient location	O Up and coming area
O Good facilities and services (e.g. shops, schools, libraries)	O Urban environment
O Parks and green spaces	O Other (Please specify):

Q5. What do you like the least about living in the area? (Mark all that apply)

O Cleanliness of public spaces	O Not enough evening activities
O Construction impacts	O Not enough parking
O Density of development	O Not enough schools
O Lack of convenient public transport	O Not enough shops or variety of shops
O Noise	O Traffic
O Not enough cafés, restaurants	O Other (Please specify):
O Not enough community facilities	

Q6. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (Please mark the most appropriate circle for each row)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
People move in and out of the local area quite often	O	O	O	O	O
I regularly stop and talk with people in my neighbourhood	O	O	O	O	O
Most people can be trusted	O	O	O	O	O
I would be willing to help my neighbours if needed	O	O	O	O	O
I can get help from my neighbours if needed	O	O	O	O	O
I borrow things and exchange favours with my neighbours	O	O	O	O	O
I plan to remain a resident in this area for a number of years	O	O	O	O	O
This area is a good place to live	O	O	O	O	O
This area is a good place to raise children	O	O	O	O	O
This area is a good place to retire	O	O	O	O	O

Q7. To what extent do you feel that you are part of the community in…? (Please mark the most appropriate circle for each row)

	Very strongly	Strongly	Neutral	Not much	Not at all
The building in which you live	O	O	O	O	O
The street on which you live	O	O	O	O	O
The suburb in which you live	O	O	O	O	O
Your local area (areas 1a, 1b, 2 or 3)	O	O	O	O	O
Inner city and surrounds	O	O	O	O	O
Sydney	O	O	O	O	O
Australia	O	O	O	O	O

Q8. Which of the 4 areas in the map at the beginning of the survey do you work in?

O Area 1a	O Area 3
O Area 1b	O I do not work in the area – *Go to Q13*
O Area 2	

Q9. How long have you worked in the area? (Please mark one)

O Up to 6 months	O 1 - 5 years
O 6 - 12 months	O 6 years or more

Q10. What do you like the most about working in the area? (Mark all that apply)

O Access to public transport	O Proximity to Sydney CBD
O Café/restaurant culture	O Up and coming area
O Parks and green spaces	O Other (Please specify):
O Proximity to home	

Q11. What do you like the least about working in the area? (Mark all that apply)

O Lack of useful public transport	O Not enough shops or variety of shops
O Not enough cafés, restaurants	O Poor pedestrian access
O Not enough community facilities	O Traffic
O Not enough parking	O Other (Please specify):

Q12. To what extent do you feel that you are part of the community in…? (Please mark the most appropriate circle for each row)

	Very strongly	Strongly	Neutral	Not much	Not at all
The building in which you work	O	O	O	O	O
The street on which you work	O	O	O	O	O
The suburb in which you work	O	O	O	O	O
Your local area (areas 1a, 1b, 2 or 3)	O	O	O	O	O
Sydney	O	O	O	O	O
Australia	O	O	O	O	O

Q13. What are the *top five* things that would make the area a place you would want to live and/or work in the future? (i.e. facilities, events or services)

Commercial	Variety of cafés, restaurants and bars	O
	Variety of retail shops	O
Cultural	Community events and entertainment	O
	Evening activities (e.g. open air cinemas, night markets)	O
	Public art	O
Public space	Landscaping in streets and parks (trees, shrubs, pathways)	O
	Large open spaces in parks (e.g. for kicking a ball)	O
	Pet friendly areas	O
	Playgrounds	O
	Public places where I can socialise with friends and neighbours (e.g. places with BBQs, tables, seating)	O
	Sporting facilities (e.g. courts, ping pong tables, swimming pools)	O
Services	Good childcare	O
	Good schools close by	O
	Other services (e.g. health services)	O
Social	A more friendly neighbourhood (e.g. people talking to each other in the street)	O
Transport	Improved traffic management	O
	Parking	O
	Public transport that connects to more areas of the city	O
	Safer conditions for pedestrians and cyclists	O
Other	Please list anything else that would make you want to live and/or work here in the future:	O

Q14. Which services and facilities have you used *within the area* over the past six months? (Please mark all that apply)

O A community event or market	O Local cafés or restaurants
O Childcare centres	O Local parks
O Community gardens	O Local pubs, bars or clubs
O Community or neighbourhood centres	O Regional parks (e.g. Moore Park, Sydney Park)

Q15. How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? (Please mark the most appropriate circle for each row)

	Very safe	Safe	Unconcerned	Unsafe	Not at all safe	Never in this situation
At home alone during the day	O	O	O	O	O	O
At home alone after dark	O	O	O	O	O	O
Walking in the area alone during the day	O	O	O	O	O	O
Walking in the area alone after dark	O	O	O	O	O	O

Q16. On a typical day, how do you travel to … (Mark all that apply)

	Public transport	Private car	Car share e.g. GoGet	Taxi/Uber	Walking	Cycling	Other	Not applicable
Your place of work / study	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Supermarket or shops	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Child's school or childcare	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Social, sport or recreational activities	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

Section 2 – Community in your local area

Q17. How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues? At least…

- O Daily
- O Weekly
- O Monthly
- O Less frequently
- O Never

Q18. In the past month, have you had contact with people in your local area in any of the following ways? (Please mark all that apply)

- O Attending community events
- O Chatting to people on the street
- O Chatting to people while shopping
- O Clubs, groups, religious groups or associations
- O Connecting with people online (e.g. through social media)
- O Schools / educational institutions
- O Sitting on your building's strata committee
- O Socialising in a community or cultural space (e.g. library, community garden)
- O Socialising in cafés, restaurants and/or pubs
- O Socialising in common areas of your building (e.g. courtyards, common rooms, BBQ areas)
- O Socialising in parks
- O Socialising in your own and/or others' homes
- O Sport or other recreational activities
- O Volunteering

Q19. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (Please mark all that apply)

- O Attended a community meeting or consultation event
- O Completed a research survey (other than this one) or taken part in any other research
- O Joined a protest or demonstration
- O Met with, called, or sent a letter to a local politician
- O Participated in an online discussion
- O Participated in council planning processes or been involved in a Development Application (DA) process
- O Participated in the running of a strata or community title scheme
- O Sent a letter or email to a media outlet (e.g. newspaper, radio)
- O Signed a petition

Q20. Do any of the following limit you from socialising or participating in organised social activities in the area? (Please mark the most appropriate circle for each row)

	All of the time	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Difficulty accessing facilities or venues	O	O	O	O	O
Difficulty finding information about social activities	O	O	O	O	O
Don't feel welcome	O	O	O	O	O
Financial reasons	O	O	O	O	O
Health reasons	O	O	O	O	O
Language difficulties or barriers	O	O	O	O	O
Not confident with strangers	O	O	O	O	O
Not enough time due to other commitments (e.g. family, work)	O	O	O	O	O
Not interested	O	O	O	O	O

Q21. How would you like to get information about opportunities to participate in social activities in your local area? (Mark all that apply)

- O Advertisements in local newspapers and/or in local businesses
- O Emailed community newsletter
- O Information at the local community centre/ local library
- O Noticeboards in public places and/or my building
- O Printed community newsletter
- O Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, community blogs)
- O Websites
- O Word of mouth

Q22. Of your friends, how many…?

	All	Most	About half	Few	None	Don't know
Are of a similar age to you	O	O	O	O	O	O
Are from the same ethnic background as you	O	O	O	O	O	O
Have similar levels of education as you	O	O	O	O	O	O

Q23. How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (Please mark one)

- O I don't have any, and don't want any involvement
- O I don't have any, but would like to have some involvement
- O I have some, but would like to have more involvement
- O I have enough involvement

Q24. Do you often run into people you know in the following places in the area? (Please mark the most appropriate circle for each row)

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Café/Restaurant/Pub	O	O	O
Communal area/s of the building I ***LIVE*** in (e.g. laundry, gym, car park, waste room, courtyard, corridors)	O	O	O
Communal area/s of the building I ***WORK*** in (e.g. courtyard, communal kitchen, car park)	O	O	O
Community event	O	O	O
Entrance or near the building I ***LIVE*** in	O	O	O
Entrance or near the building I ***WORK*** in	O	O	O
Local park/s	O	O	O
Local shops	O	O	O
Local street/s	O	O	O
Waiting for public transport	O	O	O

Q25. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (Please mark the most appropriate circle for each row)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
There is strong leadership in the local area	O	O	O	O	O
My thoughts about issues in the local area can be heard	O	O	O	O	O
I feel like I have contributed to shaping the local area	O	O	O	O	O
I work with others to improve the local area	O	O	O	O	O
I understand my rights around urban development and planning for the local area (i.e. development applications, masterplanning)	O	O	O	O	O

Section 3 – A few questions about you

Q26. What is your age group? (Please mark one)

O 18-19 years	O 50-59 years
O 20-29 years	O 60-69 years
O 30-39 years	O 70-79 years
O 40-49 years	O 80 + years

Q27. How do you describe your gender? (Please mark one)

O Woman	O Man	O Non-binary
O I don't know	O I prefer not to answer	
O I use a different term (please specify):		

Q28. What is the main language spoken in your home? (Please mark one)

O English	O Indonesian	O Russian
O Arabic	O Korean	O Spanish
O Cantonese	O Mandarin	O Vietnamese
O Greek	O Other (Please specify):	

Q29. How would you best describe your household? (Please mark one)

O Single person – *Go to Q31*	O Couple (no children) – *Go to Q31*
O Single parent plus child/children	O Couple plus child/children
O A share house (i.e. a group of unrelated adults) – *Go to Q31*	O Living with other family members (e.g. siblings, cousins, grandparents)
O Other (please specify):	

Q30. If there are children in your household, do you send them to a school in the local area? (Please mark all that apply)

- O Yes, they attend a ***primary school*** in the local area
- O Yes, they attend a ***secondary school*** in the local area
- O No, they attend a ***primary school*** outside the local area
- O No, they attend a ***secondary school*** outside the local area
- O The children in my household are not school-aged
- O There are no children living in my household

Q31. Do you own a pet? (mark all that apply)

- O Yes, I have a dog
- O Yes, I have a cat
- O Yes, I have another type of animal
- O No

Q32. Which of these best describes the property you currently live in? (Please mark one)

O Apartment/Flat (up to 3 storeys)	O Separate House – *Go to Q34*
O Apartment/Flat (4-9 storeys)	O Duplex/semi-detached – *Go to Q34*
O Apartment/Flat (10 or more storeys)	O Terrace House – *Go to Q34*
O Flat above shop	O Other (Please specify):

Q33. Are there any of the following in your building? (Please mark all that apply)

O Restaurant or café	O An indoor common room for residents (e.g. a meeting room or function room)
O Shop	O Outdoor courtyard or garden for residents
O Other business	O Gym and/or pool for residents
O None of these	

Q34. Are you currently studying?

O Yes, full-time	O No
O Yes, part-time	

Q35. Are you currently in paid employment?

O Yes, less than 20 hours per week	O No, unemployed, looking for work – *Go to Q38*
O Yes, 20-34 hours per week	O No, not in the labour force – *Go to Q38*
O Yes, 35-44 hours per week	O No, I am retired – *Go to Q38*
O Yes, 45 hours or more per week	

Q36. Do you work predominantly during the day or at night time? (Please mark one)

O During the day time	O A mix of both night and day time
O During the night time	

Q37. Which of the following best describes your current occupation? (Please mark one)

O Clerical and/or administrative worker	O Manual worker (labourer, factory work, cleaning)
O Community, hospitality and/or personal service worker	O Professional
O Machinery operator and/or driver	O Sales worker including retail
O Manager	O Technician and/or trade worker
O Other (Please specify):	

Q38. Does your household…? (Please mark one)

O Own your own home (no mortgage)	O Rent (community housing)
O Own your own home (and pay off a mortgage)	O Rent (public housing)
O Rent (privately)	O Rent (affordable housing)
O Other (Please specify):	

Q39. Does your household usually spend more than 30% of the combined household income on housing costs (rent or mortgage and/or strata levies)? (Please mark one)

O Yes	O Don't know
O No	O Do not wish to disclose

Q40. Would you like to: (Mark all that apply)

- O Enter the prize draw to win 1 of 8 $100 Visa gift cards?
- O Get information about the findings of this research via email?
- O Sign up to the City of Sydney's Green Square newsletter?
- O Be involved in possible future research by City of Sydney staff or UNSW researchers? (you can accept or decline invitations at any time)
- O Be involved in local community volunteering activities and events?

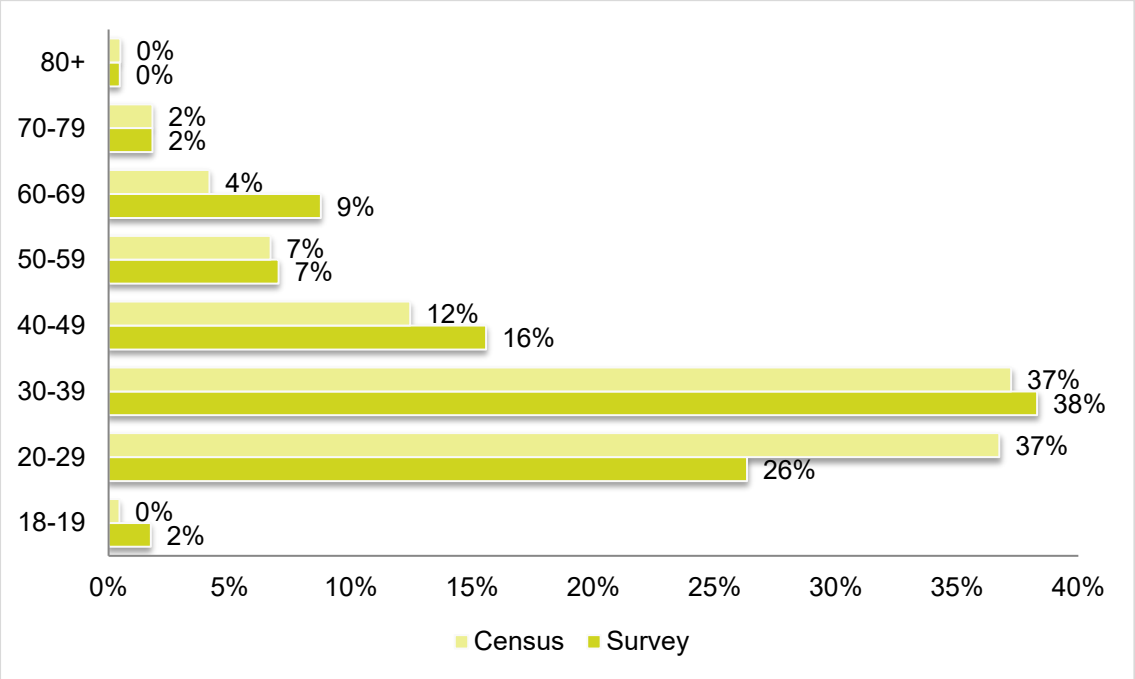
If you ticked any of the above options, please provide your email address and/or telephone number below.
(These details will only be used to contact you for the purposes you have selected above.)

THANK YOU for participating in our survey!!

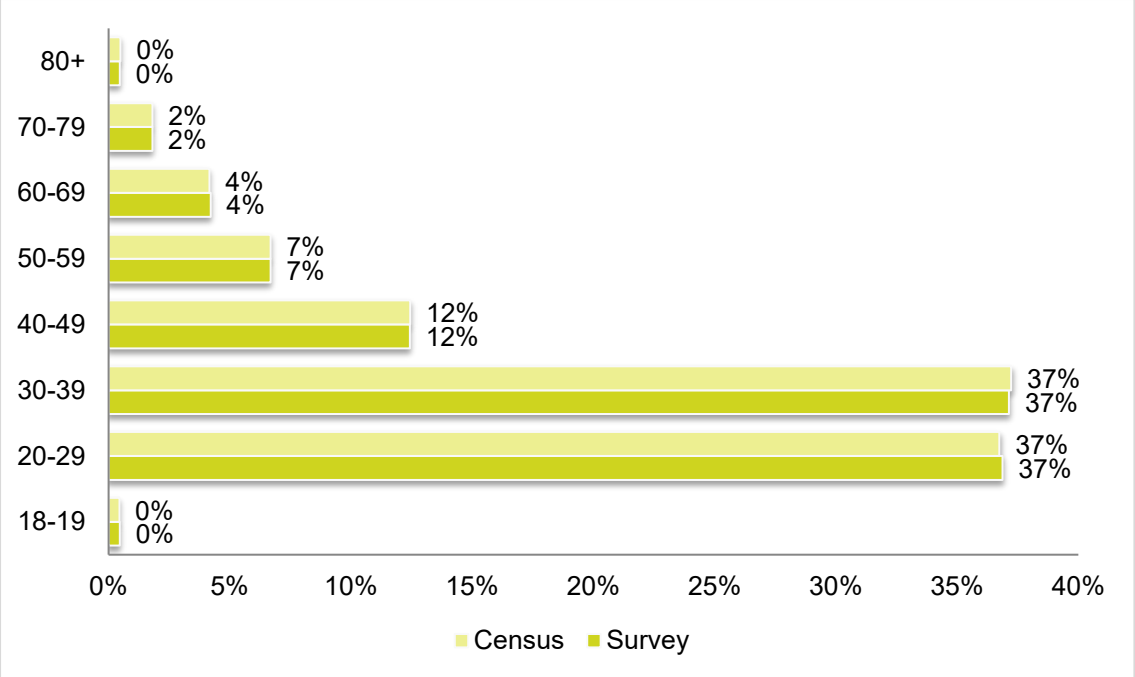
Appendix 3: Demographic characteristics of resident survey respondents

Age

Unweighted survey: 1496 census: 32439

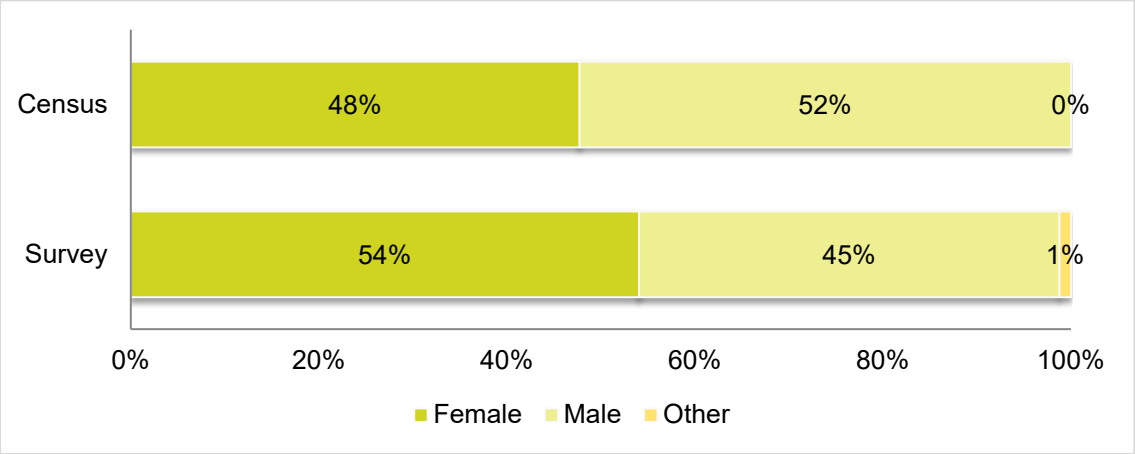


weighted survey: 1497

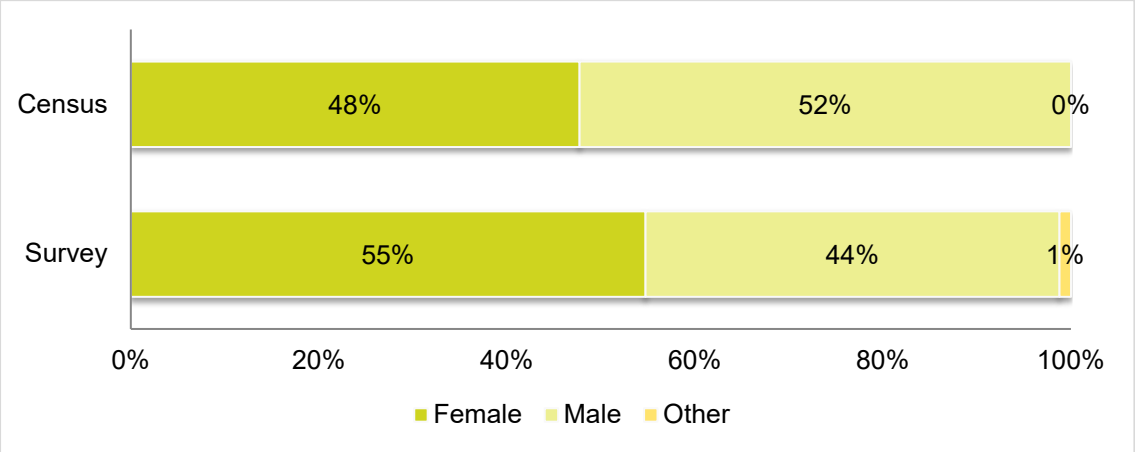


Gender

unweighted survey: 1491 census: 36201

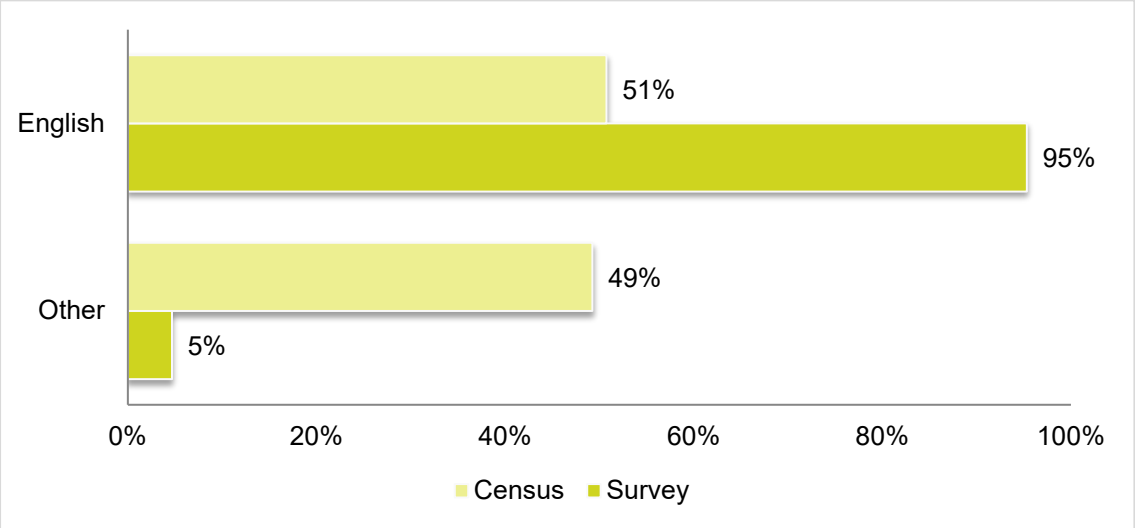


weighted survey: 1492

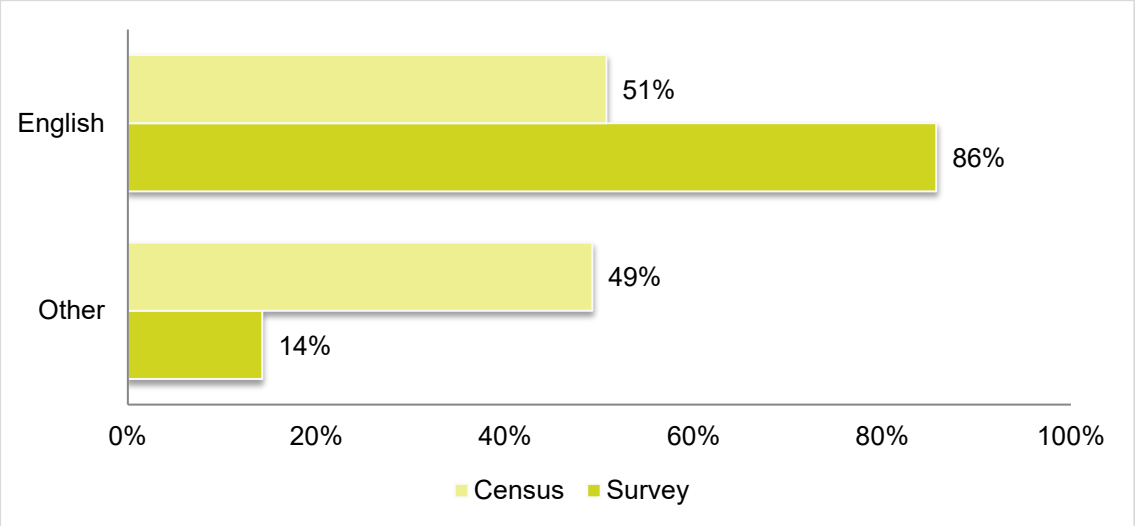


Language spoken at home

unweighted survey: 1462 census: 36201

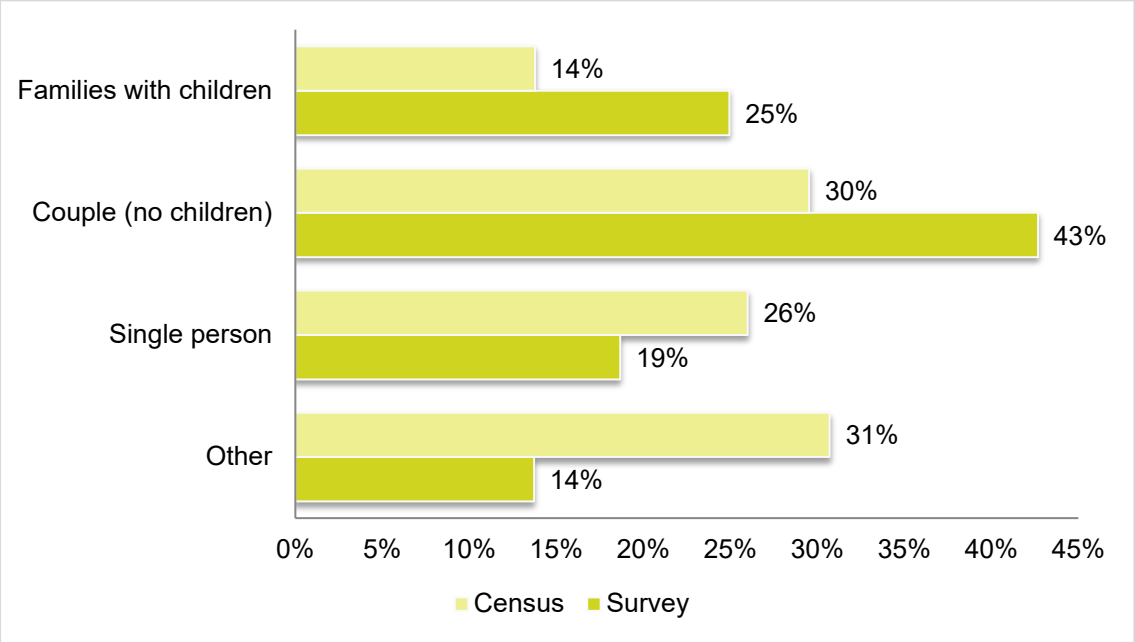


weighted survey: 1465

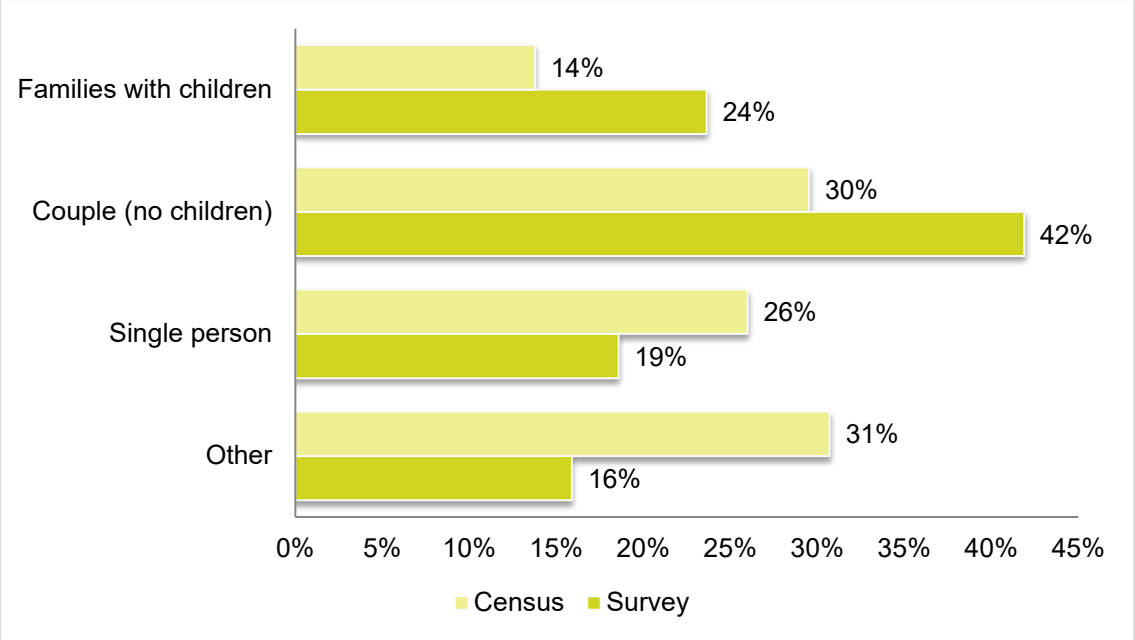


Household type:

unweighted survey: 1495 census:20773

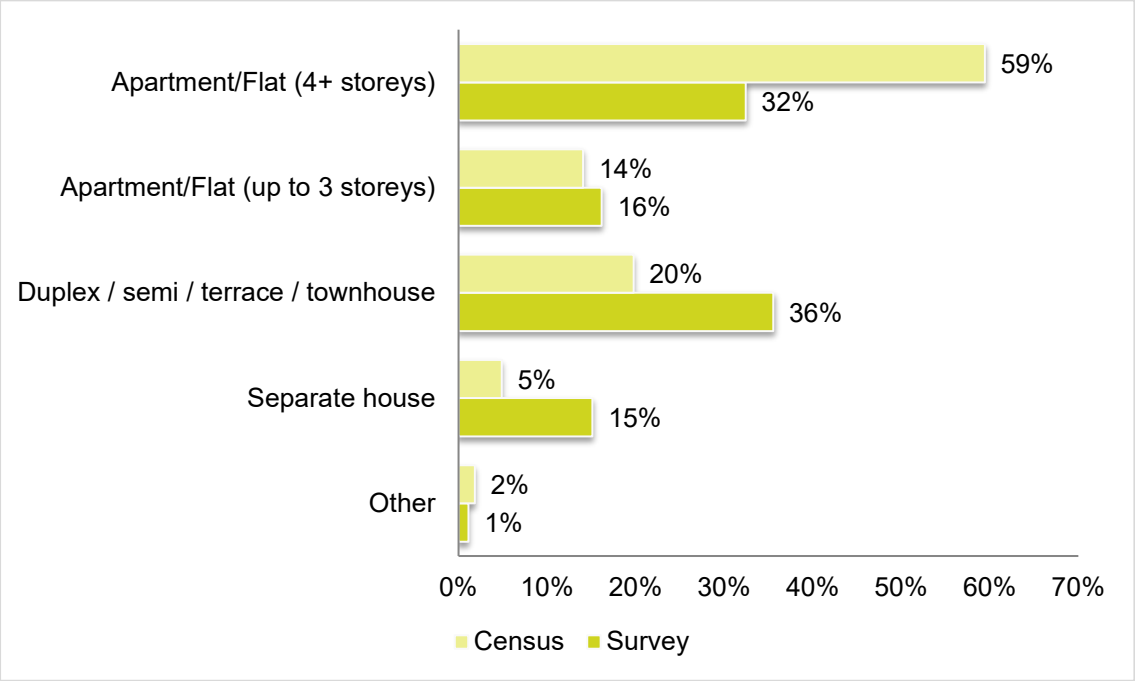


weighted survey: 1497

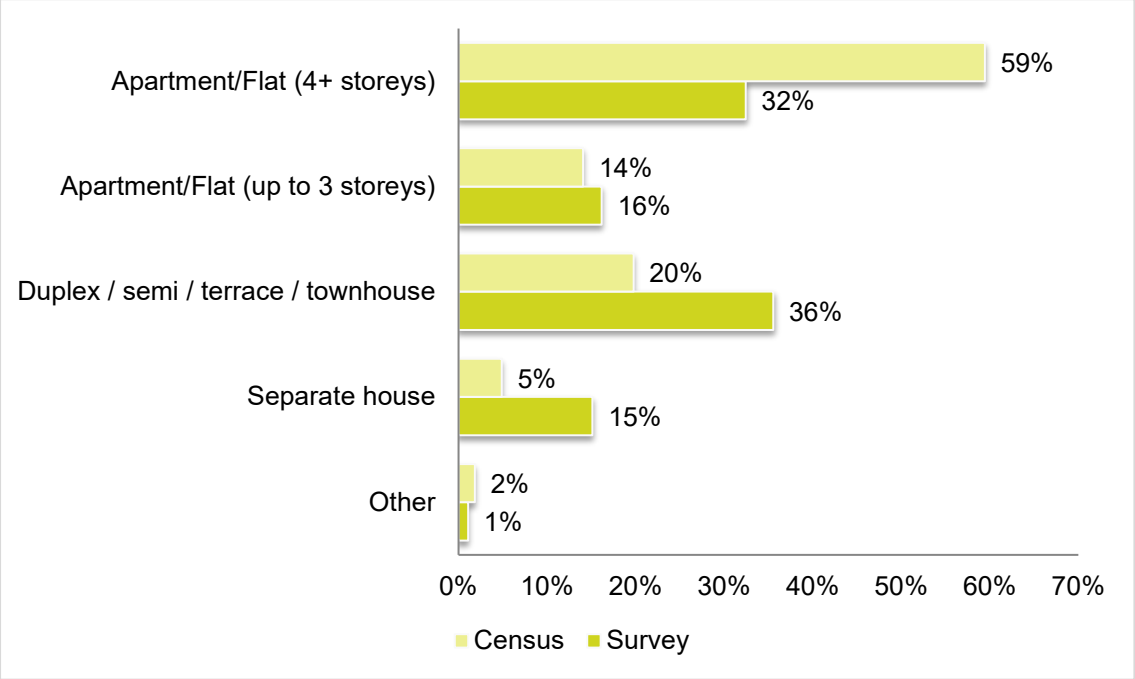


Dwelling type

unweighted survey: 1496 census: 5981

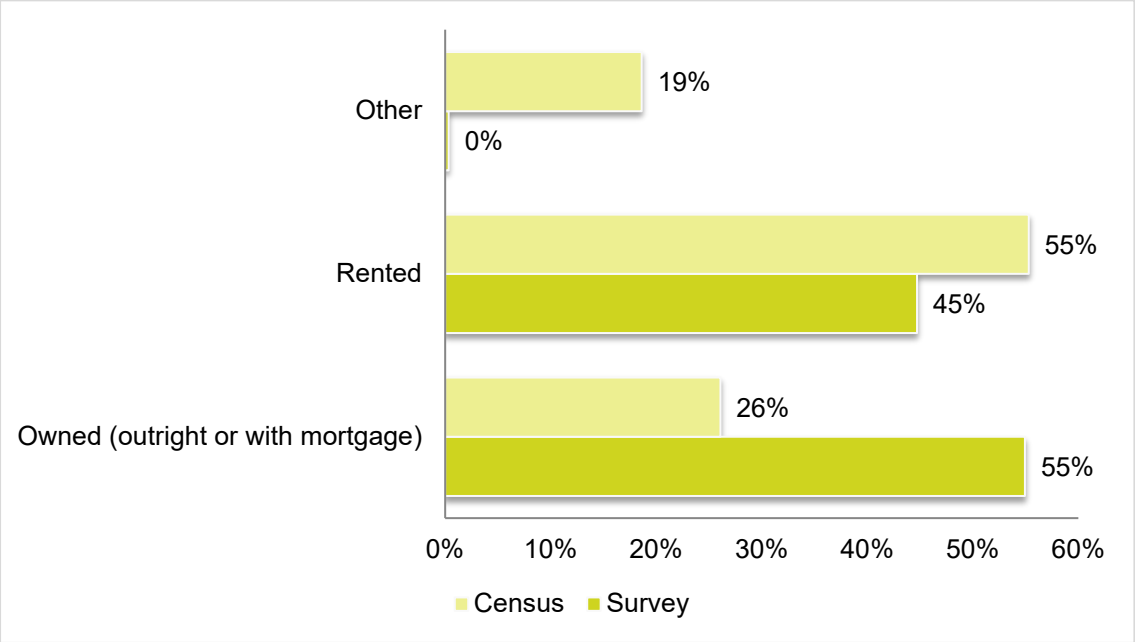


weighted survey: 1497

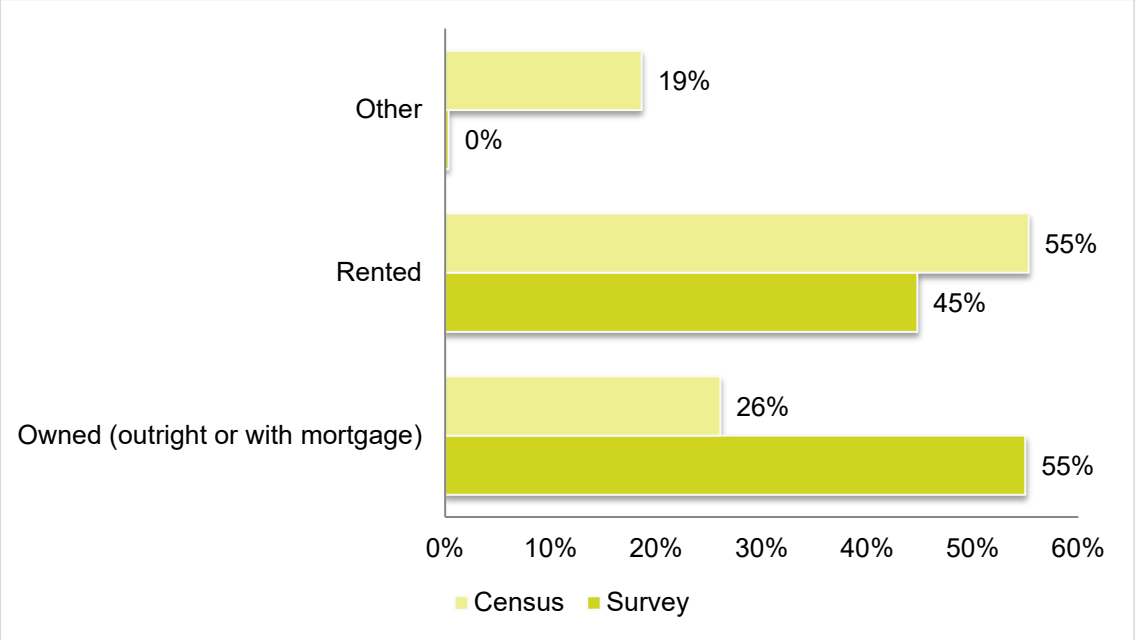


Tenure

unweighted survey: 1485 census: 20786

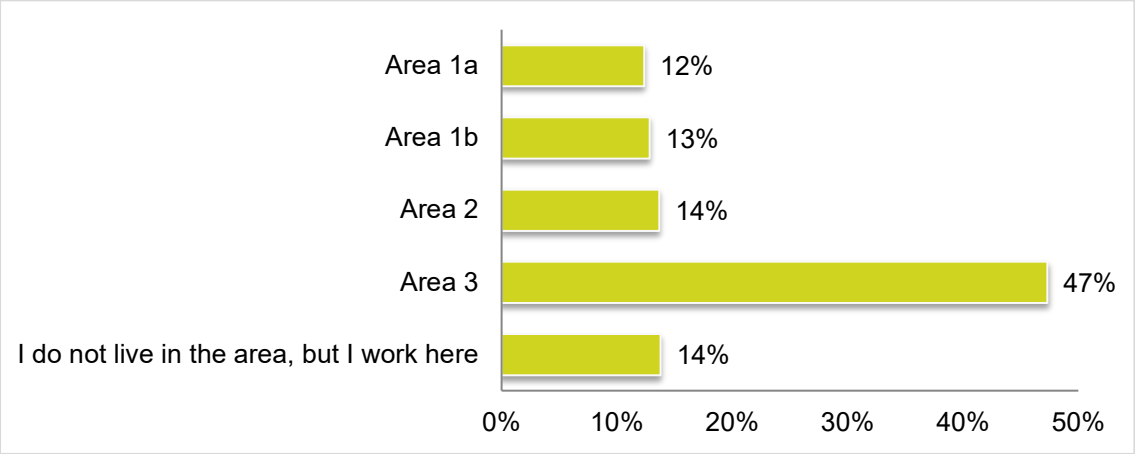


weighted survey: 1486

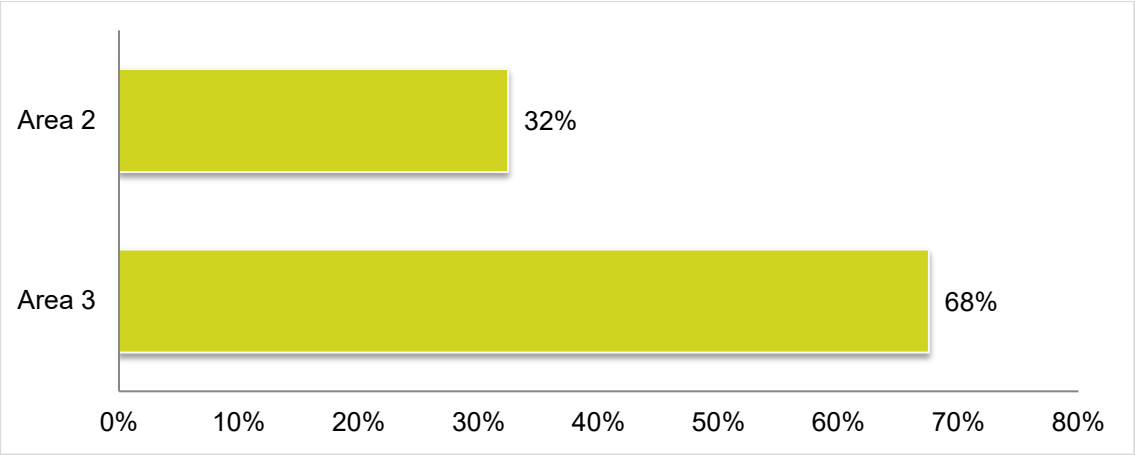


Appendix 4: Full survey results for worker respondents (unweighted)

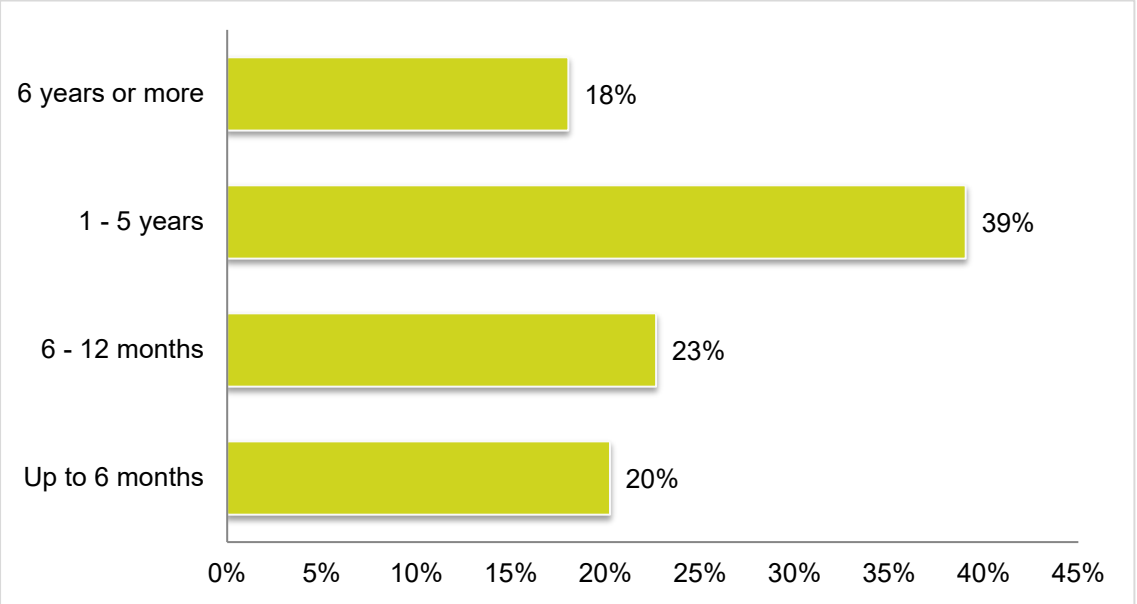
1. Which area do you live in? (n = 841)



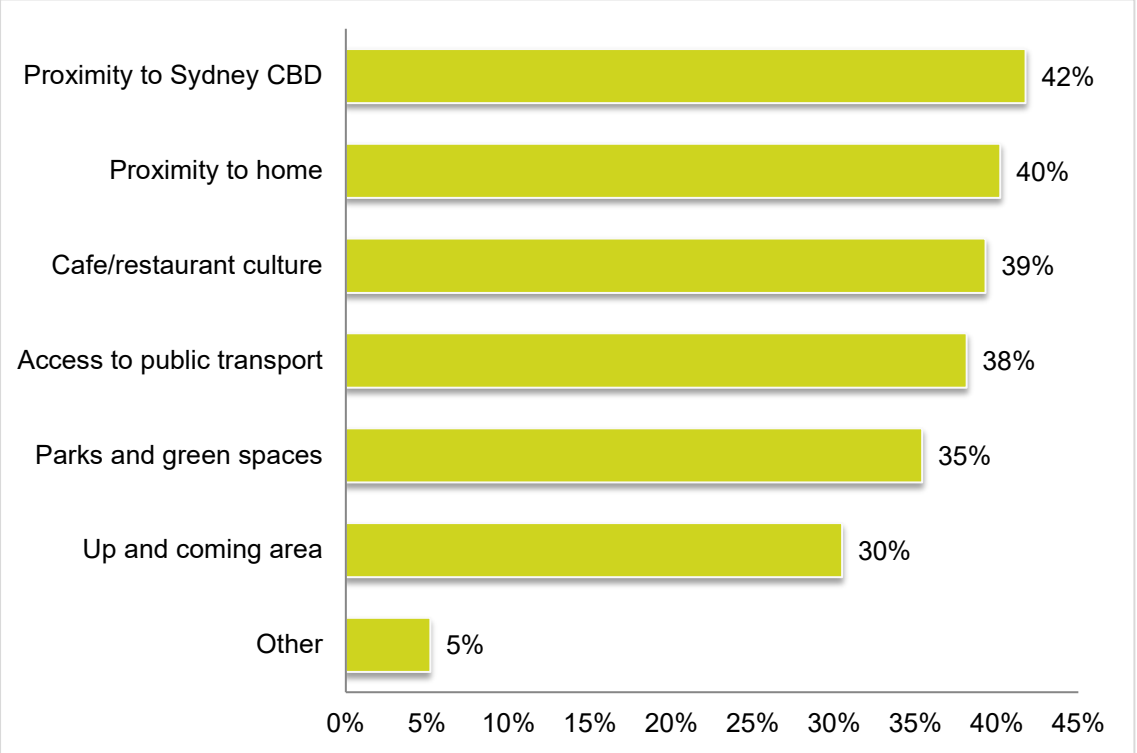
8. Which of the 4 areas in the map at the beginning of the survey do you work in? (n = 841)



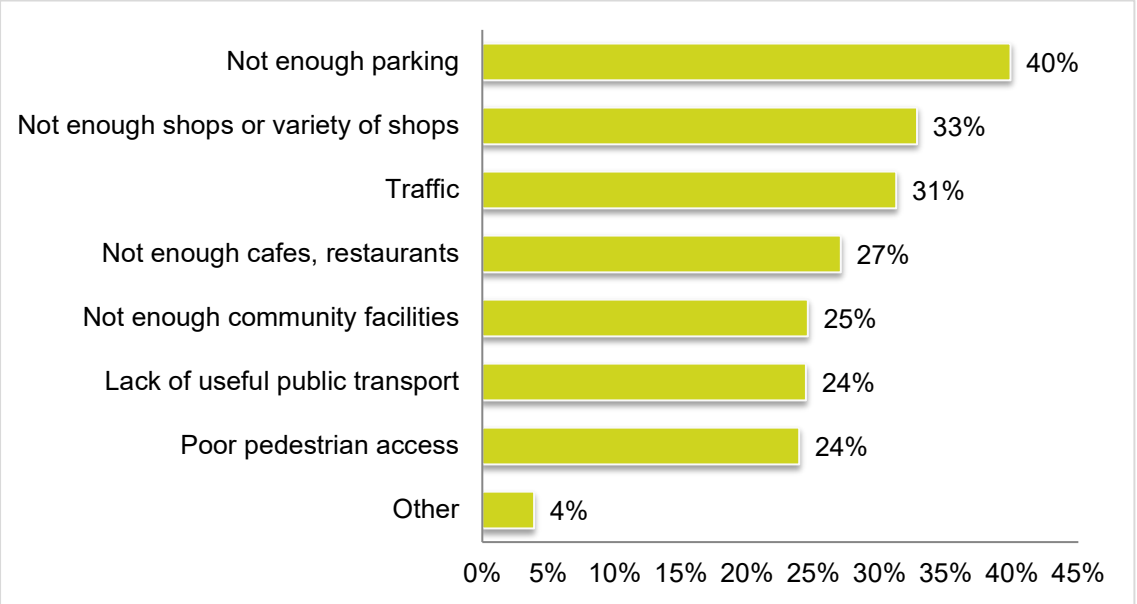
9. How long have you worked in the area? (n = 776)



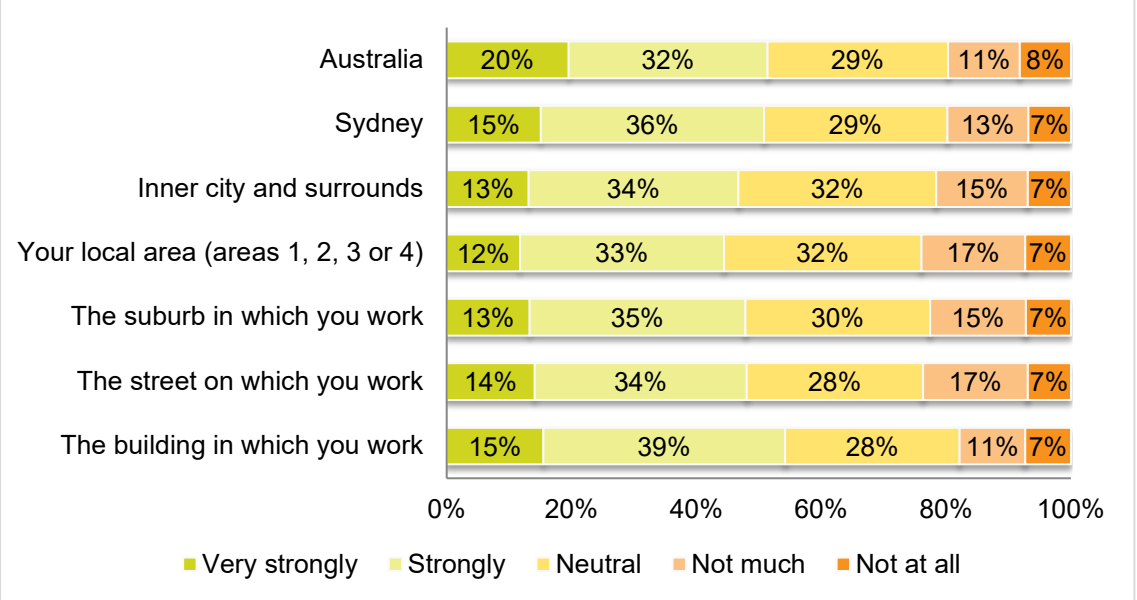
10. What do you like the most about working in the area? (n = 771)



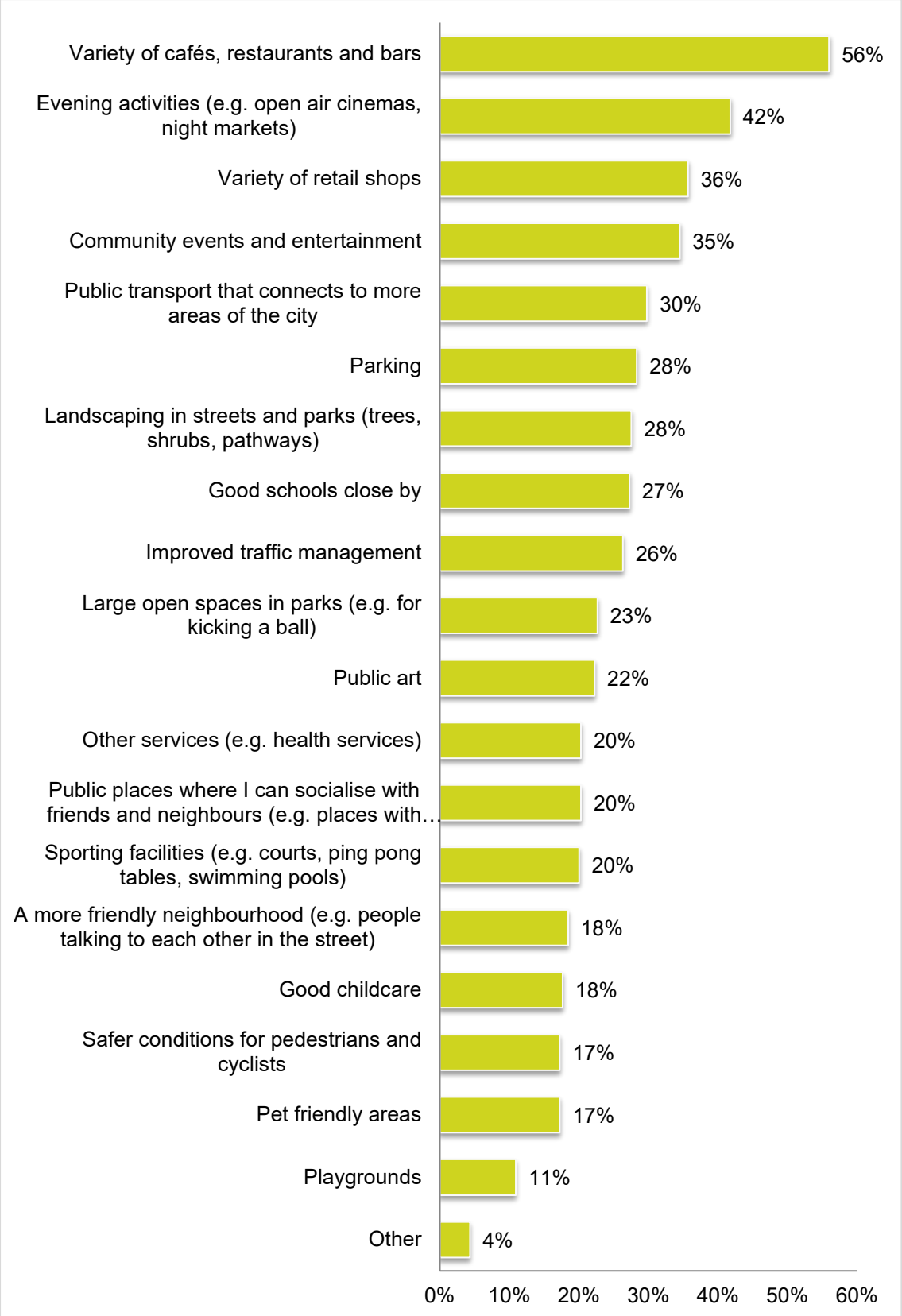
11. What do you like the least about working in the area? (n = 765)



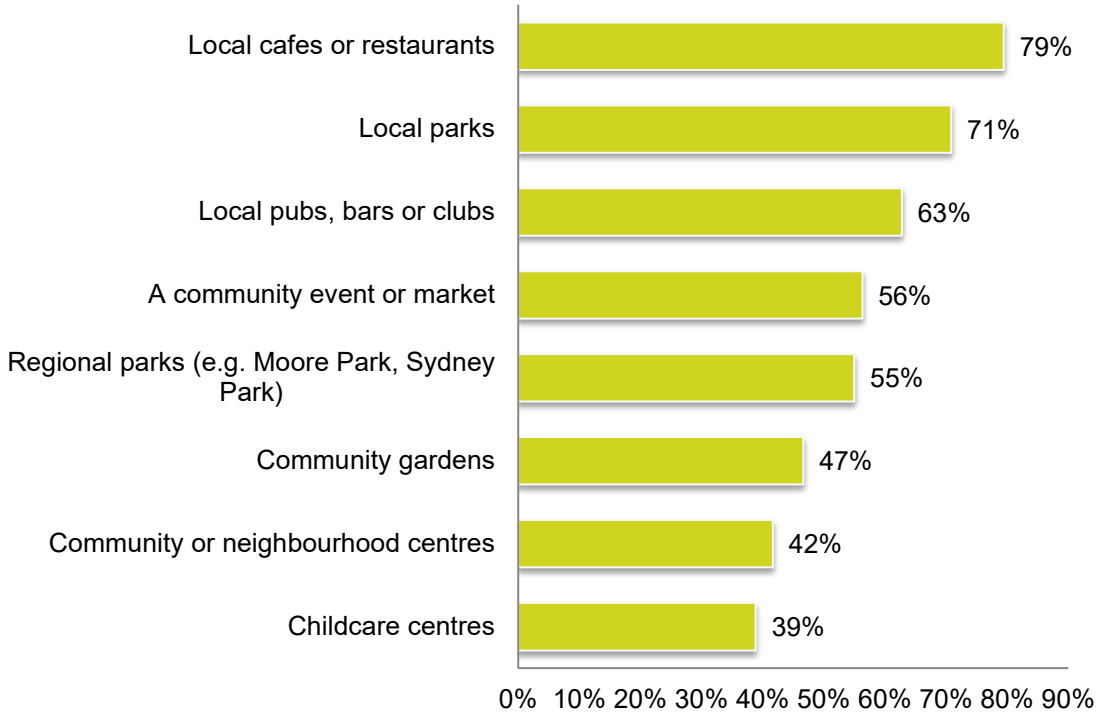
12. To what extent do you feel that you are part of the community in…? (n = various, 722-723)



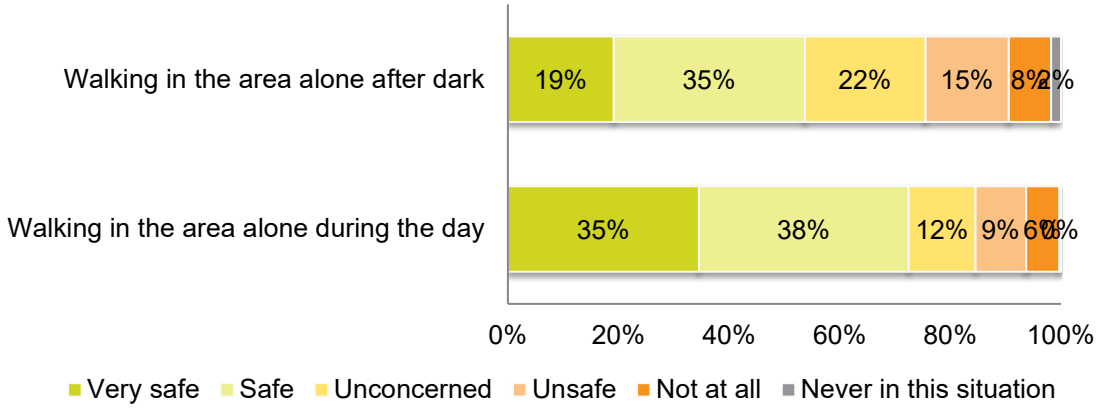
13. What are the top five things that would make the area a place you would want to live and/or work in the future? (i.e. facilities, events or services) (n = 759)



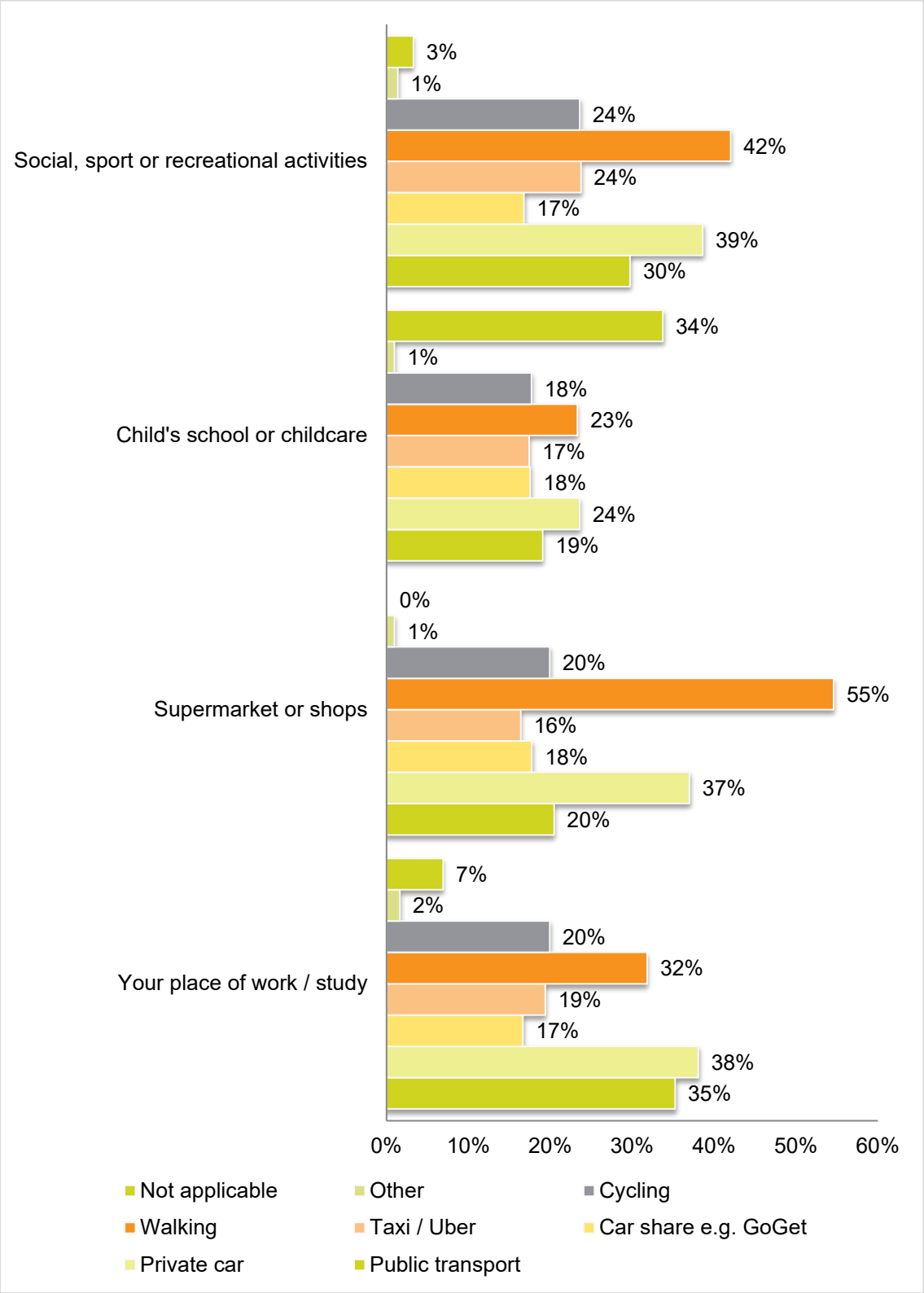
14. Which services and facilities have you used within the area over the past six months? (n = 744)



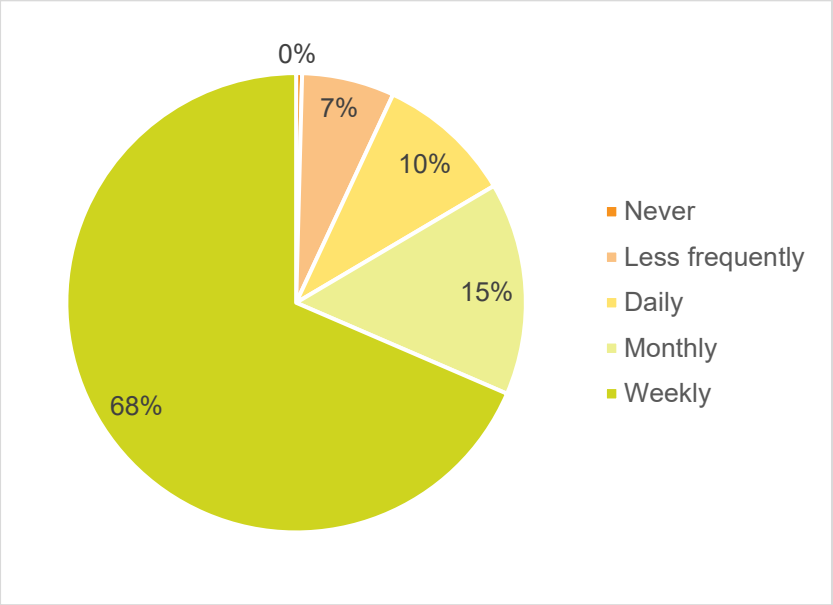
15. How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? (n = various, 743-744)



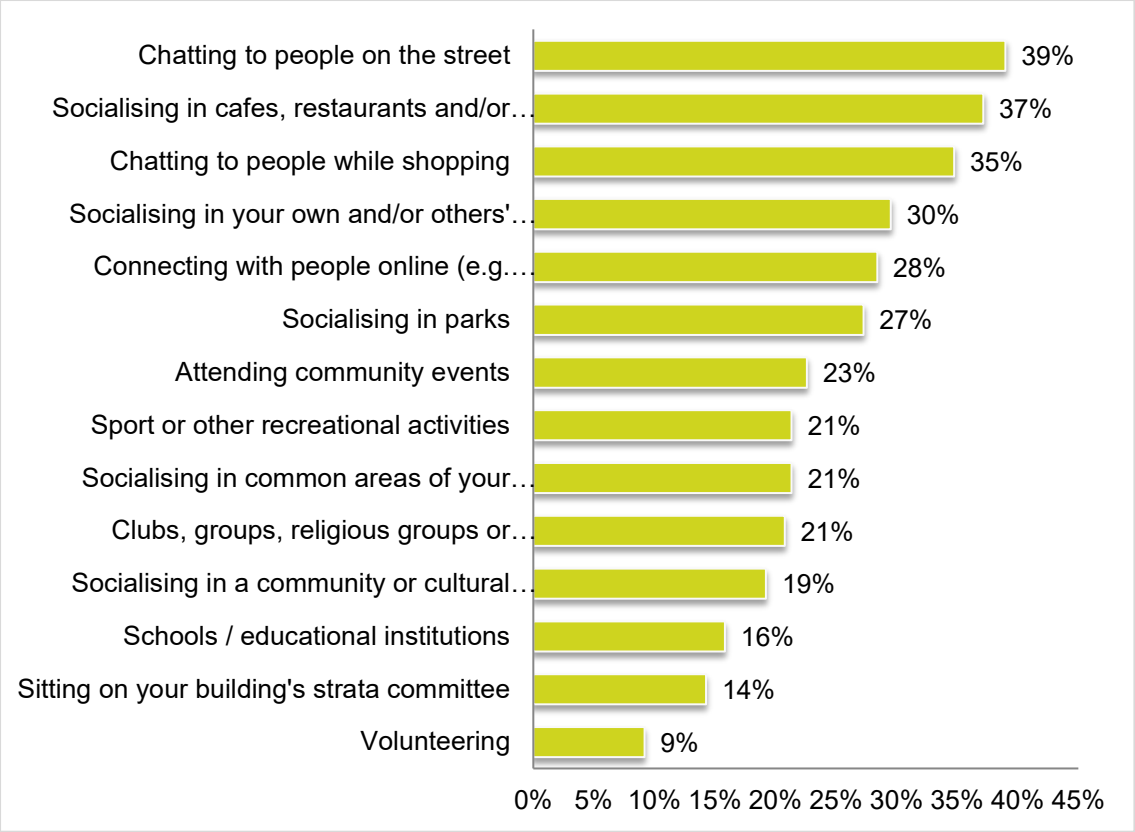
16. On a typical day, how do you travel to … (n = various, 729-738)



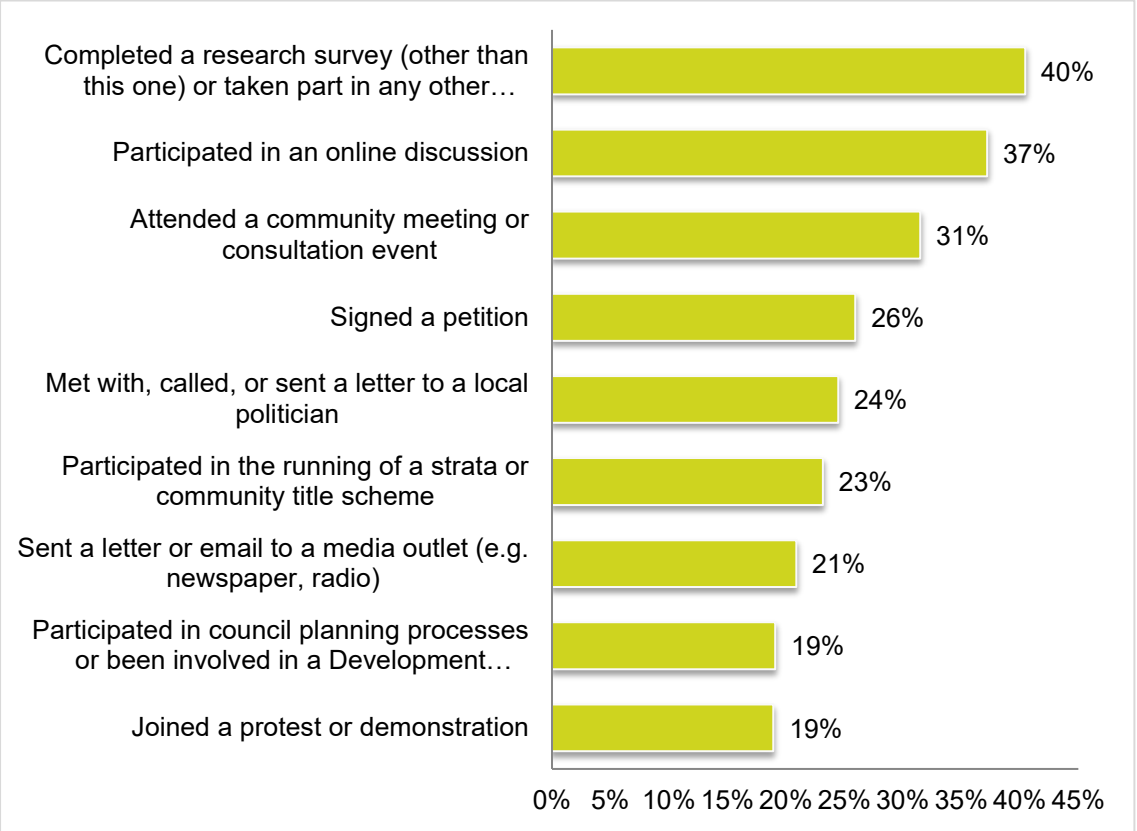
17. How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues? At least… (n =721)



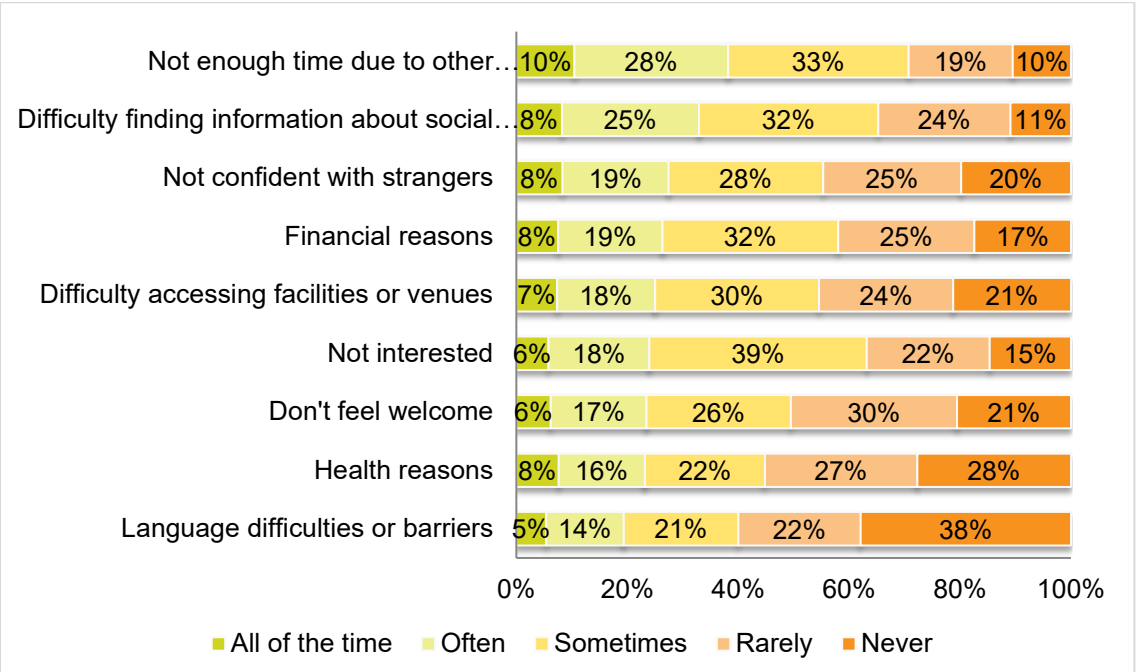
18. In the past month, have you had contact with people in your local area in any of the following ways? (n = 708)



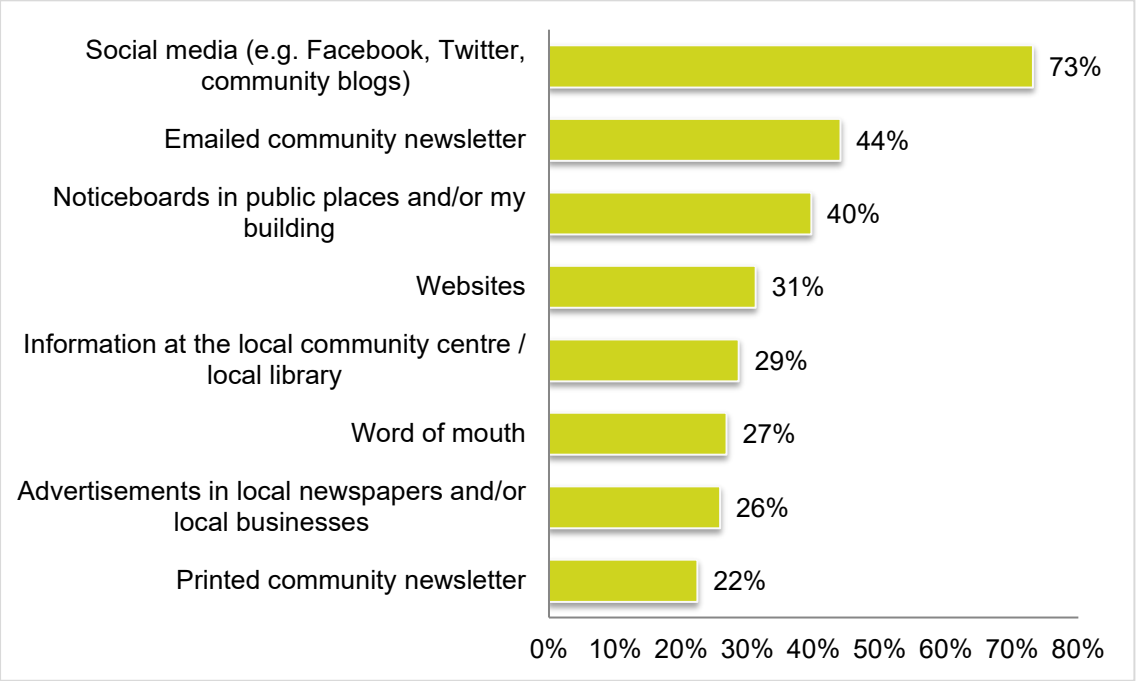
19. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (n = 613)



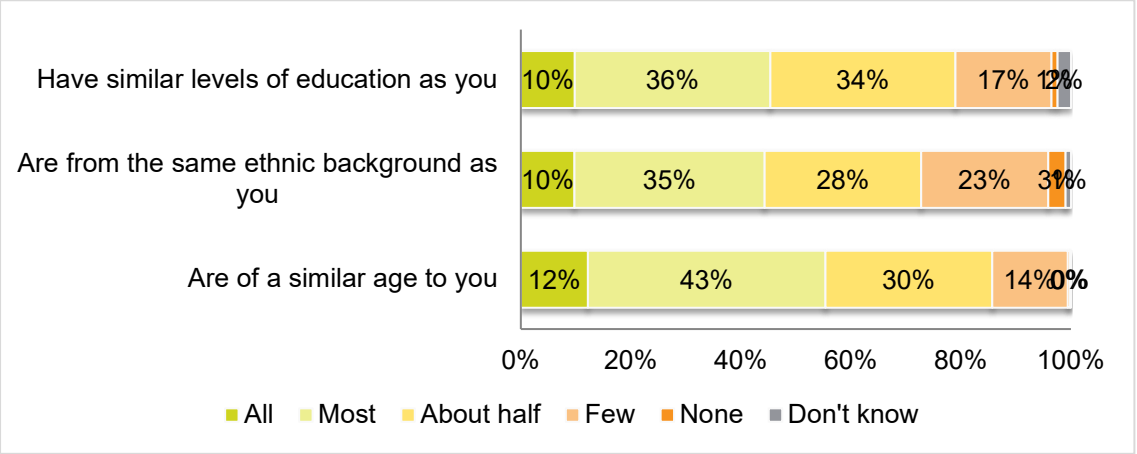
20. Do any of the following limit you from socialising or participating in organised social activities in the area? (n = various, 704-707)



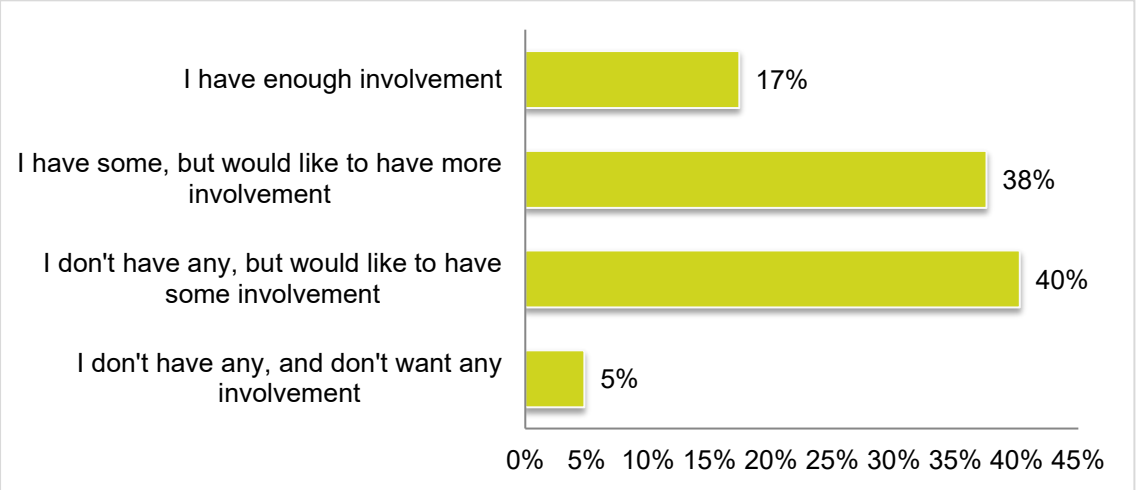
21. How would you like to get information about opportunities to participate in social activities in your local area? (n = 704)



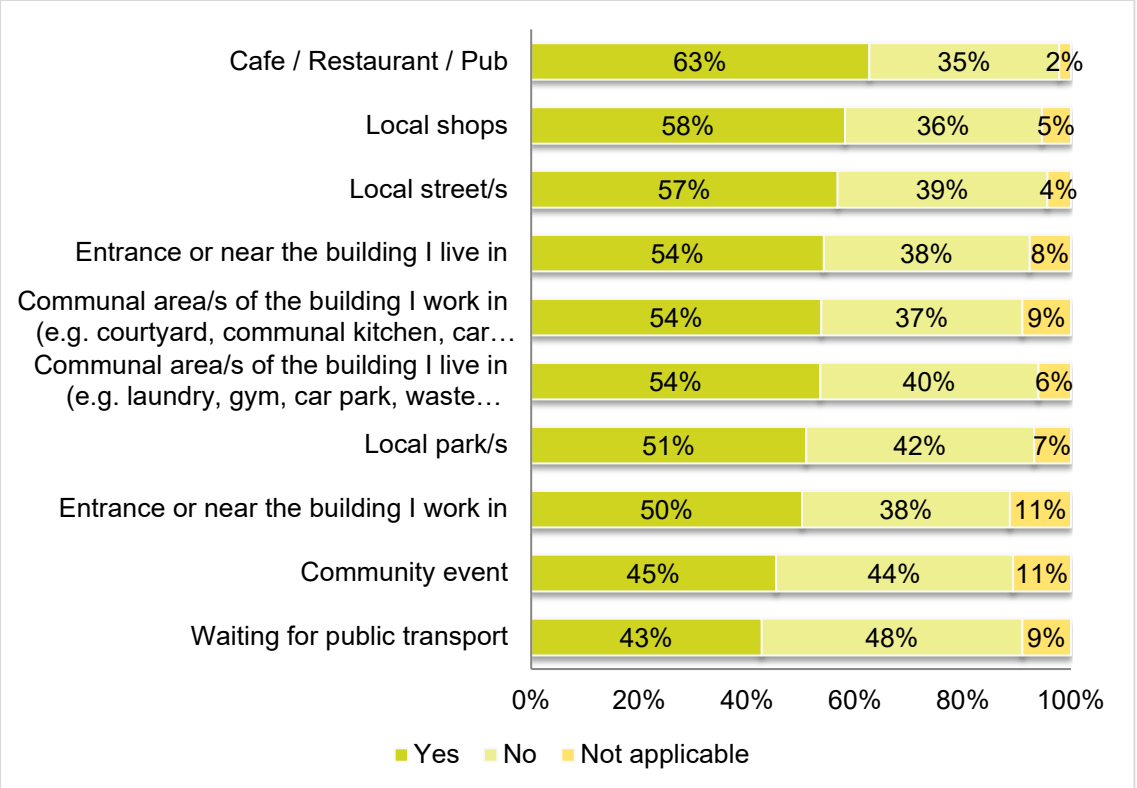
22. Of your friends, how many…? (n = various, 705-706)



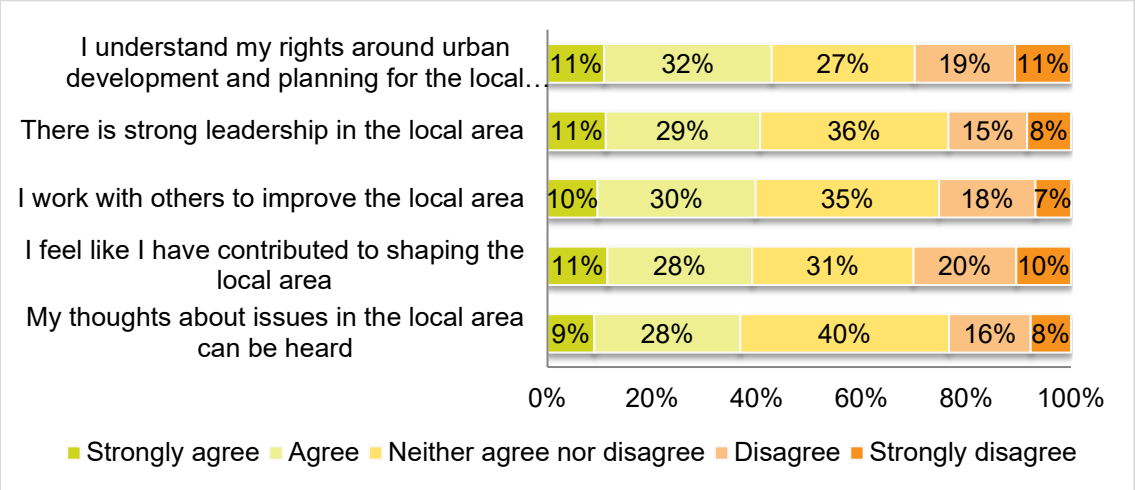
23. How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (n = 706)



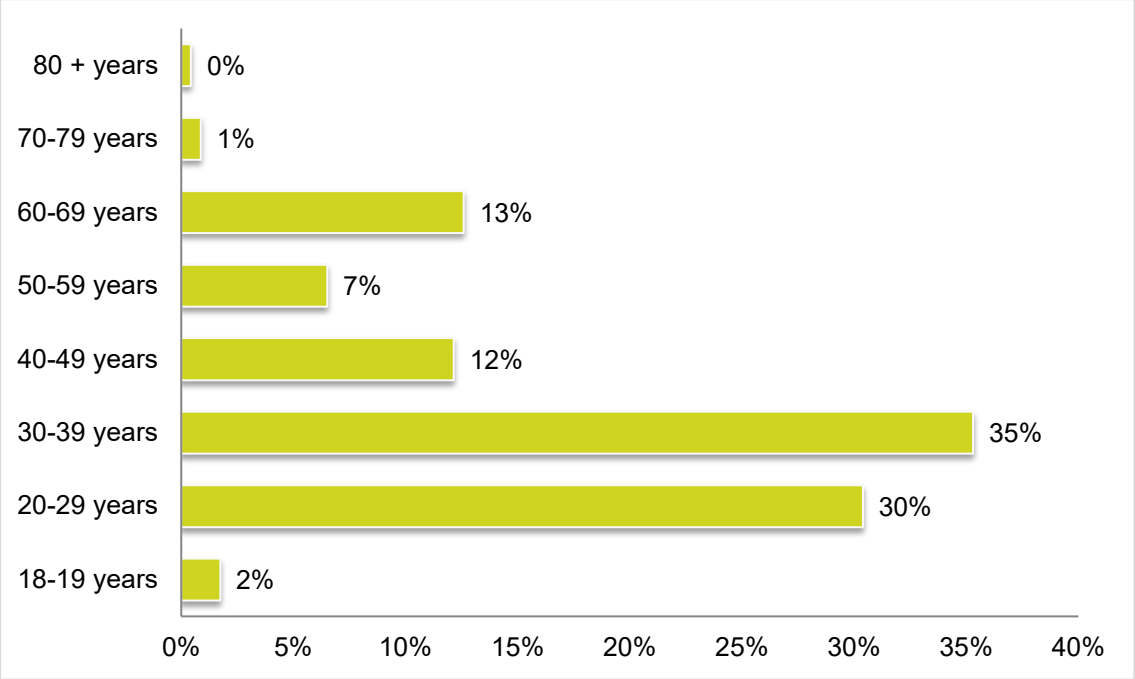
24. Do you often run into people you know in the following places in the area? (n = various, 614-691)



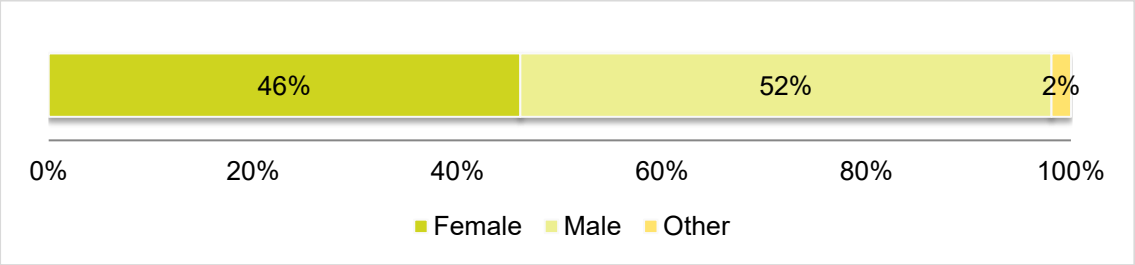
25. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (n = various, 691-692)



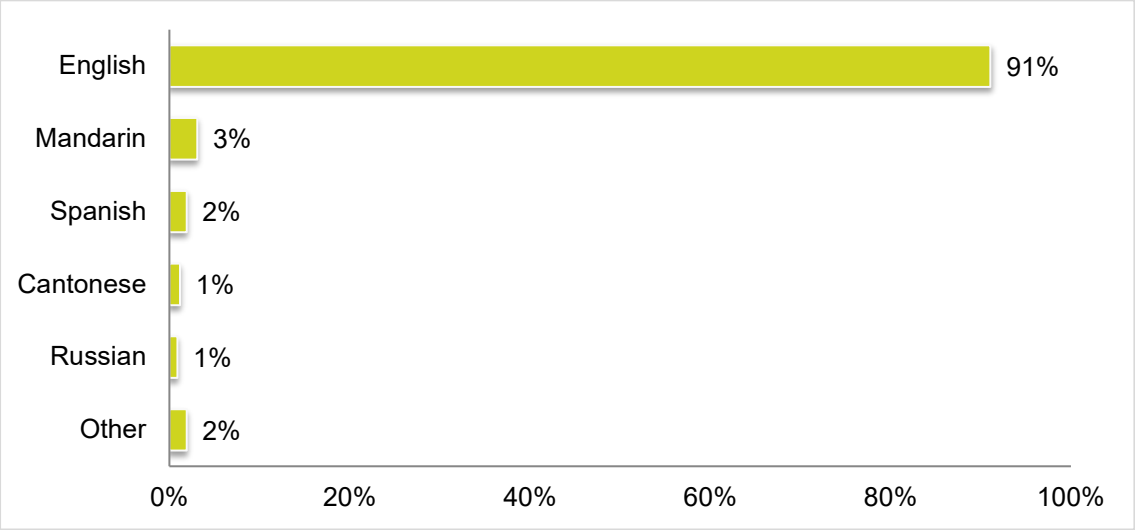
26. What is your age group? (n = 691)



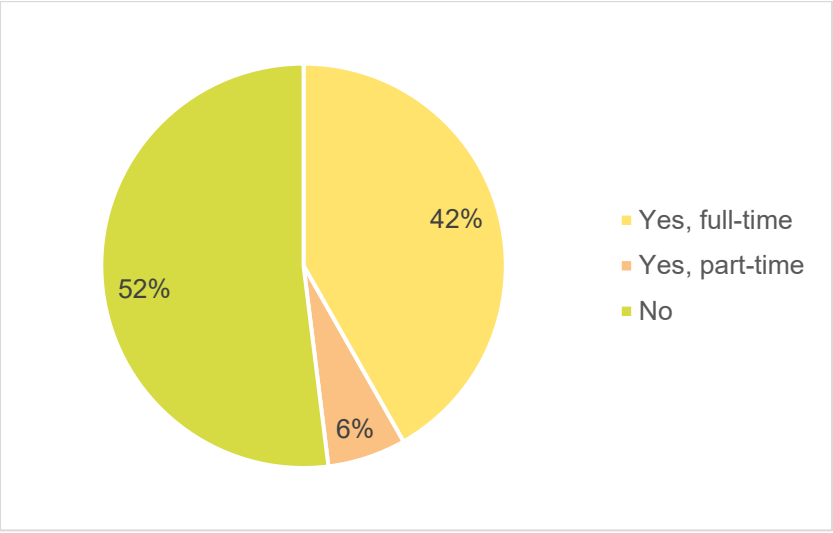
27. Are you …? (n = 689)



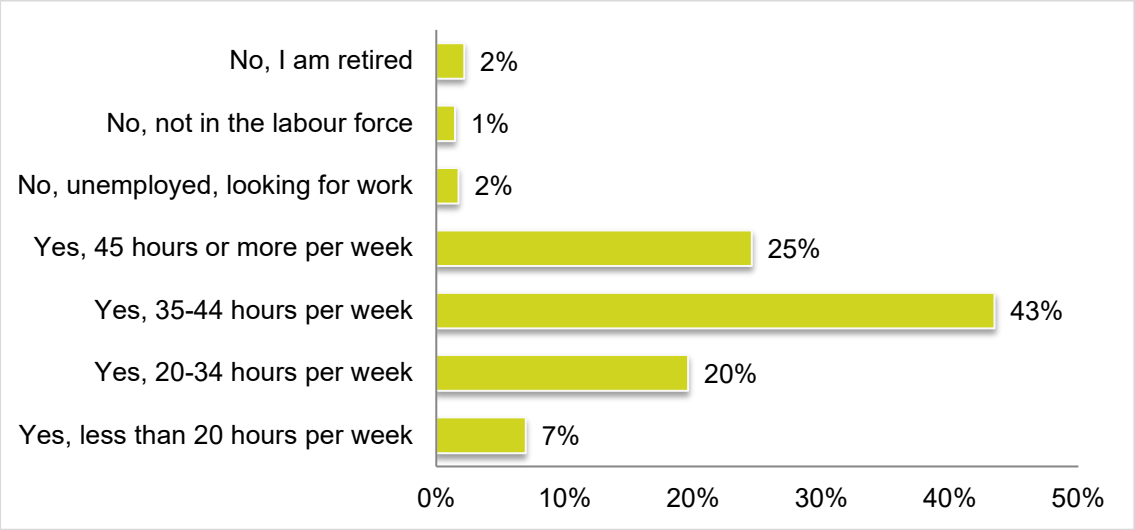
28. What is the main language spoken in your home? (n = 682)



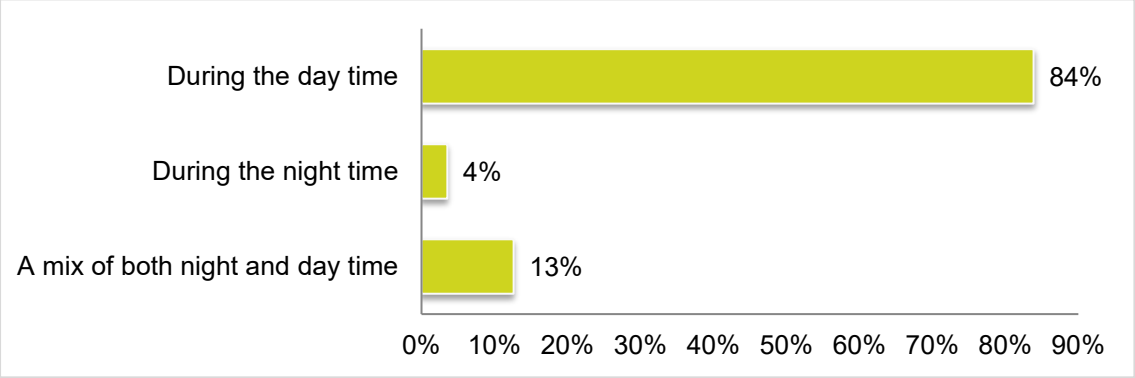
34. Are you currently studying? (n = 687)



35. Are you currently in paid employment? (n = 688)



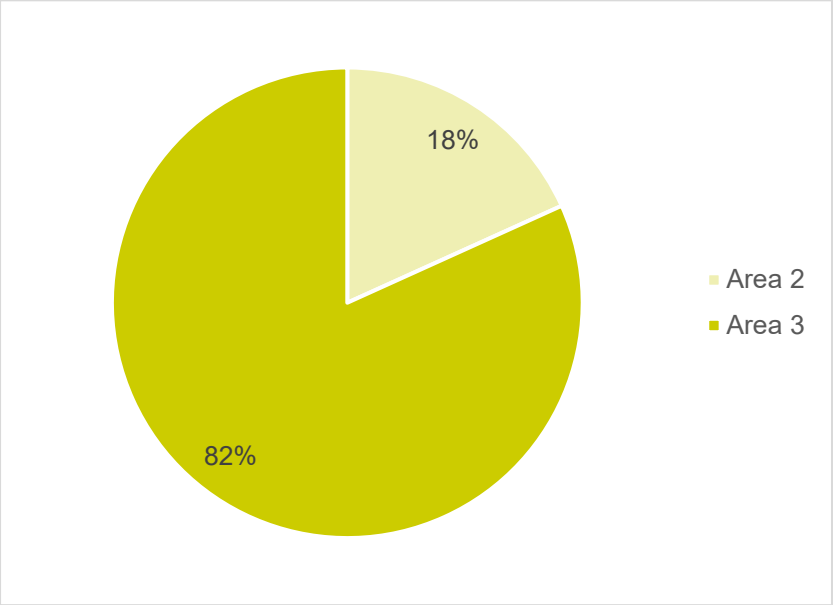
36. Do you work predominantly during the day or at night time? (n = 650)



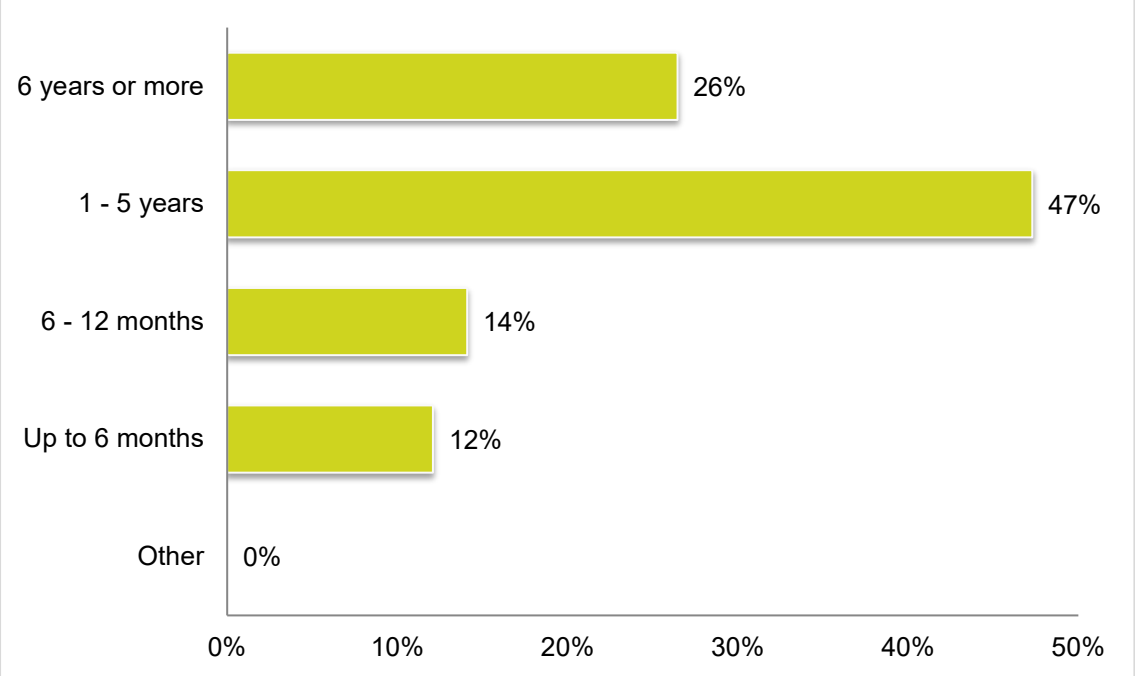
37. Which of the following best describes your current occupation? (n = 649)

Appendix 5: Full survey results for resident respondents (weighted)

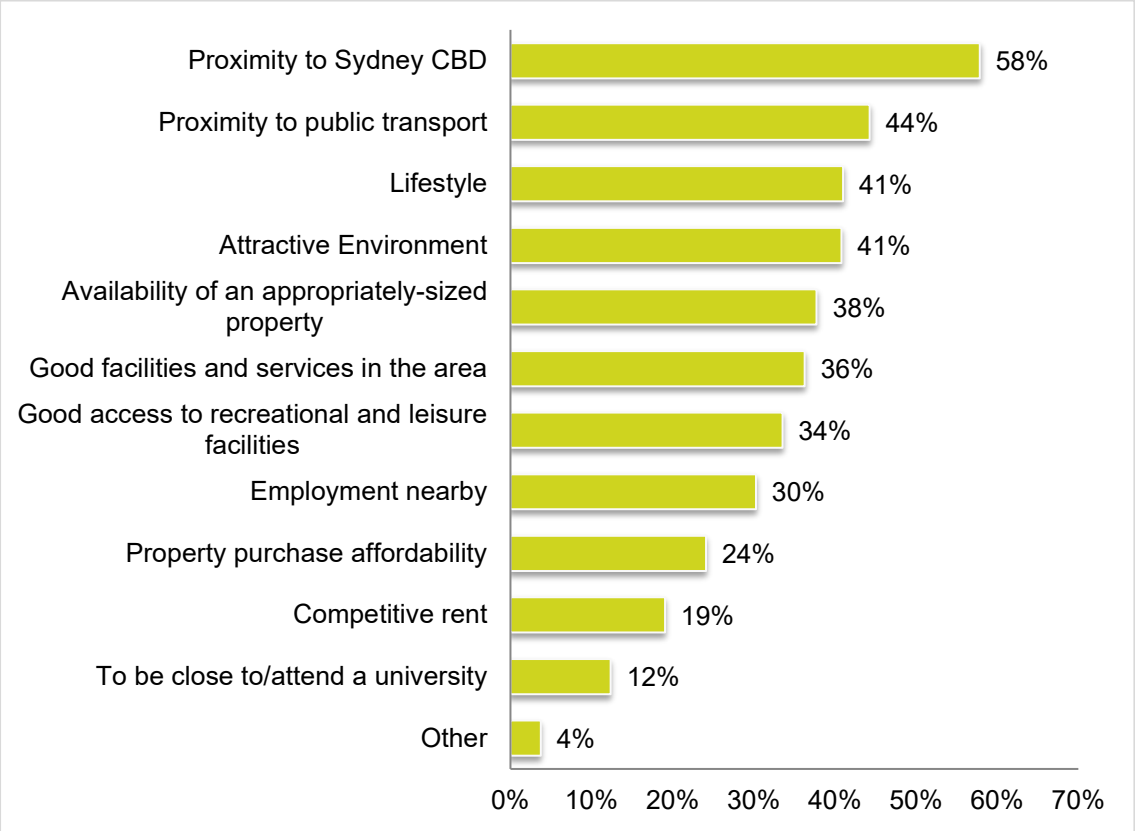
1. Which area do you live in? (n=1497)



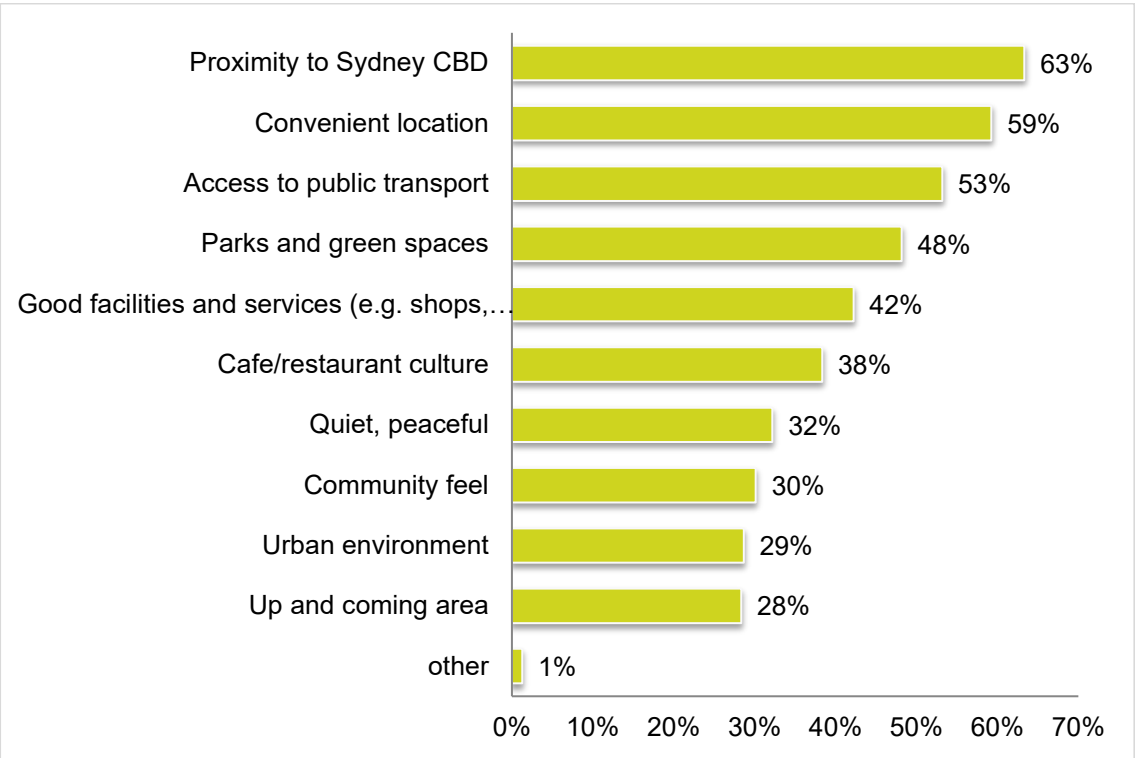
2. How long have you lived in the area? (n = 1497)



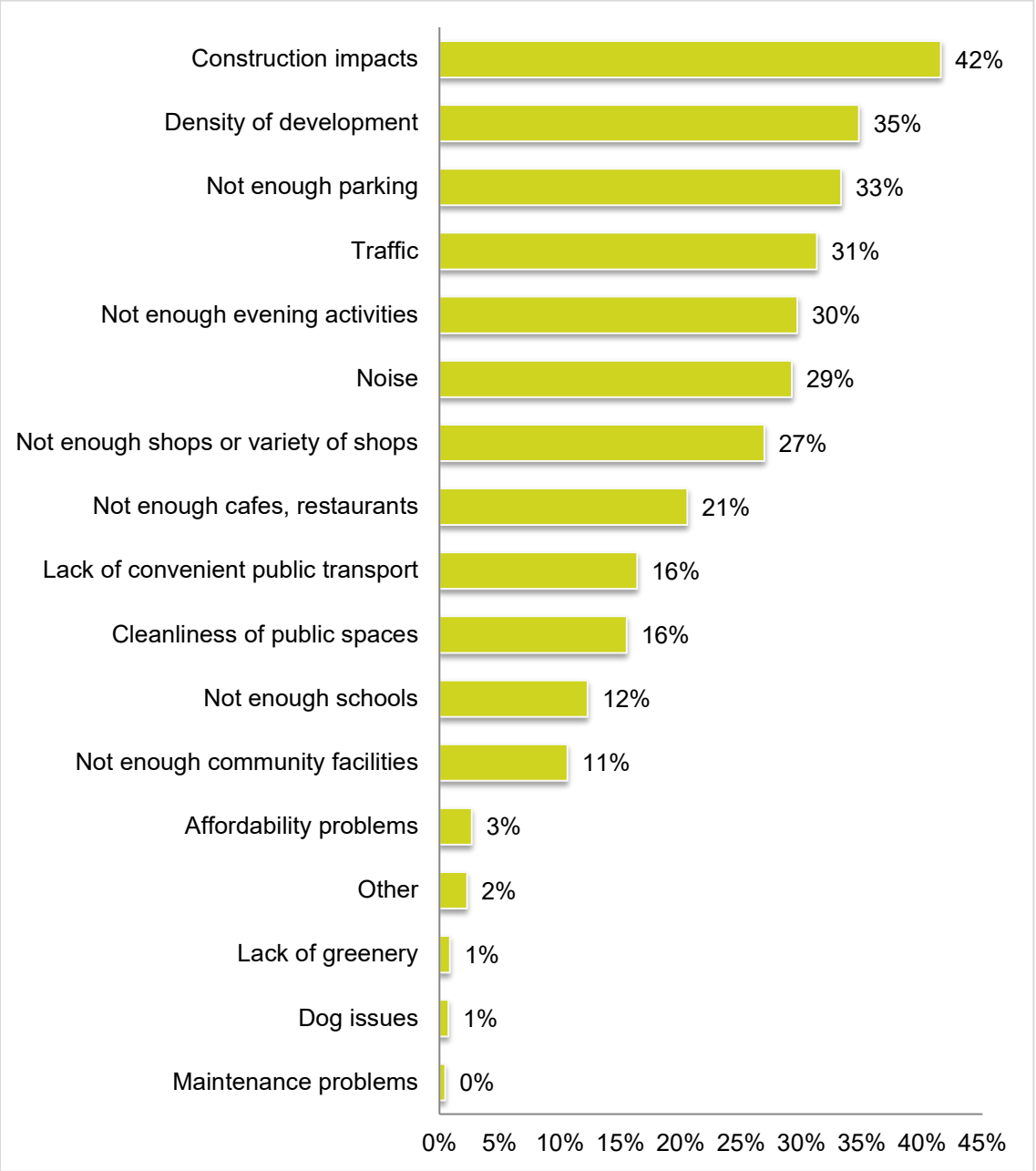
3. Why did you move to the area? (n = 1497)



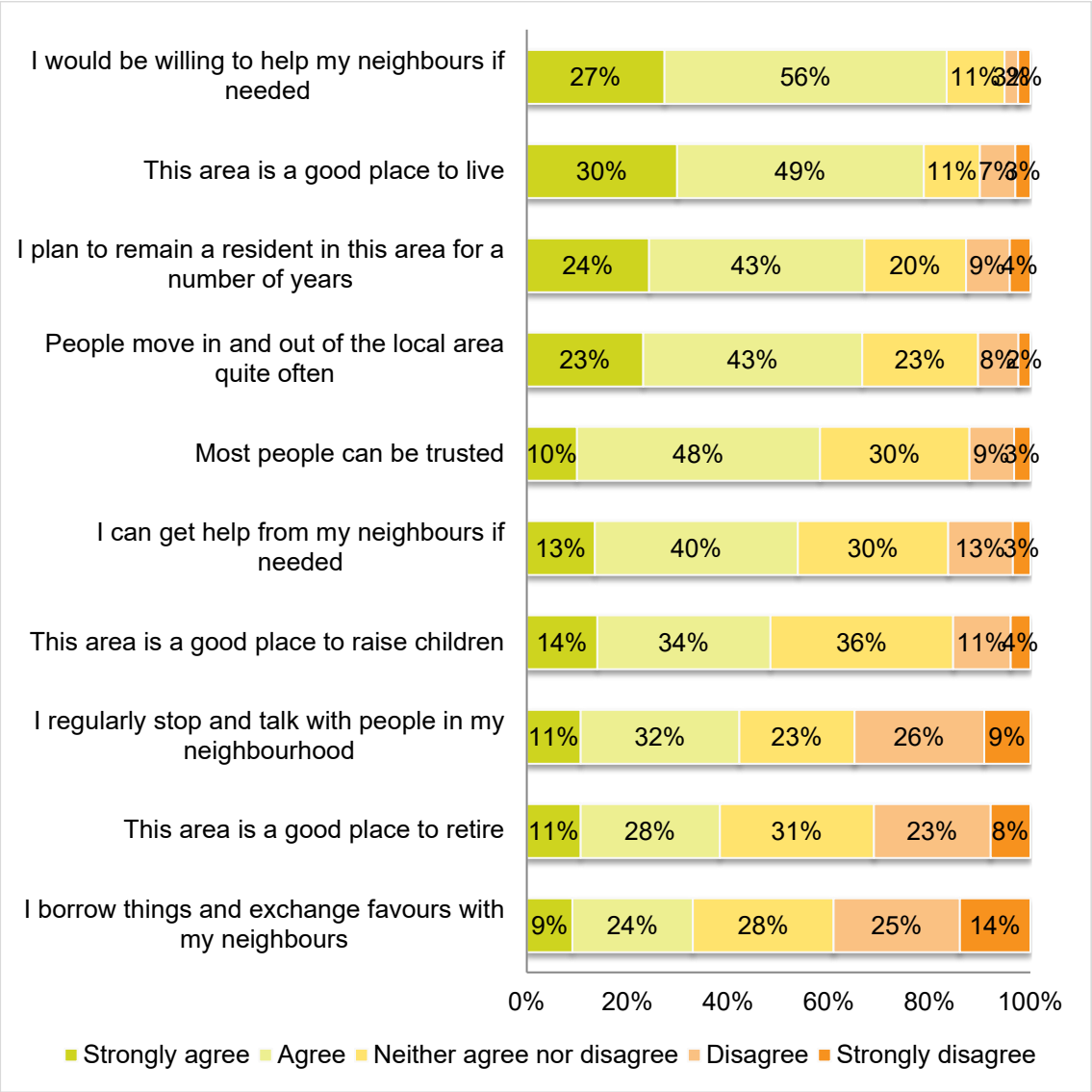
4. What do you like the most about living in the area? (n = 1497)



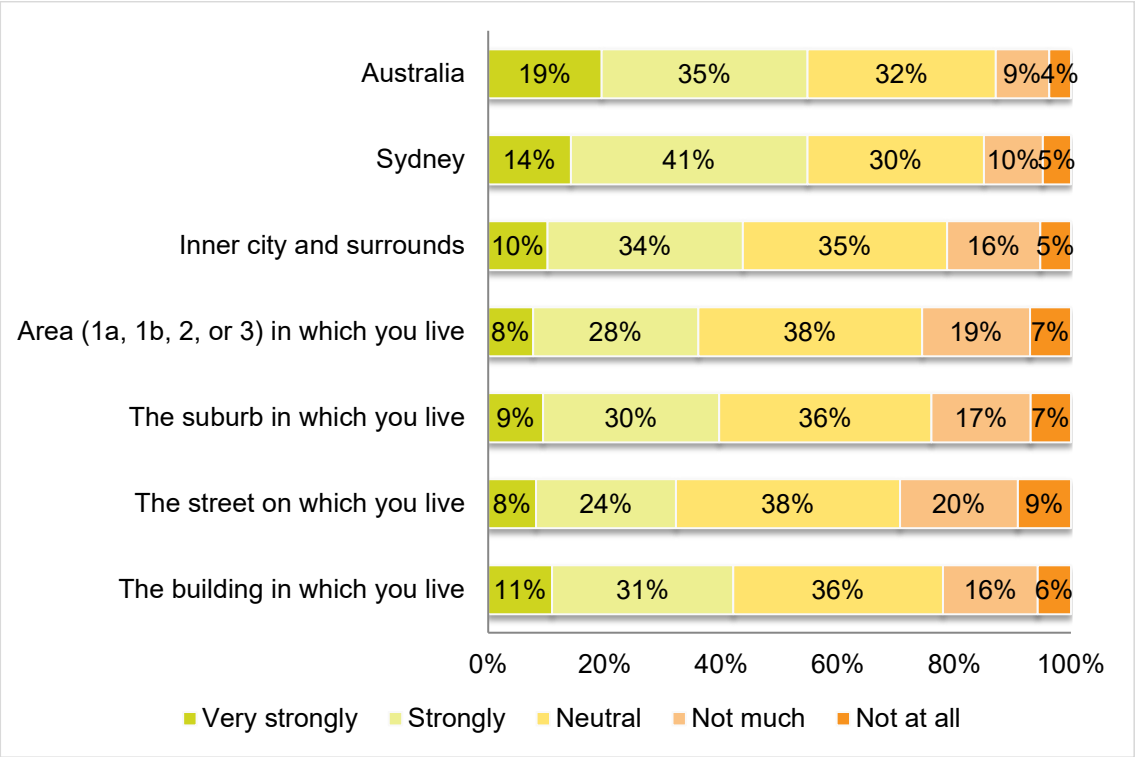
5. What do you like the least about living in the area? (n = 1490)



6. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = various, 1495-1497)

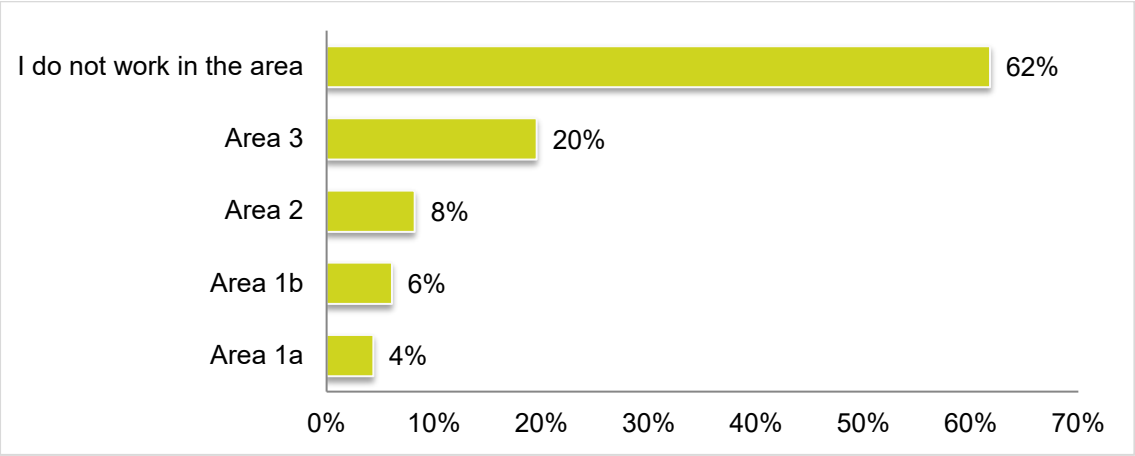


7. To what extent do you feel that you are part of the community in…? (n = various, 1495-1497)

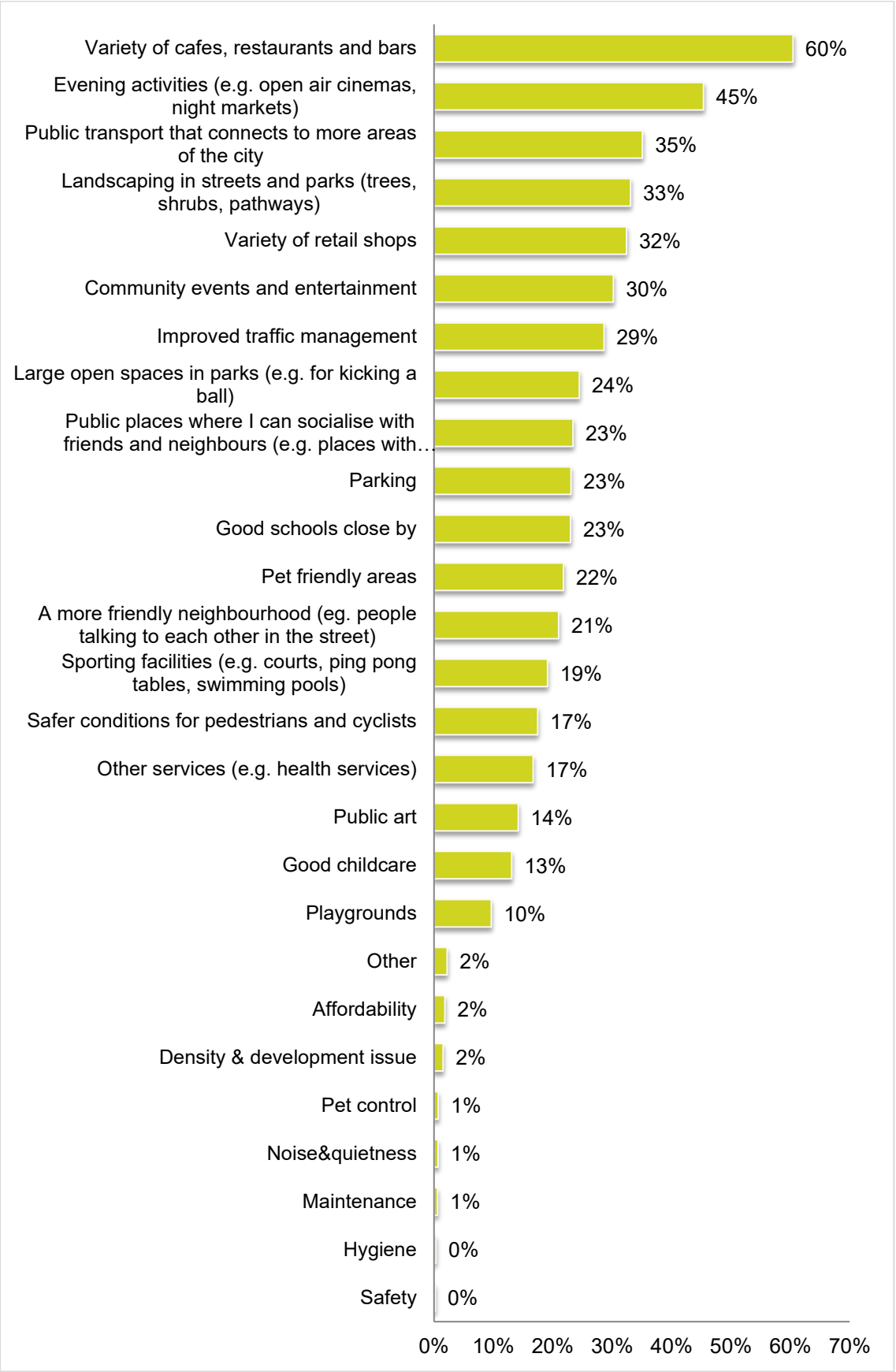


8. Which of the 4 areas in the map at the beginning of the survey do you work in? (n = 1497)

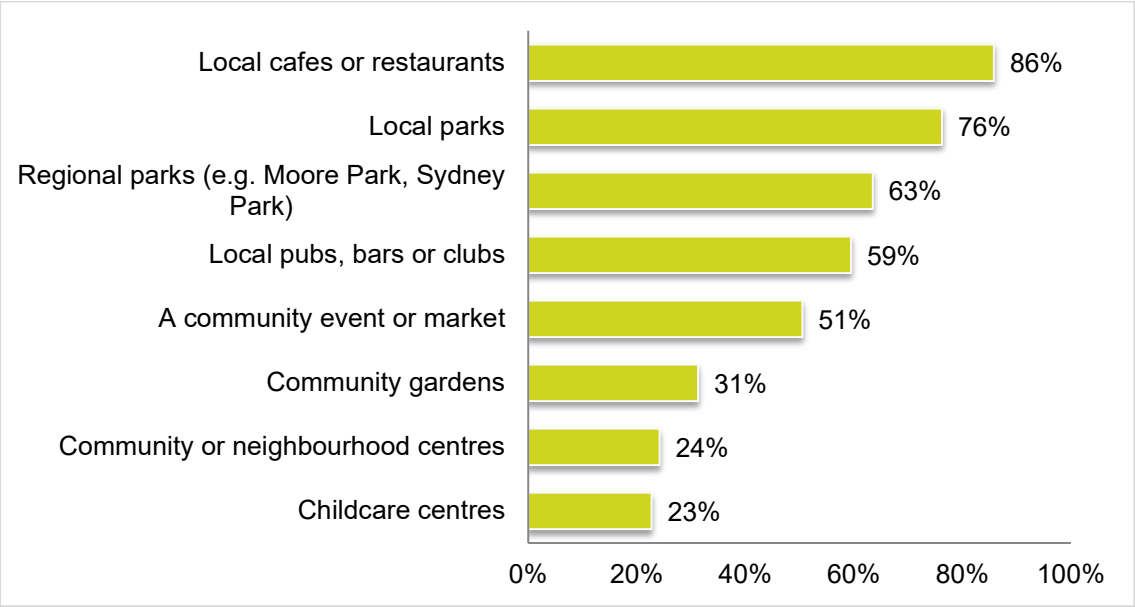
416 of the resident respondents also worked in Areas 2 or 3 (Green Square). 156 resident respondents worked in Areas 1a or 1b



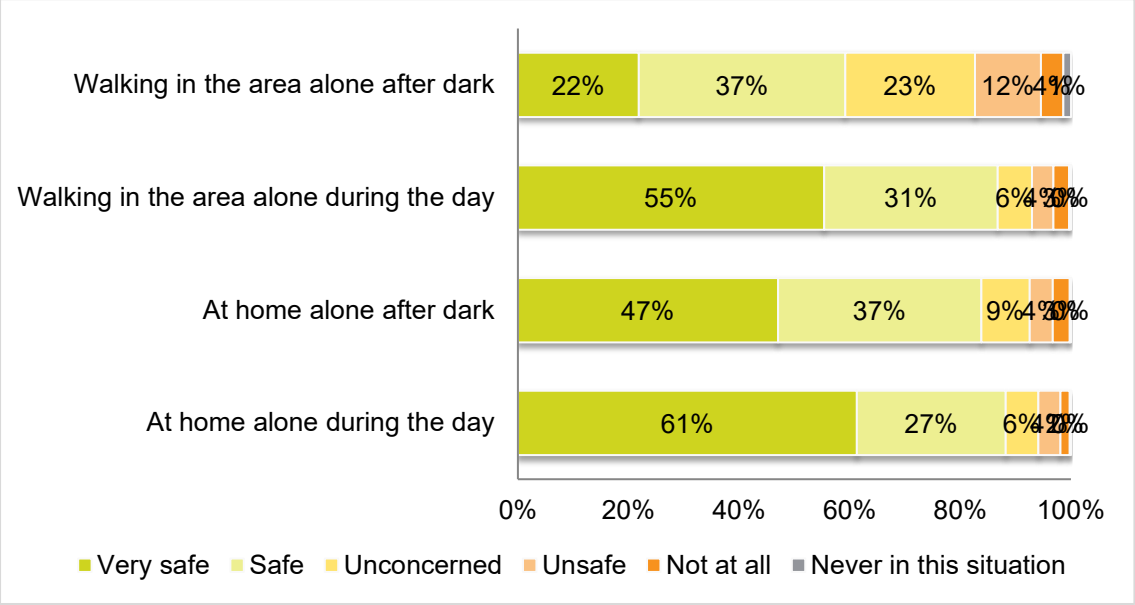
13. What are the top five things that would make the area a place you would want to live and/or work in the future? (n = 1496)



14. Which services and facilities have you used within the area over the past six months? (n = 1495)

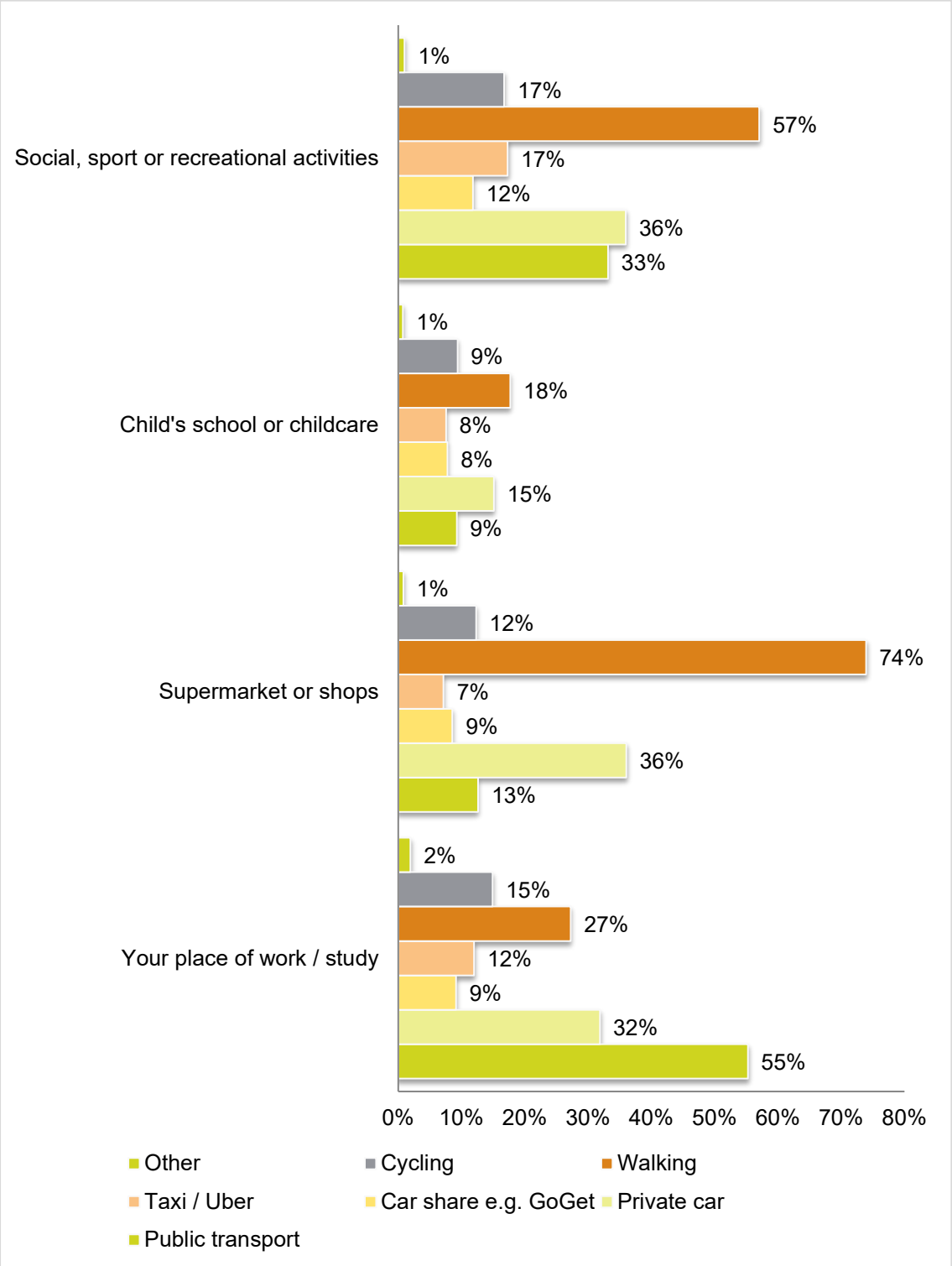


15. How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? (n = 1497)

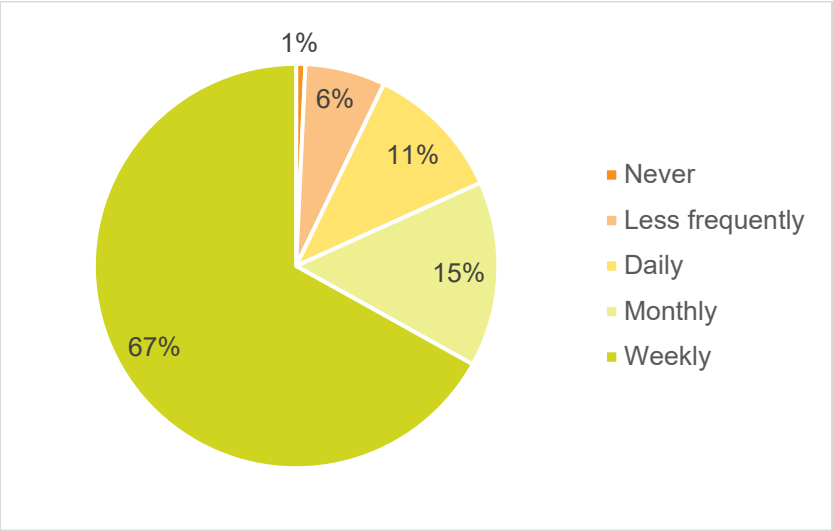


16. On a typical day, how do you travel to … (n = various, 1481-1497)

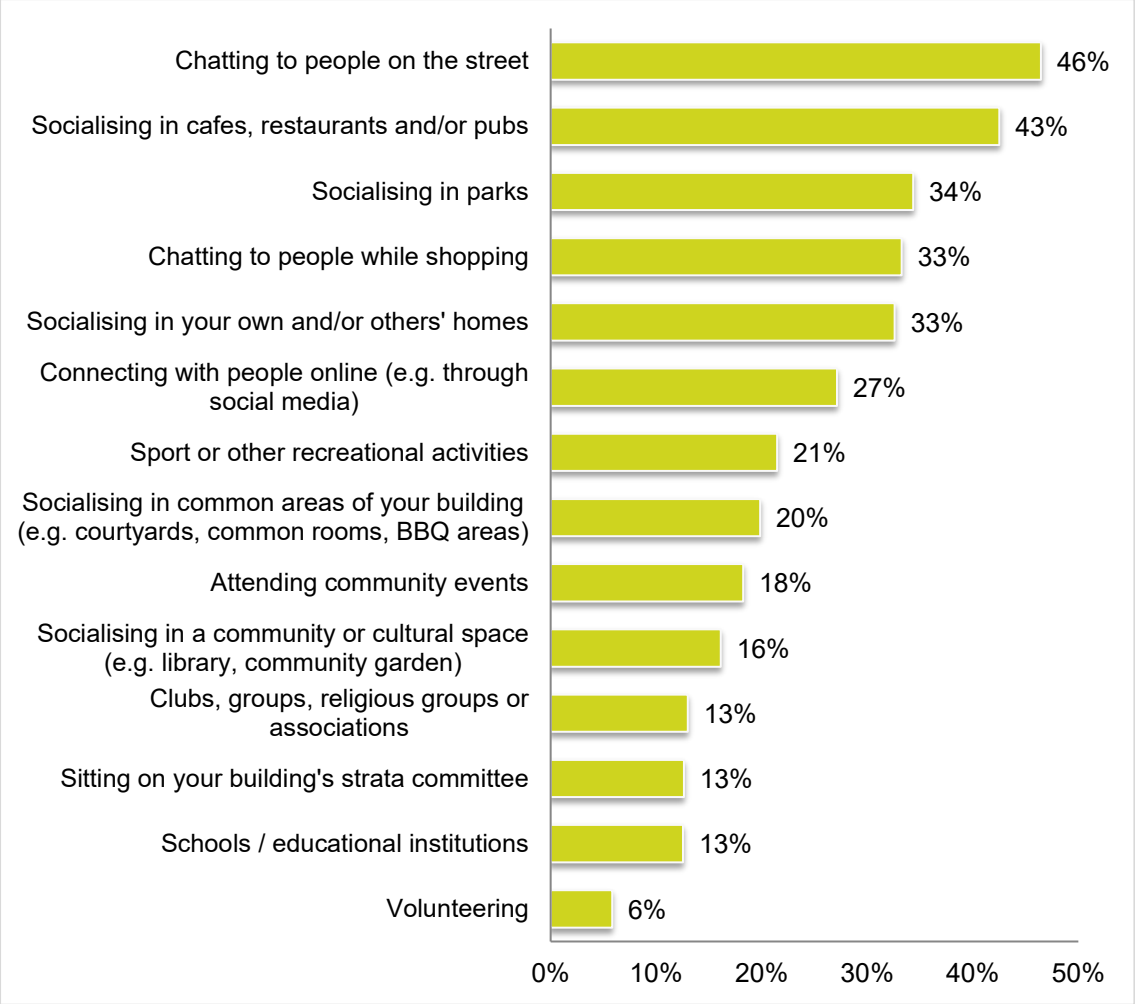
Results presented are the percentage of people who use each mode for each purpose, with 'not applicable' responses removed. Figures do not sum to 100% as multiple responses allowed.



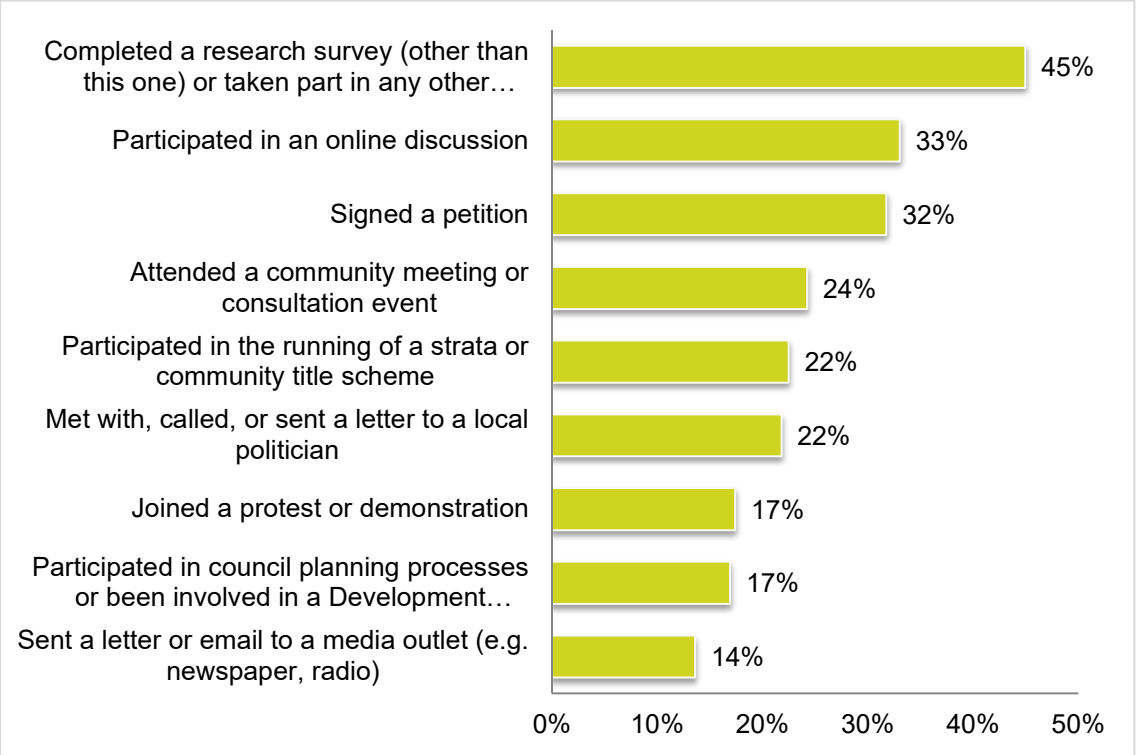
17. How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues? At least… (n = 1497)



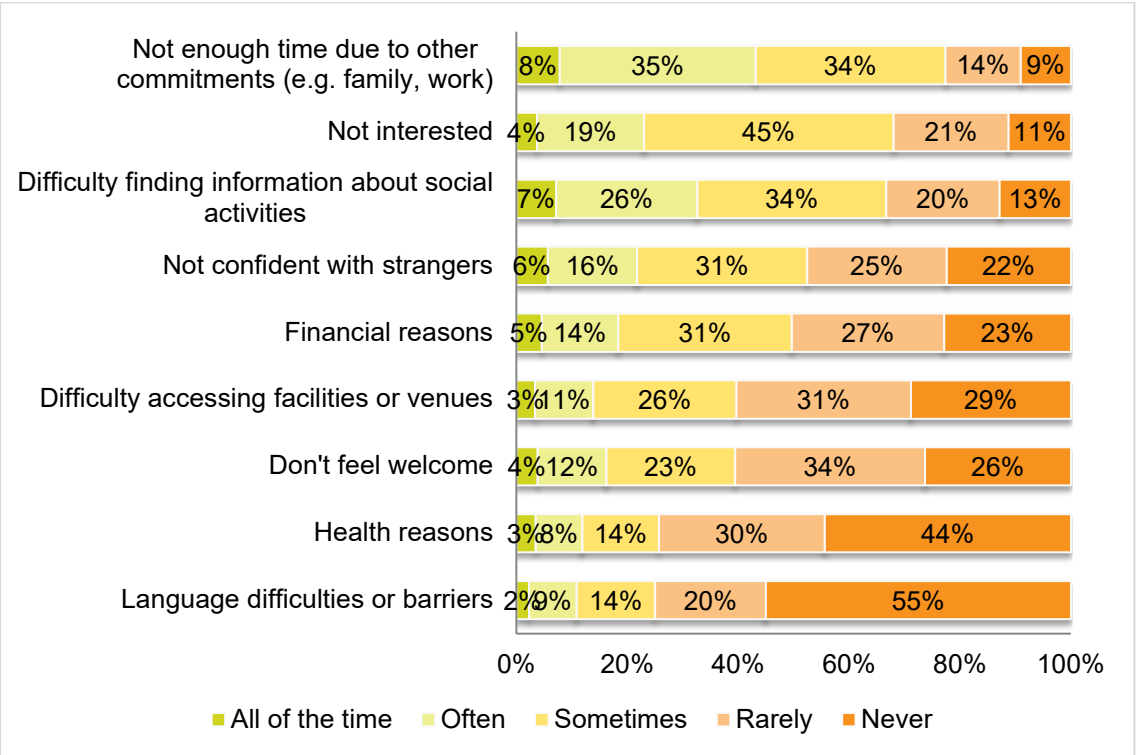
18. In the past month, have you had contact with people in your local area in any of the following ways? (n = 1371)



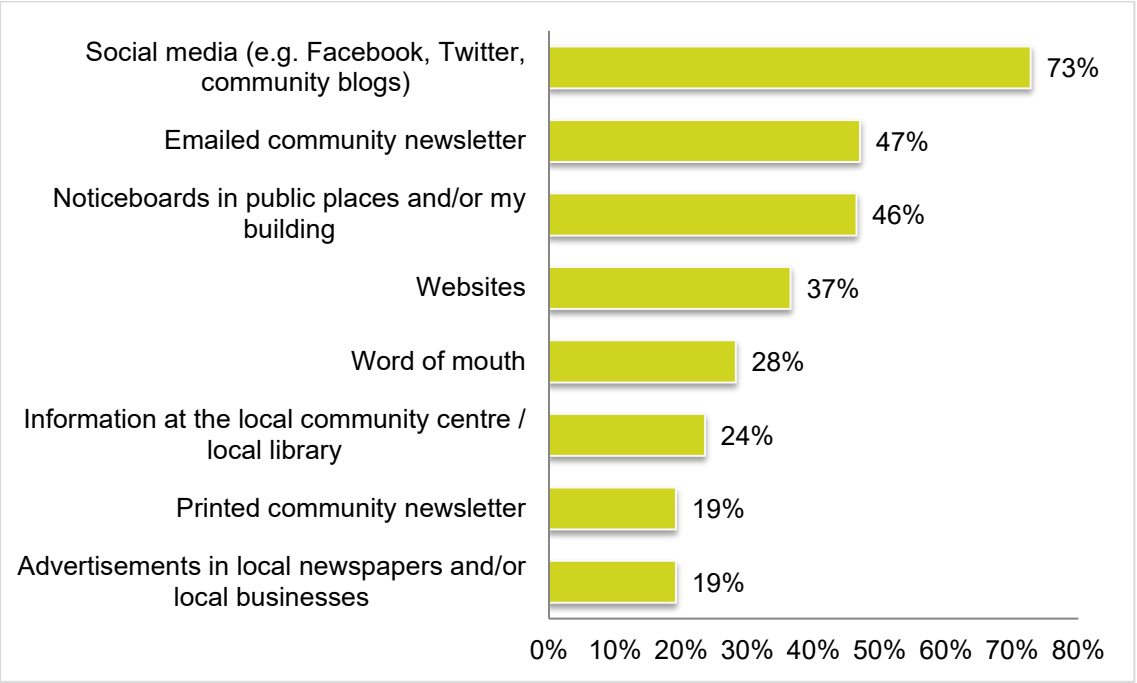
19. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (n = 1023)



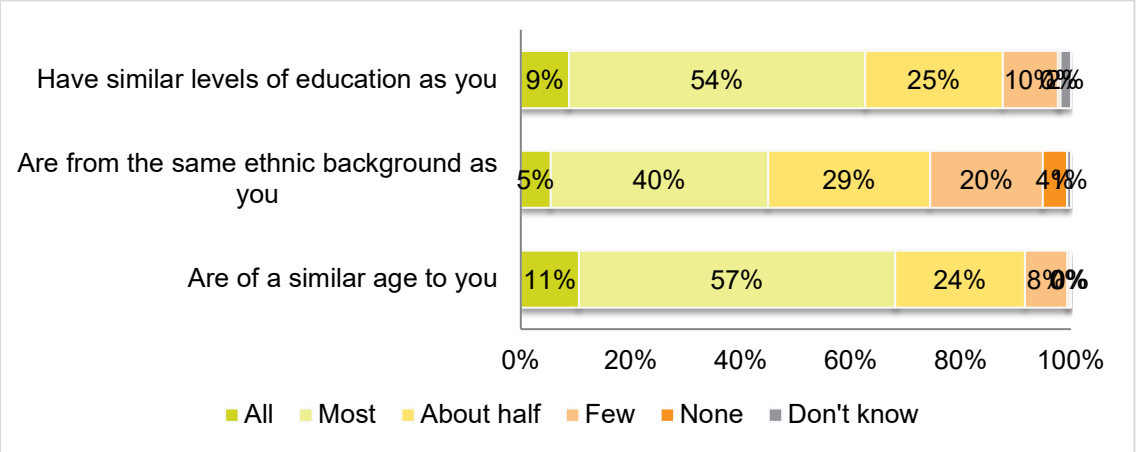
20. Do any of the following limit you from socialising or participating in organised social activities in the area? (n = various, 1486-1490)



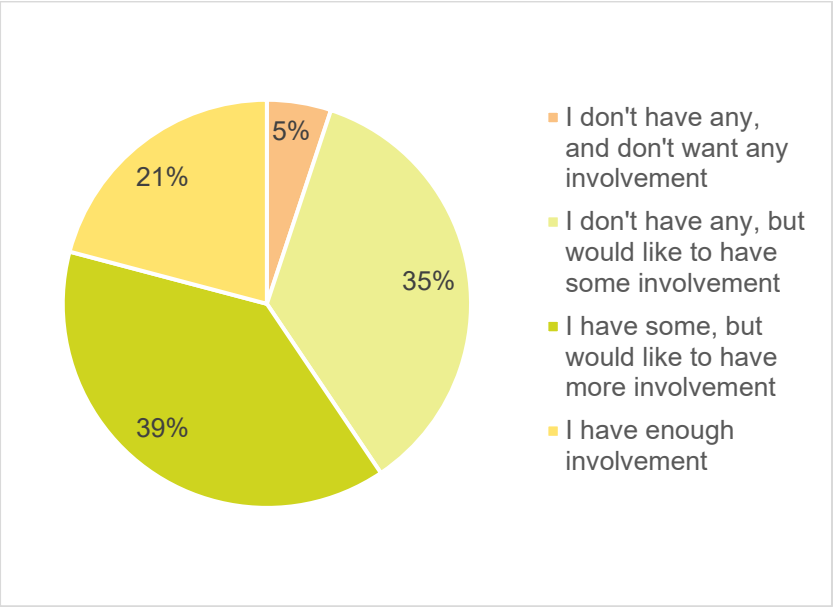
21. How would you like to get information about opportunities to participate in social activities in your local area? (n = 1481)



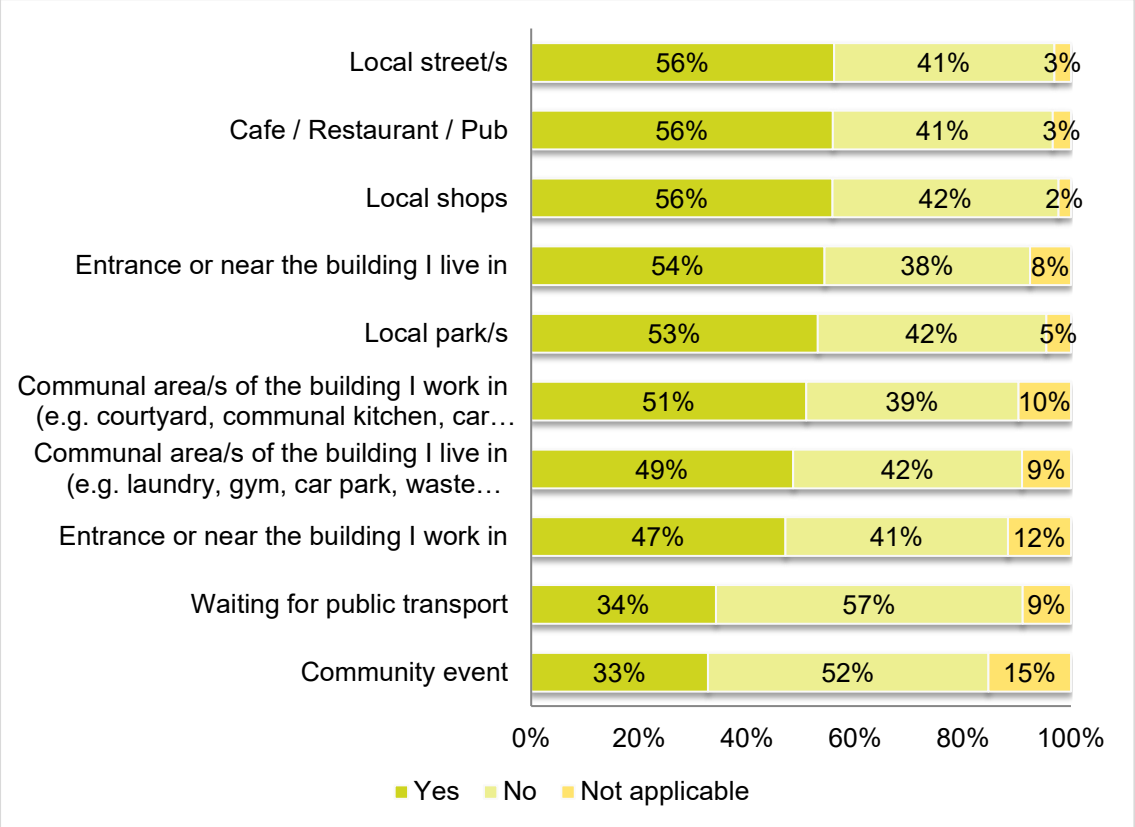
22. Of your friends, how many…? (n = various, 1492-1494)



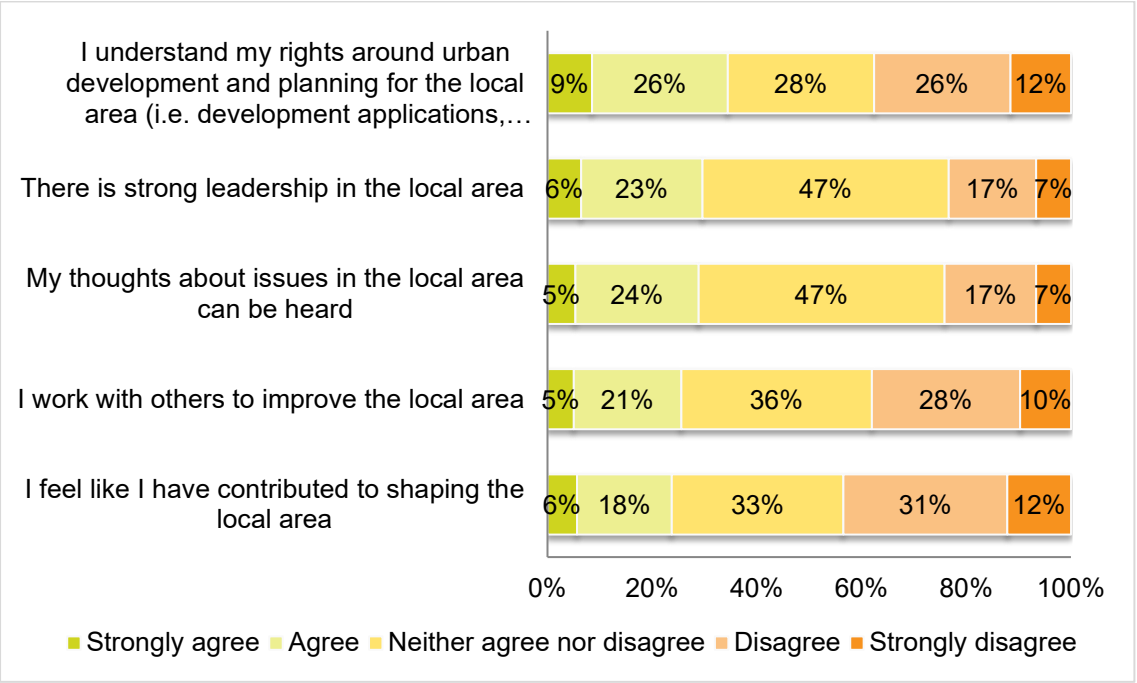
23. How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (n = 1494)



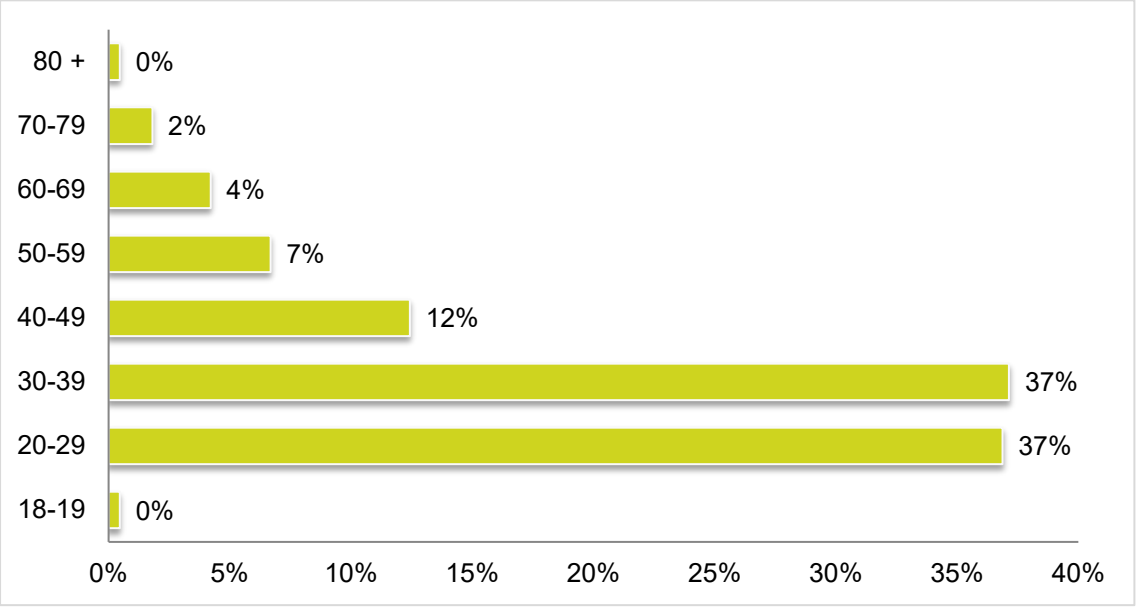
24. Do you often run into people you know in the following places in the area? (n = various, 572-1494)



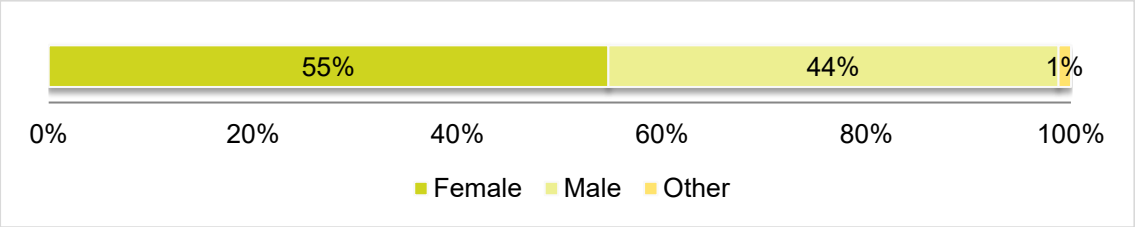
25. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (n = various, 1492-1493)



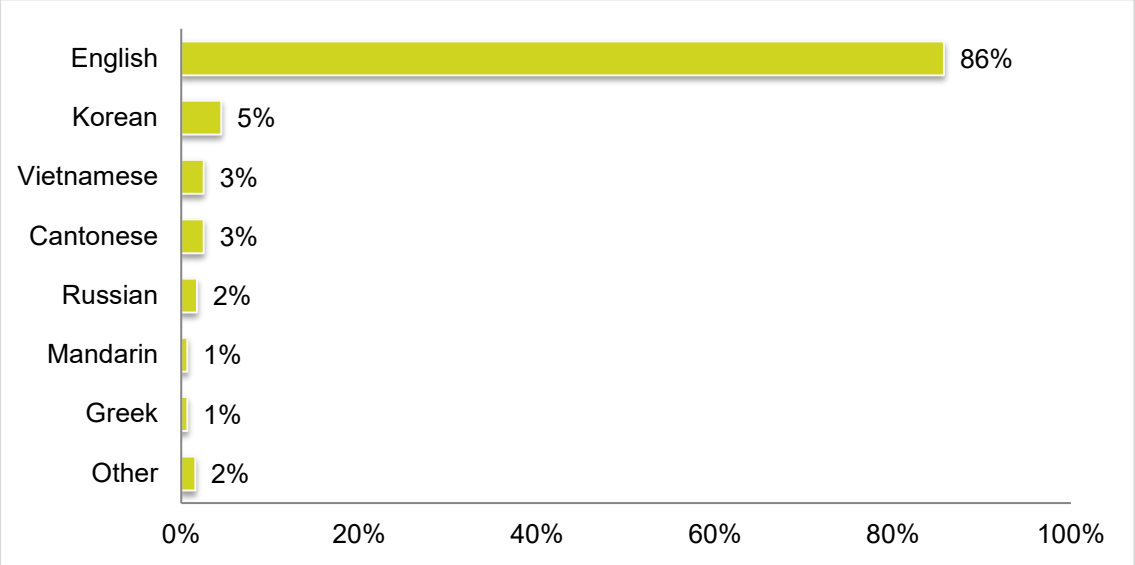
26. What is your age group? (n = 1497)



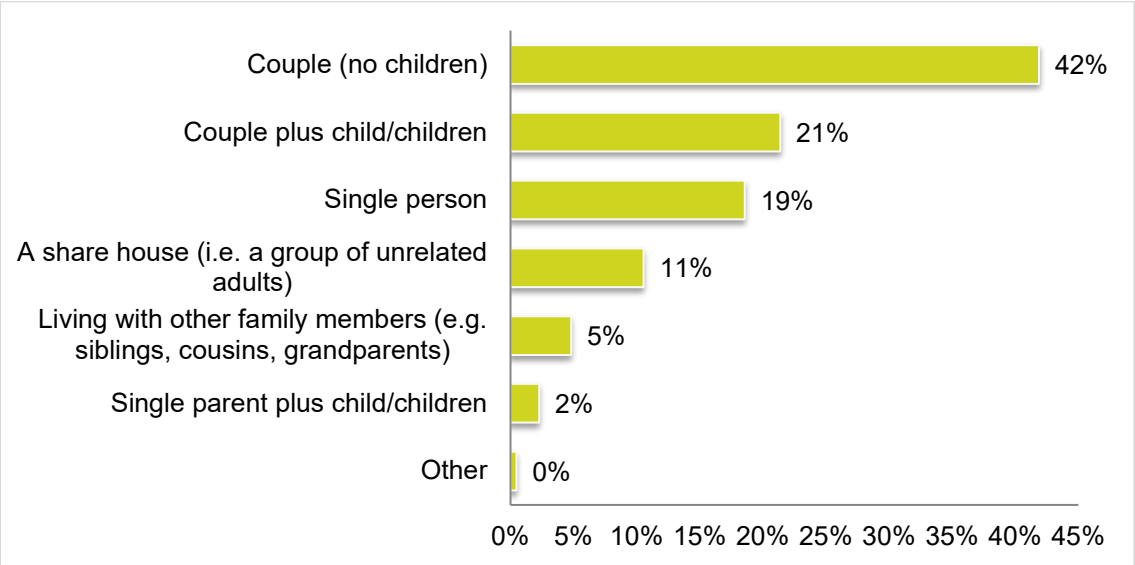
27. Are you …? (n = 1492)



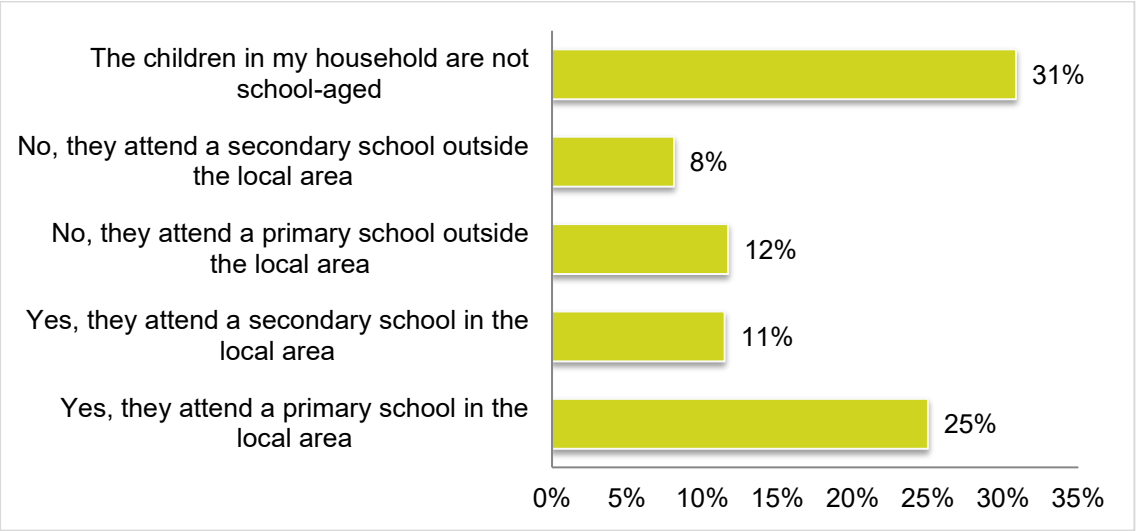
28. What is the main language spoken in your home? (n = 1465)



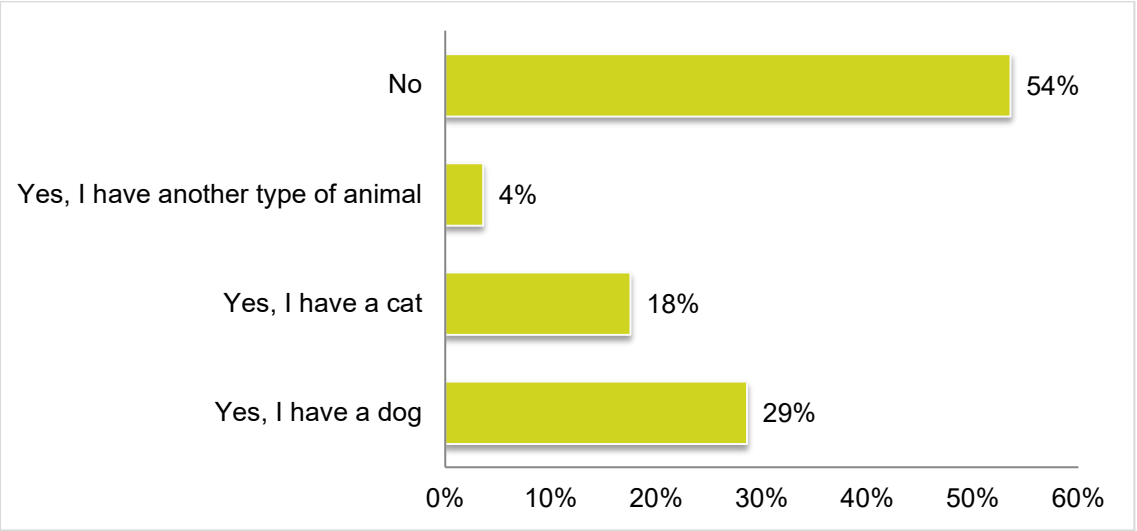
29. How would you best describe your household? (n = 1497)



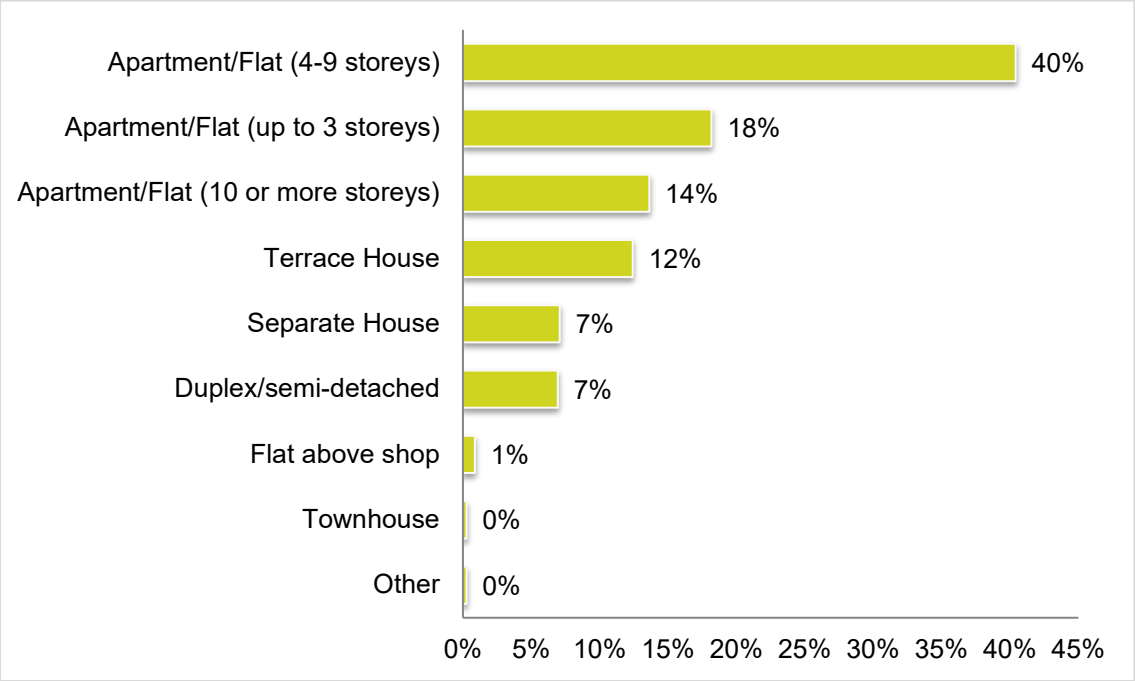
30. If there are children in your household, do you send them to a school in the local area? (n=444)



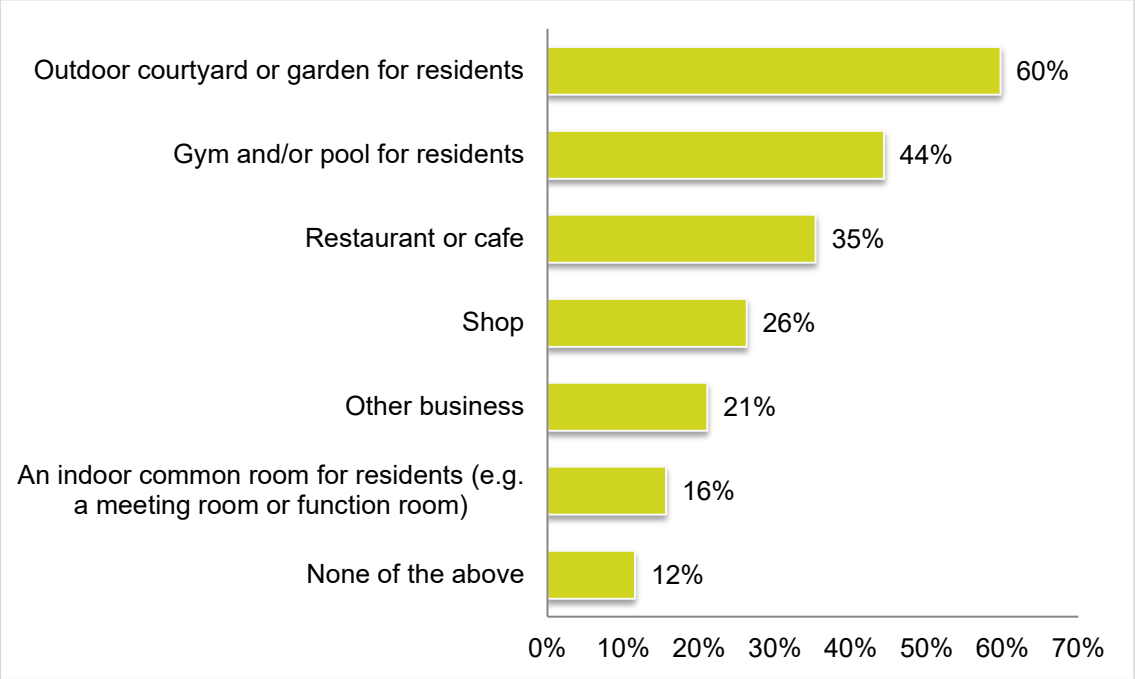
31. Do you own a pet? (n = 1497)



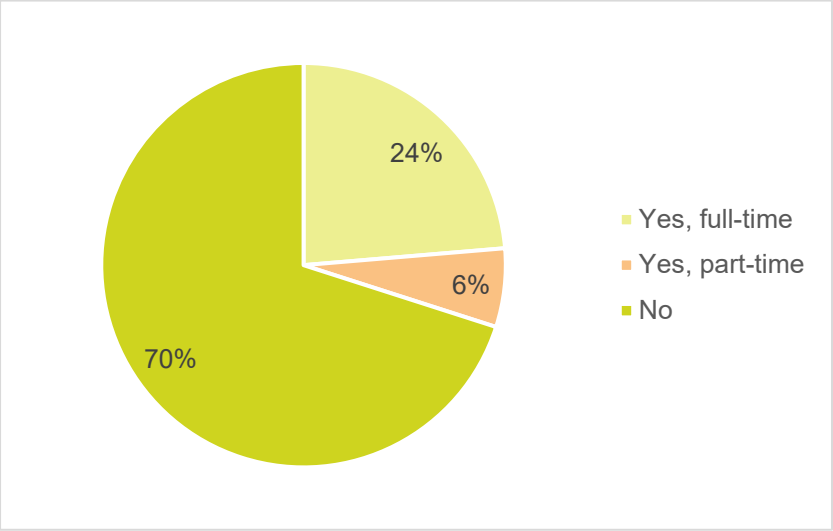
32. Which of these best describes the property you currently live in? (n = 1497)



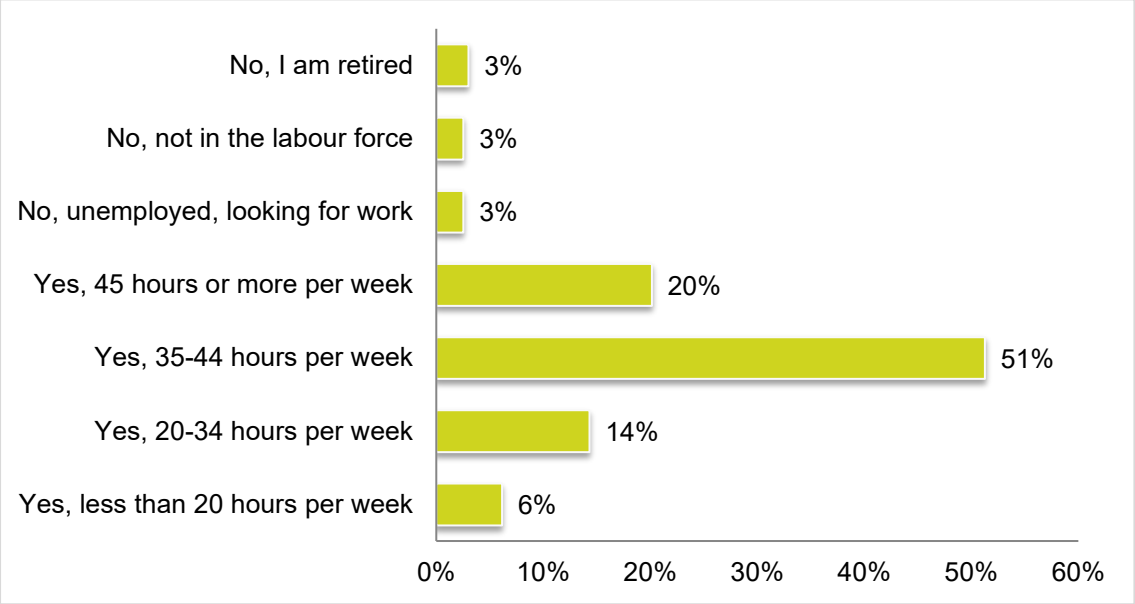
33. Are there any of the following in your building? (n = 1100)



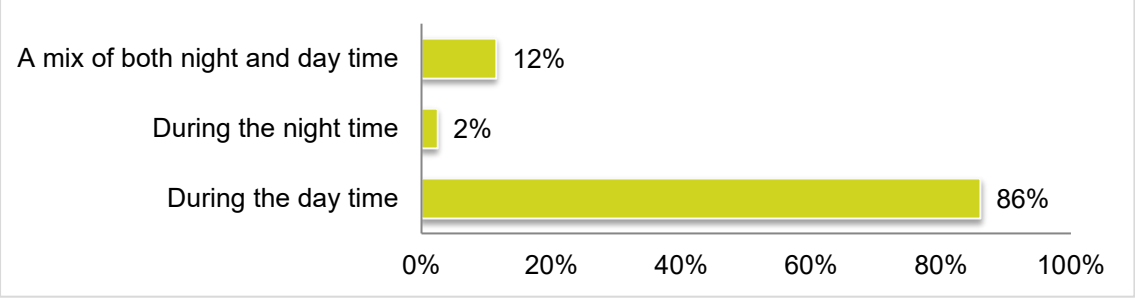
34. Are you currently studying? (n = 1495)



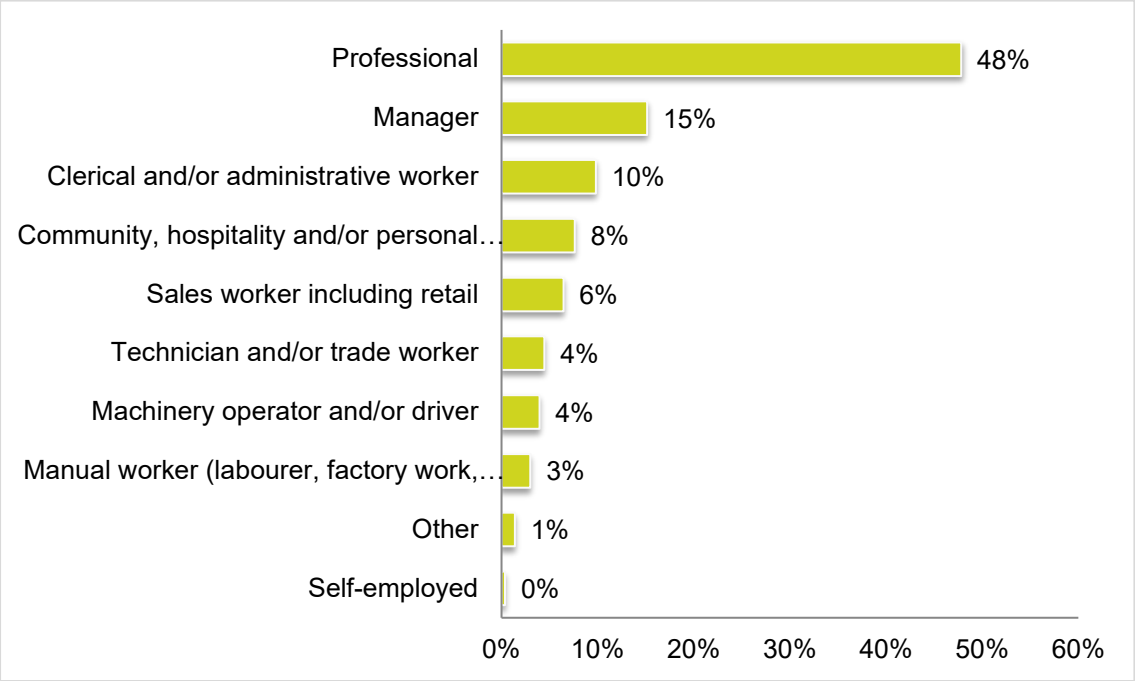
35. Are you currently in paid employment? (n = 1494)



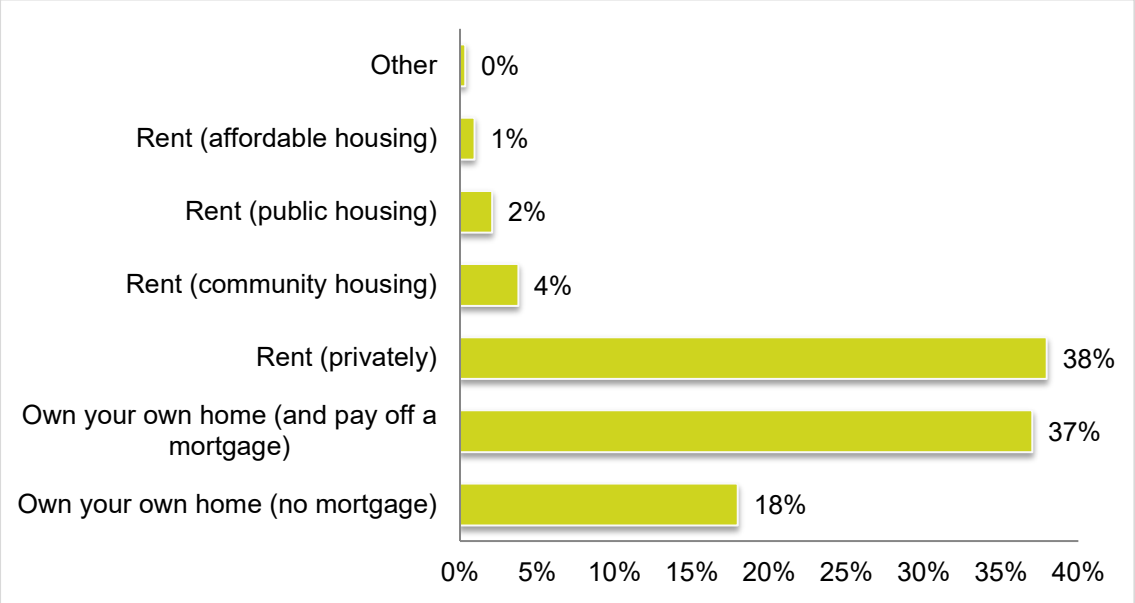
36. Do you work predominantly during the day or at night time? (n = 1369)



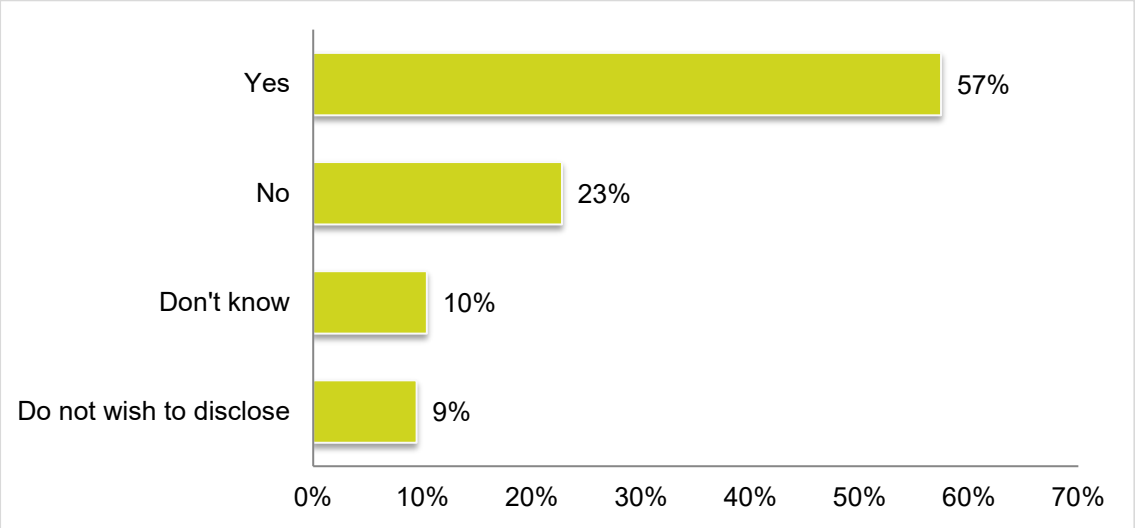
37. Which of the following best describes your current occupation? (n = 1366)



38. Does your household…? (n = 1486)

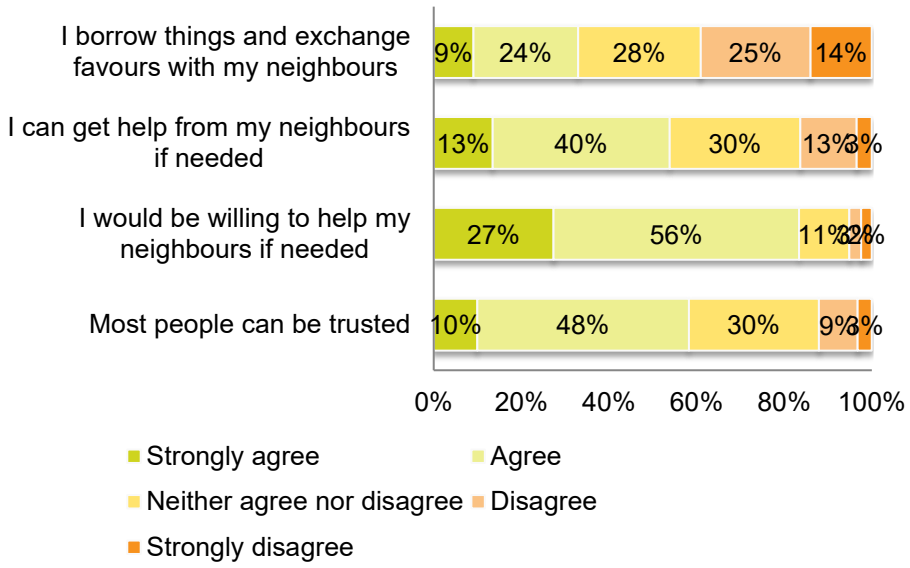


39. Does your household usually spend more than 30% of the combined household income on housing costs (rent or mortgage and/or strata levies)? (n = 1490)

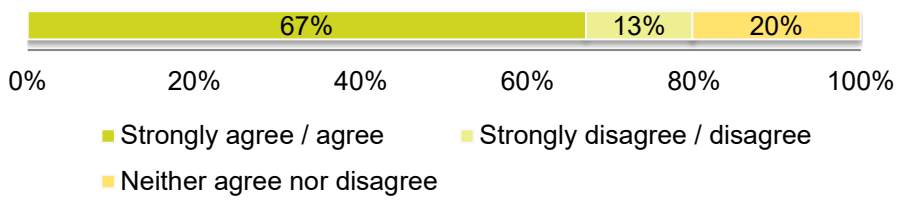


Appendix 6 Comparative survey results for benchmarking

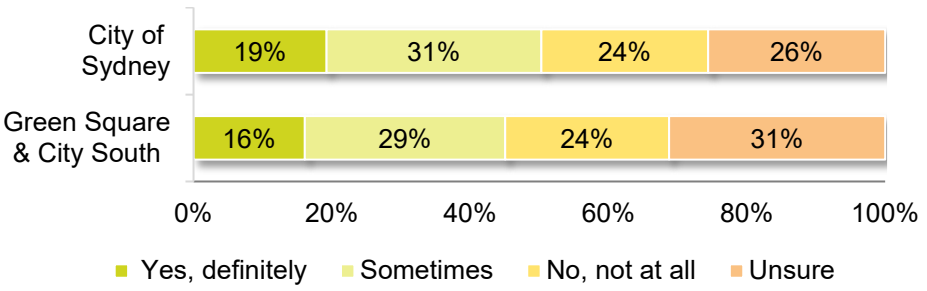
Question 6 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various studies
To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = 1497)	When needed, can you get help from your neighbours? (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018) When needed, would you be willing to help your neighbours? (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018) Most people can be trusted (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018)* Level of trust in most people (Australian General Social Survey, 2020)



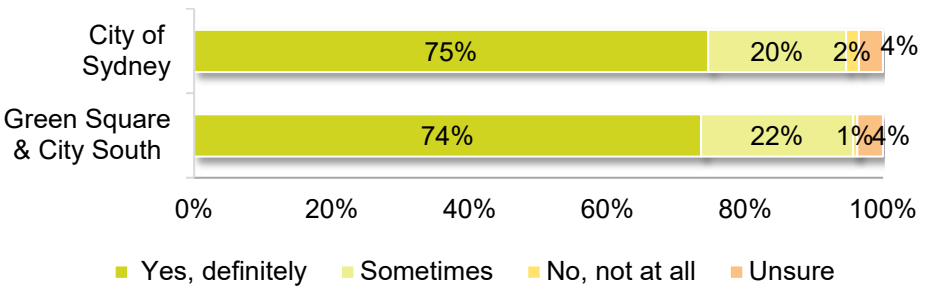
I plan to remain resident in this area for a number of years (n=1497)



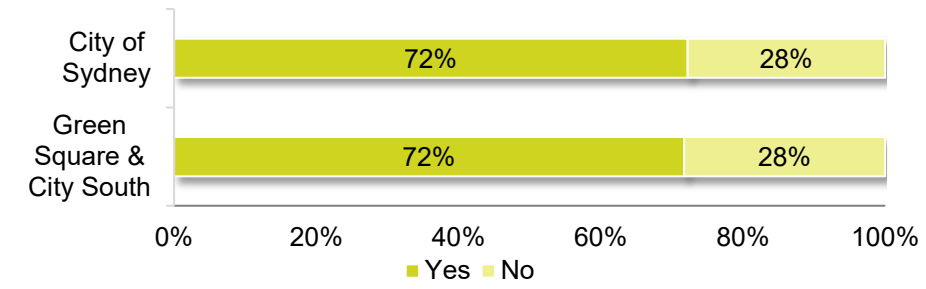
When needed, can you get help from your neighbours? (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018)



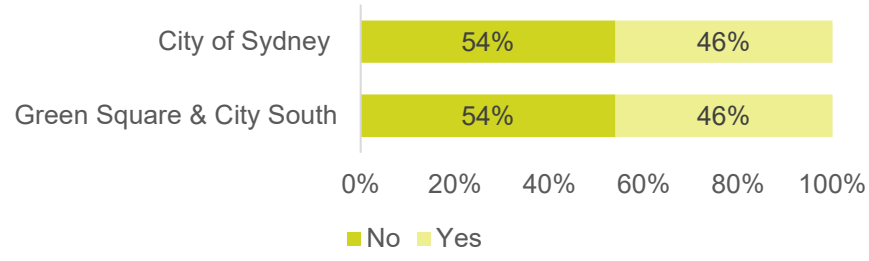
When needed, would you be willing to help your neighbours? (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018

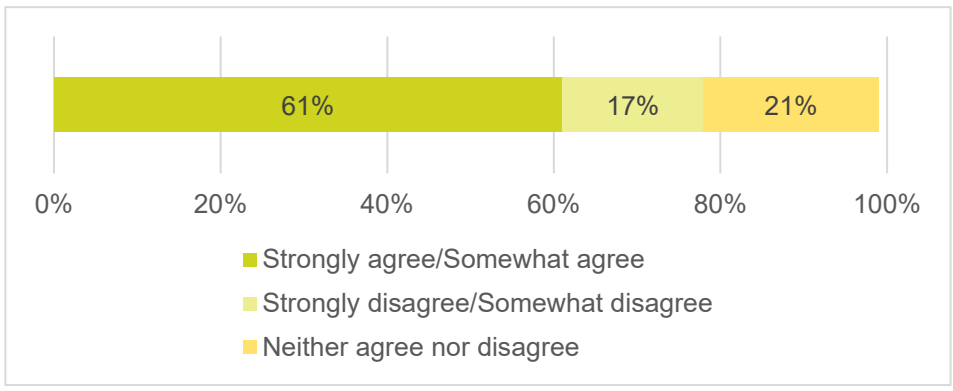


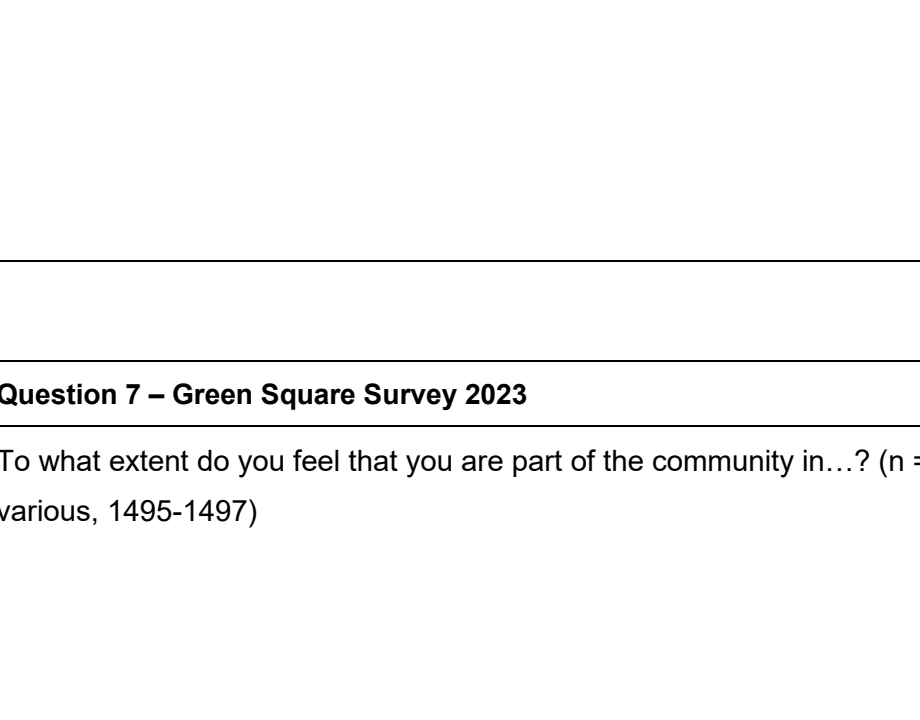
Most people can be trusted (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018)*



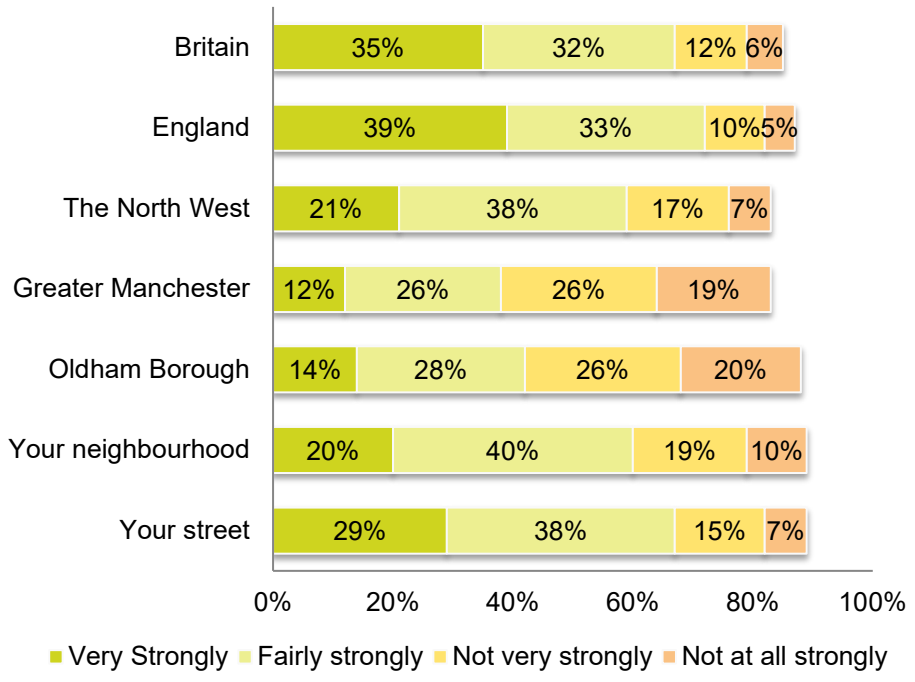
Are you considering moving out of the City of Sydney in the next 1-5 years? (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018)



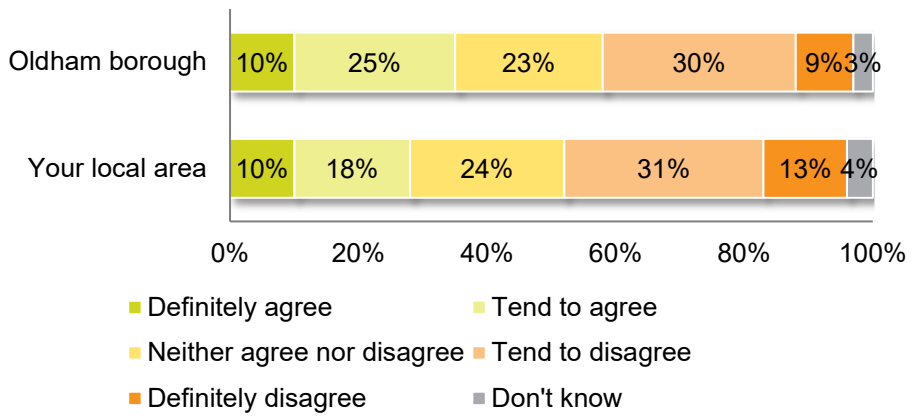
Question 6 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various studies
	Level of trust in most people (Australian General Social Survey, 2020) 
	Sample: Australian General Social Survey (2020) • Data was collected from approximately 5,300 households around Australia (population 20,269,036), a response rate of 60.5%. Data collected 2020. City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey (2018) • 6,904 respondents across the LGA and 739 respondents from Green Square and South Sydney, from a survey sent to 100,000 households in the City of Sydney local government area which was also promoted online and available in 5 languages other than English. Data collected 2018.

Question 7 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various studies
To what extent do you feel that you are part of the community in…? (n = various, 1495-1497)	How strongly do you feel that you belong in…? (MORI North, 2006) For each area listed below, please say how strongly or not you feel you belong to that area? (MORI North, 2013) Thinking about personal wellbeing, how satisfied are you with feeling part of your community [in your local area] (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018) Thinking about personal wellbeing, how satisfied are you with feeling part of your community [in your local area] (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018)
	How strongly do you feel that you belong in…? (MORI North, 2006)

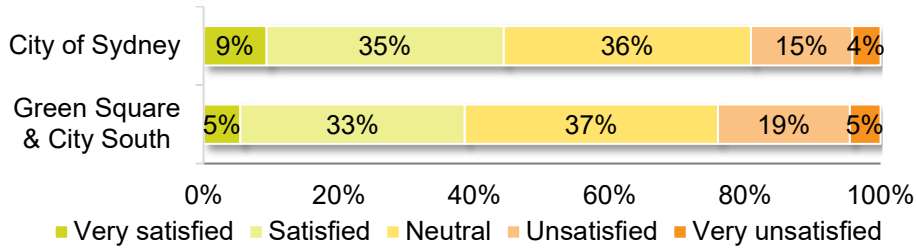
Question 7 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various studies



For each area listed below, please say how strongly or not you feel you belong to that area? (MORI North, 2013)



Thinking about personal wellbeing, how satisfied are you with feeling part of your community [in your local area, for respondents city-wide and respondents in Green Square/City South] (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2018)



Sample:

MORI North (2006)

- 2,262 stratified random sample of total population of residents in Oldham Borough (total population, UK, response rate 24%. Data collected 2005/2006.

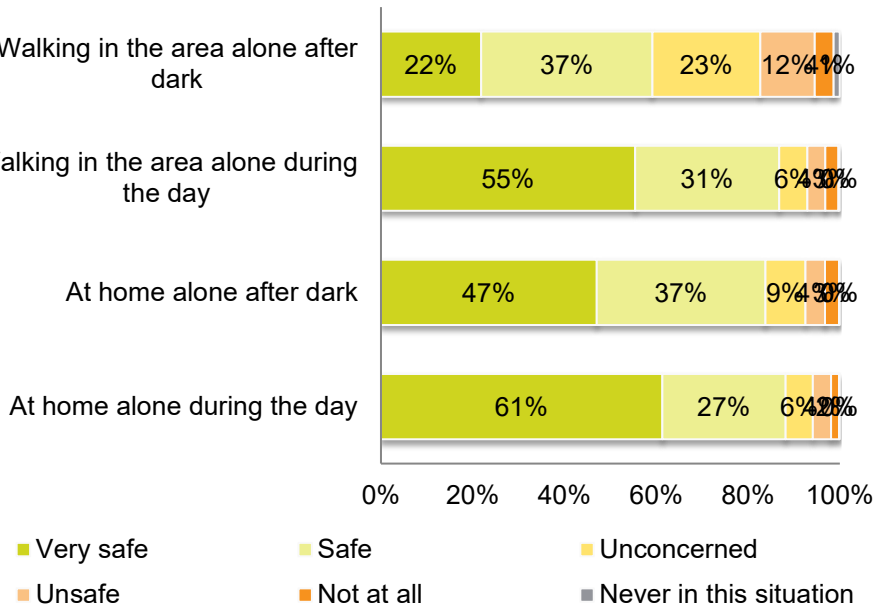
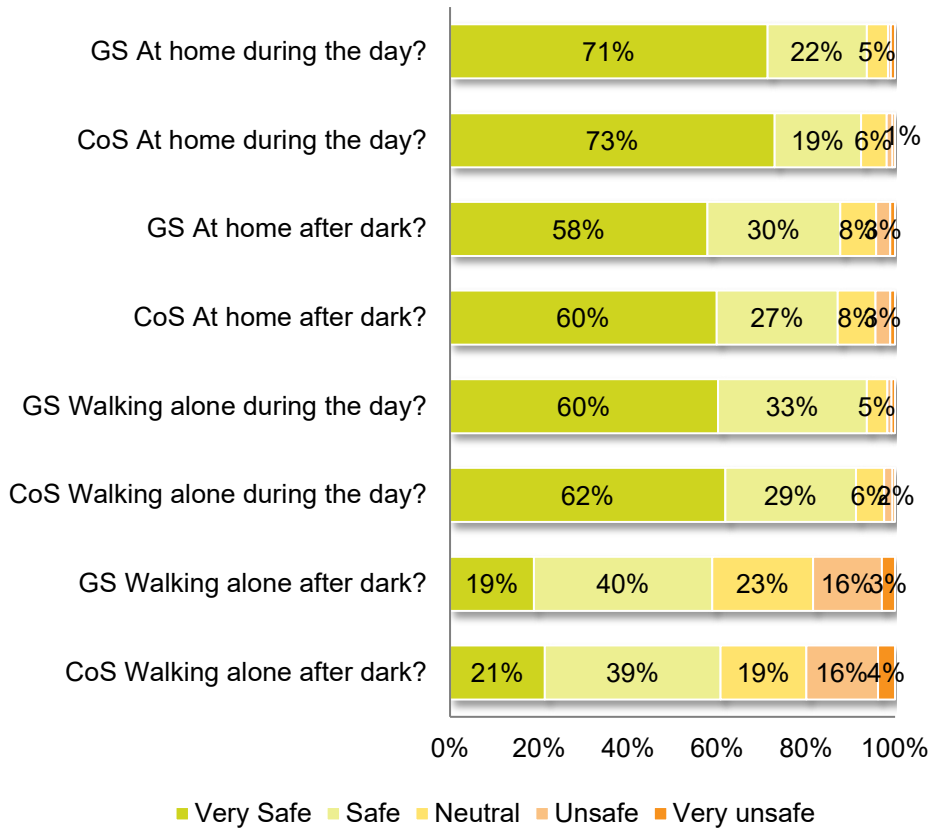
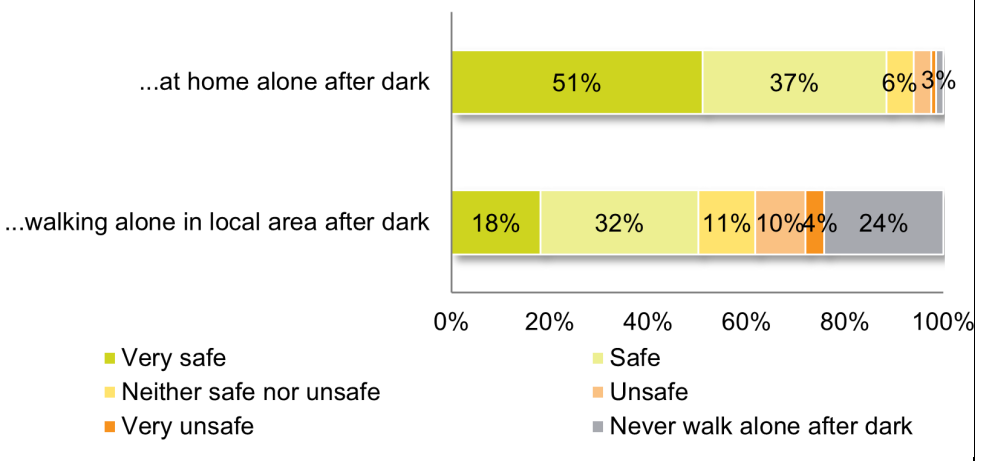
MORI North (2013)

- 2,862 stratified random sample of total population of residents in Oldham Borough (total population, UK, response rate 12%. Data collected 2013.

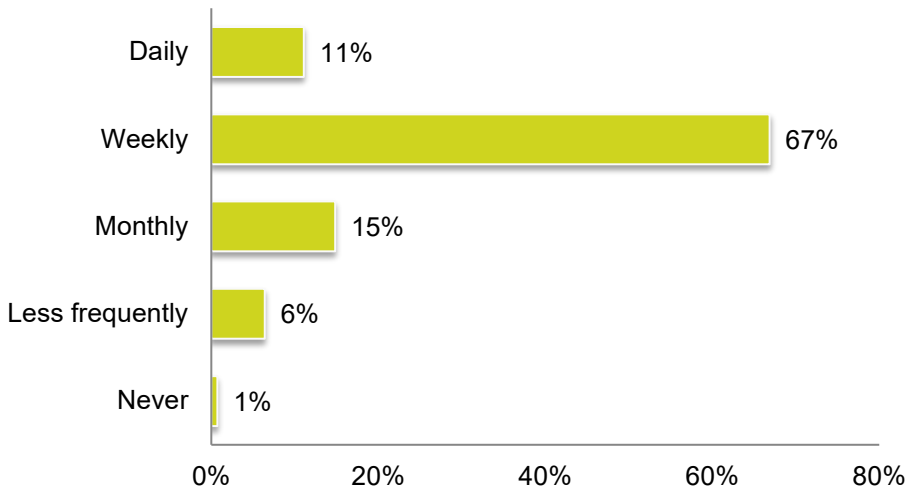
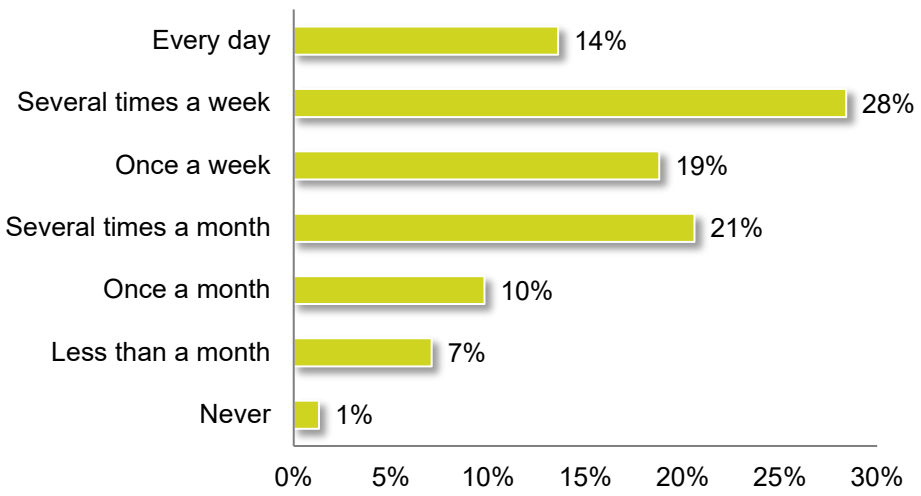
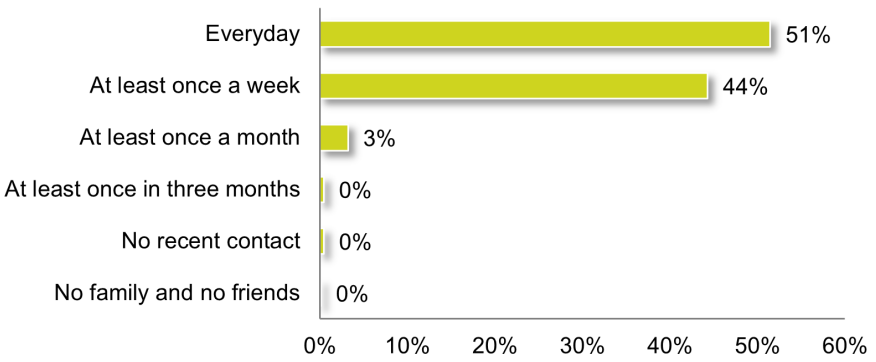
City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey (2018)

- 6,904 respondents across the LGA and 739 respondents from Green Square and South Sydney, from a survey sent to 100,000 households in the City of Sydney local government

Question 7 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various studies
	area which was also promoted online and available in 5 languages other than English. Data collected 2018.

Question 15 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various studies
How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? (n = 1497)	How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018) What are your feelings of safety... (General Social Survey 2014)
	How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? For Green Square/City South respondents, and City of Sydney respondents (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018)  What are your feelings of safety… (General Social Survey 2014)? 
	Sample: City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey (2018) • 6,904 respondents across the LGA and 739 respondents from Green Square and South Sydney, from a survey sent to 100,000 households in the City of Sydney local government area which was also promoted online and available in 5 languages other than English. Data collected 2018.

Question 15 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Various studies**
	General Social Survey (2014) • 12,932 randomly selected respondents across Australia (population 22,828,900), response rate 80.1%. Data collected 2014.

Question 17 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Various studies**
How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues? At least… (n = 1497)	European Social Survey (2016) Australian General Social Survey (2014)
	How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues (European Social Survey, 2016)?  How often do you meet with family and friends? (Australian General Social Survey, 2014) 
	Sample: European Social Survey (2016) • 34,837 randomly selected respondents from 23 countries in Europe, including Russia. Response rate between 30-74%. Data collected 2016. Australian General Social Survey (2014) • 12,932 randomly selected respondents across Australia (population 22,828,900), response rate 80.1%. Data collected 2014.

Question 18 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Various studies**
In the past month, have you had contact with people in your local area in	Have you done any of the following activities monthly or more in the past

Question 18 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Various studies**
any of the following ways? (n = 1371)	12 months? (Baum et al., 2000) How do you connect with your local community? [Open response, back coded] (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) In the past 12 months, have you participated in any of these activities? (Australian General Social Survey, 2020) In the past 12 months, have you participated in any of these activities? (Australian General Social Survey, 2014) In the past 3 months, have you participated in any of these activities? (Australian General Social Survey, 2010) In the past 12 months/* have you participated in … / **Are you actively involved in… (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018) ***information from COS (2020)
Clubs, groups, religious groups or associations: 13%	• social club (Baum et al., 2000) 27.3% • hobby group (Baum et al., 2000) 10.1% • self-help/support group (Baum et al., 2000) 4.1% • singing/acting/music group (Baum et al., 2000) 4.1% • service club (Baum et al., 2000) 5.8% • school-related group (Baum et al., 2000) 10.9% • ethnic group (Baum et al., 2000) 6.5% • Clubs, Groups and Associations (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 27.7% • *Organised arts, crafts, music, performance activities (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018) City of Sydney: 88.6% (at least one activity) 19.1% (5 or more types of activities). Green Square & City South: 86.5% (at least one activity) 14.6% (5 or more types of activities) *** • Church (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 5.2% of respondents • Attended church (Baum et al., 2000) 23.0% • Community support group (Australian General Social Survey, 2020) 21.1% • Involved in social group (Australian General Social Survey, 2020) 46.3%
Sitting on the executive committee of your building: 13%	• resident or community action group (Baum et al., 2000) 5.9% • decision making on a school, sports club, church or other board or committee, body corporate or resident action group (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018) 18.5% (‘once or twice’ and ‘yes, often’)
Volunteering: 6%	• Volunteering (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 20.6% • Volunteer organization or group (Baum et al., 2000) 14.2%

Question 18 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Various studies**
	• **Volunteering (in the last 12 months) (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018) 43.5% (‘once or twice’ and ‘yes, often’) • Unpaid voluntary work (Australian General Social Survey, 2020) 24.8%
Chatting to people while shopping: 33%	• Shopping Locally (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 11.9% of respondents
Through involvement with schools / educational institutions: 13%	• Schools and University (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 9.3% of respondents • school-related group (Baum et al., 2000) 10.9% • “been to a class” (Baum et al., 2000) 13.9% • ** School related parent activities (P&C, Canteen etc.) (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018) 7.5% (‘once or twice’ and ‘yes, often’)
Through involvement in sport or other recreational activities: 21%	• played sport (Baum et al., 2000) 26.2% • hobby group (Baum et al., 2000) 10.1% • singing/acting/music group (Baum et al., 2000) 4.1% • gym or exercise class (Baum et al., 2000) 16.2% • party/dance (Baum et al., 2000) 16.5% • Utilising community facilities and places (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 5.2% of respondents • Went out with or met a group of friends – outdoor activities (Australian General Social Survey, 2010) 75% • Participated in sport and physical recreation (Australian General Social Survey, 2014) 30.8% (as part of a club or association – 31.4%) • Attended sports matches or competitions (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018) Green Square & City South: 5% as participant, 29% as spectator, 12% both participated and was a spectator, City of Sydney: 4% as participant, 30% as spectator, 12% both participated and was a spectator ***
Socialising in cafés, restaurants and/or pubs: 43%	• Been to a café or restaurant (Baum et al., 2000) 58.1% • Went out with or met a group of friends – indoor activities (Australian General Social Survey, 2010) 72.5%
Socialising in parks: 34%	• Utilising community facilities and places (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 5.2% of respondents • Went out with or met a group of friends – outdoor activities (Australian General Social Survey, 2010) 75%
Attending community events and activities: 18%	• Attending Local Events and Activities (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 29.0% of respondents • Utilising community facilities and places (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 5.2% of respondents

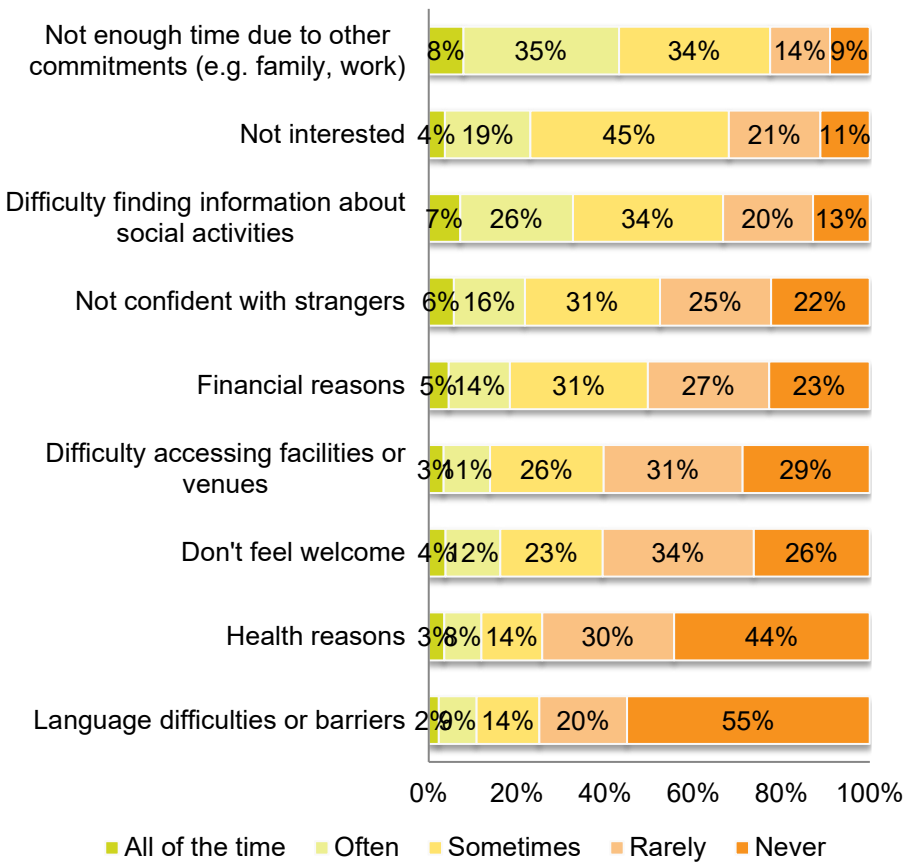
Question 18 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Various studies**
Socialising in a community or cultural space (e.g. library, museum, community garden): 16%	• Library (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 6.2% of respondents • Utilising community facilities and places (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 5.2% of respondents • Went out with or met a group of friends – outdoor activities (Australian General Social Survey, 2010) 75% • Went out with or met a group of friends – indoor activities (Australian General Social Survey, 2010) 72.5%
Socialising in your own and/or others homes: 33%	• visited family or had family visit (Baum et al., 2000) 83.7% • visited friends or had friends visit (Baum et al., 2000) 81.6% • visited neighbours or had neighbours visit (Baum et al., 2000) 81.6% • Being neighbourly (Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy, 2010) 34.9% of respondents • Visited or was visited by friends (Australian General Social Survey, 2010) 92%
Connecting with people online (e.g. through social media): 27%	• Spent time in Internet social activity (Australian General Social Survey, 2010) 40%
	Sample: Baum et al. (2000) • 2,542 respondents in a cross-sectional random sample of the western suburbs of Adelaide, SA (population 210,000), response rate 63.6%. Data collected 1997. Sunshine Coast Council, Community Planning & Strategy (2010) • 614 respondents on the Sunshine Coast, QLD (population 278,200), collected through surveys available at libraries and community service centres. Data collected 2010. Australian General Social Survey (2020) • Data was collected from approximately 5,300 households around Australia (population 20,269,036), a response rate of 60.5%. Data collected 2020. Australian General Social Survey (2014) • 12,932 randomly selected respondents across Australia (population 22,828,900), response rate 80.1%. Data collected 2014. Australian General Social Survey (2010) • 15,028 randomly selected respondents across Australia (population 22,342,000), response rate 87.6%. Data collected 2010. City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey (2018) • 6,904 respondents across the LGA and 739 respondents from Green Square and South Sydney, from a survey sent to 100,000 households in the City of Sydney local government

Question 18 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various studies
	area which was also promoted online and available in 5 languages other than English. Data collected 2018.

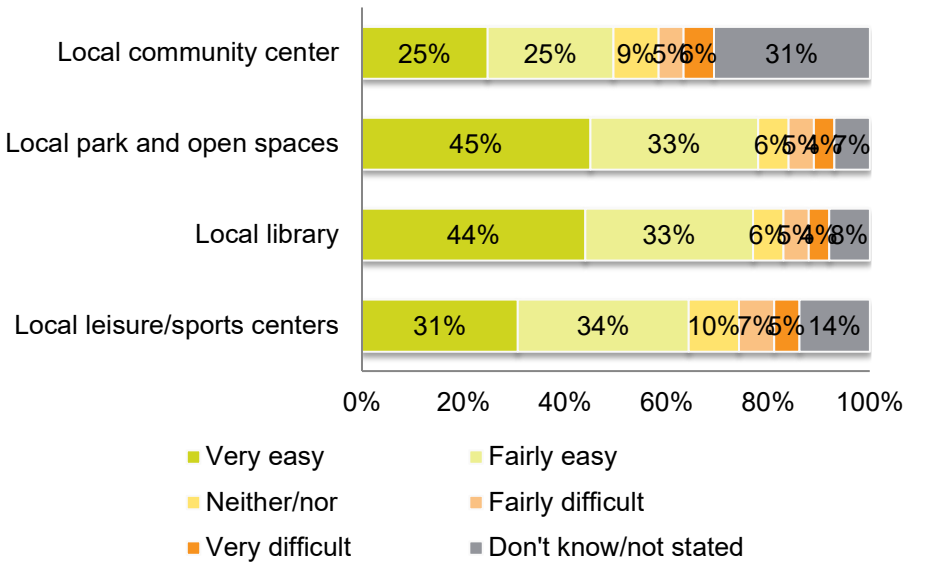
Question 19 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various studies
In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (n = 1023)	In the past 12 months have you done any of the following? (City of Sydney, 2018) Have you done any of the following activities monthly or more in the past 12 months? (Baum et al., 2000)
Attended a community meeting or consultation event: 24%	• Attended a community meeting, public hearing or discussion? (City of Sydney, 2018) 29.6% (‘once or twice’ and ‘yes, often’) • Attended a council meeting (Baum et al., 2000) 4.1% • Attended a protest meeting (Baum et al., 2000) 7.1%
Met with, called, or sent a letter to any local politician: 22%	• Written to council (Baum et al., 2000) 10.8% • Contact local MP (Baum et al., 2000) 11.2% • Contact local councillor (Baum et al., 2000) 8.2% • Met with, phoned, or written to any local politician? (City of Sydney, 2018) 24.2% (‘once or twice’ and ‘yes, often’)
Joined a protest or demonstration: 17%	• Attended a protest meeting (Baum et al., 2000) 7.1% • Resident or community action group (Baum et al., 2000) 5.9% • Campaign/action to improve social/environmental conditions (Baum et al., 2000) 5.5% • Joined a protest or demonstration (City of Sydney, 2018) 27.8% (‘once or twice’ and ‘yes, often’)
Signed a petition: 32%	• Signed a petition (Baum et al., 2000) 40.6%
Participated in an online discussion: 33%	• Participated in an online discussion about political or local community issues (City of Sydney, 2018) 34.4% (‘once or twice’ and ‘yes, often’)
Participated in the running of a strata or community title scheme: 22%	• Attended a body corporate meeting? (City of Sydney, 2018) 25.8% (‘once or twice’ and ‘yes, often’) • Resident or community action group (Baum et al., 2000) 5.9%
Sent a letter or email to a media outlet (e.g. newspaper, radio): 14%	• Written a letter to editor (Baum et al., 2000) 3.8%
	Sample: City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey (2018) • 6,904 respondents across the LGA and 739 from the Green Square and City South village area, from a survey sent to 100,000 households in the City of Sydney local government area which was also promoted online and available in 5 languages other than English. Data collected 2018. Baum et al. (2000)

Question 19 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various studies
	• 2,542 respondents in a cross-sectional random sample of the western suburbs of Adelaide, SA (population 210,000), response rate 63.6%. Data collected 1997.

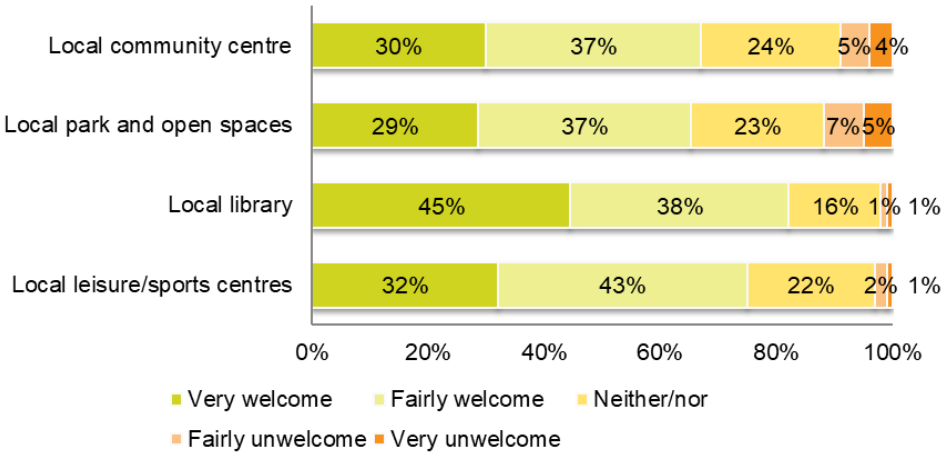
Question 20 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various Studies
Do any of the following limit you from socialising or participating in organised social activities in the area? (n = various, 1486-1490)	What is the main reason you are not more actively involved in community groups or activities in your local area in the last 12 months? (The Benevolent Society, 2012) It is easy for me to get to: A community centre/a park or open space/ access the local library/ get to leisure or sports centre AND feel welcome there (MORI North, 2006) Thinking about your day-to-day life, how easy or not is it to…? (MORI North, 2013) Barriers limiting participation in the community, including arts and cultural activities (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018)



• Access to… (MORI North, 2006)

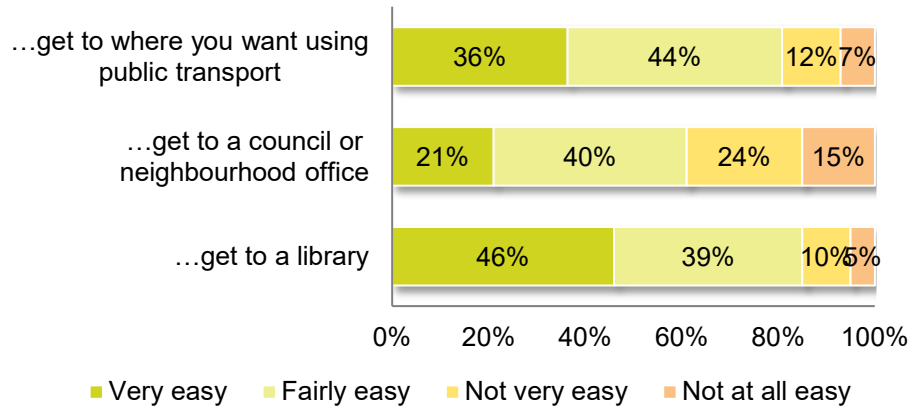


• Welcome received at… (MORI North, 2006)



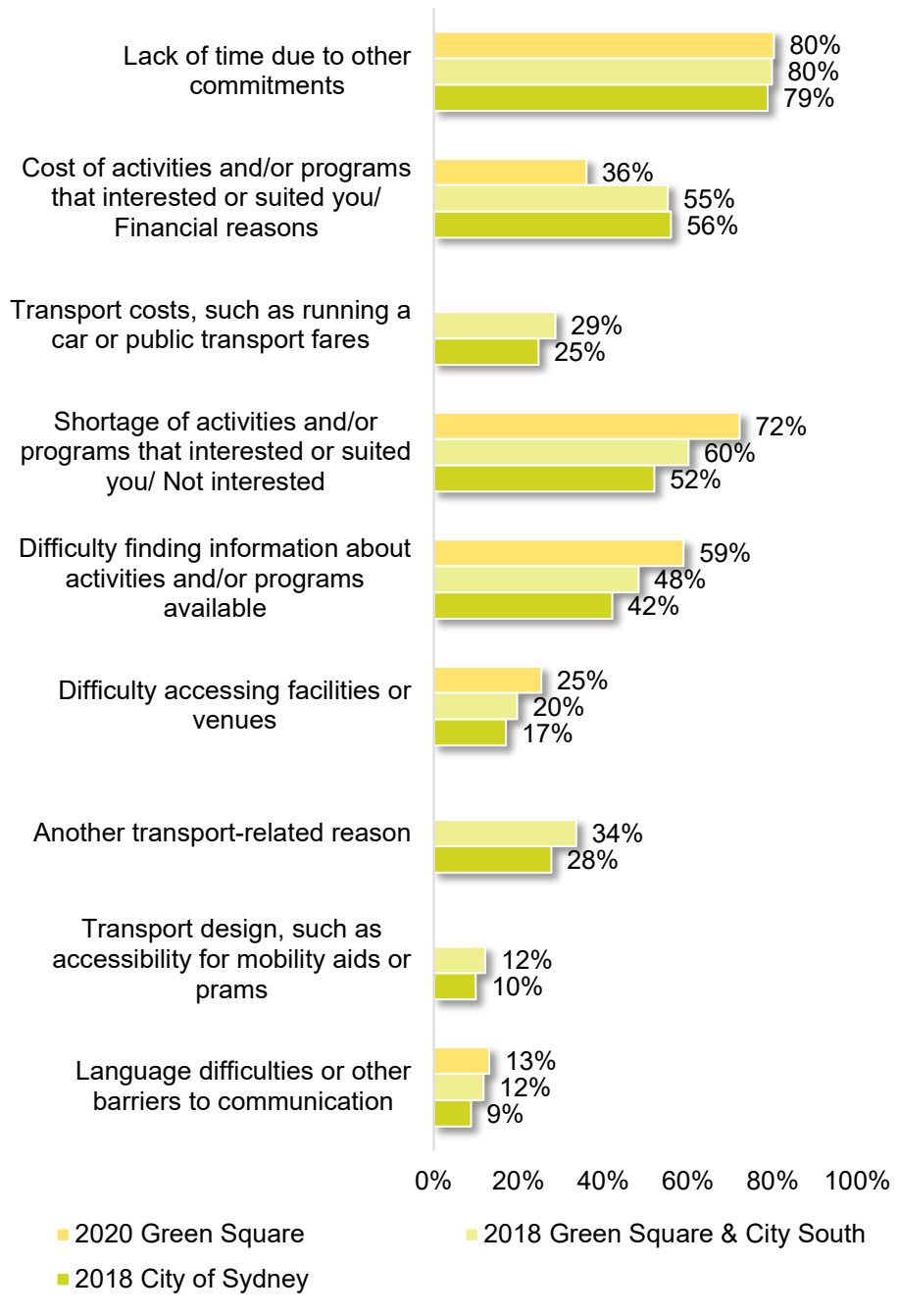
Question 20 – Green Square Survey 2023	Various Studies

• Thinking about your day-to-day life, how easy or not is it to…? (MORI North, 2013)

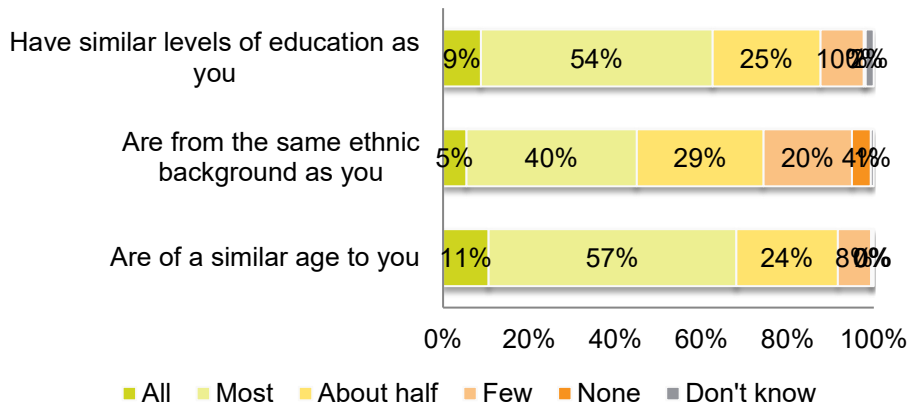
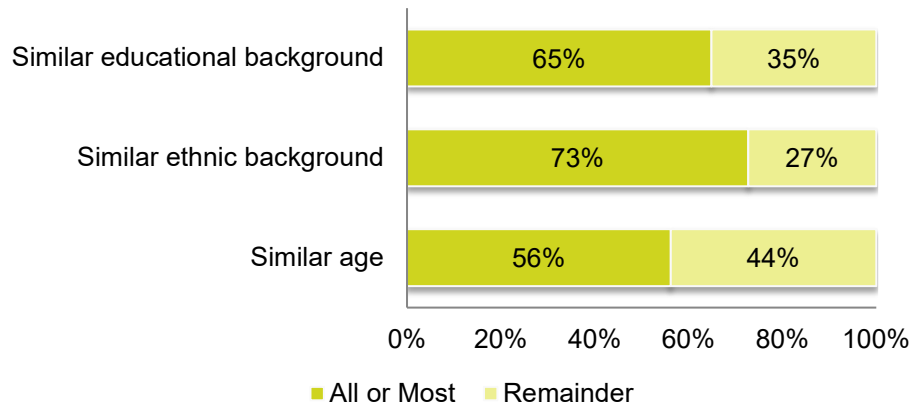


• "People reported that the main barriers to greater participation in local community groups were a lack of time due to work commitments, already volunteering during their spare time, or health reasons" (The Benevolent Society, 2012:8)

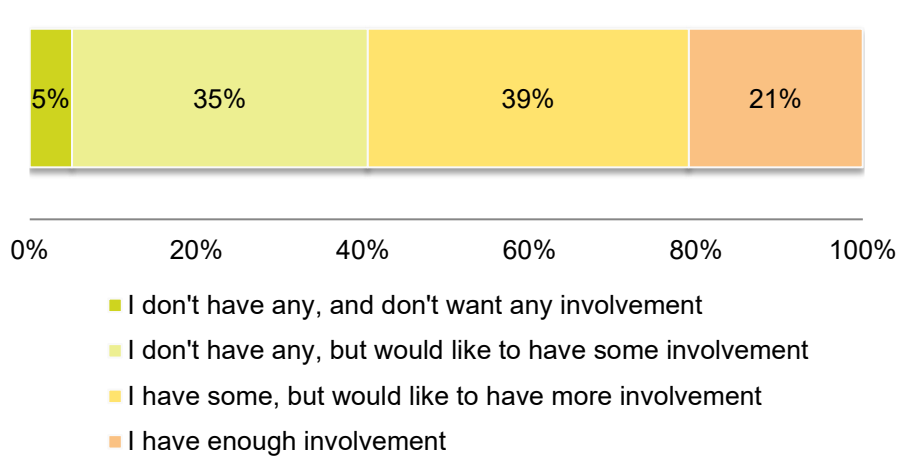
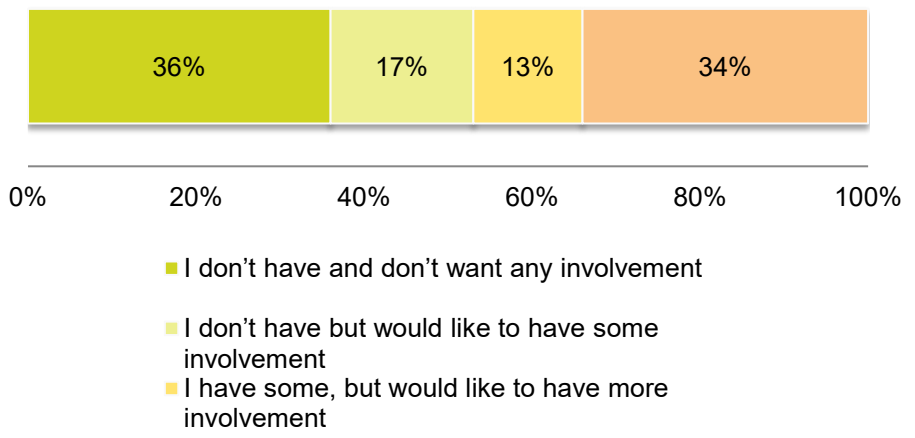
• Barriers limiting participation in the community, including arts and cultural activities - Once or twice or Yes, often responses. For Green Square/City South respondents, and City of Sydney respondents, compared to 2020 My Place Green Square 'all the time/ often/sometimes' responses (City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018)

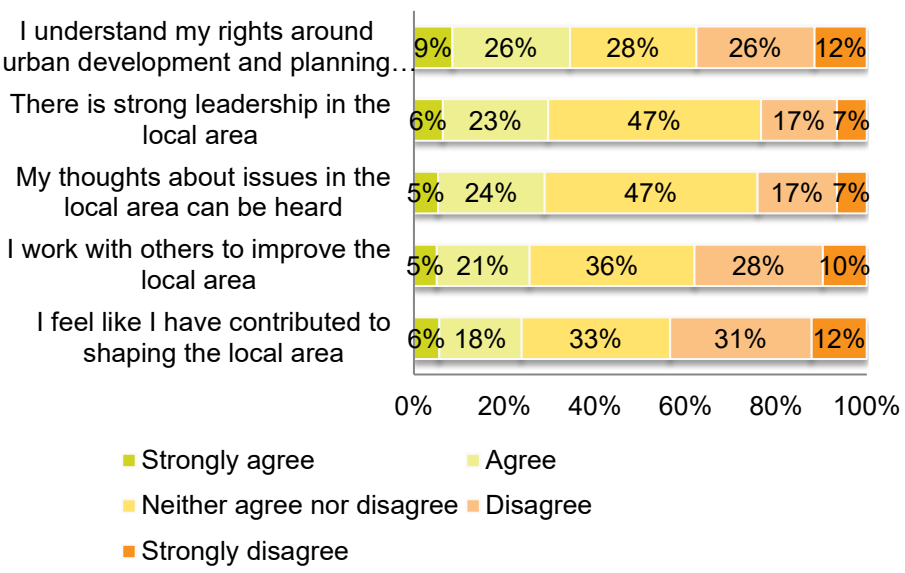
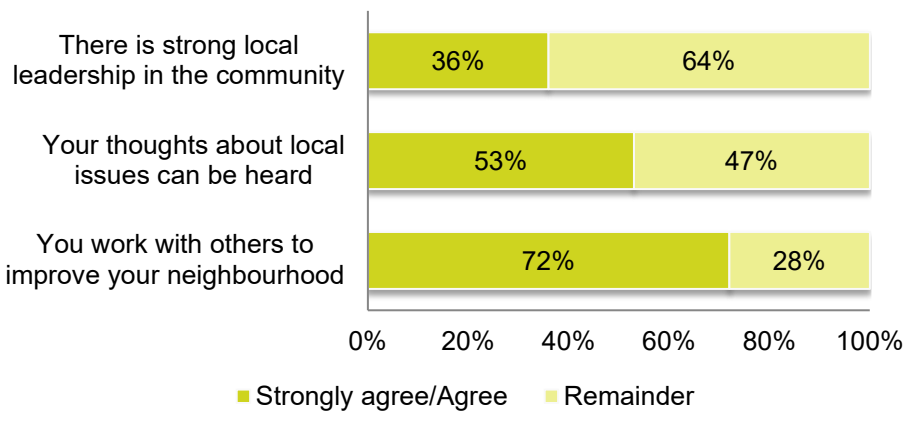


Question 20 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Various Studies**
	Sample: The Benevolent Society (2012) • 157 respondents, a representative sample of residents of Tenterfield Statistical Local Area, NSW (population 6,800), through CATI interviews. Data collected 2011-2012. MORI North (2006) • 2,262 stratified random sample of total population of residents in the Borough of Oldham (population 225,000), UK, response rate 24%. Data collected 2005/2006. MORI North (2013) • 2,862 stratified random sample of total population of residents in Oldham Borough (total population, UK, response rate 12%. Data collected 2013. City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey (2018) • 6,904 respondents across the LGA and 739 respondents from Green Square and South Sydney, from a survey sent to 100,000 households in the City of Sydney local government area which was also promoted online and available in 5 languages other than English. Data collected 2018.

Question 22 – Green Square Survey 2023	**General Social Survey (2010)**
Of your friends, how many…? (n = various, 1492-1494)	How many of your friends…?
	
	Sample: Australian General Social Survey (2010) • 15,028 randomly selected respondents across Australia (population 22,342,000), response rate 87.6%. Data collected 2010.

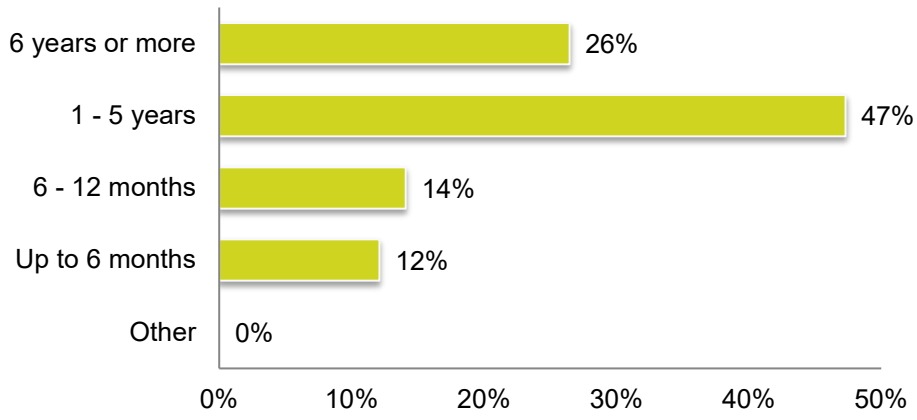
Question 23 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Sweeney Research Redfern/Waterloo Benchmarking Survey (2011)**
How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people	How would you best describe your level of community involvement in the

Question 23 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Sweeney Research Redfern/Waterloo Benchmarking Survey (2011)**
who live or work in the area? (n = 1494)	last 12 months in your local area?
	
	Sample: Redfern/Waterloo Benchmarking Survey (2011) • 752 public housing tenant respondents from Redfern/Waterloo, NSW. Data collected 2010.

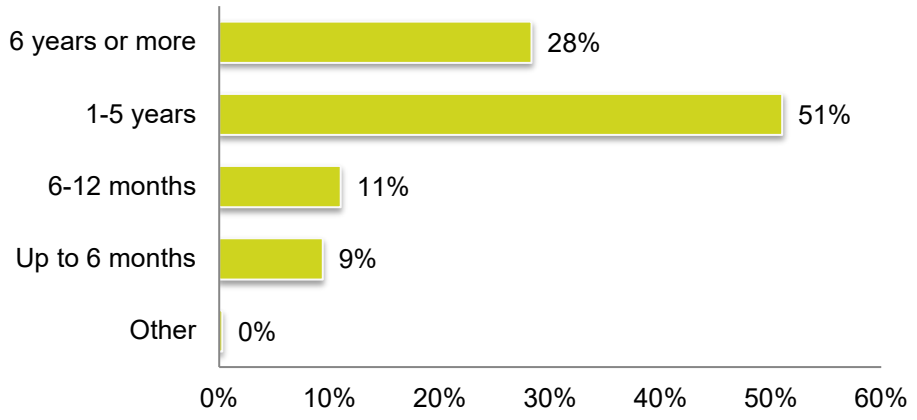
Question 25 – Green Square Survey 2023	**Sweeney Research Redfern/Waterloo Benchmarking Survey (2011)**
To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (n = various, 1492-1493)	Agree/Disagree scale to statements
	
	Sample: Redfern/Waterloo Benchmarking Survey (2011) • 752 public housing tenant respondents from Redfern/Waterloo, NSW (public housing population 4,400). Data collected 2010.

Appendix 7: **Selected 2017 and 2020 survey results for comparison with 2023 survey results for Green Square residents**

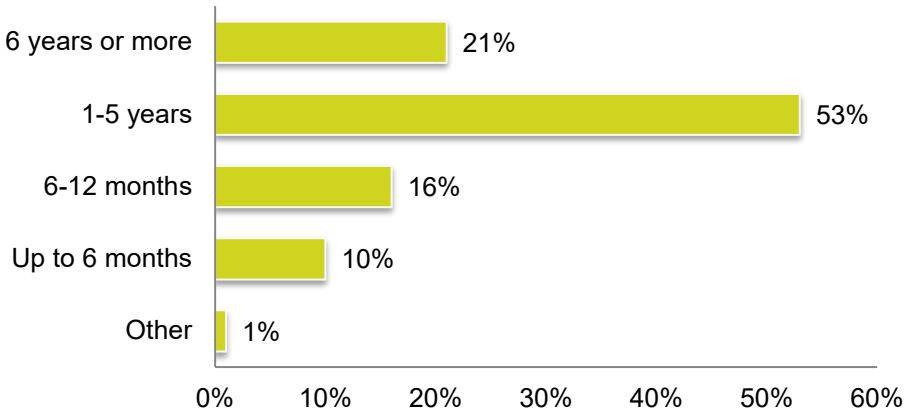
2023 Question 2 - How long have you lived in the area? (n = 1497)



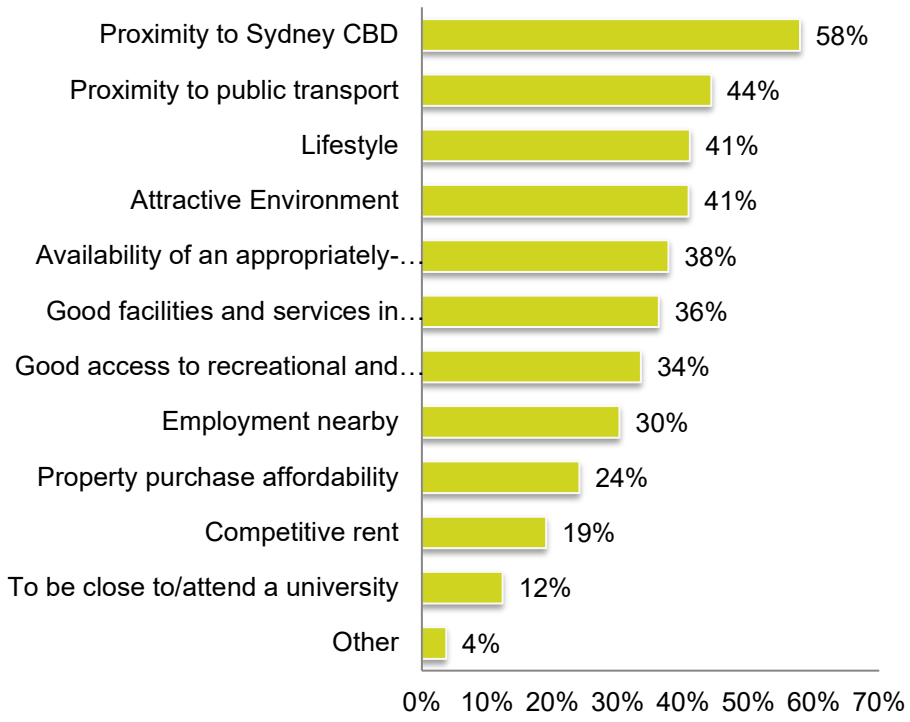
2020 Question 2 - How long have you lived in the area? (n = 1105)



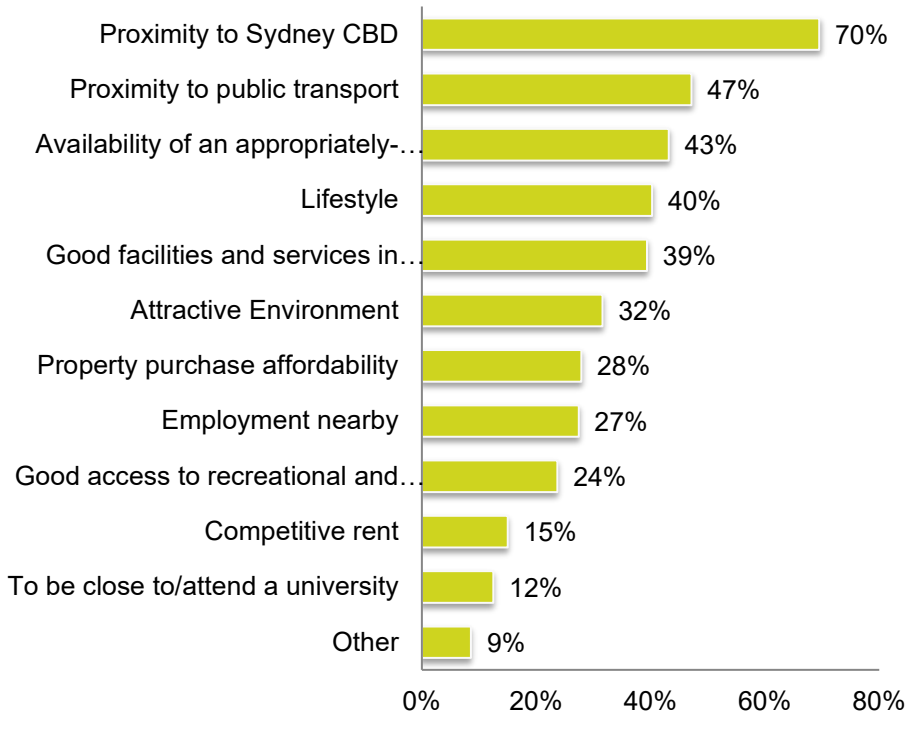
2017 Question 2 - How long have you lived in the area? (n = 995)



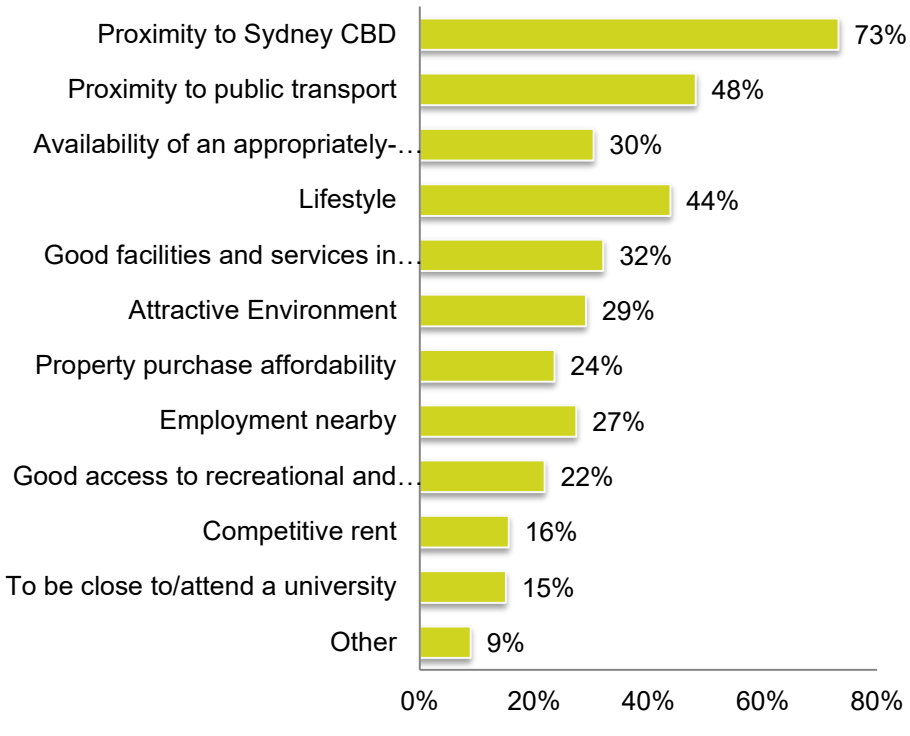
2023 Question 3 - Why did you move to the area? (n = 1497)



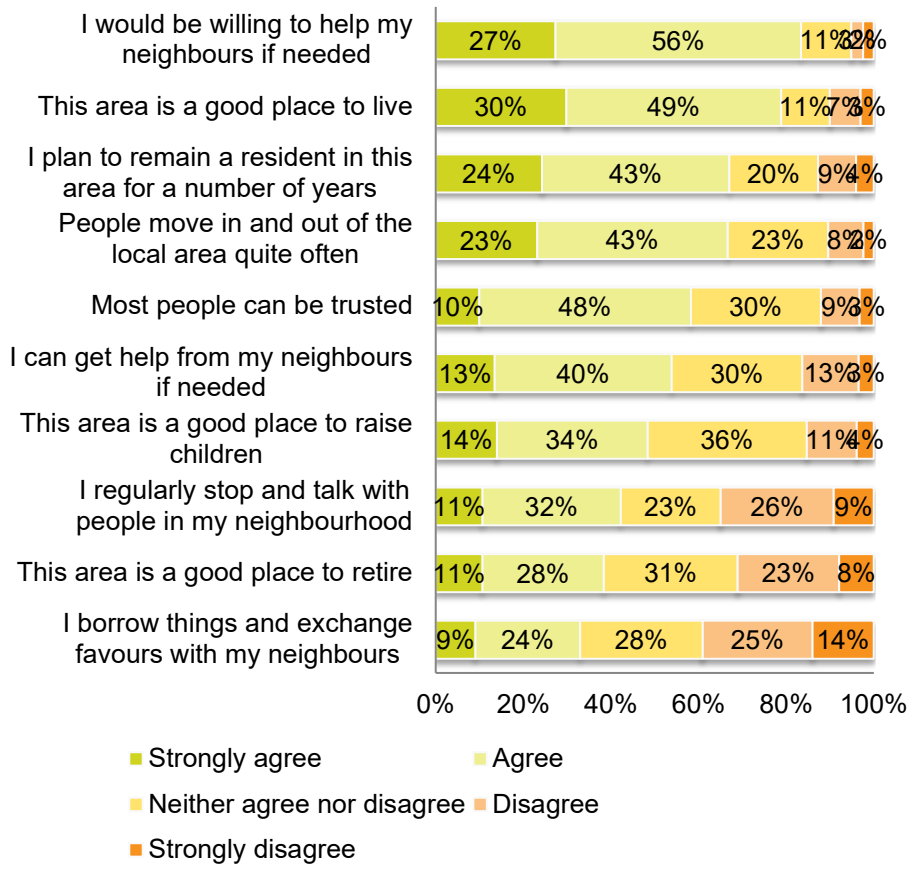
2020 Question 3 - Why did you move to the area? (n = 1105)



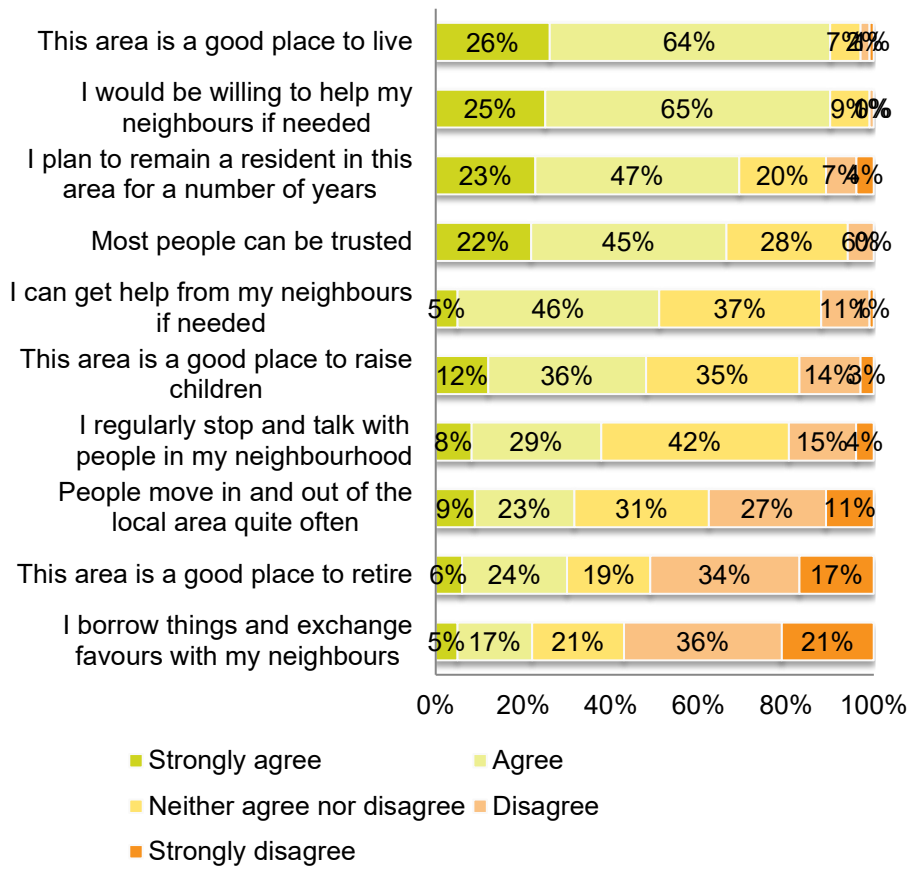
2017 Question 3 - Why did you move to the area? (n = 997)



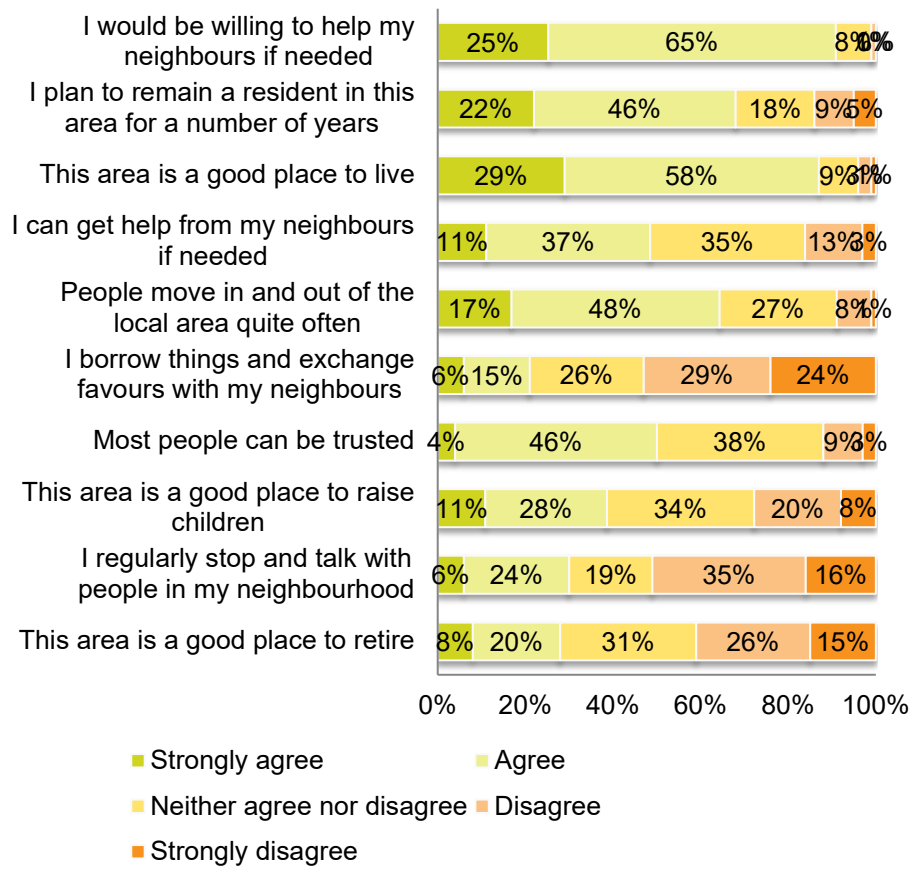
2023 Question 6 - To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = various, 1495-1497)



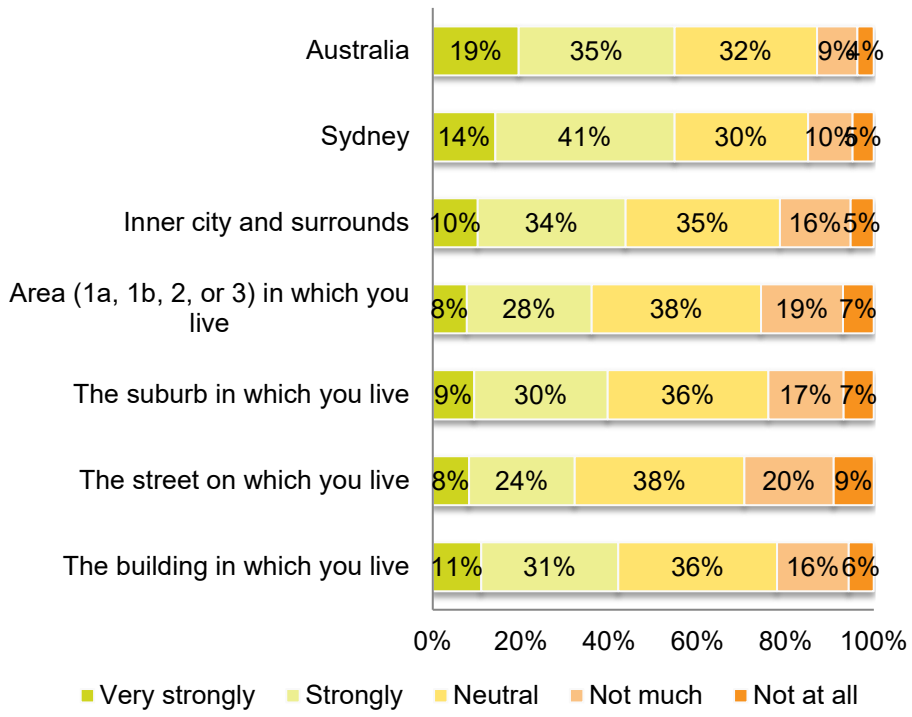
2020 Question 6 - To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = various, 1092-1100)



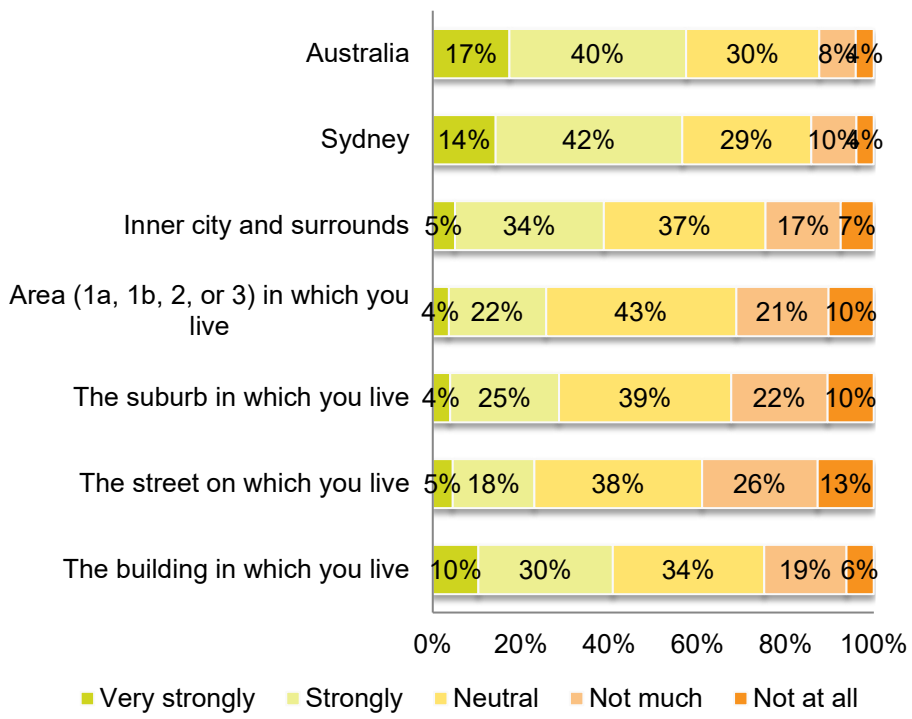
2017 Question 6 - To what extent do you agree with the following statements about where you live? (n = various, 980-990)



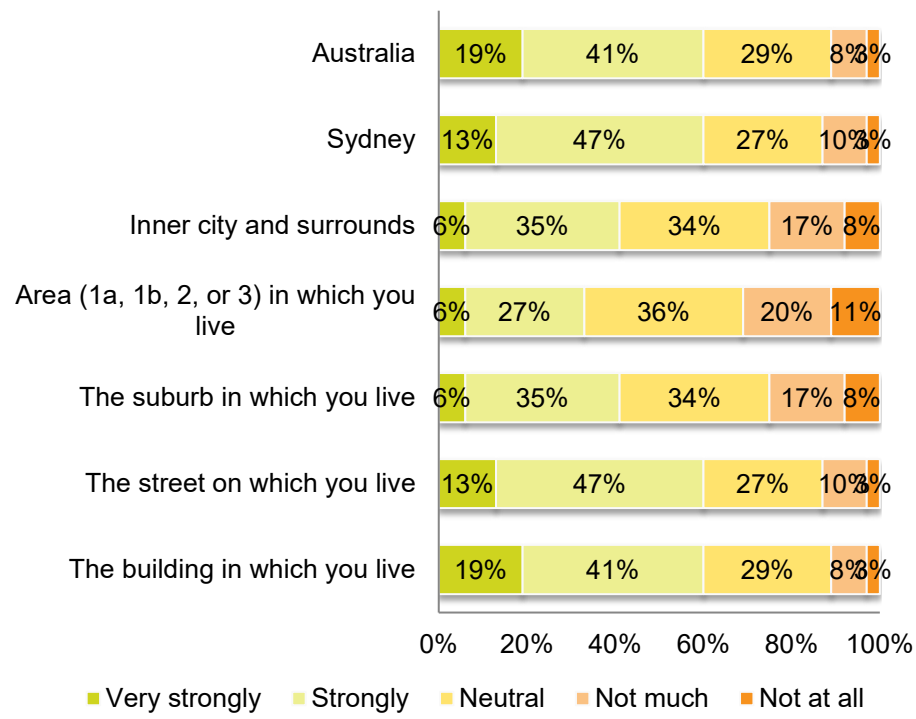
2023 Question 7 - To what extent do you feel that you are part of the community in…? (n = various, 1495-1497)



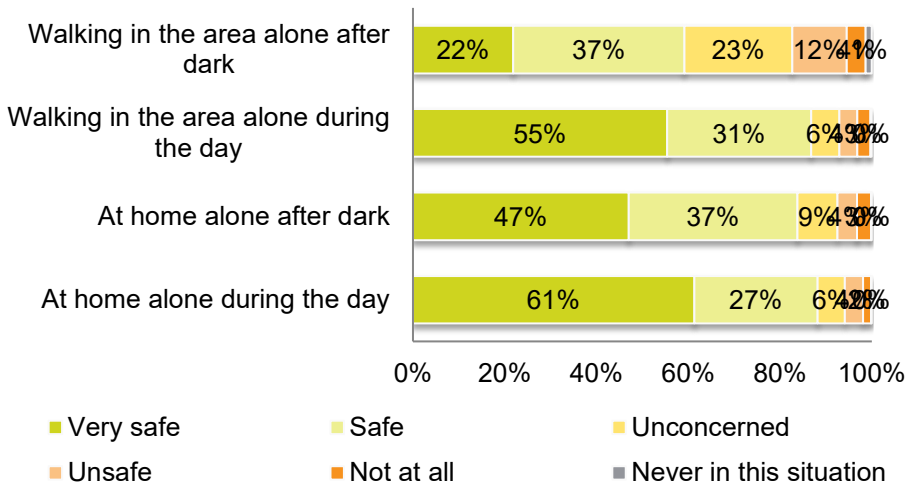
2020 Question 7 - To what extent do you feel that you are part of the community in…? (n = various, 1090-1100)



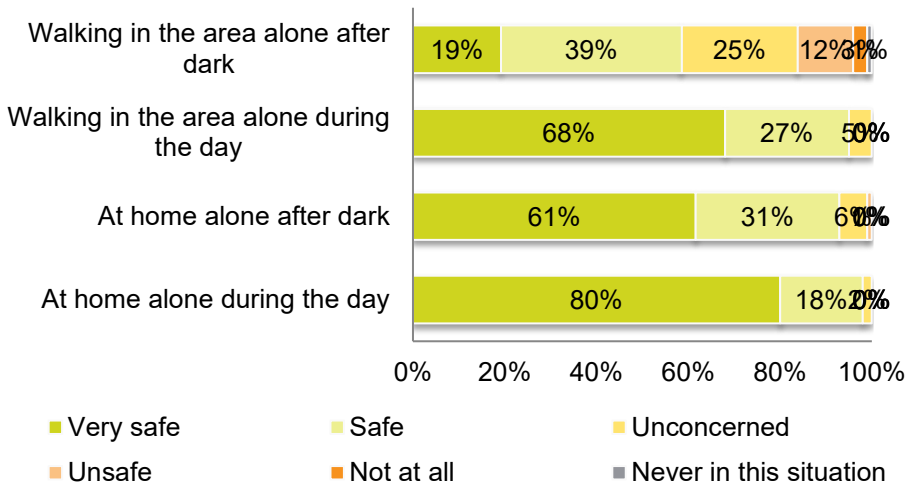
2017 Question 7 - To what extent do you feel that you are part of the community in…? (n = various, 975-985)



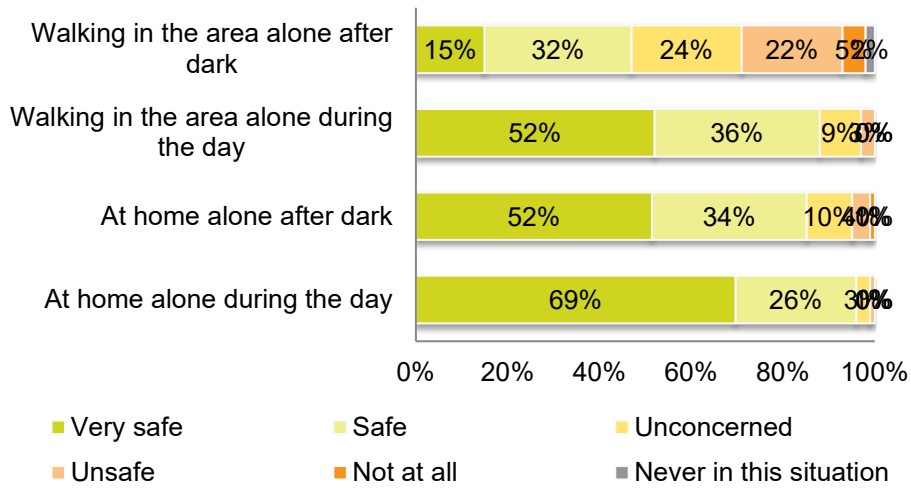
2023 Question 15 - How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? (n = 1497)



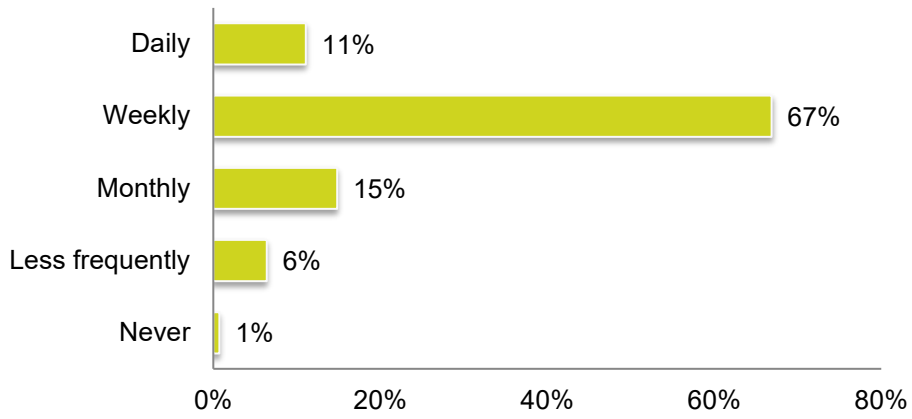
2020 Question 15 - How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? (n = various, 1101-1103)



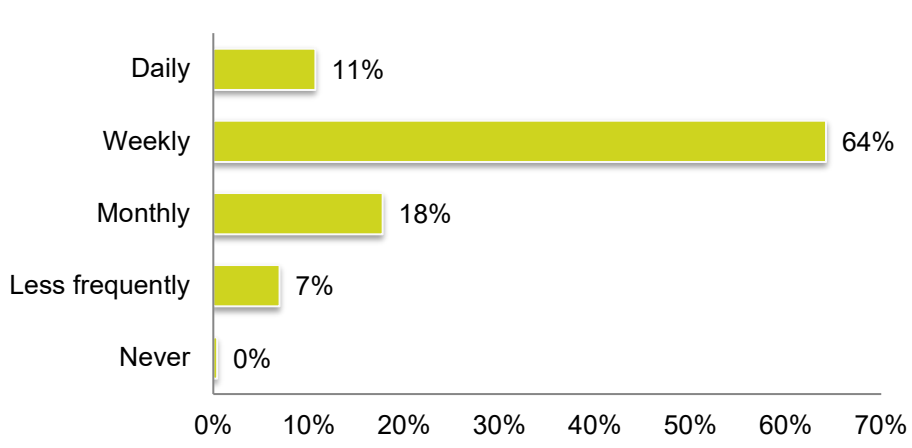
2017 Question 15 - How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations? (n = various, 495-976)



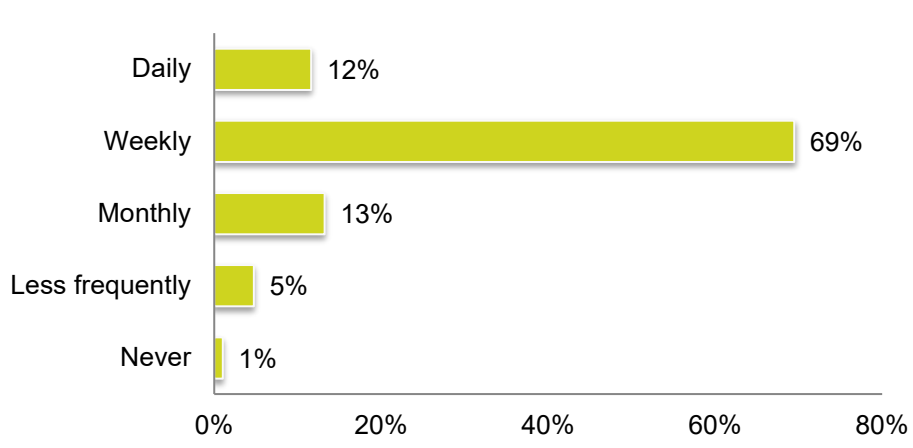
2023 Question 17 - How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues? At least… (n = 1497)



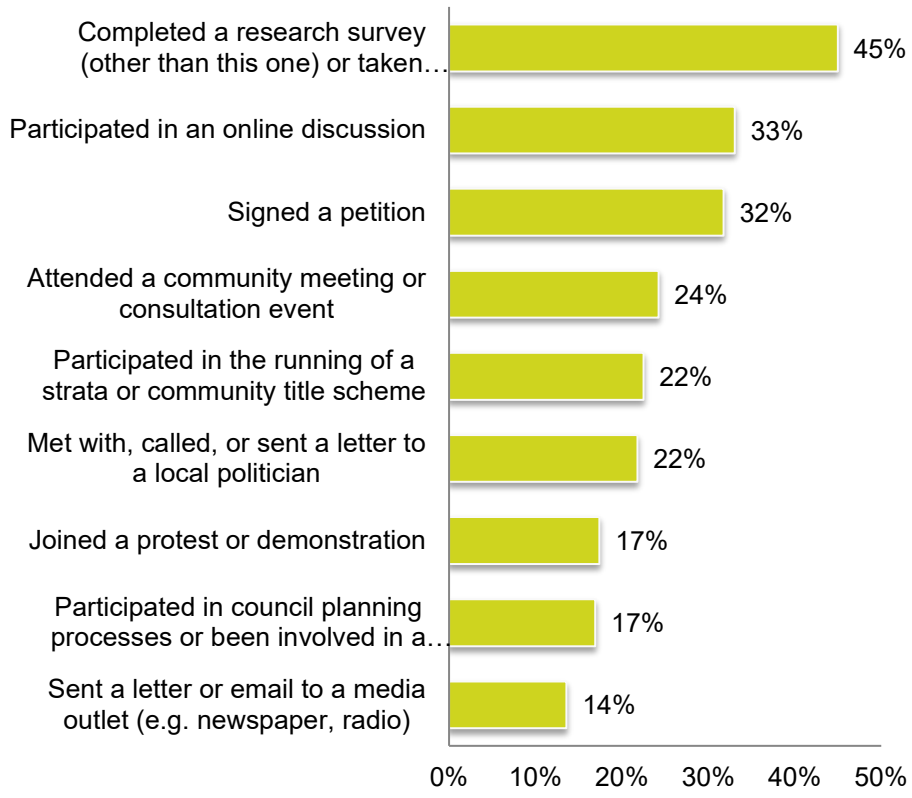
2020 Question 17 - How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues? At least… (n = 1093)



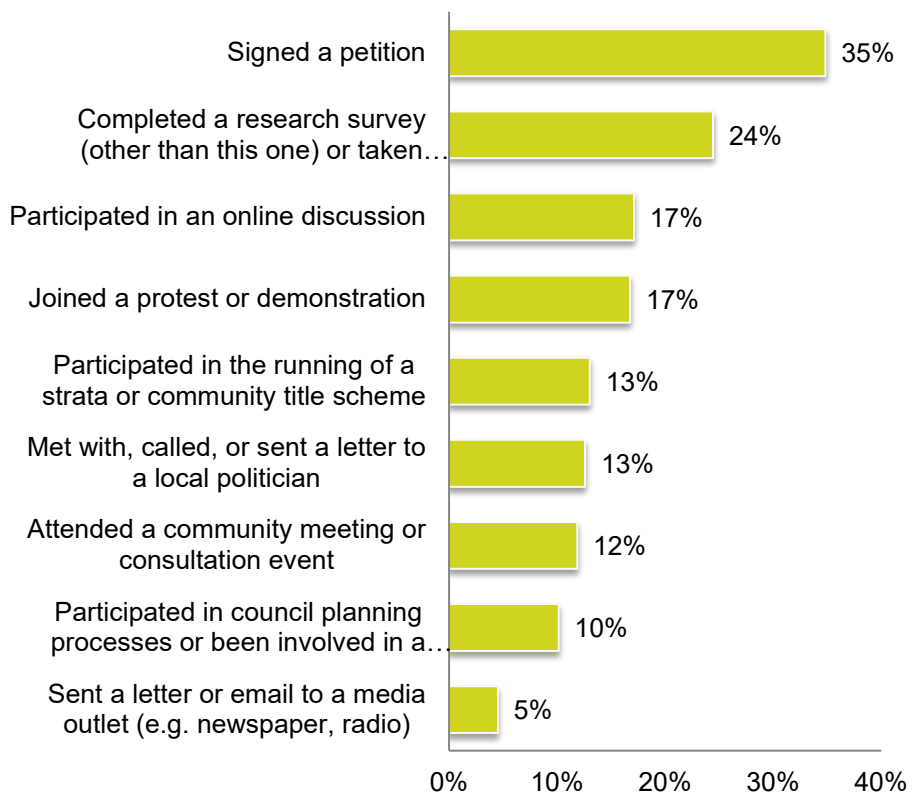
2017 Question 17 - How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues? At least… (n = 992)



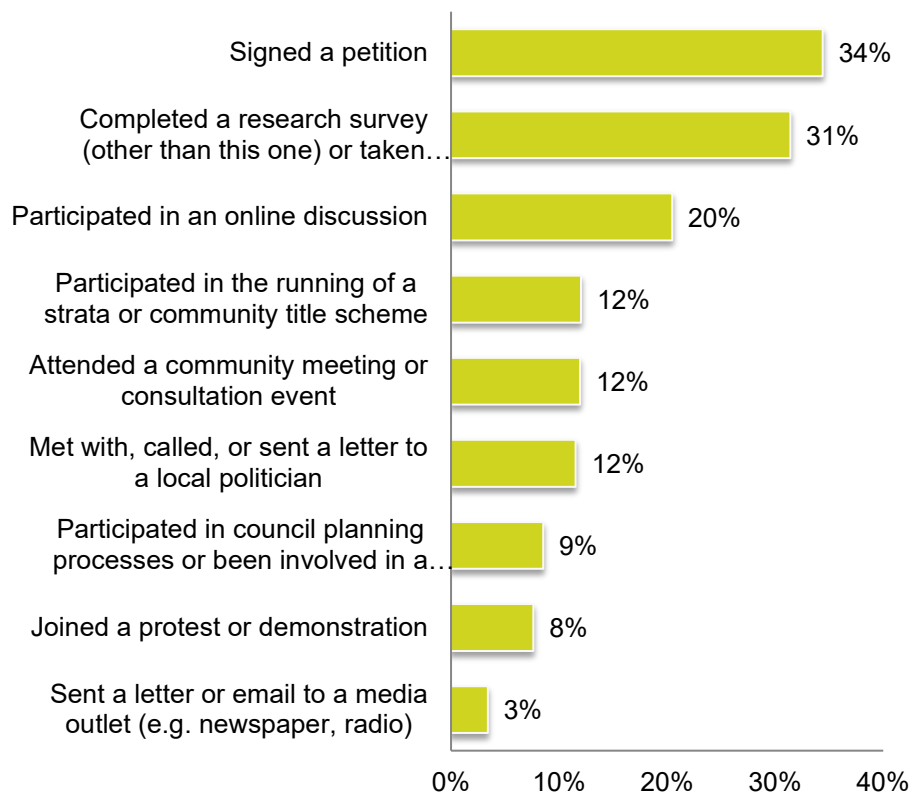
2023 Question 19 - In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (n = 1023)



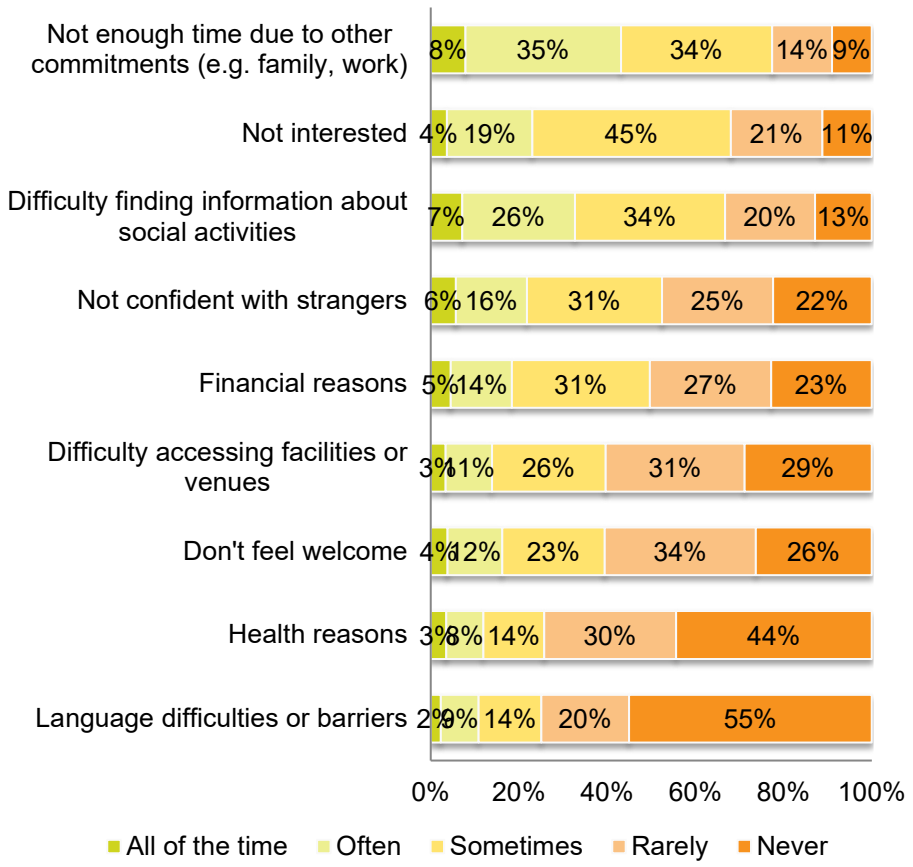
2020 Question 19 - In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (n = 1105)



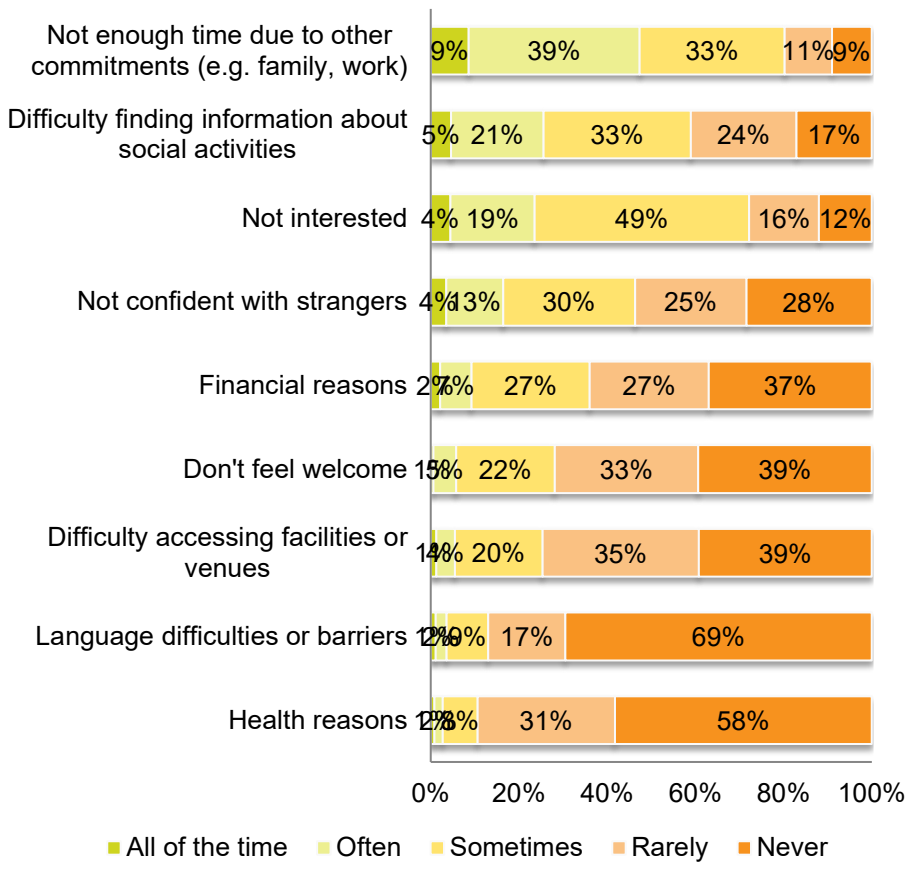
2017 Question 19 - In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (n = 997)



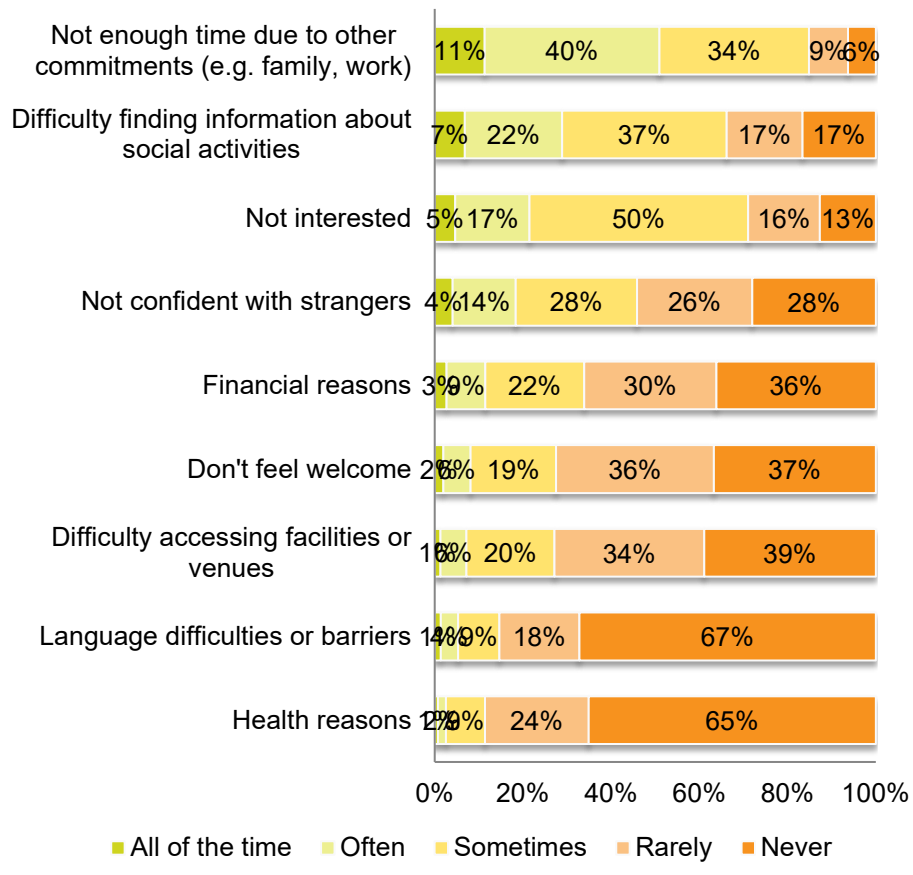
2023 Question 20 - Do any of the following limit you from socialising or participating in organised social activities in the area? (n = various, 1486-1490)



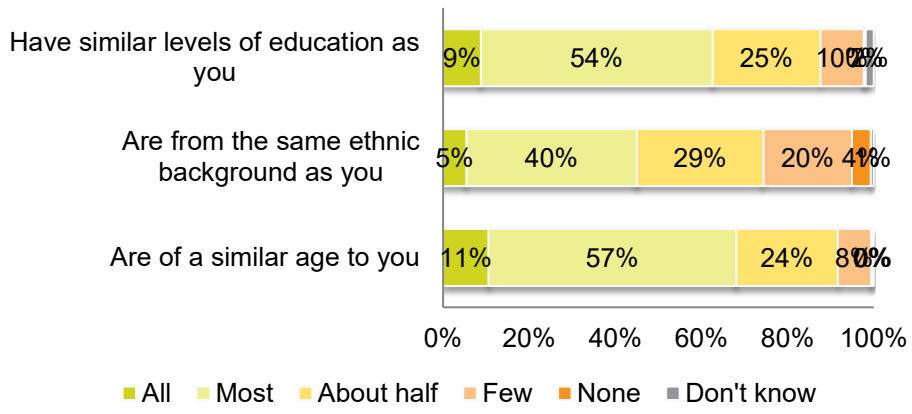
2020 Question 20 - Do any of the following limit you from socialising or participating in organised social activities in the area? (n = various, 981-1031)



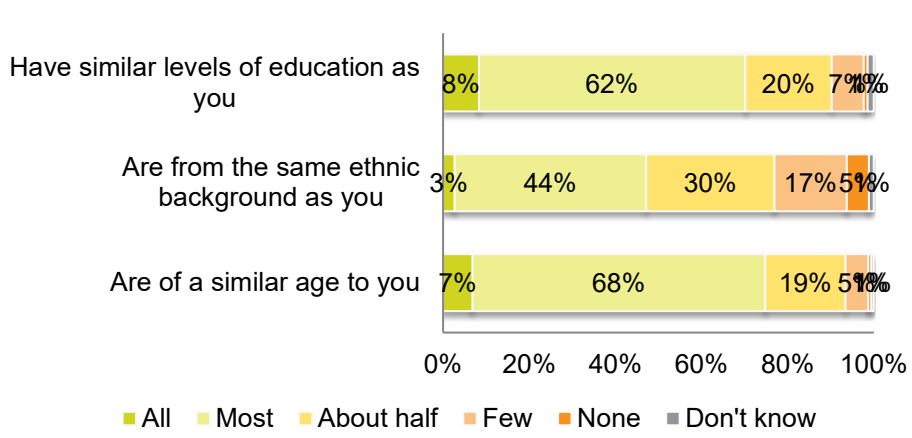
2017 Question 20 - Do any of the following limit you from socialising or participating in organised social activities in the area? (n = various, 920-952)



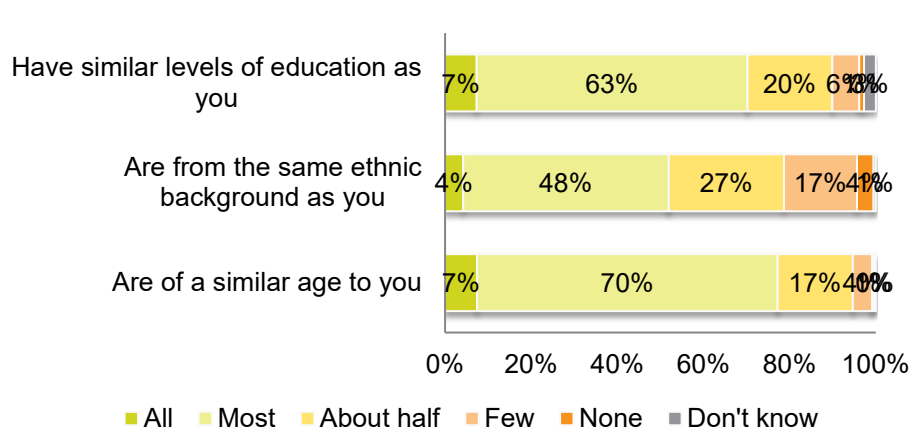
2023 Question 22 - Of your friends, how many…? (n = various, 1492-1494)



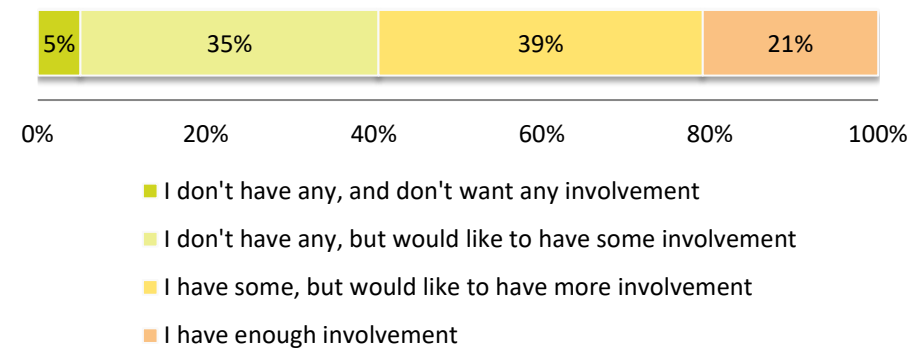
2020 Question 22 - Of your friends, how many…? (n = various, 1084-1089)



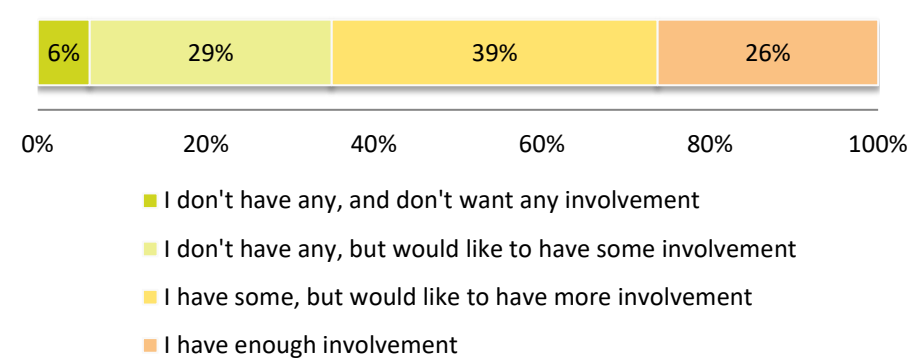
2017 Question 22 - Of your friends, how many…? (n = various, 977-988)



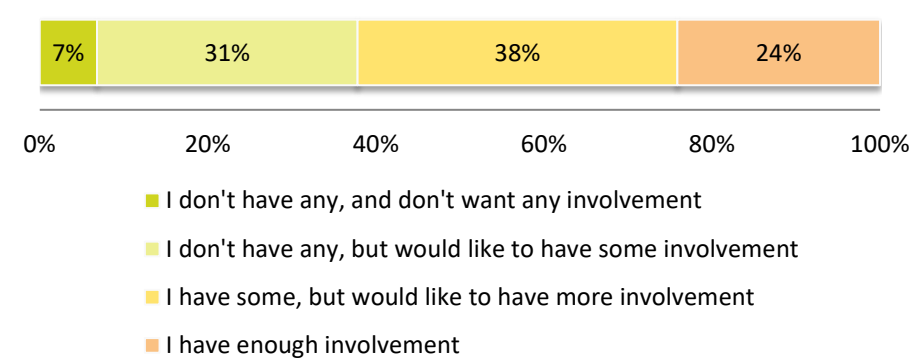
2023 Question 23 - How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (n = 1494)



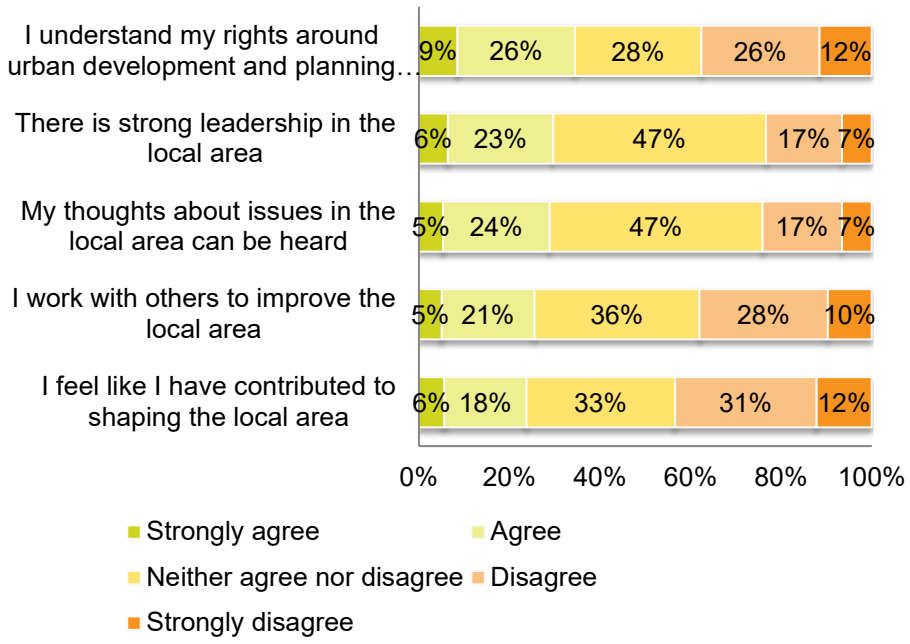
2020 Question 23 - How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (n = 1085)



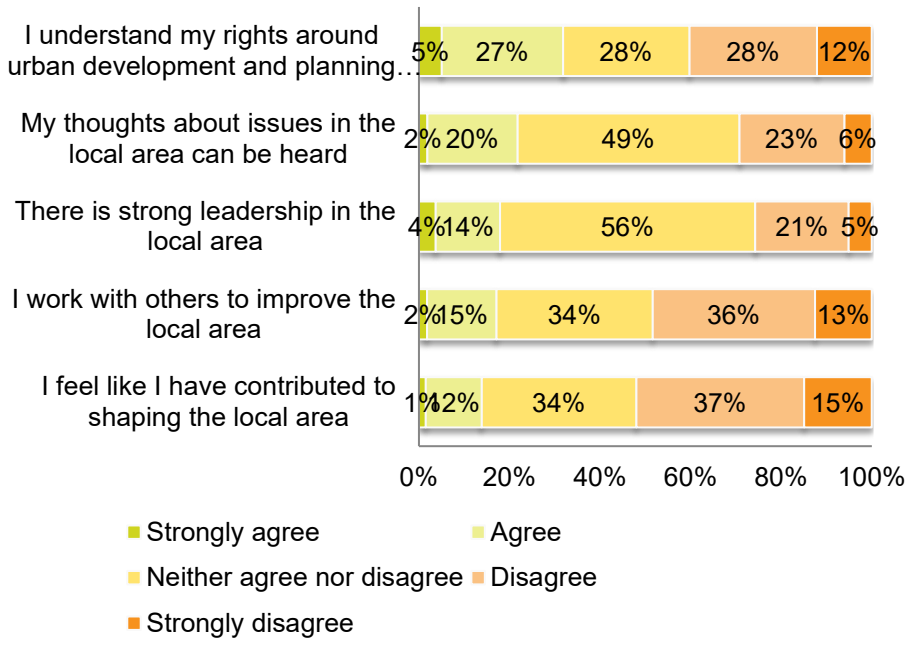
2017 Question 23 - How would you best describe your level of interaction with other people who live or work in the area? (n = 986)



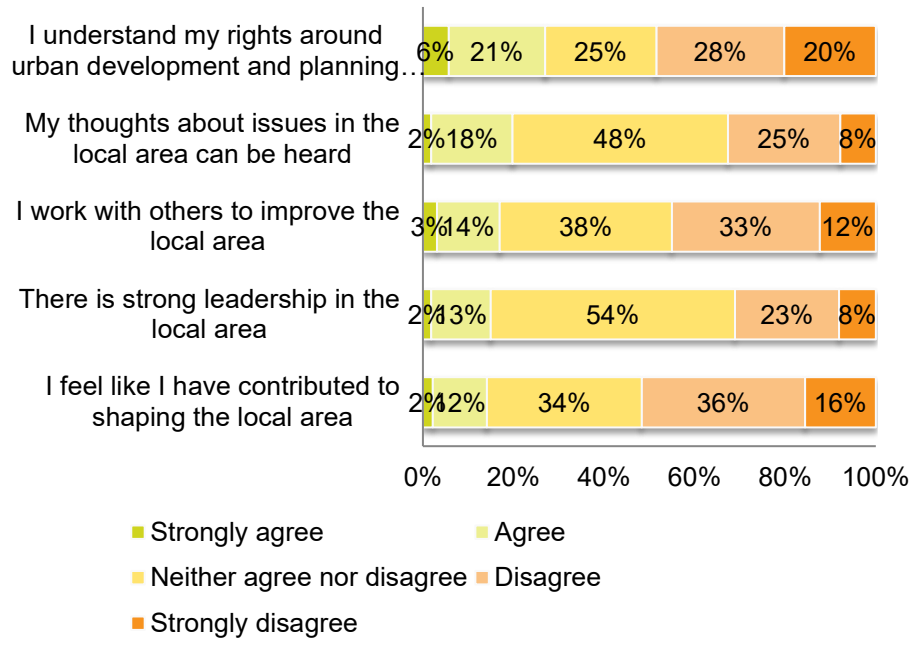
2023 Question 25 - To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (n = various, 1492-1493)



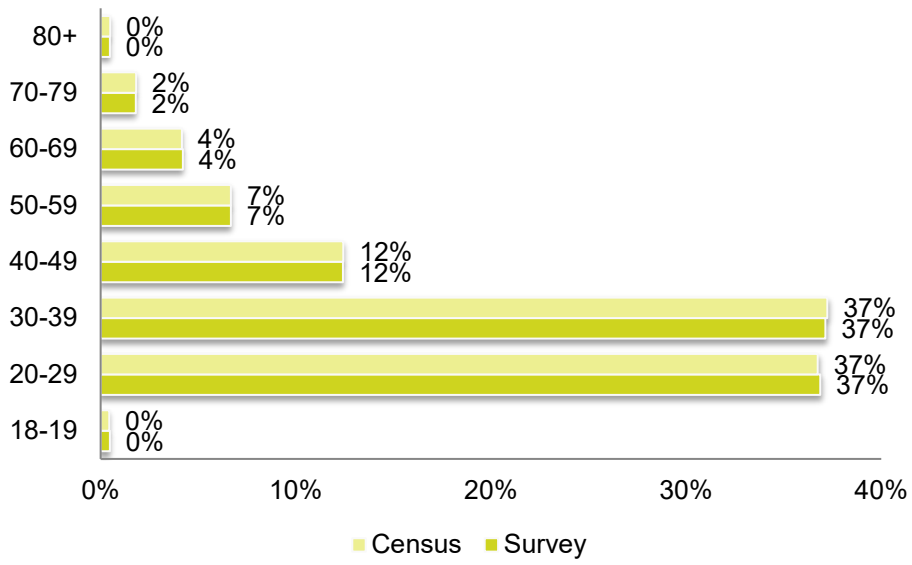
2020 Question 25 - To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (n = various, 1076-1084)



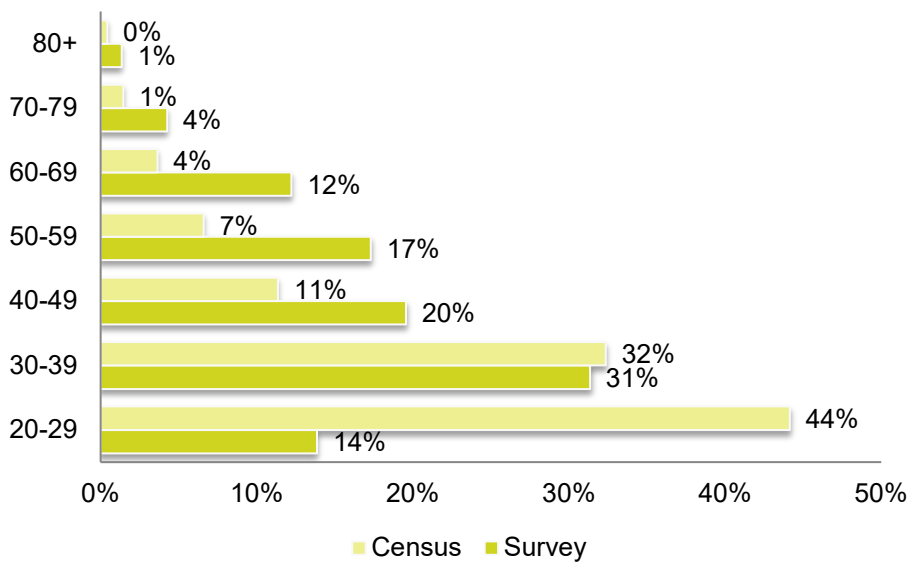
2017 Question 25 - To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (n = various, 978-1068)



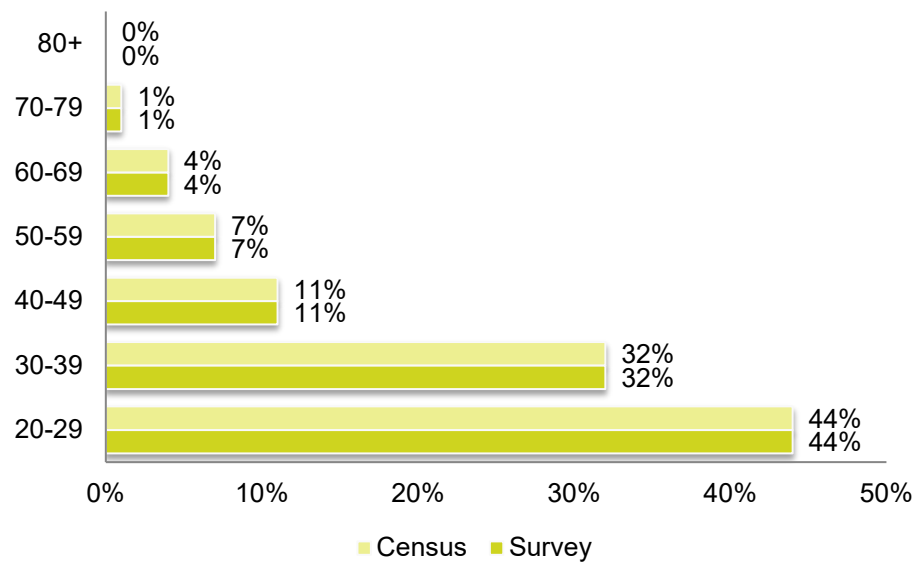
2023 Question 26 - What is your age group? (n = 1497)



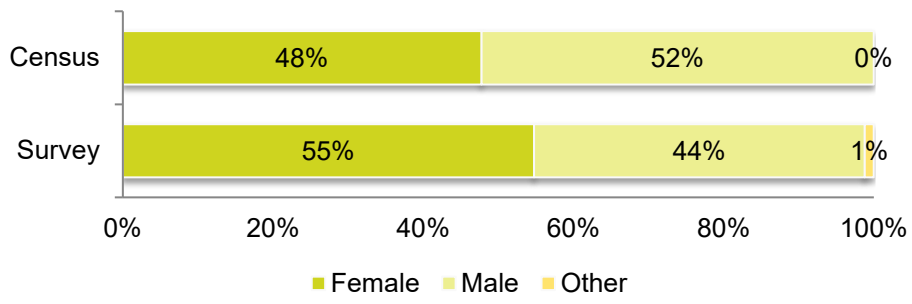
2020 Question 26 - What is your age group? (n = 1105)



2017 Question 26 - What is your age group? (n = 989)

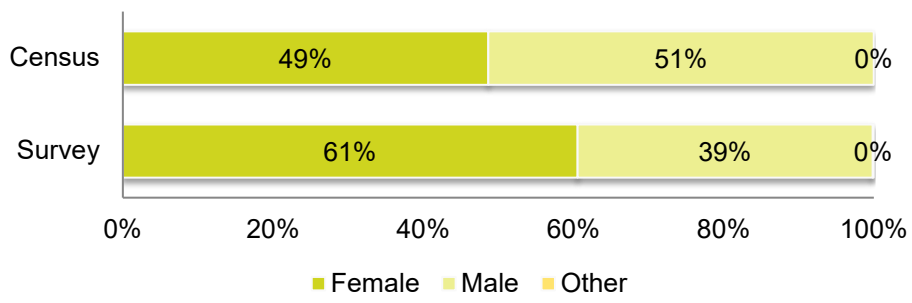


2023 Question 27 – How do you describe your gender? (n = 1492)

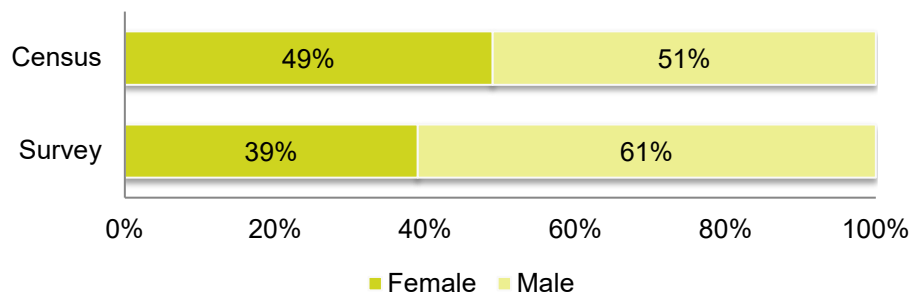


Note: The focus of the question changed from respondents' sex (2017 and 2020) to gender identification (2023). These results should, therefore, not be taken as directly comparable.

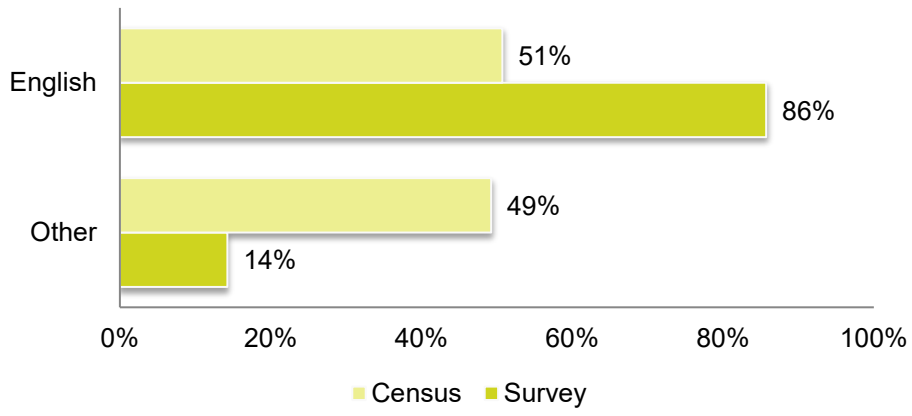
2020 Question 27 - Are you …? (n = 1100)



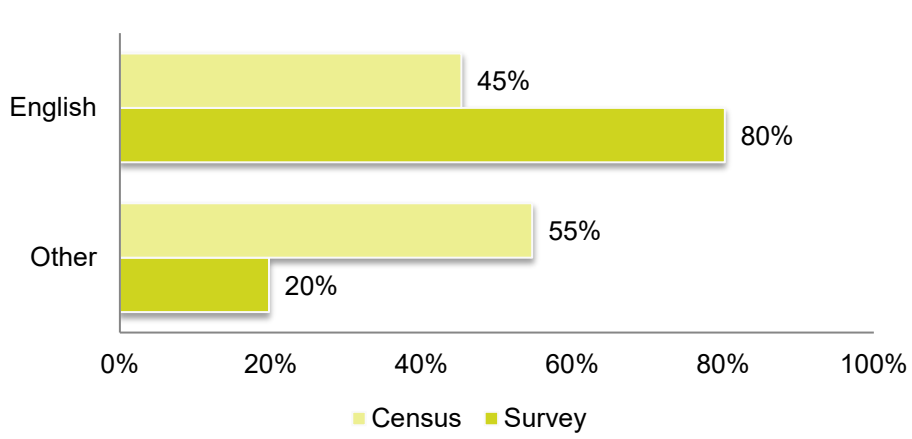
2017 Question 27 - Are you …? (n = 986)



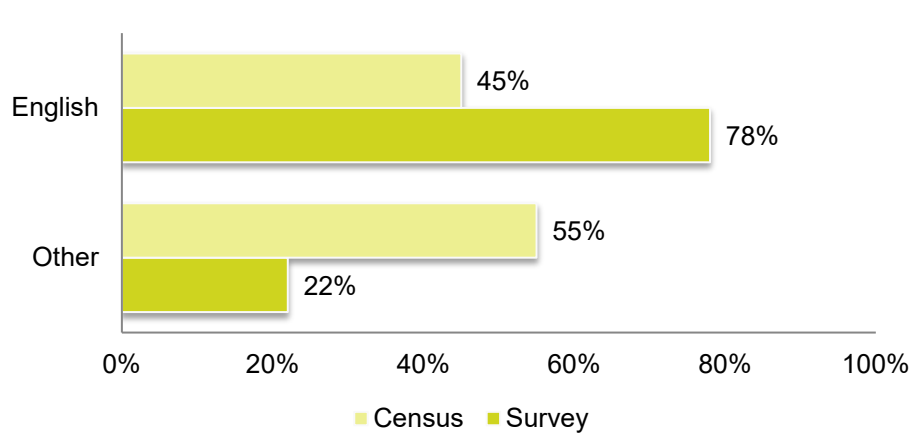
2023 Question28 - What is the main language spoken in your home? (n = 1465)



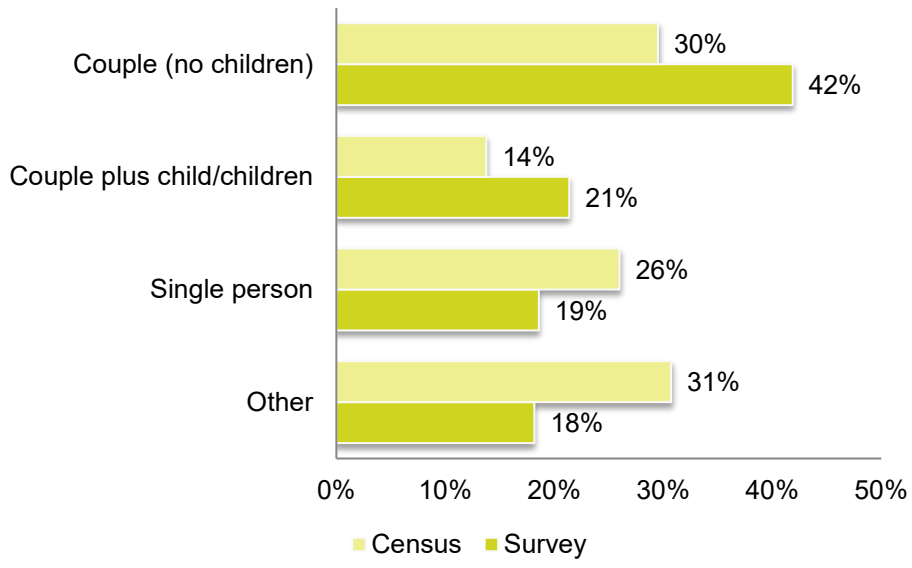
2020 Question 28 - What is the main language spoken in your home? (n = 1105)



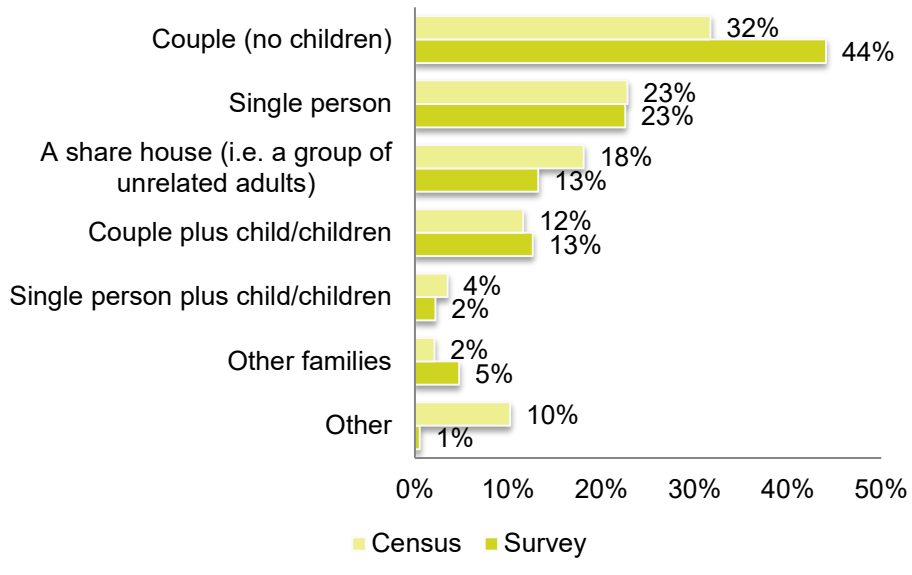
2017 Question 28 - What is the main language spoken in your home? (n = 978)



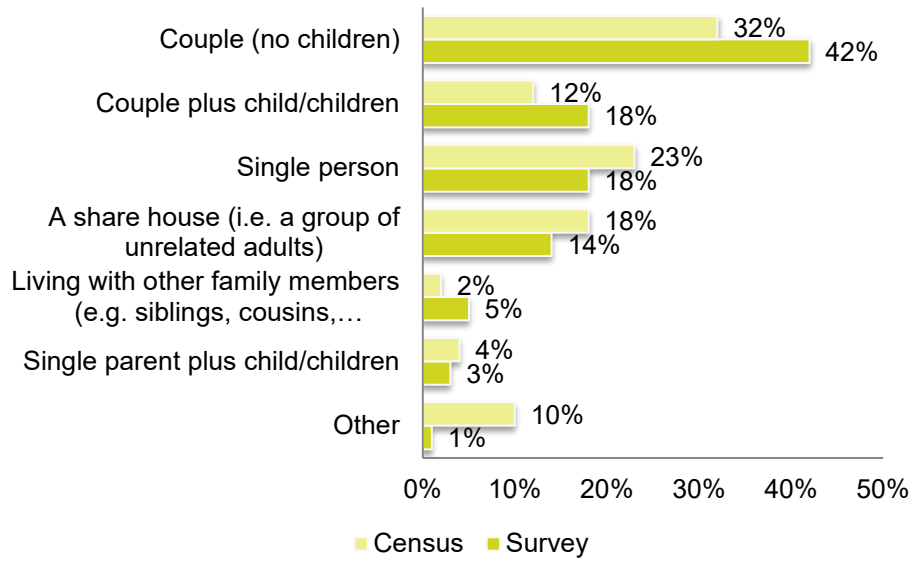
2023 Question 29 - How would you best describe your household? (n = 1497)



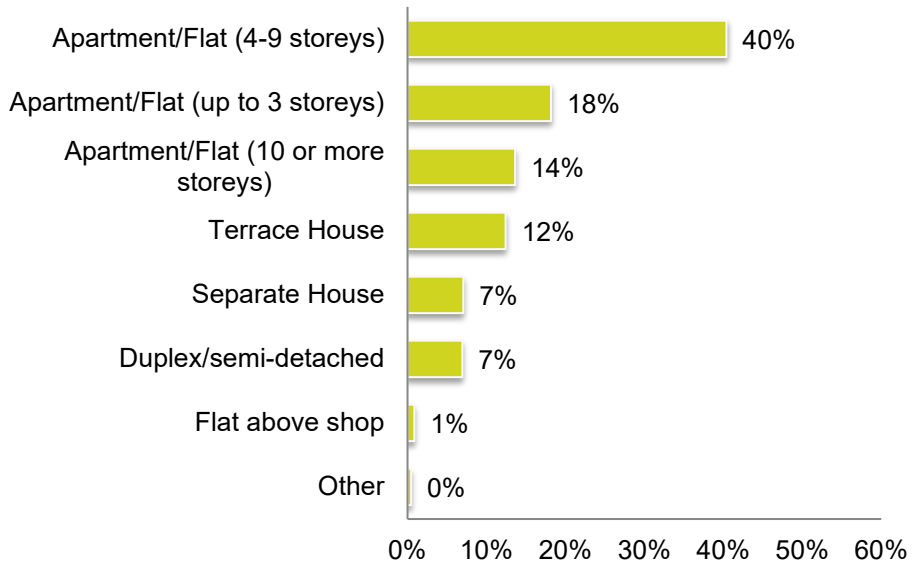
2020 Question 29 - How would you best describe your household? (n = 1101)



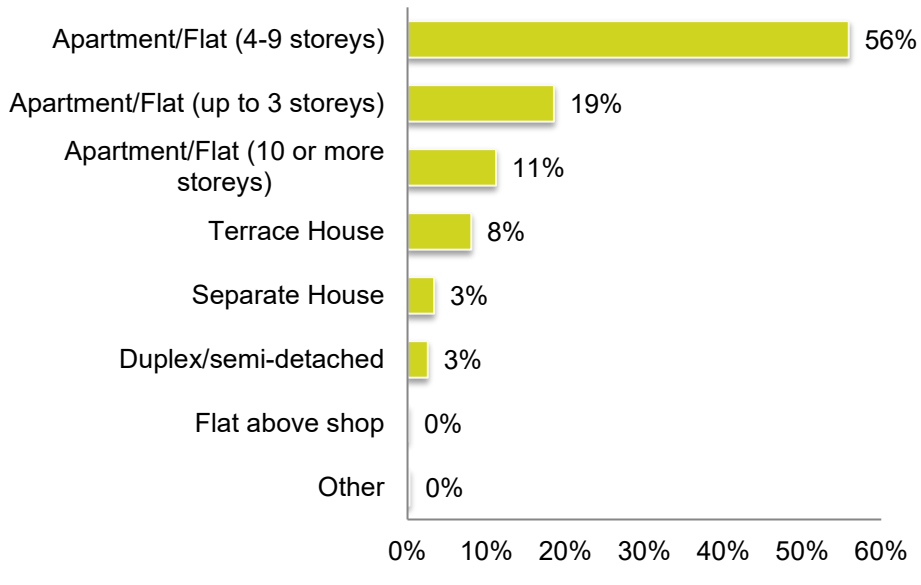
2017 Question 29 - How would you best describe your household? (n = 992)



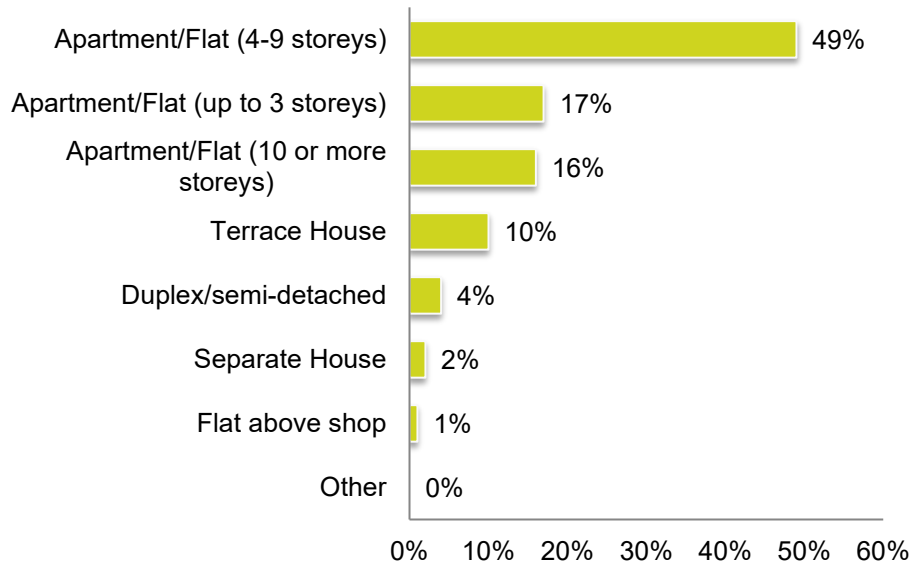
2023 Question 32 - Which of these best describes the property you currently live in? (n = 1497)



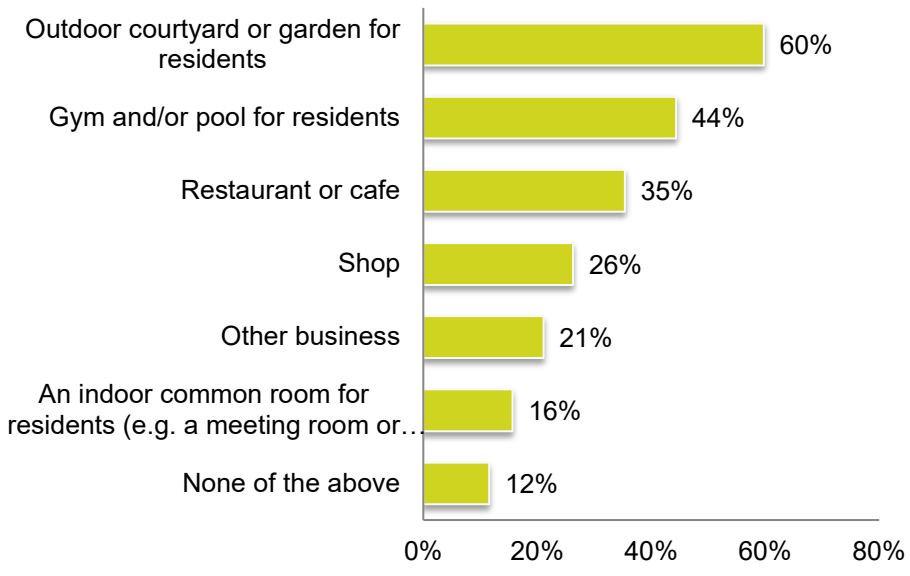
2020 Question 32 - Which of these best describes the property you currently live in? (n = 1103)



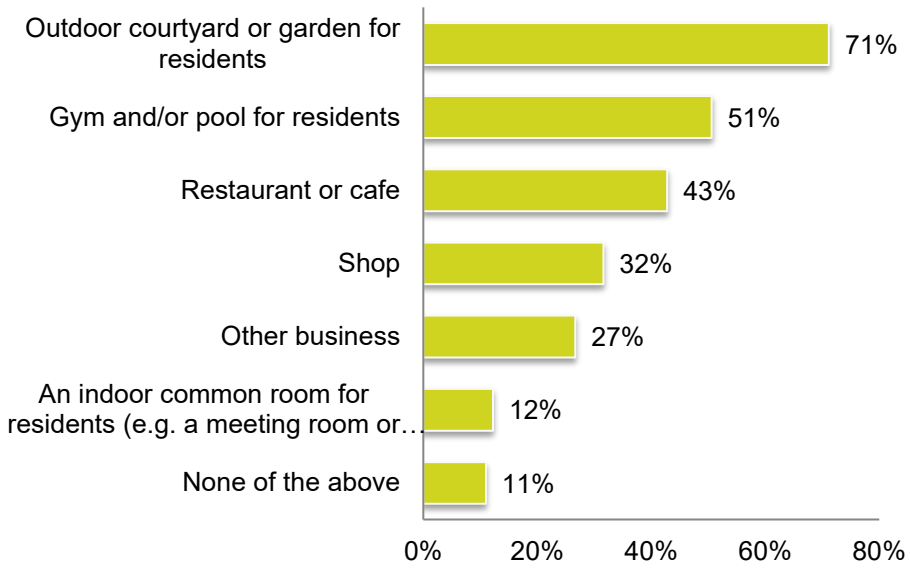
2017 Question 32 - Which of these best describes the property you currently live in? (n = 990)



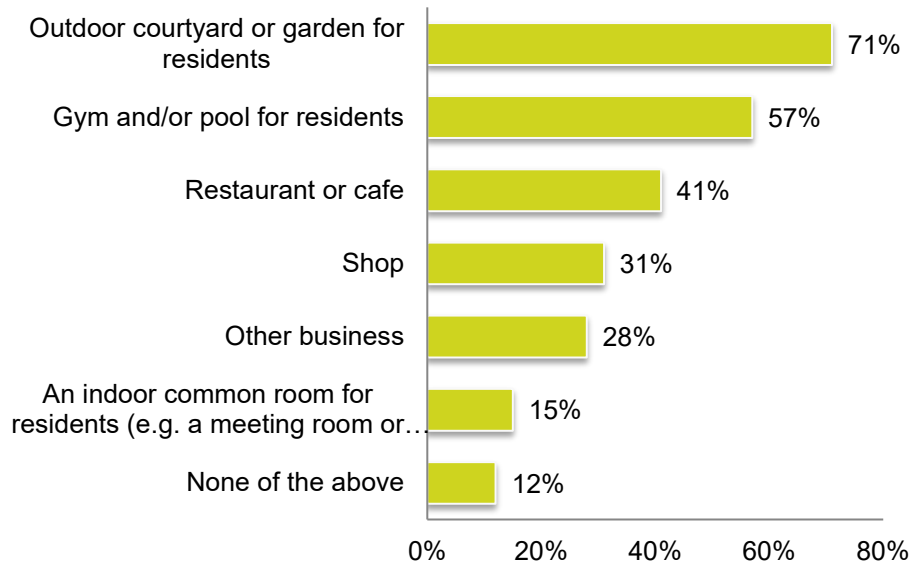
2023 Question 33 - Are there any of the following in your building? (n = 1100)



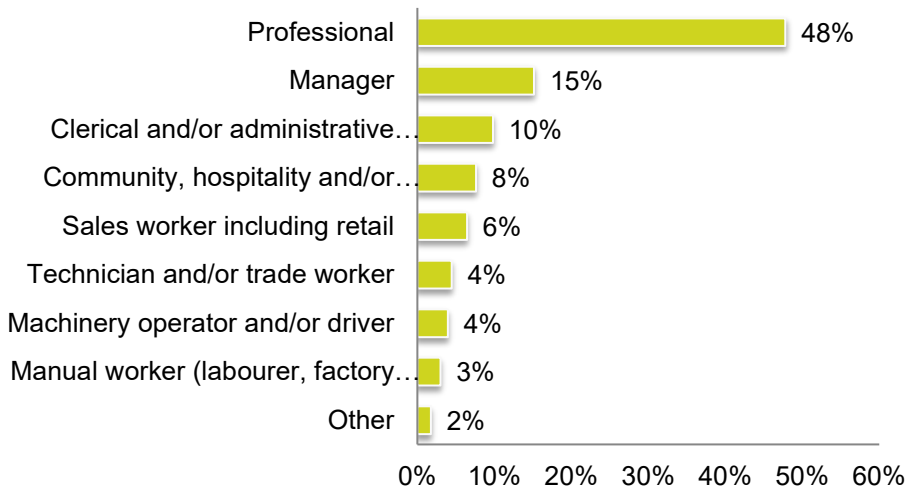
2020 Question 33 - Are there any of the following in your building? (n = 948)



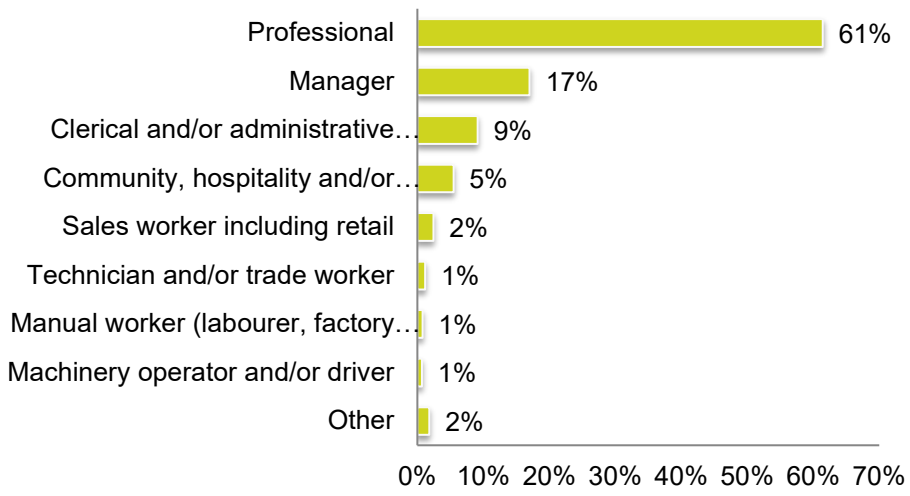
2017 Question 33 - Are there any of the following in your building? (n = 800)



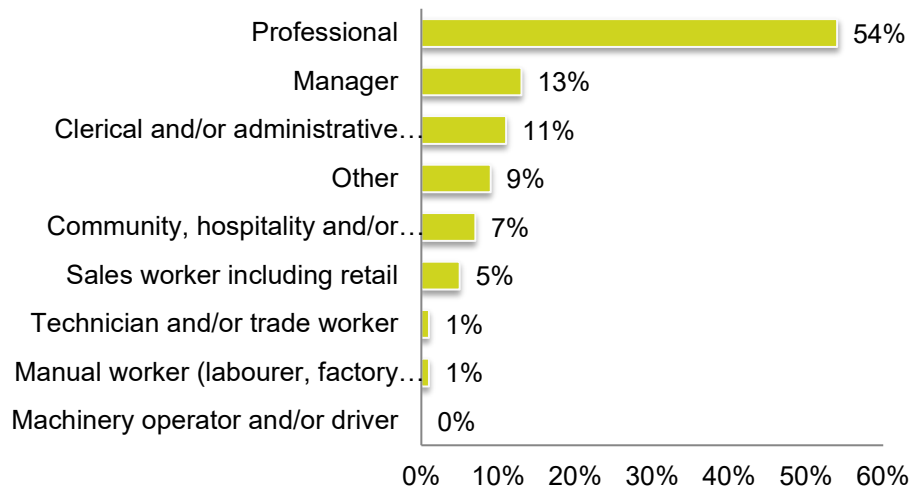
2023 Question 37 - Which of the following best describes your current occupation? (n = 1366)



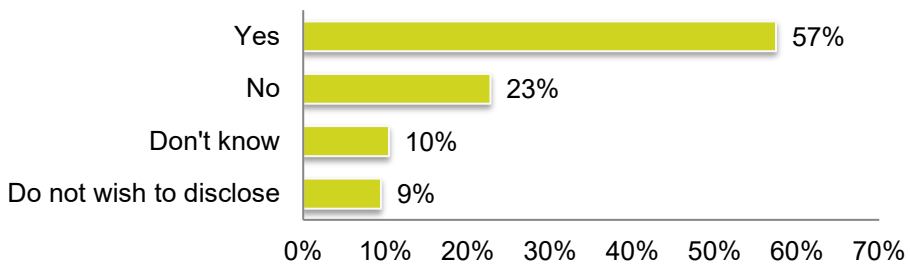
2020 Question 37 - Which of the following best describes your current occupation? (n = 898)



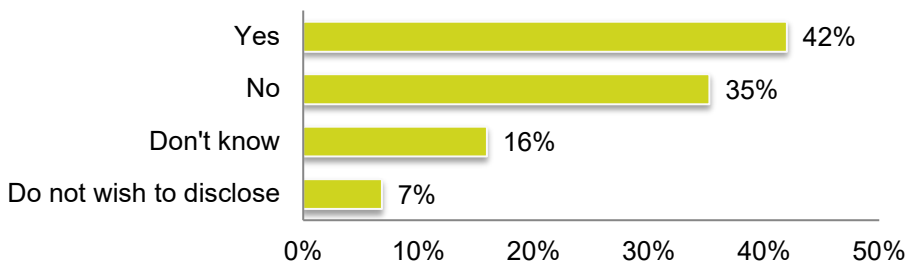
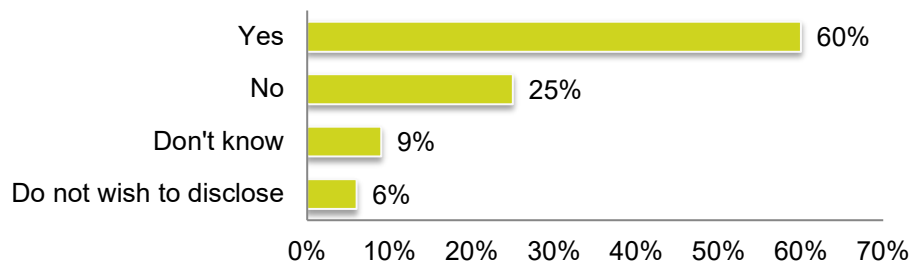
2017 Question 37 - Which of the following best describes your current occupation? (n = 840)



2023 Question 39 - Does your household usually spend more than 30% of the combined household income on housing costs (rent or mortgage and/or strata levies)? (n = 1490)



2020 Question 39 - Does your household usually spend more than 30% of the combined household income on housing costs (rent or mortgage and/or strata levies)? (n = 1098)



2017 Question 39 - Does your household usually spend more than 30% of the combined household income on housing costs (rent or mortgage and/or strata levies)? (n = 1256)