# my Territory Connections
## Snapshot of first results

The *my Territory Connections* survey collected information from Territorians on what makes for a good life here. It included questions on people's connections with family and friends, to their community and to the place where they lived. It also collected information on their feelings of safety, trust and belonging, their networks with people of influence, and their participation in volunteering, social and community groups, and civic activities. These are some of the first results.

## Summary of findings

- Respondents indicated a strong connection to the Territory with about four in five identifying as a Territorian. Similar themes appeared to operate in making people feel or not feel like Territorians: how long they have lived here, feelings of belonging, levels of cultural attachment, and whether they see they have opportunities, or not, to contribute.

- Mostly, respondents are going okay, with two-thirds rating their general wellbeing as 7 or more out of 10. However, around 8% rated their wellbeing at 4 or below and a similar proportion said they felt lonely most or all the time (8.5%).

- Generally, respondents felt their neighbourhoods were friendly places (83%) but less felt that people actively helped each other out (60%). Just over a quarter indicated noise, and hostile or aggressive behaviour were a problem in their neighbourhoods, and 4 in 10 people felt property crime was fairly or very common.

- More than three out of four respondents (78%) participated in a range of community activities, including undertaking volunteering or participating in social or community groups. Less were engaged in civic actions such as attending public meetings/consultations, rallies or signing petitions (35%).

- Almost all respondents reported providing or receiving support of some kind (practical, emotional or financial). Friends appeared to be a more important part of these networks of support compared with family, and neighbours even less so. About 10% of respondents relied on community services for practical or emotional support, and 1.2% said they received financial support from community service organisations.

- Two out of three respondents indicated a high level of trust in people generally (66.5%). Respondents had a higher level of trust in police (74%) than the justice system (53%), while their trust in community leaders and politicians were lower (43% and 14%). The highest levels of trust were for health services (82%).

- Respondents were more likely to personally know a business leader and feel comfortable seeking their advice (50%) than people in other positions of influence, such as politicians (36%) and other community leaders (35%).

- Overall, respondents felt safer in their homes than in their neighbourhoods with most feeling safe or very safe in these places (85%, 67%). Around a quarter of respondents felt sometimes safe and sometimes unsafe in their neighbourhood and 12% had these uncertain feelings of safety in their home. Another 8% indicated they felt unsafe or very unsafe in their neighbourhood while a small number felt unsafe or very unsafe in their homes (3%).
- Twice as many respondents agreed that their community had a say about things that mattered to it (42%) compared to those who did not (19%), however nearly 40% were unsure. Most respondents agreed that they had control over decisions that affected their own lives (79%).
- Respondents showed a high level of acceptance of ethnic, language and religious diversity in their neighbours and even higher numbers were completely comfortable with neighbours having a different sexuality to them. But respondents were less comfortable having a neighbour with a known mental health problem.
- Four out of five respondents (79%) agreed with this statement: "I think reconciliation actions between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians are important to me".
- Three in five respondents rated the importance of living close to the natural environment as 8 or more out of 10.
- More than half of all respondents had lived in the Territory for 20 years or more (including all their life), while 10% had lived here for less than two. However, nearly 6 in 10 respondents said most or all of their family lived outside the Territory. Three quarters intended to be living in the Territory in two-years' time.
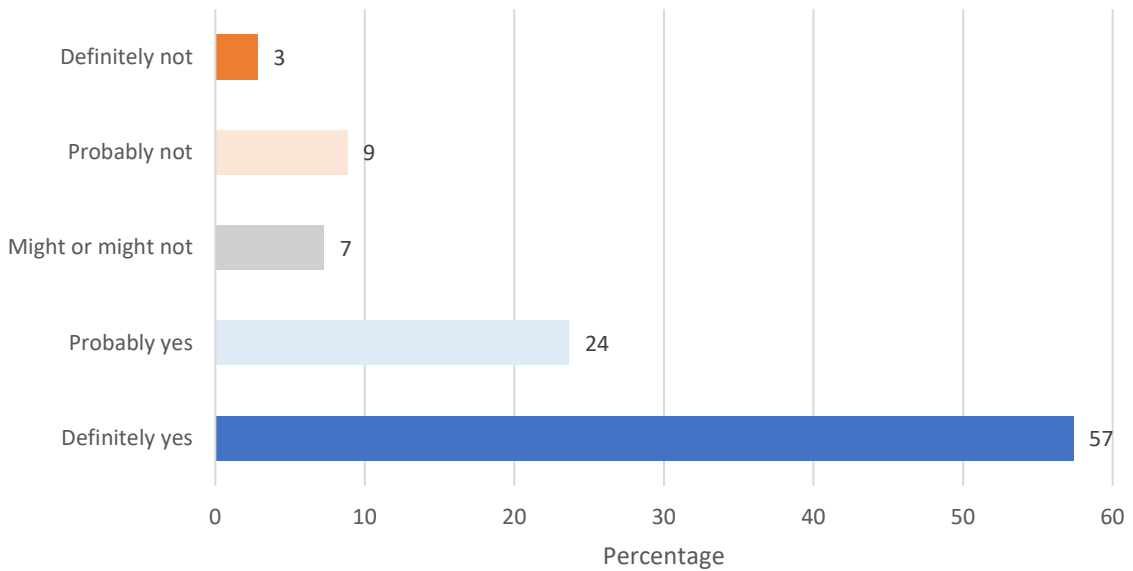
## What the survey covered

The *my Territory Connections* survey asked questions on a range of wellbeing domains, as well as attitudes and beliefs associated with individual and community functioning. The results add to the evidence base used by the NT Government and will provide more information for the Northern Territory's Social Outcomes Framework. This covers people's outcomes in the domains of financial security, health, education and training, housing, safety, connections to culture and community, and the natural and built environment - NT Social Outcome Framework (nt.gov.au)

## Data collection

The online survey was open from November 2021 through to June 2022 however some data was collected via face-to-face interview in circumstances where people needed help to participate. COVID restrictions severely limited access and participation in remote communities and the general results should be interpreted within the circumstances of the pandemic and its impacts. The following pages present preliminary results based on unweighted aggregate data from some survey questions. Over 3,000 people responded to the survey which will enable further analysis by gender, age, and Aboriginal status. Readers should note that the sample is skewed towards women, and that younger people and Aboriginal people were under-represented.

# DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A TERRITORIAN?



Bar chart — Percentage:
- Definitely not: 3
- Probably not: 9
- Might or might not: 7
- Probably yes: 24
- Definitely yes: 57

## WHY? This is what some people said ….

**Definitely yes**

*"…I think like a Territorian"*

**"…It is my heart country"**

**"**…**if I leave I will always be Territorian, just like I'll always be American"**

*"… I am changed by it"*

*"…I am accepted by my community….without any preconceptions about where I might originate from"*

"I was born on top of that hill. I wouldn't go anywhere else. I would get lost"

**Definitely no**

"I am a Queenslander"

"… Nothing much to do here if your (sic) not into boating, camping, shooting …."

"I've never put down roots here enough to feel a sense of belonging - it feels temporary being here"

*"This is quite a raw, lawless place where it is jobs for mates and I don't quite identify with that"*

*"Because I've been told I'll always be a southerner. My views are not seen as valid because I'm an outsider."*

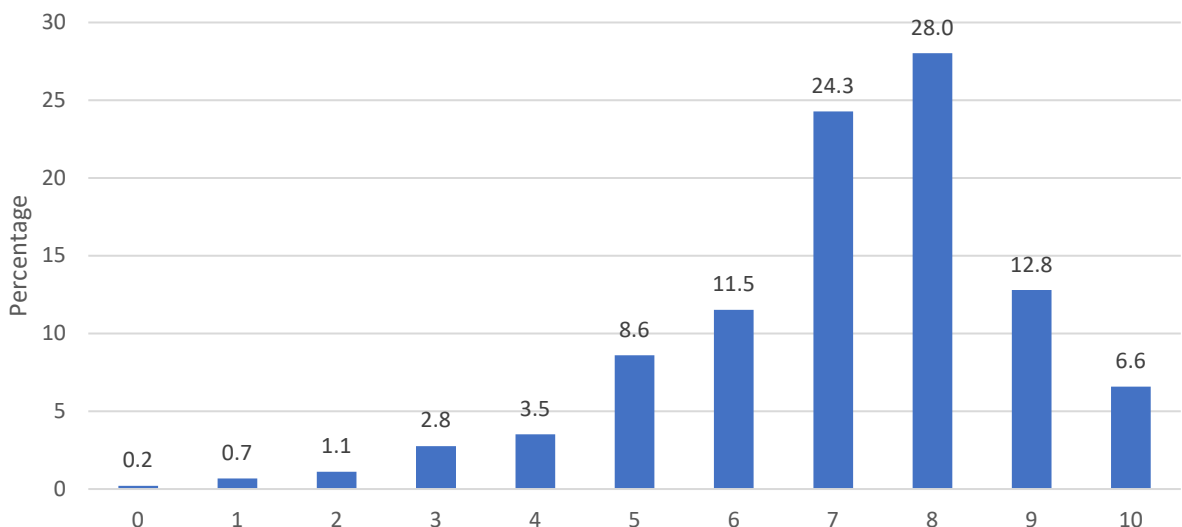"…I belong where my family is in Victoria"

## TERRITORIAN IDENTITY THEMES

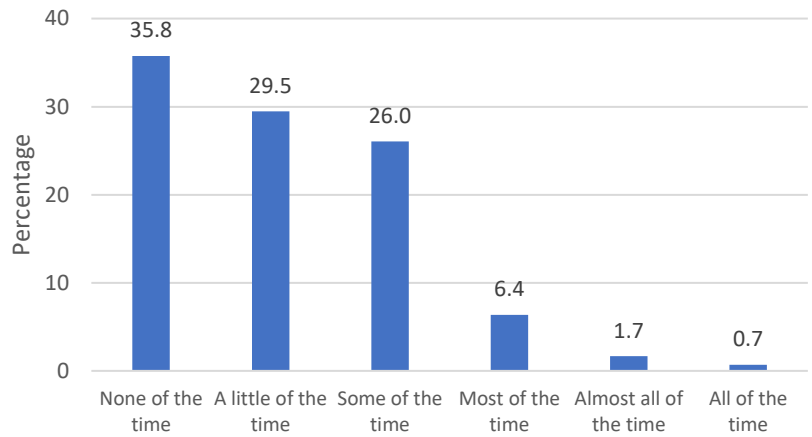| Definitely yes | Definitely no |
|---|---|
| **Born and bred** (or have lived here most of their lives) – formative to their identity and to their perspectives, shaped their values, provided "generational" grounding | **Have not lived here long enough** – can't claim the identity yet, identify strongly with another place, still findings their feet |
| **Sense of community** – the Territory is community driven, they are confident of being supported, friends have become family | **Discontent and sense of disconnection** – experiences of crime, not being safe, feeling isolated |
| **Connection with the outdoors and nature** – do "Territory things", have "Territory toys", live and play outside, respond emotionally to the natural environment | **Not enough to do** – if you are not "into the outdoors" there are not enough shops, restaurants, entertainment options |
| **Sense of belonging** –feels like home, they have felt welcomed and accepted, they choose to live here, things are familiar and they have adapted/ changed | **Sense of not belonging** – culturally and linguistically different, don't fit expectations/myth, not welcomed because people unfriendly, scared by aggressive dogs, the weather is harsh |
| **Have put down roots** – established a home, a family, friendships, networks of support and information | **No roots yet** – here only temporarily, on their way to somewhere else, renting their accommodation |
| **Cultural attachment** – identify with Territory values, culture, lifestyle, freedoms | **Culturally deficient** – seeking something in the cultural environment that is not here |
| **Opportunities** – land of opportunities, fulfilling career, job progression | **Restricted opportunities** – nepotism, "boys club", barriers around "being a southerner" |

## HOW ARE YOU GOING OVERALL?

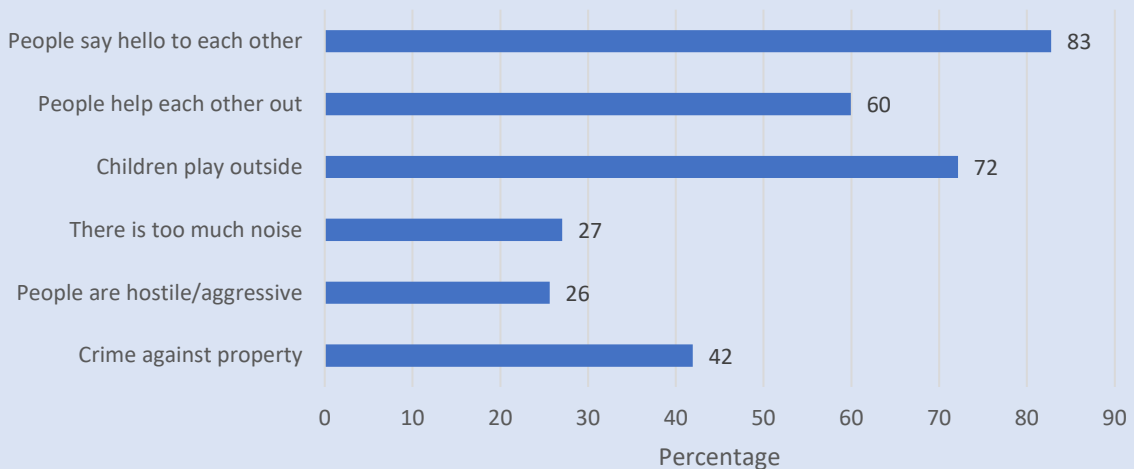### On a scale of 0 to 10, how do you think your are going overall?



| Scale | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Percentage | 0.2 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 8.6 | 11.5 | 24.3 | 28.0 | 12.8 | 6.6 |

# Feelings of loneliness

## How often have you felt lonely in the past 4 weeks?

| Category | Percentage |
|---|---|
| None of the time | 35.8 |
| A little of the time | 29.5 |
| Some of the time | 26.0 |
| Most of the time | 6.4 |
| Almost all of the time | 1.7 |
| All of the time | 0.7 |

# WHAT DOES YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD OR COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE?

## is very or fairly common

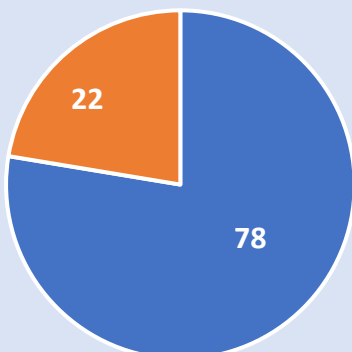| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| People say hello to each other | 83 |
| People help each other out | 60 |
| Children play outside | 72 |
| There is too much noise | 27 |
| People are hostile/aggressive | 26 |
| Crime against property | 42 |

# WHAT DOES YOUR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION LOOK LIKE?

In the last 12 months ...

**did you volunteer?**
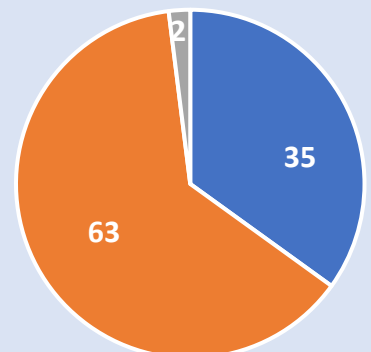- Yes: 78
- No: 22

**did you belong to any social or community group?**
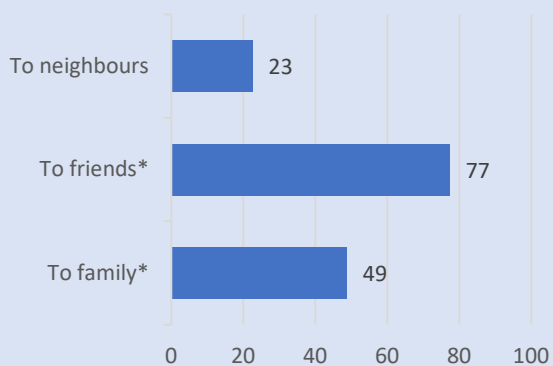- Yes: 78
- No: 22
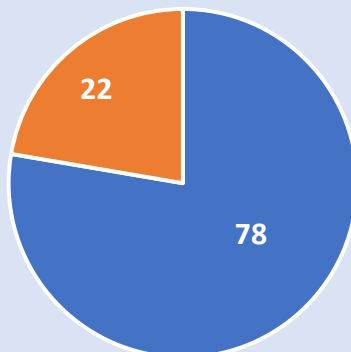
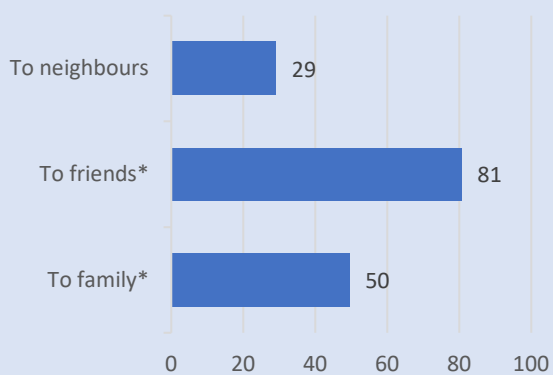**did you attend civic activities like meetings, protests, rallies, or sign petitions?**
- Yes: 35
- No: 63
- I don't remember: 2
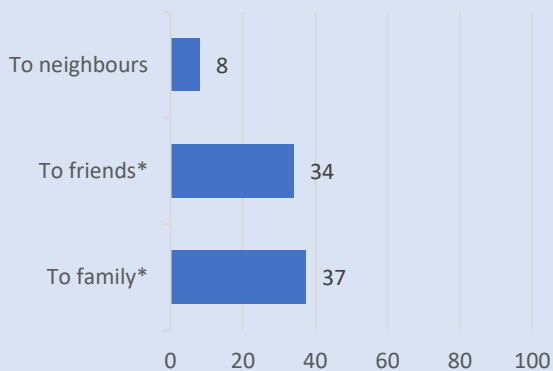
# WHO DO YOU GIVE SUPPORT TO?

# WHO DO YOU GET SUPPORT FROM?

## Practical support

| | |
|---|---|
| To neighbours | 23 |
| To friends* | 77 |
| To family* | 49 |

## Practical support

| | |
|---|---|
| Community Services | 10 |
| Neigbours | 30 |
| Friends* | 72 |
| Family* | 43 |

## Emotional support

| | |
|---|---|
| To neighbours | 29 |
| To friends* | 81 |
| To family* | 50 |

## Emotional support

| | |
|---|---|
| Community Services | 9 |
| Neigbours | 19 |
| Friends* | 76 |
| Family* | 43 |

## Financial support

| | |
|---|---|
| To neighbours | 8 |
| To friends* | 34 |
| To family* | 37 |

## Financial support

| | |
|---|---|
| Community Services | 1.2 |
| Neigbours | 0.4 |
| Friends* | 1.4 |
| Family* | 1.0 |
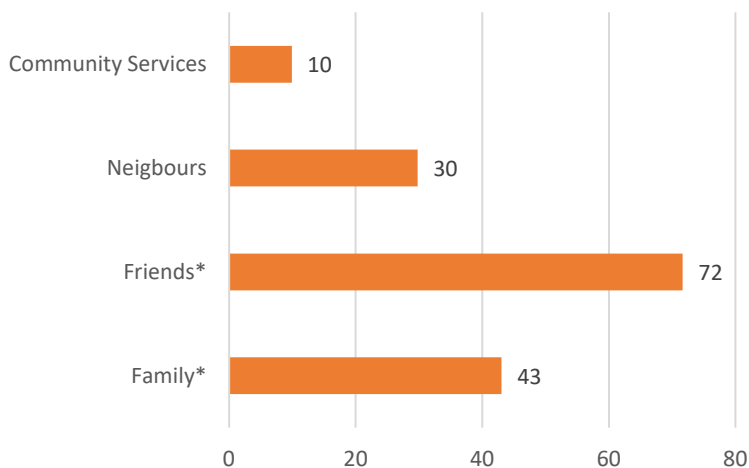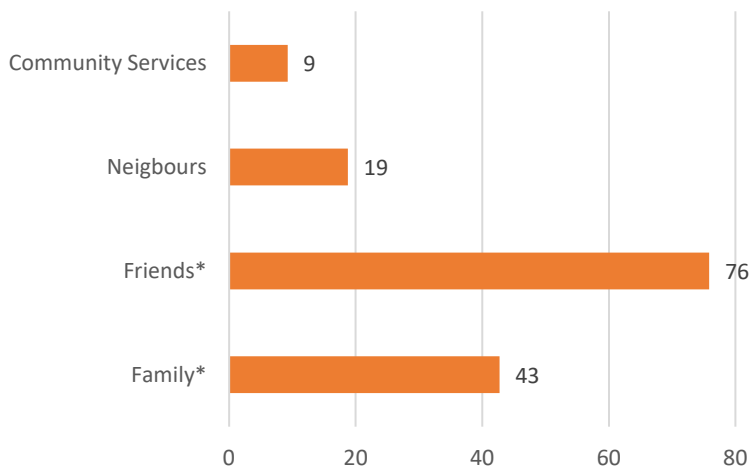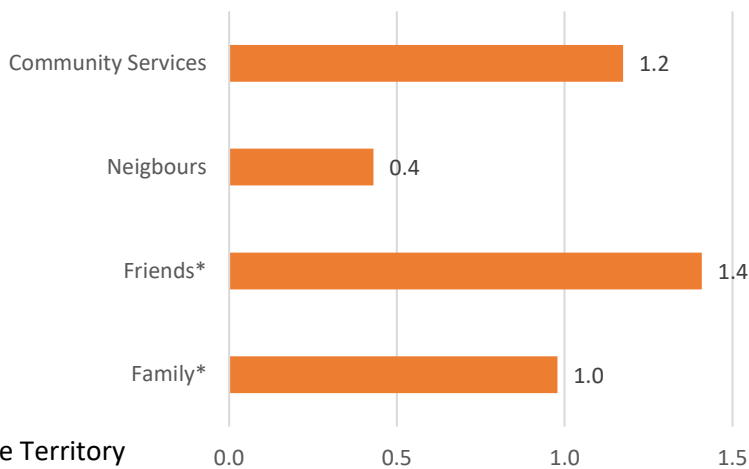
* Family outside your household who live in the Territory

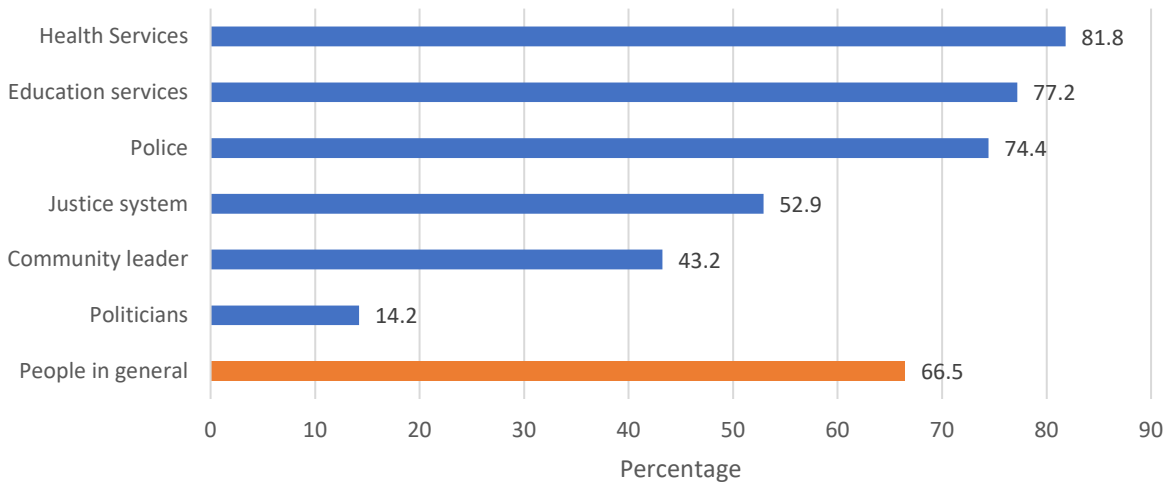* Friends who live in the Territory

# WHO DO YOU TRUST?

## All or most of the time

| Category | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Health Services | 81.8 |
| Education services | 77.2 |
| Police | 74.4 |
| Justice system | 52.9 |
| Community leader | 43.2 |
| Politicians | 14.2 |
| People in general | 66.5 |

*Percentage*
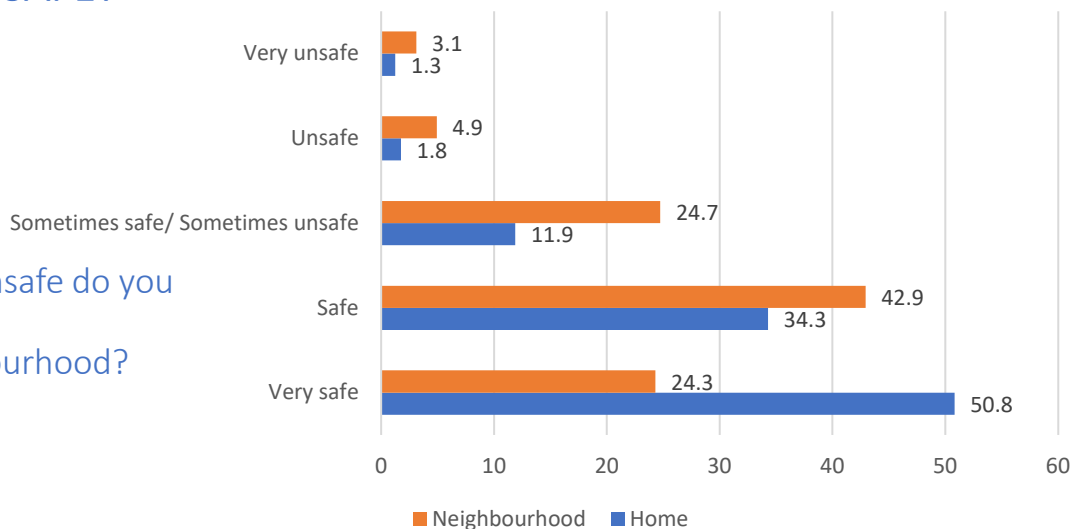
# ARE YOU LINKED IN WITH PEOPLE OF INFLUENCE?

Do you personally know someone in these positions and would feel comfortable seeking their advice?

| Category | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Business leader | 48.8 |
| Council member | 39.0 |
| Politican | 35.8 |
| Community leader | 35.1 |
| Someome in the Justice system | 33.4 |

*Percentage*
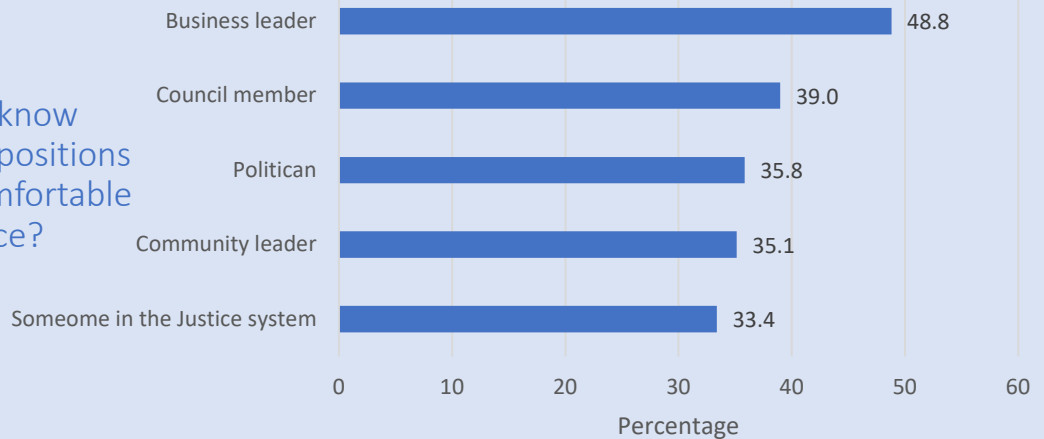
# DO YOU FEEL SAFE?

How safe or unsafe do you feel in your home/neighbourhood?

| Category | Neighbourhood | Home |
|---|---|---|
| Very unsafe | 3.1 | 1.3 |
| Unsafe | 4.9 | 1.8 |
| Sometimes safe/ Sometimes unsafe | 24.7 | 11.9 |
| Safe | 42.9 | 34.3 |
| Very safe | 24.3 | 50.8 |

■ Neighbourhood ■ Home

# DO YOU HAVE A SAY/ DOES YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE A SAY?

Chart: Percentage by response

| Response | My community has a say about things that matter to it | I have control over decisions that affect my life |
|----------|---|---|
| Disagree | 19.3 | 9.1 |
| Not sure | 37.3 | 11.1 |
| Agree | 41.6 | 79.3 |

■ My community has a say about things that matter to it
■ I have control over decisions that affect my life
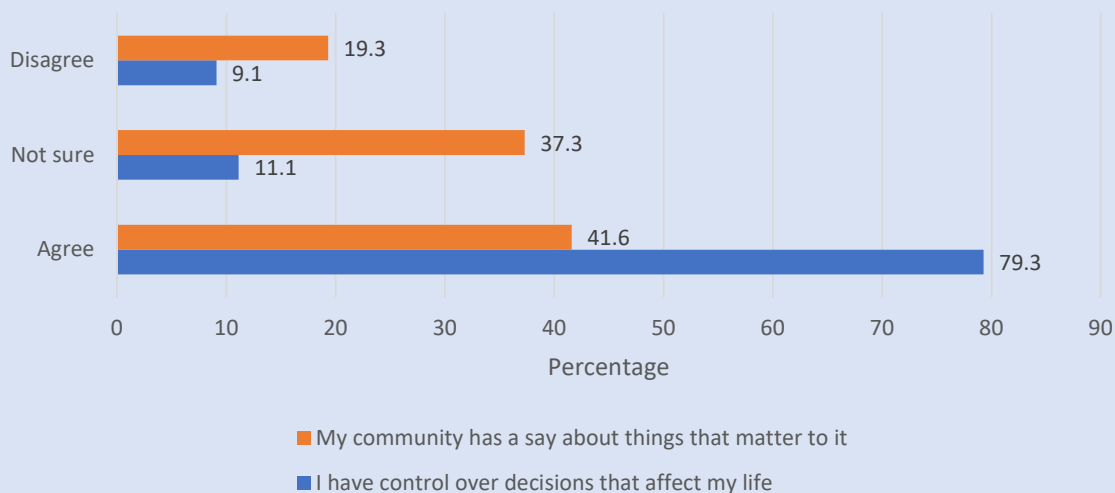
# DO YOU EMBRACE POPULATION DIVERSITY?

On a scale of 0 to 10 how comfortable or uncomfortable do you feel having a neighbour with ...

a different ethnic background

a known mental health problem

a severe disability

a different sexuality

Pie chart:
- 79 (Agree, blue)
- 7 (Disagree, orange)
- 11 (Not sure, grey)
- 3 (Not applicable to me, yellow)
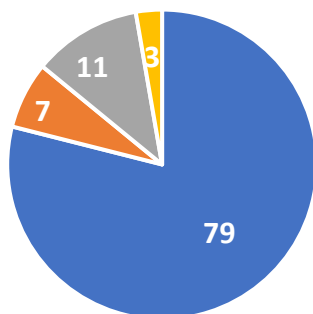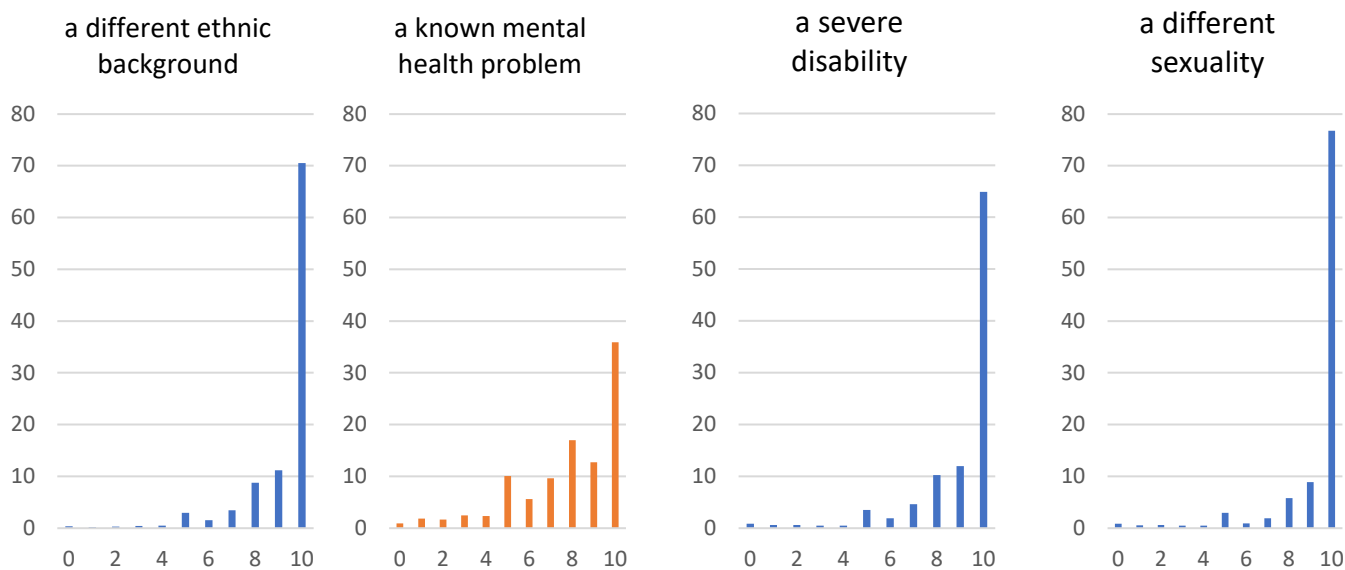
Reconciliation actions between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians are important to me

■ Agree    ■ Disagree
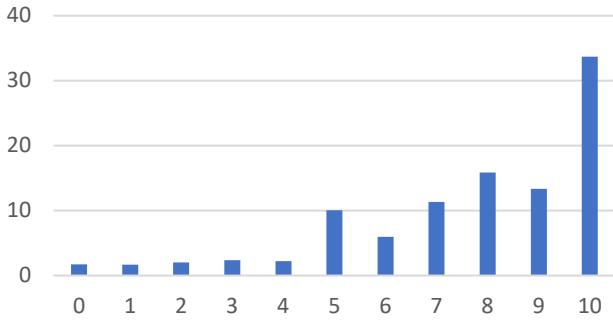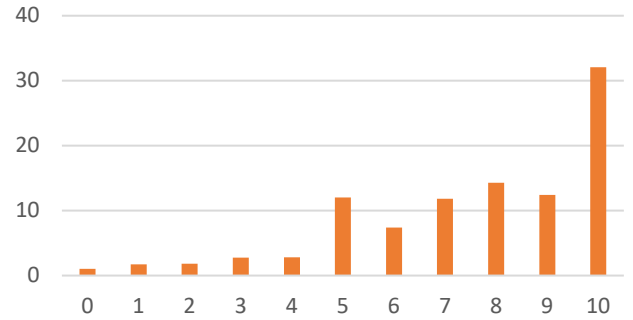■ Not sure    ■ Not applicable to me

# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TERRITORY'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO YOU

On a scale of 0 to 10 how important is it to be ...

### close to water



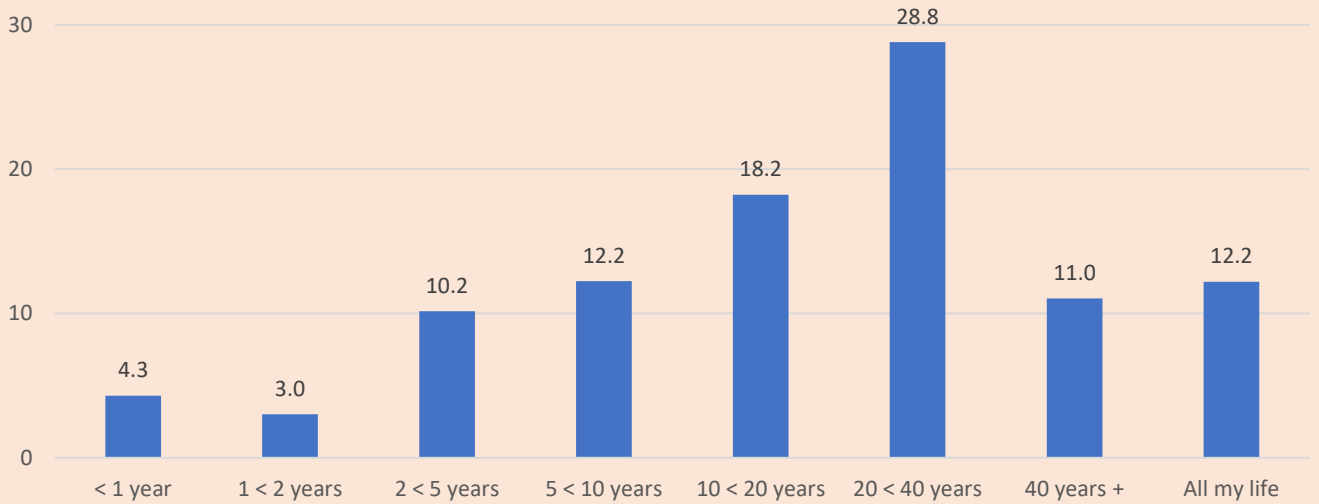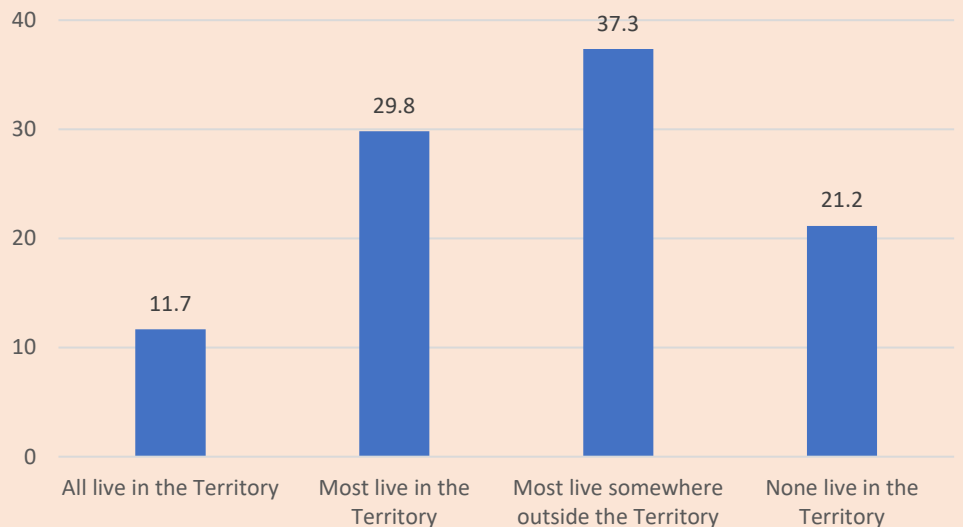### close to open country



## HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED HERE?



| < 1 year | 1 < 2 years | 2 < 5 years | 5 < 10 years | 10 < 20 years | 20 < 40 years | 40 years + | All my life |
|----------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| 4.3 | 3.0 | 10.2 | 12.2 | 18.2 | 28.8 | 11.0 | 12.2 |

## WHERE ARE YOUR FAMILIES?

People could choose who they considered to be their family



| All live in the Territory | Most live in the Territory | Most live somewhere outside the Territory | None live in the Territory |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 11.7 | 29.8 | 37.3 | 21.2 |

# ARE YOU GOING TO STAY?

**Where do you think you will be living in 2 years time?**

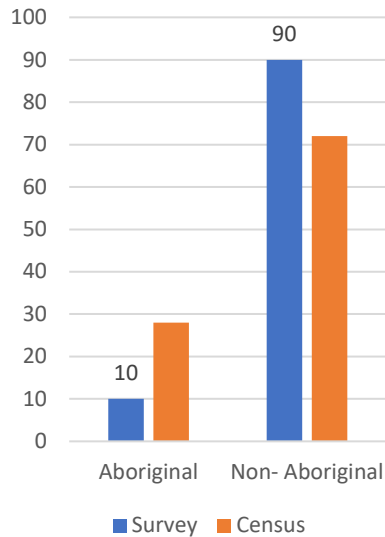| Response | Percentage |
|---|---|
| I'm not really sure | 13.7 |
| Overseas | 1.5 |
| In another State/Territory | 12.6 |
| Somewhere else in the Territory | 5.3 |
| In my current town, city or community | 66.9 |
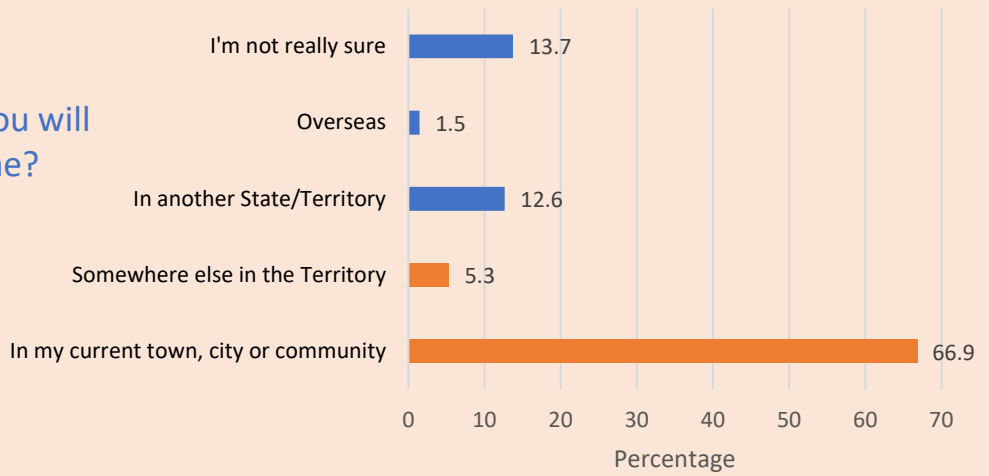
## SAMPLE INFORMATION

Over 3,000 Territorians responded to the survey. We appreciate their contribution to this research.

### Gender

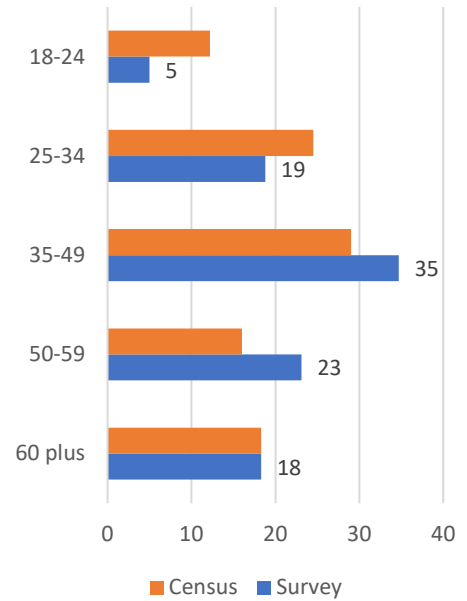| | Survey | Census |
|---|---|---|
| Men | 31 | |
| Women | 69 | |

### Aboriginal status

| | Survey | Census |
|---|---|---|
| Aboriginal | 10 | |
| Non-Aboriginal | 90 | |

### Age groups

| | Survey | Census |
|---|---|---|
| 18-24 | 5 | |
| 25-34 | 19 | |
| 35-49 | 35 | |
| 50-59 | 23 | |
| 60 plus | 18 | |

### Region

| | Survey | Census |
|---|---|---|
| Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield | 75.6 | |
| Top End (Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem) | 1.7 | |
| East Arnhem (including Nhulunbuy) | 2.3 | |
| Big Rivers (including Katherine) | 5 | |
| Barkly (including Tennant Creek) | 1.6 | |
| Central Australia (including Alice Springs) | 12.1 | |
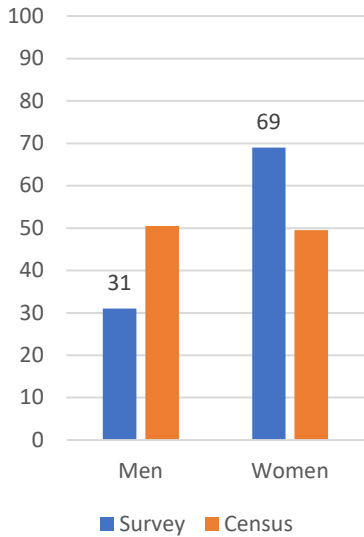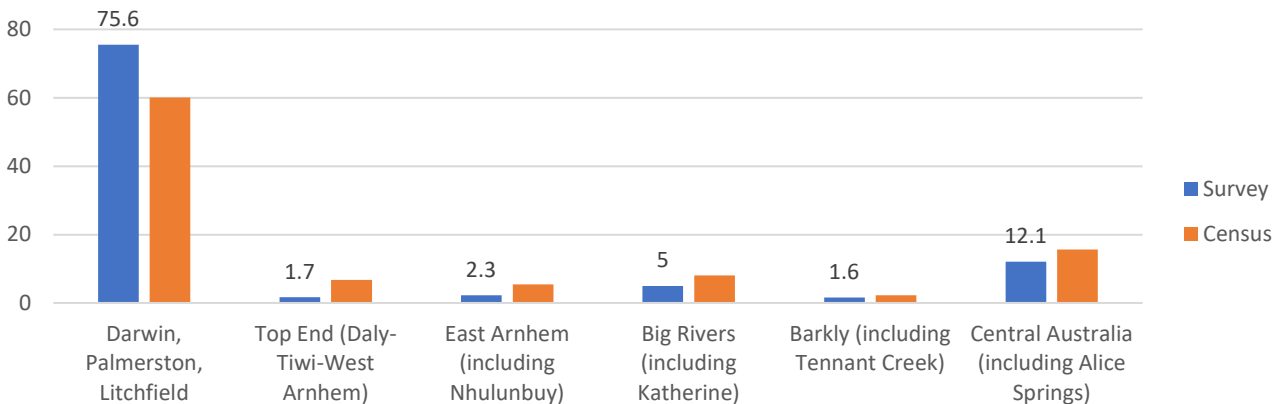
# NEXT STEPS

Some of these data will also be used to build the first index of Social Capital for the Territory. Social capital is strengthened when people feel interconnected and develop mutual obligations and when people's interactions are guided by agreed behaviours such as tolerance and honesty and supporting those in need. Additionally, a community's social capital increases when people generally trust each other and the institutions of power and governance.  Access to social capital has been linked to stronger social cooperation, better knowledge sharing and innovation, and has been positively correlated with personal and community wellbeing including better health, lower crime and improved education outcomes.

Each year, the Territory has a higher proportion of its population migrating from elsewhere or leaving to live elsewhere compared to other Australian States and the Territories. An understanding of how social capital operates within the context of this population churn has relevance to building community resilience and the networks of support needed for an increasingly challenging environment. In the Territory, social capital will be measured by

- People's level of attachment to the Territory expressed through their sense of connection to the place where they live, their length of residency and their intention to stay
- The extent of people's networks with family, friends, and neighbours and people's access to those who have positions of leadership and influence
- People's level of participation in and engagement with social and community groups, and civic issues
- The strength of community cohesion expressed through neighbourhood friendliness and shared goals, trust in people and community leaders, and commitment to reconciliation actions

The Social Capital Index will support policy and research analysis that will investigate a range of relevant social outcome questions including: which groups are missing out on the support they need; whether communities or groups with a common interest are empowered to have a say; whether we can work with people's strong or weak attachment to place to encourage greater population stabilisation; and whether identifying as a Territorian matters in people's contribution to the Territory's social capital.

More results and analysis of the data will continue to be released through the rest of the year. Reports, presentations and information will be published on the *my Territory Connections* web-pages (myterritoryconnections@cdu.edu.au).

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