October 2026

Glen Eira Community Voice: September 2026

Engagement report

City of GLEN EIRA

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH, BENTLEIGH EAST, BRIGHTON EAST, CARNEGIE, CAULFIELD, ELSTERNWICK, GARDENVALE, GLEN HUNTLY, MCKINNON, MURRUMBEENA, ORMOND, ST KILDA EAST

Contents

Executive summary 3
Background 5
Emergency planning in Glen Eira 6
Growing Glen Eira's urban forest 21
Demographics 36

Executive summary

This report presents the findings from a Community Voice survey held from 14 September to 5 October 2026.

The survey included two topics:

- Emergency planning in Glen Eira
- Growing Glen Eira's urban forest

As of September 2026, the Community Voice panel included 360 Glen Eira residents, representing a wide cross-section of our community by age, gender, suburb, housing situation and cultural background. A total of 131 members participated in the survey, giving a response rate of 36 per cent.

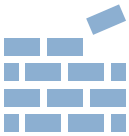
What we heard

Emergency planning in Glen Eira

Participants have taken some steps to prepare for emergencies, while many reported not knowing how to prepare or what actions to take and wanting clearer, practical information.



Preparedness: Basic emergency preparations were more common than formal household planning. More than half of participants (57 per cent) had supplies for power outages and 43 per cent had an emergency information app, but only 19 per cent had an emergency kit and 6 per cent had a household emergency plan.



Barriers and support: Not knowing how to prepare or what actions to take was the most common barrier (47 per cent), while clear information about how to prepare was the most requested support (68 per cent). Open-text responses commonly called for practical household preparation advice.



Experiences and concerns: Telecommunications or internet outages were the most commonly experienced disruption (62 per cent). They also attracted the highest level of future concern (64 per cent), followed by severe storms (61 per cent), with extreme heat, disruption to essential services or transport, and extended power outages each at 59 per cent.

Growing Glen Eira's urban forest

Participants placed high importance on increasing trees and greenery, while limited space was the most common barrier to doing more at home.



Benefits and priorities: Shade and cooling during hot weather was the most highly rated benefit of increasing the urban forest (91 per cent important or very important), followed by reducing the health impacts of heat and sun exposure (89 per cent). Seventy-one per cent rated increasing trees and shade locally as a high or very high priority.



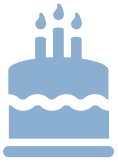
Trees and greenery at home: Many participants were already contributing to greenery where they live, with 74 per cent planting or maintaining shrubs, garden beds or other vegetation and 56 per cent having planted one or more trees. Forty per cent said they would like to do more. Limited space was the most common barrier (53 per cent), followed by knowing what to plant (35 per cent) and cost (31 per cent).



Street trees and nature strips: Three-quarters of participants (75 per cent) were somewhat or very likely to support more street trees in areas at high risk during heatwaves if some on-street parking was affected. In areas identified as important wildlife corridors, 82 per cent were somewhat or very likely to support more greening on nature strips.

Who we heard from

A total of 131 Community Voice members took part in the September 2026 survey. Their responses reflect a broad cross-section of Glen Eira's community.



Age and gender: All age groups were represented, with the highest participation from people aged 55–64 (25 per cent), followed by those aged 65–74 (21 per cent). Participants were almost evenly split between men (49 per cent) and women (48 per cent).



Suburb: Participants came from most Glen Eira suburbs, with the highest participation from Carnegie and Elsternwick (13 per cent each), followed by Bentleigh East (12 per cent).



Identity: Almost half of participants (44 per cent) did not identify with any of the listed groups. Among those who did, the most common responses were people born overseas (24 per cent) and people from a multicultural background (18 per cent).

Background

This report presents the findings of the September 2026 Community Voice survey, including each question, and the responses received.

About Community Voice

Community Voice is Council's online panel of Glen Eira residents who regularly share their views on a variety of topics through online surveys. The goal of the panel is to gather feedback that reflects the diverse experiences and perspectives of our community.

Launched in early 2018, Community Voice was a key commitment in the *Council and Community Plan 2017–2021*. It was created to improve transparency in decision-making, better understand the diverse needs of our community and explore ideas together with residents.

Engaging with residents online allows Council to gather representative feedback on important issues. This feedback is analysed and shared with relevant Council teams and Councillors, where it helps guide their decisions.

Panel membership

From February 2024, the membership of the panel was refreshed and updated through a recruitment drive of both new and returning members. This update aimed to ensure the panel remains representative of Glen Eira's community, with membership based on the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data. The update also aimed to increase the diversity of the panel with the additional collection of housing and cultural background information.

As of September 2026, the panel included 360 Glen Eira residents. These members represent the diversity of our community in terms of age, gender, suburb, housing and cultural background information. We continue to recruit panel members with the aim of achieving over 400 members.

Survey and participation

A total 131 Community Voice members responded to the survey, giving us a response rate of 36 per cent.

The survey included two topics:

- Emergency planning in Glen Eira
- Growing Glen Eira's urban forest

Methodology

All percentage calculations are based on 131 participants.

Note: *This analysis used AI tools to assist with theme identification. All findings have been reviewed and interpreted by Council officers to ensure accuracy and relevance.*

Emergency planning in Glen Eira

Emergencies can happen at any time. They may include severe storms, floods, heatwaves, public health emergencies, major service disruptions and other unexpected events.

The Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) is Glen Eira's overarching plan for emergency management. It identifies local risks, emergency management arrangements, and the roles and responsibilities of Council, emergency services and other organisations.

The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee is responsible for reviewing and maintaining the plan. Under the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, the plan must be reviewed at least every three years.

The review provides an opportunity to ensure the plan remains relevant and reflects current emergency management requirements, as well as community knowledge, experiences and priorities.

Through Community Voice, we wanted to better understand:

- how prepared members and their households are for emergencies
- where members find information about emergencies
- what can make it difficult for households to prepare
- what information or support could help households prepare.

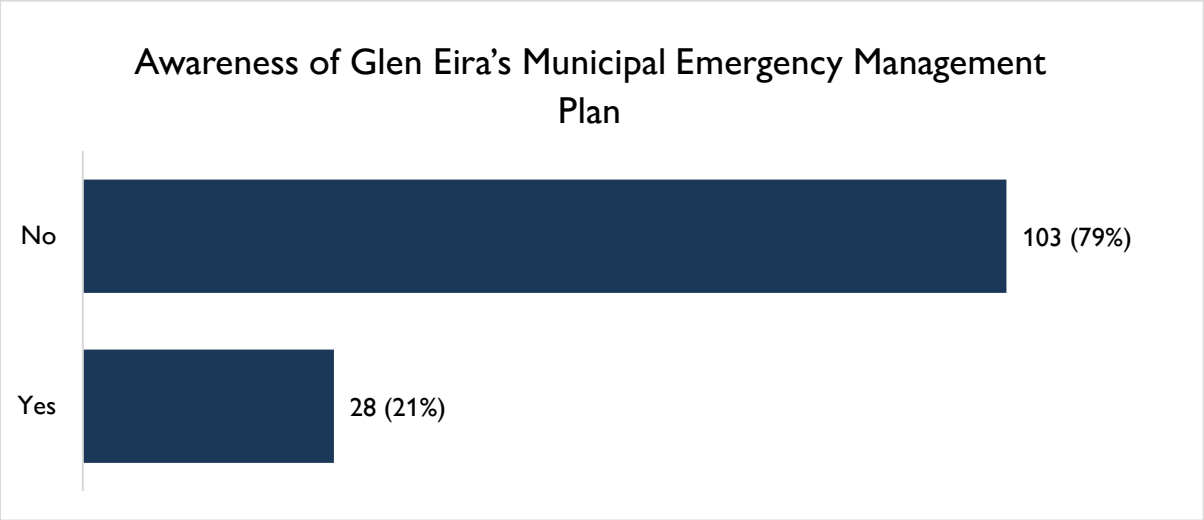
The survey findings will help inform the Glen Eira Emergency Management Planning Committee's review of the MEMP. They will also inform future emergency preparedness activities and communications across Glen Eira.

Preparing for emergencies in Glen Eira

Question 1. Before today, were you aware that Glen Eira has a Municipal Emergency Management Plan?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants.

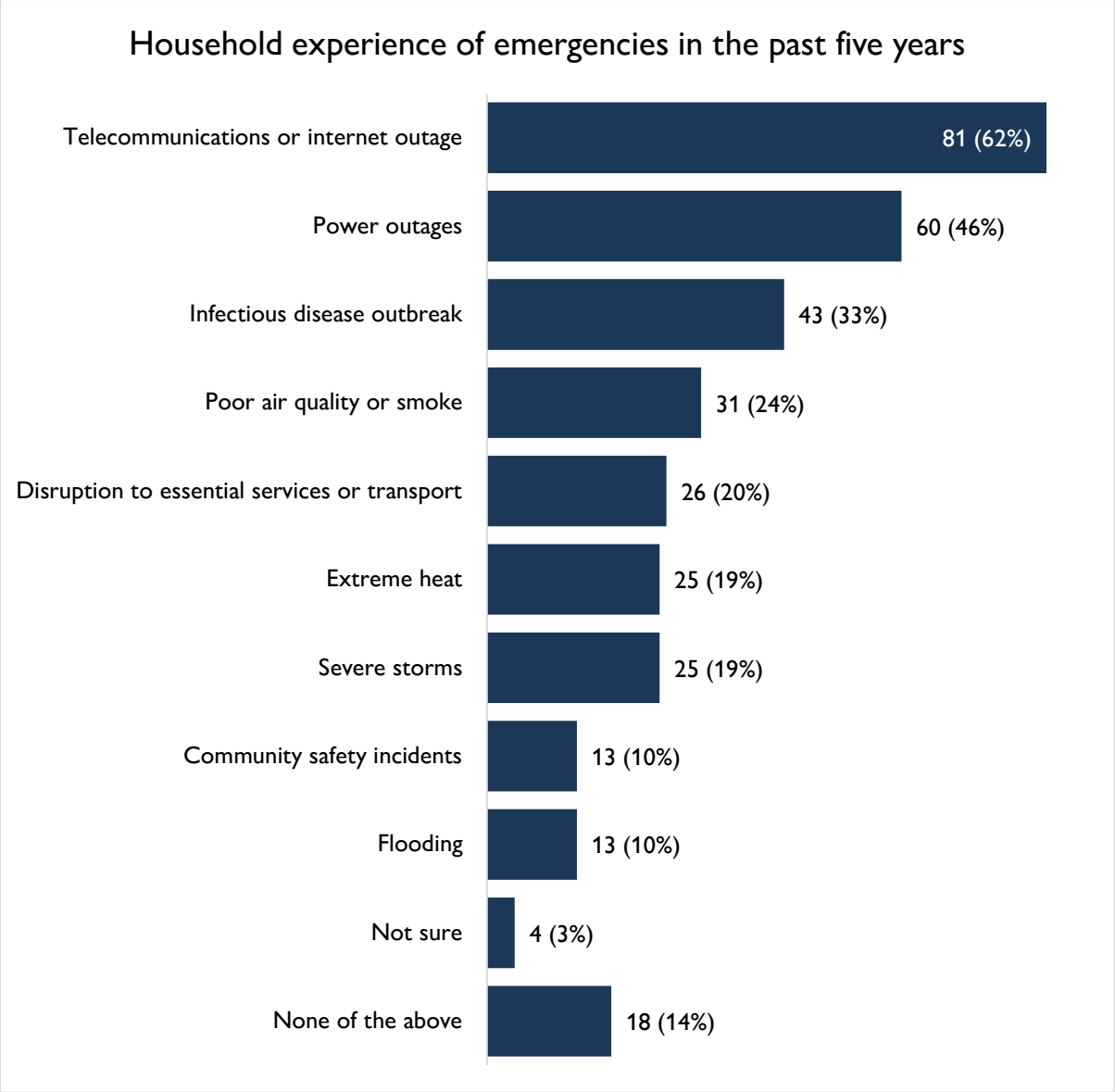
The majority of respondents (79 per cent) were not aware that Glen Eira had a MEMP.



Question 2. In the past five years, have you or anyone in your household been directly affected by any of the following?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants could select more than one option.

Telecommunications or internet outages were the most commonly reported emergency, affecting 62 per cent of members or their households. This was followed by power outages (46 per cent) and infectious disease outbreaks (33 per cent).

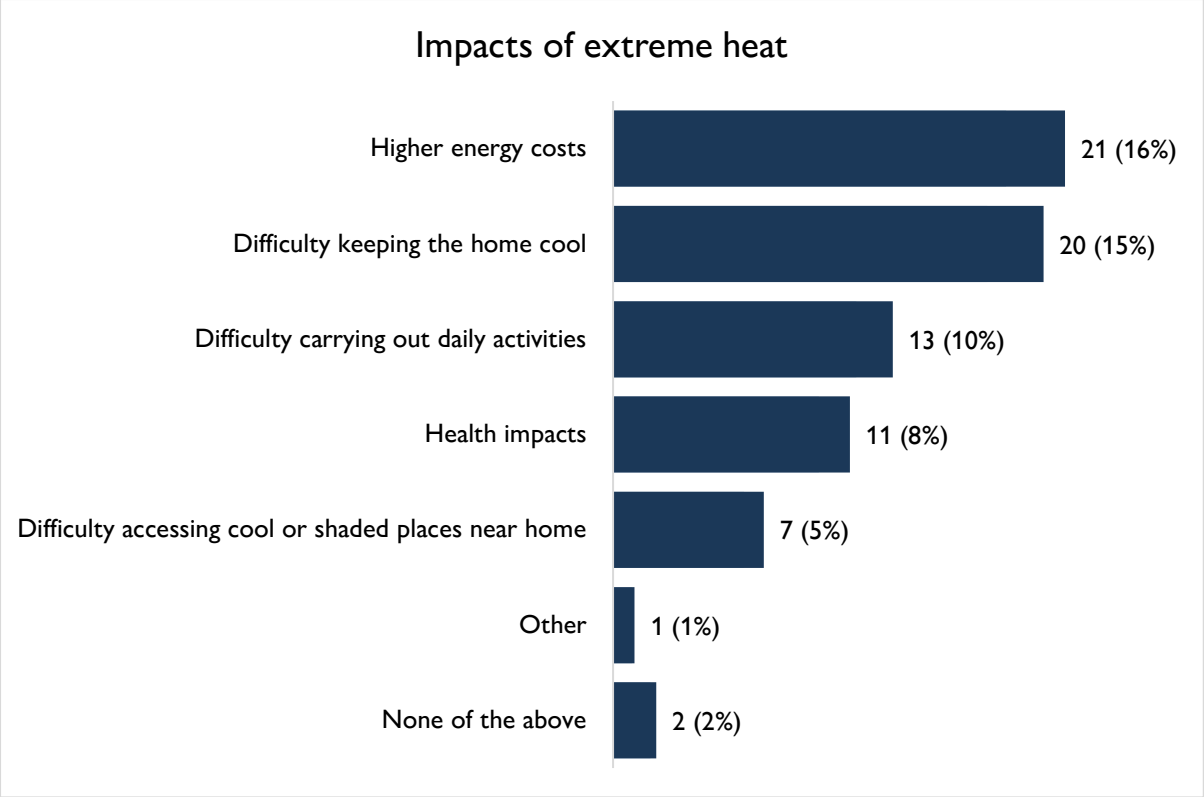


Question 3. How has extreme heat affected you or your household?

This question was shown to the 25 participants (19 per cent) who said they or their household had been affected by extreme heat in the previous question. Participants could select more than one option.

Higher energy costs were the most common impact (16 per cent), closely followed by difficulty keeping the home cool (15 per cent).

Participants who selected **health impacts** could also tell us about their experience. Nine participants provided a comment. The most common theme was heat stress and related physical symptoms, including dizziness, fainting and heat stroke (five comments). Participants also described difficulty keeping cool, disrupted sleep and existing health conditions becoming worse, including asthma and eczema.



Question 4. Looking ahead to the next five years, how concerned are you that you or someone in your household will be affected by the following?

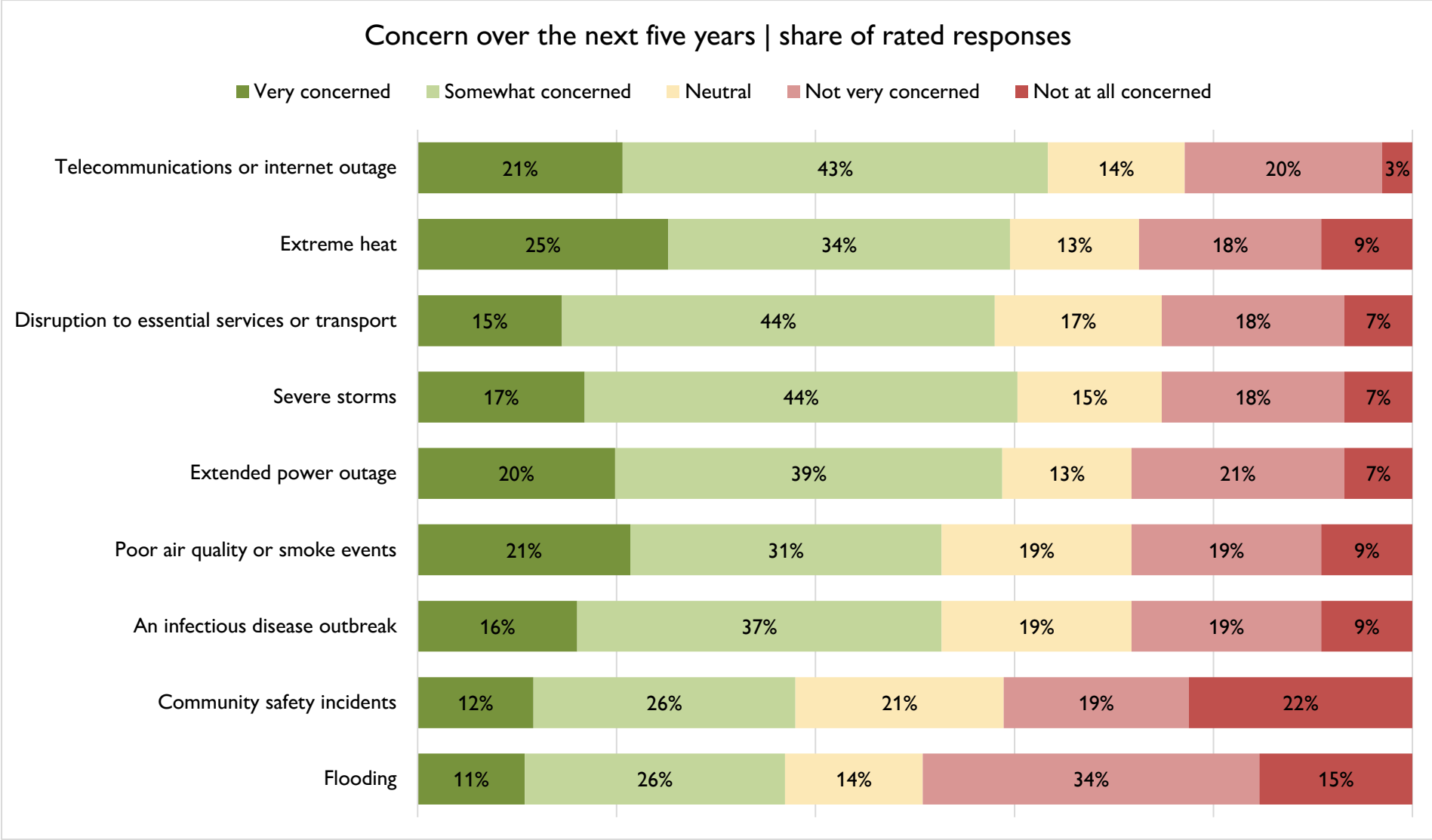
This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants could select a level of concern or 'not sure' for each emergency type[1].

Participants were most concerned about telecommunications or internet outages, with 64 per cent very or somewhat concerned. Concern was also relatively high for severe storms (61 per cent), extreme heat (59 per cent), disruption to essential services or transport (59 per cent), and extended power outages (59 per cent).

Just over half of participants were very or somewhat concerned about an infectious disease outbreak (53 per cent) or poor air quality or smoke events (52 per cent).

Concern was lower for community safety incidents (38 per cent) and flooding (37 per cent). Flooding was the only emergency type where more participants were unconcerned (49 per cent) than concerned (37 per cent).

[1] *Note: 'Not sure' responses have been excluded from the chart to keep the presentation of concern levels clear. This includes two 'not sure' responses for community safety incidents and one for flooding.*


Concern over the next five years | share of rated responses
Very concerned
Somewhat concerned
Neutral
Not very concerned
Not at all concerned
Telecommunications or internet outage
21%
43%
14%
20%
3%
Extreme heat
25%
34%
13%
18%
9%
Disruption to essential services or transport
15%
44%
17%
18%
7%
Severe storms
17%
44%
15%
18%
7%
Extended power outage
20%
39%
13%
21%
7%
Poor air quality or smoke events
21%
31%
19%
19%
9%
An infectious disease outbreak
16%
37%
19%
19%
9%
Community safety incidents
12%
26%
21%
19%
22%
Flooding
11%
26%
14%
34%
15%

Differences across key population groups

The responses to this question have been analysed to find areas where concerns are higher than average for[2]:

- people aged 65 or older (44 participants)
- households with children or a multigenerational family (52 participants)
- people from a CALD background – participants who were born overseas, have a multicultural background or speak another language at home (49 participants)
- people with disability or carers of people with disability (19 participants).

People with disability and carers reported higher concern about extreme heat (25 percentage points higher) and poor air quality or smoke events (22 percentage points higher).

People aged 65 or older reported higher concern about extended power outages (16 percentage points higher), telecommunications or internet outages (13 percentage points higher) and disruption to essential services or transport (11 percentage points higher).

People from a CALD background reported higher concern about community safety incidents (9 percentage points higher).

Households with children or multigenerational families reported higher concern about community safety incidents (6 percentage points higher).

Question 5. Which of the following emergency preparations does your household currently have in place?

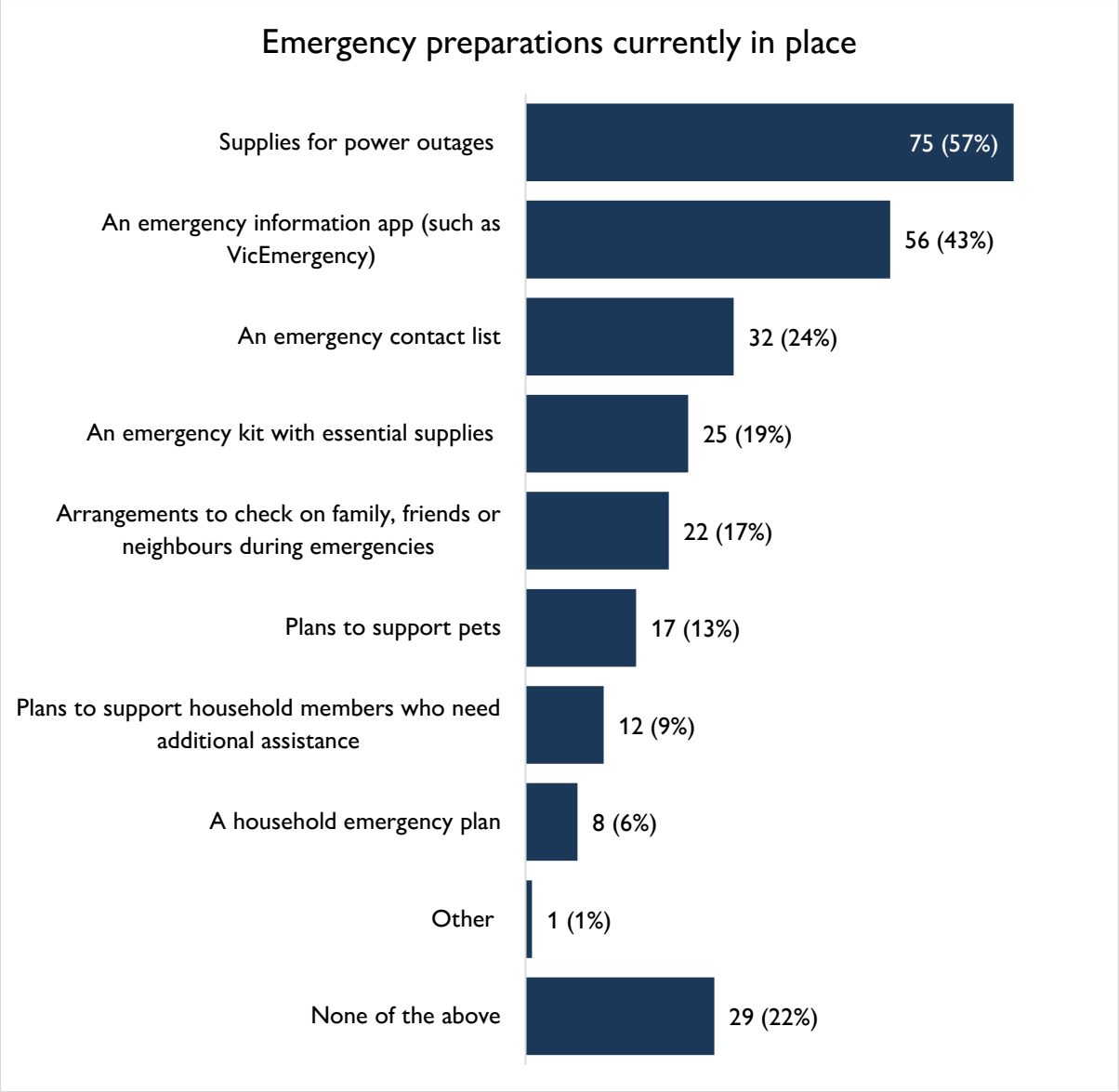
This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants could select more than one option.

Supplies for power outages, such as torches, batteries or backup power, were the most common emergency preparation (57 per cent). This was followed by having an emergency information app, such as VicEmergency (43 per cent).

Around one in five participants (22 per cent) said their household had none of the listed emergency preparations, while 6 per cent had a household emergency plan.

One participant selected 'other' and said they back up information to the cloud.

[2] *About this analysis: Percentages for each group are based on the number of participants in that group and compared with results for all 131 participants. Results for smaller groups should be read with care, as a small number of responses can have a bigger effect on the results.*



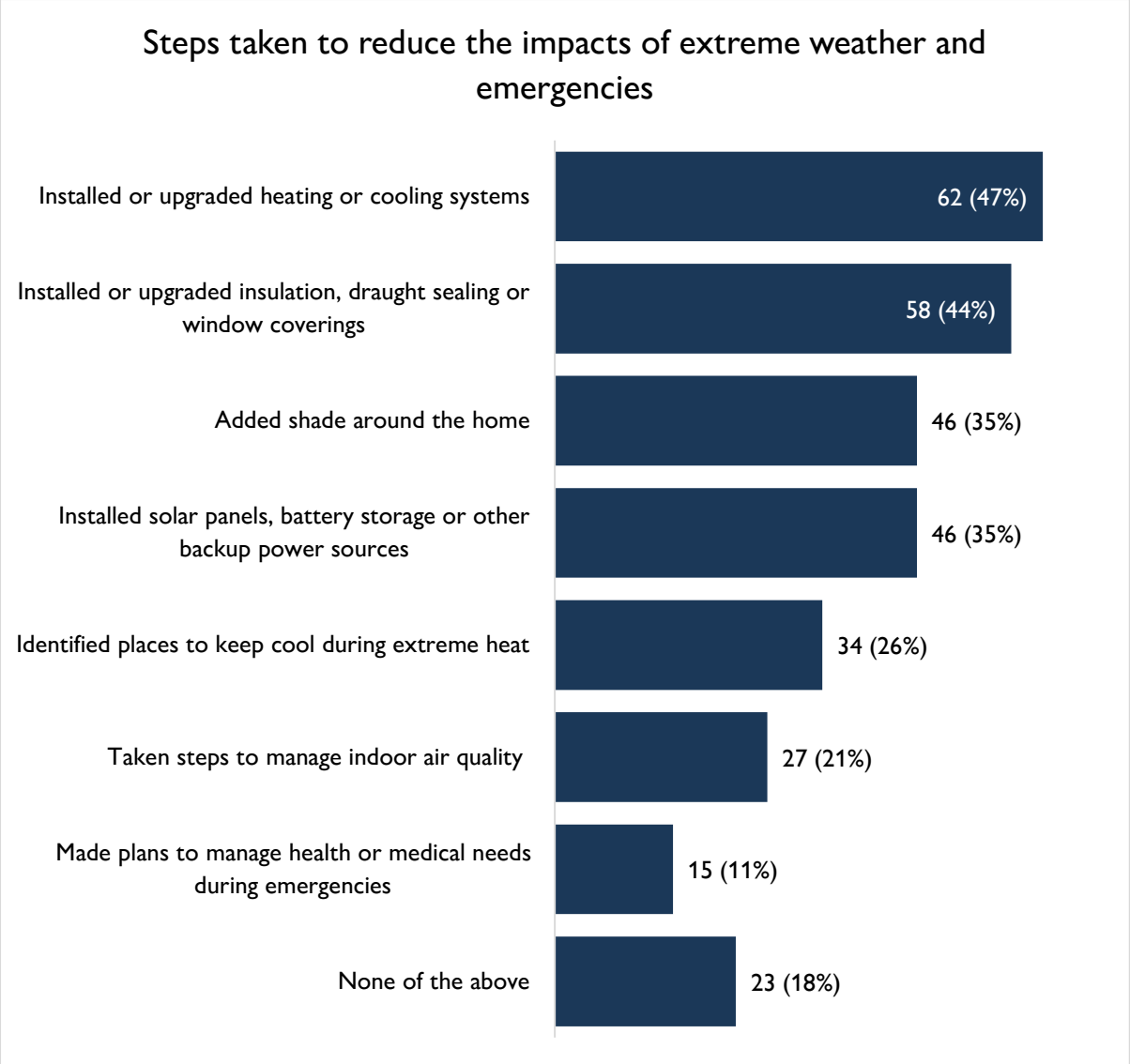
Question 6. Has your household taken any of the following steps to reduce the impacts of extreme weather or emergencies?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants could select more than one option.

Installing or upgrading heating or cooling systems was the most common step taken by households (47 per cent), followed by improving insulation, draught sealing or window coverings (44 per cent).

Around one in three participants reported adding shade around their home (35 per cent) or installing solar panels, battery storage or other backup power sources (35 per cent).

Around one in five participants (18 per cent) said their household had taken none of the listed steps.

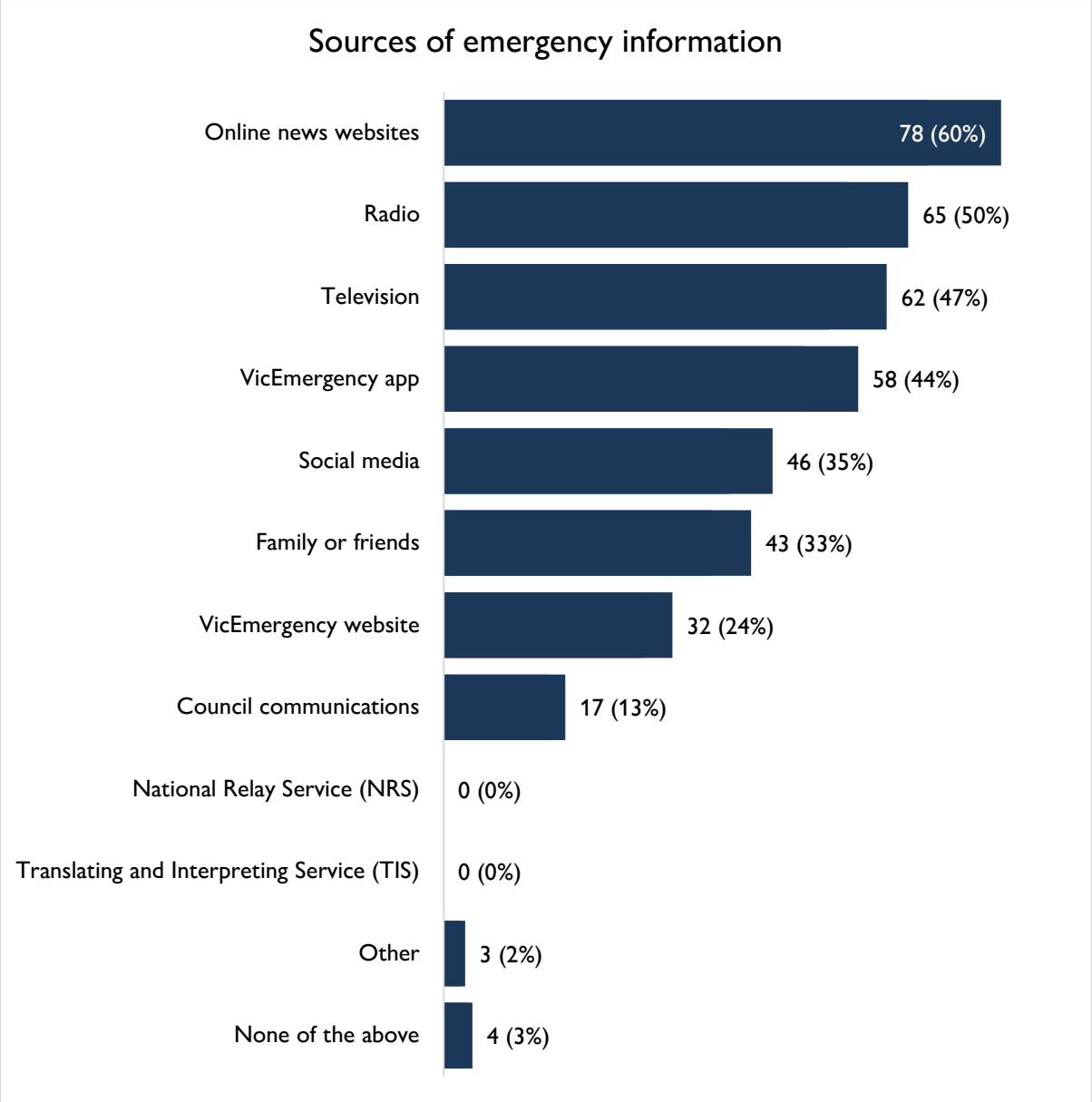


Question 7. Where do you go to find information about an emergency?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants could select more than one option.

Online news websites were the most common source of emergency information (60 per cent), followed by radio (50 per cent), television (47 per cent) and the VicEmergency app (44 per cent).

Around one third of participants used social media (35 per cent) or family and friends (33 per cent) for emergency information, while 24 per cent used the VicEmergency website.



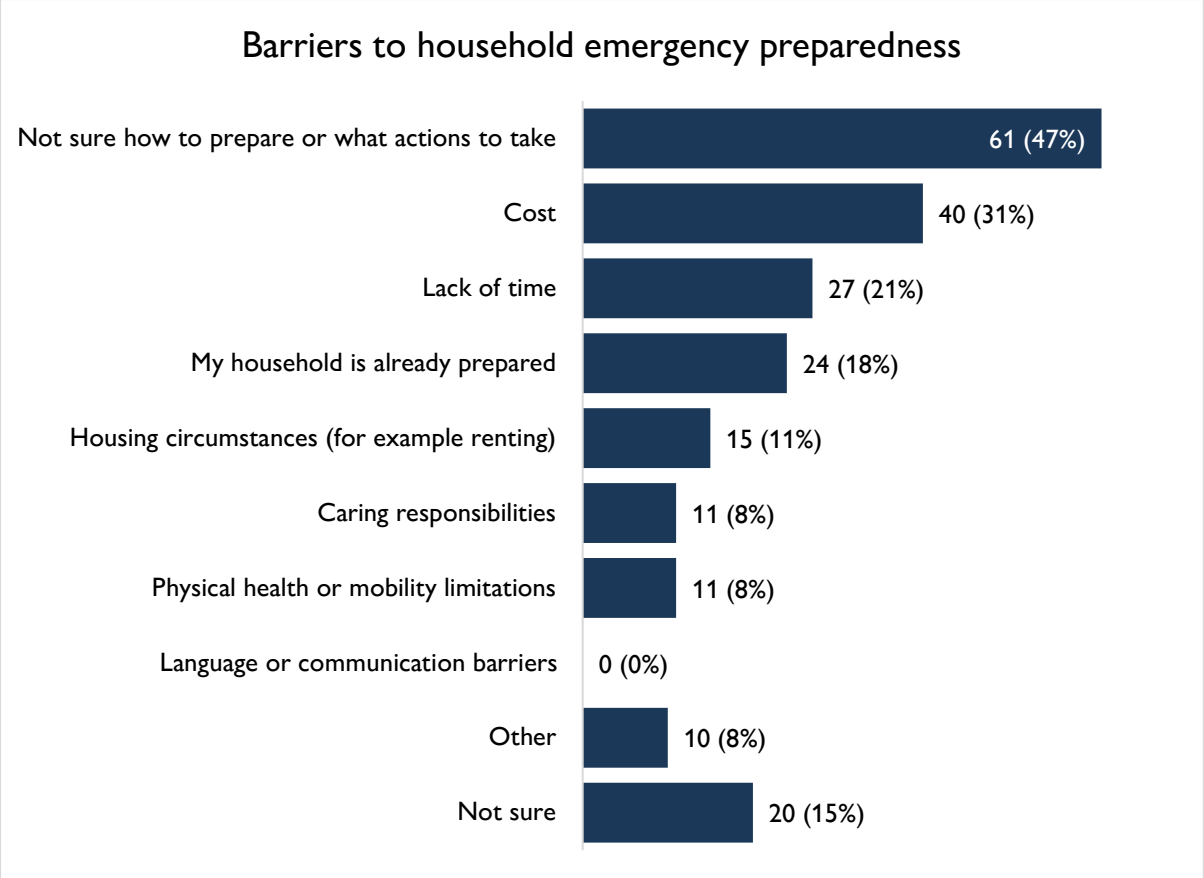
Barriers to preparedness

Question 8. What, if anything, makes it difficult for your household to prepare for emergencies?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants could select more than one option.

Not knowing how to prepare or what actions to take was the most common barrier to emergency preparedness, reported by almost half of participants (47 per cent). Cost was the next most common barrier (31 per cent), followed by lack of time (21 per cent).

Almost one in five participants (18 per cent) said their household was already prepared.



Of the 10 participants who selected 'other', five indicated that emergency preparation was not a priority or concern, while two said there was nothing making it difficult for their household to prepare. Other comments related to wanting more information about how to prepare for emergencies locally, different emergencies requiring different preparations, and emergency kit supplies expiring.

Differences across key population groups

The responses to this question have been analysed to find barriers reported more often for[3]:

- people aged 65 or older (44 participants)
- households with children or a multigenerational family (52 participants)
- people from a CALD background – participants who were born overseas, have a multicultural background or speak another language at home (49 participants)
- people with disability or carers of people with disability (19 participants).

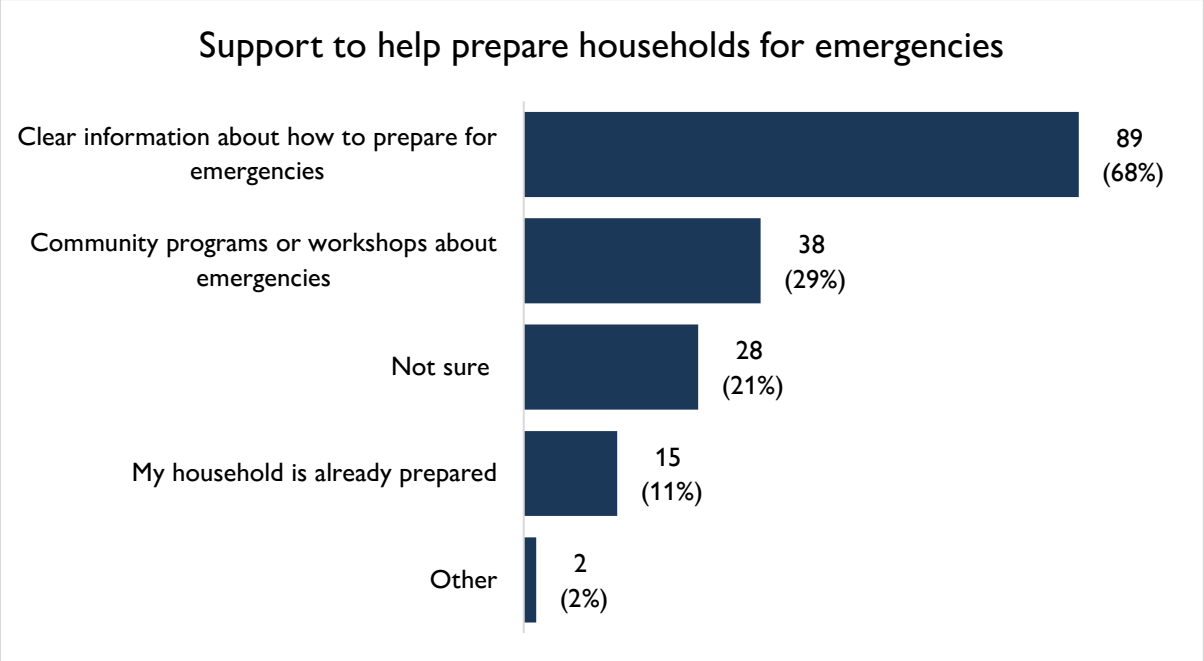
[3] *About this analysis: Percentages for each group are based on the number of participants in that group and compared with results for all 131 participants. Results for smaller groups should be read with care, as a small number of responses can have a bigger effect on the results.*

People with disability and carers (19 participants) reported several barriers more often than participants overall. These included physical health or mobility limitations (29 percentage points higher), housing circumstances such as renting (21 percentage points higher), caring responsibilities (18 percentage points higher) and lack of time (16 percentage points higher).

Differences for the other population groups were small. Caring responsibilities were 4 percentage points higher among participants from a CALD background (49 participants), not knowing how to prepare or what actions to take was 5 percentage points higher among participants aged 65 or older (44 participants), and already being prepared was 3 percentage points higher among households with children or a multigenerational family (52 participants).

Question 9. What support, if any, would help your household prepare for emergencies?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants were asked to identify what support, if any, would help their household prepare for emergencies, and they could select more than one option.



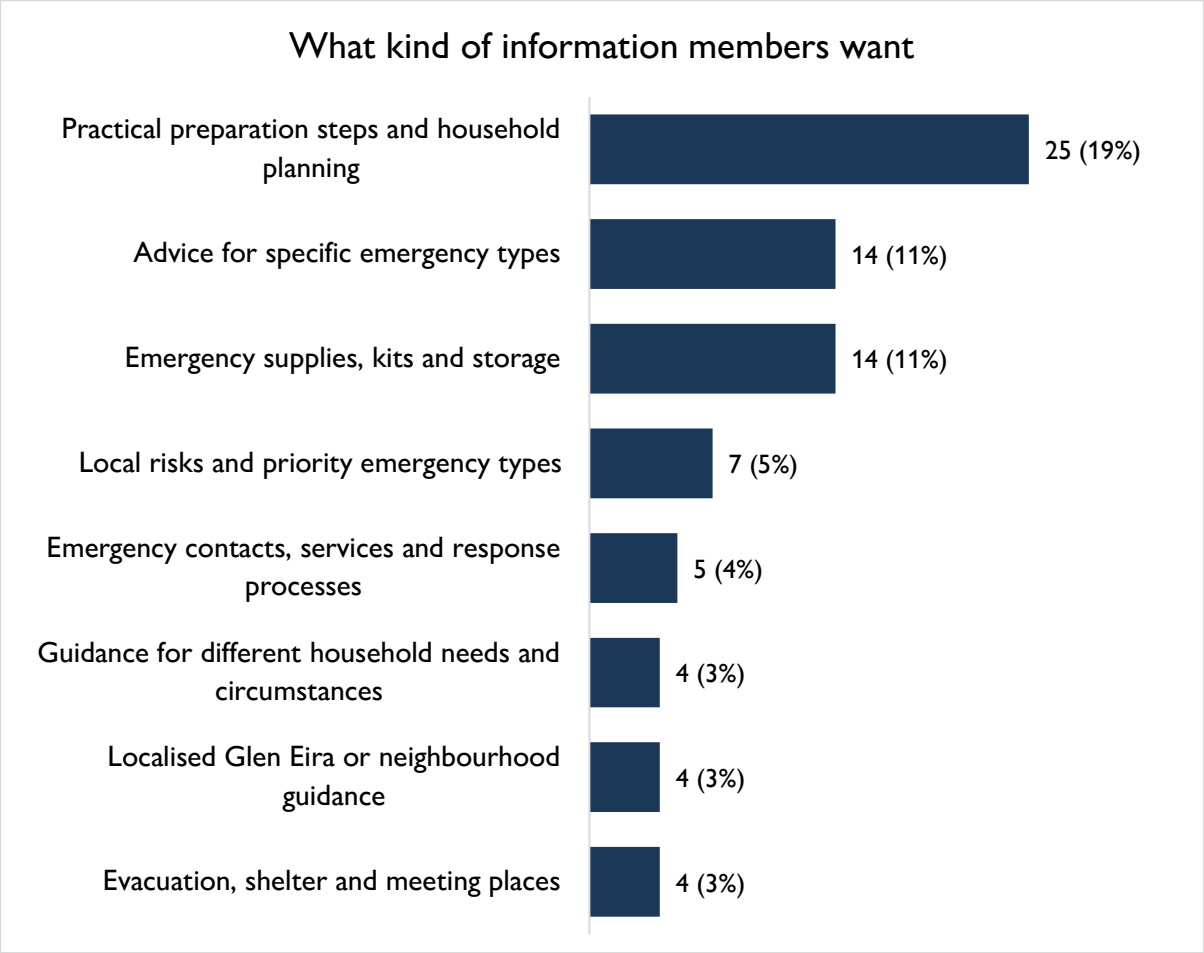
Question 10. What kind of information would you like and how you like to receive it?

This optional open-ended question was shown to the 89 participants (68 per cent) who selected 'Clear information about how to prepare for emergencies' in the previous question. Of these, 72 participants provided a response (55 per cent).

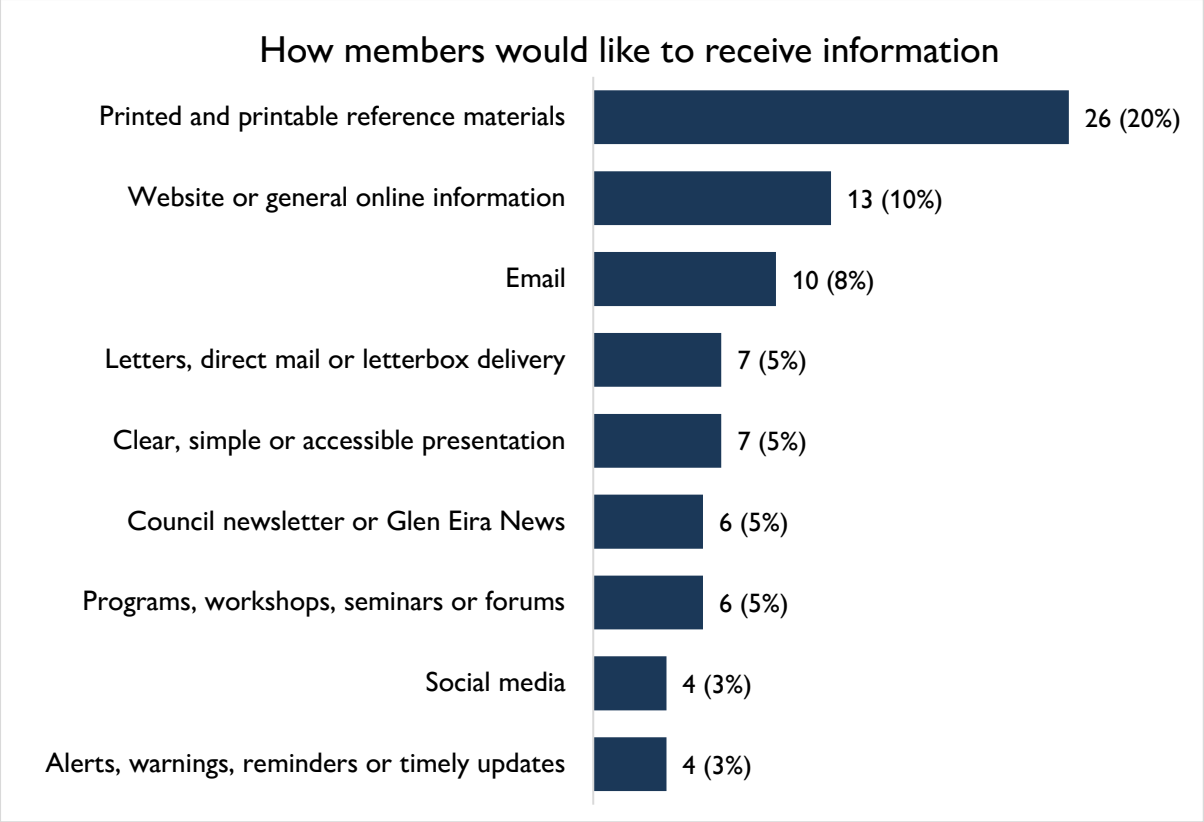
Comments were grouped into themes, with the charts below showing the most common themes for **information wanted** and **how it should be shared**[4].

Participants most commonly wanted practical information about preparing their household for emergencies (19 per cent). Advice for specific types of emergencies and information about emergency supplies, kits and storage were also common themes (11 per cent each).

Printed or printable reference materials were the most commonly suggested way to receive information (20 per cent). Other suggestions included information on a website (10 per cent) and email (8 per cent).



[4] *Note: Only themes mentioned in five or more comments are shown.*



Participant quotes

A selection of comments that represent the most common themes are presented verbatim below:

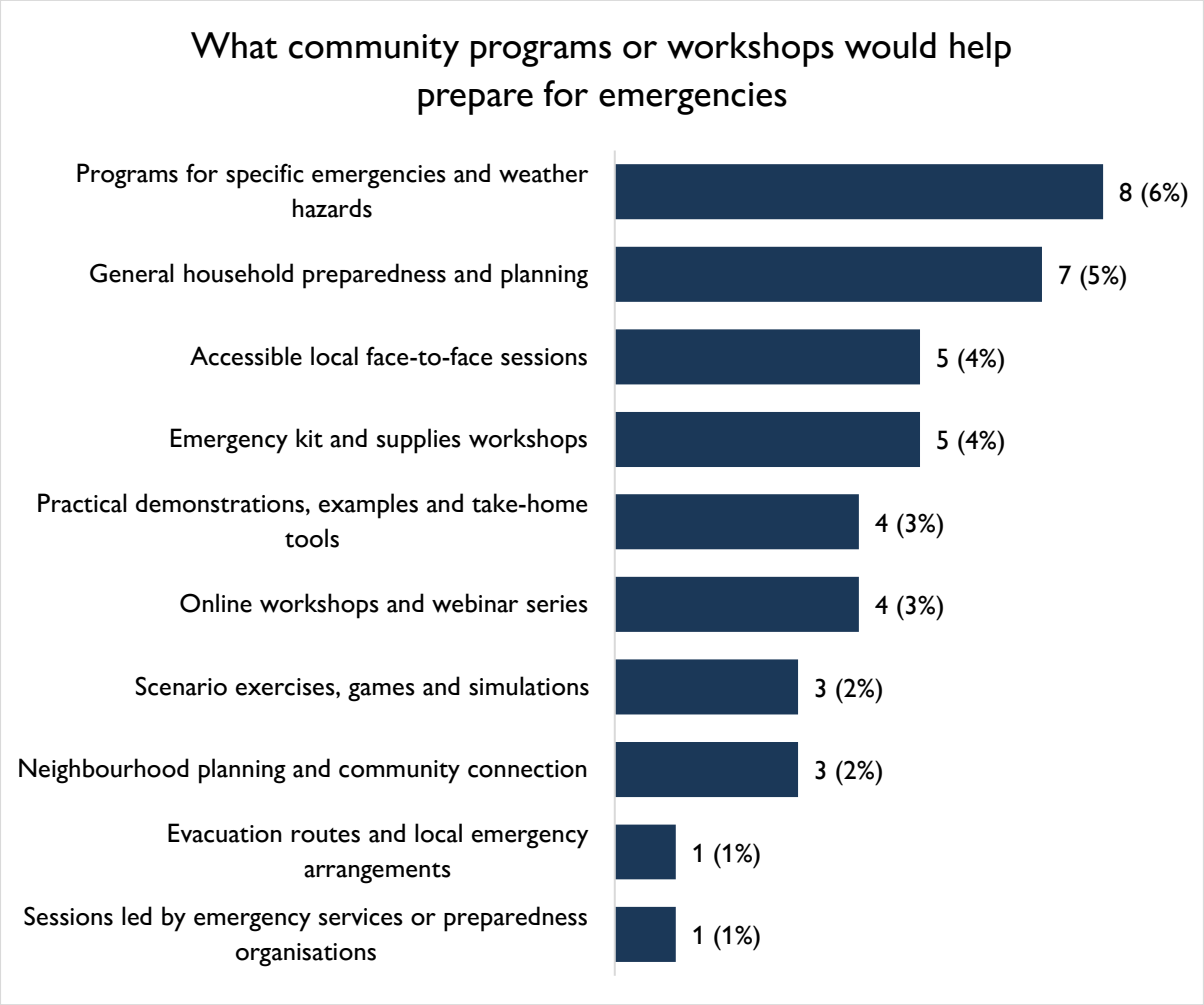
- *"Maybe a plan checklist. An definition of just what council thinks an emergency situation and why we should take action. It could be printed information handout at a workshop as well as available on council's website".*
- *"A list of probable emergencies in my location that I should prepare for, and enter to get more information for each type of emergency".*
- *"A local guide on what to do / not do and where to go, e.g. local resilience and recovery centres. Cool spaces available of extreme heat days / power outages".*
- *"List of what is needed to prepare/purchase, including an annual reminder to do so. When to switch/replace items like batteries that may degrade over time. Where to go once safely evacuated from your house".*
- *"Examples of what to do or who to contact for each different type of emergency".*
- *"Information via email. How to guides, step by step preparation, example household plans".*
- *"Simple steps and diagrams/pictures in multiple languages that are relevant to the community".*

Question 11. What community programs or workshops would help you prepare for emergencies?

This optional open-ended question was shown to the 38 participants (29 per cent) who selected 'Community programs or workshops about emergencies' in the previous question. Of these, 29 provided a response (22 per cent).

Comments were grouped into themes, with the chart below showing the most common themes.

Suggestions focused on specific emergencies and weather hazards (6 per cent), followed by general household preparedness and planning (5 per cent).



Participant quotes

A selection of comments that represent the most common themes are presented verbatim below:

- *"I have to say I have not really thought about it until this survey. But maybe: Heat protection, blackout preparedness, extremely bad weather, that sort of thing".*

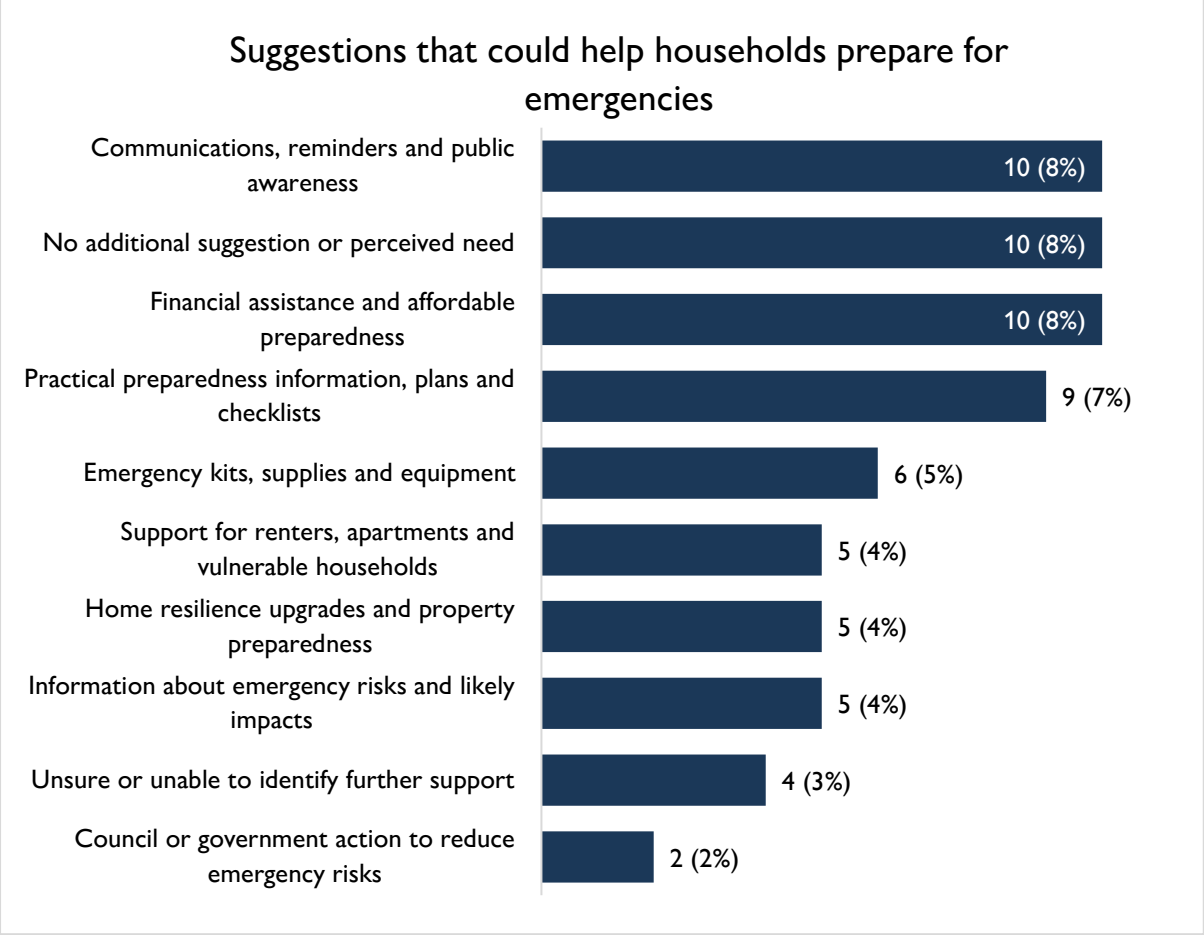
- *"Easy to access in person discussion forums".*
- *"Start with awareness. Urban fire is an increasing risk. Break through the 'it couldn't happen here' mentality".*
- *"Someone to run thru what sort of medical and food and water and cooking stuff to prepare = I have got a good first aid kit, torches and about a week of supplies but do I need to do anything else?".*
- *"Online workshops would be beneficial and easy to attend".*

Question 12. Is there anything else that could help your household prepare for emergencies?

This was an optional open-ended question, answered by 52 participants (40 per cent).

Comments were grouped into themes, with the chart below showing the most common themes.

Three themes were mentioned most often: better communications, reminders and public awareness; financial assistance to make emergency preparation more affordable; and no additional support being needed (8 per cent each).



Growing Glen Eira’s urban forest

Glen Eira's urban forest includes all trees, gardens, nature strips and other vegetation across public and private land. Together, they provide shade and cooling, cleaner air, habitat for wildlife, and greener neighbourhoods.

As Glen Eira grows, maintaining and increasing trees and greenery requires action on both public and private land. We're reviewing our *Urban Forest Strategy* to help guide future planning and investment.

Through Community Voice, we wanted to better understand:

- the opportunities and challenges for increasing trees and greenery
- how Council, residents and community groups can work together to create a greener, cooler and more resilient Glen Eira.

The survey findings will directly inform the refresh of our *Urban Forest Strategy*, before further engagement with community and key stakeholders.

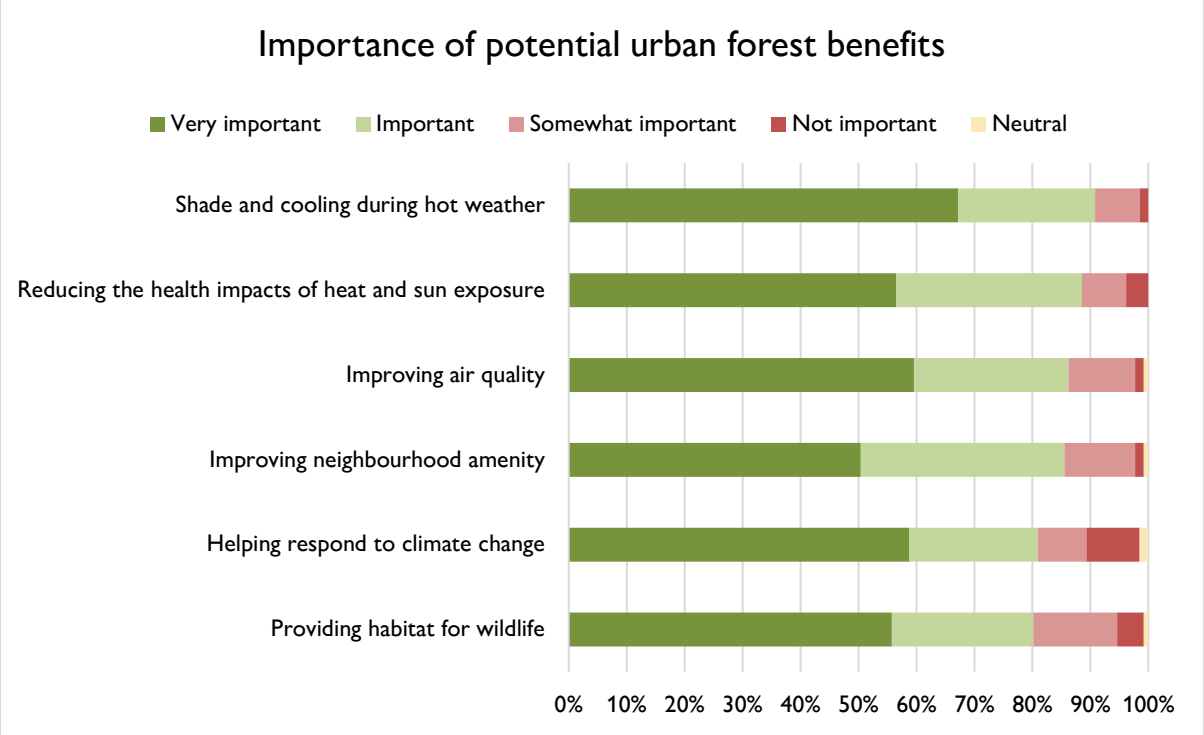
Benefits of increasing our urban forest

Question 1. When considering the potential benefits of increasing Glen Eira's urban forest, how important are the following to you?

Research and industry evidence show that increasing the urban forest can provide a range of environmental, health and social benefits. This question explored which benefits participants considered most important.

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants were asked to select a level of importance for each potential benefit.

While participants valued all of the benefits presented, the highest importance was placed on shade and cooling during hot weather (91 per cent important or very important), reducing the health impacts of heat and sun exposure (89 per cent), and improving air quality (86 per cent).



Differences across key population groups

The responses to this question have been analysed to find areas where the importance placed on different benefits was higher or lower than average for[5]:

[5] *About this analysis: Percentages for each group are based on the number of participants in that group and compared with results for all 131 participants. Results for smaller groups should be read with care, as a small number of responses can have a bigger effect on the results.*

- renters (19 participants)
- people living in multi-unit housing — apartments, units or townhouses (51 participants)
- people from a CALD background — participants who were born overseas, have a multicultural background or speak another language at home (49 participants)
- people with disability or carers of people with disability (19 participants).

Renters placed greater importance on helping Glen Eira respond to climate change (19 percentage points higher) and reducing the health impacts of heat and sun exposure (11 percentage points higher).

People from a CALD background placed less importance on providing habitat for wildlife (7 percentage points lower).

People with disability and carers placed less importance on improving neighbourhood amenity (11 percentage points lower).

There were no notable differences for people living in apartments, units or townhouses.

Your access to trees, greenery and shade

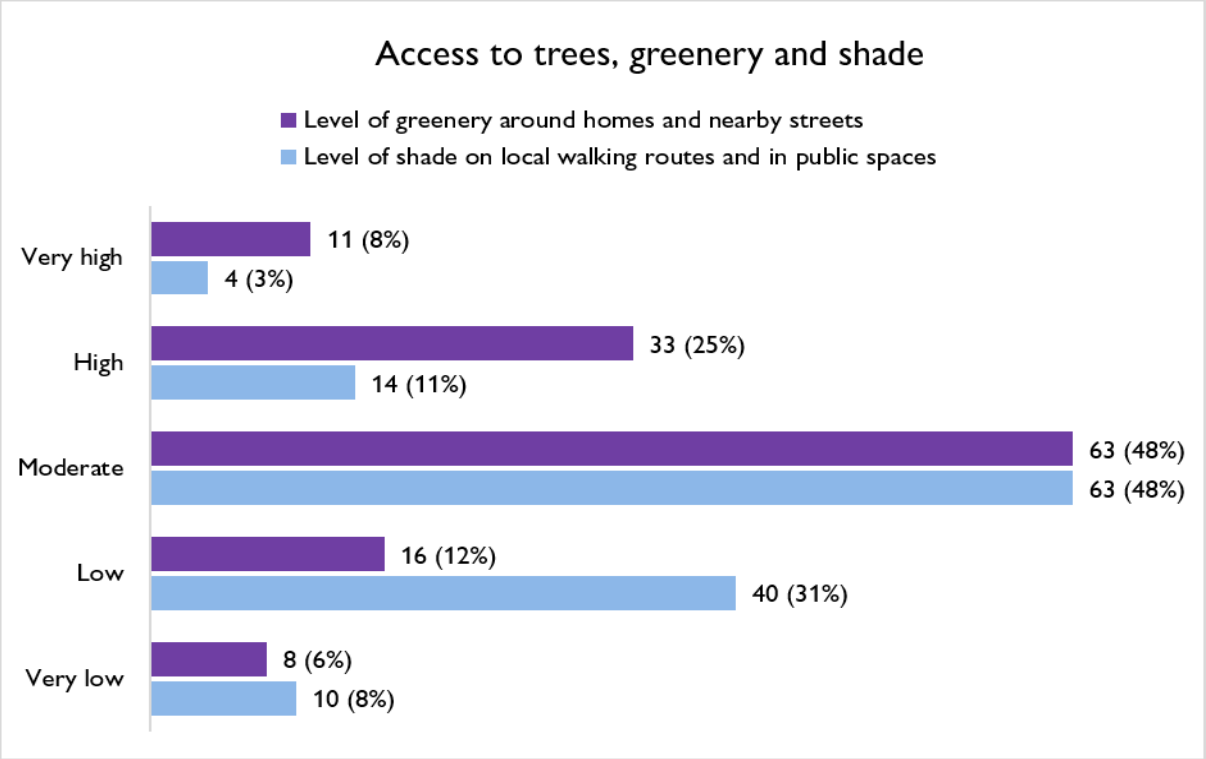
In this section of the survey, we wanted to understand members' current access to trees, greening and shade where they live. The following questions asked:

- Question 2. Thinking about where you live, how would you describe the amount of trees and greenery around your home and nearby streets?
- Question 3. Thinking about where you live, how would you describe the amount of shade along local walking routes and in public spaces during hot weather?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants.

Overall, almost half of participants (48 per cent) described both the amount of trees and greenery around their home and nearby streets, and the amount of shade along local walking routes and in public spaces, as moderate.

However, participants generally perceived greater tree and greenery cover than shade. Around one-third (33 per cent) described tree and greenery levels as high or very high, compared with 14 per cent for shade. Conversely, 39 per cent described shade as low or very low, compared with 18 per cent for trees and greenery.

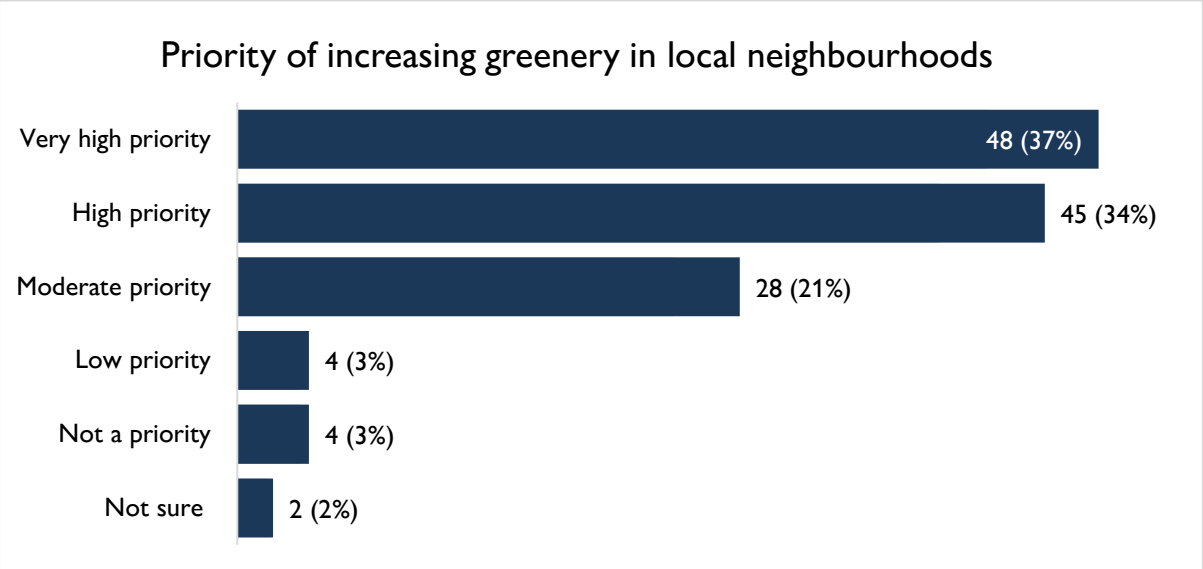


Question 4. How much of a priority should increasing trees and shade in your local area be?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants.

The majority of participants (71 per cent) rated increasing trees and shade in their local area as a high or very high priority.

A further 21 per cent considered it a moderate priority, while only 6 per cent viewed it as a low priority or not a priority.



Increasing tree canopy on private property

Trees and vegetation on private land are an important part of Glen Eira's urban forest. As Glen Eira grows, maintaining and increasing tree canopy requires action on both public and private land.

This section of the survey sought to understand what members are already doing, what more they would like to do, and any opportunities or barriers they experience.

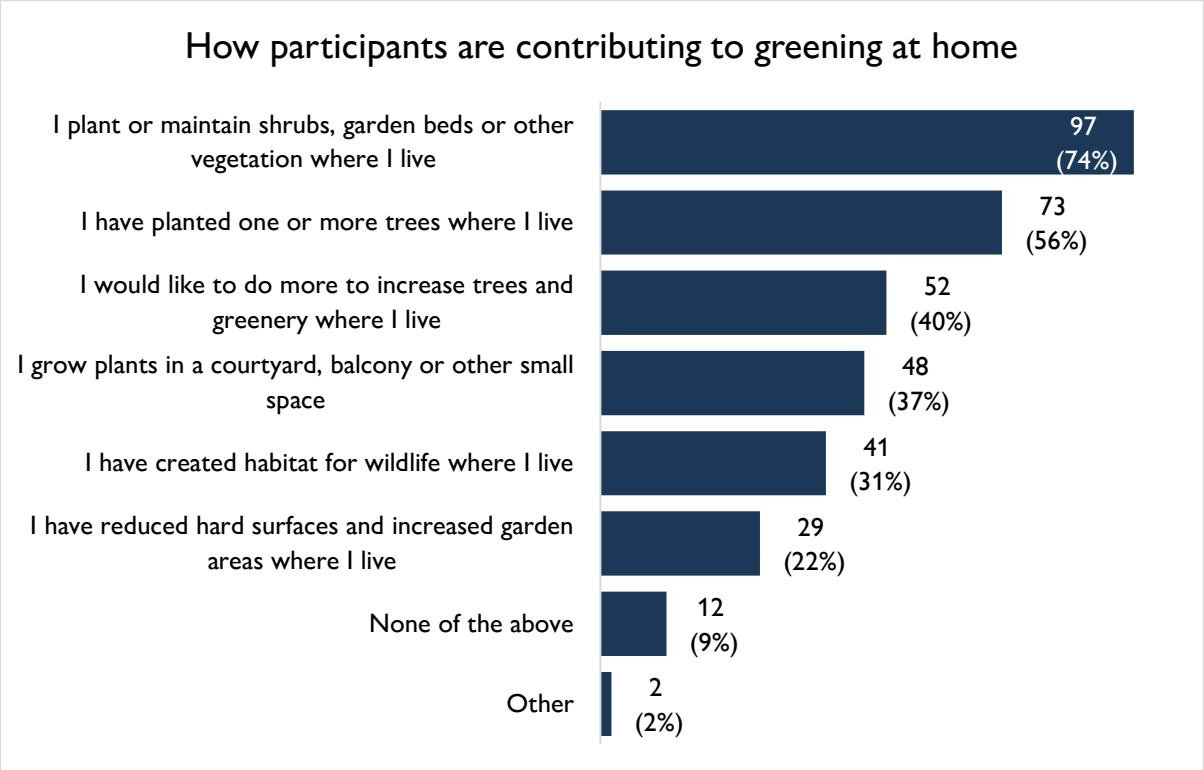
Question 5. Which of the following apply to you?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants could select more than one option.

Many participants are already taking action to increase trees and greenery where they live. Nearly three-quarters (74 per cent) reported planting or maintaining shrubs, garden beds or other vegetation, while more than half (56 per cent) had planted one or more trees.

40 per cent said they would like to do more to increase trees and greenery where they live, indicating opportunities to support residents to further contribute to Glen Eira's urban forest.

Two participants selected 'other' and said they collaborate with neighbours to undertake nature strip and laneway greening and have a vegetable garden.



Differences across key population groups

The responses to this question have been analysed to find areas where participants' experiences were higher or lower than average for[6]:

- renters (19 participants)
- people living in multi-unit housing — apartments, units or townhouses (51 participants)
- people from a CALD background — participants who were born overseas, have a multicultural background or speak another language at home (49 participants)
- people with disability or carers of people with disability (19 participants).

Renters were more likely to say they would like to do more to increase trees and greenery where they live (46 percentage points higher), but were less likely to have planted trees (42 points lower) or maintain other vegetation (38 points lower).

People living in apartments, units or townhouses were also less likely to have planted trees (31 points lower) or maintain other vegetation (25 points lower), but were more likely to grow plants in courtyards, balconies or other small spaces (22 points higher).

People with disability and carers were less likely to maintain other vegetation (16 points lower) or create habitat for wildlife (10 points lower), but more likely to grow plants in smaller spaces (10 points higher).

Results for participants from a CALD background were generally similar to participants overall, although they were 6 percentage points more likely to maintain shrubs, garden beds or other vegetation.

Question 6. What are the main barriers, if any, to increasing trees and greenery where you live?

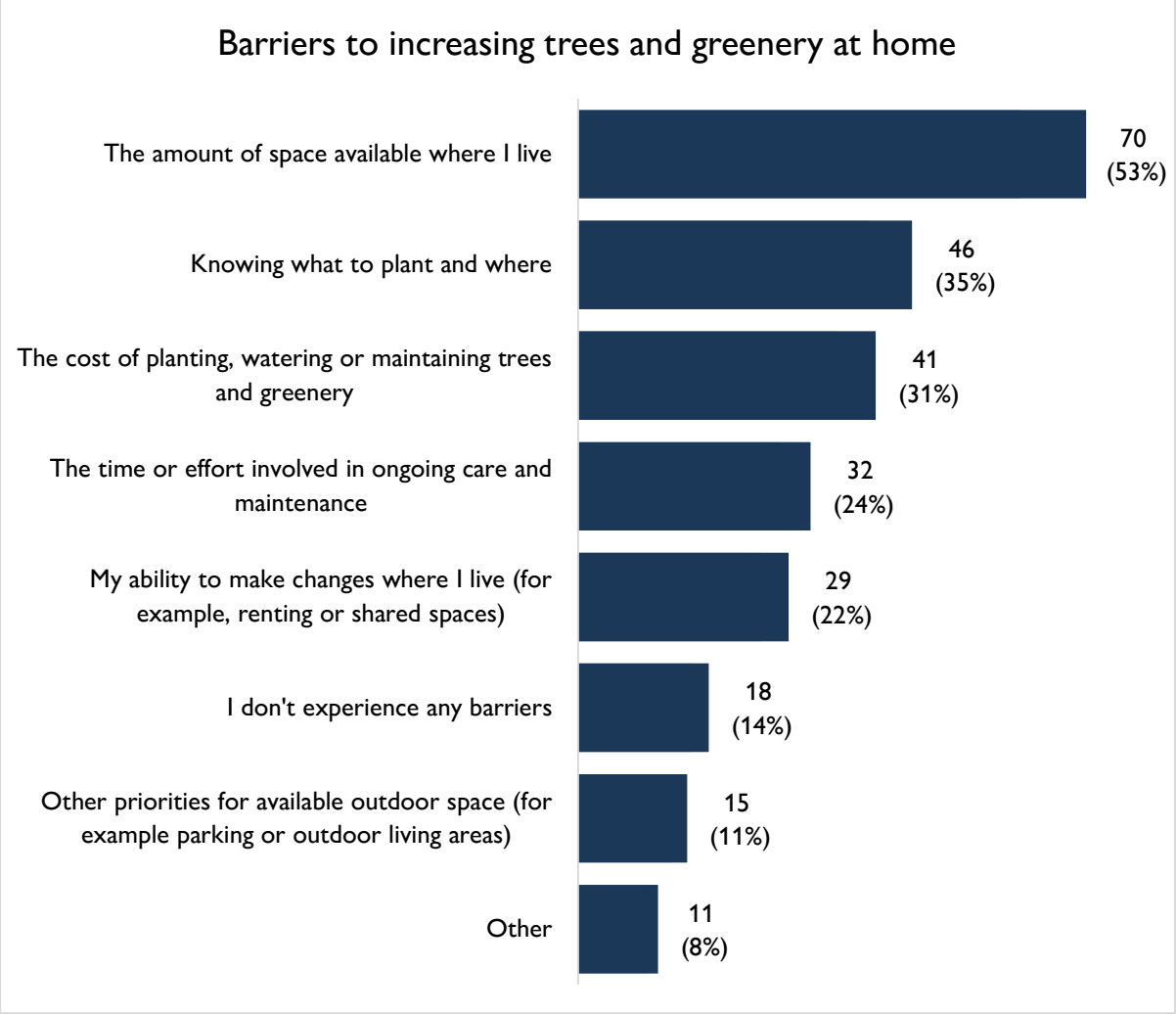
This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants could select more than one option.

Limited space was the most common barrier to increasing trees and greenery where participants live, identified by 53 per cent of participants.

[6] *About this analysis: Percentages for each group are based on the number of participants in that group and compared with results for all 131 participants. Results for smaller groups should be read with care, as a small number of responses can have a bigger effect on the results.*

Other frequently reported barriers included knowing what to plant and where (35 per cent) and the cost of planting, watering or maintaining trees and greenery (31 per cent).

Of the 11 participants who selected 'other', four raised concerns about trees damaging homes or infrastructure, particularly from roots. Two mentioned wildlife such as possums and bats damaging trees and plants, while two raised concerns about neighbours opposing or damaging vegetation. Other comments related to development and housing density reducing space for trees, easements limiting where trees can be planted, and the water needed to establish new plants.



Differences across key population groups

The responses to this question have been analysed to find areas where barriers were reported more or less often than average for[7]:

[7] *About this analysis: Percentages for each group are based on the number of participants in that group and compared with results for all 131 participants. Results for smaller groups should be read with care, as a small number of responses can have a bigger effect on the results.*

- renters (19 participants)
- people living in multi-unit housing — apartments, units or townhouses (51 participants)
- people from a CALD background — participants who were born overseas, have a multicultural background or speak another language at home (49 participants)
- people with disability or carers of people with disability (19 participants).

Renters were much more likely to identify their ability to make changes where they live as a barrier (79 percentage points higher). This barrier was also more commonly reported by people living in apartments, units or townhouses (22 points higher) and people with disability and carers (16 points higher).

Limited space was also more commonly reported by renters (26 points higher) and people living in apartments, units or townhouses (22 points higher).

The cost of planting and maintenance was less commonly reported as a barrier by people from a CALD background (18 points lower) and people living in apartments, units or townhouses (13 points lower).

People with disability and carers were also more likely to identify the time or effort involved in ongoing care and maintenance as a barrier (13 points higher).

Question 7. Are there any other opportunities or barriers Council should consider to help encourage more trees and greenery where people live?

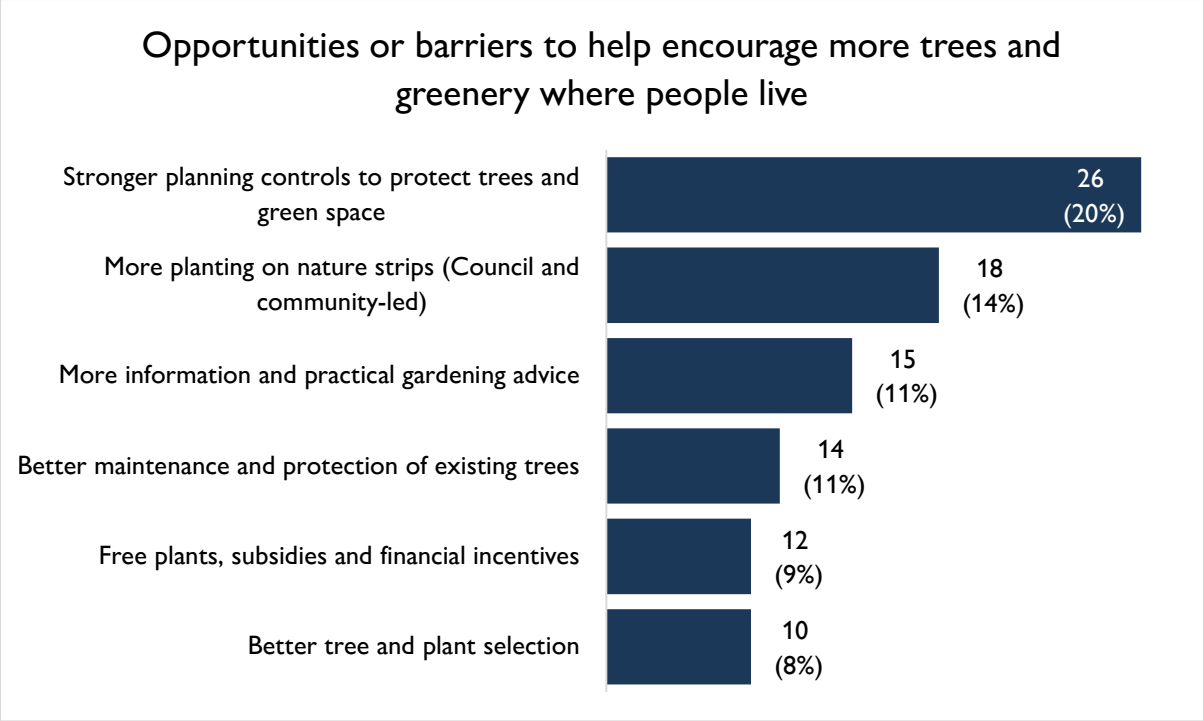
This was an optional open-ended question, answered by 78 participants (60 per cent).

Comments were grouped into themes, with the chart below showing the most common themes.

The most common theme was stronger planning controls to protect trees and green space (20 per cent). Comments focused on protecting established trees during redevelopment and retaining space for gardens and trees on private property.

More planting on nature strips was raised in 14 per cent of comments. This included calls for Council to plant more trees, as well as making it easier for community members to plant and green nature strips themselves.

More information and practical gardening advice was raised in 11 per cent of comments, including guidance on suitable native and indigenous plants, caring for trees and gardens, and managing challenges such as possums.

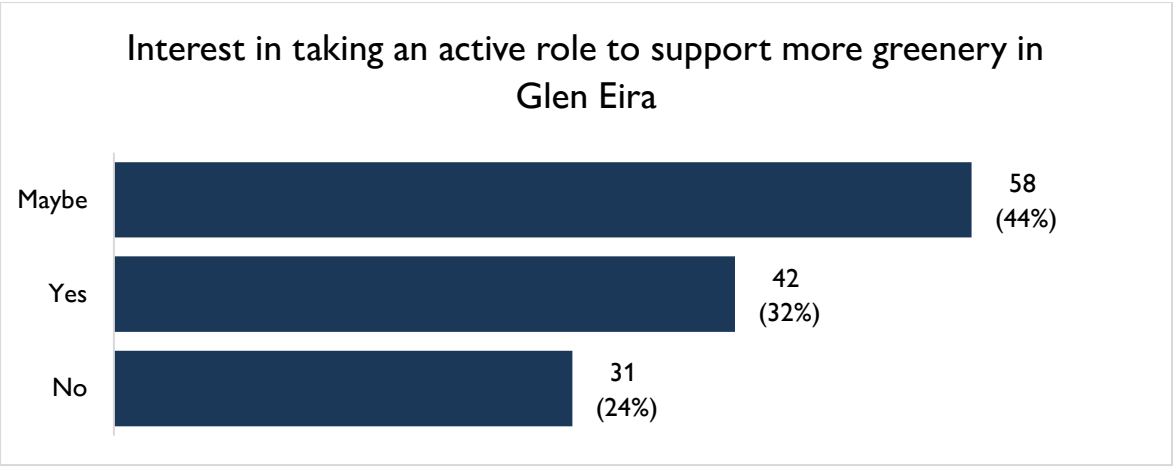


Other themes included better maintenance and protection of existing trees (11 per cent), free plants, subsidies and financial incentives (9 per cent), and better tree and plant selection (8 per cent), particularly selecting species that are appropriate for their location and minimise maintenance, safety and infrastructure issues.

Question 8. Would you be interested in taking a more active role in supporting trees and greenery in Glen Eira?

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants.

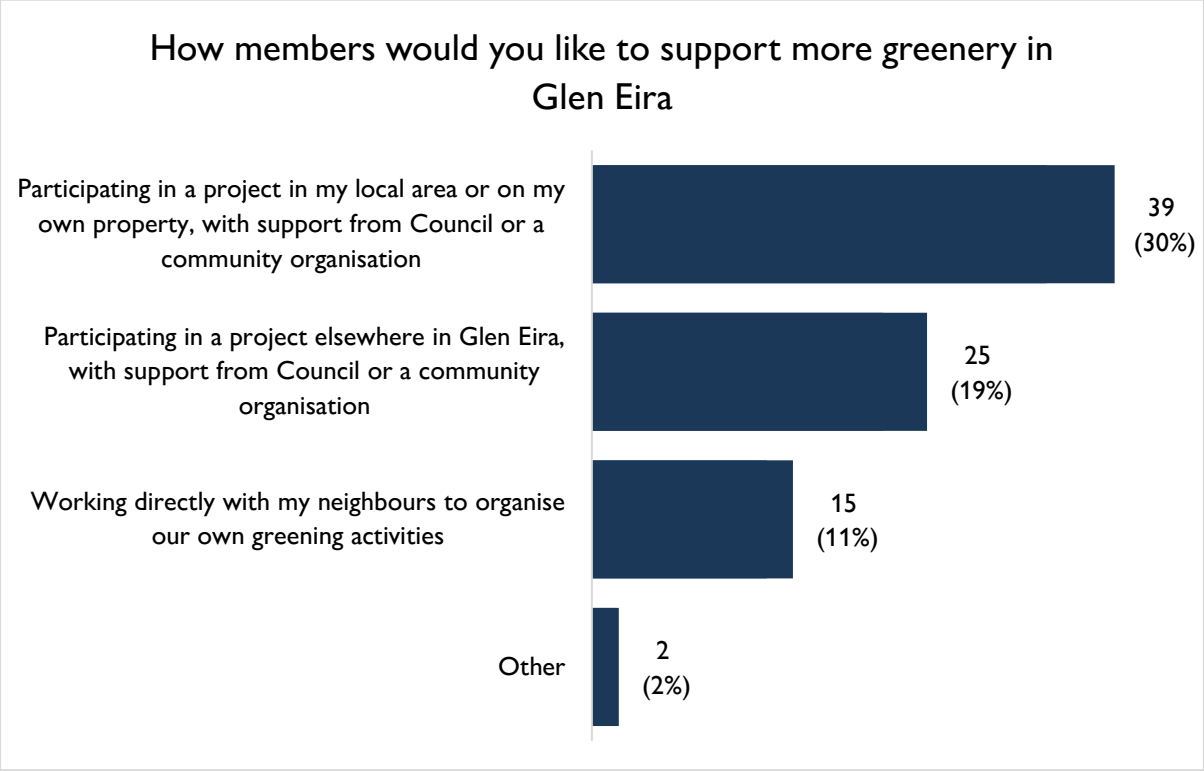
While 32 per cent said they would like to take further action, a larger proportion (44 per cent) selected 'maybe'. Around one-quarter of participants (24 per cent) said they would not like to do more.



Question 9. How would you like to participate?

This required question was shown to the 42 participants (32 per cent) who selected 'Yes' in the previous question. Participants could select more than one option.

Among those interested in participating more, most said they would like to take part in a project in their local area or on their own property, with support from Council or a community organisation (30 per cent).



Balancing priorities to support our urban forest

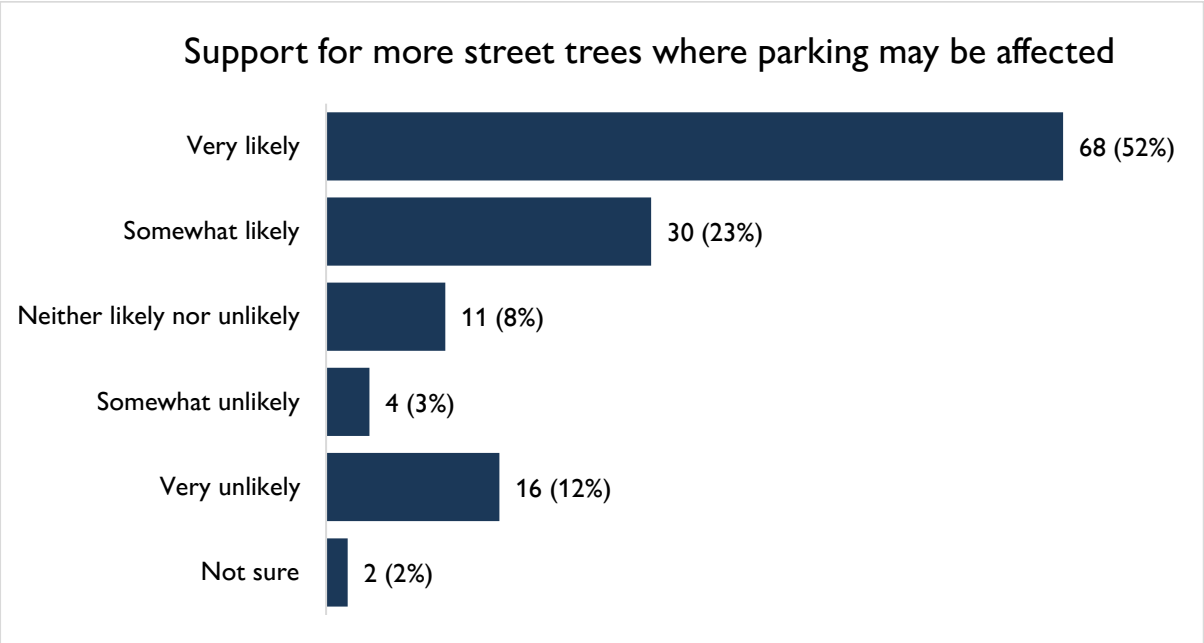
Planting street trees in priority areas

Question 10. If your area was identified as being at high risk during heatwaves, how likely would you be to support planting more street trees if some on-street parking was affected?

Some parts of Glen Eira are expected to be at higher risk during heatwaves. In some locations, planting more street trees could provide shade and help reduce heat, but may affect the amount of on-street parking available.

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants. Participants were asked to consider the trade-off between planting more street trees and potential impacts on on-street parking.

Three quarters of participants (75 per cent) were very or somewhat likely to support this.



Question 11. What factors most influenced your response?

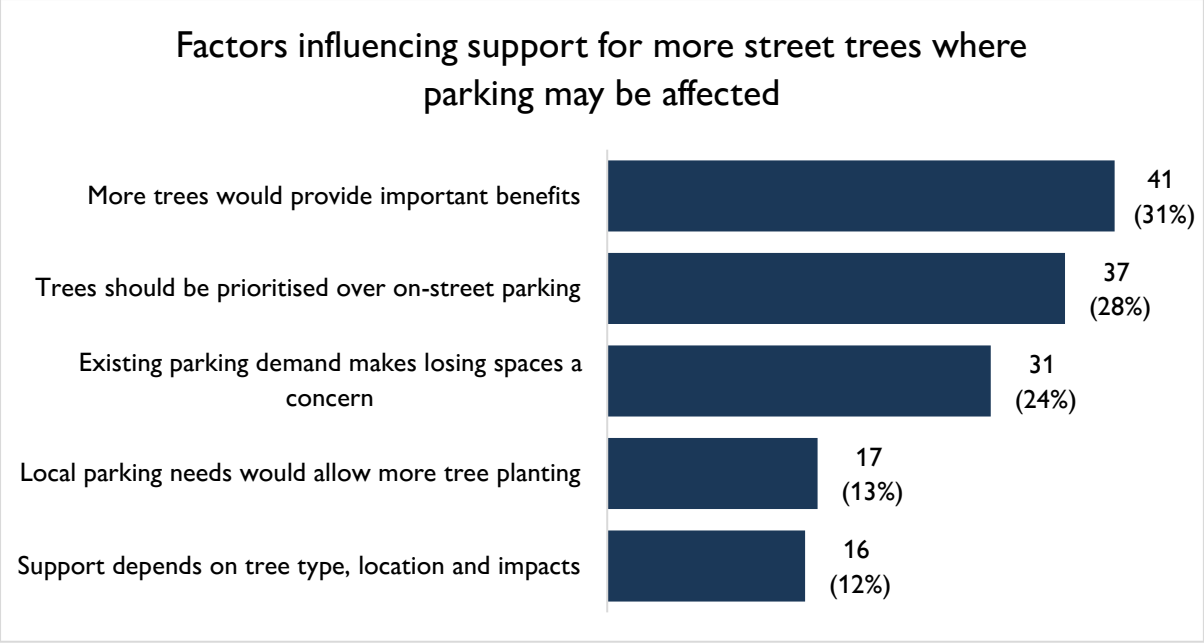
This optional open-ended question was answered by 103 participants (79 per cent).

Comments were grouped into themes, with the chart below showing the most common themes.

The benefits of planting more trees, including increased shade and canopy, were the most commonly raised factor (31 per cent), followed by a preference for prioritising trees over on-street parking (28 per cent).

Local parking conditions also influenced participants' responses. Concerns about losing parking where demand is already high were raised by 24 per cent of participants, while 13 per cent indicated that their local parking needs or available space would allow for more tree planting.

Tree type, planting location and potential impacts were also factors influencing support (12 per cent).



Participant quotes

A selection of comments that represent the most common themes are presented verbatim below:

- *"Parking supply and demand - will always continue. Need to focus on climate & urban heat island effect".*
- *"I personally think my street has too much street parking and I think greenery is a better use of the space than for cars".*
- *"The parking demand is extremely high in my immediate kerbside location. I can never get a park outside my home on most occasions".*
- *"We have off street parking. My answer would be different if we were relying on street parking".*
- *"I ride my bicycle and walk mostly, so not affected by carpark loss. Would love to see carspaces near stormwater drains converted to rain gardens to slow water movement, trap litter and filter runoff".*

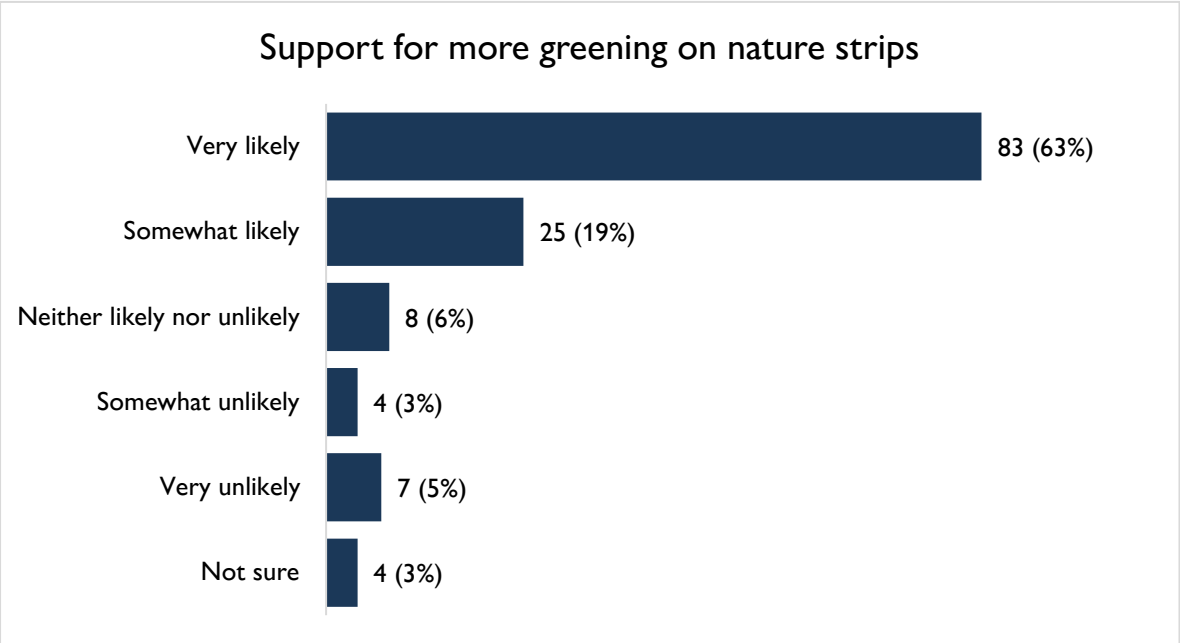
Increasing nature strip greening

Question 12. If your area was identified as an important wildlife corridor, how likely would you be to support more greening on nature strips?

Some parts of Glen Eira may be identified as important wildlife corridors, helping plants and animals move between parks, reserves and other green spaces. Additional greening on

nature strips could strengthen these connections but may need to be balanced with access and other uses of the space.

This was a required question, answered by all 131 participants.



Question 13. What factors most influenced your response?

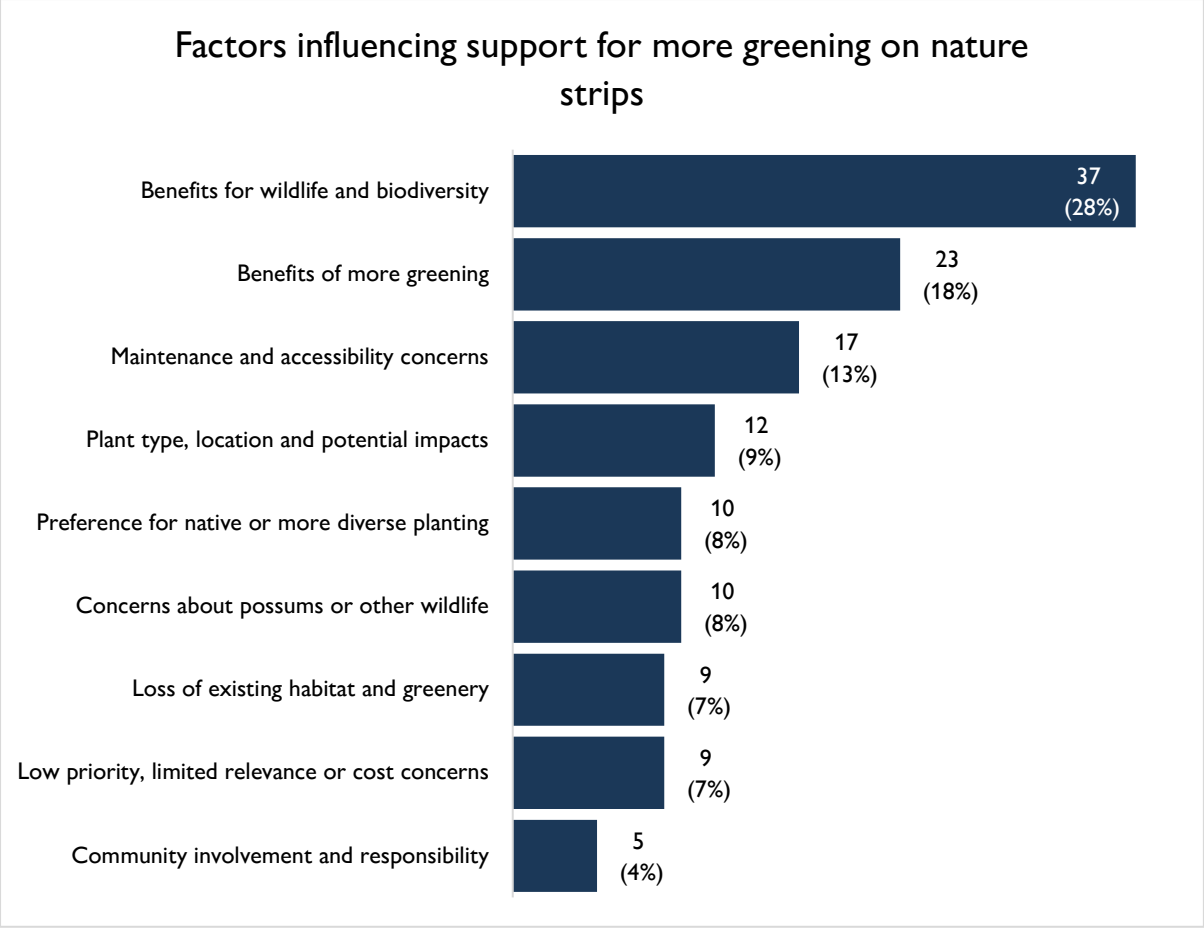
This optional open-ended question was answered by 92 participants (70 per cent).

Comments were grouped into themes, with the chart below showing the most common themes.

The benefits for wildlife and biodiversity were the most commonly raised factor influencing participants' responses (28 per cent), as well as the broader benefits of greening, including shade, cooling and more attractive streets (18 per cent).

Some participants' support depended on how the greening would work in practice. Maintenance responsibility and accessibility were raised by 14 per cent of participants, while 13 per cent considered factors such as the type and location of planting and potential impacts.

Other factors included a preference for native or more diverse planting, concerns about possums or other wildlife, and the loss of existing habitat and greenery (8 per cent each).



Participant quotes

A selection of comments that represent the most common themes are presented verbatim below:

- *"I do not like the lawn on nature strips, I would support having more native vegetation and pollinating plants".*
- *"Nature strips are mostly unattractive and devoid of nature. A bit of greenery and plantings other than grass would increase the visual appeal of streets".*
- *"Nature strips also need to be accessible for parked cars".*
- *"I don't like mowed grass nature strips anyway, and would prefer native/low maintenance ground cover/grevilleas etc".*
- *"There's no point in planting (greening) areas unless they are maintained and monitored. Tree loss is our greatest problem yet this seems to be a low priority for council".*

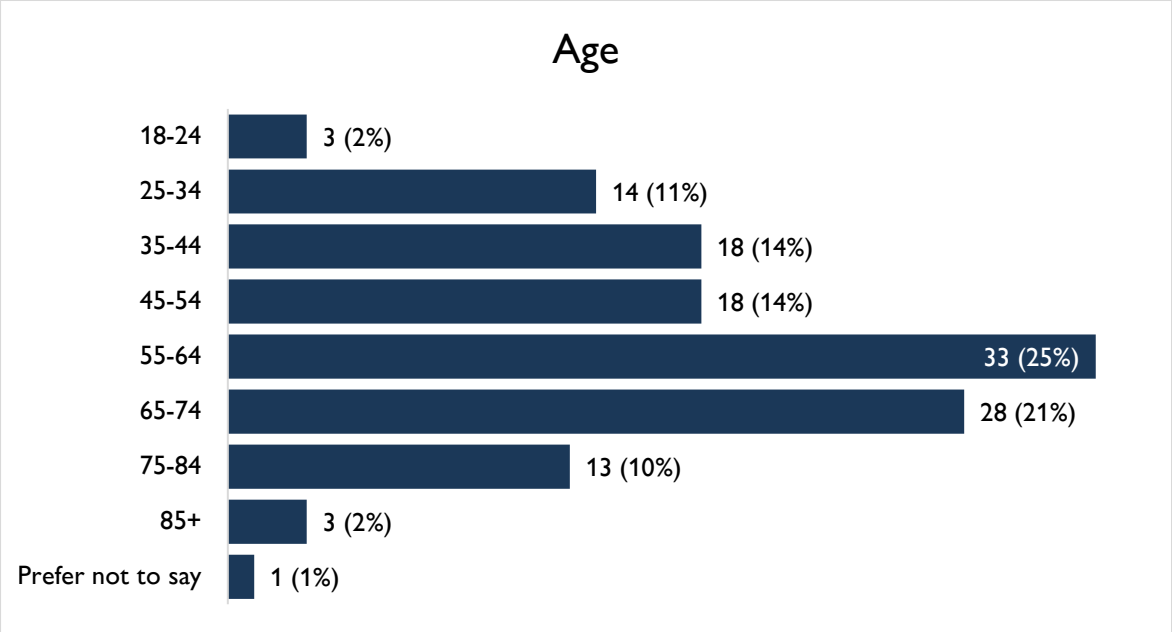
Demographics

Demographics

The following demographic questions were asked to help understand who we're hearing from. We also asked about participants' housing situation, household type and property type. This helped us explore whether people's homes and living situations affected their responses to emergency planning and increasing trees and greenery. All questions were answered by the 131 participants.

What is your age?

All age groups are represented in the survey. We mostly heard from participants aged 55–64 (25 per cent), followed by those aged 65–74 (21 per cent).



What is your gender?

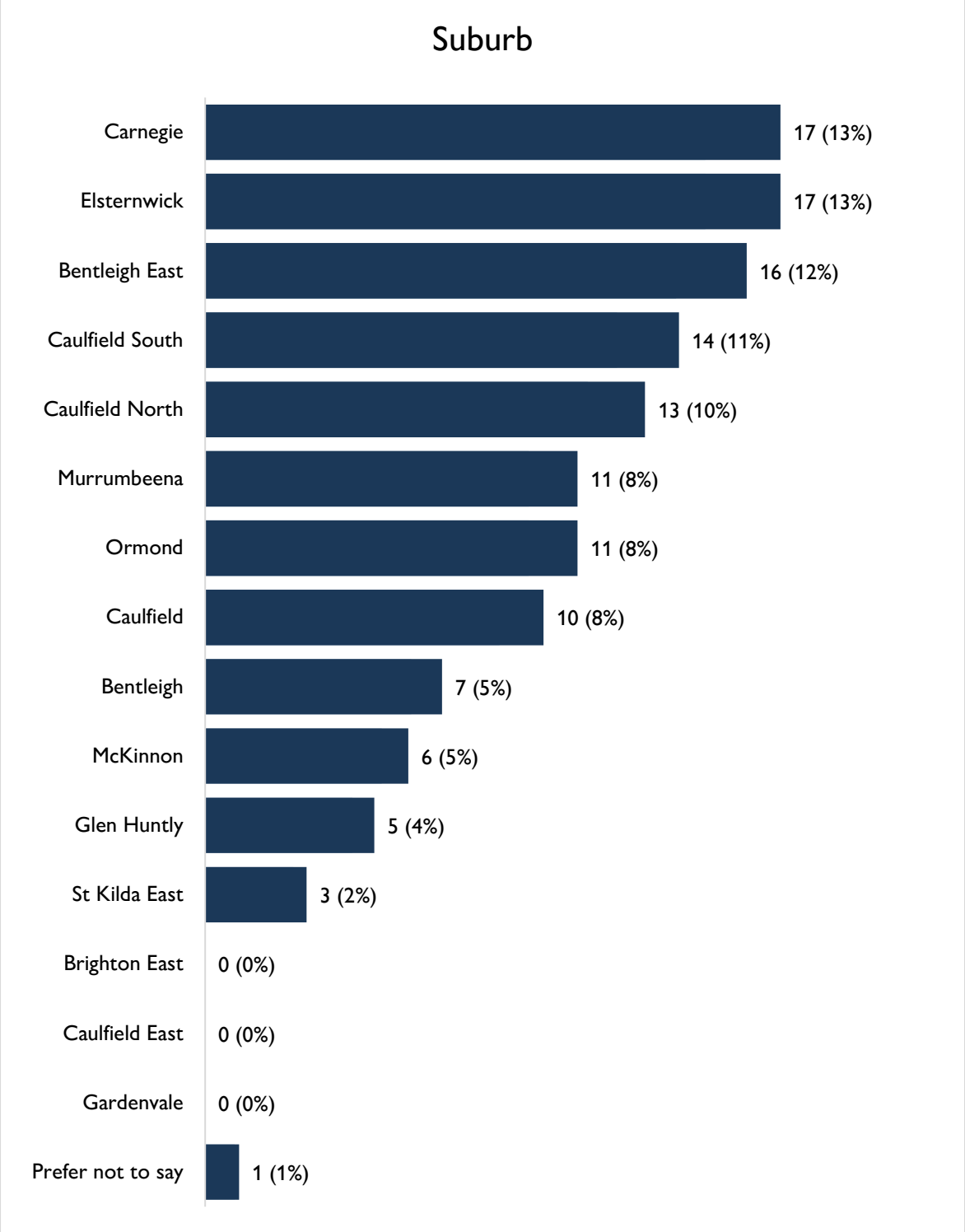
Participants were evenly split between men and women, with 49 per cent men and 48 per cent women.



What suburb do you live in?

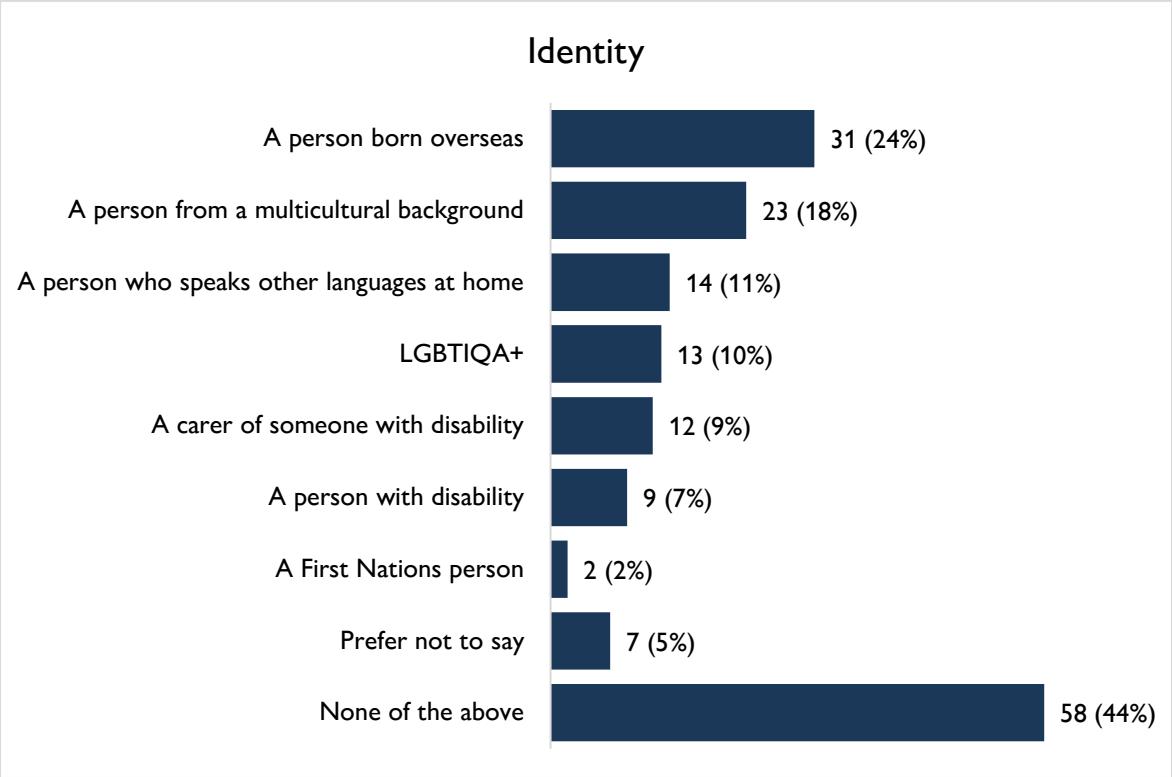
Participants from all Glen Eira suburbs are represented in the survey results, except for Brighton East, Gardenvale and Caulfield East.

The highest responses came from Carnegie and Elsternwick (13 per cent each), followed by Bentleigh East (12 per cent).



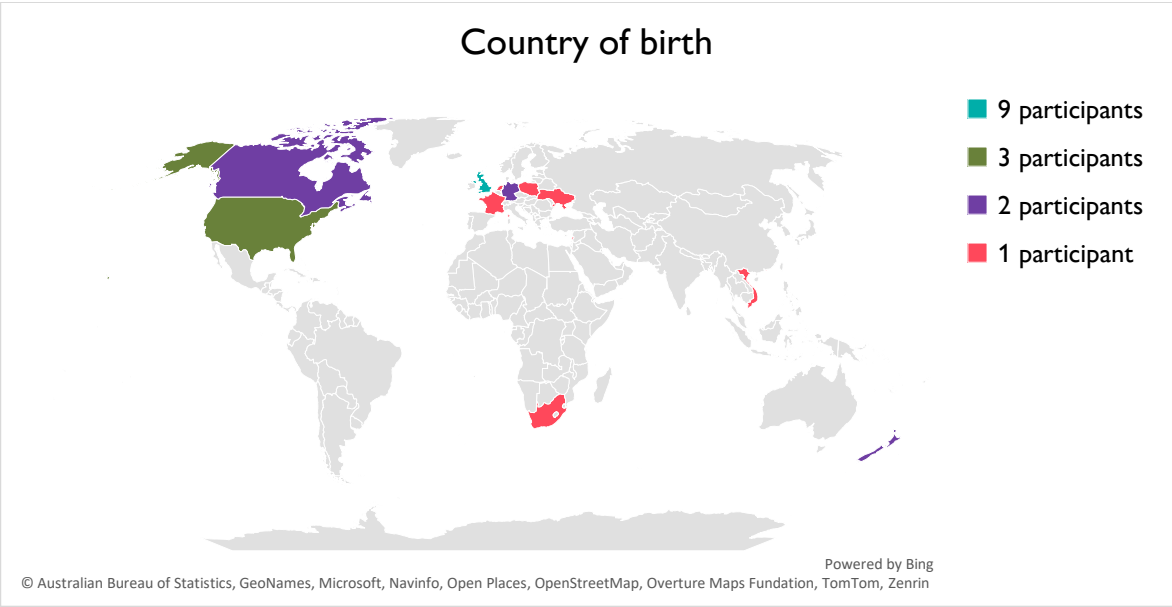
Do you identify as any of the following?

Almost half of participants (44 per cent) did not identify with any of the listed groups. Among those who did identify, the most common responses were those born overseas (24 per cent) and those from a multicultural background (18 per cent).



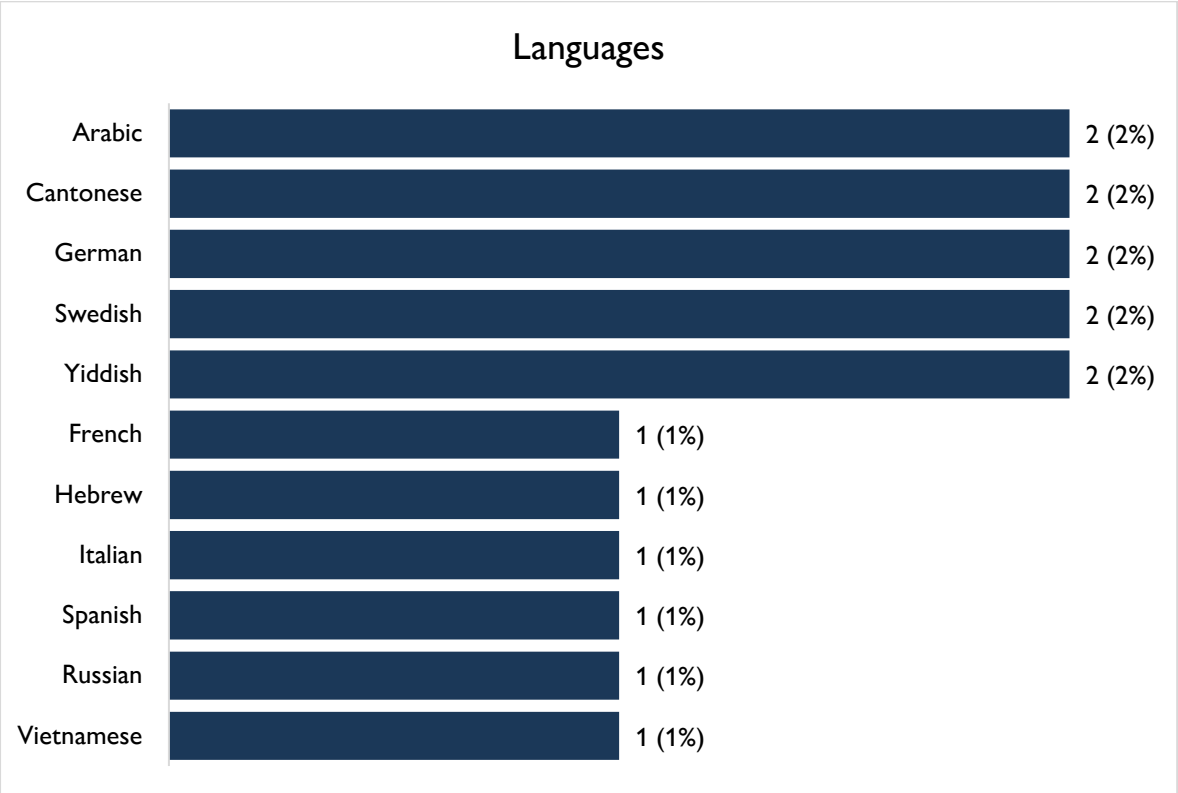
Country of birth

Of the 31 participants born overseas, 26 shared their country of birth.



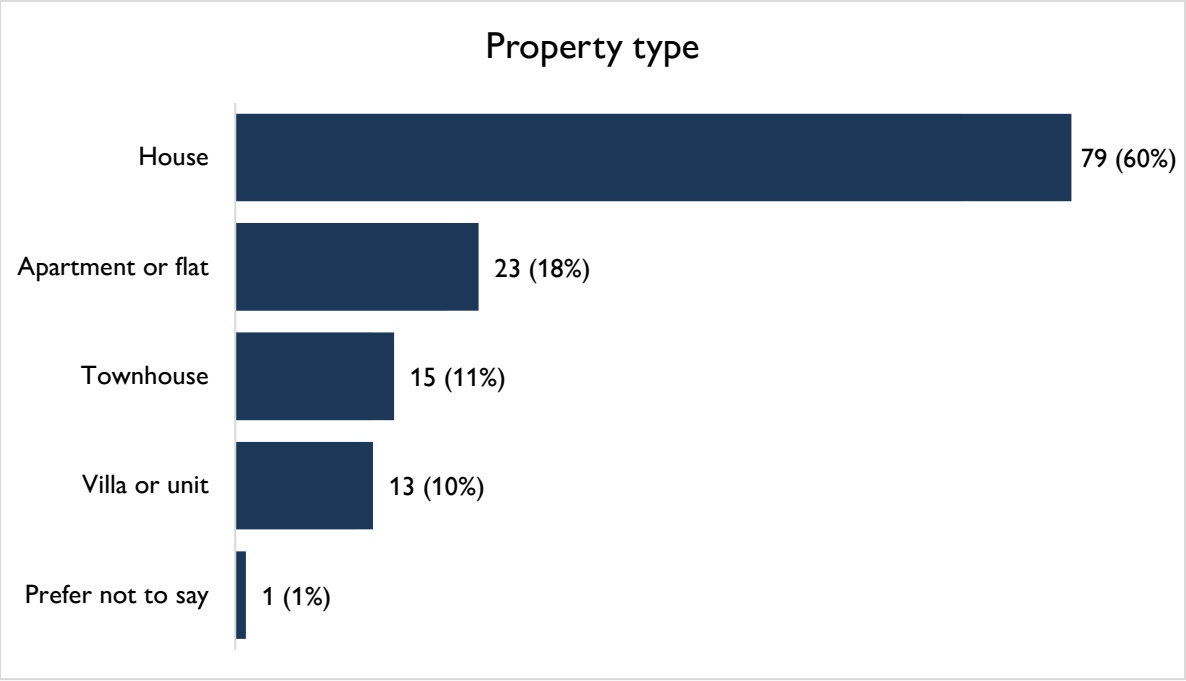
Languages spoken at home

Of the 14 participants who speak other languages at home, 12 shared which languages.



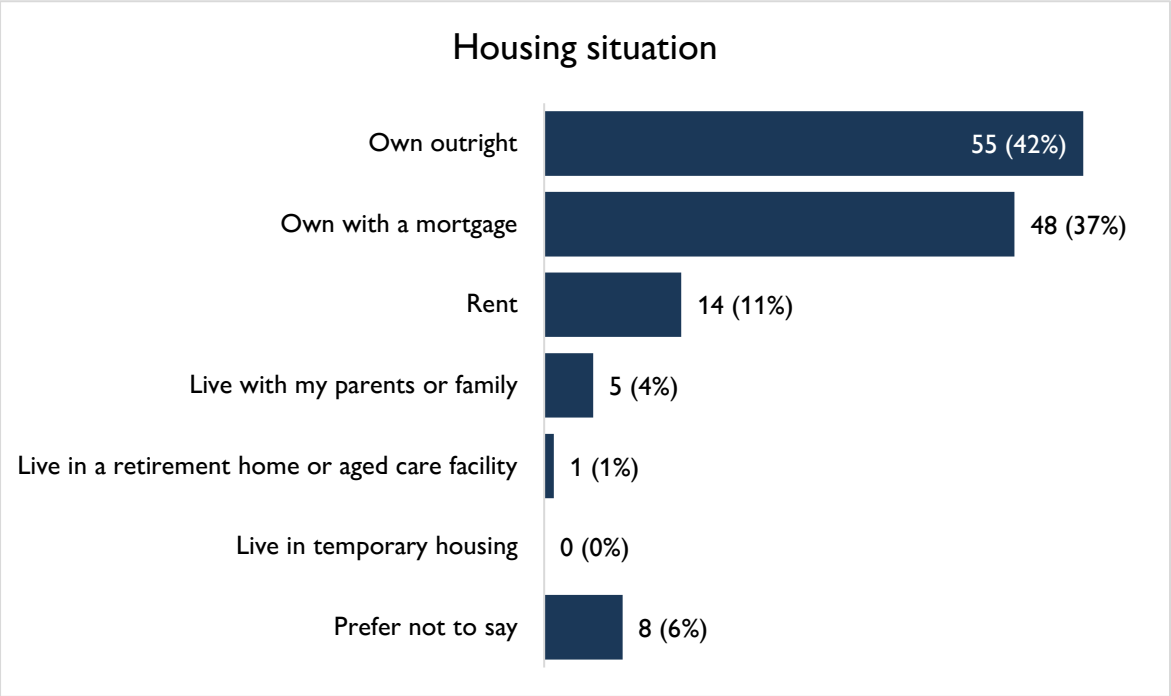
Property type

Most participants lived in a house (60 per cent), followed by an apartment or flat (18 per cent), townhouse (11 per cent) or villa or unit (10 per cent).



Housing situation

Most participants owned their home, either outright (42 per cent) or with a mortgage (37 per cent). A further 11 per cent rented.



Household type

Couples with or without children were the most common household types (31 per cent and 33 per cent respectively). A further 21 per cent live in a one-person household.

