

Queensland Social Survey 2023

Social Isolation and Loneliness Survey Report

prepared for

Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
August 2023

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations and symbols are used in this report:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| % | per cent |
| ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
| CATI | Computer-assisted telephone interviewing |
| DTATSIPCA | Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (formerly Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE)) |
| DJAG | Department of Justice and the Attorney-General |
| N | population size |
| n | sample size |
| QGSO | Queensland Government Statistician's Office |
| QSS | Queensland Social Survey |
| SA4 | Statistical Area Level 4 (as classified by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard) |
| SIL | Social isolation and loneliness |



Terms

The following terms are used in this report:

| | |
|--|---|
| Confidence intervals | The degree of imprecision (sampling error) is represented as a confidence interval (the difference between upper and lower confidence limits). This gives a range of values for the population estimates (e.g. from 70% to 80%) rather than a single value or point estimate (e.g. 75%). Typically, wider confidence intervals indicate less precise estimates. |
| Estimated adult Queensland resident population | The total estimated population of adults (persons aged 18 years or older) in Queensland as at June 2021 (N = 4,033,493), according to ABS (2021), <i>Regional population by age and sex</i> [www.abs.gov.au]. Also referred to as 'Queensland adults'. |
| Multi-response | A question where respondents could select more than one response for specific categories. |
| Regions | Derived from the survey's scoping questions, where respondents were first asked to confirm that they were a Queensland resident, then asked to provide their postcode and/or suburb. These responses were geocoded into two regions (South East Queensland and Rest of Queensland) based on Queensland SA4s and then weighted to the total estimated population of adults residents in Queensland, as at June 2021. |
| Respondents | The 1,211 Queensland adults who completed the Queensland Social Survey between 29 May and 12 June 2023. Also referred to as 'in-scope responding'. |
| Weighted | The process of weighting or calibration aims to reduce bias by ensuring that survey totals for certain variables sum to known population totals. For the Queensland Social Survey, data were calibrated so that survey totals matched Queensland totals for age and sex by region. See Appendix C for a discussion of variables and benchmarks used for calibration. |

Acknowledgement

Reports produced by QGSO reflect information provided freely by individuals and businesses. The continued cooperation of respondents is appreciated and enables QGSO to collect and report statistics. Information received by QGSO is treated in strict confidence as required by the Statistical Returns Act.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Background and methodology

The Queensland Social Survey 2023 (the survey) was conducted by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) on behalf of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) and the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DTATSIPCA) between 29 May and 12 June 2023.

The survey collected information on a variety of important societal issues and has been undertaken by QGSO for seven consecutive years. The survey's social isolation and loneliness (SIL) questions were designed to capture information about the social groups and connections of Queensland adults.

Computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) obtained 1,211 completed surveys and an overall response rate of 29.1%. All SIL results presented have been weighted to the estimated adult Queensland resident population as of June 2021 (N = 4,033,493).

1.2 Key results

Loneliness

Of Queensland adults:

- 5.4% often felt lonely
- 8.9% often felt they lacked companionship
- 4.1% often felt left out
- 5.0% often felt isolated from others.

Social connection

In the last three months, almost two in three (63.6%) Queensland adults had *communicated at least once a day* (in person, by phone or online) with people they knew but didn't live with.

Almost three in ten Queensland adults (29.5%) wanted to communicate with people they knew *more often* than they currently did. Of these:

- 63.3% wanted to communicate more often with friends
- 62.0% wanted to communicate more often with family

- 8.8% wanted to communicate more often with neighbours.

The most commonly cited barriers to communicating more often with people they knew were:

- lack of time (68.1%)
- distance or different time zones (23.1%)
- lack of motivation (5.7%).

Social groups and activities

In the last three months:

- 39.4% of Queensland adults had *investigated* the range of groups or activities provided in their city or local community
- 50.5% of Queensland adults had been *actively involved* in groups or activities in their city or local community.

Of these, the main reasons for *becoming actively involved* were:

- to meet new people or expand their social network (36.7%)
- for fun or personal enjoyment (32.3%)
- for their health and fitness (19.3%)

The main reasons Queensland adults *did not become actively involved* in groups or activities in their city or local community were:

- lack of time due to family or work commitments (62.3%)
- lack of interest (23.0%)
- health reasons (9.5%).



SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS: KEY RESULTS

This is a snapshot of the social isolation and loneliness (SIL) results from the **Queensland Social Survey 2023**, which obtained responses from 1,211 Queensland adults. Percentages are based on **weighted estimates of the total estimated adult Queensland resident population (N = 4,033,493)**.



Social connection

Feelings of loneliness

■ Often ■ Sometimes ■ Rarely ■ Never



5.4%
of adults

often felt lonely

2 in 3
adults

had **communicated at least once a day** with people they knew but didn't live with in the last three months

3 in 10
adults

wanted to **communicate more often** with people they knew but didn't live with than they currently do

For those who **desired to communicate more often...**

Of these...



68.1%
of adults

felt that *lack of time* was a **barrier to communicating more often**



63.3%
of adults

desired to communicate more often with *friends*



23.1%
of adults

felt that *distance or different time zones* was a **barrier to communicating more often**



62.0%
of adults

desired to communicate more often with *family*



5.7%
of adults

felt that *lack of motivation* were a **barrier to communicating more often**



8.8%
of adults

desired to communicate more often with *neighbours*

Social groups and activities

39.4%
of adults

had *investigated* the range of **groups or activities** in their city or local community in the last three months

50.5%
of adults

had *been actively involved in groups or activities* in their city or local community, in the last three months

For those who were *not actively involved* in **groups or activities** in the last three months...

Of those who *were actively involved in groups or activities* in the last three months...



62.3%
of adults

did not become involved due to *lack of time*



36.7%
of adults

became involved in groups or activities *to meet new people or expand their social network*



23.0%
of adults

did not become involved due to *lack of interest*



32.3%
of adults

became involved in groups or activities *for fun or personal enjoyment*



9.5%
of adults

did not become involved due to *health reasons*



19.3%
of adults

became involved in groups or activities *for their health and fitness*

2 SURVEY OVERVIEW

2.1 Background

The Queensland Social Survey 2023 (QSS) was conducted by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) on behalf of the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DTATSIPCA), between 29 May and 12 June 2023.

QSS is an annual omnibus survey, that collects information on important societal issues affecting Queensland adults and has been conducted by QGSO for six consecutive years, on behalf of:

- Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) in 2017
- DPC and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS) from 2018 to 2020
- DPC and Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE) in 2021 and 2022
- Department of Justice and the Attorney-General (DJAG) and DTATSIPCA in 2023.

One such issue being monitored and evaluated by the Queensland Government is social isolation and loneliness (SIL).

The objective of the survey's SIL questions was to provide measures of social connection within the Queensland community.

2.2 Survey design

The in-scope population for the QSS 2023 was adults (aged 18 years or older) who were usual residents of Queensland (estimated to be 4,033,493 as at June 2021).

A total of 4,164 Queensland adults were randomly selected for the 2023 survey from a contact list constructed from databases that are kept for official statistical purposes under the authority of the *Statistical Returns Act 1896*.

2.3 Questionnaire design

The social isolation questions were developed by DTATSIPCA, in consultation with QGSO in 2021. These replaced the social cohesion questions

collected between 2017 and 2020. In 2022, loneliness questions, based on those used by the United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics, were added to the survey.

See **Appendix A** for a copy of the 2023 questionnaire.

2.4 Survey administration and response rate

The survey was administered using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A total of 1,211 completed surveys were obtained, giving an overall response rate of 29.1% (see **Table 1**).

Table 1 Survey methodology and operations summary

| Survey design | |
|----------------------------|--|
| In-scope population | Adults (aged 18 years or older) who usually reside in Queensland |
| Sample size | 4,164 |
| Data collection | |
| Mode | Computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) |
| Timing | 29 May – 12 June 2023 |
| In-scope completed surveys | 1,211 |
| Response rate | 29.1% |
| Cooperation rate | 75.8% |

Survey responses are strictly confidential and were collected under the Statistical Returns Act, which does not allow the unauthorised release of information that identifies an individual.

See **Appendix B**, for more details about the survey's methods and operations.

3 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Presentation

This section of the report summarises key results from the 2023 survey's SIL questions. Survey results are presented as estimates calculated from a responding survey sample of 1,211 and weighted to the total estimated adult Queensland resident population (N = 4,033,493).

3.2 Interpretation

Although the survey was designed to maximize the representativeness of the results, it is not possible to be perfectly representative.

Estimation of population characteristics from a random sample entails some imprecision as a result of sampling and non-sampling error.

Appendix C outlines the strategies QGSO take to minimise sampling and non-sampling error.

Population estimates included in this report have not been tested for statistical significance.

3.3 Loneliness

3.3.1 Companionship

All respondents were asked: "How often do you feel that you lack companionship?" (N1a)

Almost half (47.7%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population felt they never lacked companionship (see **Table 2**).

Conversely, 8.9% of the estimated adult Queensland resident population felt that they often lacked companionship.

Table 2 How often lacked companionship

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Never | 47.7% |
| Rarely | 25.5% |
| Sometimes | 17.9% |
| Often | 8.9% |
| Don't know | 0.1% |
| Refused | 0.0% |
| Total | 100% |

Base: All respondents (n = 1,211)

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023

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3.3.2 Feelings of being left out

All respondents were asked: "How often do you feel left out?" (N1b)

Two in five (40.2%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population never felt left out while 4.1% of the estimated adult Queensland resident population often felt left out (see **Table 3**).

Table 3 How often felt left out

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Never | 40.2% |
| Rarely | 34.7% |
| Sometimes | 20.7% |
| Often | 4.1% |
| Don't know | 0.3% |
| Refused | 0.0% |
| Total | 100% |

Base: All respondents (n = 1,211)

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023

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3.3.3 Feelings of isolation

All respondents were asked: "How often do you feel isolated from others?" (N1c).

Almost half (49.2%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population said they never felt isolated while 5.0% of the estimated adult Queensland resident population often felt isolated. (see **Table 4**).

Table 4 How often felt isolated

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Never | 49.2% |
| Rarely | 25.8% |
| Sometimes | 19.8% |
| Often | 5.0% |
| Don't know | 0.2% |
| Refused | 0.0% |
| Total | 100% |

Base: All respondents (n = 1,211)

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023
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3.3.4 Feelings of loneliness

All respondents were asked: "How often do you feel lonely?" (N2).

Approximately, two in five (39.1%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population said they never felt lonely and almost one in three (29.9%) rarely felt lonely. However, approximately 5.4% of the estimated adult Queensland resident population often felt lonely (see **Table 5**).

Table 5 How often felt lonely

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Often | 5.4% |
| Sometimes | 25.6% |
| Rarely | 29.9% |
| Never | 39.1% |
| Don't know | 0.0% |
| Refused | 0.0% |
| Total | 100% |

Base: All respondents (n = 1,211)

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023
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3.4 Social connection

3.4.1 Frequency of communication

All respondents were asked: "In the last three months, how often did you communicate with people you know, but don't live with. This could be in person, by phone or online. Would you say..." (N3)

In the last three months, 63.6% of the estimated adult Queensland resident population had communicated at least once a day with people they knew but didn't live with. Only 1.4% had communicated with people they know but don't live with less often than once a month (see **Table 6**).



Table 6 Frequency of communication in the last three months with people they knew, but didn't live with

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| At least once a day | 63.6% |
| At least once a week | 27.5% |
| At least once a fortnight | 4.3% |
| At least once a month | 3.2% |
| Less than once a month | 1.4% |
| Don't know | 0.0% |
| Refused | 0.0% |
| Total | 100% |

Base: All respondents (n = 1,211)

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023

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3.4.2 Desire to communicate more often

All respondents were asked: "Would you like to communicate with these people more often than you currently do?" (N4)

Almost three in ten (29.5%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population said they would like to communicate with people they knew but didn't live with more often than they currently did (see **Table 7**).

Table 7 Desire to communicate more often with people they knew, but didn't live with

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Yes | 29.5% |
| No | 70.1% |
| Don't know | 0.0% |
| Refused | 0.0% |
| Total | 100% |

Base: All respondents (n = 1,211)

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023

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Respondents who wanted to communicate more often with people they knew but didn't live with were asked two follow up questions:

- "Who would you like to communicate more often with?" (N5)
- "What are the main barriers to you communicating more often with them?" (N6)

Multiple responses were allowed for both questions.

For those wanting to communicate more often, their preference was with friends (63.3% and family (62.0%) (see **Table 8**).

Table 8 People they desired to communicate with more often (multi-response)

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Friends | 63.3% |
| Family | 62.0% |
| Neighbours | 8.8% |
| People or groups in local community | 5.4% |
| Workmates | 2.4% |
| Other | 0.4% |
| Don't know | 0.6% |
| Refused | 0.0% |

Base: Respondents who indicated they would like to communicate more often with people they know but don't live with (n = 343)

Values may add to more than (sub)population totals since multiple responses were allowed.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023

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For those who wanted to communicate more often but didn't (N6), the main barrier was lack of time (68.1%) followed by distance or being in different time zones (23.1%) and lack of motivation (5.7%) (see **Table 9**).

Table 9 Main barriers to communicating more often (multi-response)

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lack of time | 68.1% |
| Distance / Different time zones | 23.1% |
| Lack of motivation | 5.7% |
| Health reasons | 4.5% |
| They don't want to communicate more | 3.9% |
| Technology reasons | 2.6% |
| Financial reasons | 1.4% |
| Transport reasons | 0.8% |
| Other | 3.5% |
| No barriers | 1.1% |
| Don't know | 0.4% |
| Refused | 0.0% |

Base: Respondents who indicated they would like to communicate more often with people they know but don't live with (n = 343)

Values may add to more than (sub)population totals since multiple responses were allowed.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023

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3.5 Social groups and activities

3.5.1 Awareness of groups or activities

All respondents were asked: "In your city or local community there may be a range of activities provided by sporting clubs, arts groups, business groups (e.g. Lions, Rotary), festivals and Neighbourhood and Community Centres. In the last three months, have you investigated the range of groups or activities provided in your city or local community?" (N7)

Around two-fifths (39.4%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population had investigated

the range of groups or activities provided in their city or local community in the last three months (see **Table 10**).

Table 10 Awareness of groups or activities in city or local community

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Yes | 39.4% |
| No | 60.6% |
| Don't know | 0.0% |
| Refused | 0.0% |
| Total | 100% |

Base: All respondents (n = 1,211)

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023

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3.5.2 Involvement in groups or activities

All respondents were asked: "In the last three months, have you been actively involved in any groups or activities in your city or local community?" (N8)

Half (50.5%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population had been actively involved in any groups or activities in their city or local community in the last three months (see **Table 11**).

Table 11 Involvement in groups or activities in city or local community in last three months

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Yes | 50.5% |
| No | 49.5% |
| Don't know | 0.0% |
| Refused | 0.0% |
| Total | 100% |

Base: All respondents (n = 1,211)

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023

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3.5.3 Reasons for involvement

Respondents who were actively involved in groups or activities were asked: "What were the main reasons that you became involved?" (N10)

The main reasons Queensland adults had become actively involved in groups or activities were to meet new people or expand their social network (36.7%), for fun or personal enjoyment (32.3%) and for their health or fitness (19.3%) (see **Table 12**).

Table 12 Reasons for becoming actively involved in groups or activities (multi-response)

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|---|---------------------|
| To meet new people / expand my social network | 36.7% |
| For fun / my personal enjoyment | 32.3% |
| For my health / fitness | 19.3% |
| To contribute / volunteer my skills and time | 16.8% |
| My child's / children's involvement in groups or activities | 15.6% |
| Someone invited me | 6.0% |
| To fill in time | 5.4% |
| To learn a new skill / take up a new hobby | 5.4% |
| Other | 3.3% |
| Don't know | 0.3% |
| Refused | 0.0% |

Base: Respondents who were actively involved in city or local community groups or activities in the last three months (n = 608)

Values may add to more than (sub)population totals since multiple responses were allowed.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023
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3.5.4 Reasons for not becoming involved

Respondents who had not been actively involved in community groups or activities were asked: "What stopped you from being actively involved?" (N9)

The main reasons Queensland adults did not become actively involved in groups or activities in their city or local community were due to lack of time (62.3%), they were not interested (23.0%) and health reasons (9.5%) (see **Table 13**).

Table 13 Reasons for not becoming actively involved in groups or activities (multi-response)

| | Estimate (per cent) |
|---|---------------------|
| Lack of time (family/work commitments) | 62.3% |
| Not interested/ No need | 23.0% |
| Health reasons | 9.5% |
| No groups or activities I like | 4.0% |
| Financial reasons / Cost | 3.3% |
| Transport reasons | 2.0% |
| No childcare available | 1.7% |
| No one to go with | 1.6% |
| Potential for conflict / don't like others who attend | 1.0% |
| Lack of technology or connectivity for online options | 0.6% |
| Other | 2.5% |
| Don't know | 0.8% |
| Refused | 0.0% |

Base: Respondents who had not been actively involved in city or local community groups or activities in the last three months (n = 603)

Values may add to more than (sub)population totals since multiple responses were allowed.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2023
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APPENDICES

Appendix A Questionnaire

Department of Justice and Attorney-General Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts Queensland Social Survey 2023

Introduction

CATI intro

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is ____ and I work for the Queensland Government Statistician's Office.

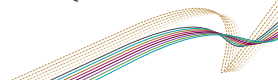
Can I confirm I am speaking to <FirstName> <LastName>?

The Queensland Government is conducting a survey to gauge the community's views about a range of social issues including relationships, social connections and attitudes towards violence.

Your responses are strictly confidential and are collected under the Queensland Government Statistical Returns Act. The information you provide will only be used for research purposes.

Some calls are monitored by my supervisor for training and quality purposes.

You may have received a letter from us advising you of the survey.



Screening module

S1 Can I just check - is Queensland your usual place of residence?

(INTERVIEWER: 'Usually' means the place where you spend most of your nights in a year.)

- (Yes 1
- No 2
- Refused 99)

S1 > 1 go to NonQld

S2 So we can establish the boundaries of our study, can you give me your postcode where you usually live?

(INTERVIEWER: 'Usually' means the postcode where you spend most of your nights in a year.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| (Text response [Postcode] | |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

If Postcode = FramePostcode go to N1

S3 What is the name of the suburb or town where you usually live?

(INTERVIEWER: 'Usually' means the suburb or town where you spend most of your nights in a year.)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|----|
| Select locality from lookup [Locality] | Text response [ProvideLocality] | |
| Don't know | | 98 |
| Refused | | 99 |



Social isolation and loneliness module

N1 For the first section of the survey, we'll be asking questions about relationships with others. For each one, please say how often you feel that way.

| | 1. Never | 2. Rarely | 3. Sometimes | 4. Often | 98. (Don't know | 99. Refused) |
|---|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| a) How often do you feel that you lack companionship? | | | | | | |
| b) How often do you feel left out? | | | | | | |
| c) How often do you feel isolated from others? | | | | | | |

N2 How often do you feel lonely?

- Often 1
- Sometimes..... 2
- Rarely 3
- Never 4
- (Don't know..... 98
- Refused 99)



N3 For the next few questions, please answer about people you know, but don't live with. This includes neighbours, friends, and family members who don't live with you.

In the last three months, how often did you communicate with people you know, but don't live with. This could be in person, by phone or online. Would you say:

(INTERVIEWER: 'People you know, but don't live with' includes neighbours, friends and family members who don't live with you.

'In person' includes planned events or casual face-to-face contact with others in groups or one-on-one.

'Phone' includes phone calls, video calls or text messages made by either mobile or landline.

'Online' includes instant messages, emails or other forms of communication via social media, internet apps, online gaming or social group forums.)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| At least once a day | 1 |
| At least once a week | 2 |
| At least once a fortnight | 3 |
| At least once a month | 4 |
| Less than once a month | 5 |
| (Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

N4 Would you like to communicate with these people more often than you currently do?

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| (Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

If N4 = 1 go to N5
Else go to N7

N5 Who would you like to communicate more often with?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

| | |
|--|-----|
| (Family | 1 |
| Friends..... | 2 |
| Workmates | 3 |
| Neighbours | 4 |
| People or groups in my local community | 5 |
| Other (please specify) | 97 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |



N6 What are the main barriers to you communicating more often with them?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

| | |
|---|-----|
| (Lack of time | 1 |
| Distance / Different time zones | 2 |
| Lack of motivation | 3 |
| Technology reasons | 4 |
| Health reasons | 5 |
| Transport reasons | 6 |
| Financial reasons | 7 |
| They don't want to communicate more | 8 |
| Other (please specify) | 97 |
| No barriers | 10 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

Programming note:

If N6 = 10 then other categories cannot be selected.

N7 In your city or local community there may be a range of activities provided by sporting clubs, arts groups, business groups (e.g. Lions, Rotary), festivals and Neighbourhood and Community Centres. In **the last three months**, have you investigated the range of groups or activities provided in your city or local community?

(INTERVIEWER: 'local community' can mean the neighbourhood, suburb, or town you live in.)

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| (Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

N8 In the **last three months**, have you been **actively involved** in any groups or activities in your city or local community?

(INTERVIEWER: 'actively involved' means taking part in organised activities individually or as part of a group.)

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| (Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

If N8 = 2 go to N9
If N8 = 1 go to N10
Else go to DFV_intro



N9 What stopped you from being actively involved?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

| | |
|---|-----|
| (Not interested / No need | 1 |
| Lack of time (family/work commitments) | 2 |
| Health reasons | 3 |
| Financial reasons / Cost | 4 |
| No groups or activities I like | 5 |
| No childcare available | 6 |
| Transport reasons..... | 7 |
| No one to go with | 8 |
| Potential for conflict / don't like others who attend | 9 |
| Lack of technology or connectivity for online options | 10 |
| Other (please specify) | 97 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

[Go to DFV_intro](#)

N10 What were the main reasons that you became involved?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

| | |
|---|-----|
| (To meet new people / expand my social network | 1 |
| For fun / my personal enjoyment | 2 |
| My child's/children's involvement in groups or activities | 3 |
| To fill in time | 4 |
| To contribute / volunteer my skills and time | 5 |
| Someone invited me | 6 |
| To learn a new skill / take up a new hobby | 7 |
| For my health / fitness | 8 |
| Other (please specify) | 97 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |



Domestic and family violence module

DFV_intro

The following questions are about your attitude towards domestic and family violence.

(INTERVIEWER: 'Domestic and family violence' is perpetrated in the home or among family members.)

F1a If one partner in a domestic relationship controls or tries to **control the other partner by preventing them from seeing family and friends**, is this a form of domestic and family violence?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Yes, always..... | 1 |
| Yes, usually | 2 |
| Yes, sometimes | 3 |
| No | 4 |
| (Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

F1b And how serious is this?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very serious..... | 1 |
| Quite serious..... | 2 |
| Not that serious..... | 3 |
| Not serious at all..... | 4 |
| (Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

F2a If one partner in a domestic relationship **repeatedly criticises** the other partner to make them feel bad or useless, is this a form of domestic and family violence?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Yes, always..... | 1 |
| Yes, usually | 2 |
| Yes, sometimes | 3 |
| No | 4 |
| (Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

F2b And how serious is this?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very serious..... | 1 |
| Quite serious..... | 2 |
| Not that serious..... | 3 |
| Not serious at all..... | 4 |
| (Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |



F3a If one partner in a domestic relationship **threatens to share intimate, nude or sexual images of the other partner without their permission**, is this a form of domestic and family violence?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Yes, always..... | 1 |
| Yes, usually | 2 |
| Yes, sometimes | 3 |
| No | 4 |
| (Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

F3b And how serious is this?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very serious..... | 1 |
| Quite serious..... | 2 |
| Not that serious..... | 3 |
| Not serious at all..... | 4 |
| (Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

F4a Excluding any situation involving addictions such as gambling, alcohol, drugs, etc., if one partner in a domestic relationship tries to **control the other partner by denying them access to money**, is this a form of domestic and family violence?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Yes, always..... | 1 |
| Yes, usually | 2 |
| Yes, sometimes | 3 |
| No | 4 |
| (Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

F4b And how serious is this?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very serious..... | 1 |
| Quite serious..... | 2 |
| Not that serious..... | 3 |
| Not serious at all..... | 4 |
| (Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |



F5a If one partner in a domestic relationship **harasses** the other partner via repeated phone or electronic means such as email, text message or social media, is this a form of domestic and family violence?

- Yes, always..... 1
- Yes, usually 2
- Yes, sometimes 3
- No 4
- (Don't know..... 98
- Refused 99)

F5b And how serious is this?

- Very serious..... 1
- Quite serious..... 2
- Not that serious..... 3
- Not serious at all..... 4
- (Don't know..... 98
- Refused 99)

A1 How would you react if you saw or were aware of **physical** domestic and family violence, involving **your neighbours**?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

- (I would try to stop it..... 1
- I wouldn't want to get involved due to fear 2
- I would call the police 3
- I would speak to the victim or perpetrator about it later..... 4
- Other (please specify) 97
- I wouldn't do anything 6
- Don't know 98
- Refused 99)

Programming note:

If A1 = 6 then other categories cannot be selected.



A2 How would you react if you saw or were aware of **non-physical** domestic and family violence, involving **your neighbours**?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

| | |
|--|-----|
| (I would try to stop it..... | 1 |
| I wouldn't want to get involved due to fear | 2 |
| I would call the police | 3 |
| I would speak to the victim or perpetrator about it later..... | 4 |
| Other (please specify) | 97 |
| I wouldn't do anything | 6 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

Programming note:

If A2 = 6 then other categories cannot be selected.

If A2 = 6 go to A3
Else go to A4

A3 Why do you think you wouldn't do anything?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

| | |
|---|-----|
| (Concerns for safety (personal, family or household)..... | 1 |
| It could make things worse/more dangerous for victim | 2 |
| Unsure of what to do / Not confident / Not comfortable..... | 3 |
| Not my responsibility / Private matter / Up to victim | 4 |
| No need to intervene | 5 |
| Other (please specify) | 97 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

A4 In the last 12 months, have you seen or are you aware of any domestic and family violence involving a **family member or close friend**?

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| (Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Don't know | 98 |
| Refused | 99) |

If A4 = 1 go to A5
Else go to A6



A5 How did you respond when you saw or became aware of this?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

| | |
|--|-----|
| (I tried to stop it..... | 1 |
| I called the police..... | 2 |
| I spoke to the victim or perpetrator about it later..... | 3 |
| Other (please specify)..... | 97 |
| I didn't do anything..... | 5 |
| Refused..... | 99) |

Programming note:

If A5 = 5 then other categories cannot be selected.

A6 In the last 12 months, have you seen or are you aware of any domestic and family violence **involving your neighbours?**

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| (Yes..... | 1 |
| No..... | 2 |
| Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused..... | 99) |

If A6 = 1 go to A7
Else go to A8

A7 How did you respond when you saw or became aware of this?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

| | |
|--|-----|
| (I tried to stop it..... | 1 |
| I called the police..... | 2 |
| I spoke to the victim or perpetrator about it later..... | 3 |
| Other (please specify)..... | 97 |
| I didn't do anything..... | 5 |
| Refused..... | 99) |

Programming note:

If A7 = 5 then other categories cannot be selected.

A8 In the last 12 months, have you seen or are you aware of any domestic and family violence involving **people you don't know well**. For example, people you met at your workplace, a community group or a sports club?

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| (Yes..... | 1 |
| No..... | 2 |
| Don't know..... | 98 |
| Refused..... | 99) |

If A8 = 1 go to A9
Else go to G1



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A9 How did you respond when you saw or became aware of this?

(INTERVIEWER: Allow more than one.)

| | |
|--|----|
| (I tried to stop it..... | 1 |
| I called the police..... | 2 |
| I spoke to the victim or perpetrator about it later..... | 3 |
| I spoke to someone in my workplace/community group/ club etc..... | 4 |
| Other (please specify)..... | 97 |
| I didn't do anything..... | 6 |
| Refused)..... | 99 |

Programming note: If A9 = 6 then other categories cannot be selected.



G1 The statements I'm about to read describe specific attitudes. For each statement please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree:

(INTERVIEWER: G1a, b, c and d: there are no right or wrong answers, only opinions)

G1a is asking if the respondent feels safe (not the interviewer)

G1c – 'Gender inequality' is the opposite of gender equality and can be defined as: unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender.)

| | 1. Strongly agree | 2. Agree | 3. Neither agree nor disagree | 4. Disagree | 5. Strongly disagree | 98. (Don't know) | 99. Refused |
|---|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| a) In general, I feel safe from domestic and family violence | | | | | | | |
| b) When one partner in a domestic relationship believes themselves to be superior to their partner because of their gender, domestic and family violence is more likely to occur. | | | | | | | |
| c) Reducing gender inequality will help to reduce domestic and family violence in Australia. | | | | | | | |
| d) Teaching children about respectful attitudes and behaviours in relationships will help reduce domestic and family violence in the future. | | | | | | | |

A10 Are you involved in any domestic and family violence initiatives (e.g. awareness raising, advocacy, fundraising, volunteering etc.) in your community?

(INTERVIEWER: 'community' can mean the neighbourhood, suburb, or town you live in)

- (Yes 1
- No 2
- Refused 99)



D1 Now to a question about employment. Are you currently...

(INTERVIEWER: If respondent says Volunteer Work, Studying/Training etc. ask, "Are you LOOKING for paid work?"

'full-time' is 35 hours or more a week and 'part-time' is less than 35 hours a week in all jobs)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| In paid work full-time..... | 1 |
| In paid work part-time | 2 |
| Self-employed..... | 3 |
| Unemployed and seeking paid work..... | 4 |
| Not seeking paid work | 5 |
| Retired | 6 |
| (Other (please specify) | 97 |
| Refused | 99) |

If D1 < 4 go to A11

Else go to Demographic_intro

A11 Has your workplace engaged in any domestic and family violence initiatives in the last 12 months? (e.g. employee support programs, leadership, awareness raising, fundraising etc.)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| (Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Refused | 99) |



Demographic module

Demographic_intro

The following questions are for statistical purposes only.

D2 What is the highest year level of **school-based education** that you have completed?

(INTERVIEWER: If respondent indicates that they completed secondary education at a TAFE secondary college code as "Senior high school (Year 12)".

If year level is provided, code to the highest COMPLETED option. For example, code "Year 9" to "Primary school".)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Senior high school (Year 12) | 1 |
| Junior high school (Year 10)..... | 2 |
| Primary school | 3 |
| Did not complete primary school | 4 |
| No schooling | 5 |
| (Other (please specify) | 97 |
| Refused | 99) |



D3 What is the level of the highest educational qualification that you have completed?

(INTERVIEWER: If respondent reports they have completed a bridging or enabling course, ask if they receive a certificate at the end of the course. If yes, please ask for the level and code accordingly. For example, Certificate IV in University Preparation should be coded to VET Certificate IV. If respondent indicates that they won't receive a certificate or it has no level, such as a Tertiary Preparation Program, code to Other.

Exclude all Statements of attainment, licensing (e.g. forklift license).

Exclude qualifications that have not been completed (e.g. courses that have been deferred or withdrawn from, those currently being studied for).

If respondent indicates their highest education qualification is Primary or High School, code as "No educational qualification completed".

If respondent says "Trade Certificate" ask for the level and code accordingly.)

| | |
|--|-----|
| (Doctoral Degree / PhD | 1 |
| Master Degree | 2 |
| Graduate Diploma..... | 3 |
| Graduate Certificate | 4 |
| Bachelor (Honours) Degree..... | 5 |
| Bachelor Degree..... | 6 |
| Associate Degree | 7 |
| Advanced Diploma..... | 8 |
| Diploma..... | 9 |
| VET Certificate IV | 10 |
| VET Certificate III..... | 11 |
| VET Certificate II..... | 12 |
| VET Certificate I..... | 13 |
| VET Certificate – level not known (QGSO use only)..... | 14 |
| No educational qualification completed | 15 |
| Other (please specify) | 97 |
| Refused | 99) |

D4 Do you identify yourself as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| (Yes – Aboriginal | 1 |
| Yes – Torres Strait Islander | 2 |
| Both | 3 |
| Neither | 4 |
| Refused | 99) |

D5 Were you born in Australia?

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| (Yes – Born in Australia..... | 1 |
| No – Born outside of Australia..... | 2 |
| Refused | 99) |



| | | |
|-----------|---|-----|
| D6 | Do you speak a language other than English at home? | |
| | (No – English only..... | 1 |
| | Yes..... | 2 |
| | Refused | 99) |

D7 Do you have a limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted or is likely to last for at least 6 months, and restricts your everyday activities?

(INTERVIEWER: 'everyday activities' may relate to communication, mobility or self-care)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| (Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Refused | 99) |

[Go to CATI end survey](#)

End survey

NonQId

This study requires us to speak to people who live in Queensland. Thanks for your time.

Goodbye.

Programming note: Set call outcome to 162: NonQId

CATI end survey

That concludes the survey.

Your responses are strictly confidential and are collected under the Queensland Government's Statistical Returns Act, which does not allow the unauthorised release of information that identifies you.

Your responses will be combined with those of other participants to compile aggregate information.

If the content of the survey has raised any personal issues you may have in relation to domestic and family violence and you would like to talk, would you like the phone number for DVConnect?

DVConnect Mensline: 1800 600 636

DVConnect Womensline: 1800 811 811

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Appendix B

Survey method and operations

Sample design

The survey sample was designed to provide reliable information on individual characteristics at both the whole-of-state and the regional level. To achieve this, survey respondents were selected using a stratified sampling design.¹

Queensland was stratified into two regions:

- South East Queensland (Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba)
- Rest of Queensland.

A quota (target) of 600 completed interviews per region was set for the survey. The final sample of 4,164 achieved a total of 1,211 interviews with 603 interviews in the South East Queensland region and 608 interviews in the Rest of Queensland region.

With this stratified sample design, the probability of selecting an individual varied across the two regions. For example, adults in the Rest of Queensland region had a higher probability of being selected than adults in the more populous South East Queensland region. Statistical methods used to analyse the survey data account for these different selection probabilities.

Survey response and cooperation rates

Response rate

One measure of the quality of response is the response rate, which is the number of completed surveys that can be used in analysis as a percentage of all attempted in-scope sample. Only 'complete' or 'usable partial complete' interviews with a sufficient number of questions answered were used in analysis.

The estimated overall response rate of 29.1% was derived as follows:

$$\frac{\text{total in-scope responding [1,211]}}{\text{total in-scope responding [1,211] + total in-scope non-responding [2,953]}} \times 100\%$$

¹ A simple random sample would not support this type of analysis because the final sample would be concentrated in South East Queensland, due to its high population density.

Cooperation rate

The cooperation rate indicates the extent to which contacted individuals cooperate with requests to participate in a survey. This can be a function of the interviewer's skills, pre-survey communication effects, sentiment towards the survey topic and motivation of a potential respondent to participate.

The cooperation rate is the number of interviews that can be used in analysis, as a percentage of the number of persons contacted who were capable of participating.

The estimated overall cooperation rate of 75.8% was derived as follows:

$$\frac{\text{total in-scope responding [1,211]}}{\text{total in-scope responding [1,211] + partially completed unusable interviews [29] + refusals [358]}} \times 100\%$$

Recommendations

The direct measure of loneliness (N2) had a different measurement scale compared to the indirect measure of loneliness questions (N1a – N1c). The different scale allows for compatibility to the Community Life Survey. The Community Life Survey is conducted face-to-face² while QSS is a CATI survey. The QSS may capture more accurate results if the measurement scales for the direct measure and indirect measure of loneliness were the same. This would be easier for interviewers and clearer for respondents.

² Source: Cabinet Office, Community Life Survey Technical Report 2015-16.



Appendix C

Estimation and precision

QGSO surveyed a sample of 4,164 respondents. However, interest lies in the entire population of adults who usually reside in Queensland, estimated to be 4,033,493. Each subset of respondents sharing similar characteristics is assumed to be representative of a segment of the population sharing those same characteristics.

For example, responses of 18–24 year old males from the sample may be considered to be representative of all 18–24 year old males in the population. Accordingly, population totals and percentages have been estimated from the achieved sample using methods aimed at minimising bias related to sample design, the survey contact list, non-response and refusals.

Although the survey was designed to maximize the representativeness of the results, it is not possible to be perfectly representative. Estimation of population characteristics from a random sample entails some imprecision as a result of sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling errors occur because estimates based on information obtained from a sample of persons may differ from statistics that would have been produced if all persons had been included in the survey.

The size of the sampling error is determined by the sampling scheme used, the method used to calculate a value for the estimate, and the size of the sample. Other factors being equal, sampling error may be reduced arbitrarily by increasing the sample size.

Non-sampling errors may occur due to non-response to the survey, inadequacies of the sampling contact list, inaccuracies in reporting by respondents and processing errors.

Strategies designed to minimise non-sampling errors include:

- using a contact list that is as up-to-date and accurate as possible
- testing the questionnaire for ease of understanding and completion
- communicating with invited individuals about the survey prior to interviewing

- providing clear interviewer instructions, appropriate training and field supervision
- emphasising the legal provisions for protecting confidentiality under the Statistical Returns Act with respondents.

An additional strategy used by QGSO that may reduce sampling error is calibration to population benchmarks. Calibration is a process that uses variables collected in the survey and for which population level totals (benchmarks) are known. Where suitable additional information about the population of interest is known, calibration can reduce non-response bias and/or increase precision.

The source of population totals for calibration variables used in this survey is ABS (2021), *Regional population by age and sex*. These benchmarks are listed in **Table C1**.

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Table C1 Benchmarks used in this survey

| Region | 18–24 years | 25–34 years | 35–44 years | 45–54 years | 55–64 years | 65 years and over |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Males | | | | | | |
| South East ¹ Queensland | 173,770 | 267,865 | 255,901 | 241,788 | 205,184 | 279,855 |
| Rest of Queensland ² | 58,431 | 89,638 | 84,752 | 92,333 | 96,383 | 130,750 |
| Queensland | 23,2201 | 357,503 | 340,653 | 334121 | 301,567 | 410,605 |
| Females | | | | | | |
| South East Queensland | 170,401 | 274,193 | 267,205 | 251,518 | 220,219 | 322,375 |
| Rest of Queensland | 53,812 | 89,197 | 88,103 | 92,705 | 95,647 | 131,468 |
| Queensland | 224,213 | 363,390 | 355,308 | 344,223 | 315,866 | 453,843 |

Notes:

- 1 South East Queensland includes the SA4s of Brisbane Inner City, Brisbane - North, Brisbane - East, Brisbane - South, Brisbane - West, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan - Beaudesert, Moreton Bay - North, Moreton Bay - South, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.
- 2 Rest of Queensland includes the SA4s of Cairns, Central Queensland, Darling Downs - Maranoa, Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday, Queensland - Outback, Townsville and Wide Bay.

Source: ABS (2021) *Regional population by age and sex* [<https://www.abs.gov.au/>]

