

# Social Cohesion

## Queensland Social Survey 2017 Report

*prepared for*

Department of the Premier and Cabinet



## Social Cohesion

### Queensland Social Survey 2017 Report

Released 22 November 2017

Final Version

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## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations and symbols are used in this report:

|      |   |
|------|---|
| ABS  | Australian Bureau of Statistics   |
| CATI | computer assisted telephone interviewing  |
| DPC  | Department of the Premier and Cabinet   |
| DFV  | domestic and family violence  |
| LCL  | lower confidence limit  |
| n    | sample size   |
| SA4  | Statistical area level 4 (as classified by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard) |
| QGSO | Queensland Government Statistician's Office   |
| QSS  | Queensland Social Survey 2017   |
| UCL  | upper confidence limit  |

## Acknowledgement

Reports produced by QGSO reflect information provided freely by individuals and businesses. The continued cooperation of respondents is very much appreciated and without which the statistics reported by QGSO would not be available. Information received by QGSO is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Statistical Returns Act 1896*.

# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Background and methodology

In August 2017, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) commissioned the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) to conduct the Queensland Social Survey 2017 (QSS).

The main objective of the survey was to provide measures of Queensland community perceptions and attitudes associated with social cohesion and Australia's culture. The survey was conducted by telephone and 3,363 usable interviews were completed. The response rate for the survey was 34.0% (See Table 1).

**Table 1 Survey methodology and operations summary**

|                        |                                  |  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Survey design</b>   | In-scope population              | Adults (aged 18 years or older) who reside in occupied private dwellings in Queensland |
|                        | Sample size                      | 10,306   |
| <b>Data collection</b> | Mode                             | Computer assisted telephone interview (CATI)   |
|                        | Timing                           | 01/08/2017 – 30/08/2017  |
|                        | In-scope completed surveys       | 3,363  |
|                        | Response rate / Cooperation rate | 34.0% / 68.2%  |

## Survey results

The following results are for the estimated adult Queensland resident population.

### Australian way of life and culture:

- 93.9% took pride in the Australian way of life and culture to a great or moderate extent (Q1)

### Sense of belonging in Australia:

- 95.6% had a sense of belonging in Australia to a great or moderate extent (Q2)

### Maintenance of the Australian way of life and culture:

- 90.6% agreed or strongly agreed that in the modern world, maintaining the Australian way of life and culture is important (Q3a)

### Acceptance of immigrants:

- 62.0% agreed or strongly agreed that accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger (Q3b), compared with 18.4% who neither agreed nor disagreed and 18.4% who disagreed or strongly disagreed

### Ethnic minorities:

- 41.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed that ethnic minorities in Australia should be given Australian government assistance to maintain their customs and traditions (Q3c), compared with 37.7% who agreed or strongly agreed and 20.3% who neither agreed nor disagreed

### Experience of discrimination:

- 84.8% had not experienced discrimination because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion in the last 12 months (Q4)

### Future life in Australia:

- 45.0% thought that their life in Australia in the next three or four years would be the same as now (Q5), compared with 27.9% who thought that their life would be improved and 24.1% who thought that their life would be worse.

## Summary findings for the estimated adult Queensland resident population:

### Australian way of life and culture:



**93.9%**  
of residents **took pride in the Australian way of life and culture** to a great or moderate extent

**90.6%**  
of residents agreed or strongly agreed that in the modern world, maintaining **the Australian way of life and culture is important**



**95.6%**  
of residents **had a sense of belonging in Australia** to a great or moderate extent, with people born in Australia more likely to have a sense of belonging to a great or moderate extent than those born overseas



People **aged 35 years and over** were more likely to agree or strongly agree than people aged 18-34 years that maintaining the Australian way of life and culture is important

### Multiculturalism in Australia:



62.0% agreed or strongly agreed that **accepting migrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger**, while 18.4% neither agreed nor disagreed and 18.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

In particular, there was more agreement among those who:



**completed high school (63.4%)** compared with those whose highest year level of completed school based education was primary school (40.8%)



**spoke a language other than English at home (78.2%)** compared with those who spoke only English at home (59.8%)



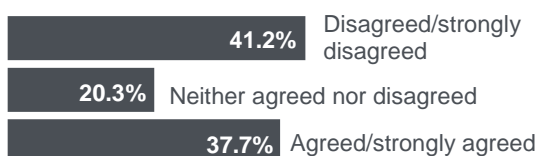
**had a bachelor degree or above (80.8%)** compared with those who completed a certificate or diploma (54.7%) or did not complete any higher education (50.1%)



**were born overseas (72.2%)** compared with those born in Australia (58.5%)

Level of agreement about whether:

**“Ethnic minorities should be given Australian government assistance to maintain their customs and traditions”**



**15.1%** of residents had **experienced discrimination**

because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion in the last 12 months



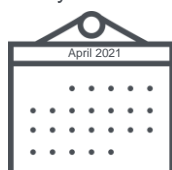
The demographic sub-populations most likely to have experienced discrimination were:

- Indigenous people
- People born overseas
- People who spoke a language other than English at home

### Future life in Australia:

In the next three or four years, how do you think your life in Australia will be?

**45.0%** same as now  
**27.9%** much/a little improved  
**24.1%** a little/much worse



This page is a snapshot only and should be read in conjunction with the Social Cohesion Survey Report. Icons are for illustrative purposes only.



## 2 SURVEY OVERVIEW

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) commissioned the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) to undertake an omnibus Queensland Social Survey (QSS) to gather information on important societal issues affecting Queensland.

The objective of the social cohesion questions included in the QSS was to provide measures of Queensland community perceptions and attitudes associated with social cohesion and the Australian way of life. Questions and responses relating to social cohesion are detailed in this report.

## 3 SURVEY METHOD AND OPERATIONS

### 3.1 Survey design

The in-scope population for the August 2017 QSS was all adults (aged 18 years or older) who are usual residents of Queensland and live in a private dwelling. QGSO estimates a total of 3,543,472 adult usual residents living in an occupied private dwelling in Queensland as at 30 June 2016.

A total number of 10,306 Queensland households were targeted for the survey, to achieve the desired number of completed interviews. The survey contact list was constructed from databases that are kept for official statistical purposes under the authority of the Statistical Returns Act.

One adult was randomly selected from each household on this contact list and asked to complete the questionnaire.

See Appendix A for details of the composition of regions for the purposes of this report.

### 3.2 Questionnaire design

The social cohesion questions were adapted from the Scanlon Foundation *Mapping Social Cohesion National Survey 2016*. Demographic questions were added in accordance with DPC's research and policy objectives, and technical advice was offered by specialists in QGSO.

The questionnaire was designed to capture information in the following areas:

- perceptions and attitudes about social cohesion and Australia's culture (Questions 1-5)
- demographics (e.g. age, sex, Indigenous status, highest year level of school completed, highest education level, employment status, country of birth, language spoken at home, need for assistance with core activities, sexual orientation/gender identity and region (Questions 26-36)).

The questionnaire was piloted with 210 respondents to test whether the questions were clear and sequenced appropriately. Data from the pilot were not combined with data collected in the main survey.

A copy of the questionnaire is attached as Appendix C.

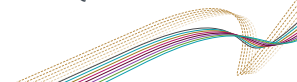
### 3.3 Survey administration

The survey was administered using computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) between 1 August and 30 August 2017. Survey responses were collected under the Statistical Returns Act, which prohibits the unauthorised disclosure of identifiable information relating to an individual without their consent.

### 3.4 Survey response rate

The estimated overall response rate was 34.0%, with a cooperation rate of 68.2%. A total of 3,363 completed interviews were obtained. For more information on response and cooperation rates and how they were derived please see Appendix B.





## 4 SURVEY RESULTS

### 4.1 Presentation

This report contains estimates of survey responses at the whole-of-Queensland level, as well as results broken down by region and demographic variables (described in section 3.2) where relevant.

Results and comparisons are presented as a combination of text and tables. Tables in this report relate to characteristics of the population of Queensland adult residents. Questions that asked about an individual's views and behaviours were used to provide estimates of the views of the total number of adults in Queensland (3,543,472).

The results presented in this report are estimates that have been calculated from the survey sample of 3,363 adult residents in Queensland. Estimation of population characteristics from a random sample entails some imprecision as a result of sampling and non-sampling error.

### 4.2 Interpretation

All demographics are self-reported and, as such, rely on the respondent's ability and willingness to select the appropriate category. Demographic estimates produced in the survey are not comparable with those produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), due to differences in data collection and estimation methodology.

For the purposes of this survey:

- Indigenous status is based on the respondent's reported Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status.
- Full-time work has been defined as working 35 hours or more each week, and part-time is defined as working less than 35 hours each week. The 'other' category is for those who do not have consistent work hours.

There are some important issues to consider when interpreting statistics and evaluating the findings in this report. These are:

- Responses provided by the respondent may not be accurate and could be biased by recall error or social desirability bias (a type of

non-sampling error where a response is given in a certain way because the respondent perceives that the response is most desirable to the person or body collecting the information).

- Some attitudes and behaviours may change over time. The results in this report are designed to be representative of the Queensland adult population at the time of collection.
- Estimated percentages and counts may not be representative of the Queensland adult population if the characteristic being investigated is structured by a particular attribute that may affect the likelihood of a person responding (termed non-response bias).

Further details about common sources of sampling and non-sampling error and strategies to minimise their effects can be found at [www.qgso.qld.gov.au](http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au). Appendix B also outlines several strategies QGSO use to minimise the effects of such error.

Population totals and percentages have been estimated from the sample achieved using methods aimed at minimising bias related to sample design, the survey contact list, non-response and refusals. In this report, the degree of imprecision associated with population estimates is summarised using upper and lower confidence limits (UCLs and LCLs).

Estimates with wide confidence intervals (the difference between the UCL and LCL) are imprecise and should be used with caution. Confidence intervals wider than about 30 percentage points are unreliable and should not be used.

The report only highlights population estimate differences that were statistically significant, by region and demographic variable. In simplified terms, a difference in survey estimates may be considered approximately significant if the 95% confidence intervals for the two estimates did not overlap. Conversely, if 95% confidence intervals do overlap, then it is generally not appropriate to consider the estimates to be significantly different.

Where QGSO has been asked to directly report on significant differences, however, a more robust statistical method is used to determine which estimates are significantly different and which are not, and the overlapping confidence interval method should be used as a rough guide only. If no significant difference is reported for any of the questions in this report, none was found.

### 4.3 Pride in the Australian way of life and culture

All respondents were asked: "To what extent do you take pride in the Australian way of life and culture?" (Q1).

Most (93.9%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population took pride in the Australian way of life and culture to a great or moderate extent. An estimated 5.8% of Queensland residents only slightly took pride in the Australian way of life and culture or did not take pride at all (Table 2).

**Table 2 Pride in the Australian way of life and culture**

|                               |                    | Estimate         |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| To a great or moderate extent | Per cent<br>95% CI | 93.9<br>[93–95]  |
| Only slightly or not at all   | Per cent<br>95% CI | 5.8<br>[4.7–7.0] |
| Don't know                    | Per cent<br>95% CI | 0.2<br>[0.1–0.6] |
| Refused                       | Per cent<br>95% CI | 0.1<br>[0.0–0.2] |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>Per cent</b>    | <b>100.0</b>     |

**Base: All respondents (n=3,363)**

Note that estimates displayed in this table have been rounded and may sum to slightly above/below the total

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2017, Social Cohesion Survey Report

#### Demographic comparisons

Analysis of the survey data found no statistically significant differences in attitude about taking pride in the Australian way of life and culture, based on all demographic variables.

### 4.4 Sense of belonging in Australia

All respondents were asked: "To what extent do you have a sense of belonging in Australia?" (Q2).

Of the 3,543,472 estimated adult Queensland residents, most (95.6%) had a sense of belonging in Australia to a great or moderate extent. An estimated 4.4% only slightly had a sense of belonging in Australia or did not have a sense of belonging at all (Table 3).

**Table 3 Sense of belonging in Australia**

|                               |                    | Estimate         |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| To a great or moderate extent | Per cent<br>95% CI | 95.6<br>[94–97]  |
| Only slightly or not at all   | Per cent<br>95% CI | 4.4<br>[3.3–5.8] |
| Don't know                    | Per cent<br>95% CI | 0.0<br>[0.0–0.1] |
| Refused                       | Per cent<br>95% CI | 0.0<br>[0.0–0.1] |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>Per cent</b>    | <b>100.0</b>     |

**Base: All respondents (n=3,363)**

Note that estimates displayed in this table have been rounded and may sum to slightly above/below the total

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2017, Social Cohesion Survey Report

#### Demographic comparisons

People born in Australia (97.0%) were more likely to have a sense of belonging in Australia to a great or moderate extent than people born overseas (91.1%).

## 4.5 Maintenance of the Australian way of life and culture

All respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the following: "In the modern world, maintaining the Australian way of life and culture is important" (Q3a).

Most (90.6%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population agreed or strongly agreed that in the modern world, maintaining the Australian way of life and culture is important. A further 6.3% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 2.5% disagreed or strongly disagreed (Table 4).

**Table 4 Level of agreement – In the modern world, maintaining the Australian way of life and culture is important**

|                               |                 | Estimate     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Agree or strongly agree       | Per cent        | 90.6         |
|                               | 95% CI          | [88–92]      |
| Neither agree nor disagree    | Per cent        | 6.3          |
|                               | 95% CI          | [4.9–7.9]    |
| Disagree or strongly disagree | Per cent        | 2.5          |
|                               | 95% CI          | [1.8–3.5]    |
| Don't know                    | Per cent        | 0.6          |
|                               | 95% CI          | [0.2–1.7]    |
| Refused                       | Per cent        | 0.1          |
|                               | 95% CI          | [0.0–0.8]    |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>Per cent</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Base: All respondents (n=3,363)**

Note that estimates displayed in this table have been rounded and may sum to slightly above/below the total

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2017, Social Cohesion Survey Report

### Demographic comparisons

Older people (aged 35–54 years (92.1%) or 55 years and over (95.2%)) were more likely to agree

or strongly agree than younger people (aged 18–34 years (83.0%)) that in the modern world, maintaining the Australian way of life and culture is important.

## 4.6 Acceptance of immigrants

All respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the following: "Accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger" (Q3b).

Approximately two thirds (62.0%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population agreed or strongly agreed that accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger, 18.4% neither agreed nor disagreed, while 18.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed (Table 5).

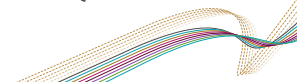
**Table 5 Level of agreement – Accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger**

|                               |                 | Estimate     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Agree or strongly agree       | Per cent        | 62.0         |
|                               | 95% CI          | [59–65]      |
| Neither agree nor disagree    | Per cent        | 18.4         |
|                               | 95% CI          | [16–21]      |
| Disagree or strongly disagree | Per cent        | 18.4         |
|                               | 95% CI          | [17–20]      |
| Don't know                    | Per cent        | 0.8          |
|                               | 95% CI          | [0.4–1.6]    |
| Refused                       | Per cent        | 0.4          |
|                               | 95% CI          | [0.2–0.8]    |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>Per cent</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Base: All respondents (n=3,363)**

Note that estimates displayed in this table have been rounded and may sum to slightly above/below the total

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2017, Social Cohesion Survey Report



## Demographic comparisons

Analysis of survey data found the following statistically significant differences in level of agreement that accepting migrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger:

- People who completed high school (63.4%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those whose highest year level of completed school based education was primary school (40.8%).
- People with a bachelor degree or above (80.8%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those who did not complete any higher education (50.1%) or whose highest educational qualification was a certificate or diploma (54.7%).
- People born overseas (72.2%) were more likely to agree or strongly disagree than those born in Australia (58.5%).
- People who spoke a language other than English at home (78.2%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those who spoke only English at home (59.8%).
- People with no need for assistance with core activities (63.8%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those with a need for assistance with core activities (49.0%).
- People living in the Sunshine Coast (67.1%), Brisbane (66.3%) or Gold Coast (64.0%) regions were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those living in the Wide Bay (48.7%), Mackay (47.8%), Fitzroy (46.9%) or Queensland Outback (46.2%) regions.
- When aggregated for comparison, people living in South East Queensland (66.0%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those living in the rest of Queensland (53.0%).

## 4.7 Ethnic minorities

All respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the following: "Ethnic minorities in Australia should be given Australian government assistance to maintain their customs and traditions" (Q3c).

Of the 3,543,472 estimated adult Queensland residents, 41.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed that ethnic minorities in Australia should be given Australian government assistance to maintain their customs and traditions, 37.7% agreed or strongly agreed, while 20.3% neither agreed or disagreed (Table 6).

**Table 6** Level of agreement – Ethnic minorities in Australia should be given Australian government assistance to maintain their customs and traditions

|                               |                 | Estimate     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Agree or strongly agree       | Per cent        | 37.7         |
|                               | 95% CI          | [35–41]      |
| Neither agree nor disagree    | Per cent        | 20.3         |
|                               | 95% CI          | [18–23]      |
| Disagree or strongly disagree | Per cent        | 41.2         |
|                               | 95% CI          | [39–44]      |
| Don't know                    | Per cent        | 0.4          |
|                               | 95% CI          | [0.2–0.8]    |
| Refused                       | Per cent        | 0.3          |
|                               | 95% CI          | [0.2–0.6]    |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>Per cent</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Base: All respondents (n=3,363)**

Note that estimates displayed in this table have been rounded and may sum to slightly above/below the total

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2017, Social Cohesion Survey Report

## Demographic comparisons

Analysis of survey data found the following statistically significant differences in level of agreement that ethnic minorities in Australia should be given Australian government assistance to maintain their customs and traditions:

- People with a bachelor degree or above (51.2%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those who did not complete any higher education (34.2%) or whose highest educational qualification was a certificate or diploma (29.1%).
- People born overseas (48.8%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than people born in Australia (33.9%).
- People who spoke a language other than English at home (65.0%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those who only spoke English at home (34.4%).
- People living in the Brisbane region (42.1%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those living in the Queensland Outback (29.2%), Mackay (28.7%), Fitzroy (28.1%) or Wide Bay (24.9%) regions.
- When aggregated for comparison, people living in South East Queensland (40.7%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those living in the rest of Queensland (31.0%).

## 4.8 Experience of discrimination

All respondents were asked: "Have you experienced discrimination because of your skin colour, ethnic origin or religion in the last 12 months?" (Q4).

Of the 3,543,472 estimated adult Queensland residents, most (84.8%) had not experienced discrimination because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion in the last 12 months, while 15.1% had experienced discrimination (Table 7).

**Table 7 Experience of discrimination in the last 12 months**

|              |                 | Estimate     |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Yes          | Per cent        | 15.1         |
|              | 95% CI          | [14–17]      |
| No           | Per cent        | 84.8         |
|              | 95% CI          | [83–86]      |
| Refused      | Per cent        | 0.1          |
|              | 95% CI          | [0.0–0.5]    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>Per cent</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Base: All respondents (n=3,363)**

Note that estimates displayed in this table have been rounded and may sum to slightly above/below the total

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2017, Social Cohesion Survey Report

### Demographic comparisons

The following demographic categories showed statistically significant differences in their experience of discrimination because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion in the last 12 months:

- Younger people (aged 18–34 years (19.1%) or 35–54 years (18.1%)) were more likely than older people (aged 55 years and over (8.5%)) to have experienced discrimination.
- Employed people (17.0%) were more likely to have experienced discrimination than those not employed (11.3%).
- People who identified as Indigenous (41.7%) were more likely to have experienced discrimination than those who did not identify as Indigenous (14.4%).
- People born overseas (22.2%) were more likely to have experienced discrimination than those born in Australia (12.7%).
- People who spoke a language other than English at home (31.4%) were more likely to have experienced discrimination than those who only spoke English at home (13.1%).
- People living in the Cairns (23.1%) or Queensland Outback (21.4%) regions were more likely to have experienced discrimination than those living in the Mackay (12.4%), Darling Downs (11.6%), Wide Bay (11.2%), Sunshine Coast (9.8%) or Gold Coast (9.3%) regions.

## 4.9 Future life in Australia

All respondents were asked “In the next three or four years, do you think that your life in Australia will be (improved, the same as now, or worse)?” (Q5).

Approximately half (45.0%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population believed that in the next three or four years their life in Australia would be the same as now, while 27.9% believed their life would be improved and 24.1% believed their life would be worse (Table 8).

**Table 8 Life in Australia in the next three or four years**

|   |                 | Estimate     |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Much or a little improved                                 | Per cent        | 27.9         |
|   | 95% CI          | [25–31]      |
| The same as now   | Per cent        | 45.0         |
|   | 95% CI          | [43–47]      |
| A little or much worse                                    | Per cent        | 24.1         |
|   | 95% CI          | [22–26]      |
| Don't think I'll be living in Australia or elderly/unwell | Per cent        | 0.6          |
|   | 95% CI          | [0.4–1.2]    |
| Don't know  | Per cent        | 2.2          |
|   | 95% CI          | [1.5–3.4]    |
| Refused   | Per cent        | 0.1          |
|   | 95% CI          | [0.0–0.6]    |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>Per cent</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Base: All respondents (n=3,363)**

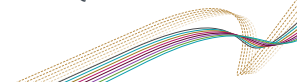
Note that estimates displayed in this table have been rounded and may sum to slightly above/below the total

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Social Survey 2017, Social Cohesion Survey Report

### Demographic comparisons

Analysis of the survey data found the following significant differences based on demographic variables:

- Belief that their life in Australia would be improved in the next three or four years appeared to decrease with age. People aged 18–34 years (39.0%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than people aged 35–54 years (30.1%), who in turn were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than people aged 55 years and over (15.6%).
- People who completed high school (28.6%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those whose highest year level of completed school based education was primary school (16.6%).
- People with a bachelor degree or above (33.3%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those who did not complete any higher education (21.6%).
- Employed people (32.0%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those not employed (19.2%).
- People born overseas (39.5%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than people born in Australia (24.0%).
- People who spoke a language other than English at home (46.4%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those who only spoke English at home (25.6%).
- People with no need for assistance with core activities (29.3%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those with a need for assistance with core activities (18.0%).
- People living in the Brisbane region (31.3%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those living in the Wide Bay region (18.8%).
- When aggregated for comparison, people living in South East Queensland (29.8%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those living in the rest of Queensland (23.7%).



## APPENDICES

### Appendix A – Survey method in detail

The QSS sample was designed to provide reliable information on individual and household characteristics at both the whole-of-state and the regional level. To achieve this goal, survey respondents were selected using a stratified sampling design. A simple random sample would not support this type of analysis because the final sample would be concentrated in regions within South East Queensland, due to its high population density. For the survey, Queensland was stratified into the following 10 composite Statistical area level 4 (SA4) regions:

- Brisbane (includes the SA4s of Brisbane Inner City, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Brisbane West, Brisbane East, Moreton Bay North, Moreton Bay South, Logan - Beaudesert and Ipswich)
- Gold Coast
- Sunshine Coast
- Wide Bay
- Darling Downs (includes the SA4s of Toowoomba and Darling Downs - Maranoa)
- Fitzroy
- Mackay
- Townsville
- Cairns
- Queensland Outback.

A quota (i.e. target) of 600 completed interviews was set for the Brisbane region and 300 interviews for each other region. The final sample of 10,306 was designed to achieve 3,300 interviews. Figure 1 shows the final number of responses per region.

With this stratified sample design, the probability of selecting a household varied across the 10 regions. For example, households in the Queensland Outback region had a higher probability of being selected than households in the more populous regions in South East Queensland. Statistical methods used to analyse the survey data account for these different selection probabilities.

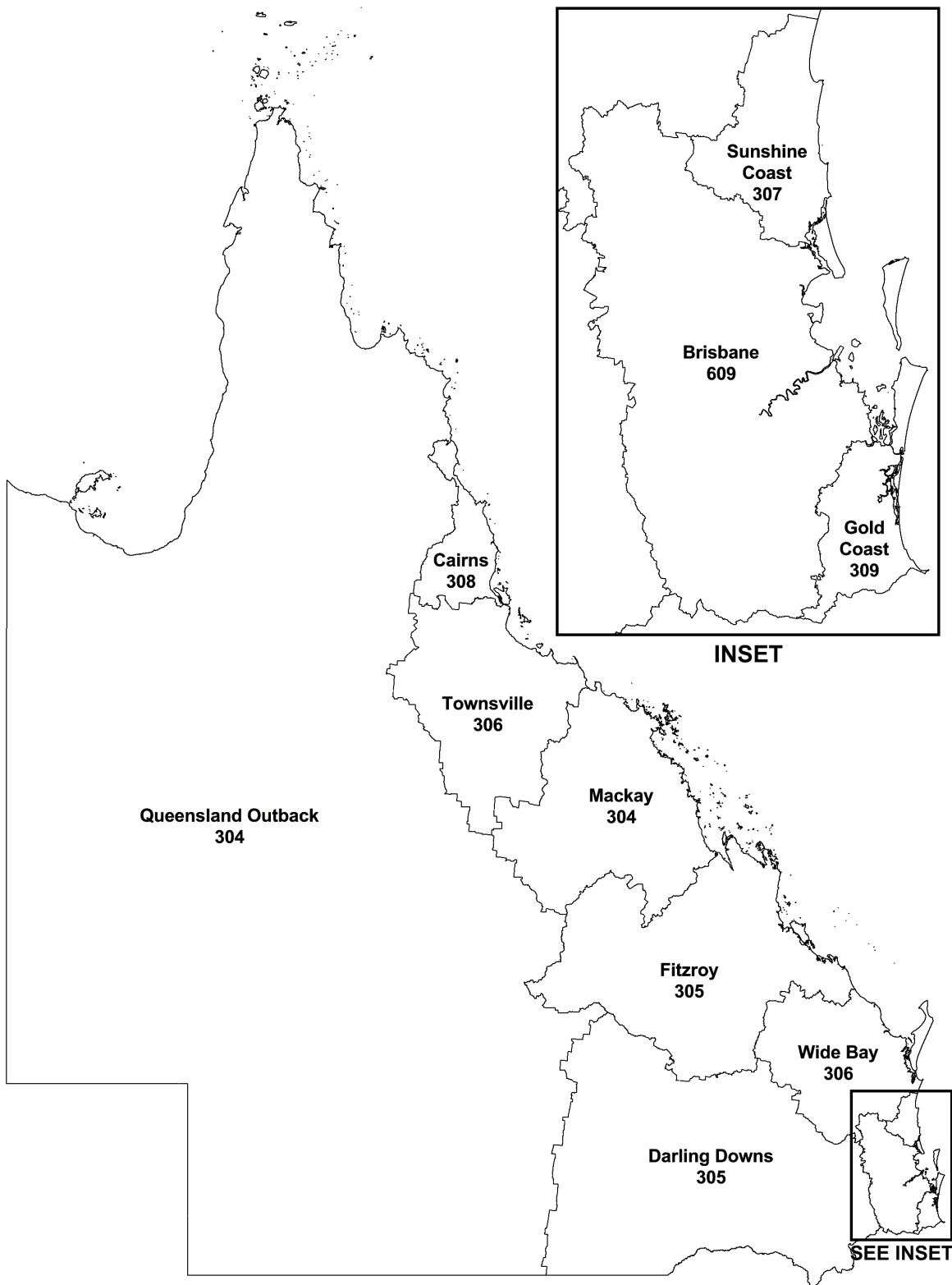
For operational reasons, it is not possible to ensure that the targeted number of respondents is achieved in all regions without that total being exceeded in several regions; hence a policy of meeting the targets 'on average' is pursued. This is why the number of surveyed respondents in some strata differed slightly from survey quotas.

Only one adult in each sampled household was interviewed. For households with more than one resident adult, one was randomly chosen to be interviewed. Failing to do so, by interviewing whoever answered the telephone, could have biased the sample. This is because some demographic groups are less likely to be at home than others or are less likely to answer the telephone.

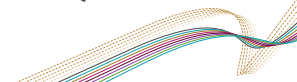
The possible impact of gender on the survey responses was investigated to see if responses were biased depending on interactions between the gender of the respondent and the gender of the interviewer. The investigation found gender interactions between respondents and interviewers to have no statistical effect on survey responses.



**Figure 1 Survey regions and sample achieved in each region**



Note: Based on ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2011.  
 Source: QGSO derived.



## Appendix B – Estimation and precision

QGSO surveyed a sample of 3,363 respondents. However, interest lies in the entire population of the estimated total number of adult usual residents living in an occupied private dwelling in Queensland (3,543,472). Each subset of respondents sharing similar characteristics is assumed to be representative of a segment of the entire population sharing those same characteristics. For example, responses of 18–25 year old males from the sample may be considered to be representative of all 18–25 year old males in the population, including those who were not invited or chose not to respond to the survey. 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 maximise 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 non-sampling and 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:

- use of an up-to-date and accurate list of contact information
- testing the questionnaire for ease of understanding and completion

- sending written communication to households about the survey prior to interviewing
- providing clear interviewer instructions, appropriate training and field supervision and
- 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 makes use of variables that are 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 3235.0, *Population by age and sex, Regions of Australia, 2016*, QGSO derived. These benchmarks are listed in Table 9.

QGSO expresses the degree of sampling error associated with an estimate using confidence intervals. A confidence interval has a percentage associated with it called a degree of confidence. Confidence intervals provide a useful way of summarising the sampling error associated with an estimate for a parameter. For the same degree of precision, a wider confidence interval corresponds to a less precise estimate. Most output tables in this report include 95% confidence intervals around the point estimates of the percentage of respondents falling in a given response category.



## Survey response rate

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

The response rate was derived as follows:

$$\frac{\text{total in-scope responding [3,363]}}{\text{total in-scope responding [3,363] + total in-scope non-responding [6,526]} \times 100\%$$

The estimated overall response rate for the survey was 34.0%.

## 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 usable interviews completed that can be used in the analysis, as a percentage of the number of persons contacted who were capable of participating.

The cooperation rate was derived as follows:

$$\frac{\text{total in-scope responding [3,363]}}{\text{total in-scope responding [3,363] + partially completed unusable interviews [80] + refusals [1,486]} \times 100\%$$

The estimated overall cooperation rate for the survey was 68.2%.

**Table 9** Benchmarks used in this survey: Persons by age and sex<sup>(a)</sup>, 30 June 2016<sup>(b)</sup>

| Region                       | 18–34 years    | 35–54 years    | 55 years and over |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Males</b>                 |                |                |                   |
| Brisbane <sup>(c)</sup>      | 296,568        | 299,183        | 250,469           |
| Cairns                       | 23,499         | 30,923         | 32,428            |
| Darling Downs <sup>(d)</sup> | 28,083         | 32,090         | 37,510            |
| Fitzroy                      | 23,915         | 27,962         | 25,892            |
| Gold Coast                   | 65,775         | 74,323         | 72,439            |
| Mackay                       | 17,470         | 21,356         | 19,650            |
| Queensland Outback           | 9,486          | 10,002         | 8,857             |
| Sunshine Coast               | 30,467         | 42,680         | 53,462            |
| Townsville                   | 26,568         | 27,413         | 26,656            |
| Wide Bay                     | 22,557         | 31,548         | 52,086            |
| <b>Queensland</b>            | <b>544,388</b> | <b>597,480</b> | <b>579,449</b>    |
| <b>Females</b>               |                |                |                   |
| Brisbane <sup>(c)</sup>      | 300,945        | 315,930        | 275,234           |
| Cairns                       | 25,046         | 34,376         | 31,832            |
| Darling Downs <sup>(d)</sup> | 28,584         | 34,670         | 40,450            |
| Fitzroy                      | 24,549         | 29,114         | 25,549            |
| Gold Coast                   | 69,093         | 80,890         | 80,723            |
| Mackay                       | 18,351         | 22,292         | 18,971            |
| Queensland Outback           | 9,715          | 9,875          | 7,475             |
| Sunshine Coast               | 31,932         | 48,939         | 59,461            |
| Townsville                   | 27,663         | 30,049         | 27,629            |
| Wide Bay                     | 23,660         | 35,590         | 53,568            |
| <b>Queensland</b>            | <b>559,538</b> | <b>641,725</b> | <b>620,892</b>    |

Note - Estimates exclude those aged 0–17 years

(a) Based on usual residents living in a private dwelling.

(b) QGSO estimate.

(c) 'Brisbane' includes the SA4s of Brisbane Inner City, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Brisbane West, Brisbane East, Moreton Bay North, Moreton Bay South, Logan - Beaudesert and Ipswich

(d) 'Darling Downs' includes the SA4s of Toowoomba and Darling Downs - Maranoa

Source: ABS 3235.0, *Population by Age and Sex, Regions on Australia*, 2016, QGSO derived.

Appendix C – Questionnaire

# Questionnaire

*for*

Queensland Social Survey 2017

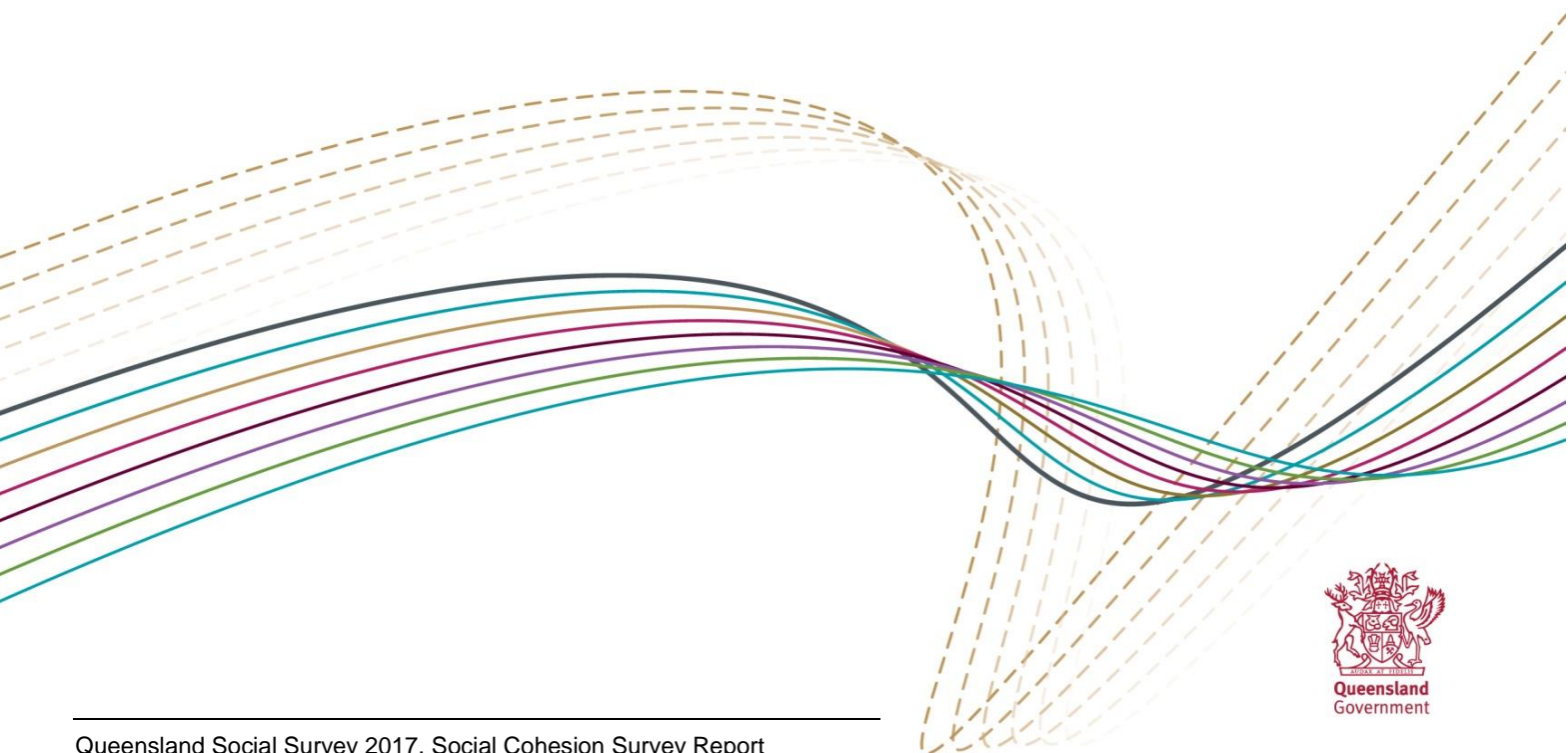
*prepared for*

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

*by*

Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Queensland Treasury



## Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet Queensland Social Survey 2017

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I work for the Queensland Government Statistician's Office. The Queensland Government is conducting a survey to gauge the community's views about a range of social issues including family relationships, attitudes towards violence and Australia's culture.

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.

---

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

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

---

To ensure that we obtain a representative sample of all people aged 18 years or over, we need to randomly select a person from your household to complete the survey. Could you please tell me the number of people aged 18 years or over who usually live in this household?

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| (Respondent provides information..... |    |
| Refused) .....                        | 99 |

---

Could I please speak to that person?

|   |    |
|---|----|
| (Yes – Speaking to target .....                   | 1  |
| Yes – Contact will go and get target.....         | 2  |
| Target (temporarily) unavailable .....            | 3  |
| Contact tries to refuse on behalf of target ..... | 4  |
| Refused) .....                                    | 99 |

---

### Intro1. Questions about Australia's culture

Read "For the first section of the survey we will be asking some questions about Australia's culture."

---

**Q.1** To what extent do you take pride in the Australian way of life and culture? Would you say:

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| To a great extent.....    | 1  |
| To a moderate extent..... | 2  |
| Only slightly .....       | 3  |
| Not at all.....           | 4  |
| (Don't know.....          | 98 |
| Refused) .....            | 99 |

**Q.2** To what extent do you have a sense of belonging in Australia? Would you say:

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| To a great extent.....    | 1  |
| To a moderate extent..... | 2  |
| Only slightly .....       | 3  |
| Not at all.....           | 4  |
| (Don't know.....          | 98 |
| Refused) .....            | 99 |

**Q.3** Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

|   | <b>1.<br/>Strongly<br/>agree</b> | <b>2.<br/>Agree</b> | <b>3.<br/>Neither<br/>agree<br/>nor<br/>disagree</b> | <b>4.<br/>Disagree</b> | <b>5.<br/>Strongly<br/>disagree</b> | <b>98.<br/>(Don't<br/>know</b> | <b>99.<br/>Refused)</b> |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) In the modern world, maintaining the Australian way of life and culture is important                                     |                                  |                     |  |                        |                                     |                                |                         |
| b) Accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger  |                                  |                     |  |                        |                                     |                                |                         |
| c) Ethnic minorities in Australia should be given Australian government assistance to maintain their customs and traditions |                                  |                     |  |                        |                                     |                                |                         |

**Intro2.** Discrimination questions

Read "Now thinking about any discrimination that you may have personally experienced."

**Q.4** Have you experienced discrimination because of your skin colour, ethnic origin or religion in the last 12 months?

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

**Q.5** In the next three or four years, do you think that your life in Australia will be?

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Much improved .....   | 1  |
| A little improved .....   | 2  |
| The same as now .....   | 3  |
| A little worse .....  | 4  |
| Much worse .....  | 5  |
| (Not applicable<br>– won't be living in Australia or will be elderly/unwell ..... | 6  |
| Don't know .....  | 98 |
| Refused) .....  | 99 |

**Intro4.** Demographic questions

Read "The following questions are for statistical purposes only."

**Q.26** (Record if known, otherwise ask) As this interview is being conducted over the phone, can you please tell me your gender?

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| (Male .....    | 1  |
| Female.....    | 2  |
| Other .....    | 3  |
| Refused) ..... | 99 |

**Q.27a** Can I please have your date of birth?

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| ((Record date of birth)..... |    |
| Refuses/reluctant).....      | 99 |

If Q.27a = 99 go to Q.27b

Else go to Q.28

**Q.27b** Would you mind giving me your age in years?

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| ((Record age in years)..... |    |
| Refuses/reluctant).....     | 99 |



If Q.27b = 99 go to Q.27c

Else go to Q.28

**Q.27c** Would you be willing to say which of the following categories your age is in?

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| 18 – 24 .....          | 1  |
| 25 – 34 .....          | 2  |
| 35 – 44 .....          | 3  |
| 45 – 54 .....          | 4  |
| 55 – 64 .....          | 5  |
| 65 years or over ..... | 6  |
| (Refused) .....        | 99 |

**Q.28** What is the highest year level of school based education that you have completed?

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 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 ( <i>please specify</i> ) ..... | 6  |
| Refused) .....                         | 99 |

**Q.29** What is the level of the highest educational qualification that you have completed?

|  |    |
|--|----|
| (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.....       | 14 |
| No educational qualification completed ..... | 15 |
| Other ( <i>please specify</i> ).....         | 16 |
| Refused) .....                               | 99 |

**Q.30** Are you currently...

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 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 ( <i>please specify</i> ) ..... | 7  |
| Refused) .....                         | 99 |

---

**Q.31** Do you identify yourself as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

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

---

**Q.32a** In which country were you born?

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| (Australia.....                      | 1  |
| Other ( <i>please specify</i> )..... | 2  |
| Refused) .....                       | 99 |

---

**Q.32b** Do you speak a language other than English at home?

|  |    |
|--|----|
| (No, English only.....                     | 1  |
| Yes, other ( <i>please specify</i> ) ..... | 2  |
| Refused) .....                             | 99 |

---

**Q.33** 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?

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

---

**Q.34** Do you identify as?

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Heterosexual / straight.....    | 1  |
| Lesbian .....                   | 2  |
| Gay .....                       | 3  |
| Bi-sexual .....                 | 4  |
| Transsexual / transgender ..... | 5  |
| (Other (please specify) .....   | 6  |
| Don't know .....                | 98 |
| Refused) .....                  | 99 |

---

**Q.35** What is your postcode?

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| ((Record postcode)..... | 1    |
| Don't know .....        | 9998 |
| Refused) .....          | 9999 |

---

If postcode differs from frame or Q.35 = 98 go to Q.36

Else go to End survey

---

**Q.36** What is your suburb?

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| ((Record suburb)..... | 1  |
| Don't know .....      | 98 |
| Refused) .....        | 99 |

---

**Q.37** (Record if known – DON'T READ OUT) Have they indicated they are a victim of domestic and family violence?

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| (Yes..... | 1  |
| No .....  | 2) |

---

**That concludes the survey.**

Your responses are strictly confidential. No personal information will be published or released. Your responses are protected by the Queensland Government's Statistical Returns Act which means that penalties apply under the laws of Queensland for anyone who releases your responses in a way which would identify 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 DV connect?

DV Connect Mensline: 1800 600 636

DV Connect Womensline: 1800 811 811

Thank you very much for your assistance.

