

# Queensland Social Survey

## Social Cohesion Survey Report

*prepared for*

Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
August 2018



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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
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
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 January 2018, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) commissioned the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) to conduct the Queensland Social Survey 2018 (QSS). This was the second time the Queensland Social Survey was conducted, with the first survey being conducted in 2017.

The main objective of the survey was to provide measures of Queensland community perceptions and attitudes associated with social cohesion and Australia's culture, and compare results from the 2018 survey to the 2017 survey. The survey was conducted by telephone and 3,361 usable interviews were completed. The response rate for the survey was 29.5% (see Table 1).

**Table 1 Survey methodology and operations summary**

		2017	2018
<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	11,663
<b>Data collection</b>	Mode	Computer assisted telephone interview (CATI)	
	Timing	1/08/2017 – 30/08/2017	21/05/2018 – 12/06/2018
	In-scope completed surveys	3,363	3,361
	Response rate / Cooperation rate	34.0% / 68.2%	29.5% / 66.8%

## Survey results

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

### Australian way of life and culture:

- 93.2% took pride in the Australian way of life and culture to a great or moderate extent (Q1), compared with 93.9% in 2017.

### Sense of belonging in Australia:

- 95.5% had a sense of belonging in Australia to a great or moderate extent (Q2), compared with 95.6% in 2017.

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

- 88.4% agreed or strongly agreed that in the modern world, maintaining the Australian way of life and culture is important (Q3a), compared to 90.6% in 2017.

### Acceptance of immigrants:

- 59.7% agreed or strongly agreed that accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger (Q3b), compared with 62.0% in 2017.

### Ethnic minorities:

- 36.1% disagreed or strongly disagreed that ethnic minorities in Australia should be given Australian government assistance to maintain their customs and traditions (Q3c), compared with 41.2% in 2017.

### Experience of discrimination:

- 84.1% had not experienced discrimination because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion in the last 12 months (Q4), compared with 84.8% in 2017.

### Future life in Australia:

- 48.2% thought that their life in Australia in the next three or four years would be the same as it is now (Q5), compared with 45.0% in 2017.

## Australian way of life and culture:



**93.2%**  
of residents took pride in the Australian way of life and culture to a great or moderate extent

**95.5%**

of residents had a sense of belonging in Australia to a great or moderate extent, with people born in Australia more likely to indicate to a great/moderate extent than those born overseas

**88.4%**

of residents agreed/strongly agreed that in the modern world, maintaining the Australian way of life and culture is important



People aged 55 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:

agree

neither

disagree

59.7% agreed or strongly agreed that accepting migrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger, while 20.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed and 19.4% neither agreed nor disagreed

In particular, there was more agreement among those who:



completed high school (61.0%) compared with those whose highest year level of completed school based education was primary school (41.2%)



had a bachelor degree or above (77.4%) compared with those who did not complete any higher education (54.2%)



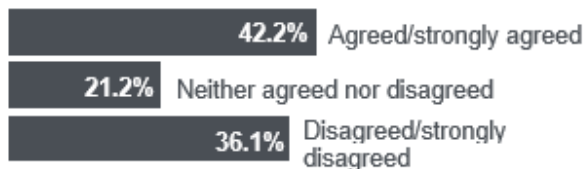
spoke a language other than English at home (81.0%) compared with who spoke only English at home (56.2%)



Were born overseas (72.7%) compared with those born in Australia (55.0%)

Level of agreement about whether:

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



## Future life in Australia:

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

**48.2%** same as now

**29.0%** much/a little improved

**21.2%** a little/much worse



**15.8%** 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
- LGBTI

This page is a snapshot only and should be read in conjunction with 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. This was the second time the QSS was conducted by QGSO, the first time being in 2017.

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, and to compare results from the 2018 survey to the 2017 survey. 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 2018 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 3,594,074 adult usual residents living in an occupied private dwelling in Queensland as at 30 June 2017.

A total number of 11,663 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

No changes were made to the 2017 questionnaire for the 2018 survey.

The 2017 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).

A copy of the questionnaire is attached as Appendix D.

### 3.3 Survey administration

The survey was administered using computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) between 21 May and 12 June 2018. 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 29.5%, with a cooperation rate of 66.8%. A total of 3,361 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 (3,594,074).

Results from the 2018 survey have been compared to results from the 2017 survey. The 2017 results included in this report are taken from the Queensland Social Survey 2017.

Please note that bases reported for tables included in this report are from the 2018 survey. To find bases for results from the 2017 survey, please see the Queensland Social Survey 2017 Survey Report.

The 2017 report is available on the QGSO website: <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/social-cohesion/index.php>

The results presented in this report are estimates that have been calculated from the survey sample of 3,361 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 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 C 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 (93.2%) 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 6.8% of Queensland residents only slightly took pride in the Australian way of life and culture or did not take pride at all (see Table 2).

Analysis of the survey data found no statistically significant differences the extent to which people took pride in the Australian way of life and culture between 2017 and 2018.

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

		2017	2018
To a great or moderate extent	Per cent 95% CI	93.9 [92.7–95.0]	93.2 [91.5–94.5]
Only slightly or not at all	Per cent 95% CI	5.8 [4.7–7.0]	6.8 [5.4–8.5]
Don't know	Per cent 95% CI	0.2 [0.1–0.6]	0.0 [0.0–0.1]
Refused	Per cent 95% CI	0.1 [0.0–0.2]	0.0 [0.0–0.1]
<b>Total</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Base: All respondents (n=3,361)**

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 2018, Social Cohesion Survey Report

### Demographic comparisons

Analysis of survey data found people whose highest educational qualification was a certificate or diploma (95.5%) were more likely to take pride in the Australian way of life and culture to a great or moderate extent than those with a bachelor degree or above (90.9%).

### 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 3,594,074 estimated adult Queensland residents, most (95.5%) 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 (see Table 3).

Analysis of the survey data found no statistically significant differences in the extent to which people had a sense of belonging in Australia between 2017 and 2018.

**Table 3 Sense of belonging in Australia**

		2017	2018
To a great or moderate extent	Per cent	95.6	95.5
	95% CI	[94.2–96.6]	[94.0–96.7]
Only slightly or not at all	Per cent	4.4	4.4
	95% CI	[3.3–5.8]	[3.3–6.0]
Don't know	Per cent	0.0	0.1
	95% CI	[0.0–0.1]	[0.0–0.2]
Refused	Per cent	0.0	0.0
	95% CI	[0.0–0.1]	[0.0–0.2]
<b>Total</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Base: All respondents (n=3,361)**

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 2018, Social Cohesion Survey Report

### Demographic comparisons

Analysis of survey data found people born in Australia (97.1%) were more likely to have a sense of belonging in Australia to a great or moderate extent than people born overseas (91.2%).

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

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

Most (88.4%) 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 8.9% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 2.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed (see Table 4).

Compared to 2017, analysis of the 2018 survey data found no statistically significant differences in level of agreement with the statement.

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

		2017	2018
Agree or strongly agree	Per cent	90.6	88.4
	95% CI	[88.4–92.4]	[86.5–90.1]
Neither agree nor disagree	Per cent	6.3	8.9
	95% CI	[4.9–7.9]	[7.4–10.8]
Disagree or strongly disagree	Per cent	2.5	2.4
	95% CI	[1.8–3.5]	[1.7–3.3]
Don't know	Per cent	0.6	0.2
	95% CI	[0.2–1.7]	[0.1–0.5]
Refused	Per cent	0.1	0.1
	95% CI	[0.0–0.8]	[0.0–0.3]
<b>Total</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Base: All respondents (n=3,361)**

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 2018, Social Cohesion Survey Report

### Demographic comparisons

Analysis of survey data found older people (aged 55 years and over (93.4%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than younger people (aged 18–34 years (82.7%) or 35–54 years (88.5%)).

## 4.6 Acceptance of immigrants

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

More than half (59.7%) of the estimated adult Queensland resident population agreed or strongly agreed that accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger, 19.4% neither agreed nor disagreed, while 20.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed (see Table 5).

Compared to 2017, analysis of the 2018 survey data found no statistically significant differences in level of agreement that accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger.

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

		2017	2018
Agree or strongly agree	Per cent	62.0	59.7
	95% CI	[59.2–64.7]	[56.8–62.6]
Neither agree nor disagree	Per cent	18.4	19.4
	95% CI	[16.4–20.7]	[17.1–21.9]
Disagree or strongly disagree	Per cent	18.4	20.3
	95% CI	[16.6–20.3]	[18.5–22.2]
Don't know	Per cent	0.8	0.3
	95% CI	[0.4–1.6]	[0.2–0.6]
Refused	Per cent	0.4	0.3
	95% CI	[0.2–0.8]	[0.1–0.6]
<b>Total</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Base: All respondents (n=3,361)

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 2018, 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 aged 18–34 years (64.6%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than people aged 55 years and older (54.3%)
- People who completed high school (61.0%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those whose highest year level of completed school based education was primary school (41.2%)
- People with a bachelor degree or above (77.4%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those who did not complete any higher education (54.2%) or whose highest educational qualification was a certificate or diploma (51.7%)
- Employed people (62.6%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those who were not employed (53.3%)
- People born overseas (72.7%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those born in Australia (55.0%)
- People who spoke a language other than English at home (81.0%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those who only spoke English at home (56.2%)

- People with no need for assistance with core activities (61.6%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those with a need for assistance with core activities (46.6%)
- People living in the Gold Coast (65.7%) Brisbane (64.4%) or Sunshine Coast (63.4%) regions were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those living in the Mackay (48.4%), Townsville (47.7%), Queensland Outback (46.7%), Fitzroy (46.3) or Wide Bay (44.1%) regions
- When aggregated for comparison, people living in South East Queensland (64.5%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those living in the rest of Queensland (48.7%).

## 4.7 Ethnic minorities

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

Of the 3,594,074 estimated adult Queensland residents, 42.2% agreed or strongly agreed that ethnic minorities in Australia should be given Australian government assistance to maintain their customs and traditions, 21.2% neither agreed or disagreed, and 36.1% disagreed or strongly disagreed (see Table 6).

Queensland residents were significantly more likely to agree or strongly agree with the statement in 2018 (42.2%), compared with 2017 (37.7%).

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

		2017	2018
Agree or strongly agree	Per cent	37.7	42.2
	95% CI	[34.9–40.6]	[38.5–46.0]
Neither agree nor disagree	Per cent	20.3	21.2
	95% CI	[17.8–23.1]	[18.4–24.4]
Disagree or strongly disagree	Per cent	41.2	36.1
	95% CI	[38.7–43.8]	[33.3–38.9]
Don't know	Per cent	0.4	0.5
	95% CI	[0.2–0.8]	[0.3–0.9]
Refused	Per cent	0.3	0.0
	95% CI	[0.2–0.6]	[0.0–0.1]
<b>Total</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Base: All respondents (n=3,361)**

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 2018, Social Cohesion Survey Report

- agree or strongly agree than those who only spoke English at home (38.1%)
- People living in the Sunshine Coast (47.4%) or Brisbane (45.1%) regions were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those living in the Darling Downs (32.7%) or Wide Bay (29.4%) regions
- When aggregated for comparison, people living in South East Queensland (45.0%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those living in the rest of Queensland (35.8%).

## 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:

- Younger people (aged 18–34 years (52.5%) or 35–54 years (41.7%)) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than older people aged (55 years and over (33.4%))
- People who completed high school (43.2%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those whose highest year level of completed school based education was primary school (26.2%)
- People with a bachelor degree or above (56.1%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those who had not completed any higher education (36.9%) or had completed a certificate or diploma (36.4%)
- People who were not employed (43.6%) were more likely to disagree or strongly disagree than employed people (32.8%)
- People born overseas (54.4%) were more likely to agree or strongly agree than those born in Australia (37.7%)
- People who spoke a language other than English at home (66.7%) were more likely to



## 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 3,594,074 estimated adult Queensland residents, most (84.1%) had not experienced discrimination because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion in the last 12 months, while 15.8% had experienced discrimination (see Table 7).

Analysis of the survey data found no statistically significant differences between 2017 and 2018 results for experience of discrimination because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion in the last 12 months.

- People living in the Townsville (24.8%), Queensland Outback (24.4%) or Cairns (24.3%) regions were more likely to have experienced discrimination than people living in the Wide Bay (11.2%) or Mackay (10.8%) regions.

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

		2017	2018
Yes	Per cent	15.1	15.8
	95% CI	[13.6–16.8]	[13.8–18.1]
No	Per cent	84.8	84.1
	95% CI	[83.1–86.3]	[81.9–86.1]
Refused	Per cent	0.1	0.1
	95% CI	[0.0–0.4]	[0.0–0.3]
<b>Total</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Base: All respondents (n=3,361)**

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 2018, 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 (20.0%) or 35–54 years (17.3%)) were more likely to have experienced discrimination than older people aged 55 years and over (10.6%)
- People born overseas (21.8%) were more likely to have experienced discrimination than people born in Australia (13.6%)
- People who spoke a language other than English at home (34.5%) were more likely to have experienced discrimination than those who only spoke English at home (12.7%)

## 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 (48.2%) 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 29.0% believed their life would be improved and 21.2% believed their life would be worse (see Table 8).

Analysis of the survey data found no statistically significant differences between 2017 and 2018 results in thinking life in Australia will be (improved, the same as now, or worse) in the next three or four years.

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

		2017	2018
Much or a little improved	Per cent	27.9	29.0
	95% CI	[25.5–30.5]	[25.6–32.7]
The same as now	Per cent	45.0	48.2
	95% CI	[42.6–47.4]	[45.1–51.4]
A little or much worse	Per cent	24.1	21.2
	95% CI	[22.1–26.1]	[19.7–22.8]
Don't think I'll be living in Australia or elderly/unwell	Per cent	0.6	0.5
	95% CI	[0.3–1.2]	[0.3–0.7]
Don't know	Per cent	2.2	0.9
	95% CI	[1.5–3.4]	[0.6–1.5]
Refused	Per cent	0.1	0.1
	95% CI	[0.0–0.6]	[0.0–0.6]
<b>Total</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Base: All respondents (n=3,361)**

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 2018, Social Cohesion Survey Report

### Demographic comparisons

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

- People aged 18–34 years (42.6%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than people aged 35–54 years (28.4%), who in turn were more likely to believe

their life in Australia would be improved than people aged 55 years and over (17.5%)

- People whose highest year level of completed school based education was primary school (43.5%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be worse than those who completed high school (19.7%)
- People who did not complete any higher education (26.9%) or those whose highest education was certificate or diploma (23.0%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be worse than those with bachelor degree or above (12.7%)
- Employed people (32.8%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those not employed (20.7%)
- People born overseas (46.8%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those born in Australia (22.7%)
- People who spoke a language other than English at home (52.7%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those who only spoke English (25.3%)
- People with no limitation, restriction or impairment (30.8%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be improved than those with limitation, restriction or impairment (17.4%)
- People living in the Townsville (30.4%), Wide Bay (30%) or Mackay (29.3%) regions were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be worse than those living in the Brisbane (19.1%) or Gold Coast (17.1%) regions
- When aggregated for comparison, people living in rest of Queensland (26.2%) were more likely to believe their life in Australia would be worse than those living in South East Queensland (19.0%).



## APPENDICES

### Appendix A – Survey method in detail

The QSS sample was designed to provide reliable information on individual 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 11,663 was designed to achieve 3,361 interviews. Figure 1 shows the final number of responses per region.

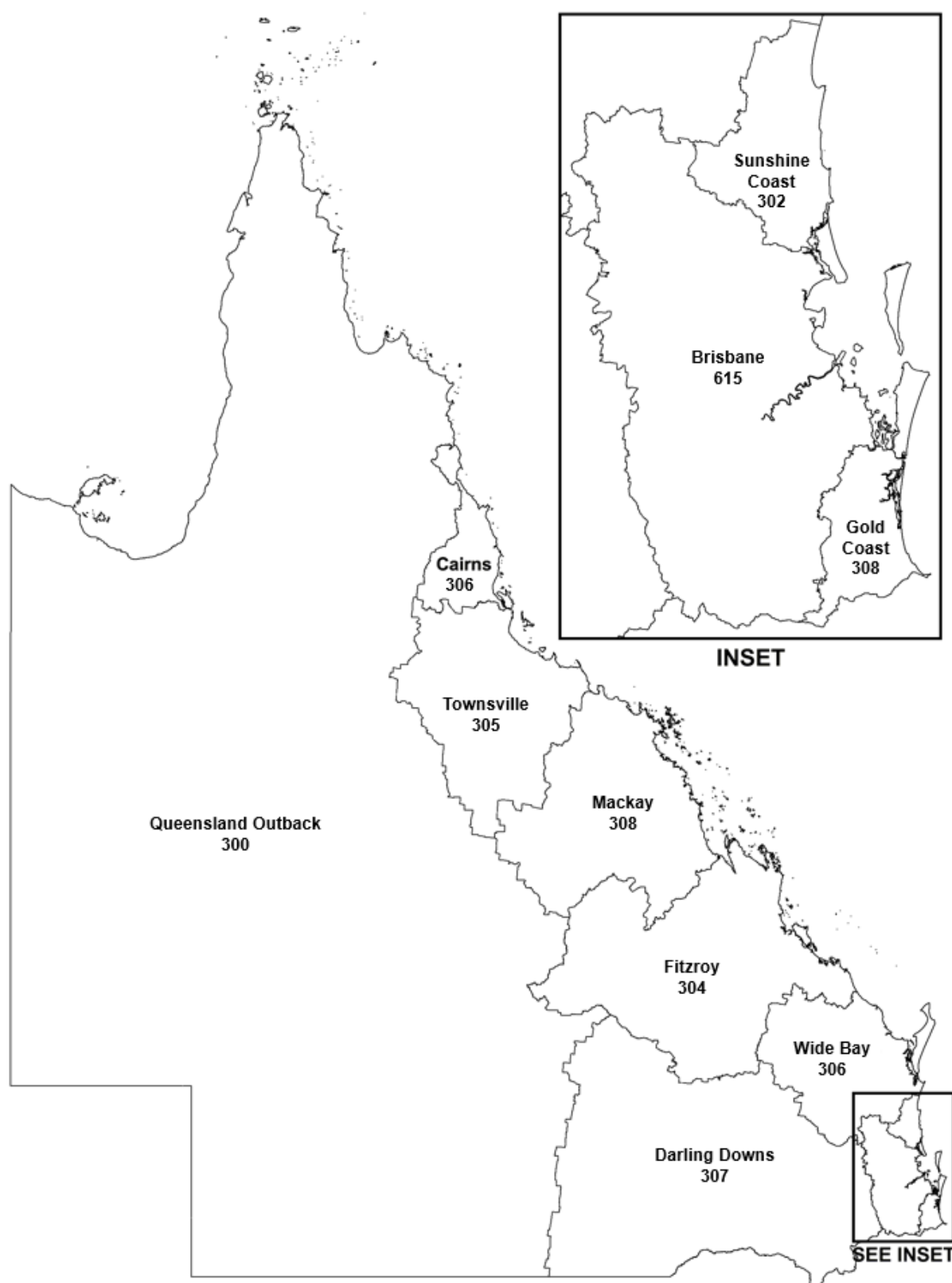
With this stratified sample design, the probability of selecting a household varied across the 10 regions. For example, households in the Queensland Outback region had a higher probability of being selected than households in the more populous regions in South East Queensland. Statistical methods used 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 – Survey operational results

### 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:

$$\frac{\text{total in-scope responding [3,361]}}{\text{total in-scope responding [3,361] + total in-scope non-responding [8,029]} \times 100\%$$

The estimated overall response rate for the survey was 29.5%.

### 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:

$$\frac{\text{total in-scope responding [3,361]}}{\text{total in-scope responding [3,361] + partially completed unusable interviews [47] + refusals [1,627]} \times 100\%$$

The estimated overall cooperation rate for the survey was 66.8%.

## Appendix C – Estimation and precision

QGSO surveyed a sample of 3,361 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 (3,594,074). 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 1896* 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.

**Table 9**      **Benchmarks used in this survey: Persons by age and sex<sup>(a)</sup>, 30 June 2017<sup>(b)</sup>**

Region	18–24 years	25–34 years	35–44 years	45–54 years	55–64 years	65 years and over
<b>Males</b>						
Brisbane <sup>(c)</sup>	121,459	178,019	156,575	145,881	119,523	139,009
Cairns	8,930	14,543	14,451	16,227	15,415	18,146
Darling Downs <sup>(d)</sup>	11,484	16,693	14,991	16,722	16,344	21,917
Fitzroy	9,262	14,164	13,347	14,297	13,032	12,975
Gold Coast	26,483	39,760	38,034	37,424	31,403	43,817
Mackay	6,296	10,668	10,038	10,708	10,064	9,874
Queensland Outback	3,685	5,676	4,576	4,893	4,585	4,177
Sunshine Coast	12,820	17,952	20,530	22,551	22,204	33,449
Townsville	11,559	15,068	13,348	13,666	12,700	14,566
Wide Bay	9,425	13,075	13,682	17,417	19,994	33,721
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>221,403</b>	<b>325,618</b>	<b>299,572</b>	<b>299,786</b>	<b>265,264</b>	<b>331,651</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Brisbane <sup>(c)</sup>	120,391	184,686	163,657	156,442	127,778	156,044
Cairns	8,909	16,186	16,666	17,663	15,754	17,321
Darling Downs <sup>(d)</sup>	11,125	17,508	16,427	17,958	17,141	24,316
Fitzroy	9,027	15,234	13,906	14,733	12,298	13,464
Gold Coast	27,855	42,433	41,106	41,238	35,702	48,208
Mackay	6,327	11,786	10,632	11,223	9,618	9,745
Queensland Outback	3,635	6,063	4,704	4,939	4,067	3,435
Sunshine Coast	12,730	19,698	22,690	26,687	25,243	36,582
Townsville	11,401	16,337	14,670	15,163	13,119	15,187
Wide Bay	9,308	14,324	15,487	19,547	21,846	33,411
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>220,708</b>	<b>344,255</b>	<b>319,945</b>	<b>325,593</b>	<b>282,566</b>	<b>357,713</b>

Note - Estimates exclude those aged 0–17 years

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

(b) The 2017 population estimates have been derived by QGSO using a linear extrapolation.

(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 D – Questionnaire

# Questionnaire

*for*

Queensland Social Survey 2018

*prepared for*

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

*by*

FINAL VERSION

06/03/2018

Queensland Government Statistician's Office  
Queensland Treasury



## Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet

### Queensland Social Survey 2018

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:

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	98. (Don't know	99. Refused)
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?

(Interviewer instruction: 'ethnic origin' includes nationality)

(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 – 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 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 (please specify) ..... 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 (please specify).....	2
Refused) .....	99

---

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

(No, English only.....	1
Yes, other (please specify) .....	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 = 9998 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.

