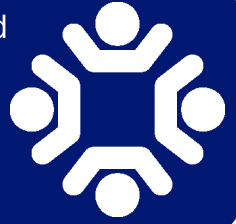
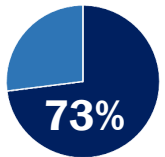


Social cohesion

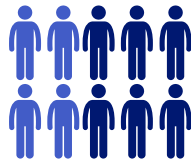
Social cohesion holds communities together. It's about people being connected and included and feeling part of their community. It refers to the sense of trust within neighbourhoods and people's willingness to help their neighbour. Social cohesion and connection is an important aspect of creating a healthier and more liveable Cardinia Shire.



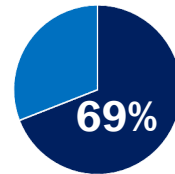
Key statistics



Residents agreed people in their neighbourhoods were willing to help each other



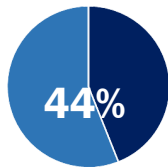
6 in 10 residents felt they live in a close-knit neighbourhood



Agreed that people in their neighbourhood can be trusted
Compared to 72% across Victoria



38% growth area residents want to be more connected with community



Felt a moderate to strong connection to community



61% of residents volunteered in rural areas
Compared to 41% in growth areas



16% don't have someone outside their household they can rely on to care for them or their children in an emergency



- Growth areas and lone households more commonly feel completely separate from their community
- More residents volunteered in rural areas compared to growth areas
- Older adults, low-income households and vulnerable populations less often have household internet access
- Renters less often have someone outside of their household to rely on in an emergency
- Those in rural and township areas more often reported a greater sense of belonging, and felt positive about community groups and neighbourhood relationships
- LGBTIQ+ people were more likely to feel isolated



- 80% of residents reported a big impact on spending time with family and friends during COVID-19
- 26% talking to neighbours less during the pandemic
- A lack of internet access or access to technology impacted on the ability for some to stay connected during the pandemic
- Poor social connection was increasingly reported during COVID-19



- Communities with strong social connection are more likely to respond better to climate-related disasters
- Cumulative effects of projected climate change reduce the quality and amenity value of green spaces, resulting in a reduction of recreation space utilisation and community cohesion

For more information contact Cardinia Shire Council on 1300 787 624 or mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au