



Real Neighbours Report 2025

June 2025



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About the report

The Real Neighbours Report 2025 is part of the Real Insurance Research Series, exploring the spectrum of neighbourly experiences – from acts of kindness and strong social ties to disputes, noise complaints, and antisocial behaviour.

By scoring neighbourhoods, this research pinpoints Australia's 'best' and 'worst' neighbours, analysing the key factors that influence community cohesion and connection.

Commissioned by Real Insurance and conducted by MYMAVINS, the research is based on a quantitative online survey (30th Jan – 14th Feb 2025) of 5,023 Australian adults. The sample is broadly representative across age, gender, wealth, and location.

Important things to observe about the charts and figures

- ✓ Figures are based on self-reported estimates from survey respondents.
- ✓ Footnotes below charts may indicate:
 - Subset of respondents (some questions were only asked to specific groups).
 - Question format (e.g. multiple responses allowed).
 - Excluded data (e.g. outliers removed).

Totals may not always equal 100% due to rounding differences, including summed figures.





Key findings



Australians less interested in knowing neighbours

- ✓ Over 7 in 10 (72%) believe Australians are becoming less interested in knowing their neighbours compared to 20 years ago.
- ✓ Over 3 in 5 (62%) have lived next to a neighbour for more than six months without meeting.

More casual meetings than proactive introductions

- ✓ Close to 1 in 2 (47%) met their neighbours casually over time when they moved in.
- ✓ Only 1 in 3 (33%) introduced themselves, while 1 in 10 (10%) waited for their neighbours to do so.
- ✓ More than 1 in 2 (51%) meet new neighbours casually, nearly 3 in 10 (27%) introduce themselves, and more than 1 in 10 (11%) wait to be approached.
- ✓ Close to 1 in 2 (48%) have made friends with neighbours by chatting over time, but nearly 3 in 10 (28%) say they've never formed a friendship with one.

Knowing neighbours is important for peace of mind

- ✓ Exactly 4 in 5 (80%) say knowing their neighbours is important, mainly for safety and property protection.
- ✓ More than 1 in 2 (51%) feel their area has a 'neighbourhood watch' ethos, while close to 1 in 5 (18%) say their neighbours are highly engaged in looking out for one another.
- ✓ Around 3 in 10 (30%) say an active neighbourhood watch would make them feel safer and more reassured.

Many feel obligated but most see the value in neighbourly connection

- ✓ 1 in 2 (50%) always greet their neighbours, while nearly 2 in 5 (36%) do so only sometimes.
- ✓ Over 2 in 5 (42%) prefer to keep to themselves but feel obligated to engage with neighbours.
- ✓ The majority (60%) see the value in neighbourly interactions and friendships.

Most rate themselves more highly than they do their neighbours

- ✓ Over 4 in 5 (83%) rate themselves as excellent (28%) or good (55%) neighbours.
- ✓ A smaller 68% rate their neighbours as excellent (20%) or good (47%).
- ✓ A 'good neighbour' is friendly and approachable (64%), respects privacy and boundaries (58%), and keeps noise levels reasonable (58%).
- ✓ A 'bad neighbour' is rude, disrespectful, problematic, or frequently arguing (61%), too noisy (58%), or overly nosey (50%).

Neighbourhood ratings are more positive than negative

- ✓ Around 2 in 3 (65%) rate their neighbourhoods as helpful, 68% as likeable, and 65% say their community spirit is good or excellent.
- ✓ Just over 7 in 10 (72%) rate their neighbourhood's friendliness as good or excellent.
- ✓ 2 in 3 (66%) say noise levels in their neighbourhoods are good or excellent.

Around half admit to judging their neighbours

- ✓ 2 in 5 (40%) feel judged by their neighbours, nearly 1 in 2 (49%) admit to judging theirs.
- ✓ Top reasons for judgement include noise levels, property upkeep, and vehicles owned/parking habits.

Many feel their neighbours have invaded their privacy

- ✓ Over 1 in 3 (37%) felt their neighbour had invaded their privacy, with top concerns including neighbours watching/observing them without consent (39%), entering property without permission (28%), listening in on private conversations (25%), spreading rumours or gossip (23%), and asking intrusive or overly personal questions (23%).

Passive-aggressive messages and missing parcels are common

- ✓ More than 1 in 4 (26%) have received passive-aggressive messages from a neighbour, with younger generations even more likely to receive such messages.
- ✓ Close to 1 in 4 (23%) had a parcel go missing, with nearly 1 in 2 (46%) suspecting a neighbour.

Neighbourhood conflicts experienced by a third

- ✓ Around 1 in 3 (32%) have had at least one disagreement with a neighbour in the past year.
- ✓ Top reasons include noise, rudeness, and parking disputes.
- ✓ Close to 1 in 2 (48%) resolve conflicts by speaking directly, while 1 in 5 (20%) ignore the issue in hopes it resolves itself.
- ✓ About 1 in 6 (17%) have called the police on a neighbour, while 2 in 5 (40%) say they would not hesitate to do so if needed.

'Bad' neighbours deter potential home buyers and renters

- ✓ About 4 in 5 (81%) say they would possibly or definitely (35%) be put off buying or renting a place if they suspected 'bad' neighbours.
- ✓ About 1 in 3 (32%) have considered or actually moved because of their neighbours.

Security cameras and drones raise privacy concerns

- ✓ Over 2 in 5 (41%) are only somewhat comfortable, while another 1 in 5 (20%) are not comfortable at all with neighbours installing cameras that may capture their property.
- ✓ About 1 in 4 (24%) are very concerned, and nearly 2 in 5 (39%) are somewhat concerned about drones being used near their home.



Best and worst neighbourhoods



Overall best and worse neighbourhoods

Overall neighbourhood scores

Scores are based on residents' perceptions of their 'neighbourly' experiences, calculated using the following scale:

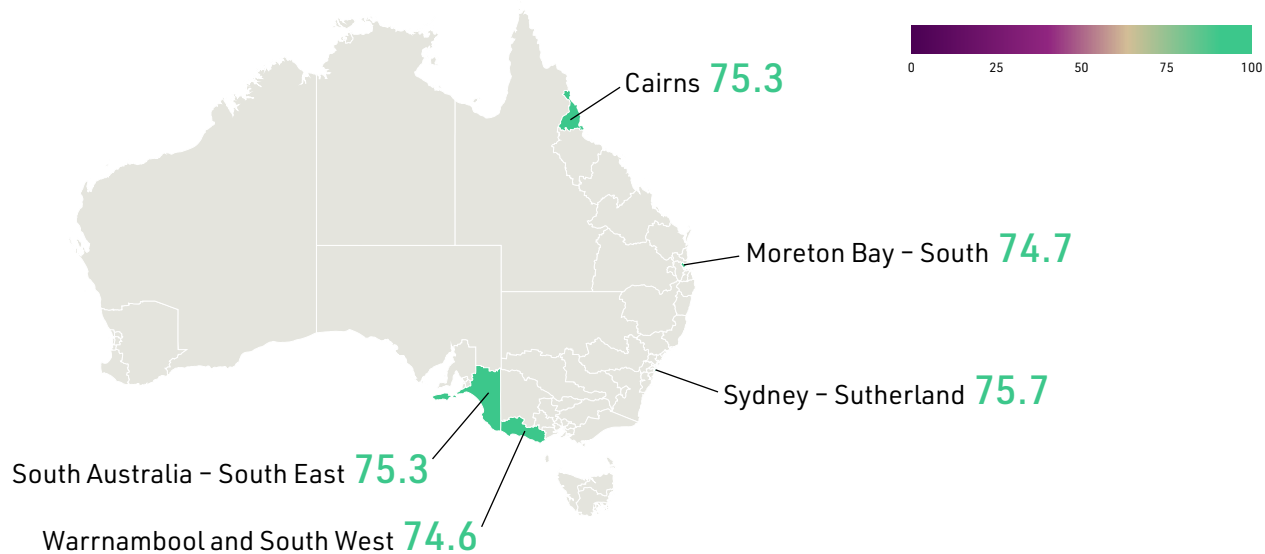


Each suburb received an overall neighbourhood score by averaging five key factors:

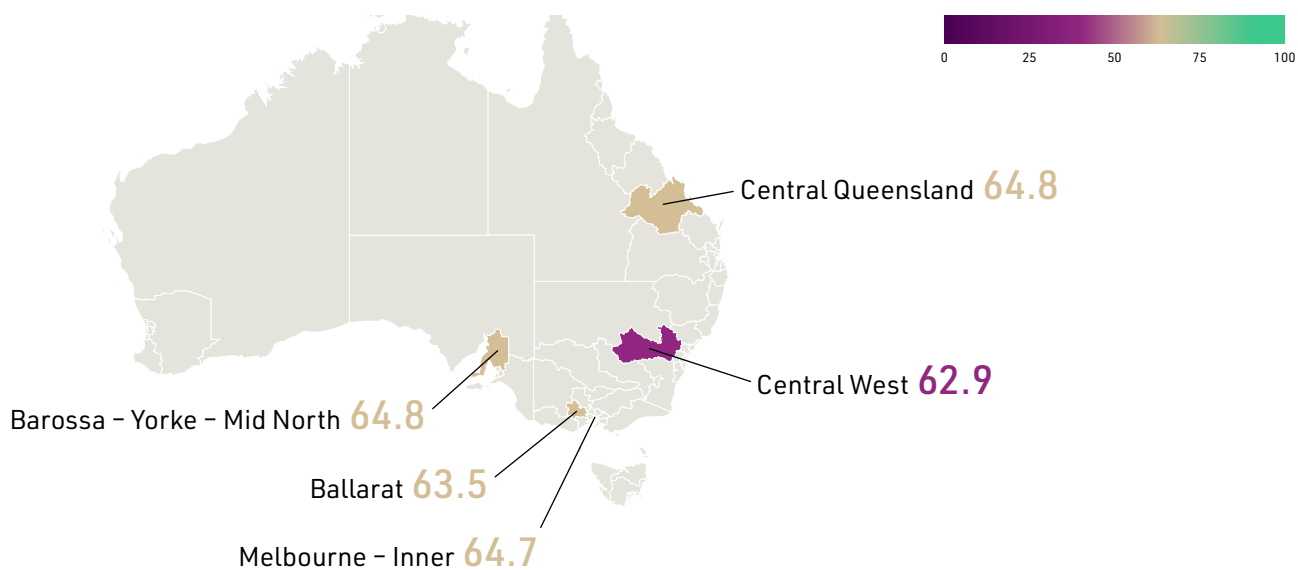


Note: These scores focus on neighbourliness rather than safety, cost of living, property prices, or other economic and infrastructure factors.

Top 5 neighbourhoods overall



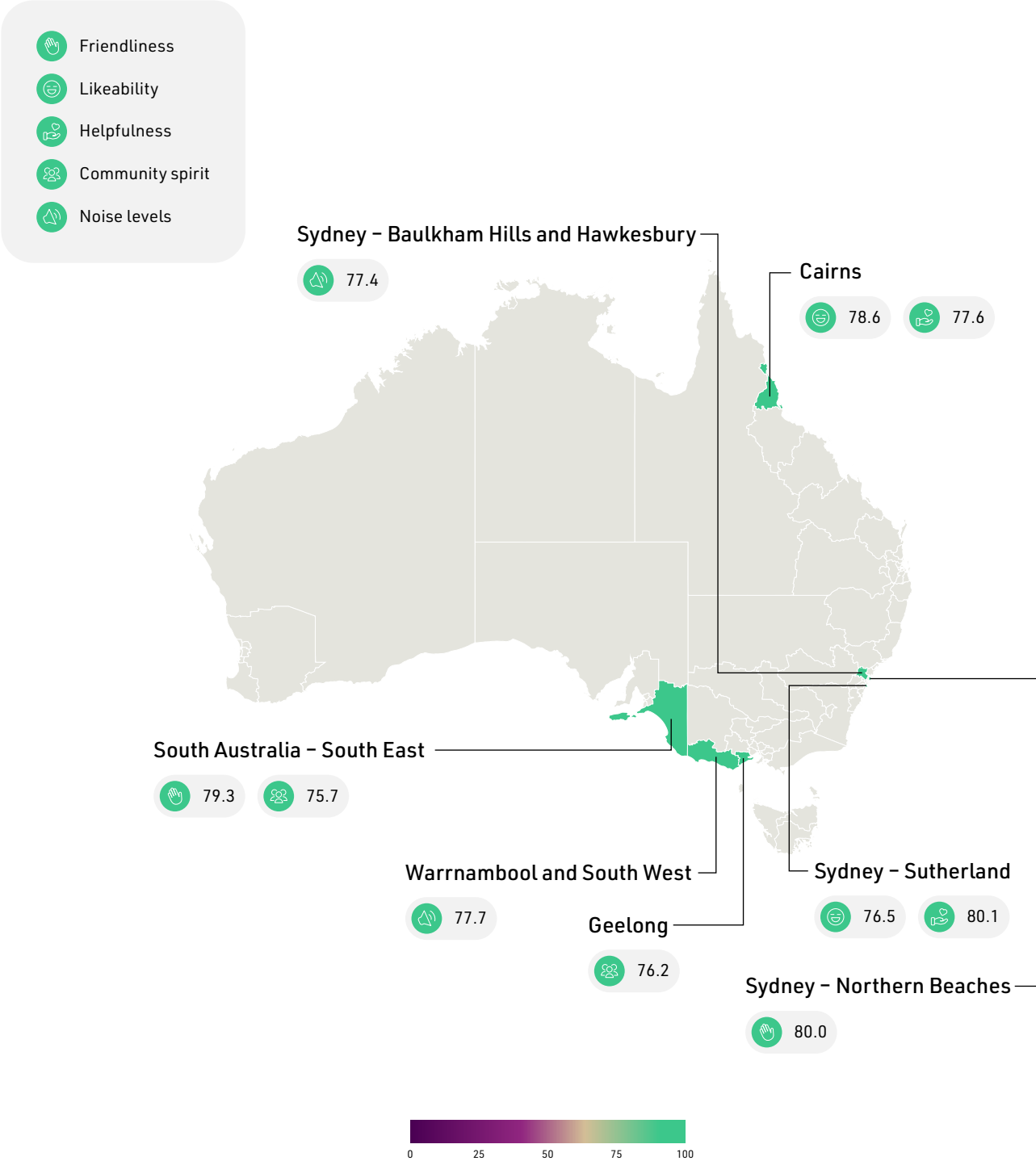
Bottom 5 neighbourhoods overall



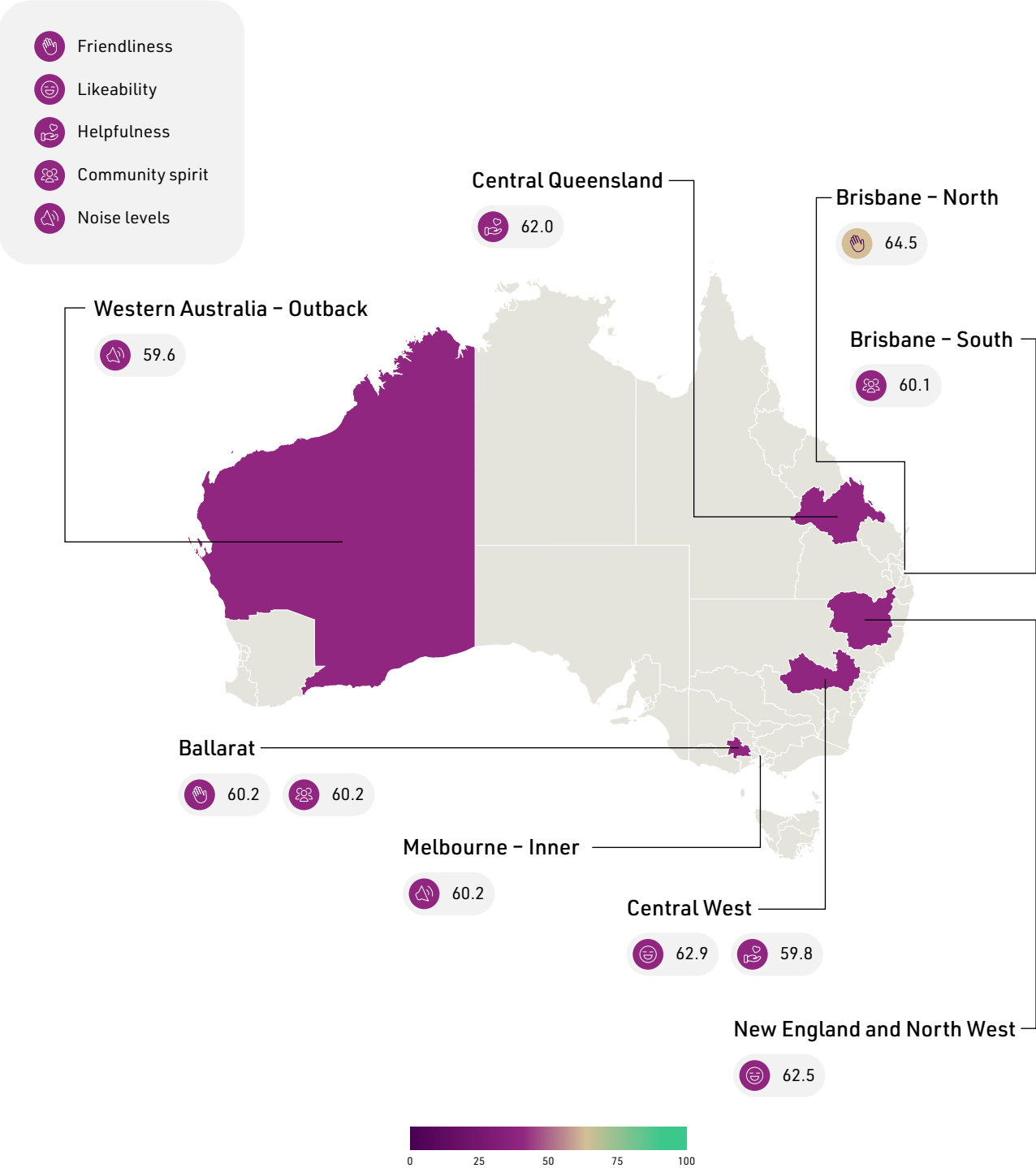
Based on overall neighbourhood scores, the best neighbourhoods are Sydney - Sutherland (75.7), Cairns (75.3), and South Australia - South East (75.3).

On the other hand, the neighbourhoods with the lowest scores are Central West (62.9), Ballarat (63.5), and Melbourne - Inner (64.7).

Top neighbourhoods by component



Bottom neighbourhoods by component



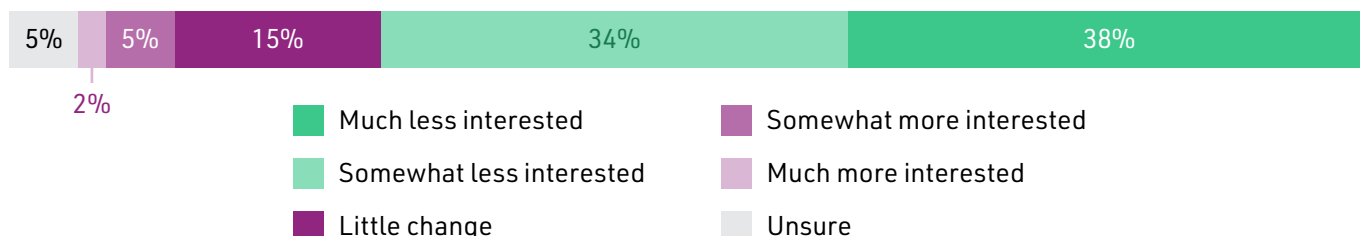


Community
connections



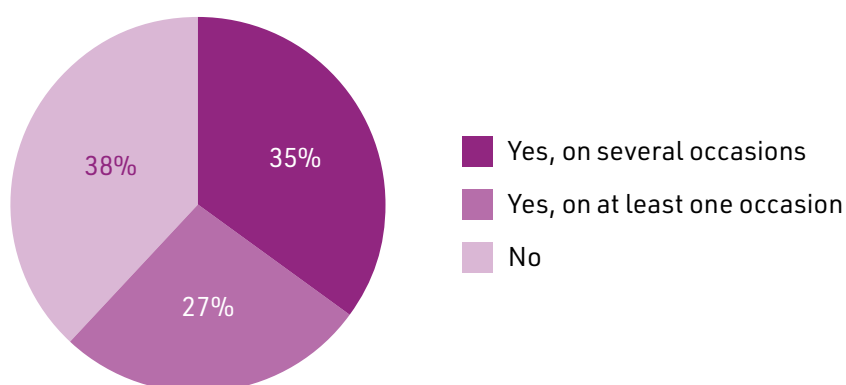
Australians losing touch with neighbours

Are Australians becoming more or less interested in knowing their neighbours compared to 20 years ago?



Over 7 in 10 (72%) believe Australians are becoming less interested in knowing their neighbours in 2025 compared to 20 years ago. Women (77%) are more likely than men (66%) to hold this view.

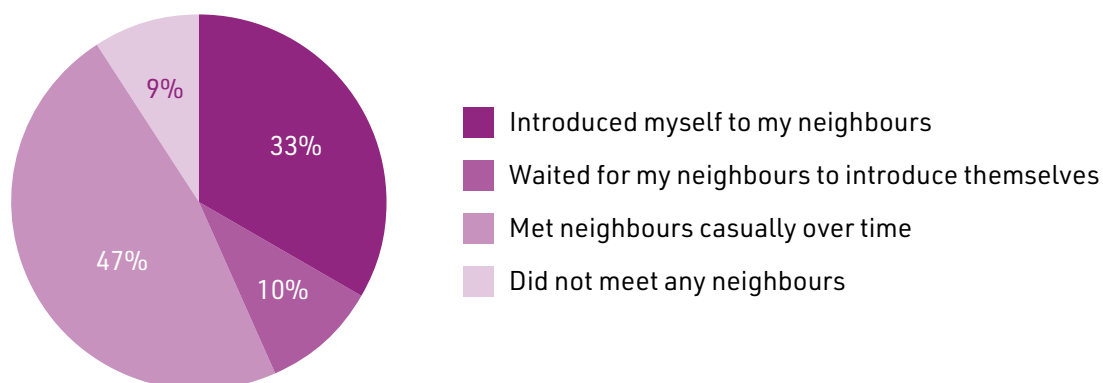
Have you ever lived next to a neighbour for more than six months without meeting them?



Over 3 in 5 (62%) have lived next to a neighbour for more than six months without ever meeting them. This rises to 71% for Gen Z and 70% for Gen Y. In contrast, only 2 in 5 (43%) Baby Boomers admit to the same.

Welcome to the neighbourhood

How did you interact with your neighbours when you moved in?



When they moved into their current home, close to 1 in 2 (47%) said they met their neighbours casually over time. Only 1 in 3 (33%) proactively introduced themselves, while 1 in 10 (10%) waited for their neighbours to introduce themselves.

Men (39%), Baby Boomers (38%) and NSW & ACT residents (37%) are more likely than the average Aussie to proactively introduce themselves. While women (28%), Gen Z (28%) and Vic & Tas residents (30%) are less likely to do so.

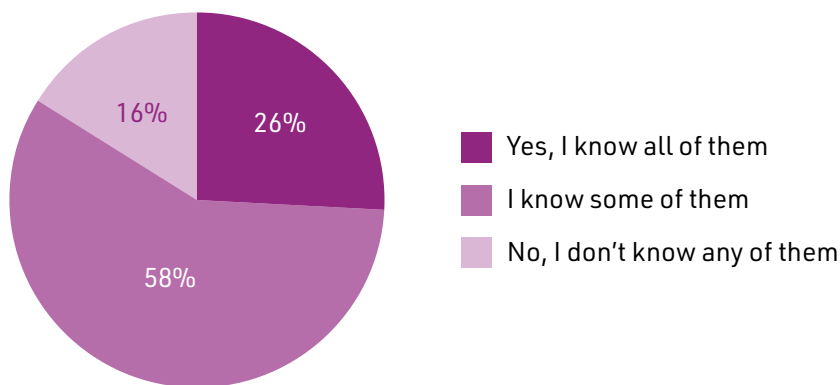
When new neighbours move in, how do you usually interact with them?



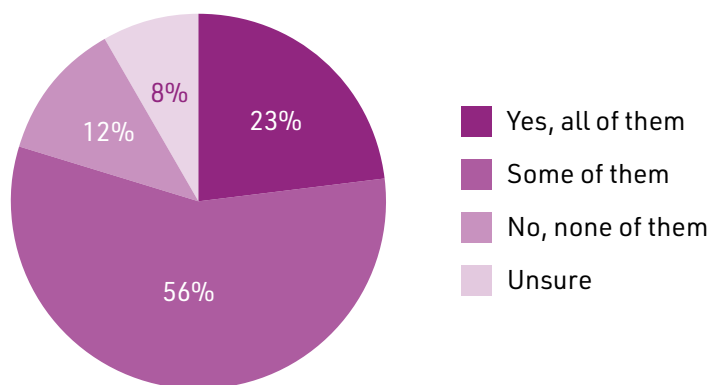
Similarly, when new neighbours move in, more than 1 in 2 (51%) met their new neighbours casually over time. Close to 3 in 10 (27%) introduced themselves to the new neighbours, while more than 1 in 10 (11%) waited for the new neighbours to introduce themselves.

Getting to know the neighbours

Do you know your neighbours' names?



Do your neighbours know your name?

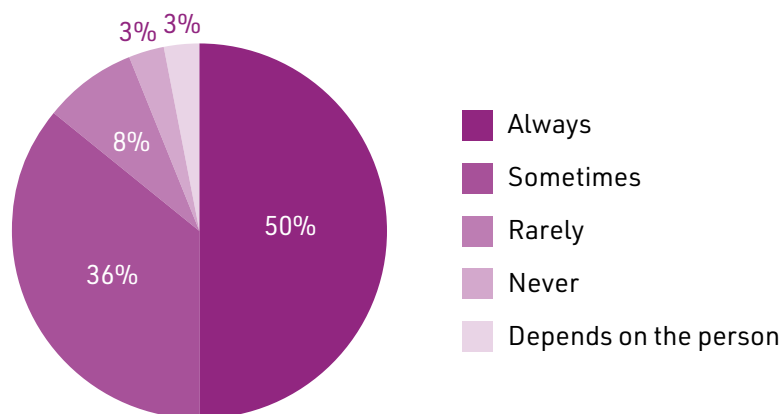


Over 4 in 5 (84%) claim to know their neighbour's name, while a similar portion (80%) think their neighbours know their name.

Baby Boomers are more likely than younger generations to say they know all their neighbours' names (36%) and to think that all their neighbours know their name (35%).

In contrast, Gen Z are more likely to say they don't know any of their neighbours (21%) or to think that none of their neighbours know them (19%).

Do you greet your neighbours when you pass them in your building, common areas, or on the street?

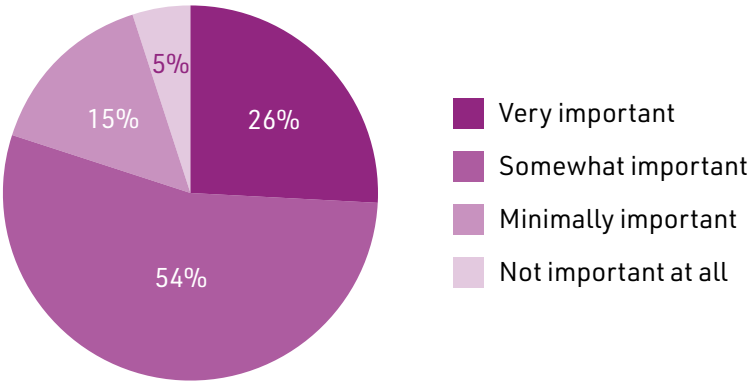


While 1 in 2 (50%) Australians always greet their neighbours, nearly 2 in 5 (36%) do so only sometimes. Around 1 in 12 (8%) rarely greet their neighbours, and nearly 1 in 15 either never do (3%) or say it depends on the person (3%).

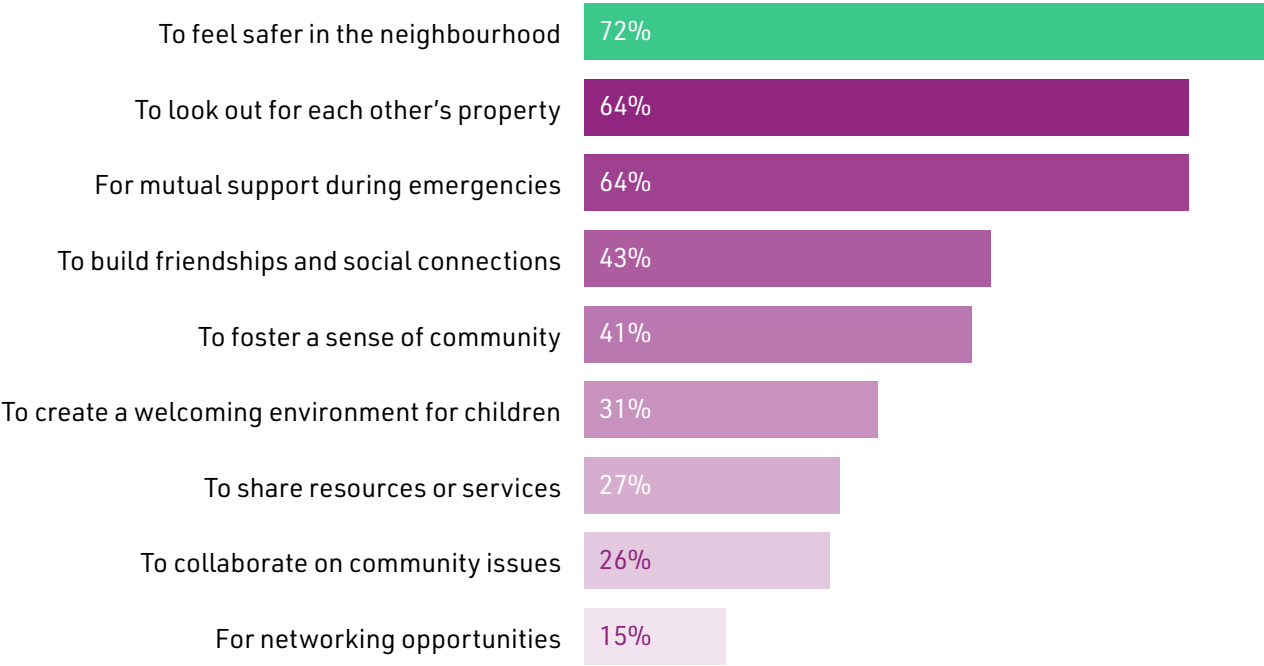


Importance of knowing neighbours

Do you think it's important to know your neighbours?



Why do you think it's important to know your neighbours?

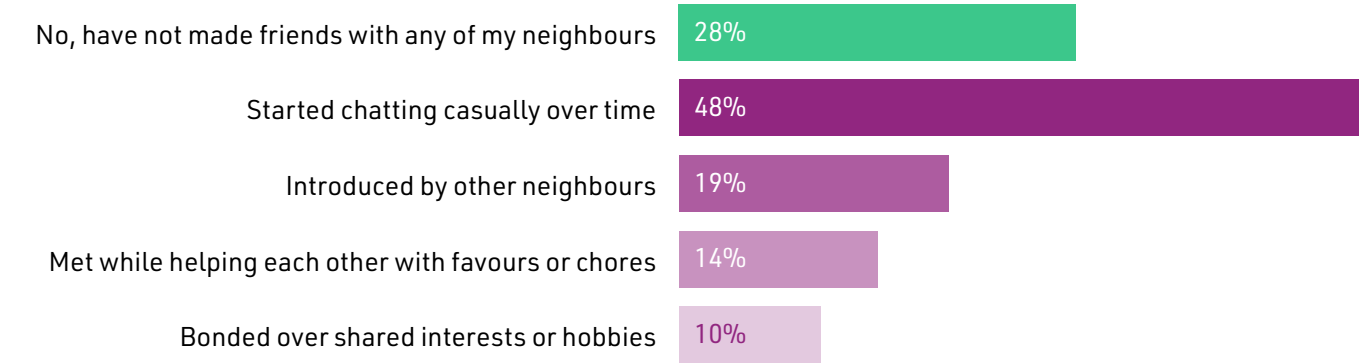


*Those who think it's somewhat/very important to know neighbours (n=4,002). Multiple responses allowed.

About 4 in 5 (80%) think it's somewhat (54%) or very (26%) important to know neighbours, mainly to feel safer in the neighbourhood (72%), to look out for each other's property (64%), and for mutual support during emergencies (64%).

Making friends

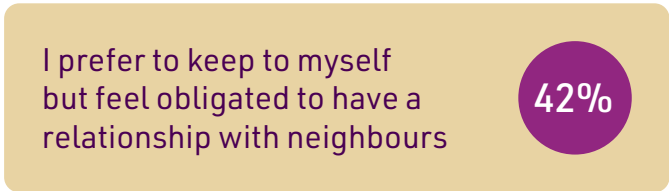
Have you made friends with any of your neighbours? If so, how?



*Multiple responses allowed. Top 5 responses only.

Close to 1 in 2 (48%) have made friends with their neighbours by chatting casually over time. However, nearly 3 in 10 (28%) admit they’ve never made friends with any of their neighbours.

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

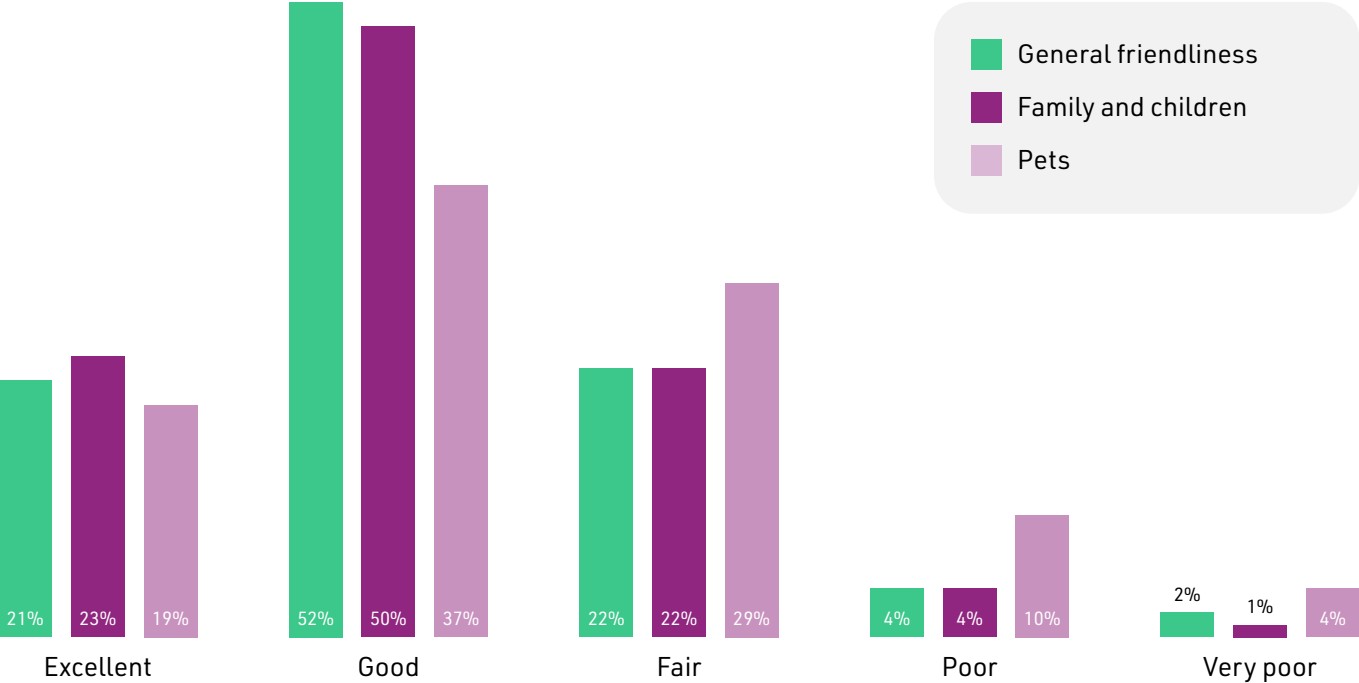


*% who answered agree or strongly agree

Over 2 in 5 (42%) prefer to keep to themselves but feel obligated to have a relationship with their neighbours. Nonetheless, the majority (60%) see the value of neighbourly interactions and friendships.

Friendliness

Friendliness ratings

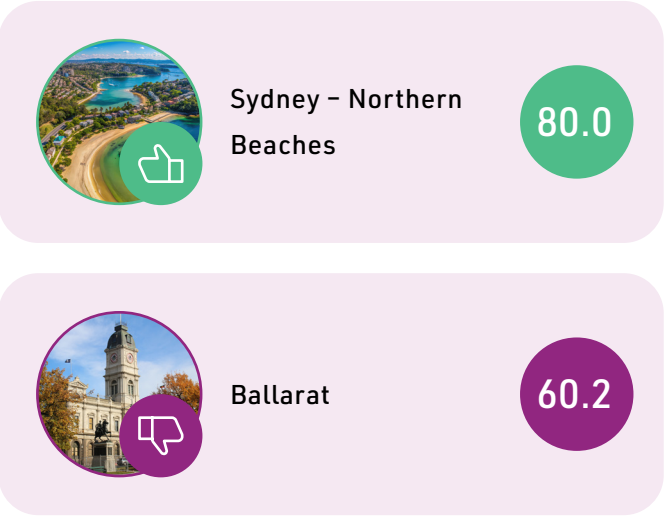


Just over 7 in 10 (72%) rate their neighbourhood’s friendliness as good or excellent.

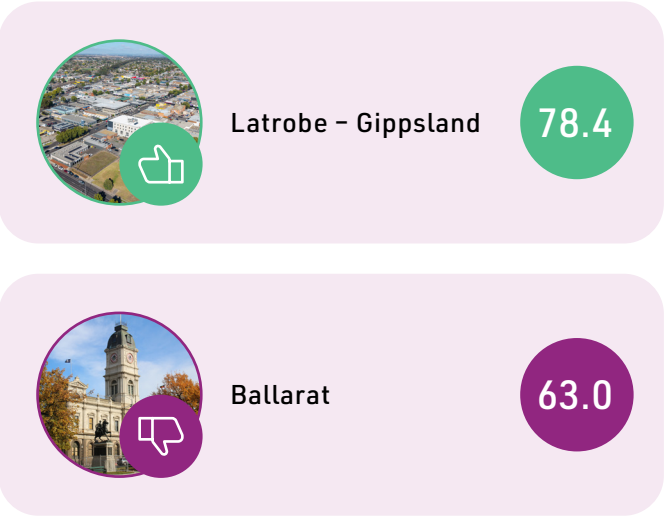
Nearly 3 in 4 (73%) say their neighbourhood is good or excellent in terms of being family and kid friendly, while 4 in 5 (80%) consider it pet-friendly.

Friendliness scores across Australia

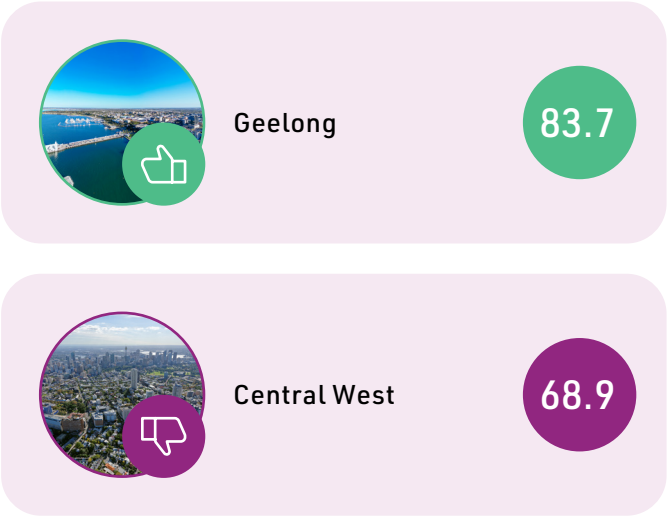
General friendliness



Family and children-friendliness

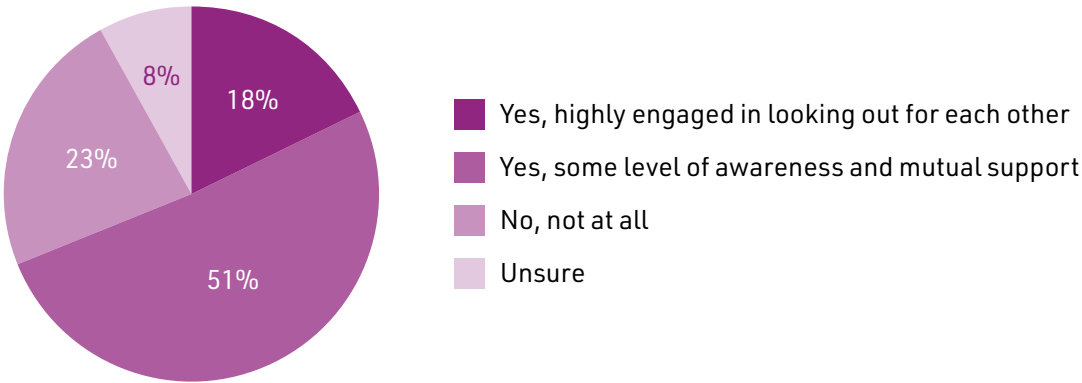


Pet-friendliness



Neighbourhood watch

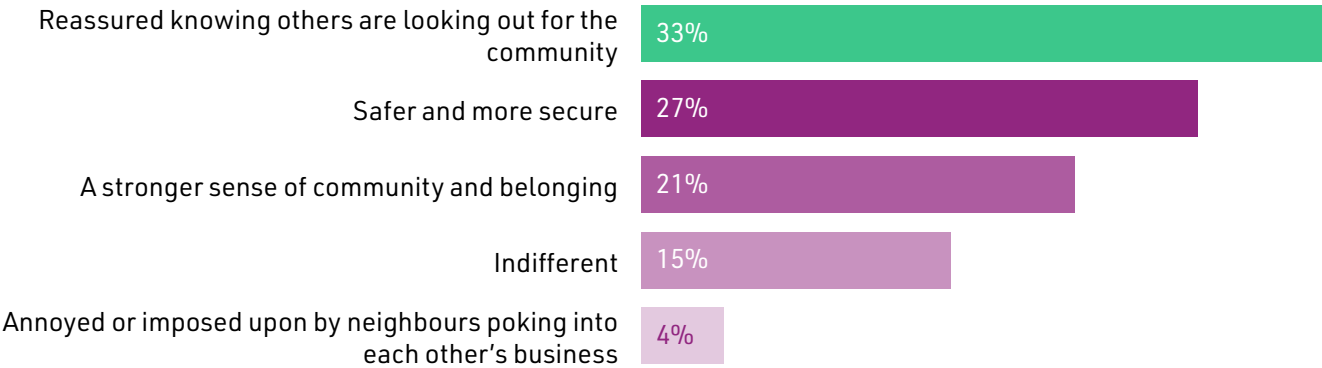
Do you feel there is an active 'neighbourhood watch' ethos where you live?



More than 1 in 2 (51%) believe their neighbourhood has an active 'neighbourhood watch' ethos. Close to 1 in 5 (18%) feel their neighbours are highly engaged in looking out for each other.

However, nearly 1 in 4 (23%) feel there is no 'neighbourhood watch' ethos at all.

How does/would an active 'neighbourhood watch' ethos make you feel?



An active 'neighbourhood watch' ethos would make around 3 in 10 (27%) feel safer and reassured, knowing others are looking out for the community.

For 1 in 3 (33%), it provides a sense of security, while over 1 in 5 (21%) say it fosters a stronger sense of community and belonging.

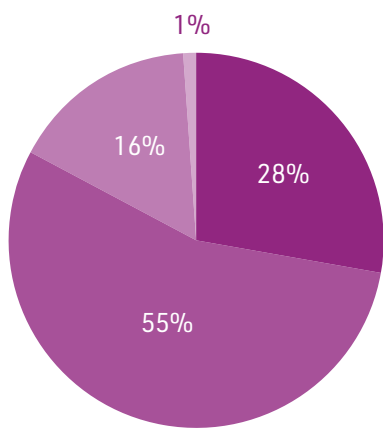


Good vs bad neighbours



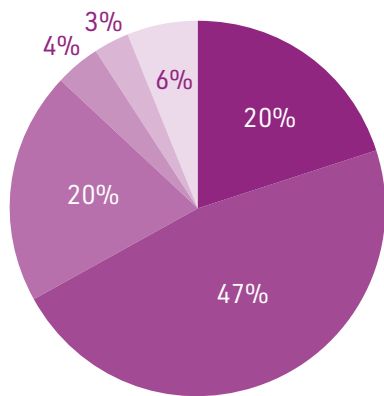
Neighbour ratings

How would you rate yourself as a neighbour?



- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

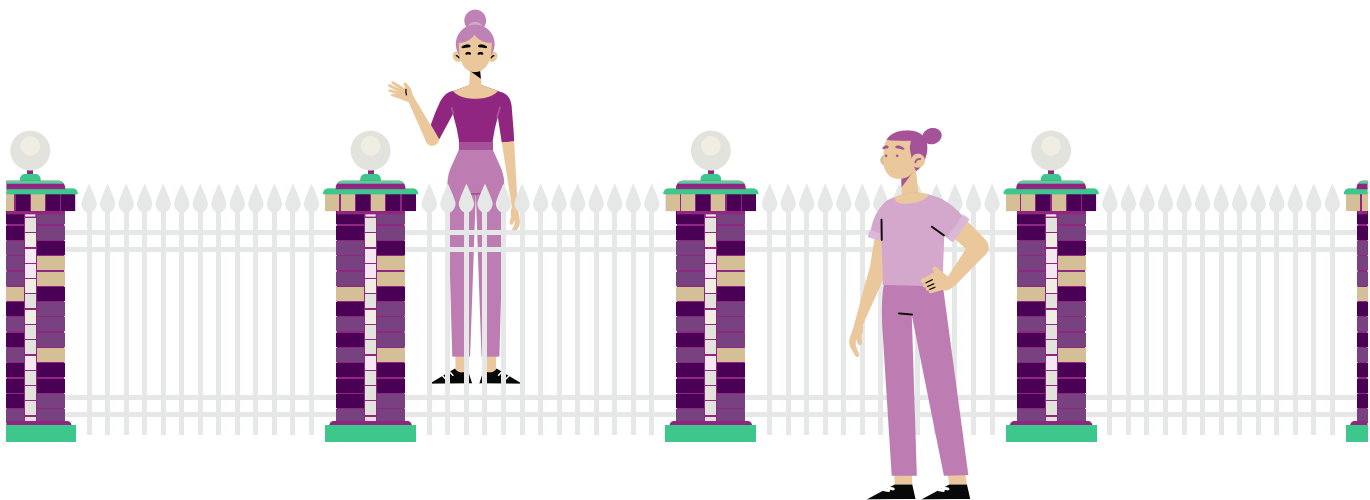
How would you rate your neighbours overall?



- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor
- I don't know enough about them to rate them

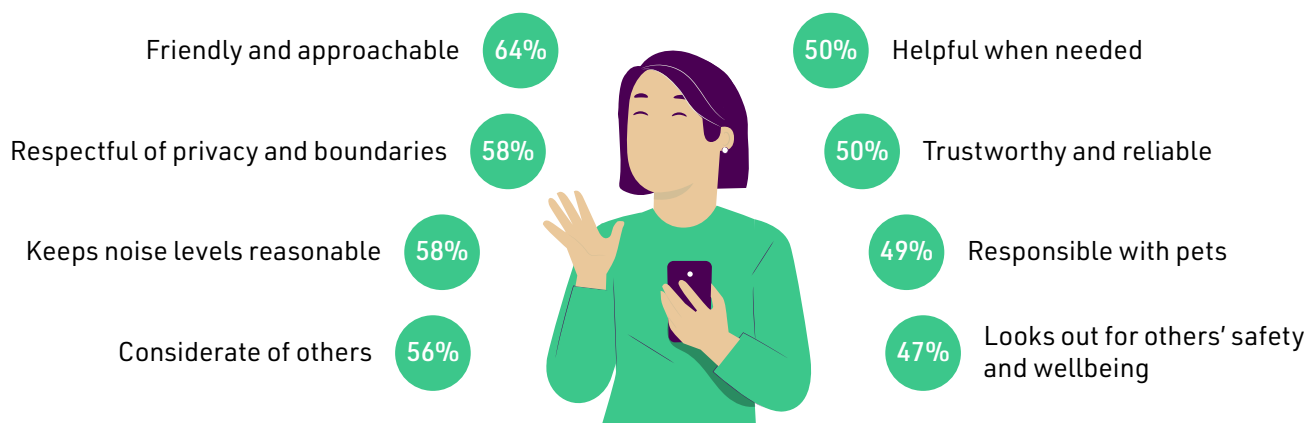
Over 4 in 5 (83%) Australians rate themselves as excellent (28%) or good (55%) neighbours.

On the other hand, a smaller proportion (68%) rate their neighbours as excellent (20%) or good (47%).



What makes a 'good' or 'bad' neighbour

What does a 'good neighbour' look like to you?



*Multiple responses allowed. Top 8 responses only.

Most described a 'good neighbour' as someone who is friendly and approachable (64%), respectful of privacy and boundaries (58%), and considerate of noise levels (58%).

What does a 'bad neighbour' look like to you?

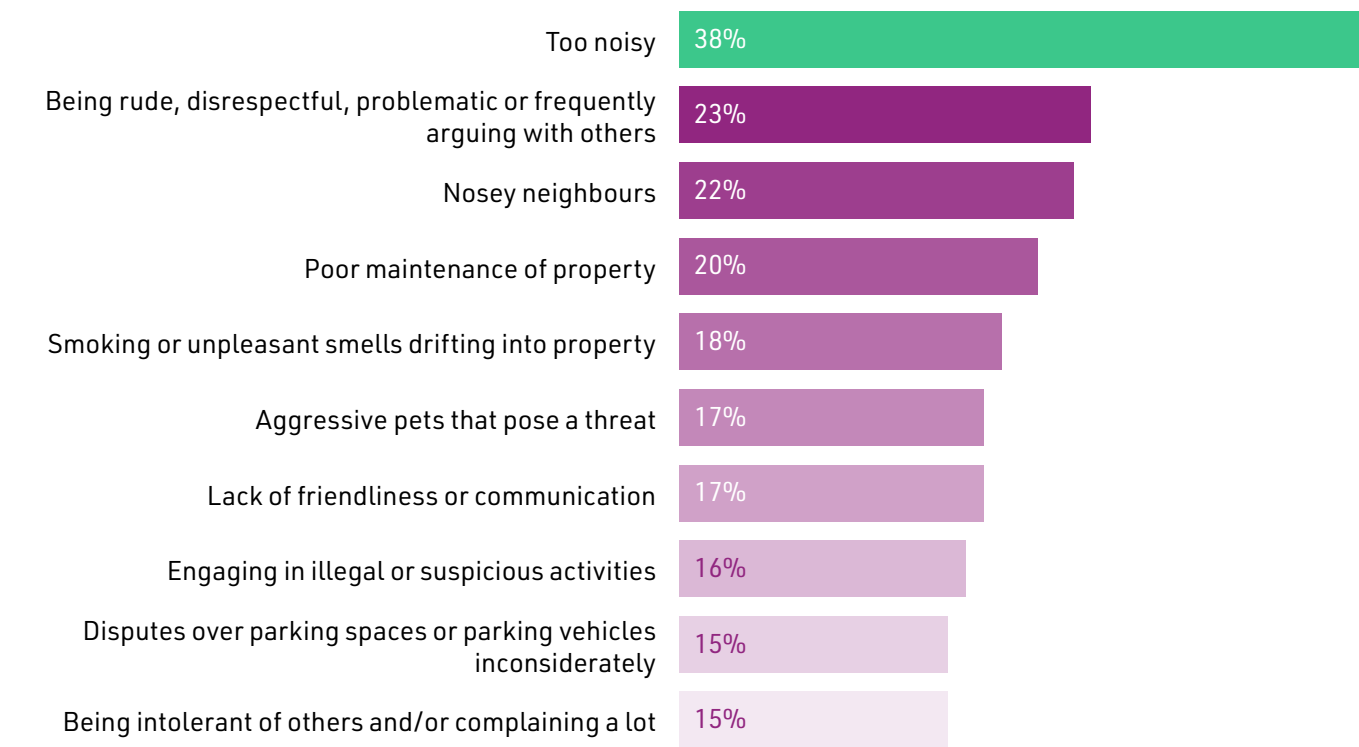


*Multiple responses allowed. Top 7 responses only.

On the flip side, around 3 in 5 described a 'bad neighbour' as someone who is rude, disrespectful, problematic, or frequently arguing (61%), and too noisy (58%). Half (50%) also consider nosey neighbours a 'bad neighbour.'

Pet peeves with neighbours

What are your biggest pet peeves when it comes to neighbours?



*Multiple responses allowed. Top 10 responses only.

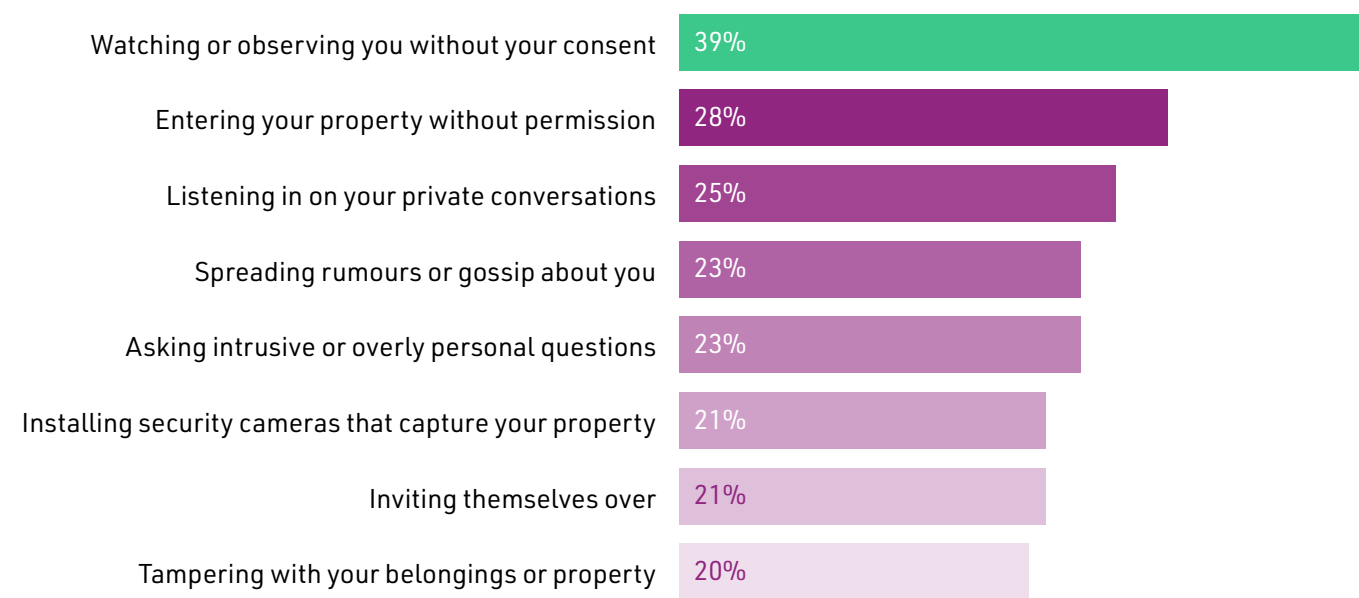
Almost all Australians (94%) had at least one pet peeve about their neighbours.

The top three traits used to describe a ‘bad’ neighbour also emerged as the biggest neighbourhood pet peeves. Excessive noise was the most common complaint, with nearly 4 in 10 (38%) citing it as a top issue. This was followed by neighbours being rude, disrespectful, problematic, or frequently arguing (23%), and nosey neighbours (22%).

Additionally, around 1 in 5 cited poor maintenance of property (20%) and smoking or unpleasant smells drifting into their home (18%) as key annoyances.

Nosey neighbours

Do you ever feel your neighbour has invaded your privacy in the following ways?



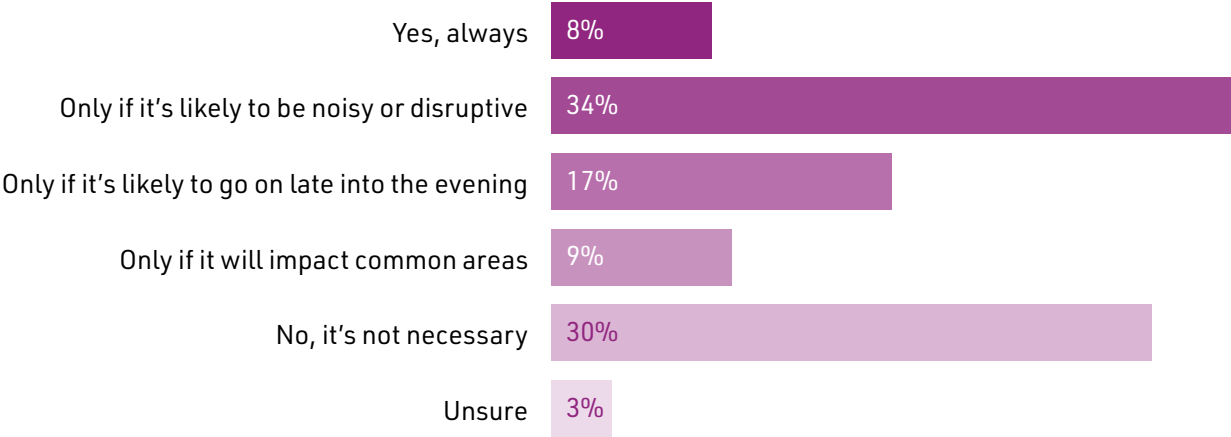
*Based on those who felt their neighbour had invaded their privacy in at least one instance (n=1,840). Multiple responses allowed. Top 8 responses only.

Over 1 in 3 (37%) felt their neighbour had invaded their privacy at least once.

The top concerns included neighbours watching or observing them without consent (39%), entering their property without permission (28%), listening in on private conversations (25%), spreading rumours or gossip (23%), and asking intrusive or overly personal questions (23%).

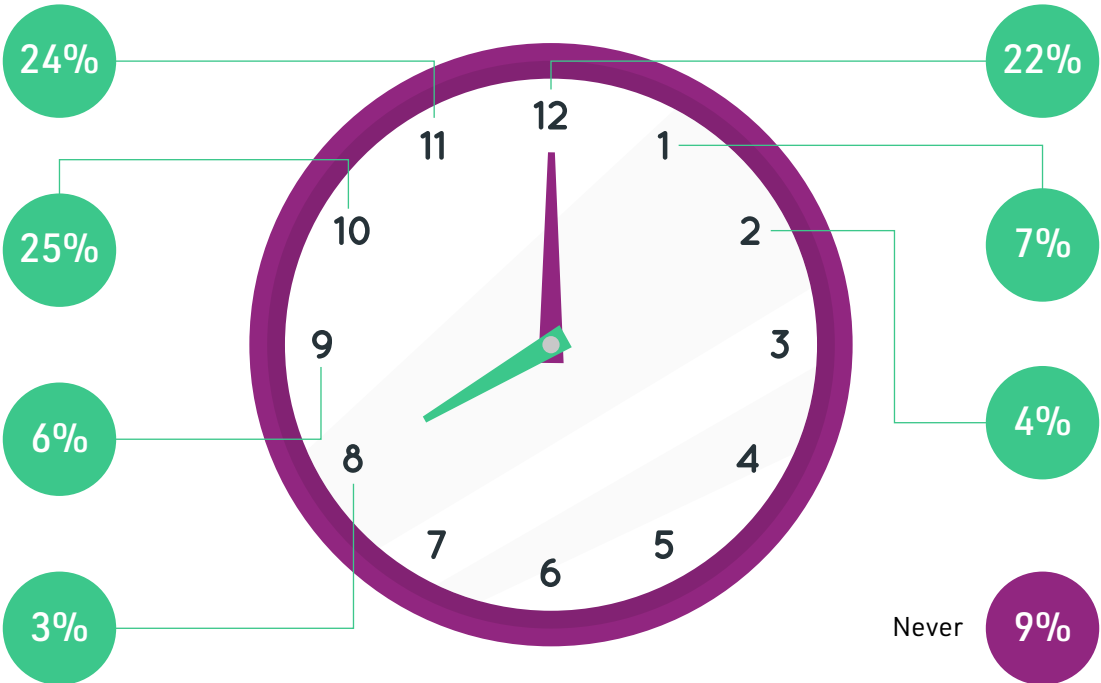
Noisy neighbours

Do you think neighbours should inform you before hosting company?



Over 1 in 3 (34%) Australians believe neighbours should inform them before hosting company, particularly if it's likely to be noisy or disruptive.

What time do you think it's ok to ask your neighbours to be quiet?



Over 9 in 10 (91%) believe it's reasonable to ask neighbours to be quiet from 8pm onwards, with the most common preferences being 10pm (25%), 11pm (24%), and 12am (22%).

Neighbourhood noise ratings

Best and worst neighbourhood in terms of noise levels

Loud neighbours in general



Warrnambool and South West


77.7



Western Australia - Outback


59.6

Children



Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury


79.0



Sydney - Parramatta


61.2

Renovation/construction



Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven

80.6



Melbourne - Inner

60.8

Loud arguments



South Australia - South East

71.4



Central West (NSW)

62.9

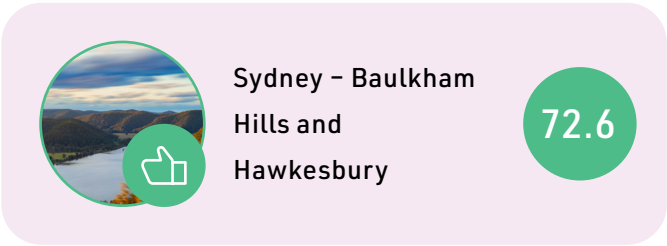
Loud music or parties



Car or vehicles



Pets



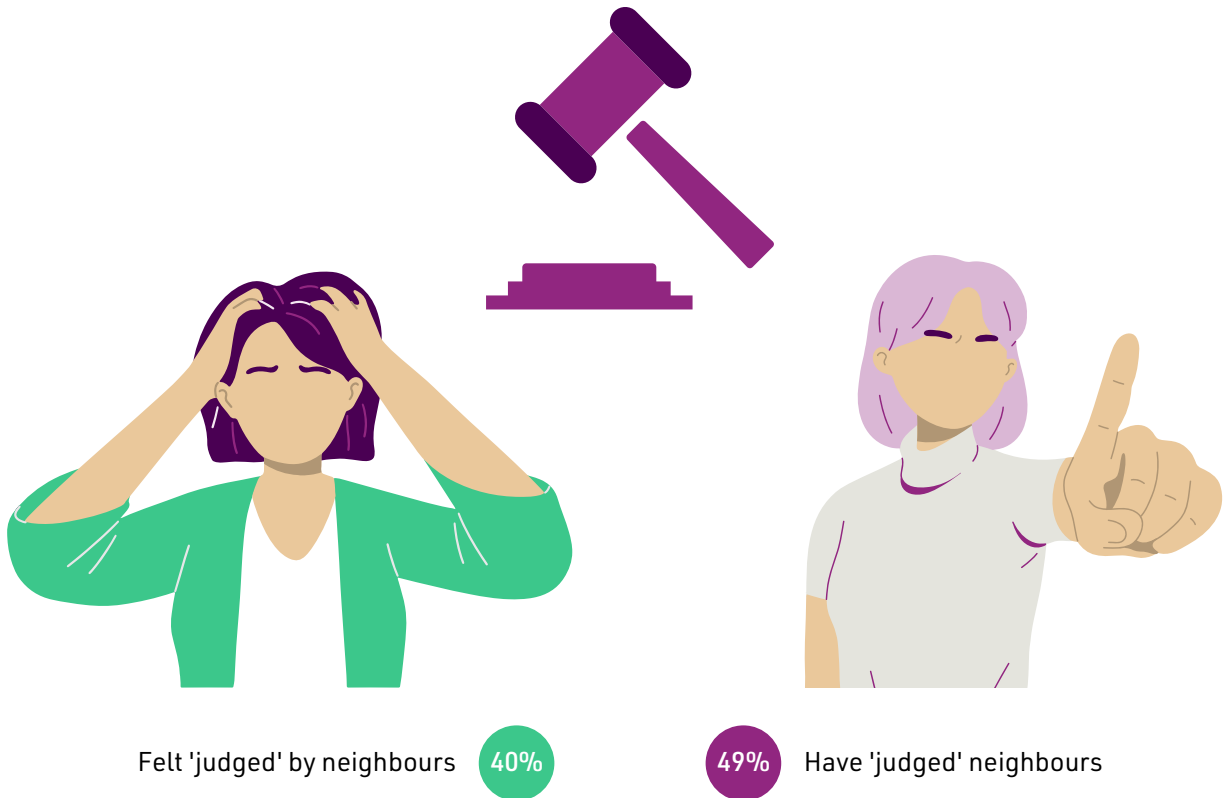


Fence fights



Judging neighbours

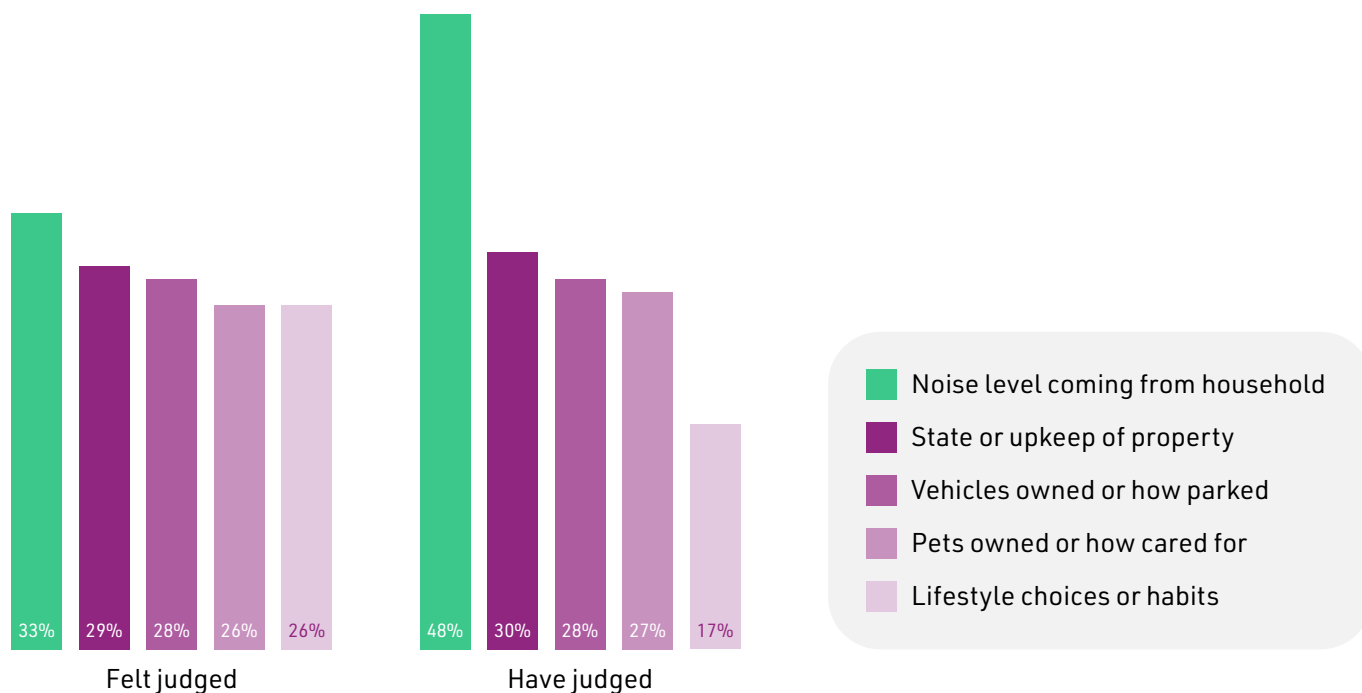
Do you ever feel 'judged' by your neighbours, or have you ever judged them?



*% yes

While only 2 in 5 (40%) felt 'judged' by their neighbours, close to 1 in 2 (49%) admitted to having judged their neighbours.

Do you ever feel 'judged' by your neighbours about any of the following? Have you ever 'judged' your neighbours for any of the following reasons?

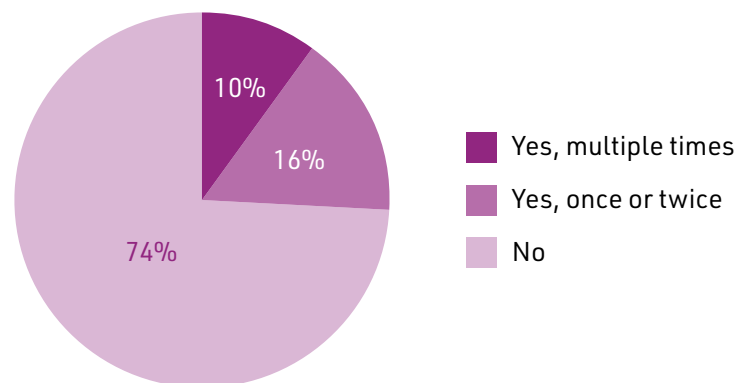


*Those who felt 'judged' by neighbours (n=2,034). Those who have 'judged' neighbours (n=2,464). Multiple responses allowed. Top 5 responses only.

Noise levels are the top reason Australians felt judged by their neighbours and the most common reason for judging others. Other key factors include property upkeep, vehicle choices, pet ownership, and lifestyle habits.

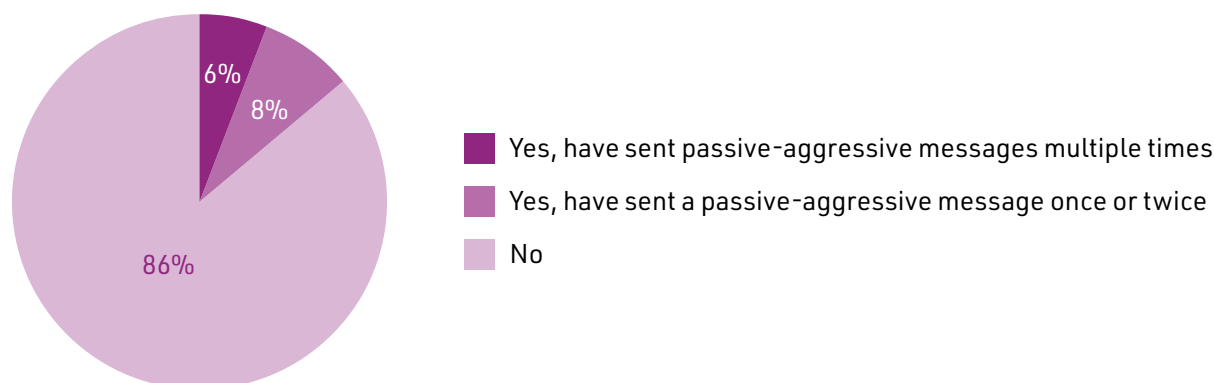
Passive aggression

Have you ever received a passive-aggressive message from a neighbour?



More than 1 in 4 (26%) have received passive-aggressive messages from a neighbour. This rises to 34% among Gen Z and 31% among Gen Y. Urban areas with the highest reported incidences include Sydney – City and Inner South (41%) and Inner South West (34%).

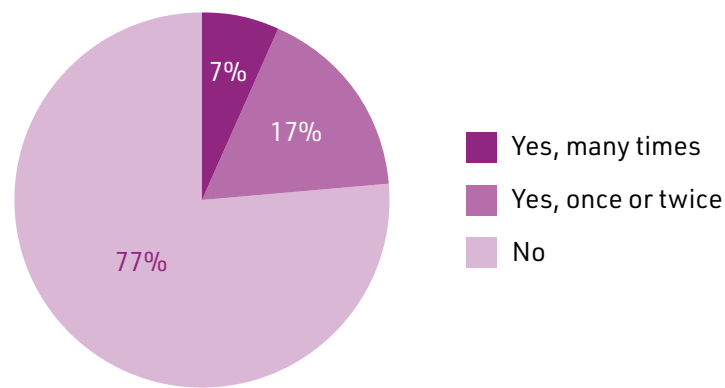
Have you ever sent a message that might have been perceived as passive-aggressive?



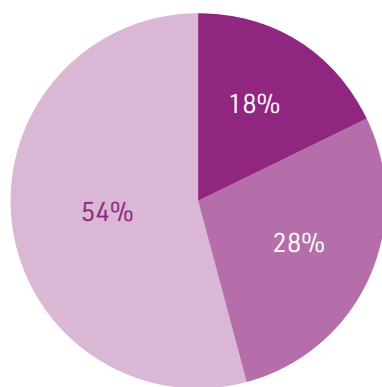
On the other hand, 1 in 7 (14%) admit to having sent passive-aggressive messages to a neighbour. Higher incidences were reported in Sydney – City and Inner South (32%), Parramatta (30%), and Inner West (24%).

Missing parcels

Has a parcel ever gone missing at your property?

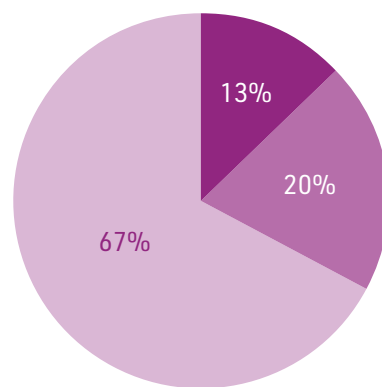


Have you ever suspected your neighbours of this?



- Yes, many times
- Yes, once or twice
- No

Have you ever confronted your neighbours about this?



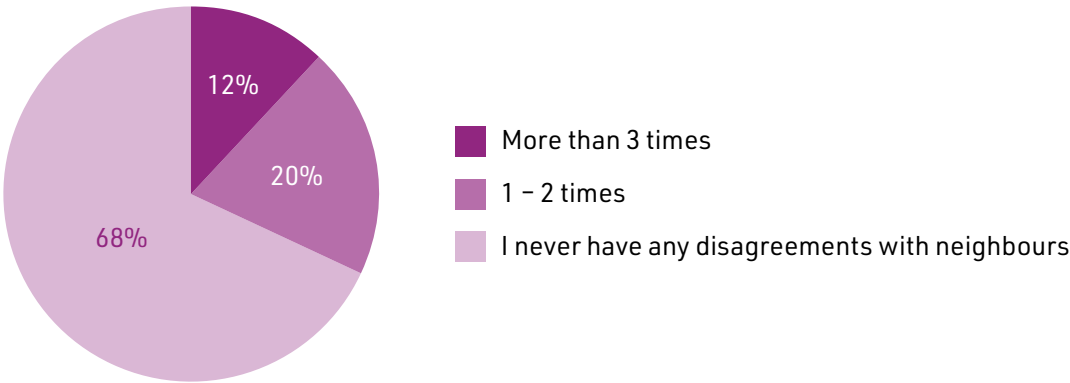
- Yes, many times
- Yes, once or twice
- No

*Those whose parcel has gone missing at their property (n=1,178).

Nearly 1 in 4 (23%) have experienced a parcel go missing at their property. Close to 1 in 2 (46%) of them suspect their neighbours were behind it, leading 1 in 3 (33%) to confront their neighbours about it.

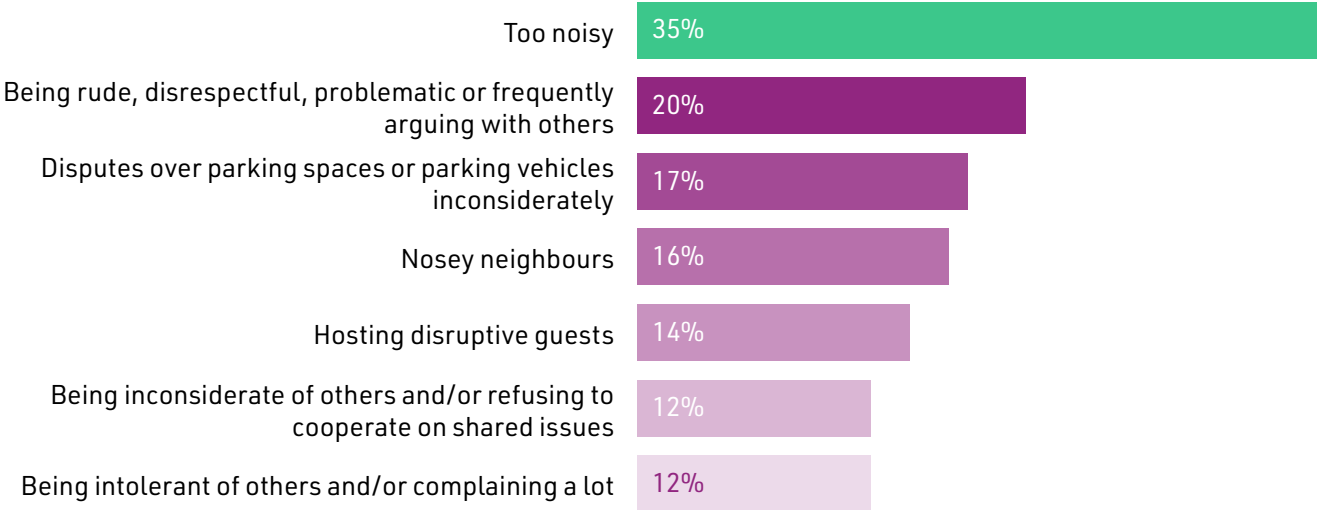
Disagreements among neighbours

How regularly have you had disagreements with any neighbours in the past year?



While over 2 in 3 (68%) have never had a disagreement with a neighbour, close to 1 in 3 (32%) have experienced at least one conflict in the past year.

What was/were the disagreement(s) about?

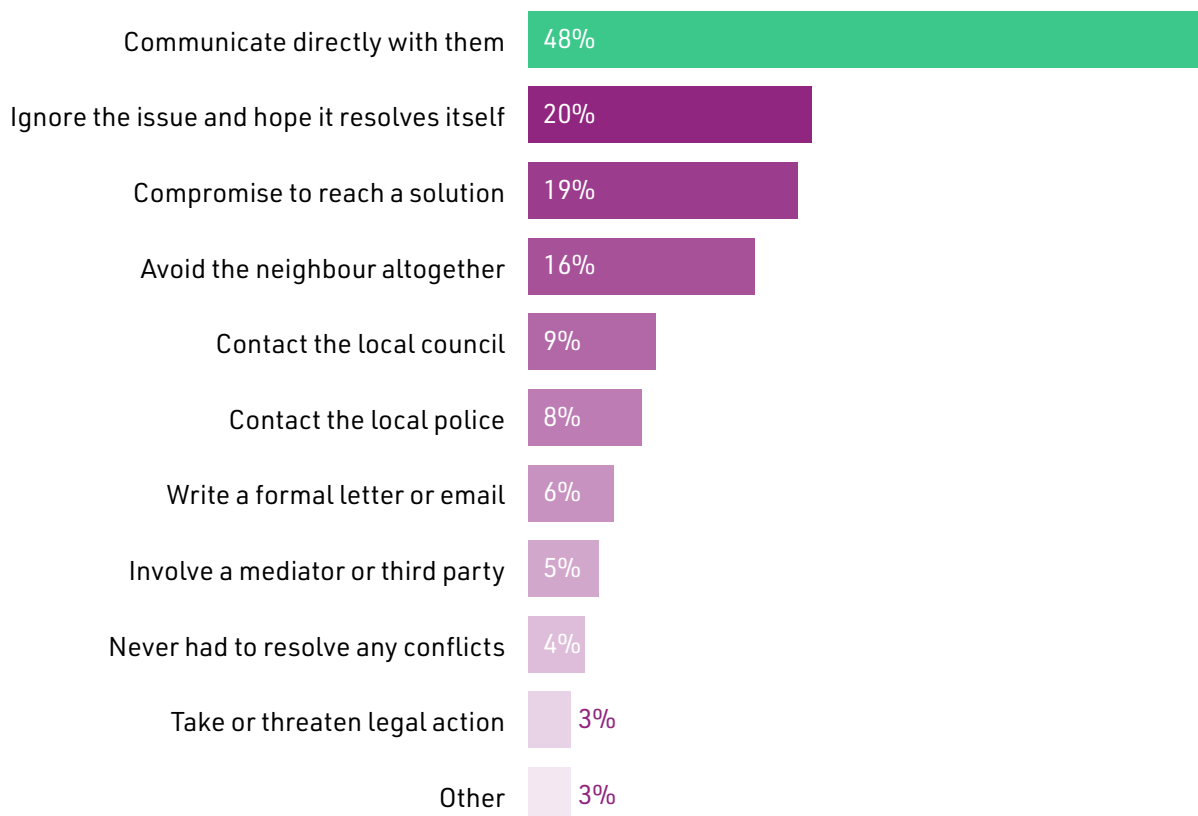


*Those who've had disagreements with any neighbours in the past year (n=1,595). Multiple responses allowed. Top 7 responses only.

Among those who've had disagreements with neighbours in the past year, 1 in 3 (35%) cited excessive noise as the main cause. Other common disputes involved rudeness, disrespect, or frequent arguments (20%), as well as parking-related conflicts (17%).

Solving conflicts

How do you typically resolve conflict with your neighbours?



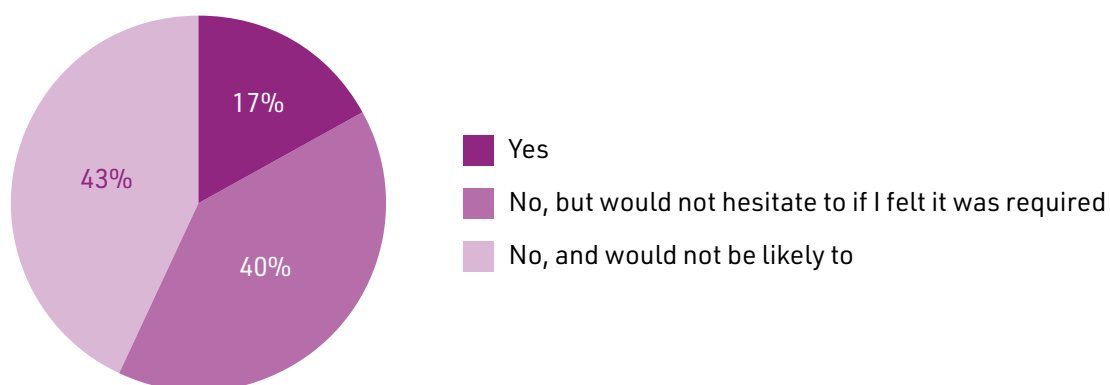
*Multiple responses allowed.

Close to 1 in 2 (48%) Australians typically resolve conflicts with neighbours by communicating directly, while nearly 1 in 5 (19%) opt for compromise to reach a solution.

On the other hand, about 1 in 5 (20%) choose to ignore the issue and hope it resolves itself, and close to 1 in 6 (16%) avoid the neighbour altogether.

Fewer than 1 in 10 contact local councils (9%) or police (8%). Smaller percentages prefer to write a formal letter or email (6%), involve a mediator or third party (5%), or take or threaten legal action (3%).

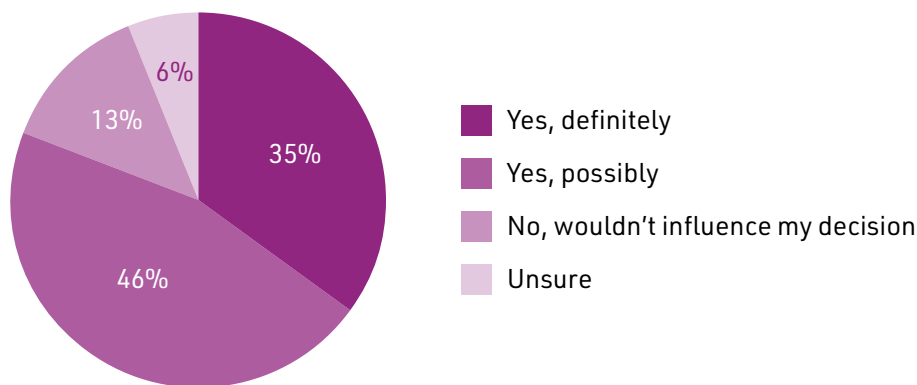
Have you ever called the police on a neighbour?



About 1 in 6 (17%) have called the police on a neighbour before, while 2 in 5 (40%) say they would not hesitate to do so if needed.

Hidden cost of 'bad' neighbours

Would potentially 'bad' neighbours put you off buying or renting a place?



About 4 in 5 (81%) say they would possibly (46%) or definitely (35%) be put off buying or renting a place if there are potential 'bad' neighbours.

Have you moved or considered moving because of your neighbours?



Further, about 1 in 3 (32%) have either considered moving (20%) or actually moved (12%) due to their neighbours.

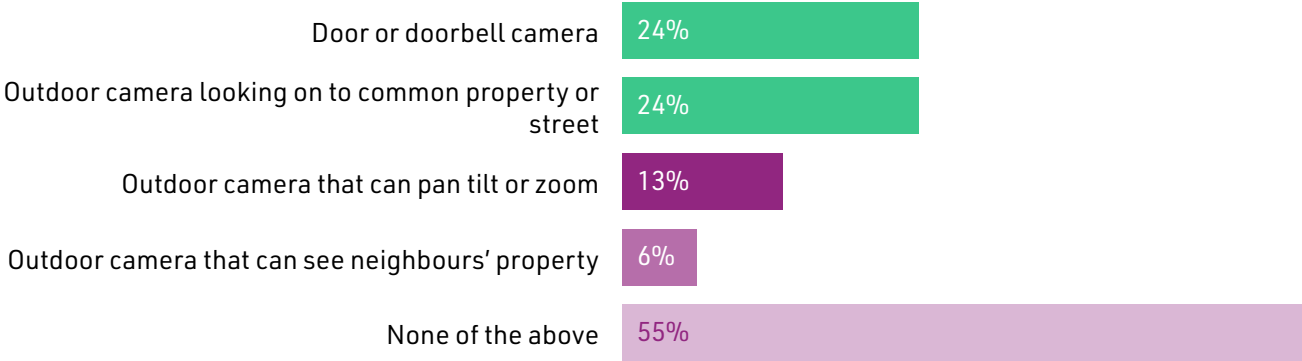


Neighbourhood 2.0



Security cameras raising tensions

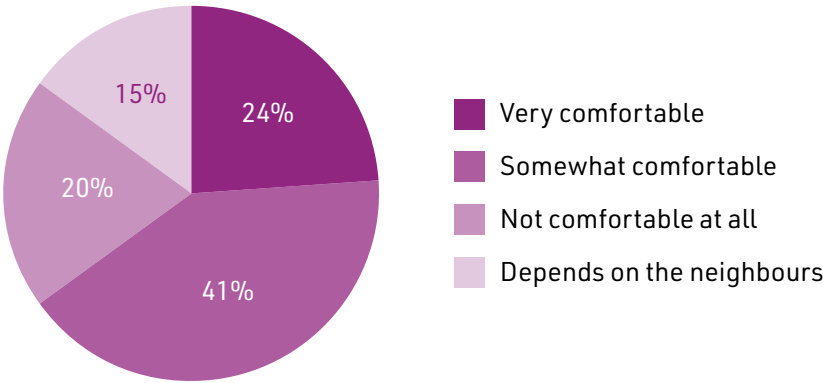
Do you have any of the following types of surveillance cameras?



*Multiple responses allowed.

Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) have either doorbell cameras or outdoor cameras facing the street installed at home.

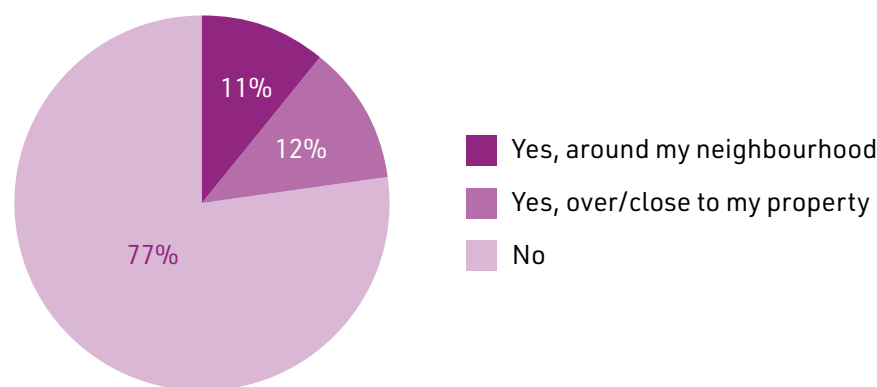
Do you feel comfortable with neighbours installing security cameras that may capture footage of your home or family?



Over 2 in 5 (41%) are only somewhat comfortable, while 1 in 5 (20%) are not comfortable at all with neighbours installing cameras that may capture their home or family.

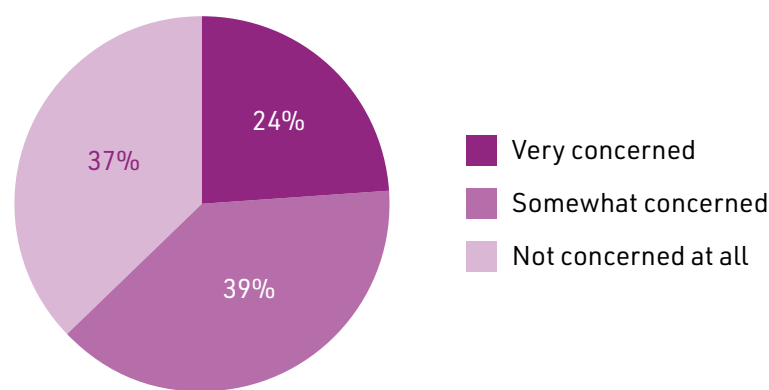
Drones in the neighbourhood

Have you ever seen/heard drones flying around your neighbourhood or over your property?



Nearly 1 in 4 (23%) have noticed drones flying around their neighbourhood (11%) or over their property (12%).

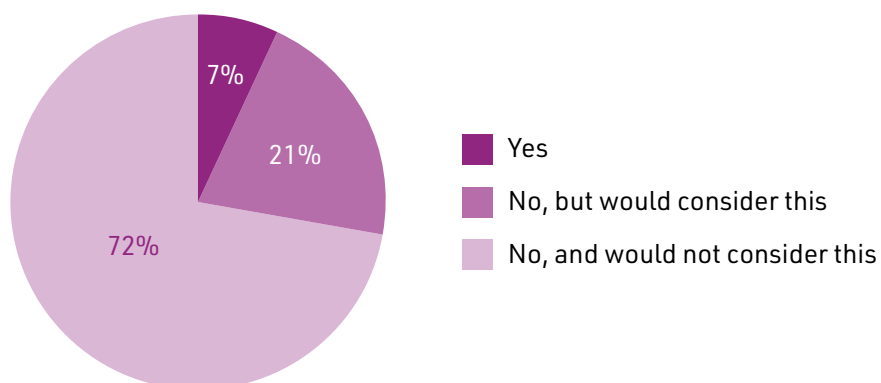
How concerned would you be about your privacy being invaded by neighbours using drones near your property?



About 1 in 4 (24%) are very concerned, while nearly 2 in 5 (39%) are somewhat concerned about drones invading their privacy.

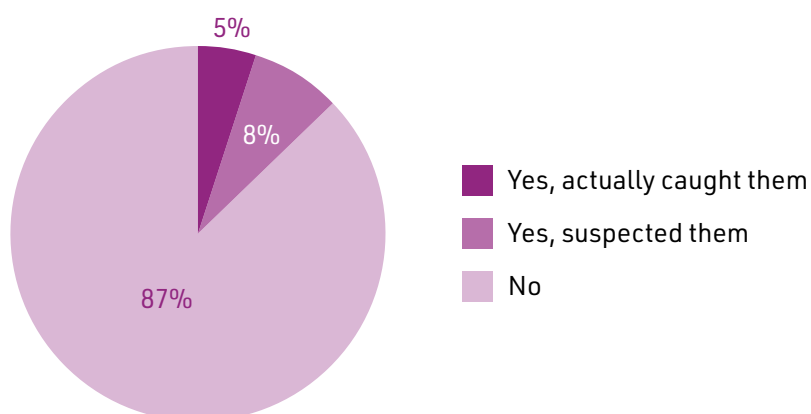
Wi-Fi sharing

Have you ever shared a Wi-Fi network with a neighbour to cut costs?



Nearly 3 in 10 (28%) have either shared their Wi-Fi with a neighbour or would consider doing so to cut costs.

Have you ever caught or suspected a neighbour of trying to use your Wi-Fi without permission?



About 1 in 8 (13%) have either caught or suspected a neighbour of trying to use their Wi-Fi without permission.

More research from Real Insurance coming soon...

About Real Insurance

At Real Insurance, we pride ourselves on providing trusted service and real value to our customers. Our passion for what we do has been recognised by 16 consecutive years of industry awards. We specialise in life, income protection, funeral, health, home, car, pet, travel and landlords insurance products. In the market since 2005, we have protected the quality of life of thousands of Australians, through the delivery of innovative products that protect the financial future of people across Australia.

