

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN REPORT:
STANDING TOGETHER PARAFIELD GARDENS - FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

MORELLA COMMUNITY CENTRE | JULY 2021

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This environmental scan report summarises community engagement activities to support Standing Together project, led by the Morella Community Centre. Feedback analysis and presentation was completed by Intermethod.





BACKGROUND

About 'Standing Together' project

The project 'Standing Together' seeks to determine the scale and impact of racial and religious intolerance on families, children and young people in the Parafield Gardens and surrounding communities. This information will shape the delivery of targeted training and social cohesion activities. Key outputs of the project will be the development of a "Safe Zone" initiative and a Cultural Safety Framework. These outputs will improve community access to businesses, community centres, schools and local organisations that firstly provide culturally and religiously safe services and secondly a potential safe haven when children or young people feel that they are experiencing or at risk of experiencing an attack, harassment or violence stemming from intolerance.

Standing Together is a stand-alone project delivered by the Morella Community Centre with a duration of two years commencing in July 2020 and ending in March 2022.

Project stakeholders

The following institutions and organisations are stakeholders in this project:

- Parafield Gardens Primary School
- Parafield Gardens High School
- Goodstart Early Learning, Parafield Gardens
- Parafield Gardens Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Planning

- City of Salisbury.

About this environmental scan report

The purpose of this environmental scan is to gauge the perception of safety and security concerns among community members / residents, particularly those from CALD background, and understand how religious and/or racial intolerances have impacted on families, children and adults in the City of Salisbury.

Methodology

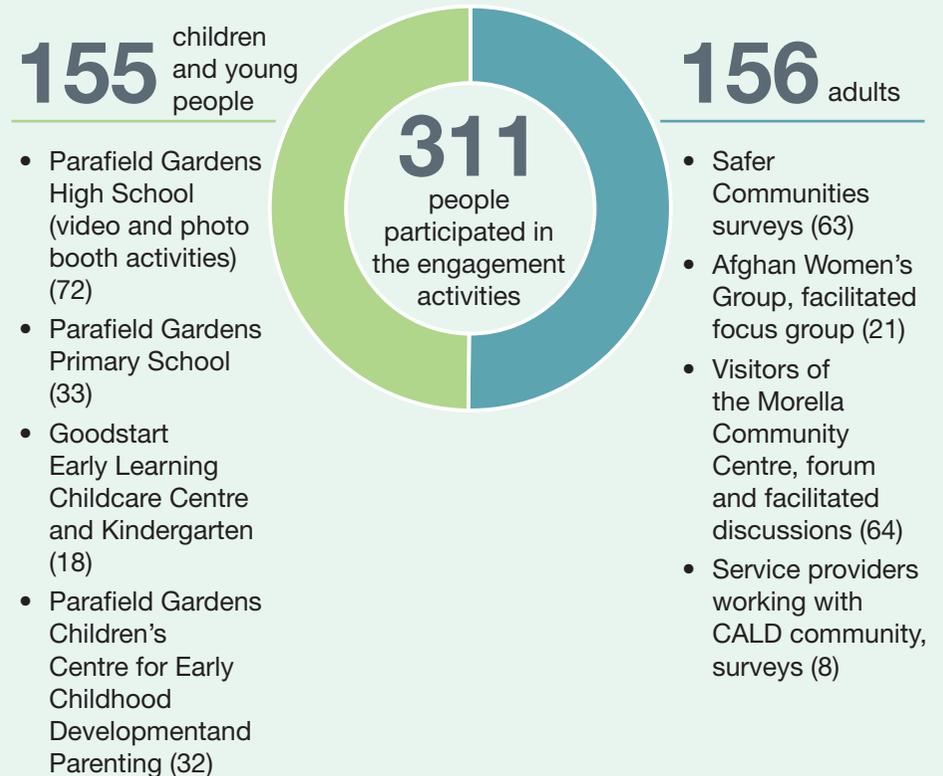
A mixed approach was adopted to gather information for this environmental scan. It included a survey, facilitated discussions, a community forum and activities with children at schools and early learning centres.

The survey consisted of a questionnaire involving 16 questions. It was widely promoted over an extended period through social media, Centre's website, distribution of flyers and by way of community groups to ensure broader participation.

The questionnaire was administered online, but could also be completed via an interview facilitated in-person or over the phone. The interview approach enabled participation of a wide group of people who had no access to internet or for whom digital literacy acted as a barrier to participate in the survey. While the telephone interviews may not have been as personable as the in-person interviews, they nevertheless allowed

Participation

Environmental scan captured responses from 311 people, as summarised in the chart below.



opinions to be heard and experiences relayed.

In addition to the survey, Morella Community Centre facilitated community workshops, individual feedback and a community forum.

As part of the Harmony Week, Parafield Gardens High School invited feedback from students on their sense of belonging via a photo booth and a video short.

Facilitated discussions were also held with primary school children and children from early learning centres, where children responded to questions as well as drew what was on their mind.

This environmental scan report provides a comprehensive summary of the feedback gathered from 311 participants.

About Morella Community Centre

Morella Community Centre (MCC) is located next to the Gardens Recreation Centre and the Swimming Pool on 90 Kings Road at Parafield Gardens. It falls under the jurisdiction of the Salisbury Local Government.

A not-for-profit community-based organisation, the Centre is guided by the core values of access, equal opportunity and social justice. Integrity is its moral compass, transparency and accountability its benchmark and fairness and impartiality its established ethical standards in its long history of engagement with the community.

MCC works with the local communities and among people of all age-groups of diverse cultural, racial, linguistic, religious, educational and socio-economic backgrounds. It runs a wide range of activities to encourage this cohorts of people to realise their educational and employment aspirations through pathways, skill development and health and well-being programmes and foster inter-cultural and inter-faith understanding and cooperation among them.

MCC operates within the framework of a formal collaborative agreement with the City of Salisbury. Under this arrangement, it has access to a wide range of resources and expertise including a purpose-built facility and the services of a full time Coordinator.



VOICES OF ADULTS

Safer Communities survey



From September 2020 to March 2021



Online survey for Parafield Gardens residents, workers and visitors



63

Valid surveys received

The survey consisted of 16 questions and could be completed online electronically or on a hard copy, available from the Morella Community Centre.

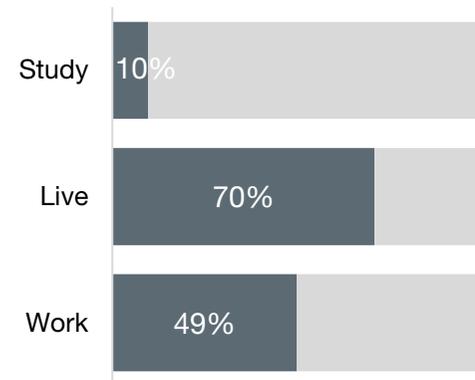
Survey promotion

The Safer Communities Survey was conducted through a questionnaire which was promoted through the Centre's website, social media and by way of community groups. It was conducted online and through phone interviews.

Number of surveys received

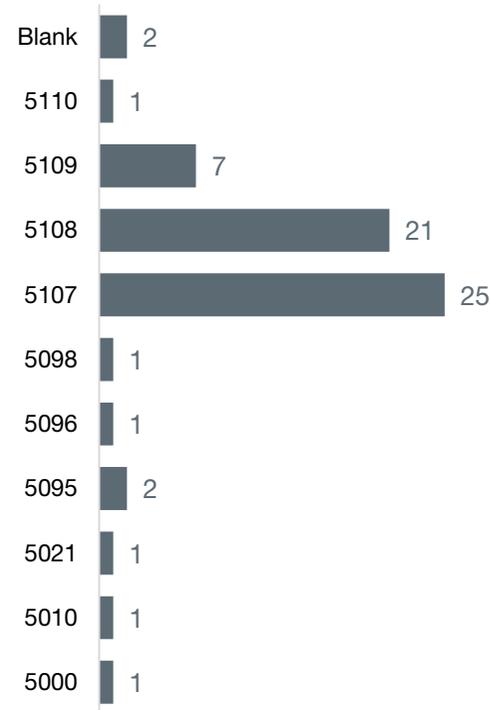
69 surveys were attempted. 6 of the survey respondents did not participate in the City of Salisbury and therefore abandoned the survey after the first question. 63 valid surveys were received and analysed.

Connection to the City of Salisbury

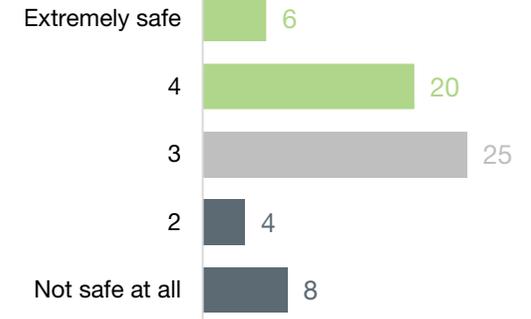


Respondents' residential postcodes

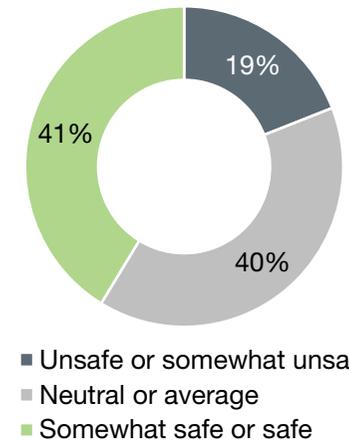
The chart below shows the number of respondents against their residential post code.



How safe do you feel in the community?

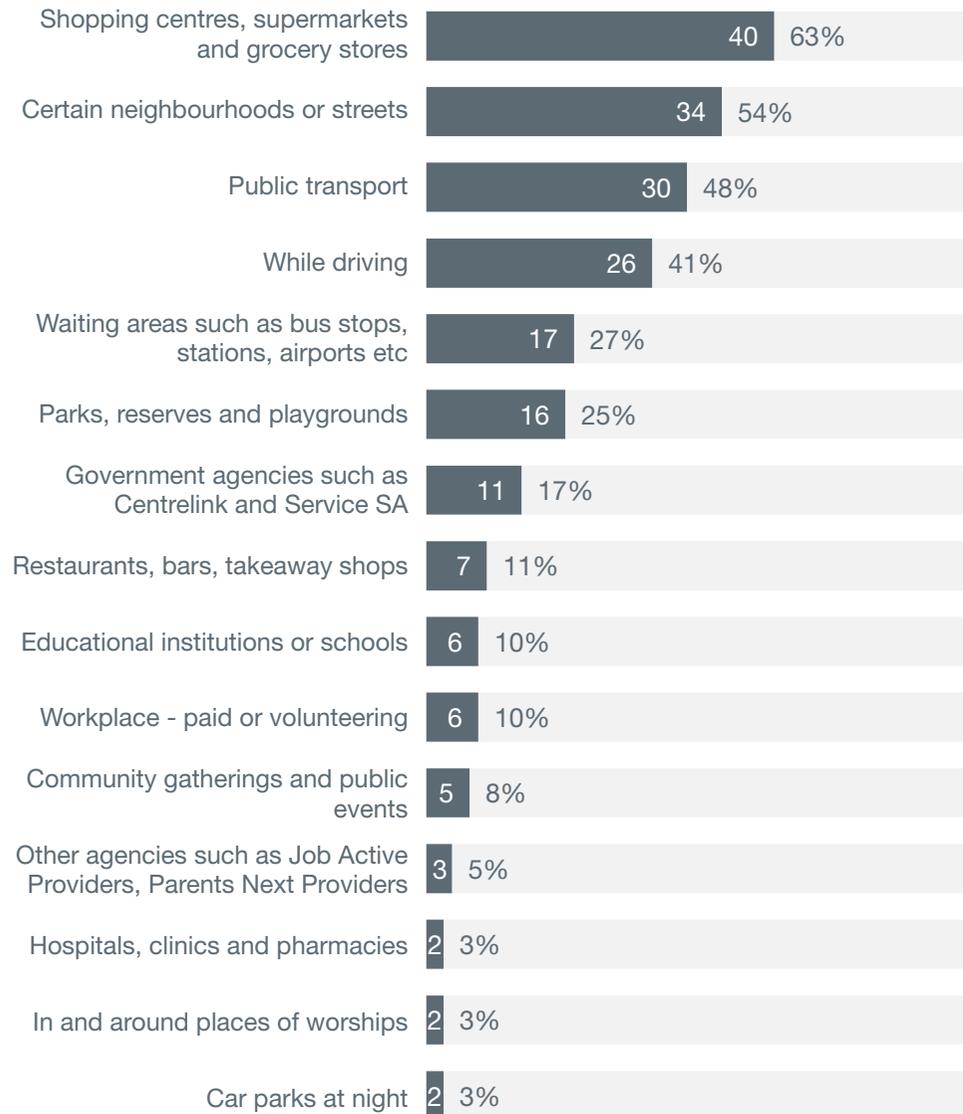


8 (13%) of the 63 respondents did not feel safe at all in the community. Overall, 19% of the respondents felt unsafe, 42% felt safe and 40% provided a neutral response.



Places where unsafe behaviours or attitudes have been experienced

The chart below shows the number or respondents who experienced an unsafe behaviour in the place specified, from most to least mentioned.



Are there places you and your family avoid because you don't feel safe?

6 people answered 'yes' without providing details and 10 people left the question blank. Remaining answers are provided below in full.

General

- Yes. Many places.
- I am not going to the shops alone anymore.
- Sometimes yes.
- Most places.

Night time

- Not specific places but after sunset, I feel unsafe on the street.
- Going out at night without car.
- Anywhere after dark.
- Being anywhere alone at night where safety can be compromised.

Public and open spaces

- Public places.
- Playground.
- Para River Trail.
- Yes, I don't go to Baltimore Reserve with my girls as it's a bit unsafe as no one is around most of the time and sometimes I have seen people who are drunk and not in their senses or behaving weird.
- Parks when is dark.
- Sometimes parks and gardens.

Local streets

- In my street.
- In my street.
- Some streets in Salisbury North.

Salisbury City Centre

- No, I don't come to the Salisbury area unless it is for work.
- Salisbury City Centre.
- Parabank Shopping Centre and Baltimore Reserve.
- Parabanks – most areas late and when getting dark.
- Salisbury Centre at night.
- Most of Salisbury Centre.
- Salisbury Train Station.
- I avoid the Salisbury Train Station.
- Train station at night.
- Salisbury interchange.
- Yes, the center of Salisbury.

Car parks

- Car parks.
- Car parks late at night.

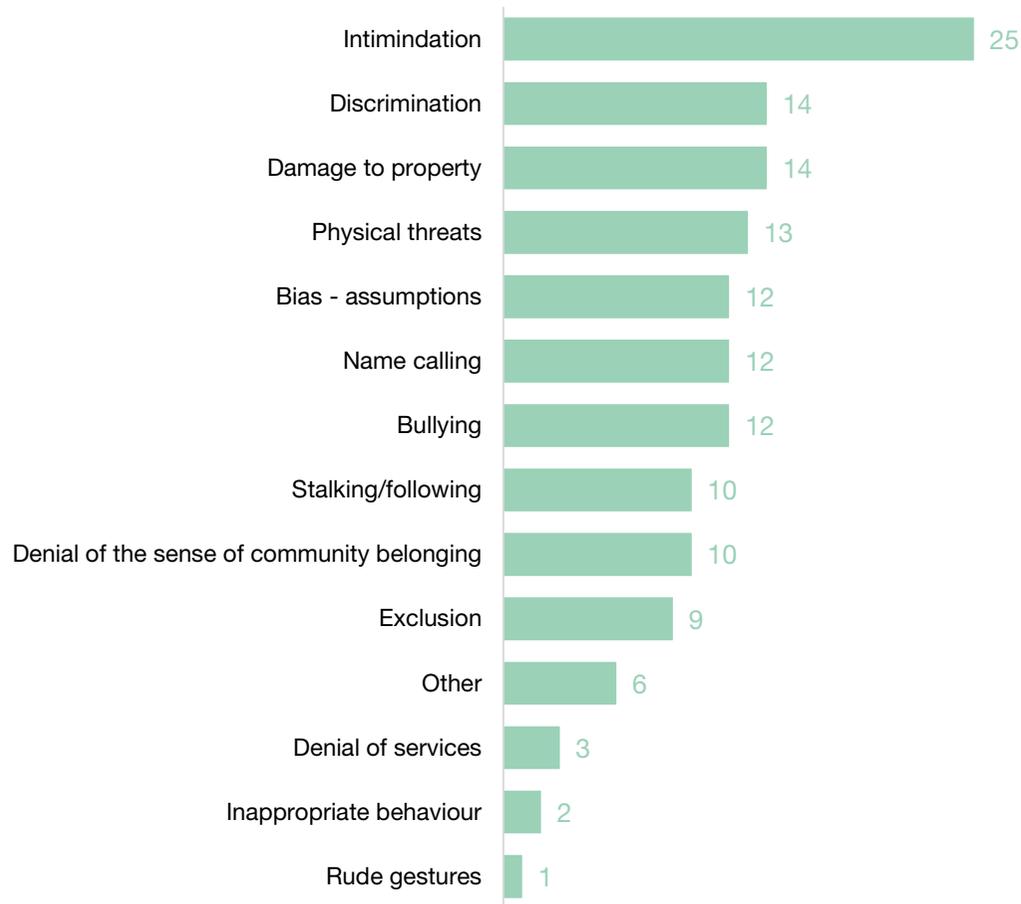
Specific places

- Yes. Parafield Gardens near Lavender Drive
- Places around Lyell McEwin Hospital.

Positive feedback

- No, we feel safe here so we don't avoid any places.
- We play safe. It can happen anytime and anywhere. Avoid noisy/rowdy groups.

How would you describe the experiences (that caused you to feel unsafe)?



Have you witnessed other people experience any of the above due to their cultural or religious background?

One word answers

- 'No' - answered by 24 people
- 'Yes' - answered by 6 people

All other responses

- Yes, when there are people in the main street that may be intoxicated, or have mental health episodes, the racial abuse can be verbalised loudly.
- Yes, I have witnessed three Asian background girls experiencing bullied by teenage boys at the local park.
- Yes, I heard from my colleagues.
- Yes. Name calling mainly and often abusive.
- Yes, many times.
- Yes, many times.
- Yes some of friends who wear their cultural clothes and look different.
- Fighting.
- My friends who wear hijab told me once that they were not feeling safe sometimes.
- At work.
- Unsure.
- Not really. But from one's own experience one can fairly certainly say that other people do tend to feel unsafe too.
- Not witnessed but heard about it.
- Someone is putting up anti immigrant stickers along the Para River Trail.

- Not in person.
- Cultural background.
- No... They have been white Australians vs white Australians.
- Seen comments on Facebook.

Tell us about the times you felt unsafe in your community?

- No.
- People shouting, threatening, swearing; behaving inappropriately - e.g. damaging property .
- When I am waiting for public transport (bus, train).
- While accessing Centrelink services and been treated and spoken to as though I was incompetent.
- Large group of people were walking around and starting trouble with everyone on their way.
- When people still ride their motorbike along the reserve where that is illegal move and some people even racing their go kart during day time just around after school time when parents and children usually walking across the reserve.
- After sunset.
- Last year when Christchurch crisis/ incident occurred.
- In the street when certain residents are angry or fighting.
- Hoons driving local streets screeching tyres. A few years ago a home invasion in our street at Local drug dealer house. Also a street full of African people being followed by the police.
- Especially when I am with my kids and at the park or parking area of Parabank or surroundings, I felt some people behaving weird on the street as they were drunk and I felt not safe with kids. So I would never go to that area especially alone with my kids.
- I don't shop here. The local supermarket has a wall of shoplifters and you can't just take a trolley to the car and leave it in the car park. It is a decent indicator of a bad neighbourhood.

- I feel safe.
- Walking in deserted streets or houses with unfriendly looking men near Lyell McEwin hospital.
- N/a.
- I went to martins plaza and was threatened with being put in an ambulance. At PG R-7 someone opened their door into my car then abused me for it. Unsafe drivers.
- My neighbours have been abusive in the past and have loud parties.
- My neighbours have been abusive in the past and have loud parties.
- Felt u safe when people are drinking on the street.
- Finding a man banging on my car window yelling at something inside but it was empty. Finding people in the carpark who were clearly going through stolen bags. Violence between individuals.
- Walking to my car after work and being followed by a group of Youths, I felt threatened.
- When other people are physically fighting - especially when I have my children with me; People with mental illness or high on drugs.
- Gang groups, being anywhere at night, some suburbs are quite concerning as the behaviours of some people are like they are a law unto themselves
- Abusive drivers in and around the Parabanks car park, yelling loudly at people and me.
- People in Salisbury Centre yelling/ arguing/behaving erratically.
- Abusive yelling either at me or near

- me makes me feel extremely unsafe. Spitting at me is another form of abuse I have experienced. Others yelling at each other, pushing, punching.
- See glass at play grounds and hooning up and down my street houses looking like garbage sites
- Sometimes.
- No.
- After sunset/night time.
- When young people engage in behaviour which they think for them is just fun and entertainment, it can be intimidating to other people and can affect them. Bias and prejudice, even though it may be subtle, makes one feel insecure.
- I wear a head scarf and people do behave sometimes differently. I cover my head not my brain.
- Judged by colour/ looked at as if I was different.
- Sometimes neighbours argue and people walking passed home late at night loudly talking.
- Near misses by motorbike use along the Para River Trail near the Parabanks Shopping Centre (which the Council and Police do nothing about). Drunken anti-social behaviour in the park near the Parabanks Shopping Centre (which the Council and Police do nothing about).
- Mostly irresponsible driving on the roads.
- I don't feel safe walking the streets on my own.
- Domestic violence and disturbances.

Word cloud of the above responses

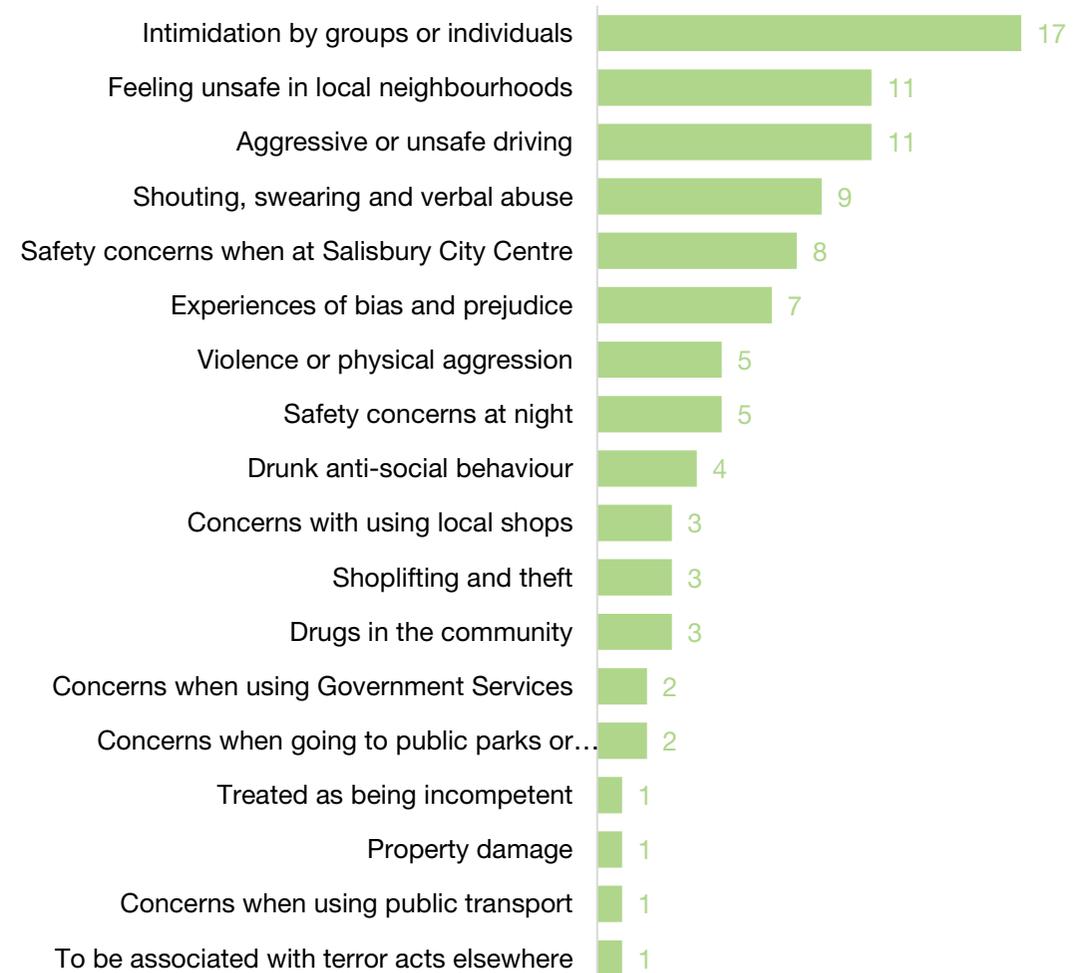


- Whenever I am walking around, I get called white trash. I have disabilities that I cant control and people look at me like I am an idiot.
- When shopping in John St and surrounding areas feel intimidated. My ethnicity is a minority.
- Some people drive too fast in the streets where the speed zone is 50 km/h but I have seen people driving their cars above 60 km/h. I get scared as I have always my girls with me and it is so unsafe to have this much fast cars in this streets. I have also seen syringes while going to drop my girls at school by walk.
- Groups of people hanging around Parabanks. Name calling, blocking entrance way outside/near BigW, swearing.
- I am a white middle aged male so just about everything you do you experience some sort of bias.
- For me 3-4 times.
- After the incident at Parabanks Shopping Centre.
- Reckless drivers, speeding, horns, etc.
- Motorbikes being used in parks and on footpaths. I have a vision and hearing problem and cannot hear them or see them until too late and have nearly been hit several times.
- Idiots in cars who speed through pedestrian crossings.
- A few.
- No time.
- When I was driving , tail gaiting and shouting and showing rude gestures with hand .

- A punch up on John St, near the now Commonwealth Bank. The punch up was between a man and a woman. Another white man walked into Centrelink screaming and demanding he get paid immediately.
- Evenings specially after dark.

Responses for this question were categorised and analysed by safety concern types experienced in the community. The most common category is the feeling of intimidation due to the behaviours of others (17 responses). Feeling unsafe in local neighbourhoods and aggressive or unsafe driving were the next most common responses.

Response types regarding feeling unsafe in the community

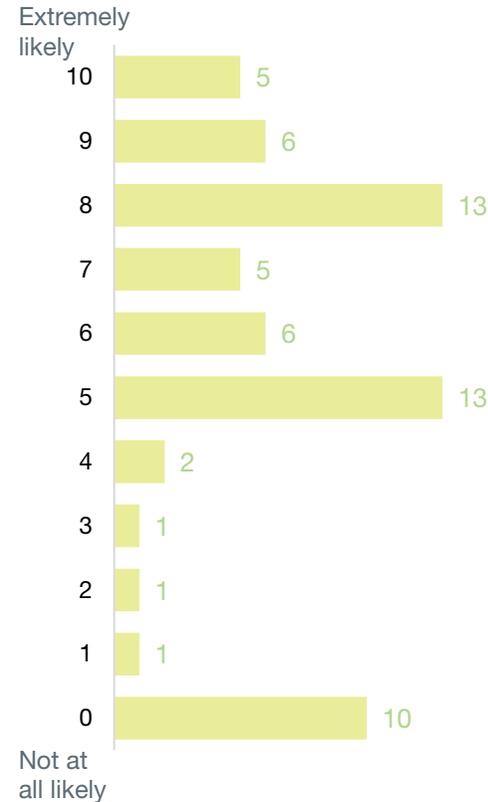


when people are outside.

- No public drunkenness, no public drug use, no hoon behaviour in cars, being able to walk safely without being run down by illegally ridden motorbikes, no rubbish in parks and gardens (which the Council does nothing about), no abandoned shopping trollies, no public yelling and screaming.
- Everyone looks after everyone.
- Feeling safe enough to go for a walk down the street without any worries or fear.
- More police and security.
- Where it's safe to go out even in the evening time as I would never go to even Martins plaza after 6 o'clock as I don't feel safe sometimes because of some drunk people here and they are staring at us.
- More security around these areas actively patrolling around. More sense of security. BigW seems to turn a blind eye instead of reporting it to centre security.
- A place where everyone could do the same thing and where people are allowed to tell the truth without being labeled a racist or a bigot by some university educated idiot with their own preconceived outcomes.
- No looking behind you.
- A community where you can go anywhere and be yourself without being concerned or worried about those around you.
- No graffiti or rubbish and the ability to walk around safely.
- No speeding cars.
- Where there is no discrimination.

- Peaceful, respectful and secure.
- Where a person does not feel intimidated .
- People feeling respected
No violence on the streets
People genuinely caring for each other.
- Where all the people can roam around without fear.

How likely do feel that Covid-19 has impacted community safety?

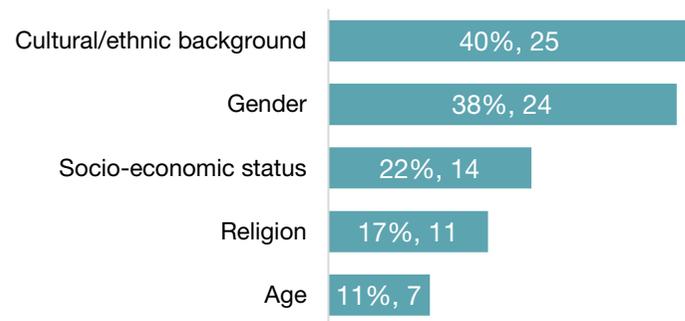


Average score



16% of the respondents did not think that COVID-19 has impacted safety, while 84% thought that it has.

Do you feel any of the following contributed to the unsafe attitudes and behaviours you experienced?



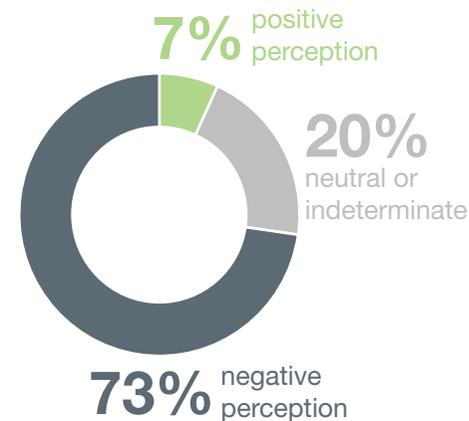
40% of the respondents felt that their cultural/ethnic background contributed to unsafe attitudes towards them and 38% felt that gender was a contributing factor.

Some of the respondents suggested other contributing factors, including the following:

- How they dressed (traditional clothes)
- Recognition that it could also be 'own's perception'
- How they raised their children.

What is your opinion on the impact of media and how they portray issues and people and influence a sense of belonging?

44 people provided feedback to the question. 3 (7%) people provided comments which portrayed media positively, while 32 (73%) people provided comments that portrayed media's coverage regarding the sense of belonging as negative.



Positive feedback

- They are fine.
- It's good but way more can be done.
- Media is eye opening as a teacher to see all the big and littler things that are happening to our young people in today's society.

Neutral or indeterminate

- I am not sure.
- A strong influence.
- I believe media can be both good

and bad. Sometimes showing bad behaviours can make other people emulate those behaviours. It is good when it shows other community members coming to help those in need - standing by them.

- Don't know.
- Very strong impact.
- It's a lot.
- High influence.
- Media has huge power over public opinion. So, how they project the narrative of people of CALD background will influence how generally people view them - liabilities or assets - which can impact on their well-being and their sense of belonging.
- I don't really see any significant issue happening around the neighbourhood.

Negative feedback

- Mostly negative influence that can incite racial tensions.
- Media creates more biases and prejudice.
- Social media has played a big role my sense of safety due to the media racial slurs and attacks of people who look like me during this pandemic.
- I feel the media create issues between different groups, rather than try to bring them together.
- The media has everything as a perfect world, all pretty and fun when it's not.
- I usually do not feel a sense of belonging throughout watching or listening to the media in Australia.

- Social media has been avoiding stigma within society especially some ethnic population. I think this is big challenge for creating solidarity within mass people.
- Media can be very biased towards different cultures on many sides.
- To much coverage of bad behaviour.
- Stigmatisation of Chinese people.
- Media is playing a vital role in this situation.
- The media dramatises some issues or does not report others. The media can be very biased.
- Media can cause more damage some times.
- The media definitely portrays the northern suburbs to be a very unsafe areas to live at times.
- Media often distorts stories and actions to create great momentum.
- Media blow things out of proportion which is unnecessary. It's not often (probably rare!) for media will have a positive impact on a person.
- Negative/profiling/fear mongering type news stories could create a sense of fear.
- I say they tell it like it is and sometimes it is in fact much worse.
- They impact a lot as they only report the bad stuff.
- Need more awareness to people.
- Need to do it better.
- Unfortunately the only time Councils and the Police do something about anti-social behaviour is when they are shamed into doing so through portrayals of bogan/hoon behaviour in the media. Why? They should be proactive and stop this ridiculous behaviour before it starts or react to it immediately.
- The media always paints the worst picture possible.
- Media definitely perpetuates the idea that northern suburbs are unsafe. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- It's terrible.
- Minority groups are played out to be the victims.
- I feel there is still some racism going on here and there, but not much.
- The media fuels a lot of unrest.
- They amplify the issues which can sometimes exaggerate.
- Impact not enough diversity, biases opinions and stereotypes and at time CALD communities may not feel they belong due to attitudes and negative believes by mainstream.
- Media should have at its core the theme of living peacefully in community, but in reality more often than not, they look for stories that will be sensational, with violence and altercations.

Service providers



July 2020 to January 2021



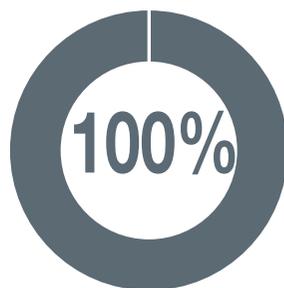
Online survey



8 service providers working with CALD community

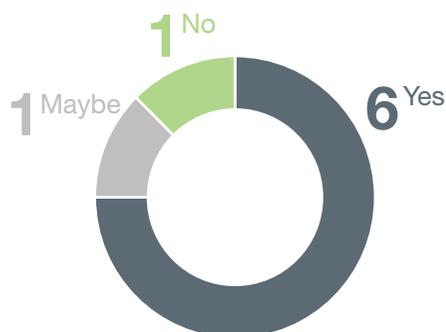
Service providers who work with clients from diverse cultural and religious background were invited to complete an online survey relating some of the experiences.

Have your clients ever communicated they have felt threatened or unsafe in the community?



Clients of all of the survey respondents communicates instances when they have felt threatened or unsafe.

Do you believe it was attributable to their culture, race or religion?



Examples of some of the incidences

- We work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and they are often more than aware of racial discrimination and profiling, stereotyping occurring in our community.
- My friend was a young mother walking along her street in Burton at the time with her baby in a pusher. She is Afghani and was wearing a hijab. A car drove past and a young man leaned out, swearing and yelling abuse at her and saying “go home”. This was in about 2015.
- I have been sworn at a few times by youths, telling me go back to my country, that I was not belonging to this country. My mother was told by some shoppers at Salisbury Shopping Centre that she smells and that she should not wear her hijab in Australia.
- My clients had their ankle kicked from behind and were told to go back where they came from.
- Whilst attending a cricket game, a Muslim lady and her child were heckled as they passed a group of men who said ‘look out, bomb approaching’.
- My female client was questioned by a health professional if she was going to arrange a marriage for her young daughter. The child was upset as she didn’t get a sticker and gift pack that all children receive.
- Woman was harassed whilst grocery shopping by another customer who also told her to go back where she belonged. The store manager apologised but did not confront the offender. Three young children were present when the verbal attack occurred. Multiple incidents at supermarkets. I personally witnessed one at Aldi - Parafield Gardens.
- One highly qualified nurse was told at an interview that the patients wouldn’t be able to understand her. The lady was easily understood.
- A child reported that many events at her school didn’t include her as she couldn’t participate because of the food offered - sausage sizzle-the child’s religion follows a vegetarian diet.
- My client experienced many remarks by community members about the colour of her skin and her accent.
- Service provider remarked that she was a demanding client, when actually she wanted to be understood, so that her needs could be met; this client was made feel she was culturally different.
- While driving, my client experienced other drivers calling names and making rude gestures.

Afghan Women's Group



February 2021



Australian Refugee Association



21

Participants from Afghan Women's group

A facilitated focus group was held with members of the Afghan Women's Group

Experiences of being treated differently

- Women being treated disrespectfully by staff in the Coles supermarket.
- Women not feeling safe to catch the public transport and avoid public transport completely due to bad experiences from commuters targeting them as they wear hijab.
- Treated differently or responded to by government customer services than to white customers.
- An instance of a man being attacked with a knife at a family gathering leading to a feeling of parks and playground as unsafe places.
- On several occasions asked two "leave the country" to "go back to where they came from" and/or to "speak/learn English".
- Felt unsafe to build a relationship with neighbours due to experiences of racism, not feeling welcome or being ignored (greetings not responded to).
- Name calling and verbal abuse experienced while driving, at times leading to road rage.
- Perceived that limited English could be an advantage as full extent of racism was then not understood/ appreciated.

Perceptions regarding support

- Not confident to contact the police or security with examples provided when the response did

not demonstrate understanding or empathy.

- Never thought about contacting their local council to notify them about unsafe areas, park or roads.

Areas, places and circumstances where the group representatives felt unsafe

- The key perceptions was that the group of people most likely to demonstrate racist behaviour was white Australian men.
- Unsafe around Aboriginal people (identified as under the influence of alcohol) in the city Park Lands.
- Micro aggressions between communities and feeling of not being included in the community (for example, between Afghani and Irani communities).
- The Salisbury Interchange was specifically mentioned as somewhere community avoided.

Visitors to the Morella Community Centre



February 2021 to July 2021



Morella Community Centre



64 visitors to the Morella Community Centre

Morella Community Centre staff facilitated a series of community focus group, as well as discussions with visitors to the centre.

Poster questions during Harmony Week 2021

I feel like I can be myself when

- At my home, my family home and my friends
- At home
- In my home
- At home
- At home
- I am at home.

I do not feel included when

- Join a group for the first time. See racist people
- In a crowded place
- On public transport
- I did my job placement in aged care.

Places I feel I belong are

- Home, mosque, children's school, Morella Community Centre and Salisbury Family Hub
- At home
- At school and at home
- At school
- At home
- Outside and at shopping centres.

Places I feel I do not belong are

- I think here is a safe place because all members follow the rules in this community
- At an interview
- Going somewhere I don't know, with my neighbour
- Sometimes lonely.

Other comments

- MCC is inclusive and welcoming. I find strong support from the women that work here.

- I think here (in the Centre) is the safe place
- It feels like a safe place to be as all the staff are friendly and helpful
- Everyone has equal opportunity to learn, share and to live in harmony
- I feel Morella is a safe place for all of us to be, as I have only ever seen people treating each other with respect while I have been here
- MCC welcomes everyone
- MCC is my local centre everyone is friendly and the programs are all helpful to me.

Handouts for capturing feedback

HARMONY WEEK 2021

HARMONY WEEK in Australia is celebrated this year during the week 15 - 21 MARCH 2021. Harmony Week celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

I feel like I can be myself when..

I do not feel included when..

Places I feel I belong are..

Places I feel I do not feel I belong are..

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March.

How is racial discrimination felt?
Physical acts of abuse or harassment are racism. Racial discrimination is also words and actions that make people feel like we do not belong in the community. It includes all the barriers that prevent people from enjoying respect and equality because of their race or religion.

Our Harmony week message
Here at Morella Community Centre, we want to create services, programs and spaces where community members feel included, respected and a sense of belonging.
Please share your thoughts here to help us keep providing this safe space for you.

Morella Community Centre



Community Forum: Conversations on anti-racism

Feedback to prompts:

I am
I belong
I am
I want

I am a human
I belong visiting family
I am from South Korea

I am a parent, educator and community member
I belong contributing member of society
I am Kurna Nurongga

I am from here, born on Kurna land
I belong right here!
I am a human being, a white woman
I want to be the best I can be

I am from Asia
I belong to another world
I am a person who cares
I want to connect with people

I am from Adelaide
I belong with my children
I am a human
I want to raise happy children

I am from my mummy's tummy
I belong at home
I am a woman
I want a partnership in home and family responsibilities

I am from Iran
I belong to the land that I feel peace – Australia
I am a human
I want to be healthy and happy

I am from Pakistan and South Australia
I belong to Pakistan
I am a parent/human being
I want to go to Pakistan to see my parents and for Covid to go

I am from a family
I belong where I'm feeling safe and valued
I am a friend
I want equality

I am from the scrub
I belong with my family
I am a person
I want happiness

I am from India, from my mum
I belong to my husband and my children
I am a parent
I want a job

I am from South Australia
I belong here – lots of places
I am a human being
I want to be accepted

I am from Australia
I belong here
I am a person
I want happiness and good health

I am from earth
I belong within my family
I am a human
I want to be rich and famous

I am from the universe
I belong at a fire in a comfy chair
I am an organism on a pale blue dot
I want fulfillment and to flourish

I am from Afghanistan
I belong to Afghanistan
I am a parent
I want to be a teacher

I am from Sierra Leone, god
I belong at home with my circle of
friends and family
I am the daughter of the Mende people
I want to be financially stable

I am from love
I belong here
I am human
I want to be healthy

I am from China
I belong to my family
I am a mum and a friend
I want to be healthy and I want my
family to be healthy and happy

I am from Sierra Leonean, from ghana,
from home
I belong amongst love
I am an African woman who is trying to
live everyday with intention
I want my life to inspire

I am from Bhutan
I belong to a community
I am an individual with family
responsibility
I want happiness

I am from the universe
I belong here and now
I am an energy
I want money

Feedback on occasions when intolerance to ethnicity or culture have been experienced

Some of the locations and instances
when negative comments were
experienced:

- At McDonalds
- While commuting or waiting for
public transport
- At a university
- At a Medical Centre
- In a workplace
- From neighbours
- On local streets
- While shopping
- In a class room
- At home
- At a local park in Parafield Gardens
from a man walking his dog, who
said to “go back to your country”
and swore
- At a work placement, treated as
incompetent due to lack of fluency in
English
- At a local private school where the
school disallowed a student to wear
a hijab
- By a driver of a passing vehicle,
throwing rubbish, swearing and
telling to go back your country
- Verbally abused including told to
go back where they came from by
a driver at A Salisbury interchange,
when dropping off children, while
passer bys watched without getting

involved

- From neighbours (in Parafield
Gardens suburb) being constantly
rude, leading to safety concerns for
children playing outside.



**VOICES OF
CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE**

Parafield Gardens High School



March 2021



Parafield Gardens High School



72

High school students and staff

During Harmony Week, Parafield Gardens High School students provided their views in a video and by photographing their comments in a photobooth.

Comments recorded in the video

What are the places where you feel you belong?

- School or just around my friends.

I can be myself when..?

- I am dancing or around my friends.
- When my friends are there for me.
- I am around my friends.

What is racism?

- Racism is disrespecting other people, skin colour, culture and differences.
- Being disrespectful in general to others.
- Racism is when people are judgmental to others.
- One race thinking they are superior to another race, and when someone from a different race comes into their space shouldn't belong, shouldn't be there.

How does racism impact a person?

- Impacts mental health, and how they view themselves and culture. Also impacts how they view people from their own backgrounds.
- Makes them feel unwanted.
- Can be severely traumatising to a

person, they can also be afraid and scared.

- Makes them less confident and makes them wish they were from a different culture, maybe then they wouldn't be bullied.

We feel accepted when...

- People respect cultural background and gender identities.
- When I play footy with my mates.

I feel I can be myself when ...

- We are together, in the same class, when we play sports together.

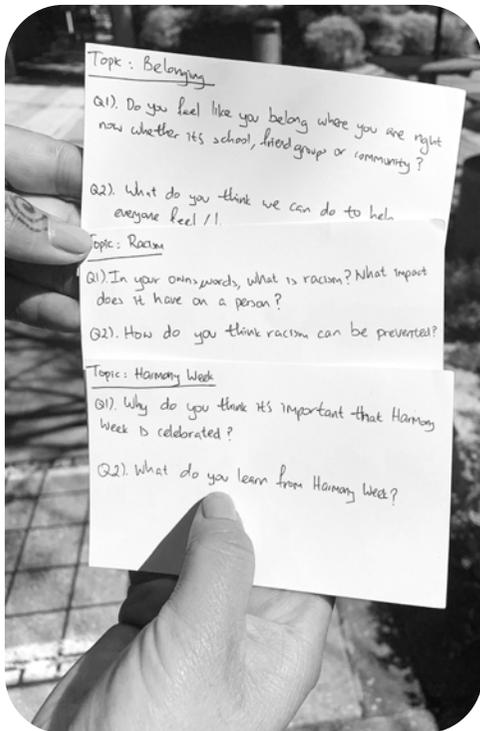
How do you think racism can be prevented

- I don't think there is certain way to prevent racism or stop it for good, theres always going to be people who have their opinion and people who judge others.
- I really don't know, because no matter where you go, there's always going to be people who are going to be racist towards you.
- Bringing awareness to other people, and those cultures sharing how racism has affected them.
- Asking for people's stories and willingness to learn.
- Trying to communicate more with other people and you really need to be positive.



Do you feel like you belong, where you are right now?

- Yeah, school, i have teachers who respect my opinion and friends. And this school is very multicultural so its pretty good.
- School treats me very well, especially friends from different cultures and i feel welcomed.
- They've got a lot of things that they do that really helps different cultures and races fit into one space that makes them feel like they belong.
- Belonging is really important, it gives of connection. Knowing your language, knowing your culture, the way of connections.



How can we help people belong?

- I think it is about acknowledgment, it is about providing equal opportunity, acceptance and celebrating the many differences.
- Saying hi, would you like me to show you around, introduce you to some people?
- Ask everyone how they feel and how that impacts them.
- Maybe try to connect and have a conversation. Ask people how they are, invite them to join your friendship groups.

Why is it important to celebrate harmony?

- Harmony week shows unity.
- People come together and celebrate and showcase our talents.
- Brings awareness to all cultures and brings everyone together.
- Harmony day is a way of people from different cultures to come together and not be divided by our differences, but to come together and be one. I truly love it, because it gives me the opportunity to learn about all these different cultures and really learn how diverse our school is.

What do you learn on Harmony Day?

- You show people your culture, let them learn more about you.

- There's always a place for everyone, and everyone should feel safe and trusted.
- Like it doesn't matter where you're from or what you are, we are all the same.
- Don't forget that everyone is the same and we should help each other. We are all the same, our differences don't matter. We came to learn and we want to be loved as well.





Places I feel belong include

- Home, school, family.
- I feel included and respected people around me.
- Home, school, sports, social gathering.
- With my friends, family, my bedroom, at home, in my dreams.
- Being in nature, my kids, home, bath, beach, garden.
- Being with my friends and family.
- At home and school.



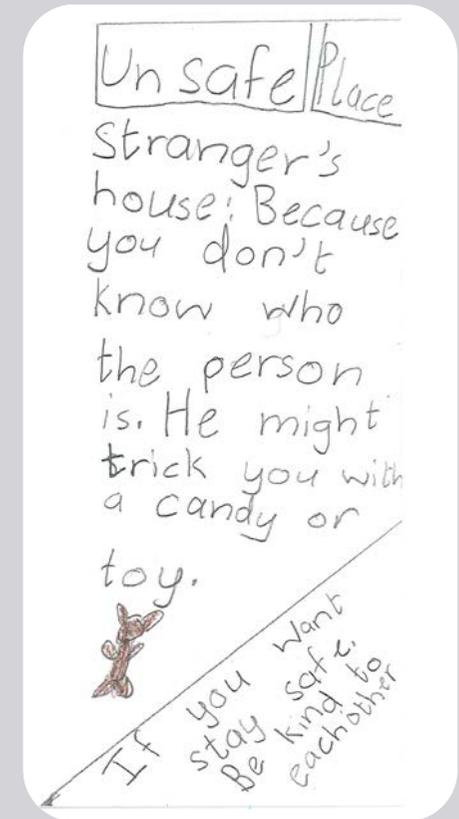
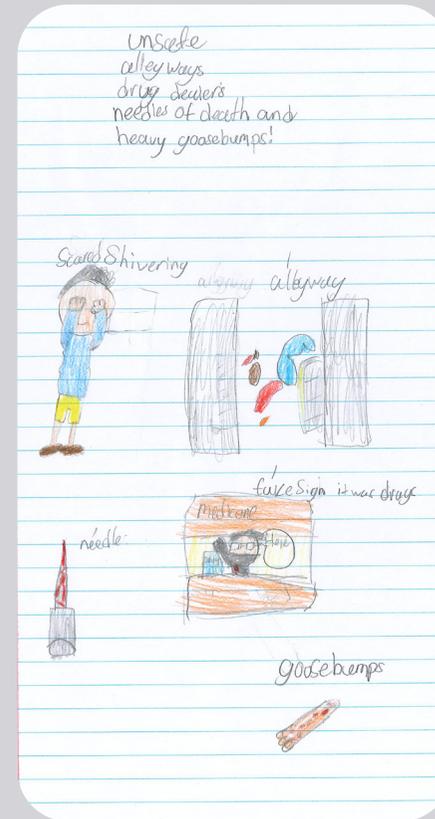
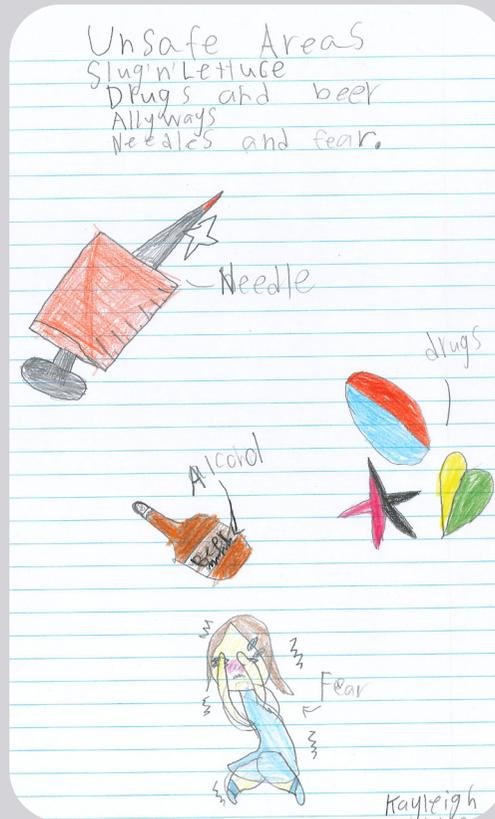
Places I feel I do not belong include

- Palace Salisbury.
- Under the bridge.
- Tai Pole Salisbury.
- Salisbury.
- Coopers house or Nathan's house.
- Gaii Primary.
- Henley Beach.



someone may grab you or you could get lost.

- The only place I can get peace is at home.
- I don't feel safe at a playground where you may get lost.
- I feel unsafe in a stranger's house and at the World Asian shop, cinema and at the pizza shop.
- I feel unsafe in my park by my self.
- I feel unsafe at shops and stranger's house.
- I feel unsafe alone because there are baddies and strangers.
- I don't really feel comfortable at restaurants or giant supermarkets because sometimes I get lost.
- My unsafe community is going to the park by yourself as a stranger might take you.
- When I was in year 1, I got bullied or teased by another student because I said to her don't do that and she called me a mean name.



Goodstart Early Learning



February 2021 to
May 2021



Goodstart
Early Learning
Childcare
Centre and
Kindergarten,
Parafield
Gardens



18

children,
ages 4 and under

Goodstart Early Learning educators facilitated discussions with children in their care against a series of prompts.

Where's your favourite place to go outside home?

- To my friend's house
- The playground
- The playground
- In the garden
- The park
- My cousin's house
- The Zoo
- Playground
- To a big park
- Ride my scooter
- My cousin's house.

What does safe mean to you?

- Being careful
- We do safe things, we stay off the road when cars are coming
- When you're at the park
- You get out of the house if there is a fire
- It means that something bad happened but you get somewhere safe
- I don't know
- I don't know
- Being careful
- Not falling down
- That means that you don't have to go on the road with the cars.

Where do you feel safe and happy?

- In my house

- With my mummy and daddy snuggled up at home
- The beach and at my house
- In the sensory room and in the garden
- At my mum and dads
- At my house
- At the Zoo
- At home
- In my bedroom
- I feel safe at my home but I am a little sad at home because baby's kicking mummy
- That mummy and daddy keep me safe
- My house has ding-dong (doorbell)
- In my street we have bikes
- Mummy takes care of me
- Another house
- My house I have a door
- Daddy keeps me safe
- Mummy, daddy and grandma in my house
- Mumma and daddy keep me safe.

Where do we see happy people?

- At houses and places
- I've seen happy people at my school when I was there today
- Outside and at the playground
- in the garden
- At childcare
- At home
- I don't know
- At the playground

- Outside
- At my own house
- In their houses.

Where might we see angry people?

- I don't know
- At childcare, some people are happy and some people are not happy and some people are both like me
- At home
- People never get angry
- On YouTube
- At places that make them angry
- I don't know
- I don't know
- Inside
- When they are grumpy
- Outside.

Where do you like going outside home?

- McDonalds because you get toys
- I like going to the playground
- My grandma's house and at the playground
- Everywhere
- A jungle
- Kindergarten
- To the park
- Going to the beach
- To school
- My new house
- My cousin's house.

Where don't you like going?

- To a club because you just have to sit there playing with stuff and eating bread but after that when its dinner time its boring
- To get a caravan
- The pizza restaurant and Sushi Train
- Not to Jacksons
- I don't like going to the caves
- I don't like going to places that are scary
- To the beach
- Nowhere
- A small park
- Nowhere
- To kindergarten.

What is (your community)? Or what is important outside your home?

- Watering the gardens with daddy
- Helping my daddy to fix stuff but sometimes he doesn't need my help
- My bicycle
- A dog
- Important is the mailbox
- My mum just did some work
- Play on the trampoline
- My plants
- My mummy
- That you don't get prickles on your feet.
- Near my house there is maybe a road. Be careful near a road
- Sometimes race cars go quiet

- I go to the playground with my friend
- Big slide at the playground
- At the playground I see a slide, swings and a tree.

What do you wish for in your community? Or what are the makings of a safe community?

- Playing with Isabel's friends at school
- I'm not sure
- Santa
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know
- Mummy do exercise
- Don't get eaten by animals.

What makes you feel safe in the community?

- Riding on my bike safely and slowly
- The toy I got today. That made me feel very happy when I got it from the shops
- My family
- People that like to protect
- Inside
- I don't know
- My blankies
- At home
- To not have to run.



Parafield Gardens Children's Centre



January 2021 to March 2021



Parafield Gardens Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting



18 children

Parafield Gardens Children's Centre's educators facilitated discussions with children in their care against a series of prompts.

What does safety mean?

- I don't know
- Safety is safe
- To be protected
- Not to get hurt from a fire
- Not fall from a tree
- Being safe from a knife
- Being protected and not to be hurt
- Putting a hat to be safe from the sun and put sunscreen to protect us from the sun
- Hold hands when you cross the road
- Like using a ladder going up on the roof is safety, or when there is a fire, the fire truck will hose the house to blow out the fire
- The police arrest the bad people and put them in jail
- Safety means to have someone to protect you, like your Mum, Dad and Grandpa, and grandma, your friend and your teacher.



Who helps you feel safe?

- My grandma and grandpa
- My mum, dad and teacher
- My brother
- Grandma
- My mum, dad, nana and teacher
- Our parents and teachers
- Teacher helps us too learn
- When someone hits you then you tell the teacher
- My mum, dad, grandma, friend and teacher
- Wear a hat to protect our self from the sun
- Police can help us by crossing the road if there is no parents
- When people get hurt or sick the doctor helps us to feel better and they put a heart beeper on the chest of they can't hear the heart
- My Mum looks after me and keeps me safe



- One day I lost my Mum and my Dad was with me. I don't get scared when my Dad is next to me. When Mum loses us, she finds us.

Where do you feel safe in the community?

- Next to my mum, dad and family
- At home
- In Australia.

Who helps your family in the community?

- Me, like washing the dishes and gardening
- The doctors look after us.
- The doctor looks after if I am not OK.
- The teachers who help us learn and sometimes people help you to be safe.



Who helps our community feel safe?

- Police. Police take us to the police station and he calls for the doctor to see if we are OK.
- The fireman helps us to get the fire out. Ambulance help people who get sick and takes them to hospital. A doctor helps us to feel better
- Doctors help people to feel better
- The police arrest bad people and put them in jail
- The police help people cross the road
- When people get hurt or sick the doctor helps us feel better and can use the heart beeper so they put it on the chest so they can hear the heart
- The doctor helps us get better
- People at the community centre
- Sometimes police help
- Doctors help people
- Police helps people to cross the road
- Police helps people to cross the road
- Police puts bad people in jail
- Fire fighters
- Fire fighters
- Ambulance people
- Police
- Tow truck people if there is a crash
- Ambulance
- Builders if our house breaks, rescue squads, plumbers and vets
- Rescue people
- Doctors
- Doctors
- Policemen
- Friends
- The teachers at kindy make me feel safe.
- Friends.
- Grown ups. Clever grown ups.
- Teachers.
- Call 00 to call the police. Call 000 to call the firefighters and the ambulance.

How can we be safe?

- Police can help us by crossing the road if there is no parents
- Putting a seatbelt on
- Putting a seatbelt on
- If someone has a virus do not go near them because you are going to die and we don't want to die
- Don't fall sick
- To help someone such as using a ladder going to the roof
- If someone is angry you move away to be safe, when someone hit you - you tell the teacher
- Putting a seatbelt on
- Tell your mum when you fall down
- If someone hurts you then tell the teacher
- Putting a seatbelt on
- Think before you go
- Not to be in danger, like to be with your Mum and Dad means to be safe
- To stay with your Mum and Dad and do not listen to strangers
- Talk to your Mum and Dad so they know what happened and they will help
- If I go out with Mum and Dad I have to hold their hand to cross the road, because if you don't, we can be smashed with the cars and then the police officer will come and help us to safety and get those who did the accident
- My Mum had an accident with her car and hurt her arm. She called police and the police helped her. The





police rang the ambulance and the ambulance took her to the hospital then the doctor tried to fix her arm.

- When you fall down you need to tell your Mum.
- When you are somewhere in danger, you must move away.
- I think before I go.
- Call the rescue people.

What does community mean?

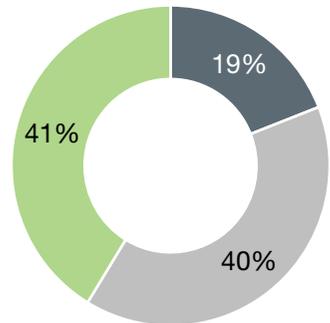
- I don't know
- I do not know what it is.
- My mum and dad are my community
- Shops, kindy and school
- My mum and sister
- My school and friends
- My friends
- Where my Mum goes to work, at the community centre
- Sometimes I go to the community hub.
- Sometimes Dad and Mum get us to the community hub to buy something. They get clothes for me.



SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

Key feedback from the Safety Communities survey

Only 41% of the respondents felt safe or somewhat safe in the community with remaining 59% having safety concerns.



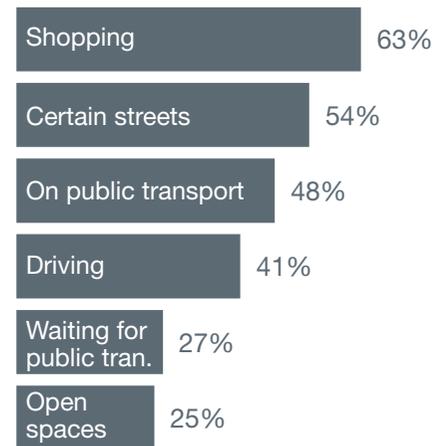
- Unsafe or somewhat unsafe
- Neutral or average
- Somewhat safe or safe

The most common reported negative experiences included:

- Intimidation
- Discrimination
- Damage to property
- Physical threats
- Bias
- Name calling
- Bullying
- Stalking or following
- Questioning the sense of community belonging
- Exclusion.

Large proportion of the respondents experienced unsafe behaviours during their daily routine tasks, such as shopping, walking in their neighbourhoods, while catching public transport or driving.

Places where unsafe behaviors have been experienced



Respondents did not feel safe most in these places:

- Salisbury City Centre
- Car parks
- In local neighbourhoods at night time.

84% of the respondents felt (to a varying degree) that Covid-19 had an impact on their sense of safety.

Key feedback from the service providers' survey

100%

of the service providers reported that their Clients communicated instances of feeling unsafe or threatened in the community.

Majority of the service providers felt that these instances were attributable to the culture, race or religion of their clients.

40%

of the respondents felt that their cultural/ethnic background contributed to unsafe attitudes towards them.

38%

of the respondents felt that their gender contributed to unsafe attitudes towards them.

73%

of the respondents felt that the media contributed negatively to influencing a sense of belonging in the community.

Some of the respondents felt that:

- The media contributed to creating biases and prejudice
- Social media was used as a platform for racial slurs
- The media did not put forward a representative view of the society
- The media focussed too greatly on negative behaviours
- The media overdramatised stories, which contributed to creating stigmas
- The media perpetuated the idea that the northern suburbs are unsafe.

Examples of experiences of being treated differently reported in service provider surveys and through the facilitated forums and discussions

Some of the incidences reported included:

- Verbal abuse shouted and rude gestures made at culturally diverse community members from passing vehicles
- Abusive comments made
- Frequent comments to go back to where they came from
- Physical intimidation
- Suggestions that Muslim community members are terrorists
- Harassment in shops
- Intolerances relating to accents

...continued from the previous page

- Lack of accommodation of vegetarianism at public celebration events
- Cultural bias
- Racial discrimination against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Not feeling safe to use public transport due to frequent comments made regarding wearing a hijab
- Local private school not supporting wearing a hijab
- Treated differently or with intolerance, when accessing government services
- Not being treated in a welcoming way by neighbours or feeling threatened by neighbours
- Lack of action from authorities leading to the feeling of not being supported and protected by the authorities
- Micro aggressions between communities
- Treated as incompetent in a place of work.

Racism and abusive behaviour was experienced everywhere: in shops, on public transport, at educational institutions, in places of work and in local neighbourhoods.

Key feedback from young adults

Recognition that racism and disrespect to others:

- Makes people feel unwanted
- Impacts on how they embrace their cultural backgrounds
- Can be traumatising.

Suggestions that building greater awareness of racism, encouraging to learn about other cultures and communicating positively about cultural diversity can help fight racism in our communities.

Suggestions that to help everyone belong, personal connections need to be improved, people need to be included and encouraged to learn about one another.

Strong messages during the Harmony Day were to:

- Treat everyone equally
- Treat everyone with love
- Respect other cultures
- Be kind
- Celebrate cultural diversity.

Young adults felt they belonged or they could be themselves when they were:

- With their friends
- Understood by others
- Included
- In a supportive environment.

Key feedback from primary school children

Children felt most safe:

- At home with their family
- In their local community, with their parents shopping, going to local parks or medical appointments
- At their school and in their classrooms
- Visiting family members or playing with friends.

They associated 'safe community' with:

- Being peaceful
- Where no harm was meant to anyone
- Kindness to one another
- No risk of harm, no violence, teasing or bullying
- People talking nicely to one another
- A place with people around who could be trusted.

Some children said they did not feel safe:

- At the park
- In public transport
- Because they witnessed and feared people being drunk and on drugs, and came across places where drug use or drinking was evident
- Because they feared strangers
- Because they feared getting lost or being "taken".

Key feedback from pre-school age children

To young pre-school age children safety meant:

- Being careful
- Not falling down and not getting hurt
- Being with parents
- Being at home
- Being helped to cross the road
- Being protected.

Children had a strong sense that the following authorities help to keep them safe:

- Teachers
- Police
- Doctors
- Ambulance workers
- Firefighters
- "Rescue people".

Children suggested the following to stay safe:

- Put on a seat belt
- Hold parents' hand when crossing the road
- Don't fall sick or stay home if you fall sick
- Move away from angry people
- Not to place yourself in danger
- Tell the teachers or parents when someone hurts you
- Not to listen to strangers
- Call the rescue people when in trouble.

