



Western
Sydney
Leadership
Dialogue

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GWS Community Wellbeing Survey Report

Insights into the
wellbeing
of Greater Western
Sydney

The Greater Western Sydney Community Wellbeing Survey

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The Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue is proud to release key findings from the Greater Western Sydney Community Wellbeing Survey.

This first-of-its-kind survey was modelled on the Federal Government’s Australian Wellbeing Framework and incorporated the wellbeing measurement approach of the UK Office of National Statistics.

Exploring the data through a range of dimensions including age, level of education, household income, and location, this survey was specifically designed to explore the communities of GWS from the lens of wellbeing, and how that might be influenced by identity, belonging, and connection to place.

Survey details

The survey was jointly developed by **RPS Group** and the **Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue**. It was conducted by **Taverners Research Group** and undertaken in October 2023.

The survey respondents were a **statistically representative sample**, with the questions comprising of two ‘sections’:

- Wellbeing priorities questions
- Overall wellbeing assessment

609 survey respondents



participated over the phone or online



were all residents of one of thirteen Western Sydney LGAs

18+ and all aged 18 years or over

Themes - Identity and Satisfaction

GWS residents like where they live



7 in 10
Residents are mostly or completely satisfied with their local area

Survey results showed that residents have high rates of **strong satisfaction with their local area.**

Residents 80+ years are standouts for higher rates of satisfaction & belonging



9 in 10
Residents 80+ years that mostly or completely agree that...

- Their life actions are worthwhile
- They feel a sense of belonging
- They are satisfied with life

Survey participants that were 80 years and over showed rates of strong satisfaction and belonging that were significantly higher than other age groups and the whole of GWS.

For younger residents, things are less straightforward



5 in 10
18-29 year old residents that mostly or completely agree that...

- They are satisfied with life
- They feel a sense of belonging
- They feel hope for the future
- The things they do in life are worthwhile

18-29 year olds showed the **lowest rates of strong feelings of hope, belonging, and satisfaction** in comparison to the other age groups and the whole of GWS.

Men are more satisfied with their lives than women

Residents that mostly or completely agree that they are **satisfied with their life**



6 in 10
• Female

7 in 10
• Male

\$150,000 or so extra a year might make a difference to feelings of satisfaction & hope

Residents that mostly or completely agree that...

Respondents with gross annual household incomes of \$208,000 and over showed higher rates of strong feelings of satisfaction and hope than other income groups. Those with household incomes between \$52-104,000 showed the opposite.

They are satisfied with life

- 8 in 10 - \$208,000+
- 5 in 10 - \$52-104,000

They have hope for the future

- 7 in 10 - \$208,000+
- 5 in 10 - \$52-104,000

Themes - Wellbeing priorities

Ranking of factors rated as “critical” or “very important” to respondents’ wellbeing

Greater Western Sydney rankings

- 1 Access to quality healthcare and support services
- 2 Feeling safe when at home, at school/work and in public places
- 3 Feeling financially secure
- 4 Access to stable housing
- 5 Access to good quality natural environments

Housing

“Access to stable housing” ranked #4 and reinforces that the housing crisis is not only being felt across Western Sydney, but also has a significant impact on the wellbeing of residents.



Natural environment



Access to good quality natural environments **ranks in the top five priorities of almost every demographic** group surveyed.

Safety

Feeling safe at home, at school/work and in public spaces was the #1 wellbeing priority for the following demographic groups:

- North West and South West Regions
- Females
- Those with secondary qualifications
- Those with gross annual household incomes of \$52-104,000 and \$105-156,000
- Age brackets: 30-39 years and 50-59 years

Health services



The provision of healthcare in GWS is undergoing significant investment, and rightly so, given the continuing population growth and health challenges of the region. It is also the industry that employs the most workers across Western Sydney

Access to quality healthcare and support services consistently ranks in the top five priorities for every demographic group surveyed.

Financial security



The ongoing cost-of-living crisis is being felt throughout GWS. Feeling financially secure appears in the top five priorities for every demographic group surveyed, and as the **#1 priority for the following groups:**

- Those with a gross annual household income of \$157-208,000
- 18-29 year olds

Identity & Satisfaction

The following section shows the **proportion of respondents which selected a 4 or 5 on the survey scale**, indicating that they were 'mostly' or 'completely' satisfied with, or feeling the extent of the question being asked at that time. This proportion is expressed as "X out of 10 residents".



Identity & Satisfaction - section background

Section methodology

This set of questions incorporated the approach developed by the UK Office of National Statistics. This was used to develop a set of **seven Western Sydney Wellbeing (WSW7) questions**, enabling participants to provide a 'point-in-time' assessment of their current "overall wellbeing".

Survey questions

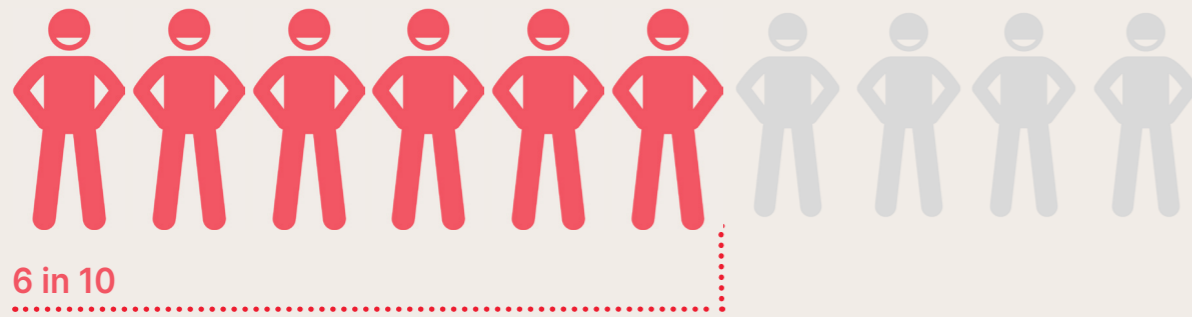
Thinking about your own life and personal circumstances, please answer the following questions on a scale from 1-5 where 1 = not at all and 5 = completely:

- How satisfied are you with the area you live in?
- How satisfied are you with your life?
- To what extent do you consider yourself to be from "Western Sydney"
- To what extent do you feel a sense of belonging (e.g. to place, family, friends)?
- To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future?
- To what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
- To what extent do you feel you have a better quality of life than your parents?

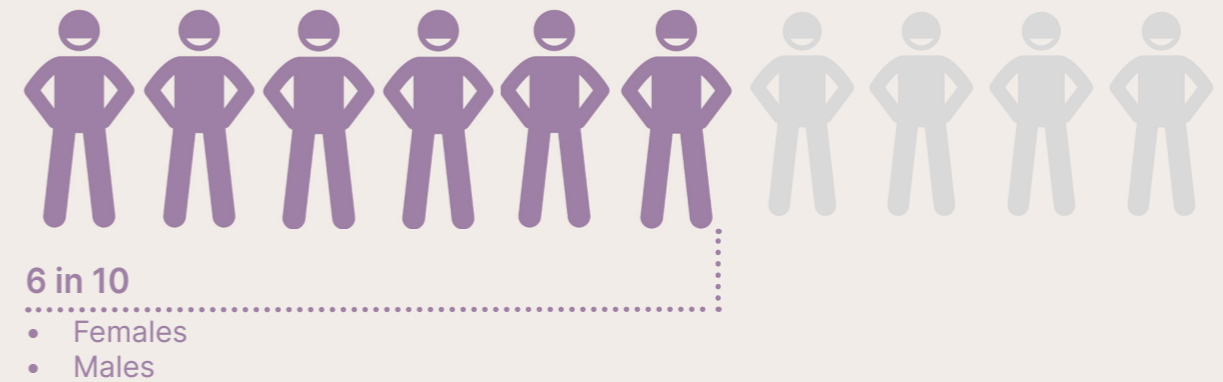
Being “from” Western Sydney

Residents that mostly or completely agree that they “consider themselves to be from Western Sydney”

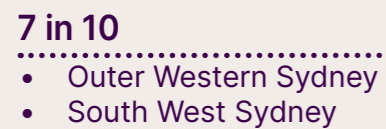
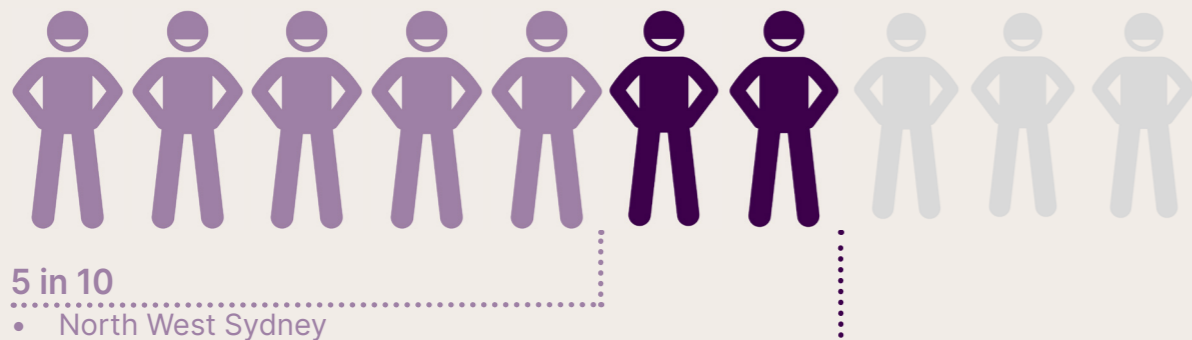
Greater Western Sydney



Sex



Regions of Greater Western Sydney



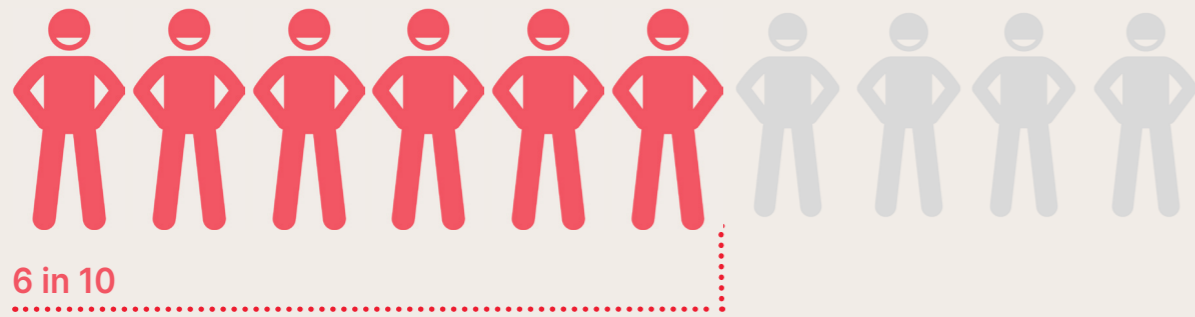
Neither sex nor household income appear to have a strong influence on whether residents feel as though they are strongly “from Western Sydney”.



Parental life comparison

Residents that mostly or completely agree that they feel that they have a "better quality of life than their parents"

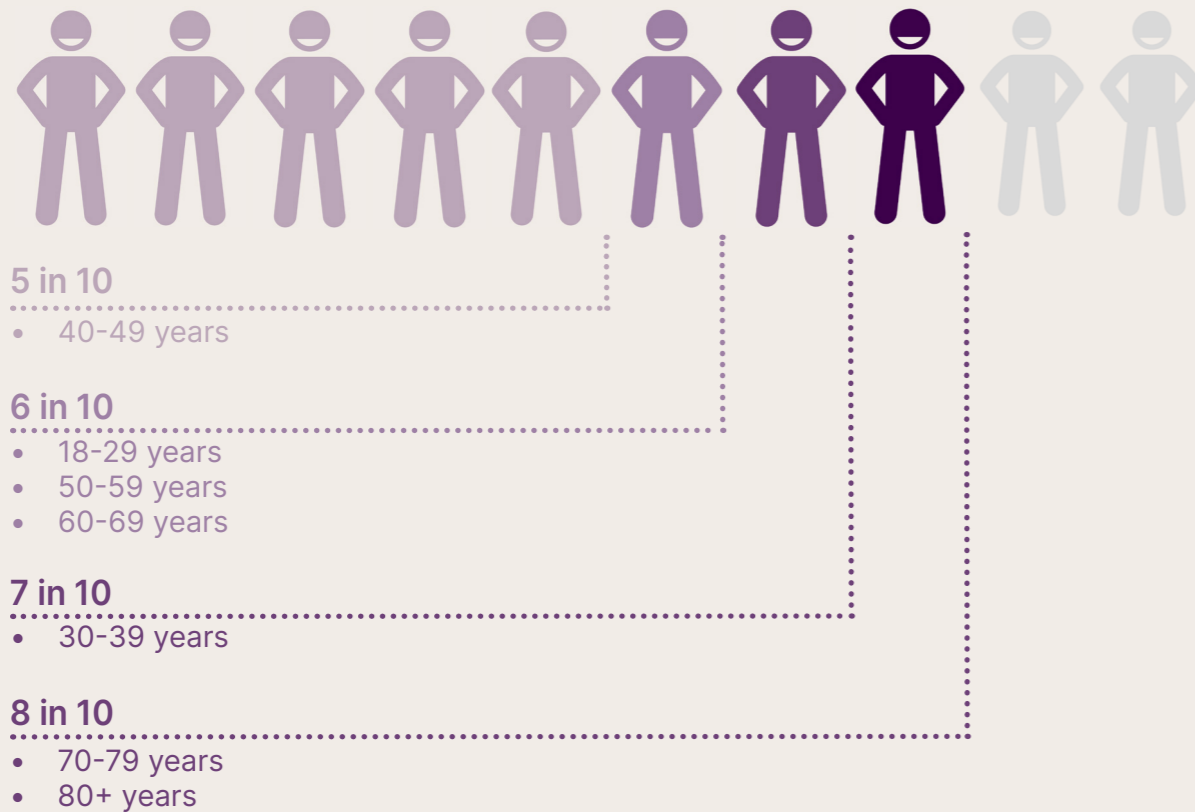
Greater Western Sydney



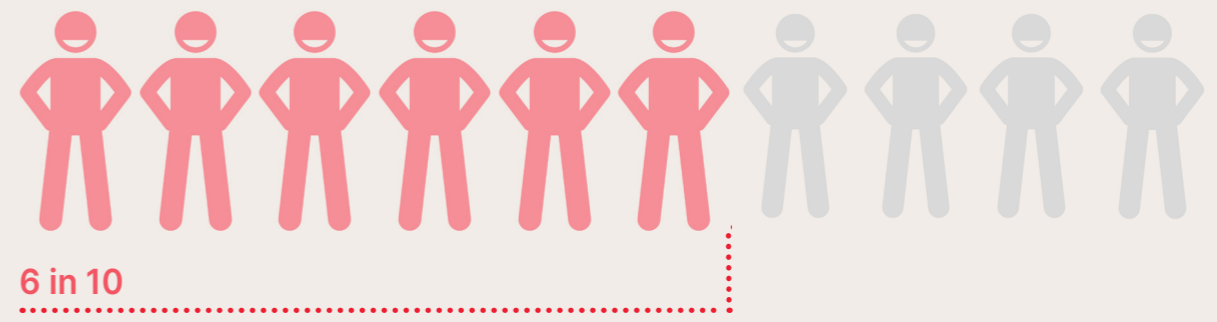
Age is the only collected demographic indicator that shows a difference in the rate of respondents strongly agreeing that they have a better quality of life than their parents.

Respondents that were 70 years and over more strongly agreed with the statement. These generational gaps could support theories of **increasing challenges in upward social mobility** for post-Baby Boomer generations.

Age group

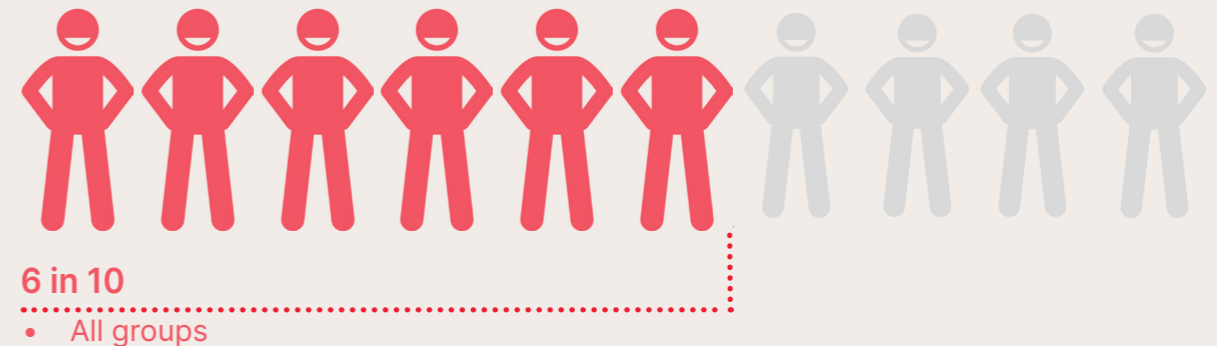


Highest qualification

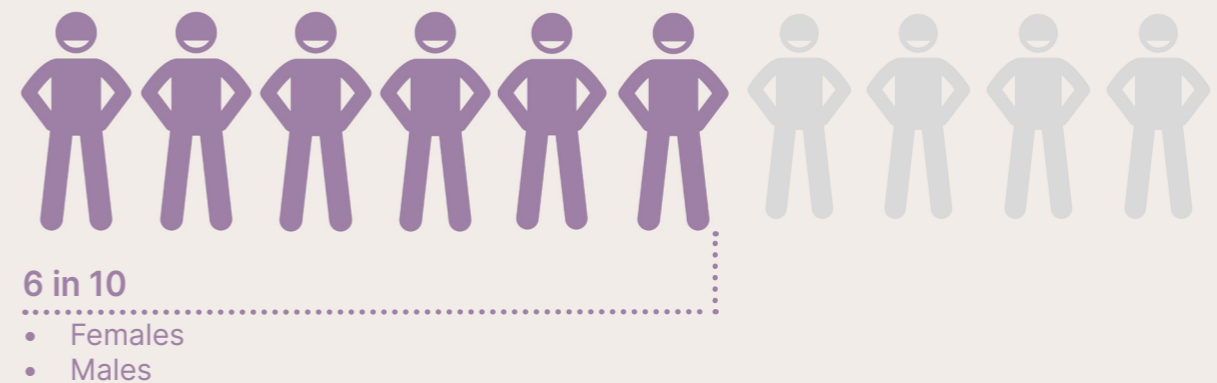


- Tertiary
- Vocational
- Secondary edu

Gross annual household income



Sex



Wellbeing priorities

The following section shows a series of lists where wellbeing priorities are **ranked based on the proportion of respondents** that indicated the topics were “critical” or “very important” to their wellbeing.



Wellbeing Priorities – section background

Section methodology

The Wellbeing Priorities section of the survey was **strongly influenced by the Australian Government’s Wellbeing Framework** which utilises five themes:

- Healthy
- Secure
- Sustainable
- Prosperous
- Cohesive

These themes formed part of its process in developing a series of 13 “Wellbeing Statements”.

Participants answered these “Wellbeing Statements” using the supplied scale. This enabled participants to identify which wellbeing factors they considered:

- critical,
- very important,
- important, or
- not important.

Survey questions

Please tell me how important each of these factors is to your wellbeing:

- Access to education and other opportunities to develop skills
- Access to good quality natural environments (e.g. clean air, clean water, green spaces)
- Access to infrastructure that supports my physical and mental health
- Access to quality healthcare and support services
- Access to recreational, creative, and cultural activities
- Access to secure, well-paid jobs
- Access to social connections/relationships (e.g. family, friends, communities etc.)
- Access to stable housing
- Feeling financially secure
- Feeling part of a diverse community
- Feeling safe when at home, at school/work and in public spaces (e.g. on the street, at a café, in the park)
- Feeling that I can trust institutions (e.g. governments, business, public services etc.)
- Feeling that the economy is strong, dynamic, and fair

Wellbeing priorities based on educational attainment & sex

Highest qualification

Secondary

- 1 Feeling safe
- 2 Access to health services
- 3 Feeling financially secure
- 4 Access to stable housing
- 5 Access to quality natural environment

Vocational

- 1 Access to health services
- 2 Feeling safe
- 3 Feeling financially secure
- 4 Access to quality natural environment
- 5 Feeling trust in institutions

Tertiary

- 1 Access to health services
- 2 Feeling safe
- 3 Feeling financially secure
- 4 Access to quality natural environment
- 5 Access to stable housing

Wellbeing topics that appeared in the top five of all age groups:

- Access to health services
- Feeling safe
- Feeling financially secure
- Access to quality natural environments

Points of interest:

- Residents with a **vocational qualification** are the only educational group to rank **"feeling trust in institutions"** in their top five priorities.

- **"Access to quality natural environments"** featured in the top five of all educational groups, which **wasn't the case when compared across age groups.**
- Tertiary qualified residents were the only education group that didn't rate **"access to stable housing"** in their top five.
- Secondary educated residents were the only group to rank **"feeling safe"** as their most important wellbeing factor.

Sex

Female

- 1 Feeling safe
- 2 Access to health services
- 3 Feeling financially secure
- 4 Access to stable housing
- =5 Access to quality natural environment
- =5 Health supporting infrastructure



- **"Feeling safe"** ranked more highly for females than males.
- **"Access to good quality natural environments"** ranked more highly for males than females.
- **"Health supporting infrastructure"** was only ranked in female residents' top five.

Male

- 1 Access to health services
- 2 Feeling safe
- 3 Feeling financially secure
- 4 Access to quality natural environment
- 5 Access to stable housing

Wellbeing priorities based on household income

Gross annual household income

\$0-52,000

- 1 Access to health services
- 2 Feeling safe
- =3 Access to quality natural environment
- =3 Feeling financially secure
- =5 Access to stable housing
- =5 Health supporting infrastructure

\$52-104,000

- 1 Feeling safe
- 2 Access to health services
- 3 Feeling financially secure
- 4 Access to stable housing
- 5 Access to quality natural environment

\$104-156,000

- 1 Feeling safe
- 2 Access to health services
- 3 Access to secure jobs
- =4 Access to stable housing
- =4 Feeling financially secure

\$157-208,000

- =1 Access to health services
- =1 Feeling safe
- =1 Feeling financially secure
- 4 Access to stable housing
- 5 Access to quality natural environment



\$208,000+

- 1 Access to health services
- =2 Feeling safe
- =2 Feeling financially secure
- 4 Access to quality natural environment
- 5 Access to education opportunities

Wellbeing topics that appeared in the top five of all age groups:

- Access to health services
- Feeling safe
- Feeling financially secure

Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue



ABOUT THE DIALOGUE

The Dialogue is a not-for-profit, community initiative leading a national conversation about Greater Western Sydney.

The Dialogue facilitates interaction between key opinion leaders, across industry, government, academia and the community, to inform public policy debate and to advance a Western Sydney regional agenda through research, analysis, advocacy & events.

If you would like to know about partnering with the Dialogue, please email info@westernsydney.org.au requesting our company credentials or an event sponsorship prospectus.



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ABOUT RPS

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We add value across the following sectors: Energy, Defence and government services, Transport, Property, Water, Resources.

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