

15.0 TRANSPORT

Respondents were asked a series of questions to determine the methods of transport they use and the level of difficulty, if any, they have getting around their local area and areas outside their local area. Following is an overview of the results from this section of the survey.

15.1 METHODS OF TRANSPORT USED IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS

Table 15.1 summarises the methods of transport that all respondents had used within the three months prior to the interview, with multiple methods obviously accepted. As shown, 83% had driven a car and 67% had travelled as a passenger in a car. Drivers were significantly more likely to be men and respondents aged 60 to 69 years. In contrast a significantly larger proportion of women were passengers. Respondents aged 60 to 64 years were significantly more likely to be a passenger in a car compared to respondents in the other age groups. Some 60% of all respondents reported walking as a method of travel they had used in the last three months. Men were significantly more likely to report they had walked around their local area in this time period.

Table 15.1 Used any of the following methods of Transport in last 3 Months?
(Question IQ1A)
(BASE: All Respondents)

	TOTAL N=800 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=400 %	Female N=400 %	60-64yrs N=201 %	65-69yrs N=202 %	70-75yrs N=196 %	75+yrs N=201 %
Car, as a driver	83	93	75	95	90	83	66
Car, as a passenger	67	61	73	74	66	62	66
Walking	60	64	56	63	63	61	52
Buses	32	33	32	31	30	39	29
Trains	26	30	23	26	32	28	20
Taxi	16	16	15	16	10	13	23
Bicycle	12	18	7	15	14	13	6
Ferry	5	6	4	8	4	4	3
Gophers	1	1	2	-	1	1	3
Motorcycle, as a driver	1	2	0	1	1	2	-
Wheelchair	1	0	1	-	1	0	1
Community help vehicle	0	-	1	-	-	0	1
Other	0	1	-	1	-	-	-
Motorcycle as a passenger	0	0	0	0	-	0	-

* Totals may not equal 100% due to multiple responses.

As outlined in Table 15.1, buses and trains were also commonly used forms of transport with a third (32%) and a quarter (26%) of respondents, respectively, reporting they had travelled these ways in the three months prior to the interview. Men were significantly more likely to have travelled on the train, while a significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 65 to 69 years had also used this method of travel. Other noteworthy significant differences included:

- Metropolitan respondents were significantly more likely to have used walking, buses, trains, taxis and the ferry to travel during the 3 months prior to the interview. In contrast, a significantly larger proportion of country respondents had travelled in a car as a passenger.
- Married respondents, those in defacto relationships and those who were divorced or separated were significantly more likely to have driven a car in the three months prior to the interview. Comparatively, widows were significantly more likely to travel by taxi.
- Respondents born in English speaking countries (including Australia) were significantly more likely to have travelled as a passenger in a car. In addition, a significantly larger proportion of those born in other English speaking countries and those born in non-English speaking countries indicated they had used the train (compared to Australian born respondents).
- Respondents who rated their health as “excellent” or “good” were significantly more likely to have driven or walked in the three months prior to the interview. Further, a significantly larger proportion of respondents with “excellent” physical health indicated they had used buses, trains or bicycles to travel.
- In the majority of cases respondents with at least “fair” mobility were significantly more likely to use the more common modes of transport, compared to those with “poor” mobility who were significantly more likely to have travelled by gopher or in a wheelchair.
- Respondents who had seen their family or friends in the last week were significantly more likely to have travelled by car, as either the driver or passenger, while those who had not seen them were more likely to use a gopher or a wheelchair.

15.2 BARRIERS TO RESPONDENTS GETTING AROUND THEIR LOCAL AREA

As summarised in Table 15.2, the majority (91%) of respondents perceived it was either “very” or “fairly” easy for them to get around their *local* area, while only 6% perceived it was to some degree difficult to travel around their *local* area. Seniors aged 60 to 74 years were significantly more likely to report it was “very easy”. A significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 75 years and over specified it was “fairly easy” for them to travel around their *local* area.

Table 15.2 How Easy / Difficult is it for you to get around your Local Area?
(Question IQ2)
(BASE: All Respondents)

	TOTAL	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
	N=800 %	Male N=400 %	Female N=400 %	60-64yrs N=201 %	65-69yrs N=202 %	70-75yrs N=196 %	75+yrs N=201 %
Very easy	61	64	58	69	67	60	48
Fairly easy	30	30	30	25	26	30	39
Neither easy nor difficult	2	2	3	2	2	3	3
Fairly difficult	4	3	5	3	4	5	4
Very difficult	3	1	4	0	1	3	5
Don't know/haven't thought about it	0	-	0	-	-	-	1
Total*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Net Easy	91	94	88	95	93	89	87
Net Difficult**	6	4	9	3	5	8	9

* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

** NET results are the sum of the exact results (i.e. to decimal place) and therefore do not necessarily equal the sum of the two whole numbers.

Other sub-groups who were significantly more likely to report it was “very easy” to travel around their *local* area included:

- those earning \$800 or more *net* per fortnight
- married respondents or those in a defacto relationship
- respondents living with one other person (compared to those living alone)
- those born in other English speaking countries (compared to those born in non-English speaking countries)
- respondents who rated their current happiness as “very happy”
- those with “excellent” health
- respondents with *at least* “fair” mobility and
- those who did paid and/or unpaid work.

Table 15.3 summarised the reasons why the 47 respondents found it difficult to travel around their *local* area. The most common barrier to travelling easily around their *local* area was poor health or mobility, with 61% of respondents mentioning “I’m sick/ill health/disabled/lack mobility”. These respondents appeared to be more likely to be female and older seniors; however, small sample sizes are involved.

In addition, a quarter (24%) specified that there was “poor public transport service” in their *local* area, 16% indicated to was “too far to local facilities” and 8% specified that it was a “hilly neighbourhood”. In addition, poor facilities in the *local* area impacted on approximately 8% respondents who had difficulty getting around their *local* area. That is, 4% mentioned the “footpaths [are] in need of repair”, 2% indicated there was “no wheelchair access” and another 2% specified there was “inadequate parking”.

Table 15.3 Reasons Difficult to get around Local Area
(Question IQ3)
(BASE: Those who found it difficult to get around their Local Area)

	TOTAL** N=47 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=13 %	Female N=34 %	60-64yrs N=5 %	65-69yrs N=10 %	70-75yrs N=14 %	75+yrs N=18 %
I'm sick/ill health/disabled/lack mobility	61	43	67	32	54	50	82
Poor public transport service	24	19	26	18	40	28	16
Too far to local facilities, e.g. shops, bus stops etc	16	24	13	54	11	14	7
Hilly neighbourhood	8	7	9	14	17	6	4
I can't/don't drive	5	8	4	-	12	-	7
Footpaths in need of repair	4	-	6	-	-	14	-
Traffic too busy	3	-	4	-	-	8	-
No wheelchair access	2	8	-	-	12	-	-
Inadequate parking	2	7	-	-	-	6	-
Other	9	6	9	-	-	22	4

**Note, small sub-sample, results should be viewed as indicative.

* Totals may not equal 100% due to multiple responses.

15.3 BARRIERS TO RESPONDENTS GETTING TO PLACES OUTSIDE OF THEIR LOCAL AREA

At this stage respondents were asked to “consider **all the other places** you need to go to, **outside your local area**, by car or other transport such as by train, taxi, walking etc” and then rate how easy or difficult it is for them to get to places they need to go. As shown in Table 15.4 below, 85% of respondents indicated it was either “very” or “fairly” easy for them to travel to places *outside* their local area. However, 10% of respondents found it difficult, to some degree, to get to places they need to go that are *outside* of their local area.

Men and respondents aged 60 to 74 years were significantly more likely to indicate that it was “very easy” for them to travel to places *outside* of their local area. In contrast, women and respondents aged 75 years and over were significantly more likely to specify that it was “very difficult” to get to places *outside* of their local area.

Table 15.4 How Easy / Difficult is it for you to get to places Outside Local Area?
(Question IQ4)
(BASE: All Respondents)

	TOTAL L N=800 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=400 %	Female N=400 %	60-64yrs N=201 %	65-69yrs N=202 %	70-75yrs N=196 %	75+yrs N=201 %
Very easy	44	47	41	49	53	45	32
Fairly easy	41	44	38	37	38	44	45
Neither easy nor difficult	3	2	3	1	3	1	6
Fairly difficult	7	4	10	9	3	6	10
Very difficult	3	1	5	0	3	4	6
Don't know/haven't thought about it	2	2	2	4	1	2	2
Total*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Net Easy	85	92	79	86	91	88	77
Net Difficult	10	4	15	9	6	9	15

* Totals do not equal 100% due rounding.

Other sub-groups who were significantly more likely to report it was “very easy” to get to places *outside* of their local area included:

- those earning \$800 or more *net* per fortnight
- married respondents or those in a defacto relationship
- respondents living with one other person (compared to those living alone)
- those born in English speaking countries (including Australia)
- respondents who rated their current happiness as “very happy”
- those with “excellent” or “good” health
- respondents with *at least* “fair” mobility and
- those who did paid work or both paid and unpaid work.

Table 15.5 outlines the reasons why respondents found it difficult to travel to places *outside* of their local area. Once again, poor health or mobility appears as the most common barrier, with 38% mentioning that they are “not mobile” or “I am sick”. It appears that this reason was more likely to be mentioned by seniors aged 75 years and over.

In addition, 30% of respondents mentioned that “inadequate public transport” was a reason why they could not get to places *outside* their local area and 2% mentioned indicated that the “public transport [is] hard to use”. “Driving issues” were mentioned by 12% of respondents and 3% mentioned “parking issues”.

Table 15.5 Reasons Difficult to get around Outside Local Area (Question IQ5)
(BASE: Those who found it difficult to get to places outside their Local Area)

	TOTAL N=75 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=17 %	Female N=58 %	60-64yrs N=17 %	65-69yrs N=12 %	70-75yrs N=18 %	75+yrs N=28 %
Not mobile/I am sick	38	32	39	16	46	26	56
Inadequate public transport/too far from home	30	48	25	42	25	39	18
Driving issues	12	5	14	17	7	12	11
Frightened to go out/not safe to go out	6	5	6	-	-	7	11
No-one to go out with	5	-	6	-	-	7	8
Distance issues	5	15	3	12	9	5	-
Have to rely on others	4	-	4	6	7	5	-
No need to go out/nowhere to go	3	-	4	-	-	-	8
Don't like to go out	3	-	4	-	-	-	8
Parking issues	3	-	4	6	-	7	-
Public transport hard to use	2	-	3	5	7	-	-
Other	8	-	10	6	7	9	8

* Totals may not equal 100% due to multiple responses.

Although only a small proportion of respondents, as evident in Table 15.5, other reasons why seniors found it difficult to go *outside* their local area related to social barriers (5% specified they had “no-one to go out with” and 4% indicated they had to “rely on others”) and personal attitude (6% specified they were “frightened to go out” and 3% mentioned they had no need to go out/nowhere to go”). The small sample size means that there are no statistically significant sub-group differences.

16.0 PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

Within the following section results are summarised in relation to the four different situations in which all respondents were asked to rate how safe they felt. Firstly, respondents were asked how safe they feel at home alone during the day and then after dark. Secondly, respondents were asked how safe they feel going out in the day and then after dark.

16.1 SAFETY WHILE AT HOME ALONE

As summarised in Table 16.1 below, the majority (92%) of respondents felt either “very” or “fairly” safe at home alone during the day. A significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 70 to 74 years felt “fairly safe” in this situation. Only 2% of respondents felt unsafe to some degree, while another 2% indicated the question was not relevant as they were “never home alone during the day”.

Table 16.1 How Safe / Unsafe Feel at Home Alone During the Day?
(Question JQ1)
(BASE: All Respondents)

	TOTAL N=800 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=400 %	Female N=400 %	60-64yrs N=201 %	65-69yrs N=202 %	70-75yrs N=196 %	75+yrs N=201 %
Very safe	56	60	53	59	60	52	55
Fairly safe	36	33	38	33	30	44	37
Neither safe nor unsafe	2	1	2	2	4	1	1
Fairly unsafe	2	2	2	3	2	1	2
Very unsafe	1	1	0	0	2	0	-
Never home alone during the day	2	2	3	3	2	2	2
Don't think about it	1	1	1	-	0	1	3
Don't know	0	-	0	-	-	-	1
Total*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Net Safe	92	93	92	92	90	95	92
Net Unsafe	2	3	2	4	3	2	2

* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

The following sub-groups were significantly more likely to indicate they felt “very safe” at home alone during the day:

- country respondents
- those who were “very” happy in their current life stage
- respondents with “excellent” health and mobility and
- those who did both paid and unpaid work.

In relation to feeling safe at home alone after dark, 85% of respondents indicated they felt either “very” or “fairly” safe and 7% felt “unsafe” to some degree. As evident from Table 16.2 below, a significantly larger proportion of women and those aged 65 to 69 years felt “fairly unsafe” after dark when they were at home alone.

Table 16.2 How Safe / Unsafe Feel at Home Alone After Dark?
(Question JQ2)
(BASE: All Respondents)

	TOTAL N=800 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=400 %	Female N=400 %	60-64yrs N=201 %	65-69yrs N=202 %	70-75yrs N=196 %	75+yrs N=201 %
Very safe	45	50	41	46	47	43	45
Fairly safe	39	40	38	39	37	43	39
Neither safe nor unsafe	4	3	4	4	4	4	3
Fairly unsafe	5	2	8	6	8	5	2
Very unsafe	2	1	2	3	2	1	1
Never home alone after dark	4	2	6	2	3	4	6
Don't think about it	1	1	1	0	-	-	4
Don't know	0	-	0	-	-	-	1
Total*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Net Safe	85	91	79	85	84	86	83
Net Unsafe	7	3	9	9	9	6	3

* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

In contrast sub-groups who were significantly more likely feel “safe” (as based on the “net safe” result) at home alone after dark included:

- men
- respondents who did voluntary work or both paid and unpaid work and
- those who had other types of contact with family or friends in the last week.

Other significantly sub-group differences included:

- Country respondents were significantly more likely to feel “very safe” after dark when at home alone, while metro respondents were significantly more likely to indicate they were “fairly safe” in this situation.
- A significantly larger proportion of those earning more than \$400 *net* per fortnight specified that they felt “very safe” at home alone after dark.
- Those who were “very happy” in their current life stage were significantly more likely to report they felt “very safe” in this situation.

16.2 SAFETY WHEN GOING OUT

As summarised in Table 16.3, the majority (94%) of respondents felt either “very” or “fairly” safe going out during the day time. In contrast, only 2% of respondents indicated they felt “unsafe”, to some degree, in this situation and these respondents were significantly more likely to be those aged 65 to 69 years. A significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 70 to 74 years felt safe going out during the day.

Table 16.3 How Safe / Unsafe Feel Going Out During Day?
(Question JQ3)
(BASE: All Respondents)

	TOTAL N=800 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=400 %	Female N=400 %	60-64yrs N=201 %	65-69yrs N=202 %	70-75yrs N=196 %	75+yrs N=201 %
Very safe	58	61	55	62	59	55	55
Fairly safe	36	35	37	34	33	41	37
Neither safe nor unsafe	1	1	1	2	2	-	1
Fairly unsafe	2	1	2	1	3	1	2
Very unsafe	1	1	1	-	2	1	1
Never home alone after dark	1	0	2	-	-	1	3
Don't think about it	1	1	1	0	1	1	2
Don't know	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
Total*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Net Safe	94	95	93	96	92	96	91
Net Unsafe	2	2	3	1	5	1	3

* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

The following sub-groups were significantly more likely to indicate they felt “very safe” going out during the day:

- country respondents
- those who were earning more than \$400 *net* per fortnight
- respondents who were divorced or separated (compared to widows)
- those born in English speaking countries (including Australia)
- those who were “very” or “fairly” happy in their current life stage
- respondents with “excellent” or “good” health and mobility and
- those who did paid and/or unpaid work.

As presented in Table 16.4 below, half (51%) of the respondents felt either “very” or “fairly” safe going out after dark, while one fifth (20%) felt unsafe. Men were significantly more likely to feel safe in this situation, as were those aged 60 to 74 years. In addition 22% of all respondents specified they would “never go out after dark”. A significantly larger proportion of women and those aged 70 years and over indicated they “never go out after dark”.

Table 16.4 How Safe / Unsafe Feel Going Out After Dark?
(Question JQ4)
(BASE: All Respondents)

	TOTAL N=800 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=400 %	Female N=400 %	60-64yrs N=201 %	65-69yrs N=202 %	70-75yrs N=196 %	75+yrs N=201 %
Very safe	21	27	16	25	27	16	17
Fairly safe	30	37	24	37	28	34	19
Neither safe nor unsafe	7	9	5	10	7	5	5
Fairly unsafe	14	13	15	15	17	14	10
Very unsafe	6	3	8	4	8	5	6
Never going out after dark	22	10	32	8	12	26	41
Don't think about it	1	1	0	1	-	-	1
Don't know	0	0	-	0	0	-	-
Total*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Net Safe	51	64	50	62	55	51	36
Net Unsafe	20	15	23	19	25	19	16

* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Other significantly sub-group differences included:

- Country respondents were significantly more likely to feel “very safe” going out after dark.
- A significantly larger proportion of divorced respondents, compared to widows, indicated they felt “very safe” going out after dark. However, compared to married/defacto respondents, widows and divorced respondents were significantly more likely to feel “very unsafe” going out after dark.
- Respondents born in English speaking countries were significantly more likely to feel “very safe” going out after dark.

- A significantly larger proportion of respondents who were “fairly neutral” about their current life stage indicated they “never go out after dark”, when compared to those who were “fairly happy” in their current stage of life.
- Respondents with “excellent” or “good” health were significantly more likely to feel “very safe” going out after dark.
- In contrast, those with “poor” health were significantly more likely to feel “very unsafe” in this situation or to report that they “never go out after dark”.
- A significantly larger proportion of respondents with “excellent” mobility indicated they felt “very safe” going out after dark.
- Comparatively, those with “fair” or “poor” mobility were significantly more likely to specify that they “never go out after dark”.

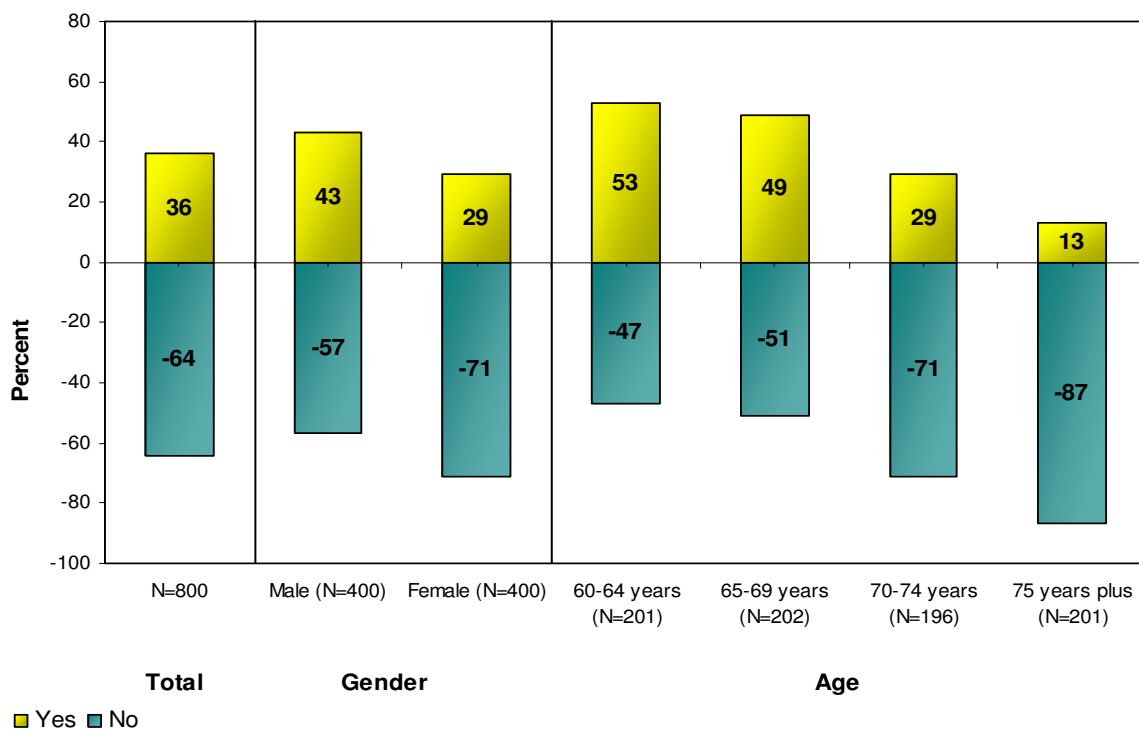
17.0 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Prior to all respondents being asked a series of questions about their use of the Internet they were informed that the Internet meant “*use of email or the World Wide Web on a computer*”.

17.1 USE OF THE INTERNET

As summarised in Figure 17.1, 36% of all respondents had used the Internet before and they were significantly more likely to be men and those aged 60 to 74 years.

Figure 17.1 Ever used the Internet?
(Question KQ1A)
(BASE: All Respondents)



Other sub-groups who were significantly more likely to have used the Internet before included:

- metropolitan respondents
- those who were married or in a defacto relationship and those who were divorced or separated
- respondents *not* living alone
- those who were either “fairly” or “very” happy in their current life stage
- those with “good” or “excellent” health and mobility and
- respondents in paid and/or unpaid work.

Of the 302 respondents who had used the Internet before 6% had not used it in the last 12 months. A significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 70 to 74 years who had used the Internet previously reported that they had not used it in the last 12 months.

However, as summarised in Table 17.1, 39% had used it “once a week” during the 12 months prior to the interview. These respondents were significantly more likely to be women. Further, 36% had used the Internet “more than once a week” and these respondents were significantly more likely to be men.

Table 17.1 How often used Internet in last 12 Months?
(Question KQ1B)
(BASE: Ever used the Internet (yes))

	TOTAL N=302 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=178 %	Female N=124 %	60-64yrs N=113 %	65-69yrs N=100 %	70-75yrs N=60 %	75+yrs N=29 %
Once a week	39	32	49	43	38	38	30
Once a fortnight	5	5	4	5	2	7	8
Once a month	4	3	5	3	6	2	3
Less than once a month	10	7	13	10	10	5	14
Not at all	6	5	7	5	2	10	12
Don't know / can't remember	1	0	1	-	2	-	-
More than once a week	36	48	22	35	39	38	32
Total*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Other significant sub-group differences of interest included:

- Significantly larger proportions of respondents living alone reported they had used the Internet “less than once a month” or “not at all” in the last 12 months.
- Respondents born in Australia were significantly more likely to use the Internet “more than once a week”, compared to those born in other English speaking countries. In contrast those born in other English speaking countries were significantly more likely to use the Internet “less than once a month”.

Respondents who had used the Internet during the 12 months prior to the interview (N=284) were asked where they use the Internet. As summarised in Table 17.2, the majority reported using the Internet “at home”, with men being significantly more likely to indicate this.

Other common places where respondents had used the Internet included “work” (9%), “at friend’s/family’s” home (6%) and “at the library” (4%). Younger seniors (aged 60 to 64 years) were significantly more likely to have used the Internet at “work” in the 12 months prior to the interview.

Table 17.2 Where use the Internet?
(Question KQ1C)
(BASE: Used the Internet in the last 12 months)

	TOTAL N=284 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=168 %	Female N=116 %	60-64yrs N=107 %	65-69yrs N=98 %	70-75yrs N=54 %	75+yrs N=25 %
At home	90	94	84	85	92	94	91
Work	9	11	8	22	1	-	4
At friend’s or family	6	3	9	9	4	2	4
At the library	4	3	5	2	5	7	-
At computer/Internet course location	2	2	2	2	2	-	5
Internet café	1	2	-	2	2	-	-
Community centre/Seniors centre	1	-	2	1	2	-	-
Telecentre	1	-	1	-	1	2	-
Other	1	1	-	-	2	-	-

* Totals may not equal 100% due to multiple responses.

Other significant sub-group differences of interest included:

- Country respondents were significantly more likely to have used the Internet at a “community centre/seniors centre” or a “telecentre”.
- Those earning more than \$400 *net* per fortnight were significantly more likely to have used the Internet at “work”.
- A significantly larger proportion of respondents with “excellent” health had used the Internet at “work”, compared to those who had “fair” health.

The two most common reasons why respondents used the Internet were for “communication with family and friends” (68%) and “searching the World Wide Web” (63%). As shown in Table 17.3 below, a significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 70 years and over indicated they used the Internet for “searching the World Wide Web”.

One-fifth (22%) of respondents used the Internet for “online services” and 16% reported using it for “work or business purposes”. Younger seniors (60 to 64 years) were significantly more likely to use the Internet for “work or business purposes”.

Table 17.3 Main Reasons for using the Internet?
(Question KQ2)
(BASE: Used the Internet in the last 12 months)

	TOTAL N=284 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=168 %	Female N=116 %	60-64yrs N=107 %	65-69yrs N=98 %	70-75yrs N=54 %	75+yrs N=25 %
Communication with family and friends	68	68	69	69	66	74	64
Searching the World Wide Web	63	62	64	58	59	73	77
Online services	22	24	20	24	23	16	23
Work/Business purposes	16	18	12	28	6	10	4
Learning	2	2	2	3	1	2	4
On behalf of/for voluntary charitable organisation	1	1	1	-	1	2	4
Recreational	1	1	1	-	3	2	-
Pay bills/make travel arrangements	1	1	1	2	-	-	-
Other	0	1	-	-	1	-	-

* Totals may not equal 100% due to multiple responses.

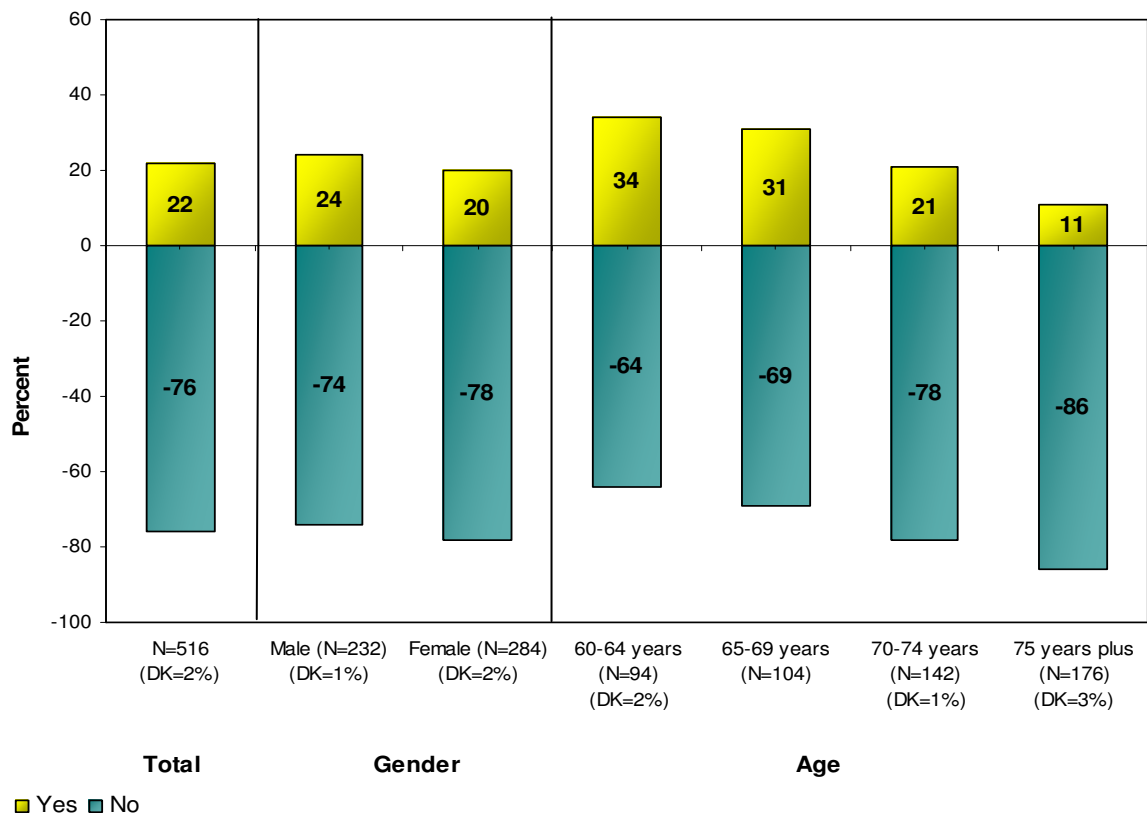
Other significant sub-group differences of interest included:

- Country respondents were significantly more likely to have used the Internet “on behalf of/for voluntary charitable organisation” or for “recreational” reasons.
- Respondents earning more than \$800 *net* per fortnight were significantly more likely to have used the Internet for “work or business” purposes.
- Not surprisingly, respondents in paid work or both paid and unpaid work were significantly more likely to have used the Internet for “work or business” purposes.

17.2 BARRIERS TO USING THE INTERNET

As shown in Figure 17.2, 22% of respondents who had *not* used the Internet were interested in using it. This equates to 114 respondents and they were significantly more likely to be aged 60 to 74 years.

Figure 17.2 Would you like to use the Internet?
(Question KQ3A)
(BASE: Never used the Internet or have not used in last 12 months)



*Note: DK = Don't know / haven't thought about it.

Other respondents who were significantly more likely to be interested in using the Internet, but had not used the Internet at all, were:

- married/defacto respondents or those divorced/separated
- those living in households with more than two people (compared to those living alone)
- respondents who were “fairly neutral” in their current life stage and
- those with “excellent” or “good” mobility.

Table 17.4 summarises the reasons that prevent respondents who are interested in using the Internet from actually using it. As shown, the most common barriers were a lack of knowledge of “how to use a computer” (46%) and not having “access to a computer”. A significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 60 to 64 years indicated “don’t have access to a computer” as the reason they had not used the Internet, even though they were interested in doing so.

Table 17.4 Reasons don’t use the Internet?
(Question KQ3B)
(BASE: Those who have not used but would like to use the Internet)

	TOTAL	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
	N=114 %	Male N=54 %	Female N=60 %	60-64yrs N=31 %	65-69yrs N=33 %	70-75yrs N=30 %	75+yrs N=20 %
Don’t know how to use a computer	46	51	43	60	32	42	49
Don’t have access to a computer	34	35	33	52	29	24	25
Too costly	15	12	18	5	22	19	17
No need to use it at present	10	11	9	14	6	8	10
Too busy	5	8	2	5	5	3	6
Hard to learn/use	3	-	6	-	3	9	-
Just learning	2	2	2	-	-	3	6
Husband wont allow	2	-	4	-	3	-	6
Not connected to Net	2	-	3	-	3	4	-
Health reasons/poor vision	1	-	1	-	-	-	4
Scared of computers	1	-	2	-	-	-	6
Lack of motivation	1	3	-	-	5	-	-
Other	2	3	2	3	3	-	5
Don’t know/haven’t thought about it	3	5	2	3	3	3	4

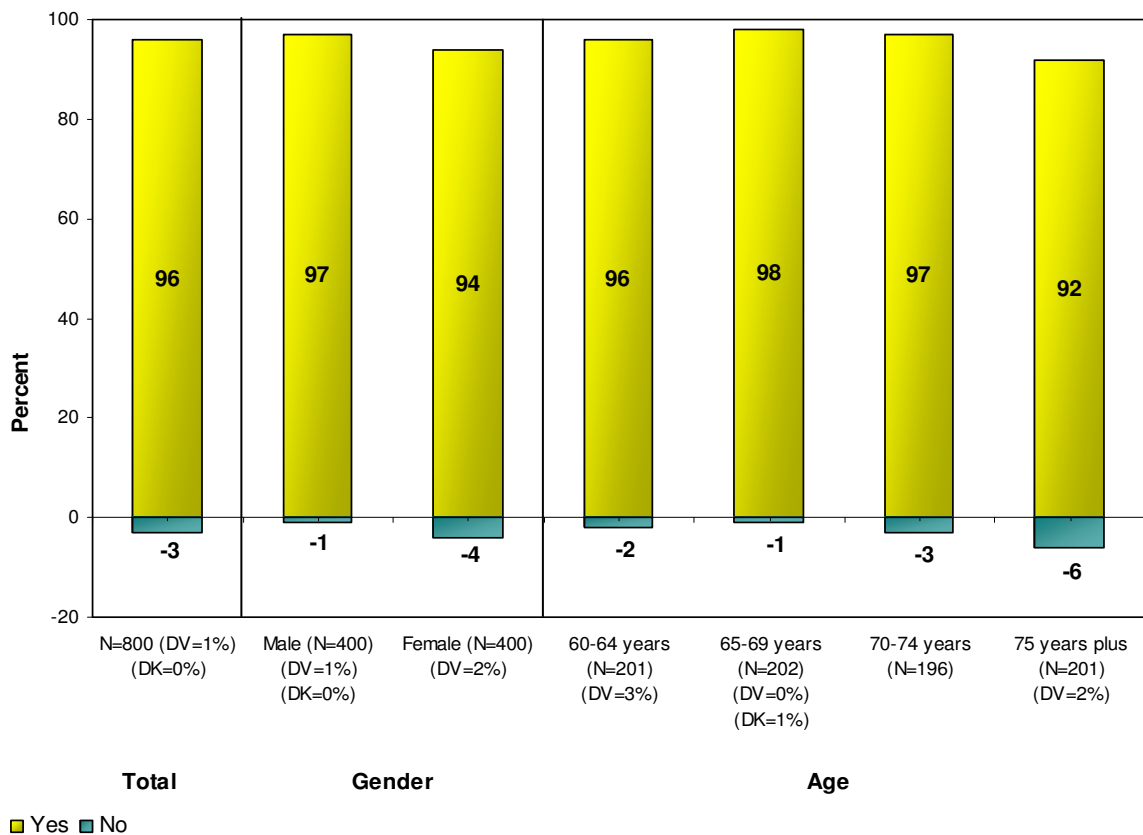
* Totals may not equal 100% due to multiple responses.

Other common reasons why respondents had not used the Internet included the perception that it is “too costly” (15%) and that they had “no need to use it at present” (10%). Women and older respondents appeared to be more likely to indicate the Internet is “too costly”, while a larger proportion of younger respondents indicated they have “no need to use it at present”; however these are *not* significant differences. In fact the only other significant difference found was that respondents earning \$400 to \$800 *net* per fortnight were more likely to indicate they don’t have access to the computer, while those earning less than \$400 were more likely to specify it is “too costly” to use the Internet.

18.0 VOTING METHODS

As presented in Figure 18.1, almost all (96%) respondents voted at a polling place in State Elections. Men were significantly more likely to vote at a polling place than women. In addition, respondents aged 75 years and over were significantly more likely *not* to vote at a polling place, when compared to those aged 65 to 69 years.

Figure 18.1 Vote at a polling place in State Elections?
(Question LQ1)
(BASE: All Respondents)



*Note: DV = Don't vote, DK= Don't know / unsure / can't remember.

Other sub-groups who were significantly more likely to vote at a polling place were:

- married/defacto respondents (compared to those widows)
- those living with one other person and
- respondents with “good” health or “excellent/good” mobility.

Table 18.1 summarises respondents' preference for polling versus postal vote if they had a choice between always using a polling place *or* always being sent a postal vote. Two-thirds (65%) indicated their preference was to use the polling place always, while a quarter (24%) preferred a postal vote. The only significant difference in terms of gender and age was that men were more likely to have “no preference” than women were.

Table 18.1 Preference for Polling or Posting?
(Question LQ2)
(BASE: All Respondents)

	TOTAL	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
	N=800 %	Male N=400 %	Female N=400 %	60-64yrs N=201 %	65-69yrs N=202 %	70-75yrs N=196 %	75+yrs N=201 %
Polling place	65	67	63	65	66	65	63
Postal vote	24	22	26	21	23	25	27
Neither	4	5	4	4	6	5	4
Don't know / unsure	4	3	5	6	3	3	3
Still wouldn't vote	2	1	2	3	1	1	1
Other	1	1	0	2	1	-	0
No preference / either	1	2	0	-	1	1	1
Total*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Other significant sub-group differences were:

- Australian born respondents were significantly more likely to prefer voting at a polling place. This was compared to those born in other English speaking countries, who were significantly more likely to prefer postal voting.
- Respondents who rated their health as “excellent” or “good” were significantly more likely to prefer voting at a polling place.
- Significantly larger proportions of respondents who had “excellent”, “good” or “poor” mobility indicated they preferred to vote at a polling place. In contrast, respondents with “poor” mobility were significantly more likely to prefer to vote via a postal vote.