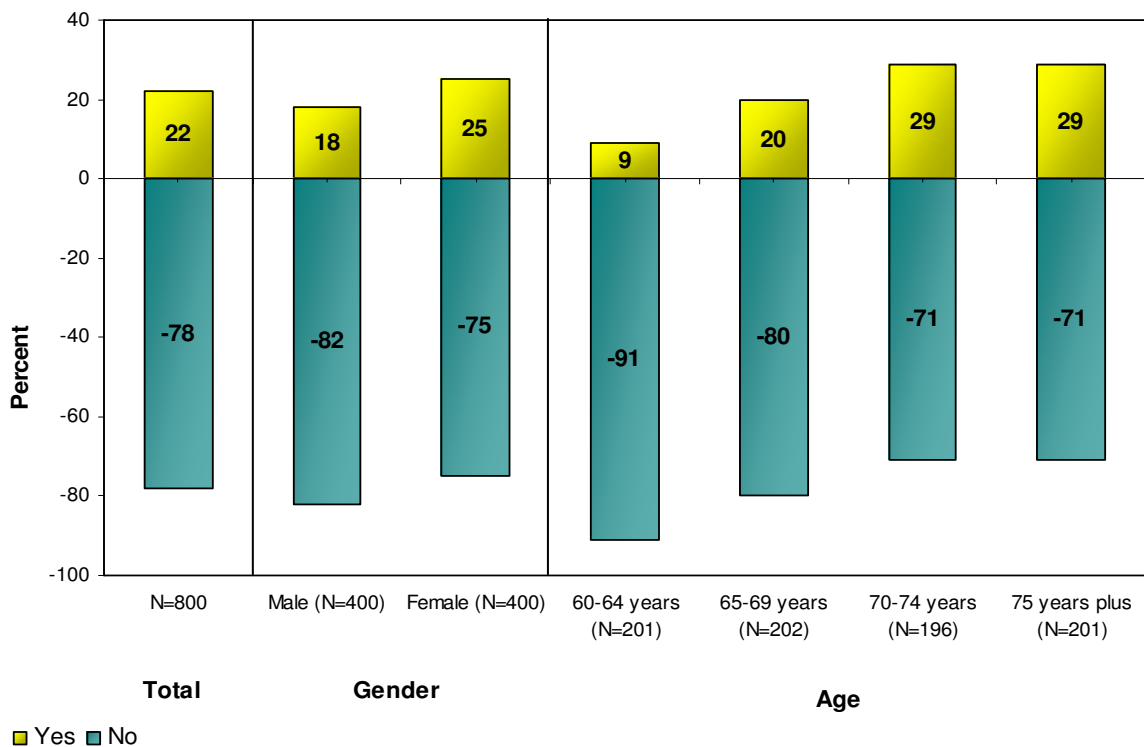


## 19.0 USE OF SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRES

One-fifth (22%) of respondents had used a Senior Citizens Centre during the 12 months prior to the interview. Users of these Centres were significantly more likely to be women and those aged 65 years and over.

**Figure 19.1 Used a Senior Citizens Centre in past 12 months?**  
(Question NQ9A)  
(BASE: All Respondents)

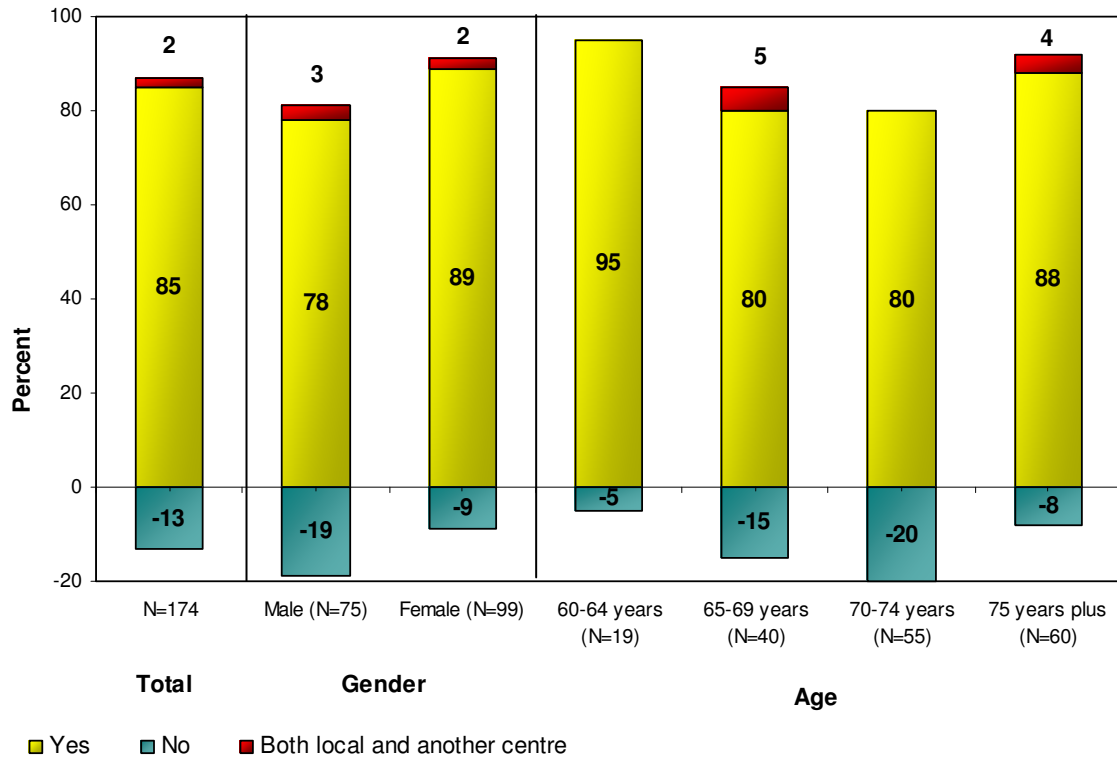


Other sub-groups who were significantly more likely to have used a Senior Citizens Centre were:

- those earning less than \$800 *net* per fortnight
- widowed respondents
- those living alone
- respondents with “fair” mobility (compared to those with “excellent” mobility) and
- those who did voluntary work only or neither paid nor unpaid work.

As summarised in Figure 19.2, women were significantly more likely to have used their local Senior Citizens Centre.

**Figure 19.2 Was it your local centre?**  
 (Question NQ9B)  
 (BASE: Yes, have used a Senior Citizens Centre in past 12 months)



The only other significant difference found was that respondents from the metropolitan area were more likely to *not* use their local Senior Citizens Centre.

## 19.1 BARRIERS TO USING THE LOCAL SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

As shown in Table 19.1, the most common reasons why respondents had not used their local Senior Citizens Centre was because they had “no interest in it” (33%) or simply “don’t like the local one” (29%) and therefore use another Centre. However, another 15% mentioned they “don’t know where it is” and these respondents were more likely to be women. Some 10% of all respondents who had not used their local Centre mentioned that “people aren’t in my age group” and these respondents were all aged 70 years and over.

**Table 19.1 Reasons haven’t used local Senior Citizens Centre?**  
(Question NQ9C)  
(BASE: Not used local Senior Citizens Centre)

	TOTAL** N=24 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=15 %	Female N=9 %	60-64yrs N=1 %	65-69yrs N=6 %	70-75yrs N=11 %	75+yrs N=6 %
I have no interest in it	33	33	32	100	18	34	33
Don’t like local one (prefer other centres)/Use another	29	33	23	-	18	34	33
Don’t know where it is	15	6	27	-	15	23	-
People aren’t in my age group	10	7	13	-	-	19	-
There isn’t one	8	8	9	-	18	9	-
Inadequate facilities/courses	8	-	18	-	18	-	17
Other	4	8	-	-	-	9	-
Moved address (but not recent, meet all my friends at other centre used)	4	7	-	-	-	-	17
Recently moved address	3	6	-	-	15	-	-
Too far to travel/I can’t get to the venue	3	6	-	-	15	-	-

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

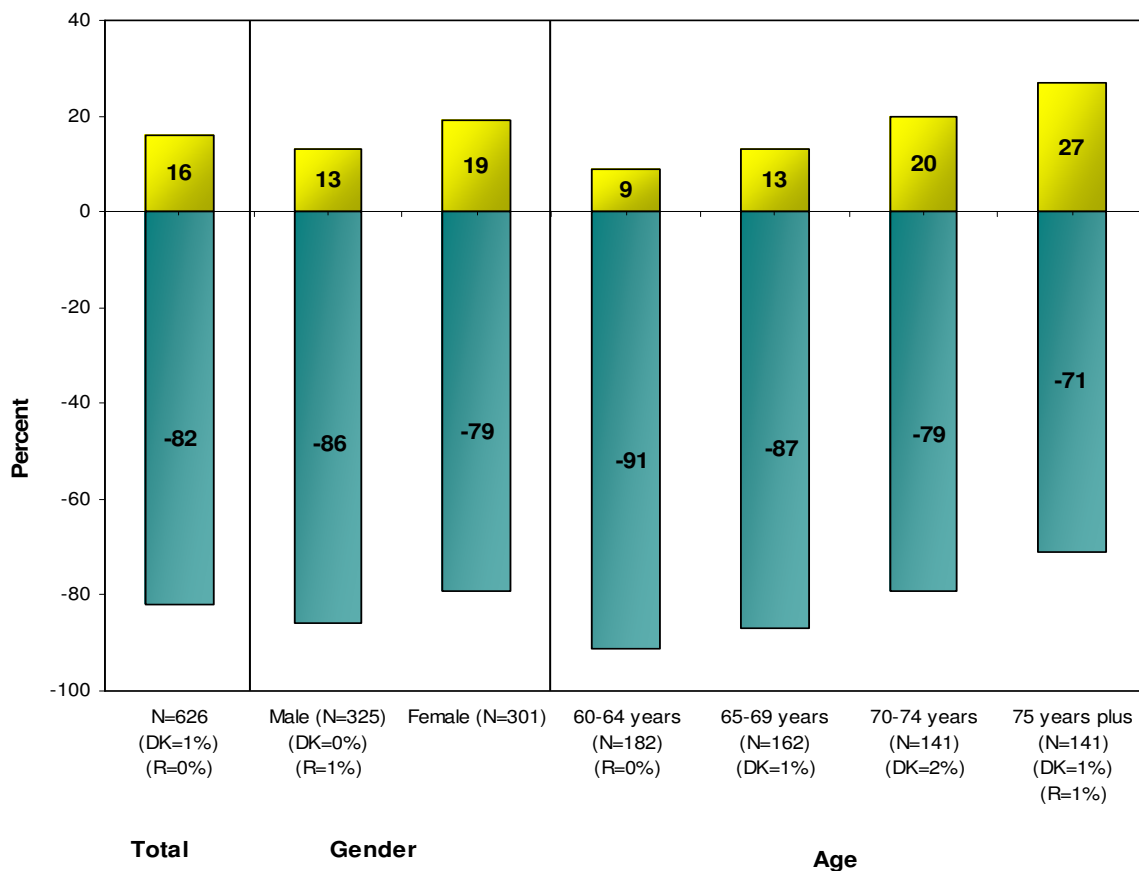
\* Totals may not equal 100% due to multiple responses.

Two other common issues related to a lack of facilities. Specifically, 8% mentioned there was no local Senior Citizens Centre at all, while another 8% specified the local centre had “inadequate facilities/courses”.

## 19.2 BARRIERS TO USING A SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE IN GENERAL

As summarised in Figure 19.3, 16% of respondents who had *not* used a Senior Citizens Centre in the 12 months prior to the interview had used one before. However, 82% of respondents had never used a Centre. Men and those aged 60 to 69 years were significantly more likely to have never used a Centre.

**Figure 19.3 Ever used a Senior Citizens Centre?**  
(Question NQ9D)  
(BASE: Not used a Senior Citizen Centre in past 12 months)



■ Yes ■ No

\*Note: DK = Don't know / unsure, R = Refused.

Other respondents who were significantly more likely to have never used a Senior Citizens Centre were:

- respondents earning more than \$800 *net* per fortnight
- married respondents or those in a defacto relationship
- those who did only paid work or those doing both paid and unpaid work.

Table 19.2 summarises the reasons why 521 seniors, of the 800 interviewed, had never used a Senior Citizens Centre. Half (49%) mentioned they had “no interest in it” and these respondents were significantly more likely to be men.

Other common barriers to using a Senior Citizens Centre included a lack of time (16%), perceptions that they were “too young” (9%), not knowing where the Centre is (7%), having no reason to go (7%) and the perception that people will not be in the respondents’ age group (7%). A significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 60 to 74 years mentioned they were “too young” to use a Senior Citizen Centre, when compared to those age 75 years and over who mentioned the same. Lacks of time and distance barriers (“can’t get to the venue”) were significantly more likely to be an issue among women than men.

**Table 19.2 Reasons haven’t used a Senior Citizens Centre? (Question NQ9E)**  
(BASE: Never used a Senior Citizens Centre)

	TOTAL N=521 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=280 %	Female N=241 %	60-64yrs N=167 %	65-69yrs N=140 %	70-75yrs N=112 %	75+yrs N=102 %
I have no interest in it	49	57	41	46	45	53	53
Not enough time to visit a centre	16	12	19	14	20	17	12
Too young	9	8	10	13	9	8	2
Don’t know where it is	7	5	10	6	6	9	9
Don’t feel I need it/No reason to go	7	8	6	9	9	4	7
People aren’t in my age group	7	7	7	10	7	5	3
Too far to travel/I can’t get to the venue	5	3	7	3	3	4	10
Too busy/Active	2	3	1	3	2	2	1
Poor health/not well	2	1	3	1	1	4	3
I get information elsewhere	2	1	3	-	2	2	3
Cliquey/bad impression gained	1	2	1	1	1	3	2
Lack of information about them	1	1	1	3	1	-	-
Prefer to socialise in other ways	1	1	2	1	-	-	4
Still working	1	0	2	3	-	-	-
Haven’t got around to it	1	1	1	2	-	2	-
There isn’t one locally	1	2	-	1	-	1	1
Not outgoing/shy/not social	1	1	0	-	1	1	2
Haven’t thought about it/looked into it	1	1	0	1	1	-	-
Prefer to stay at home	0	-	1	-	1	1	-
Other	0	-	1	-	1	-	1

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

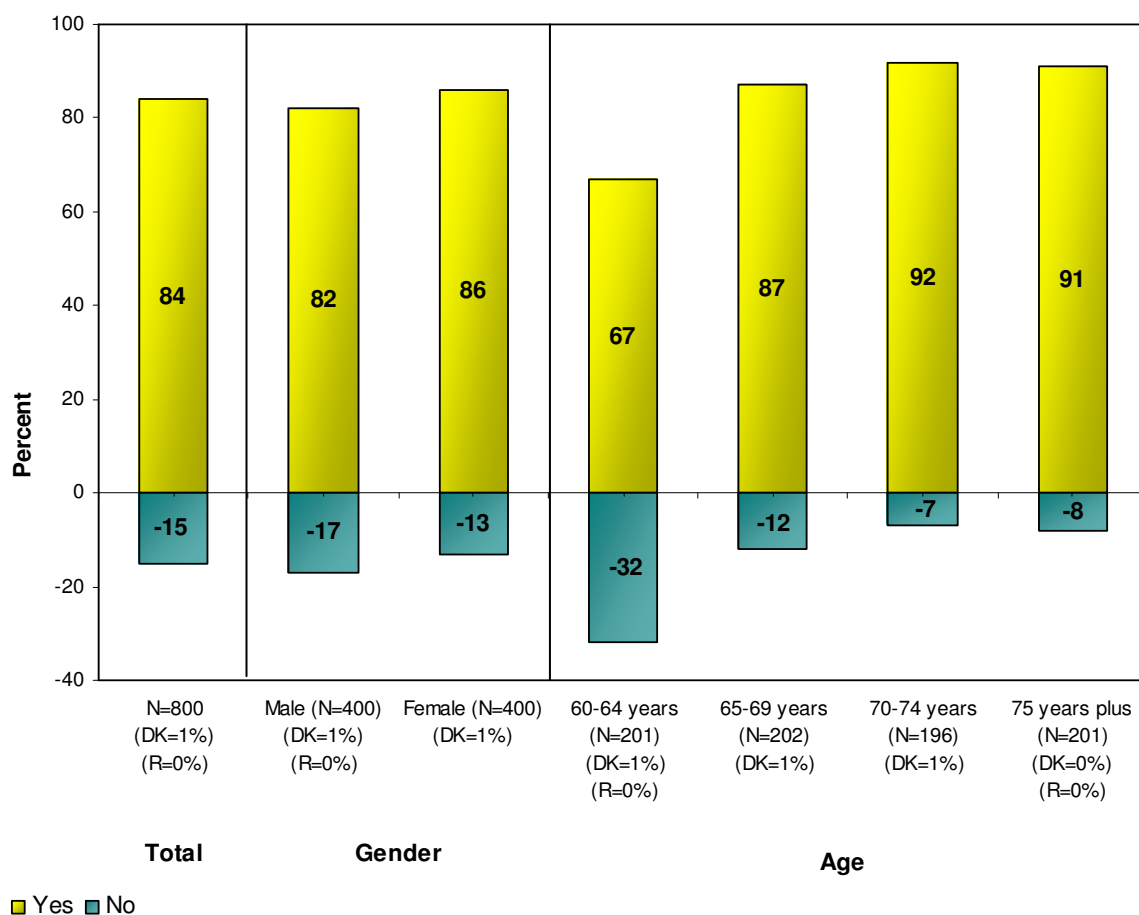
Other significant sub-group differences were:

- Metropolitan respondents were significantly more likely to have “no interest” in using a Centre or to perceive they were “too young”. In contrast, a significantly larger proportion of country respondents mentioned that they “don’t know where it is” or they have “no reason to go” to a Senior Citizens Centre.
- Widowed respondents were significantly more likely to mention that it was “too far to travel” and they “can’t get to the venue” as one of the reasons they had not used a Centre.
- Compared to Australian born respondents, those from other English speaking countries were significantly more likely to mention that they have not gone to a Centre because the “people aren’t in my age group”.
- A significantly larger proportion of respondents who were “fairly happy” in their current life stage indicated they had “no interest” in using a Centre, when compared to the proportion of those who were “fairly neutral”.
- Respondents with “fair” or “poor” mobility were significantly more likely to mention difficulties in getting to the venue (“too far to travel/can’t get to venue”) as a reason why they had not gone to a Centre.
- Not surprisingly, a significantly larger proportion of respondents who rated their health as “fair” or “poor” specified that “poor health/not well” was a barrier to them using a Senior Citizens Centre.
- Respondents who had not seen their family or friends in the week prior to the interview were significantly more likely to mention they “don’t feel a need to” or have “no reason to go” to a Senior Citizens Centre.

## 20.0 SENIORS CARD

As presented in Figure 20.1, 84% of all respondents had an OSIV WA Seniors Card, while 15% did not have this card and 1% were not sure. The older the respondent the more likely they were to have a WA Seniors Card, which is a statistically significant trend.

**Figure 20.1 Have a current WA Seniors Card?**  
(Question NQ10)  
(BASE: All Respondents)



\* Note: DK = Don't know / unsure, R = Refused.

Other sub-groups who were significantly more likely to have a Seniors Card were:

- those earning less than \$800 *net* per fortnight
- married/defacto respondents and widows
- those with “fair” health (compared to those with “excellent” health)
- respondents in voluntary work, both paid and unpaid work or neither paid nor unpaid work.

## ***APPENDIX A - QUESTIONNAIRE***