

## 10.0 CARER FOR DEPENDENT ADULTS

In total 15% of all respondents reported they are a carer of dependent adults who need care. Carers were significantly more likely to be married or in a defacto relationship, *not* living alone, born in a non-English speaking country and have “excellent” or “good” mobility.

As shown in Table 10.1, 57% of respondents who cared for a dependent adult reported this person was their “spouse or partner”. However, 19% were caring for an “adult child” and 16% were caring for a “parent”. It appears that women were more likely to be a carer for a “spouse/partner” or for an “adult child”; however, this difference is not statistically significant. Further, the age differences shown in Table 10.1 are not significant.

**Table 10.1 Relationship to You?**  
(Question FQ2)  
(BASE: Yes, a carer for Dependent Adults)

	TOTAL N=116 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=51 %	Female N=65 %	60-64yrs N=28 %	65-69yrs N=25 %	70-75yrs N=30 %	75+yrs N=33 %
Spouse or partner	57	54	59	35	55	64	71
Adult child	19	14	22	9	16	23	25
Parent	16	20	13	41	16	8	-
Brother or sister	1	2	-	-	4	-	-
Other	12	15	10	15	13	8	13

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

Respondents were significantly more likely to be caring for a “spouse/partner” if they were earning less than \$400 *net* per fortnight and those who participated in neither paid nor unpaid work.

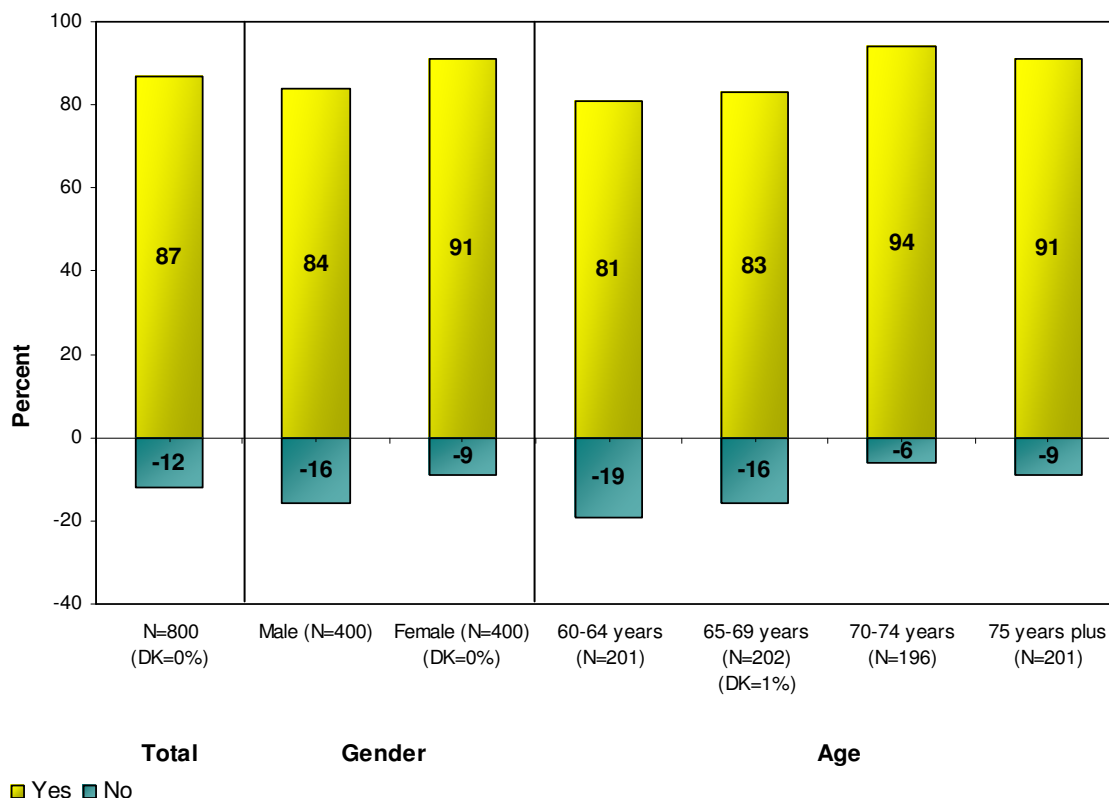
Generally, the respondents who cared for a dependent adult were more likely to report that they live with the person that they care for. Specifically, the following proportions were found to be living with the dependent adult they cared for:

- 97% of respondents who cared for a spouse or partner
- 38% of respondents who cared for a parent
- 54% of respondents who cared for an adult child and
- 43% of those who cared for “other” persons.

## 11.0 BRINGING UP GRANDCHILDREN

Figure 11.1 summarises the proportion of respondents who are grandparents. In total 87% were grandparents and these respondents were significantly more likely to be women and those aged 70 years and over.

**Figure 11.1 Are you a grandparent?**  
(Question FQ3)  
(BASE: All Respondents)



\*Note: DK = Don't know.

Other sub-groups who were significantly more likely to be grandparents included:

- country respondents
- those with a *net* income of less than \$400 per fortnight
- respondents who were married or in a defacto relationship (compared to those divorced or separated)
- those living with one other person
- Australian born respondents (compared to those born in non-English speaking countries)
- those who reported they were “very” happy in their current life stage (versus those who were “fairly” happy) and
- those who reported their health was “fair” rather than “excellent”.

As shown in Table 11.1 below, the majority (93%) of the respondents who were grandparents were *not* responsible for bringing up their grandchildren, either currently or in the past. Respondents who were aged 60 to 69 years were significantly more likely to be currently bringing up grandchildren, as were respondents living in households with more than two persons. Respondents who had previously brought up grandchildren were significantly more likely to be those who were widowed and who worked in neither paid nor unpaid work.

**Table 11.1 Bringing up Grandchildren now or in the Past?**  
(Question FQ4)  
(BASE: Grandparents)

	TOTAL N=696 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=334 %	Female N=362 %	60-64yrs N=162 %	65-69yrs N=169 %	70-75yrs N=183 %	75+yrs N=182 %
Yes, currently bringing up grandchildren	2	2	1	3	3	0	-
Yes, previously brought up grandchildren	5	4	6	3	4	5	8
Yes, both	1	1	1	1	-	1	0
No	93	94	92	93	93	93	92
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

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

\* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Half (51%) of the respondents who were responsible for bringing up grandchildren<sup>10</sup> were raising “one” grandchild. However, as shown in Table 11.2, 18% were bringing up “two” grandchildren, 6% were bringing up “three”, 11% were bringing up “four” and 14% were bringing up “more than four” grandchildren. It appears that men and respondents aged 60 to 69 years were more likely to be raising one grandchild; however, these results are indicative owing to the small sample size.

**Table 11.2 How many Grandchildren Bringing up?**  
(Question FQ5)  
(BASE: Yes, bringing up/Brought up Grandchildren)

	TOTAL** N=49 %	Gender		AGE GROUPS			
		Male N=20 %	Female N=29 %	60-64yrs N=11 %	65-69yrs N=11 %	70-75yrs N=12 %	75+yrs N=15 %
One	51	61	45	69	66	20	52
Two	18	4	26	16	16	32	9
Three	6	9	4	8	-	11	5
Four	11	13	10	-	10	31	5
More than four	14	13	14	8	8	7	28
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

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

\* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

<sup>10</sup> Reference made to respondents who were “bringing up grandchildren” includes respondents who had previously done so.

Respondents (N=49) who were bringing up grandchildren were asked to specify what ages the grandchildren were when they *started* bringing them up and the following were the responses:

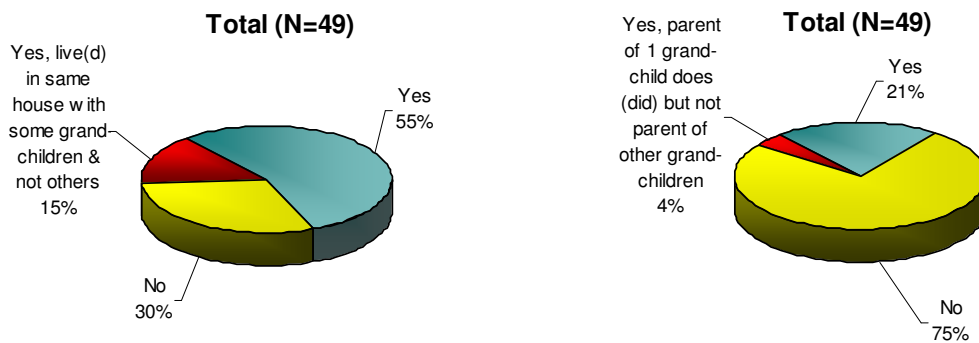
- 62% under 1 year
- 22% 1 to 4 years
- 22% 5 to 9 years
- 16% 10 to 14 years
- 14% 15 to 19 years.

Respondents who were bringing up grandchildren (N=49) were then asked to specify how many years they had been raising the grandchildren for and the following were the responses:

- 14% up to 1 year
- 18% 2 to 3 years
- 17% 4 to 5 years
- 5% 6 to 7 years
- 2% 8 to 9 years
- 3% 10 to 11 years
- 9% 14 to 15 years
- 4% 16 to 17 years
- 29% 18 to 19 years
- 2% "Don't know/unsure/can't remember".

Figure 11.2 summarises the household situation for respondents who were bringing up their grandchildren. That is, 70% were living (or had lived) in the same household as the grandchildren they were bringing up and 25% also had the parent of the grandchild living in the same household.

**Figure 11.2 Live in the same household as grandchildren?**  
(Question FQ4)  
(BASE: Yes, bringing up/Brought up Grandchildren)



Indicatively it appears that women and respondents aged 65 to 69 years were more likely to be living in the same household as the grandchildren they were responsible for bringing up. Further, these subgroups were also more likely to be in the same household as the parent of the grandchild.

## **12.0 BRINGING UP CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT YOUR OWN**

All respondents were asked if they were currently bringing up any children who were not their grandchildren, but also not their child. It was found that all respondents were *not* bringing up other children and therefore no further questions were asked in this section of the survey, as they were not relevant.

## 13.0 ATTITUDES TOWARDS AGEING

An objective of OSIV is to encourage positive ageing. A series of questions were included in the survey to assess how valued and respected by the community respondents feel and generally how respondents felt about ageing.

### 13.1 FEELING OF BEING VALUED BY THE COMMUNITY

As summarised in Table 13.1, 59% of respondents felt valued by the community to some extent. Specifically, 18% perceived they were “very valued” and 41% indicated they were “valued”. Women recorded a significantly higher “net valued” result, while men were significantly more likely to indicate “don’t know”. A significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 60 to 64 years perceived they were “very valued” by the community, while older seniors (70 years and over) were significantly more likely to indicate they were “valued”.

However, 12% of respondents indicated they felt to some extent “unvalued” by the community and these respondents were significantly more likely to be those who were earning between \$400 to \$800 *net* per fortnight, those who were divorced or separated, born in other English speaking countries, respondents who were less than happy with their current life stage, those who participated in paid work only or in neither paid nor unpaid work and those who lived with two or people or lived alone.

**Table 13.1 How Valued by the Community do you feel?**  
(Question GQ1)  
(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 valued	18	16	20	21	14	19	17
Valued	41	39	42	32	42	45	45
Neither valued nor unvalued	17	17	16	17	21	14	15
Unvalued	11	12	10	15	9	10	8
Very unvalued	2	2	2	2	4	1	1
Don't know/unsure/haven't thought about it	12	14	10	14	11	10	13
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Net Valued	59	55	62	53	56	64	63
Net Unvalued**	12	14	12	16	13	12	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 perceive they were valued by the community included:

- country respondents
- those who were married, in a defacto relationship or who were widowed
- respondents who were “very” happy in their current life stage (compared to those “fairly neutral” or “fairly happy”)
- those who did voluntary work only (compared to those who did paid work only or neither paid nor unpaid work) and
- those who did both paid and unpaid work (compared to those in paid work only).

## 13.2 FEELING OF BEING RESPECTED BY THE COMMUNITY

As presented in Table 13.2, three-quarters (76%) of respondents felt either “very respected” or “respected” by the community, while only 5% indicated they felt “disrespected” to some degree. The results for women and men were similar; however, in terms of age differences a significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 70 years and over perceived they were respected by the community.

**Table 13.2 How Respected by the Community do you feel?**  
(Question GQ2)  
(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 respected	27	26	28	23	23	32	29
Respected	48	47	49	44	50	46	53
Neither respected nor disrespected	14	15	14	18	15	12	11
Disrespected	4	4	5	6	5	4	3
Very disrespected	1	1	1	1	2	-	1
Don't know/unsure/haven't thought about it	5	7	3	7	5	5	3
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Net Respected	76	73	78	67	74	79	83
Net Disrespected	5	5	6	7	7	4	4

\* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Other sub-groups who were significantly more likely to perceive they were respected by the community included:

- country respondents
- those earning less than \$400 *net* per fortnight
- respondents living with one other person (compared to those living with more than one person)
- those born in non-English speaking countries (“very respected” compared to those born from other English speaking countries)
- respondents who were “very” happy in their current life stage (compared to those “fairly neutral” or “fair happy”) and
- those who did voluntary work only.

### 13.3 IS AGEING A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE STAGE OF LIFE?

A quarter (26%) of respondents perceived that ageing is a “very positive” stage of life, while a third (32%) indicated it was “fairly positive”. However, 18% of respondents specified it was “neither” positive nor negative, 7% felt it was “fairly negative” and 5% indicated it was “very negative”. As shown in Table 13.3, there were no marked differences in relation to gender or age sub-groups.

**Table 13.3 Think Ageing is a Positive or Negative Stage of Life?**  
(Question GQ3)  
(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 positive	26	27	25	28	26	27	23
Fairly positive	32	32	33	32	32	31	34
Neither positive nor negative	18	17	19	24	24	18	12
Fairly negative	7	8	7	7	7	7	9
Very negative	5	5	5	4	4	6	5
Depends on the individual	8	7	10	5	5	9	12
Don't know/unsure/haven't thought about it	3	4	2	1	1	3	4
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Net Positive	58	59	57	59	59	58	57
Net Negative	12	13	12	11	11	13	14

\* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Respondents who were significantly more likely to perceive ageing is a positive life stage were those:

- from the country
- living with one other person (in contrast to those living alone)
- who were “very” or “fairly” happy in their current life stage
- who indicated they had “excellent” health and mobility and
- who participated in voluntary work (compared to those who did neither paid nor unpaid work).

## 13.4 IS AGEING A PRODUCTIVE OR UNPRODUCTIVE STAGE OF LIFE?

As summarised in Table 13.4, 58% of all respondents considered ageing to be a productive stage of life. Specifically, 22% perceived it was “very productive” and 35% indicated it was “fairly productive”. In contrast 13% of respondents considered ageing to be unproductive. Results among men and women showed no marked differences. However, respondents aged 60 to 74 years were significantly more likely to indicate that ageing is a productive life stage.

**Table 13.4 Think Ageing is a Productive or Unproductive Stage of Life?**  
(Question GQ4)  
(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 %	65-69yrs N=201 %
Very productive	22	22	23	29	25	22	13
Fairly productive	35	37	33	38	36	38	28
Neither productive or unproductive	15	14	16	12	15	12	20
Fairly unproductive	10	10	10	8	11	10	11
Very unproductive	3	4	1	1	3	4	3
Depends on the individual	11	10	12	9	7	10	18
Don't know/unsure/haven't thought about it	4	3	4	2	2	4	7
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Net Productive	58	59	56	67	61	60	42
Net Unproductive	13	14	11	9	14	14	14

\* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Other sub-groups of respondents who were significantly more likely to perceive ageing is a productive life stage were:

- from the country
- those earning more than \$800 *net* per fortnight
- married/defacto or divorced/separated respondents (versus widows)
- those *not* living alone
- born in English speaking countries (including Australia)
- those who were “very” or “fairly” happy in their current life stage
- those who indicated they had “excellent” or “good” health and mobility and
- those who participated in voluntary work (compared to those who did neither paid nor unpaid work).

### 13.5 CURRENT HAPPINESS

Table 3.5 summarises respondents’ assessment of how happy they are in the current life stage in terms of a rating out of 10, where 1 is “very unhappy” and 10 is “very happy”. A quarter (26%) of respondents indicated they were “very happy”, while only 1% of respondents (which is 9 respondents) indicated they were “very unhappy”.

The specific responses to this question were collated to create the analysis variable that has been called “current happiness”, as summarised in Section 3.3.1 and in Table 3.3b. Looking at this combined result it is evident that women were significantly more likely to be “fairly neutral” and men were significantly more likely to be “fairly happy” in their current life stage.

**Table 13.5 Using a 10 point scale, How Happy would you say you are in Current Stage of Life?**  
(Question GQ5)  
(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 unhappy	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
2	0	0	0	-	1	-	-
3	0	-	1	-	1	1	-
4	1	2	0	3	-	2	-
5	6	5	7	7	4	5	8
6	6	4	7	7	5	4	7
7	12	15	9	12	15	11	10
8	29	30	27	25	30	29	32
9	17	17	17	19	20	16	13
Very happy	26	23	29	26	20	30	28
Don't know / haven't thought about it	1	1	1	0	2	2	1
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>CURRENT HAPPINESS</b>							
Net Unhappy (1-4)	3	3	2	4	3	5	1
Fairly Neutral (5-6)	12	10	14	14	10	9	15
Fairly Happy (7-8)	41	45	37	37	45	40	42
Very Happy (9-10)	43	41	45	45	41	46	41

\* Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Other sub-groups who were significantly more likely to be “very happy” (that is rating 10 out of 10) in their current life stage included:

- married respondents or those in a defacto relationship (compared to those who were divorced/separated)
- those living with one other person (compared to those living alone)
- respondents who reported they had “excellent” health and
- those who indicated their mobility was either “excellent” or “good”.

### **Regression Analysis**

A logistic regression analysis (‘enter’ method) was carried out to determine which, if any, of the analysis variables could be used to predict respondents’ current happiness. As shown in Table 13.5b no variables were found to be significant predictors. However, age was close to being significant with a probability of 0.054, indicating that younger seniors *may* be happier than older seniors.

**Table 13.5b Current Happiness – Logistic Regression Analysis**

<b>Covariate</b>	<b>Beta Coefficient</b>	<b>Probability</b>	<b>Significance</b>
Age	0.441	.054	Not significant
Gender	0.858	.107	Not significant
Work status	0.694	.214	Not significant
Rating of health	-0.679	.245	Not significant
Location	0.796	.266	Not significant
Marital Status	-0.472	.386	Not significant
Birthplace	0.655	.474	Not significant
Perception of safety during day	0.370	.474	Not significant
Income	-0.034	.771	Not significant
Seen family and friends	-0.124	.847	Not significant

## 14.0 HEALTH & MOBILITY

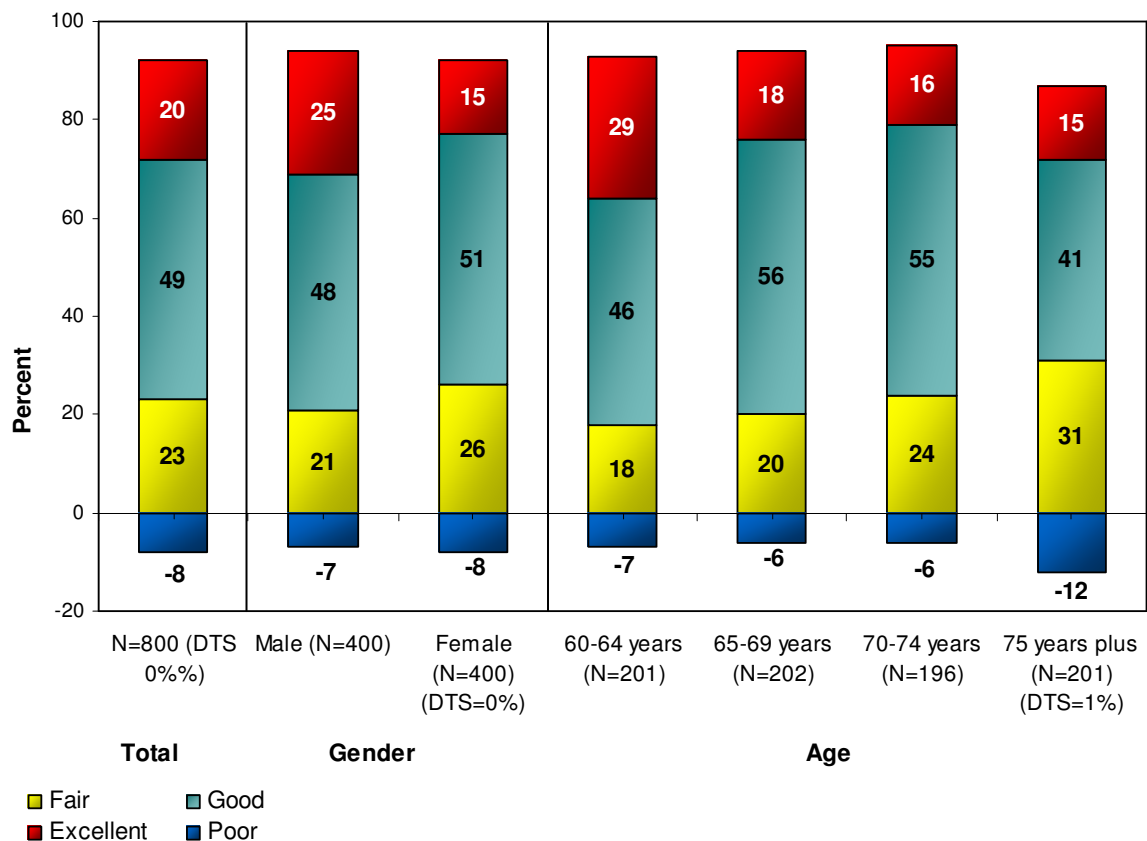
All respondents were asked to rate their physical health and level of mobility as either “excellent”, “good”, “fair” or “poor”. In this section these two results are summarised, as well as outlining the type of aids, if any, that respondents use.

### 14.1 RESPONDENT RATING OF THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH

As presented in Figure 14.1, one-fifth (20%) of respondents rated their physical health as “excellent”, while half (49%) considered their health to be “good”. Men and respondents aged 60 to 64 years were significantly more likely to rate their health as “excellent”. A significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 65 to 74 years rated their health as “good”.

Overall, 23% of respondents considered their health to be “fair” and these seniors were significantly more likely to be aged 75 years and over. Finally, 8% of respondents rated their physical health as “poor”.

**Figure 14.1 How do you rate your physical health?**  
(Question HQ1)  
(BASE: All Respondents)



\*Note: DTS = Declined to State.

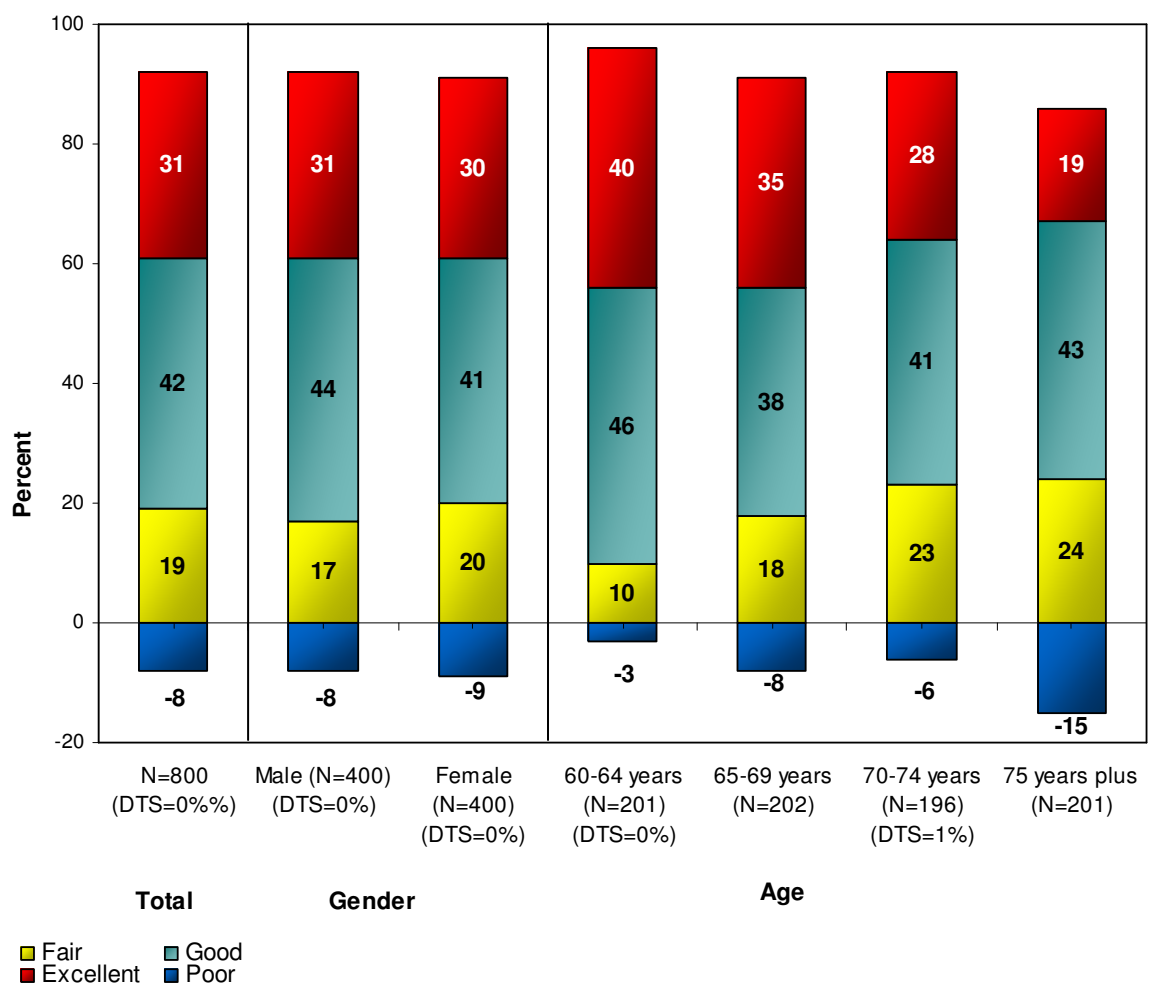
Other significant sub-group differences, in relation to respondents' perceptions of their physical health, follow:

- Country respondents were significantly more likely to rate their health as “good”, compared to those living in the metropolitan area.
- A significantly larger proportion of respondents earning \$800 or more *net* per fortnight indicated their physical health was “excellent”. In contrast, respondents earning less than this amount per fortnight were significantly more likely to consider their health to be “fair”.
- Respondents born in English speaking countries (including Australia) were significantly more likely to rate their physical health as “good”. In contrast, those born in non-English speaking countries were significantly more likely to rate their health as “fair”.
- Respondents' current happiness significantly impacted on their rating of their physical health in a number of ways. Firstly, a significantly larger proportion of those who were “very happy” in their current stage of life indicated that their health was “excellent”. Respondents who rated their current happiness as “very happy” or “fairly happy” were significantly more likely to consider their health was “good”. Finally, respondents who were “fairly neutral” in their current life stage were significantly more likely (than those who were “very” or “fairly” happy) to rate their physical health as either “fair” or “poor”.
- Respondents' level of mobility also strongly related to their health, with a significantly larger proportion of respondents with “excellent” or “good” mobility indicating their health was “excellent” or “good”. In contrast, those with “fair” or “poor” mobility were significantly more likely to rate their health as “fair” or “poor”.
- A significantly larger proportion of respondents who did neither paid nor unpaid work indicated that their health was either “fair” or “poor”. In contrast, those in paid employment were significantly more likely to consider their physical health was “excellent”.

## 14.2 RESPONDENT RATING OF THEIR LEVEL OF MOBILITY

As summarised in Figure 14.2, 31% of respondents rated their level of mobility as “excellent” and 42% considered it to be “good”. Respondents aged 60 to 69 years were significantly more likely to specify their mobility was “excellent”. However, a significantly larger proportion of respondents aged 65 years and over indicated that their mobility was “fair” or “poor”.

**Figure 14.2 What best describes your level of mobility?**  
(Question HQ2)  
(BASE: All Respondents)



\*Note: DTS = Declined to State.

Other significant sub-group differences, in relation to respondents' perceptions of their level of mobility, include:

- A significantly larger proportion of respondents earning \$800 or more *net* per fortnight specified their mobility was “good”. In contrast, respondents earning less than \$800 *net* per fortnight were significantly more likely to consider their level of mobility was “fair”.
- Married respondents and those in defacto relationships were significantly more likely to rate their mobility as “excellent”, when compared to widowed respondents. In contrast, widows were significantly more likely to rate their mobility as “poor”.
- A significantly larger proportion of respondents living with another person indicated their mobility was “excellent”. Respondents living alone were significantly more likely to rate their mobility as “fair” or “poor”.
- Respondents born in English speaking countries (including Australia) were significantly more likely to rate their level of mobility as “fair”.
- A significantly larger proportion of respondents who were “very happy” in their current stage of life indicated that their mobility was “excellent”. Respondents who rated their current happiness as “fairly neutral” were significantly more likely (than those who were “very” or “fairly” happy) to rate their mobility as “poor”.
- Respondents' perceptions of their physical health strongly related to their perceptions of their mobility. A significantly larger proportion of respondents with “excellent” or “good” health indicated their mobility was “excellent” or “good”. In contrast, those with “fair” or “poor” health were significantly more likely to rate their level of mobility as “fair” or “poor”.
- A significantly larger proportion of respondents who did neither paid nor unpaid work indicated that their level of mobility was “poor”. In contrast, those who were active in paid and/or unpaid employment were significantly more likely to consider their mobility was “excellent”.

### 14.3 CORRECTIVE AIDS USED BY RESPONDENTS

As shown in Table 14.1, the majority (92%) of respondents had corrective glasses. Other aids commonly used were walking (12%) and hearing (10%) aids. Men and older respondents (aged 70 years and over) were significantly more likely to wear a hearing aid. Older respondents were also significantly more likely to have a walking aid or use a wheelchair, gopher or scooter. A significantly larger proportion of women used a wheelchair, gopher or scooter. Finally, 6% of all respondents used no aids and these respondents were significantly more likely to be men.

**Table 14.1 Use any of the Following Aids?**  
(Question HQ3)  
(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 %
Corrective glasses	92	91	93	91	95	93	91
Walking aid	12	9	14	5	9	10	19
Hearing aid	10	14	8	5	8	7	24
Wheelchair/gopher/scooter	2	1	3	0	1	2	5
Have an aid but don't use it	1	1	1	0	0	1	2
Other	0	0	-	-	0	-	0
None	6	8	4	6	4	7	6

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

Other noteworthy significant differences included:

- Respondents earning less than \$400 *net* per fortnight were significantly more likely to use a hearing aid (compared to those earning more than \$800).
- Widows were significantly more likely to use a walking aid or a wheelchair, gopher or scooter.
- Compared to respondents born in Australia, a significantly larger proportion of those born in other English speaking countries used hearing aids.
- Respondents who reported they were “fairly neutral” in their current stage of life were significantly more likely to use a hearing aid, walking aid or a wheelchair, gopher or scooter.
- A significantly larger proportion of respondents with “fair” or “poor” health indicated they use a walking aid.