

Age-Friendly City Plan survey 2024

Survey Findings



Background

A survey was undertaken with the YourSay Panel to inform the development of the Age-Friendly City Plan 2025-2035. The new 10-year plan will provide an outline for how Canberra can improve on being a place where growing older is celebrated and supported.

Methodological notes:

- All active YourSay Panel members were invited to participate in the survey.
- **N=1,597 responses were collected between 22-April to 5-May 2024.**
- Results have been weighted to reflect relative population proportions based on ABS Census data.
- In single choice questions, results may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
- Results marked with an upwards arrow (↑) denote a statistically significant high result, whereas results with a downwards arrow (↓) denote a statistically significant low result.
- In some cases, results have been analysed based on **age generations**, these have been defined as follows:

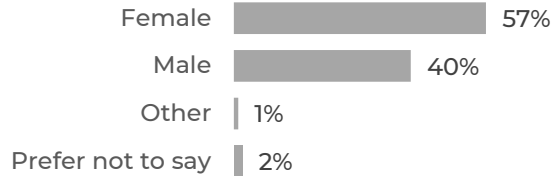
	Year of birth (Source: ABS*)	Age in 2024	Age brackets used in this survey for this generation
Gen Z	1996-2010	14-28	18-29
Millennials (Gen Y)	1981-1995	29-43	30-44
Gen X	1966-1980	44-58	45-59
Baby Boomers	1946-1965	59-78	60 or older
Post-war	1945 or earlier	79 or older	(Grouped with Baby Boomers due to low sample size collected for this cohort)

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay respects to the past, present, and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual, and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We value their contribution to the life of our city and to the Canberra region.

Sample profile (n=1,597 unweighted)

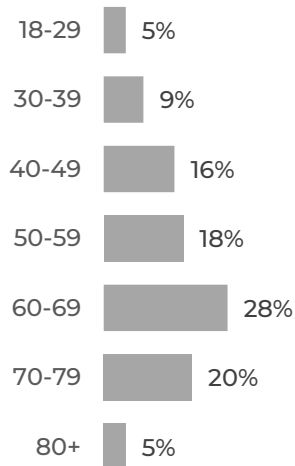
Gender



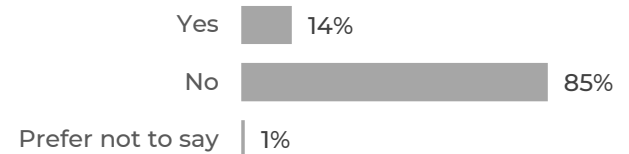
Place of birth



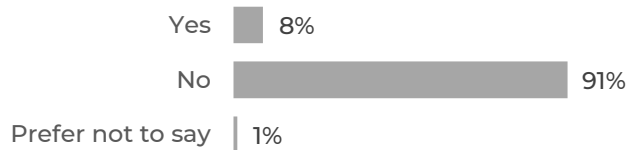
Age group



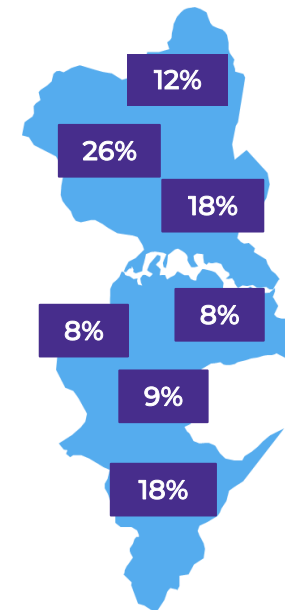
Carer for someone who requires regular care



Speak a language other than English (LOTE) at home



ACT Region



Key findings



Many view Canberra in a positive light as a place for older people, albeit feeling respected can differ

- ▶ Most respondents (59%) agree Canberra is a good place to live for older people, with 24% neutral and 11% disagreeing
- ▶ Baby Boomers were less likely to agree than others that older people in Canberra are respected – 32% agreeing with this statement compared to 67% of Gen Z, 52% of Millennials, and 40% of Gen X



Social isolation and participation in local groups and activities differs markedly by generation

- ▶ Two-thirds (67%) of Gen Z respondents report feeling lonely sometimes, often or always – this reduces steadily with age to 51% among Millennials, 40% among Gen X and 29% among Baby Boomers
- ▶ Over the last three months, Baby Boomers were significantly more likely than younger generations to have participated in a local community group or activity (69%)



While many feel equipped at identifying and handling instances of age discrimination, there seems limited awareness of support

- ▶ More than eight in ten respondents (83%) felt confident in their ability to recognise signs of age discrimination
- ▶ Fewer felt confident in being able to support a victim of age discrimination (60%) and knowing where to go for support (34%)
- ▶ Baby Boomers were generally more confident in their ability to recognise and manage instances of age discrimination



Perceptions of aged care are more negative for those with family or friends in aged care than among aged care residents themselves

- ▶ Among both aged care residents and people with family or friends in aged care, trust in staff providing aged care was higher than trust in aged-care institutions
- ▶ Confidence in ability to navigate the ACT aged care system was limited among both aged care residents (40%) and people with family or friends in the system (29%)



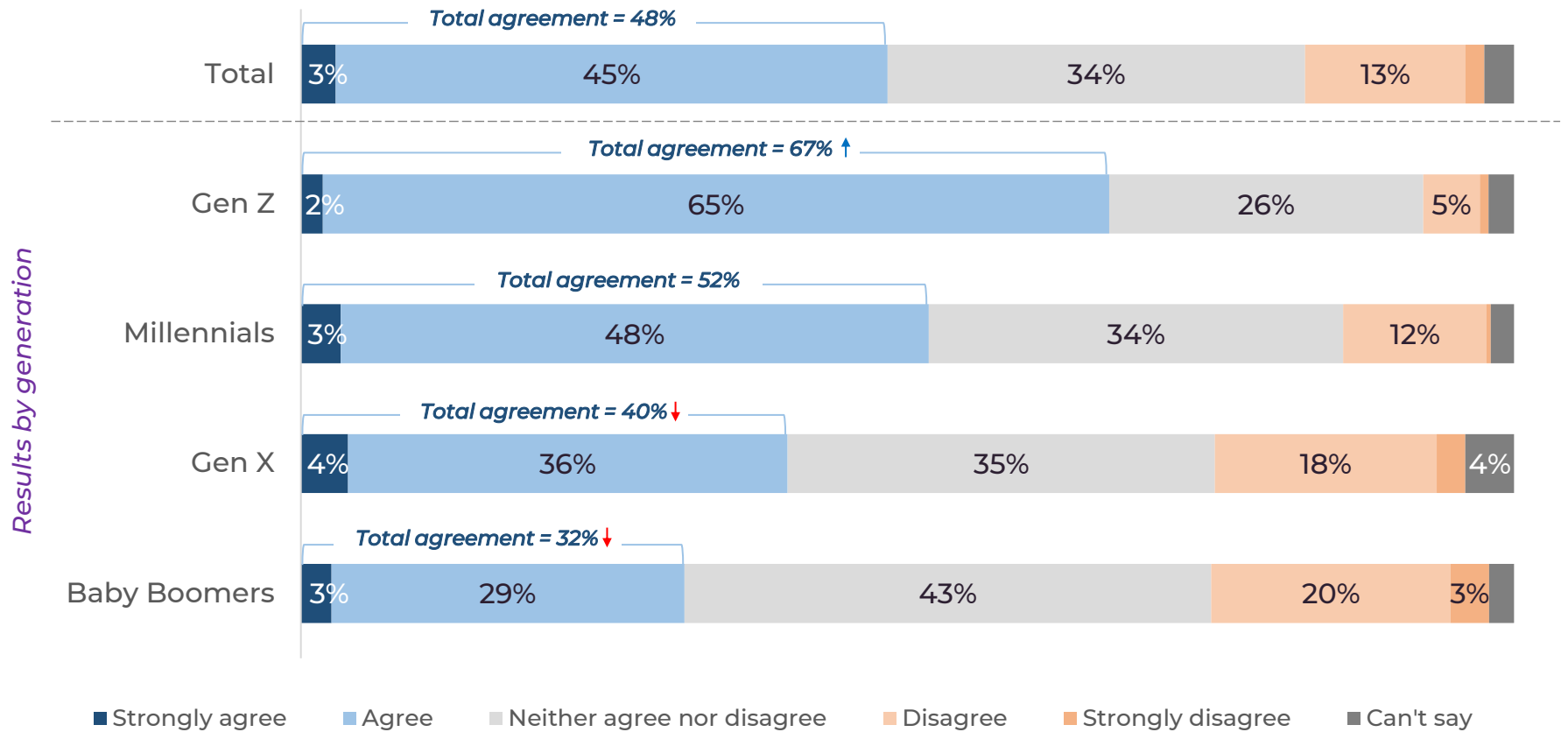
There is some interest in having input into the next Age-Friendly Cities Plan

- ▶ 15% of respondents reported being aware of the current plan
- ▶ Among those interested in the next Age-Friendly City Plan, there were hopes this iteration would focus on key issues including transport, social connectedness, and health

Ageing in Canberra

Agreement that older people in Canberra are respected

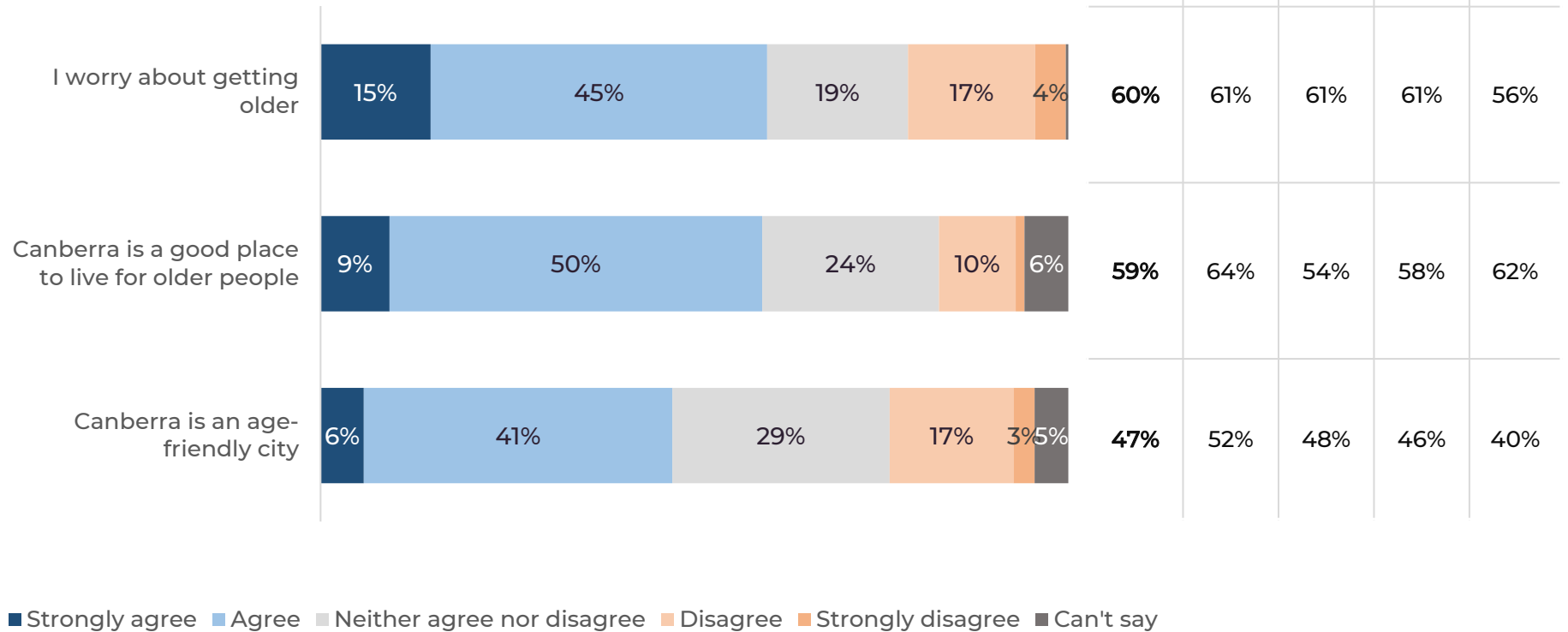
Agreement with the statement – 'Older people in Canberra are respected'
 (All respondents, n=1,597)



Views of Canberra as an age-friendly city

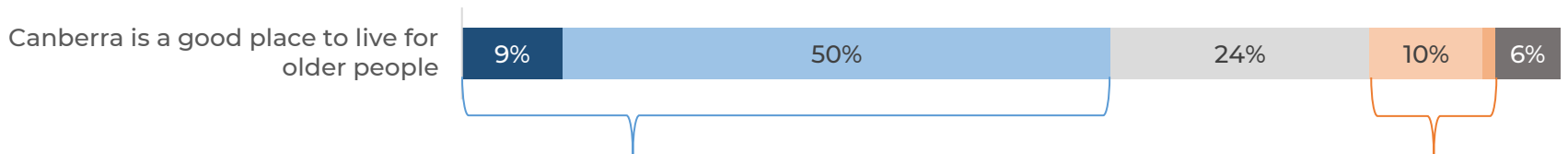
Results by generation

Q. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.
(All respondents, n=1,597)

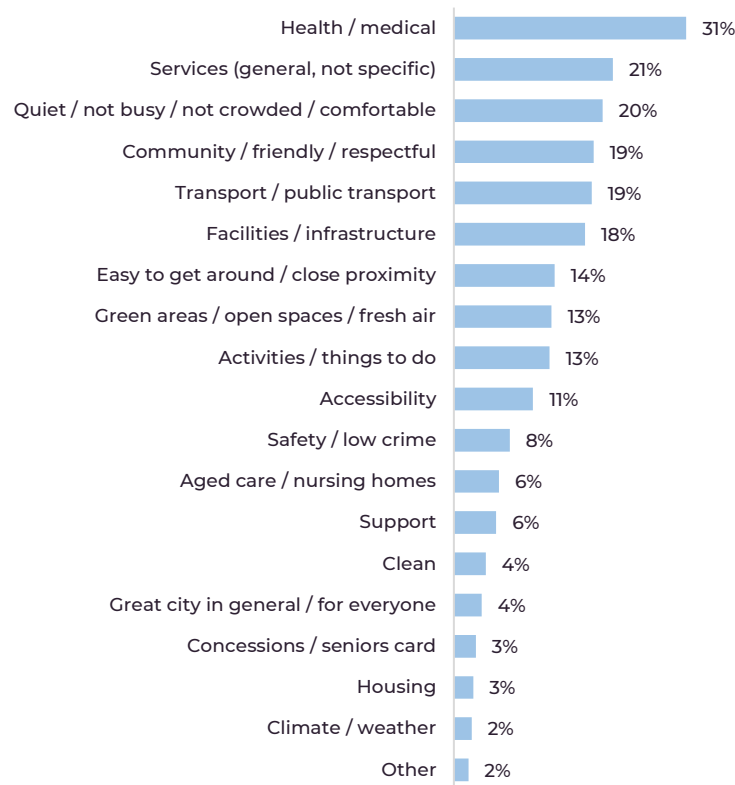


Reasons why Canberra is considered a good place to live for older people or not

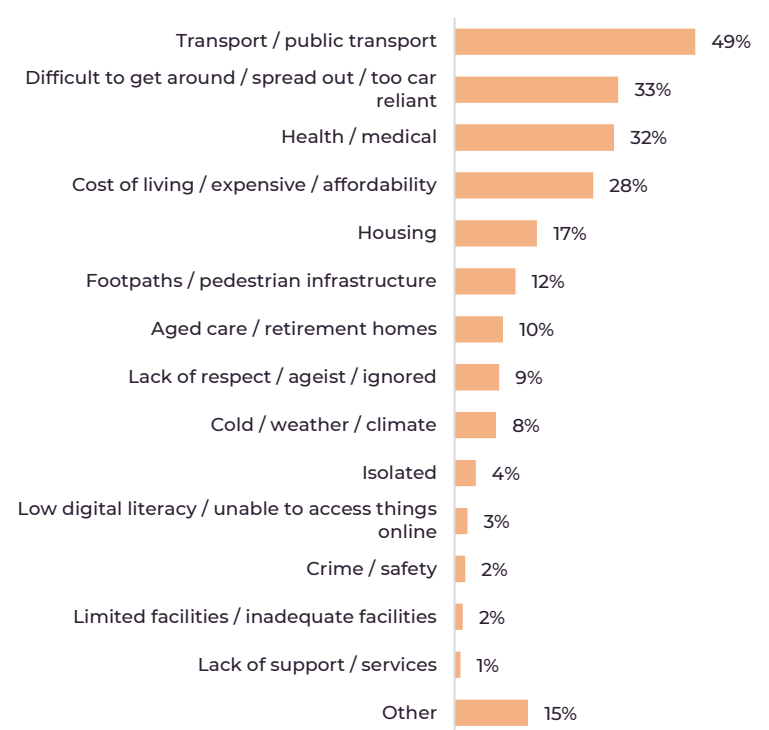
■ Strongly agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Can't say



Why is that? (n=863 individual responses)



Why is that? (n=205 individual responses)



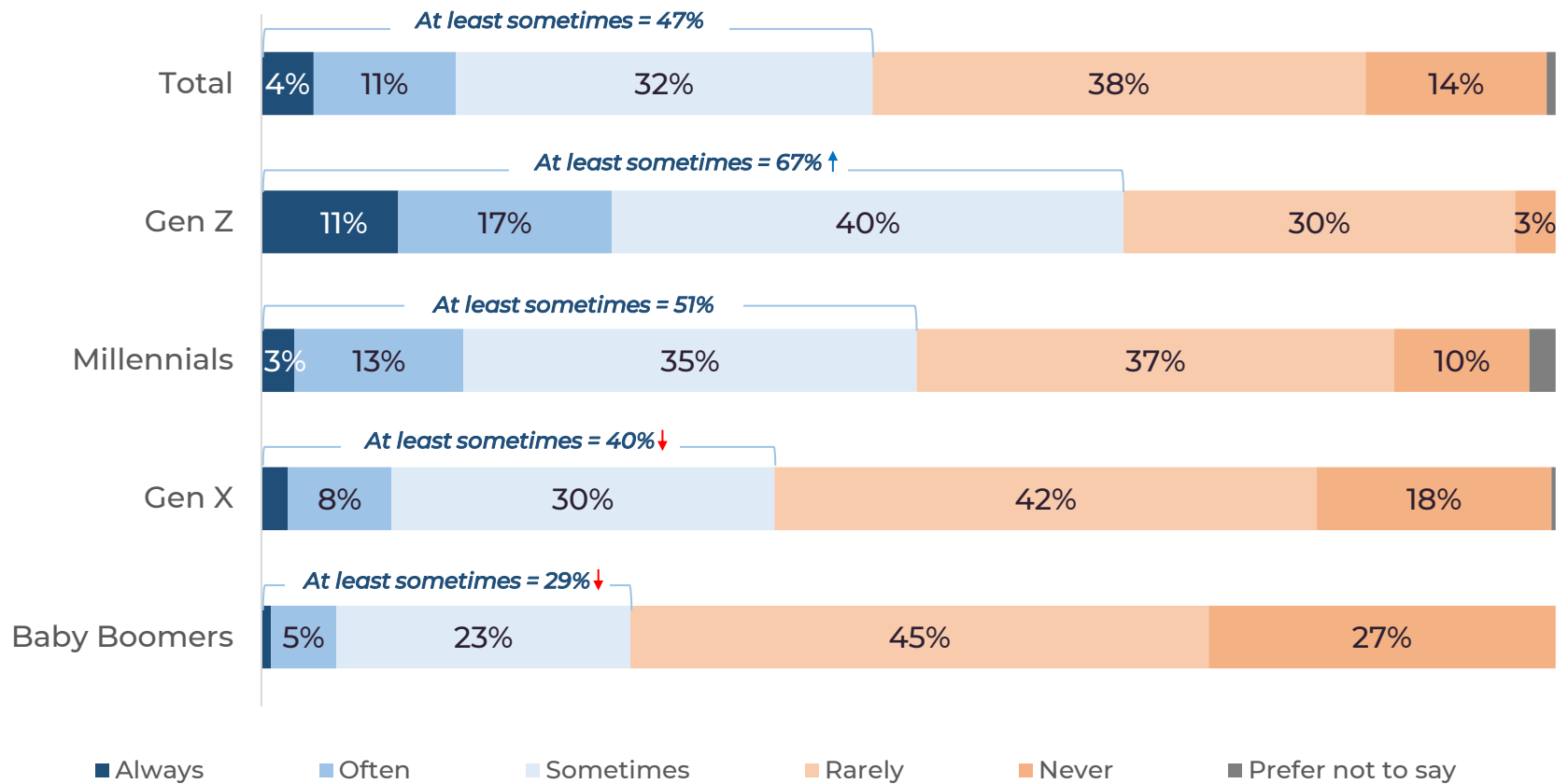
Social isolation

Extent feel lonely

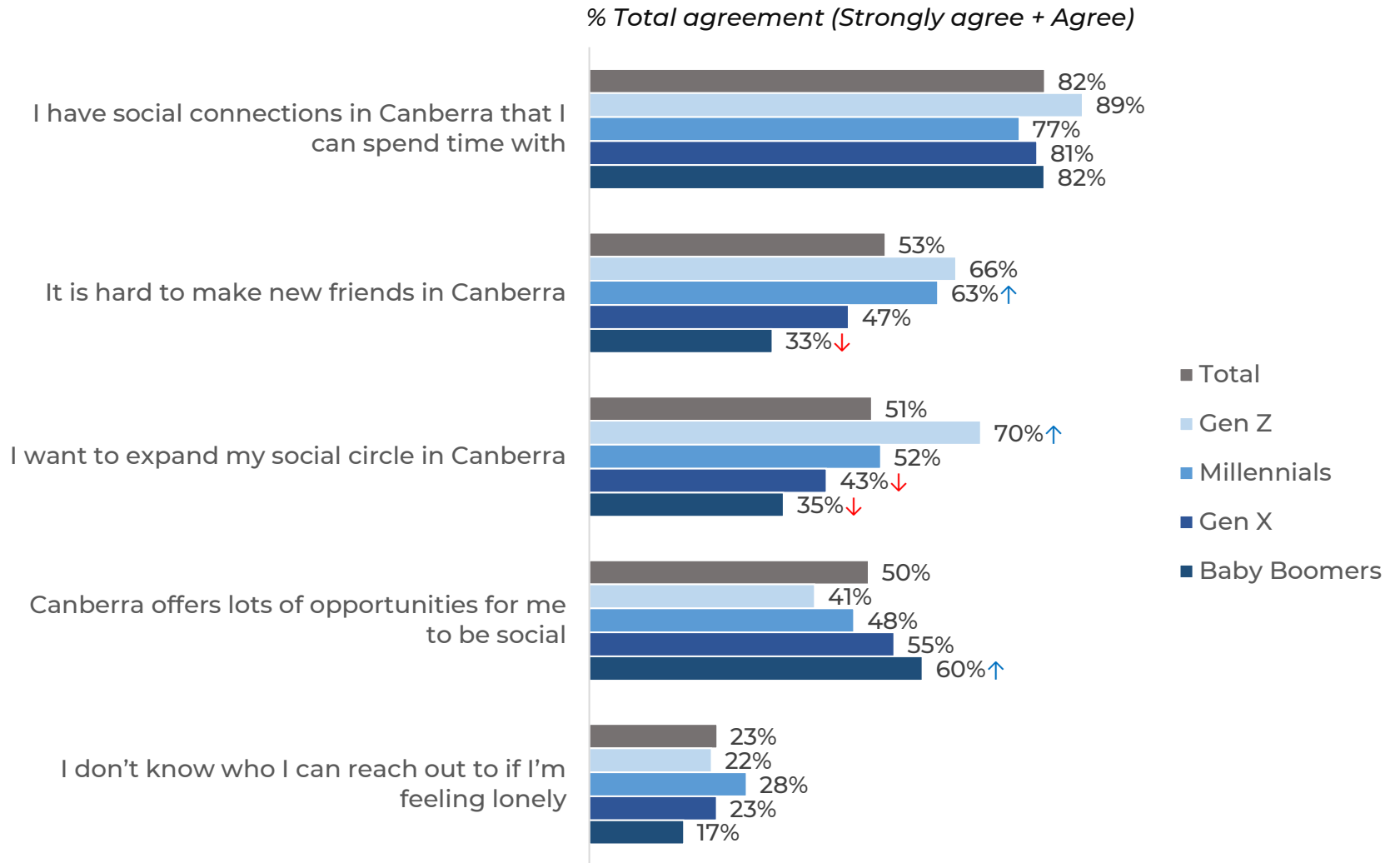
How often do you feel lonely?

(All respondents, n=1,597)

Results by generation

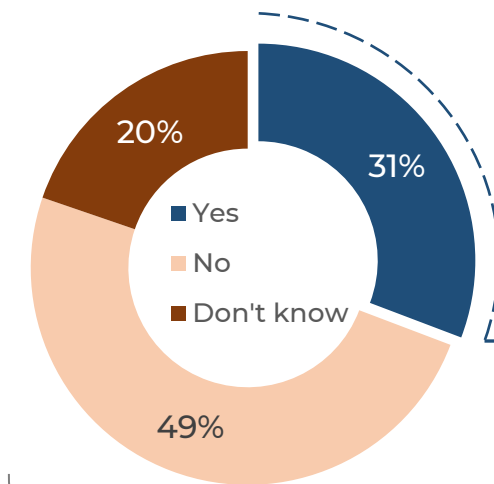


Views on social opportunities in Canberra, by generation



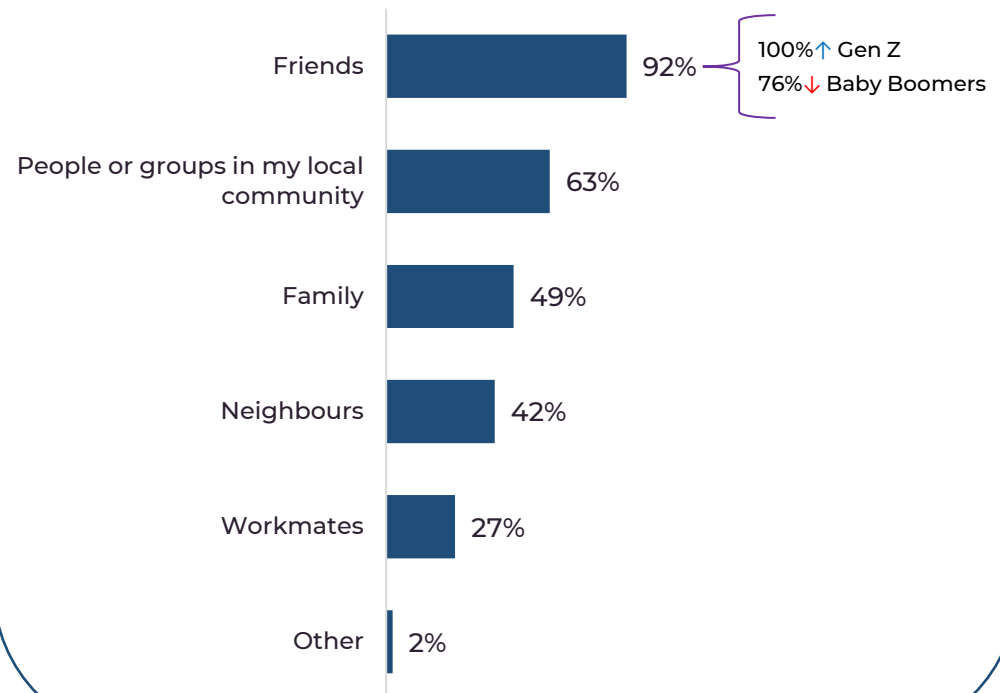
Desire for greater communication with people in and around life

Q. Would you like to communicate with these people more often than you currently do? (n=1,590)



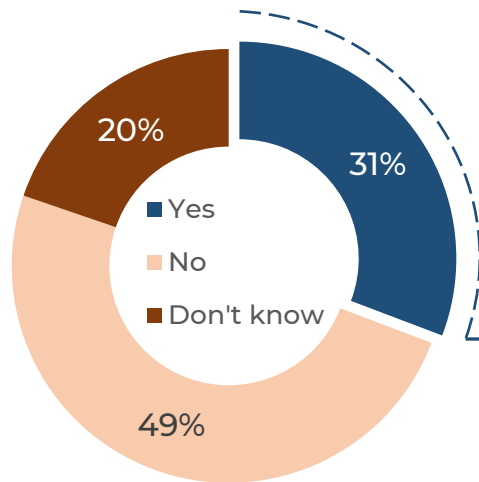
- **Gen Z** were more likely to answer 'Yes' (47%↑)
- **Gen X** and **Baby Boomers** were more likely to answer 'No' (58%↓ and 68%↓ respectively)

Q. Who would you like to communicate more often with? (Answered 'yes', n=396)

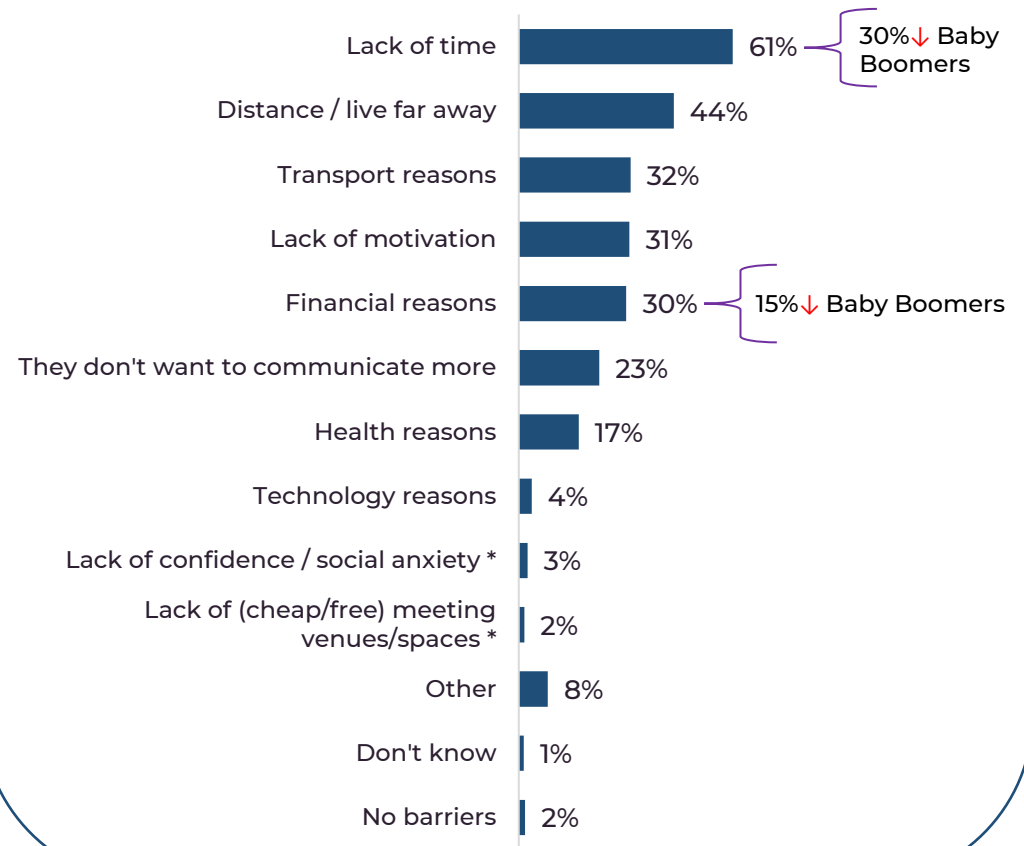


Barriers to communicating more often with people in and around life

Q. Would you like to communicate with these people more often than you currently do? (n=1,590)



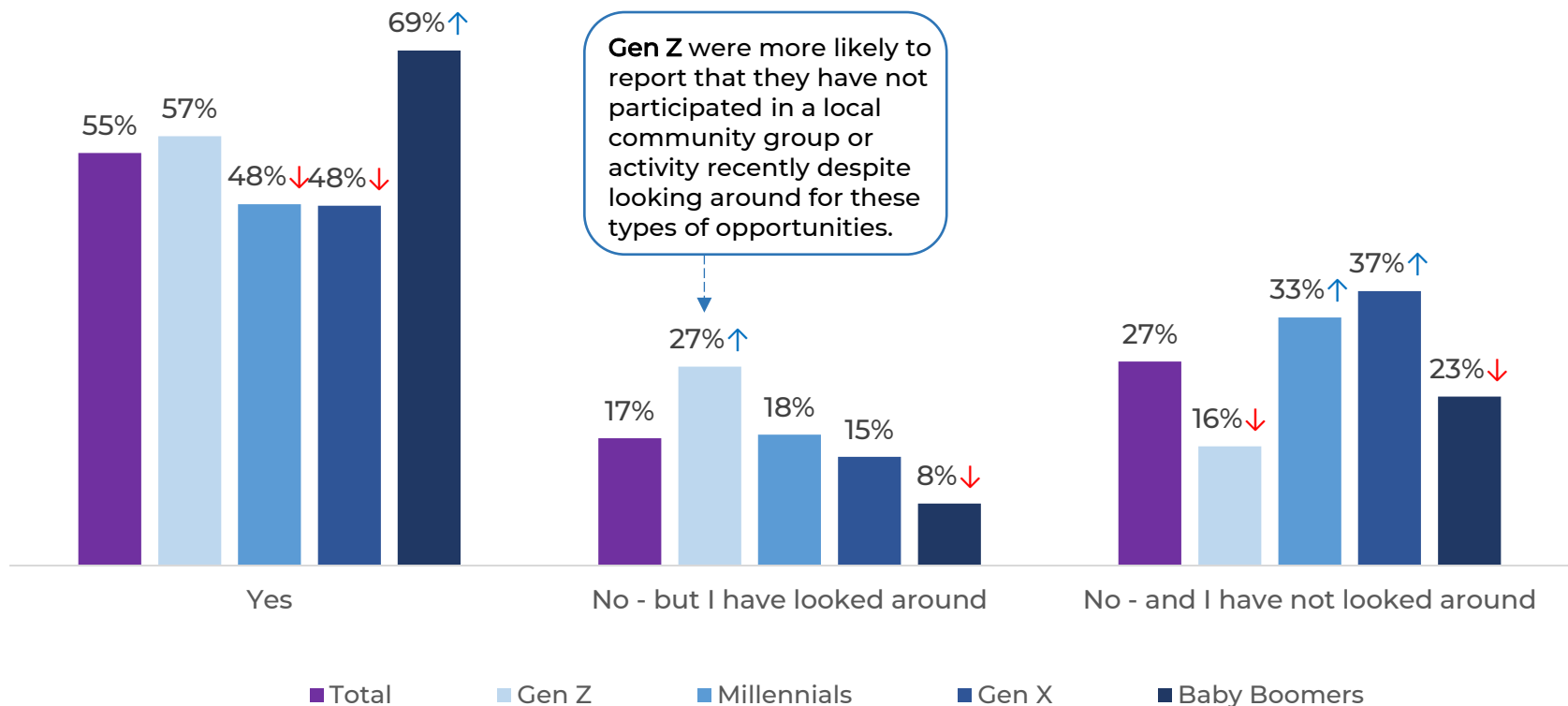
Q. What are the main barriers to you communicating more often with them? (Answered 'yes', n=396)



Involvement in local community groups, by generation

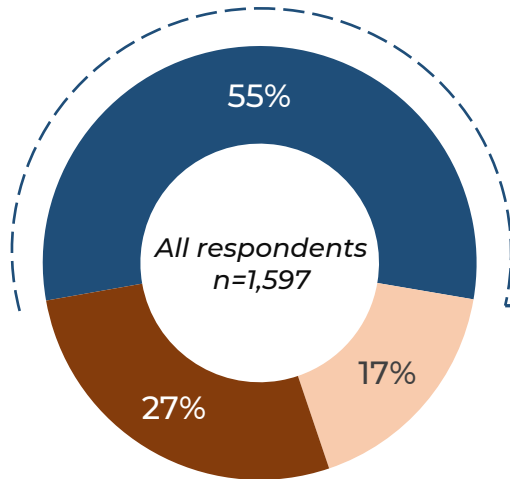
Q. In the last three months, have you been actively involved in any groups or activities in your local community?
 ('Actively involved' means taking part in organised activities individually or as part of a group).

(All respondents, n=1,597)



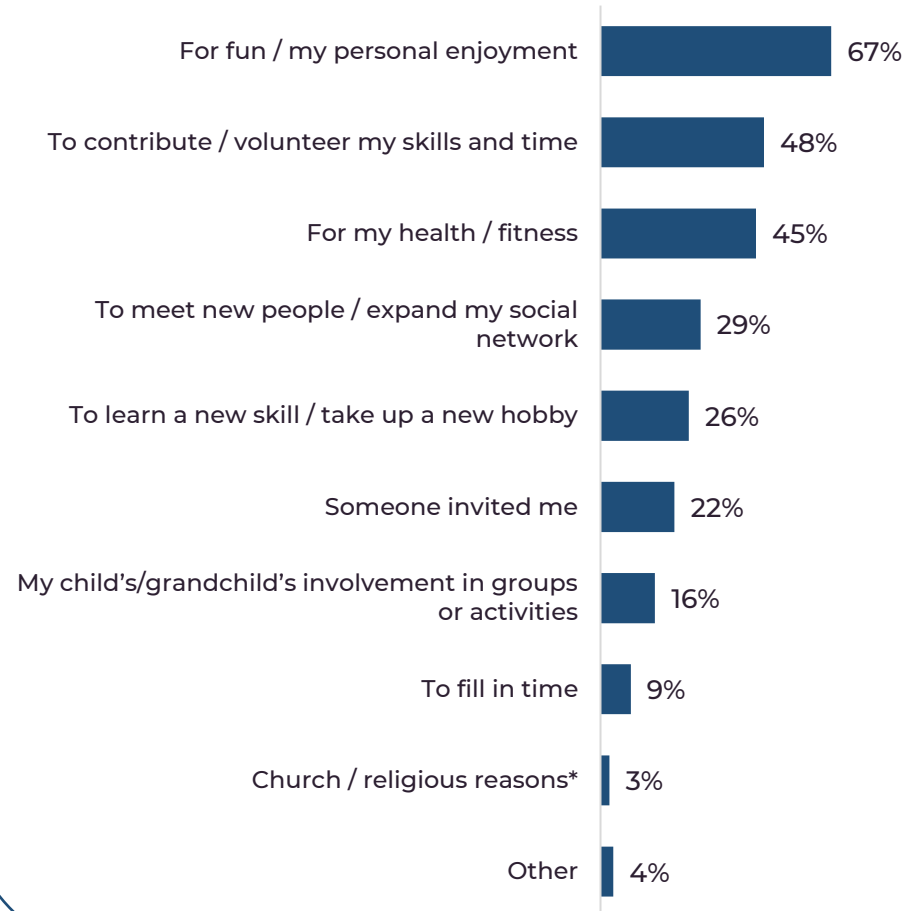
Motivations for joining local community groups or activities

Q. In the last three months, have you been actively involved in any groups or activities in your local community?



- Yes
- No - but I have looked around
- No - and I have not looked around

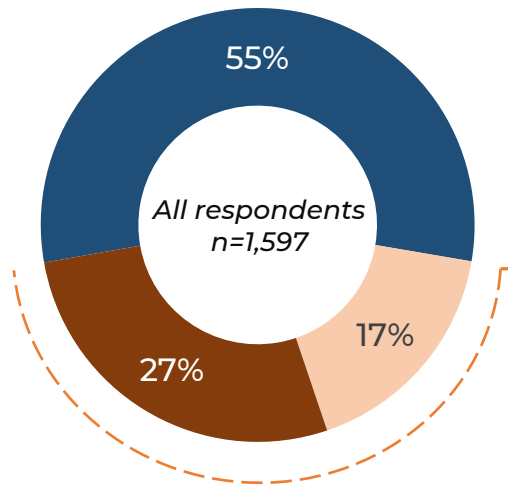
Q. What were the main reasons that you became involved?
(n=939)



Notes: Variables marked with an asterisk (*) were added in after back-coding 'Other (please specify)' verbatim responses.

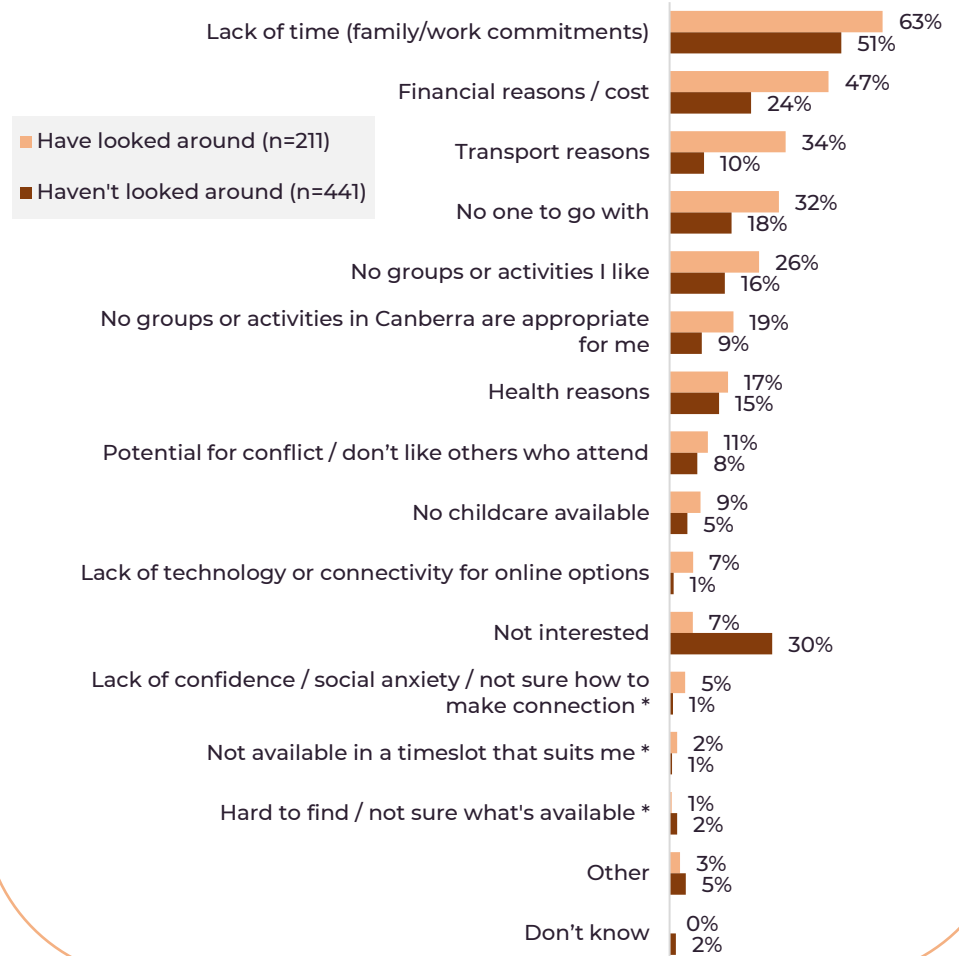
Barriers to joining local community groups or activities

Q. In the last three months, have you been actively involved in any groups or activities in your local community?



- Yes
- No - but I have looked around
- No - and I have not looked around

Q. What stopped you from being actively involved?

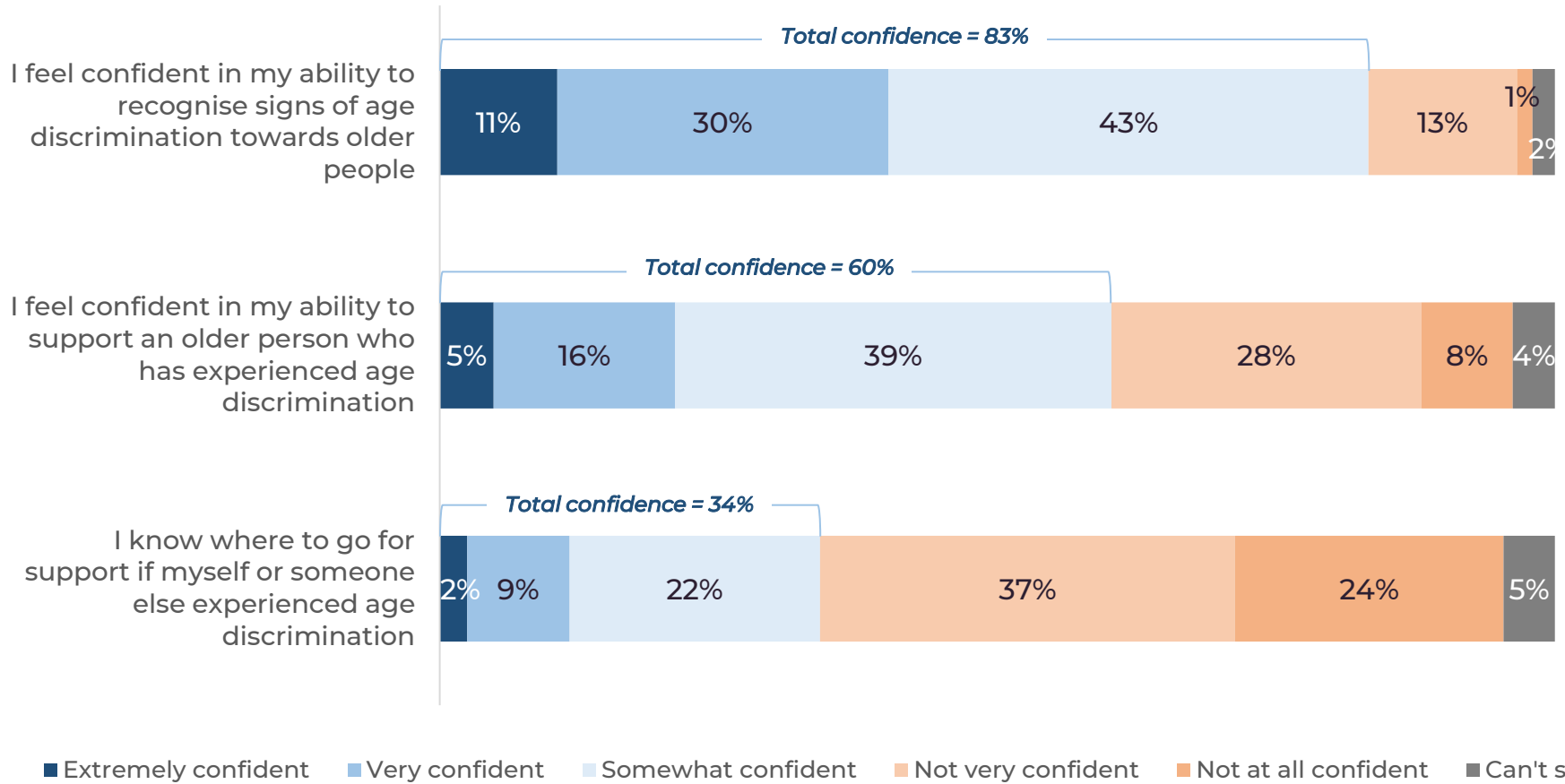


Notes: Variables marked with an asterisk (*) were added in after back-coding 'Other (please specify)' verbatim responses.

Age discrimination

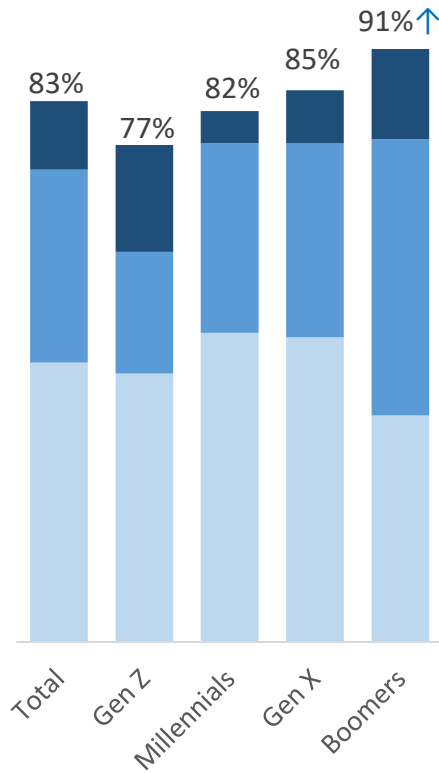
Confidence towards recognising and managing age discrimination

All respondents (n=1,597)

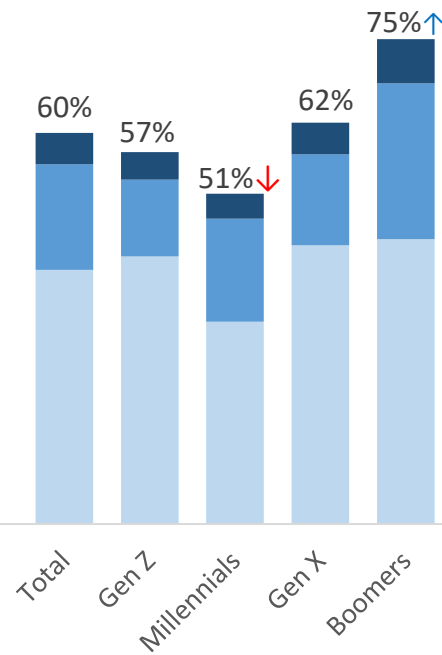


Confidence in relation to age discrimination, by generation

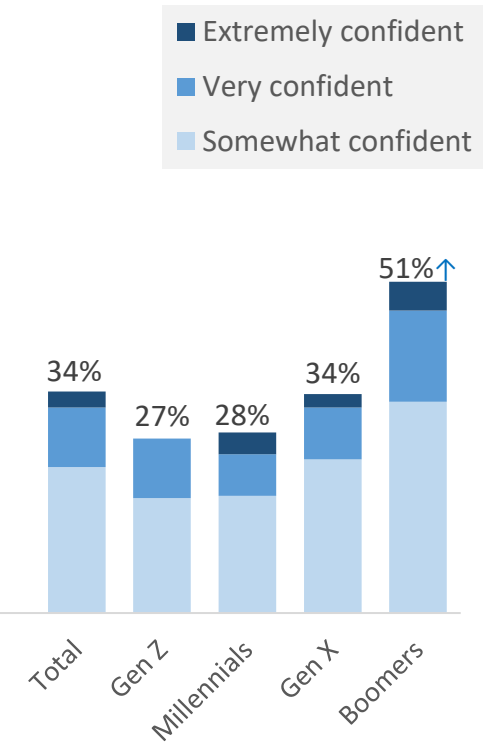
I feel confident in my ability to recognise signs of age discrimination towards older people



I feel confident in my ability to support an older person who has experienced age discrimination



I know where to go for support if myself or someone else experienced age discrimination

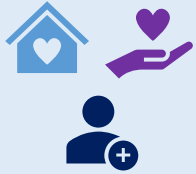


Notes:

- Base sizes: (Total, n=1,597), (Gen Z, n=78), (Millennials n=281), (Gen X, n=411), (Baby Boomers, n=827)
- Confidence scale options included: Extremely confident, Very confident, Somewhat confident, Not very confident, Not at all confident, Can't say

Aged care

Use of aged care services



Use of any aged care service type

- 2% of respondents (n=52) reported using at least one type of aged care service for themselves
- 25% (n=444) reported having a friend/family member who uses at least one type of aged care service



In-home care (care provided at home, or in a retirement village, or supported living setting)

- 1% (n=48) use this service
- 19% (n=333) have a friend/family member who uses this service



Residential aged care (care provided at an aged care facility, e.g., nursing home)

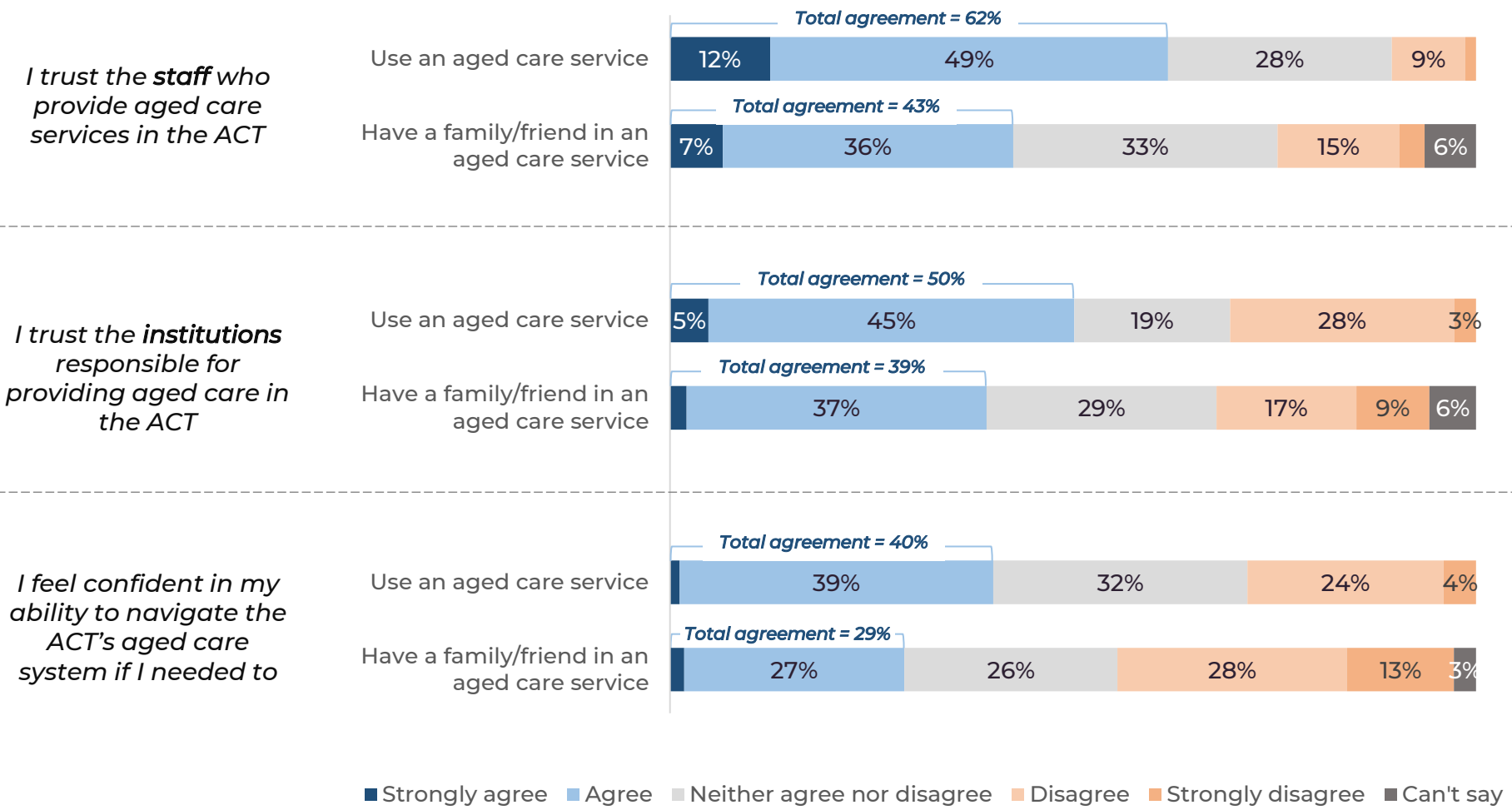
- <1% (n=3) use this service
- 11% (n=223) have a friend/family member who uses this service



Respite care (short-term care)

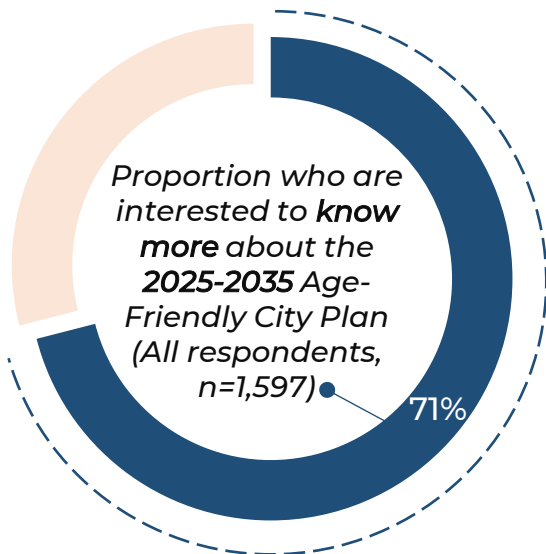
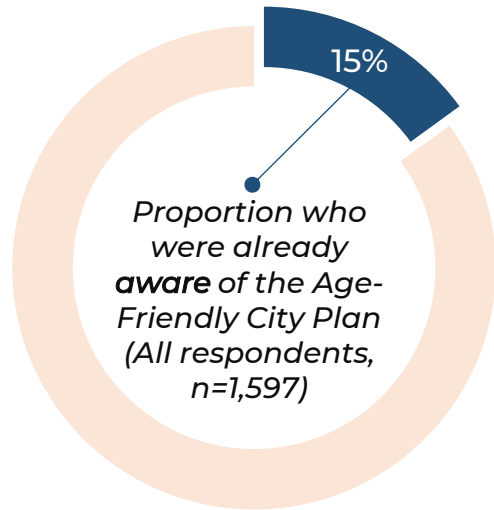
- <1% (n=5) use this service
- 6% (n=110) have a friend/family member who uses this service

Trust in and confidence towards aged care system in the ACT



Age-Friendly City Plan

Awareness and input into Age-Friendly City Plan



Q. What do you think the focus of the next Age-Friendly City Plan (2025-2035) for Canberra should be?

(Open-ended question, n=1,079 individual responses, coded into multiple categories)

