Feel Safe. Be Safe.

Community Safety Plan Engagement Summary

August 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

ASDF Research recognises and values the Bunurong, Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the original inhabitants of the land that makes up City of Port Phillip, and the Boandik peoples as the original inhabitants of the land on which this report was written. We recognise that this land was never ceded.

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Statement of Inclusion

City of Port Phillip fosters a safe, inclusive, and respectful community and workplace where everyone feels valued. They recognise and celebrate the diverse population and are dedicated to building a fair and equitable Port Phillip.

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared with careful attention to accuracy and is based on the data provided. ASDF Research did not have any input into the data collection design (survey questions), the distribution of engagement materials, nor recording of data. The analysis herein is provided on the understanding that the reader may undertake an interpretation of the findings based on their personal and professional experience with the subject matter. ASDF Research cannot be held liable for any loss or damages that may result from actions taken based on the findings contained herein.

In line with research ethics, any submitted comments that have the potential to cause harm have been reviewed as part of the over-arching analysis, but not included verbatim in the content of this report.

Before reading this report

The following should be considered in reading this report:

- The information in this report includes findings from a survey that was openly available for anyone to complete and was distributed through Council and community channels. The survey included a Local Law question that likely prompted participation by those with strong views on the proposed amendment. The survey did not use a representative sampling methodology. The survey findings show the views of those who participated.
- This report summarises key feedback from engagement activities and does not preclude the Council project team from considering community feedback in its original format.

Executive Summary

From 22 May to 29 June 2025 City of Port Phillip ('Council', CoPP) undertook a range of engagement activities to help understand community safety needs and perspectives amongst the community and stakeholders, as well as collect feedback on a proposed local laws amendment.

This report summarises the key findings from these community engagement activities, alongside relevant insights from other research conducted by Council in 2024 and 2025.

Activities	Community survey	16 pop-ups & community activities	6 Committees & meetings	5 Community workshops	Submissions and emails	Petition signatures
Participants	893	307	38	34	44	255

These activities were promoted through Council and community channels, and therefore reached people who were interested in the topic and knew about the chance to have their say. This report gives helpful insight into what matters to those who took part, but it may not show what the whole community thinks.

During the engagement period there were widespread discussions in the community regarding the proposed 'no encampment' amendment to local laws, which drew attention to this survey and likely shaped the tone of some survey responses and submissions.

Who participated

Within the community survey:

- 80% were **current residents**, of whom:
    - 58% were 50+ years old (compared to 37% 2021 Census).
    - 59% were female (compared to 51% 2021 Census), 34% were male (compared to 49% 2021 Census), and 2% were non-binary.
    - 31% lived in St Kilda (compared to 19% 2021 Census).
    - 9% said they speak a language other than English (compared to 21% 2021 Census), 1% were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 10% said they had a disability and 14% identified as LGBTIQA+.
- 20% were **not residents**, of whom:
    - 71% were under 50 years old.
    - 60% were female, 21% were male and 11% were non-binary.
    - 7% said they speak a language other than English, 6% were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 22% said they had a disability and 34% identified as LGBTIQA+.
- 13 had **lived experience** of street-based living

Pop-up participants who provided their demographic information (57 people) were primarily residents (96%), 60-84 year olds (60%) and females (65%).

Through the meetings and workshops, there were contributions from representatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, older adults, LGBTIQA+, youth, and people from multicultural backgrounds.

What safety means to you

In the survey and pop-ups, when asked to select the top 5 most important areas when thinking about community safety (from a list of 23 items), the most often selected were as follows (% from survey, description from written comments in survey and pop-ups).

58%	**Housing and homelessness**	Lack of housing availability leads to street-based living, which leads to some members of the public feeling unsafe when they see this, as well as reduced safety for the person experiencing homelessness.
55%	**Personal and property safety**	Specific to the need to feel safe when in public spaces and at home, free from intimidation, violence or theft.
41%	**Crime prevention**	This is considered a foundation to safety.
37%	**Mental health and wellbeing**	Mental health issues in others is perceived to sometimes contribute to reduced safety for the community.
34%	**Family and gender based violence, child safety and elder abuse**	This is considered a foundation to safety.
32%	**General health and wellbeing**	This is considered a foundation to safety.
32%	**Drug and alcohol abuse, and gambling harm**	Drug and alcohol abuse in others is perceived to sometimes contribute to reduced safety for the community.

Being safe was perceived by survey respondents and pop-up participants as being without fear, with the ability to be in a home and move around public spaces free from intimidation or violence. Safe environments were perceived as being free from crime, with infrastructure design that is clean, attractive, and enables safe travel. Respondents indicated that they feel safe when there are community connections and social cohesion, with supports for people to get help for drug, alcohol, mental health and housing challenges. Police presence can help with perceptions of safety for some, provided it is timely and effective, although for others police presence can reduce perceptions of safety.

Where you feel more or less safe

Survey respondents were asked to enter map points where they feel safe and unsafe. Hundreds of points were placed across the area, with locations perceived as safe due to sense of community and familiarity, being quiet and open space. Areas pin-pointed as unsafe were primarily related to the behaviour of members of the public in those spaces, as well as crime and lack of lighting.

Most survey respondents who completed the question asking for safety ratings for their local neighbourhood said that they feel safe with others during the day (86%) and/or alone during the day (75%). However, more than four in ten (42%) said they don't feel safe alone at night, and around a quarter said they don't feel safe with others at night, in and around local shops, and/or using local parks, reserves and playgrounds.

Unsure, 4%

No, 47%

Yes, limited or changed behaviour / activities, 49%
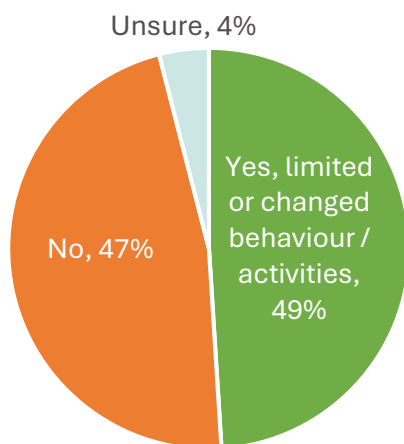
Almost half of survey respondents said they had limited or changed their behaviour in CoPP in the previous year due to safety concerns.

Behaviour changes include avoiding particular areas that are perceived as unsafe, not going out at night time, and/or increased situational awareness.

There were a range of suggestions put forth by respondents for making CoPP more safe for women, girls and gender diverse people, with the most common being more public space lighting, increased police presence with more effective outcomes to reduce re-offending, community education, better interventions to address individuals in public spaces who contribute to feelings of being unsafe, and/or more support services to assist those experiencing homelessness or with drug, alcohol, or mental health issues.
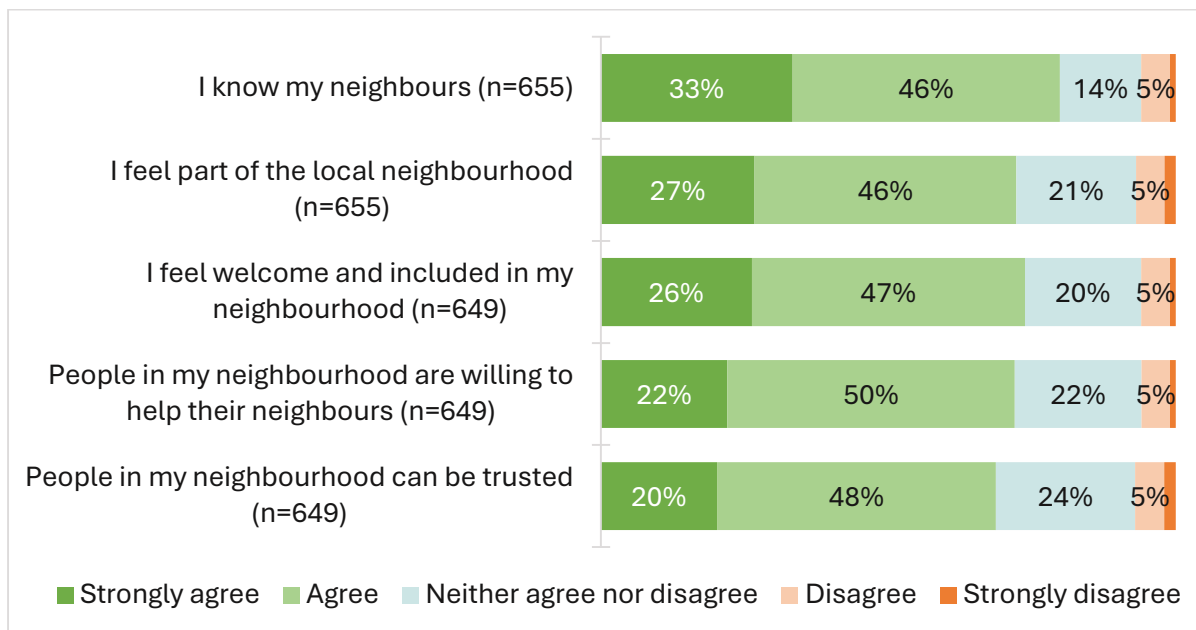
In terms of transport, survey respondents who completed the transport related questions (n=130-151) more often indicated feeling safe walking in school zones (64%) and along local/residential streets (59%), whilst more than half felt unsafe riding along main roads (63%) and/or along shopping / dining streets (63%). Feeling unsafe when walking, riding or driving was primarily attributed to aggressive drivers (70%), speeding drivers (66%) and/or bike or scooter riders disobeying road rules (62%).

Fostering safety

Survey responses and pop-up participants suggest that CoPPs strengths in terms of fostering safety primarily lie in the following (most respondents answered in terms of what *would* make them feel more safe, rather than what *currently* makes them feel more safe):

- sense of community, through knowing neighbours and feeling like people are looking out for each other (147 comments)
- police presence (102 comments)
- public lighting (72 comments)
- support services (70 comments)
- housing and homelessness (66 comments, 40 of whom mentioned wanting people experiencing homelessness to be supported)
- populated areas (63 comments), and
- transport infrastructure (footpaths and bike lanes, 53 comments).

Amongst those who participated in the social cohesion questions in the survey, sense of community was strong, and respondents generally agreed that they are welcome and supported in their local neighbourhood. Three quarters (64%) of these survey respondents felt that this type of connection helps them feel more safe in their neighbourhood.

I know my neighbours (n=655)	33%	46%	14% 5%
I feel part of the local neighbourhood (n=655)	27%	46%	21% 5%
I feel welcome and included in my neighbourhood (n=649)	26%	47%	20% 5%
People in my neighbourhood are willing to help their neighbours (n=649)	22%	50%	22% 5%
People in my neighbourhood can be trusted (n=649)	20%	48%	24% 5%

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

In terms of community connection and participation, survey respondents (who completed this section of the survey) broadly indicated that they like to help out and meet new people from different backgrounds, but there were some who didn't think they could move around CoPP easily and/or know about community activities.

The main suggestions put forth by survey respondents for how they could feel more safe and/or welcome were:

- Enhance community connection, potentially through programs and activities (55 comments).
- Increase police presence (51 comments).
- Increase support for people experiencing homelessness (47 comments), drug or alcohol abuse issues, and/or mental health issues (45 comments) to reduce antisocial behaviour in public spaces.
- Reducing crime (31 comments).

Feeling less safe

When asked what makes them feel less safe in CoPP, survey respondents and pop-up participants raised some key safety challenges for CoPP:

Drug and/or alcohol abuse (225 comments) – specific to confronting behaviours by those under the influence, as well as paraphernalia in public spaces. 83% of survey respondents who answered the question about safety experiences said they had seen or experienced alcohol and/or drug debris, 71% said they had seen or experienced street drinking or intoxication and 61% said they had seen or experienced drug use or dealing.

People experiencing street-based living (192 comments) – both in terms of perceptions of being unsafe around those experiencing street-based living, as well as lack of safety and support for the individuals experiencing this type of living arrangement.

Intimidating behaviour (173 comments) – often linked to other factors such as people experiencing homelessness, drug or alcohol abuse, or mental health issues, many respondents mentioned they feel unsafe due to the behaviour of others in public spaces. 75% of survey respondents who answered the question

about safety experiences said they had seen or experienced noisy, rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, 69% said they had seen or experienced unsafe or hostile behaviour in the street, and 68% had seen or experienced intimidating or threatening behaviour.

Crime (170 comments) – ranging from bicycle and car theft through to home invasion. 77% of survey respondents who answered the question about safety experiences said they had seen or experienced speeding traffic or hoon driving, 59% said they had seen or experienced vandalism or property damage and 45% said they had seen or experienced violence in public places.

When reporting unsafe situations, survey respondents mostly do so to Victoria Police (64% of those who had made a report) and/or Council (55% of those who had made a report). Amongst survey respondents, barriers to reporting include previous bad experiences (13% of those who didn't report an issue they had seen), and not understanding how to make a report (11% of those who didn't report and issue they had seen).

When in a situation where they feel less safe, 36% of survey respondents who answered the safety action questions said that in the past they had discussed or solved a problem with neighbours, and 26% said they had sought advice from police. Almost half (46%) said they were extremely confident or confident they would know who to contact or what to do if feeling less safe in CoPP, whilst 26% said they were not confident at all.

A Safer City of Port Philip

Through the survey responses, committee meetings, community workshops and submissions, a range of suggestions were put forth for enhancing safety in CoPP.

The key things put forth for Council to do were as follows. Often comments covered multiple topics:

Reduce homelessness (146 comments)
- Advocate for / build more affordable and public/social housing.
- Increase support for services (funding, assertive outreach, partnerships).
- Relocate people experiencing homelessness into housing.

More police patrols and enforcement (134 comments)
- Advocate for an increase in police patrols.
- Increase in local laws visibility and activities.
- Stronger enforcement of laws to prevent re-offending.

Action on drug / alcohol use / mental health issues (132 comments)
- More support services.
- Increase law enforcement.

More community support services (103 comments)
- Housing.
- Drugs and alcohol.
- Mental health.
- Inter-agency coordination.

Infrastructure
- Improve public lighting (68 comments).
- Road infrastructure – bike lanes and pedestrian crossing (43 comments).
- Cleaning / maintenance (41 comments).
- Facilities (toilets, libraries, etc.) (38 comments).
- CCTV (34 comments).

	Actions relating to people experiencing homelessness • Move on people experiencing homelessness, remove encampments and/or support the proposed local law change (50 comments). • Against the proposed local law change, don't move on people experiencing homelessness, don't criminalise vulnerable people (31 comments).
	Social cohesion (33 comments) • Events and activities. • Build community connections.
	Advocacy (31 comments) • Increased public housing • More funding for support services

Community safety roundtable report

There was widespread general support for the roundtable recommendations across the survey responses (111 comments) and submissions (19 submissions), although there were some concerns raised:

- Lack of inclusion of community voice in the roundtable process (11 mentions across surveys and submissions). Some felt that it was too service provider focussed, and didn't adequately take into account the experiences and needs of residents and traders.
- Concern that increased police presence may result in vulnerable people being targeted (7 submissions).

Local law proposed amendment

Just over half (55%) of survey respondents opposed the proposed local laws amendment to allow Council to designate a temporary 'no encampment' area, and 38% supported it. The strength of opposition was more pronounced (strongly 49%) than that of support (strongly 27%).

When filtering the findings by respondents with a connection to CoPP (live, work, pay rates or own a business) 51% oppose (45% strongly) and 41% support (29% strongly). Amongst just CoPP resident respondents, 46% oppose (40% strongly) and 44% support (31% strongly).

There were 6 submissions supporting the proposed amendments and 27 opposing, including a petition with 255 signatures opposing it, calling for a focus on the roundtable recommendations instead.

In the follow-up comments and submissions it was evident that there were some misconceptions about the scope of the proposed local law change that may have influenced ratings. Specifically, some supporters perceived that it would be coupled with an increase in support (that is, the people experiencing homelessness would be placed in housing), whilst opposition may have been influenced by a perception that fines would be issued.

Those who opposed the proposed amendment wrote in comments covering the following topics:
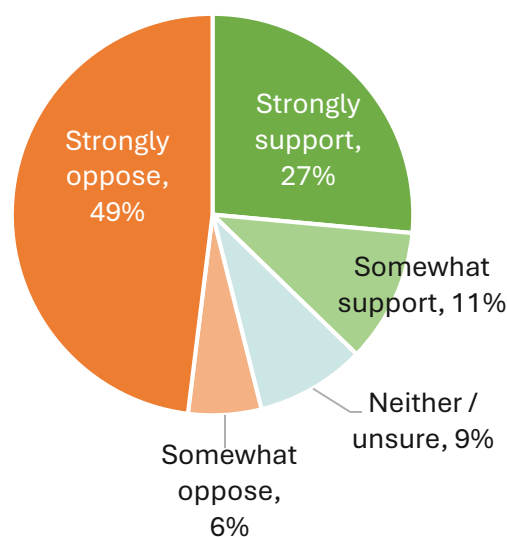
- Need for more support services for people experiencing homelessness (including outreach and early intervention), as well as support for mental health issues and drug and alcohol issues (143 survey comments, 23 submissions).
- Contravenes human rights (107 survey comments, 7 submissions).
- Doesn't fix the problem or solve anything, and don't think it will improve safety (96 survey comments, 11 submissions).
- Criminalising homelessness and victimising vulnerable people (74 survey comments, 18 submissions).
- Potential for harm to the individual (53 survey comments, 6 submissions).
- Concern about where they will go (42 survey comments).
- 8 of those opposing said this was because they wanted it to go further (cover the whole of CoPP permanently).

Those who supported the proposed amendment wrote in comments covering the following topics:

- Support for removal of encampments (61 comments), including suggestion that it brings CoPP laws in line with other Councils.
- Suggestion that it needs to go further (22 comments – 8 rated as oppose), covering the whole of CoPP permanently.
- Perception that it will improve safety for the community (21 comments).

Contents

Report prepared by ASDF Research.

This report presents an independent summary of data and information collected by City of Port Phillip. ASDF Research did not contribute to the design nor distribution of research materials.

August 2025.

1 Background and introduction

1.1 Project background

Community safety touches all parts of our lives and is essential to our health and wellbeing. It includes:
- increasing community wellbeing and cohesion, and social and cultural inclusion
- increasing opportunities for social and physical activity
- improving public amenities
- preventing and reducing hardship and insecure housing
- preventing and reducing incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour

Community safety is a broad concept that involves a wide range of issues—some of which fall under the Council's direct responsibility, others under its influence, and some outside its control but still affecting our community locally. The Council contributes to community safety through:
- fostering diversity, inclusion and social connection
- activating public spaces through community grants and funding
- providing supports for those experiencing hardship and insecure housing
- maintaining and upgrading public amenities and addressing identified traffic blackspot issues
- fostering strong partnerships with police and other emergency services, local traders and community groups
- activating and revitalising our high streets
- developing regulations to promote and maintain safety
- maintaining safe public places through CCTV, Local Laws and joint patrols with Police, and partnerships with service providers

To strengthen its commitment to a safer, more vibrant city, the City of Port Phillip is developing a new Community Safety Plan. The plan will outline Council's role in making Port Phillip a safer, more resilient place to live, work and visit. It will align with relevant state and federal strategies related to crime prevention, family violence, harm reduction from alcohol and drugs, emergency response and broader community safety. As part of the plan's development, Council engaged with community members to better understand their experiences and priorities related to safety.

Stakeholder Pre-engagement
In late 2024, Council conducted pre-engagement with internal staff and several Council Advisory Committees. These sessions helped shape the engagement approach—determining who we needed to speak with and what questions we needed to ask.

Community Safety Roundtable
In March 2025, a Community Safety Roundtable was held in response to ongoing safety concerns across the municipality. Convened by Council, the Roundtable was one of several key inputs into the new Community Safety Plan.

The Roundtable brought together participants who play a vital role in supporting those experiencing homelessness and in maintaining safety and amenity in the City.

Led by Chair Ian Gray, attendees were asked what more Council could do to improve community safety and how collaboration could be strengthened. Discussions focused on identifying actions, partnerships, service gaps and opportunities to enhance safety for everyone in Port Phillip.

Councillors attended the final session to hear these ideas directly. The insights gathered informed a report prepared by Ian Gray AM, which was presented at the 21 May 2025 Council Meeting.

The **Community Safety Roundtable Report** is available to read at https://portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/community-safety/

1.2 Engagement purpose and scope

The purpose of this engagement phase is to:

- seek an understanding of current community sentiment in relation to community safety
- seek an understanding of community and stakeholder needs and priorities in relation to community safety
- seek feedback on a proposed local law amendment (see preamble before Q3 in Appendix 1 – Survey Questions)

Insights from this engagement will directly inform the draft Community Safety Plan.

1.3 How to read this document

This document uses charts to show the findings from the survey and pop-ups, followed by an analysis of notable survey variations by demographics (see section 1.3.2). Where written answers were provided, these have been grouped into themes (see section 1.3.1), with the analysis showing the number of comments under each theme, a summary of what people were saying, and quotes. If the percentages in a chart don't add up to 100% this could be due to rounding, or because people could choose more than one answer. Analysis of key findings from the workshops, committee meetings, submissions and other relevant research has been included in each relevant section.

1.3.1 Thematic analysis

For the questions collecting a written answer, responses have been grouped into meaningful themes to assist with analysis. Where relevant, individual comments have been assigned to multiple themes

1.3.2 Statistical significance testing

Results have been tested for statistical significance using the Bonferroni method at 95% confidence level and takes into account the effective base for improved accuracy. Where a statistically significant variation has been identified in the analysis, this has been included in a written comment. To ensure relevance and usefulness of this report, cross analysis of variables which do not yield any statistically significant insights have not been included in the written analysis.

All findings have had significance testing conducted based on:

- Gender;
- Age;
- Speak a language other than English;
- Person with a disability;
- LGBTIQA+ (identify as LGBTIQA+ and/or non-binary gender); and
- Region;
- Connection (Significant (live, work, pay rates or own a business) or Minor (only visit, travel through or used to have a connection)); and
- Resident or non-resident.

1.3.3 Glossary

CoPP	City of Port Phillip
n=	The number of respondents who contributed to the reported percentages (base number)
NEP	Neighbourhood Engagement Program
Respondent	Those who participated in the survey.
Sample size	The number of people who provided an answer to the question.
Statistically significant	Highlights a phenomenon / variation in the data that one can be confident is reflective of the entire target population. For more information see previous section.
Thematic analysis	Grouping of written comments into themes to assist in analysis. See previous section.

1.4 Communication and engagement activities delivered

Between 22 May and 29 June 2025 a range of engagement activities were carried out to seek feedback from the community. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity.

Council-led

	Community Survey	A project page on Council's Have Your Say engagement website provided information on the process, a timeline, contact details and an online survey (with a short and a long version). Paper-based surveys were made available at ASSIST, library counters, through community organisations, as well as on request.	893
	Pop-ups and community activities x 16	Pop-ups were held as follows (NEP stands for Neighbourhood Engagement Program): - Elwood (NEP) 22 May - Ripponlea (NEP) 23 May - St Kilda Rd (NEP) 24 May - St Kilda East (NEP) 24 May - St Kilda (NEP) 29 May - Balaclava Community Forum 29 May - Albert Park (NEP) 30 May - South Melbourne (NEP) 30 May - Port Melbourne (NEP) 31 May - Fisherman's Bend (NEP) 31 May - Pride Centre 1 June - Multifaith Network 16 June - Multicultural Network Forum 18 June - Linking Neighbours (Elwood) 24 June - Port Phillip Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meeting 24 June - Linking Neighbours (Port Melbourne) 26 June	307
	Engagement at committees and meetings x 6	This included targeted discussions with the following groups: - First Nations community members and representatives. - Older Persons Advisory Committee. - LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee. - Youth Advisory Committee. - Multicultural Advisory Committee.	38
	Community workshops x 5	Community workshops were held as follows: 14 June South Melbourne Community Centre 15 June St Kilda Library 17 June Online 19 June Liardet Community Centre Hall 25 June St Kilda Library	34

Additional community input

	Submissions and emails	A total of 44 submissions were received. One submission included a petition with 255 signatures.	44

Total 1,316

Community workshops were analysed in a separate report, with key findings included throughout this document.

This report also includes relevant findings from a range of other Council-led community engagement activities from the previous 12 months:

- **Homelessness and affordable housing engagement, June 2025**: 73 participants completing the online survey, 22 participants completing hard-copy paper-based surveys, 34 participants at community pop-ups, one targeted interview with a community member with lived experience, five submissions received from partner organisations and housing providers, and a further 16 emails received from community members.
- **Community Safety Roundtable, March 2025**, report by Ian Gray AM: details consultations and observations focussed on community safety and amenity in the City of Port Phillip (CoPP), including a collaborative Roundtable on 19 March 2025, attended by 20 stakeholders from the social services sector and Victoria Police.
- **Balaclava Community Forum report:** Findings from an expo-style event at St Kilda Town Hall on Thursday, 29 May 2025, with 122 attendees. Six groups displayed their work: Port Phillip Community Group, Better Balaclava, Carlisle Street Traders Association, Uniting, PECAN, and Space 2B.
- **Health & Wellbeing in Port Phillip Engagement summary, October 2024 and Plan for Port Phillip phase two engagement report, January 2025** Presenting key finding from a range of activities from 29 July to 24 August 2024, including a survey (online and printed, n=152) and youth summit (n=70).
- **Plan for Port Phillip: Health & Wellbeing Stakeholder Workshop Report, February 2025:** Key findings from a stakeholder workshop with 27 stakeholders representing a range of organisations.
- **Panel recommendations to Council for the Plan for Port Phillip, March 2025:** advice from the Community Panel that was developed to help inform the new Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2029. The panel used a deliberative engagement technique with 40 members representing the community.
- **2025 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey:** A door-to-door survey with 901 households across the municipality, run from 16 March to 17 April 2025.
- **Youth Soundcheck engagement, October 2024:** From 29 July to 16 September feedback was collected feedback from 12-25 year olds through an online and printed survey (n=286), a youth summit (70 attendees) and 2 focus groups (30 participants).
- **Sport and Active Recreation Strategy Community Engagement, July 2025:** This included 8 pop-up events across the municipality (810 participants), 7 workshops, a broader community survey (358 responses) and three topic-specific surveys (sports clubs, active recreation providers and schools, 55 respondents).

2 Methodology

2.1 Engagement questions

For a full listing of survey questions, see Appendix 1 – Survey Questions.

2.2 Barriers to participation

A variety of engagement opportunities were offered, including online, face-to-face and outreach options. This helped ensure a broad and diverse range of voices were heard in recognition that some members of our community face barriers to participation.

It was raised in one submission that the survey length and format may make it inaccessible to people experiencing homelessness or have complex needs such as 'acquired brain injury, intellectual disability, low literacy, limited internet access and psychosocial ability'

2.3 Participation overview

2.3.1 Community Survey

Most responses were residents. Respondents could choose more than one answer.

	Total	
	N=	%
I live in the City of Port Phillip at a fixed address	717	80%
I live in the City of Port Phillip but don't currently have a fixed address	11	1%
I work in the City of Port Phillip	183	20%
I pay rates in the City of Port Phillip	330	37%
I own a business in the City of Port Phillip	55	6%
I visit the City of Port Phillip	104	12%
I travel through the City of Port Phillip	72	8%
I used to live in the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore	43	5%
I used to work in the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore	15	2%
I used to visit the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore	1	0%
I used to travel through the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore	1	0%

Through the other comment box it was also evident that there were 2 respondents who used to sleep rough in CoPP and 2 responses from people who work with those experiencing homelessness in the area. Overall, the survey reached 13 people currently or previously experiencing homelessness in City of Port Phillip.

35% Of survey respondents said they had provided feedback on any other City of Port Phillip projects in the past 12 months.

The distribution of the community survey was not designed to cover a representative sample of residents, instead it gave those with an interest in the topic the opportunity to have their say.

In the following charts, resident sample groups showing a notable under-representation when compared to 2021 City of Port Phillip Census data have been shaded in orange, and those with a notable over-representation have been shaded in green.

The distribution of resident survey respondents was skewed towards 50-84 year olds, with an under-representation of residents aged under 35.

The non-resident sample was dominated by younger people aged 25-49. It should be noted that any observed variations in the data amongst 18-34 year olds can likely be attributed to 41% of respondents in this age group being non-residents, who generally show different preferences and experiences (as compared to the 35-59 age group where only 19% were non-residents and 60+ where only 1% were non-residents).

	Total		Residents		2021 Census	Non-residents	
	N=	%	N=	%	% of 18+	N=	%
Under 18	1	0%	1	0%		0	0%
18 - 24	31	3%	18	3%	8%	13	7%
25 - 34	146	16%	86	12%	26%	60	34%
35 - 49	224	25%	174	24%	29%	50	29%
50 - 59	182	20%	155	22%	15%	27	16%
60 - 69	150	17%	136	19%	11%	14	8%
70 - 84	123	14%	115	16%	9%	8	5%
85 and over	11	1%	11	2%	2%	0	0%
I'd prefer not to say	22	2%	20	3%		2	1%

More females than males completed the survey. This is usually the case for surveys distributed in this way.

	Total		Residents		2021 Census	Non-residents	
	N=	%	N=	%	%	N=	%
Female (woman or girl)	525	59%	421	59%	51%	104	60%
Male (man or boy)	281	32%	245	34%	49%	36	21%
Non-binary	32	4%	13	2%		19	11%
I'd prefer not to say	50	6%	35	5%		15	9%

Within the survey sample there was an under-representation of residents from Elwood and Melbourne, and an over-representation from St Kilda.

	Total		Residents		2021 Census
	N=	%	N=	%	%
Albert Park	52	6%	51	7%	6%
Balaclava	43	5%	37	5%	5%
Elwood	66	7%	63	9%	15%
Melbourne	26	3%	13	2%	9%
Middle Park	33	4%	33	5%	4%
Port Melbourne	113	13%	108	15%	17%
Ripponlea	7	1%	7	1%	2%
South Melbourne	67	8%	64	9%	11%
Southbank	4	0%	2	0%	0%
St Kilda	252	28%	222	31%	19%
St Kilda East	66	7%	59	8%	8%
St Kilda West	42	5%	42	6%	3%
Windsor	9	1%	5	1%	1%
Prefer not to say	55	6%	7	1%	-
Other	55	6%	2	0%	-

For cross-analysis, suburb has been grouped into regions as follows.

	Total	
	N=	%
Port Melbourne	113	13%
Albert Park and Middle Park	85	10%
South Melbourne	67	8%
St Kilda Road (Melbourne, Windsor and Southbank)	39	4%
St Kilda and St Kilda West	294	33%
Elwood and Ripponlea	73	8%
Balaclava and St Kilda East	109	12%
Outside CoPP / Prefer not to say	110	12%

The survey included large enough sample sizes for cross-analysis by respondents who said they speak a language other than English at home, have a disability, and/or identify as LGBTIQA+. Cross-analysis has not been undertaken by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander to ensure anonymity of respondents can be maintained.

	Total		Residents		2021 Census	Non-residents	
	N=	%	N=	%	%	N=	%
I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background	21	2%	10	1%	0.5%	11	6%
I speak a language other than English at home	75	8%	62	9%	21%	13	7%
I am a person with disability	112	13%	74	10%	13%*	38	22%
I identify as LGBTIQA+	162	18%	103	14%	-	59	34%

2023 VPHS survey

2.3.2 Pop-ups

Findings from the pop-ups can't be analysed by demographics, however this information can illustrate the coverage of the community through these activities. Not all pop-up participants provided their demographics. Of the 57 pop-up participants who shared their demographics, almost all were residents (55, 96%), 37% said they were ratepayers and 12% said they were volunteers. There were 2 business owners and 5 workers. 55% said they had provided feedback on any other City of Port Phillip projects in the previous 12 months.

Pop-up participants were predominantly aged 60-69 years.

Age	Total		2021 Census
	N=	%	% of 18+
Under 18	0	-	-
18 - 24	0	-	8%
25 - 34	7	12%	26%
35 - 49	9	16%	29%
50 - 59	5	9%	15%
60 - 69	26	46%	11%
70 - 84	8	14%	9%
85 and over	2	4%	2%
I'd prefer not to say	0	-	-

More females than males participated in the pop-ups.

Gender	Total		2021 Census
	N=	%	%
Female (woman or girl)	37	65%	51%
Male (man or boy)	19	33%	49%
Non-binary	1	2%	-
I'd prefer not to say	-	-	-

The suburb of residence for pop-up participants was closely aligned to the location of the pop-ups.

Suburb	Total		2021 Census
	N=	%	% of 18+
Albert Park	0	0%	6%
Balaclava	2	4%	5%
Elwood	9	16%	15%
Melbourne	10	18%	9%
Middle Park	2	4%	4%
Port Melbourne	8	14%	17%
Ripponlea	9	16%	2%
South Melbourne	0	0%	11%
Southbank	0	0%	0%
St Kilda	13	23%	19%
St Kilda East	3	5%	8%
St Kilda West	0	0%	3%
Windsor	0	0%	1%
Prefer not to say	0	0%	-
Other	0	0%	-

There were small numbers of representation from diverse groups in the pop-ups.

Diversity	Total		2021 Census
	N=	%	%
I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background	1	2%	0.5%
I speak a language other than English at home	6	11%	21%
I am a person with disability	2	4%	13%*
I identify as LGBTIQA+	4	7%	-

2023 VPHS survey

3 Key findings

The following section shows a summary of the key findings across all of the engagement activities, as well as inclusion of findings from previous community engagement and research activities conducted by Council.

3.1 What safety means to you

Question:	Q2. When we consider community safety, we can think about all the following areas. Tick the FIVE that are the most important to you.
	Q3. If you would like to share why these are important to you, you can tell us here.
	Pop-up board - Which 5 community safety areas are the most important to you?
Sources:	Q2. Community survey (n=874)
	Q3. Community survey (n=489 comments)
	Pop-ups (number of people who contributed to poster boards is unknown), and other targeted engagements. (661 dots placed)
Notes:	This report starts at Q2, as Q1 was connection to City of Port Phillip (see 2.3.1)
	Respondents were asked to select up to 5 answers from a list of 23, with an 'other specify' box. The answer options weren't randomised (appeared in the same order for each respondent) so there may be some order bias in the findings (that is, options at the start of the list are likely to be selected more often than those at the end of the list).
	There was a notable amount of online discourse about the survey in relation to the local laws question on homelessness, which may have led to a high incidence of people visiting the survey to voice their opinions on that topic. Given the distribution methodology, it is not possible to identify if homelessness is indeed the number one issue for the broader community or whether this has been skewed.
	Note that drug and alcohol abuse was grouped with gambling harm, so it is not possible to identify whether people may have only been thinking about one part of this (e.g. just drug abuse) when answering this item.
	For Q3 answers were typed/written in by respondents and then analysed by selected answers in Q2 to provide further insights. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme.
	A poster board was presented at 9 locations where pop-up visitors could place a dot on the top 5 community safety areas. It is not possible to identify whether each contributor placed exactly 5 dots (some may have placed more, while some may have placed less, or two in the same area).

For the analysis of this question, responses from those who have a *significant connection* to City of Port Phillip (live, work, pay rates or own a business in the area) were analysed separately to those with a *minor connection* (who only visit, travel through or used to have a connection) to demonstrate the variations in priorities.

The most commonly selected important areas when thinking about community safety were **housing and homelessness, personal and property safety** (particularly for survey respondents with a *significant connection* to CoPP and *pop-up* participants) and **crime prevention activities** (particularly for survey respondents with a *significant connection* to CoPP and *pop-up* participants).

Mental health and wellbeing was commonly selected in the top 5 amongst *minor connection* survey respondents and *pop-up* participants.

Figure 3.1.1 Most important areas when thinking about community safety – proportion selected in the top 5 by connection to CoPP (top 10 responses)
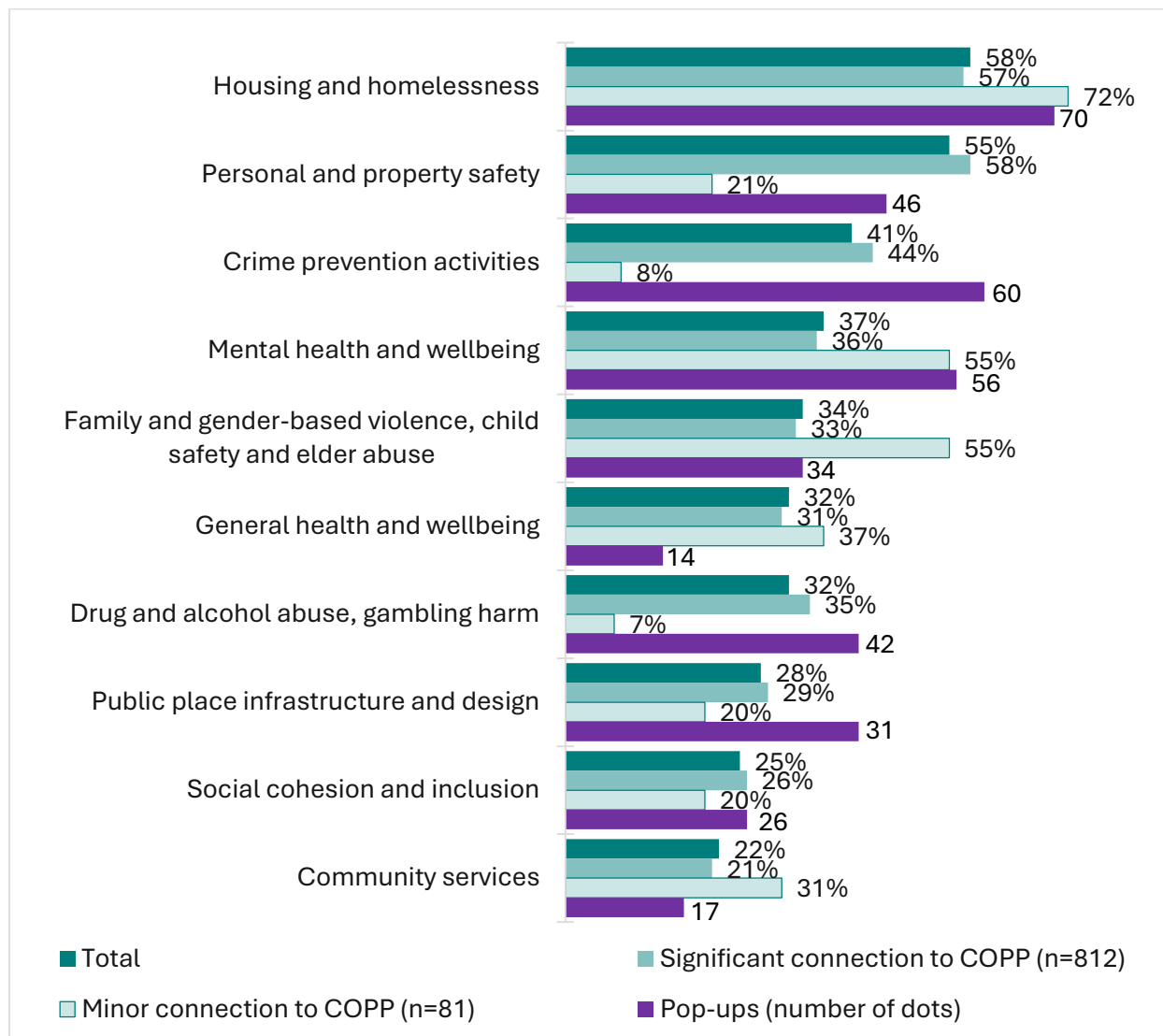
Many of the comments choosing topics relating to housing, mental health, crime prevention, drug and alcohol abuse, and family and gender based violence indicated that these are the primary areas that need attention to improve safety and/or are the building blocks to safety.

> *The five topics chosen above are most important to me... they are the primary areas that require attention, support, advocacy, funding, and care for our most vulnerable community members. Promoting safety in these areas will, undoubtedly inform increased safety for the broader community.* [Male, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]

> *Hard to pick as all of these are important, but I consider these ones to have the most serious consequences when not addressed adequately.* [25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

> *We are facing many difficulties now as a community and these are structural, relating to the increasing divisions between the haves and the have-nots. Many people face housing insecurity because of mental health, addiction, relationship breakdown, job loss and more. We must choose compassion and wisdom in finding the best solutions.* [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

Gender

Male respondents more often selected *personal and property safety* (63%, compared to 55% females) and/or *local laws and city amenity* (18%, compared to 11% females) in their top 5.

Female respondents more often selected a number of items in their top 5:

- *Food security* (14%, compared to 8% males).
- *Public place infrastructure and design* (31%, compared to 24% males).
- *Community services* (24%, compared to 16% males).

Age

Respondents aged 18-34 more often selected many of the options in their top 5, including *housing and homelessness* (73%, compared to 55% 35+ year olds), *family and gender based violence* (54%, compared to 26% 60+ year olds), and/or *community services* (31%, compared to 19% 35+ year olds).

Respondents aged 35-59 more often selected *drug and alcohol abuse and gambling related harm in their top 5* (38%, compared to 24% 18-34 year olds).

Respondents aged 35+ more often selected in their top 5 *personal and property safety* (62%, compared to 25% 18-34 year olds) and *crime prevention activities* (46%, compared to 15% 18-39 year olds).

Respondents aged under 60 years more often selected *mental health and wellbeing* in their top 5 (48% 18-34 year olds and 40% 35-59 year olds, compared to 28% 60+ year olds).

Respondents aged 60 years or over more often selected in their top 5 *social cohesion and inclusion* (35%, compared to 17% 18-34 year olds and 23% 35-59 year olds), and/or *Road safety* (24%, compared to 14% 18-34 year olds).

Diversity

There were many variations across the diverse experiences of respondents:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** respondents more often selected in their top 5 *cultural safety* 39%, compared to 16% not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) and/or *council facilities and community centres* (22%, compared to 8% not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander).
- Respondents who said they speak a **language other than English** at home more often selected in their top 5 *general health and wellbeing* (42%, compared to 31% English-only), and/or *racism, antisemitism and islamophobia* (26%, compared to 15% English-only).
- **Respondents with a disability** more often selected in their top 5 *mental health and wellbeing* (55%), *family and gender based violence* (52%), *community services* (37%), and *cultural safety* (30%).
- Respondents who identify as LGBTIQA more often selected in their top 5 *housing and homelessness* (70%), *family and gender-based violence* (51%), *mental health and wellbeing* (50%), *community services* (33%), and many others.

Region

Resident respondents more often selected in their top 5:

- *personal and property safety* (62%), particularly in **Port Melbourne** (78%), **Albert Park and Middle Park** (78%) and **South Melbourne** (68%).
- *crime prevention activities* (47%), particularly in **Port Melbourne** (63%), **Albert Park and Middle Park** (67%) and **South Melbourne** (55%).
- *drug and alcohol abuse and gambling harm* (36%).
- public place infrastructure and design (30%).

Respondents who said they live in the **St Kilda Road** region more often selected in their top 5 *housing and homelessness* (84%), *mental health and wellbeing* (55%), *food security* (37%), and/or *racism, antisemitism and islamophobia* (29%).

Respondents who said they live in **Elwood and Ripponlea** more often selected in their top 5 *environment, sustainability and climate* (40%) and/or *social cohesion and inclusion* (37%).

Respondents who said they live in **Balaclava and St Kilda East** more often selected in their top 5 *racism, antisemitism and islamophobia* (27%).

Respondents who live **outside of City of Port Phillip** more often selected in their top 5 *housing and homelessness* (79%), *mental health and wellbeing* (55%), *family and gender-based violence* (53%), *cultural safety* (34%), *and/or community services (30%)*.

Lived experience	Those with a lived experience of street-based living (current or past) more often selected in their top 5: • General health and wellbeing (69%). • Mental health and wellbeing (69%). • Social isolation (46%). • Cultural safety (38%). • Food security (31%).

An open ended follow-up question gave survey respondents and pop-up participants the change to write in further information about their answer. Some of the insights relating to these topic areas are as follows:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Housing and homelessness	This was important to people because they live near rough sleepers, they feel that people should have a safe place to live, and they were concerned about the welfare of those who have nowhere to live. It was felt that there is a duty of care to look after those who are marginalised through lack of housing.	*"That those in my community, especially the people who've been written off, like homeless people who just want to survive the night, are cared for as well. A community needs to keep all its members safe, especially those who are disadvantaged by the system that keeps us unsafe." [25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]*
Personal and property safety	There were a range of topics mentioned regarding personal safety, mostly in reference to walking around local streets. This was often linked with drug use and mental health, but also bike/scooter riders and theft.	*"…These and other ongoing incidents have left me feeling unsafe in my own neighbourhood. I no longer feel comfortable walking my dog before work, especially during the darker winter mornings, and have had to hire a dog walker" [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*
Crime prevention activities	In the comments relating to this item, people were sharing personal experiences with crime,	*This is a very basic definition of safety, but I feel our spaces have become less physically safe over the years and that we need to focus more effort on crime prevention and ensuring that public spaces are safe for all residents all of the time [Female, 60 - 69 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Mental health and wellbeing	This was considered one of the underlying factors contributing to reduced safety in public spaces, and was often correlated with other factors such as crime and personal safety.	*General and mental health and wellbeing are foundational. I work in mental and addiction health, and while there are some homeless people, they are often are at the lowest points of their lives with no other option. Adequate social housing must be prioritised. Only then can they feel like they're part of the community, and strive to improve the area with us.* [Male, 25 - 34 years, South Melbourne] *"As a woman personal and property safety are obviously important. Safety isn't always felt in my position and it needs a lot of work. Mental health goes with this as does general health."* [Female, 35-59 years, lived experience]
Family and gender based violence, child safety and elder abuse	Those who chose this option see it as foundational to ensuring safety for all members of the community.	*Our homes must be a safe place, this the lowest bar at the very least to be even remotely considered a safe community that we have to jump over.* [Male, 35 - 49 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]
General health and wellbeing	Those who selected general health and wellbeing commented that they did so due to it being foundational to other aspects of safety.	*"General health and wellbeing covers a lot of ground in terms of safety (like the other options listed)"* [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda Road]
Drug and alcohol abuse, gambling harm	Drug abuse was commonly mentioned in comments, specific to paraphernalia in the streets and people who are affected by drugs and alcohol making others feel unsafe. Gambling was seldom mentioned.	*"I don't want to be afraid to walk through the park, scared of violent attacks or drug related harassment. I want to meditate under the coroberee tree but I don't want to disturb the homeless camp or sit on waste."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda Road]
Public place infrastructure and design	It was felt that public infrastructure plays an important role in enabling people to feel safe when in their local neighbourhood. Some raised this as particularly important for women.	*Social isolation and lack of facilities (toilets, libraries, community spaces) cause people to not seek help / not get the help and care they need. That leads to all sorts of complexities also - without facilities around people are more visible on the street, which residents don't like / forced to deal with complexities in public / no where to go.* [Female, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Social cohesion and inclusion	The comments suggest that this was perceived as knowing their neighbours, looking out for each other and caring for / supporting those who are vulnerable.	*"Feeling safe in my neighbourhood happens when people are connected, and able to build networks of mutual care. For example, I feel safe in my neighbourhood because I know lots of people of similar and different backgrounds to me"* [Female, 18 - 24 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]
Community services	Community services were frequently referred to as being needed to support those experiencing issues across the other main categories, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and housing. They were also important for people to have the opportunity for social connection and health support.	*"As an older resident with chronic health conditions and restricted mobility, I used to feel safe and supported until CoPP closed down their excellent aged care services. Now I feel unsafe and isolated from the community"* [Male, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Figure 3.1.2 Most important areas when thinking about community safety – proportion selected in the top 5 by connection to CoPP – community survey (bottom 13 responses)

Category	Total	Significant connection to COPP (n=812)	Minor connection to COPP (n=81)	Pop-ups (number of dots)
Environment, sustainability and climate	21%	20%	28%	32
Road safety	20%	20%	13%	42
Cultural safety	16%	14%	39%	10
Racism, Antisemitism and Islamophobia	16%	15%	25%	41
Public place activation and maintenance	14%	14%	12%	42
Local Laws and City Amenity	13%	14%	3%	18
Social isolation	12%	11%	19%	19
Food security	12%	11%	25%	15
Council facilities and community centres	8%	8%	5%	9
Online safety and cyber-crime	4%	4%	5%	9
Communication and information sharing	4%	4%	3%	8
Animal management	4%	4%	1%	15
Safety around water	2%	2%	4%	5

Legend:
- Total
- Significant connection to COPP (n=812)
- Minor connection to COPP (n=81)
- Pop-ups (number of dots)

1) abuse of our climate, environment & lack of sustainability are my primarily causes of feeling unsafe. Addressing these is non negotiable for some kind of decent future for our young. 2) I ride a bike everywhere I can. I feel utterly unsafe on many of my routes in Port Phillip. Road safety means BIKE LANES. Why don't you even include this in road safety? Research shows that separate cyclist infrastructure benefits both cyclist AND driver safety. Addressing social isolation will lead to many of the other areas in your list. [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

I believe our shared communal spaces that are universally and equally accessible to all are an incredibly precious part of our social infrastructure - particularly our libraries and staffed adventure playgrounds at the level of local government responsibility. These types of welcoming communal spaces and resources are a kind of social glue and safety net that can prevent individuals and families slipping through the cracks into a space of being unable to cope, connect etc. I see social and physical infrastructure at the local level from a perspective of changing climate and worsening environmental conditions (extreme heat, mould in housing etc) and I think it has an absolutely crucial role to play in material and social resilience for our community into the future. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Through targeted discussions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and elders it was identified that the following aspects were key to fostering safety:

- Community connection and community development to bring people together.
- Having a gathering place, as people want to be together and feel safer when together.
- Shared lived experience and peer support.
- 24/7 services that go to the people and 'start the conversation' to break down barriers.
- All items on the previously presented list were top priorities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Question:	Q7. What does feeling/being safe mean to you?
Sources:	737 comments across the community survey (n=644 comments) and pop-ups (n=93)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme.
	Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings do not show incidence.

Survey and pop-up respondents put forth a broad variety of topics to explain what safety means to them. Comments could broadly be divided into two perspectives, things that can support feelings of safety (e.g. social cohesion, community support or infrastructure, 215 comments) and, more commonly, things that prevent people from feeling safe (e.g. fear of intimidation or violence, 418 comments).

> To me, safety means more than just the absence of harm—it means having access to secure and adequate housing, essential resources, and community-based supports. It means being able to participate in and feel included in my local community without fear or exclusion. Safety also means freedom from police surveillance, harassment, and violence. It means not being criminalised simply for existing in public space - whether resting, gathering, or seeking support. True safety comes from dignity, stability, and connection, not punishment or policing. [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]

> Being able to walk down the street by myself, not feel on edge that someone will attempt to rob or hurt me. Feel I can walk to my letterbox without locking the door behind me. I can have pot plants out the front of my home without them being stolen. [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

> Being able to fully participate in the local community without worrying about potential harms, including when accompanied by children [Male, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

> 1) I feel safe when I see government at all levels effectively & fairly addressing our most pressing problems including climate & environment degradation, lack of housing, social support for those who need it. - young & old 2) I feel safe on St Kilda Road's separated bike lane. 3) I feel safe when I connect with other residents in Port Phillip. [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

> Feeling / being safe means I can walk out of my apartment, and go to wherever my destination may be without having to navigate around people acting strangely or aggressively, without drivers speeding up to cross intersections just as the lights change to red and without having to put up with aggressive people on public transport who are often under the influence of drugs and / or alcohol. [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

> Not being concerned about anti-social and criminal activities being undertaken near or around the areas where I am visiting and interacting in. [Male, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]

> On one hand, it's about walking down the street and content that I don't have to look over my shoulder. And that if something happened in a public space, others (including me) would step in to assist [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

Primarily, comments talked about being able to move around public spaces and homes without fear, specifically from intimidation or violence. Many comments also mentioned the importance of a sense of community to support perceptions of safety. Some elaborated on specific circumstances that contribute to feeling unsafe, such as traveling at night time and behaviour of others (specifically drug use and mental health issues).

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Being without fear (240 comments)	The most commonly mentioned personal interpretation of safety was to live without fear. Many referred to being able to walk around their neighbourhood, or to and from activities without fear (168 comments). 82 comments specifically mentioned night time or after dark. 73 comments didn't elaborate further. 35% year olds more often wrote in a comment relating to travel without fear (17% 35-50 and 18% 60+ year olds). Resident respondents also more often wrote in a comment relating to this theme (17%), particularly those from Albert Park and Middle Park (20%), St Kilda and St Kilda West (20%) and Balaclava and St Kilda East (18%).	*"Not having to watch over my shoulder or alter my behaviour because of fear (example walking early in the morning, or home from PT after dark." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
Free from intimidation (160 comments)	Being free from intimidation included mentions of aggressive people and/or harassment. This was often coupled with mention of drugs and/or alcohol (39 comments). Resident respondents more often wrote in a comment relating to this theme (20%, compared to 10% non-residents).	*"Knowing I am able to exist in peace, without being threatened for things I cannot change, and that are causing no harm. Knowing the same can be said for every other human (and animal) in my community." [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda Road]* *"That I will free to go about my business without violence, harassment or intimidation." [Female, 35 - 49 years, South Melbourne]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Social cohesion (122 comments)	Many elements of social cohesion were put forth as promoting a sense of safety, including knowing neighbours, supportive communities where people step in to assist and feeling part of a community. Comments relating to this theme were more often put forth by respondents aged 18-34 (20%, compared to 10% 35+), people with a disability (21%, compared to 11% without), those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (22%, compared to 11% non-LGBTIQA+) and those who live outside of CoPP (20%, compared to 11% resident respondents).	*"Feeling like I belong and have a say in the future at the place."* [Pop-up] *"To have a sense of stability and trust in myself and others, feeling at ease in community."* [Male, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"I feel safest when I feel like I am part of a community. If I know my neighbours, the local shop owners and am familiar with my councillors, then I will know that support is always a round the corner. I feel safe when I am able to communicate my needs and be involved in addressing the needs of other people. Feeling safe is as much about the health and happiness of people in the community as my own."* [Female, 18 - 24 years, Port Melbourne]
Free from violence (109 comments)	Being free from violence specifically (rather than just intimidation) was also often mentioned, including being 'attacked'. 43 comments mentioned both intimidation *and* violence. Comments relating to this theme were more often put forth by 35-59 year olds (16%, compared to 7% 60+ year olds).	*"Not worrying about experiencing violence, theft or anti-social behaviour."* [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Freedom from violence for all CoPP - including properly community supports for those who may be experiencing a mental health crisis, causing others to feel scared."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, Outside CoPP]
Mention of drugs (79 comments)	Many comments mentioned that people under the influence of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia in the streets make them feel unsafe. This was often coupled with other concerns such as intimidation, violence and crime. Drugs were more often mentioned by resident respondents (9%, compared to 5% non-residents).	*"Being able to feel safe in my home with the door locked as well as being able to leave my home without being scared walking the streets (in daylight) alone, not fearing unprovoked verbal abuse or physical abuse from a stranger. I have been verbally abused by individuals in St Kilda who appear to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. I fear physical abuse is next :("* [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Crime / theft (75 comments)	Most mentions of crime were general (just using the word 'crime') and many were coupled with mentions of drug use (20 comments). A range of crimes were mentioned, including property theft from houses and motor vehicles and knife crime. There were also mentions of the need for appropriate prevention of and responses to crime, including opposition to criminalisation of homelessness. Respondents from Port Melbourne more often put forth a comment relating to this theme (17%, compared to 3% Balaclava and St Kilda East).	*"Knowing that I can live without being concerned for my personal safety and that the police are active in crime prevention." [Male, 70 - 84 years, South Melbourne]* *"Feeling and being safe means that one can freely move about and live your daily lives without fear of being attacked, robbed or assaulted. The unbelievable prevalence of knife crime, home invasions and even things like businesses being torched makes people feel unsafe and anxious." [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]*
Roads and footpaths (69 comments)	There were 36 comments mentioning that speed limits and/or drivers can make them feel unsafe, specifically through speeding, aggressive driving and/or dangerous driving. 29 mentioned that they feel safe when they have safe bike lanes, with many saying that they need to be separated from cars. 25 people mentioned footpaths. This includes being safe from accidents with bike riders and motor vehicles. Roads and drivers were mentioned more often by resident respondents (5%), compared to 1% non-residents).	*"Physical safety requires footpaths, crossings to be in good condition." [Female, 70 - 84 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]* *"Vehicles driving speed limits and obeying rules. Being able to walk on well maintained footpaths free of clutter and hazards. Well lit walking paths with enough visibility to avoid hazards in the dark." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Social supports / services (56 comments)	There were a variety of comments that safety relies on there being services available to support those experiencing challenges, including drug and alcohol harm and those experiencing homelessness. Comments relating to this theme were more often put forth by 18-34 year old respondents (12%, compared to 5% 35+ year olds), respondents who speak a language other than English (12%, compared to 6% English-only), respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (14%, compared to 4% non-LGBTIQA+), and those outside of CoPP (13%, compared to 4% residents).	*"It means not having my blankets and bedding cruelly stolen by council workers. It means not being criminalised because I have had a traumatic life. It means being housed, fed and treated with dignity and like a human being. It means receiving care, compassion and decency." [35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]*
People experiencing homelessness (53 comments)	23 comments suggested that people experiencing homelessness can remain safe through being housed and/or adequately supported. There were also 26 comments from people who indicated that seeing people experiencing homelessness made them feel unsafe. There were no notable variations in mentions by demographics or location.	*"An inclusive, tolerant community where vulnerable people (homeless, alcohol & drug, mental health, FV) have access to the support they need. I am not supportive of changing local bylaws as a leaver to address these issues." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Outside CoPP]* *"Not having to cross the road to avoid encampments on Fitzroy Street and Grey Street." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Feeling safe for me means not having to worry about the council taking my stuff if I'm gone for 5 seconds and being asked to move on by the council & the public." [Non-binary, 18-34 year old, Lived experience]*
Housing (53 comments)	Many referred to having a home / safe place to sleep as making them feel safe. This includes affordable, stable, safe housing for themselves, as well as emergency and social housing for those in need. 6% of females made a comment relating to this theme, compared to 1% males. 18-34 year olds also more commonly made a comment relating to this theme (14%, compared to 1% 60+).	*"Having access to food, home, stable living environment, being involved in and having access to community groups." [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *"Feeling safe means having access to safe housing and community facilities. It means not worrying about where I will be spending the night and it means feeling secure in being sheltered." [18 - 24 years, Outside CoPP]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Amenity (52 comments)	The main aspects of amenity referenced through the comments were lighting (20 comments), Litter / maintenance and cleanliness (19 comments), graffiti and vandalism (10 comments), and/or public space design (9 comments).	*"Not to feel threatened/unsafe walking down the street, or walking into a shopping centre. Not to have cars and homes broken in to. Nice clean streets to be proud of. No vacant shops boarded up, empty collecting dirt & graffiti."* [Male, 35 - 49 years, Elwood and Ripponlea] *"Public spaces e.g. Acland plaza need activation. Bring back table tennis table!"* [Pop-ups]
Police (50 comments)	Of those who mentioned police, most were calling for a greater police presence, with faster response times and more enforcement (33 comments). 10 comments expressed a fear of police violence, and 7 suggested there needs to be fewer police. A call for increased police presence was more common amongst residents (4%, compared to 1% non-residents). Fear of violence by the police was more commonly mentioned by 18-34 year olds respondents (4%, compared to 0% 60+ year olds), non-residents (3%, compared to 1% residents), those who speak a language other than English (4%, compared to 1% English-only), respondents with a disability (4%, compared to 1% no disability) and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (6%, compared to 0% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Feeling safe means feeling safe to walk around at night and day without feeling unsafe. There has been an increase in crime. I think a bit more police presence around, which I think I have noticed. If police are called they are responding quickly."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East] *"Walking without looking behind. Having security cameras in streets. Having a police station in Port Melbourne. Seeing police at night and day."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]
Mental health (45 comments)	Comments relating to mental health covered 2 key themes: ensuring people with mental health issues have access to services and support (23 comments), and mention of people with mental health issues resulting in others feeling unsafe (18 comments).	*"Personal safety, with the ability to move around the area without fear of verbal or physical attack. Not fearing that my property is at risk of damage or theft. Knowing that there is caring and fully trained local authorities available at all hours, that approach situations they attend to in a non aggressive manner. Local authorities who have better training and care for every member of the community, including those suffering mental health crises, homelessness and*

| | | drug dependency." [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] |

Other themes with notable mentions include:
- 32 comments mentioned safety for their children.
- 12 comments mentioned safety when walking dogs.
- 5 comments mentioned CCTV.

Question:	Q8. What makes you feel more safe about living in Port Phillip?
Sources:	691 comments across the community survey (n=597 comments) and pop-ups (n=94)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Percentages are calculated as proportion of all respondents (n=893). Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme.
It was clear from the tone of responses that many respondents answered this as what would *help make them feel more safe*, rather than things that *currently make them feel more safe*.
Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings do not show the incidence of people who would feel more safe from these initiatives (as would be the case if they were shown a list to choose from).

In terms of things that currently foster safety, community connections and support was the main theme of comments.

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Community support / sense of community / neighbours (147 comments)	The primary thing that was mentioned as making people feel safe was a sense of community, including knowing neighbours and looking out for each other.
Female respondents more often wrote in a comment regarding this (17%, compared to 10% males), as did those with a disability (26%, compared to 14% without a disability), and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (25%, compared to 13% non-LGBTIQA+).	"Community cohesion. Seeing people able to express themselves, their culture without fear." [25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]
"It is a wonderful area with many fantastic people living here. I have many friends in the area whom I can contact at any time." [Male, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Nothing – don't feel safe (103 comments)	Many commenters said that they couldn't think of anything that currently makes them feel more safe. A higher proportion of resident respondents wrote in a comment relating to this theme (13%, compared to 4% non-residents). Writing in comments relating to this theme was also more common amongst respondents who speak a language other than English (20%, compared to 11% English-only), those without a disability (13%, compared to 4% of those with a disability), those who don't identify as LGBTIQA+ (13%, compared to 4% LGBTIQA+), and 35-59 year olds (15%, compared to 6% 18-34 year olds).	*"I don't feel safe around the neighbourhood anymore. In the last 5 years the unsafe feeling has been increasing. I'm Worried every morning when I have to walk to work at 7 am and I definitely avoid to walk at nighttime." [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Police (102 comments)	More police presence was commonly mentioned as something that makes people feel more safe. Mentioning more police was more common amongst 35-59 (13%) and 60+ year olds (11%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), residents (12%, compared to 5% non-residents) and respondents from Port Melbourne (21%, compared to 6% Balaclava and St Kilda East).	*"We're lucky to live where we are in PP, but the area has its problems and these problems need proactive action to resolve them. More visibility of the police acting on the behavioural issues needs to be at the forefront." [Male, 60 - 69 years, Port Melbourne]*
Lighting (72 comments)	There were many comments putting forth lighting as something that makes them feel more safe in Port Phillip. This was more commonly mentioned by resident respondents (8%, compared to 3% non-residents).	*"Lighting, murals, activities like festivals and markets as well as other cultural events like running, yoga, open air theatre and movies etc." [Male, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
Services / support (70 comments)	A range of services were mentioned as making people feel more safe living in Port Phillip, including community services such as libraries, as well as social support services for those in need. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly provided by 18-34 year olds (12%, compared to 3% 60+ year olds) and respondents identifying as LGBTIQA+ (14%, compared to 6% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Access to public transport and community services (libraries, public parks) make me feel safe and connected to the people around me." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *Knowing community services are around to support me [Female, 35-59, lived experience]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Housing / homelessness (66 comments)	There were three types of opinion put forth regarding people experiencing homelessness: some respondents said they feel safe knowing that those experiencing homelessness are properly supported and not mistreated (40 comments), whilst others said they feel safe when homelessness is addressed and they don't see people experiencing homelessness. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly provided by 18-34 year olds (11%, compared to 4% 60+ year olds).	*"I've seen the homeless outreach teams do great work as well as a lot of the services around that provide safe spaces for people. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]* *"Nothing, I live in St Kilda, and it is very dangerous. Out of control on Fitzroy St and Grey St. Port Phillip have not addressed the issue of rough sleepers and troublemakers on Fitzroy St for over 20 years."* *[Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Populated areas (busy streets, people around) (63 comments)	Busy public spaces with people around makes some feel more safe in Port Phillip. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly provided by female respondents (8%, compared to 5% males) and those with a disability (13%, compared to 6% without a disability).	*"That lots of people walk and cycle in Port Phillip makes me feel safer walking around during the day or night. The libraries are a welcoming, warm and safe places to be in, the parks and the bay are beneficial for mental health."* *[Female, 50 - 59 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*
Transport infrastructure (53 comments)	Key aspects of transport infrastructure that make respondents feel more safe in Port Phillip were public transport, good footpaths and separated bike lanes. There was a mix of tone in comments, with some saying these things were currently good, and more saying improvements would be needed. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly provided by respondents who speak a language other than English (9%, compared to 4% English-only)	*"Excellent public transport that I can utilise while doing hospital shift work. Generally good lighting on streets (some areas could be improved). [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]* *Good footpaths, accessible shops, cafes and other venues."* *[Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda Road]*
Cleanliness / maintenance / amenity (28 comments)	Some mentioned that they like the cleanliness and amenity, whilst others mentioned that there were issues with it (graffiti, rubbish, unpruned trees etc.) There were no notable variations in findings by demographics or location.	*"Amenity, trees, traffic safety access to the canal and beach foreshore clean air, less rubbish and pollution active public spaces which accommodate all users, citizens."* *[Male, 50 - 59 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Diversity (24 comments)	Living in a diverse community was mentioned by some as making them feel more safe. There were no notable variations in findings by demographics or location.	*"Having culture and different people coming together to enjoy life." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

Other themes with a notable number of comments include:

- 21 comments mentioned a specific location, that it is an affluent area, or that it is safer in some parts.
- 19 comments mentioned CCTV (In the community survey there were 12 comments by females and 5 by males – however given the difference in sample size the percentage was the same for both males and females – 2%).
- 19 comments mentioned mental health, primarily as something that prevents them from feeling safe.
- 18 comments mentioned being at home as a situation where they feel more safe (that is, they don't feel safe outside of their home).
- 18 comments mentioned familiarity (lived there for a long time etc.)
- 16 comments mentioned feel safe without any further details.
- 11 comments indicated that the questions was unclear ("More safe than what?" or "What **would** make me more safe").

Question:	Q9. What makes you feel less safe about living in Port Phillip?
Sources:	766 comments across the community survey (n=658 comments) and pop-ups (n=108)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Quotes that include derogatory terms or stigmatisation have been considered in the overarching analysis, but have not been included in the report for ethical (cause no harm) reasons.
	Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings <u>do not</u> show incidence.

The main aspects that were put forth by respondents as making them feel unsafe were drugs and alcohol related or mentioned something to do with homelessness:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Drug and alcohol related (225 comments)	The most commonly mentioned topic in comments related to drugs and alcohol, specifically those under the influence making people feel unsafe, as well as paraphernalia in public spaces. 35-59 year old respondents more often wrote a comment relating to this theme (31%, compared to 12% 18-34 and 19% 60+ year olds), as did resident respondents (28%, compared to 6% non-residents), particularly those in Port Melbourne (35%) and St Kilda and St Kilda West (33%).	*"Drug and alcohol impacted people around me…because their behaviour is often unpredictable."* [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Drug use is the biggest issue here, I have lived in red light districts and remote towns with curfews for most of my adult life (including St Kilda 20 years ago) and I have never seen anything as bad as St Kilda is presently."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Having to inject in public after all the toilets get locked."* [Redacted, lived experience]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
People experiencing homelessness (192 comments)	Some comments mentioned that they feel unsafe when in areas with people experiencing homelessness (121 comments). Other comments suggested that not providing adequate supports for people experiencing homelessness makes them feel unsafe (68 comments). There were no notable variations in demographics or by location.	*"Camps and rough sleepers, on the street and in the park, living themselves in dangerous situations, and posing threat to others who wish to use streets and park."* [Female, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Council taking visible action that results in change - too many people camping on streets."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne] *"I feel less safe in Port Phillip when I witness police harassing my friends and community members simply for being poor, visibly homeless, or engaging in street-based sex work - which is now decriminalised in Victoria. These forms of targeted policing send a clear message that some people in our community are seen as less deserving of dignity, safety, and public space. I feel less safe when I hear reports of council staff and local laws officers confiscating people's tents, swags, and personal belongings - actions that further punish people already struggling to survive, rather than offering support or solutions."* [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]
Intimidation / behaviour of others (173 comments)	Many comments referred to intimidation and/or the behaviour of others as making them feel unsafe, often linked to people under the influence of drugs or alcohol, those with mental health issues, and/or people experiencing homelessness. Resident respondents more often wrote in a comment relating to this theme (19%, compared to 13% non-residents)	*"The several gatherings of homeless or drug and/or alcohol affected individuals that are scattered around St Kilda daily. They leave their needles, bongs, bottles, rubbish, and what belongings they have sprawled all over the place with no regard for anyone else. They often intimidate and yell out inappropriate things to you (I'm a woman) and I have been followed several times :(More security officers or police presence will help a lot."* [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Crime (170 comments)	In addition to a general mention of 'crime', specific issues covered in the comments were home invasion, motor vehicle and bicycle theft, property damage, knife attacks and violence. 35-59 year old respondents more often wrote a comment relating to this theme (20%, compared to 11% 18-34 year olds), as did resident respondents (21%, compared to 5% non-residents), particularly those in Port Melbourne (30%) and Albert Park and Middle Park (26%).	*"The ongoing issue of property crime—my car has been broken into multiple times even while parked in my carport, which has left me feeling vulnerable in my own home. Despite installing floodlights and security cameras, the repeated incidents have shaken my confidence in the area's safety." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*
Police (123 comments)	89 comments relating to police mentioned there not being enough police presence nor enforcement. 34 comments suggest that police activities make them feel unsafe. 35+ year olds more often wrote in a comment relating to lack of enforcement (11%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), whist 18-34 year olds more often mentioned police make them feel unsafe (12%, compared to 3% 35-59 and 0% 60+ year olds).	*"Inaction, low security, no guards or police, low arrest rate, no deterrents, criminals know they can do as they please. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]* *I don't like when I see people with mental health or substance abuse issues being harassed by police officers. Sometimes the presence of cops, especially when carrying weapons, has heightened tensions rather than reducing fear." [Female, 18 - 24 years, Port Melbourne]*
Cars / traffic (72 comments)	Comments about cars and traffic refer to aggressive drivers, hoon drivers, and unsafe intersections. Resident respondents more often wrote in a comment relating to this theme (8%, compared to 3% non-residents), as did respondents aged 60 years and over (10%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds).	*"1. Many drivers don't understand simple road rules like stopping behind the first line at crossings when the light is red. They drive straight through and stop at the line marking the crossing. This is infuriating. 2. Many people speed and drive aggressively on residential streets and around zebra crossings." [Male, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]*
Lighting (54 comments)	Dark streets and alleyways and lack of lighting at night makes some feel unsafe. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly shared by female respondents (7%, compared to 3% males).	*"Some of our streets are really dark with lots of trees which are great during the day but frightening at night when parking and walking to your destination." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda Road]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Marginalising those experiencing homelessness (46 comments)	There were comments raising concerns about safety for people experiencing homelessness, with mention of the proposed laws and negative treatment / criminalisation of vulnerable people. Typing in a comment relating to this theme was more common amongst female respondents (5%, compared to 2% males), young people (11% 18-34, compared to 5% 35-59 and 1% 60+ year olds), those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background (14%, compared to 5% not from that background), people with a disability (14%, compared to 4% no disability), those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (14%, compared to 3% non-LGBTIQA+), and those who live outside of CoPP (14%, compared to 3% residents).	*"Local authorities seem to be stretched thin and appear to lack community care. A lot more could be done to help people who are homeless and drug affected and have mental health issues in our area, as they are treated cruelly by the council and police and other members of the community and pose a safety risk to themselves and the wider community. I think much more care and compassion could be shown by all."* [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]
Not enough community support services (34 comments)	A range of support services were mentioned as needed, specifically in relation to housing and mental health. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly shared by 18-34 year old respondents (8%, compared to 2% 35-54 and 3% 60+ year olds) and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (7%, compared to 3% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"A lack of support for vulnerable people within the municipality, including a lack of necessary infrastructure to keep people in need safe (i.e. rough sleepers). I feel unsafe because vulnerable people are forced to fend for themselves in large."* [Non-binary, 18 - 24 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Sometimes I feel out of place or I don't fit into normal society because I can be homeless at times or I dress differently This is isolating - need drop in centres."* [Female, 35-59 year old, lived experience]
Amenity (32 comments)	Comments mentioned a range of amenity topics, including litter, cleanliness and maintenance. There were no notable variations in findings by demographics or location.	*"Deterioration of streets, shops, amount of graffiti. General uncleanliness and poor maintenance."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Vandalism (29 comments)	Comments include vandalism and graffiti. Typing in a comment relating to this theme was more common amongst male respondents (6%, compared to 2% females).	*"Signs of neglect and decay. Public and private property, both built and natural environment, left in disrepair. … Public dumping, litter and graffiti." [Male, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Other themes with a notable number of comments include:

- 26 comments mentioned bike lanes / bikes.
- 22 comments mentioned scooters.
- 16 comments mentioned infrastructure.
- 14 comments mentioned CCTV / surveillance (no notable variations by gender).
- 11 comments mentioned the politics behind the proposed local law amendment.
- 9 comments mentioned climate change or extreme weather events.
- 8 comments mentioned media portrayal of crime (including social media).
- 6 comments mentioned empty shopfronts leading to unpopulated areas.
- 3 comments mentioned too many or high concentration of support services in certain areas
- 23 comments mentioned Nothing / don't feel unsafe

In the community workshops, participants often framed their concept of safety within the context of their day to day activities, interactions with the community, or risk of negative experiences. Specifically, being able to travel around without harm or experiencing crime. They said they feel more safe when there are people around or they are familiar with the area, and less safe at night or when there are people around that are perceived to be unsafe.

3.2 Where have you felt more and less safe

Question:	Q10. Show us where you feel MORE safe in the City of Port Phillip
Sources:	Community survey (600 map points made by 349 respondents)
Notes:	Respondents were asked to place points on a map to show locations where they felt more safe, and then for each they were required to enter in a comment to explain why they feel more safe at that map point. Many submitted points didn't provide a useable comment, or provided comments that indicated it was a point where they felt unsafe. Where it was clearly an 'unsafe' location this was moved to the unsafe map (Q11).
	Where possible, comments have been grouped into themes to help represent locations specific to particular safety benefits.
	Map base sourced from Google Maps.

There were locations all across the City of Port Phillip identified as safe spaces for various reasons. The following pages show each category in further detail.

	General		Bike paths		Quiet		Park / open space
	Populated / sense of community		Businesses		Good lighting		Familiar
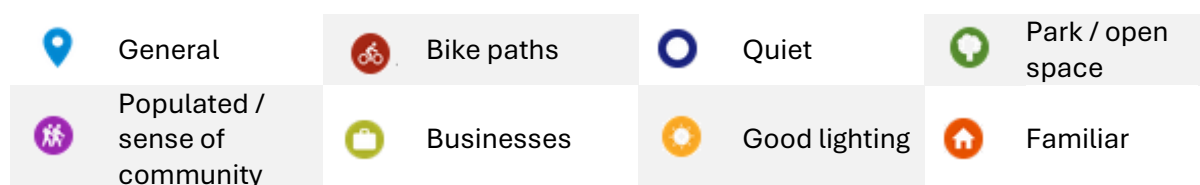
Figure 3.2.1 Map of locations selected as places where people feel more safe
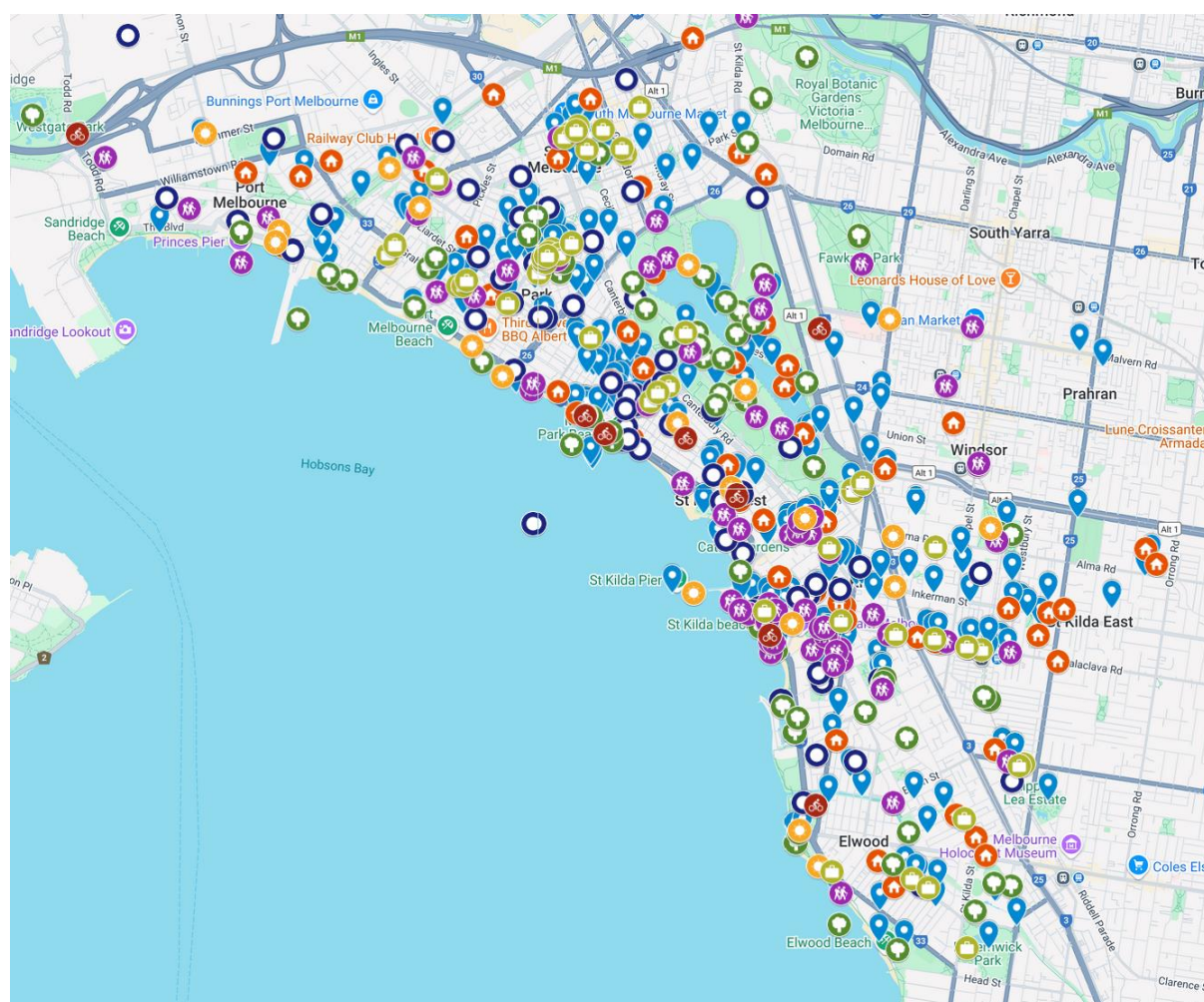
The following map shows the 73 locations respondents identified as safe with reference to them being a park or open space.

Figure 3.2.2 Locations people feel are safe due to open space and/or parkland
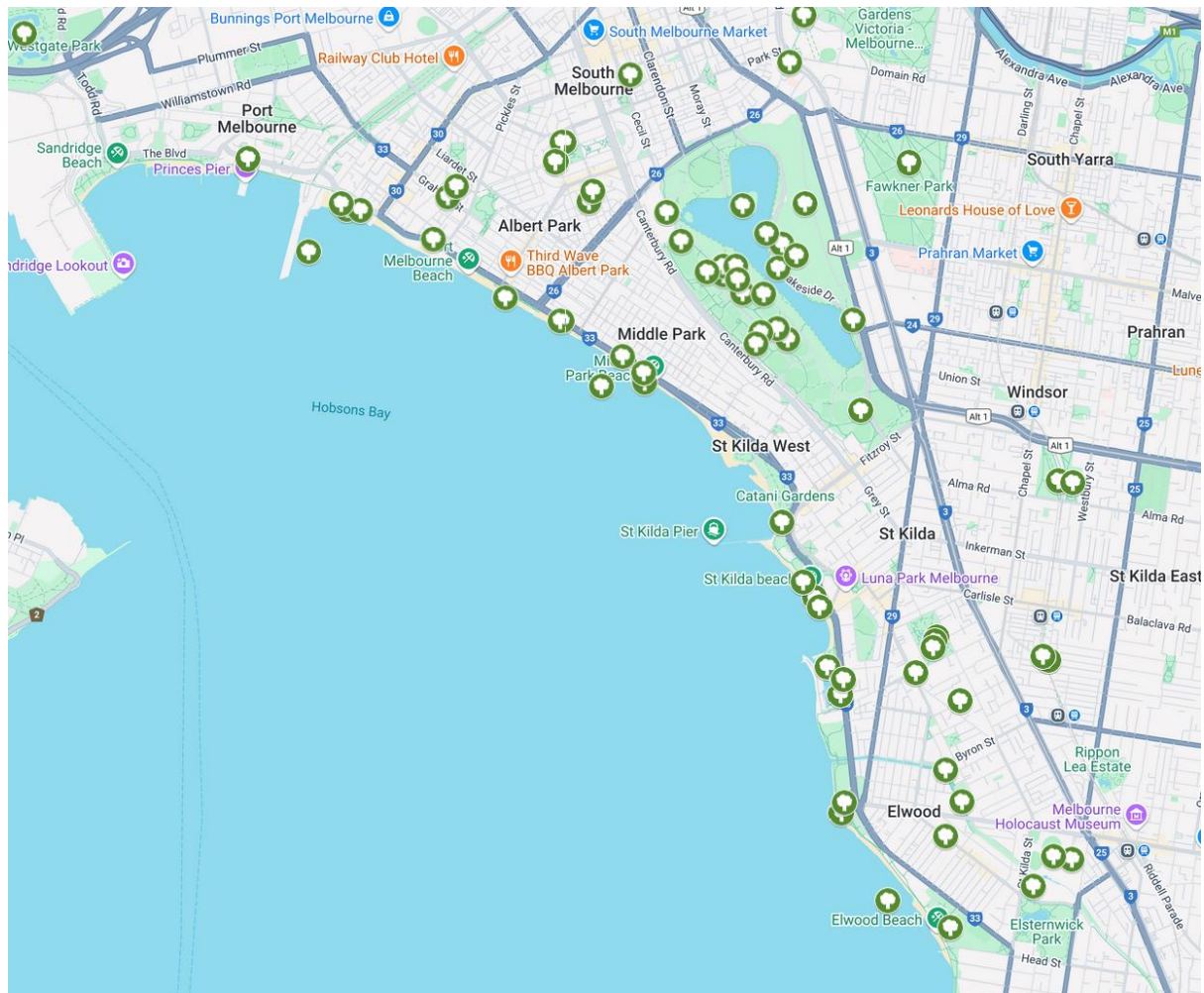
The next map shows the 71 locations where respondents said they feel safe because they are quiet and/or have fewer people that they perceive as intimidating. 18-34 year olds more often placed map points relating to an area being quiet. Almost all map points relating to quiet locations were made by CoPP residents.

Figure 3.2.3 Locations people feel are safe due to them being quiet
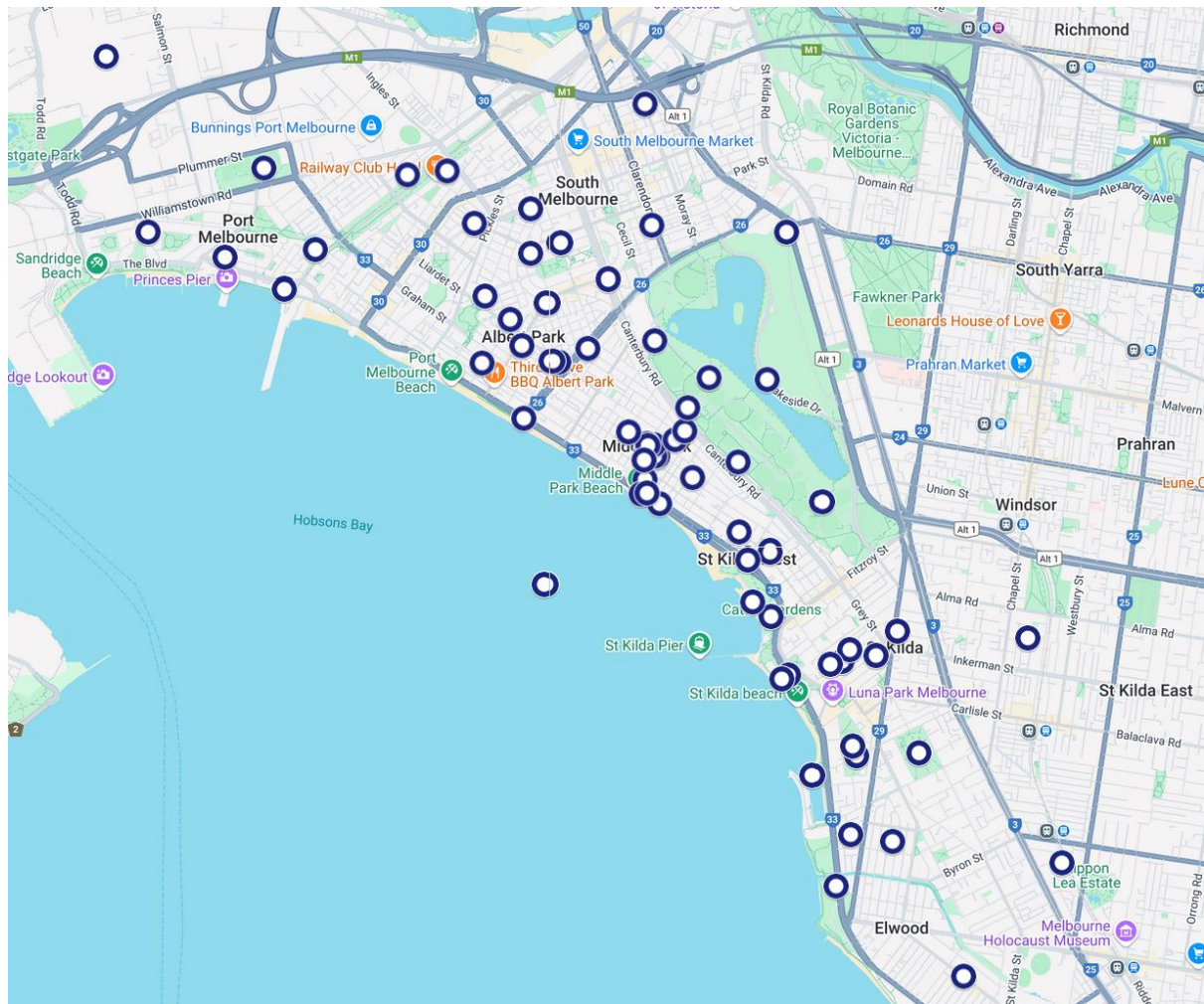
The following map shows the 69 places respondents said they feel safe because there are lots of people around and/or it has a community feel. There were clusters of points around Acland Street, the foreshore and Fitzroy Street.

Figure 3.2.4 Locations people feel are safe due to being populated and/or having a community feel
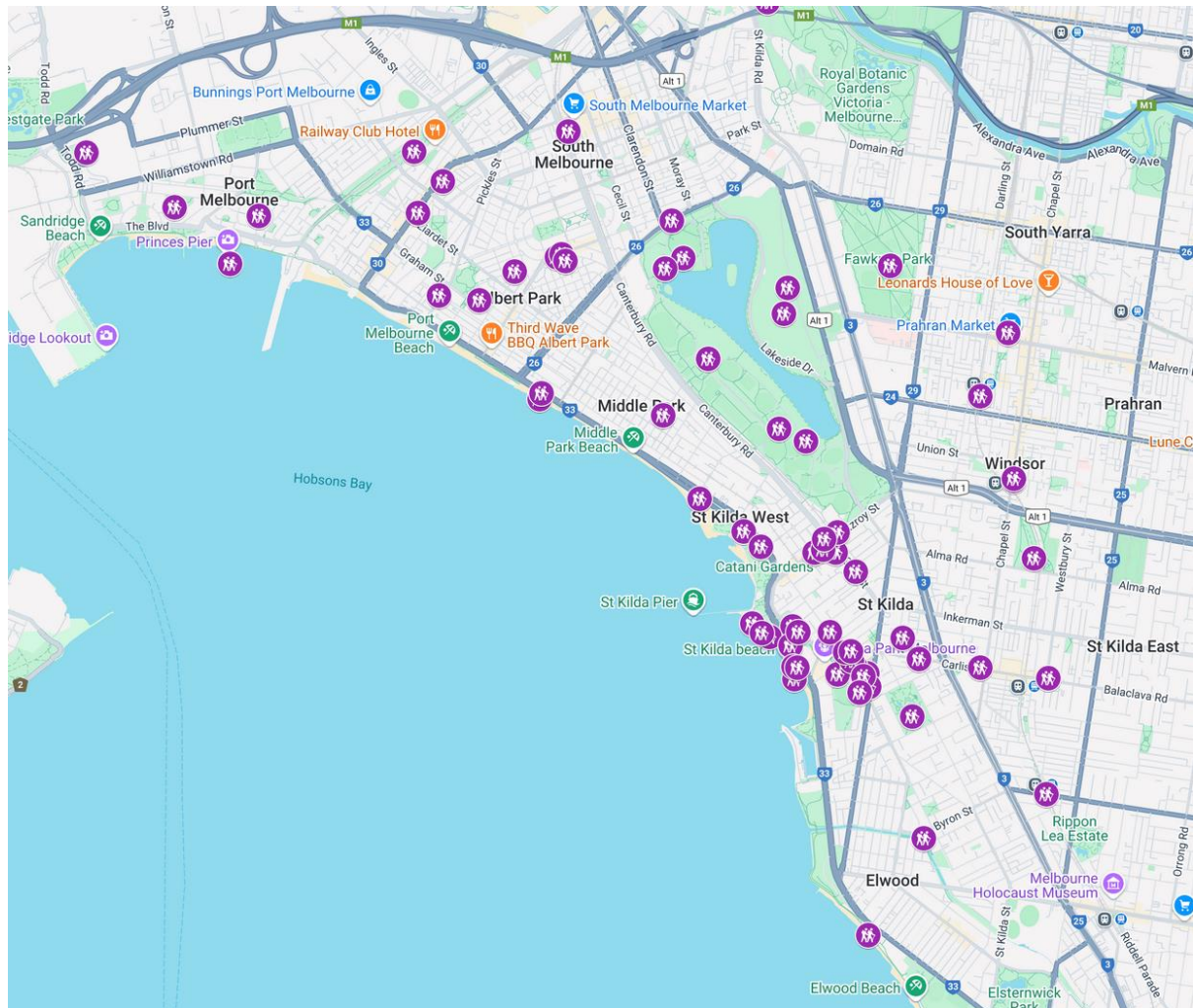
The following map points show the 56 locations that respondents said they felt safe because they were familiar. 60+ year olds more often placed map points based on familiarity.

Figure 3.2.5 Locations people feel are safe due to familiarity
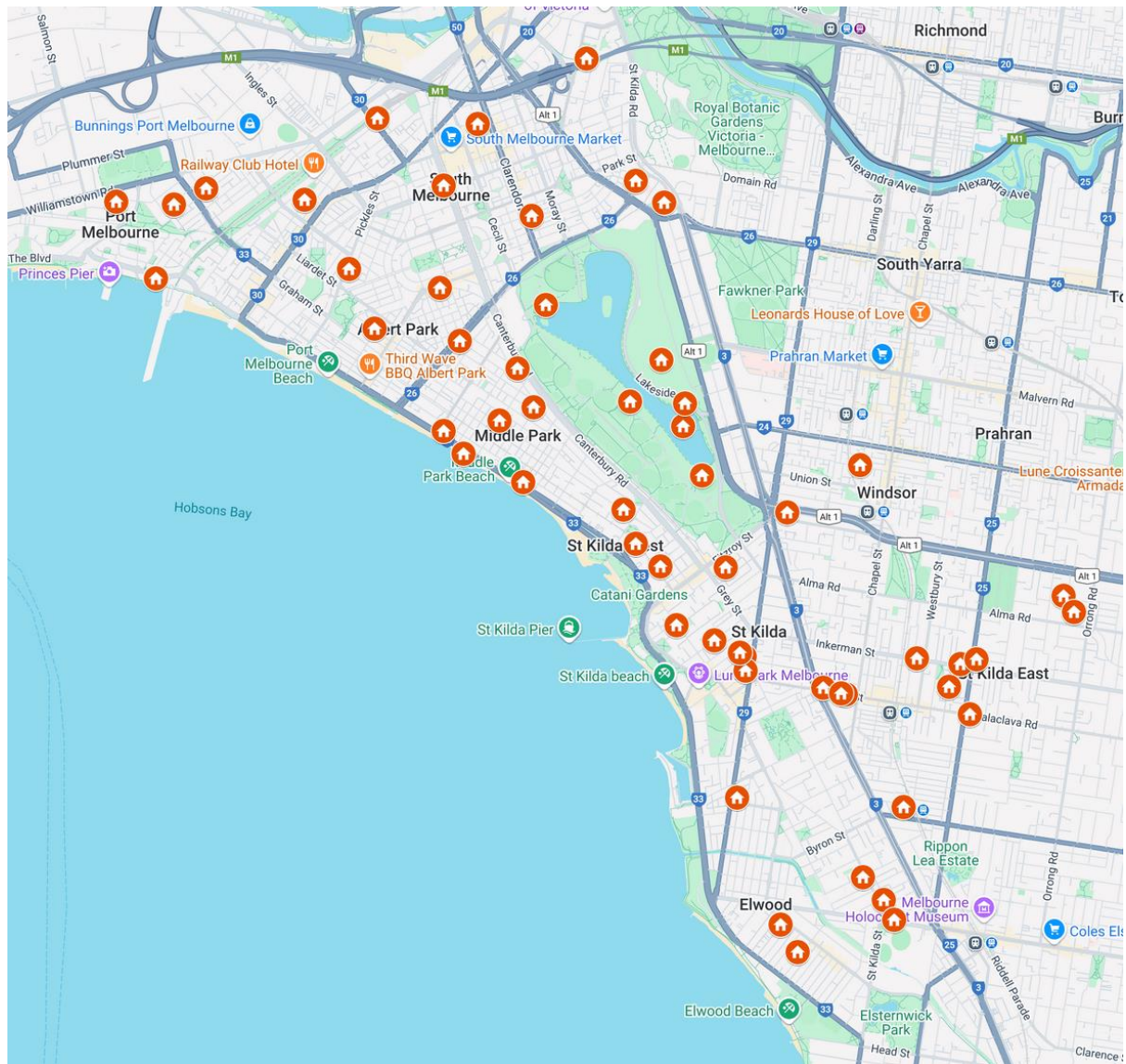
The next map shows 49 locations where respondents said they felt safe relative to businesses (e.g. markets, supermarkets, shopping strips).

Figure 3.2.6 Locations people feel are safe due to businesses
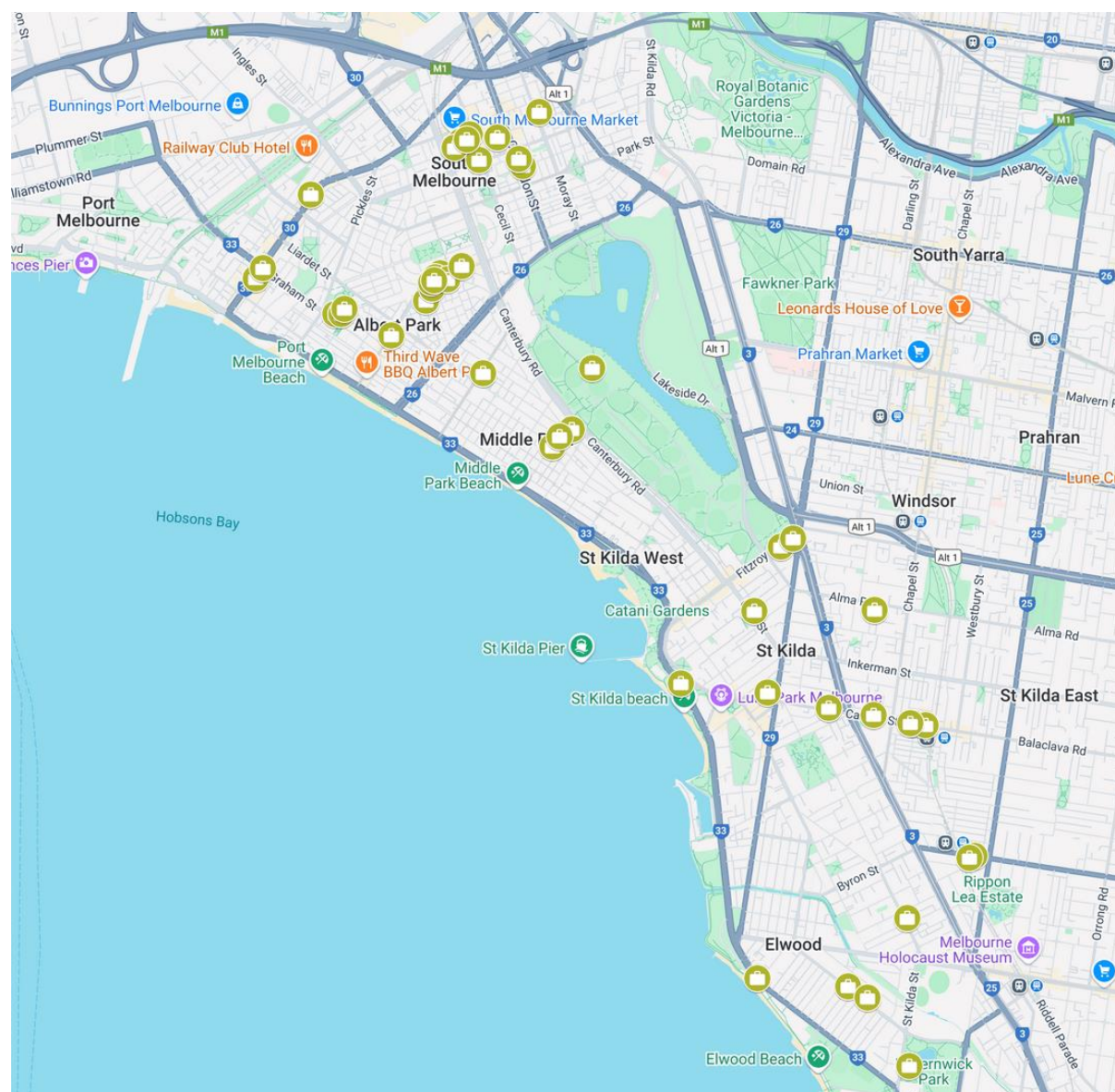
The next map shows 22 points where respondents said they feel safe due to good lighting. Map points for good lighting were more often provided by males - 55% of points marked for good lighting were provided by males (despite only 37% of all points being provided by males). Map points for good lighting were also more often provided by 35-59 and 18-34 year olds.

Figure 3.2.7 Locations people feel are safe due to good lighting
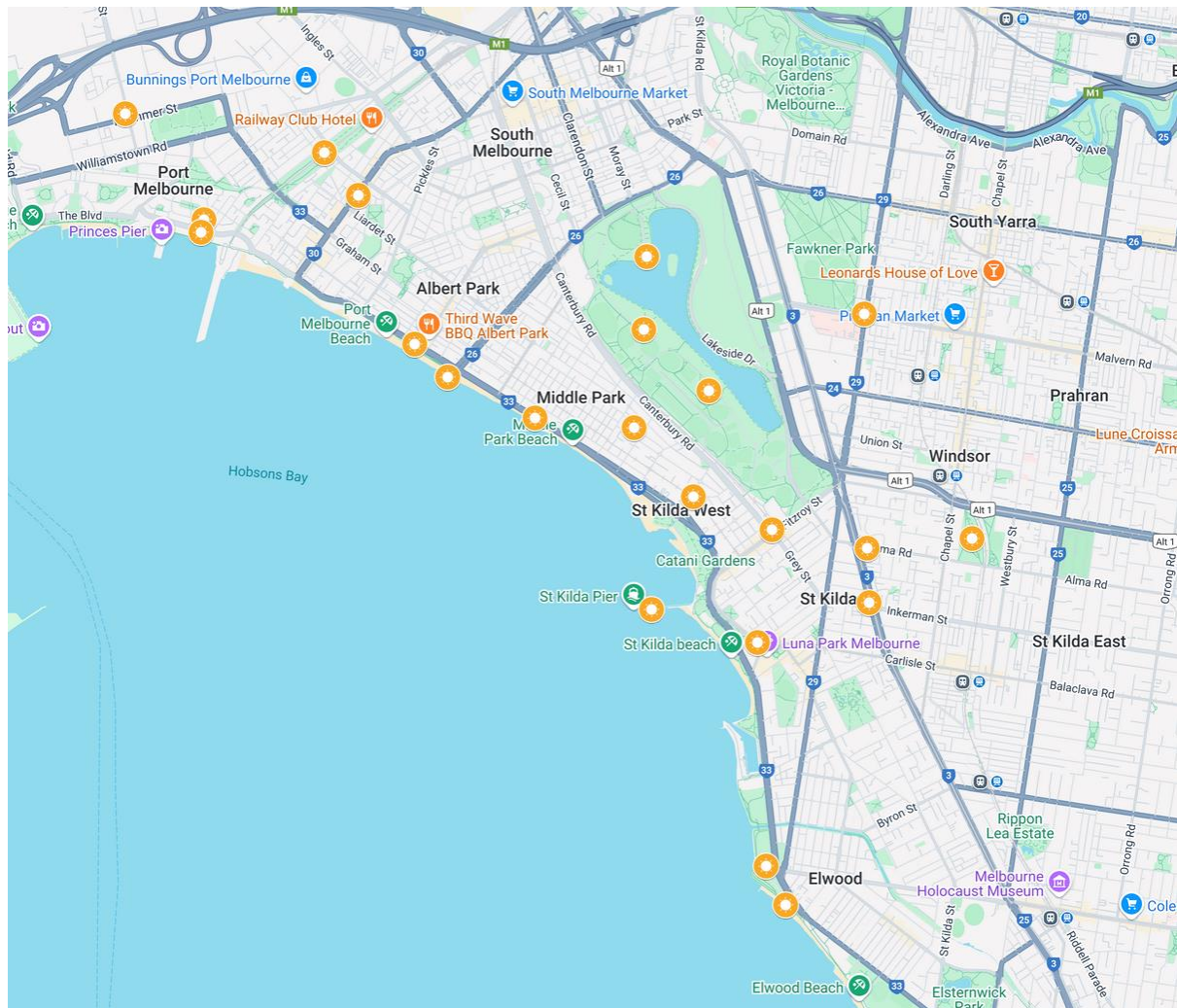
The next map shows the 8 locations where respondents identified a bike lane that made them feel safe. All map points relating to bike lanes were made by residents of CoPP.

Figure 3.2.8 Bike lane locations where people feel are safe
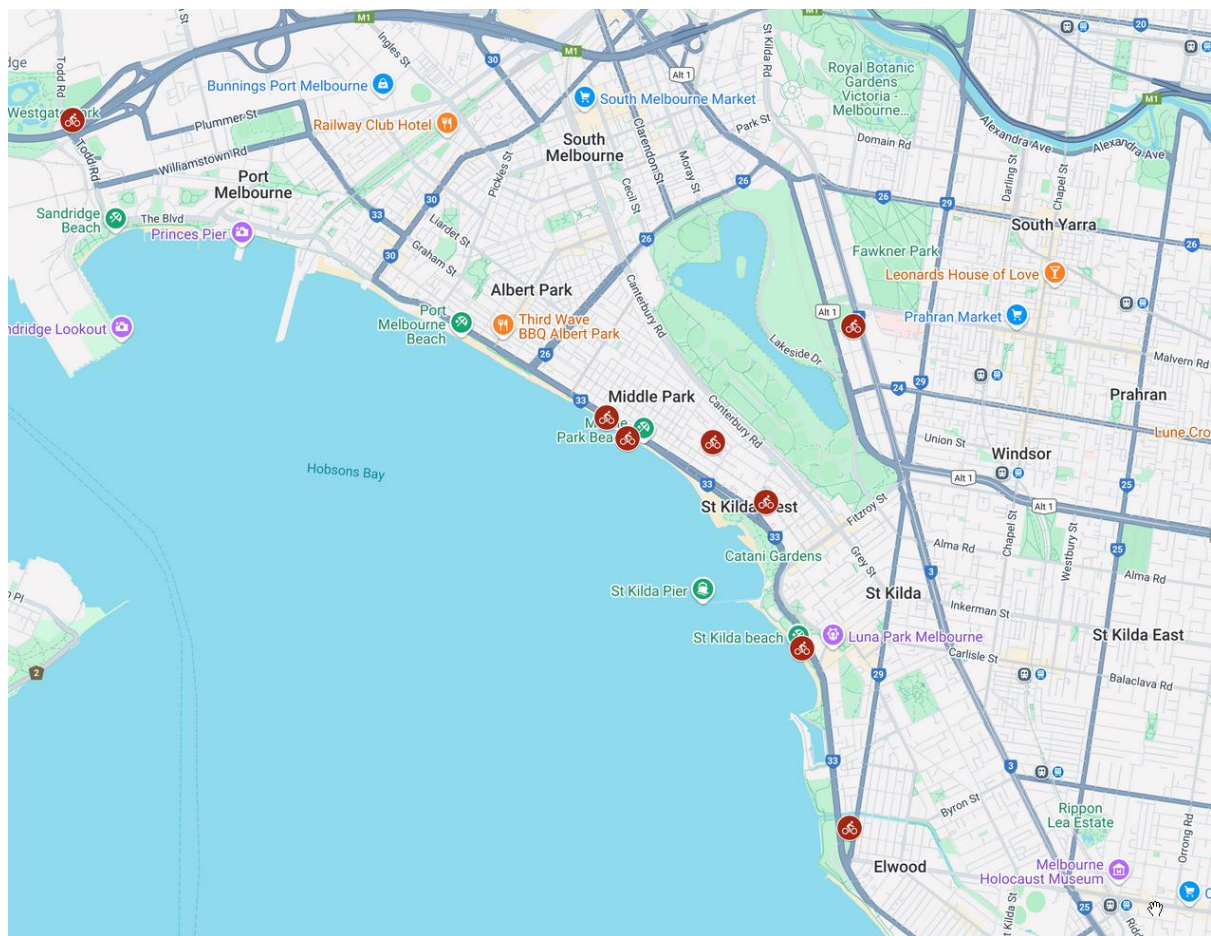
The following map shows the 251 places identified by respondents as safe, without any further context as to why that location was selected (other than it being perceived as safe).

Figure 3.2.9 Locations people feel are safe due to other general reasons
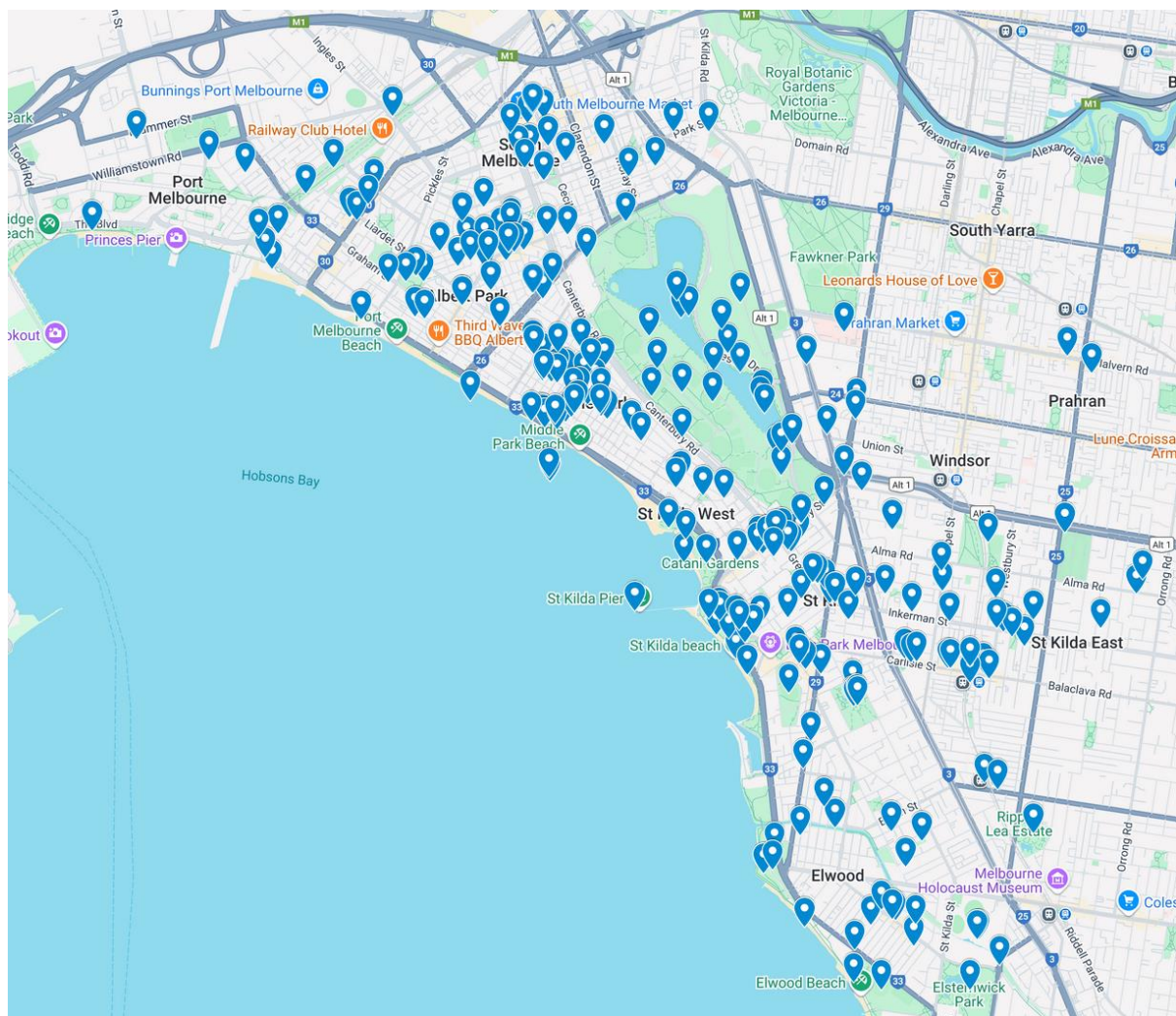
In the community workshops, participants put forth a number of locations as places where they feel more safe:

- Albert Park and Middle Park, due to limited anti-social behaviour and it not being too crowded.
- St Kilda / St Kilda West, due to it being busy.
- Balaclava.
- Elwood, due to sense of community.
- South Melbourne market, due to security.
- Port Melbourne & Fisherman's Bend during the day.
- Beachfront paths due to there being lots of people, with good visibility and well patrolled.

Question:	Q11. Show us where you feel LESS safe in the City of Port Phillip
Sources:	Community survey (1,005 map points made by 414 respondents)
Notes:	Respondents were asked to place points on a map to show locations where they felt less safe, and then for each they were required to enter in a comment to explain why they feel less safe at that map point. Many submitted points didn't provide a useable comment, or provided comments that indicated it was a point where they more unsafe. Where it was clearly a 'safe' location this was moved to the safe map (Q10). Where possible, comments have been grouped into themes to help represent locations specific to particular safety issues. This information has been provided to Council to inform planning, but will not be released publicly to protect the privacy of community members.

While detailed maps of safety concerns were created to assist Council in planning and response, they have not been included here to protect individual privacy and community wellbeing.

In the community workshops, participants put forth a number of locations as places where they feel less safe:

- St Kilda, due to antisocial behaviour.
- Port Melbourne at night time.
- Balaclava, due to antisocial behaviour.
- Elwood, due to flooding.
- Tram stops and intersections, due to lack of lighting.

Question:	Q13. In the past year, have you limited or changed your behaviour or activities in the City of Port Phillip due to safety concerns?
Sources:	Community survey (n=655)
Notes:	This question was optional.

Half of respondents who chose to answer this question said that 'yes' they had changed their behaviour or activities in the City of Port Phillip due to safety concerns.

Figure 3.2.10 Incidence of behaviour change due to safety concerns by connection to CoPP
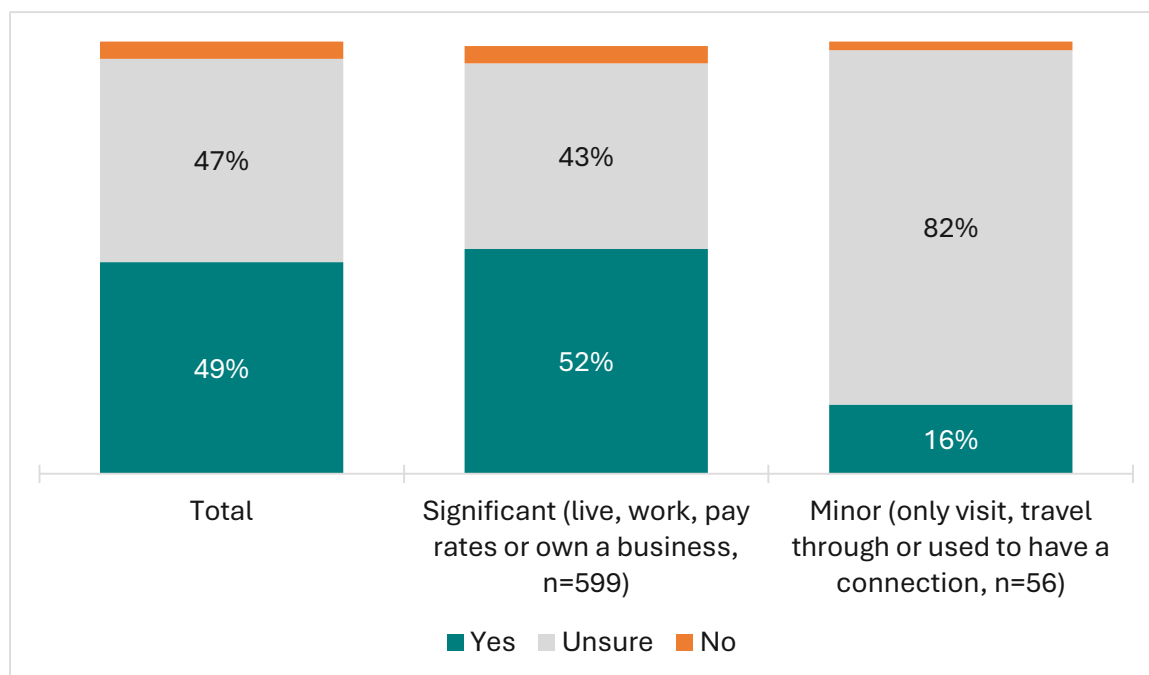
Findings were consistent across all genders.

Gender

Age Changing behaviour due to safety concerns was more common amongst 35-59 year old residents (58%, compared to 34% 18-34 year olds). This finding was influenced by non-residents, who represent almost half of this younger age profile within the data, and show lower instances of changing behaviour in City of Port Phillip.

Diversity Changing behaviour due to safety concerns was more common amongst:
- People without a disability (52%, compared to 36% of those with a disability.
- Non-LGBTIQA+ (54%, compared to 32% LGBTIQA+).

Region A higher proportion of respondents who resided in Port Melbourne (71%), Albert Park and Middle Park (65%), South Melbourne (63%) and St Kilda and St Kilda West (54%) said they had changed their behaviour due to safety concerns, compared to 30% in Elwood and Ripponlea.

Lived experience 30% of those with lived experience of street-based living said they had limited or changed their behaviour or activities due to safety concerns.

Question:	Q14. If you would like to tell us more about your response, you can tell us here.	
Sources:	Community survey (n=292 comments made by people who said 'yes')	
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Percentages have been calculated based on the number of respondents who said 'yes' in Q13 (n=323). Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings <u>do not</u> show incidence.	

An open ended follow-up question gave respondents the change to write in further information about their answer. Some of the insights relating to these topic areas follows:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Avoidance (122 comments)	People said they would avoid areas, and some said they stopped visiting places. There were multiple mentions of Fitzroy Street (46 comments) and Acland Street (28 comments). There were also 12 mentions of Grey Street, 10 mentions of Bay Street, and 9 mentions of avoiding Jackson Street Car Park. There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"I try to avoid getting off the train at Balaclava station late at night when it's likely to be quiet, e.g. on weekdays. I have to wait for the tram by the station but it can be so quiet when all the businesses are closed that it feels unsafe. I will try to find some alternate public transport option or get a lift rather than do that." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]* *"I avoid Fitzroy Street sometimes, and if I have my grandchildren with me, they refuse to walk along the southern most section of the street with me." [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Don't go out at night time (96 comments)	Many comments specifically mentioned that they have stopped walking around the area at night time. A higher proportion of female respondents who had changed their behaviour shared a comment relating to this theme (36%, compared to 17% males).	*"I don't like to go out in the evenings after dark as much/won't go for as long of a walk as I normally would. I just feel nervous and a bit uncomfortable so my dog's evening walk is generally just a quick on now." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]*
Awareness (36 comments)	Various methods were being adopted to improve situational awareness, including looking out for antisocial people and not wearing headphones. There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"I avoid being on the streets at night, I have also installed cameras at my home and car. I do not wear headphones anymore as I want to be aware of what people around me are doing to avoid getting in trouble." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Route changes (32 comments)	Some said they altered their route to travel places to avoid locations where they felt unsafe. This includes crossing the road in certain places, through to using different trams, or driving instead of walking – 22 said they avoid walking and 14 said they avoid public transport. There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"On several other occasions, I have opted to catch a tram rather than ride my bike even though it would take me much longer to get to my destination because the route I would need to travel would make it likely for me to encounter the kind of near misses or aggression from drivers that can too often make getting around by bike in Port Phillip an unpleasantly adrenaline inducing activity."* [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]
Equipment (23 comments)	A variety of equipment was being used, including installing security cameras on houses and self-defence items (tasters, knives, keys, bats). There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"I have installed security cameras and am vigilant about keeping all doors locked day and night. I don't walk home alone from the 109 tram terminus at night anymore."* [Female, 60 - 69 years, Port Melbourne]
Travel with others (27 comments)	Some comments mentioned that they have started traveling with others and won't travel alone. There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"I avoid some areas and make my husband meet at the tram stop in Fitzroy Street to walk home if it is dark. I can't run as fast as I used to!! There used to be more people in restaurants in the Bay end of Fitzroy Street and it felt safer."* [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]
Experiences (29 comments)	There were comments mentioning personal experiences that had led to a change in behaviour, including assaults and harassment. 22 comments referred to personal experiences of assault or harassment, 7 comments spoke about personally witnessing illegal or aggressive behaviour and 2 mentioned a personal experience with theft. 14% of LGBTIQA+ respondents who had changed their behaviour mentioned an experience of assault or harassment (compared to 6% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"I won't walk at night anymore as a female. I have been followed and yelled at in public. Thus I feel unsafe walking now after dark. Also, even during the day there is constantly broken glass and needles where I live, not safe to walk my dogs. So I drive them somewhere else to do it."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"I'm homeless and have had to be a lot more careful of my choices of where I sleep as people are becoming much more worse for stealing off one another while people are asleep or had their back turned.* [Female, 35-59, lived experience]
Psychological (14 comments)	Some mentioned that their behaviour had changed due to fear, as well as other mental health impacts (such as anxiety).	*"No longer can you walk the streets without feeling anxious that someone is going to harm you. No longer can you leave your home without feeling anxious that someone may break into it. Anxious*

	There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*about my car being stolen." [Female, 60 - 69 years, Port Melbourne]*

Question:	Evidence tells us that people of different genders have different experiences of safety in public spaces. Women, girls and gender diverse people may have heightened concerns about personal safety in public and feel less safe than men and boys, particularly when it's dark and/or when they're on their own. Q15. What do you think would make women, girls and gender diverse people feel more safe in our City?
Sources:	Community survey (n=542)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893). Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings do not show incidence.

An open ended follow-up question gave respondents the change to write in further information about their answer. Some of the insights relating to these topic areas follows:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
More lighting (182 comments)	Many mentioned lighting in general, with some specifying street lighting and some specifying lighting in parks. More lighting was often coupled with increased police presence (54 instances). Suggesting more lighting was more common amongst female respondents (24%, compared to 16% males).	*"Good street lighting is essential. Good lighting on tram stops is also essential and not always there. Traffic management is also critical. The low-speed limits and speed bumps etc. have helped considerably to make moving about for pedestrians safer." [Female, 70 - 84 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]* *"More brightly lit streets, more cameras, duress buttons everywhere." [Non-binary, 18-34, lived experience]*
Police (134 comments)	Most comments mentioned the need for increased police presence (134 comments), although 9 respondents suggested more police was not safe for women or gender diverse people. Suggesting an increase in police presence was more common in comments made by 35+ year olds (17%, compared to 6% 18-34 year olds), those who were not LGBTIQA+ (17%, compared to 6% LGBTIQA+) and residents (18%), particularly in Port Melbourne (22%), South Melbourne (21%) and St Kilda and St Kilda West (19%).	*"More police on the street. St Kilda must be the only tourist destination in the world that doesn't have a police station, even if it's only a pop up for the summer months." "Explaining to visitors that you have to walk up and cross the Nepean is ridiculous." [Male, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Highly visible police or security representatives who call out or remove antisocial behaviour." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"A night patrol of some kind would help - whether police or another form - being present and visible on the streets." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Community education (86 comments)	There were a range of comments referring to the need for community education and behaviour change to promote a shift in culture. Female respondents more often shared a comment relating to this theme (11%, compared to 5% males), as did those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (17%, compared to 8% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"I am a woman in my late 60s and yes I am situationally aware so will seek out better light, more populated street environments. Safety for women and gender diverse people will only come with greater social cohesion, respect for others and programs and education to address community and family violence. Addressing the root case of the issues leading to violence and safety risks is what is needed."* [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda Road] *"A cultural shift. Noone is supporting women to speak for themselves and noone is calling men out for treating them badly. There should probably be some kind of education but I think the men in this area are too stubborn to hear it."* [Non-binary, 35-59, lived experience]
Remove unsafe people (72 comments)	A range of comments were made indicating that women, girls and gender diverse people could feel more safe if unsafe people were not in public spaces. This included those with mental health issues, people experiencing homelessness and people who are perceived as drunk or on drugs. 35-59 year old respondents more often provided a comment relating to this theme (10%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), as did residents (9%), particularly those in St Kilda and St Kilda West (12%).	*"Remove the anti-social behaviour on our streets. It will not get better until this has been rectified."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Thoughtfully adding lighting to specific areas, especially around bus/train/tram stops and high-use pedestrian routes, reducing traffic speed and volume in residential areas, and reduced presence of public drunkenness/drug use."* [Female, 25 - 34 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Services (70 comments)	There was a call for more support services, particularly for those experiencing homelessness and with mental health issues. Female respondents more often shared a comment relating to this theme (9%, compared to 4% males), as did those aged 18-34 (14%, compared to 7% 35+ years), people with a disability (13%, compared to 7% without), and respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (15%, compared to 6% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Increased services for those experiencing housing or homelessness issues, including both short and long term accommodation and services."* [Male, 60 - 69 years, Albert Park and Middle Park] *"More supportive programs for those with mental health and housing issues, more programs to support those living in family violence. More creative ways of 'activating' areas with food and entertainment, and sporting/arts services - so that like in other parts of the world there is always someone around and somewhere to go if you feel vulnerable."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]
Address drug and alcohol issues (67 comments)	Many comments suggested that people with drug and alcohol issues make public spaces unsafe for women, girls and gender diverse people. Some comments refer to the pubs and bars holding some responsibility for this. Resident respondents more often provided a comment relating to this theme (9% compared to 2% non-residents).	*"Less intoxicated men... possibly nominated parking areas identified exclusively for women and gender diverse people which were well lit and staffed."* [Male, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Regulating Port Phillip venues and ensuring they actually train staff in drug and alcohol related safety and harassment would make everyone safer."* [18 - 24 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]
Stronger action on crime (53 comments)	There were a range of comments calling for more immediate and stronger action on crime, including stronger punishments to prevent reoccurrence, specific to family violence and antisocial behaviour. Some of these comments mention changing the local laws to facilitate this. There were no notable variations in responses for this theme by demographics or location.	*"ACT! I see the same people every day being anti social, screaming abuse, attacking people who are simply going about their day. Lock them up.! Stop letting repeat offenders back onto the streets."* [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East] *"...be more proactive than reactive - introduce & amend laws so there can be effective policing, not just a revolving door of criminals through the judicial system, effective repercussions for poor actions and choices."* [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
More populated areas (50 comments)	Comments under this theme suggested safety could be improved by there being more people in public spaces. Some suggested this could be facilitated by filling the empty shopfronts. Female respondents more often shared a comment relating to this theme (7%, compared to 4% males).	*"Activation of spaces is important - there are many vacant shop fronts that make certain streets feel unsafe."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"I generally feel more safe when on streets with more people on it. An example is Wells St in Sth Melbourne didn't used to feel safe but since Woolworths opened there are a lot more people walking along the street so it feels safer."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda Road]
Council activities (43 comments)	A range of suggestions were made specific to Council actions, including more local laws patrols, policy changes and education signage. A higher proportion of respondents from Albert Park and Middle Park put forth a comment relating to this theme (14%, compared to 2% Balaclava and St Kilda East).	*"Visible presence of police, council and tram staff on trams and dealing with anti-social behaviour when it occurs."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]
CCTV (39 comments)	Mentions of CCTV were often coupled with lighting (27 comments) and/or increased police presence (22 comments). Resident respondents more often provided a comment relating to this theme (5% compared to 1% non-residents).	*"As a woman, I absolutely experience heightened concerns about personal safety in public spaces—particularly at night or when alone. There are parts of Port Melbourne I simply won't walk through after dark, and I've adjusted my daily routines to avoid isolated streets, dimly lit areas, or anywhere with a strong history of antisocial behaviour at certain times when alone. This isn't about being overly cautious—it's a rational response to repeated safety issues in the environment. When there's little visible enforcement, poor lighting, and no CCTV in key areas, that sense of vulnerability isn't imagined—it's reinforced."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]

Other themes with notable mentions include:
- 33 comments mentioned safer public transport.
- 25 comments mentioned transport infrastructure (footpaths, bike lanes and roads).
- 19 comments mentioned activities and spaces for just women/ girls/ gender diverse.
- 18 comments mentioned facilities (bathrooms etc.)
- 16 comments mentioned family violence support programs / services.
- 15 comments mentioned more sense of community / bystander intervention.
- 13 comments mentioned more safe / welcoming spaces & activities.
- 13 comments mentioned cleaning up the streets.
- 11 comments mentioned emergency call buttons / security escorts to car/home.

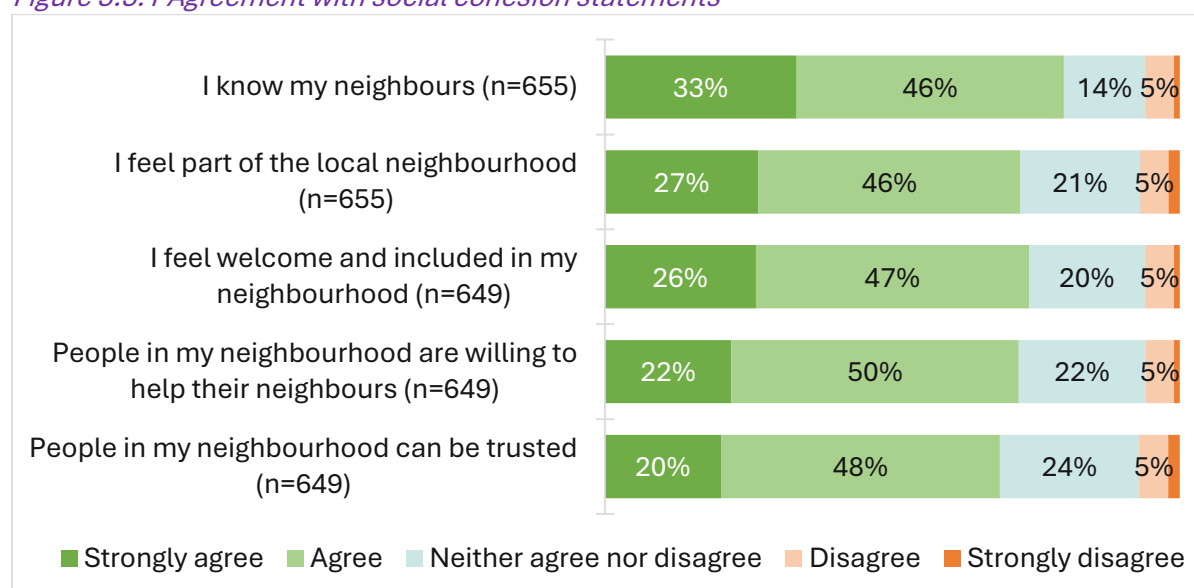## 3.3 Feeling more safe and welcome in your local neighbourhood

Question:	Q16. How strongly do you agree or disagree with these statements?
Sources:	Community survey (n=649-655)
Notes:	This question was optional.

Amongst survey respondents who completed this question, there were high levels of agreement with most social cohesion statements.

Figure 3.3.1 Agreement with social cohesion statements

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I know my neighbours (n=655)	33%	46%	14%	5%	
I feel part of the local neighbourhood (n=655)	27%	46%	21%	5%	
I feel welcome and included in my neighbourhood (n=649)	26%	47%	20%	5%	
People in my neighbourhood are willing to help their neighbours (n=649)	22%	50%	22%	5%	
People in my neighbourhood can be trusted (n=649)	20%	48%	24%	5%	

Gender

Findings were consistent across all genders.

Age

60+ year olds showed higher instances of 'strongly agreeing' for *knowing neighbours* (45%, compared to <30% under 60 year olds), *part of local neighbourhood* (37%, compared to <23% under 60 year olds), *welcomed and included* (33%, compared to 21% 35-59 year olds), *people in my neighbourhood are willing to help others* (33%, compared to <19% under 60 year olds), and *people in my neighbourhood can be trusted* (30%, compared to 13% 35-59 year olds).

Diversity

Respondents with a disability more often rated each as 'neither agree nor disagree'

Region

I know my neighbours 'strongly agree' was higher in Port Melbourne (45%), and Albert Park and Middle Park (49%), compared to 7% of St Kilda Road respondents.

People in my neighbourhood are willing to help their neighbours 'strongly agree' was higher in Albert Park and Middle Park (41%, compared to 21% St Kilda and St Kilda West).
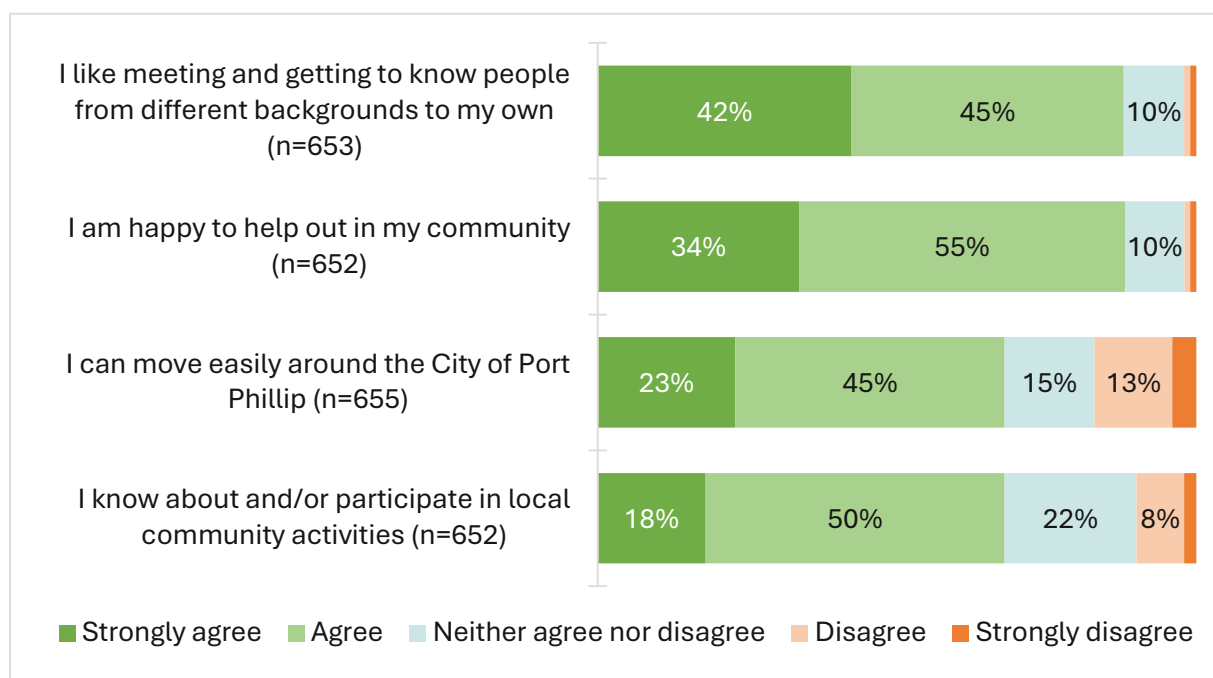
Lived experience

Respondents with lived experience show a notably higher instance of disagreeing with each of these statements.

Most of those who completed the community connection and participation questions in the survey agreed that they like meeting people, are happy to help out, can move around easily and/or know about and/or participate in community activities.

Figure 3.3.2 Agreement with actions and awareness statements

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I like meeting and getting to know people from different backgrounds to my own (n=653)	42%	45%	10%		
I am happy to help out in my community (n=652)	34%	55%	10%		
I can move easily around the City of Port Phillip (n=655)	23%	45%	15%	13%	
I know about and/or participate in local community activities (n=652)	18%	50%	22%	8%	

|	
Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	Some age groups showed higher instances of 'strongly agreeing' with statements: • *I can easily move around* was higher amongst 18-34 year olds (30%) and 60+ year olds (29%, compared to 16% 35-59 year olds). • 28% of 60+ year olds 'strongly agreed' that they *know about or participate in community activities* (compared to 17% and less for under 60 year olds). • 58% of 18-34 year olds 'strongly agreed' that they *like meeting people from different backgrounds* (compared to 39% 35+ year olds). • *I am happy to help out in my community* received higher instances of 'strongly agree' ratings amongst 18-34 year olds (50%, compared to 27% 35-59 year olds).
Diversity	*I am happy to help out in my community* received higher instances of 'strongly agree' ratings amongst those with a disability (48%, compared to 32% of those without a disability), and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (44%, compared to 32% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Elwood and Ripponlea resident respondents show a higher instance of 'Strongly agreeing' with *I am happy to help out in my community* (52%, compared to 25% Balaclava and St Kilda East, 24% Port Melbourne and 22% South Melbourne).
Lived experience	Respondents with lived experience don't show any notable variation in findings.

Question:	Q17. If you selected either 'strongly agree' or 'agree' to any of the statements above, does this connection make you feel more safe and/or welcome in your local neighbourhood?
Sources:	Community survey (n=626)
Notes:	This question was optional.

The social cohesion and sense of connection measures made three quarters of respondents who said they had experienced them feel more safe (64%) and 39% more welcome.

Figure 3.3.3 Impact of sense of connection with community and neighbourhood
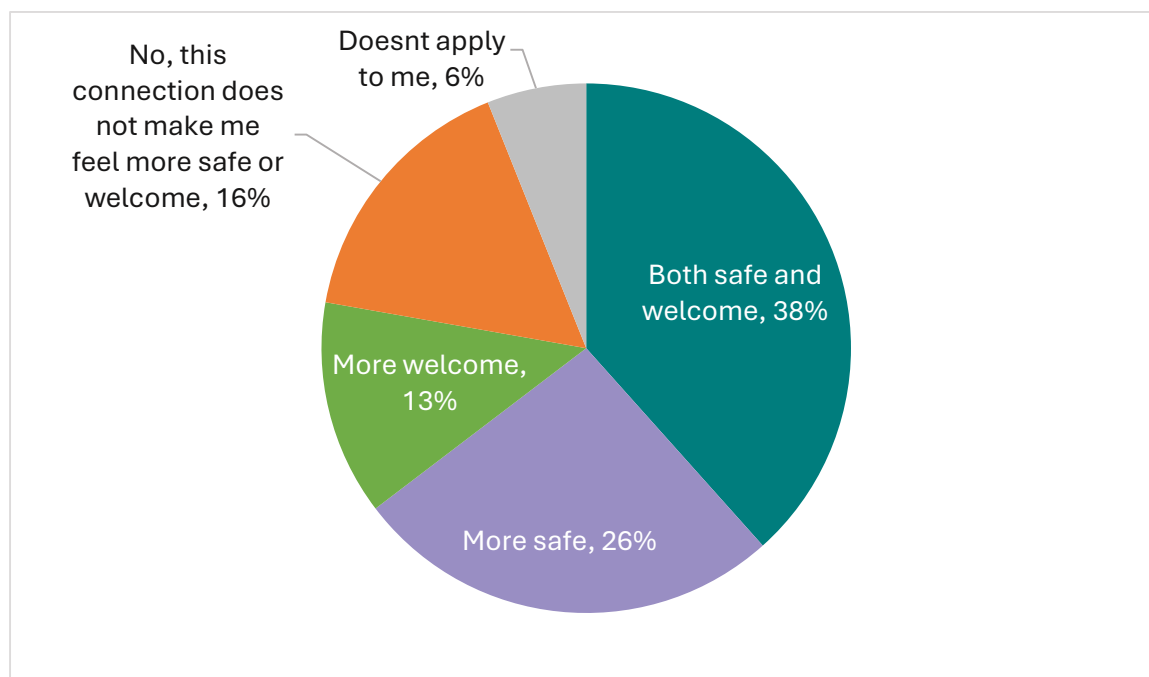
Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	Respondents aged 35 years and over showed higher instances of saying these things don't make them feel more safe or welcome (21% 35-59 and 17% 60+, compared to 6% 18-34 year olds).
Diversity	Higher instances of indicating these types of connection make them feel both safe and welcome was higher amongst respondents with a disability (49%, compared to 36% without a disability) and LGBTIQA+ (49%, compared to 35% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Findings were consistent across all regions.
Lived experience	Respondents with lived experience don't show any notable variation in findings.

Question:	Q18. How could you feel more safe and/or welcome?
Sources:	Community survey (n=313)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893).

When asked to write in what would make them more safe and welcome there were a wide variety of suggestions:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Suggestions relating to those experiencing homelessness (67 comments)	47 comments suggested more needs to be done to support those experiencing homelessness and vulnerable members of the community. 14 said that they wanted encampments removed and/or supported the proposed local laws amendment. 8 wrote in a comment opposing the local laws amendment. Providing a comment calling for more help for those experiencing homelessness was more common amongst respondents with a disability (11%, compared to 4% without) and/or those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (9%, compared to 5% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"I'd also feel safer if responses to hardship were compassionate, not punitive - where people sleeping rough are offered homes and support, not moved on, or made invisible. True welcome means not just being allowed to exist in a place but being invited into its shared life." [Male, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]*
Police (60 comments)	51 said more policing, 9 said fewer police. 35+ year old respondents more often provided a comment relating to wanting more police (6%, compared to 1% 18-34 year olds), as did residents (7%, compared to 2% non-residents).	*"Council has to make it harder for people to congregate and live on the street. They must respond to the needs of residents and traders and have move on orders with the help of the police." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Connection with others. No criminalisation of rough sleeping." [Non-binary, 35-59, lived experience]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Community connection / cohesion (55 comments)	A range of suggestions were put forth for enhancing community connections thorough programs and activities (32 comments) so that people can get to know their neighbours. Female respondents more often put forth a comment relating to this theme (8%, compared to 4% males), as did those with a disability (14%, compared to 5% without), and LGBTIQA+ (12%, compared to 5% non-LGBTIQA+)	*"Community events that are local to a specific set of streets would help. Even if it is a street busy bee where residents help pick up rubbish from a set of streets. Knowing and being known by more of the people around where I live would make me feel safer." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"I have been thinking of creating a community garden or similar project in my local area where locals can work together and prepare a meal once a week from the garden to create a sense of community, sharing and fun." [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
Action on drug / alcohol use / mental health issues (45 comments)	The call for action for those who are perceived as drug or alcohol effected or have mental health issues ranges from increased services through to incarceration. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (14%, compared to 5% not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander), people who speak a language other than English (11%, compared to 5% English-only), and resident respondents (6%, compared to 1% non-residents).	*"We need a service like mission beat in Sydney, I'm not talking about the outreach that we currently have I'm talking about having a van on the road that can respond to people who look like they might be in trouble, I'm specifically talking about partygoers, women and people who are clearly under the influence in a manner that is not threatening. We put on a lot of events here and we do have a bad element at play both in the venues and outside of them, we have a duty of care to make sure they get home safely. A mission beat style service could also serve as a conduit to police and ambulance that with proper training of staff may enable emergency services to better triage, they could also drive affected individuals to the emergency department reducing the reliance on ambulance." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Reduce crime (31 comments)	General comments about a need to reduce crime. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly put forth by resident respondents (4%, compared to 1% non-residents) and/or those who don't identify as LGBTIQA+ (4%, compared to 1% LGBTIQA+).	*"Clean the municipality up, get tough on crime, make it known that poor behaviour will not be tolerated in this municipality." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Antisocial behaviour (22 comments)	Many of these comments said that the extent to which they personally feel welcome wouldn't make them feel more safe so long as there was anti-social behaviour when they were in public spaces (18 comments). A comment relating to this theme was more commonly put forth by respondents who speak a language other than English (7%, compared to 2% English-only).	*I feel welcome and safe in my neighbourhood. The problem is not our community, the problem is the antisocial and illegal behaviour of a small amount of people. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Other themes with a notable number of comments include:

- 21 comments mentioned nothing, already feel safe.
- 16 comments mentioned clean streets or maintenance.
- 15 comments mentioned lighting.
- 15 comments mentioned activated spaces / shops / businesses.
- 13 comments mentioned services / support (type unspecified).
- 11 comments mentioned roads or driver behaviour.
- 7 comments mentioned urban design or infrastructure.
- 5 comments mentioned CCTV.

One submission said *"I think this area is safer today than when I first moved here"*.

In the community workshops, it was suggested that belonging and connection could be increased through:

- Build neighbourhood connections and offer informal support.
- Volunteering.
- Participation in local events.
- Supporting local businesses.
- Public space stewardship.
- Civic engagement and local communication.

Insights from other research and past engagement

In the **Balaclava community forum** held in May 2025, safety was put forth by 3 comments as a way to improve the area, specific to safer streets, better accessibility and cycling routes, and improved footpaths.

In the **2024 Health & Wellbeing Plan engagement**, 16% of respondents put forth a vision for a healthy Port Phillip that included comments about reduced crime and/or substance misuse, 11% mentioned something relating to increasing affordable housing and decreasing instances of people experiencing homelessness, and 11% mentioned improving cycling and walking paths and/or less cars.

In the **Plan for Port Phillip: Health & Wellbeing Stakeholder Workshop**, when asked to list the number one health priority for Council to focus on preventing violence, affordable housing and homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and food security were amongst the top themes put forth.

In the **Youth Soundtrack Engagement**, 2024, when asked what would encourage them to go to more live music in City of Port Phillip, 13% said increased safety, and 7% said not feeling safe ever stopped them from attending.

3.4 Your experiences in your local neighbourhood

Question:	Q19. How safe do you feel in your local neighbourhood if you are:
Sources:	Community survey (n=645-650)
Notes:	Sample sizes for each item vary as participation in this question was optional.
	It should be noted that the answer option scale for this question wasn't balanced (on the safe side it used 'Safe', whereas on the unsafe side it used 'Slightly unsafe'). This may have resulted in inconsistent interpretation by respondents, and/or skewed the findings.

Perceptions of safety in the local neighbourhood *during the day either alone or with others* was generally quite high. However, the proportion of respondents who said they feel safe *alone at night time* was notably lower, with 42% saying they feel unsafe (slightly and extremely combined).

Figure 3.4.1 Perceptions of safety in different environments
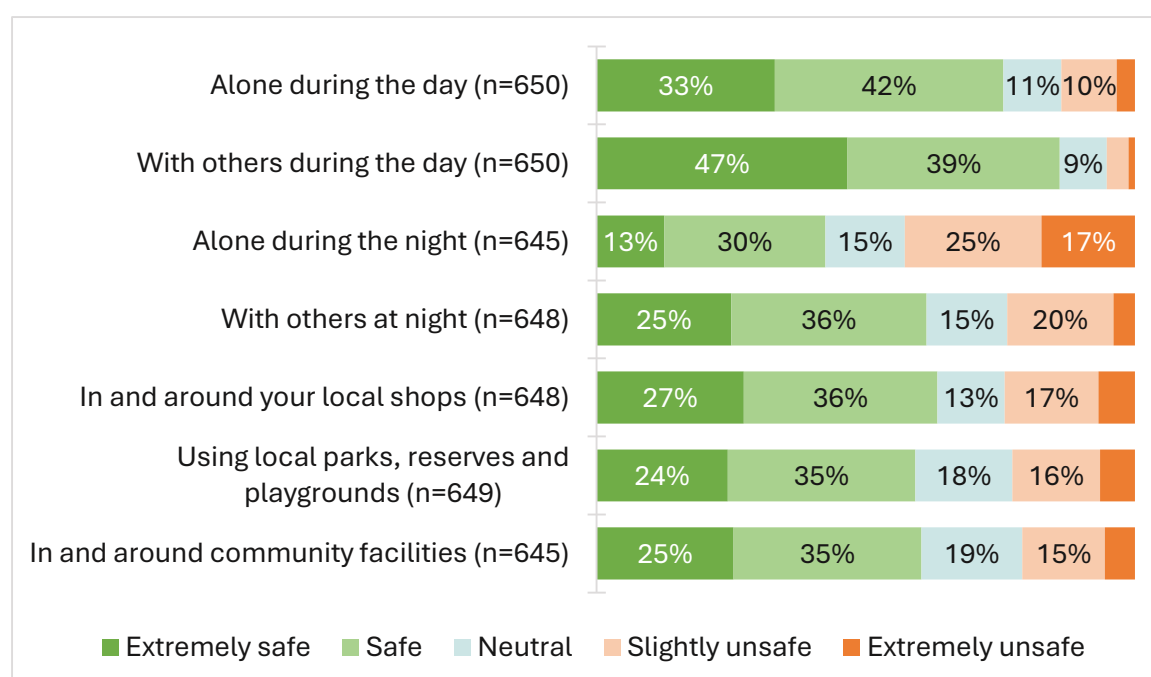
Female respondents showed a notably higher instance of rating 'extremely unsafe' for *alone during the night* (22%, compared to 10% males) and/or *alone during the day* (5%, compared to 1% males).

Gender

Age

35-39 year old respondents said they feel unsafe (extremely + slightly unsafe) in a range of situations:

- 53% *alone at night* (compared to 33% 60+ year olds).
- 33% *in and around local shops* (compared to 16% 18-34 year olds).
- 32% *with others at night* (compared to 27% for other age groups).
- 27% *in and around community facilities* (compared to 15% 18-34 year olds).
- 19% *alone during the day* (compared to 10% or less for other age groups).

Diversity

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents more often rated each item as 'extremely unsafe'.

Respondents who speak a language other than English more often rated *using local parks, reserves and playground* as 'extremely unsafe (13%, compared to 6% English-only).

Respondents with a disability more often rated that they felt 'extremely safe' *in and around local shops* (40%, compared to 25% no disability), *in and around community facilities* (37%, compared to 24% no disability), and/or *using local parks* (34%, compared to 23% no disability).

LGBTIQA respondents more often rated that they felt 'extremely safe' *with others during the day* (57%, compared to 44% non-LGBTIQA+), *in and around local shops* (36%, compared to 25% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or *in and around community facilities* (36%, compared to 23% non-LGBTIQA+).

Region — Respondents from Elwood and Ripponlea showed higher instances of saying they feel extremely safe in the daytime situations, around local shops, around community centres, and using local parks; whereas Port Melbourne respondents were less likely to feel safe in these situations.

Lived experience — Respondents with lived experience more often rate *with others during the day'* as 'slightly unsafe' (22%, compared to 4% housed respondents), and *alone during the day* as 'safe' (63%, compared to 30% housed).

Insights from other research and past engagement

In the **2025 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey** a similar question was asked, using an 11 point scale, where 0 means very unsafe and 10 means very safe. It is not possible to compare directly, but the broader community survey shows in general a more positive response, although it should be noted that this might be a function of the methodology (people willing to answer the door to a stranger and do a survey may be those who feel safer in their environments, and face to face research generally has more social desirability bias).

	Very safe (8-10)	Neutral (5-7)	Unsafe (0-4)
At the beach or foreshore	63%	35%	2%
During the day	78%	19%	3%
In and around your local activity centre	58%	38%	4%
At night	32%	54%	14%
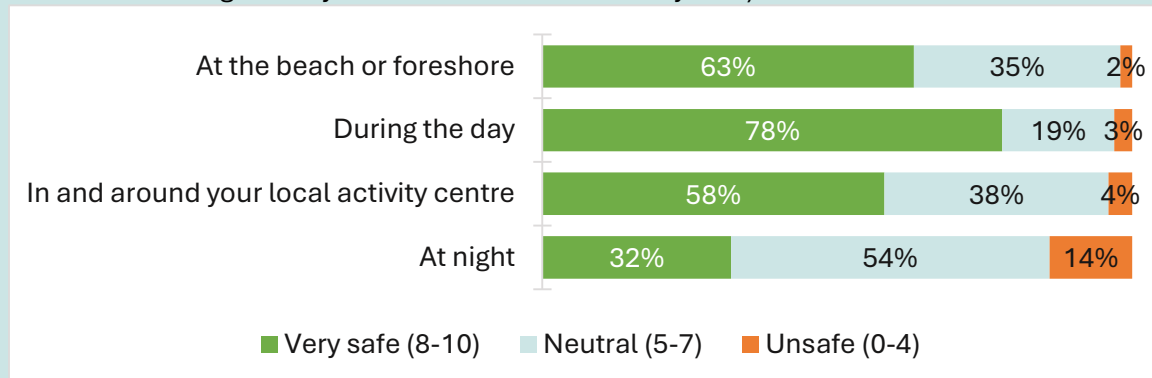
It was observed that sub-groups who generally felt *safer* than average were respondents from St Kilda Road, and to a lesser extent respondents from Elwood / Ripponlea and Albert / Middle Park, senior citizens (aged 75 years and over), male respondents, and respondents from English speaking households. Sub-groups who generally felt *less safe* were respondents from St Kilda / St Kilda West, and to a lesser extent Port Melbourne et al and South Melbourne, middle-aged respondents (aged 45 to 59 years), female respondents, and respondents from multilingual households.

The key reasons given for not feeling safe were drugs and alcohol (24%), people (22%), crime and policing (18%) and incidents / break-ins (17%).

The main locations mentioned in comments where people feel unsafe were Fitzroy Street (13 comments), Acland Street (9 comments) and/or Bay Street (9 comments).

Question:	Q20. If you would like to tell us more about this, you can tell us here.
Sources:	Community survey (n=313)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme.

Within the written comments, people share that they feel unsafe due to a range of reasons including:

- Experiencing physical assault.
- Experienced theft.
- Fear of the behaviour of others (intimidation and/or violence, with a number of mentions of people who appear mentally ill).

Comments below have been selected to represent key feedback whilst also maintaining privacy and avoiding risk of harm.

My behaviours have changed so much in the last 4 years. I'm not relaxed going out anymore. I don't sit outside in cafes. I don't walk when dark. I'm on edge. I cross the street when I see trouble or unsafe people heading towards me. [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]

I rarely go out alone anymore. It has changed how I live since buying my first property here. [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

St Kilda is not safe. I am wary at all times visiting Fitzroy St and wanting to go to say the chemist. [Female, 60 - 69 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]

Too many people with mental health and drug and alcohol issues - there needs to be more assistance such as the drop in bus near flinders street to help people, there needs to be more efficient move on laws, greater lighting in places. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]

Poor lighting at night makes them unsafe. People who need homes or shelter or food camping outside- they need to be looked after especially in winter. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Pedestrians are not safe on footpaths due to cyclists, scooters/ skateboards and unleashed dogs. [Female, 70 - 84 years, Port Melbourne]

It's a constant sense that you need to watch your back. You learn which areas to avoid, when not to walk alone, and what times of day feel riskier. I never used to think twice about these things in Port Melbourne, but now I do—and that shift speaks volumes. There have also been serious incidents locally, which reinforce that caution isn't just a feeling—it's a practical response to what's actually happening. It's changed how I move through the area and how safe I feel doing normal, everyday things. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]

Question:	Q21. In the past year, which of these have you seen or experienced in our City, and if so, did you report them?
Sources:	Community survey (n=602-640)
Notes:	Sample sizes for each item vary as participation in this question was optional. Respondents were prompted to select an option for each item.
	The answer options weren't randomised (appeared in the same order for each respondent) so there may be some order bias in the findings (that is, options at the start of the list are likely to be selected more often than those at the end of the list).
	The reader is reminded that the distribution method used for this survey likely means that those who responded have had more negative safety experiences that may be the case across the broader population. **These results show the experiences of respondents, not the experiences of the broader community.**

Amongst respondents there was widespread experiences of litter, graffiti, alcohol and drug debris and/or footpath obstructions. More than half said they had experienced a range of behaviours by others such as hoon driving, rowdy behaviour, intoxication, hostile behaviour, intimidating behaviour, and/or drug use/dealing.

There were lower instances of having experienced more extreme safety situations, such as violence, racism and/or sexual harassment, however it should be noted how few stated they had reported these things when they had experienced them.

Figure 3.4.2 Experiences and reporting of safety situations

Situation	I saw or experienced this	I saw or experienced this and also reported it	Total
Litter/rubbish (n=640)	78%	15%	94%
Graffiti (n=639)	77%	11%	89%
Alcohol and/or drug debris (n=639)	71%	13%	83%
Footpath obstructions (n=634)	67%	14%	80%
Speeding traffic and hoon driving (n=635)	69%	8%	76%
Noisy, rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour (n=623)	66%	9%	75%
Street drinking or intoxication (n=624)	66%	5%	71%
Unsafe or hostile behaviour in the street (n=627)	59%	10%	69%
Intimidating or threatening behaviour (n=624)	55%	13%	68%
Drug use and/or dealing (n=626)	53%	9%	61%
Vandalism or property damage (n=628)	46%	13%	60%
Violence in public places (n=619)	37%	8%	45%
Racism (n=616)	31%	4%	35%
Sexual harassment (n=602)	21%	4%	26%

■ I saw or experienced this   ■ I saw or experienced this and also reported it

Gender

29% of females said they had seen or experienced *sexual harassment* (compared to 17% males).

37% of females said they had seen or experienced *racism, anti-semitism and/or islamophobia* (compared to 29% males).

Age

35-59 year olds more often saw and reported *intimidating behaviour* (20%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), whereas 18-34 year olds more often said they hadn't seen this behaviour at all (43%, compared to 25% 35-59 year olds).

43% of 18-34 year olds said they had seen or experienced *racism, anti-semitism and/or islamophobia* (very few reported it), compared to 33% 35+ year olds.

Seeing or experiencing *speeding traffic or hoon driving* was more common amongst 60+ year olds (87%, compared to 64% 18-34 year olds).

	Seeing or experiencing *drug use and/or dealing* was more common amongst 35-59 year olds (67%, including 13% who had reported it) and 60+ year olds (62%), compared to 45% 18-34 year olds.
	35-59 year olds show higher instances of having reported these things they had experienced than 18-34 year olds.
Diversity	73% of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander respondents said they had seen or experienced *racism, anti-semitism and/or islamophobia* (compared to 35% non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents) and 54% said they had seen or experienced *sexual harrassment* (compared to 24% non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders).
	Respondents with a disability and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ more often said that they hadn't experienced each of the listed issues.
Region	Resident respondents more often indicate having experienced and reported each of these issues.
	Having experienced street drinking or intoxication was more common amongst resident respondents in St Kilda and St Kilda West (77%).
Lived experience	Respondents with lived experience show higher instances of experiencing *sexual harassment* (63%, compared to 25% housed).

A number of experiences were shared during submissions, including items being stolen from cars (4 instances), experiencing people under the influence of drugs (4 instances), cars being stolen (2 instances), home invasion (2 instances), and dangerous driving.

Question:	Q22. If you told us that you reported any of these issues in the past year, how did you report them?
Sources:	Community survey (n=305)
Notes:	If the respondent answered this question with 'didn't report any issues' they were removed from the calculation. Respondents could choose more than one answer.

The most common locations for reporting these types of experiences were the police and Council.

Figure 3.4.3 Reporting behaviours
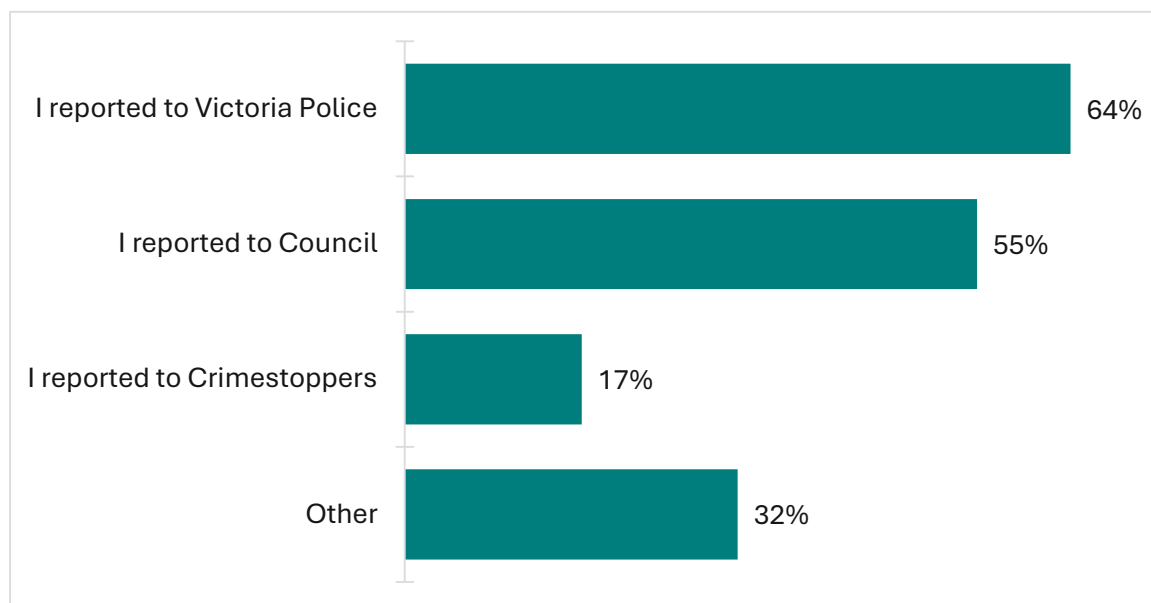
The most common response written into the other box was Snap Send Solve (8% of all responses to this question).

Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	Respondents under the age of 60 more often indicated they reported issues to *Crimestoppers* (21% 18-34 and 23% 35-59, compared to 7% 60+ year olds).
Diversity	Findings were consistent across all diversity segments.
Region	St Kilda and St Kilda West respondents more often said they had reported issues to *Victoria Police* (74%, compared to 42% in South Melbourne).
Lived experience	Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

Question:	Q23. If you told us that you saw/experienced issues in our City but didn't report, would you like to share why?
Sources:	Community survey (n=574)
Notes:	Respondents could choose more than one answer.

The most common reasons for not reporting these experiences were not being bothered enough, not knowing they could report it, previous bad experience and/or difficult to understand how to report.

Figure 3.4.4 Reasons for not reporting
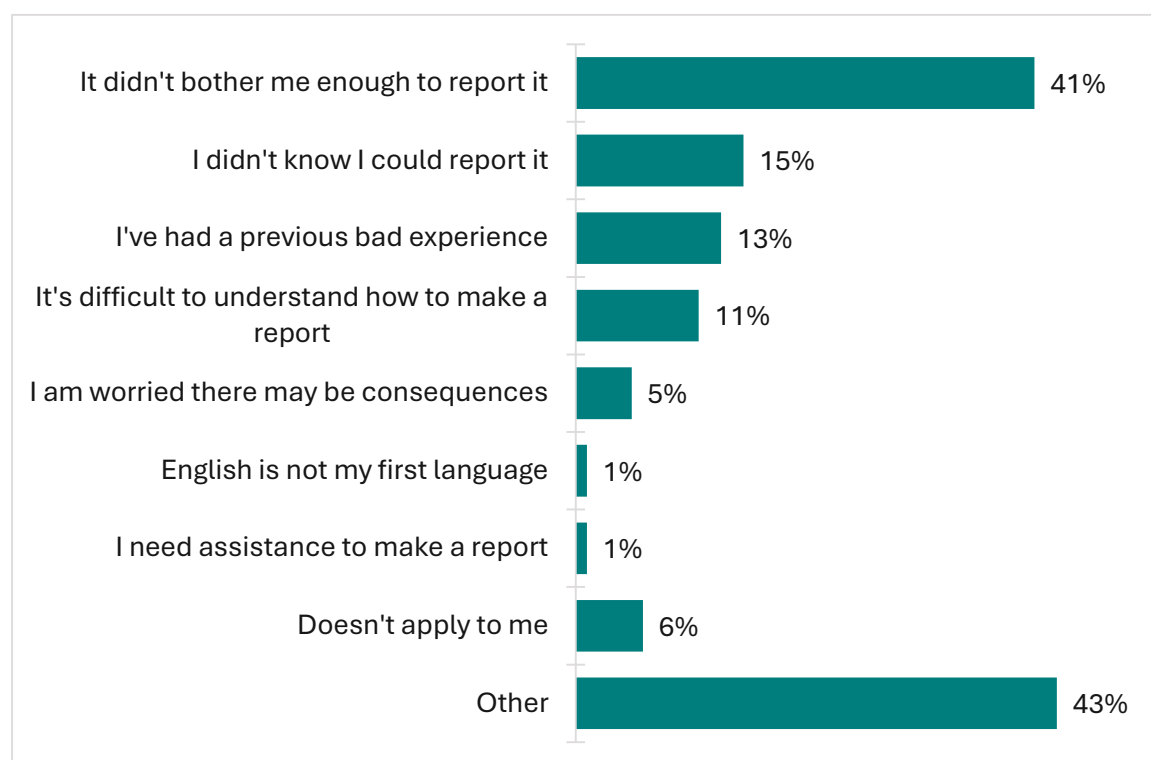
Those who selected other and wrote in a comment often put forth a perception that nothing would be done if they did report it (by Council or police).

Gender	Female respondents more often said they *didn't know how to report* (18%, compared to 11% males), whereas male respondents more often said that reporting *doesn't apply to them* (9%, compared to 5% females).
Age	35-59 year old respondents showed a high instance of saying they *didn't know they could report it* (19%, compared to 9% 60+). *Didn't bother me enough to report it* was more commonly selected as an answer amongst 18-34 year olds (52%) and 60+ year olds (45%, compared to 33% 35-59 year olds).
Diversity	*English isn't my first language* was selected as a reason for not reporting by 4% of respondents who speak a language other than English (compared to 0% English-only). Respondents with a disability showed higher instances of saying they have *a previous bad experience* (26%, compared to 11% no disability) and/or *worried there may be consequences* (15%, compared to 4% no disability).

Respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ showed higher instances of saying *it didn't bother me enough to report it* (51%, compared to 38% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or they have *a previous bad experience* (21%, compared to 10% non-LGBTIQA+).

Region

Elwood and Ripponlea respondents more often said *it didn't bother me enough to report it* (57%, compared to 26% Port Melbourne).

Lived experience

Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

Insights from other research and past engagement

In the Community Safety Roundtable report, which included participation by 20 stakeholders from the social services sector and Victoria Police, the following activities of concern were noted as being commonly seen or experienced in the City of Port Phillip.

- Crime – specific to experiencing violence or assault (actual or threatened), criminal damage and exposure to visible weapons.
- Drug use / dealing – open purchase of drugs and taking of drugs intravenously in the street.
- Visible homelessness – People sleeping rough on the street.
- Encampments – groups of people sleeping rough in car parks, parks and other locations.
- Disorder – People congregating in the street acting erratically and noisy.

"It became evident that there are quite different viewpoints within the community regarding these issues: one holds that this is part of life in Port Phillip, the diversity is what makes it a vibrant place to live, they generally feel safe in the area and there is, historically, a high degree of tolerance for homelessness and some level of erratic and unusual behaviour. Another viewpoint holds that the disorder is evidence of lawlessness and breakdown; tolerate it, and their poor perceptions of safety are seriously impacting their quality of life" (page 8).

In the **Balaclava community forum** held in May 2025, seven comments were made regarding current challenges for the area, including that it was filthy, run down, dirty, uninviting, outdated, disintegrating, unloved, crime, rough sleepers, mess, unruliness, and not a place to be proud of.

In the **2024 Health & Wellbeing Plan engagement**, 21% mentioned that in the last four years they had observed health and wellbeing changed in the CoPP through declining mental health and less physical activity opportunities, 21% mentioned a loss of community connection and safety concerns, and 17% mentioned increased cost of living, affordability, and people experiencing homelessness.

In the 2025 **Annual Community Satisfaction Survey** 21% raised safety as an issue for the City of Port Phillip to address, which is higher than 7% average within 2025 Governing Melbourne (Metropolitan Melbourne). This issue was more prominent amongst respondents in Port Melbourne (28% - hoons being a primary concern) and St Kilda East / Balaclava (32%), and less prominent amongst residents in Albert Park / Middle Park (16%).

When asked to rate 'safety and crime' out of 10 (where 0 is very dissatisfied and 10 is very satisfied) the average rating was 6.6. Perceptions of safety was particularly low in City of Port Phillip during the day, at night and in and around local activity areas. Concerns about safety at night were mostly relating to poor street lighting.

This survey asked respondents to rate six areas under community safety:

- Animal management – average satisfaction rating of 7.8 out of 10. This was lower in Elwood / Ripponlea (7.3) and St Kilda, St Kilda West (7.5). Main reasons for

dissatisfaction were dog waste, dog attacks, dogs off-lead when they shouldn't be, roaming cats, and needing more off-lead areas.
- Local traffic management – average satisfaction rating of 7.4 out of 10. Main reasons for dissatisfaction were traffic, closed streets, and parking issues.
- Parking enforcement – average satisfaction rating of 7.2 out of 10. Main reasons for dissatisfaction were excessive / inconsistent enforcement and not enough enforcement.
- Provision of parking facilities / spaces – average satisfaction rating of 7.2 out of 10. Main reasons for dissatisfaction were not enough parking spaces, parking congestion and the permit process.
- Enforcement of local laws – average satisfaction rating of 7.5 out of 10. This was higher in St Kilda Road (8.6) and lower in Albert Park / Middle Park (7.0). Main reasons for dissatisfaction were crime and safety (covering motor vehicle break-ins and theft and general crime), and drug and alcohol issues.
- Council's emergency preparedness and response – average satisfaction rating of 7.8 out of 10. Main reasons for dissatisfaction were too varied to group.

Safety was also raised in relation to bike paths and shared paths.

A range of **other consultations run by Council** in 2024-25 provided insights into community experiences with regards to safety:
- **Cowderoy Street - No right turn restriction engagement** – Safety issues were raised for pedestrians and cyclist through the area.
- **Danks Street Biolink Review and Renewal** – Concern around alcohol consumption in public spaces, antisocial behaviour.
- **Dog Off-Leash Guidelines** – Concern about the impact of dogs off leash; rushing, attacks, or just being afraid of dogs etc. Particularly for older people, children and those of different cultural backgrounds that aren't used to dogs.
- **Edwards Park Public Toilets** – identified reduced perceptions of safety around public toilets, drug use, visual line of sight of children near roads
- **Inkerman Street Road Safety** – identified issues with road safety, accidents, climate safety.
- **J Talbot Reserve engagement** – identified issues relating to antisocial behaviour, balls on street/road safety, CPTED design.
- **Lagoon Reserve engagement** – identified issues relating to safety around the toilet location more lighting and fencing around the reserve.
- **Local Law 2023 engagement** – identified concerns about anti-social behaviour and safety, hooning, unsafe nature strips and obstructed footpaths.
- **Marine Parade Bike Corridor (DTP project)** – identified issues relating to Road safety, specific to bikes, pedestrians, cars.
- **Reinvigorating Shopping on Acland Street - Retail Mapping Mix** – revealed safety concerns relating to people experiencing homelessness on Acland Street.
- **Smith St Streetscape** – concerns raised about road safety on Smith Street and Williamstown Road.
- **St Kilda Live Music Precinct Policy** – concerns raised regarding antisocial behaviour with Revellers leaving venues, noise, improving accessibility and safety at venues.
- **Williamstown Rd Safe Crossing** – concerns raised about safety for pedestrians and cyclist on Williamstown Rd and Beacon Rd. Particularly for children crossing to JL Murphy Reserve.

3.5 What do you do when you feel less safe

Question:	Q24. What action (if any) have you taken when you have felt less safe?
Sources:	Community survey (n=605)
Notes:	Respondents could choose more than one answer.

Discussing problems directly with neighbours and/or seeking help from police were the two most common actions survey respondents would take if they felt unsafe.

Figure 3.5.1 Actions taken when feel less safe
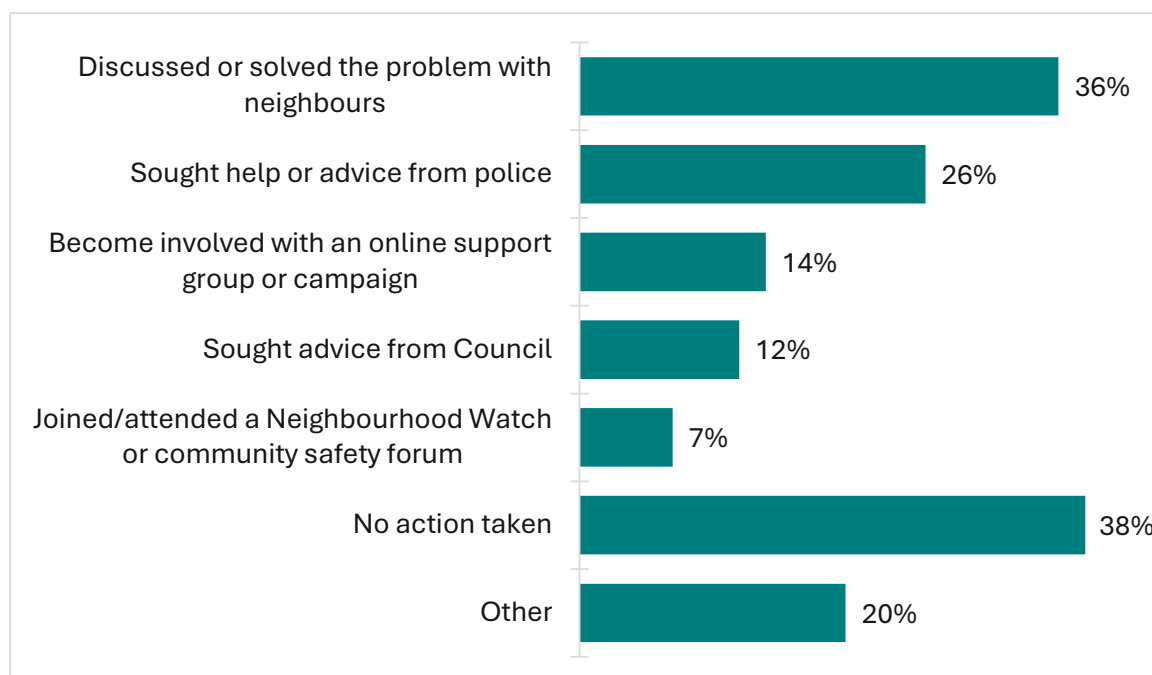
Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	35+ year olds more often said they would *seek help or advice from police* (30% 35-59, 24% 60+, compared to 13% 18-34 year olds) and/or *seek advice from Council* (13% 35-59, 14% 60+, compared to 5% 18-34 year olds).
Diversity	Respondents with a disability and/or who identified as LGBTIQA+ showed higher instances of saying they would *talk to their neighbours* to resolve problems (51% and 43% respectively). Respondents with a disability also showed a higher instance of saying they would *become involved in an online support group or campaign* (26%, compared to 12% of those without a disability).
Region	Resident respondents more often said they had *sought advice from police* (28%, compared to 12% non-residents), *become involved with an online support group or campaign* (15%, compared to 8% non-residents), and/or *sought advice from Council* (14%, compared to 4% non-residents).
Lived experience	Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

Question:	Q25. How confident do you feel that you know who to contact (or what to do) if you feel less safe in Port Phillip?
Sources:	Community survey (n=623)
Notes:	This question was optional.

Three quarters of survey respondents said they had some confident that they knew who to contact if feeling less safe.

Figure 3.5.2 Confidence that they know who to contact if feeling less safe
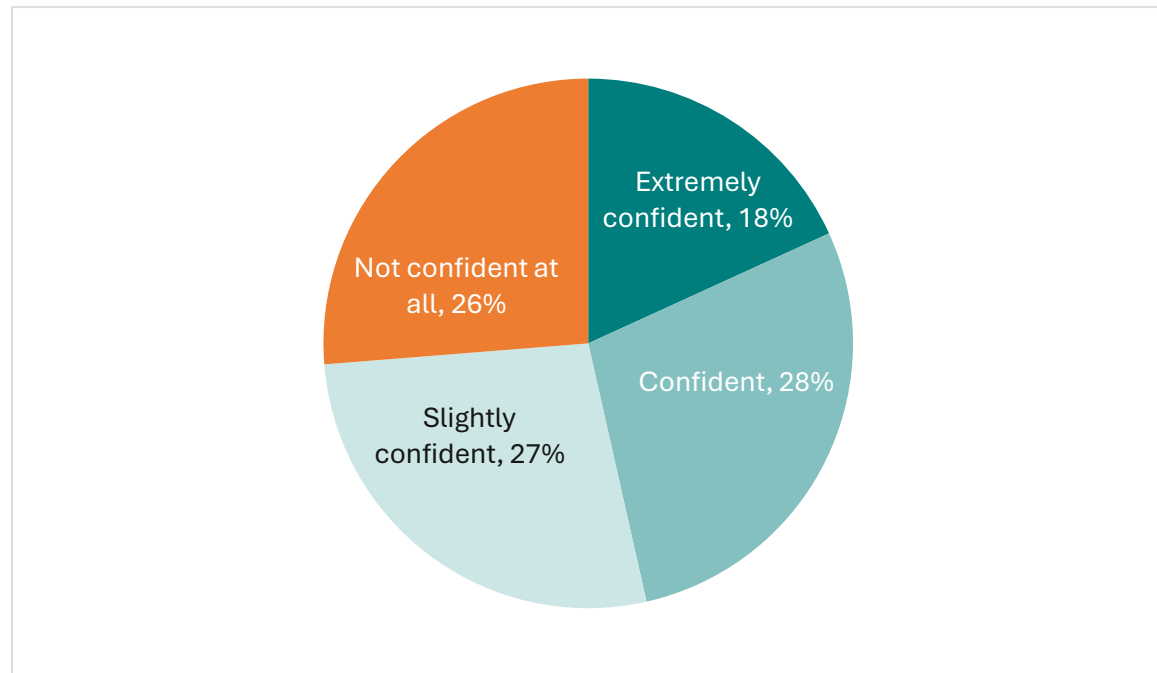
	Males showed a higher instance of saying they were extremely confident or confident (54%, compared to 44% females).
Gender	
Age	The incidence of indicating they were *extremely confident* was higher amongst 60+ year olds (25%, compared to 15% 35-59 year olds).
Diversity	Findings were consistent across all diversity segments.
Region	Findings were consistent across all locations.
Lived experience	Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

Question:	Q26. Have any of these made it more difficult for you to seek help?
Sources:	Community survey (n=567)
Notes:	Respondents could choose more than one answer.

Discussing problems directly with neighbours and/or seeking help from police were the two most common actions survey respondents would take if they felt unsafe.

Figure 3.5.3 Factors making it more difficult for people to seek help
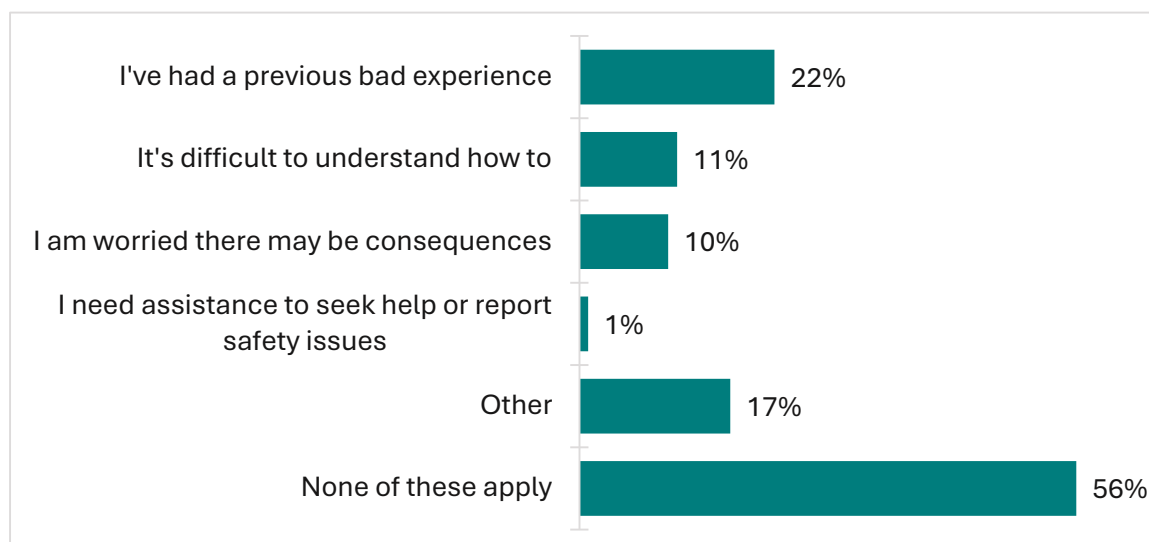
Respondents who said they were 'not confident at all' about knowing who to contact if they feel less safe more often said they had found it difficult to seek help due to a *previous bad experience* (32%, compared to 14% extremely confident + confident), *difficult understanding how to* (24%, compared to 2% extremely confident + confident), and/or *worried about consequences* (17%, compared to 6% extremely confident + confident).

Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	18-34 year old respondents showed a high instance of saying they'd had a *previous bad experience* (32%, compared to 15% 60+ year olds).
Diversity	Respondents with a disability showed a higher instance of selecting *had a previous bad experience* (45%, compared to 19% no disability), and/or *worried there might be consequences* (23%, compared to 8% no disability). Respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ showed a higher instance of selecting *had a previous bad experience* (34%, compared to 19% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or *worried there might be consequences* (16%, compared to 8% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Findings were consistent across all locations.
Lived experience	Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

3.6 A safer City of Port Phillip

Question:	Q27. What could Council do to make you feel more safe in our City?
Sources:	Community survey (n=527 comments)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893). Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Quotes that include derogatory terms or stigmatisation have been considered in the overarching analysis, but have not been included in the report for ethical reasons.

Prior to asking what Council can do to make them feel more safe, survey respondents were provided with the following information about Council's role in community safety.

Council has an active role to play in community safety. Some of the areas that Council works across include:
- Community programs and funding
- Enforcement of Local Laws and maintaining amenity
- Partnerships with health, housing and community organisations and businesses
- Public space design and development, and parks and playgrounds management
- Maintaining safe roads and improving transport connections
- Public place and high streets activation
- Promoting connection through sports, clubs and community groups
- Building connections and social cohesion across communities
- Advocacy to state and federal government

Comments were grouped into themes as follows:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
More housing / reduce homelessness (146 comments)	Suggestions for how Council could achieve this include increasing support, potentially through funding, assertive outreach, and partnerships with housing and community organisations. It was also suggested that Council could increase affordable and public housing (including advocacy), and/or relocate people experiencing homelessness into housing. Female respondents more often put forth a comment within this theme (18%, compared to 11% males). Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst those with a disability (26%, compared to 15% no disability) and/or those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (22%, compared to 15% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Partner with health, housing and community orgs, advocacy to state/fed governments for more public housing in area."* [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East] *"Access to affordable housing and assisting those who are sleeping rough NOT fining them or removing their property."* [Female, 18 - 24 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Council can connect houseless residents with safe, stable, empowered housing solutions, food and water and mental health care. People with homes, food, water and mental health care who feel empowered in their lives are less likely to engage in the kind of behaviours that are deemed "unsafe" in this survey."* [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Number one thing would be rent controls or create more affordable housing."* [Non-binary, 35-59 years, lived experience]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Police patrols and enforcement (143 comments)	134 comments mentioned the need for more patrols and enforcement for police and local laws, while 9 suggested less police. 35+ year old respondents more often put forth a comment within this theme (17%, compared to 7% 18-34 year olds), as did respondents without a disability (16%, compared to 5% of those with a disability), those who don't identify as LGBTIQA+ (17%, compared to 7% LGBTIQA+) and respondents living in South Melbourne (28%, compared to 3% of respondents living in St Kilda Road area).	*"Have a greater police presence. Work with social workers and assist rough sleepers and drug affected people to get appropriate help and accommodation."* [Female, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"More police or security patrols and move people along. Offer housing to the ones who want to come off the streets."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Strengthen and enforcement of local laws to get these people off our streets. Council to force state government to act in getting proactive with jailing the criminals not just recycling them."* [Male, 70 - 84 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]
Action on drug / alcohol use / mental health issues (132 comments)	Suggestions for how Council could achieve this include providing more services and enforcement of laws. Female respondents more often put forth a comment within this theme (18%, compared to 11% males).	*"Provide more services for people on lower incomes or experiencing disadvantage, as well as housing, mental health, and drug and alcohol services. This would address many of the causes of anti-social behaviour."* [Male, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Advocate to state and federal governments for more police and more ways to combat drug dealing."* [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]
More community / support services (103 comments)	Key community support services mentioned in the comments were for housing, drug and alcohol harm and mental health. Female respondents more often put forth a comment within this theme (14%, compared to 7% males). Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst 18-34 year olds (19%, compared to 10% 35+ year olds), those with a disability (20%, compared to 10% no disability) and/or those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (22%, compared to 9% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Provide safe housing and support for vulnerable people. More alcohol and drug support services. More policing."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne] *"More funding for 24/7 community services and programs and drop in centres. More housing for the homeless."* [Male, St Kilda and St Kilda West] *"Have a safe place to keep my belonging. More access to emergency accommodation. More food services."* [lived experience]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Local laws amendment feedback (81 comments)	50 comments said they wanted people experiencing homeless moved on / encampments removed and/or the local laws amendment to be passed, whilst 31 comments put forth opposition to the local laws amendment. A higher proportion of resident respondents put forth a comment supporting the local laws amendment. A higher proportion of respondents under the age of 60 years wrote in a comment opposing the local laws amendment (5%, compared to 1% 60+ year olds). Opposition for the local laws amendment was also mentioned in comments by notably high proportions of respondents with a disability (10%, compared to 3% no disability) and LGBTIQA respondents (10%, compared to 2% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Enact local laws that give police the ability to move on people who are using our streets and parks as locations to establish camps, where they can remain for extended period of time, and also become locations, where individuals from outside the municipality can congregate to engage in drug dealing and other criminal behaviours (theft, car theft and damage, damage to property and businesses, violent behaviour towards people living and working in the municipality)."* [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne] *"Adopt the recommendations of police. Change the local camping laws to toughen them up in line with other councils and adopt Cr Hardy's recommendations along with those of the Victorian Police."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne] *"Do not criminalise people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Do not take their property — they have it hard enough, this will just entrench hardship and make the community less safe."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]
Lighting (68 comments)	There was a general call for more lighting in public places. There were no notable variations in responses by demographics or location.	*"Council could improve safety by increasing visible foot patrols, enhancing lighting in dimly lit areas, promptly addressing graffiti and vandalism, and installing more CCTV in high-risk zones—especially around public transport, parks, and nightlife precincts."* [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]
Road infrastructure (incl. bike lanes, road crossings) (43 comments)	The main types of road infrastructure mentioned were bike lanes (separated from cars, and protected) and road crossings. Comments relating to this theme were put forth by higher proportions of resident respondents (6%, compared to 1% non-residents) and 35-59 year olds (6%, compared to 2% 18-34 year olds).	*"Consider lowering speed limits to 30 in residential streets and put pressure on State Govt to lower to 50 on main roads such as Kerferd."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne] *"Improving facilities for cyclists, more bike lanes and education for drivers around awareness and not obstructing bike lanes with illegal parking."* [Male, 50 - 59 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Cleaning / maintenance (41 comments)	Cleaning and maintenance comments mostly referred to litter / bins, amenity, parks and footpaths. Comments relating to this theme were put forth by higher proportions of resident respondents (5%, compared to 1% non-residents).	*"Maintain parks, streets, footpaths and basically all public areas better. They need to be regularly cleaned (hosed down), scans for syringes need to be done (in garden beds and thoroughly). Make the place look beautiful and take pride and care in it and then maybe the people who live here will also."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]
Public infrastructure (38 comments)	Public infrastructure mentioned included toilets, libraries. There were no notable variations in responses by demographics or location.	*"More bins. More shade. More locally native plantings. Better design for accessibility. Toilets that aren't the scary big metal ones. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] I think that Council does quite a good job and I'd like to see them continue to support our libraries, meeting places and community funding for fitness programs all of which bring people together and make our community safer and more cohesive."* [Female, 70 - 84 years, South Melbourne]
CCTV (34 comments)	Most comments mentioning CCTV were calling for more. Comments relating to this theme were put forth by higher proportions of 35-59 year old respondents (6%, compared to 2% 18-34 year olds).	*"Improve lighting, CCTV and general urban design so that women especially don't feel unsafe at night. For example the design along the pedestrian area of Acland St feels unsafe when you come out of the shops and where people often congregate all day. That is poor design in terms of safety."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]
Improve social cohesion (33 comments)	Ideas for how Council can improve social cohesion include events and activities to build community connections. There were no notable variations in responses by demographics or location.	*"I like the idea of connecting through clubs, community groups, social cohesion and community programs."* [Female, 60 - 69 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Advocacy (31 comments)	Comments call for advocacy to the state government for increased public housing supply, more funding for services, and addressing the root causes of issues. There were also comments calling for advocacy for increased police presence and training. There were no notable variations in responses by demographics or location.	*"Advocate for more proactive policing. Hold the State accountable for crime prevention."* [Male, 70 - 84 years, South Melbourne] *"Advocate to solve root problems instead of bandaid, patchy fixes. People are not homeless or abusing substance by choice but by systemic injustices that go unsolved decade on decade."* [35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East] *"Advocate to state government to increase public housing supply and increase funding to services like South Side Justice."* [Non-binary, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]

Other themes with a notable number of comments include:

- 28 comments mentioned activation of public spaces / events
- 22 comments mentioned target hooning, speeding or bad driver behaviour
- 17 comments mentioned community education
- 16 comments mentioned remove graffiti
- 10 comments mentioned they already feel safe
- 9 comments mentioned less police patrols or enforcement
- 7 comments mentioned support for Ian Gray's recommendations
- 3 comments mentioned reduced density or change in location of services

There were also some insights from stakeholder workshops, advisory groups and targeted discussions to help inform Council's role in improving safety:

- When considering cultural safety, this includes anti-Semitism as well as stigma, racism and Islamophobia.
- A safe injecting room is needed in the area.
- There is a need for increased mental health support that is culturally appropriated.

Question:	Q28. What would a safer City of Port Phillip look like, in your opinion?
Sources:	Community survey (n=497 comments)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893). Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme.

Answers to this question were mostly similar to the previous question about what Council can do. The main topics covered were:

- Social supports and services for those who need it (general) (77 comments).
- More affordable / public housing, so that everyone has access to housing (74 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by 18-34 year old respondents (15%, compared to 7% 35-59 and 5% 60+ year olds) and non-resident respondents (15%, compared to 7% residents).
- Police – more visible with faster response and greater enforcement (70 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by 35-59 year old respondents (8%) and 60+ year olds (10%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), and resident respondents (9%, compared to 1% non-residents).
- Amenity, including litter, maintenance and cleanliness (68 comments).
- Free from people impacted by drugs and/or alcohol (65 comments).
- Supports / compassion for people experiencing homelessness (62 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by female respondents (7%, compared to 4% males) and non-resident respondents (12%, compared to 6% residents).
- Social / community cohesion, including knowing neighbours and supportive and inclusive communities (59 comments).
- Vibrant / activated spaces, including increased foot traffic and fewer empty shops / businesses (55 comments).
- Improved public lighting (47 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by female respondents (7%, compared to 3% males).
- Fewer people experiencing homelessness / no encampments (46 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by resident respondents (6%, compared to 1% non-residents).
- Free from intimidation, including aggression, harassment and anti-social behaviour (41 comments).
- Services to support those experiencing drug and alcohol harm (36 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by 18-34 year old respondents (9%) and 35-59 year olds (4%, compared to 1% 60+ year olds).
- Reduction in crime / theft (36 comments).
- Ability to travel without fear (day and night) (35 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by female respondents (5%, compared to 2% males).
- Improved roads and driver behaviour (29 comments).
- More mental health services (27 comments).
- Less need for or reliance on Police or enforcement (24 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by 18-34 year old respondents (6%) and 35-59 year olds (3%, compared to 0% 60+ year olds).
- Free from violence – including family violence, being attacked and violence against women (23 comments).

- Safer cycle routes (21 comments).
- Reduction in graffiti and vandalism (19 comments).
- Improved footpaths (16 comments).
- More CCTV (15 comments).
- Improved cultural safety, including less racism (14 comments).
- To be without fear / feel safe (general) (10 comments).

The views of those with lived experience of street-based living were:
- *"Allow homeless people to keep our camps as it provides safety. If these are dismantled were will we go."*
- *"No segregation, all inclusive of community."*
- *"Everyone housed, everyone fed."*
- *"Without local laws getting around the streets."*
- *"More lights."*

In the community workshops, opportunities for improving safety were framed into three categories:
- Things they can **personally control**:
  o Building personal relationships (n=23)
  o Protecting self, home, car, environment (n=13).
  o Behaviour in the community e.g., being an active bystander (n=10).
- Things they can **influence**:
  o Voice concerns to Council and report crimes to police (n=16).
  o Good relationships in community and being an active bystander (n=7).
  o Collaborate with the community and share resources (n=4).
- Things **outside of control or influence**:
  o "Drug and alcohol abuse, randomised violence, inability of by-laws (councils) to maintain control, lack of police."
  o "Community hype on 'danger' not supported by stats"
  o "Global politics, wars etc."

In these workshops the top priorities put forth for creating a safer Port Phillip were:
- Interagency coordination (n=10).
- Mental health and support services (n=9).
- Increase provision and advocacy for social and affordable housing (n=8).
- Increase staffing and local law officer coverage (n=8).
- Lighting and pedestrian safety (n=7).
- Public realm improvements (n=6).

Insights from other research and past engagement
In the **Community Safety Roundtable** report, which included participation by 20 stakeholders from the social services sector and Victoria Police, the following recommendations for Council action were developed.
- Joint street patrols between CoPP Local Laws and Victoria Police.
- CoPP commitment to a human rights approach to housing, homelessness and mental health.
- Maintain CoPP collaborative / partnership model with the support sector.
- Collaboration between support service outreach and CoPP Local Laws.
- Increase supply of emergency accommodation.

- Create hubs and gathering places for people experiencing homelessness to spend time at during the day.

In the **Balaclava community forum** held in May 2025, five comments put for 'safety and policing' as an important thing for Balaclava's future, specific to better lighting, policing and safe and accessible spaces.

In the **2024 Health & Wellbeing Plan engagement**, Increasing housing affordability, rental affordability and homelessness support was chosen as a top three health priority area by the highest proportion of respondents (55%), with reducing all forms of violence receiving the fourth highest incidence of being selected as a priority (38%). Within written feedback under the Council Plan themes, respondents mentioned:

- having a stronger police presence to support positive perceptions of safety and entice people to get out and about.
- providing anti-bullying campaigns in schools.
- providing violence prevention education in schools.
- delivering campaigns against violence.
- delivering mental health campaigns to reduce stigma.

When asked to give feedback on the community vision, 196 comments mentioned community safety, with the key feedback relating to:

- Concerns around increase in drug use and anti-social behaviour, particularly in Fitzroy Street and Acland Street, St Kilda.
- Residents report feeling unsafe due to encounters with individuals under the influence of drugs. This has been noted in family-friendly areas, where families feel uncomfortable letting children play or walk in public spaces.
- Personal safety at night, particularly for women.
- Better street lighting to enhance feelings of safety.
- Managing climate change impacts.
- A place where children and women feel comfortable walking at all times of day/night
- Desire for improved police presence/CCTV.
- Traffic safety, including traffic management, slower speeds on roads and better infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists.

In the **Plan for Port Phillip: Health & Wellbeing Stakeholder Workshop**, when asked what actions Council could take to improve health outcomes for Port Phillip communities, key ideas put forth were:

- Acting as a coordinator for services.
- Providing integrated spaces and services with GPs, social services, shared meals etc including community hubs.
- Improving opportunities for innovation/responsiveness to community needs.
- Supporting community to create housing pathways for community members.
- Addressing safety in public housing for young people and families (e.g., Park Towers).

In the **Panel recommendations to Council** creating safer communities was one of the 7 identified priorities from the next 4 years. The 2 key recommendations under this priority were:

1. Invest more in understanding the root cause of unsafe areas. Identify what causes unsafety so it can be tactically addressed.
2. Create spaces that are safe, open and inclusive through well-designed and maintained amenities with appropriate lighting, to make sure our public spaces are activated.

Safety was a key consideration when reviewing the Liveable theme, with the panel calling for more emphasis on safer street and public spaces, and more affordable housing. Indeed, creating safe communities was the second highest ranked priority for Council, behind supporting people experiencing vulnerability.

In the **Sport and Recreation Strategy engagement** 10% of survey respondents and pop-up participants put forth ideas relating to safety as potential actions for council, specific to improving lighting and safer bike paths (both shared as well as on-road). Engagement activities with sports clubs and other organisations also showed safety to be one of the seven main opportunities for enhancing service provision; specific to bike lanes, and also safety for women and trans people by providing appropriate bathrooms and safe spaces (culturally and infrastructure-based, such as lighting).

A range of **other consultations run by Council** in 2024-25 provided insights into community priorities for Council with regards to safety:

- **Aged Care Reform engagement** - Safer communities can be achieved through better connectivity, safer footpaths, in home care for older people.
- **Carlisle Street Lighting engagement** – Need more and brighter lights around Carlisle Street.
- **Our Coastal Future** – participants were requesting Climate safety and emergency management.
- **Proposed changes to dog on and off leash restrictions engagement** – call for safety for dogs and cyclists, with management of unsafe dogs.
- **Reconciliation Action Plan (First Peoples Community Survey)** – call for cultural safety.
- **Sandridge Bay Trail safety upgrade** – call for road Safety, including pedestrians, bikes, cars, boats.
- **St Kilda Adventure Playground (SKAP)** – want Council to ensure sightlines in playgrounds, calculated risk taking, and ensuring the playground continues to be staffed.
- **South Melbourne Market Upgrade - Stage 1** – noted the need for inclusion of all genders (concern around some unwelcoming trader sentiments).

3.7 Community safety roundtable report

Question:	Q29. If you have read the report and would like to provide any feedback on it or its recommendations, you can tell us here.
Sources:	Community survey (n=304 comments relevant to the report recommendations)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme.

Many of the comments were referring to the local laws amendment or unrelated safety concerns, rather than the recommendations or the report.

There were 111 comments providing general support for the report and recommendations.

> *The report provides and in-depth, balanced approach which takes into account the complexity and entrenched societal nature of the issue of homelessness, mental health, drug addiction and living on the street. [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

> *The report takes an excellent collaborative approach, with in-depth consultation of key stakeholders, coupled with external research findings. I appreciate that a humane, compassionate approach is supported throughout. [Female, 70 - 84 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*

There were a further 75 comments that used this text box to share their opposition to the proposed local laws amendment, and 19 who said that they supported the proposed local laws amendment, or wanted encampments removed.

There were 19 submissions indicating support for all or most of the recommendations made by the Round Table, with 7 of these also opposing elements of it (specific to Police powers). Two outright opposed all of the recommendations as they felt the community needed to be included.

A selection of quotes from the feedback follows, under each of the key themes of the recommendations.

Increase in resources by Victoria Police

- *Requesting more police won't work, the Vic Labor Govt is broke, won't happen [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *... the thought of CoPP thinking we need more police visibility on our streets, beaches, parks, etc alarms me. These people are carrying guns about. That does not make me feel safer and makes me terrified for people who are targeted by police in our community. This is completely the wrong approach to community safety. I think CoPP does well in other aspects about building strong, connected and resilient communities. More policing from Local Laws Enforcement and Victoria Police is not it. [Non-binary, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

- *Keep the police out of the issues, It is not a law and order issue. We won't arrest our way out of the situation. [Male, 70 - 84 years, South Melbourne]*
- *Assertive outreach should be conducted by trained social workers or similar, not by police who frequently harm marginalised communities and cause escalations and fear to them. [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
- Seven submissions put forth that they support many of the recommendations, except for the ones calling for an increased police presence, which is perceived as having the potential for resulting in vulnerable people being targeted.

Effective system of CoPP Local Laws officers and Victoria Police joint street patrol

- *Fix the Local Laws that is the solution, no illegal camping on public land, only Port Phillip and Merri-bek council have local laws not fit for purpose on illegal camping. [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *The round table was asked to look at other LGA's bylaws and actions they had taken to prevent encampments and improve safety. One great example is from the city of Melbourne with its bylaws not having exemptions for camping on council land plus having a Homeless Operating Protocol. I highly recommend the City of Port Phillip adopting this. [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *I do not agree that an increase in police patrols would help the neighbourhood feel safer. I do not feel any safer seeing cop cars cruise by, or PSOs at train stations, I feel surveilled. [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
- *The only difficulty I see is that the recommended joint police patrols can only be able to be practically implemented if they could be done in a manner that is truly culturally safe for Aboriginal people, and it is honestly hard to see how that can be practically achieved with the history and ongoing practices that exist, particularly in the absence of any independent police accountability mechanism existing in Victoria. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Commitment to a human-rights based policy approach

- *In the Community safety roundtable final report, Ian Gray recommends a trial of the protocol that incorporates the "details the trauma-informed, culturally safe and human rights-based approach Port Phillip has historically taken to balance the rights of all people in public spaces." However, having read City of Melbourne's Operating Protocols I fail to see how a number of them could be adapted in a way that conforms to these values. They limit the scope of what is consider acceptable behaviour for those sleeping rough; discouraging homeless people from having more than two bags of belongings (protocol 2), sleeping in groups (protocol 5), and exhibiting behaviours that could "impact the enjoyment of other users of public space" (protocol 60). These protocols, if enforced by police or local law officers, would infringe on the human rights of homeless people. It is unfair for them to be held to standards in public that would not be expected of a housed person. [Female, 18 - 24 years, Port Melbourne]*

Collaborative/partnership model with the support sector

- *Alliance and peacemaker program (recommendations 30 and 31) - should not go ahead, make homeless people feel more safe, don't try to move them on or destroy their belongings, that in turn will make the community feel less safe [Female, 25 - 34 years, Port Melbourne]*

Strengthening of key support service providers

- *Many, many more mental health advocates are needed to help them. [Female, 70 - 84 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*
- *Please ensure that solutions proposes support the homeless and persons suffering from physical, mental and substance addiction are not placed in a more vulnerable position. Rather, services provided to support. The marginalised should not feel more unsafe so that others in the community feel safer. [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*

Increased supply of emergency accommodation

- *Crisis accommodation creates more issues for existing tenants, don't do it, will create further issues. [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *Emergency accommodation made things worse- especially during covid on palmerston/ kings way [Female, 35 - 49 years, South Melbourne]*
- *I agree that the report found that more investment in public housing and services, and not more policing and laws discriminating against homeless people, is what's needed. [Male, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
- *Temporary accommodation is not the answer long term is. [St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *St Kilda Community Housing (SKCH) and Ngwala Willumbong: The "Four-Building Solution: I'm pleased to see that there is planning underway to build more permanent community housing in CoPP. I support more funding towards building more social housing in the area. There's so much vacant land - surely we can use some of it. [Male, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Hubs and gathering places for people experiencing homelessness

- *There is a roll to look at the diverse family of social support services and work through duplications to free up funding to ensure 24hr coverage - including places to go / hang out - not just crisis care - for those of challenging demographics. [Male, 60 - 69 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]*
- *I agree that providing activity hubs for the homeless is a great idea. Many of them are bored and frustrated and need more opportunities for positive activity [Female, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West*
- *More hubs or outdoor shelters for homeless people some toilet & shower facilities too. [Non-binary, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]*

Education and communication
- Recommendation 28 "community education and awareness anti-stigma campaign targeting perceptions of people experiencing mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness issues" - *I bring attention to this as there appear to be a number of significant misunderstandings in some parts of the community about these problems - for example how alcohol related brain damage (from long term, previous alcohol abuse) can affect behaviour of a homeless person (which can include confusion, shouting and bad language) and interact with other mental health issues, but is rarely linked to violence or crime; the long term impacts of adverse childhood experiences; or the varied root causes of homelessness; and the very low correlation between homelessness and crimes against persons. Rather than a one-off campaign I would suggest this requires a long term program of community education as well as leadership*

from council in countering misinformation. [Male, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Other feedback

Recommendations say not to change local laws (9 comments):

- *After reviewing the Council meeting from 21 May 2025, it's unclear whether the Council has formally endorsed the Report. From what I can see, the Council has 'noted' the Report and agreed to begin implementing some of its recommendations. This distinction is important; had the Council endorsed the Report, it would have accepted Recommendation 6, which emphasises confirming the adequacy of current by-laws and focusing on effective implementation and coordination, rather than pursuing legislative change. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *I agree with the findings of the report. I also note that the report does not support changing the local law and I agree with this. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

General:

- *Excessive number of recommendations has allowed for a dilution of outcome/responses [Female, 25 - 34 years, South Melbourne]*
- *I think the conversation needs to be diverted away from homelessness as an issue and to antisocial behaviour as the issue. There are homeless people in the area who are not antisocial and there are people who have homes but are antisocial. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *It's disappointing there is little there focused on the specific things that make women in particular feel extremely unsafe while going about their daily lives. [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *The report is heavy in detail and light in measurable outcomes. Most of the outcomes proposed are 'qualitative' hence measurability is problematic. [Male, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *My first encounter with this report was when I heard that Council was considering criminalising homelessness in the area. Reading through the report, I can see that a strong case has been made for why this is a bad idea. I strongly stress my support of an approach that shows compassion and understanding for people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping. The report notes that even people who have housing feel unsafe in their homes, and I think this really highlights that just moving people off the street does not make the community safer. I do not think that a strong community is one that penalises people for experiencing trauma and suffering. I hope that Council does not cave to the voices in the community that show indifference for those less fortunate. [25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *The Community Safety Roundtable Report and Recommendations is insufficient in how it addresses the responsibilities of Council and other authorities to maintain infrastructure such as street drainage, street cleansing, and the maintenance of parks and gardens. It is also insufficient in how it addresses the responsibilities of the Council to ensure that private property holders are maintaining their properties to an adequate standard in order to enhance the public realm. [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]*
- *The recommendations are just wishful thinking that requires funding that Council doesn't have and State Gov doesn't want to spend. [Female, 50 - 59 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]*

Reasons for opposing the report recommendations

- **Round table didn't include community members / consider resident or trader concerns** (11 mentions across the survey and submissions)
  - *Excluding community makes the round table redundant. It was full of people with the same old thinking that created this problem. We don't need do-gooders. We need zero tolerance on crime. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]*
  - *Under-representation of community voices most affected – Many residents, especially in high-impact areas like Jackson Street and Fitzroy Street, feel their daily experiences were not adequately represented. [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
  - *We feel very strongly that local businesses and residents who are directly impacted, should be involved this time, to represent the Community... having only so-called 'exports' attend is a mistake, and will certainly not achieve the desired outcomes for everyone. [Submission]*
- *The report includes some positive language about partnerships and social connection, but overall, it leans too heavily on enforcement, surveillance, and a narrow concept of "amenity" that often excludes vulnerable people. A safer city isn't created by increasing policing or "activating" public space to attract certain demographics - it's built by addressing root causes: housing insecurity, mental health, racism, poverty, and social exclusion. [Male, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]*
- *This report is not based on evidence or the safety of People of Colour. The report is heavily biased toward the dominant culture's concept of safety. The recommendations in the report are likely to disproportionately harm people of colour, disabled people and unhoused people, and is likely to contravene the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) as well as a number of other human rights. Increased police is likely to be racist and cause incredible harm, as evidenced by current police statistics. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *This report reads like a justification for inaction. It offers more process, more consultation, but no meaningful change. Meanwhile, residents are dealing with escalating antisocial behaviour, visible drug use, and growing safety concerns. [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*
- *In Ian Gray's report I do not support the mayor's recommendations 36 and 37. Being unhoused is not a crime and should not be treated as such. Additional surveillance and specifically-located quasi police will only exacerbate issues associated with the public's interaction with the State. These tools will invariably be used against vulnerable citizens. [Submission]*

3.8   Local Law proposed amendment

Question:	Q30. Do you support this approach?
Sources:	Community survey (n=852)
Notes:	It is evident that approximately 200 respondents completed this survey solely to participate in this question (comments to earlier open ended questions were referring to this topic, and/or they skipped the other questions in the survey).
	One submission raised a concern that there was a risk that the framing of the proposed amendment in the survey may lead respondents to perceive that the proposed law will introduce a mechanism for providing enhanced support to rough sleepers, which is not the function of this law change and will not necessarily occur.

Respondents were presented with the following information and then asked to rate their support for this approach.

At the 21 May Council Meeting, Councillors agreed to seek community engagement on a proposed amendment to the Community Amenity Local Law 2023. More information about the Local Law, camping on Council land, and supporting people sleeping rough, is available in the FAQs at https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/feel-safe-be-safe or you can ask for a copy from the Housing Team on (03) 9209 6777 or by attending an ASSIST counter.

The proposed amendment would provide Council with the ability to temporarily designate an area as a 'no encampment' area in consultation with key stakeholders if it is determined that:

a) The amenity of the Council land or the amenity of land in the vicinity of the Council land is or is likely to be adversely affected; or
b) The safety or welfare of a person is or is likely to be put at risk by behaviours of persons congregating on Council land with the intention or apparent intention of camping or sleeping there.

The proposed amendment would note that:

a) such a designation could be considered an exceptional circumstance after existing and enhanced assertive outreach models with service providers and supportive conversations had failed.
b) that enforcement of the potential amendment would not include fines, but instead, the removal and impoundment of equipment following provision of outreach and support services, where individuals have refused both a request and then warning to remove the material from the designated area.

Feedback will inform Council's decision around progressing to legislated community engagement (the next stage of Local Law amendment requirements).

Overall, over half of survey respondents indicated they oppose this approach (55% strongly oppose + oppose), with 38% supporting it (strongly support + support).

When breaking out the data by residents only, views were more evenly split, with 46% opposing and 44% supporting, although the strength of opposition tended to be stronger than that of support (40% strongly oppose, compared to 31% strongly support).

Figure 3.8.1 Support for proposed local law amendment approach by connection to CoPP
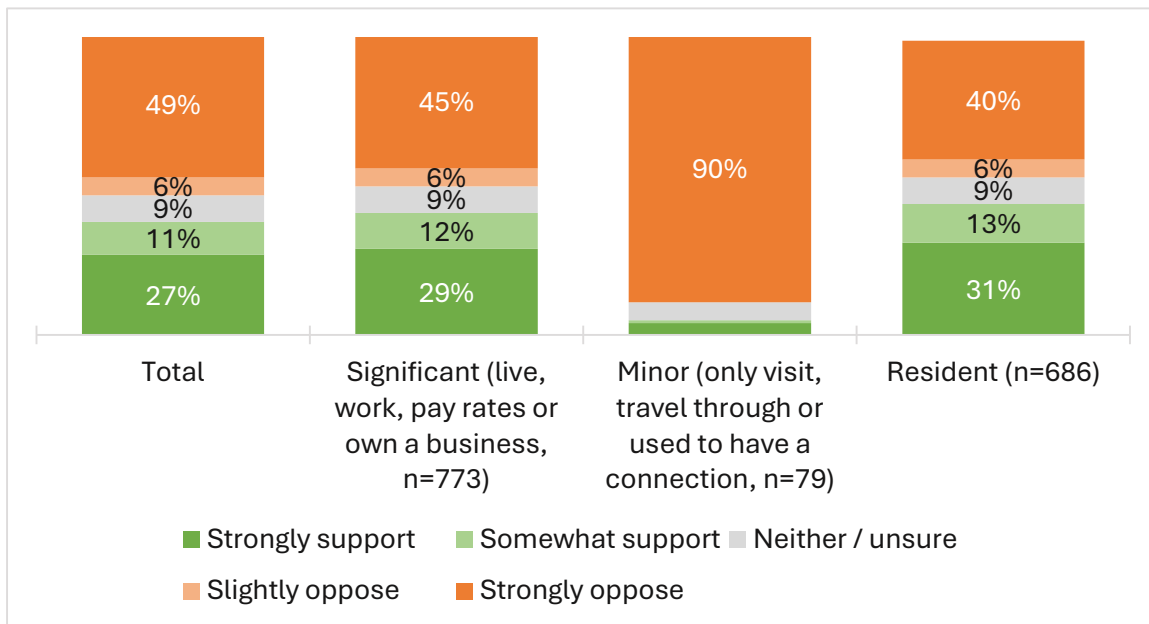
Gender	Male respondents showed a higher instance of saying they strongly support the amendment (34%, compared to 25% females).	
	Female respondents show a higher instance of saying they strongly oppose the amendment (50%, compared to 38% males).	
Age	35+ year old respondents showed a higher instance of saying they strongly support the amendment (32%, compared to 7% 18-34 year olds).	
	18-34 year old respondents show a higher instance of saying they strongly oppose the amendment (80%, compared to 41% 35+ year olds).	
Diversity	Notably high instances of strongly oppose were recorded amongst respondents with a disability (73%, compared to 45% no disability) and/or who identify as LGBTIQA+ (83%, compared to 41% non-LGBTIQA+).	
Region	Higher instances of strongly support were recorded amongst resident respondents from Port Melbourne (38%), Albert Park and Middle Park (47%), and St Kilda and St Kilda West (30%). Conversely, high instances of strongly oppose were recorded amongst resident respondents from Elwood and Ripponlea (61%), Balaclava and St Kilda East (59%), St Kilda Road (59%) and those living outside of CoPP (84%).	
Lived experience	All respondents with lived experience opposed this proposed local laws amendment, with 91% 'strongly opposing'.	

There were 6 submissions supporting the local laws amendment, and 26 opposing.

Question:	Q31. Is there anything further you would like to share about your response?
Sources:	Community survey (n=142 comments for support and 348 comments for oppose)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893). Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Quotes that include derogatory terms or stigmatisation have been considered in the overarching analysis, but have not been included in the report for ethical reasons.

Through the follow-up comments and submissions it was clear that there may have been misperceptions influencing opinions regarding this proposed amendment:

- Some of those who said they support the amendment indicated that they did so because they wanted people experiencing homelessness to be safer, perceiving that it would be coupled with more support. It is important to note that most of the support is from a perspective of wanting homeless people to ultimately be housed.
- Many of those who said they oppose perceived that the amendment would grant powers to remove belongings from rough sleepers without any oversight and/or issue fines.
- One submission also raised a concern that there had been a public narrative that the proposed amendment would include fines or penalties for the homeless, which was perceived as not being the case. Another suggested that there needed to be a better recognition of the difference between people experiencing homelessness (who are not a safety issue) and those who are taking drugs and causing issues, with suitable supports provided to each.

Of those who opposed this approach, the following themes were:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Provide more services (143 comments)	Many of those who opposed the amendment suggested that instead Council should seek to provide more services and housing support. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst female respondents (18%, compared to 11% males), 18-34 year olds (31%, compared to 12% 35+ year olds), respondents with a disability (23%, compared to 15% no disability), those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (28%, compared to 13% non-LGBTIQA+) and respondents who live outside of Port Phillip (28%, compared to 13% residents).	*"Provide long-term services to people who are unhoused rather than a useless amendment like this. This is a knee-jerk, irresponsible and heartless approach and should not be implemented."* [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP] *"Our council should have better resources for helping people going through housing or mental health or addiction crisis."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East] *"How about instead put significant funding into creating housing? What how about putting funding into supportive infrastructures? How on earth are you going to be helping anyone by moving community members who are sleeping rough elsewhere?"* [18 - 24 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Human rights (107 comments)	Many of those who opposed the amendment commented that it was cruel and/or contravening human rights. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst 18-34 year old respondents (27%, compared to 6% 60+ year olds), respondents with a disability (20%, compared to 11% no disability), those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (23%, compared to 10% non-LGBTIQA+) and respondents who live outside of Port Phillip (24%, compared to 9% residents). There were also notably high instances of comments put forth related to this topic by residents in St Kilda Road (28%) and Elwood and Ripponlea (25%).	*"This seems like a very inhumane response. Why can't we prioritise community support for people sleeping rough instead of punishing them? Particularly as Melbourne winter sets in."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP] *"People sleeping rough deserve safety, they are members of the community. This proposal violates the human rights of people experiencing housing insecurity."* [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]
Doesn't solve anything (96 comments)	Some suggested that the proposed amendment would make things worse and/or it doesn't fix the root causes of the issue. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst 18-34 year old respondents (21%, compared to 12% 35+ year olds), respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (19%, compared to 9% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or residents from Elwood and Ripponlea (22%).	*"Designating 'no encampment' areas places the focus on moving people on, rather than addressing the root causes of homelessness. In practice, removing someone's belongings or designating exclusion zones can cause significant distress, break trust between people sleeping rough and services, and make it harder for outreach workers to build relationships and offer support."* [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East] *"If you won't install public lockers where do you expect them to store their belonging? People *die* in winter sleeping rough if they do not have warm things. You want to throw that out? *how cruel!* Services will be inundated with more distressed people because their belongings were thrown out while they were at appointments. You will make the problem worse."* [Female, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Criminalising homelessness (74 comments)	There was concern that the proposed amendment would criminalise homelessness and victimise vulnerable people. Some of these comments suggest that homelessness shouldn't be treated as a crime and isn't a threat to public safety. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (14%, compared to 7% non-LGBTIQA+) and/or non-residents (14%, compared to 7% residents).	*"Why would you choose to punish people during a housing crisis and a cost of living crisis, and make it harder for them to survive? Taking away basic items in winter, like bedding, has strong potential to lead to serious harm. With crisis services overwhelmed and conditions getting worse, why would a punitive approach be a better use of resources than a supportive one?" [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]*
Individual harm (53 comments)	Concern was put forth that the proposed action risks causing more harm to the impacted individual. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (12%, compared to 5% non-LGBTIQA+) and/or non-residents (15%, compared to 4% residents).	*"Service providers in the area struggle to keep up with demand and there would not always be appropriate accommodations available even if supportive conversations and assertive outreach took place. Penalising and 'moving on' people has never worked before because it doesn't solve the root cause of the issue. The resources that would be required to uphold this law amendment would be much better funnelled into housing and crisis support." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]*
Where will they go (42 comments)	Some raised concerns that the proposed actions will just result in the individual moving to another location. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (8%, compared to 4% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"It won't solve the problem it will just move people around. We need more housing." [Female, 85 and over years, Port Melbourne]* *"These people need to sleep somewhere. I do not approve of this punishment. If these people actually harm someone then that is a different story, but if they are just sleeping or congregating together somewhere i do not think it would improve my safety to remove them. All this does is kick the bucket down the road, where will this person go next?" [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]*

Other reasons for opposing included:
- Ian Gray's / roundtable recommendations are better (25 comments).
- Concern about the impact on First Nations people (19 comments).

- The existing laws are sufficient (18 comments).
- It is open to abuse of power (14 comments).
- Perception that it will result in an increase in crime (11 comments).
- Concern about increased stigma for those experiencing homelessness (8 comments).
- Other priorities (7 comments).
- Difficult to understand the wording (5 comments).

8 of those who assigned an 'oppose' rating wrote in a comment that made it clear that they oppose it because it doesn't go far enough (wanted it to be permanent and/or cover the whole of CoPP).

Comments provided by those with lived experience include:
- *"More housing required. It will cause distress if property is taken - it will cause arguments Camps are community connection."*
- *"Some people are unable to live in homes. It will have negative affects on health if belonging are taken. It will take away basic human rights. It will create further stigma of people that are homeless. It will create mistrust with the Council."*
- *"Leave the homeless alone if you are not offering support or a helping hand."*
- *"The council have over-stepped the line of personal safety."*
- *"Pointless - we would get more mad, more upset, for what purpose? *please* don't throw away my sleeping gear - no where to put it! I'm waiting on a house - this is my only personal *safety zone*!!"*
- *"If you take a homeless persons belongings away that is taking away their warmth, dignity and shelter. Where will we go? A homeless person without a blanket is still homeless. This is further punishing the community and not addressing the issue of housing. It is stripping people of their rights."*

32 submissions were made specific to this topic, 27 of which were opposing the proposed amendment, including a petition with 255 signatures. It should be noted that the following is a very brief summary of over 50 pages of submissions; it is expected that Council will review each submission in full, independent to this summary report. Key topics discussed in submissions were:

- Strengthen outreach and support services, including mental health, GPs, alcohol and other drugs, more housing, and early intervention (to help keep people in housing) (23 submissions).
- Lack of belief that it will improve safety (11 submissions) - there was concern that removing sleeping equipment will potentially result in harm to the individual who is displaced (6 submissions), such as increasing disengagement with services, exasperating trauma, and deteriorating health. One suggested that it could also result in hostility.
  - A petition was submitted with 255 signatures raising concerns about these potential harms to vulnerable people, with a call for instead focusing on the recommendations from the Community Safety Roundtable.
- Concerns that it lacks compassion and will not be compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, particularly the elements relating to designation of prohibited areas and impounding of belongings (7 submissions). There was a call for proposed amendments be reviewed from a human rights perspective.
- Lack of clarity about what situations are within and out of scope of activating the law (that is, if people have engaged with services and no alternative accommodation is

available, will this law be enforced with them) (3 submissions). One submissions suggested the City of Melbourne with their Homeless Protocol be used for guidance.

- Concerns about stigma and criminalisation of homelessness (18 submissions), with a call for prioritising dignity and rights.
- Adopt a 'Housing First' model, which recognises homelessness as a healthcare issue, to provide immediate unconditional housing paired with wrap-around support services (4 submissions).
- Improve collaboration between all levels of government and the housing sector, and improve infrastructure and integration of social services (2 submissions).

> People who are homeless or vulnerable need support, not punitive measures. I attended the Council meeting and was alarmed to hear that when 3 people are living in one location on our streets that this is considered an encampment and this is what Cr Hardy's motion wants to dismantle. Homeless or vulnerable people gather together as they are unsafe alone. I implore you to listen to the local service providers who have expertise in this area who are advocating against this change. [Submission]

> My main concern is the divisiveness that comes from stigmatizing people who are homeless and/or with mental health problems (including addictions). Opening this door is a very slippery slope that can easily fracture communities and lead to many more, and more severe, problems. [Submission]

> My plea is that you implement the 37 recommendations of the Community Safety Roundtable, and that you do NOT change local laws in an effort to deal with what is regarded by some as anti-social behaviour. Let us instead focus on what instead builds community cohesion and invest in social support, rather than adopting a punitive (and inevitably unsustainable) approach to those who are less fortunate. There is NO evidence that temporary move on powers will have any lasting effect beyond moving 'the problem' elsewhere and seriously disadvantaging the people being moved. It is not a sustainable solution. Instead the recommendations of your own commissioned expert report provide the only durable solution. [Submission]

> Council should invest more funding into housing provision, such as the Common Ground development currently in construction, and social support services such as the many that work tirelessly despite being desperately underfunded. [Submission]

> ... the amendment (in its current form) effectively gives carte blanche to the Council, empowering it to deprive its most disadvantaged constituents of what little property they have. There are no adequate checks and balances in the ability to engage the power. [Submission]

> The CoPP has failed to adequately utilise its land and resources for the construction of desperately needed housing—especially for people living with severe mental illness, addiction, or trauma. Instead, the burden pushed onto exhausted frontline services and police, who are underpaid, understaffed, and expected to "move on" the very people we have failed. Move them on to where, exactly? [Submission]

Of those who supported this approach, the following themes were:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
General support for removal of encampments (61 comments)	There were varied drivers to supporting the removal of encampments, with people mentioning that it is needed to address a growing issue and to bring the local laws in line with other areas. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst male respondents (10%, compared to 6% females), and resident respondents (8%, compared to 2% non-residents), particularly those from Albert Park and Middle Park (15%).	"Council should be able to control council land. This includes not allowing people to crew ate semi/permanent encampments on public & council land. People sleeping in the streets and on council & public land damages and can destroy the overall amenity of that land for the community in general." [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East] "I haven't read the report. I support the general idea as long as it's not punitive. Rough sleepers suffer enough. As long as an empathetic approach is taken then I'm good with removal and seizure as a last resort from a safety based perspective." [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne] "I strongly support change in this area. Enough is enough in terms of the way people are treating each other poorly by camping on the streets and turning them into tent cities - drugs, alcohol, rubbish, anti social behaviours etc . Council need to listen to the local police and provide them the powers to act. The entire CoPP should be a ban on camps - like the alcohol bans brought in a few years ago." [Male, 50 - 59 years, Albert Park and Middle Park] "People should not be allowed to camp on our streets. There should be enough places for them to sleep safely. Government should be doing more to support these people and help them to improve there lives." [Female, Albert Park and Middle Park]
Needs to go further (22 comments)	Some comments mentioned that they didn't think it went far enough, with suggestions that it should cover a wider area and/or be made permanent. 8 of these provided an "oppose" rating. There were no notable variations in demographics or location for this theme.	"The whole of St Kilda should be declared a NO CAMPING zone, as a minimum, the Fitzroy St, Acland St, Barkly St and Grey St blocks." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West] "It's a start, but is not strong enough, and does go far enough to protect the CoPP residents. Stop worrying about who you might offend, govern the local area to support the majority." [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Will improve safety (21 comments)	Some mention the potential for improved safety for residents, whilst others mention improved safety for people experiencing homelessness. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst female respondents (3%, compared to 1% females).	*"Council has an obligation to rough sleepers too to protect their safety by disallowing encampments. It creates an environment of lose social management and encourages negative behaviours broadly."* [Outside CoPP *"I support the proposed amendment as a necessary step toward restoring community safety and amenity in areas experiencing ongoing disruption and risk. However, the language around "exceptional circumstances" and the emphasis on process again signals reluctance to act decisively. For many residents, the situation has already reached a tipping point -- particularly in locations like Bay Street, where people no longer feel safe, businesses are closing, and public space is being lost. We need Council to demonstrate that it is willing to act (not just consult) when amenity and safety are clearly being impacted."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne] *"While I acknowledge how horrible it would be to have to live on the street, and to have dealt with the things that made that your reality, I do not believe we can have people on our streets at the expense of others who do not feel safe to even walk down them. It's not fair on the people who call this home, nor the businesses."* [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]
Needs to be coupled with wrap-around support for the individual (17 comments)	Some comments agreed that people shouldn't be allowed to sleep on the streets, but that appropriate housing and support needs to be provided so that it isn't necessary. There were no notable variations in demographics or location for this theme.	*"People should not be allowed to camp on our streets. There should be enough places for them to sleep safely. Government should be doing more to support these people and help them to improve there lives."* [Female, Albert Park and Middle Park] *"The proposed actions (removal of people and belongings) should be clearly said that the homeless will receive support and be offered a decent place to live where he will have chance to be recovered IN A LONG TERM. To put someone in a short-term accommodation is not a solution. Do not clarify this in the amendment is not honest."* [Male, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Other reasons for supporting included:

- Perception that it will improve amenity (10 comments).
- Needs to be targeted at criminals, not people genuinely experiencing homelessness (3 comments).
- Concern regarding taking belongings and the individual's ability to retrieve belongings (3 comments).

Six submissions were in support of the local laws amendment for the following reasons:

- "drug camps" were perceived as dangerous for both the broader community and those living in the camps, and need to be disbanded. It was put forth that this needed to be coupled with an increase in access to support services.
- They are having an impact on the wellbeing of the residents in the surrounding community.
- Suggestion that 'move on' laws need to be tried because current strategies aren't working and it is impacting on the livelihood of local traders and safety of residents. It was suggested this can be done in conjunction with enhanced services and without punishment for the person experiencing homelessness.
- Concern that rough sleepers from other areas are in CoPP due to more relaxed laws, and are refusing housing offers.

> *Shut down high-risk, unmanaged encampments. Expand access to rehabilitation, mental health, and housing services. Keep streets, parks, car parks, and school zones safe for everyone. Make service providers accountable for long-term outcomes … We are not calling for punishment — we are calling for balance and responsibility. Yes, help must come first. But prevention matters too. [Submission]*

> *Some may say that changes to regulations to strengthen "move on" provisions will not work. We will not know unless we try. And if the move on provisions are only partially successful, it still adds to the law enforcement toolbox to make our streets safer. [Submission]*

> *These encampments are not safe. They are growing in size and impact and are becoming increasingly dangerous and anti-social. Vulnerable people—both within and outside of the encampments—are being targeted and harmed. No member of our community should have to live in fear, yet that is what is happening, and it is not improving… If you oppose this motion, you are effectively allowing these unsafe conditions to escalate. If you support this motion, you are standing with the community, supporting frontline police, and taking meaningful action to protect all residents, business, traders and especially those who are most vulnerable. [Submission]*

One submission suggested that the proposed amendment doesn't go far enough, and that a blanket 'no camping on public land' homeless protocol be introduced (as recommended by Victoria Police), coupled with tiered on-the-ground response approach (assessment, intervention, enforcement).

There were also some insights from stakeholder workshops and targeted discussions regarding the proposed amendment:

- Need to ensure Police have capacity to support any proposed actions.
- It requires refinement of the criteria that triggers removal of an encampment.
- Note that only City of Port Phillip and Merri-Bek have encampment exemptions.

In the community workshops, participants expressed disappointment that the local laws amendment had been included as part of the general community safety workshops, suggesting it deserved its own separate session. There was a concern that it might skew the broader safety

discussion in a different direction. There was also a call for further information about the context behind the proposed amendment (level of Councillor influence, community engagement to inform the decision) and potential impacts (complexity of homelessness, community trust).

Participants said they would support the law under certain circumstances:
- Location-based impacts (n=8), if they block footpaths, retail entrances or places of high pedestrian traffic.
- Last resort (n=7), only after all outreach and support services have been offered and the individual has declined assistance.
- Clear public safety, health or amenity triggers (n=6), for instance violence, fire hazards, antisocial behaviour, or proximity to schools / playgrounds.
- Clear rules to follow (n=4).
- Housing support, crisis accommodation available (n=3), only come into play when alternatives are available.

Participants said they would not support the proposed amendment due to the following concerns:
- Need to prioritise other levels of support.
- Risk that it will make people experiencing homelessness feel unsafe.
- Doesn't address underlying issues.
- Unfairly disadvantage First Nations people.

Clarification was requested as follows:
- Enforcement and governance: who has power to move people on, existing police powers, enforcement costs, and officer training.
- Legal clarity and process: questions related to the 'exact steps' before action is taken.
- Support service and housing pathways: questions (concerns) related to how and when rough sleepers are connected to housing or mental-health support, and accountability for offers made (where do they go?)
- Human impact and personal belongings: questions related to where people go once camps are cleared, what happens to confiscated items, and guarantees of housing access.
- Council's focus on this issue and level of investment: questions around spending, statistics on camp numbers and their effect on community safety.

Insights from other research and past engagement

In the City of Port Phillip Homelessness and affordable housing engagement (June 2025 report) the following key findings can contribute to an understanding of community sentiment regarding this topic:

- The top 3 things that respondents felt were most important for Council to prioritise were Advocating to State Government to require developers to contribute to the provision of social housing; Advocate to Commonwealth and State Government to strengthen rights and supports for renters; and offer people experiencing or at risk of homelessness information on local homelessness services.
- There were high levels of support for these three actions listed above (77%+), as well as Council continuing to provide cash and land contributions for social and community housing (77%), helping people experiencing homelessness to find pathways to housing through coordinating local service delivery via the Port Phillip Zero program (83% support).
- When asked to share other ideas on how Council should support people experiencing homelessness there were 62 comments, with the most common responses relating to opposition for punishing or criminalising people sleeping rough (26%) and working with other service providers (26%).
- This theme of opposing punishing people sleeping rough was also the most prominent theme amongst other general comments made in the survey, alongside email and pop-up comments (21% of 92 comments).

In the **Panel recommendations to Council**, supporting people experiencing vulnerability was the highest ranked of the 7 identified priorities for the next 4 years. The 2 key recommendations under this priority were:

1. Increase funding for support services.
2. Provide more accommodation for rough sleepers.

In the **2024 Health & Wellbeing Plan engagement**, under the housing and rental options and services and supports themes, ideas put forth by respondents included:

- providing more social and affordable housing, including budget allocation;
- developing a housing emergency plan; and
- applying a compassionate lens to planning and development with social, environmental and health indicators guiding decision-making
- Providing more services and supports focused on homelessness, employment, mental health, alcohol and drug treatment, and domestic violence.

3.9 Safety and transport

Within the 2025 Feel Safe Be Safe engagement a number of questions and other points of feedback emerged relating to transport and road safety.

Question:	Q2. When we consider community safety, we can think about all the following areas. Tick the FIVE that are the most important to you.
Sources:	Community survey (n=874)
Notes:	

20% Selected *Road safety (such as transport, traffic and pedestrian safety)* as one of the top 5 most important areas to consider for community safety (out of a list of 23 topics).

43 Survey respondents put forth a comment about road infrastructure when asked what Council could do to make them feel more safe, with the main topics mentioned being bike lanes and pedestrian crossings.

The *road safety* option was selected in the top 5 responses for a notably high proportion of 60+ year old respondents (24%, compared to 14% 18-34 year olds). It was also selected in the top 5 by a notably high 30% of respondents who said they live in Albert Park and Middle Park region (compared to 15% of respondents from St Kilda and St Kilda West).

The maintenance of bike lanes is a huge problem (compared to my home country at least). There are little (or sometimes bigger) shards of glass everywhere & it would be good if community services could clean the bike lanes more frequently, also cleaning leaves now that it's autumn. [Male, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

I ride a bike everywhere I can. I feel utterly unsafe on many of my routes in Port Phillip. Road safety means BIKE LANES. Why don't you even include this in road safety? Research shows that separate cyclist infrastructure benefits both cyclist AND driver safety. [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

The activity of Hoons ie speeding & noisy vehicles & motor bikes is at times unbearable [Male, 60 - 69 years, Port Melbourne]

More deterrents to driving with excess speed and driving through zebra crossings in highly pedestrianised areas is required. I advocate for safety camera on zebra crossings and street like Liardet St that are used as cut throughs. People who don't live locally drive irresponsibly fast and drive through zebra crossings when people are trying to cross. *Electric scooters are a terrible addition to the community. They are predominantly used by teenagers who ride without helmets and drive them dangerously. It is beyond me why they have been implemented and what possible benefits they bring. They are 100% a net negative. [Male, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]

Road safety is also top of my list because we all need to get around without worrying that we might get hit by a car and die. A place a dense and vibrant as St Kilda needs to prioritise people over vehicles. Just because a car takes up a lot of space, doesn't mean their time and convenience are worth more than all the other people who walk, cycle, etc to get where they need to go. [Male, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Question:	Q4. In the past year, how frequently have you used each of these modes of transport?
Sources:	Community survey (n=133-152)
Notes:	This question only appeared for respondents who selected *Road* safety in Q2 (top 5 most important community safety areas). Sample sizes for each item vary as participation in this question was optional.

Amongst those who answered this question in the survey, *walking* was very frequent, and most said they use *public transport* 'often' or 'always'. Few said they ever use *motorcycles, escooters* and/or *wheel chairs*.

Figure 3.9.1 Frequency of using modes of transport
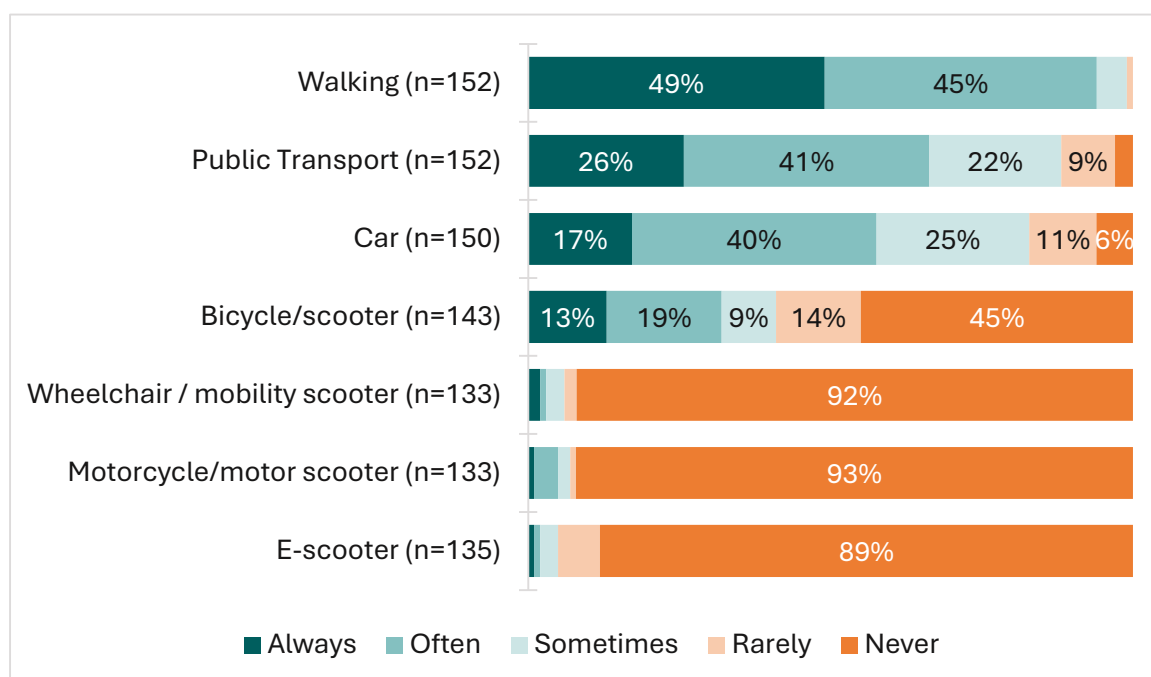
Female respondents more often said 'never' for *bicycle/scooter* (55%, compared to 36% males).

Gender

60+ year old respondents more often said 'never' for *bicycle/scooter* (62%, compared to 35% 35-59 year olds).

18-34 year old respondents more often said 'sometimes' for *car* (60%, compared to 22% 35+ year olds).

E-scooters were only used by 18-34 year olds (27%, all rarely) and 35-59 year olds (18%, including 4% who said always or often).

Age

'Always' using a *bicycle / scooter* was more common amongst respondents who said they speak a language other than English (46%, compared to 9% English only) and respondents identifying as LGBTIQA+ (28%, compared to 10% non-LGBTQIA+).

Respondents who speak a language other than English also more often said they 'always' use public transport (54%, compared to 24% English-only), and/or walking (77%, compared to 46% English-only).

Diversity

Respondents with a disability more often said they 'rarely' use a *car* (31%, compared to 9% without a disability), and 14% said they 'always' use a *wheelchair* (compared to 1% of those without a disability).

Region

38% of non-resident respondents said they 'rarely' use a *car* (compared to 9% residents).

Question:	Q5. How safe do you feel in the following scenarios within the City of Port Phillip?
Sources:	Community survey (n=130-151)
Notes:	This question only appeared for respondents who selected *Road* safety in Q2 (top 5 most important community safety areas). Sample sizes for each item vary as participation in this question was optional.
	The answer option scale for this question wasn't balanced (on the safe side it used 'Safe', whereas on the unsafe side it used 'Slightly unsafe'). This may have resulted in inconsistent interpretation by respondents, and/or skewed the findings.

Respondents who answered this question more often felt safe walking along residential streets and/or in school zones. The walking location receiving the highest proportions of 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe' ratings was shopping / dining streets.

Figure 3.9.2 Perceptions of safety in situations when walking
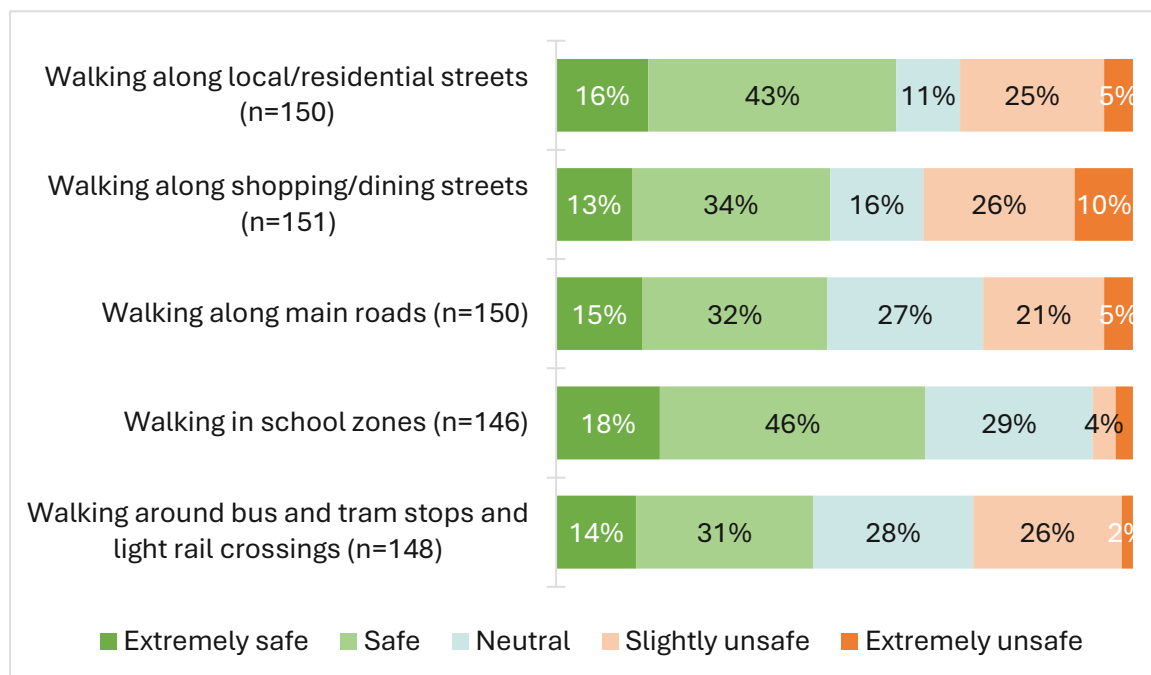
Gender

A higher proportion of female respondents who answered this question said they feel unsafe (slightly unsafe + extremely unsafe) *walking along main roads* (32%, compared to 17% males).

Age	A higher proportion of 35-59 year old respondents who answered this question said they feel unsafe (slightly unsafe + extremely unsafe) *walking along main roads* (34%, compared to 18% 60+ year olds).
Diversity	20% of respondents with a disability who answered this question said they feel unsafe (slightly unsafe + extremely unsafe) walking in school zones (compared to 6% of those without a disability).
Region	Notable variations by region were: • 52% of respondents from Port Melbourne who answered this question said they felt unsafe (slightly + extremely) *walking along shopping / dining strips* (compared to 23% of resident respondents in St Kilda and St Kilda West). • High proportions of respondents from Elwood and Ripponlea who answered this question said they feel safe (safe + extremely safe) *walking along shopping / dining strips* (91%) and/or walking along main roads (91%). • Non-resident respondents who answered this question more often said they feel 'extremely safe' *walking around tram stops and light rail crossings* (42%, compared to 11% residents).

Very few respondents who answered this question said they felt safe riding along shopping / dining strips and/or along main roads. School zones and along residential streets fair a little better, but still showed more than half rating these areas as unsafe to ride.

Figure 3.9.3 Perceptions of safety in situations when bike / scooter riding
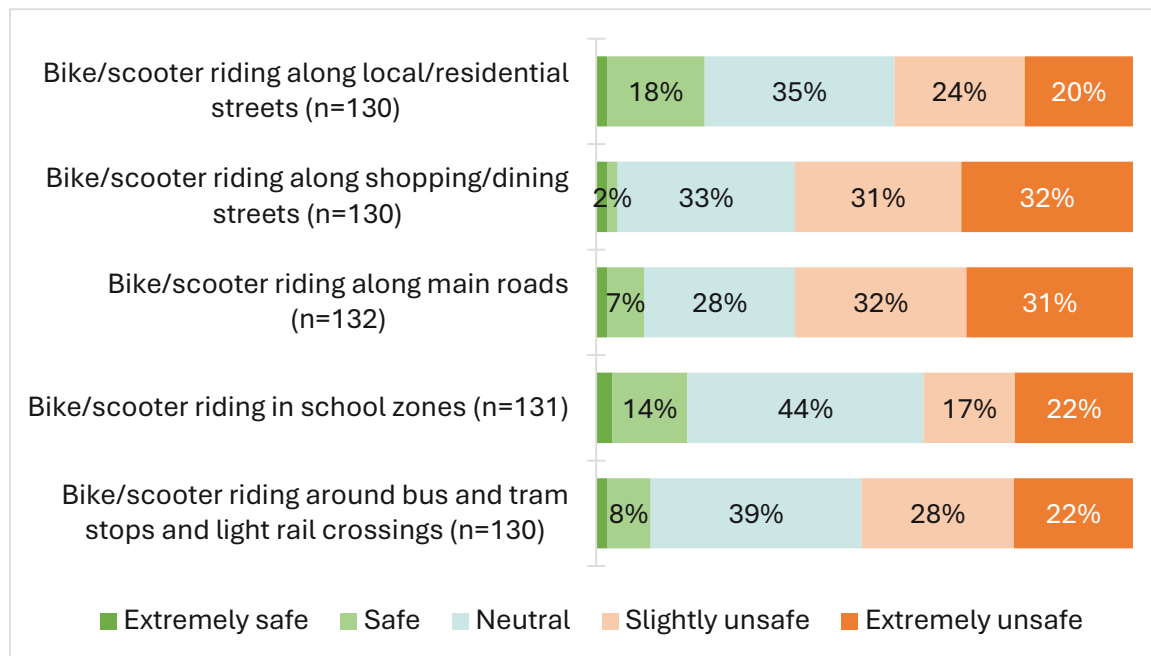
Gender	A higher proportion of male respondents who answered this question said they feel safe (safe + extremely safe) *bike/scooter riding along local/residential streets* (33%, compared to 12% females).
Age	Findings were consistent across all ages.

Diversity	A higher proportion of respondents who speak a language other than English said they feel 'extremely unsafe' *Bike/scooter riding along main roads* (64%, compared to 28% English-only).
Region	A higher proportion of respondents from Port Melbourne said they feel 'extremely unsafe' *Bike/scooter riding along shopping/dining streets* (56%, compared to 13% St Kilda and St Kilda West).

In each of the scenarios listed, more than half of respondents who answered this question said they feel safe driving.

Figure 3.9.4 Perceptions of safety in situations when driving
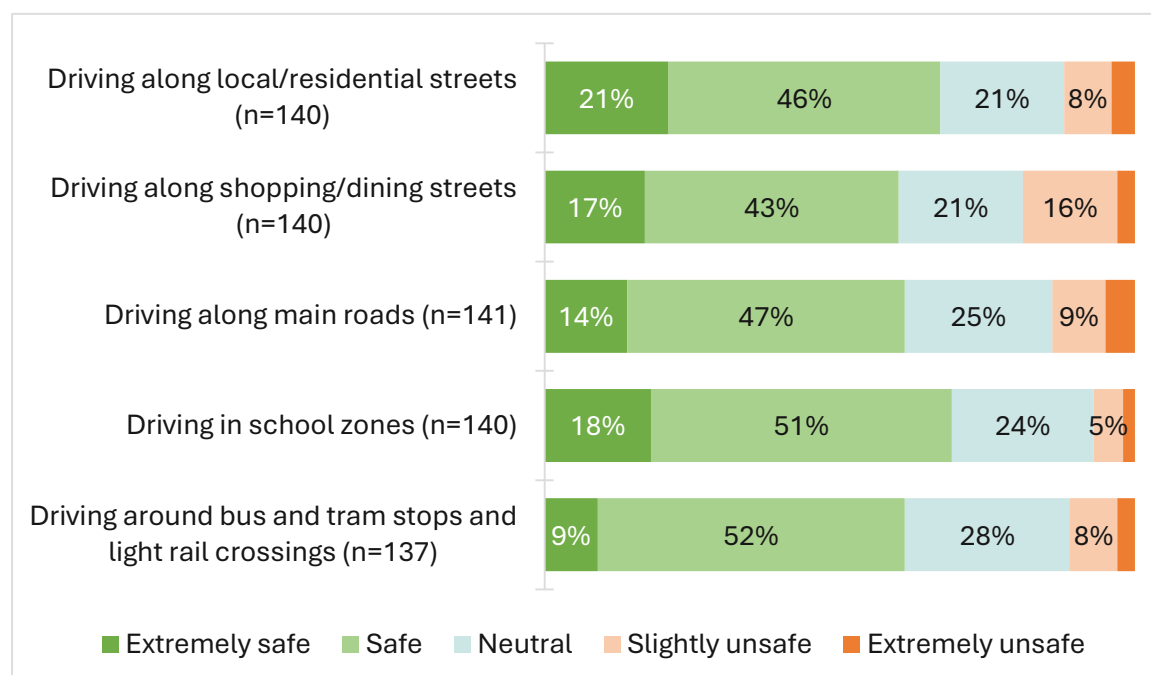
Gender	Female respondents who answered this question more often said they feel 'safe' *diving along local/residential streets* (60%, compared to 28% males – males more often said 'neutral', 32%, compared to 15% females), *driving along main roads* (56%, compared to 31% males – males more often said 'slightly unsafe', 16%, compared to 5% females), and/or *driving along shopping/dining streets* (55%, compared to 22% males – males more often said 'neutral', 34%, compared to 14% females).
Age	Findings were consistent across all ages.
Diversity	Respondents with a disability who answered this question more often rated that they feel 'extremely unsafe' *driving along local/residential streets* (17%, compared to 2% without a disability), *driving along shopping/dining streets* (17%, compared to 2% without a disability), and/or *driving in school zones* (17%, compared to 1% without a disability).
Region	Findings were consistent across all locations.

Question:	Q6. If you feel unsafe while travelling in the City of Port Phillip, what makes you feel unsafe?
Sources:	Community survey (n=149)
Notes:	This question only appeared for respondents who selected *Road* safety in Q2 (top 5 most important community safety areas).
	Answers were retained even if they didn't rate any of the previous scenarios as unsafe.

Perceptions of feeling unsafe when travelling around City of Port Phillip were mostly attributed to aggressive drivers, speeding drivers and/or riders disobeying road rules.

Figure 3.9.5 Factors leading to feeling unsafe when travelling around City of Port Phillip
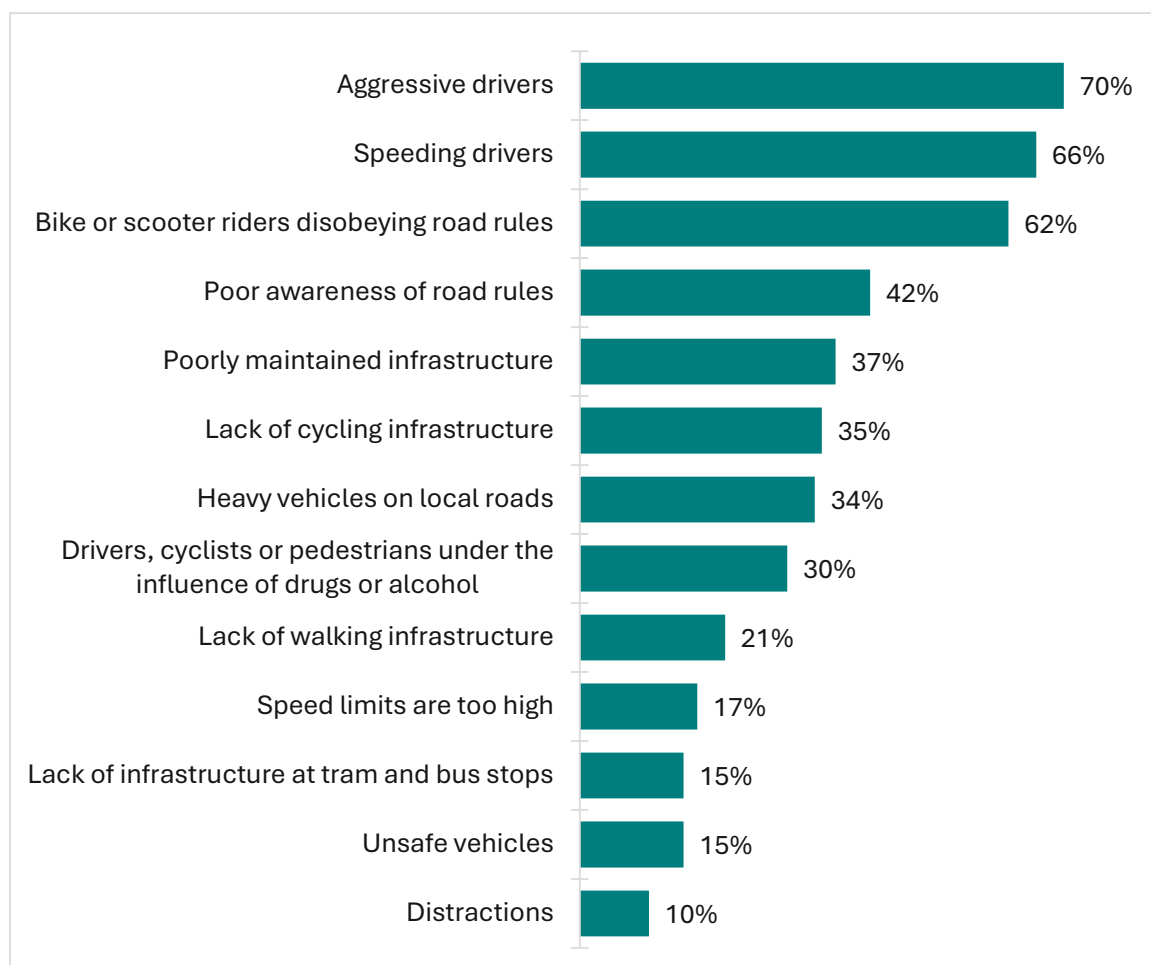
Gender

Female respondents who answered this question more often selected *distractions* (15%, compared to 4% males).

Age

35-59 year old respondents who answered this question more often selected *poorly maintained infrastructure* (43%, compared to 8% 18-34 year olds), *lack of walking infrastructure* (31%, compared to 12% 60+ year olds), and/or *unsafe vehicles* (25%, compared to 8% 60+ year olds).

35+ year old respondents who answered this question more often selected *bike or scooter riders disobeying road rules* (63% 35-59 and 70% 60+, compared to 23% 18-39 year olds),

	Respondents who speak a language other than English who answered this question more often selected *lack of cycling infrastructure* (77%, compared to 31% English-only) and/or *lack of walking infrastructure* (46%, compared to 19% English-only).
Diversity	Respondents with a disability who answered this question more often selected *lack of walking infrastructure* (47%, compared to 19% no disability), and/or *unsafe vehicles* (33%, compared to 13% no disability).
	Respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ who answered this question more often selected *lack of cycling infrastructure* (56%, compared to 32% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or *unsafe vehicles* (44%, compared to 11% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Findings were consistent across all locations.

Through other engagement activities a range of insights were put forth:

- A submission by a resident indicated frustration about not being able to find a park near their house, despite it being a permit zone and them having a permit. *"The other issue with having to park away from my home is fear of my safety given some of the intimidating residents"*.
- A submission put forth a range of suggestions for transport improvements, including improving pedestrian pathways and bike lanes, implement shared e-scooters, and upgrade infrastructure to match increasing density.
- A submission suggested that traffic lights are needed on the intersection of Bay St and Liardit Streets in Port Melbourne. There was also concern that the pedestrian walkways in this area are dangerous due to lack of lights.
- A submission suggested that the South Melbourne Market car park could be used to provide a safe space for people experiencing homelessness to sleep.

4 Next Steps

The City of Port Phillip will use this information, along with other key inputs, to develop a draft Community Safety Plan. The draft Plan will be released for public exhibition in late 2025 to seek community feedback.

Feedback received during the exhibition period will be reviewed and used to inform any changes to the draft Plan. The outcomes of the public exhibition will be reported to Council, and the revised draft will be presented for endorsement and adoption in late 2025.

Appendix 1 – Survey Questions

Your connection to City of Port Phillip

Q1. What is your connection to the City of Port Phillip?

- ☐ I live in the City of Port Phillip at a fixed address
- ☐ I live in the City of Port Phillip but don't currently have a fixed address
- ☐ I work in the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I pay rates in the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I own a business in the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I visit the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I travel through the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I used to live in the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore
- ☐ I used to work in the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore
- ☐ I used to visit the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore
- ☐ I used to travel through the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

What safety means to you

Q2. When we consider community safety, we can think about all the following areas. Tick the FIVE that are the most important to you.

- ☐ General health and wellbeing
- ☐ Personal and property safety
- ☐ Cultural safety
- ☐ Family and gender-based violence, child safety and elder abuse
- ☐ Mental health and wellbeing
- ☐ Social isolation
- ☐ Housing and homelessness
- ☐ Drug and alcohol abuse, and gambling related harm
- ☐ Food security
- ☐ Online safety and cyber-crime
- ☐ Racism, Antisemitism and Islamophobia
- ☐ Social cohesion and inclusion
- ☐ Communication and information sharing
- ☐ Crime prevention activities
- ☐ Environment, sustainability and climate
- ☐ Public place infrastructure and design (such as lighting and accessibility)
- ☐ Public place activation and maintenance (such as programs and amenity)
- ☐ Community services
- ☐ Council facilities and community centres
- ☐ Road safety (such as transport, traffic and pedestrian safety)
- ☐ Local Laws and City Amenity
- ☐ Animal management
- ☐ Safety around water
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

Q3. If you would like to share why these are important to you, you can tell us here [Comment box]

[If selected road safety in Q2 continue, others skip to Q7]

City of Port Phillip is being supported by the Traffic Accident Commission (TAC) to develop a Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan, and your responses will help to inform the development of this Action Plan.

Q4. In the past year, how frequently have you used each of these modes of transport?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Public Transport (bus, train, tram)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bicycle/scooter	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Motorcycle/motor scooter	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Car	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
E-scooter	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Wheelchair/mobility scooter/walking frame or other mobility device	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Q5. How safe do you feel in the following scenarios within the City of Port Phillip?

Walking	Extremely safe	Safe	Neutral	Slightly unsafe	Extremely unsafe
Walking along local/residential streets	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking along shopping/dining streets (e.g. Carlisle Street, Bay Street)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking along main roads (e.g. St Kilda Road, Beaconsfield Parade)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking in school zones	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking around bus and tram stops and light rail crossings	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Bike/scooter riding	Extremely safe	Safe	Neutral	Slightly unsafe	Extremely unsafe
Bike/scooter riding along local/residential streets	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bike/scooter riding along shopping/dining streets (e.g. Carlisle Street, Bay Street)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bike/scooter riding along main roads (e.g. St Kilda Road, Beaconsfield Parade)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bike/scooter riding in school zones	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bike/scooter riding around bus and tram stops and light rail crossings	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Driving	Extremely safe	Safe	Neutral	Slightly unsafe	Extremely unsafe
Driving along local/residential streets	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Driving along shopping/dining streets (e.g. Carlisle Street, Bay Street)	○	○	○	○	○
Driving along main roads (e.g. St Kilda Road, Beaconsfield Parade)	○	○	○	○	○
Driving in school zones	○	○	○	○	○
Driving around bus and tram stops and light rail crossings	○	○	○	○	○

Q6. If you feel unsafe while travelling in the City of Port Phillip, what makes you feel unsafe? Tick all that apply

- ☐ Speeding drivers
- ☐ Aggressive drivers
- ☐ Bike or scooter riders disobeying road rules
- ☐ Distractions
- ☐ Speed limits are too high
- ☐ Poorly maintained infrastructure
- ☐ Lack of walking infrastructure
- ☐ Lack of cycling infrastructure
- ☐ Lack of infrastructure at tram and bus stops
- ☐ Incorrect use of seatbelts
- ☐ Drivers, cyclists or pedestrians using the road while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- ☐ Heavy vehicles on local roads
- ☐ Unsafe vehicles
- ☐ Poor awareness of road rules
- ☐ None, I always feel safe travelling in the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

Q7. What does feeling/being safe mean to you? [Comment box]

Q8. What makes you feel more safe about living in Port Phillip? [Comment box]

Q9. What makes you feel less safe about living in Port Phillip? [Comment box]

Where you have felt more and less safe in our City

Q10. Show us where you feel MORE safe in the City of Port Phillip. [Mapping tool]

Q11. Show us where you feel LESS safe in the City of Port Phillip. [Mapping tool]

Q12. If you would like to share any other experiences about feeling more or less safe in the City of Port Phillip, you can tell us here [Comment box]

Q13. In the past year, have you limited or changed your behaviour or activities in the City of Port Phillip due to safety concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Q14. If you would like to tell us more about your response, you can tell us here. [Comment box]

Evidence tells us that people of different genders have different experiences of safety in public spaces. Women, girls and gender diverse people may have heightened concerns about personal safety in public and feel less safe than men and boys, particularly when it's dark and/or when they're on their own.

Q15. What do you think would make women, girls and gender diverse people feel more safe in our City? [Comment box]

Feeling more safe and welcome in your local neighbourhood

Q16. How strongly do you agree or disagree with these statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I know my neighbours	○	○	○	○	○
People in my neighbourhood can be trusted	○	○	○	○	○
People in my neighbourhood are willing to help their neighbours	○	○	○	○	○
I feel part of the local neighbourhood	○	○	○	○	○
I feel welcome and included in my neighbourhood	○	○	○	○	○
I can move easily around the City of Port Phillip	○	○	○	○	○
I know about and/or participate in local community activities	○	○	○	○	○
I like meeting and getting to know people from different backgrounds to my own	○	○	○	○	○
I am happy to help out in my community	○	○	○	○	○

Q17. If you selected either 'strongly agree' or 'agree' to any of the statements above, does this connection make you feel more safe and/or welcome in your local neighbourhood? Tick all that apply

☐ Yes, this connection makes me feel more safe
☐ Yes, this connection makes me feel more welcome
☐ No, this connection does not make me feel more safe or welcome
☐ Doesn't apply to me

Q18. How could you feel more safe and/or welcome? [Comment box]

Your experiences in your local neighbourhood

Q19. How safe do you feel in your local neighbourhood if you are:

	Extremely safe	Safe	Neutral	Slightly unsafe	Extremely unsafe
Alone during the day	○	○	○	○	○
With others during the day	○	○	○	○	○
Alone during the night	○	○	○	○	○
With others at night	○	○	○	○	○

In and around your local shops	○	○	○	○	○
Using local parks, reserves and playgrounds	○	○	○	○	○
In and around community facilities	○	○	○	○	○

Q20. If you would like to tell us more about this, you can tell us here [Comment box]

Q21. In the past year, which of these have you seen or experienced in our City, and if so, did you report them?

	I saw/ experienced this	I saw/ experienced this and also reported it	Neither
Alcohol and/or drug debris (e.g. bottles, syringes)	○	○	○
Drug use and/or dealing	○	○	○
Footpath obstructions	○	○	○
Graffiti	○	○	○
Intimidating or threatening behaviour	○	○	○
Litter/rubbish	○	○	○
Noisy, rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour	○	○	○
Racism, Antisemitism and/or Islamophobia	○	○	○
Sexual harassment	○	○	○
Speeding traffic and hoon driving	○	○	○
Street drinking or intoxication	○	○	○
Unsafe or hostile behaviour in the street	○	○	○
Vandalism or property damage	○	○	○
Violence in public places	○	○	○

Q22. If you told us that you reported any of these issues in the past year, how did you report them? Tick all that apply

- ☐ I reported to Council
- ☐ I reported to Victoria Police
- ☐ I reported to Crimestoppers
- ☐ I did not report any issues in our City in the past year
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

Q23. If you told us that you saw/experienced issues in our City but didn't report, would you like to share why? Tick all that apply

- ☐ I've had a previous bad experience
- ☐ English is not my first language
- ☐ It's difficult to understand how to make a report
- ☐ I need assistance to make a report
- ☐ I am worried there may be consequences
- ☐ It didn't bother me enough to report it
- ☐ Doesn't apply to me
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

What you do when you feel less safe

Q24. What action (if any) have you taken when you have felt less safe? Tick all that apply

- ☐ Sought help or advice from police
- ☐ Discussed or solved the problem with neighbours
- ☐ Sought advice from Council
- ☐ Become involved with an online support group or campaign
- ☐ Joined/attended a Neighbourhood Watch or community safety forum
- ☐ No action taken
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

Q25. How confident do you feel that you know who to contact (or what to do) if you feel less safe in Port Phillip? I feel:

- ☐ Extremely confident
- ☐ Confident
- ☐ Slightly confident
- ☐ Not confident at all

Q26. Have any of these made it more difficult for you to seek help? Tick all that apply

- ☐ I've had a previous bad experience
- ☐ English is not my first language
- ☐ It's difficult to understand how to
- ☐ I need assistance to seek help or report safety issues
- ☐ I am worried there may be consequences
- ☐ None of these apply
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

A safer City of Port Phillip

Council has an active role to play in community safety. Some of the areas that Council works across include:

- Community programs and funding
- Enforcement of Local Laws and maintaining amenity
- Partnerships with health, housing and community organisations and businesses
- Public space design and development, and parks and playgrounds management
- Maintaining safe roads and improving transport connections
- Public place and high streets activation
- Promoting connection through sports, clubs and community groups
- Building connections and social cohesion across communities
- Advocacy to state and federal government

Q27. What could Council do to make you feel more safe in our City? [Comment box]

Q28. What would a safer City of Port Phillip look like, in your opinion? [Comment box]

Community Safety Roundtable

In March 2025, we held a Community Safety Roundtable for stakeholders, chaired by former Chief Magistrate, Ian Gray AM. He has prepared a report with 37 recommendations around improving community safety. The report can be found at https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/feel-safebe-safe or you can ask for a copy from the Housing Team on (03) 9209 6777 or by attending an ASSIST counter.

At the Council meeting on 21 May 2025, Council endorsed the Community Safety Roundtable Report and Recommendations. Council agreed to implement those recommendations which can be actioned within existing budget and Council resources. The other recommendations will be considered as part of the development of the Community Safety Plan.

29. If you have read the report and would like to provide any feedback on it or its recommendations, you can tell us here [Comment box]

Local law proposed amendment

At the 21 May Council Meeting, Councillors agreed to seek community engagement on a proposed amendment to the Community Amenity Local Law 2023. More information about the Local Law, camping on Council land, and supporting people sleeping rough, is available in the FAQs at https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/feel-safe-be-safe or you can ask for a copy from the Housing Team on (03) 9209 6777 or by attending an ASSIST counter.

The proposed amendment would provide Council with the ability to temporarily designate an area as a 'no encampment' area in consultation with key stakeholders if it is determined that:

a) The amenity of the Council land or the amenity of land in the vicinity of the Council land is or is likely to be adversely affected; or
b) The safety or welfare of a person is or is likely to be put at risk by behaviours of persons congregating on Council land with the intention or apparent intention of camping or sleeping there.

The proposed amendment would note that:

a) such a designation could be considered an exceptional circumstance after existing and enhanced assertive outreach models with service providers and supportive conversations had failed.
b) that enforcement of the potential amendment would not include fines, but instead, the removal and impoundment of equipment following provision of outreach and support services, where individuals have refused both a request and then warning to remove the material from the designated area.

Feedback will inform Council's decision around progressing to legislated community engagement (the next stage of Local Law amendment requirements).

Q30. Do you support this approach?

☐ Strongly support
☐ Somewhat support
☐ Neither support nor oppose
☐ Slightly oppose
☐ Strongly oppose

Q31. Is there anything further you would like to share about your response? [Comment box]

About you

Before we finish, please tell us a little bit about yourself so that we can understand who we're hearing from. To understand how your information is used, you can request a copy of Council's Privacy Policy by calling ASSIST on (03) 9209 6777.

Q32. Please indicate your age group.

☐ 5– 11*

- ☐ 12 – 14*
- ☐ 15 - 17
- ☐ 18 - 24
- ☐ 25 - 34
- ☐ 35 - 49
- ☐ 50 - 59
- ☐ 60 - 69
- ☐ 70 - 84
- ☐ 85 and over
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say

Q33. If you told us you're under 15, a parent or guardian over 18 needs to agree for you to take this survey. I'm a parent or guardian and I agree to let my child take part in this survey.

- ☐ Yes

Q34. Which gender do you identify with?

- ☐ Female (woman or girl)
- ☐ Male (man or boy)
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say
- ☐ I use a different term (please specify) [Comment box]

Q35. What is your residential suburb?

- ☐ Albert Park
- ☐ Balaclava
- ☐ Elwood
- ☐ Melbourne
- ☐ Middle Park
- ☐ Port Melbourne
- ☐ Ripponlea
- ☐ South Melbourne
- ☐ Southbank
- ☐ St Kilda
- ☐ St Kilda East
- ☐ St Kilda West
- ☐ Windsor
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other, please specify [Comment box]

Q36. Please tick any of the statements that apply to you.

- ☐ I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background
- ☐ I speak a language other than English at home
- ☐ I am a person with disability
- ☐ I identify as LGBTIQA+
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say
- ☐ None of these apply to me

Q37. Have you provided feedback on any other City of Port Phillip projects in the past 12 months?

- ☐ Yes

☐ No
☐ Unsure

Q38. If you would like a copy of your survey responses, please provide an email or postal address [Comment box]

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return it to a City of Port Phillip library or ASSIST counter by 27 June 2025.