

Improve social cohesion

Social cohesion holds communities together. It's about people being connected and included and feeling part of their community. It refers to the sense of trust within neighbourhoods and people's willingness to help their neighbour.

Social cohesion and connection is an important aspect of creating a healthier and more liveable Cardinia Shire.

Key statistics



73% of residents agreed people in their neighbourhoods were willing to help each other. (1)



12% don't have someone outside their household **they can rely on to care for them** or their children in an emergency. (2)



32% growth area residents say they are **not connected** enough with the community. (2)



12% of residents **participate in volunteering**. (3) (A 6% decline since 2016)



44% **felt a moderate to strong** connection to community. (2)



69% agreed that people in their neighbourhood can be trusted. (1) (Compared to 72% across Victoria)



6 in 10 residents felt they live in a close-knit neighbourhood. (1)

Health considerations in priority populations

- In 2021, more residents volunteered in North and East regions compared to the South and West regions.
- Older adults, low-income households and vulnerable populations less often have household internet access.
- Those who speak a language other than English and single parents less often have someone outside of their household to rely on in an emergency.
- Those aged over 60 and those who speak English only, more often reported the 'right level' of connection to the local community.
- Some groups within the LGBTIQ+ community experience greater discrimination and challenges to participating fully in life including older people, young people, non-binary and transgender people.

Impact of climate change on social cohesion

- Communities with strong social cohesion tend to have a greater commitment to climate action and after climate events have more coordinated emergency response and support among community members and services.
- Effects of climate change reduce the quality of green spaces, resulting in a reduction of recreation space utilisation, impacting where community members congregate.

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References

1. VicHealth. Indicators Survey. 2015
2. Cardinia Shire Council. Liveability Survey, 2023
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Census of Population and Housing. 2016 and 2021
4. Icons: Giorgi Gogitidze