

# Social capital

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## Participation in the local community

Between 2002 and 2006, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over who attended a community event at least once in the last 6 months (48.7 per cent to 53.2 per cent). The significant increase was among persons in the fourth quintile of disadvantage (50.5 per cent to 56.7 per cent), and among persons in the rural health areas (51.9 per cent to 59.0 per cent).

Between 2002 and 2006, there has been no significant change in the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over who helped out at a local group or organisation at least once in the last 3 months. However, there has been a significant decrease among persons in the second quintile of disadvantage (38.5 per cent to 29.2 per cent)

Between 2002 and 2006, there has been no significant change in the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over who were active members of a local organisation or church or club. However, there has been a significant decrease was among persons in the fourth quintile of disadvantage (61.3 per cent to 53.7 per cent), and among persons in the rural health areas (61.4 per cent to 55.9 per cent).

## Trust and safety

Between 2002 and 2007, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over who felt most people can be trusted (69.8 per cent to 74.9 per cent). The significant increase was among females (69.0 per cent to 75.9 per cent), among persons in the fourth quintile of disadvantage (69.7 per cent to 76.5 per cent), and among persons in the urban health areas (66.8 per cent to 73.9 per cent).

Between 2002 and 2007, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over who felt safe walking down their street after dark (47.0 per cent to 55.1 per cent). The significant increase was among males (63.7 per cent to 71.9 per cent) and females (32.4 per cent to 41.3 per cent), among persons in the third quintile (45.2 per cent to 52.9 per cent) and fourth quintile (43.5 per cent to 55.0 per cent) of disadvantage, and among persons in the urban and rural health areas.

Between 2002 and 2007, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over who said their area had a reputation for being safe (74.8 per cent to 81.2 per cent). The significant increase was among males (76.4 per cent to 82.5 per cent) and females (73.3 per cent to 80.2 per cent), and among among persons in the third quintile (76.3 per cent to 82.9 per cent) and fourth quintile (74.8 per cent to 81.5 per cent) of disadvantage, and among persons in the urban and rural health areas.

## Reciprocity and neighbourhood connectedness

Between 2002 and 2007, there has been no significant change in the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over who visited neighbours in the last week. However, there has been a significant decrease among persons in the rural health areas (73.1 per cent to 68.7 per cent).

Between 2002 and 2007, there has been no significant change in the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over who ran into friends and acquaintances while shopping locally.

Between 2002 and 2007, there has been no significant change in the proportion of persons aged 65 years and over who would feel sad if they had to leave their neighbourhood.