

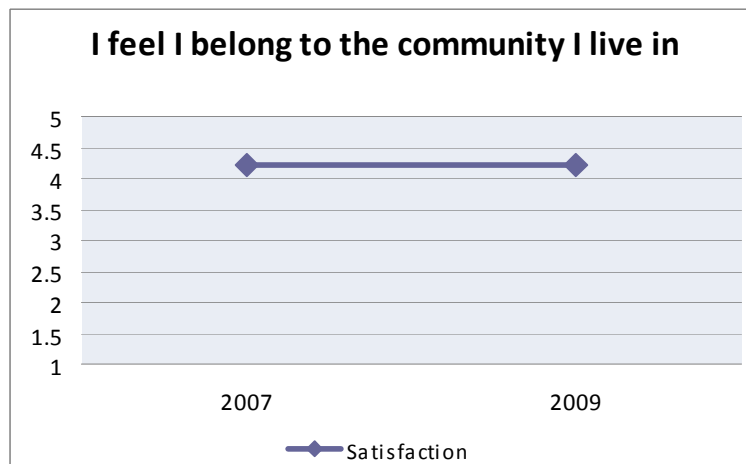
Social cohesion

What are we monitoring?

Proportion of residents who believe they belong in the community

What is the trend?

Trend data is not yet available as this data was collected for the first time in 2007. In 2009 Blue Mountains residents' perceive a strong sense of belonging in their community.



I feel I belong to the community I live in		
Agreement ratings on scale of 1 to 5		
Year	2007	2009
Rating	4.2	4.2

The 2007 and 2009 Blue Mountains City Council Community Survey included a series of statements related to residents' perceptions of community safety and connectedness, to which they could respond on a 1-5 agreement scale, where 1 means "strongly disagree" and 5 means "strongly agree". For the issue of 'sense of belonging' surveyed residents were asked to respond to the statement "I feel I belong to the community I live in."

Why is monitoring this trend important?

A sense of belonging to a community is a powerful positive emotion – contributing to individual well being and self identity. This feeling also underlies community strength both in times of celebration and when people help each other in times of crisis. Fostering a sense of belonging is an essential part of building an inclusive society and is a value central to the wider Blue Mountains community and the many communities within.

Source: Blue Mountains City Council, Blue Mountains Community Survey: 2007, 2009.
www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcommunity/communitysurvey