

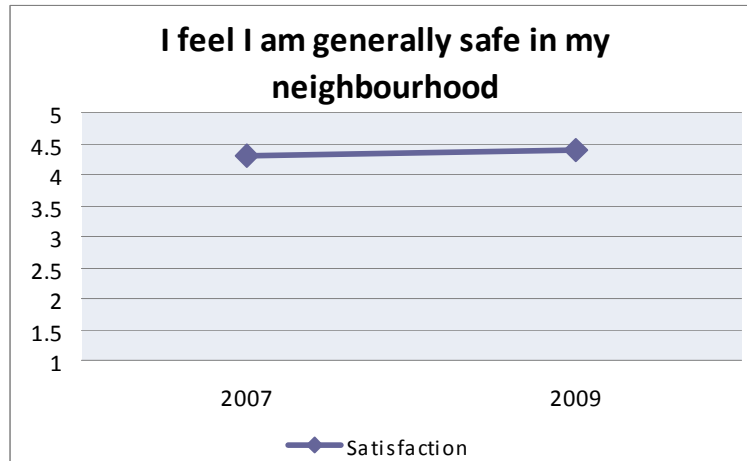
Social Cohesion

What are we monitoring?

Proportion of residents who believe their neighbourhood is a safe place to live

What is the trend?

Trend data is not yet available as this data was collected for the first time in 2007. In 2009 the majority of Blue Mountains residents' agree that their neighbourhoods are safe places in which to live.



I feel I am generally safe in my neighbourhood		
Agreement ratings on scale of 1 to 5		
Year	2007	2009
Rating	4.3	4.4

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". Surveyed residents were asked to respond to the statement "I feel that I am generally safe in my neighbourhood"

Why is monitoring this trend important?

Perceptions of safety and security in the community are an important measure of social cohesiveness. Positive feelings of living in a safe neighbourhood can indicate strong local networks, a sense of inclusiveness and tolerance for difference. When people feel safe in their local area they are more likely to engage in local social and outdoor activities. Safe neighbourhoods are also perceived as good places to live by. A friendly neighbourhood contributes to positive well being and a sense of belonging.

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