

The Environment and NSW Ethnic Communities

EPA
Social
Research
Series



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The Environment and NSW Ethnic Communities was compiled from research undertaken for the EPA and Sydney Water by Cultural Perspectives Pty Ltd.

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From the Premier and the Minister for the Environment

The Environment Protection Authority and Sydney Water commissioned Cultural Perspectives Pty Ltd to undertake a study in 1996 on the relationship between ethnicity and environmental knowledge.

The study was NSW-based and focused on adults 18 years and over in metropolitan Sydney. The study investigated the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in relation to environmental issues and water use of ethnic communities.

The environmental findings are here in this booklet.

The results of the research are positive and encouraging. Ethnic communities believe that the environment is one of the top issues facing the NSW Government, now and in the future. Overall, 77% of respondents were either greatly or fairly concerned about the environment. The most pressing environmental issues were considered to be air pollution and pollution of beaches and rivers.

The findings will be used to produce environment-related programs, including education programs, for ethnic communities; to encourage greater involvement of ethnic communities in environmental initiatives; and to assist policy and program development of the Environment Protection Authority and other agencies.

This research is a valuable starting point for developing links with ethnic communities in relation to environmental concerns. The outcome will be practical, relevant environmental programs for ethnic communities. On behalf of the NSW Government, we commend this information to you.



Bob Carr MP
Premier
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Ethnic Affairs



Pam Allan MP
Minister for the Environment

From the Ethnic Communities' Council

We all recognise that we have a responsibility to protect the health of our families and the local environment. This research tells us that ethnic communities, like others in NSW, care about environmental issues.

This useful publication provides information about what ethnic communities really think about this issue. I encourage you to use it in your work.



Dr Anthony Pun OAM
Chairperson
Ethnic Communities' Council

من الدكتور أنتوني بان رئيس مجلس الجاليات الإثنية

إننا جميعاً ندرك المسؤولية الملقاة على عاتقنا لحماية صحة عائلاتنا والبيئة المحلية. هذا البحث يبين أن الجاليات الإثنية تهتم بقضايا البيئة أسوة بالآخرين في نيو ساوث ويلز. إن هذه النشرة المفيدة تعطي معلومات عمّا تعتقده الجاليات الإثنية فعلاً بشأن هذه القضايا. إنني أحثكم على استخدامها في عملكم.

資料來自民族社區議會主席潘瑞亮醫生

我們都認識到我們有責任保護家人的健康和區內的環境。這個研究，讓我們知道民族社區就和紐省其他的社區一樣，都關心環境的問題。

這一份刊物十分有用，內容是有關民族社區對這個問題的真正想法，我認為在您的工作上可以多加應用。

Από τον Δρ. Άντονυ Παμ, ΟΑΜ, Πρόεδρο του Συμβουλίου Κοινοτήτων των Εθνοτήτων

Όλοι αναγνωρίζουμε ότι έχουμε ευθύνη στο να προστατεύουμε την υγεία της οικογένειάς μας και του τοπικού περιβάλλοντος. Αυτή η έρευνα μας λέει ότι οι κοινότητες εθνοτήτων, όπως και οι άλλες της ΝΝΟ, ενδιαφέρονται για τα θέματα περιβάλλοντος.

Αυτή η χρήσιμη έκδοση παρέχει πληροφορίες σχετικά με το τι πραγματικά σκέπτονται οι κοινότητες εθνοτήτων γύρω από αυτό το θέμα.

Messaggio del Presidente del Consiglio delle comunità etniche, Dr Anthony Pun, ΟΑΜ

Riconosciamo tutti il nostro obbligo di tutelare la salute dei nostri familiari e dell'ambiente in cui viviamo. La presente ricerca rivela che le comunità immigrate, al pari delle altre comunità del New South Wales, sono interessate alle istanze di carattere ambientale.

La presente pubblicazione rappresenta uno strumento utile contenente informazioni su ciò che veramente pensano le comunità immigrate in merito al problema. Vi incoraggio pertanto a farne uso nel corso del vostro lavoro.

Mensaje del Dr. Anthony Pun, ΟΑΜ, Presidente del Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas

Todos reconocemos que tenemos la responsabilidad de proteger la salud de nuestra familia y del medio ambiente local. Este estudio nos revela que las comunidades étnicas, al igual que otras en NSW, se preocupan por el medio ambiente.

La presente publicación, de gran utilidad, presenta información sobre lo que piensan realmente las comunidades étnicas sobre este tema. ¡Le recomiendo que lo use en su trabajo!

Tiên Sĩ Anthony Pun, ΟΑΜ, Đôì lời của Hội Đồng Các Cộng Đồng Sắc Tộc New South Wales

Tất cả chúng ta đều có trách nhiệm bảo vệ sức khỏe của gia đình và môi sinh địa phương. Công trình nghiên cứu này cho thấy là, cũng như những thành phần khác tại tiểu bang NSW, các cộng đồng sắc tộc cũng quan tâm tới những vấn đề liên quan tới môi sinh.

Tập tài liệu bổ ích này cho biết chi tiết về cách nghĩ của những cộng đồng sắc tộc đối với vấn đề này. Tôi hy vọng tập sách này sẽ hữu ích cho những ai làm việc liên hệ đến các cộng đồng sắc tộc tại NSW.

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Background

Introduction

The whole community has an interest in protecting the environment. But in pluralistic societies such as Australia, significant groups within the population, because of language and cultural barriers, may not be exposed to mainstream communications about environmental issues. This creates a demand for useful and relevant information on the relationships between ethnicity and environmental knowledge, attitudes and behaviours.

A 1994 study, *Who Cares about the Environment?*, conducted by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), identified a need for more information on how cultural differences, relative unfamiliarity with aspects of the Australian environment, and language or other barriers affect access to information about the environment.

To meet this need, in November 1996 the EPA and Sydney Water commissioned Cultural Perspectives Pty Ltd to undertake a study of the environmental awareness of ethnic communities in NSW. The study was NSW-based and focused on adults aged 18 years and over in metropolitan Sydney.

The study investigated the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in relation to environmental issues and water use of NSW's largest non-English speaking ethnic communities:

- Arabic speakers
- Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese) speakers
- Greek speakers
- Italian speakers
- Spanish speakers
- Vietnamese speakers.

About the study

The objectives of the study were:

- to provide information about the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of a representative cross-section of selected ethnic groups in relation to environmental issues in general and water issues in particular
- to provide information on how the backgrounds of the ethnic communities affected their knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in relation to the environment
- to provide information to help the EPA, Sydney Water and other stakeholders, plan, implement and evaluate programs and services in areas such as communication, education, advertising, training; and planning topics such as resources conservation and pollution minimisation.

The study investigated knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in relation to environmental issues and water use

To obtain a comprehensive range of information as well as a high level of confidence in the individual result areas, the study used four methodologies:

- a literature search for any related published material
- interviews with ethnic community workers
- 600 telephone interviews conducted in community languages
- focus group discussions about key issues.

About this booklet

This booklet reports on the EPA part of the study.

It provides details on the research findings and includes summary profiles of the six ethnic communities studied.

It also provides some ideas on how the research can be used, and outlines the implications of the research for ethnic community education.

Using this research

Who should know about & use this research?

This research provides important information that can be used to guide policy and project officers in the design and delivery of strategies and programs to involve ethnic communities in environmental initiatives.

Use this research if you work with or are involved in:

- ethnic community organisations, e.g. migrant resource centres, ethno-specific groups, multicultural associations
- ethnic communications and media
- government organisations concerned with managing the environment, natural resources and ethnic affairs
- local councils
- environment community groups
- catchment management trusts and committees
- waste management boards
- educational institutions.

Acknowledge and build on the current support for and concern about the environment within many ethnic communities

How could you use the information?

Individuals and organisations are encouraged to use this research to:

- promote improved environmental awareness and practices to ethnic communities and the broader NSW community
- stimulate participation by people from ethnic communities in environmental programs by linking the programs more closely to their interests and concerns
- acknowledge and build on the current support for and concern about the environment within many ethnic communities
- design educational initiatives to increase understanding of the specific environmental issues identified as having lower priority among ethnic communities, e.g. waste-related issues (household rubbish, wasteful packaging), energy, endangered species
- incorporate environmental education for ethnic communities into organisational planning processes.

Implications of the research for ethnic community education

The research provides useful information to help develop, implement and evaluate ethnic community education in relation to environmental issues. The research suggests that there are many opportunities to capitalise on the existing base of environmental concern among ethnic communities. The challenge is to direct educational initiatives to build on the current environmental support and understanding, as well as fill the gaps that exist in environmental knowledge.

The major implications for community education, and communication and marketing activities are to:

Recognise the differences among ethnic communities

- There are many differences in knowledge and understanding, beliefs and attitudes, and behaviours among ethnic community groups in relation to the environment. These different concerns and views must be recognised and understood and cultural differences should be respected in order to enable the effective design of ethnic community education initiatives.
- Culturally relevant environmental programs and resources need to be developed in partnership with ethnic communities in response to this recognition.

Make links with existing ethnic community groups

- Making links with key ethnic community networks and involving ethnic community representatives in the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental education strategies is essential for effective ethnic community education. The *Ethnic Communities Reference Book* identifies ethno-specific communities in NSW, and is a useful starting point for information about ethnic communities in your area.

Develop practical, relevant programs which assist ethnic communities to protect environmental health

- For ethnic communities, educational initiatives in the household sector should emphasise personal relevance and recommend practical, alternative actions.
- Use strategies which focus on the causes of environmental problems and on individual and community-wide actions to address these.
- Educational material should also include messages about how appropriate behaviour can benefit personal and family health, and lead to cost savings.
- In all educational initiatives, models of appropriate behaviour should be provided as checklists and helpful hints.
- When communicating environmental issues and environmentally appropriate individual and corporate actions, the laws relating to the environment should be highlighted and reinforced to achieve behavioural change in ethnic communities.

Use appropriate communications channels

- The preferred information sources of ethnic communities should be considered when developing and implementing both mainstream English and ethno-specific environment communications. The use of non-English media can help increase the reach and impact of environmental messages.

Findings

Priorities

What's important?

Ethnic communities believe that the environment is one of the top five social issues facing the NSW Government today and in the future.

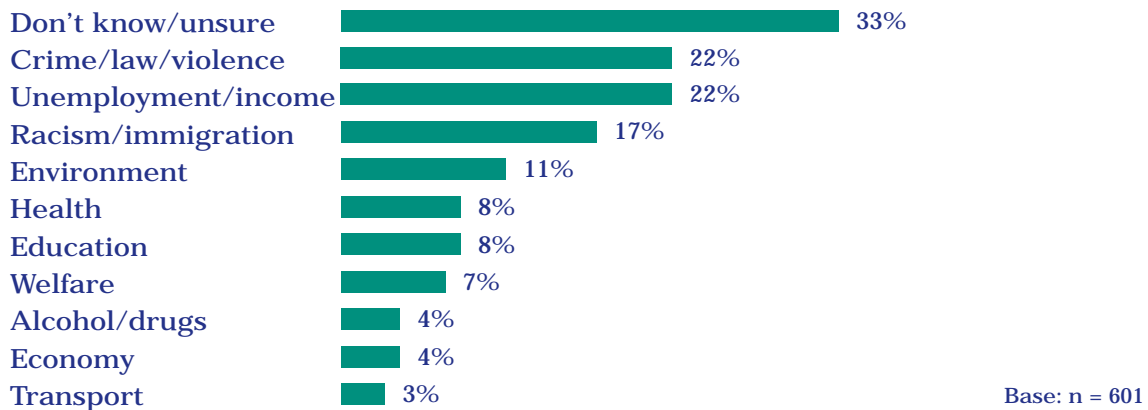
Crime, law and violence, and unemployment and income rated as the most important issues overall. Racism and immigration were the greatest concern for the Chinese and Vietnamese groups.

A significant number of people (33%) were unsure or could not say what issues are priorities now, and even more (51%) were unsure about the most important issues in 10 years.

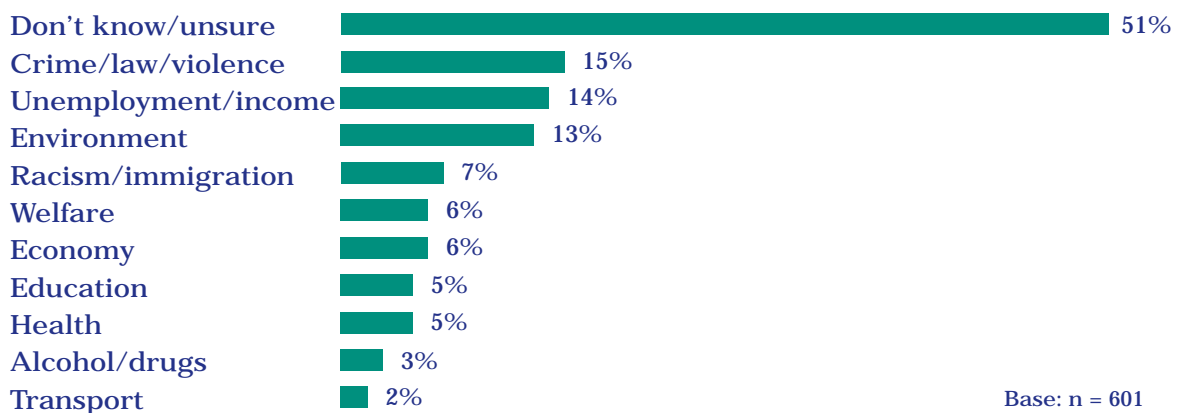
'The change in the weather is important, but not as important as the problems of drugs, crime and unemployment because these affect the lives of so many people in the local community.'

From the Vietnamese discussion group.

What are the most important issues for the NSW government *now*?

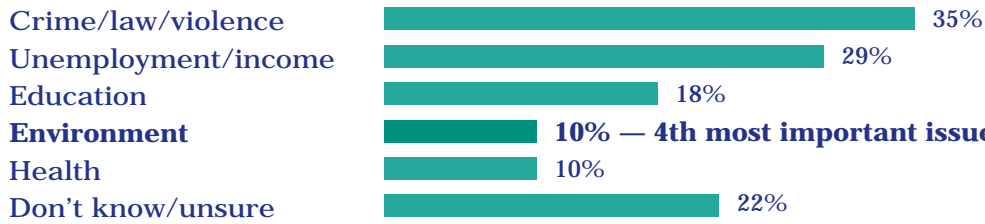


What will be the most important issues for the NSW government *in 10 years*?

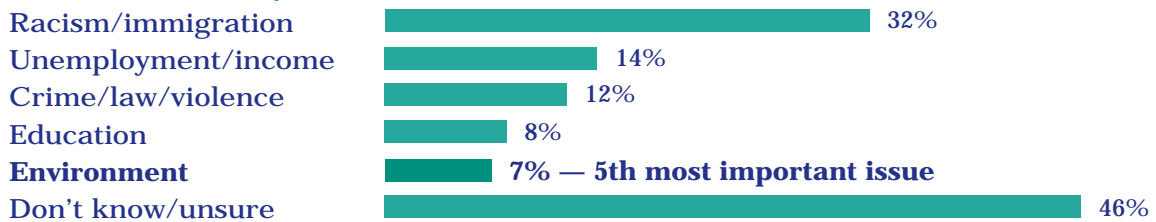


Most important issues *now* for each language group

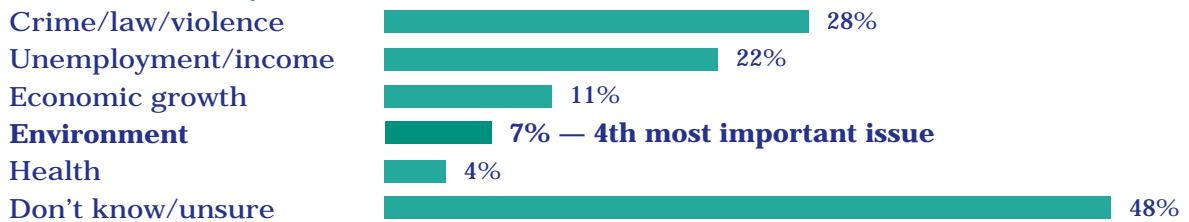
Arabic Community



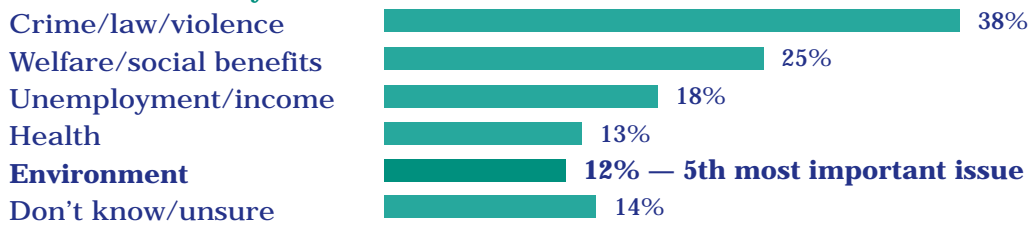
Chinese Community



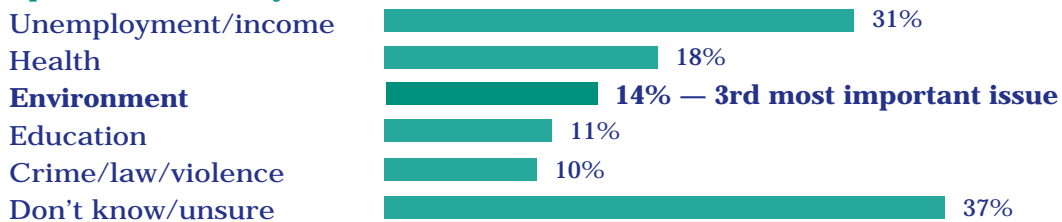
Greek Community



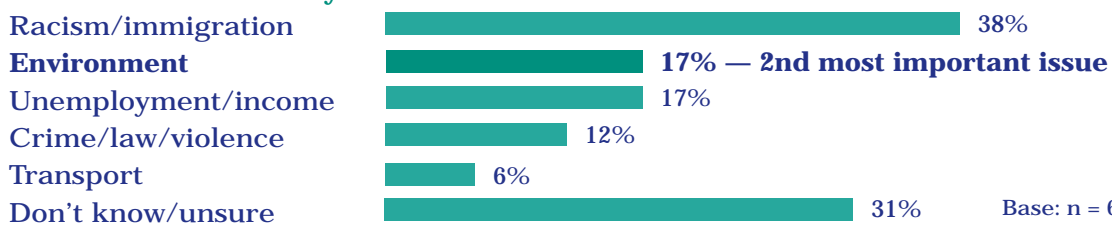
Italian Community



Spanish Community



Vietnamese Community



Base: n = 601

Top environmental issues

Overall, the most pressing environmental issues were considered to be air pollution (47%) and water pollution, including beaches and oceans, and creeks and rivers (34%).

Endangered animals and plants, and the ozone layer (0.25% each) were considered the least pressing environmental issues.



What are the most important environmental issues in NSW today?

Issues of great concern

Air pollution	<div style="width: 47%;"></div>	47%
Pollution of beaches and oceans	<div style="width: 21%;"></div>	21%
Pollution of creeks and rivers	<div style="width: 9%;"></div>	9%
Water pollution	<div style="width: 4%;"></div>	4%

Issues of moderate concern

Litter and dumping of rubbish	<div style="width: 12%;"></div>	12%
Industry emissions	<div style="width: 9%;"></div>	9%
Transport and storage of dangerous chemicals	<div style="width: 8%;"></div>	8%
Loss of bushland and forests	<div style="width: 6%;"></div>	6%
Water conservation	<div style="width: 6%;"></div>	6%
Noise	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	5%

Issues of little concern

Household rubbish or garbage	<div style="width: 3%;"></div>	3%
The greenhouse effect/climate change	<div style="width: 2%;"></div>	2%
Traffic congestion	<div style="width: 2%;"></div>	2%
Soil erosion, land degradation and salinity	<div style="width: 1%;"></div>	1%
Energy conservation	<div style="width: 1%;"></div>	1%
Excessive urban development or urban sprawl	<div style="width: 1%;"></div>	1%
Agricultural fertilisers and pesticides	<div style="width: 1%;"></div>	1%
Wasteful packaging or products	<div style="width: 1%;"></div>	1%
Deteriorating ozone layer	<div style="width: 0.25%;"></div>	0.25%
Endangered animals and plants	<div style="width: 0.25%;"></div>	0.25%

Unsure

<div style="width: 26%;"></div>	26%
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Base: n = 601

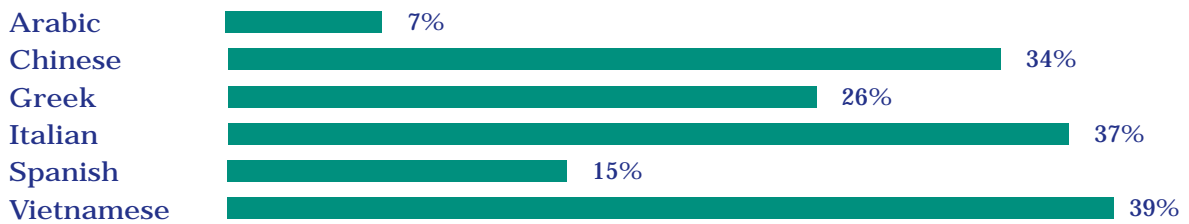
The majority of Arabic (60%) and Greek (65%) speakers felt that air pollution was the greatest concern. Air pollution was the primary concern of the other groups as well, although to a lesser degree with the Spanish (54%), the Vietnamese (39%), the Italian (34%) and the Chinese speakers (32%).

Pollution of beaches and oceans was considered a high priority in the Arabic (43%) and Greek (42%) groups.

There were some significant differences between language groups: Arabic (32%) and Vietnamese (14%) speakers considered transport and storage of dangerous chemicals an important issue, while Chinese (0%), Greek (0%), Italian (0%) and Spanish (3%) speakers had little concern for this issue.

Unsure

In most of the language groups there were high levels of uncertainty about which environmental issues were important (in three groups more than a third of respondents were unsure):



Base: n = 601

Attitudes & opinions

Concerned? How concerned?

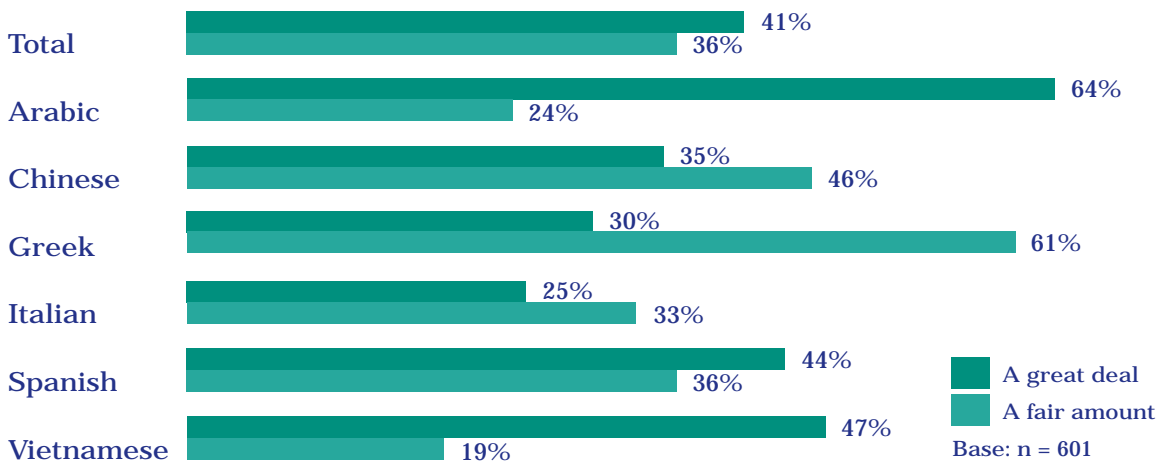
Respondents were asked if they were concerned *a great deal*, *a fair amount*, *not very much* or *not at all* about the environment.

Overall, 77% of respondents were either greatly or fairly concerned about the environment.

'It is important to keep it [the environment] healthy and clean for safe living. It is about public health and the protection of people from disease, bacteria and microbes.'

From the Arabic group discussion.

How concerned are you about the environment?



The level of concern for environmental issues varied between language groups. The totals for those expressing *a great deal* and *a fair amount* of concern were: Greek speakers 91%, Arabic speakers 88%, Spanish 80%, Chinese 79%, Vietnamese 66% and Italian 58%.

‘Environment’ — what does it mean?

The environmental terms most frequently used in the discussion groups were noted to indicate how they viewed the local and global environment. These terms provide insights into how ethnic communities relate to the environment.

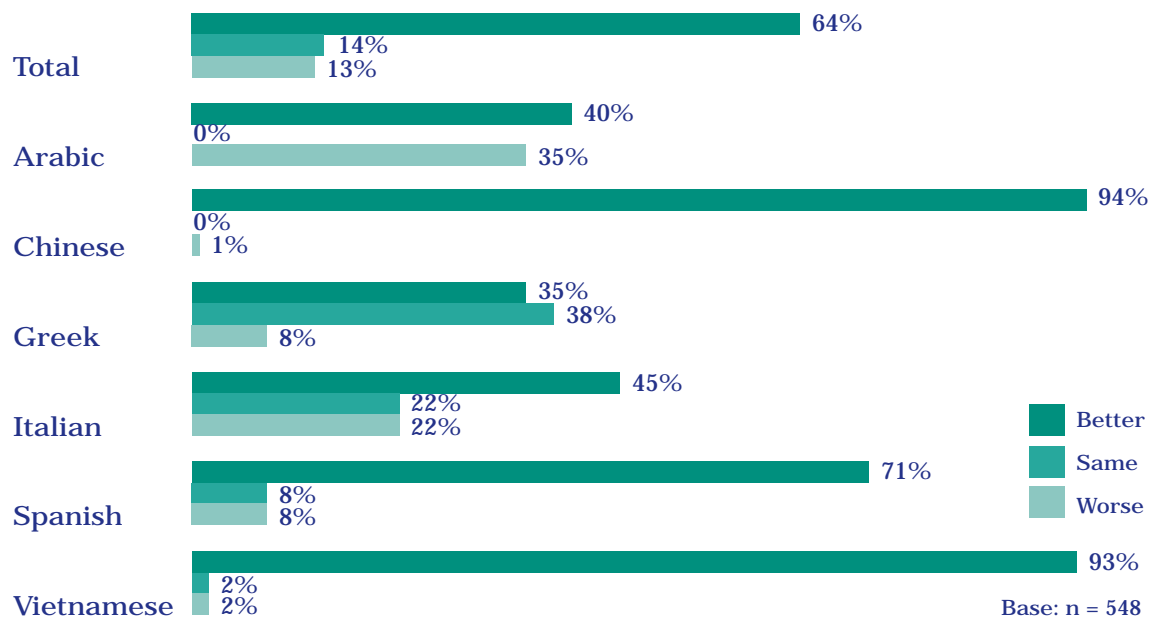
Terms used to discuss the environment

ARABIC	CHINESE	GREEK	ITALIAN	SPANISH	VIETNAMESE
cleanliness	earth	surrounding	lifestyle	ozone	weather
health	environment	hygiene	climate	pollution	hygiene
society	environment	health	environment	greenhouse	rubbish
nature	protection	air pollution	parks	global environment	litter
trees, parks, air, water	health	waste	family environment	immediate environment	
clean air	ecology	environment	cities		
universal	tree-cutting	hormones	global warming		
	greenhouse	chemicals	food supply		
	ozone	pollution	food quality		
	pollution	pure ozone			
		humankind			
		nuclear waste			
		industrial waste			
		atmosphere			

Australia compared with the home country

The study investigated individuals' home country experiences and whether those experiences had influenced their views of the environment in Australia. Overall, 64% of respondents felt that Australia's environment was *better* or *much better* than their home country, while 14% said it was the *same*. Only 13% considered Australia's environment *worse* than their home country.

How does Australia compare with your home country?



The perception that Australia had a better environment than the home country was highest in the Chinese (94%) and Vietnamese (93%) groups. The Arabic group was the most polarised on this question, with almost equal numbers answering *better* and *worse*, and none answering *same*. Significantly more Greek speakers answered *same* or *better*, than answered *worse*. Opinion was most evenly divided between *better*, *same* and *worse* in the Italian group.



Attitudes and knowledge in ethnic communities are influenced by their home country experience. Home country experiences are the standard against which present experiences are measured.

Many ethnic groups may consider that Australia has less pressing environmental issues in comparison with their countries of origin, and the urgency to act is less important. For example:

- Migrants from rural areas tended to rate the home country environment more highly.

- Those who migrated many years ago tended to have a more positive view of their home country.
- The level of development and the quality of services and infrastructure (water, roads, etc.) were frequently mentioned in comparisons.

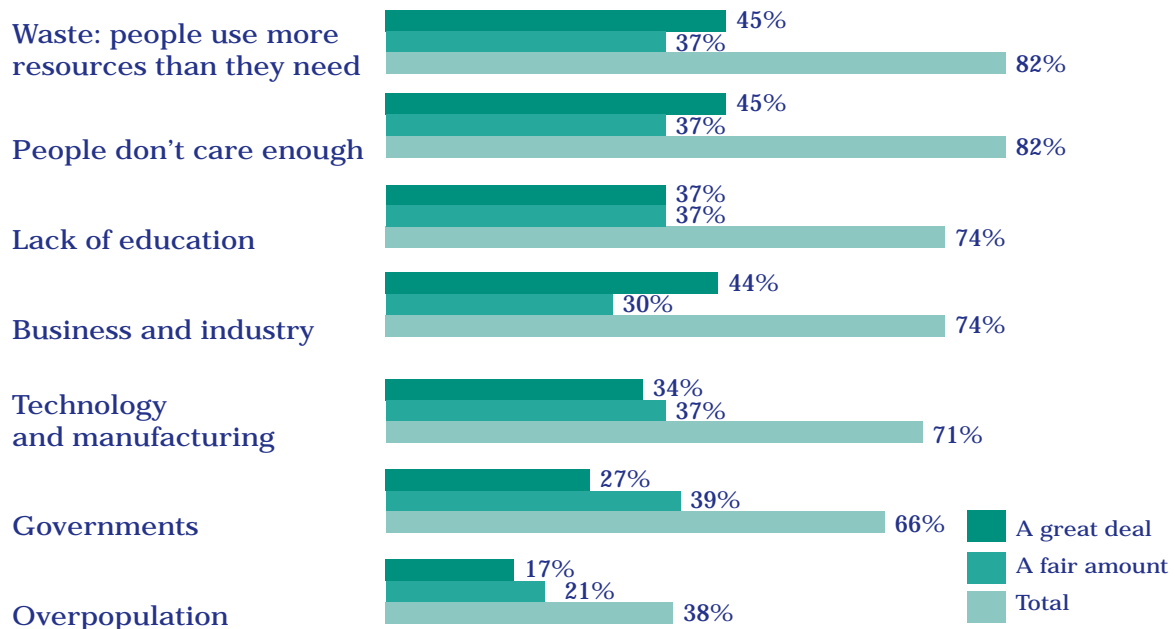
This issue needs to be addressed by organisations communicating the need to respond to environmental issues and modify behaviour accordingly.

What's causing the problem?

Respondents who had changed their environmental behaviour were asked to rate a set of factors as contributing a *great deal*, a *fair amount*, *not very much* or *not at all* to environmental problems.

When the responses *a great deal* and *a fair amount* were combined, the overall sample identified 'waste of resources by people', and 'people don't care' as the greatest causes of environmental problems.

Causes of environmental problems



There were some notable differences between language groups concerning the causes of environmental problems:

- Arabic speakers felt that there were many possible causes which contribute fairly equally to our environmental problems, while for some language groups there were significant differences in the relative contribution of possible causes.
- Very few Chinese (10%) thought **overpopulation** was a significant cause.
- Greek speakers (90%) identified **lack of education** as the major cause.
- Spanish speakers (93%) identified **business and industry** as the major cause of our environmental problems.

Causes of environmental problems — by language group

	%						
	Arabic	Chinese	Greek	Italian	Spanish	Vietnamese	Total
Overpopulation	70	10	43	37	31	39	38
Lack of education	85	54	90	65	69	83	74
Waste: people use more resources than they need	97	60	93	76	86	82	82
Governments	73	50	71	61	62	81	66
Business and industry	84	44	83	63	93	81	74
Technology and manufacturing	83	47	80	62	86	69	71
People don't care enough	88	68	84	78	87	85	82

Who's responsible?

All discussion groups recognised a 'collective' responsibility for the environment in which individuals, business and governments all have a role. While almost all groups thought that individual responsibility was important, there was endorsement for the role of strong regulations in setting both legal and social expectations.

The responsibility of government was a recurring theme in group discussions. All groups felt that industry also had a major responsibility for environmental care. Government regulation was seen as important in keeping business in check environmentally.

The need for more education to increase environmental awareness and individual responsibility was widely recognised.



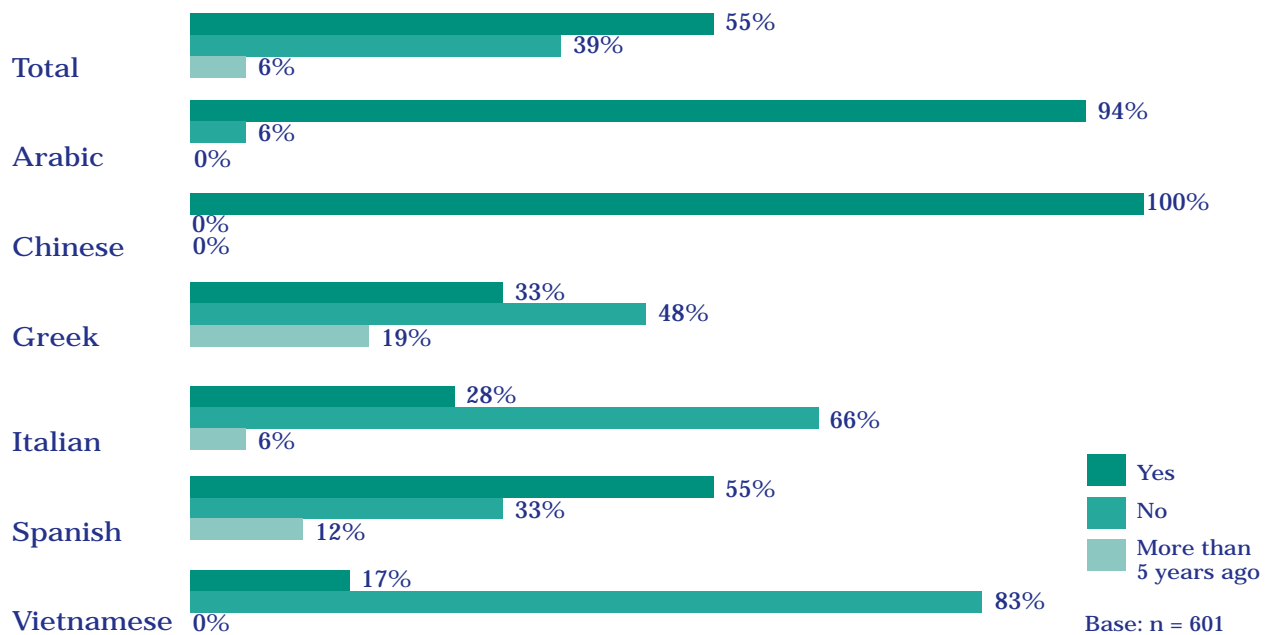
Behaviour

Have you done anything for the environment *lately*?

The study investigated whether environmental concerns had led to any changes in the way people live and work.

The overall result shows that 55% of respondents had made some change in their behaviour in the past 5 years, but a large portion (39%) could not think of any change they had made. Overall 6% had made changes earlier, but nothing in the last 5 years.

Have you changed your behaviour for environmental reasons in the last 5 years?



All the Chinese speakers (100%) said that they had made a change in their behaviour towards the environment in the past 5 years. Similarly, 94% of the Arabic group had made changes. The response levels dropped away significantly for the Spanish (55%), Greek (33%), Italian (28%) and Vietnamese (17%) groups.

What have you done for the environment lately?

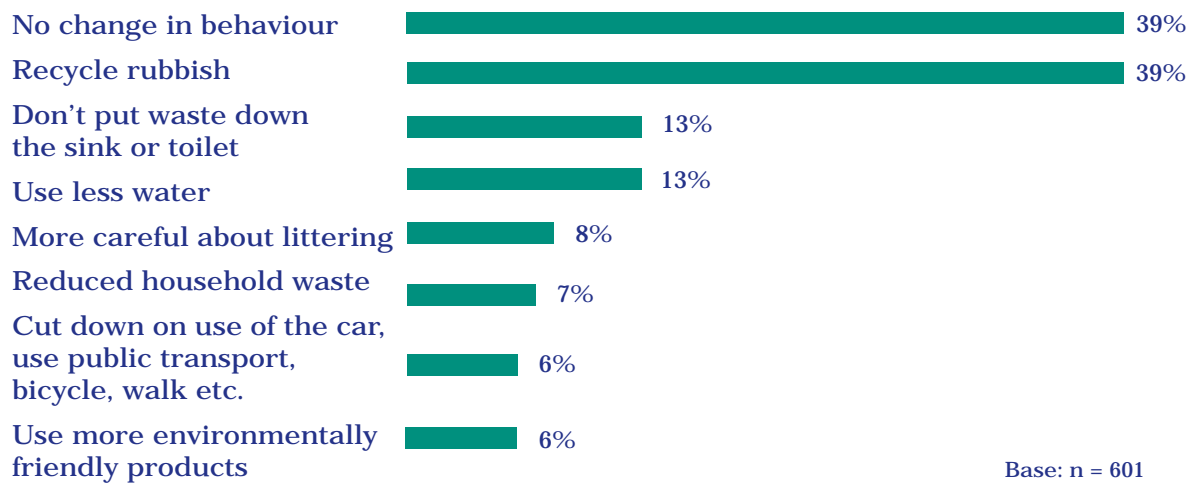
The groups were asked what changes they had made in their behaviour for environmental reasons. This was an unprompted question — the list of possible activities was not read out. Respondents had to identify environmentally friendly behaviours they performed.

Most respondents (39%) reported that they had recycled materials. Other behavioural changes identified included taking care with what was poured down the sink (13%) and using less water (13%).

'My criteria are very simple — the cheaper, the more convenient, the better. If all other things are equal, I will then add another consideration — environmental protection.'

From the Chinese discussion group.

Areas of behaviour change in the last 5 years



Among the language groups the most notable changes were:

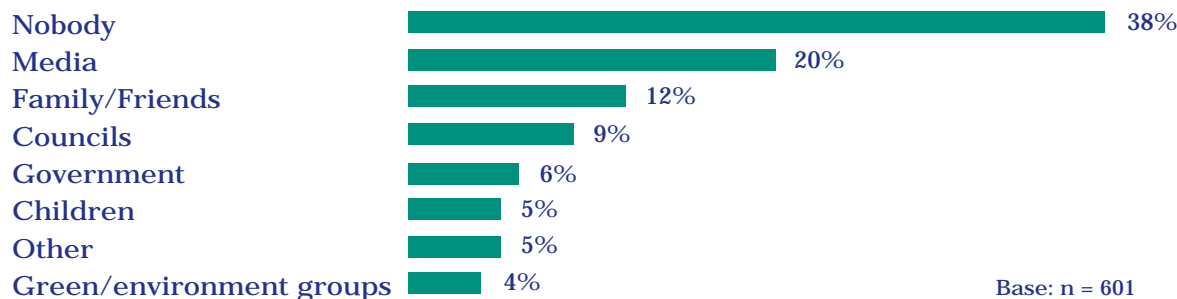
- 77% of Arabic speakers, 65% of Chinese speakers, 42% of Spanish speakers, 22% of Italian speakers, 17% of Greek speakers, and 9% of Vietnamese speakers said they had participated in recycling
- 47% of Arabic speakers and 12% of Greeks reported that they didn't put household waste down the sink or toilet
- 35% of Arabic and 21% of Spanish speakers said they were using less water at home.



What influences you to change?

The question about who might have influenced respondents to change their behaviour towards the environment was asked as an unprompted question. Overall, 'nobody in particular' had influenced people's changes in behaviour. Self-motivation (nobody), the media and word of mouth communication (family and friends) were the highest scorers of the factors mentioned.

Influences for behaviour change



Influences on behaviour — by language group

	%						
	Arabic	Chinese	Greek	Italian	Spanish	Vietnamese	Total
Nobody	36	18	45	79	58	26	38
Media/ personalities	33	13	39	0	2	37	20
Unsure	4	43	0	0	2	0	15
Family/friends	22	5	6	14	7	26	12
Local councils	15	1	21	0	13	11	9
Government	3	10	15	0	0	5	6
Children/ grandchildren	4	5	0	0	11	5	5
Other	4	8	0	0	4	11	5
Green/environment groups	2	2	6	4	11	5	4
Public figures	3	0	0	4	2	0	2
School/teachers	4	3	0	0	0	0	2

For Chinese speakers there was a high level (43%) of uncertainty about influences.

For Arabic and Vietnamese speakers family, friends and neighbours were considered more important influences than in other language groups.

For Greek speakers local councils were a more significant influence than for other language groups.

For Italian and Spanish speakers, 'nobody in particular' influenced change.



Why change?

Respondents who had changed their behaviour for environmental reasons were asked to rate in importance a list of possible reasons for changing their behaviour.

The main reason given for changing behaviour was that individuals accepted responsibility for their actions.

People also respond readily to programs, such as council recycling schemes, which support and encourage behaviour change. All groups felt that attitudes and behaviours in relation to the environment had changed as a result of recycling programs.



Most important reasons for changing behaviour

	%			Total
	Very	Fairly	Some	
I thought I should take some responsibility for my actions	64	25	6	95
It became easier to change my behaviour (e.g. because the council brought in a recycling scheme)	47	31	12	90
A book, magazine or TV program I saw	43	30	10	83
I realised what the environmental results of my behaviour really were	33	37	12	82
I realised what the problems were (e.g. pollution in a local creek, erosion on the farm)	38	34	10	82
I was influenced by a media campaign/government advertising	38	29	12	79
Family/friends/neighbours/colleagues were doing these sorts of things	28	29	16	73

Most important reasons for changing behaviour — by language group

	%						
	Arabic	Chinese	Greek	Italian	Spanish	Vietnamese	Total
I thought I should take some responsibility for my actions	98	87	100	90	100	100	95
It became easier to change my behaviour (e.g. because the council brought in a recycling scheme)	92	83	97	89	97	100	90
A book, magazine or TV program I saw	89	66	96	68	98	95	83
I realised what the environmental results of my behaviour really were	88	61	100	65	96	100	82
I realised what the problems were (e.g. pollution in a local creek, erosion on the farm)	93	59	100	64	100	99	82
I was influenced by a media campaign/ government advertising	86	55	99	71	98	89	79
Family/friends/ neighbours/colleagues were doing these sorts of things	83	59	87	53	89	74	73

Convenience is perhaps the key to behavioural change. People need to know what they can do, how to do it and what the benefits are of changing their behaviour.

Finding out about the environment

How do you find out about the environment?

Information on environmental issues was obtained largely from the English language media — television (49%), press (38%) and radio (15%) — though all groups made use of specific community language information sources, and expressed a desire for information in their own language through ethnic media.

How do you find out about environmental issues?

	%						
	Arabic	Chinese	Greek	Italian	Spanish	Vietnamese	Total
Television	56	14	92	58	63	14	49
Mainstream press	26	50	40	28	53	31	38
Mainstream radio	7	2	59	9	11	3	15
Ethnic press	1	25	4	5	2	25	10
Ethnic radio	9	0	1	7	0	3	3
Family/friends/work	6	0	0	0	3	4	2
Councils	1	1	0	3	2	1	1
Books/magazines	2	2	0	1	1	0	1
Other	4	0	0	1	2	0	1

For Asian communities (Chinese 25% and Vietnamese 25%), the ethnic press was a major information source.

Focus group discussions and interviews with ethnic community workers indicated that:

- short to medium term arrivals (Arabic, Vietnamese and Spanish) sought more information at the local level through local authorities
- Chinese speakers emphasised the influence of children, family and friends as a way of spreading information among their community
- Italian and Greek speakers acknowledged that the government had to be seen to promote and enforce environmental standards
- community workers felt there was limited reporting of environmental issues in the ethnic media.

'I have received a little booklet sent to me by council with different services available. It would be good if it was written in community languages.'

From the Vietnamese discussion group.

How often do you read English language newspapers?

%

	Arabic	Chinese	Greek	Italian	Spanish	Vietnamese	Total
Never	38	24	34	38	16	39	31
Every day	25	30	18	33	47	18	28
Once a week	17	23	17	10	18	18	17
Every 2-3 days	11	9	17	12	13	11	12
Every 2-3 weeks	5	3	2	1	4	5	3
Monthly or less	4	10	12	5	2	6	6
Unsure	0	1	0	1	0	4	1

Overall, 31% of respondents never read English newspapers, but 28% said they read English language papers daily.

- A significant proportion of four ethnic communities said that they never read English language papers: Vietnamese (39%), Italian (38%), Arabic (38%) and Greek (34%).
- A similarly high proportion of three ethnic communities said that they read English language newspapers daily: Spanish (47%), Italian (33%) and Chinese (30%).



How often do you read your own language newspapers?

	%						
	Arabic	Chinese	Greek	Italian	Spanish	Vietnamese	Total
Once a week	19	20	23	17	13	30	20
Every 2-3 days	13	14	42	15	19	11	19
Every day	18	48	17	3	1	17	17
Sub-total	50	82	82	35	33	58	56
Every 2-3 weeks	4	4	2	6	6	7	5
Monthly or less	11	4	9	22	14	13	12
Never	35	10	7	37	47	22	26
Unsure	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

On a regular basis (at least once a week), 56% of people read ethnic newspapers. Just over one quarter (26%) of all respondents said they'd never read a newspaper in their own language.

These findings should be interpreted with caution as other factors such as gender, age and literacy may be more important than ethnicity. For example, radio is probably the most important information medium among women and older people in some communities which have lower levels of literacy.

- Chinese (82%) and Greeks (82%) had the highest readership levels of ethnic newspapers.
- Half the Vietnamese (58%) and Arabic (50%) speakers read ethnic language newspapers regularly.
- A third of Italian (35%) and Spanish (33%) speakers read ethnic language newspapers regularly.

Which community language newspaper do you read?

Arabic	Chinese	Greek	Italian	Spanish	Vietnamese
Al Bairak	Sing Tao	Greek Herald	La Fiamma	Spanish Herald	Chieu Duong
	Aust Chinese Daily			El Espanol	Viet Luan
	Chinese Herald				Dan Viet

Most *reliable* sources of information

From a list of possible information sources, respondents rated the reliability of organisations in providing information about the environment as *very reliable*, *fairly reliable*, *hard to say/unsure*, *fairly unreliable*, *very unreliable*.

When *very reliable* and *fairly reliable* were combined, respondents believed that local councils and national and local environmental and conservation groups were the most reliable information sources.

In the majority of language groups, business and industry was viewed as the least reliable source of information about the environment.

Most reliable sources of environmental information

	%						
	Arabic	Chinese	Greek	Italian	Spanish	Vietnamese	Total
Local councils	80	63	90	52	76	57	70
National environmental and conservation organisations	80	45	98	55	75	68	70
Local environmental and conservation organisations	77	42	98	55	72	62	67
Schools	79	49	90	52	68	57	65
Government departments	70	54	91	35	67	57	62
Community welfare and social organisations	51	41	98	53	59	50	59
Scientists and technical specialists	55	37	31	64	58	59	50
Religious leaders and organisations	32	38	72	47	56	42	48
Business/industry	35	28	18	22	32	23	26

Demographic profile of the research sample

This demographic profile of the 600 people contacted in the telephone survey contains summary information on the respondents' age, level of education, occupation, household structure, country of birth and language.

Characteristic		Sample %	Notable Group Differences
Gender	Male	49	
	Female	51	
Age	18-24	8	Oldest groups were the Greeks (22% aged 65+) and Italians (32% aged 65+)
	25-34	19	
	35-44	24	
	45-54	18	
	55-64	15	
	65+	15	
Education	No formal education	2	Greeks and Italians were much more likely to have only primary education, while Chinese were heavily trade (28%) and tertiary (43%)
	Primary	43	
	Secondary	23	
	Trade/Technical	12	
	Tertiary	19	
Occupation	Manager Professional	14	Greek, Italian and Spanish sample account for large number of retirees
	Technical/Trade	9	
	White Collar	6	
	Blue Collar	13	
	Students	7	
	Home Duties/Retired	45	
Household structure	Young Single	7	
	Young Couple	3	
	Young Family	20	
	Middle Family	47	
	Later Family	16	
	Older Single People	5	
Country of birth	Australia	9	
	Chile	5	
	China	6	
	Greece	14	
	Hong Kong	9	
	Lebanon	12	
	Italy	13	
	Spain	5	
	Vietnam	17	
Language spoken at home	English	12	
	Arabic	15	93% of Arabic sample
	Chinese*	17	100% of Chinese sample
	Greek	15	89% of Greek sample
	Italian	11	65% of Italian sample
	Spanish	13	78% of Spanish sample
	Vietnamese	17	100% of Vietnamese sample

Demographic profile of the research sample

Characteristic		Sample %	Notable Group Differences	
Own language written competence	Arabic	80		
	Chinese	96		
	Greek	99		
	Italian	88		
	Spanish	86		
	Vietnamese	88		
English language competence		Spoken	Written	
	Arabic	71	58	
	Chinese*	67	71	
	Greek	62	42	
	Italian	71	45	
	Spanish	73	65	
	Vietnamese	52	49	

*Chinese includes both Mandarin and Cantonese speakers.

Community profiles



The following community profiles provide, for each of the six language groups:

- demographic information from the 1996 census (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- summaries of the key findings from the EPA's research.

The community profiles give a useful snapshot of the six ethnic communities that were the focus of this study and can be used to highlight specific information about the individual communities.

The information may be particularly useful to project officers in presenting the findings of the research to individual ethnic community groups.

Arabic

Demographic profile

Size of language group NSW (aged 5+)	114 682			
Main countries of birth	Lebanon	47 344	41.3%	
	Australia	44 599	38.9%	
	Egypt	8 663	7.5%	
	Iraq	2 661	2.3%	
	Syria	2 549	2.2%	
National distribution	New South Wales	114 682	70.8%	
	Victoria	35 718	22.1%	
	Queensland	3 301	2.0%	
	South Australia	3 345	2.1%	
	Western Australia	3 477	2.1%	
	Tasmania	329	0.2%	
	Northern Territory	82	0.0%	
	ACT	1 005	0.6%	
Other Territories	7	0.0%		
Age profile	0-14	37 732	30.0%	
	15-24	24 882	19.8%	
	25-54	50 817	40.4%	
	55-64	6 936	5.5%	
	65+	5 294	4.2%	
Gender profile	Male	58 977	51.4%	
	Female	55 725	48.6%	
Spoken English language competence	Not well	Not at all		
	Male	10.3%	Male	2.0%
	Female	13.6%	Female	4.0%
Migration history	<p>The migration of Arabic speakers to Australia dates from the 1880s when small numbers of Lebanese began arriving. The second wave followed World War II, with sustained intake from Lebanon increasing rapidly in the mid 1960s and mid 1970s. The Lebanese civil war caused a wave of migration in the mid 1980s and early 1990s. The Gulf War caused a wave of migration from Iraq while Lebanese migration declined.</p>			

Environmental profile

Ranking of the environment compared to other social issues for NSW Government	4
Level of concern about the environment	88% concerned
Australian environment compared to home country	Less than half saw Australia as better Many unsure
Most important environmental issues	60% Air pollution 43% Pollution of beaches and oceans 32% Transport and storage of dangerous chemicals
Changed behaviour towards the environment and how?	High levels of change — recycling and not putting waste down sink/toilet
Most important reason for changing behaviour towards the environment	Sense of personal responsibility
Most reliable sources of information about the environment	Local councils and national environmental organisations
Causes of environmental problems	Waste of resources

الصورة البيئية

٤	مرتبة البيئة بالمقارنة مع القضايا الإكتماعية الأخرى لحكومة نيو ساوث ويلز
إهتمام بنسبة ٨٨٪	مستوى الإهتمام بالبيئة
أقل من النصف يعتبرون أن أستراليا أفضل. لكن الكثيرين غير متأكدين.	البيئة الأسترالية بالمقارنة مع البيئة في البلد الأم
تلوث الهواء ٦٠٪ تلوث الشواطئ والمحيطات ٤٣٪ نقل وتخزين المواد الكيميائية الخطرة ٣٢٪	أهم القضايا البيئية
مستويات تغيير كبيرة - إعادة التصنيع والإستعمال وعدم إلقاء النفايات في حوض الغسيل والمرحاض	هل تغير السلوك تجاه البيئة وكيف؟
الشعور بالمسؤولية الشخصية	أهم سبب لتغيير السلوك تجاه البيئة
المجالس البلدية والمنظمات البيئية الوطنية	أروق مصادر المعلومات حول البيئة
تبيد الموارد	أسباب مشاكل البيئة

Chinese

Demographic profile

Size of language group NSW (age 5+)	157 927		
Main countries of birth	China*	59 416	37.62%
	Hong Kong	35 012	22.17%
	Australia	16 445	10.41%
	Vietnam	14 471	9.16%
	Malaysia	10 886	6.89%
National distribution	New South Wales	157 927	48.75%
	Victoria	90 550	27.95%
	Queensland	29 485	9.10%
	South Australia	10 793	3.33%
	Western Australia	27 088	8.36%
	Tasmania	1 291	0.40%
	Northern Territory	1 962	0.61%
	ACT	4 116	1.27%
Other Territories	738	0.23%	
Age profile	0-14	32 629	19.37%
	15-24	26 760	15.88%
	25-54	87 746	52.08%
	55-64	10 266	6.09%
	65+	11 087	6.58%
Gender profile	Male	76 333	48.33%
	Female	81 599	51.67%
Spoken English language competence	Not well	Not at all	
	Male 20.98%	Male	5.64%
	Female 24.36%	Female	10.15%
Migration history	<p>The Chinese have been migrating to Australia for over 140 years from a number of sources including China, Hong Kong and South-East Asia. The White Australia Policy reduced Chinese immigration during the first half of the 19th century. Today, Chinese speakers migrate to Australia mainly from mainland China and Hong Kong. They form one of the fastest growing groups in NSW and the largest group other than English speakers.</p>		

*Chinese includes both Mandarin and Cantonese speakers.

Environmental profile

Ranking of the environment compared to other social issues for NSW Government	5
Level of concern about the environment	81% concerned
Australian environment compared to home country	Almost all saw Australia as better than their home country
Most important environmental issues	34% Unsure 32% Air pollution 12% Pollution of beaches and oceans 10% General water pollution 10% Water conservation
Changed behaviour towards the environment and how?	High levels of change — especially recycling.
Most important reason for changing behaviour towards the environment	Sense of personal responsibility
Most reliable sources of information about the environment	Local councils
Causes of environmental problems	People don't care enough

環境問題剖析

與紐省政府其他社會問題比較，環境問題的等級是	5
對環境的關注程度	81% 關注
澳洲的環境與家鄉相比	差不多所有人都認為澳洲的環境比家鄉的好
最重要的環境問題	34% 不能肯定 32% 空氣污染 12% 海灘及海洋污染 10% 一般水質污染 10% 水源保護
因應環境問題而作出的行為改變及如何改變？	高度改變 - 特別是回收再造
因應環境問題而作出行為改變的最重要原因	個人的責任感
有關環境問題的資訊的最可靠來源	地方市政府
構成環境問題的原因	人們的關心不足

Greek

Demographic profile

Size of language group NSW (aged 5+)	89 185		
Main countries of birth	Australia	41 538	46.58%
	Greece	37 323	41.85%
	Cyprus	5 531	6.20%
	Egypt	2 114	2.37%
National distribution	New South Wales	89 185	34.43%
	Victoria	119 577	46.17%
	Queensland	11 173	4.31%
	South Australia	26 831	10.36%
	Western Australia	5 645	2.18%
	Tasmania	1 259	0.49%
	Northern Territory	2 584	1.00%
	ACT	2 762	1.07%
Other Territories	5	0.00%	
Age profile	0-14	11 989	12.90%
	15-24	14 674	15.78%
	25-54	41 900	45.07%
	55-64	14 259	15.34%
	65+	10 144	10.91%
Gender profile	Male	44 737	50.16%
	Female	44 448	49.84%
Spoken English language competence	Not Well	Not at all	
	Male 12.48%	Male	0.89%
	Female 17.09%	Female	2.27%
Migration history	<p>Migration from Greece to Australia began on a small scale in the 19th century. The post-war migration program attracted a large number of Greeks, with smaller numbers of Greek speakers from Cyprus and Egypt. Australia's population of Greek-born grew from 12 291 in 1947 to a peak of 16 200 in 1971. In recent years, migration from Greece has virtually stopped, and the community is aging and declining in numbers.</p>		

Environmental profile

Ranking of the environment compared to other social issues for NSW Government	4
Level of concern about the environment	91% concerned
Australian environment compared to home country	Basically see Australia as about the same or better than Greece
Most important environmental issues	65% Air pollution 42% Pollution of beaches and oceans 26% Unsure 21% Litter and dumping of rubbish
Changed behaviour towards the environment and how?	Low levels of change — mainly not littering and not putting waste down sink/toilet
Most important reason for changing behaviour towards the environment	Sense of personal responsibility
Most reliable sources of information about the environment	Environmental and community organisations
Causes of environmental problems	Waste of resources

Περιβαλλοντολογική εικόνα

Διαβάθμιση του περιβάλλοντος σε σχέση με άλλα κοινωνικά θέματα για την Κυβέρνηση της ΝΝΟ	4
Επίπεδο ενδιαφέροντος για το περιβάλλον	91% ενδιαφέρονται
Αυστραλιανό περιβάλλον σε σχέση με αυτό της μητρικής χώρας	Βασικά βλέπουν την Αυστραλία περίπου το ίδιο ή καλύτερα από την Ελλάδα
Τα πλέον σημαντικά θέματα περιβάλλοντος	65% Μόλυνση του αέρα 42% Μόλυνση των ακτών και του ωκεανού 26% Δεν είναι βέβαιοι 21% Πέτεγμα σκουπιδιών
Αλλαγή της συμπεριφοράς προς το περιβάλλον και με ποιον τρόπο;	Μικρά επίπεδα αλλαγής - κυρίως δεν πετάνε σκουπίδια και δεν ρίχνουν απόβλητα στον νεροχύτη ή στην τουαλέτα
Ο κύριος λόγος που άλλαξαν συμπεριφορά προς το περιβάλλον	Αίσθημα προσωπικής ευθύνης
Οι πλέον υπεύθυνες πηγές πληροφοριών σχετικά με το περιβάλλον	Περιβαλλοντολογικοί και κοινοτικοί οργανισμοί
Αίτια περιβαλλοντολογικών προβλημάτων	Σπατάλη φυσικών πηγών

Italian

Demographic profile

Size of language group NSW (age 5+)	100 077			
Main countries of birth	Italy	54 593	54.55%	
	Australia	39 055	39.02%	
	Egypt	1 766	1.76%	
National distribution	New South Wales	100 077	27.25%	
	Victoria	155 360	42.30%	
	Queensland	25 366	6.91%	
	South Australia	42 415	11.55%	
	Western Australia	37 867	10.31%	
	Tasmania	1 612	0.44%	
	Northern Territory	914	0.25%	
	ACT	3 654	0.99%	
Other Territories	3	0.00%		
Age profile	0-14	8 778	8.55%	
	15-24	12 300	11.97%	
	25-54	43 573	42.42%	
	55-64	17 490	17.03%	
	65+	20 578	20.03%	
Gender profile	Male	50 496	50.46%	
	Female	49 581	49.54%	
Spoken English language competence	Not Well	Not at all		
	Male	12.29%	Male	1.04%
	Female	15.33%	Female	2.64%
Migration history	<p>Italians began arriving in Australia in considerable numbers in the late 1800s. In the post-war migration program, immigration from Italy increased dramatically during the 1950s and early 1960s. According to the 1996 census, the Italian-born still formed the largest group in NSW born in a non-English speaking country. Migration from Italy has been declining since the 1970s with few new arrivals in recent years. As a result the Italian-born are becoming proportionately older as a community.</p>			

Environmental profile

Ranking of the environment compared to other social issues for NSW Government	5
Level of concern about the environment	58% concerned
Australian environment compared to home country	Most see Australia as better than Italy Some unsure
Most important environmental issues	37% Unsure 34% Air pollution 11% Litter and dumping of rubbish 10% General water pollution 10% Pollution of creeks and rivers
Changed behaviour towards the environment and how?	Low levels of change — mainly not putting waste down sink/toilet
Most important reason for changing behaviour towards the environment	Sense of personal responsibility
Most reliable sources of information about the environment	Scientists/technical specialists
Causes of environmental problems	People don't care enough

Profilo ambientale

Posizione, in una ideale classifica, occupata dall'ambiente rispetto ad altre istanze sociali per il governo del New South Wales	5
Livello di interesse in merito all'ambiente	58% di interessati
Ambiente dell'Australia rispetto a quello del paese d'origine	La maggior parte degli interpellati considera l'Australia meglio del paese d'origine. Alcuni incerti
Istanze ambientali più importanti	37% Incerti 34% Inquinamento dell'aria 11% Immondizie e scarico rifiuti 10% Inquinamento dell'acqua in generale 10% Inquinamento di fiumi e ruscelli
Cambiamenti comportamentali rispetto all'ambiente e relative modalità	Modesti livelli di cambiamento - soprattutto non gettando rifiuti nel lavandino o gabinetto
Motivo più importante dei cambiamenti comportamentali rispetto all'ambiente	Senso di responsabilità personale
Fonti più affidabili di informazioni sull'ambiente	Scienziati/specialisti tecnici
Cause dei problemi ambientali	Insufficiente interesse da parte della gente

Spanish

Demographic profile

Size of language group NSW (age 5+)	46 279			
Main countries of birth	Chile	11 478	24.80%	
	Australia	8 480	18.32%	
	Uruguay	6 230	13.46%	
	Argentina	4 453	9.62%	
	Spain	4 445	9.60%	
National distribution	New South Wales	46 279	53.30%	
	Victoria	21 431	24.68%	
	Queensland	8 076	9.30%	
	South Australia	3 002	3.46%	
	Western Australia	4 852	5.59%	
	Tasmania	498	0.57%	
	Northern Territory	309	0.36%	
	ACT	2 379	2.74%	
Other Territories	0	0.00%		
Age profile	0-14	8 483	17.49%	
	15-24	8 407	17.33%	
	25-54	23 990	49.46%	
	55-64	4 674	9.64%	
	65+	2 945	6.07%	
Gender profile	Male	22 352	48.30%	
	Female	23 927	51.70%	
Spoken English language competence	Not Well	Not at all		
	Male	12.81%	Male	1.86%
	Female	14.74%	Female	3.93%
Migration history	<p>Spanish speakers in Australia come from a number of countries, principally from Chile, Uruguay, Spain and Argentina. Migration from South America peaked during the 1960s and 1970s. Numbers of Salvadoreans and Nicaraguans arrived during the 1980s and 1990s. Migration from Spain has decreased substantially, while migration from Latin American countries continues, comprising mainly professionals.</p>			

Environmental profile

Ranking of the environment compared to other social issues for NSW Government	3
Level of concern about the environment	80% concerned
Australian environment compared to home country	Most see Australia as better than their home countries
Most important environmental issues	54% Air pollution 20% Industrial emissions 15% Pollution of beaches and oceans
Changed behaviour towards the environment and how?	Moderate levels of change — mainly recycling and using less water
Most important reason for changing behaviour towards the environment	Books/films/television
Most reliable sources of information about the environment	Local councils
Causes of environmental problems	Business/industry

Perfil ambiental

Clasificación del medio ambiente, en comparación con otros temas sociales para el Gobierno de NSW	3
Nivel de preocupación por el medio ambiente	Preocupación del 80%
El medio ambiente australiano en comparación con el país de origen	La mayoría considera que Australia es mejor que su país de origen
Temas ambientales más importantes	54% Contaminación del aire 20% Emisiones industriales 15% Contaminación de playas y océanos
¿Cambió de conducta con respecto al medio ambiente y de qué manera?	Niveles moderados de cambio, principalmente reciclaje y uso de menos agua
La razón más importante por la que cambió su conducta con respecto al medio ambiente	Libros/películas/televisión
Las fuentes más fiables de información sobre el medio ambiente	Municipalidades
Causas de los problemas ambientales	Empresas/ industrias

Vietnamese

Demographic profile

Size of language group NSW (age 5+)	51 804			
Main countries of birth	Vietnam	43 174	83.34%	
	Australia	6 295	12.15%	
National distribution	New South Wales	51 804	38.66%	
	Victoria	49 219	36.73%	
	Queensland	10 763	8.03%	
	South Australia	10 180	7.60%	
	Western Australia	9 300	6.94%	
	Tasmania	124	0.09%	
	Northern Territory	471	0.35%	
	ACT	2 150	1.60%	
	Other Territories	0	0.00%	
Age profile	0-14	13 690	24.27%	
	15-24	10 375	18.40%	
	25-54	27 580	48.90%	
	55-64	2 407	4.27%	
	65+	2 348	4.16%	
Gender profile	Male	26 033	50.25%	
	Female	25 771	49.75%	
Spoken English language competence	Not Well		Not at all	
	Male	29.76%	Male	4.91%
	Female	34.57%	Female	12.66%
Migration history	<p>Vietnamese migration to Australia began after the fall of Saigon in 1975. More than 135 000 have since been accepted into Australia. A high proportion of Vietnamese speakers are recent arrivals and have poor English proficiency. Age distribution is weighted towards younger age groups.</p>			

Environmental profile

Ranking of the environment compared to other social issues for NSW Government	2
Level of concern about the environment	65% concerned
Australian environment compared to home country	Almost all see Australia as better than Vietnam
Most important environmental issues	39% Unsure 39% Air Pollution 14% Transport and storage of dangerous chemicals 10% Litter and dumping of rubbish
Changed behaviour towards the environment and how?	Very low levels of change — mainly not littering
Most important reason for changing behaviour towards the environment	Sense of personal responsibility Easier to change Realisation of consequences
Most reliable sources of information about the environment	Environmental organisations
Causes of environmental problems	People don't care enough

Những điểm chính liên quan tới môi sinh

Thứ tự quan trọng của môi sinh so với những vấn đề xã hội khác đối với chính phủ tiểu bang NSW	2
Mức độ quan tâm về môi sinh	65% quan tâm
Môi sinh Úc so với quê nhà	Hầu hết cho rằng môi sinh Úc tốt hơn Việt Nam
Những vấn đề quan trọng nhất liên quan tới môi sinh	39% không biết rõ 39% ô nhiễm không khí 14% chuyên chở và tàng trữ hóa chất nguy hiểm 10% rác và cách thải rác
Thay đổi trong hành động liên quan tới môi sinh như thế nào?	Mức độ thay đổi ít Điểm quan trọng nhất là ngưng xả rác
Lý do quan trọng nhất để thay đổi hành động liên quan tới môi sinh	Ý thức trách nhiệm cá nhân Hiện nay dễ thay đổi hơn Nghĩ tới hậu quả
Những nguồn tin đáng tin cậy nhất về môi sinh	Những tổ chức liên quan tới môi sinh
Những nguyên nhân gây vấn đề liên quan tới môi sinh	Công chúng ít quan tâm

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