



SOCIAL CONNECTION REPORT

2025

LITTLE BIG HOUSE
SUMMER HILL

FOREWORD

We are pleased to present the Annual Summer Hill Little BIG Impact survey for 2025.

It is my pleasure to present the 2025 Little BIG House Social Connection Report, our annual deep dive into how our community is connecting, supporting one another, and shaping the experiences of place. This report reflects far more than data points; it tells the story of a neighbourhood that is choosing connection at a time when social isolation is rising across Australia.



Across every measure, we continue to see the powerful impact of simple, local, human connection. More residents know their neighbours by name than ever before. People feel safer, more supported, and more willing to reach out to one another. Weekly contact with family and friends is up, and kindness, that quiet but transformative ingredient of community life, is more prominent than ever.

These results affirm that when people are given accessible places to meet, meaningful programs to join, and a culture that celebrates participation, their relationships deepen and their wellbeing follows.

FOREWORD

Little BIG House is just one small building, but it has become a catalyst for real social change. Our volunteers, hosts, participants, and local businesses have helped turn this space into something much bigger, a place where people feel seen, valued, and at home. The findings in this report show that the model works: connection grows where it is nurtured, and community loyalty strengthens when people feel they belong.

As we look ahead to the next chapter, this report reminds us why our mission matters. Loneliness is not inevitable. With intention, partnership, and care, communities can build the conditions where people thrive.

Thank you to everyone who contributed time, insight, and heart not just to this report but to 12 month of trialing, learning, evolving and growing together. Thank you to the board, the management committee, the volunteers and every attendee who walks through the door.



Sarah Mathews
CEO | Little BIG Foundation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Little BIG acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future traditional custodians and elders of this country on which we work.

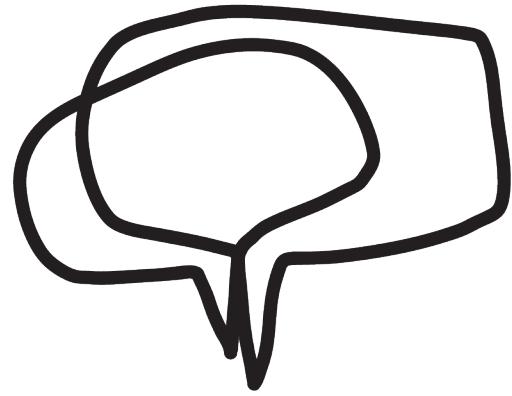
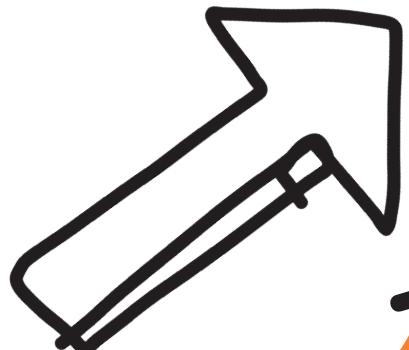
PROFESSIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Snapshot of Findings



SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

KINDNESS, COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

97%

of locals believe they live in a kind and caring community, a statistic that has been increasing year-on-year.

74%

of locals feel they can rely on their neighbours for help, far exceeding the national average of 48%. This increased to 86% in the hyperlocal community.

8%

Increase in loneliness in the local community since 2022 (and a 4% increase on last year).

79%

Of people know their neighbours by name.

COMMUNITY SPACES

99%

of respondents felt it was important to have physical spaces available for community interaction.

81%

of respondents said the Little BIG House (or similar venue) would be in their top 3 priorities when moving to a new community.

VOLUNTEERING



89%

of volunteers agree that volunteering at Little BIG has increased their sense of belonging in my community (11% neutral, 0% disagree)



78%

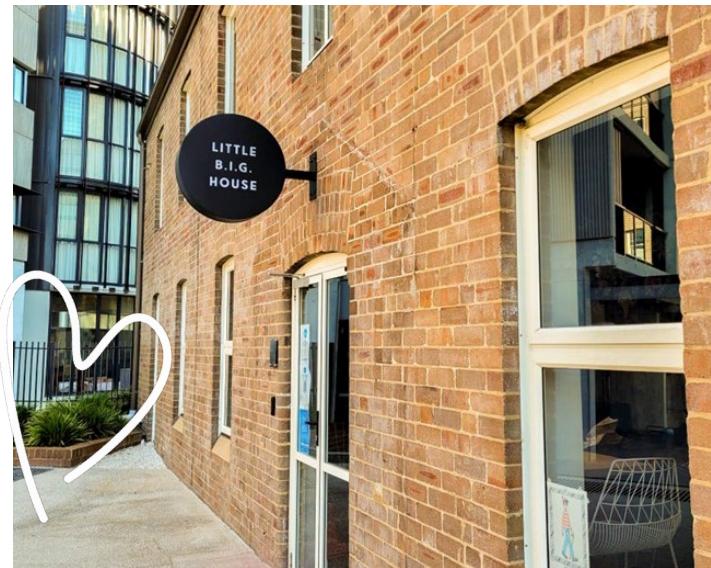
of volunteers have made new friends through their volunteering.

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report contains the findings of the annual community survey commissioned by the Little BIG Foundation (Little BIG).

This survey is an important tool that the Little BIG House uses to understand change in its community, inform its approach to community programs and events and identify opportunities to increase its impact. It also helps Little BIG to understand if its activities have been successful in helping to reduce loneliness and increase social connection in the community.



ABOUT LITTLE BIG

Little BIG Foundation was set up to tackle loneliness in Australia by developing places, programs and events for social connection. With a vision for happier, healthier, and kinder communities across Australia, the Little BIG Foundation operates the Little BIG House, located at 16 Flour Mill Way in Summer Hill NSW.

ABOUT LITTLE BIG HOUSE AT SUMMER HILL

The Little BIG House is in Sydney's inner west Local Government Area on the border of Summer Hill, Lewisham, and Dulwich Hill. It is a hub which is home to the volunteer and hosting program, it can be used by volunteers to run community events, by the wider community to host private events and provides a casual space for neighbours to get to know each other.

In 2025, the Summer Hill Little BIG House has a team of approximately 70 hosts and volunteers who contribute to the program's success in different ways. New event proposals are assessed by a volunteer Management Committee who ensures the suitability of the program and help drive both volunteer and community engagement.

INTRODUCTION

LONELINESS AND SOCIAL CONNECTION

Loneliness can be defined as “a subjective unpleasant or distressing feeling of a lack of connection to other people, along with a desire for more, or more satisfying, social relationships”

¹Loneliness has been linked to a range of poor mental and physical health outcomes and has been described as one of Australia’s most pressing public health priorities. While social connection is not the only factor which affects loneliness (for instance, someone can be socially connected but still lonely, or socially isolated but not lonely), it is an important contributor, with frequent social interaction associated with a range of positive health outcomes².

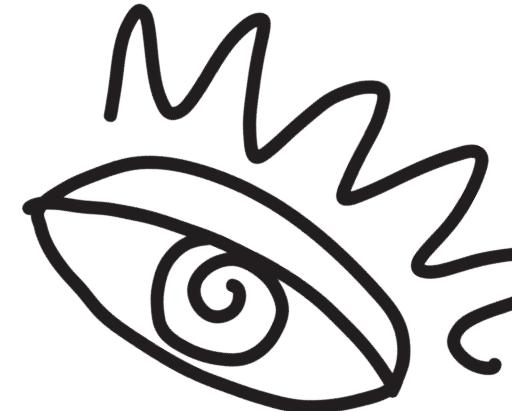
Australia has seen a decline in social contact over the past decades³ and Australians are currently experiencing the lowest rates of social connection to their neighbours in recorded history⁴. In 2018, almost half of Australians (47%) reported not having neighbours to call on for help⁵. In 2021, over a third (38%) stated that they didn’t know their neighbours by name⁶. In 2023, less than half of Australians (48%) reported that if they were sick they could count on their neighbours to shop for groceries⁷.

In response to the above trends, Little BIG takes an evidence informed approach to increasing social connection, as a method of addressing loneliness in its community.



A large, irregular yellow shape is positioned on the left side of the image, overlapping the background. It has a rounded top left corner and a jagged bottom right edge.

Social Connection in the Little BIG House community



LONELINESS

Loneliness continues to rise by those closest to Little BIG programs show signs of improvement.

Feelings of loneliness within the hyperlocal community have dropped notably lower than the national average. In 2025, 28% of hyperlocal residents reported feeling lonely at least some of the time, compared with 32% nationally and 40% at the same time last year. Despite this decrease in 2025, the overall trend is still increasing.

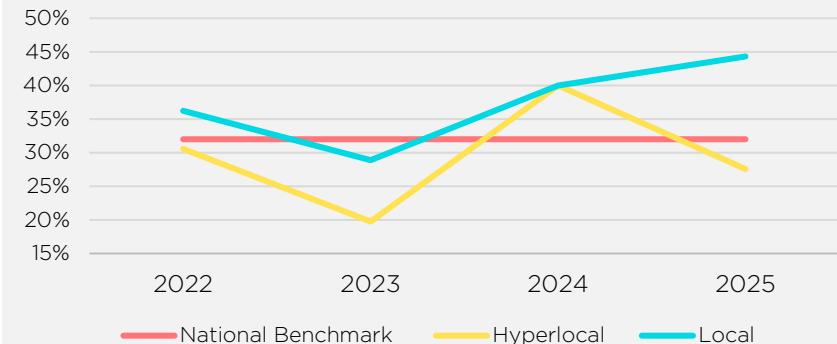
At a local level, we are seeing reports of higher levels (44%). This highlights the need for community action to protect against increasing loneliness as these wider findings reinforce the well-known wider societal issue.

In 2025, volunteers were 10% less likely to report experiencing loneliness at the same rates as those who were not volunteers.

8%

Increase in loneliness in the local community since 2022 (and a 4% increase on last year).

Self-reported loneliness



POSITIVE BUBBLE FOR HYPERLOCALS

28%

Hyperlocals are experiencing less loneliness than the general population (28% compared to 32% nationally).

3%

Less loneliness is being experienced by Hyperlocals since opening the Little BIG House.

KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBOURS

More people than ever now know their neighbours by name

This is a simple but powerful marker of belonging. Among hyperlocal residents, familiarity has grown from 42% in 2022 to 79% in 2025, well above the national average of 62%.

For local residents, the pattern is similar, rising from 53% to 77% over the same period. These results suggest that the Flour Mill is no longer just a collection of apartments, but a true community where introductions have turned into friendships.

79%

Of people know their neighbours by name.

55pt

Increase in agreement with the statement “I am happy with the level of interaction I have with people in my community”.



KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBOURS

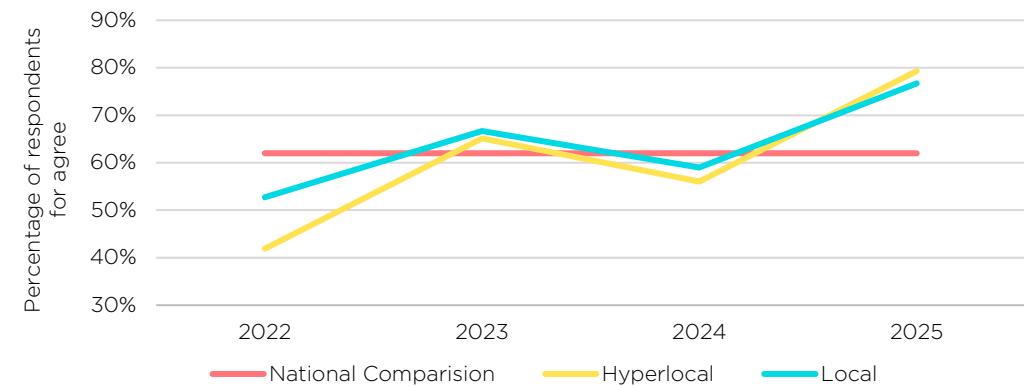
Satisfaction with community interaction has risen sharply and consistently since 2022. Among hyperlocal residents, agreement with the statement “I am happy with the level of interaction I have with people in my community” has increased from 35% to 90%, marking a 55-point rise over three years.

Local residents show a similarly strong upward trend — from 43% in 2022 to 86% in 2025 — reflecting broader spillover effects of community programming beyond the immediate Flour Mill precinct.

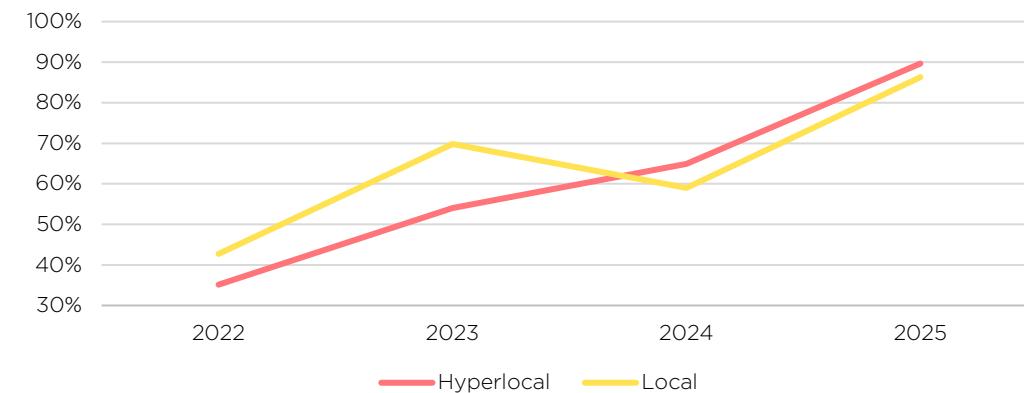
These results indicate a maturing, deeply connected community where meaningful relationships have become the norm. The sustained growth across consecutive years suggests that consistent activation and engagement — such as those facilitated through the Little BIG House — are translating into long-term improvements in social satisfaction and sense of belonging.



I know many of my neighbours by name



Satisfaction with the level of interaction with other people in your community



GETTING OUT AND CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

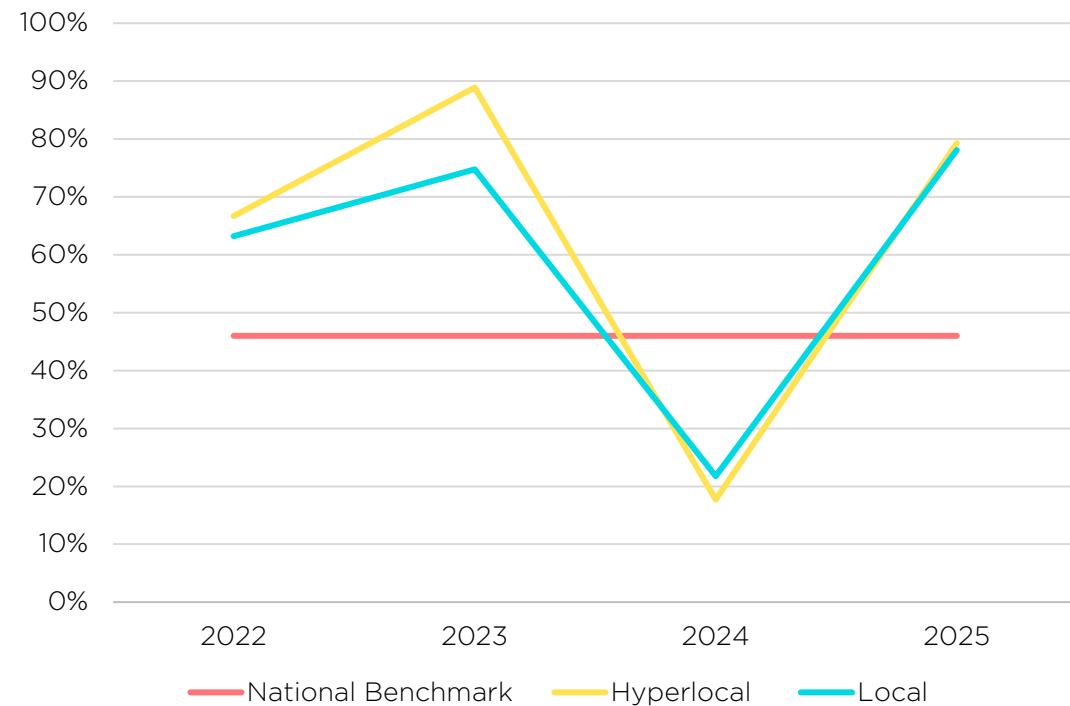
Social connect is embedded in everyday life

Regular, in-person connection with family and friends has remained strong within the community, far exceeding national levels. In 2025, 79% of hyperlocal and 78% of local residents reported seeing friends or family at least once a week, compared to a national average of just 46%.

While there was some fluctuation over time, the long-term trend points to a community where social interaction is embedded in daily life. The combination of accessible gathering spaces, local events, and neighbourly networks appears to make regular connection easier and more natural.

These figures suggest that the social fabric of the area extends beyond immediate neighbours — supporting a culture where people not only live close together, but stay connected with those who matter most.

Social contact at least once per week



GETTING OUT AND CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

Community interactions

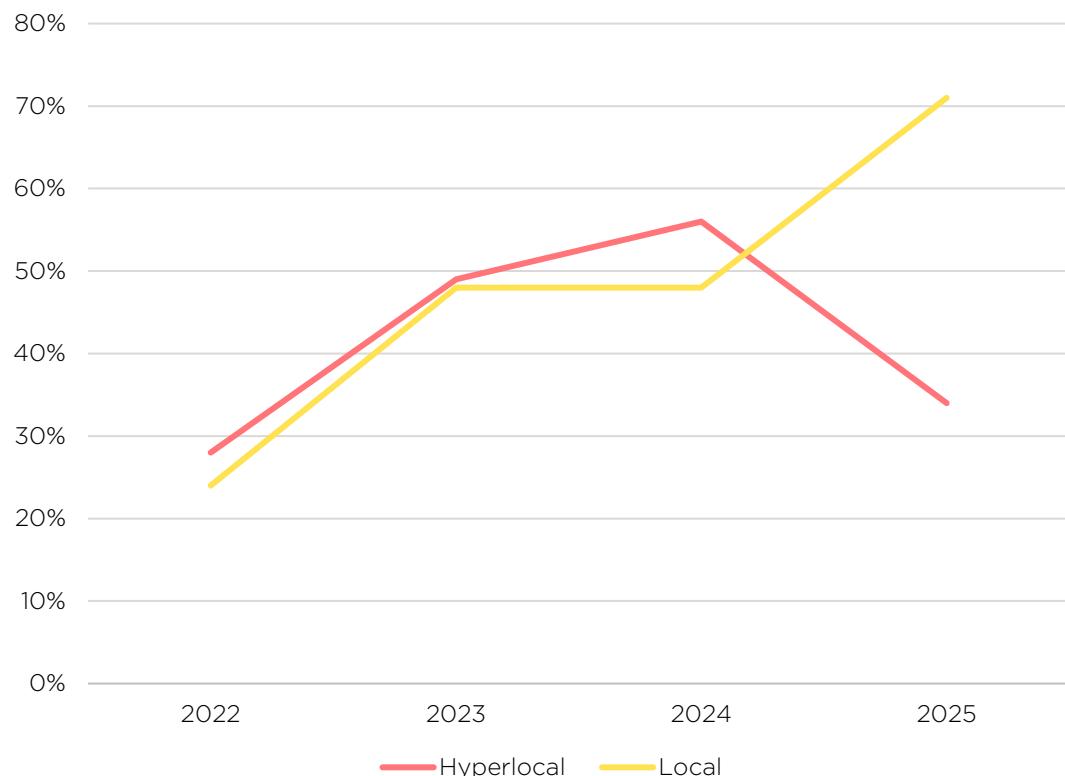
When asked 'how many local community members interact with five or more people on a regular basis', 2025 responses showed mixed results.

Among hyperlocal participants, interaction levels increased strongly from 28% in 2022 to 56% in 2024, suggesting deepening relationships and familiarity within the immediate Flour Mill community. However, in 2025 this figure dipped to 34%.

In contrast, the local group shows a dramatic rise in 2025 — from 48% in 2024 to 71%. This may indicate growing engagement and spillover effects beyond the hyperlocal area, as Little BIG activities attract and sustain connections among a broader catchment of residents.

Overall, the combined picture suggests that while hyperlocal participation may have plateaued temporarily, the community's wider social network is expanding, with more locals than ever regularly engaging with five or more community members — a strong sign of social cohesion and cross-community connection.

How many local community members interact with five or more people on a regular basis



PERCEPTIONS OF KINDNESS

Kindness at an all time high

Perceptions of kindness and care within the community have soared since 2022. Among hyperlocal residents, agreement with the statement “I live in a kind and caring community” has climbed from 62% to 97%, indicating an exceptionally strong sense of mutual support and neighbourliness.

Local residents show a similar positive trend, rising from 69% to 89%, suggesting that the Flour Mill community’s reputation for warmth and inclusivity extends well beyond the immediate area.

97%

of locals believe they live in a kind and caring community, a statistic that has been increasing year-on-year.

74%

of locals feel they can rely on their neighbours for help, far exceeding the national average of 48%. This increased to 86% in the hyperlocal community.



PERCEPTIONS OF KINDNESS

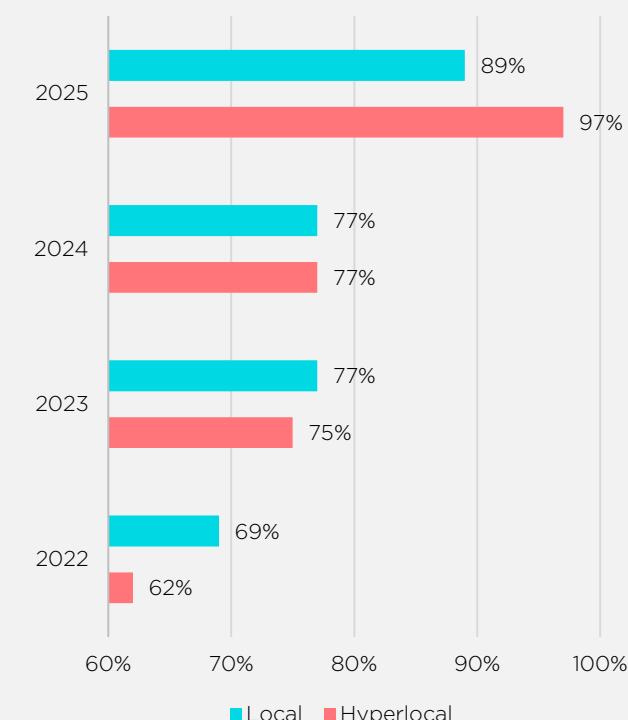
Growing neighbourly support

Neighbourly trust and support have grown remarkably stronger over time. Among respondents, there was unanimous agreement with the statement “If I was sick, I could count on people in my community to bring me groceries or essentials” climbing from 56% in 2022 to 86% in 2025 (hyperlocal community) and from 56% in 2003 to 86% in 2025 (for local communities), both well above the national comparison of 48%.

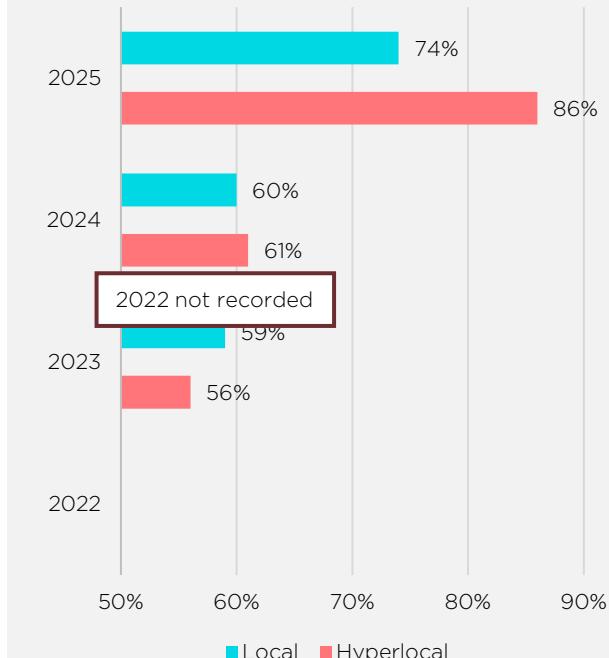
This data reflects a maturing culture of care and reciprocity, where people not only know their neighbours but actively feel they can rely on them in times of need. It’s a powerful indicator of community resilience, showing that social connection efforts, like those fostered through the Little BIG House, are translating into real-world support networks.

To what extent do you agree:

I live in a kind and caring community?



"If I was sick, I could count on people in my community to bring me groceries or essentials"?



ACTS OF KINDNESS

Acts of kindness are often the smallest gestures that make a person feel seen and valued.

The data shows that kindness becomes memorable when it's personal, practical, and proximate — when help arrives not through a system, but through someone nearby who notices and cares.

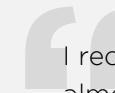
Most acts were simple; bringing in bins, checking in during illness, sharing food, or lending something in a pinch. These gestures resonate because they affirm mutual visibility and belonging — they tell people “you matter here.”



“Some neighbours have even assisted with making professional introductions for me while I've been out of work”.



“When I was pregnant, using public transport, several of my neighbours would pick me up at the train station. Once one of my neighbours could not make it, and asked a friend of his to step in! We met for the first time at the train station and he carried my bags for me! I'd never met him before.”



I recently moved here in January and almost instantly I felt a warm energy from people I met and could see very strongly how the littlebig house acts as a hub with many spokes and people and families gravitate to that area.



“Many neighbours offered to drive me to hospital visits or do any shopping I needed when my husband was sick last year. Recently a neighbour knocked on our door with take away coffees because he hadn't seen us for a few days”.



“When my son passed away I was flooded with flowers and support by those I knew and some I only knew by sight. I felt like I'd received a hug from my community”.



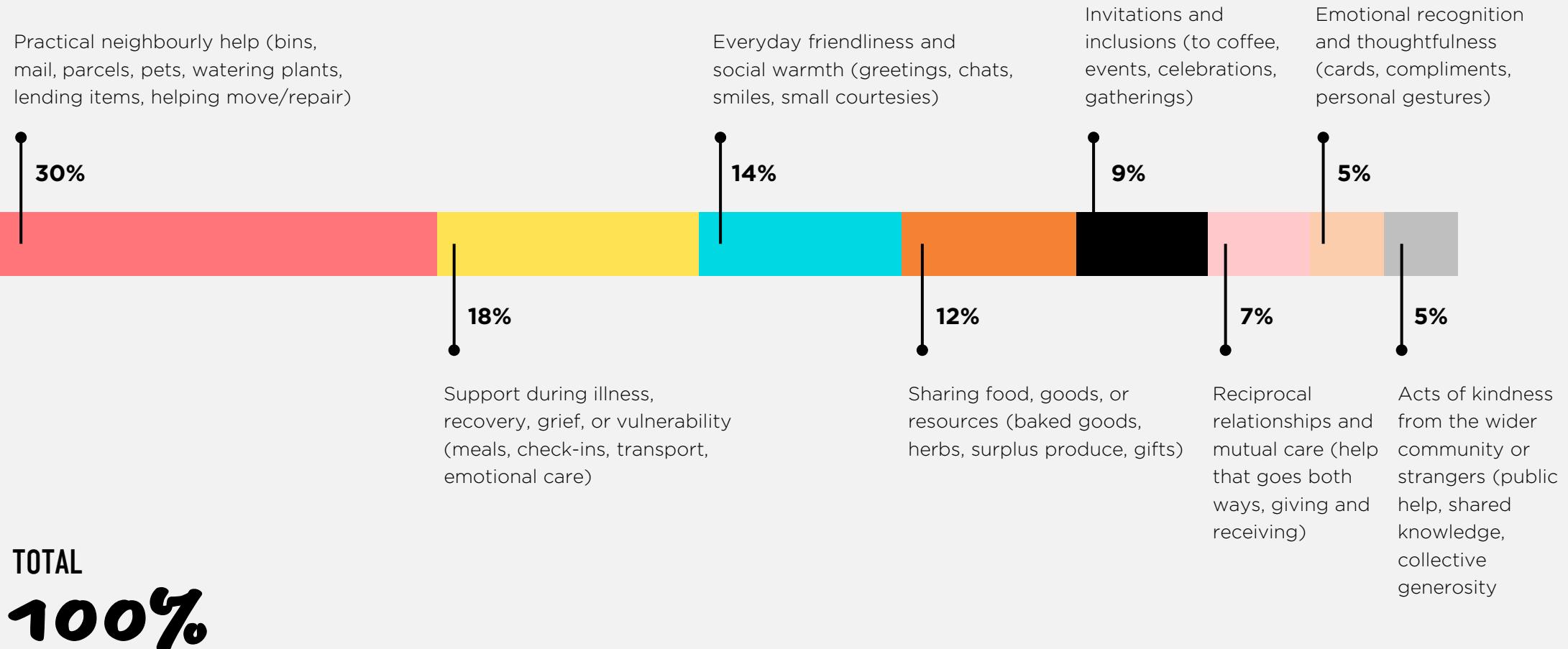
“Some of the community gave us donations in exchange for a bunch of herbs while we were tending the community garden on the weekend. We will use that money to buy more plants for the garden.



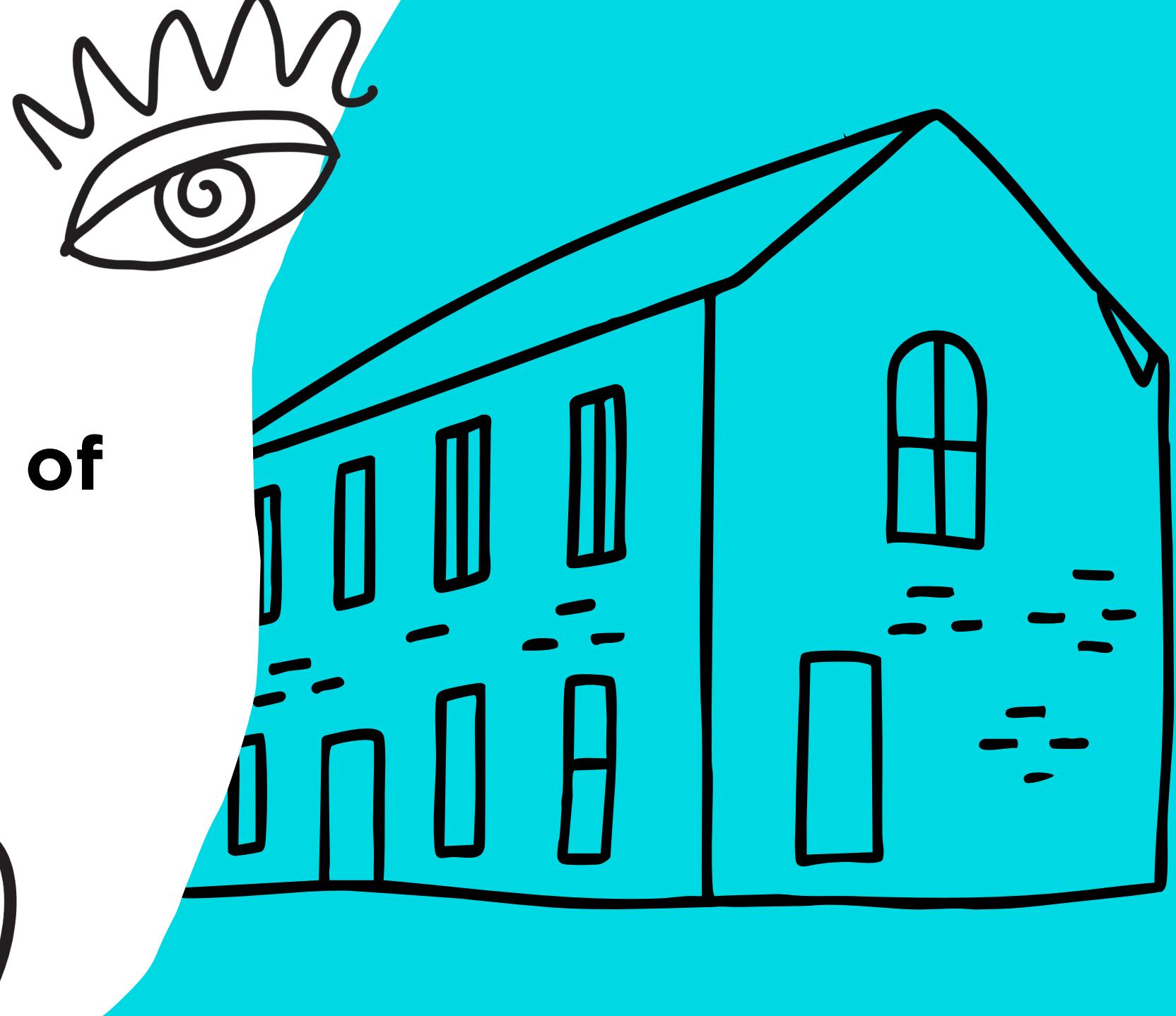
“I had surgery and many of the people from the x-fit training community stayed in touch with me during my recovery and offered assistance where possible. I was even convinced to come down and just watch so that I could still feel a part of the community during my recovery. Once I did that, just the interaction with that fabulous community boosted my mood and helped with the positive trajectory of my recovery. To be a part of something as special as that community is truly life changing. I feel blessed to be a part of it”.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

% OF RESPONSES PER THEME/CATEGORY



The value of
Little BIG



PHYSICAL SPACES

Near unanimous endorsement of programmed and activated community space

The value placed on community spaces has become almost universal among respondents. Agreement with the statement “It is important to me to have physical spaces available for community interaction” has risen from 87% in 2022 to 99% in 2025 — a stable and near-consensus view.

The data also shows that the Little BIG House concept clearly leads as a highly desired amenity across respondents. Nearly half of all participants chose it as their top priority (46%), and over three-quarters (81%) placed it within their top three — far exceeding any other amenity’s appeal.

This pattern highlights a strong, consistent preference for programmed community spaces that foster social connection and belonging over purely physical or recreational facilities like pools or gyms. Respondents appear to value interaction, familiarity, and shared purpose as central to their experience of place.



99%

of respondents felt it was important to have physical spaces available for community interaction.

81%

of respondents said the Little BIG House (or similar venue) would be in their top 3 priorities when moving to a new community.

CONNECTION TO PLACE

Little BIG creates a sense of belonging that is hard to leave.

Survey respondents were asked whether the connections they had made through the Little BIG House had shaped their decision-making about where to live.

In both 2024 and 2025, the closer respondents lived to the Little BIG House, the greater emphasis they were likely to place on these connections and how it impacted this connection to place.

More than two-thirds (72%) of hyperlocal respondents agreed this was one of the reasons influencing their decision-making about where to live. This is a 91% increase since last year.

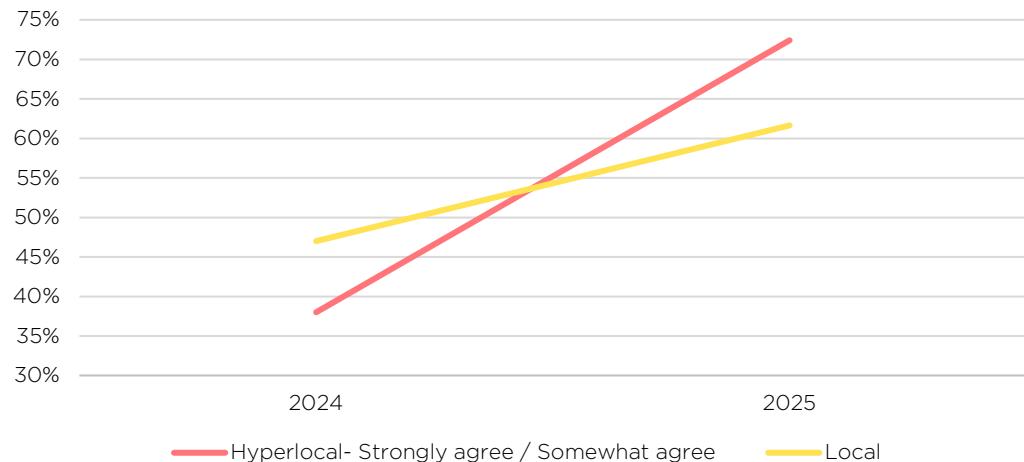
72%

of hyperlocal respondents agreed that the connections that had made through Little BIG were one of the reasons influencing their decision-making about where to live

62%

of local respondents agreed that with the same statement.

**To what extent do you agree with the following statement:
*The connections I've made through Little BIG are one of the reasons I continue living in this community?"**



EXPERIENCES THAT DRIVE COMMUNITY

An environment that cultivates the social attachment.

“When I had to move, I looked at the area close to Little BIG House first, hoping to find something suitable. I was disappointed I couldn't find anything suitable close by, but I still come back for events there (now living in Erskineville)”

“I feel known and seen here. It's all the small positive moments that result in a sense of safety and belonging. I feel like that is good for my personal mental health, my property value and my family”.

“We lived in Parramatta for 3 years and I hated most days. There were no personal connections or sense of community it was very lonely. Since we have moved, we love it. It takes longer to commute but it's worth it.”

“I bought my property in Lewisham partly due to the Little BIG House. I live on my own and was mindful of the possibility of being socially isolated. Its presence influenced this important decision”.

“As a single person living alone and mostly working from home, the Little BIG House plays a really important part in helping me form connections with others in my community”.

“The community vibe and connections is 100% the number 1 reason I would continue to live in the Flour Mill. It's definitely a unique vibe that I think has been cultivated over time through the combination of the design of the complex (square in the middle), spaces to meet like the dog park, the cafes, retail (furniture upcycling), Sunday markets, night markets and all of the events hosted by the Little BIG House. Love it!”

“I lived on the North Shore for 32 years before moving to the Flour Mill. In those 32 years, I hardly met anyone new - I found people there generally kept to themselves, and my friends were from outside the area, made through work and other activities. Since moving to the Flour Mill, I've met so many friendly people and it's made such a difference to my life”.

EXPERIENCES THAT DRIVE COMMUNITY

% OF TOTAL PER THEME/CATEGORY

Friendships & Everyday Social Connection (forming friendships, casual encounters, daily social moments)



TOTAL

100%

Sense of Belonging & Connection to Place (feeling known, welcomed, emotionally attached, or committed to staying)

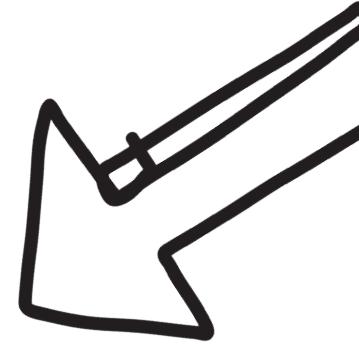
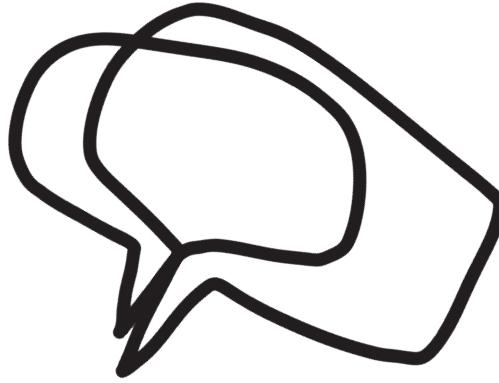
Little BIG House as a Catalyst (LBH directly creating or influencing connection and belonging)

Safe, Supportive & Caring Neighbourhood (looking out for one another, mutual support)

Family-Friendly & Child Safety (positive, safe environment for families and children)

Lifestyle & Local Vibe (friendly, welcoming suburb vibe)

Place Design & Activation (built environment and activities that encourage connection)



**Improving
Connection**



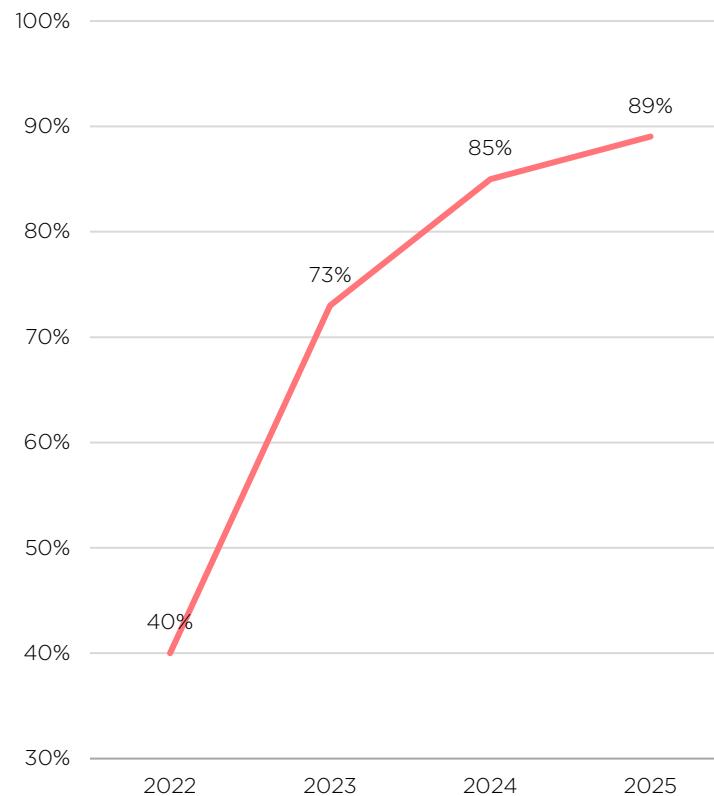
NEW CONNECTIONS

A place where you actually meet people

Community connection through the Little BIG House has grown dramatically over the past four years. From 2022 to 2025 we have record a 123% (49 percentage point) increase in respondents who report they meet someone new at a Little BIG House event.

This sharp rise demonstrates how the Little BIG House has evolved into a powerful catalyst for connection, helping neighbours move from co-existence to genuine relationship-building. It shows that well-designed, locally led initiatives can significantly enhance social mixing and reduce isolation within a community.

In the last 12 months, have you met anyone new via the Little BIG House or an associated program or event?



PROGRAMS CONTRIBUTING TO CONNECTION

Which events respondents reported best contributed to community, connection.

Segmented by those experience loneliness 3+ days a week.

Sunday Markets

G-spot Board Games

Food Festival

Free Yoga

Community Crafternoon

Community Life Drawing

Free X-training

Improv Courses

I speak to the teacher

Enjoyable experience with likeminded people

Making friends while having something to do

Meeting regularly with a group of people who try shared interests and with a shared goal fostered connection and a sense of comraderie

I feel connected to the people, who share the hobbies and activities that I enjoy

10 WAYS TO BUILD CONNECTION

The data shows that new connections flourish not just because people meet, but because they re-encounter each other in environments that feel familiar, safe, and human. Relationships take root through repeated exposure — seeing the same faces at weekly classes, exchanging small talk that gradually becomes recognition, then trust.

Theme / Category	Description (what's happening)	Examples / Learning for Future Events	% of Responses (approx.)
1 Regular, Repeated Contact Builds Familiarity	Ongoing weekly or fortnightly classes help people see the same faces, creating comfort and trust over time.	Yoga, X-training, sewing, games, Safe Space and craft groups — all mentioned for familiarity and repeated encounters.	~25%
2 Shared Activity or Purpose (Doing Something Together)	Connection grows through joint focus — crafting, fitness, volunteering, creative pursuits, or co-working. The activity provides a natural social anchor.	Fitness classes, crafternoons, Artist's Way, beer house, book club, co-working, Safe Space, garden volunteering.	~20%
3 Informal Social Time Before/After Events	Conversations over coffee or snacks after classes help people transition from acquaintances to friends.	"Coffee after yoga", "chats before class", "cuppa before events", "stay for coffee afterwards".	~15%
4 Group Chats & Online Follow-up Channels	WhatsApp or Messenger groups sustain contact and invite new members to shared activities outside the event.	Yoga, x-training, beer house, craft groups, Safe Space, games night — "we have a WhatsApp group" came up repeatedly.	~10%
5 Welcoming, Familiar, Repeat Hosts	Facilitators and hosts who intentionally introduce people, create warmth, and sustain a welcoming vibe make attendees feel part of something.	"Facilitator introduced us", "Emma sustained the environment", "welcomed new people regularly".	~10%
6 Seeing People Around the Neighbourhood	Community recognition — bumping into people at the markets, gym, or while walking dogs — reinforces belonging beyond the event.	"See them at the markets", "in my street", "walking around the village".	~7%
7 Shared Life Stage or Common Interests	Friendships spark when people share context — parents, retirees, crafters, musicians, carers, or similar fitness goals.	Parents group, seniors' coffee morning, musicians, carers, dog owners.	~5%
8 Volunteering & Co-creating Something	Working together toward a shared goal creates deeper bonds than one-off attendance.	Volunteering events, Safe Space working group, community garden.	~4%
9 Emotional Safety & Slow-Building Trust	People value the ability to engage at their own pace, without pressure to become friends too quickly.	"Not escalating closeness too fast", "comfortable just in the group".	~2%
10 Cross-pollination Between Groups	Attending multiple LBH activities multiplies the chance of connection and reinforces recognition.	"Met at yoga, see again at beer house", "co-working then other events".	~2%

In Their Words

The data shows that new connections flourish not just because people meet, but because they re-encounter each other in environments that feel familiar, safe, and human. Relationships take root through repeated exposure — seeing the same faces at weekly classes, exchanging small talk that gradually becomes recognition, then trust.



“LBH is providing the exact types of interactions I’m looking for at my current stage of life. I love the inner west already, but I love it even more now I am spending more time here during the week now.”



“I love seeing people I know when I leave the house.”



“No one particular experience, however there is a real sense of connection in this community which makes this home. Thank you.”



“To feel welcomed and part of a strong community makes you feel more confident and the need to do more in the community. You are all looking out for each other and enjoy when you see each other. Nothing beats being part of a great community. I found that here.”

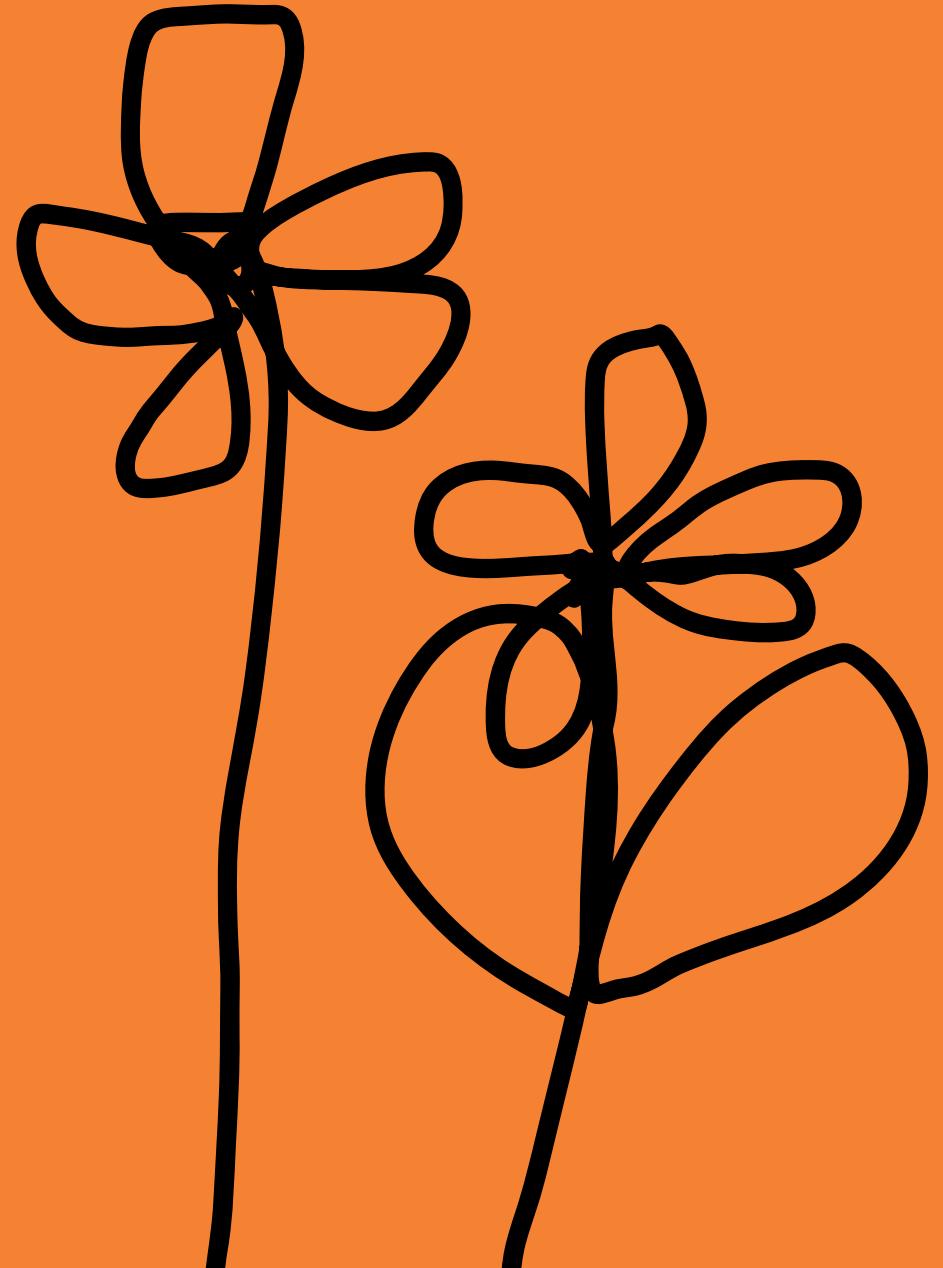
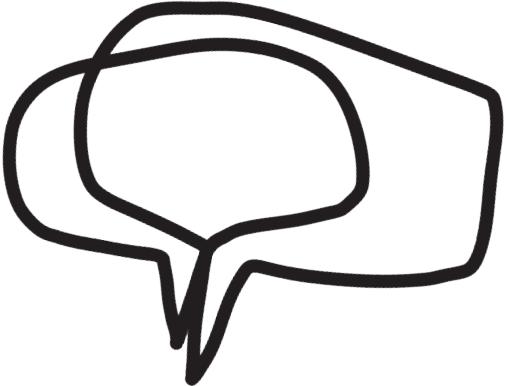
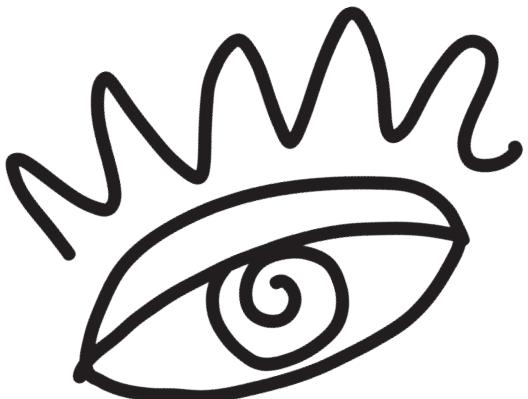


“The local residents are so familiar and caring for my young children that it often feels like we have neighbourhood guardians looking out for them. It feels safe to raise children here. A rarity in an urban area such as Sydney.”



“By extending my friendship groups in the community, I feel safer and less inclined to look for a new space to live in other surrounding suburbs.”

Value of volunteering



Volunteering

Volunteering at the Little BIG House continues to be one of the strongest pathways into deeper connection and belonging. While around one in five respondents were active volunteers or event hosts in the past year, the impact on those who participate is remarkable. Almost 90% of volunteers say their sense of belonging has increased, and nearly 80% have made new friends through the experience, clear evidence that giving your time not only supports others, but enriches your own life too.

Volunteers contribute to a wide variety of ways, from running free or paid events to hosting coworking and supporting parents' and seniors' sessions. What stands out most from the comments is the deep sense of pride, gratitude and joy that comes from being part of something meaningful.

Many describe Little BIG as a "home," a warm and supported experience, and a community where they have gained more than they've given. The comments reflect a group of people who feel valued, connected, and inspired, proof that volunteering isn't just an activity, but a shared culture of kindness, participation and purpose.



89%

of volunteer agree that volunteering at Little BIG has increased their sense of belonging in my community (11% neutral, 0% disagree)



78%

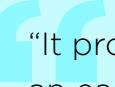
of have made new friends through their volunteering.



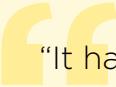
"I love being part of something so positive making change in the community and being face to face with people."



"I feel I have gained more than I have given".



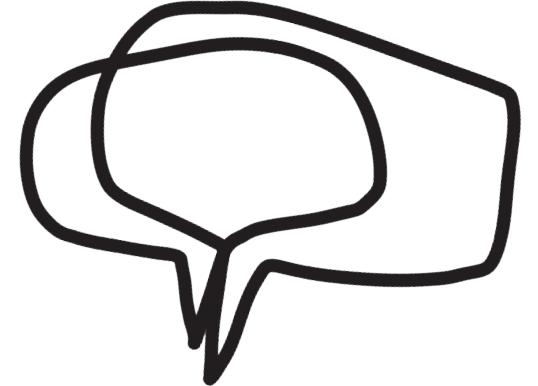
"It provides an easy bridge for us to build into our lives"



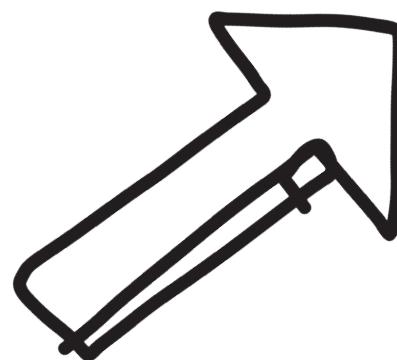
"It has been very rewarding to volunteer at LBH and support a group that has given my child and I so much. Very much appreciate LBHs ongoing support for this much valued and needed group!



"Acta non verba"
(Latin phrase that translates to "actions, not words").



**Community
needs and
desires**



Who attends

Home location



Hyperlocal

The area immediately surrounding the Little BIG House, which is the Flour Mill development.



Local

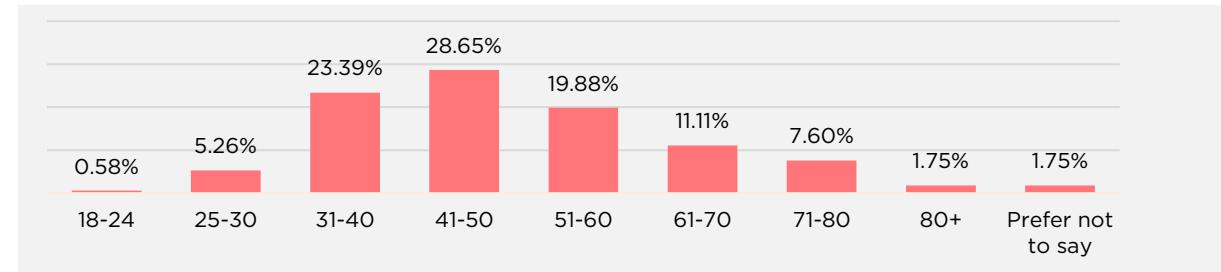
The areas within a short walking distance of the Little BIG House and includes the suburbs of Summer Hill, Lewisham & Dulwich Hill.



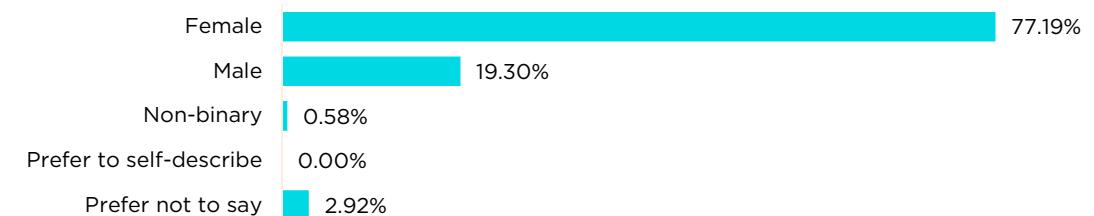
Beyond the local

This refers to the broader Inner West region of Sydney (excluding those who indicated they were 'hyperlocal' or 'local').

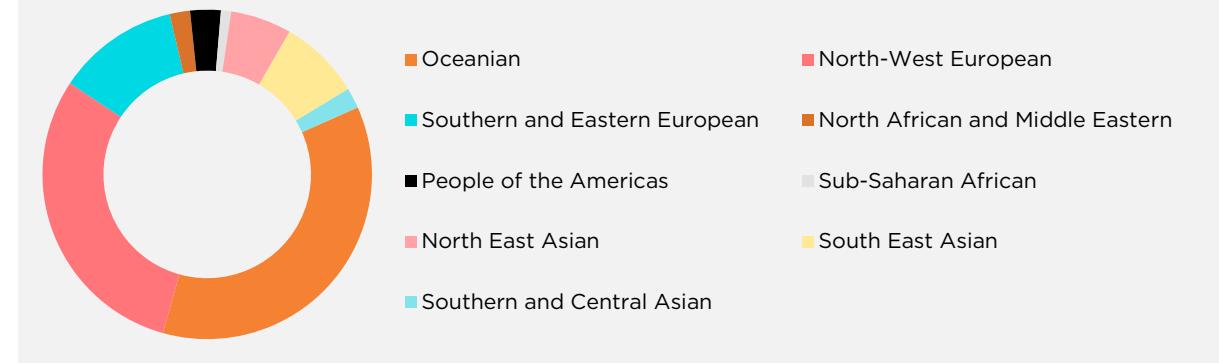
Age group



Gender



Ancestry



Placemaking Programs

Placemaking strengthens the social fabric of the area and reinforce Little BIG's role as the connector that helps communities thrive.

Placemaking events like the Sunday Markets, Food Festival, Halloween celebration and Christmas tree sales are essential to Little BIG's mission because they create genuine opportunities for people to connect in meaningful, low-pressure ways. These moments draw people out of their homes and into shared community spaces, where casual interactions can grow into friendships, support networks and a stronger sense of belonging. They activate the public realm, make neighbourhoods feel alive and welcoming, and ensure that people of all ages and backgrounds can participate in community life — something we know directly contributes to reduced loneliness and improved wellbeing.

These events also showcase the power of community-led activation. By bringing together local businesses, volunteers, families and neighbours in shared experiences, they demonstrate what's possible when people feel ownership of their precinct. They help build trust, visibility and goodwill for Little BIG's ongoing work, while offering an accessible entry point for new volunteers, partners and participants.

“I've met local neighbours who also have the same breed dog as me, so I see them at the local markets on the weekends”

The coming together of kids and families for Halloween was a real highlight. It brought out the best spirit in everyone (adults included!)

“The markets and festivals brings everyone out, young and old and in between. Very relaxed and friendly vibes”.

“Having the markets downstairs in the park is lovely too - sometimes I meet my family in the park in market day and we grab something to eat and have a picnic amongst all the other people there. It provides such a sense of community.”

The markets on the other hand is a nice opportunity to get out with my family in my local community and support local businesses.

Current Program Attendance

Fitness and movement-based activities

consistently draw the largest audiences. Free X-Training, Yoga on Earth, Tai Chi, and Free Yoga together represent a substantial portion of all participation. These sessions are predictable, routine-based, and easy to join week after week—providing both physical wellbeing and a sense of community stability. Their high frequency and strong followings suggest that residents value low-cost, accessible opportunities to stay active with others.

Creative and expressive programs

remain a major part of what people enjoy. Singing Circle, Community Life Drawing, Improv, The Artist's Way, and Book Club all sustain strong, steady participation. These activities create low-pressure environments where people can explore interests, learn new skills, and make meaningful social connections.

The presence of parent-focused and child-friendly programs, especially the combined Kids Club / Movie Club and the Drama & Film Kids Classes, both new in 2025, shows that families see the Little BIG House as a safe and welcoming place to gather after school and on weekends. Parent's Group is particularly strong, reflecting the need for social support and routine connection during early parenthood.

**Data drawn from Little BIG House check-in data which is collected via a QR code in-venue.*



8%

The average number of people (adults and children) attending events at the Little BIG House.



45%

Of the volume (most frequent events) fall into the fitness category.

Current Program Attendance

Event	Ind Events	Avg Adults	Avg Kids
All Ages Women's Singing Circle	14	4	0
AshBUG Bicycle Users Group (AshBUG)	6	6	0
Breastfeeding Mothers' Group	10	4	1
Book Club	11	6	0
Community Crafternoon	9	8	0
Community Life Drawing	17	3	0
Co-Working	38	11	0
Denison Road Community Garden Meetings	6	5	0
Drama and Film Kids Classes	29	8	2
Embodying Authentic Communication	3	4	0
Finding Our Voices	8	4	0
Flour Mill Variety Concert	8	17	0
Free X-training	137	13	0
Free Yoga	45	8	0
G-spot Board Games	23	11	1
Improv Courses	19	7	0
Kids Club - The Weekend Winddown	11	5	3
Life and Death Cafe / Taboo Talk	3	4	0
Life By Design Series	4	17	1

Event	Ind Events	Avg Adults	Avg Kids
Little Beer House	8	9	0
LunaChics Crafternoon	4	10	0
Men's Space Supper Club	7	4	0
Organic Buyers Group	42	8	0
Parent's Group	45	6	2
Safe Space Committee Meetings	5	5	0
Senior's Group	19	7	0
Sewing Class	17	6	0
Shared Reading Group	2	2	0
Singing Circle	44	4	1
Solar Information Night	2	18	0
Sound Meditation	20	8	0
Tai Chi	48	7	0
The Artist's Way Creative Circle	15	7	0
Utopia Rising Events	11	15	0
Vocal Technique & Performance	5	5	0
Walking Group Thursday	4	3	0
Wellness Workshop	6	1	0
Yoga on Earth	94	6	0

Program Preference

Seeking more creative programs

Creative and makers programs (13.6%), along with fitness (13.0%) and gentle movement activities (13.0%), attract the largest share of interest.

Research consistently highlights that regular, low-barrier group activities are among the most effective loneliness interventions, especially those that foster shared focus (“doing together”) rather than forced socialising.

These programs provide both structure and repetition, allowing relationships to form organically over time — a recognised best-practice condition for building trust and belonging.

Cultural, performance, and storytelling activities (14% combined) contribute to collective identity and emotional expression, enabling participants to feel seen and valued within their community — another key best-practice element.

Smaller but significant categories such as self-improvement, specific support programs, young families, and pet-friendly groups illustrate the importance of targeted connection points for people in specific life stages or experiencing transition — groups known to be at greater risk of isolation.

CHOICES	ADJUSTED % (OF 501)
Creative and makers - painting, drawing, craft and textiles	13.57%
Fitness - strength, stretching, functional fitness, walking	12.97%
Gentle movement - yoga, Pilates, tai chi, qigong	12.97%
Mindfulness - meditation, sound healing, breathwork	10.18%
Food and drink - cooking classes, appreciation/tasting groups, food swaps, organic buyers' groups	9.38%
Sustainability - clothing swaps, plant swaps, advocacy groups	8.18%
Performances - live music, performed poetry	6.79%
Culture and diversity - language groups, cultural groups, travel clubs	6.79%
Self-improvement - life skills workshops, budgeting, CV writing, public speaking	4.59%
Specific support programs - menopause support groups, men's mental health, safe space	3.99%
Pet-friendly - dog walking groups, pet training	3.39%
Young families - parent's groups, play-meetups	3.19%
Business events - small business meetups, business networking	2.39%
Tween & youth - any of the above topics but focused for this age group	1.60%
	100%

Program Timing

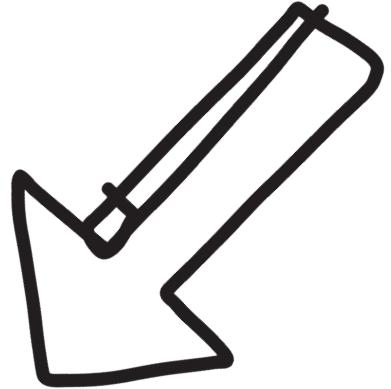
Post-work remains a highest demand time for connection.

The data reveals a clear pattern in community activity preferences, highlighting early evening (5-7pm) as the most popular time for participation across nearly all days of the week. This likely reflects the balance between work and home life, with residents preferring opportunities to unwind and connect after daytime commitments.

Interestingly the mid-morning (9am-noon) is well utilised by key demographics of parents/carers of young children, retirees. These events are smaller in numbers but important programs.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Very early (6am-8am)	21%	16%	18%	13%	17%	7%	7%
Early morning (8am-9am)	7%	7%	4%	6%	7%	11%	11%
Mid morning (9am-noon)	13%	15%	13%	16%	12%	17%	20%
During lunch (noon-2pm)	8%	8%	8%	10%	8%	15%	16%
Afternoon (2pm-5pm)	8%	7%	8%	7%	8%	20%	19%
Early evening (5pm-7pm)	22%	23%	24%	24%	27%	18%	16%
Later in the evening (7pm-9pm)	20%	22%	24%	23%	21%	12%	11%

Appendix



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Objectives

This community survey has four areas of focus:

- 1 To measure and compare changes in social connection in the Little BIG House community over time.
- 2 To identify opportunities to increase the impact for community members over time.
- 3 To understand the value of the Little BIG House and whether it has an impact on the decision-making of community members to stay in the community.

The survey results are supplemented by desktop research, Little BIG event attendance data and observations from successful programs.

This report contains a summary of the most material findings of the survey analysis.



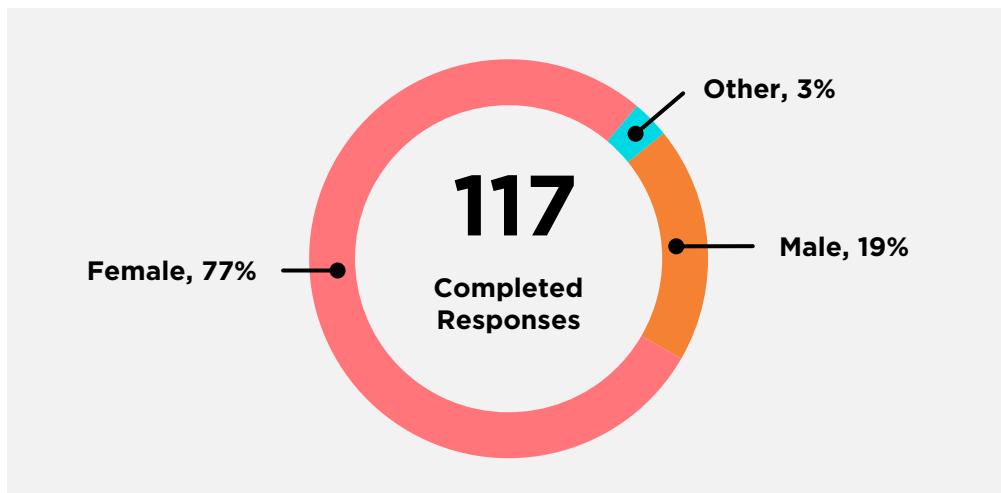
SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Survey methodology

In 2022, the baseline survey instrument was developed in collaboration between Social ventures Australia and Little BIG Foundation in 2022, using a combination of bespoke questions and questions linked to existing national datasets. Each year, additional questions are added, subtracted or replaced with the core set of questions remaining the same.

The survey was distributed and promoted by the Little BIG Foundation staff, volunteers and hosts. It was open for a period of 3 weeks in October 2025.

The final survey sample included:



This includes a mixture of residents of the local community as well as people who live in other communities but use the Little BIG House. The sample includes coverage across multiple age groups, living situations and dominant gender groups but it is worth noting that male responses were underrepresented.

We acknowledge that there are several biases which may be present in this research, including the small sample size and social desirability/confirmation bias. That said, we note that the results are presented factually, regardless of their impact on the Little BIG Foundation.

This report should be read in the context of its intended purpose as described above. It has been specifically designed to inform the work of the Little BIG Foundation and the level of rigour applied to the data collection and analysis is proportional to its intended purpose.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Key definitions

The following terms are used throughout the report to describe the communities who access the Little BIG House. Survey results are filtered in several places in this report based on questions about where the respondent lives.

Hyperlocal Community

This refers to the area immediately surrounding the Little BIG House, which is the Flour Mill development.

Local Community

This refers to the areas within a short walking distance of the Little BIG House and includes the suburbs of Summer Hill, Lewisham & Dulwich Hill.

Inner-West Community

This refers to the broader Inner West region of Sydney.

Placemaking events

This refers to large-scale outdoor events which encourage passive community interaction and the use of public outdoor spaces, often with a commercial component which people can partake in as they desire.

Little BIG House events

Small-scale events held both inside and outside the Little BIG House which focus on bringing people together over shared niche interest areas.