



Southland local government reorganisation investigation – Overview of phase 1 community survey findings

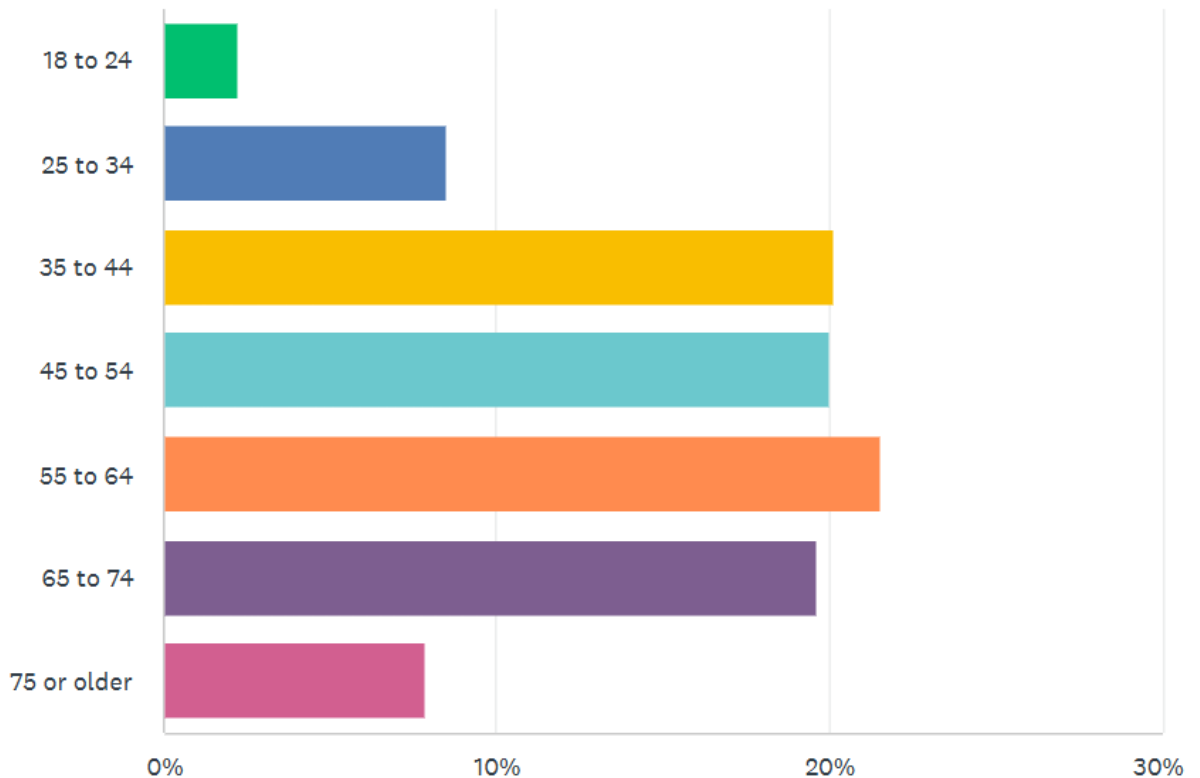
The Local Government Commission carried out an online community survey as part of phase 1 of its investigation into local government reorganisation in Southland.

The survey was designed to explore community views on local identity, current council structures and decision-making preferences, along with factors that may influence support or indicate lack of support for any reorganisation options that might be considered in future phases of the investigation.

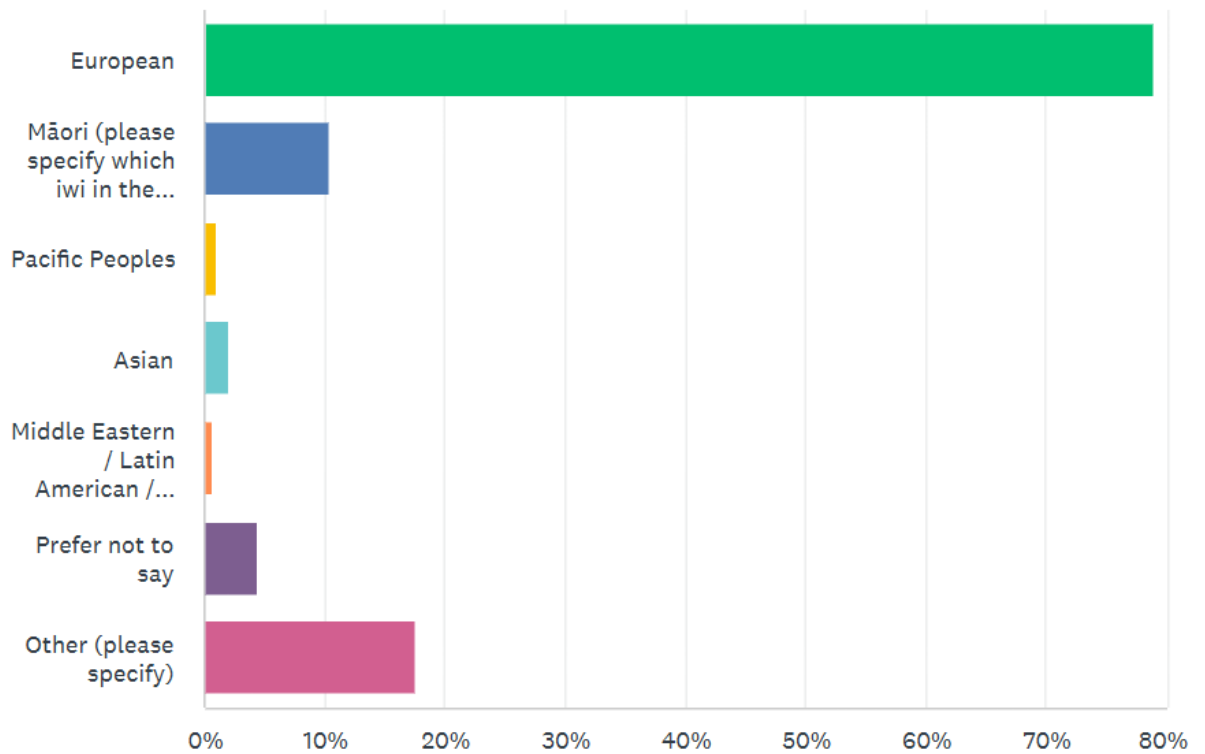
The survey was open from 3 March to 22 April 2026, with 939 responses received.

This document sets out an overview of the community survey findings. It does not include open-text responses.

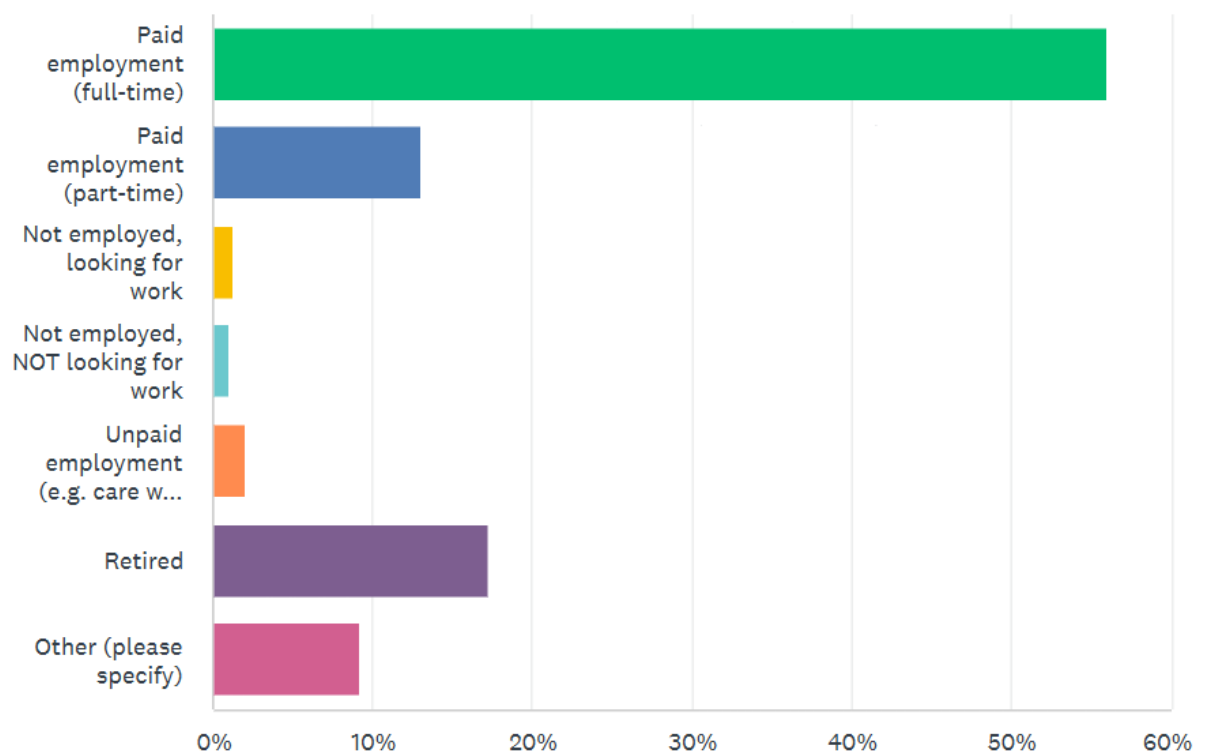
1. What is your age?



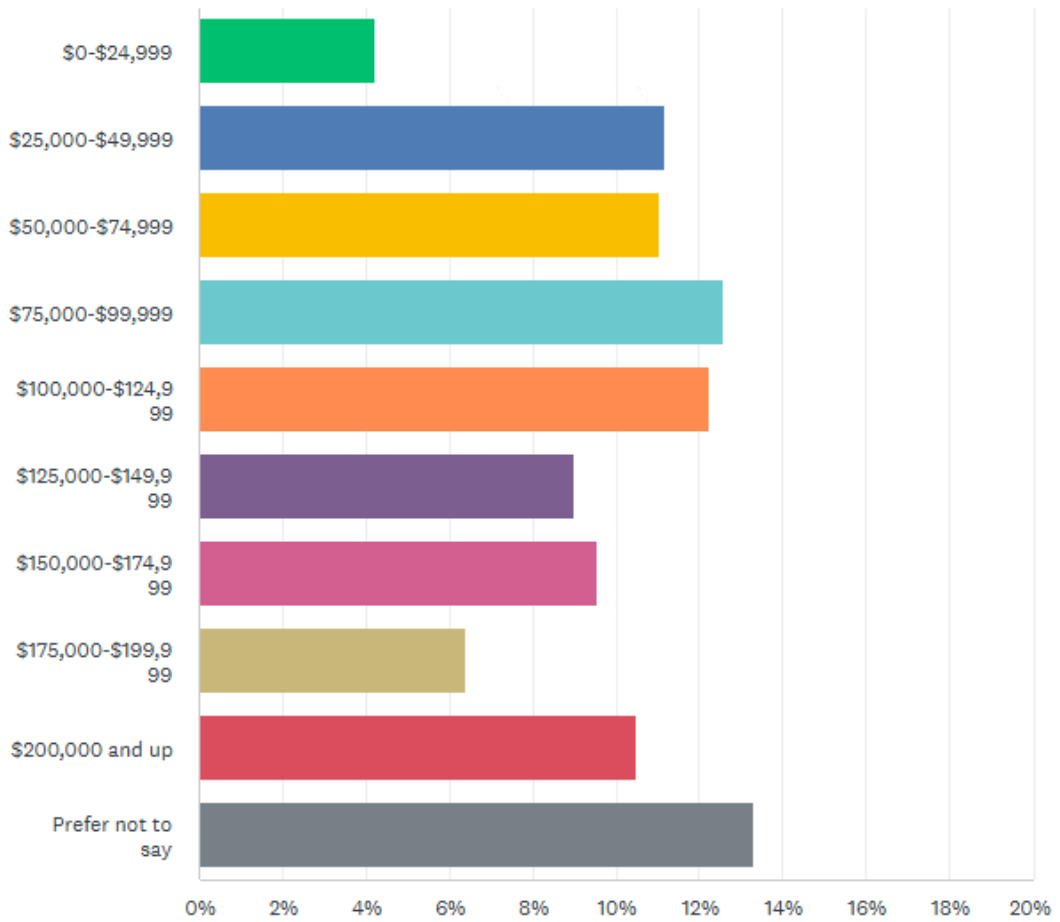
2. What is your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply)



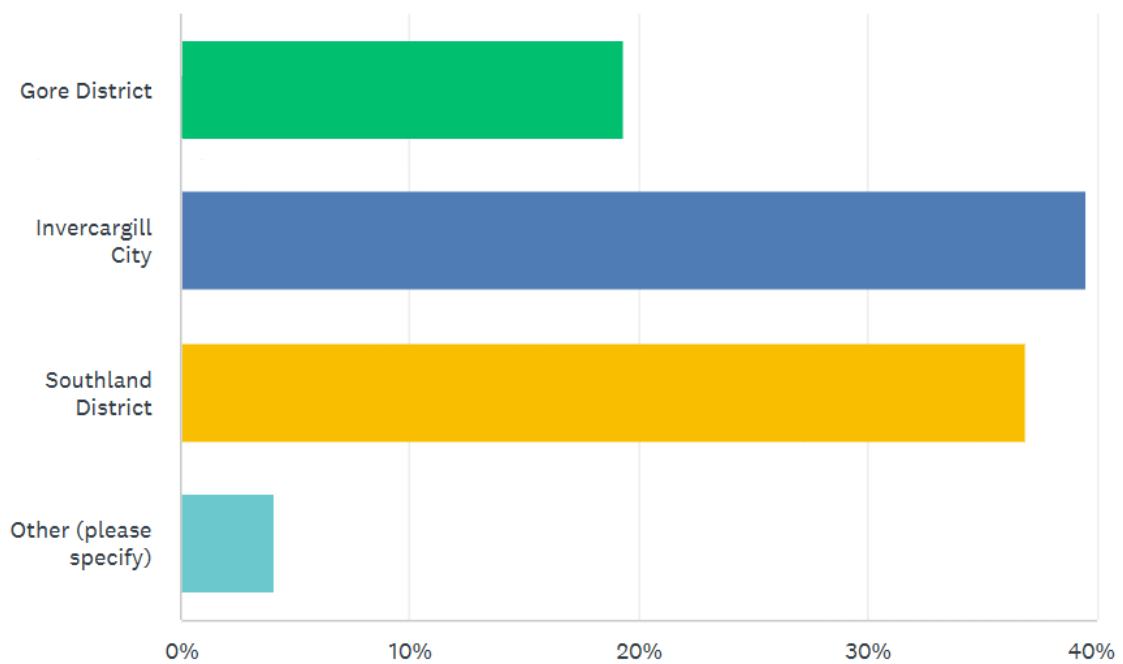
3. Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?



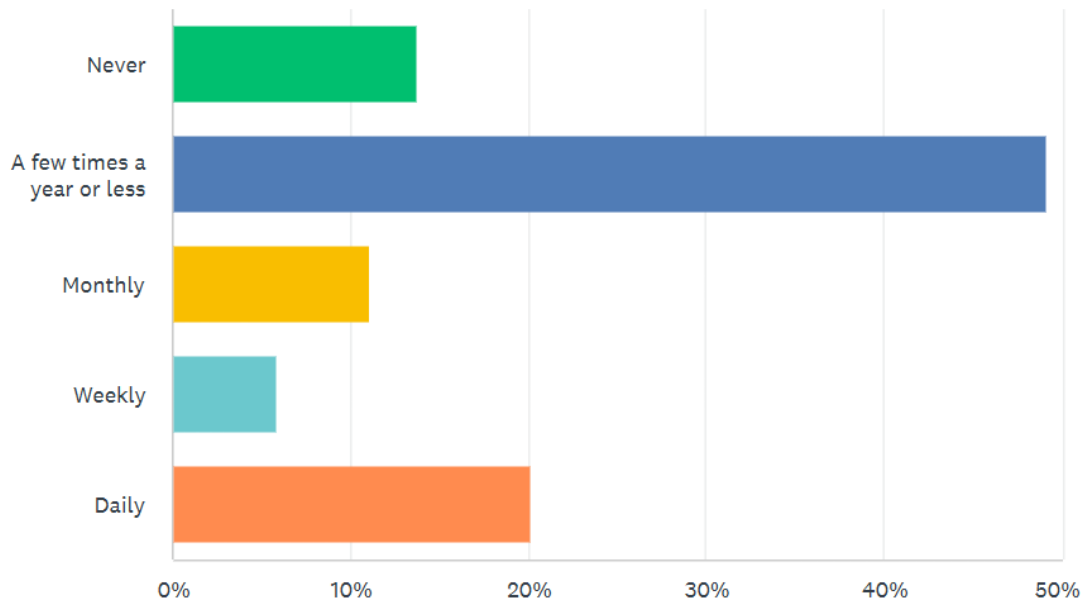
4. What is your approximate average household income?



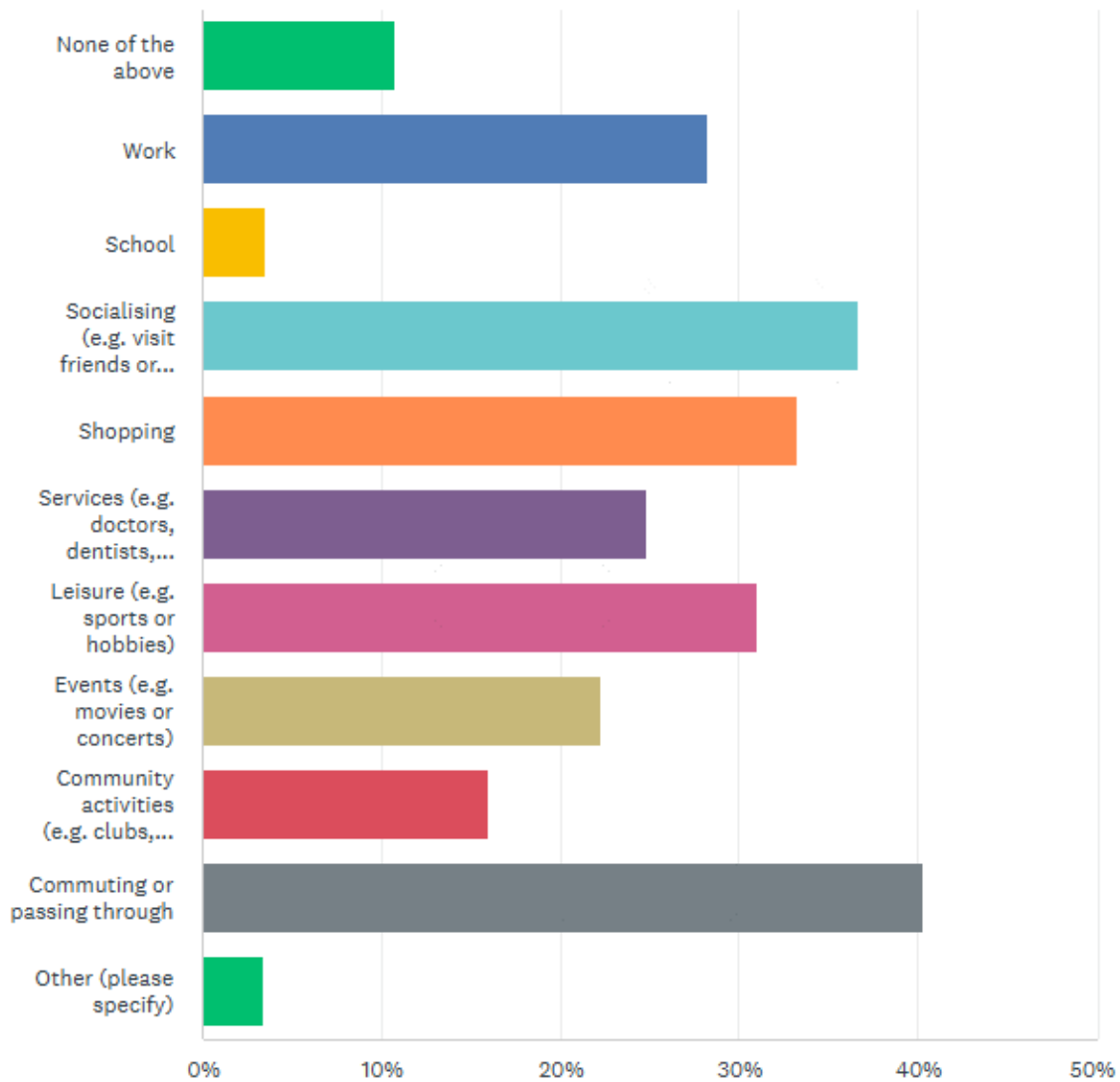
5. I live in:



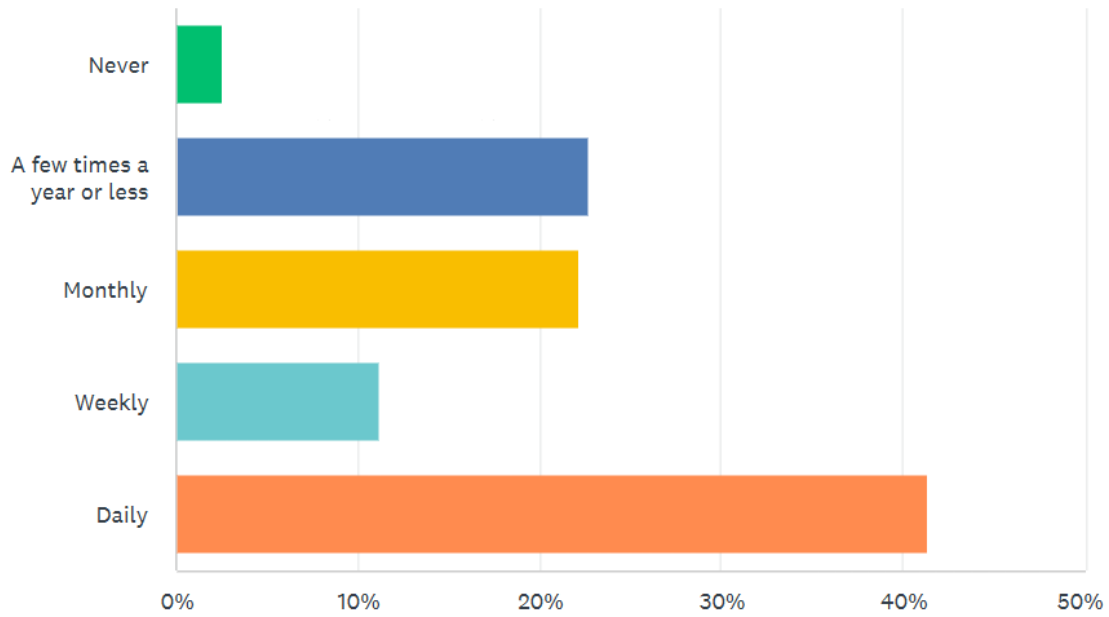
6. I spend time in Gore District:



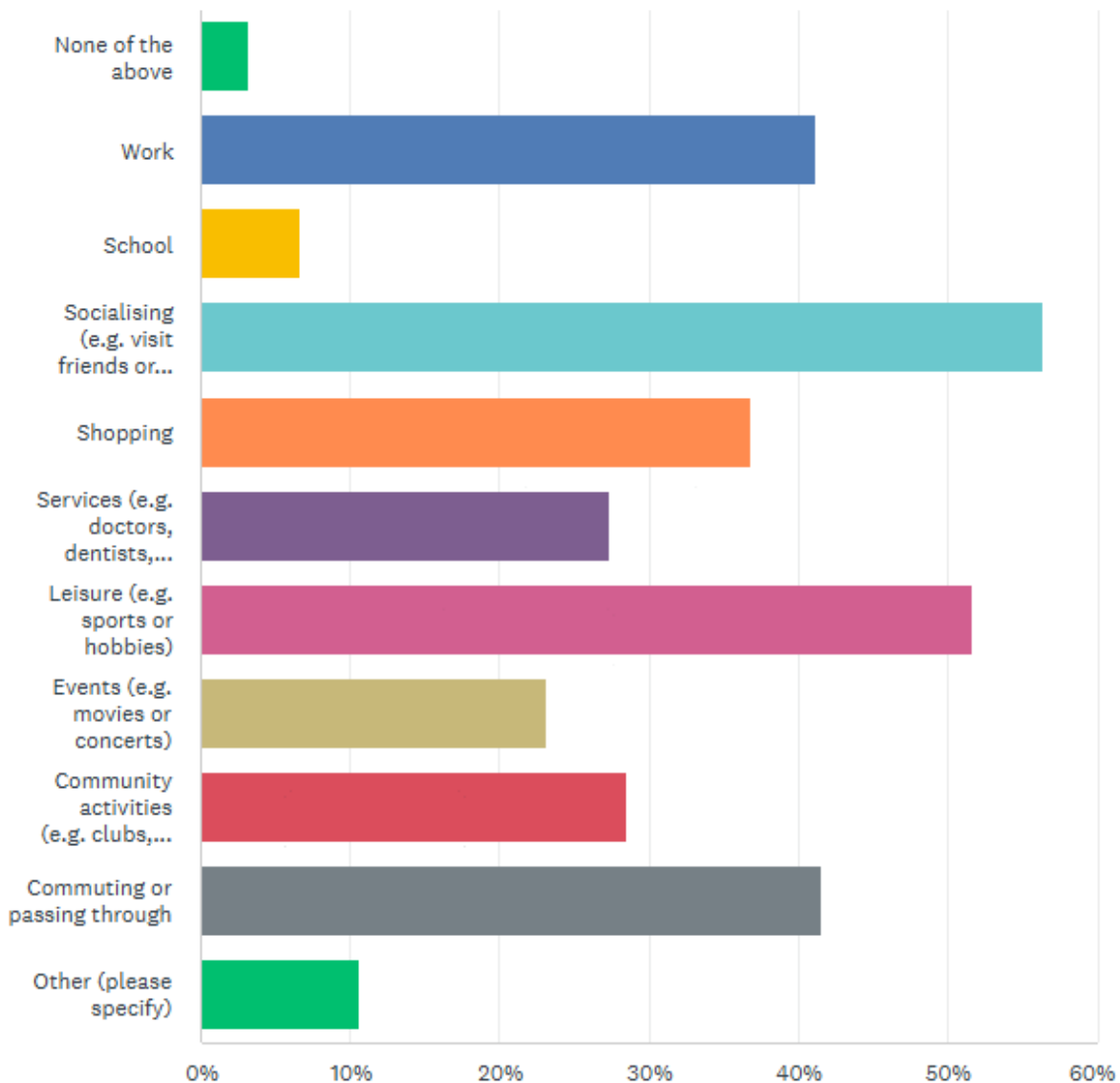
7. I spend time in Gore District for:



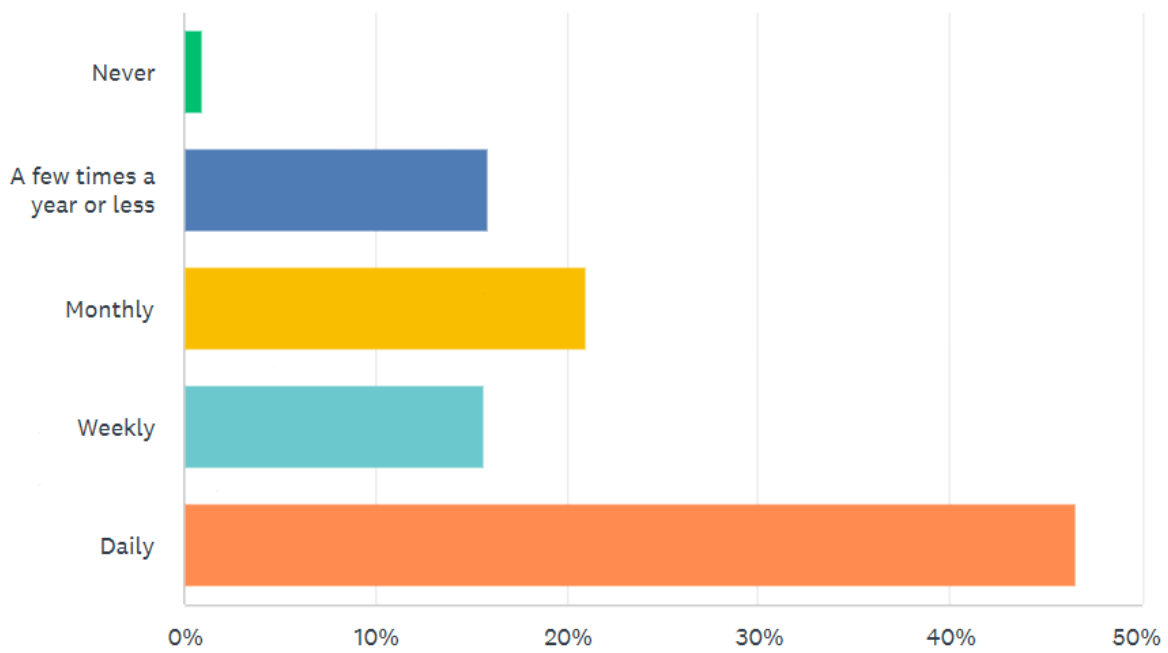
8. I spend time in Southland District:



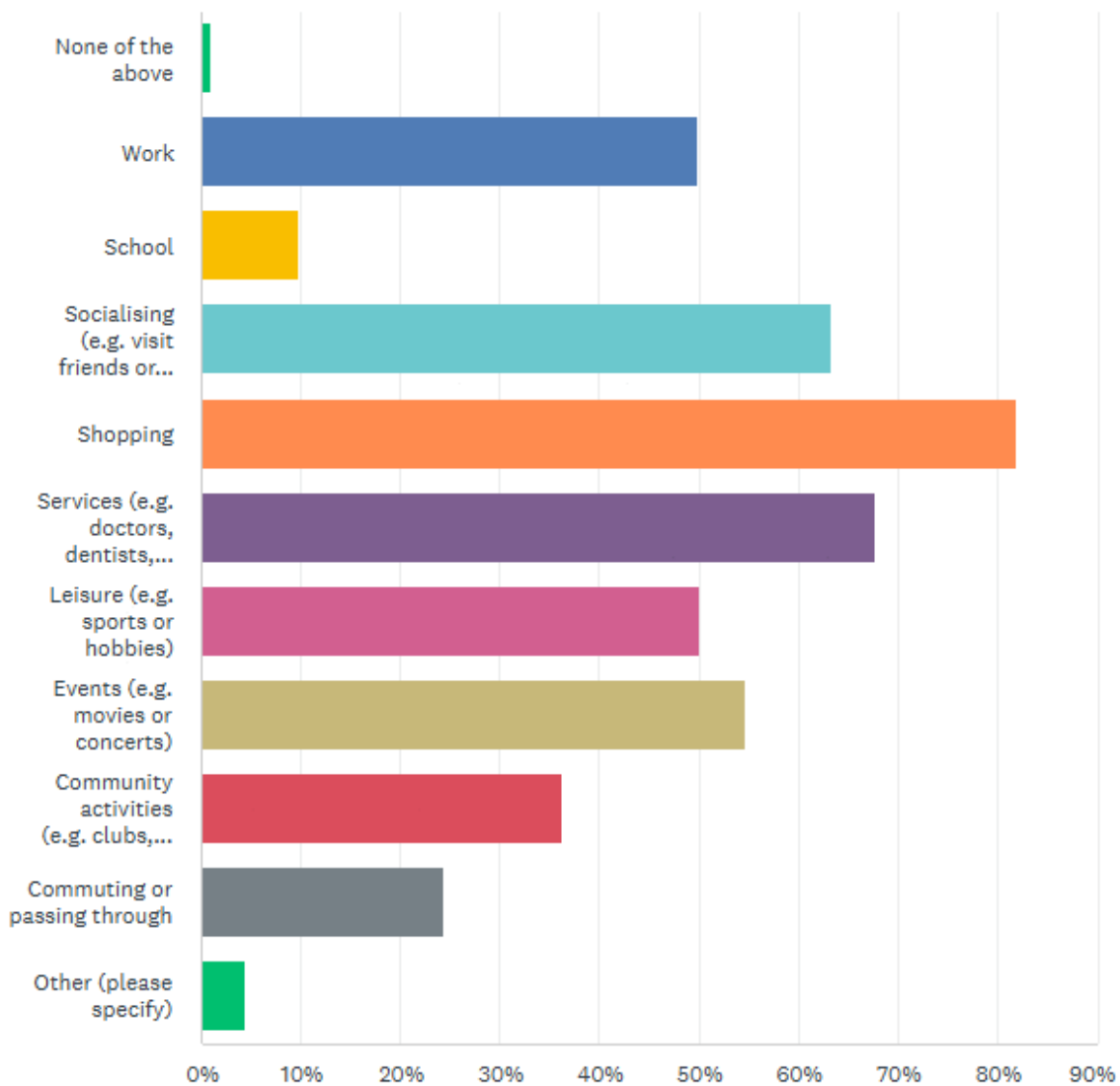
9. I spend time in Southland District for:



10. I spend time in Invercargill City:



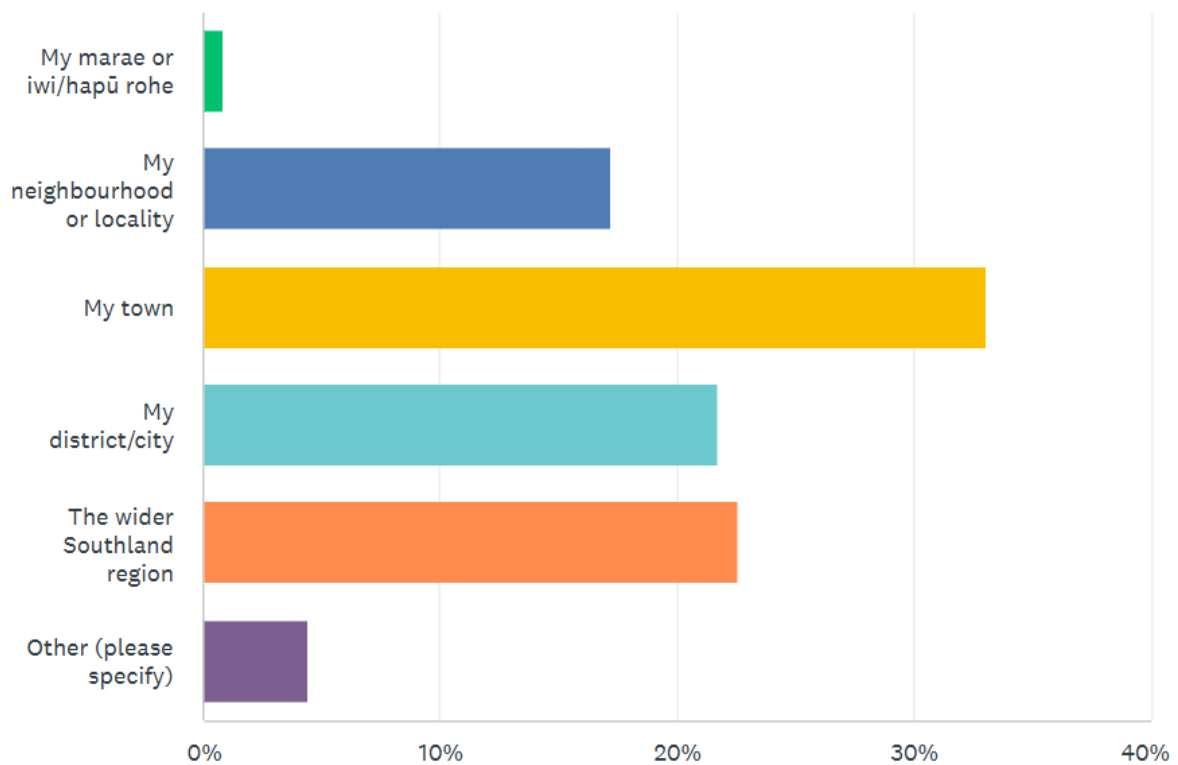
11. I spend time in Invercargill City for:



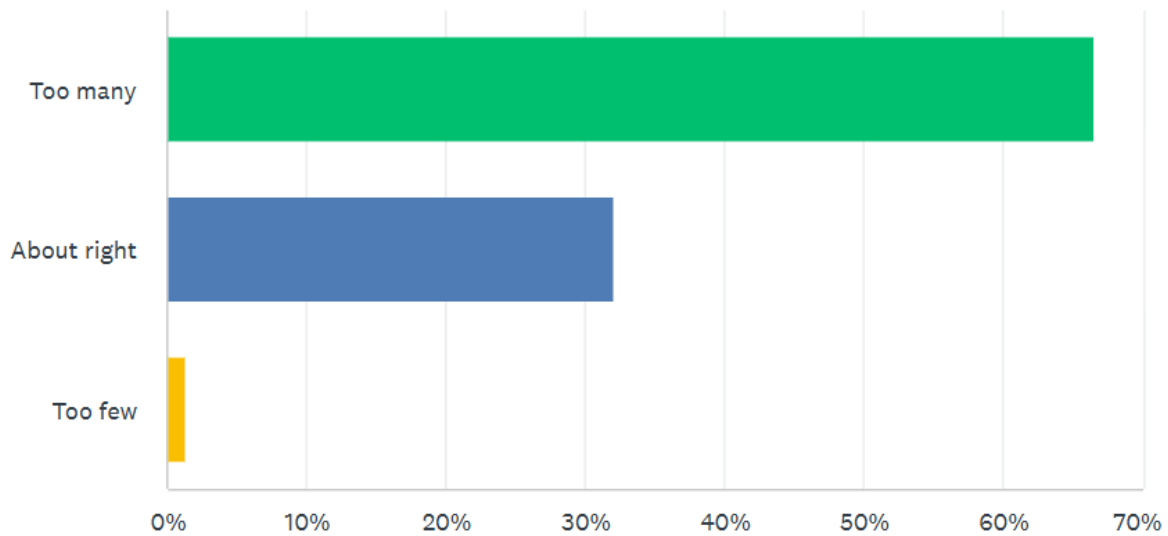
12. Thinking about the area you live in, how strongly do you feel a sense of belonging to each of the following:

	STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING	SOME SENSE OF BELONGING	NEUTRAL	LITTLE SENSE OF BELONGING	NO SENSE OF BELONGING	TOTAL
Gore District	18.96% 150	16.43% 130	22.63% 179	14.79% 117	27.18% 215	791
Invercargill City	35.42% 288	26.08% 212	17.10% 139	11.44% 93	9.96% 81	813
Southland District	42.36% 341	27.95% 225	16.27% 131	7.08% 57	6.34% 51	805
Southland Region	58.04% 444	22.48% 172	11.24% 86	4.58% 35	3.66% 28	765

13. What type of place do you consider to be your main community?



14. Do you think the current number of councils in Southland is:



15. In Southland, where should decisions about these matters be made?

	IN MY LOCAL COMMUNITY (E.G MY NEIGHBOURHOOD, VILLAGE OR TOWN)	IN MY WIDER LOCAL AREA (E.G. NEARBY SUBURBS OR TOWNS)	IN CURRENT COUNCIL AREAS (GORE DISTRICT, INVERCARGILL CITY AND SOUTHLAND DISTRICT)	ACROSS SOUTHLAND REGION AS A WHOLE	NOT SURE	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Infrastructure (roads and footpaths, water, stormwater, wastewater)	27.65% 224	16.54% 134	39.75% 322	51.23% 415	1.36% 11	810
Community services (parks, playgrounds, libraries, community centres, community events)	40.97% 329	20.05% 161	39.85% 320	32.00% 257	0.87% 7	803
Economic development (local economic growth and promoting local businesses)	23.85% 191	14.11% 113	30.84% 247	62.30% 499	2.37% 19	801
Planning and regulation (land use, building control, alcohol licensing, public health inspections, dog control)	21.38% 171	10.88% 87	36.25% 290	55.25% 442	2.25% 18	800

	IN MY LOCAL COMMUNITY (E.G MY NEIGHBOURHOOD, VILLAGE OR TOWN)	IN MY WIDER LOCAL AREA (E.G. NEARBY SUBURBS OR TOWNS)	IN CURRENT COUNCIL AREAS (GORE DISTRICT, INVERCARGILL CITY AND SOUTHLAND DISTRICT)	ACROSS SOUTHLAND REGION AS A WHOLE	NOT SURE	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Environmental management (looking after rivers, flood control, air quality, soil erosion)	17.38% 139	10.00% 80	22.38% 179	75.63% 605	1.38% 11	800
Emergency management (Civil defence preparation, response and recovery)	21.47% 172	12.61% 101	25.97% 208	74.28% 595	0.50% 4	801
Use of natural resources (use fresh water, land, air coastal waters)	20.85% 167	11.61% 93	23.72% 190	73.03% 585	1.50% 12	801
Marine issues (harbour navigation and safety, oil spills and marine pollution)	12.22% 98	6.86% 55	18.70% 150	77.68% 623	3.74% 30	802
Transport (planning regional transport and public transport services)	18.31% 147	13.70% 110	31.63% 254	64.76% 520	2.12% 17	803

