



Home Safety Pulse

2026

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General Manager
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Foreword

At RACV, improving the lives of Victorians is at the heart of everything we do, and we want everyone to feel safe in their community and in their home.

RACV captures community sentiment on home safety to ensure RACV's advocacy reflects the issues that matter most to Victorians

The Home Safety Pulse results remind us that safety is complex and deeply personal. It is experienced differently depending on where people live, their circumstances, and what they see happening around them. While many Victorians feel safe, others are feeling less secure than they did in the past, reinforcing the importance of thoughtful, evidence-based action.

RACV will share these findings and engage with the Victorian Government to advocate for policies and initiatives that support safe homes and strong communities across the state. We believe this work is an important step in ensuring every Victorian can feel safe where they live.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their experiences and help to guide RACV advocacy for safer homes and communities.

Liz Carey

General Manager Corporate Affairs

How we listened to you

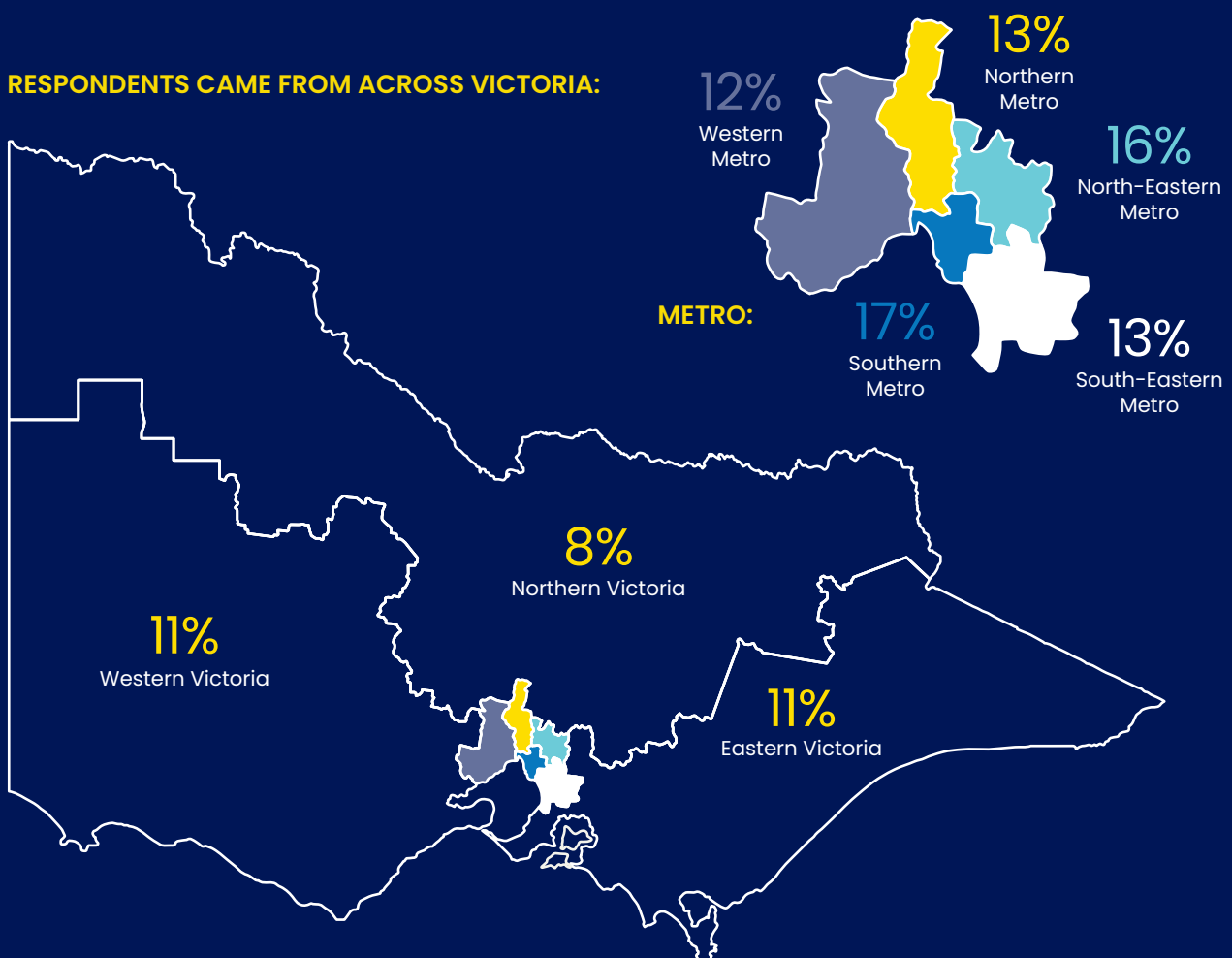
In November 2025, RACV launched the Home Safety Pulse, inviting all Victorians to share how they felt about safety in their home and community, what influences those feelings and what more can be done to help people feel safer where they live.

Covering almost 450 postcodes, RACV heard from more than 5,000 Victorians, including people who live on their own, with their family and empty nesters, as well as those living in different types of housing, from apartments to regional properties. The survey captured views from Victorians living in metropolitan and regional areas.

Many factors affect how safe people feel, from home security technology, to being aware of local crime rates, or the strength of community connection.

The results create a picture of how safe Victorians feel, what they are prioritising in terms of making their homes safer and what support they need. We will share these results with the Victorian Government and advocate for every Victorian to feel safer in their home.

RESPONDENTS CAME FROM ACROSS VICTORIA:





5,300
responses

representing
441 postcodes
in Victoria



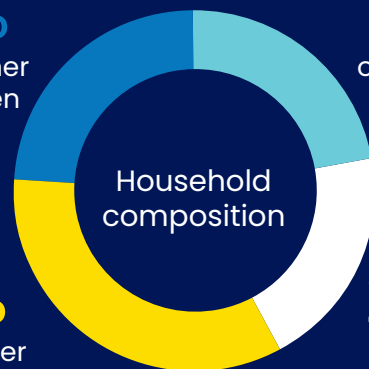
70%
Metro



30%
Regional

24%
with a partner
and children

22%
on their own



34%
with a partner

20%
other



53%
Female



44%
Male



73%
live in a
house



17%
live in an
apartment
or unit



9%
live in a
townhouse

Home safety perceptions

One in five Victorians don't feel safe at home

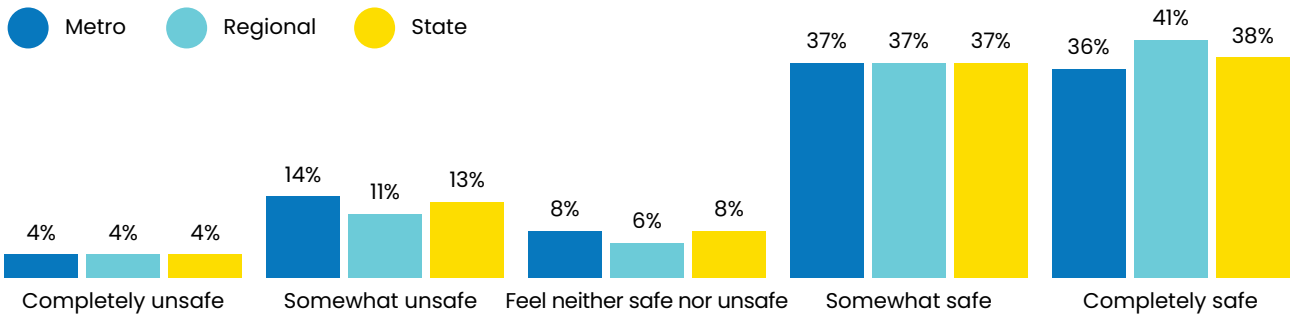
Home safety isn't just about locks and alarms, it's about how Victorians feel when they are in their homes. Homes should be a place of comfort and security. Safety perceptions can be shaped by people's physical environment, personal experience and what they see around them. Feeling less safe at home can affect how people use their space, from how well they know their neighbours, to how connected they feel to their community.

Most Victorians told us that they feel somewhat or completely safe at home, however this sense of security is not shared equally across the community. There is a

portion that are concerned about safety and feel unsafe when they are at home.

The findings show that feeling unsafe at home is not confined to a single group or location. Differences across metro and regional areas and household types reinforce that safety is deeply personal and influenced by context. While many Victorians continue to feel safe, the presence of a significant minority who do not, underscores the importance of understanding not just crime rates, but how safety is perceived.

HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU ARE HOME?



	Completely unsafe	Somewhat unsafe	Feel neither safe nor unsafe	Somewhat safe	Completely safe
Victoria	4%	13%	8%	37%	38%
North-Eastern Metro	5%	14%	8%	37%	36%
Northern Metro	3%	10%	8%	39%	39%
South-Eastern Metro	5%	14%	8%	40%	33%
Southern Metro	4%	14%	9%	35%	39%
Western Metro	6%	16%	9%	38%	31%
Eastern Victoria	5%	11%	8%	38%	38%
Northern Victoria	3%	14%	5%	38%	40%
Western Victoria	4%	10%	6%	36%	44%



Apartment dwellers feel safest

People living in apartments were more likely to report that they feel safe at home, with 79% saying they feel either somewhat or completely safe, compared with 76% of those living in townhouses and 74% of those living in houses. This pattern may reflect the perceived benefits of higher-density living. Apartment living reflects proximity to neighbours and shared spaces. This may foster feelings of reassurance and informal surveillance. While housing type alone does not determine safety, this suggests that social and environment factors shape how safe people feel in their home.

Looking back:

RACV's 2024 My Home survey asked Victorians to rate their home safety (with most interpreting safety as personal safety or protection from crime). 40% said they felt completely safe at home, while 2% said they felt completely unsafe. Fewer Victorians now report feeling safe and more say they feel unsafe at home, highlighting a concerning change in how safety is experienced in Victoria.

2024
40%
 said home was completely safe, and
2% felt completely unsafe

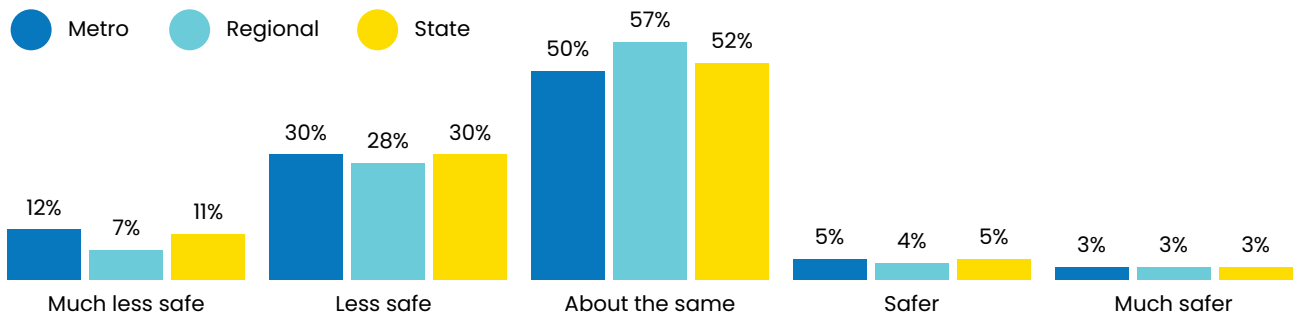
2026
38%
 said home was completely safe, and
4% felt completely unsafe

A third of Victorians feel less safe in their home compared to 12 months ago

Around one in three Victorians say they feel less safe in their home than they did 12 months ago. This change in perception reflects what the community is seeing and hearing around them. Public discourse about crime

across Victoria and the rising rates of property offences in some areas can amplify concern, even for people who have not experienced crime directly.

DO YOU FEEL MORE OR LESS SAFE IN YOUR HOME COMPARED TO 12 MONTHS AGO?



	Much less safe	Less safe	About the same	Safer	Much safer
Victoria	11%	30%	52%	5%	3%
North-Eastern Metro	12%	31%	51%	4%	2%
Northern Metro	7%	26%	54%	8%	5%
South-Eastern Metro	12%	31%	49%	5%	2%
Southern Metro	14%	32%	47%	5%	3%
Western Metro	15%	30%	48%	5%	3%
Eastern Victoria	8%	32%	54%	3%	3%
Northern Victoria	7%	25%	59%	6%	2%
Western Victoria	5%	27%	60%	4%	4%





We asked respondents to tell us what contributed to them feeling more or less safe in their home, compared to 12 months ago

While crime statistics in Victoria show that incidents have increased in recent years, perceptions of safety are not uniformly negative. Half of Victorians told us their sense of safety has stayed the same over the past year and over a third say they feel less safe. A smaller proportion reported feeling safer, linking this to practical steps they have taken in their homes such as improving home security.

These findings highlight the complex relationship between public discourse and personal experience. While public discussion is clearly shaping how some Victorians feel, many households continue to feel confident in their homes, particularly where they have strong security measures, routine habits and good community connections.

THOSE WHO FEEL LESS SAFE:



94%

attributed this to crime increasing



32%

to a neighbour experiencing a crime



14%

to a personal experience of crime

THOSE WHO FEEL SAFER:



50%

attributed this to improving their home security



31%

to someone in their household spending more time at home



21%

to being connected with Neighbourhood Watch

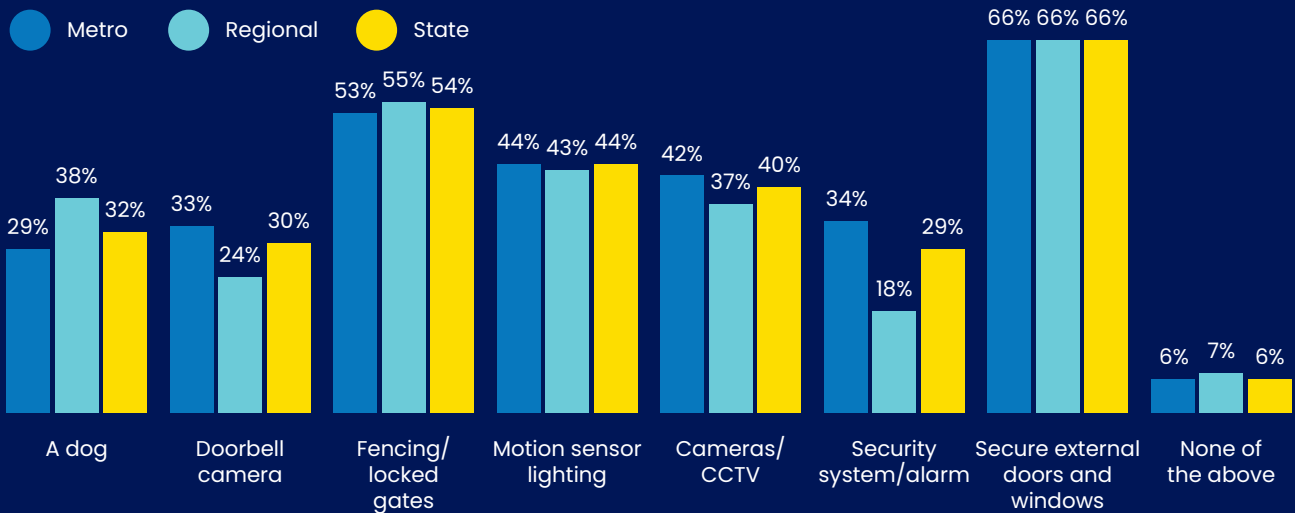
Home security and safety habits

More than half of Victorians feel they have a secure home, with strong external doors and windows, fencing and locked gates

The Home Safety Pulse shows that Victorians are security-conscious and have taken practical steps to secure their home. For most households, security starts with the fundamentals: secure external doors and windows, fencing and locked gates. These practical measures are common and demonstrate the role that physical barriers play in protecting households. When it comes to additional security features, uptake is lower. Fewer than half of Victorians report having features such

as motion sensor lighting or doorbell cameras despite these options being relatively low-cost and easy to install. This suggests that while many households prioritise core security measures, fewer are taking the next step to add extra layers of protection that can improve visibility and provide peace of mind.

WHAT SECURITY FEATURES DO YOU HAVE AT HOME?



Interestingly, people who feel safest at home are more likely to rely on these core security features alone. While they report high levels of secure doors and windows, they are less likely to have additional measures such as cameras or CCTV, a doorbell camera, motion sensor lighting or a security system.

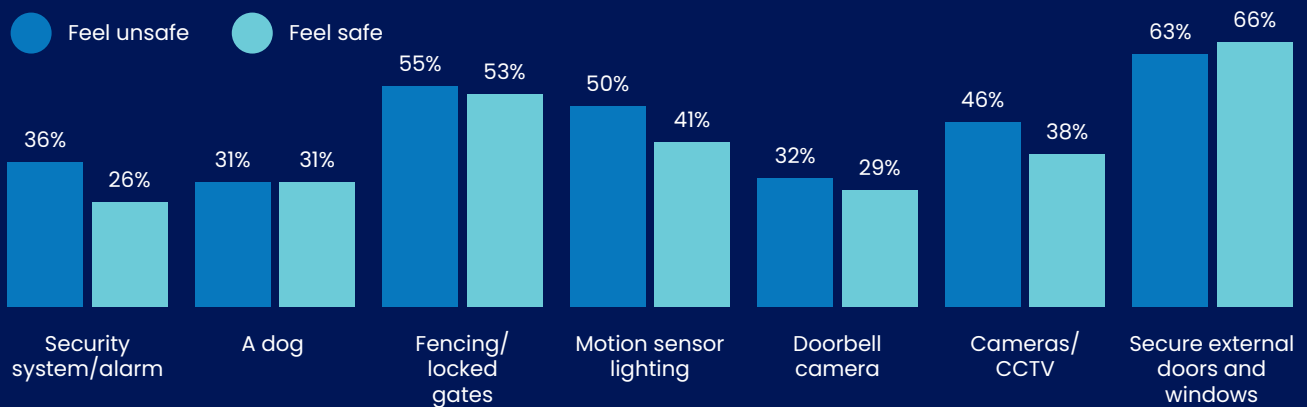
This may suggest that feeling safe may reduce the perceived need for extra security. When people feel confident in their community and in their home, or have not experienced crime, minimum physical security may feel sufficient.

Safety may also be reinforced by routine habits, knowing neighbours and a perception that the risk of crime is low or manageable.





HOME SECURITY FEATURES



In contrast, people who feel less safe at home are more likely to invest in physical or technology-based security measures, such as cameras, lighting and security systems, to provide added reassurance. These measures may help people regain a sense of control when their sense of safety has been challenged.

This difference highlights how perceptions of safety influence behaviour. People tend to respond to risk when they feel it most acutely. Those who already feel secure

may prioritise simple, reliable measures, while those who feel more at risk seek additional layers of protection.

The findings show that most Victorians have taken steps to secure their homes, with the majority reporting having between two and four security features in place. It also highlights there are opportunities for households to consider additional ways to secure their home.

HOME SAFETY BEHAVIOURS



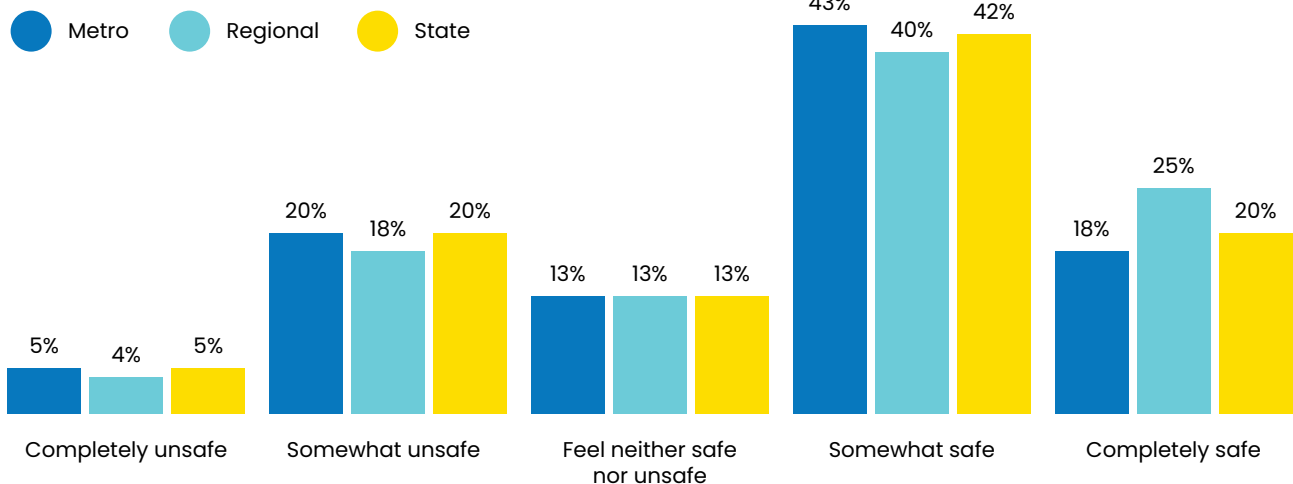


Safety in the community

A quarter of Victorians feel unsafe when out and about in public spaces in their local community

Victorians' sense of safety extends beyond their front door and into the streets, parks and shared spaces that make up daily life. While four in ten Victorians (42%) feel somewhat safe when out and about in their local community, a quarter say they feel unsafe. This highlights that while most Victorians navigate their neighbourhoods with a sense of reassurance, there is a small proportion who are concerned about safety in their community.

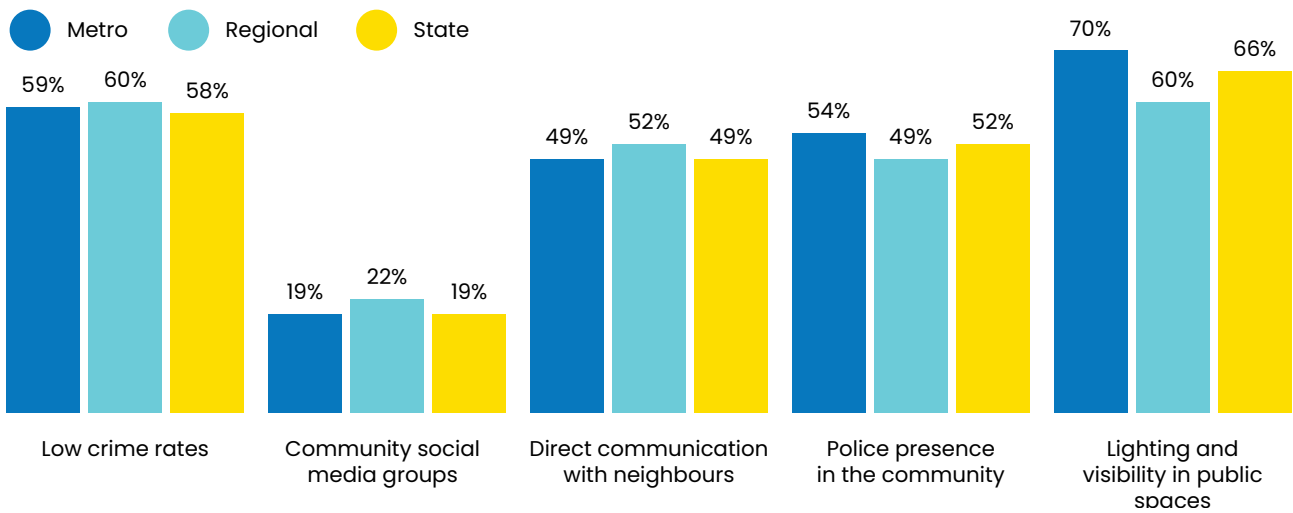
HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE COMMUNITY?



When asked what makes them feel safer in their local community, Victorians pointed to a mix of factors. For both metro and regional respondents, low crime rates were consistently linked to stronger feelings of safety. However, other factors that contribute to feeling safe in the community vary depending on where people live. In metro areas, respondents placed greater value on physical features and visibility. Good lighting, clear sightlines and a visible police presence in public spaces were more strongly associated with feeling safe when out and about. In busy urban environments, where people are more likely to move through shared spaces at different times of the day and night, these features can provide reassurance and help people feel more confident navigating their neighbourhood.

For those living in regional Victoria, community connection played a more prominent role in shaping feelings of safety. Knowing neighbours, feeling connected to the local community, and staying informed through social media or community networks were all important contributors. These connections can foster trust, shared responsibility and a sense that people are looking out for one another, which helps reinforce safety beyond provided services or infrastructure.

WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL SAFER IN THE COMMUNITY?



Community safety is experienced differently across Victoria, shaped by the diversity of people’s daily routines and interactions.

heighten vigilance. Strong community connections such as knowing your neighbours and feeling comfortable in shared spaces, play an important role in reinforcing both safe communities and safe homes.

These feelings are closely linked to how safe people feel at home: confidence in the community can strengthen a sense of security indoors, while local concerns can





Vehicle security at home

One fifth of Victorians are not confident that their vehicle is secure when parked at home

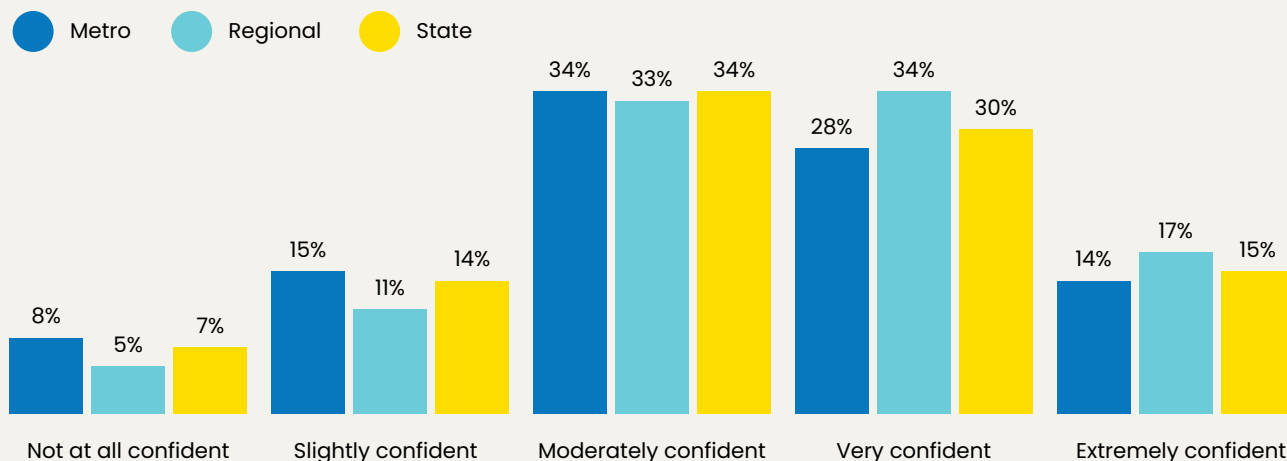
Concern about vehicle security is growing. Recorded motor vehicle theft in Victoria has risen sharply in recent years, reaching its highest level in more than two decades. Vehicle theft from private residences and driveways remains common, reinforcing that vehicle security is closely tied to how safe people feel at home.

Despite these trends, Victorians remain confident about the security of their vehicle when it is parked at home. More than four in ten respondents said they feel very or extremely confident that their vehicle is secure at home, those living in regional areas and households

with children feel particularly confident. This confidence is likely linked to access to off-street parking, familiarity with neighbours and established routines that help people feel in control of their surroundings.

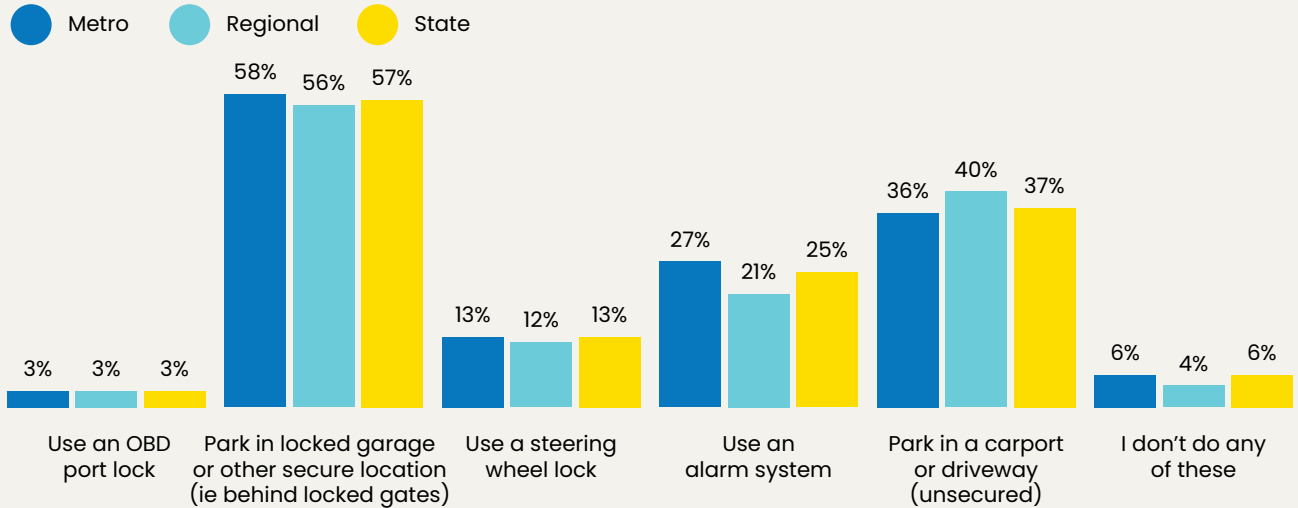
The use of additional security measures such as steering wheel locks or aftermarket alarm systems was far less common. This suggests that many households rely heavily on parking location and the standard security features of the vehicle, rather than layered security, to protect a highvalue asset that is essential to daily life.

HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU THAT YOUR VEHICLE IS SECURE WHEN YOU'RE AT HOME?



Almost six in 10 Victorians have access to secure parking; other security features are less common

WHAT ACTIONS DO YOU TAKE TO KEEP YOUR VEHICLE SECURE?



Note: Respondents were asked to think about one vehicle only when answering questions about vehicle security. As many Victorian households own more than one vehicle, this may understate the complexity of how people manage vehicle security at home and the different risks faced by each vehicle in a household.





Victorian government action

Almost half of Victorians want more financial support to strengthen home security

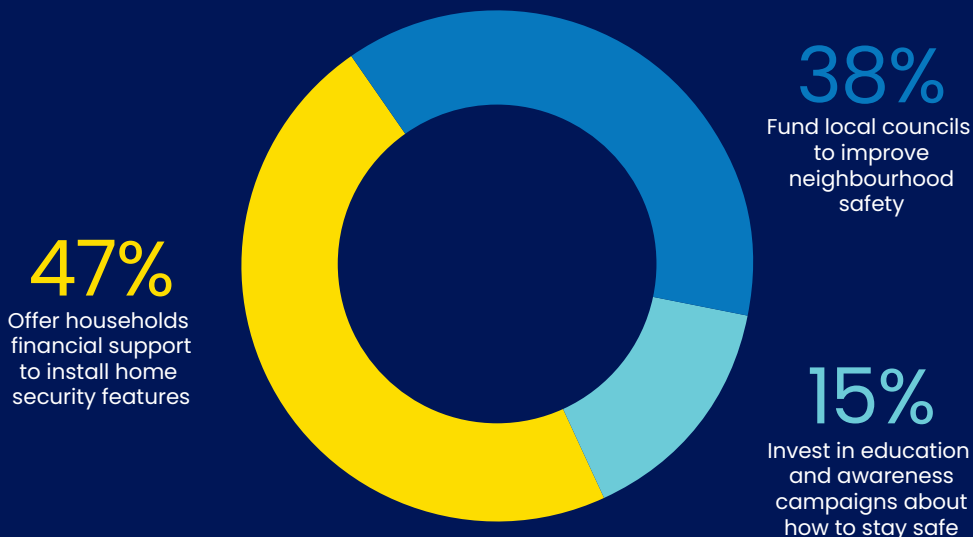
To understand what would help people feel safer in their own homes, respondents were asked to choose one action they would like the Victorian Government to take. They were presented with three options:

- funding local councils to improve neighbourhood safety
- investing in education and awareness campaigns about how to stay safe at home
- offering households financial support to install home security features.

The most popular option was financial support to install home security features, chosen by almost half of respondents. This could include home security upgrades such as alarms, cameras, lighting or more secure doors and windows.

Preference for financial support highlights that Victorians are seeking practical, immediate ways to make their homes safer. It also points to an opportunity for government action that directly supports households to strengthen home security, particularly at a time when cost-of-living pressures are making it harder for people to invest in preventative safety measures on their own.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT DO THE FOLLOWING TO HELP ME STAY SAFE AT HOME. SELECT ONE.



53%

Regional respondents would like to see the Victorian government offer households financial support

45%

Who live in apartments or units would like to see the Victorian government fund local councils to improve neighbourhood safety



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