

**Embargoed Until Monday 6 April 2009**



## **2008 Quality of Life Survey**

### **DUNEDIN RESULTS**

#### **Quality of Life**

94% of Dunedin residents felt that they had a positive overall quality of life, compared with 92% of 12 cities' residents. Up 2% from 2006.

#### **Health and Well-being**

87% of Dunedin residents rated their overall health positively, compared to 88% of 12 cities' residents. Down 4% from 2006.

85% of people living in Dunedin rated their 'satisfaction with life in general' positively, compared to the overall 12 cities result of 88%. Down 6% from 2006.

#### **Crime/Safety**

Of the 12 cities surveyed, Dunedin residents were most likely to feel safe or very safe in their local neighbourhoods after dark (71%) and in their homes after dark (96%). Down 7% and 1% respectively from 2006.

59% of Dunedin people indicated that they felt safe in the city centre after dark, compared to the 12 cities average of 53%. Down 7% from 2006.

Dunedin residents were significantly more likely to feel their local neighbourhood is safe for children under 14 years to play unsupervised (82.5%). This compares with the 12 cities' average of 75%.

#### **Community, Culture and Social Networks**

54% of Dunedin residents felt a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood. Down 5% from 2006.

61% of Dunedin residents thought that a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood was important. Down 8% from 2006.

Dunedin residents were significantly more likely to have perceived greater cultural diversity positively at 64%. Down 2% from 2006.

The majority of Dunedin residents (83%) rarely felt lonely or isolated in the last 12 months. This compares favourably with the national average across the 12 cities (84%).

78% of Dunedin residents thought that the city had a culturally rich and diverse arts scene. Down 8% from 2006.

#### **Council Processes**

Of the 12 cities' residents, Dunedin people were least likely to express a desire to have more of a say in what their Council does at 43%. Up 2% from 2006.

Just under half Dunedin residents have confidence in their Councils decision-making process, with 47% stating that they had confidence that their Council made decisions that were in the best interest of their city. Down 8% from 2006.

39% of Dunedin residents agreed with the statement "Overall, I understand how my Council makes decisions". This compares with an average of 38% for the other 12 cities. Down 7% from 2006.

### **Built Environment**

71% felt a sense of pride in the way Dunedin looked and felt. Down 1% from 2006.

Nine in ten (90%) of Dunedin residents find it easy to get to a local park or green space. This compares favourably with the 12 cities (91%).

44% of Dunedin residents stated that rubbish or litter lying about on the streets had not been a problem, compared to 54% of 12 cities residents. Down 9% from 2006.

46% of Dunedin residents stated that graffiti or tagging had not been a problem, compared to 38% of 12 cities residents.

78% of Dunedin residents stated that air pollution had not been a problem over the last 12 months, compared to 80% of 12 cities' residents. Down 2% from 2006.

### **Public Transport**

One in ten (10.7%) of Dunedin residents regularly use public transport (twice weekly or more). This compares with one in eight residents nationally.

53% of the Dunedin residents who do not use public transport regularly, state that they prefer to use private transport. This compares with 45% for the other 12 cities.

54% of residents agreed that public transport in Dunedin was affordable, while 82% stated that it was safe and 72% thought it was convenient. There was a significant increase in those who thought it was convenient and a decline in those who thought it was affordable from 2006.

### **Lifestyle**

Residents of Dunedin were more likely (78%) to be satisfied with their free time, compared to 12 cities' residents (75%). Up 2% from 2006.

At the time of the survey just under half (46%) of Dunedin residents were employed fulltime (work 30 hrs/week or more). 22% were in part time work and 28% of residents were not in paid employment and are not looking for work.

76% of the residents in paid employment were happy with their work/life balance. This compares with 78% nationally.

### **For further information contact:**

Jim Harland

Quality of Life Project Sponsor/ Chief Executive

Dunedin City Council

Phone: (03) 474 3851

Cell phone: 0274 593 522

Email: [jharland@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:jharland@dcc.govt.nz)