

NSW Health – Bega Valley Shire Survey

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Research
Centre

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Social Research Centre was commissioned by NSW Health to conduct a telephone survey with residents of the Bega Valley Shire, on the issue of fluoridation of the public drinking water supply – a highly sensitive issue with opinion divided within the Bega Valley Shire community.

We understand from our communications with NSW Health that, at present, a portion of households in the Bega Valley Shire receive a fluoridated water supply. NSW Health and the Bega Valley Shire Council are in discussion about increasing the portion of households that receive a fluoridated water supply but as yet (at the time of writing) no decision has been reached.

We present this report as a source of information for both parties to consider in the course of ongoing discussions. The Social Research Centre remains impartial on the issue and therefore this report is presented as a factual document – we have made no attempt to provide recommendations as to how NSW Health, or the Bega Valley Shire Council, should proceed.

The report details the process by which the survey was executed and details the results from the survey. Data tables, charts and graphs are provided to assist with understanding the survey results.

Key results

More than half of Bega Valley Shire residents surveyed rely on the public water supply as their normal source of drinking water (57.5%). The second most common source of drinking water reported was 'rainwater' (24.6%).

The survey centred on a single question, aimed at deriving a measure of community sentiment in relation to the issue of fluoridation of the public drinking water supply. In response to the question '*Do you agree with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to try to prevent tooth decay?*' 66.2% responded 'yes'. Twenty-eight per cent (28.4%) responded 'no'. Just over five per cent (5.2%) were unsure and less than one per cent (0.2%) preferred not to respond to the question. From this distribution of responses, we deduce that nearly all Bega Valley Shire residents have an opinion on the issue – and were willing to share that opinion as part of the survey.

Respondents who reported their main source of normal drinking water to be the public supply were significantly more likely to be in agreement with the suggestion of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply (77.1%), in comparison with respondents who have another normal source of drinking water such as bottled water, a combination of different sources or something else (51.5%).

No statistically significant differences in response to this core question were observed between respondents based on their length of residency in the Bega Valley Shire area, level of education, or whether there are children living in the household.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background to the research

Bega Valley Shire, situated in the south-east corner of NSW, comprises around 17,500 households¹. Some, but not all, households in the region currently receive a fluoridated drinking water supply. NSW Health is encouraging Bega Valley Shire to consider expanding fluoridation to more households in the region.

Bega Valley Shire Council has conducted extensive community consultation on this issue. Council is seeking to determine whether the majority of residents are in favour of, or opposed to, fluoridation of the drinking water supply, in order to reach a decision about the proposal put forward by NSW Health.

NSW Health instigated a survey of residents of the Bega Valley Shire, to measure community sentiment on the issue of fluoridation and commissioned the Social Research Centre to conduct the survey.

1.2. Research objectives and methodology

The primary aim of the survey was to better understand community opinion towards the fluoridation of the public drinking water supply. To this end, NSW Health devised the following question, as the centrepiece of the survey:

'Do you agree with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to try to prevent tooth decay?'

Survey respondents were able to answer 'Yes', 'No', 'Don't know' or 'Refused'.

The question had been used previously as part of the department's NSW Population Health Survey and was agreed with the Bega Valley Shire Council prior to commencing the survey. A second question devised by NSW Health asked respondents for their normal source of drinking water.

In addition to these two core questions, survey respondents were asked a range of demographic questions including gender, age, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, level of educational attainment, employment status, main language spoken at home and household composition.

These questions were asked to enable the sample to be profiled and to ensure an accurate representation of Bega Valley Shire residents. Data has been weighted to more accurately reflect population parameters based on gender, age by education and telephone status.

Fieldwork was conducted over two evenings, from the 12th to 13th December 2017. The average survey length was 3 minutes and 48 seconds. 500 Bega Valley Shire residents over the age of 18 completed the survey. Potential respondents were asked to confirm the postcode where they usually live to ensure all respondents reside within the region. For landline telephone numbers any household member over the age of 18 was eligible to participate. For mobile telephone numbers the survey was conducted with the phone owner. Contact details were purchased from the commercial sample provider SamplePages. Telephone numbers were selected at random.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016) 'Bega Valley (A)'

1.3. About this report

Data weighting

Demographic questions were asked to ensure an accurate representation of Bega Valley Shire residents in the research. As telephone numbers were dialled randomly, residents who chose to participate did not necessarily reflect the population. To more closely resemble the population profile, data has been weighted by population parameters based on gender and age by education. Data has also been weighted by respondents' telephone status to ensure an accurate representation of households that can be contacted by landline, mobile, or both landline and mobile telephone. Table 1 below details the relevant population proportions in comparison to the original sample achieved and the final weighted data proportions.

Population statistics were sourced from the National Health Survey² and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)³. All charts and tables in this report show survey estimates that have been weighted in this manner.

Table 1 Population, unweighted and final weighted data by demographics

	Population		Sample		Final weighted data	
	%	n	%	n	%	
Age						
<i>18 to 34</i>	17	31	6	83	17	
<i>35 to 54</i>	30	130	26	148	30	
<i>55 to 74</i>	42	255	51	210	42	
<i>75 and above</i>	12	82	16	57	11	
<i>Don't know / refused</i>	-	2	1	-	-	
Gender						
<i>Female</i>	52	313	63	258	52	
<i>Male</i>	48	187	37	242	48	
Education						
<i>Bachelor Degree</i>	18	113	23	89	18	
<i>No bachelor degree</i>	82	370	74	395	82	
<i>Don't know / refused</i>	-	17	3	-	-	
Telephone status						
<i>Mobile only</i>	37	183	37	185	37	
<i>Landline and mobile</i>	56	272	54	280	56	
<i>Landline only</i>	7	44	9	34	7	

² Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016, *National Health Survey 2014-15*, TableBuilder. Findings based on use of ABS TableBuilder data

³ Australian Communication and Media Authority. (2011). Communications report 2010–11 series Report 2 – Converging communications channels: Preferences and behaviours of Australian communications users

Statistical significance

Significance testing has been conducted at the 95 per cent confidence interval using the effective base sizes. This means that when a difference is described as being 'significant' one can be 95 per cent confident that the difference is real and not due to random sampling variation. Statistically significant differences have been specifically mentioned in text, where they exist as being 'significant', but otherwise should be regarded as non-significant. Statistically significant differences are indicated by * in figures next to the greater value.

Analysis

Responses of 'don't know' and 'refused' are included in analysis but are not displayed in all figures and tables. Unweighted base descriptions are provided for each figure and table. Base sizes less than 30 are not reported to ensure reliability of results. For some questions, percentages displayed in figures and tables may not sum to 100 per cent due to rounding or particular response options, such as 'refused', not being displayed. In all charts and tables, responses with a value of less than one per cent are not displayed.

Privacy principals

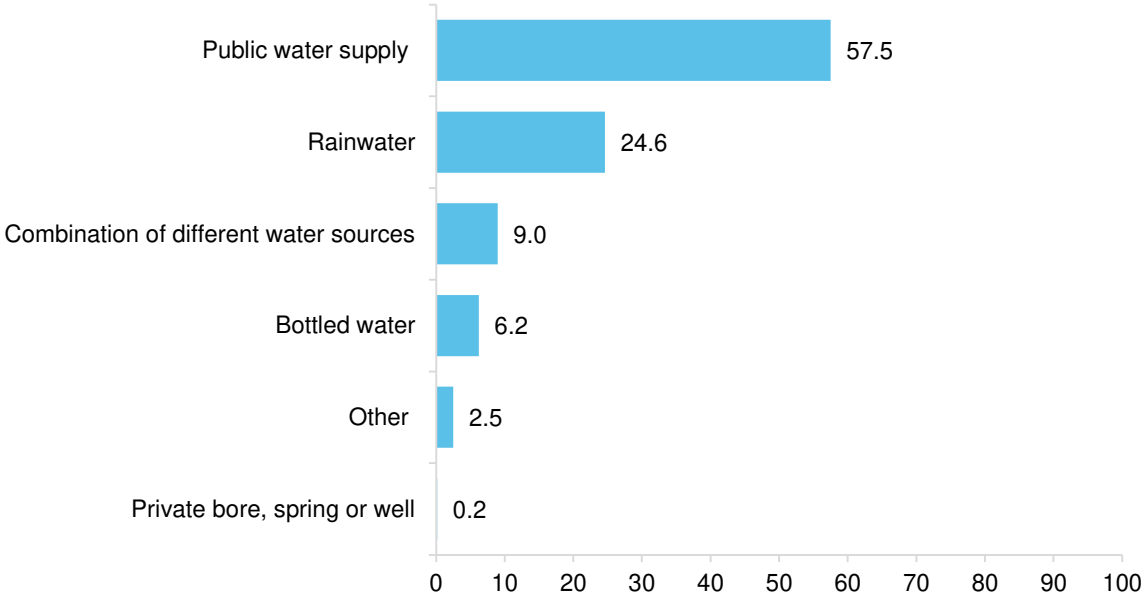
This research has been undertaken in accordance with the Privacy Act (1988) and the Australian Privacy Principles contained therein, the Privacy (Market and Social Research) Code 2014, the Australian Market and Social Research Society's Code of Professional Practice, and ISO 20252 standards.

2. Characteristics of respondents

2.1. Normal source of drinking water

More than half of respondents reported their normal source of drinking water as the public water supply (57.5%) as shown in Figure 1. More than one fifth (24.6%) of respondents rely on rainwater for their normal source of drinking water. Smaller proportions of Bega Valley Shire residents surveyed reported their normal source of drinking water to be bottled water (6.2%), a combination of different water sources (9.0%) or something else such as a creek or farm dam (2.5%). All respondents provided their normal source of drinking water.

Figure 1 Normal source of drinking water (%)



SOURCE. What is your normal source of drinking water?
Base: All respondents (n= 500)

2.2. Demographics

2.2.1. Gender and Age

Of the sample, 51.6 per cent are female and 48.4 per cent male. In line with the population profile, 16.5 per cent of respondents are aged between 18 and 34 years. Just under 30 per cent of respondents are aged between 35 and 54 years (29.6%) and more than half of respondents are aged 55 years and over (53.4%). Less than one per cent of respondents chose not to provide their age (0.5%).

2.2.2. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) origin

Slightly less than five per cent (4.8%) of respondents identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin with less than one per cent (0.5%) choosing not to respond to this question.

2.2.3. Highest level of education achieved

Slightly less than half of respondents completed primary or secondary school only (43.5%). A further 35.5 per cent have completed a trade, apprenticeship, TAFE or other technical Certificate or Diploma. 17.9 per cent had a tertiary qualification such as a bachelor or post-graduate degree. Less than five per cent (3.1%) of respondents selected another type of education level or chose not to respond to the question.

2.2.4. Employment status

Just under half of respondents are currently in paid employment (47.7%). More than one third of respondents are retired or on a pension (38.3%). Six percent (6.3%) of respondents reported their main activity as 'home duties', 2.4 per cent unemployed, and 1.9 per cent studying at the time of the survey. Less than 1 per cent (0.7%) chose not to answer the question.

2.2.5. Languages other than English (LOTE) spoken at home

Only a small proportion of respondents speak a language other than English at home (2.7%). Languages spoken included French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Maltese, Polish and Tagalog.

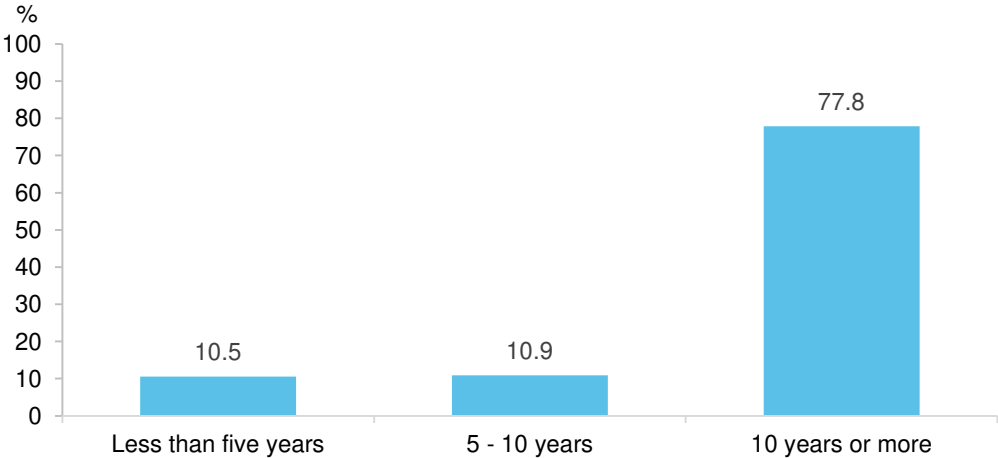
2.2.6. Household composition

The most common household composition is a couple living alone (37.1%) followed by couples with dependent children (23.5%). Individuals living alone made up 17.9 per cent of the sample. No other household composition accounted for more than five per cent of the sample.

2.2.7. Length of residency in the Bega Valley Shire

Respondents were asked how long they have lived in the Bega Valley Shire area. The majority of respondents (77.8%) reported living in the Bega Valley Shire area for ten years or more (Figure 2). Just under eleven per cent reported living in the Shire for five to ten years (10.9%) and just over 10 per cent (10.5%) had been living in the Shire for less than five years. Less than one per cent of respondents chose not to respond (0.7%).

Figure 2 Length of residency in Bega Valley Shire (%)



GEOLGA. And approximately how long have you lived in the Bega Valley Shire area?
Base: All respondents (n= 500)

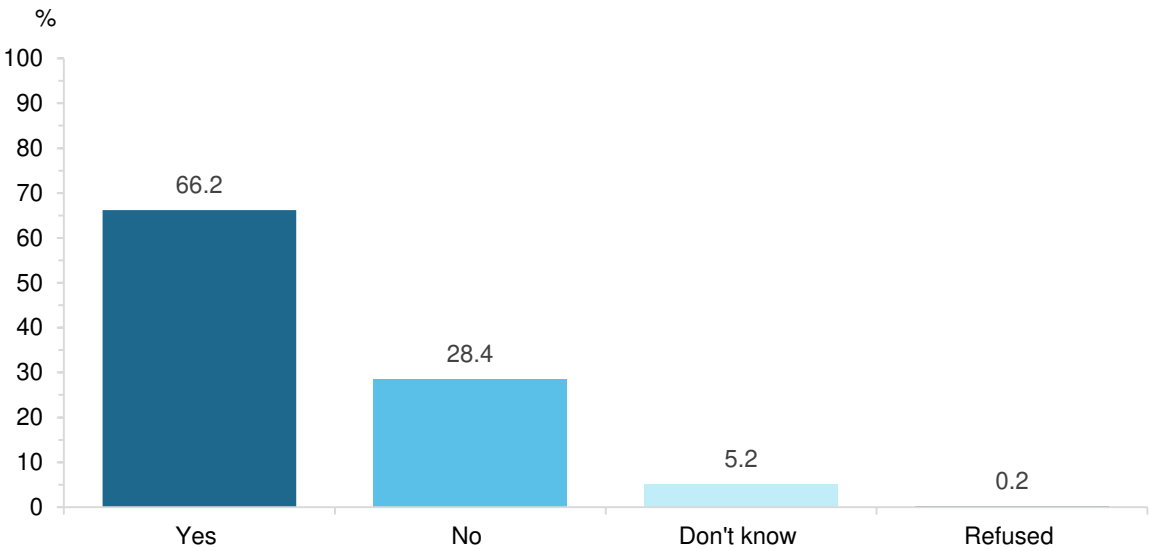
3. Community sentiment

3.1. Opinion on fluoridation

All respondents were asked for their opinion concerning their drinking water supply. In response to the question 'Do you agree with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to try to prevent tooth decay?' around two-thirds of respondents (66.2 %) responded 'yes' (shown in Figure 3 below). Less than one third (28.4 %) responded 'no'. A further five per cent (5.2%) were unsure and less than one per cent (0.2%) chose not to answer the question.

Based on 500 completed interviews and assuming the population of Bega Valley is 33,253⁴, we can be 95% confident that the 'true' value (that is, if all community members participated) is between 62.1% and 70.3%.

Figure 3 Overall agreement (%)



ISSUE. I'd now like to ask your opinion about your drinking water supply. Do you agree with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to try to prevent tooth decay?
Base: All respondents (n= 500)

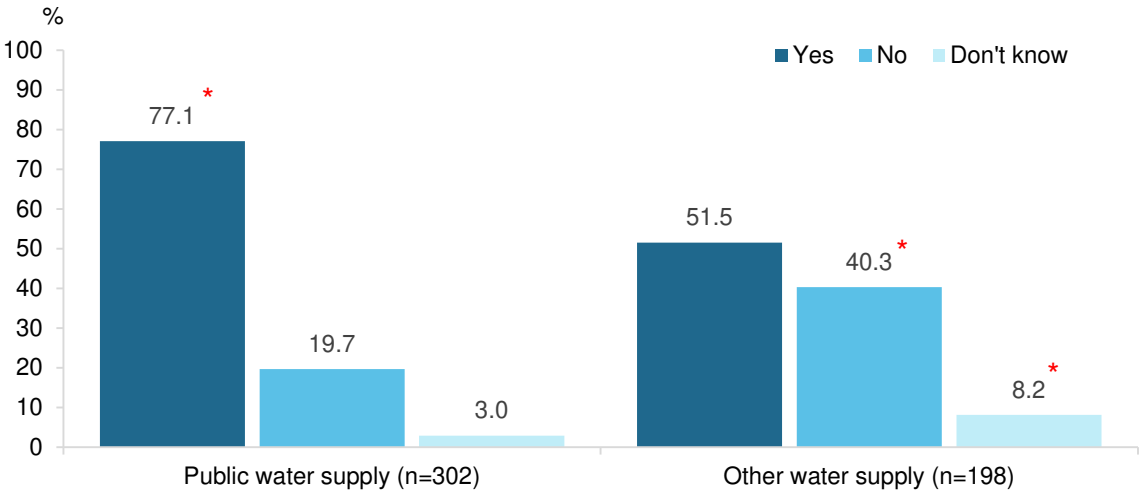
3.2. Usual source of drinking water

Respondents who reported that their normal source of drinking water is the public water supply were significantly more likely to agree with adding fluoride in comparison to respondents with another normal source of drinking water (77.1% in comparison to 51.5%, respectively).

Conversely, respondents whose normal source of drinking water is something other than the public water supply were significantly more likely to respond 'no' (i.e. they do not agree) with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply (40.3%), in comparison to respondents whose normal source of drinking water is the public water supply (19.7%) as shown in Figure 4 overleaf.

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016) 'Bega Valley (A)'

Figure 4 Agreement by Usual source of drinking water (%)



ISSUE. I'd now like to ask your opinion about your drinking water supply. Do you agree with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to try to prevent tooth decay?

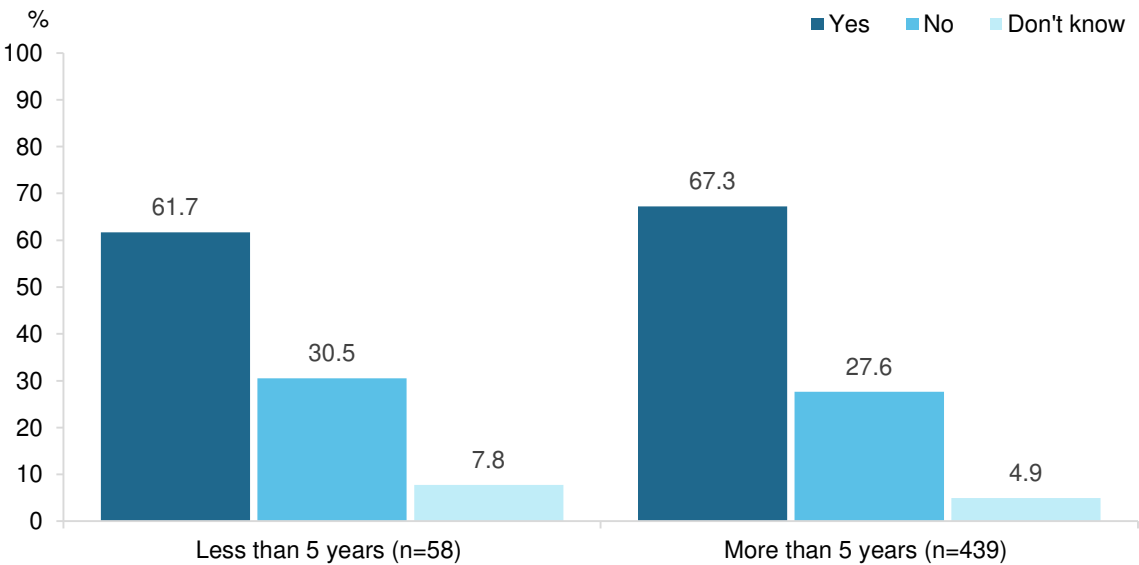
SOURCE. What is your normal source of drinking water?

Base: All respondents (n=500)

3.3. Length of residency in Bega Valley Shire

No significant differences were observed between Bega Valley Shire residents based on length of residency. As shown in Figure 5, an *indicatively* larger proportion of longer term residents (those who have lived in Bega Valley Shire for five or more years) agreed with fluoridation (67.3 %) in comparison to those who had lived in the shire for less than five years (61.7%), although this difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 5 Agreement by length of Residency (%)



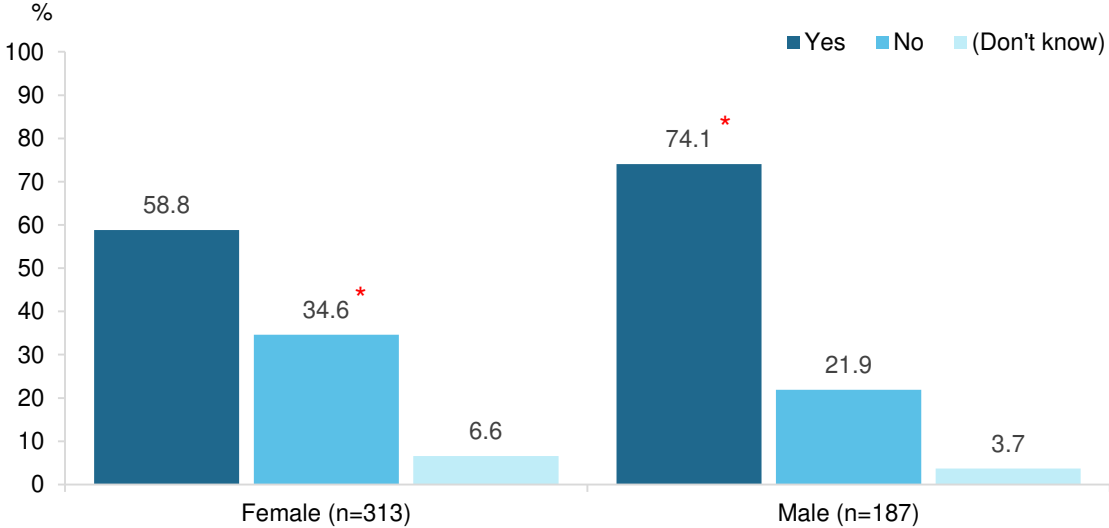
GEOLGA. And approximately how long have you lived in the Bega Valley Shire area?

Base: All respondents (n= 500) Note: responses of 'refused' to GEOLGA are not displayed in figure

3.4. Gender

Statistically significant differences were observed between gender cohorts. As shown in Figure 6 below, male respondents were significantly more likely to agree with fluoridation of the public drinking water supply in comparison to female respondents (74.1% vs. 58.8% respectively).

Figure 6 Agreement by Gender (%)

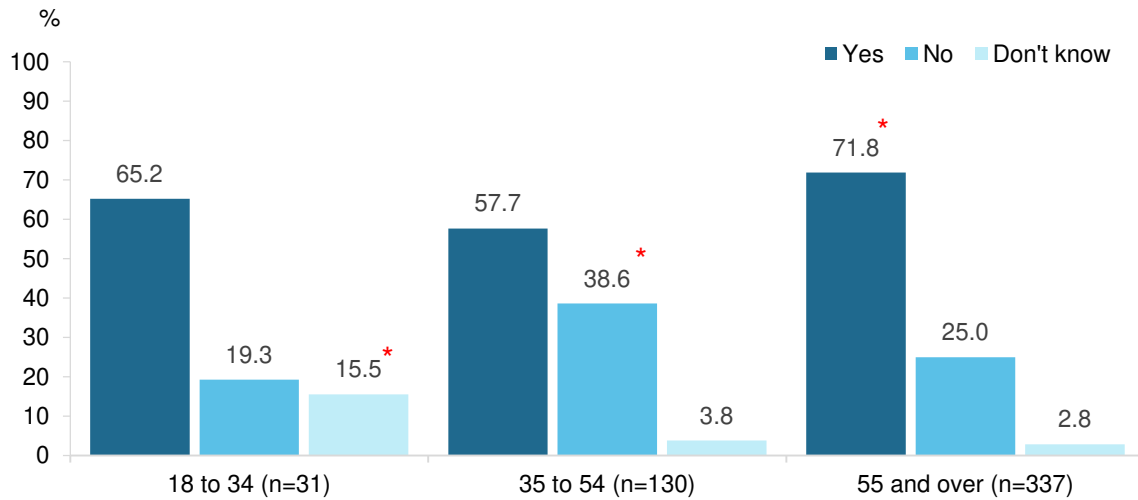


GEN Can I please confirm your gender?
Base: All respondents (n= 500)

3.5. Age

Across all age groups, the majority of respondents were in agreement with the suggestion of fluoridation of the public drinking water supply. However, as shown in Figure 7, several significant differences were observed between age groups. Most notably, respondents aged 55 years and over were significantly more likely agree with fluoridation (71.8%) in comparison to those aged 35 to 54 years (57.7%).

Figure 7 Agreement by Age (%)

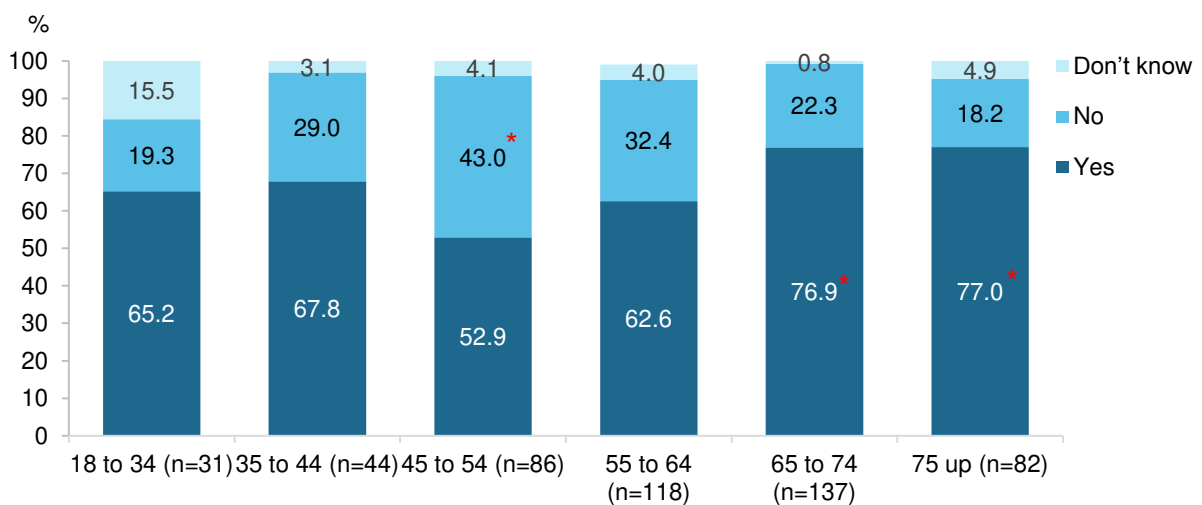


AGEYR And what was your age last birthday? Base: (n=493)
 AGEGRP Which of the following age groups do you belong to...? Base: (n=5)
 Base: (n= 500) Note: responses of 'refused' to AGE are not displayed in figure

As shown in Figure 8 below, respondents 45 to 54 years of age were significantly more likely than those aged 18 to 34, 65 to 74 and 75 and above, to answer 'no' (they do not agree) with the fluoridation of the public drinking water supply (43.0% in comparison to 19.3%, 22.3% and 18.2% respectively). That said, a higher proportion (52.9%) of respondents aged 45 to 54 answered 'yes'.

Respondents aged 75 or above were most strongly in agreement with fluoridation (77.0%) followed by those aged 65 to 74 (76.9%). Both the 65 to 74, and 75 and above cohorts are *significantly* more likely than those aged 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 years to agree with fluoridation of the public drinking water supply.

Figure 8 Agreement by age – Detailed (%)

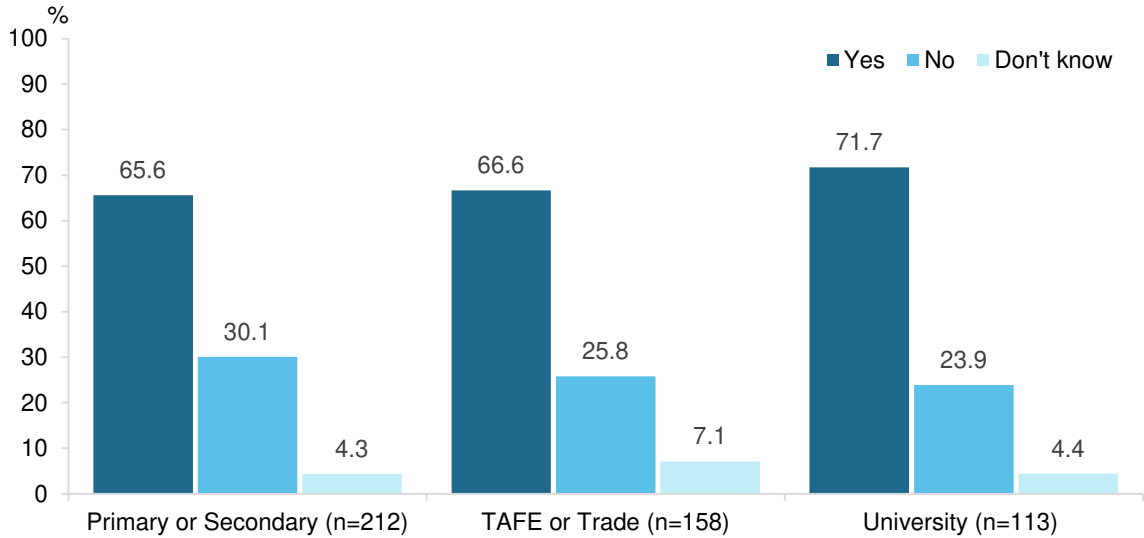


AGEYR And what was your age last birthday? Base: (n=493)
 AGEGRP Which of the following age groups do you belong to...? Base: (n=5)
 Base: (n= 500) Note: responses of 'don't know' and 'refused' for AGEYR and AGEGRP are not displayed in figure

3.6. Education

A larger proportion of respondents who reported having completed a tertiary level of education were in agreement with the fluoridation of the public drinking water supply (71.7%) in comparison to respondents whose highest educational attainment was reported as some primary or secondary school (65.6%) or a trade, apprenticeship, TAFE, certificate or diploma (66.6%). However, these differences are not statistically significant.

Figure 9 Agreement by education (%)

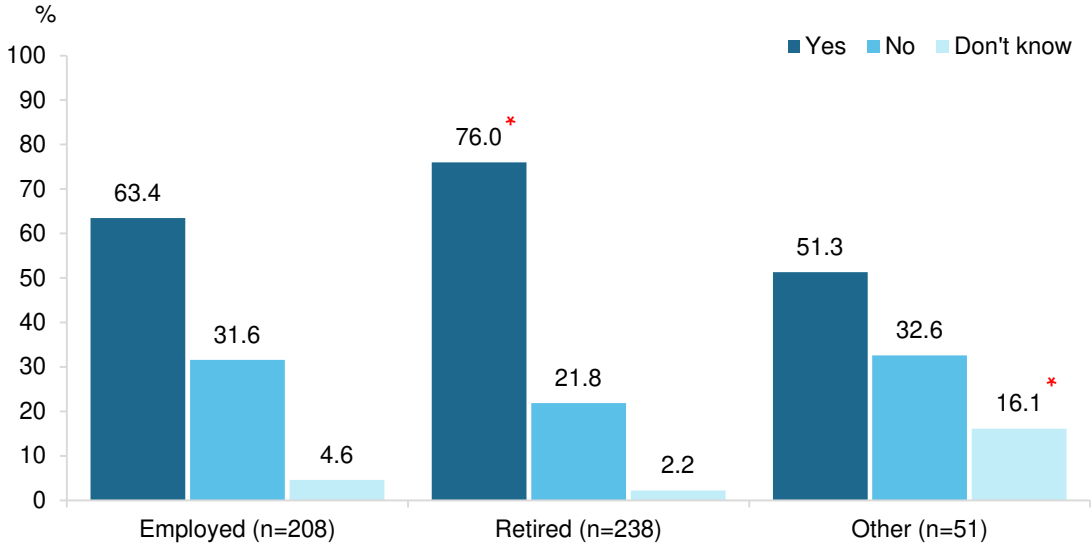


HEDU What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 Base: All respondents (n=500) Note: responses of 'refused' and 'other' to HEDU are not displayed in figure

3.7. Employment status

Respondents reporting to be retired or on a pension were significantly more likely to agree with fluoridation (76.0%) in comparison to respondents currently employed (63.4%). No other significant differences were observed between respondents based on their main activity. As shown in Figure 10 overleaf, a smaller proportion of respondents who are currently employed agreed with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply in comparison to residents currently unemployed, studying, on home duties or something else, grouped below as 'Other' (63.4% in comparison to 51.3% respectively).

Figure 10 Agreement by employment status (%)

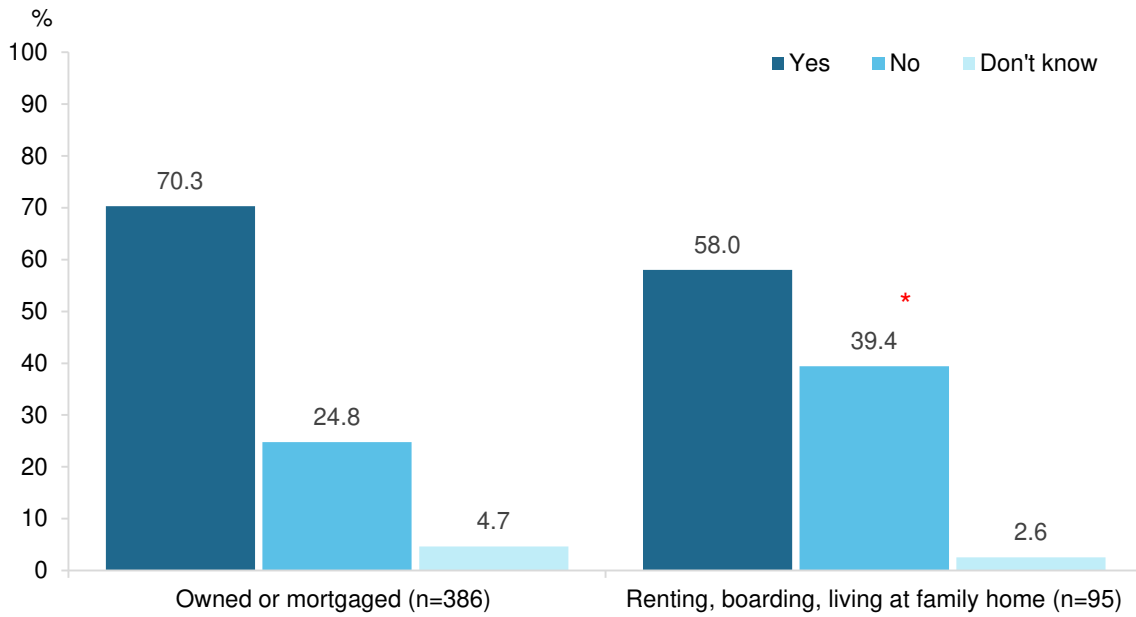


MAINACT Which of the following BEST describes your main activity at the moment?
 Base: All respondents (n=500) Note: responses of 'refused' to MAINACT not displayed in figure

3.8. Home ownership

As shown in Figure 11, respondents who are currently renting, boarding or living at a family home are significantly more likely to respond 'no' (they do not agree) (39.4%) with fluoridation in comparison to respondents who currently own their home (24.8%). Despite a larger proportion of respondents who own their own home agreeing with fluoridation in comparison to those who do not own (70.3% to 58.0% respectively), the difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 11 Agreement by home ownership (%)

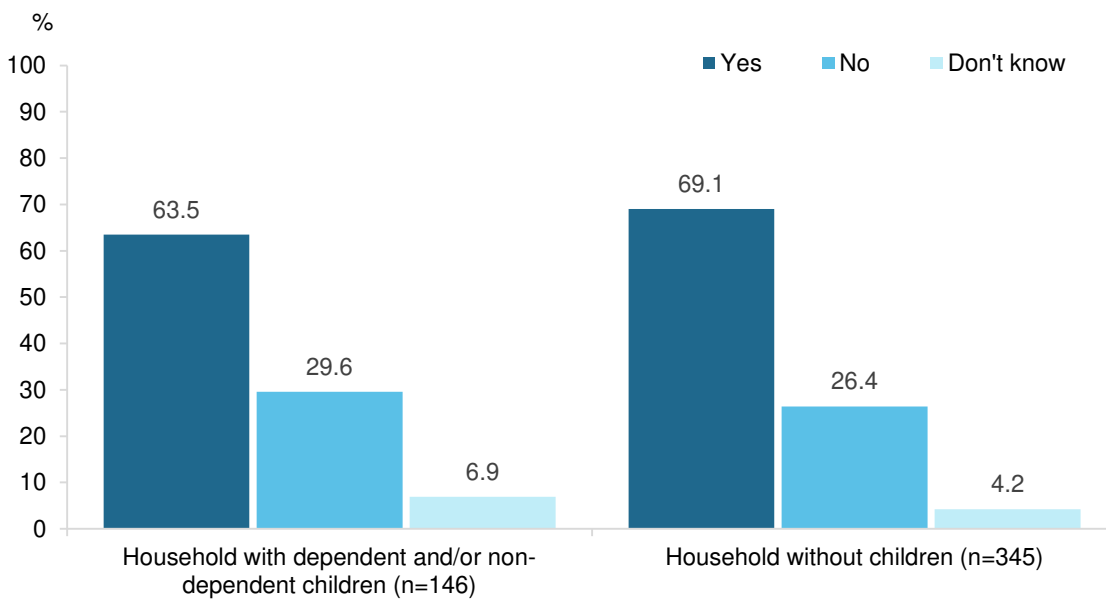


HOMEOWN Do you own outright, are you buying or renting the dwelling in which you now live?
 Base: (n=500) NOTE: Responses of 'refused' and 'don't know' to HOMEOWN are not displayed in figure

3.9. Household composition

Figure 12 depicts agreement split by whether respondents reported that children (dependent or non-dependent) live in the household (bearing in mind survey respondents were all adults). No significant differences are observed between households with and without children present.

Figure 12 Agreement by household composition (%)



HHCOMP Which of the following best describes your household?
 Base: (n=500) NOTE: Responses of 'refused' and 'don't know' to HHCOMP are not displayed in figure

4. Methodological Summary

4.1. Questionnaire

The questionnaire consisted of two main questions:

- “I’d now like to ask your opinion about your drinking water supply. Do you agree with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to try to prevent tooth decay?” With response options of “Yes” and “No”. Respondents were also able to say they were unsure or ‘don’t know’, or choose not to provide any response (‘refused’).
- “What is your normal source of drinking water?” With response options “Public water supply”, “bottled water”, “rainwater”, “private bore, spring or well”, “other private supply”, “combination of difference water sources” or “other”. Respondents were also able to choose not to respond to this question or say they were unsure.

These questions were supplemented by a set of demographic questions used to profile the sample and inform data weighting which covered age, gender, level of education completed, occupation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, main language spoken at home, residential status (such as own outright, mortgage, renting or a public dwelling), number and relationship of people living in the household and the respondents fixed line and mobile telephone status. The questionnaire also asked respondents about the length of time they have lived in Bega Valley Shire area.

4.2. In-scope population

The in-scope population for the survey was adults (18 or more years of age) that usually live within the Bega Valley Shire. Respondents who confirmed one of the following postcodes as where they usually live were selected to participate: 2546, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2632.

Sample telephone numbers were provided to the Social Research Centre by SamplePages and included 2087 listed mobile numbers and 3308 landline telephone numbers within the Bega Valley Shire Region.

All data is weighted by telephone status, gender and age by education. Target population statistics for telephone status were sourced from NSW data from the National Health Survey combined with data from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). All results and analysis presented reflect weighted data.

4.3. Survey procedures

4.3.1. Call procedures

Telephone numbers to dial were selected at random. A maximum of six attempts were made to establish contact with landline sample members. A maximum of four attempts were made with mobile sample. No messages were left on answering machines.

Of the 3,084 sample records initiated two records reached a maximum call cycle of 6 unanswered calls for landlines and 4 unanswered calls for mobile phones. Both records were landline numbers. The majority of sample numbers were called between one and three times. Only five records were called more than four times.

Initial contact attempts were made between 4:30pm and 8:30pm on weekdays, and 11.00am and 5.00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Appointments were made for any time within the hours of operation of the call centre.

4.3.2. Primary approach and engagement

A prenotification SMS was sent to 2026 potential respondents on the 11th December 2017 at 5:00 pm. The message introduced the Social Research Centre and the research topic to potential respondents. The SMS provided a contact number to provide further information regarding the research and allow recipients the opportunity to opt out of the research as shown below:

The Social Research Centre will call you in the coming days to take part in a survey of residents about the fluoridation of public water supplies in Bega Valley Shire. Call 1800023040 to get more info or to opt out.

4.3.3. Escalation process

The Social Research Centre undertakes to thoroughly brief all interviewers on how to deal with respondents who become distressed and procedures are in place to support interviewers and respondents when this occurs. In these situations, the interviewer makes their supervisor aware of the call and issue. Detailed records of these calls are prepared and given to the Project Manager when necessary. In situations where follow-up is necessary, the Social Research Centre informs NSW Health of the situation and NSW Health follows-up as appropriate.

One call alert form was completed during fieldwork due to a respondent complaint. The Social Research Centre notified NSW Health of the issue and no further action was required.

4.3.4. 1800 number

The 1800 helpdesk was operational during the course of the survey to provide respondents the opportunity to seek clarification or ask for assistance regarding any survey matters. The helpdesk was operational during business hours from 12th to the 19th December.

The helpdesk operators were fully briefed on survey background and procedures to answer a variety of queries. A total of 30 calls were received by the 1800 helpdesk. Eight of these calls resulted in an appointment to conduct the survey, 12 opted out of the research and 10 calls received were from people who are not Bega Valley Shire residents.

4.3.5. Ethical considerations

The Social Research Centre is accredited under the [Australian Standard for market, opinion and social research](#) (AS: ISO 20252) (certification number MSR 20015, first issued by SAI Global, on 11 December 2007). All aspects of this consultancy were undertaken in accordance with ISO 20252 standards, the Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) code of practice, the Privacy (Market and Social Research) Code, the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic).

All senior staff are full members of the Australian Market and Social Research Society or maintain professional memberships relevant to their role; and the Social Research Centre is also a member of the Association of Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO). All sensitive or personally identifiable information such as sample and data was transferred using our Secure File Exchange.

4.3.6. Operational statistics

The average interview length was three minutes and 45 seconds. The shortest interview was just over two minutes and the longest just under ten minutes. Table 2 details the final call outcomes for all initiated sample. Of the 3084 sample records initiated 16.2 per cent resulted in a completed survey. Just over five per cent (5.8%) chose not to participate in the research.

Table 2 Call outcomes

Outcome	n	%
Total sample selected	5393	
Total sample initiated	3084	100.0
CATI complete	500	16.2
Refusals	178	5.8
Respondent refusal	77	2.5
Respondent refusal - mobile callback	4	0.1
Household refusal	81	2.6
Incoming call solutions refusal	12	0.4
Midway termination	4	0.1
Out of scope	198	6.4
Not a Bega Valley Shire resident	132	4.3
Claims to have done survey	7	0.2
Over quota	7	0.2
Too ill / unwell	8	0.3
Under 18 years of age	4	0.1
Away for duration	38	1.2
Language difficulty	2	0.1
Unusable	91	3.0
Number disconnected	10	0.3
Incoming call restrictions / Fax	24	0.8
Not a residential number	57	1.8
Unresolved	2117	68.6
Engaged	15	0.5
No answer	820	26.6
Appointment	129	4.2
Answering machine	1153	37.4

Appendix 1 Questionnaire

Questionnaire

Welcome Screen

*(ALL)

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is (...) and I'm calling from the Social Research Centre on behalf of NSW Health. The Department is conducting a survey on the fluoridation of public water supplies in Bega Valley Shire. We are looking to speak with Bega Valley residents aged 18 years or over about this issue. The survey should take no more than five minutes of your time.

INTRO1. Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is (...) and I'm calling from the Social Research Centre on behalf of NSW Health. The Department is conducting a survey on the fluoridation of public water supplies in Bega Valley Shire. We are looking to speak with Bega Valley residents aged 18 years or over about this issue. The survey should take no more than five minutes of your time. Would it be ok if we made a start on this now?

IF NECESSARY: The survey is simply about your own personal views on the fluoridation of public water supplies in Bega Valley Shire. The results from this survey will be used by NSW Health and the Bega Valley Shire Council.

1. Continue with same person
2. Household refusal (RR1)
3. Respondent refusal (RR1)
4. Not Bega Valley resident (GO TO TERM 1)
5. Not over 18 *(display mobile only) (GO TO TERM 2)
6. LOTE (GO TO TERM 3)

Monitoring and Mobile Safety/Screening q's

*(ALL)

MON This call may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance purposes. Is that ok?

1. Yes
2. No

*(ALL)

MOBSAFE May I just check whether or not it is safe for you to take this call at the moment? If not, we'd be happy to call back when it is more convenient for you.

1. Safe to take call
2. Not safe to take call
3. Respondent refusal (GO TO RR1)

*(MOBSAFE=2, NOT SAFE TO TAKE CALL)

MOBAPPT Would you like me to call you back on this number or would you prefer I call back on another phone?

1. This number (MAKE APPOINTMENT)
2. Another phone (MAKE APPOINTMENT, RECORD PHONE NUMBER)
3. Refusal (GO TO RR1)

*(ALL)

INTRO2 And just to let you know, any information you provide will be protected by strict privacy and confidentiality rules. Your answers will be grouped with other peoples and used for statistical purposes only. You and your individual answers will not be identified. While we hope that you answer all the questions, if there are any questions you don't want to answer just tell me so I can skip over them.

1. (Continue)

Demographics for Screening

**Benchmark: ABS Census*

*(ALL)

PCODE To start, a couple of questions about yourself to help analyse the results. Could you please confirm the postcode where you usually live?

*PROGRAMMER NOTE: DISPLAY SAMPLE POSTCODE

1. Postcode from sample correct
2. Collect postcode (Please specify) (RANGE: 200-299, 800-9999)
98. (Don't know) (SPECIFY suburb or town)
99. (Refused)

(MUST SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING POSTCODES TO CONTINUE, ELSE TERMINATE:
2546, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2632) (GO TO TERM1 IF OUT OF RANGE)

*(ALL)

AGEYR And what was your age last birthday?

1. Age given (RECORD AGE IN YEARS) (RANGE 18 to 99)
99. (Refused)

**Benchmark: June 2015 ERP data / ABS Census*

*(AGEYR=99, REFUSED AGE)

AGEGRP Which of the following age groups do you belong to...?
(READ OUT)

1. 18-24
2. 25-34
3. 35-44
4. 45-54
5. 55-64
6. 65-74
7. 75 and over
99. (Refused)

*PROGRAMMER NOTE: IF AGED UNDER 18, GO TO TERM 2

Main survey

*(ALL)

ISSUE I'd now like to ask your opinion about your drinking water supply.
Do you agree with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to try to prevent tooth decay?

1. Yes
2. No
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

*(ALL)

SOURCE What is your normal source of drinking water?
(READ OUT) (INT NOTE: Single response. MAIN source of drinking water)

1. Public water supply (INT NOTE: If "tap water" confirm connected to public water supply)
2. Bottled water
3. Rainwater
4. Private bore, spring or well
5. Other private supply (e.g. creek or farm dam)
6. Combination of different water sources
96. Other (SPECIFY)
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

Demographics for Weighting and Profiling

*(ALL)

INTRO3 Thanks for that. Now there are just a few more questions about you to help us understand the opinions of a cross section of different people.

1. (Continue)

*(ALL)

GEN Can I please confirm your gender?

IF NECESSARY: This is a question we do ask of everyone.

1. Female
2. Male
3. Other (Please specify)
99. (Refused)

*(ALL)

HEDU What is the highest level of education you have completed?

PROMPT IF REQUIRED

1. Primary school
2. Year 7 to Year 9
3. Year 10
4. Year 11
5. Year 12
6. Trade/apprenticeship
7. Other TAFE/Technical Certificate
8. Diploma
9. Bachelor Degree
10. Post-Graduate Degree
11. Other
12. (Refused)

*(ALL)

MAINACT Which of the following BEST describes your main activity at the moment?

1. Employed (full-time, part-time, self-employed, casual)
2. Unemployed
3. Student
4. Retired or on a pension
5. Home duties, or
6. Something else
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

**Benchmark: ABS Census*

*(ALL)

ATSI Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin?

1. Yes
2. No
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

**Benchmark: ABS Census*

*(ALL)

LOTE Do you speak a language other than English at home?

1. Yes
2. No
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

*(LOTE=1, LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH)

LANG What language do you usually speak at home?

1. Arabic (includes Lebanese)
2. Australian Indigenous Language
3. Chinese (Mandarin)
4. Chinese (Cantonese)

5. Croatian
6. French
7. German
8. Greek
9. Hindi
10. Hungarian
11. Indonesian
12. Italian
13. Japanese
14. Khmer
15. Macedonian
16. Maltese
17. Persian
18. Polish
19. Portuguese
20. Russian
21. Spanish
22. Tagalog (Filipino)
23. Turkish
24. Vietnamese
25. Other (SPECIFY)
98. (Don't know)
99. (Prefer not to say)

*(ALL)

HOMEOWN Do you own outright, are you buying or renting the dwelling in which you now live?

INTERVIEWER NOTE: PROBE TO CODE FRAME

1. Own outright
2. Own, paying off mortgage
3. Rent from private landlord
4. Rent from public housing authority
5. Other (boarding, living at home etc.)
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

GEOLOGA And approximately how long have you lived in the Bega Valley Shire area?

1. Less than 12 months
2. 1 – 5 years
3. 5 – 10 years
4. 10 years or more
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

*(ALL)

INSCOPE Including yourself, how many adults live in your household?

(PROGRAMMER NOTE: ALLOW RESPONSES 1-20. DISPLAY 'UNLIKELY RESPONSE' IF ANSWER IS GREATER THAN 10)

1. Number given (Specify) (RANGE 1 TO 20)
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

*(ALL)

HHCOMP Which of the following best describes your household?

(READ OUT AS NECESSARY)

1. Person living alone
2. Couple living alone
3. Couple with non-dependent child or children
4. Couple with dependent child or children
5. Couple with dependent and non-dependent child or children
6. Single parent with non-dependent child or children
7. Single parent with dependent child or children
8. Single parent with dependent and non-dependent child or children
9. Non-related adults sharing house/apartment/flat
10. Other household type
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

Weighting – standard items for dual frame weighting

**Note: this is a standard item for dual frame weighting*

*(SAMTYP=2, MOBILE SAMPLE)

TELSTAT1 Is there at least one working fixed line telephone inside your home that is used for making and receiving calls?

1. Yes
2. No
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

*(SAMTYP=2 AND TELSTAT1=1 OR SAMTYP=1, MOBILE SAMPLE WITH LANDLINE, OR LANDLINE SAMPLE)

TELSTAT2 How many residential phone numbers do you have in your household not including lines dedicated to faxes, modems or business phone numbers? Do not include mobile phones.

INTERVIEWER NOTE: If needed explain as how many individual landline numbers are there at your house that you can use to make and receive calls?

1. Number of lines given (Specify) RECORD WHOLE NUMBER (ALLOWABLE RANGE 1 TO 15) *(DISPLAY "UNLIKELY RESPONSE" IF >3)
98. (Don't know)
99. (Refused)

*(SAMTYP=1, LANDLINE SAMPLE)

TELSTAT3 Do you also have a working mobile phone?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 98. (Don't know)
- 99. (Refused)

*(ALL)

CLOSE Thank you for taking part in this survey. Just in case you missed it, my name is (...) from the Social Research Centre calling on behalf of New South Wales Health and the Bega Valley Shire council.

TERMINATIONS

TERM 1 Thanks for your time, for today we are looking to speak with Bega Shire residents only

TERM 2 Thanks for your time but for this study we are looking to speak with residents aged 18 years or over

TERM 3 Thanks for your time, we are only able to conduct the survey in English at this time.