



Cultural Diversity in Yarrabilba

A Lendlease Community



Background

Yarrabilba is a masterplan community (MPC) that is currently being developed by Lendlease. It offers people the opportunity to access land and house packages, physical and social infrastructure and, social environments that they might otherwise not have access to. By 2030, Lendlease anticipates a population of 45,000 and is aiming to ensure that the infrastructure they are putting in place not only meets the immediate needs of Yarrabilba's residents but will continue to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding future population. Part of this responsibility means ensuring that all groups are catered for, regardless of cultural and linguistic diverse (CALD) backgrounds. In this aspect, Lendlease holds concerns about the effectiveness of their current approach in catering to the diverse needs of CALD people. We will address this concern by exploring what facilities are currently on offer and how effectively Lendlease is achieving social cohesion and multiculturalism. As well seeking to discover the current and potential opportunities for CALD members to lead and participate in an active social life in Yarrabilba.

Research Questions

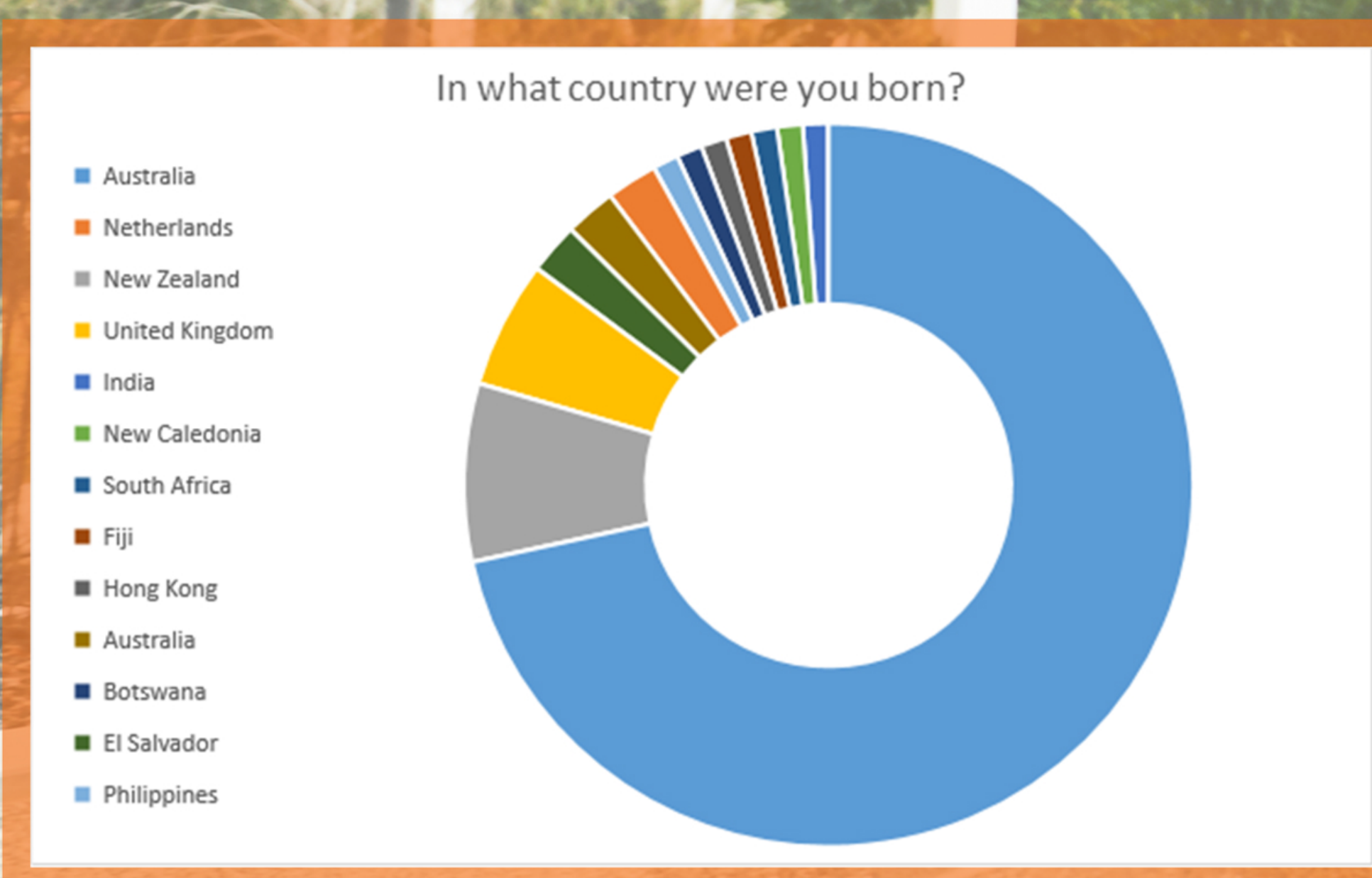
- 1) What currently draws CALD people to Yarrabilba?
- 2) Is there a different level of community engagement depending on ethnic background, and if so, what are the main barriers and/or facilitators of this?
- 3) What areas are Lendlease currently achieving well in, and what areas could be improved?

Diversity and Multiculturalism

The Australian Community Capacity Study marks the positive contributions that diversity and multiculturalism can make to a community, noting that ethnically diverse societies introduce fresh perspectives and new ideas into the community (Murphy, Cherney et al. 2012).

Social Cohesion

"[R]efers to positive social relationships - it is the bond or 'glue' that binds people. A socially cohesive society is one which works towards the wellbeing of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust and offers its members the opportunity of upward mobility." (cited in the Australian Human Rights Commission, 2015). "By implication, a society lacking cohesion would be one which displayed social disorder and conflict, disparate moral values, extreme social inequality, low levels of social interaction between and within communities, and low levels of place attachment" (Forrest and Kearns, 2001, pp. 2127-2128).



Research Aim

To understand how well people from various cultural and linguistic diverse (CALD) backgrounds feel like they are being catered for, included in and welcomed to the Yarrabilba community.

Findings

Survey Participants

73% of Australians and 27% of CALD people

Out of the 88 people surveyed only 13 people spoke a different language at home, these included Te Deo, Maori, Telugu, French, Italian, Hindi, Dutch, Chinese, Samoan, Spanish, Laos and Filipino.

Attitudes towards Multiculturalism

72% of individuals surveyed agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that Yarrabilba has a diverse multicultural community, with only 4% disagreeing.

67% of participants agreed that multiculturalism makes the Yarrabilba community better, with only 7% disagreeing with this statement.

These results suggest that the majority of Yarrabilba residents are open to people of CALD backgrounds, with only a very small minority outwardly against notions of multiculturalism.

Satisfaction of Existing Facilities

33% of CALD people are not aware of any existing Social Clubs, compared to 23% of Australians.

Both groups rated parks with the highest satisfaction.

The Long Term Vision

The residents in Yarrabilba, moved with the knowledge that it is still being developed, therefore felt that if the promises are kept, they have faith that the community would flourish.

"I have seen a large number of Aboriginal families around here. As an Aboriginal person myself I would like a focus on bringing these families together to build connection"

"Have more events such as music, bands play at the sports ground."

"Community newsletters to inform residents of developments and activities."

"Community centre with projects running for various age groups/ethnic groups/ and general access to support networks."

Methods

Online Surveys

We received 37 responses from the survey advertised on Yarrabilba's facebook page, and as we expected this method managed to more easily access the CALD community.

Face-to-face Surveys

We gathered 51 surveys from the teams' four visits to Yarrabilba, which consisted of hanging out at the park, attending the fun run and doorknocking.

How?

Our survey was created and managed through Google Forms, which provided an efficient and secure platform to collect and store the data. The data collection on the visits were undertaken using ipads and hardcopies, depending on what the respondent preferred.

Further Research

- Follow up research as the development progresses, possibly in 2023 at the half way point and around 2030 when the development is drawing close to completion.
- Aboriginal consultations regarding an acknowledgment of their history and culture in the location, along with other concerns that will be covered in our final report.
- Additional analysis into other minority groups that are likely to exist in Yarrabilba such as 'LGBT' groups.

References

- Murphy, K., Cherney, A., Wickes, R., Mazerolle, L. and Sargeant, E. (2012) The Community Capacity Survey - Face-to-face Ethnic Minority Interviews: Methodology and Preliminary Findings. The ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security: Brisbane.
- Forrest, Ray and Ade Kearns. (2001) 'Social Cohesion, Social Capital and the Neighbourhood'. Urban Studies 38(12): 2125-2143.
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