

Strathfield

Strathfield, 15 kilometres from Sydney CBD (Figure 4-11), was the single Sydney SLA categorised by Baum et al. (1999) within the “public sector/moderate opportunity” cluster. Discriminating characteristics of this cluster were the significant number of people employed in the social services and producer services industry sectors, the large number of workers in symbolic analyst occupations (such as managers, administrators and professionals), and the number of persons holding university degrees (Baum et al. 1999). Baum and his colleagues also identified an anticipated low rate of structural economic change as being justification for classification of the SLA within this cluster type.



Figure 4-11: General location of Strathfield survey CD (denoted by star symbol)

One CD in the suburb of Strathfield South was surveyed. Strathfield’s nodal railway station permits interchange with the Northern, Southern, Inner West and Western Lines. Major roads to the north (Parramatta Road or Great Western Highway), south (Liverpool Road or Hume Highway) and west (Centenary Drive) of the CD, as well as the nearby Western Motorway, facilitate vehicular access to other parts of the metropolitan city and beyond. Rookwood Cemetery, Chullora Railway Workshops and the Strathfield Golf Course act as physical barriers to the immediate west, with the Homebush Bay Olympic Site and the Sydney Markets occupying large tracts of land in the near north-west. Figure 4-12 shows the boundaries of the survey location.

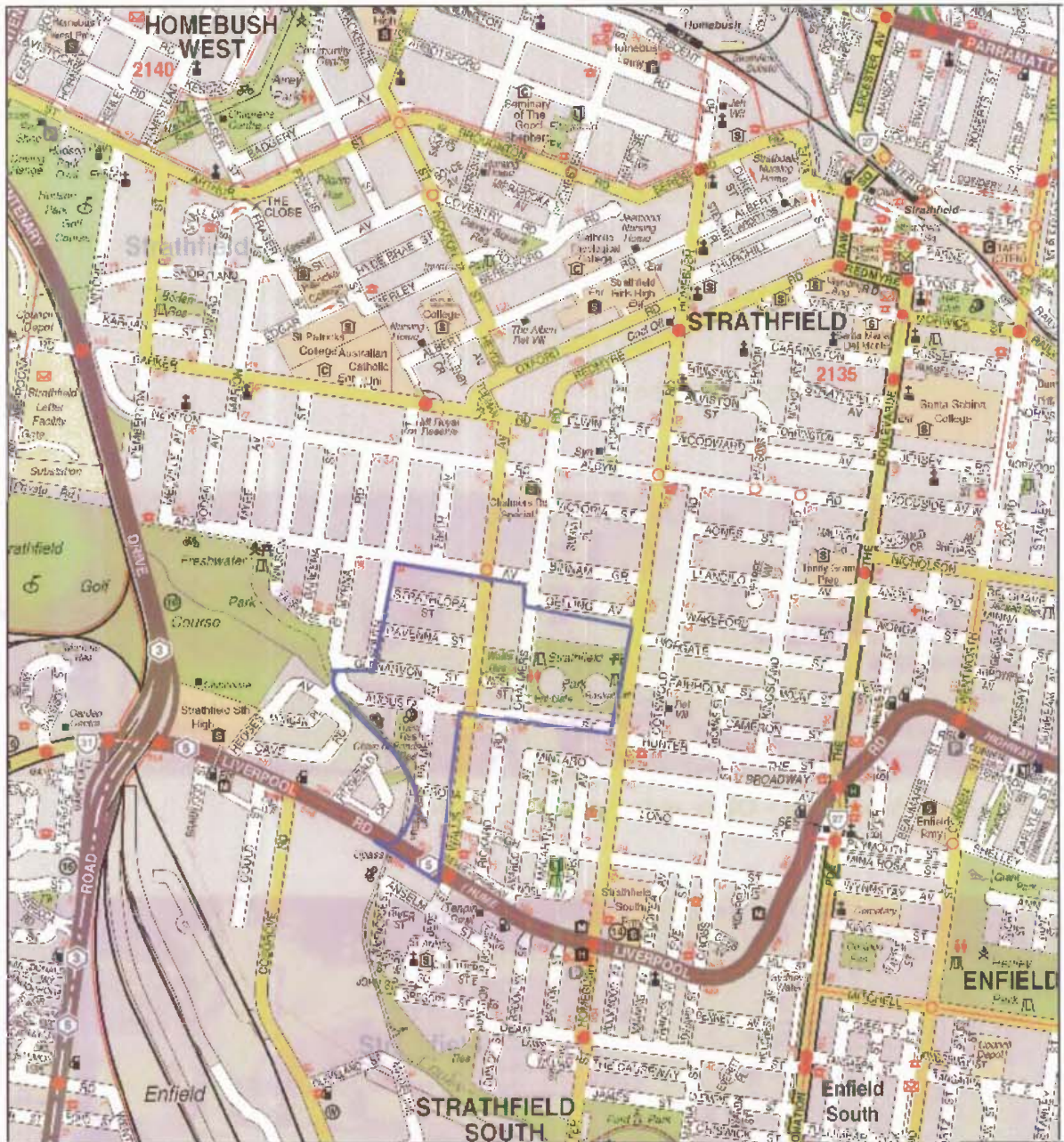


Figure 4-12: Boundaries of Strathfield survey location

The suburban landscape is a mix of different cultures, most conspicuously Korean, Vietnamese, Indian and Sri Lankan as well as Australian. Signage on facilities such as shops and places of worship indicated associations with different ethnic communities.

Most of the dwellings within the survey CD were free standing houses on suburban blocks, with some higher density buildings (flats and units to a maximum of three stories in height) located near the southern boundary adjacent to the Hume Highway. The survey CD did not include the older stately homes which have been associated with this long-established suburb. Substantial change to the visual landscape has occurred in recent years, with many

older modest red brick bungalows demolished to make way for two-storey houses that occupy substantial proportions of suburban blocks.

Security appeared to be an issue, with both older style and newer houses conspicuously exhibiting various types of shutters or security bars on doors and windows. Recently developed residential sites displayed an obvious trend towards gated houses, some of which had closed-circuit surveillance systems. All in-progress buildings observed during fieldwork reflected this new suburban style of housing. Figures 4-13, 4-14 and 4-15 illustrate types of housing within the CD.



Figure 4-13: Strathfield – Older style red brick bungalows



Figure 4-14: Strathfield – Recent gated redevelopments on residential sites



Figure 4-15: Strathfield – Security screens and shutters on residential buildings

Roselands

Roselands, a suburb in the SLA of Canterbury, is 19 kilometres south-west of Sydney CBD (see Figure 4-16). Canterbury SLA is listed as a vulnerable community within the cluster type labelled “vulnerable suburban social disadvantage” by Baum et al. (1999).

Performance within this cluster type represents, in a general way, the “losers” from globalisation and economic restructuring. The cluster type is characterised by high levels of disadvantage, generally having recorded poor economic performances with sluggish employment growth and increases in unemployment (Baum et al. 1999). Below average growth in incomes was evidenced in the 1996 Census. A large proportion of single-parent households, a high incidence of public housing, high rates of unemployment and a large proportion of persons employed in the transformative industries (such as manufacturing, the utilities and construction) and in “routine production worker” occupations are also typical of the cluster. However, these localities were accredited as having the ability to overcome some of the disadvantage associated with economic restructuring, with some occurrences of transition evident at the time of the 1996 Census (Baum et al. 1999).

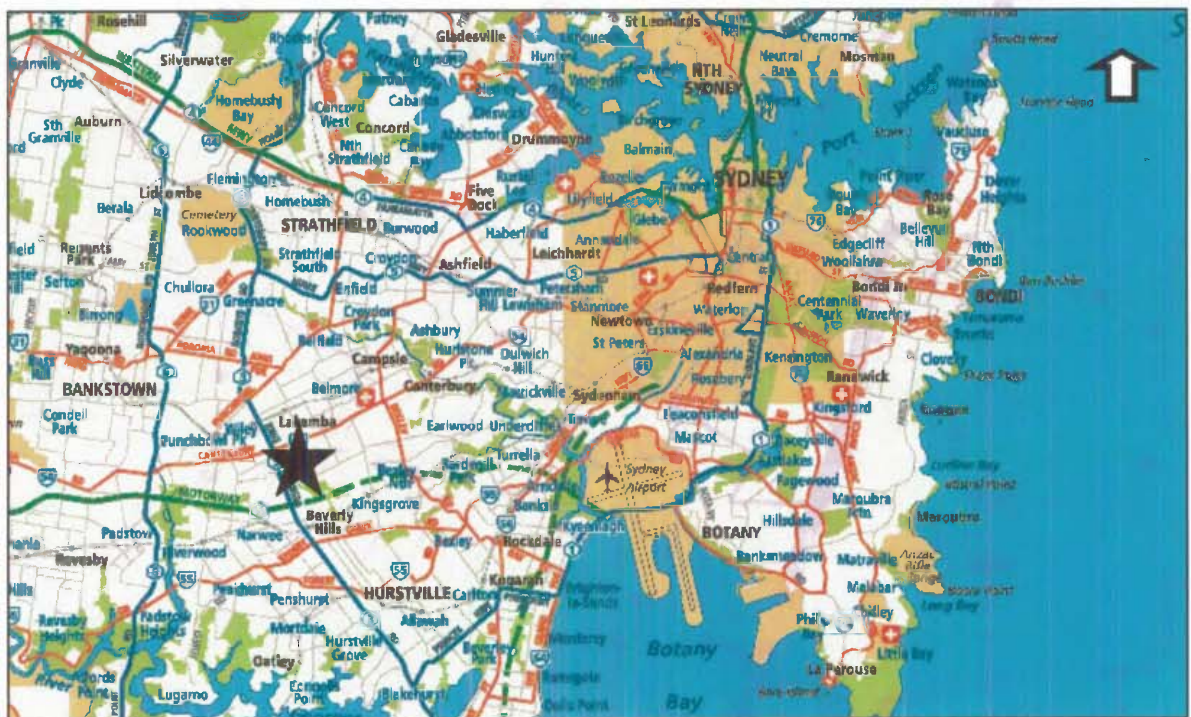


Figure 4-16: General location of Roselands survey CD (denoted by star symbol)

Suburbs within this cluster include older industrial ones. The comparatively recently renamed suburb of Roselands was previously within the suburb of Lakemba. Roselands now shares a postcode with the geographically more distant suburb of Punchbowl. One CD from Roselands represented this cluster type. The CD's unemployment rate of 8.5% in 1996 had dropped to 5.8% by 2001 (ABS 1998b, 2002), providing some justification for the cautious optimism for this cluster category noted by Baum et al. (1999)

The area is serviced mainly by road-based public transport, with the closest railway station (on the Southern Line) two kilometres to the south, on the other side of the South Western (M5) motorway. A main road (Canterbury Road) is to the north of the CD, with a major road (King Georges Road) immediately to the west, separating it from the Roselands shopping centre. This was Sydney's first regional shopping complex, developed in the late 1960s after which the locality was subsequently renamed. Figure 4-17 shows the boundaries of the CD and survey location.



Figure 4-17: Boundaries of Roselands survey location

The CD appeared to be entirely residential with a mixture of housing types from modest fibro, brick or cement-rendered cottages to large two-storey recent redevelopments (see, for example, Figures 4-18, 4-19 and 4-20). There was also a scattering of flats, villas and units of varying ages, combined with some public housing. Security and personal safety were apparently issues for a number of residents. The researcher's car, usually parked for extended periods of time in suburban streets during fieldwork, attracted attention from local residents who thought it might have been stolen and subsequently "dumped", by inference (subsequently substantiated by anecdotal evidence) a common occurrence within the area. In general, minimal pedestrian or recreational activity was evident on nature strips or streets although groups of young males sometimes gathered for what appeared to be social interaction, often centred on cars. Motor vehicles, including large trucks, sometimes obstructed footpaths, to the angst of some residents.



Figure 4-18: Roselands – Well maintained older style houses



Figure 4-19: Roselands – Examples of fibro, cement-rendered and red brick houses



Figure 4-20: Roselands – Examples of recent redevelopment on residential sites

Kingsgrove

The suburb of Kingsgrove, 16 kilometres south-west of Sydney CBD (Figure 4-21), was selected to be representative of Australia’s “middle suburbia”. Kingsgrove is within the SLA of Rockdale which was identified by Baum et al. (1999) as belonging to the average cluster type labelled “suburban marginal”. Important characteristics of such SLAs reflect both opportunity and vulnerability. As a whole, unemployment for this cluster type, based on 1996 Census data, was expected to be relatively low, and there was a below-average proportion of low-income households. However, the cluster type also revealed an employment structure based on “routine production” and “in-person service” worker occupations (Baum et al. 1999). Employment in transformative and distributive industries was high. With respect to human capital, the SLAs in the cluster type recorded below-average proportions of persons holding university degrees and above-average proportions of persons with minimal education.

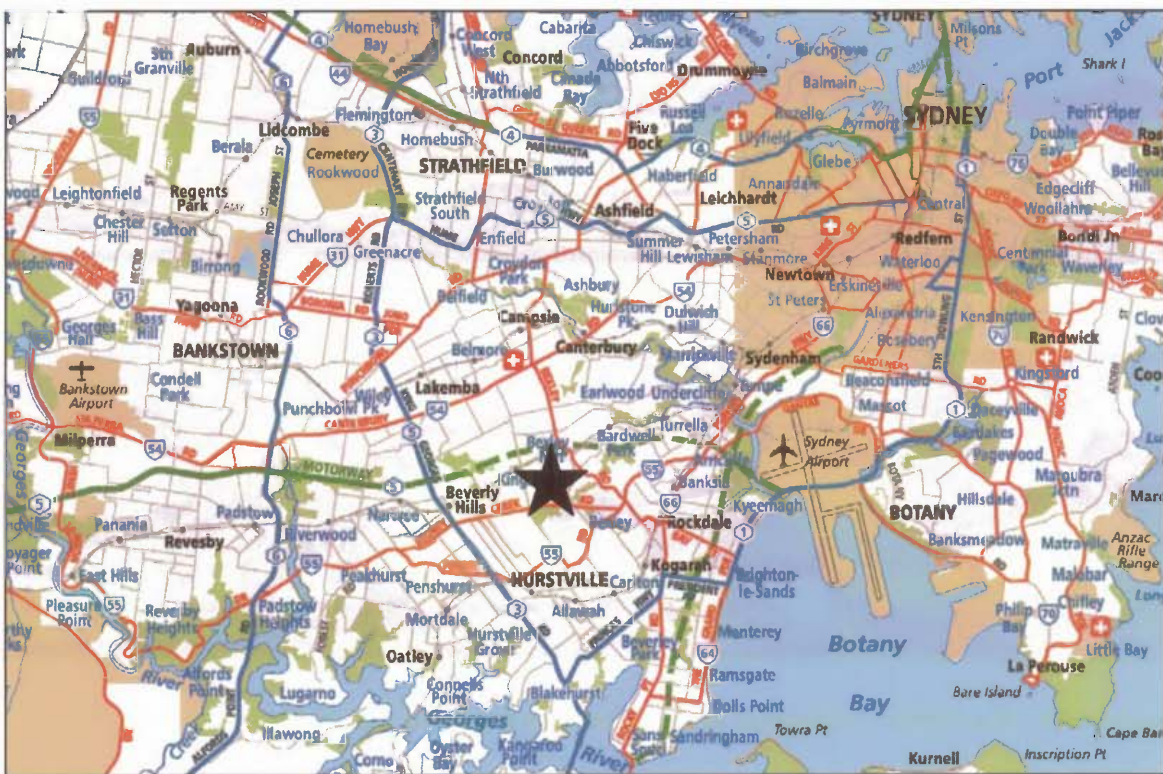


Figure 4-21: General location of Kingsgrove survey CD (denoted by star symbol)

One CD from Kingsgrove represented this cluster type. The suburban Southern Line services the area, with the most recent extension of the South Western Motorway (opened in late 2001) located adjacent to the railway line, albeit predominantly underground through this suburb. A major traffic route (Stoney Creek Road) borders the southern side of the CD. A golf course and steeply sloping terrain also form effective southern

delimiters for residents. Figure 4-22 shows the boundaries of the survey location. The unemployment rate for the CD had decreased from 7.8% in the 1996 Census (ABS 2000) to 4.9 % by 2001 (ABS 2002).



Figure 4-22: Boundaries of Kingsgrove survey location

Most dwellings within the CD were modest single-household, freestanding brick bungalows on small allotments (see Figure 4-23). Minimal amounts of apparent recent redevelopment included dual occupancy two-storey villas (within Figure 4-24). Some neighbours expressed displeasure at such styles of redevelopment, citing invasion of privacy as a prime concern. There was only a handful of two-storey buildings within the locality; none was higher. A general sparseness of footpath and private tree-plantings throughout the neighbourhood emphasised the visual dominance of overhead power lines within the streetscape (Figure 4-25).



Figure 4-23: Kingsgrove – Typical suburban bungalows



Figure 4-24: Kingsgrove – More recent redevelopments



Figure 4-25: Kingsgrove – Overhead powerlines dominate the streetscape

Maroubra

Maroubra, 14 kilometres south-east of Sydney CBD and on Sydney's southern seaboard (Figure 4-26), is a suburb in the long-settled SLA of Randwick, within Baum et al.'s (1999) "transitional/gentrifying opportunity" cluster. This cluster featured communities undergoing varying degrees of social upgrading of place through the process of gentrification. In more recent times, some middle suburban communities, including many of Sydney's inner suburbs, have undergone marked social changes corresponding with the emergence of a new middle class (Forster 1999). According to Murphy and Watson (1997), an important part of the explanation of gentrification has been growth in demand for symbolic analysts to fill jobs in Sydney's CBD. In this way, gentrification is linked to economic restructuring and globalisation of Sydney's economy. In addition, many such communities are also associated with changing amenity and lifestyle and are becoming the sought after living environment of the "yuppies", the "dinks", and the "empty nesters" (Baum et al. 1999).

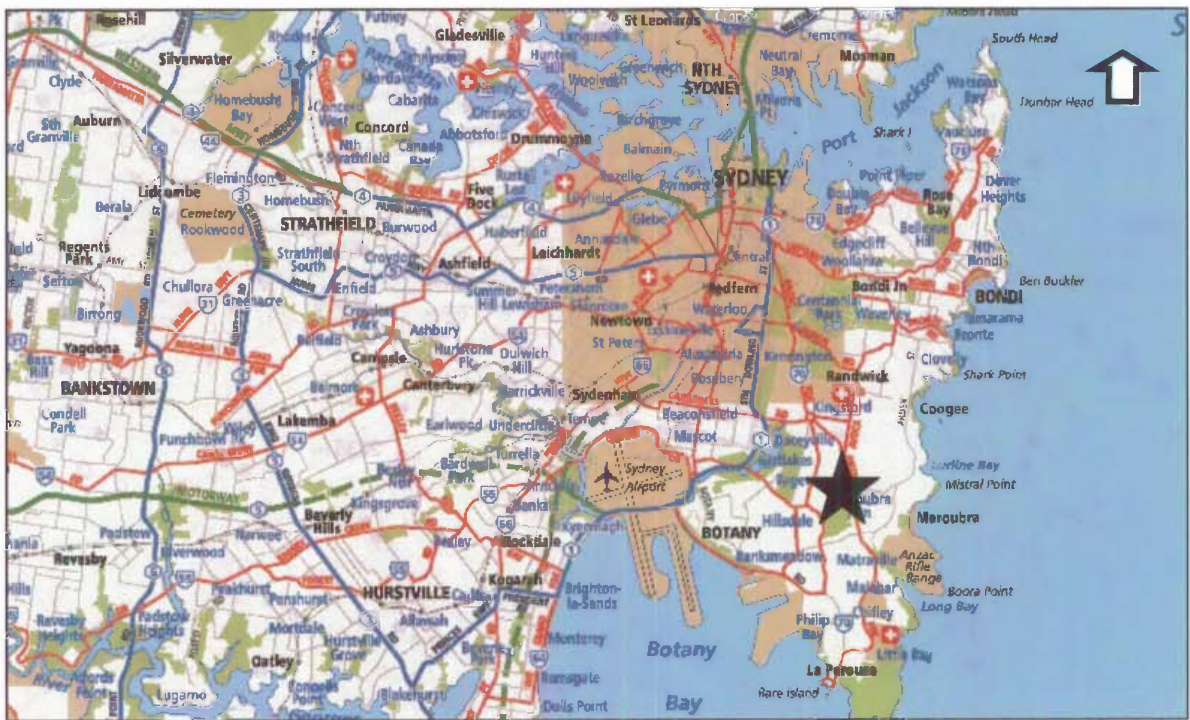


Figure 4-26: General location of Maroubra survey CD (denoted by star symbol)

One CD from Maroubra was selected as a survey location. Whilst Maroubra was, at the time of fieldwork, peripheral to the high levels of gentrification so overtly apparent in some SLAs to the north (for example, Paddington) and north-west (such as Lilyfield), it was specifically selected as being representative of an area in the process of change. Public transport is road-based, with main roads Maroubra Road and Bunnerong Road to

the east and west respectively. Heffron Park, with a variety of sporting centres, fields and facilities, is immediately to the south.

During fieldwork, it was observed that young children sometimes used nature strips and roads which carried low volumes of vehicular traffic within the CD as an extension of their playing areas, with the flat terrain conducive to a variety of ball games.

The area is well serviced by a comprehensive shopping strip along Maroubra Road where a variety of outlets catered for the growing *café society*. A regional shopping complex was located in the adjacent suburb of East Gardens to the west. Popular Maroubra Beach, with its recently refurbished park, pavilion and beachfront facilities, is two kilometres to the east. Figure 4-27 shows the boundaries of the Maroubra survey location.

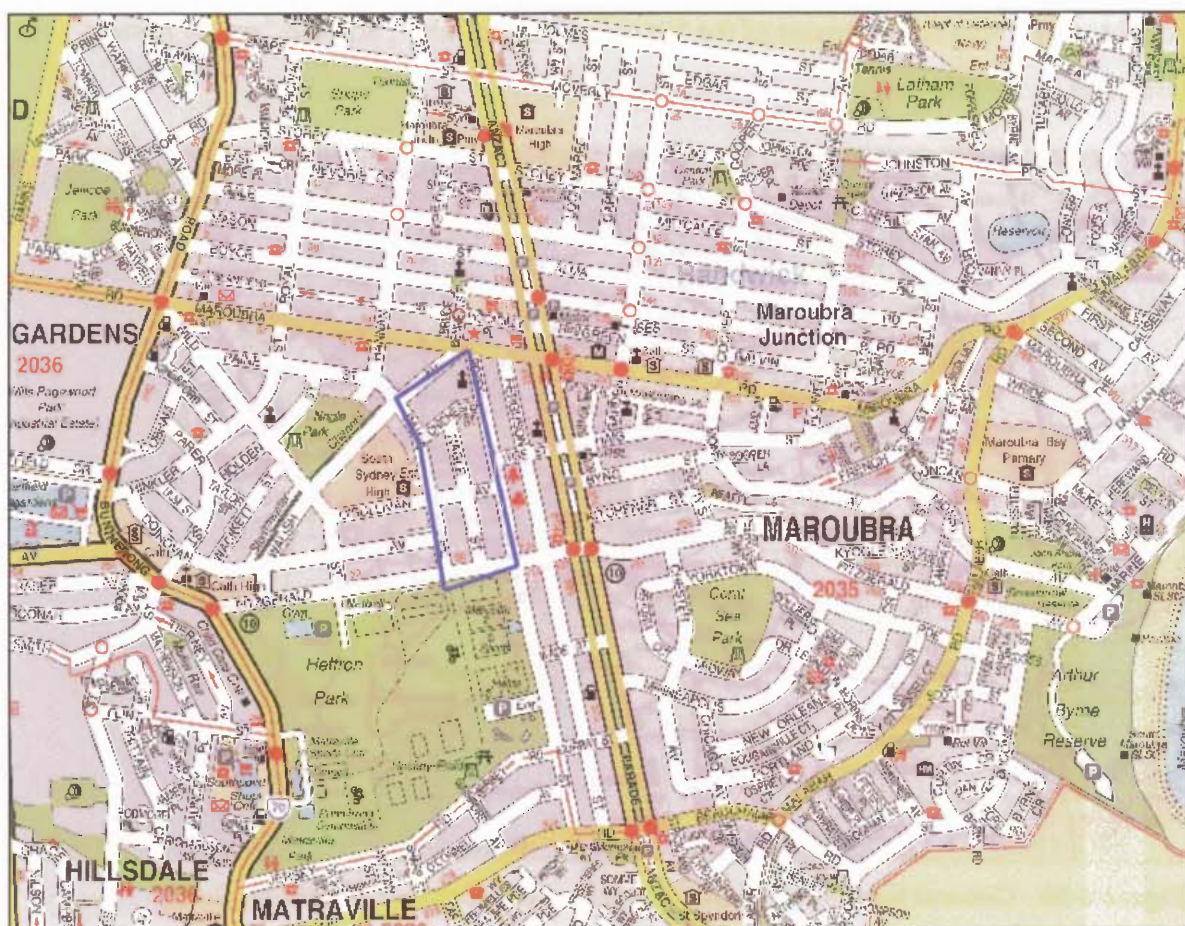


Figure 4-27: Boundaries of Maroubra survey location

A substantial proportion of the residential development between the CD and the beach was in the form of blocks of units and flats. However, west of Maroubra Road, freestanding houses were the norm and, within the CD, dwellings appeared to be exclusively freehold residential properties. The majority were either modest red brick bungalows (such as in Figure 4-28) or duplexes. The recent planning and political push within Sydney towards medium density housing is epitomised within this, the Premier's, electorate of Maroubra. Perhaps as part of the gentrification process, many duplexes have undergone (or were in the process of undergoing) renovation, often with a second storey being added (Figure 4-29). A number of residents volunteered concern of the extent and type of redevelopment occurring within their neighbourhood or proximate to it and the ability of existing water, sewerage and transport infrastructure to adequately service the area. Occasional more recently redeveloped sites were reminiscent of the gated houses so conspicuous in the Strathfield CD (Figure 4-30).



Figure 4-28: Maroubra – Older style freestanding residences



Figure 4-29: Maroubra – Independent renovation of residential duplexes



Figure 4-30: Maroubra – More recent redevelopments

4.2 Profile of the final sample

Whilst the selection process ensured CDs with a wide range of characteristics were surveyed, it must be remembered that the sample is not necessarily representative of the total urban population at large. This is in part because locations with very high concentrations of people who spoke languages other than English and CDs with very high concentrations of working mothers were excluded. Also, there was an element of non-response and non-participation. The final number respondents – 207 in total, with participation from two persons in 12 dwellings – were residents from only 195 dwellings from an original sample of 843; in short, only 23.1% of sample dwellings were represented in the final sample. Because of this participation rate, there was the possibility of a skewed sample. For this reason, the actual characteristics of respondents were examined to see what types of residents within the survey locations had participated. Qualification of the profile of the final sample could influence interpretation of results.

This section presents a profile of the final sample for the survey locations, including comparisons, where relevant, with census data from the 2001 Census for the six CDs. Observations about under- and over-represented groups are made. (See also Appendix 4 which details values collected before and after responses were condensed for analysis.) In addition, statistically significant inter-related factors within the final sample are explored to aid subsequent discussions of the results.

Characteristics selected to represent the profile sample included variables that describe gender, age and stage in the life course (including length of residence and household composition), socio economic status (employment status, education, income, home ownership) and transport mobility (ownership or access to motor vehicles). In addition, number of hours worked and languages spoken were considered important. Because of the consequence to the notion of CWP of the ability for people to communicate with others using available technology, computer, internet and mobile phone usage were also investigated.

Representativeness of the final sample

Table 4-1 presents information on gender and age for survey respondents in the final sample compared with combined 2001 ABS Census results for the six sample CDs. Although all adults (persons 18 years of age or more) in sample dwellings were eligible to

participate, no respondents in the final sample were aged less than 20. Overall, a larger proportion of females were represented than males. In addition, people aged between 40 and 59 and, to a lesser extent, those aged 60 years or more were over-represented, at the expense of participants less than 40 years of age.

Table 4-1: Profile of final sample – Representation by gender and age

(Sources: ABS 2002; author's fieldwork)

<i>Age</i>	<i>2001 Census results – sample CDs %</i>			<i>2002 survey – final sample %</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
<i>20 – 39 years</i>	17.7	20.4	38.0	7.3	18.0	25.4
<i>40 – 59 years</i>	18.5	18.4	36.9	21.0	25.4	46.3
<i>60 years or more</i>	11.7	13.4	25.1	14.6	13.7	28.3
<i>Total</i>	47.9	52.1	100	42.9	57.1	100
<i>(n =)</i>	(1,652)	(1,797)	(3,449)	(88)	(117)	(205*)

* 2 female respondents did not supply age

Approximately one in four respondents were aged between 20 and 39; this was appreciably less than their 38.0% representation in the combined population for the survey locations. Males from this age range were markedly under-represented. When initially contacted in the field, many eligible males apparently in this age range were not interested in finding out about the survey. They often called upon female partners to discuss the project and make the decision about participation. An additional factor potentially influencing participation from people in this age range might relate to the many mothers with young babies or children who indicated they did not have the time. Although apparently genuinely interested and initially prepared to participate, the need to maintain a seven-day diary was often regarded as too onerous an obligation for them to commit.

People aged 60 or more were represented in the final sample slightly in excess of the extent to which they comprised the sample CD population. This was possibly influenced by the fact that most had retired from the workforce and were more likely to be found at home. Males were over-represented in this age group. This was in part because females often deferred to their male partners, preferring not to participate in their own right. However, during interview sessions with elderly males, their responses were often made after consultation with female partners.

In addition to age and gender, a number of other characteristics describing the final sample can be compared against the population of the six CDs selected as survey locations. These are summarised in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: Profile of final sample – Other characteristics

(Sources: ABS 2002; author's fieldwork)

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>2001 Census results – sample CDs %</i>	<i>2002 survey – final sample %</i>
Population mobility:		
<i>Different address 1 year ago (as % of total persons 1+ years of age)</i>	13.1	1.9
<i>Different address 5 years ago (as % of total persons 5+ years of age)</i>	32.5	21.4
Household composition:		
<i>Live with partner (as % of total persons 15+ years of age*)</i>	76.3	82.0
<i>Single person households (as % of total households)</i>	18.9	7.7
Family type (as % of total persons in families with children)		
<i>Couple family with children</i>	71.3	58.5
<i>Couple family without children</i>	17.8	37.5
<i>One parent family with children</i>	13.3	6.4
Ethnicity:		
<i>Speak English only (as % of total persons)</i>	63.1	90.3
<i>Australian born (as % of total persons)</i>	68.1	65.6
Education:		
<i>Bachelor degrees or higher (as % of total persons 20+ years of age)</i>	17.9	32.0
Material wealth:		
<i>Income per week (as % of total persons 20+ years of age)</i>		
<i>\$1,000 or more</i>	18.2	29.5
<i>\$500 – \$999</i>	31.3	25.1
<i>Less than \$500</i>	44.0	32.9
<i>Not stated</i>	6.5	12.6
<i>Dwellings owned or being purchased (as % of total dwellings)</i>	76.8	87.9
Internet use:		
<i>At home (as % of total persons)</i>	37.9	59.4
<i>At work (as % of total employed 15+ years of age)</i>	33.3	73.4

* excluding dependent students and non-dependent children, and visitors

The results are skewed against those who were from a non-English speaking background. Also noteworthy is the fact that respondents in the final sample, by comparison with the adult population of the sample CDs, had above-average educational qualifications, earned above-average incomes, and were more likely to be homeowners. In addition, the majority

used the internet, either at home or at work, representing much higher rates of usage than for the overall adult or working population of the sample CDs. In contrast, there was under-representation in the final sample, by comparison with the total population of the survey locations, of short-term residents, single-person households, and one-parent families with children. Specific divergences and potential reasons for them are explored next.

Within the final sample, shorter-term residents (less than five years) and, in particular, those who had been residents for less than 12 months, were under-represented by comparison with the total population of sample CDs. This might be explained, in part, by the reduced time for shorter-term residents to form associations in or identify with locations in which they lived and, thus, less preparedness to participate in the survey. If residential mobility is a factor in reduced participation rates, the recognised high mobility of persons aged 25 to 29 – the most mobile age group in the Australian population (ABS 2003a) – could be a factor in the comparatively low proportion of responses identified for persons aged less than 40.

Under-representation of single persons in the final sample has been influenced by the non-participation of many elderly people who said they lived alone. Often times, elderly residents refused to unlock security doors when talking to the researcher. This was a precautionary measure to ensure personal safety (so they sometimes said) and occurred in spite of mailed advance information and other stated research procedures, options for verification of project credentials and display of appropriate photographic personal identification. Some elderly people also stated that, due to their seniority in years, they no longer felt they had anything worthwhile to contribute; they thought their views were no longer relevant. In spite of discussing the importance of their involvement, it seemed that many felt marginalised by society. A much earlier report on the aged in Victoria suggested that old people commonly felt rejected and tended to be socially isolated (Hutchinson 1954). Many of the elderly who *were* prepared to talk to the researcher but not participate indicated that they no longer went out and about much and appeared isolated from their community of place, experiencing minimal contact and activity within their neighbourhood or elsewhere.

Seven respondents in all (6.4% of the final sample) identified themselves as single-parents with children still living at home compared with 13.3 % of this household type in the CD

sample population. Lack of available time in which to complete the survey – in particular, to maintain daily diaries – was the reason given by some single parents for not wanting to participate.

As might be expected, people not fluent in English as a language chose not, or were unable, to take part. Of the final sample, 90.3% had English as their only spoken language, whereas a considerably smaller proportion of the sample CD population (63.1%) spoke English only. Survey locations were chosen before release of 2001 Census results and ABS data showed that, in three of the survey locations, the proportion of the population whose only spoken language was English had dropped substantially in the inter-censal period from 1996 (Table 4-3). The inflow of non-English speaking migrants to three survey CDs (Strathfield, Roselands and Kingsgrove) in the years prior to the survey is suspected to have impacted upon response rates. In the other three CDs, the proportion who spoke English only had remained static or increased only marginally.

Table 4-3: Change in percentage speaking English only – 1996-2001

(Source: ABS 1997, 2002)

<i>Survey location</i>	<i>Persons speak English only %</i>	
	<i>1996 Census</i>	<i>2001 Census</i>
<i>Collaroy Plateau</i>	91.3	91.3
<i>Riverview</i>	89.8	91.5
<i>Strathfield</i>	58.8	48.7
<i>Roselands</i>	58.4	51.3
<i>Kingsgrove</i>	48.9	43.7
<i>Maroubra</i>	75.4	77.0
<i>Total</i>	69.6	63.1

Residents with high levels of education (people with university degrees) were more likely to have participated than those with lower education levels. Of the final sample, 32.0% had bachelor degrees or higher compared with only 17.9% of the total population in sample CDs aged 20 years or more.

People were sometimes unwilling to disclose income; 12.6% opted not to, by comparison with 6.5% of sample CD populations in the 2001 Census. This was unavoidable but unfortunate, given the relevance of income in assessing the socio-economic status of people involved in different types of communities. Reasons for non-declaration were sometimes written in survey booklets and were generally linked to a desire for privacy in this respect. It might be that conduct of interview sessions in the home, although not

intrusive in a personal sense, might have contributed to reduced feelings of anonymity. Persons on high incomes were over-represented by comparison with the total population of the survey locations that were aged 20 years or more. Conversely, low income persons were under-represented, as were tenants in privately or publicly owned housing.

Use of communications technology is relevant because of its hypothesised link with involvement in CWP. At the time of the 2001 Census, 37.9% of the population of the six survey locations used the internet at home; 33.3% of residents aged 15 years or more who were employed used it at work (Table 4.2). By comparison, 59.4% of the final sample used the internet at home and 73.4% employed at the time of the survey used it at work. Statistics released in the third quarter of 2003 showed that the number of Australians accessing the internet at home has continued to increase since the 2001 Census and by 2002 had reached 43% of adults (ABS 2003c). Whilst 2002 ABS comparative data are not available at the CD level, some increase in internet access from homes within survey locations could be expected to have occurred between the most recent census in August 2001 and this project's fieldwork in 2002. Even allowing for such an increase, internet usage by survey respondents both at home and at work was apparently substantially greater than for the total population of the survey locations. Also to be considered is overall levels of computer usage (disregarding internet access). As shown in Table 4-2, usage in the sample CDs was dominated by persons less than 20 years of age – 60.2% were computer users in 2001. By comparison, only 44.7% of the population of the survey locations who were 20 years or more (the age range of respondents) used computers. These factors clearly point to over-representation in the final sample of computer and internet users by comparison with those who were not users.

Table 4-4: Computer usage in sample CDs by age groups

(Sources: ABS 2002; author's fieldwork)

<i>Survey location</i>	<i>Computer usage levels %</i>		
	<i>2001 Census results</i>		<i>2002 survey</i>
	<i>Less than 20 years of age</i>	<i>20 years of age or more</i>	<i>results – 20 years of age or more</i>
<i>Collaroy Plateau</i>	57.9	49.8	92.3
<i>Riverview</i>	74.5	63.6	75.0
<i>Strathfield</i>	73.9	50.1	72.5
<i>Roselands</i>	42.2	30.2	60.0
<i>Kingsgrove</i>	53.3	32.5	70.0
<i>Maroubra</i>	54.9	41.9	71.9
<i>Total</i>	60.2	44.7	75.1

In summary, comparison of the demographic profile of the final sample against the population of sample CDs has identified some groups which were disproportionately represented in the study. For example, there was a skew towards Webber's professionals and people who had embraced modern forms of telecommunications. In other words, persons with higher levels of education and incomes, who made more use of communication technology and who, according to the hypothesis, were most likely to belong to CWPs, were over-represented in the sample. The research results presented in the following chapters need to be interpreted with this in mind. If the results do not support a contemporary relevance of CWPs in the survey locations, then, in some respects, the identified skew in the sample emphasises the negative nature of the outcome. Conversely, if there is strong evidence of the CWP phenomenon and its concomitant effect of diluting the relevance of place communities, then some caution would need to be exercised in the interpretation of the extent, having regard for the profile of the sample. Reasons why some types of people were more likely to participate in the survey than others can only be speculated on.

Description of the profile of the final sample has been based on combined values for the six sample CDs. Appreciable differences were apparent between each of the six survey locations. Noteworthy features and variations are briefly presented in Appendix 5. This includes comparisons between characteristics of the final sample for each CD and corresponding ABS data from the 2001 Census.

Associated characteristics of the final sample

Many characteristics describing the final sample were highly inter-related. A summary of this is presented in Table 4-5, with Chi-squared tests of significance used to determine statistical significance. The testing that underpins Table 4-5 involved cross-tabulating one variable against another using pooled data covering all respondents. The nonparametric Chi-square test was appropriate because of the nominal or ordinal nature of much of the data. In principle, a significant difference could be evident in the cross-tabulated matrix for a variety of reasons. In practice, it occurred when scores on one variable increased alongside increases in the scores on the other variable. The case of length of residence and age is a good example. As one increased, so the other tended to increase. In this way significant inter-relationships could be established.

Table 4-5: Summary of variables describing profile of final sample using non-parametric tests of significance

Category	Col ref	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9	Col 10	Col 11	Col 12	Col 13	Col 14	Col 15	Col 16
<i>Length of residence</i>	1	ns	***	***	ns	***	ns#	ns	ns	ns	ns	***	***	**^	***	***
<i>Gender'</i>	2		**	ns	ns	ns	ns#	***	ns	**	ns	ns	*	ns^	ns	ns
<i>Age</i>	3			***	***	ns	***	ns	***	***	*	***	***	***^	***	***
<i>Household size</i>	4				ns+	ns	ns#	ns	**	ns	ns	ns	***	ns^	***	***
<i>Live with partner</i>	5					ns	ns#	ns	***	ns	***	***	**	ns^	ns	***
<i>Preferred language</i>	6						***	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns^	ns	ns
<i>Employment status</i>	7							na	ns#	***#	***	ns#	***#	na	*#	ns#
<i>Hours worked/week</i>	8								**	***	ns	ns	**	ns	ns	ns
<i>Education</i>	9									***	***	ns	***	***^	**	***
<i>Income</i>	10										***	ns	***	***^	**	***
<i>Motor vehicle</i>	11											ns	***	ns^	***	***
<i>Home ownership</i>	12												*	ns^	ns	ns
<i>Computer use skills</i>	13													***^	***	***
<i>Internet use - work</i>	14													***^	***	ns^
<i>Internet use - home</i>	15													***^	***	***
<i>Mobile phone</i>	16													***^	***	***

* Significant at p < 0.10 level
 ** Significant at p < 0.05 level
 *** Significant at p < 0.01 level
 ns Not significant
 na Not applicable
 + Excludes 1 person households
 # Excludes retirees
 ^ Excludes persons not employed

Following social science convention, a 95% confidence level was used in all testing. It should be noted, however, that in social science, results of data analyses that fall short of the 95% confidence level might still be indicative of important differences. Thus in cases where the significance level fell between 90.0% and 94.9%, the word “notable” has been used to indicate a finding of some substance. (These conventions were applied elsewhere in this thesis.) Of course, some results are predictable, whilst others are sufficiently interesting to require comment and this has been offered to the extent permitted by the data and the objectives of the study

The most important variable for respondent profile was apparently age in that it was highly inter-related with 11 of the 15 other variables (Table 4-5). Length of residence, gender, education and income were also strongly linked with many other profile variables. In addition, use of computers, the internet and mobile phones were clearly linked to identifiable characteristics. Discussion of relevant features of these inter-relationships augments the description of the sample profile.

As expected, age was closely related to length of residence and stage in the life course (see Table 4-6). For example, number of years spent living in the same neighbourhood increased with age of respondents (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 92.736$) and older persons were very significantly more likely to live alone or in two-person households ($\chi^2 = 47.476$). Of those who were 60 years of age or more, approximately one in three (32.8%) were single (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 14.992$, $df = 2$). In addition, of those who were over 60 years, 21.2% lived alone (rather than with other family members or in a shared household) compared with only 2.0% of three people in the final sample who were less than 60.

These significant differences also contribute towards explanation of the close inter-relationship between length of residence and household size (Table 4-7). A majority of long-term residents (30 years or more) and, therefore, those more senior in years were in one or two person households. By comparison, significantly smaller proportions of households comprised of less than three people had lived in the same neighbourhood for fewer years (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 19.386$, $df = 6$).

Table 4-6: Age by other key life course variables

<i>Characteristics relating to stage in the life course</i>	<i>Age %</i>			<i>Total responses</i>
	<i>Less than 40 years</i>	<i>40 – 59 years</i>	<i>60 years or more</i>	
<i>Length of residence:</i>				
<i>Less than 5 years</i>	47.1	16.8	6.9	21.6
<i>5 – 9 years</i>	25.5	20.0	6.9	17.6
<i>10 –29 years</i>	21.6	51.6	20.7	35.3
<i>30 years or more</i>	5.9	11.6	65.5	25.5
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (51)	100 (95)	100 (58)	100 (204)
<i>Household size:</i>				
<i>1 person</i>	3.8	1.1	21.1	7.4
<i>2 persons</i>	21.2	20.0	52.6	29.4
<i>3 – 4 persons</i>	53.8	55.8	22.8	46.1
<i>5 or more persons</i>	21.2	23.2	3.5	17.2
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (52)	100 (95)	100 (57)	100 (204)
<i>Live with a partner:</i>				
<i>Yes</i>	84.6	91.5	67.2	82.8
<i>No</i>	15.4	8.5	32.8	17.2
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (52)	100 (94)	100 (58)	100 (204)

Table 4-7: Length of residence by household size

<i>Household size</i>	<i>Length of residence %</i>				<i>Total responses</i>
	<i>Less than 5 years</i>	<i>5 – 9 years</i>	<i>10 – 29 years</i>	<i>30 years or more</i>	
<i>1 – 2 people</i>	34.1	27.0	27.4	58.8	36.6
<i>3 – 4 people</i>	50.0	54.1	45.2	35.3	45.4
<i>5 or more people</i>	15.9	18.9	27.4	5.9	18.0
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (44)	100 (37)	100 (73)	100 (51)	100 (205)

Length of residence and preferred language spoken in the home appeared to be inter-related (Table 4-8). Because short-term residents and persons who spoke languages other than English were under-represented in the final sample, care must be taken in ascribing this association to the wider population. Results showed that almost one third of respondents were migrants. Additional analysis indicated that that of those migrants who had been in the country for less than ten years ($n = 10$), 50.0% preferred to speak other than English at home. By comparison, for migrants with at least ten years of Australian residency ($n = 56$), only 14.3% spoke languages other than English when at home. As a consequence of immigration policies over time, it would seem that long-term migrants were more likely to have come from English-speaking backgrounds than more recent arrivals. All persons in the final sample who had lived in their neighbourhood for at least 25 years ($n = 69$) spoke English only in the home.

Table 4-8: Preferred language by other key profile variables

<i>Profile characteristic</i>	<i>Preferred language at home %</i>		
	<i>Speak English only</i>	<i>Speak other than English only</i>	<i>Total (n =)</i>
<i>Length of residence:</i>			
<i>Less than 10 years</i>	77.3	22.7	100 (44)
<i>10 – 29 years</i>	86.5	13.5	100 (37)
<i>30 years or more</i>	96.0	4.0	100 (125)
<i>Total responses</i>	90.3	9.7	100 (206)
<i>Employed in paid work:</i>			
<i>Yes</i>	91.4	8.6	100 (128)
<i>No</i>	76.0	24.0	100 (25)
<i>Retired</i>	94.3	5.7	100 (53)
<i>Total responses</i>	90.3	9.7	100 (206)

In addition, there is apparently an inter-relationship between preferred languages spoken in the home and employment status (Table 4-8). For example, 24.0% who spoke other than English were not in paid work by comparison with only 8.6% of others. Whether proficiency in English influenced people's ability to find employment or whether they did not work by choice cannot be determined from the results.

The previously identified propensity for young females (less than 40 years) rather than elderly ones (60 years or more) to take part in the survey and, by contrast, for elderly men to be more likely to respond by comparison with young ones is illustrated in Table 4-9. The relationship between age and gender was statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 6.252$, $df = 2$).

Table 4-9: Gender by other key profile variables

<i>Profile characteristics</i>	<i>Gender %</i>		<i>Total responses</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
<i>Age:</i>			
<i>Less than 40 years</i>	17.0	31.6	25.4
<i>40 – 59 years</i>	48.9	44.4	46.3
<i>60 years and over</i>	34.1	23.9	28.3
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (88)	100 (117)	100 (205)
<i>Hours worked per week:</i>			
<i>Less than 20 hours</i>	9.8	32.8	22.9
<i>20 – 40 hours</i>	51.0	52.2	51.7
<i>More than 40 hours</i>	39.2	14.9	25.4
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (51)	100 (67)	100 (118)
<i>Income per week:</i>			
<i>\$1,000 or more</i>	44.2	26.0	33.7
<i>\$500 – \$999</i>	28.6	28.8	28.7
<i>Less than \$500</i>	27.3	45.2	37.6
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (77)	100 (104)	100 (181)

Gender was closely associated with hours worked per week and income, with a larger proportion of females in the paid workforce in part-time work (less than 20 hours per week) by comparison with employed males (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 13.443$, $df = 2$; see Table 4-9). Males were significantly more likely to work long hours, in excess of 40 hours per week. The higher participation rate in the survey by females overall and younger females in particular is most likely related to fewer hours in the workforce and potentially more time spent at home. In connection with hours worked but not necessarily solely related to it, females generally had lower incomes (statistical significant difference, $\chi^2 = 8.128$, $df = 2$).

Age and socio-economic factors (employment status, education, income and home ownership) were highly inter-related (Table 4-10). That most persons aged 60 years or more were retired contributed to the significant difference for employment status (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 144.522$, $df = 4$). When retirees were excluded from significance testing between employment status and other profile variables, Chi-squared assumptions generally could not be met.

The proportion of respondents not employed was greatest among those less than 40 years of age (25.0%). Eight of the eleven respondents who were not employed at the time of the survey and were less than 40 had university degrees (one male; seven females). This quite possibly highlights mothers with children living at home who were able to remain out of the workforce at this stage of their life course.

Whilst age was strongly associated with education level (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 21.080$, $df = 4$), this was probably a reflection of changing attitudes towards, and availability and affordability of, tertiary education, particularly throughout the latter quarter of the twentieth century. This factor also influenced significance testing between education level and partnership status. Single people were more likely than others to have had no further education after leaving school although this was more a feature of elderly people without partners, quite possibly having been widowed, than of single persons *per se* having lower levels of education.

Table 4-10: Age by socio-economic factors

<i>Characteristics related to socio-economic factors</i>	<i>Age %</i>			<i>Total responses</i>
	<i>Less than 40 years</i>	<i>40 – 59 years</i>	<i>60 years or more</i>	
<i>Employed in paid work:</i>				
<i>Yes</i>	75.0	85.3	13.8	62.4
<i>No</i>	25.0	9.5	3.4	11.7
<i>Retired</i>	-	5.3	82.8	25.9
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (52)	100 (95)	100 (58)	100 (205)
<i>Hours worked per week:</i>				
<i>Less than 20 hours</i>	20.8	15.7	5.3	13.9
<i>20 - 40 hours</i>	39.6	43.8	5.3	31.4
<i>More than 40 hours</i>	12.5	24.7	3.5	15.5
<i>Not applicable</i>	27.1	15.7	86.0	39.2
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (48)	100 (89)	100 (57)	100 (194)
<i>Education:</i>				
<i>Year 12 or below</i>	27.1	23.7	53.4	33.2
<i>Trade certificate or diploma</i>	27.1	37.6	32.8	33.7
<i>Bachelor degree or higher</i>	45.8	38.7	13.8	33.2
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (48)	100 (93)	100 (58)	100 (199)
<i>Gross weekly income:</i>				
<i>\$1,000 or more</i>	30.0	44.4	14.6	33.7
<i>\$500 – \$999</i>	30.0	31.1	22.0	28.7
<i>Less than \$500</i>	40.0	24.4	63.4	37.6
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (50)	100 (90)	100 (41)	100 (181)
<i>Own or purchasing home:</i>				
<i>Yes</i>	75.0	93.6	94.8	89.2
<i>No</i>	25.0	6.4	5.2	10.8
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (52)	100 (94)	100 (58)	100 (204)
<i>Own or access to a motor vehicle:</i>				
<i>Yes</i>	96.2	94.7	86.2	92.7
<i>No</i>	3.8	5.3	13.8	7.3
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (52)	100 (95)	100 (58)	100 (205)

Number of hours worked was to some extent related to level of education. Of those respondents in paid work, university qualified persons were the group most likely to work in excess of 40 hours per week (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 10.148$, $df = 4$; see Table 4-11). Table 4-11 also illustrates that respondents with higher levels of education generally received higher incomes than those with lower education levels ($\chi^2 = 50.124$, $df = 4$). However, this is likely to be a reflection of the fact that higher qualifications attract higher salary rates rather than in recognition of longer hours worked. The proportion of low-income persons in the group without tertiary education included respondents who were elderly retirees, thus contributing to the strong level of inter-relationship between education and income.

Table 4-11: Education by hours worked and income

<i>Profile characteristics</i>	<i>Education %</i>			<i>Total responses</i>
	<i>Year 12 or below</i>	<i>Trade certificate or diploma</i>	<i>Bachelor degree or higher</i>	
<i>Hours worked per week:</i>				
<i>Less than 20 hours</i>	24.0	34.1	10.9	22.3
<i>20 – 40 hours</i>	60.0	48.8	52.2	52.7
<i>More than 40 hours</i>	16.0	17.1	37.0	25.0
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (25)	100 (41)	100 (46)	100 (112)
<i>Income per week:</i>				
<i>\$1,000 or more</i>	16.4	19.0	59.7	32.6
<i>\$500 – \$999</i>	18.2	48.3	22.6	29.7
<i>Less than \$500</i>	65.5	32.8	17.7	37.7
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (55)	100 (58)	100 (62)	100 (175)

Age was closely associated with income (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 20.065$, $df = 4$) (Table 4-10). Respondents aged 60 years or more, most of whom were retired, received lower incomes than younger persons. A larger proportion of people aged 40 to 59 years by comparison with other age groups were in the highest income range (\$1,000 per week or more). People of this age group could be expected to be at the peak of their professions, with the benefits of having some years of experience to assist them in achieving more senior positions.

Although a high proportion of respondents overall either owned or were purchasing their homes, this was strongly associated with age (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 14.713$, $df = 2$), with a lower proportion of people less than 40 years compared with persons of other age groups either tenants or still living in the family home (Table 4-10). Some younger respondents had not left the family home. In addition, younger people have had less time to accumulate a deposit, settle down in a stable relationship, or to be thinking in terms of property investment and are perhaps also less able to afford the commitment of mortgage repayments. This particularly applies to people at the lower end of the income scale. The increase in the price of housing in Sydney over more recent years relative to incomes must also be a factor in this trend (Darcy 2000). As might be expected, the proportion of people owning their home also increased with length of residence (statistically significant, $\chi^2 = 7.900$, $df = 2$) (Table 4-12). Of those who had spent less than five years in the same neighbourhood ($n = 43$), 30.2% were not homeowners whereas for longer-term residents ($n = 160$), only 5.3% were not homeowners.

Table 4-12: Home ownership by length of residence

<i>Length of residence</i>	<i>Own or purchasing own home %</i>		
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Total (n =)</i>
<i>Less than 5 years</i>	69.8	30.2	100 (43)
<i>5 – 9 years</i>	97.2	2.8	100 (36)
<i>10 – 29 years</i>	93.1	6.9	100 (72)
<i>30 years or more</i>	96.2	3.8	100 (52)
<i>Total responses</i>	89.7	10.3	100 (203)

Most respondents had independent private transport (refer to Table 4-10). The results point to older persons being less likely to have access to motor vehicles and, therefore, more dependent on public transport, family members and friends. All respondents in the highest income bracket (\$1,000 per week or more) owned vehicles. Of those in single-person households ($n = 15$), one third did not have cars.

Age was, not unexpectedly, an important factor with respect to use of mobile phones and the internet, with respondents of at least 60 years less likely than others to be computer literate (having described their computer skills as “not applicable” or “just learning”), to use the internet either at work or home, or to own mobile phones (see Table 4-13). For respondents who were retirees ($n = 53$), only 32.7% were computer literate (Table 4-14).

Table 4-13: Age by communications technology

<i>Characteristics of communications technology</i>	<i>Age %</i>			<i>Total responses</i>
	<i>Less than 40 years</i>	<i>40 – 59 years</i>	<i>60 years or more</i>	
<i>Computer literate:</i>				
<i>Yes</i>	96.2	87.4	33.9	74.9
<i>No</i>	3.8	12.6	66.1	25.1
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (52)	100 (95)	100 (56)	100 (203)
<i>Internet use at work:</i>				
<i>Yes</i>	59.6	68.5	3.6	47.7
<i>No</i>	23.1	23.6	28.6	24.9
<i>Not applicable</i>	17.3	7.9	67.9	27.4
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (52)	100 (89)	100 (56)	100 (197)
<i>Internet use at home:</i>				
<i>Yes</i>	82.7	78.5	28.6	65.7
<i>No</i>	17.3	21.5	71.4	34.3
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (52)	100 (93)	100 (56)	100 (201)
<i>Own a mobile phone:</i>				
<i>Yes</i>	88.5	80.0	45.6	72.5
<i>No</i>	11.5	20.0	54.4	27.5
<i>Total (n =)</i>	100 (52)	100 (95)	100 (57)	100 (207)

Computer literacy levels were seemingly also influenced by employment status (Table 4-13). For example, 92.1% of respondents in the paid workforce were computer literate; this reduced to 76.0% of those not employed (excluding retirees). In addition, the results point to people who work fewer hours per week having less proficiency with computers than those who work longer hours. Of those respondents who worked fewer than 20 hours per week, 18.5% were not proficient with computers compared with only 1.8% who generally work 40 hours or longer per week.

Table 4-14: Computer skills by employment factors

<i>Profile characteristics</i>	<i>Computer use skills %</i>		
	<i>Computer literate</i>	<i>Just learning or not used</i>	<i>Total (n =)</i>
<i>Employed in paid work</i>			
<i>Yes</i>	92.1	7.9	100 (127)
<i>No</i>	76.0	24.0	100 (25)
<i>Retired</i>	32.7	67.3	100 (52)
<i>Total responses</i>	75.0	25.0	100 (204)
<i>Hours worked per week</i>			
<i>Less than 20 hours</i>	81.5	18.5	100 (27)
<i>20 – 40 hours</i>	91.2	8.8	100 (34)
<i>40 hours or more</i>	98.2	1.8	100 (57)
<i>Total responses</i>	92.4	7.6	100 (118)

Use of communications technology was also highly associated with education and income (Table 4-15). The proportion of the survey population indicating proficiency with computers increased with both education and income, producing statistically significant results ($\chi^2 = 21.306$, $df = 2$ and $\chi^2 = 20.151$, $df = 2$ respectively). Similar patterns of statistically significant differences for education and income were also apparent for use of the internet, both in the workplace and at home, and use of mobile phones (Table 4-15).

Table 4-15: Communications technology by education and income

<i>Profile characteristic</i>	<i>% Using technology</i>							
	<i>Computer literate</i>	<i>n =</i>	<i>Internet at work</i>	<i>n =</i>	<i>Internet at home</i>	<i>n =</i>	<i>Mobile phone</i>	<i>n =</i>
<i>Education:</i>								
<i>Year 12 or below</i>	57.6	66	44.4	36	56.3	64	57.6	66
<i>Trade certificate / diploma</i>	74.6	67	64.0	50	62.1	66	73.5	68
<i>Bachelor degree or higher</i>	92.4	66	82.7	52	77.3	66	86.4	66
<i>Total affirmative responses</i>	74.9	199	65.9	138	65.3	196	72.5	200
<i>Income per week:</i>								
<i>\$1,000 or more</i>	95.1	61	86.5	52	83.6	61	88.5	61
<i>\$500 – \$999</i>	80.4	51	67.4	43	67.3	52	69.2	52
<i>Less than \$500</i>	62.7	67	40.5	37	58.5	65	67.2	67
<i>Total affirmative responses</i>	78.8	179	67.4	132	69.7	178	75.0	180

Many of the differences discussed between profile characteristics that describe the final sample demonstrate the representativeness of the sample. More importantly, the apparent inter-relationships between variables that have been identified in this section permit meaningful interpretation of results. In general, the results point to those who are senior in years (aged 60 years or more) being more likely to have lived in their locality for an extended period of time; to own their own home; to live alone or with one other person (usually their partner); to be retired; to have a comparatively low incomes; to be without ownership of, or access to, motor vehicles; and to not use computers or mobile phones, than persons who are younger. It seems that middle-aged people (40 to 59 years) have higher incomes than others who are in younger or older age groups, as do persons with university degrees by comparison with those who have lower education levels. People less than 40 years of age are apparently less likely to be actively involved in the workforce or, if they are, they are more likely to have a part-time job; in addition, young people are more likely to be tenants or still living in the family home than those who are older.

Short-term residents (less than ten years) are more likely to speak languages other than English when at home than those who have lived in the same area for longer. In addition, persons who speak other than English are less likely to be in paid employment. Females in the paid workforce seem to work shorter hours than male respondents and also have lower levels of income. Higher levels of education are associated with higher incomes and longer hours worked. Some socio-economic factors, specifically education and income, are indicative of computers, internet and mobile phone usage – the higher the level of education or income, the greater the proficiency and levels of usage.

This chapter has “set the scene”, describing not only economic performance attributes and the physical environment of the sample CDs in which surveys took place but also characteristics of the respondents who comprised the final sample. The next four chapters present results in accord with the objectives of the research project, commencing with analysis of how respondents identified with their neighbourhoods.