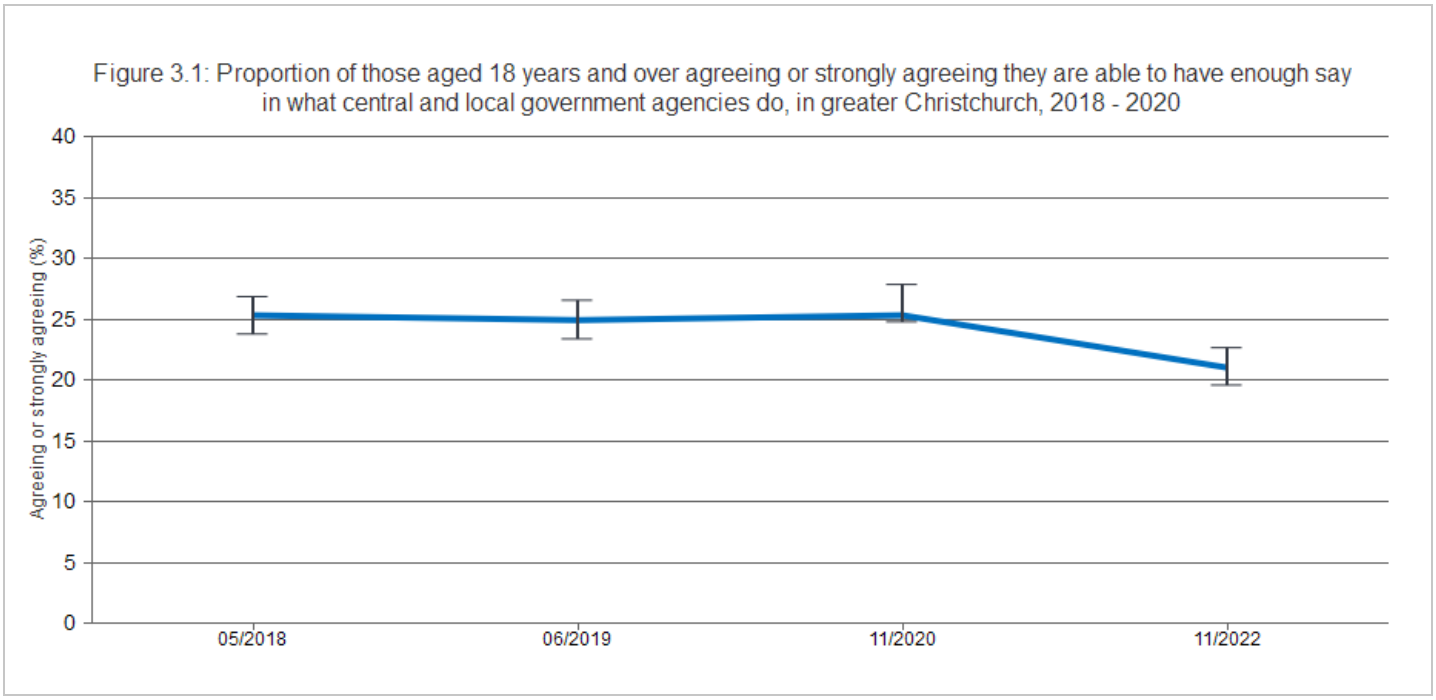
Civic Engagement: Influencing central and local government

Downloaded from https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/our-wellbeing/civic-engagement/influencing-central-and-local-government/ on 29/03/2024 6:26 AM

Central and local government agencies have a major role in enhancing the social, economic, environmental, and cultural aspects of wellbeing within communities. Civic engagement is associated with citizens' confidence in their ability to influence local and national decision making, including their trust in the political process [3].

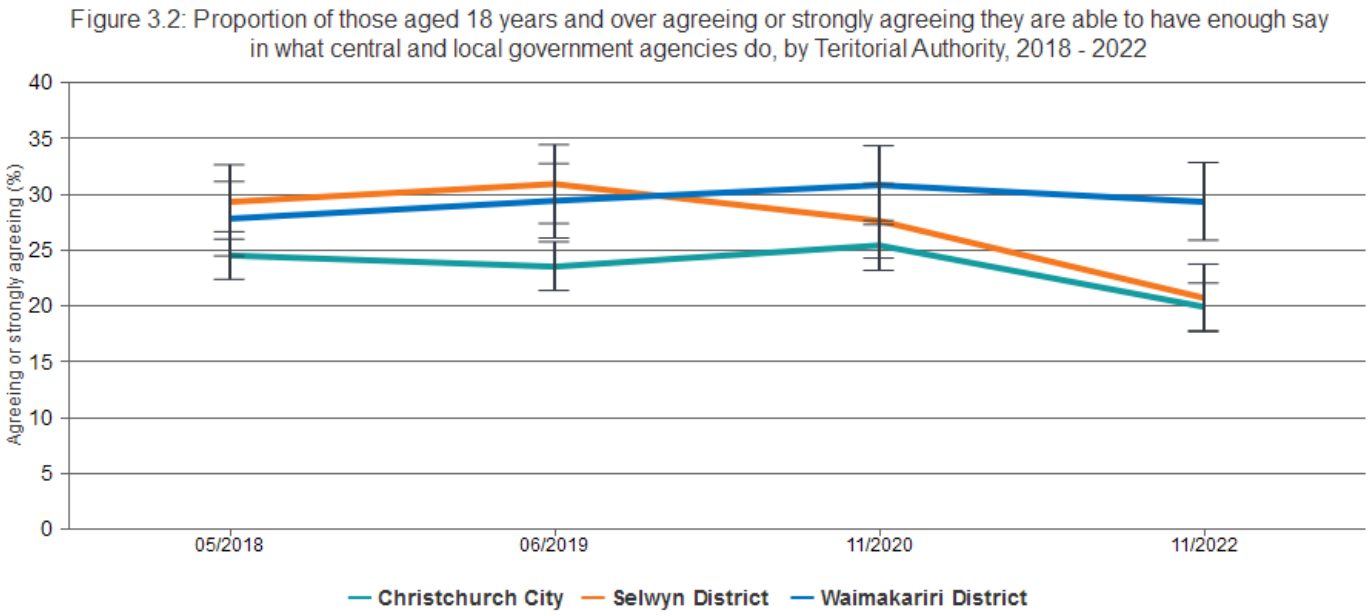
This indicator presents the proportion of those 18 years and over agreeing or strongly agreeing they are able to have enough say in what central and local government agencies do, as reported in the 2018, 2019, and 2020 Canterbury Wellbeing Surveys.



The figure shows that about one quarter of greater Christchurch respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had enough say in the actions of central and local government agencies from 2018 to 2020. However, this proportion has decreased statistically significantly in 2022 (26.3% in 2020 and 21.1% in 2022).

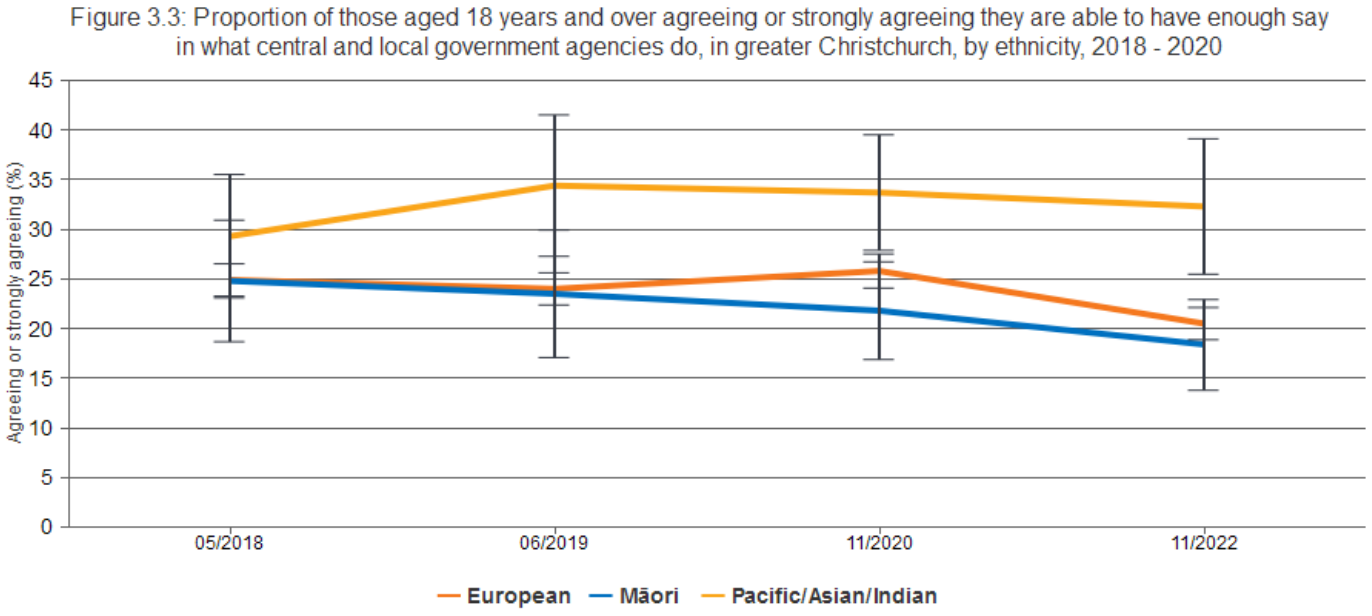
© Crown copyright 2024 Printed on: 29/03/2024

Breakdown by Territorial Authority



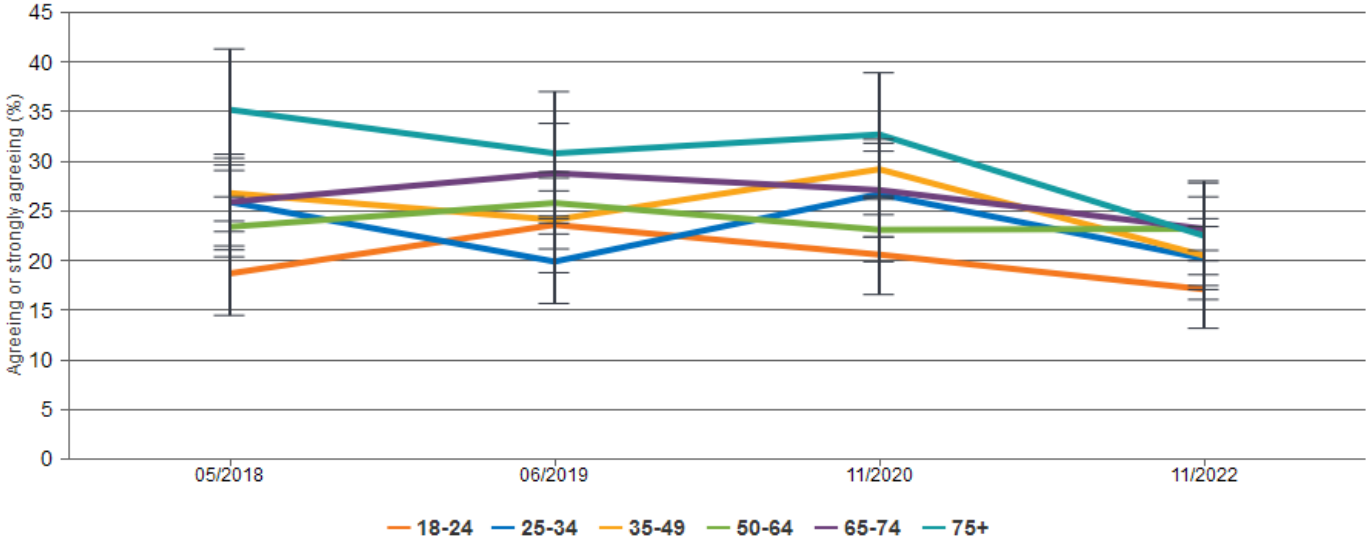
The figure shows that one quarter of Christchurch City respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had enough say in the actions of central and local government agencies, 2018 to 2020. The proportion of respondents in the Selwyn and Waimakariri districts who agreed or strongly agreed that they had enough say in the actions of central and local government agencies tends to be higher than among Christchurch City respondents, for 2018-2020. However, the proportions agreeing or strongly agreeing in Christchurch City and Selwyn District have decreased statistically significantly in 2022 and are significantly lower than for Waimakariri District (approximately 20%, Christchurch City and Selwyn District; 29% Waimakariri District).

Breakdown by ethnicity



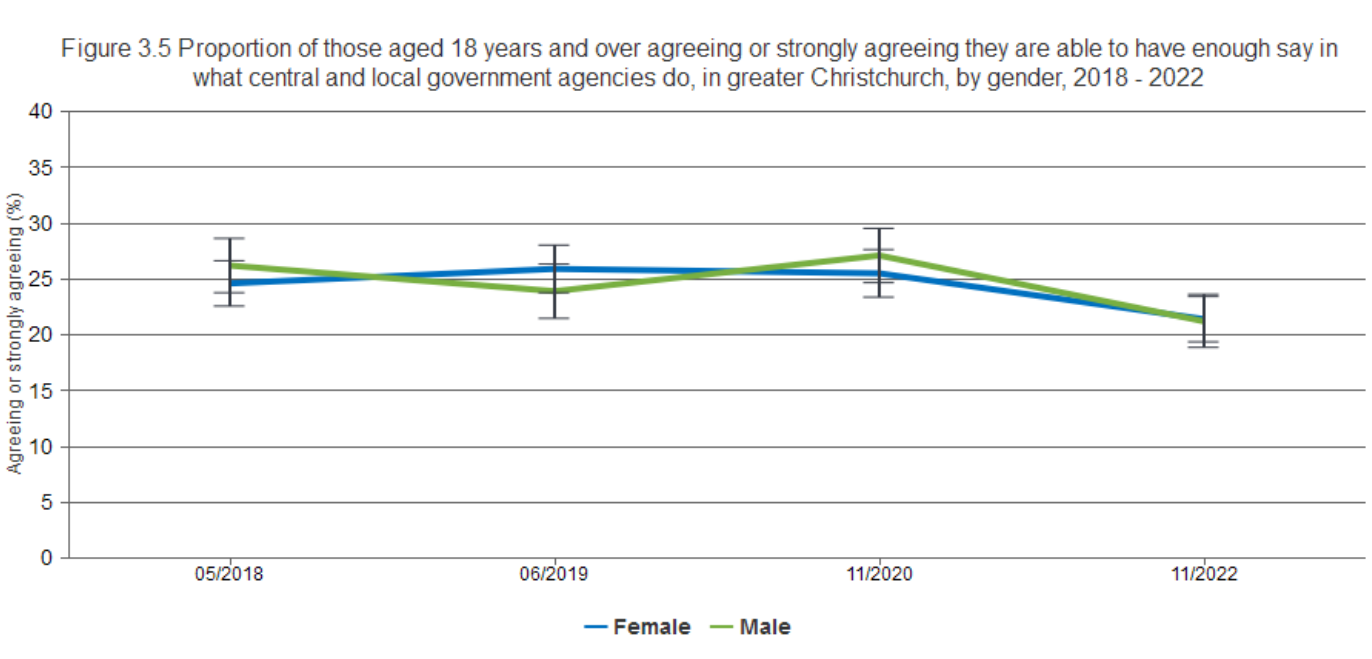
The figure shows that in 2022, 32.3 percent of Pacific/Indian/Asian respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to have enough say in the actions of central and local government agencies. The proportion for European (20.5%) and Māori (18.4%) respondents is statistically significantly lower than that for Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents in 2022.

Breakdown by age



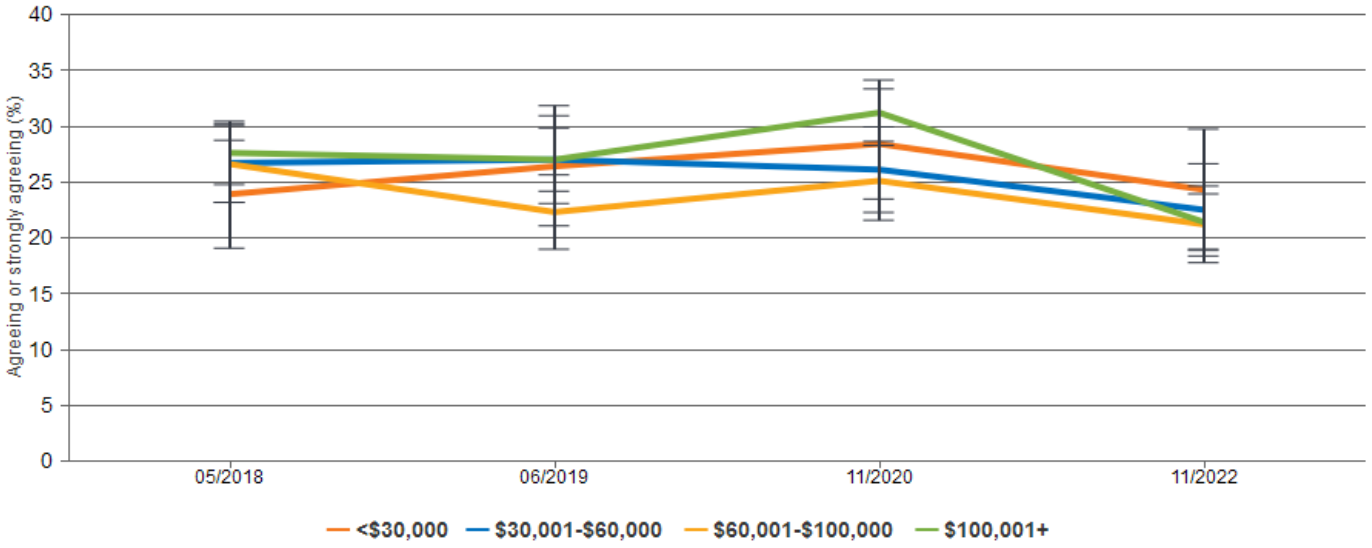
The figure shows an overall picture of increasing satisfaction with influence on central and local government agencies with increasing age. In 2020, the difference between those aged 18 to 24 years and those aged 75+ years (20.6% and 32.7%, respectively) was statistically significant but not in 2022, when the difference was much smaller (17.1% and 22.5%, respectively).

Breakdown by gender



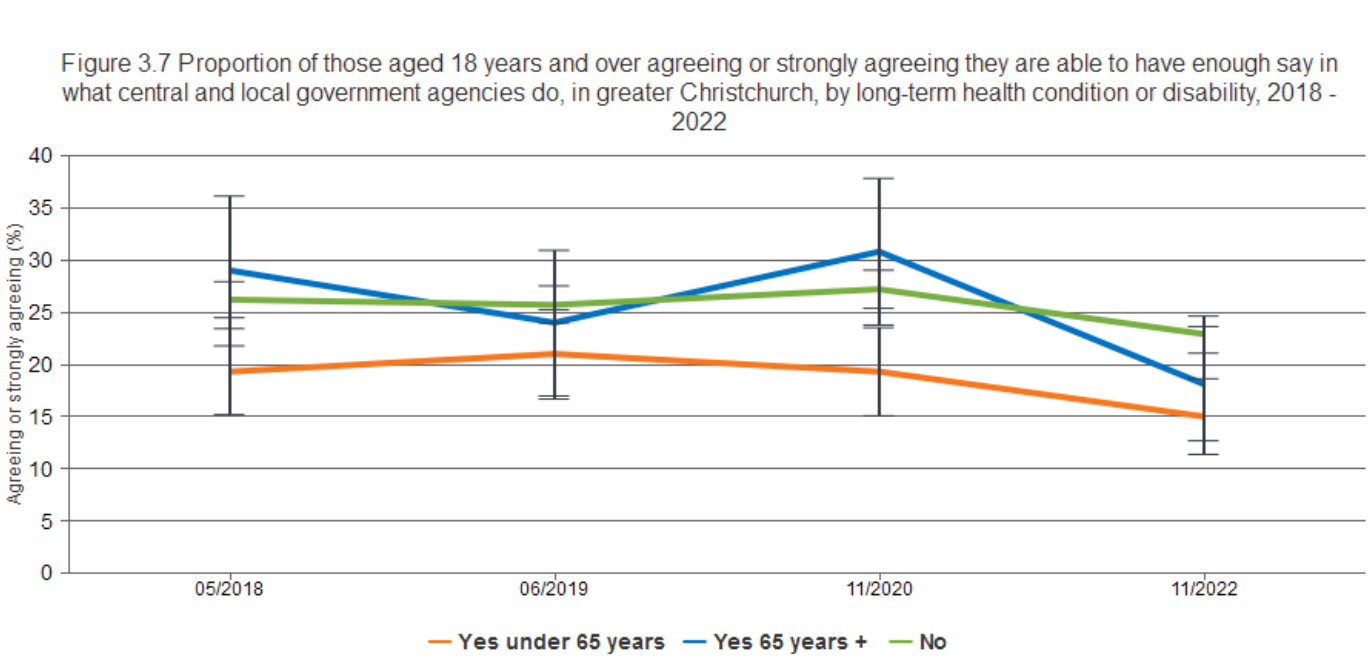
The figure shows that a similar proportion of female and male respondents agreed or strongly agreed they can have enough say in what central and local government agencies do (in 2022, females 21.4%; males 21.2%).

Breakdown by income



There are no statistically significant differences at any timepoint in the proportion of respondents in each income group who agreed or strongly agreed they are able to have enough say in what central and local government agencies do.

Breakdown by disability



The figure shows that a statistically significantly lower proportion of younger respondents (aged under 65 years) with a long-term health condition or disability agreed or strongly agreed they are able to have enough say in the actions of central and local government agencies in 2022 compared to those without a long-term health condition or disability (15% and 23% respectively). The proportion of older respondents (65 years and above) with a long-term health condition or disability agreeing or strongly agreeing (18%) was not significantly different from those without a health condition or disability.

Data Sources

Source: Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Canterbury.
Survey/data set: Canterbury Wellbeing Survey to 2022. Access publicly available data from Te Mana Ora | Community and Public Health website www.cph.co.nz/your-health/wellbeing-survey/

Source data frequency: Annually.

Metadata for this indicator is available at https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/our-wellbeing/index-data

REFERENCES

This is the full reference list for **Civic Engagement**.

1 Community and Public Health (2011) Christchurch city health profile: democratic participation. Christchurch: Canterbury District Health Board.

2 Blais A, Young R, Lapp M (2003) The calculus of voting: An empirical test. *European Journal of Political Research* 37: 181-201.

3 Dalton RJ (2013) *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Washington DC: Congressional Quarterly Press.

4 Niemi RG, Craig SC, Mattei F (1991) Measuring Internal Political Efficacy in the 1988 National Election Study. *The American Political Science Review* 85: 1407-1413.

5 Robert Putnam (1993) *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

6 Solijonov A (2016) *Voter Turnout Trends around the World*. Stockholm, Sweden: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

7 Department of Internal Affairs (2016) The Social Report 2016: Te pūrongo oranga tangata. Wellington: Department of Internal Affairs.

8 Robert Putnam (2000) *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* New York: Simon and Schuster.

9 OECD (2019) Voting, in Society at a Glance 2019: OECD Social Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris.

10 Electoral Commission (2021) *Report of the Electoral Commission on the 2020 General Election and referendums: Provided in accordance with section 8(1) of the Electoral Act 1993*. Wellington: Ministry of Justice.

11 NZ Electorate Boundary Review (2020) Report of the Representation Commission 2020. Wellington.

© Crown copyright 2024