



Local Government Association Tasmania

2014 Tasmanian Local Government Elected Member Census

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
KEY FINDINGS	4
1. GENDER	6
2. AGE	8
3. MARITAL STATUS.....	11
4. CARING RESPONSIBILITIES.....	12
5. COUNTRY OF BIRTH.....	13
6. EMPLOYMENT STATUS	14
7. OCCUPATION	17
8. EMPLOYMENT SECTOR.....	19
9. GROSS ANNUAL INCOME.....	20
10. ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP	21
11. COUNCIL SERVICE	23
12. CAMPAIGNS.....	27
13. PUBLIC CONTACT / COUNCIL ACTIVITY	29
14. ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE.....	32
15. COMMUNICATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT.....	35

INTRODUCTION

The fifth Census of elected Tasmanian Local Government members was conducted during January, February and March 2015, following completion of the 2014 election process. Whereas previous surveys have elicited response rates in excess of 50 per cent (including a high of 64 per cent in 2006), it is disappointing to note that the most recent Census returns reflect a response rate of only 39.9 per cent.

Results from the Census are used by Local Government Association Tasmania (LGAT) to continuously develop policies, training and programs which, as much as possible, match the profile and meet the needs of elected members in Tasmania. Similarly, a robust evidence base supports Local Government's ability to garner both public and Parliamentary support when important issues or policies are being debated or are under consideration.

As is the case over previous years, parts of the Census continue to evolve in order to capture the changing profile of Local Government in Tasmania. However those parts which have remained constant across survey years, allow some longitudinal trend analysis.

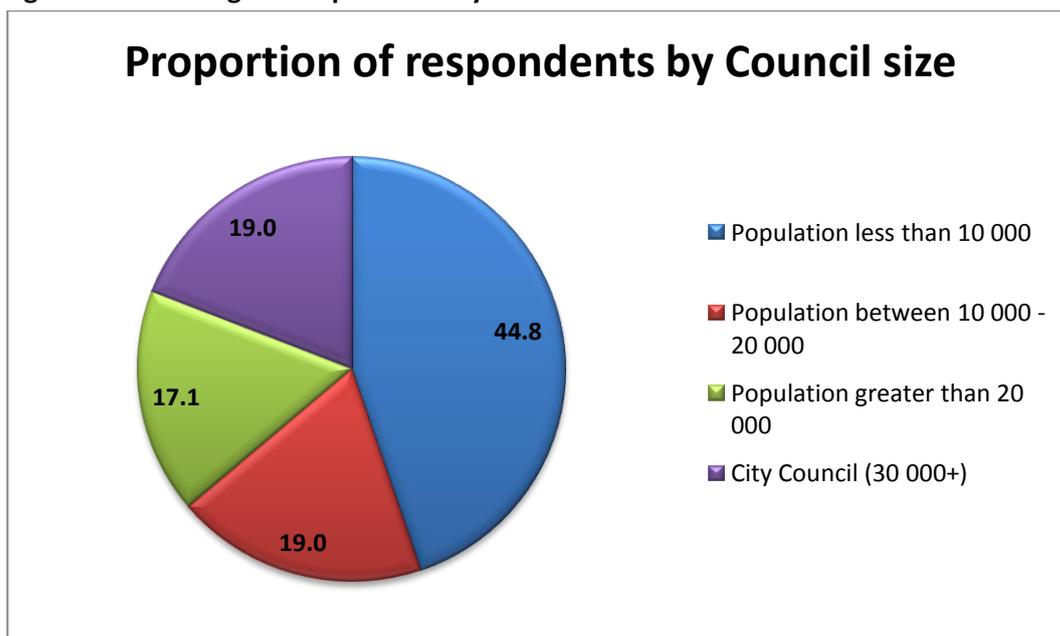
The Association thanks most sincerely, those elected members who gave their valuable time to complete the 2014 Census.

KEY FINDINGS

- As was the case in two previous Censuses, the majority of respondents (62.9 per cent) were male. This compares to 69.2 per cent in 2011 and 67.1 per cent in 2009.
- The majority of respondents were aged 56 to 65 years of age, continuing the trend from previous years. For the 2014 Census, 47.6 per cent were in this age range, compared to 42.8 per cent in 2011 and 39 per cent in 2009.
- 77.1 per cent of respondents were married or living in a de facto relationship, compared to 81.4 per cent in 2011 and 90 per cent in 2009.
- The majority of respondents did not have caring responsibilities for children or other dependants.
- 90.5 per cent of respondents were born in Australia, compared to 91.4 per cent in 2011 and 87 per cent in 2009.
- 77.8 per cent of respondents were born in countries where English is the first language.
- The majority of respondents were self employed (33.7 per cent). 26.9 per cent were in full-time paid employment, 20.2 per cent were retired and 9.6 per cent were employed in part-time work. This compares to 30 per cent, 15.7 per cent, 26.4 per cent and 18.5 per cent respectively in 2011.
- In terms of fields of work, 20 per cent were small business proprietors, 18.7 per cent were in managerial or executive roles, 13.3 per cent were in professional or technical roles and 12 per cent worked in the field of sales or retail. A further 10.7 per cent were primary producers and 9.3 per cent were non-remunerated volunteers.
- 73.9 per cent of respondents were employed in the private sector. 11.6 per cent worked in the community or non-government sector and 11.6 per cent worked for the State Government.
- Of those respondents providing income details, at 47.2 per cent, the proportion of respondents reporting gross annual income below \$56,000 has decreased from the 2011 census (51.4 per cent). Further, 15.7 per cent of respondents reported gross annual income in excess of \$116,000, compared to 9.3 per cent in 2011.
- A very high proportion (90.5 per cent) of respondents belonged to an organisation other than Council. Of these, 64.2 per cent belong to 3 or more other organisations. 27.4 per cent are members of 5 or more.
- Of the respondents who belong to an organisation other than Council, 55.8 per cent indicated that they are a member of a service organisation, 43.2 per cent belonged to a sporting organisation and 33.7 per cent to a special interest organisation.
- The majority of respondents (44.8 per cent) were newly elected to Council in 2014. 22.9 per cent had served on Council for between 4 and 10 years, 19 per cent for between 10 and 20 years, 11.4 per cent for less than 4 years and 1.9 per cent had served for more than 20 years.
- The majority of respondents (21.2 per cent) spent between 61 and 100 hours on their election campaign over a period of between 1 and 4 weeks (45.1 per cent). While the duration of most campaigns remains consistent with previous censuses, the hours spent campaigning over that period has increased significantly. This may be the result of a high proportion of candidates (35.2 per cent) who were running for Council for the first time.
- While a relatively high proportion of respondents were elected for the first time, 28.6 per cent have stood twice, 13.3 per cent three times, and 22.9 had stood four times.
- 82.7 per cent of respondents indicated that they see up to 60 people per month on Council issues. 44.8 per cent of respondents spent in excess of 15 hours per week on Council business.

- 72.3 per cent of respondents have undertaken some form of related training since being elected to Council. This result is significantly higher than the previous census when 51.4 per cent undertook training. Again, this may be indicative of the proportion of Councillors elected for the first time.
- Against a pleasing result in terms of Council related training being undertaken, 48.6 per cent of respondents indicated that they experienced some difficulty in doing so. Of those, the majority (18.3 per cent) had difficulty taking time off from paid employment and 14.7 per cent said that training was 'too far away'. Other difficulties included costs, transport, not being able to get child care, and perceived lack of support from Council.
- Of the issues which concern members of the public, planning and development and rates are ranked equally as being of prime concern. 15.7 per cent of respondents highlighted each of these issues. 13.5 per cent highlighted economic conditions and employment as being of concern, and 11.9 per cent highlighted roads.
- Of the issues which are considered important to Local Government, respondents ranked financial sustainability (97 per cent), asset management (94.9 per cent), infrastructure (94.8 per cent), community engagement (93.9 per cent), roads (93.8 per cent) and waste management (93.8 per cent) most highly.
- Respondents were asked to identify three topics for which training or information should be available to elected members. Under Option 1, 28.6 per cent of respondents identified land use planning, 16.7 per cent identified Council procedures and 15.5 per cent identified governance/roles and responsibilities. Under Option 2, land use planning was identified by 19.5 per cent, followed by governance/roles and responsibilities (17.1 per cent) and budget and finance (15.9 per cent). Under Option 3, budget and finance and communication skills were the main training needs identified (19.4 per cent each), followed by Council procedures (14.9 per cent).
- The majority of respondents were from councils with populations of less than 10,000 people. This result is consistent with the previous Census.

Figure A: Percentage of respondents by Council Size



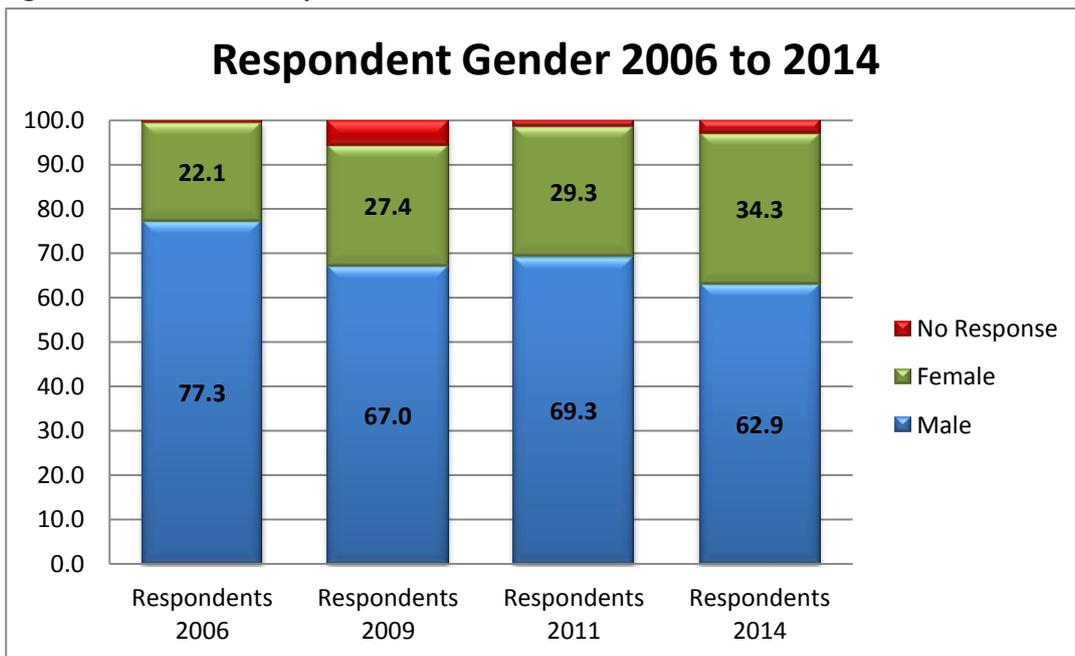
1. GENDER

The majority of respondents (62.9 per cent) were male, compared to females who comprise 34.3 per cent (Table 1.1). This reflects a shift in gender breakdown compared to previous censuses, demonstrated in Figure 1.1. While the number of female respondents has continued a steady increase over survey years, according to the ABS Census 2011, the proportion of females in Council is significantly below the proportion of females in the general population (51 per cent female, 49 per cent male). In terms of all elected members, 68.4 per cent are males and 31.6 per cent are females.

Table 1.1: Gender of respondents

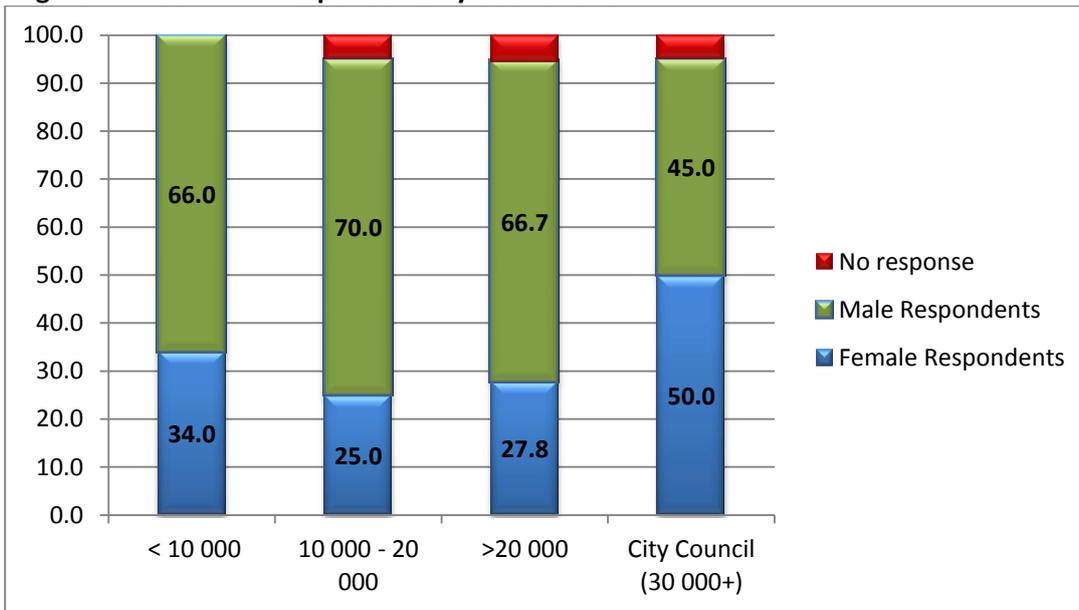
	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
Male	66	62.9
Female	36	34.3
No response	3	2.9
Total	105	100.1

Figure 1.1: Gender of respondents over time



Based on the assumption that respondent rates by gender are indicative of the elected membership in each Council, Figure 1.2 suggests an imbalance in gender between different sized councils. That is, in Councils where the constituent population is less than 10,000 people, you are almost twice as likely to have male representatives as female, whereas in City Councils with populations in excess of 30,000, half of the representatives are female. This trend is a continuation of that seen in the 2011 Census.

Figure 1.2: Gender of respondents by Council size



2. AGE

Consistent with previous censuses, the predominant age group for respondents is 56 to 65 years of age (see Figure 2.1). 47.6 per cent of all respondents were in this age group, with a further 18.1 per cent aged 46 to 55 years and 13.3 per cent aged between 36 and 45 years. Overall, 78.1 per cent of all elected respondents to the 2014 census were aged 46 years or older.

Figure 2.1: Per cent of respondents in age group

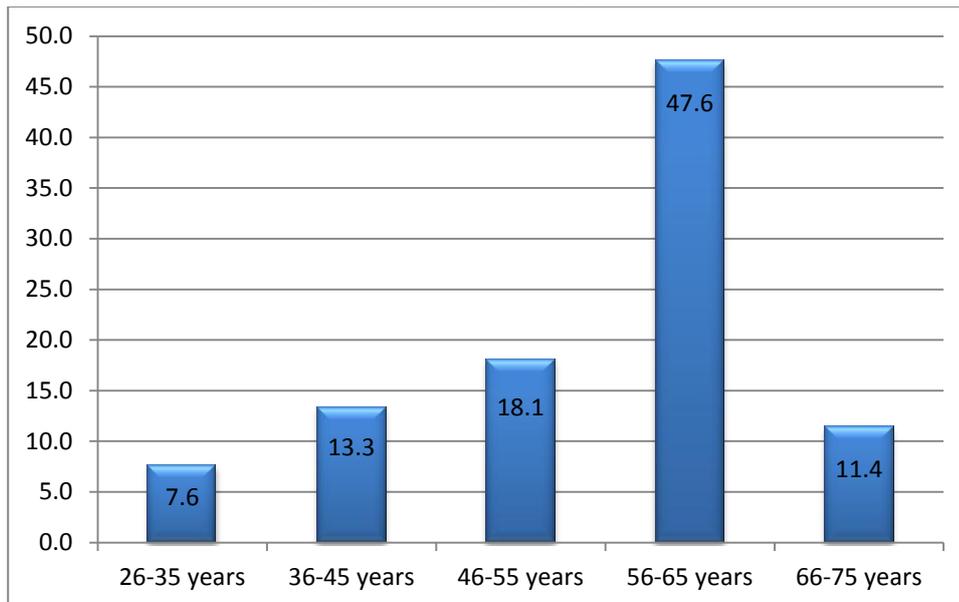


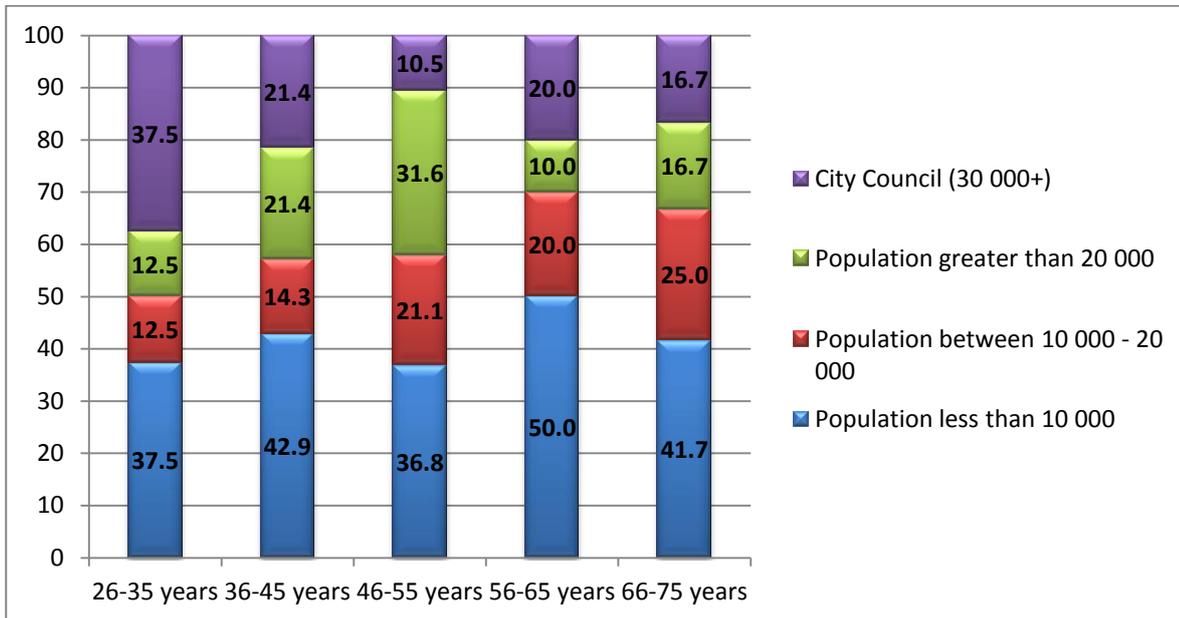
Table 2.1: Respondents by Age group

Age Group	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
26-35 years	8	7.6
36-45 years	14	13.3
46-55 years	19	18.1
56-65 years	50	47.6
66-75 years	12	11.4
Other	2	2.0
Total	105	100

Note: 'Other' reflects those respondents whose age falls outside the ranges described above, to protect their privacy.

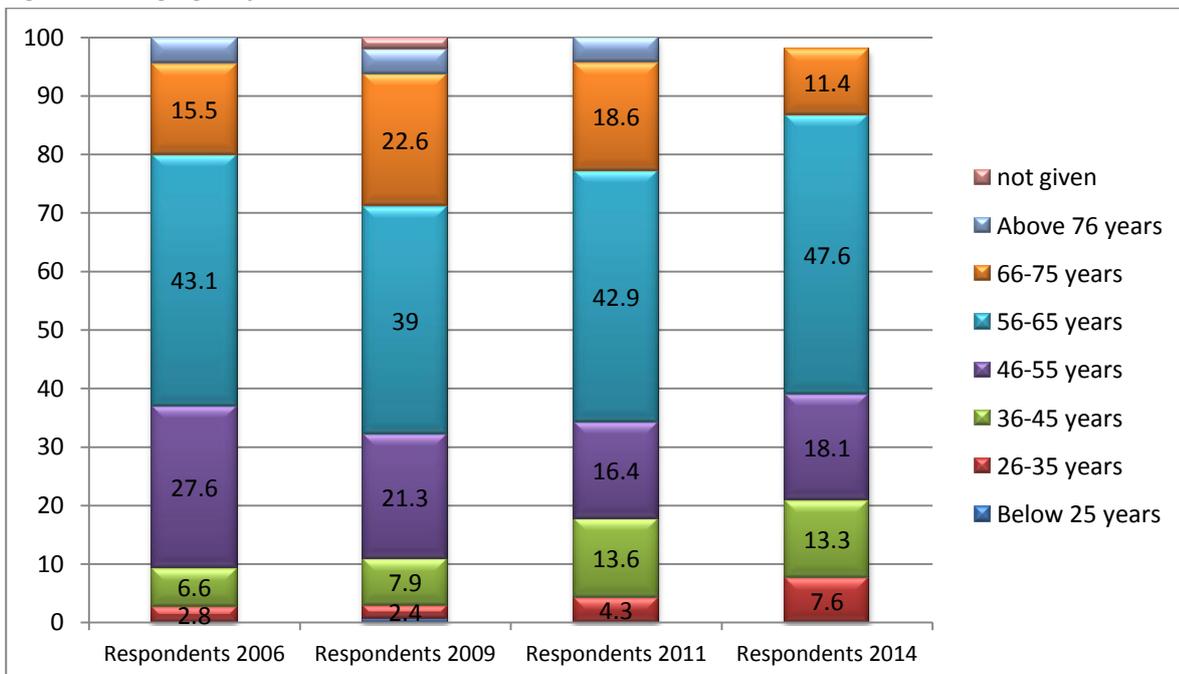
While there is a relatively even spread of age groups across Councils with populations of less than 10,000, of all elected respondents in the 26 to 35 age group, more are located in City Councils where the population is 30,000 or more (see Figure 2.2), and where the population is less than 10,000.

Figure 2.2: Respondent of all respondents in Age group by Council size



Looking at age groups for respondents to this and three previous censuses, there is a steady increase in the proportion of elected respondents aged 26 to 35 years. Similarly, since the 2009 Census, there has been an incremental decrease in the proportion of respondents aged 66 to 75 years.

Figure 2.3: Age groups over time



As can be seen in Figure 2.4, the predominant gender of respondents is male. With the exception of the 26 to 35 year age group in 2011 where there were equal numbers of males and females, the relatively high

number of male respondents to this Census, compared to female respondents, remains consistent with 2011.

Figure 2.4: Per cent of respondents in age group by gender

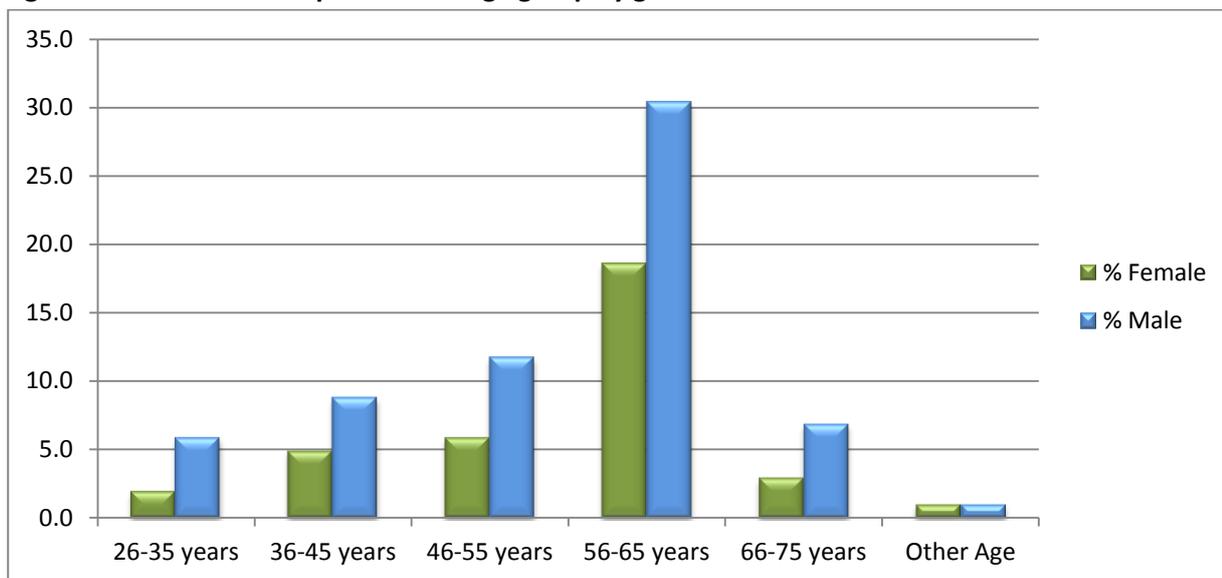


Table 2.2: Age of respondents by gender

Age Group	Female	Male
26-35 years	2	6
36-45 years	5	9
46-55 years	6	12
56-65 years	19	31
66-75 years	3	7
Other	1	1
Total	36	66

3. MARITAL STATUS

As has been the case in previous census, the majority of respondents to the 2014 Census were married or in a de facto relationship. That said, looking at previous years, the proportion in such relationships has continued to decrease over time (Figure 3.2)

Figure 3.1: Marital status of respondents

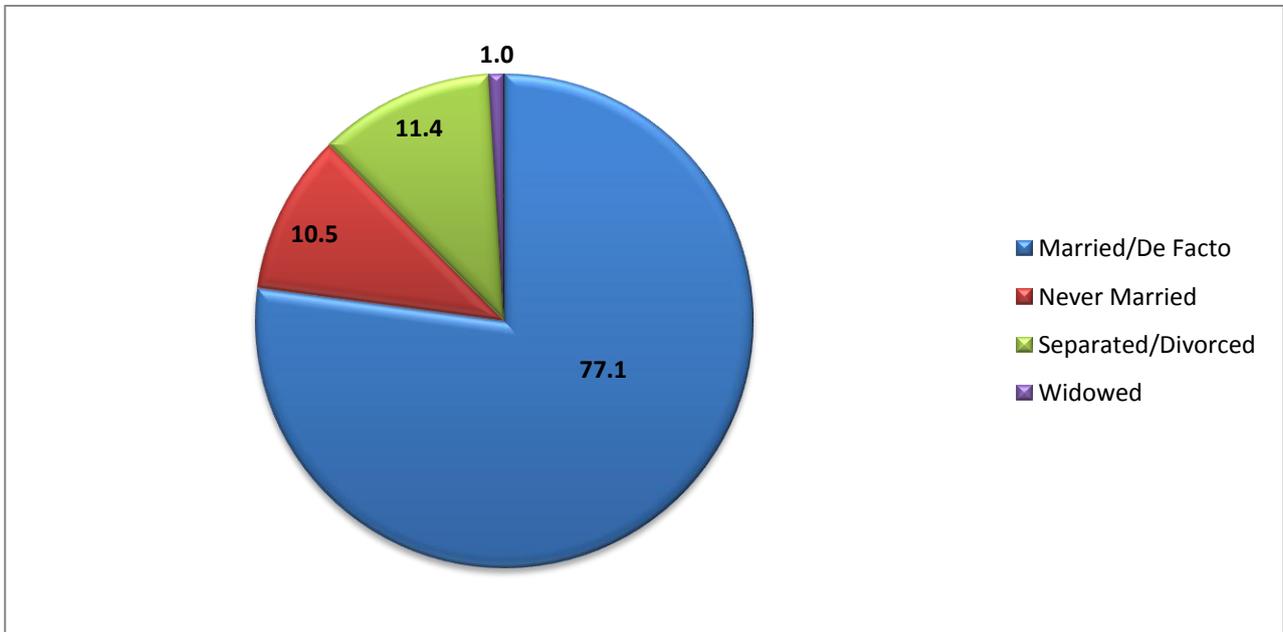
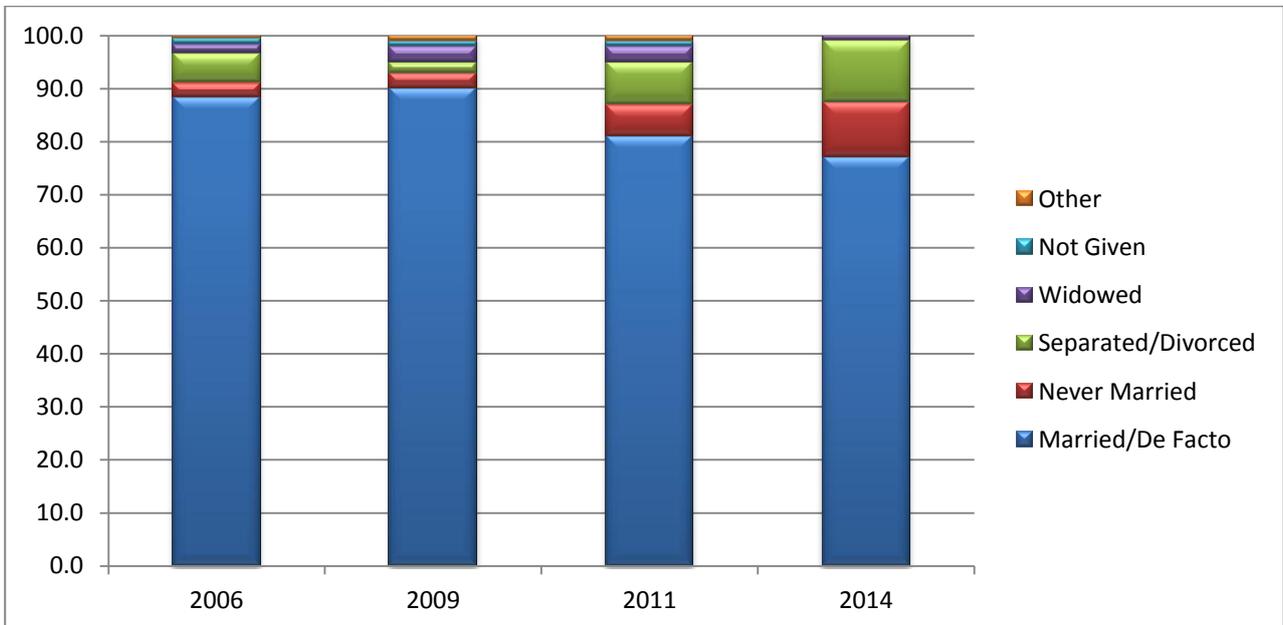


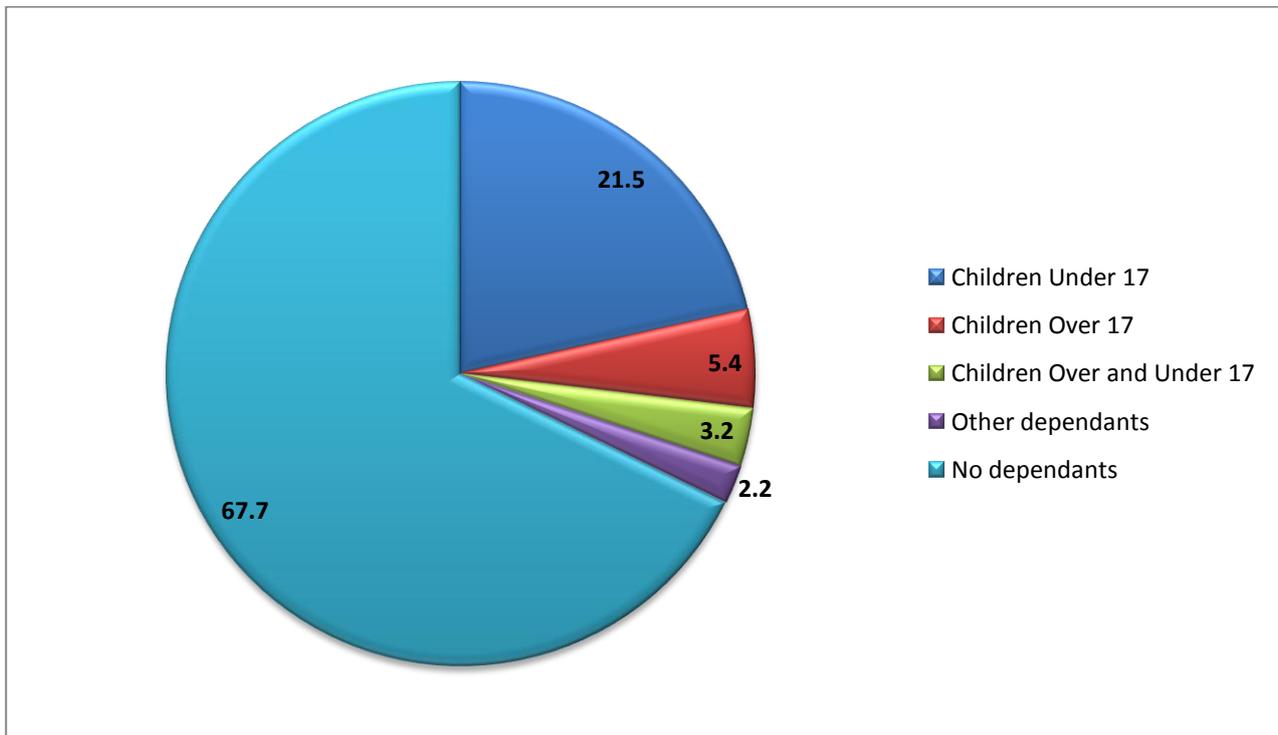
Figure 3.2: Marital status of respondents over time



4. CARING RESPONSIBILITIES

Consistent with the 2011 census, the majority of 2014 respondents (67.7 per cent) did not have caring responsibilities for dependant children or others in their family (eg. Elderly or disabled family members). 21.5 per cent of respondents had care of children under 17 years of age compared to 12 per cent in 2011, and the proportion with dependants over the age of 17 years has decreased compared to 2011, as has the proportion caring for other family members. The proportion of respondents with children over and under 17 years of age has remained relatively consistent between this and the previous census, at 3.2 and 4 per cent respectively.

Figure 4.1: Caring responsibilities



5. COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Slightly decreased proportions (91.3 per cent) of respondents were born in Australia, compared to 94 per cent in the 2011 census. Of those respondents born outside Australia, using country of birth as a proxy for language, 77.8 per cent were from countries where English is the first language. Figure 5.2 illustrates the proportion of elected respondents born outside Australia, over time.

Figure 5.1: Respondent country of birth

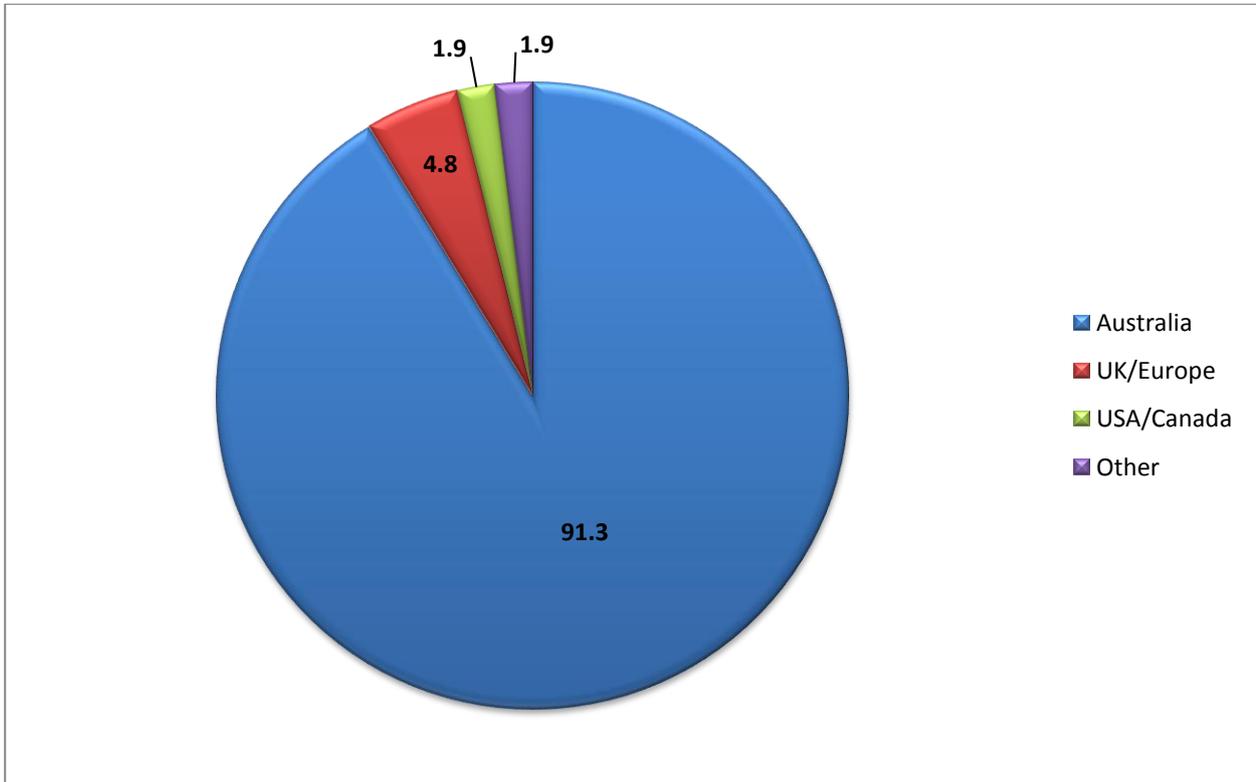
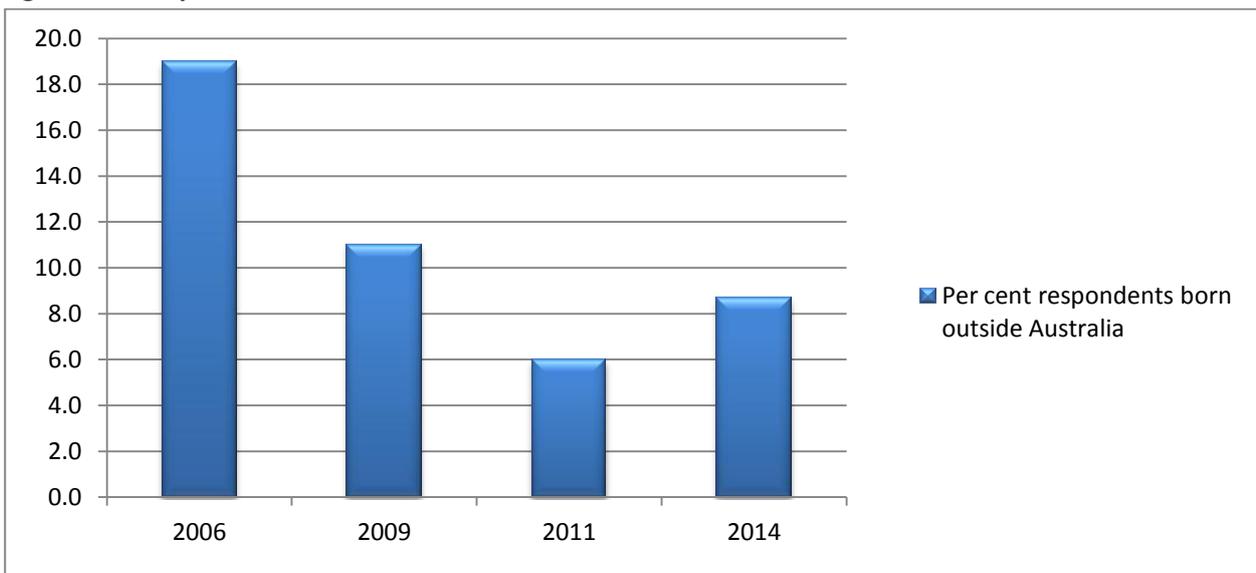


Figure 5.2: Respondents born outside Australia over time



6. EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Elected members were asked to indicate their current employment status, excluding the work they undertake in their role on Council. Table 6.1 indicates that the majority of respondents (33.7 per cent) are self employed, in full time paid employment (26.9 per cent), or are retired (20.2 per cent). The proportion of respondents who are self employed has increased slightly from 30 per cent in 2011. The proportion who are employed full time has increased significantly from the 2011 result of 15.7 per cent, whereas the proportion who are retired has decreased from 26.4 per cent.

Table 6.1: Current employment status

Occupation	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
Self employed	35	33.7
Full-time paid employment (more than 30 hours per week)	28	26.9
Retired	21	20.2
Part-time paid employment (less than 30 hours per week)	10	9.6
Permanently sick or disabled and unable to work	3	2.9
Not in paid work - Looking after home/family	2	1.9
Not working for some other reason	2	1.9
Unemployed	2	1.9
In full time education	1	1.0
Total	104	100

Examining current employment status by gender (Table 6.2 and Figure 6.1), female respondents are far more likely to be working in part-time employment than their male counterparts, far less likely to be working full-time and also less likely to be retired. There has been a significant increase in the proportion of females who are self employed compared to 2011 (24.4 per cent) and fewer indicating that they were looking after home and/or family.

Table 6.2: Current employment status by gender

	Per cent of female respondents	Per cent of male respondents
Self employed	36.1	32.3
Full-time paid employment (more than 30 hours per week)	13.9	35.4
Retired	16.7	20.0
Part-time paid employment (less than 30 hours per week)	22.2	3.1
Permanently sick or disabled and unable to work	5.6	1.5
Not in paid work - Looking after home/family	2.8	1.5
Not working for some other reason	2.8	1.5
Unemployed	0.0	3.1
In full time education	0.0	1.5
Total complete responses	100.0	100.0

Figure 6.1: Employment status by gender

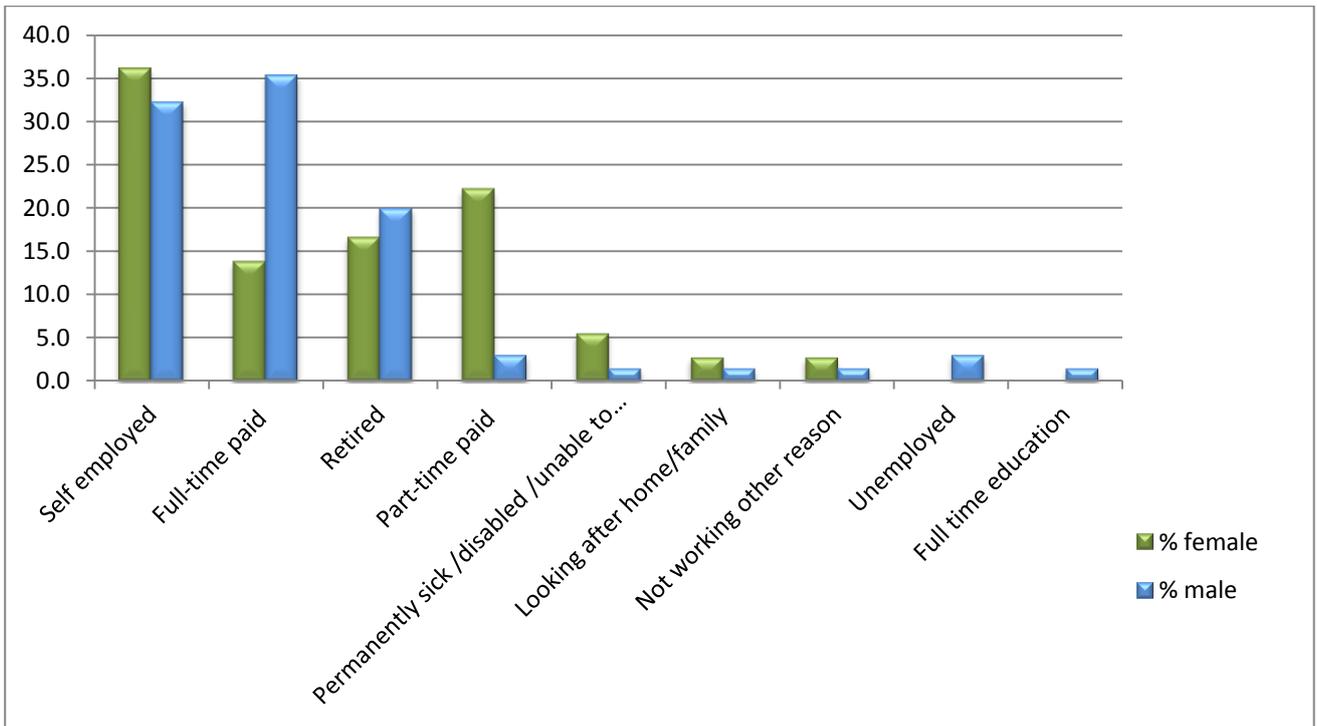
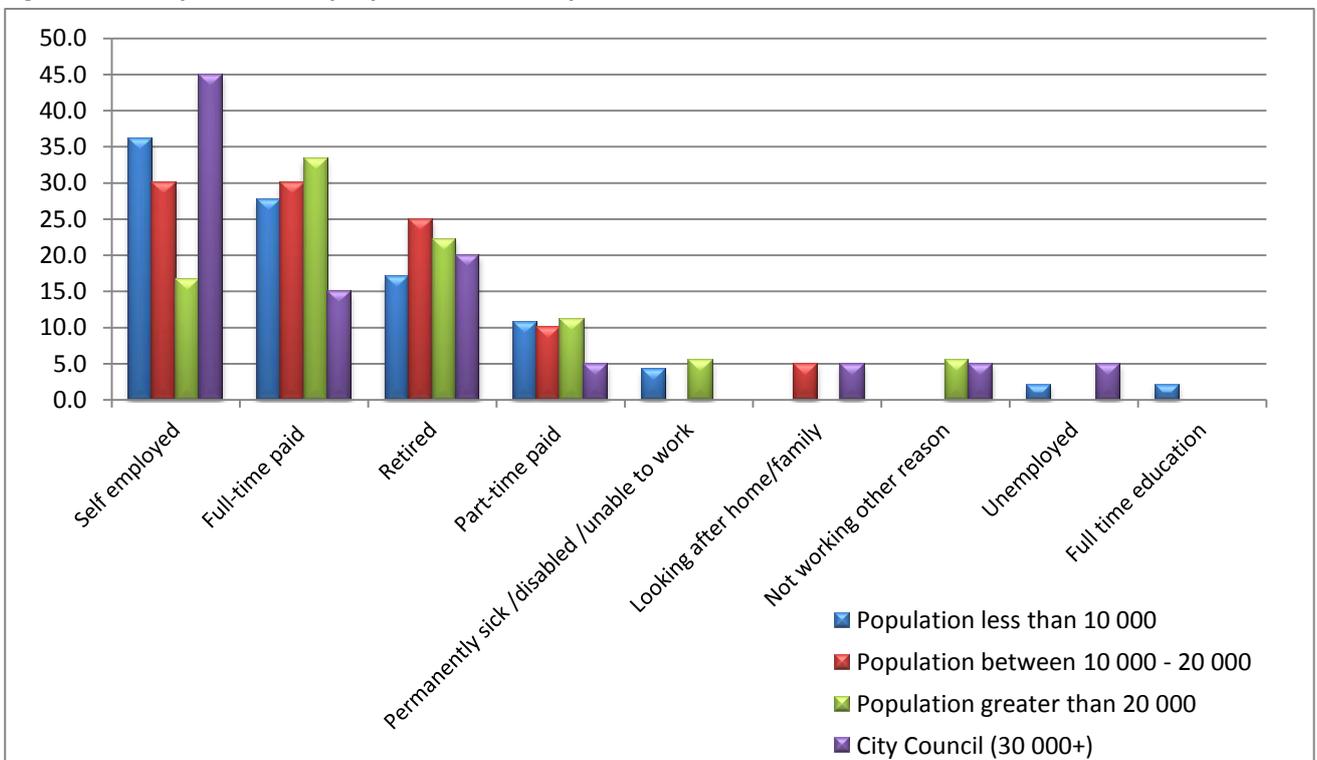


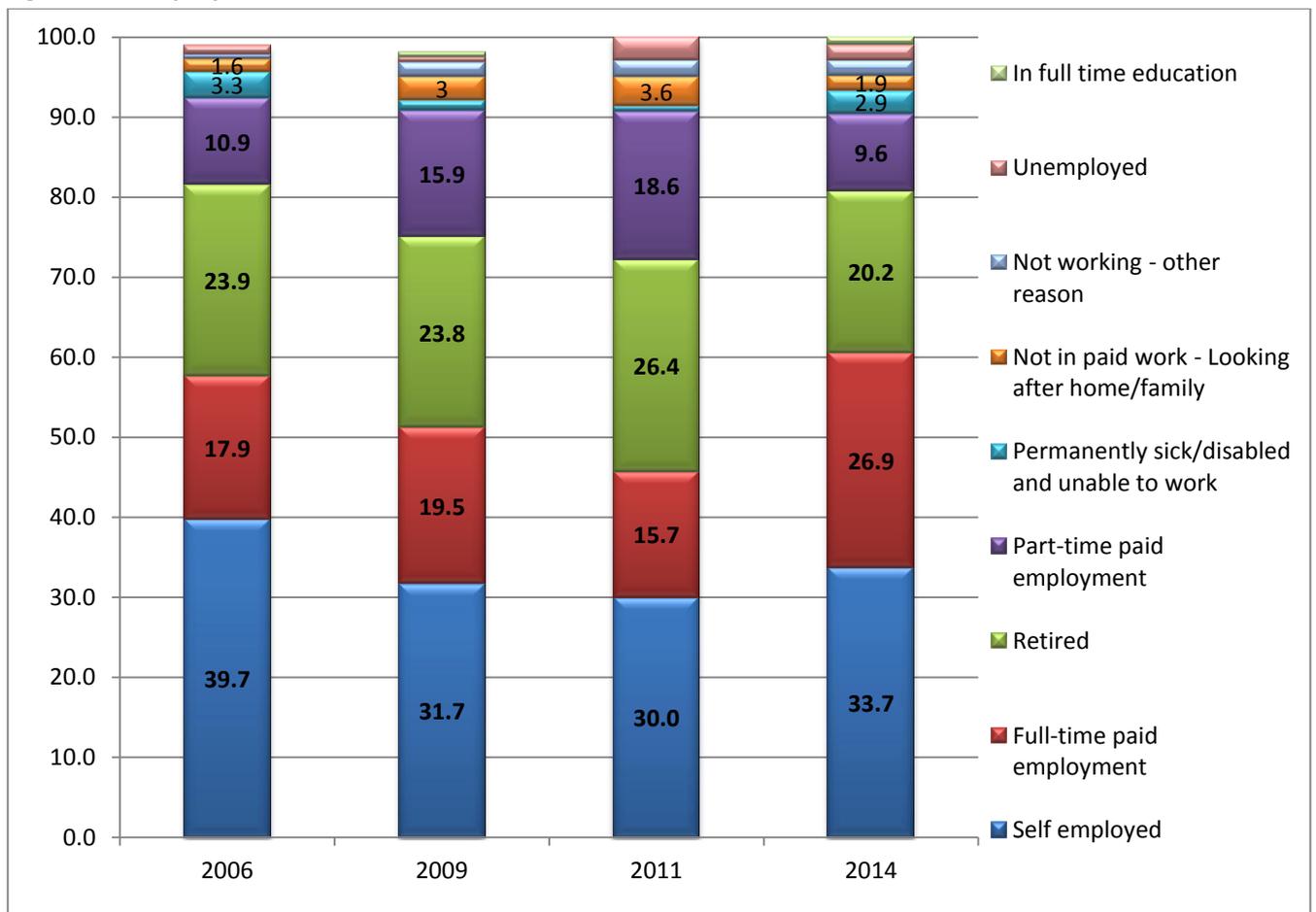
Figure 6.2 indicates that the majority of self employed respondents were elected to councils with a population less than 10,000 or a City council. The spread of retirees across councils of varying size is relatively even, particularly when compared to self employed respondents.

Figure 6.2: Respondent employment status as per cent of council size



Looking at the employment status of respondents over the last four censuses, there has been considerable change over time. Whereas 39.7 per cent of respondents were self employed in the 2006 census, in 2014 that result had decreased to 33.7 per cent. More significant however, is the change in respondents employed full time, which has increased from 17.9 per cent in 2006 to 26.9 per cent in 2014. There are fewer retirees and part time employees in 2014 compared to 2011, and more respondents who are permanently sick, disabled or unable to work.

Figure 6.3: Employment status over time



7. OCCUPATION

Census respondents were asked to identify their occupation category. While 'volunteering' was included in the response options and comprised 9.7 per cent of all responses, it is difficult to encapsulate all the fields in which one might volunteer. On that basis, for the purposes of this section, only paid full-time, part-time or self employed councillors have been included in the analysis for this section.

The majority of respondents were small business proprietors (20.8 per cent) or were in managerial/executive roles (19.4 per cent). This reflects a departure from results in 2011 when small business proprietors comprised only 11.3 per cent of the total and managers/executives comprised 22.7 per cent.

Figure 7.1: Number by occupation category for full-time, part-time and self employed respondents

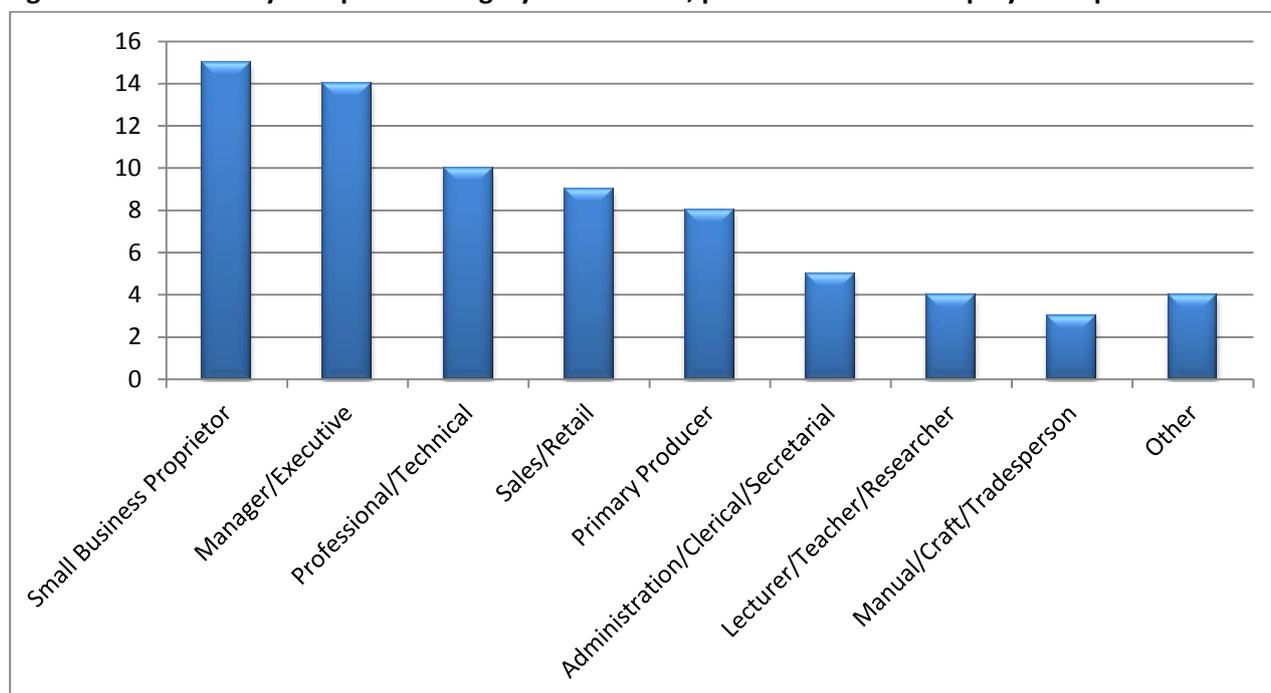
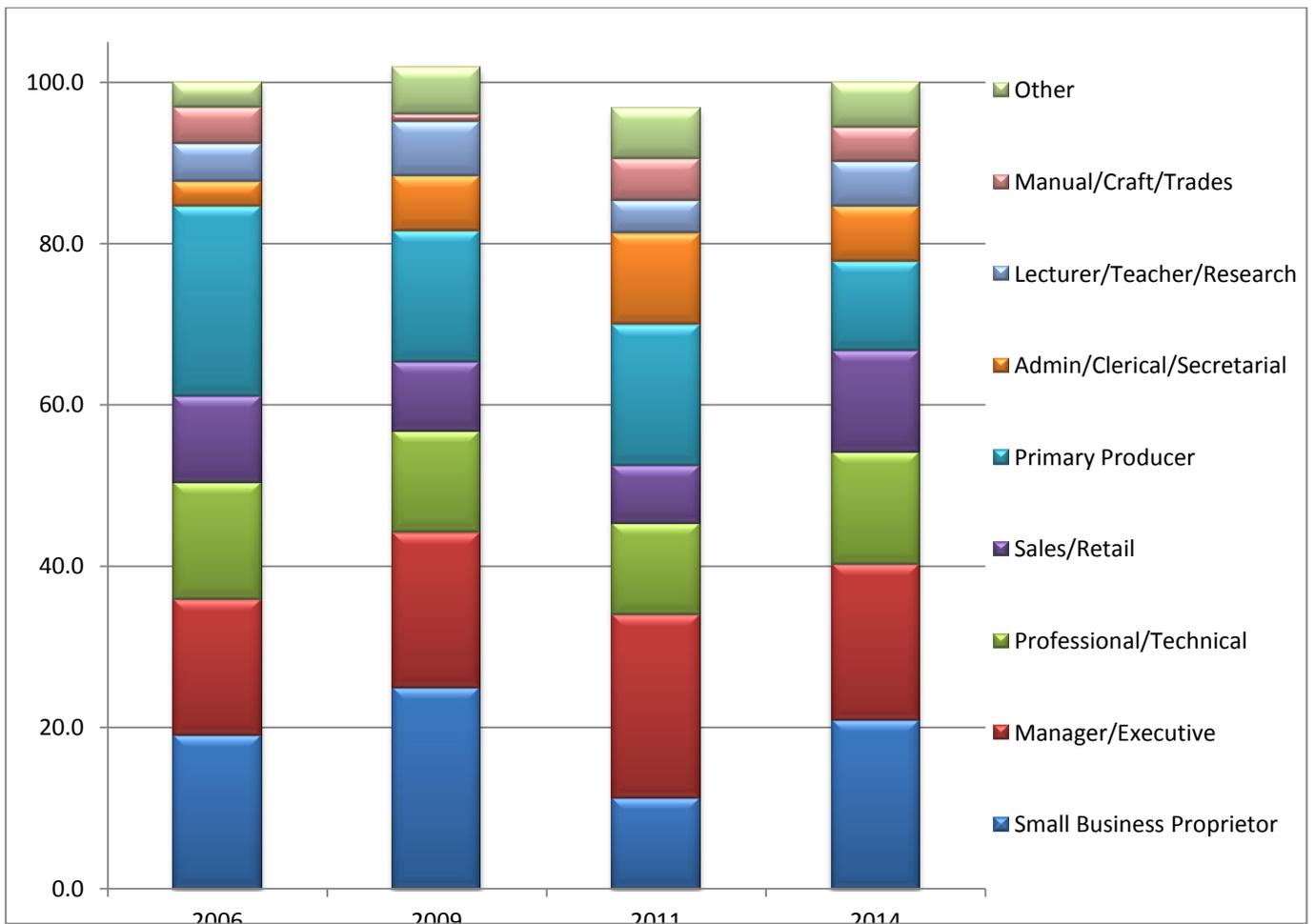


Table 7.1: Proportion of employed respondents by occupation category

Occupation category	Per cent of respondents
Small Business Proprietor	20.8
Manager/Executive	19.4
Professional/Technical	13.9
Sales/Retail	12.5
Primary Producer	11.1
Administration/Clerical/Secretarial	6.9
Lecturer/Teacher/Researcher	5.6
Manual/Craft/Tradesperson	4.2
Other	5.6

Figure 7.2: Occupation category over time



Note: As some respondents may have identified more than one occupation on their response, totals may exceed 100 per cent. Similarly, where they have been incomplete in their response, totals may be less than 100 per cent.

8. EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

For those respondents who participated in paid employment, the majority were employed in the private sector (73.9 per cent). This is significantly higher than 2011 when 64 per cent were employed in that sector, and coheres with the result in 2009 (73 per cent). The proportion of councillors employed in the not for profit sector has remained constant over this and the last census (11.6 per cent and 11 per cent respectively), both results being significantly higher than the 2009 result (2 per cent). Figure 8.2 reflects the proportion of councillors in each employment sector, over the last four censuses.

Figure 8.1: Per cent in employment sector of elected respondents

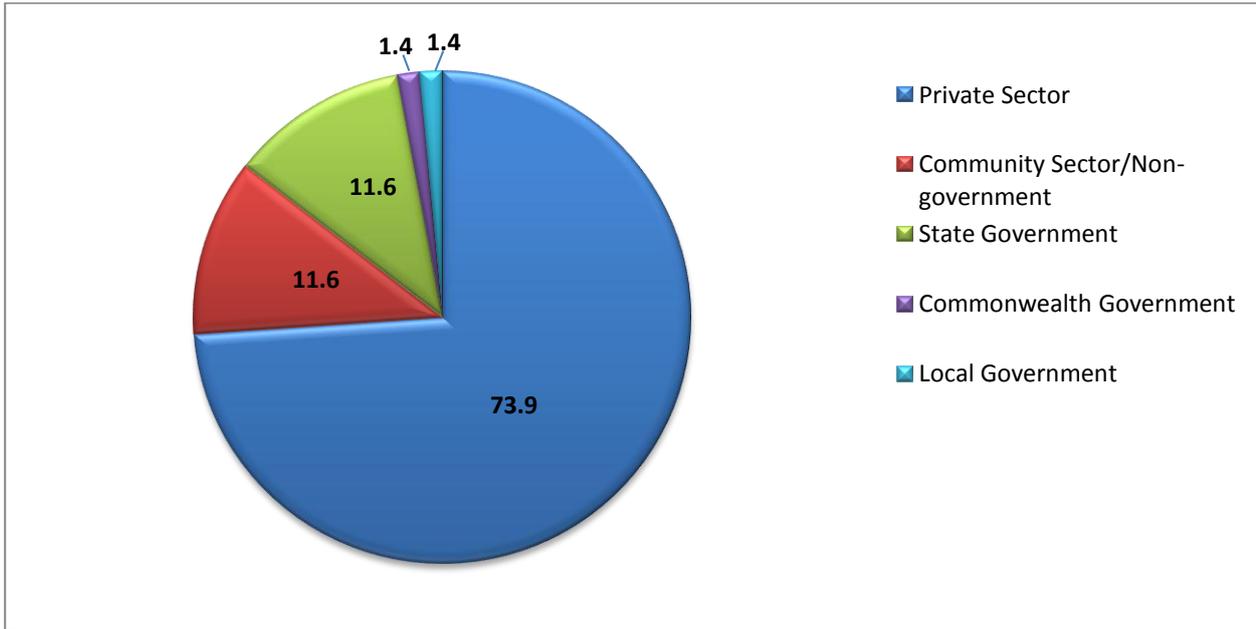
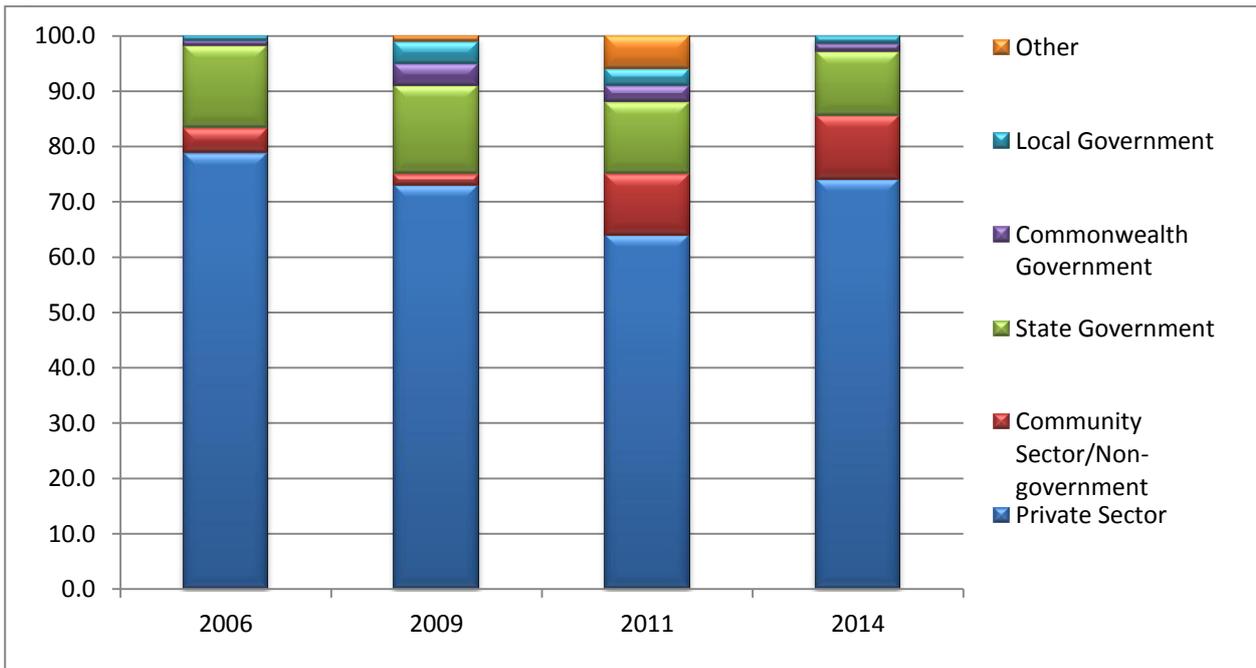


Figure 8.2: Per cent in employment sector over time



9. GROSS ANNUAL INCOME

Of all respondents to the census, only 89 provided information about gross annual income. This number has been used as the denominator for calculating Figure 9.1 (to exclude non responses), whereas the total number of respondents overall has been used as the denominator for Table 9.1. As the rate of non response was quite high (15.2 per cent), the per cent of respondents will differ slightly between the Figure and the Table.

Figure 9.1 demonstrates that the highest proportion of respondents are in receipt of gross annual incomes in excess of \$116,000. 47.2 per cent of respondents who provided income details are in receipt of gross incomes less than \$56,000 per year, with 11.2 per cent reporting incomes of less than \$15,999.

Figure 9.1: Per cent of respondents in income range

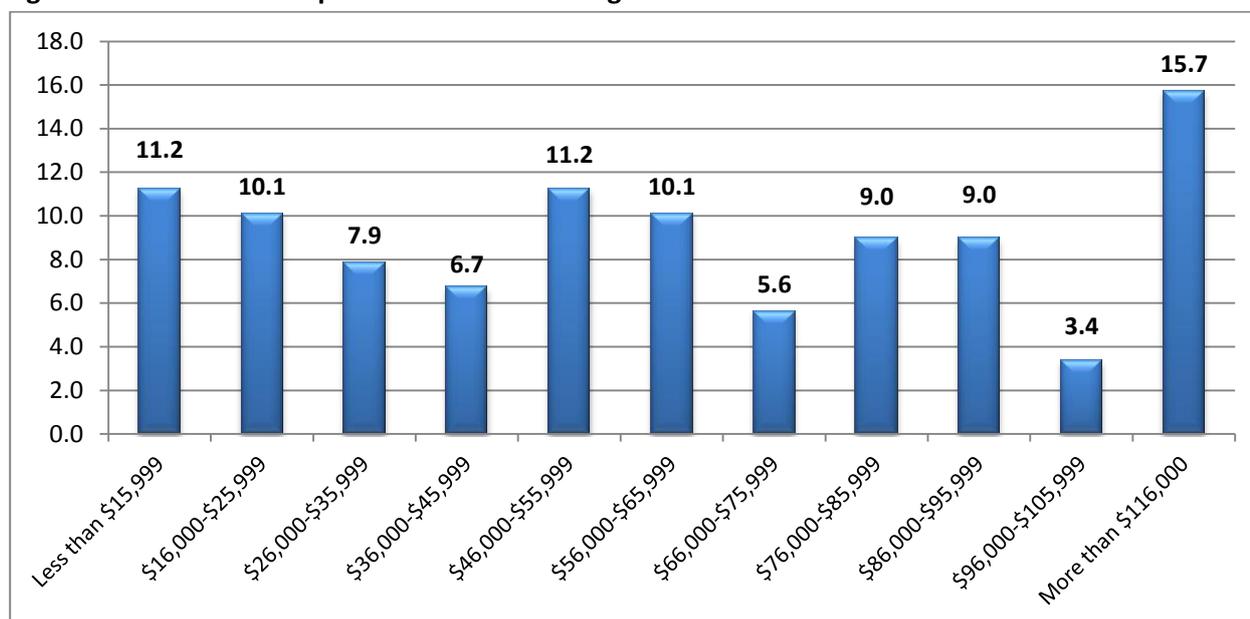


Table 9.1: Gross annual income of respondents

Gross annual income range	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
Less than \$15,999	10	9.5
\$16,000-\$25,999	9	8.6
\$26,000-\$35,999	7	6.7
\$36,000-\$45,999	6	5.7
\$46,000-\$55,999	10	9.5
\$56,000-\$65,999	9	8.6
\$66,000-\$75,999	5	4.8
\$76,000-\$85,999	8	7.6
\$86,000-\$95,999	8	7.6
\$96,000-\$105,999	3	2.9
More than \$116,000	14	13.3
No response	16	15.2
Total	105	100

10. ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP

In a similar result to the 2011 census (92.1 per cent), 90.5 per cent of respondents were members of an organisation other than the Council to which they were elected (Table 10.1). Unlike the 2011 census however, in which the majority of respondents belonged to only one other organisation (33 per cent), the 2014 census indicates that the majority (28.3 per cent) were members of five or more other organisations (Table 10.2). This supports findings of a previous paper on Local Government and volunteering, and evidence from Section 7 of this Report indicating that 9.7 per cent of respondents were volunteers, demonstrating that high proportions of councillors are strongly engaged in the wider community and are an invaluable volunteering resource.

Table 10.1: Are you a member of an organisation other than Council?

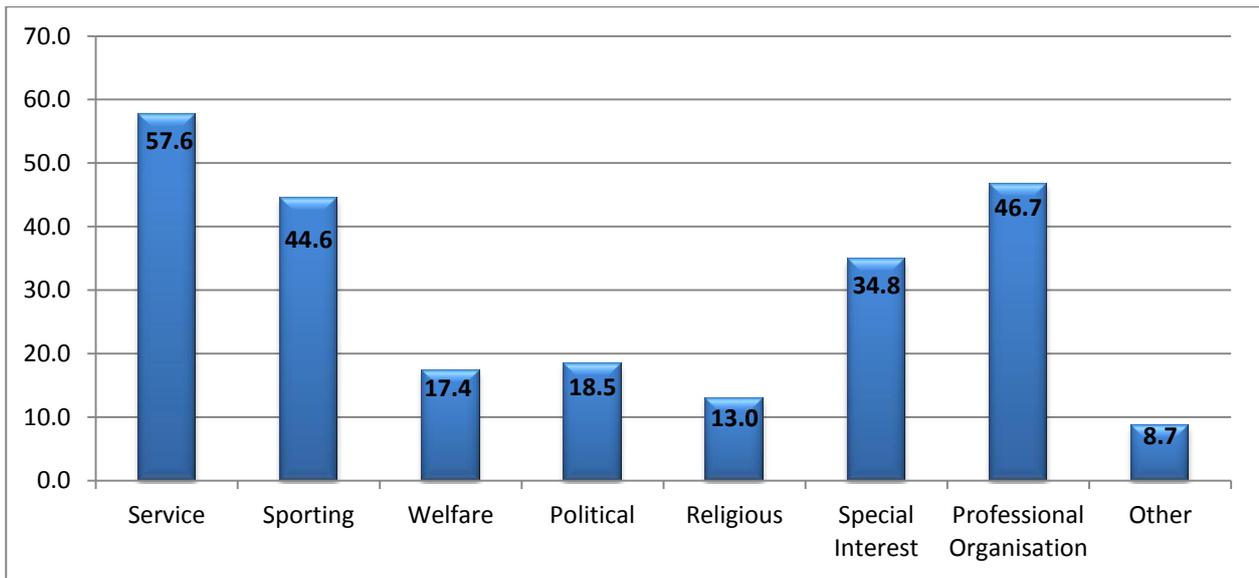
Membership of organisation other than council	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
Not a member of another organisation	10	9.5
Member of another organisation	95	90.5
Total	105	100

Table 10.2: Number of other organisations respondent is a member of

Number of organisations of which respondent is a member	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
Member of 1	14	15.2
Member of 2	17	18.5
Member of 3	20	21.7
Member of 4	15	16.3
Member of 5+	26	28.3
Total	92	100.0

As can be seen in Figure 10.1, the majority of respondents are members of a service, professional or sporting organisation (57.6, 46.7 and 44.6 per cent respectively), all of which are higher than the 2011 census. With the exception of membership of political organisations which is very similar to the 2011 result, and membership in 'other' organisations which has decreased, membership in all other organisation types has increased in this census.

Figure 10.1: Membership of an organisation other than Council



11. COUNCIL SERVICE

Figure 11.1 indicates that, of all respondents to the 2014 census, 45 per cent had been newly elected to Council. This is a significant increase compared to 2011 when only 16.2 per cent were newly elected. A change in the groupings of years of service makes it difficult to compare 2014 results with those in 2011, with only service of less than 4 years and 4 to 10 years being comparably measured. The proportion of elected members serving less than 4 years decreased from 22.1 per cent in 2011 to 11.4 per cent in 2014, and those serving 4 to 10 years decreased from 29.4 per cent in 2011 to 22.9 per cent in 2014.

Of all respondents newly elected to council in 2014, 66.7 per cent were male and 33.3 per cent were female; the same proportions of each sex had served less than 4 years. Of those who had served between 4 and 10 years, 58.3 per cent were male and 41.7 per cent were female, and of those who had served between 10 and 20 years, 63.2 per cent were male and 36.8 per cent were female. All councillors serving 20 years or more, were male. Figures 11.2 and 11.3 reflect length of service by each sex.

Figure 11.1: Length of service as an elected member of Council

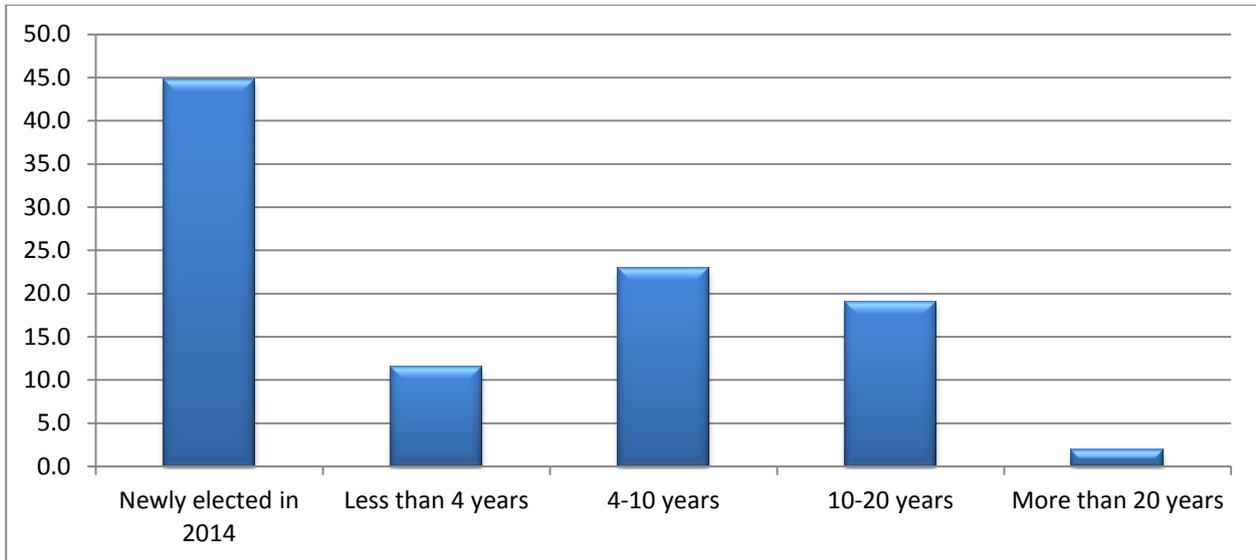


Table 11.1: Length of service as an elected member of Council

Length of service	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
Newly elected in 2014	47	44.8
Less than 4 years	12	11.4
4-10 years	24	22.9
10-20 years	20	19.0
More than 20 years	2	1.9
Total	105	100

Figure 11.2: Length of service – Male respondents

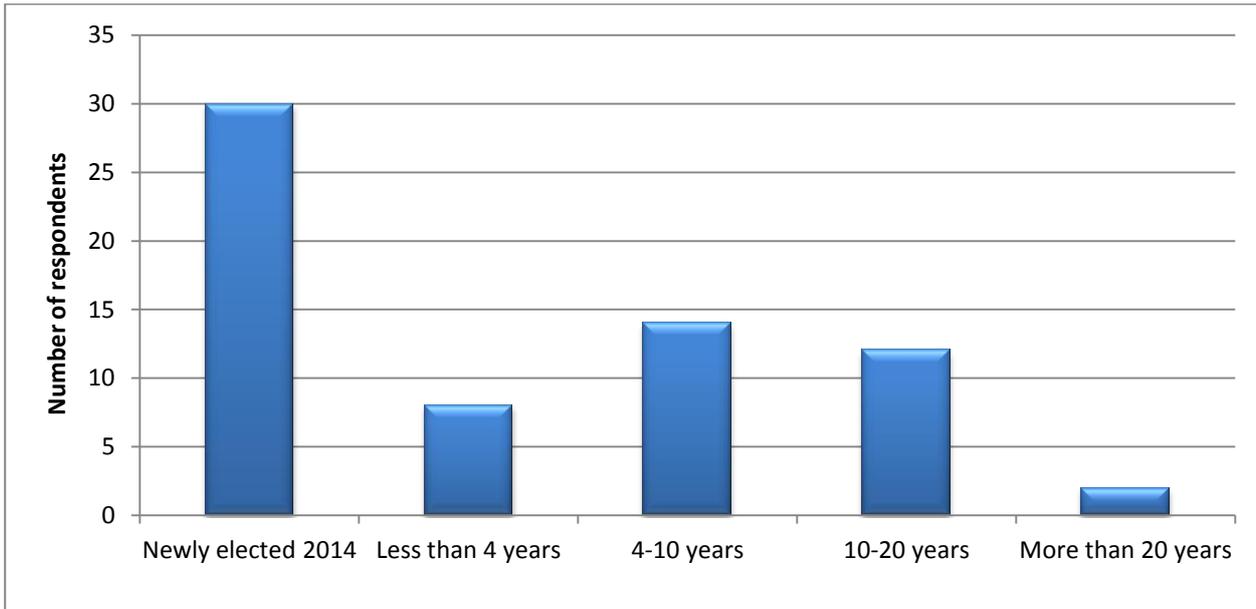


Figure 11.3: Length of service – Female respondents

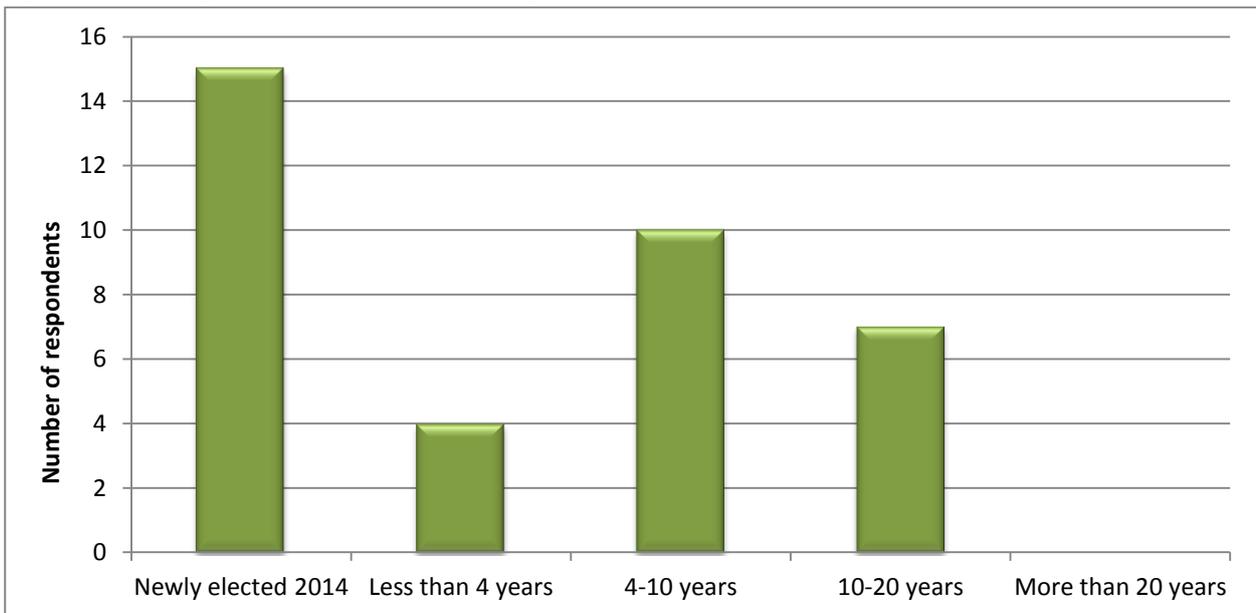


Table 11.2 Indicates that, in councils with less than 10,000 people, 53.2 per cent of respondents were newly elected in 2014, as were 40 per cent of respondents in councils with 10,000 to 20,000 people, 27.8 per cent in councils with more than 20,000 people and 45 per cent of those in City councils. Respondents were most likely to be longer serving in councils with between 10,000 and 20,000 people or those where the population is greater than 20,000. All councillors serving 20 years or longer were located in councils with a population of less than 10,000 people.

Figure 11.4 indicates that, of all councillors newly elected in 2014, (coincidentally) 53.2 per cent were elected to councils with populations of less than 10,000 people. 17 per cent were elected to councils of

between 10,000 to 20,000 people, 10.6 per cent to councils with more than 20,000 people, and 19.1 per cent were elected to City councils.

While Table 11.2 and Figure 11.4 may appear to reflect the same information, Table 11.2 uses the total number of respondents in each council size as its denominator, whereas Figure 11.4 uses the total number of respondents in each length of service. On that basis, the sum of respondents by council size adds up to 100 per cent in Table 11.2 and the sum of respondents by length of service adds up to 100 per cent in Figure 11.4.

Table 11.3 indicates that the majority of respondents (91.8 per cent) had continuous service, and that equal numbers had broken terms or did not respond. Table 11.4 indicates that 62.9 per cent of respondents had served as Councillors/Aldermen, 15.2 per cent had been Deputy Mayor and 21.9 per cent had been Mayor.

Table 11.2: Proportion of respondents in each council size by length of service

	Per cent of respondents in each council size			
	<10,000 people	10,000 to 20,000 people	>20,000	City council
Newly elected 2014	53.2	40.0	27.8	45.0
Less than 4 years	6.4	10.0	11.1	25.0
4-10 years	19.1	25.0	44.4	10.0
10-20 years	17.0	25.0	16.7	20.0
More than 20 years	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Figure 11.4: Proportion of respondents' length of service by council size

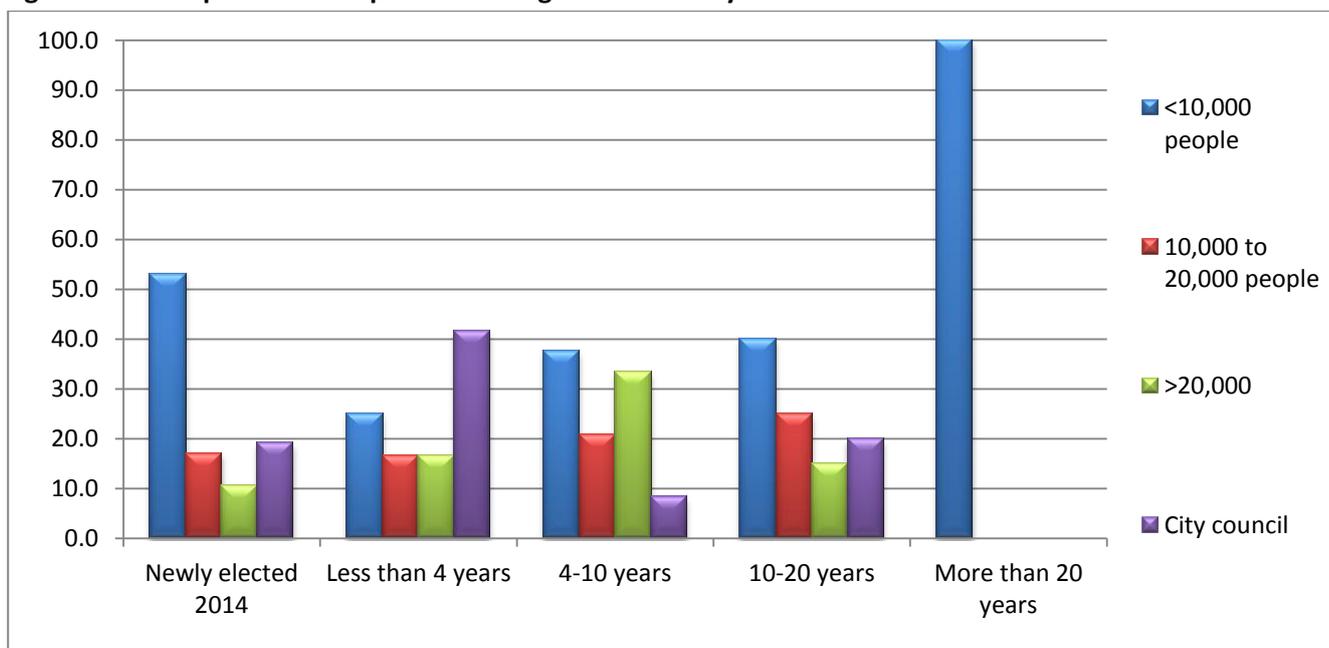


Table 11.3: Nature of service

	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
Broken Terms	8	8.2
Continuous	89	91.8
No response	8	8.2
Total	97	100.0

Table 11.4: Highest position held as elected member

	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
Councillor/Alderman	66	62.9
Deputy Mayor	16	15.2
Mayor	23	21.9
Total	105	100.0

12. CAMPAIGNS

Due to a change in the way questions about campaigning were framed between 2011 and 2014, there is no opportunity to compare campaign efforts of respondents from the previous census to this. That said, Table 12.1 reflects the number of hours each respondent spent campaigning, with the majority (21.2 per cent) spending between 61 and 100 hours conducting their 2014 campaign. Overall, 49 per cent of respondents spend 40 hours or less on their campaign, 32.7 per cent between 41 and 100 hours, 4.8 per cent between 101 and 150 hours, and 13.5 per cent campaigned in excess of 150 hours.

Respondents were also asked the duration, in weeks, of their campaign. 45.1 per cent indicated that they spent between 1 and 4 weeks campaigning, and 31.4 per cent between 5 and 6 weeks. The majority of respondents (35.2 per cent) indicated that this was the first time they had campaigned for election to council (Table 12.3).

Table 12.1: Hours spent on 2014 election campaign

Hours spent campaigning	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
0	2	1.9
1-10	15	14.4
11-20	17	16.3
21-40	17	16.3
41-60	12	11.5
61-100	22	21.2
101-150	5	4.8
150+	14	13.5
Total	104	100.0

Table 12.2: What was the duration of your electoral campaign period?

Duration of campaign	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
0 weeks	1	1.0
1-4 weeks	46	45.1
5-6 weeks	32	31.4
7-12 weeks	15	14.7
13-50 weeks	8	7.8
Grand Total	102	100.0

Table 12.3: How many times have you stood for election?

Number of times respondent has stood for election	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
Once	37	35.2
Twice	30	28.6
Three times	14	13.3
Four times	24	22.9
Total	105	100.0

In an effort to determine what motivates people to seek election to local government, respondents were asked to select as many options as were relevant from a list of responses. 19.7 per cent indicated that they had been approached by existing councillors, 12.9 per cent were encouraged by friends and 6.2 had a family tradition of local government service. 55.1 per cent responded that they were motivated by a specific organisation, issue or 'other' factor.

Summarising the range of 'other' factors, respondents detailed influences including:

- An interest in their local community and a desire to influence decisions which effect it;
- Giving back to the community which has been good to them in a business sense;
- Dissatisfaction with council decisions, processes or infrastructure;
- An interest in Local Government generally;
- Specific issues in the community.

13. PUBLIC CONTACT / COUNCIL ACTIVITY

Figure 13.1 and Table 13.1 reflect respondents' average number of contacts with members of the public on council matters, each month. The majority (26.9 per cent) of respondents see between 11 and 20 people per month and 23.1 per cent see between 1 and 10 per month. While the proportion is relatively small compared to the proportions having lower numbers of contacts, 17.3 per cent of respondents estimate that they have contact with in excess of 61 people each month, with 10.6 of those respondents having over 100 contacts.

Figure 13.1: Average number of contacts with public per month

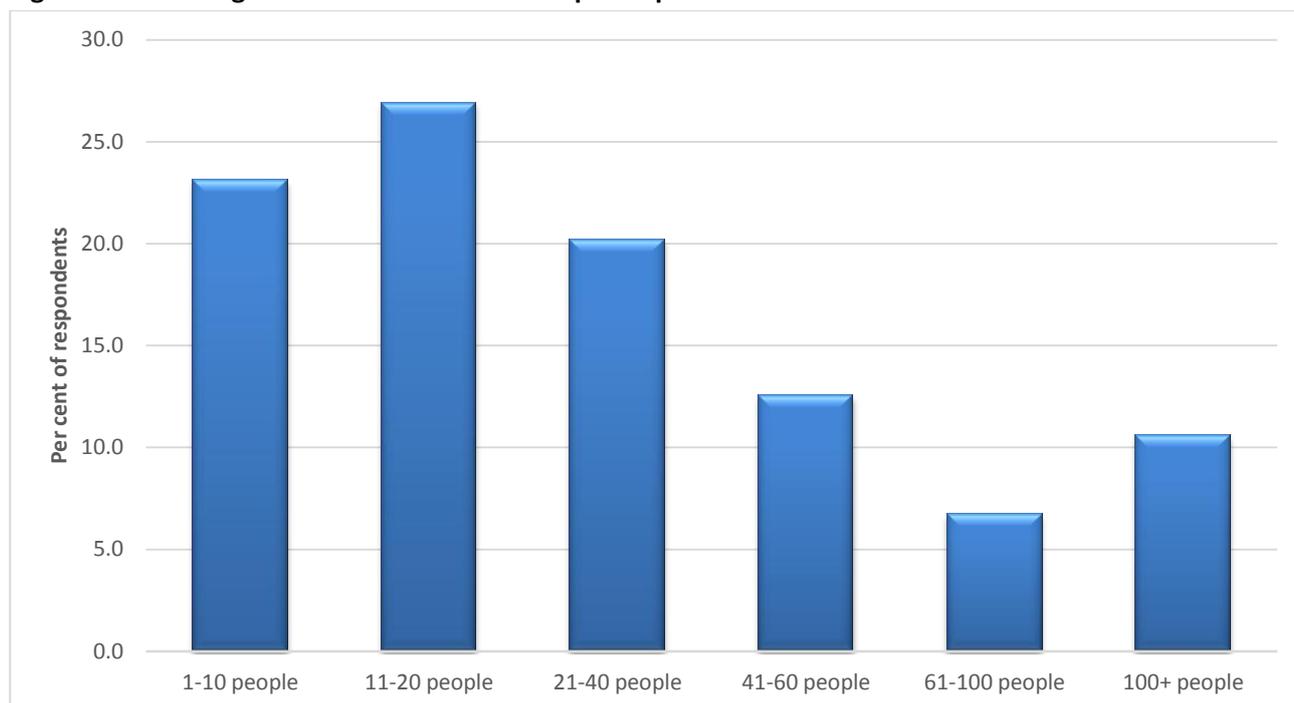


Table 13.1: Average number of contacts with public per month

Average contact number	Number of respondents	Per cent of respondents
1-10 people	24	23.1
11-20 people	28	26.9
21-40 people	21	20.2
41-60 people	13	12.5
61-100 people	7	6.7
100+ people	11	10.6
Total	104	100

Figure 13.2 reflects the average number of hours per week that respondents estimate they spend on council activity, with the majority (44.8 per cent) spending in excess of 15 hours per week on council business. 26.7 per cent spend between 6 and 10 hours per week and a further 22.9 per cent spend between 11 and 15 hours each week on council matters. Given that just over 60 per cent of respondents are self-employed or work full-time, council activity represents a considerable workload in addition to their other paid employment. Further, combined with high levels of involvement with organisations other than council, the commitment of respondents to their communities is exceptional.

Figure 13.2: Average hours spent on council activity per week

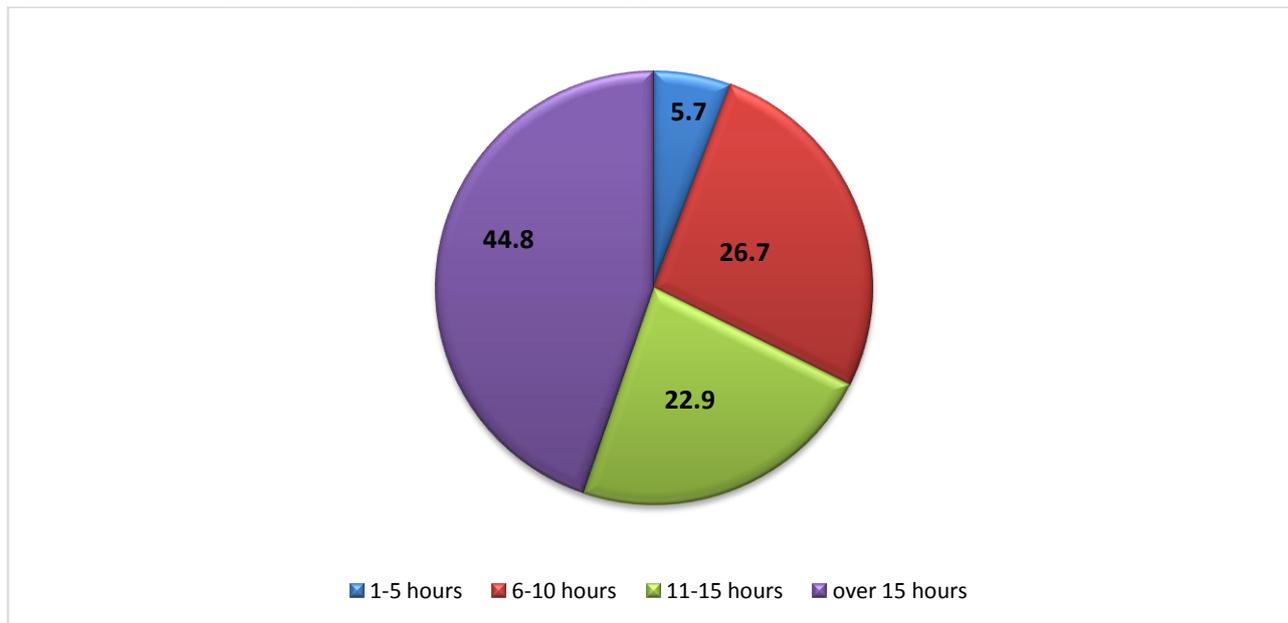


Figure 13.3 compares the average hours per week spent on council activity by gender, and indicates that male respondents are more likely to spend between 11 and 15 hours per week than their female counterparts and female respondents are more likely to spend between 1 and 5 hours per week. That being said, given the disproportionate rate of male to female respondents, comparisons based on gender should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 13.3: Average hours per week spent on council activity by gender

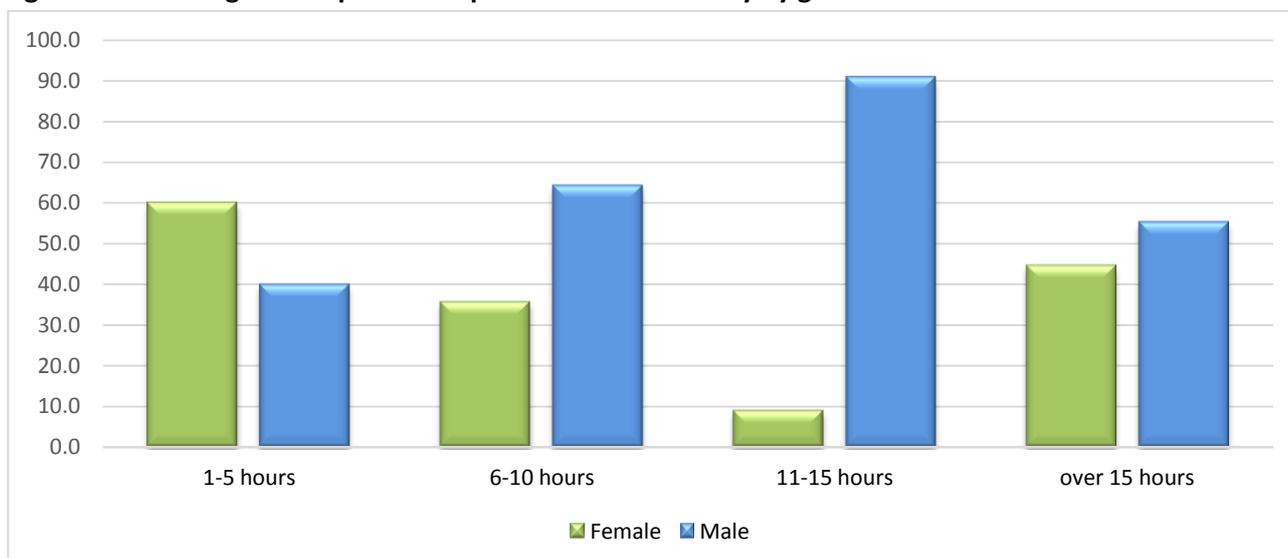


Table 13.2: Average hours per week spent on council activity by gender

Average hours on council activity per week	Female	Male
1-5 hours	60.0	40.0
6-10 hours	35.7	64.3
11-15 hours	9.1	90.9
over 15 hours	44.7	55.3

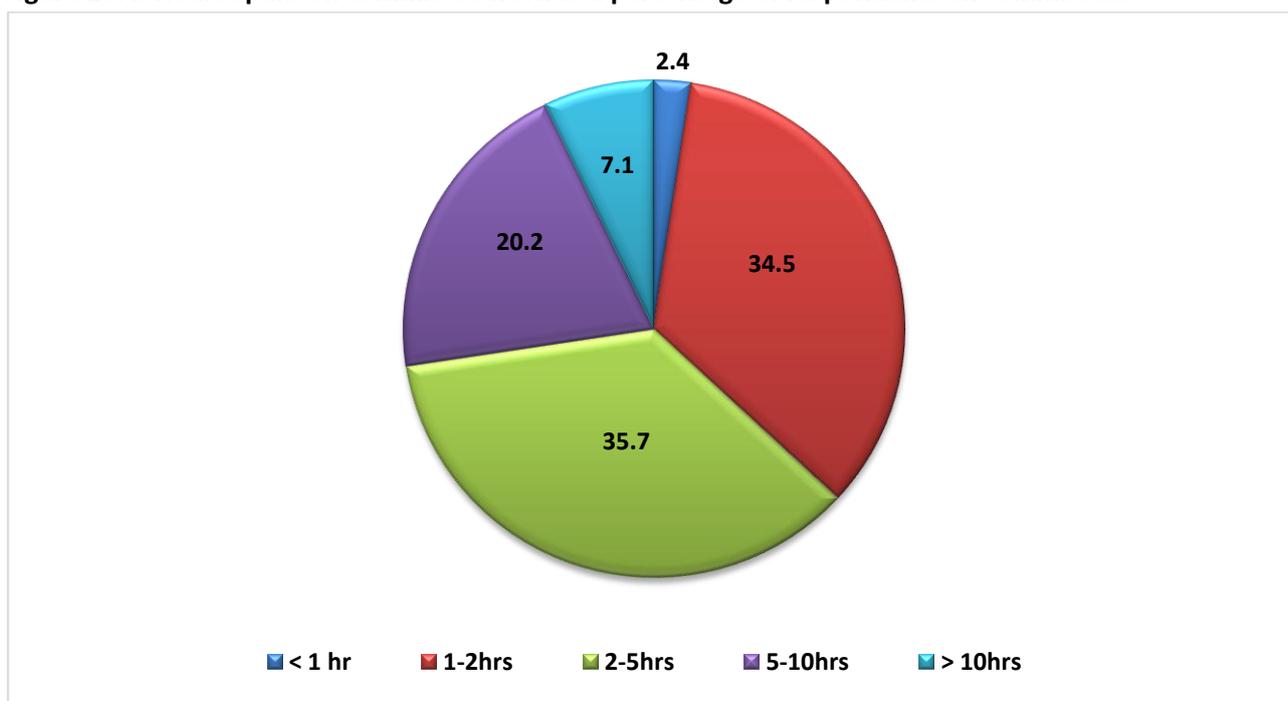
As is indicated in Table 13.3, respondents in city councils are twice as likely to spend more than 15 hours per week on council activity, than their counterparts in smaller councils. In councils with fewer than 10,000 people, the majority (34 per cent) of respondents spend in excess of 15 hours per week on council activity and 27.7 per cent spend between 11 and 15 hours. No respondents in a council with a population in excess of 20,000 or a City council spent less than 6 hours each week on council activity.

Table 13.3: Spread of average hours per week spent on council activity by council size

	<10,000 people	10,000 to 20,000 people	>20,000 people	City Council
1-5 hours	8.5	10.0		
6-10 hours	29.8	20.0	38.9	15.0
11-15 hours	27.7	30.0	22.2	5.0
over 15 hours	34.0	40.0	38.9	80.0

95.2 per cent of respondents indicated that, at the time of the 2014 census, they were sitting on a council committee. Figure 13.4 indicates that, of those, 35.7 per cent spent an average 2 to 5 hours per week on committee work, 34.5 per cent spent between 1 and 2 hours per week, and 20.2 per cent, 5 to 10 hours per week.

Figure 13.4: Hours spent on committee work as a percentage of respondents on committees



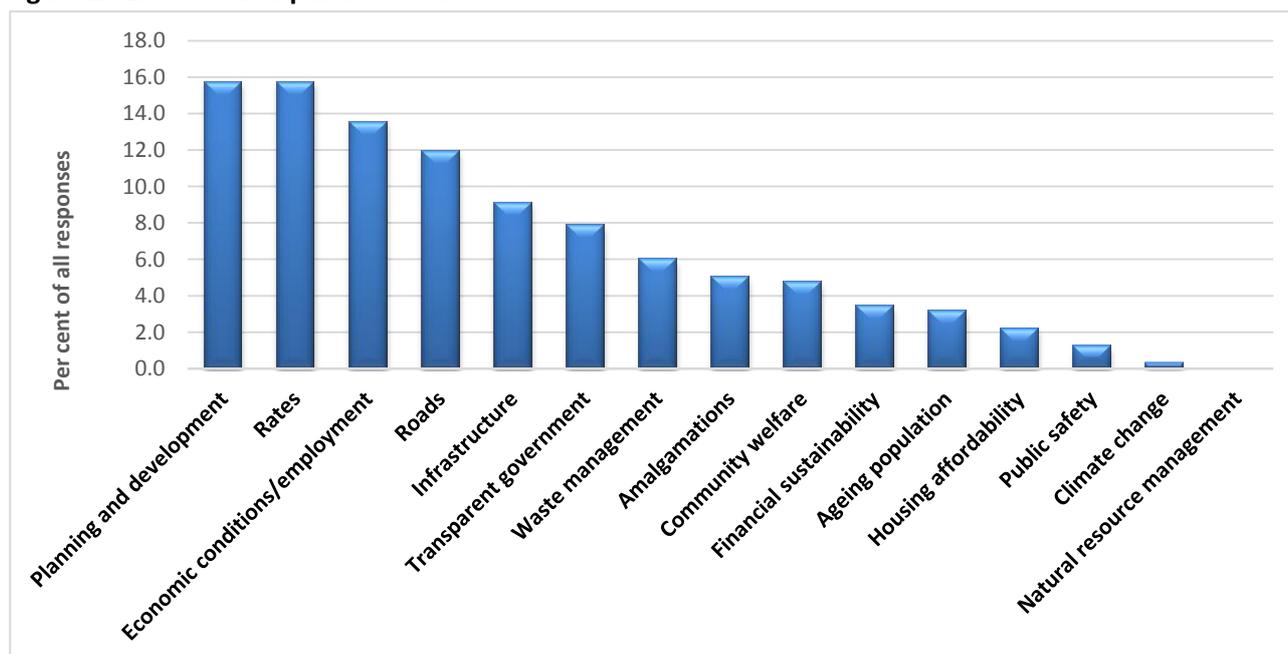
14. ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Respondents were asked to identify, from concerns listed in Table 14.1, what they believe are the three major concerns of people in their municipality. Consistent with the 2011 census, rates and planning/development remain of most concern, comprising 15.7 each of all responses. While roads comprise 11.9 per cent of all responses, the rate of concern about economic conditions/employment has almost doubled from the 2011 census, to comprise 13.5 per cent of all responses in 2014 compared to 7.4 per cent in the last census (see Figure 14.2).

Table 14.1: Perceived public concerns

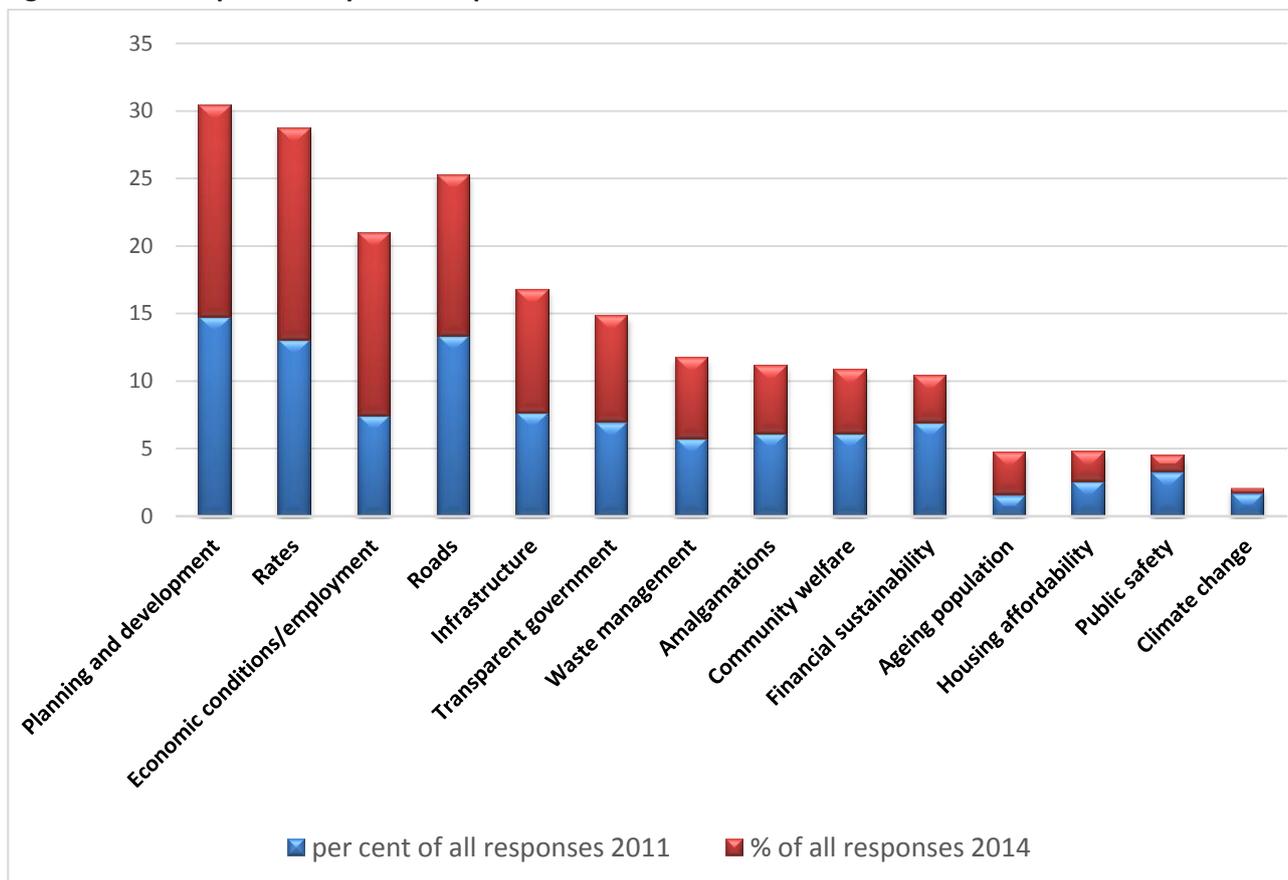
Concern	Number of times raised	Per cent of all responses
Planning and development	50	15.7
Rates	50	15.7
Economic conditions/employment	43	13.5
Roads	38	11.9
Infrastructure	29	9.1
Transparent government	25	7.9
Waste management	19	6.0
Amalgamations	16	5.0
Community welfare	15	4.7
Financial sustainability	11	3.5
Ageing population	10	3.1
Housing affordability	7	2.2
Public safety	4	1.3
Climate change	1	0.3
Natural resource management		0.0

Figure 14.1: Perceived public concerns



As can be seen in Figure 14.2, there has been an increase in the perceived concern about economic conditions/employment between this and the previous census, with concerns about rates and planning and development, waste management, infrastructure, transparent government and an ageing population, also increasing. Some issues are of less concern to the public according to the 2014 census, those being amalgamations, roads, community welfare, housing affordability, public safety, financial sustainability, climate change and natural resource management.

Figure 14.2: Comparison of perceived public concerns 2011 to 2014



In addition to being asked to identify issues concerning members of the public, respondents were also asked to rank issues they considered relevant to Local Government, where 1 indicated that they deemed the issue unimportant, 2 deemed it not very important, 3 deemed it important and 4, very important.

Table 14.2 reflects the rating for all issues, combining respondent scores for each issue to provide a total score. Financial sustainability was the issue ranked most highly with a score of 372, followed by asset management (352), community engagement (342) and rates determination (341). The lowest ranked issues were domestic animal control (259) and climate change (244).

Table 14.3 provides detail of how many respondents rated each issue. Only 3 respondents rated financial sustainability as unimportant, whereas 15 rated it as important and 81 as very important. The issue which most respondents rated as unimportant was climate change, with 17 respondents rating it so.

Table 14.2: Importance rating of local government issues

Issues important to Local Government	Rating (=total score)
Financial sustainability	372
Asset management	352
Community engagement	342
Rate determination	341
Economic development	335
Infrastructure	331
Roads	329
Community development	326
Waste management	322
Environmental/public health	316
Tourism	316
Environmental sustainability	297
Skills shortages	276
Demographic change	274
Domestic animal control	259
Climate change	244

Table 14.3: Count of rating

Issues important to Local Government	Count of Unimportant rating	Count of Not very important rating	Count of Important rating	Count of Very important rating	% respondents rating important/very important
Financial sustainability	3		15	81	97.0
Asset management	2	3	32	62	94.9
Infrastructure	1	4	42	49	94.8
Community engagement	3	3	35	57	93.9
Roads	2	4	41	49	93.8
Waste management	2	4	52	39	93.8
Economic development	3	4	28	60	92.6
Rates determination	1	7	38	53	91.9
Community development	1	9	45	43	89.8
Tourism	1	12	37	45	86.3
Environmental/public health	3	12	43	40	84.7
Environmental sustainability	6	10	49	31	83.3
Skills shortages	5	25	43	23	68.8
Demographic change	5	25	41	24	68.4
Domestic animal control	5	28	50	12	65.3
Climate change	17	20	37	19	60.2

15. COMMUNICATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Of all respondents to the 2014 census, 99 per cent are connected to email and of those, 94 per cent indicated that that is their preferred means of communication. For those who preferred other forms of communication to email, most preferred postal mail or telephone. In terms of how councils communicated with elected members, the overwhelming majority indicated that council uses email (99 respondents). Some respondents indicated that council also uses postal mail (36 respondents) and/or fax (3), and 31 respondents detailed other communication methods including phone (including sms), drop box and Intranet.

In terms of regular LGAT publications, 77.1 per cent of respondents indicated that they receive the quarterly LGAT News Magazine (down from 97 per cent in 2011), 68.6 per cent receive the fortnightly LGAT electronic newsletter (down from 82 per cent in 2011), and 66.7 per cent receive the LGAT Monthly Report. When asked whether or not they have used the LGAT Extranet, 39.4 per cent indicated that they had not but had received log-in information, 39.4 indicated that they had not but had not received long-in information, and 20.4 indicated that they had used the Extranet. Results may also be affected by the proportion of newly elected respondents (44.8 per cent), who may still have been feeling their way at the time of the census.

Unlike the 2011 census in which more than 48 per cent of respondents indicated that they had not undertaken any council role related training, the proportion who had not yet done so at the time of the 2014 census, had fallen to 27.7 per cent (Table 15.1). Respondents were asked to specify what training they had undertaken since being elected, with 63 out of 73 providing some detail. As responses were free text they were many and varied, but have been consolidated under two headings in Table 15.2.

Table 15.1: Since becoming a Councillor, have you undertaken any training specifically related to your role as a councillor?

Response	Number of respondents	Per cent
Yes	73	72.3
No	28	27.7
Total	101	100.0

Table 15.2: Consolidation of specific training detailed by respondents

	Number attended	Per cent of respondents attending related training
LGAT training (workshops, courses, seminars etc.)	51	69.9
Other	12	16.4
No additional detail provided	10	13.7
Total	73	100

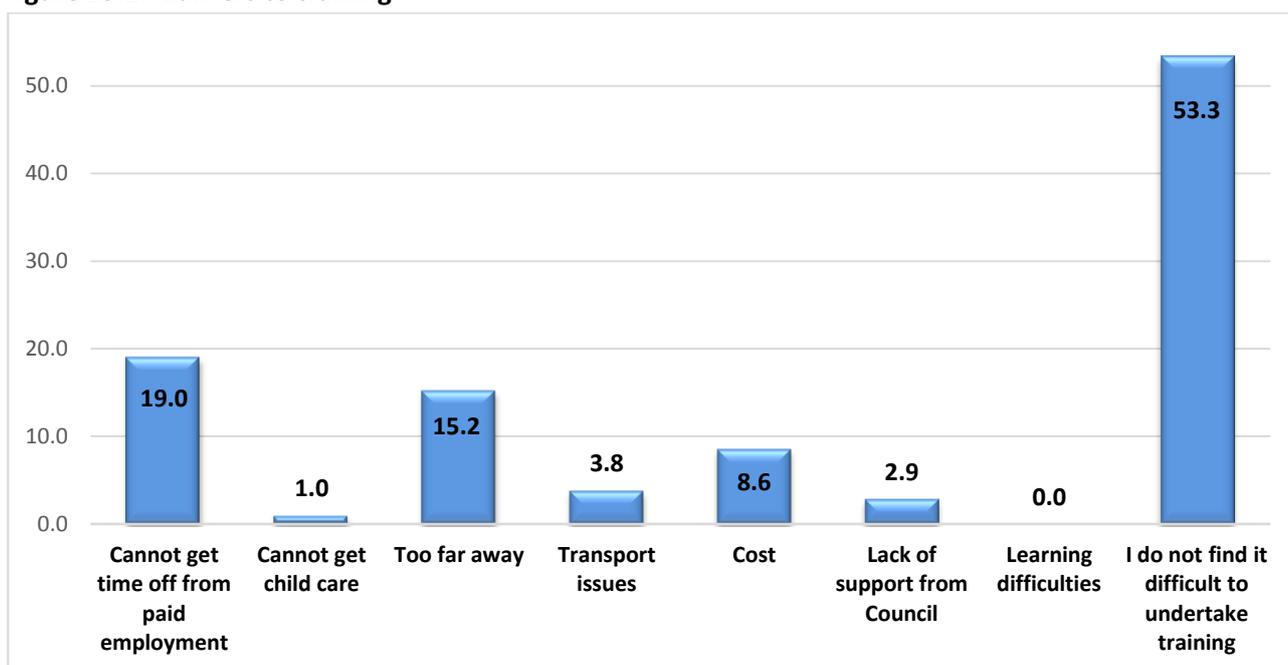
Respondents were also asked whether or not they had attended any of the information/training opportunities detailed in Table 15.3. Council based induction or training was the most frequently attended (56.2 per cent of respondents), followed by LGAT Annual Local Government Conference (53.4 per cent). 50.7 per cent were booked to attend a weekend workshop to be held from 28 Feb to 1 March 2015.

Table 15.3: In the last 12 months, have you attended any of the following?

	Number of respondents attended	As a per cent of respondents who had taken training
Council based induction or training	41	56.2
LGAT Annual Local Government Conference	39	53.4
booked to attend workshop 28 Feb-1 March 2015	37	50.7
LGAT General Meeting	31	42.5
Elected Member weekend workshop	31	42.5
Local Government 101	22	30.1
Local Government Division training or workshop	20	27.4
Mayors Professional Development workshop	19	26.0
Donning the Robes - Mayor's workshop	11	15.1
ALGA National Congress	10	13.7
newly elected and not had time to attend training	9	12.3
LGMA Conference/s	2	2.7
ACELG Researchers Forum		0.0

Although at the time of the 2014 census, a relatively high proportion of respondents had been able to take advantage of training opportunities on offer, for some, doing so is problematic. Respondents were asked to indicate what, if anything, made it difficult for them to attend training. Somewhat pleasingly, 53.3 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not find it difficult to attend training however, 19 per cent indicated that they cannot get time off from paid employment to attend and 15.2 per cent indicated that it was 'too far away'. Again, given the high proportions of respondents who are self-employed or in full time paid employment, accessing training initiatives held on normal workdays will almost certainly continue to be challenging. Details of these and other barriers to training are detailed in Figure 15.1.

Figure 15.1: Barriers to training



Respondents were asked to identify three topics which they considered as important in terms of training opportunities for elected members. As responses were free text it is very difficult to include all the detail, so on that basis, responses have been grouped under the broader headings in Table 15.4. Land use planning was the most nominated topic (45 nominations), followed by governance, roles and responsibilities (36 nominations), council procedures (34 nominations) and budget/finance (32 nominations). Topics included under 'Other' include policy development, local government reform, IT training and personal development – amongst others.

Table 15.4: Most important topics for which training and or information should be available to elected members?

	No. times nominated	Per cent of all responses
Land use planning	45	19.3
Governance / Roles/responsibilities	36	15.5
Council procedures	34	14.6
Budget/Finance	32	13.7
Communication skills	24	10.3
Other	20	8.6
Legislation	13	5.6
Decision Making, Ethics, Conflict of Interest	9	3.9
Asset Management	9	3.9
Strategic planning	7	3.0
Strategic asset management/Financial planning	4	1.7
Total	233	100

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they had copies, or knew how to access online, key documents detailed in Table 15.5. A very high proportion (96.2 per cent) either held or knew how to access a copy of the Local Government Act 1993, however significantly fewer (59 per cent) held or knew how to access a copy of the Local Government Ministerial Orders. Again, some results may be due, in part, to the high proportion of newly elected members responding to the survey.

Table 15.5: Key documents

	Number of respondents with publication / access	Per cent of respondents with publication / access
Local Government Act 1993	101	96.2
Council Code of Conduct	99	94.3
Council Annual Plan	97	92.4
Council Annual Budget	97	92.4
Local Government (General) Regulations 2005	93	88.6
Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005	93	88.6
The Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993	87	82.9
Council Strategic Plan	86	81.9
Council Long-term Financial Plan	82	78.1
Council Strategic Asset Management Plan	81	77.1
Council consolidated policies	79	75.2
Local Government Ministerial Orders	62	59.0