

MAV
COUNCILLOR
CENSUS

November 2017



MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this survey, conducted by an external survey organisation, was to gather data on a range of demographic characteristics to provide a profile of elected membership of local government in Victoria. This exercise was previously conducted in 2006, 2009 and 2013. In 2006 there were 467 completions. In 2009, there were 430 completions (from the population of 630 councillors), which is 68 per cent of councillors. In 2013, there were 497 completions (from the population of 630 councillors), which is 79 per cent of councillors. In 2017 there were 336 responses, which is 52% of councillors. This report incorporates data from the 2006, 2009, 2013 and 2017 surveys and highlights changes over that period, where appropriate.

2 Methodology

Councillors were contacted via email inviting them to participate in the census online in November and December 2017. Two reminder emails were sent over a period of several weeks. Finally, Councillor Support Officers at each Council were engaged to follow up outstanding responses. The Census is entirely anonymous.

3 Summary of main findings

- The majority of councillors are males aged over 46 years
- There is a rise in councillors over 76 years and a decline in councillors aged under 25 years
- 86% were born in Australia
- Two thirds are either working in paid employment or self employed
- The majority earn above \$52,000 per year (excluding councillor allowances)
- Male and female councillors are equally represented in manager, director, teaching, business owner and CEO employment roles
- Almost 60% have completed a university degree or post graduate qualifications, which continues to rise over time
- Females have higher levels of post graduate qualifications than male councillors
- Almost 50% of women councillors have caring responsibilities compared to less than 30% of male councillors
- Over 60% spend between 11-30 hours on councillor duties, in addition to other employment
- More than 30% do not identify with a political party.

4 Council areas

		Survey Year				
		2006	2009	2013	2017	Total
What type of council do you represent?	Outer Melbourne (incl. interface)	103	99	113	67	382
	Inner Melbourne	72	83	97	59	311
	Regional Cities	54	63	62	44	223
	Large Rural	120	110	104	84	418
	Small Rural	116	120	110	78	424
	Not stated	2	5	11	4	22
Total		467	480	497	336	1780

Table 1 Survey respondents by council area 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

		What type of council do you represent?					
		Outer Melbourne (including interface)	Inner Melbourne	Regional Cities	Large Rural	Small Rural	Not stated
Survey Year	Gender	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
2006	Male	21.5%	13.2%	13.2%	26.5%	24.9%	.6%
	Female	23.1%	21.0%	8.4%	24.5%	23.1%	0.0%
	Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2009	Male	18.7%	16.5%	13.3%	24.4%	26.6%	.6%
	Female	24.5%	17.4%	12.9%	21.3%	23.2%	.6%
	Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2013	Male	20.4%	18.1%	12.0%	23.9%	23.0%	2.6%
	Female	25.7%	22.3%	12.8%	16.2%	21.8%	1.1%
	Other	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%
2017	Male	18.2%	17.2%	13.5%	26.0%	23.4%	1.6%
	Female	22.1%	18.6%	12.9%	23.6%	22.1%	.7%
	Other	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 2 Type of council by gender 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017 (row percentages)

5 Gender

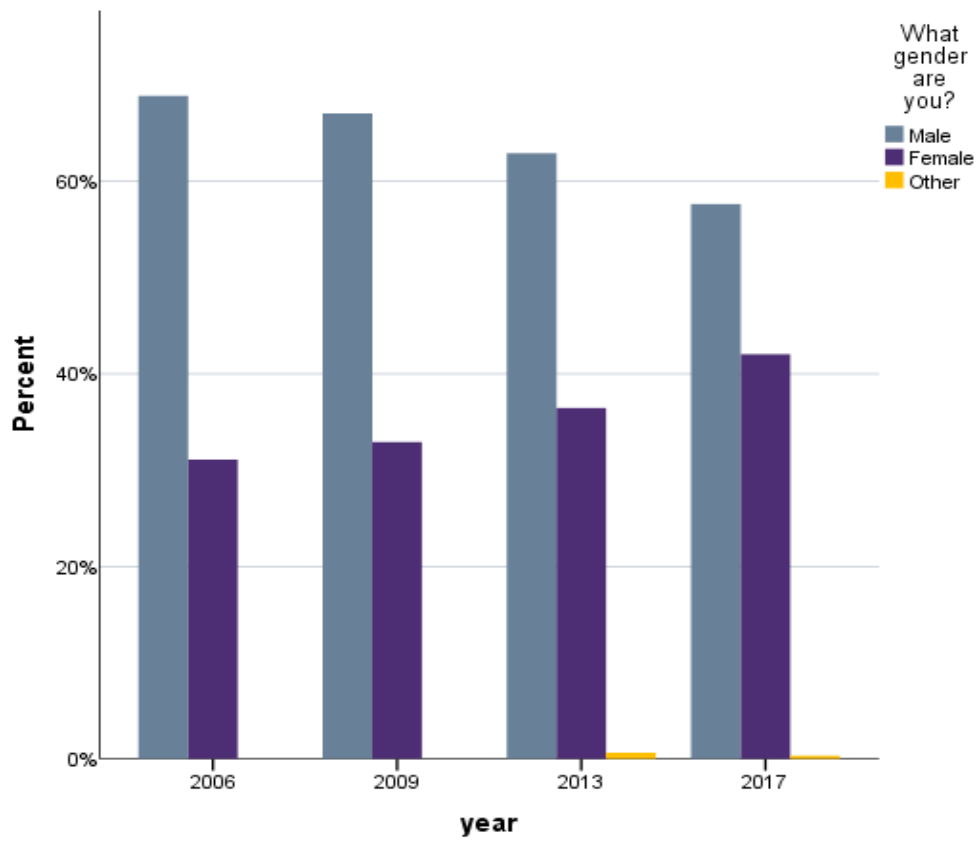


Figure 1 Gender profile 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

6 Age

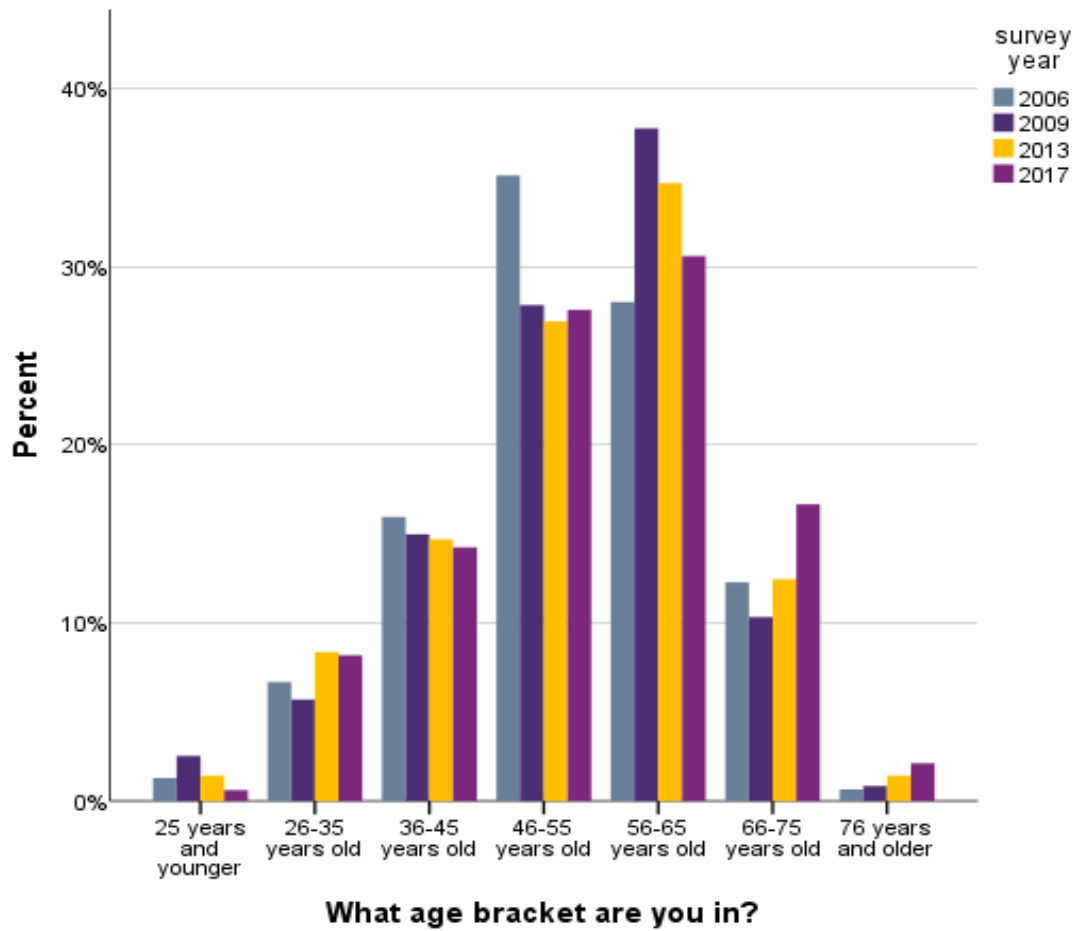


Figure 2 Age distribution of councillors 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

What type of council do you represent?	Survey Year	What age bracket are you in?						
		25 years and younger	26-35 years old	36-45 years old	46-55 years old	56-65 years old	66-75 years old	76 years and older
		Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
Outer Melbourne (including interface)	2006	2.0%	12.7%	22.5%	34.3%	13.7%	14.7%	0.0%
	2009	1.0%	6.2%	20.6%	34.0%	28.9%	7.2%	2.1%
	2013	1.8%	10.1%	18.3%	27.5%	28.4%	12.8%	.9%
	2017	1.5%	12.1%	15.2%	37.9%	16.7%	15.2%	1.5%
Inner Melbourne	2006	4.2%	11.1%	20.8%	43.1%	19.4%	1.4%	0.0%
	2009	9.6%	13.3%	21.7%	19.3%	30.1%	6.0%	0.0%
	2013	3.1%	14.4%	26.8%	23.7%	26.8%	5.2%	0.0%
	2017	0.0%	18.6%	23.7%	15.3%	32.2%	8.5%	1.7%
Regional Cities	2006	0.0%	11.1%	20.4%	33.3%	31.5%	3.7%	0.0%
	2009	1.6%	11.3%	19.4%	22.6%	38.7%	6.5%	0.0%
	2013	1.7%	5.0%	11.7%	33.3%	36.7%	11.7%	0.0%
	2017	0.0%	9.1%	15.9%	29.5%	31.8%	9.1%	4.5%
Large Rural	2006	.8%	3.4%	14.3%	32.8%	32.8%	13.4%	2.5%
	2009	0.0%	1.8%	12.8%	32.1%	41.3%	11.0%	.9%
	2013	1.0%	3.9%	10.7%	24.3%	42.7%	13.6%	3.9%
	2017	0.0%	3.7%	7.3%	26.8%	46.3%	15.9%	0.0%
Small Rural	2006	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	33.9%	40.0%	20.0%	0.0%
	2009	1.7%	.8%	5.8%	26.7%	46.7%	17.5%	.8%
	2013	0.0%	7.3%	6.4%	27.3%	40.9%	16.4%	1.8%
	2017	1.3%	0.0%	13.2%	27.6%	25.0%	28.9%	3.9%
Not stated	2006	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	2009	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	2013	0.0%	9.1%	9.1%	36.4%	18.2%	27.3%	0.0%
	2017	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%

Table 3 Age profiles across types of council areas 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017 (row percentages)

7 Country of origin

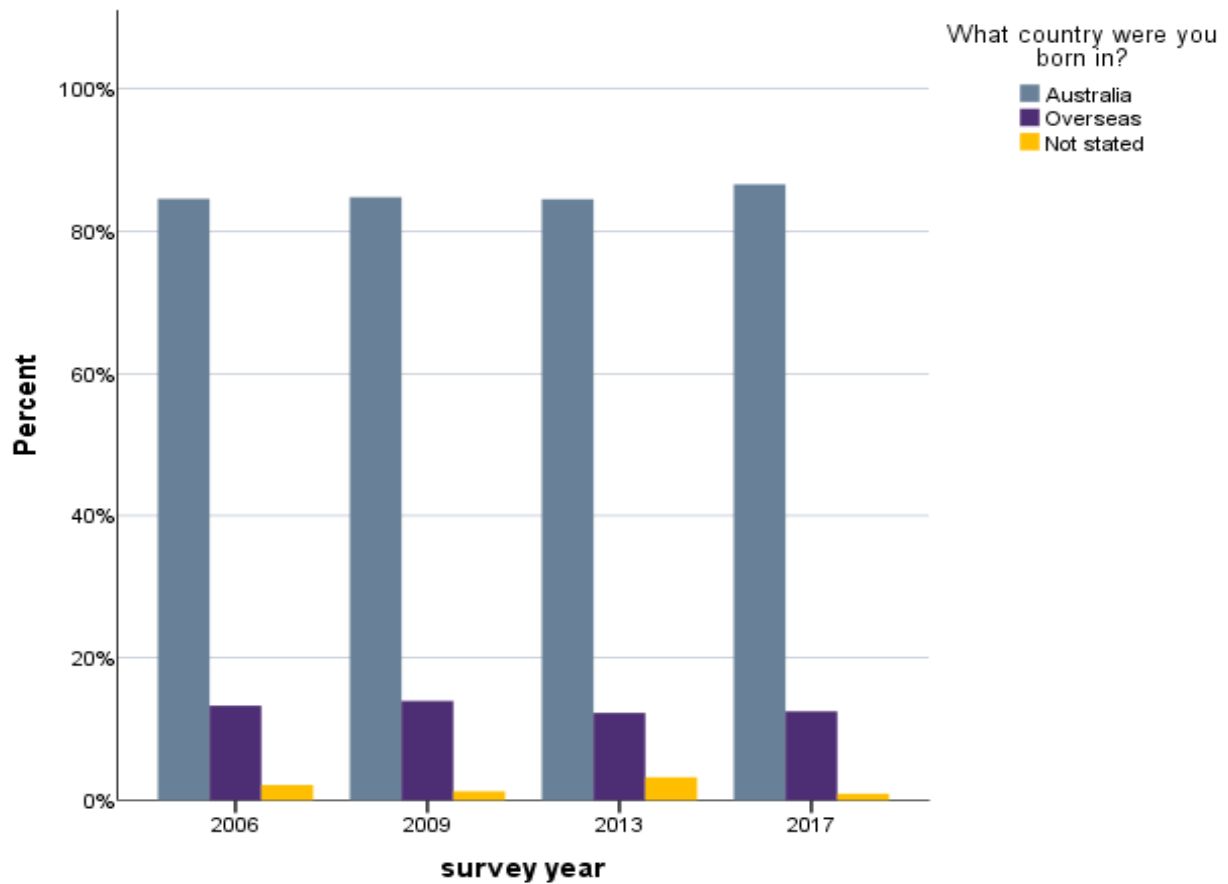


Figure 3 Birthplace of councillors 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

What country were you born in?	Frequency	Percent
Australia	291	86.6
Overseas	42	12.5
Not stated	3	.9
Total	336	100.0

Table 4 Birthplace of councillors 2017

Country Councillor Born	Survey Year				Total
	2006	2009	2013	2017	
All Australian	311	324	305	218	1158
Councillor born in Australia, both parents born overseas	37	40	44	33	154
Councillor born overseas, both parents born in Australia	1	1	2	2	6
One parent born in Australia and Councillor born in Australia	46	42	59	37	184
One parent born in Australia and Councillor born overseas	1	2	1	4	8
All born overseas	60	62	57	35	214
Not all birthplaces specified	6	9	20	7	42
Total	462	480	488	336	1766

Table 5 Birthplace of councillors and their parents

8 Marital status

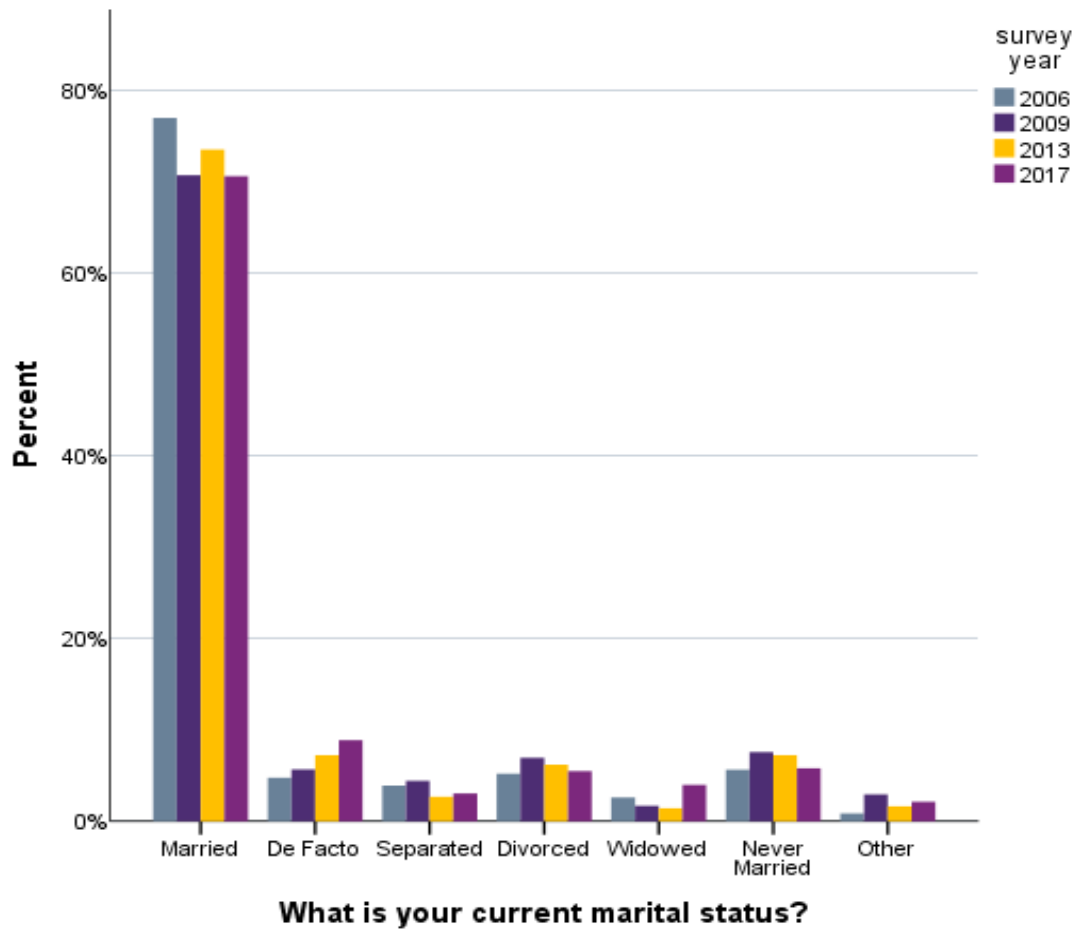


Figure 4 Councillors' marital status 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

9 Living arrangements

Who currently lives with you?	Survey Year			
	2006	2009	2013	2017
	Column N %	Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
A partner	40.3%	40.2%	40.0%	36.9%
A partner plus one or more children	36.4%	35.4%	37.2%	37.2%
No one, you live by yourself	10.1%	9.8%	8.5%	11.9%
One or more children	4.9%	5.2%	4.2%	4.8%
One or both of your parents	1.1%	1.5%	1.6%	.9%
One or both of your parents plus others	.9%	1.5%	.8%	0.0%
One or more adults who are neither your partner nor your parent	1.5%	1.7%	1.4%	1.8%
A partner plus other adults	1.3%	.6%	1.2%	2.1%
A partner plus one or more children plus other adults	1.1%	1.3%	1.4%	3.3%
Not stated	2.6%	2.9%	3.6%	1.2%

Table 6 Councillors' living arrangements 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

10 Caring responsibilities

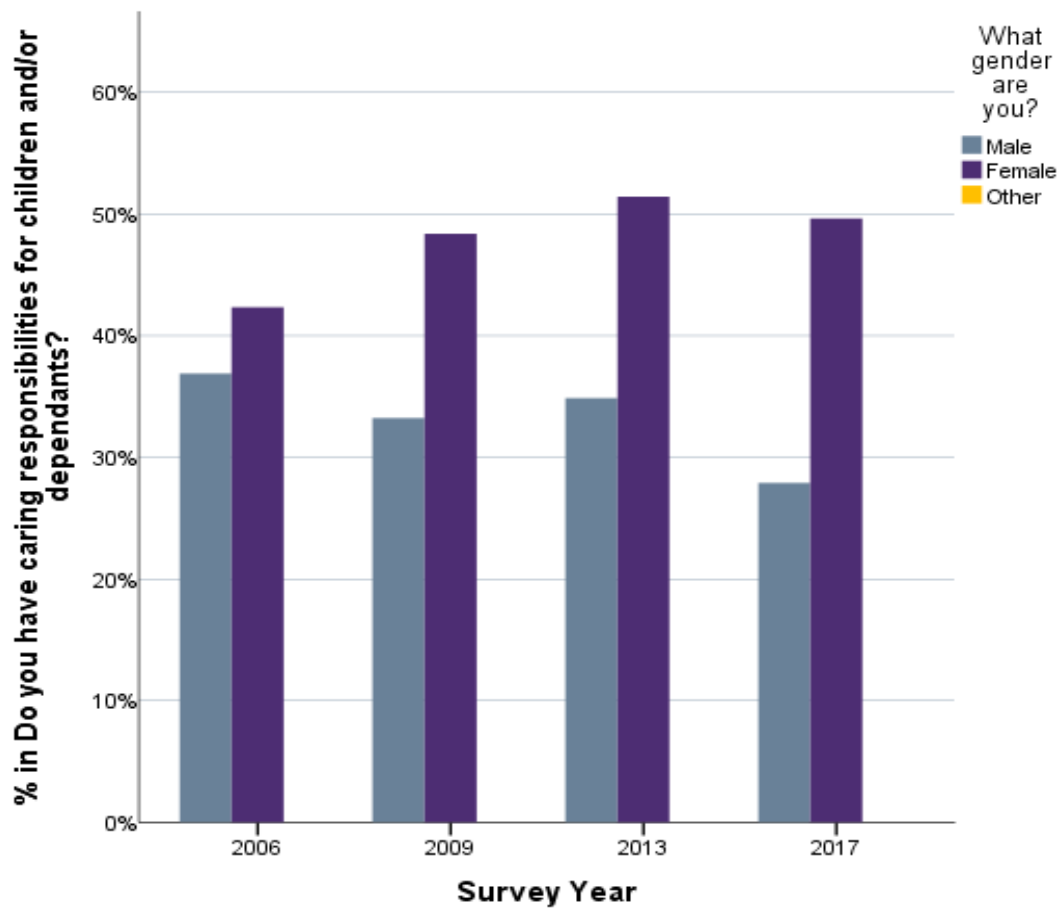


Figure 5 Percentage of councillors with caring responsibilities by gender 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

11 Employment status

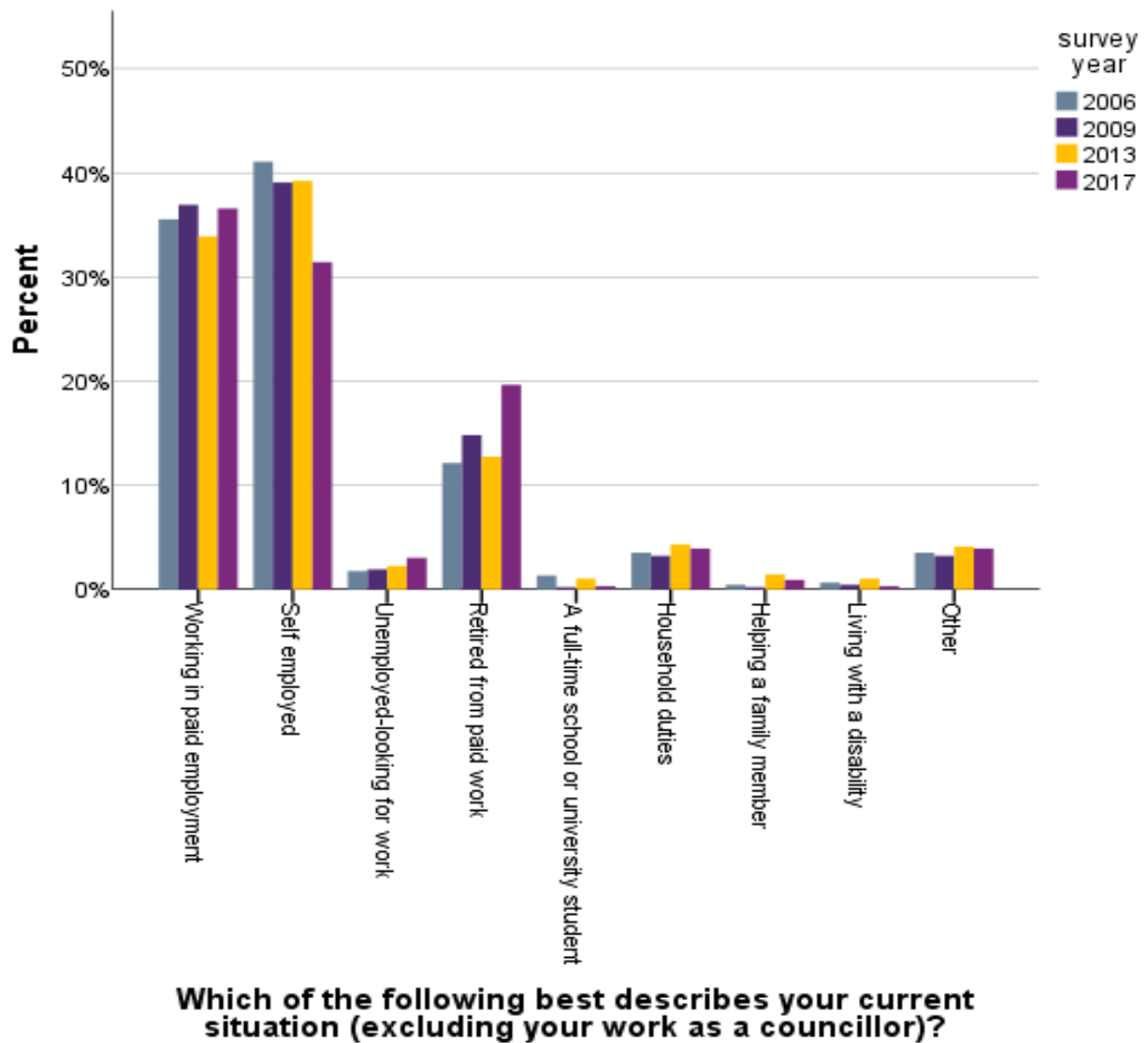


Figure 6 Employment profile of councillors 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

12 Employment sector

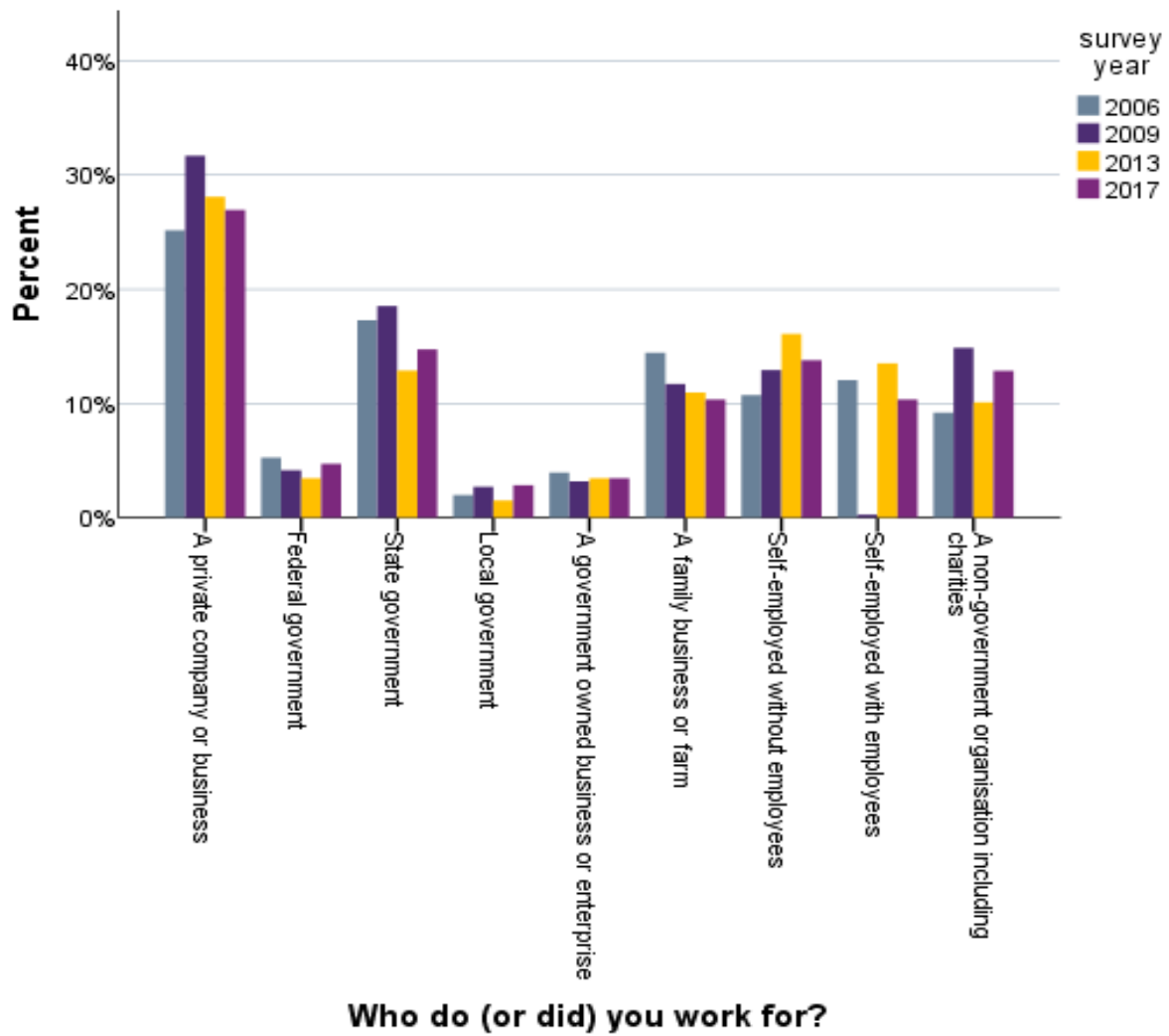


Figure 7 Employment sector 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

13 Occupation

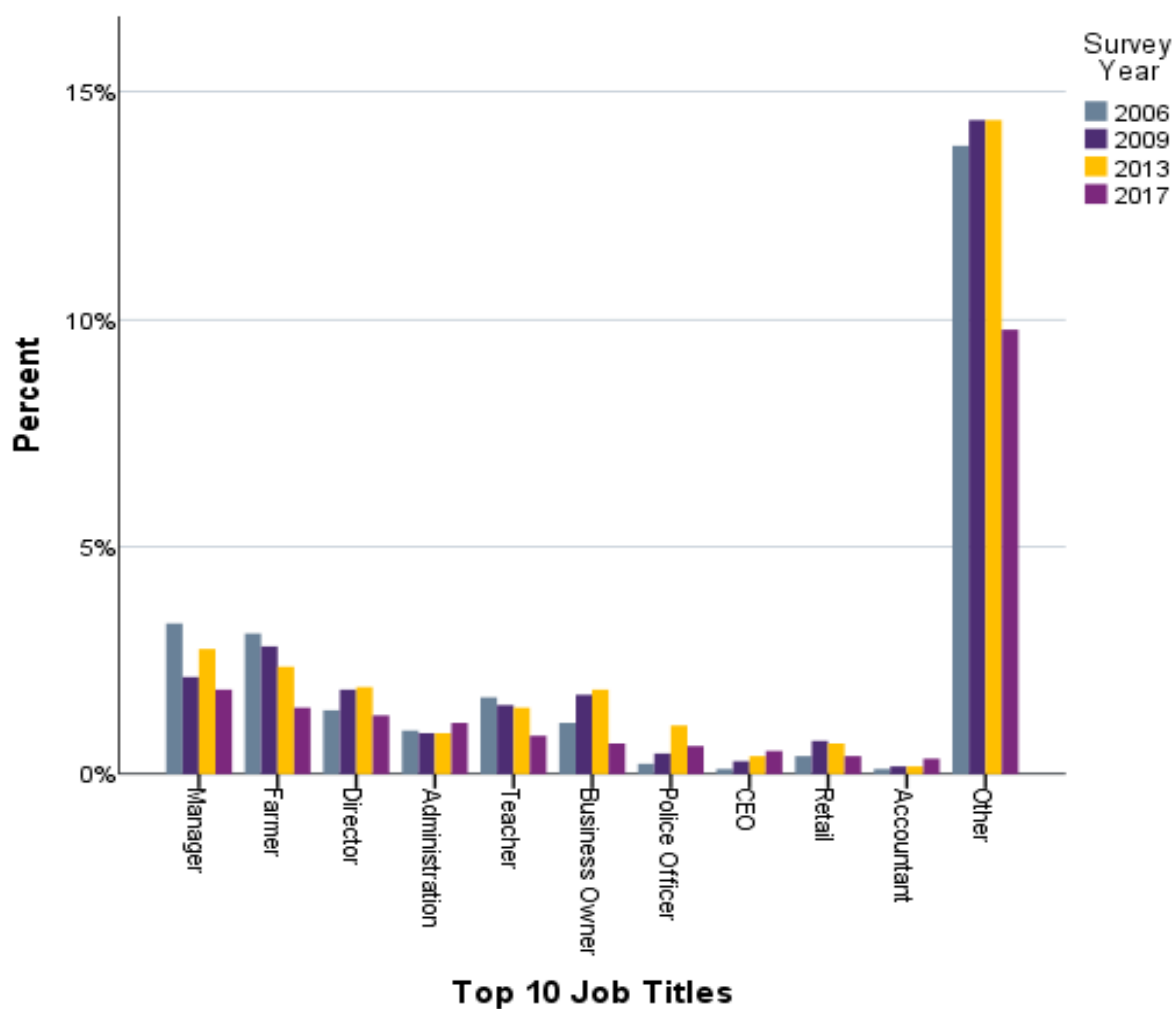


Figure 8 Job title of councillors 2006, 2009, 2013 and 2017

Top 10 Job Titles	What gender are you?		
	Male 2017	Female 2017	Other 2017
Manager	9.9%	10.0%	0.0%
Farmer	10.4%	3.6%	0.0%
Director	6.3%	7.1%	0.0%
Administration	2.1%	11.4%	0.0%
Teacher	4.7%	4.3%	0.0%
Business Owner	3.1%	4.3%	0.0%
Police Officer	5.2%	.7%	0.0%
CEO	2.6%	2.9%	0.0%
Retail	3.1%	.7%	0.0%
Accountant	2.6%	.7%	0.0%
Other	50.0%	54.3%	100.0%

Table 7 Job Title by gender 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017 (column percentages)

14 Working hours

	What gender are you?											
	Male				Female				Other			
	Survey Year				Survey Year				Survey Year			
	2006	2009	2013	2017	2006	2009	2013	2017	2006	2009	2013	2017
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
About how many hours do you work for pay in an average week?	38.3	38.1	40.4	38.1	28.6	28.6	32.8	28.7	-	-	0.0	50.0

Table 8 Average weekly hours of paid work by councillors by gender 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

15 Level of education

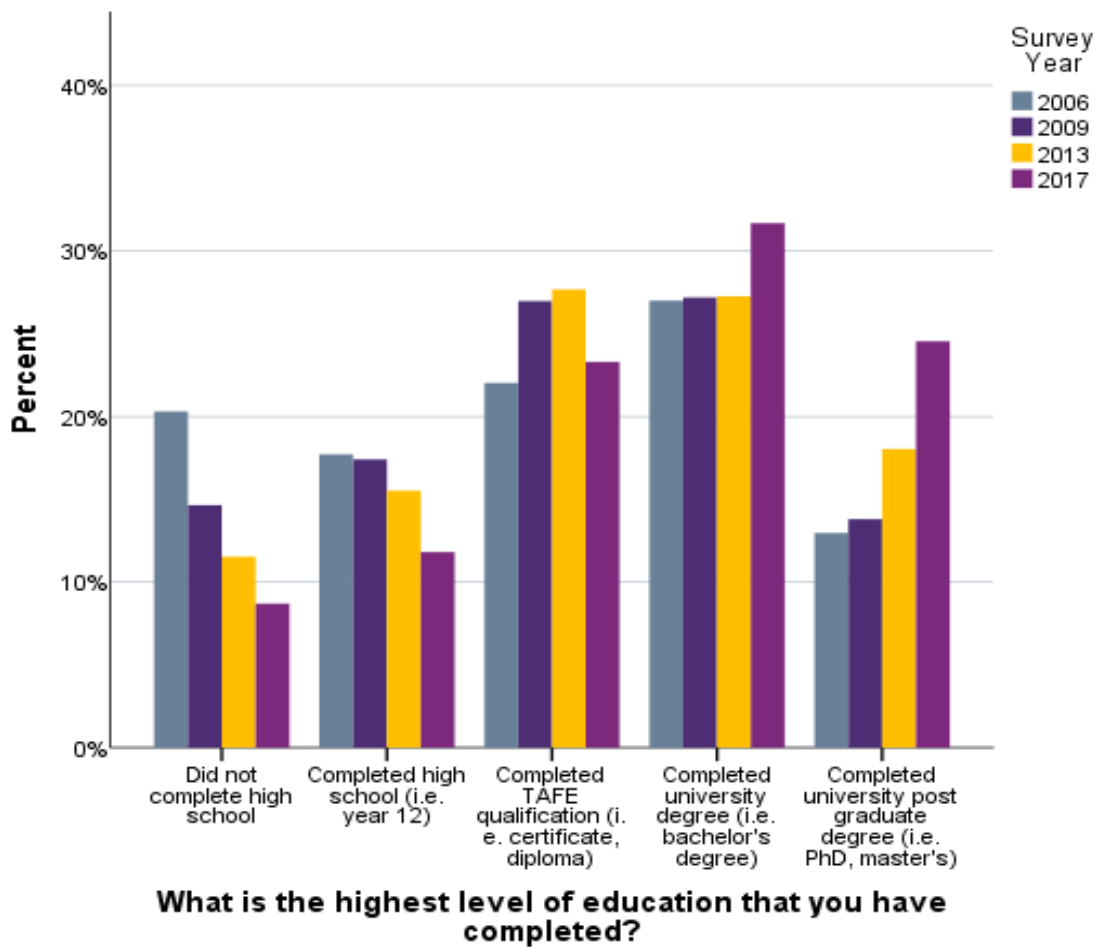


Figure 9 Councillors' levels of education 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

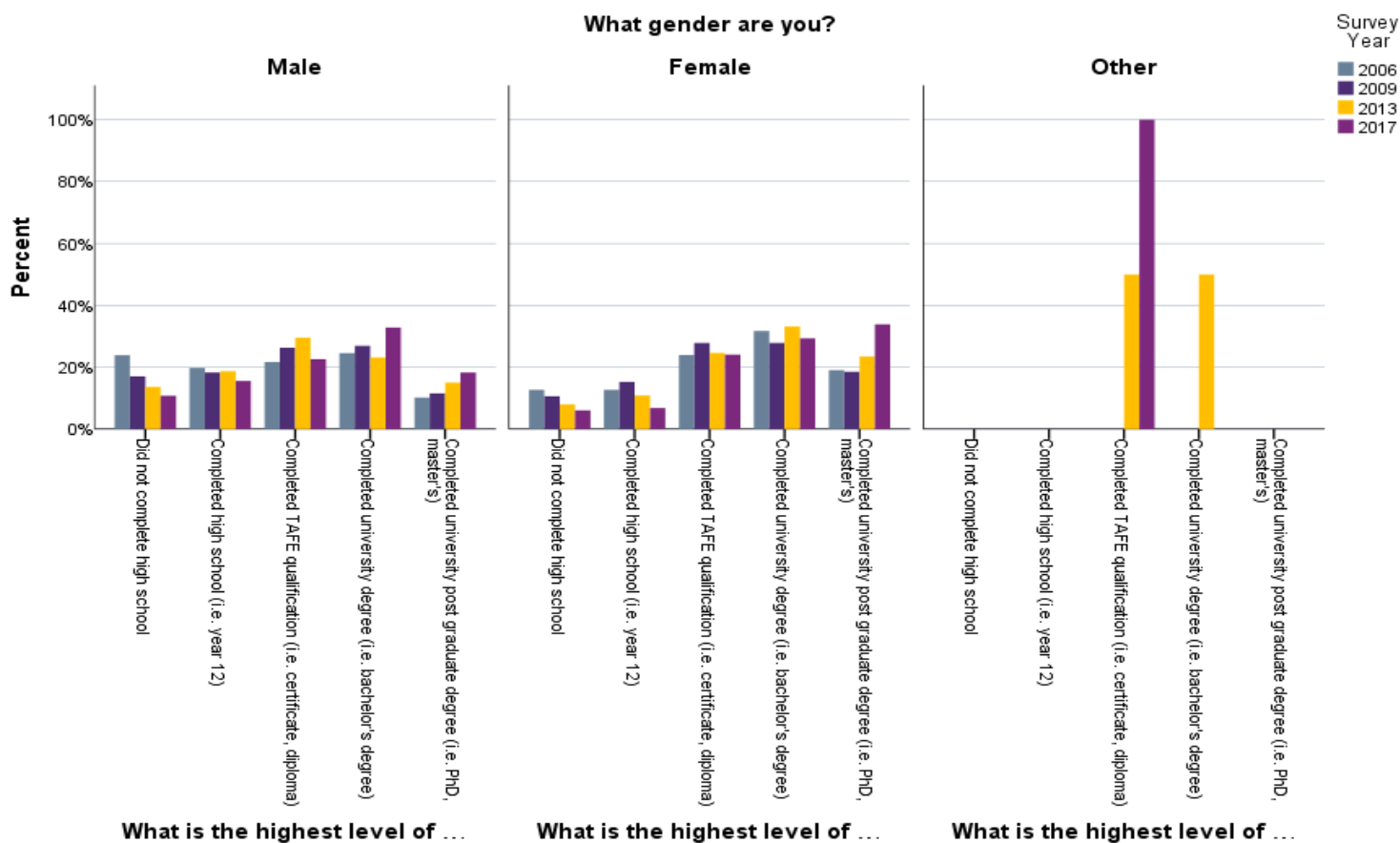
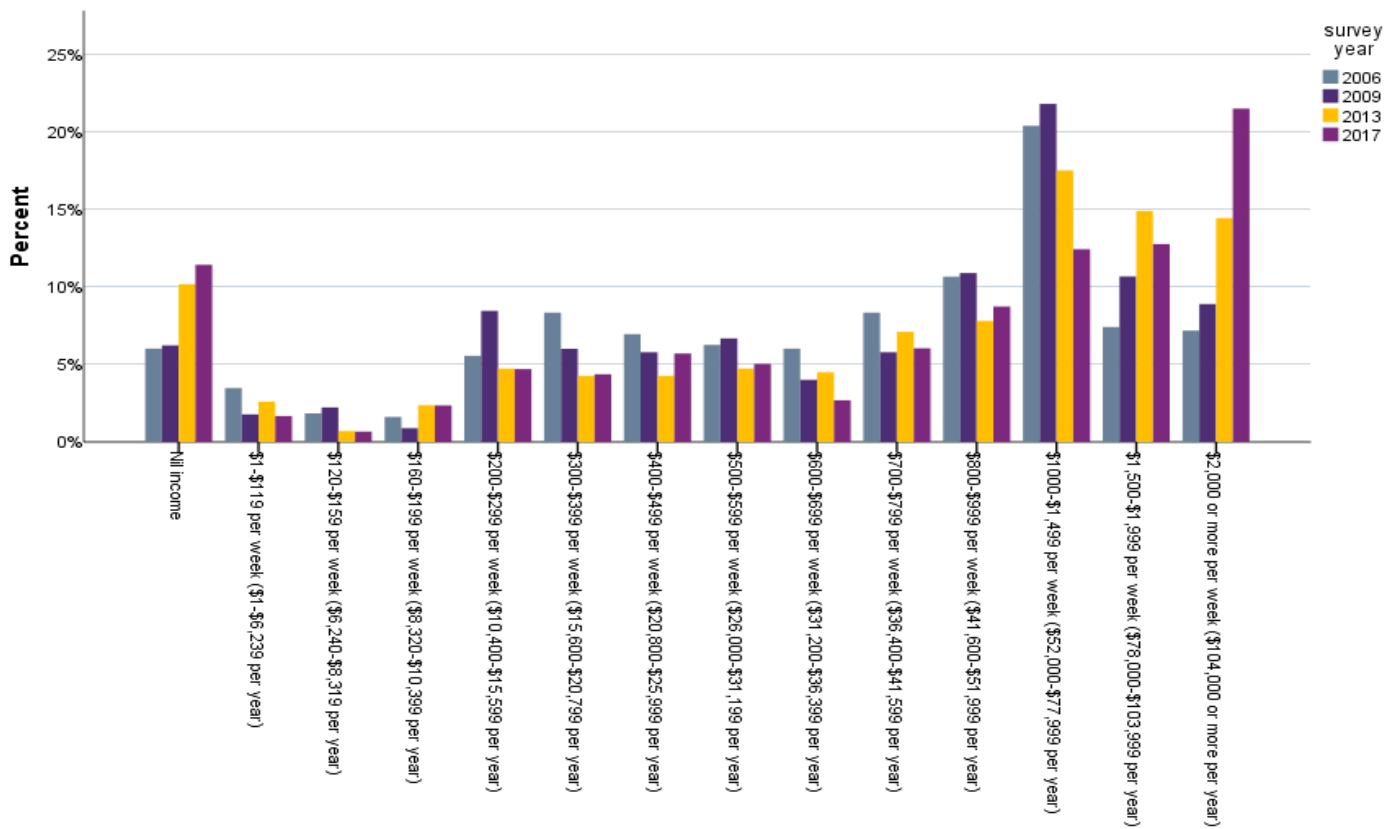


Figure 10 Education by gender 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

16 Income



What is your gross annual income before tax (excluding councillor allowances or other ...

Figure 11 Income distribution 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

17 Disability

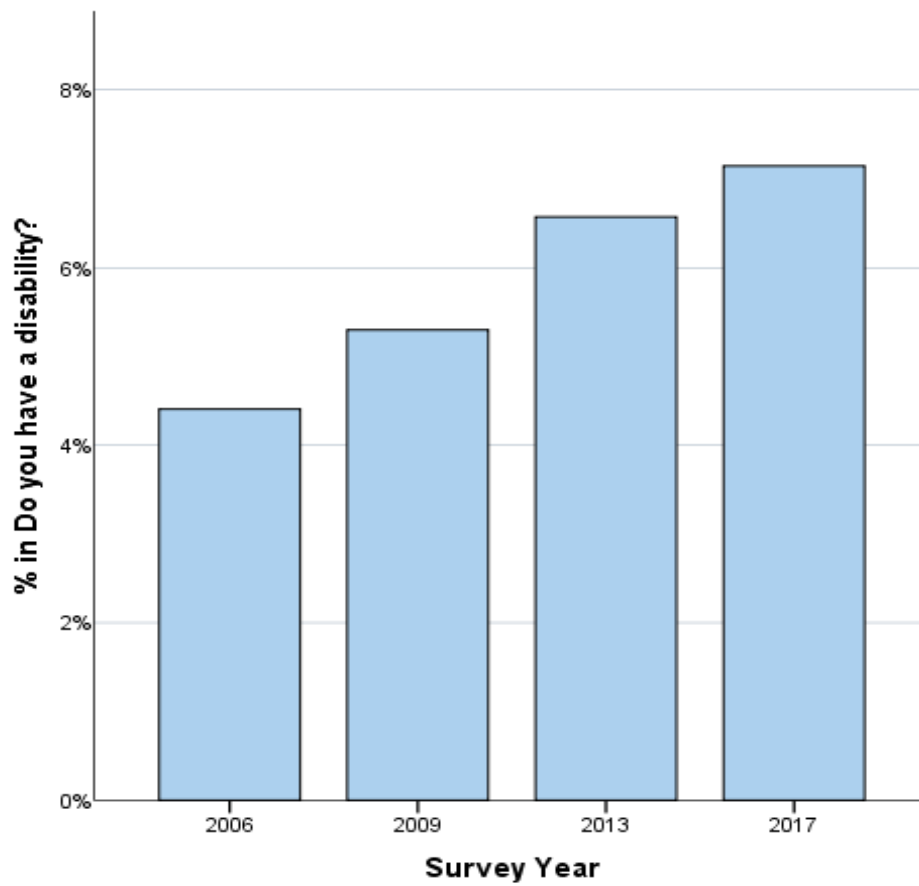


Figure 12 Percentage of councillors with a disability 2006, 2009, 2013 and 2017

18 Councillor service and duties

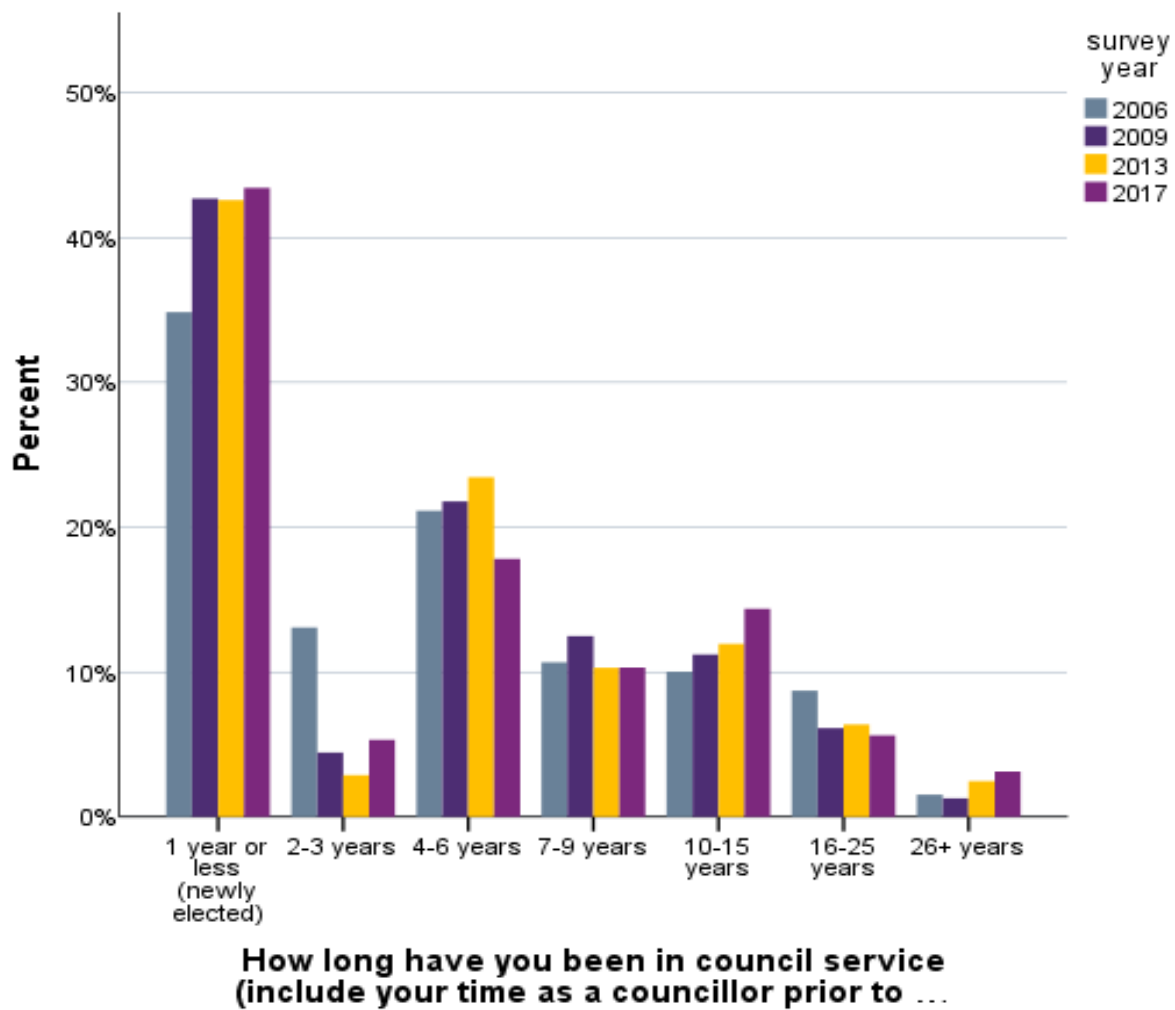


Figure 13 Years in council service 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

How long have you been in council service?	Survey Year											
	2006			2009			2013			2017		
	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other
1 year or less (newly elected)	30.4%	45.3%	0.0%	38.9%	49.3%	0.0%	40.3%	48.0%	0.0%	38.8%	50.8%	0.0%
2-3 years	11.8%	15.8%	0.0%	4.8%	3.9%	0.0%	1.7%	5.1%	0.0%	7.4%	2.3%	0.0%
4-6 years	20.4%	22.3%	0.0%	20.7%	24.3%	0.0%	23.7%	21.5%	100.0%	17.6%	18.0%	0.0%
7-9 years	12.5%	7.2%	0.0%	12.1%	13.8%	0.0%	9.0%	12.4%	0.0%	10.1%	9.4%	100.0%
10-15 years	11.8%	5.0%	0.0%	13.7%	5.9%	0.0%	13.3%	9.6%	0.0%	13.8%	15.6%	0.0%
16-25 years	11.2%	3.6%	0.0%	8.3%	2.0%	0.0%	8.7%	2.3%	0.0%	7.4%	3.1%	0.0%
26+ years	1.9%	.7%	0.0%	1.6%	.7%	0.0%	3.3%	1.1%	0.0%	4.8%	.8%	0.0%

Table 9 Length of service by gender 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017 (column percentages)

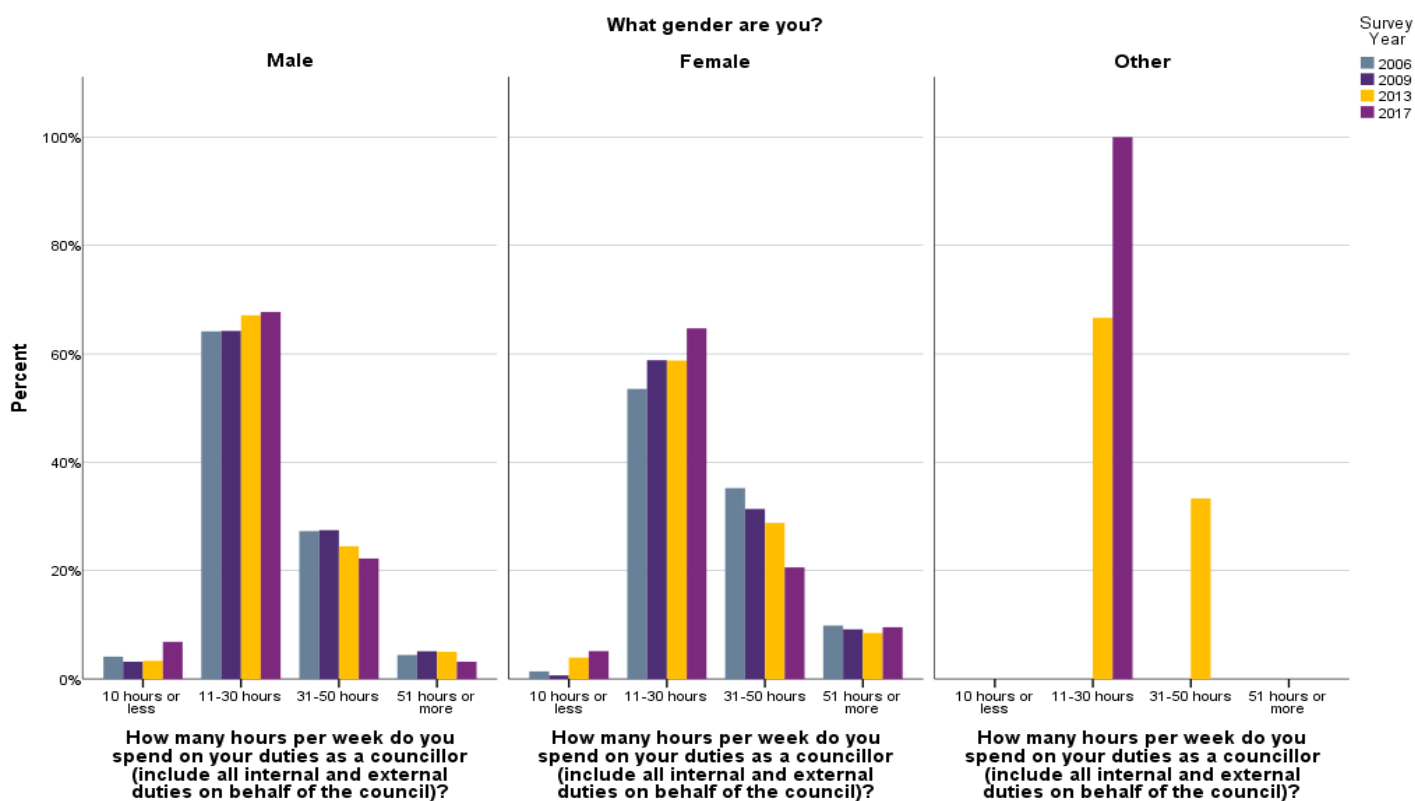


Figure 14 Hours spent in council duties by gender 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

19 Political party membership and identification

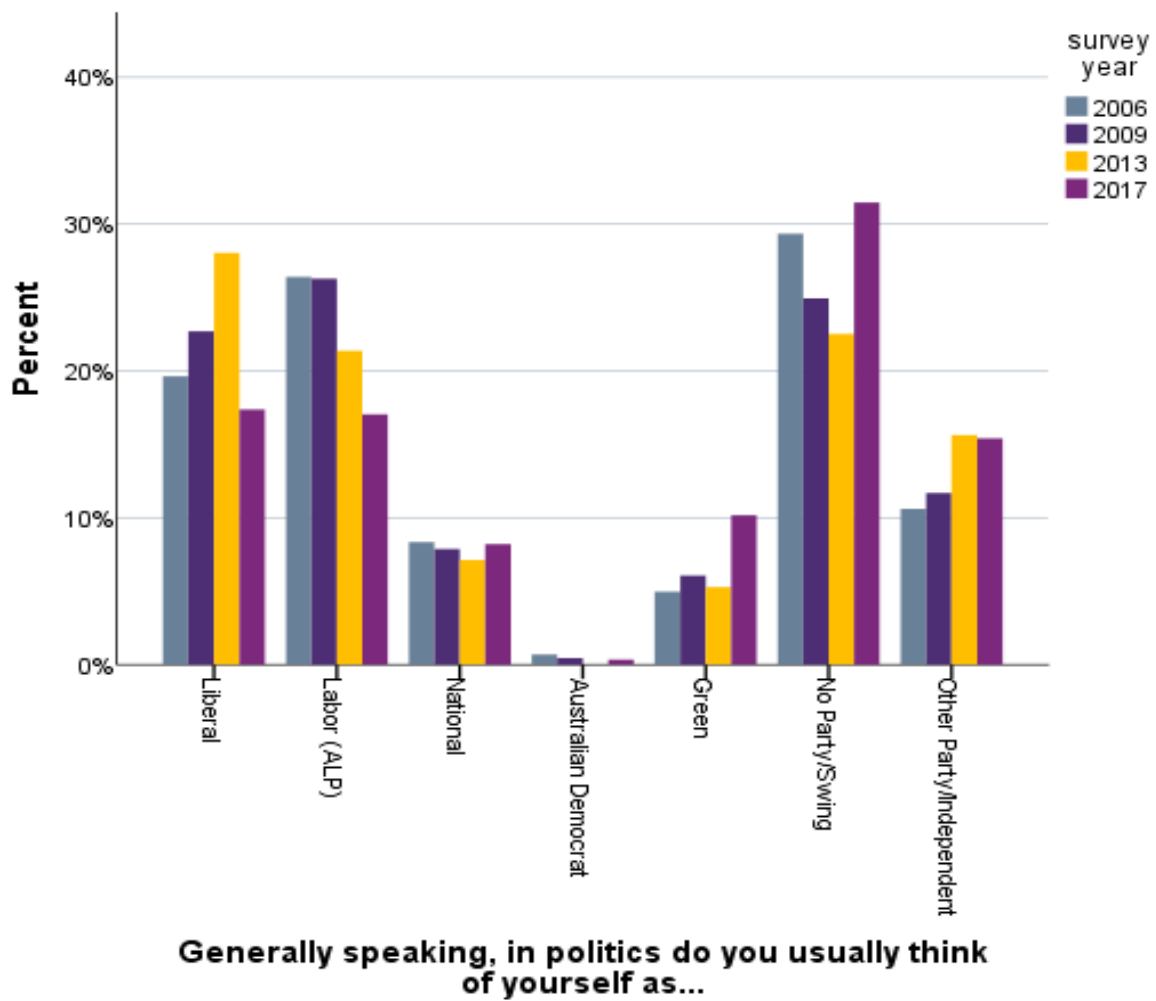


Figure 15 Political party allegiance 2006, 2009, 2013 & 2017

20 Councillor ancestry

Ancestry	Survey Year		Total
	2013	2017	
English	79	61	140
Australian	42	36	78
English & Irish	53	31	84
English & Scottish	38	28	66
Other	48	27	75
English & Australian	39	23	62
Irish & Scottish	27	19	46
Irish	23	14	37
Scottish	23	13	36
English & Other	14	13	27
Undefined	14	11	25
English & German	18	10	28
Italian	17	8	25
Irish & Australian	7	8	15
Irish & German	0	5	5
Scottish & German	4	4	8
Scottish & Australian	5	4	9
German	3	3	6
Irish & Other	9	3	12
Australian & Other	5	3	8
English & Italian	0	2	2
Irish & Italian	4	2	6
Italian & German	1	2	3
Scottish & Other	6	2	8
Italian & Other	1	2	3
Chinese	5	1	6
German & Australian	1	1	2
English, Irish & Scottish	1	0	1
Scottish & Italian	1	0	1
Italian & Australian	3	0	3
Irish, Scottish & Other	1	0	1
German & Other	2	0	2
Chinese & Other	3	0	3
Total	497	336	833

Table 10 Councillor ancestry 2013 & 2017

21 Appendix 1

What is your ancestry? - Other specify	Frequency	Percent
BLANK	272	81
Albanian	1	.3
American	2	.6
Ashkenazi Jews & Ukrainian	1	.3
Austro Hungarian	1	.3
Bulgarian	1	.3
Cambodian Chinese	1	.3
Celtic	1	.3
Chilean	1	.3
Croatian Serb	1	.3
Czech	1	.3
Descended from first fleeters	1	.3
Dutch	5	1.5
Dutch-Indonesian	1	.3
Eastern European	2	.6
Estonian	1	.3
European	1	.3
Finish and English but 4th gen Australian	1	.3
French	2	.6
German Jewish	1	.3
Greek	10	3.0
Greek and French	1	.3
Greek/English	1	.3
Hungarian	1	.3
Israeli	1	.3
Jew from Israel, Russia and UK	1	.3
Jewish	3	.9
Lithuanian	1	.3
Macedonian	1	.3
New Zealand	1	.3
Norwegian	2	.6
Pakistani	1	.3
Polish	2	.6
Russian	1	.3
Scottish/Maori	1	.3
Slovak	1	.3
South African	1	.3
Spanish	1	.3
Swiss	2	.6
Turkish	1	.3
Vietnamese	1	.3
Viking	1	.3
Welsh	2	.6
Total	336	100.0

Table 11 Councillor ancestry specified 2017