

EMERGING STRONGER CONVERSATIONS

A REFLECTION OF WE THE PEOPLE OF SINGAPORE



COVID-19 has reset the world in profound ways. This is the moment for us to rethink what we value, and what we seek as a society.

That is why the Emerging Stronger Conversations (ESC) were launched in June 2020, as part of the Singapore Together movement. This is about all of us, working with one another and with the government, to recover from COVID-19 and emerge stronger.

Over 16,900 Singaporeans from different backgrounds and experiences shared their views through the ESCs, and in surveys

and feedback platforms. We had conversations in mother tongue languages, and also reached out to people with disabilities.

Our conversations cannot stop here. The pandemic is not over. We need to keep conversing with one another, understand what is emerging, and work together to come up with ideas and solutions.

There will be further conversations to deep dive into specific issues. We will also form Singapore Together Alliances for Action (AfA) and other partnerships to tackle key issues together.

We share one common hope – for a more united people, a more just and equal society, and a place where each of us can find happiness, prosperity, and progress.

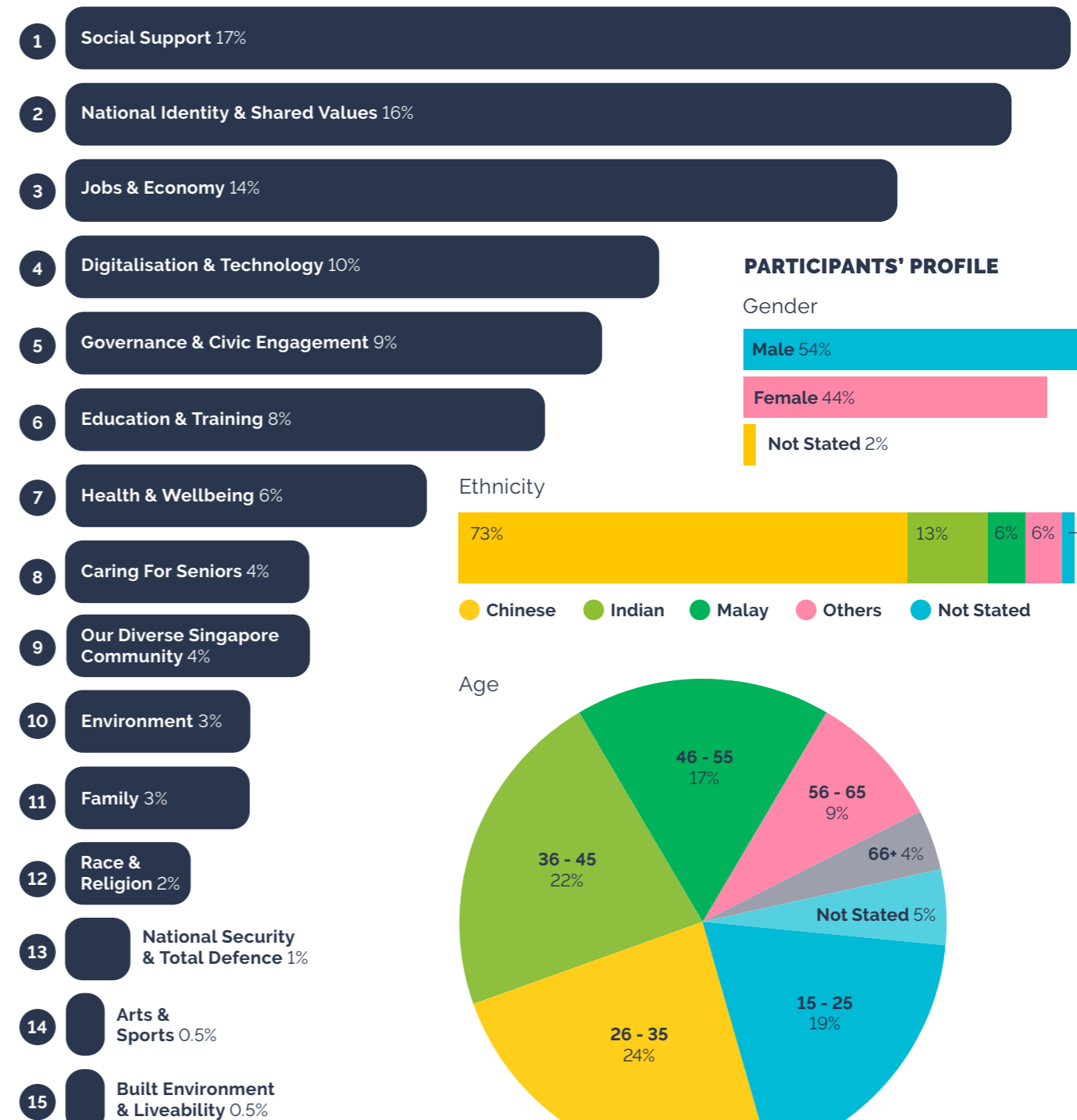
Numbers At A Glance



As at 31 December 2020

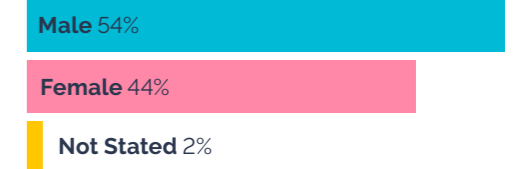
KEY THEMES

These are the most discussed topics across the ESCs:



PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

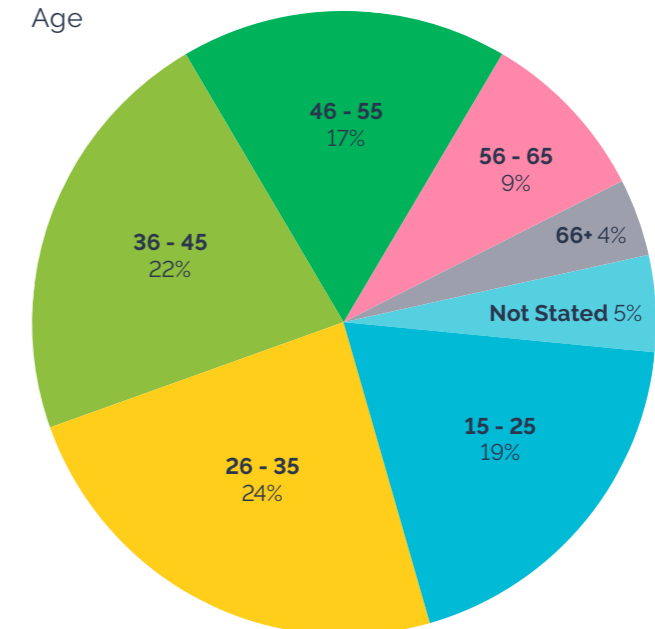
Gender



Ethnicity



Age



Others 2%

15 Key Themes



1 SOCIAL SUPPORT

- Dignity of the less privileged
- Protection of vulnerable segments
- Support for giving and volunteerism

2 NATIONAL IDENTITY & SHARED VALUES

- A compassionate and cohesive society
- A resilient and inclusive society
- A broader definition of success
- Creating more space for honest conversations
- Our cultural resources

3 JOBS & ECONOMY

- Rethinking work and workforce
- Support for essential workers and more vulnerable workers
- Support for jobseekers
- Support for local companies and workers
- New growth areas and our position as an economic hub
- Definitions of success for businesses and the economy



4 DIGITALISATION & TECHNOLOGY

- Bridging the digital divide
- Transforming our jobs, businesses and economy
- Harnessing technology for better social connections
- Concerns over privacy, cyber security, and misinformation

5 GOVERNANCE & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Deeper citizen participation for more inclusive governance
- Calls for more conversations



6 EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Our education system
- Support for teachers and students
- Lifelong education and training

7 HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Coping with the pandemic
- Mental wellness as a priority

8 CARING FOR SENIORS

- Care and support for seniors
- Digital literacy for seniors



9 OUR DIVERSE SINGAPORE COMMUNITY

- An inclusive community for both locals and foreigners
- Appreciation for migrant workers and care for their welfare
- More transparent employment practices regarding locals and foreigners



10 ENVIRONMENT

- Keeping our focus on environmental sustainability
- Responsible consumption and waste management
- Strengthening Singapore's food security

11 FAMILY

- Importance of families and providing them support
- Family violence in Singapore



12 RACE & RELIGION

- Importance of multiracialism, mutual understanding and cohesion
- Race and religion in our education system
- Constructive dialogue on race and religion

13 NATIONAL SECURITY & TOTAL DEFENCE

- Opportunity to reinforce the importance of defence
- Encouraging more ground participation in Total Defence
- Strengthen social and psychological defence through a kinder and more inclusive Singapore
- Increase support for National Service personnel



14 ARTS & SPORTS

- Sustaining arts and sports
- Appreciation for the arts sector



15 BUILT ENVIRONMENT & LIVEABILITY

- Enhancing flat design and estate infrastructure to address new needs
- Supporting Singaporeans with their housing needs
- Aspirations for a sustainable city
- Building a more resilient and cohesive built environment sector



Being the only one from the Merdeka generation in my group, I was encouraged to see that the millennials care too. I feel that there should be more opportunities for intergenerational dialogues, so that there will be better understanding and each generation can understand each other's perspectives. To me, the pandemic revealed that we have lots of resources available and a huge network of relationships. There are all kinds of people in the world and we have the choice to be with who we want to be."



ANNA LEONG SIEW SAN
Leadership Coach



Communication is key... In fact, we need more Singaporeans to join in these conversations, to share and to listen. We already have these open lines of communication, and it doesn't matter how old you are or what your background is, you can play a part. Plus, you might be surprised by how much you can learn when you remove your 'walls, shields, guards' and have a simple conversation with someone who's vastly different from you."



MOHAMMED SHABIRIN BIN ARIFFIN
Adjunct Lecturer and Freelance Consultant

Let's Hear One Another's Perspectives.
Join the Singapore Together Emerging Stronger Conversations.
Learn what Singaporeans have shared at www.sg/EmergingStrongerConversations.