



National Housing
Conference 2023

Concurrent 12: Designing better homes for older Australians living in social housing

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Connect Victoria Park



CONNECT HOUSING + HUB

A model for building community and wellbeing in collaboration
with older tenants





Ageing Well in Public + Community Housing



- Experience of ageing is diverse and can be positive
- Challenges include increased health conditions and disability, social isolation, reduced income, adjustment to retirement
- Age increases the likelihood we will live alone
- People aged 75+ reported the highest levels of loneliness

Ageing Well in Public and Community Housing



World Health Organisation Age-friendly Cities and Communities framework

- Older people make up a third of public and community housing tenants
- Faulkner et al (2021) found older tenants require:
 - Safety + security
 - Functional communities
 - Independence
 - Choice
 - Health
 - Ongoing community participation + contribution

Our Housing + Hub Model

- A supportive landlord providing 70 older style 1 bedroom and bedsitter units
- Our Village Hub is our contemporary iteration of our Seniors' Centre opened in 1960



- The Hub utilises the strengths and talents of older people to support social connection, healthy ageing, lifelong learning and mutual support
- Tenants + members can volunteer and access information 1:1 support, interest groups, classes and events



COMM



Our Impact

300+ financial members including our tenants



13,500+ attendances to groups, classes events and workshops per year



4,000+ volunteer hours contributed per year

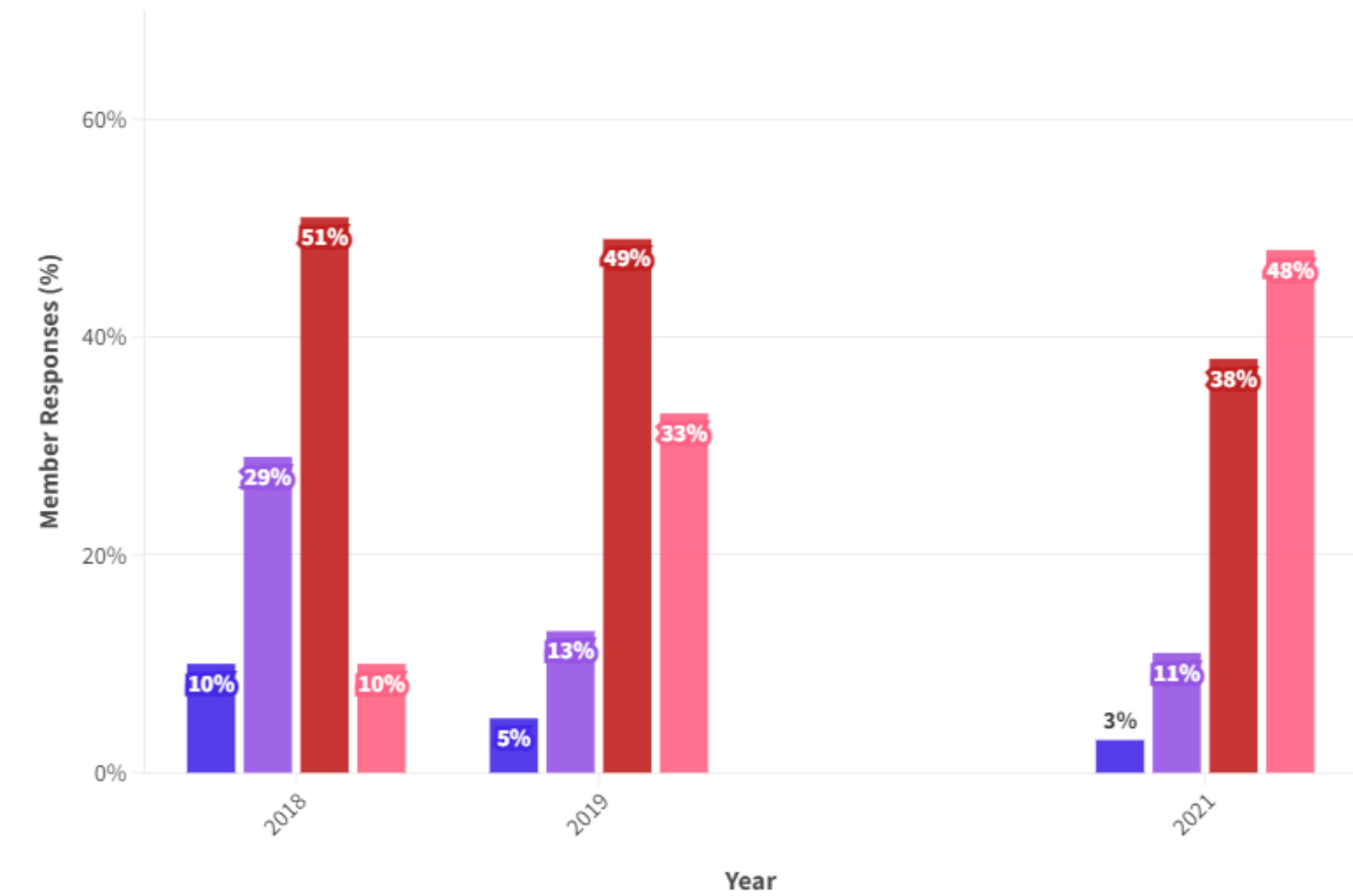


Evidence of increased physical activity, motivation and social connection



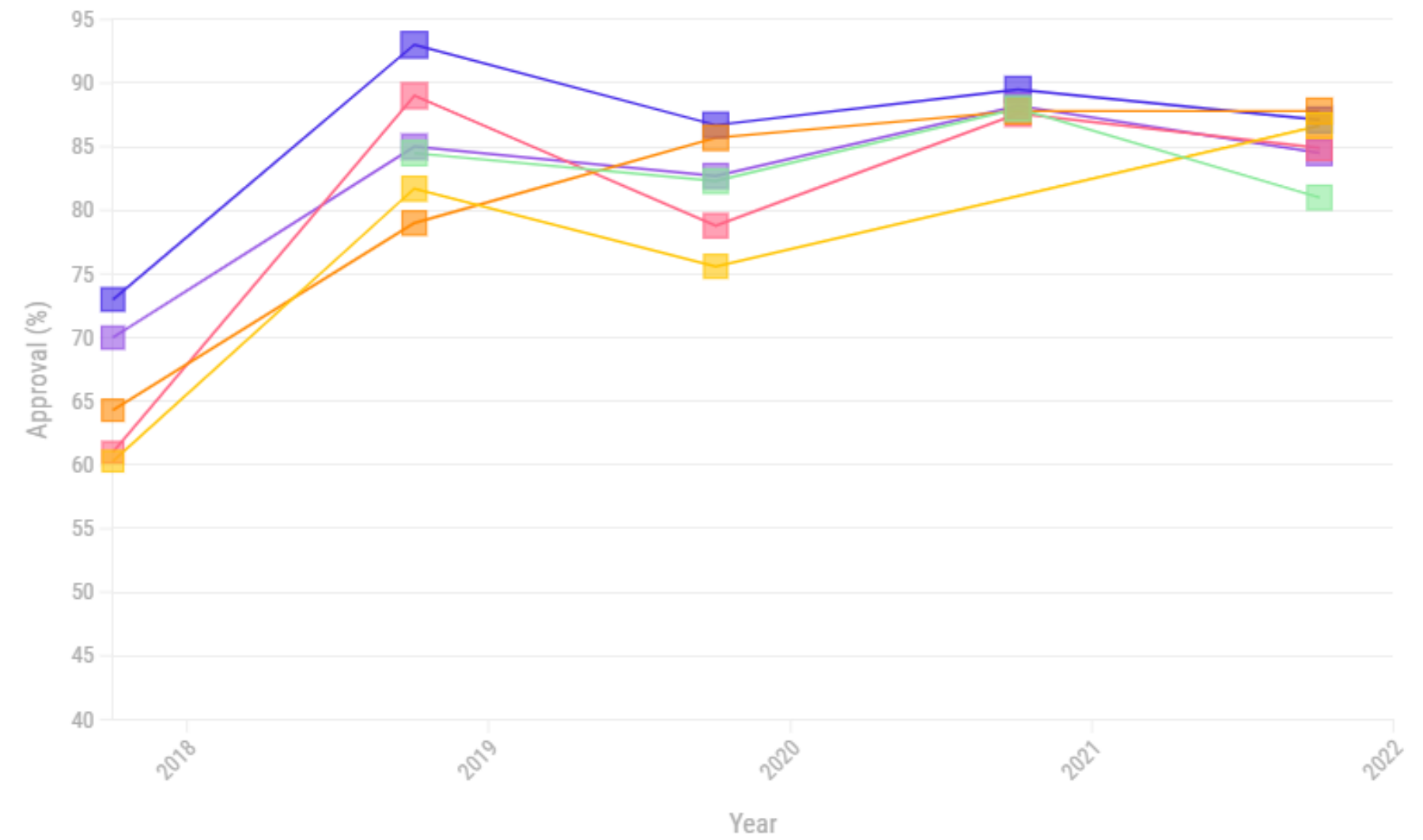
Quality of Life

Poor Average Good Excellent



Culture Counts

Dimension It made me feel safe and welcome It's important it's happening here It helped me to feel more connected in the community It had a positive impact on my physical health and mental wellbeing It helped me enjoy a greater quality of life It helped me gain new knowledge



Tenant Feedback

“ For the first time in a long time I feel safe and secure and connected to my community ” Anon



“ I feel safe and secure and can be myself. Working in the garden and volunteering in the community kitchen are therapy for my heart, soul and mind. ”
Mary, 85

Tenant Feedback

“ It (Connect) went from a very old fashioned place to a very modern place, we have Tai Chi, Chair Yoga, Sundowners... You can't believe all we have... ”
Alida, 89

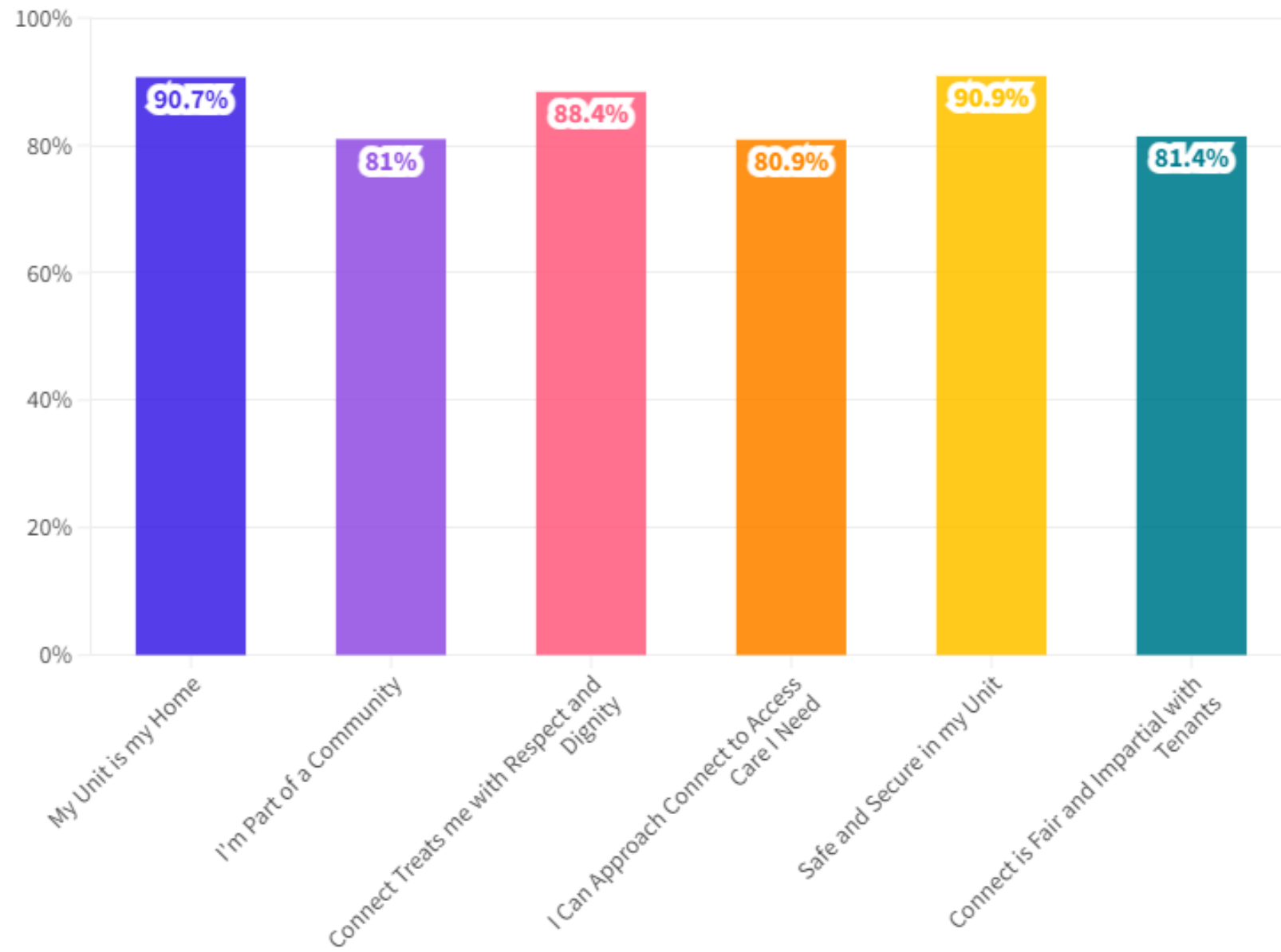


“ I love living at Connect Village as I've got really good friends ”
Anon

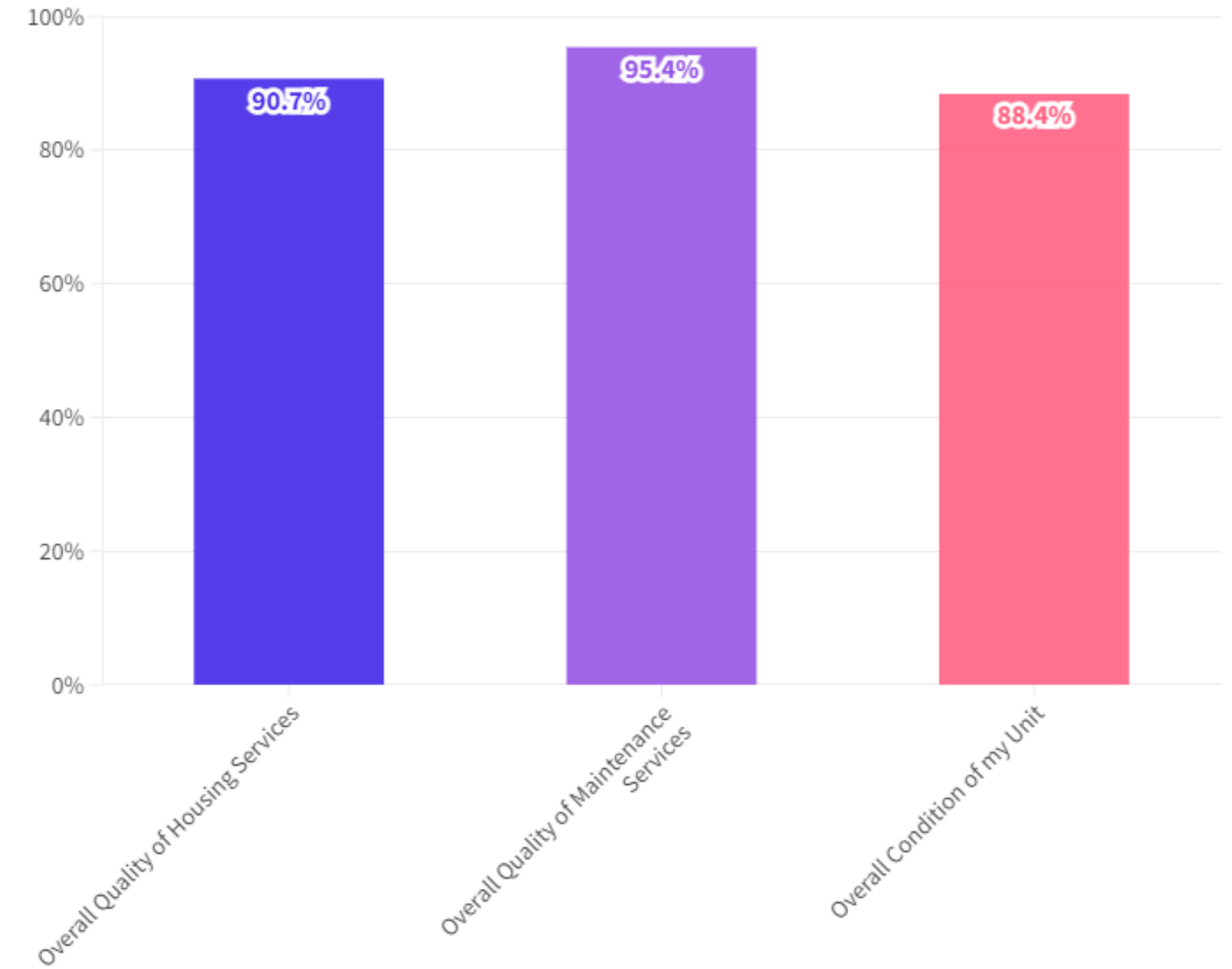
“ I like having my freedom, my own space, and the chance to mix with people ”
Anon

Tenant Feedback

I Strongly Agree or Agree That...



I Am Satisfied or Very Satisfied With...





Organisational Benefits



- \$400,000 invested since 2018 produced income of \$1.22M from grants, fees and memberships
- Additional funds have allowed increased staffing to respond to tenant needs
- Achieved registration and \$1.1M in housing related grants
- Increased relevance to our local community
- Increased network of supporters and partners