A SNAPSHOT OF STREET HARASSMENT EXPERIENCES IN VICTORIA:

KEY FINDINGS

IS STREET HARASSMENT AN ISSUE IN VICTORIA?
OF THE 343 INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED...

86.7% of respondents reported experiencing harassment in the 6 months prior to the first COVID-19 lockdown.

The majority of respondents reported that their first experience was while they were still a minor (i.e. under the age of 18) with a significant number (34.4%) under 12.

HOW ARE MINORITY GROUPS AFFECTED?
INDIVIDUALS ARE EXPERIENCING HARASSMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENDER...

91.3% of respondents who identified as cisgender women, non-binary, or transgender reported experiencing harassment due to their real or perceived sex.

84.4% of transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming respondents reported experiencing harassment due to their gender identity and/or expression.

RACE...

58.3% of non-white respondents reported experiencing harassment due to their race, ethnicity, and/or skin-colour.

6.1% of respondents reported being harassed due to their real or perceived race/identity being negatively associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

DISABILITY STATUS...

68.8% of respondents who identified as having a visible physical disability or mobility issue that is visible to others reported being harassed due to their disability/mobility status.

AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION...

81.3% of those who identified as gay or lesbian reported experiencing harassment for their real or perceived sexual orientation.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES OF STREET HARASSMENT?
STREET HARASSMENT CREATES A STATE OF DISTRESS FOR VICTIMS...

74.1% of victims report feelings of anxiety or depression due to harassment.

AND THEY RARELY RECEIVE A RESOLUTION...

86.2% of respondents had not reported an incident of street harassment.

Of the those who did, 91.5% were either dissatisfied or highly dissatisfied with the outcome. Reports were often dismissed by authorities, some respondents experienced victim blaming, and almost all had no resolution.

WHAT RESOURCES DOES THE COMMUNITY NEED TO COMBAT THIS ISSUE?
COMMUNITY-LED INTERVENTION IS THE SOLUTION THE COMMUNITY NEEDS...

The four most common desired resolutions to an experience of street harassment were: Someone to intervene or help if they witness it (88.8%) Organised non-police intervention by community members (68%).

Environmental changes, like more streetlamps or larger footpaths (56.8%) A way to easily report it to the government for data collection (52.4%).