

**James Tapper, Joshua Harrison, Jock Barns-Graham,
Constance Chua, and Rebecca Robinson**

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Research Aims and Objectives

- The aim of this research is to investigate community participation in Halswell, with a focus on whether any differences exist between pre- and post-earthquake movers to the suburb
- Thus, we have identified four questions to answer:
 - Why was Halswell chosen as a place to live and do differences exist in the factors influencing residential choice of pre- and post-earthquake residents?
 - Do pre- and post-earthquake movers differ in their levels of local and non-local community involvement?
 - What factors are important in explaining different levels of community participation in Halswell?
 - How do residents find out what is going on in the Halswell community?

1.2 Context for the Research

- Prior to the 2010-2011 Canterbury earthquake sequence the number of households in the Christchurch suburb of Halswell was predicted to double by 2026
- There is a concern that the rapid increase in population will diminish the sense of local identity within Halswell
- Newcomers to the suburb are already seen as disconnected and less willing to participate within the community than long-term residents
- The Halswell Community Project want to develop a strong sense of community in the suburb and thus are interested in inb d

1.4 Key Findings

- Both pre- and post-
- Pre-earthquake residents were more involved locally than post-earthquake movers to Halswell, with post-earthquake residents having a higher level of non-local involvement
- From our chi-square test the only significant factor found to affect level of community participation was age those who were over 65 were associated with having a lower level of involvement within the Halswell community
- A third of our sample found out what was going on in Halswell through the emailed community newsletter, with very few respondents making use of the online Halswell community directory

1.5 Limitations

- Our research was primarily limited by our small sample size and the short time-frame we had to carry out our project
- Both our data collection methods also had limitations:
 - The self-completion format of our questionnaires meant we could only ask relatively straight-forward questions, were unable to detect patterned or insincere replies, and had no control over who answered the survey
 - The questionnaires were also biased against those poor at reading and writing, and the online version of our survey was clearly biased against those without access to the internet

1.6 Suggestions for Future Research

- Since we took an entirely quantitative approach, there is an opportunity for focus groups and/or interviews to be conducted within Halswell to explore some of the findings within this research further
- There is also an opportunity to investigate whether the findings of this report could be applied to other satellite towns around Christchurch
- Though this research compares pre- and post-earthquake movers to Halswell, similar research could be carried out comparing those who were pulled (moved out of choice) and pushed (felt forced) to move to Halswell

2. Introduction

Halswell is an outer suburb of Christchurch with a population of roughly 14,000 (Wylie, 2010, p. 3), which, as shown in *Figures 1* and *2*, has grown substantially over the years. Prior to the Canterbury earthquake sequence of 2010-

4. Methodology

Once we had determined the focus of our research project, we developed four sub-questions

Halswell; two and three focussed on community participation; and the fourth, which was requested by our community partner, looked at methods of communication within Halswell.

When refining our research focus and sub-questions one of the articles we studied was Sarah

use of interviews and focus groups, and based on a small sample (2010), we decided to take a more quantitative approach, use questionnaires, and gather a larger (and, therefore, hopefully more representative) sample.

and pick-

300 questionnaires in randomly-chosen streets throughout the nine census areas of Halswell.

-administered

personal conta

postal questionnaires and is less time-consuming than interviewer-led questionnaires

(McLafferty, 2010, p. 83). From 300 questionnaires we received 86 back, a response rate of roughly 28%. Our second approach was to create an online version of our questionnaire using Survey Monkey and post a link to our survey on the HCP Facebook Page and website, and to email a link to those on the Halswell Community Newsletter mailing list. This approach resulted in 79 responses.

In both our methods of data collection we worked with Group 12 (the other research group studying Halswell). In this way we were able to avoid repetition and gather a larger sample than we would have collected by working separately.

Since we utilised two very different approaches, it seemed likely that we would collect two very different samples. However, when comparing both samples in terms of their numbers of pre- and post-earthquake movers to Halswell, we found that they were very similar (see *Figure 3*) and so were able to combine them (creating a sample of 165 Halswell residents). It must be noted that there were many other factors we could have looked at to assess the difference between our two sa

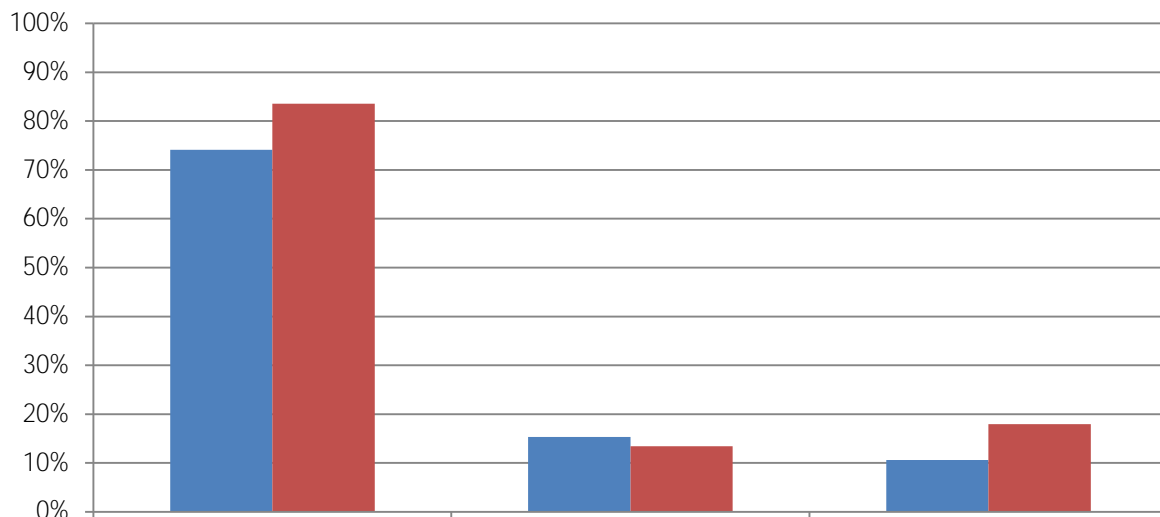


Figure 3. Pre- and post-earthquake movers within the two samples

The majority of our data we analysed using Excel, but to investigate our third sub-question, the factors important in explaining levels of community participation in Halswell, we made use of the chi-square test between two categorical variables

on the number of times over a four-week period the respondent was involved in the Halswell community

Association meeting or community event, and so on). Those coded as having a high level of participation were those who were involved in the community four or more times over the four-week period and were thus active in the Halswell community at least once a week.

Comparing reasons for moving to Halswell between pre- and post

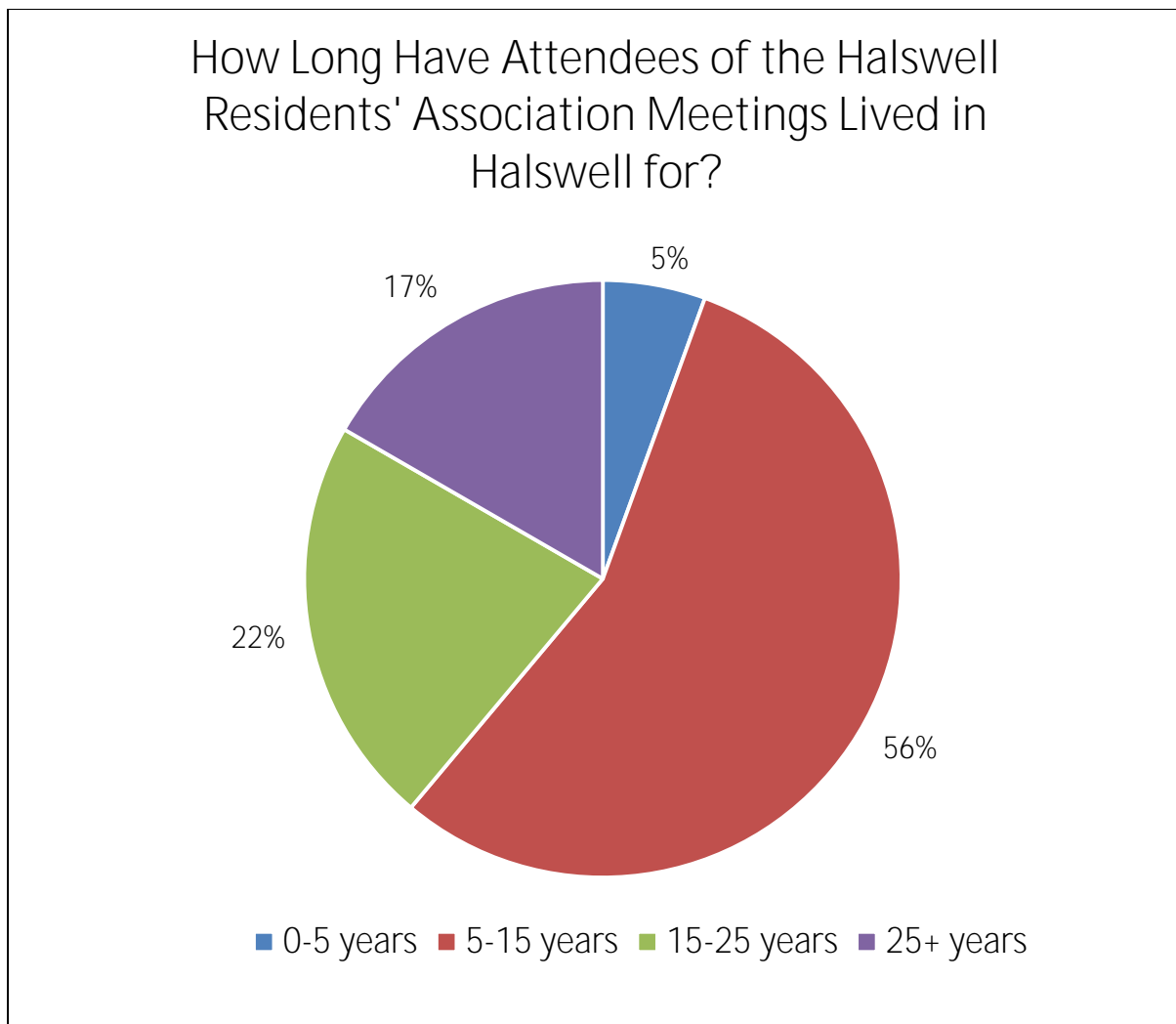


Figure 7.

As part of our investigation into whether pre- and post-earthquake movers differ in their levels of community involvement, we asked respondents if they had ever been to a Halswell

From *Figure 6* it can be seen that only one of the 22 respondents who had moved to Halswell post the September the 4th earthquake had ever attended a meeting and only 14% of our entire sample said that they had been to one of the meetings before. When looking at the length of residency in Halswell of those respondents

Figure 7 shows that 56% had lived in Halswell for 5 to 15 years with 39% having lived in Halswell for over 15 years. Only 5% of the respondents in our sample who had lived in Halswell for less than 5 years had ever

while for new residents to find out about the resid

focus group involving residents who had lived in Halswell for 5 years or more, the group

present, the Association [i]s seen as hard to access and not as (2010, p. 10). Alternatively, it may be that it takes a number of years for new residents to feel a strong enough connection to the community to join the Residents

Figure 6 compares pre- and post-earthquake movers to Halswell over a number of different categories to assess whether differences exist in their level of local and non-local community involvement. From *Figure 6* it can be seen that in our sample pre-earthquake residents were more involved in the Halswell community than post-earthquake residents: a higher percentage of pre-meeting and were involved in local clubs, groups, or churches than post-earthquake residents. Furthermore, pre-earthquake residents had a higher frequency of involvement in the community over a 4 week period than post-earthquake residents. However, post

former and 23% the latter. Unsurprisingly, seeing as the respondents in Sample Two completed our questionnaire online, a higher percentage of these respondents visit the Halswell Community Website and Facebook Page than Sample One. Though a similar percentage of Sample One and Sample Two receive the Halswell Community Newsletter, respondents from Sample One (the drop-and-pick-up questionnaires) were more likely to get information on community activities and events through word of mouth than Sample Two.

6. Limitations

6.1 Sample Size

roughly 14,000 (Wylie, 2010, p. 3), our sample of 165 Halswell residents comprises little
ed by sampling

86); our sample is most likely
unrepresentative of the Halswell population. Our small sample size is also most likely the
reason why so few significant associations emerged from our chi-

7. Conclusions

The aim of this study was to investigate community participation in Halswell, with a particular focus on the differences between pre- and post-earthquake movers to the suburb. Using the research methods mentioned, we identified that the most common reason in choosing Halswell as a place to live was because the respondent liked the feel of the area. This was the case for both pre- and post-earthquake residents and thus, very little difference exists between the

examined whether pre- and post-earthquake residents differ in their levels of local and non-local community involvement. Our results suggest that pre-earthquake residents are more involved locally, whereas post-earthquake residents are more active outside of the Halswell community. Further to this, it was found that pre-earthquake residents were the only respondents interested in becoming involved in the community should they not be involved already. Although we expected to find that our chi-square corroborated the analysis of our second sub-

Halswell before the September the 4th

participation, with pre-earthquake movers being associated with a high level of community involvement, this did not happen. The only factor that emerged as being significant was age those who were over 65 were associated with having a low level of involvement within Halswell. Lastly, just under a third of our sample found out what was going on in Halswell through the emailed community newsletter, with only one respondent making use of the online Halswell community directory.

8. Acknowledgements

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