

RAA Member Panel

Cycling

In March, we surveyed our Member Panel on all things cycling, to gain their thoughts on helmets, safety, participation and bike registration.

The results were collated and used to shape RAA's comments on issues of road safety, Velo-City Global Adelaide 2014 presentations, and [submissions to the Citizens Jury](#).

Below is a rundown on what our Member Panel had to say on cycling.

Cycling Participation

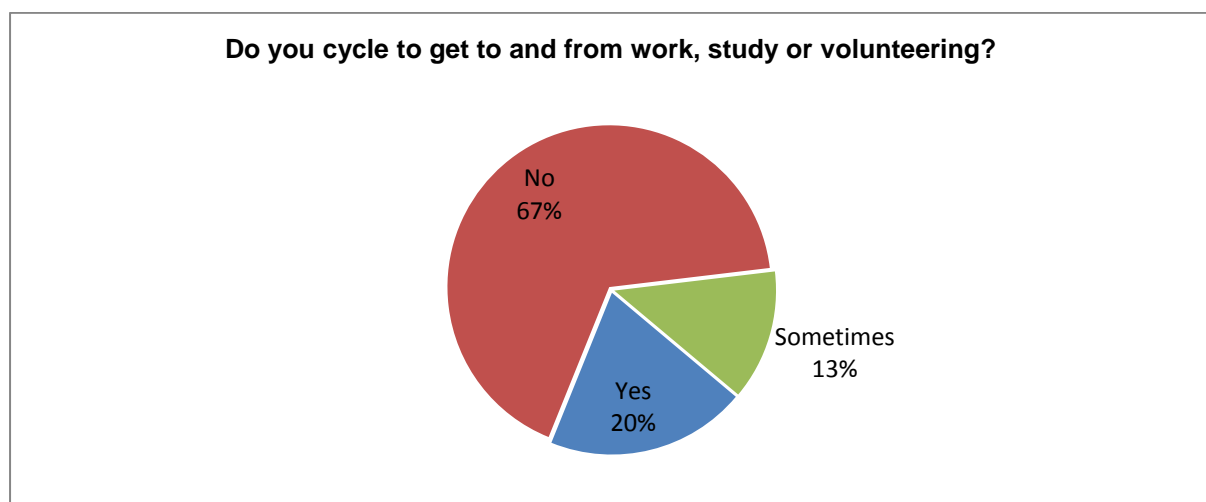
RAA's annual Member Advocacy Survey consistently shows that 20% of our member's cycle as a means of alternative transport.

More members cycle for recreation than for fitness, which is important when considering cycling infrastructure and safety.

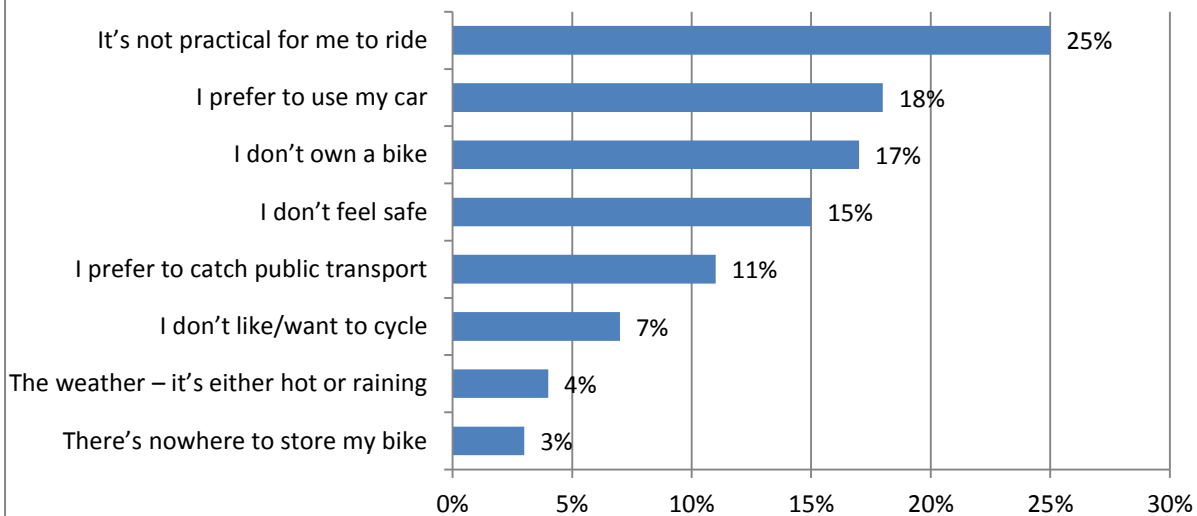
Convenience is the main reason our panellists choose to cycle as a means of transport, while convenience factors, not owning a bike and safety is cited as the biggest reasons for not cycling.

Members had the opportunity to provide comments on what, if anything would encourage them to ride. Overwhelmingly the greatest barrier to cycling is not having safe separated bike lanes, with members pointing out the inconsistency in current infrastructure.

"More of the likes of the Torrens Linear Park - Bike lanes on main roads which are interrupted by parked cars are a recipe for disaster." – Member Panel comment



Why don't you cycle to and from work, study or volunteering?

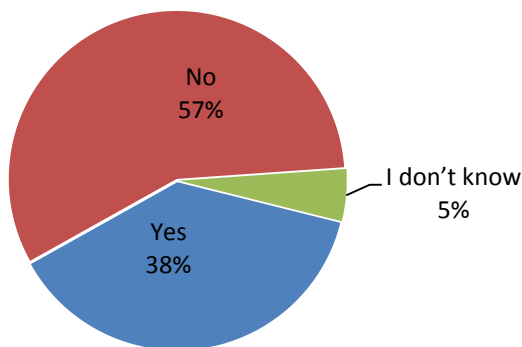


Bicycle Registration

There has been some debate in the media about bike registration, with some motorists calling for cyclists to have a unique identifier, such as a registration plate or number, so that inappropriate road behaviour can be reported.

When asked, the majority of Member Panel respondents (57%) indicated that they do not believe that bikes should be registered, with 38% believing they should.

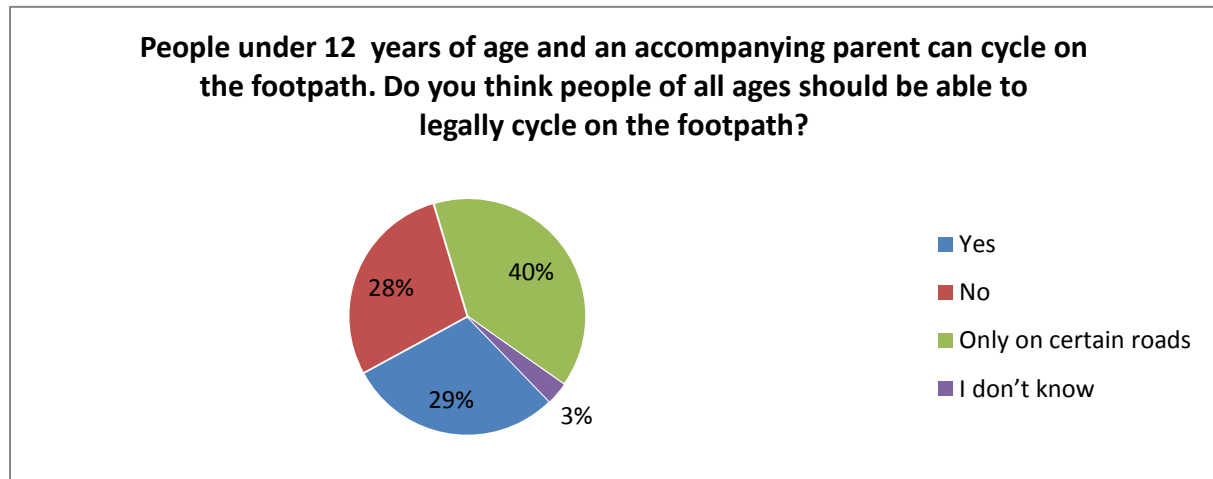
Do you think bikes should be registered?



Cycling on Footpaths

In Queensland it's legal to ride a bicycle on a footpath as an adult, however in South Australia only children under the age of 12 and an accompanying adult are permitted on footpaths with bikes.

Only 28% of our member panellists believe that adults shouldn't be allowed the ride on the footpath. On certain roads, 40% of members believe that cycling on the footpath should be legal.



Cycling Safety

Helmet wearing is supported by Member Panel respondents, with only 20% indicating that they would cycle more if they were not required to wear a helmet and 60% indicating that helmets should be mandatory when cycling.

When considering the roads members feel are safe for cyclists, there was a clear majority of support for designated bike paths (94%) and suburban streets with a bike lane (70%). Only nine per cent of respondents believe a busy country road or a main metropolitan road without a bike lane is safe for a cyclist.

When it comes to the safety of children, 88% of panellists believe that main metropolitan roads are not considered safe for children to ride on, suburban streets (58%) and designated bike paths (93%) were considered the safest for young people to ride on.

Appendix 1 – Member Panel Questions and Results

1. Do you cycle to get to and from work, study or volunteering?

- No 67%
- Yes 20%
- Sometimes 13%

If no, why not? (Select all that apply)

- It's not practical for me to ride 25%
- I prefer to use my car 18%
- I don't own a bike 17%
- I don't feel safe 15%
- I prefer to catch public transport 11%
- I don't like/want to cycle 7%
- The weather – it's either hot or raining 4%
- There's nowhere to store my bike 3%

2. Do you cycle for recreation?

- Yes 37%
- No 36%
- Sometimes 27%

3. Do you cycle for fitness?

- No 48%
- Yes 31%
- Sometimes 20%

4. Would you ride more if you didn't have to wear a helmet?

- No 73%
- Yes 20%
- I don't know 8%

5. Do you think wearing a helmet should be mandatory when cycling?

- Yes 60%
- Depends on where you're riding 19%
- No 17%
- Depends on the speed you're travelling 2%
- I don't know 2%

6. Do you think the following places are safe for cyclists...

Main metropolitan roads *with* a designated bike lane?

- No 49%
- Yes 46%
- I don't know 5%

6. (cont.) Do you think the following places are safe for cyclists...

Main metropolitan roads *without* a bike lane?

- No 85%
- Yes 9%
- I don't know 6%

Suburban streets *with* a bike lane?

- Yes 70%
- No 25%
- I don't know 5%

Suburban streets *without* a bike lane?

- Yes 46%
- No 44%
- I don't know 9%

Designated bike paths?

- Yes 94%
- No 4%
- I don't know 2%

Busy country roads?

- No 86%
- Yes 9%
- I don't know 5%

7. Do you think it's safe for children to ride on...

Main metropolitan roads

- No 88%
- Yes 7%
- I don't know 5%

Suburban streets


- Yes 58%
- No 33%
- I don't know 9%

On designated bike paths?

- Yes 93%
- No 5%
- I don't know 2%

Busy country roads?

- No 91%
- I don't know 7%
- Yes 2%



8. At the moment, people under the age of 12 (and their accompanying parent) can cycle on the footpath. Do you think people of all ages should be able to legally cycle on the footpath?

- Only on certain roads 39%
- Yes 29%
- No 28%
- I don't know 3%

9. Do you think Adelaide residents should be encouraged to cycle as a way of reducing congestion?

- Yes 75%
- No 21%
- I don't know 4%

10. Do you think bikes should be registered?

- No 57%
- Yes 38%
- I don't know 5%