

PEOPLE'S SURVEY PILOT 2006

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Conducted by
ANU Enterprise P/L and
The Australian National University
on behalf of the Regional Assistance
Mission to Solomon Islands
(RAMSI).

Complete copies of the People's Survey Pilot
2006 can be found on the RAMSI website:
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Interviewer training - Honiara.
Photo: Chris McMurray

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Acknowledgements

The organisers of the People's Survey Pilot 2006 survey wish to warmly thank all those who worked on the survey, especially the interviewers who diligently collected the data, and the 1085 respondents in communities and the focus group participants who generously gave up their time to express their views on these important community concerns.

We look forward to working again with the government and people of Solomon Islands to conduct another survey early in 2007 with a larger, representative sample population; the People's Survey 2007.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANU	The Australian National University
ANUE	ANU Enterprise Pty Ltd
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
DK/NA	Don't know/No answer
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
NSO	Solomon Islands National Statistics Office
PAWG	Performance Assessment Working Group
PI	Performance Indicator
PPF	Participating Police Force
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
RDCF	Rural Constituency Development Funds
RSIP	Royal Solomon Islands Police
SIG	Government of Solomon Islands

LIST OF SURVEY PERSONNEL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

The People's Survey (the "Survey") was conceived as one of the components of the RAMSI Performance Framework (the "Framework") that would provide indicators for measuring country-level and program-level objectives and outcomes (RAMSI, 2005). It was envisaged that the Survey would be conducted annually, and would be a voluntary questionnaire-based representative sample survey of a cross-section of the Solomon Islands population, taking into account age, education, gender, income level and geographic location. The Framework listed 10 Performance Indicators (PIs) for which the Survey would provide baseline data:

Country level

1. Growth across Solomon Islands
2. Public sector capacity and capability
3. Public accountability
4. Security Peace and order

Program level

5. Community confidence
6. Community perceptions on level of accountability of the RSIP
7. Public awareness of, access to and satisfaction with legal services
8. Public perceptions regarding scale of official corrupt practices and maladministration
9. Levels of public awareness of good governance, roles of citizens and their representatives in government
10. Changes in the public's perception regarding access to their National member of Parliament.

ANU Enterprise was contracted in February 2006 by AusAID to design and implement the Survey in 2006. The Survey was undertaken in three distinct phases: design; implementation and data collection; and data analysis and reporting; with all phases completed to specifications by 1 July 2006. Its two instruments were a quantitative, questionnaire-based survey that covered the 10 nominated performance indicators, and focus group discussions on selected topics.

The Design Team commenced its four-week mission in Solomon Islands on 25 February 2006, designed the sample and developed the questionnaire. As there was insufficient time to carry out the complete household listing necessary for a representative sample, an indicative sample was designed, comprising a target population of 2080 respondents in four of the total of nine provinces and the one municipal area, Honiara. It specified sites where interviews should be conducted rather than precise locations and household addresses.

In late April the PAWG determined that because of time constraints, post-2006 election unrest and questions of some appraisers about features of the design, a limited Pilot Survey rather than the full People's Survey should be conducted. It was envisaged that the 2006 exercise would test the design and instruments and could be scaled up in future years. The Implementation Team Leader was asked to suggest ways of reducing the sample size and AusAID accepted the option of halving the number of sites in each province and reducing the target number of respondents from 2080 to 1040. The focus group strategy remained as in the original design.

The Pilot Survey took place in selected areas of Guadalcanal, Honiara, Malaita, Western and Choiseul, from 1 – 8 May 2006, with interviewer training from 20 - 29 April. A total of 1085

respondents completed the questionnaire (45 more than the target), comprising approximately equal numbers of men, women, young men and young women. Thirty-one focus group discussions also took place, and the comments of participants in these discussions help to flesh out the questionnaire data. The three phases of the Survey were completed within four months, operating throughout the post-2006 election conflict in the Solomon Islands.

The questionnaire provided valuable baseline information on community perceptions. As it was not based on a statistically representative sample, the findings cannot be generalised to the whole country, and must always be used with care and qualification. They are nonetheless valid insights into community perceptions in the surveyed areas and differences between groups. The focus group discussions provided comments and elucidation of some of the points made by the questionnaire. The Pilot Survey exercise thus provided important lessons that will benefit future surveys.

Key Survey Findings

This section summarises some of the key findings of the survey. These summary percentages presented here are for the entire sample of respondents. Differences according to province, age, gender, rural or urban residence and some other groupings can be found in Part One of this report.

Growth across Solomon Islands (RAMSI Performance Indicator No. 5)

- Perceptions of the level of prices of basic goods and of current household economic situation were generally negative.
- Eighty-seven per cent of respondents said prices were too expensive
- Seventy per cent said their household economic situation was worse than in the previous year while 14 and 15 per cent respectively said it was the same or better.
- The majority expected their financial situation to be the same (20 per cent) or worse (43 per cent) in two or three years.
- Focus group comments provided hard evidence of price increases, e.g. in Guadalcanal the cost of a litre of kerosene had increased from \$5.00 to \$15.00. Malaitan respondents said a kilo of rice cost \$5.00 in 2005, but had increased to \$7.00-8.00 at the time of interview. Bread had increased from 20 cents in 2005 to 50 cents or more in 2006, and soap from \$1.00 to \$2.00 or more. 'Everything we earn is absorbed in the price of goods, which are way too high...we can no longer meet our children's school fees.'
- The expected source of assistance for their village/community named by most respondents was the National Government (45 per cent) while 20 per cent named foreign donors such as AusAID, EU or JICA.
- Youth employment was perceived as a problem by 92 per cent of respondents. Focus group respondents perceived unemployed youth as a threat to security.
- Focus group respondents tended to be pessimistic about future prospects. A Western Province woman said: 'I don't see how things will get better. Another tension has now occurred and with it riots and the burning of Chinese homes and property...In the last tension there was no destruction of Chinese property. Chinese businesses provide income for a lot of Solomon Islanders, including the government. But the most recent riots have completely destroyed all the Chinese buildings and property and most of them have now left the Solomon Islands. For instance, one person employed about 600 people in his hotel and casino. Where are those people now? It looks to me like the worst is still to come. And if things get worse there in Honiara, then they will get worse here too.'

Public sector capacity and capability (RAMSI Performance Indicator No. 3)

- The majority of respondents visited a health facility five times or more in the year preceding the Pilot Survey (58 per cent).
- The main source of health services was the national government (72 per cent).
- Thirty-two per cent of respondents were always satisfied with the services they received and 48 per cent sometimes satisfied.
- Forty-seven per cent thought that health services were better compared with a year ago, and 64 per cent expected them to be better in the future than at present, while 23 per cent did not have an opinion.
- Thirty-five per cent thought the main source of assistance for health services should be the National Government, while 19 per cent thought it would be donors such as AusAID, EU, and JICA, with 38 per cent not answering this question.
- Sixty-four per cent thought schools had improved in the past year, but 28 per cent thought they were worse.
- Twenty-six per cent thought roads had improved, with slightly more saying they had deteriorated and almost half saying they had stayed the same.

Community Confidence (RAMSI Program-level Indicator: Security, Peace and Order)

- Thirty-six per cent of respondents rated their village as safe and peaceful, 52 per cent said there were sometimes law and order problems.
- Fifty-nine per cent said the law and order situation had improved in the past year and 9 per cent said it had deteriorated.
- Men in focus groups pointed out that the security situation is variable and attributed many of the problems to *kwaso* (locally brewed alcohol) and marijuana abuse. In Western Province it was said that the presence of logging operations was contributing to insecurity because they led to land disputes and conflict within clans.
- Forty-six per cent perceived the level of property crime as less than a year previously and 26 per cent as the same.
- The level of violent crime was perceived as less by 48 per cent and as the same by 25 per cent.
- Sixteen per cent thought property crime had increased and 12 per cent said violent crime had increased.
- Marked variations by age and gender group and substantial DK/NA rates suggest that women and young people may feel more vulnerable to these crimes or have less confidence that they are under control.

Police accountability (RAMSI Program-level Indicator: Professional, effective and accountable law enforcement agencies)

- Forty-eight per cent of respondents had experienced a robbery or theft from their garden in the past year, and 28 per cent said the crime had been reported to the RSIP.
- Of those who reported, 25 per cent were satisfied and 63 per cent were not satisfied with the action taken by the police, while 59 per cent said they were treated with respect. Women were less likely to report that they had been treated with respect (48 per cent).
- The most common reasons for not reporting a robbery or theft was that it was not expected that the police would do anything (26 per cent), there were no police in the area (16 per cent) or there was no evidence (14 per cent).

- Forty-three per cent of respondents would complain directly to the police if they thought a police officer was corrupt, but 20 per cent would prefer to report to their village chief.
- Sixty-three per cent thought it safe to complain against a police officer, but women, both older and younger, were less likely to say they would feel safe (53 and 44 per cent).
- Virtually every respondent had heard of RAMSI, 92 per cent had seen a RAMSI officer in the past three months, and 32 per cent had spoken to one.
- More preferred to report a crime to the RSIP (44 per cent) than to RAMSI (35 per cent), with 17 per cent saying it would depend on the circumstances.
- Sixty-five per cent thought violent conflict would return to Solomon Islands if RAMSI left in the near future, and 21 per cent were not sure.
- Seventy-five per cent thought RAMSI should intervene if there is violence in a village. Eighty-seven per cent of respondents knew that RAMSI's mission is to strengthen and improve government as well as to help keep the peace.
- The preferred method for RAMSI to assist with service provision was for it to train Solomon Islanders to provide services rather than to provide them.
- Some focus group respondents thought that RAMSI and RSIP had similar roles regarding maintenance of security and said both were providing these services, but some would have liked to see a greater RAMSI presence in their community. Most shared the sentiment of a Malaita man 'People in our community want RAMSI to stay on and monitor what is going on in our communities. Our country is not straight yet.'

Access to justice (RAMSI Program Level Indicator: Access to Justice)

- Forty-one per cent of respondents said they would prefer to use custom law rather than modern law to resolve a dispute with a neighbour, and 47 per cent said it would depend on the circumstances.
- Twenty-one per cent had wanted to take a case to court, and of these, 51 per cent had done so.
- Thirty-seven per cent of all respondents said they knew someone who was prevented from using the court system by the high costs.
- Thirty-seven per cent of all respondents knew that free legal assistance is available.
- Twenty-four per cent of all respondents (263) had a victim of a major crime such as robbery, assault, murder, rape or inter-group fighting in their household in the past year.
- Of these, 69 per cent (139) said the crime had been reported to the police.
- Forty-two per cent (59) of the 139 who reported a crime said a lawyer had worked on the case, and 75 per cent of those (44/59) said the lawyer was satisfactory.
- Fifty-eight per cent of the reported crimes went to court (81/139 reports), and 57 per cent of respondents who said a crime had gone to court said the trial was fair (46/81).
- The main reasons given by 118 respondents for not reporting more serious crimes included not expecting the police to do anything (25 per cent) and no police in the area (12 per cent).
- Nine per cent of respondents who did not report a crime said they were scared of the police.
- From 50 to more than 60 per cent of those who reported the crime to their chief, other leaders, church leaders or 'local boys' said they were satisfied with the outcome, which is similar to the 57 per cent who thought the outcome of a court trial was fair.
- Since only 24 per cent of respondents had a victim of a major crime in their household in the past year and no details were asked about the nature of the particular crime

being described, the findings on how crime is handled are less robust than other parts of the Pilot Survey.

Public accountability (RAMSI Performance Indicator No. 2)

- Fifty-seven per cent of respondents thought corruption in the National Government had increased.
- Thirty-nine per cent thought corruption had increased in the Provincial Government and 30 per cent thought it had declined.
- Seventeen per cent thought corruption had increased in their village, and 24 per cent said they had never had corruption in their village.
- Twenty-six per cent of respondents said they would report a corrupt government official to the police, and 25 per cent to the Ombudsman or Leadership Commission.
- Fifty-nine per cent said they would feel safe making such a complaint, but half as many women as men said they would feel safe.
- Fifty-eight per cent thought the Auditor General's Office can help fight corruption, and 57 per cent thought Parliament can help fight corruption.
- Focus group respondents had much to say on corruption, citing many instances within their communities. Most shared the view of the woman who said 'Corruption is everywhere, not just in the government. It starts in the home, goes on in the community and in the provincial and national government, even in the churches...because the Chief has accepted money, he simply says the other side has won the case.' Some, however, regarded corruption is a foreign concept, and said that giving gifts in return for favours is an intrinsic part of Melanesian culture.

Parliamentary representation (RAMSI Program-level Indicator: Civic Awareness and Quality of Representation)

- Seventy-seven per cent of respondents had voted in the 2006 election.
- More rural than urban respondents voted in the 2006 election (84 per cent as compared with 61 per cent).
- Eighty-three per cent knew about the Rural Constituency Development Fund (RCDF), and 37 per cent said their MP had spent RCDF funds in their electorate prior to the 2006 election.
- Eighty-two per cent were aware that MPs are required to represent their interests in Parliament, and 30 per cent thought their MP prior to the 2006 election had done so.
- Forty-five per cent said their candidate in the 2006 election had visited their village before the 2006 election, 35 per cent expected another visit, and 39 per cent expected their MP to serve them well in the next or three years.
- There were high levels of Don't Know/No Answer as regards future expectations (42 and 38 per cent).
- Focus group participants were concerned about corrupt representatives and spoke of candidates bribing voters during the 2006 election. They also said it is unsafe to report corrupt officials 'because of what will be done to us in retribution. If you report them they might come back and beat us up...If you are the reporter you will feel more insecure reporting an MP or Provincial Government member because the retribution will be even stronger.'

PART ONE: QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

Sections 2-8 present tabulations of the quantitative data. Section 9 summarises the findings and suggests some interpretations, drawing from selected material from focus group discussions and other contextual information gathered during survey implementation.

1 Introduction to the tables and respondents' characteristics

The following analysis is based on tabulations made with the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences Version 11.0 (SPSS). The data set comprises 1085 completed interviews collected by 13 teams of interviewers. Some responses that were not pre-coded on the questionnaire were allocated codes, and the data were cleaned of obvious inconsistencies, such as responses to inapplicable questions. Other than that, the data are exactly as collected by the interviewers.

The sample is large enough to support some stratification. In the following tables the most common stratification is by province, since this is a basic indicator of access to services. The other main stratifications are rural versus urban, and by respondent type (i.e. man, woman, young man, young woman). Other stratifications are applied where considered relevant to specific questions. In a few tables dealing with subgroups of respondents, or where there were a large number of possible responses, there were insufficient numbers of cases for meaningful stratification.

Each team conducted approximately 20 interviews with respondents in each of four age/gender groups, and, except in Choiseul and Western, visited multiple villages. Given the amount of variation this introduced into already small team targets, the value of stratification within each province is questionable. Within province stratification is therefore not attempted in this report. This should be an objective of future surveys.

Almost all questions included the option 'DK/NA' (Don't Know/No Answer). No distinction was made between these options because it is common for Pacific people to remain silent when they do not know how to answer a question as well as when they choose not to respond, and there was insufficient time to train interviewers and give practice in distinguishing causes of this reaction. Debriefings with interviewers suggested that this option almost always signifies that a respondent simply did not know how to reply to a question because they had not thought about it before and did not have an opinion. They said that only a few respondents refused to answer particular questions, which is what is usually implied by 'no response'. Precise reasons for not replying to particular questions will be explored in future surveys.

Most tables in the following sections show the percentages giving each possible response, but where DK/NA comprised less than 10 per cent and/or was not considered essential for comparison of the answers to related questions, only the affirmative answer is shown. In those tables the percentages do not sum to 100. This section presents basic characteristics of the sample population. Sections 2-8 present tabulations of the findings with brief comments on the patterns of distribution. Section 9 summarises the findings and comments on possible interpretations of these patterns.

Table 1: Characteristics of surveyed respondents (Q1b-Q1g)

Province of interview	Number	Per cent
Choiseul	80	7.4
Guadalcanal	262	24.1
Honiara	238	21.9
Malaita	344	31.7
Western	161	14.8
Total	1085	100.0
Rural or urban		
Urban	319	29.4
Rural	766	70.6
Total	1085	100.0
Respondent type		
Man	268	24.7
Woman	276	25.4
Young Man	273	25.2
Young Woman	268	24.7
Total	1085	100.0
Sex		
Male	544	50.1
Female	541	49.9
Total	1085	100.0
Age		
Under 30	557	51.3
Over 30	528	48.7
Total	1085	100.0
Marital Status		
Currently married	665	61.3
Not currently married	419	38.6
DK/NA	1	0.1
Total	1085	100.0
Highest Education		
No formal education	77	7.1
Primary	422	38.9
Secondary	423	39.0
Rural Training Centre	41	3.8
Tertiary	113	10.4
Other (e.g. vocational)	9	0.8
Total	1085	100.0
Occupation		
Subsistence farming/fishing	281	25.9
Civil servant/public sector	102	9.4
Private sector	134	12.4
Self-employed business	108	10.0
Informal sector	32	2.9
Casual work	35	3.2
Housework	172	15.9
Student	108	10.0
Retired	10	0.9

Province of interview	Number	Per cent
Unemployed	81	7.5
Church worker or cleric	15	1.4
NGO worker (volunteer or staff)	7	0.6
Ever had paid work		
Yes	526	48.5
No	557	51.3
DK/NA	2	0.2
Total	1085	100.0

Table 1 shows the background characteristics of the respondents. The target number of interviews was 80 respondents from each of 13 locations, a total of 1040 in all, with 260 of each of the four age and gender groups. Table 1 shows that the target of 80 respondents per team was exceeded by some teams, because some interviewers continued interviewing after achieving their quota. As the sample design was not intended to be statistically representative, inclusion of these valid responses in the analysis increased the sample size for stratification without affecting the statistical implications of the results.

‘Province’ is the province where the respondent was interviewed. Q1h asked respondent’s province of birth, and indicated that 26 per cent (284 respondents) were interviewed in a different province from their province of birth. Current place of residence (Q1i) was asked only of respondents interviewed at the GPPOL oil palm plantation. As some respondents to this question named villages and others named provinces it was not possible to draw conclusions from this variable. It is suggested that future surveys should make use of the opportunity to measure mobility within Solomon Islands by asking all respondents to answer specific questions on their birthplace and place of residence when interviewed.

There were approximately equal numbers of males and females (49.9 and 50.1 per cent) and aged under 30 and 30 and over (50.1 and 49.9 per cent). Age 29 was selected as the cut off point because in Solomon Islands, as in most Pacific countries, the core definition of youth is ages 15-24, but older unmarried people up to age 30 or so also tend to be regarded as ‘youth’ (National Advisory Committee on Children, 1998). Just over 60 per cent of all respondents were currently married

Approximately equal percentages reported either primary or secondary schooling as their highest level of education, and these two groups accounted for almost 80 per cent of the entire sample. Just over 10 per cent had received some tertiary education, and almost 4 per cent reported Rural Training Centre as their highest level of education. Seven per cent had no formal education.

The most common reported occupation was subsistence farming/fishing, accounting for almost 26 per cent of respondents. It must be noted that a few interviewers recorded multiple occupations, usually a wage occupation plus subsistence. Since most Solomon Islanders can be assumed to engage in subsistence activities to some degree, and commonly sell their produce as informal traders, only the highest-level of economic activity was coded. For example, if the response was ‘Subsistence farming/fishing’, ‘Civil servant/public sector’ and ‘Informal sector’, it was coded ‘Civil servant/public sector’. Similarly, ‘Informal sector’ plus ‘Housework’ was coded ‘Informal sector’. Hence those coded as ‘Subsistence farming/fishing’ can be assumed not to receive any form of regular income.

Approximately 30 per cent of respondents were employed in the public sector, the private sector or self-employed in a business. These three sectors can be considered the principle sources of regular earnings, and are coded in subsequent tables as ‘Wage earner’ with all others coded as ‘Not wage earner’. Almost 8 per cent reported themselves as unemployed. It was not possible to distinguish from the data which of the church and NGO workers were salaried and which were volunteers. Forty-nine per cent of all respondents had had paid work at sometime in their lives.

2 Growth across Solomon Islands

This section presents tables based on Section Two of the questionnaire, Household Economy. The objective of these questions was to collect information on public experience and perceptions of economic conditions as baseline data for RAMSI Performance Indicator No.5: Growth Across Solomon Islands (RAMSI, 2005: 8).

Table 2: Perceptions of prices of basic goods (Q2a) (per cent)

	Too Expensive	Quite expensive	OK	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	86.3	12.5	1.3	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	93.9	5.3	0.4	0.4	100.0	262
Honiara	84.5	13.0	2.1	0.4	100.0	238
Malaita	85.8	12.8	0.9	0.6	100.0	344
Western	79.5	19.3	1.2	0.0	100.0	161
Rural	87.5	11.2	0.9	0.4	100.0	766
Urban	84.3	13.8	1.6	0.3	100.0	319
Man	87.7	11.9	0.0	0.4	100.0	268
Woman	96.7	2.9	0.0	0.4	100.0	276
Young Man	78.0	20.1	1.5	0.4	100.0	273
Young Woman	83.6	13.1	3.0	0.4	100.0	268
Wage earner	86.5	11.6	1.3	0.5	100.0	344
Not wage earner	86.6	12.8	0.6		100.0	741
Receive remittances	84.8	13.5	1.3	0.4	100.0	460
Do not receive	87.8	10.9	1.0	0.3	100.0	625
Total %	86.5	12.0	1.1	0.4	100.0	
Total No.	939	130	12	4		1085

Table 2 shows that overall 87 per cent of respondents regard prices of basic goods as too expensive, and 12 per cent as quite expensive. One per cent thought they were acceptable. Honiara residents and young women were most likely to say that prices were acceptable (2 and 3 per cent), and Guadalcanal residents and women most likely to say ‘Too expensive’ rather than ‘Quite expensive’ (94 and 97 per cent).

Table 3: Household financial status compared with one year ago (Q2b) (per cent)

	Worse	Same	Better	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	63.8	20.0	16.3	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	74.4	12.6	12.2	0.8	100.0	262
Honiara	73.9	11.8	12.6	1.7	100.0	238
Malaita	69.5	11.3	18.0	1.2	100.0	344
Western	62.7	22.4	14.3	0.6	100.0	161
Rural	69.5	14.2	15.5	0.8	100.0	766
Urban	72.1	13.5	12.9	1.6	100.0	319
Man	72.4	14.2	13.1	0.4	100.0	268
Woman	76.1	11.6	12.0	0.4	100.0	276
Young Man	63.7	18.7	15.4	2.2	100.0	273
Young Woman	68.7	11.6	18.7	1.1	100.0	268
Wage earner	69.8	19.2	11.0	0.0	100.0	344
Not wage earner	70.4	11.6	16.5	1.5	100.0	741
Receive remittances	68.7	15.2	14.6	1.5	100.0	460
Do not receive	71.4	13.1	14.9	0.6	100.0	625
Total %	70.2	14.0	14.7	1.0	100.0	
Total No.	762	152	160	11		1085

Table 3 shows respondents' assessment of their household financial situation in May 2006 as compared to one year previously. Overall, 70 per cent said it had deteriorated, while 14 and 15 per cent respectively said it was the same or better. Guadalcanal and Honiara were most likely to report deterioration (74 per cent in both), while Malaita and Choiseul most likely to report improvement (18 and 16 per cent).

Although more rural residents said that prices were too expensive (Table 2), urban residents were a little more likely than rural residents to report a deteriorating financial situation (72 and 70 per cent), probably reflecting the lower contribution of subsistence in urban areas. Similarly, rural residents were also more likely to report improvement in the past year (16 per cent compared with 13 per cent). This explains why 'not wage earners' are more likely to expect improvement as compared with wage earners (17 and 11 per cent). Those receiving remittances from someone working in Honiara were a little less likely than others to report that their situation was worse.

As in the case of Table 2, women were more pessimistic about the economic situation than men (76 compared with 72 per cent), while young men and young women were more likely to have a positive view (15 and 19 per cent).

Table 4: Expected household financial situation in the future (Q2e) (per cent)

	Better	Same	Worse	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	17.5	20.0	47.5	15.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	15.3	27.9	46.2	10.7	100.0	262
Honiara	21.4	15.1	37.8	25.6	100.0	238
Malaita	18.3	17.7	42.4	21.5	100.0	344
Western	13.0	16.1	45.3	25.5	100.0	161
Rural	16.8	21.8	43.6	17.8	100.0	766

	Better	Same	Worse	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Urban	18.8	14.1	42.0	25.1	100.0	319
Man	19.8	24.6	41.0	14.6	100.0	268
Woman	12.7	17.4	44.6	25.4	100.0	276
Young Man	25.3	18.3	31.5	24.9	100.0	273
Young Woman	11.9	17.9	55.6	14.6	100.0	268
Wage earner	15.0	19.7	44.3	21.1	100.0	344
Not wage earner	22.7	19.2	40.7	17.4	100.0	741
Receive remittances	20.9	18.7	40.9	19.6	100.0	460
Do not receive	14.9	20.2	44.8	20.2	100.0	625
Total %	17.4	19.5	43.1	19.9	100.0	
Total No.	189	212	468	216		1085

Table 4 shows respondents' expectations about their relative household financial situation two or three years into the future. Overall, only 17 per cent of respondents expected it to be better, while 43 per cent expected it to be worse. Twenty per cent did not know or could not give an answer.

Respondents in Honiara were most likely to expect improvement (21 per cent) but, with respondents in Western, also most likely to be recorded as 'DK/NA' (26 per cent). Those in Western were least likely to expect improvement (13 per cent), while similar percentages in Choiseul, Guadalcanal, and Western expected their financial situation to deteriorate (48, 46, and 45 per cent). Of the age and gender groups, young men were most likely to expect improvement (25 per cent), while young women and women were likely to expect deterioration (56 and 45 per cent). Women and young men were most likely to be recorded as 'DK/NA' (25 per cent). Those who receive remittances were more likely than others to expect improvement in the future (21 compared with 15 per cent).

Table 5a: Expected source of assistance for respondent's village by rural/urban Q2f) (per cent)

	Urban	Rural	Overall	Number
National Government	48.3	43.0	44.5	483
Provincial Government	1.9	6.5	5.2	56
Local business people	3.4	3.5	3.5	38
Foreign business people	5.0	1.2	2.3	25
Foreign donors (e.g. AusAID, EU, JICA)	19.7	20.2	20.1	218
NGOs (e.g. Save the Children, World Vision)	0.6	1.8	1.5	16
Villagers themselves	7.8	10.2	9.5	103
No single source	1.6	0.9	1.1	12
Nobody	0.6	2.3	1.8	20
DK/NA	11.0	10.3	10.5	114
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	1085
Total No.	319	766	1085	

Table 5 shows the source of assistance respondents expect to do most to help their village economy in the next two or three years. Because of the large number of possible answers, the analysis of this question compares the percentages for rural and urban areas with the overall

percentages, as this gave more contrast than stratification by province. Table 5b (below) combines the minor categories and stratifies the result by respondent type.

A few interviewers ignored the instructions that they should tick only one box for this question, and allowed respondents to give multiple answers. Any multiple answers to this question were coded as the highest category box ticked. For example, the response 'National Government', 'Foreign donors' and 'NGOs' was allocated to 'National Government'. The response 'Foreign donors' and 'Villagers themselves' would be allocated to 'Foreign donors'. A larger sample would have enabled separate handling of multiple answers during analysis.

Table 5a shows that urban respondents were more likely to mention 'National Government' as a source of help as compared to rural respondents (48 and 43 per cent). The second most popular response, 'Foreign Donors', was similar for both rural and urban respondents (20 per cent for both when rounded).

Table 5b: Expected source of assistance for respondent's village by respondent type (Q2f) (per cent)

	Men	Women	Young Men	Young Women	Number
National Government	55.2	46.7	41.4	34.7	483
Foreign donors ¹	16.8	16.3	25.6	21.6	218
Villagers themselves	17.2	3.6	8.8	8.6	103
Other	7.4	16.0	19.8	18.3	196
DK/NA	3.4	17.4	4.4	16.8	85
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Total No.	268	276	273	268	1085

¹= e.g. AusAID, EU, JICA

Table 5b, combines the minor categories from Table 5a as 'Other'. Men were most likely to mention 'National Government' or the 'Villagers themselves' as the most likely source of assistance (55 and 17 per cent), whereas young men and young women were more likely to mention 'Foreign Donors' (26 and 22 per cent). Women and young women were most likely to be recorded as 'DK/NA' (17 per cent).

Table 6: Youth employment as a village problem (Q2g) (per cent)

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	95.0	3.8	1.3	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	85.1	12.6	2.3	100.0	262
Honiara	95.0	3.8	1.3	100.0	238
Malaita	93.9	4.4	1.7	100.0	344
Western	93.8	5.6	0.6	100.0	161
Rural	91.4	6.8	1.8	100.0	766
Urban	93.7	5.3	0.9	100.0	319
Man	94.8	3.7	1.5	100.0	268
Woman	89.9	9.1	1.1	100.0	276
Young Man	92.3	5.9	1.8	100.0	273
Young Woman	91.4	6.7	1.9	100.0	268
In wage employment	92.2	7.0	0.8	100.0	344

No regular employment	92.0	6.1	1.9	100.0	741
Receive remittances	92.8	5.9	1.3	100.0	460
Do not receive	91.5	6.7	1.8	100.0	625
Total %	92.1	6.4	1.6	100.0	
Total No.	999	69	17		1085

Eighty-five per cent of respondents in each province said that youth employment is a serious problem in their village. The lowest percentage was in Guadalcanal (85 per cent), whereas the highest was 95 per cent in Honiara and Choiseul, which were respectively the most and least developed regions covered by this survey. There was very little variation by rural or urban, respondent type, wage employment or receipt of remittances.

3 Public sector capacity and capability

The questions in Section Three of the questionnaire were concerned with respondents' perceptions of basic services. The objective was to provide baseline data on public sector capability and capacity to inform RAMSI performance indicator No. 3, Public Sector Capability and Capacity (RAMSI, 2005: 7).

Table 7: Utilisation of health facilities (Q3a) (per cent)

	1	2-4	5+	No visit	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Men	6.3	33.2	54.9	5.2	0.4	100.0	268
Women	8.7	19.2	69.2	2.5	0.4	100.0	276
Young Men	10.6	34.1	47.3	7.0	1.1	100.0	273
Young women	10.8	19.4	59.3	9.3	1.1	100.0	268
Total %	9.1	26.5	57.7	6.0	0.7	100.0	
Total No.	99	287	626	65	8.0		1085

As utilisation of health services tends to be related to service availability, age, and gender, it is not meaningful to stratify utilisation by province unless information on the services available at each location is also recorded. This variable is therefore stratified only by respondent type. Table 7 shows that the majority of respondents in each age and gender group had visited a health aid post, health centre, or hospital five times or more during the past year and 15 per cent had visited once or not at all. Women were most likely to have visited a facility five or more times (69 per cent) and young men least likely (47 per cent). Young men and men were most likely to have visited a facility 2-4 times in the preceding year (34 and 33 per cent).

Table 8: Satisfaction with health services received (Q3b) (per cent)

	Always	Sometimes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	37.5	62.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	16.0	53.8	28.2	1.9	100.0	262
Honiara	20.6	52.5	24.4	2.5	100.0	238
Malaita	40.4	43.3	14.8	1.5	100.0	344
Western	50.9	35.4	13.7	0.0	100.0	161
Rural	32.4	48.7	17.6	1.9	100.0	766
Urban	29.5	46.7	21.9	1.3	100.0	319

	Always	Sometimes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Man	29.9	55.2	14.2	0.7	100.0	268
Woman	30.1	54.3	13.8	1.8	100.0	276
Young Man	35.2	37.0	26.4	1.5	100.0	273
Young Woman	31.5	48.1	18.9	1.5	100.0	268
Total %	31.5	48.1	18.9	1.5	100.0	
Total No.	342	522	205	16		1085

Table 8 shows satisfaction with health services for the various major groups of respondents. Overall 32 per cent were always satisfied with the services they received, while 48 per cent were sometimes satisfied. There is a striking difference between provinces, with Guadalcanal respondents least likely to say they were satisfied (16 per cent) and most likely to say they were not satisfied (28 per cent), with Honiara only a few percentage points better than Guadalcanal (21 and 24 per cent). In contrast, 51 per cent in Western and 40 per cent in Malaita were always satisfied with the treatment they received.

Young men were most likely to be always satisfied with the health services they received (35 per cent) but also most likely to be dissatisfied (26 per cent). There was almost no difference between men and women in their satisfaction with health services. Less than 2 per cent of respondents did not answer this question, suggesting that it addressed an area of considerable interest to the community.

Table 9: Source of health services received

Source of health service	First source %	Second source %
Government	72.3	0.2
Local church	6.5	6.3
Local NGO	0.7	0.7
Foreign donor	8.3	9.2
Other	1.8	1.5
DK/NA	10.5	82.1
Total %	100	100
Total No.	1085	1085

Respondents were invited to give two sources for the health services they used. Table 9 shows that 90 per cent mentioned only one source and 10 per cent mentioned a second source. The majority (72.3 per cent) reported using a government health service, with 18 per cent mentioning a co-provider (6 per cent church and 9 per cent foreign donor). Fifteen per cent mentioned either the church (6.5 per cent) or a foreign donor (8.3 per cent) as the principle provider of the health service they used. As shown in Table 8, 80 per cent of all respondents said they were always or sometimes satisfied with the services they received, and roughly equal percentages reported being always or sometimes satisfied. More than 72 per cent reported using services provided by the government.

Table 10: Perceptions of recent change in basic services (Q3d, Q3g and Q3h) (per cent)

	Health		Schools		Roads		Total No.
	Better	Worse	Better	Worse	Better	Worse	
Choiseul	83.8	0.0	88.8	11.3	- No roads -		80
Guadalcanal	34.0	7.6	67.6	26.0	36.6	20.6	262

	Health		Schools		Roads		
Honiara	31.1	8.8	45.0	40.8	28.2	33.6	238
Malaita	53.2	12.2	67.2	23.8	27.0	43.0	344
Western	60.2	6.8	63.4	29.2	14.3	26.7	161
Rural	50.0	8.5	69.3	23.8	27.9	24.4	766
Urban	39.8	9.1	49.2	37.9	21.6	31.3	319
Man	47.4	6.3	64.2	26.9	22.0	39.9	268
Woman	42.4	11.2	57.6	34.4	27.2	25.7	276
Young Man	52.4	7.3	71.1	22.3	26.7	25.6	273
Young Woman	45.9	9.7	60.8	28.0	28.4	14.6	268
Total %	47.0	8.7	63.4	27.9	26.1	26.5	
Total No.	510	94	688	303	283	287	1085

Note: The middle category, 'Stayed the same', and 'DK/NA' are not shown. 'DK/NA' comprised 2 per cent or less for each question.

Table 10 shows marked differences by province and rural or urban as regards perceptions of changes in services in the past year (Q3d, Q3g and Q3h). In particular there are very different perceptions of changes in health services and schools in rural and urban areas. The highest percentage of positive responses for both health services and schools was in Choiseul (84 and 89 per cent). The majority of people in both Western and Malaita also thought both schools and health services had improved, whereas in Guadalcanal more people thought schools had improved as compared with health services (68 compared with 34 per cent). The responses were fairly consistent across the age and gender groups, although young men were most likely to consider that there had been a recent improvement in schools (71 per cent).

Table 10 also shows less variation between rural and urban areas as regards roads, with around half of respondents in each area reporting no change (middle category, not shown). There was more variation between provinces in perceptions of changes in roads, with Guadalcanal most likely to report that roads had improved (37 per cent) and Malaita most likely to report deterioration (43 per cent). Thirty-seven per cent of Honiara respondents thought roads had deteriorated in the past year.

Table 11: Better health services expected in the future (Q3e) (per cent)

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	80.0	8.8	11.3	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	64.5	19.1	16.4	100.0	262
Honiara	61.8	8.4	29.8	100.0	238
Malaita	60.8	12.8	26.5	100.0	344
Western	67.1	11.8	21.1	100.0	161
Rural	64.8	14.0	21.3	100.0	766
Urban	63.0	10.3	26.6	100.0	319
Man	69.8	11.2	19.0	100.0	268
Woman	53.3	18.8	27.9	100.0	276
Young Man	73.3	8.4	18.3	100.0	273
Young Woman	60.8	13.1	26.1	100.0	268

Total %	64.2	12.9	22.9	100.0	
Total No.	697	140	248		1085

Tables 11 examines respondents expectations about changes in health services in the next two or three years. Overall, 64 per cent expected health services to improve, whereas 13 per cent expected them to deteriorate. As regards expectation of improvement, Choiseul was more than 10 percentage points higher than the next most optimistic province, Western (67 per cent). Compared with other age and gender groups, young men were most likely to expect improvement (73 per cent), but women, who tend to make most use of services, were least likely to expect improvement (53 per cent) and most likely to say they did not expect improvement (19 per cent). DK/NA comprised 23 per cent overall, and highest in Honiara and Malaita, with 30 and 27 per cent respectively.

Table 12: Expected source of improvement in health services (Q3f) (per cent)

	Nat. Govt	Donors	Other	DK/NA	Not asked	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	20.0	43.8	13.6	1.3	21.3	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	35.1	16.4	10.3	2.7	35.5	100.0	262
Honiara	43.7	12.6	2.9	2.6	38.2	100.0	238
Malaita	37.5	14.8	5.8	3.2	38.7	100.0	344
Western	23.6	31.1	11.1	1.3	32.9	100.0	161
Rural	33.9	19.1	9.1	2.7	35.1	100.0	766
Urban	37.3	19.7	4.1	1.9	37.0	100.0	319
Man	46.3	15.3	5.2	2.2	31.0	100.0	268
Woman	26.4	16.7	7.3	3.6	46.0	100.0	276
Young Man	35.9	29.7	6.2	1.5	26.7	100.0	273
Young Woman	31.3	15.3	12.0	2.6	38.8	100.0	268
Total %	34.9	19.3	7.6	2.5	35.7	100.0	
Total No	379	209	110	27	387		1085

Note: Respondents not expecting improvement or not answering Q3e were not asked Q3f

Table 12 tabulates responses to the question ‘Who do you expect to do most to improve health services for your village during the next 2 or 3 years?’ Respondents not expecting improvement or not answering Q3e were not asked Q3f because it referred back to this expectation. Overall, 35 per cent mentioned the National Government as a source of improvement, and 19 per cent mentioned donors, such as AusAID, European Union, or JICA. ‘Others’ includes NGOs such as Save the Children and World Vision, villagers themselves, particular individuals or companies and the provincial government (4 per cent).

Honiara respondents were most likely to say the National Government (44 per cent), while Choiseul and Western respondents were most likely to mention foreign donors (44 and 31 per cent) and less likely to mention the National Government. There was only a small difference between rural and urban residents. Compared to men, women were 20 per cent less likely to expect the National Government to do most to improve health services (46 and 26 per cent). Young men were most likely to mention foreign donors (30 per cent).

4 Community confidence

This section tabulates responses to the questions in Sections Four of the questionnaire, which are concerned with respondents' perceptions of security, peace and law and order. The objective of these questions was to provide baseline information for the RAMSI Program Level Indicator, Security, Peace, and Order (RAMSI, 2005: 10).

Table 13: Perceptions of the law and order situation in the respondent's own village (Q4a) (per cent)

	Safe and peaceful	Sometimes problems	Many problems	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	37.5	58.7	3.7	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	33.6	52.3	12.6	1.5	100.0	262
Honiara	31.5	54.6	10.9	2.9	100.0	238
Malaita	36.9	50.3	11.6	1.2	100.0	344
Western	40.4	48.4	7.5	3.7	100.0	161
Rural	35.4	52.5	10.8	1.3	100.0	766
Urban	35.7	51.1	9.7	3.4	100.0	319
Man	35.4	55.6	8.6	0.4	100.0	268
Woman	47.5	42.4	8.0	2.2	100.0	276
Young Man	38.1	50.9	11.0	0.0	100.0	273
Young Woman	20.5	59.7	14.6	5.2	100.0	268
Robbed in past year	30.4	57.7	11.9		100.0	520
Not robbed	41.8	49.5	8.7		100.0	554
<i>No information</i>					100.0	11
Total %	35.5	52.1	10.5	1.9	100.0	
Total No.	385	565	114	21		1085

Table 13 shows responses to the question 'How would you describe the law and order situation in your village?' Stratification is by the usual categories of province, rural or urban and age/gender group, and also according to whether the respondent was robbed or had anything taken from their garden in the past year (Q5a).

Overall, 36 per cent of respondents described their village as 'safe and peaceful', while the most common response was 'sometimes law and order problems' (52 per cent). Eleven per cent said their village has many law and order problems. Respondents in Western were most likely to report 'safe and peaceful' (40 per cent), and Honiara least likely (32 per cent). 'Many problems' were most likely to be reported in Guadalcanal (13 per cent), and least likely in Choiseul (4 per cent).

There was almost no difference according to rural or urban place of interview, but an interesting pattern by age and gender group. Women were noticeably more likely than men to describe their village as safe and peaceful (48 and 35 per cent) compared with 21 per cent of young women. Similarly, young women were most likely to say there were many problems (15 per cent), while young men were also more likely than older men and women to report

many problems (11 per cent). Those who had been robbed in the past year were less likely to rate their village as safe and peaceful compared with those who had not been robbed (30 and 42 per cent).

Table 14: Law and order change in the past year (Q4b) (per cent)

	Better	Same	Worse	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	70.0	26.3	3.8	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	56.1	31.7	11.5	0.8	100.0	262
Honiara	60.9	27.3	8.8	2.9	100.0	238
Malaita	54.1	35.2	9.0	1.7	100.0	344
Western	64.0	29.2	5.0	1.9	100.0	161
Rural	56.8	33.6	8.6	1.0	100.0	766
Urban	63.3	25.1	8.5	3.1	100.0	319
Man	69.8	25.0	4.9	0.4	100.0	268
Woman	57.6	33.7	7.6	1.1	100.0	276
Young Man	57.5	30.8	10.6	1.1	100.0	273
Young Woman	50.0	34.7	11.2	4.1	100.0	268
Total %	58.7	31.1	8.6	1.7	100.0	
Total No.	637	337	93	18		1085

Table 14 shows that 59 per cent overall said the law and order situation in their village had improved in the past year, and 9 per cent said it had deteriorated. Improvements in law and order were most likely to be reported in Choiseul (70 per cent) and Western (64 per cent), and least likely in Malaita (54 per cent) and Guadalcanal (56 per cent). Guadalcanal respondents were most likely to say that the law and order situation had actually deteriorated (12 per cent). There was no difference between rural and urban respondents in the percentage that said the law and order situation in their village was worse than a year previously (9 per cent for both), but urban residents were more likely to say it was better (63 compared with 57 per cent).

As in Table 13, there is evidence of a marked difference in the perception of young women, especially as compared to men, with 50 per cent saying the law and order situation in their village was better, while 70 per cent of men held this view. Young women were also more likely than other respondents to say the situation was worse (11 per cent).

Table 15: Changes in the level of property crime (Q4c) (per cent)

	Better	Same	Worse	Never had property crime	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	47.5	30.0	13.8	7.5	1.3	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	42.7	24.4	12.6	19.5	0.8	100.0	262
Honiara	55.0	20.2	15.5	7.6	1.7	100.0	238
Malaita	40.1	25.9	23.5	9.0	1.5	100.0	344
Western	50.3	34.2	9.9	3.7	1.9	100.0	161
Rural	45.0	26.1	12.9	14.8	1.2	100.0	766
Urban	54.2	23.5	11.3	8.5	2.5	100.0	319
Man	50.7	21.3	13.4	13.8	0.7	100.0	268
Woman	43.8	27.2	18.5	9.1	1.4	100.0	276
Young Man	46.5	21.2	22.0	9.2	1.1	100.0	273
Young Woman	43.3	33.6	11.6	9.3	2.2	100.0	268
Total %	46.1	25.8	16.4	10.3	1.4	100.0	
Total No.	500	280	178	112	15		1085

Table 15 shows respondents' perceptions of changes in the level of property crime in their village. Again the most common response was that the situation had improved and there was less property crime than a year earlier (46 per cent). Overall, 10 per cent said there had never been property crime in their village. Respondents in Malaita were much more likely to say there was more property crime than before (24 per cent) with Honiara, eight percentage points lower (16 per cent). Forty per cent of Malaitans reported an improvement and 55 per cent of Honiara respondents. Respondents in Guadalcanal were most likely to report that there had never been property crime in their village.

There was more difference by rural and urban residence in this table than in the two preceding tables, with 54 per cent of urban residents reporting an improvement, compared with 45 per cent of rural residents. There was less difference between the age and gender groups in the percentages who thought property crime had reduced (ranging from 43 to 51 per cent), but young men and women were most likely to say there had been an increase in property crime (22 and 19 per cent). As in the two previous tables, the DK/NA rate was less than 2 per cent.

Table 16: Changes in the level of violent crime in the past year (Q4d) (per cent)

	Better	Same	Worse	Never had violent crime	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	53.8	33.8	6.3	6.3	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	42.7	22.1	15.6	18.3	1.1	100.0	262
Honiara	53.8	21.0	14.3	8.4	2.5	100.0	238
Malaita	46.8	20.6	13.7	17.2	1.7	100.0	344
Western	46.0	42.9	5.0	5.0	1.2	100.0	161
Rural	45.0	26.1	12.9	14.8	1.2	100.0	766
Urban	54.2	23.5	11.3	8.5	2.5	100.0	319
Man	57.5	21.3	10.1	10.1	1.1	100.0	268
Woman	39.1	31.5	13.8	13.0	2.5	100.0	276

	Better	Same	Worse	Never had violent crime	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Young Man	52.0	17.6	15.4	14.7	0.4	100.0	273
Young Woman	42.5	31.0	10.4	13.8	2.2	100.0	268
Total %	47.7	25.3	12.4	12.9	1.6	100.0	
Total No.	518	275	135	140	17		1085

Table 16 presents respondents' assessments of the level of violent crime in their village compared with one year earlier. Overall 48 per cent thought the situation was better, with less violent crime, while 12 per cent thought it was worse and 13 per cent said there had never been violent crime in their village. Improvement was most likely to be reported in Choiseul and Honiara (54 per cent in both), while respondents in Guadalcanal and Malaita were most likely to say it was worse (16 and 14 per cent). Urban residents were more likely to report improvement as compared with rural residents (54 and 45 per cent), again suggesting a possibly lower baseline and more room for improvement. The widest differences in Table 23 are by age and gender group. Thirty-nine per cent of women thought the level of violent crime had declined, compared with 58 per cent of men. There was also a marked difference between young women and young men (43 and 52 per cent), with young men most likely to report that it was worse (15 per cent). As in the three preceding tables, DK/NA comprised less than 2 per cent.

5 Police accountability

This section presents the analysis of Sections Five and Six of the questionnaire, where respondents report their perceptions of, and interactions with RSIP and RAMSI Participating Police Force (PPF). The objective of these questions was to provide data for the RAMSI Program Level Indicator: Professional, effective and accountable law enforcement agencies (RAMSI, 2005: 18).

Table 17: Experience of recent robbery or theft from garden (Q5a) (per cent)

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	37.5	62.5	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	39.7	59.9	0.4	100.0	262
Honiara	45.0	52.9	2.1	100.0	238
Malaita	57.0	42.4	0.6	100.0	344
Western	51.6	46.6	1.9	100.0	161
Rural	49.2	50.3	0.5	100.0	766
Urban	44.8	53.0	2.2	100.0	319
Man	45.9	53.7	0.4	100.0	268
Woman	43.1	56.5	0.4	100.0	276
Young Man	53.1	45.8	1.1	100.0	273
Young Woman	49.6	48.1	2.2	100.0	268
Total %	47.9	51.1	1.0	100.0	
Total No.	520	554	11		1085

Table 17 shows respondents' experience of robbery or theft from a garden in the preceding year. Overall, almost half of the respondents reported that someone in their household had

experienced such a crime (48 per cent). The percentage was lowest in Choiseul (38 per cent) and highest in Malaita (57 per cent). There was a 4 per cent difference between rural and urban, with rural areas reporting more crime than urban areas (49 and 45 per cent). In this table women were least likely to report a crime while young men were most likely (43 and 53 per cent).

Tables 18 to 22 analyse the action taken and experiences of the 520 respondents who reported in Q5a that someone in their household had recently been a victim of a crime. These tables are thus concerned with subsets of respondents rather than with the total sample of 1085. It must be noted that Q5a, from which they are derived, asks whether there was a crime in the household or the family garden. The respondents answering in the affirmative are therefore not necessarily the immediate victims of the crime, and may be giving proxy reports. Their assessments of satisfaction with police action, whether police were respectful, and why some crimes were not reported may therefore be second hand reports rather than a reflection of their personal experience. It is also possible that a particular crime was referenced by more than one respondent.

Table 18: Whether crime was reported to the RSIP (Q5b) (per cent)

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	40.0	60.0	0.0	100.0	30
Guadalcanal	22.1	77.9	0.0	100.0	104
Honiara	45.8	54.2	0.0	100.0	107
Malaita	23.0	76.5	0.5	100.0	196
Western	19.3	80.7	0.0	100.0	83
Rural	22.5	77.2	0.3	100.0	766
Urban	42.0	58.0	0.0	100.0	319
Man	40.7	59.3	0.0	100.0	268
Woman	26.1	73.9	0.0	100.0	276
Young Man	24.1	75.9	0.0	100.0	273
Young Woman	21.8	77.4	0.8	100.0	268
Total %	27.9	71.9	0.2	100.0	
Total No.	145	364	1		520

Note: This table is concerned only with the 520 respondents who had experienced a robbery or theft from garden.

Table 18 shows whether the crime was reported to the RSIP. Overall 28 per cent of respondents said the crime was reported to the police. Reporting was least in Western, with only 19 per cent and highest in Honiara (46 per cent). Twenty-three per cent of respondents in rural areas as a whole said that crimes were reported compared with 42 per cent in urban areas. Of the age/gender groups, men were most likely to say that the crime had been reported (41 per cent). The DK/NA rate for this question was very low, at less than one per cent.

Table 19: Q5c Satisfaction with police action (Q5c) (per cent)

	Yes	Partly	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	33.3	0.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	12
Guadalcanal	26.1	13.0	60.9	0.0	100.0	23
Honiara	28.6	12.2	59.2	0.0	100.0	49
Malaita	21.4	14.7	63.9	4.4	100.0	45
Western	18.8	0.0	81.3	0.0	100.0	16

	Yes	Partly	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Rural	23.5	10.6	63.5	2.4	100.0	85
Urban	26.7	10.0	63.3	0.0	100.0	60
Man	22.0	20.0	58.0	0.0	100.0	50
Woman	12.9	9.7	71.0	6.5	100.0	31
Young Man	22.9	2.9	74.3	0.0	100.0	35
Young Woman	44.8	3.4	51.7	0.0	100.0	29
Total %	24.8	10.3	63.4	1.4	100.0	
Total No.	36	15	92	2		145

Note: This table is concerned only with the 145/520 respondents who had experienced a robbery or theft from garden and reported it to the RSIP.

Table 19 indicates respondents' satisfaction with the actions taken by police. The table shows that overall 25 per cent were satisfied. Western respondents were least likely to be satisfied (19 per cent) and least likely to report a crime (Table 18). Malaitans also had both a low satisfaction rate (21 per cent) and low percentage reporting (23 per cent in Table 18). Choiseul respondents had both the highest rate of satisfaction (33 per cent) and the highest rate of reporting (40 per cent in Table 18). The biggest discrepancy in satisfaction and reporting was in Honiara, where 46 per cent reported a crime while 29 per cent were satisfied with the action taken by the police. This was one of the higher rates of satisfaction.

Rural and urban areas as a whole differed by only four percentage points (24 and 27 per cent), with urban residents most likely to say they were satisfied. There was a big range between the gender groups, with 13 per cent of women saying they were satisfied, compared with 22 per cent of men and 45 per cent of young women. It must be remembered that, as noted above, some people could be making proxy reports.

Table 20: Respectful treatment of respondent by the police (Q5d) (per cent)

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	50.0	50.0	0.0	100.0	12
Guadalcanal	52.2	43.5	4.3	100.0	23
Honiara	63.3	32.7	4.0	100.0	49
Malaita	61.0	25.4	13.6	100.0	45
Western	62.5	37.5	10.0	100.0	16
Rural	56.5	34.1	9.4	100.0	85
Urban	63.3	33.3	3.4	100.0	60
Man	60.0	36.0	0.0	100.0	50
Woman	48.4	41.9	0.0	100.0	31
Young Man	57.1	34.3	0.0	100.0	35
Young Woman	72.4	20.7	6.9	100.0	29
Total %	59.3	33.8	6.9	100.0	
Total No.	86	49	10		145

Note: The previous table is concerned only with the 145/520 respondents who had experienced a robbery or theft from garden and reported it to the RSIP.

Table 20 shows respondents' assessments of whether they were treated respectfully by the police. More than twice as many respondents reported that they were treated respectfully (59 per cent) as said they were satisfied with the action taken by police (25 per cent in Table 19). Choiseul respondents, who were most likely to report crimes and most likely to be satisfied with police action, were less likely to say they were treated respectfully (50 per cent), and rural respondents as a whole were less likely to say they were treated respectfully compared with urban respondents (57 and 63 per cent). Women were most likely to say they were not treated respectfully (48 per cent) whereas young women were most likely to say they were treated respectfully (72 per cent). The only eligible respondents who did not answer this question were two young women (7 per cent of young women).

Table 21: Reasons given for not reporting a crime (Q5e) (per cent)

	Per cent	Number
No police in our area	15.8	59
Someone else reported it	1.6	6
Didn't think the police would do anything	25.7	96
Scared of the police	9.4	35
Wantok / family	6.4	24
No witness/ no evidence	13.9	52
Forgave or pitied them	8.8	33
Solved problem myself or with custom	7.5	28
Matter too trivial, or did not get round to it	5.9	22
DK/NA	3.5	13
Total	100.0	374

Note: This table is concerned only with the 374/520 respondents who had experienced a robbery or theft from garden and did not report it to the RSIP.

Table 21 shows the reasons for not reporting given by 72 per cent (374/520) respondents who said there had been crime in their household (see Table 18). The most common reason for not reporting was 'we didn't think the police would do anything' (26 per cent). Next most common was 'no police in our area' (16 per cent), and 'no evidence' (14 per cent). All other responses, including fear of the police, comprised less than 10 per cent. Again, it must be remembered that this question includes the possibility of proxy reporting, and particular crimes may be referenced by more than one respondent.

Table 22: Reasons for not reporting a crime by group (Q5e) (per cent)

	No police in area	Expected no action	No evidence	Other	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	5.6	44.4	22.2	27.8	0.0	100.0	18
Guadalcanal	16.0	27.2	4.9	47.0	4.9	100.0	81
Honiara	3.4	17.2	20.7	55.3	3.4	100.0	58
Malaita	26.7	24.0	11.3	35.3	2.7	100.0	150
Western	4.5	29.9	22.4	38.7	4.5	100.0	67
Rural	18.6	27.5	12.7	37.8	3.4	100.0	291
Urban	6.0	19.3	18.1	53.0	3.6	100.0	83
Man	11.0	23.3	16.4	42.5	6.8	100.0	73
Woman	25.0	19.3	19.3	34.1	2.3	100.0	88

Young Man	13.6	31.8	11.8	31.8	2.7	100.0	110
Young Woman	13.6	26.2	9.7	47.6	2.9	100.0	103
Total %	15.7	25.6	13.9	41.1	3.7	100.0	
Total No.	59	96	52	154	13		374

Note: This table is concerned only with the 374/520 respondents who had experienced a robbery or theft from garden and did not report it to the RSIP.

Table 22 repeats the data in Table 21 but combines as ‘other’ responses given by less than 10 per cent so the four main reasons for not reporting can be stratified. It shows that respondents in Malaita were most likely to have no police in their area (27 per cent). Choiseul respondents were most likely to expect no action from the police (44 per cent), and respondents in Choiseul, Honiara and Western were most likely to regard evidence as necessary before a report could be made (around 21-22 per cent for each).

Rural respondents as a whole were most likely to report ‘no police in our area’ (19 per cent). They were also more likely to expect no action (28 per cent), but less likely to believe it necessary to have evidence before making a police report. The higher percentage of women reporting ‘no police in their area’ (25 per cent) could be a real effect of the small number of cases and the uneven distribution of crime rather than a difference in their perception. Young men were most likely to report ‘we didn’t expect the police to do anything’ (32 per cent).

Table 23: Preferred avenues for complaint against corrupt police officers (Q5e, two responses permitted) (per cent)

Report to:	First answer		Second answer	
	%	No.	%	No.
Village chief	19.5	212	0.3	3
Police	43.2	469	5.8	63
My MP	9.8	106	4.8	52
Church	2.2	24	2.3	25
RAMSI	4.1	44	1.1	12
Media or market announcer	0.7	8	0.2	2
Own friends or family	0.6	6	0.3	3
Govt in Honiara/Lawyer/Ombudsman	0.2	2	0.4	4
Would not report	0.1	1		
No first answer	19.6	213		
No second answer			84.9	921
Total %	100.0		100.0	
Total No.	100.0	1085		1085

Table 23 shows the avenues respondents would choose to make a complaint against a corrupt police officer. Two responses could be recorded for this question. The most common avenue was a complaint directly to the police (43 per cent first response, 6 per cent second response). The other main avenues for complaint mentioned were report to the village chief (20 per cent) and local MP (10 per cent first response, 5 per cent second response) and RAMSI (4 per cent first response, 1 per cent second).

Around 20 per cent of respondents did not give even one answer to this question. Most of the DK/NA responses were from women (30 per cent) and young women (28 per cent) with 7 per

cent from men (table not shown). Reasons for not answering hypothetical questions should be investigated further in future surveys.

Table 24: Perceptions of whether it is safe to make a formal complaint against a police officer (Q5g) (per cent)

	Feel safe	Would not feel safe	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	80.0	18.8	1.3	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	56.9	31.7	11.5	100.0	262
Honiara	73.1	14.7	12.2	100.0	238
Malaita	58.7	33.4	7.8	100.0	344
Western	59.6	27.3	13.0	100.0	161
Report to police	74.5	19.1	13.3	100.0	532
Report to other	52.3	34.4	6.4	100.0	553
Man	81.0	11.9	7.1	100.0	268
Woman	52.5	36.2	11.2	100.0	276
Young Man	75.1	16.8	8.1	100.0	273
Young Woman	44.0	42.5	13.4	100.0	268
Total %	63.1	26.9	10.0	100.0	
Total No.	685	292	108		1085.0

Table 24 shows whether respondents would feel safe making a complaint against a corrupt police officer. Overall 63 per cent said they would feel safe, with respondents in Choiseul and Honiara most likely to say 'yes' (80 and 73 per cent). Respondents in Malaita and Guadalcanal were most likely to say they would not feel safe (33 and 32 per cent).

Classification of responses according to preferred avenue for making a complaint against a corrupt police officer (Table 24) shows that those who would choose to make the complaint directly to the police are more likely to say they would feel safe (75 compared with 52 per cent). Among those who said they would use other avenues, 34 per cent said they would not feel safe.

There is also an interesting variation by gender, with men and young men most likely to feel safe making a complaint against a corrupt police officer (81 and 75 per cent), while women and young women were much less likely to say they would feel safe (53 and 44 per cent). Young women and women were also more likely to say they would feel unsafe (43 and 36 per cent), and were also more likely to be unable to answer this question (13 and 11 per cent).

Table 25: Knowledge and interaction with RAMSI, and perception of risk of violent conflict if RAMSI leaves soon (Q6a, Q6b, Q6c and Q6f) (per cent)

	Heard of RAMSI	Seen RAMSI	Spoken to RAMSI	Violence would return			Total No.
				Yes	Maybe	No	
Choiseul	100.0	97.5	35.0	76.3	13.8	12.6	80
Guadalcanal	98.5	90.5	27.9	69.5	20.2	10.2	262
Honiara	100.0	97.5	44.5	66.4	18.5	15.0	238

Malaita	99.7	83.7	24.7	53.8	27.0	19.1	344
Western	99.4	98.1	37.3	77.0	14.3	18.7	161
Rural	99.3	88.9	27.8	63.8	22.2	14.0	766
Urban	99.7	97.8	43.6	69.3	16.9	13.3	319
Man	99.6	94.8	40.3	75.4	13.1	11.5	268
Woman	99.6	90.6	18.5	64.9	26.8	8.2	276
Young Man	100.0	95.2	46.2	54.9	25.3	19.3	273
Young Woman	98.5	85.4	25.0	66.8	17.2	15.5	268
Total %	99.4	91.5	32.4	65.4	20.6	13.5	
Total No.				710	224	146	1085

Note: As DK/NA are not shown, percentages do not sum to 100 although they refer to the whole sample.

Table 25 combines four questions relating to knowledge of, interactions with, and opinions about RAMSI. As DK/NA for each of these questions comprised less than one per cent it is not shown. Only the ‘yes’ responses are shown for the first three questions.

All but six respondents had heard of RAMSI, and in Choiseul, Honiara and Western, almost everyone had seen a RAMSI officer in the past three months (98 per cent in all), but this figure dropped to 84 per cent for Malaita. The percentages who had actually spoken to a RAMSI officer within the past three months were much lower, 32 per cent overall.

Respondents in Honiara were most likely to have spoken to a RAMSI officer (45 per cent), and those in Malaita least likely (25 per cent). Although the surveyed areas in Guadalcanal were all no more than a few hours drive from Honiara, Guadalcanal respondents were only a little more likely than Malaitans to have seen or spoken to a RAMSI officer (91 and 28 per cent, compared with 84 and 25 per cent).

Urban respondents were more likely than rural respondents as a whole to have spoken to a RAMSI officer (44 per cent and 28 per cent). Of the age and gender groups, young men were most likely to have spoken to a RAMSI officer (46 per cent), and young women were more likely to have spoken (25 per cent) than women over age 30 (19 per cent).

Overall, 65 per cent of respondents said that violent conflict would return to Solomon Islands if RAMSI were to leave soon, and 21 per cent thought it might. Western and Choiseul respondents were most likely to answer this question in the affirmative (77 and 76 per cent). Malaitans were least likely to say ‘yes’, but also most likely to say ‘maybe’ (54 and 27 per cent). Young men were least likely to give a definite affirmative answer to this question; with 20 per cent fewer saying RAMSI was essential to maintenance of peace as compared to men (55 and 75 per cent). Respondents in Malaita and young men were most likely to say that violent conflict would not return if RAMSI left Solomon Islands (19 per cent for both).

Table 26: Prefer to report a crime to RAMSI or RSIP (Q6d) (per cent)

	RSIP	RAMSI	No preference or depends on circumstances	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	56.3	26.3	16.3	1.3	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	41.2	29.8	19.5	9.5	100.0	262
Honiara	30.3	52.5	15.5	1.7	100.0	238

	RSIP	RAMSI	No preference or depends on circumstances	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Malaita	56.7	28.2	13.7	1.5	100.0	344
Western	38.5	34.2	23.6	3.7	100.0	161
Rural	49.2	28.5	18.0	4.3	100.0	766
Urban	32.9	49.5	15.0	2.5	100.0	319
Man	41.0	41.0	17.9	0.0	100.0	268
Woman	57.2	34.4	6.5	1.8	100.0	276
Young Man	39.9	32.6	25.6	1.8	100.0	273
Young Woman	39.2	30.6	18.7	11.6	100.0	268
Spoken to RAMSI	39.8	42.9	15.6	1.7	100.0	352
Not spoken to RAMSI	46.7	30.7	17.9	4.8	100.0	733
Total %	44.4	34.7	17.1	3.8	100.0	
Total No.	482	376	186	41		1085

Table 26 shows whether respondents would prefer to report a crime to the RSIP or RAMSI. Overall, 44 per cent would choose the RSIP while 35 per cent would choose RAMSI. There is a marked variation by province, with 57 per cent of Malaitans and 56 per cent in Choiseul choosing RSIP, compared with 30 per cent in Honiara. Conversely, 53 per cent in Honiara would choose RAMSI, compared with 26 and 28 per cent in Western and Malaita. Western respondents, however, were most likely to say that it depends on the circumstances (24 per cent).

Rural respondents as a whole were more likely to choose RSIP (49 per cent) and urban respondents most likely to choose RAMSI (50 per cent). There was substantial variation by gender, with women much more likely to prefer RSIP (57 per cent) while men were equally likely to say RSIP or RAMSI (41 per cent). Young men were most likely to say that it depends on the circumstances (26 per cent).

Respondents who had spoken to a RAMSI officer in the preceding three months were more likely than others to say they would prefer to report to RAMSI (43 compared with 31 per cent), but this was only 3 per cent higher than for respondents who had spoken to RAMSI but preferred to report to RSIP (40 per cent).

Table 27: Perceptions of RAMSI's role (Q6e, Q6g and Q6h) (per cent)

	RAMSI should intervene	Know RAMSI's mission	Preferred method of service provision		Total No.
			By RAMSI	Train SIs	
Choiseul	77.5	98.8	31.3	66.3	80
Guadalcanal	76.0	84.4	33.2	59.2	262
Honiara	79.4	92.9	14.7	80.3	238
Malaita	69.2	79.1	18.6	73.3	344
Western	75.2	90.1	38.5	55.9	161
Rural	73.2	84.5	27.2	67.1	766

Urban	77.1	91.2	20.4	73.4	319
Man	83.6	95.1	31.7	67.5	268
Woman	75.4	85.9	27.9	68.5	276
Young Man	62.3	87.5	21.2	74.4	273
Young Woman	77.2	77.2	19.8	65.3	268
Total %	74.6	86.5	25.2	68.9	
Total No.			273	748	1085

Note: As negatives and DK/NA are not shown, percentages do not sum to 100 although they refer to the whole sample.

Table 27 shows perceptions and knowledge of RAMSI's mission in Solomon Islands. Negatives and DK/NA are not shown, as they were below 6 per cent for each question, with almost all among young women.

Overall, 75 per cent of respondents said RAMSI should intervene if there is violence in a village. The range by province was 10 per cent, with Honiara most likely and Malaita least likely to hold this view (79 and 69 per cent). Rural respondents were a little less likely to say RAMSI should intervene (73 compared with 77 per cent), while among the age and gender groups, men were most likely (84 per cent) and young men least likely (62 per cent) to say RAMSI should intervene.

Most respondents were aware that RAMSI's mission is to strengthen and improve government as well as help to keep the peace (87 per cent overall), with knowledge lowest in Malaita (79 per cent) and among young women (77 per cent).

Q6h asked whether it is preferable for RAMSI officers to provide services or to train Solomon Islanders to provide services. The majority of respondents thought it preferable for RAMSI to train Solomon Islanders (69 per cent), while 25 per cent preferred services to be provided by the RAMSI force. Respondents interviewed in Honiara were least likely to favour provision of services by RAMSI (15 per cent) while those interviewed in Western were most likely to prefer RAMSI (39 per cent). Men and women were most likely to favour provision of services by RAMSI (32 and 28 per cent), while young men were most likely to favour training of Solomon Islanders (74 per cent).

6 Access to justice

This section presents tables derived from Section 7 of the questionnaire, which is concerned with utilisation and perceptions of the justice system. The objective of this section is to inform the RAMSI Program Level Indicator Access to Justice.

Table 28: Preferred source of justice (Q7a) (per cent)

	Custom law	Govt courts	Depends on case	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	43.8	17.5	37.5	1.3	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	54.6	10.3	29.8	5.3	100.0	262
Honiara	26.9	13.9	55.9	3.4	100.0	238
Malaita	47.7	6.1	45.1	1.2	100.0	344
Western	23.6	8.1	67.7	0.6	100.0	161
Rural	48.2	8.5	40.9	2.5	100.0	766

Urban	23.5	13.5	60.2	2.8	100.0	319
Man	38.4	11.9	48.9	0.7	100.0	268
Woman	47.1	8.0	44.9	0.0	100.0	276
Young Man	43.2	11.4	45.1	0.4	100.0	273
Young Woman	34.7	8.6	47.4	9.3	100.0	268
Total %	40.9	10.0	46.5	4.6	100.0	
Total No.	444	108	505	28		1085

Note: As negatives and DK/NR are not shown, percentages do not sum to 100 although they refer to the whole sample.

Table 28 shows the preferred avenue for resolving a legal dispute with a neighbour. Overall, 41 per cent said they would prefer to use customary law, while 10 per cent said they prefer the modern court justice system and 47 per cent would select whichever they thought appropriate for any particular case. Custom law was most likely to be always preferred in Guadalcanal (55 per cent) and least likely in Western and Honiara (24 and 27 and per cent). Government courts were most likely to be preferred in Choiseul (18 per cent). Rural respondents as a whole were more likely to prefer custom law (48 compared with 24 per cent), but urban respondents were more likely to say that it would depend on the particular case (60 and 41 per cent). This suggests greater knowledge of the modern legal system in urban areas. Women were most likely to prefer custom law (47 per cent), and men most likely to say that it depends on the circumstances (49 per cent), while the other age and gender groups were only a few percentage points lower.

Table 29: Perceptions of accessibility of legal services (Q7b, Q7c, Q7d and Q7e) (per cent)

	Wanted to use court	Total No.	Used court	No. in Subset	Court cost prevents use	Know of free legal help	Total No.
Choiseul	15.0	80	58.3	12	43.8	49.3	80
Guadalcanal	17.9	262	48.9	47	33.6	17.4	262
Honiara	17.2	238	56.1	41	35.7	35.9	238
Malaita	21.5	344	41.9	74	40.7	18.7	344
Western	31.1	161	60.0	50	35.4	30.2	161
Rural	20.1	766	64.1	64	38.5	27.0	766
Urban	20.9	319	45.6	160	34.5	37.9	319
Man	37.3	268	56.0	100	58.6	49.3	268
Woman	13.8	276	63.2	38	25.0	17.4	276
Young Man	20.1	273	43.6	55	34.4	35.9	273
Young Woman	11.6	268	32.3	31	31.7	18.7	268
Total %	20.6		50.9		37.3	30.2	
No..	224	1085	114	224	405	328	1085

Note: Negatives and DK/NA are not shown, so percentages do not sum to 100

Note: Columns for 'Wanted to use court' 'Court cost prevent use' and 'Know of free legal help' relate to whole sample (1085). 'Used Court' and 'Number in subset' relate only to the 224 who said they had wanted to use a court

Table 29 presents the affirmative responses only for four questions concerned with perceptions of the accessibility of legal services. The percentages for those who took a case to court are derived from the subset of those who said they had wanted to take a case to court. Overall, 21 per cent of all respondents had ever wanted to take a case to court, and around half of them had actually done so (51 per cent). Respondents in Western were most likely to have wanted to use a court (31 per cent) and to have actually taken a case to court (60 per cent). Urban residents were a little more likely to have taken a case to court (64 per cent compared with 46 per cent). Men were most likely to have wanted to take a case to court (37 per cent) but women who had wanted to were most likely to have actually taken a case to court (37 and 63 per cent).

Choiseul had the highest percentage of respondents who knew someone who was prevented from using a court by the costs, but also the highest percentage that knew of the availability of free legal assistance (44 and 49 per cent). Knowledge of the availability of free legal assistance was much lower in Guadalcanal and Malaita (17 and 19 per cent). It was also lower in rural areas as compared to urban areas (27 and 37 per cent). As the question asked for proxy reporting, it was not possible to establish an association between perception that legal costs are too high and actual use of a court. This could be adjusted in future surveys to enable the link to be made.

Men made most use of and appear to have most knowledge of legal services (59 and 49 per cent) with women having the lowest percentages (25 and 17 per cent). There were 8 and 11 per cent DK/NA rates respectively for the last two columns of the table, most among women and young women. DK/NA was less than 3 per cent for the first two columns (not tabulated).

It appears that those who knew of the availability of free legal services were more likely to take a case to court (61 per cent compared with 41 per cent; table not shown). Forty-four per cent of those who knew of free legal services said they knew someone who could not afford court proceedings, while 49 per cent of those who did not know about free legal services said they knew someone who could not afford court proceedings (table not shown).

Table 30: Victim of crime in respondent's household in the past 2 or 3 years (Q7f) (per cent)

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	16.3	83.8	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	25.2	73.3	1.5	100.0	262
Honiara	24.8	71.4	3.8	100.0	238
Malaita	24.7	74.4	0.9	100.0	344
Western	24.8	69.6	5.6	100.0	161
Rural	24.4	74.5	1.0	100.0	766
Urban	23.8	70.8	5.3	100.0	319
Man	25.0	75.0	0.0	100.0	268
Woman	13.8	85.1	1.1	100.0	276
Young Man	30.0	66.7	3.3	100.0	273
Young Woman	28.4	66.8	4.9	100.0	268
Total %	24.2	73.5	2.3	30.2	
Total No.	263	797	25	328	1085

Table 30 (Q7f) relates to more serious crimes as compared to Q5a, although there is some overlap in the case of robbery. The crimes included in Q7f were robbery, assault, harassment, murder, rape, and inter-group fighting. Domestic violence was excluded from this list because it is an extremely sensitivity matter in Solomon Islands and there was a risk that enquiring about violence at the household level could endanger those who reported it or the person asking the questions.

Overall, 24 per cent of respondents reported that someone in their household had been a victim of crime in the past 2 or 3 years. The percentage reporting a crime was least in Choiseul (16 per cent), but similar elsewhere and in rural and urban areas. Women were at least 10 per cent less likely to say their household had been affected by crime compared with the other age and gender groups.

Table 31: Victim type by place of interview and report of crime to RSIP (Q7g) (per cent)

	Man	Woman	Child	Family	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	30.8	30.8	23.1	15.4	0.0	100.0	13
Guadalcanal	56.7	16.4	4.5	14.9	7.5	100.0	67
Honiara	65.5	20.7	1.7	12.1	0.0	100.0	58
Malaita	62.4	4.7	10.6	22.4	0.0	100.0	85
Western	65.0	7.5	5.0	20.0	2.5	100.0	40
Rural	59.0	10.6	8.5	19.1	2.7	100.0	188
Urban	64.0	18.7	2.7	13.3	1.4	100.0	75
Reported to RSIP	69.1	10.1	5.0	13.7	2.2	100.0	139
Not reported	50.8	15.3	9.3	22.9	1.7	100.0	118
Total %	60.5	12.9	6.8	17.5	2.3	100.0	
Total No.	159	34	18	46	6		263

Note: This table is concerned only with the 263 respondents who had a recent serious crime in their household.

Tables 31 to 34 are concerned only with the 263 respondents who had experienced a recent serious crime in their household. Table 31 shows responses to Q7g, which asked respondents to describe the victim of the crime. It shows that men were generally the most common victims of crime (61 per cent overall) in all provinces except Choiseul, where men and women were equally affected but there were only 13 reports. Women were more likely to be victims in Honiara and Guadalcanal (21 and 16 per cent), than in Malaita and Western (5 and 8 per cent), and in urban areas as compared to rural areas (19 and 11 per cent). Crimes involving both men and women or whole families were less common (18 per cent of all reported), and 2 per cent overall involved only children. Of the total of 263 crimes mentioned by respondents, 139 (69 per cent) were said to be reported to the RSIP. Table 31 shows that crimes against men were more likely to be reported than crimes against women, children and families.

Table 32 summarises the experiences of the justice system reported by the 139 respondents who said a case had been reported to the RSIP. When interpreting these data it must be remembered that the number of valid responses is small and some respondents may be giving proxy reports about the experiences of others in their household.

Use of a lawyer was more common among respondents in Honiara, Malaita, and Western (56, 46 and 45 per cent) than in Guadalcanal and Choiseul (22 and 14 per cent). In Choiseul, one out of seven cases had a lawyer, but this number is too small to support conclusions. Of the 59 respondents who reported that a lawyer had worked on the case, 75 per cent overall said the lawyer was satisfactory. Respondents in Honiara were most likely to be satisfied with the lawyer (90 per cent) and those in Guadalcanal were most likely to be dissatisfied with the lawyer (60 per cent).

Cases were most likely to go to court in Choiseul (72 per cent) and least likely in Guadalcanal (57 per cent). Of the 81 respondents who reported that the case had gone to court, those in Honiara were most likely to say the trial was fair (76 per cent) and those in Malaita most likely to say unfair (27 per cent). It is not possible to assess how these perceptions correlated with the actual legal processes.

Table 32: Experiences after reporting a crime (Q7i, Q7j, Q7k and Q7m) (per cent)

		Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Victim had lawyer?						
	Choiseul	14.3	71.4	14.3	100.0	7
	Guadalcanal	21.7	56.5	21.7	100.0	23
	Honiara	55.9	35.3	8.8	100.0	34
	Malaita	45.7	45.7	8.7	100.0	46
	Western	44.8	55.2	0.0	100.0	29
	Total %	42.4	48.2	9.4	100.0	
	Total No.	59	67	13		139
Satisfied with lawyer?						
	Choiseul	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	1
	Guadalcanal	40.0	60.0	0.0	100.0	5
	Honiara	89.6	10.5	0.0	100.0	19
	Malaita	66.7	19.0	14.3	100.0	21
	Western	76.9	23.1	0.0	100.0	13
	Total %	74.6	20.3	5.1	100.0	
	Total No.	44	12	3		59
Did case go to court?						
	Choiseul	71.4	28.6	0.0	100.0	7
	Guadalcanal	43.5	56.5	0.0	100.0	23
	Honiara	61.8	29.4	8.8	100.0	34
	Malaita	65.2	28.3	6.5	100.0	46
	Western	51.7	44.8	3.4	100.0	29
	Total %	58.3	36.7	5.0	100.0	
	Total No,	81	51	7		139
Was trial fair?						
	Choiseul	60.0	20.0	20.0	100.0	5
	Guadalcanal	0.0	40.0	60.0	100.0	10
	Honiara	76.2	0.0	23.5	100.0	21
	Malaita	53.3	26.7	20.0	100.0	30

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Western	73.3	13.3	13.4	100.0	15
Total %	56.8	18.5	24.7	100.0	
Total No,	46	15	20		81

Note: This table is concerned only with the 139/263 respondents who reported a recent serious crime in their household and who reported that crime, and the subsets who had a lawyer and/or took the crime to court.

Sixty-two of the 81 respondents who said a case had gone to court were able to say how much time elapsed before the case was heard (table not shown). Eight of the 62 said they were still waiting. Of the rest, 30 per cent (16 cases) took less than a month, with three being heard the following day, and 43 per cent (23 cases) taking from one to three months. The remainder took more than three months, with three cases taking longer than 12 months. There were insufficient numbers for any regional pattern to emerge. It was not possible to relate these durations to type of case within the range of crimes asked about in Q7f, i.e. robbery, assault, harassment, murder, rape, inter-group fighting.

Table 33: Why crime was not reported to RSIP (Q7n) (per cent)

	Per cent	No.
No police in our area	11.9	14
Didn't think they'd do anything	25.4	30
Scared of the police	14.4	17
Too busy	7.6	9
Offender was a wantok or family	4.2	5
Forgave or pitied offender	5.9	7
Sorted it themselves or with custom	17.8	21
Did not want to report	3.4	4
DK/NA	9.3	11
Total	100.0	118

Note: This table is concerned only with the 118/263 respondents who had a recent serious crime in their household but did not report it to the RSIP.

Table 33 shows the reasons why the crimes referred to by the remaining respondents were not reported to the RSIP (i.e. 118/263. Six respondents were inadvertently not asked this question because it was overlooked by the interviewer). Again, it must be remembered that there could be duplicate reports of a single crime, and if proxy reports were included, some respondents may not have been fully aware of the reason.

The most common reason given was that it was assumed RSIP would not take any action (25 per cent). Other important reasons were that the victims dealt with the crime themselves or used customary law (18 per cent), were afraid of the police (14 per cent) or there were no police in their area. There were insufficient cases to show a pattern by province.

Table 34: Reporting of crimes to others, and satisfaction with outcome (Q7o and Q7p) (per cent)

Report to others	%	Good outcome			Number
		Yes	No	Waiting	
Chief	37.2	60.0	26.7	11.1	45
Church leaders	9.1	54.5	27.3	9.1	11
Other leaders	6.6	62.5	12.5	25.0	8
Relatives/wantoks	11.6	35.7	50.0	7.1	14
Local boys	1.7	50.0	0.0	0.0	2
Other	0.8	0.0	100	0.0	1
No other report	31.4				38
DK/NA	1.7				2
Total	100.0				121

Note: This table is concerned only with the 263 respondents who had a recent serious crime in their household.

Table 34 shows any others besides the RSIP to whom the crime in the respondent's household was reported. This question was asked only of respondents who said the crime had not been reported to the police. Some interviewers did not follow the skip instructions on the questionnaire correctly for Q7o and Q7p, so three more respondents were asked this question than was intended. In fact this question could probably have been asked of everyone who had experienced a recent crime, as it appears that crimes were commonly reported to others.

The left hand panel of Table 34 shows others to whom crimes were reported. It can be seen that the chief was the principal other recipient of crime reports (37 per cent), followed by relatives and *wantoks*. Tabulation of satisfaction with outcome against the recipient of the report indicates around 60 per cent reported satisfaction with the outcome of their reports to chiefs and other leaders, and 55 per cent with reports to church leaders. Reporting to relatives or wantoks appeared less likely to produce a satisfactory outcome. It is not valid to compare the data on handling of major crimes with handling of minor crimes (5b and 5e) because of possibility of proxy reporting and lack of specification of exactly what type crime is being referenced.

7 Public accountability

This section is concerned with citizens' perceptions of corruption and maladministration. The tables are derived from analysis of the questions in Section 8 of the questionnaire. It contributes information for RAMSI Performance Indicator No. 2: Public Accountability (RAMSI, 2005: 7).

Table 35: Perceptions of corruption in National and Provincial Government and respondent's own village by province (Q8a, Q8b, Q8c and Q8d) (per cent)

	More now	Same	Less now	Never had it	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Corruption in National Government?							
Choiseul	63.8	6.3	28.8	0.0	1.3	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	64.5	9.5	19.1	0.8	6.1	100.0	262
Honiara	40.3	22.7	29.0	0.0	8.0	100.0	238
Malaita	59.9	8.1	24.4	0.0	7.6	100.0	344
Western	62.7	13.0	21.7	0.6	1.9	100.0	161
Total %	57.4	12.3	24.1	0.3	6.0	100.0	

	More now	Same	Less now	Never had it	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Total No.	623	133	261	3	65		1085
Corruption in Provincial Government?							
Choiseul	45.0	17.5	32.5	5.0	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	47.3	14.5	27.5	3.8	6.9	100.0	262
Honiara	31.5	16.0	32.8	0.4	19.3	100.0	238
Malaita	40.4	12.5	30.5	2.0	14.5	100.0	344
Western	32.3	32.3	28.0	3.1	4.3	100.0	161
Total %	39.3	17.1	30.0	2.1	11.5	100.0	
Total No.	426	185	326	23	125		1085
Corruption in your village?							
Choiseul	18.8	25.0	43.8	12.5	0.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	17.9	29.8	24.4	27.5	0.4	100.0	262
Honiara	13.0	26.9	14.7	27.3	18.1	100.0	238
Malaita	15.7	22.4	30.2	24.7	7.0	100.0	344
Western	17.4	31.7	31.1	15.5	4.4	100.0	161
Total %	16.1	26.7	26.5	23.7	7.0	100.0	
Total No.	175	290	288	257	76		1085

Table 35 compares respondents' perceptions of changes in levels of corruption at different levels of government and community over the past one or two years. There is an interesting progression in the first column of the table, with National Government more likely to be perceived as having a worsening level of corruption than Provincial Government, and villages less likely to be perceived as having a worsening level of corruption compared with Provincial Government. Very few respondents said there was no corruption in National or Provincial Government, but almost a quarter thought their own village was free of corruption.

Respondents interviewed in Honiara and Choiseul were most likely to perceive levels of corruption in National and Provincial Government as declining (29 and 33 per cent for both), with Malaita a few percentage points lower (24 and 31 per cent). Honiara respondents were most likely not to give an opinion about changing levels of corruption in Provincial Government or in their village (19 and 18 per cent). This could be partly because they thought the question did not apply to them. Further comments about corruption can be found in the analysis of focus group discussions.

Table 36: Perceptions of corruption in National and Provincial Government and respondent's own village by rural or urban (Q8a, Q8b, Q8c and Q8d) (per cent)

	More now	Same	Less now	Never had it	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Corruption in National Government?							
Rural	62.0	9.7	22.3	0.4	5.6	100.0	766
Urban	46.4	18.5	28.2	0.0	6.9	100.0	319
Total %	57.4	12.3	24.1	0.3	6.0	100.0	
Total No.	623	133	261	3	65		1085
Corruption in Provincial Government?							
Rural	42.0	16.2	29.8	2.6	9.4	100.0	766
Urban	32.6	19.1	30.7	0.9	16.6	100.0	319
Total %	39.3	17.1	30.0	2.1	11.5	100.0	

	Total No.	426	185	326	23	125		1085
Corruption in your village?								
	Rural	17.2	26.4	29.6	23.4	3.4	100.0	766
	Urban	13.5	27.6	19.1	24.5	15.3	100.0	319
	Total %	16.1	26.7	26.5	23.7	7.0	100.0	
	Total No.	175	290	288	257	76		1085

Table 36 presents the same information as Table 35, stratified by rural or urban residence rather than by province. It shows that rural residents were more likely to perceive increasing corruption at all levels of government (42 per cent). There was little difference between rural and urban residents in perception of levels of corruption in villages as declining or staying the same (16 and 19 per cent) and they were almost equally likely to believe there was no corruption in their village (30 and 31 per cent).

Table 37: Perceptions of corruption in National and Provincial Government and respondent's own village by respondent type (Q8a, Q8b, Q8c and Q8d) (per cent)

		More now	Same	Less now	Never had it	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Corruption in National Government?								
	Man	56.3	19.8	19.4	0.0	4.5	100.0	268
	Woman	60.1	5.4	25.7	0.4	8.3	100.0	276
	Young Man	63.4	11.4	20.9	0.4	4.0	100.0	273
	Young Woman	49.6	12.7	30.2	0.4	7.1	100.0	268
	Total %	57.4	12.3	24.1	0.3	6.0	100.0	
	Total No.	623	133	261	3	65		1085
Corruption in Provincial Government?								
	Man	43.3	22.0	25.7	2.6	6.3	100.0	268
	Woman	40.9	10.5	36.2	1.1	11.2	100.0	276
	Young Man	42.1	16.1	26.4	4.4	11.0	100.0	273
	Young Woman	30.6	19.8	31.7	0.4	17.5	100.0	268
	Total %	39.3	17.1	30.0	2.1	11.5	100.0	
	Total No.	426	185	326	23	125		1085
Corruption in your village?								
	Man	21.6	31.3	24.6	20.1	2.3	100.0	268
	Woman	14.1	22.8	25.4	26.1	11.6	100.0	276
	Young Man	15.4	27.8	25.6	27.1	4.0	100.0	273
	Young Woman	13.4	25.0	30.6	21.3	9.7	100.0	268
	Total %	16.1	26.7	26.5	23.7	7.0	100.0	
	Total No.	175	290	288	257	76		1085

Table 37 presents the same information on perceptions of corruption, this time stratified by type of respondent. Women were a little more likely than men to perceive corruption in National Government as increasing (60 compared with 56 per cent), while young men were more likely to hold this view than any other group (63 per cent). Young women were most likely to say that corruption in National Government had declined (30 per cent).

Women were more likely to say that corruption in Provincial Government had declined (36 per cent), while men and young men were more likely to say it had increased (43 and 42 per cent). Men were more likely than other groups to say that corruption in their village had increased (22 per cent), while young men and women were most likely to say that they had never had corruption in their village (24 and 26 per cent), possibly signifying less awareness.

Table 38: How respondent would report a corrupt government official (Q8e) (per cent)

	First answer		Second answer	
	%	No.	%	No.
Would tell:				
Village chief	9.4	102	0.2	2
Police	25.5	277	2.3	26
My MP	14.6	158	2.8	31
NGO	0.9	10	0.1	1
Ombudsman or Leadership Commission	21.9	238	8.9	96
RAMSI	1.5	16	1.5	17
Their immediate boss	1.3	14	0.8	9
Media or similar	1.2	13	0.2	2
Would not report	0.8	9	0.3	3
No first answer	22.9	248		
No second answer			82.9	898
Total %	100.0		100.0	
Total No.		1085		1085

Table 38 shows to whom respondents would report a government official they perceived as corrupt. Two answers could be recorded for this question. The most common choice was the Ombudsman or Leadership Commission (31 per cent when first and second answers are combined). Next most common was ‘the police’ (28 per cent combined). Another common response was ‘my MP’ (18 per cent combined) and village chief (10 per cent). The DK/NA rate for this question was 23 per cent.

Table 39: Perceptions of whether it is safe to make a complaint against a government official (Q8f) (per cent)

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	76.3	22.5	1.3	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	55.0	30.9	14.1	100.0	262
Honiara	64.7	23.9	11.3	100.0	238
Malaita	53.8	32.6	13.7	100.0	344
Western	61.5	24.2	14.3	100.0	161
Rural	59.1	29.4	11.5	100.0	766
Urban	59.6	25.7	14.7	100.0	319
Man	81.7	12.7	5.6	100.0	268
Woman	43.5	37.7	18.8	100.0	276
Young Man	74.4	16.1	9.5	100.0	273
Young Woman	37.7	46.6	15.7	100.0	268

Total %	59.3	28.3	12.4	100.0	
Total No.	643	307	135		1085

Table 39 shows respondents perception of the risk attached to reporting a corrupt government official. Choiseul respondents were most likely to feel safe (76 per cent), with respondents in Malaita and Guadalcanal most likely to say they would not feel safe (33 and 31 per cent). While there was almost no difference between rural and urban areas (59 and 60 per cent), there is a striking variation between gender groups, with a little more than half as many women saying they would feel safe compared with men (44 compared with 82 per cent). Similarly, almost twice as many young men as young women said they would feel safe (38 compared with 74 per cent). The level of DK/NA was 12 per cent overall, with women and young women less likely to give a definite answer to this question.

Table 40: Perceptions of whether the Auditor General’s Office can help fight corruption in government (Q8g) (per cent)

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	71.3	13.8	15.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	58.8	9.5	31.7	100.0	262
Honiara	68.1	9.2	22.7	100.0	238
Malaita	48.8	19.2	32.0	100.0	344
Western	55.3	21.1	23.6	100.0	161
Rural	57.4	14.1	28.5	100.0	766
Urban	59.6	15.7	24.8	100.0	319
Man	80.2	9.7	10.1	100.0	268
Woman	55.4	10.9	33.7	100.0	276
Young Man	53.8	19.8	26.4	100.0	273
Young Woman	42.9	17.9	39.2	100.0	268
Total %	58.1	14.6	27.4	100.0	
Total No.	630	158	297		1085

Table 40 shows that 58 per cent of respondents thought the Auditor General’s Office could help fight corruption in government. Respondents in Western and Malaita were most likely to believe that the Auditor General’s Office could not help (21 and 19 per cent), and also young men and young women (20 and 18 per cent). Twenty-seven per cent of respondents did not know or did not answer (DK/NA) this question.

Table 41: Do you think Parliament can help fight corruption in Government? (Q8h) (per cent)

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	46.3	38.8	15.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	50.8	31.3	17.9	100.0	262
Honiara	66.0	13.4	20.6	100.0	238
Malaita	64.0	22.7	13.4	100.0	344
Western	46.6	36.0	17.4	100.0	161
Rural	58.0	26.8	15.3	100.0	766

	Yes	No	DK/NA	Total %	Total No.
Urban	55.8	23.8	16.8	100.0	319
Man	65.3	25.7	9.0	100.0	268
Woman	62.0	18.1	19.9	100.0	276
Young Man	52.0	36.6	11.4	100.0	273
Young Woman	50.0	23.1	26.9	100.0	268
Total %	57.3	25.9	16.8	100.0	
Total No.	622	281	182		1085

Table 41 shows respondents' views on whether Parliament can help fight corruption. Overall 26 per cent answered in the negative. Respondents in Choiseul and Western were most likely to say they do not think Parliament can help fight corruption (39 and 36 per cent), while respondents in Honiara and Malaita were most likely to say that it can (66 and 64 per cent). Again, rural and urban patterns were similar, but there was less difference between men and women in their responses to this question than in their perceptions of some other accountability issues. Young men were more likely to doubt the capacity of Parliament to fight corruption than were men (37 as compared with 26 per cent). Young women were least likely to say that Parliament can help fight corruption (50 per cent), and also most likely not to answer (27 per cent). DK/NA was recorded for 17 per cent overall.

8 Parliamentary representation

The last cluster of tables focus on Section 9 of the questionnaire, which was concerned with civic awareness and perceptions about parliamentary representation. The objective of this section is to inform the RAMSI Program Level Indicator: civic awareness and quality of representation.

Table 42: Participation and knowledge of parliamentary representation (Q9a, Q9b, Q9c, Q9f) (per cent)

	Voted	Know RCDF	MP spent RCDF	Know MPs job	Total %	Total No.
Choiseul	78.8	87.5	23.8	90.0	100.0	80
Guadalcanal	78.6	84.4	32.1	80.5	100.0	262
Honiara	57.6	75.2	27.3	79.8	100.0	238
Malaita	90.1	84.3	41.9	84.6	100.0	344
Western	75.2	88.8	54.7	77.6	100.0	161
Rural	84.1	85.6	38.1	84.2	100.0	766
Urban	60.5	77.4	33.9	76.5	100.0	319
Man	89.6	95.5	39.9	90.7	100.0	268
Woman	87.0	80.1	31.9	79.3	100.0	276
Young Man	71.1	90.1	46.2	86.8	100.0	273
Young Woman	60.8	67.2	20.9	70.9	100.0	268
Total %	77.1	83.2	36.9	81.9	100.0	
Total No.						1085

Note: As negatives and DK/NA are not shown, some percentages do not sum to 100 although all are based on the full sample of 1085 respondents.

Table 42 presents the affirmative responses to four questions on voting and knowledge of parliamentary representatives' responsibilities and performance. DK/NA comprised less than 10 per cent for each of these questions.

The first column of the table shows that, overall, 77 per cent of respondents voted in the April 2006 election, with generally quite high levels of voting in each province. A relatively low percentage of Honiara respondents voting (58 per cent) and hence urban respondents as a whole (61 per cent), compared with respondents in rural areas (84 per cent). In contrast, more than 90 per cent of respondents in Malaita voted in the recent 2006 elections. The percentage of women voting was close to that for men (87 as compared to 90 per cent). Lower participation of young men and young women (71 and 61 per cent) may be because some of those interviewed were below voting age.

Knowledge of the Rural Constituency Development Fund (RCDF) was generally high across all groups except young woman, with 83 per cent overall, and higher in rural than in urban areas (86 and 77 per cent) as would be expected because of its focus. The percentages reporting RCDF funds being spent in their electorate were much lower, at 37 per cent overall. Respondents in Western (55 per cent) and Malaita (42 per cent) were most likely to report that their MP had spent RCDF funds in their electorate. A higher percentage of young men reported expenditure of RCDF funds by their MP (46 per cent) as compared to adult men and women (40 and 32 per cent).

The fourth column of Table 42 shows knowledge that MP's represent economic, social and political interests. Overall 82 per cent said they knew about these responsibilities, with at least 78 per cent in each province. Even among young women there appeared to be a high level of awareness of MPs' responsibilities (71 per cent).

Table 43: Visit from MP - before 2006 election and expected in future (Q9d, Q9e) (per cent)

	MP visit before			MP visit expected			Total No.
	Yes	No	D.K	Yes	No	DK	
Choiseul	40.0	55.0	5.0	23.8	31.3	45.0	80
Guadalcanal	26.3	67.9	5.7	26.3	35.9	37.8	262
Honiara	42.0	50.0	8.0	29.4	18.1	52.5	238
Malaita	62.8	36.0	1.2	48.5	16.9	34.6	344
Western	43.5	51.6	5.0	31.7	24.2	44.1	161
Rural	45.3	51.4	3.3	37.1	25.1	37.9	766
Urban	43.9	48.3	7.8	28.8	21.0	50.2	319
Man	41.0	55.2	3.7	37.7	27.2	35.1	268
Woman	38.8	54.7	6.5	33.7	21.4	44.9	276
Young Man	50.2	46.9	2.9	39.6	19.8	40.7	273
Young Woman	49.6	45.1	5.2	27.6	27.2	45.1	268
Total %	44.9	50.5	4.6	34.7	34.7	41.5	100.0
Total No.	487	548	50	376	259	450	1085

Table 43 shows considerable variation in reports of MPs visiting villages before the 2006 election. Overall, less than half reported a visit from their MP (45 per cent). The lowest

percentage was in Guadalcanal (26 per cent) and the highest in Malaita (62 per cent). There was little variation between rural and urban areas. Young people were more likely to say their MP had visited their village as compared to men and women (50 per cent compared with 41 and 39 per cent). The DK/NA rate was 5 per cent. In contrast, 42 per cent of respondents did not have an opinion on whether their MP would visit in the next two or three years. Thirty-five per cent overall were confident there would be a visit, most of whom were in Malaita (49 per cent), and more in rural areas than in urban areas (37 and 29 per cent). The responses by gender and age group were within 10 per cent of each other.

Table 44: Past performance and future expectations of MPs (Q9g and Q9h) (per cent)

	MP served interests			Expect MP to be good			Total
	Yes	No	D.K	Yes	No	DK	No.
Choiseul	20.0	55.0	25.0	23.8	31.3	45.0	80
Guadalcanal	15.3	72.9	11.8	30.2	38.9	30.9	262
Honiara	29.8	39.9	30.3	25.6	20.6	53.8	238
Malaita	41.6	44.5	14.0	54.9	12.8	32.3	344
Western	34.8	35.4	29.8	43.5	21.1	35.4	161
Rural	31.5	53.8	14.8	43.2	23.9	32.9	766
Urban	26.6	40.1	33.2	27.3	22.3	50.5	319
Man	35.4	54.9	9.7	41.4	27.2	31.3	268
Woman	25.4	53.6	21.0	36.6	22.5	40.9	276
Young Man	30.4	51.3	18.3	42.9	23.4	33.7	273
Young Woman	29.1	39.2	31.7	33.2	20.5	46.3	268
Total %	30.0	49.8	20.2	38.5	23.4	38.1	100.0
Total No.	326	540	219	418	254	413	1085

Table 44 shows respondents' assessments of whether their previous MP argued for the interests of their community in Parliament before the 2006 election, and their expectations of their current MP. Overall, 30 per cent thought their MP had represented their interests in the past, while 50 per cent did not and 20 per cent were uncertain. Malaitans were most likely to say their MP represented their interests (42 per cent), but slightly more said their MP did not represent their interests (45 per cent). Guadalcanal respondents were most likely to be dissatisfied with previous representation (73 per cent). Respondents in rural areas were more likely to answer in the negative as compared with urban residents (54 and 40 per cent).

Men were more likely to believe their MP had served their interests than were women (35 and 25 per cent). Similar percentages of men, women and young men thought their MP had not served their interests (55, 54 and 51 per cent), but DK/NA was recorded for higher percentages of young women (32 per cent).

The right hand panel of Table 44 shows expectations of current MPs. Overall, 38 per cent were recorded as 'DK/NA' for this question. Malaitans were most likely to expect their MP to represent their interests well (55 per cent), followed by Western (44 per cent). Guadalcanal respondents were most likely to expect that their MP would not do a good job of representing their interests (39 per cent). Respondents in Honiara and Choiseul were most likely not to express an opinion (54 and 45 per cent).

Rural residents tended to be more optimistic about the future performance of their MP (43 per cent) as compared with urban residents (27 per cent), but 51 per cent of urban residents did not express an opinion. Again the range among the age and gender groups did not exceed 10 per cent, with young women most likely not to have an opinion.

9 Summary of quantitative analysis

As noted in preceding sections, the sample is not representative, and limited training of interviewers and the design of some questions mean that the data should always be used with care and clear statements of its limitations. This section summarises the above findings and makes a few comments on possible interpretation. Where possible, the results are compared with comments in the focus group discussion. The tables in the preceding sections should be considered in conjunction with the summary below when drawing conclusions about the survey findings.

9a: Growth across Solomon Islands

The data show generally negative perceptions of the level of prices of basic goods and of current household economic situation (Table 2), with 87 per cent saying prices were too expensive and 70 per cent saying their household economic situation was worse than in the previous year. The majority of respondents expected their financial situation to be the same (20 per cent) or worse (43 per cent) in two or three years (Table 3). While perceptions that prices were too high might be expected in any such survey, focus group discussions yielded hard evidence of increases in prices of basic goods. For example, Western Province respondents reported that a Schweppes bottle of kerosene cost \$1.20 a few years ago, increased to \$2.50, and then in 2005 increased to \$3.50. A respondent in Guadalcanal said the cost of a litre of kerosene had increased from \$5.00 to \$15.00. Malaitan respondents said a kilo of rice cost \$5.00 in 2005, but had increased to \$7.00-8.00 at the time of interview. Bread had increased from 20 cents in 2005 to 50 cents or more in 2006, and soap from \$1.00 to \$2.00 or more. From a teacher's salary of \$400 per fortnight (approximately AUD 80.00) \$100 would be needed for a sack of rice or flour, around \$150 for other essential food, kerosene etc, and \$50 for transport, leaving only \$100 to meet other household expenses. There was also evidence of a general pessimism about the future in Table 4, and also in focus group discussions, with many saying 'the worst is yet to come'. Further discussion of qualitative data household economy appears in Part Two of this report.

Only small differences in perception of the future were discernable between wage earners and those receiving remittances as compared with those without these sources of income (Table 4). Whether those with augmented incomes found basic goods more affordable was not asked, but could be explored in a future survey. The expected source of assistance for their village named by the largest percentage of respondents was the National Government (48 per cent) (Tables 5a and 5b).

During training in Honiara some trainees were of the opinion that village people might not perceive youth unemployment as an issue. This proved not to be the case, with 92 per cent overall and at least 85 per cent of respondents in each province saying that youth employment is a serious problem in their village (Table 6). Scarcity of employment opportunities for youth was mentioned in focus group discussions as a key issue in the Solomon Islands that increases the economic dependency rate (i.e. the burden on wage earners) and contributes to high-risk youth behaviour, youth exploitation and social destabilisation. Unemployed youth were said to be the main protagonists, if not the organisers, of the arson attacks on Chinatown in April 2006, and were perceived by some focus group respondents as a threat to village security.

These findings suggest that although in 2005 the economy of the Solomon Islands (as measured by GDP) grew at a healthier rate than some other Pacific Island nations, and was projected to continue growing at more than 5 per cent per annum (RAMSI, 2005: 16), the benefits of this growth have not yet trickled down to the general population. It also appears that the majority of respondents in the Pilot Survey were unaware of or anticipated no personal benefit from the figures for projected growth.

9b: Public sector capacity and capability

Fifty-eight per cent of respondents and the majority in each age and gender group had visited a health aid post, health centre, or hospital five times or more during the preceding year (Table 7) and the main source of health services was the national government (72 per cent). Such high rates of health service utilisation are normally expected only among women of reproductive age and older people in, for example, Australia and New Zealand. They could reflect both generally poor health and nutrition and also lack of resources such as pharmacies to support self-treatment of minor injuries, infections, and malaria. They increase the burden of providing health services to a very dispersed population.

Women were most likely to have visited a facility five or more times (69 per cent) and young men least likely (47 per cent). This is consistent with the worldwide pattern of women tending to make more use of health facilities for reproductive health and obstetric reasons.

Thirty-two per cent of respondents were always satisfied with the health services they received and 48 per cent sometimes satisfied (Table 8). There was only a small difference between all rural and all urban areas, with rural respondents a little more likely to be always satisfied than were urban respondents (32 and 30 per cent). This was an unexpected finding in view of the usual assumptions that health services are perceived as superior in urban areas, and may reflect proximity of respondents to a health centre. For example, nobody in Choiseul (Taro) said they were dissatisfied, which could reflect the presence of a reasonably well-equipped hospital in Taro.

It was not clear from the data whether other facilities were jointly funded by government and donors or wholly funded by donors. It was therefore not possible to explore the association between source of health services and satisfaction, but this could be one objective of future questionnaires and focus group discussions.

Forty-seven per cent thought health services were better compared with a year ago, and 64 per cent thought schools had improved, but 28 per cent thought schools were worse (Table 10). Twenty-six per cent thought roads had improved, with slightly more saying they had deteriorated and almost half saying they had stayed the same. Despite substantial recent investment in road maintenance in Honiara, 37 per cent of Honiara respondents thought roads had deteriorated in the past year. As in Table 8, there was no evidence that services in urban areas are perceived as better or more likely to improve, with rural respondents more likely to perceive improvements in all three services. The focus group discussions analysed in Part Two of this report suggest that one reason for the greater improvement in rural areas could be that rural services deteriorated more during the Tensions relative to services in urban areas, and have therefore shown most improvement.

The findings suggest that national strategies to restore and improve health services and schools since the Tensions have been successful to some extent, but the effects have not yet been felt everywhere. The higher percentages reporting improvements in schools than reporting improvements in health services may be because more schools than health facilities shut down altogether during the Tensions. Progress so far seems to have generated some

optimism about future health services (data were not collected on perceptions of schools and roads in the future). There is less perceived improvement in roads, but it is not possible to say from these data whether the roads that had stayed the same were in need of improvement.

An extra set of questions might have been included in this section to gather information on access to health services and school attendance at the time of interview compared to during the Tensions to improve the utility of these data for RAMSI PI No. 10: public perception of access to and responsiveness of key public services.

Sixty-four per cent expected better health services in the future, slightly more in rural areas (65 per cent) than in urban (63 per cent) (Table 11). Thirty-five per cent of respondents thought the main source of assistance for health services should be the National Government, while 19 per cent thought it would be donors such as AusAID, EU, and JICA, with DK/NA recorded for 38 per cent (Table 12). Respondents not expecting improvement (Q3e) or not answering were not asked where the assistance would come from (Q3f), because it referred back to this expectation. In future surveys this question could be reworded so that everyone can express an opinion on where assistance might come from.

9c Community Confidence

While 36 per cent of respondents rated their village as safe and peaceful, 52 per cent said there were sometimes law and order problems (Table 13). The majority (59 per cent) said the law and order situation had improved in the past year, and 9 per cent said it had deteriorated (Table 14).

The level of property crime was perceived by most respondents as less than (46 per cent) or the same (26 per cent) as one year ago, but was most likely to be perceived as better by respondents in Honiara (55 per cent). This is interesting given that the Survey was conducted only two weeks after the widespread arson in Chinatown, and suggests that dramatic event was perceived as very localised and not paralleled by an increase village crime. Another interesting feature is that respondents in Guadalcanal were most likely to report that there had never been property crime in their village. Overall, 54 per cent of urban residents reported an improvement as regards the level of property crime, compared with 45 per cent of rural residents. This could indicate a lower baseline and more room for improvement in urban areas and also more efficient policing in urban areas.

The level of violent crime was perceived as less by 48 per cent and as the same by 25 per cent (Table 16). Twelve per cent said violent crime had increased. There were marked variations by age and gender group, and substantial DK/NA rates, suggesting that women and young people may be reluctant to discuss violent crime because they feel more vulnerable. Focus group respondents, however, said that all groups in society were equally vulnerable to threats against their person or property and did not perceive women and children as being especially vulnerable. A major source of insecurity mentioned in focus group discussions in all areas were gangs of unemployed males intoxicated with consuming home brew (*kwaso*). Assaults, demands for money and various other threats were mentioned. It was said that these gangs disregard customary law while police were unable or reluctant to intervene. This is discussed further in Part Two below.

9d Police accountability

Forty-eight per cent of respondents said that their household had experienced a robbery or theft from the garden in the past year (Table 17). Tables 18 to 22 analyse the action taken to address this theft are robbery, and are thus concerned with subsets of respondents rather than with the total sample of 1085.

Of the 520 who had a crime in their household, 28 per cent said the crime had been reported to the RSIP (Table 18). Urban respondents were more likely to report (42 per cent) than respondents in rural areas (23 per cent), and respondents in Western least likely to report (19 per cent). This could reflect the relative police presence in rural and urban areas, although it must be noted that there are differences in police presence in small cohesive rural communities, such as Taro in Choiseul, and dispersed rural communities like those surveyed in Malaita.

Of those who reported, 25 per cent were satisfied with the action taken by the police but 63 per cent said they were not satisfied (Table 19). The most common reasons for not reporting a robbery or theft was 'it was not expected the police would do anything' (26 per cent) 'no police in the area' (16 per cent) or 'no evidence' (14 per cent) (Table 21).

It was not possible to distinguish between types of crime, but some of these crimes appear to have been quite minor and may also be difficult for the police to investigate, so the percentages may not reflect the actual need for police intervention. It is recommended that future surveys should ask respondents to provide more details about the crime they are reporting.

As the question relates to household rather than personal experience, respondents are not necessarily the immediate victims of the crime, and may be giving proxy reports. Their assessments of satisfaction with police action, whether police were respectful, and why some crimes were not reported may therefore be second hand rather than a reflection of their personal experience. It is also possible that a particular crime was referenced by more than one respondent. These questions could be refined to avoid these limitations in future surveys.

Nonetheless there appears to be considerable dissatisfaction and scepticism about likely police action. Questions about police competence seem to be more of a concern than likely treatment by the police, with 59 per cent saying they had been treated respectfully by the police (Table 20). Women were least likely to say they had been treated with respect (48 per cent), but young women most likely (72 per cent). Doubts about police competence and performance are also reflected in failure to report crimes to the police when there was no evidence (Tables 21 and 22).

There was much discussion of police accountability in the focus groups (Part Two of this report), and this needs to be considered in conjunction with the findings in the tables. Criticisms included poor performance, lack of neutrality and involvement in corruption.

Forty-three per cent of respondents said they would complain directly to the police if they thought a police officer was corrupt (Table 23), but 20 per cent would prefer to report to their chief. Sixty-three per cent thought it safe to complain against a police officer (Table 24), but women, both older and younger, were less likely to say they would feel safe (53 and 44 per cent).

Respondents were not given a specific definition of corruption for these questions, but there were no reports of failure to understand. The focus group discussions in Part Two show that perceptions of corruption may vary, however, with some perceiving it mainly in terms misappropriation, embezzlement, bribery and disregard of rules and procedures, and others focussing on the moral corruption.

Some focus group respondents had doubts about the capability of chiefs to deal with problems in the modern sector. A persistent theme in the focus groups as a whole was that people feel unable to report corruption or other inappropriate behaviour because of likely recriminations and lack of confidential mechanisms for reporting, and this may help to explain the high DK/NA percentages for questions about reporting crime and corruption.

Virtually every respondent had heard of RAMSI, and 92 per cent had seen a RAMSI officer in the past three months, compared with 32 per cent who had spoken to one (Table 25). Sixty-five per cent thought violence would return if RAMSI withdrew from Solomon Islands, and 21 per cent said 'Maybe' (Table 25). The larger percentage preferring to report a crime to the RSIP (44 per cent) than to RAMSI (35 per cent) could reflect lack of contact with RAMSI and/or RAMSI's reduced involvement in local policing and transfer of responsibilities to RSIP (Table 26). Specific data on the number of RSIP and RAMSI personnel at each of the villages interviewed could shed further light on these patterns, but were not available for this analysis.

Many focus group respondents said that RAMSI should visit villages and communities more often and should be more accessible to communities. Both the quantitative and qualitative analysis indicate that most respondents would like to see all RAMSI personnel make greater efforts to interact with the community.

Sixty-five per cent thought violent conflict would return to Solomon Islands if RAMSI left in the near future, but 21 per cent were not sure. Seventy-five per cent thought RAMSI should intervene if there is violence in a village, again reflecting the wish of many respondents to see RAMSI engage in community policing.

Eighty-seven per cent of respondents knew that RAMSI's mission is to strengthen and improve government as well as to help keep the peace and 69 per cent expressed a preference for RAMSI to train Solomon Islanders to provide services rather than for RAMSI to provide them (Table 27). Although this could be partly due to the question design, it seems that while the majority of respondents value the contribution of RAMSI to peacekeeping, many still feel more comfortable with RSIP. Comments from interviewers and respondents suggest this is in part because members of the RAMSI force, especially the Australians, are perceived as remote, as aggressive drivers, as privileged or as having other undesirable characteristics. RAMSI's contribution would probably be valued even more if closer contact with the community improved communication and dispelled these attitudes, and at the same time RAMSI provided more training and support for local officials. Part of a strategy to improve communication would be dissemination of these survey results.

9e Access to justice

Forty-one per cent of respondents said that they would prefer to use custom law rather than modern law, and 47 per cent said it would depend on the circumstances (Table 28). This indicates that there is still much respect for custom law, but some respondents are aware that, in some circumstances, modern law may bring a better outcome. This is supported by focus group comments that chiefs are sometimes intimidated by criminals or socially disruptive groups, and suggestions that customary law may be ill equipped to deal with some contemporary crimes.

Levels of familiarity with and use of the modern legal system were low, however. Twenty-one per cent of all respondents said they had wanted to take a case to court, of which 51 per cent had ever used a court (Table 29). Thirty-seven per cent said they knew someone who was

prevented from using the court system by the high costs, and 30 per cent knew of the availability of free legal assistance (Table 29).

Twenty-four per cent of respondents said there had been a victim of a major crime such as robbery, assault, harassment, murder, rape, or inter-group fighting in their household in the past year (Table 30). Although there were approximately equal numbers of respondent type in each area, women aged 30 and older were much less likely to say their household had been affected by crime (14 per cent). Since women were only slightly less likely to report robbery or theft from garden (Table 24), this suggests that women may be more likely to be afraid to mention or discuss violent crimes.

The 263 respondents who reported a major crime were asked a series of questions on how the offence was handled. Sixty-nine per cent of these crimes were reported to the police (Table 31), and 42 per cent of those who reported a crime had used a lawyer (Table 32). Seventy-five per cent of those who used a lawyer were satisfied with the lawyer. Fifty-eight per cent of the reported crimes went to court, and 57 per cent per cent of respondents answering this question perceived the trial as fair (Table 32).

As in the case of minor theft, the main reasons for not reporting more serious crimes included not expecting the police to do anything (25 per cent) and no police in the area (12 per cent) (Table 33). In this case, however, 14 per cent of respondents who did not report a crime said they were 'scared of the police'. From 50 to more than 60 per cent of those who reported the crime to their chief, other leaders, church leaders or 'local boys' said they were satisfied with the outcome (Table 34). This is similar to the 57 per cent who thought a court trial was fair.

It must be remembered that these answers could include proxy reports. Another limitation of this series of questions is that the respondent did not specify the nature of the crime they were reporting, or if there had been more than one crime in their household and, if so, which one they were describing. Redesign of questions and sequencing could improve the quality of data collection in future surveys, and specific questions to relate traditional or modern justice, outcomes and procedures to perceptions of fairness could also be added.

9f Public accountability

The majority of respondents thought corruption in the National Government had increased (57 per cent), but fewer thought corruption had increased in Provincial Government (39 per cent) while 30 per cent thought it had declined. Seventeen per cent thought corruption had increased in their village, and 24 per cent said they had never had corruption in their village (Tables 35 and 36). The focus group discussions described in Part Two contained many comments on the nature and extent of corruption, with most respondents perceiving it as deeply rooted in society. For example '*Corruption will not be eradicated. It exists within our communities and is here to stay. Corruption starts within our local communities. Corruption will only stop when this world comes to an end*' (Malaitan Man).

Most Honiara respondents had a view on changing levels of corruption in National Government, but they were more likely not to give an opinion about changing levels of corruption in Provincial Government or in their village (19 and 18 per cent) (Table 35). This could be partly because they thought the question did not apply to them, or perhaps because residents in urban areas tend to have weaker connections with local community organisations. Otherwise there was little difference between rural and urban residents in perception of levels of corruption in villages as declining or staying the same (16 and 19 per cent) and they were almost equally likely to believe there was no corruption in their village (30 and 31 per cent). While this could suggest a tendency to idealise the village as the pure heart of the community

when compared with other levels of governance, respondents in focus group discussions of the origins and nature of corruption generally regarded it as endemic (see Part Two).

Twenty-six per cent of respondents would report a corrupt government official to the police, and 25 per cent to the Ombudsman or Leadership Commission (Table 38). Fifty-nine per cent said they would feel safe making such a complaint, but half as many women as men said they would feel safe (Table 39). The DK/NA rate for this question of 23 per cent may signify that some people, especially women, felt uncomfortable or thought it unsafe to discuss this topic, even though the question was hypothetical.

Fifty-eight per cent thought the Auditor General's Office can help fight corruption, but a DK/NA rate of 27 per cent suggests that some respondents do not know about the Auditor General's Office (Table 40). Fifty-seven per cent thought Parliament can help fight corruption (Table 41). The findings in this section suggest high levels of awareness of corruption in Solomon Islands, but less knowledge of the correct channels for dealing with it, and, for some, fear of recriminations if a complaint is made against a corrupt official.

Focus group discussions confirmed that many people have probably heard of but do not understand the role of the officials and institutions that could help combat corruption, and the community would appreciate more civic education, such as was provided before the 2006 elections.

9g Parliamentary representation

The Pilot Survey found 77 per cent of respondents overall had voted in the 2006 election (Table 42). A striking feature is the relatively low percentage of Honiara respondents voting (58 per cent) and hence urban respondents as a whole (61 per cent), compared with respondents in rural areas (84 per cent). In contrast, more than 90 per cent of respondents in Malaita voted in the 2006 elections. The percentage of women voting was close to that for men (87 as compared to 90 per cent). Lower participation of young men and young women is as expected (71 and 61 per cent), because some of those interviewed may have been too young to be eligible to vote. These turnout rates reported by respondents are much higher than the overall rates by electorate reported in the *Solomon Islands Star* (27 April, 2006).

Eighty-three per cent knew about the RCDF, more in rural than in urban areas (86 and 77 per cent), as would be expected because of its focus (Table 42). The percentages reporting RCDF funds being spent in their electorate were much lower, 37 per cent overall (Table 42). Although there were more rural than urban respondents, this result implies that around half of rural areas did not benefit from the RCDF. Respondents in Western (55 per cent) and Malaita (42 per cent) were most likely to report expenditure.

While 82 per cent knew their MP was required to represent their interests in Parliament (Table 42), 30 per cent thought their previous MP had done so (Table 44). Forty-five per cent said their candidate in the 2006 election had visited their village before the election, 35 per cent expected another visit, and 39 per cent expected their MP to serve them well in the next two or three years (Table 43).

DK/NA was recorded for 42 per cent of respondents to Q9e, whether their MP would visit in the next two or three years (Table 43) and this was highest in the Survey. Second highest was 39 per cent DK/NA for whether the respondent expected MP to represent their interests well (Q9h, Table 44). One reason for this pattern could be a fatalistic attitude to parliamentary representation among some sections of the community. This is borne out by the remarks of participants in focus group discussions analysed in Part Two.

Overall the findings suggest reasonable levels of participation in the 2006 election and knowledge of parliamentary representation, but some dissatisfaction with the quality of parliamentary representation, and generally low expectations.

PART TWO: ANALYSIS OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

1 Focus group methods and topics

Personnel, time and logistical constraints affected the focus group component of the Pilot Survey to a greater extent than the quantitative component. No focus group discussions or in-depth interviews were conducted with special interest groups such as business people, educators, religious leaders and civil society in Honiara. This was in part because the team member who was to have coordinated the qualitative research was unavailable because of illness. Moreover, a shortened in-country duration due to the down-grading of the Survey to a Pilot Survey and restricted movement during the civil unrest meant that the senior team members had less time available to organise and conduct such discussions. While comments from these special interest groups would have added extra opinions, their absence does not detract from the overall value of the Pilot Survey.

Guidelines on four topics were developed by the Implementation Team with inputs from the trainees in Honiara (attached as Annex 2). The topics were Security, Corruption, Living Standards and Development, and Youth Opportunities. During training it was agreed that each of the four topics could be discussed by any age/sex group, but groups of youth would be prioritised for the fourth topic. The target was to conduct both single sex and mixed sex interviews on every topic, where possible working with the age/gender group to which they themselves belonged.

Six of the eight focus groups concerning security, and five of the seven focus groups concerning corruption were conducted with men; and six of the nine focus groups concerning living standards and development, and five of the seven focus groups concerning youth opportunity, were conducted with women. It is recommended that in future People's Surveys men and women should have an equal opportunity to express their views on each of the key areas of concern.

Teams were instructed that they could also record *ad hoc* comments if any respondents who had completed the Survey were eager to say more about certain topics. In practice this did not happen, but some respondents to the questionnaire joined focus groups on set topics. Most focus group participants were selected opportunistically from specified sites on the basis of the availability and willingness of groups of villagers, market sellers, and youth or similar to participate in a discussion. This method of selection is an accepted method for focus group work and did not constitute a limitation except in a few cases where the defined age/gender balance was not observed.

Despite the limited number of trained facilitators and reduced duration of fieldwork, all focus group discussions elicited participants' open-ended comments on set discussion topics, and yielded insights that help to provide context for the quantitative analysis. The number of focus group discussions carried out with the general public exceeded the number aimed for (at least 20) and was within the target range of 30-40 set during training (i.e. one or two discussions of each of two topics with each age/gender group in each province). In all, 31 separate focus group discussions conducted in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Province between 1st and 10th May 2006 were recorded on tape, translated and analysed. Several others, including several with youth, were lost due to accidental erasure of tapes or failure of the facilitator to return the tapes.

Facilitators were required to translate and transcribe the tapes after each interview. Because there was insufficient time during training in Honiara for facilitators to practice translation

and the Field Coordinators did not fully understand what was required, some facilitators in Guadalcanal and Malaita produced summaries rather than word for word transcriptions. The Qualitative Analyst listened to all available tapes and transcribed additional material where necessary.

While some focus group discussions were very informative, overall quality was variable. Some inexperienced facilitators dominated their discussion and/or did not ask all the questions on the guidelines, and some failed to record full details, such as date of the discussion, place of discussion, participant details, or group composition. Despite these limitations, the focus groups discussions generated a wealth of information on each of the four core themes and provided some important lessons on how to improve this component in future surveys. The key findings from the focus groups are discussed below.

2 Security

Eight focus group discussions considered the subject of security. Six were conducted with men (three in Guadalcanal, two in Malaita, one in Western Province) and two with young women (one in Malaita and one in Western Province). None were conducted specifically with young men or with older women, although a focus group discussion concerning living standards and development conducted with older women in Guadalcanal elicited views about the prevailing security situation, which are included in this section.

Generally speaking the young women felt that their communities were neither safe nor secure, and that it was not safe to walk around at night. This view was shared by older men and women in Guadalcanal.

We live in fear each day. Our children do not feel safe to go to school. Women, wherever we go are always burdened with the risk and fear of being raped, robbed or murdered.

Guadalcanal Woman

Men and women said that alcohol (commercial beer and locally brewed *kwaso*) and drug abuse (typically marijuana) were the main and proximate causes of insecurity in their communities. It was suggested that drug and alcohol abuse are both on the rise, and that drunken youths are responsible for a range of social problems within communities. The men from Balo village reported feeling unsafe and having been victimised by drunken youth from neighbouring communities. They also reported being troubled by drunken youth who set up road blocks, stop vehicles, harass drivers and passengers, and demand money along the road from Honiara. In one Guadalcanal village men also reported security incidences involving drunken youth and the presence of “unknown taxis from Honiara.” They stated that they did not feel safe because of this. In another Guadalcanal village men reported being the victims of threats and extortion, and being troubled regularly by people coming into their village demanding false compensation.

Men in Malaita and Western Province expressed a little more confidence in the security situation, pointing out that the security situation is somewhat variable. They said that although they often feel safe, this sense of security “is not consistent throughout.” Like the men on Guadalcanal they attributed many of their current security problems to *kwaso* and marijuana abuse. In Malaita, some men complained that they had reported the problem of *kwaso* brewing to the police at Auki, but the police had not responded.

In Western Province, men and women alike suggested that the presence of logging operations was contributing to insecurity in their communities, in that they give rise to land disputes, disagreements and differences of opinion amongst “brothers and people of the same clan”. Respondents in Western Province had this to say about logging:

It is not secure in communities where there are logging operations. There are disputes there. People of the same clan – brothers – take each other to court and their lifestyles have changed. This money has changed things... I don't feel safe anymore.

Western Province Man

One of the main causes of insecurity is the presence of multi-national companies, which cause land disputes and unfair distribution of royalties, false genealogies and the breakdown of society.

Western Province Man

When the big logging operations come to villages they cause all sorts of problems. Only one or two people get in control of the money, giving rise to unfair distributions, greediness, and self-centredness. Those few in control of the money enjoy travelling to and from Honiara and end up with new wives... Logging is not a positive development. It damages the land and has caused many social problems around here.

Western Province Man

Their views were supported by men from Guadalcanal and Malaita, who suggested that foreign logging companies have caused land disputes and a range of other social problems.

Security is a problem for women and children here– especially for those who have logging companies operating near their village. On paydays those workmen get drunk and cause all sorts of disturbances in our villages.

Malaita Man

On Malaita the 2006 elections emerged as a period of heightened insecurity. Some men in Malaita said they had “lived in fear during the 2006 election period,” being afraid of the supporters of certain candidates.

The recent election period was a time of fear. People in the community were worried, afraid of the supporters of other election candidates. There were no regular police patrols in this area at that time. They spent their time in Auki, the provincial capital, and did not come here.

During the election there were so many problems here within our community. Reports were made to the local police but nothing happened.

Men in Malaita villages were also troubled by the rumour that a militant leader and his supporters were active in the area.

People in some of the villages and areas around here are afraid, because there is a rumour ... a rebel movement. Those guys are stealing food from people's gardens. This has impacted greatly on our community. People are afraid because of this.

When asked what could be done to make communities more secure, respondents in all three provinces made the same suggestions – more police patrols especially on weekends, greater community policing – with the police working more closely with chiefs and elders, tougher penalties – especially for those involved in brewing *kwaso* - and the practice of Christian principles and values. In Western Province men and women alike indicated that they would like to see the government work more closely with the churches.

Generally the men and women who participated in the focus group discussions concerning security felt that RAMSI's role and that of the RSIP were for the most part the same, in that both were expected to arrest criminals, conduct patrols, mediate disputes, and help solve social problems. When asked whether they felt RAMSI was providing these services, the men and women in Western Province said “yes”, the men and women on Malaita, said “yes, but not to the extent they expect”, while the men on Guadalcanal indicated that they were unhappy with RAMSI's service provision. In one village, for instance, it was reported that they had not seen a RAMSI officer for quite some time and that they were in desperate need of their assistance.

Satisfaction with the RSIP was also low, with focus group participants in all three provinces indicating that the RSIP were not meeting their expectations. On Guadalcanal and Malaita in particular the men indicated that confidence in the RSIP remains low, and that the RSIP are not trusted. They also questioned the neutrality of the RSIP and asserted that the *wantok* system influences the way the RSIP handle complaints. Some of the focus group participants on Guadalcanal went as far as to suggest that some RSIP officers are associated with known criminals and are implicated in local criminal activities.

In all three provinces people wanted to see more patrolling, more proactive policing, more community policing and more mediation and dispute resolution from both RAMSI and the RSIP. In addition they wanted more education on the law, the police to conduct awareness, especially with young people, and the police to support customary governance and work more closely with chiefs and elders. Moreover they wanted to see RAMSI work more closely with the churches and to take on a much broader development role by providing additional services in the areas of health, education, agriculture, fisheries, transport, infrastructure, radio communications and, as one young woman from Western Province suggested, “to assist landowners to fight against exploitative logging and mining companies”.

On the other hand participants wanted to see RAMSI less involved in domestic politics. One man from Guadalcanal put it like this:

RAMSI and the RSIP should carry on enforcing law and order in the Solomon Islands but they should not directly involve themselves in the Country's Politics.
Guadalcanal Man

Regardless of the criticisms, the majority of people were not yet ready for to RAMSI leave, with one young man from Guadalcanal saying:

I heard that the new government wants to send RAMSI back. This is no good. Things are not straight yet. This means we have a corrupt government. People in our community want RAMSI to stay on and to monitor what is going on in our communities. Our country is not straight yet. We must get things right before we send them back. Their work here is not yet finished.

3 Corruption

Seven focus group discussions considered the subject of corruption. Five were conducted with men (two in Guadalcanal – one with older men and one with young men, two in Malaita – both with older men, and one in Western Province – older men) and two with women (both in Western Province and both with older women). No focus group discussions on Corruption were conducted specifically with young women.

The focus groups concerning corruption generated much discussion, with both men and women having plenty to say. When asked to define corruption, two very clear themes emerged – one concerned the misappropriation of funds, embezzlement, bribery, disregard of rules and procedures and the like, and the other concerned moral corruption.

Without exception the women participants equated corruption with bribery and the improper use of funds and recounted example after example of how corruption affected their lives. They asserted, for instance, that bribery is used to influence government officials, Chiefs and the Chief's Council, the Police, Parliamentarians, the Electoral Commission and multi-national companies, and that if parents are unwilling or unable to offer bribes their children will not pass their exams or secure a place at secondary school or in tertiary education. The use of bribes to influence decisions of the Chief's council was a recurring theme:

Corruption is everywhere, not just in the government. It starts in the home, goes on in the community and in the provincial and national level government, even in the churches.... Corruption also happens in the community. For instance during Chief's hearings some Chiefs are bribed by the opposing tribe. They come and give money to the Chief. This means that even though one side really owns the place, because the Chief has accepted money, he simply says the other side has won the case.

Western Province Woman

Another example of corruption in the community is the Chief's Council hearings. I think it is now a known fact that Chief's Councils are totally corrupt and unjust. Regardless of who the real landowner is, the tribe with the most money will win the case. All land cases could be settled if the Chiefs were honest and truthful, but they are not. People are unnecessarily inconvenienced by having to take the case further to the Local Court. Most times, they go as far as the High Court. For people in the village this is such an enormous burden. I believe some people die just from worrying about their land.

Western Province Woman

Corruption in land disputes is common. Sometimes people bribe the chiefs to preside over their cases in a customary land dispute. Not only that but to be on their side and find in their favour. The chiefs then make their decisions based solely on how much they were bribed with.

Malaita Man

The use of bribery to influence elections was another common theme that emerged in discussions in all three provinces. One woman from Western Province, for instance, had this to say:

Corruption is common during the campaign period. Candidates give money to people in villages with the intention that they will vote for them.

While a man from a village in Guadalcanal said:

At the national level candidates use money and other material things to influence voters and as a result the voters are influenced to cast their votes against their will, thereby electing corrupt leaders.

Interestingly, there were several men and women who suggested that providing gifts or money in return for votes was not bribery or corruption but a legitimate and valued aspect of Solomon Islands culture.

In our culture, it is normal to receive gifts and money from leaders or relatives. In return, out of appreciation, whatever the leader or relative wants is given without a second thought. Our culture is like that. If someone does a good thing for you, you return it with another good thing.

Western Province Woman

Corruption is a white man's term. To us in our system, "giving," as we call it, is a form of appreciation. I can give a friend of mine something and later he returns the favour. Now that sort of giving would not stop if I ended up in a Government office.... In the Solomon Islands that is not corruption, but a form of appreciation. To white men, that is corruption because their customs are different... they look upon it as corruption. To us it is just assistance – because of his assistance to me in the past I return the favour.

Western Province Man

The theme of moral corruption also emerged from the men's focus groups, especially the one conducted in Western Province. Men there tended to equate corruption with customary practices – payback killing and tribal fighting – and with immoral behaviour – drug and alcohol abuse, lying, stealing and infidelity.

Corruption is not a new thing; it began long ago during the head hunting times. It is part of Melanesian culture. It follows the wantok system, Solomon Island's wantok system.... Its like this, say you are at home and you tell your wife you are going to a certain place but you go to a different place where you consume alcohol or go around with other women, then you go back home and the wife asks where have you been and you reply telling her that you were with her father or uncle which is a big lie then that's corruption.

Western Province Man

Regardless of how it was viewed, the men and women who participated in the focus group discussions on corruption felt that corruption was now endemic in the Solomon Islands, and that it had given rise to a situation of general despondence and very low levels of trust within the community. They also felt that corruption is so entrenched that it would be difficult to eradicate.

Corruption is like an octopus. It has so many arms and legs and you cannot see where one ends and the other begins. Corruption starts in the family. When a baby is born and the parents fail to teach the child as it grows up, there corruption starts. As the child grows up he continues to interact with people, he becomes more and more corrupt. Corruption is here to stay. It is as timeless and old as the earth. We cannot get rid of it. It will be here until the world ends.

Western Province Woman

Corruption will not be eradicated. It exists within our communities and is here to stay. Corruption starts within our local communities. Corruption will only stop when this world comes to an end.

Malaitan Man

When asked why corruption is so common in the Solomon Islands, many suggested that the *wantok* system was to blame. Others suggested that foreign nationals were to blame. Comments from men in Guadalcanal, for instance, suggested that foreign Chinese nationals were contributing to the problem.

The problem is this. These foreign Chinese nationals come in as workers, and are granted citizenship within a short time frame...They offer money and our leaders accept it. This is where the corruption is taking place.

Corruption is spoiling things here in Honiara. Chinese foreign nationals are to blame for this. Because of them our leaders and people are becoming dishonest. It is all about bribery. When the Chinese and some other foreigners want to come here they give some thousands to our leaders. This corrupts them.

On Malaita, however, the problem of corruption was attributed to “foreigners” more generally, with one man stating “foreigners are the ones behind corruption in the Solomon Islands.” This view was endorsed in another Malaitan village, where the men pointed out that Solomon Islands leaders tend to associate and collaborate with big business and foreign nationals – “where money talks”.

Money - the need and desire for and the lack of - was repeatedly implicated as one of the key causes of corruption in the Solomon Islands. For instance people in all three provinces saw a direct relationship between poverty and corruption.

Poverty is the bottom line of all corruption. People need money and so it is difficult for developing countries to do away with corruption.

Western Province Man

They pointed out too that poverty has laid the foundation for corrupt practices at all levels of government and has given rise to a situation in which people vote for corrupt candidates – those who offer cash incentives.

Although the people here have a conscience and can make up their mind about who they want to vote for, when the time for campaigning comes the corrupt candidates come and offer them money. The people forget about their preference and instead give their vote to the one who bribed them with money. This is because they need money and face hardship finding it. They feel they have no option but to go for the money.

Guadalcanal Man

People across all three provinces were also of the view that money, though much needed to pay school fees and purchase basic household items, tends to be corrupting.

Money is the problem. Our leaders, our Members of Parliament have access to too much money and this leads them in the wrong direction. Money is the root cause of problems within our community. It is dividing the community and causing us to have many problems. Our leaders love money and don't look after us or lead the people properly.

Guadalcanal Man

The strategies suggested by focus group participants to combat corruption derived from their understandings about the causes of corruption within their communities. For instance the Western Province men suggested rural development was the best way to address corruption. They felt that having “the ways and means to find money would minimize the need for corruption.” This view was supported by the men from Guadalcanal, who suggested self-reliance as one of the best ways to combat corruption.

People in all three provinces wanted to see prosecution of politicians and public servants found guilty of corruption, while the men from villages in Malaita suggested that foreign nationals found to have engaged in corrupt practices should be deported and sent home to their respective countries.

Corrupt foreigners should be deported back to their own countries. We don't want them here. They cause all sorts of problems. They get involved in corruption and take people's resources. We don't need corruption in our country. Therefore we need to send them back to safeguard our local people.

Malaitan Man

To assist with this process they wanted to see an independent watchdog authority established so that there was someone to whom they could report corrupt officials. The men on

Guadalcanal and Malaita both insisted that they would like to see RAMSI fulfil this role and to “properly” investigate corruption “in the government.” The women were less confident about RAMSI’s ability to fulfil this role, but were equally adamant that an independent investigative body was needed.

It was evident from all the focus group discussions that men and women alike were eager and willing to report corruption, but there were few avenues currently available to them. For example, it was asserted over and over again that the police (including RAMSI, according to the Western Province women) could not be relied upon to investigate or act upon complaints about corruption.

It is good to report officials who are corrupt. However the question is, if we report the matter, will the police do anything, or is it just another waste of time? ...In my experience the police cannot be trusted with reported matters.

Malaitan Man

At the present time when cases are reported to the police, the police always make excuses that the government has not given them any money to proceed with the case. Cases are delayed, people are bribed, and cases before the courts get squashed, both in the local courts and traditional courts. This discourages people who are affected from reporting corrupt officials.

Malaitan Man

If I knew somebody was corrupt I wouldn’t waste my time reporting them, as I know it is just useless. He will not be dealt with in any way...The police don’t treat as confidential what we report to them. We need a separate or neutral body that has nothing else to do...If there was an independent body here in Western Province I would go and see them...I wouldn’t go to RAMSI either. They are just as useless. They are even worse. They don’t do anything. It looks to me like they are just having a big holiday!

Western Province Woman

Men and women alike were clearly fearful of recriminations should they report a corrupt official. For the most part this derived from their concern that the police don’t treat complaints confidentially. The women in Western Province, in particular, had this to say:

We don’t feel safe reporting corrupt officials because they will find out and then they will find ways to remove us from our jobs.

We are afraid to report them because of what will be done to us in retribution. If we report them they might come back and beat us up...If you are the reporter you will feel more insecure reporting an MP or Provincial Government member because the retribution will be even stronger.

They felt the only way to ensure the safety of whistleblowers was to establish a truly independent investigative body whose sole responsibility was to combat corruption. Coupled with this they wanted to see more awareness about corruption – a view shared by men who participated in the Western Province focus group discussion. Specifically they advocated civic awareness and education around the issue of corruption. They suggested that such awareness

could be modelled on the civic education that had preceded the 2006 election, but criticized the use of young people, arguing instead for the recruitment of mature men and women with life experience.

4 Living conditions and development

Nine focus group discussions examined the theme of living standards and development. Six were conducted with women (three in Guadalcanal – all with older women, two in Malaita – both with older women, and one in Western Province – a group comprising young and older women) and three with men (one each on Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Province - all with older men). No focus group discussions concerning living standards and development were conducted specifically with young men.

Men and women across all three provinces agreed that their household financial situation was much worse now than it was before the Tensions. The men for instance pointed out that during and since the Tensions there has been “a rapid increase in the cost of basic goods coupled with a decrease in the value of money.” They asserted, moreover, that since the Tensions it has been much harder to “transport and market copra and cocoa, harder to buy clothes and basic goods and harder to find money.” They also asserted that there are fewer employment opportunities.

The women, by contrast, talked about the relative value of their marketing before and after the Tensions, pointing out that before the Tensions the little they earned from marketing was enough to meet their basic needs. Nowadays, a woman from a village on Guadalcanal asserted, “the little bits of money we get from marketing go completely on soap and kerosene.” A woman from Malaita said:

Before the Ethnic Tensions it was much easier to meet our basic needs. Today, life is different. It is much more difficult than before... Before, rice and kerosene was cheaper but now shops are increasing their prices. Thus, we women in the rural villages are trying very hard to support our families... Life before the Tensions was really easy, cheap, and good. From our local produce such as coconuts and cabbages we could make enough money to afford to buy things in the shops. Now, even with the little money we have earned from marketing our produce, we cannot really buy things we would like for our family in the shops. Even people who are around the markets don't spend much and sometimes goods are brought back home without being sold at the markets.

Men and women also agreed that their household economic situation was worse in 2006 compared with 2005 and that basic goods are overpriced. Specifically it was argued that earnings have not kept pace with the cost of living. The men on Malaita and Guadalcanal pointed out that this is in part because most rural people are reliant on income derived from the agricultural and marine sectors, and there are few opportunities through which they can expand or improve their income earning capacity. On Guadalcanal, one woman reported having to spend more time in the garden, and having to devote more time to marketing in order to earn enough money to meet her families basic needs, while another reported that:

Everything we earn is absorbed in the prices of goods, which are way too high... We no longer have enough money to buy all the things we want. We have to prioritize. We can only afford one or two things – not all the things we need... Everything costs too much. Prices are too high and as a result we can no longer meet our children's school fees.

Similar views were expressed by women on Malaita:

The financial situation in our household is not good but we are trying our best to cope... The financial situation of our household is entirely dependent on how much produce I sell at the market. We have to sell more to get by. Sometimes our families have to stay in the dark now overnight, because we can't afford kerosene for our lamp.

Despite the presence of RAMSI in the Solomon Islands, none of the focus group participants were confident or even hopeful that their economic or financial situation would improve in the coming year. To the contrary most felt that “the worst is yet to come.” They held the view that improvement would be dependent on the Solomon Islands Government, and felt that they could not be relied upon to work well or to strive to improve rural livelihoods. They felt too that if the recent riots were anything to go by, the future did not bode well.

I don't see how things will get better. Another tension has now occurred and with it riots and the burning of Chinese homes and property...In the last tension there was no destruction of Chinese property. Chinese businesses provide income for a lot of Solomon Islanders, including the government. But the most recent riots have completely destroyed all the Chinese buildings and property and most of them have now left the Solomon Islands. For instance, one employer, they employed about 600 people in his hotel and casino. Where are those people now? It looks to me like the worst is still to come. And if things get worse there in Honiara, then they will get worse here too.

Western Province Woman

One woman from Guadalcanal went as far as to suggest “in a few years time, no one will be able to afford anything in the shops.”

Focus group participants in all three provinces reported significant inflation in the cost of basic goods in recent years. Western Province women, for example, reported that a Schweppes bottle of kerosene cost \$1.20 a few years ago, increased to \$2.50, and then in 2005 increased to \$3.50, while the men reported that it had been selling for “about \$5.00 per litre prior to the Tensions and now for about \$10.00 per litre”. Similarly a Guadalcanal respondent reported that a 5 litre container of kerosene that had been selling at \$5.00 prior to the Tensions was now selling for \$15.00. Evidently the cost of kerosene has doubled if not trebled in recent years. Soap is another basic item that has become more expensive. Indeed Western Province women reported that they are now paying \$1.80 for a single cake of soap, while women on Malaita reported that they are now paying more than \$2.00 per bar. In both areas the going rate in 2005 was said to be only \$1.00.

It was reported that the cost of basic food items had been similarly affected. For example, men and women on Malaita and Western Province reported a 40 per cent increase in the cost of rice in the past year, noting that a kilo of rice cost \$5.00 in 2005, but had increased to

\$7.00-8.00 by May 2006, and a 20kg rice bag had increased from \$100 to \$140 during the same period. Men and women on Malaita also reported that the price of bread had more than doubled in the past year, having risen from 20 cents in 2005 to more than 50 cents in 2006.

In order to offset the rising cost of living, focus group participants called on the Solomon Islands Government to review the current salary structure so as to assist those in paid employment; to fix copra, coconut and cocoa prices and at the same time strengthen and improve the markets for agricultural products to the benefit of rural producers; and to control or subsidize the price of imported commodities. It was also suggested that RCDF funds should be used to subsidize rising transport costs. In addition focus group participants also called for greater donor engagement, with a focus on rural development.

5 Youth aspirations for the future

Seven focus group discussions were conducted with Solomon Islands youth concerning their aspirations. Five of these focus groups were conducted with young women (three in Guadalcanal – and one each in Malaita and Western Province) and two with young men (one on Guadalcanal and one in Western Province). The available focus group transcriptions from Guadalcanal were poorly facilitated, while the tape recordings from other interviews in Guadalcanal/Honiara conducted by a more capable facilitator were lost. As a result scant data was elicited and this section is shorter than the preceding sections.

The majority of the young women participating in focus group discussions on youth aspirations were still in education, whereas the two focus groups conducted with young men were conducted with unemployed youth. Consequently, the responses gained could not have been more different.

For example, the young men reported that they were unemployed, searching for work, being supported by relatives and/or cash cropping to survive. They were not satisfied with what they were doing and reported little confidence in the future. They felt they could make a valuable contribution to Solomon Island society but they had been let down by the country's leaders. Without exception they reported that they had dropped out of school due to financial problems. Several of the young men interviewed were keen to resume their studies. They called on the Government to introduce free education - so that "everyone has equal access to education" and to provide more vocational and rural training centre places so that young men have greater opportunities to acquire trade skills. In addition they called on the Government and NGOs to create more employment opportunities for school leavers, and suggested that the churches should be funded to assist young people with small-scale development projects. They mentioned that it was young people who were involved in the recent disturbances in Honiara, and that there was an urgent need to positively engage Solomon Islands rapidly growing youth population in order to avert further unrest.

The government must cater for school ...only then will the future be bright. Otherwise lots of us will continue to drift into urban centres and will become involved in criminal activities, which will cause lots of disturbances in our communities and in the country as a whole.

Young Man, Guadalcanal

The young women, in contrast, were far more optimistic about their respective futures. Needless to say, this was because they had succeeded against the odds, to gain an education, and, in the case of the Malaitan women, find work in their chosen profession. The six women

interviewed in Malaita, were all working as nurses, and all were satisfied with what they were doing. They reported being happy working in rural areas, and claimed to have no desire to work in town, where they would be “burdened by the need to find money for bus fares, electricity bills, rent, and food.” They were all confident that they would still be nursing in ten years time, and hoped to be in positions with higher salaries. They felt the things most likely to hinder this were shortages of medicines and equipment, and marriage.

Interestingly marriage repeatedly emerged as one of the key factors impeding women’s education.

As far as I am concerned, our culture is always disturbing our education. For example, as a girl I am expected to drop out of school at Form 3 or Form 5...My culture comes into play and people say ‘you are at the age where you should marry – you should not be alone’. Thus even though I intend to continue my education or enter a Rural Training Centre or other institution there is pressure on me to drop out. In this way our education is disturbed by culture. Because of this, young women do not have the same chances to enjoy those opportunities that boys have.

Young Woman, Guadalcanal

Despite the pressures they evidently encounter, and the feeling that they have fewer educational opportunities overall, the young women who participated in the focus groups on Guadalcanal and Western Province were also reasonably confident about their own futures. Several indicated that they would like to be nurses or health workers, while others indicated that they intended to become teachers. When asked what they thought they might be doing in 10 years time, they indicated that they thought they would be working in their first or second choices. In this respect they were far more confident about the future than their male counterparts, although they did say that when money is short, it is girls who are most likely to be withdrawn from school. For this reason, they too were staunch advocates for free education, suggesting that education was the key to a better future for the Solomon Islands.

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