

Victoria Street – Richmond

Perceptions of Safety

Workshop Proceedings



The community lighting workshop was conducted in collaboration with Arup, City of Yarra and Victoria Police. The workshop recruited 30 participants in total and ran on the evening of the 28th of April 2021, for a duration of 3 hours.

The torch workshop included lighting knowledge sharing along a route determined by the City of Yarra. This included sections of Victoria Street, with a strong focus on the surrounding subject laneways as well as a workshop where participants designed their own lighting responses to improve perceptions of safety.

The evening allowed a wide array of data to be collected from a varied group of workers, residents, business owners and visitors to Victoria Street.

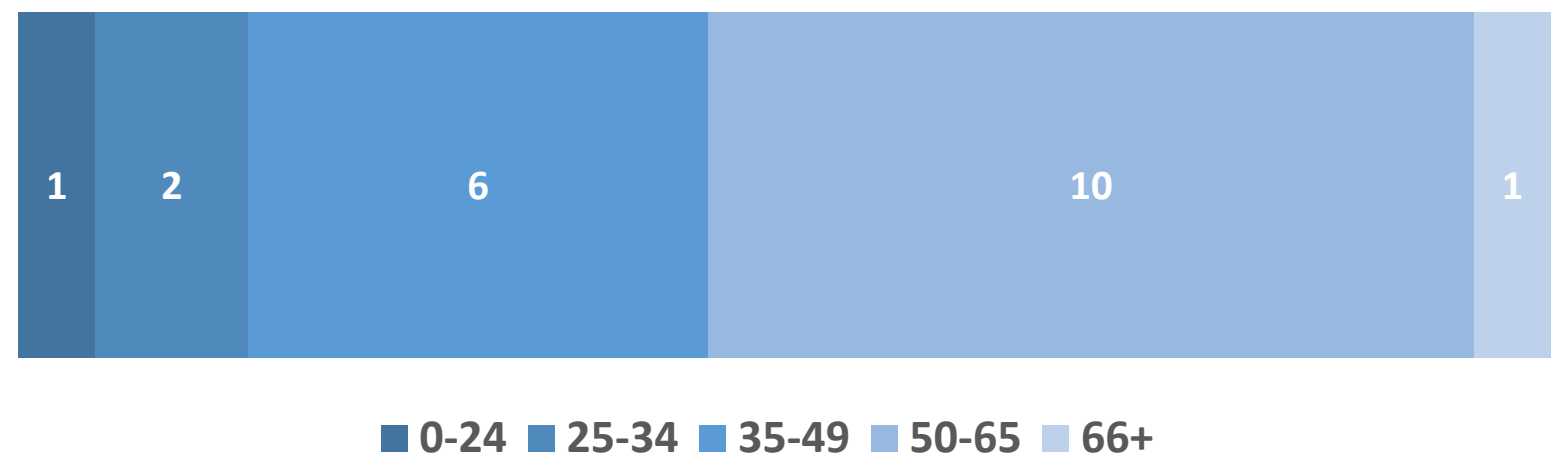
Through the workshop, the City of Yarra community expressed that they feel very strongly about the area and are keen to have their voices heard as a component of the collaborative design approach. The workshop was able to facilitate meaningful discourse among a diverse group of participants of different cultures, age groups and walks of life.

Workshop Analysis Demographics

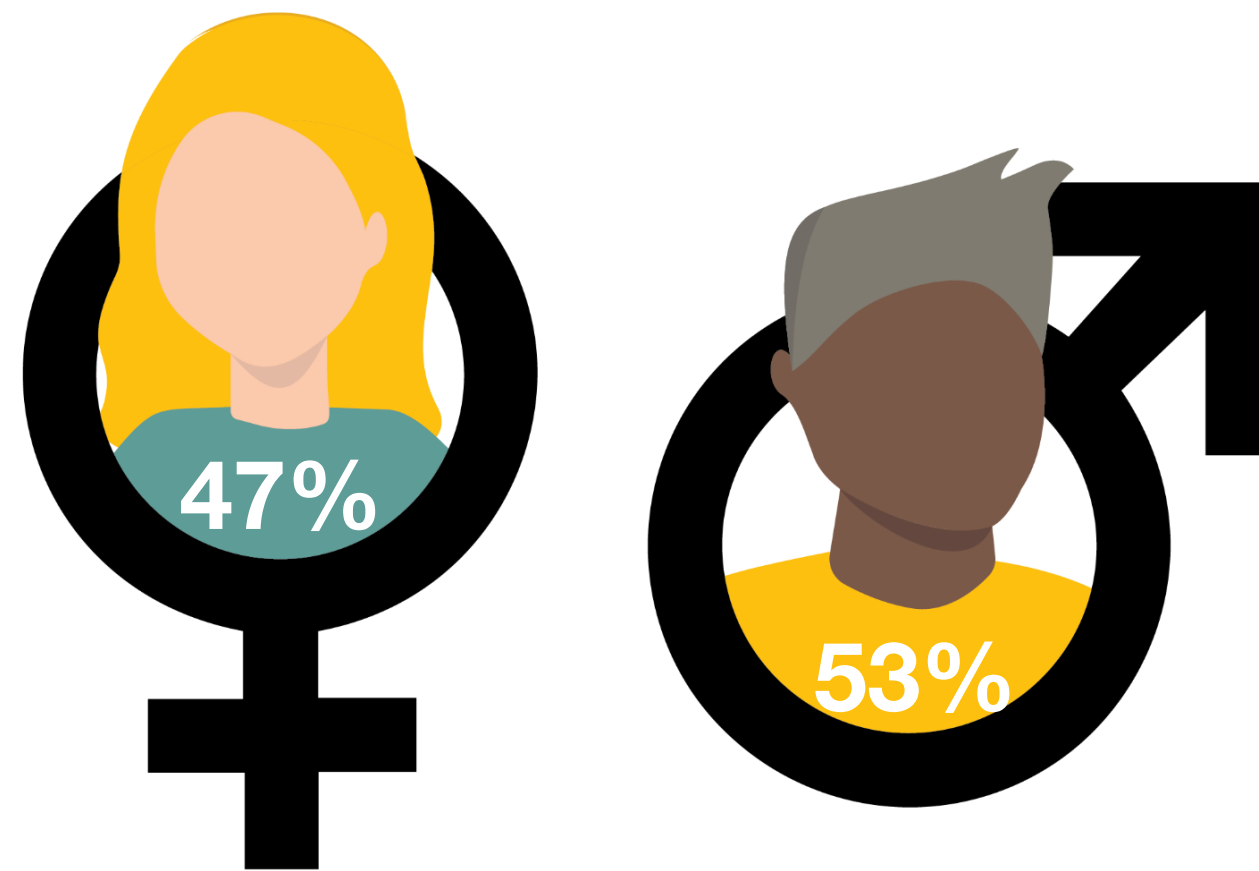
19 out of 30
workshop participants
completed the survey



Age Range



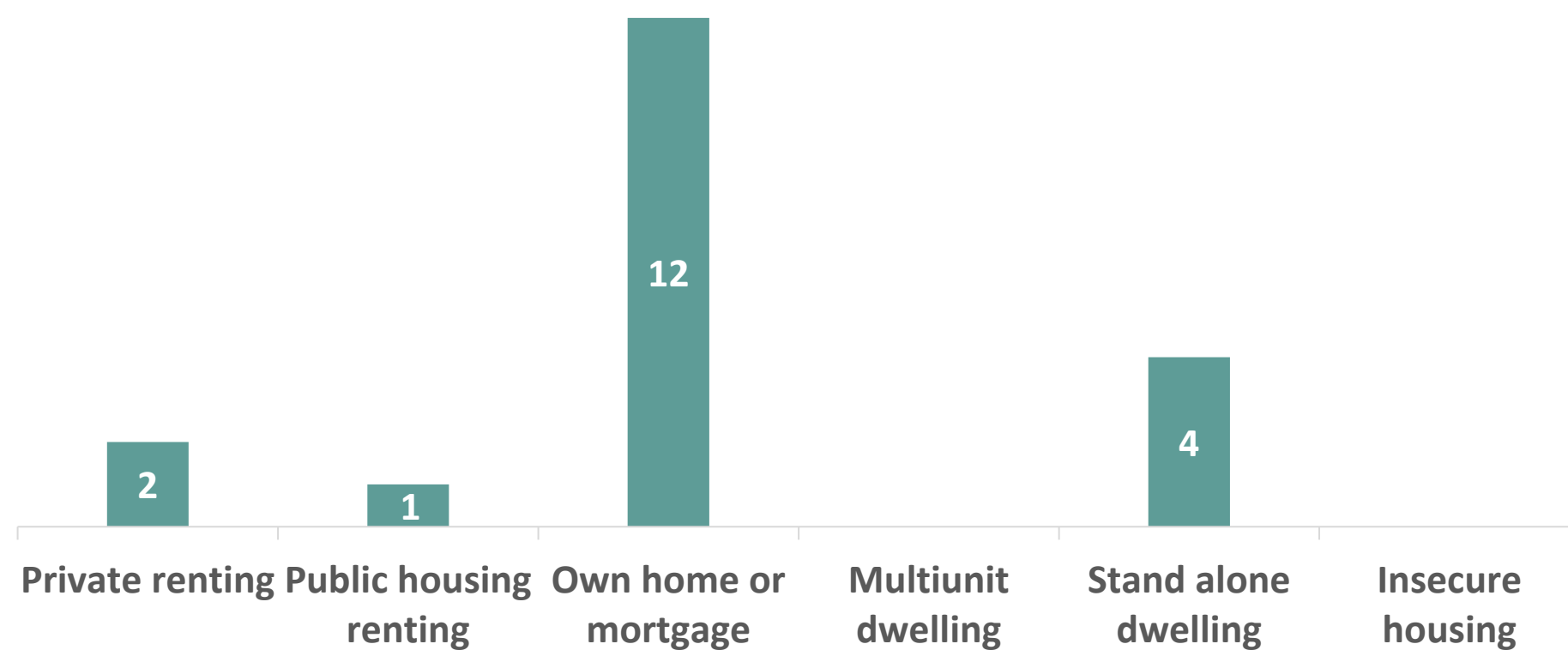
Gender



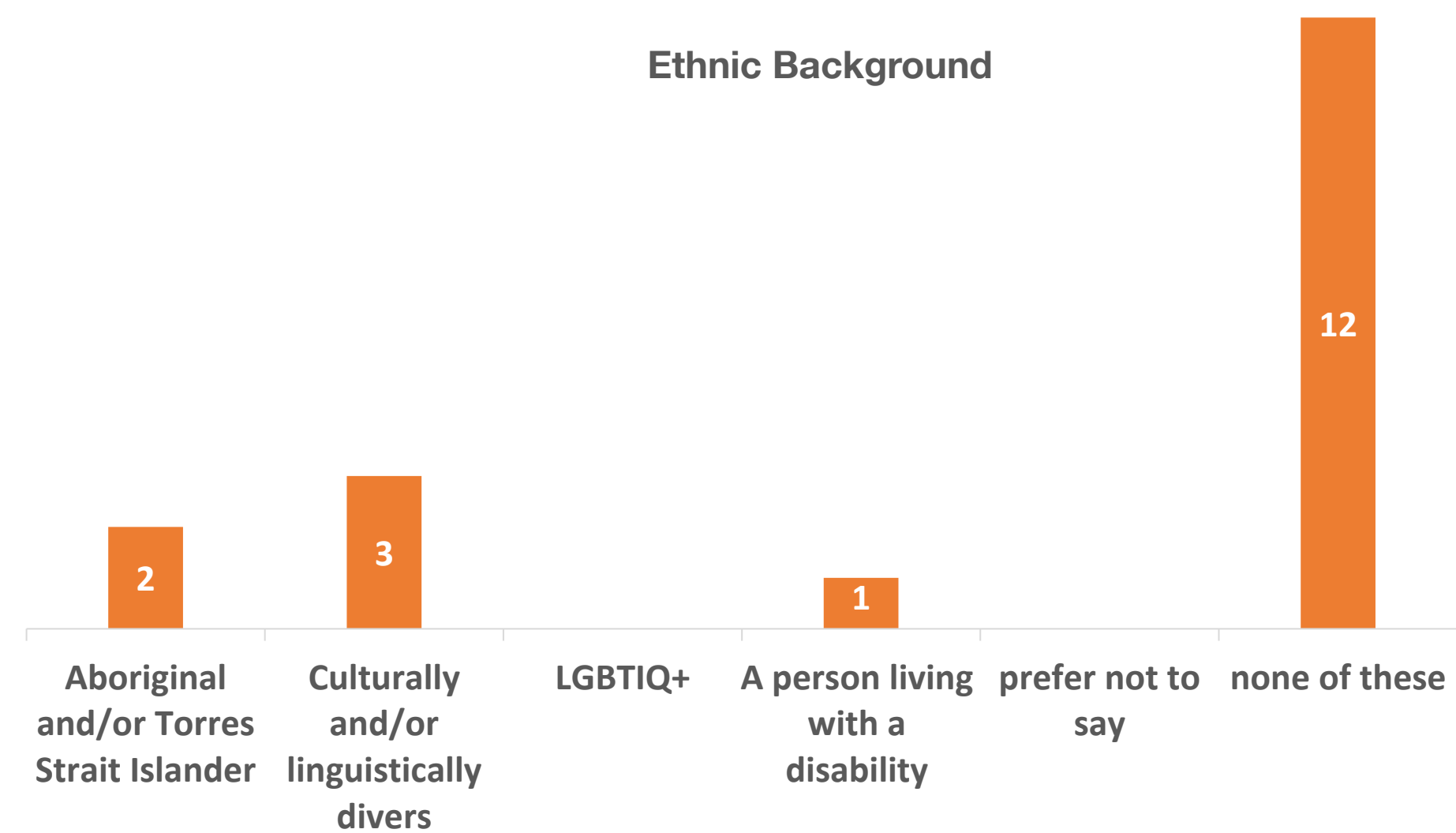
Relationship to Victoria Street



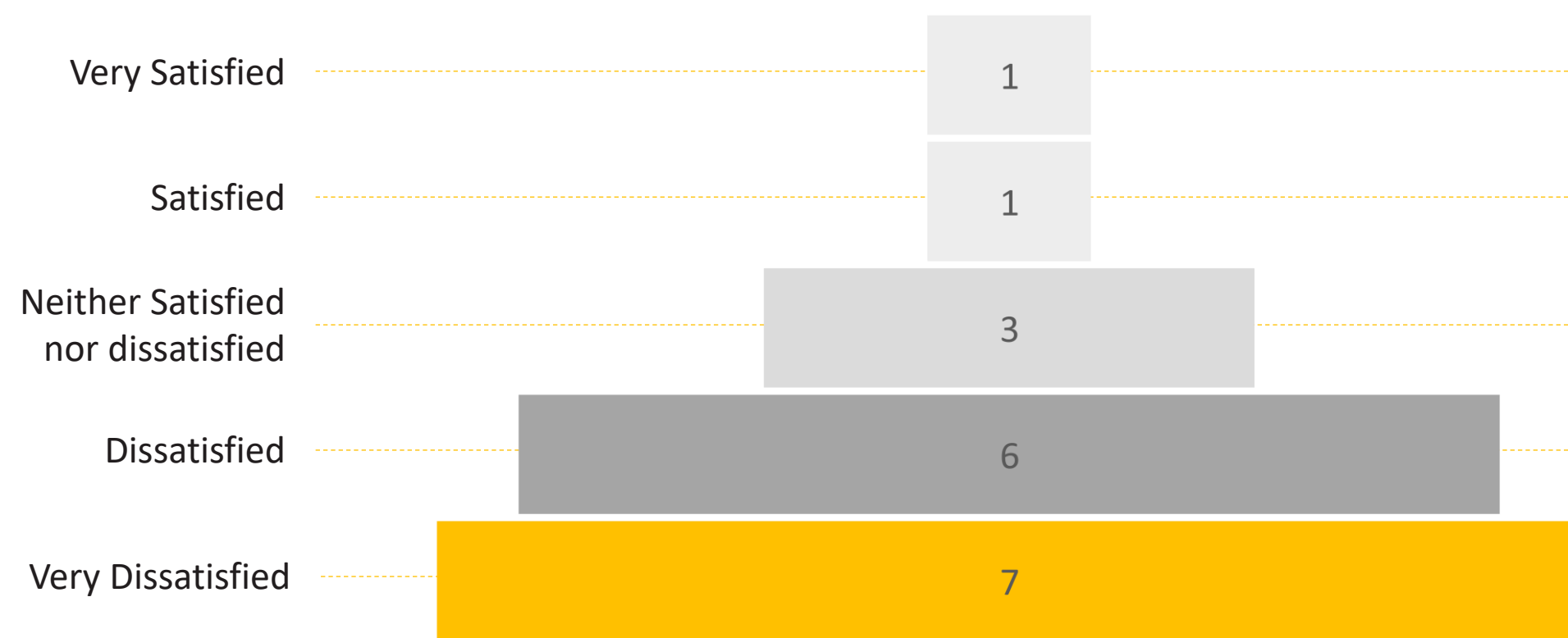
Housing



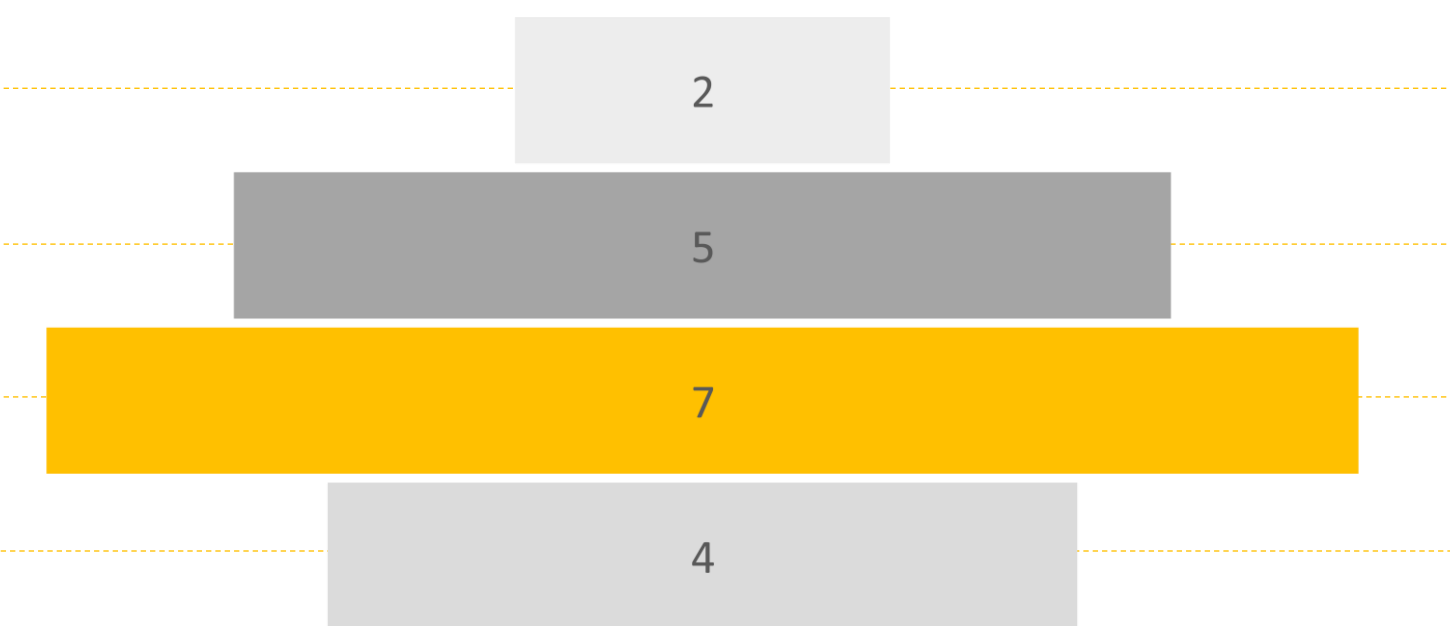
Ethnic Background



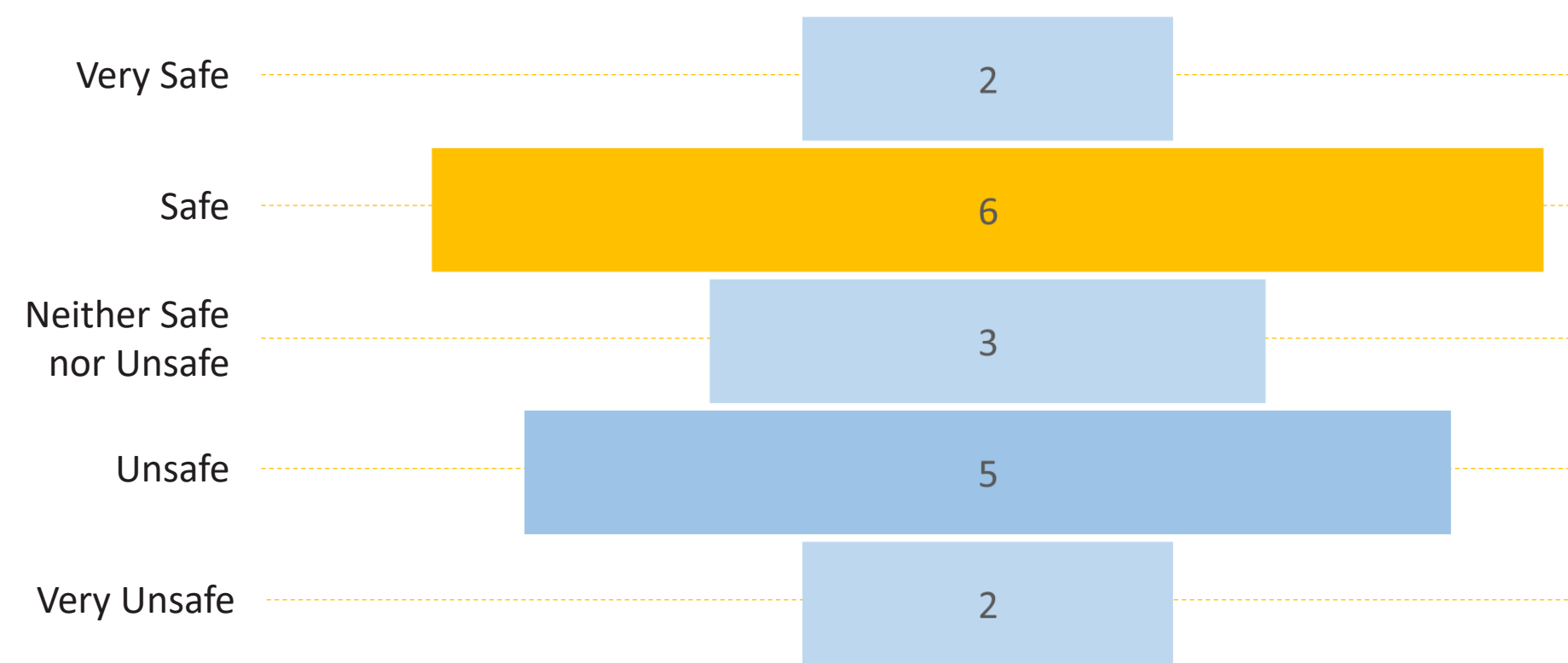
Workshop Analysis Impressions of safety



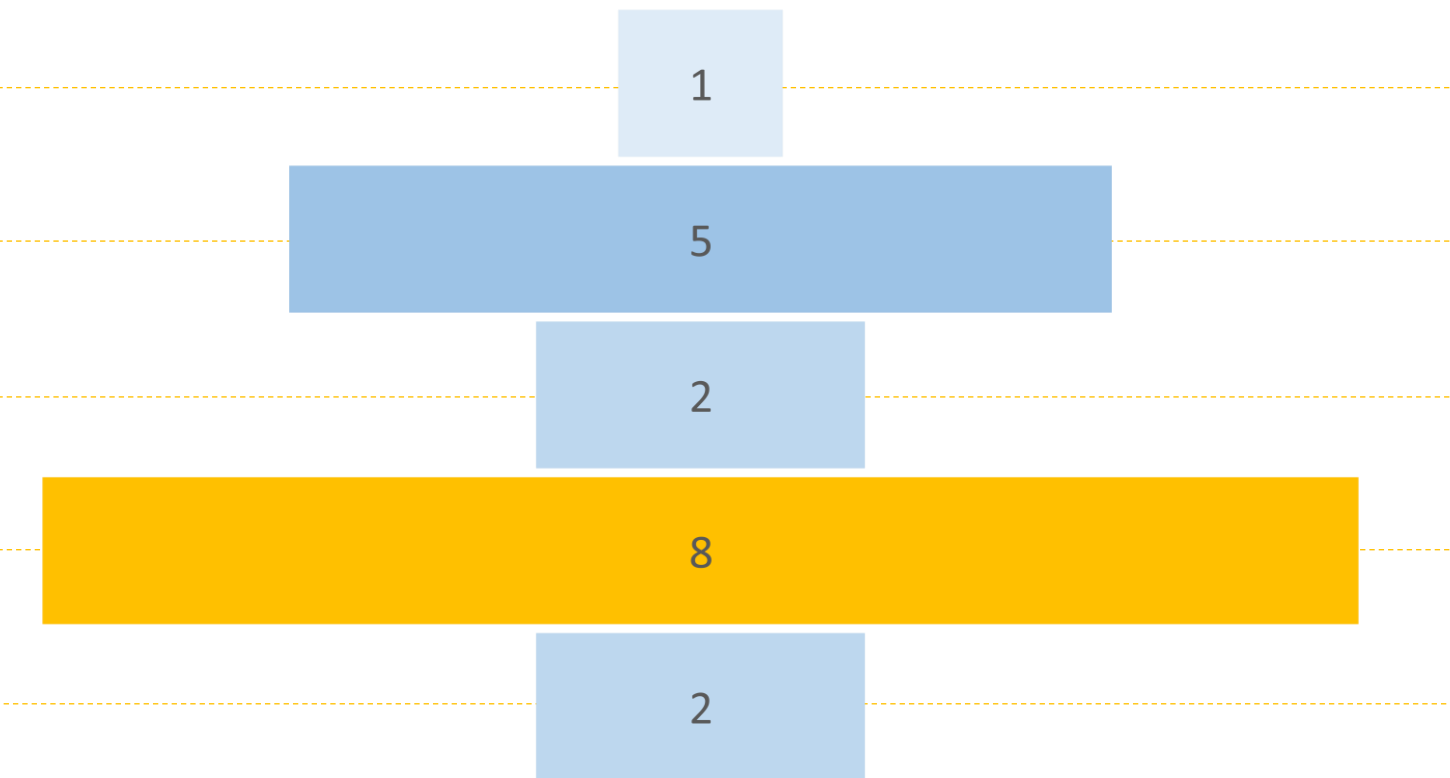
How satisfied are you with the overall appearance of Victoria Street?



How satisfied are you with how tidy Victoria Street is?



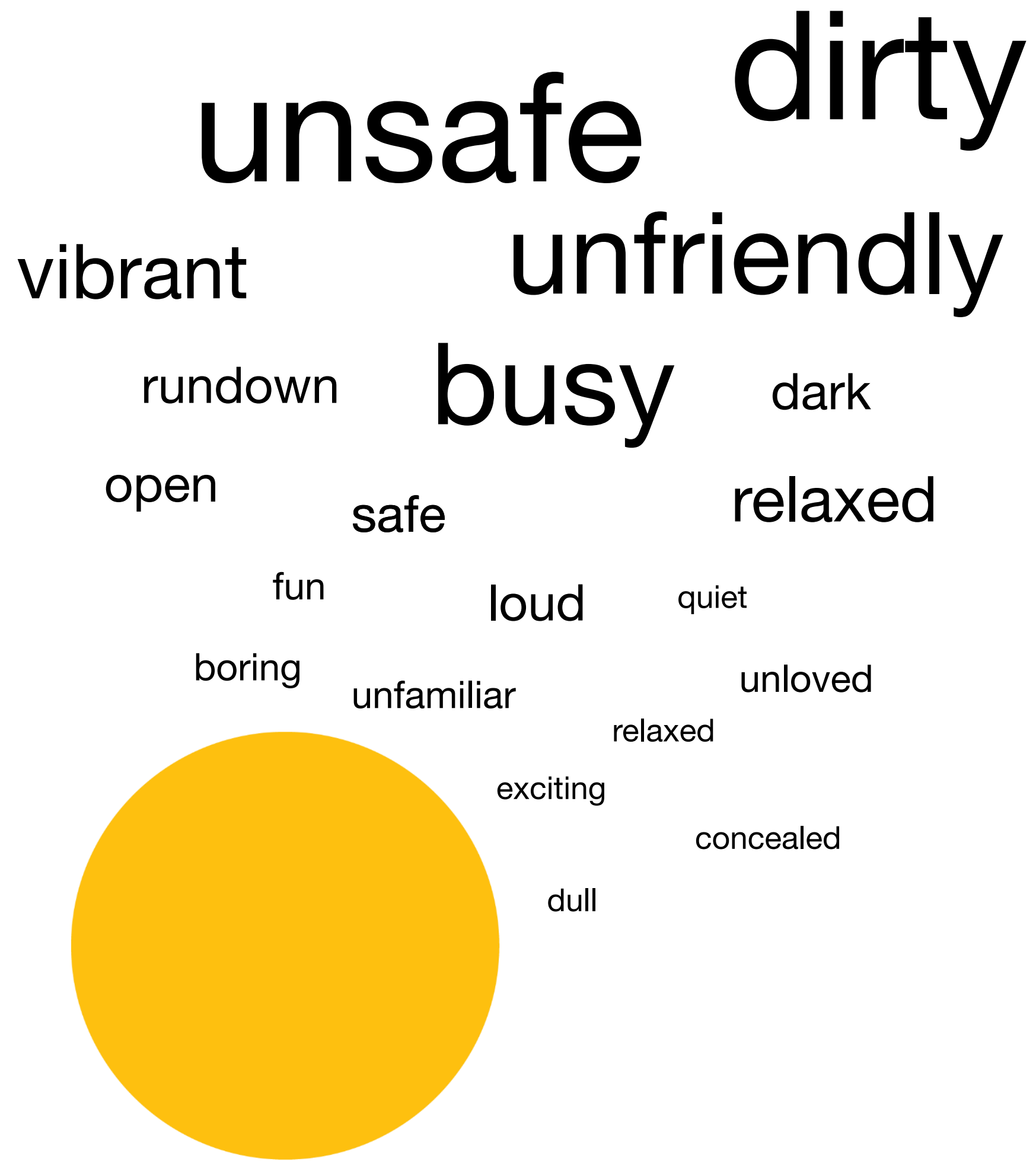
How safe do you feel when spending time on Victoria Street during the day?



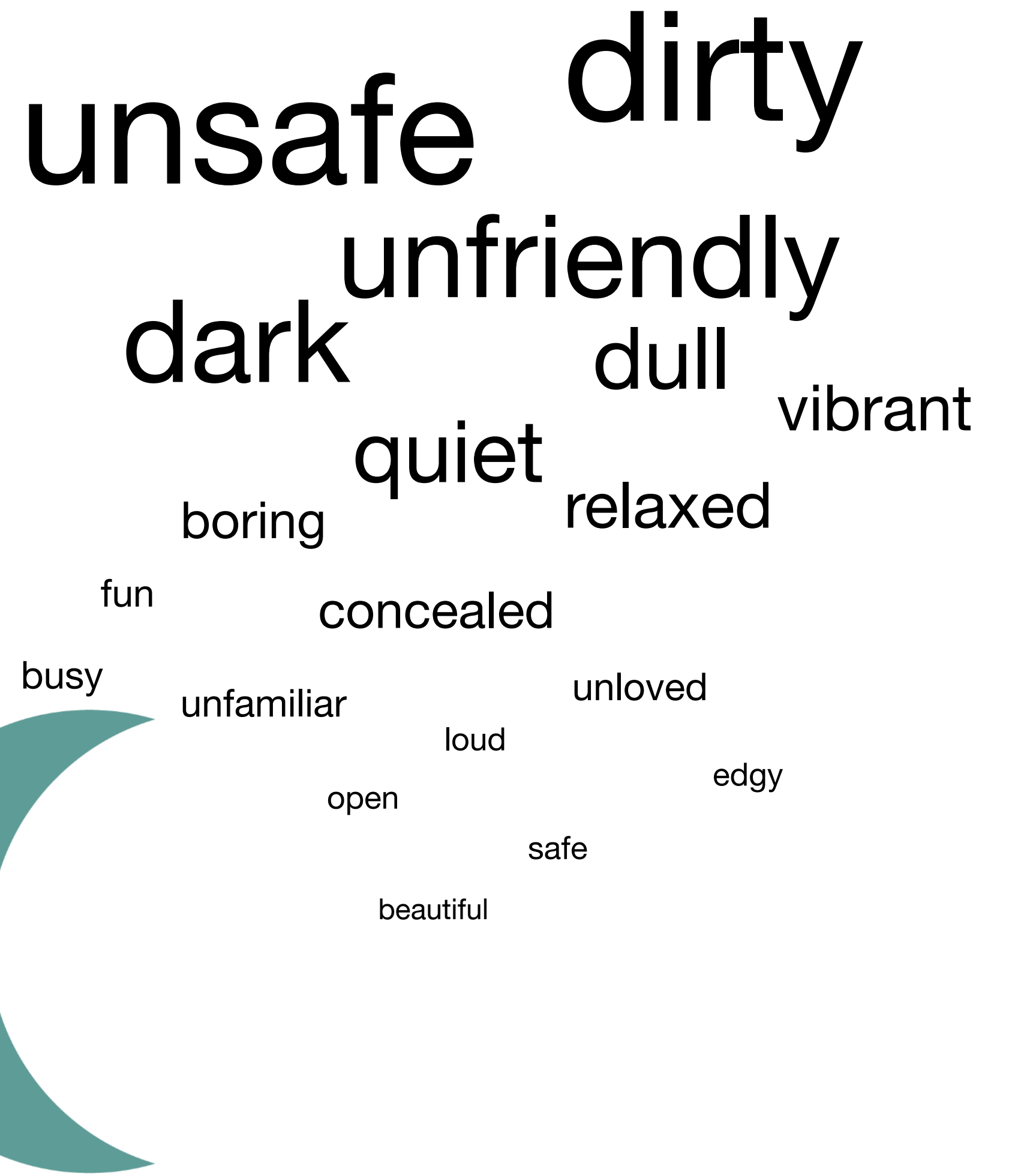
How safe do you feel when spending time on Victoria Street at night?

A pre-workshop questionnaire was conducted to gauge the perceptions and feelings the community had towards the Victoria Street area and its surrounding spaces. Workshop participants were asked to indicate their feelings in the area during the day and night. Of the 30 participants in attendance, 19 completed the preworkshop questionnaire.

Workshop Day/Night Sentiment



Impressions of daytime experiences



Impressions of night-time experiences

Workshop Analysis Key Themes

KEY THEMES	KEY WORKSHOP FINDINGS	VERBATIM QUOTES
Warm and inviting lighting with a focus on communal areas	Community aspires to have warmer and more welcoming spaces that attracts activity to the area	<p>“The shops don’t turn on their lights after shop close resulting in a cold and dark street”</p> <p>“The space needs something that makes it feel loved”</p> <p>“More people in a pro-social way”</p>
Consistent lighting levels and higher uniformity	Smoother transitional spaces are sought after as the jagged changes do not allow for the eye to adjust, sensor lights are disliked	<p>“Prefer lighting that is all the same and quite low because it gives me better night time vision”</p> <p>“Lights that go off and on are not good, constant is better”</p> <p>“More ambient light”</p>
Vibrant and Interactive Lighting	The community wishes for revival and visible change that is apparent to locals and visitors	<p>“Maybe downlights or some artwork to show people we’ve really changed things”</p> <p>“We could have laneways tours for families and murals with the ground lit up”</p>
Light in more areas	Awareness and visibility are important as the community wishes to be able to detect potential danger and environmental features	<p>“Difficult to go with mother/older friends to Victoria Street as it is hard for people to see the floor”</p> <p>“I prefer consistency and less distraction so I can see what’s happening around me”</p> <p>“Would be much nicer to know what is in the dark corner”</p>
Light layers	Spaces with minimal shadowing and more efficient natural light are preferred	<p>“There is a particular type of light that makes me terrified of my own shadow”</p> <p>“That sensor light is terrifying”</p>

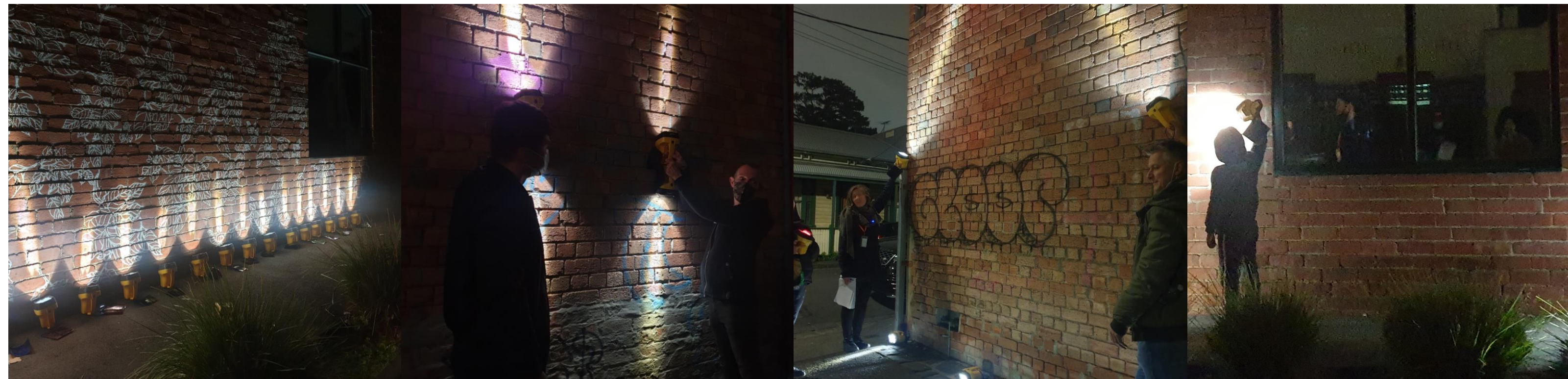


Through a community lighting workshop, the voices of the residents, business owners and visitors were noted and analysed. The following pages present the highlights of this analysis.

The overarching comment from the community was that the environment and experience of Victoria Street has declined over the last few years. Many comparisons to the vibrant Smith Street were made, which is an area the Victoria Street community aspires to draw positive qualities from.

Workshop Analysis Key Outcomes

KEY THEMES	KEY WORKSHOP FINDINGS	KEY DESIGN FOCUS AREAS
Warm and inviting lighting with a focus on communal areas	Community aspires to have warmer and more welcoming spaces that attracts activity to the area	Warmer lighting is safer than cold lighting Light storefronts during the night for vibrancy Lack of maintenance makes space feel “unloved”
Consistent lighting levels and higher uniformity	Smoother transitional spaces are sought after as the jagged changes do not allow for the eye to adjust, sensor lights are disliked	High uniformity of lighting is preferred as it is less rhythmic and distracting Implement transitional lighting spaces with a gradual change Subtle ambient light is preferred over harsh bright light
Vibrant and Interactive Lighting	The community wishes for revival and visible change that is apparent to locals and visitors	Highlight cultural aspect of Victoria Street through emphasis on street art and installations Implement interactive lighting design that promotes engagement with the space
Light in more areas	Awareness and visibility are important as the community wishes to be able to detect potential danger and environmental features	Highlight amenities and material qualities of a space for visual clarity and safety Light gaps and dark corners to enable awareness of environment Light up dark spaces to increase feelings of safety
Light layers	Spaces with minimal shadowing and more efficient natural light are preferred	Implement uplighting and diffused lighting for a more organic glowing quality Light dark vertical surfaces



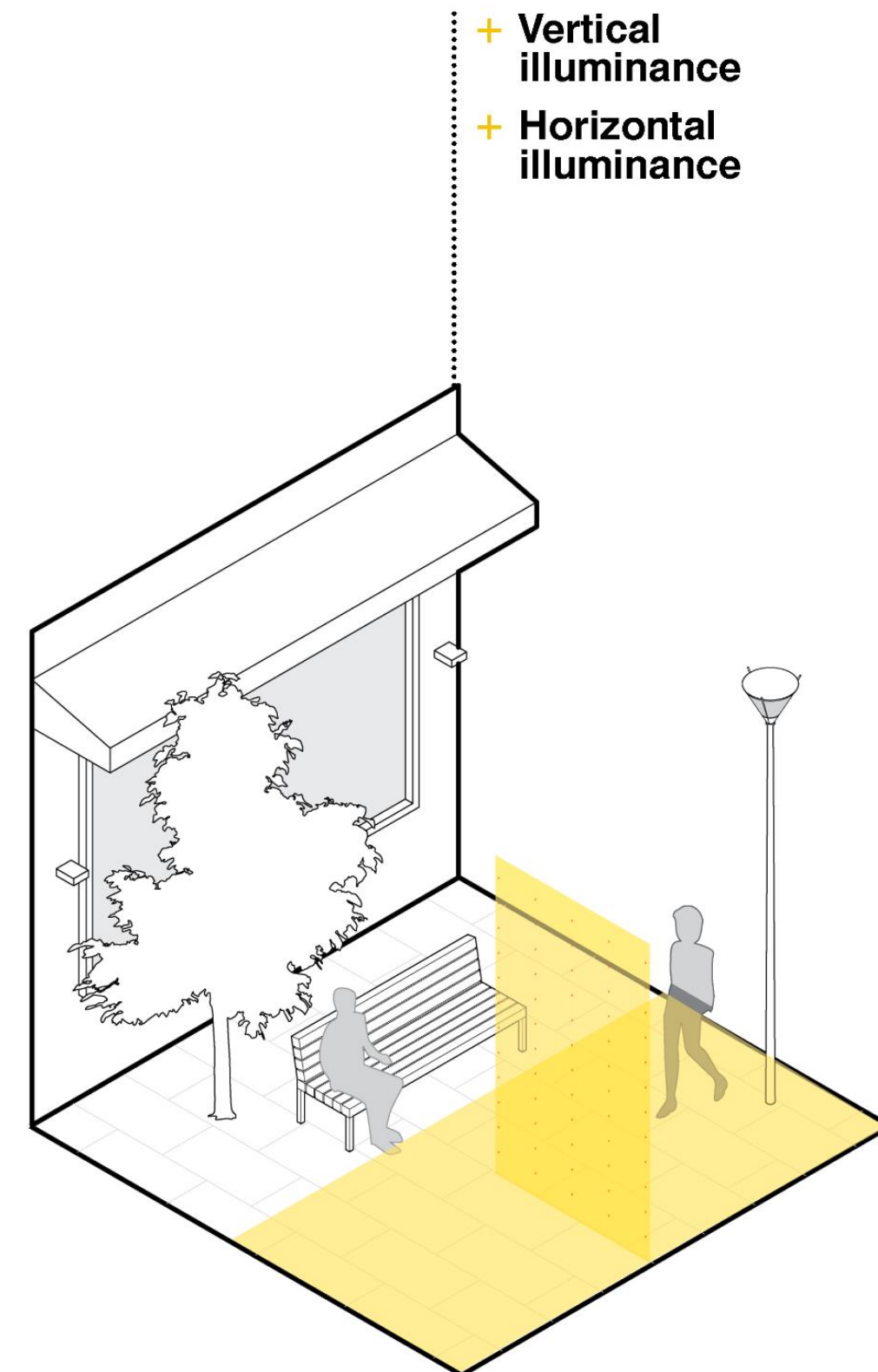
The voices of the community are one of the most valuable data points for analysis in the co-design process. The key outcomes of the workshop have been coded and translated as key design focus areas for the Victoria Street lighting design.

Lighting Design Implementation Next Steps

Following this report, a concept sketchbook will be produced with lighting concepts for the lighting implementation based on the data and themes from the co-design workshops.

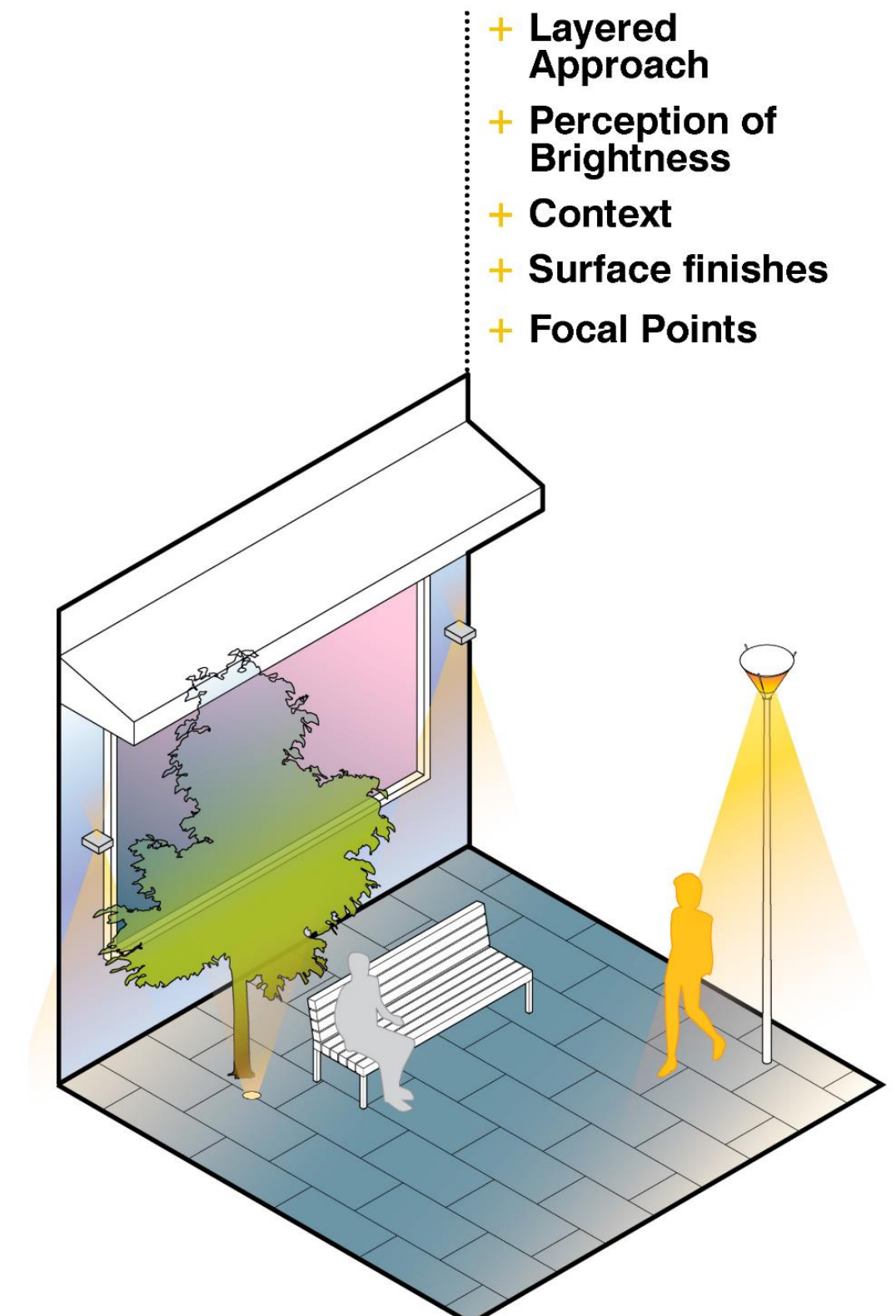
The following design criteria will be considered throughout the development of the Victoria Street lighting scheme to create a cohesive, innovative and considered design approach:

- + The lighting design will appropriately balance between the social benefits provided through the illumination of the site and the potential resulting environmental impacts.



**Compliance
Design
Approach**

- + Vertical illuminance
- + Horizontal illuminance



**Considered
Design
Approach**

- + Layered Approach
- + Perception of Brightness
- + Context
- + Surface finishes
- + Focal Points

- + Lighting strategy aims to provide safe and inclusive experiences after dark.

- + Post occupancy assessment to ascertain the effectiveness of lighting designs.

- + The lighting will be designed in accordance with relevant codes, Australian Standards including, but not limited to:

- National Construction Code of Australia
- AS/NZS 1158 – Exterior Lighting
- AS/NZS 4282 – Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor Lighting

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