

## **Much to celebrate about racial harmony: Survey** **Survey shows absence of inter-racial and religious tensions**

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SINGAPORE — Early government efforts to promote racial integration appear to have borne fruit with minority races reporting similar treatment when using public services, says a new survey.

A survey of 4,131 residents by OnePeople.sg and the Institute of Policy Studies found that only one in 10 Indians or Malays feels that he has been treated worse than other races when using public services.

Other indicators showed that there is an absence of inter-racial and religious tensions and that Singaporeans of all races are positive about the cultural diversity present, says the survey.

However, the survey indicated that there are issues to be addressed: Although eight in 10 Singaporeans are comfortable with having a close friend of a different race or religion, only 45 per cent of those surveyed have a cross racial friend.

About two in 10 Chinese respondents had a Malay or Indian close friend — defined as someone the respondent can confide in — while nearly two-thirds of Malays and Indians had a least one Chinese close friend.

However, researchers cautioned that these findings must take into account the fact that there is an overwhelming population of Chinese compared to Malays and Indians.