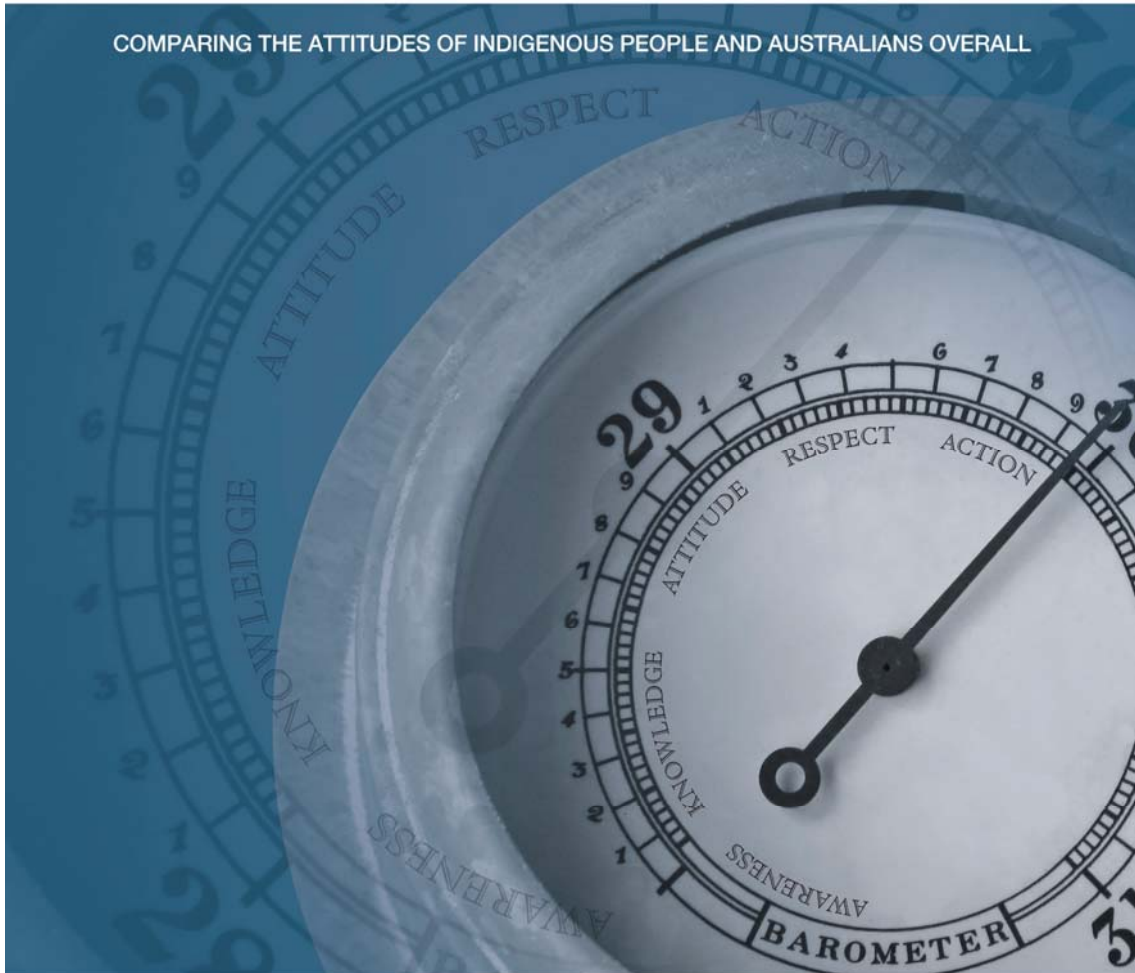




Australian Reconciliation Barometer: Comparative Report

COMPARING THE ATTITUDES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND AUSTRALIANS OVERALL



PREPARED BY AUSPOLL PTY LTD FOR RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA • FEBRUARY 2009

CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1.1 Overview	4
1.2 Awareness	5
1.3 Attitudes	5
1.4 Perceptions	6
1.5 Action	8
1.6 Next steps	9
2. INTRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT & METHODOLOGY	10
2.1 Introduction	10
2.2 Development of the Australian Reconciliation Barometer	11
2.3 Methodology.....	12
2.4 Sample characteristics	13
3. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION BAROMETER—SUMMARY OF RESULTS	14
3.1 Awareness Indicators	14
3.2 Attitude Indicators.....	15
3.3 Perceptions of each other.....	16
a. How we see ourselves	16
b. How Australians, overall, see themselves and Indigenous people	17
c. How Indigenous people see themselves and other Australians	18
3.4 Action Indicators.....	19
4. AWARENESS—KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS	20
4.1 Sources of information	20
4.2 Level of knowledge about Indigenous history	21
4.3 Importance of knowledge among all Australians about Indigenous history and culture	22
4.4 Specific knowledge of Indigenous history and culture in Australia.....	23
a. Stolen generations	23
b. Mabo	24
4.6 Knowledge of Indigenous lives and lifestyles.....	25
4.7 Specific knowledge of Indigenous social indicators	26
a. Size of Indigenous population	26
b. Male life expectancy	27
4.8 Specific knowledge of Indigenous achievement and role models	28
4.9 Comparing achievement among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.....	29
5. ATTITUDES—SHAPING VALUES AND ATTITUDES	32
5.1 Valuing Indigenous culture and history in Australia	32
a. Shared pride and reconciliation	33
5.2 Perceptions of the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians	34
5.3 Importance of the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians for the nation	35
5.4 Levels of trust between Indigenous people and other Australians	36
a. Trust that other Australians have for Indigenous people	36
b. Trust that Indigenous people have for other Australians	37
5.5 Levels of prejudice between Indigenous people and other Australians.....	38
a. Levels of prejudice between Australians and Indigenous people, according to Australians overall	38
b. Levels of prejudice between Australians and Indigenous people, according to Indigenous respondents	39
5.6 Comparing the lives of Indigenous and other Australians	40
5.7 Reasons behind Indigenous disadvantage	41
5.8 Values underlying attitudes to reconciliation.....	43

6.	PERCEPTIONS—WHAT WE THINK OF EACH OTHER	45
6.1	General impressions of Indigenous people and other Australians	45
	a. Australians' impressions of 'Australians generally' and 'Indigenous people'.	45
	b. Indigenous peoples' impressions of 'Australians generally' and 'Indigenous people'.	47
7.	ACTION—TAKING AND SUPPORTING ACTION	49
7.1	Action and progress towards reconciliation	49
7.2	Comparison of current and desired future levels of contact with Indigenous people	51
7.3	Individual involvement in the past 12 months	52
7.4	Desire for personal and government action	53
7.5	Government action to address Indigenous disadvantage	55
7.6	Prioritising measures to address Indigenous disadvantage	56
7.7	The importance of the apology	58

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Overview

The purpose and place of the Barometer

- The Reconciliation Barometer was designed to provide a snapshot of Australian attitudes which affect progress towards reconciliation, as a benchmark for measuring how these attitudes change in the future.
- The Barometer was developed through a nation-wide series of discussion groups held in late 2007 involving urban and regional Indigenous and non-Indigenous people representing a broad spectrum of different age groups and attitudes towards reconciliation.
- The staff and Board of Reconciliation Australia (RA) guided the project and a large number of key people involved in reconciliation were consulted during the Barometer's development.
- The current Barometer, which is based on quantitative studies conducted in May and June-July 2008, provides the first reference point of attitudes towards reconciliation among the Australian general public and among Indigenous Australians. Consequently, any measurement of progress will depend on the findings of subsequent Barometer surveys (which RA plans to publish every two years).
- The quantitative survey took place about five months after Prime Minister Rudd took office and after the new Government apologised to the stolen generations.

Structure of the Barometer

- The structure of the Barometer recognises that attitudes and behaviour towards reconciliation will require changes to take place in four core areas:
 - a. **Awareness:** What do people know about the facts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life and history?
 - b. **Attitudes:** What are the opinions and beliefs that Indigenous and non-Indigenous people hold about each other and our relationship?
 - c. **Perceptions:** What are the cultural stereotypes and pre-conceptions the general public holds in relation to Indigenous people and vice versa?
 - d. **Action:** What are people prepared to do to bring about an improvement in the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians?
- The key findings from these sections are summarised in charts in section three. This executive summary provides an explanation of the main points in those charts.

1.2 Awareness

- The charts that follow summarise the key measures of what Australians know about the facts of Indigenous life and history. They reveal the following:
 - Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians agree that it is **important that all Australians know about Indigenous history and culture**, with between 86% and 100% of people supporting this.
 - Most Australians agree that Indigenous history should form part of school curricula.
 - There is a substantial gap in the perceived **level of knowledge about Indigenous culture and history**. Most Indigenous people believe they have a good knowledge of their own history and culture, while between 35% and 43% of non-Indigenous people believe this.
- Surveyed after extensive publicity and debate surrounding the national apology to the stolen generations, 63% of the national sample agreed that **previous race-based policies continue to affect some Indigenous people today**.

1.3 Attitudes

Importance of the relationship

- The attitudes of Australians regarding the place of Indigenous people as the first Australians cannot be summed up simply. This is demonstrated by the apparently inconsistent responses to two questions which essentially canvas the same issue.
 - The vast majority of the general population (91%) believes that **the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians is important for Australia**.
 - However, only 59% believe that **Indigenous people hold a special place as the first Australians**.
- These responses point to an underlying acceptance of the importance of a good relationship between Indigenous and other Australians. However, they also reveal resistance among the general population to what they see as encouraging an expectation of entitlement by some Indigenous people if they were seen to have special status.
 - While most would acknowledge that Indigenous people were clearly the original inhabitants of this country, many in the general public do not accept that this should confer any preferential material benefits on Indigenous people simply arising from their ancestry.
- Importantly 70% of the general public believe that **Indigenous culture is important to Australia's national identity** – which suggests an underlying openness and acceptance about the broad role of Indigenous history, culture and people in defining who we are.
- Understandably, Indigenous people rate all these aspects of the relationship very highly (at least 92%).

Quality of the relationship

- There is a remarkable level of agreement between Indigenous and other Australians about the quality of the relationship.
 - Only about half of either population group agree that either ***the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians today is good*** or that the ***relationship between Indigenous and other Australians is improving***.
- This suggests that, despite viewing the relationship as important, both our national sample and our Indigenous sample recognised there is a long way to go in improving the relationship.
- The responses also point to a critical factor in any relationship – the level of trust.
 - Only about 1 in 10 people feel there is a ***high level of trust*** in the relationship, with Indigenous people feeling this way about other Australians and other Australians about Indigenous people.

Shared pride

- One of the cornerstone conclusions of this study is the **scope for a greater sense of shared pride** in key aspects of Indigenous life in Australia - the people, their history and cultures.
- In determining this, we measured two aspects:
 - How much the overall population ***feels pride in Indigenous culture*** (only 50%).
 - How much the overall population feels that Indigenous people are prepared to ***share their culture with other Australians***.
- The second of these findings is one of the most interesting of the entire study. That is:
 - Only 44% of the overall population believe that ***Indigenous people are open to sharing their culture with other Australians***.
 - But 89% of Indigenous people say ***they are open to sharing their culture***.
- This indicates a significant gap in perceptions and suggests that one important way to close this gap is to support Indigenous Australians in finding ways to share their culture with non-Indigenous people, and to support non-Indigenous Australians in finding ways to learn about, experience and take pride in Indigenous culture.

1.4 Perceptions

Measuring our national identity

- The survey provides a fascinating insight into **how we as Australians perceive ourselves** – and the difference between the perceptions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, and the task we have in breaking down entrenched stereotypes.
- We gave people a series of **11 positive attributes** and asked people to associate them either with all Australians, with Indigenous Australians or with no Australians. Because we asked the same questions of Indigenous Australians and non-Indigenous Australians, responses reveal the degree of similarity between our perceptions of personal characteristics.

How we see ourselves

- It is interesting to note how Australians perceive themselves and how Indigenous people perceive themselves.
- The Barometer shows we probably **have more in common with each other** than we think – suggesting that the Australian national psyche runs deep for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
 - We appreciate perceived national **strengths**: Good at **sport, good humoured, easy going**.
 - We recognise perceived national **weaknesses**: Not so **disciplined, hard working, co-operative or respectful**.
- Perhaps the **key difference** between self perceptions is: Where all Australians see themselves as **easy going**, Indigenous Australians are more likely to see themselves as **family oriented**.
 - However, this is not a significant difference. While 95% of Indigenous people ascribe the attribute of family orientation to themselves, so do 85% of non-Indigenous participants.

How we see each other

- On every count, the overall **Australian population rated themselves ahead of Indigenous people** in possessing each positive trait. The margin in some cases was very large.
- On almost every count, the **Indigenous population rated themselves ahead of the overall Australian population**.
 - The size of the gap felt by Indigenous people was lower than that perceived by the non-Indigenous population. This implies that **Indigenous people hold a more generous view** towards the general population than is felt the other way around.
- Indigenous participants rated Indigenous people behind the rest of the population on only one characteristic – **hard working**.
- It appears that all Australians consider Indigenous people to be:
 - **Quite similar** to the rest of Australia in being **family oriented, proud and good at sport**.
 - **Fairly similar** to the rest of Australia in being **easy going, friendly, good-humoured, respectful and welcoming**.
 - **Not very similar** to the rest of Australia in being **co-operative, disciplined and hard working**.
- These perceptions provide something of a check-list of stereotypes to be overcome in any policies or communication campaigns directed at improving the perceptions that non-Indigenous people have of Indigenous people.
- It appears that Indigenous people consider all Australians to be:
 - **Quite similar** to Indigenous people in being **hard working, good at sport, easy going and proud**.

- **Fairly similar** to Indigenous people in being **friendly, disciplined, good humoured, co-operative, family-oriented and welcoming**.
- **Not very similar** to Indigenous people in being **respectful**.
- Of these characteristics, perhaps the **lack of respect** and the **lack of emphasis on family** highlight the largest differences in the way that Indigenous people see the rest of the Australian general public.

1.5 Action

Personal action

- There appears to be no fundamental obstacle to non-Indigenous Australians engaging with the process of reconciliation. In fact the survey reveals that about two thirds of the population believe they are already engaged in some way because 64% report they have ***taken steps to advance reconciliation or to help disadvantaged Indigenous people in the last 12 months***.
- There is a very high level of interest among those who would like to increase the amount of contact they have with Indigenous people in the future. While just over half (58%) of Australians currently report contact with Indigenous people, **more than three quarters (76%) say they would like to have contact with Indigenous people in the future**.
- There is also a **level of interest in helping disadvantaged Indigenous people**, with more than a third of people (37%) expressing a wish to do so.
- However, a critical finding is that **only 20% of Australians say they know what they can do to help disadvantaged Indigenous people**.
- This figure is low for a number of possible reasons:
 - There is a general lack of knowledge and understanding about how people can help.
 - Some people perceive the problem to be so big they just don't know where to start.
 - Some feel dissociated from Indigenous Australians and do not see how they could contribute to overcoming their disadvantage.
- Whichever the reason, the findings suggest **a key objective for the reconciliation process is to improve the knowledge and understanding of Australians about how they can be involved and help to overcome Indigenous disadvantage**.

Government action

- There are varying views among the population about government support for Indigenous people. There is **considerable resistance to the perception of an “entitlement mentality”** where people could be entitled to government assistance simply by virtue of being born Indigenous.
- However, there is one important point of agreement: that the **government should provide specific, targeted programmes to help Indigenous people achieve equality**.

- This suggests that governments will be supported and respected in developing clear programmes directed at “levelling the playing field” and putting effort into explaining how they bring about greater equality for Indigenous people.

Other action

- The survey reveals two other areas where substantial action is required to advance reconciliation:
 - Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders need to find ways to be (and appear to be) more co-operative in their dealings with each other.
 - The media needs to present a more balanced view of Indigenous Australians.

1.6 Next steps

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer will be of enormous value to governments, corporations, the education sector and all organisations working to close the many interrelated gaps between Indigenous and other Australians.

As it is intended to be repeated over time, subsequent iterations of the Barometer will measure our progress towards reconciliation and create a body of knowledge of how we go about building mutually respectful relationships between all Australians.

For Reconciliation Australia, planning and conducting the barometer project has been a high priority over several years – our work is all about improving relationships so understanding the opportunities and the barriers we face in achieving that objective was a natural and essential focus for us.

In particular, our community education and engagement strategies will be based now on the priorities of Australians themselves, to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history, and to increase opportunities for people to have contact with one another. We will also work to fill the void where people have told us they don't know what they can do to make a difference – reconciliation is everyone's responsibility and we can all make a difference.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to everyone involved in the development of the Australian Reconciliation Barometer, in particular the survey respondents and focus group participants. Your openness and honesty have provided us with a window into what's possible and some fundamentally important tools to get us there.

2. INTRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

Reconciliation Australia and Auspoll began collaboration on the Reconciliation Barometer research project in February 2007. The objective of the research was to develop a tool to measure the progress of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

While improvements in Indigenous health, employment, housing and education are essential aspects of the reconciliation process, these improvements will not come about if we do not address the core ingredient of reconciliation—the relationship between the first Australians and those who have come since. All along this has been an unequal relationship most sharply illustrated by the current 17-year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children.

If we are to improve the relationship and create an environment which provides equal life chances for all Australians we must first understand the underlying values and perceptions that shape this relationship and influence our society today.

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer delves into the heart of our nation to identify the attitudes Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians hold about each other and about reconciliation in this country. It also attempts to shed some light on why we hold them.

This is the first time a study of this nature comparing Indigenous Australians' attitudes and values to that of other Australians has been undertaken. It is a window into how we see ourselves today, and more importantly where we aspire to be as we begin the 21st century.

The findings paint a picture of how Australians view the place of Indigenous people in Australia today, the relationship between us as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and how it may look in the future.

The inspiration for a Barometer came from South Africa where the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation developed the 'South African Reconciliation Barometer', which was initially conducted bi-annually in 2003 and 2004 and since then annually.

The South African Barometer recognized the 'conceptual density of the concept of reconciliation' and it set out to 'distill a clear set of indicators to measure those features we associate with the concept of reconciliation'. In doing so it acknowledged that 'some dimensions have to be sacrificed to achieve the maximum measurability possible'¹. The development of the South African Barometer involved the identification of six hypotheses—each with its own indicators—relating to the nature of reconciliation in South Africa. Their survey has tracked changes in these indicators over the last five years and the survey has been refined and extended during this period. Each of the indicators represents a factor that, if strengthened, is likely to advance reconciliation.

Like the South African model, the Australian Reconciliation Barometer will track changes over time in the Australian public's awareness, attitudes, perceptions, and actions, all essential ingredients in achieving lasting reconciliation.

As the first in a series, the 2008 Barometer is a benchmark of the current state of reconciliation in Australia. Reconciliation Australia will publish the Barometer every two years, with updated survey results.

¹ Hofmeyr, J.H. (2007) 'Report of the Seventh Round of the SA Reconciliation Barometer Survey' Wynberg: Institute for Justice and Reconciliation p 2

2.2 Development of the Australian Reconciliation Barometer

To create the Australian Barometer, the first part of the research task was to identify different factors that contribute to advancing reconciliation. Similar to the development of the South African Barometer, the early stages of the Australian research involved the development and testing of hypotheses and indicators of various aspects of the reconciliation process.

Several phases of both quantitative and qualitative research were used in the process of identifying and defining these factors.

In May 2007 a quantitative survey of 1,024 people was conducted to determine the underlying values and attitudes of Australians to Indigenous issues and reconciliation. This survey was enhanced by a series of in-depth interviews with 14 key Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders. From these results, 29 hypotheses regarding what is important to building reconciliation were identified and these formed the basis of a discussion guide for a qualitative study.

In November-December 2007 a series of 12 focus groups, each involving between 8-10 Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, were conducted in Shepparton, Rockhampton and Sydney. The focus groups explored the 29 hypotheses of reconciliation and resulted in the identification of 31 “outcomes” for reconciliation i.e. actions or conditions that will advance reconciliation.

These 31 outcomes comprise the core components of the reconciliation process. We have grouped them under four headings of “awareness”, “attitudes”, “perceptions” and “action” as outlined below.

Awareness—knowledge of the facts

The essential foundation for reconciliation is an understanding of the basic facts of Indigenous Australia, including history and its continuing effects, the importance of culture, the contribution of Indigenous people to Australia’s development, and the diverse situations of Indigenous people today. Without this knowledge, mutual respect based on truth and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people will struggle to grow.

Attitudes—shaping values and behaviour

The attitudes held by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people towards each other present both the key obstacles and opportunities for reconciliation. Understanding the values and attitudes that we have toward each other and the way they influence our actions is essential in effecting the attitudinal and behavioural change necessary for the advancement of reconciliation.

Perceptions—what we think of each other

Assumptions we make of each other are often based on misinformed stereotypes which shape our attitudes and behaviour towards each other. Gaining a sense of the many things we have in common as fellow Australians and breaking down entrenched generalisations will allow us to see ourselves and each other more realistically, and open up the possibility of a new relationship.

Action—taking and supporting action

The active engagement of all Australians is paramount in improving the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. In turn, respectful and trusting relationships provide the foundation for achieving equal life chances for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children because they allow us to work together effectively to overcome problems and design solutions.

Coupled with a desire to be actively engaged, Australians need to know what to do—as individuals, as civil society organizations and as governments—all with differing roles to play in improving the relationship and overcoming disadvantage.

These 31 outcomes were then developed into a quantitative benchmark survey developed to measure and track progress across these four components of reconciliation for the purposes of the research. The survey was conducted nationally and the results provide the baseline data for the inaugural Australian Reconciliation Barometer.

2.3 Methodology

This research was developed and conducted by Auspoll on behalf of Reconciliation Australia. The Barometer quantitative study involved conducting the same survey among two separate population groups: *Australians overall* and *Indigenous people*.

A representative national sample of 1,007 Australians aged 18+ completed the survey between Thursday 1 May and Saturday 3 May 2008. A national sample of 617 Indigenous Australians completed the survey between June 25 and July 30 2008.

Online methodology

The research was conducted online for both groups. The survey of *Australians overall* used a managed panel of respondents who received a small incentive for their participation. The survey among Indigenous respondents involved recruitment through Indigenous networks across Australia with an open invitation distributed by email. This targeted approach was taken due to the relatively small proportion of Indigenous Australians within established research panels, and the Australian population overall.

Previous studies have shown that online research produces results which are at least as accurate (and sometimes more accurate) than telephone research. Another benefit of this approach is the removal of any interviewer bias that may come into play when discussing sensitive issues. Online surveys also have the advantage of allowing people to respond at their own pace, giving them enough time to properly consider important and complex issues. However, it is possible that this methodology over-samples the computer literate population which may be more highly educated than the general population.

Margin of error

National sample: The indicative margin of error for a sample size of 1,007 is +/- 3.1 per cent at the 95% confidence interval. This means that if the true value in the population is 50% and a survey was repeated 20 times then on 19 of those occasions the survey would return a result between 53.1% and 46.9%. A correspondingly higher margin of error would apply to subgroup analyses—e.g. 'males' or '18-29 year olds' so care should be taken in the interpretation of results among subgroups.

Indigenous sample: The indicative margin of error for a sample size of 617 is +/- 3.9 per cent at the 95% confidence interval. This means that if the true value in the population is 50% and a survey was repeated 20 times then on 19 of those occasions the survey would return a result between 53.9% and 46.1%. As noted above there is a higher margin of error associated with results among subgroups.

2.4 Sample characteristics

National sample: The sample was drawn to be representative of the Australian population. Accordingly, the percentages of people surveyed in each subgroup were as follows:

Male	480	48%
Female	527	52%
18-29	159	16%
30-39	219	22%
40 – 49	253	25%
50 – 59	263	26%
60+	113	11%
Capital city	602	60%
Regional centre	240	24%
Rural/remote	165	16%

Indigenous sample: The following table outlines the demographic characteristics of the survey sample compared to statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Gaining a truly representative sample of Indigenous Australians is difficult because of a number of geographical and socioeconomic factors. Accounting for these factors was beyond the scope of the research. It is acknowledged that the sample of Indigenous people (recruited via Indigenous networks) may not be truly representative of the overall Indigenous population. Because of these underlying concerns we did not attempt to weight the Indigenous sample to ABS statistics.

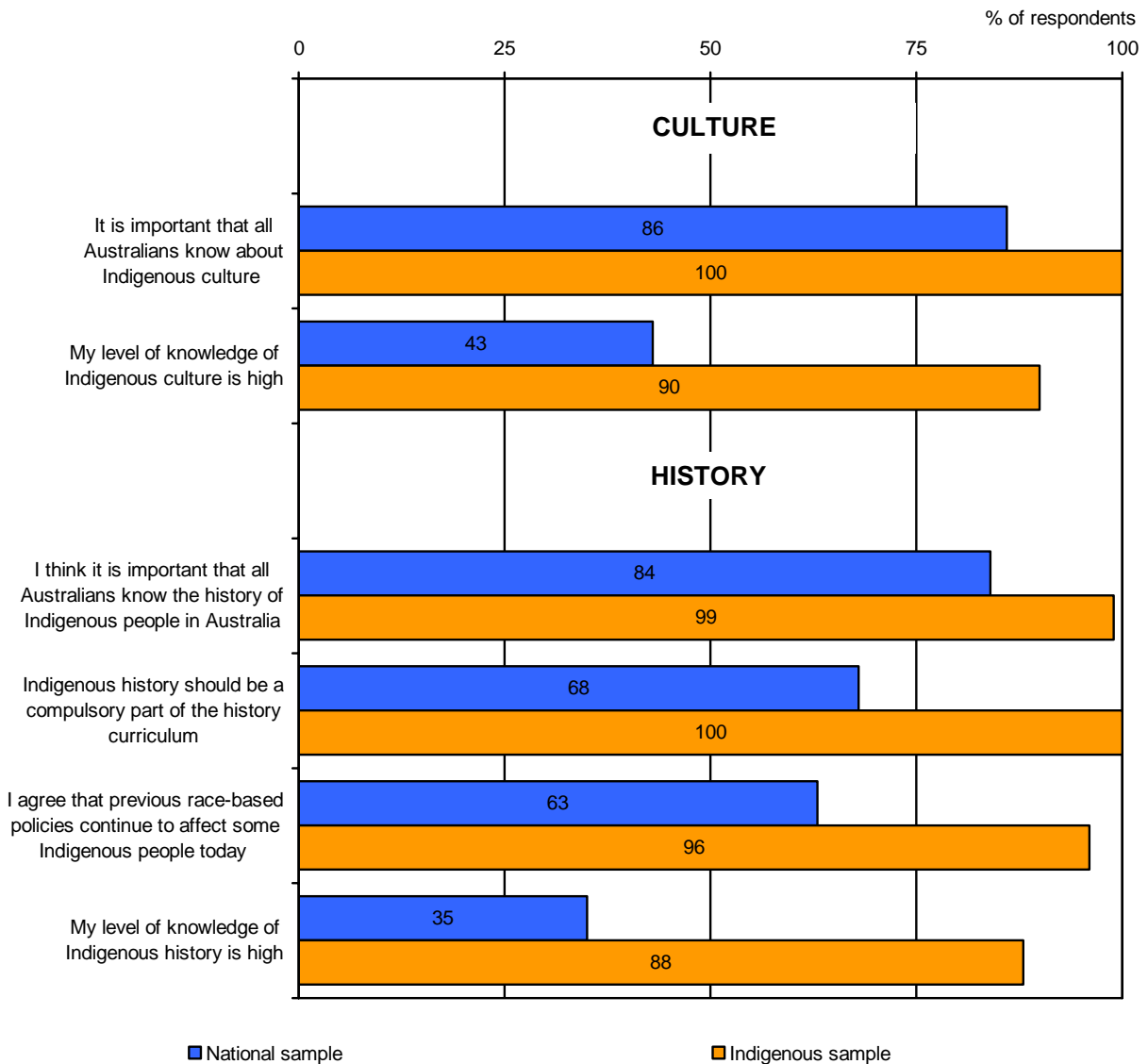
	Survey sample	Indigenous population (over 18 years ABS)
Male	32%	49%
Female	68%	51%
18 - 29	12%	29% (20 – 29 years)
30 - 39	32%	26%
40 – 49	31%	21%
50 – 59	22%	13%
60+	4%	10%
Capital city	33%	31% (Major city)
Regional centre	38%	45% (Regional)
Rural/remote	29%	24% (Remote/very remote)

3. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION BAROMETER—SUMMARY OF RESULTS

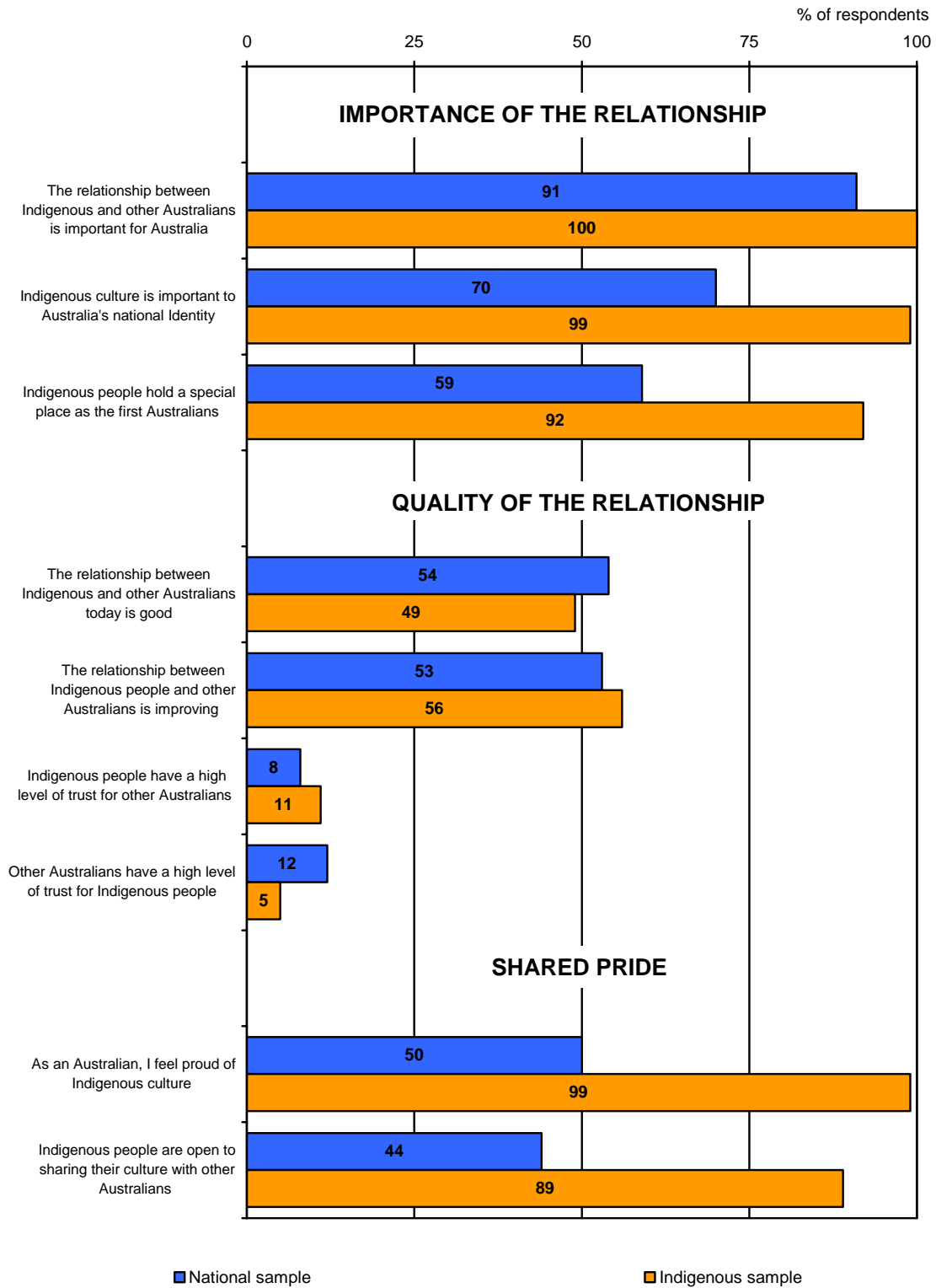
The National Reconciliation Barometer has been designed to track the progress of reconciliation in Australia by quantifying indicators relating to specific outcomes and barriers to reconciliation.

The following summary presents the results of the most important indicators from the 2008 Barometer. Sections four, five, six and seven of this report present the results of every indicator in more detail.

3.1 Awareness Indicators

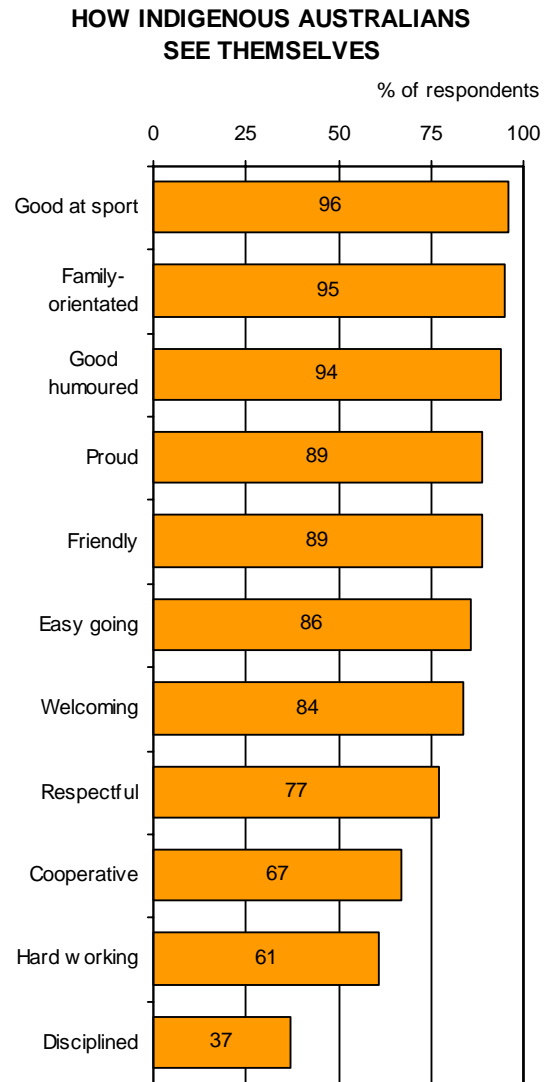
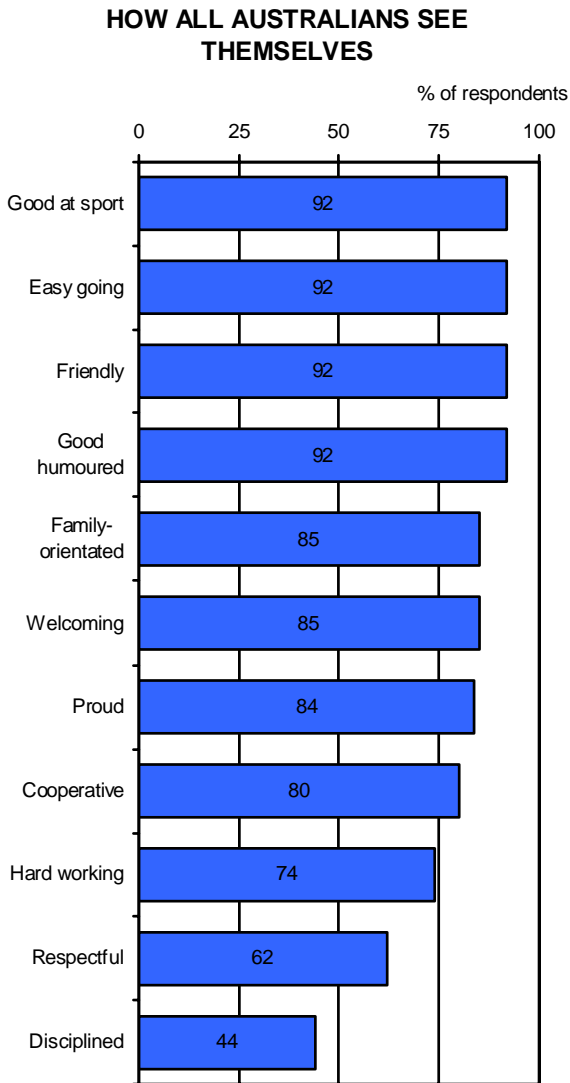


3.2 Attitude Indicators



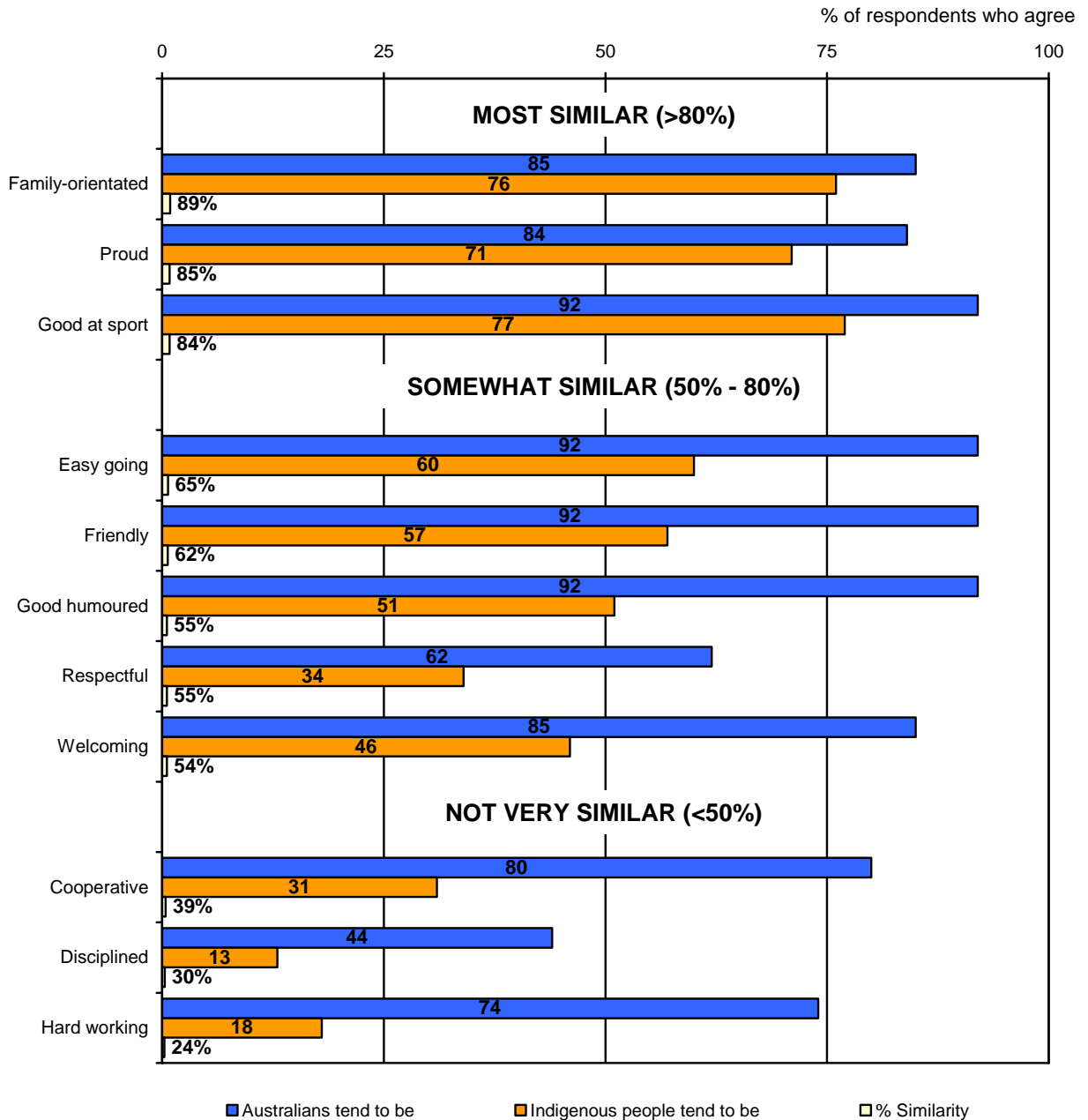
3.3 Perceptions of each other

a. How we see ourselves



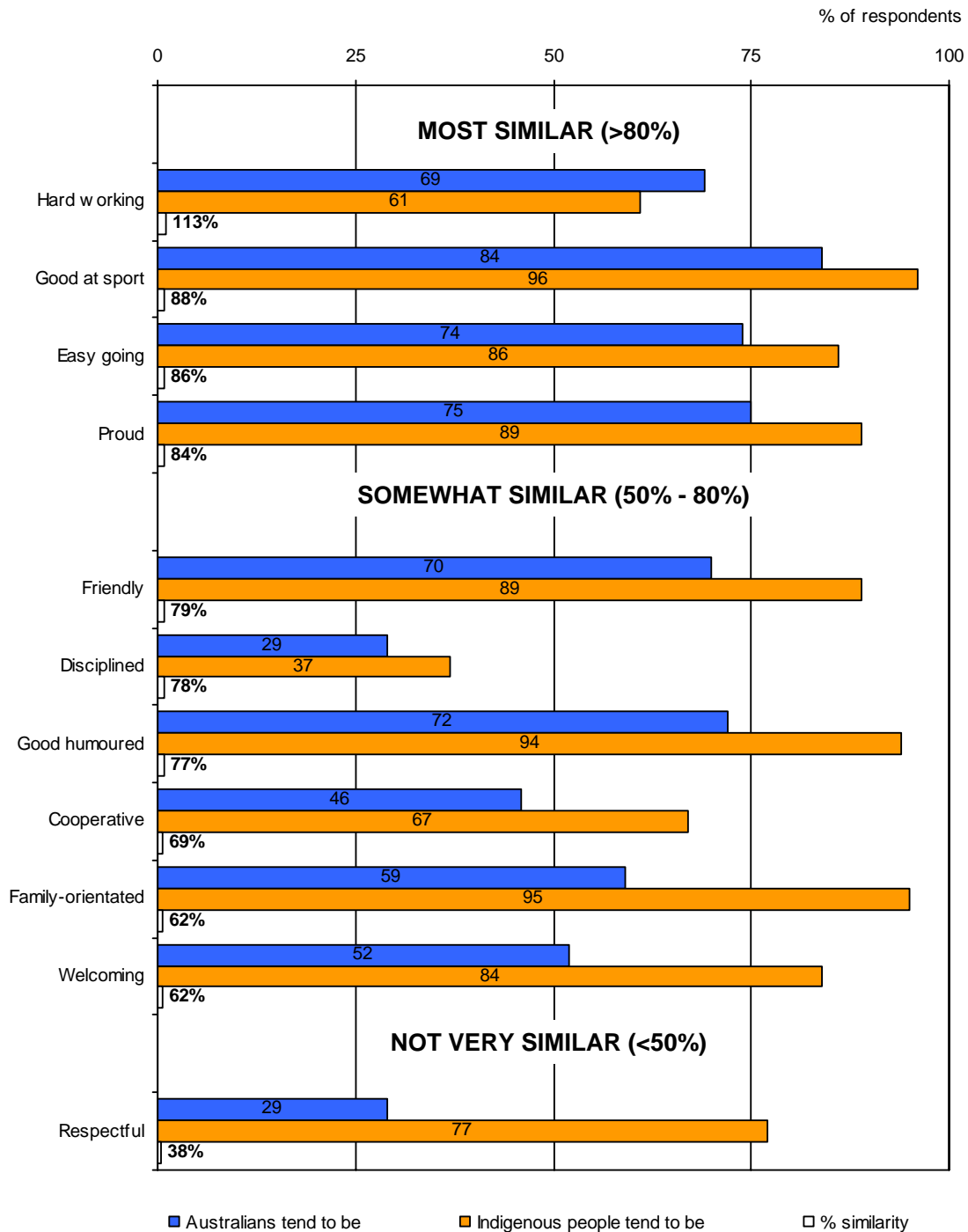
b. How Australians, overall, see themselves and Indigenous people

Thinking about your overall impression of Australians / Indigenous people, would you say they tend to be...?



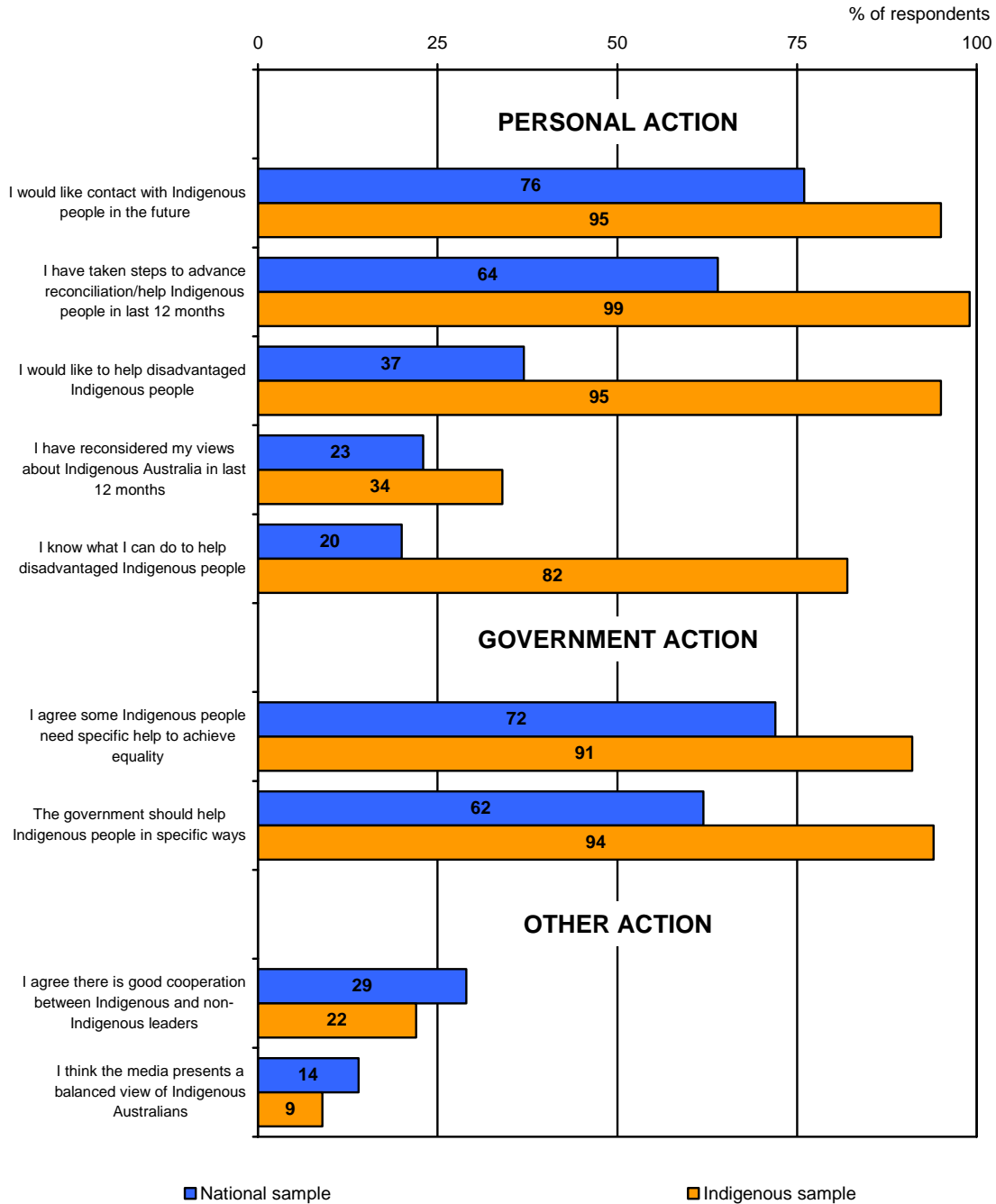
NB: Attributes are sorted according to what Australians overall perceive to be greatest to least similar traits of Indigenous and other Australians.

c. How Indigenous people see themselves and other Australians



NB: Attributes are sorted according to what Indigenous respondents perceive to be greatest to least similar traits of Indigenous and other Australians.

3.4 Action Indicators



4. AWARENESS—KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS

4.1 Sources of information

Which of the following is your main source of information about Indigenous people?

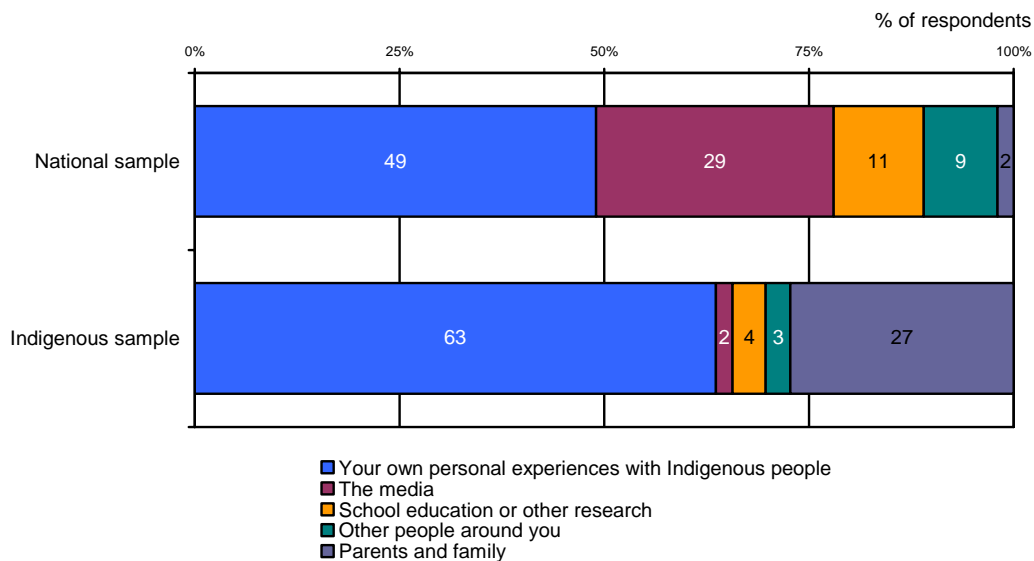
Your own personal experiences with Indigenous people

The media

School education or other research

Other people around you

Parents and family



KEY FINDINGS:

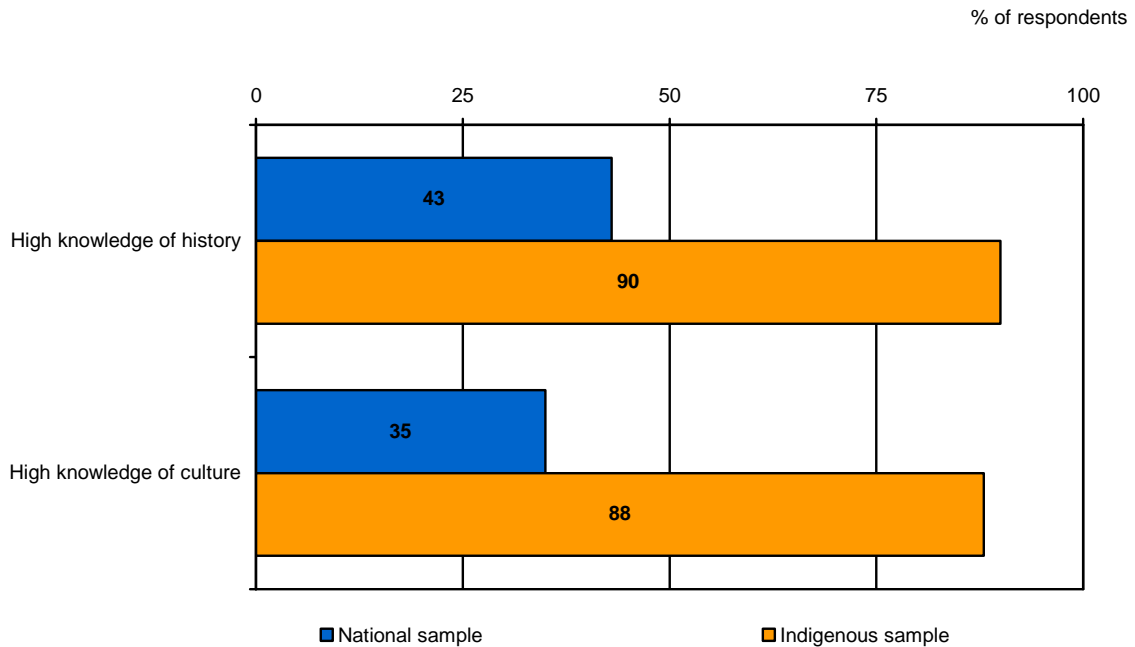
The most common source of information about Indigenous people across both sample groups is *'personal experiences.'* Around two thirds of Indigenous respondents (63%) and half of Australians overall (49%) cite their own *'personal experiences'* as their main source of information.

Around one quarter of Indigenous people (27%) cite *'parents and family'* as their main source of information, while very few cite *'the media'* (2%), *'school education'* (4%) and *'other people'* (3%) as their main source of information.

The responses of Australians overall are markedly different. Nearly a third (29%) cite *'the media'* as their main source of information, 11% cite *'school education'* and 9% *'other people around them'*. Only 2% cite *'parents and family'* as their main source of information about Indigenous people.

4.2 Level of knowledge about Indigenous history

How would you describe your level of knowledge about the history of Indigenous people in Australia?



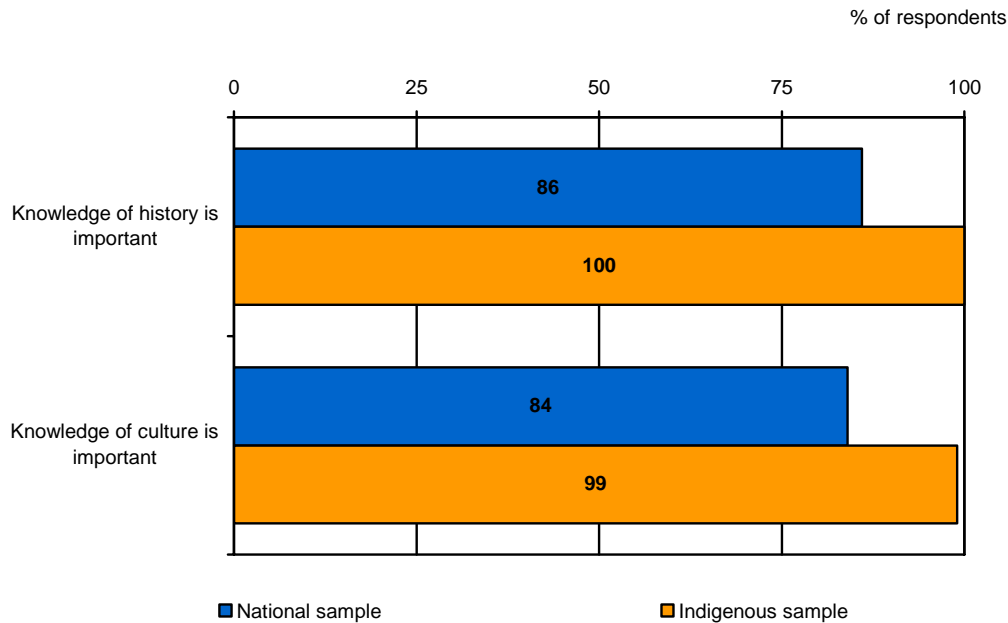
KEY FINDINGS:

Around nine in every ten Indigenous respondents claim to have a *'high'* level of knowledge of both Indigenous history (90%) and culture (88%). Perceived levels of knowledge amongst Australians overall are much lower with less than half claiming a *'high'* level of knowledge of Indigenous history (43%) or culture (35%).

Importance of knowledge among all Australians about Indigenous history and culture

How important is it that all Australians know about the following topics?

- The history of Indigenous people in Australia
- Indigenous culture



KEY FINDINGS:

Virtually all respondents believe it is *'important'* to know about Indigenous history and culture. All Indigenous respondents believe it is *'important'* that all Australians have knowledge of Indigenous history (100%) and over four fifths of Australians overall (86%) agree.

The picture is almost identical for culture; 99% of Indigenous respondents believe it is *'important'* that all Australians have knowledge of Indigenous culture, as do 84% of Australians overall.

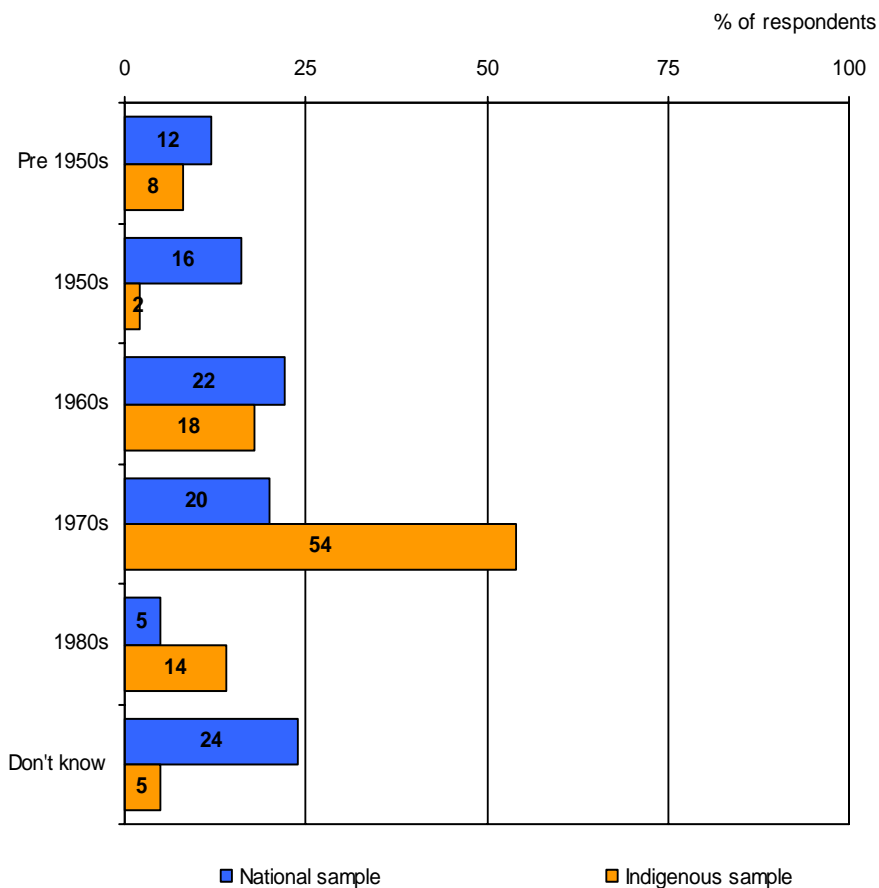
The importance that Australians overall attribute to having knowledge of Indigenous history and culture is interesting, given their relatively low levels of perceived knowledge of both these topics (see previous question).

4.3 Specific knowledge of Indigenous history and culture in Australia

During the survey, participants were asked a series of questions to determine their actual knowledge about aspects of Indigenous history and culture in order to understand how it compares to their perceived levels of knowledge. The results of these questions draw attention to knowledge gaps and possible targets for further communications.

a. Stolen generations

In February 2008, the Australian Parliament apologised to members of the stolen generations for past policies that separated many Indigenous people from their families and homelands. In which decade did these policies end?



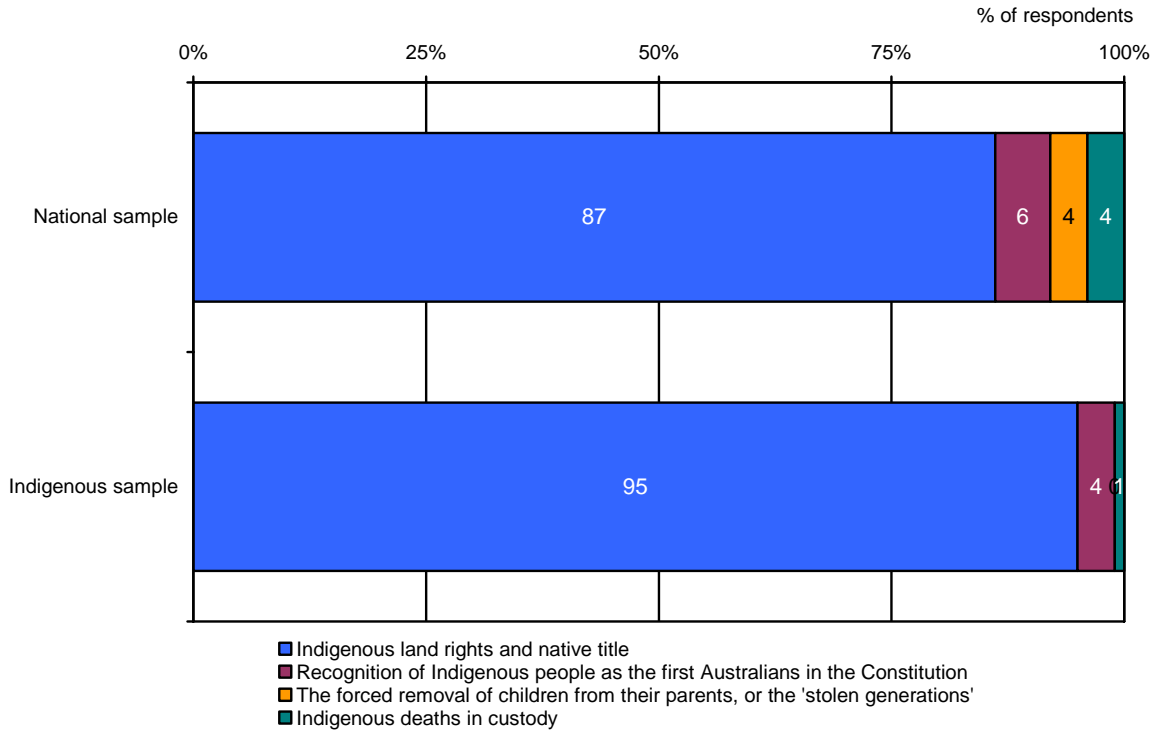
KEY FINDINGS:

More than twice as many Indigenous respondents (54%) than Australians overall (20%) correctly identified the 1970s as the decade when the stolen generations policies ended.

Australians overall were more likely to think that these policies ended earlier, 50% of them compared to 28% of Indigenous respondents selected decades before the 1970s. The single most common answer among Australians overall was 'don't know' (24%), suggesting significant uncertainty.

b. Mabo

In 1992, the High Court of Australia passed a decision known as 'Mabo'. Do you think that this decision relates to....?



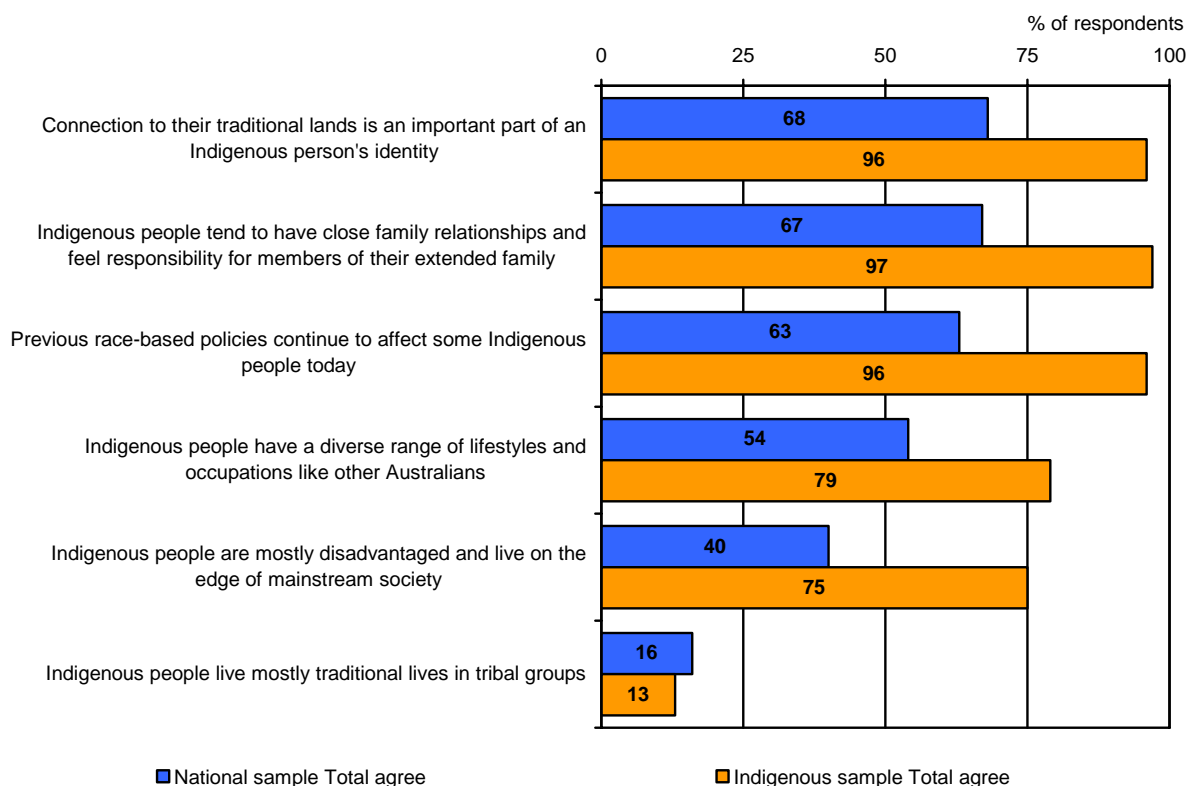
KEY FINDINGS:

Most respondents from both groups understand what the Mabo legislation is about with 95% of Indigenous respondents and 87% of Australians overall answering correctly, that Mabo relates to 'Indigenous land rights and native title.'

4.6 Knowledge of Indigenous lives and lifestyles

Research participants were asked for their level of agreement with a set of statements relating to awareness of the lives of Indigenous people today.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



KEY FINDINGS:

Virtually all Indigenous respondents and around two thirds of Australians overall agree with the following statements about Indigenous life and identity:

- *'Connection to their traditional lands is an important part of an Indigenous person's identity'* (Australians overall: 68%, Indigenous: 96%)
- *'Indigenous people tend to have close family relationships and feel responsibility for members of their extended family'* (Australians overall: 67%, Indigenous: 97%)
- *'Previous race-based policies continue to affect some Indigenous people today'* (Australians overall: 63%, Indigenous: 96%)

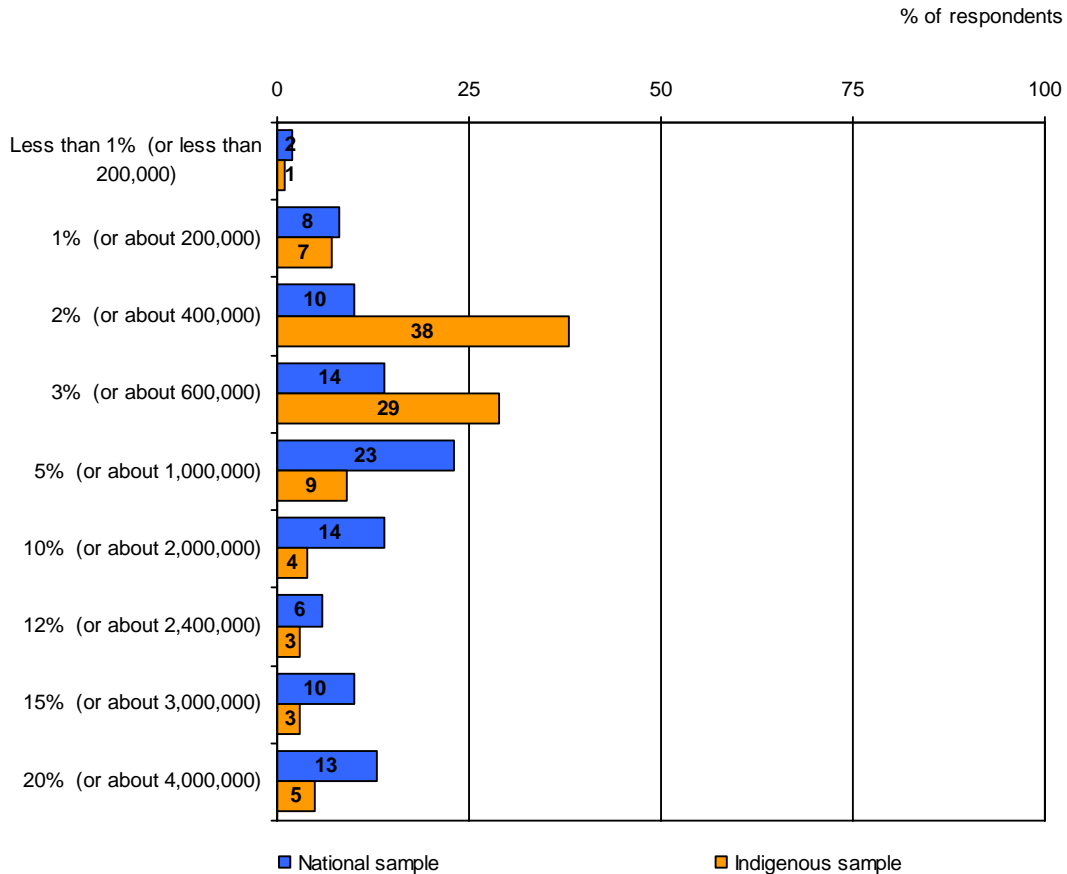
The other three statements relate to perceptions of the lifestyles of Indigenous people today. Most people recognise that, *'Indigenous people have a diverse range of lifestyles and occupations like other Australians,'* although Indigenous people are more likely to agree than Australians overall (79% compared to 54%).

The statement about Indigenous disadvantage received the most disparate responses from the two populations. Three quarters of Indigenous respondents (75%) agreed that *'Indigenous people are mostly disadvantaged and live on the edge of mainstream society'* while only 40% of Australians overall agree. Finally, few Indigenous respondents (13%) or Australians overall (16%) agree that *'Indigenous people live mostly traditional lives in tribal groups.'*

4.7 Specific knowledge of Indigenous social indicators

a. Size of Indigenous population

What proportion of Australia's population is Indigenous?



KEY FINDINGS:

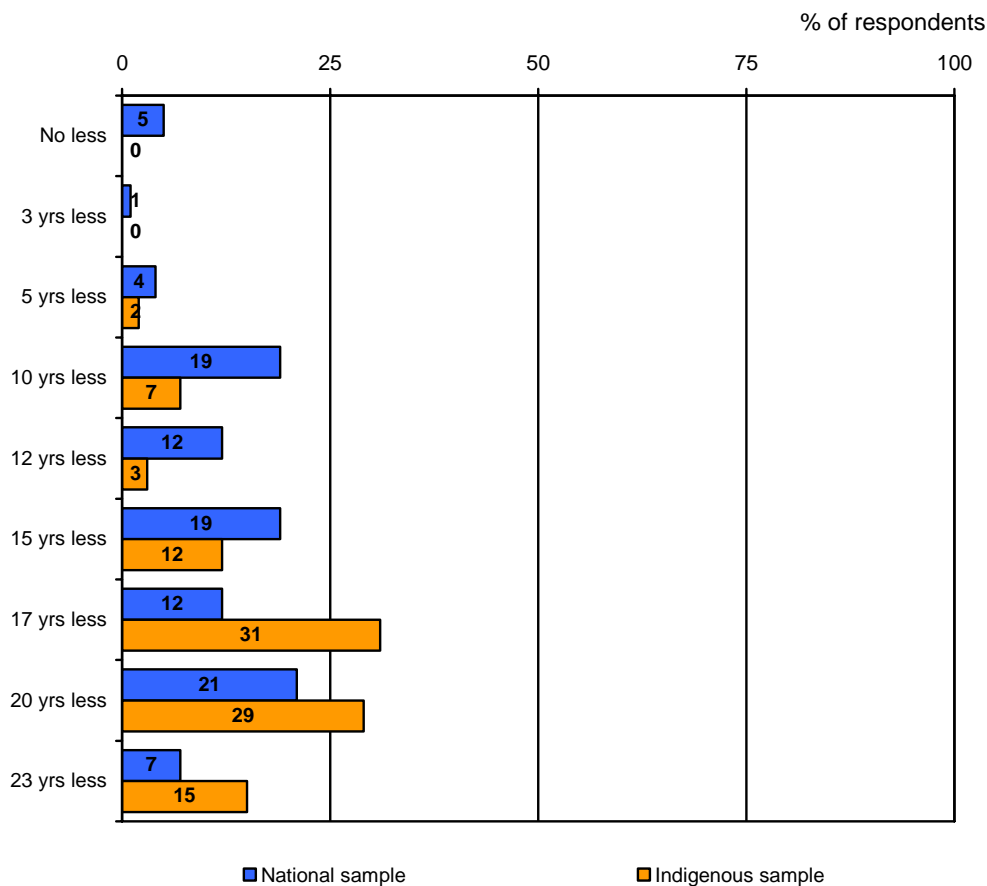
Indigenous Australians are more likely to correctly estimate the Indigenous proportion of the national population than Australians overall. Around two thirds of Indigenous respondents correctly answered that either 2% or 3% of the Australian population is Indigenous (real figure is 2.4%). This compares to only one in four (24%) of the National sample who answered correctly.

Most Australians overall overestimate the size of the Indigenous population, with two thirds believing that Indigenous people represent 5% or more of the population and nearly half (43%) believing that they represent 10% or more of the population.

In contrast, only around one in four Indigenous people (23%) believe that the Indigenous population accounts for 5% or more of the total population.

b. Male life expectancy

The average life expectancy of males in Australia today is around 72 years old. How much less is the life expectancy of Indigenous males?



KEY FINDINGS:

Indigenous respondents are more aware than other Australians of the ‘gap’ in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous males. Around one third of Indigenous respondents (31%) answered correctly but only 12% of Australians overall identified that Indigenous males live 17 years less than other males in Australia.

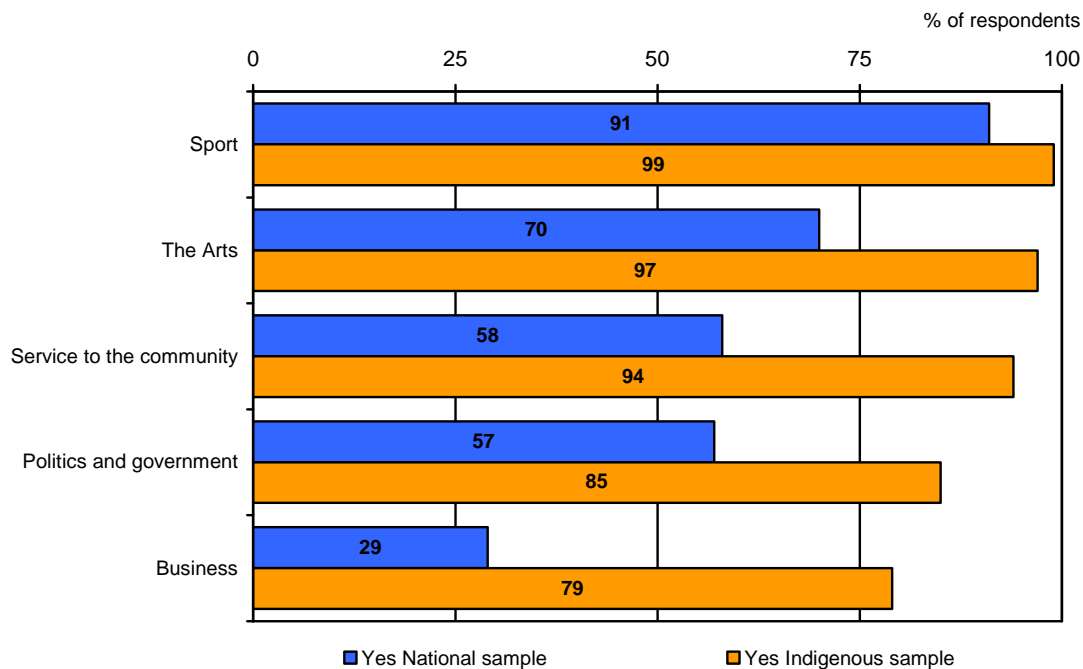
Indigenous respondents were most likely to overestimate the gap (44% believe the gap is more than 17 years) with only 22% believing the gap is smaller than 17 years.

In contrast, Australians overall tended to underestimate the gap with 60% believing it is less than 17 years and only 28% believing it is more.

4.8 Specific knowledge of Indigenous achievement and role models

Can you think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in the following areas?

Sport
The Arts
Service to the community
Politics and government
Business



KEY FINDINGS:

The majority of Indigenous respondents and Australians overall can think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in a range of areas of achievement. However, Indigenous respondents are more likely to be able to think of Indigenous role models across each specific area than Australians overall.

Indigenous achievement is most visible in 'sport' with virtually all Australians being able to identify an Indigenous person who sets an example in this area (99% of indigenous people and 91% of the general population). Achievement in 'the Arts' is also high with 97% of Indigenous people and 70% of the general population being able to identify an Indigenous role model.

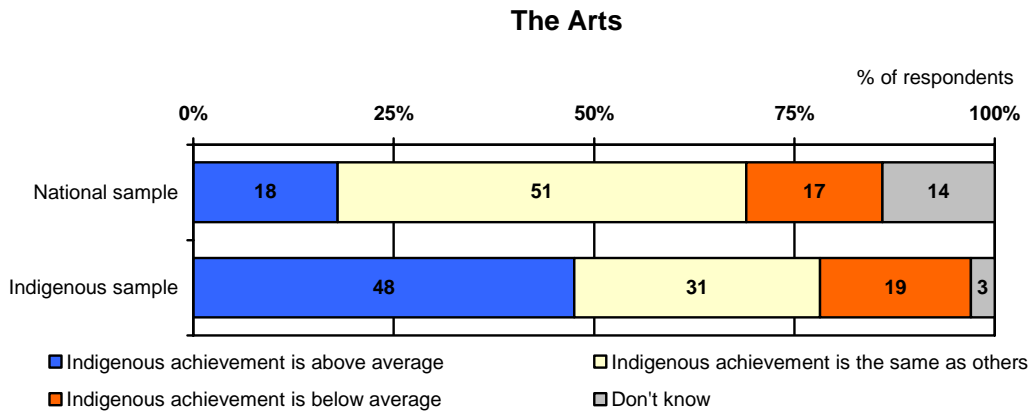
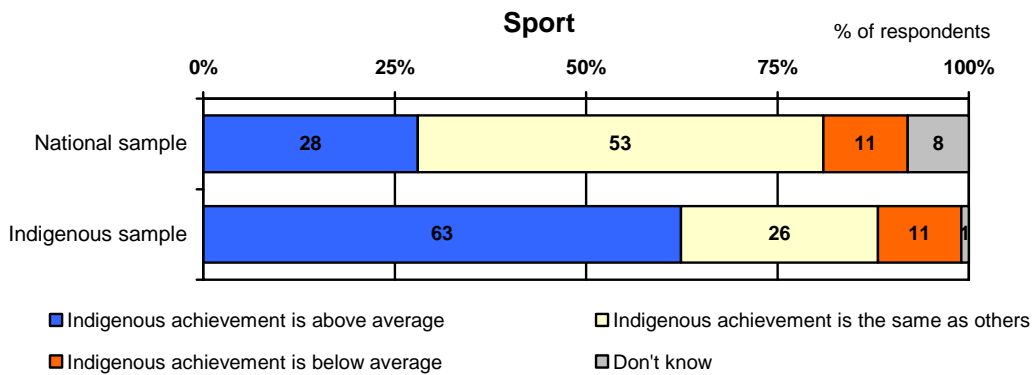
Indigenous people are less visible, especially to Australians overall in the areas of 'service to the community' and 'politics and government'. Virtually all Indigenous people can think of someone who sets an example in these areas, while only around six out of ten Australians overall (57% and 58%) can do the same.

Indigenous achievement is least recognised in the area of 'business'. Nearly eight of ten (79%) Indigenous people can identify someone who sets an example in business, while less than one third of Australians overall (29%) can do the same.

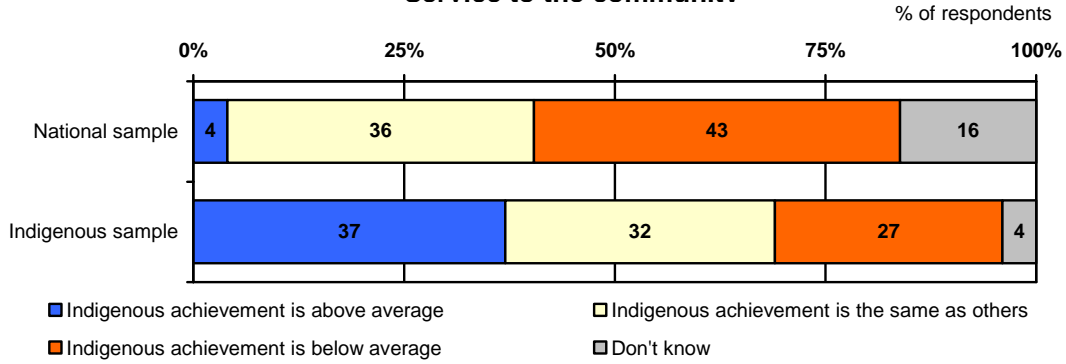
4.9 Comparing achievement among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

How would you describe the achievements of Indigenous people compared to the rest of the Australian population in the following areas?

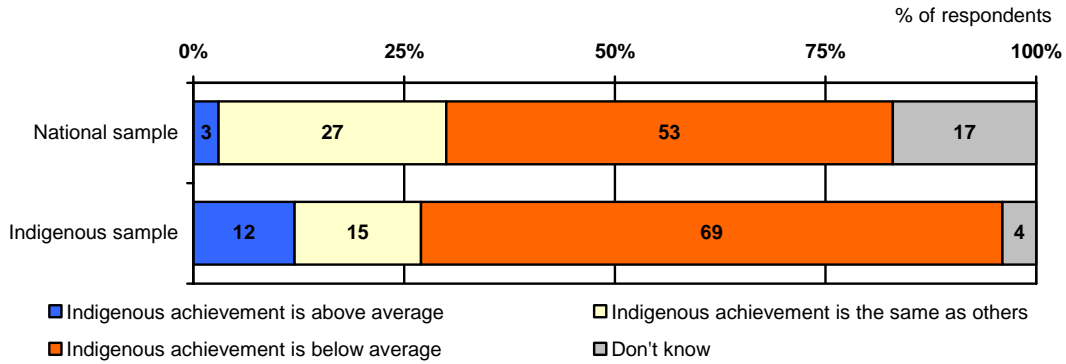
- Sport
- The Arts
- Service to the community
- Politics and government
- Business



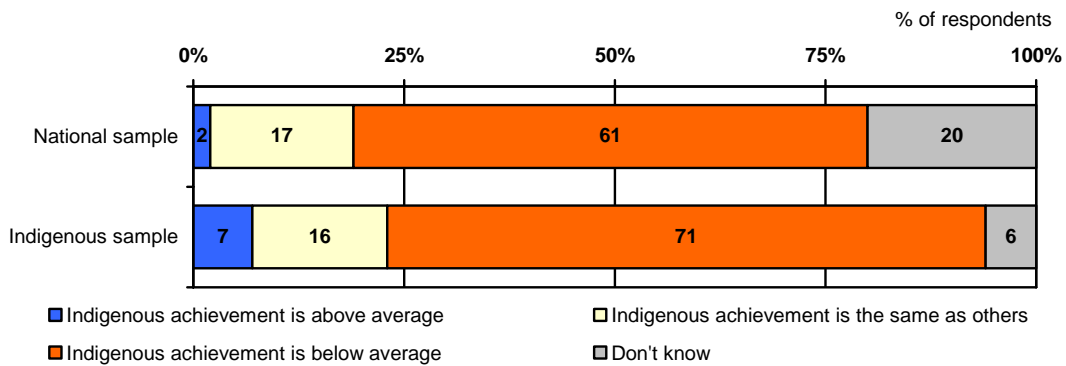
Service to the community



Politics and government



Business



KEY FINDINGS:

When comparing achievements of Indigenous people to the rest of the population, Indigenous people are seen to be more successful in some areas than others. According to both Australians overall and Indigenous respondents, the strongest achievements are in *'sport'* and *'the Arts,'* where most people believe that the achievements of Indigenous people are at least equal to or better than those of others.

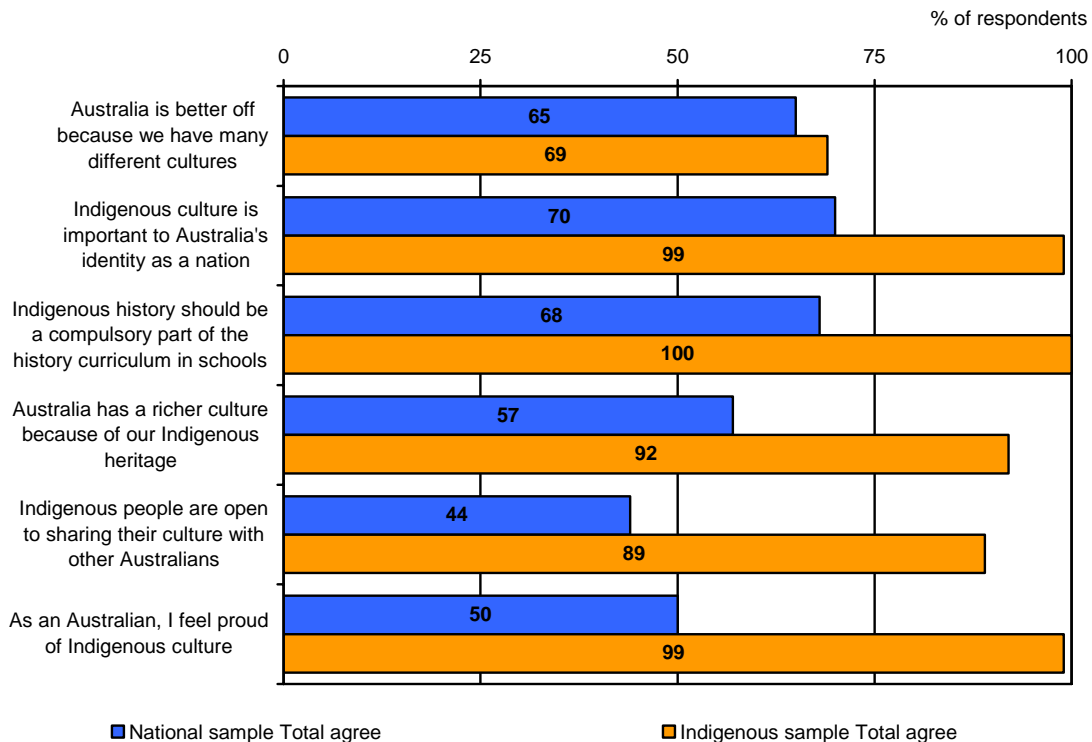
Opinions on *'service to the community'* are divided. Indigenous respondents are most likely to think that Indigenous achievement is 'above average' in this area (37%), whereas other Australians are most likely to think that Indigenous achievement is 'below average' (43%).

Indigenous achievement in *'politics and government'* and *'business'* is perceived to be 'below average' by most people from both groups. Achievement in *'politics and government'* is perceived to be 'below average' by 69% of Indigenous respondents and 53% of Australians overall. Similarly, Indigenous achievement in business is seen to be 'below average' by 71% of Indigenous people and 61% of the general population.

5. ATTITUDES—SHAPING VALUES AND ATTITUDES

5.1 Valuing Indigenous culture and history in Australia

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



KEY FINDINGS:

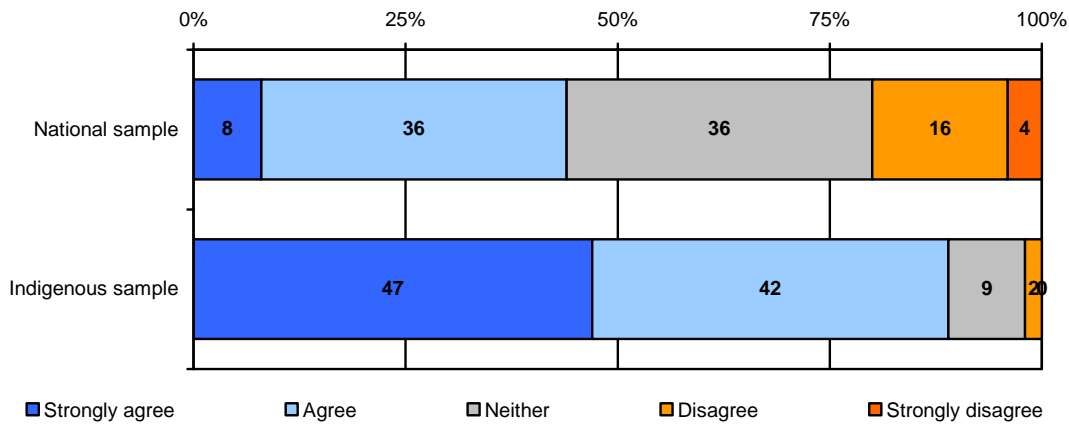
Respondents were asked for their response to six statements about the place of Indigenous history and culture. Results show that seven out of ten Australians overall (70%), and virtually all Indigenous respondents (99%) believe that *'Indigenous culture is important to Australia's identity as a nation'*. Similar proportions also believe that *'Indigenous history should be a compulsory part of the history curriculum in schools'* (100% of Indigenous respondents and 68% of Australians overall).

Around two thirds of respondents from both groups agree that *'Australia is better off because we have many different cultures'* (69% of Indigenous respondents and 65% of Australians overall). Responses to this statement were the most similar between both groups suggesting that both groups have a similar attitude towards multiculturalism overall.

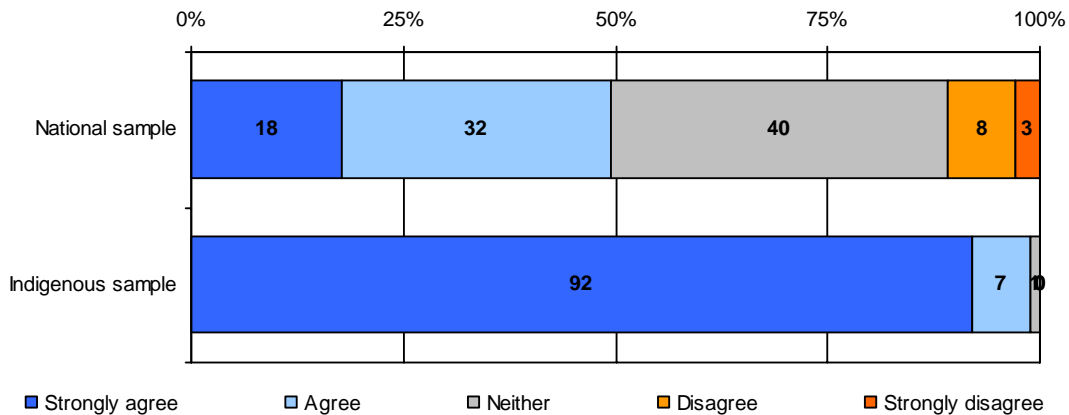
Opinions on sharing Indigenous culture and feeling proud about Indigenous culture were most different between the two groups. These two questions relate to the area of 'shared pride', which is a key concept for reconciliation moving forward. A significant gap emerges between the two groups when it comes to feeling pride in Indigenous culture. While all Indigenous respondents (99%) feel this way, only half of Australians overall (50%) do. Similarly, 89% of Indigenous respondents think that *'Indigenous people are open to sharing their culture with other Australians,'* compared to 44% of Australians overall.

a. Shared pride and reconciliation

Indigenous people are open to sharing their culture with others.



As an Australian, I feel proud of Indigenous culture.



KEY FINDINGS:

The figures above present the detailed results of the statements relating to 'shared pride'.

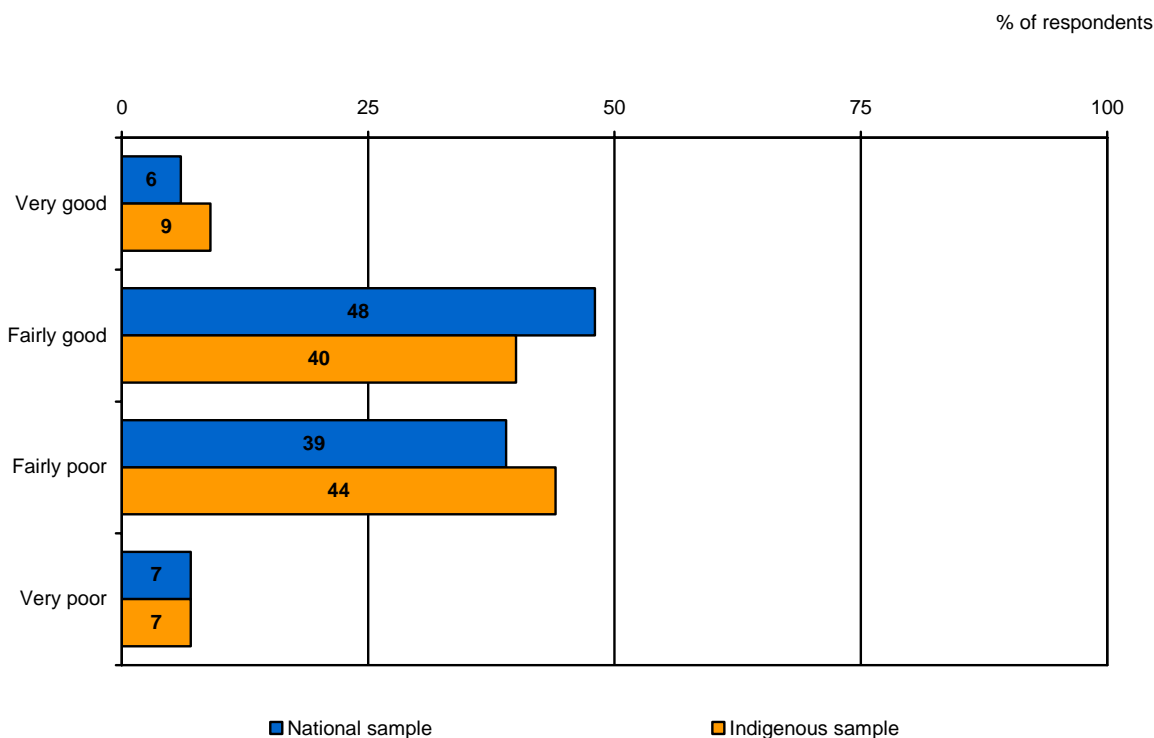
Most Indigenous respondents '*strongly agree*,' (47%) that '*Indigenous people are open to sharing their culture with others*,' and another 42% '*agree*.' In contrast, only 8% of Australians overall '*strongly agree*,' with 36% choosing both to '*agree*' and also to '*neither agree nor disagree*.'

There is a stark difference in how the two groups relate to the statement '*As an Australian, I feel proud of Indigenous culture*.' 99% of Indigenous respondents agree with this statement and 92% of them '*strongly agree*.' This is very different to the responses of Australians overall. While 50% of them agree, only 18% '*strongly agree*' and the most common response is '*neither agree nor disagree*' (40%).

These results suggest that many non-Indigenous Australians may be uneasy about feeling pride in Indigenous culture when they do not feel it is being willingly shared.

5.2 Perceptions of the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians

Overall, would you say that the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians today, is...?



KEY FINDINGS:

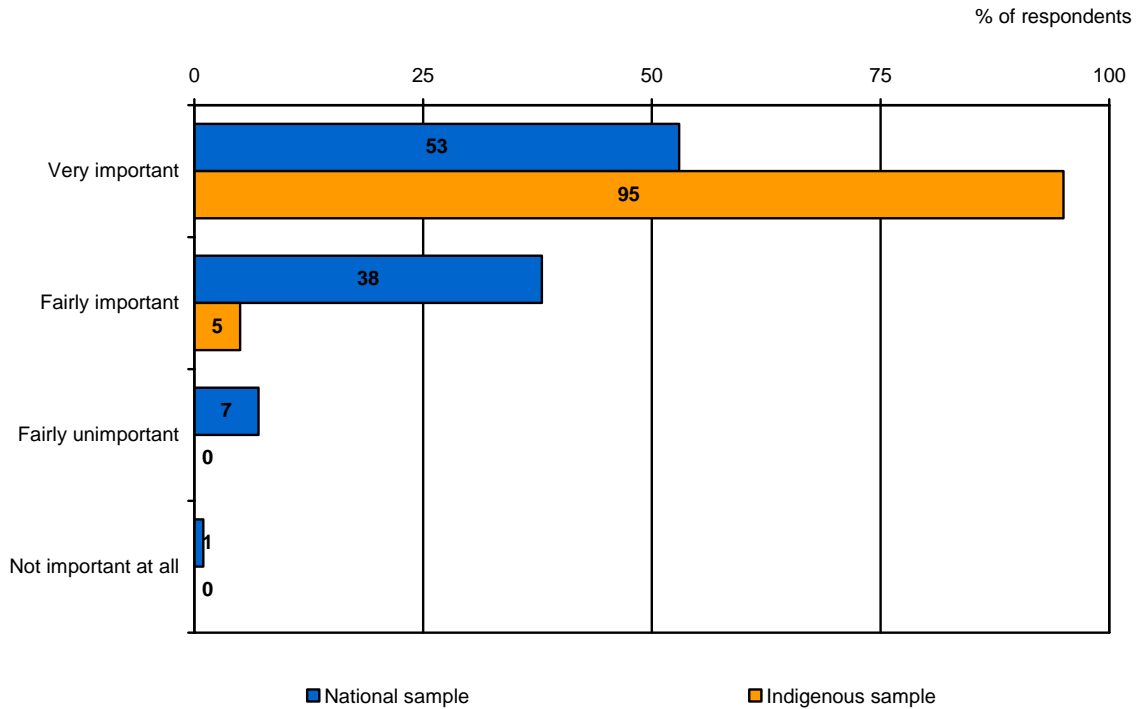
Responses of Australians overall and Indigenous respondents are noticeably similar when it comes to how they view the current state of the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians. The majority of participants sit in the middle ground of *'fairly good'* or *'fairly poor.'*

Although the responses are similar, Australians overall tend to be somewhat more positive than Indigenous respondents. Almost half of Australians overall (48%) think the relationship is *'fairly good,'* compared to 39% who consider it *'fairly poor.'*

Indigenous respondents are slightly more negative with 44% considering the relationship as *'fairly poor,'* compared to 40% who think it is *'fairly good.'*

5.3 Importance of the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians for the nation

How important is the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians for Australia as a nation?



KEY FINDINGS:

The relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians is considered *‘important’* for the nation by virtually all Australians overall (91%: total important) and all Indigenous respondents (100%: total important).

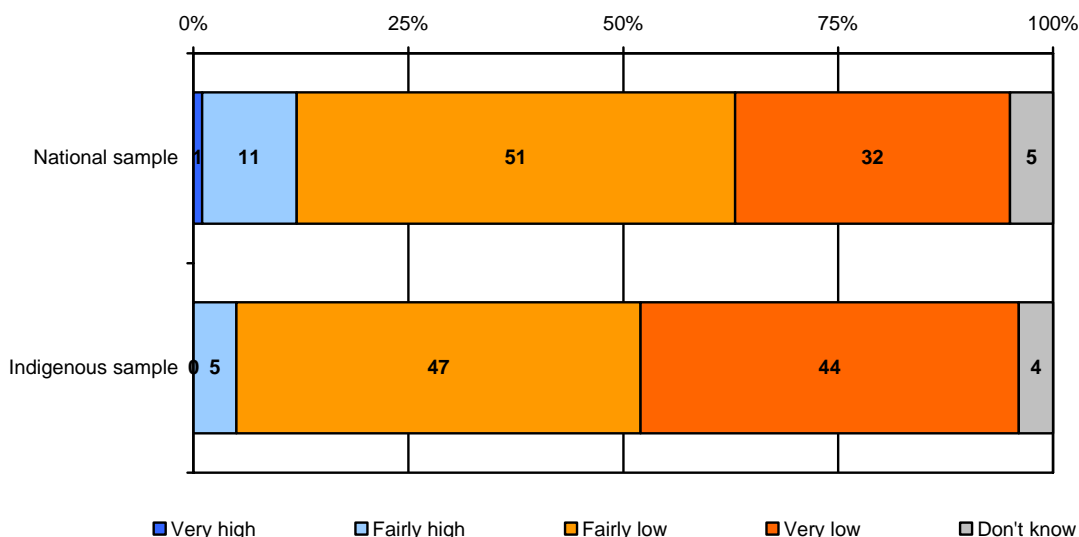
However, Indigenous respondents are more likely to think that the relationship is *‘very important’* (95%) than Australians overall (53%). Conversely, 38% of Australians overall consider the relationship as *‘fairly important’* compared to only 5% of Indigenous respondents.

5.4 Levels of trust between Indigenous people and other Australians

How would you describe the level of trust between the following groups of people?

- a) Trust that other Australians have for Indigenous people
- b) Trust that Indigenous people have for other Australians

a. Trust that other Australians have for Indigenous people

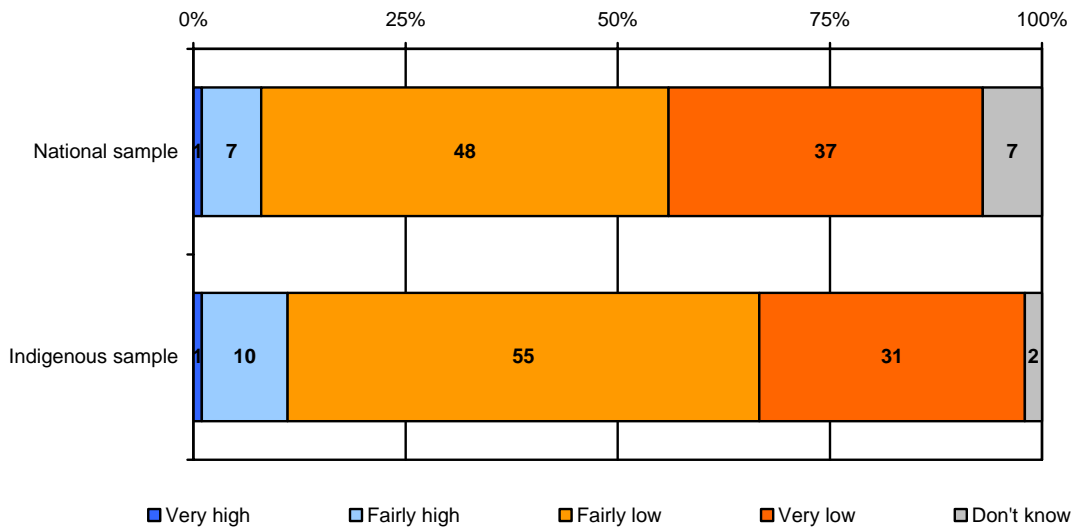


KEY FINDINGS:

Both Australians overall and Indigenous respondents think Australians have 'low' levels of trust for Indigenous people. Results from the two respondent groups are very similar. Nine out of ten Indigenous respondents (91%) and eight out of ten Australians overall (83%) believe Australians have 'low' trust for Indigenous people.

Around half of both respondent groups see Australians as having 'fairly low' trust for Indigenous people (51%: Australians overall; 47%: Indigenous respondents). Almost the same number of Indigenous respondents (44%) perceive Australians have 'very low' levels of trust for Indigenous people and 32% of Australians overall agree.

b. Trust that Indigenous people have for other Australians



KEY FINDINGS:

In remarkable similarity with the previous question, both Australians overall and Indigenous respondents think Indigenous people have ‘low’ levels of trust towards other Australians. Over eight of every ten Indigenous respondents (86%) and Australians overall (85%) believe Indigenous people have ‘low’ trust for other Australians.

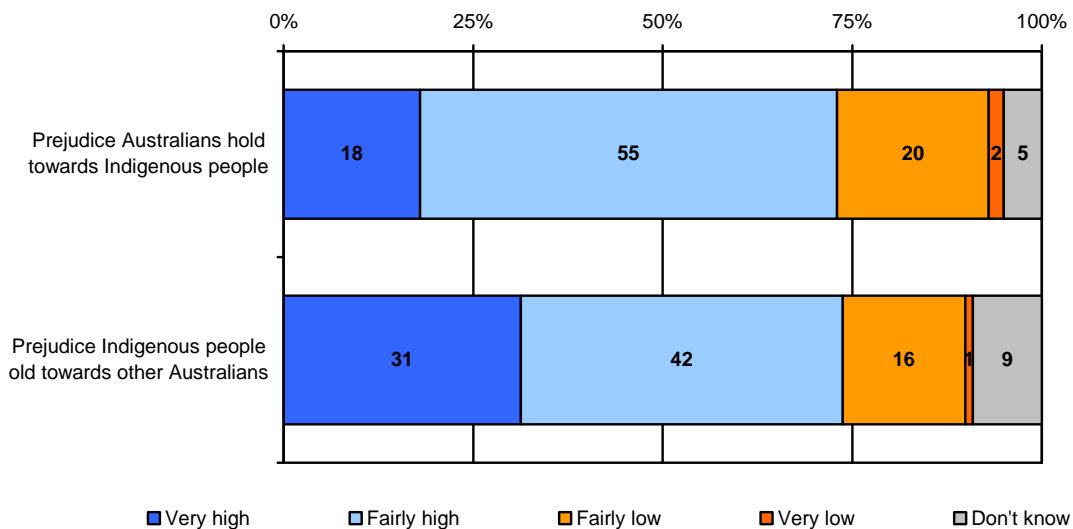
Around half of both respondent groups see Indigenous Australians as having ‘fairly low’ trust for other Australians (48%: Australians overall; 55%: Indigenous respondents). A further 31% of Indigenous respondents perceive Indigenous people have ‘very low’ levels of trust for other Australians and 37% of Australians overall agree.

5.5 Levels of prejudice between Indigenous people and other Australians

How would you describe the level of prejudice between the following groups of people?

- a) Level of prejudice Australians hold towards Indigenous people
 b) Level of prejudice Indigenous people hold towards other Australians

a. Levels of prejudice between Australians and Indigenous people, according to Australians overall

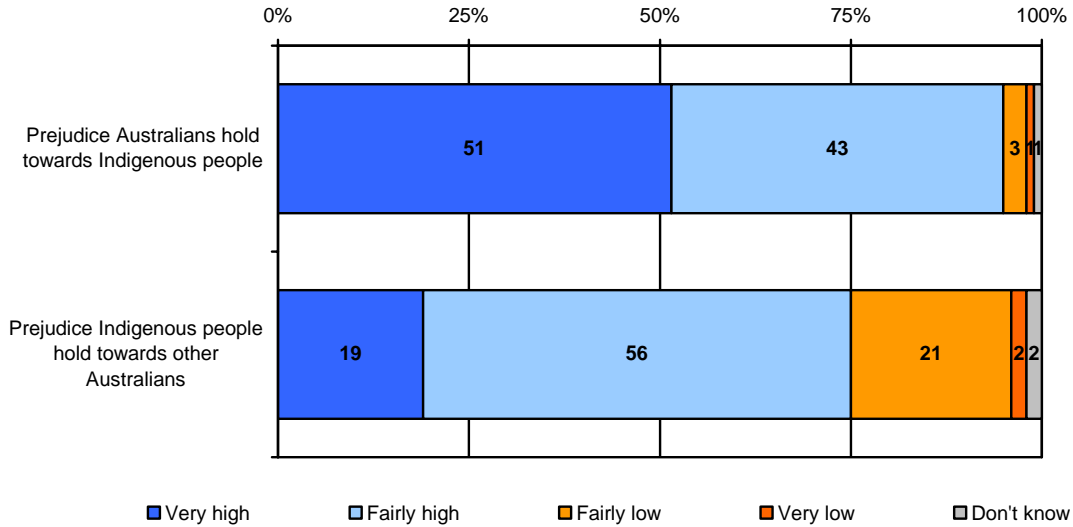


KEY FINDINGS:

Most Australians overall perceive there is a *'high'* level of prejudice between Indigenous people and other Australians. Their view on the prejudice from each group to the other is remarkably similar. 73% think Australians have *'high'* levels of prejudice towards Indigenous people and the same proportion of people think that Indigenous people have *'high'* levels of prejudice towards other Australians.

However, there are differences in the proportion of people who think there are *'very high'* levels of prejudice between the groups. 31% of the Australians overall think that Indigenous people hold *'very high'* levels of prejudice towards other Australians, whereas only 18% think that Australians hold *'very high'* levels of prejudice towards Indigenous people.

b. Levels of prejudice between Australians and Indigenous people, according to Indigenous respondents



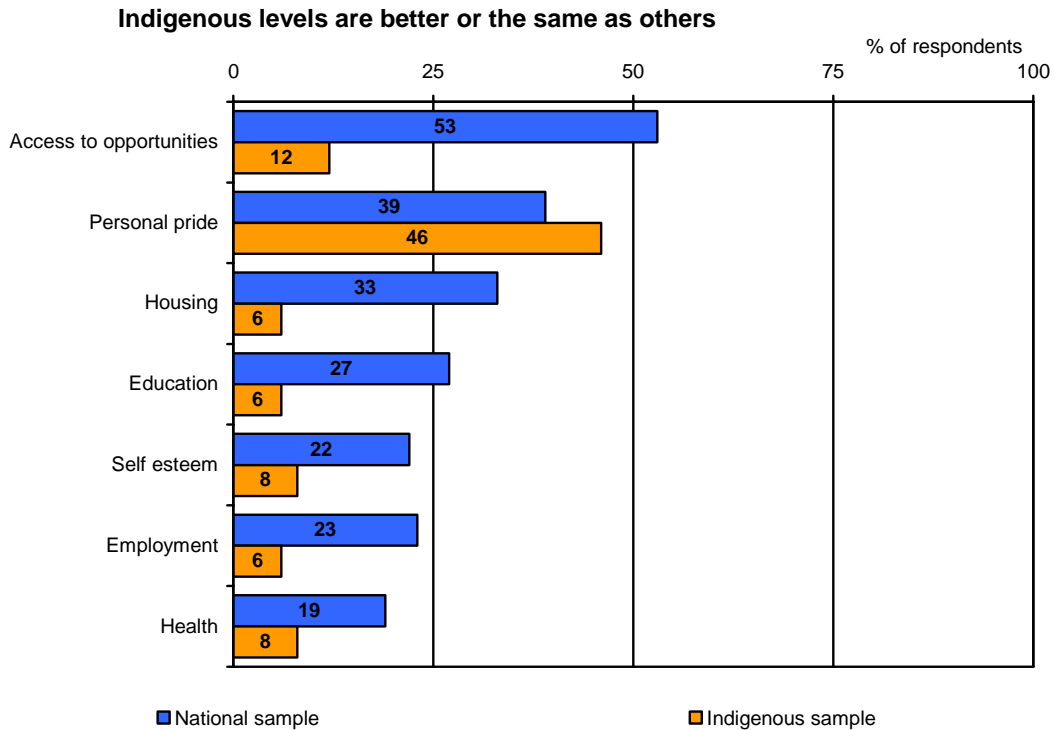
KEY FINDINGS:

Most Indigenous respondents also perceive that there is a *'high'* level of prejudice between Australians and Indigenous people. Almost all Indigenous people (94%) believe Australians hold a *'high'* level of prejudice towards Indigenous people and three quarters (75%) also believe that Indigenous people hold a *'high'* level of prejudice towards other Australians.

Indigenous respondents are also far more likely to believe that they are subject to higher levels of prejudice from other Australians. Half of all Indigenous respondents (51%) believe that Australians hold *'very high'* levels of prejudice toward Indigenous people whereas only one in five (19%) believe that Indigenous people hold *'very high'* levels of prejudice towards other Australians.

5.6 Comparing the lives of Indigenous and other Australians

How do you think the levels among Indigenous people compare to the levels among other Australians, in the following areas?



KEY FINDINGS:

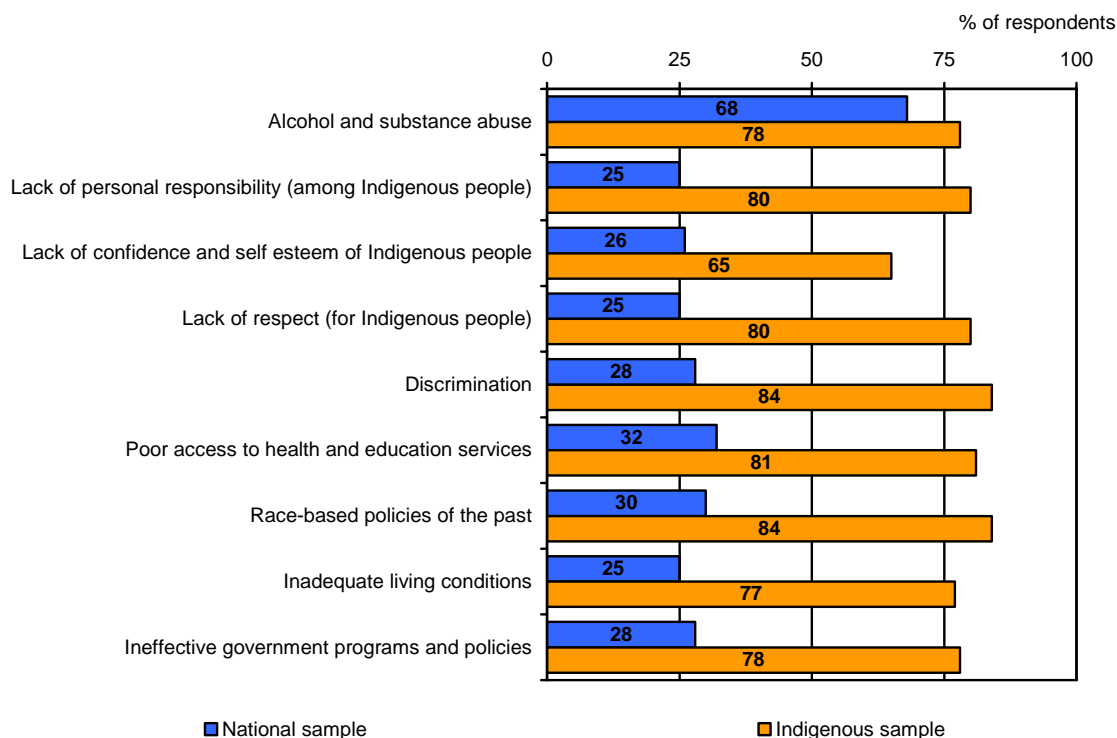
When comparing Indigenous people to other Australians on a range of social and personal indicators, few respondents from either group believe that Indigenous levels are better or even comparable to other Australians.

Views on ‘*access to opportunities*’ differ most between the two groups. Around half of Australians overall (53%) believe that Indigenous people have the same, or better ‘*access to opportunities*’, while only one in ten (12%) Indigenous people agree.

‘*Personal pride*’ is the only indicator where Indigenous responses were more positive than those of Australians overall. Nearly half of the Indigenous respondents (46%) believe that Indigenous people have levels of ‘*personal pride*’ that are better or the same as other Australians, while only 39% of Australians overall agree.

Responses across the other indicators (*education, self esteem, employment and health*) are similar. Only around a third, or less, of Australians overall think Indigenous levels are the same or better on these indicators. Indigenous people have an even more negative opinion with less than 10% believing that Indigenous levels are the same or better than other Australians.

Factors that have been very important in creating Indigenous disadvantage



KEY FINDINGS:

Both Australians overall and Indigenous respondents believe a combination of factors have created the situation of disadvantage that characterises the lives of some Indigenous people today.

Over 85% of Indigenous respondents and over 70% of Australians overall consider all the factors presented as *'important,'* in creating Indigenous disadvantage. However, most Indigenous respondents consider each factor as *'very important,'* whereas Australians overall are unlikely to believe that specific factors are *'very important'* in creating Indigenous disadvantage.

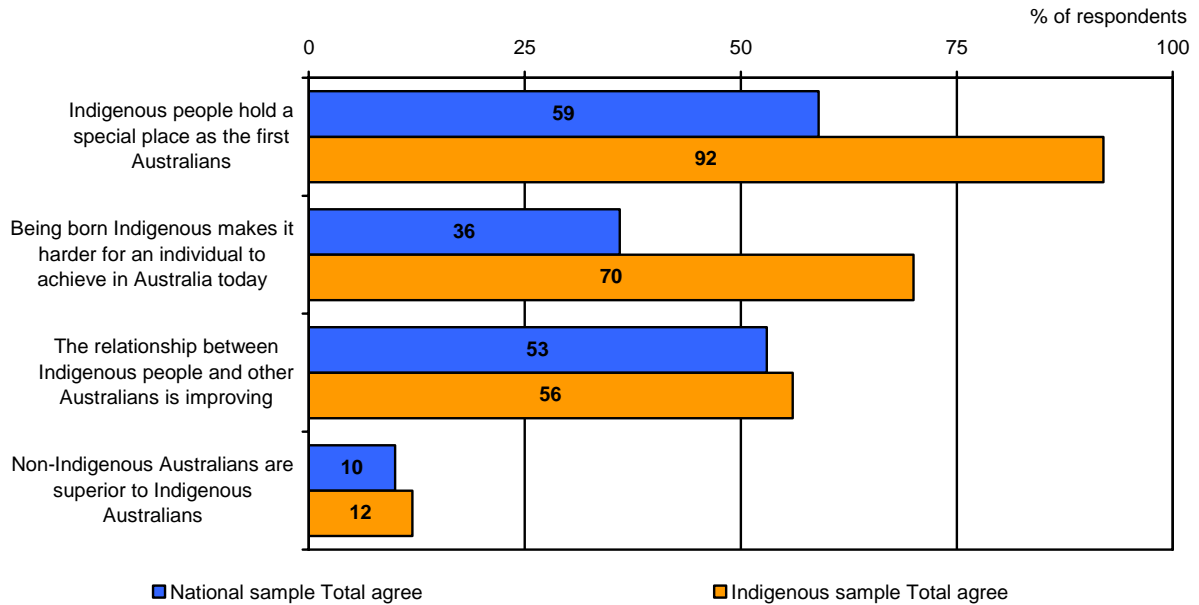
Australians overall think *'alcohol and substance abuse'* is far more important than other factors in creating Indigenous disadvantage. Around two thirds (68%) of them consider *'alcohol and substance abuse'* as *'very important'* in creating Indigenous disadvantage, whereas less than one third consider the other factors were as important. Indigenous people, in contrast, do not think that *'alcohol and substance abuse'* is more important than other factors.

5.8 Values underlying attitudes to reconciliation

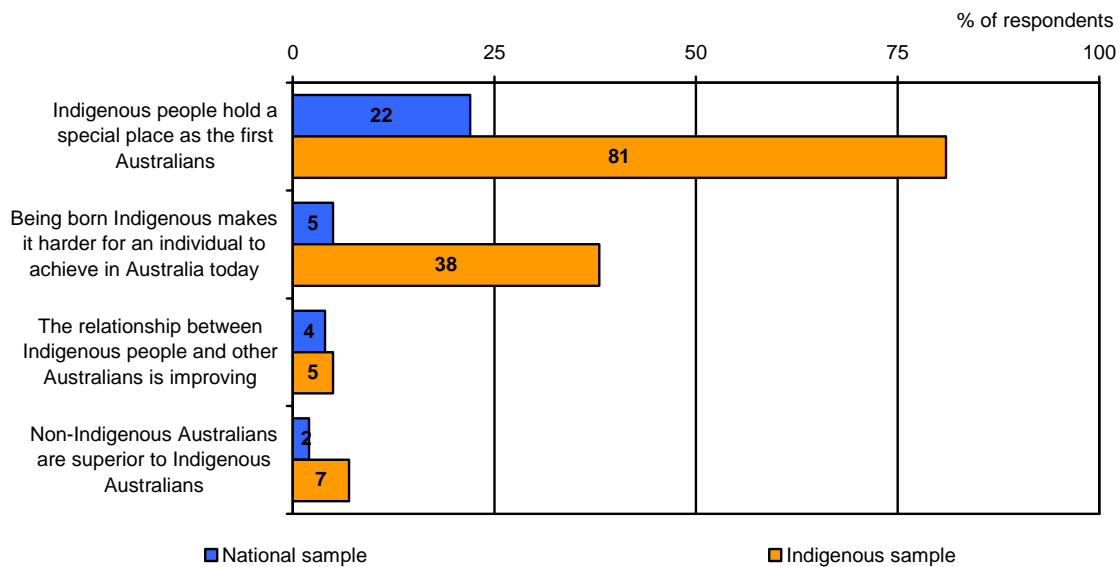
Research participants were asked for their level of agreement with a set of statements relating to their values and attitudes toward Indigenous people in Australia.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

Percentage of respondents who agree with the following statements.



Percentage of respondents who strongly agree with the following statements.



KEY FINDINGS:

Most Australians overall (59%) and almost all Indigenous respondents (92%) *'agree'* that Indigenous people *'hold a special place as the first Australians.'* Support for this statement is stronger among Indigenous respondents. Around eight out of ten of them (81%) *'strongly agree'* compared to around two out of ten (22%) Australians overall.

Both respondent groups have a similar perspective on the current state of the relationship between them. Just over half of respondents from each group *'agree'* that the relationship is improving, but only around 4 and 5% *'strongly agree'* with this statement. This suggests there is a tentative degree of optimism about the relationship from both Australians overall and Indigenous respondents.

The groups are divided on whether *'being born Indigenous makes it harder for an individual to achieve in Australia today.'* Seven in ten Indigenous people agree with this statement (70% agree), while only about half as many Australians overall (36%) *'agree.'*

Finally, most respondents from both groups reject the notion of racial superiority.

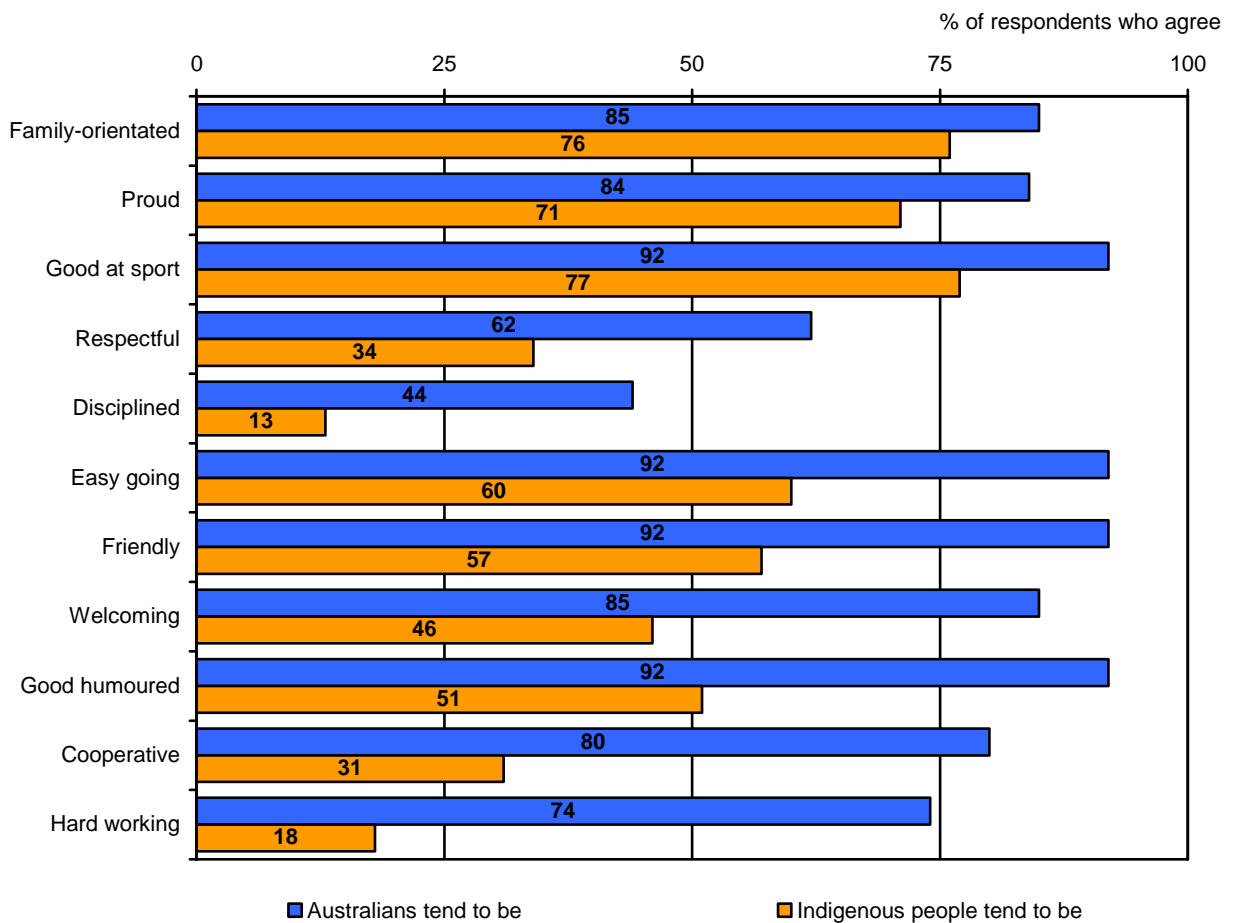
6. PERCEPTIONS—WHAT WE THINK OF EACH OTHER

6.1 General impressions of Indigenous people and other Australians

a. Australians' impressions of 'Australians generally' and 'Indigenous people'.

Thinking about your overall impression of Australians, would you say they tend to be...?

Thinking about your overall impressions of Indigenous people, would you say they tend to be...?



NB: Attributes are sorted according to what Australians overall perceive to be greatest to least similar traits of Indigenous and other Australians.

KEY FINDINGS:

As an insight into our national identity, each group was asked whether they relate various positive personality traits with Indigenous people, and Australians overall.

Virtually all Australians (more than nine out of ten) see themselves as being ‘good humoured’, ‘friendly’, ‘good at sport’ and ‘easy going’. At least four out of five of those surveyed also think Australians are ‘welcoming’, ‘family-orientated’, ‘proud’ and ‘co-operative’. Australians are least likely to see themselves as being ‘hard-working’, ‘respectful’ or, least of all, ‘disciplined’.

Overall, Australians have a less positive image of Indigenous people than they do of themselves. Of all the attributes, Indigenous people are most often associated with being ‘good at sport’, ‘family-orientated’ and ‘proud’. They are also seen by more than half the population as being ‘easy going’, ‘friendly’ and ‘good-humoured’. However, less than half of the population believe that Indigenous people are ‘welcoming’, ‘respectful’, ‘cooperative’, ‘hard working’ or ‘disciplined’.

Australians believe the two groups are most similar in regards to being ‘family oriented’, ‘proud’ and ‘good at sport’. Conversely, Indigenous people are seen as being most different from all Australians in terms of being ‘hard working’, ‘disciplined’ and ‘co-operative’. The other attributes occupy the middle ground—‘easy-going’, ‘friendly’, ‘good humoured’, ‘respectful’ and ‘welcoming’.

Australians overall see the two groups as being most similar in terms of being *‘family orientated,’ ‘proud,’ and ‘good at sport.’*

- *‘Family orientated’*—85% for ‘Australians’ compared to 76% for ‘Indigenous people.’
- *‘Proud’*—84% for ‘Australians’ compared to 71% for ‘Indigenous people.’
- *‘Good at sport’*—92% for ‘Australians’ compared to 77% for ‘Indigenous people.’

Attitudes to both groups are less similar in regards to being ‘easy going’, ‘friendly’, ‘good humoured’, ‘respectful’ and ‘welcoming’.

- *‘Easy going’*—92% for ‘all Australians’ compared to 60% for ‘Indigenous people.’
- *‘Friendly’*—92% for ‘all Australians’ compared to 57% for ‘Indigenous people.’
- *‘Good humoured’*—92% for ‘all Australians’ compared to 51% for ‘Indigenous people.’
- *‘Respectful’*—62% for ‘Australians’ compared to 34% for ‘Indigenous people.’
- *‘Welcoming’*—85% for ‘Australians’ compared to 46% for ‘Indigenous people.’

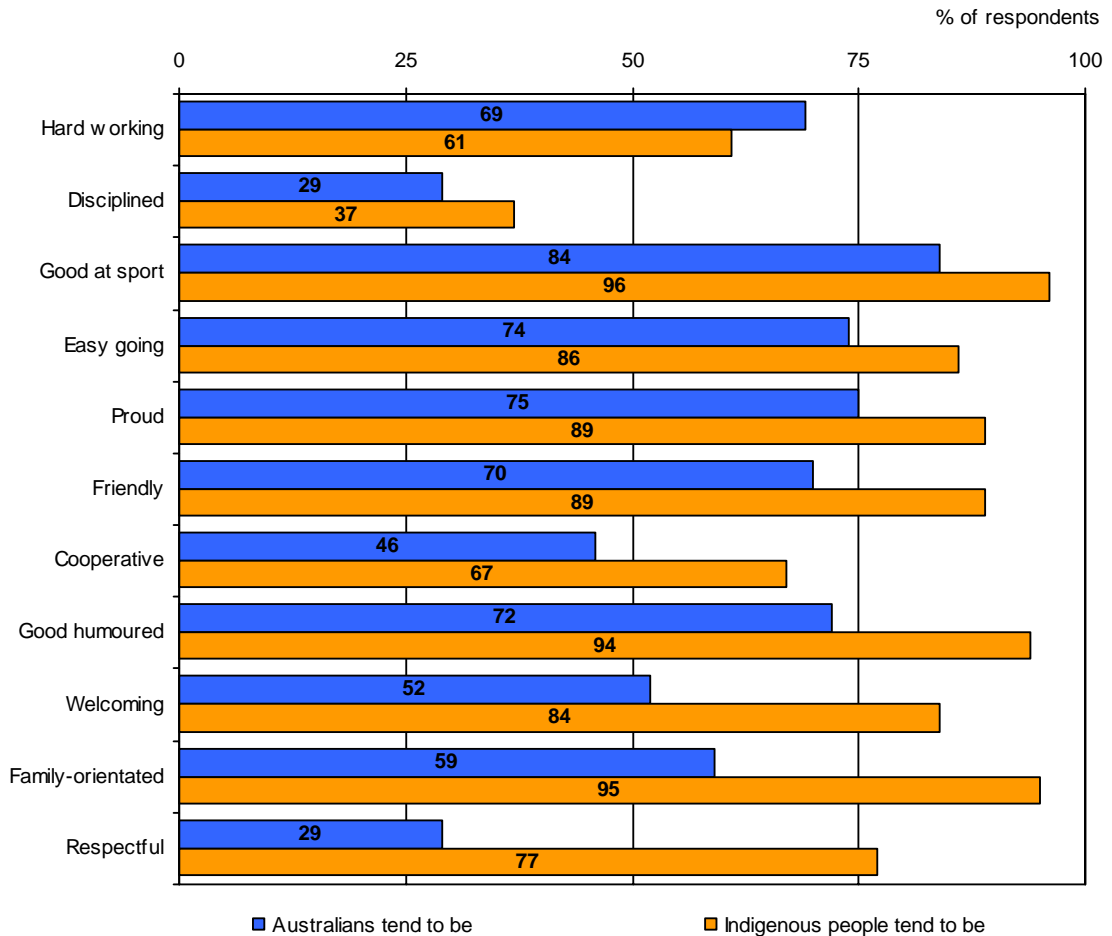
The greatest differences between ‘Indigenous people’ and ‘all Australians,’ are seen to be *‘hard working,’ ‘cooperative,’ and ‘disciplined.’*

- *‘Hard working’*—74% for ‘Australians’ compared to 18% for ‘Indigenous people.’
- *‘Disciplined’*—44% for ‘Australians’ compared to 13% for ‘Indigenous people.’
- *‘Cooperative’*—80% for ‘Australians’ compared to 31% for ‘Indigenous people.’

b. Indigenous peoples' impressions of 'Australians generally' and 'Indigenous people'.

Thinking about your overall impression of Australians, would you say they tend to be...?

Thinking about your overall impressions of Indigenous people, would you say they tend to be...?



NB: Attributes are sorted according to what Indigenous respondents perceive to be greatest to least similar traits of Indigenous and other Australians.

KEY FINDINGS:

Indigenous respondents tend to view Australians generally as being 'good at sport', 'proud', 'easy going', 'good humoured', 'friendly' and 'hard working'. More than half of participants also see Australians as 'family-orientated', 'welcoming' and 'co-operative'. Nearly half see Australians as being 'co-operative' but less than a third consider Australians to be 'disciplined' or 'respectful'.

Indigenous respondents have a more positive image of Indigenous people than they do of other Australians across virtually all personality attributes (except 'hardworking'). Indigenous people most often associate themselves with being 'good at sport', 'family-orientated', 'good humoured', 'friendly' and 'proud'. Most also believe Indigenous people are 'easy going', 'welcoming', 'respectful', 'cooperative' and 'hard working'. In contrast, only about one third believe that Indigenous people are 'disciplined'.

Indigenous respondents believe the two groups are most similar in regards to being 'hardworking', 'disciplined', 'good at sport' and 'easy going'. Conversely, Indigenous people are seen as being most different from all Australians in terms of being 'welcoming', 'family orientated' and 'respectful'. The other attributes occupy the middle ground—'proud', 'friendly', 'cooperative' and 'good humoured'.

According to respondents, the strongest commonalities between Indigenous people and all Australians are:

- *'Hard working'*—61% for Indigenous people compared to 69% for Australians.
- *'Disciplined'*—37% for Indigenous people compared to 29% for Australians.
- *'Good at sport'*—96% for Indigenous people compared to 84% for Australians.
- *'Easy going'*—86% for Indigenous people compared to 74% for Australians.

There is less similarity between the groups when it comes to being:

- *'Proud'*—89% for Indigenous people compared to 75% for Australians.
- *'Friendly'*—89% for Indigenous people compared to 70% for Australians.
- *'Cooperative'*—67% for Indigenous people compared to 46% for Australians.
- *'Good humoured'*—94% for Indigenous people compared to 72% for Australians.

The greatest differences between Indigenous people and all Australians are seen to be:

- *'Welcoming'*—84% for Indigenous people compared to 52% for Australians.
- *'Family orientated'*—95% for Indigenous people compared to 59% for Australians.
- *'Respectful'*—77% for Indigenous people compared to 29% for Australians.

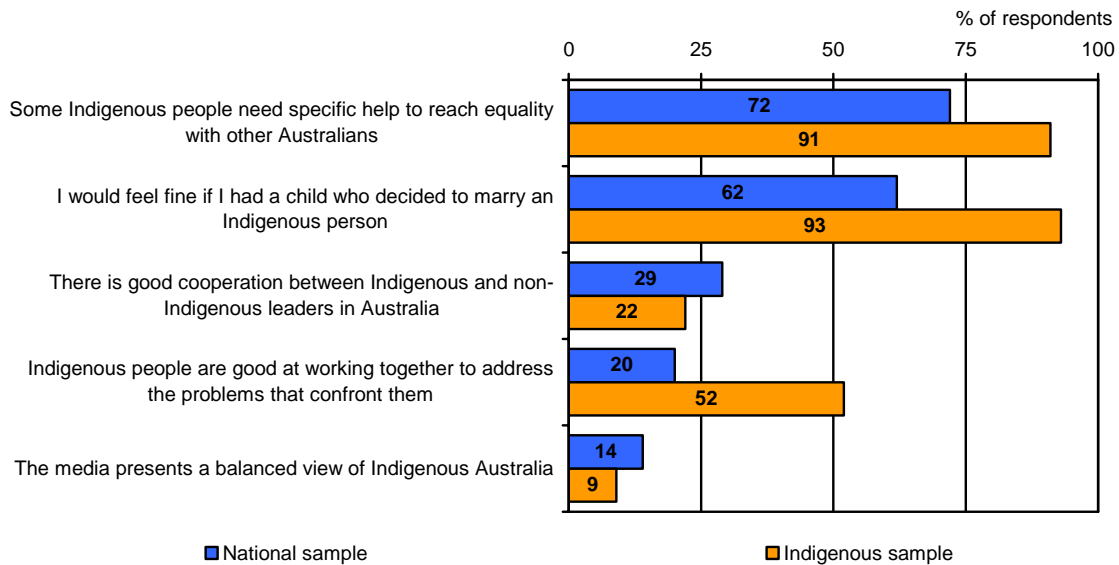
7. ACTION—TAKING AND SUPPORTING ACTION

7.1 Action and progress towards reconciliation

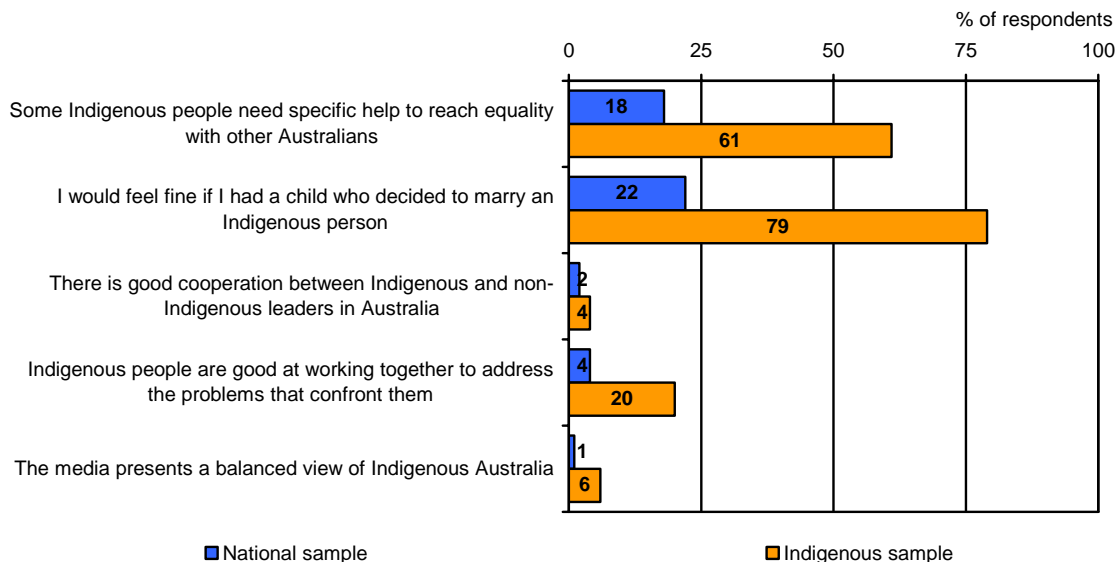
Research participants were asked for their level of agreement with a set of statements relating to progress and action toward advancing reconciliation in Australia.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

Percentage of respondents who agree with the following statements.



Percentage of respondents who strongly agree with the following statements.



KEY FINDINGS:

Five statements can be seen as indicators of action and progress towards reconciliation.

Two statements in particular point to a foundation for the continuing progress of reconciliation. Firstly, there is general acceptance among both respondent groups that some Indigenous people *'need specific help to achieve equality with other Australians'* (91% Indigenous respondents and 72% Australians overall 'agree'). Worth noting however, is that most Indigenous respondents (61%) *'strongly agree'* with this statement, whereas only 18% of Australians overall feel this way.

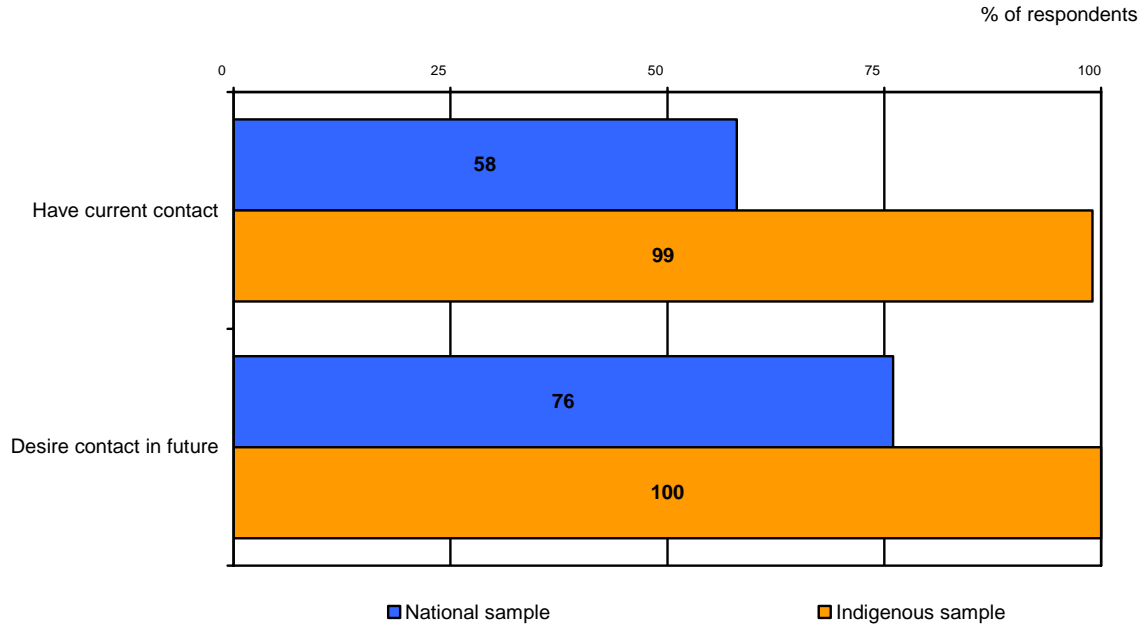
Secondly, on the very personal measure of accepting Indigenous people into one's family, 93% of Indigenous respondents and 62% of Australians overall *'would feel fine if their child married an Indigenous person'*. Similarly, while most Indigenous respondents (79%) *'strongly agree,'* only 22% of Australians overall feel this way.

Both groups have little confidence in the ability of Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders to cooperate. Only 29% of Australians overall and 22% of Indigenous respondents believe *'there is good cooperation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders in Australia.'*

Opinions are more divided when it comes to whether Indigenous people are *'good at working together to address the problems that confront them.'* Just over half (52%) of Indigenous people *'agree'* but only one fifth of Australians overall (20%) *'agree.'*

There is also a low level of regard for the media's role, with only 14% of Australians overall and 9% of Indigenous respondents agreeing that *'the media presents a balanced view of Indigenous Australians.'*

7.2 Comparison of current and desired future levels of contact with Indigenous people

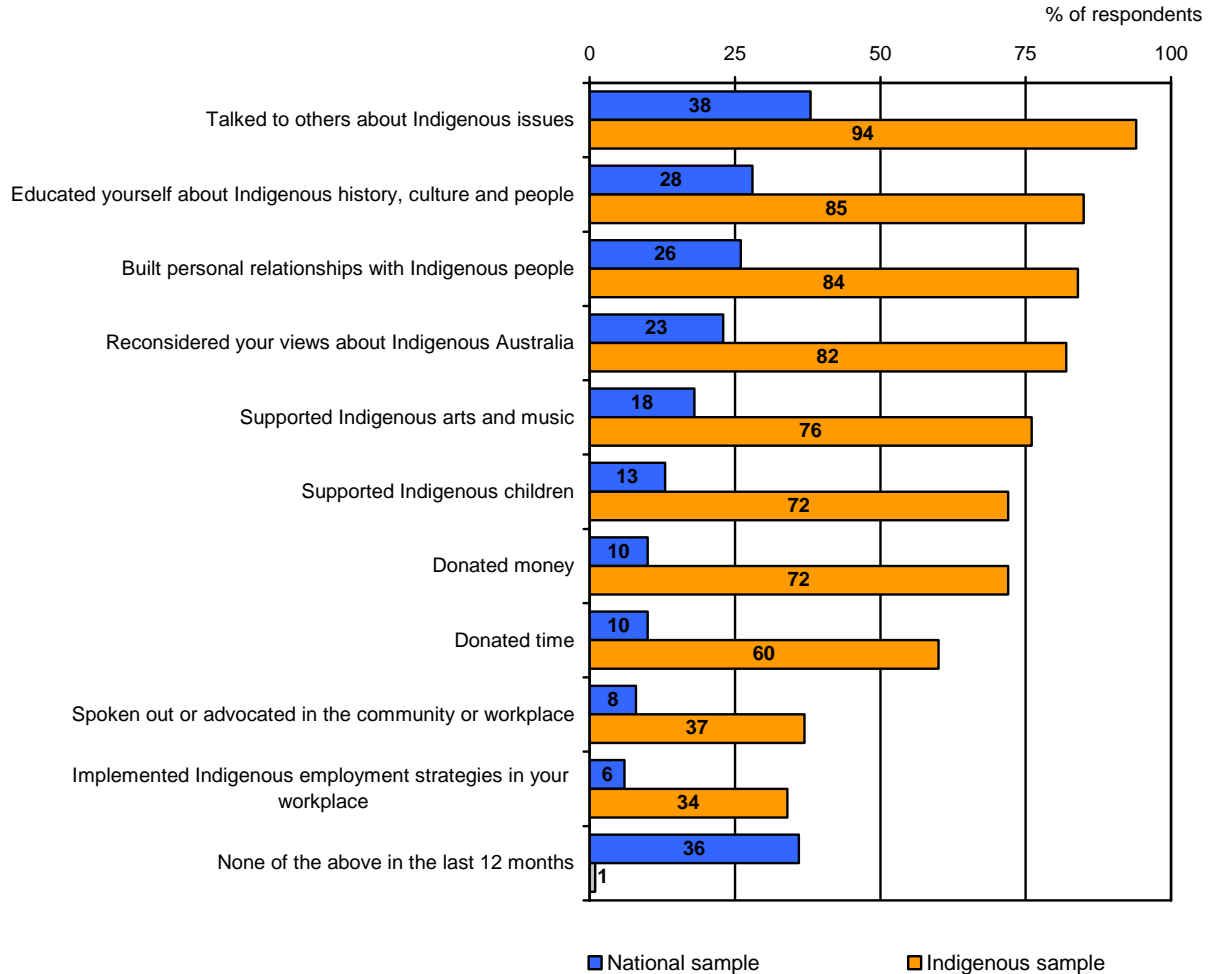


KEY FINDINGS:

Australians overall would like more contact with Indigenous people in the future than they currently have. While 58% of Australians overall claim to currently have ‘*contact*’ with Indigenous people, three quarters (76%) desire to have ‘*contact*’ in the future.

7.3 Individual involvement in the past 12 months

Below is a list of things that people can do to advance reconciliation or help disadvantaged Indigenous people. Please indicate whether you have done any of these things in the last 12 months.



KEY FINDINGS:

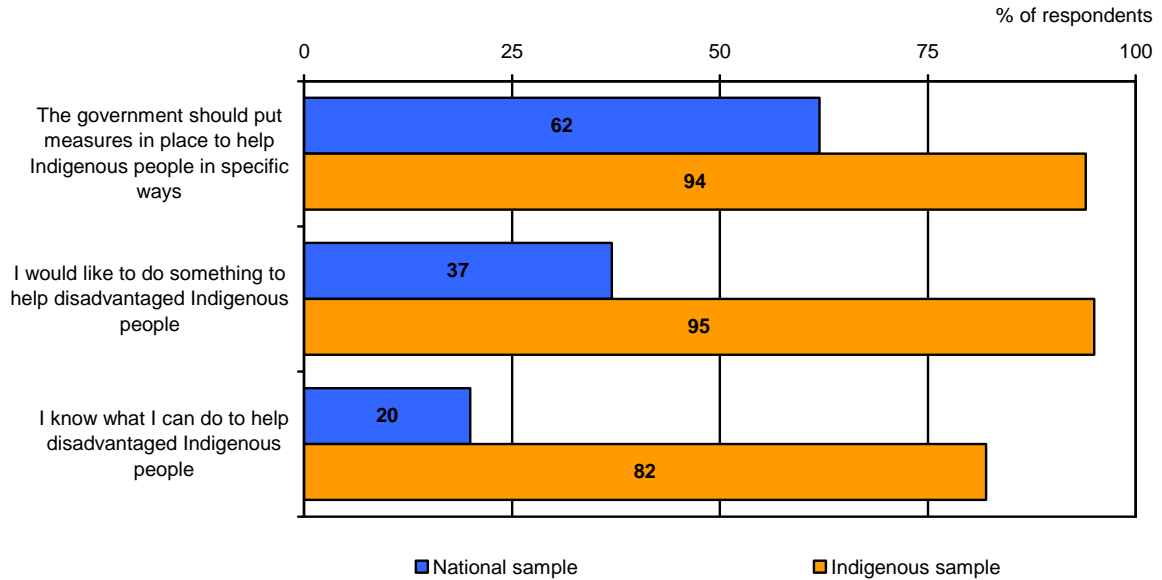
Most people, from both groups, are already engaged (at least to some degree) with Indigenous issues. Virtually all Indigenous respondents (99%) and two thirds of Australians overall (64%) report they have taken one or more steps to advance reconciliation or to help disadvantaged Indigenous people in the last 12 months.

Both Indigenous respondents and Australians overall engage in the same types of activities. The most common are ‘talking to others about Indigenous issues,’ ‘educating yourself,’ ‘building personal relationships with Indigenous people,’ and ‘reconsidering your views about Indigenous Australia.’

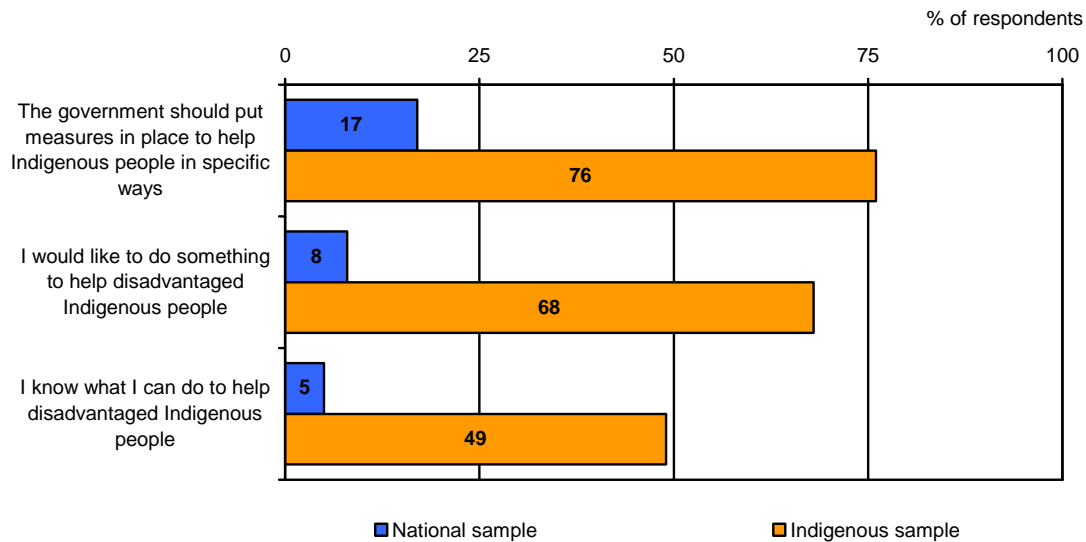
7.4 Desire for personal and government action

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

Percentage of respondents who agree with the following statements.



Percentage of respondents who strongly agree with the following statements.



KEY FINDINGS:

The majority of respondents from both groups believe that the responsibility for helping disadvantaged Indigenous people falls with the government.

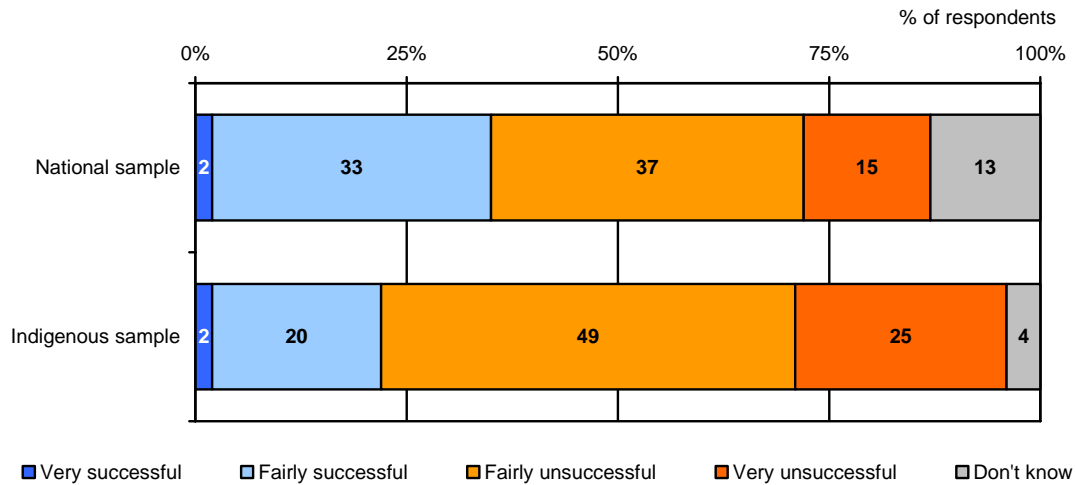
Almost all (94%) Indigenous respondents and over 62% of Australians overall *'agree'* that *'the government should put measures in place to help Indigenous people in specific ways'*. However, three quarters of Indigenous respondents (76%) are in strong agreement, compared to only 17% of Australians overall.

While almost all (95%) Indigenous respondents are also interested in personally taking action, there is noticeably less interest from Australians overall, with 37% agreeing they *'would like to do something to help disadvantaged Indigenous people'* and only 8% *'strongly agree'* with this statement.

This may be partly due to the fact that only one in five Australians overall (20%) know how they can actually help. While many more Indigenous people (82%) *'agree,'* only half of them *'strongly agree'* that *'I know what I can do to help disadvantaged Indigenous people.'*

7.5 Government action to address Indigenous disadvantage

Overall, would you say that programmes designed to address Indigenous disadvantage have been....?



KEY FINDINGS:

On a broad level, Australians overall and Indigenous respondents have a fairly similar view of the outcome of programmes designed to address Indigenous disadvantage so far. Both are more likely to consider them *'unsuccessful'* (74%: Indigenous respondents; 52%: Australians overall), than *'successful'* (22%: Indigenous respondents; 35%: Australians overall).

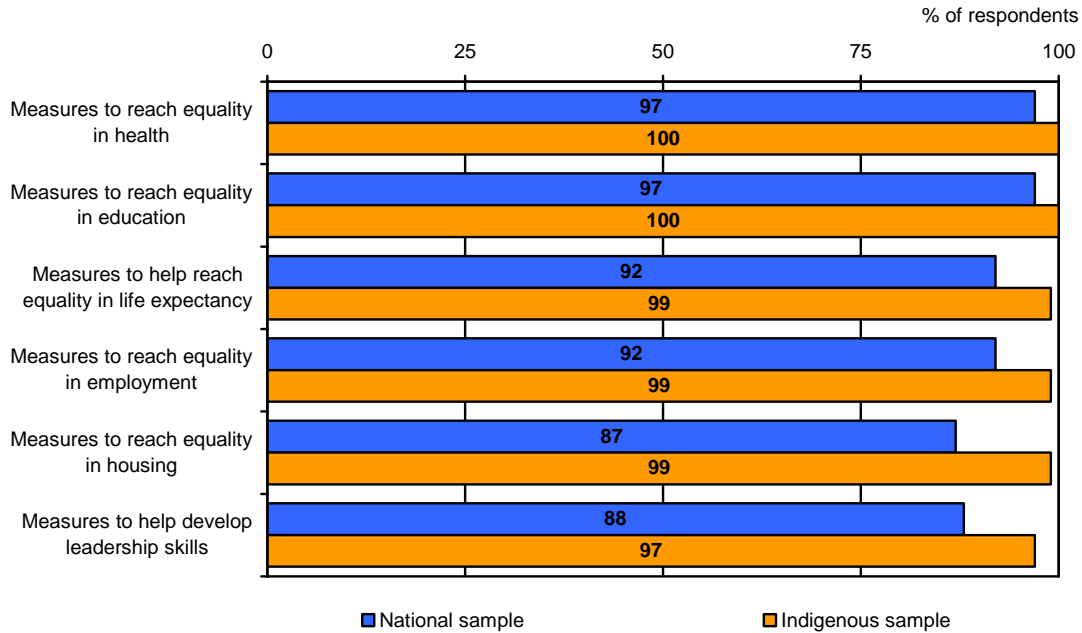
However, some differences do exist between the respondent groups. Indigenous respondents tend to have a slightly more negative view, with a quarter (25%) of them claiming these programmes have been *'very unsuccessful,'* compared to 15% of Australians overall.

While Australians overall also tend to be more negative than positive about the success of programmes to address Indigenous disadvantage, the majority tend to fall around the middle ground, believing that the programmes have either been *'fairly successful'* (33%) or *'fairly unsuccessful'* (37%).

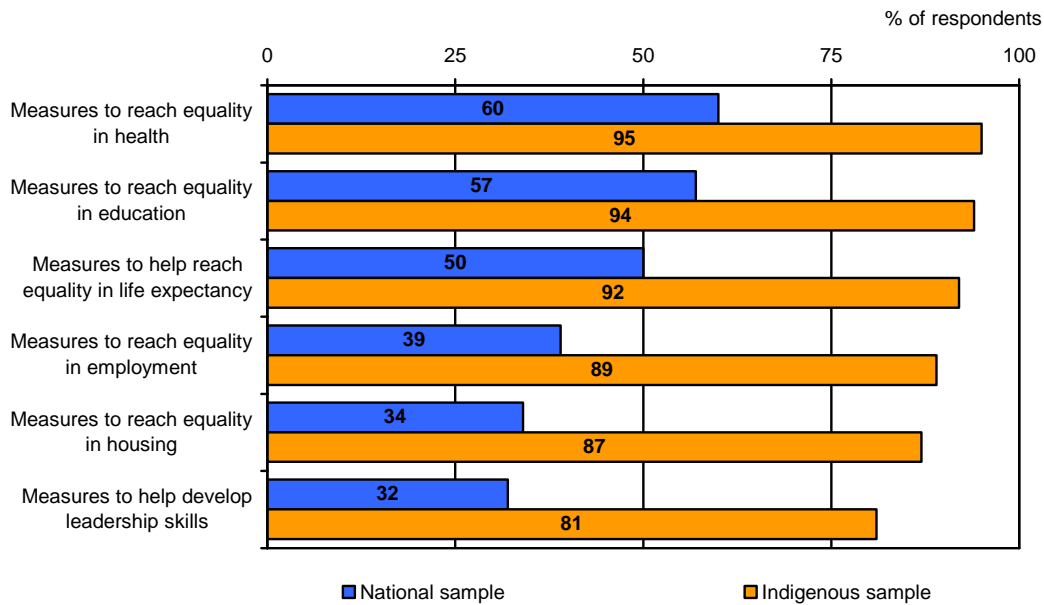
7.6 Prioritising measures to address Indigenous disadvantage

Thinking about ways the government can help Indigenous people, what level of priority do you believe the government should give to each of the following specific measures?

Percentage of respondents who place a fairly high or high priority on the following measures.



Percentage of respondents who place a high priority on the following measures.



KEY FINDINGS:

Virtually all respondents from both groups think the government should place a *'high priority'* on measures to improve Indigenous health, education, life expectancy, employment, housing and leadership skills.

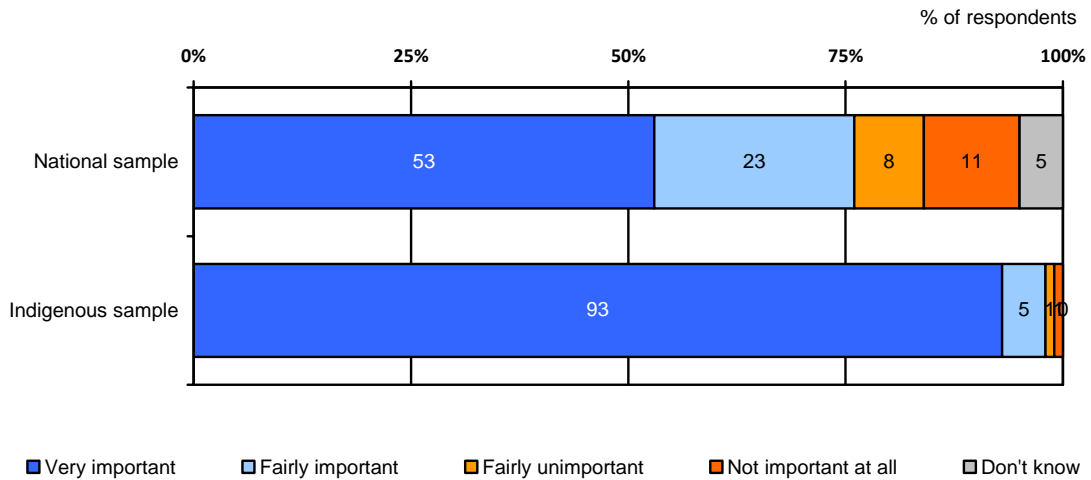
Both respondent groups prioritise the different measures for addressing Indigenous disadvantage in the same order. Measures to reach equality in health, education and life expectancy are seen to be the highest priorities. Over half of Australians overall and more than 90% of Indigenous respondents think it is *'very important'* for the government to address Indigenous disadvantage in these areas.

The other three measures of equality in employment, housing and leadership skills are also considered *'fairly high or high priorities'* by most respondents from both groups. However, once again more Indigenous respondents place a *'high priority'* on these measures than Australians overall (Indigenous respondents: between 81 and 89% and Australians overall: 30 to 39%).

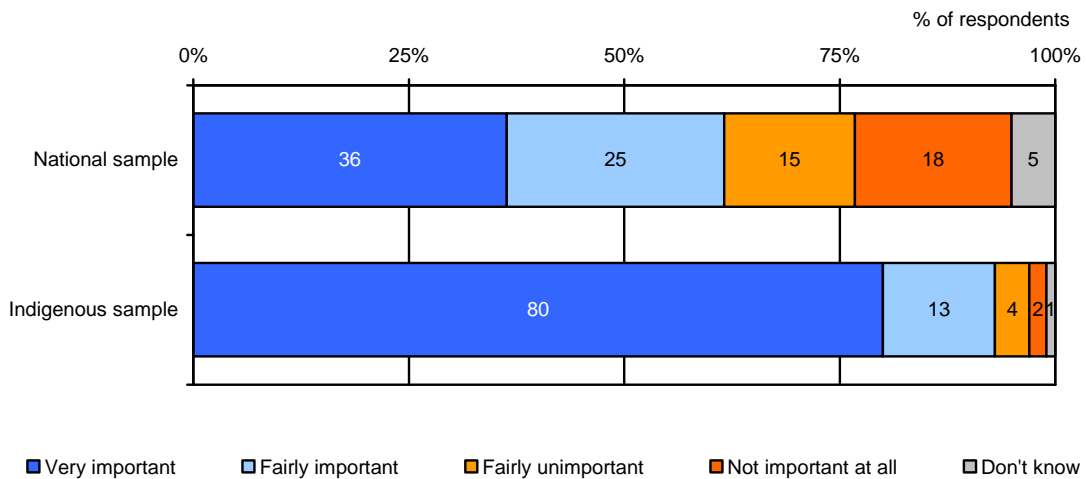
7.7 The importance of the apology

In February 2008, the Australian Parliament apologised to members of the stolen generations for the past government policies that separated many Indigenous people from their families and homelands. How important was this apology?

The apology was important for Indigenous people.



The apology was important for relations between Indigenous people and other Australians.



KEY FINDINGS:

Most respondents from both groups appreciate the importance of the 2008 apology to members of the stolen generations. It is considered important for Indigenous people as well as for relations between them and other Australians. Not surprisingly, Indigenous people place greater importance on the apology than Australians overall.

Three quarters (76%) of Australians overall and 98% of Indigenous respondents consider the apology as *'important'* to Indigenous people. Within that, over half of Australians overall (53%) and 93% of Indigenous respondents consider it *'very important'* for Indigenous people.

The apology is also considered to be almost as *'important'* for relations between Indigenous and other Australians. Six out of ten (61%) Australians overall and 93% of Indigenous respondents believe it was *'important'* to relations, with most of them considering it *'very important'* (36%: Australians overall and 80%: Indigenous respondents).

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