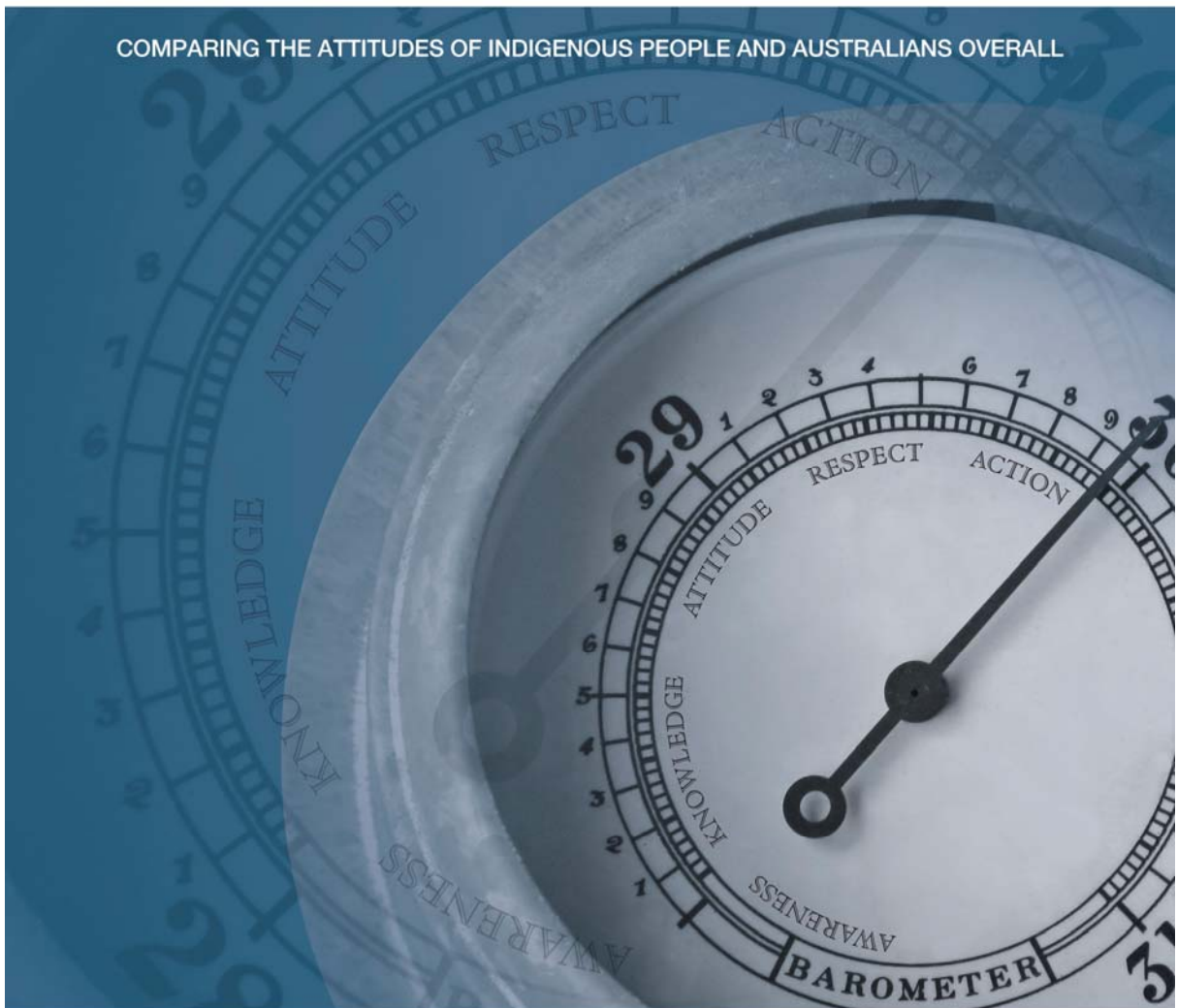


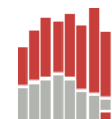


Australian Reconciliation Barometer: National Sample Results

COMPARING THE ATTITUDES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND AUSTRALIANS OVERALL

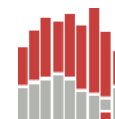


PREPARED BY AUSPOLL PTY LTD FOR RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA • FEBRUARY 2009



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1. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This document presents the findings of the National Sample for the Australian Reconciliation Barometer.

The Barometer has been developed to provide a benchmark of the current progress towards reconciliation in Australia. The intention is that it will periodically track the progress towards reconciliation.

It provides a broad range of empirical measures under three main topics:

- 1) Awareness—knowledge of the facts
- 2) Attitudes—shaping values and attitudes, and
- 3) Action—taking and supporting action.

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

1) Awareness—knowledge of the facts

The starting point for the Barometer is the idea that the foundation for reconciliation is for all Australians to understand the facts of Indigenous Australia, including the history and culture of Indigenous people and their place in Australia today.

The Barometer measures this knowledge in a number of different ways. At a base level, it shows that Australians tend to be more confident about their knowledge of Indigenous history than they are about their knowledge of Indigenous culture. However, most people are inclined to believe their knowledge is weak in both areas. On the other hand, an overwhelming majority - over eight out of every ten Australians - believe it is important that we should all have a good knowledge of Indigenous history and culture. In fact only 2% believe that this knowledge is 'not at all important'.

Most Australians have a level of basic knowledge of the facts. The majority are aware of some important details, such as the meaning of the Dreamtime and the landmark 'Mabo' native title legislation. Many also recognise the importance of two defining aspects of Indigenous cultural identity - the connection to their traditional lands and their close family relationships.

In contrast, there are clear knowledge gaps around some of the more controversial or challenging aspects of modern Indigenous history and life. The Barometer shows that most people do not know the proportion of the Australian population that is made up of Indigenous people or when the stolen generation policies came to an end. Perhaps most critically, most people underestimate the shortfall in life expectancy facing Indigenous people in Australia today.

Despite the lack of clarity surrounding these facts, most Australians recognise that the events of history have continuing consequences for today's Indigenous people. Two thirds of the survey participants agreed that race based policies continue to affect some Indigenous people today.

The Barometer also reveals that Australians have a somewhat misplaced level of understanding about the lifestyles and achievements of Indigenous people. While just over half appreciate there is a diverse range of lifestyles within Indigenous Australia, 40% of the population see Indigenous people as disadvantaged and living on the edge of mainstream society. The idea of Indigenous people living mostly traditional lives in tribal groups is not widespread, even though 16% of people believe this to be true.

Knowledge about the varied achievements of Indigenous people is also limited, and tends to focus on sport and the Arts. More than half the population can think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in sport, the arts, service to the community and politics and government. On the other hand, the largest shortfall of visible role models exists in business, where less than one third could think of an Indigenous example.

The Barometer reveals differences in how people see the level of achievement of Indigenous people in these areas. A majority believe that Indigenous achievement is equivalent to or better than the rest of the Australian population in sport and the arts. However, the situation is reversed in the areas of community service, politics, government and business where Indigenous people are seen as substantially less successful than other Australians.

This picture of mixed awareness raises the question about where Australians, many of whom may not have any contact with Indigenous people, obtain their information about Indigenous people today. The Barometer shows that around half the population see their own (usually limited) personal experiences as their main source of information. The important role of the media is also evident from the finding that one out of three Australians mostly rely on the media as their principal source. However, one finding that suggests an increasing contribution from formal information and education in the future is that 18-29 year olds place more importance on school education and other research than they do on their own personal experiences.

2) Attitudes - shaping values and attitudes

The Barometer also delves behind simple awareness of Indigenous issues to explore the values and attitudes that Australians hold in relation to Indigenous people and to the relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The overall relationship

One of the most defining measures in the Barometer is how Australians regard the overall relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians. On this question, just over half (54%) of Australians feel the relationship is good or very good with the remaining 46% believing it to be poor or fairly poor.

This even split of attitudes should not be interpreted as reflecting a nation divided between those who are in favour of the relationship and those who are against it. Rather it is an honest reflection of how Australians see the nature of the relationship at this point in time. This relatively simple question provides a prime indicator that could be a focus for improvement in the future.

A more direct measure of the value that Australians place on Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations is the level of importance people place on the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians. Only 1%, or one in 100, believe the relationship is not important at all for Australia as a nation and only a further 7% consider it to be fairly unimportant. The remaining 92% see the relationship as very important or fairly important.

These positive views are supported by answers to several other questions which show more than half the population are ready to agree that our national identity is richer and stronger because of the contribution made by Indigenous history and culture. The majority also agree that Indigenous people hold a special place as the first Australians.

The current situation

This reality of the current situation is reflected in two important measures that help to define the underlying characteristics of the present relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians – trust and prejudice. There is strong consistency for both of these on two levels.

The first level is that most people recognise that there are problems. Around 85% of people rate trust as low or fairly low and around 75% of people rate prejudice as high or fairly high.

The second level is that most people see these as a two-way street. That is, the Barometer asks people about 'the trust Indigenous people have for other Australians' as well as the converse, 'the trust that other Australians have for Indigenous people.' The responses (in the negative) are almost identical. Similarly, it asks about 'the level of prejudice Australians hold towards Indigenous people' and vice versa. Again, the responses line up very closely, with many Australians believing that Indigenous people hold as much prejudice towards other Australians as that which exists in reverse.

Again, these responses should be interpreted as reflecting the way the relationship is currently seen, not as some endemic, entrenched level of racially-based prejudice. Indeed the Barometer also provides some measures that seek to identify the level of underlying racial prejudice in Australia.

The most straightforward of these is to gauge the level of agreement with the statement ‘non-Indigenous Australians are superior to Indigenous Australians.’ Among the survey participants, only one in fifty (2%) were prepared to strongly agree with this and a further one in twelve (8%) agreed. This meant that 92% of the population did not agree with the suggestion that there is something innately superior about non-Indigenous Australians.

On the other hand there is a somewhat more balanced view in relation to the pragmatic idea that ‘being born Indigenous makes it harder for an individual to achieve in Australia today.’ While about one third of the population agrees with this, another third disagrees and the remaining third is undecided. This partly reflects the limitations of generalising across an entire population but also indicates that many Australians realise that some Indigenous people start life with fewer opportunities than many other Australians.

There is also optimism for the future, with more than half the population believing that the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians is improving. This is another area of uncertainty, with about a third uncommitted. The pessimistic view, that the relationship is not improving, is held by only one in ten.

National image

The Barometer provides a unique insight into those characteristics that make up our national self-image and goes further to examine how the overall national image compares with the image of non-Indigenous Australians.

When the degree of similarity between all Australians and Indigenous Australians is considered, Indigenous Australians are seen to be most similar to all Australians in being ‘family oriented’, ‘proud’ and ‘good at sport’. These qualities provide a substantial foundation of commonality consistent with stereotypes normally applied to the national psyche.

On the other hand, Indigenous people are seen to be furthest behind all Australians on the attributes of ‘hard working’, ‘disciplined’, ‘co-operative’ and ‘welcoming’. The other attributes occupy the middle ground – easy-going, friendly, good humoured, respectful and welcoming – where Indigenous people are still seen as falling behind the overall population, but not to the same extent.

It is important to remember that these are broad perceptions that apply to the overall perception of Indigenous people rather than specific perceptions that should be applied to individuals. The value of this comparison is that it highlights the gaps in perceptions which may be the result of limited experience, ignorance or a reliance on negative portrayals in the media. They point to the hurdles that may be overcome in closing gaps in perceptions.

Shared pride

Recognising this, the relatively large gap in perceptions of being ‘co-operative’ and ‘welcoming’ highlights a key issue for the process of reconciliation. That is, that reconciliation will be advanced when non-Indigenous Australians feel that they can at least share in the history, culture and pride that are all parts of Indigenous Australia.

This notion of achieving an outcome of ‘shared pride’ emerged as a theme throughout the development of the Barometer. This idea is further illustrated by the following three findings. Firstly, a substantial majority (70%) agree that ‘Indigenous culture is important to Australia’s identity as a nation’, reflecting an overall positive view. Secondly, exactly half (50%) agree that ‘as an Australian I feel proud of Indigenous culture’, which leaves the other half unwilling or unable to feel proud. Thirdly, less than half (44%) agree that ‘Indigenous people are open to sharing their culture with other Australians’, which means the remainder feel that they are not being encouraged by Indigenous people to share in their culture.

However, one of the keys to achieving reconciliation will be a willingness to invite other Australians to share in their culture with pride.

Indigenous quality of life

Australians also see the lives of Indigenous and other Australians as being quite different on a number of factors that determine quality of life. Most consider Indigenous people to have substantially lower levels of health, employment, education and housing. In contrast, Indigenous access to opportunities is seen to be greater than other indicators, possibly reflecting a residual attitude that some Indigenous people receive government benefits not available to others.

On the somewhat less tangible but very influential measure of self-esteem, the Barometer reveals that only 18% of people believe that Indigenous people enjoy an equal level of self-esteem with other Australians, with 70% believing Indigenous people experience lower levels of self esteem. This emerged as a very important measure in the Barometer since a sense of self-esteem is an essential precursor to the desire to overcome obstacles and to establish equality in relationships.

Most Australians believe a combination of factors have contributed to the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today. Some of these factors are clearly beyond an individual's control, including poor access to health and education, race-based policies, discrimination, ineffective programmes and policies and lack of respect. However, the factors considered most influential - alcohol and substance abuse and lack of personal responsibility - are more likely to fall on Indigenous people themselves. This suggests many Australians continue to see those Indigenous people living in difficult circumstances as being largely responsible for their own disadvantage, as does the fact that only a third of people agree that being born Indigenous makes it harder for an individual to achieve in Australia today.

3) Action—taking and supporting action

Effective progress towards reconciliation requires action at both the personal and government level. Consequently, the Barometer looks at the action taken by individuals and governments from a number of perspectives.

Personal contact and involvement

A prime indicator of the potential for engagement with reconciliation at a personal level is the level of interest people have in more contact with Indigenous people in the future. The Barometer reveals that most Australians would like to have more contact with Indigenous people in the future than they currently have.

While this indicates an interest in personally engaging in contact with Indigenous people, there is a somewhat different level of desire to take steps to help overcome Indigenous disadvantage. In fact, the Barometer shows that just over a third of people agree that they 'would like to do something to help disadvantaged people' but half the population take a neutral position.

This lack of engagement is at least partly explained by the finding that a substantial majority of people simply do not know what they can do to help disadvantaged Indigenous people. Nevertheless, when asked to specify the types of things they had done to advance reconciliation or help disadvantaged Indigenous people in the last 12 months, two-thirds of survey participants were able to nominate at least one activity, from simply discussing Indigenous issues to donating their time and money.

The Barometer also tested attitudes towards relations with Indigenous people on a very personal level by showing that the vast majority of Australians would have no problem with their child deciding to marry an Indigenous person.

Government Involvement

Several measures in the Barometer point to the importance that the Australian population place on effective government policies and actions to overcome Indigenous disadvantage and to advance reconciliation.

For example, there is a clear recognition that some Indigenous Australians need help to overcome disadvantage and that the government should put in place measures to help Indigenous people in specific ways.

Despite the emphasis on the government as a key component of any solution, there is pessimism about the effectiveness of government action so far. Just 1 in 50 people believe government action so far has been 'very successful' and only one-third rate it as 'fairly successful'. However, looking to the future, there is strong support for the government to achieve equality on a wide range of specific measures. Equality in health, education and life expectancy top the list, reflecting the real needs of Indigenous Australians, but there is also recognition of the need to achieve equality in employment, housing and leadership skills.

Achieving reconciliation

The perceived quality of these leadership skills are also addressed in the Barometer. It reveals that Australians presently do not have confidence in the level of cooperation between Indigenous leaders and non-Indigenous leaders in Australia. Neither do they believe that Indigenous people are good at working together to address the problems that confront them.

Finally it is important to note that the apology to the stolen generations is one government action that is widely accepted. The Barometer reveals that it is recognised for its importance both to Indigenous people and to relations between Indigenous people and other Australians.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. AWARENESS—KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS

3.1 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Overall, people's main sources of information about Indigenous people are '*personal experiences*' (49%) and '*the media*' (29%). Understandably, younger people more commonly identified '*school education*' as their main source of information and relied less on their own experiences. The situation was reversed for the oldest group, who were most likely to rely on their own experiences with Indigenous people. Not surprisingly, those in higher contact areas (regional and remote) reported that they rely more on their own experiences than city people. '*Parents and family*' are not considered a main source by any group.

3.2 LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT INDIGENOUS HISTORY AND CULTURE

a. Knowledge about the history of Indigenous people in Australia

Australians tend to feel they have low rather than high levels of knowledge of Indigenous history, although most of the population sits in the central ground, believing they either have 'fairly low' (42%) or 'fairly high' (39%) knowledge of Indigenous history. Only younger people differ in that they are slightly on the high rather than low knowledge side - 50% having 'high' compared to 48% 'low' knowledge.

b. Knowledge about Indigenous culture

Most people believe their knowledge of Indigenous culture is low – around two thirds (65%) think they have 'low' or 'no knowledge at all.' Younger people are more polarised than others about their Indigenous cultural knowledge, with above average representation at both ends of the spectrum - 'high or fairly high' (41%) and 'very low or no knowledge at all' (20%). Country people are more likely to have 'high' knowledge in comparison to city dwellers and the national average. Australians over 60 tend to feel the least knowledgeable about Indigenous culture.

c. Comparing knowledge about Indigenous history and culture

While Australians believe they know more about Indigenous history than culture, perceptions of their knowledge about both topics present a similar picture. The majority of the population believe their knowledge levels are around the middle of the range, either 'fairly low' or 'fairly high.' However, for both topics, most Australians tend to err on the low side. Just over half (63% for culture and 55% for history) believe their level of knowledge of both topics is low. It is likely that people believe they have slightly more historical than cultural knowledge because they have had some school instruction in Australian history, but not necessarily the opportunity (without specifically seeking it) to learn about Indigenous culture.

3.3 IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE AMONG ALL AUSTRALIANS ABOUT INDIGENOUS HISTORY AND CULTURE

a. The history of Indigenous people in Australia

Despite an overall 'low' perceived level of knowledge, an overwhelming majority of Australians (86%) think it is important that all Australians know about Indigenous history. This is consistent across all sub-groups, with some minor differences occurring between those rating knowledge of history as very important or fairly important. Women rate this more highly than men, and regional and remote residents rate this more highly than city dwellers.

b. Indigenous culture

Australians are similarly convinced of the importance of knowledge about Indigenous culture for the nation (84% important). This is despite the currently lower levels of knowledge of culture than history. Once again women are more likely to believe it is 'very important' than men.

c. Comparing the importance of knowledge about history and culture

A substantial majority of the population regard knowledge of both Indigenous history and culture to be important for all Australians. Considering the relatively low levels of actual knowledge, this suggests that Australians want to know more and points to an opportunity to close the knowledge gaps and grow understanding between Indigenous and other Australians.

3.4 SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF INDIGENOUS HISTORY AND CULTURE IN AUSTRALIA

a. Stolen generations

Evidently most Australians are unaware of how recently Indigenous Australians were affected by the stolen generations policies (only 20% correctly nominated the 1970s). Half the population believed that these policies ended in the earlier decades of the twentieth century.

b. Mabo

Most Australians have an understanding of what the Mabo legislation relates to (87% correctly nominated Indigenous land rights and native title). Less of the younger people answered correctly (64%) but many were possibly too young to understand or recall this decision.

c. The Dreamtime

When asked about their knowledge of the 'Dreamtime,' four out of five research participants correctly identified 'History or creation according to Indigenous spiritual beliefs.'

3.5 KNOWLEDGE OF INDIGENOUS LIVES AND LIFESTYLES

There is strong awareness among Australians of two key aspects of Indigenous life and identity – the importance of the connection to traditional lands as part of Indigenous identity (68% agree) and the Indigenous tendency to have close family and extended family relationships that involve taking responsibility for other family members (67% agree).

A majority are also aware of the continuing effect of race based policies on some Indigenous people living today (63%).

We put three statements to participants relating to their awareness of lifestyles in Indigenous Australia. More than half the population agree that Indigenous people have a diverse range of lifestyles and occupations like other Australians (64% agree). Another 40% believe that Indigenous people are mostly disadvantaged and live on the edge of mainstream society and very few people believe that Indigenous people live mostly traditional lives in tribal groups (16%).

3.6 SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF INDIGENOUS SOCIAL INDICATORS

a. Size of Indigenous population

Most Australians overestimate the Indigenous proportion of the Australian population. In fact two out of every three Australians (66%) believe that Indigenous people represent 5% or more of the population (when the real figure is 2.4%). Just under half (43%) believe that they represent 10% or more of the population.

b. Male life expectancy

A majority of people overestimate the life expectancy of Indigenous males in Australia today. Six out of 10 people believe that Indigenous males live up to 15 yrs less than other males in Australia. Only 12% of people correctly identified the gap at 17 yrs. Almost one third of people (28%) overestimated the gap at more than 20 yrs.

3.7 SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF INDIGENOUS ACHIEVEMENT AND ROLE MODELS

Most Australians can think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in a range of areas of achievement. The most visible is sport, where the vast majority (91%) can think of Indigenous role models. The Arts also rates highly with 70% recalling people who set an example for others. There is somewhat less recognition of role models in service to the community (58%) and politics and government (57%), with just under 6 in 10 people able to think of someone. The lowest visibility is reserved for Indigenous achievement in business, with only 29% recalling a business leader who sets an example for others.

3.8 COMPARING ACHIEVEMENT AMONG INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

When comparing achievements of Indigenous people to the rest of the population, Australians perceive that Indigenous people are more successful in some areas than others. The strongest achievements are seen to be 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. However, the reverse applies in the areas of service to the community, politics and government, and business, where the majority believe that Indigenous achievement is below the average of the rest of Australian society.

4. ATTITUDES—SHAPING VALUES AND ATTITUDES

4.1 VALUING INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND HISTORY IN AUSTRALIA

Responses to six statements about the place of Indigenous history and culture reveal that most Australians recognise the importance of Indigenous culture to our national identity and support the need to teach Indigenous history in our schools. A majority also value the contribution of our cultural diversity and the richness that comes from our Indigenous heritage.

However, there is weaker agreement about the personal pride that Australians feel for Indigenous culture and the degree to which Indigenous people are open to sharing their culture with other Australians. This suggests that many Australians may be uneasy about feeling pride in Indigenous culture when they do not feel it is being willingly shared.

4.2 PERCEPTIONS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIGENOUS AND OTHER AUSTRALIANS

Australians are divided fairly evenly in their views of the quality of the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians. Approximately half rate it as 'good' and the other half rate it as 'poor' overall. The greatest difference in perceptions of the relationship seems to be between metro and regional people. While 66% of regional people consider the relationship to be 'good,' only 41% of city people view it this way. Age is also a factor, with younger (18 – 39 years) and older Australians (over 60 years) tending to be more positive about the quality of the relationship than middle aged people.

4.3 IMPORTANCE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIGENOUS AND OTHER AUSTRALIANS FOR THE NATION

Despite Australians being divided in their perceptions of the quality of the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians, they do believe this relationship is very important for the nation (91% important, including 53% very important). Among all the demographic groups, women and Australians over 60 years old place the greatest importance on the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians.

4.4 LEVELS OF TRUST BETWEEN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND OTHER AUSTRALIANS

a. Trust that other Australians have for Indigenous people

Across all demographic groupings, the perceived levels of trust Australians have for Indigenous people are very low. Eight out of ten people believe that Australians have a 'low' level of trust for Indigenous people. Metro dwellers are particularly pessimistic about the level of trust Australians have for Indigenous people, half of them (49%) believe trust is 'fairly low' and another 38% believe it is 'very low.'

b. Trust that Indigenous people have for other Australians

Mirroring the low perceptions of trust Australians have for Indigenous people, more than four out of five Australians (85%) believe that Indigenous people have a 'low' level of trust towards non-Indigenous people. Younger and older Australians are more likely to have a more positive perception of the level of trust Indigenous people have for other Australians, but even for these groups, less than 20% consider this level of trust to be 'high.'

c. Comparison of perceived levels of trust

There is little doubt that Australians see the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians as one fraught with mistrust and wariness. Australians believe that Indigenous people have very little trust towards other Australians (85% low), and other Australians have very little trust towards Indigenous people (83% low). While the numbers are very close, there appears to be a slightly higher level of trust from other Australians towards Indigenous people than from Indigenous people towards other Australians.

4.5 LEVELS OF PREJUDICE BETWEEN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND OTHER AUSTRALIANS

a. Level of prejudice between Australians and Indigenous people

Most Australians perceive that relations between Indigenous and other Australians are characterised by a significant amount of prejudice. Three quarters (73%) of Australians believe the level of prejudice from Indigenous Australians to other Australians and likewise from other Australians to Indigenous people to be either 'very or fairly high.' Most Australians however

consider that the degree of prejudice is stronger from Indigenous people to other Australians, with almost a third believing it is 'very high.'

4.6 GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND OTHER AUSTRALIANS

a. General impressions of all Australians

As an insight into our national identity, the overall impression held of Australians is most commonly good humoured, friendly, good at sport and easy going. At least four out of five of those surveyed also think of Australians as welcoming, family-orientated, proud and co-operative. The attributes less likely to be seen as applying to all Australians are hard-working, respectful and, at the bottom of the list, disciplined.

b. General impressions of Indigenous people

Australians have a less consistently positive image of Indigenous people than they do of other Australians. 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. On the other hand, fewer than 50% of the population believe that Indigenous people are welcoming, respectful, cooperative, hard working and disciplined.

c. Comparing general impressions of all Australians and Indigenous Australians

When the degree of similarity between all Australians and Indigenous Australians are considered, the greatest commonalities are seen as being family oriented, proud and good at sport. On the other hand, Indigenous people are seen as being most different from all Australians on the attributes of hard working, disciplined and co-operative. The other attributes occupy the middle ground – easy-going, friendly, good humoured, respectful and welcoming.

4.7 COMPARING THE LIVES OF INDIGENOUS AND OTHER AUSTRALIANS

When comparing Indigenous people to other Australians on a range of social and personal indicators, the majority believe that Indigenous levels are lower than those occurring among the rest of the population.

The largest tangible differences are seen to exist in relation to health, followed by employment, education and housing. The personal attributes of self esteem and personal pride are viewed somewhat differently. Regarding self esteem, Indigenous people are seen to fall behind the rest of the population, with only 23% believing Indigenous people enjoy the same or better levels than others. However, Indigenous people are thought to exhibit greater personal pride, with 39% believing Indigenous levels are the same or better than other Australians.

'Access to opportunities' is the only area in which fewer than half the population believe Indigenous people lag behind the rest of the population. This likely reflects the residual attitude among many that some Indigenous people receive government benefits not available to others.

4.8 REASONS BEHIND INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE

Most Australians believe a combination of factors have created the situation of disadvantage that characterises the lives of some Indigenous people today, with over 70% considering all the suggested factors presented as 'very important or fairly important.' However, it is clear that many Australians are placing much of the onus on Indigenous people because the two factors considered far more important than the others are 'alcohol and substance abuse' (68% very important) and 'lack of personal responsibility' (40% very important). This suggests that many Australians continue to see Indigenous people as being largely responsible for their own disadvantage.

4.9 VALUES UNDERLYING ATTITUDES TO RECONCILIATION

More than half the population agree with a fundamental aspect of Indigenous Australia: that Indigenous people hold a special place as the first Australians (59% agree). A majority (53%) are also inclined to believe that the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians is improving (with only 12% disagreeing).

On the other hand, there is less willingness to accept negative portrayals of Indigenous life and opportunity, with only 36% agreeing that being born Indigenous makes it harder for an individual to achieve in Australia today.

On the broader question of innate superiority, only 10% believe that non-Indigenous Australians are superior to Indigenous Australians, with the majority rejecting this concept.

5. ACTION—TAKING AND SUPPORTING ACTION

5.1 ACTION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

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 of the notion that some Indigenous people need specific help to achieve equality with other Australians (72% agree). Secondly, on the very personal measure of accepting Indigenous people into one's family, 62% agree that they would feel fine if their child married an Indigenous person (with only 9% disagreeing).

There is far less confidence in the ability of Indigenous people and leaders to work together and with non-Indigenous people to overcome problems. Only 29% of people believe there is good cooperation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders in Australia and only 20% believe that Indigenous people are good at working together to address the problems that confront them. There is also a low level of regard for the media's role, with only 14% agreeing that the media presents a balanced view of Indigenous Australians.

5.2 LEVEL OF CONTACT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Most Australians have some contact with Indigenous people, although for three quarters of the population the level of contact is infrequent. Location is a key determinant of level of contact. Australians living in rural and remote areas report the highest levels of regular contact (27% frequent) and capital city dwellers report the highest instances of no contact at all (12%).

5.3 DESIRED LEVEL OF FUTURE CONTACT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Most Australians would like to have contact with Indigenous people in the future. Three quarters of the population (76%) would like that contact to be 'frequent' or 'occasional.' The greatest difference in desired contact seems to be between city and country people. While 28% of rural/remote and 25% of regional dwellers seek 'frequent' contact with Indigenous people, only 16% of city people are looking for the same relatively high level of contact.

5.4 COMPARISON OF CURRENT AND DESIRED FUTURE LEVELS OF CONTACT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Comparing the results from the previous two questions shows that generally, Australians would like more contact with Indigenous people in the future than they currently have. This finding is especially positive as it is a trend that is consistent across all demographic groups. Furthermore, the proportion of Australians who want rare contact, or no contact, is smaller than the proportion that currently have rare or no contact.

5.5 INDIVIDUAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

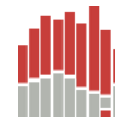
There currently appears to be a relatively common level of personal engagement with Indigenous issues among the Australian population. Overall, two out of three Australians (64%) report that they have taken one or more steps to advance reconciliation or to help disadvantaged people in the last 12 months. The remaining third (36%) did not engage in any of the types of personal action listed in the survey.

5.6 DESIRE FOR PERSONAL AND GOVERNMENT ACTION

The majority of Australians believe that the responsibility for helping disadvantaged Indigenous people falls with the government and they are prepared to give their support to specific measures to overcome disadvantage. However there is less interest in personal action and even poorer knowledge about what individuals can do to help.

5.7 GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ADDRESS INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE

While Australians 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%). The biggest difference in attitude seems to be between women and men, with women more likely than men to believe that programmes have been successful. At either extreme, far more people are likely to believe that programmes have been very unsuccessful than very successful.



5.8 PRIORITISING MEASURES TO ADDRESS INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE

Most Australians recognise the need for the government to give a high priority to a range of measures to deal with Indigenous disadvantage. Equality in health tops the list of priorities for most people (60% high) followed by equality in education (57% high) and life expectancy (50% high). This likely reflects an understanding of the relationship between these three issues. There is still strong support for the lesser priorities of equality in employment (39% high), housing (34% high) and development of leadership skills (32% high).

5.9 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE APOLOGY

Most Australians appreciate the importance of the 2008 apology to members of the stolen generations, both from the perspective of Indigenous people and their relations with other Australians. Three quarters (76%) of people consider the apology as important to Indigenous people and 6 out of 10 (61%) believe it to be important to relations between Indigenous and other Australians.

3. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This research was conducted by Auspoll on behalf of Reconciliation Australia. This quantitative research study involved 1,007 Australians aged 18+. Interviews were conducted between Thursday 1 May and Saturday 3 May 2008.

The research was conducted online using a managed panel of respondents who received a small incentive for their participation. Studies have shown that online research produces research which is at least as accurate (and sometimes more accurate) than telephone research. Some of the benefits include the removal of any interviewer bias, as well as the ability to conduct fast turnaround research. The sample was drawn in such a way as to be representative of the Australian population and data were weighted by sex, age and location.

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 interpretation of subgroup figures.

3.2 Sample characteristics

Interviews were conducted with the following population.

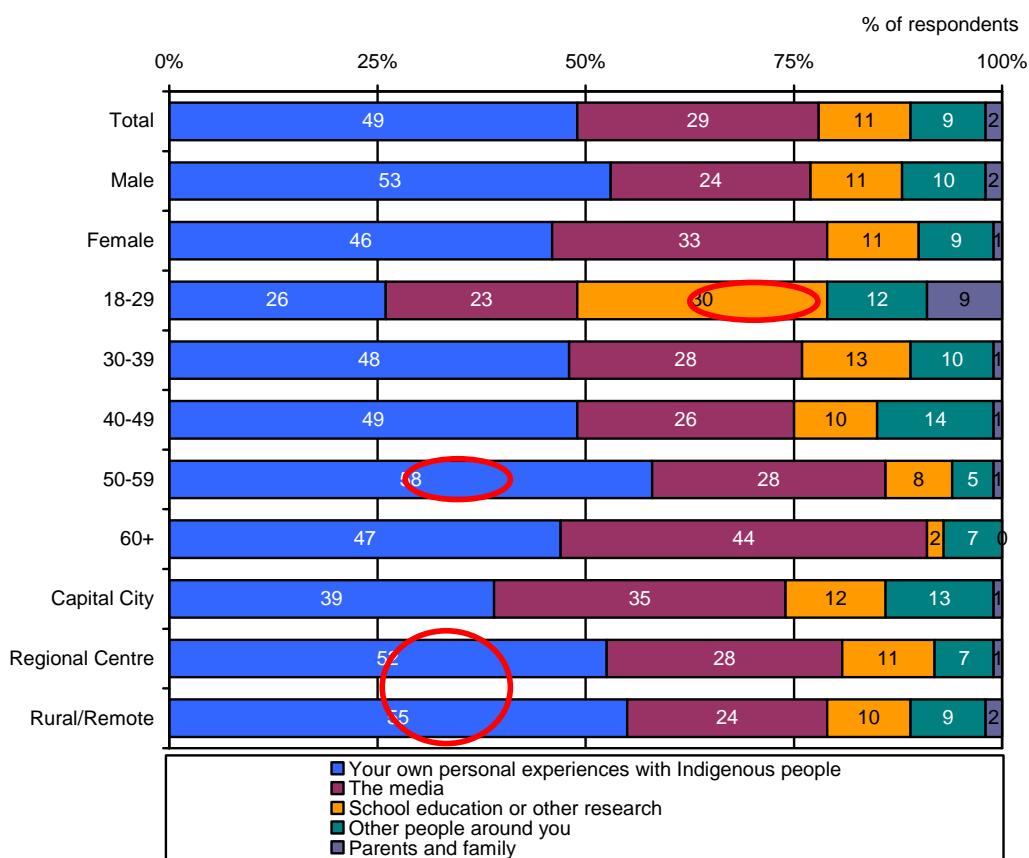
Male	480
Female	527
18-29	159
30-39	219
40 – 49	253
50 – 59	263
60+	113
Capital city	602
Regional centre	240
Rural/remote	165

4. AWARENESS—KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS

4.1 Sources of information

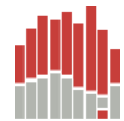
Which of the following is your main source of information about Indigenous people?

- Your own personal experiences with Indigenous people
- The media
- School education or other research
- Other people around you
- Parents and family



KEY FINDINGS:

Overall, people's main sources of information about Indigenous people are 'personal experiences' (49%) and 'the media' (29%). Understandably, younger people more commonly identified 'school education' as their main source of information and relied less on their own experiences. The situation was reversed for the oldest group, who were most likely to rely on their own experiences with Indigenous people. Not surprisingly, those in higher contact areas (regional and remote) reported that they rely more on their own experiences than city people. 'Parents and family' are not considered a main source by any group.



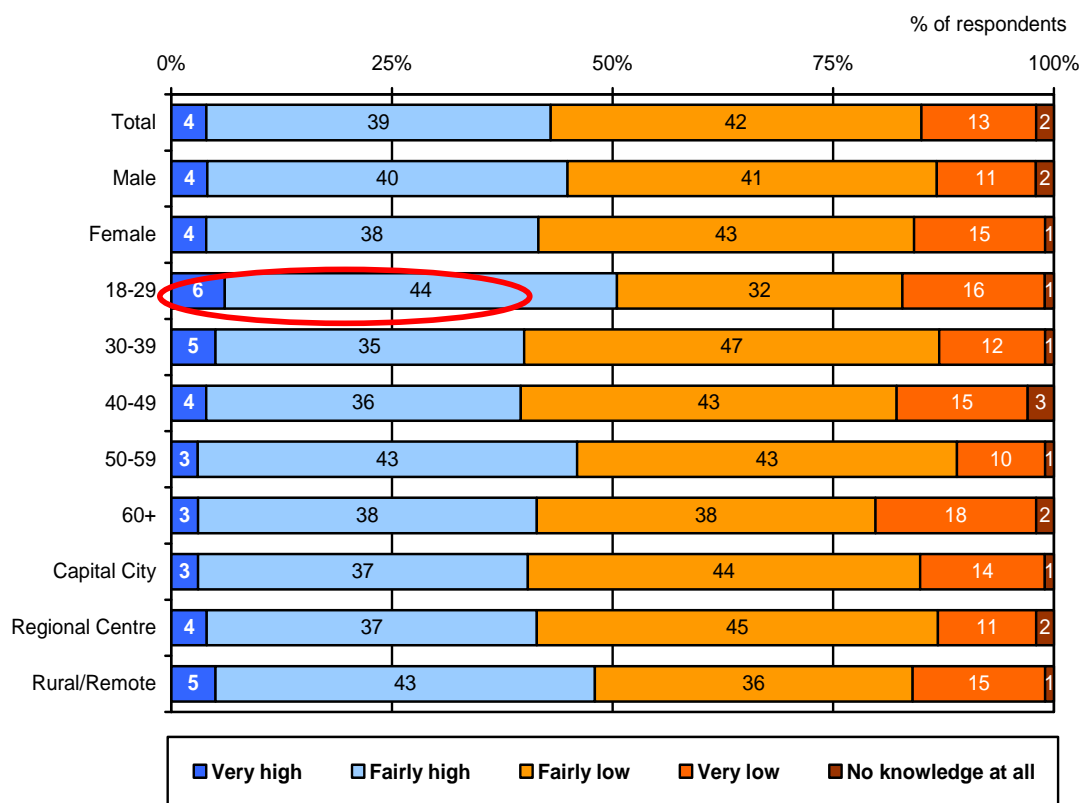
- Half the population (49%) claim that their *'own personal experiences with Indigenous people'* are their main source of information, while 29% nominated *'the media'* as their main source of information.
- *'School education or other research'* (11%) and *'other people'* (9%) ranked third and fourth as the primary source of information about Indigenous people.
- Only 2% of Australians nominate *'parents and family'* as their main source of information about Indigenous people.
- Younger people (18 – 29 years old) exhibit a different pattern for their main sources of information, showing a more even spread across the different options. Not surprisingly, *'school or other research'* was selected most often, with 30% of this age group nominating it as their main source of information about Indigenous people. One in ten (9%) selected *'parents and family.'*
- Middle aged people, particularly the older groups among them (50 – 59 years old), are more likely to nominate their own personal experiences as their primary source of information than young or older people.
- 58% of 50 – 59 year olds selected their *'own personal experiences with Indigenous people'* as their main source of information.
- Understandably, location and level of contact plays a part in determining people's main source of information.
- 55% of Australians living in regional and rural towns believe their *'own personal experiences with Indigenous people'* is their main source of information. This compares to 52% of people in regional areas, and only 39% of capital city dwellers.
- Conversely, 35% of city dwellers nominated *'the media'* as their main source of information, compared to 28% of people in regional centres and only 24% in rural and remote areas.

4.2 Level of knowledge about Indigenous history and culture

How would you describe your level of knowledge about the following topics?

Knowledge about the history of Indigenous people in Australia
 Knowledge about Indigenous culture

a. Knowledge about the history of Indigenous people in Australia



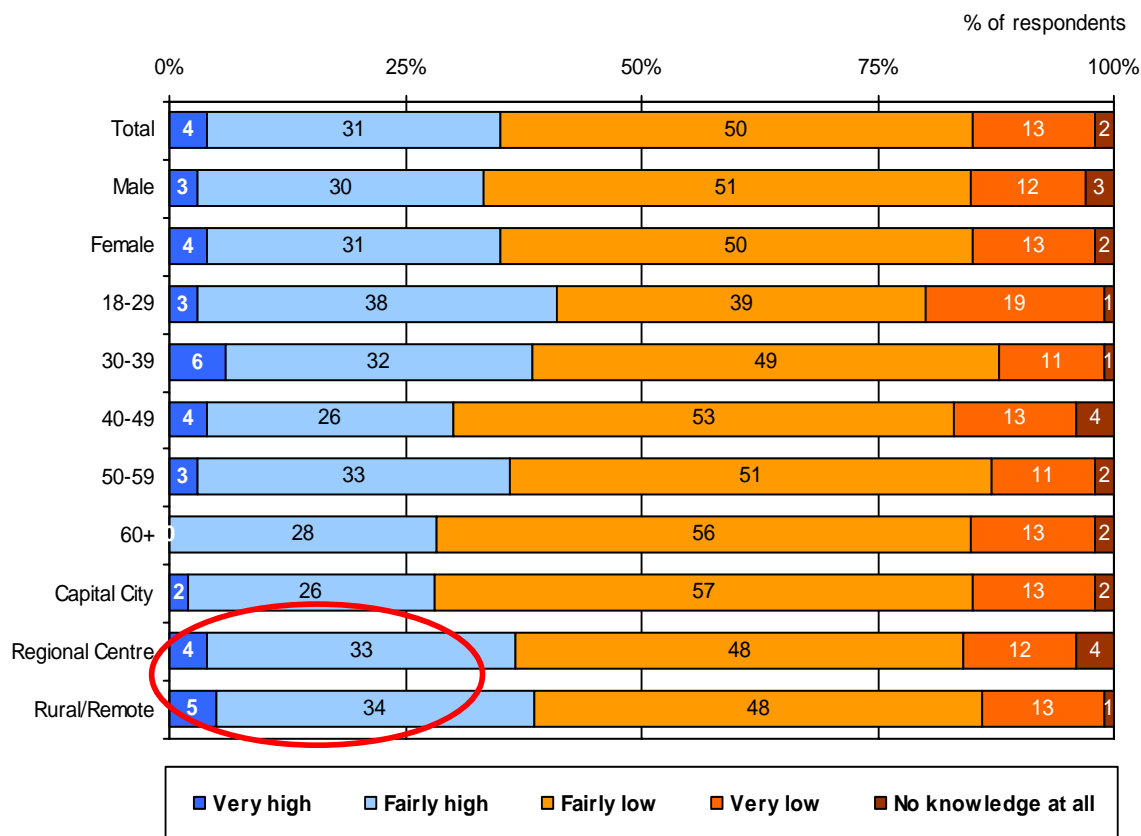
KEY FINDINGS:

Australians tend to feel they have low rather than high levels of knowledge of Indigenous history, although most of the population sits in the central ground believing they either have ‘fairly low’ (42%) or ‘fairly high’ (39%) knowledge of Indigenous history. Only younger people differ in that they are slightly on the high rather than low knowledge side - 50% having ‘high’ compared to 48% ‘low’ knowledge.

Around six out of 10 (57%) Australians think they have ‘low’ knowledge or ‘no knowledge at all,’ of Indigenous history.

- Only 4% of Australians believe they have a ‘very high’ level of knowledge of Indigenous history and 39% believe they have a ‘fairly high’ level of knowledge.
- Younger Australians (18 – 29 years old) have slightly higher levels of perceived knowledge than the national average; 50% believe they have a ‘high’ or ‘fairly high’ level of knowledge compared to only 43% amongst the general population.

b. Knowledge about Indigenous culture

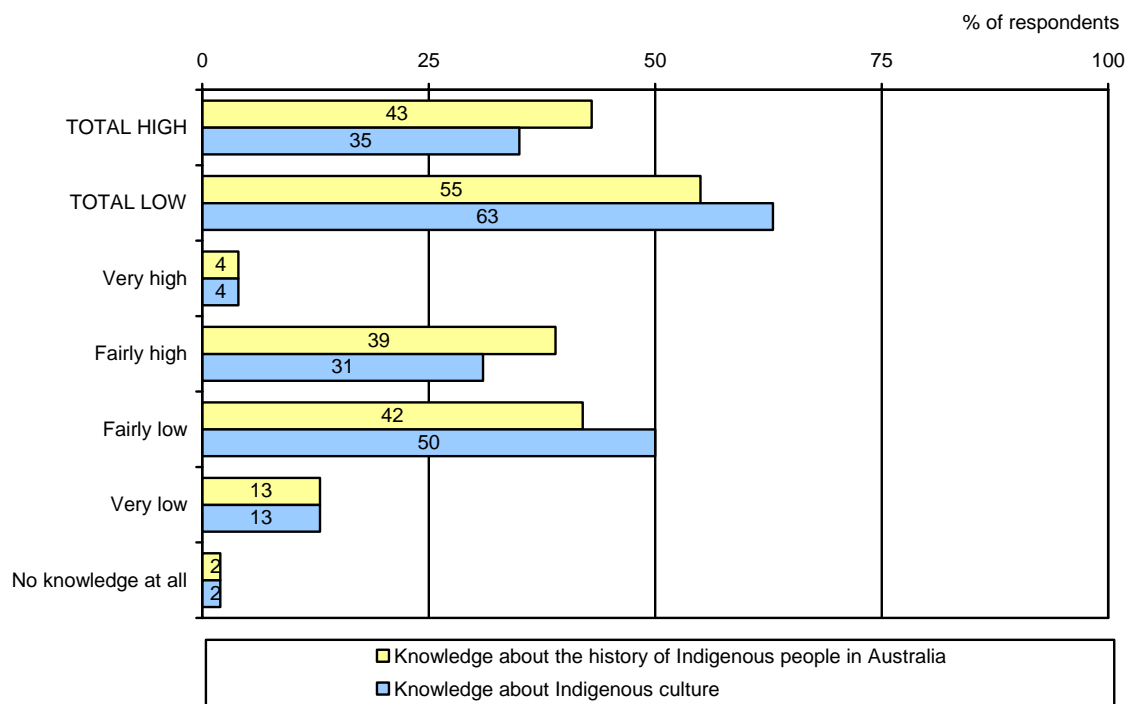


KEY FINDINGS:

Most people believe their knowledge of Indigenous culture is low- around two thirds (65%) think they have 'low' or 'no knowledge at all.' Younger people are more polarised than others about their Indigenous cultural knowledge, with above average representation at both ends of the spectrum - 'high or fairly high' (41%) and 'very low or no knowledge at all' (20%). Country people are more likely to have 'high' knowledge in comparison to city dwellers and the national average. Australians over 60 tend to feel the least knowledgeable about Indigenous culture.

- Over half the population (63%) believe they have a 'low' level of knowledge, of which 15% have 'very low' or 'no knowledge.'
- Only 4% of Australians believe they have a 'very high' level of knowledge of Indigenous culture and 31% believe they have a 'fairly high' level of knowledge.
- Levels of knowledge are highest amongst younger people and regional/rural and remote areas.
- 41% of 18-29 year olds have a 'very high', or 'fairly high' level of knowledge, compared to 35% of Australians overall.
- 39% of rural/remote and 37% of regional people have a 'very high', or 'fairly high' level of knowledge, compared to 28% of city dwellers.
- Compared to the national average, Australians over 60 years old and city dwellers have the lowest perceptions of their level of knowledge of Indigenous culture.
- 56% of Australians over 60 believe they have a 'fairly low' level and another 13% believe they have 'very low' knowledge of Indigenous culture.
- 57% of city dwellers believe they have a 'fairly low' level and another 13% believe they have 'very low' knowledge of Indigenous culture.

c. Comparing knowledge about Indigenous history and culture



KEY FINDINGS:

While Australians believe they know more about Indigenous history than culture, perceptions of their knowledge about both topics present a similar picture. The majority of the population believe their knowledge levels are around the middle of the range, either 'fairly low' or 'fairly high.' However, for both topics, most Australians tend to err on the low side. Just over half (63% for culture and 55% for history) believe their level of knowledge of both topics is low. It is likely that people believe they have slightly more historical than cultural knowledge because they have had some school instruction in Australian history, but not necessarily the opportunity (without specifically seeking it) to learn about Indigenous culture.

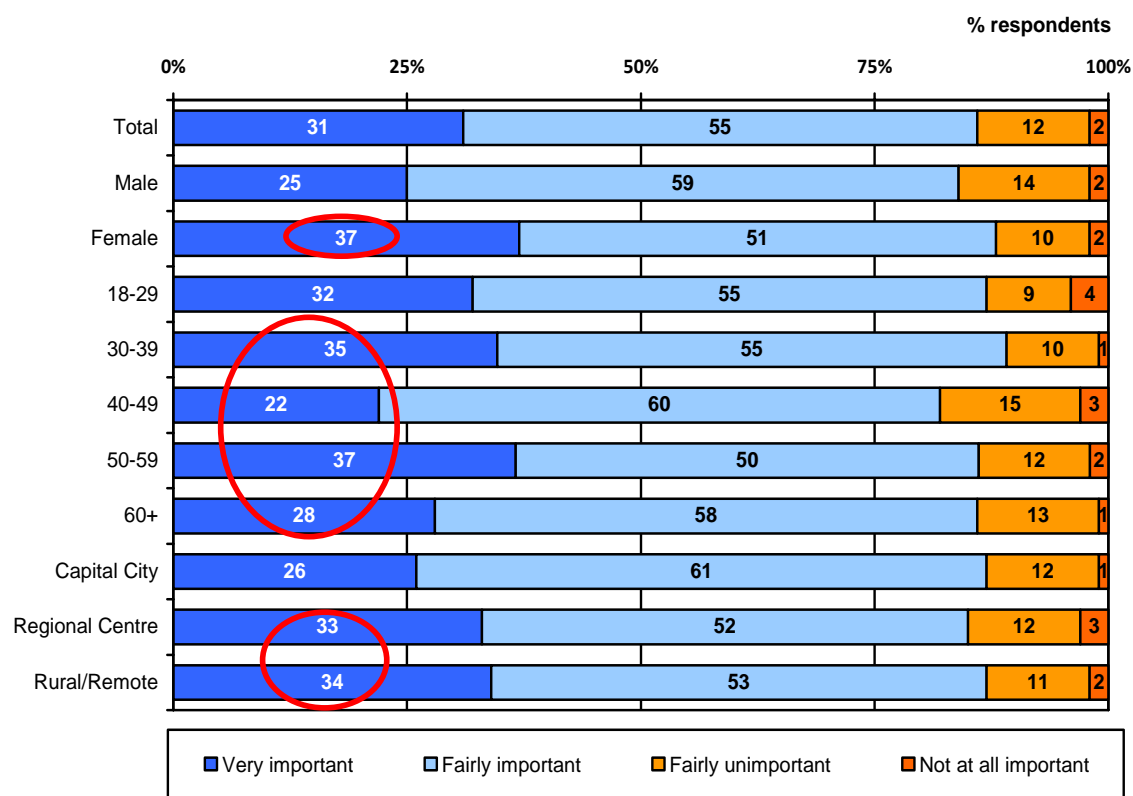
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- Australians perceive they have greater knowledge about Indigenous history than culture.
- 43% of Australians have a 'very high' or 'fairly high' level of knowledge of Indigenous history, whereas only 35% of Australians have the same level of knowledge of Indigenous culture.
- The majority of Australians believe they have 'low' rather than 'high' levels of knowledge of Indigenous history and culture.
- 50% of Australians believe they have 'fairly low' knowledge of Indigenous culture and 13% believe they have 'very low' knowledge.
- 42% of Australians believe they have 'fairly low' knowledge of Indigenous history and 13% believe they have 'very low' knowledge.
-

4.3 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

a. The history of Indigenous people in Australia



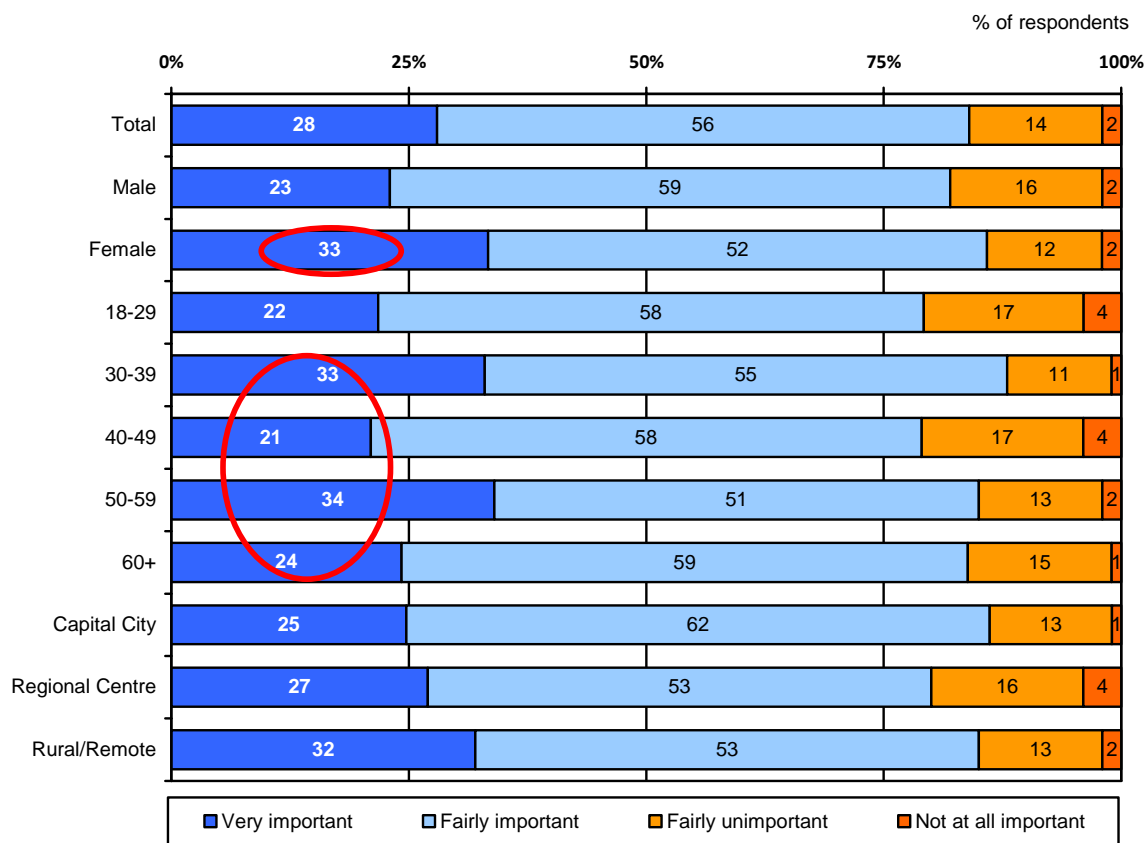
KEY FINDINGS:

Despite an overall 'low' perceived level of knowledge, an overwhelming majority of Australians (86%) think it is important that all Australians know about Indigenous history. This is consistent across all sub-groups, with some minor differences occurring between those rating knowledge of history as very important or fairly important. Women rate this more highly than men and regional and remote residents rate this more highly than city dwellers.

- Almost a third (31%) of Australians believe it is 'very important' that all Australians know about Indigenous history and 55% think that it is 'fairly important.'
- Only 2% of Australians believe it is 'not important at all and only 12% think it is 'fairly unimportant.'
- Women are more likely than men to think that it is important to know about Indigenous history. 37% of women think it is 'very important' compared to 25% of men.
- Regional and rural/remote dwellers are more likely to believe knowledge of Indigenous history is 'very important' than metro dwellers. For example 34% of people living in rural and remote areas think it is very important, compared to 26% of people living in capital cities.

b. Indigenous culture

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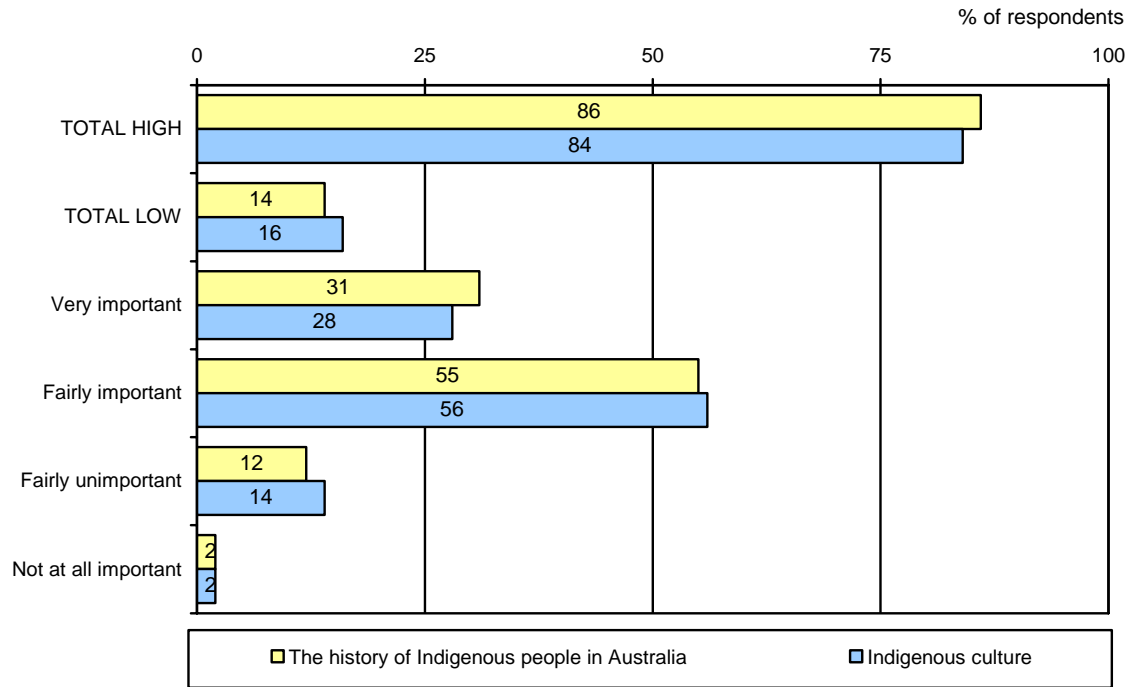


KEY FINDINGS:

Australians are similarly convinced of the importance of knowledge about Indigenous culture for the nation (84% important). This is despite the currently lower levels of knowledge of culture than history. Once again women are more likely to believe it is 'very important' than men.

- A convincing majority of Australians (84%) believe that it is important for all Australians to know about Indigenous culture.
- 28% of Australians believe it is 'very important.'
- Only 2% of Australians believe it is 'not important at all.'
- Women are more likely than men to think that it is important to know about Indigenous culture. 33% of women believe that it is 'very important' compared to only 23% of males.

c. Comparing the importance of knowledge about history and culture



KEY FINDINGS:

A substantial majority of the population regard knowledge of both Indigenous history and culture to be important for all Australians. Considering the relatively low levels of actual knowledge, this suggests that Australians want to know more and points to an opportunity to close the knowledge gaps and grow understanding between Indigenous and other Australians.

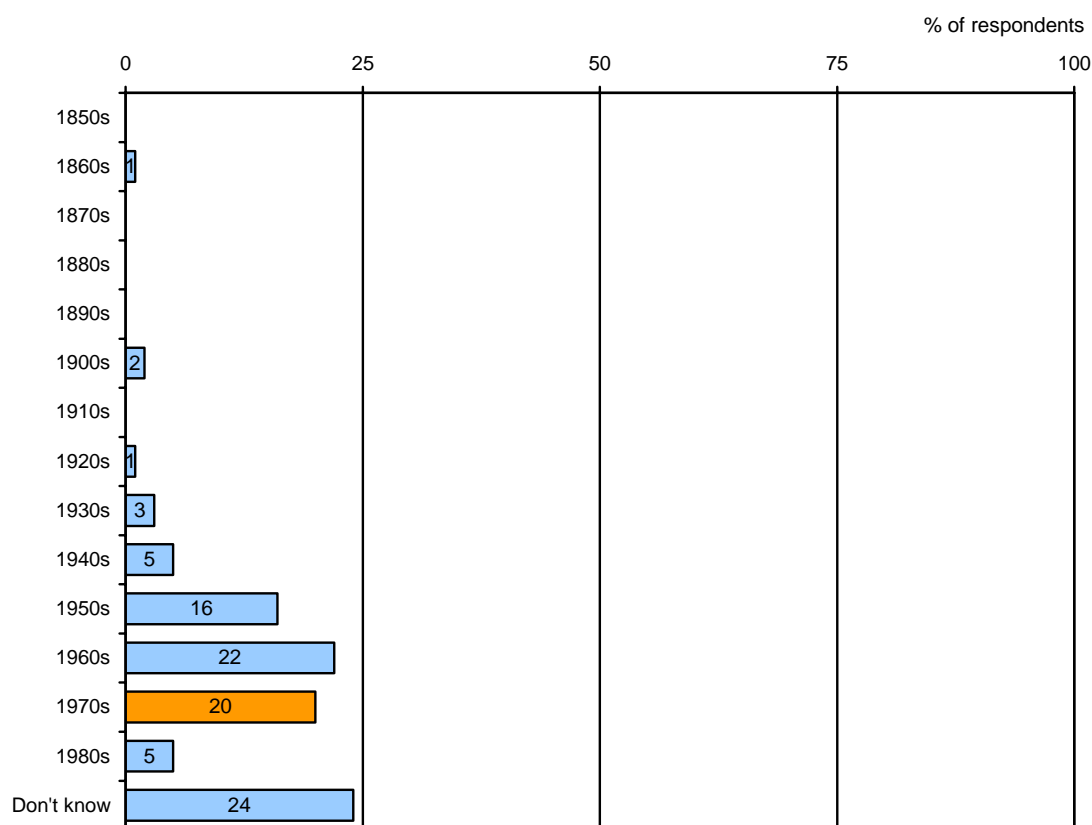
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- 86% of the population believe it is 'important' all Australians have knowledge of Indigenous history.
- 84% of the population believe it is 'important' all Australians have knowledge of Indigenous culture.

4.4 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?



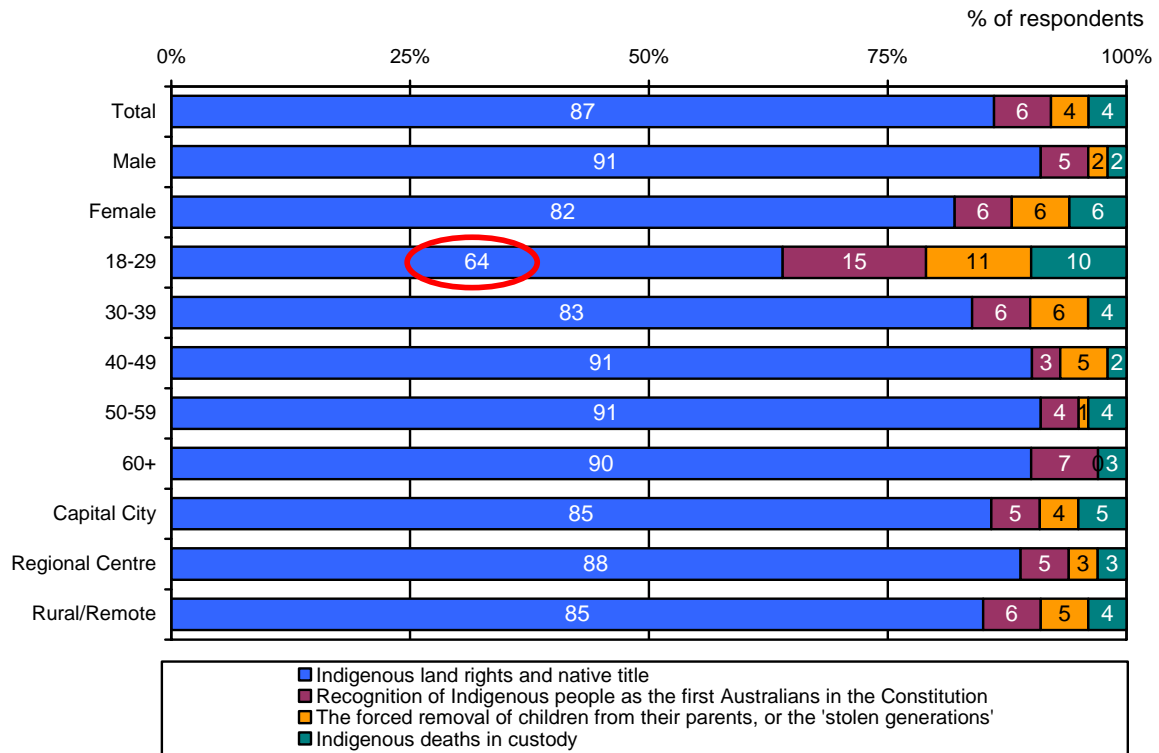
KEY FINDINGS:

Evidently most Australians are unaware of how recently Indigenous Australians were affected by the stolen generations policies (only 20% correctly nominated the 1970s). Half the population believed that these policies ended in the earlier decades of the twentieth century.

When asked about when the stolen generation policies ended, only 20% of Australians correctly identified that they ended in the 1970s. Around a quarter of people (24%) claimed not to know, while around half (51%) thought that the policies ended in decades before the 1970s.

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:

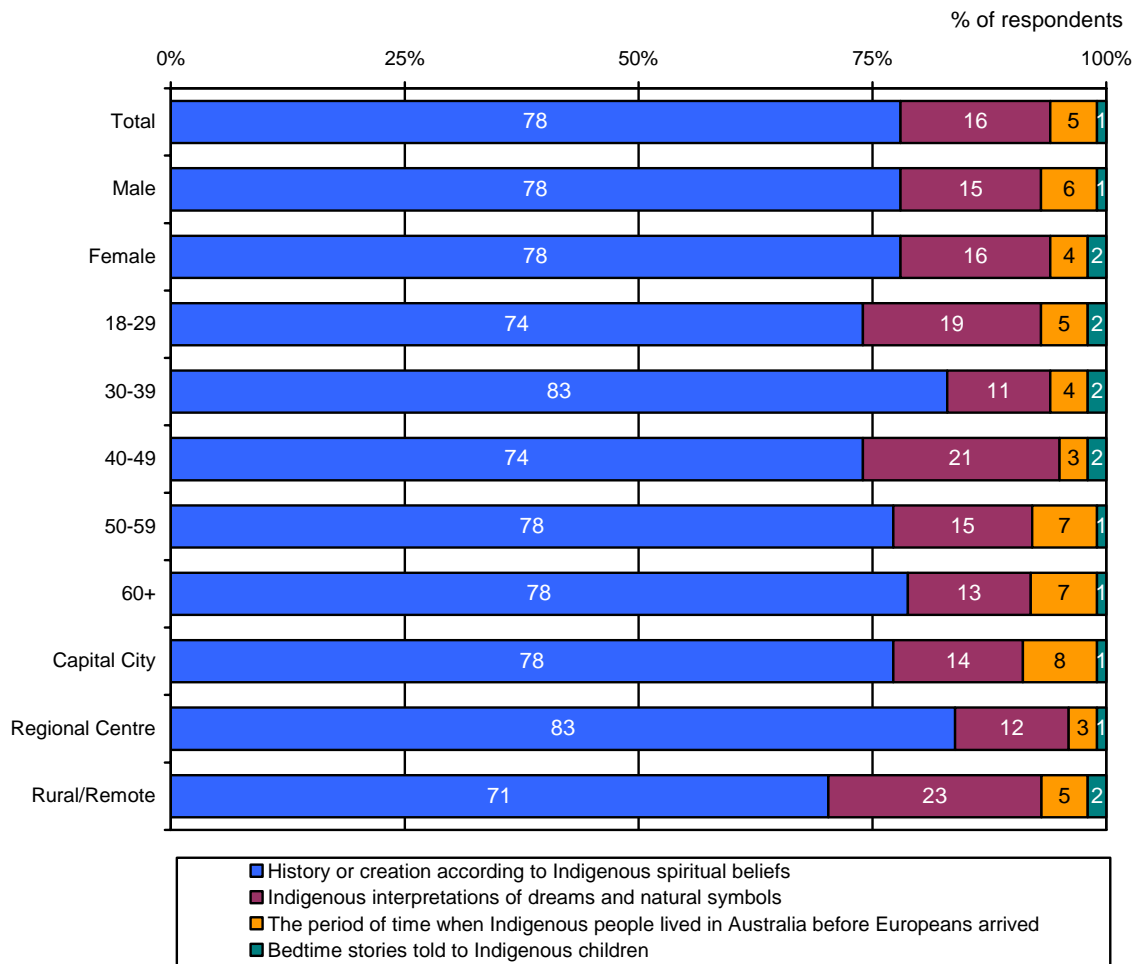
- Most Australians have an understanding of what the Mabo legislation relates to (87% correctly nominated Indigenous land rights and native title). Less of the younger people answered correctly (64%) but many were possibly too young to understand or recall this decision.**

A convincing majority of Australians (87%) answered correctly that the 'Mabo' decision relates to Indigenous land rights and native title.

However, younger Australians were well below the national average, with only 64% answering correctly.

c. The Dreamtime

Which statement best describes the meaning of the Dreamtime?



KEY FINDINGS:

When asked about their knowledge of the 'Dreamtime' four out of five research participants correctly identified 'History or creation according to Indigenous spiritual beliefs.'

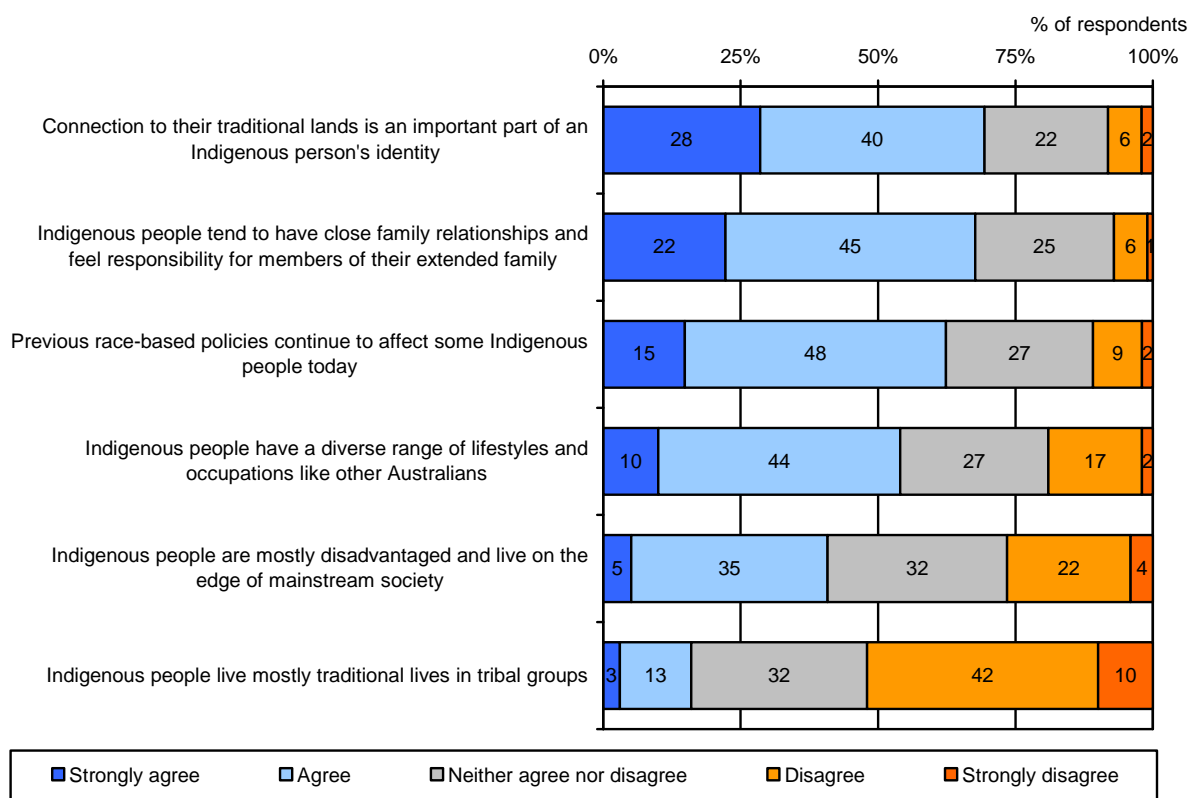
The correct identification of the 'Dreamtime' as 'history or creation according to Indigenous spiritual beliefs' was relatively consistent across all demographics.

The most common misconception was 'Indigenous interpretations of dreams and natural symbols' (16%).

4.5 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:

There is strong awareness among Australians of two key aspects of Indigenous life and identity – the importance of the connection to traditional lands as part of Indigenous identity (68% agree) and the Indigenous tendency to have close family and extended family relationships which involve taking responsibility for other family members (67% agree).

A majority are also aware of the continuing affect of race based policies on some Indigenous people living today (63%).

We put three statements to participants relating to their awareness of lifestyles in Indigenous Australia. More than half the population agree that Indigenous people have a diverse range of lifestyles and occupations like other Australians (64% agree). Another 40% believe that Indigenous people are mostly disadvantaged and live on the edge of mainstream society and very few people believe that Indigenous people live mostly traditional lives in tribal groups (16%).

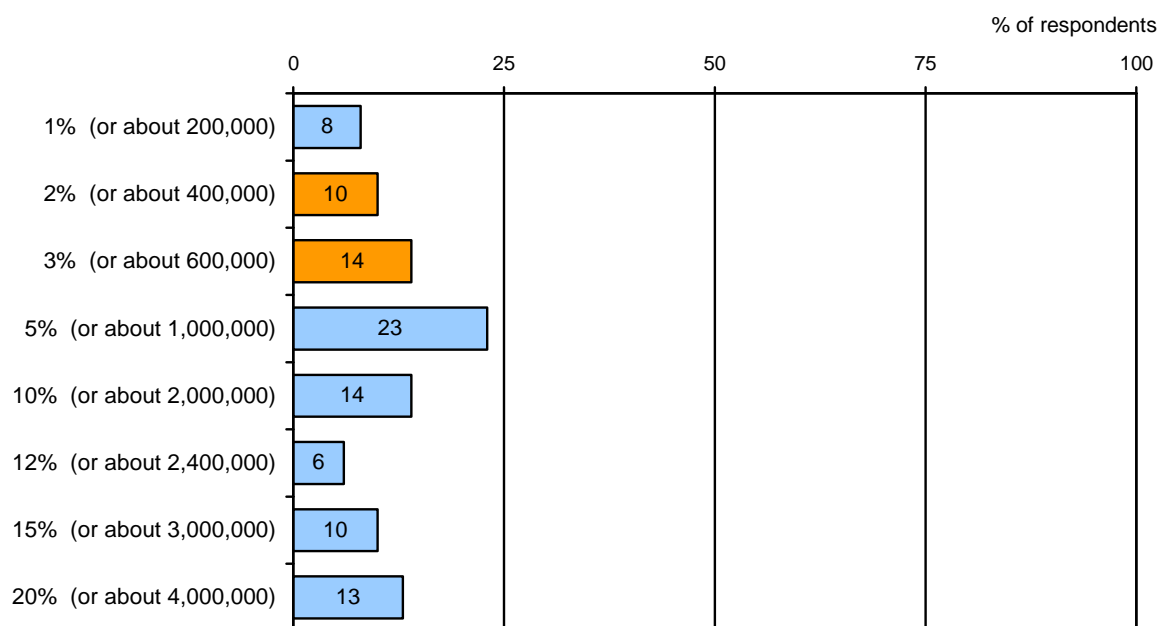
When all the previous statements are considered, the following levels of agreement apply:

- Over half the population either 'agrees or strongly agrees' with the following statements;
- 'Connection to their traditional lands is an important part of an Indigenous person's identity' (68%)
- 'Indigenous people tend to have close family relationships and feel responsibility for members of their extended family' (65%)
- 'Previous race-based policies continue to affect some Indigenous people today' (63%)
- 'Indigenous people have a diverse range of lifestyles and occupations like other Australians' (54%)
- Australians are more divided or undecided in their attitudes towards the following statements;
- 'Indigenous people are mostly disadvantaged and live on the edge of mainstream society' (35% agreeing, 32% neither agreeing nor disagreeing and 22% disagreeing)
- 'Indigenous people are good at working together to address the problems that confront them' (40% of the population neither agrees nor disagrees with this statement)
- More Australians disagree than agree with the following statements;
- 'Indigenous people live mostly traditional lives in tribal groups' (52% disagree or strongly disagree)
- 'The media presents a balanced view of Indigenous Australia' (48% disagree or strongly disagree)
- While there is mostly disagreement with the statement that '*non-Indigenous Australians are superior to Indigenous Australians*', (33% strongly disagree and 31% disagree), another 29% neither agree nor disagree.

4.6 Specific knowledge of Indigenous social indicators

a. Size of Indigenous population

What proportion of Australia's population is Indigenous?



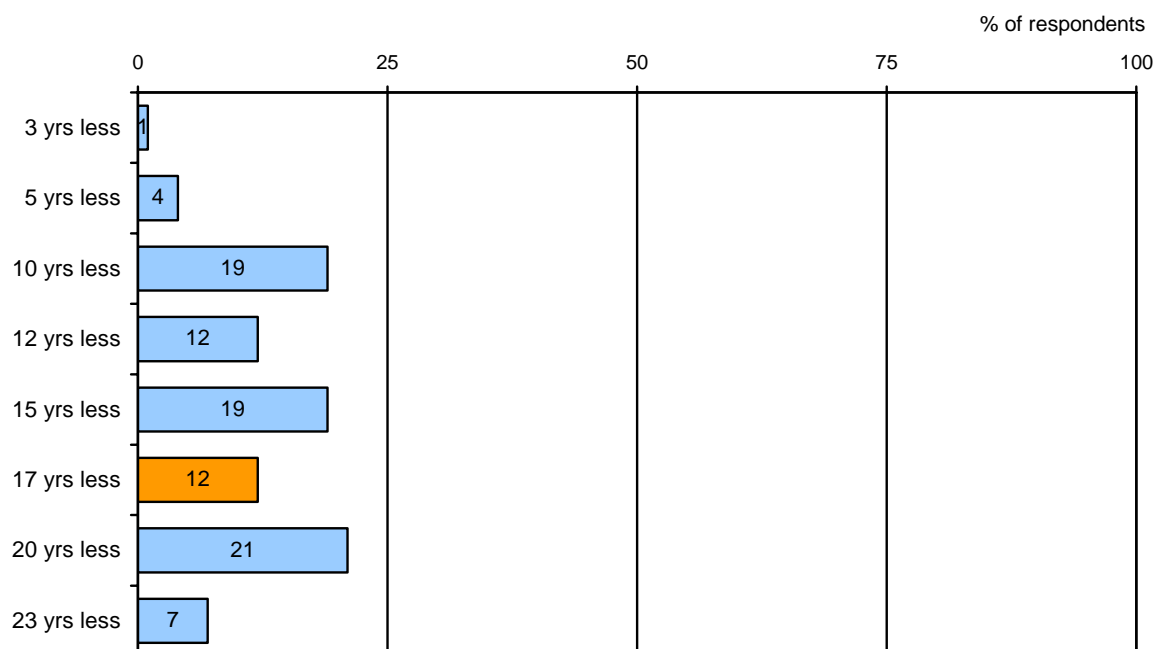
KEY FINDINGS:

Most Australians overestimate the Indigenous proportion of the Australian population. In fact two out of every three Australians (66%) believe that Indigenous people represent 5% or more of the population (when the real figure is 2.4%). Just under half (43%) believe that they represent 10% or more of the population.

- There is a wide spread of responses to the question 'What proportion of Australia's population is Indigenous?' suggesting few Australians have a clear idea about how many Indigenous people there are in this country.
- 24% of Australians answered within 1% of the correct answer that 2.4% of the Australian population is Indigenous.
- The most common answer was 5%.

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:

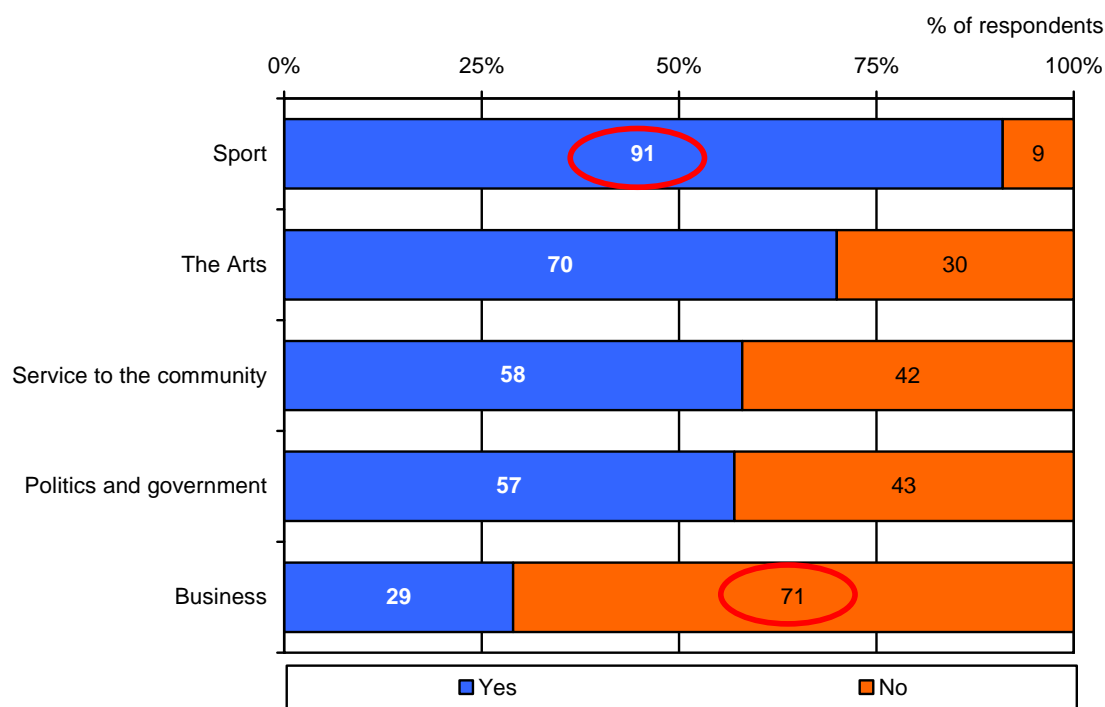
A majority of people overestimate the life expectancy of Indigenous males in Australia today. Six out of 10 people believe that Indigenous males live up to 15 yrs less than other males in Australia. Only 12% of people correctly identified the gap at 17 yrs. Almost a-third of people (28%) overestimated the gap at more than 20 yrs.

- There is a wide spread of responses to the question 'How much less is the life expectancy of Indigenous males?' suggesting few Australians have a clear idea about the details of 'closing the gap'.
- Only 12% of the population selected the correct answer of 17 years less.
- The most common answers were;
- 20 years less (21%)
- 15 years less (15%)
- 10 Years less (15%)

4.7 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:

Most Australians can think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in a range of areas of achievement. The most visible is sport, where the vast majority (91%) can think of Indigenous role models. The Arts also rates highly with 70% recalling people who set an example for others. There is somewhat less recognition of role models in service to the community (58%) and politics and government (57%), with just under six in 10 people able to think of someone. The lowest visibility is reserved for Indigenous achievement in business, with only 29% recalling a business leader who sets an example for others.

- The most visible achievements of Indigenous people are in 'sport' and 'The Arts,' with strong recognition by Australians of Indigenous people setting examples in these areas.
- 91% of Australians can think of Indigenous people who set examples in 'sport.'
- 70% of Australians can think of Indigenous people who set examples in 'The Arts.'

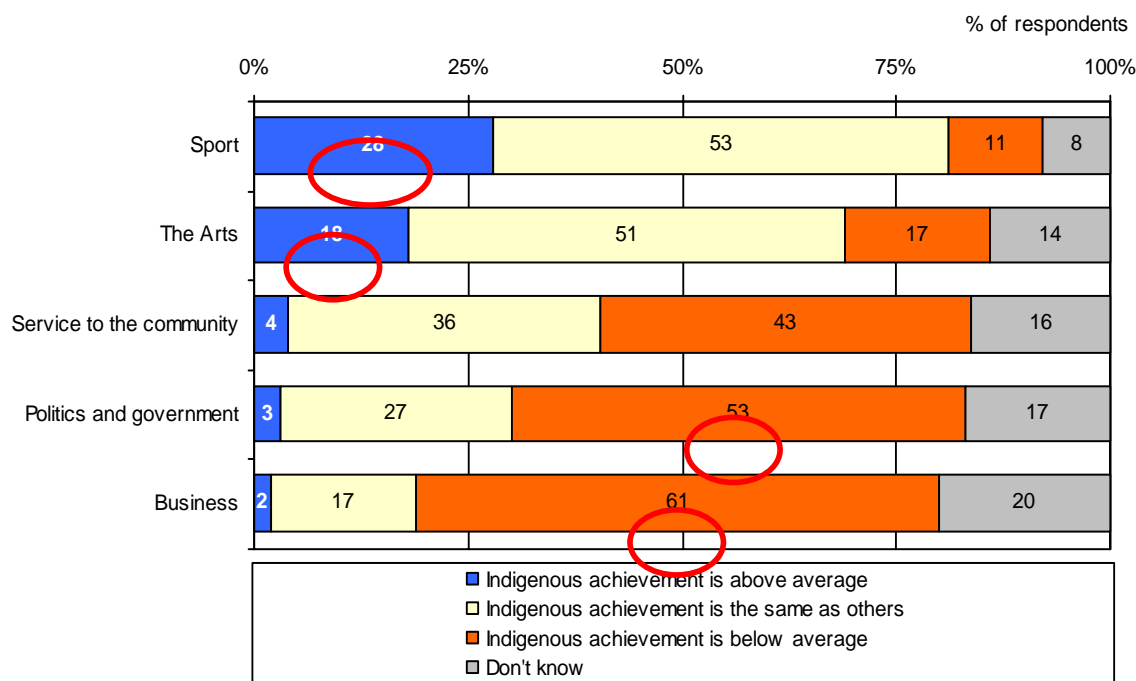
Over half the population can also think of Indigenous role models for 'service to the community' (58%) and 'politics and government' (57%).

Perceptions of achievement in 'business' is much lower, with over 2/3 (71%) of the population unable to think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in business.

4.8 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



KEY FINDINGS:

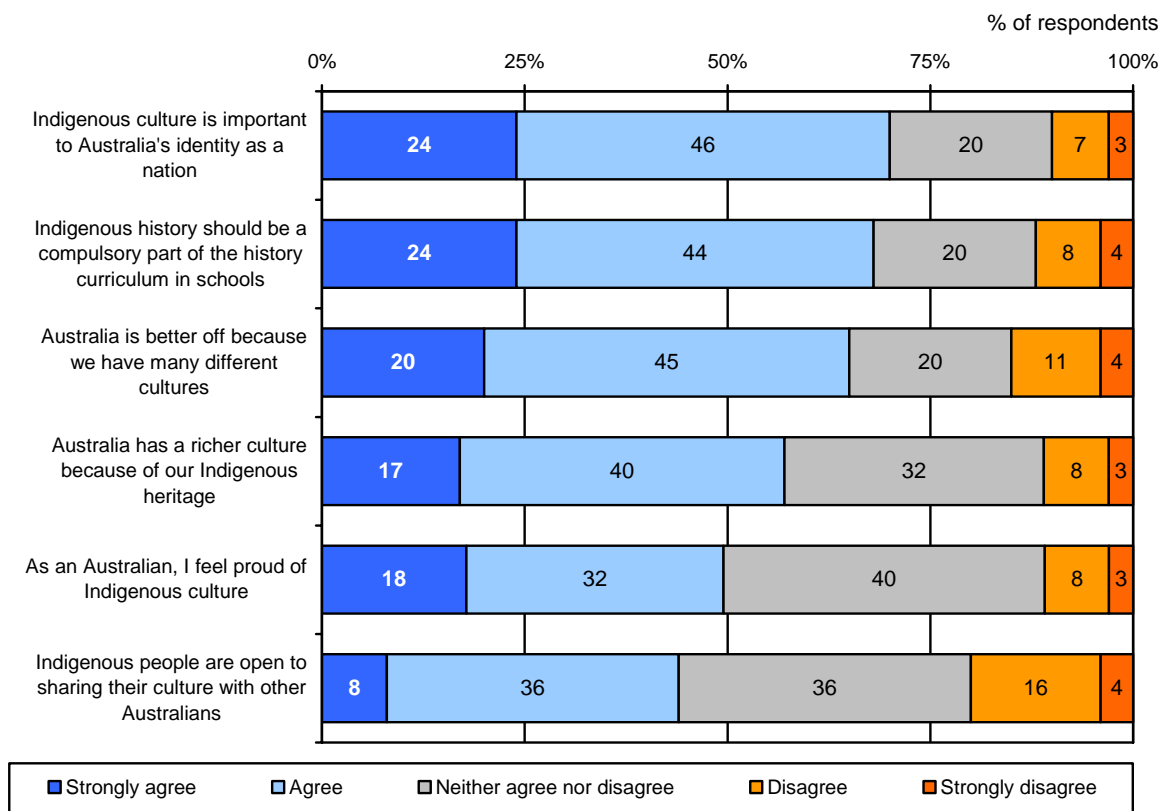
When comparing achievements of Indigenous people to the rest of the population, Australians perceive that Indigenous people are more successful in some areas than others. The strongest achievements are seen to be in sport and the Arts, where most people believe that the achievements of Indigenous people are at least equal to or better than those of others. However, the reverse applies in the areas of service to the community, politics and government, and business, where the majority believe that Indigenous achievement is below the average of the rest of Australian society.

- Over half of Australians believe Indigenous achievement is on parity with other Australians in 'sport' (53%) and in 'The Arts' (51%).
- 28% of Australians believe Indigenous achievement is above average in 'sport' and 18% believe it is above average for 'The Arts.'
- Across the other areas, achievement is more likely to be seen by most Australians as being 'below average.'
- 61% of the population believes Indigenous achievement in 'business' is 'below average.'
- 53% of the population believes Indigenous achievement in 'politics and government' is 'below average.'
- 43% of the population believes Indigenous achievement in 'service to the community' is 'below average.'
- Around 1/5 of the population 'don't know' how Indigenous achievement compares to other Australians in 'business' (20%) or 'politics and government' (17%).

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.

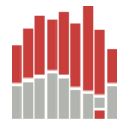


KEY FINDINGS:

Responses to six statements about the place of Indigenous history and culture reveal that most Australians recognise the importance of Indigenous culture to our national identity and support the need to teach Indigenous history in our in our schools. A majority also value the contribution of our cultural diversity and the richness that comes from our Indigenous heritage.

However, there is weaker agreement about the personal pride that Australians feel for Indigenous culture and the degree to which Indigenous people are open to sharing their culture with other Australians. This suggests that many Australians may be uneasy about in feeling pride in Indigenous culture when they do not feel it is being willingly shared.

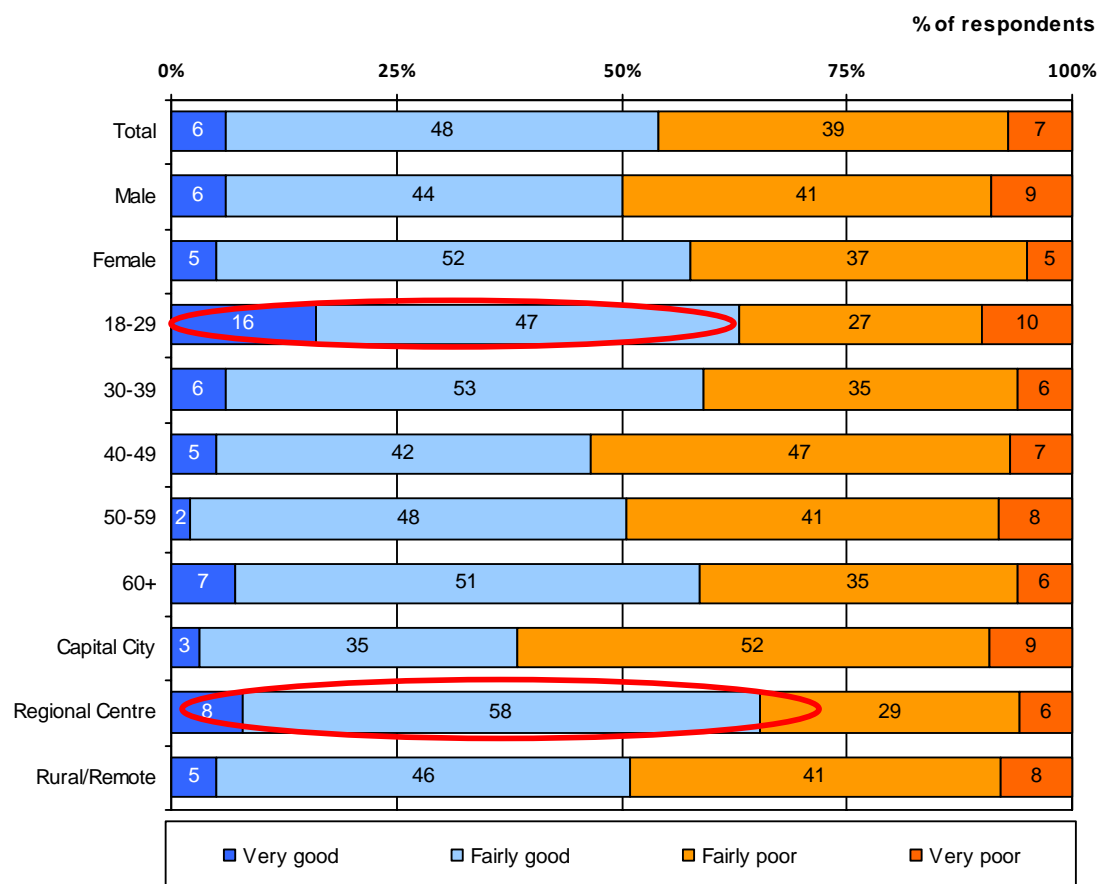
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- Most Australians believe that Indigenous culture is important for Australia. This is reflected in results that indicate that over two-thirds of Australians either 'agree or strongly agree' that;
- 'Indigenous culture is important to Australia's identity as a nation' (46% agree and 24% strongly agree)
- 'Indigenous history should be a compulsory part of the history curriculum in schools' (44% agree and 24% strongly agree)
- 'Australia is better off because we have many different cultures' (45% agree and 20% strongly agree)
- 57% of Australians also think that 'Australia has a richer culture because of our Indigenous culture' (17% strongly agree and 40% agree)



- Half of all Australians agree they feel personally proud of Indigenous culture (18% strongly agree and 32% agree). However, 40% are unsure and 'neither agree nor disagree', and 11% 'disagree.'
- The weakest agreement is with the notion that Indigenous people are '*open to sharing their culture with other Australians*' (44% agree). One in five (20%) 'disagree' with this statement and the remainder (36%) 'neither agree nor disagree.'

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...?



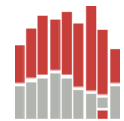
KEY FINDINGS:

Australians are divided fairly evenly in their views of the quality of the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians. Approximately half rate it as 'good' and the other half rate it 'poor' overall.

The greatest difference in perceptions of the relationship seems to be between metro and regional people.

While 66% of regional people consider the relationship to be 'good,' only 41% of city people view it this way. Age is also a factor, with younger (18 – 39 years) and older Australians (over 60 years) tending to be more positive about the quality of the relationship than middle aged people.

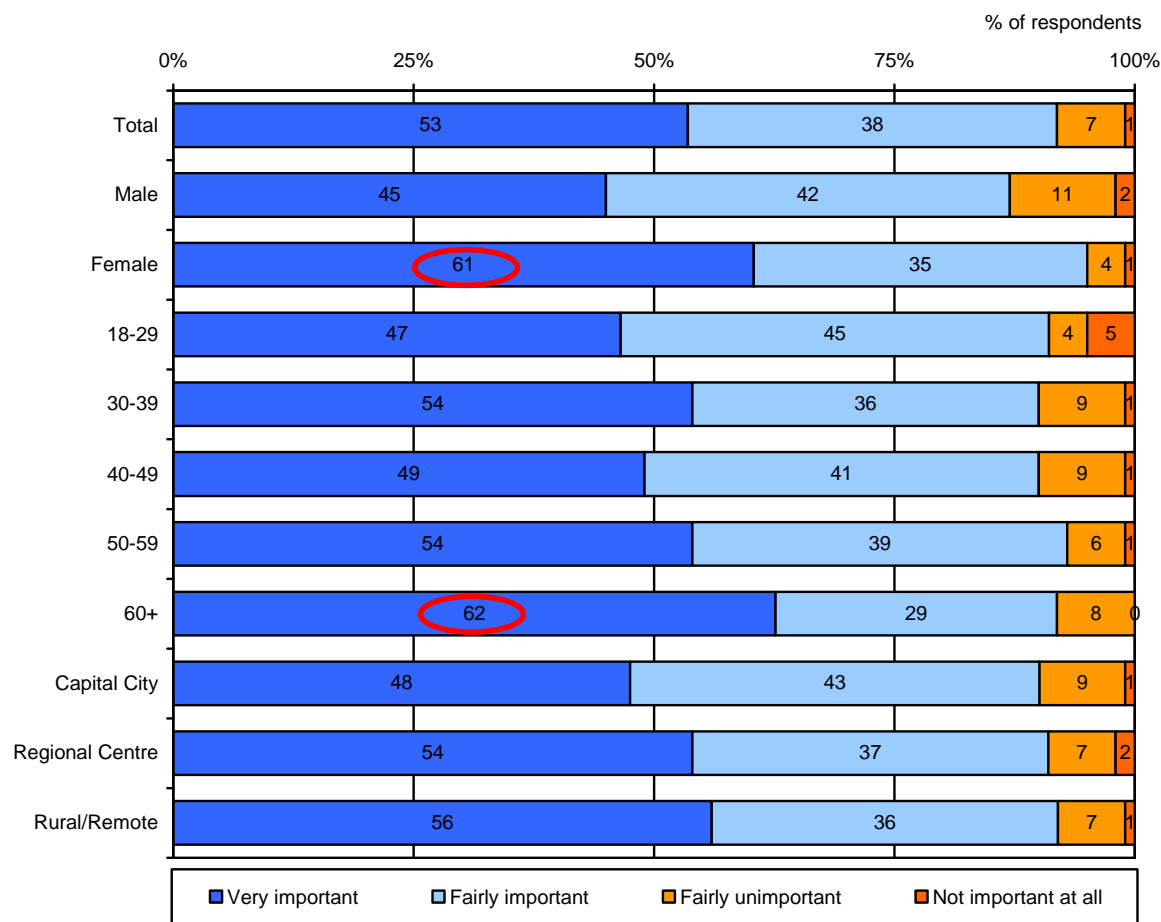
- The relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians is currently rated as 'good' by 54% of the population and 'poor' by 46%. Relatively few people adopt the extreme positions of considering it to be 'very good' (6%) or 'very poor' (7%).
- Geographic location appears to have the greatest impact on how the relationship is considered.
- Australians living in regional centres tend to be most positive, with 66% categorising the relationship as 'fairly good' or 'very good.'
- Only 38% of capital city dwellers rate it as 'fairly good' or 'very good.'



- Age also has some influence.
- Younger Australians (18 – 29 years) are the most positive about the relationship, with 16% perceiving it to be 'very good' and 47% 'fairly good.'
- Middle aged Australians are the most negative about the quality of the Indigenous/non-Indigenous relationship.
- For those 40 – 49 years; 5% consider it 'very good' and 42% 'fairly good' (total 47% good).
- For those 50 – 59 years; 2% consider it 'very good' and 48% 'fairly good' (total 50% 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:

Despite Australians being divided in their perceptions of the quality of the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians, they do believe this relationship is very important for the nation (91% important, including 53% very important). Among all the demographic groups, women and Australians over 60 years old place the greatest importance on the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians.

- Nine out of 10 (91%) of Australians feel the relationship between Indigenous and other Australians is important for Australia. Over half (53%) consider it 'very important' and another 38% consider it 'fairly important.'
- Women are more likely to think that the relationship is very important (61%) compared to men (45%). Conversely, only 5% of women consider this relationship as 'fairly unimportant or not important at all' for the nation, compared to 13% of males.
- The number of older Australians (60+) who believe the relationship as 'very important' is 62%, somewhat higher than the national average of 53%.

5.4 Levels of trust between Indigenous people and other Australians

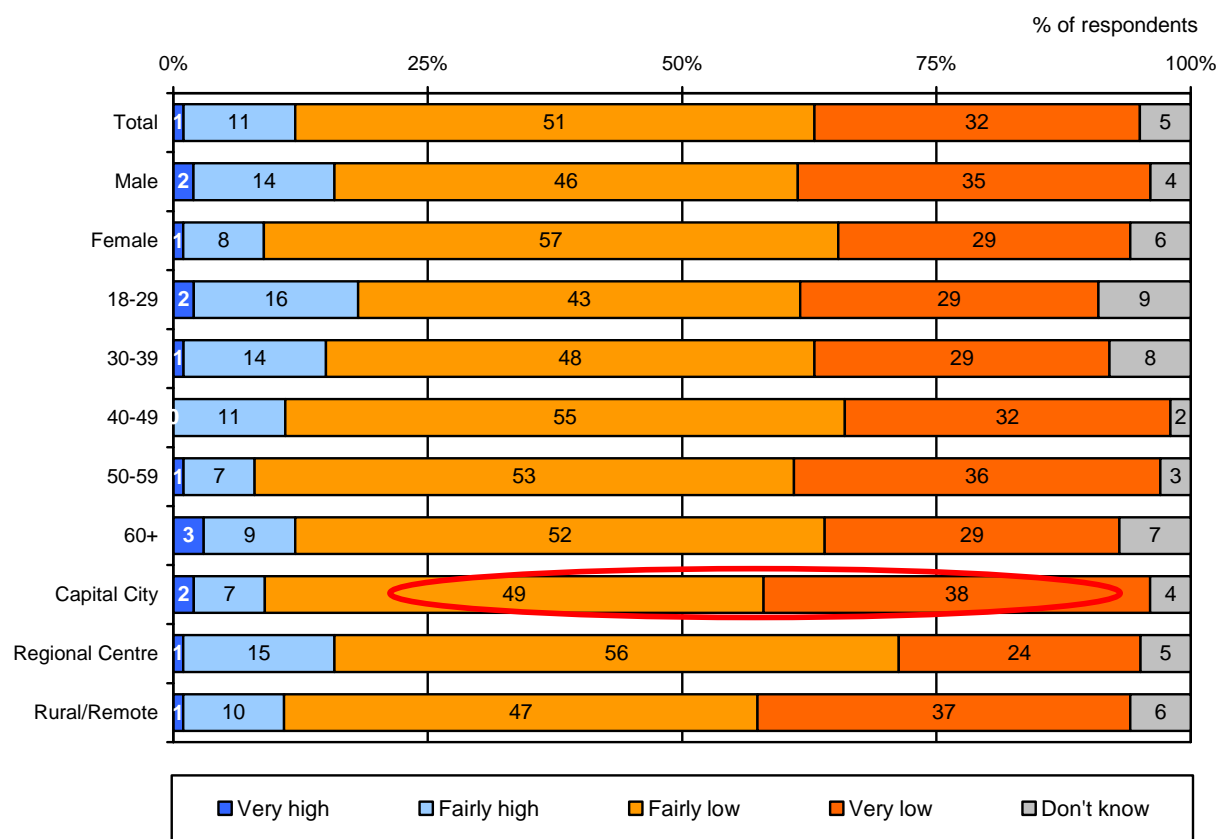
How would you describe the level of trust between the following groups of people?

Trust that other Australians have for Indigenous people

Trust that Indigenous people have for other Australians

Comparison of perceived levels of trust

a. Trust that other Australians have for Indigenous people

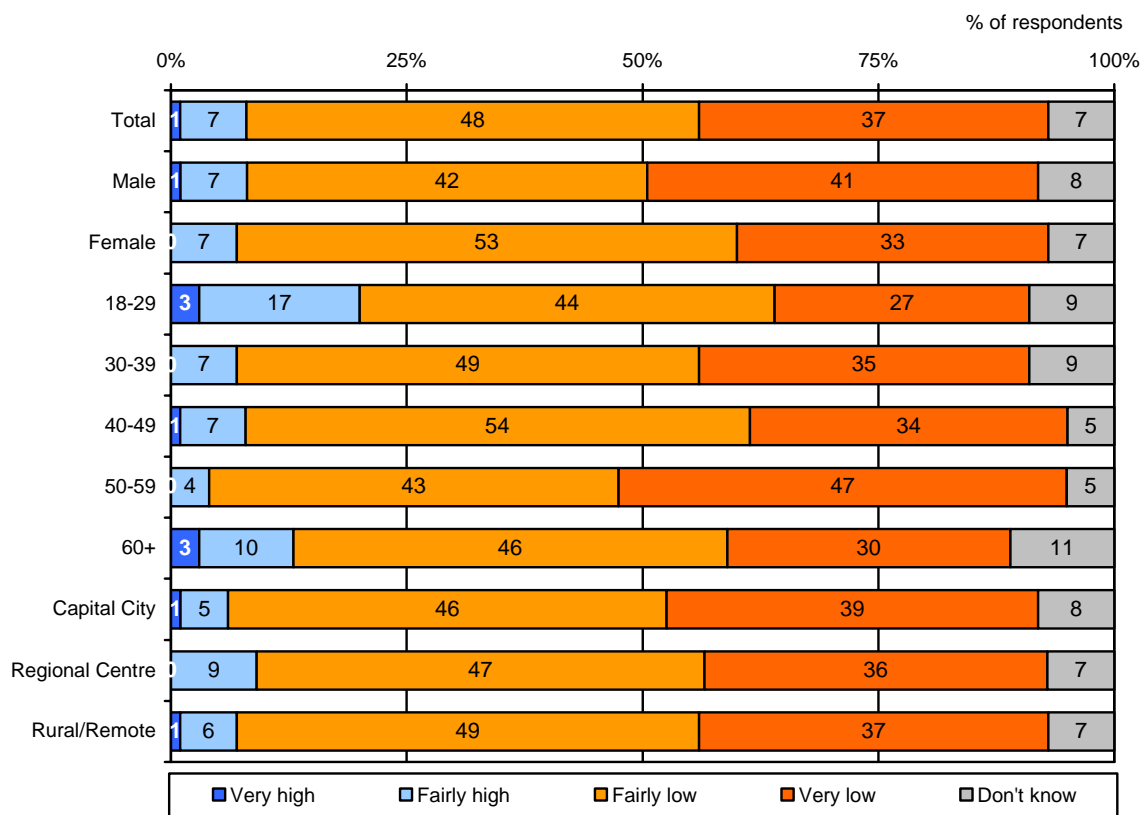


KEY FINDINGS:

Across all demographic groupings, the perceived levels of trust Australians have for Indigenous people are very low. Eight out of 10 people believe that Australians have a 'low' level of trust for Indigenous people. Metro dwellers are particularly pessimistic about the level of trust Australians have for Indigenous people, half of them (49%) believe trust is 'fairly low' and another 38% believe it is 'very low.'

- Most Australians (83%) believe that non-Indigenous people have a 'low' level of trust for Indigenous people. 51% of Australians think that the level of trust is 'fairly low' and 32% consider it to be 'very low.'
- Australians living in capital cities have a particularly low impression of the level of trust, with 38% believing it is 'very low' and another 49% who consider it to be 'fairly low.'

b. Trust that Indigenous people have for other Australians

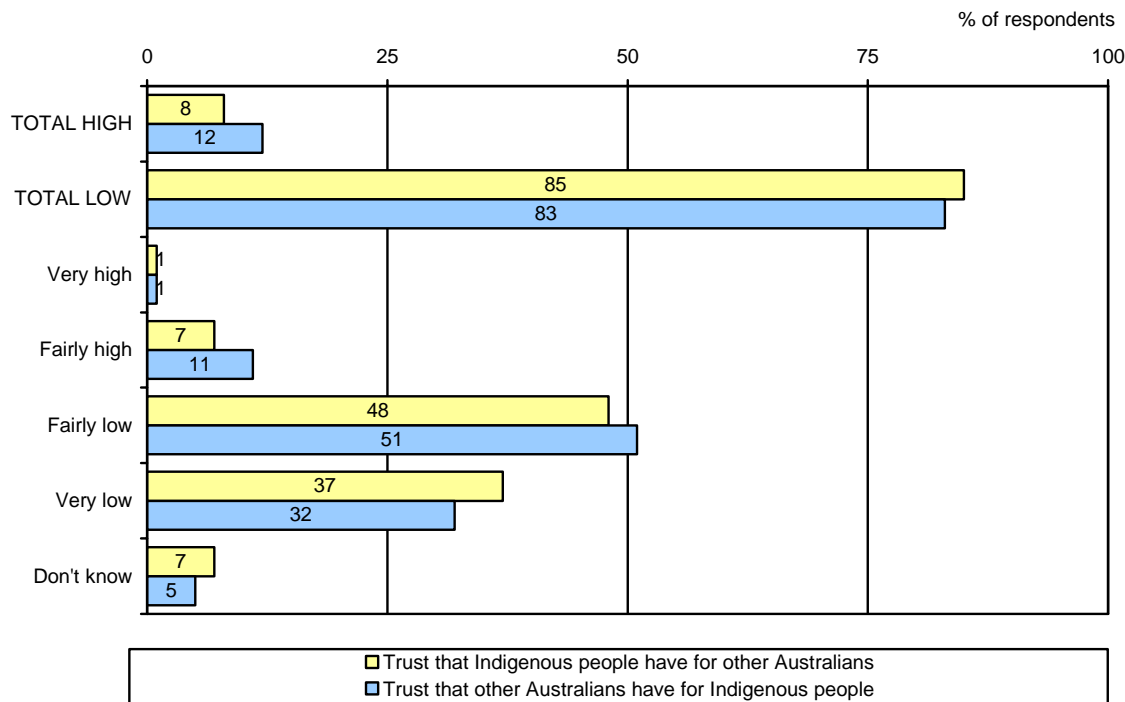


KEY FINDINGS:

Mirroring the low perceptions of trust Australians have for Indigenous people, more than four out of five Australians (85%) believe that Indigenous people have a 'low' level of trust towards non-Indigenous people. Younger and older Australians are more likely to have a more positive perception of the level of trust Indigenous people have for other Australians, but even for these groups, less than 20% consider this level of trust to be 'high.'

- 48% of Australians think the level of trust Indigenous people have for other Australians is 'fairly low' and 37% consider it to be 'very low.'
- People's age has an impact on their perception of the levels of trust that Indigenous people have for non-Indigenous people;
- Younger people are the most positive, with 20% of 18-29 years old believing that Indigenous people have a 'high' level of trust for other Australians.
- Middle aged Australians (40-59 years old) seem to be the least positive, with only 8% of Australians aged 50-59 years old believing that the levels of trust are 'high.'
- Older Australians (aged 60+) perceive slightly higher levels of trust with 13% thinking the level of trust is 'high.'

c. Comparison of perceived levels of trust



KEY FINDINGS:

There is little doubt that Australians see the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians as one fraught with mistrust and wariness. Australians believe that Indigenous people have very little trust towards other Australians (85% low), and other Australians have very little trust towards Indigenous people (83% low). While the numbers are very close, there appears to be a slightly higher level of trust from other Australians towards Indigenous people than from Indigenous people towards other Australians.

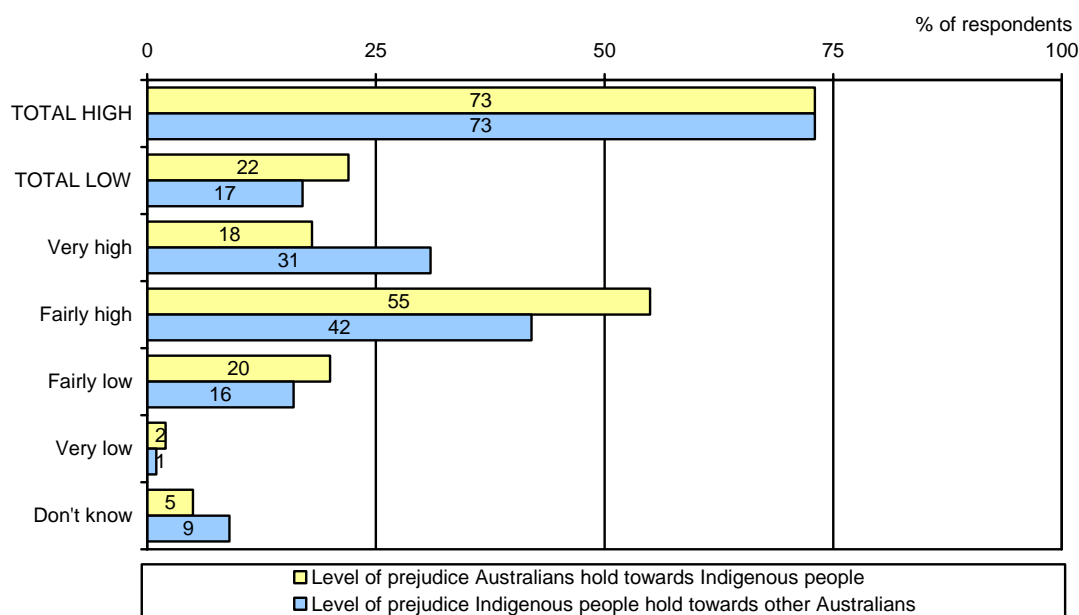
- The levels of trust that each group has for the other are considered to be similarly low. For example:
- 48% of the population believe Indigenous people have 'fairly low' levels of trust for other Australians and another 37% believe they have 'very low' trust.
- 51% of the population believe other Australians have 'fairly low' levels of trust for Indigenous people and another 32% believe they have 'very low' trust.
- Accordingly, only 12% of the population believe that Australians have a 'very high' or 'fairly high' level of trust for Indigenous people, compared to only 8% that believe Indigenous people have a 'very high' or 'fairly high' level of trust for other Australians.

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. Level of prejudice between Australians and Indigenous people



KEY FINDINGS:

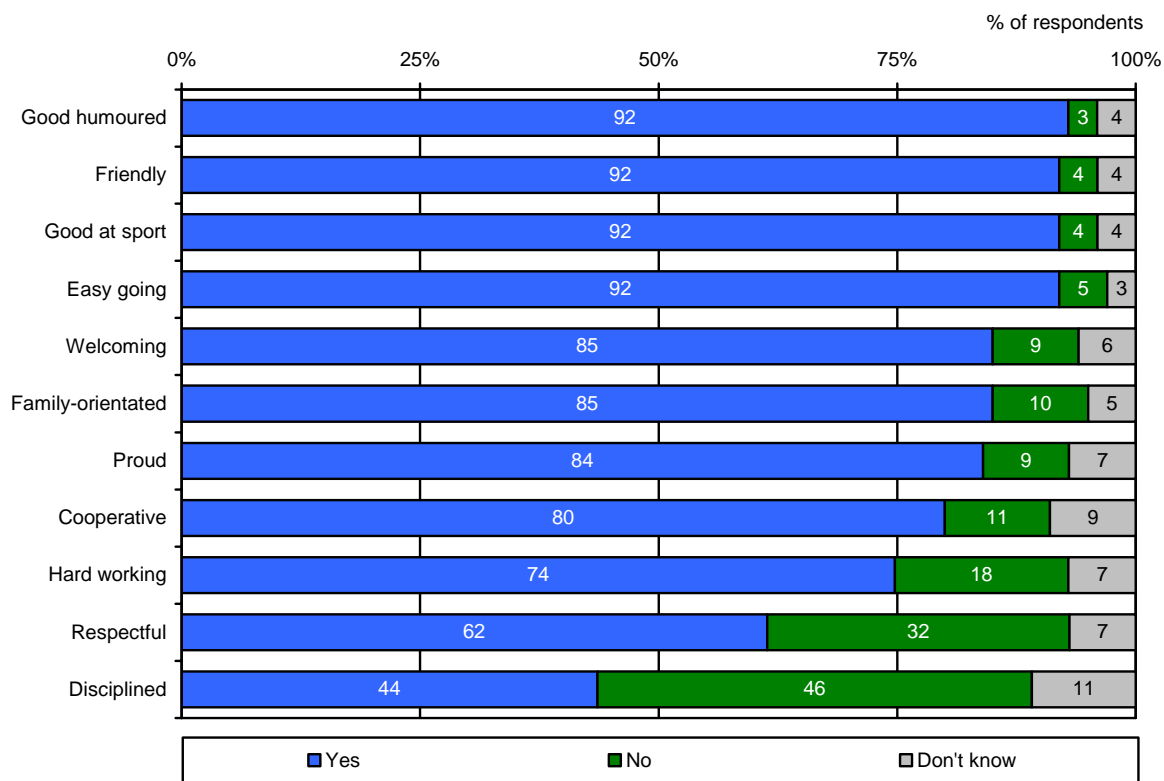
Most Australians perceive that relations between Indigenous and other Australians are characterised by a significant amount of prejudice. Three quarters (73%) of Australians believe the level of prejudice from Indigenous Australians to other Australians and likewise from other Australians to Indigenous people to be either 'very or fairly high.' Most Australians, however consider that the degree of prejudice is stronger from Indigenous people to other Australians, with almost a third believing it is 'very high.'

- Australians believe that both Indigenous people and other Australians are prejudiced towards each other, with 73% of Australians believing there is a 'very high or fairly high' level of prejudice directed from each group to the other.
- However, the degree of perceived prejudice differs between the groups. Australians are more likely to believe that Indigenous people have 'very high' levels of prejudice than other Australians. Specifically;
- 31% of the population believe that Indigenous people hold 'very high' levels of prejudice towards other Australians, whereas only 18% believe Australians hold 'very high' levels of prejudice towards Indigenous people.
- Conversely, 55% of the population believe that Australians hold 'fairly high' levels of prejudice towards Indigenous people, whereas 42% believe Indigenous people hold 'fairly high' levels of prejudice towards other Australians.

5.6 General impressions of Indigenous people and other Australians

a. General impressions of all Australians

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



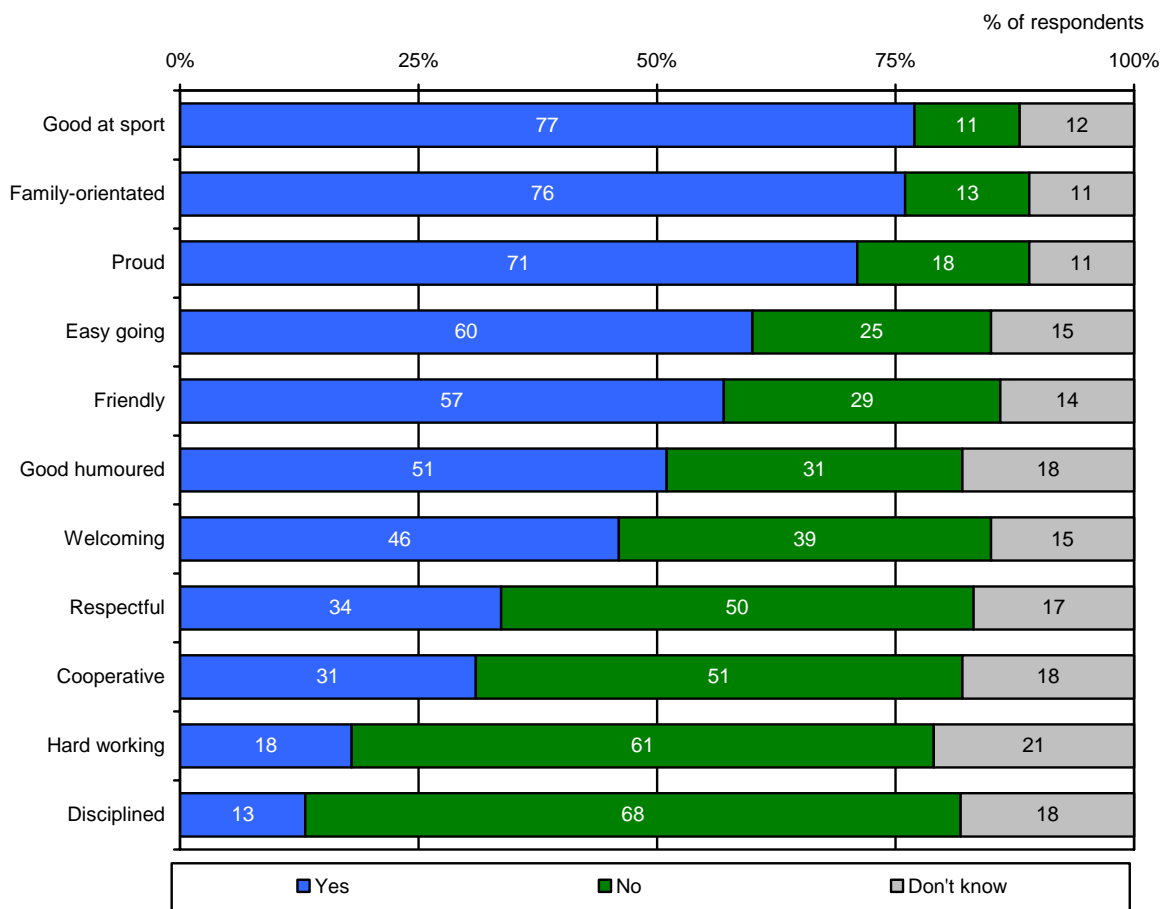
KEY FINDINGS:

As an insight into our national identity, the overall impression held of Australians is most commonly good humoured, friendly, good at sport and easy going. At least four out of five of those surveyed also think of Australians as welcoming, family-orientated, proud and co-operative. The attributes less likely to be seen as applying to all Australians are hard-working, respectful and, at the bottom of the list, disciplined.

- Australians, in general rate very highly in most attributes, with over 80% of respondents associating Australians with eight of the 11 positive attributes.
- Top of the list for Australians is 'good at sport', 'easy going', 'friendly' and 'good humoured', with 92% of respondents associating Australians with each of these characteristics.
- 'Disciplined' was the only attribute that a majority did not see applied to all Australians (44%).
-

b. General impressions of Indigenous people

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

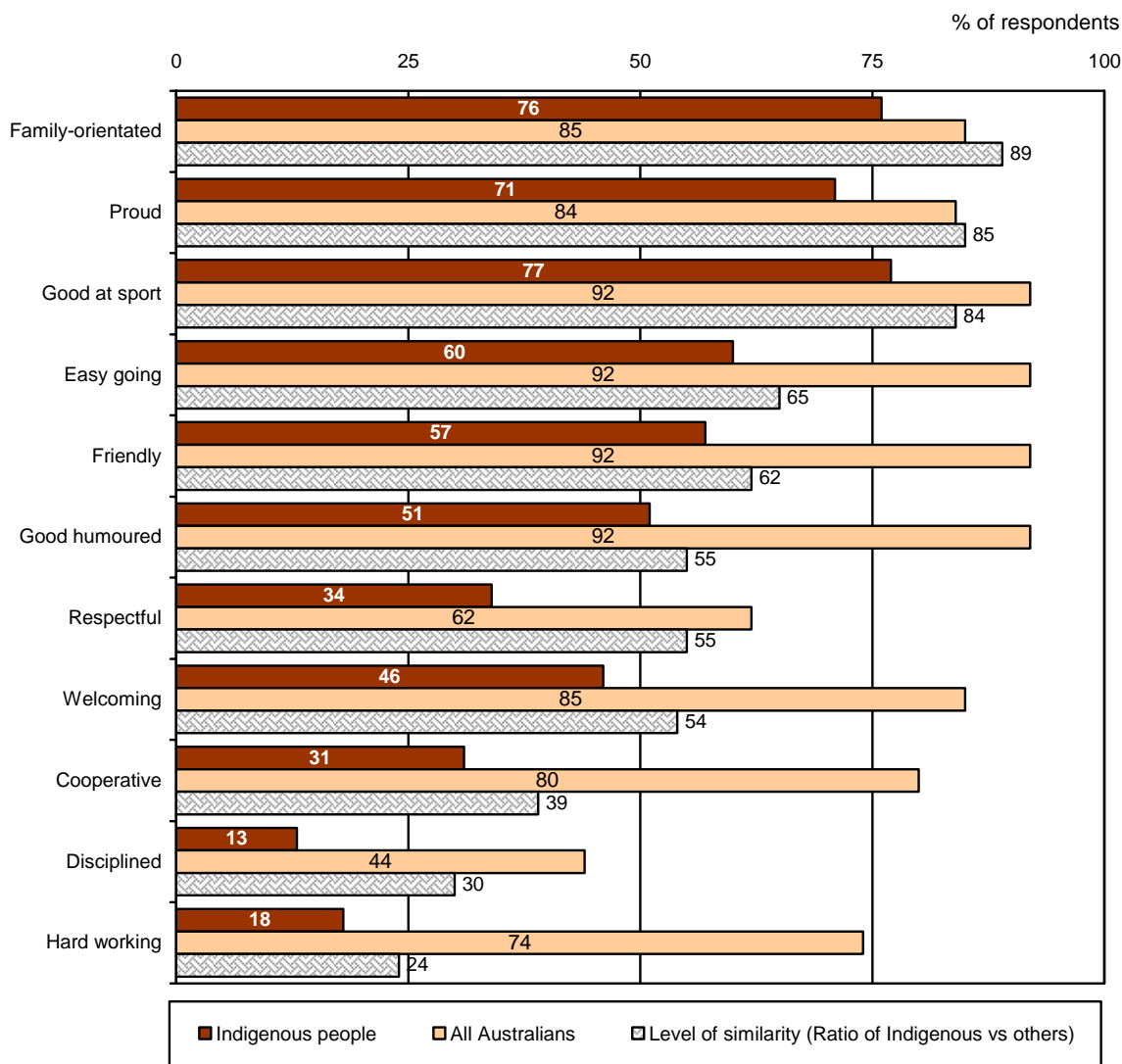


KEY FINDINGS:

Australians have a less consistently positive image of Indigenous people than they do of other Australians. 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. On the other hand, fewer than 50% of the population believe that Indigenous people are welcoming, respectful, cooperative, hard working and disciplined.

- The highest scoring attributes for Indigenous people are 'good at sport' (77%), 'family-orientated' (76%) and 'proud' (71%). In these cases the gap between Australians and Indigenous people is relatively small.
- Less than 20% of the population believe Indigenous people are 'disciplined' (13%), or 'hard working' (18%) and less than half the population believes Indigenous people are 'welcoming' (46%), 'respectful' (34%) or 'cooperative' (31%).

c. Comparing general impressions of all Australians and Indigenous Australians



KEY FINDINGS:

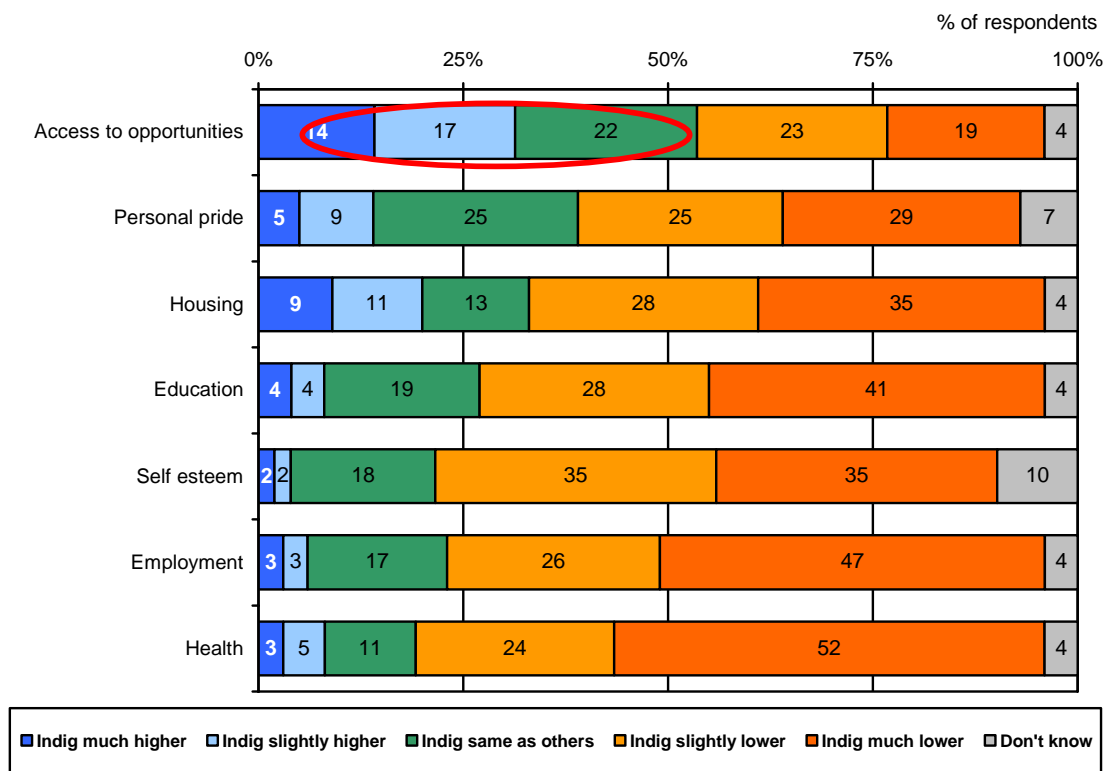
When the degree of similarity between all Australians and Indigenous Australians are considered, the greatest commonalities are seen as being family oriented, proud and good at sport. On the other hand, Indigenous people are seen as being most different from all Australians on the attributes of hard working, disciplined and co-operative. The other attributes occupy the middle ground – easy-going, friendly, good humoured, respectful and welcoming.

- For each of the characteristics, the chart shows the level of similarity between perceptions applying to Indigenous people and to Australians in general. The level of similarity is the ratio of the number of people attributing the characteristic to Indigenous people compared with the number that attribute the same characteristic to all Australians. So in the case of an 80% level of similarity, the number of people attributing the characteristic to Indigenous people is 80% of the number of people attributing the same characteristic to all Australians.

- The strongest commonalities between 'Indigenous people' and 'all Australians,' are seen to be *'family orientated,' 'proud,'* and *'good at sport.'* For each of these the level of similarity is greater than 80%.
- *'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.'
- There is less similarity across both groups when it comes to being 'easy going', 'friendly', 'good humoured', 'respectful' and 'welcoming'. For each of these the level of similarity is between 50% and 65%.
- *'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.'* For each of these the level of similarity is less than 50%.
- *'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.'

5.7 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?



Sorted on Indigenous slightly lower + much lower

KEY FINDINGS:

When comparing Indigenous people to other Australians on a range of social and personal indicators, the majority believe that Indigenous levels are lower than those occurring among the rest of the population.

The largest tangible differences are seen to exist in relation to health, followed by employment, education and housing. The personal attributes of self esteem and personal pride are viewed somewhat differently. Regarding self esteem, Indigenous people are seen to fall behind the rest of the population, with only 23% believing Indigenous people enjoy the same or better levels than others. However, Indigenous people are thought to exhibit greater personal pride, with 39% believing Indigenous levels are the same or better than other Australians.

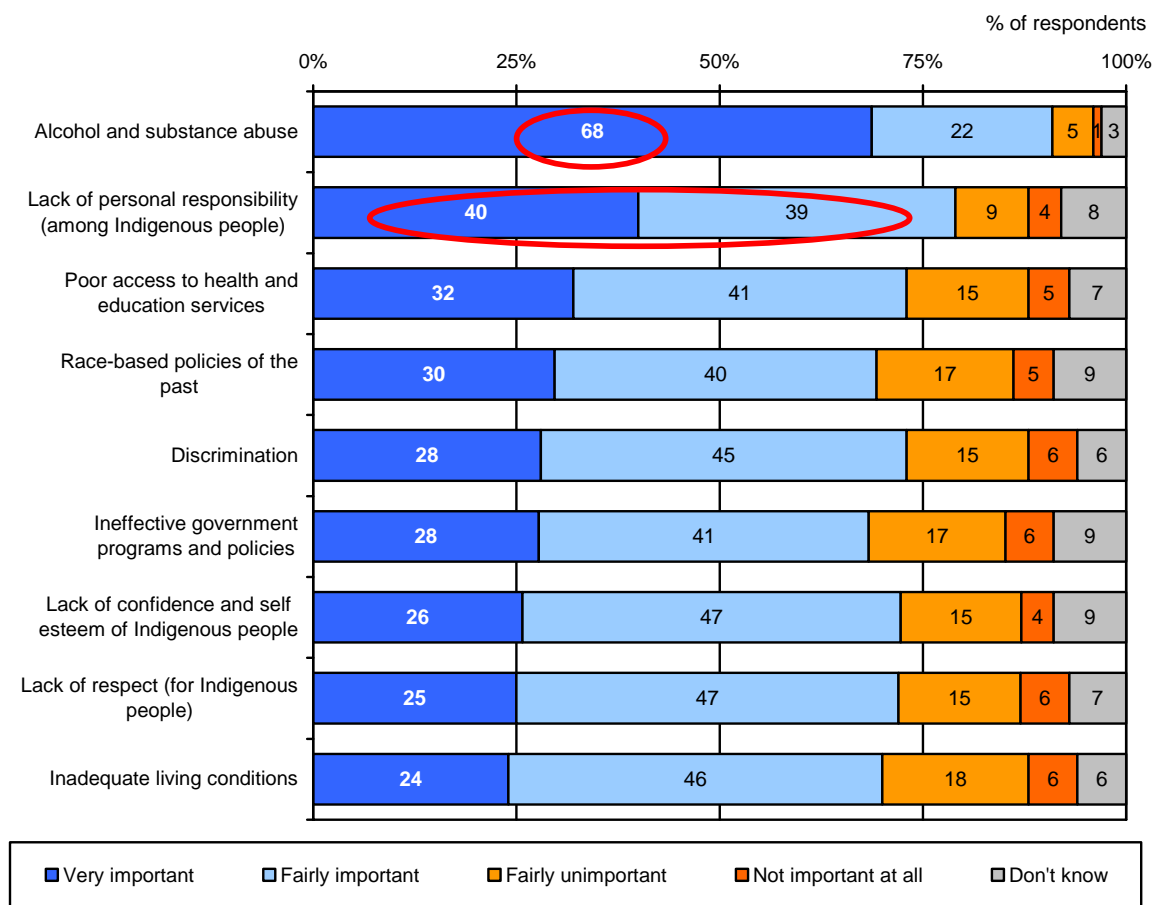
'Access to opportunities' is the only area in which fewer than half the population believe Indigenous people lag behind the rest of the population. This likely reflects the residual attitude among many that some Indigenous people receive government benefits not available to others.

- Health is seen to be the area of greatest difference between Indigenous and other Australians.
- More than half (52%) of the population believe that Indigenous 'health' levels are 'much lower' than other Australians and a further quarter of the population (24%) believe they are 'slightly lower.'
- Of all the indicators, Indigenous people rated most highly on 'access to opportunities' with 53% of Australians believing that Indigenous people had the 'same level' of access (22%) or 'higher levels' of access (31%).

- Apart from ‘*access to opportunities*,’ the levels on all specific social indicators are much lower. Most Australians believe that, compared to other Australians, Indigenous people have ‘lower’ levels of ;
- Housing (63%)
- Education (69%)
- *Employment* (73%) and,
- *Health* (76%)
- Indigenous Australians are also seen to have lower levels of ‘*personal pride*’ (54%) and ‘*self esteem*’ (70%) than other Australians.

5.8 Reasons behind Indigenous disadvantage

How important do you think the following factors have been in creating the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today?



KEY FINDINGS:

Most Australians believe a combination of factors have created the situation of disadvantage that characterises the lives of some Indigenous people today, with over 70% considering all the suggested factors presented as ‘very important or fairly important.’ However, it is clear that many Australians are placing much of the onus on Indigenous people because the two factors considered far more important than the others are ‘alcohol and substance abuse’ (68% very important) and ‘lack of personal responsibility’ (40% very important). This suggests that many Australians continue to see Indigenous people as being largely responsible for their own disadvantage.

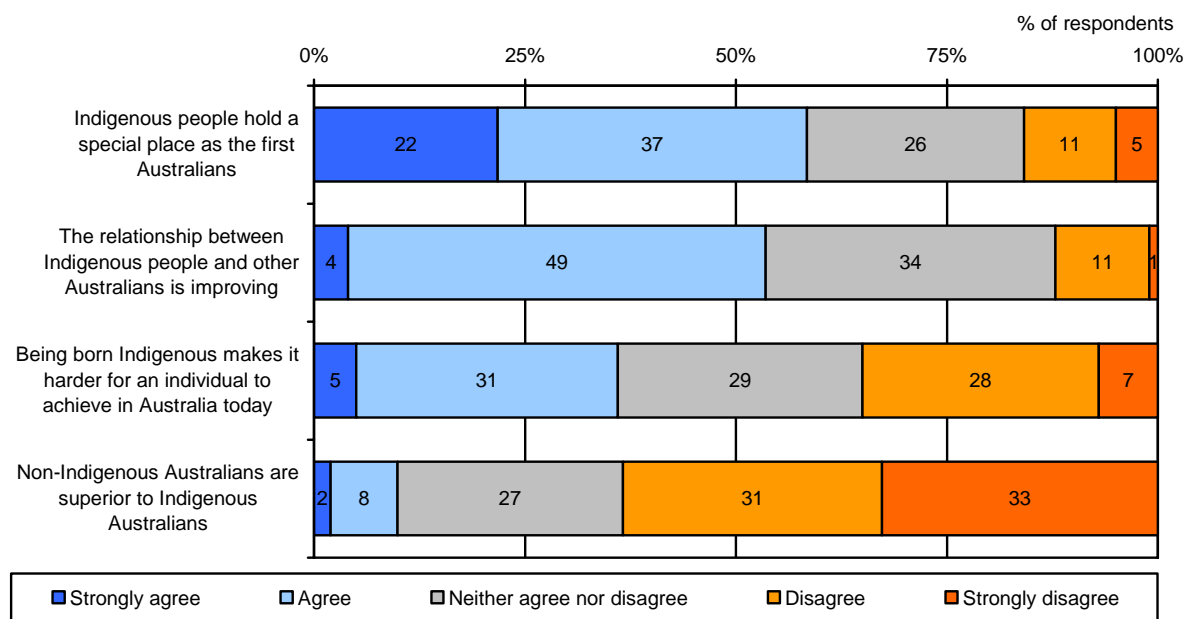
- Considered the most influential factor by far, is ‘*alcohol and substance abuse*’, with over two thirds of Australians (68%) believing it is ‘very important’ in creating Indigenous disadvantage.
- Four out of 10 (40%) of Australians also believe that ‘*lack of personal responsibility*’ has been ‘very important.’
- ‘*Poor access to health and education services*’ is also seen as an important source of disadvantage with 32% rating it as ‘very important’ and another 41% rating it as ‘fairly important.’

- Other causes of disadvantage are seen as similarly important, with over 70% of respondents considering them to be 'very or fairly important.' Specifically;
 - Discrimination (73%)
 - Lack of confidence and self esteem of Indigenous people (73%)
 - Lack of respect (for Indigenous people) (72%)
 - Race-based policies of the past (70%)
 - Inadequate living conditions (70%), and
 - Ineffective government programs and policies (69%)

5.9 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.



KEY FINDINGS:

More than half the population agree with a fundamental aspect of Indigenous Australia: that Indigenous people hold a special place as the first Australians (59% agree). A majority (53%) are also inclined to believe that the relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians is improving (with only 12% disagreeing).

On the other hand, there is less willingness to accept negative portrayals of Indigenous life and opportunity, with only 36% agreeing that being born Indigenous makes it harder for an individual to achieve in Australia today. On the broader question of innate superiority, only 10% believe that non-Indigenous Australians are superior to Indigenous Australians, with the majority rejecting this concept.

When all the statements are considered, the following levels of agreement apply:

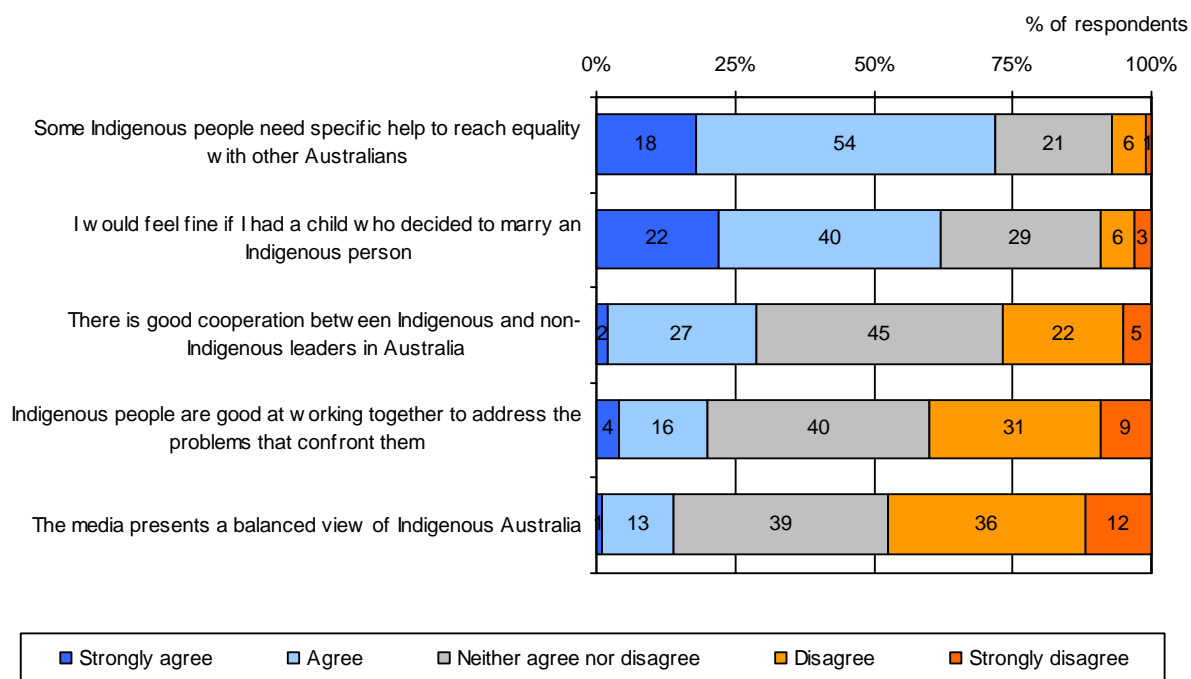
- Over half the population either 'agrees or strongly agrees' with the following statements;
 - 'Indigenous people hold a special place as the first Australians' (59%)
 - 'The relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians is improving' (53%)
- Australians are more divided or undecided in their attitudes towards the following statements;
 - 'Being born Indigenous makes it harder for an individual to achieve in Australia today' (an almost even split with 36% agreeing, 29% neither agreeing nor disagreeing and 35% disagreeing)
- More Australians disagree than agree with the following statements;
 - 'Non-Indigenous Australians are superior to Indigenous Australians' (64% disagree or strongly disagree)
 - 'Indigenous people are good at working together to address the problems that confront them' (40% disagree or strongly disagree)
- While there is mostly disagreement with the statement that 'Non-Indigenous Australians are superior to Indigenous Australians,' (33% strongly disagree and 31% disagree), another 29% neither agree nor disagree.

6. ACTION-TAKING AND SUPPORTING ACTION

6.1 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.



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 of the notion that some Indigenous people need specific help to achieve equality with other Australians (72% agree). Secondly, on the very personal measure of accepting Indigenous people into one's family, 62% agree that they would feel fine if their child married an Indigenous person (with only 9% disagreeing).

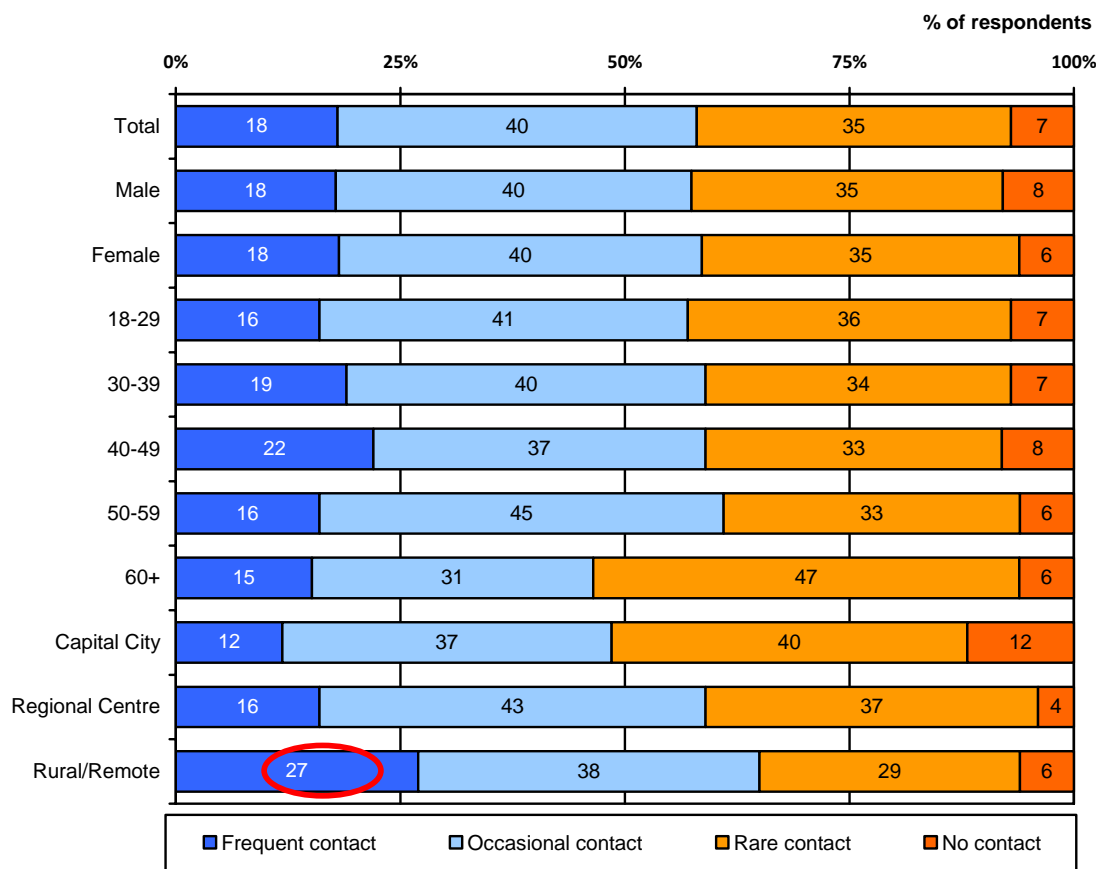
There is far less confidence in the ability of Indigenous people and leaders to work together and with non-Indigenous people to overcome problems. Only 29% of people believe there is good cooperation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders in Australia and only 20% believe that Indigenous people are good at working together to address the problems that confront them. There is also a low level of regard for the media's role, with only 14% agreeing that the media presents a balanced view of Indigenous Australians.

When all the statements are considered, the following levels of agreement apply:

- Over half the population either 'agrees or strongly agrees' with the following statements;
- 'Some Indigenous people need specific help to reach equality with other Australians' (72%)
- 'I would feel fine if I had a child who decided to marry an Indigenous person' (62%)
- Australians are more divided or undecided in their attitudes towards cooperation between leaders;
- 'There is good cooperation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders in Australia' (45% of the population neither agrees nor disagrees with this statement)
- More Australians disagree than agree with the following statements;
- 'The media presents a balanced view of Indigenous Australia' (48% disagree or strongly disagree)
- 'Indigenous people are good at working together to address the problems that confront them' (40% disagree or strongly disagree)

6.2 Level of contact with Indigenous people

How would you describe the level of contact you have with Indigenous people?



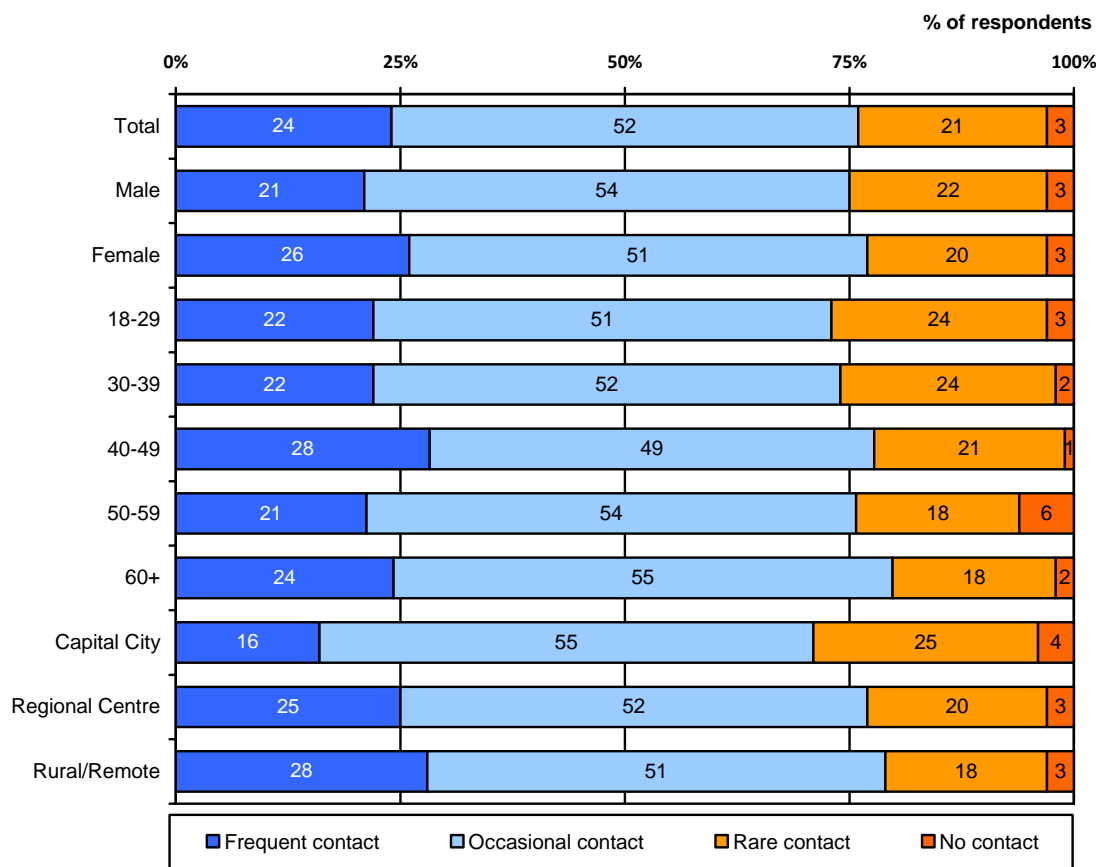
KEY FINDINGS:

Most Australians have some contact with Indigenous people, although for three quarters of the population the level of contact is infrequent. Location is a key determinant of level of contact. Australians living in rural and remote areas report the highest levels of regular contact (27% frequent) and capital city dwellers report the highest instances of no contact at all (12%).

- Of the 75% of Australians who have 'infrequent' contact with Indigenous people, 40% categorise their level of contact as 'occasional' and 35% as 'rare'.
- Australians living in rural and remote regions have above average levels of contact, with around a quarter (27%) categorising their contact with Indigenous people as frequent. In contrast only 12% of those in capital cities are in 'frequent' contact.
- Australians over 60 years old and capital city dwellers tend to have the lowest levels of perceived contact with Indigenous people;
- Almost half, (47%) of respondents over 60 years old categorised their contact as 'rare', and
- 12% of capital city dwellers claimed to have 'no contact' whatsoever with Indigenous people.

6.3 Desired level of future contact with Indigenous people

How would you describe the level of contact you would like to have with Indigenous people in the future?

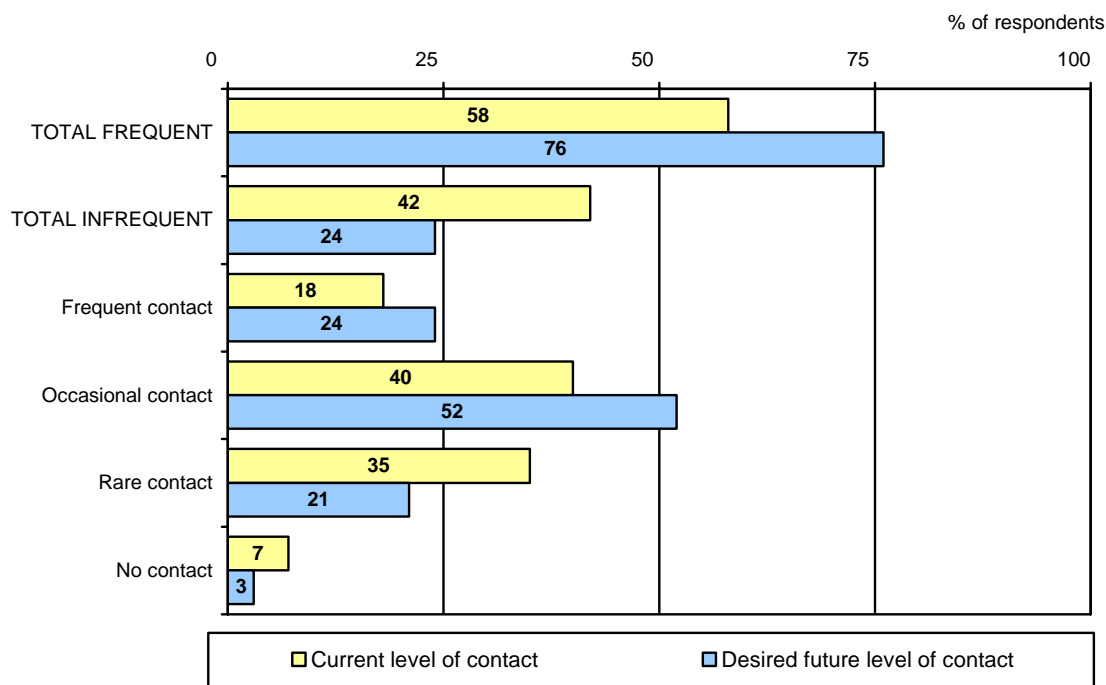


KEY FINDINGS:

Most Australians would like to have contact with Indigenous people in the future. Three quarters of the population (76%) would like that contact to be 'frequent' or 'occasional.' The greatest difference in desired contact seems to be between city and country people. While 28% of rural/remote and 25% of regional dwellers seek 'frequent' contact with Indigenous people, only 16% of city people are looking for the same relatively high level of contact.

- Over half the population (52%) would like to have 'occasional' contact and another quarter (24%) would like to have 'frequent' contact with Indigenous people.
- While desired levels of contact are quite high across the board, regional, rural and remote Australians are seeking more frequent contact with Indigenous people than are capital city people.
 - Capital city: 15% frequent, 55% occasional and 25% rare
 - Regional: 25% frequent, 52% occasional and 20% rare
 - Rural/remote: 28% frequent, 51% occasional and 18% rare
- Only 3% of Australians do not want to have any contact with Indigenous people.

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



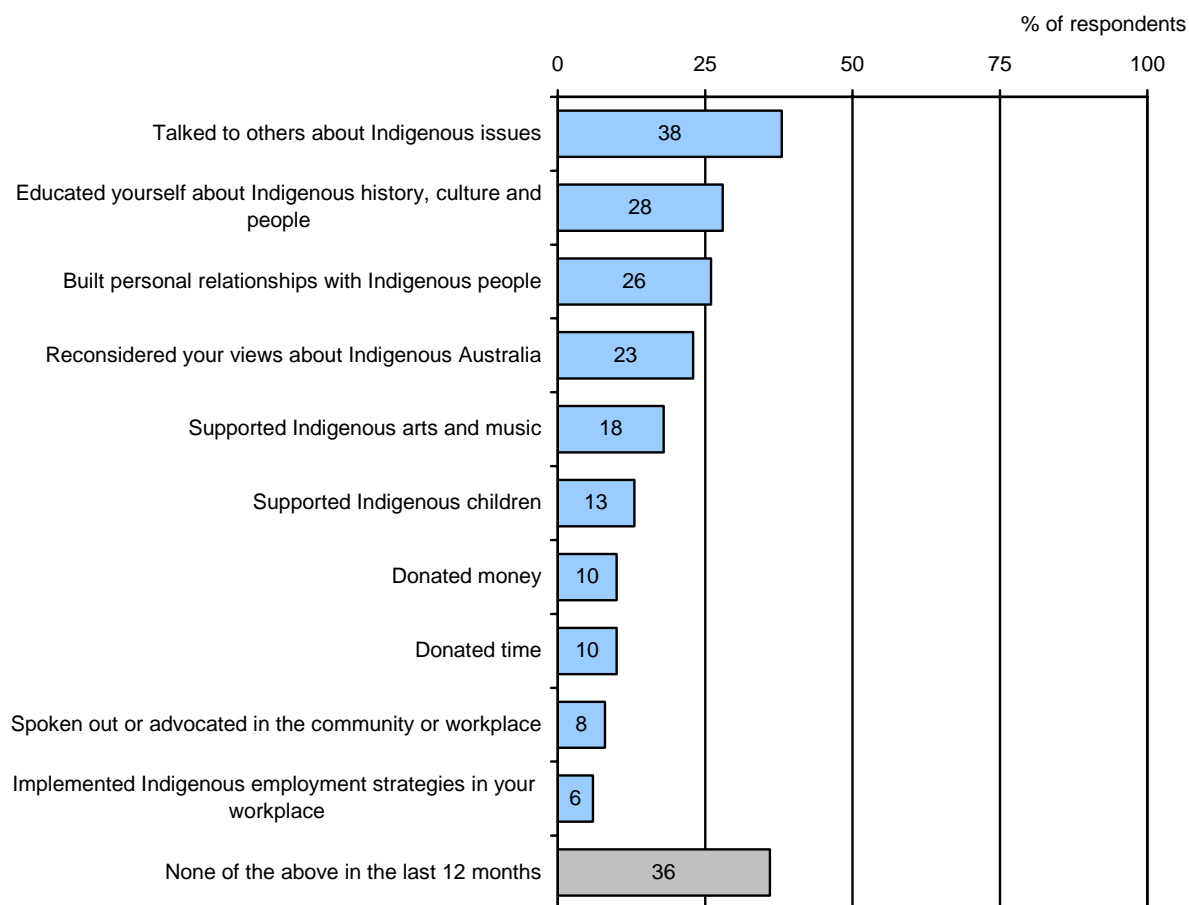
KEY FINDINGS:

Comparing the results from the previous two questions shows that generally, Australians would like more contact with Indigenous people in the future than they currently have. This finding is especially positive as it is a trend that is consistent across all demographic groups. Furthermore, the proportion of Australians who want rare contact, or no contact, is smaller than the proportion that currently have rare or no contact.

- Comparing current and desired levels of contact across all levels, the results point to the fact that Australians desire more frequent contact with Indigenous people.
- A quarter of the population (24%) wants 'frequent' contact with Indigenous people, whereas only 18% currently have 'frequent' contact.
- Similarly, over half the population (52%) would like to have 'occasional' contact, compared to 40% that currently have 'occasional' contact.
- On the other hand, while 35% currently categorise their contact as 'rare', only 21% of the population desire such a low level of contact in the future.
- Looking to the future, only one in 33 Australians (3%) are seeking no contact with Indigenous people, half the level of the 7% (one in 14) who currently have no contact.

6.5 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:

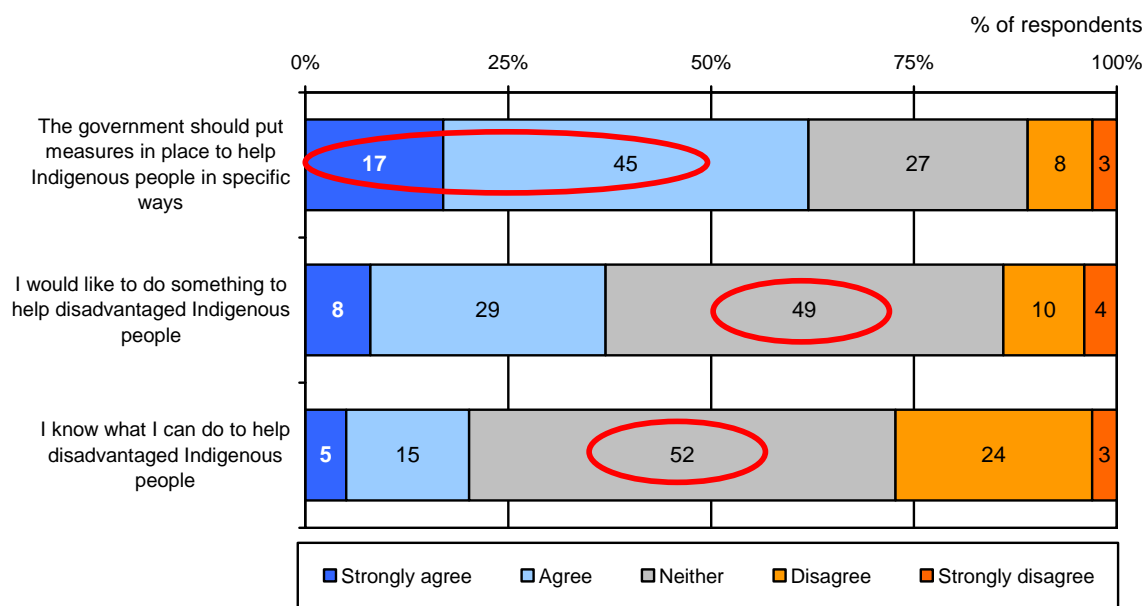
There currently appears to be a relatively common level of personal engagement with Indigenous issues among the Australian population. Overall, two out of three Australians (64%) report that they have taken one or more steps to advance reconciliation or to help disadvantaged people in the last 12 months. The remaining third (36%) did not engage in any of the types of personal action listed in the survey.

- Actions taken by people to advance reconciliation or help disadvantaged Indigenous people can be split into two main groupings;
- The first (and most common) are those actions which directly or indirectly contribute to assisting the process of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- The second (and less common) are those actions which could be seen as providing direct support to Indigenous people and communities.

- The first grouping includes engaging in conversation about Indigenous issues, becoming better educated about Indigenous matters and building personal relationships with Indigenous people. In particular these are;
 - Talked to others about Indigenous issues (38%)
 - Educated yourself about Indigenous history, culture and people (28%)
 - Built personal relationships with Indigenous people (26%)
 - Importantly, one out of four people signal that they are prepared to think again about how they view Indigenous Australia;
 - Reconsidered your views about Indigenous Australia (23%)
- Fewer Australians have been involved in the second grouping: providing direct support through the more 'concrete' or 'practical' actions listed:
 - Supported Indigenous arts and music (18%)
 - Supported Indigenous children (13%)
 - Donated money (10%)
 - Donated time (10%)
 - Spoken out or advocated in the community or workplace (8%)
 - Implemented Indigenous employment strategies in your workplace (6%)

6.6 Desire for personal and government action

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



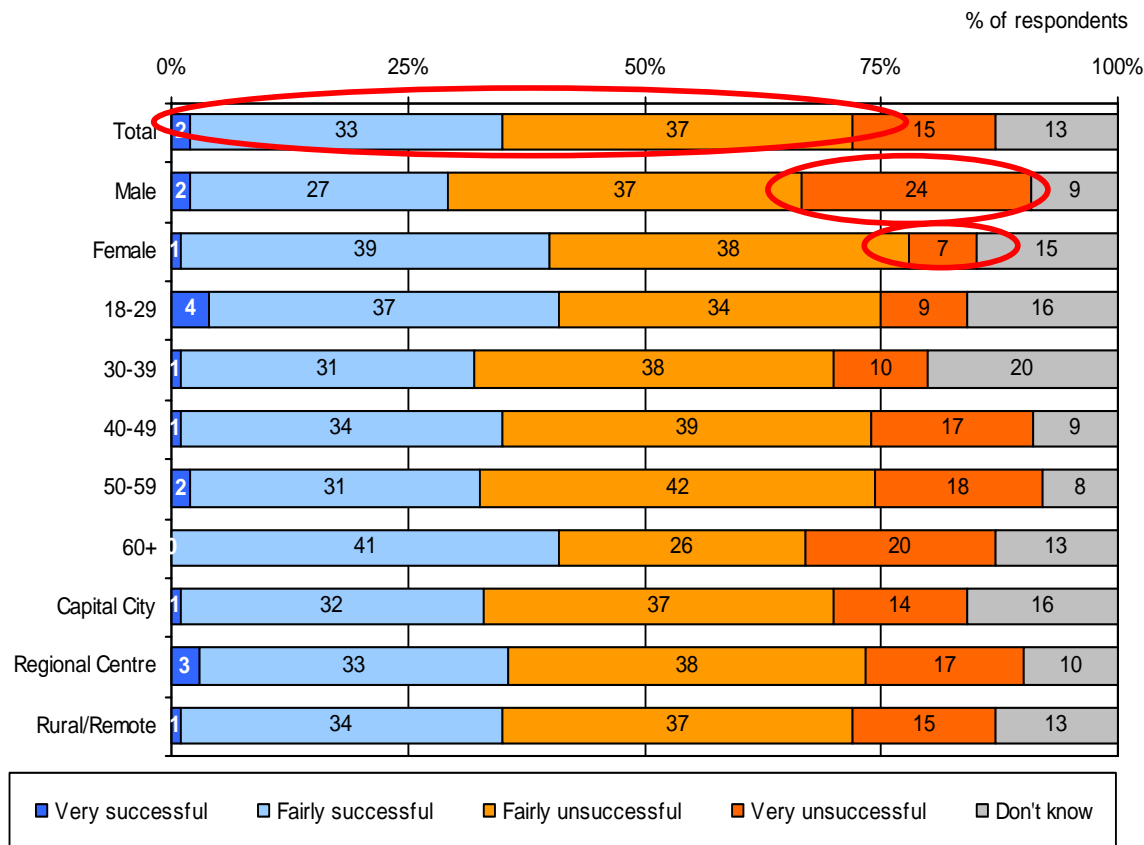
KEY FINDINGS:

The majority of Australians believe that the responsibility for helping disadvantaged Indigenous people falls with the government and they are prepared to give their support to specific measures to overcome disadvantage. However there is less interest in personal action and even poorer knowledge about what individuals can do to help.

- The level of support for government action is clear with more than six out of 10 Australians believing that *'the government should put measures in place to help Indigenous people in specific ways'* (62%). While 27% of people take no position in relation to this idea, there is only a small amount of opposition, with one out of 10 (11%) disagreeing.
- There is less interest in taking personal action to help disadvantaged Indigenous people but similarly not much opposition to it;
- Almost half the Australian population are unsure whether they would personally like to take any action to help disadvantaged Indigenous people (49%). On the other hand, 37% of the population *'would like to do something to help disadvantaged Indigenous people.'*
- Importantly, there is very little opposition to the idea of personally helping Indigenous people, with only 14% of people expressing this view.
- Australians are not clear as to how they could help disadvantaged Indigenous people, with only 20% *'agreeing or strongly agreeing'* that *'I know what I can do to help disadvantaged Indigenous people.'*
- The largest group, which is more than half the population (52%) are simply unsure about whether they can help or not, by neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the statement *'I know what I can do to help disadvantaged Indigenous people.'*

6.7 Government action to address Indigenous disadvantage

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



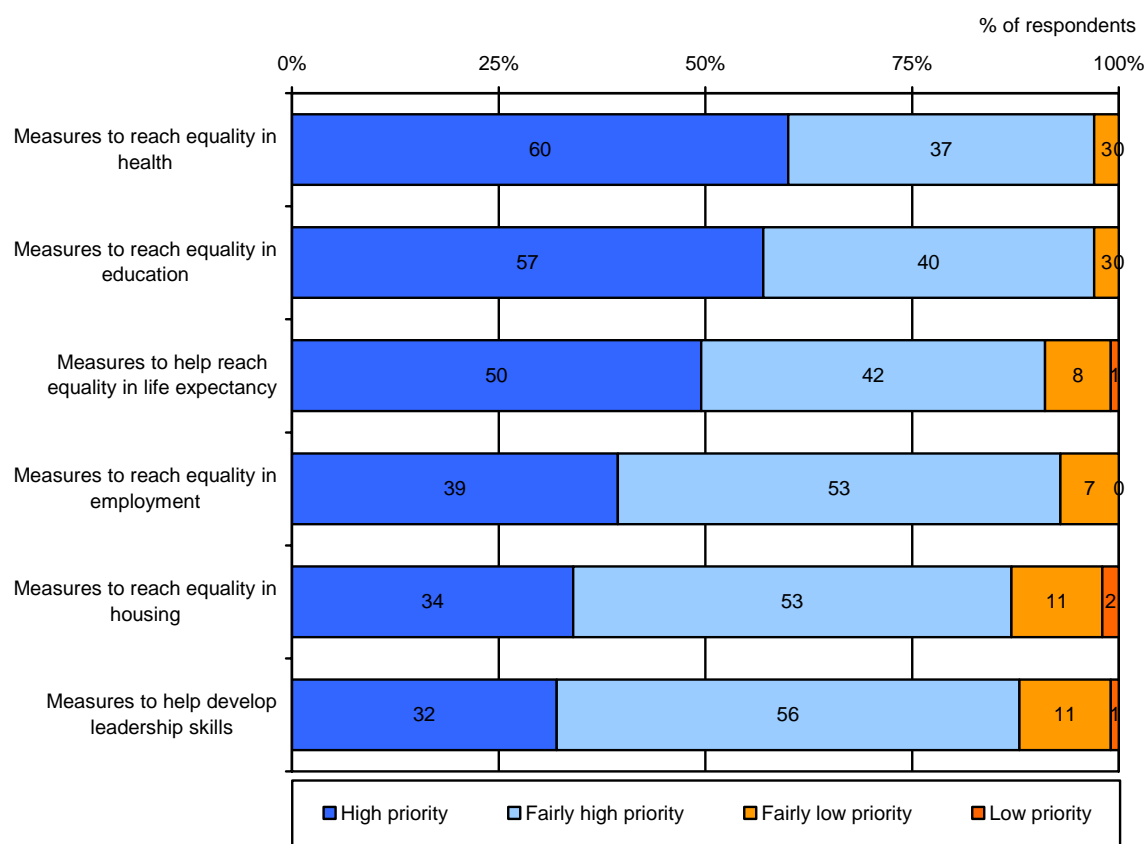
KEY FINDINGS:

While Australians tend to more negative than positive about the success of programs to address Indigenous disadvantage, the majority tend to fall around the middle ground, believing that the programs have either been fairly successful (33%) or fairly unsuccessful (37%). The biggest difference in attitude seems to be between women and men, with women more likely than men to believe that programs have been successful. At either extreme, far more people are likely to believe that programs have been very unsuccessful than very successful.

- More Australians believe that programs designed to address Indigenous disadvantage have been 'unsuccessful' than 'successful.'
- 52% of the population believe that they have been 'unsuccessful' (either fairly or very).
- 35% of the population believe that they have been 'successful' (either fairly or very).
- Only 2% of Australians believe programs designed to address Indigenous disadvantage have been 'very successful,' whereas 15% believe they have been 'very unsuccessful.'
- Men tend to be more negative about the success of programs than their female counterparts with 61% believing them to be 'unsuccessful' compared to 45% of females.
- Interestingly younger people (18–29 years) and older people (60 yrs+) are the most positive, 41% believe programs designed to address Indigenous disadvantage have been 'successful' (either fairly or very).

6.8 Prioritising measures to address Indigenous disadvantage

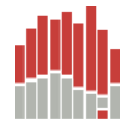
Thinking about ways the government can help Indigenous people, what level of priority do you believe the government should give to each of the following specific measures?



KEY FINDINGS:

Most Australians recognise the need for the government to give a high priority to a range of measures to deal with Indigenous disadvantage. Equality in health tops the list of priorities for most people (60% high) followed by equality in education (57% high) and life expectancy (50% high). This likely reflects an understanding of the relationship between these three issues. There is still strong support for the lesser priorities of equality in employment (39% high), housing (34% high) and development of leadership skills (32% high).

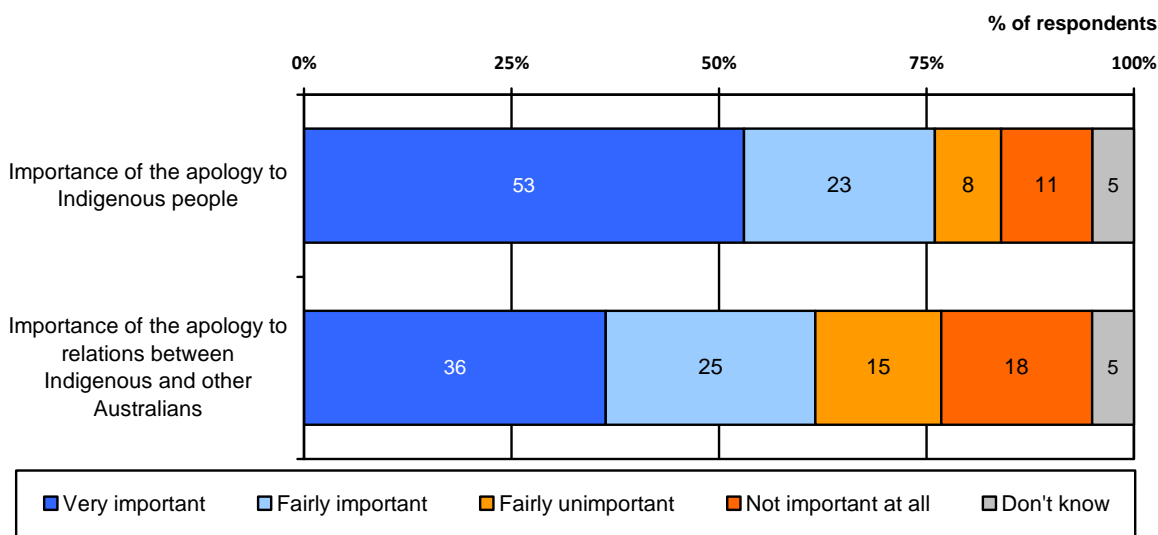
- All the different measures for helping Indigenous people were strongly supported by Australians as priorities (either high or fairly high) for government;
- 'Measures to reach equality in health' (97%)
- 'Measures to reach equality in education' (97%)
- 'Measures to help reach equality in life expectancy' (92%)
- 'Measures to reach equality in employment' (92%)
- 'Measures to reach equality in housing' (87%)
- 'Measures to help develop leadership skills' (88%)



- The 'highest' priority was given to equality in health, followed by education and then life expectancy;
- 60% of the population believe that '*measures to reach equality in health*' should be given a 'high priority' by the government.
- 57% of the population believe that '*measures to reach equality in education*' should be given a 'high priority' by the government.
- 50% of the population believe that '*measures to help reach equality in life expectancy*' should be given a 'high priority' by the government.
- Over half the population believes the remaining measures should also be given a 'fairly high priority.'
- 'Measures to reach equality in employment' (53%)
- 'Measures to reach equality in housing' (53%)
- 'Measures to help develop leadership skills' (56%)

6.9 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?



KEY FINDINGS:

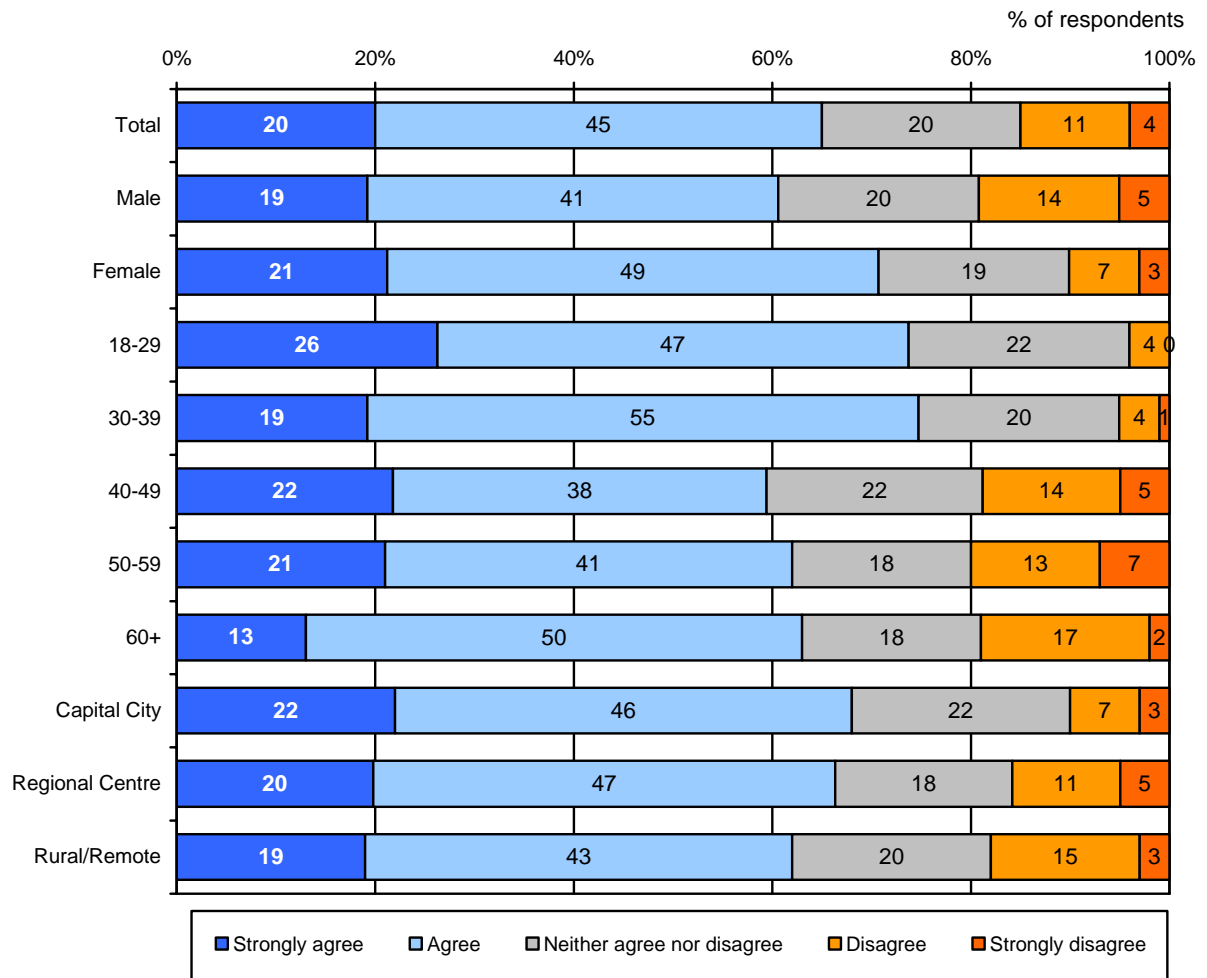
Most Australians appreciate the importance of the 2008 apology to members of the stolen generations both from the perspective of Indigenous people and their relations with other Australians. Three quarters (76%) of people consider the apology was important to Indigenous people and six out of 10 (61%) believe it to be important to relations between Indigenous and other Australians.

- Over half the population (53%) believe 'the apology' was 'very important' for Indigenous people and over a third believe it was 'very important' for relations between Indigenous and other Australians.
- On the other hand, 33% of the population believe it was not important for relations between Indigenous and other Australians, of which 18% felt it was 'not important at all' and 15% felt it was 'fairly unimportant.'

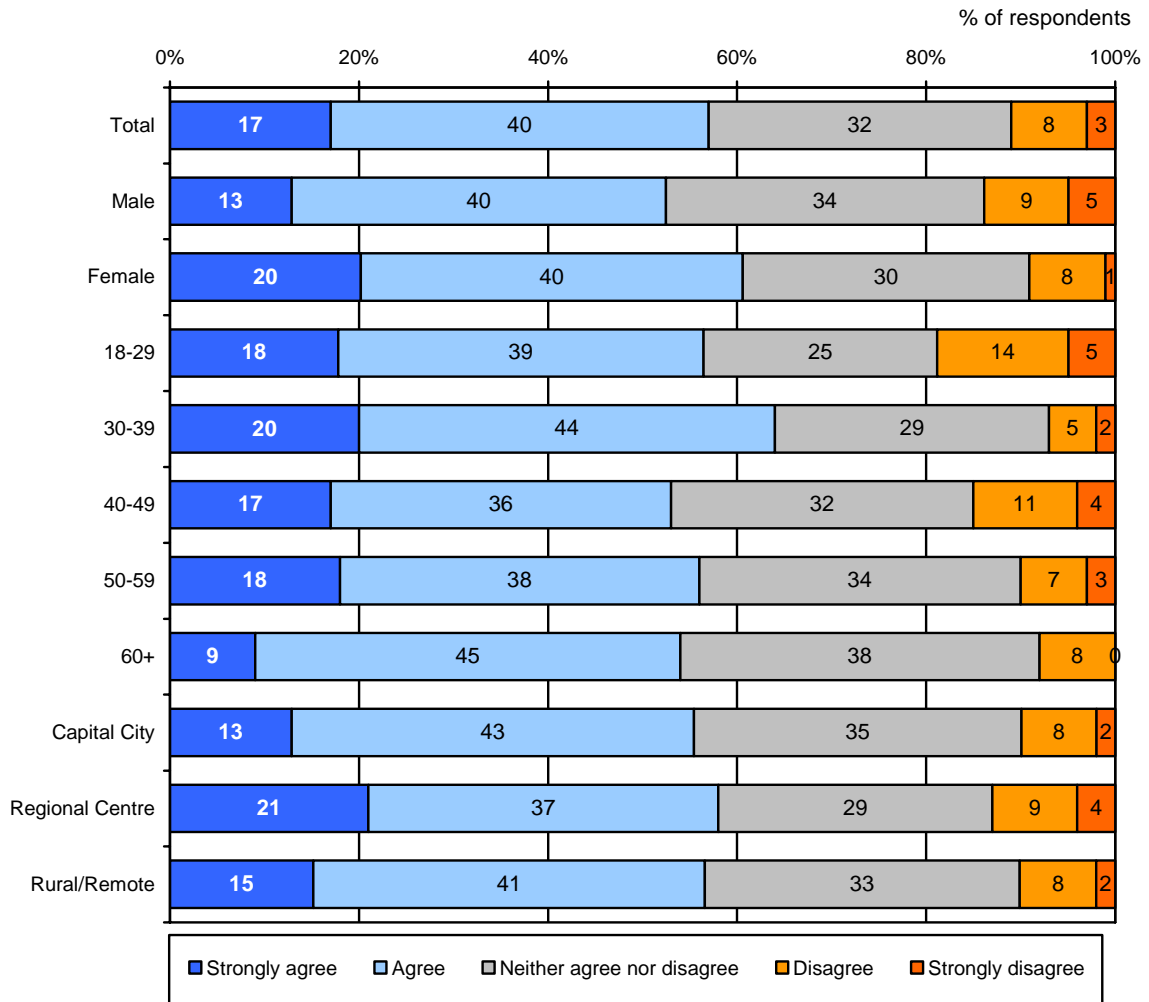
7. APPENDICES AND EXTRA TABLES

7.1 Extended tables: The place of Indigenous culture and history in Australia

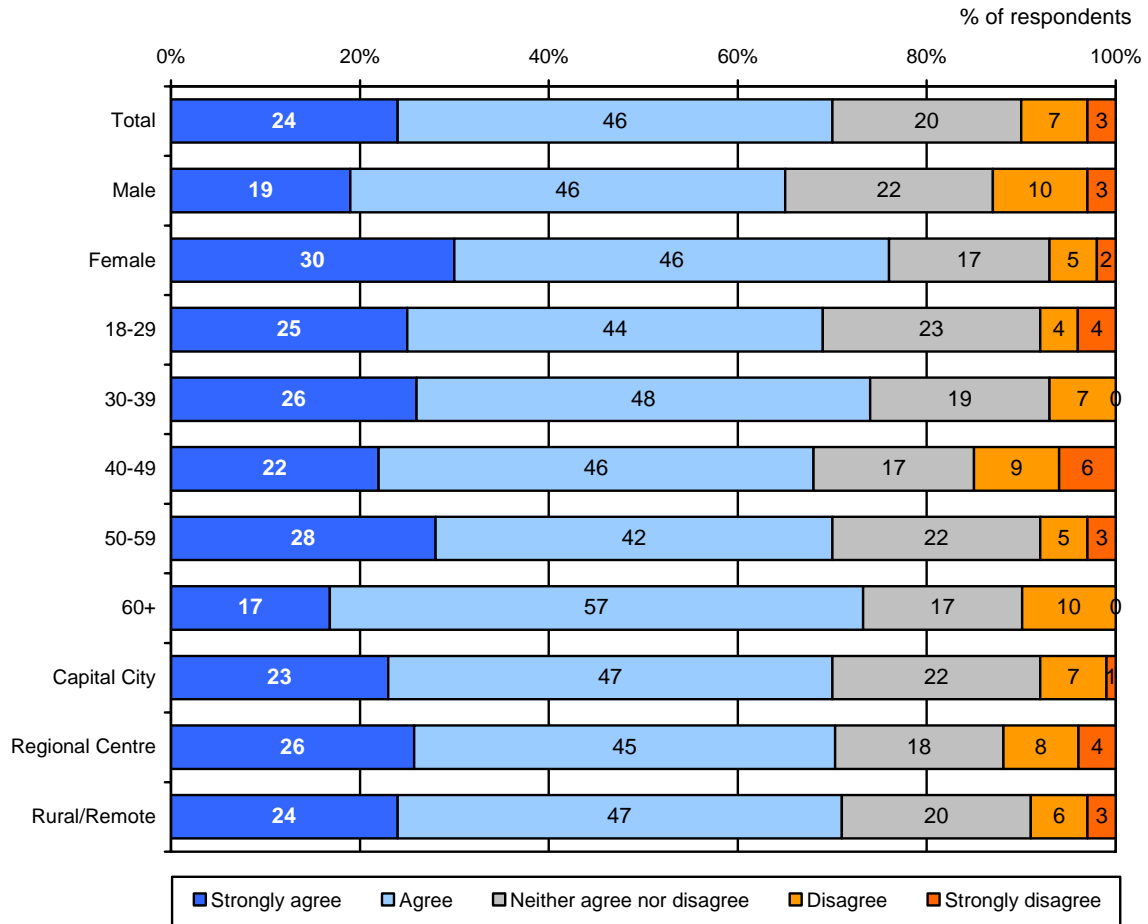
Statement *Australia is better off because we have many different cultures.*



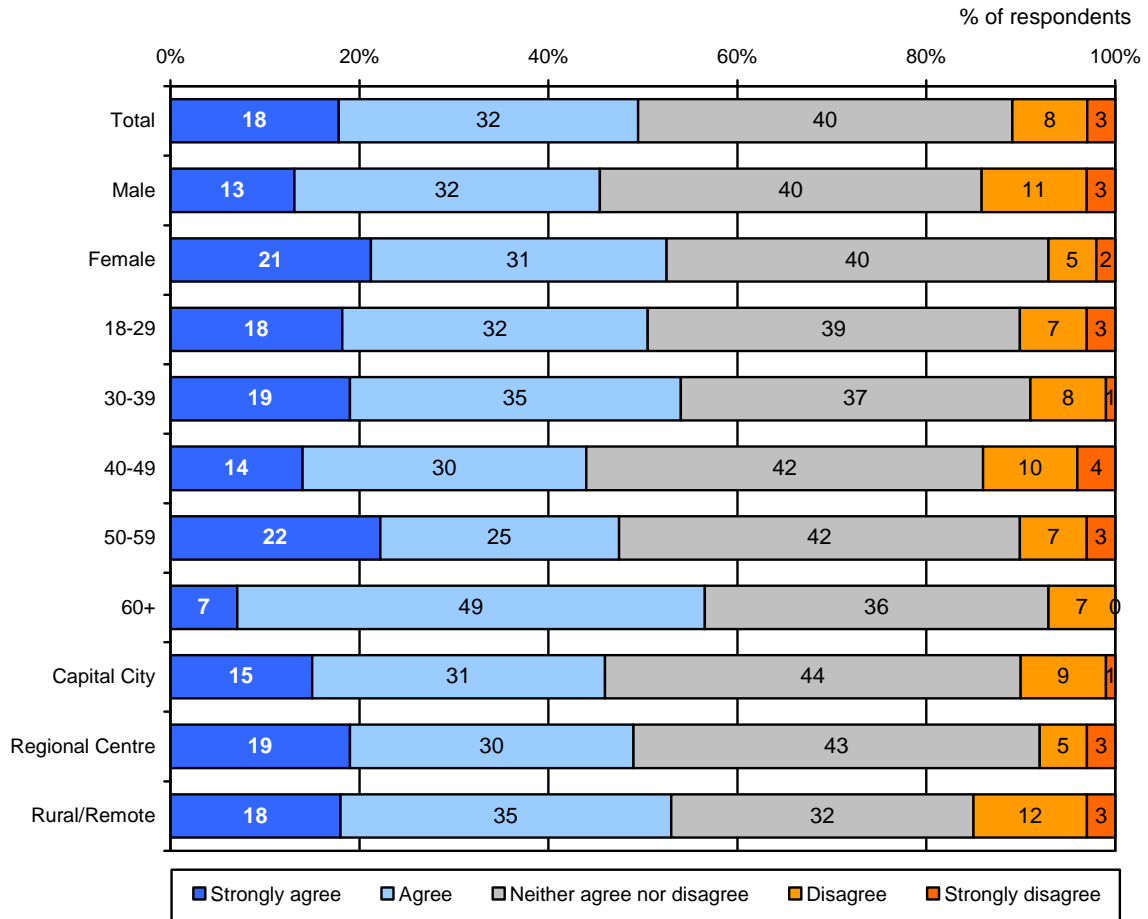
Statement *Australia has a richer culture because of our Indigenous heritage.*



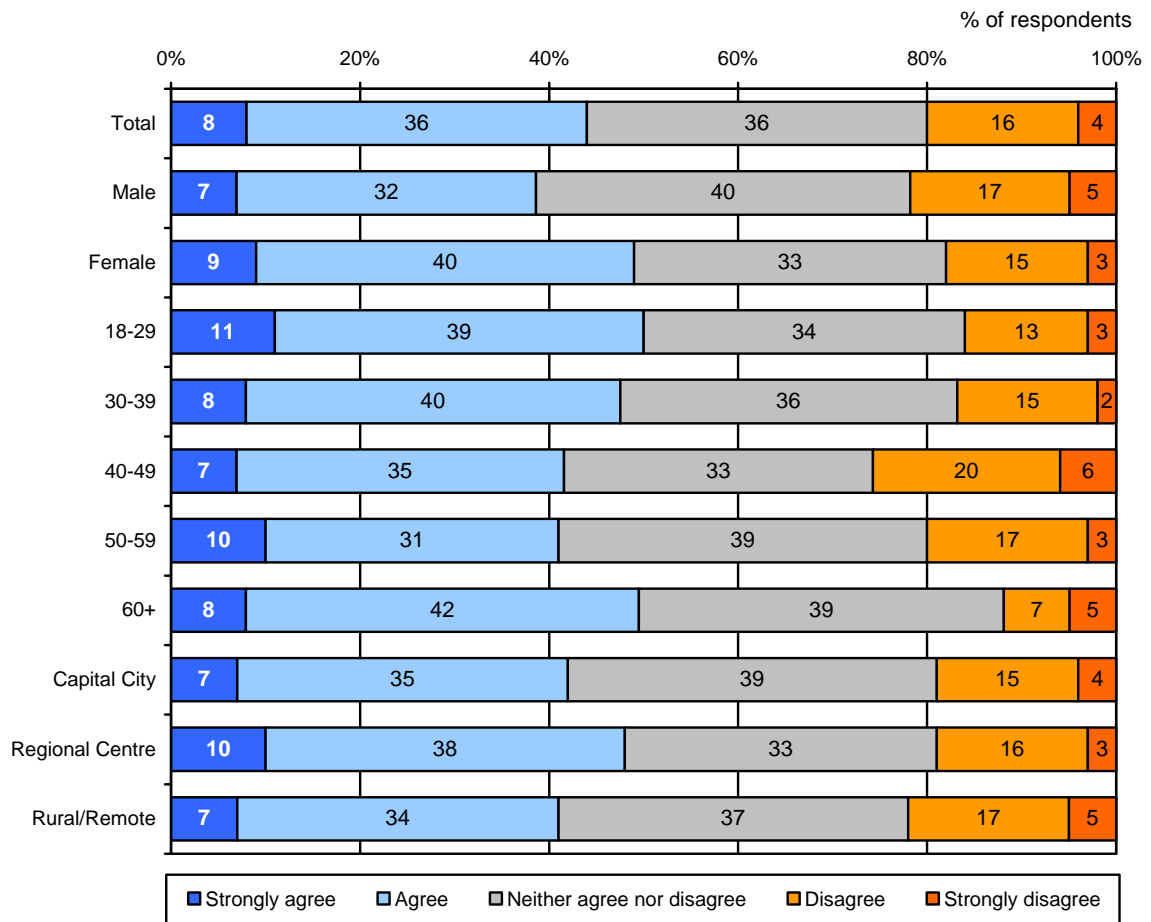
Statement *Indigenous culture is important to Australia's identity as a nation.*



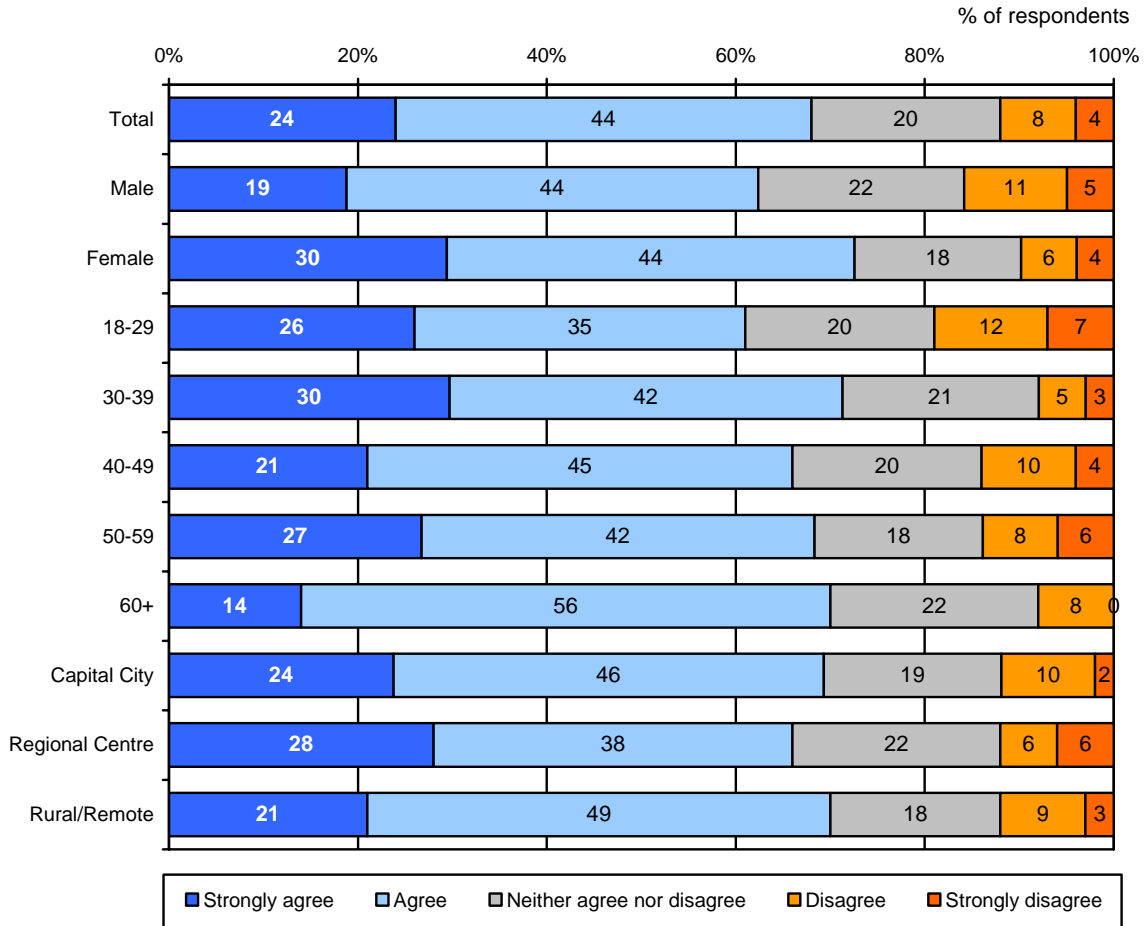
Statement *As an Australian, I feel proud of Indigenous culture.*



Statement Indigenous people are open to sharing their culture with other Australians

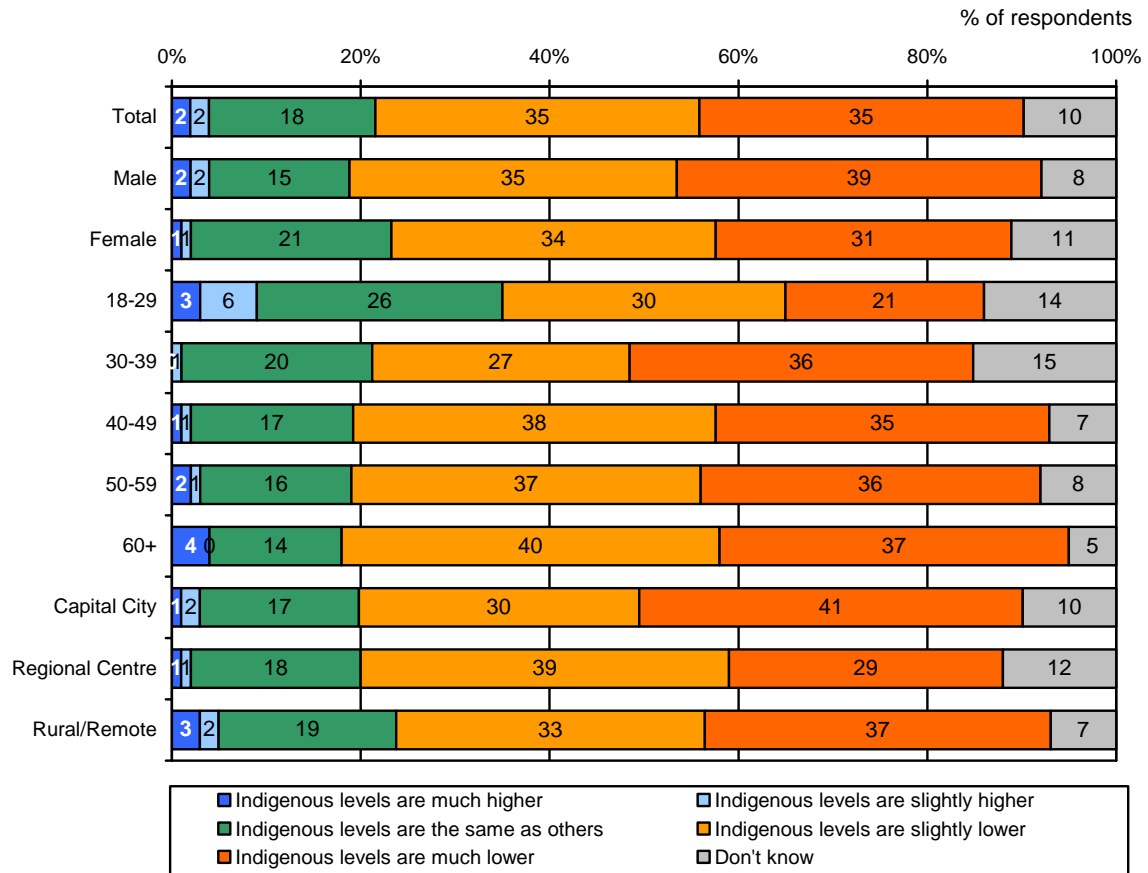


Statement *Indigenous history should be a compulsory part of the history curriculum in schools.*

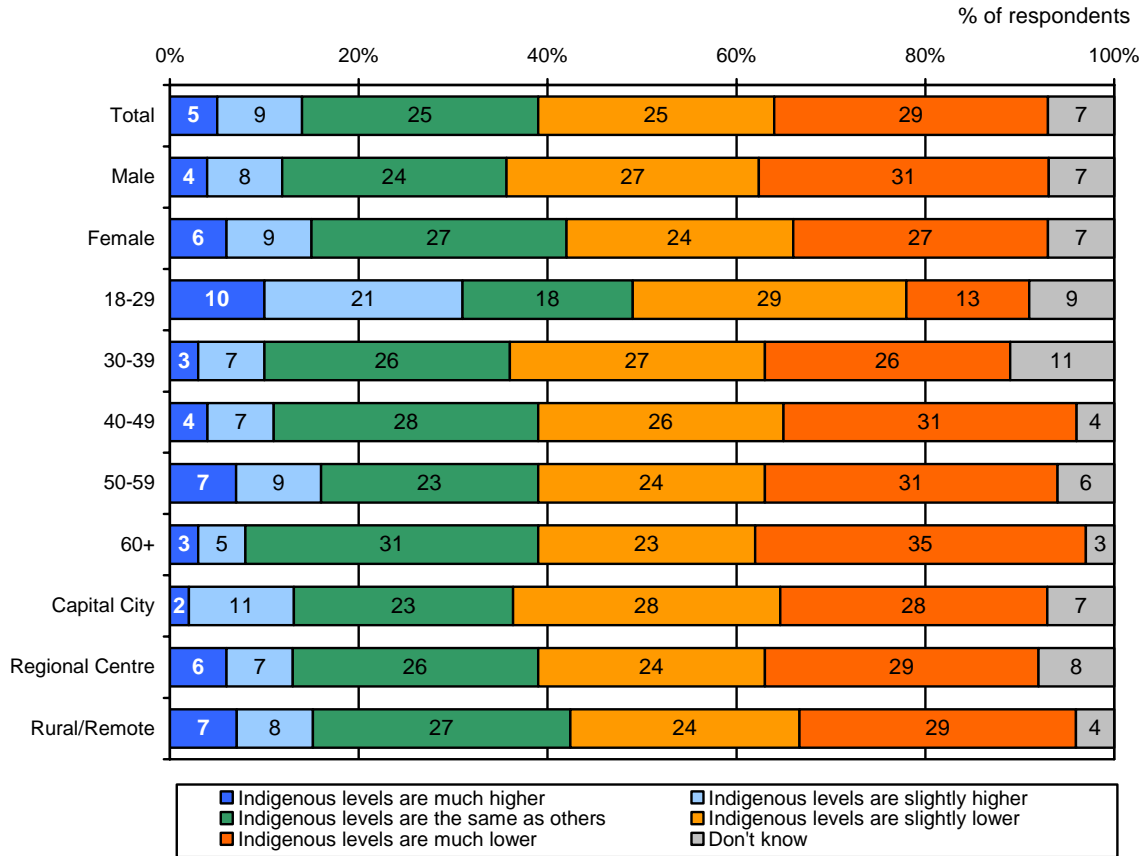


7.2 Extended tables: Comparing the lives of Indigenous and other Australians

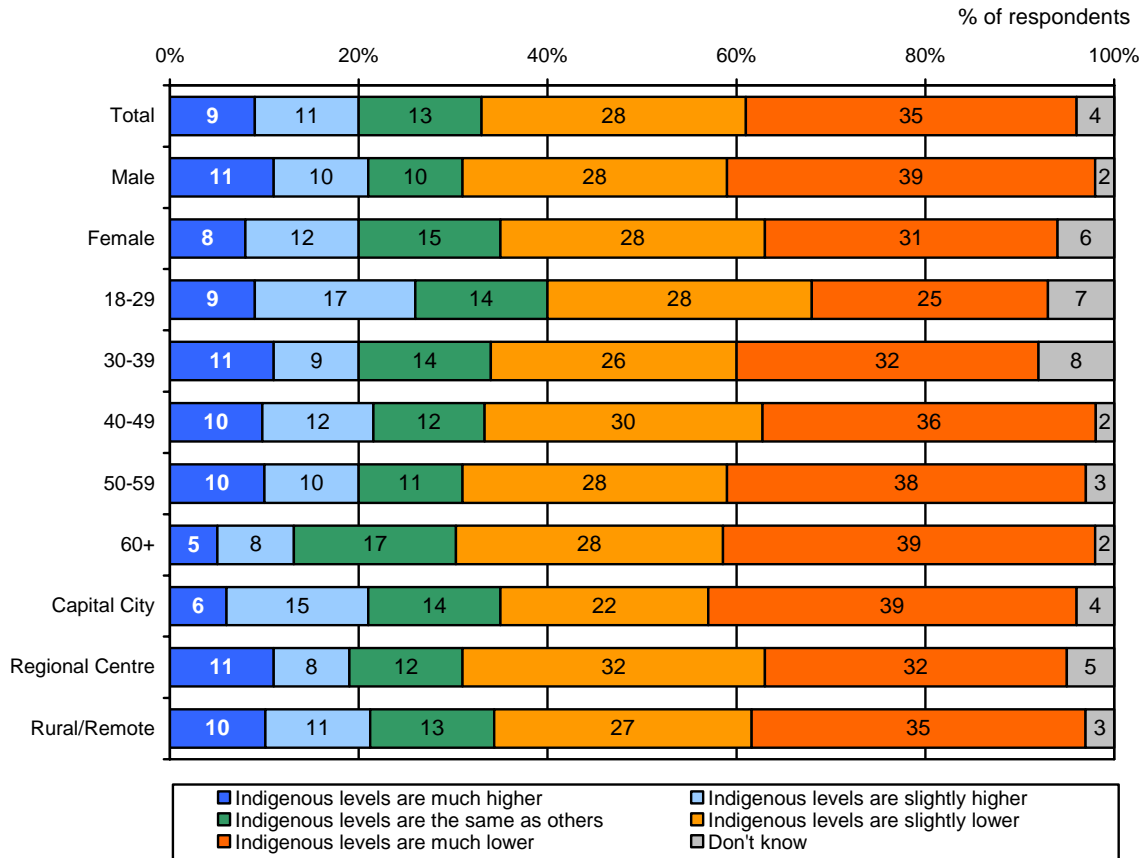
How do you think the SELF ESTEEM levels among Indigenous people compare to the levels among other Australians?



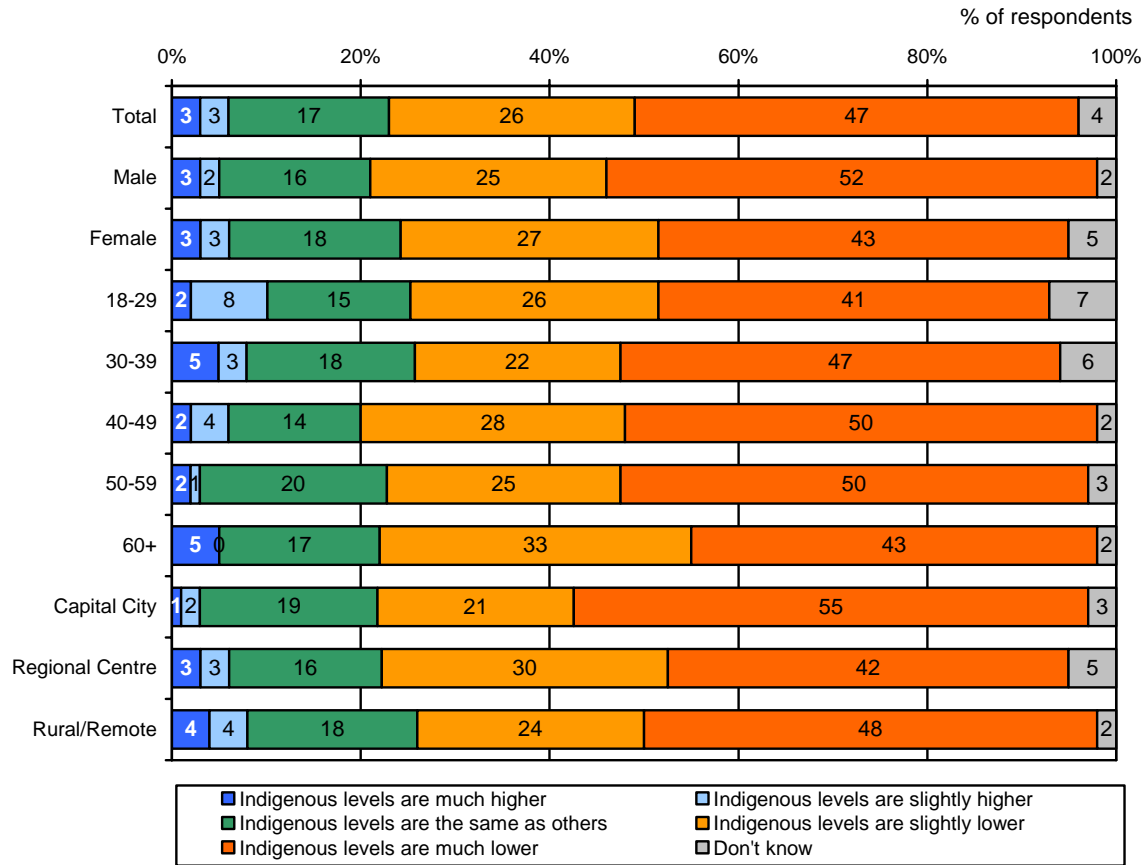
How do you think the PERSONAL PRIDE levels among Indigenous people compare to the levels among other Australians?



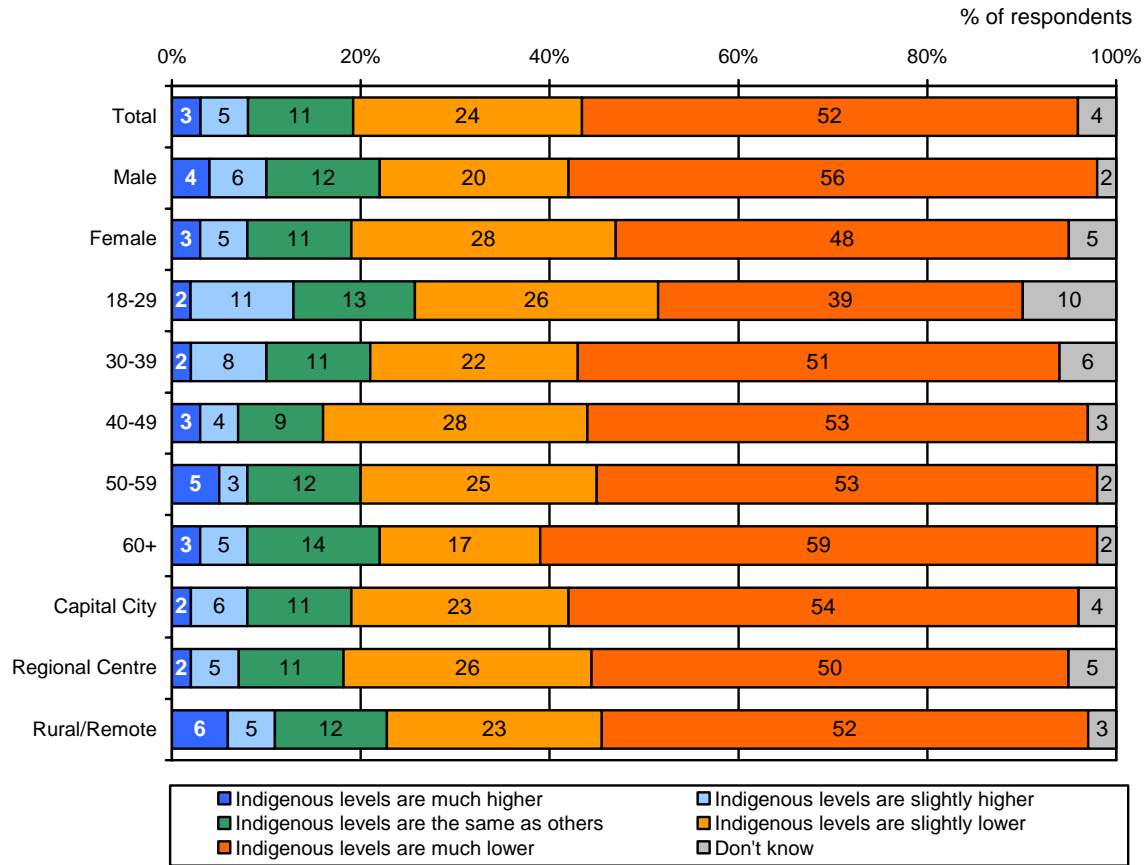
How do you think the HOUSING levels among Indigenous people compare to the levels among other Australians?



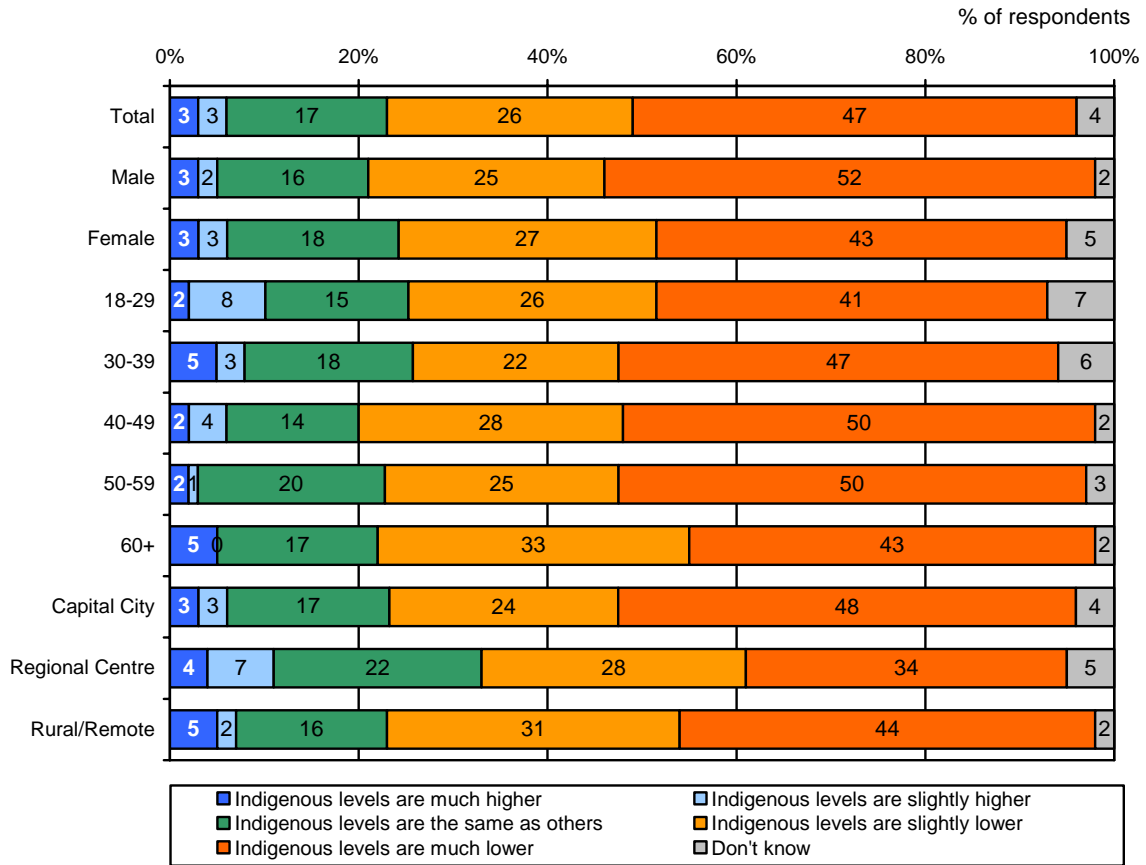
How do you think the EMPLOYMENT levels among Indigenous people compare to the levels among other Australians?



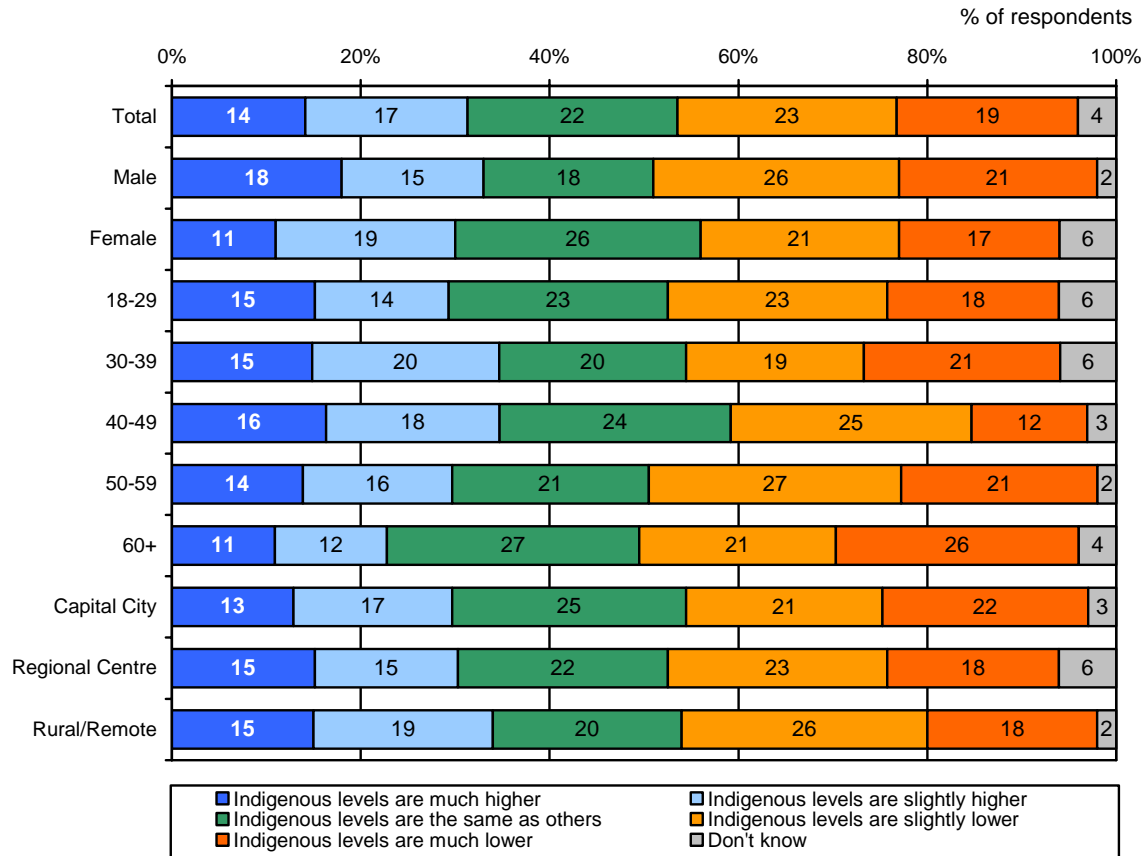
How do you think the HEALTH levels among Indigenous people compare to the levels among other Australians?



How do you think the EDUCATION levels among Indigenous people compare to the levels among other Australians?

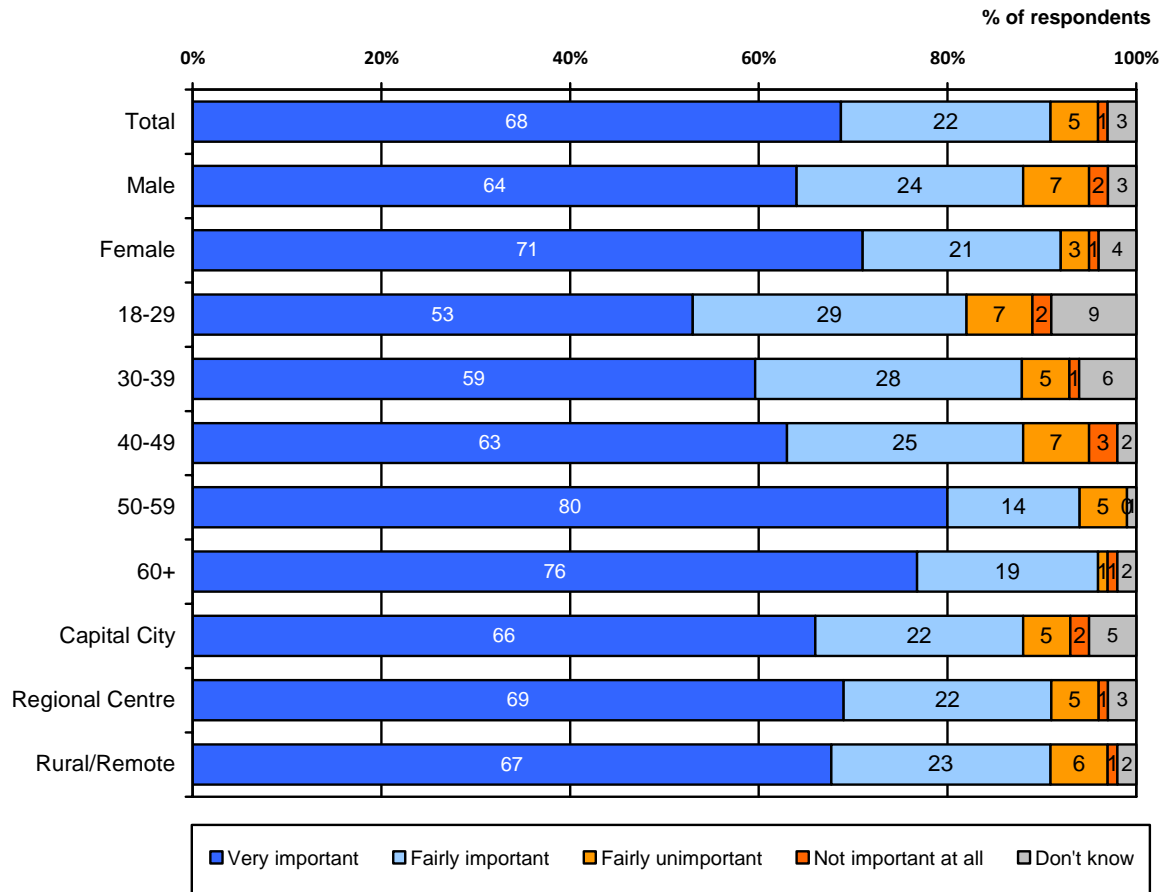


How do you think the ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES levels among Indigenous people compare to the levels among other Australians?

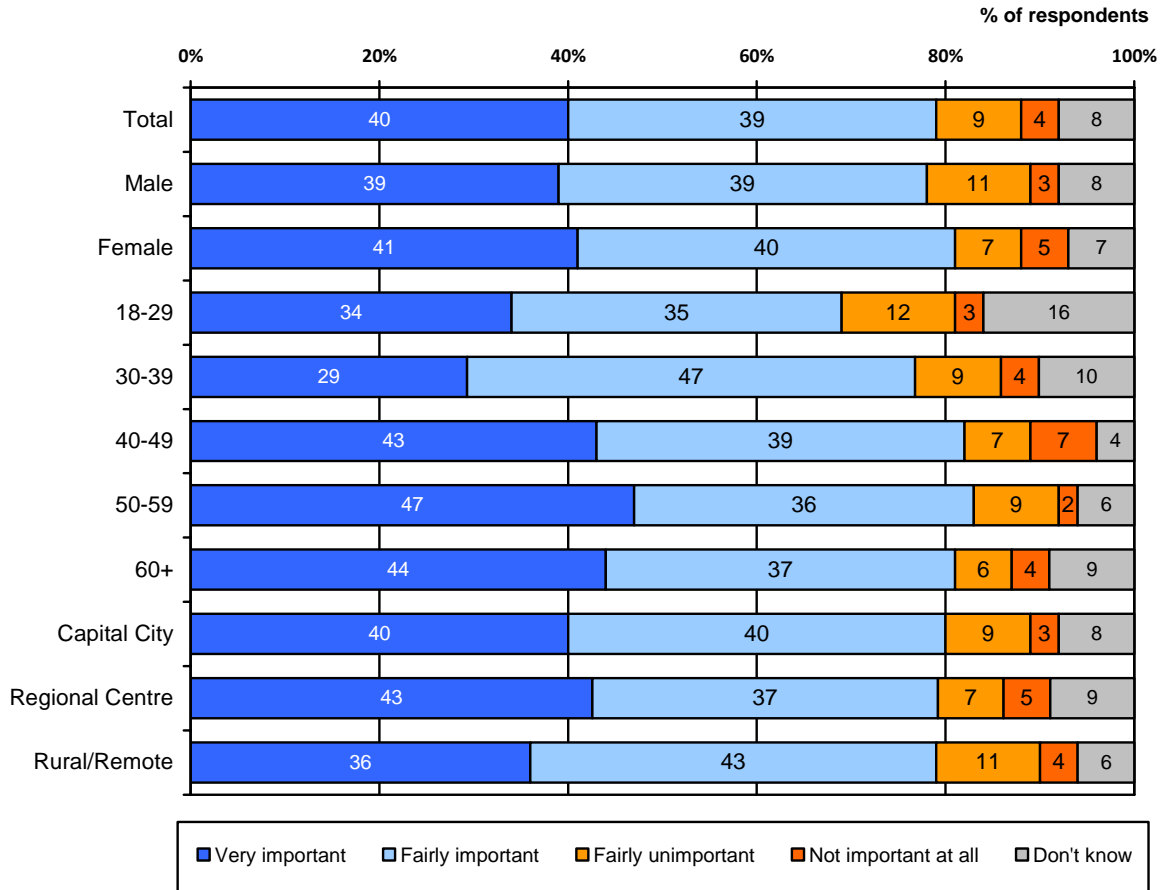


7.3 Extended tables: Reasons behind Indigenous disadvantage

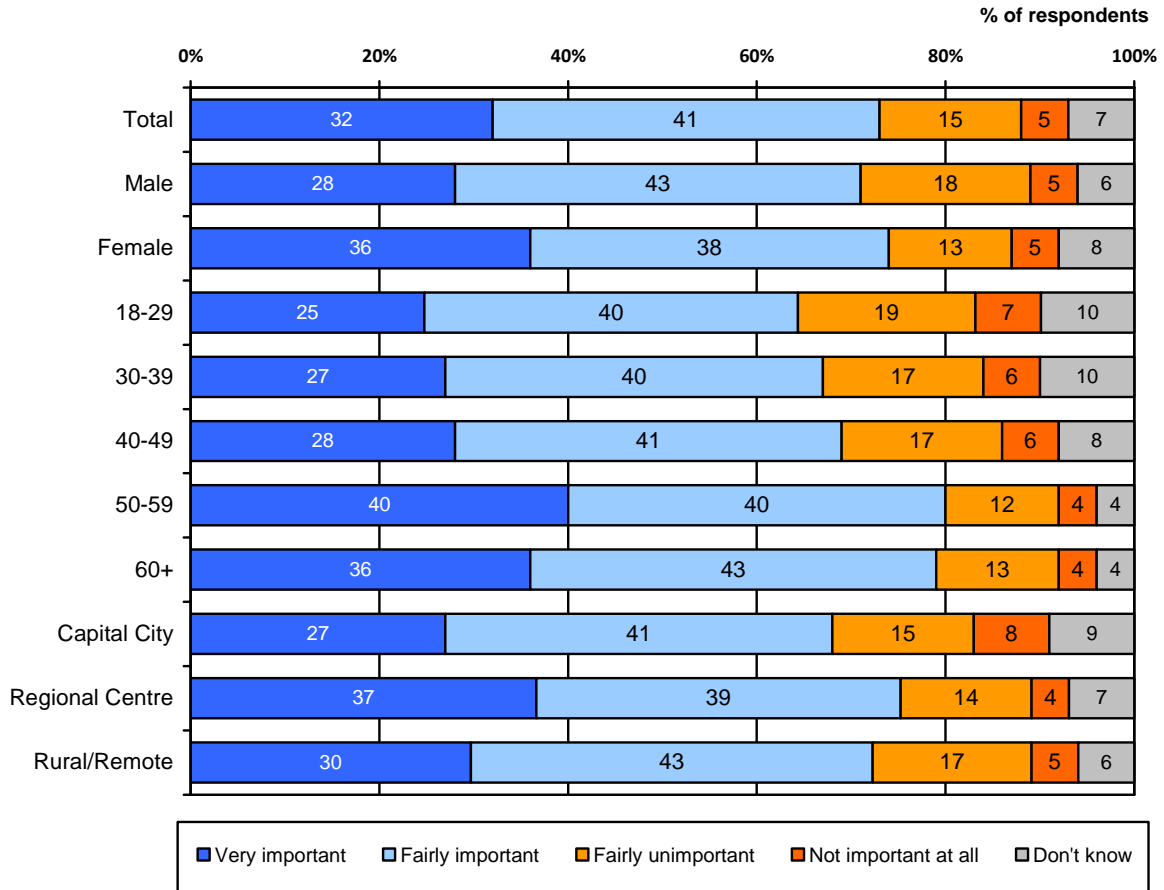
How important has ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE been in creating the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today?



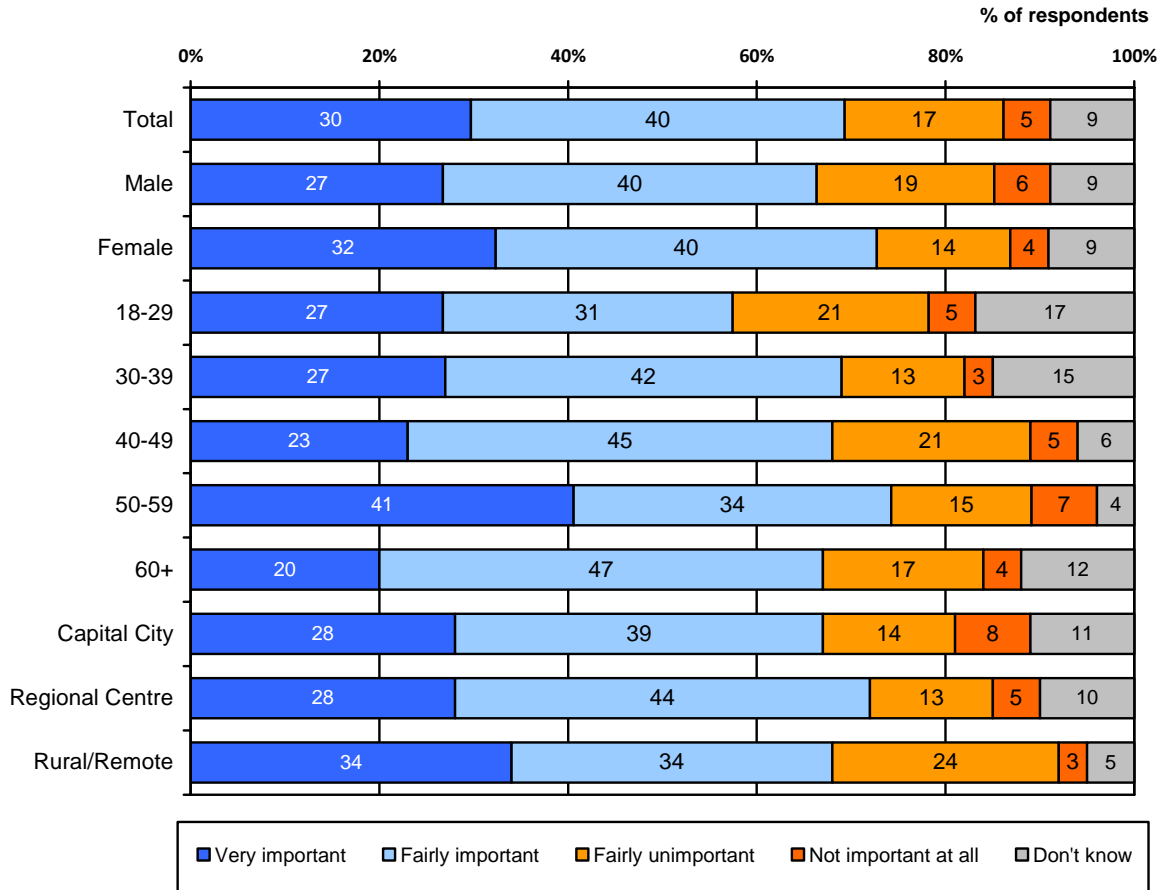
How important has LACK OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY (AMONG INDIGENEOUS PEOPLE) been in creating the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today?



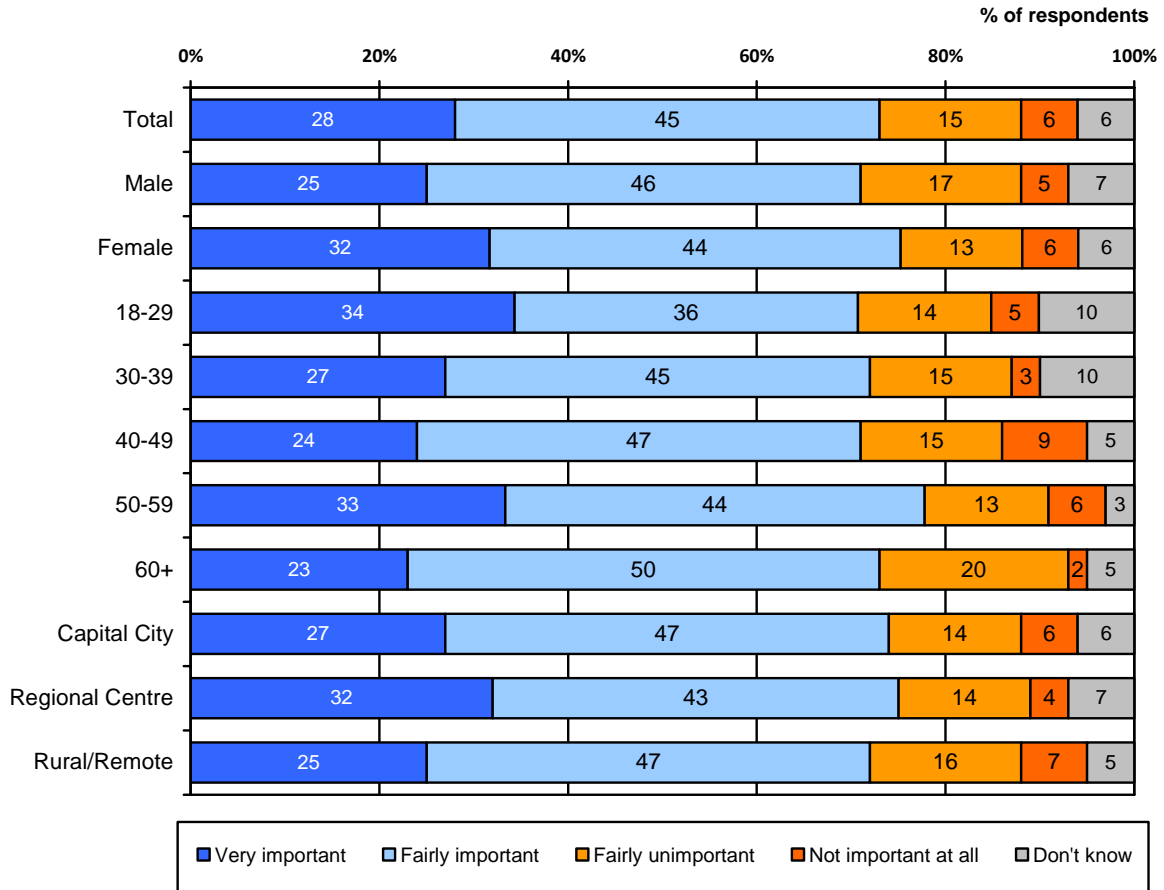
How important has POOR ACCESS TO HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES been in creating the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today?



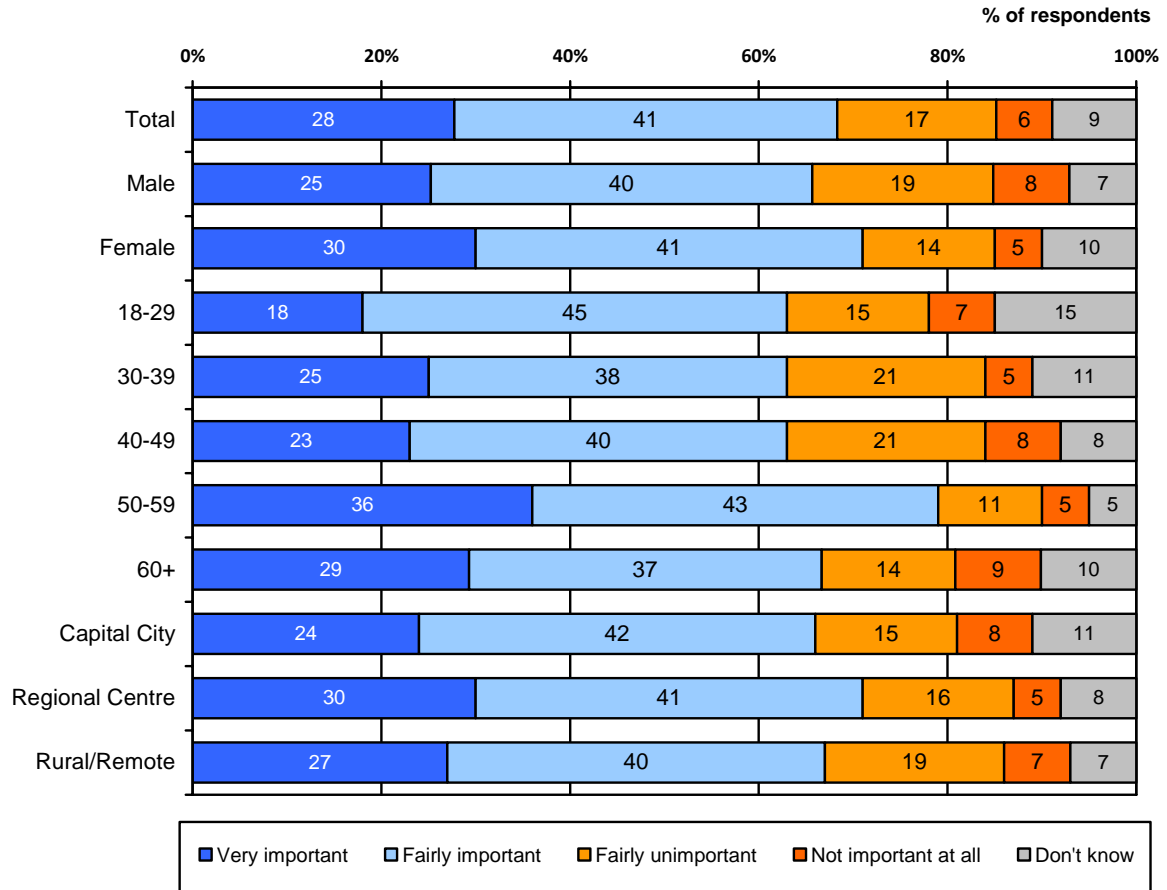
How important has RACE-BASED GOVERNMENT POLICIES OF THE PAST been in creating the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today?



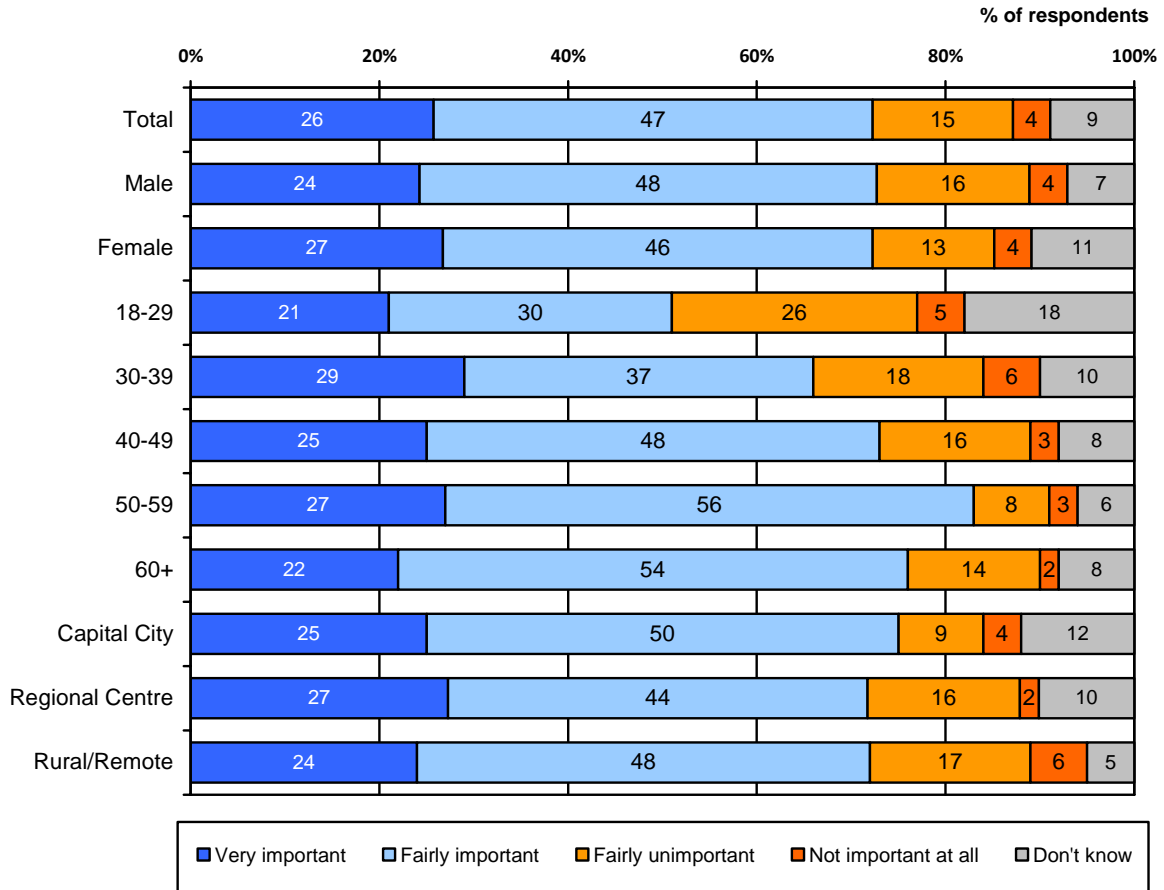
How important has DISCRIMINATION been in creating the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today?



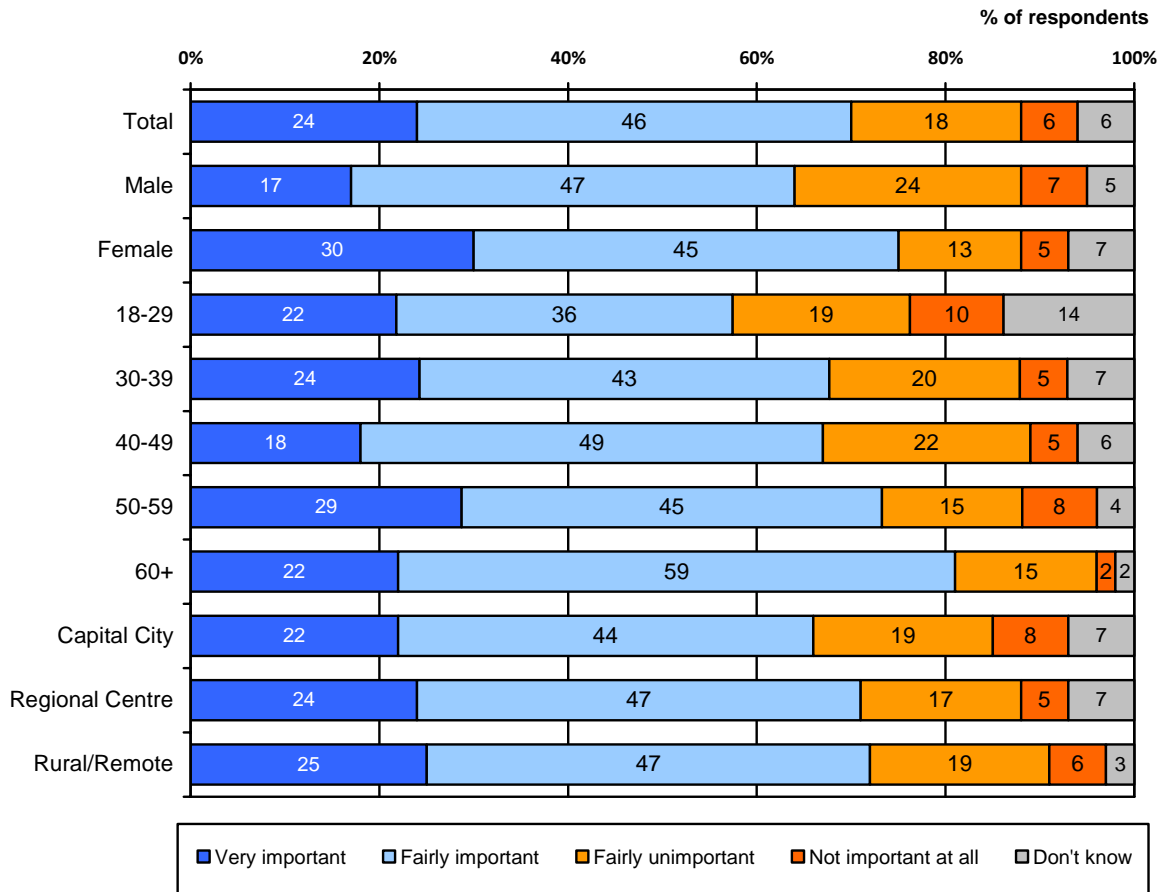
How important has INEFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES been in creating the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today?



How important has LACK OF CONFIDENCE AND SELF ESTEEM OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE been in creating the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today?

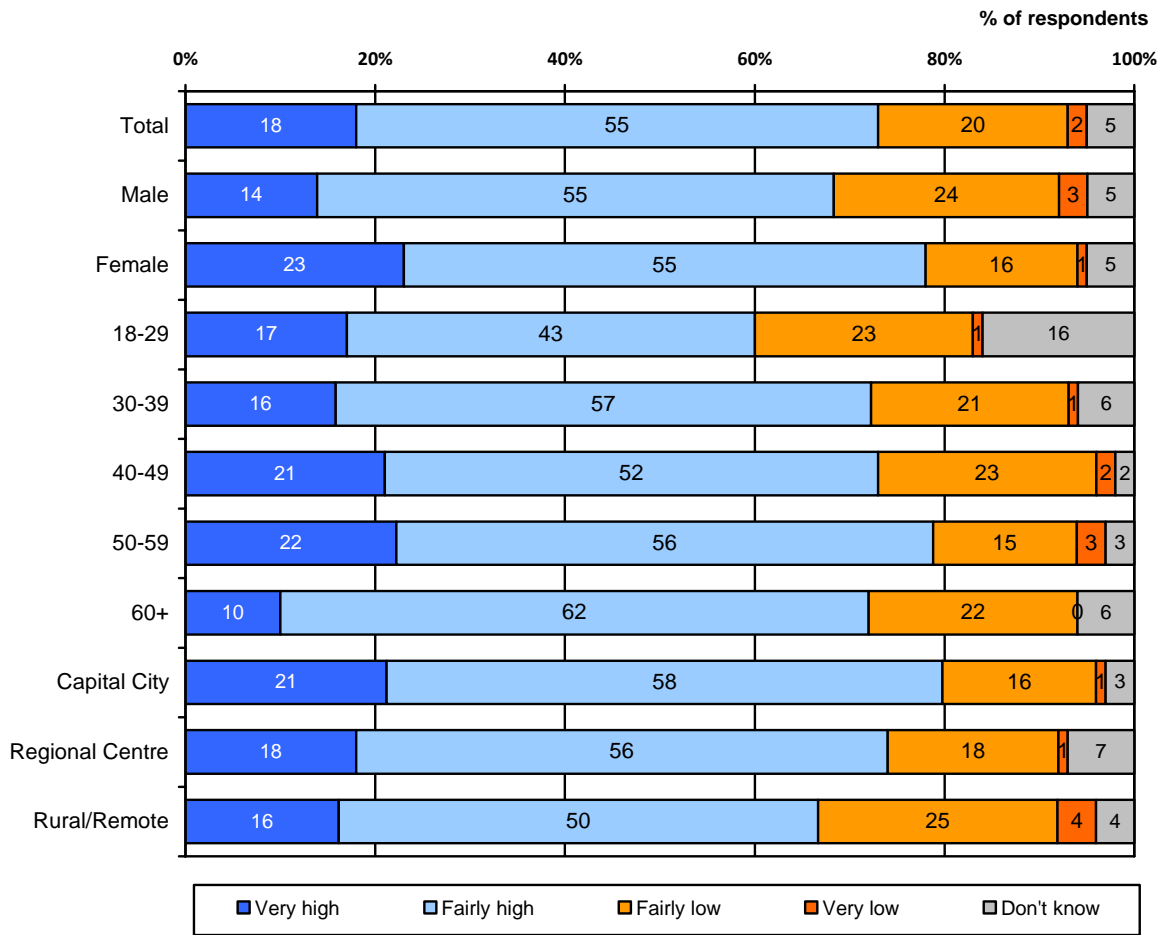


How important has *INADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS* been in creating the disadvantage suffered by some Indigenous people today?

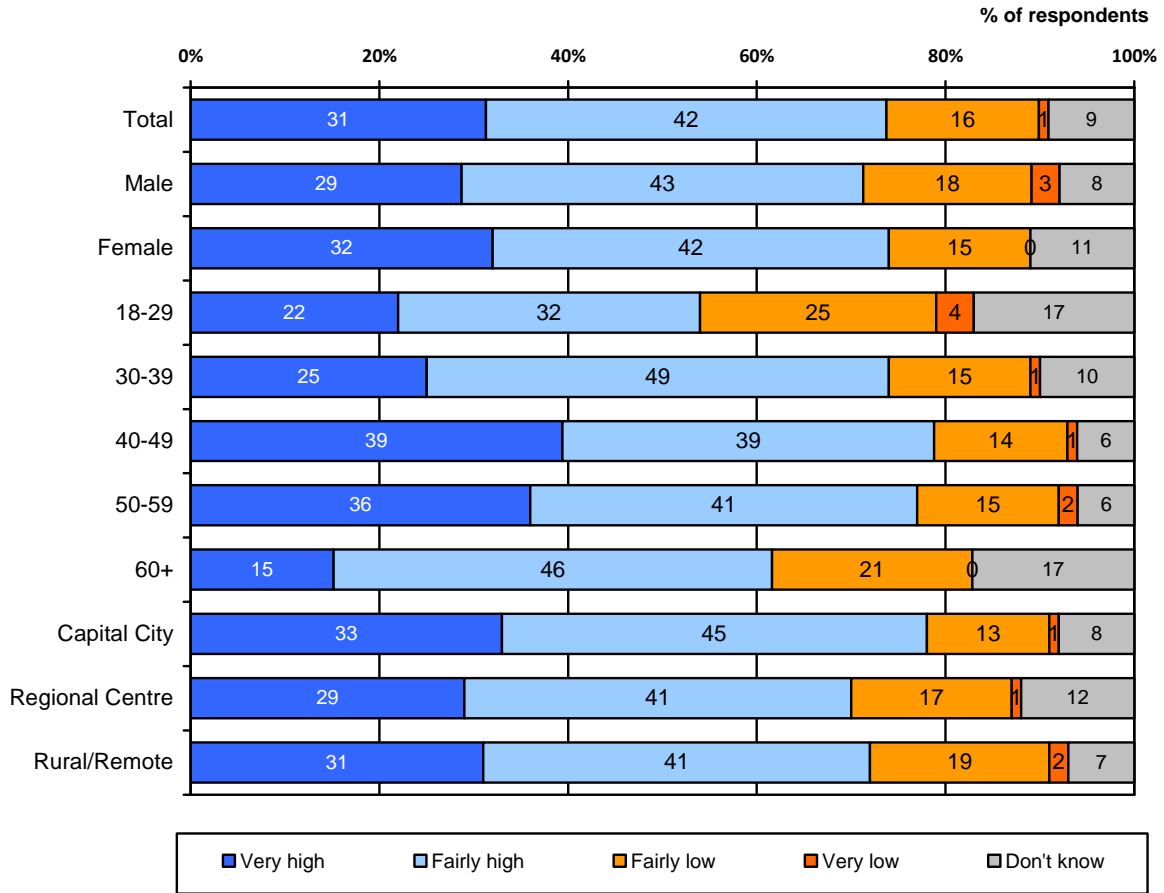


7.4 Extended tables: Levels of prejudice between Indigenous people and other Australians

How would you describe the level of prejudice AUSTRALIANS HOLD TOWARDS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE?

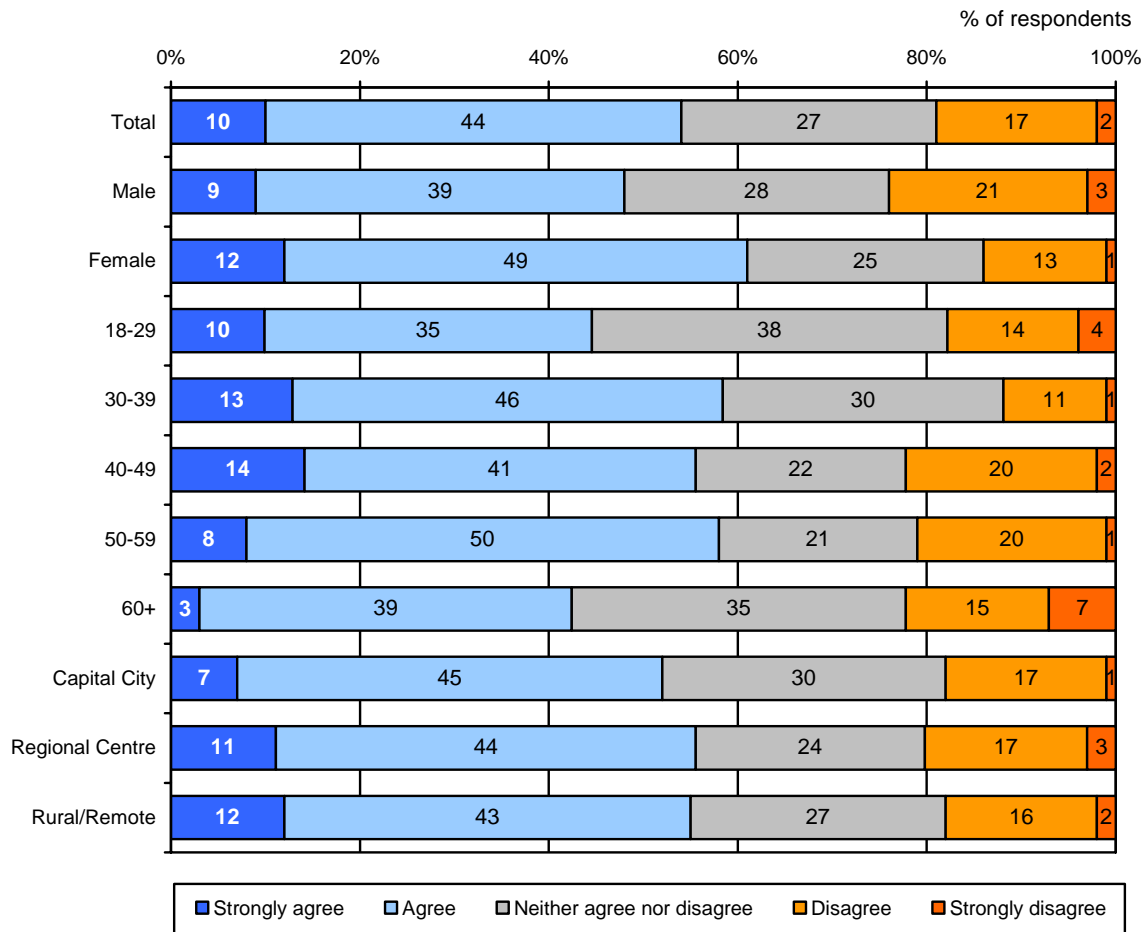


How would you describe the level of prejudice INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HOLD TOWARDS OTHER AUSTRALIANS?

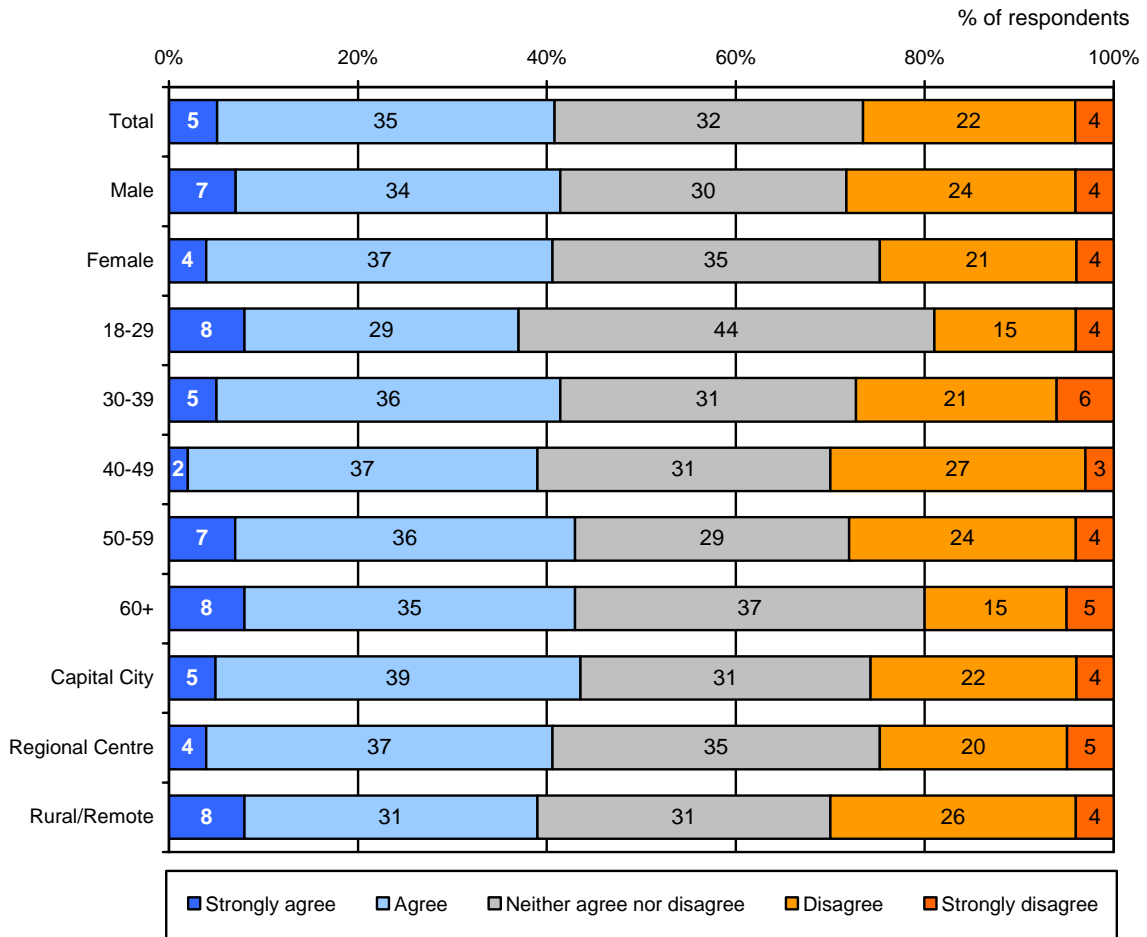


7.5 Extended tables: Diversity of Indigenous Australians

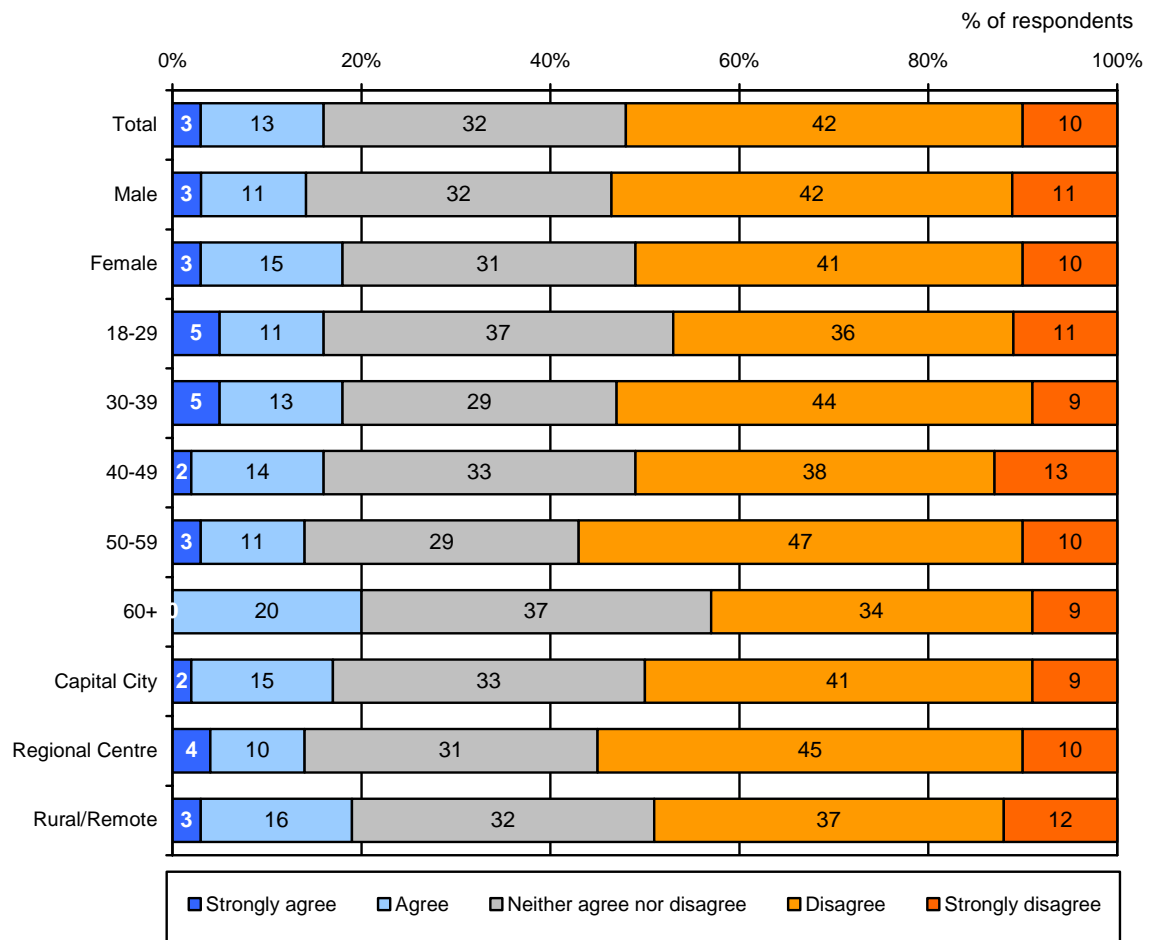
Indigenous people have a diverse range of lifestyles and occupations like other Australians.



Statement *Indigenous people are mostly disadvantaged and live on the edge of mainstream society.*

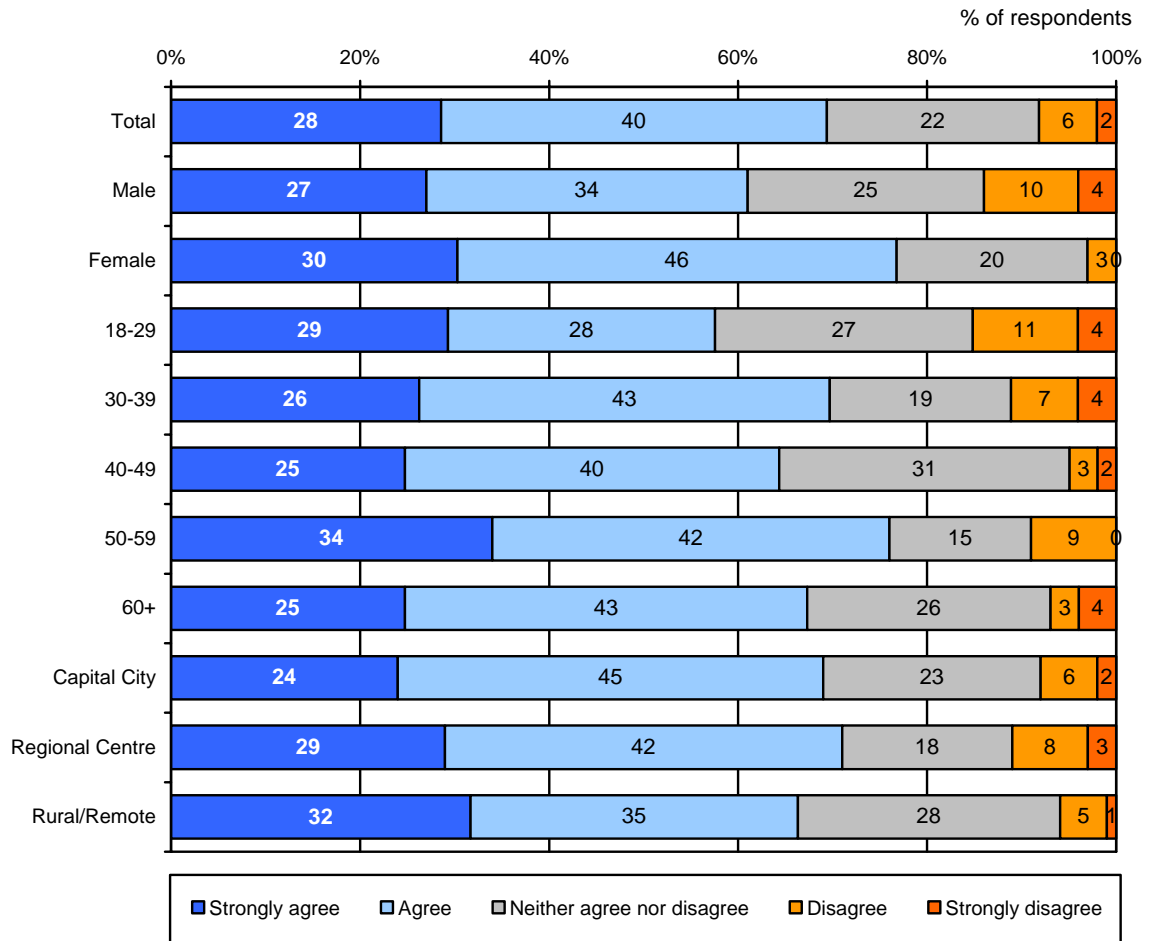


Statement Indigenous people live mostly traditional lives in tribal groups.

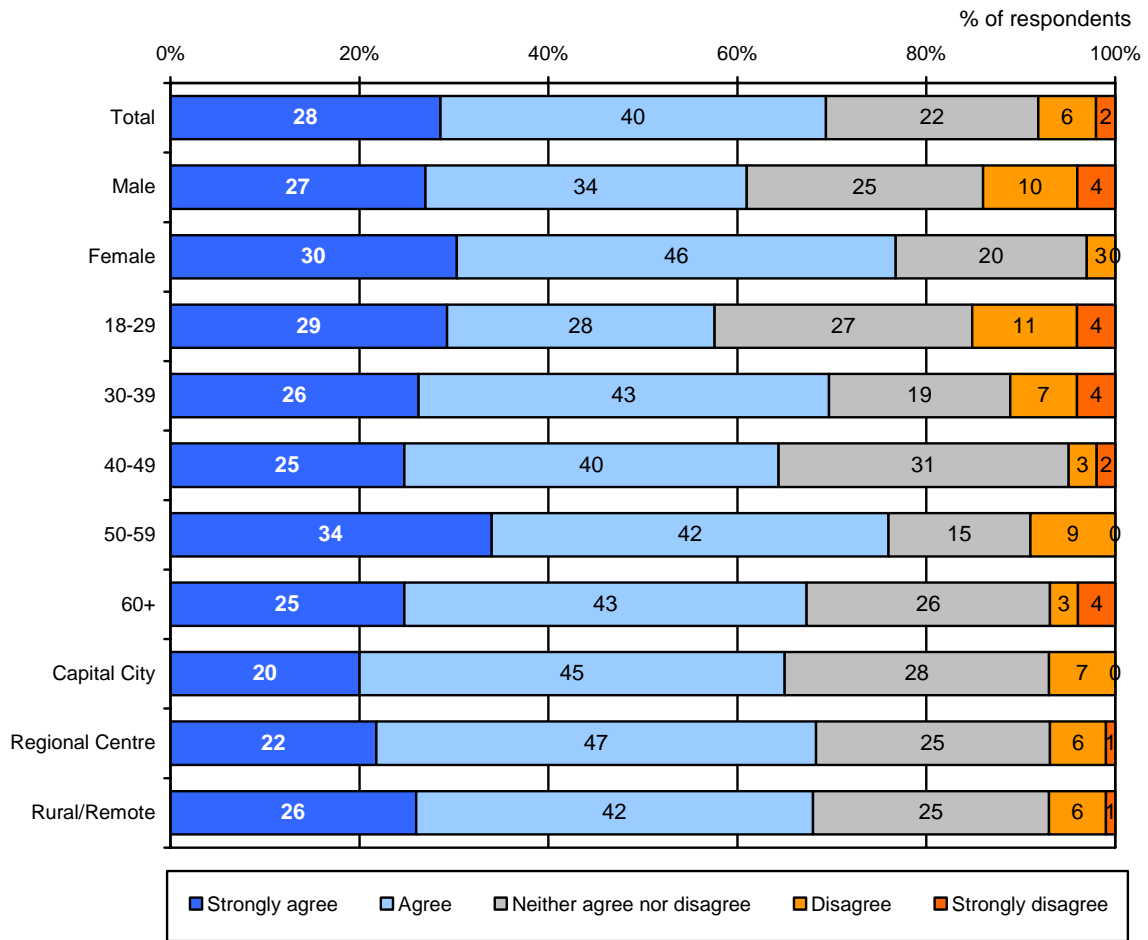


7.6 Extended tables: Indigenous Identity

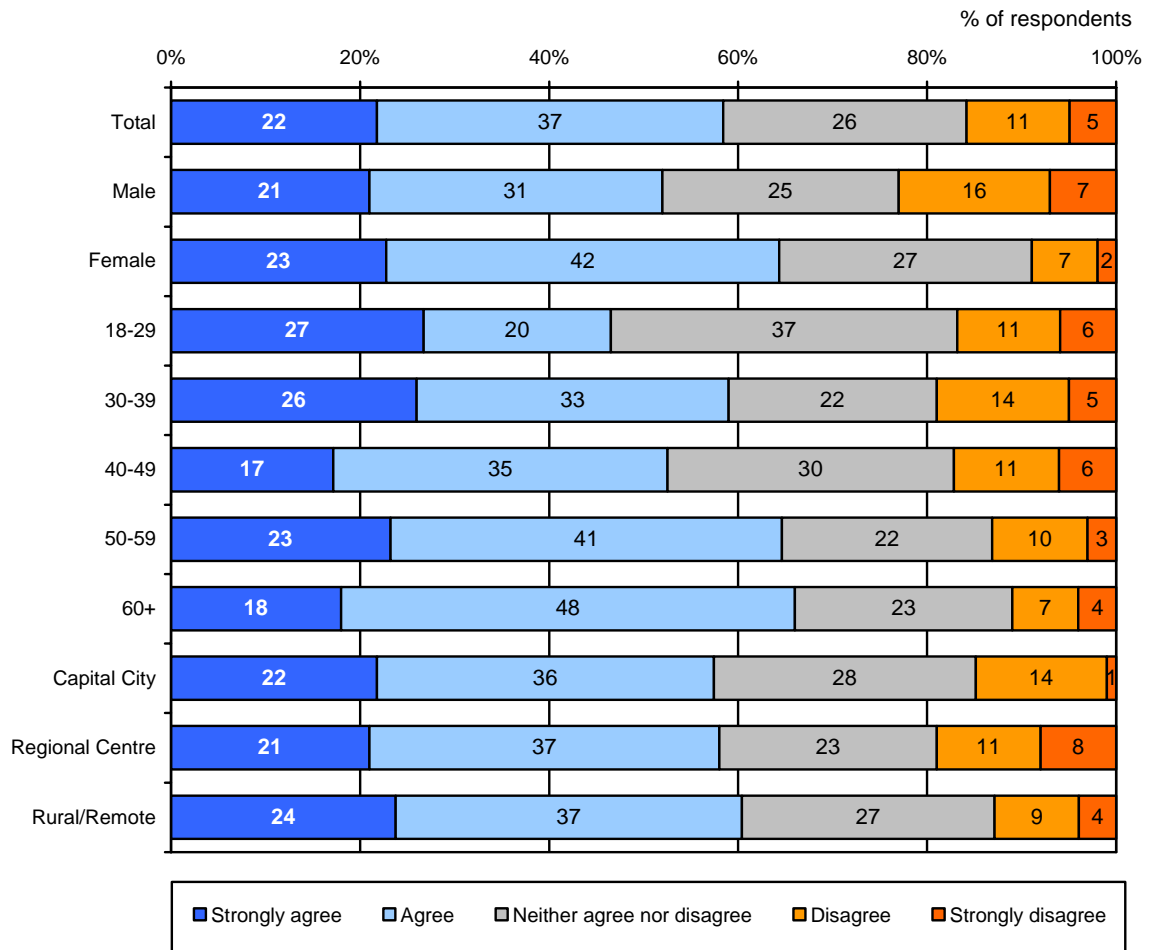
Statement *Connection to their traditional lands is an important part of an Indigenous person's identity.*



Statement *Indigenous people tend to have close family relationships and feel responsibility for members of their extended family.*

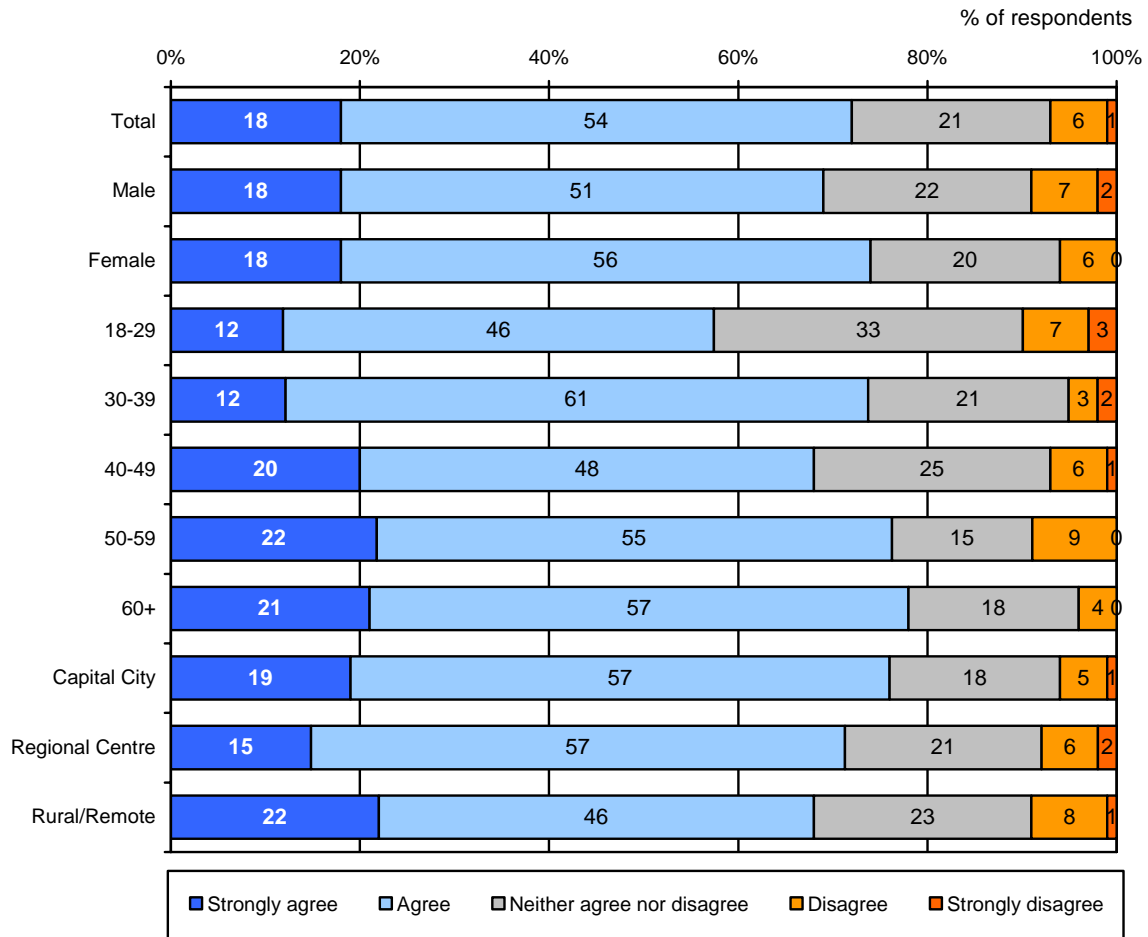


Statement *Indigenous people hold a special place as the first Australians.*

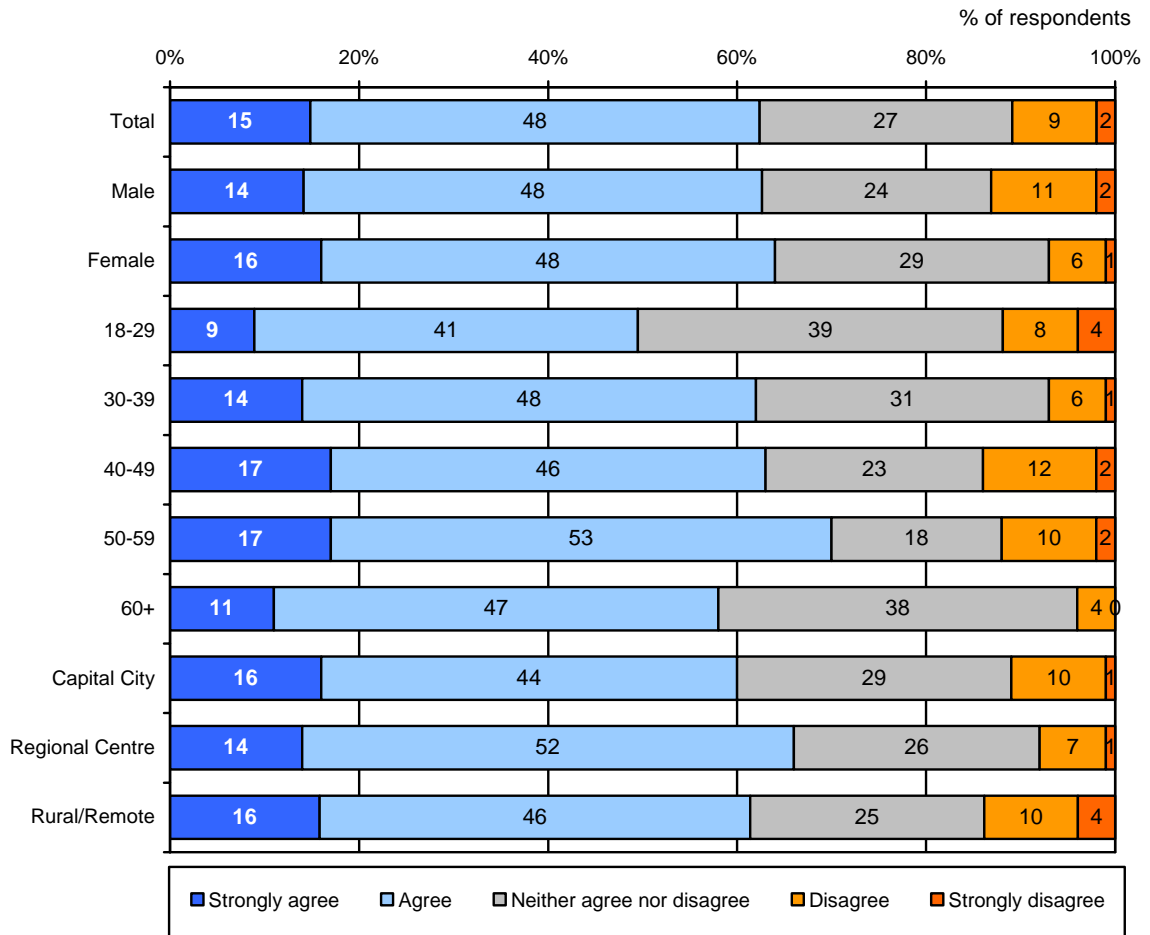


7.7 Extended tables: Uneven playing field

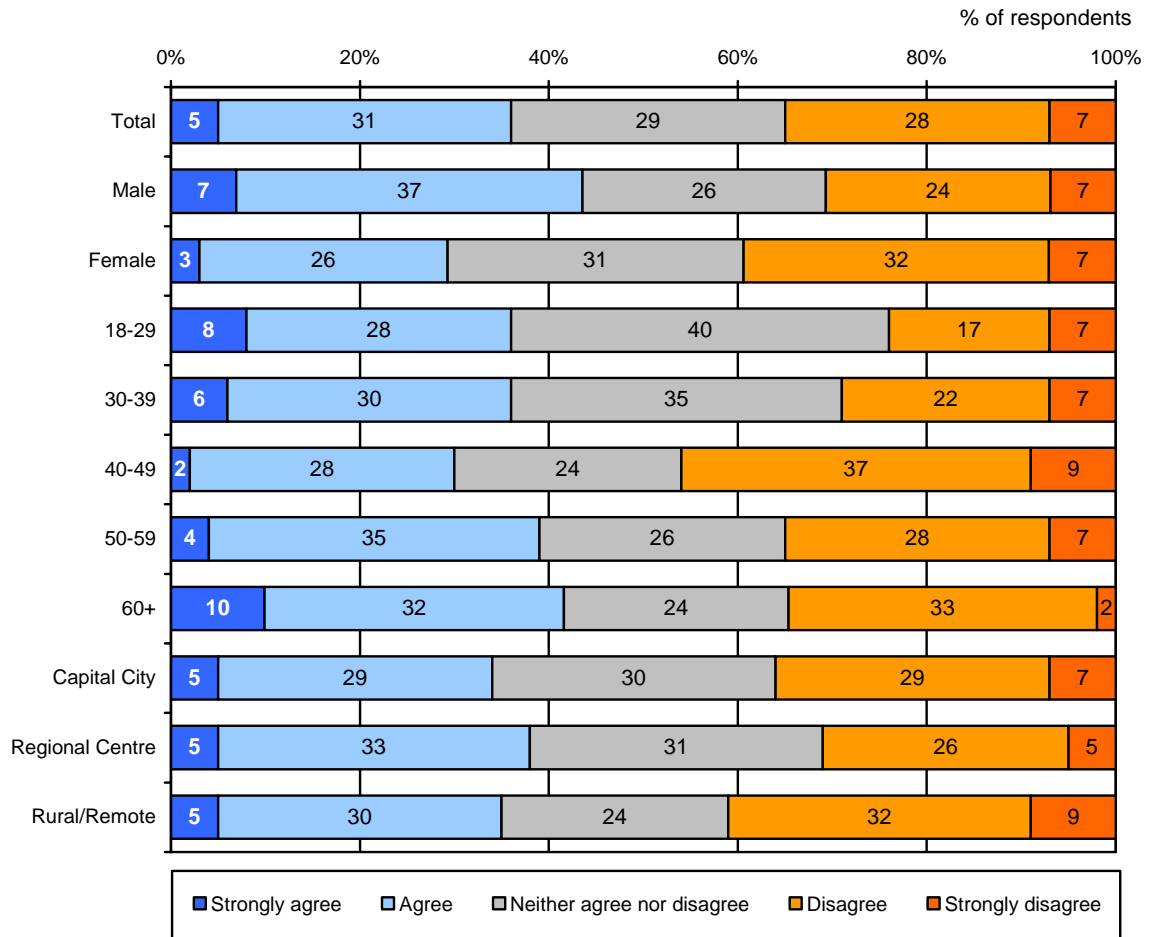
Statement *Some Indigenous people need specific help to reach equality with other Australians.*



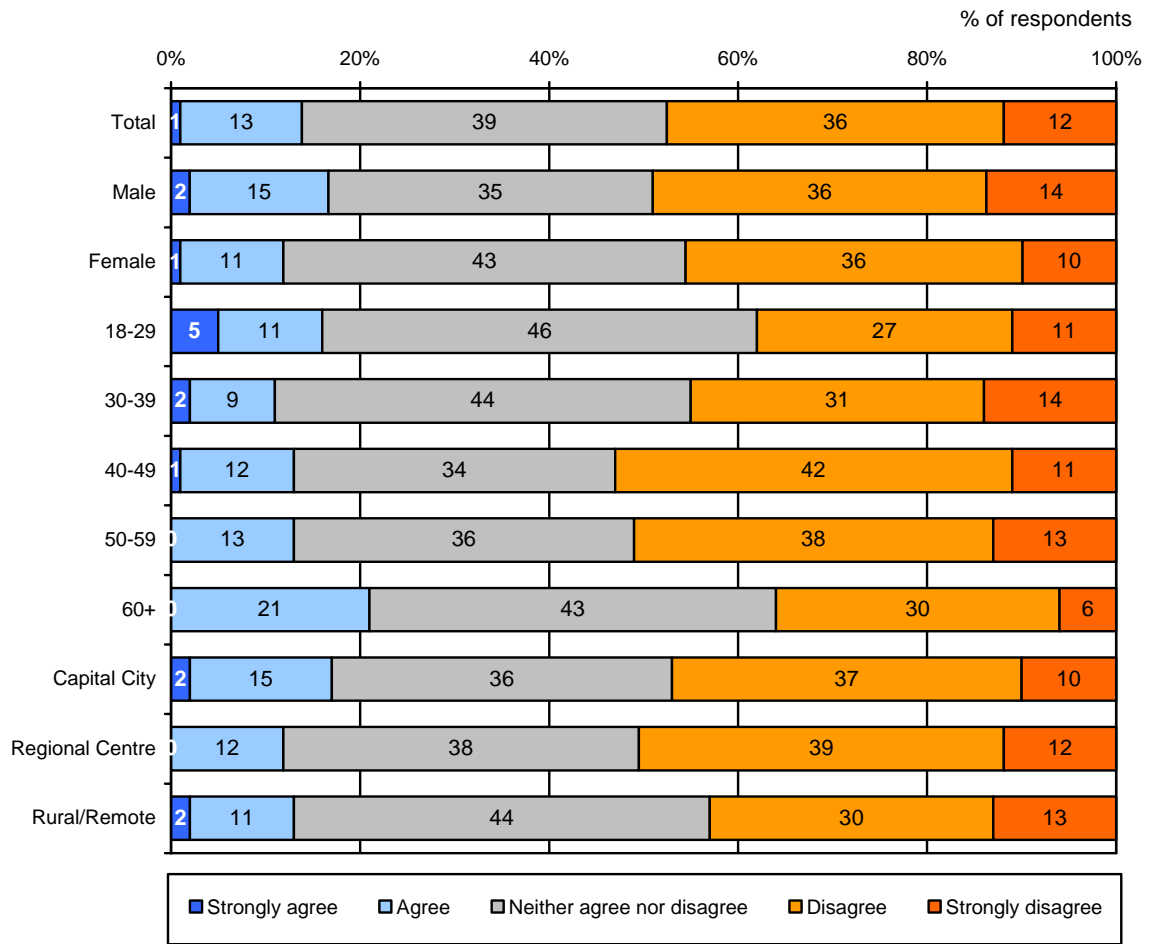
Statement Previous race-based policies continue to affect some Indigenous people today.



Statement *Being born Indigenous makes it harder for an individual to achieve in Australia today.*

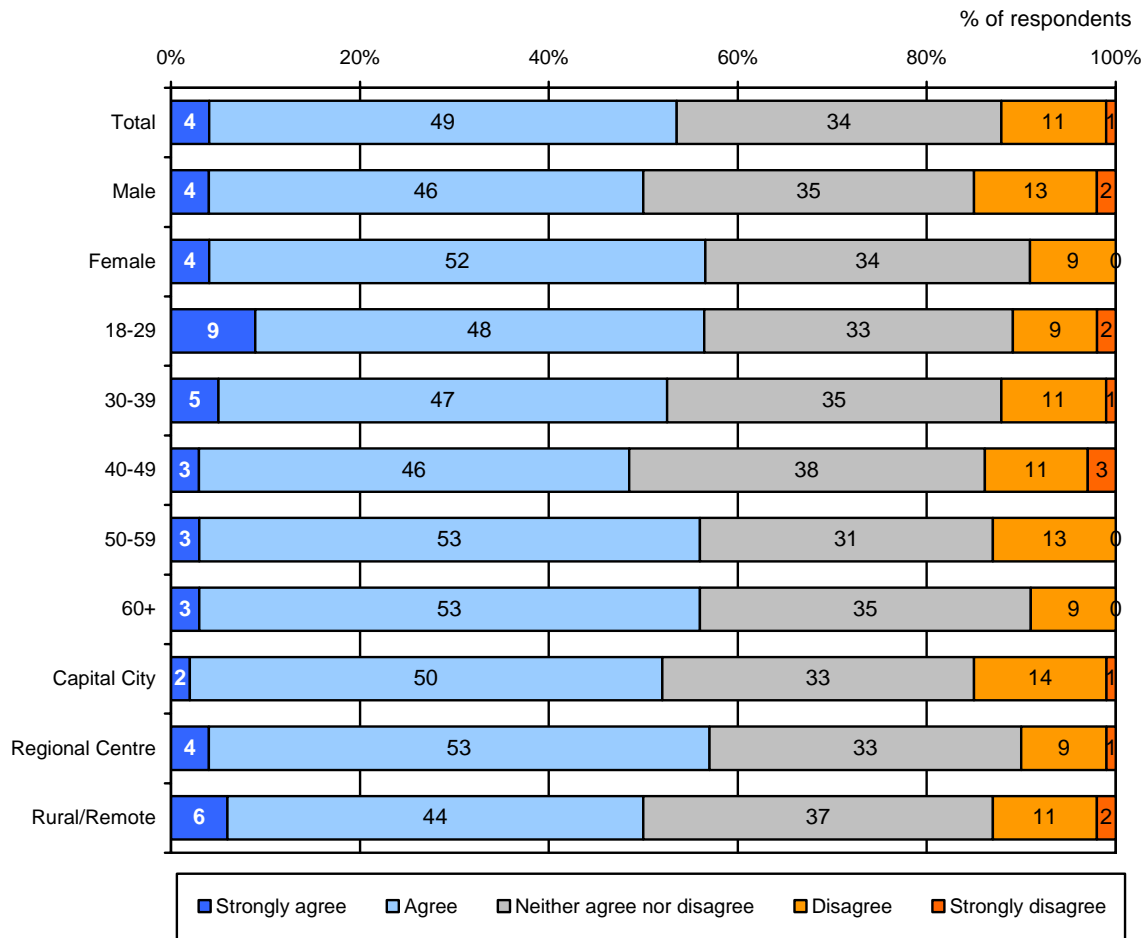


Statement The media presents a balanced view of Indigenous Australia.

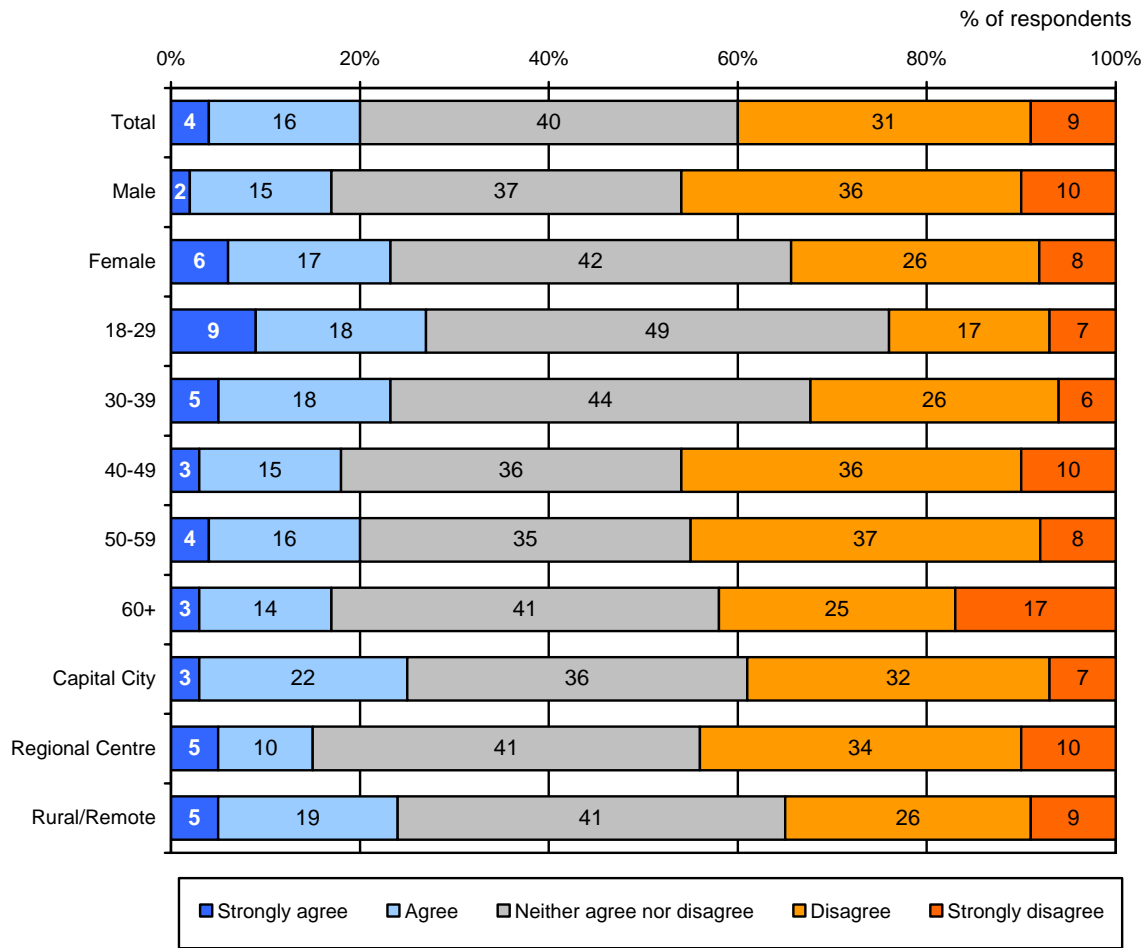


7.8 Extended tables: Actions towards achieving reconciliation

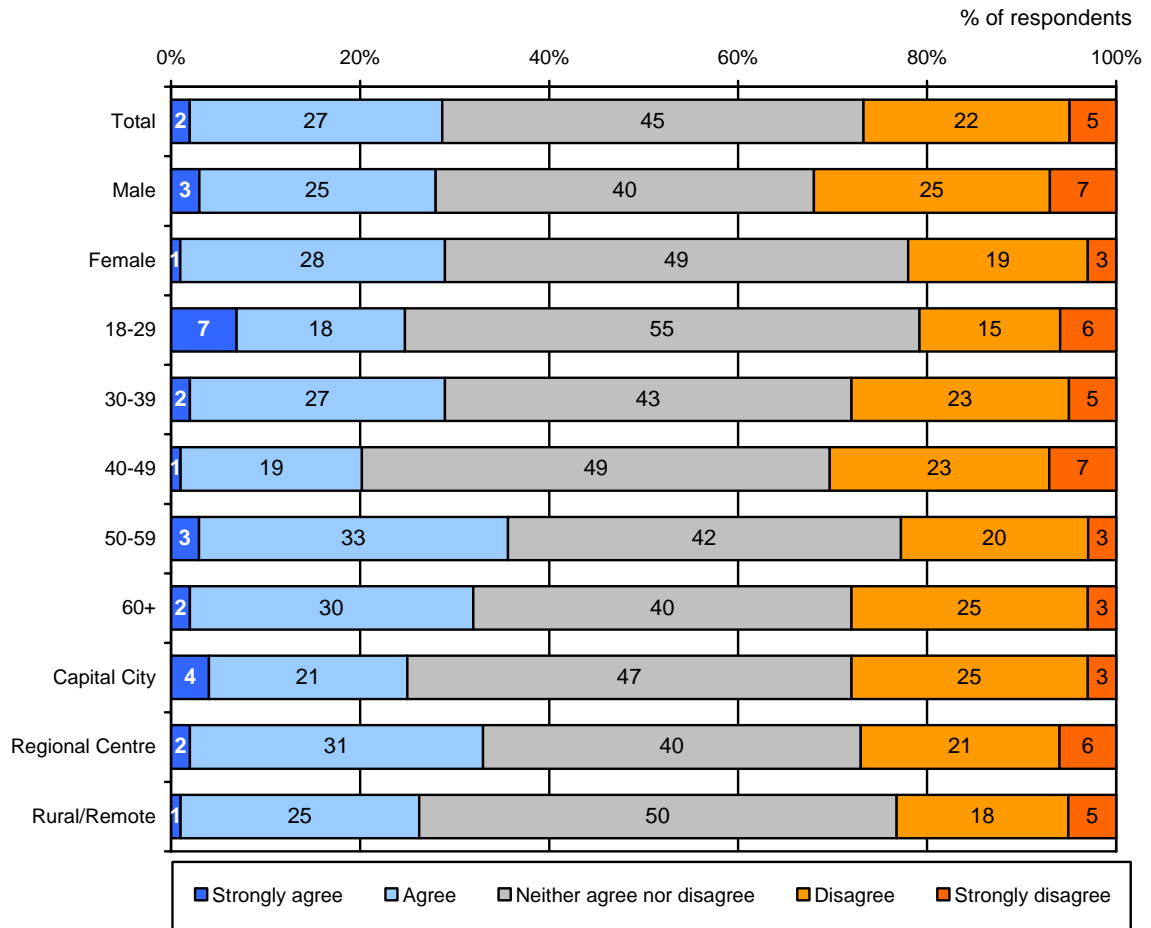
Statement *The relationship between Indigenous people and other Australians is improving.*



Statement *Indigenous people are good at working together to address the problems that confront them.*

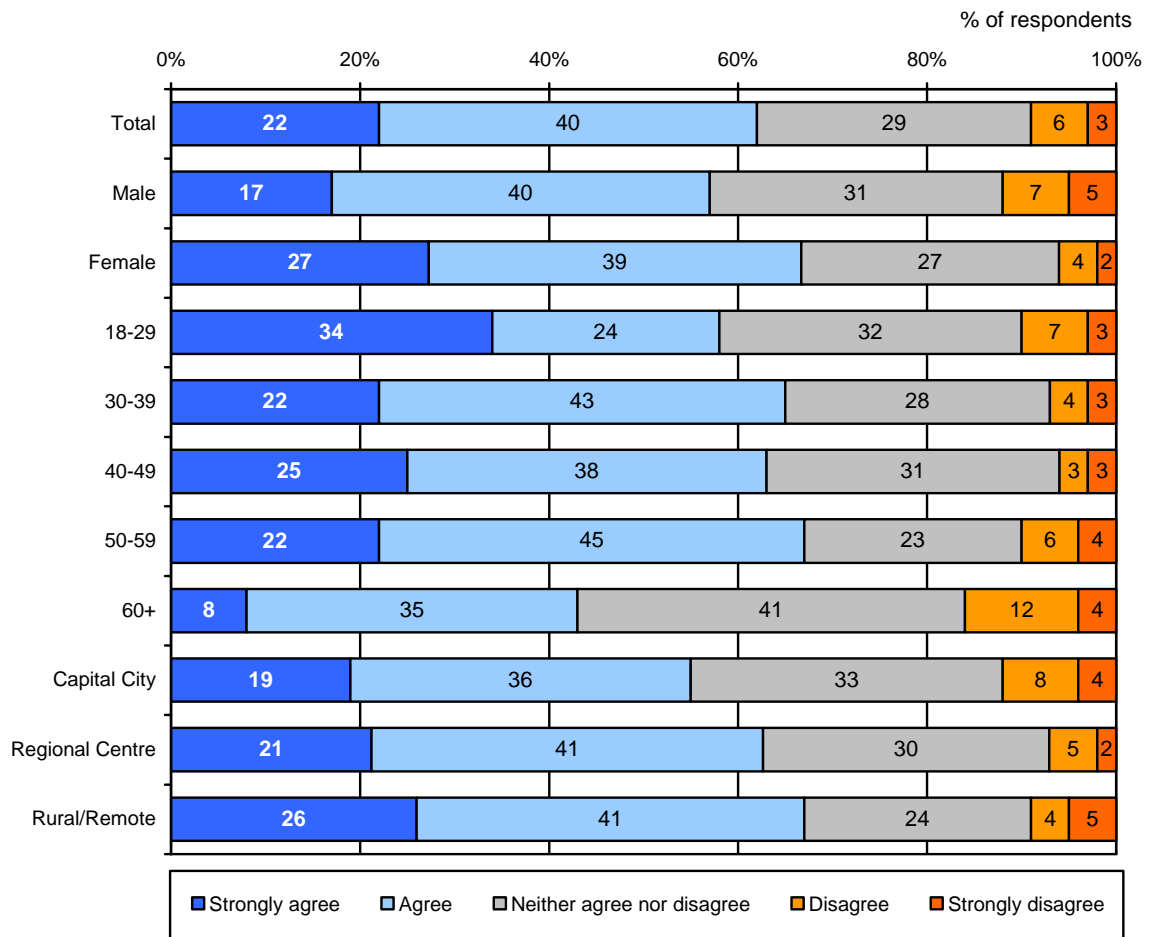


Statement *There is good cooperation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders in Australia.*

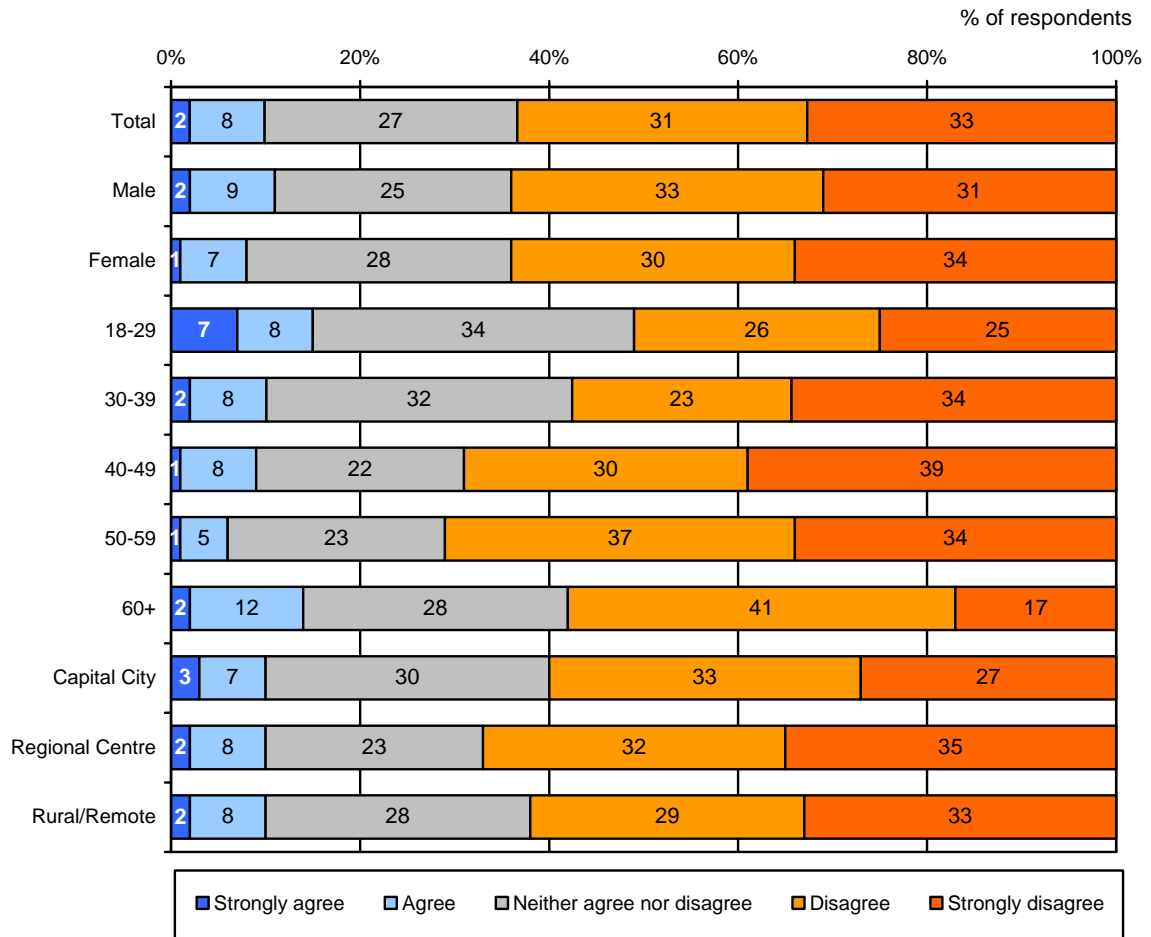


7.9 Extended tables: Feelings about race

Statement *I would feel fine if I had a child who decided to marry an Indigenous person.*

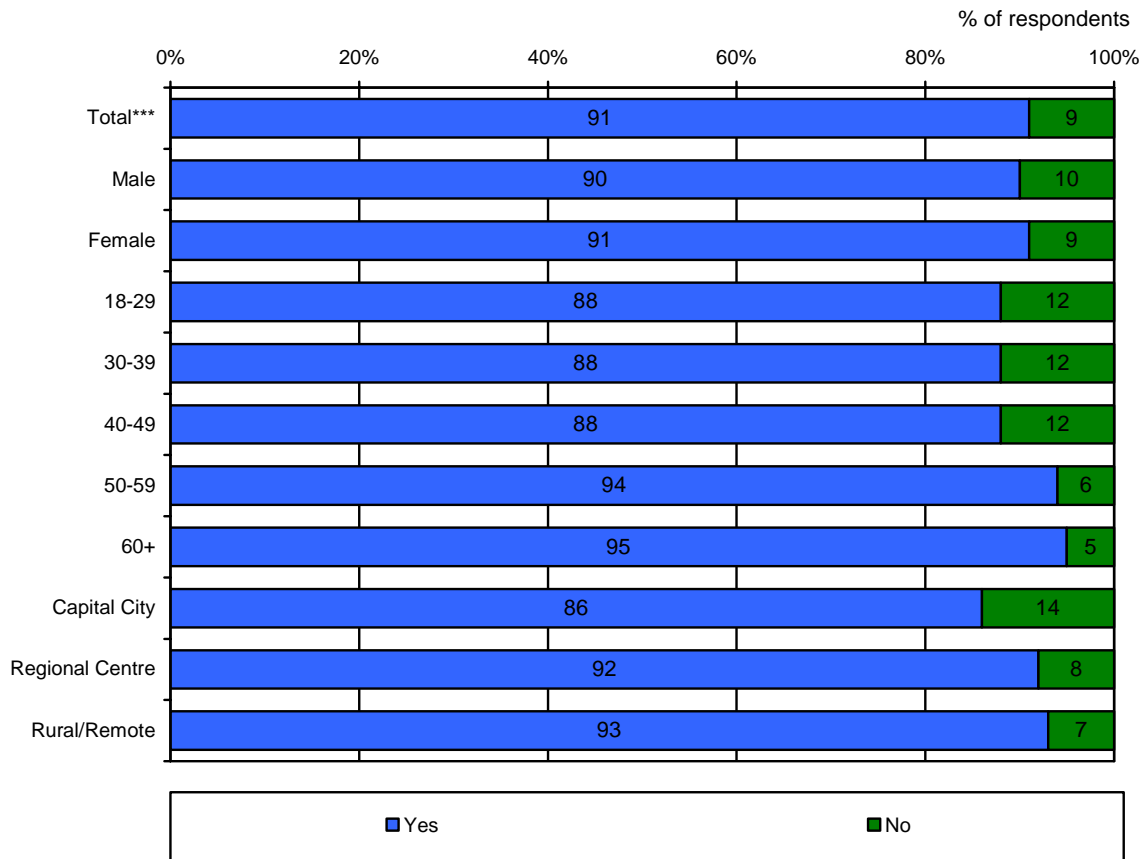


Statement *Non-Indigenous Australians are superior to Indigenous Australians.*

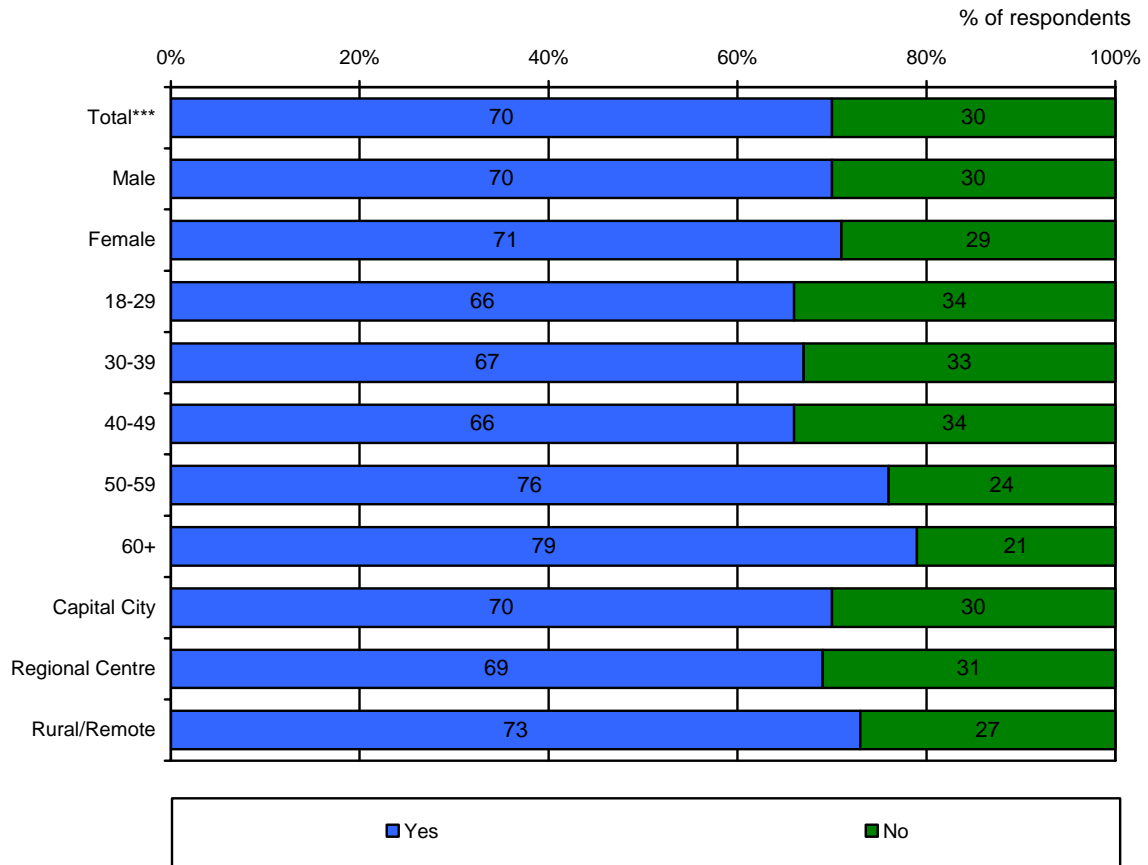


7.10 Extended tables: Indigenous achievement and role models

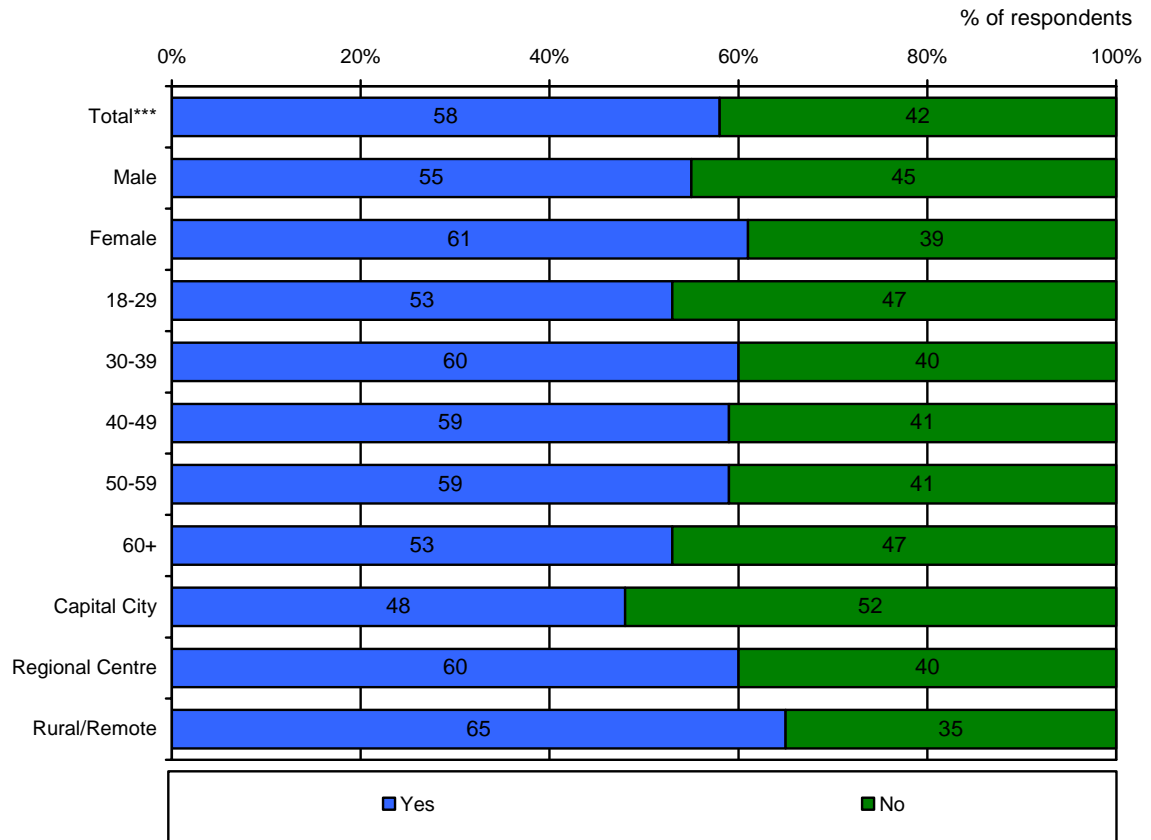
Can you think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in SPORT?



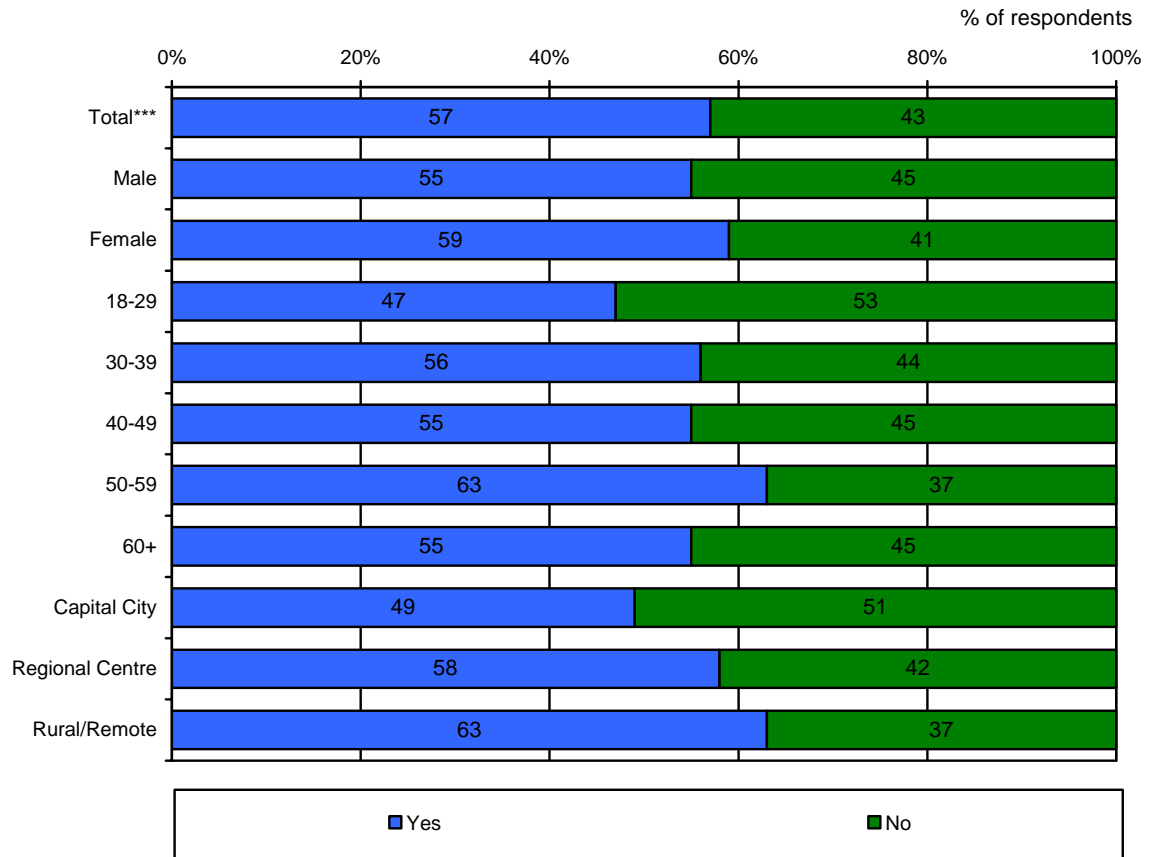
Can you think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in the ARTS?



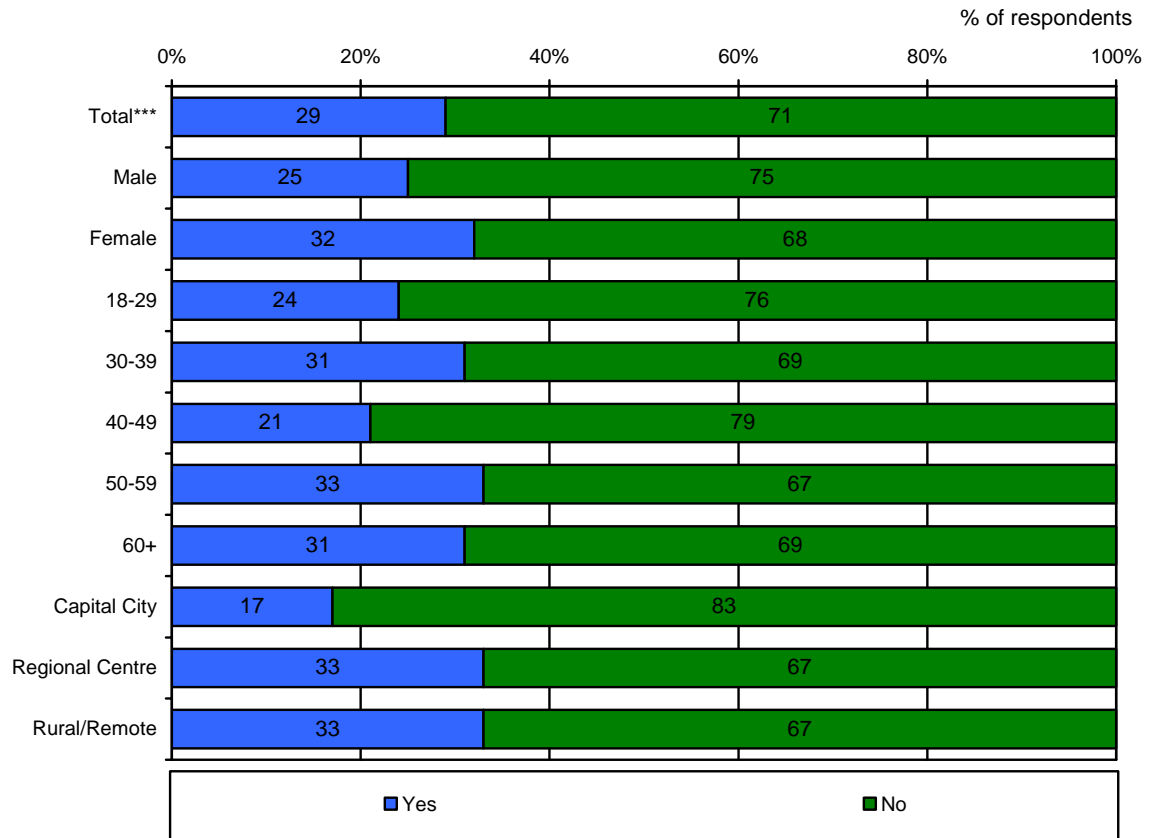
Can you think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in the SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY?



Can you think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in the POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT?

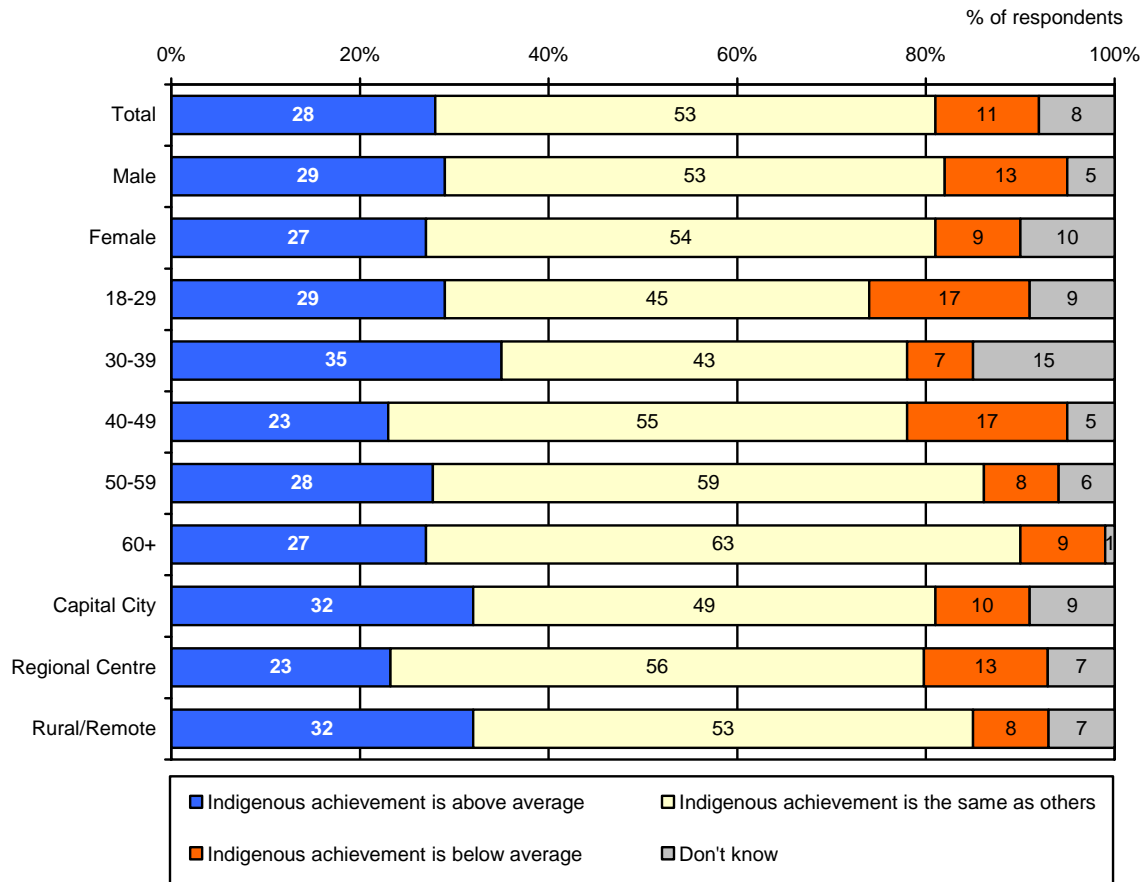


Can you think of Indigenous people who set an example for others in the BUSINESS?

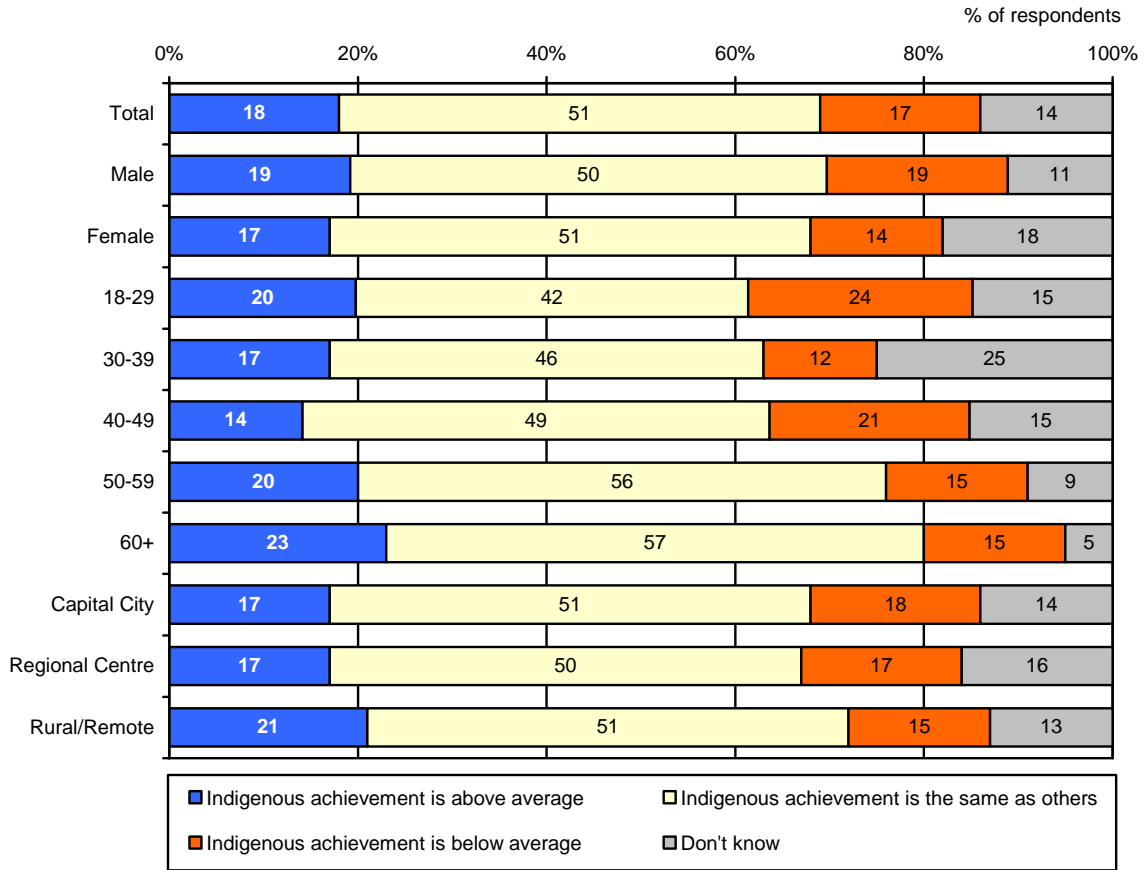


7.11 Extended tables: Comparing achievement among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

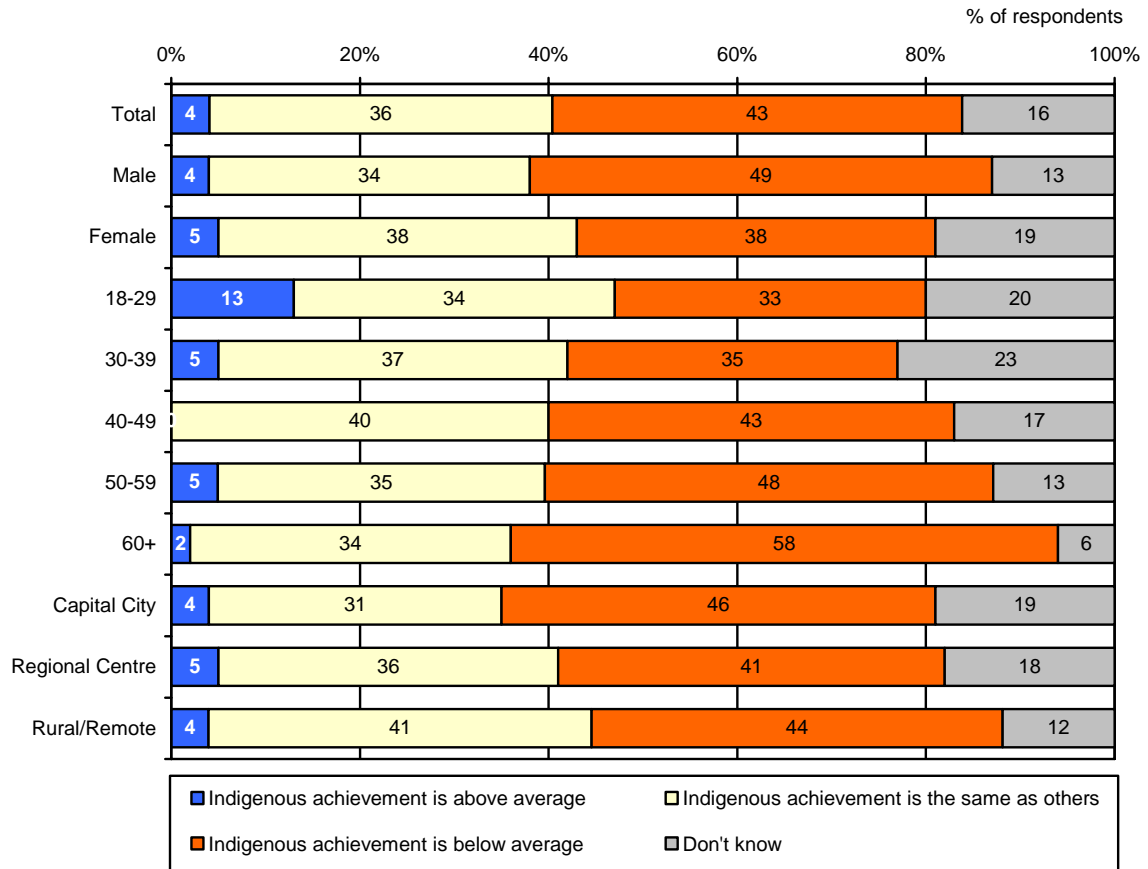
How would you describe the achievements of Indigenous people compared to the rest of the Australian population in SPORT?



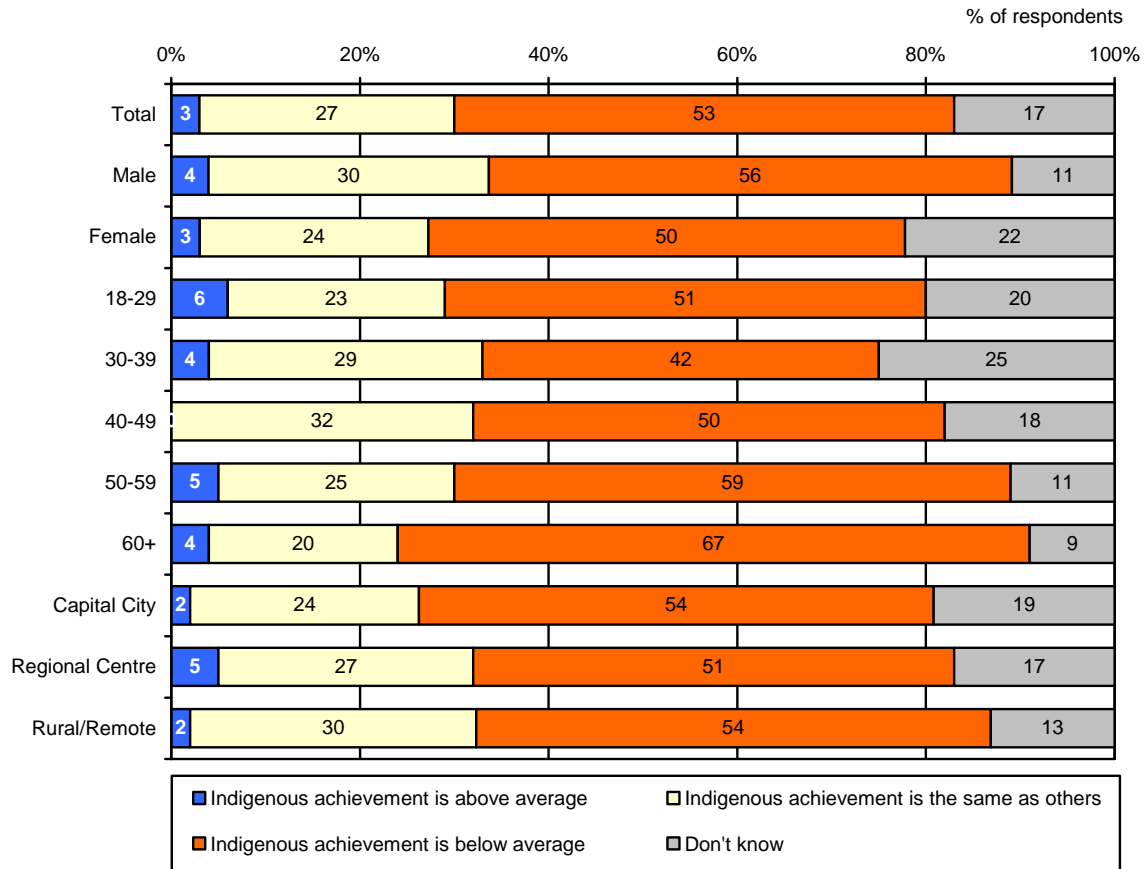
How would you describe the achievements of Indigenous people compared to the rest of the Australian population in THE ARTS?



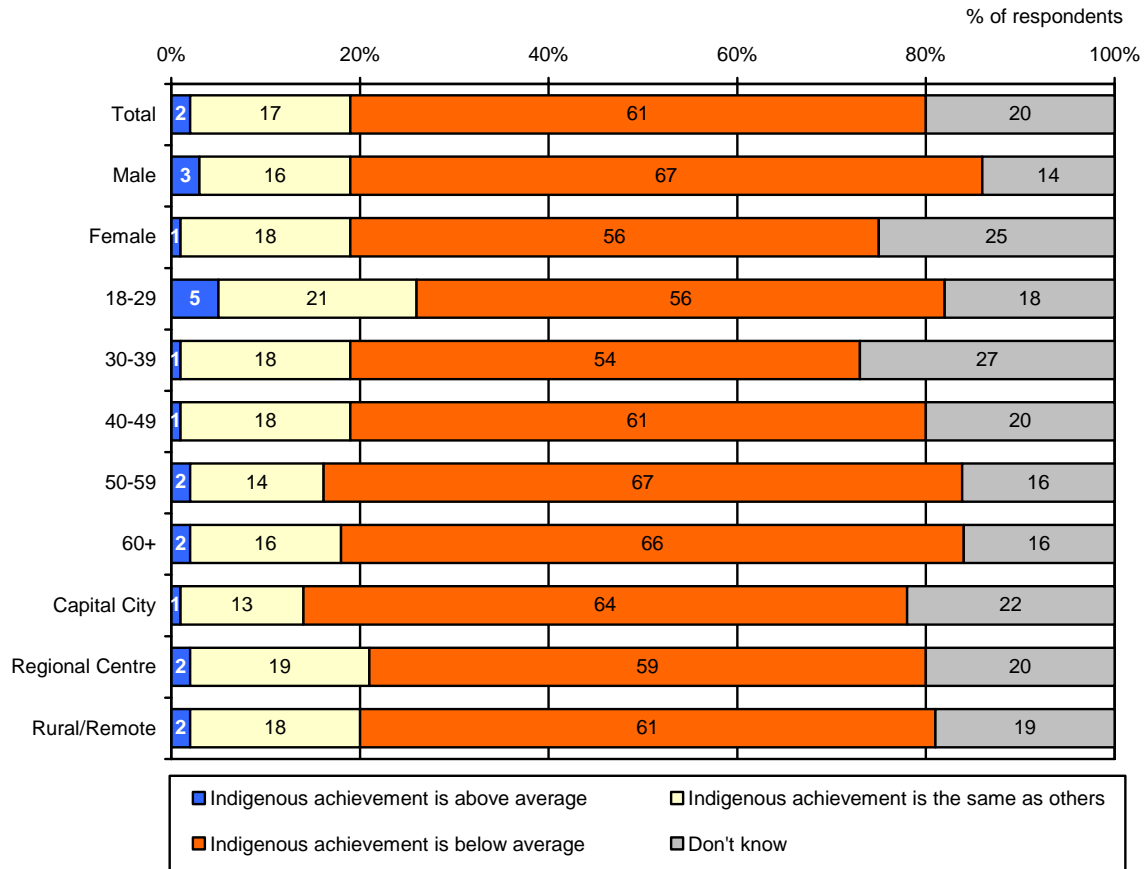
How would you describe the achievements of Indigenous people compared to the rest of the Australian population in SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY?



How would you describe the achievements of Indigenous people compared to the rest of the Australian population in POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT?

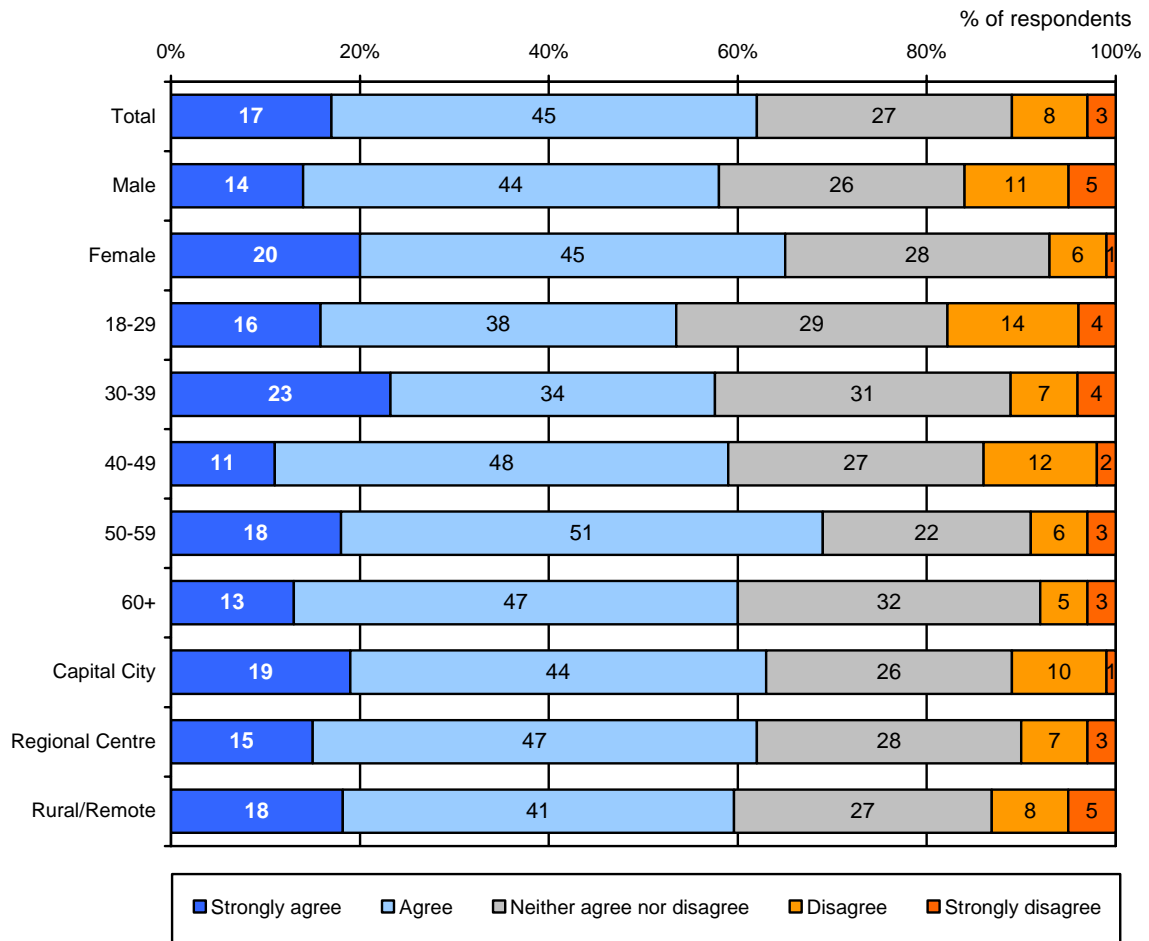


How would you describe the achievements of Indigenous people compared to the rest of the Australian population in BUSINESS?

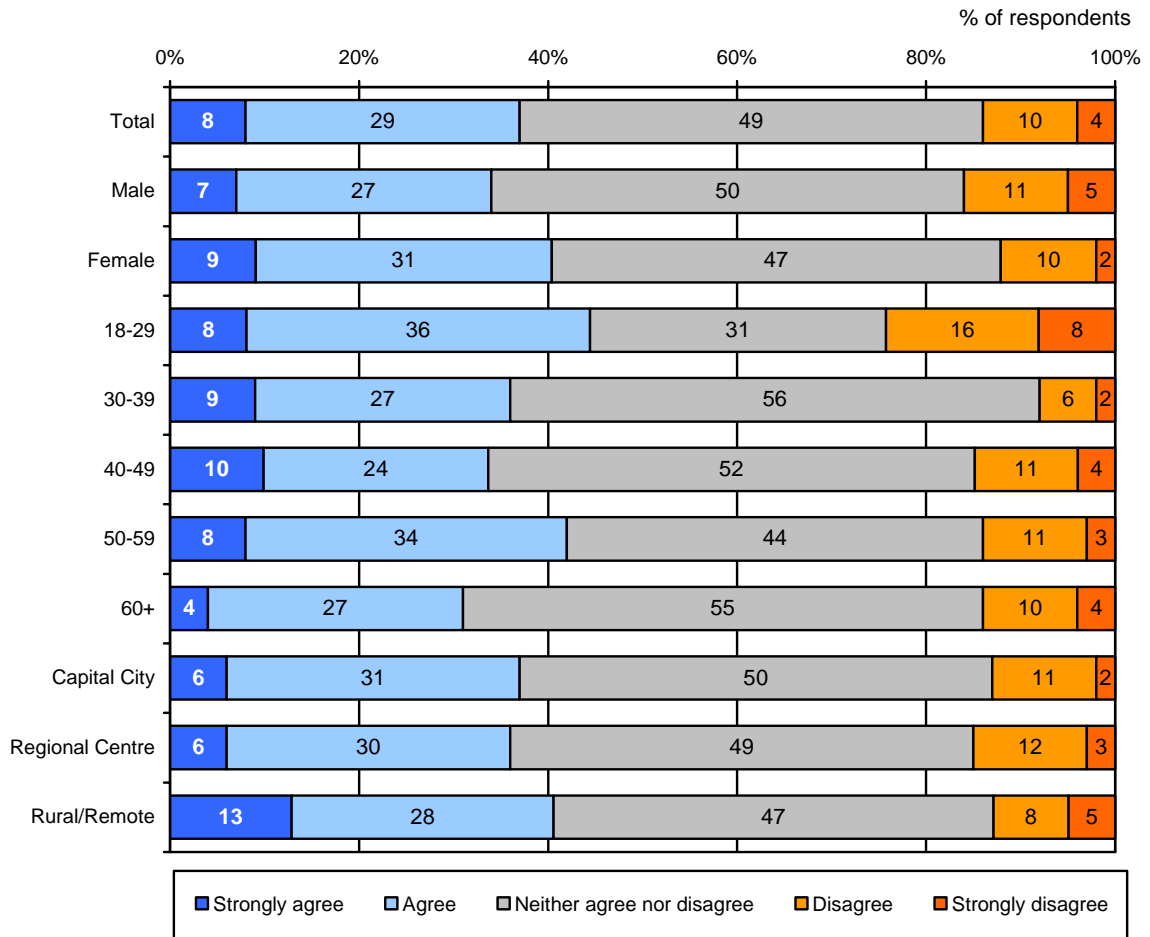


7.12 Extended tables: Desire for personal and government action

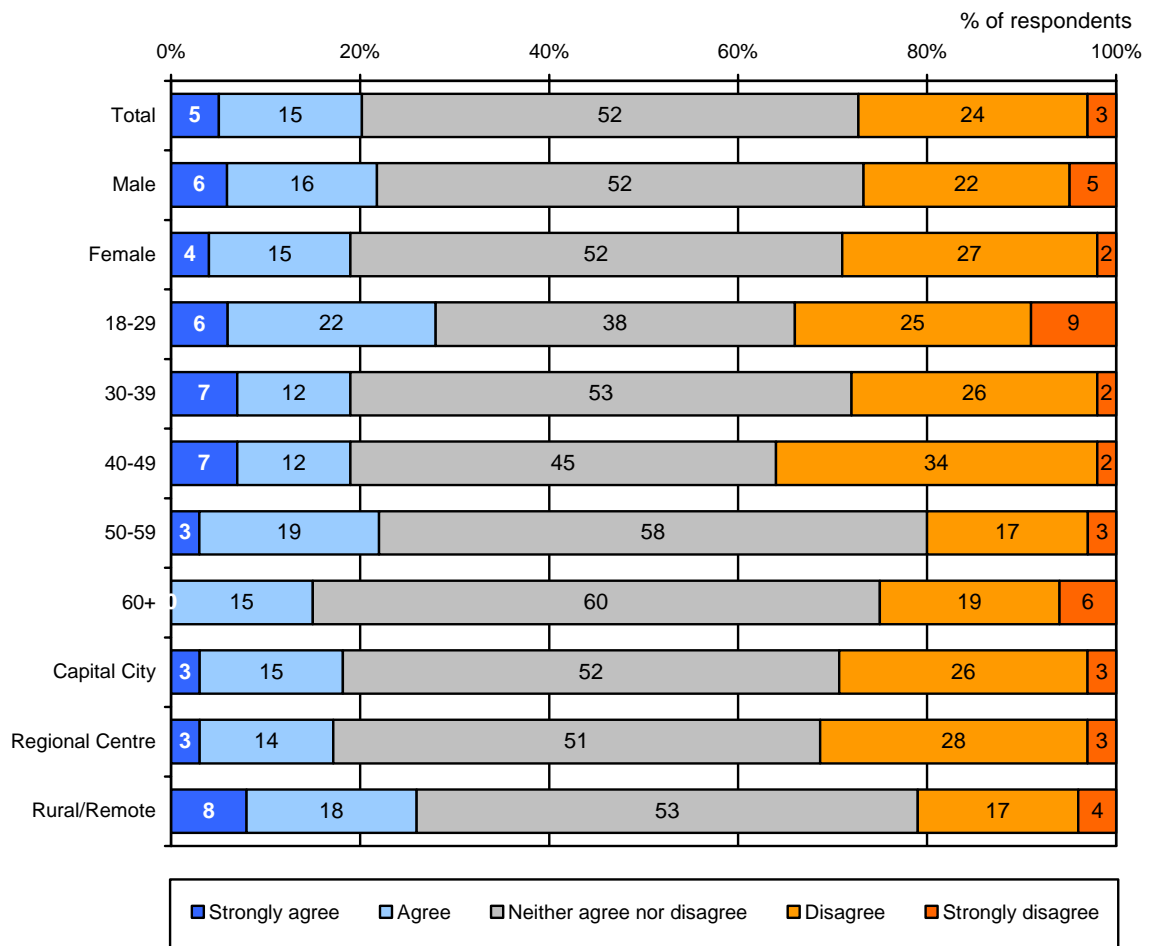
Statement *The government should put measures in place to help Indigenous people in specific ways.*



Statement I would like to do something to help disadvantaged Indigenous people.

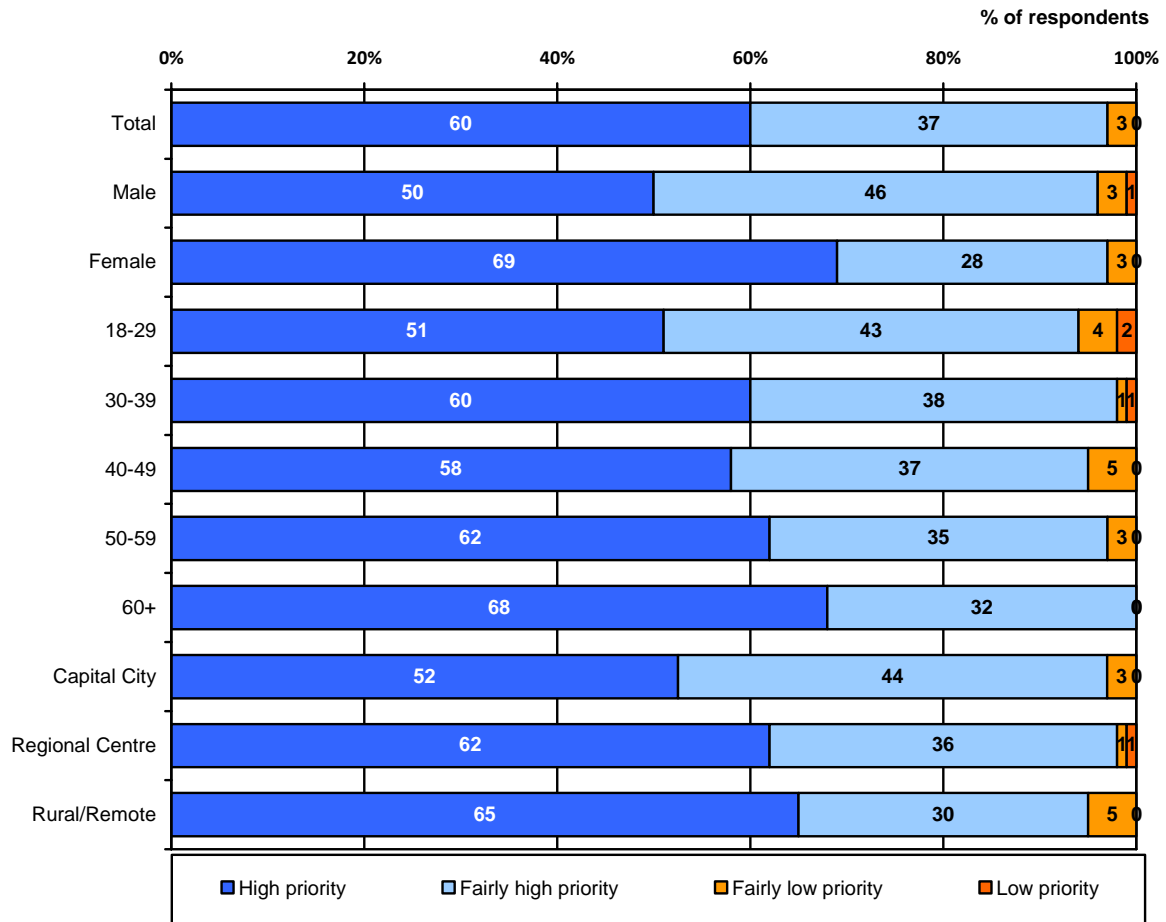


Statement *I know what I can do to help disadvantaged Indigenous people.*

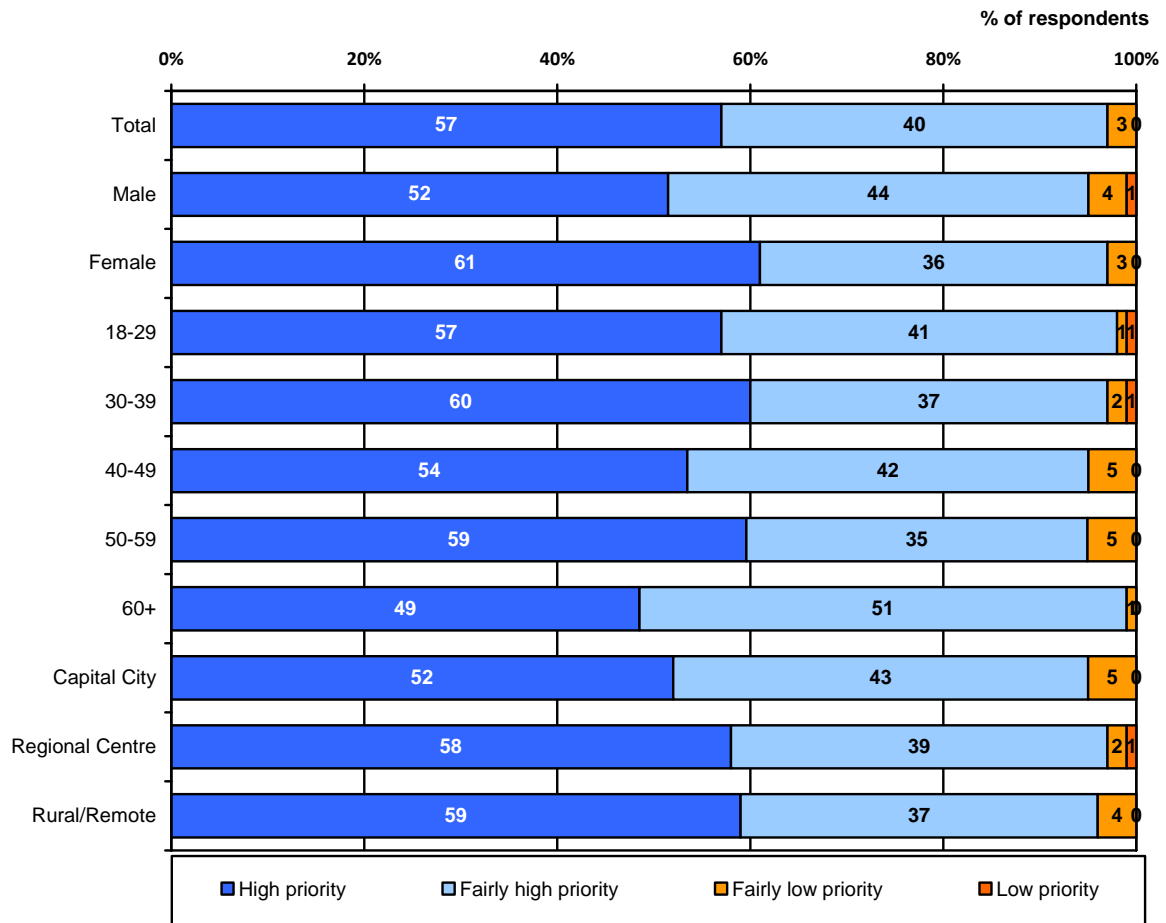


7.13 Extended tables: Prioritising measures to address Indigenous disadvantage

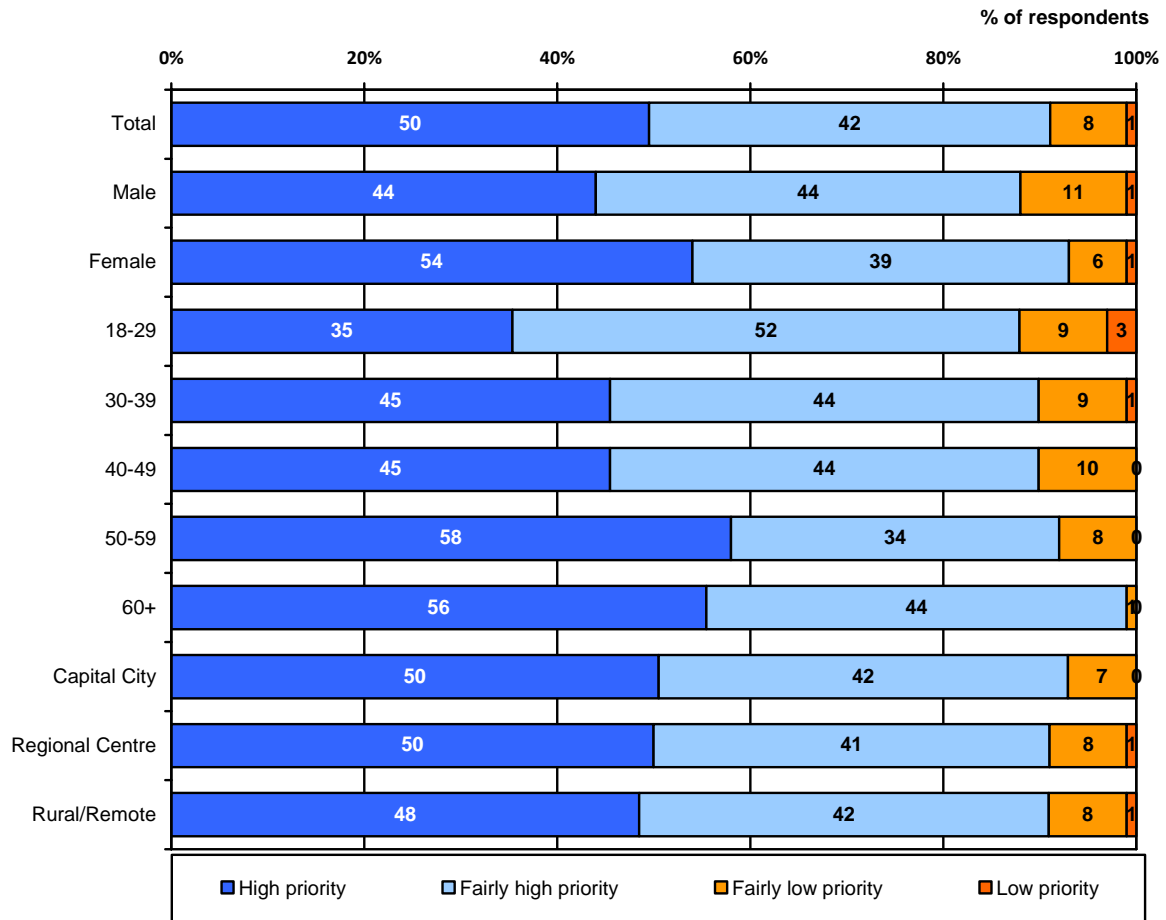
What level of priority do you believe the government should give to measures to reach equality in HEALTH?



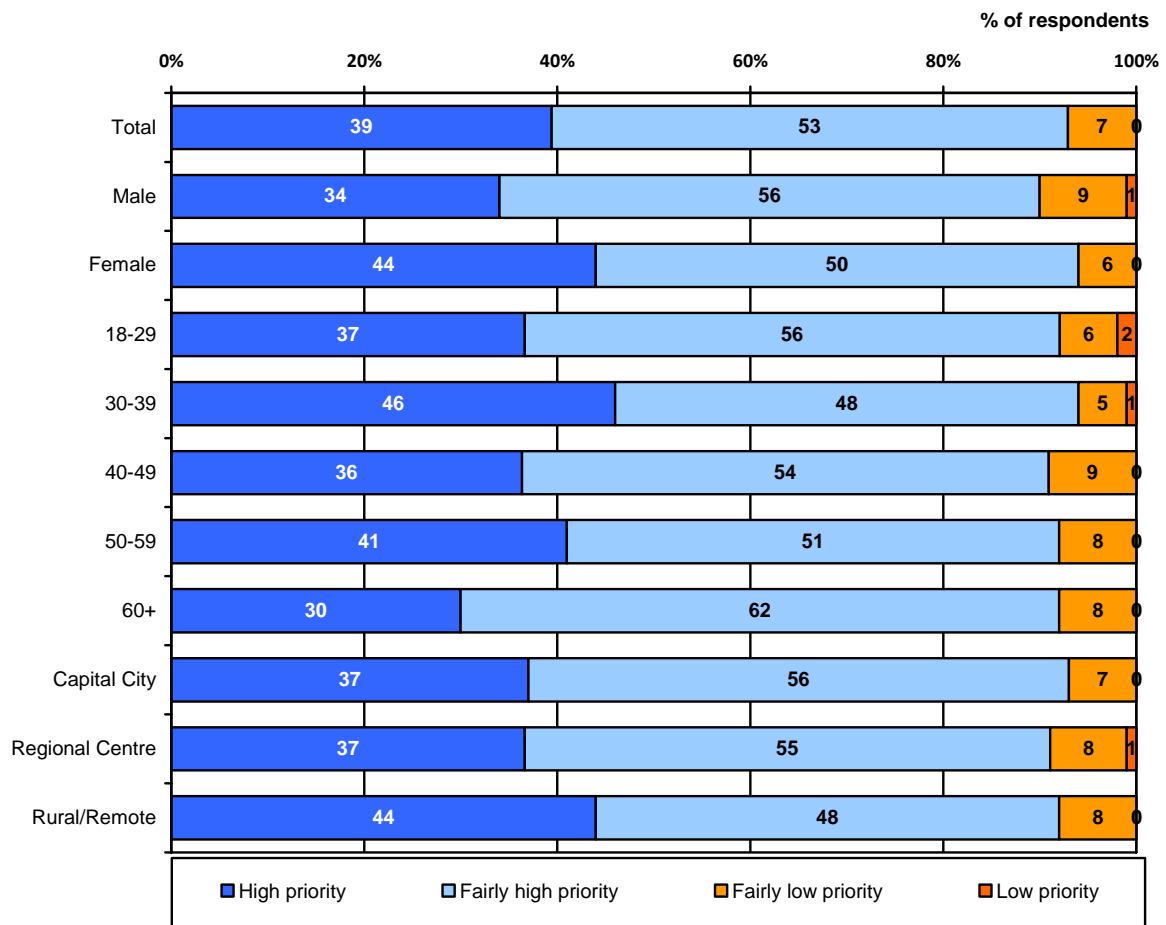
What level of priority do you believe the government should give to measures to reach equality in EDUCATION?



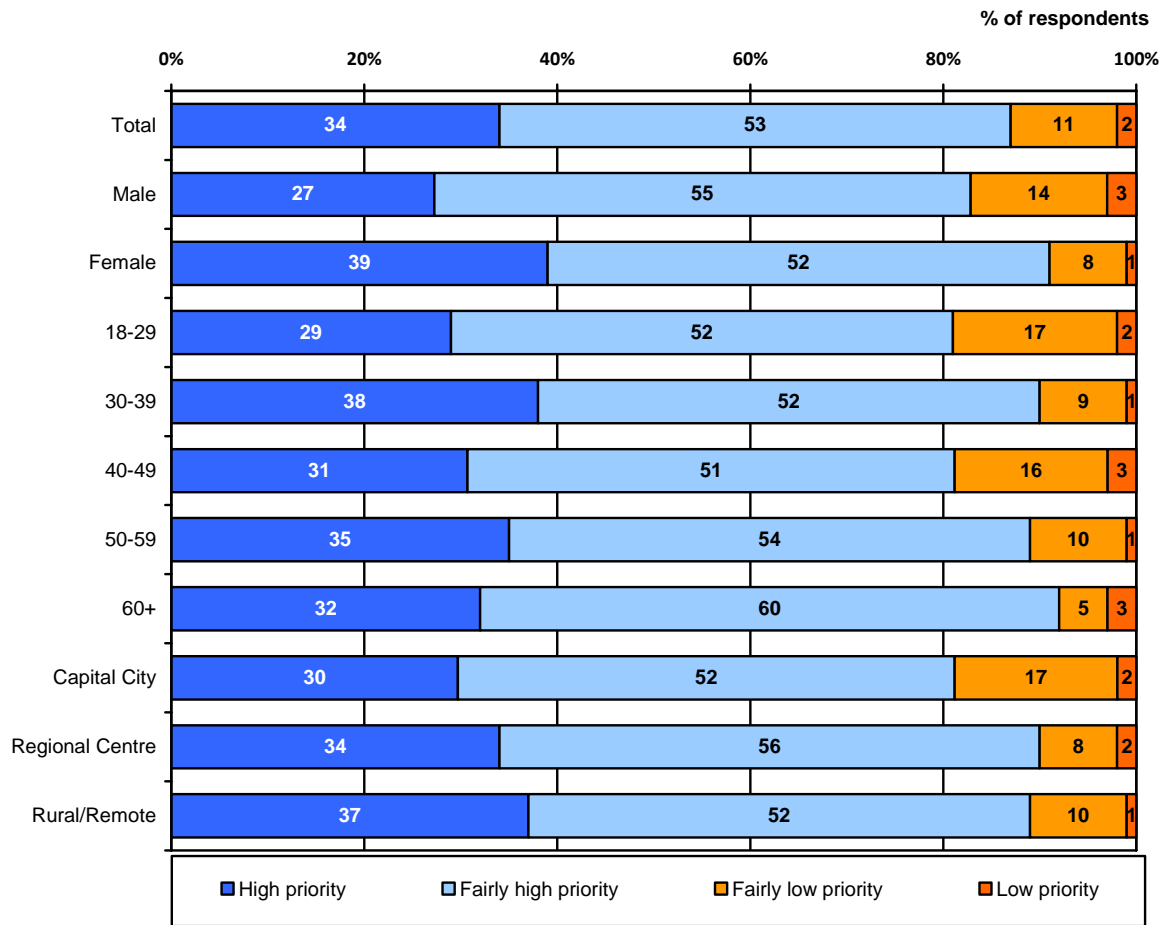
What level of priority do you believe the government should give to measures to reach equality in LIFE EXPECTANCY?



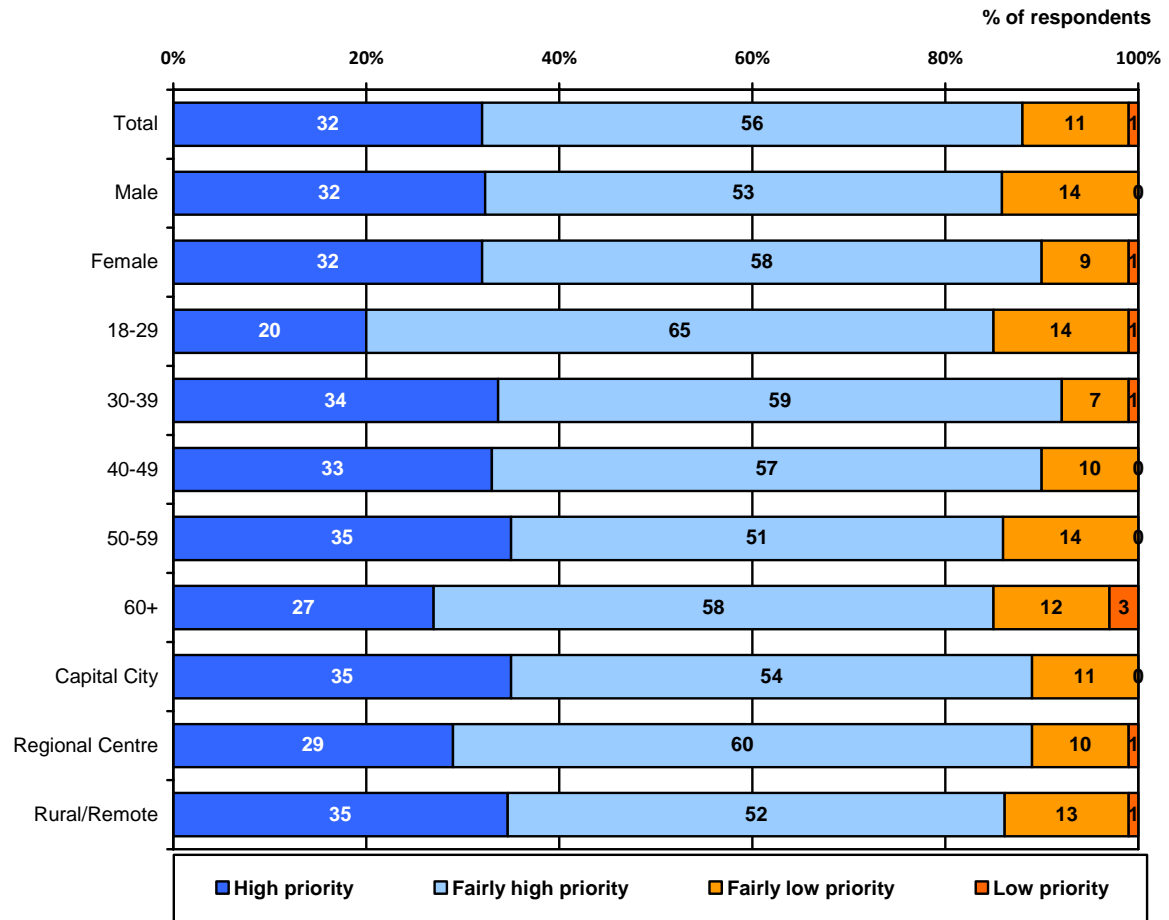
What level of priority do you believe the government should give to measures to reach equality in EMPLOYMENT?



What level of priority do you believe the government should give to measures to reach equality in HOUSING?

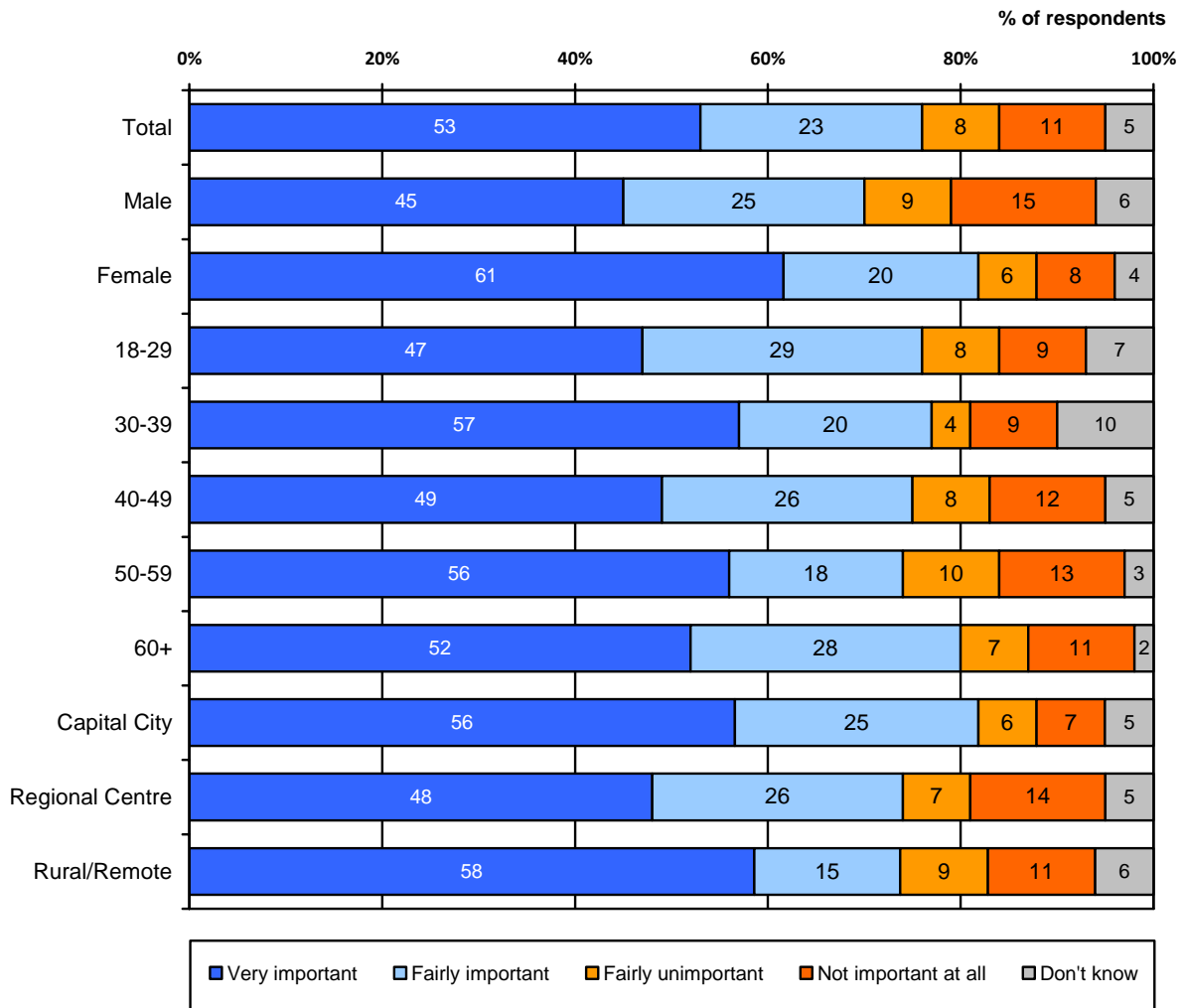


What level of priority do you believe the government should give to measures to help develop LEADERSHIP SKILLS?

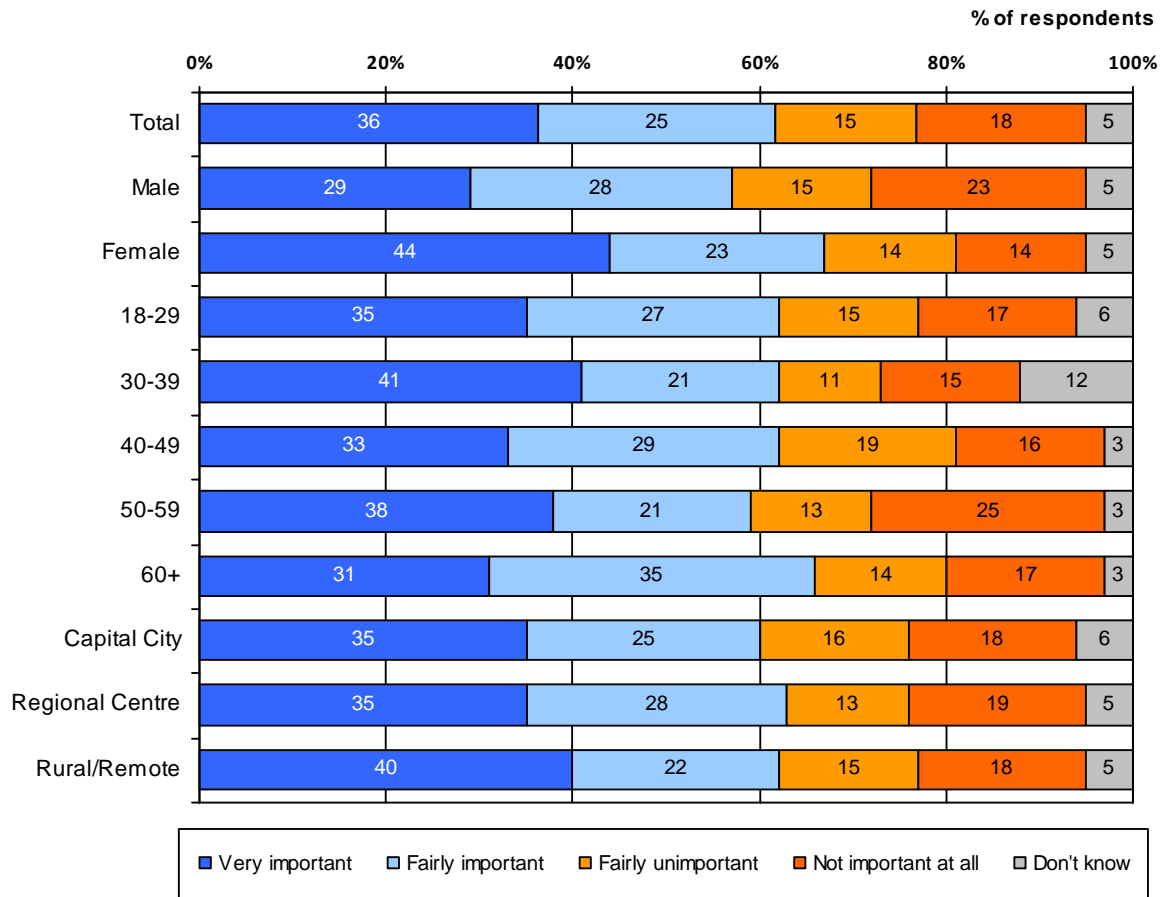


7.14 Extended tables: The importance of the apology

How important was the apology to Indigenous people?



How important was the apology to relations between Indigenous and other Australians?



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