

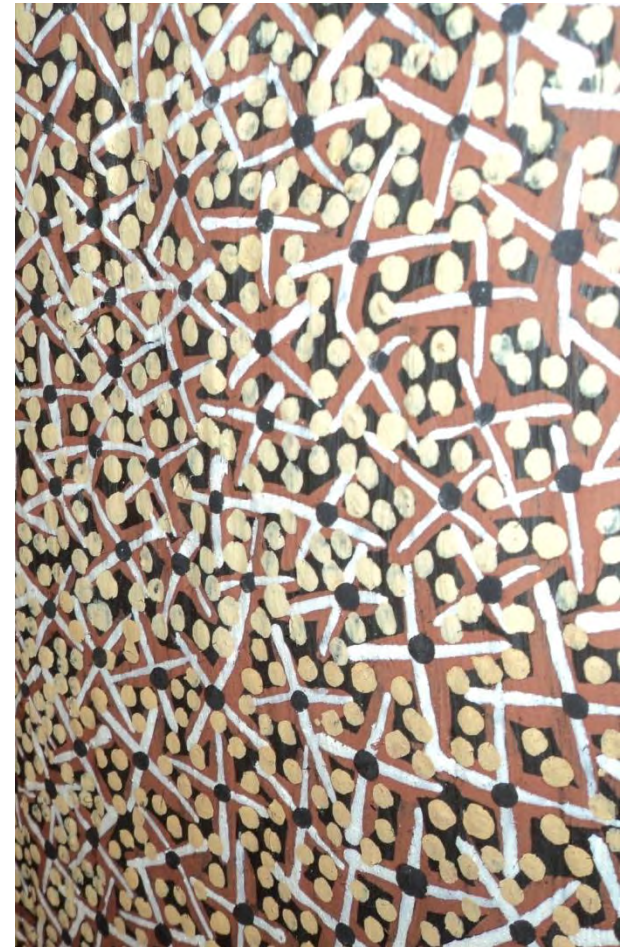
# 2020 AUSTRALIAN RECONCILIATION BAROMETER



**RECONCILIATION**  
AUSTRALIA

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# Introduction & background

Reconciliation Australia (RA) first launched the Reconciliation Barometer research project in February 2007.

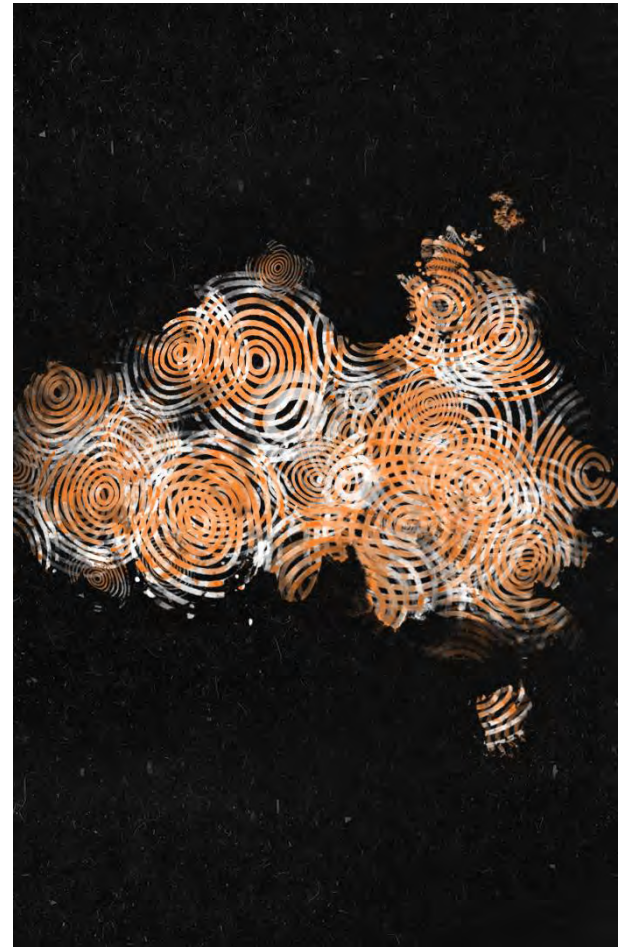
The objective of the research was to develop a tool to measure the progress of reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians.

The first study was completed in 2008, with subsequent biennial tracking waves since then.

While improvements in Indigenous health, employment, housing and education are essential for the reconciliation process, equally important, and at the core of reconciliation, is the relationship between the First Australians and those who have come since.

If we are to improve the relationship and create an environment which provides equal life chances for all Australians we must also measure, track and understand the underlying values and perceptions that shape this relationship and influence our social interactions and structures.

This is the only study of this nature undertaken in Australia. The inspiration for the Barometer came from South Africa, where the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation developed the '*South African Reconciliation Barometer*'.



# Introduction & background (cont.)

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer (ARB) delves into the heart of our nation to identify the attitudes Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians hold about each other, and about reconciliation in this country. It also attempts to shed some light on opportunities for moving the relationship forward, towards a greater reconciled, shared unity.

Reconciliation cannot be seen as a single issue or agenda.

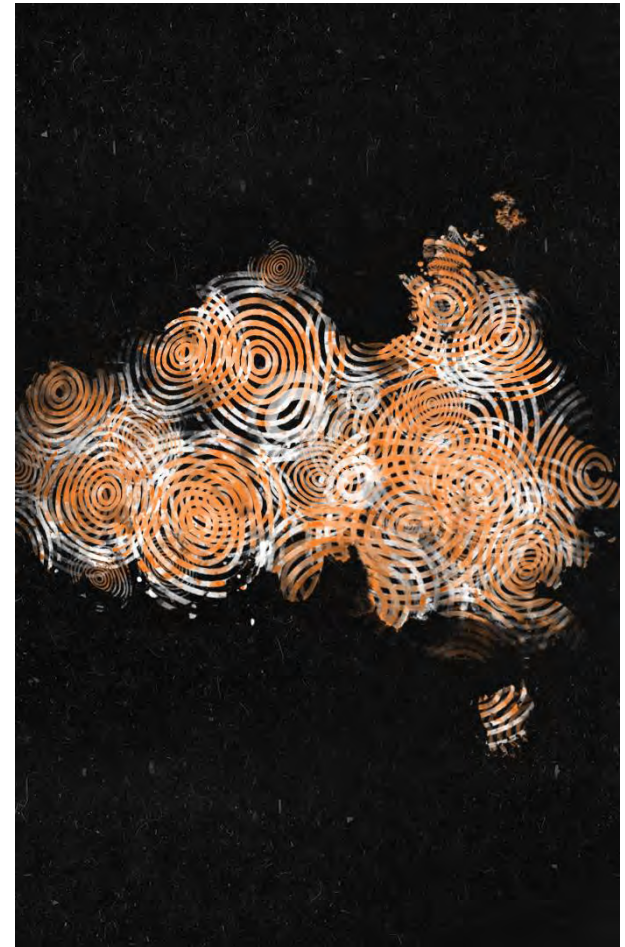
Reconciliation Australia undertook a review of reconciliation in Australia and internationally and, as a result of this work, five critical dimensions that together represent a holistic and comprehensive picture of reconciliation were identified.

Since 2014, the Barometer has aligned closely with RA's Reconciliation Outcomes Framework, to focus on 5 key dimensions:

- ▶ Historical Acceptance, Race Relations, Equality and Equity, Institutional Integrity and Unity.

Using these five dimensions, we can get a clear picture of what is required to achieve reconciliation in Australia.

These dimensions do not exist in isolation. They are interrelated and Australia can only achieve full reconciliation if we make progress in all five areas.



# RA's Reconciliation Outcomes framework: The 5 key dimensions of the ARB

## **Historical Acceptance**

We can't change the past but we can learn from it. We can make amends and we can ensure mistakes are never repeated. Our nation's past is reflected in the present and unless we can heal historical wounds, they will continue to play out in our country's future.

## **Race Relations**

At the heart of reconciliation is the relationship between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. To achieve reconciliation, we need to develop strong relationships built on trust and respect, and that are free of racism.

## **Equality and Equity**

Reconciliation is more likely to progress when Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians participate equally and equitably in all areas of life. To make this happen we have to close the gaps in life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and achieve universal recognition and respect for the distinctive collective rights and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## **Institutional Integrity**

The active support of reconciliation by the nation's political, business and community structures.

## **Unity**

In a reconciled Australia, national unity means Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, histories and cultures are valued and recognised as part of a shared national identity.

The 2020 Australian Reconciliation Barometer report presents some key findings from this year's survey, followed by full findings under each Dimension, as well as survey trends, state and territory breakdowns and tracking (where possible) since 2014.

As the Methodology overview explains, **this latest ARB report includes data and tracking from 2014 only**. For results and tracking of 2008-2012 data, please refer to past ARB reports, especially 2018 when 10-year tracking was included. However, owing to sampling and questionnaire changes, comparison of results prior to 2014 with today should be approached with some caution.

# Methodology

## 2008-12 Barometers

### **Original ARB development**

To create the first Australian Reconciliation Barometer, the first part of the research task was to identify different factors that contributed to advancing reconciliation. Several phases of both quantitative and qualitative research were used in the process of identifying and defining these factors. In May 2007 RA commissioned a quantitative survey among 1,024 people to determine the underlying values of Australians towards Indigenous issues and reconciliation. This survey was further enhanced by a series of in-depth interviews with 14 key Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders. From this, 29 hypotheses of reconciliation were identified, forming the basis of a discussion guide for further study.

In November-December 2007, a series of 12 forums were conducted with Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in Shepparton, Rockhampton and Sydney. The forums explored the 29 hypotheses of reconciliation and this resulted in the development of 31 “outcomes” for reconciliation, that is: actions or conditions that will advance reconciliation.

These outcomes were used to inform the development of the original Barometer questionnaire. This first Barometer survey was conducted in May 2008, May 2010 and July 2012.

### **General Community Sample 2008-2012**

For the 2008-2012 studies, the general community sample of Australians was selected and weighted to be representative in terms of age, gender and location (state and urban/regional splits), as per Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census data. Participants were recruited from a professional market and social research panel and they received a small incentive for their participation.

1007 Australian residents aged 18+ completed the survey in May 2008, 1220 completed the survey in April 2010, and 1012 completed the survey in July 2012. These sample sizes are associated with margins of error of +/- 3.1%, +/- 2.8% and +/- 3.1% at the 95% confidence interval respectively.

### **Indigenous Sample 2008-2012**

The 2008-2012 surveys among Indigenous respondents involved recruitment through Indigenous networks across Australia, with an open invitation distributed by email and hosted on the RA website. This targeted approach was taken due to the relatively small proportion of Indigenous Australians within established research panels, and the Australian population overall. A sample of 617 Indigenous Australians completed the survey between 25-30 June 2008, while 704 Indigenous Australians completed it in 12-29 April 2010, and 516 completed it in July 2012. These sample sizes are associated with margins of error of +/- 4%, +/- 3.7% and +/- 4.3% respectively.

Gaining a truly representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians is difficult because of a number of geographical and socioeconomic factors. Accounting for these factors was beyond the scope of the research, and it was acknowledged that the sample of Indigenous people (recruited via Indigenous networks) may not have been truly representative of the overall Indigenous population. The data was weighted according to Indigenous demographic data (age/gender and location) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census, to try and ensure it was as representative as possible.

# Methodology

## 2014-2020 Barometer

### **ARB reviewed and refined**

In early 2014, following a tender process, Polity Research & Consulting was selected to conduct the ARB survey, and to assist RA and its stakeholders with a comprehensive review of the Barometer survey. In May 2014, RA convened a Roundtable workshop at the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence in Redfern. Participants were invited based on their knowledge and experience in Indigenous affairs, reconciliation and social research, and to achieve an appropriate mix of not-for-profit, academic and commercial sectors and gender.

The Roundtable identified 4 key areas for improvement of the ARB:

- i. To better inform a broader narrative on reconciliation, by more closely aligning with RA's Reconciliation Outcomes Framework
- ii. To remove questionnaire asymmetry, with too many existing questions 'speaking' to non-Indigenous respondents rather than both groups
- iii. To address Indigenous sample bias, as much as logistically possible, with respondents drawn from a narrow group of Indigenous networks
- iv. To measure the 'lived experience' of respondents more, rather than their perceptions of the broader social reality

Accordingly, the Barometer was revised extensively and contains many new measures, as well as some revisions to past questions. For this reason and also due to the improved 'random' sampling approach for the Indigenous community (see below), the ARB since 2014 represents something of a resetting of the reconciliation baseline in Australia, and makes direct tracking comparisons with 2008-2012 results difficult.

**Following the "10-year tracking" report in 2018, it was decided that the results of surveys prior to 2014 would no longer be included in the ARB**, so that applicable tracking results are now more directly comparable. To access past results, readers should refer to previous Barometers, archived with Reconciliation Australia. However Polity advises caution regarding any dramatic changes in results since 2012

### **Acknowledgements**

It is further acknowledged that, in the interests of graphical and reporting brevity, the abbreviation *Indigenous* has been used in this report, to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Similarly, the term "Australians" has been used in both the survey questions and report, to refer to all people who are resident in Australia, including both citizens and non-citizens.

### **Online approach**

Participants from both groups completed the survey online. Previous studies have shown that online research produces research which is at least as accurate (and sometimes more accurate) than telephone research. Another benefit of this approach is the removal of any interviewer bias that may come into play when discussing sensitive issues. Online surveys also have the advantage of allowing people to respond at their own pace, giving them enough time to properly consider important and complex issues.

However, it is possible that this methodology over-samples the computer literate population which on average may be more highly-educated than the general population.

### Question changes in the Barometer and considerations for tracking

Since 2014, the ARB questionnaire has undergone occasional changes or edits, as part of a continuous process to develop and improve the survey as required. Reasons for making changes include responding to changing social realities and/or events, such as the Referendum Council recommendations and Uluru Statement from the Heart, or to meet evolving focal points of Reconciliation Australia, or to address any errors or ambiguities that become apparent. The following list outlines key changes since 2014, and explains potential implications for the research tracking. The list does not address entirely new questions which have been added, as the presence of such changes is self evident.

#### Key changes to existing questions in the ARB since 2014:

In 2014-18, the survey asked people **to indicate levels of acceptance regarding a number of key facts about Australia's past (p.38)**. In 2020, the question was changed to ask if they "believed" these facts (i.e. rather than accepting them). This was due to it becoming apparent there was considerable ambiguity with the word 'accept', and as such this question has been reset entirely. *All results for this question in previous ARB reports should be disregarded.*

In 2018, the survey asked people **to indicate levels of importance for undertaking a truth telling process (p.50)**. In 2020, the question was changed to ask in relation to truth telling "processes". This change does not dramatically affect the focus nor intention of the question, and tracking is maintained in the report. However, shifts between 2018-20 should be treated with caution.

In 2014-16, the survey asked people **to indicate which statement they agreed with most (from a list of 4) regarding how to address the wrongs of the past (p.53)** resulting from European settlement in Australia. In 2018, the question was changed to ask in relation to "European colonisation of Australia". Shifts in tracking results 2016-18 should be treated with caution.

In 2014-18, the survey asked people **to indicate if they felt they could be true to their culture or beliefs in a number of contexts (p.94)**. In 2020, the question was changed to ask in relation to "culture" only (i.e. removed personal beliefs). Shifts in tracking results 2018-20 should be treated with caution.

In 2014-16, the survey asked people **to indicate levels of prejudice between non-Indigenous and Indigenous Australians (p.81)**, and (comparatively) between non-Indigenous Australians and new immigrants from overseas. In 2018, this question regarding levels of prejudice between groups was changed to ask them as independent questions – i.e. the first part of this question was asked separately, and then subsequent questions asked about prejudice between more specific groups (e.g. people of Anglo-Celtic heritage, people of non-English speaking heritage). Shifts in tracking results 2016-18 related to the first question (prejudice between non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples) should be treated with caution.



# Methodology 2020 Barometer: Survey details

## **General Community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Samples**

Since the first Barometer in 2008, the general community sample of Australian residents has been recruited from a professional market and social research panel. Participants received a small incentive for their participation. The sample of 1988 completed the survey between 1-15 July 2020, and is associated with a margin of error of  $\pm 2.2\%$  at the 95% confidence interval. This means that if a result of 50% is found, we can be 95% confident the real result is between 47.8% and 52.2%.

Since 2014, the Indigenous sample has also been drawn from a professional market and social research panel. Participants self-identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The sample of 495 completed the survey between 1-9 July-28 2020 (simultaneously with the general community sample), and is associated with a margin of error of  $\pm 4.4\%$  at the 95% confidence interval.

Both the general community sample and the Indigenous sample are weighted to be representative in terms of age group, gender and location (state and territory populations), as per Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census data.

The general community sample of Australian residents included quotas set for states and territories, which are associated with the following margins of error at the 95% confidence interval:

NSW, Victoria, QLD  $\pm 4.9\%$

WA, SA, Tasmania,  $\pm 6.9\%$

ACT, NT,  $\pm 9.8\%$

NOTE: State breakouts for the general population in this report have each been weighted separately as per ABS 2016 Census stats per State/Territory.

Further details of the composition of both samples are provided in the Appendix.

## **Comparative samples from previous waves**

In 2014, 1100 residents aged 18+ in the general community and 502 in the Indigenous community completed the survey in Sept-Oct 2014.

In 2016, 2277 residents aged 18+ in the general community and 500 in the Indigenous community completed the survey in July-August 2016.

In 2018, 1995 residents aged 18+ in the general community and 497 in the Indigenous community completed the survey in July-August 2018.

# The social context of 2020

Before interpreting any changes in the Barometer results for 2020, it is important to acknowledge the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia during this survey period. Also, the advent of heightened awareness and sentiments around the Black Lives Matter and Black Deaths in Custody movements globally and locally, may have directly influenced our attitudes to reconciliation and other Indigenous issues this year.

## **COVID-19**

In Australia, awareness about the COVID-19 or coronavirus pandemic started in January and quickly grew with the World Health Organisation declaring a Global pandemic in March 2020. Concern also grew, evident through panic-buying and shortages of groceries, hand sanitisers and personal protection equipment etc.

Spread of the COVID-19 virus resulted in Australia's first social distancing rules and nationwide lockdown starting in late March, with international borders closed to all non-residents on March 2020. This first round of regulations started to ease in late May - early June 2020. However, since then, regulations in various states and territories have fluctuated in response to new outbreaks, most severely in Victoria which re-introduced even stricter lockdown rules from June 2020 and throughout July, until a state of disaster was declared by Premier Dan Andrews on 2 August 2020.

While it is impossible to know exactly how the loss of loved ones, pandemic fears and related impacts on people's lives might have influenced attitudes and perceptions across the general population, there is likely to have been some effect.

## **Social lockdowns and the potential exacerbation of discrimination**

One of the key impacts of the lockdown regulations has been on people's economic security, with business closures and job losses affecting many millions of Australians. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, some 594,000 people lost their jobs in April 2020 alone. Such economic hardship would not only have impacted people's personal well being, but may have resulted in increased tensions between bosses and workers, and between landlords and tenants. A potential impact is how Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in general, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in particular, may have experienced increased racism and discrimination.

## **Black Lives Matter demonstrations and the potential increase in racism awareness and backlash**

Following the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in the US state of Minnesota on 25 May 2020, a wave of protests swept around the world in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and against police brutality. In Australia, protest marches were staged around the country, starting in Sydney on 2 June 2020 and continuing throughout the month. The marches were held not only in support of the movement for justice in the USA, but also to highlight and call for greater action on the continuing high rates of Aboriginal deaths in custody, and over-incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Alongside these issues, the Black Lives Matter protests may have helped focus attention on racism and perceptions of racism, which may have had some impact in relation to racism related questions.

## **Destruction of Juukan Gorge by Rio Tinto**

In late May 2020 Rio Tinto mining company destroyed 46 000 year-old caves at the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. This site was a significant cultural heritage site of the Puutu Kunti Kurama and Pinikura (PKKP) People. The loss to the PKKP, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia, as well as the broader community and the world is hard to comprehend. The destruction caused outrage in Australia and internationally.

Shortly after the destruction, Rio Tinto was suspended from Reconciliation Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program. On Thursday 11 June 2020 the Australian Senate referred *The destruction of 46,000 year old caves at the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara region of Western Australia* to an Inquiry.

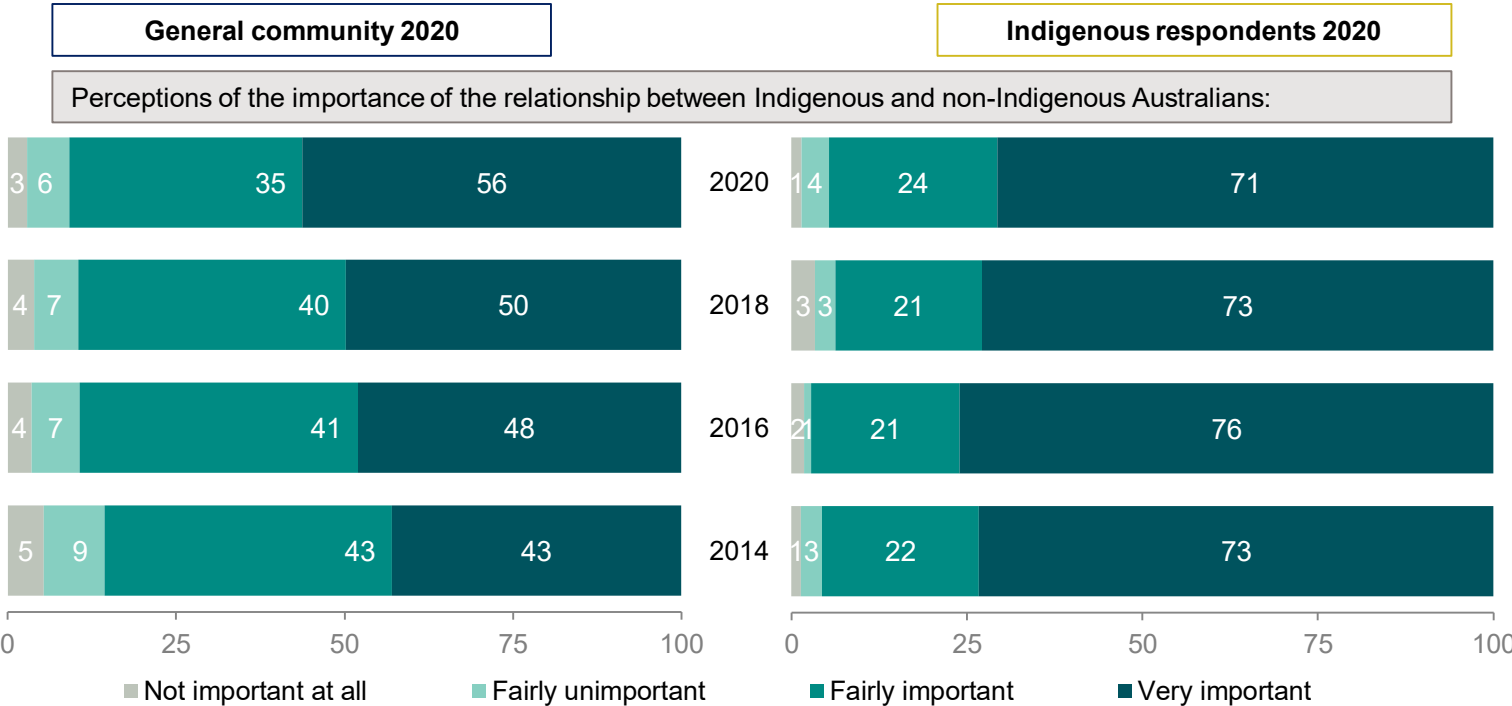
The destruction and Inquiry has led to significant media coverage and ongoing discussions on the importance on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Australia, and a strong desire from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and broader community to push for changes to better protect cultural heritage. The Australian Reconciliation Barometer Survey was in the field 4 weeks after the destruction, so it is possible that this context has had some impact on responses in relation to culture and heritage.

2020

KEY HIGH LEVEL

FINDINGS

# We widely view the relationship as very important

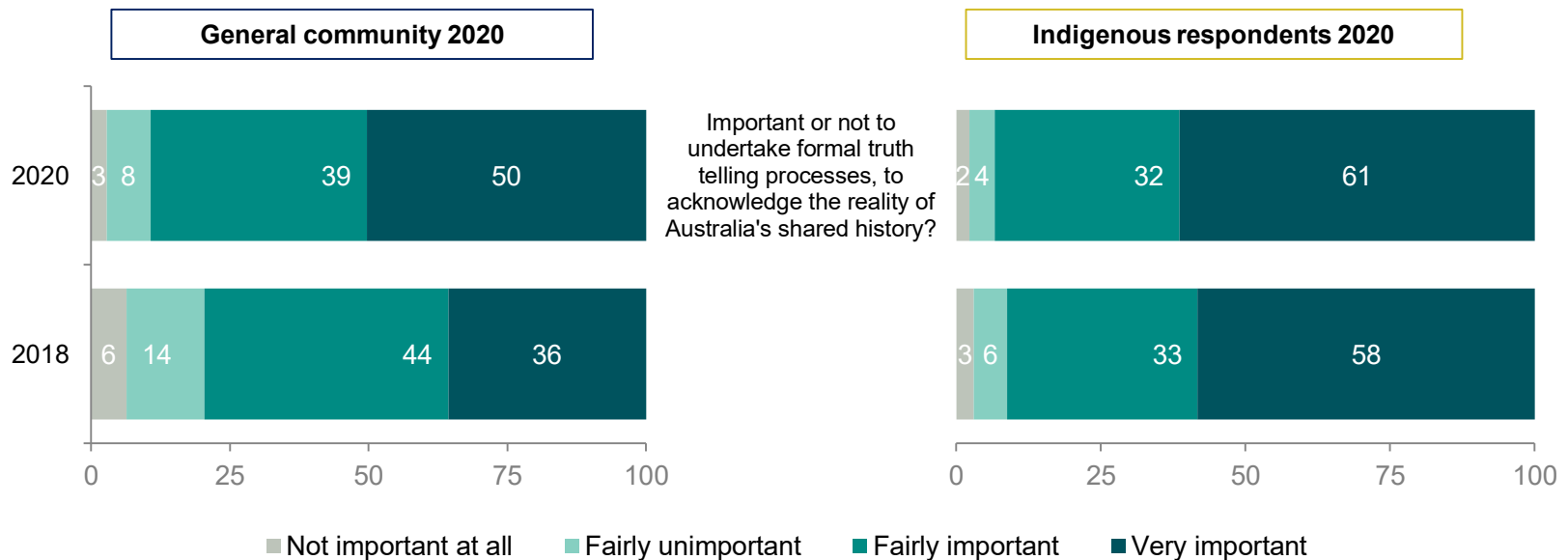


Most people among the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to feel the relationship is important to Australia as a nation. However, Indigenous respondents (71%) remain much more likely than the general community (56%) to view the relationship as very important.

Most notably, there continues to be a steady increase in the general community (56%) who view the relationship as very important, since 2014.



# More Australians now believe it is important to undertake formal truth-telling processes

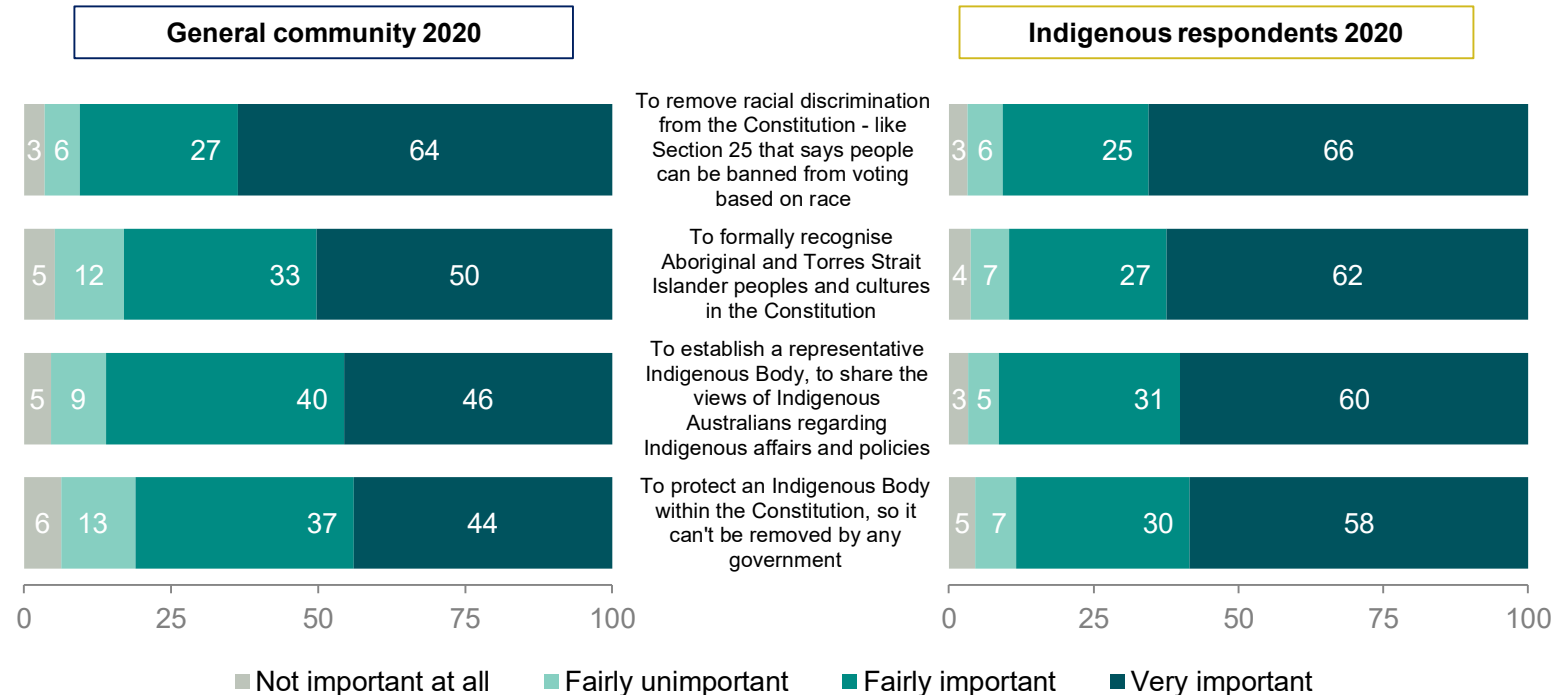


The general community (89%) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (93%) widely believe it's important to undertake a formal truth telling process, in relation to Australia's shared history. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to feel this is very important, compared to the general public.

Most notably, there has been a strong increase in the general community of people who now think it's very important (50%), since 2018.

NOTE: This question has changed from previous Barometers, from 'a process' to "processes". For details see p.8

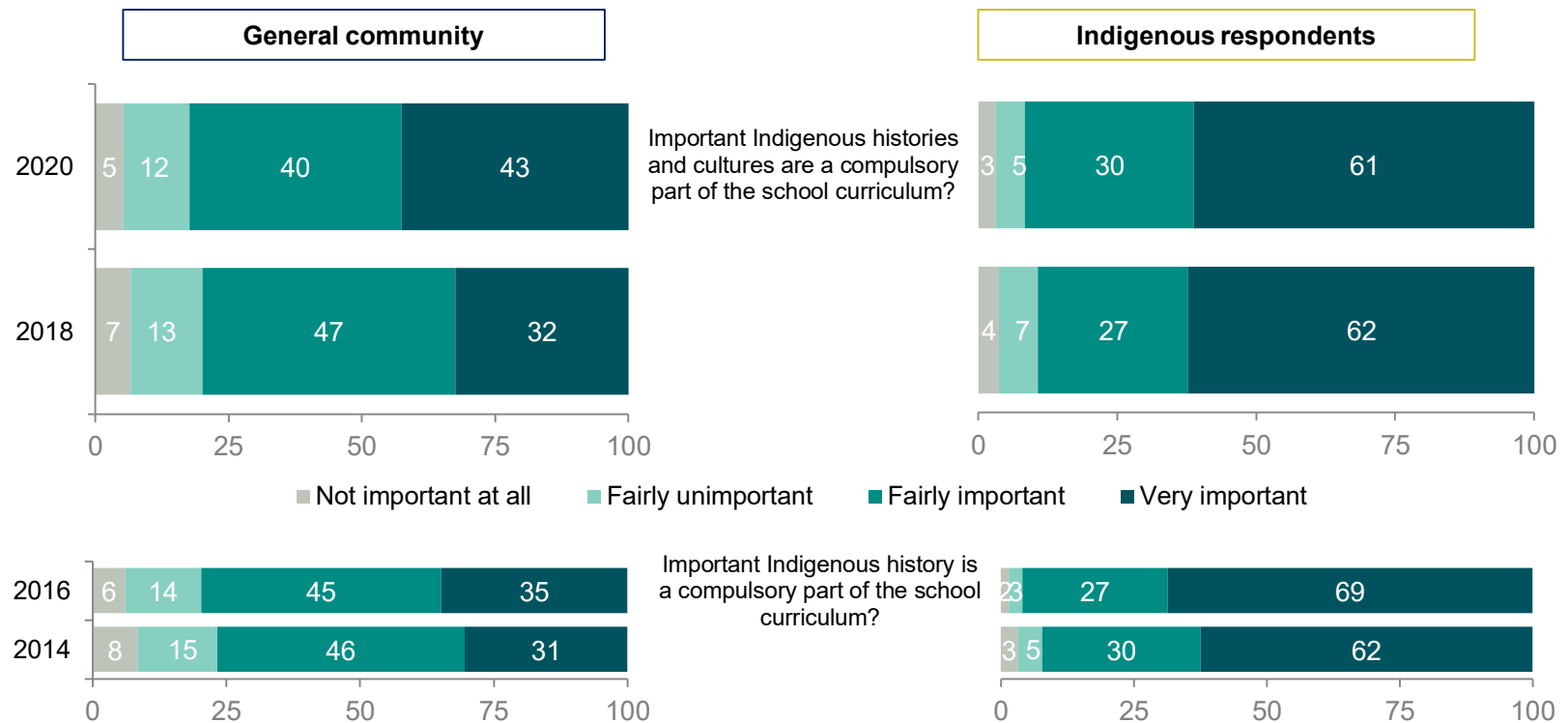
# We believe it is very important for key constitutional changes to happen



The general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people widely believe it's important to implement the key constitutional changes that have been proposed in Australia.

In particular, strong majorities of both groups feel it's very important to remove racial discrimination from the Constitution.

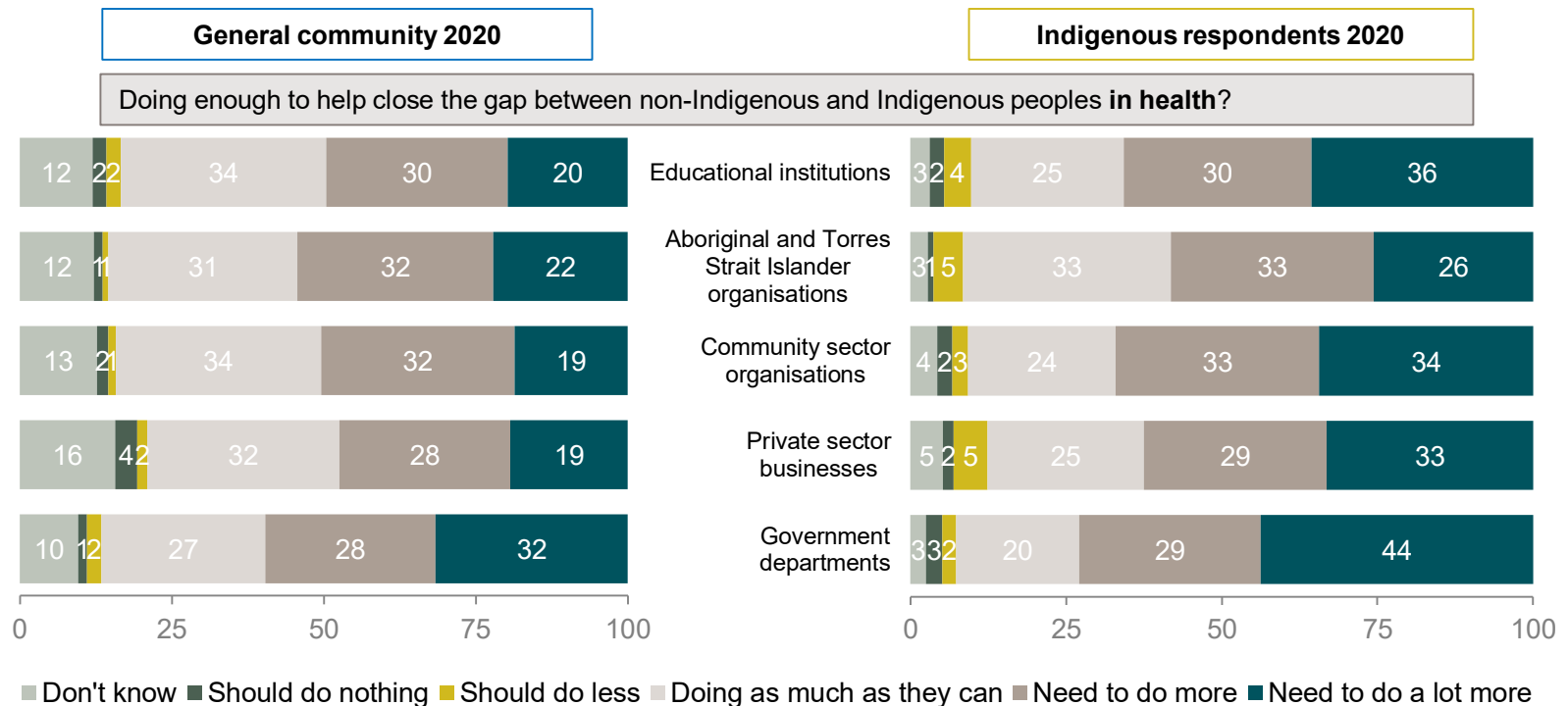
# The importance of teaching and learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures is increasing



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to believe it is very important that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures should be compulsory in school (61%), compared to the general public (43%).

However, there has been a strong increase among the general community of people who now consider this very important, since 2018.

# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of health to close the gap

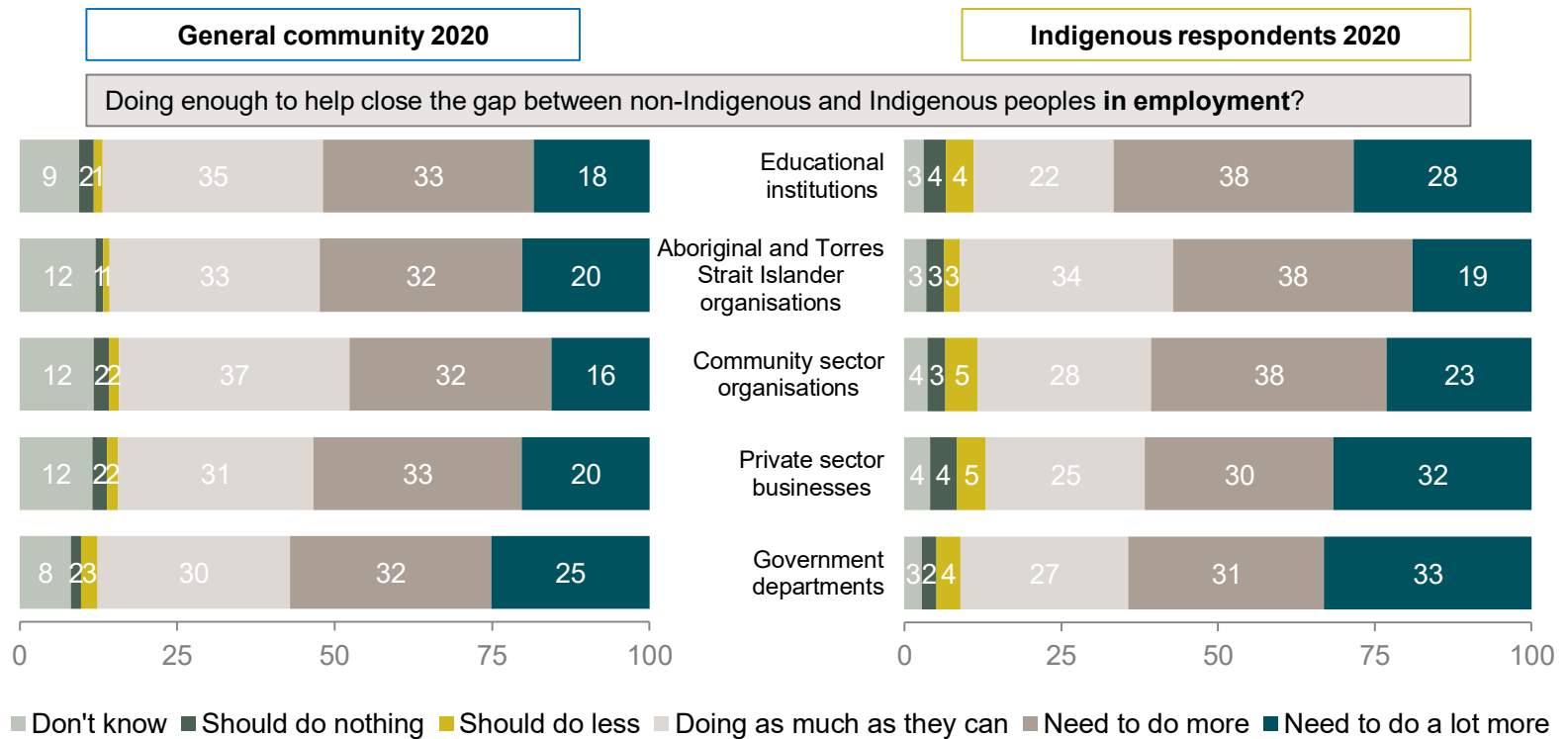


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still more likely to think that various organisations need to do more in areas of health, to help close the gap, than the general community.

In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely believe educational institutions (36%), the community sector (34%) and the business sector (33%) need to do a lot more.



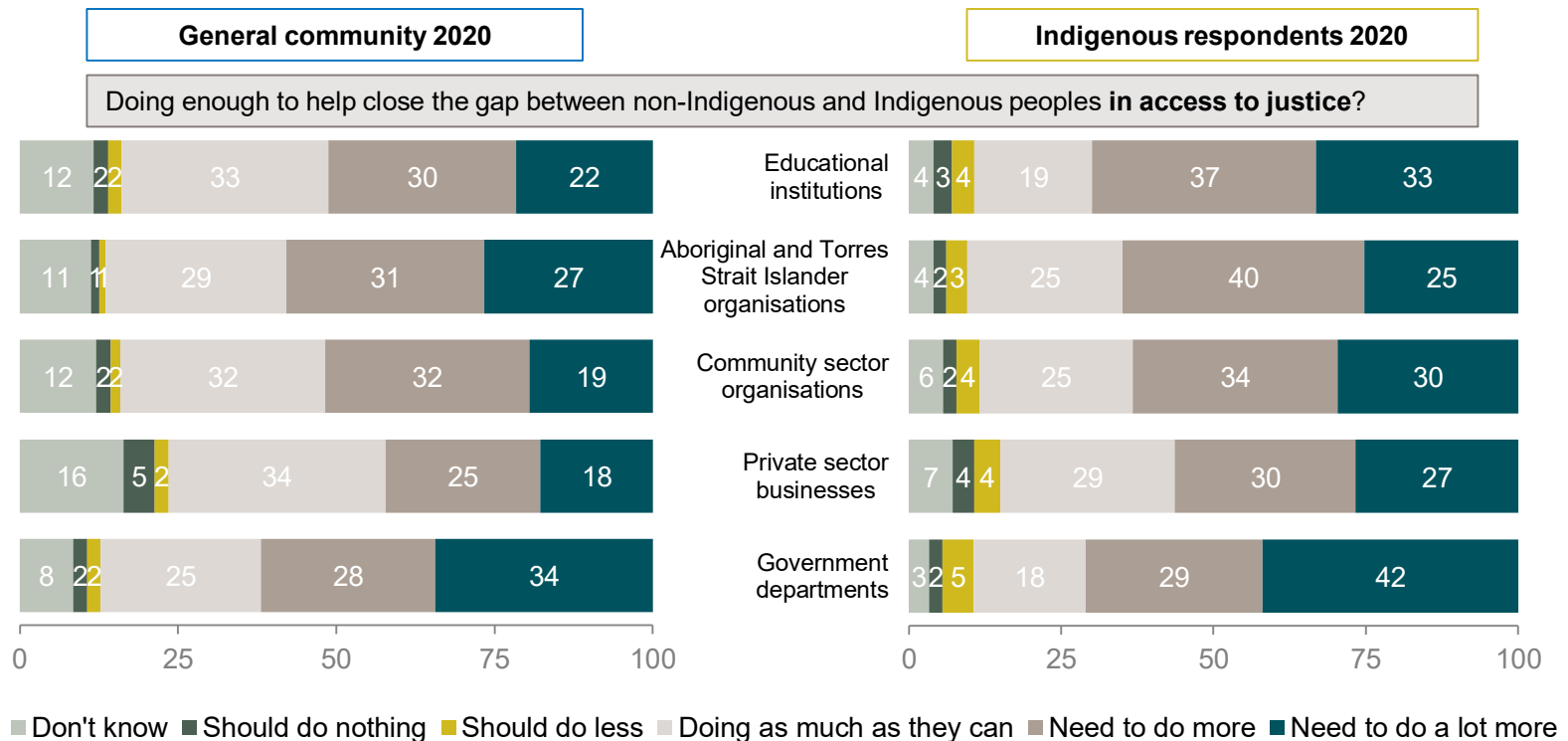
# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of employment to close the gap



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to think that various organisations need to do more in areas of employment, to help close the gap, than the general community.

In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely believe the education sector (28%), the government sector (33%) and the business sector (32%) need to do a lot more.

# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of justice to close the gap



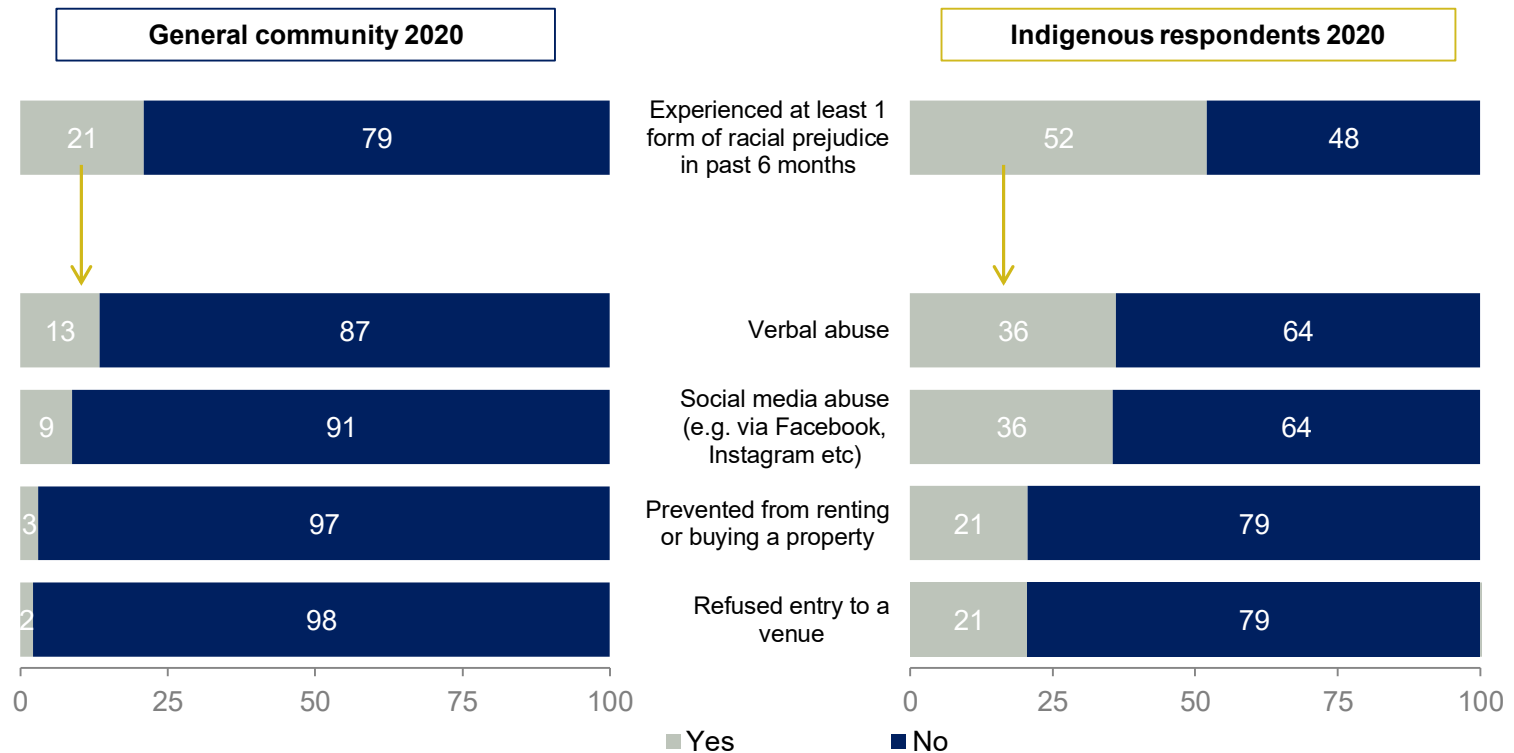
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to think that various organisations need to do more in areas of justice, to help close the gap, than the general community.

In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely believe the educational sector (33%), the community sector (30%) and the business sector (27%) need to do a lot more.

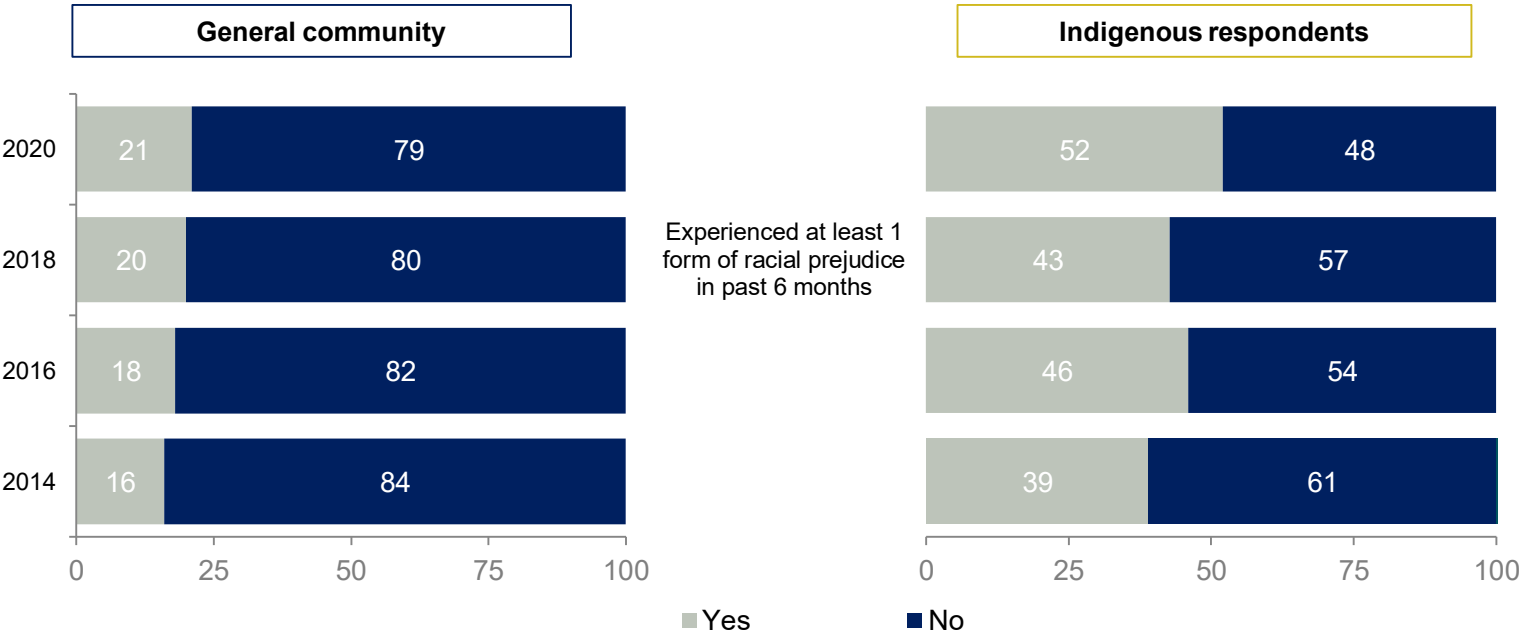
# Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to experience racial prejudice

More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have experienced racial prejudice in the last six months, than the general community, with 52% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people having experienced at least one form of such racism.

The most common forms of this have been verbal or social media abuse, prevented from renting or buying property or refused entry to a venue. This significant disparity in daily realities remains a key stumbling block in the relationship and an impediment to reconciliation.



# More Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians have experienced recent prejudice in 2020, than in 2018



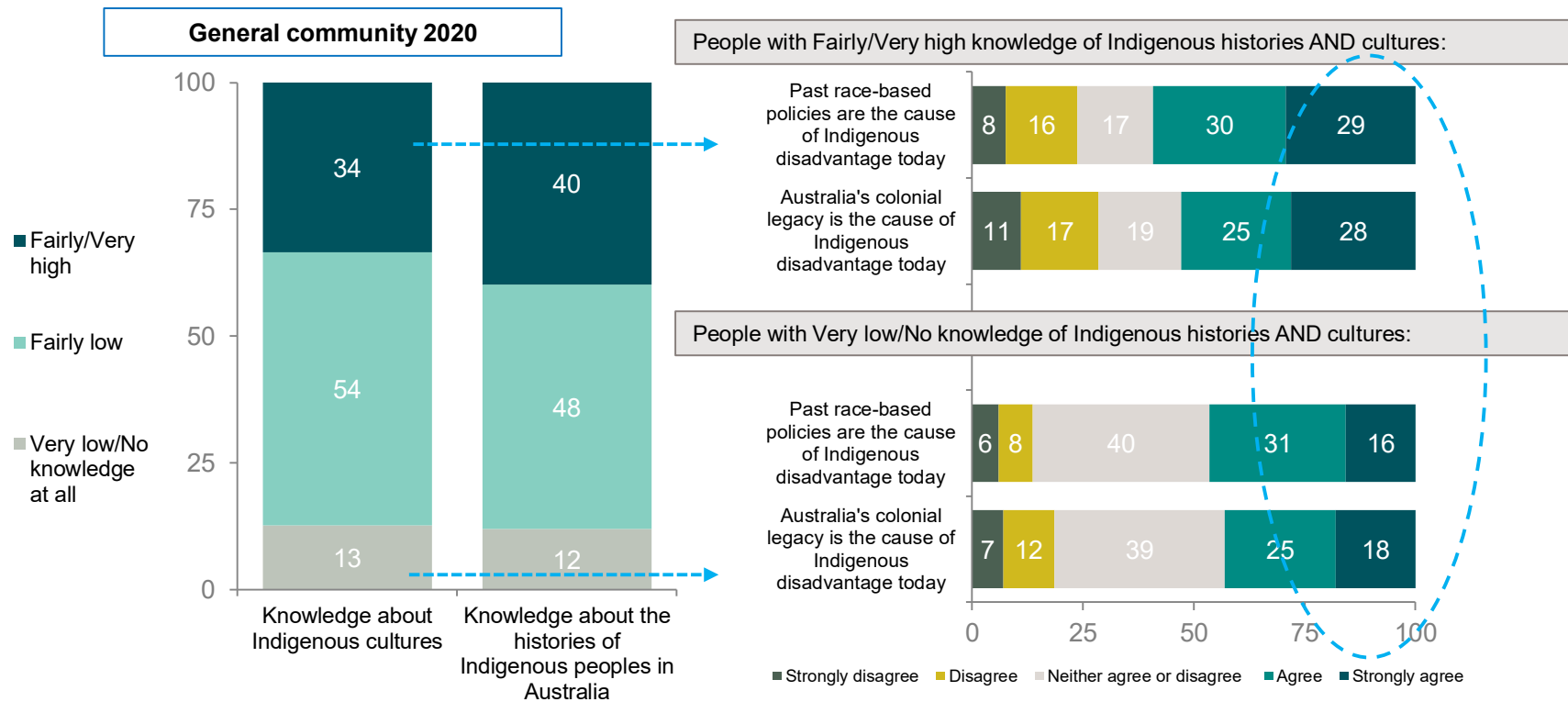
More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have experienced racial prejudice in the last 6 months, compared with the same period in any of the years since 2014. However, it is notable the prevalence of such prejudice experienced in the general community has also increased since 2014.

This stark increase of discrimination in 2020 may indicate how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been more widely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lock downs, creating stress and tensions in communities. For example, Indigenous respondents were much more likely to have experienced being prevented from renting/buying property and being refused entry to a venue (see page 13).

NOTE: This question was updated this year to include 'social media abuse', which may have contributed to the rise in experiences since 2018.



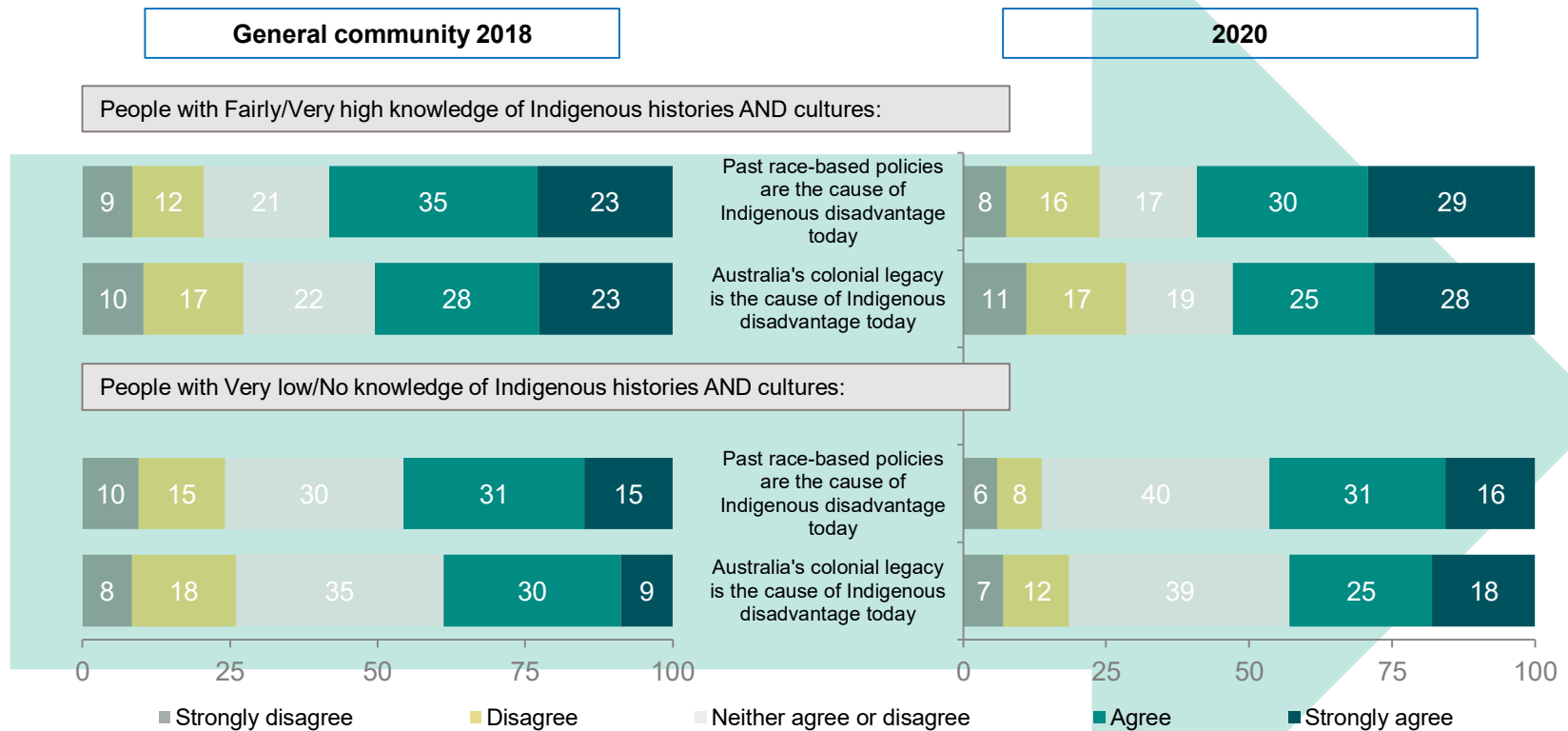
# People with high knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are more likely to agree the past has caused Indigenous disadvantages today



Those people in the general community with fairly high or very high knowledge of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are more likely to strongly agree that past race-based policies (29%) and Australia’s colonial legacy (28%) are the causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s disadvantage.

Conversely, people with very low or no knowledge of Indigenous histories and cultures are more likely to be indifferent.

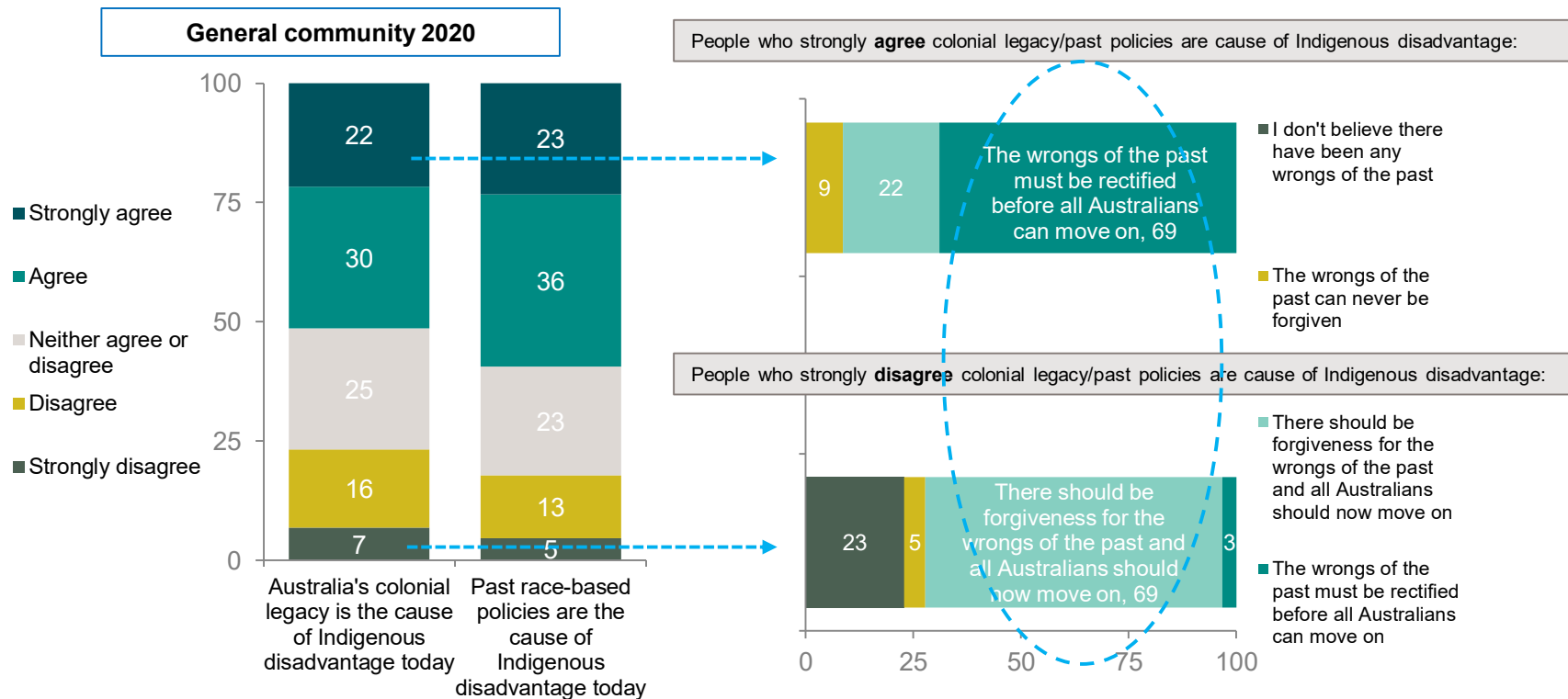
# More people with high knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures also now agree the past has caused Indigenous disadvantages today



More people in the general community with fairly high or very high knowledge of both Indigenous histories and cultures strongly agree that past race-based policies (29%) and Australia’s colonial legacy (28%) are the causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s disadvantage, than in 2018 (both 23%).

Conversely, people with very low or no knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are now more likely to be indifferent.

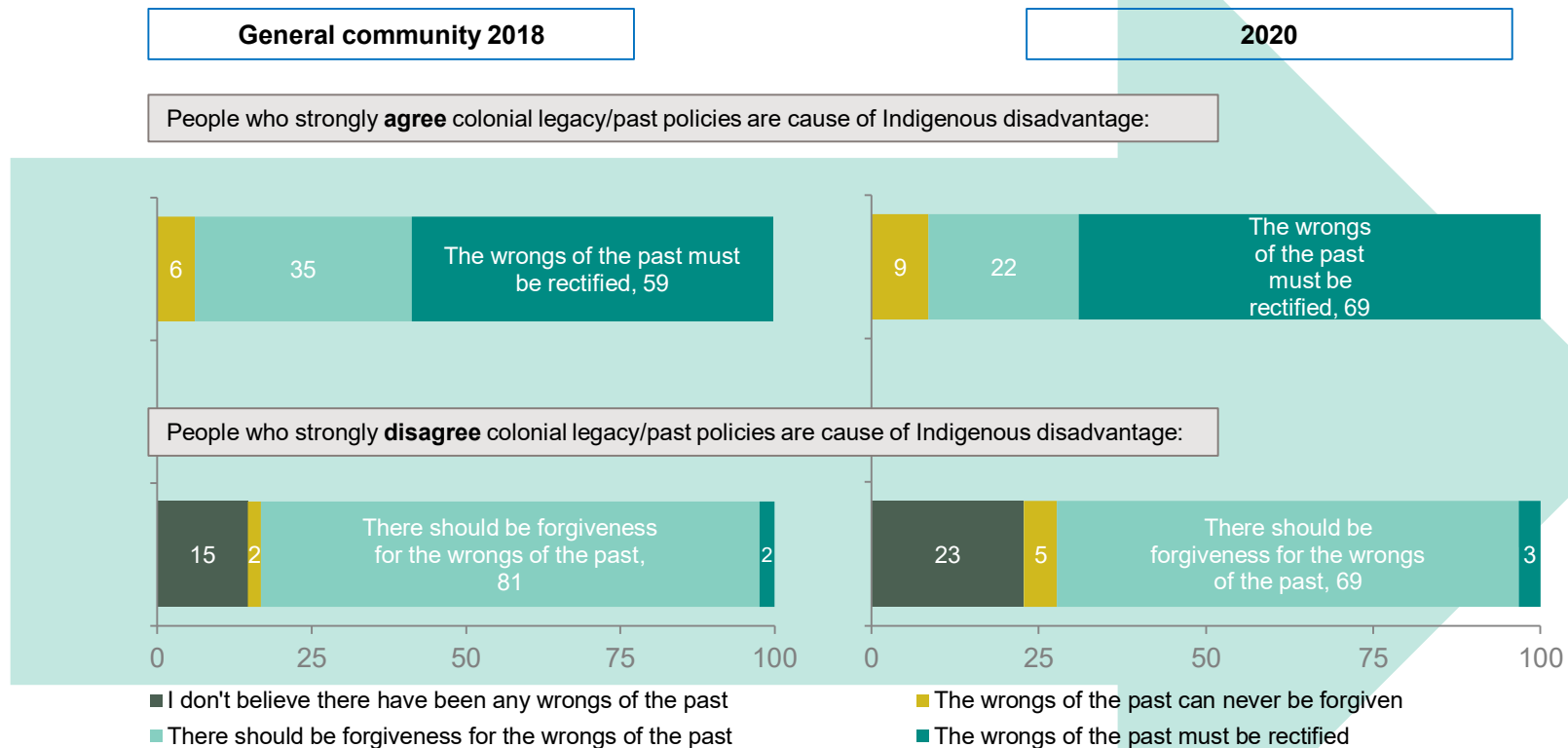
# People who strongly agree Australia's past has been the cause of Indigenous disadvantages today also widely believe those wrongs must be rectified



Those people in the general community who strongly agree that both past government racial policies and Australia's colonial legacy are the causes of Indigenous disadvantages, also widely believe the wrongs of Australia's past must be rectified (69%) before we can move on.

Conversely, the vast majority of people who strongly disagree with both of those assertions feel there should be forgiveness and we should all move on (69%).

# More people who strongly agree Australia's past has caused Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's disadvantage also now widely believe those wrongs must be rectified



More people in the general community who strongly agree that both past racial policies and Australia's colonial legacy are the causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage, now also widely believe the wrongs of Australia's past must be rectified (69%), than in 2018 (59%).

Conversely, the majority of people who strongly disagree with both of those assertions still feel there should be forgiveness and we should all move on (69%). It is also notable that more now say there haven't been any past wrongs (23%).



# FINDINGS BY DIMENSION

Full results comparing Indigenous-only respondent perspectives  
with the general public

# Race Relations

*All Australians understand and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous cultures, rights and experiences, which results in stronger relationships based on trust and respect and that are free of racism*

How do we see cultural diversity and how well do we treat each other?

## **Key Findings:**

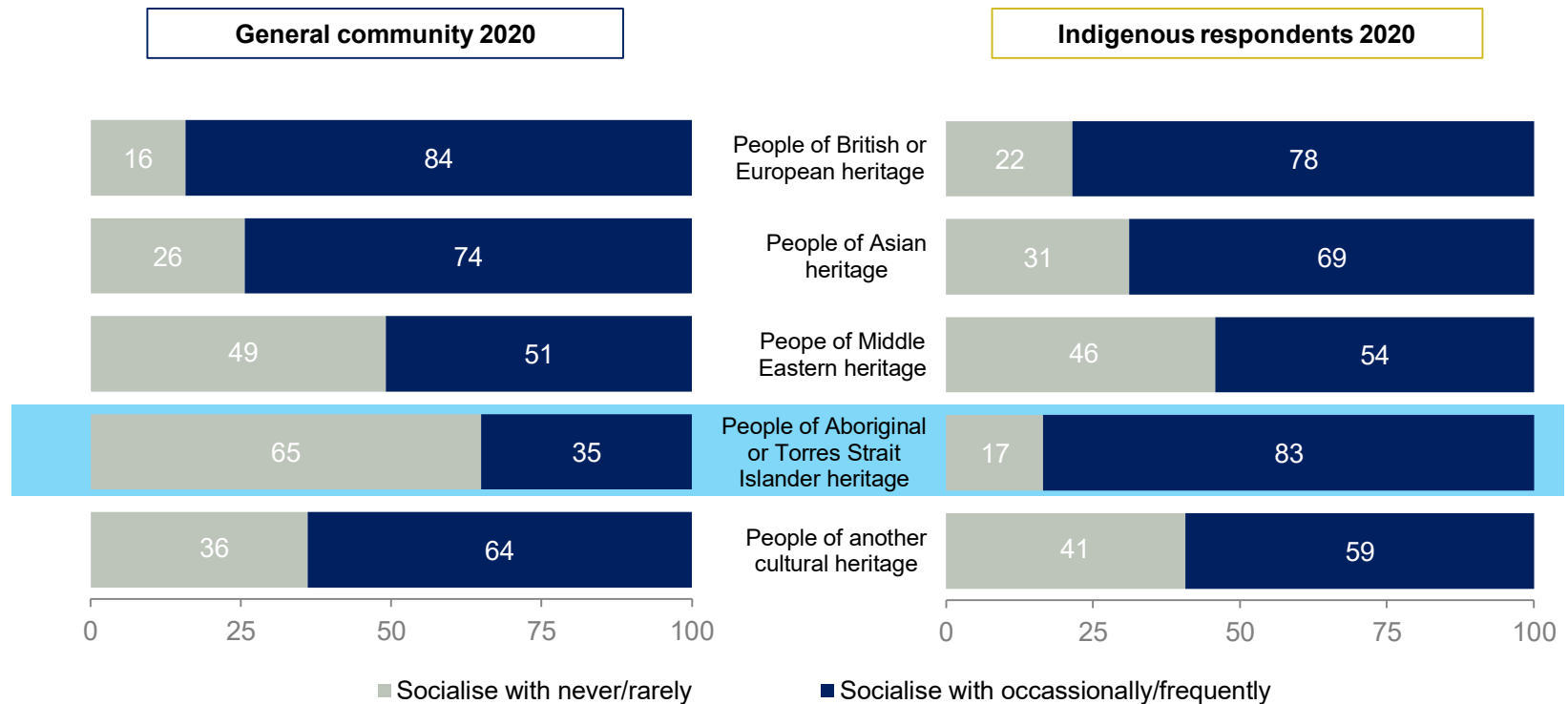
95% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and 91% of the general community feel our relationship is important

60% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people agree that Australia is a racist country (43% of the general community)

More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experienced discrimination from professionals in the past 6 months, especially from police (17%) and employers (17%)

52% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have experienced at least one form or racial prejudice in the past 6 months (43% in 2018)

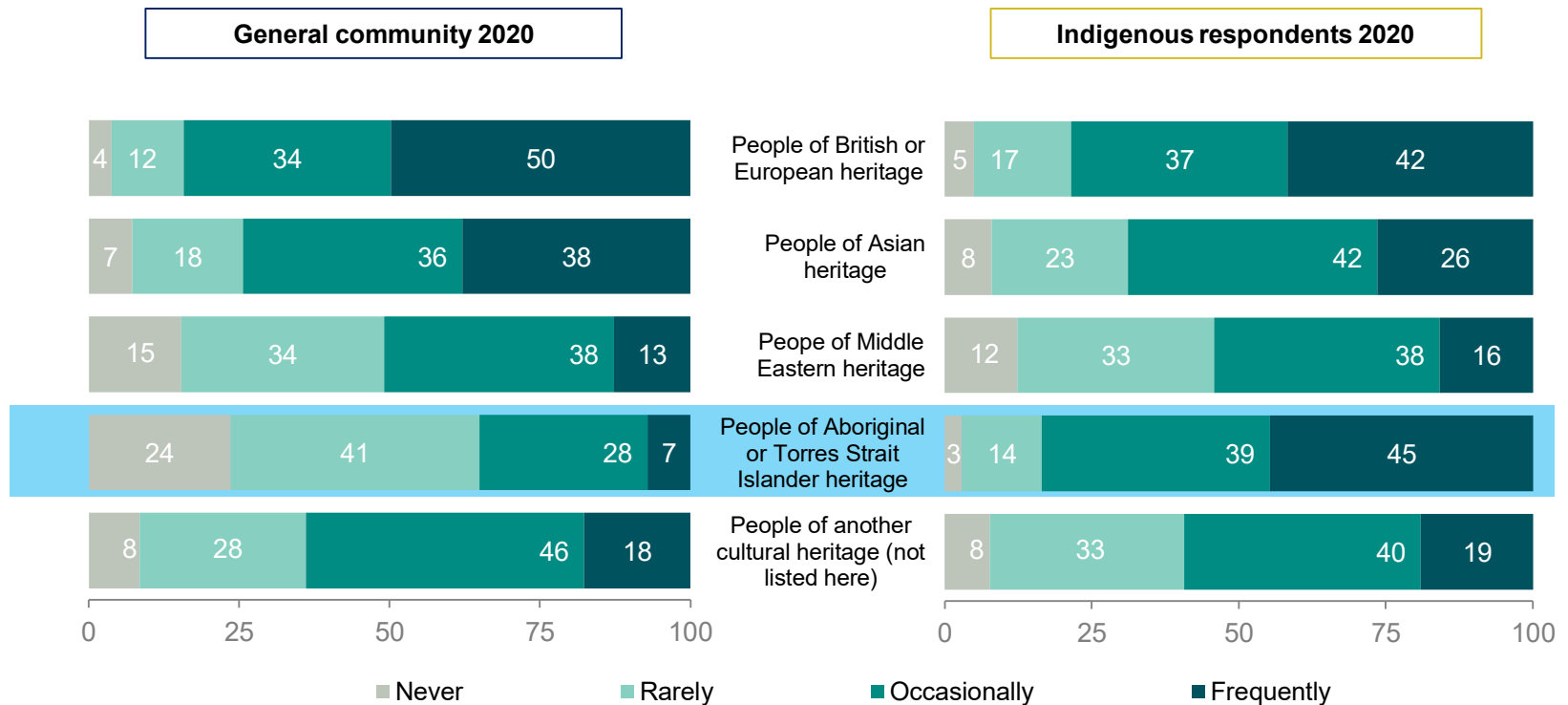
# Most Australians rarely socialise with people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage



Most Australians continue to have little ‘socialising’ contact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

While there is no doubt the relatively small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Australia doesn’t make regular contact easy, this continues to highlight a key ‘gap’ in reconciliation progress.

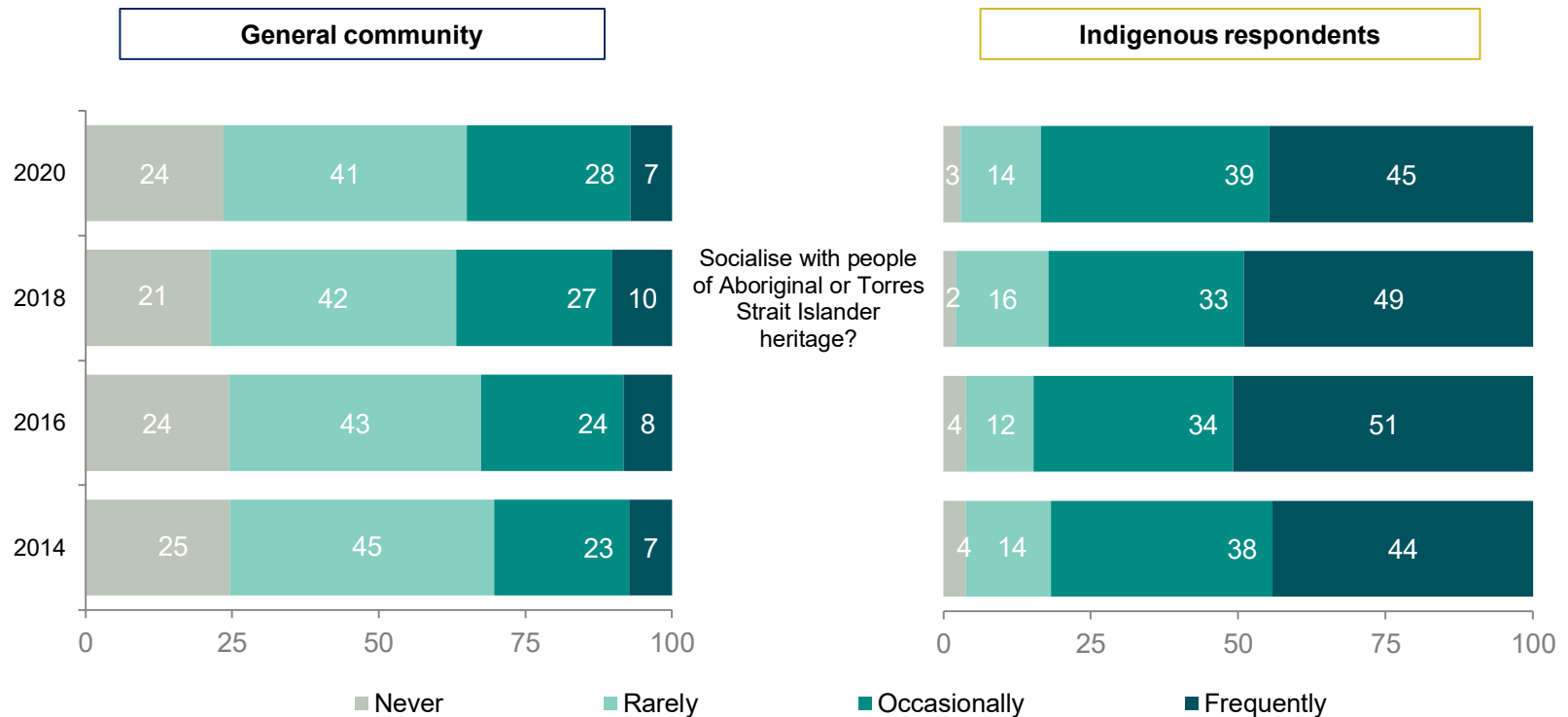
# Most Australians still socialise less with people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage than with any other major cultural group



Australians remain most likely to socialise with people of British or European cultural heritage on a frequent basis.

When it comes to socialising with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, the general community are least likely to do so frequently (7%), than they are with people from any other major cultural group.

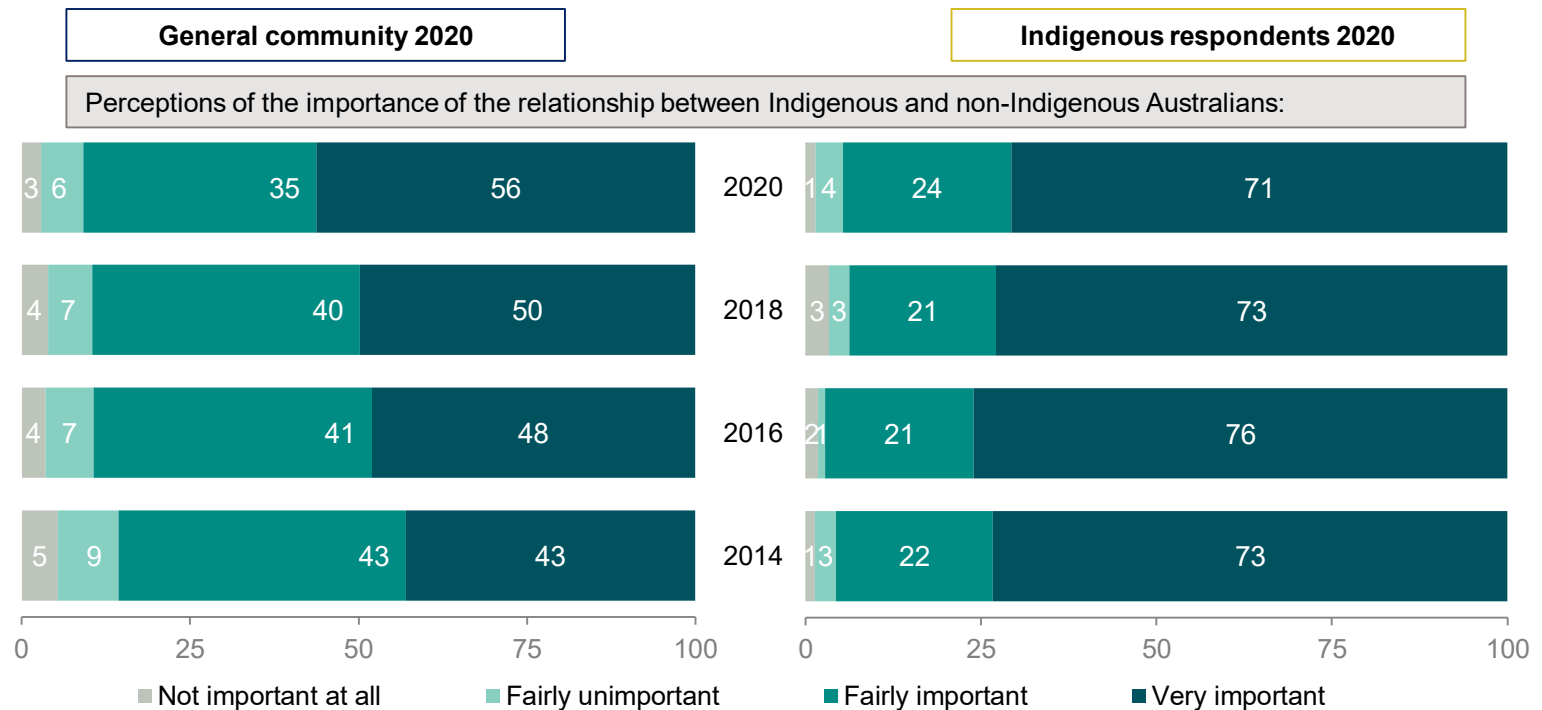
# There has been little change in the percentage of Australians who *frequently* socialise with people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage



There has been little change in the percentage of Australians who socialise with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, either frequently (7%) or occasionally (28%), since 2018.

However, Australians (35%) are now more likely to socialise frequently or occasionally with Indigenous peoples than in 2014 (30%).

# We widely view the relationship as very important

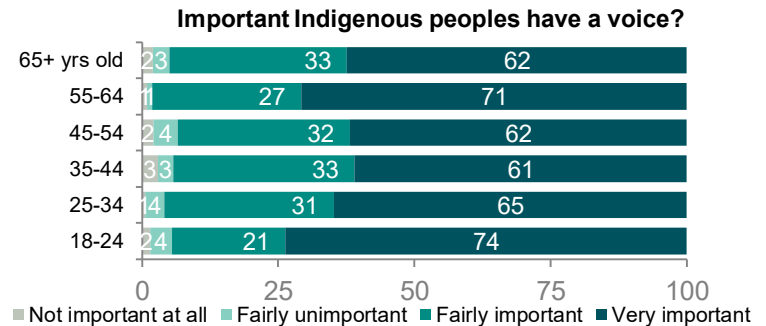
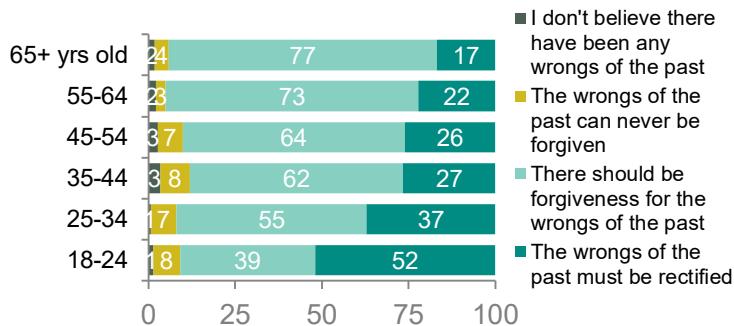
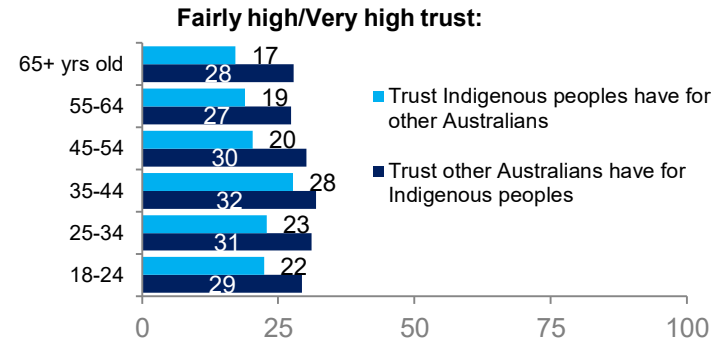
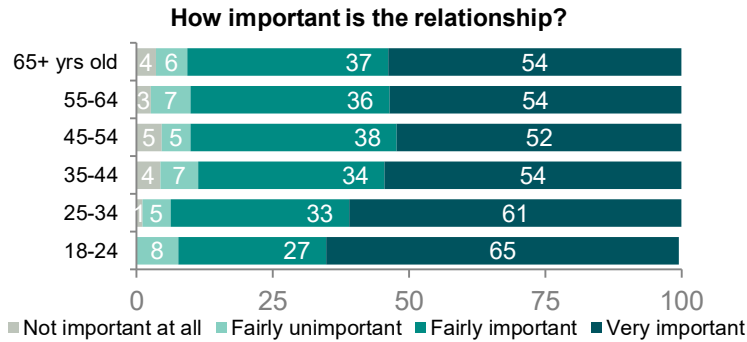


Most people among the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to feel the relationship is important to Australia as a nation. However, Indigenous respondents (71%) remain much more likely than the general community (56%) to view the relationship as very important.

Most notably, there continues to be a steady increase in the general community (56%) who view the relationship as very important, since 2014.

# The views among younger Australians remain generally more positive

General community 2020



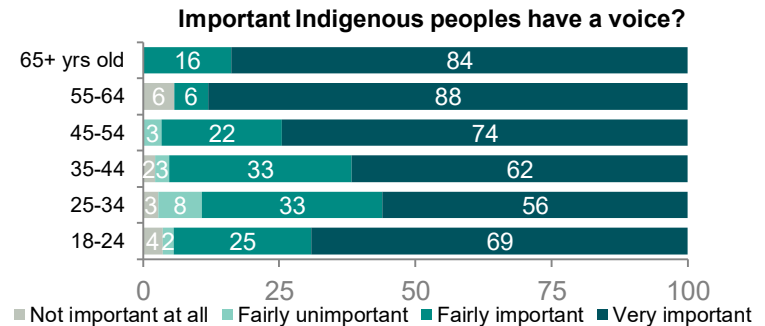
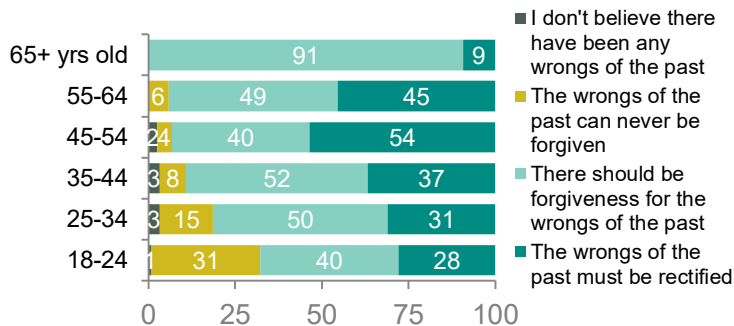
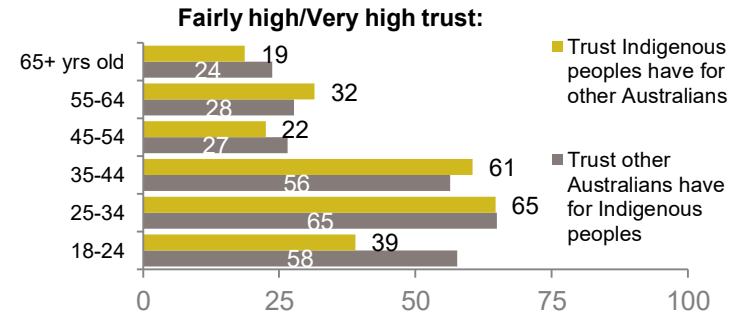
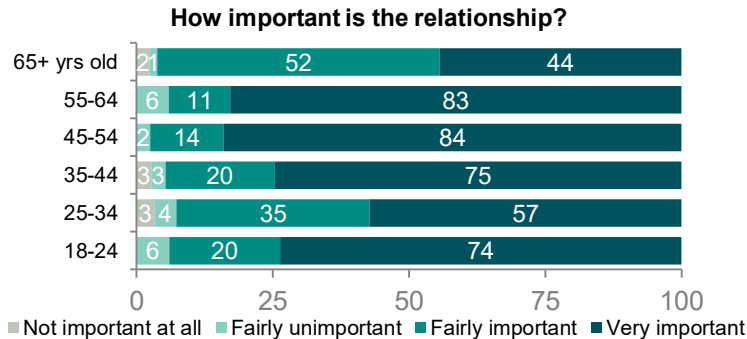
When it comes to holding high value in the relationship, perceptions of trust, a sense that past wrongs must be rectified and belief that it's very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that concern them, 18-24 year olds are mostly ahead of all other age groups in the general community.

That these attitudes are also largely evident among 25-34 year olds continues to indicate how these positive views have largely been carried forward by young people since the first Barometer in 2008.



# The views among younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are a mixed picture

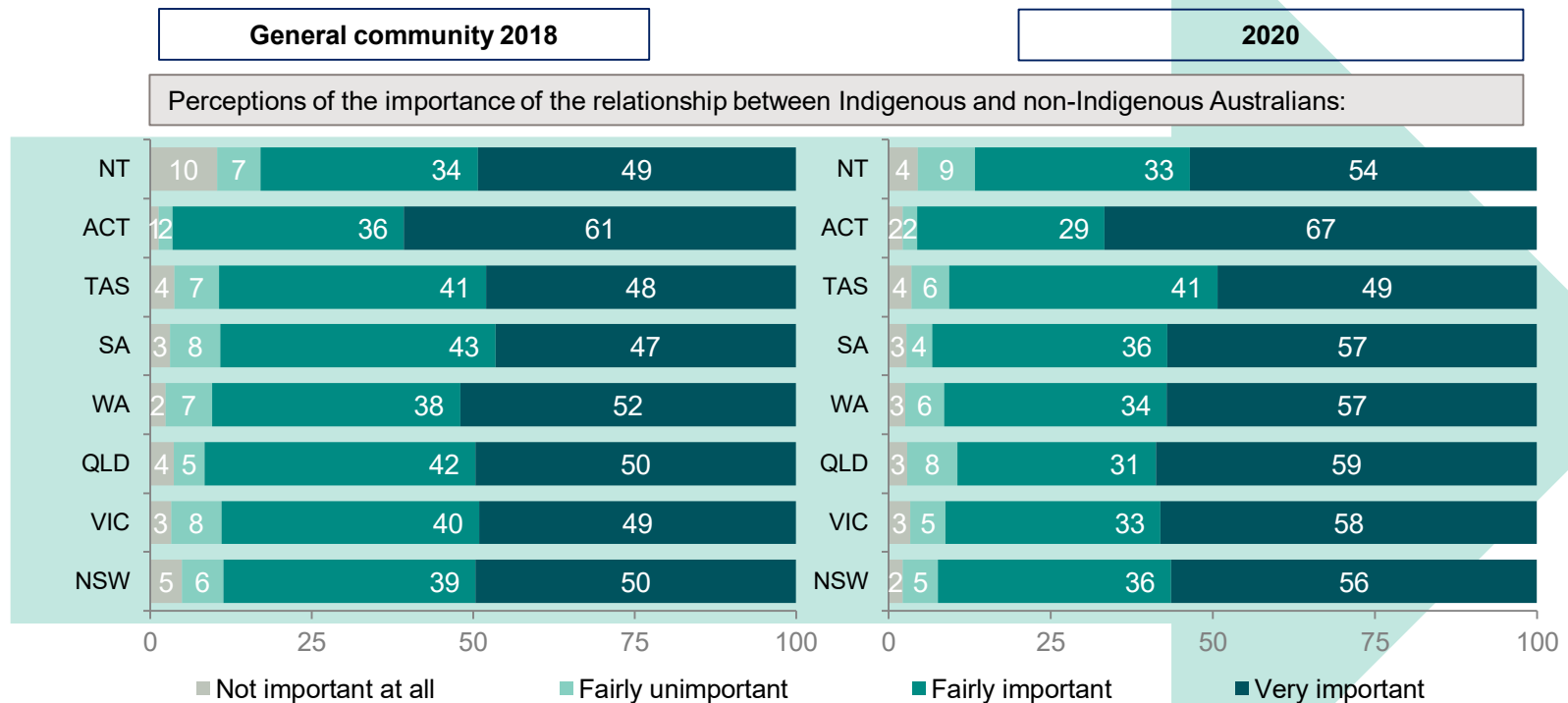
## Indigenous respondents 2020



When it comes to agreeing that past wrongs must be rectified and belief that it's very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that concern them, 18-24 year olds are mostly behind other age groups in Indigenous respondents. However, they do mostly agree that the relationship is very important.

A key underlying factor for the contradictions in the views among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may be that while they widely feel other Australians trust them (58%), they are less inclined to reciprocate that trust (39%).

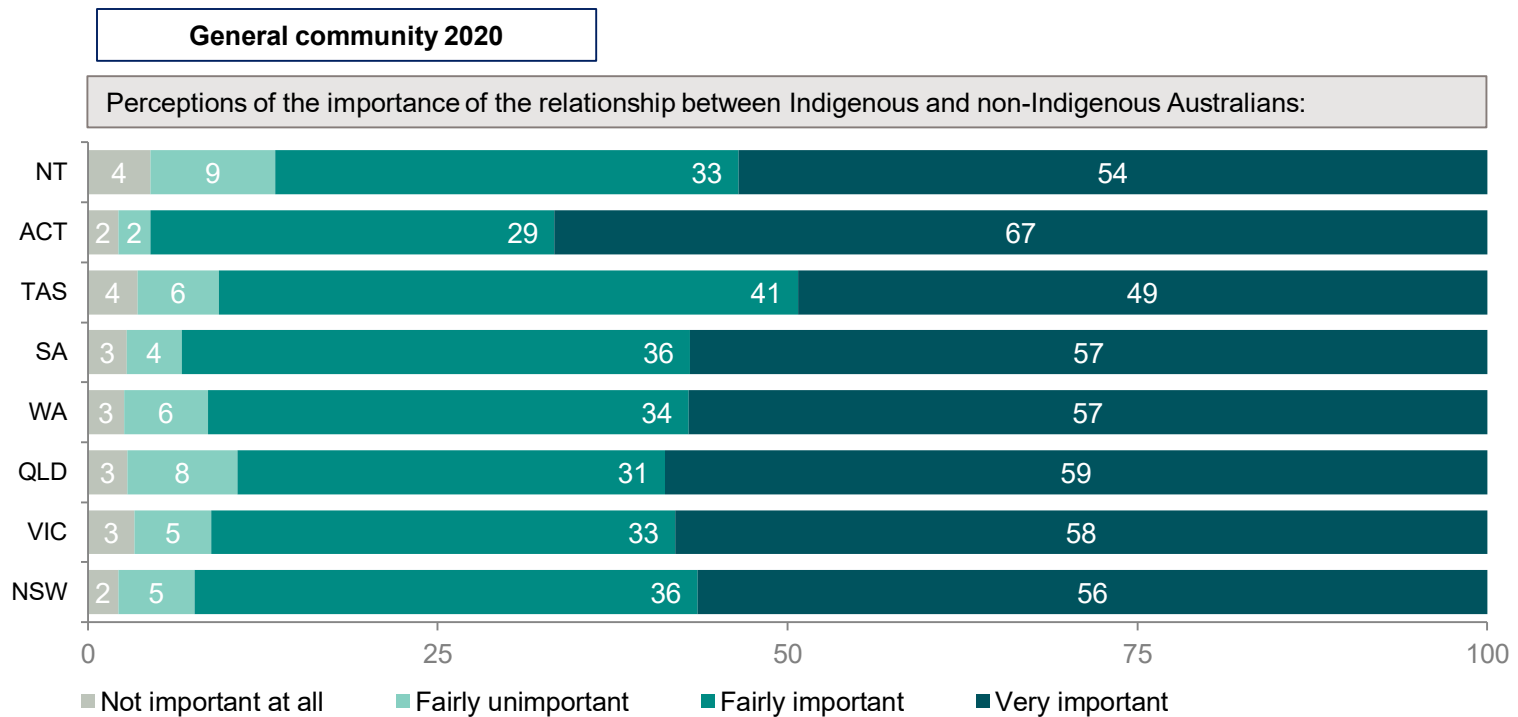
# More people in all states/territories now view the relationship as very important



More people among the general community in all states and territories now feel the relationship is very important to Australia as a nation, compared with 2018.

This increase has been most notable in South Australia (57%), compared to two years ago.

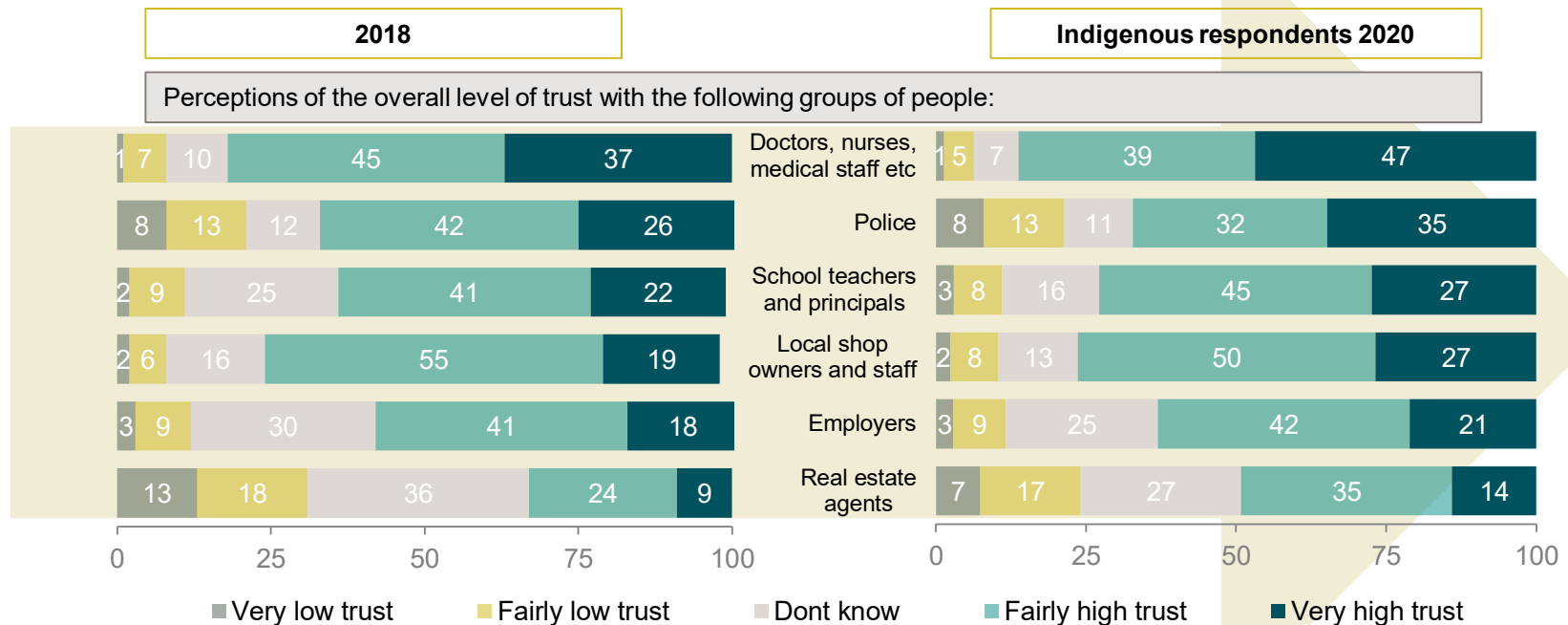
# ACT residents are most likely to view the relationship as very important



Most people (96%) among the general community in ACT feel the relationship is important to Australia as a nation, with 67% saying it's very important. Conversely, people in Tasmania are least likely (49%) to view the relationship as very important.

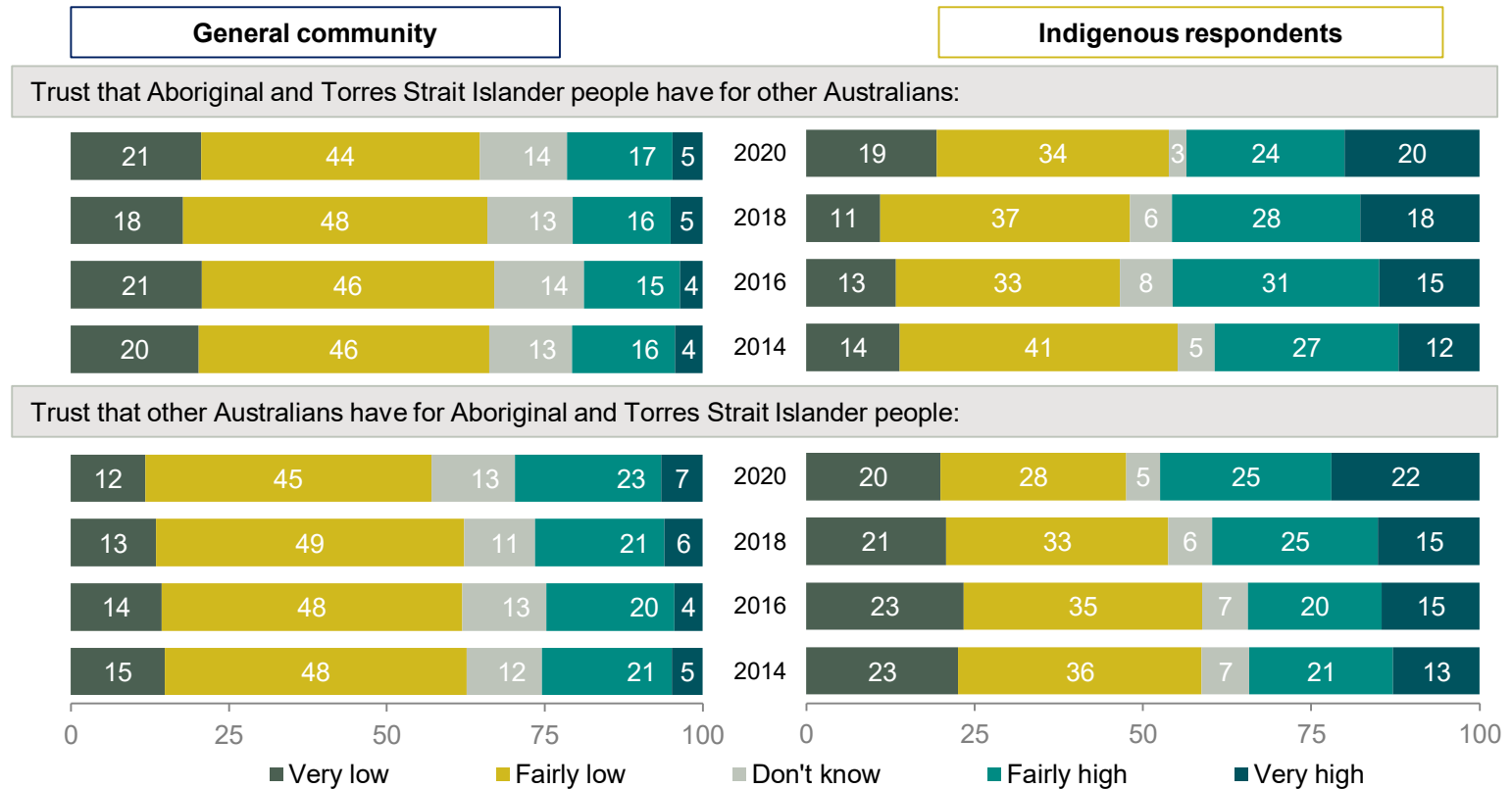
Notably, the Northern Territory is where more people think the relationship is not important (13%), compared to other States and Territories.

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's trust has improved for all groups of professions since 2018



There has been an improvement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feeling there is high trust shared with all the professional groups, compared with 2018.

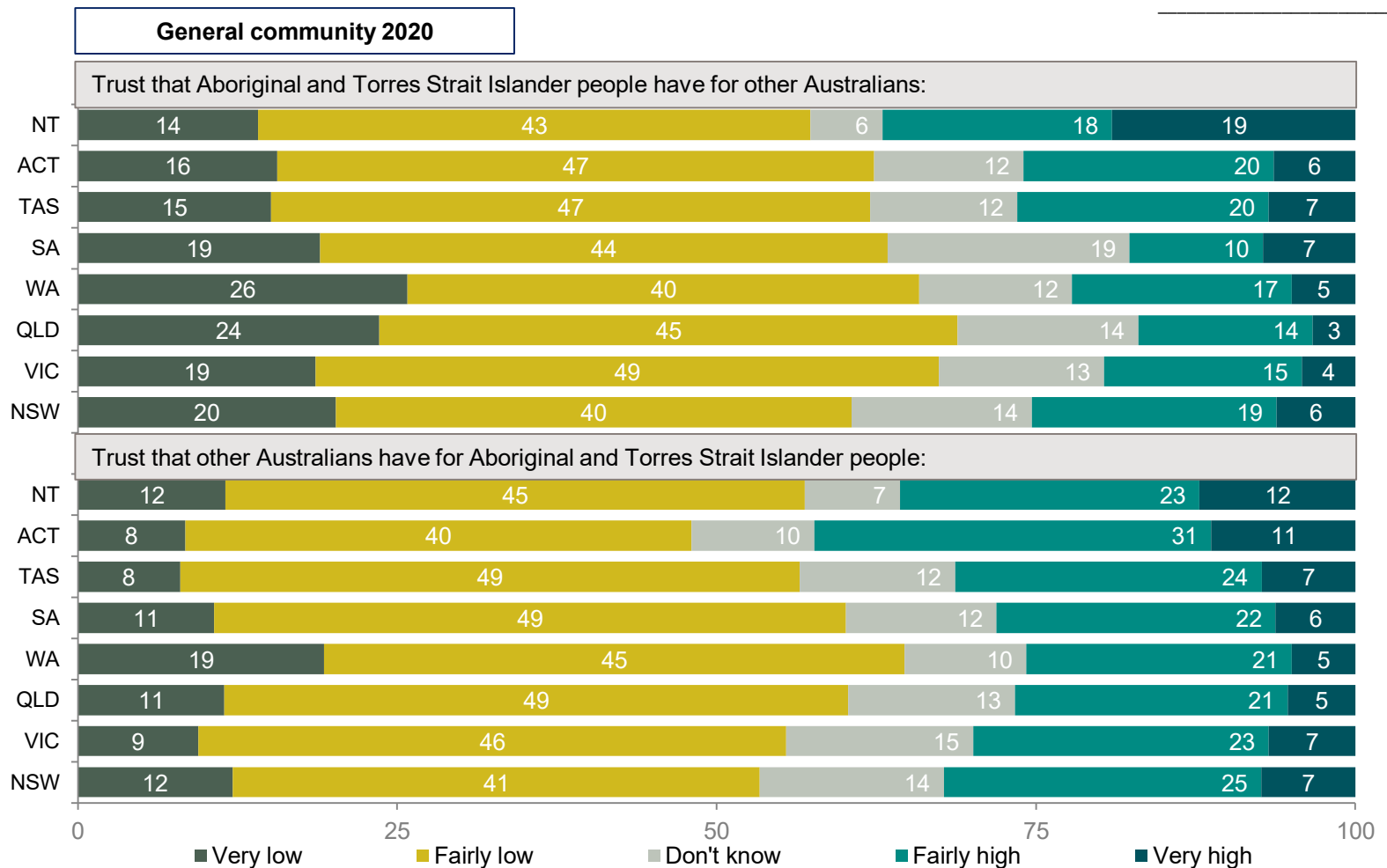
# More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel that other Australians trust them



Perceptions of trust among the general community have remained steady, with 30% feeling they trust Indigenous Australians (27% in 2018) and 22% believing that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have trust for non-Indigenous Australians (21% in 2018). Similarly, the perception of trust held among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has changed little: 44% now feel they have high trust for other Australians, 46% in 2018.

However, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now believe other Australians have high trust for them (47%), than in 2018 (40%).

# Trust is lowest among West Australians and Queenslanders



Perceptions of trust are lowest in WA, with 64% of the general community there feeling there is very/fairly low trust for Indigenous Australians; and also Queensland, where 79% believe that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have very/fairly low trust for other Australians.

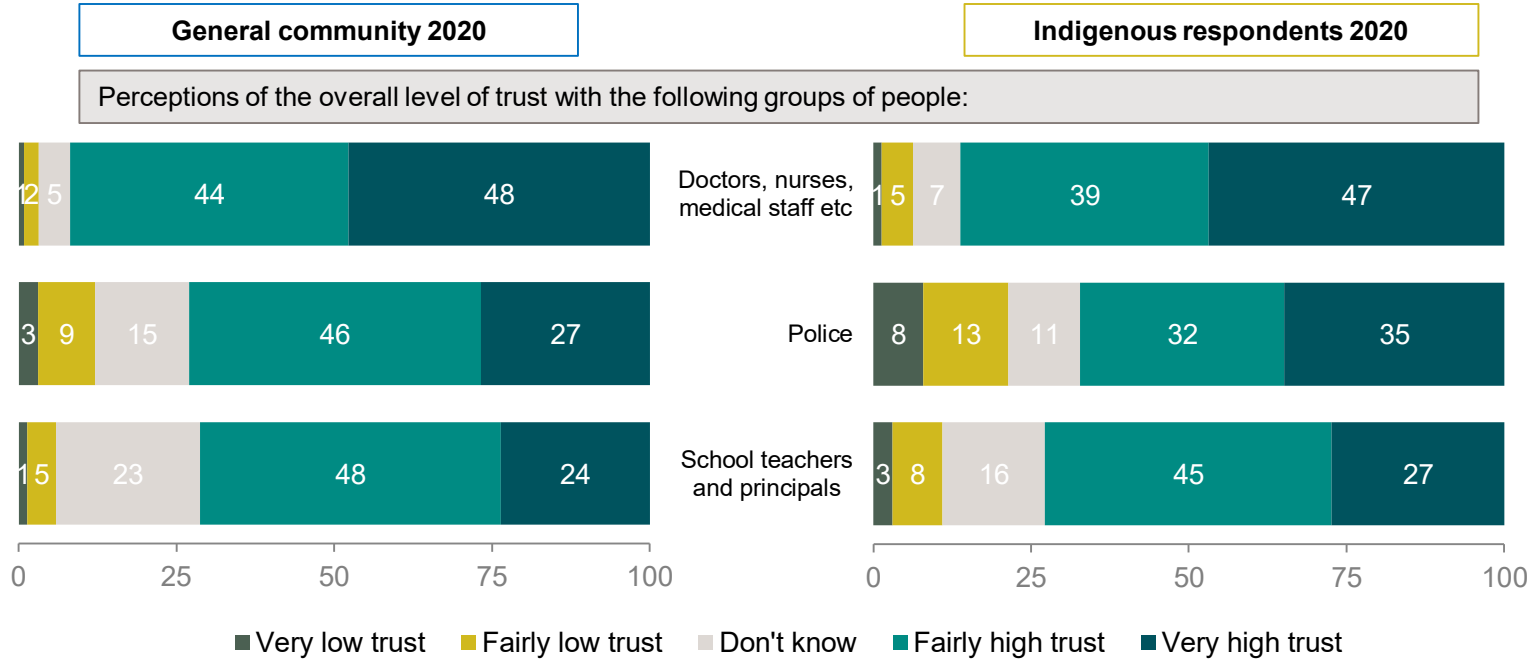
# Relationships have mostly improved between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and all groups of professions since 2018



There has been an improvement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feeling they have very good relationships with all professional groups (except for Police), since 2018.



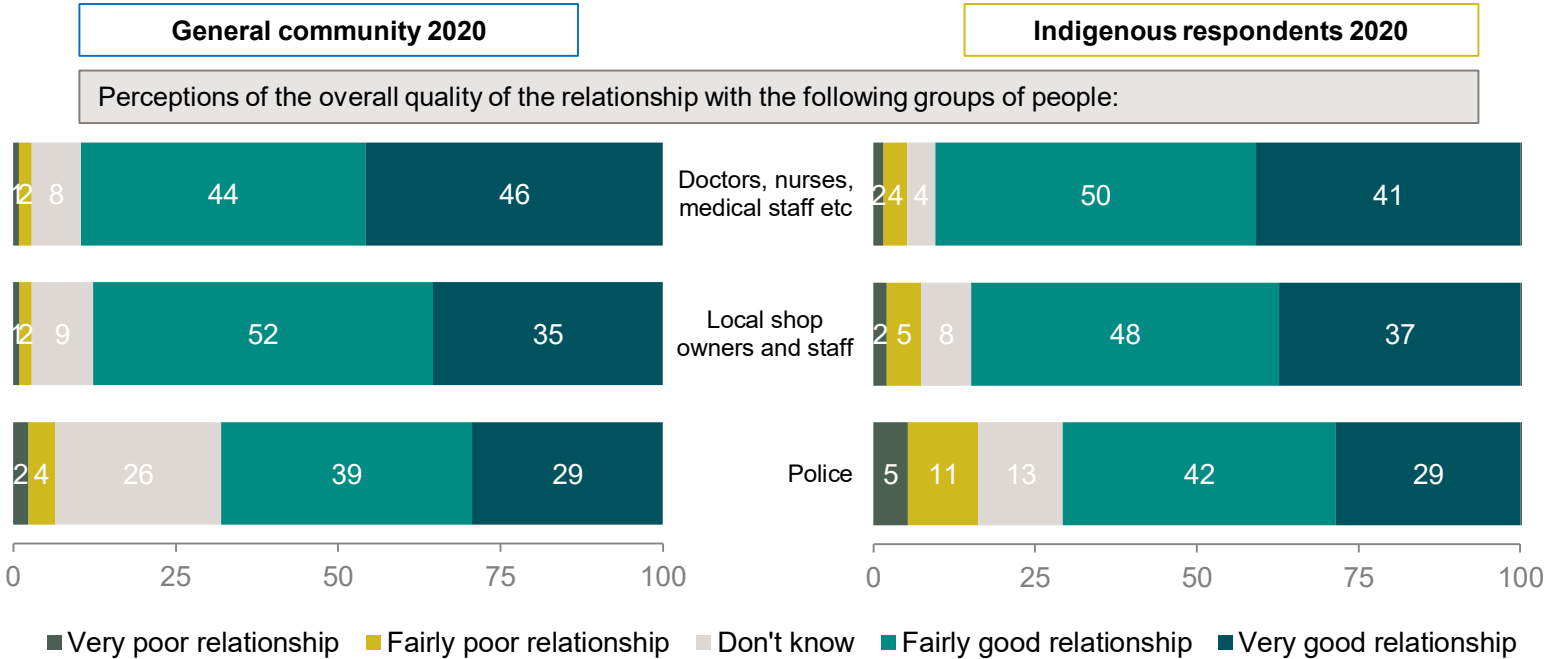
# We mostly feel there is mutual trust with medical staff, police and school staff



The general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people largely feel there is a shared trust with medical staff, police and teachers and principals.

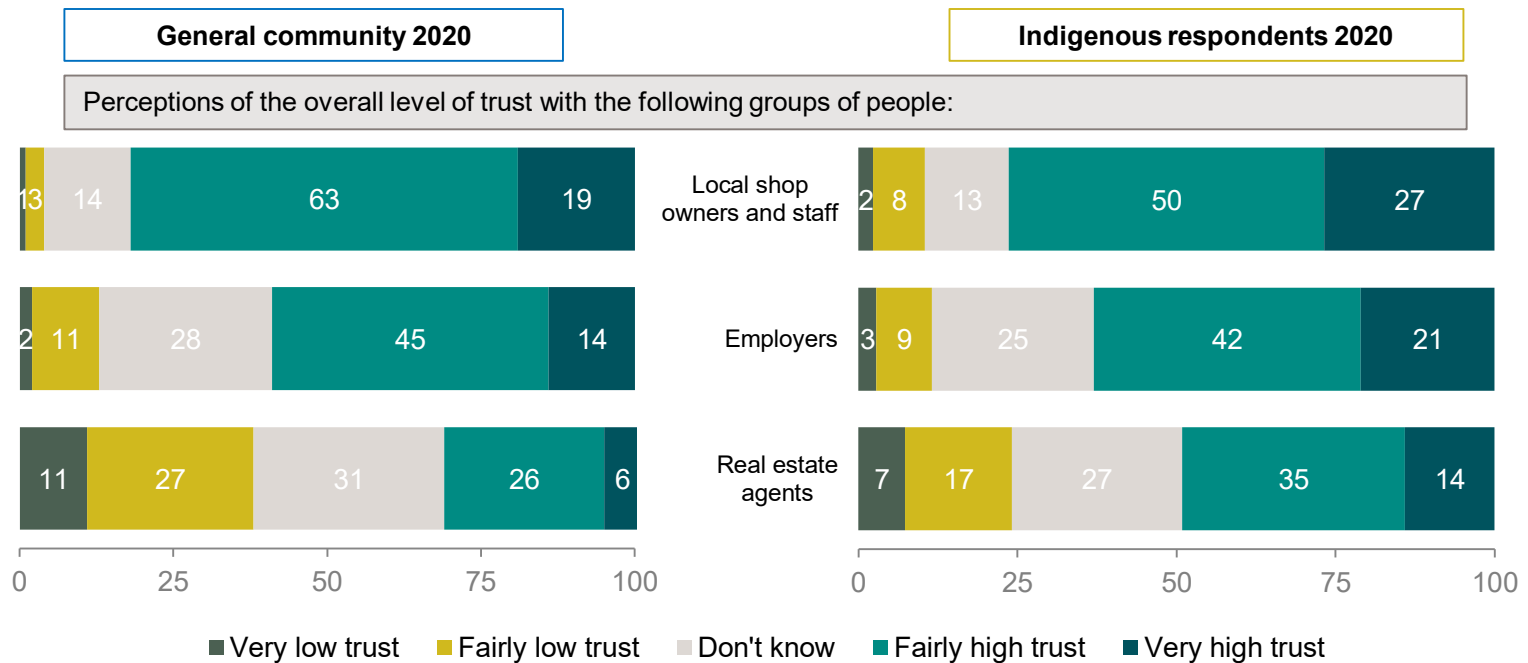
However, 21% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel there is low trust with police, compared with 12% of the general community. Similarly, 11% see low trust with school staff, compared with 6% in the general community.

# We mostly have a good relationship with medical staff and local shops



The general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people largely feel they have good relationships with medical staff, local shop owners and police. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are much more likely to have a poor relationship with police (16%) than the general community (6%).

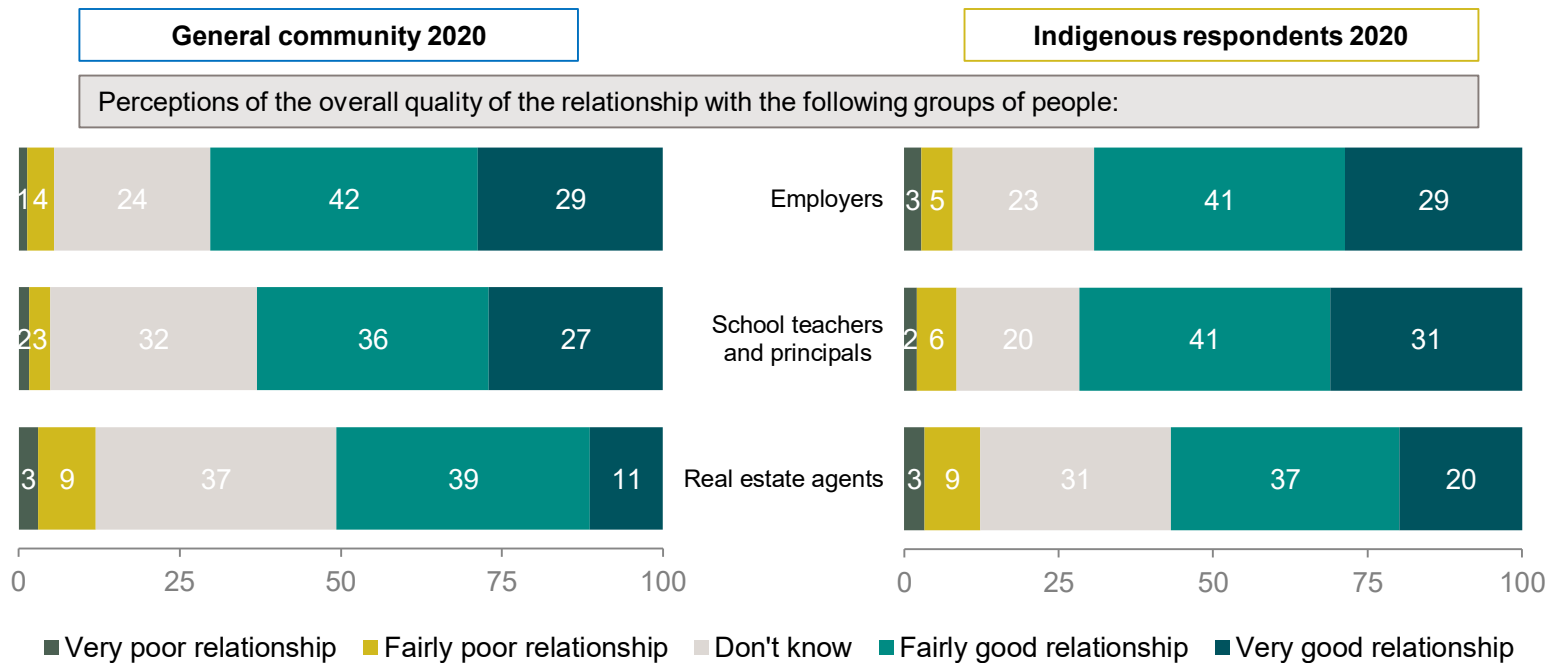
# We are most likely to feel there is a low level of trust with real estate agents



The general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people largely feel there is high trust shared with shop owners and staff and employers.

However, both groups are divided about the overall level of trust shared with real estate agents.

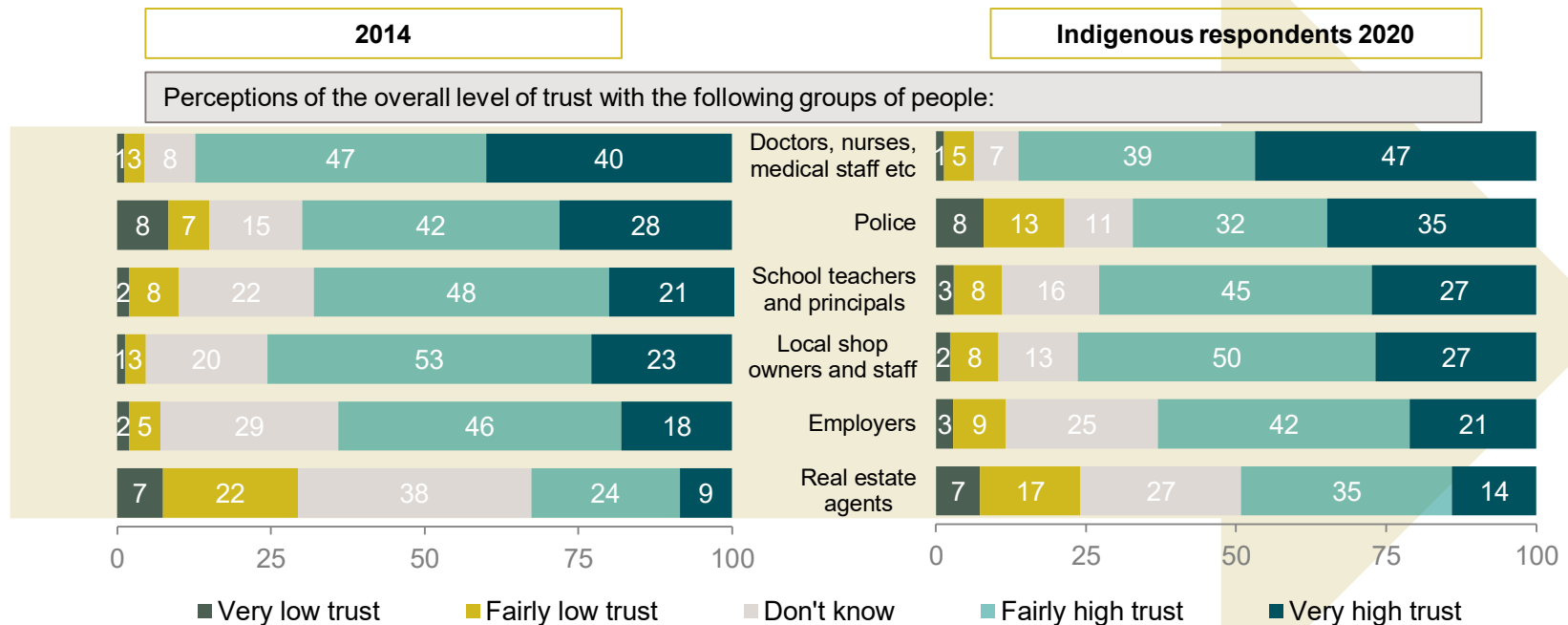
# We are also most likely to have poor relationships with real estate agents



The general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people largely feel they have good relationships with employers and school staff.

However, both groups are most likely to have a poor relationship with real estate agents (12%). This may reflect how community relationships have been impacted by COVID-19 lock downs in 2020, especially in terms of letting issues.

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's trust with most professions is now more mixed than in 2014



More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel there is low trust shared with all professional groups (except for estate agents), compared with 2014. In particular, Indigenous respondents are currently more likely to feel there is a low level of trust between them and police (21%) and local shop staff (10%), than in 2014 (15% and 4% respectively).

However, perceptions of very high trust with all professions have also increased since 2014.

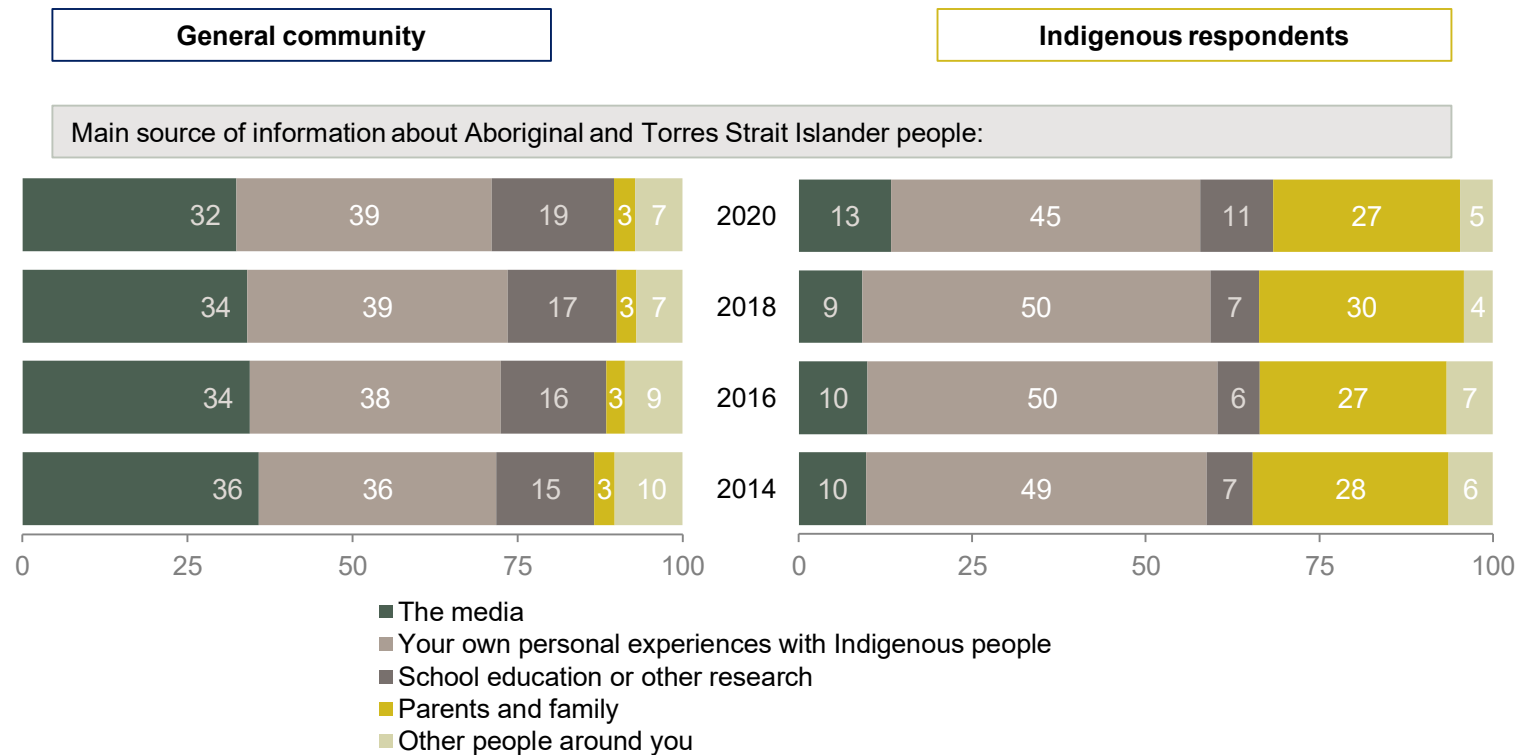
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relationships have mostly improved with all groups of professions since 2014



More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel they have very good relationships with all professional groups, compared with 2014. However, the exception is with Employers.

Notably, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely now to have a good relationship with estate agents (57%), than in 2014 (41%).

# Personal experience is a main source of information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

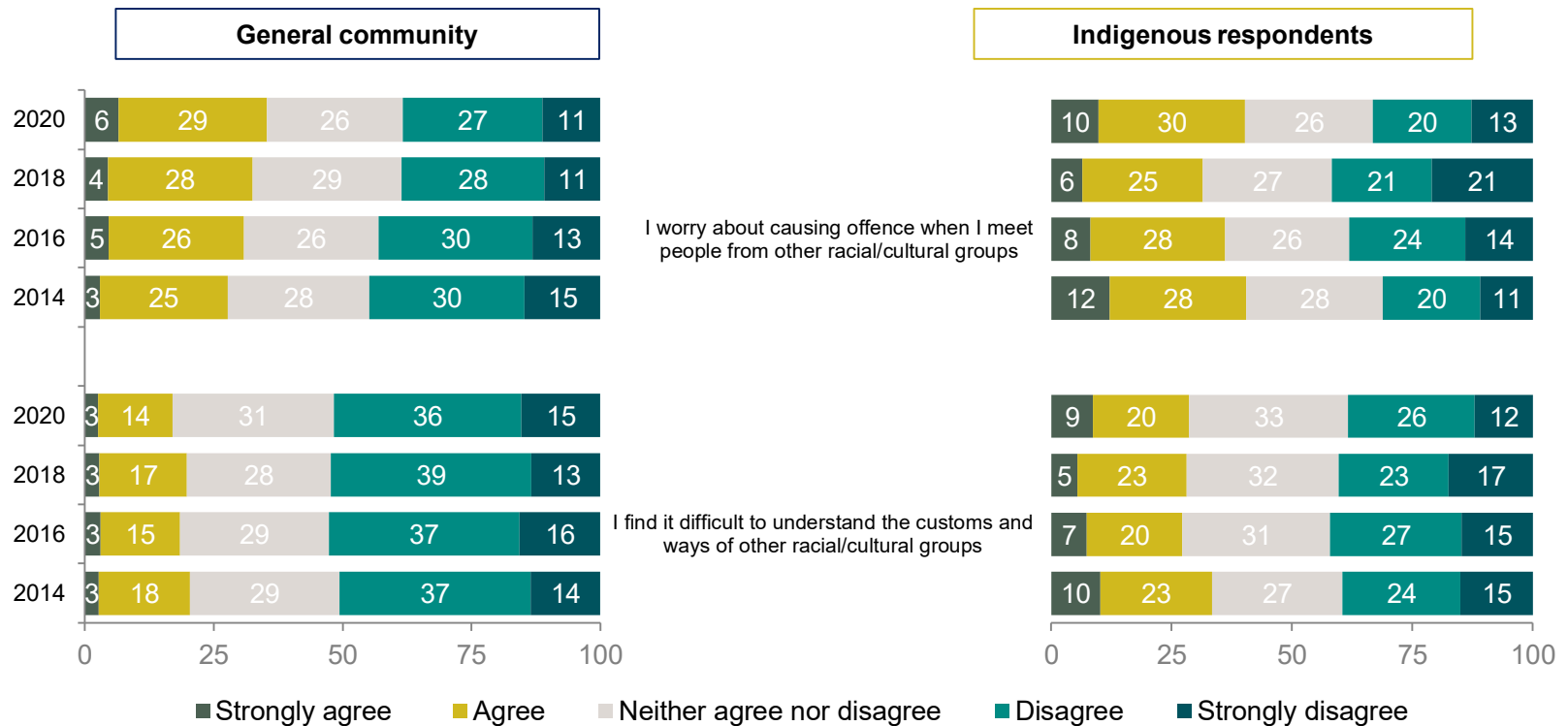


The general community continues to be less likely to cite the media (32%) as their main source of information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Conversely, personal experiences have steadily increased as a key source since 2014.

Unsurprisingly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to learn about their people mostly from their own interactions with their communities (45%) and families (27%).

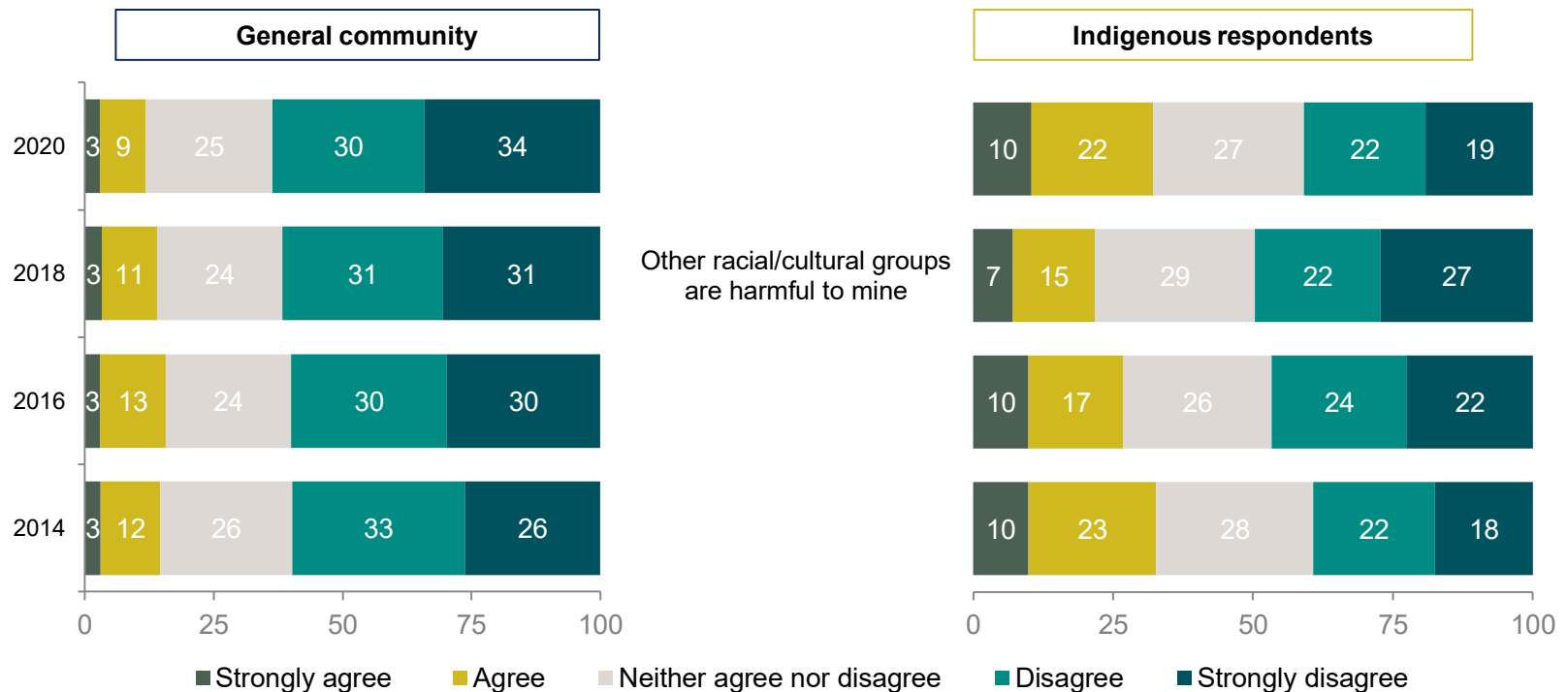


# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to worry about other cultures



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be more likely to worry about causing offence to people from another racial/cultural group (40%) and to find other racial/cultural groups difficult to understand (29%), than the general community.

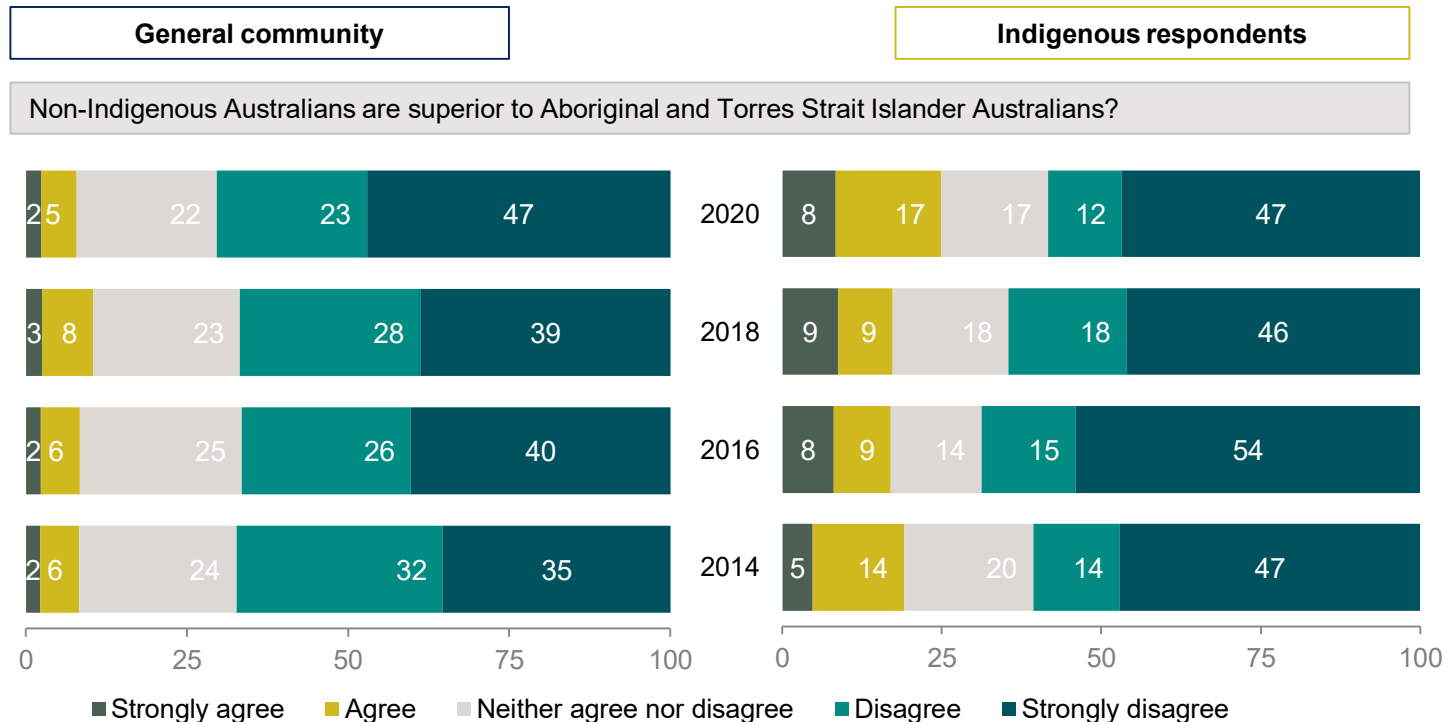
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to feel other cultures can be harmful to theirs



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be more likely to worry that other cultures are harmful to their own (32%), than the general community (12%).

Notably, this level of worry has not been as widespread since 2014 (33%), and again could underline how the COVID-19 pandemic may have exacerbated community conflicts and stressful experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

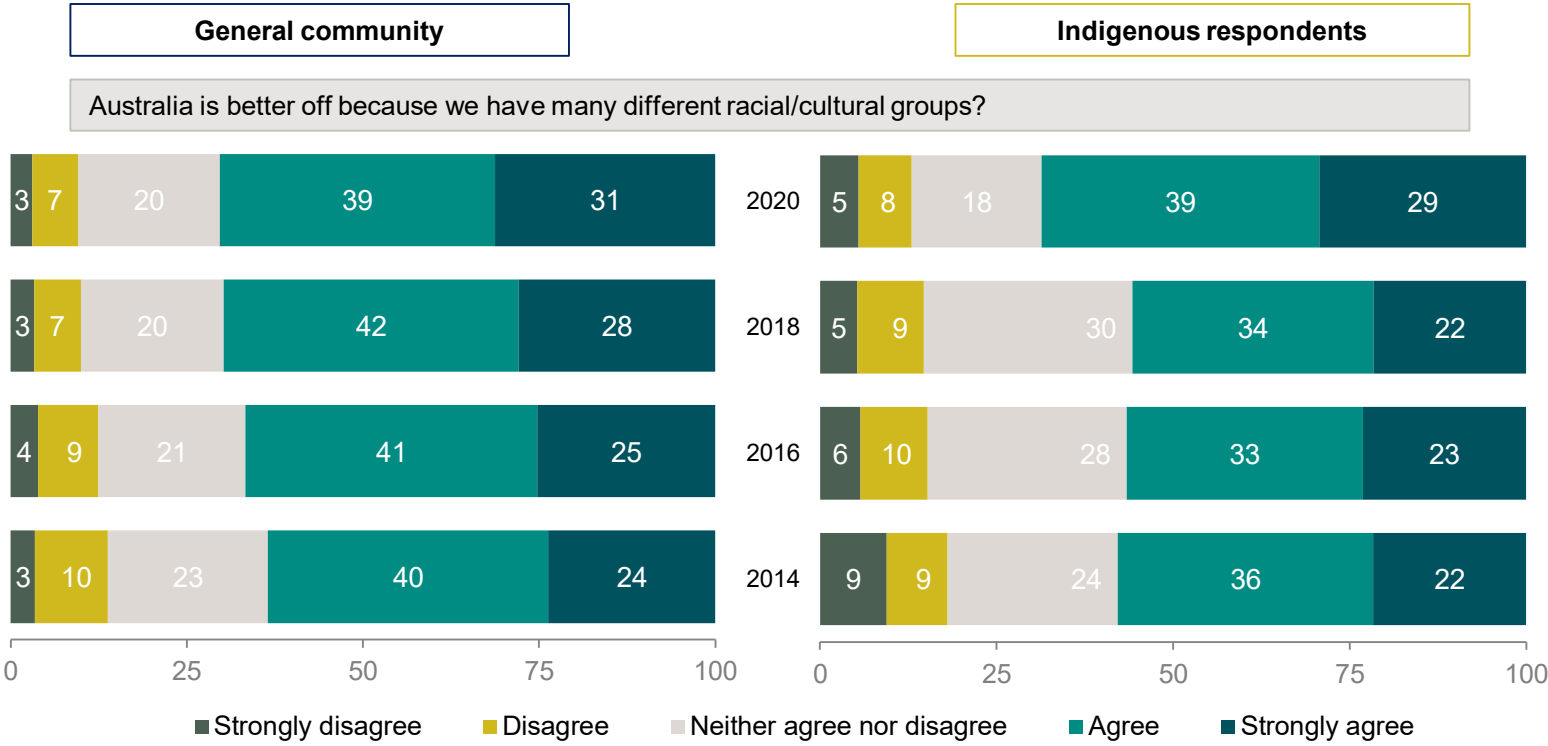
# Most people reject the notion that non-Indigenous Australians are superior



More people in the general community (70%) now disagree that non-Indigenous Australians are superior to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, than Indigenous respondents (59%).

Notably, there has been an increase in Indigenous respondents who agree with this sentiment (25%), a level not seen since 2014. This may continue to reflect issues of low self esteem or perceptions of 'material' superiority in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, among Indigenous respondents. Again, however, the increase may also be due to negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

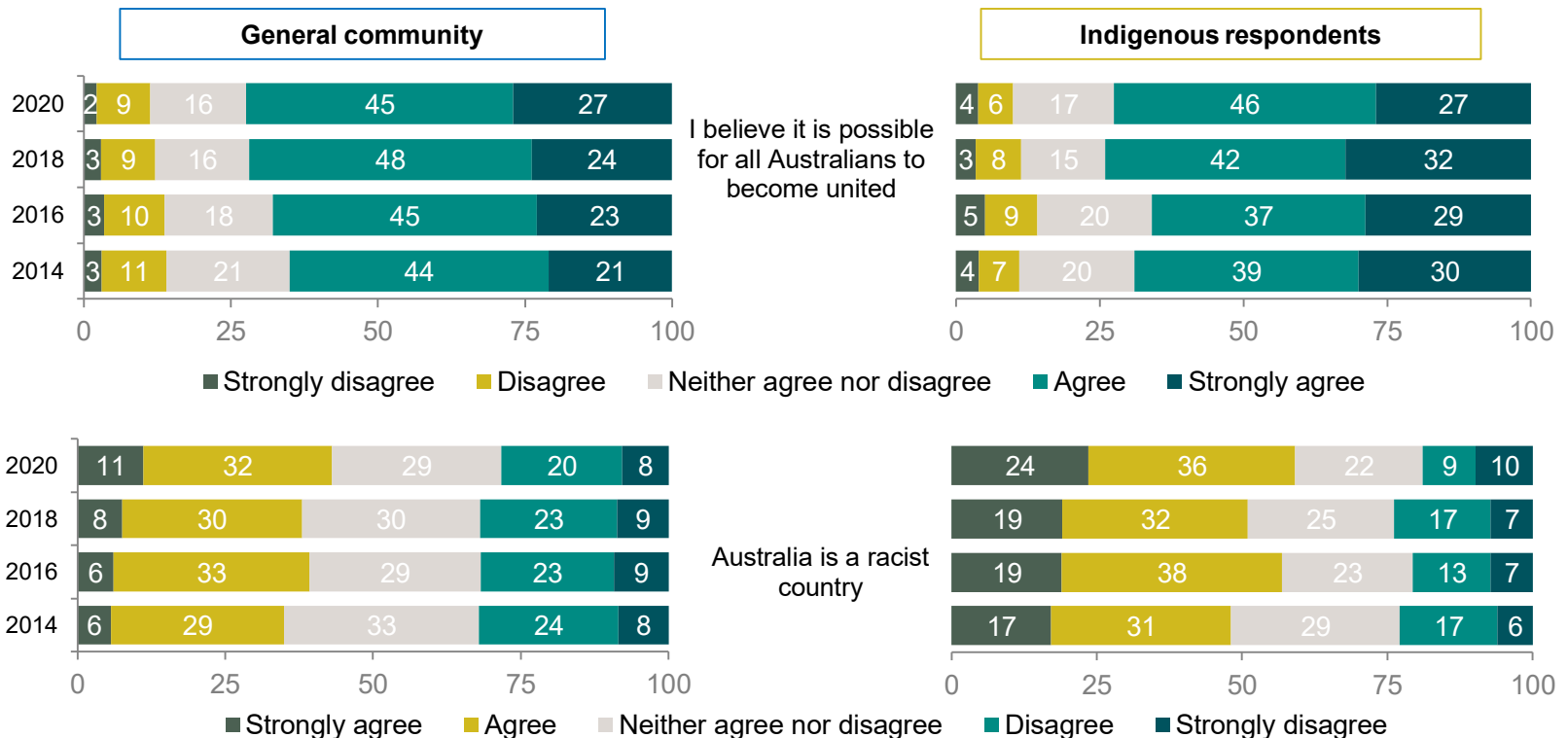
# We mostly agree we are better off with many racial/cultural groups



The general community mostly continues to agree that Australia is better off for having many cultural groups (70%), as do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (68%).

Most notably, there has been a sharp increase among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who agree with this sentiment, since 2018.

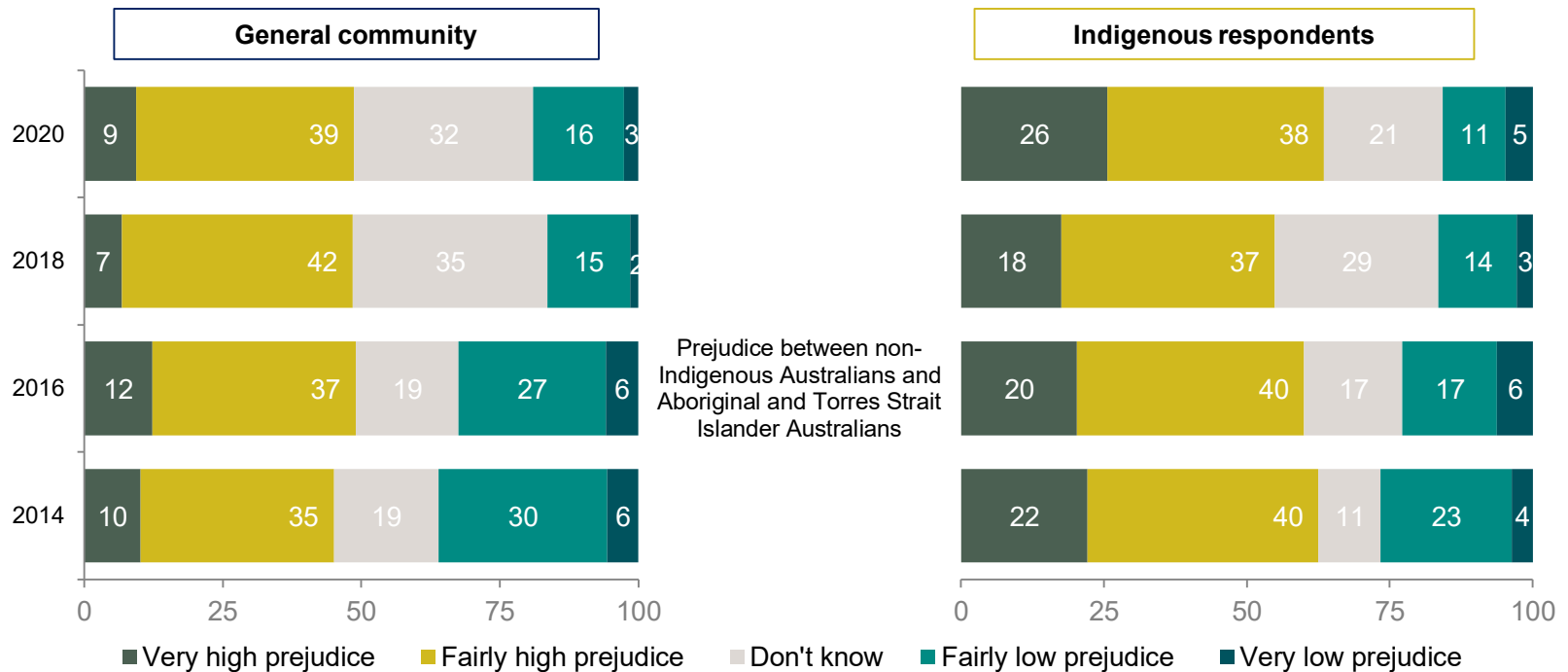
# More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still believe Australia is a racist country



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still more likely to agree Australia is a racist country (60%), than the general community (43%), and are much more likely to strongly agree (24%, compared to 11%). However, the vast majority of both communities also continue to believe all Australians can become united.

Most notably, there has been a sharp increase among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who strongly agree Australia is a racist country, since 2018 (51%). This may reflect not only negative impacts from COVID-19 stresses, but also raised awareness from the Black Lives Matter protests in June 2020.

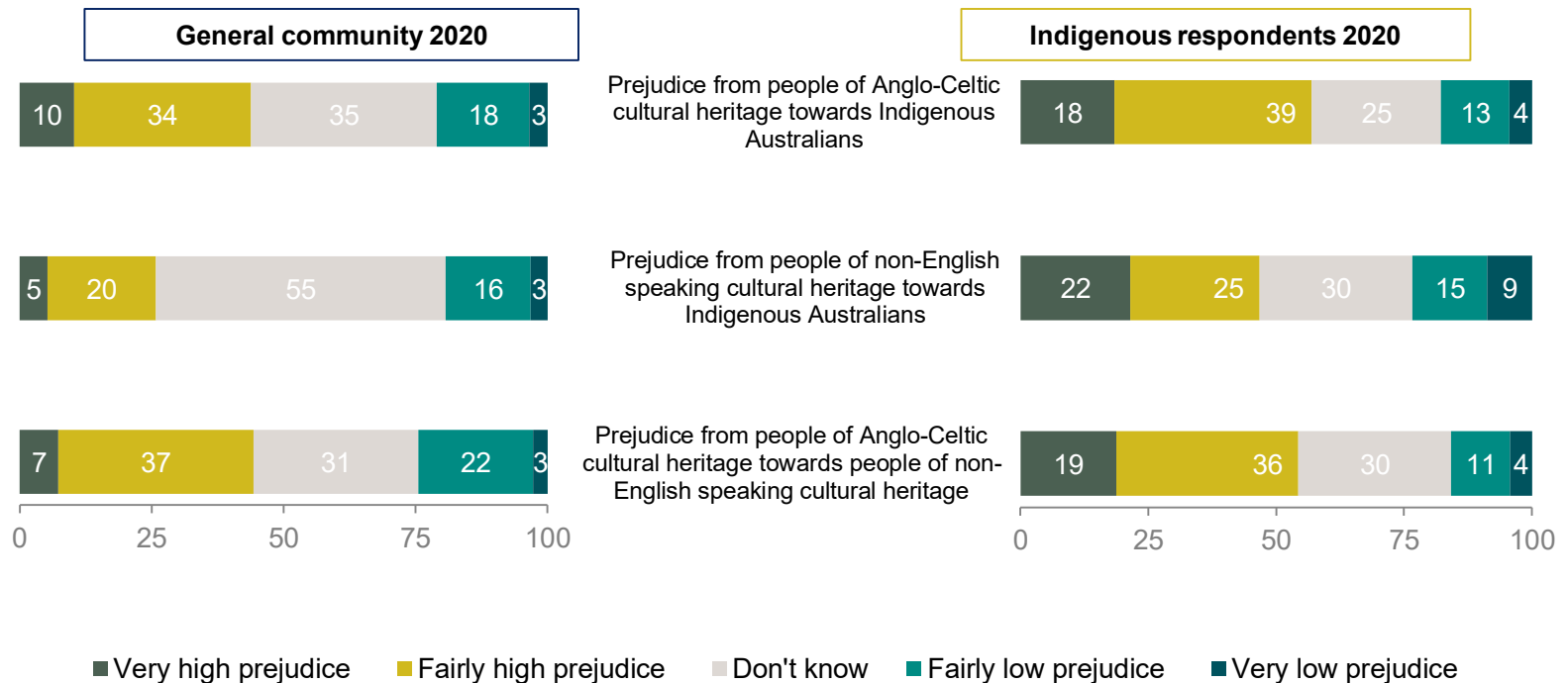
# We continue to be more likely to see high prejudice between ourselves



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be more likely to feel there is very high prejudice between themselves and non-Indigenous Australians (26%), than the general community (9%).

Most notably, there has been a sharp increase among Indigenous respondents who believe there is very high prejudice, since 2018 (18%). Again, this may reflect not only negative impacts from COVID-19 stresses, but also raised awareness from the Black Lives Matter protests in June 2020.

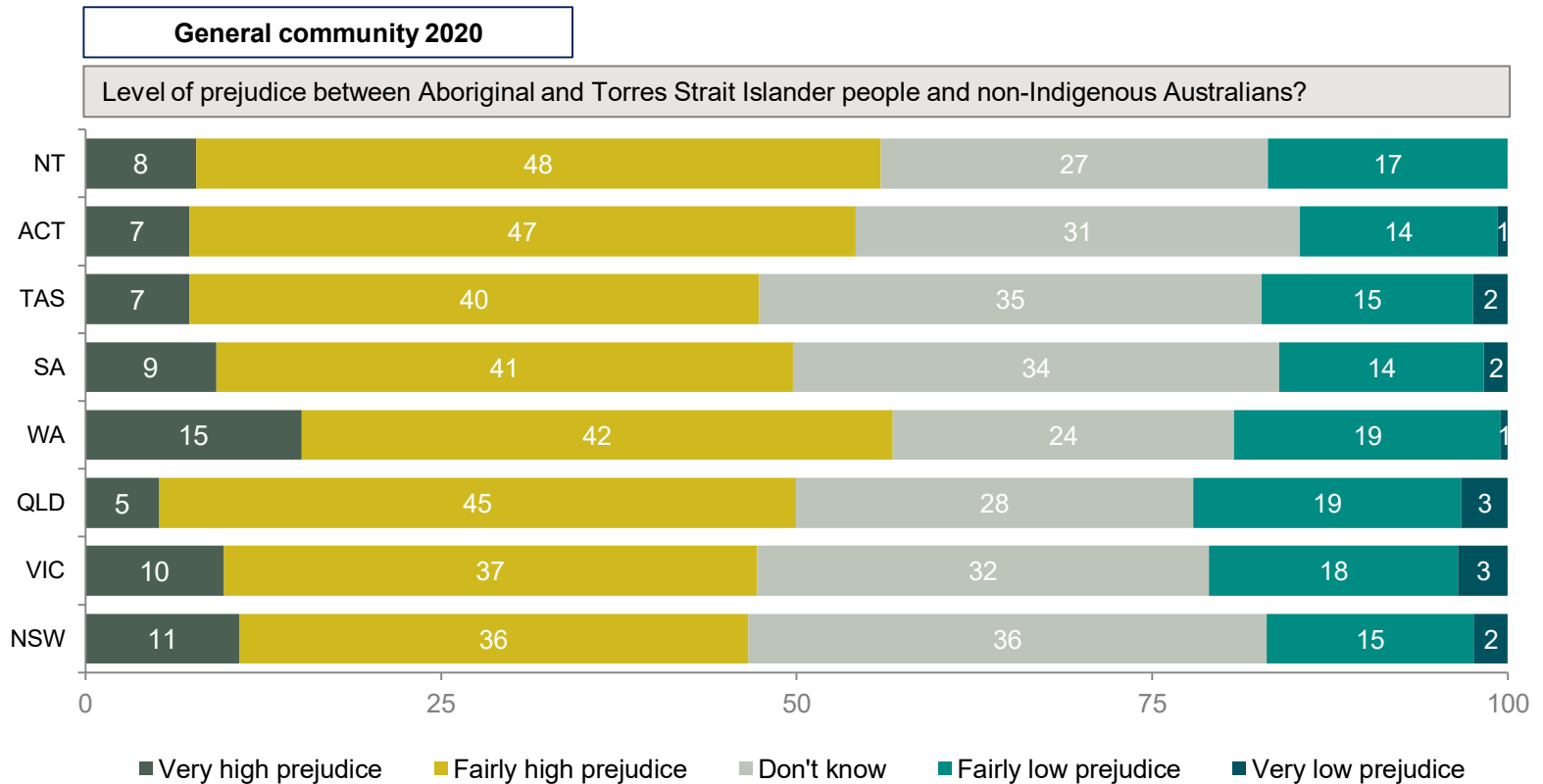
# We are most likely to see high prejudice from people of Anglo-Celtic heritage



Both the general community (44%) and Indigenous respondents (57%) widely see high prejudice from Australians of Anglo-Celtic heritage towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are much more likely to see high levels of prejudice towards themselves from non-English speaking heritage Australians (47%), than the general community believes (25%).

# West Australians are most likely to feel there is very high prejudice between the communities

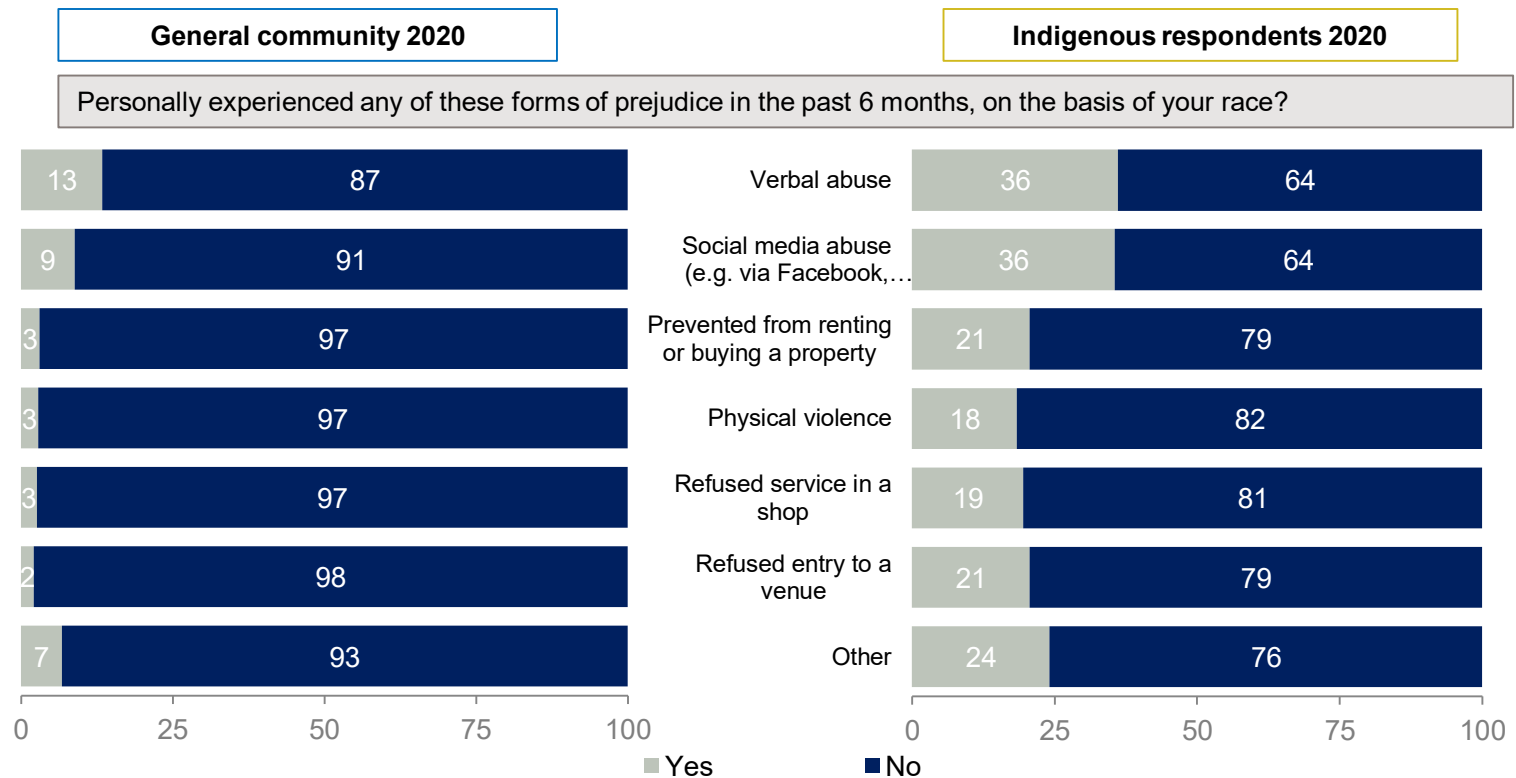


Levels of prejudice between non-Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are most widely perceived to be high in Western Australia and Northern Territory.

Conversely, the general communities of Queensland (22%) and Victoria (21%) most widely believe there are low levels of prejudice.



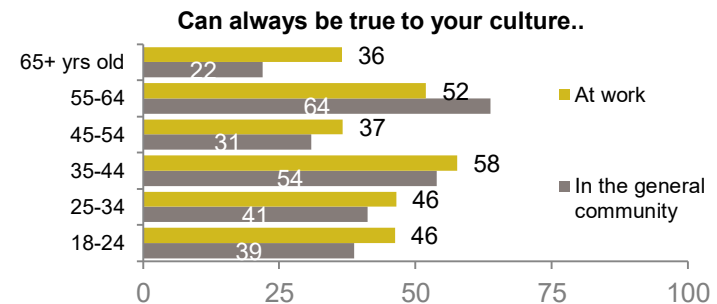
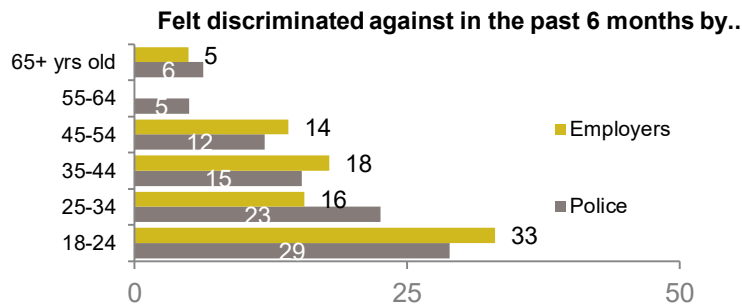
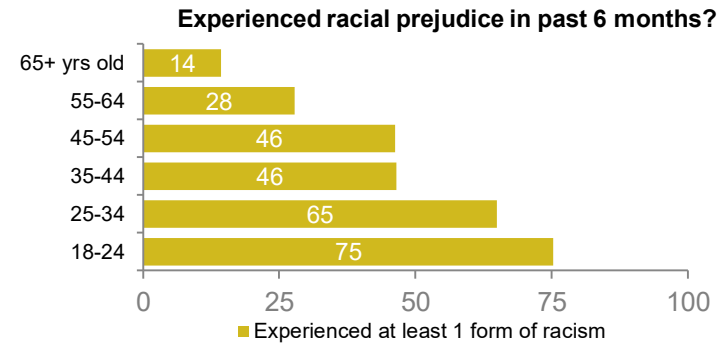
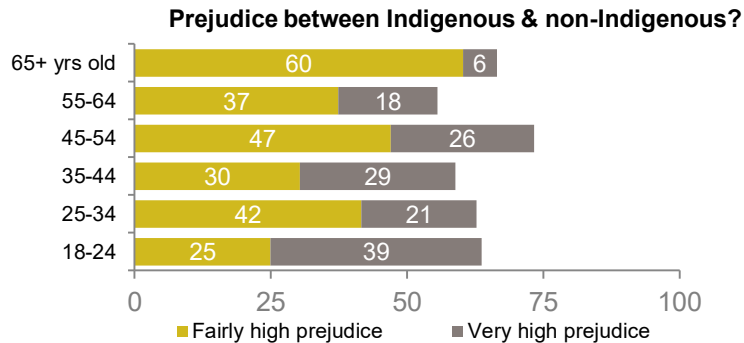
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are much more likely to have experienced racial prejudice in the past 6 months



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are nearly three-times as likely to have experienced verbal abuse in the past six months (36%), than the general community (13%), and are much more likely to have experienced other forms of prejudice, on the basis of their race.

# The *experiences* of younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are mostly more negative

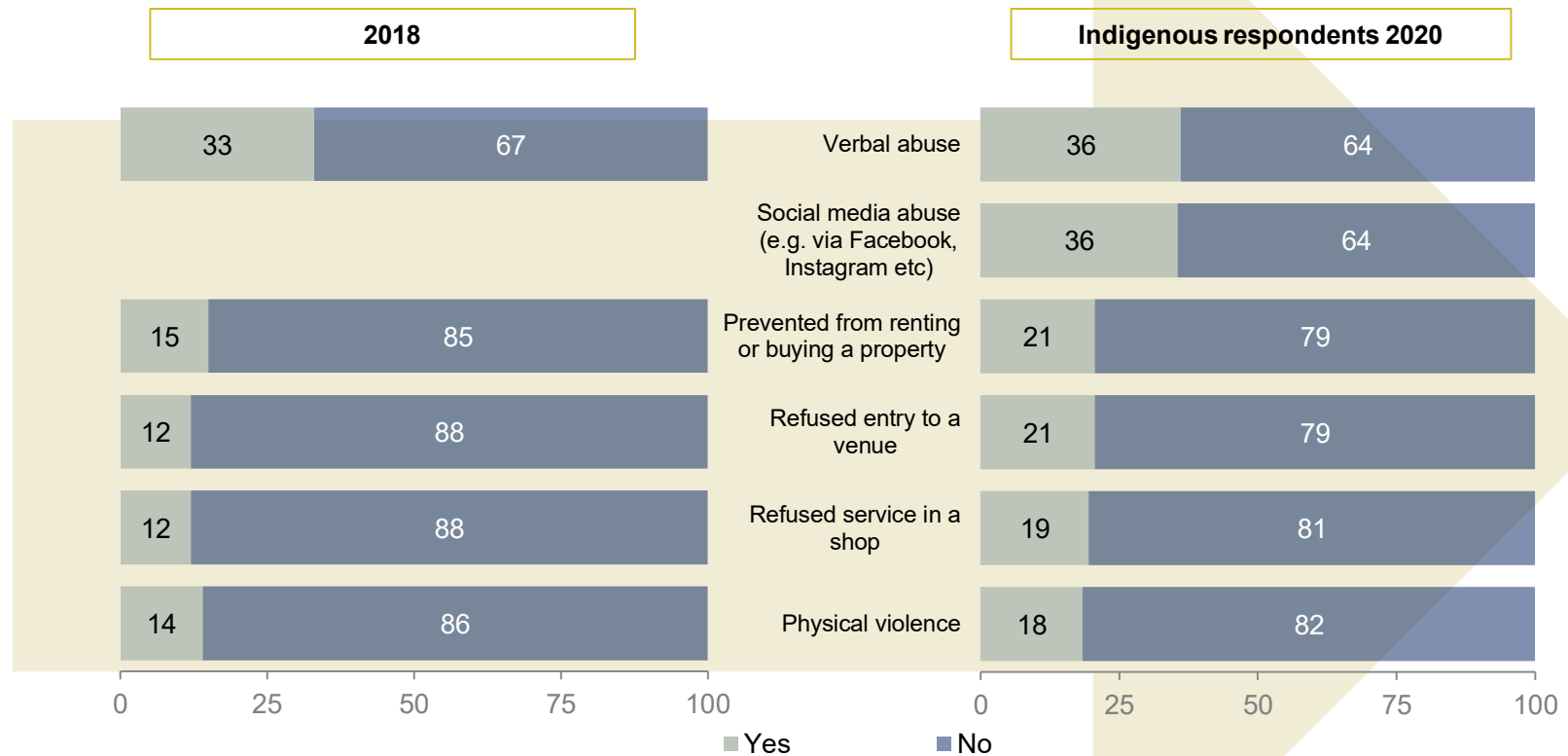
## Indigenous respondents 2020



When it comes to views of prejudice between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the general community, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples are most likely to see very high prejudice (39%), compared to other age groups.

Several daily issues can be seen as underlying factors. Along with many experiencing racial prejudice in the past six months (75%), 18-24 year olds are most likely to have felt discriminated against by employers or police. And, consequently, not many young Indigenous peoples feel they can always be themselves at work or in the general community.

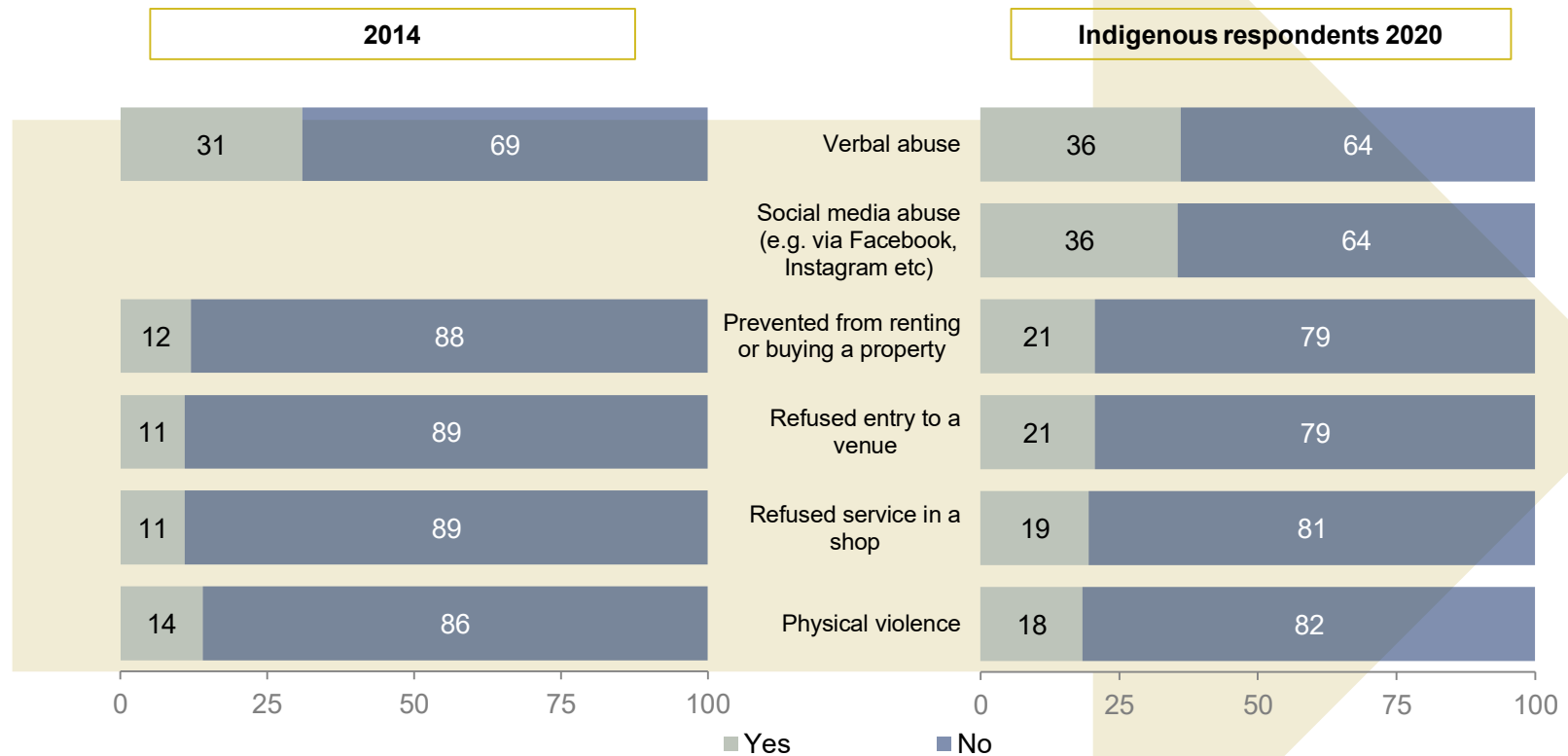
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences of racial prejudice have increased since 2018



There has been a notable increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing racial prejudice in the past six months, compared to 2018.

Most notably, there have been sharp increases among experiencing property (21%), venue entry (21%) and shop service (19%) related racist prejudice, since 2018. Again, this may reflect not only negative impacts from COVID-19 stresses, but also raised awareness or reactions from the Black Lives Matter protests in June 2020.

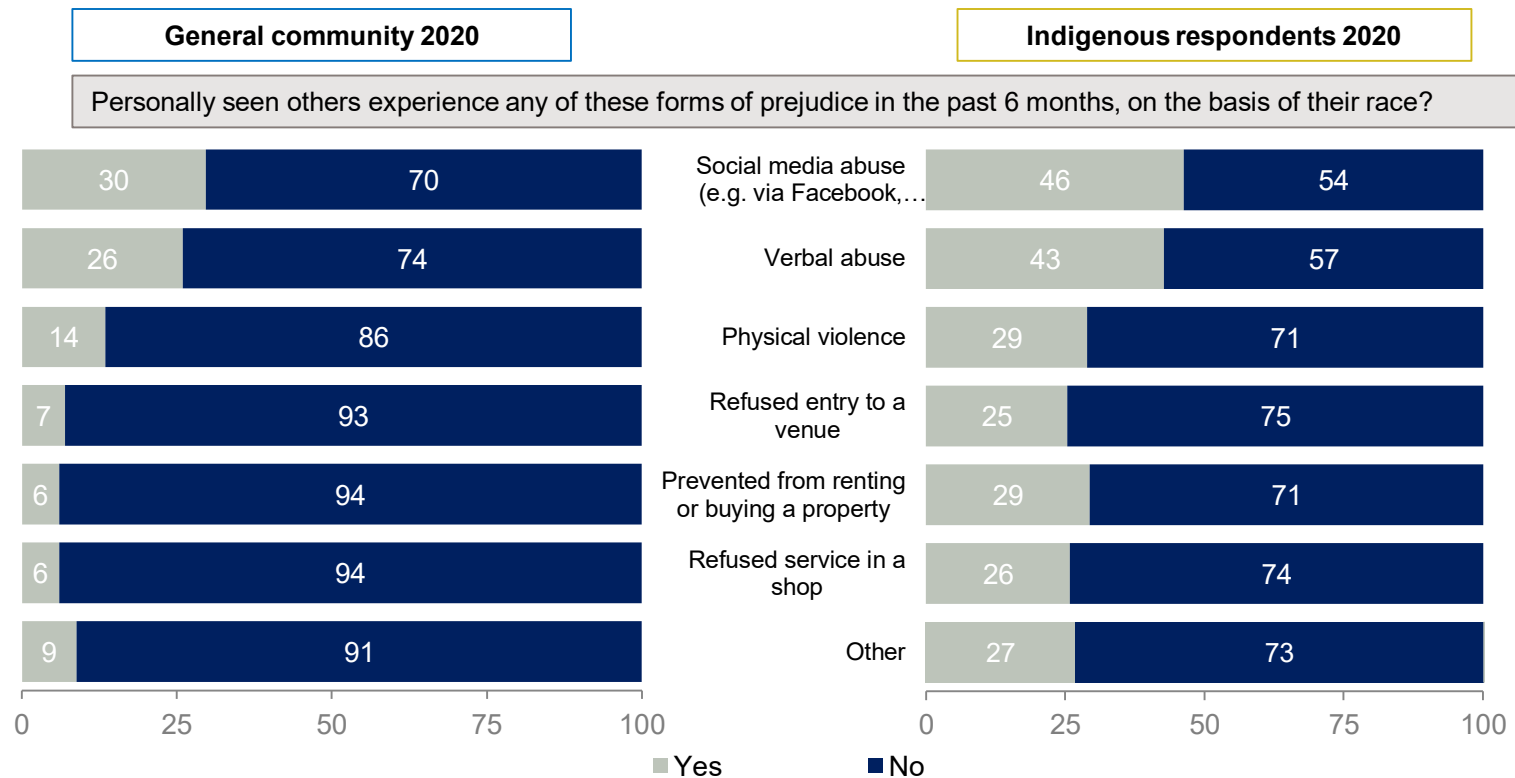
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences of racial prejudice have increased since 2014



There has largely been a worsening of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences of race-based prejudice in the past six years.

Most notably, the issue appears to be getting worse in terms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people trying to rent or buy property or gaining entry to a venue or being served in shops.

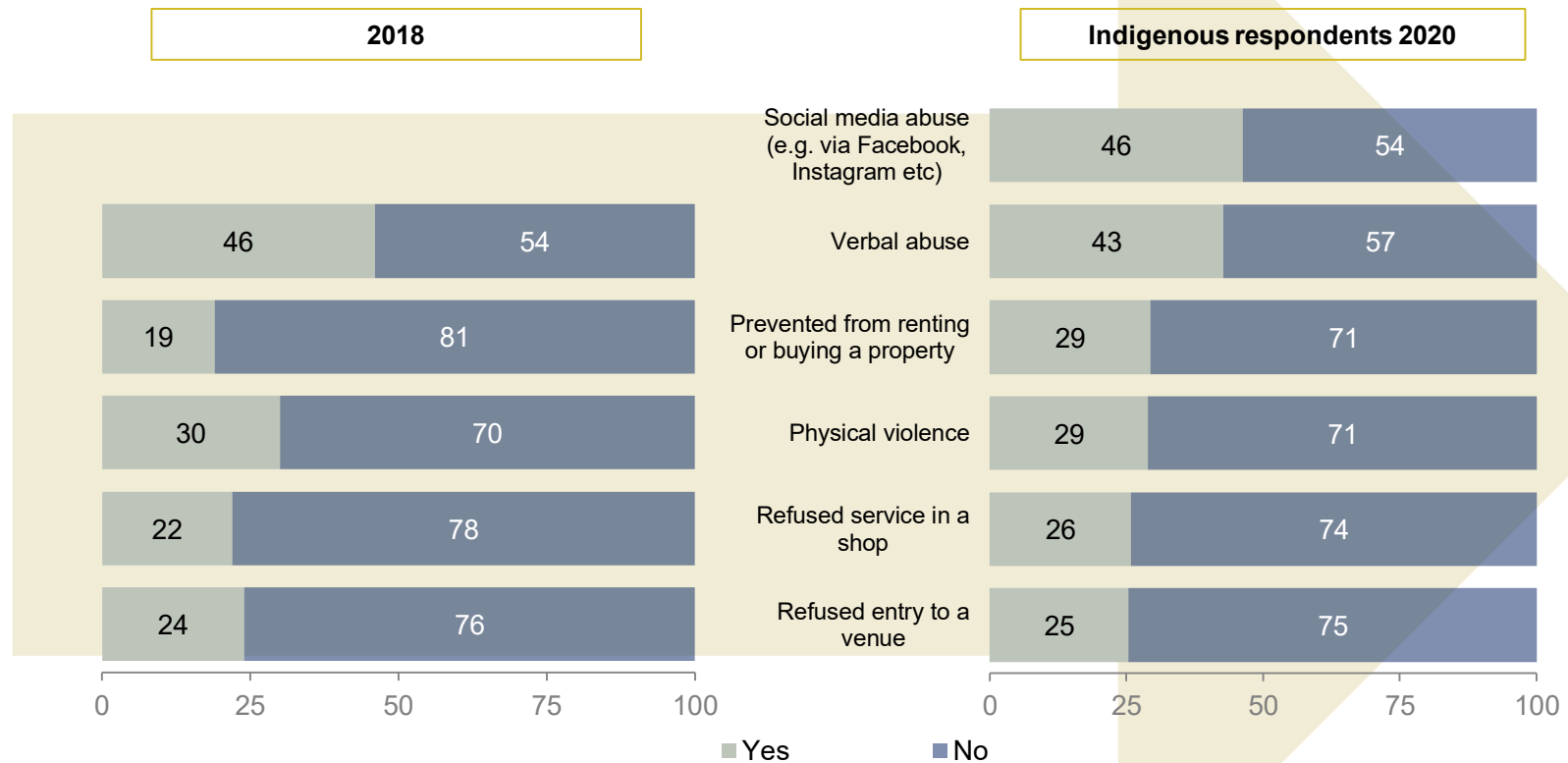
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are much more likely to have witnessed racial prejudice in the past 6 months



More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have witnessed verbal abuse (43%) or social media abuse (46%) of another person in the past six months, than in the general community (26% and 30%).

Notably, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are much more likely to have witnessed other forms of prejudice, on the basis of their race, compared to the general public.

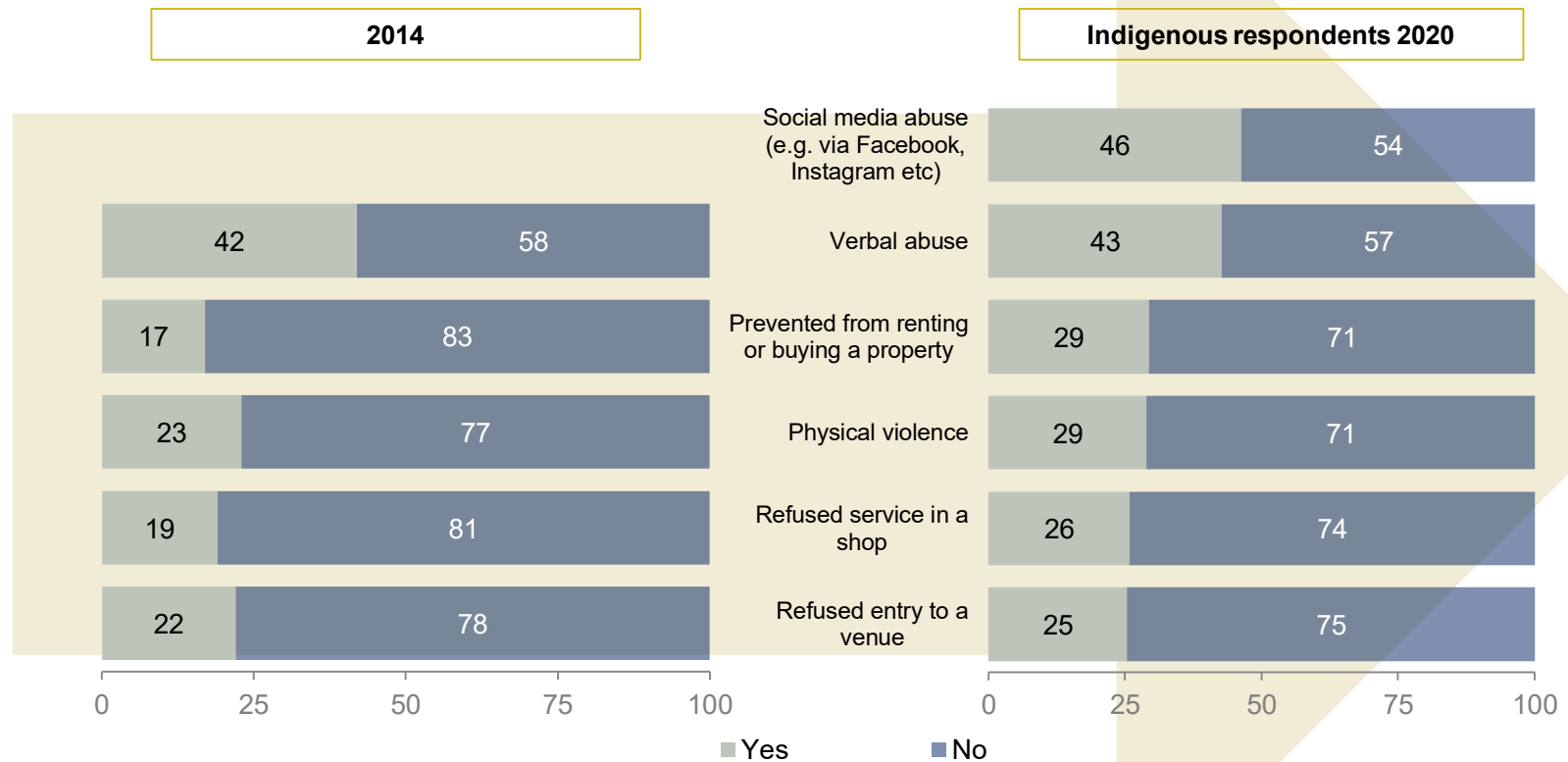
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's witness of racial prejudice has mostly increased since 2018



Since 2018, there has been a slight increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people witnessing most forms of race-based prejudice.

Most notably, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have witnessed prejudice towards others in the context of property transactions (29%), than two years ago (19%). This may well have been exacerbated by COVID-19 lock down stresses, especially in terms of letting conflicts.

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's witness of racial prejudice has increased since 2014



More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (29%) have witnessed others being prevented from renting or buying a property in the past six months, up from 2014 (17%).

Worryingly, they are also more likely to have witnessed other forms of race-based prejudice, compared to 2014.

# EQUALITY & EQUITY

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples participate equally in a range of life opportunities and the unique rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are recognised and upheld.*

How do we feel about our living standards and is enough being done to close the gap?

## **Key Findings:**

94% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and 95% of the general community believe it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that affect them.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and Australians in the general community, believe more must be done by government departments to close the gap in areas of disadvantage:

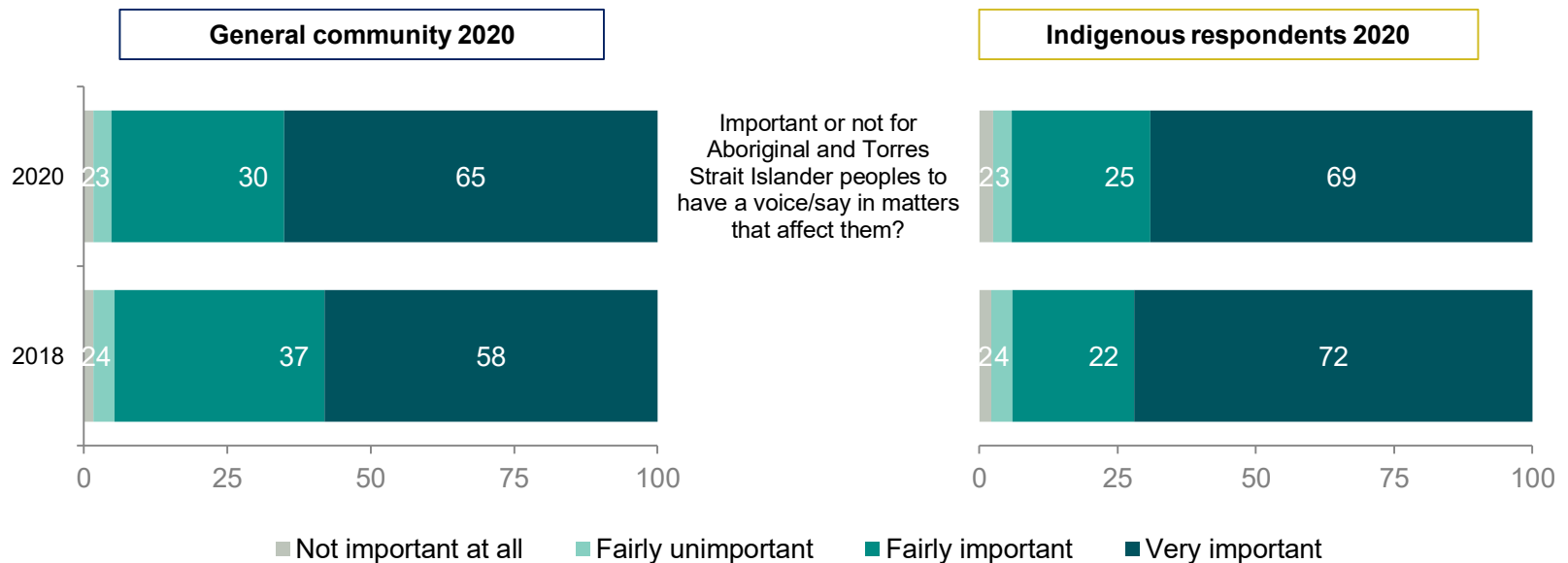
**Health:** general community (60%), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (73%)

**Justice:** general community (62%), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (71%)

**Employment:** general community (57%), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (64%)



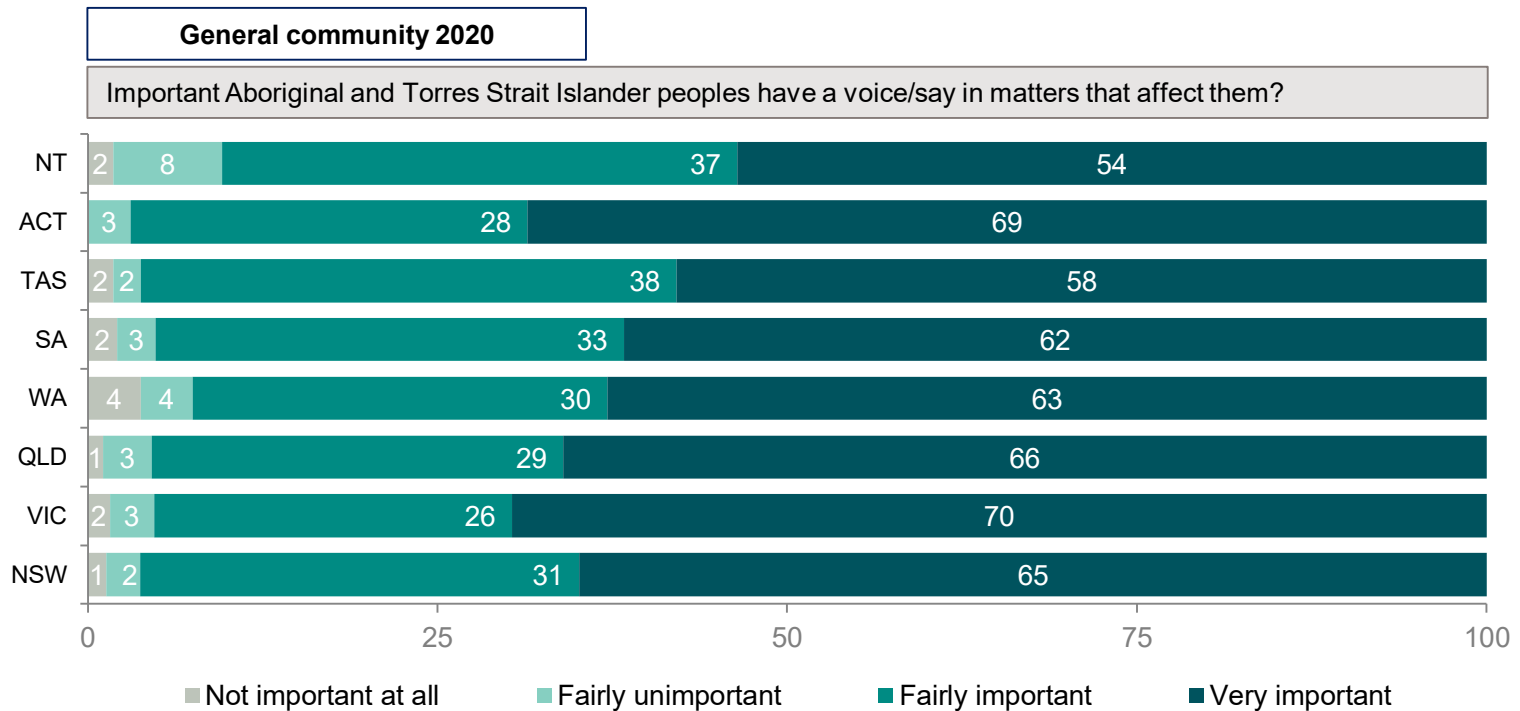
# We mostly believe it is very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in their affairs



The general community (95%) and Indigenous communities (94%) widely believe it's important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that affect them. This level of overall support remains constant since 2018.

Most notably, this includes an even stronger majority of the general public (65%) who think this is very important.

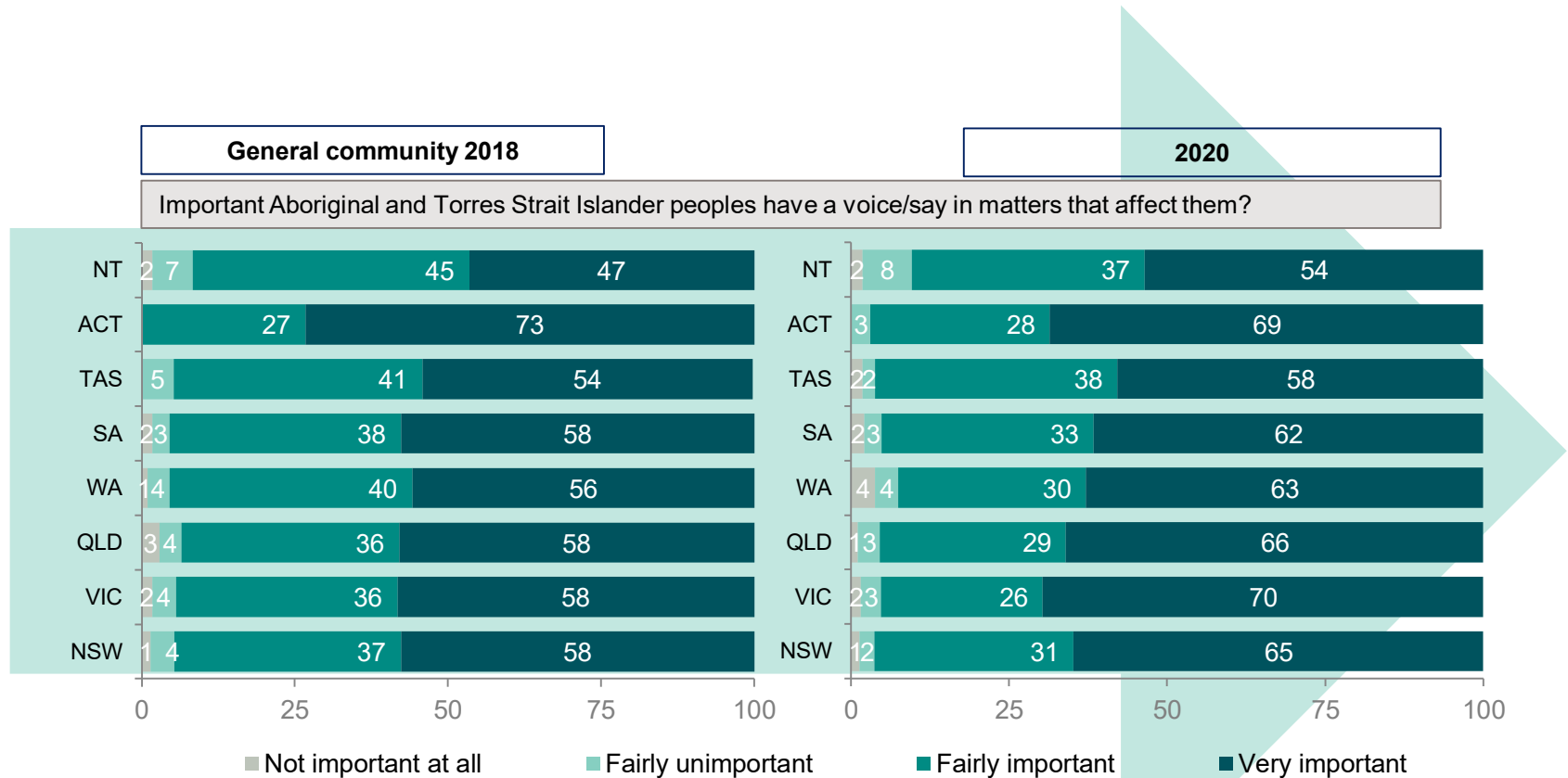
# More people from Victoria believe it is very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a voice



The general community in Victoria mostly believe (70%) that it's very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that affect them. Conversely, only 54% of people in Northern Territory think this is very important.

However, strong majorities in all states and territories believe this is important.

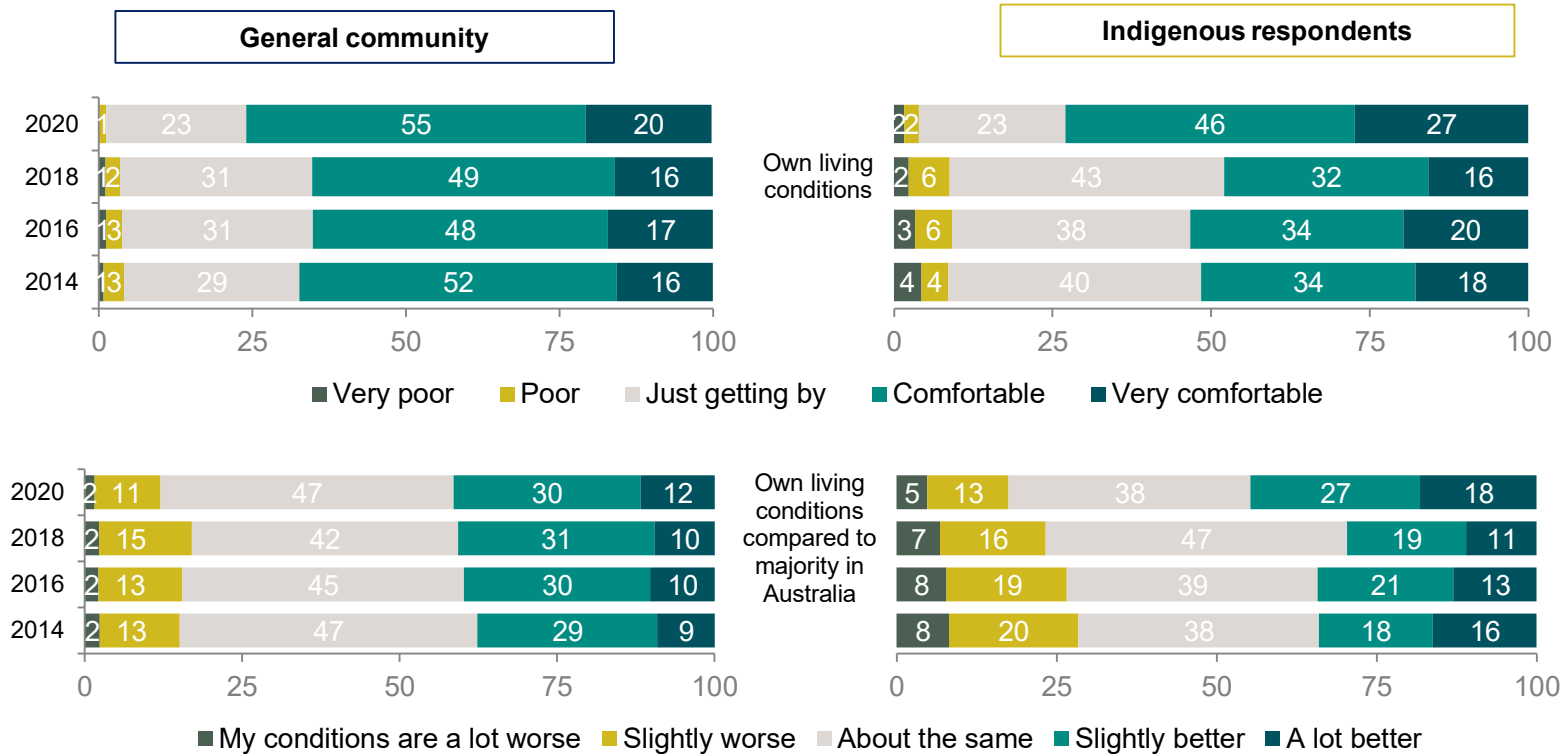
# More people in most States/Territories now believe it is very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a voice



The general community in all states and territories (except ACT) now believe that it's very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that affect them, compared to 2018.

This increase has been most notable in Victoria (70%), since two years ago.

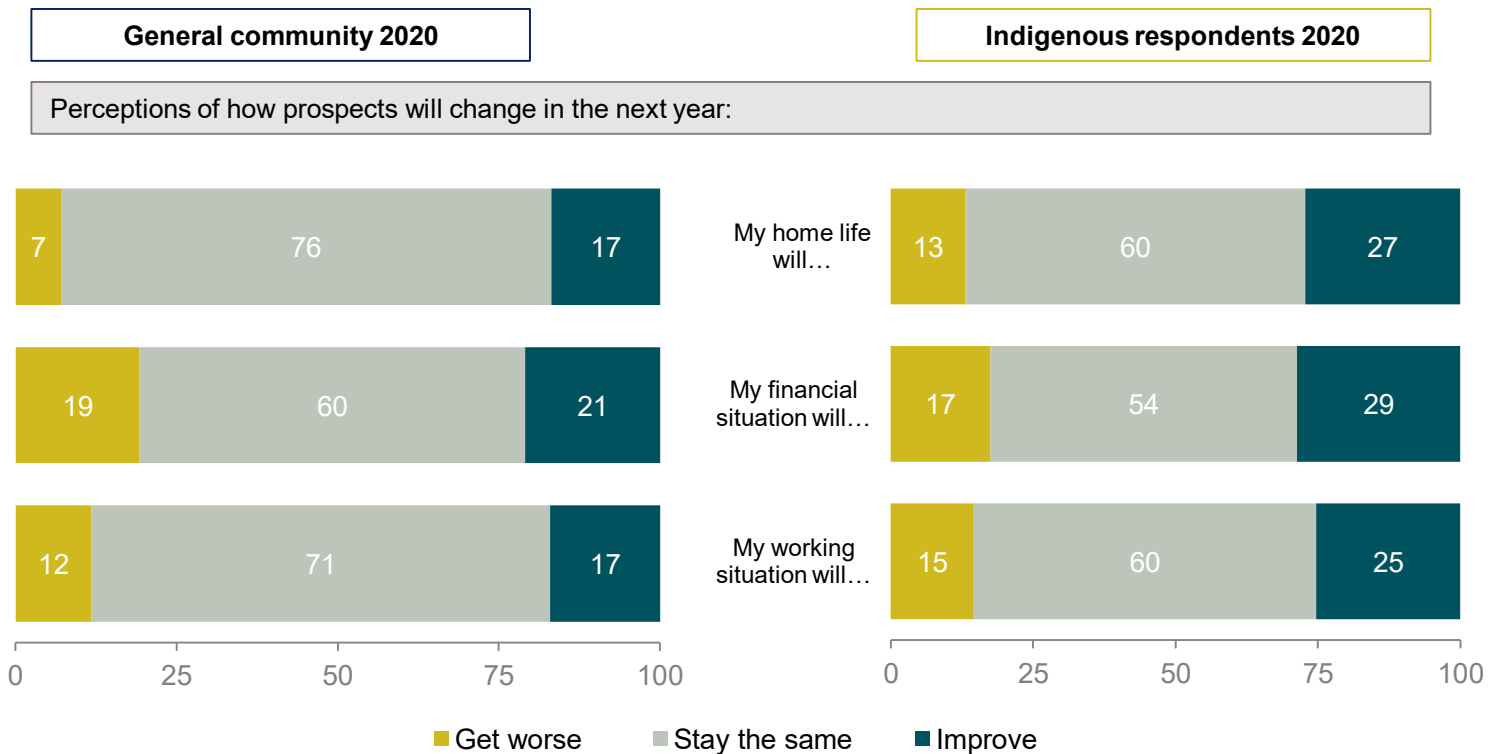
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to consider their living conditions are less comfortable



75% of the general community and 73% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people consider their own living conditions to be comfortable. This 'gap' has improved sharply since 2018, with less Indigenous respondents now "just getting by".

However, while only 2% of the general public consider their own living conditions to be a lot worse than the majority of people in Australia, 5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel that way.

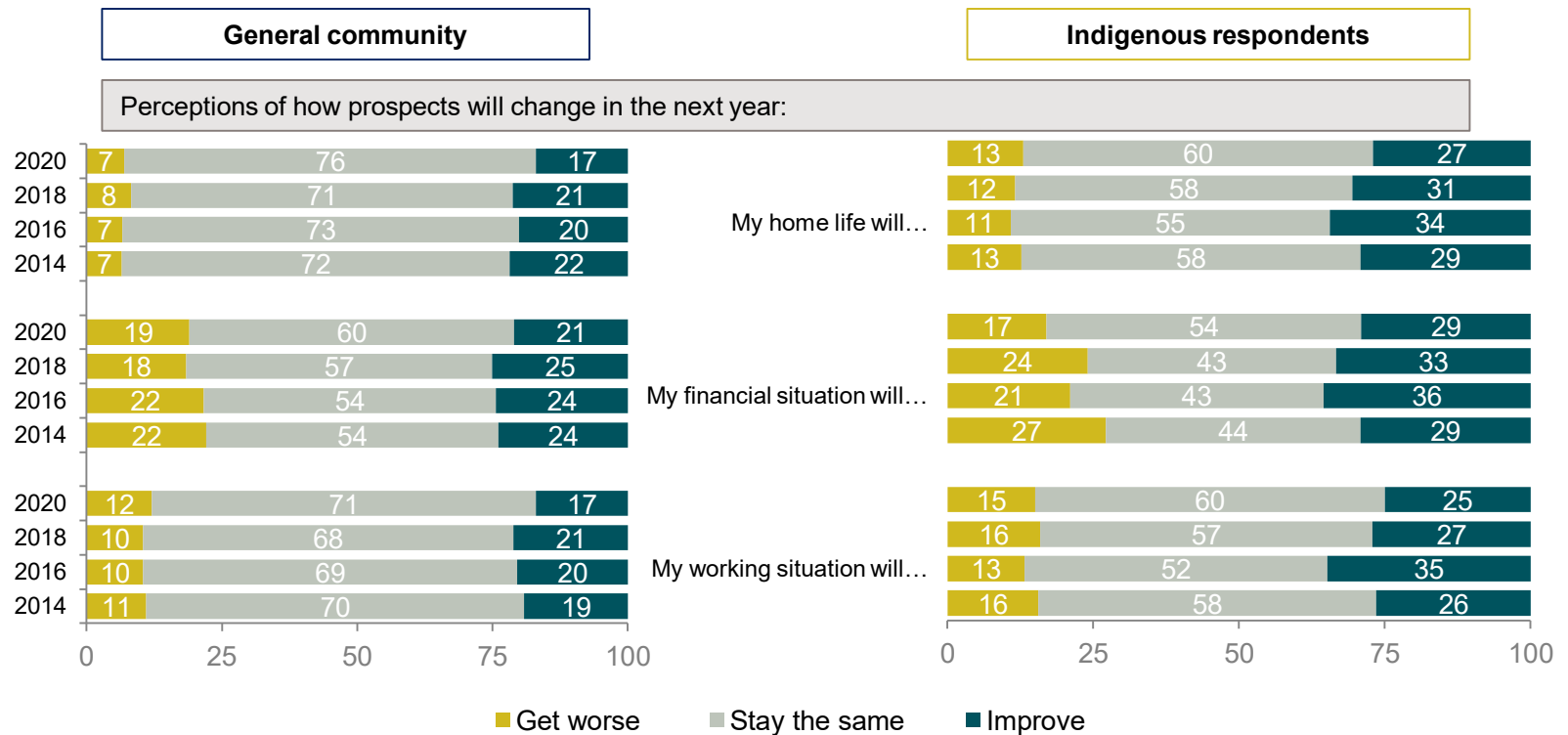
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to feel their prospects will change for the better



Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people largely think their prospects for next year will stay the same.

However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to think their conditions will improve or deteriorate, in terms of home life and working situation, compared to the general community.

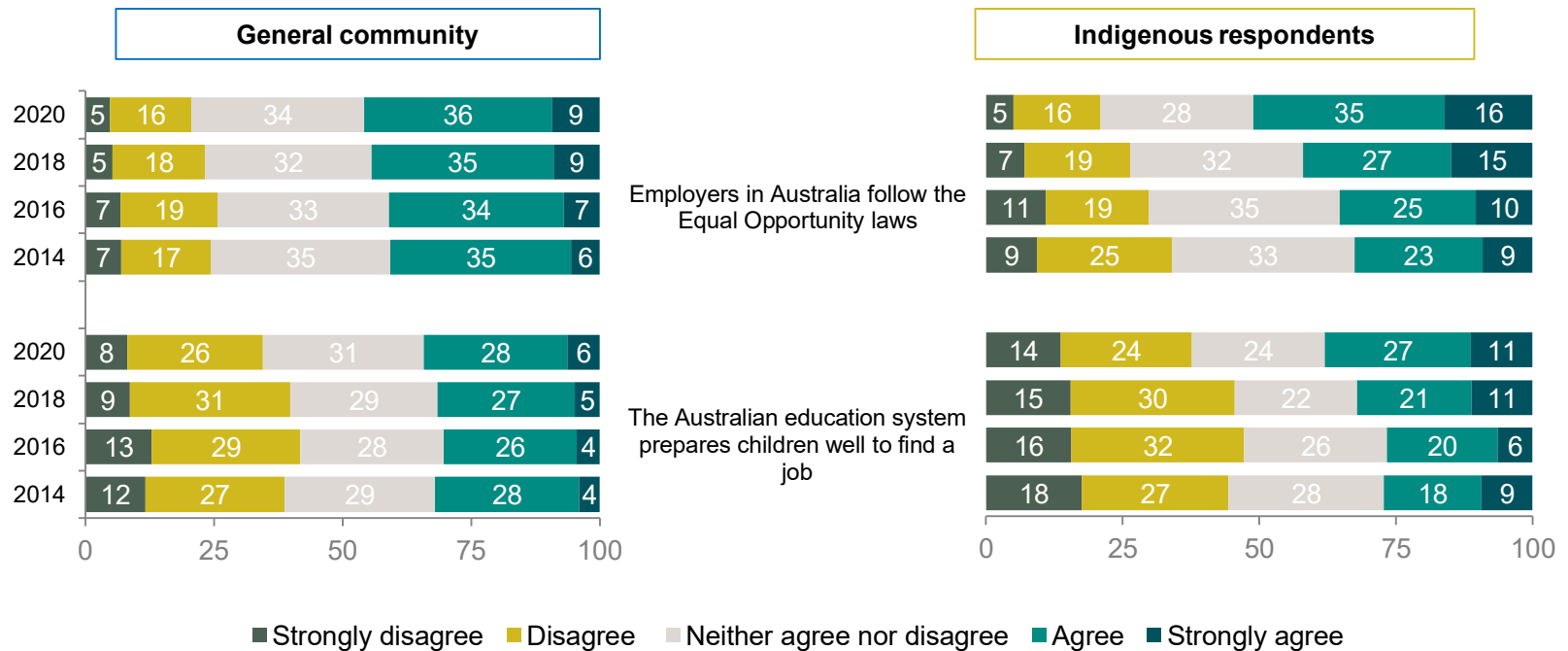
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to feel their prospects will change for the worse



Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people largely think their prospects for next year will stay the same.

However, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still think their conditions will deteriorate, in terms of home life and working situation, compared to the general community.

# More Indigenous Australians see employment potential in terms of education and equal opportunity



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are now more likely to feel that employers in Australia *do* follow equal opportunity laws and practices (51%), than the general community (45%).

Similarly, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now agree (38%) that the education system prepares children well for employment. However, they remain also more likely to strongly disagree with this premise (14%), than the general public (8%).

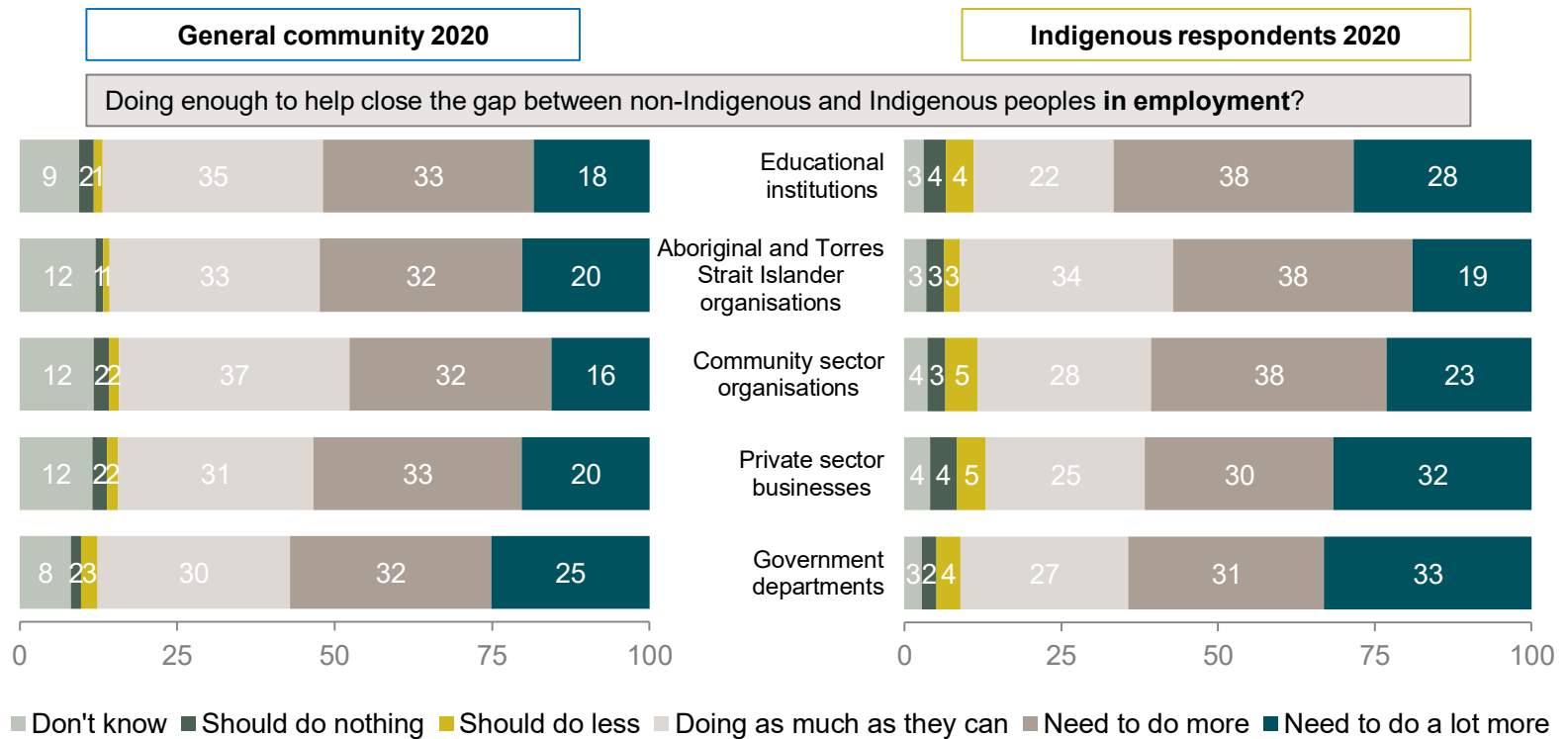
# More Australians think organisations need to do a lot more in areas of education, than in 2014



There has been an increase in the general community regarding how various organisations need to do a lot more in areas of education, to help close the gap, since 2014.



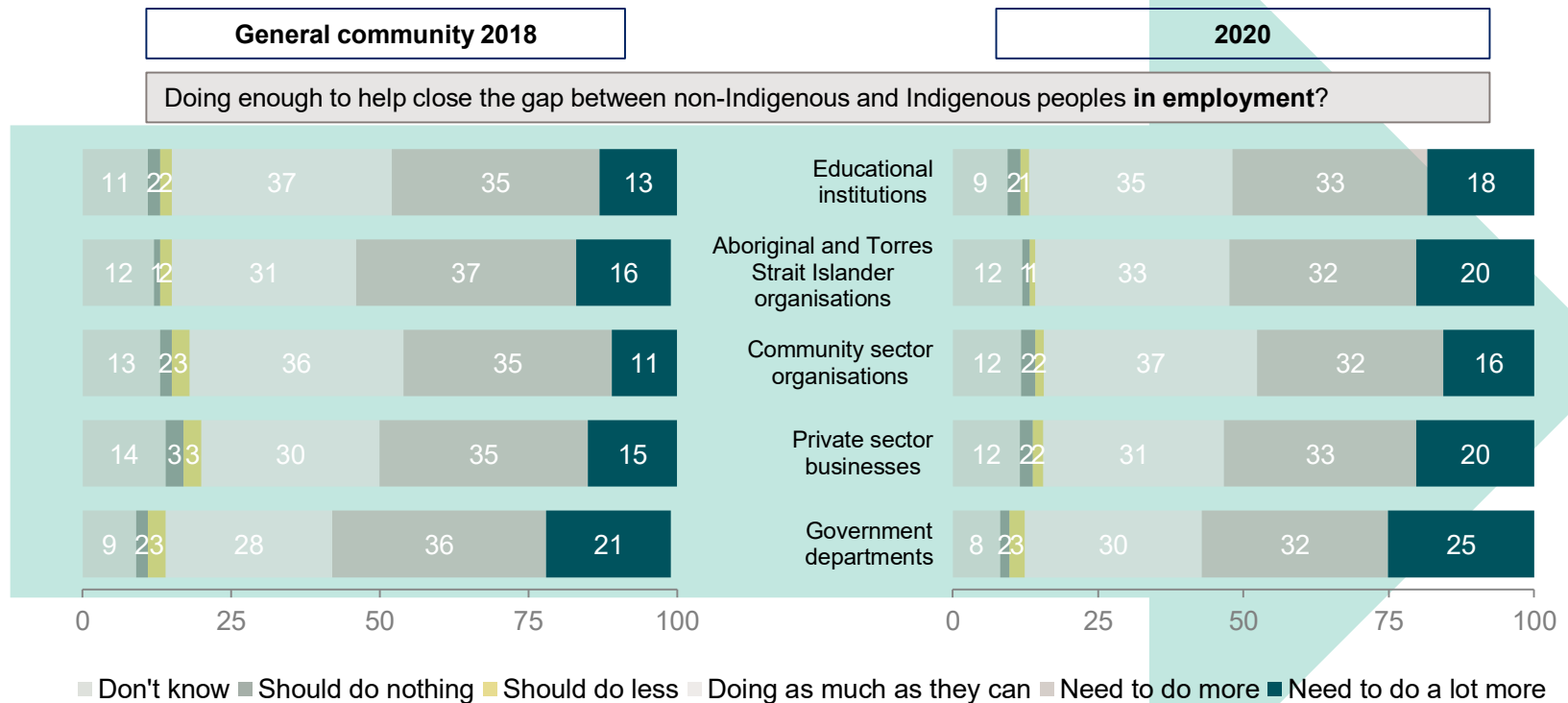
# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of employment to close the gap



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to think that various organisations need to do more in areas of employment, to help close the gap, than the general community.

In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely believe the education sector (28%), the government sector (33%) and the business sector (32%) need to do a lot more.

# More Australians think organisations need to do a lot more in areas of employment



There has been an increase in the general community regarding how various organisations need to do a lot more in areas of employment, to help close the gap, since 2018.

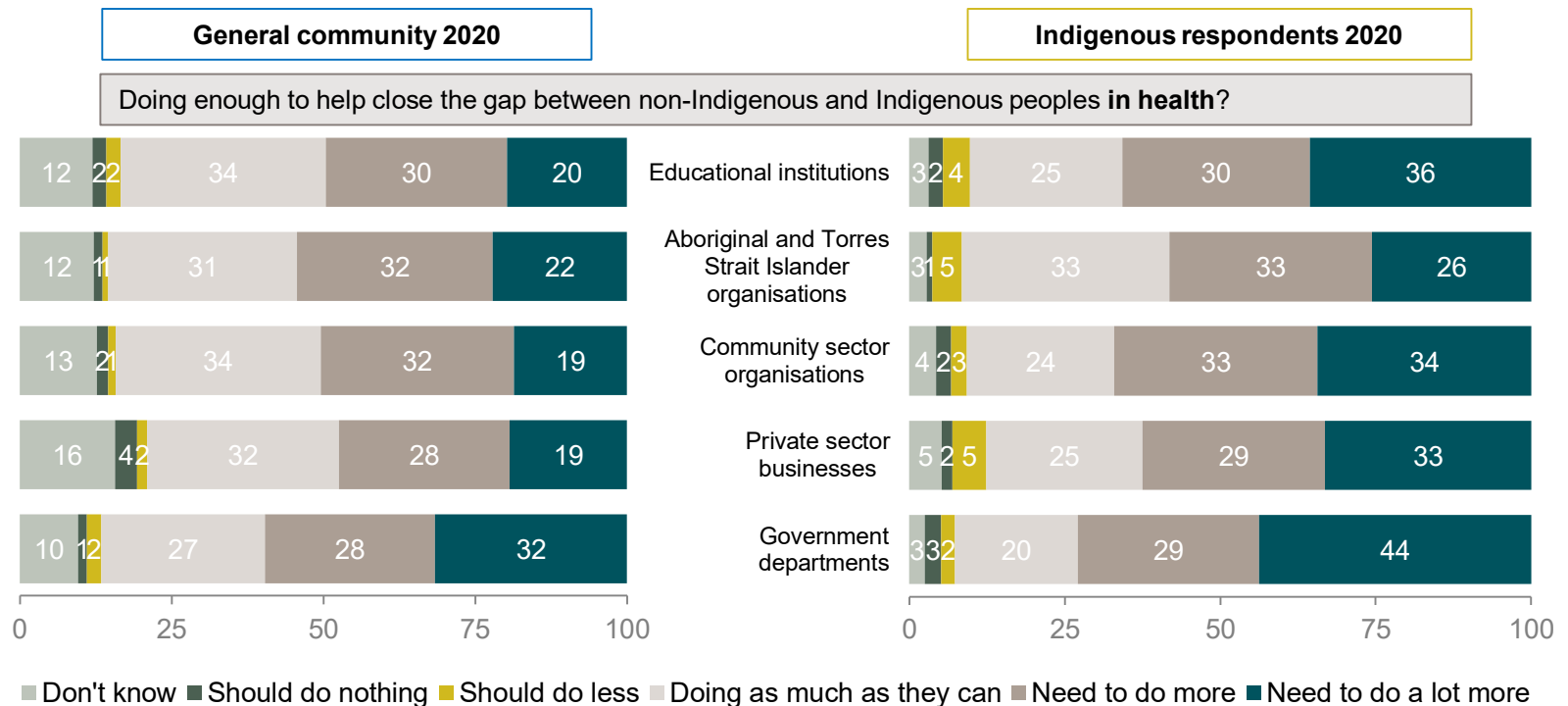
# More Australians think organisations need to do a lot more in areas of employment, than in 2014



There has been an increase in the general community of people who think that various organisations need to do a lot more in areas of employment, to help close the gap, since 2014.

Notably, more people now feel the business sector (20%) and the government sector (25%), needs to do a lot more compared to six years ago.

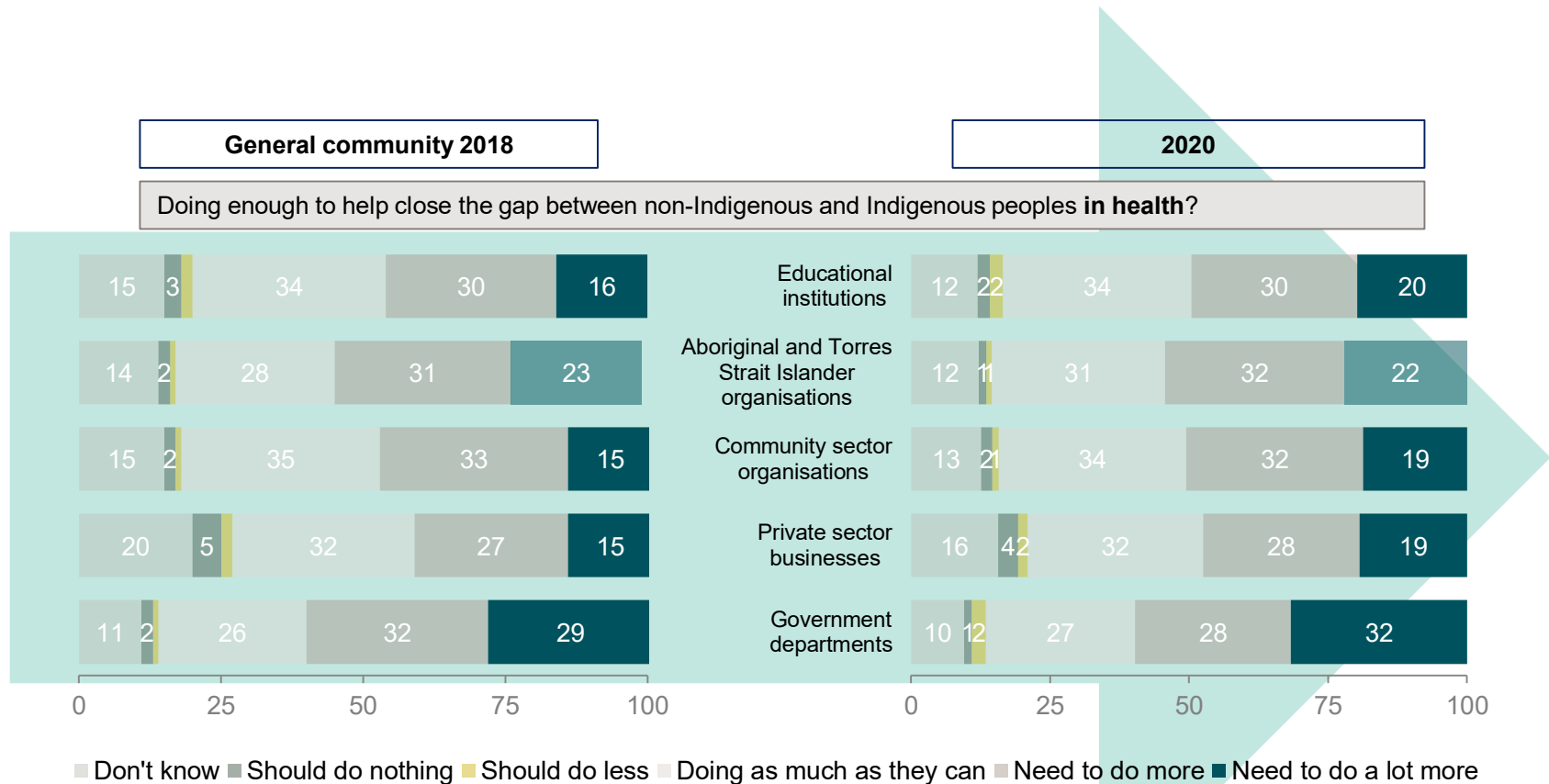
# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of health to close the gap



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still more likely to think that various organisations need to do more in areas of health, to help close the gap, than the general community.

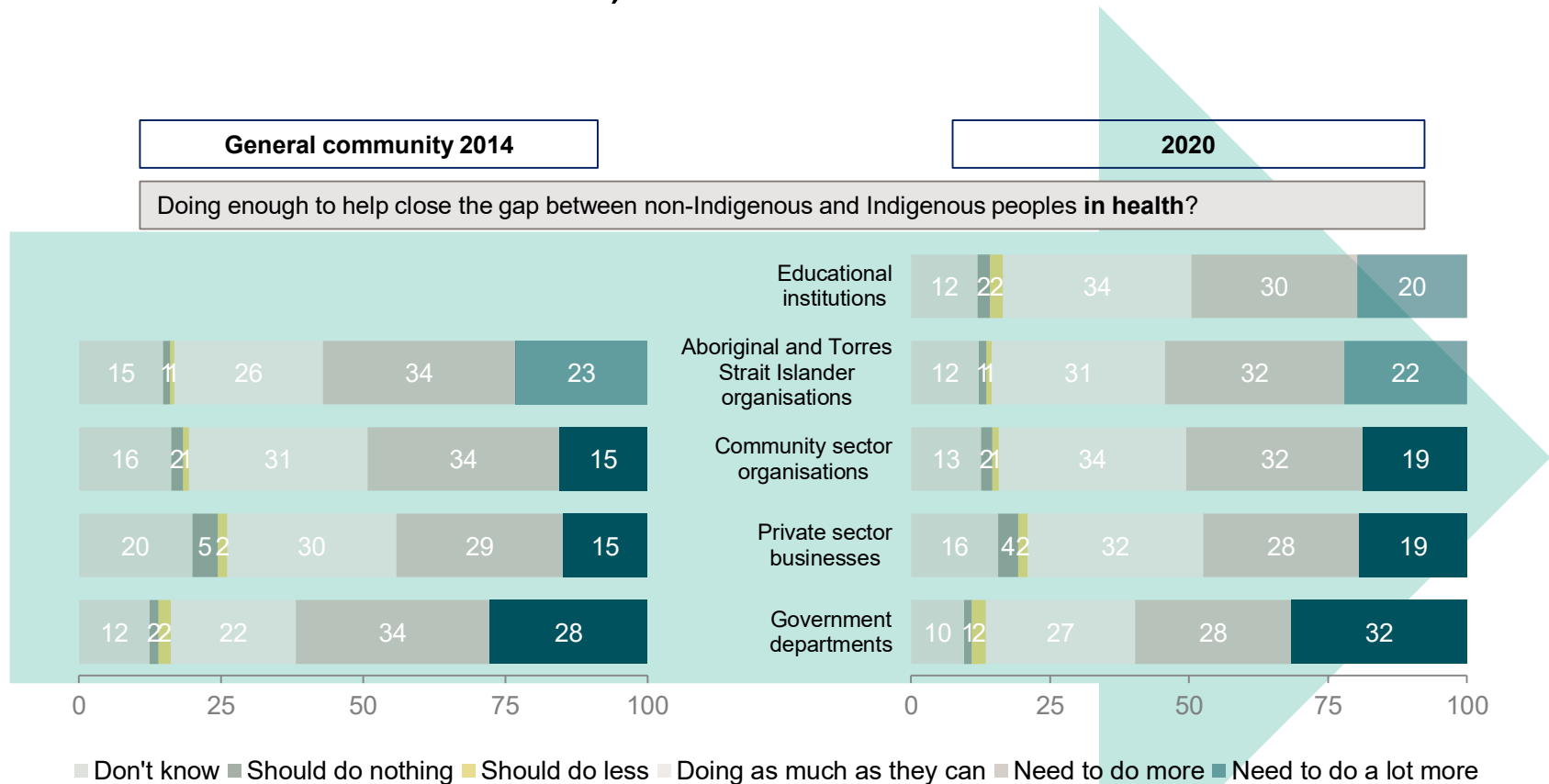
In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely believe educational institutions (36%), the community sector (34%) and the business sector (33%) need to do a lot more.

# More Australians think organisations need to do a lot more in areas of health



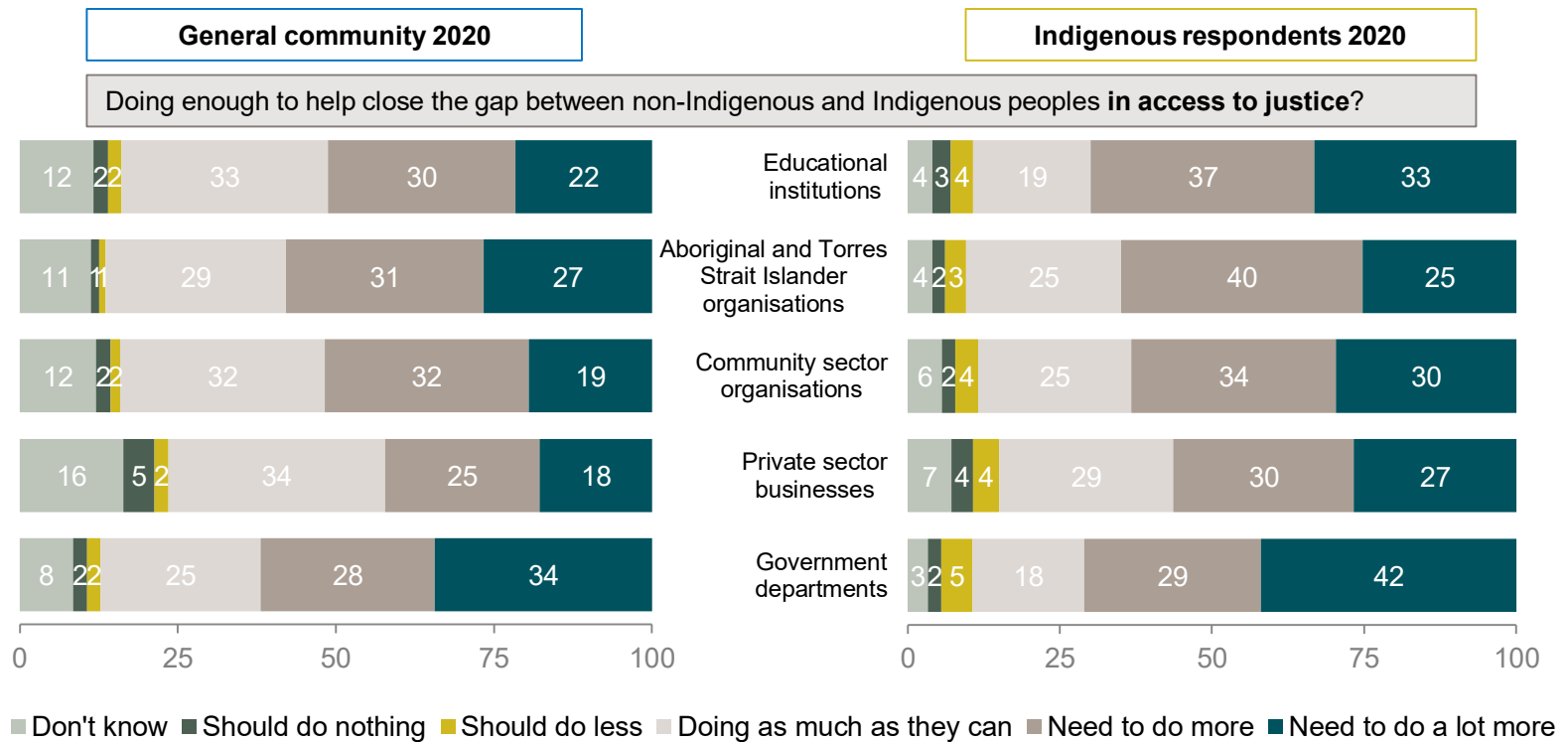
There has been an increase in the general community of people who think that various organisations need to do a lot more in areas of health, to help close the gap, since 2018.

# More Australians think organisations need to do a lot more in areas of health, than in 2014



There has been an increase in the general community of people who think that various organisations need to do a lot more in areas of health, to help close the gap, since 2014.

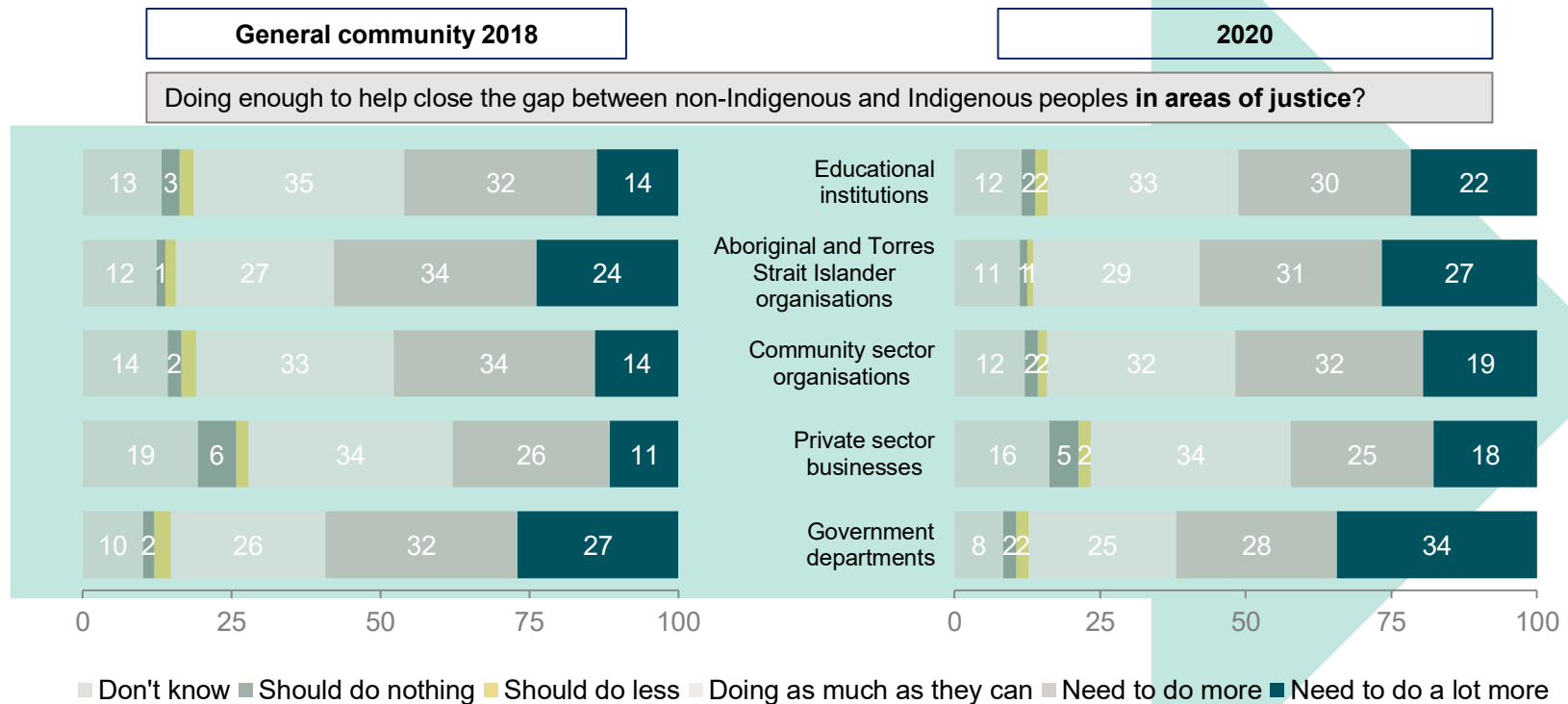
# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of justice to close the gap



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to think that various organisations need to do more in areas of justice, to help close the gap, than the general community.

In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely believe the educational sector (33%), the community sector (30%) and the business sector (27%) need to do a lot more.

# More Australians think organisations need to do a lot more in areas of justice



There has been an increase in the general community of people who think that various organisations need to do a lot more in areas of justice, to help close the gap, since 2018.

In particular, more Australians now believe the government sector (34%), the business sector (18%) and educational organisations (22%) need to be doing a lot more, compared to two years ago.



# UNITY

*An Australian society that values and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage as a proud part of a shared national identity*

How much do we all value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures?

**Key Findings:**

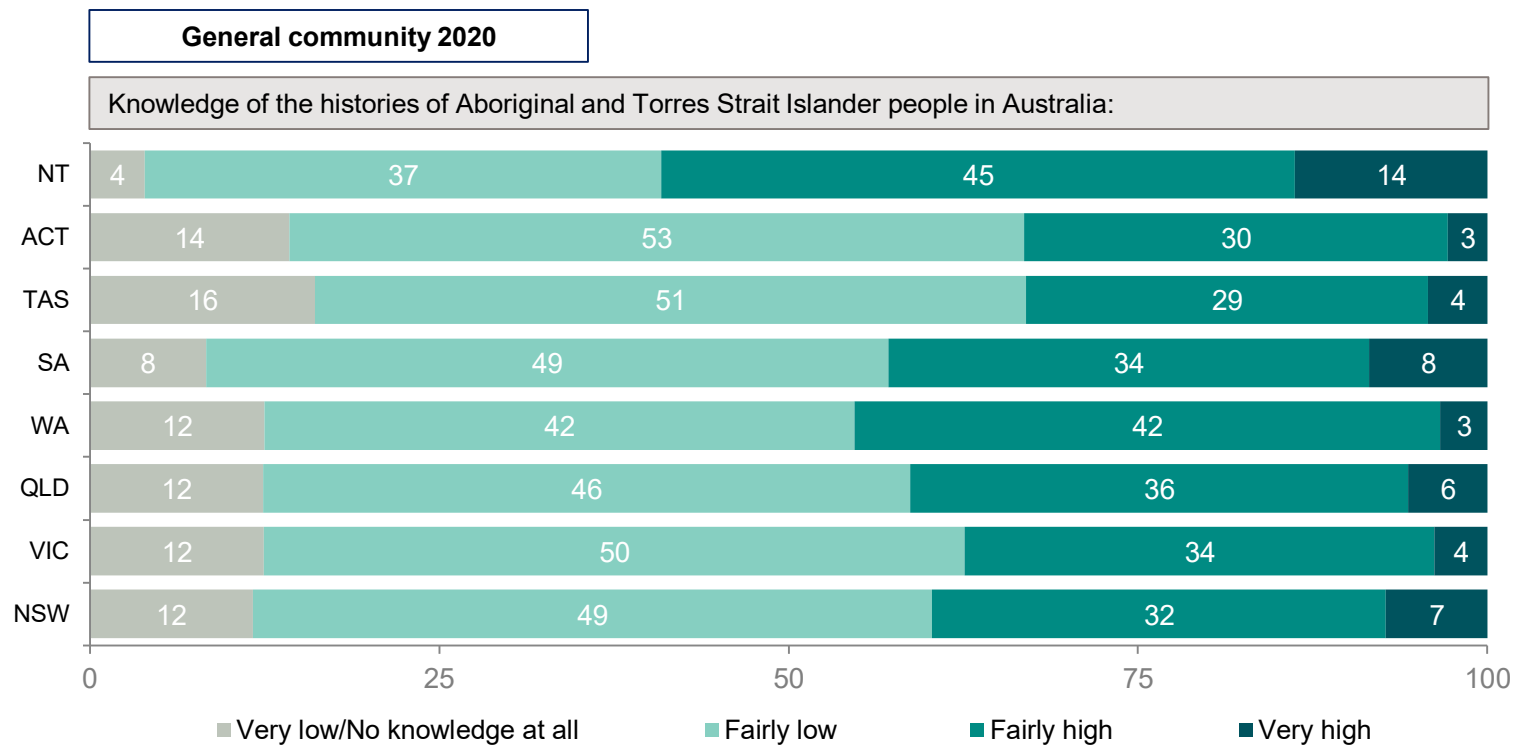
78% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and 61% of the general community want to do something to help improve reconciliation.

83% of the general community and 91% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe it's important for Indigenous histories and cultures to be taught in schools, a steady increase from 2018.

83% of the general community believes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures should be recognised in the Constitution.

69% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people support a treaty, compared with 53% of the general community.

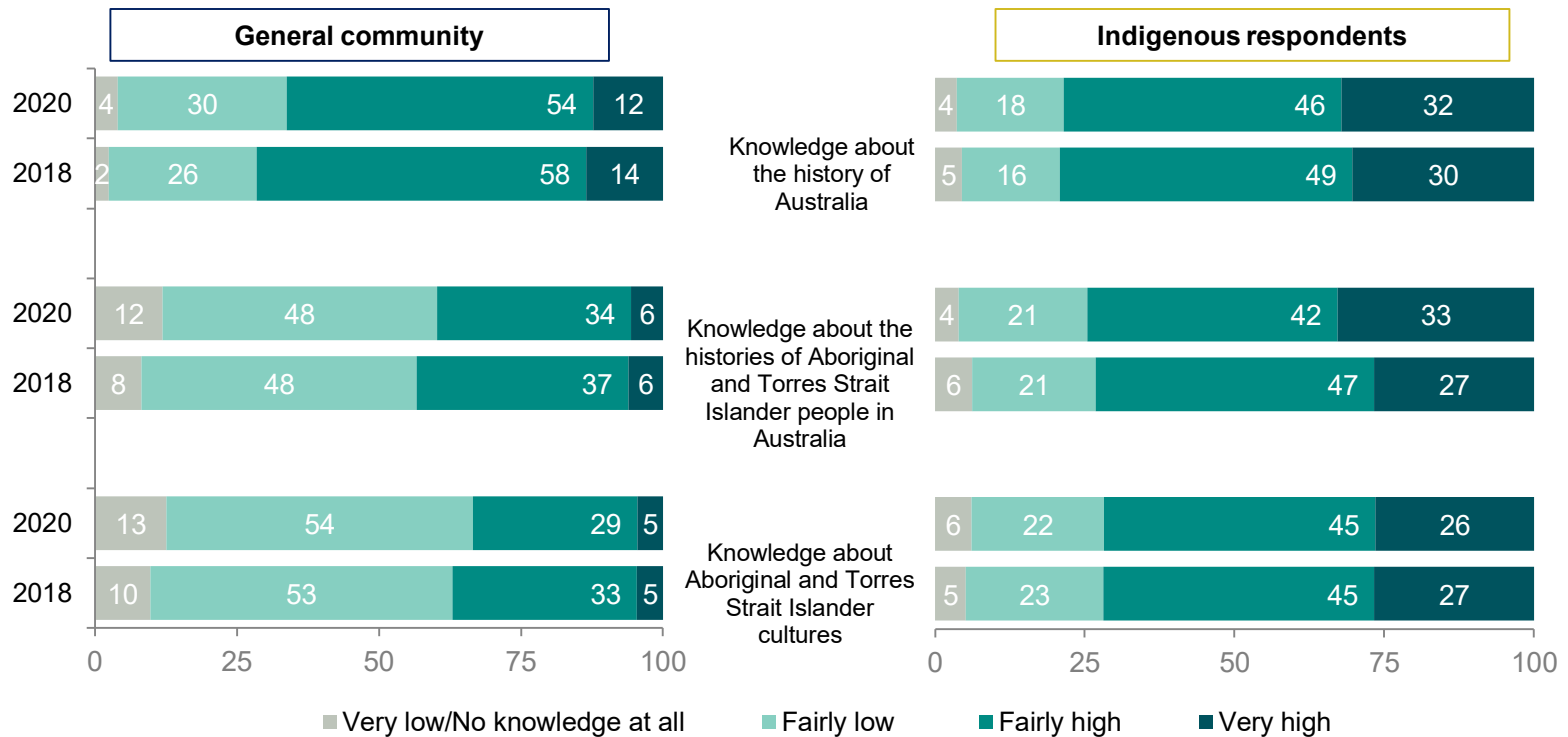
# Most Northern Territorians feel they know about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history



59% of the general community in Northern Territory believe they have a high level of knowledge about the histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Conversely, Capital Territorians and Tasmanians are least likely to feel they have a high level of knowledge about the histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia (33%).

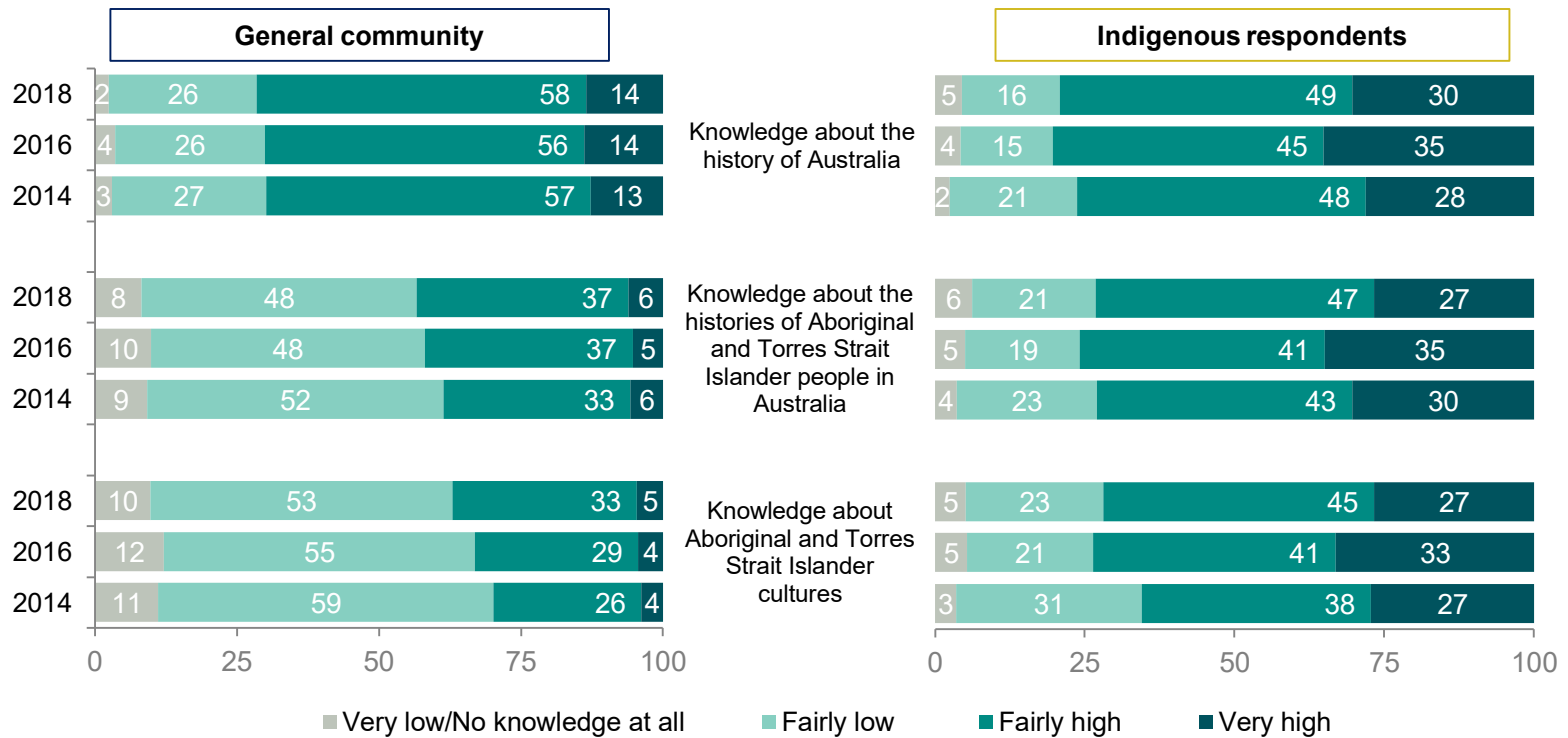
# Our knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures continues to show little change



66% of the general community and 78% of Indigenous respondents believe they have a high level of knowledge about the history of Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to have a high level of knowledge about the histories of their people (75%) or their cultures (71%), than the general community (40% and 34% respectively).

This can be seen to highlight how, for Indigenous respondents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories are more central to Australian history overall.

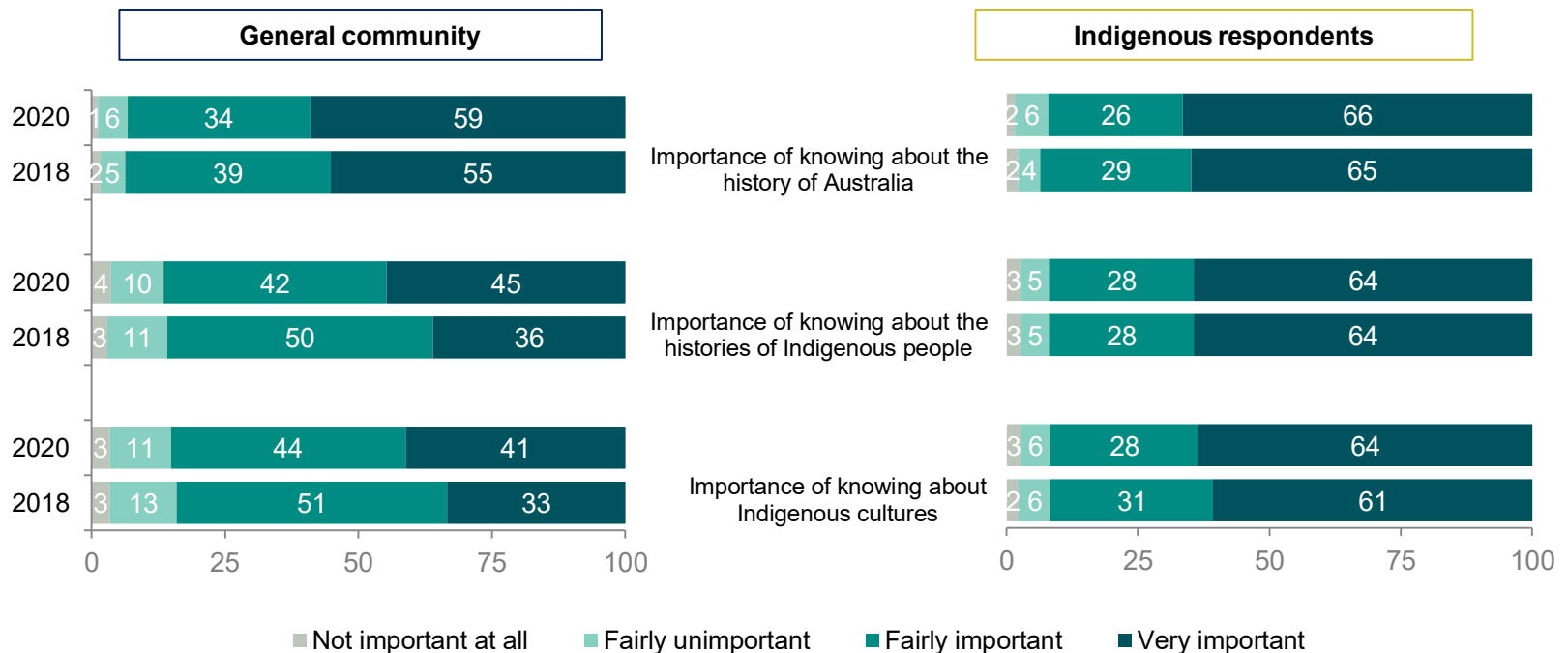
# Our knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures 2014-18:



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to have a high level of knowledge about the histories of their people (74%) or their cultures (72%), than the general community (43% and 38% respectively).

However, it is notable that higher knowledge levels have increased steadily among the general public, since 2014.

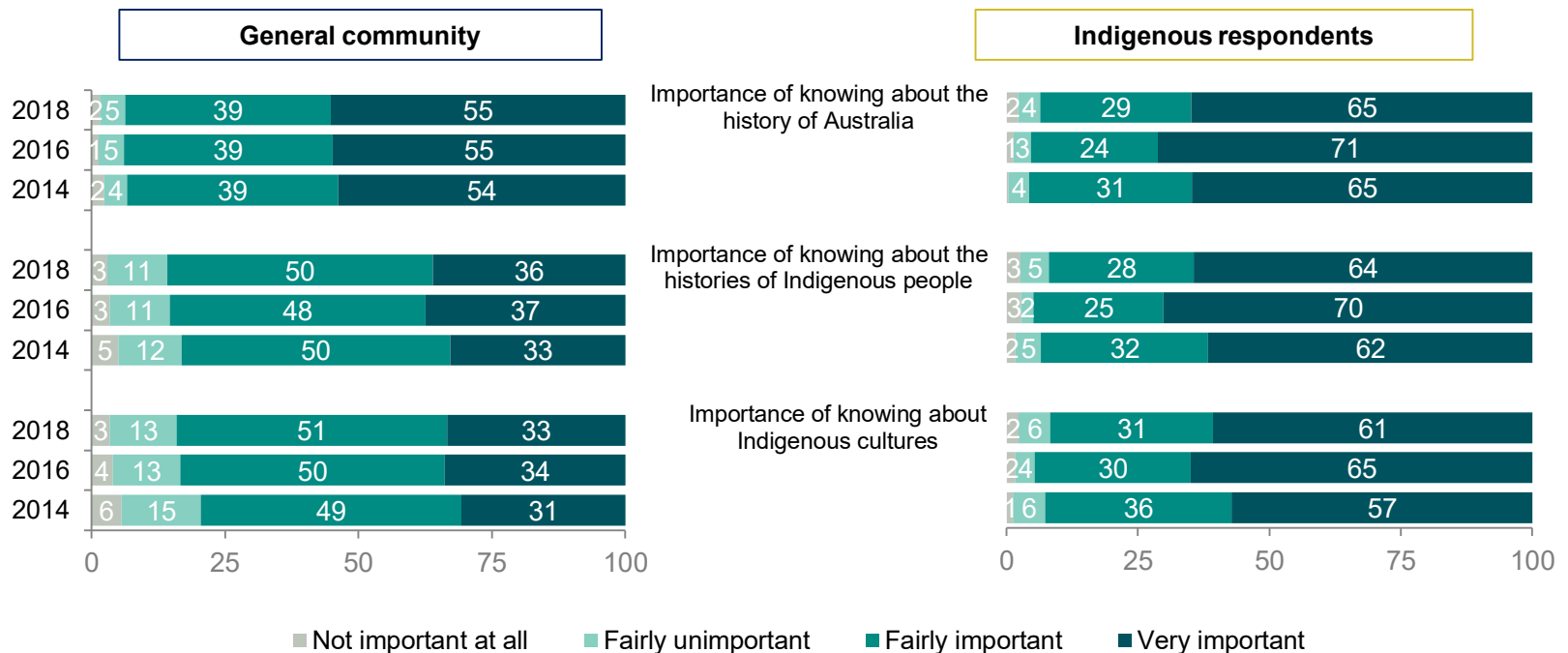
# The importance of learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures has increased strongly



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to believe it is very important for all Australians to learn about the histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (64%) or their cultures (64%). However, it is notable there has been a strong increase in these sentiments in the general community since 2018.

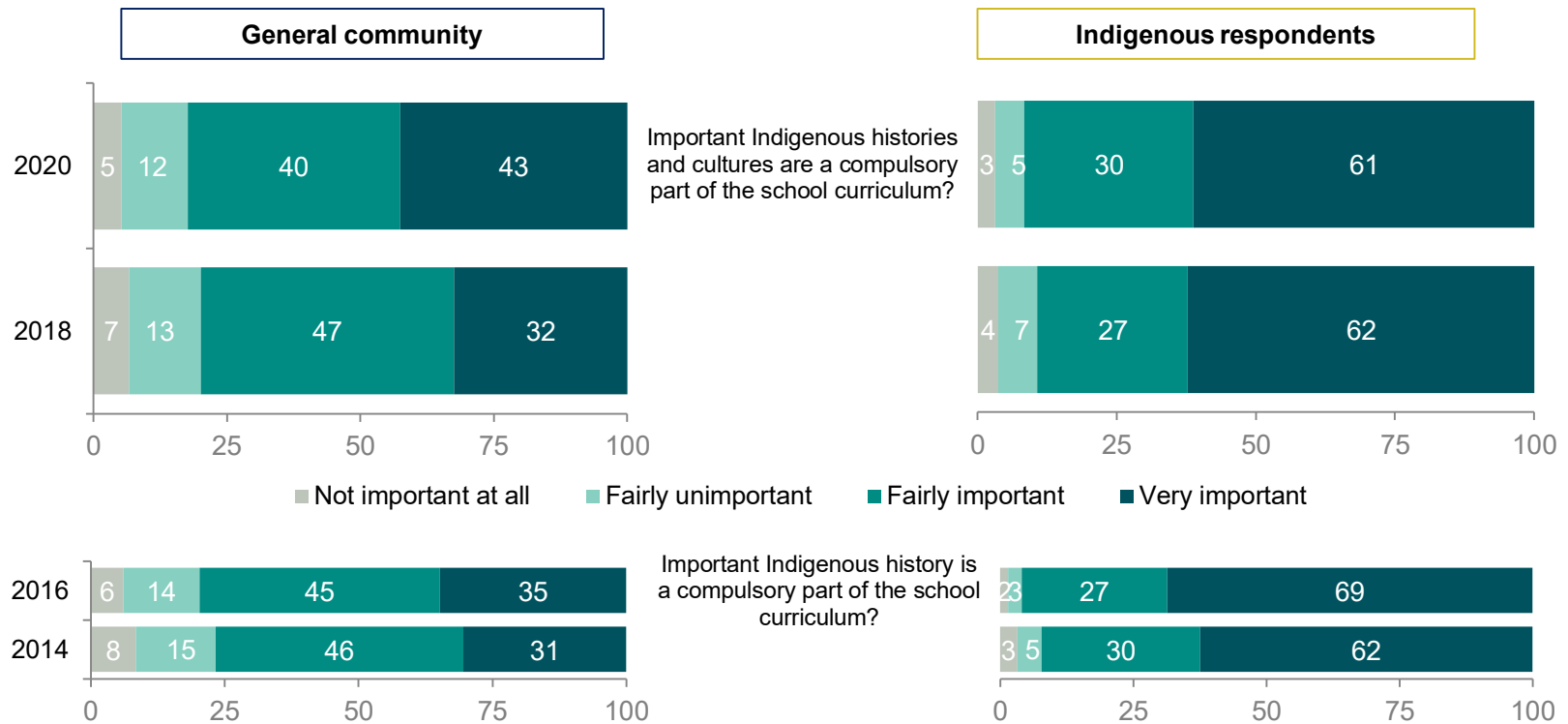
Similarly, Indigenous respondents remain more likely to feel that learning the history of Australia is very important, compared to the general public. Again, this may indicate how they see 'Indigenous' and 'Australian' histories entwined.

# The importance of learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures 2014-18:



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to believe it is very important for all Australians to learn about the histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or their cultures. However, it is encouraging that there has been a slight increase in these sentiments in both communities since 2014.

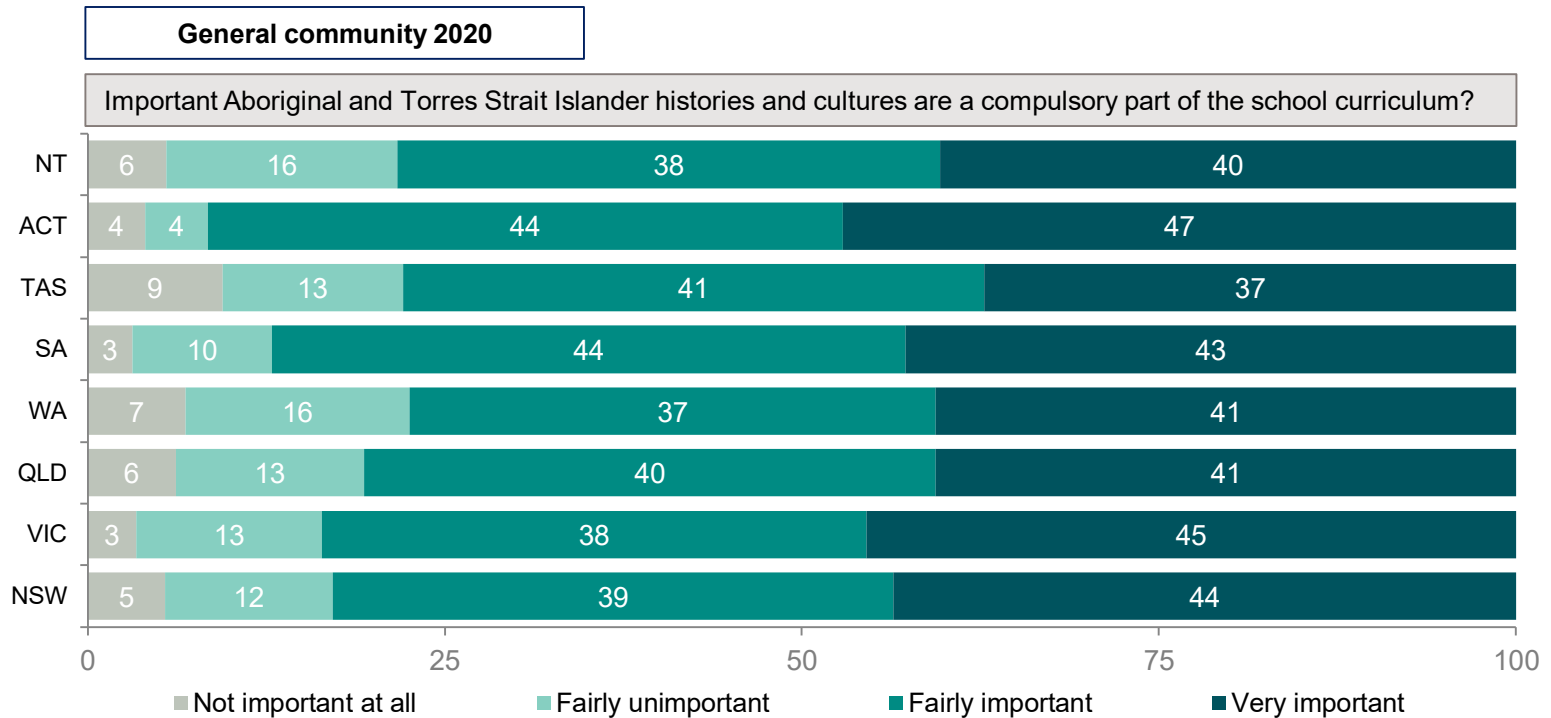
# The importance of teaching and learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures is increasing



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to believe it is very important that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures should be compulsory in school (61%), compared to the general public (43%).

However, there has been a strong increase among the general community of people who now consider this very important, since 2018.

# There is widespread support in ACT for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures to be formally taught in schools

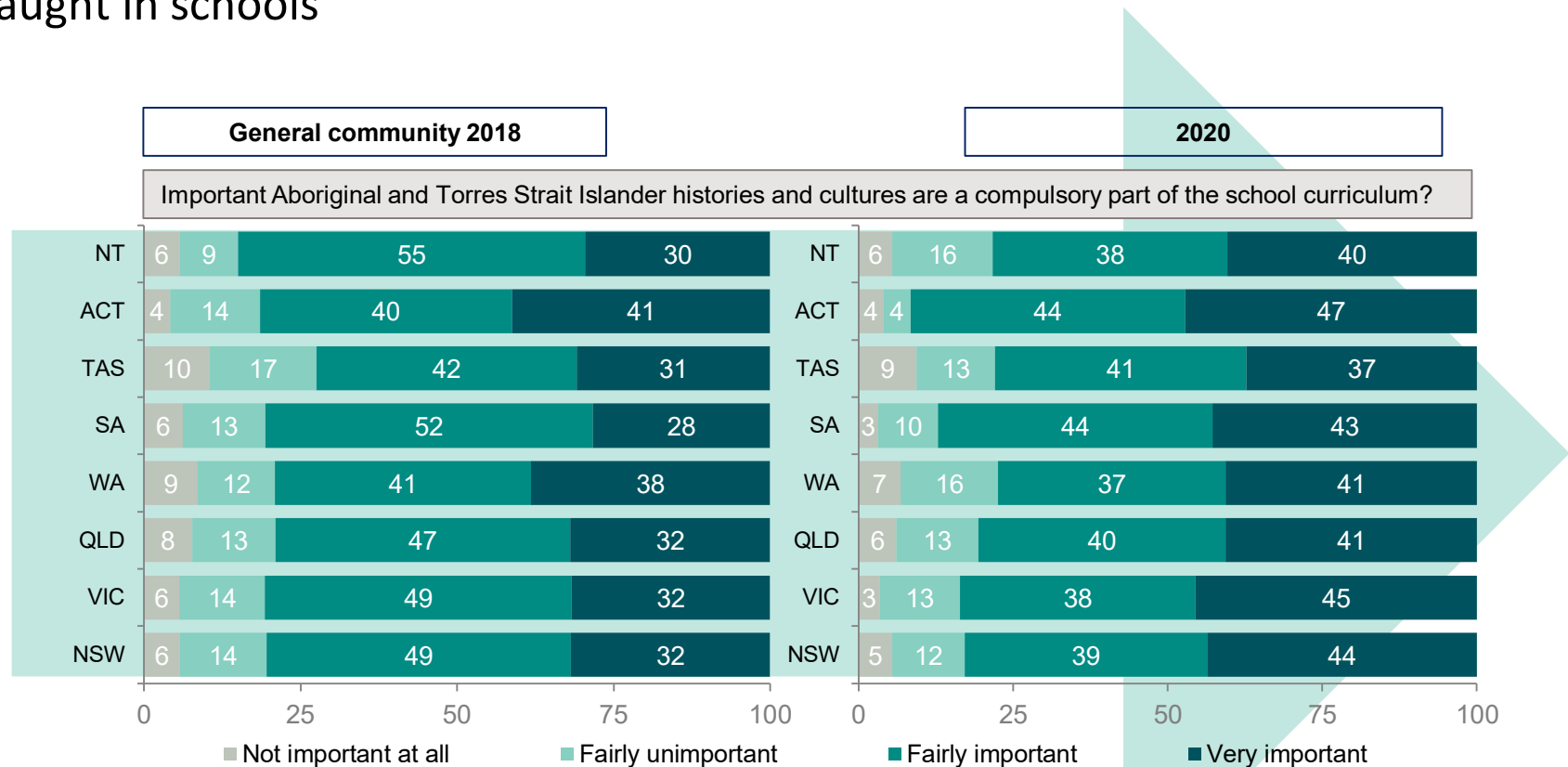


People in ACT are most likely to believe it is very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures to be compulsory in school (47%).

It is notable that Western Australia is where the general community is most divided on the importance of this, with 41% saying it's very important but 23% saying its unimportant.



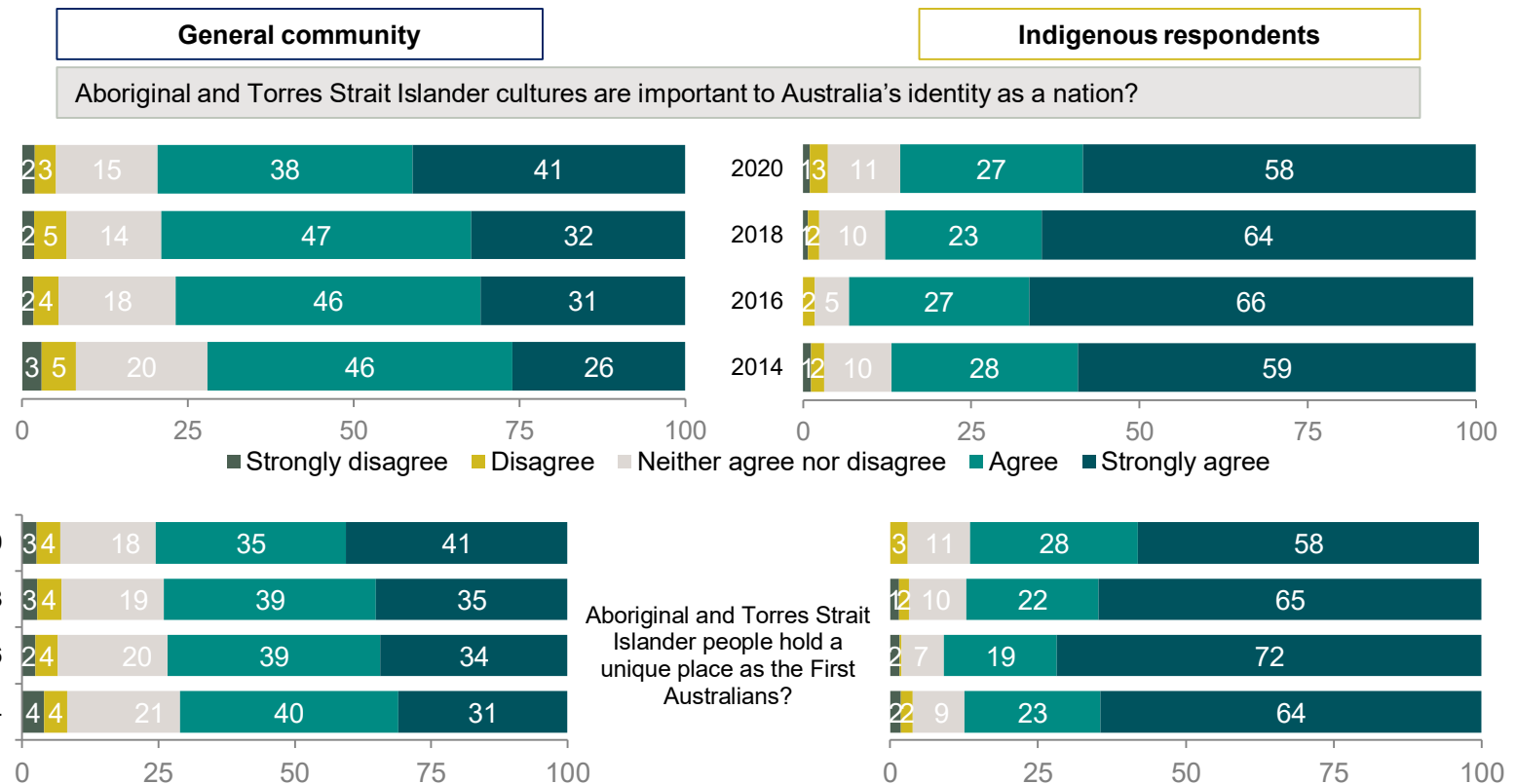
# There is growing support in all states/territories for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures to be formally taught in schools



More people in all states and territories now believe it is very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures to be compulsory in school, compared to two years ago.

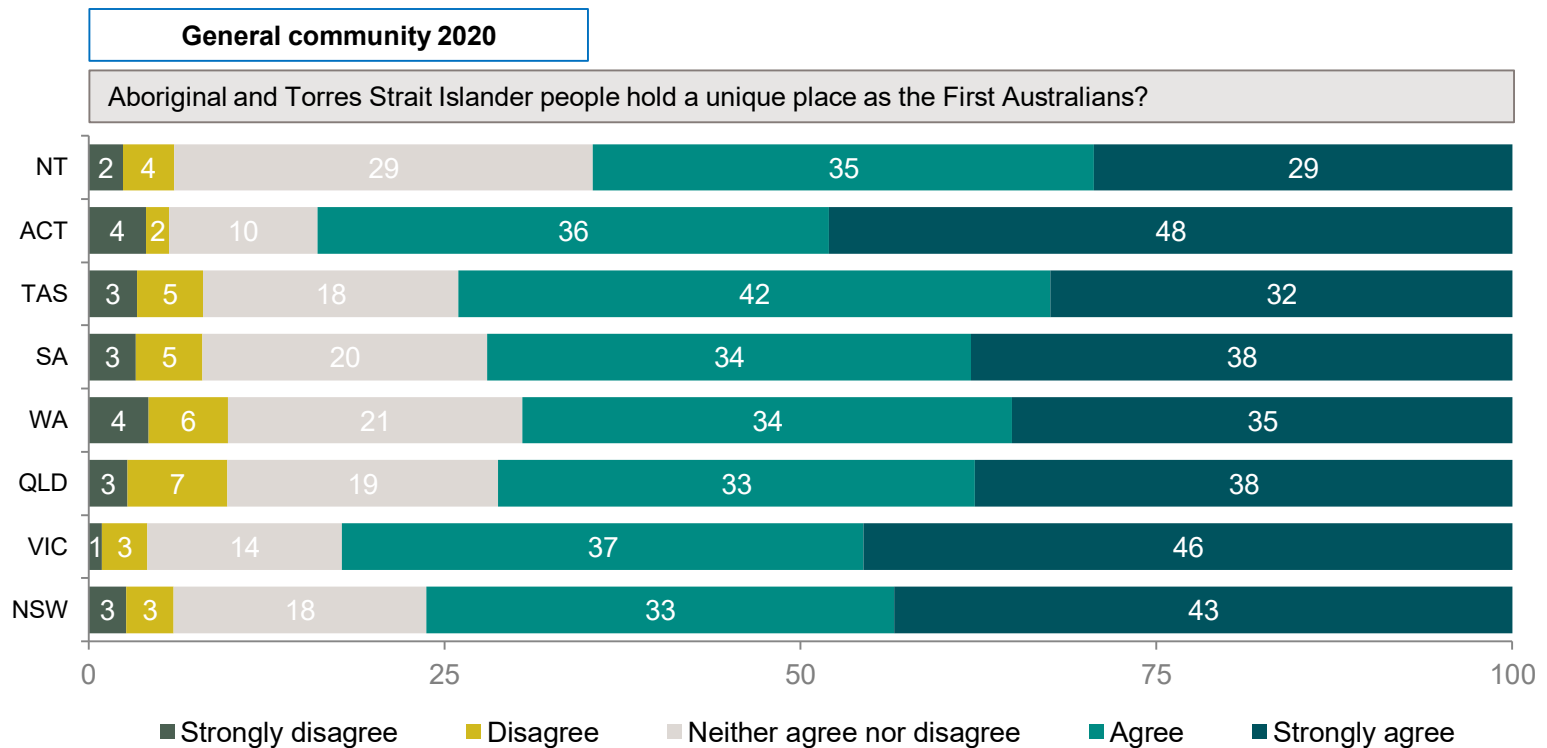
This increase is most notable in SA (43%), since 2018 (28%).

# We widely agree Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold a unique and important place in the national identity



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be more likely to strongly agree (58%) that their cultures are important for Australia's national identity, compared to the general community (41%). Similarly, Indigenous respondents are more likely to strongly agree that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold a unique place as the First Australians. However, there continues to be an encouraging increase in both sentiments in the general community, since 2014.

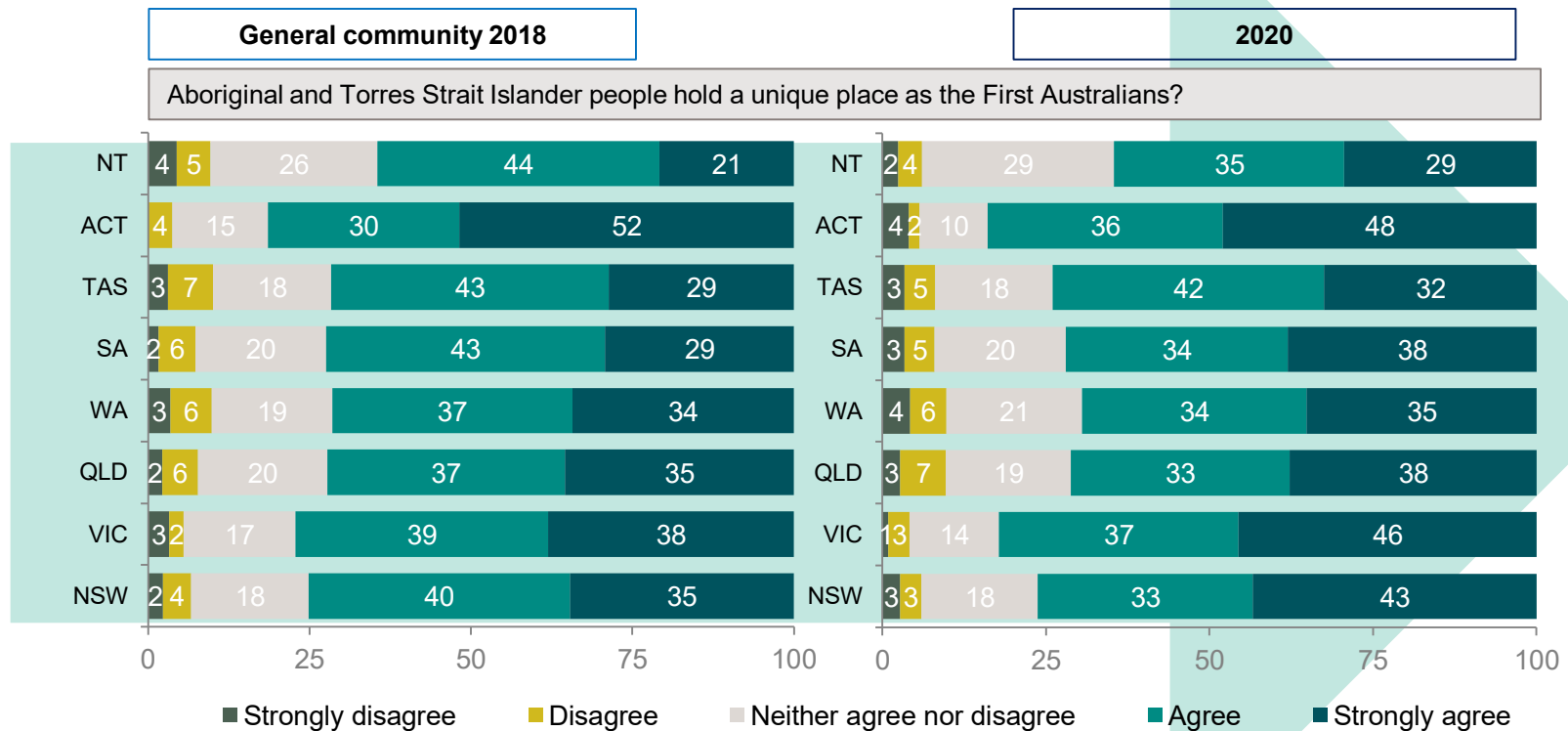
# People in ACT widely agree Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold a unique place as the First Australians



More people in the ACT strongly agree Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a unique standing as the First Australians (48%), than in other areas.

Conversely, people in WA and Queensland are most likely to disagree (10%) that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold a unique place.

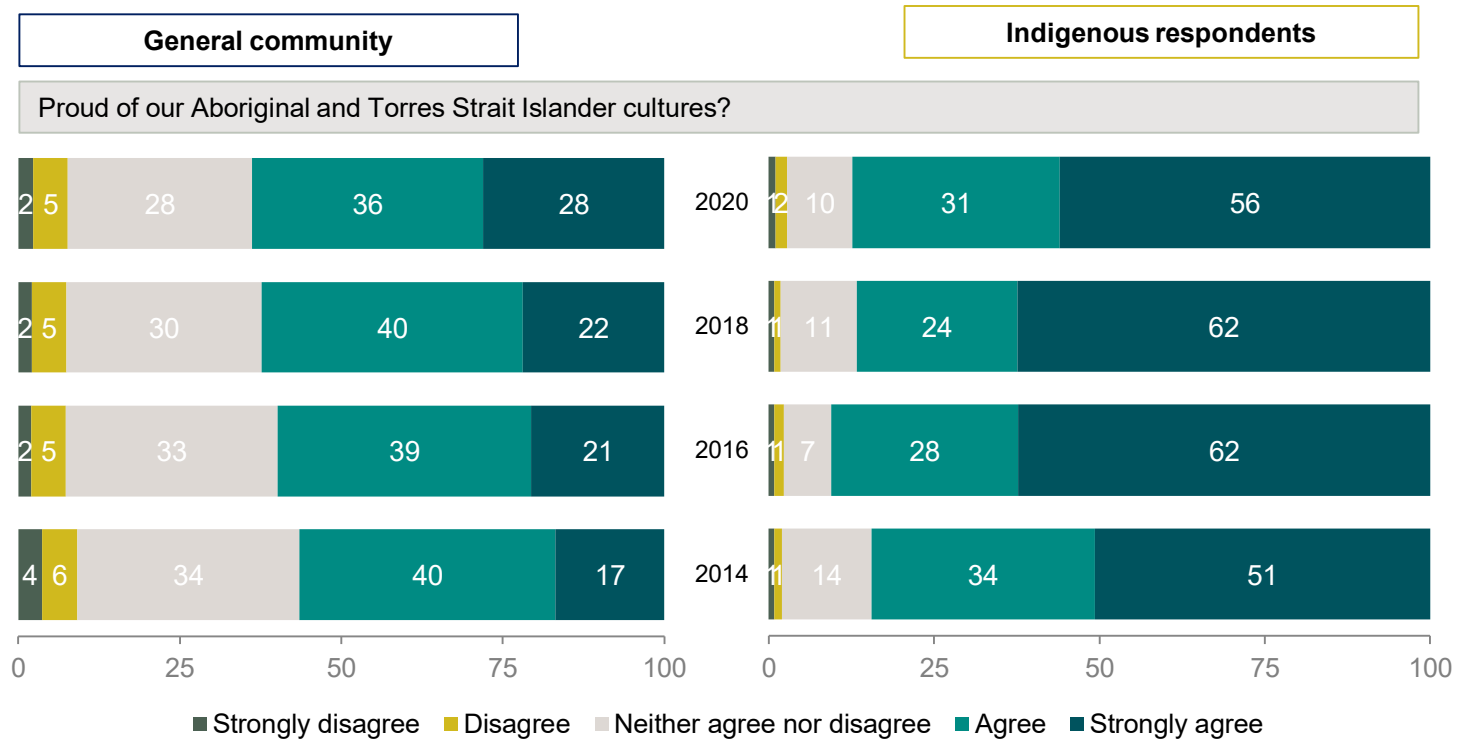
# More people in most states/territories now strongly agree Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold a unique place as First Australians



More people in most States and Territories (except ACT) strongly agree Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have a unique standing as the First Australians, compared with 2018.

This increase is most notable in South Australia (38%), since two years ago (29%).

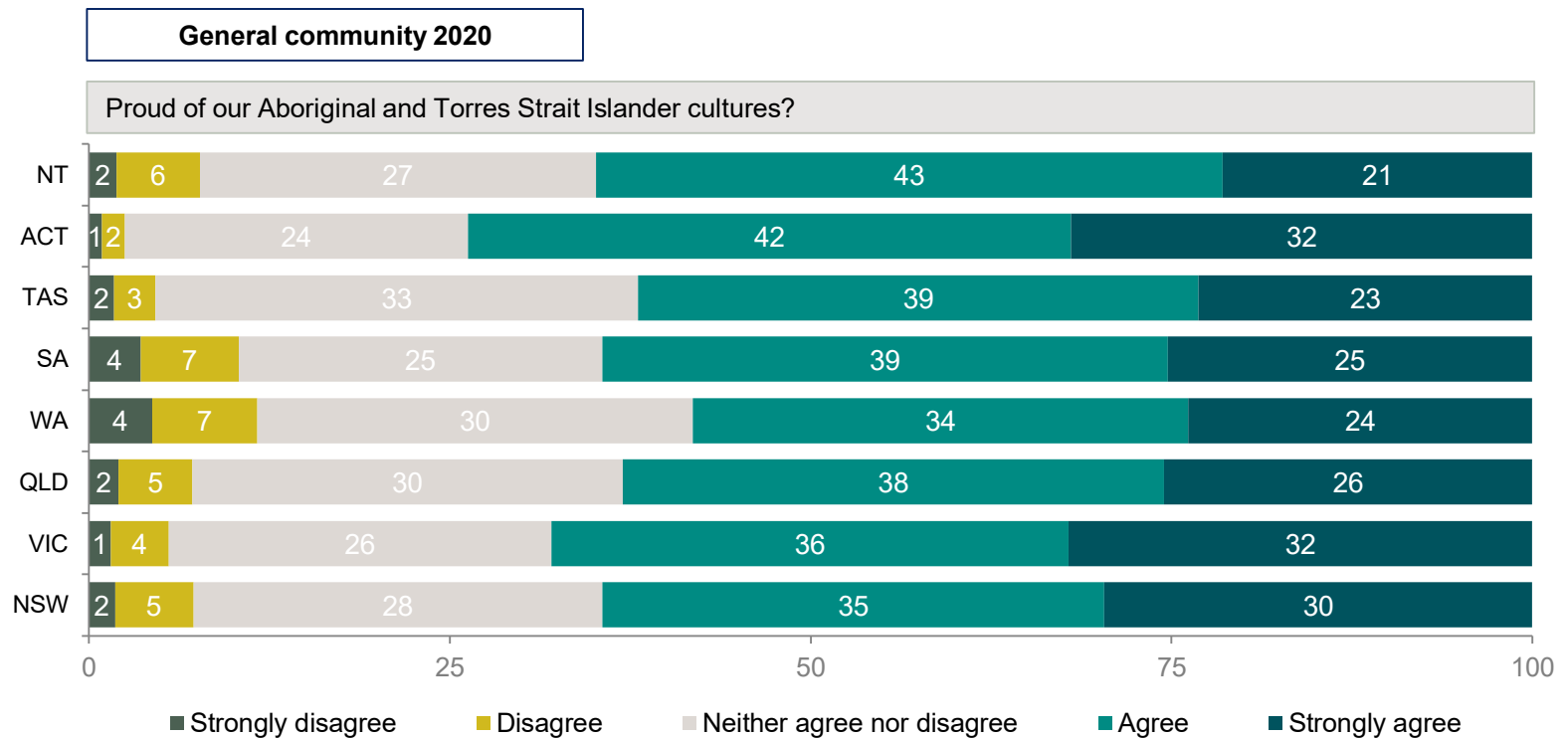
# We remain proud of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures



Most people in the general community agree they are proud of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures (64%). However, this continues to lag behind the prevalence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who agree they are proud of their cultures (87%).

Notably, this sentiment continues to increase in the general community, since 2014, especially people who strongly agree.

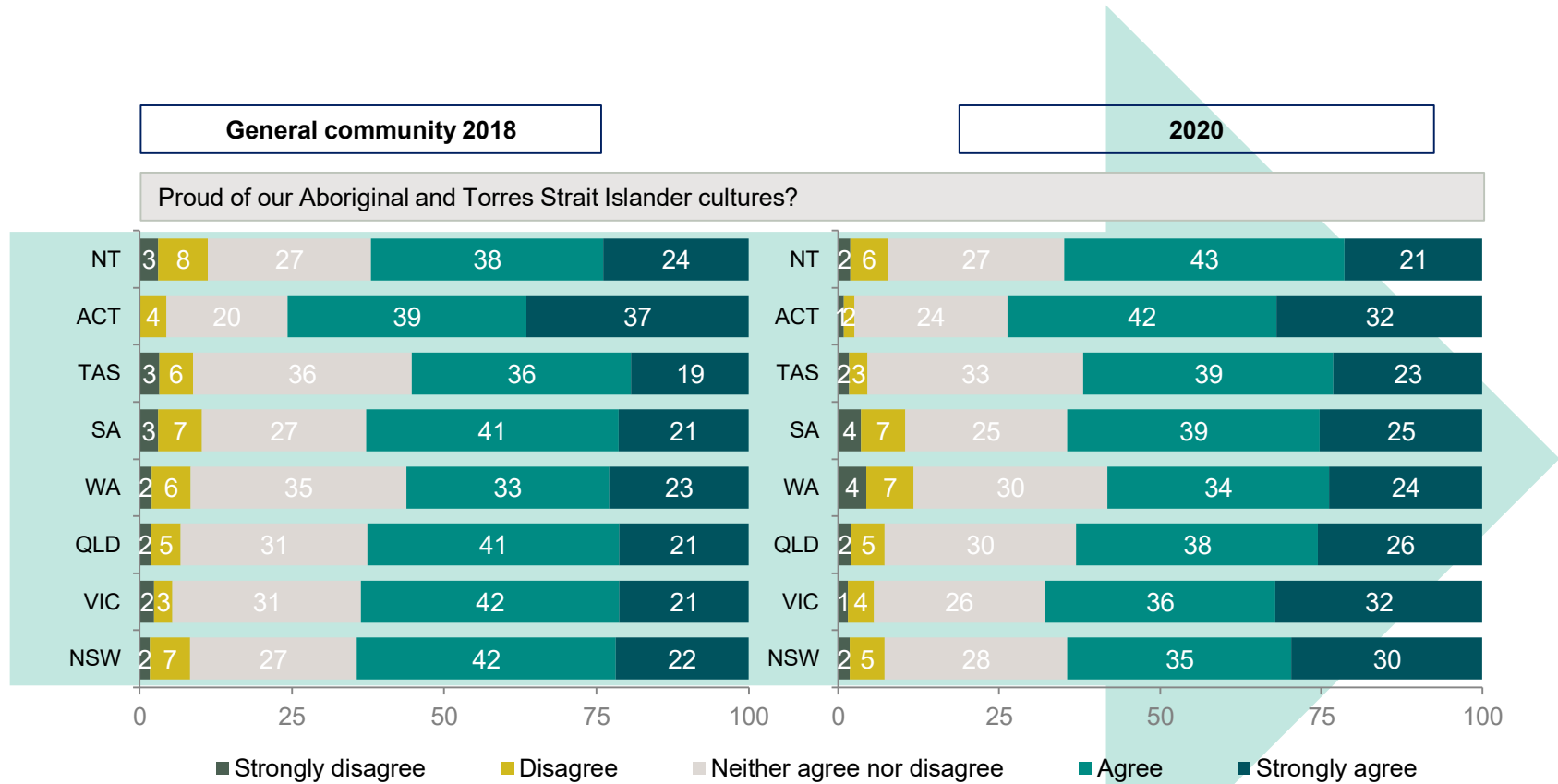
# More people in ACT and Victoria are strongly proud of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures



More people in the general community in the ACT and Victoria strongly agree they are proud of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures (32%), than in other areas.

Conversely, more people in Western Australia (12%) and South Australia (11%) disagree they are proud of Indigenous cultures.

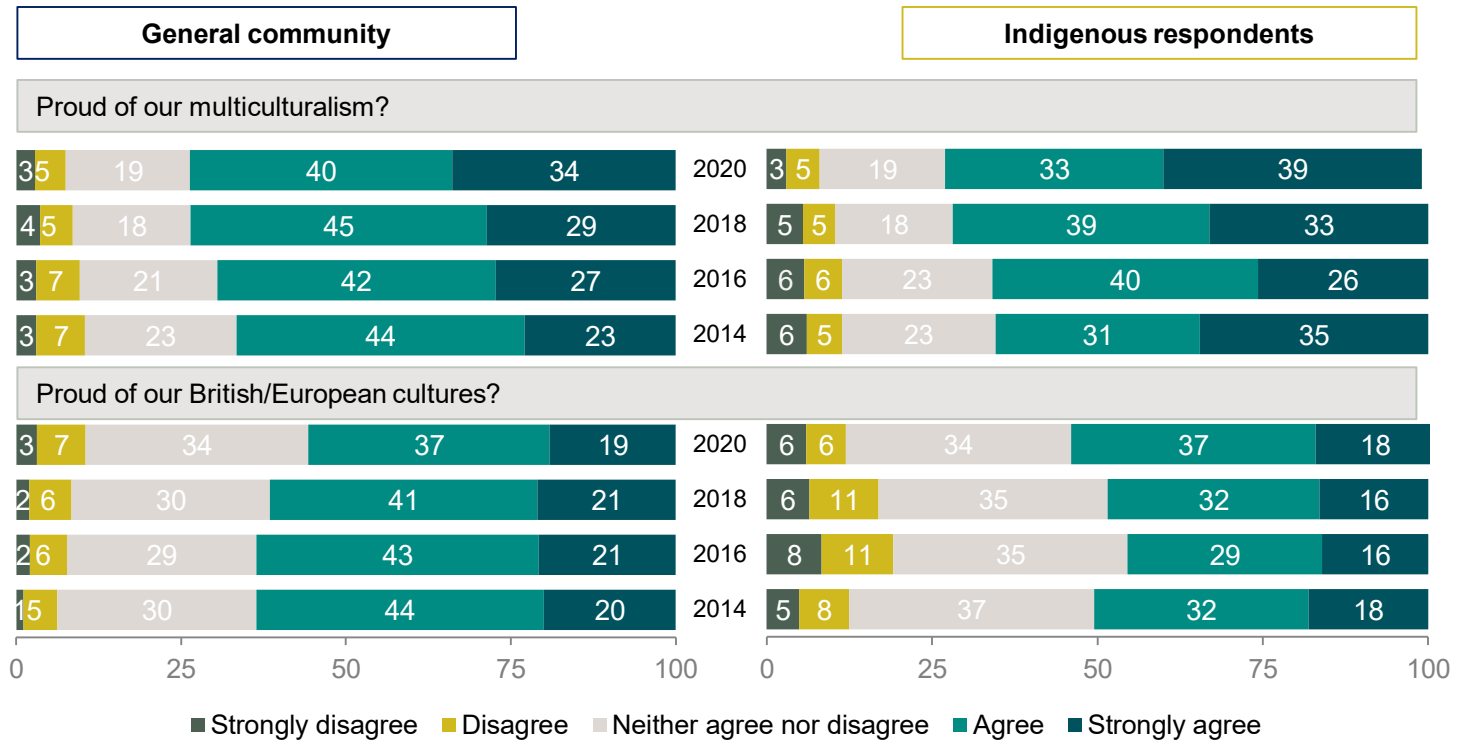
# More people in most states/territories are now strongly proud of our Indigenous cultures



More people in the general community in all states and territories (except ACT) now strongly agree they are proud of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, than in 2018.

This increase is most notable in Victoria (32%), compared with two years ago (21%).

# We continue to be proud of our multiculturalism

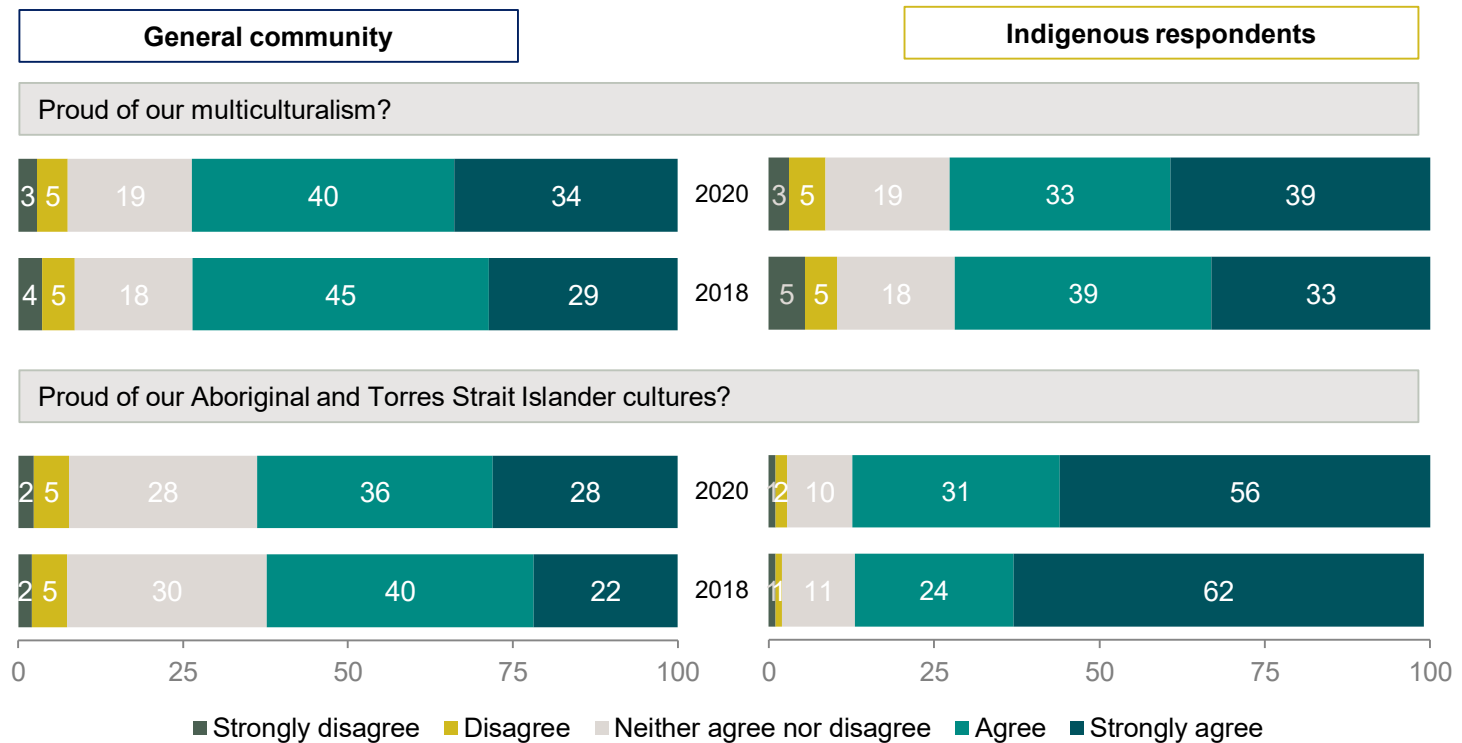


The general community (74%) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people both agree they are proud of Australia’s multiculturalism.

Notably, there has been a steady increase in both communities of people who strongly agree with this sentiment, since 2014.



# More Australians continue to be proud of Australia's multiculturalism than of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures

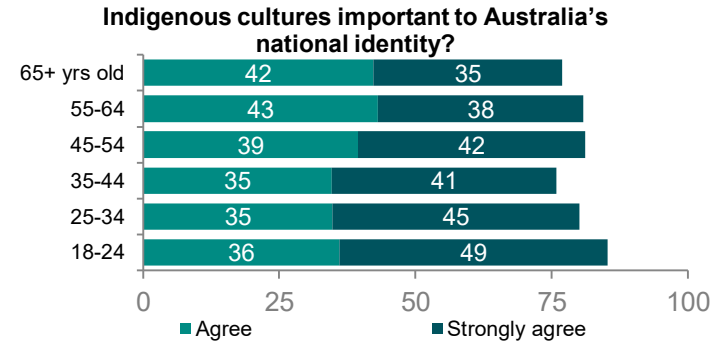
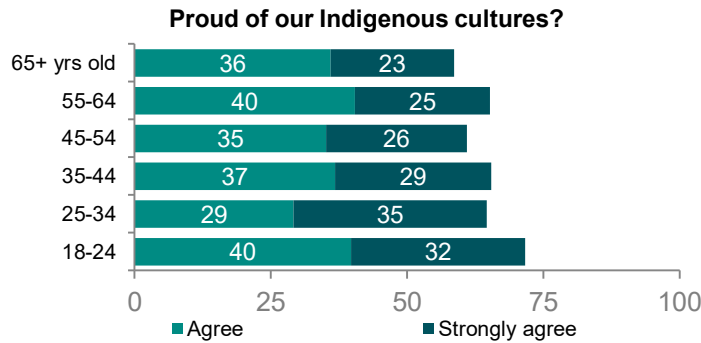


The general community are more likely to agree they are proud of Australia's multiculturalism (74%) than they are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures (64%).

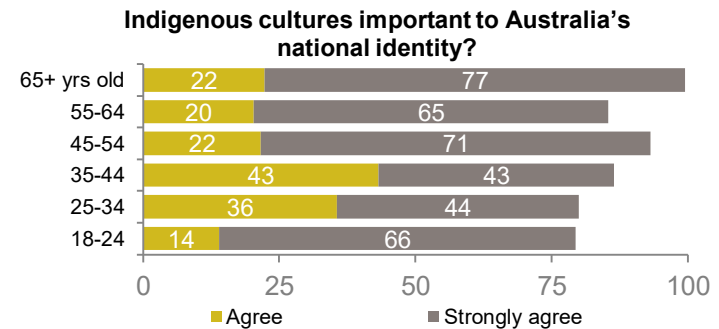
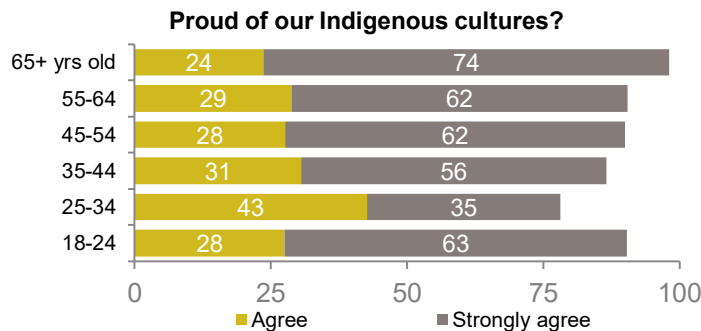
Conversely, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are much more likely to agree they are proud of their cultures (87%), compared to Australia's multiculturalism.

# The *values* among younger Australians are generally positive for the future

## General community 2020



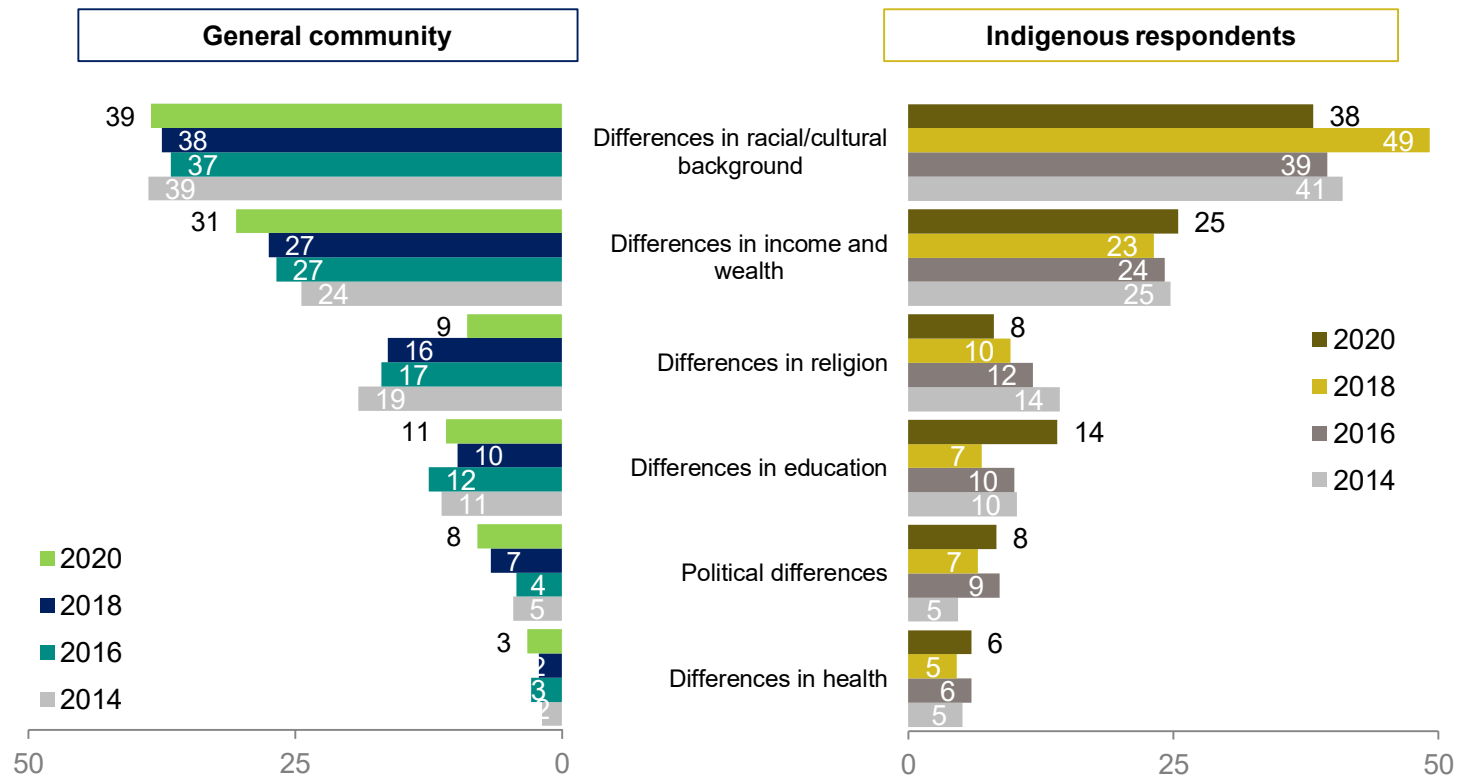
## Indigenous respondents 2020



When it comes to being proud of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to believe they are important to Australia's national identity, 18-24 year olds are mostly ahead of all other age groups in the general community.

That these attitudes are also largely evident among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly in terms of 'strongly agreeing', further indicates that the future of reconciliation continues to be positive.

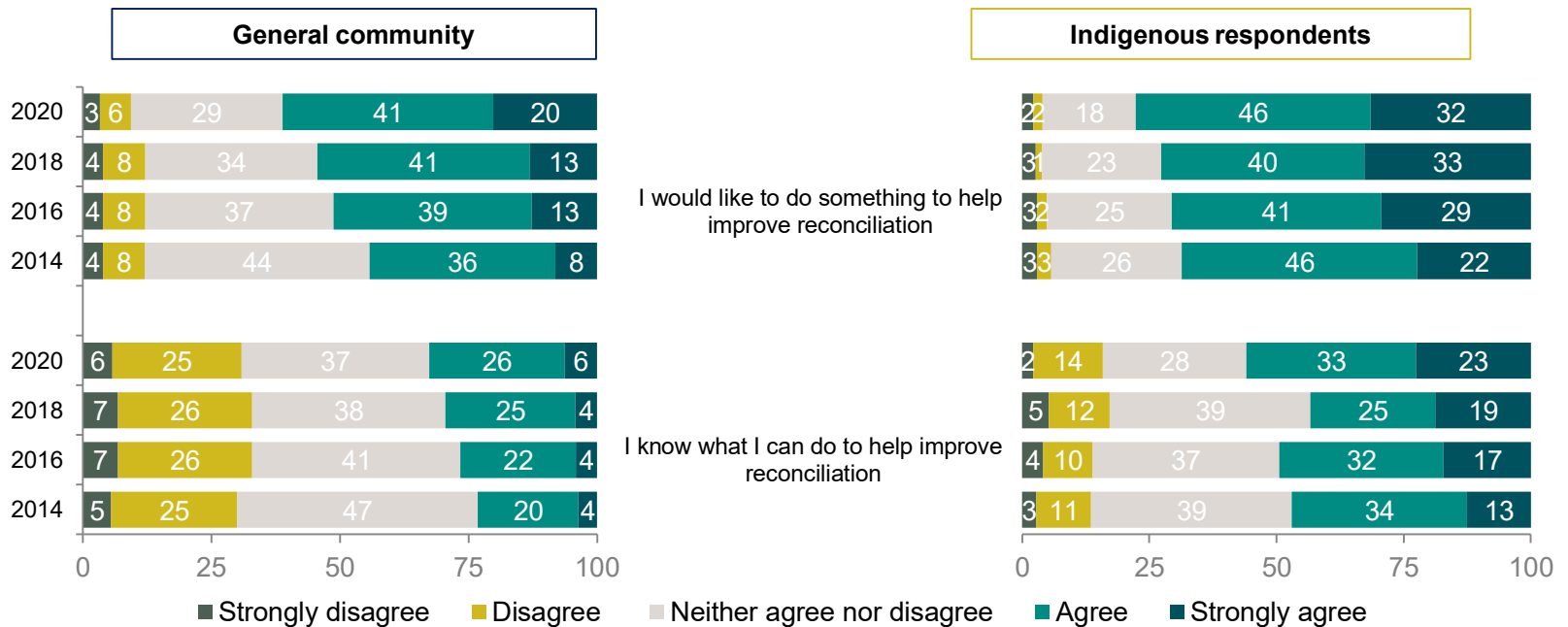
# Racial/cultural differences are still seen as the biggest cause of social divisions in Australia



Racial/cultural differences continue to be most widely viewed as the biggest cause of divisions in our society, by both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people .

Difference in income and wealth is also cited as the biggest cause among both groups.

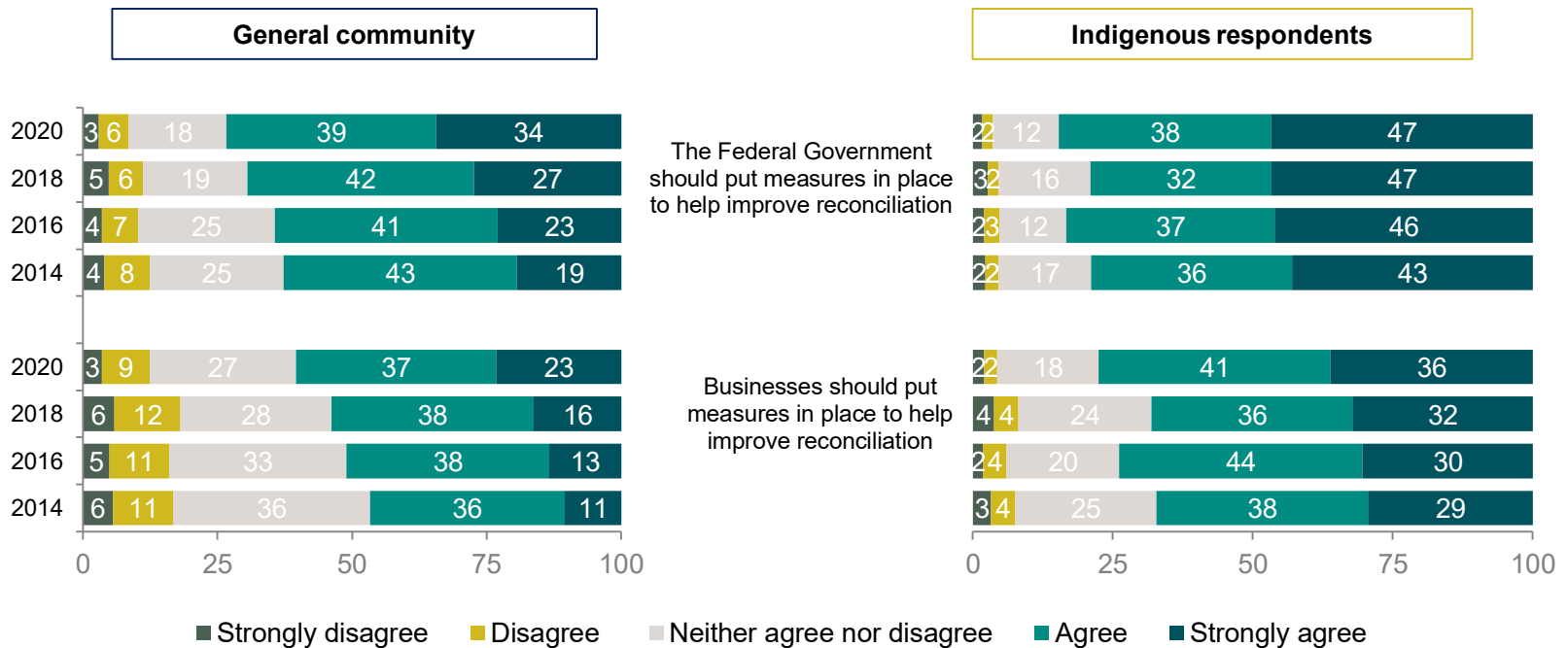
# More Australians would like to do something to improve reconciliation



There has been a steady increase in both communities since 2014 of people who want to help improve reconciliation, now 61% in the general community and 78% among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

However, both groups are still more likely to *want* to help than they are to *know* exactly what they can do.

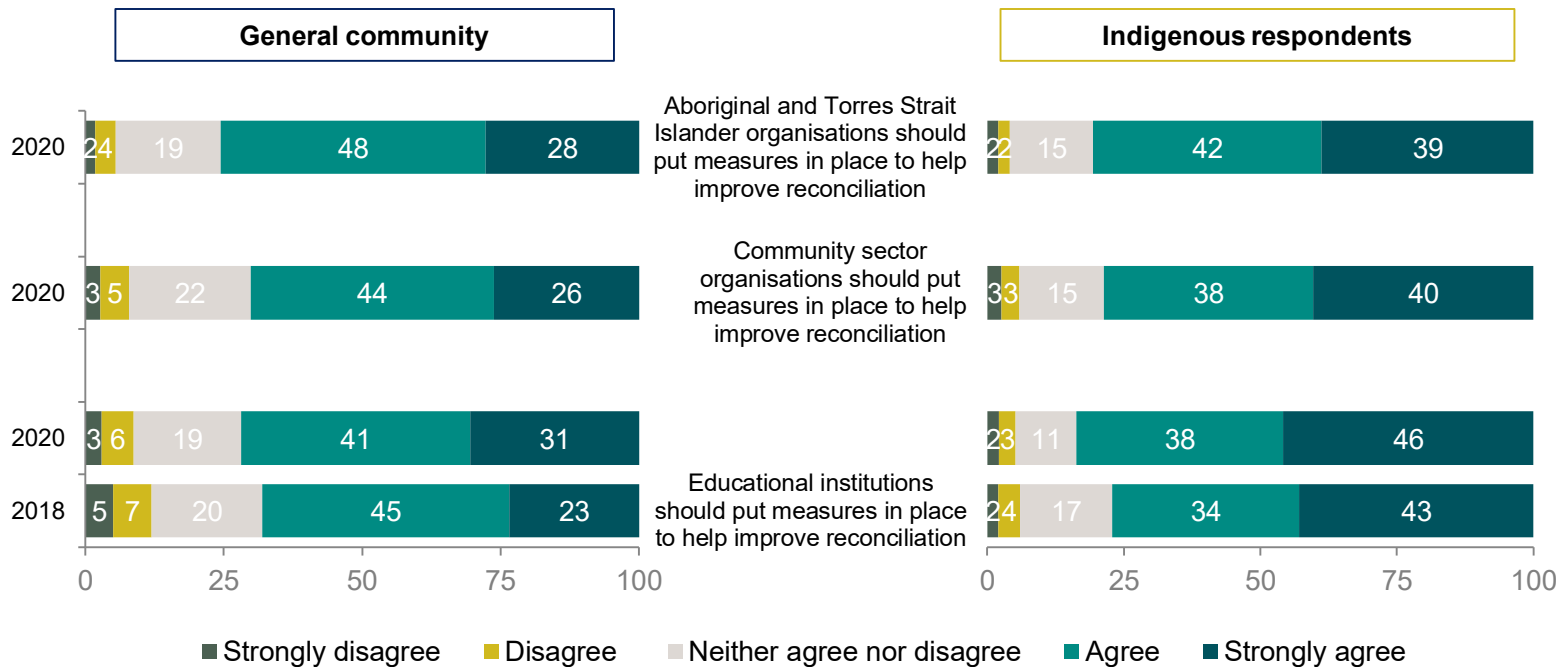
# More Australians believe the Government should initiate measures to improve reconciliation



There has been an increase in both communities since 2014 of people who strongly agree the Federal Government and businesses should do something to help improve reconciliation.

However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to strongly agree with these notions, compared to the general public.

# More Australians believe the Government should initiate measures to improve reconciliation (cont.)



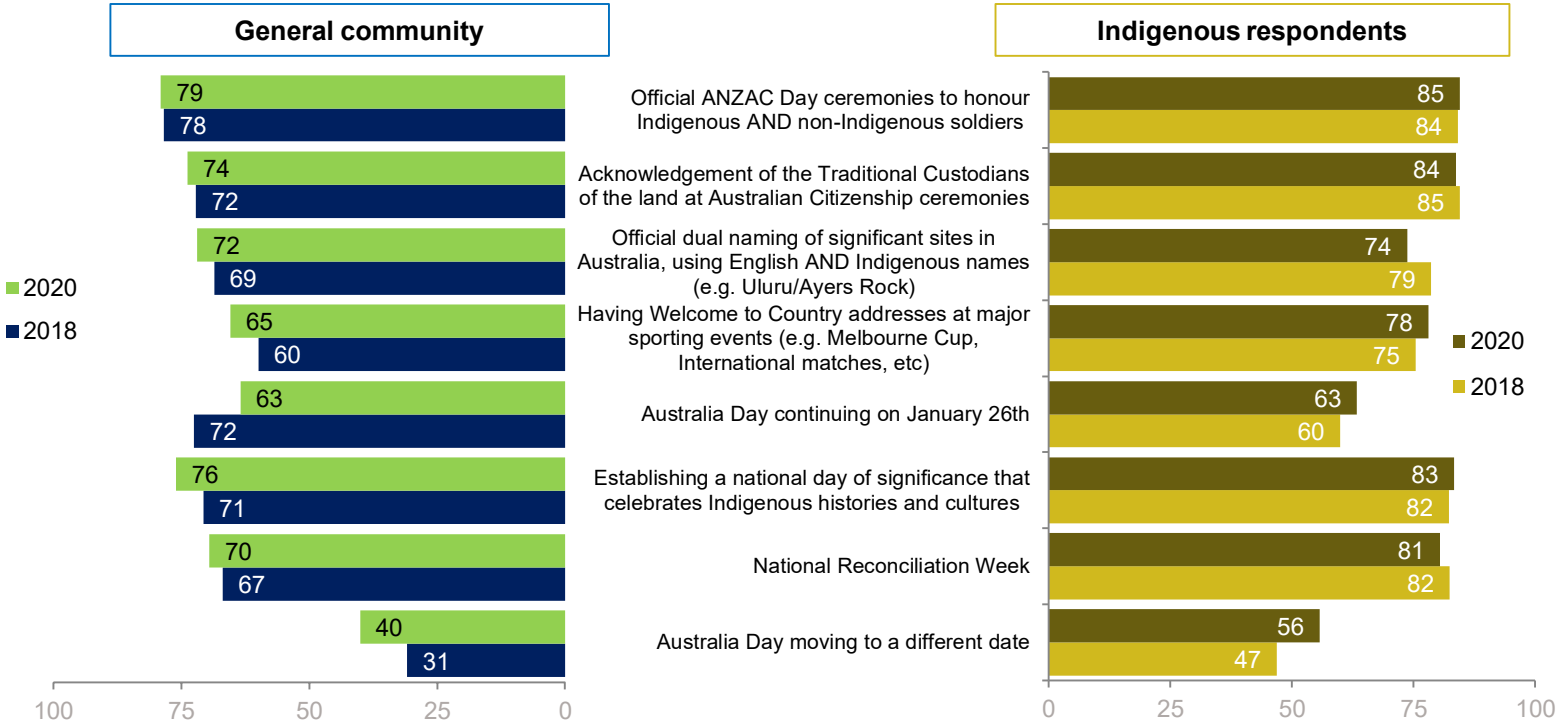
There has been an increase in both communities since 2018 of people who strongly agree the education sector should do something to help improve reconciliation.

There is also widespread agreement that Community sector and Indigenous organisations should adopt a leading role.

However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to strongly agree with these notions, compared to the general public.

# We most agree ANZAC Day could celebrate Australia’s national unity with more shared ceremonies

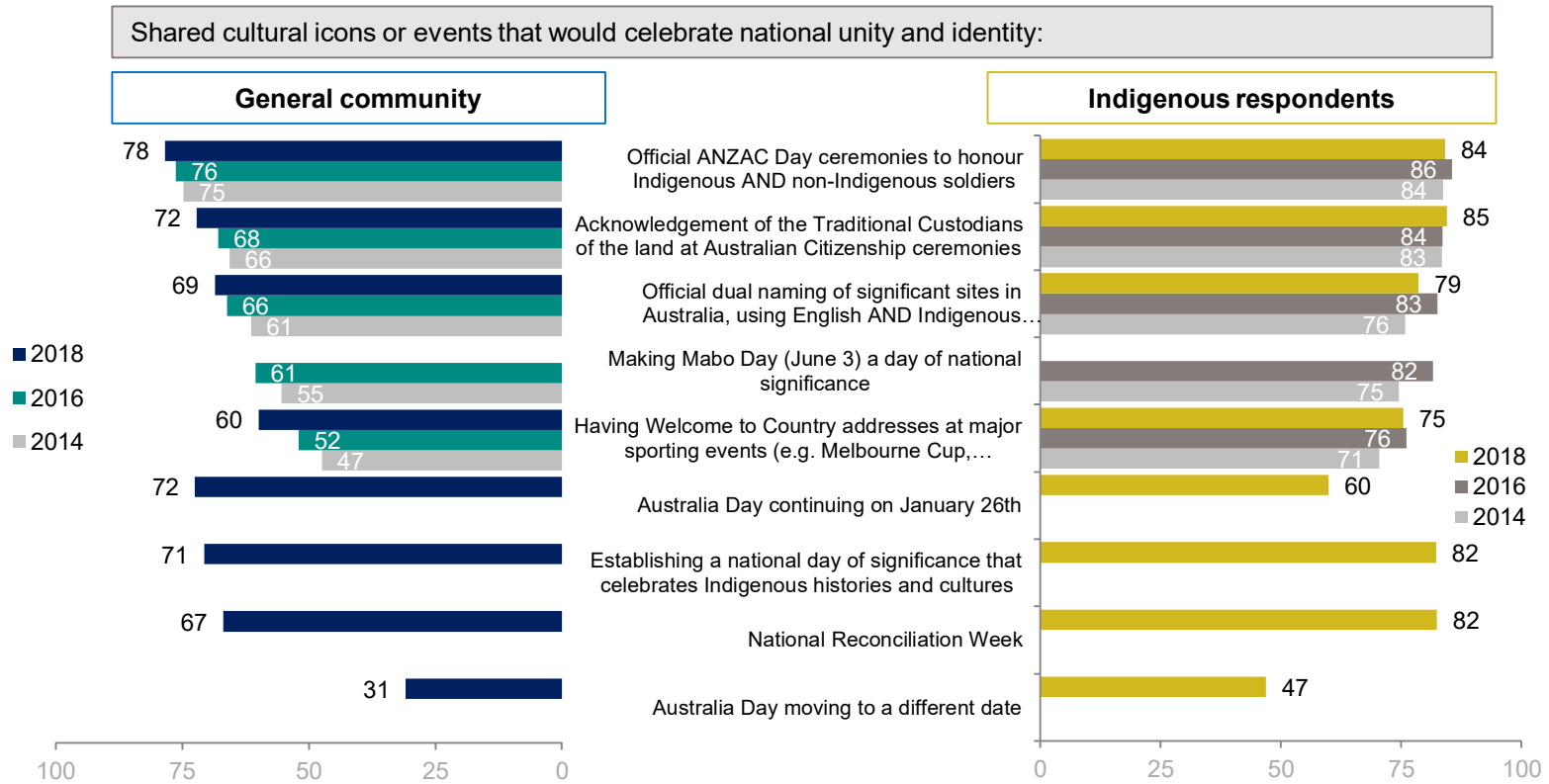
Shared cultural icons or events that would celebrate national unity and identity:



Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to believe a range of things could become shared icons that celebrate a national unity and identity, particularly official ANZAC ceremonies to honour both non-Indigenous and Indigenous soldiers.

It is also notable that support for moving Australia Day to a different date is growing in both communities.

# Events to celebrate Australia's national unity with more shared ceremonies 2014-18:

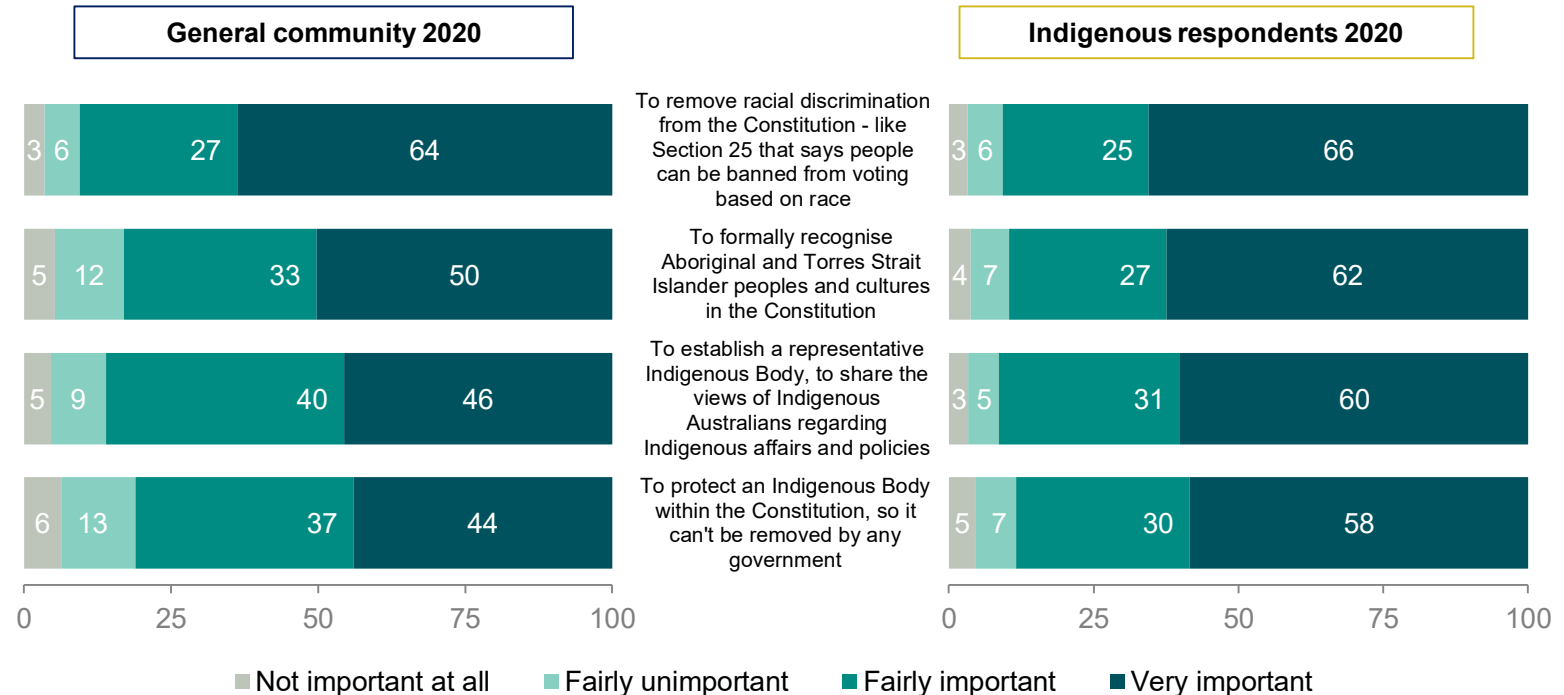


Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to believe a range of things could become shared icons that celebrate a national unity and identity, particularly official ANZAC ceremonies and establishing a national day of significance to celebrate Indigenous histories and cultures.

However, agreement with these potential cultural icons/events remains more widespread in the Indigenous communities.



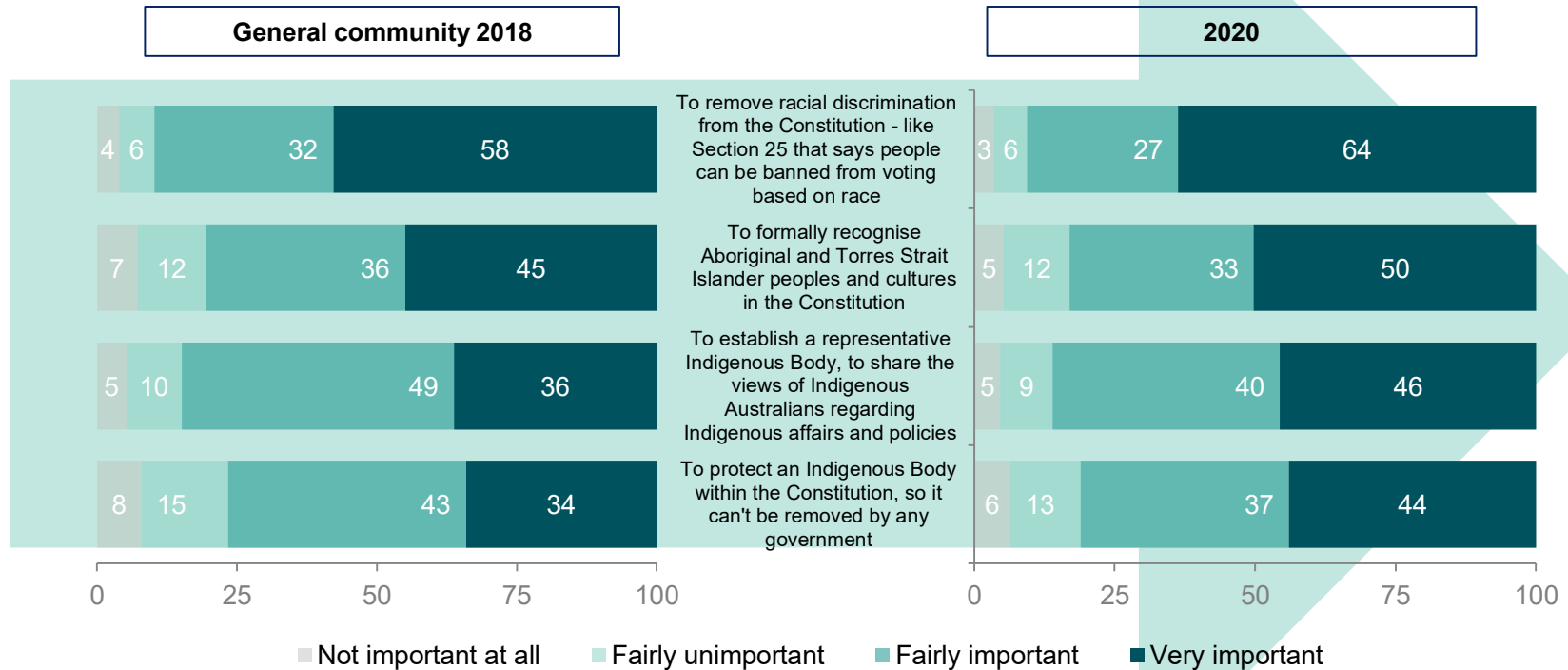
# We believe it is very important for key constitutional changes to happen



The general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people widely believe it's important to implement the key constitutional changes that have been proposed in Australia.

In particular, strong majorities of both groups feel it's very important to remove racial discrimination from the Constitution.

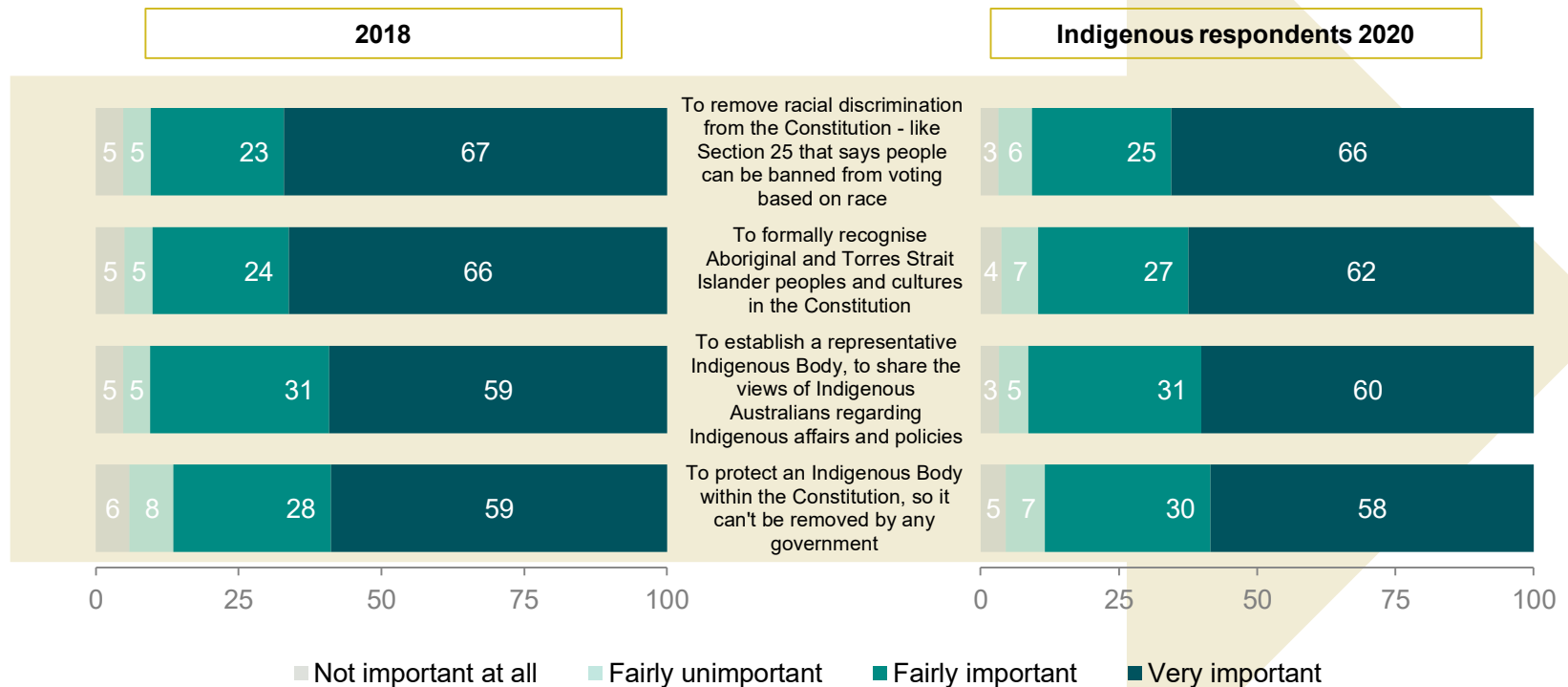
# More Australians believe it is very important for key constitutional changes to happen



There has been a solid increase in the general community of people who think that it's very important to implement the key constitutional changes that have been proposed in Australia, since 2018.

In particular, more Australians now believe we should establish a representative Indigenous Body (46%) and protect that Body in the Constitution (44%), compared to two years ago.

# Most Indigenous Australians continue to believe it is very important for key constitutional changes to happen

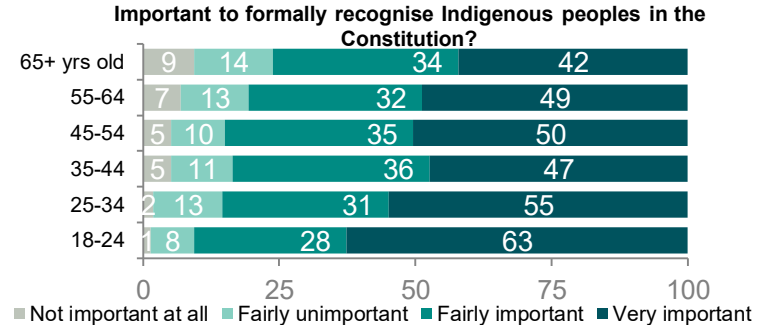
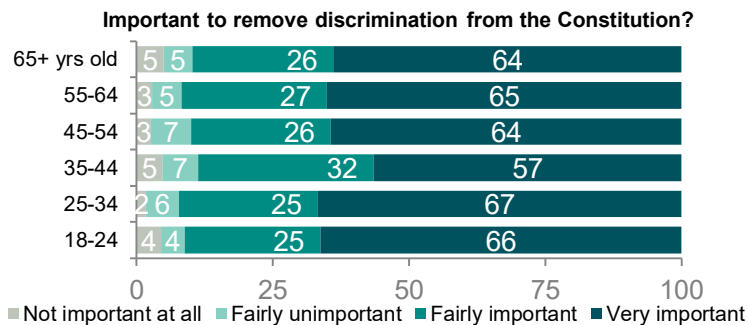
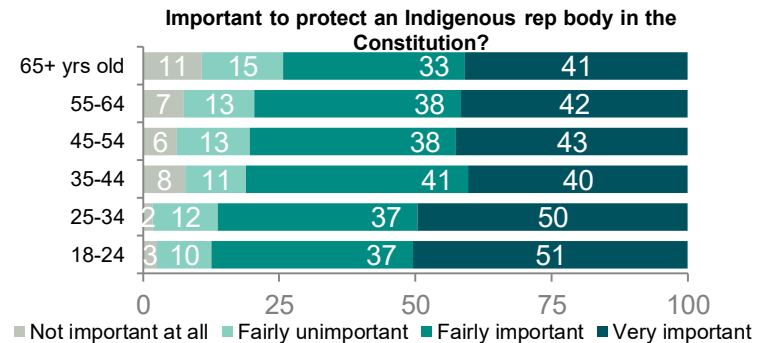
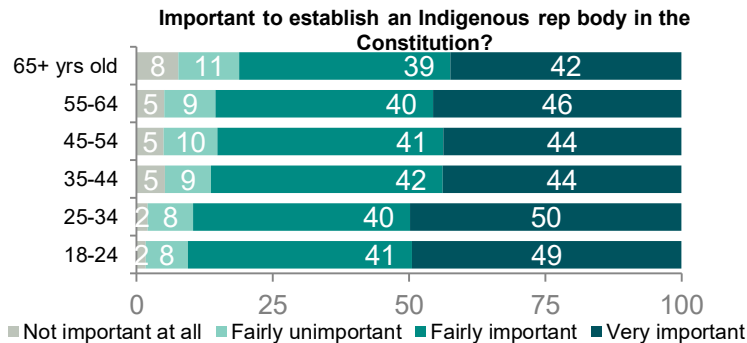


The vast majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to feel it's important to implement the key constitutional changes that have been proposed in Australia, since 2018.

Most notably, two out of three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe these changes are very important.

# Younger Australians place high importance on constitutional change

**General community 2020**

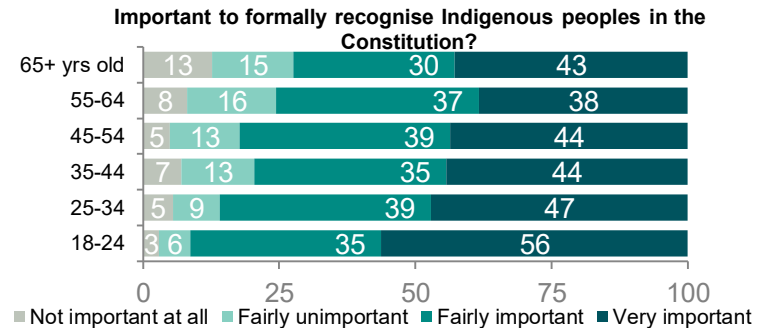
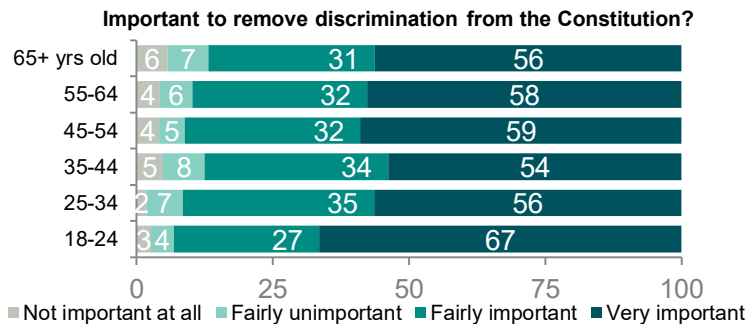
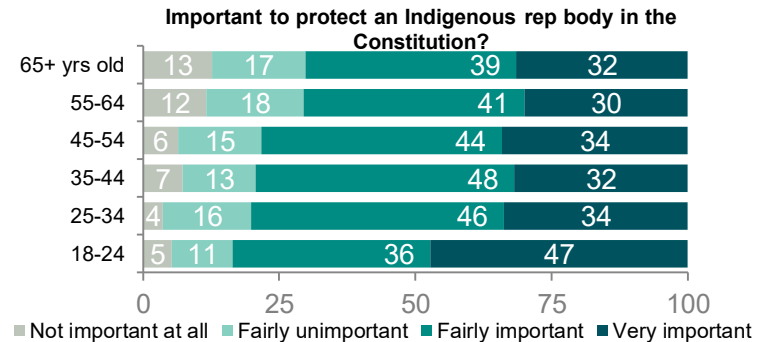
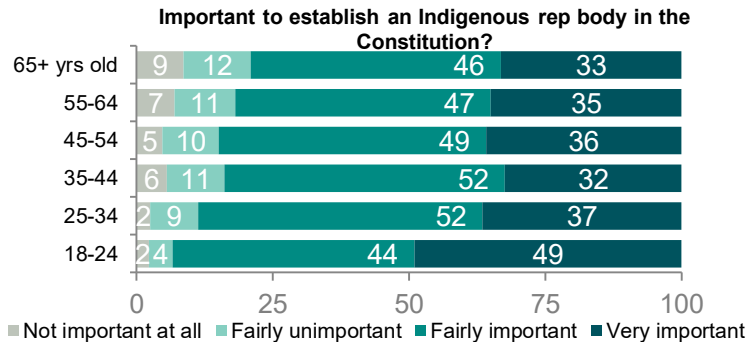


When it comes to the importance of removing race discrimination, recognition and establishing a representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution, 18-24 year olds are largely ahead of all other age groups in the general community.

However, it is notable that more 25-34 year old people also believe these changes are very important, since 2018 (see p.143).

# Younger Australians place high importance on constitutional change 2018:

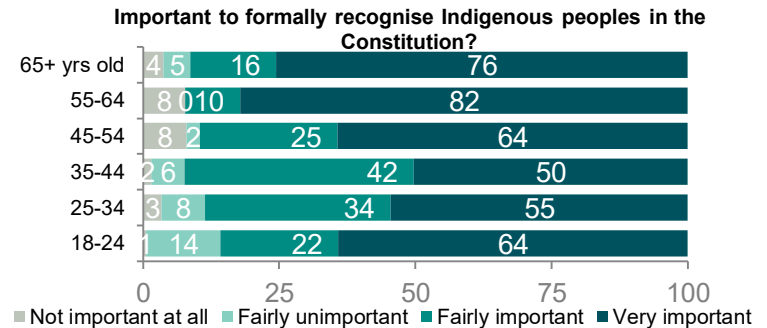
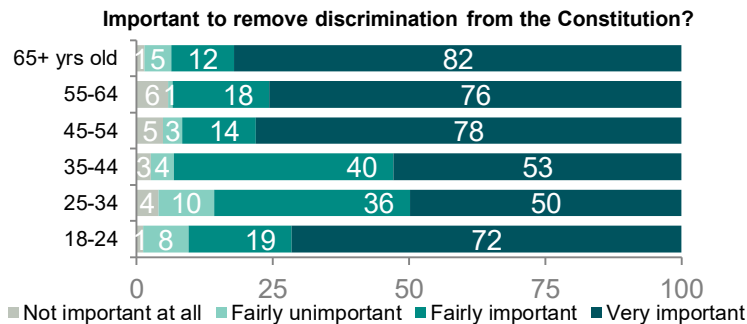
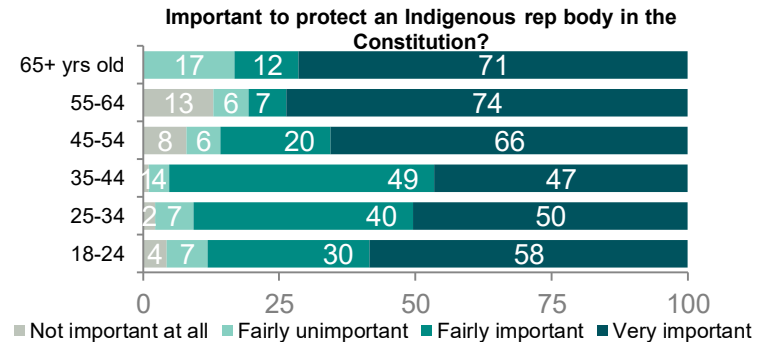
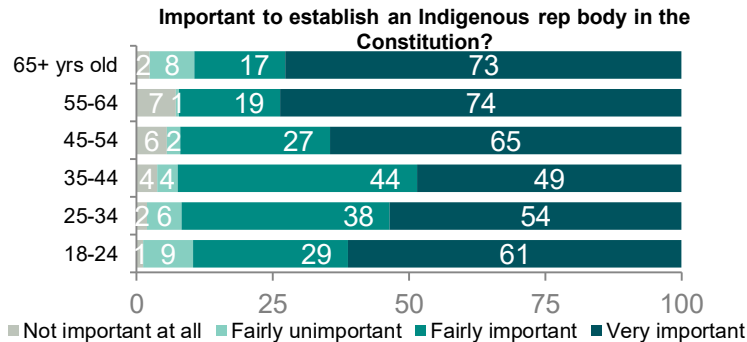
**General community 2018**



When it comes to the importance of removing race discrimination, recognition and establishing a representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution, 18-24 year olds are ahead of all other age groups in the general community.

# Older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people place high importance on constitutional change

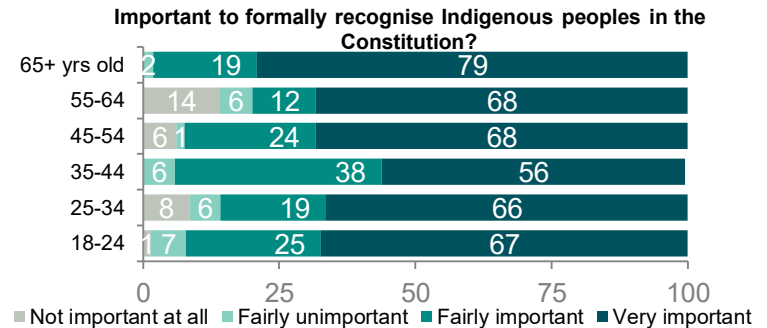
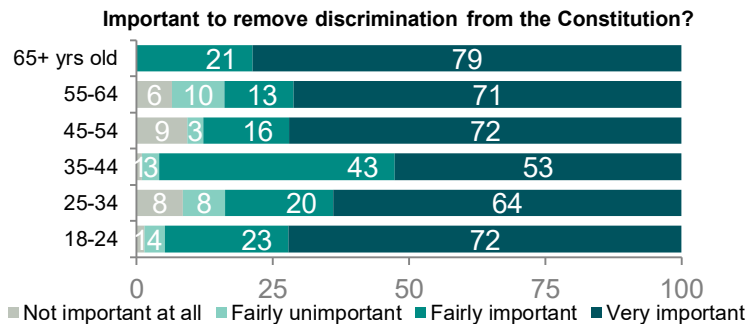
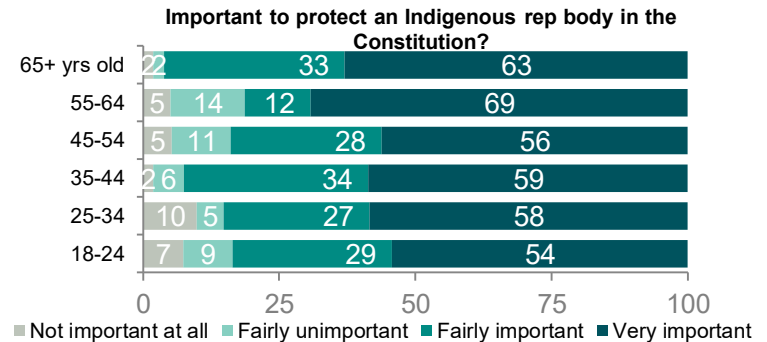
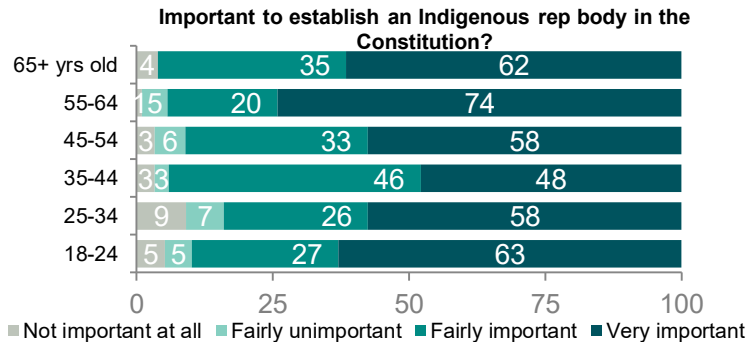
Indigenous respondents 2020



When it comes to the importance of removing race discrimination, recognition and establishing and protecting a representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the Constitution, 55+ year olds continue to be ahead of all other age groups in Indigenous respondent.

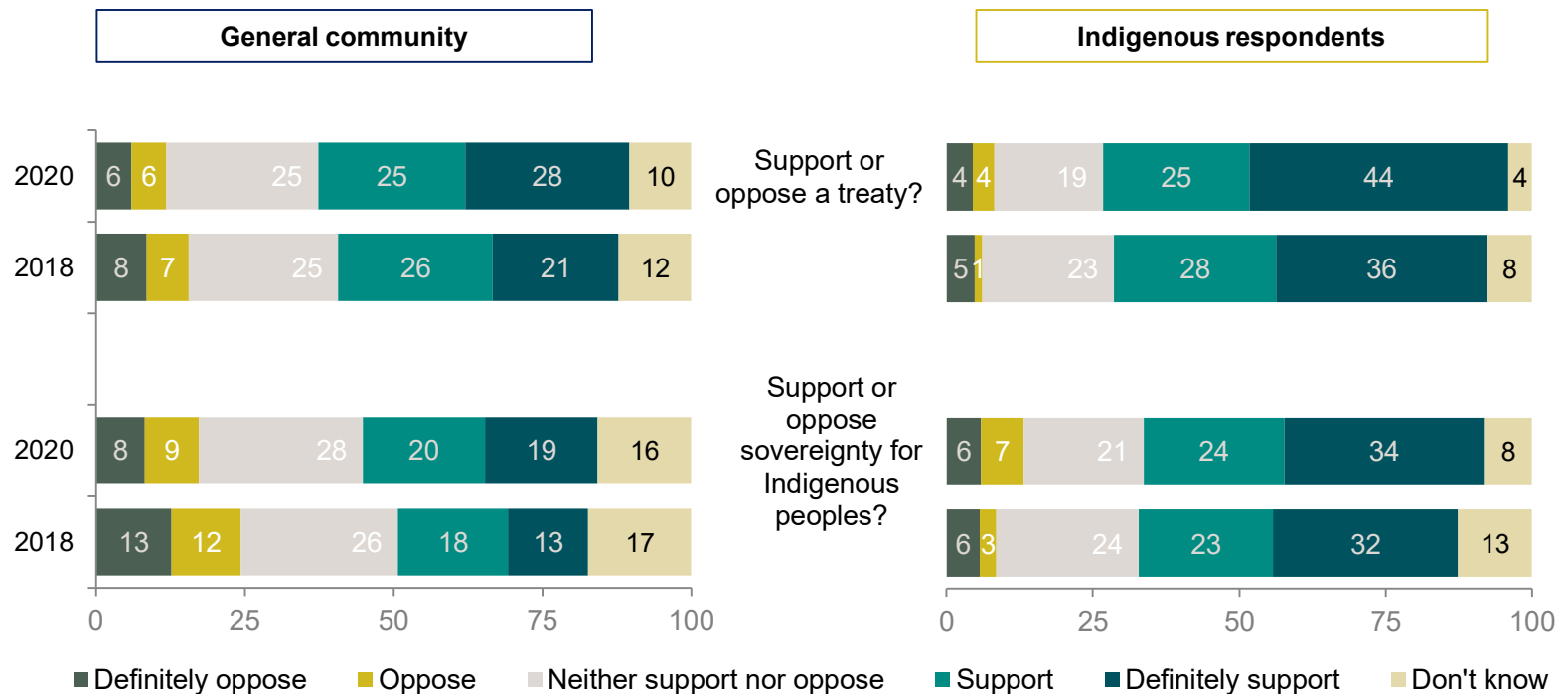
# Older Indigenous Australians place high importance on Constitutional change 2018:

## Indigenous respondents 2018



When it comes to the importance of removing race discrimination, recognition and establishing a representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution, 55+ year olds are ahead of all other age groups in Indigenous respondents.

# Indigenous Australians more strongly support a treaty and sovereignty, than the general public

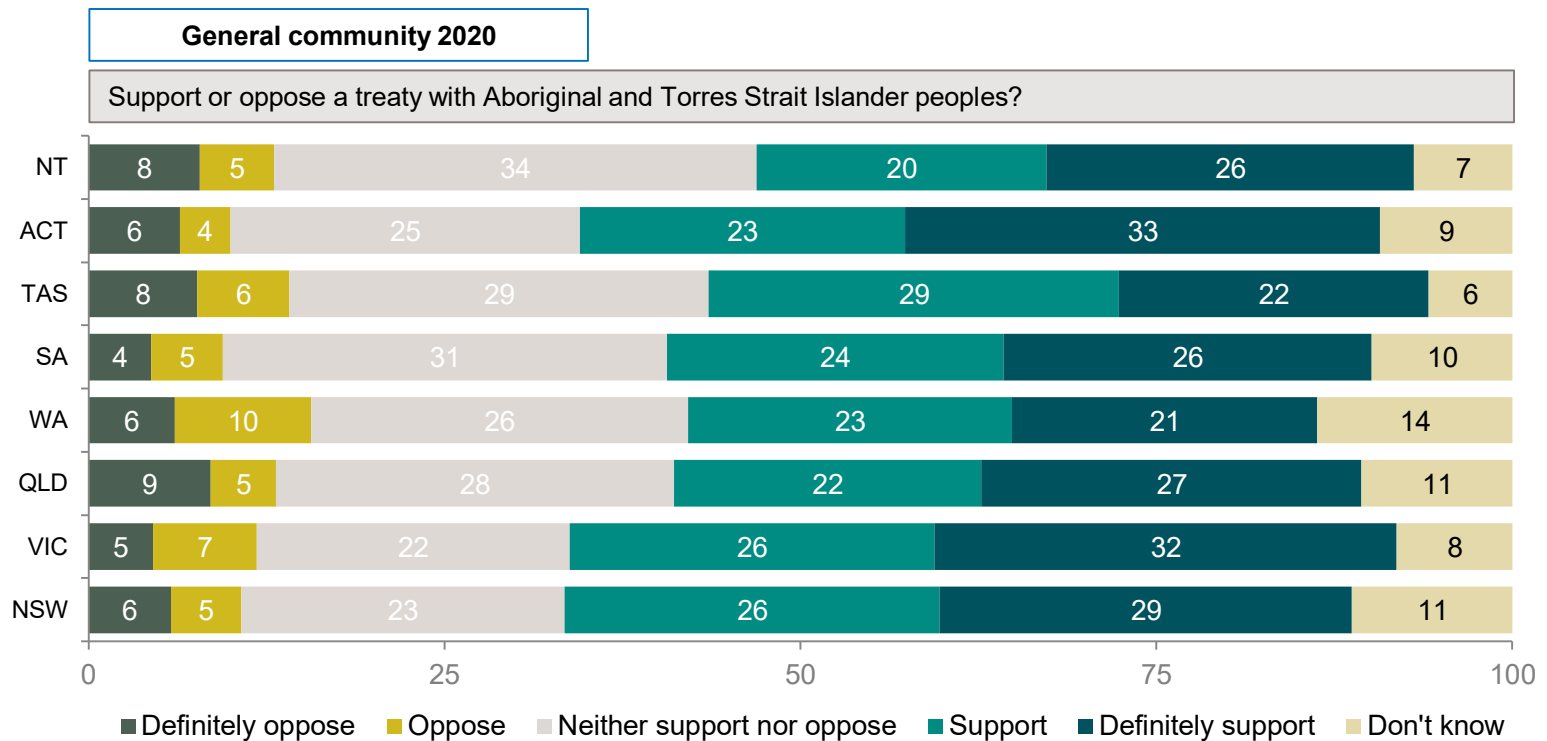


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely support a treaty (69%) between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and gaining sovereignty (58%), than the general public.

However, it is notable that support among the general community for both initiatives as increased since 2018.



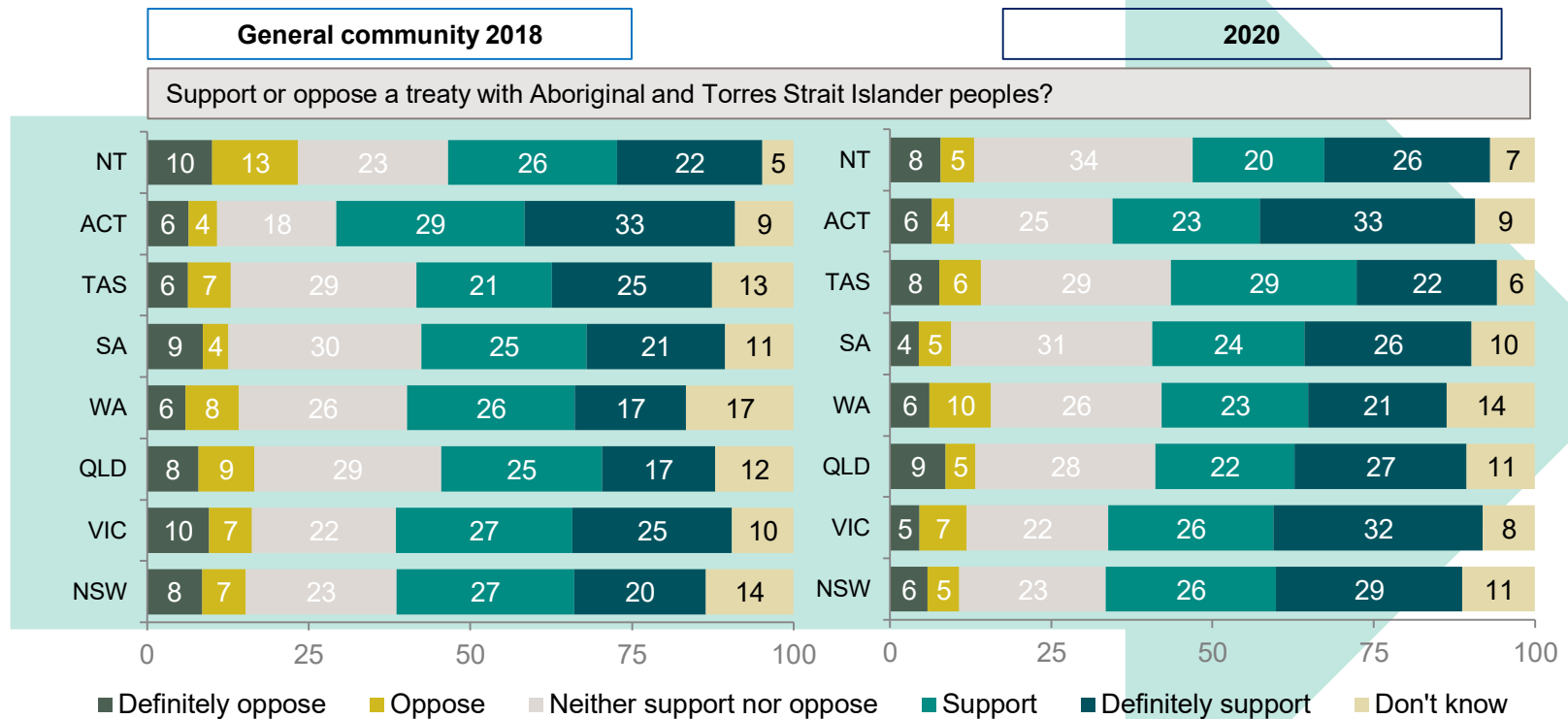
# More people from ACT and Victoria support a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



More people in the Victorian general community support a treaty with First Nations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (58%), than in other areas. There is also a high level of support in ACT (56%).

Conversely, people in WA are most likely to oppose (16%) a treaty.

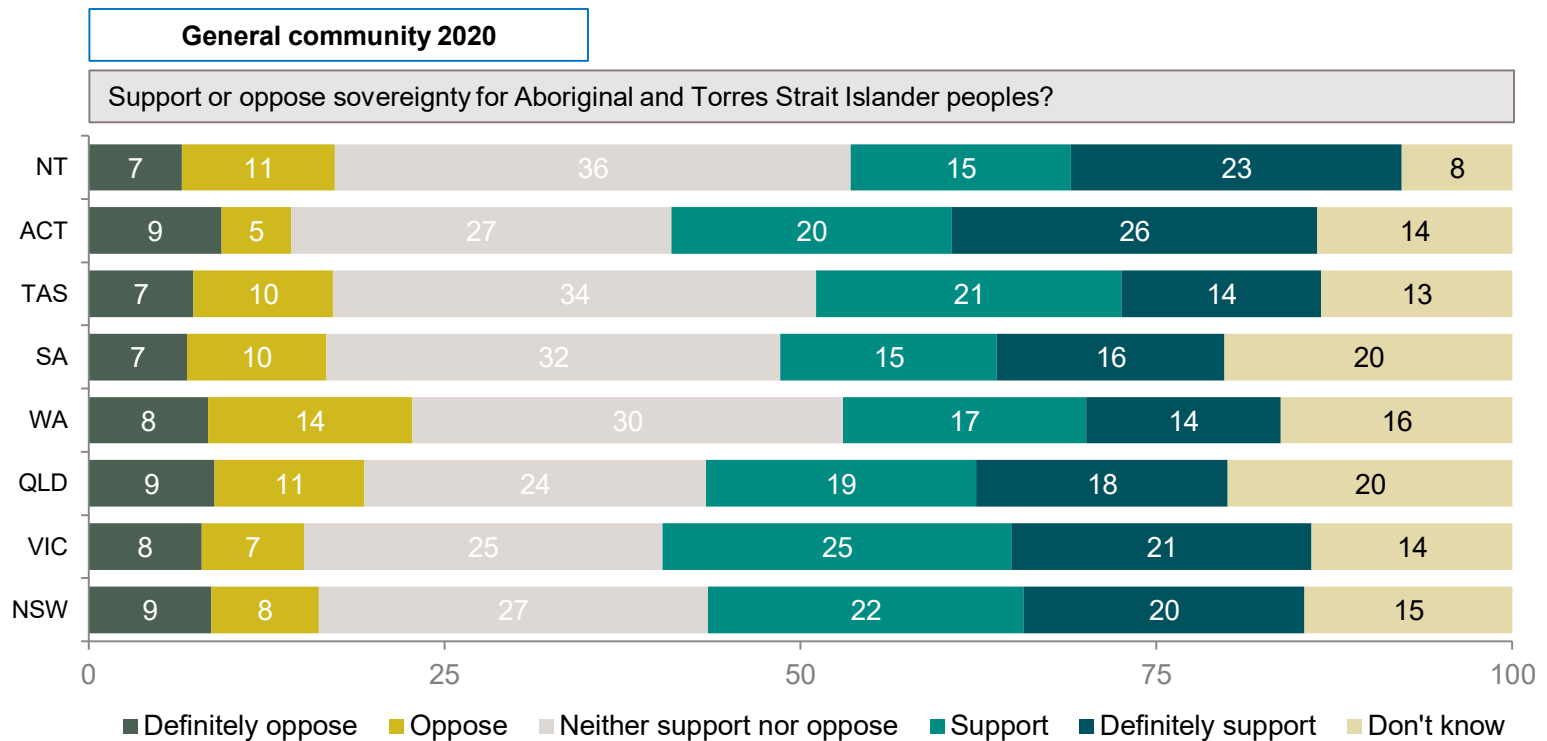
# More people in most States/Territories now definitely support a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



More people in the general community in all States and Territories (except ACT and Tasmania) now definitely support a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, than in 2018.

This increase is particularly notable in Queensland (27%), compared to 2018 (17%).

# West Australians are widely divided on sovereignty for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



More people in the ACT and Victorian general communities support sovereignty for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (46%), than in other areas.

Conversely, people in WA are most divided, with 22% opposing and 31% supporting this proposal.

# INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY

*The active support of reconciliation by the nation's political, business and community structures.*

What role do we think institutions play in reconciliation?

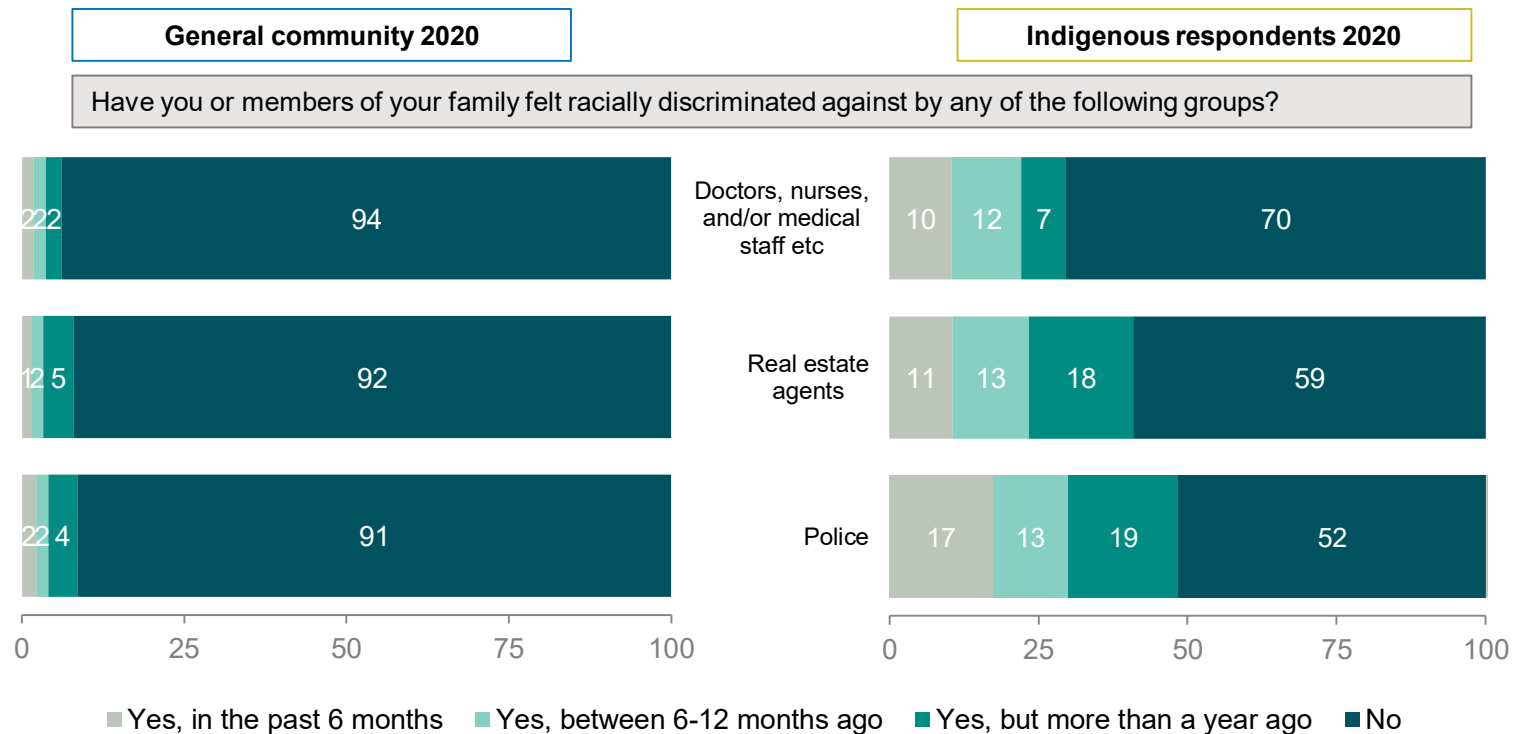
## **Key Findings:**

There have been sharp increases regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being racially discriminated against by police in the past twelve months (30%), and local shop owners/staff (24%).

20% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel they cannot be true to their culture in their interactions with police or the courts, compared to 12% of the general community.

46% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe media portrayal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is usually negative, as does 44% of the general community.

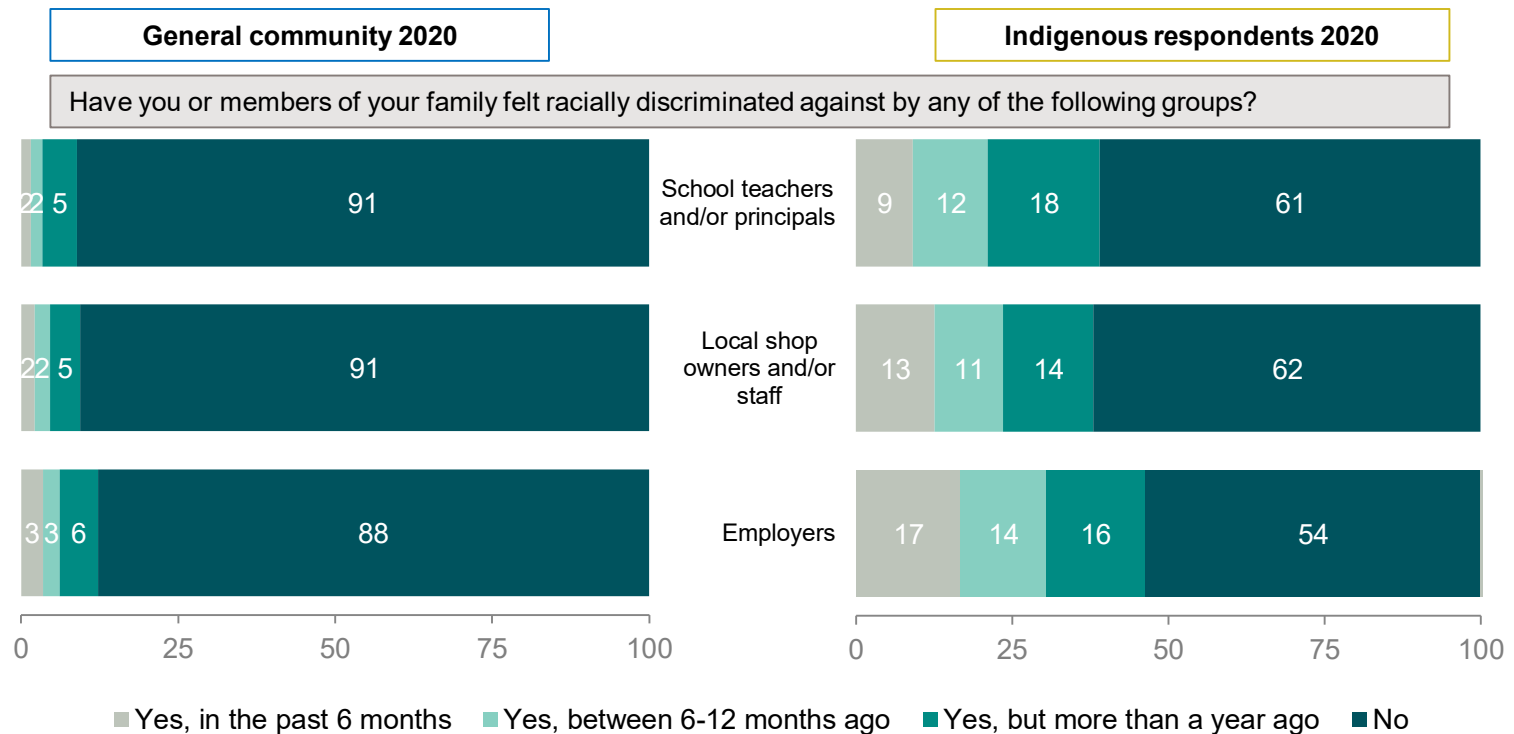
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to experience racial discrimination from professionals



10% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have felt racially discriminated against by medical professionals in the past six months, compared to only 2% of the general community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are also more likely to have experienced racial discrimination recently from police (17%) and real estate agents (11%), than the general community.

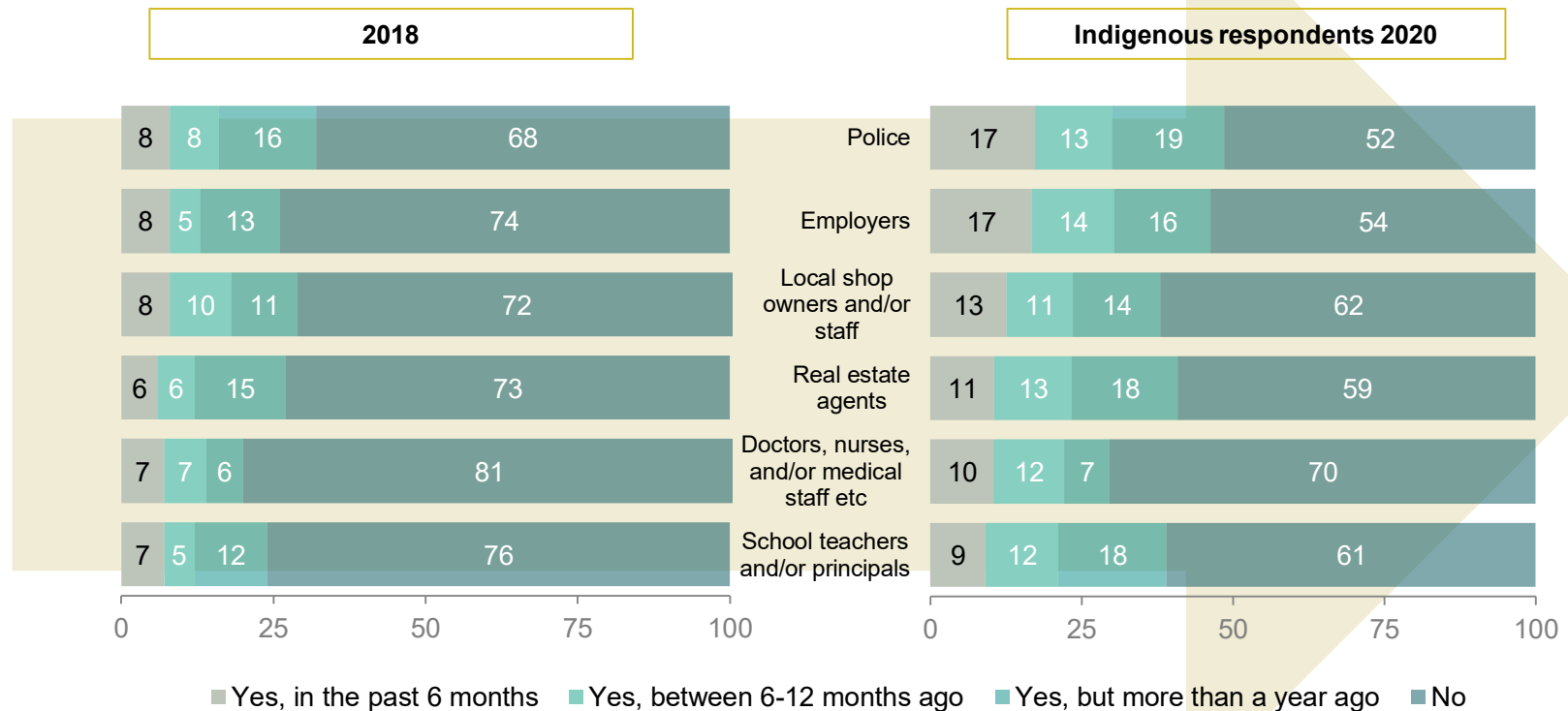
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to experience racial discrimination (cont.)



9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have felt racially discriminated against by school staff in the past six months, compared to only 2% of the general community.

Similarly, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have experienced racial discrimination recently by a local shop staff (13%) and employers (17%), compared to the general community.

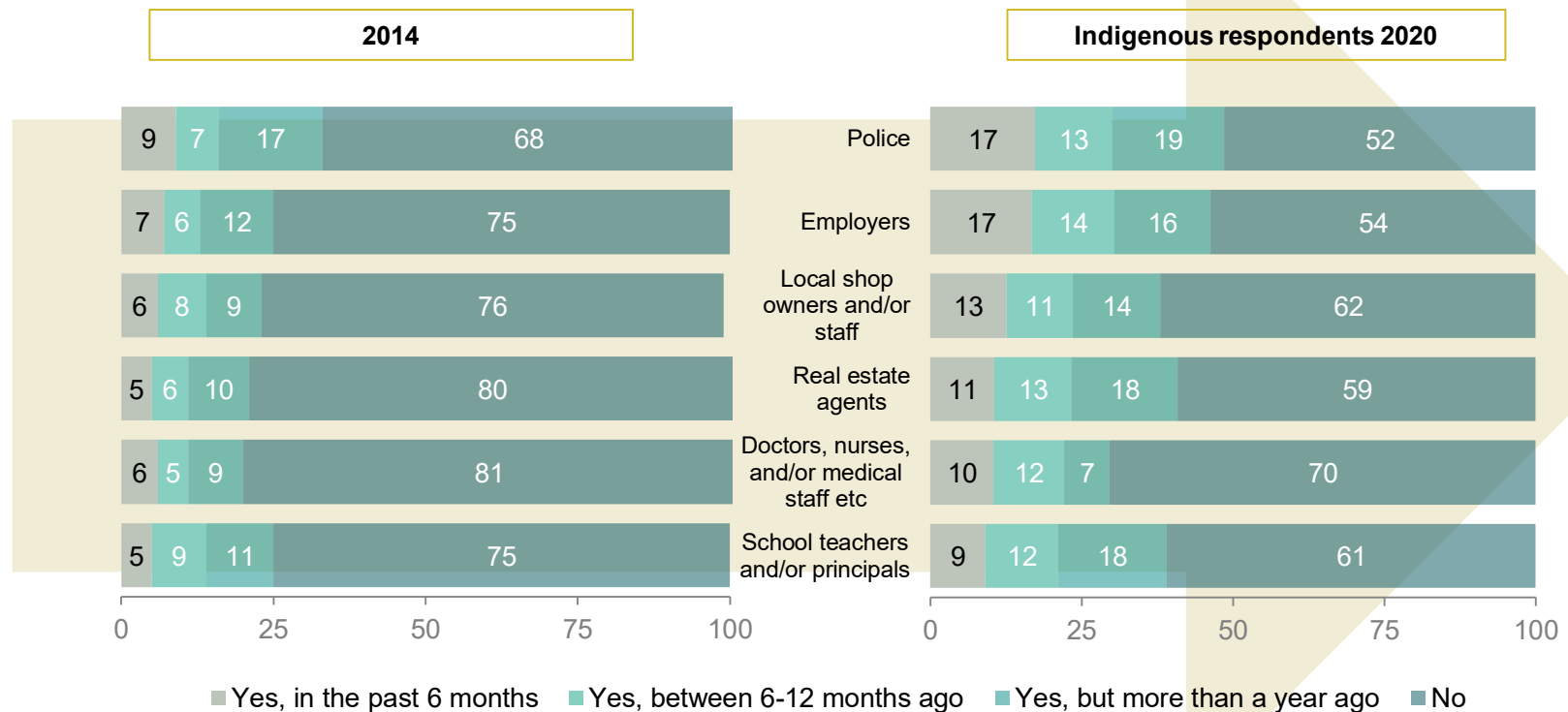
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences of racial discrimination from professionals have increased since 2018



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences of racial discrimination have mostly increased in professional and service contexts, since 2018.

Most notably, there have been sharp increases regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being racially discriminated against by police in the past six months (17%), and by employers (17%). Again, this may reflect not only negative impacts from COVID-19 stresses, but also raised awareness or reactions from the Black Lives Matter protests in June 2020.

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences of racial discrimination from professionals have increased since 2014

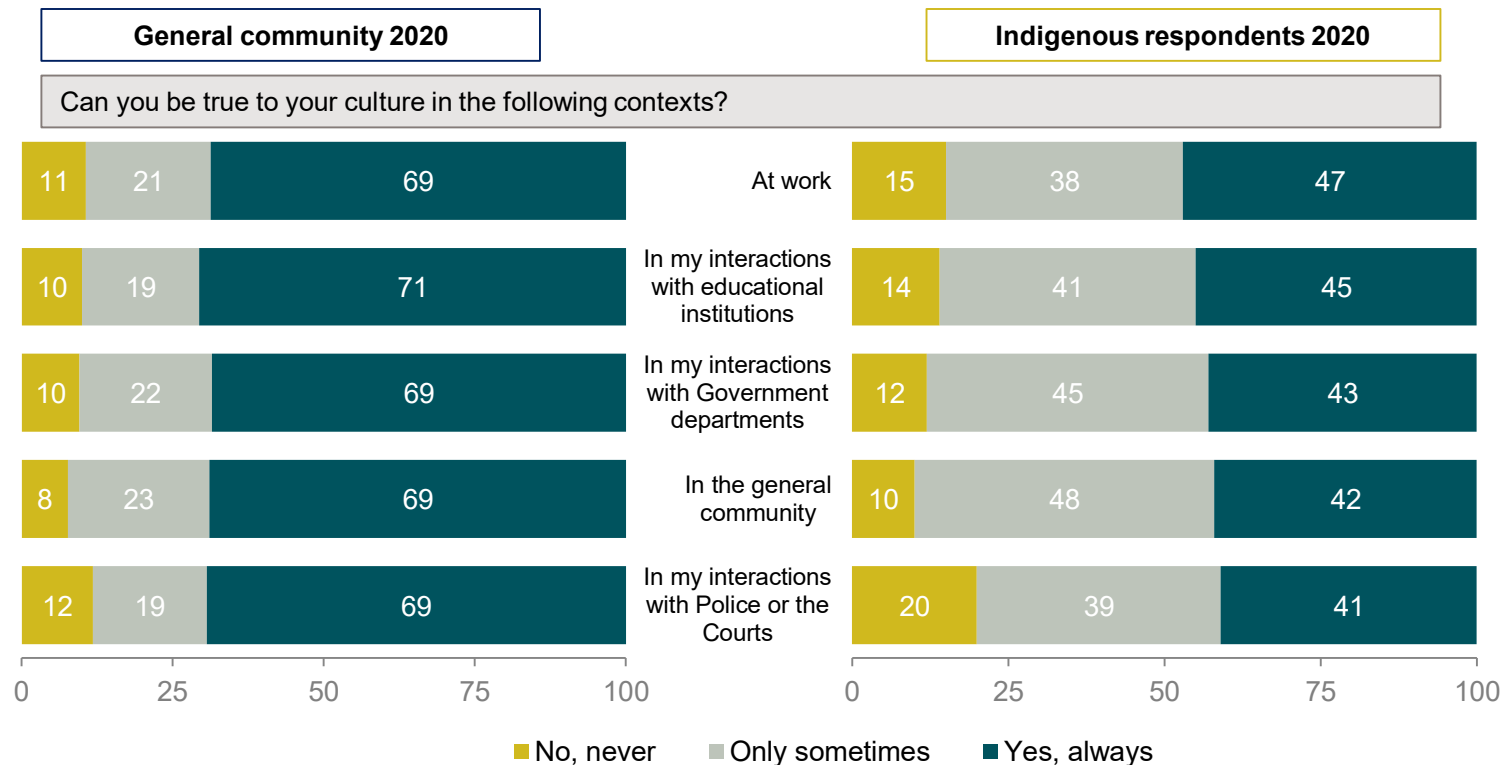


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences of racial discrimination have increased in all professional and service contexts, since 2014.

Most notably, there have been sharp increases regarding racial discrimination by police (17%), and by employers (17%), compared to six years ago.



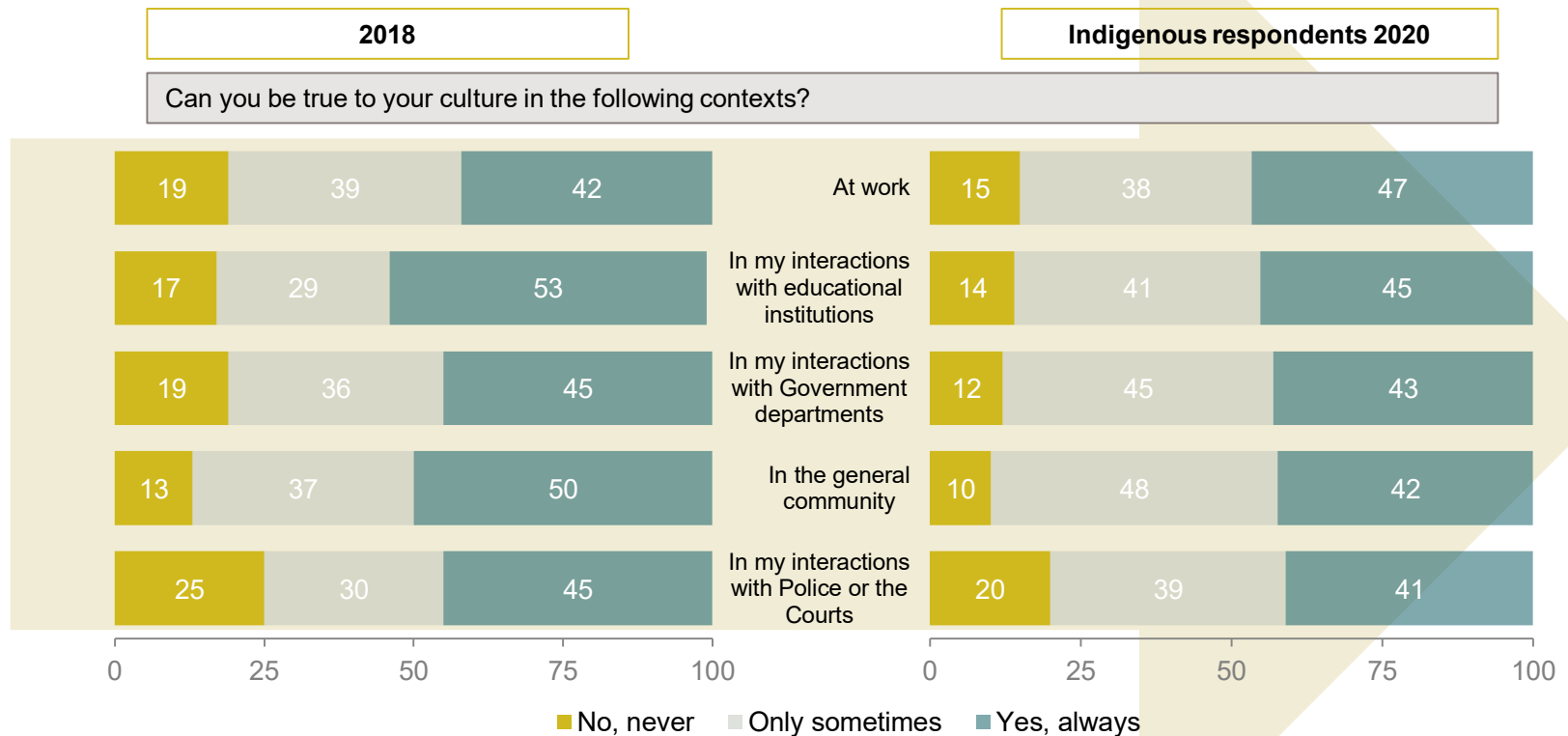
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain less likely to feel they can always be true to their culture



The general community continues to be more likely to believe they can always be true to their own culture in various contexts, than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In particular, Indigenous respondents more widely feel they can never be themselves in their interactions with law and order officials (20%), than the general public (12%).

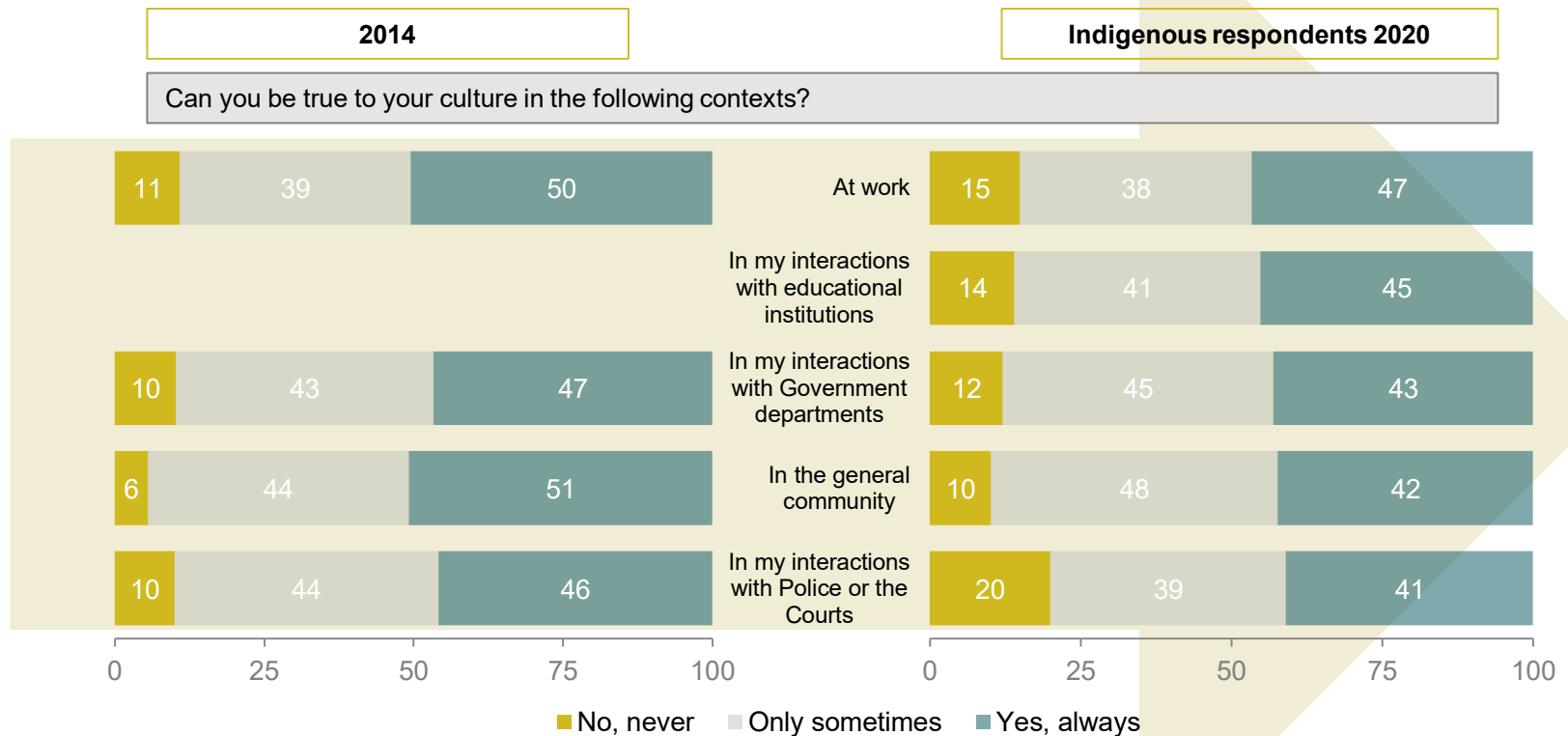
# More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel at least somewhat empowered culturally



Less Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel they can never be true to their culture or beliefs in various contexts, than in 2018. However, the shift has largely been towards feeling they can “only sometimes” be true about their culture.

Most notably, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel they can always be themselves at work (47%), compared to two years ago.

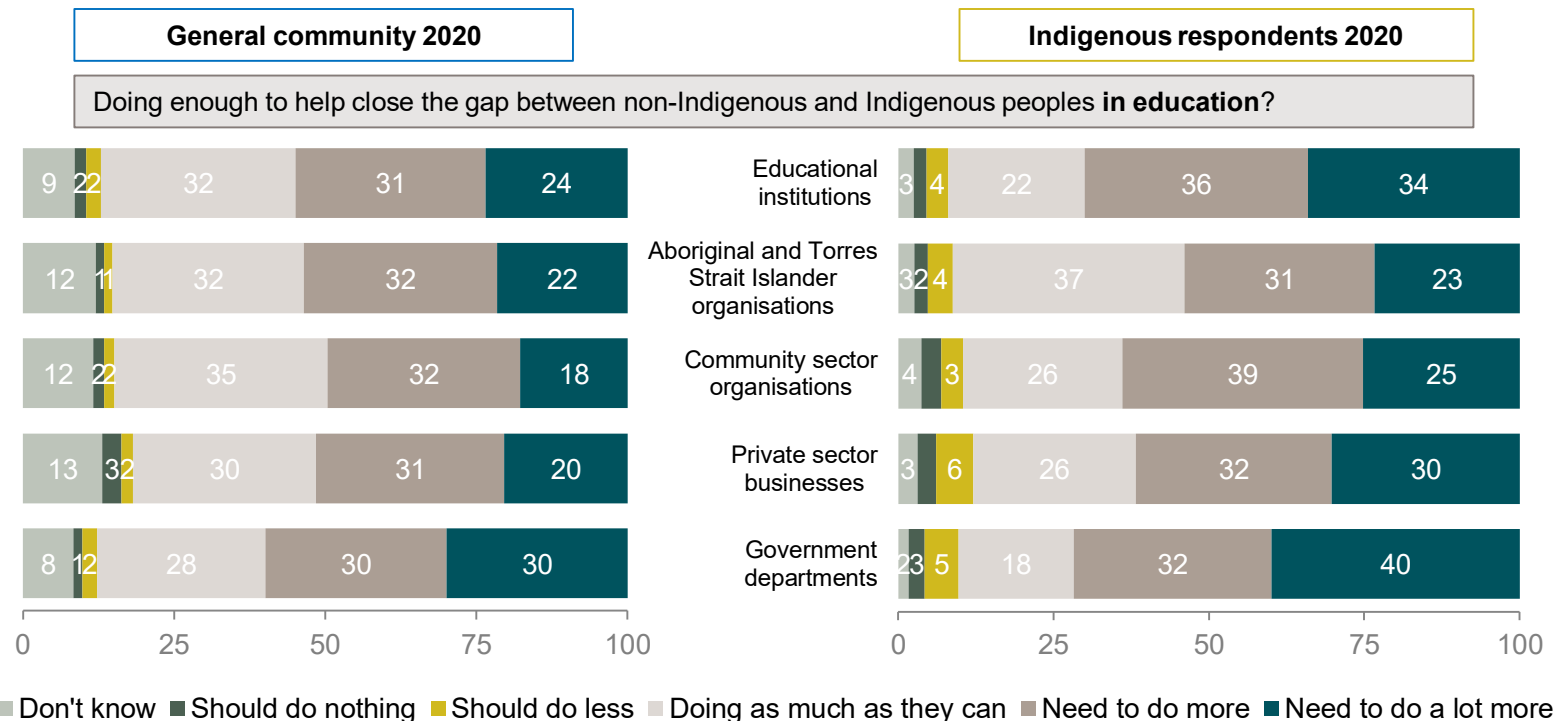
# Fewer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel empowered culturally than in 2014



Less Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel they can always be true to their culture or beliefs in various contexts, than in 2014.

Most notably, more Indigenous respondents now feel they can never be themselves in their interactions with law and order (20%), compared to six years ago.

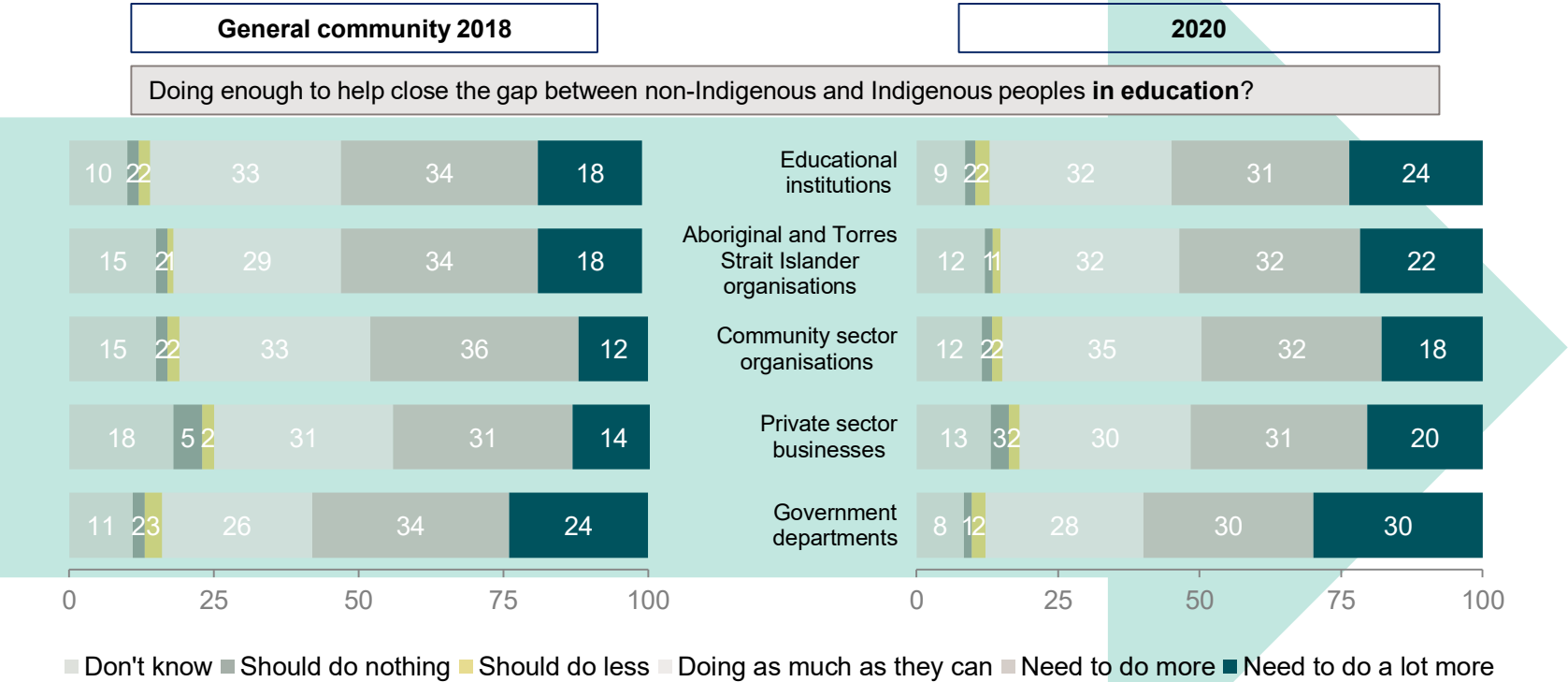
# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of education to close the gap



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to think that various organisations need to do more in areas of education, to help close the gap, than the general community.

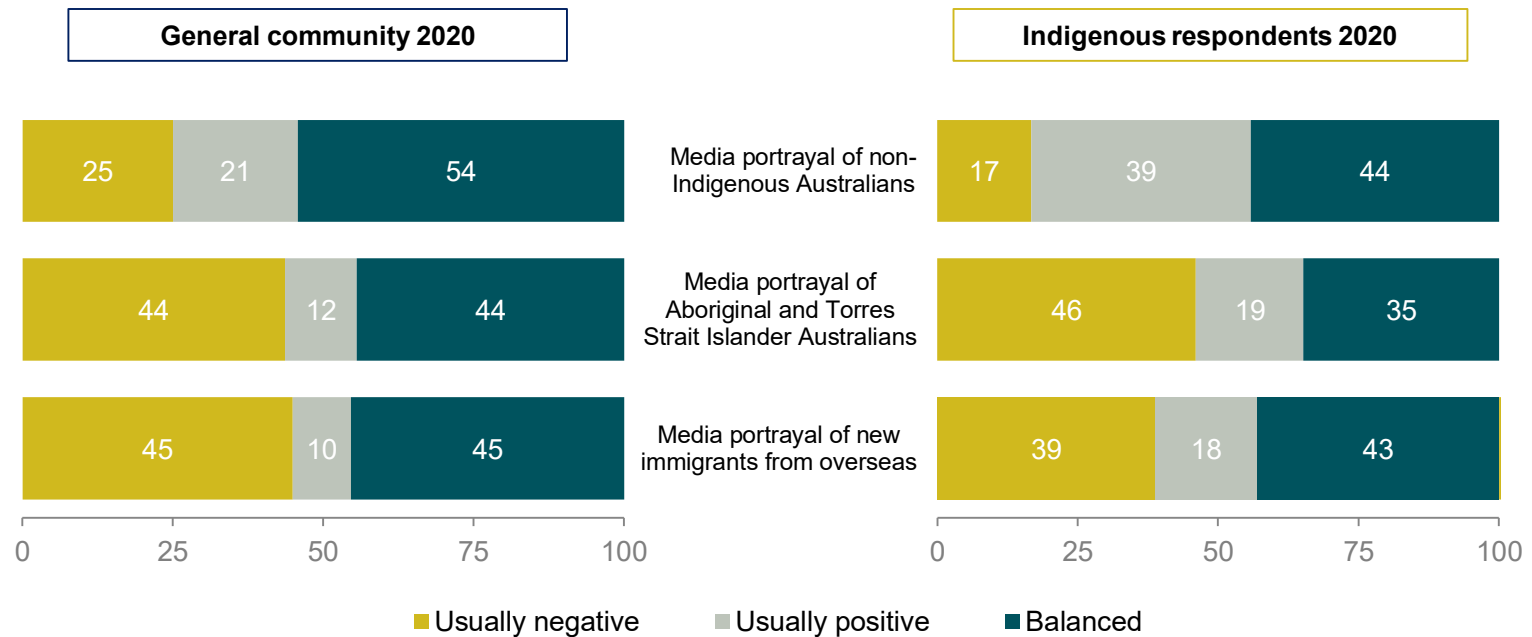
In particular, Indigenous respondents more widely believe government (40%), the education sector (34%) and the business sector (30%) need to do a lot more.

# More Australians think organisations need to do a lot more in areas of education



There has been an increase in the general community of people who think that various organisations need to do a lot more in areas of education, to help close the gap, since 2018.

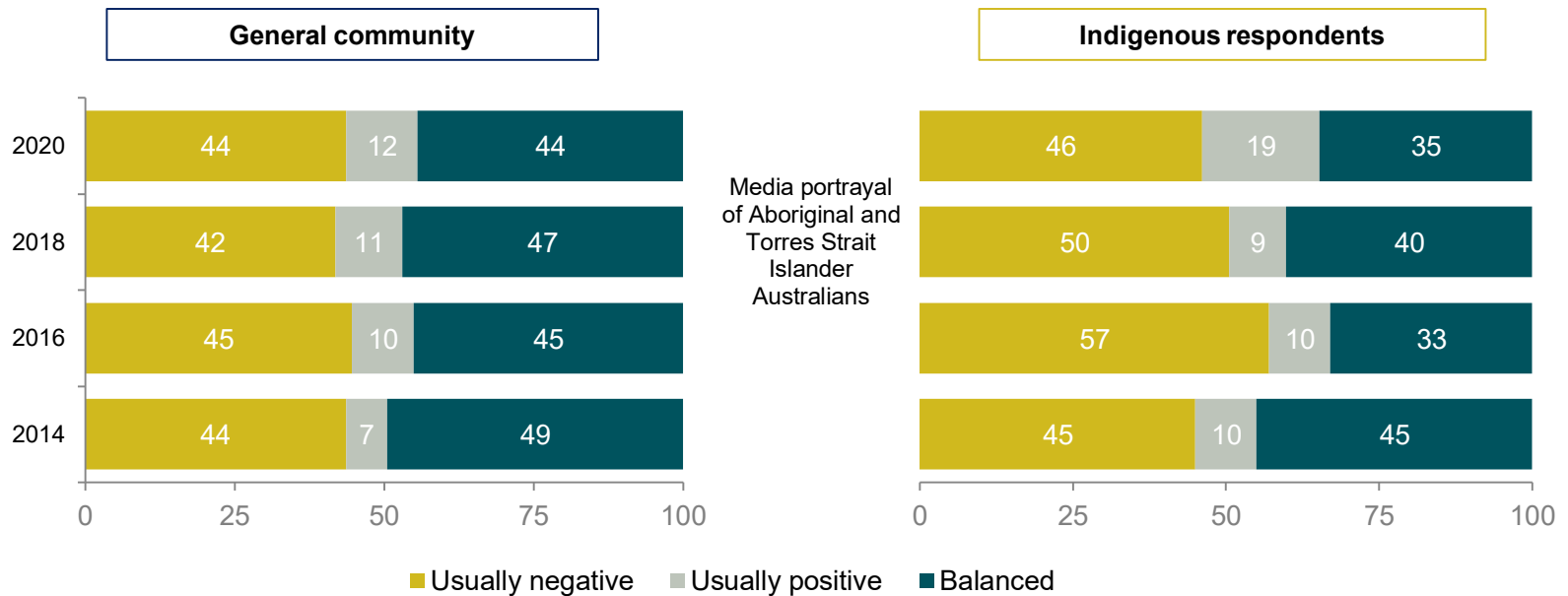
# We are divided on whether the media usually portrays Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a balanced way



The general community is divided over whether the media usually portrays Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a negative (44%) or balanced way (44%).

While Indigenous respondents are also divided, they are more likely to believe the media usually portrays Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people negatively (46%), than in a balanced way (35%).

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be less sceptical about media portrayal



The general community remains divided over whether the media usually portrays Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a negative or balanced way, in line with previous years.

However, while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are also divided, they are now less likely to believe the media usually portrays them in a negative way (46%), continuing to fall since 2016 (57%).

# Historical Acceptance

*All Australians understand and accept the wrongs of the past and the impact of these wrongs. Australia makes amends for the wrongs of the past and ensure these wrongs are never repeated.*

How much do we accept the wrongs of the past?

**Key Findings:**

90% of the general community agrees it is important for all Australians to learn about past issues, compared to 86% in 2018.

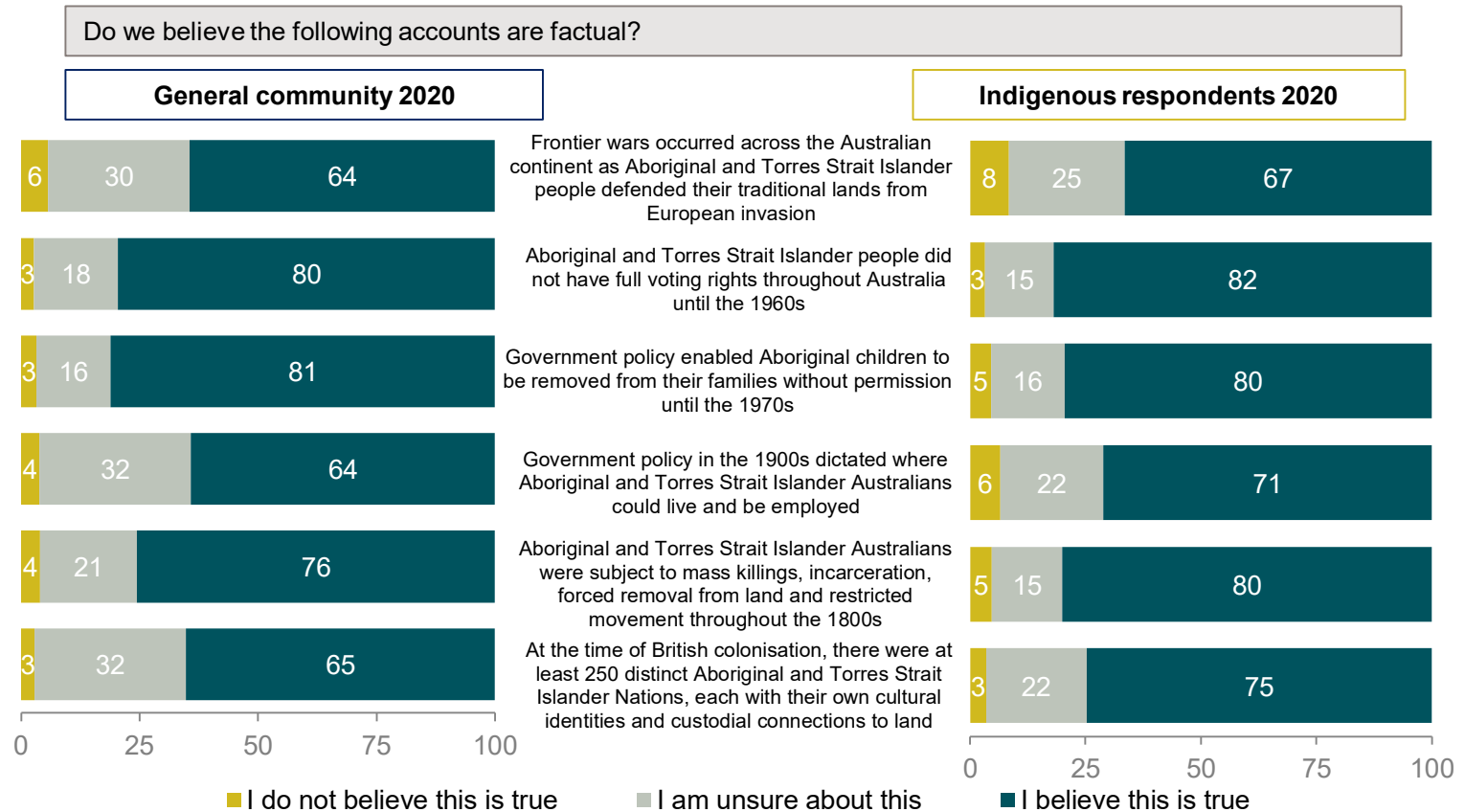
89% of the general community and 93% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe it is important to undertake formal truth telling processes in Australia.

Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people largely believe a number of key facts about historical realities and Australia's past institutional prejudices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people widely agree that past government policies are responsible for many forms of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.



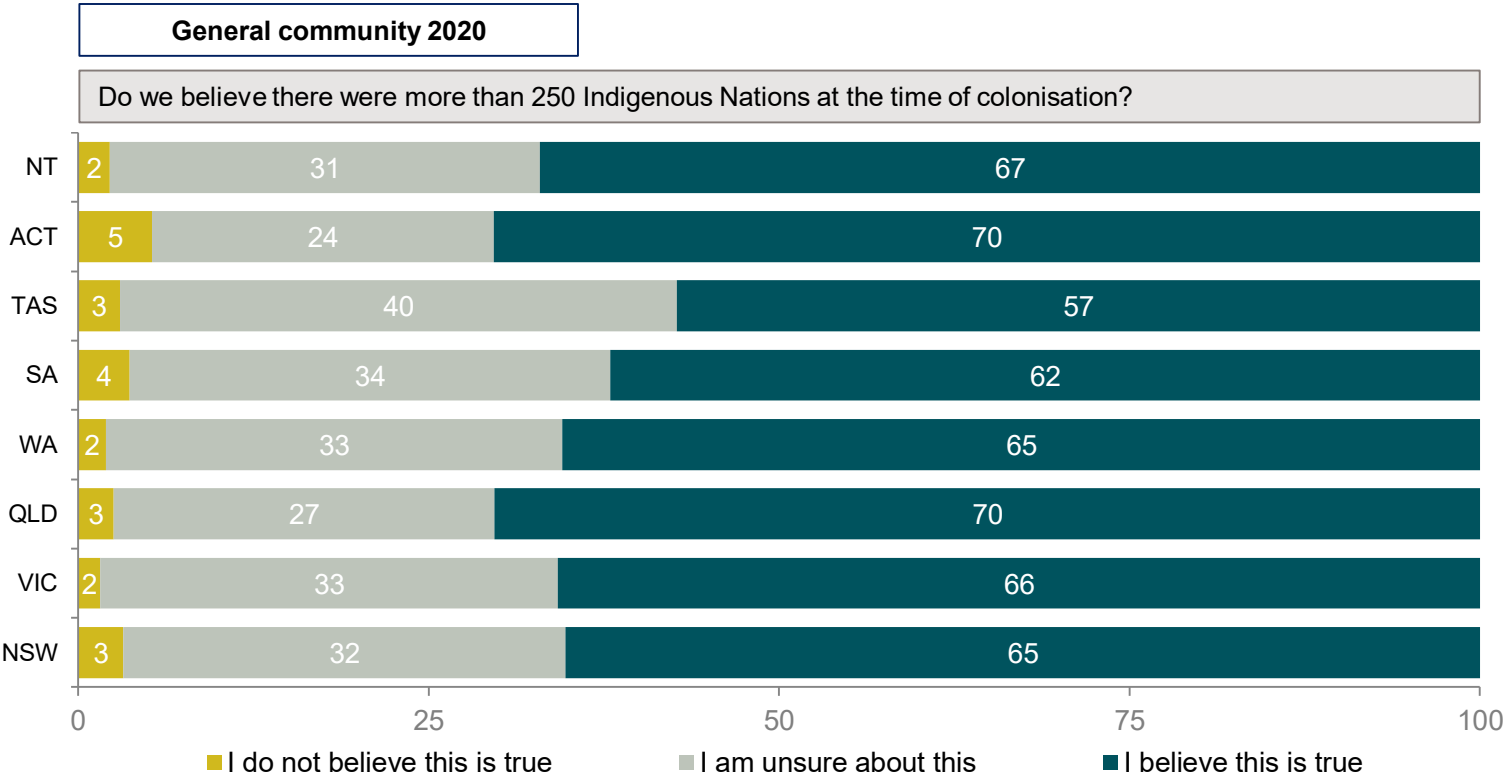
# We mostly believe key facts about past injustices



Both the general community and Indigenous respondents largely believe a number of key facts about historical realities and Australia's past institutional prejudices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

However, the greatest disparity between the groups regards the fact that Australia was inhabited by Indigenous Nations at the time of British colonisation, which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to agree is true.

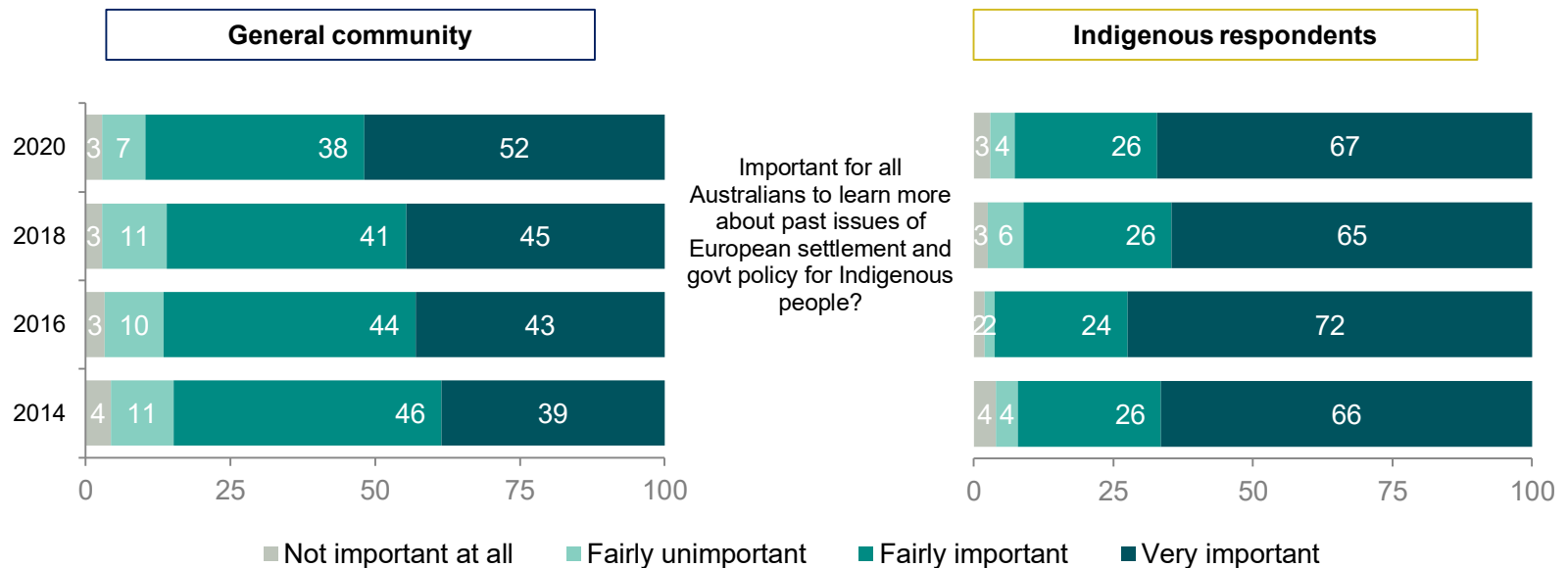
# More people in the ACT and QLD accept that pre-colonial Australia *was* inhabited by Indigenous Nations



The general communities of ACT and Queensland most widely agree with the fact that Australia was inhabited by Indigenous Nations at the time of British colonisation.

Conversely, more people in Tasmania do not believe this is factual, compared to other areas of Australia.

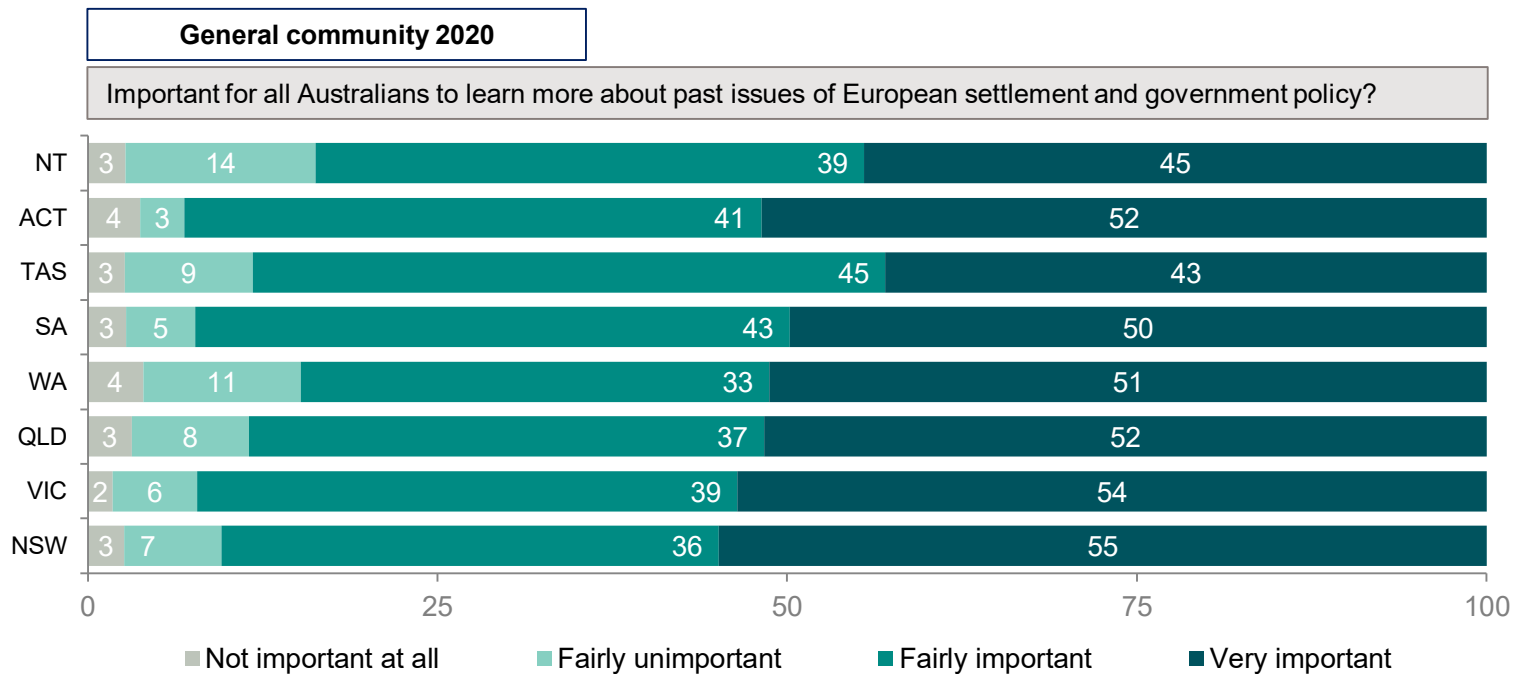
# The majority of us now agree it is important for all Australians to learn more about past issues



The general community (52%) remains less likely to feel that it's very important to learn about the past issues of European settlement and government policies experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, than Indigenous respondents (67%).

However, for the first time a majority in the general community now believes that it's very important.

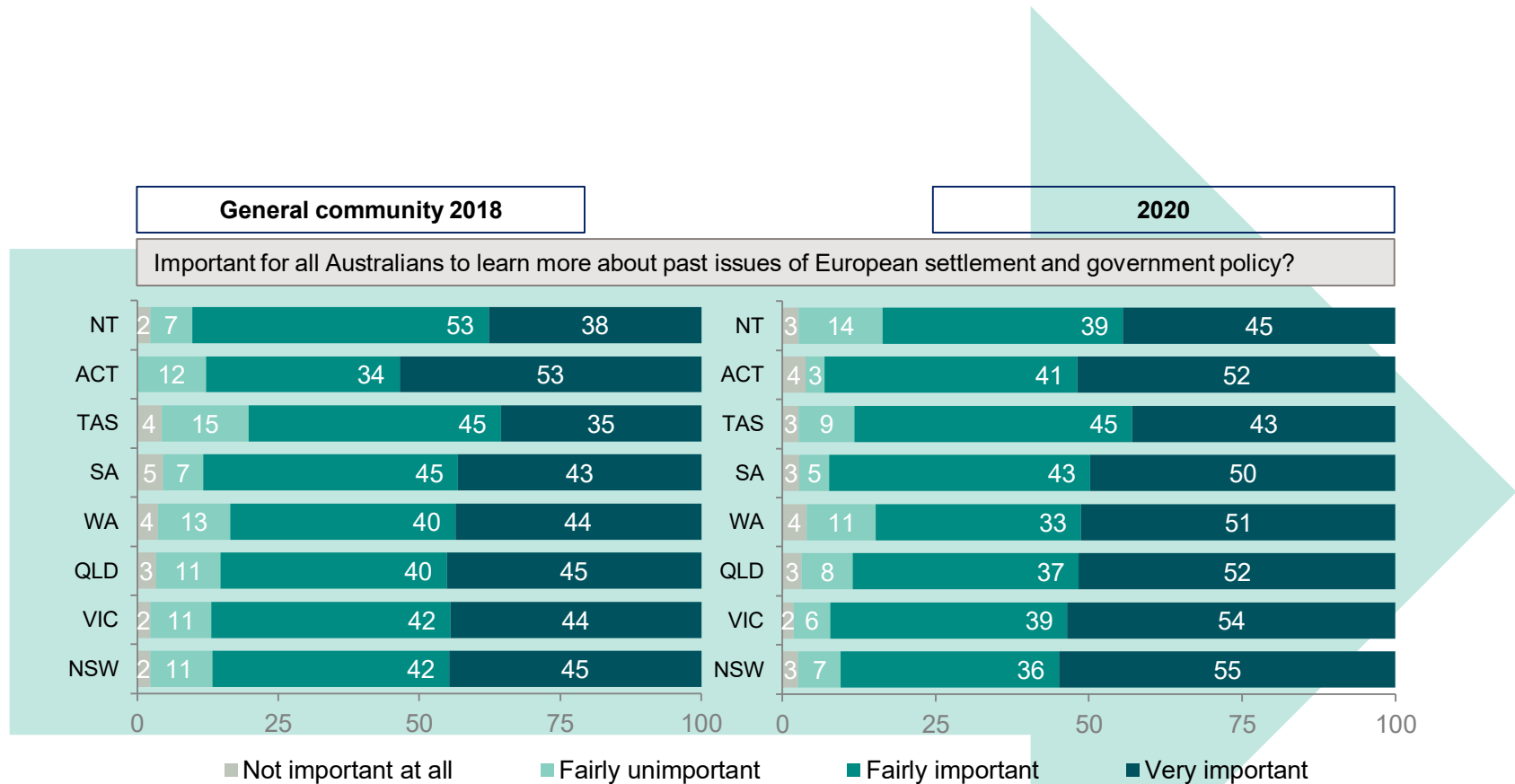
# More people from NSW feel it is very important for all Australians to learn more about past issues



The general community in NSW mostly believe (55%) that it's very important to learn about the past issues of European settlement and government policies experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Conversely, only 43% of people in Tasmania feel this way.

The Northern Territory has the most widespread indifference on this, with 17% saying it's not important.

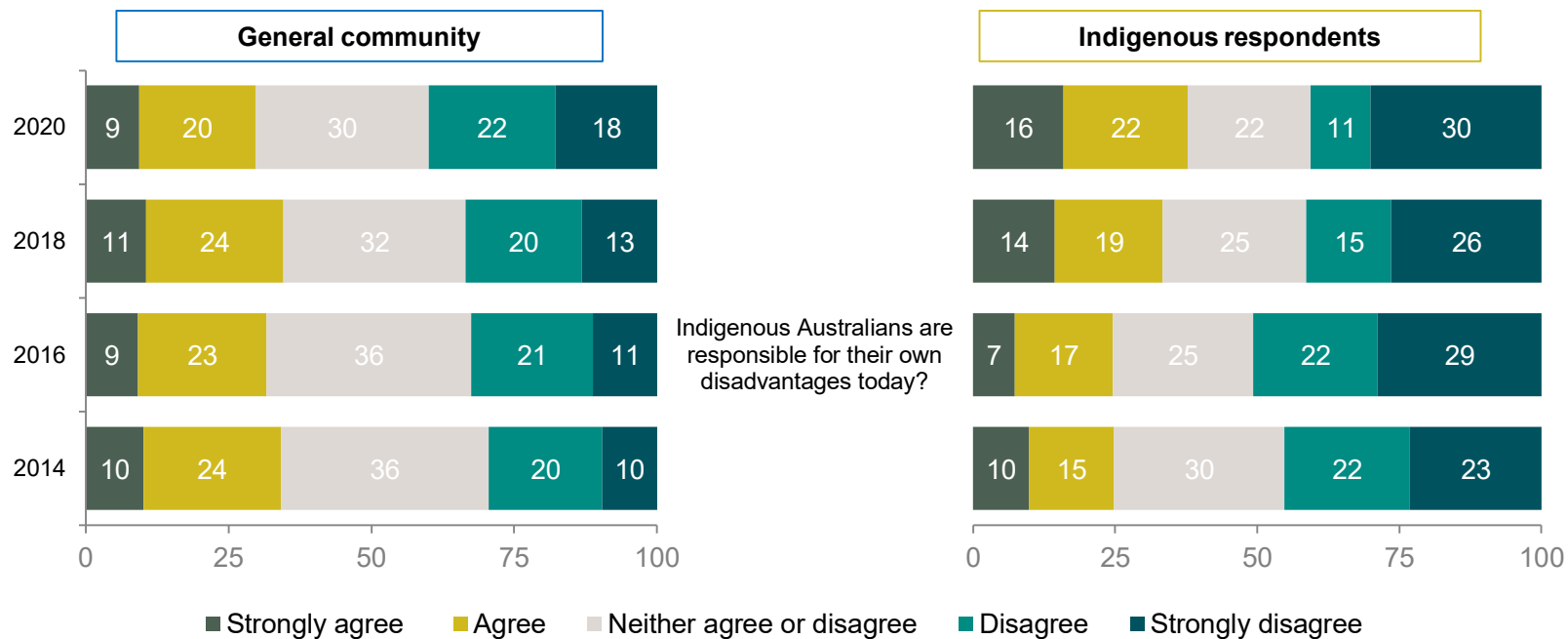
# More people in most States/Territories now believe it is very important to learn more about past issues



More of the general community across all States and Territories (except ACT) now believe that it's very important to learn about the past issues of European settlement and government policies experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This is notably higher than in 2018.

Conversely, only in Northern Territory do more people now say it's not important (17%), compared to two years ago.

# More Australians now disagree that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are responsible for their own disadvantages

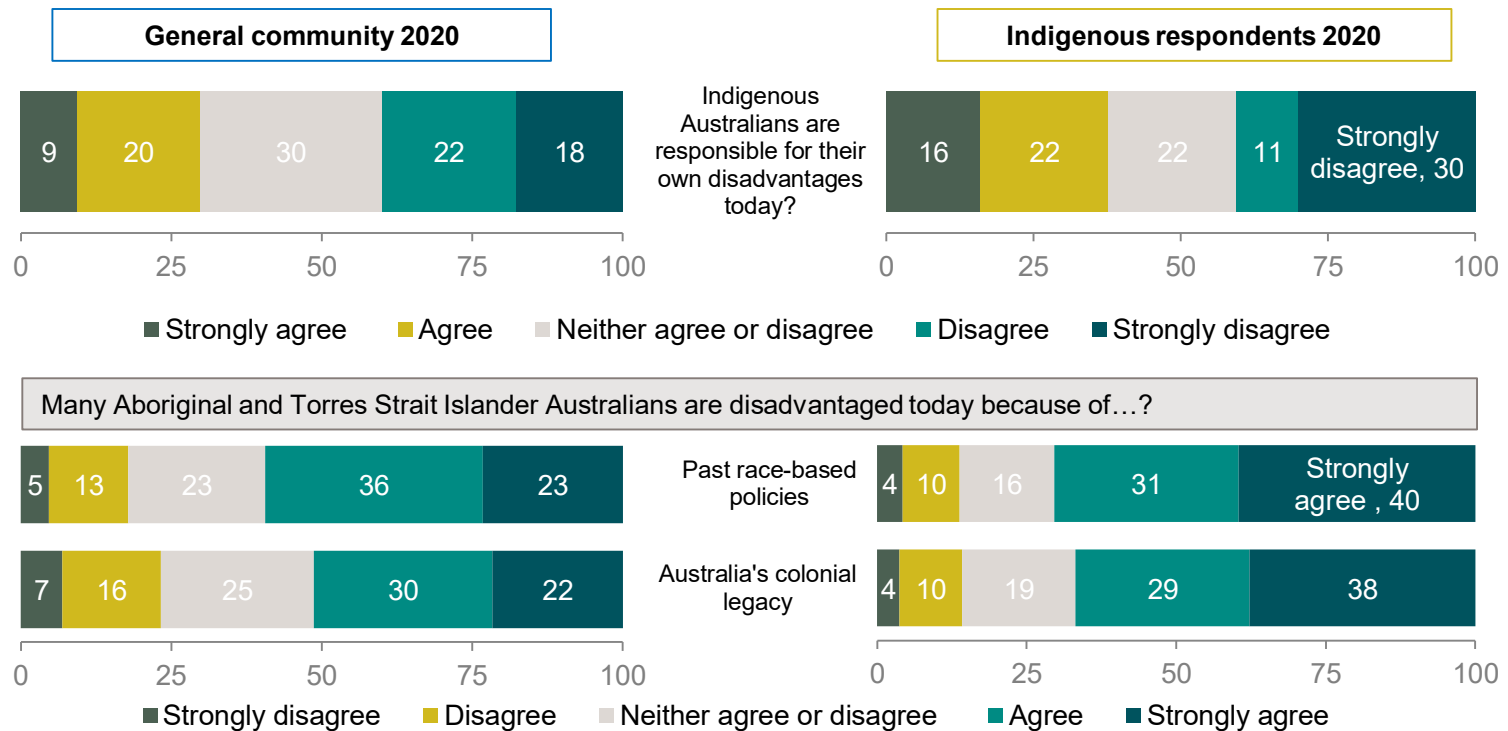


While the general community remains divided on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's responsibility for their disadvantages, there has been a steady increase in people who disagree with that premise, since 2014.

However, among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the issue seems to be getting more polarised, with increasing numbers disagreeing that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are responsible for their own disadvantages today, since 2016.

This may highlight how some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander believe their own people should take the initiative regarding their current disadvantages, despite not being responsible for causing them.

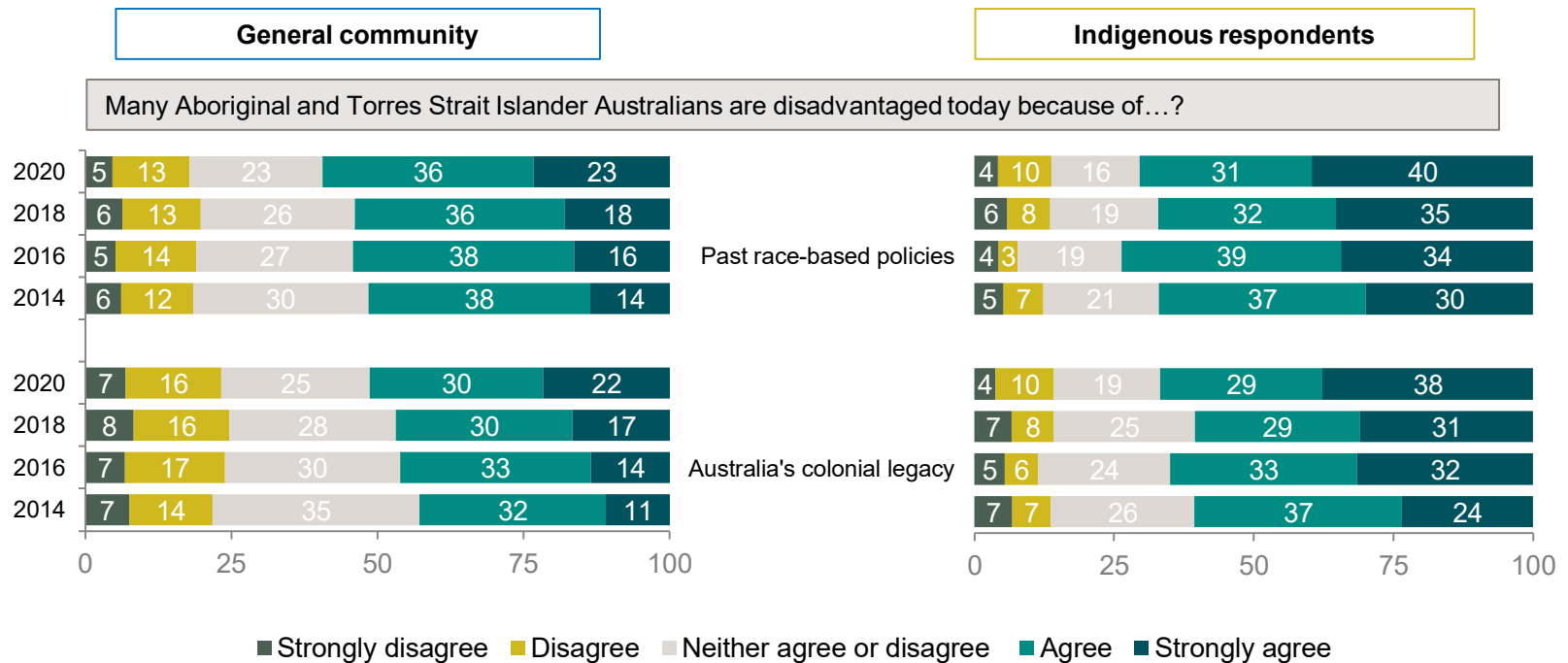
# We widely agree that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disadvantaged today because of past race-based policies and colonial legacy



Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain divided on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's responsibility for their disadvantages today. However, both groups widely agree that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are disadvantaged today because of past race-based policies and Australia's colonial legacy.

As in previous years, this may highlight how some Australians believe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander should take the initiative regarding their current disadvantages, despite not being responsible for causing them.

# We mostly agree the past is responsible for the disadvantages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face today

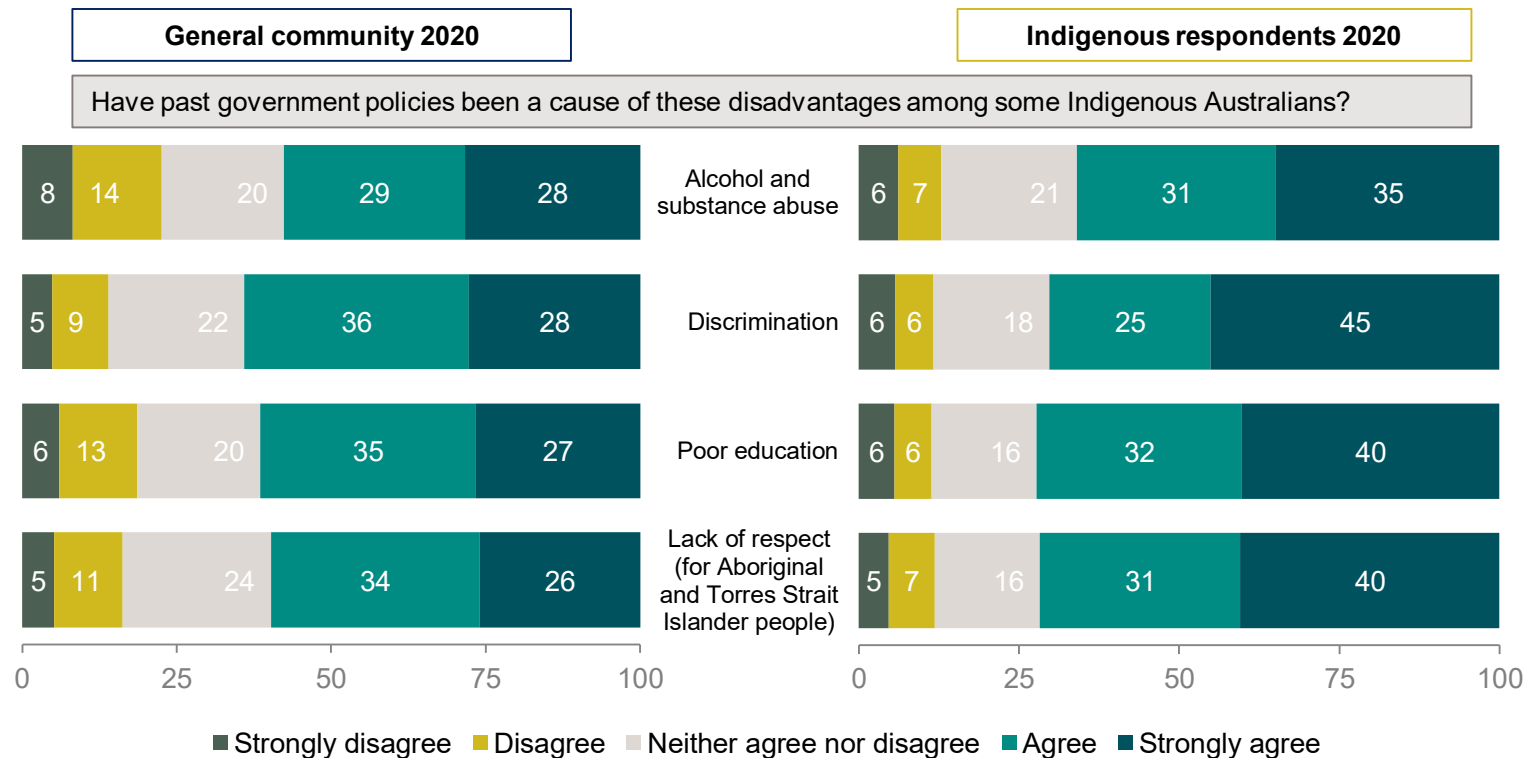


The general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people widely agree that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disadvantaged today because of past race-based policies and Australia's colonial legacy.

Notably, there continues to be a steady increase in those who strongly agree among both groups since 2014.



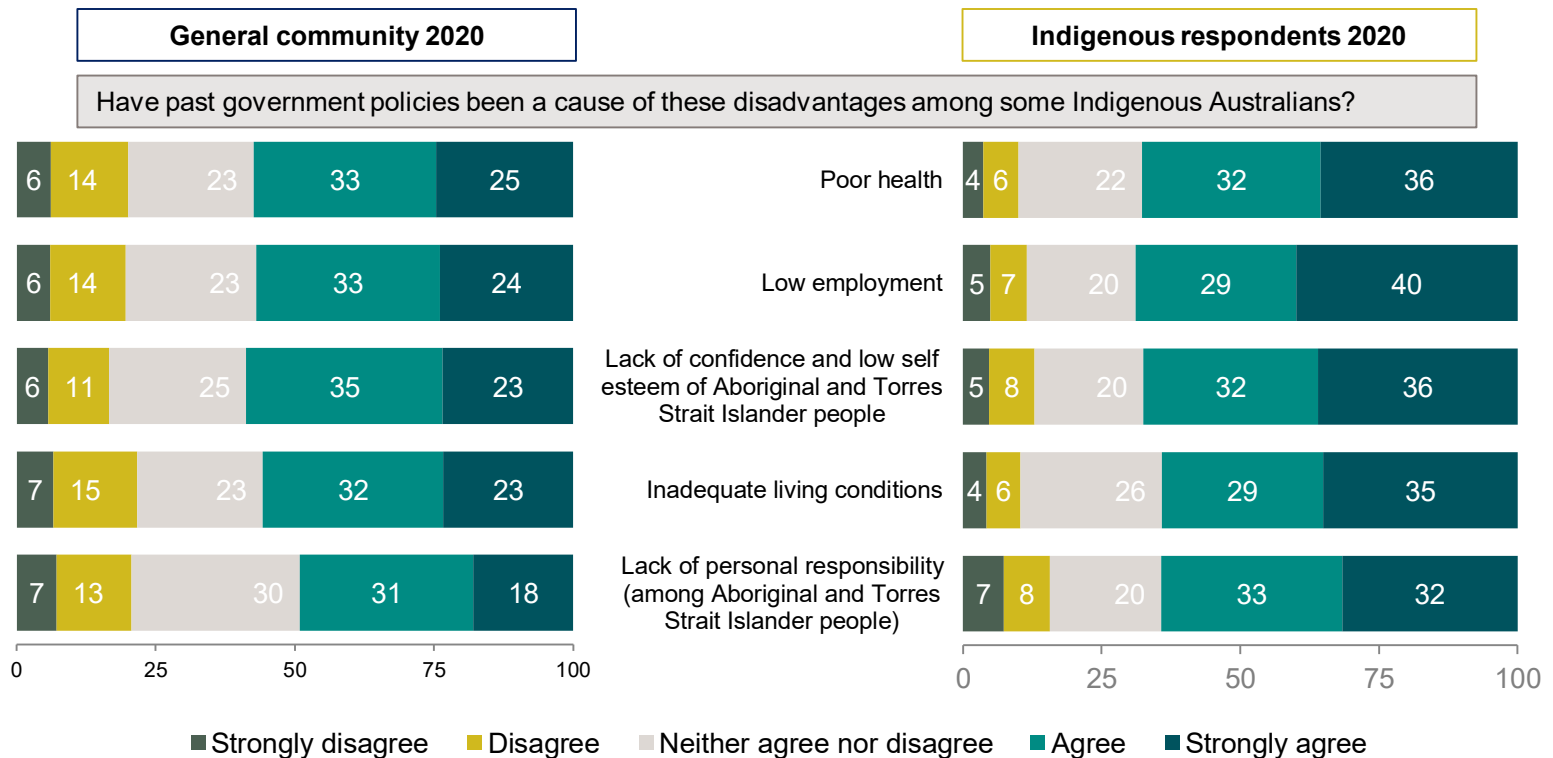
# We widely agree that past policies have been a cause of many forms of disadvantage for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people widely agree that past government policies are responsible for many forms of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today. However, the general public are less likely to strongly agree, than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people .

It is also notable that the general public more widely disagree past policies have been a cause of alcohol and substance abuse (22%), compared to just 13% of Indigenous respondents.

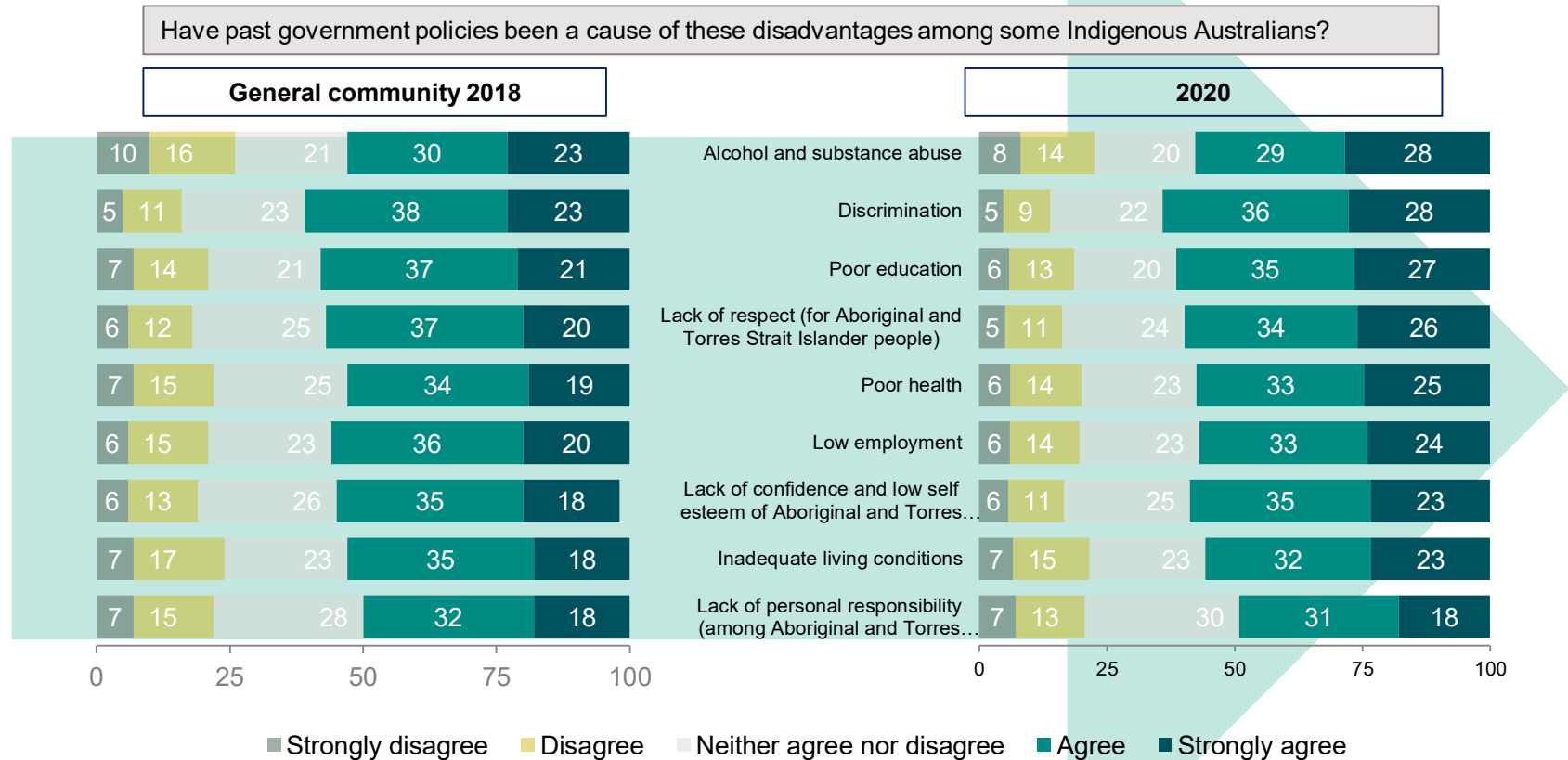
# We widely agree that past policies have been a cause of many forms of disadvantage for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (cont.)



Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people widely agree that past government policies are responsible for many forms of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today. However, the general community is far less likely to strongly agree, than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

It is also notable that the general community more widely disagrees that past policies have been a cause of housing issues (22%), compared to just 10% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

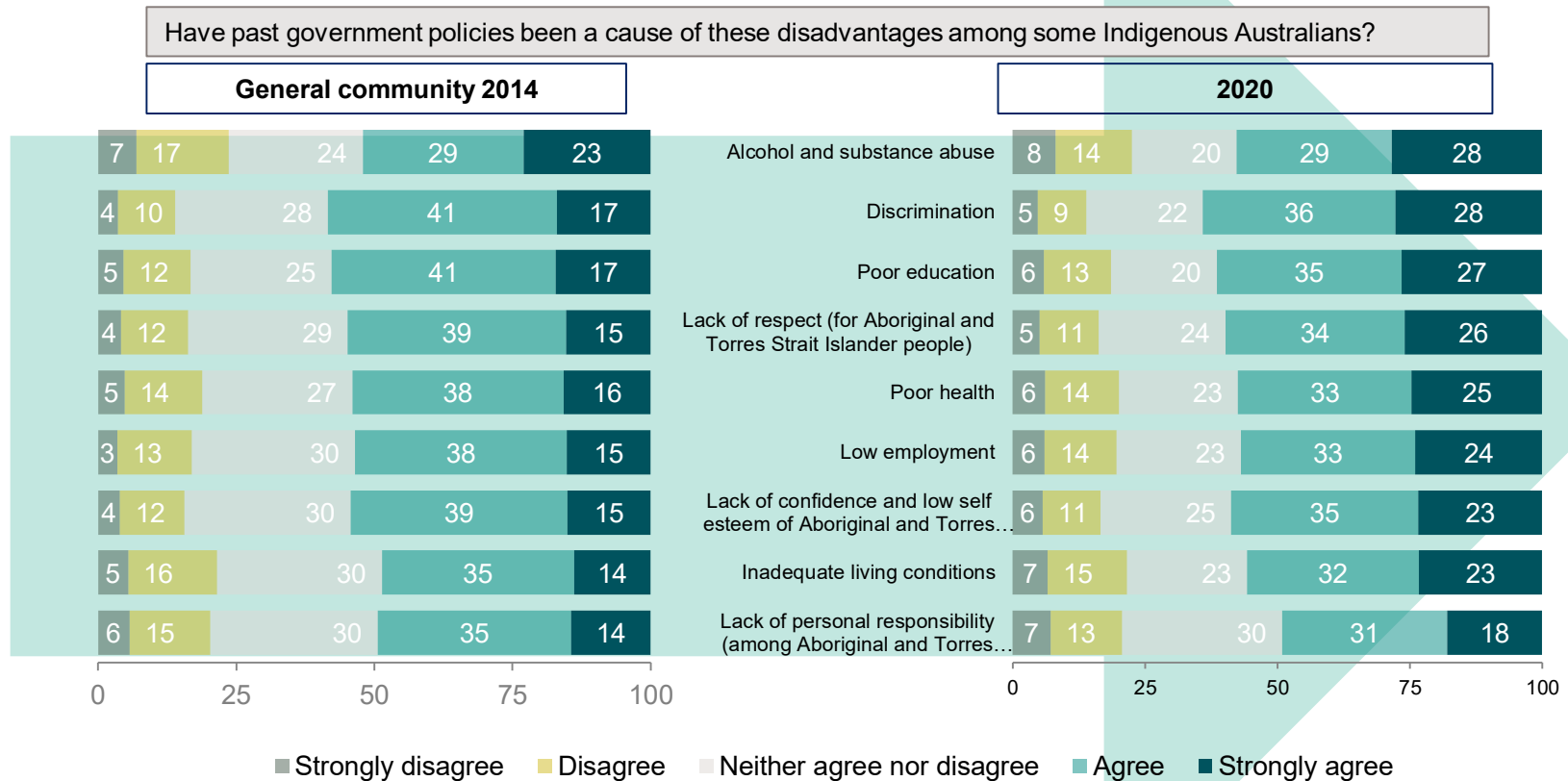
# More Australians now strongly agree that past policies have been a cause of disadvantages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



Most people in the general community continue to agree that past government policies are responsible for many forms of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

Most notably, there has been an increase in people who strongly agree (with the exception of causing a lack of personal responsibility), compared to 2018.

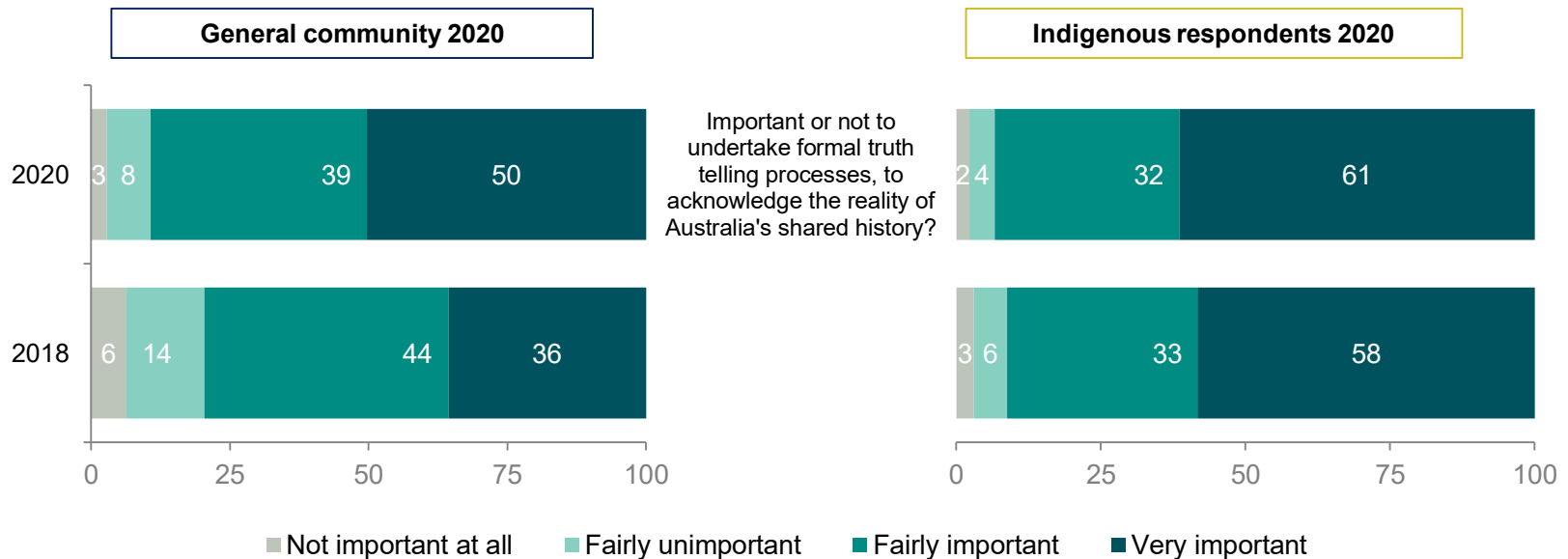
# Since 2014 more of us now strongly agree that past policies have been a cause of disadvantages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



More people in the general community now strongly agree that past government policies are responsible for many forms of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today, than in 2014.

In particular, more Australians now strongly agree past policies have been a cause of lack of respect, discrimination and poor education for Indigenous people, than six years ago.

# More Australians now believe it is important to undertake formal truth-telling processes

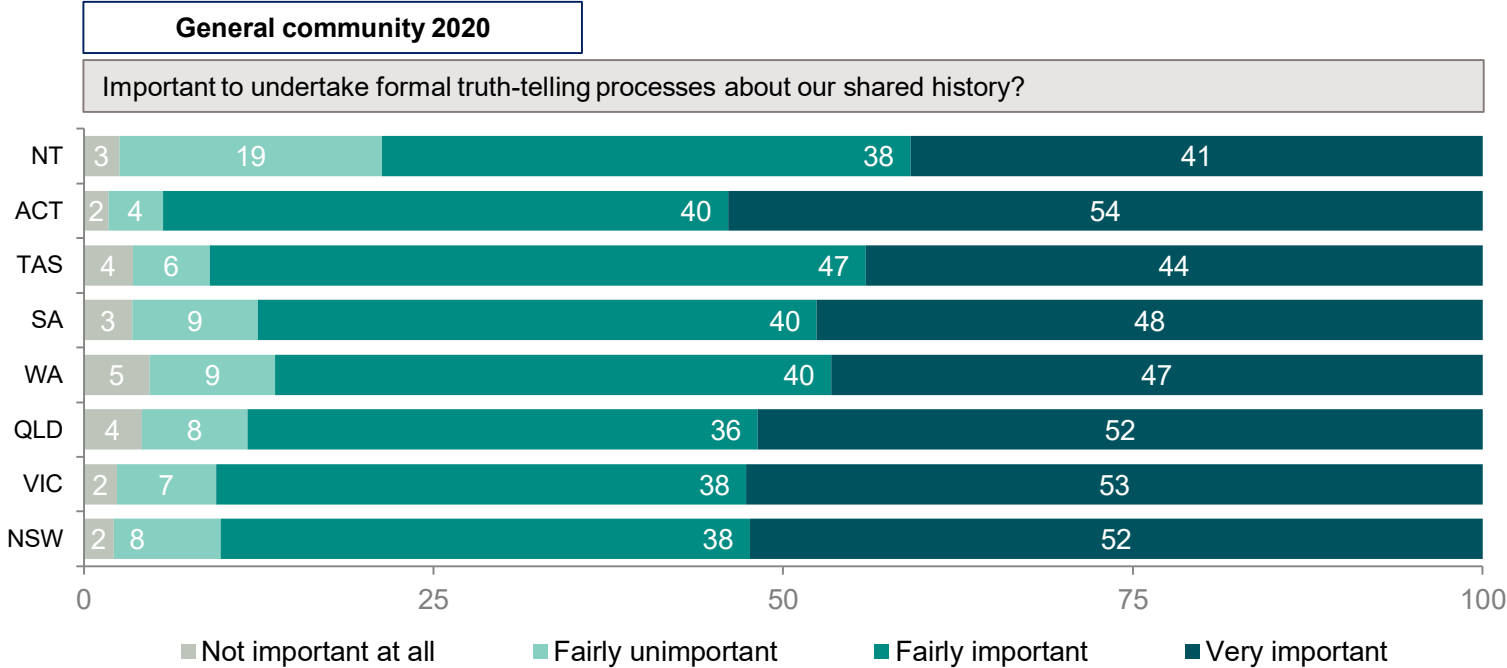


The general community (89%) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (93%) widely believe it's important to undertake a formal truth telling process, in relation to Australia's shared history. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to feel this is very important, compared to the general public.

Most notably, there has been a strong increase in the general community of people who now think it's very important (50%), since 2018.

NOTE: This question has changed from previous Barometers, from 'a process' to "processes". For details see p.8

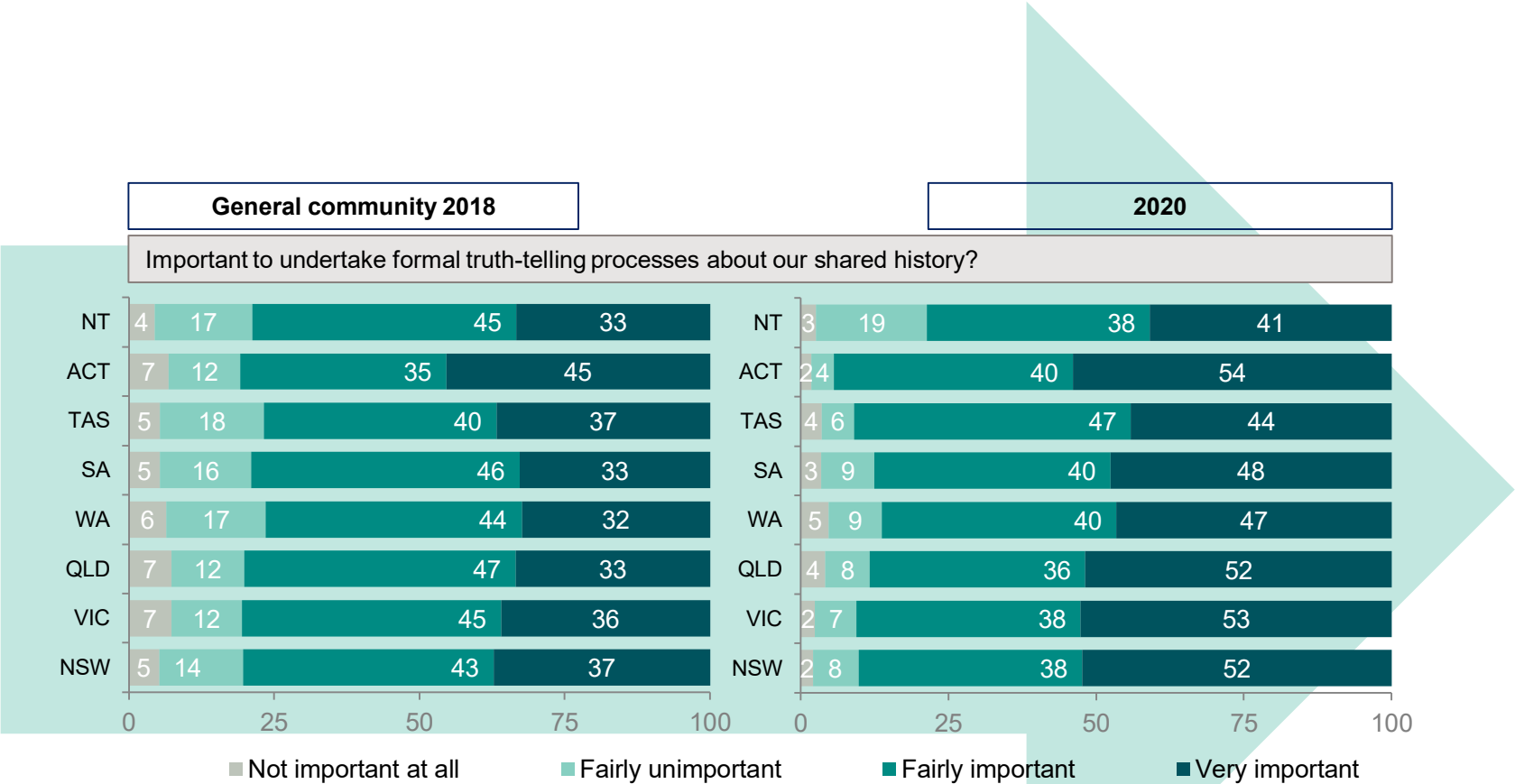
# More people from the ACT believe it is very important to undertake formal truth-telling processes



The general community in ACT mostly believes (54%) that it’s very important to hold formal truth-telling processes about the past issues of European settlement and government policies experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Conversely, more people in Northern Territory (22%) feel it’s not important, than in other areas.

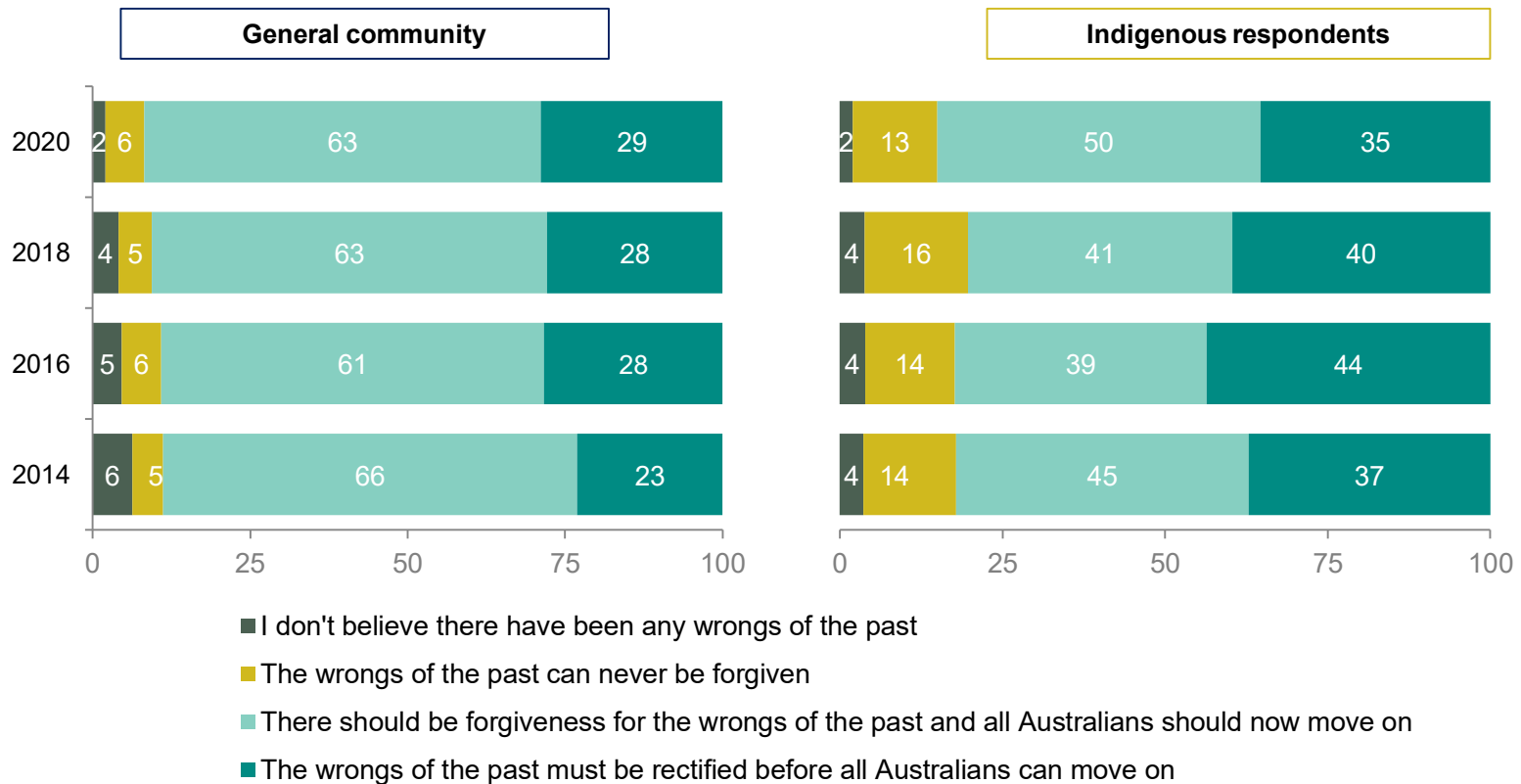
# More people in all states/territories now believe it is very important to undertake formal truth-telling processes



More people in the general community across all states and territories now believe that it's very important to hold formal truth-telling processes about the past issues of European settlement and government policies experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This is notably higher than in 2018.

# We mostly continue to believe that past issues should be forgiven and all of us should move on

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to feel the wrongs of the past must be rectified before we can move on with reconciliation (35%), compared with the general community (29%).

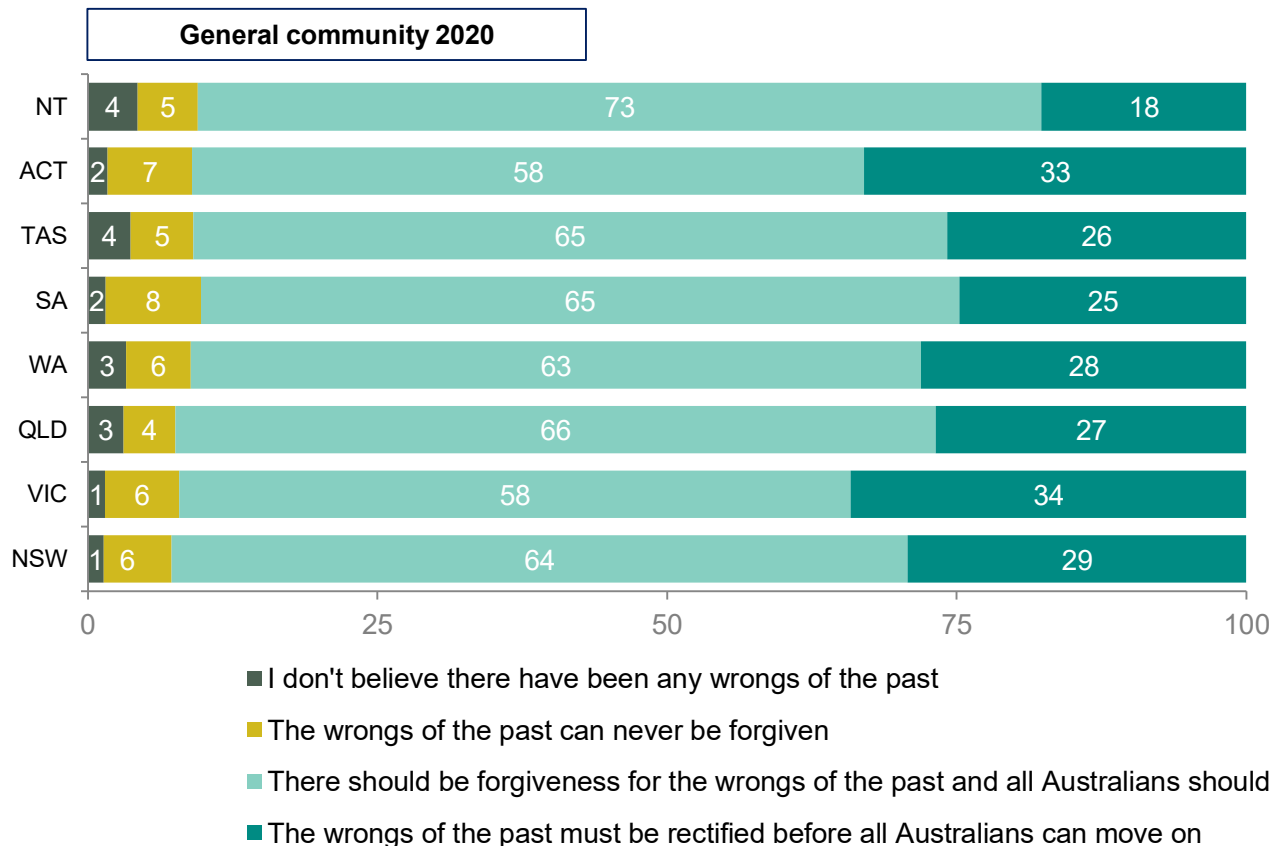


NOTE: This question has changed in previous Barometers. For details see p.8



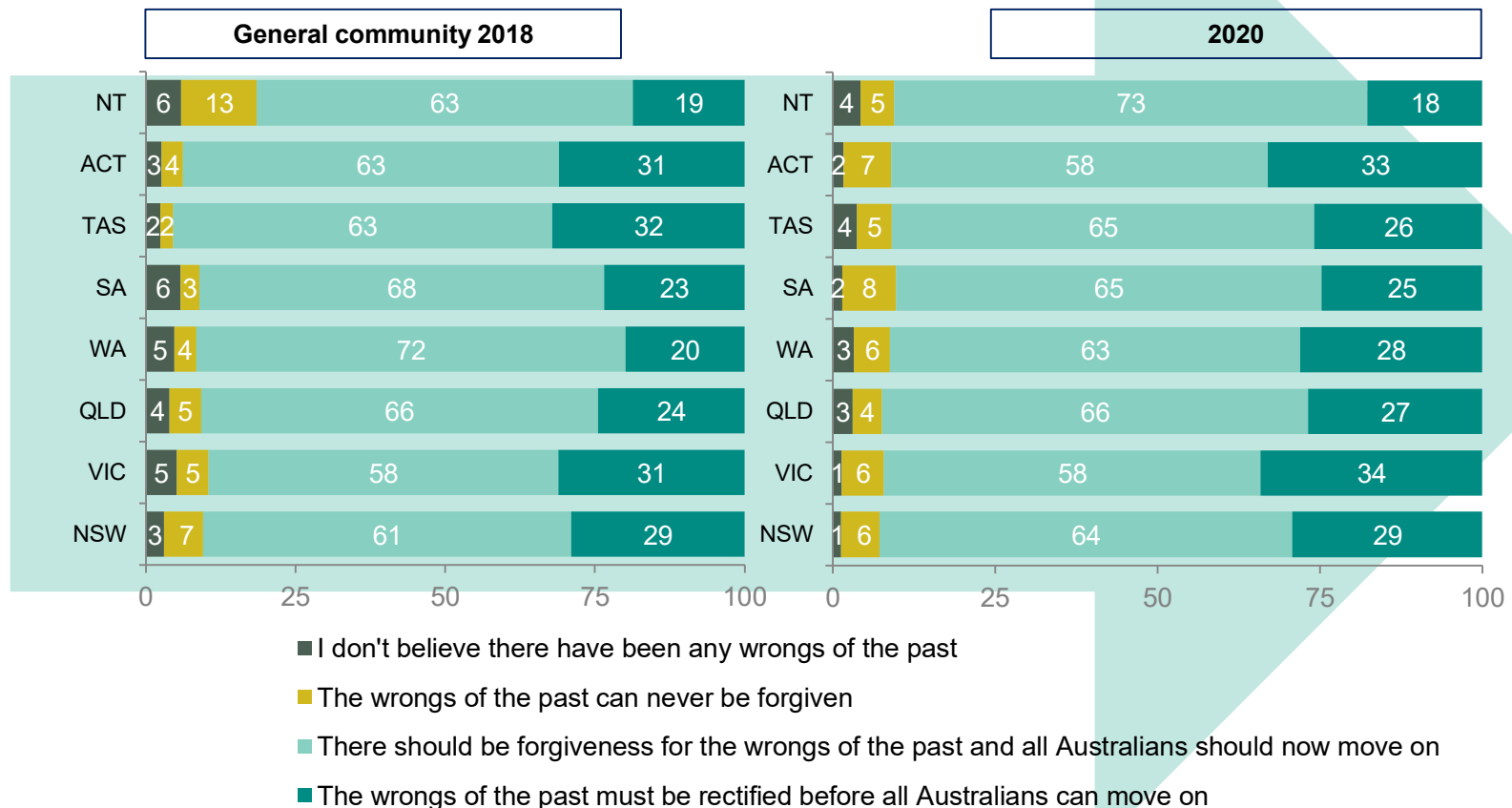
# Victorians are most likely to feel past issues must be rectified

Victoria has the largest percentage of people who feel past wrongs must be rectified (34%), while the Northern Territory has the largest percentage of people in the general community who believe “there should be forgiveness so we can now move on” (73%), compared to other States and Territories.



# More people in WA now believe past issues must be rectified before we can move on

More West Australians now feel “past wrongs must be rectified” (28%), than in 2018. In ACT, SA, Queensland and Victoria there have been small gains in this sentiment, in the past two years. However, in NSW and NT there has been little change, while in Tasmania, less people now believe this (26%), compared to 2018.



# Trends Analysis

# 2014-2020 Trends Analysis: Significance testing details

## **Key 'significant' trends in the General Community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander samples**

The following results presented in this analysis highlight a number of key positive trends for reconciliation in Australia. Polity has tested each of the trends from 2014-2020, at 1% or 5% significance levels, to identify the most reliable key shifts in public attitudes and views.

For the larger general community samples since 2014, significance testing was conducted at the 1% level, while for the smaller Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander samples testing was conducted at least at the 5% level.

This means we can be 99% or 95% confident (respectively) that the trend identified is a real one, and not potentially due to any sampling anomalies.

Accordingly, while the overall tracking results across both the general community samples and Indigenous samples often indicate positive trends, we can be highly confident that the trends evident in these particular results are actually occurring within Australian communities.

## **Comparative samples and error margins for each survey wave**

The general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander samples of Australian residents since 2014 have comprised the following totals, and are associated with the corresponding margins of error at the 95% confidence interval:

In 2014, 1100 residents aged 18+ in the general community (error margin +/-2.9%) and 502 (error margin +/-4.4%) in the Indigenous community completed the survey in Sept-Oct.

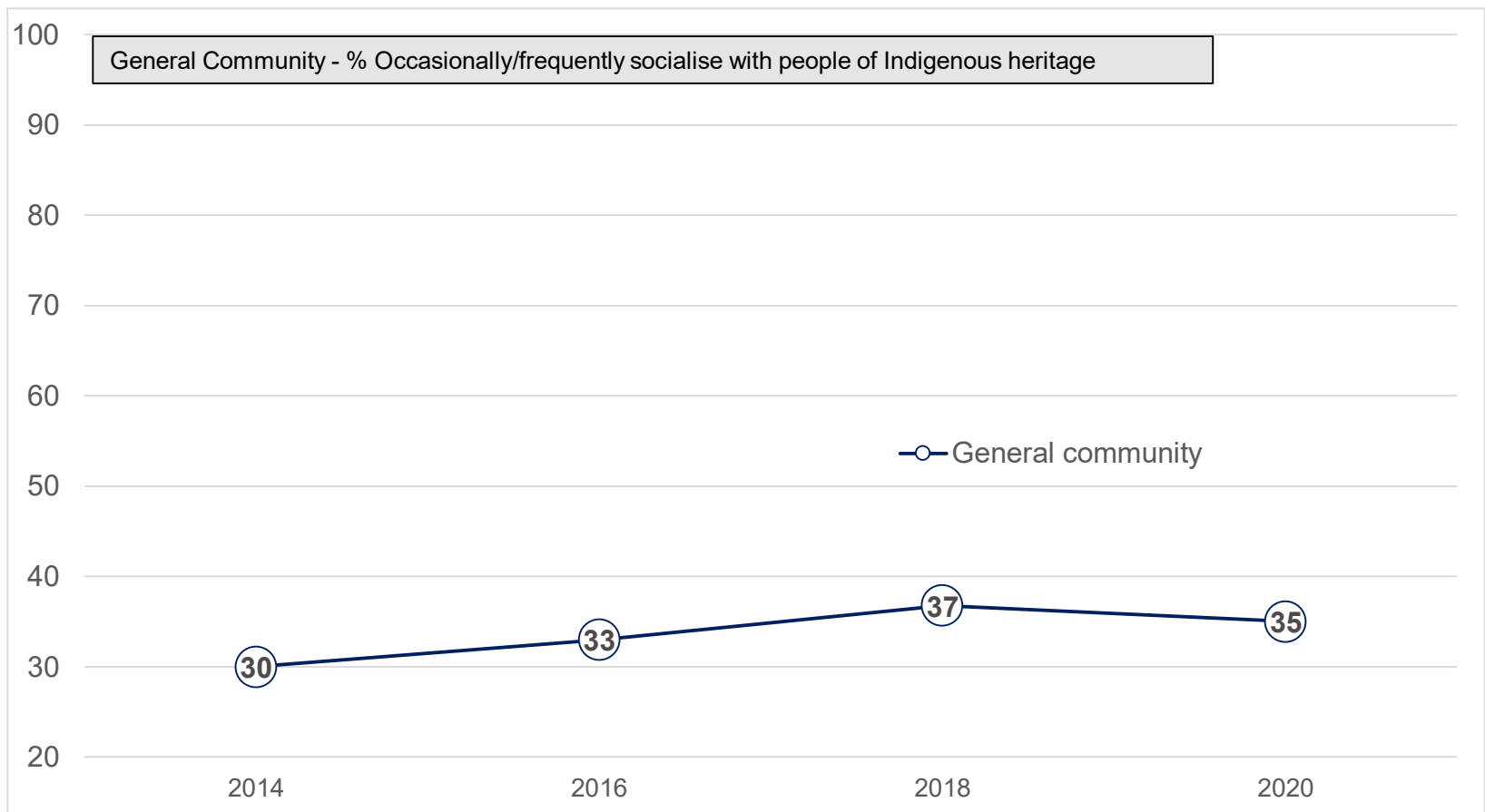
In 2016, 2277 residents aged 18+ in the general community (error margin +/-2.0%) and 500 (error margin +/-4.4%) in the Indigenous community completed the survey in July-August.

In 2018, 1995 residents aged 18+ in the general community (error margin +/-2.2%) and 497 (error margin +/-4.4%) in the Indigenous community completed the survey in July-August.

In 2020, 1988 residents aged 18+ in the general community (error margin +/-2.2%) and 495 (error margin +/-4.4%) in the Indigenous community completed the survey in July.

# Tracking social contact between the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

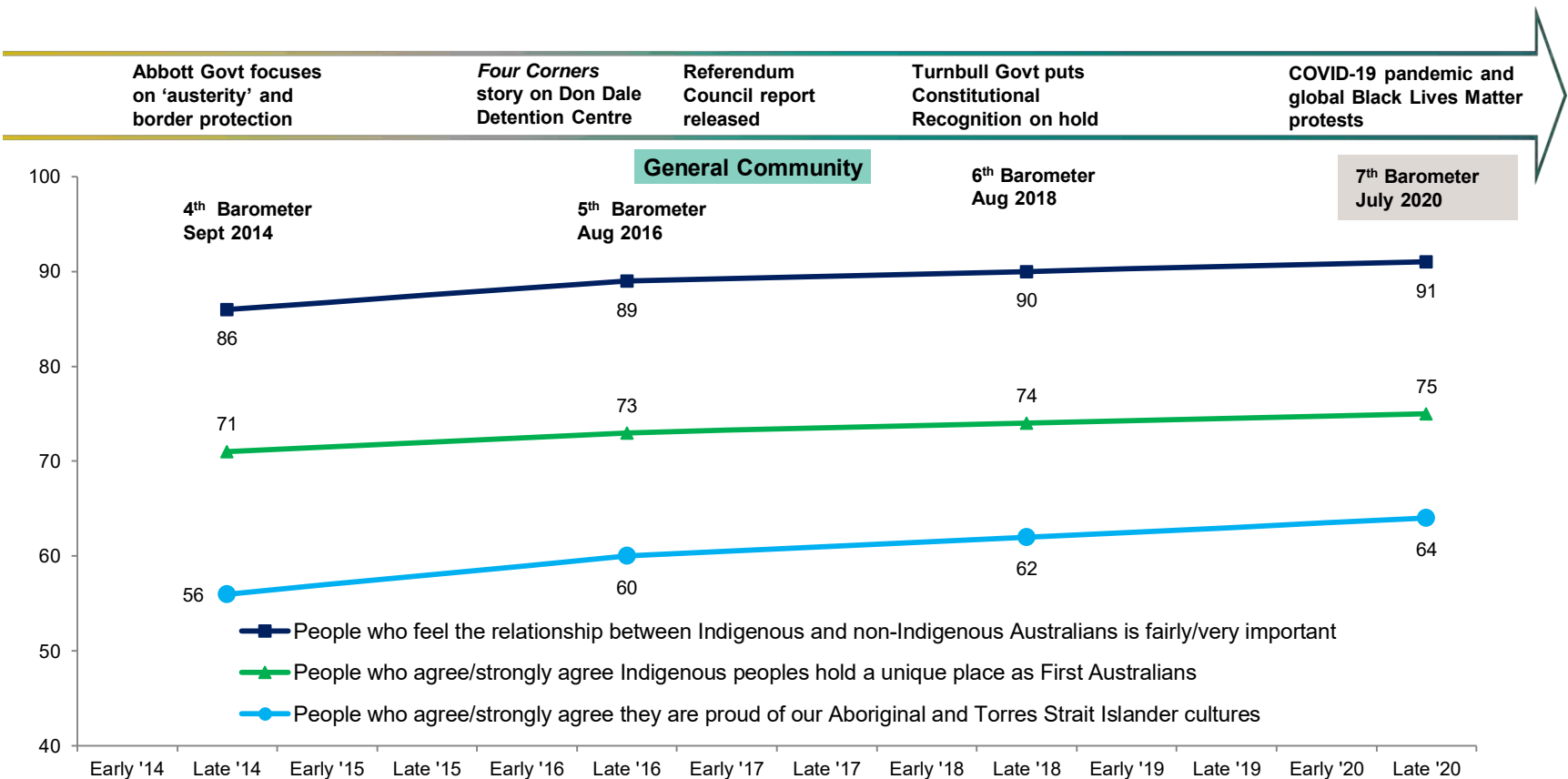
While a relatively small proportion of people in the general community regularly socialise with Indigenous peoples, there has been an encouraging trend since 2014.



# The importance of the relationship and pride in our Indigenous cultures are gaining traction

Within the general community as a whole, the importance of the relationship between non-Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has steadily grown in people's consciousness since 2014.

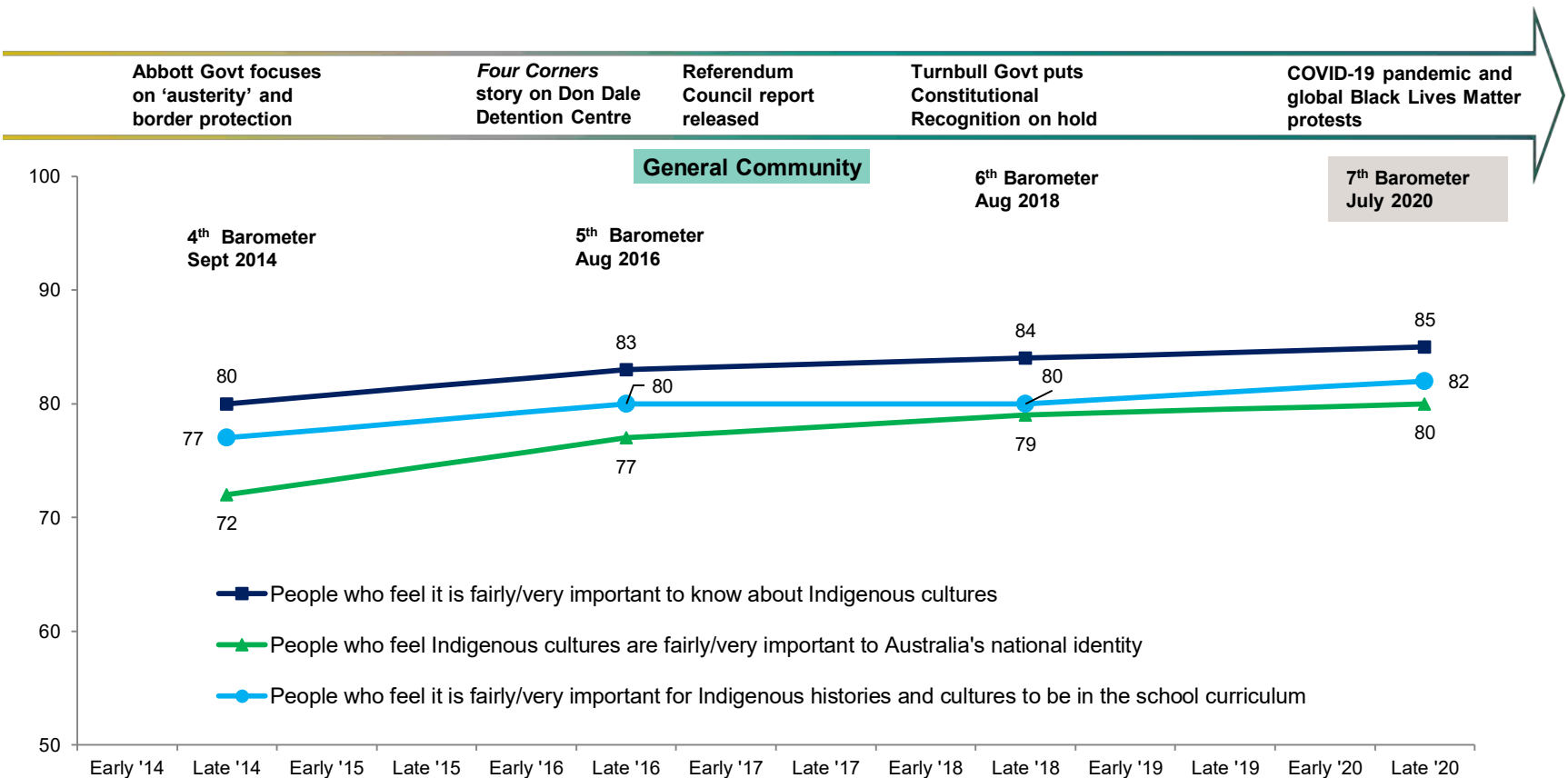
Similarly, pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and the view that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold a unique place, have gained steady traction.



# The importance of knowing about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures is gaining traction

Within the general community as a whole, the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures to our national identity has steadily grown in people's consciousness since 2014.

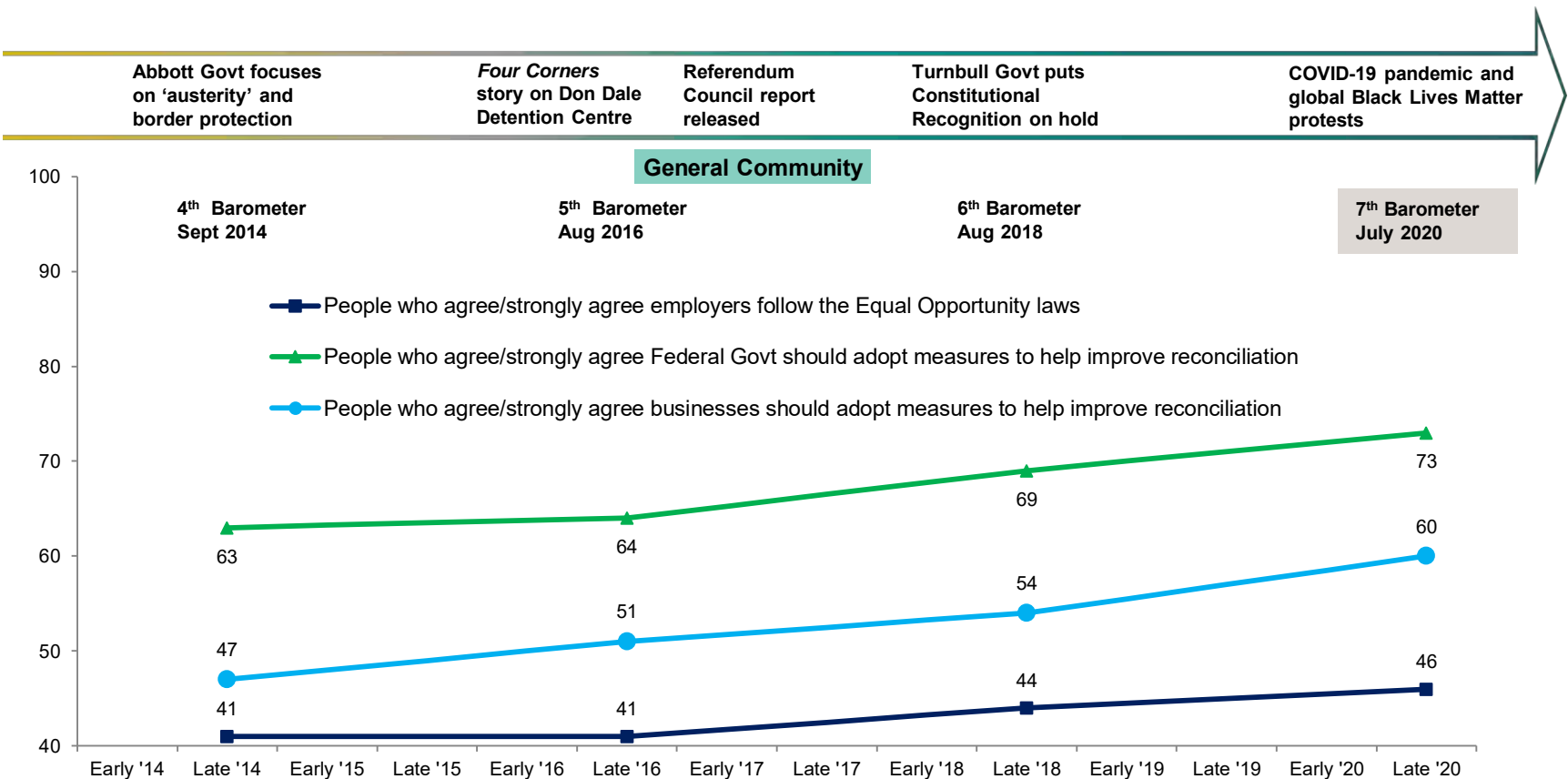
Similarly, the importance of knowing *and* learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures has gained steady traction.



# The notion that Government and businesses should support reconciliation is increasing strongly

Within the general community as a whole, the feeling that the Federal Government and Australian businesses should put measures in place to help improve reconciliation has grown strongly since 2014.

Notably, the view that employers in Australia follow Equal Opportunity laws has steadily increased also.

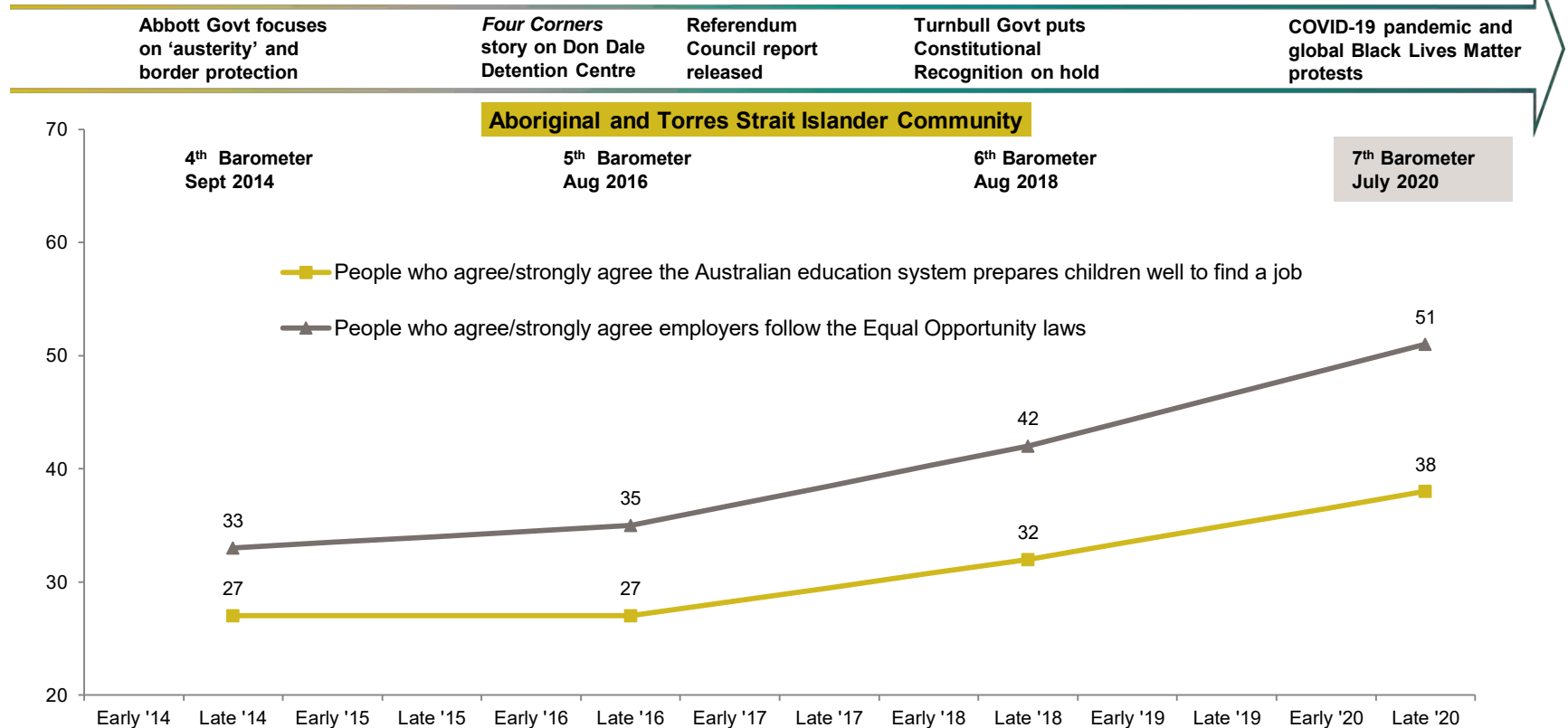




# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander views that education and employment are becoming more equitable are growing strongly

Within the Indigenous community, the view that employers in Australia follow Equal Opportunity laws and that the education system prepares children well to find a job have both grown strongly since 2014.

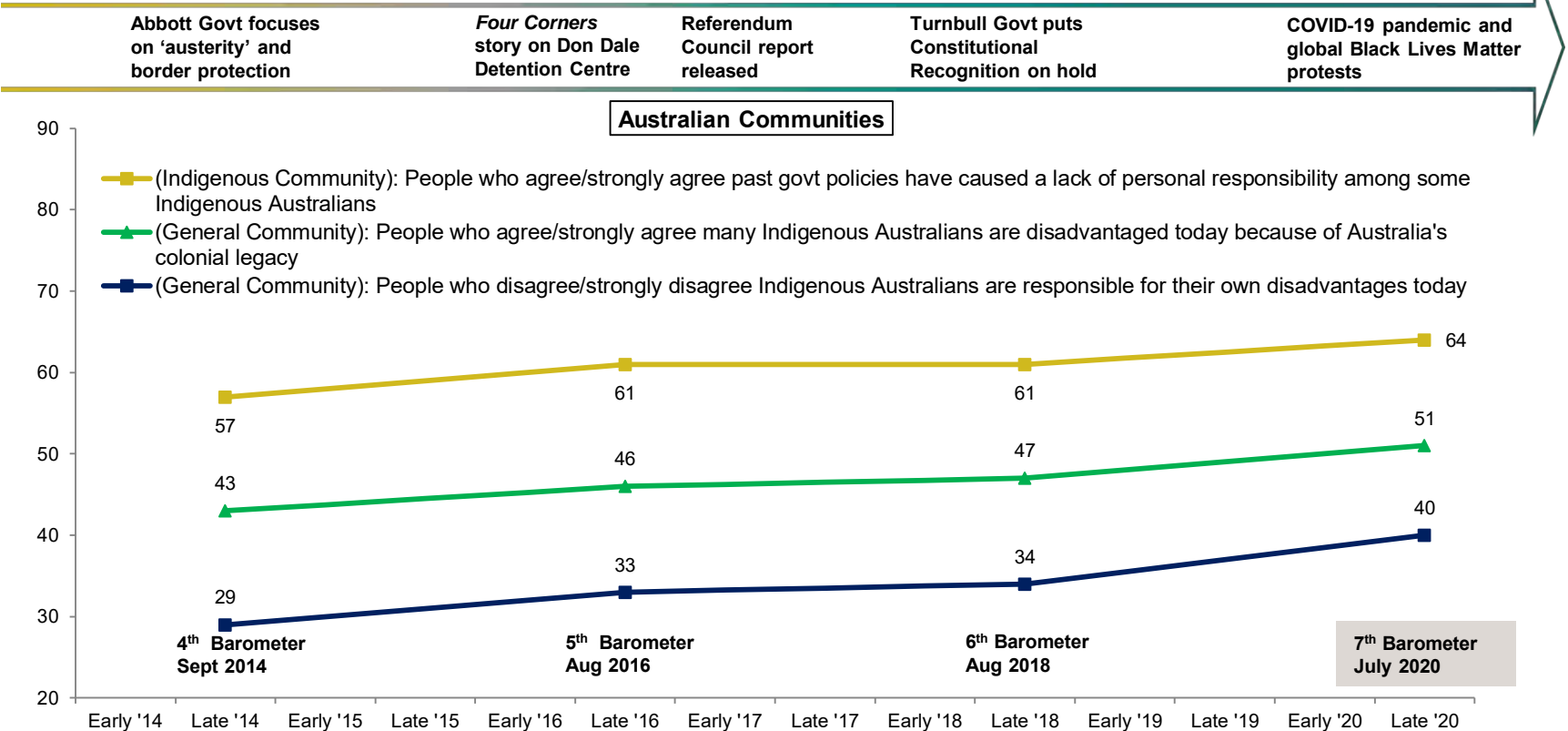
This potentially highlights how the lived experience among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in both these areas has improved markedly, not least through the effectiveness of reconciliation programs across both education and employment.



# Awareness that the past has caused many disadvantages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is increasing

Among the general community as a whole, belief that Australia's colonial legacy has caused today's disadvantages experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and consequently the view that Indigenous Australians are *not* responsible for their own disadvantages, have both grown strongly.

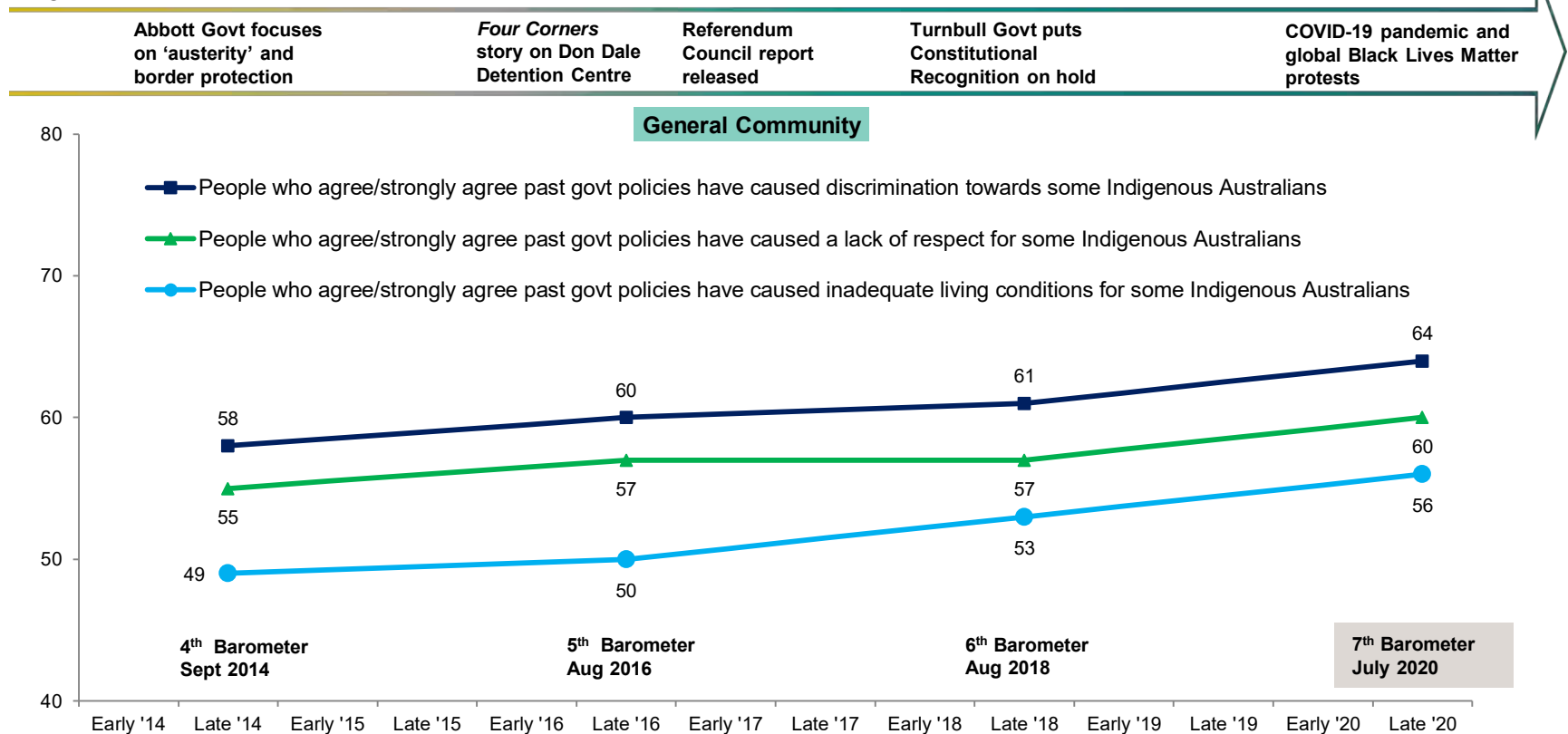
Within the Indigenous community, the view that past race-based government policies have specifically caused a lack of personal responsibility among some Aboriginal and Torres Strait people has grown steadily since 2014.



# Awareness that past policies have caused many disadvantages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is increasing

Within the general community as a whole, the view that past race-based government policies have caused some of today's disadvantages experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has steadily grown in people's consciousness since 2014.

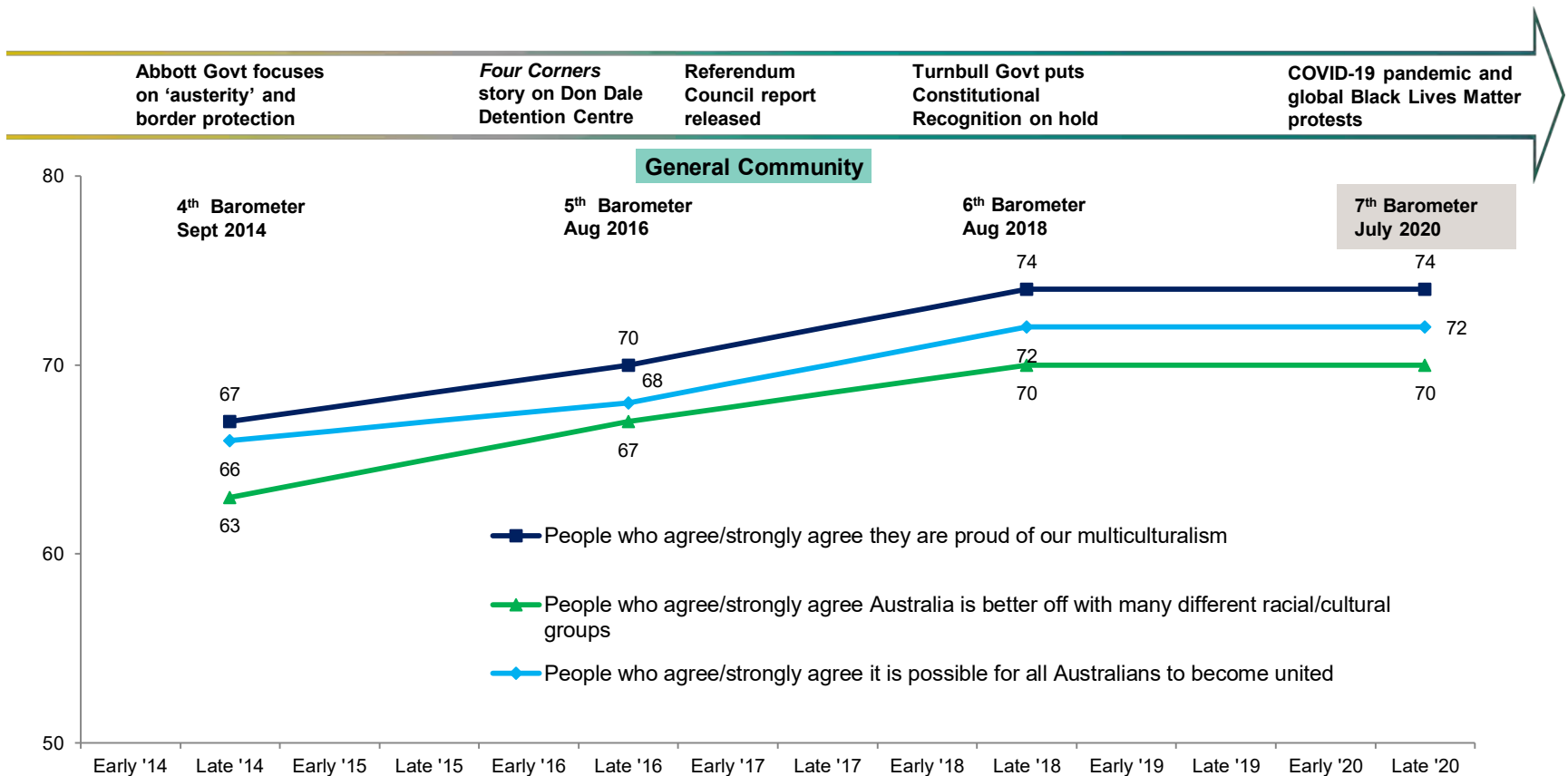
This is evident specifically in terms of discrimination towards, a lack of respect for, and inadequate living conditions among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



# Appreciation of diversity is steadily increasing

Within the general community as a whole, the notion that Australia is better off with many different racial/cultural groups and pride in Australia's multiculturalism have steadily grown in people's consciousness since 2014.

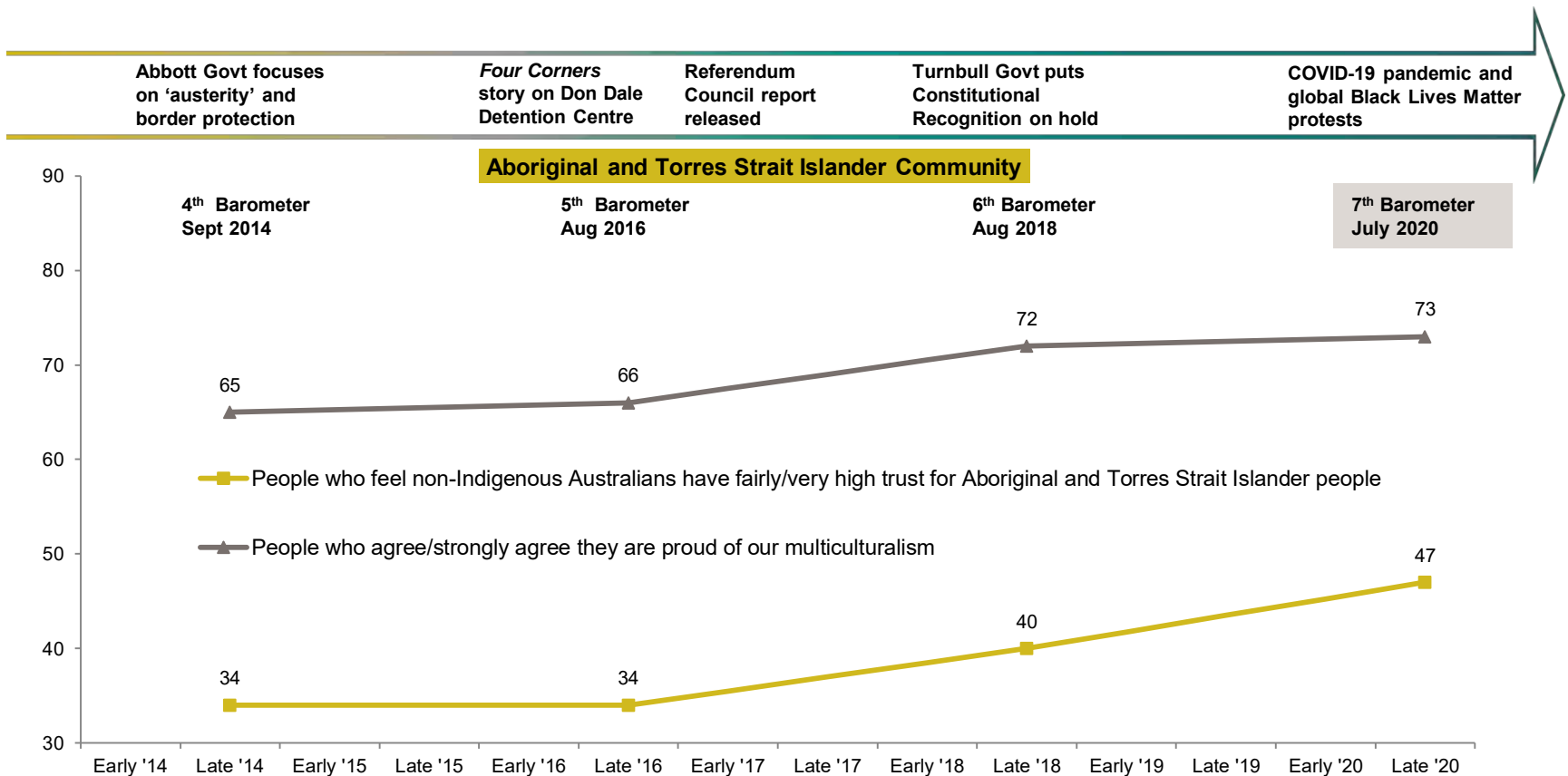
Similarly, there has been a steady increase in belief that it is possible for all Australians to become united.



# A sense of being trusted is increasing among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Within the Indigenous community, the sense that non-Indigenous Australians have high trust for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has grown strongly since 2014.

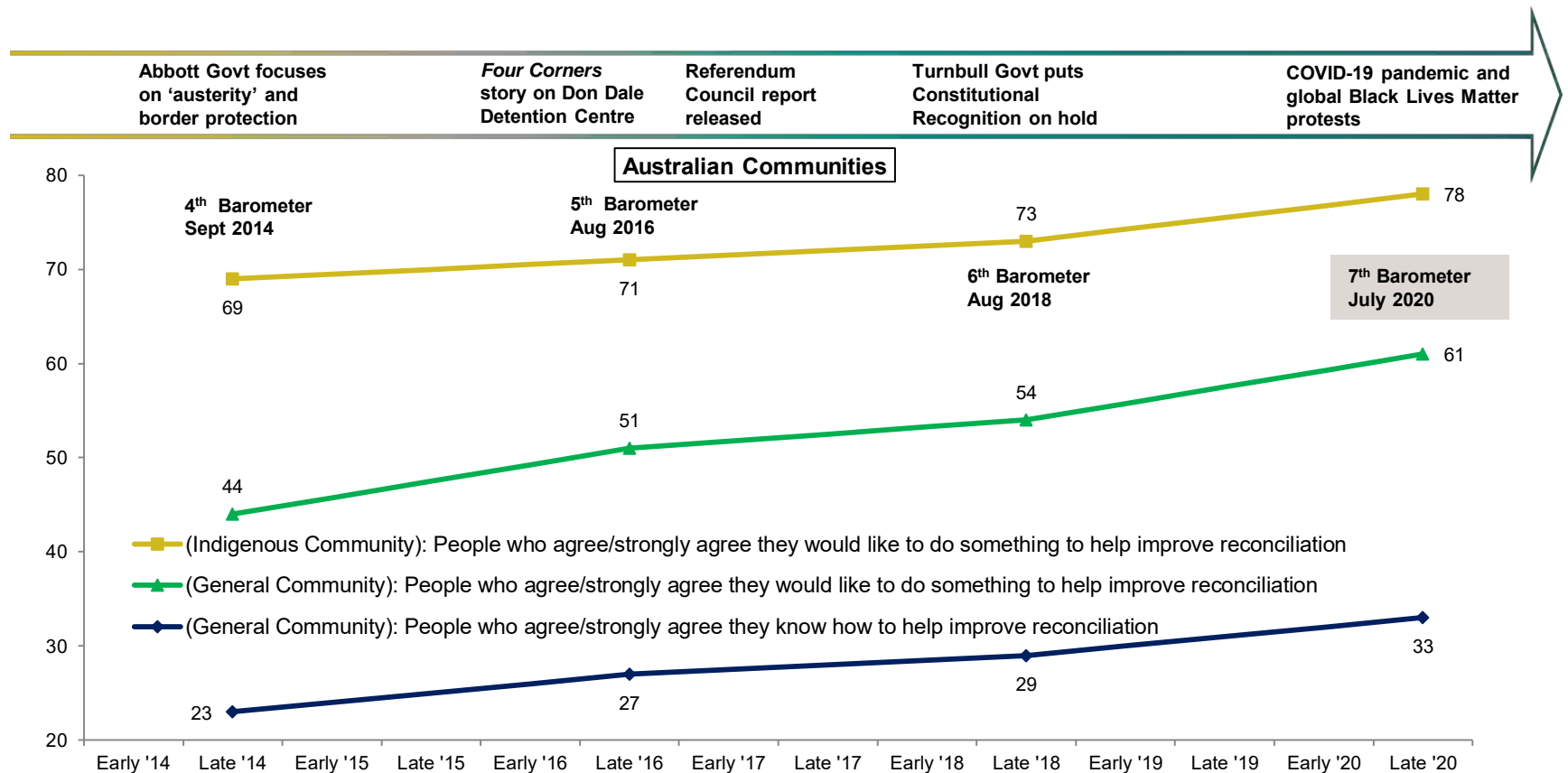
As with the general community as a whole, there has also been a steady increase in those who feel they are proud of Australia's multiculturalism.



# Awareness of wanting to help and *how* to improve reconciliation is growing strongly

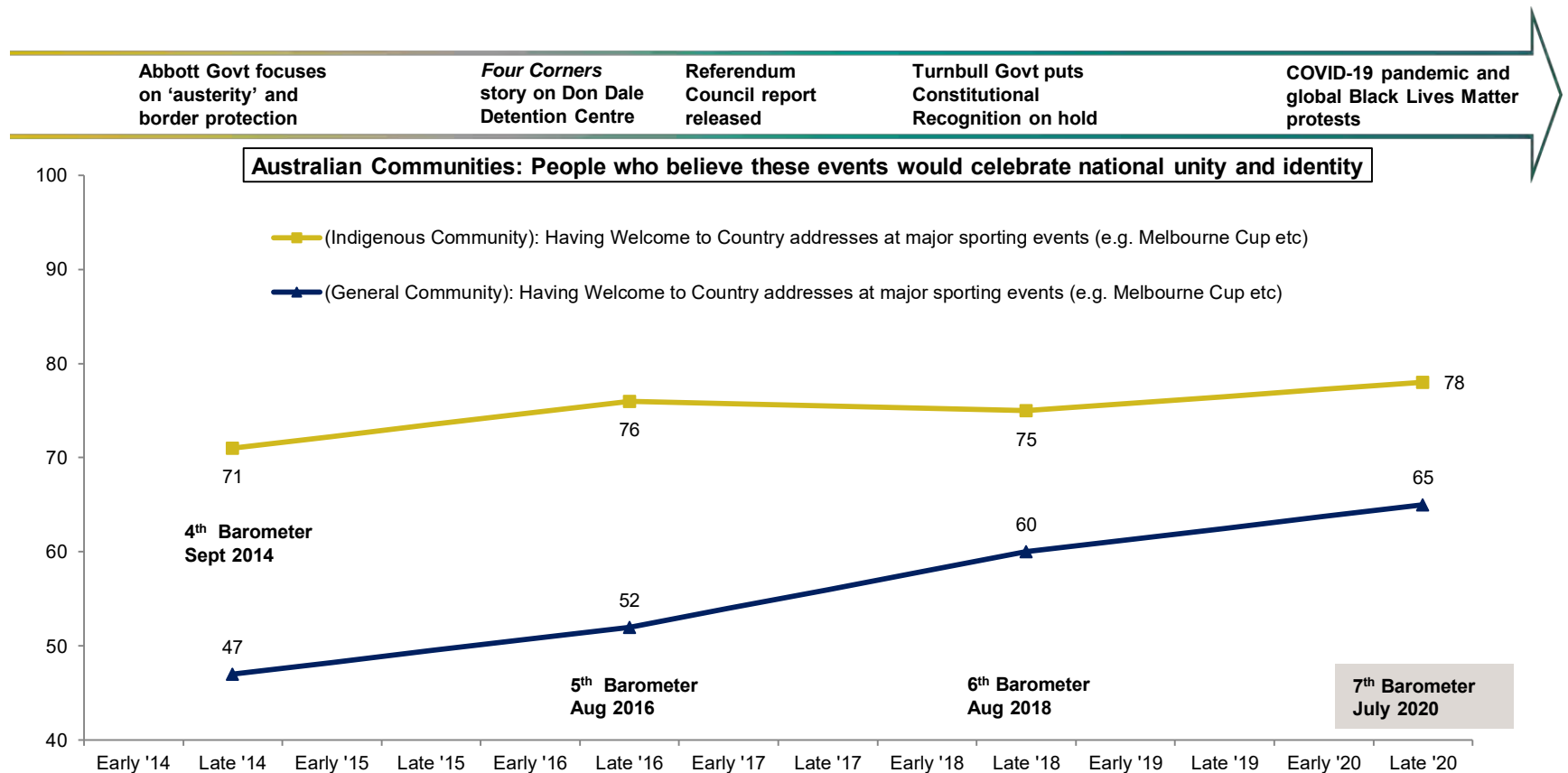
Within both the general community as a whole and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, a sense of wanting to help improve reconciliation has increased strongly since 2014.

For the general community, awareness of how to help has also gained traction.



# Welcome to Country addresses at major sports events would widely celebrate National unity

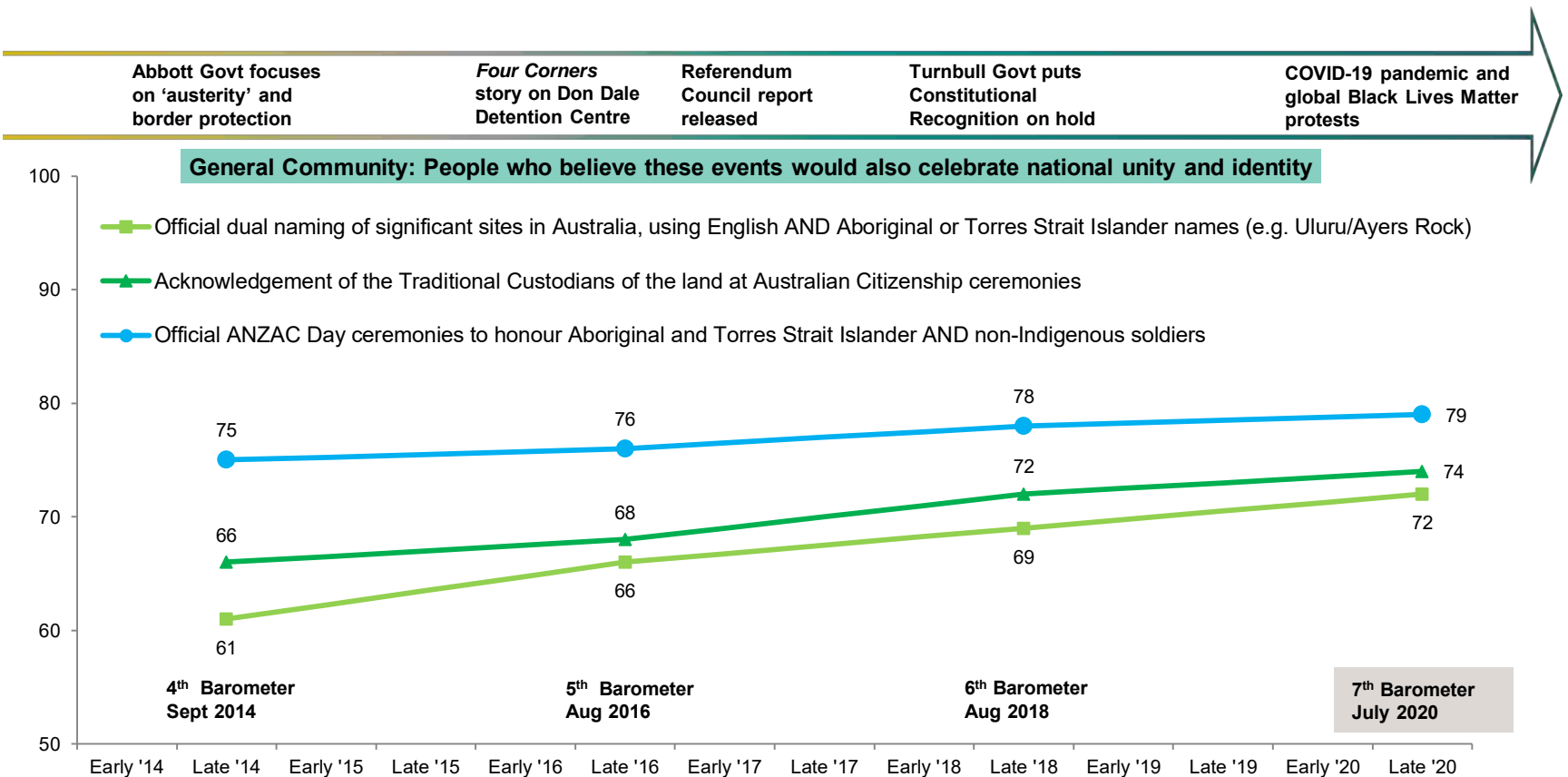
For both non-Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, there is growing support for introducing Welcome to Country addresses at major sporting events, to help celebrate national unity and identity.



# Belief in a number of events to celebrate unity is growing steadily

Within the general community as a whole, there has been growing support for some key events to help celebrate national unity and identity:

Official ANZAC celebrations to honour Indigenous and non-Indigenous soldiers; Acknowledgment of Country at Citizenship ceremonies; and official dual naming of major sites around Australia.





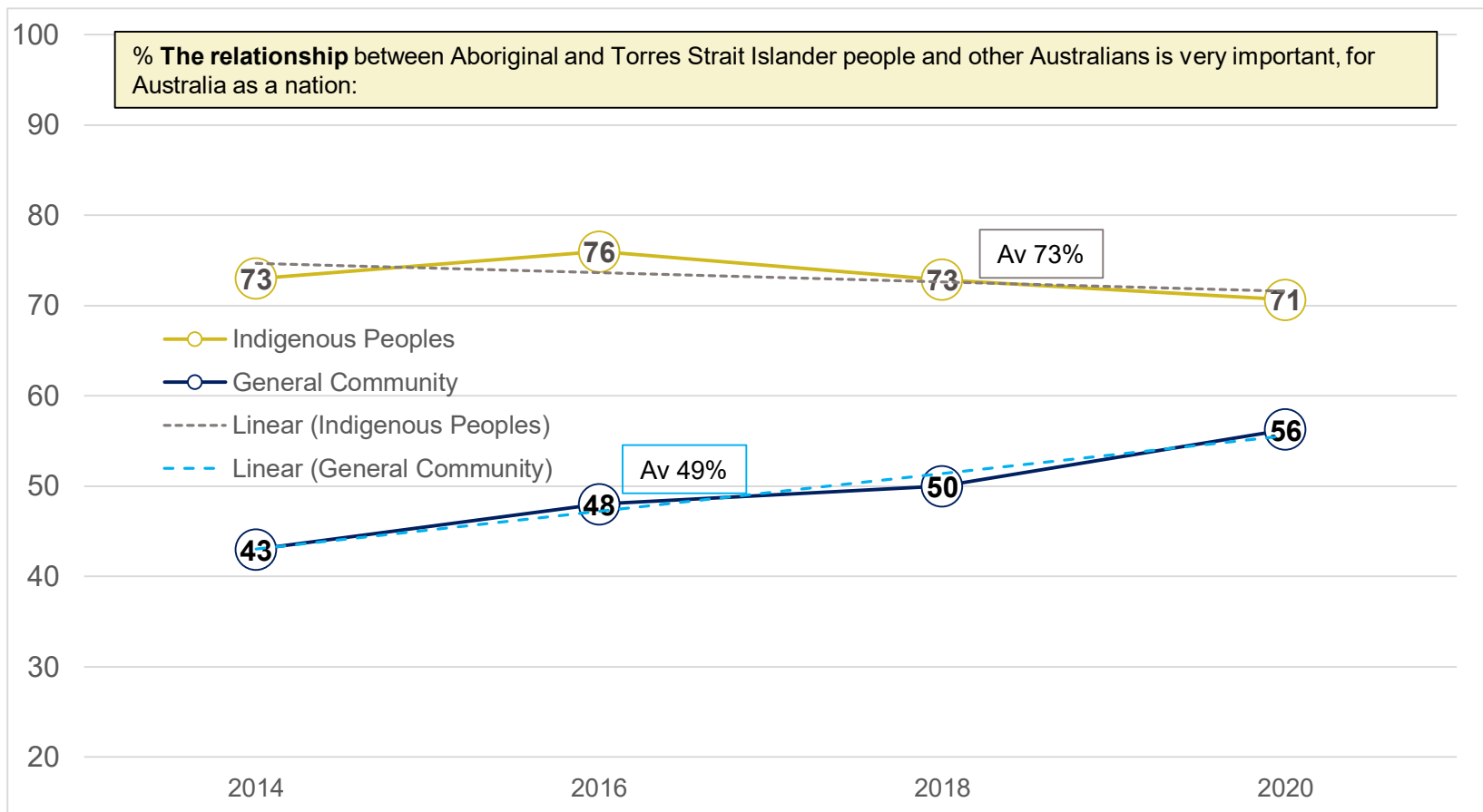
# Australian Reconciliation Barometer 2014-20

Key trends tracking reconciliation

# ARB tracking:

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the importance of their relationship with other Australians has remained consistently high since 2014 (long term average of 73% very important). This compares with a long term average of 49% very important among the general community.

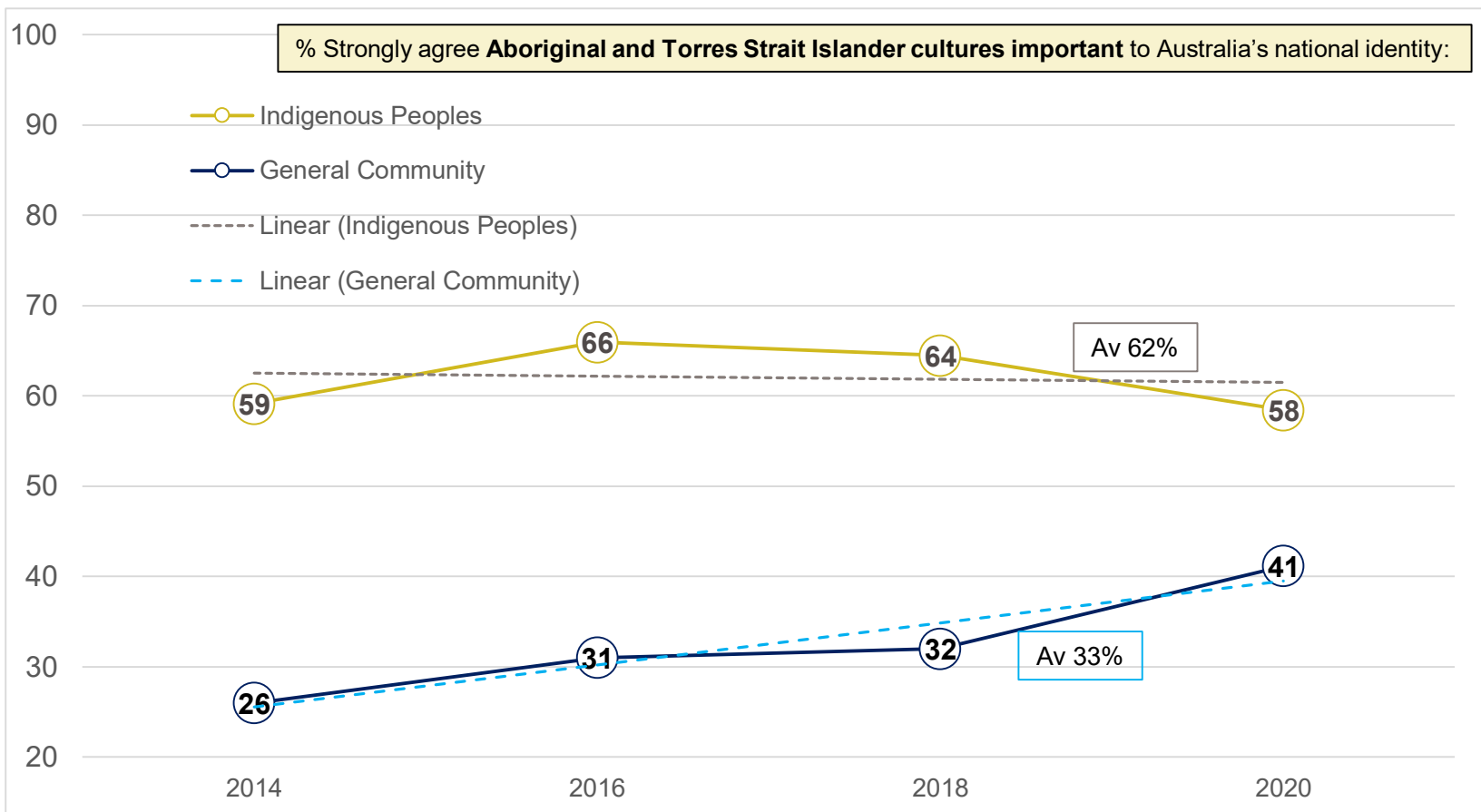
However, most notably, there has been a solid increase in the general community since 2014.



# ARB tracking:

Since 2014, strong agreement that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are important to Australia's national identity has remained considerably higher within the Indigenous community (long term average of 62%).

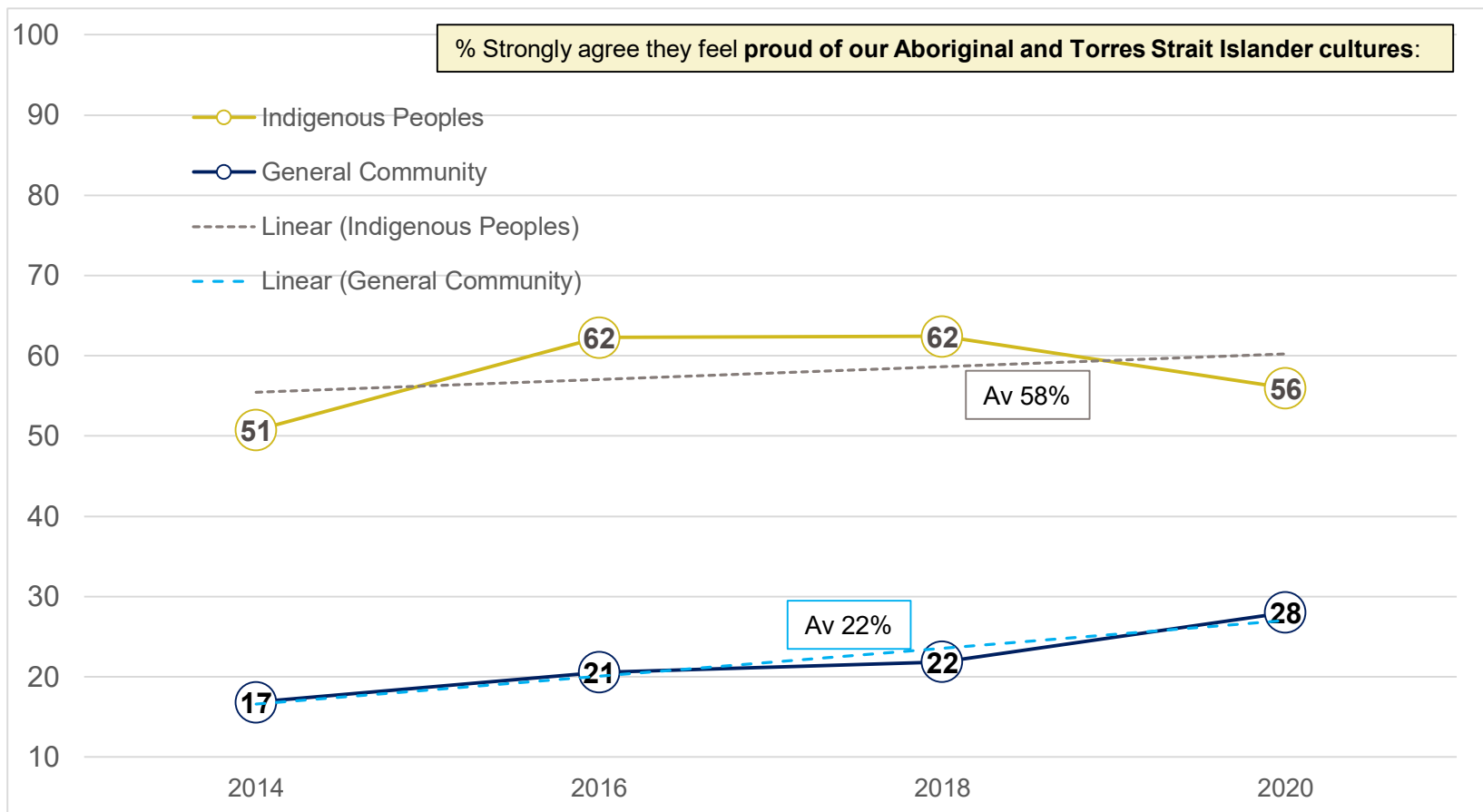
However, this sentiment has increased within the general community over the past six years (long term average of 33%).



# ARB tracking:

Since 2014, strong pride about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures has remained considerably higher within Indigenous communities (long term average of 58%).

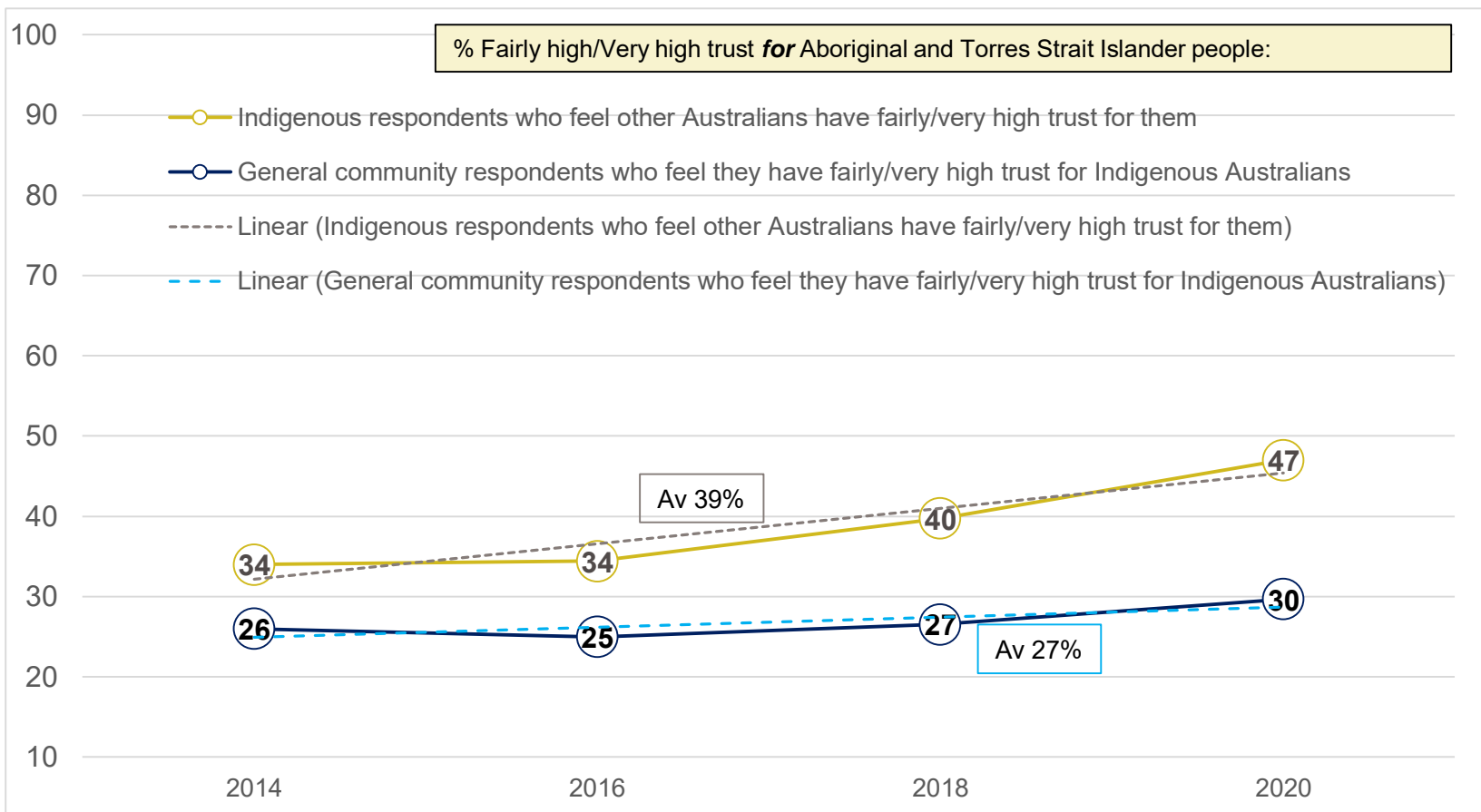
However, this sentiment has increased steadily within the general public (long term average of 22%).



# ARB tracking:

Since 2014, a sense of trust for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has steadily increased within both the general community (long term average of 27%) and Indigenous communities (long term average of 39%).

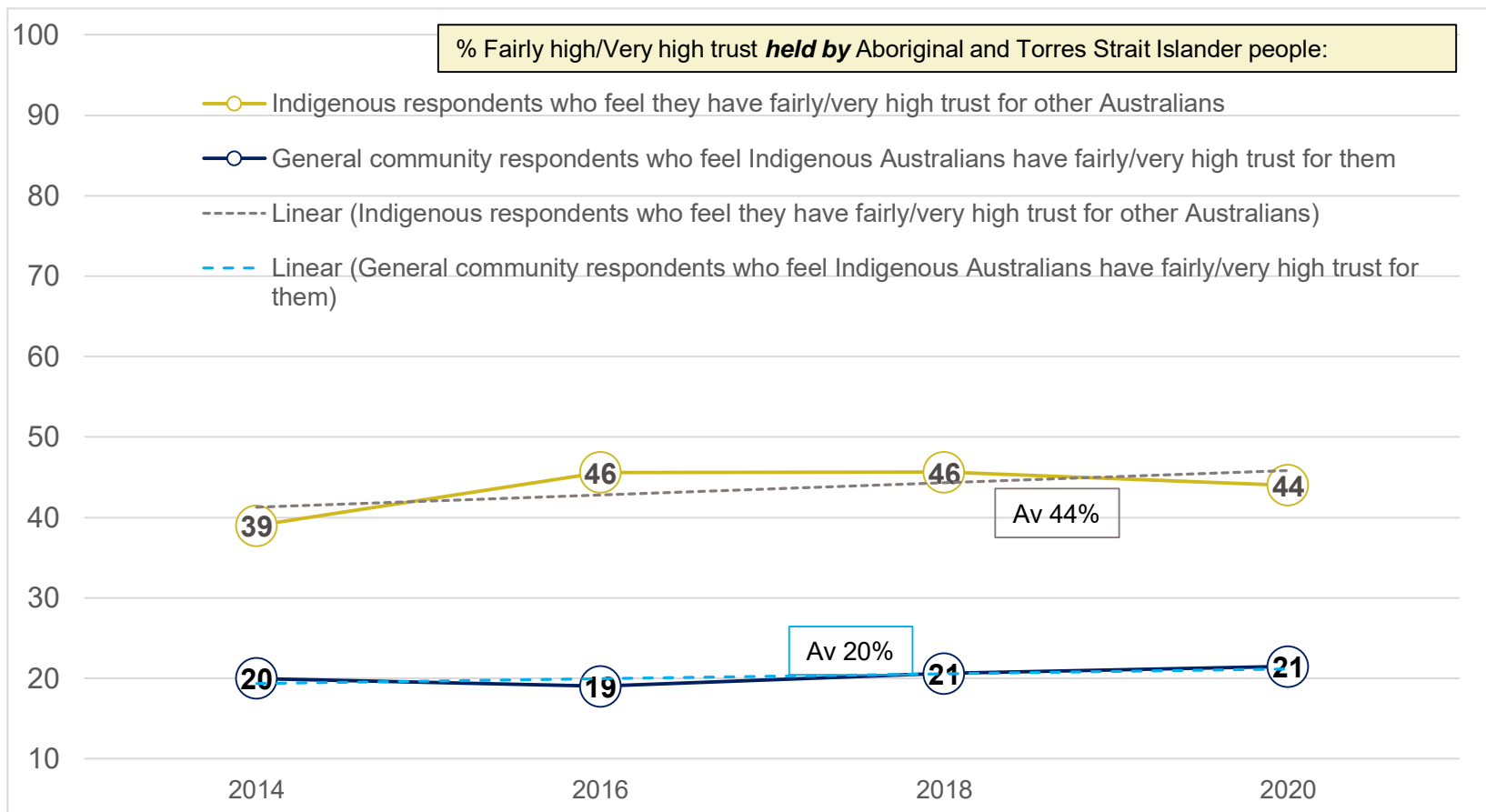
However, belief among Indigenous respondents that other Australians hold high trust for them has increased more since 2014, than the sense of high trust towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people among the general public.



# ARB tracking:

Since 2014, a sense of trust held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for other Australians has steadily increased within Indigenous communities (long term average of 44%).

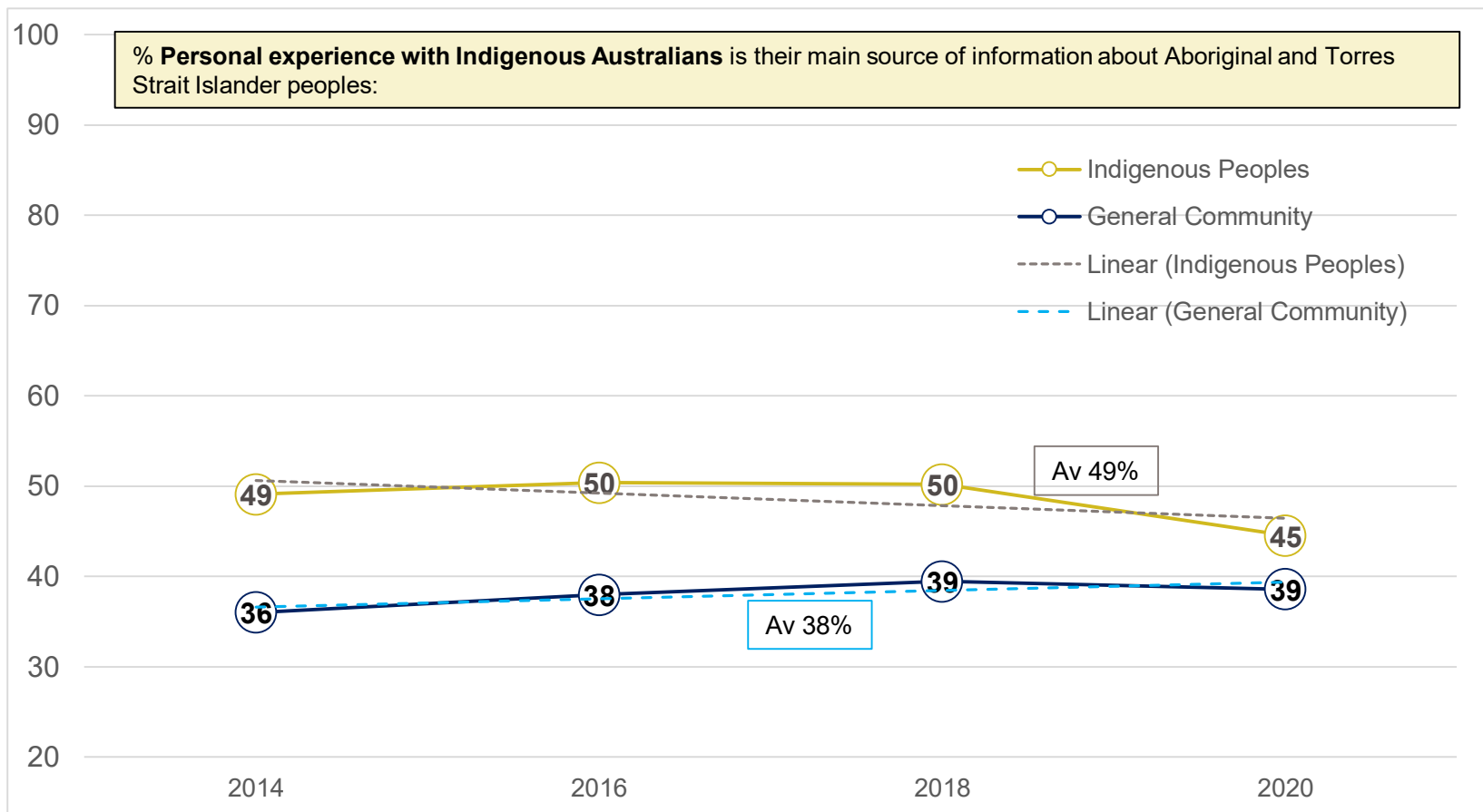
However, belief among the general community that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold high trust for them has remained fairly static (long term average of 20%).



# ARB tracking:

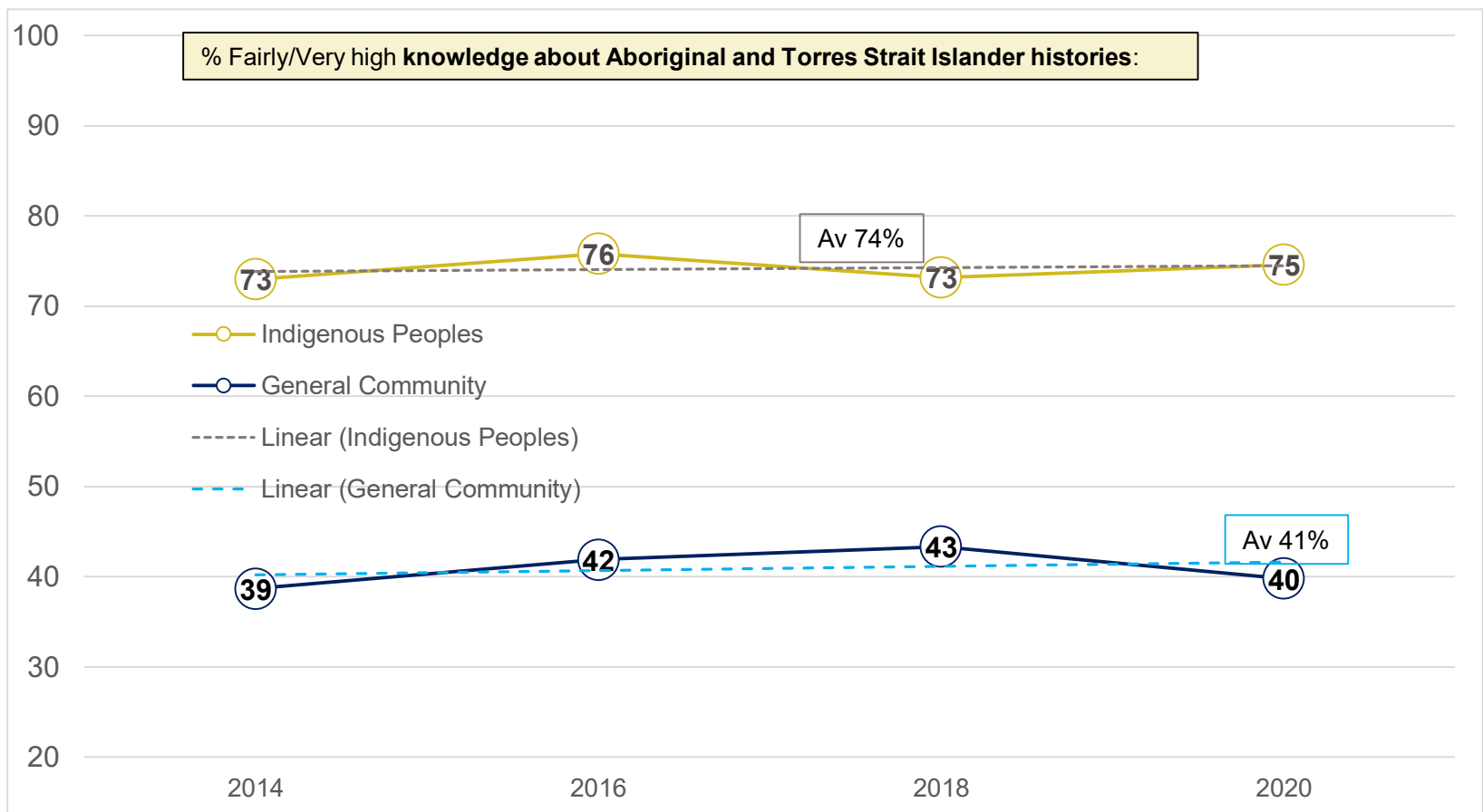
Since 2014, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people citing personal experience as their main source of information about their people has declined slightly (long term average of 49%).

This compares to a slight increase within the general public (long term average of 38%).



# ARB tracking:

Since 2014, the prevalence of high knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories has remained steady, both within the Indigenous community (long term average of 74%) and within the general public (long term average of 41%).

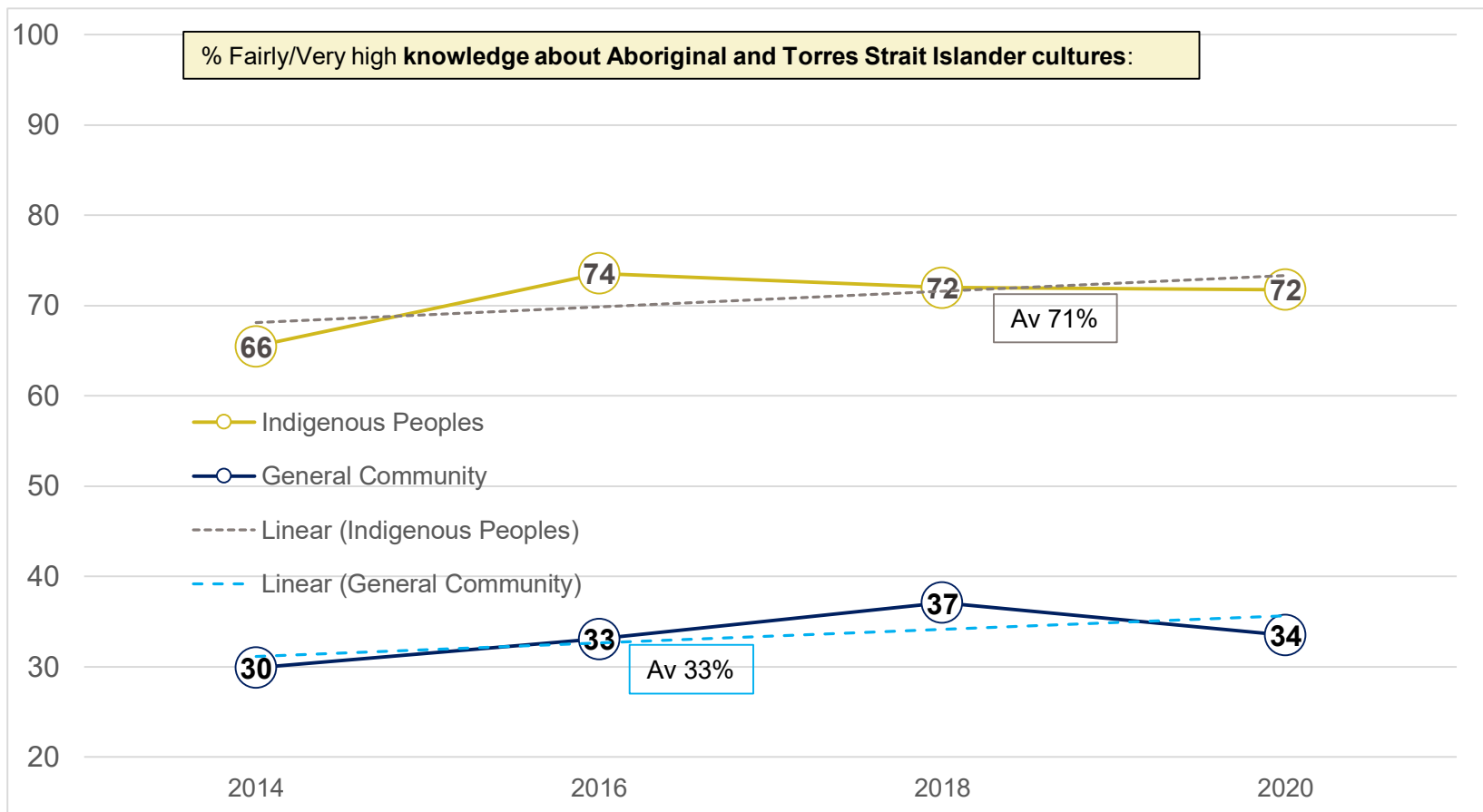




# ARB tracking:

Since 2014, the prevalence of high knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures has remained steady within the Indigenous community (long term average of 71%), while increasing slightly within the general public (long term average of 33%).

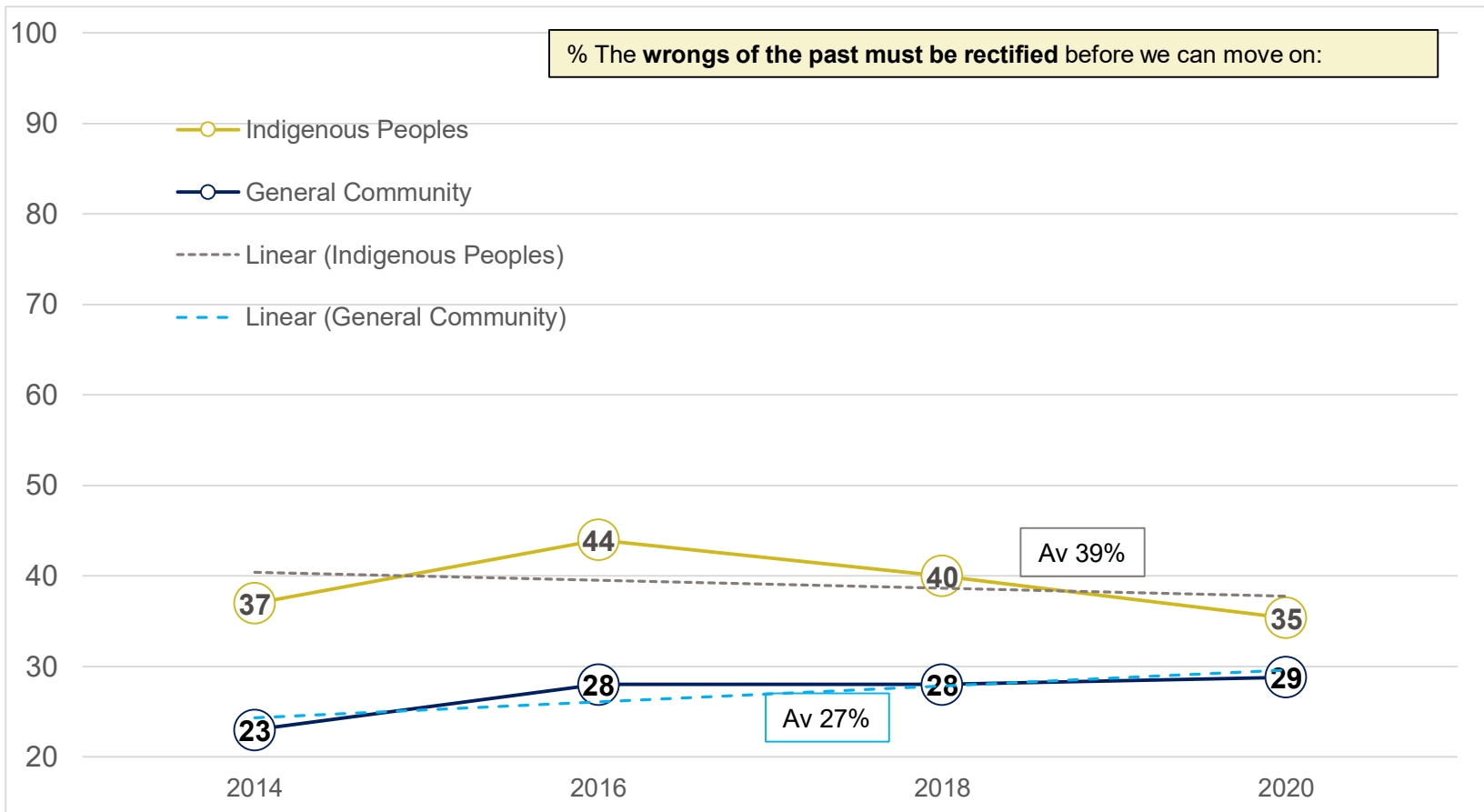
However, notably, both communities have seen increased knowledge levels since 2014.



# ARB tracking:

Since 2014, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have consistently indicated that the wrongs of Australia's past must be rectified, before the country can move on with reconciliation (long term average of 39%), compared to the general public (long term average of 27%).

However, there has been a notable increase in this sentiment within the general community.



# Appendix

Respondent profiles

# Sample characteristics:

Gender and age	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Male	49%	990	50%	204
Female	51%	998	50%	291
Non-binary/other gender	0%	12	0%	5
18-24 years old	12%	230	21%	89
25-34	19%	275	23%	174
35-44	17%	326	19%	125
45-54	17%	350	17%	52
55-64	15%	366	12%	32
65+	20%	441	8%	23

Employment	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Working full-time	35%	668	46%	247
Working part-time	19%	390	14%	90
Unemployed/not working	7%	129	9%	38
Student	11%	198	8%	30
Retired	19%	437	11%	27
Manage household/ family	6%	107	9%	51
Other	3%	59	3%	12

General community total sample size = 2000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander total sample size = 500  
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%. Other gender respondents do not figure in the weighted samples, due to the ABS census not yet including this data.

# Sample characteristics:

State	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
NSW	32%	398	33%	187
VIC	26%	389	7%	100
QLD	20%	392	29%	101
WA	11%	203	12%	28
SA	7%	203	5%	38
TAS	2%	201	4%	29
ACT	2%	101	1%	9
NT	1%	101	9%	3

Metro/Regional	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Capital city	64%	1224	39%	224
Major regional city	14%	286	20%	100
Regional town	10%	200	19%	75
Rural town	8%	187	10%	51
Remote town or community	4%	91	13%	45

General community total sample size = 2000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander total sample size = 500  
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%. Other gender respondents do not figure in the weighted samples, due to the ABS census not yet including this data.

# Sample characteristics:

Birth/Language	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Born in Australia	69%	1403	97%	478
Not born in Australia	31%	585	3%	17
English-speaking at home	88%	1785	97%	478
Non-English speaking at home	12%	203	3%	17

Indigenous Heritage	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Non-Indigenous	98%	1937	0%	0
Australian Aboriginal	2.1%	39	91%	423
Torres Strait Islander	0.1%	5	5%	31
Aboriginal AND Torres Strait Islander	0.1%	7	4%	41

General community total sample size = 2000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander total sample size = 500  
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%. Other gender respondents do not figure in the weighted samples, due to the ABS census not yet including this data.

# Sample characteristics:

Education level	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Postgraduate degree	13%	245	10%	58
Graduate diploma or graduate certificate	6%	130	7%	33
Bachelor degree	28%	515	20%	117
Advanced diploma or diploma	12%	251	15%	73
Certificate I, II, III or IV	15%	313	18%	101
Secondary education	20%	418	18%	68
Primary/Part of secondary education	5%	104	12%	41
Other	0.5%	12	1%	4
Household	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Single with dependent children living at home	5%	100	14%	71
Single without dependent children living at home	29%	551	23%	111
Married/defacto with dependent children living at home	25%	477	36%	211
Married/defacto without dependent children living at home	32%	670	18%	81
Other	10%	190	8%	21

General community total sample size = 2000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander total sample size = 500  
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%. Other gender respondents do not figure in the weighted samples, due to the ABS census not yet including this data.

# Sample characteristics:

Accommodation	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Own my home outright	29%	617	24%	119
Own my home but paying mortgage still	27%	544	25%	133
Renting (e.g. leaseholder, flat share, student campus etc)	30%	575	38%	196
Living with parents or family member(s)	12%	205	10%	36
Staying in temporary accommodation	1%	14	2%	9
Other	1%	33	0%	2

Household income (annual gross)	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Less than \$30,000	14%	298	17%	76
\$30,000 - \$49,999	13%	293	13%	66
\$50,000 - \$69,999	13%	256	10%	55
\$70,000 - \$89,999	10%	190	13%	68
\$90,000 - \$119,999	12%	249	18%	75
\$120,000 - \$149,999	10%	197	9%	52
\$150,000 - \$249,999	10%	184	8%	47
\$250,000 or more	3%	44	6%	30
Don't know/prefer not to say	14%	277	5%	26

General community total sample size = 2000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander total sample size = 500  
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%. Other gender respondents do not figure in the weighted samples, due to the ABS census not yet including this data.





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