

IPSOS INDIGENOUS ISSUES 2026

Australians' perceptions
of First Nation issues

August 2026



ATSIRU

About this study



- These are the findings of an Ipsos survey conducted via Ipsos' online research panel FastFacts between 13 – 19 May 2026, with 985 respondents representing the adult Australian population. Data is weighted to match the profile of the population to best reflect the demographic profile of the adult population according to 2021 ABS census data.
- Where results do not sum to 100% or the 'difference' appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses or the exclusion of don't knows or not stated responses.
- The precision of Ipsos online polls are calculated using a credibility interval, with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points. For more information on the Ipsos use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2021-03/credibility_intervals_for_online_polling_-_2021.pdf
- This study did not have any external sponsors or partners. It was initiated and run by Ipsos, because we are curious about the world we live in and how citizens in Australia and around the globe think and feel about their world.
- This research is compliant with the Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards: <https://www.australianpollingcouncil.com>
A long methodology disclosure statement is available here: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-au/polling-methodology-disclosure-statements>.



Headline findings

1

Indigenous issues are slipping down the national agenda

Interest in Indigenous issues continues to decline from its peak around the Voice referendum, while concern about First Nations issues as a national priority remains well below cost of living, housing and economic concerns.

Despite this waning engagement, Australians' understanding of key concepts such as Treaty and Traditional Owners has remained broadly stable. A key challenge for reconciliation efforts maintaining public attention as other issues increasingly dominate the national conversation.

2

Support for reconciliation is holding, but symbolic initiatives face greater scrutiny

Support for Treaty and the Voice as pathways to reconciliation has stabilised after the declines seen following the referendum.

Non-Indigenous Australians continue to show strongest support for initiatives focused on education and historical understanding, while support for some symbolic forms of recognition remains lower. However, recent debate about Acknowledgements of Country does not reflect broad hostility, with even those who oppose Acknowledgements overwhelmingly rejecting booing.

3

A clear generational divide continues to shape attitudes

The most consistent differences in the data are between younger and older Australians.

Younger Australians are more interested in Indigenous issues, place greater importance on Treaty, report stronger knowledge of Traditional Owners and are more supportive of a range of reconciliation initiatives. Older Australians are generally less engaged and less supportive across many measures.

These generational differences remain evident in 2026.

4

A vocal minority continues to overestimate support for its views

Attitudes associated with Modern Racism remain largely unchanged in 2026, suggesting that these views remain entrenched among a minority of Australians.

Aligned with this, those who believe Treaty is unimportant continue to substantially overestimate how widely their views are shared, despite representing a much smaller proportion of the population. This false consensus effect highlights the difficulty of communicating about reconciliation in the current social media environment that can amplify extreme minority perspective and blur perspectives of broader public opinion.

2026 Context

Booing during Welcome to Country at 2026 Anzac Day Services

Welcome to Country ceremonies at the beginning of 2026 Anzac Day dawn services in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne were disrupted by people booing and heckling.

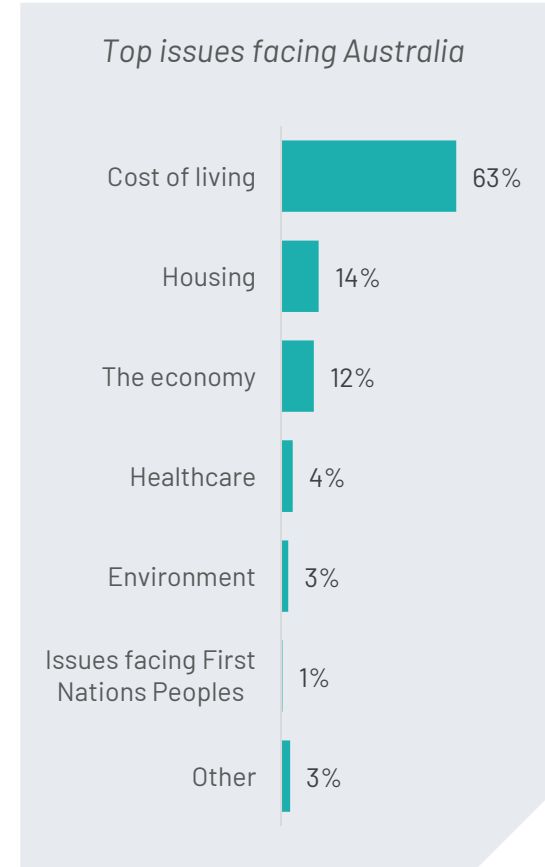
National Reconciliation week

The National Reconciliation Week theme for 2026, *All In*, emphasised that reconciliation is a shared responsibility rather than a passive activity, and encourages all Australians to step away from the sidelines and commit wholeheartedly to taking action together in the reconciliation journey.

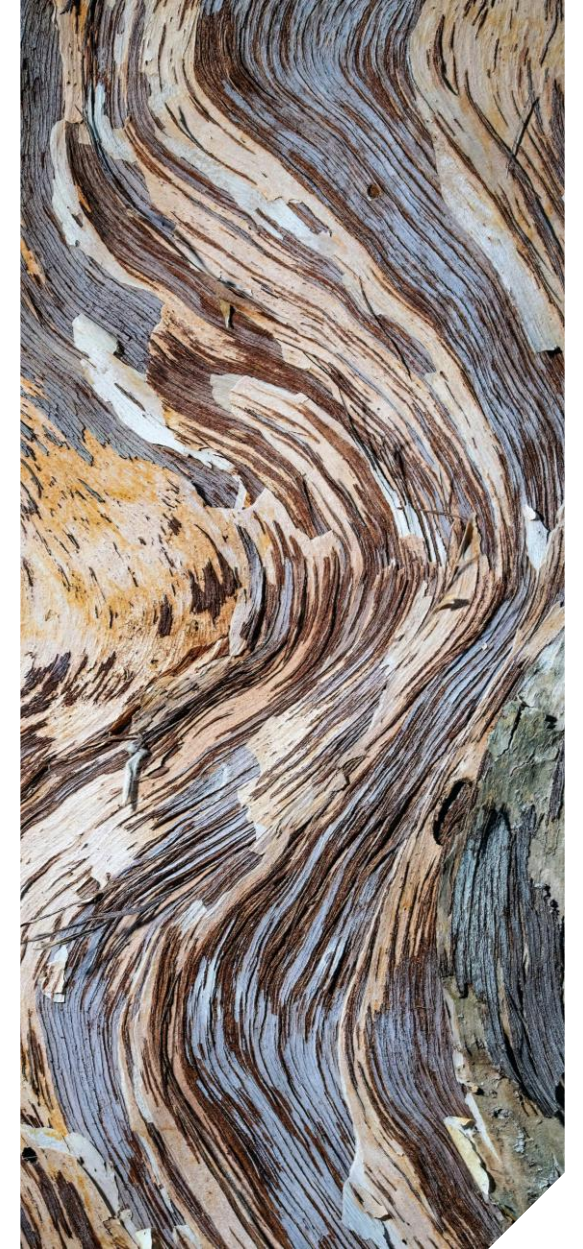
Concern for Indigenous Issues peaked in 2023

The Ipsos Issues Monitor¹, where Australians say what concerns them most, finds that concern for Indigenous Issues peaked in 2023 at 6%, increasing from 2% in 2015. It is now at 4% in May 2026.

Only 0.6% of our Non-Indigenous Australian sample chose issues facing First Nations peoples as the top issue facing Australia today.



¹The Ipsos Issues Monitor is an ongoing quantitative survey of Australians about the issues facing the nation. Data available here: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-au/issuesmonitor>
Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2026 n=906. Source: TOPISSUE. What would you say is the top issue facing Australia today?



Understanding of First Nations contexts and issues

Australians still overestimate Indigenous population by more than four times

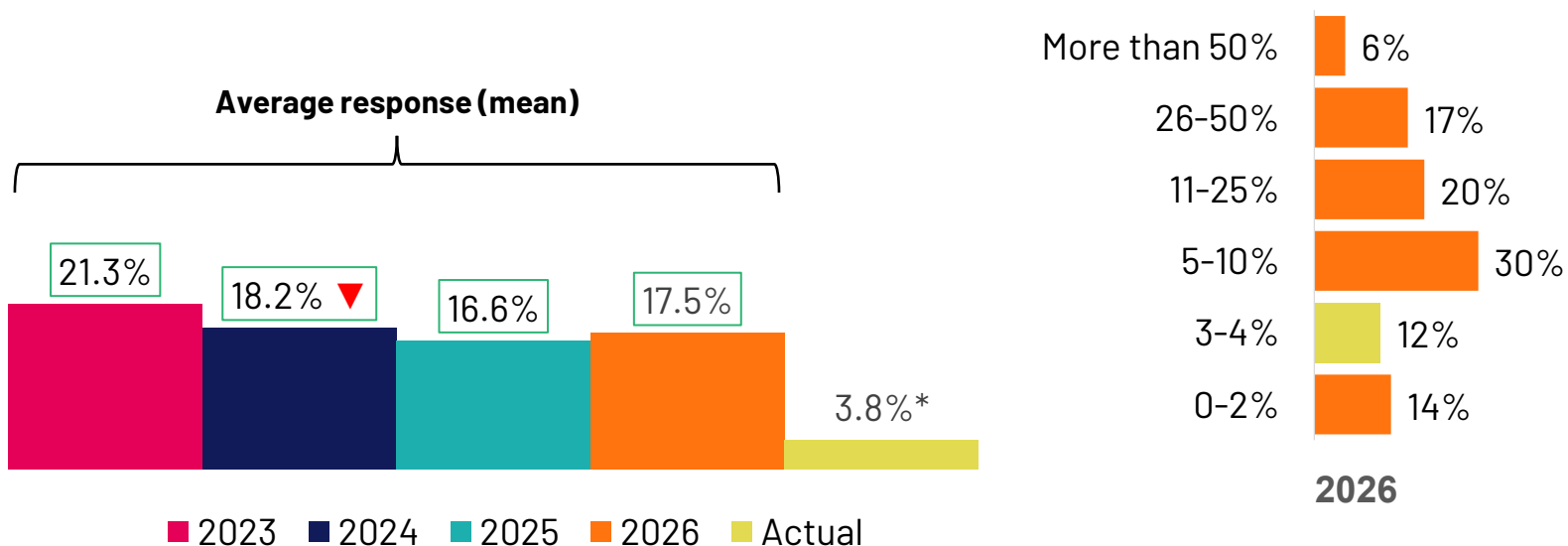
Australians continue to perceive the Indigenous population as far larger than it is. The average estimate of 17.5% is more than four times the actual figure of 3.8%. Just 12% correctly identify that the actual proportion is between 3% and 4%.

The persistent overestimation reflects common mental shortcuts (heuristics) and cognitive biases, such as our tendency to overestimate things that we see frequently in the media, worry us, or are top of mind.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906
Source: Q18. Out of every 100 people in Australia, approximately how many do you think are Indigenous Australians? Please enter the number below.

Perceived proportion of the Australian population who are Indigenous Australians

Out of every 100 people in Australia, approximately how many do you think are Indigenous Australians?



* Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au, 21 September 2021)

▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.
□ □ Significantly higher/lower than actual population, 95% C.I.



Claimed knowledge of Traditional Owners remains stable

Half of non-Indigenous Australians feel at least somewhat confident they know about the traditional owners where they live (48%).

Confidence is higher among **younger** people (18-29 years: 62%).

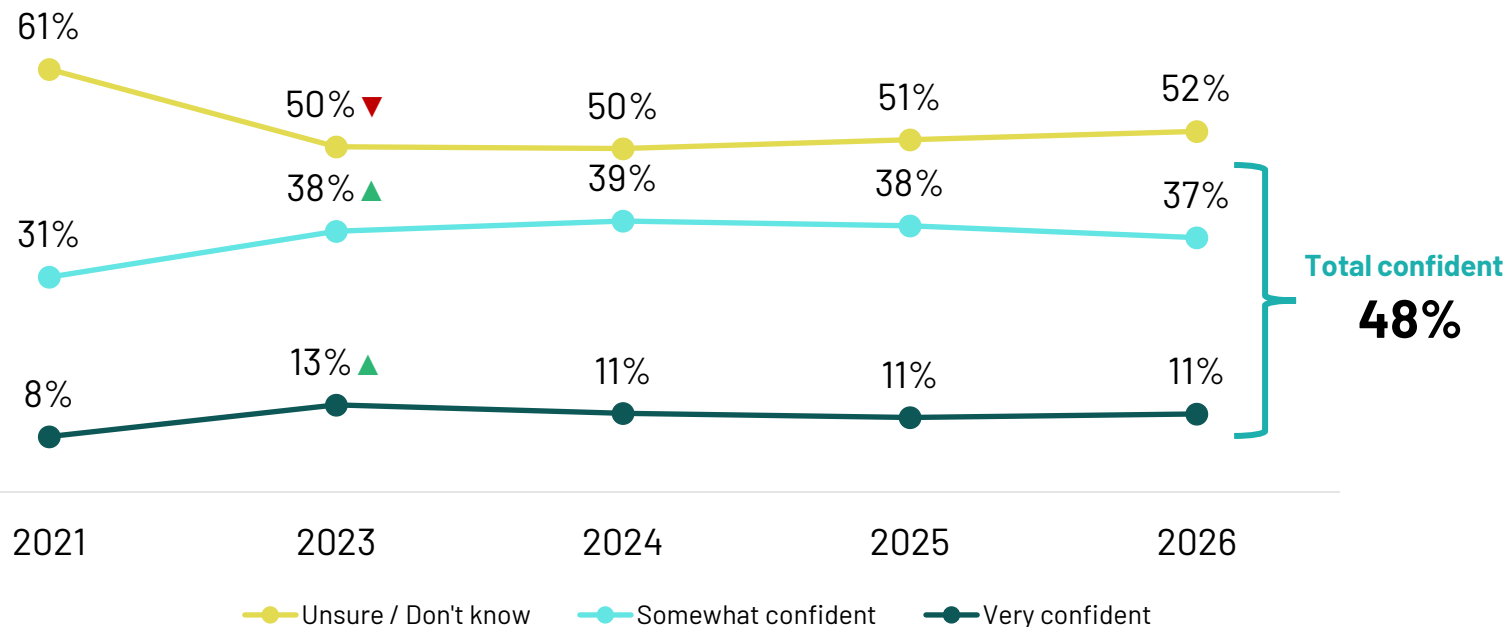
Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2021 n=911; 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900, 2026 n=906

Source: Q14 How confident are you that you know about the traditional owners where you live (e.g. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Country, language group, or community)?*

*Question wording updated in 2025

Confidence in knowledge of local Traditional Owners

How confident are you that you know about the traditional owners where you live (e.g. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Country, language group, or community)?



▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

Knowledge of Treaty also remains stable

Understanding of the details of a potential treaty has been stable since we began asking questions on this topic in 2021.

As has been the case for the past three years, just under half of non-Indigenous Australians (47%) are able to correctly identify that a treaty would be *a series of formal agreements recognising the history and prior occupation of land, as well as the injustices many have endured*.

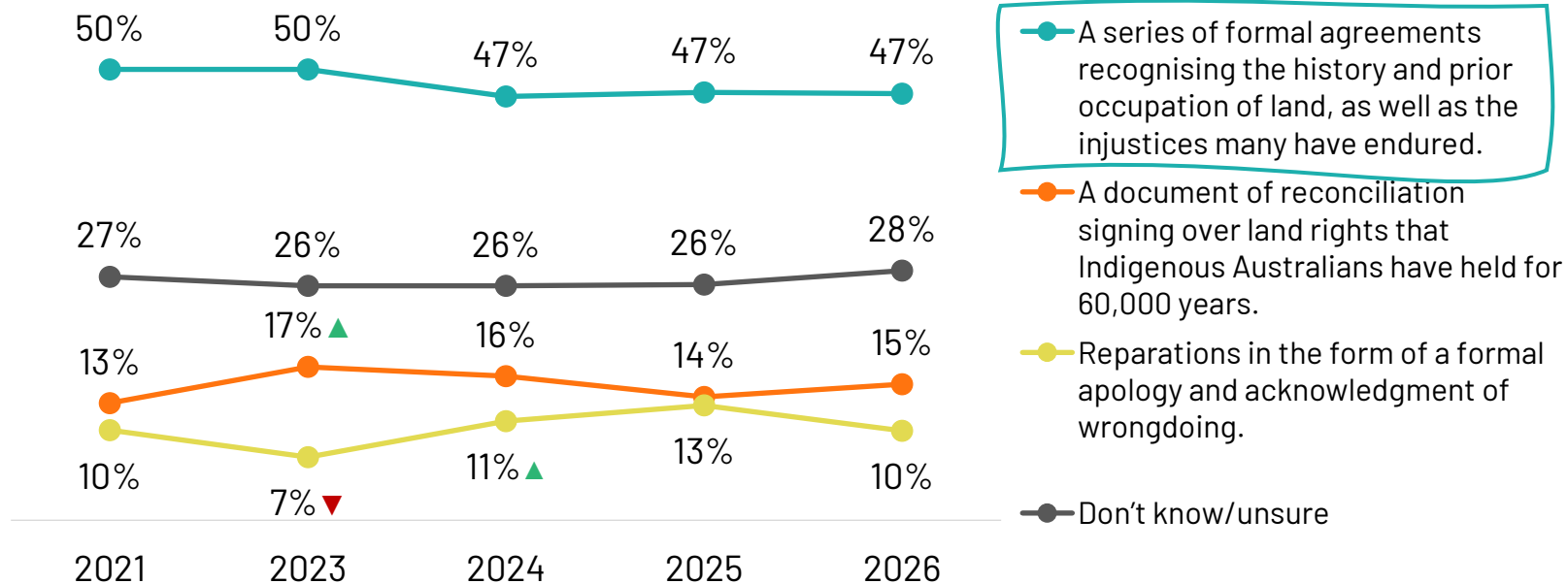
However, confusion remains. More than a quarter (28%) admit to being unsure about the details of a Treaty, and a further quarter choose an incorrect definition when asked.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2021 n=911; 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906

Source: Q3. To the best of your knowledge, what does a treaty mean between Australian governments and Indigenous Australians?

Knowledge of Treaty

To the best of your knowledge, what does a treaty mean between Australian governments and Indigenous Australians?



A treaty between the Australian government and Indigenous people would mean a series of formal agreements with legal outcomes, recognising our history and prior occupation of land, as well as the injustices many have endured. A treaty would establish a platform for addressing those injustices and help create a path forward based on mutual goals rather than ones imposed upon Indigenous people.

▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

Knowledge of the Uluru Statement remains ahead of 2021, but has declined in 2026

Self-reported awareness of the Uluru Statement from the Heart among non-Indigenous Australians sits above 2021 levels, though 2026 saw a significant rise in those who say they have not heard of the Statement (33%, up from 28%), alongside slight softening in those with some knowledge (23%).

The proportion with detailed knowledge of the Statement remains very low at 3%.

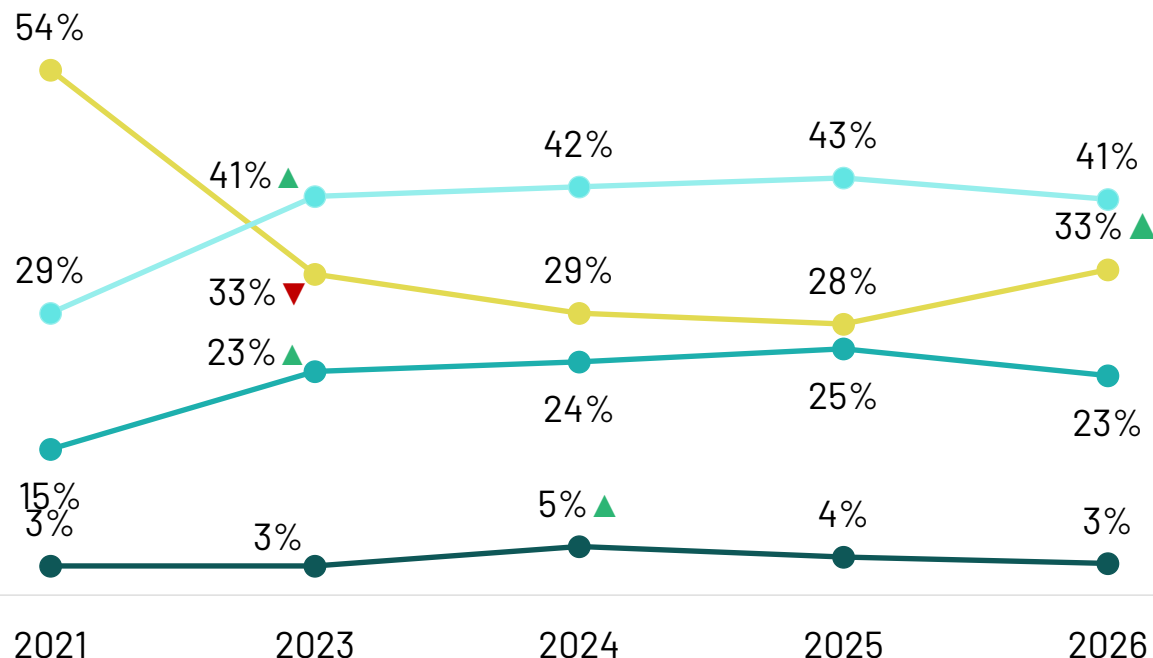
Self-reported awareness is highest among those aged 50+, at 71%.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2021 n=911; 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906

Source: Q5. Which of the following best describes your knowledge of the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Knowledge of Uluru Statement from the Heart

Which of the following best describes your knowledge of the Uluru Statement from the Heart?



Total awareness
67%

(Have heard of + have some knowledge + have a lot of knowledge)

- I have not heard of this before
- I have heard about it, but I know very little about the Statement
- I have some knowledge of the Statement
- I know a lot about the Statement

▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

Interest in Indigenous issues continues to decline

Interest in Indigenous issues among non-Indigenous Australians peaked in 2023 around the time of the Voice to Parliament vote. Since then, it has been declining, having dropped by 9 percentage points to 45%.

Interest remains highest in the 18 to 29 years age group (54%) and lowest among those aged 50+ (39%).

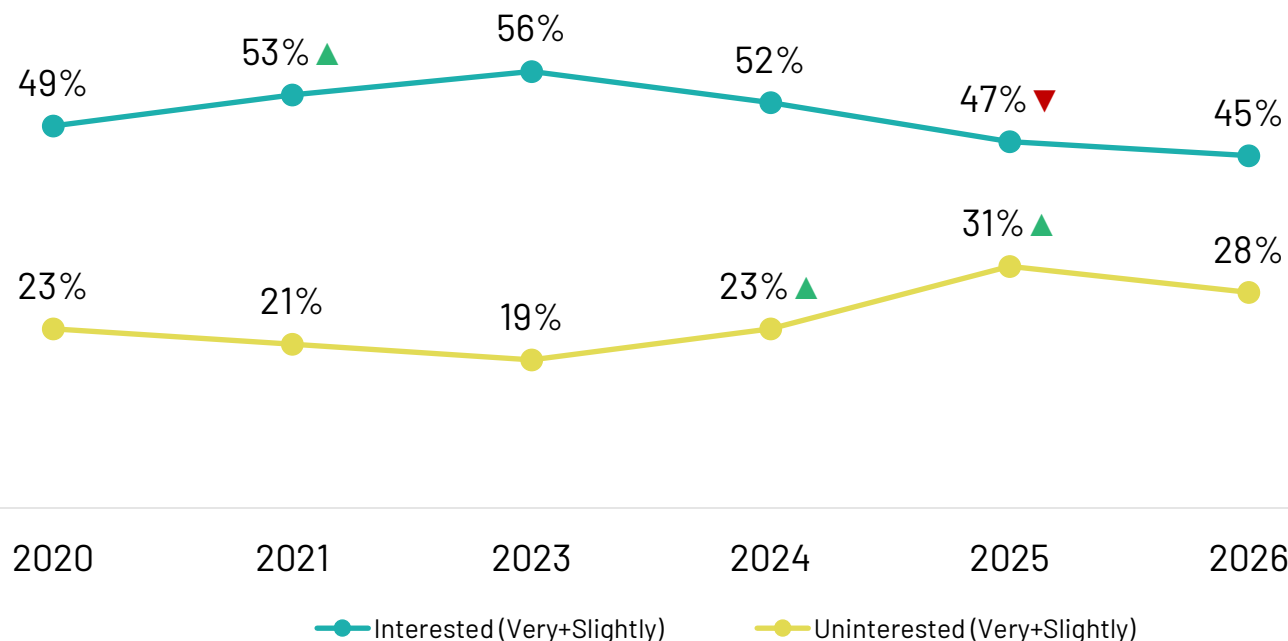
Those living in metro locations (47%) are now more interested than those in regional areas (40%), while by state, interest is lowest in South Australia (33%).

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2020 n=1,986; 2021 n=911; 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906

Source: Q2. What is your level of interest in Indigenous issues in Australia?

Interest in Indigenous issues

What is your level of interest in Indigenous issues in Australia?



▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

Importance of Treaty and Voice holding steady after earlier declines

Despite declining interest in Indigenous issues among non-Indigenous Australians, the perceived importance of both Treaty and the Voice to Parliament as ways forward for reconciliation is steady after declining in recent years. Treaty remains higher at 59%, with the Voice at 50%.

Treaty is most important to younger people (18-29: 73%) and least to those aged 50+ (49%). Males are also less likely than females to see Treaty as important (55% vs 63%).

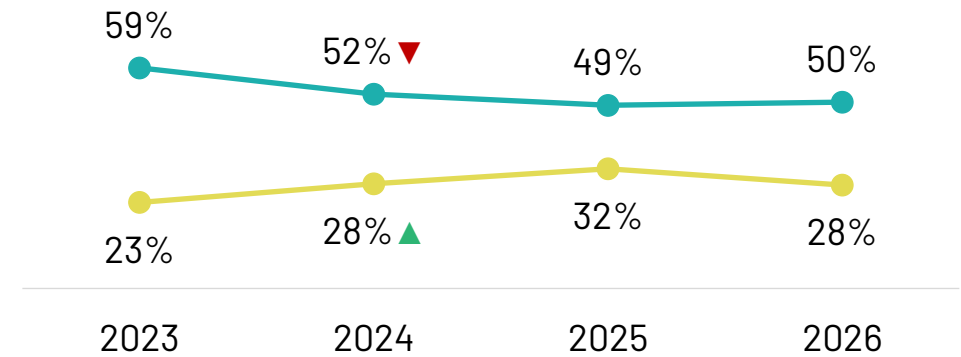
Those in capital cities (62%) are more likely than those in regional areas (51%) to consider Treaty important, and importance is highest in New South Wales (65%) and lowest in Western Australia (51%) and Queensland (53%)*.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2020 n=1,986; 2021 n=911; 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906

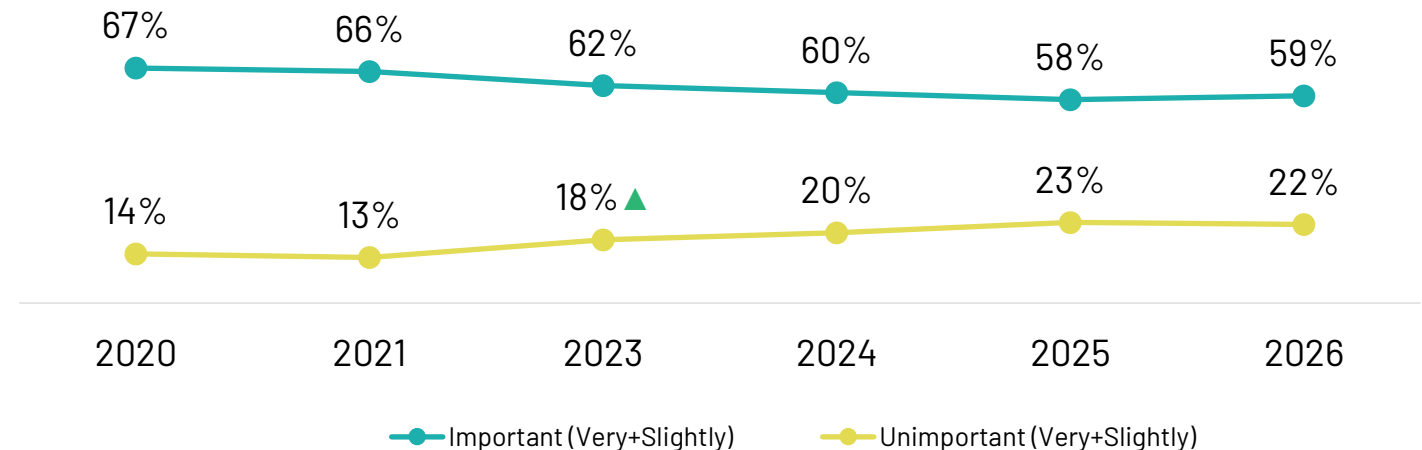
Source: Q1. How would you rate the importance of including an Indigenous Voice to Parliament as a way forward for reconciliation?
Q4. How would you rate the importance of treaty as a way forward for reconciliation?

*NT, ACT and Tas sample size too low to include.

Importance of **Voice to Parliament** as a way forward for reconciliation



Importance of **Treaty** as a way forward for reconciliation



▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

False consensus persists among those who consider Treaty unimportant

Non-Indigenous Australians who consider Treaty unimportant for reconciliation are more likely to believe their view is widely held by Australians, despite making up just 22% of the population. This gap has widened over recent years.

Conversely, those who consider the treaty important underestimate the proportion who share their views.

This reflects the Ipsos Global Trend¹ 'Splintered Societies', where widening inequality is fragmenting traditional structures. Globally, 47% now agree conflict is growing within their own families between relatives who don't share the same values, up 4pp on last year.

¹<https://www.ipsos.com/en/ipsos-global-trends-9th-edition-release>
Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2021 n=911; 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906

Source: Q4. How would you rate the importance of treaty as a way forward for reconciliation? Q6. How much of the Australian public would you guess holds your views on Treaty?*

*Question wording updated in 2025

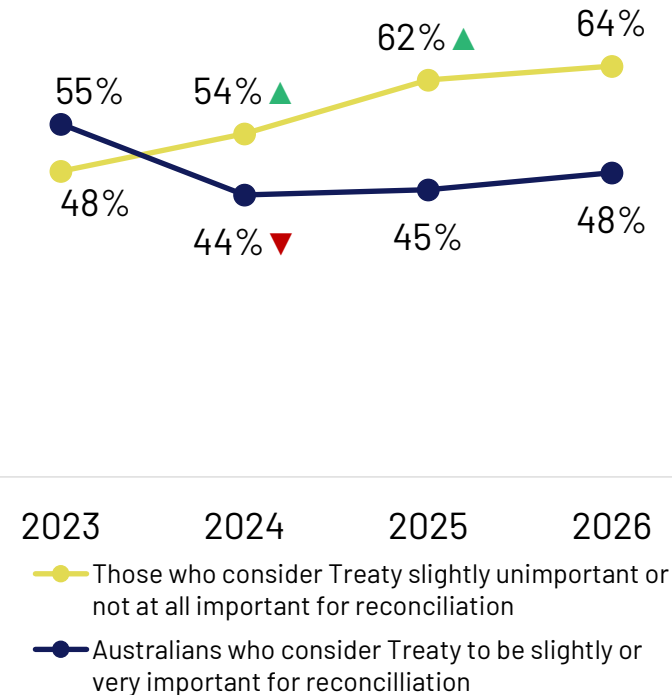
Perceptions of consensus on Treaty

How much of the Australian public would you guess holds your views on Treaty?

On average, non-Indigenous Australians guess that

51%

of the Australian public share their views on Treaty



Actual proportions

Those who consider Treaty slightly unimportant or not at all important

22%

Those who consider Treaty slightly or very important

59%

▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

Government

Despite declining interest, government support still desired by many

Just under one in three non-Indigenous Australians believe the government should be doing more for First Nations people.

There are clear differences in the views by age cohort. **Older Australians** (aged 50 and older) are less likely than other to feel that the Government should be doing more (26%).

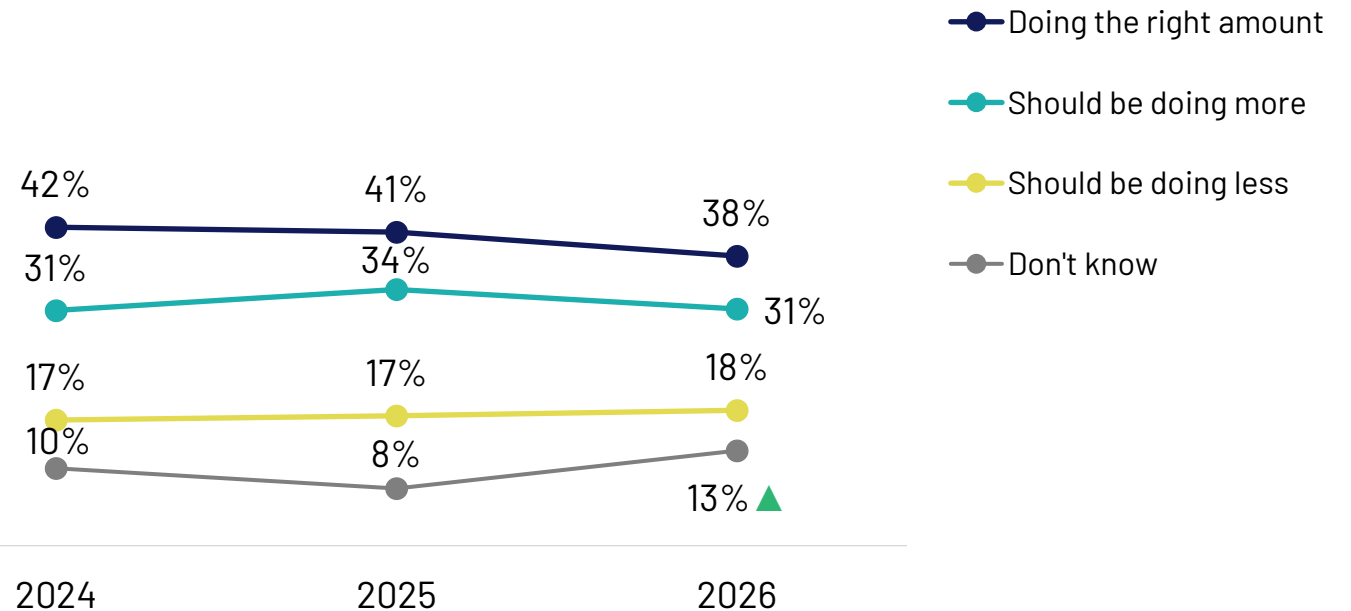
Those who live in **regional areas** (24%) are more likely than those in capital cities (15%) to say that the Government should be doing less.

As in 2025, **Queenslanders** (25%) are less likely to say that the Government should be doing more and **Western Australians** (28%) are more likely to say the government should be doing less.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906
Source: Q11. Do you think the Australian Government should be doing more or less for First Nations peoples?

Preferences for Australian Government support for First Nations Peoples

Do you think the Australian Government should be doing more or less for First Nations peoples?



▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

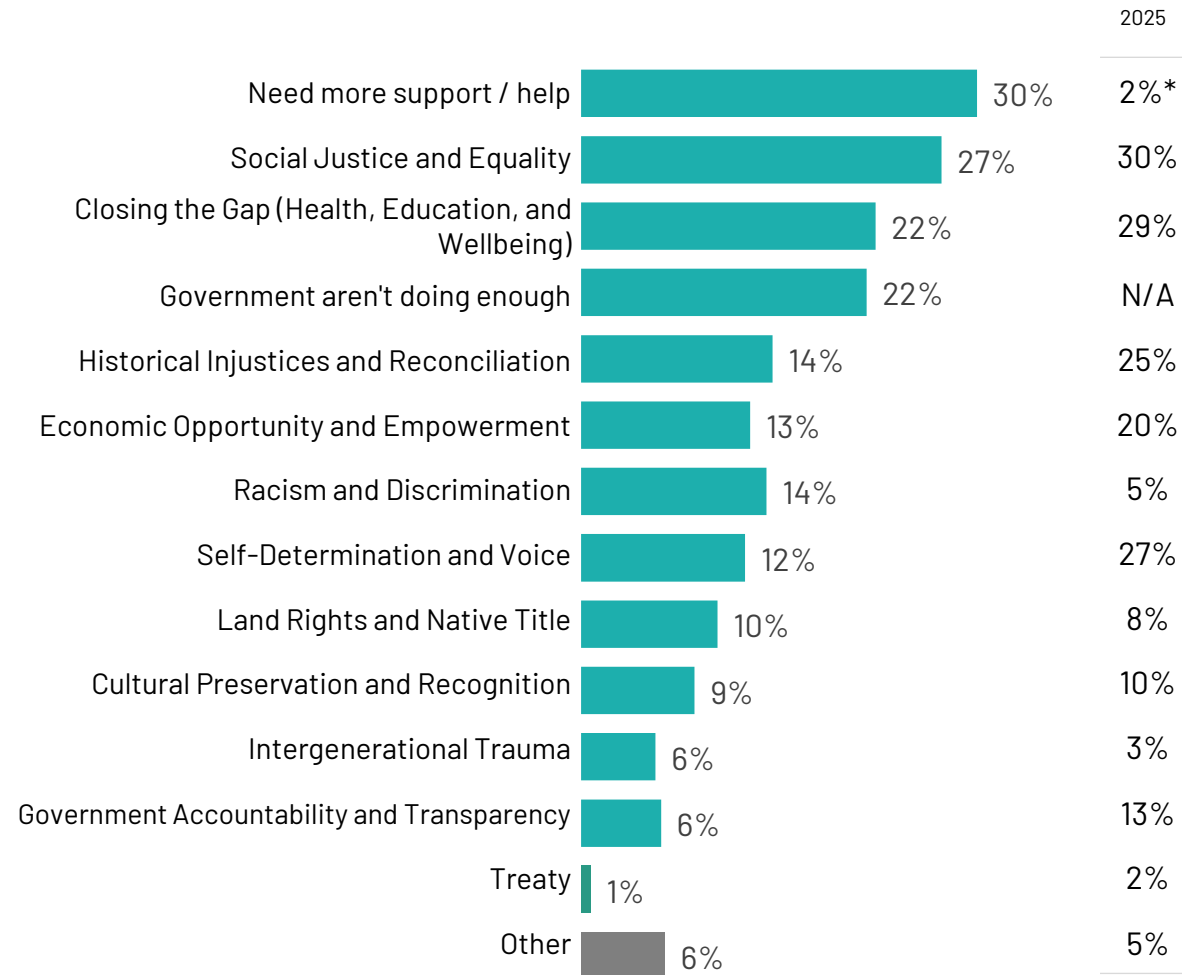
Social justice and Closing the Gap drive calls for more government support for First Nations peoples

Among the 31% of non-Indigenous Australians who think the Australian government should do more for First Nations peoples, the top reasons remain social justice(27%) and followed by increased support to Close the Gap on issues such as health, education, and wellbeing (22%).

Just under a third (30%) indicate broadly that they see a general need for more support.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians who think the Australian Government should be doing more for First Nations peoples at Q11, 2026 n=283.
Source: Q12. Why do you think the Australian Government should be doing more for First Nations peoples?

Reasons for supporting an **increase** in Australian Government support for First Nations people



* Different coding framework and definitions

To honour and respect them, to compensate for centuries of oppression and discrimination.

As much as recognition and reconciliation has improved, First Nation people still seem to be under-represented in decision making processes.

[The government] have no regard for their sacred sites letting developers trash/ruin them even though First Nations people were here first... They need to protect from discrimination and the [number] of deaths in custody is appalling.

The impact of the dispossession of their land has left First Nations people with long lasting disadvantage and trauma that has impacted generations, and will continue to do so. First Nations people deserve more agency.

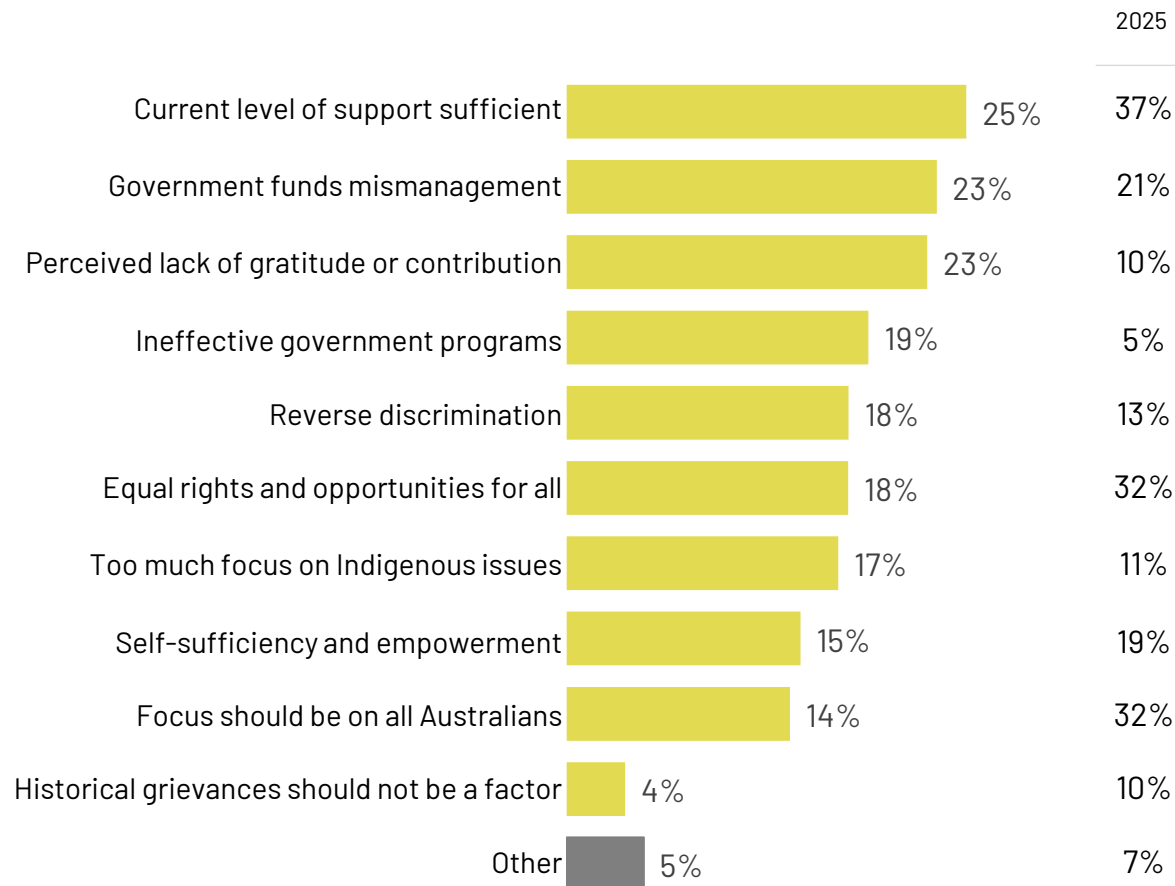
Reasons for reducing support are centred on appropriateness of Government funding

Among the 18% of non-Indigenous Australians who think the government should reduce support for First Nations people, the top reason remains the belief that the level of support is already sufficient (37%). Perceptions of mismanagement of funds is the second-most frequently cited reason (23%), while ineffective government programs is cited far more highly this year (19% up from 5%).

Arguments focused on equal treatment for all Australians are far less prevalent compared to 2025.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians who think the Australian Government should be doing less for First Nations peoples at Q11, 2026 n=162.
Source: Q13. Why do you think the Australian Government should be doing less for First Nations peoples?

Reasons for supporting a **reduction** in Australian Government support for First Nations people



[The government] are already doing more for them than for others.

They are given everything, [then] they destroy it and complain.

It is time they took responsibility for their own futures and not rely on others to provide solutions to their problems.

There has been 200 years for First Nations generations to adapt and take advantage of what is now available and offered to adjust to modern civilisation and education opportunities.

They have too much already handed to them that white Australians do not get. We are all supposed to be equal.

Support for Closing the Gap initiatives holds steady, but below earlier peaks

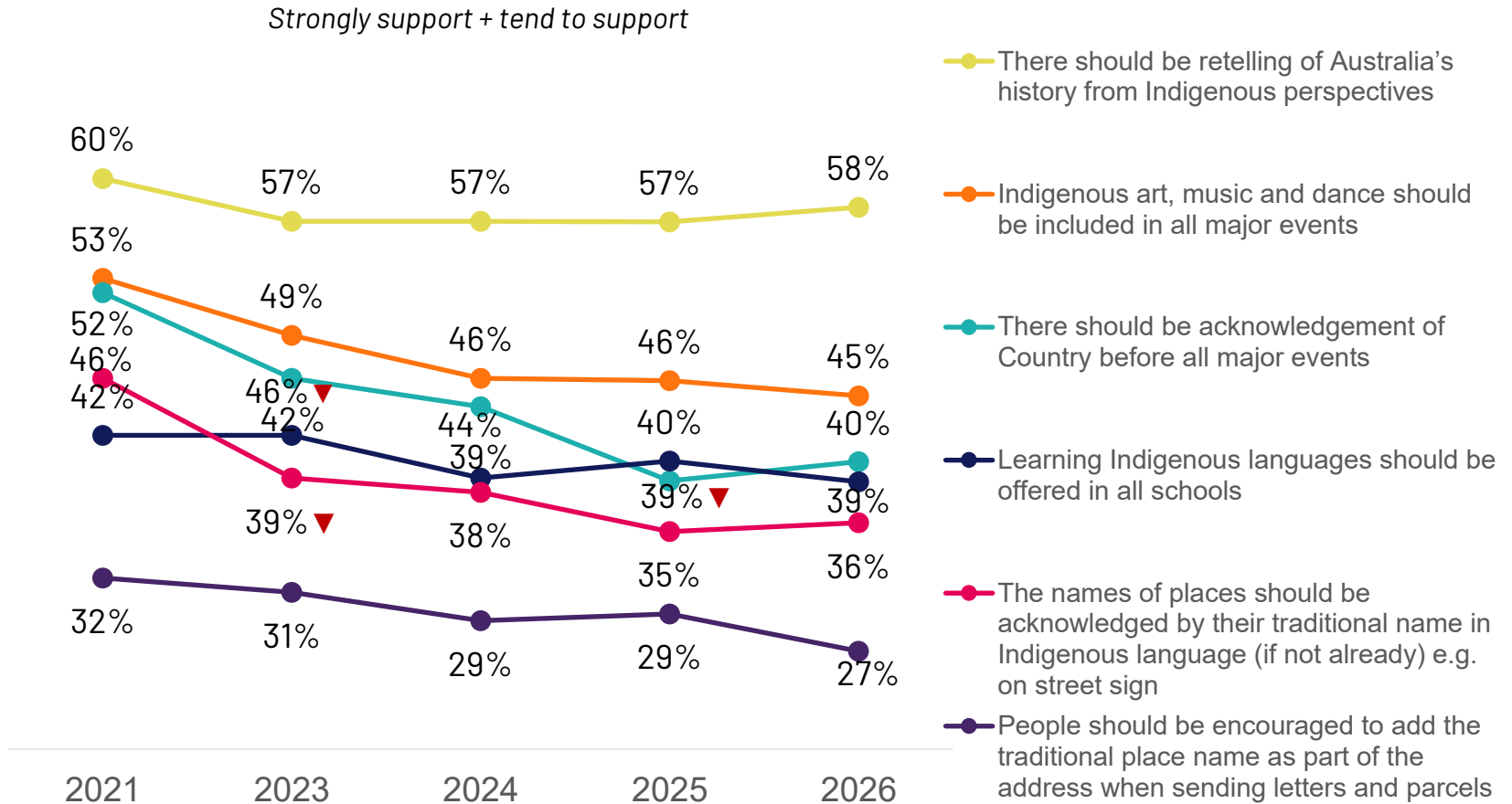
Support continues to be highest for initiatives that focus on retelling Australia's history through Indigenous perspectives (58%) and lowest for adding traditional place names to postal addresses (27%).

The pattern by audience is consistent across every initiative: younger (18-49) and metro Australians are more supportive, while older (50+) and regional Australians are less so.

On retelling history, for instance, support ranges from 70% among 18-29s to 49% among those aged 50+, and is higher in metro areas (61%) than regional (50%). Support is also higher in New South Wales (63%) and lower in Queensland (49%).

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2021 n=911; 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906
Source: Q7. To what extent do you support or oppose the following in Australia?

Support for closing the gap initiatives in Australia



Opposition to Acknowledgements of Country driven by doubts over value

40% of non-Indigenous Australians support Acknowledgements of Country before all major events (see previous slide). A similar proportion (39%) oppose them.

Among those opposing acknowledgements of Country at all major events, the most common view was that they are unnecessary or a waste of time.

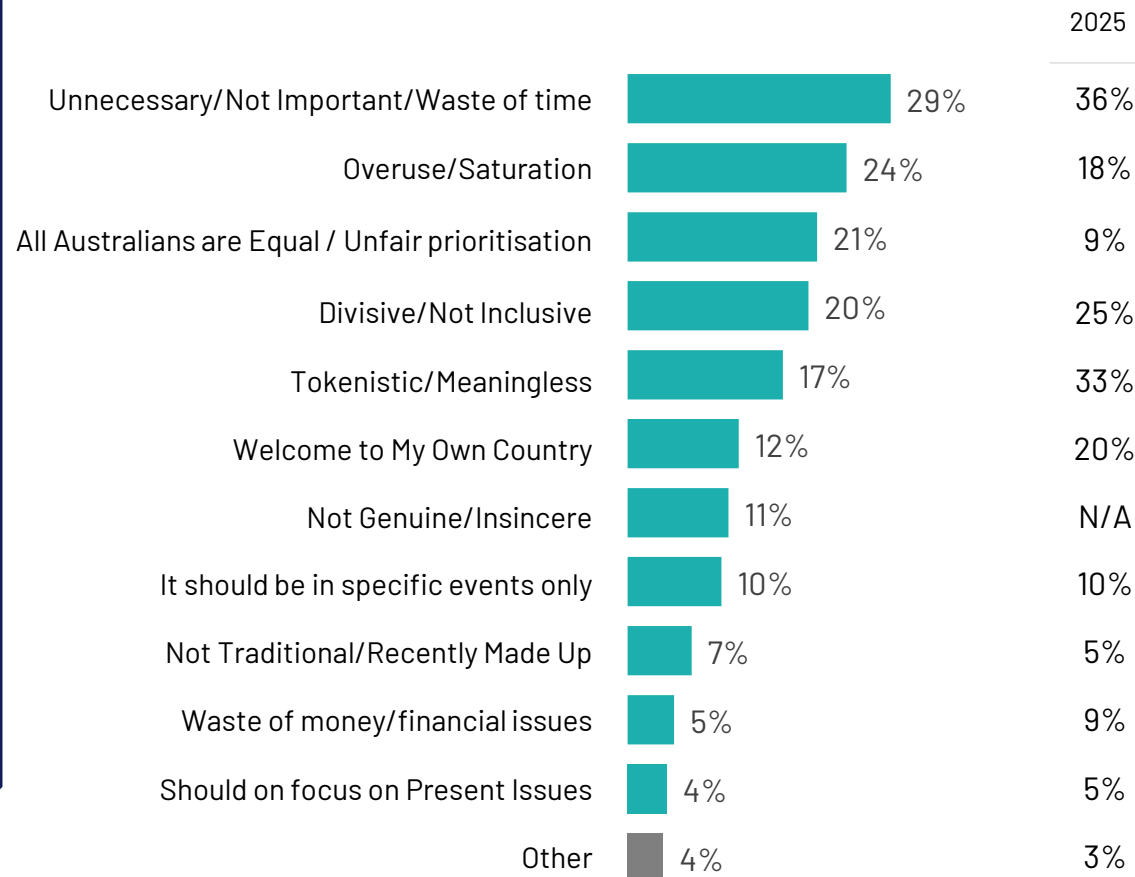
Many also feel that Acknowledgements of Country have become overused and lose meaning through repetition, while others objected on the grounds that they unfairly prioritise one group, or that they divide rather than unite Australians

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians who responded Tend to Oppose or Strongly Oppose to Acknowledgement of Country before events (Q7), 2026 n=357.

Source: Q8. You said that you oppose acknowledgements of Country before all major events. Can you tell us more about why you oppose this in Australia?

Reasons for Opposition to Acknowledgements of Country before all Major Events in Australia

You said that you oppose Acknowledgements of Country before all major events. Can you tell us more about why you oppose this in Australia?



Can become meaningless; just empty words.

We are all Australian, no matter where we come from or who we are.

So many people have made Australia what it is today, especially the early settlers, who should be acknowledged, and are not!

Welcome to Country is not supported either by Indigenous or Australians. It was a political statement made by Ernie Dingo who has never been an elected member of any statutory government.

Most who oppose Acknowledgements of Country still do not condone booing

Following the booing of a Welcome to Country during Anzac Day commemorations, those who oppose Acknowledgements of Country before all major events were asked their views on booing.

Even within this group, the majority are opposed to booing (73%), with more than half strongly opposed (55%), indicating a broad consensus for respecting Acknowledgements of Country.

Just 1 in 10 (10%) support booing to any extent. Support for booing is higher among men (15%) than women (5%), though it remains a minority view in both groups.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians who oppose Acknowledgements of Country - 2026 n=358

Source: Q8b. You said that you oppose acknowledgements of Country before all major events. To what extent do you support or oppose booing?

39%

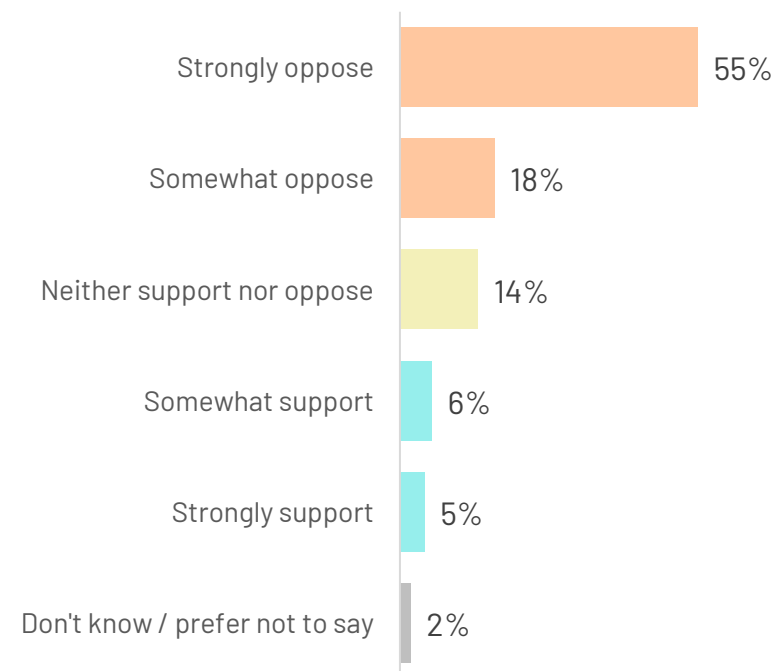
of non-Indigenous Australians oppose acknowledgement of Country before all major events

Of these



Extent to which non-Indigenous Australians who oppose Acknowledgements of Country support or oppose booing at major events

You said that you oppose acknowledgements of Country before all major events. To what extent do you support or oppose booing?



▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

Opposition to changing the date of Australia Day holds steady

Support for changing the date of Australia Day has trended downwards since 2023, now one in five (21%).

Support is strongest among those aged 30-49 (25%) and metro Australians (24%). Support among younger Australians (18-29) has fallen to 23%, down from 35% in 2025.

With the downwards trend in support, the proportion of non-Indigenous Australians oppose changing the date (46%) is now twice as large as those who support the change.

Opposition to changing the date is much higher among older Australians (50+: 62%) and those in regional areas (56%). Opposition is highest in Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania (all 53%), and lowest in Victoria, where just 37% oppose a change.

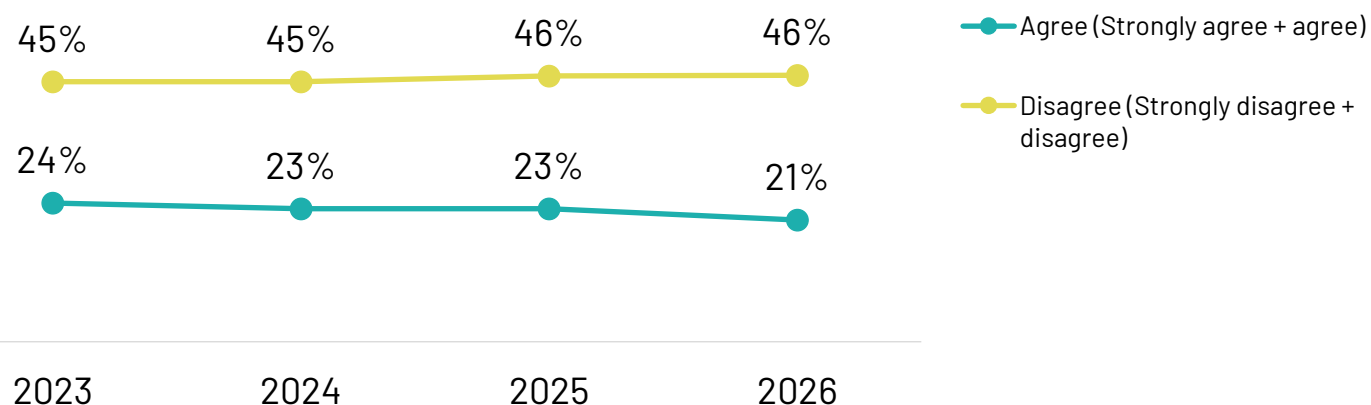
Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965, 2025 N=900, 2026 n=906

Source: Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the campaign to change the date of Australia Day from the 26th January?*

*Question not asked in 2021 and asked with a 5-pt scale in 2020 so not directly comparable.

Attitude towards changing the date of Australia Day

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the campaign to change the date of Australia Day from the 26th January?



▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

Modern racism

Exposure to racial slurs about First Nations peoples is largely unchanged

Reported exposure to racial jokes and slurs in public, social and institutional settings is unchanged in the past year. However, the proportion on non-Indigenous Australians who report having seen such content on social media has increased by 4 percentage points to 70% in 2026.

Younger people report hearing slurs far more often than older Australians across every context — for example, 80% of 18-29s have heard them in public, compared with 60% of those aged 50+. Men also report hearing them more often than women.

Non-Indigenous Australians with little or no day-to-day interaction with First Nations peoples are also less likely to report hearing slurs or jokes on social media (57%, versus 74% among those with at least a fair bit of interaction).

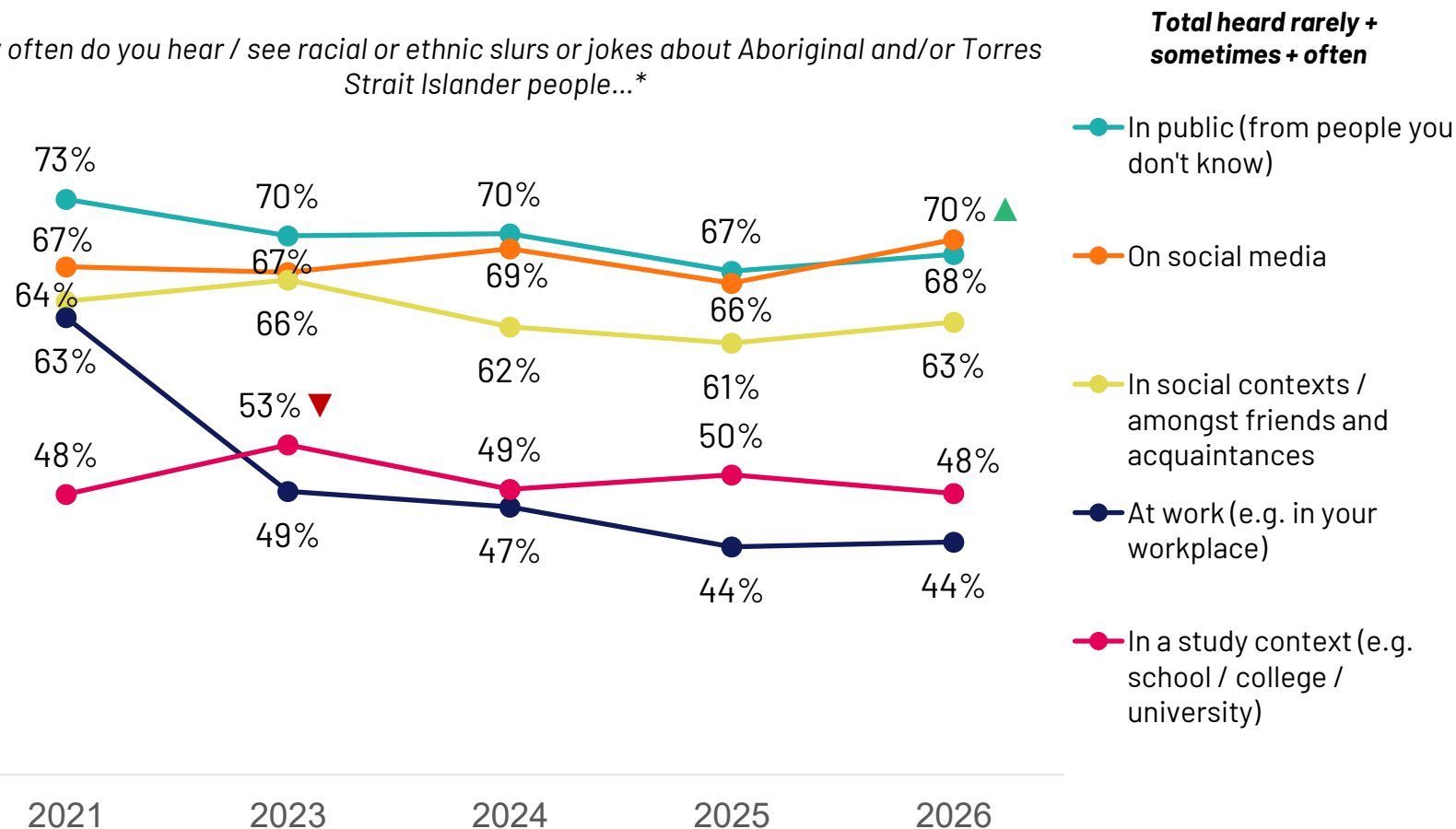
Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2021 n=911; 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906

Source: Q16. How often do you hear / see racial or ethnic slurs or jokes about Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people...

*Excluding those who responded 'Not Applicable / Don't know'

Proportion of non-Indigenous Australians who have heard racial or ethnic slurs/jokes about First Nations Peoples

How often do you hear / see racial or ethnic slurs or jokes about Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people...*



▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

Reported reactions to hearing racial slurs or jokes are unchanged

Overall, there are no changes in reported reactions to experiences of racial or ethnic slurs or jokes about Indigenous people.

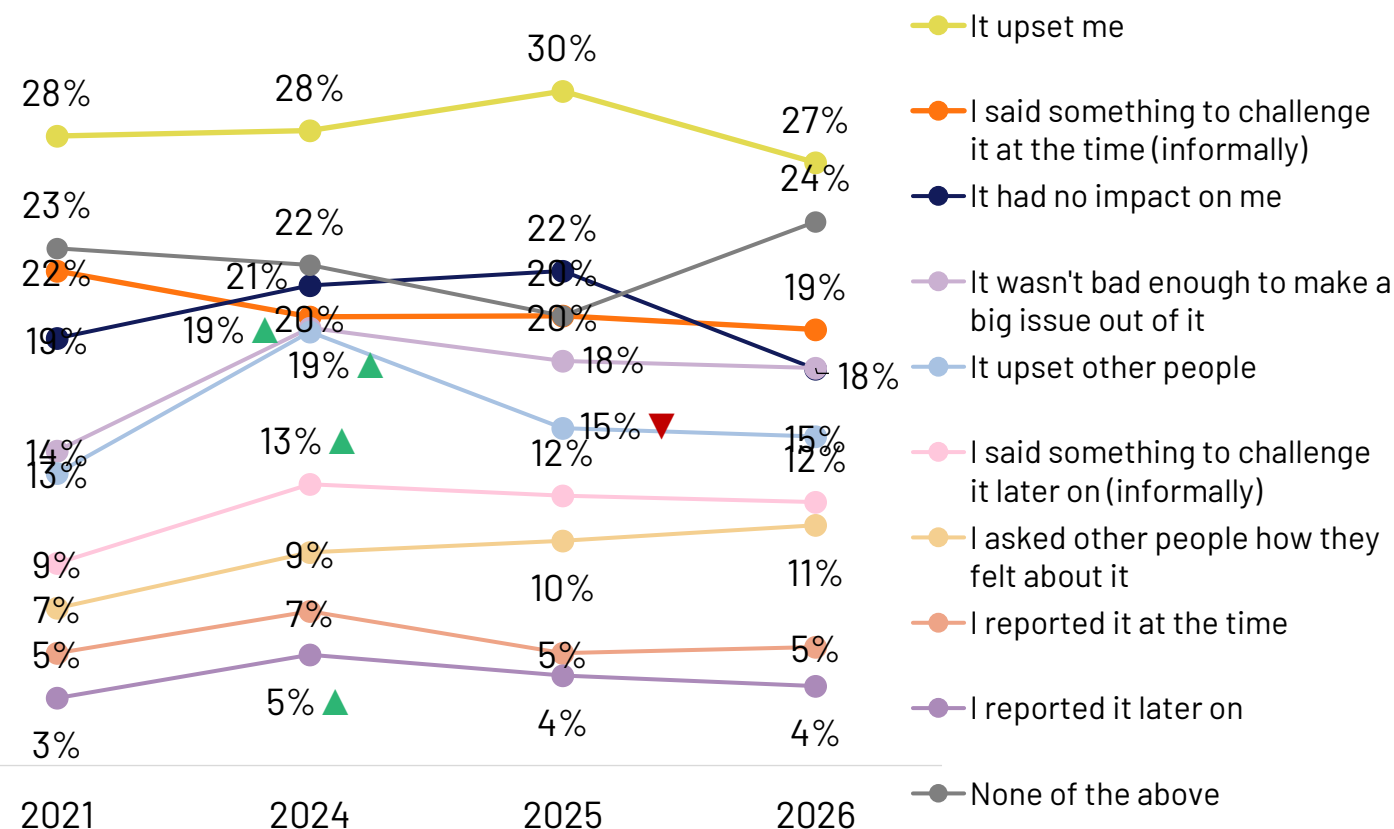
However, there are indications that some non-Indigenous Australians may be more open to letting slurs and jokes pass, with a non-statistically significant increase of 4 percentage points in the proportion of who say that *nothing happened* and a corresponding drop in the proportion who said that *it upset them*.

Younger people (aged 18-29) are more likely to report reacting to racial slurs or jokes than older people.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians who heard a racial slur 2021 n= 725; 2024 n=764; 2025 n=701; 2026 n=727
Source: Q17. When you have heard or seen racial or ethnic slurs or jokes about Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, what happened as a result? (select all that apply)

Outcome of hearing racial slurs/jokes about First Nations Peoples

When you have heard or seen racial or ethnic slurs or jokes about Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, what happened as a result?



▲ ▼ Significantly higher/lower than previous wave, 95% C.I.

Modern Racism against Indigenous Australians is unchanged

Non-Indigenous Australians' responses to Modern Racism statements about Indigenous Australians increased around the time of the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. It has remained at consistent levels since that time.

The notable increase in agreement that new migrants should adapt to mainstream cultural values has continued (now 65%).

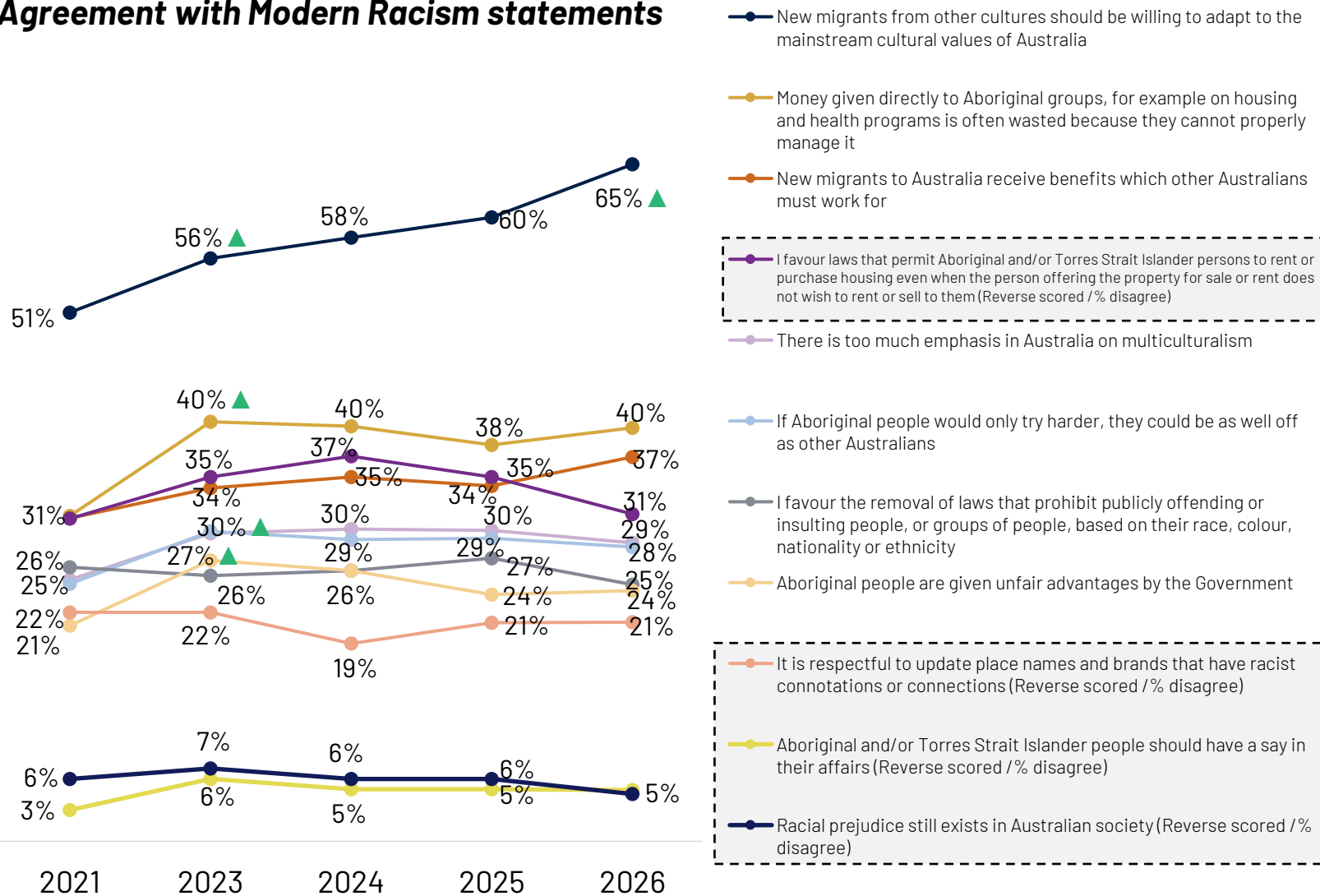
Younger (age 18-29) Australians' views are generally less likely to be aligned with Modern Racism statements. However, they are less likely than older people to agree that racial prejudice still exists in Australia (54% compared to 69% of those 30-49) and that Indigenous people should have a say in their affairs (55% compared to 66%).

Regional Australians are more likely to feel there is too much focus on multiculturalism (36% vs 27% in metro areas).

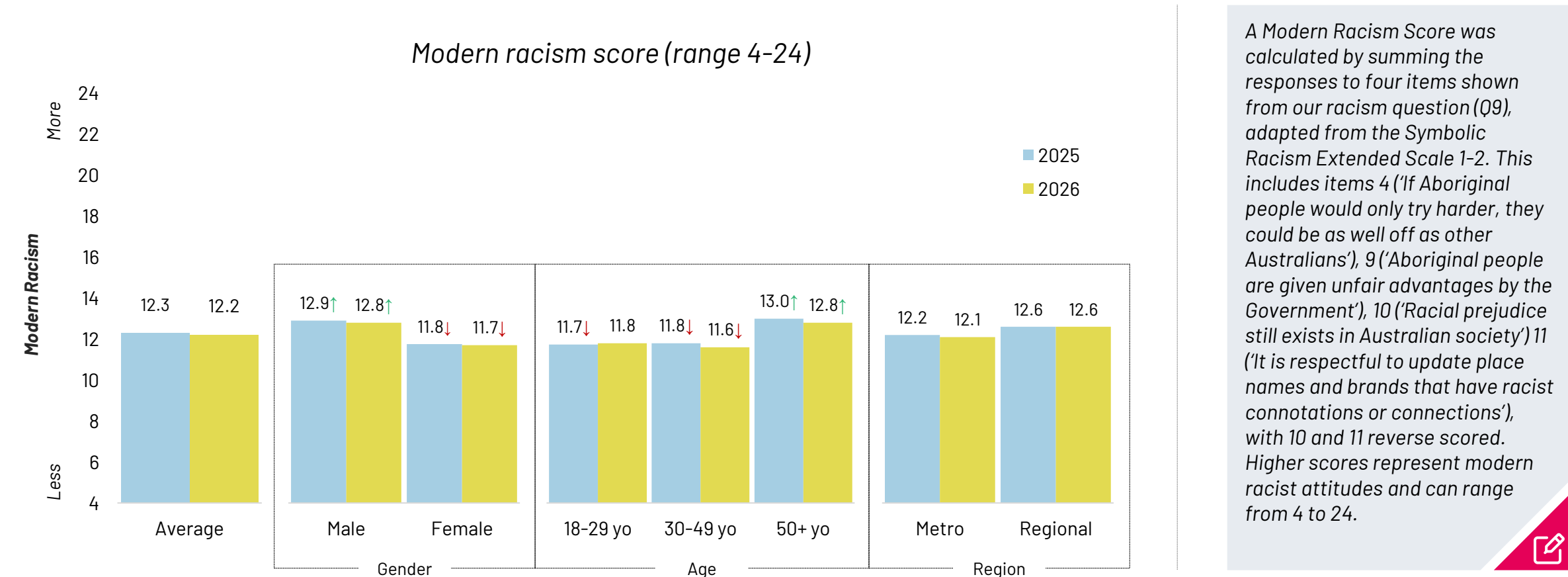
Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2021 n=911; 2023 n=946; 2024 n=965; 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906

Source: Q9. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Agreement with Modern Racism statements

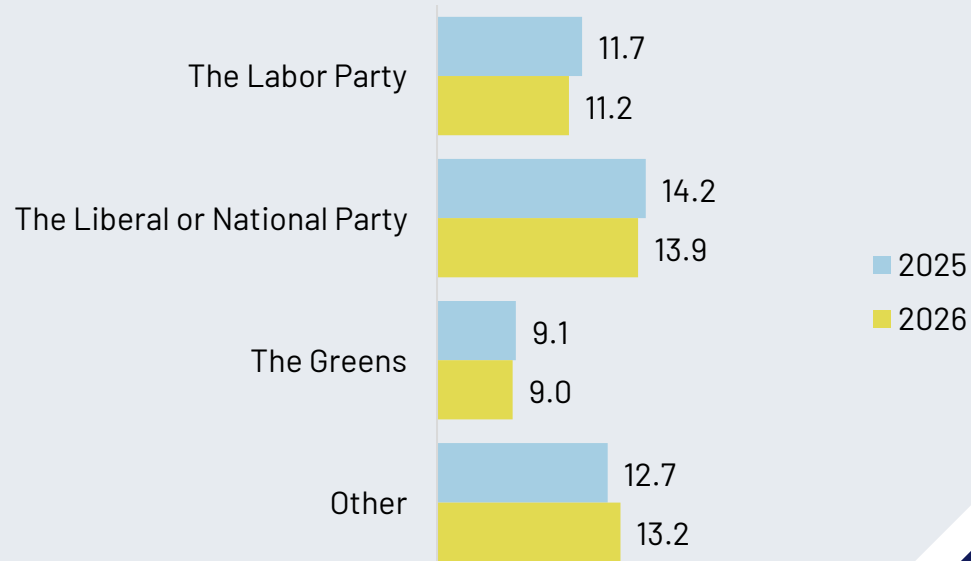


Overall Modern Racism scores are consistent with 2025, with men and older Australians still scoring higher than other groups

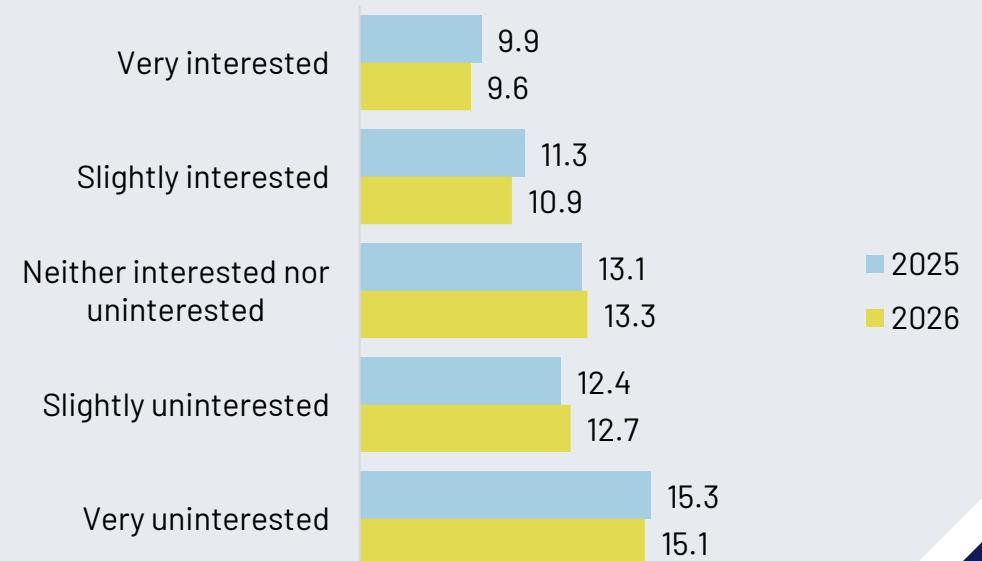


The Modern Racism score can assist in exploring underlying perceptions and determine which attitudes may be difficult to shift

For example, when crossed with political party preference, we can see the Modern Racism score varies across the parties.



Those with higher Modern Racism Scores are less likely to be interested in Indigenous issues.



Base: Non-Indigenous Australians 2025 n=900; 2026 n=906

Source: Q21. Politically, do you tend to think of yourself as Liberal, National, Labor, Green, or something else? Q2. What is your level of interest in Indigenous issues in Australia?

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SAMPLE

Demographics (unweighted)



Sample

985 Respondents were interviewed online in 2026

2,069 in 2020,
1,010 in 2021,
1,000 in 2023,
1,000 in 2024,
942 in 2025



Gender

48%
Male

2021 49%
2023 49%
2024 48%
2025 47%

52%
Female

2021 51%
2023 52%
2024 52%
2025 52%



Life stage

54% (2024 50%, 2025 54%)
Parents

42% (2024 45%, 2025 41%)
Non-parents

3% (2024 5%, 2025 4%)
Refused



Background

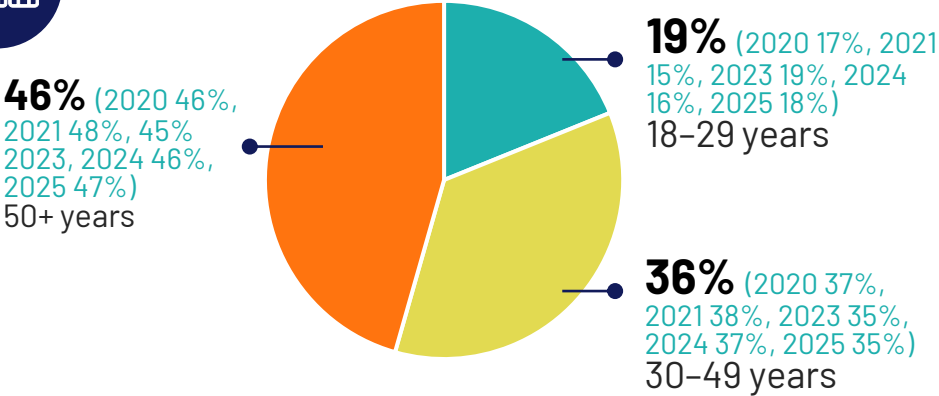
29% (2020 27%, 2021 29%, 2023 24%, 2024 29%, 2025 30%)
CALD

71% (2020 73%, 2021 71%, 2023 75%, 2024 71%, 2025 70%)
Non-CALD

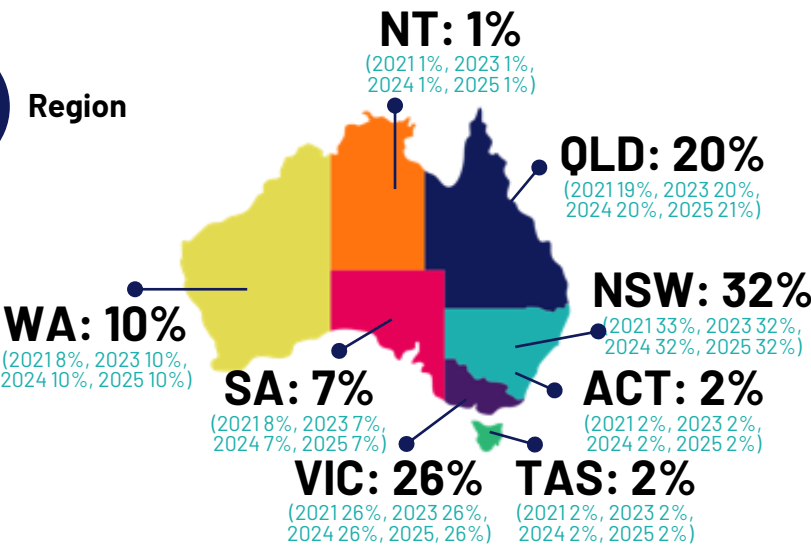
Demographics (unweighted)



Age group



Region



Indigenous Identity

5%	(2021 4%, 2023 4%, 2024 3%, 2025 3%)	Aboriginal
1%	(2021 2%, 2023 0%, 2024 0% , 2025 0%)	Torres Strait Islander
2%	(2021 2%, 2023 1%, 2024 1%, 2025 1%)	Both
92%	(2021 90%, 2023 95%, 2024 97%, 2025 96%)	No
0%	(2021 2%, 2023 0%, 2024 0%, 2025 0%)	Refused/ Don't know



Education

45%	(2021 42%, 2023 38%, 2024 45%, 2025 48%)	Bachelor & higher
16%	(2021 31%, 2023 31%, 2024 30%, 2025 30%)	TAFE/Cert
25%	(2021 26%, 2023 30%, 2024 24%, 2025 21%)	High school or less
1%	(2021 1%, 2023 1%, 2024 1%, 2025 1%)	Prefer not to say

Demographics (unweighted)



Non-Indigenous Australians' interaction with First Nations Peoples

5% (2021 5%, 2023 6%, 2024 4%, 2025 5%)	A lot
20% (2021 18%, 2023 23%, 2024 21%, 2025 19%)	A fair bit
51% (2021 51%, 2023 50%, 2024 51%, 2025 53%)	Not very much
24% (2021 25%, 2023 21%, 2024 22%, 2025 23%)	Not at all



Combined income

6% (2024 8%, 2025 6%)	Less than \$25k
32% (2024 31%, 2025 29%)	\$25k to just under \$75k
42% (2024 45%, 2025 46%)	\$75k to just under \$200k
12% (2024 7%, 2025 12%)	\$200k and above
9% (2024 9%, 2025 7%)	Refused / Don't know



Employment

36% (2021 39%, 2023 33%, 2024 39%, 2025 41%)	Full-time
18% (2021 20%, 2023 16%, 2024 18%, 2025 17%)	Part-time
6% (2025 6%)	Self-employed
39% (2021 40%, 2023 45%, 2024 35%, 2025 35%)	Not employed
2% (2021 1%, 2023 1%, 2024 2%, 2025 1%)	Other



Citizenship

76% Born in Australia
70% Australian Citizens
53% Arrived 20+ years ago
19% Arrived 11-20 years ago
9% Arrived 6-10 years ago
19% Arrived in the last 5 years

Additional verbatims on need for government action for First Nations

Quotes from people who think we should be doing more:

[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people] seem to be suffering in many aspects of life, in general. A lot more could be done for them in education, health, and housing. Helping them into the work force and acceptance into our community.

There is nothing we can do to make the wrong right. So, the least we can do is acknowledge them.

As long as there are still systematic injustices like disproportionate rates of First Nations peoples dying in custody, there is still more to be done for improving First Nations rights.

First Nations people are still disadvantaged in some areas – not because of lack of government funding, but because the funding is very poorly managed.

I feel like with the recent booing with the Welcome to Country on ANZAC Day, we need to put more protections to curb racism running rampant today.

Because they are also our people. They deserve people and [possess] inequality before the law.

Because irreversible damage was done by the coloniser to the First Nations peoples' cultures. Reparations are in order.

Letting them have a voice in Parliament, more indigenous education in schools, [and] training programs for First Nations.

Changing the date [of Australia Day], for starters.

In remote areas, they are living in overcrowded camps and falling into crime.

Because the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody made recommendations that have yet to be implemented.

Because we're the only country that doesn't have some sort of treaty with their indigenous people.

The support is not being managed well. Yes, there are benefits for ATSI, but are they really benefitting from it? Are we seeing better quality of life from them?

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians who think the Australian Government should be doing more for First Nations peoples to Q13, 2026 n=283.
Source: Q13. Why do you think the Australian Government should be doing more for First Nations peoples?

Quotes from people who think we should be doing less:

Our government bends over backwards for them already to the exclusion of Australian born Caucasian people.

What the government does is pander to the superstitions and persecution complexes of a minority, while punishing the majority. Stop the handouts and pandering.

They are overcompensating and being taken advantage of.

The Government is investing billions into First Nations initiatives. This money is not being spent where it should be spent and this must stop.

There is too much cronyism as the system currently operates.

It is breeding a culture of dependence, not teaching resilience.

Wasting time and money. The representatives need to represent every Australian and not create more layers of bureaucracy.

They have too many benefits, including their own 24-hr medical centres, etc.

They spend a lot of taxpayer funds on unnecessary & unwanted ceremonies.

Not necessarily less, but they should have more say where the money granted to them should go. Aboriginal land councils seem to have done little to benefit their people, and should be made more accountable. They should listen to Jacinta Price who says it perfectly, and knows what she is saying!

I think it's a case of teaching the person to fish, rather than just spoonfeeding them.

Huge expenditure and welfare has disempowered communities.

The government is wasting too much money on indigenous peoples, it should set up programs that are fully supervised and give them what they need and stop throwing money at them that they can't handle in an efficient way.

Base: Non-Indigenous Australians who think the Australian Government should be doing less for First Nations peoples, 2026 n=162.
Source: Q14. Why do you think the Australian Government should be doing less for First Nations peoples?

CONTACT DETAILS:

David.Elliott@Ipsos.com