

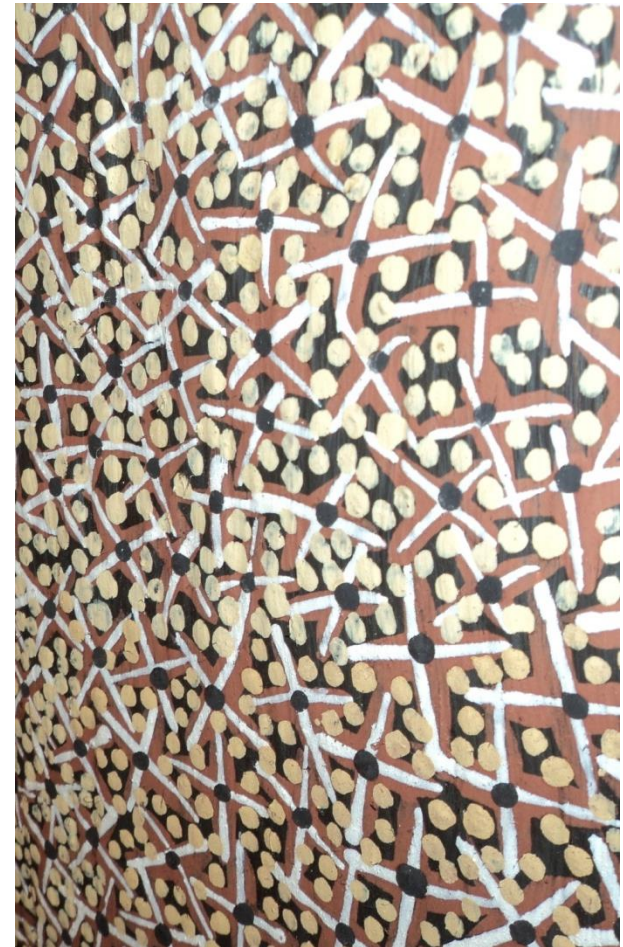
# 2018 AUSTRALIAN RECONCILIATION BAROMETER



**RECONCILIATION**  
AUSTRALIA

# Contents

1. **Introduction & background**
2. **Methodology**
  - ▶ Online survey details 2018
  - ▶ ARB approach 2014-2018
  - ▶ ARB approach 2008-2012
3. **Australian Reconciliation Barometer 2018**
  - ▶ Key high level findings
  - ▶ Full results:
    - Race Relations
    - Equality & Equity
    - Unity
    - Institutional Integrity
    - Historical Acceptance
  - ▶ Trends analysis
4. **Appendix**
  - ▶ Online survey sample profiles



# Introduction & background

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

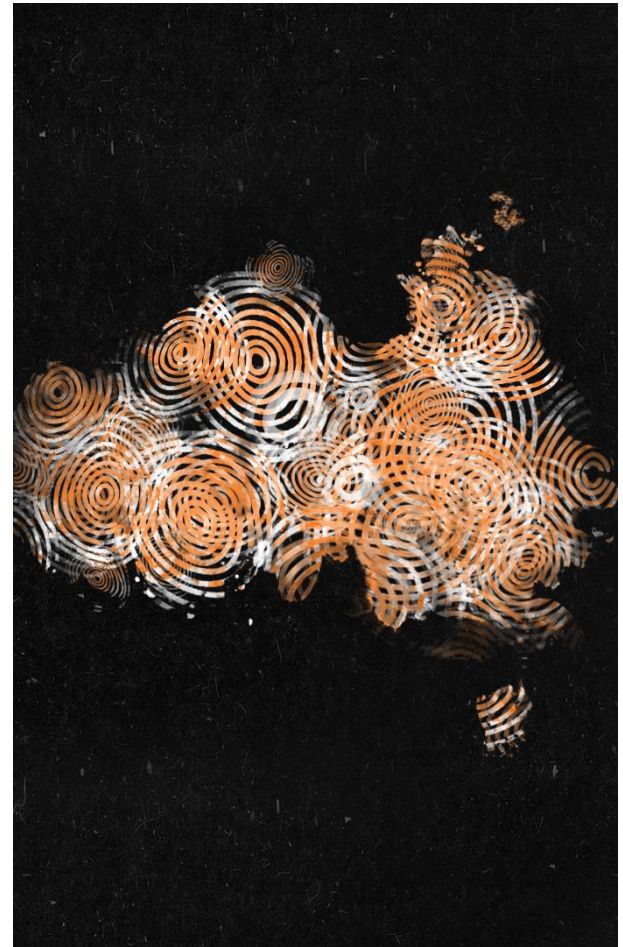
The objective of the research was to develop a tool to measure the progress of reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians.

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.

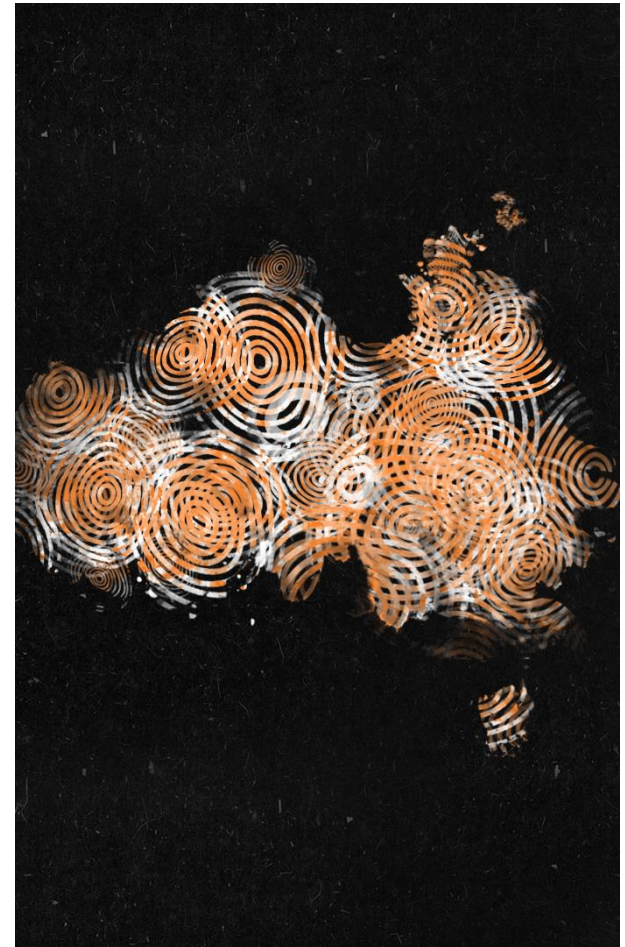
Reconciliation Australia undertook a review of reconciliation in Australia and internationally, and as a result of this work, five critical dimensions that together represent a holistic and comprehensive picture of reconciliation were identified.

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

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

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

## **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.

## **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.

The 2018 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 10-year tracking (where possible).

As the Methodology overview explains, it must be noted that long-term tracking prior to 2014 to today should be approached with some caution.

# Methodology 2018 Barometer: Survey details

## **General Community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Samples - 2018**

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 1995 completed the survey between 16-30 July 2018, and is associated with a margin of error of +/-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 were self-identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The sample of 497 completed the survey between 17 July-28 August 2018 (simultaneously with the general community sample), and is associated with a margin of error of +/-4.4% at the 95% confidence interval.

Both the general community sample and 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 +/-4.9%

WA, SA, Tasmania, +/-6.9%

ACT, NT, +/-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.

# Methodology 2014-2018 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.

Nevertheless, the results of these past surveys have, where applicable, been included in the Barometer reported in full in this report. This allows for possible trend analysis by readers of this report, however Polity advises caution regarding any dramatic changes in results from 2012.

## **Acknowledged limitations**

Gaining a truly representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians remains difficult because of a number of geographical and socioeconomic factors. Accounting for these factors comprehensively is beyond the current budget scope of the research, and as such the sample of Indigenous people may not be truly representative of the overall Indigenous population (particularly encompassing remote community views).

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 peoples. 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.

## **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. The same questionnaire was used in surveys of Indigenous Australians as well as the general community, to allow a direct comparison between the attitudes of the two groups. This first Barometer survey was conducted in May 2008, May 2010 and July 2012.

## **General Community Sample**

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**

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<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June 2008, while 704 Indigenous Australians completed it in 12<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 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.



# The social context of changing attitudes

Before interpreting any changes in the survey results between 2008 and 2018, it is worthwhile examining how the broader social, political, and economic environment has changed in Australia during this period. There have been some important changes in the last 10 years and these may have influenced our attitudes to reconciliation and other Indigenous issues.

## **The Apology to the Stolen Generation**

There were two “Indigenous events”, which were prominent at the time of the first Barometer, but have since become less visible as major issues in the media and the political debate. The first of these was the Federal Government’s Apology to the Stolen Generation in February 2008. This event acknowledged and brought attention to the impact of past government policies on Indigenous Australians. It was generally well received by the broader community, as well as Indigenous people, with the latter typically seeing it as a crucial step towards building better relations between the groups. As such, the apology brought attention to the issue of reconciliation in a positive way that set an optimistic tone for the future.

## **The Northern Territory Intervention**

The other major event occurring around the time of the first Barometer was the Northern Territory Intervention which began in late 2007. As with the Apology it generated significant media attention, but this time it was mostly focussed around negative portrayals of Indigenous people associated with themes of abuse, disadvantage and neglect. Although supported by both sides of politics, the intervention was controversial, with Indigenous people and other Australians divided on its merits.

In the time since these two events, there has generally been less attention given to Indigenous issues in the media, and there has also been a drop in the political salience of Indigenous issues compared to other concerns.

## **The Global Financial Crisis and financial security**

On a broader level there has also been a major change in the global financial environment and this has affected the importance that Australians ascribe to various issues. Concern over the Global Financial Crisis peaked around 2009 and continues to affect sentiment today. At a broad level the post-GFC public mood has seen a shift from one of prosperity to one of

uncertainty and guarded optimism. Other public indicators have shown that over this period Australians have become relatively more concerned about job security and their financial stability and relatively less concerned with “non-financial issues” such as the environment or Indigenous reconciliation.

## **Campaign for Constitutional Recognition**

Since 2010 there had been considerable progress towards an agreement to hold a referendum that would recognise Indigenous people in the constitution. The expert panel for constitutional change released their initial report in January 2012 with recommendations for specific constitutional amendments. The movement for constitutional change had a relatively low profile at the time of the 2012 Barometer but steadily gained attention during 2013-2016.

However, in 2017 the Coalition Government decided to shelve the campaign indefinitely, following a period of Indigenous consultation and the resulting Referendum Council’s final report.

## **The Political Landscape, 2013-2018**

The Federal election of 2013 saw a change of Commonwealth Government and the ushering in of a national focus on austerity and a more conservative agenda, particularly towards immigration and welfare. This largely continued under the Turnbull Government.

Episodes such as the Don Dale Detention Centre outrage in 2016, and how Federal support for Constitutional Recognition has retreated since 2017, have likely impacted negatively on the relationship.

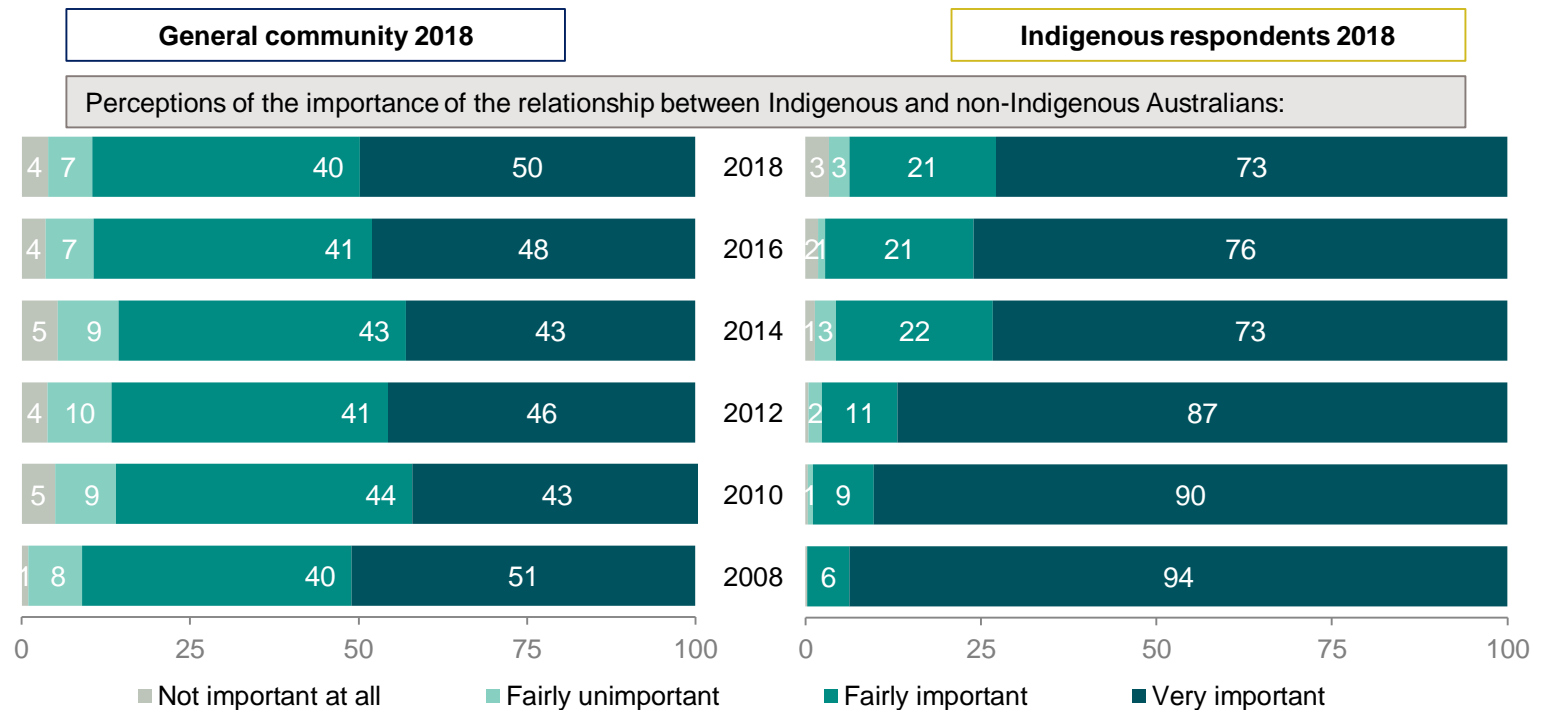
However, since 2016 all state parliaments have now amended their Constitutions to recognise Australia’s First Peoples through legislation. The Federal parliament also passed an Act of recognition in 2013.

These ‘mixed messages’ are arguably both helping and hindering the reconciliation cause.

2018

KEY FINDINGS

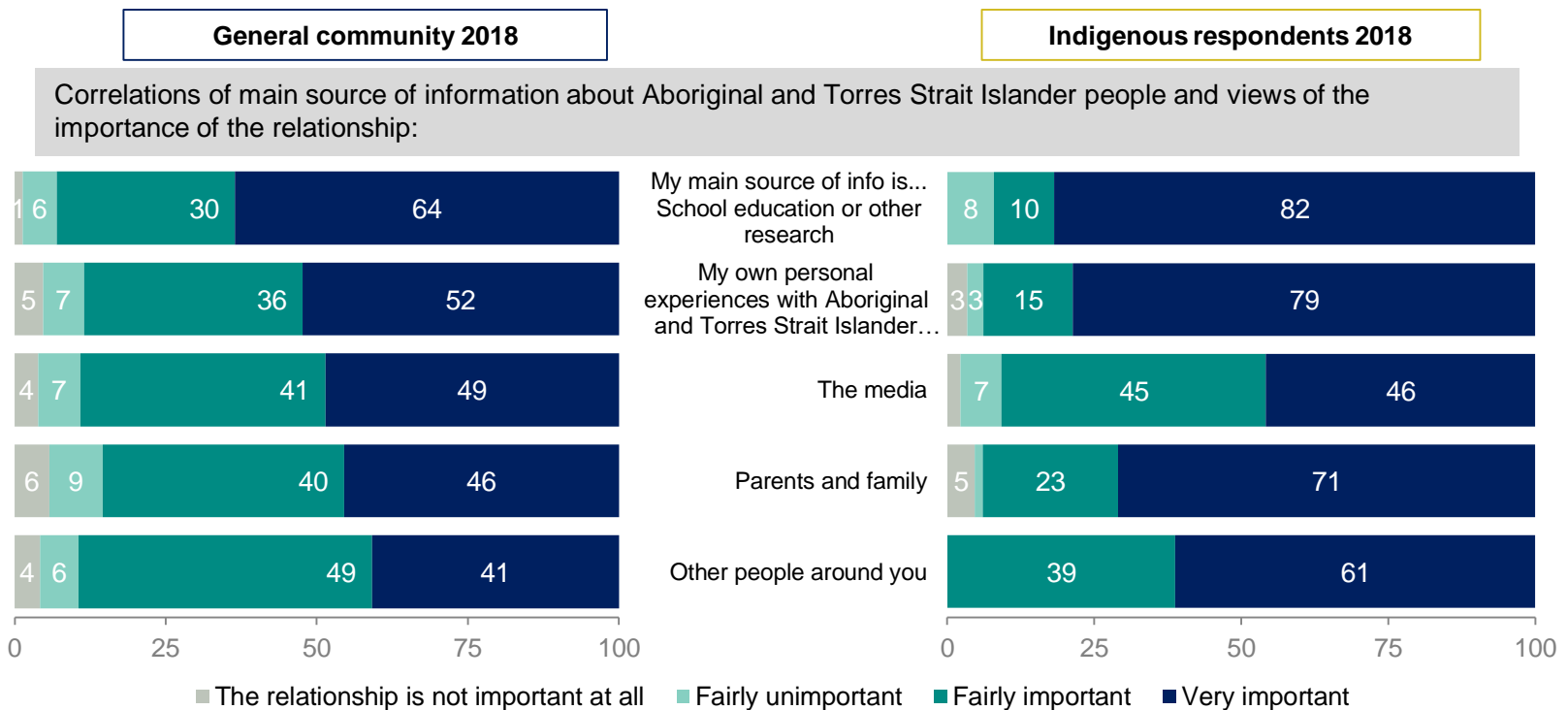
# Almost all Australians view the relationship as important



Most people among the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities continue to feel the relationship is important to Australia as a nation.

However, Indigenous respondents (73%) remain much more likely than the general community (50%) to view the relationship as very important.

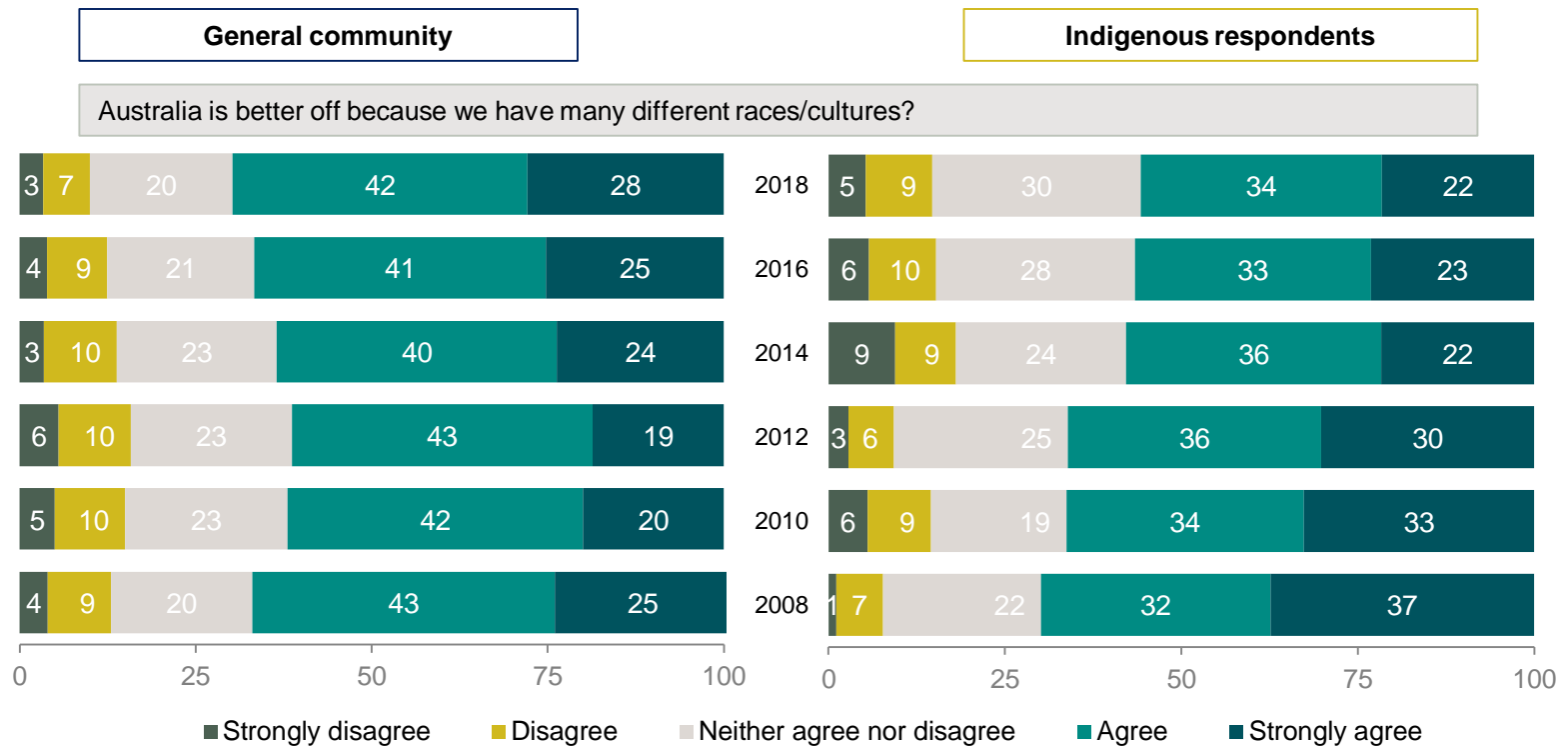
# Education and personal experience help drive views that the relationship is very important



People among both the general community and Indigenous peoples who cite personal experience or education sources (such as school or other research) as their *main* source of information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are most likely to view the relationship as very important.

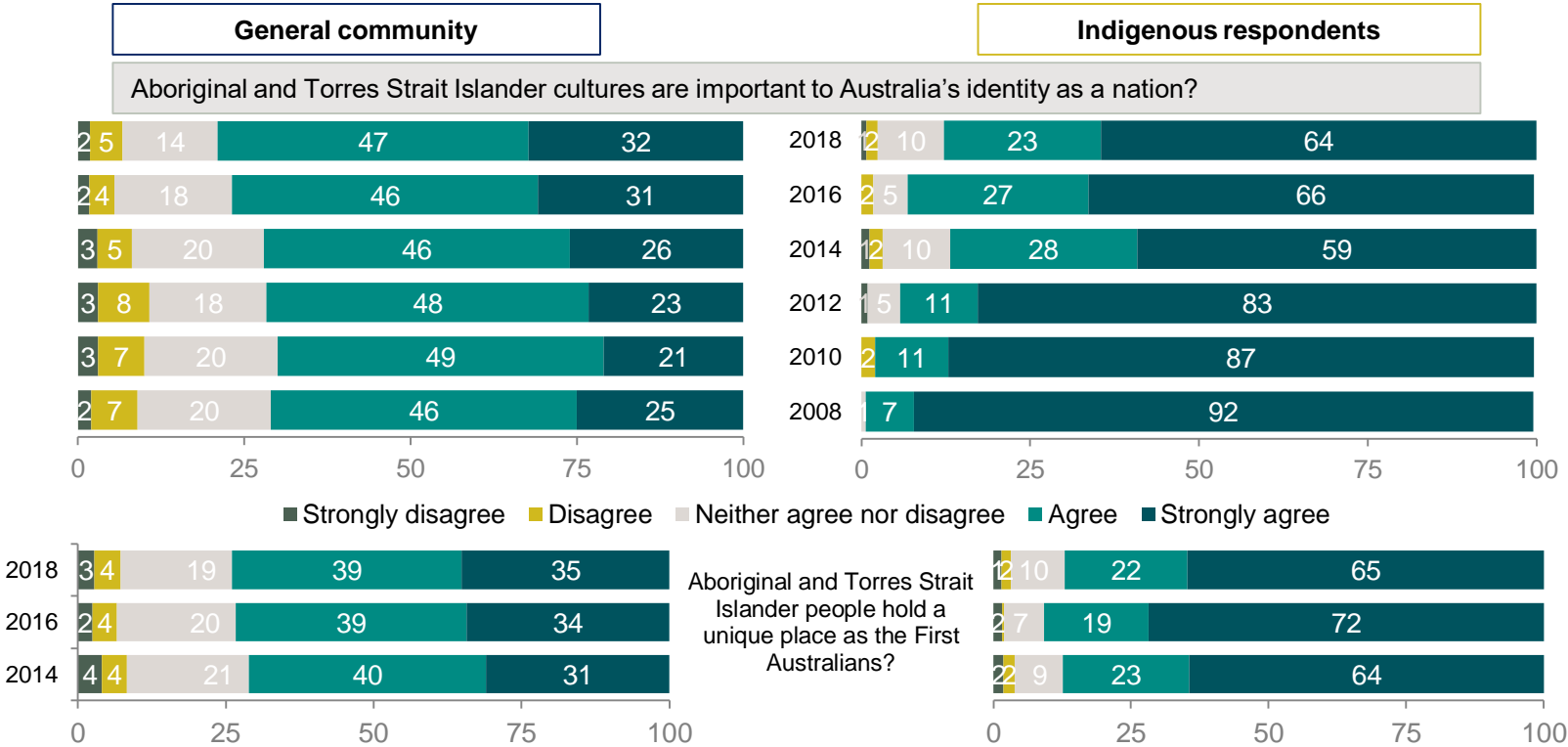
For Indigenous respondents, there is also a notable correlation with parents and family as their main source.

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



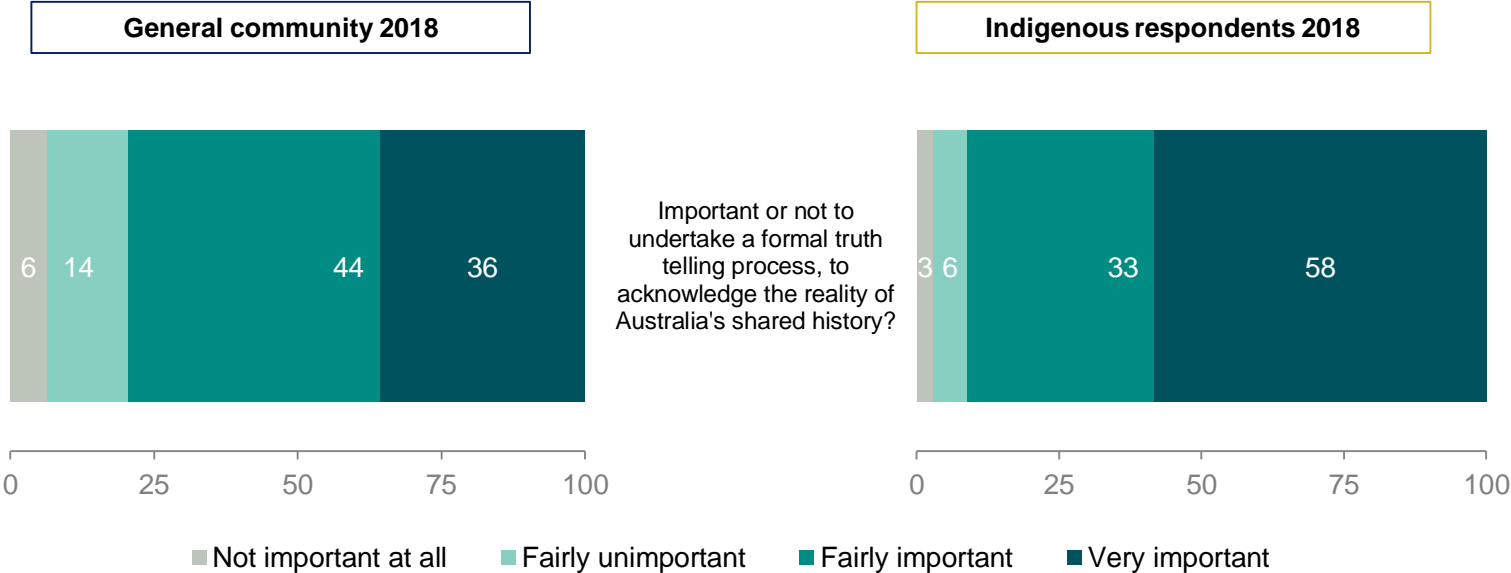
The general community continues to mostly agree that Australia is better off for having many cultural groups (70%), as do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (56%).

# We widely agree Indigenous people hold a unique and important place in the national identity



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be twice as likely to strongly agree (64%) that their cultures are important for Australia's national identity, compared to the general community (32%). Similarly, twice as many Indigenous respondents strongly agree that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold a unique place as the First Australians. However, there has been an encouraging increase in both sentiments in the general community, since 2014.

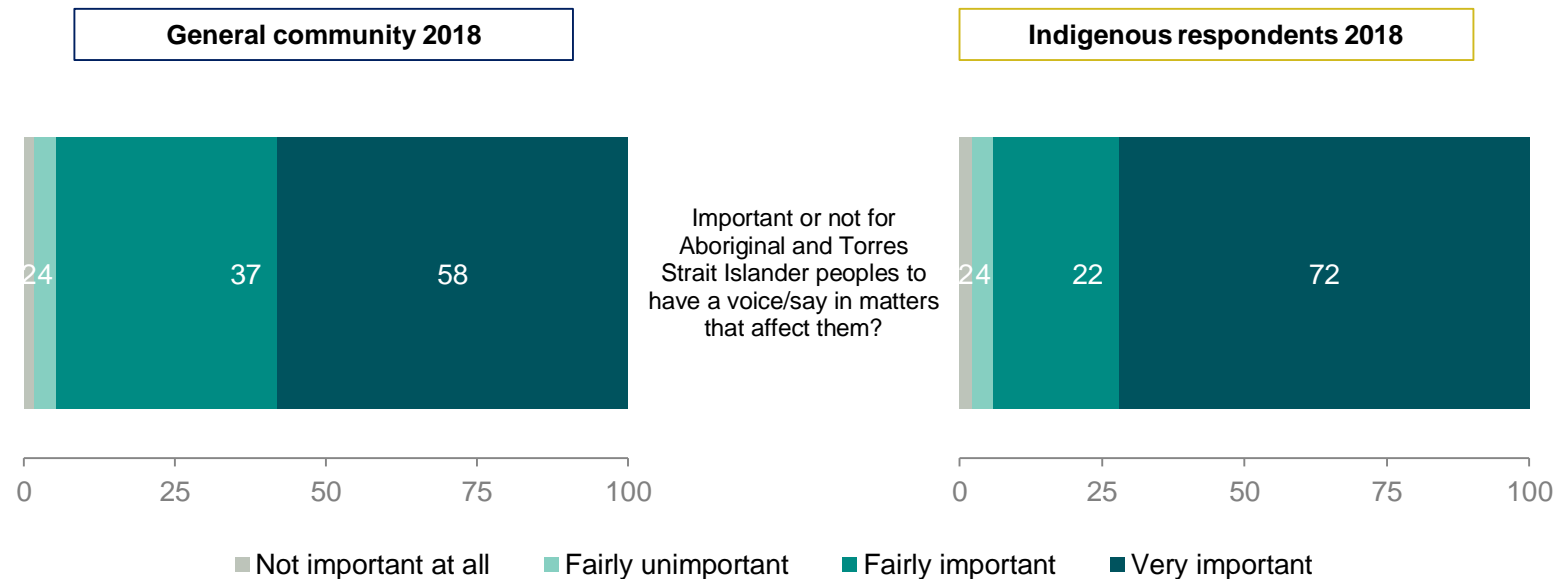
# We mostly believe it is important to undertake a formal truth-telling process



The general community (80%) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (91%) widely believe it's important to undertake a formal truth telling process, in relation to Australia's shared history.

However, Indigenous respondents are much more likely to feel this is very important, compared to the general public.

# We mostly believe it is very important for Indigenous peoples to have a say in their affairs

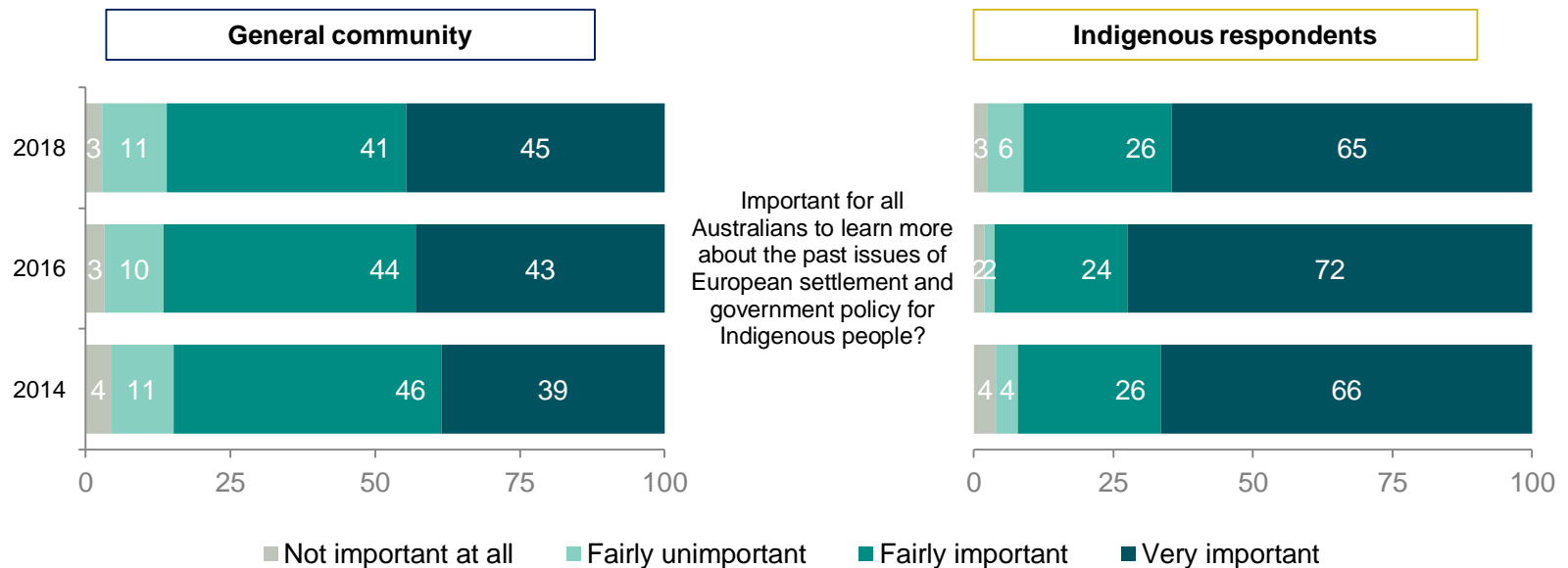


The general community (95%) and Indigenous communities (94%) widely believe it's important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have a say in matters that affect them.

Notably, this includes a strong majority of the general public (58%) who think this is very important.



# We continue to agree it is important for all Australians to learn more about past issues



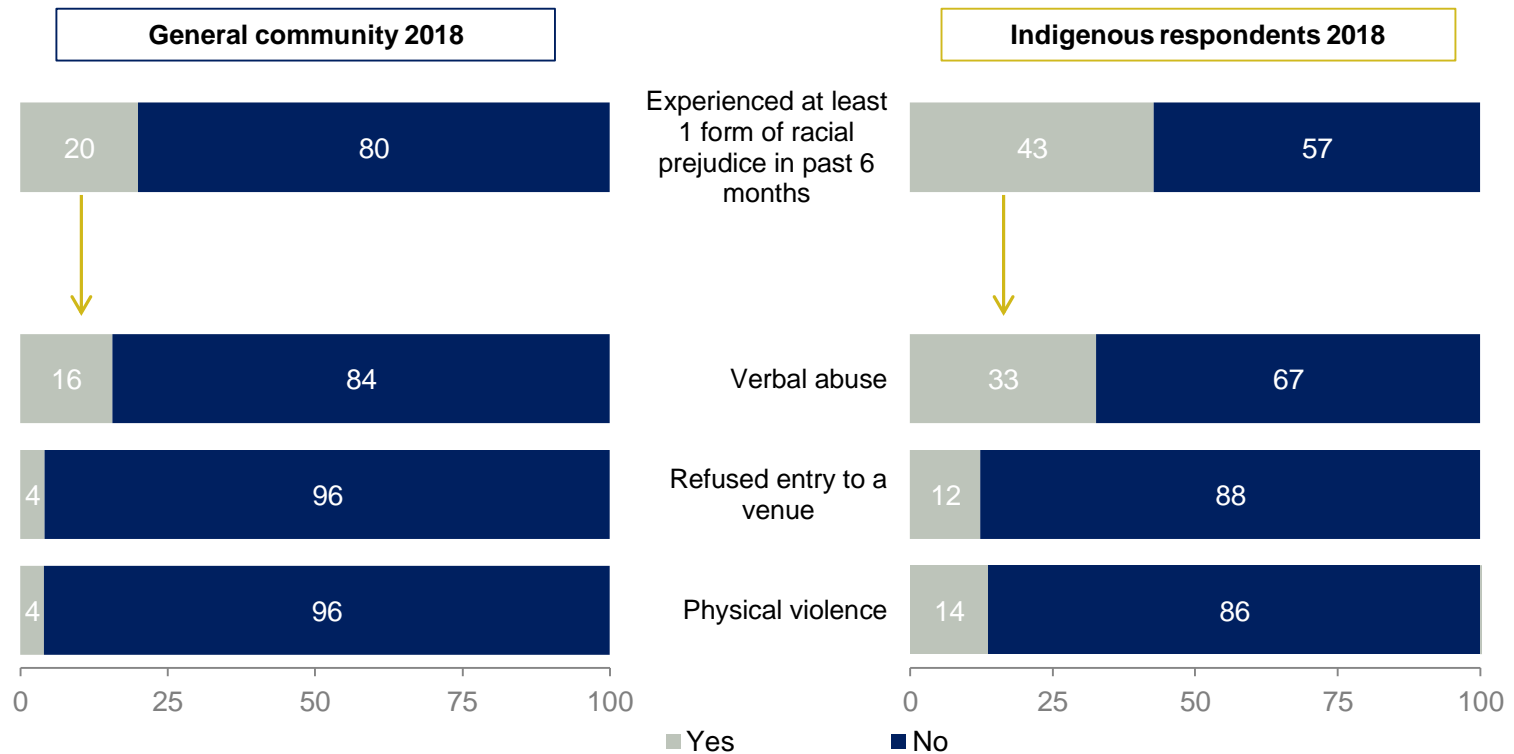
The general community (45%) remain less likely to feel that it's very important to learn about the past issues of European settlement and government policies experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, than Indigenous respondents (65%).

However, the vast majority in both communities has continued to believe that it's important, since 2014.

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

More Indigenous peoples have experienced racial prejudice in the last 6 months, than the general community, with 43% of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents having suffered at least one form of such racism.

The most common forms of this have been verbal abuse, refused entry or physical violence. This significant disparity in daily realities remains a key stumbling block in the relationship and an impediment to reconciliation.



# FINDINGS BY DIMENSION

Full results comparing Indigenous-only 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:**

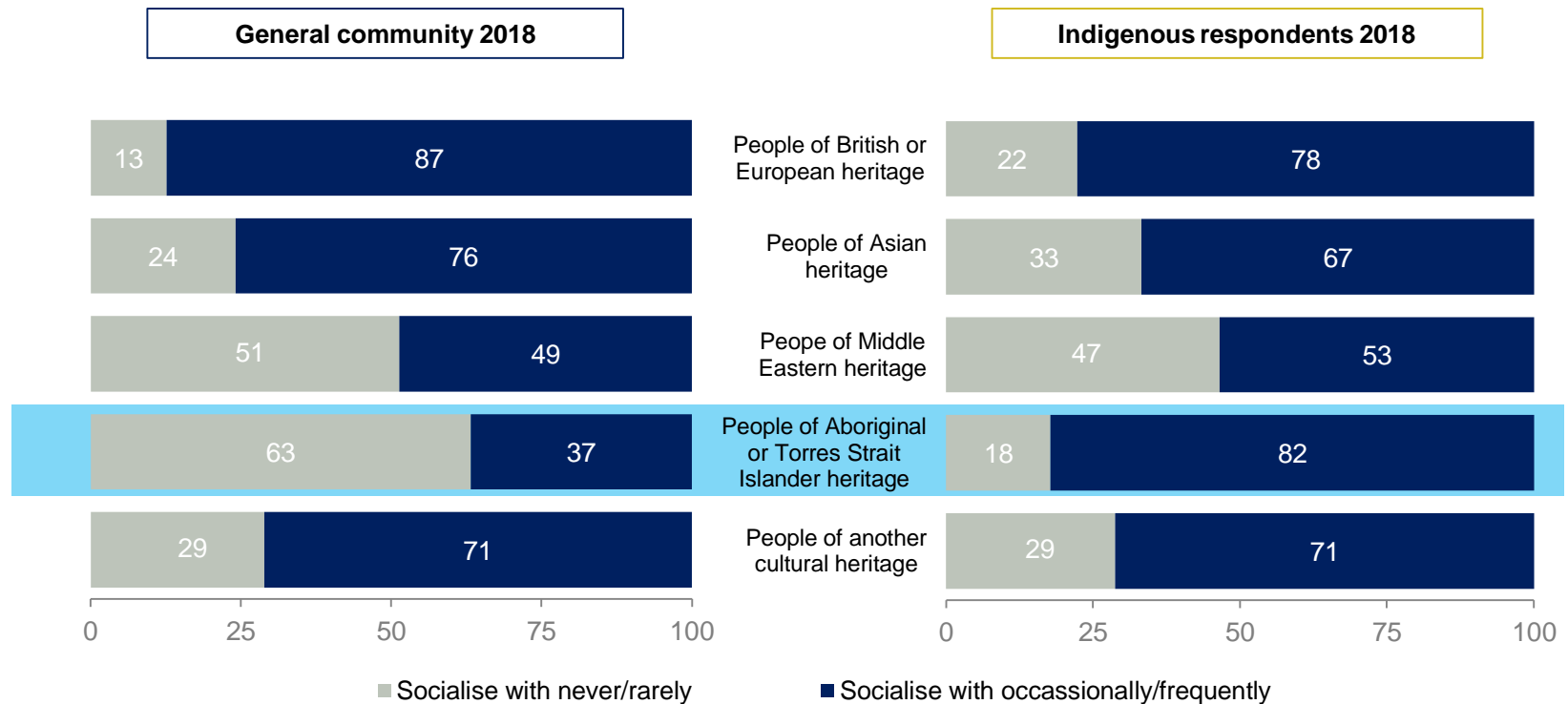
63% of Australians never or rarely socialise with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians

51% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents agree that Australia is a racist country, compared to 38% of the general community

Fewer Indigenous Australians feel culturally empowered than in 2016. 19% feel they can never be themselves at work, or in their interactions with law and order (25%)

43% of Indigenous Australians have experienced at least one form of racial prejudice in the last 6 months

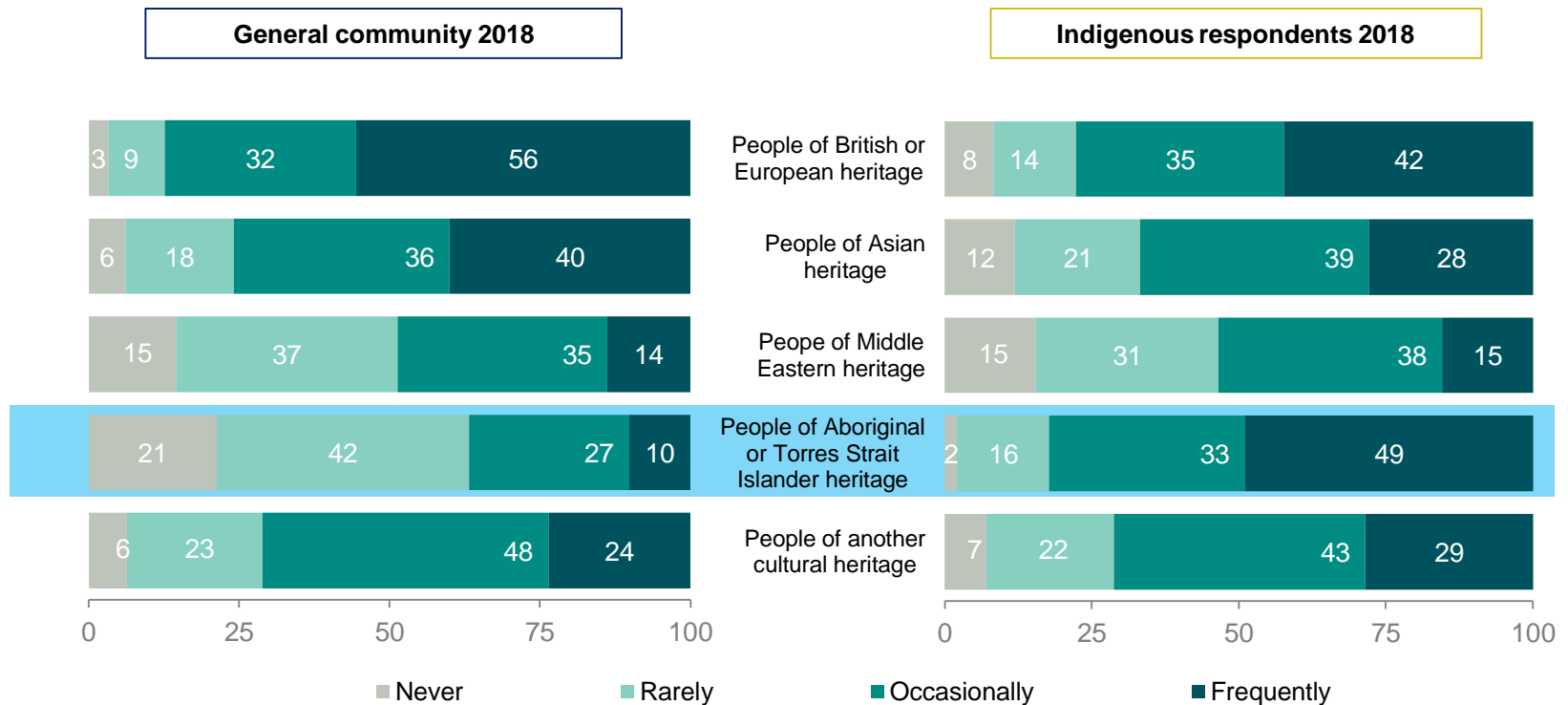
# Most Australians still hardly ever socialise with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians



Although personal experiences with Indigenous people are steadily influencing the general community, most Australians continue to have little 'socialising' contact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

While undoubtedly the relatively small Indigenous population in Australia doesn't make regular contact easy, this still highlights a key 'gap' in reconciliation progress.

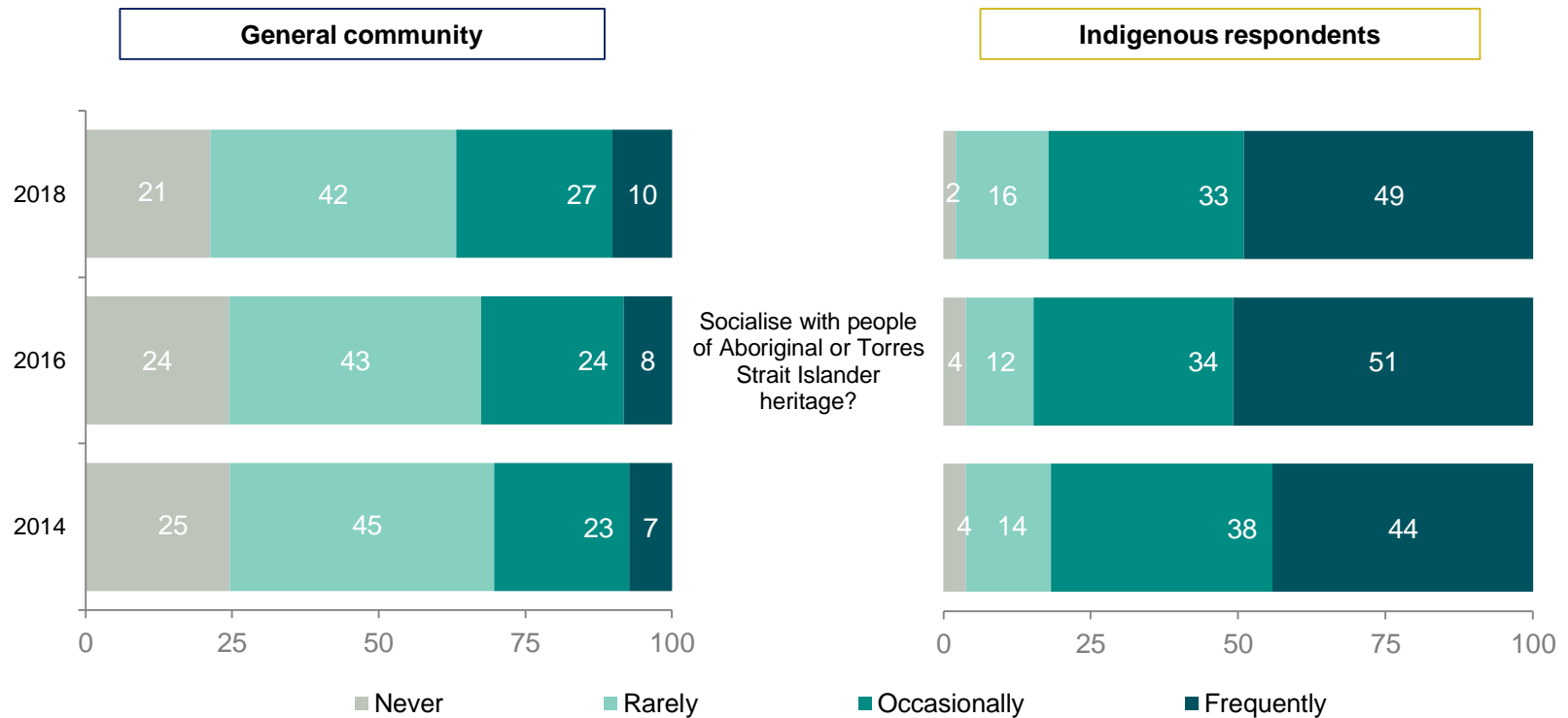
# Most Australians still socialise less with Indigenous people than with any other major cultural group



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 and Torres Strait Islander people, the general public are least likely to do so frequently (10%) than with any other major cultural group.

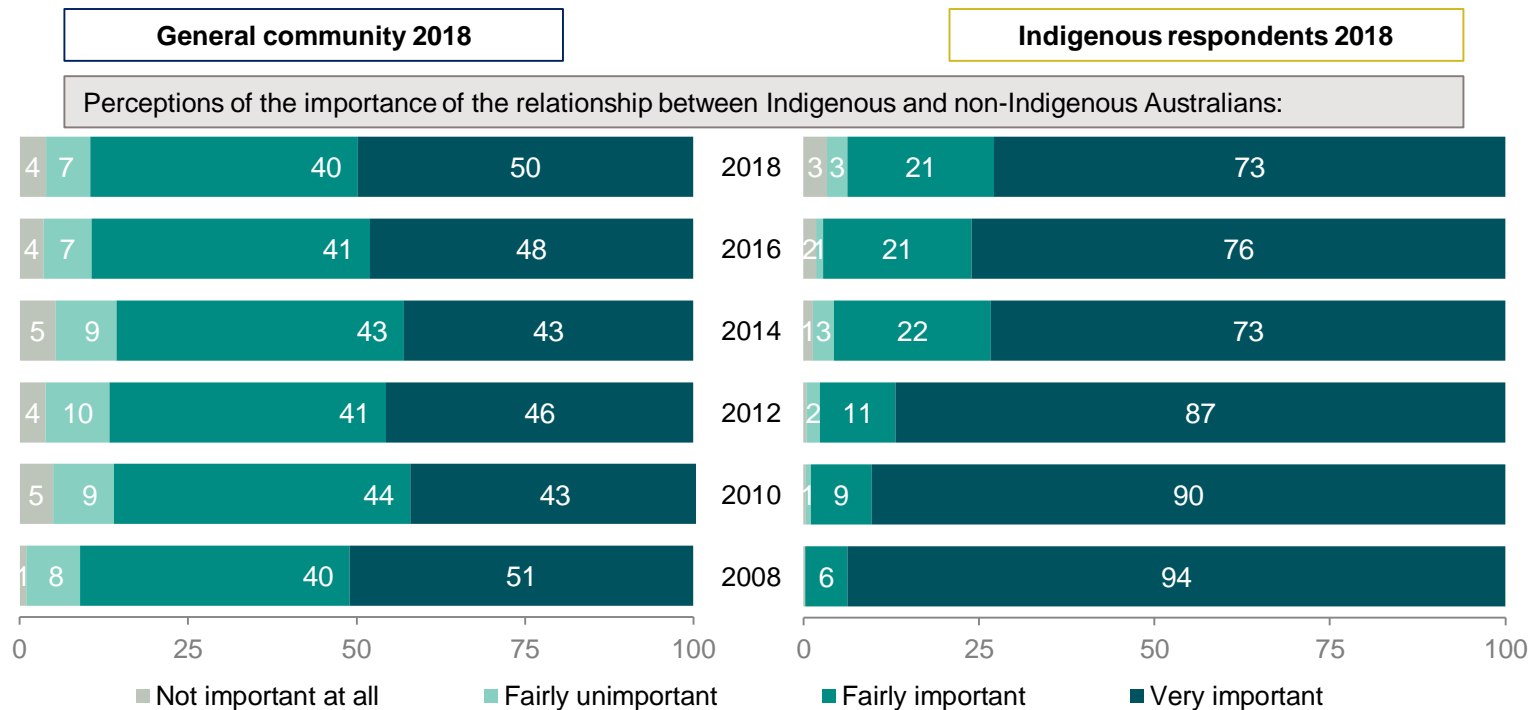
# There has been little change in the percentage of Australians who *frequently* socialise with Indigenous people



There has been little change in the percentage of mainstream Australians who socialise with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, either frequently (10%) or occasionally (27%), since 2016.

However, Australians (37%) are now more likely to socialise frequently or occasionally with Indigenous peoples than in 2014 (30%).

# Indigenous Australians remain more likely to view the relationship as very important



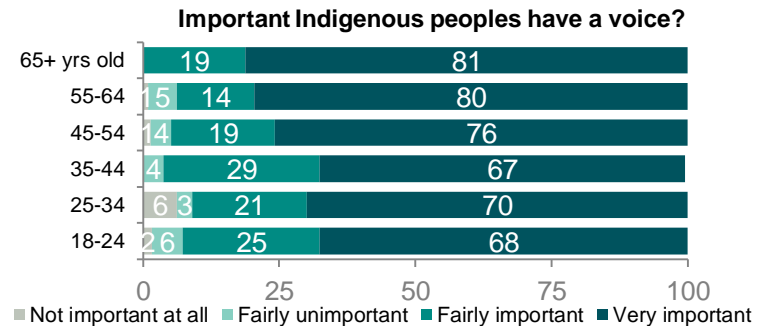
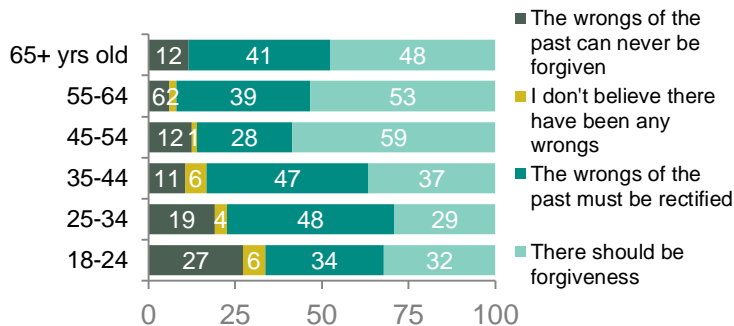
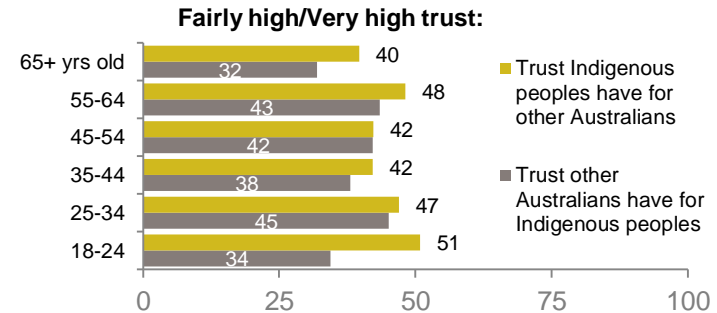
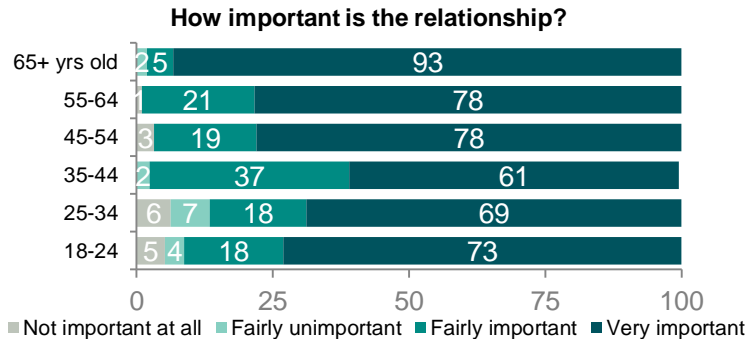
Most people among the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities continue to feel the relationship is important to Australia as a nation.

However, Indigenous respondents (73%) remain much more likely than the general community (50%) to view the relationship as very important.



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

## Indigenous respondents 2018

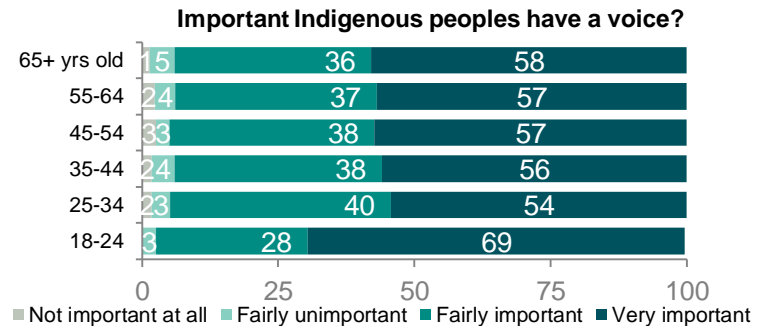
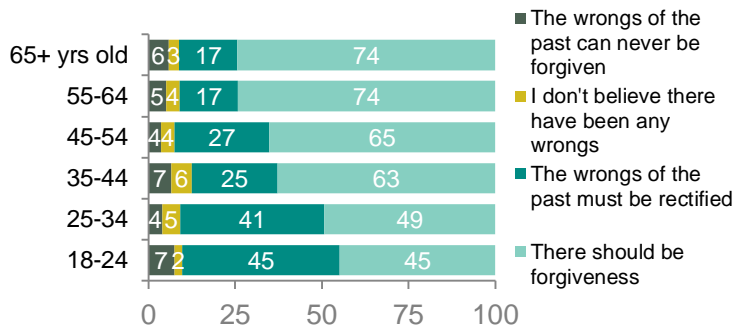
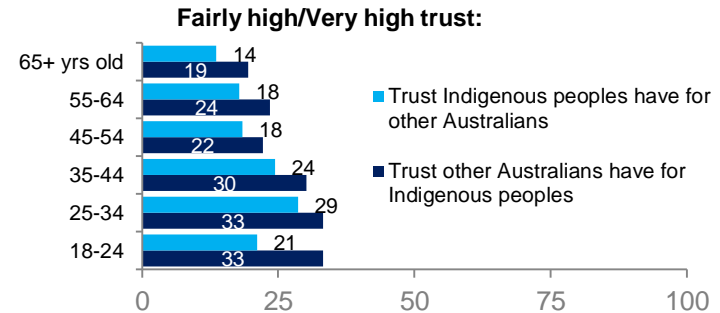
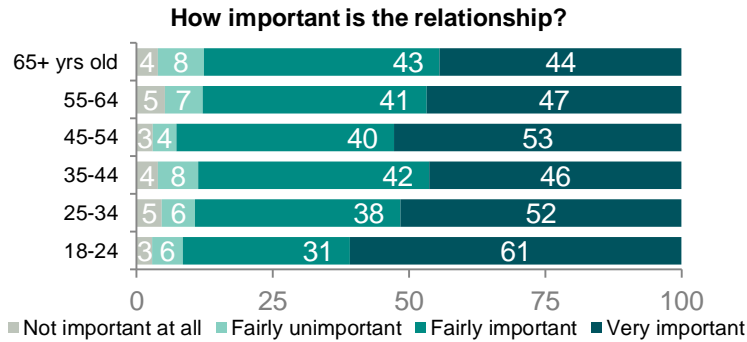


When it comes to holding high value in the relationship, a sense that past wrongs can never be forgiven and belief that it's very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians to have a say in matters that concern them, 18-24 year olds are mostly behind all other age groups in Indigenous communities.

A key underlying factor for the contradictions in these views among young Indigenous Australians may be that while they are more inclined to feel they trust other Australians (51%), they are less inclined to believe that trust is reciprocated (34%).

# The views among younger Australians are generally positive for the future

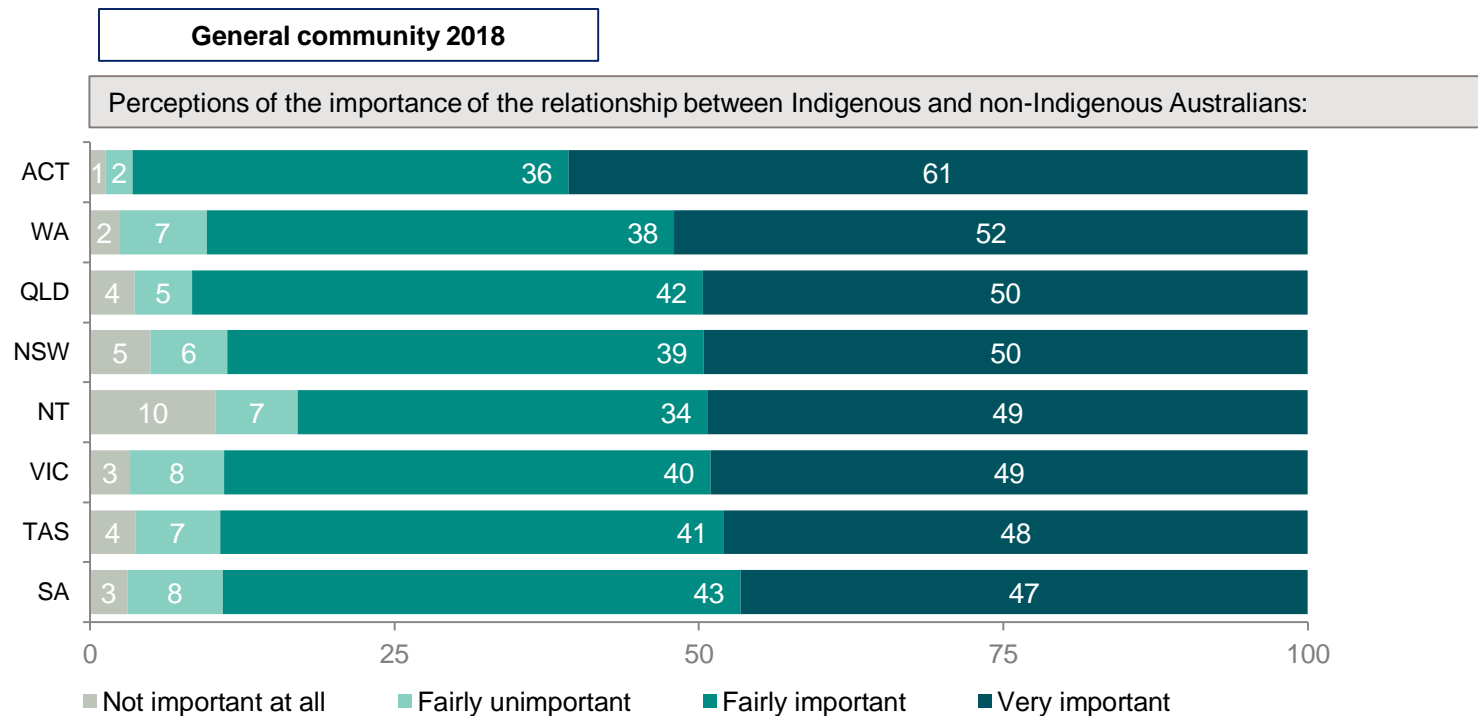
General community 2018



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 Australians 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 further highlights how these positive views have been largely carried forward by young people since the first Barometer in 2008.

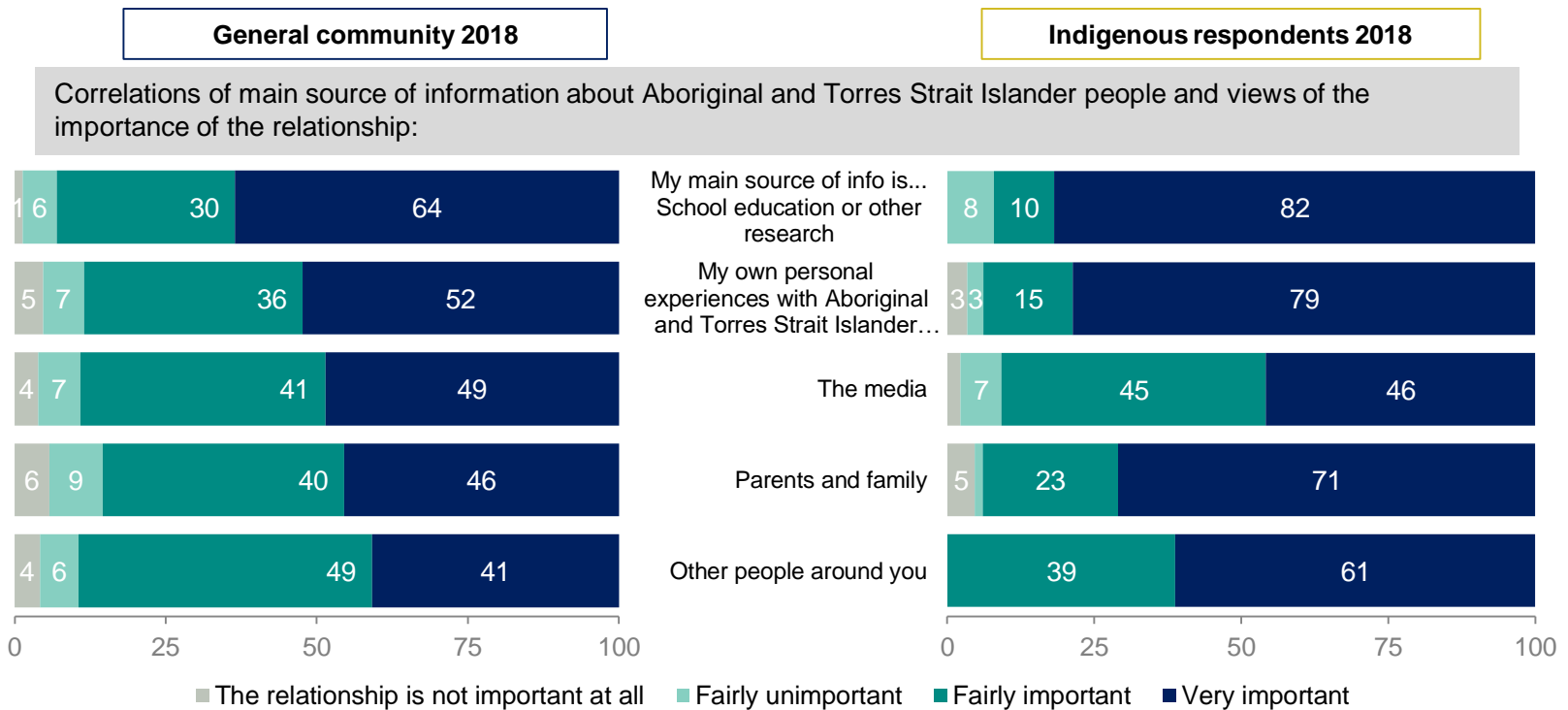
# ACT residents are most likely to view the relationship as very important



Most people (97%) among the general community in ACT feel the relationship is important to Australia as a nation, with two in three saying it's very important. Conversely, people in South Australia are least likely (47%) to view the relationship as very important.

Notably, the Northern Territory is where more people think the relationship is not important at all (10%), compared to other States and Territories.

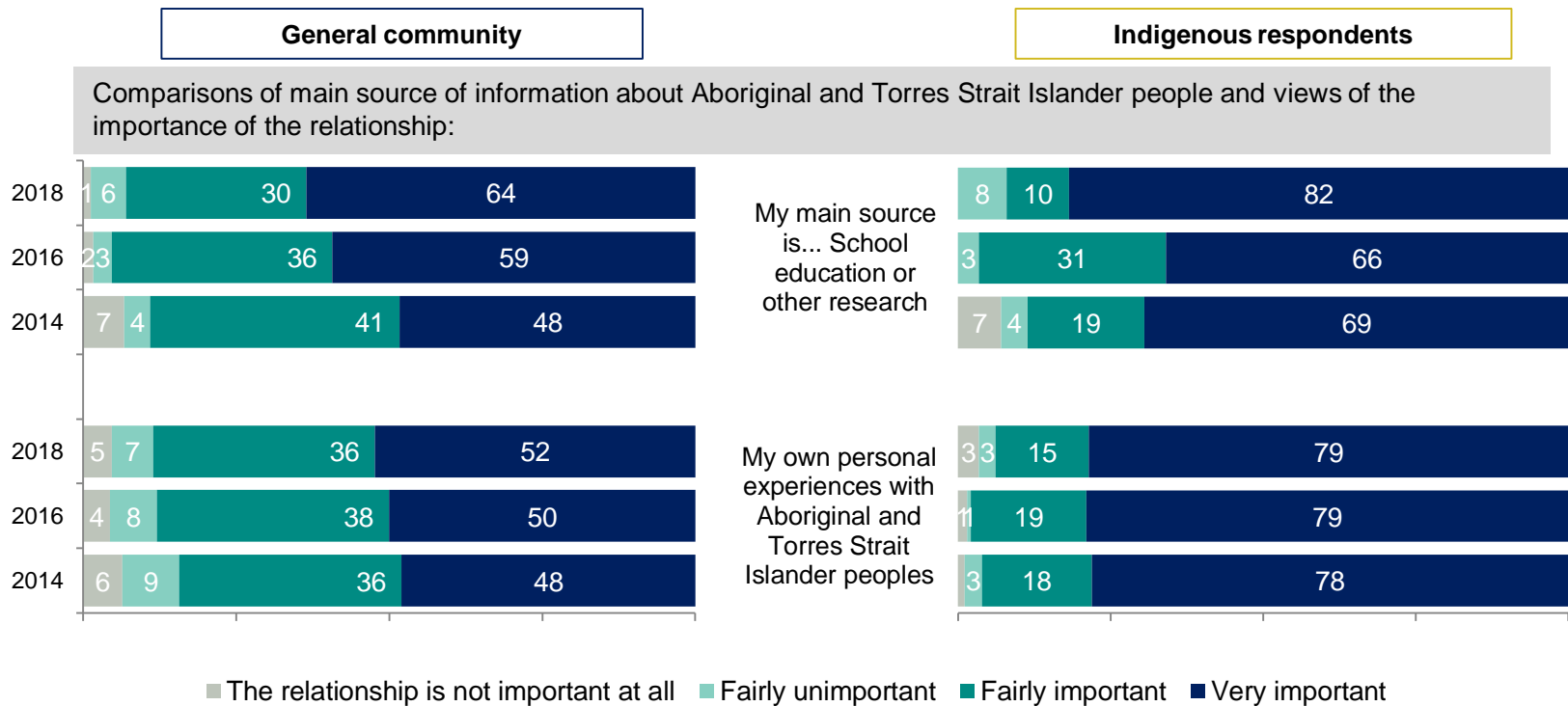
# Education and personal experience help drive views that the relationship is very important



People among both the general community and Indigenous peoples who cite personal experience or education sources (such as school or other research) as their *main* source of information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are most likely to view the relationship as very important.

For Indigenous respondents, there is also a notable correlation with parents and family as their main source.

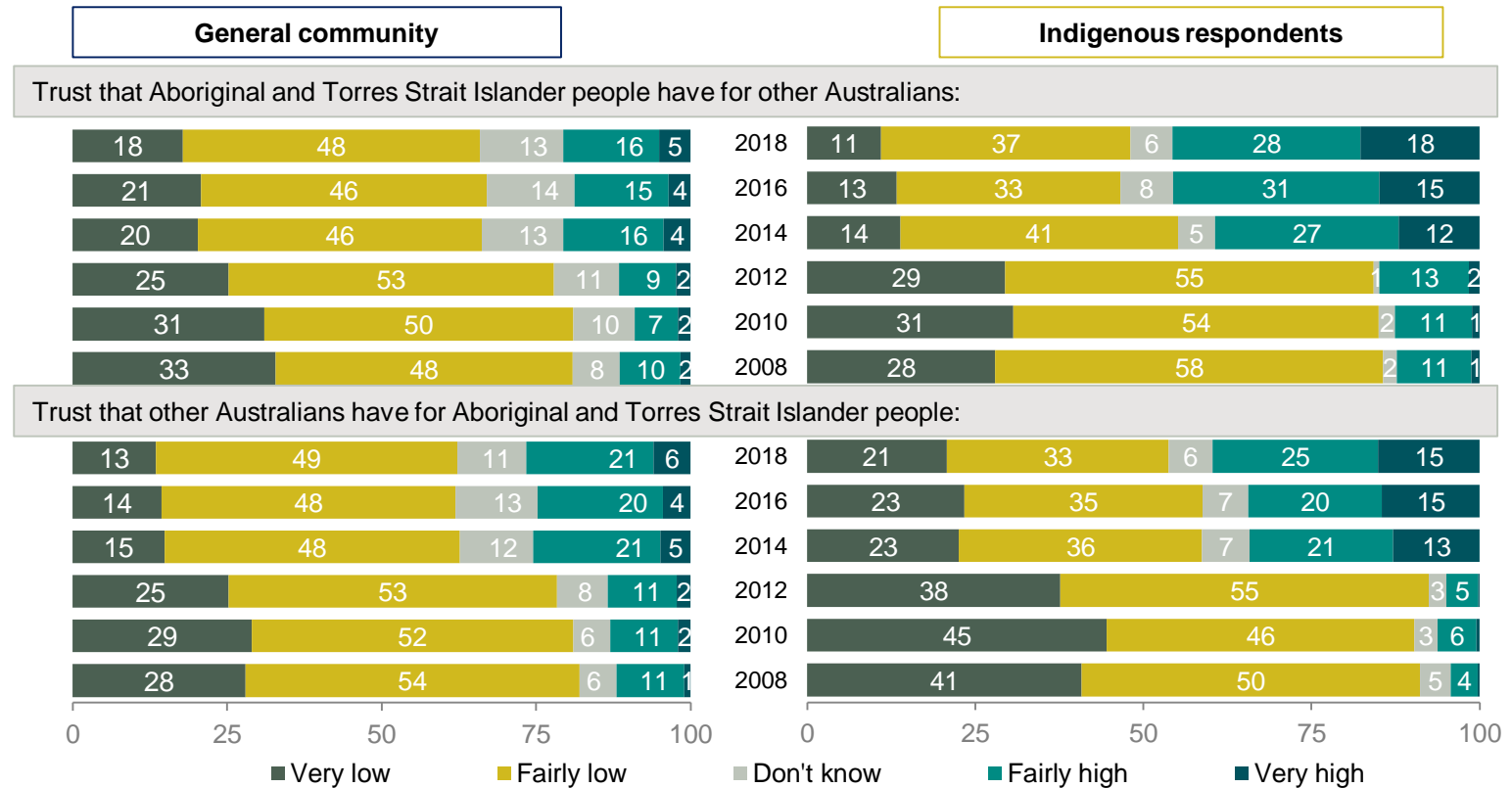
# Education and personal experience influence has increased since 2014



The influence of school education and other research in the general community, in terms of helping drive the view the relationship is very important, has increased since 2014. This is particularly evident among Indigenous respondents, which may reflect a greater emphasis within educational settings.

Similarly, the influence of personal experience in the general community, as the main source of information leading to views the relationship is very important, has also increased.

# Trust levels have changed little since 2016

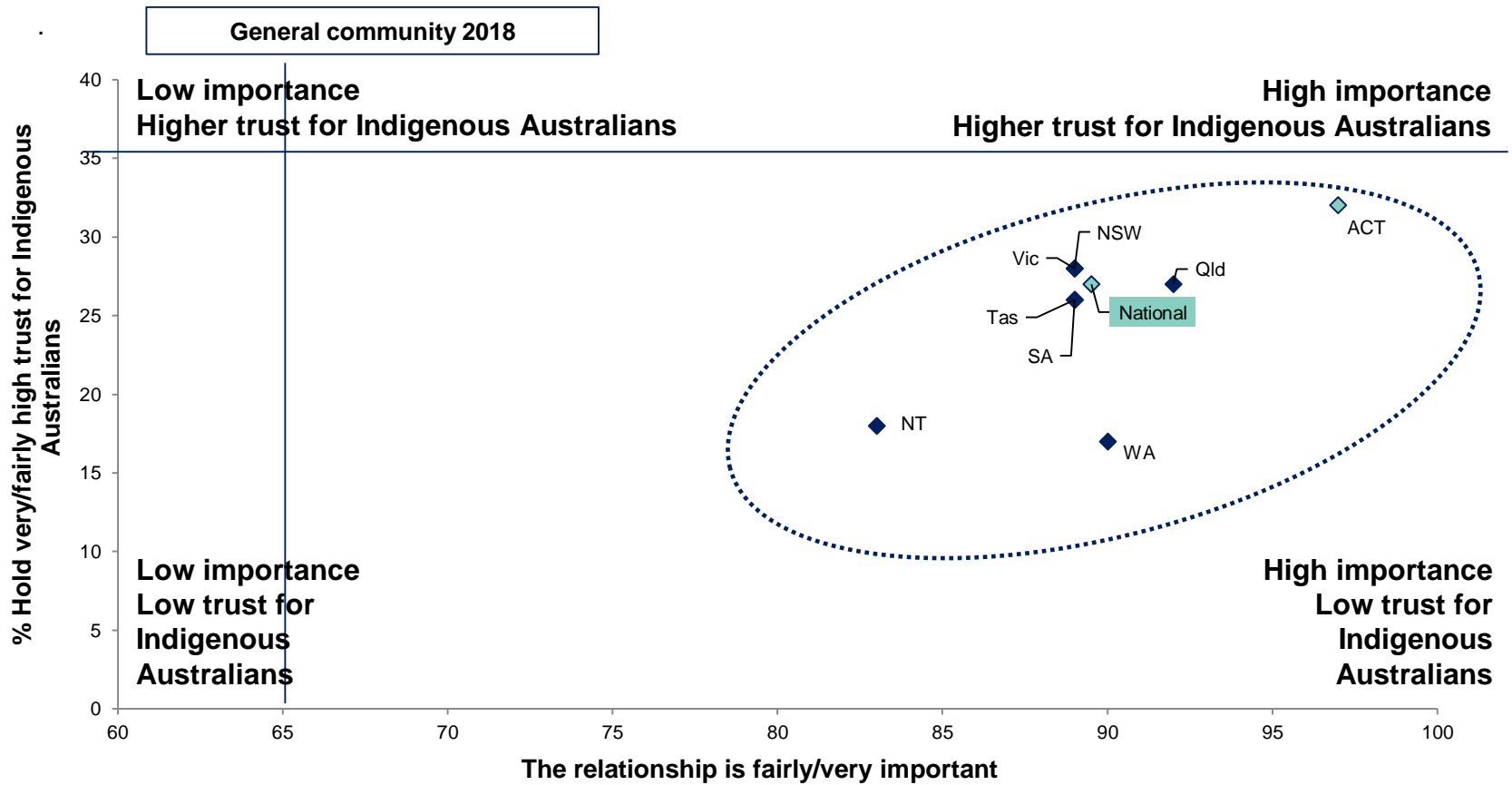


Perceptions of trust among the general public have remained steady, with 27% feeling they trust Indigenous Australians (24% in 2016) and 21% believing that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have trust for non-Indigenous Australians (19% in 2016). Similarly, the perception of trust held among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents has changed little: 46% now feel they have high trust for other Australians, the same as 2016.

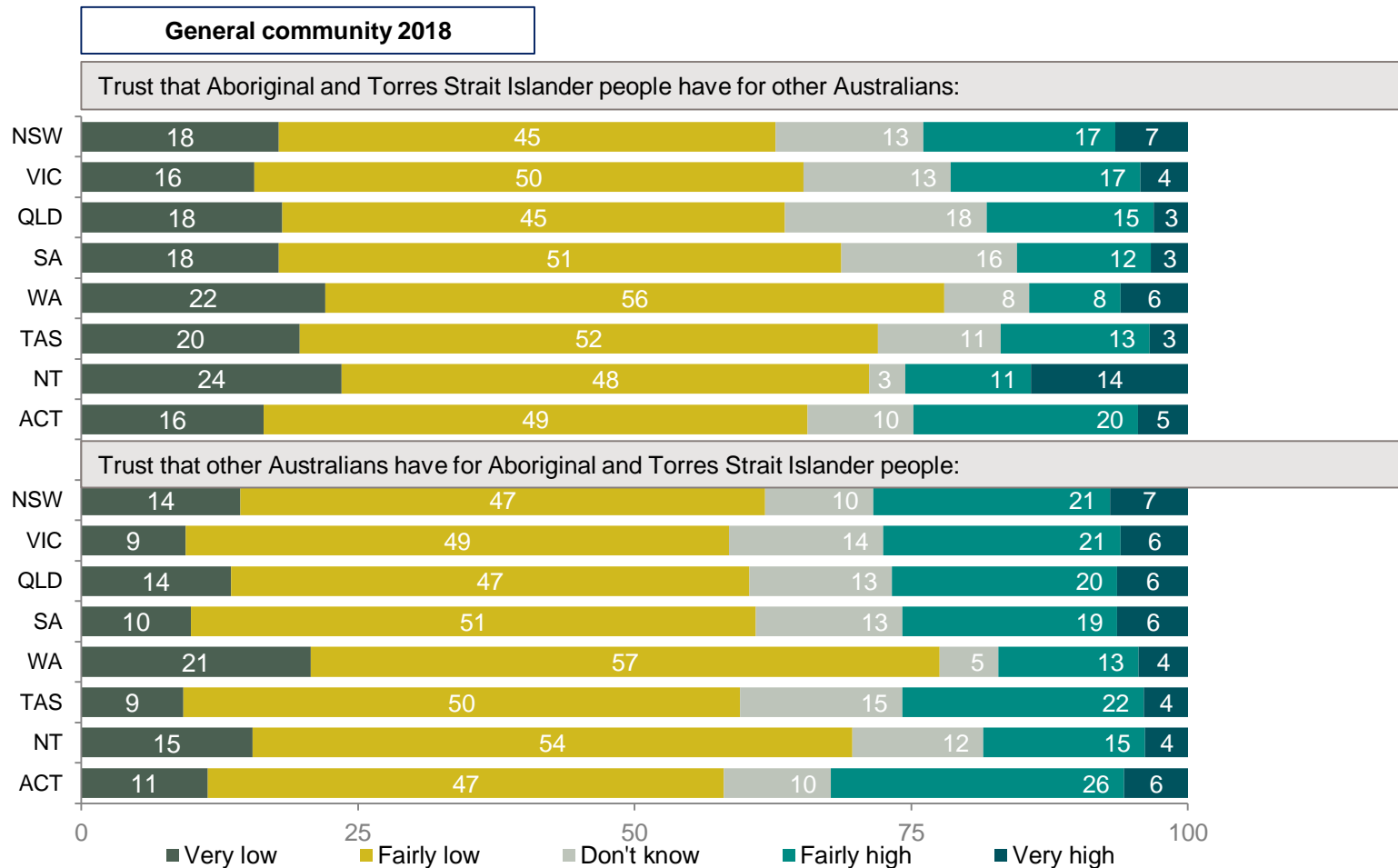
However, more Indigenous people now believe other Australians have high trust for them (40%), than in 2016 (35%).

# Despite high importance in the relationship, trust for Indigenous Australians remains low in all States

While there is widespread agreement the relationship is important, high trust for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is lacking across the general communities of all States and Territories, but particularly low in NT and WA. Trust and importance are highest in ACT.



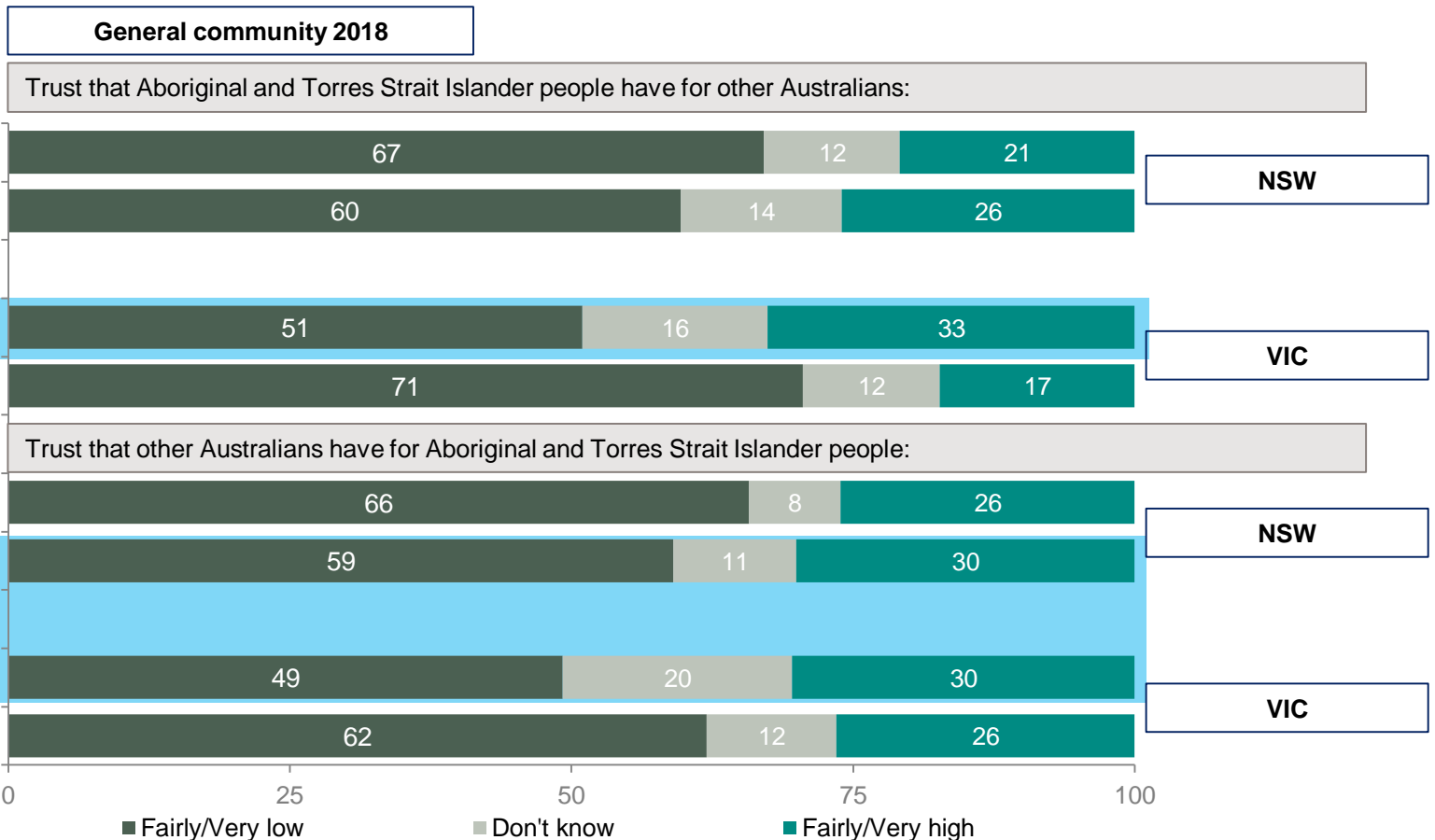
# Trust is lowest among West Australians



Levels of trust are lowest in WA, with 78% of the general community there feeling there is very/fairly low trust for Indigenous Australians and 78% believing that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have very/fairly low trust for other Australians. Conversely, ACT has the highest levels of perceived high trust held by non-Indigenous Australians (32%), while NT has the highest for trust held by Indigenous Australians (25%).



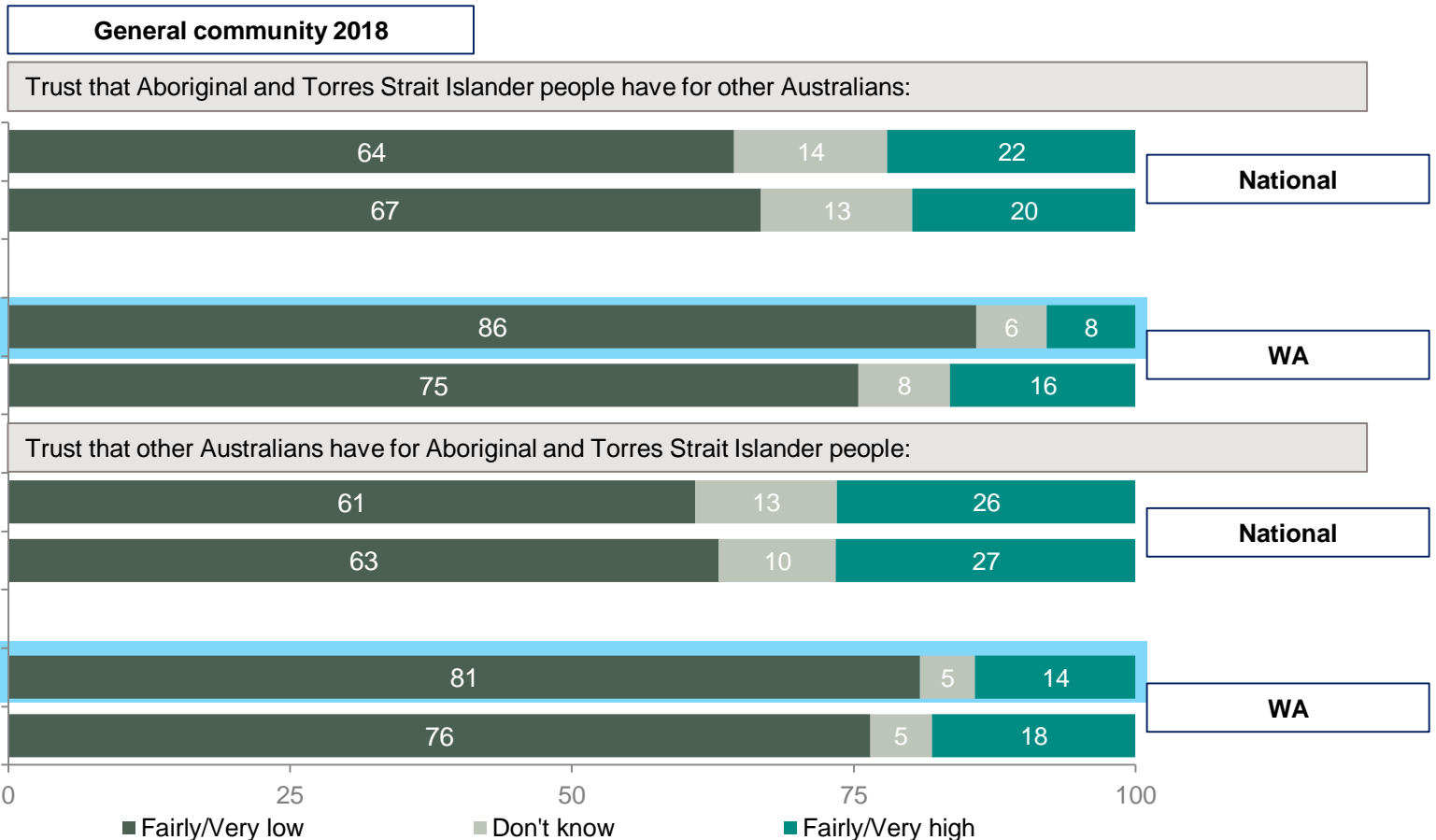
# Trust is highest among Sydney residents and regional/rural residents in Victoria



Levels of trust are highest among regional and rural residents in Victoria, with 30% feeling there is high trust for Indigenous Australians and 33% believing that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have high trust for other Australians.

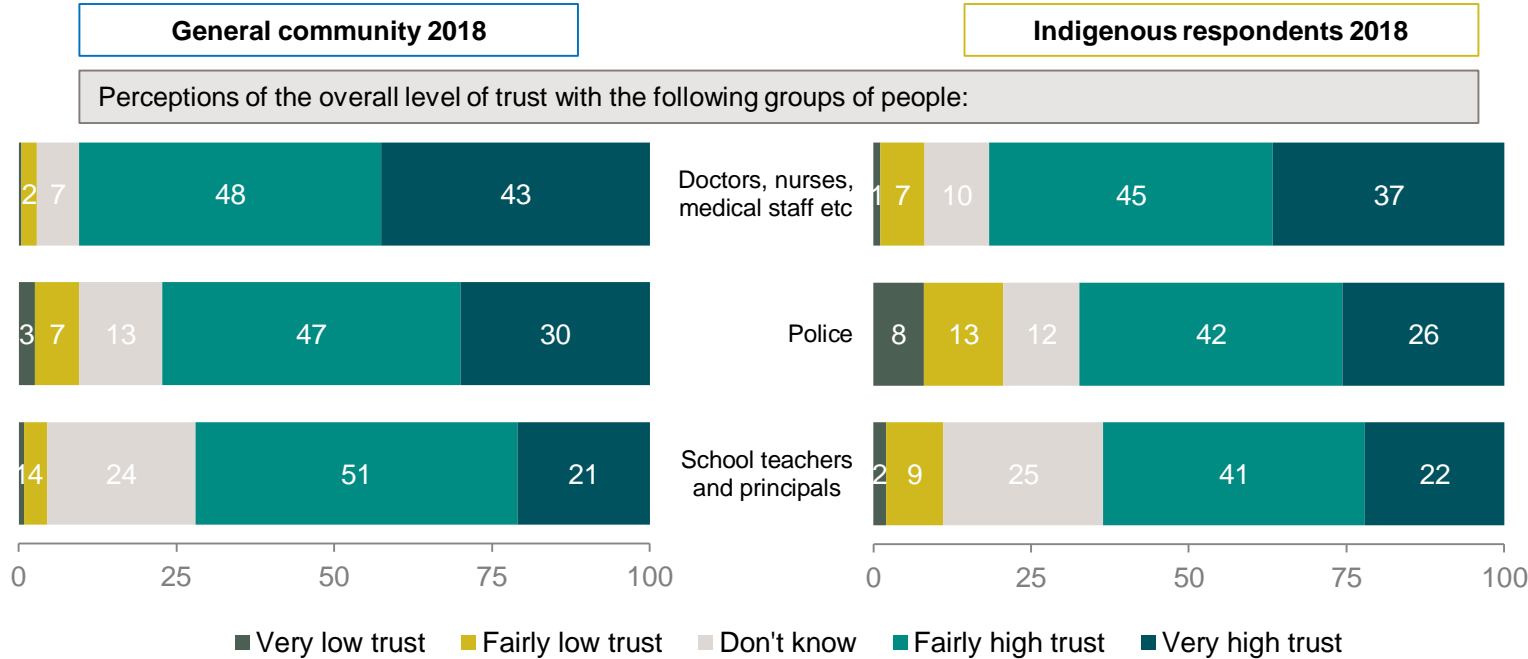
Sydney has the highest level of trust for Indigenous peoples among capital city residents.

# Trust is lowest among regional/rural residents in Western Australia



Levels of trust are lowest among regional and rural residents of WA, with 86% believing that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have low trust for other Australians and 81% feeling there is low trust for Indigenous Australians.

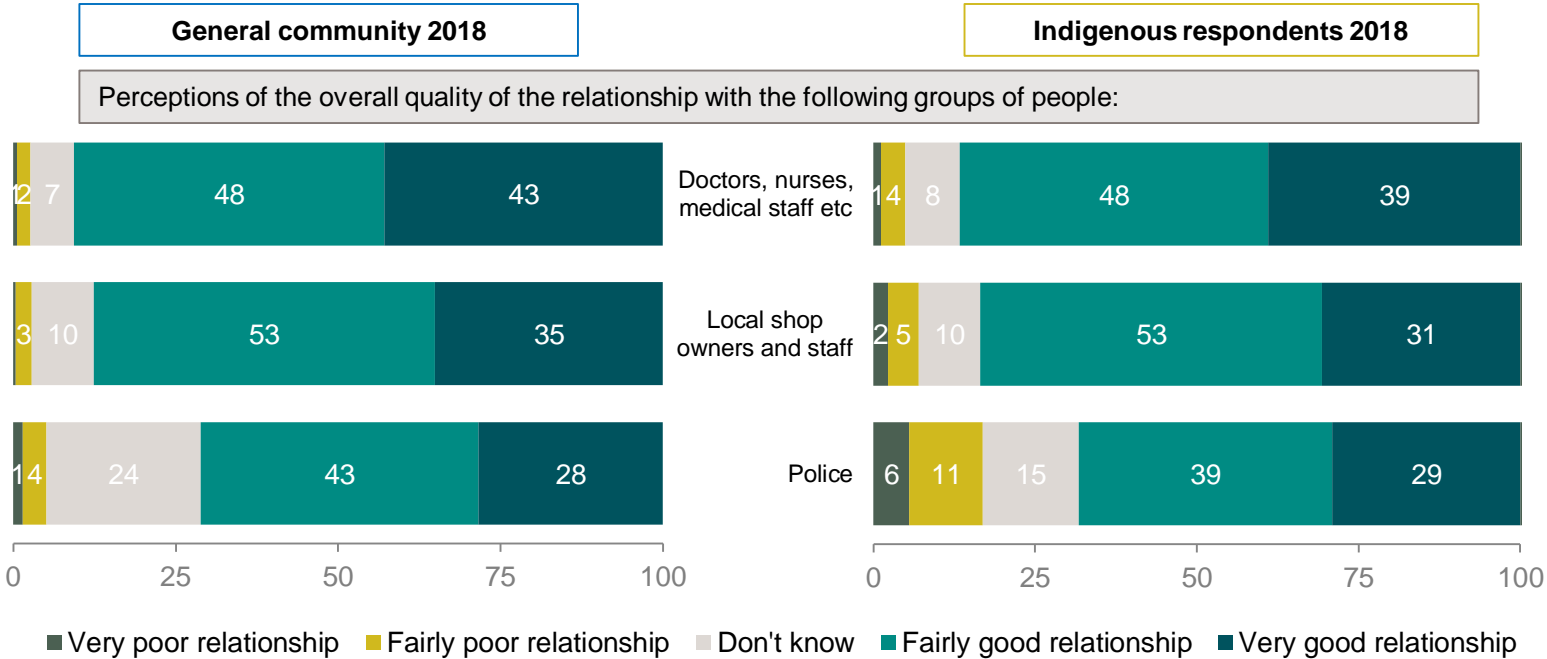
# We mostly feel there is mutual trust with medical staff, police and school staff



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 Indigenous respondents feel there is low trust with police, compared with 10% of the general community. Similarly, 11% see low trust with school staff, compared with 5% in the general community.

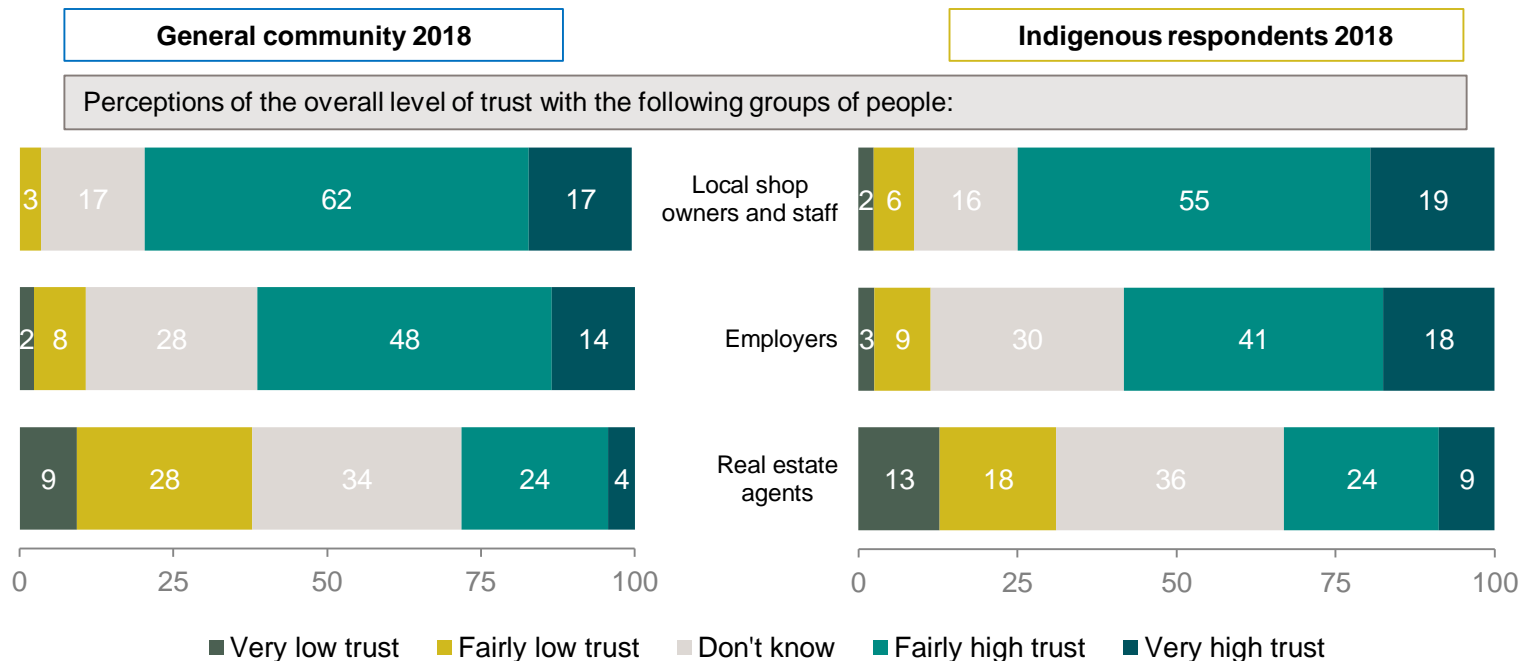
# We mostly have a good relationship with medical staff and local shops



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, Indigenous respondents are much more likely to have a poor relationship with police (17%) than the general community (5%).

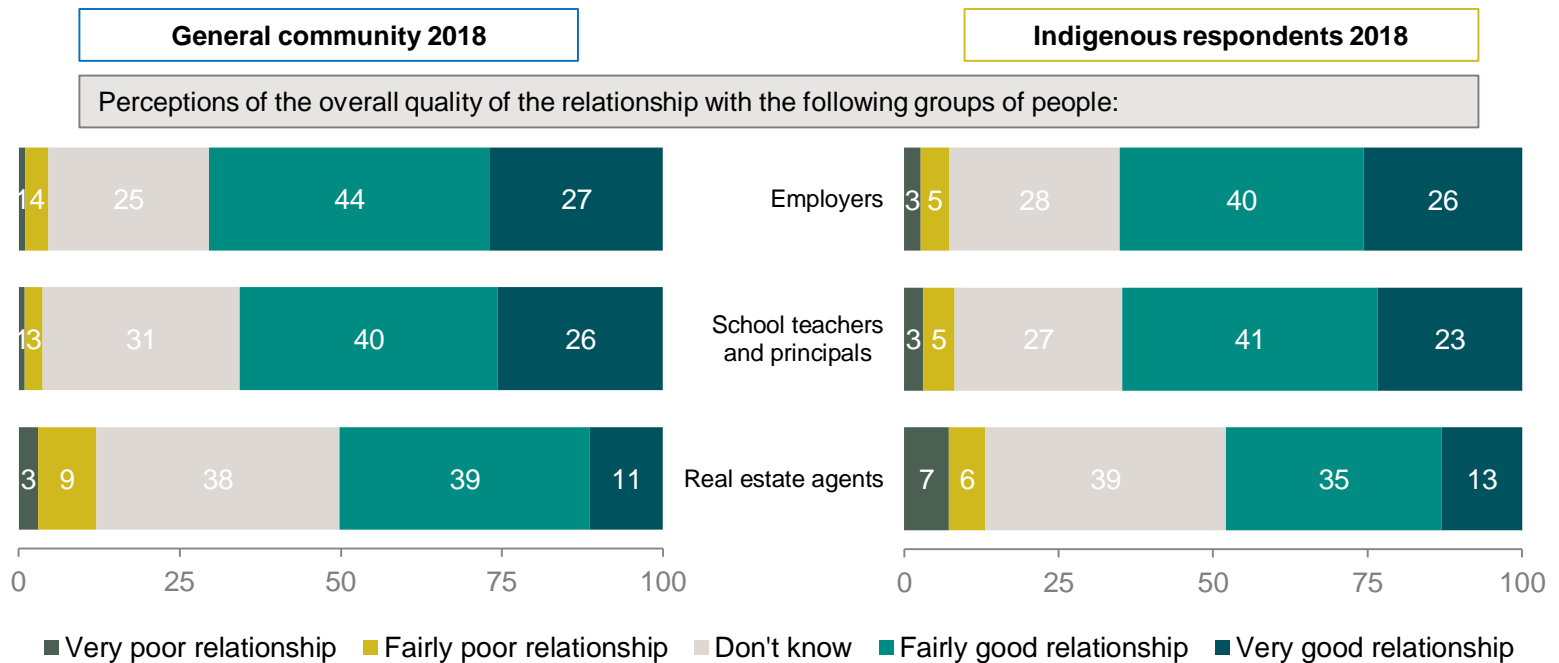
# We are most likely to feel there is a low level of trust with estate agents



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. And notably, the general public are currently more likely not to trust real estate agents (37%) than Indigenous respondents (31%).

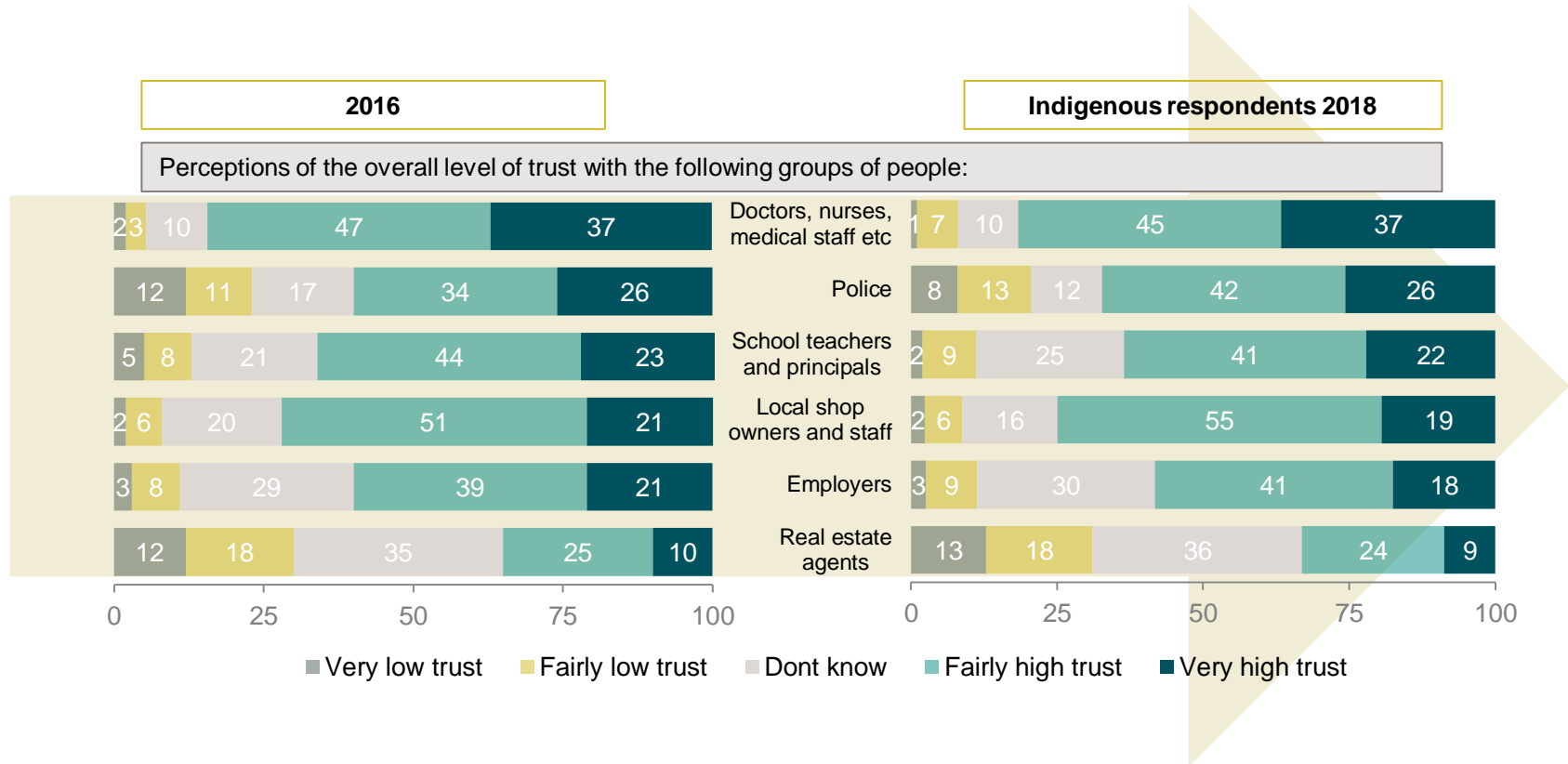
# Indigenous Australians are more likely to have very poor relationships with real estate agents



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

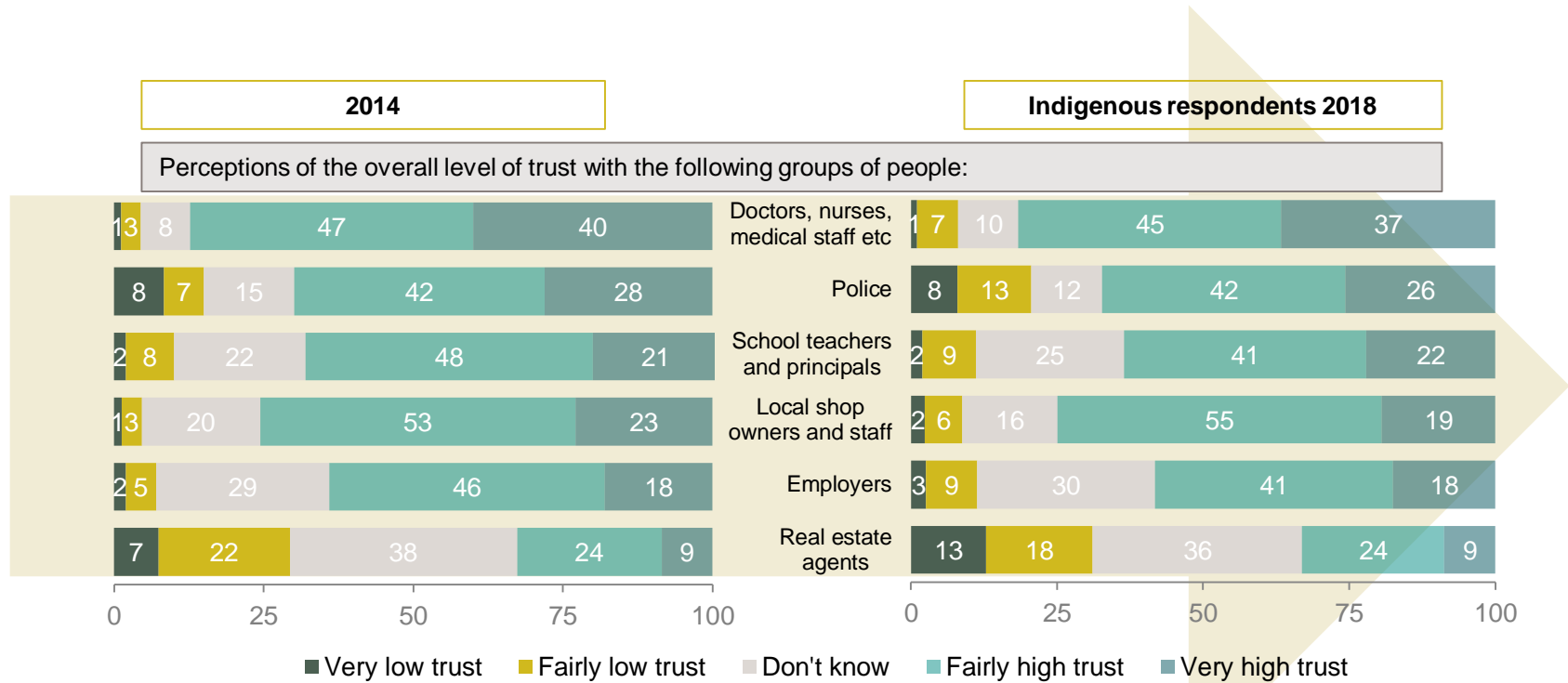
However, Indigenous Australians are more likely to have a very poor relationship with real estate agents (7%), than non-Indigenous Australians (3%).

# Indigenous trust has remained steady for all groups of professions since 2016



There has been little change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feeling there is high trust shared with all the professional groups, compared with 2016.

# Indigenous trust has decreased for most professions since 2014

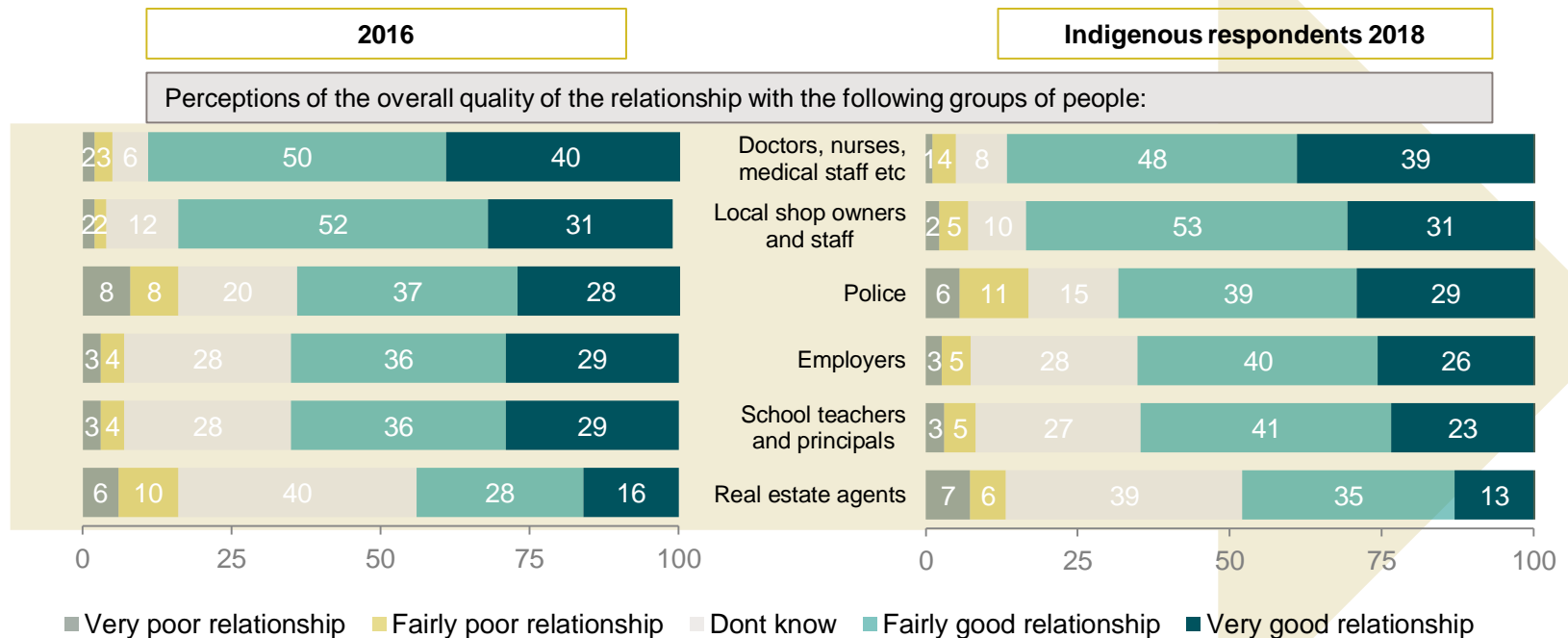


More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel there is low trust shared with all professional groups, compared with 2014. In particular, Indigenous respondents are currently more likely to feel there is a low level of trust between them and police (21%) and employers (12%), than in 2014 (15%, 7% respectively).

Notably, perceptions of very low trust with estate agents have doubled (13%), since 2014 (7%).

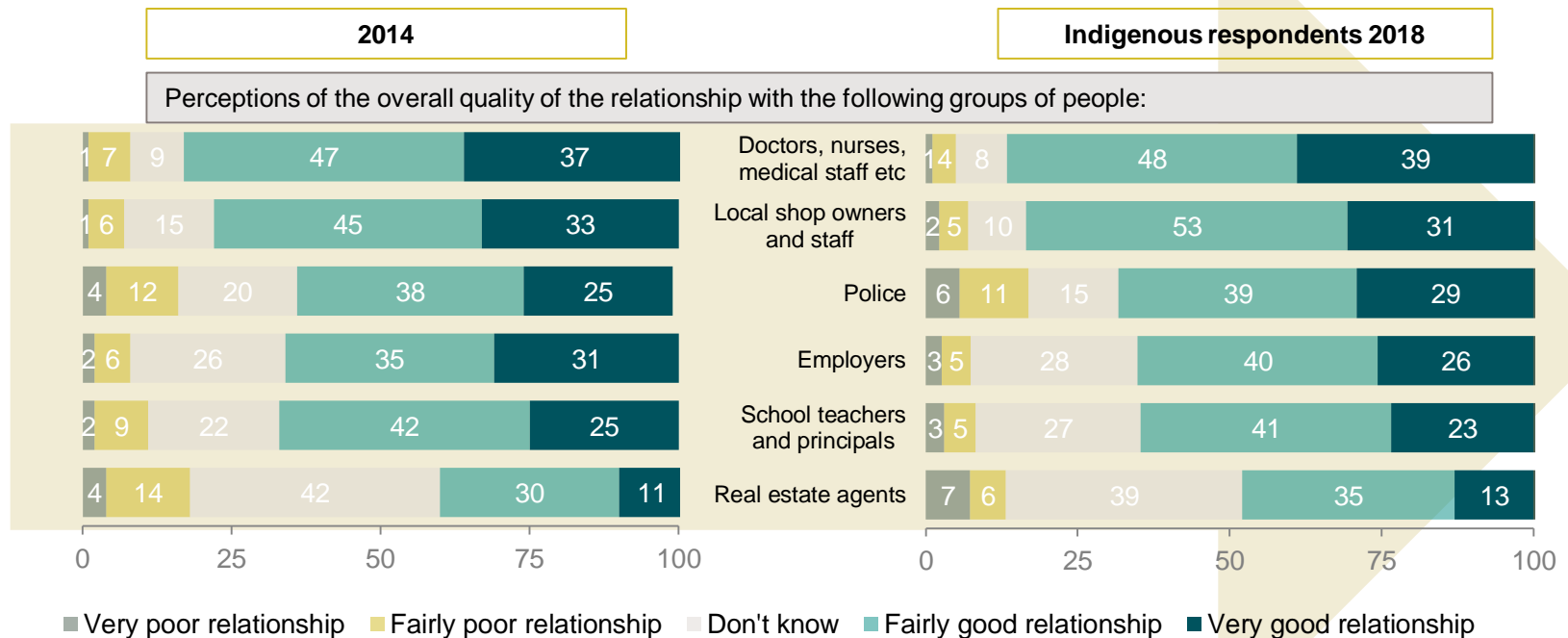


# Indigenous relationships have changed little with all groups of professions since 2016



There has been little improvement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feeling they have good relationships with all professional groups, since 2016.

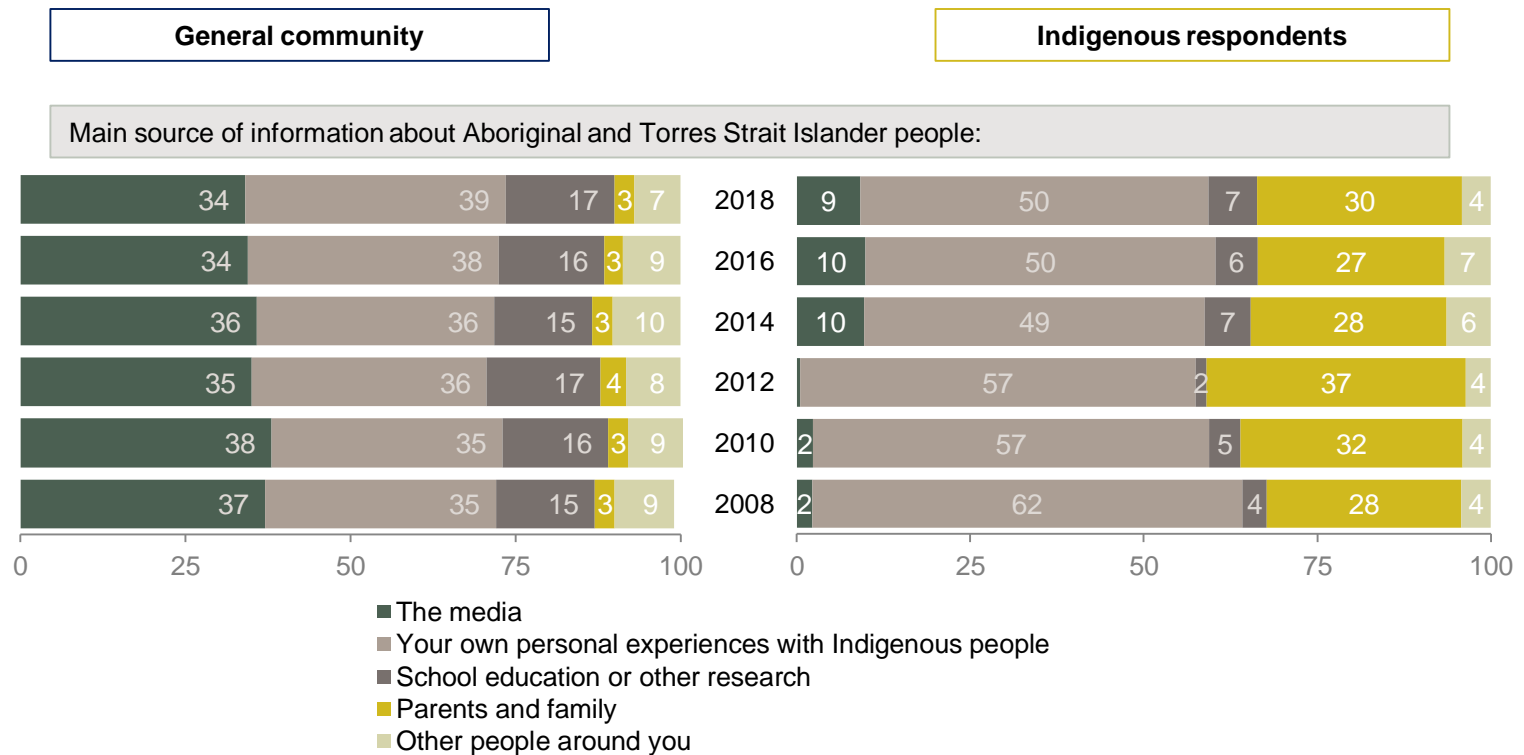
# Indigenous relationships have improved slightly with all groups of professions since 2014



More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel they have good relationships with all professional groups, compared with 2014.

Notably, Indigenous respondents are more likely now to have a good relationship with estate agents (48%), than in 2014 (41%).

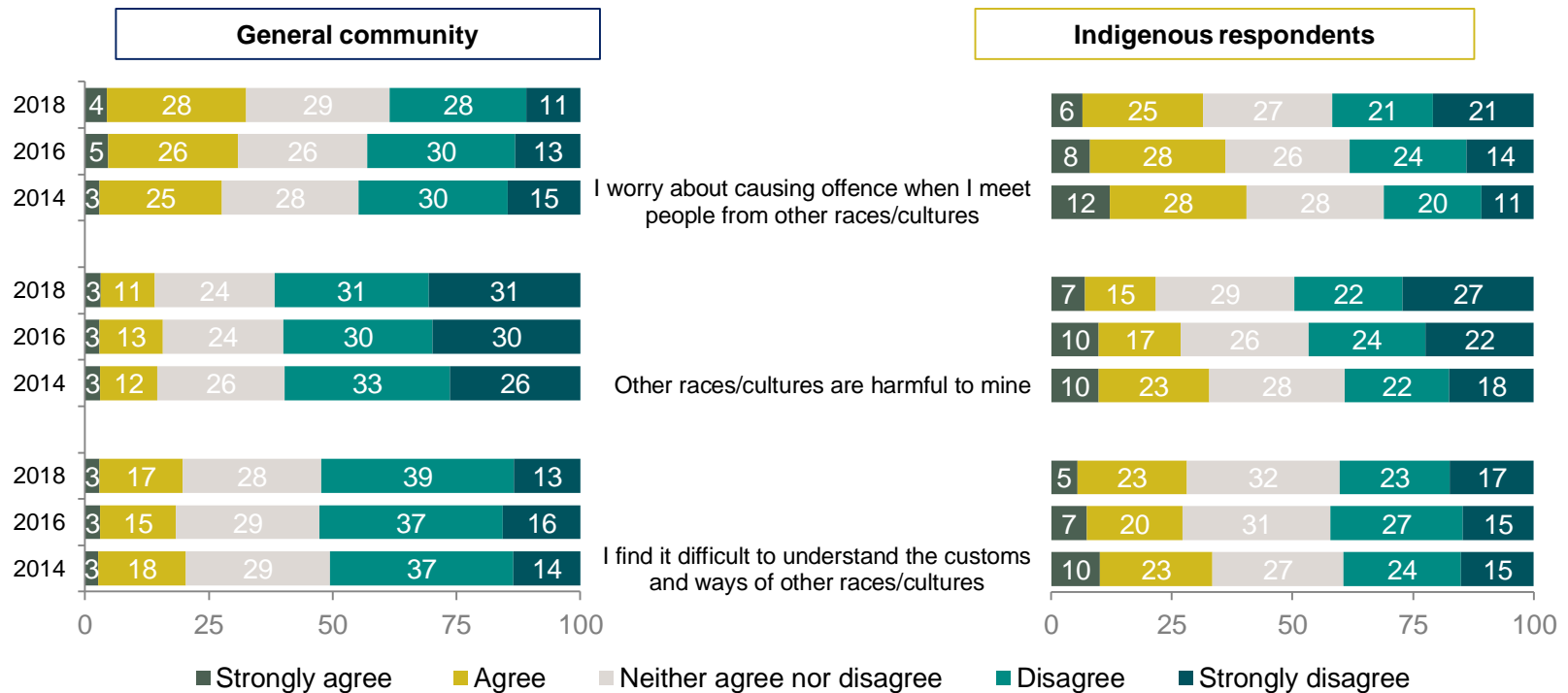
# Personal experience is growing as a key source of information about Indigenous people



The general community remain more likely to cite the media (34%) or other secondary sources (such as school or other research, 17%) as their main source of information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, personal experiences are steadily increasing as a key source.

Unsurprisingly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents continue to learn about their people mostly from their own interactions with their communities and families.

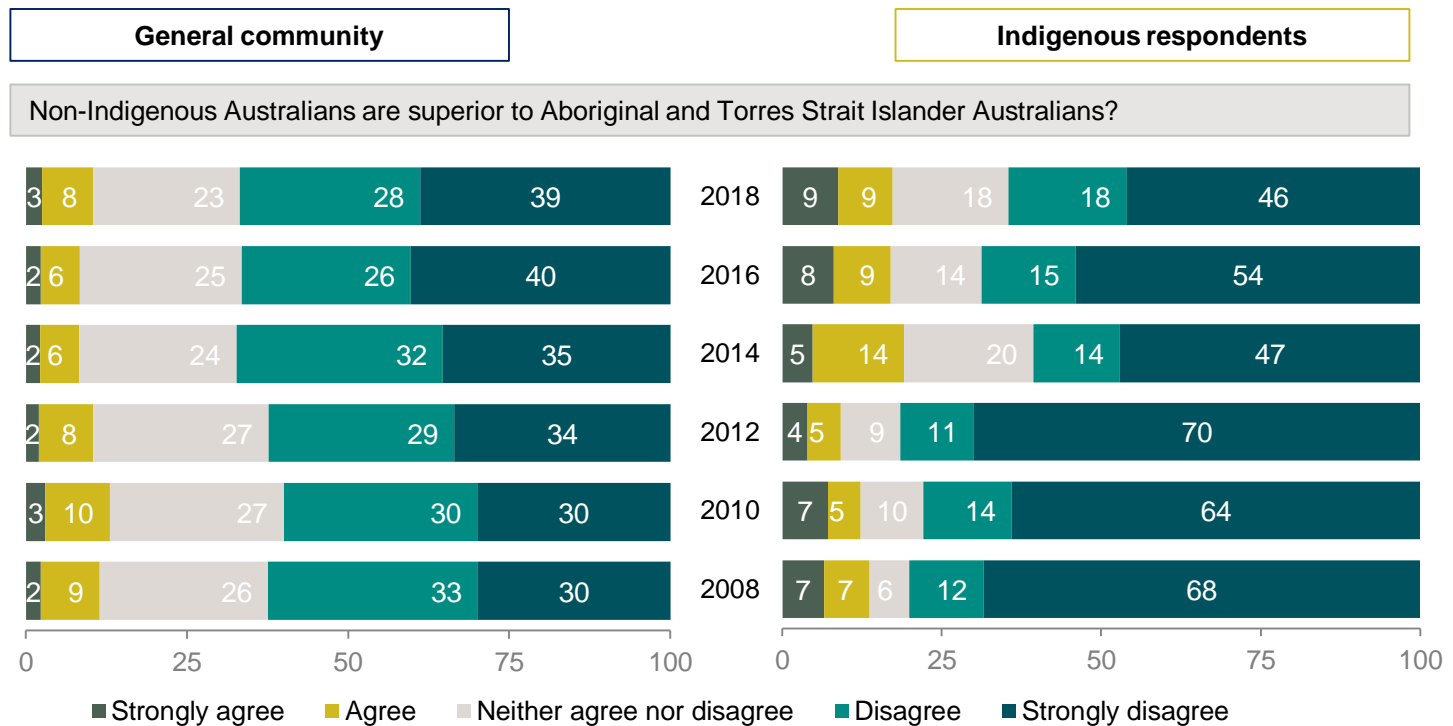
# Indigenous Australians remain more likely to worry about other cultures



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be more likely to worry that other cultures are harmful to their own (22%), or find other cultures difficult to understand (28%), than the general community.

However, a similar percentage of both groups worry about causing offence to people from another culture. And notably, this has steadily decreased among Indigenous respondents, since 2014.

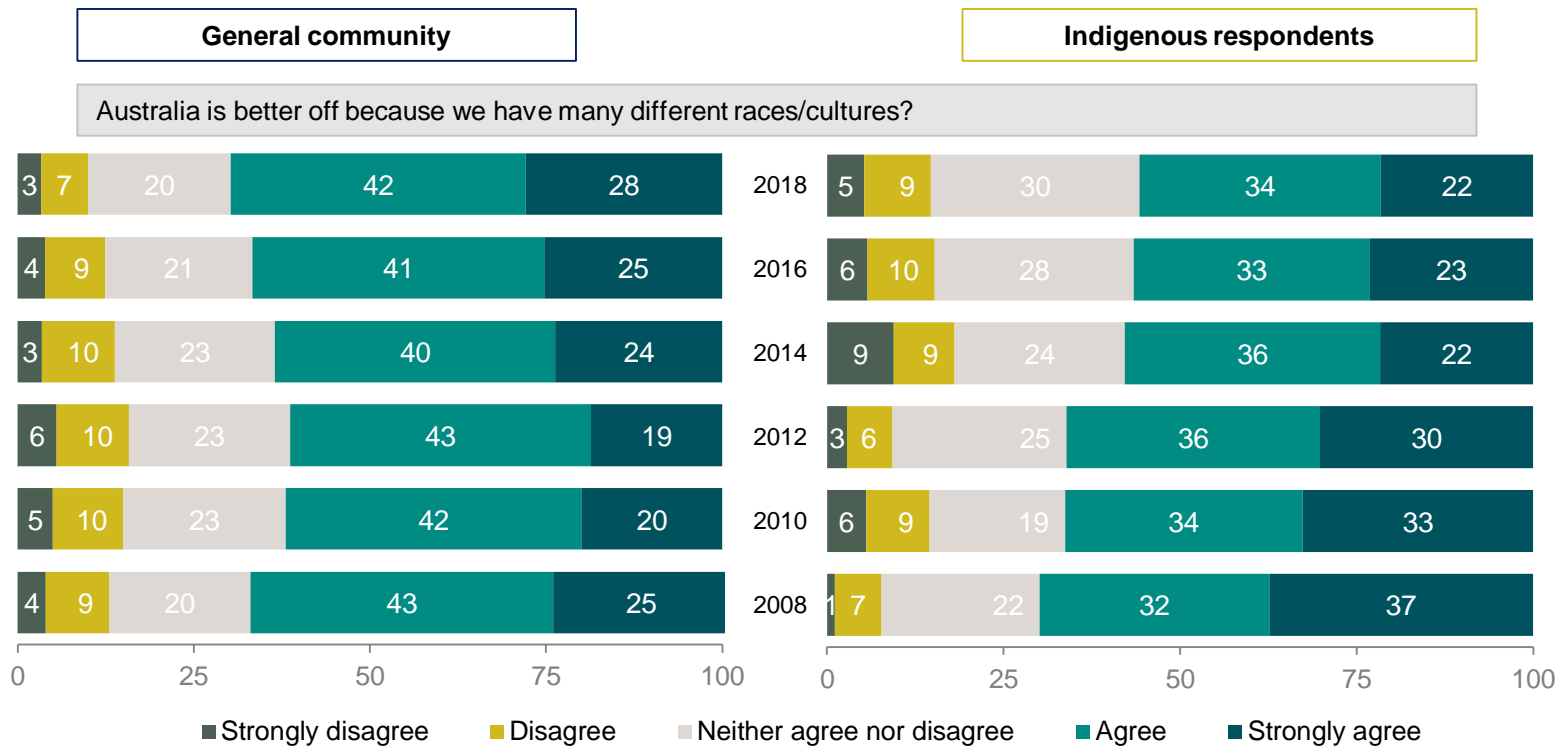
# Most people reject the notion that non-Indigenous Australians are superior



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be more likely to disagree strongly (46%) that non-Indigenous Australians are superior, than the general community (39%).

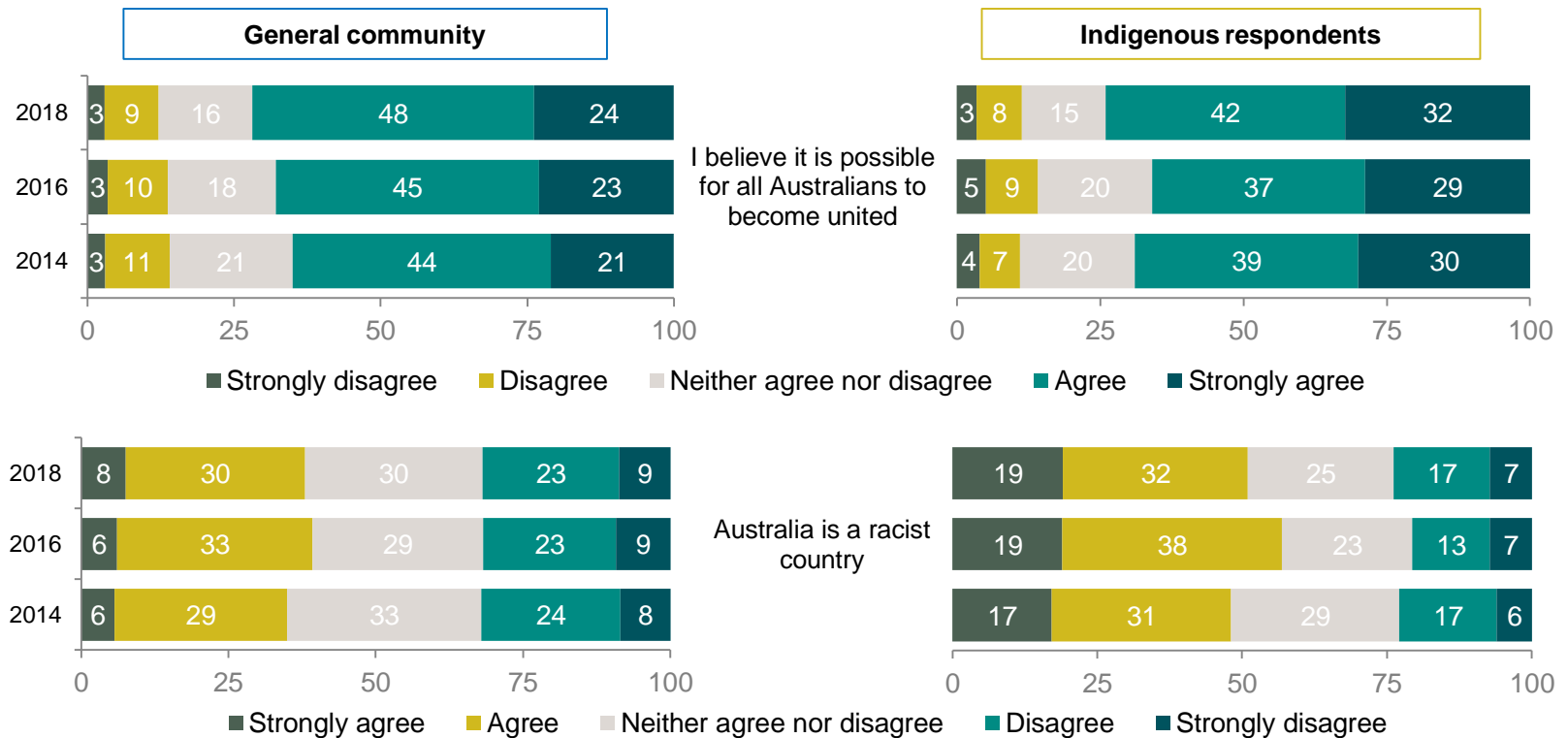
However, it is notable that Indigenous respondents who agree with this sentiment (18%) also continues to be higher than in the general community. This may reflect issues of low self esteem or perceptions of 'material' superiority in non-Indigenous Australians, among Indigenous respondents.

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



The general community continues to mostly agree that Australia is better off for having many cultural groups (70%), as do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (56%).

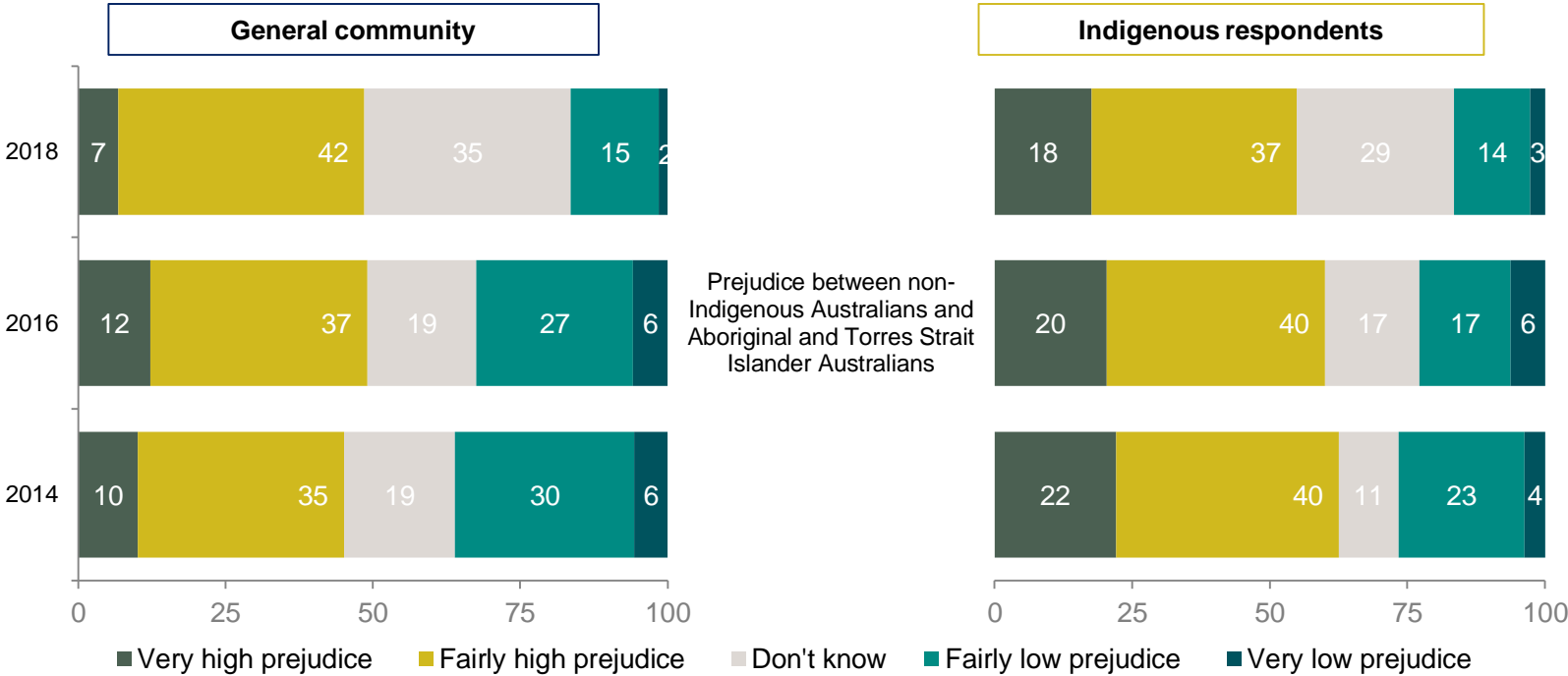
# More Indigenous Australians still believe Australia is a racist country



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still more likely to agree Australia is a racist country (51%), than the general community (38%), and are much more likely to strongly agree (19%, compared to 8%).

However, the vast majority of both communities also continue to believe Australians can become united.

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

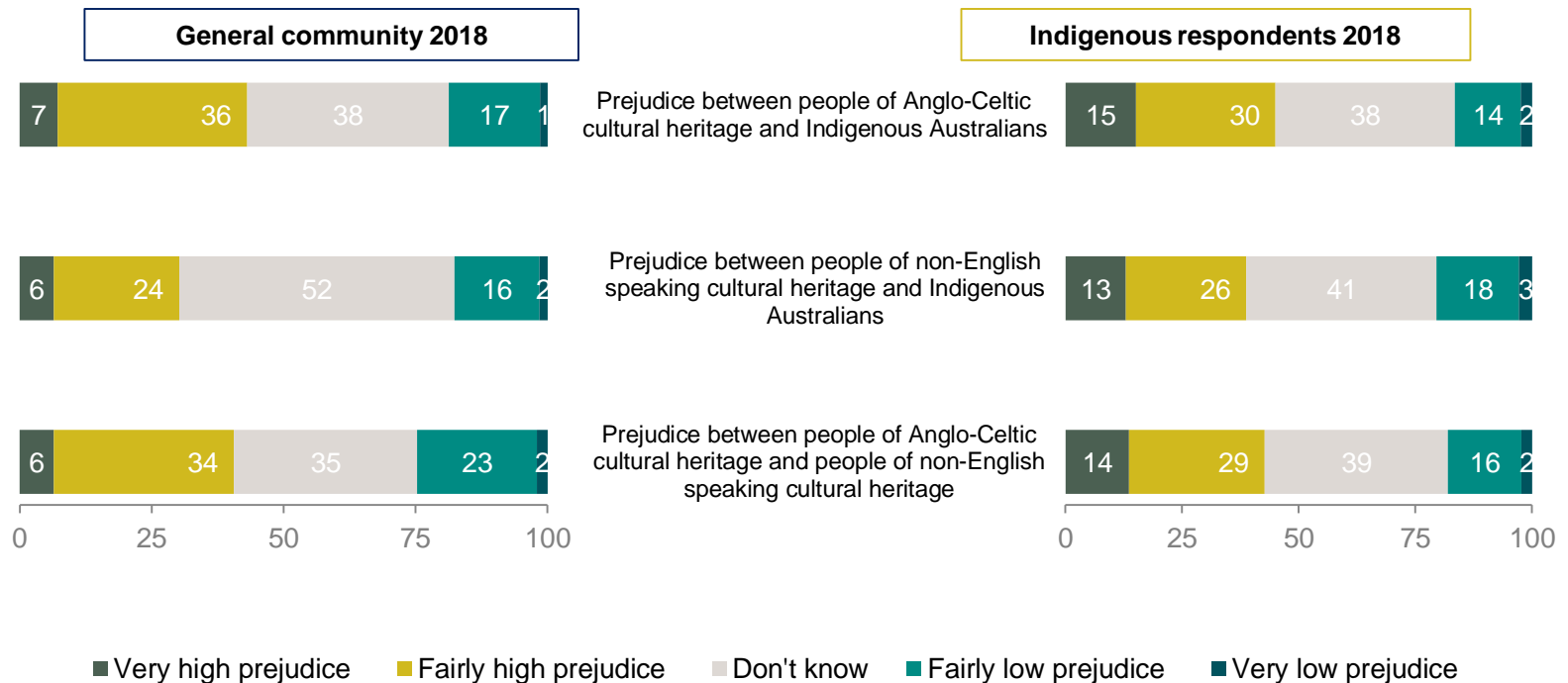


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be more likely to feel there is very high prejudice between themselves and non-Indigenous Australians (18%), than the general community (7%).

Notably, there has been a steady decline since 2014 in both groups of people who feel there is low prejudice.



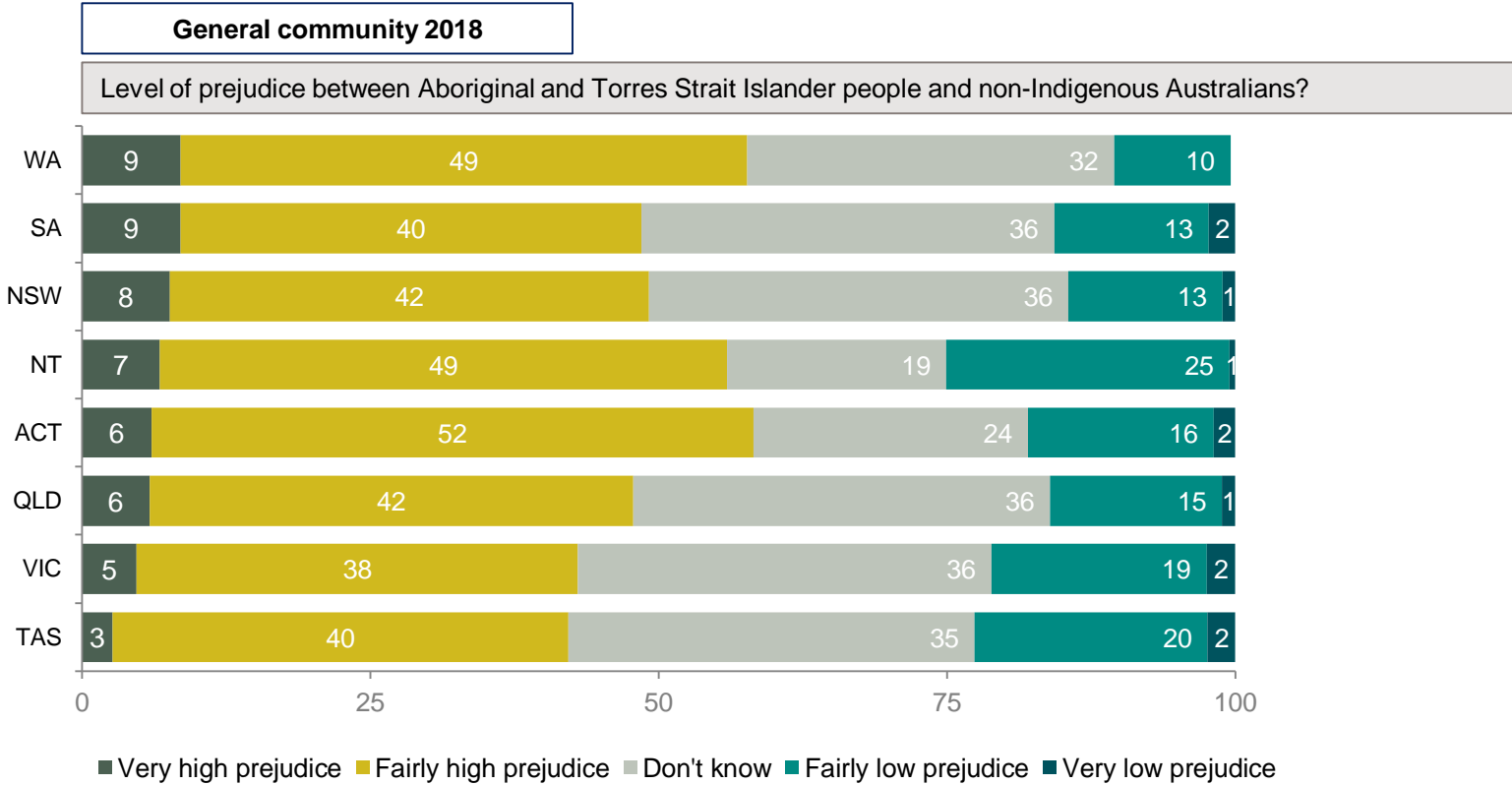
# We are most likely to see high prejudice between Anglo-Celtic heritage and Indigenous Australians



Both the general community (43%) and Indigenous respondents (45%) widely see high prejudice between Australians of Anglo-Celtic heritage and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

However, Indigenous Australians are more likely to see high levels of prejudice between themselves and non-English speaking heritage Australians (39%), than the general community (30%).

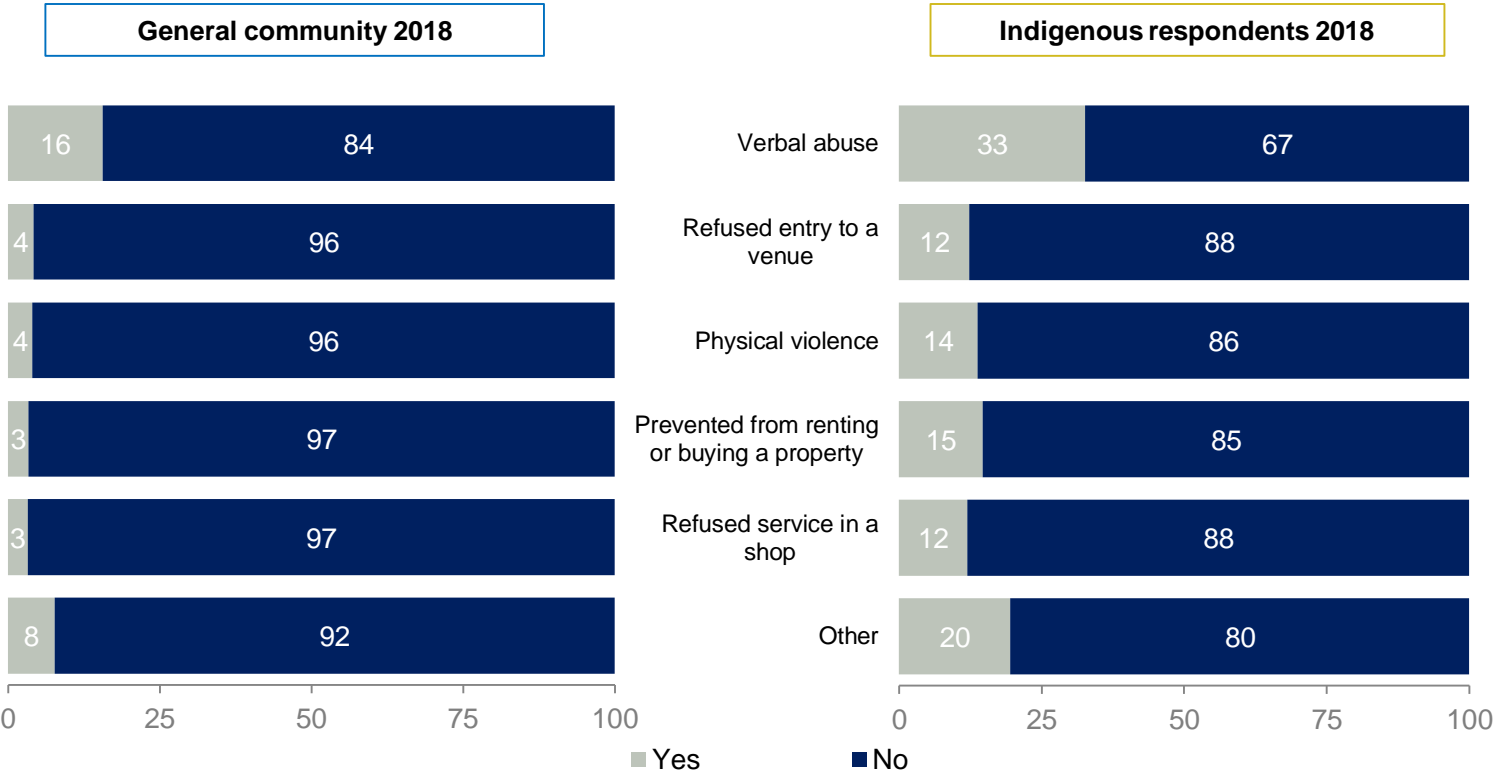
# West Australians are most likely to feel there is high prejudice between the communities



Levels of prejudice between non-Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are most widely perceived to be high in WA and ACT.

Conversely, the general communities of Tasmania (22%), Victoria (21%) and NT (26%) most widely believe there are low levels of prejudice. However, NT is the most divided area, with fewest people feeling they 'don't know' (19%).

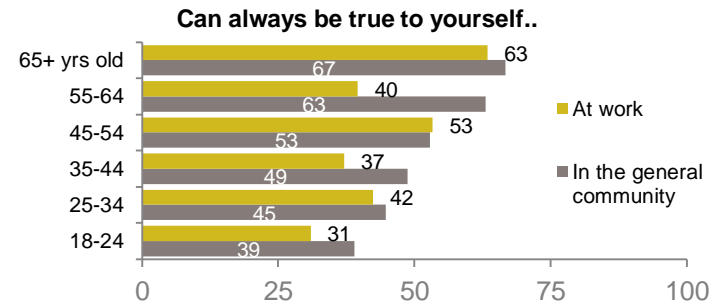
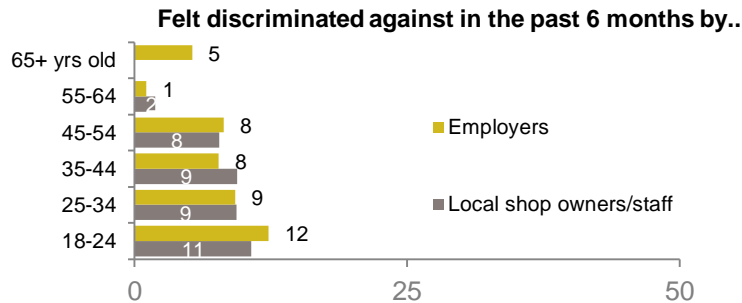
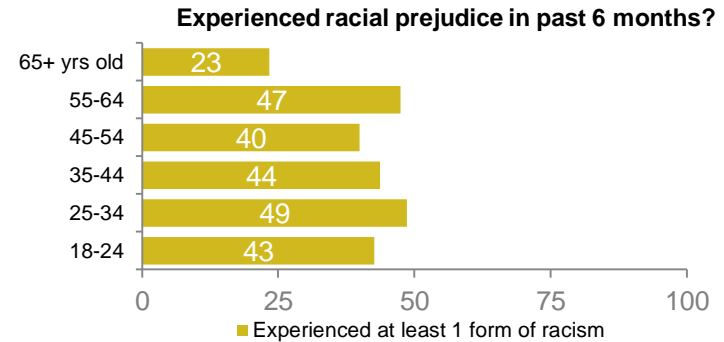
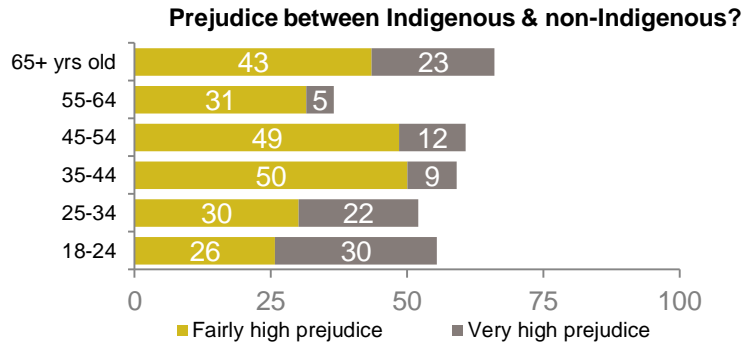
# Indigenous Australians are much more likely to have experienced racial prejudice in the past 6 months



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are twice as likely to have experienced verbal abuse in the past six months (33%), than the general community (16%), 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 a mixed picture

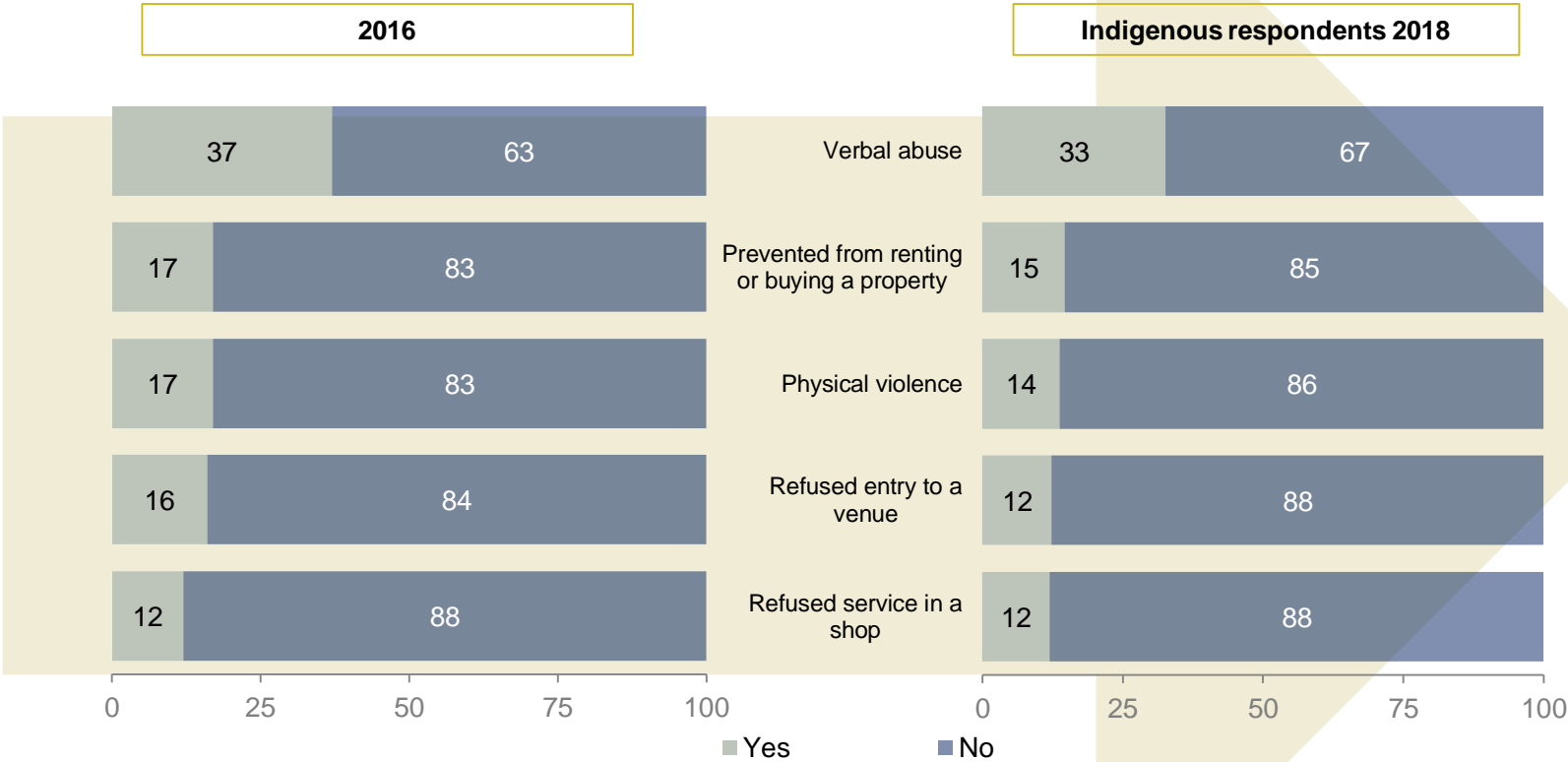
## Indigenous respondents 2018



When it comes to views of prejudice between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Indigenous Australians, young Indigenous peoples are most likely to see very high prejudice, 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 (43%), 18-24 year olds are most likely to have felt discriminated against by employers or local shop staff. And, consequently, young Indigenous peoples are least likely to feel they can always be themselves at work or in the general community.

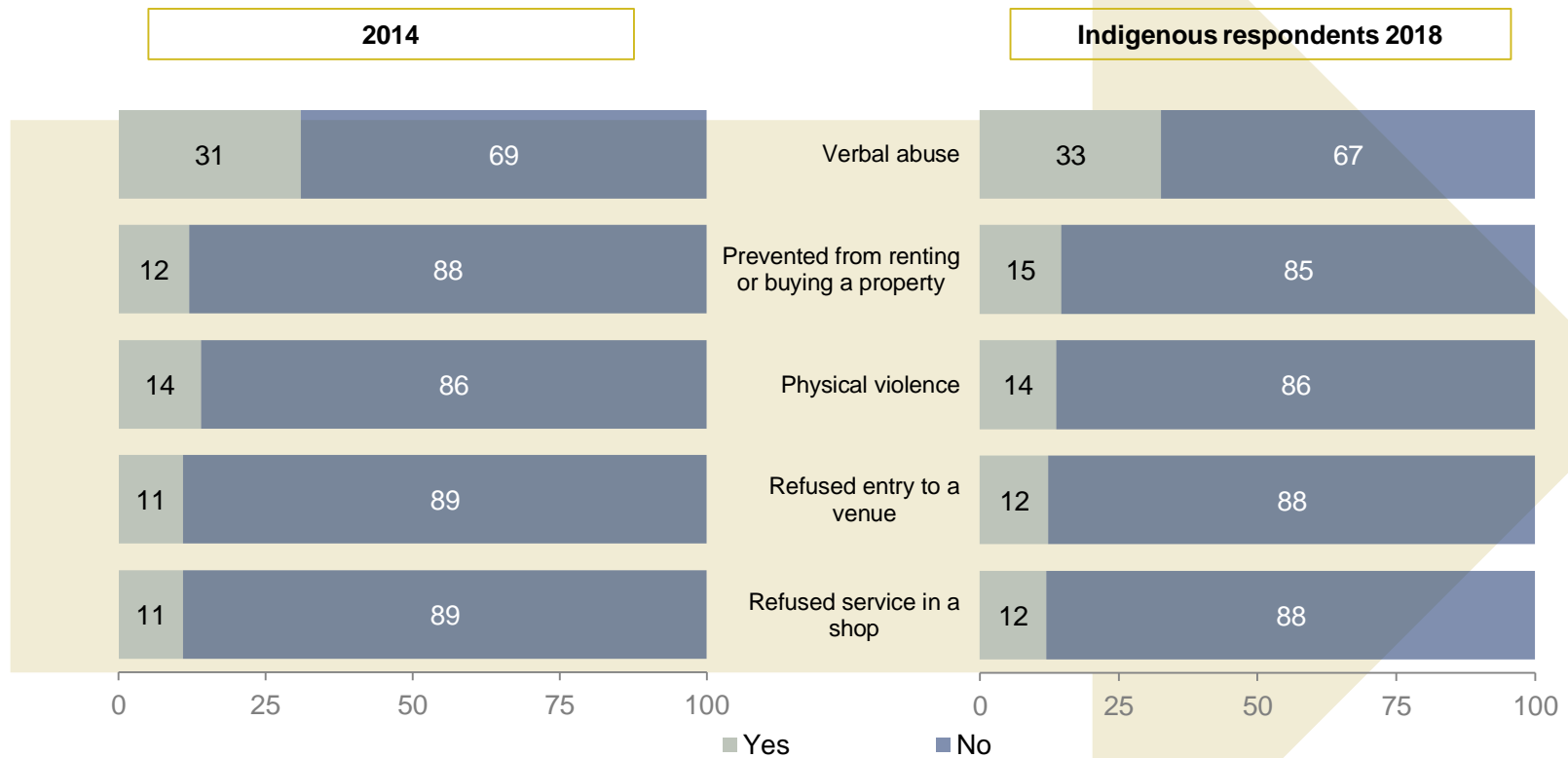
# Indigenous experiences of racial prejudice have decreased since 2016



There has been a slight decrease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing verbal abuse in the past six months (33%), since 2016 (37%).

Encouragingly, there have also been slight decreases in Indigenous people experiencing most other forms of race-based prejudice, in the past two years.

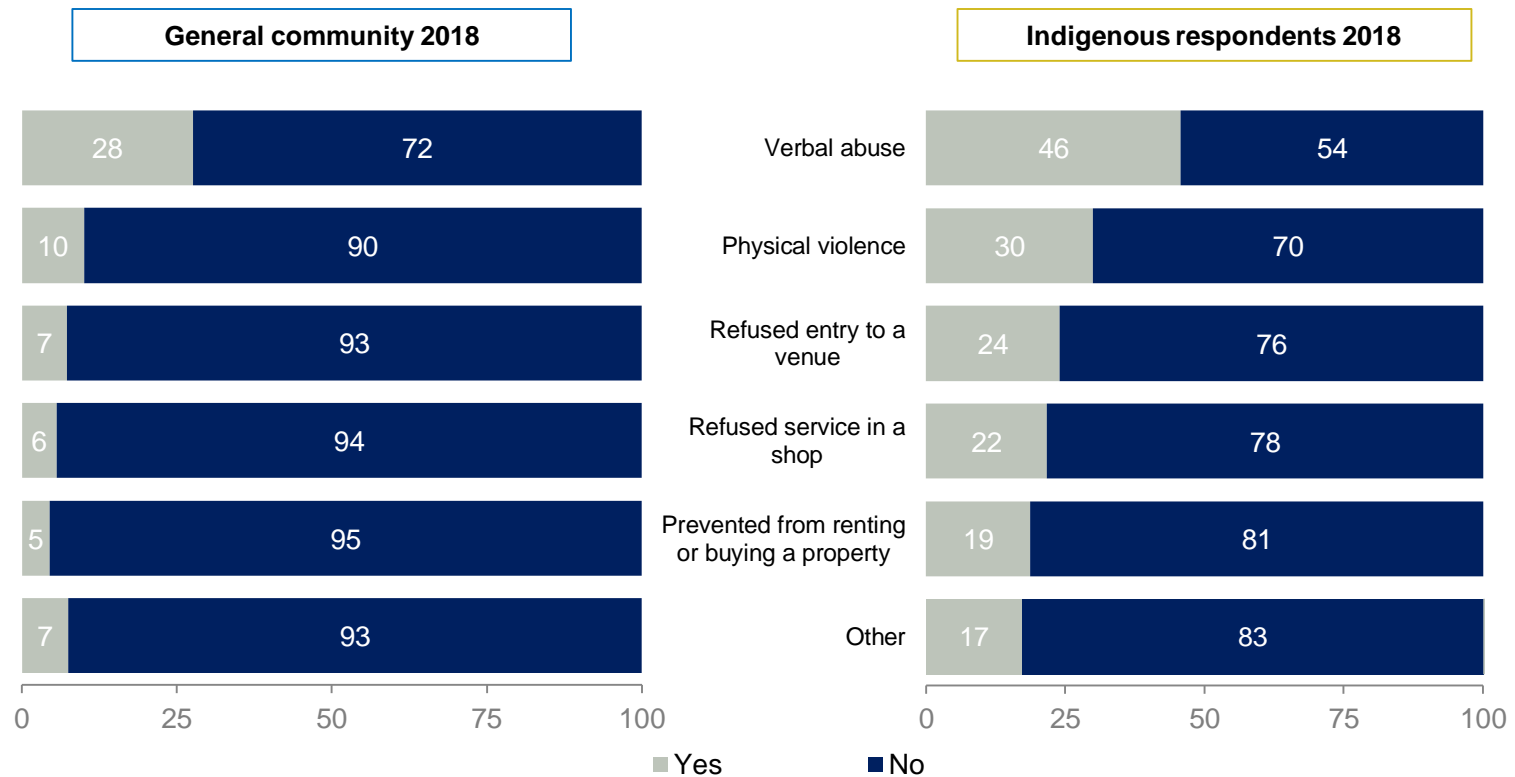
# Indigenous experiences of racial prejudice have changed little since 2014



There has largely been no improvement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s experiences of race-based prejudice in the past four years.

Most notably, the issue appears to be getting worse in terms of Indigenous Australians trying to rent or buy property.

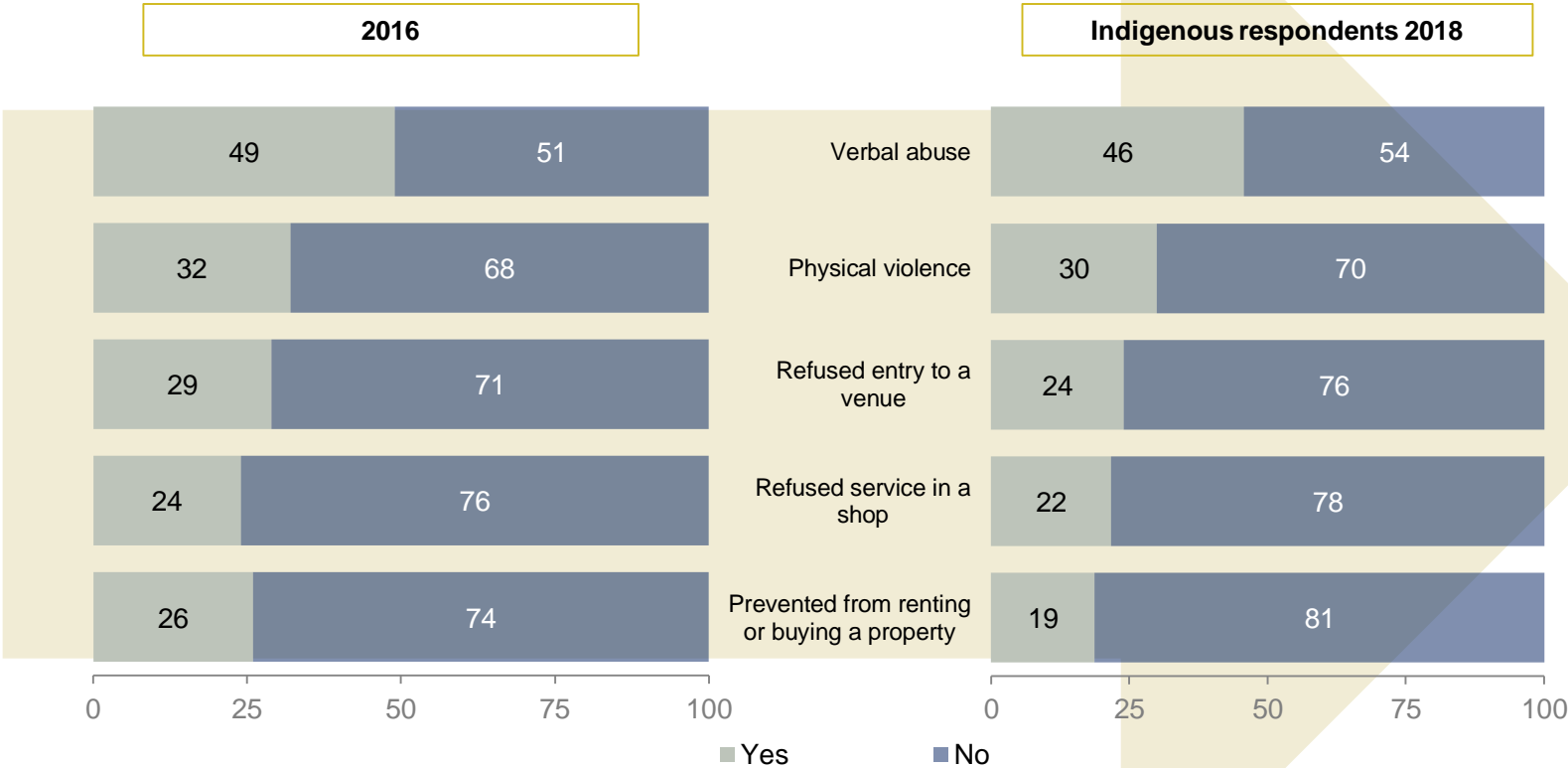
# Indigenous Australians are much more likely to have witnessed racial prejudice in the past 6 months



46% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have witnessed verbal abuse of another person in the past six months, considerably more than in the general community (28%).

Notably, Indigenous respondents are much more likely to have witnessed other forms of prejudice, on the basis of their race, compared to the general public.

# Indigenous witness of racial prejudice has decreased since 2016

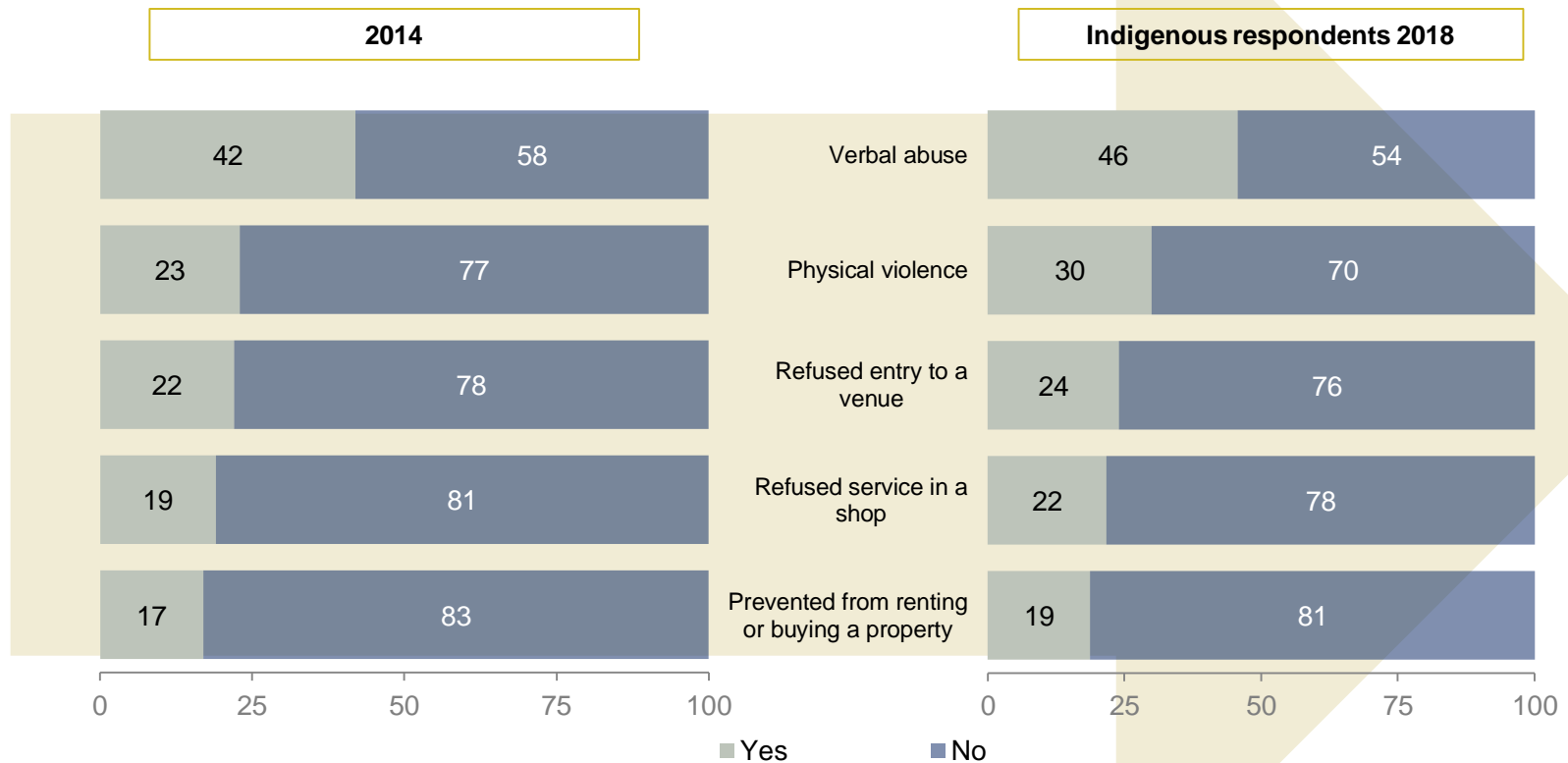


Since 2016, there has been a slight decrease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people witnessing all forms of race-based prejudice.

Most notably, fewer Indigenous respondents have witnessed prejudice towards others in property transactions (19%), than two years ago (26%).



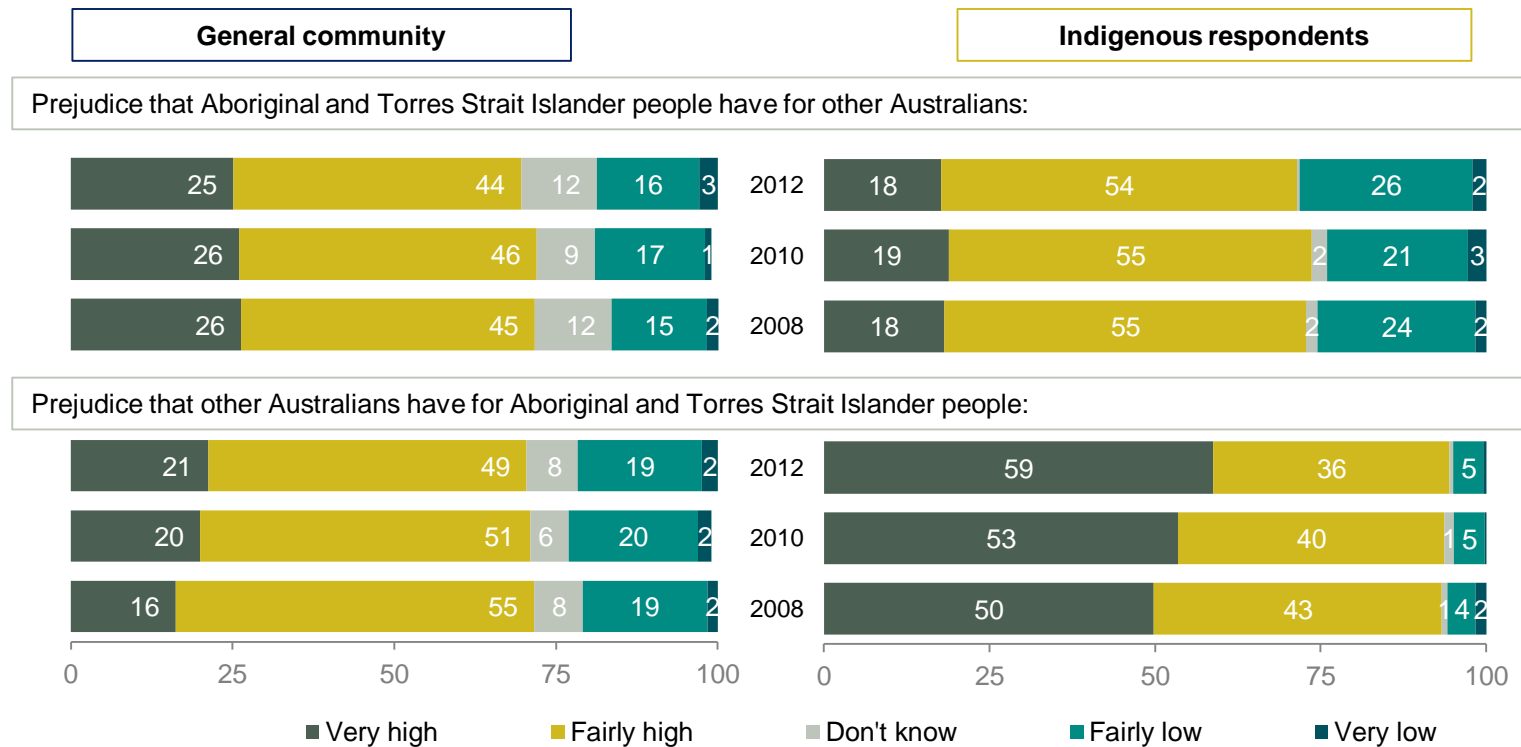
# Indigenous witness of racial prejudice has increased since 2014



More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (46%) have witnessed verbal abuse of another person in the past six months, up from 2014 (42%).

Worryingly, they are also more likely to have witnessed other forms of race-based prejudice, compared to 2014. Most notably, more Indigenous respondents have witnessed physical violence (30%) than four years ago (23%).

# Perceptions of prejudice 2008-12



Between 2008-2012, both groups felt there were relatively high levels of prejudice between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

However, while the general community mostly felt there were 'fairly' high levels of prejudice for Indigenous people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents mostly believed that prejudice towards them from other Australians was 'very' high.

# 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?

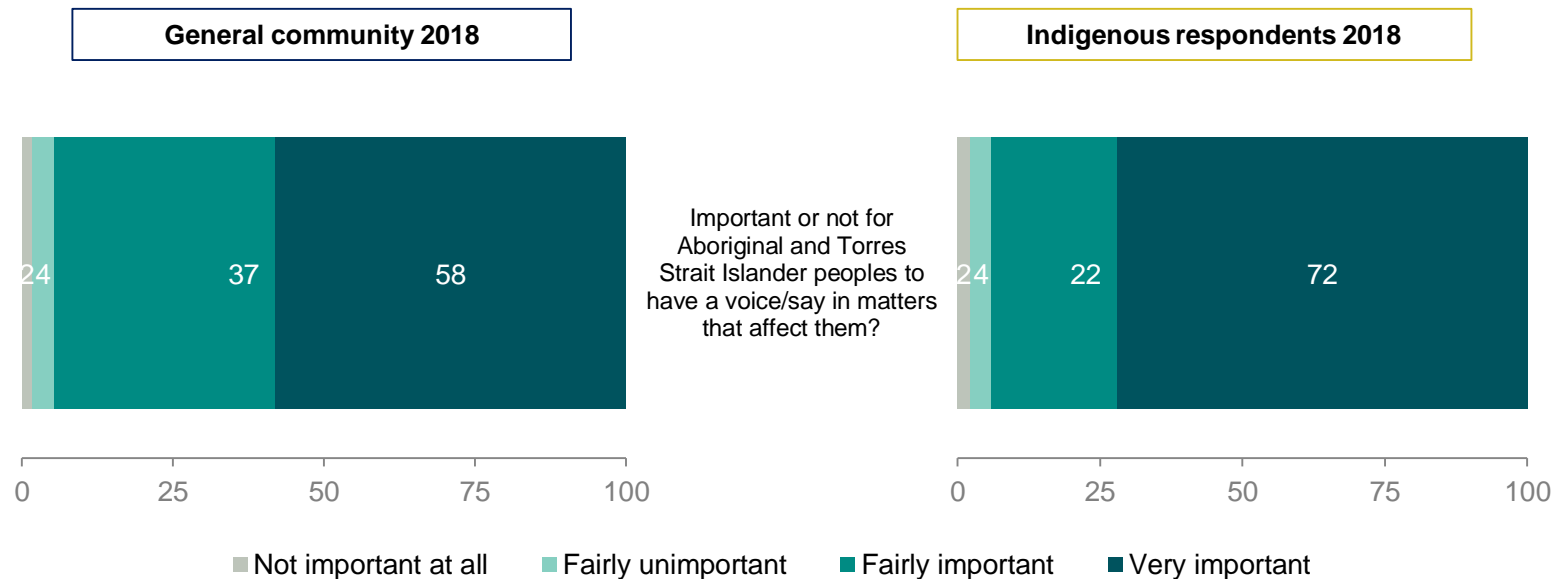
**Key Findings:**

94% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents and 95% of the general community believe it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in their affairs

45% of Indigenous respondents and 40% of the general community believe that the Australian education system does not prepare children well for employment

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.

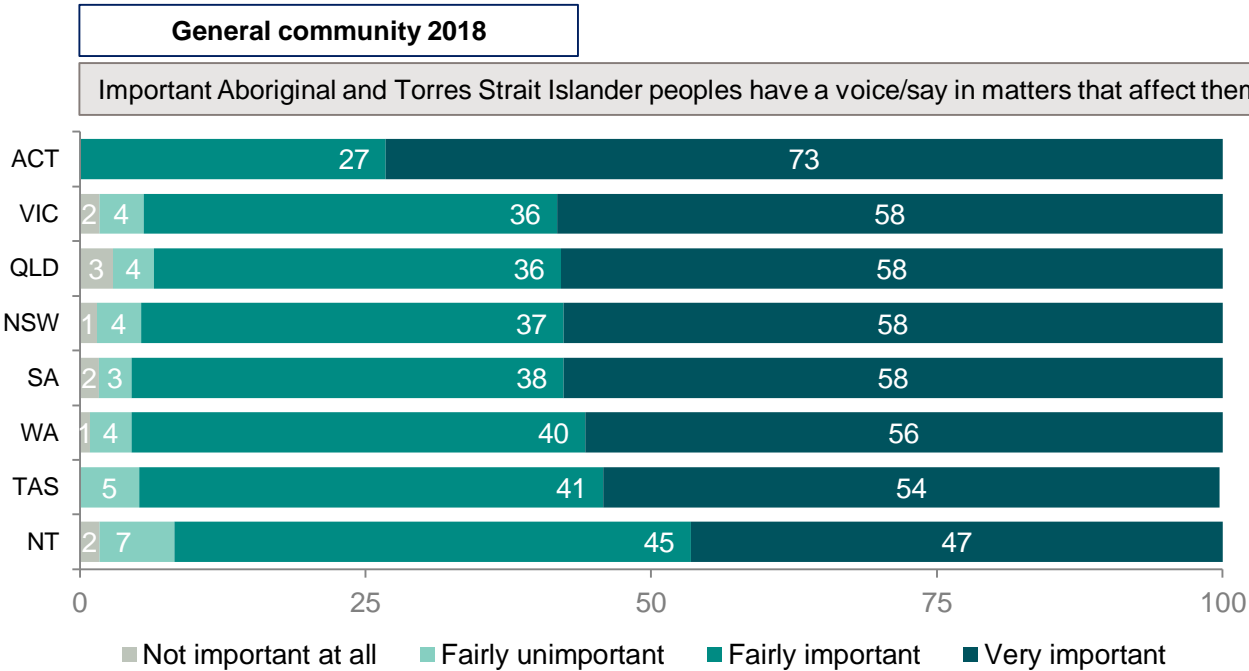
# We mostly believe it is very important for Indigenous peoples to have a say in their affairs



The general community (95%) and Indigenous communities (94%) widely believe it's important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have a say in matters that affect them.

Notably, this includes a strong majority of the general public (58%) who think this is very important.

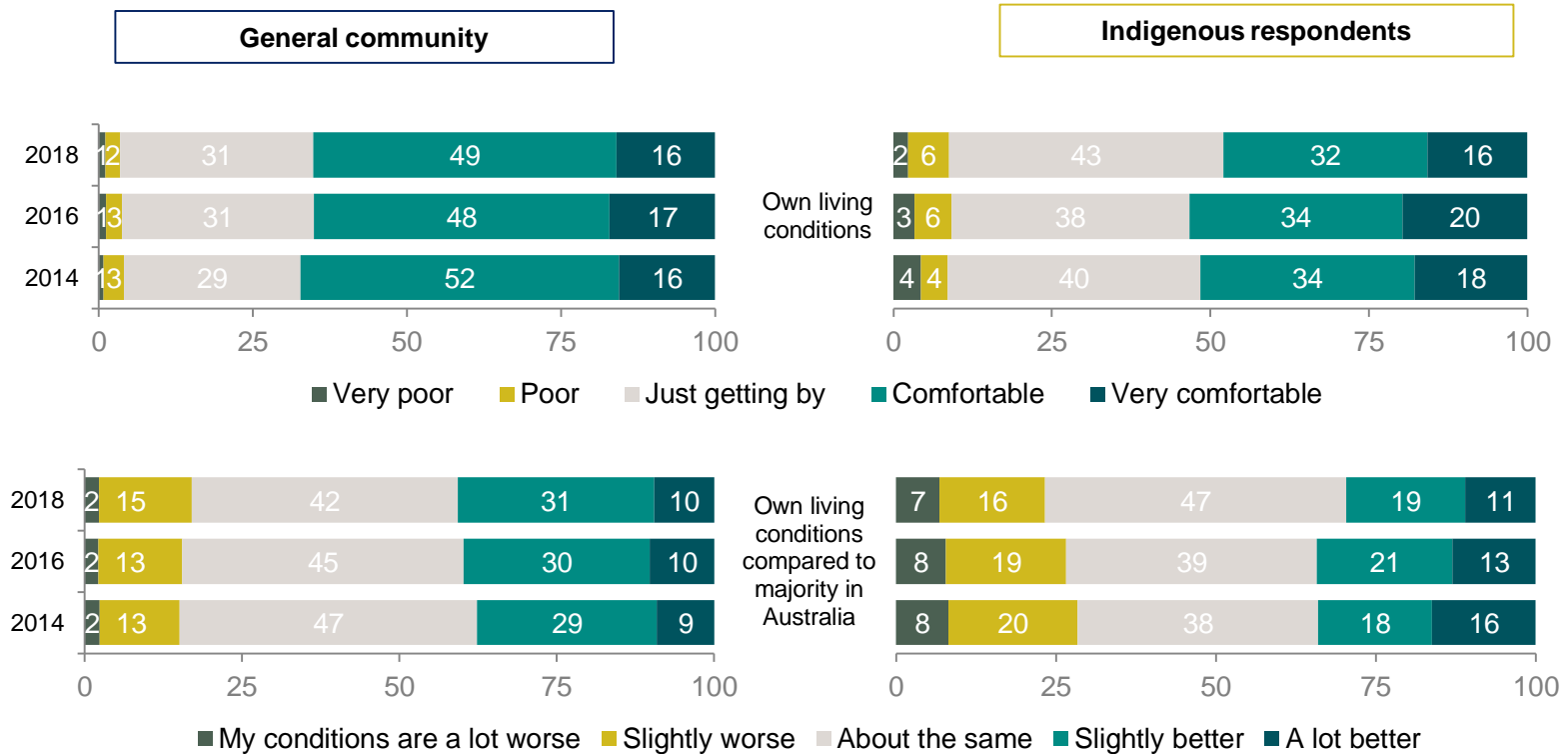
# More people from the ACT believe it is very important for Indigenous peoples to have a voice



The general community in ACT mostly believe (73%) that it's very important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have a say in matters that affect them. This is notably higher than in other areas.

However, strong majorities in all States and Territories believe this is important.

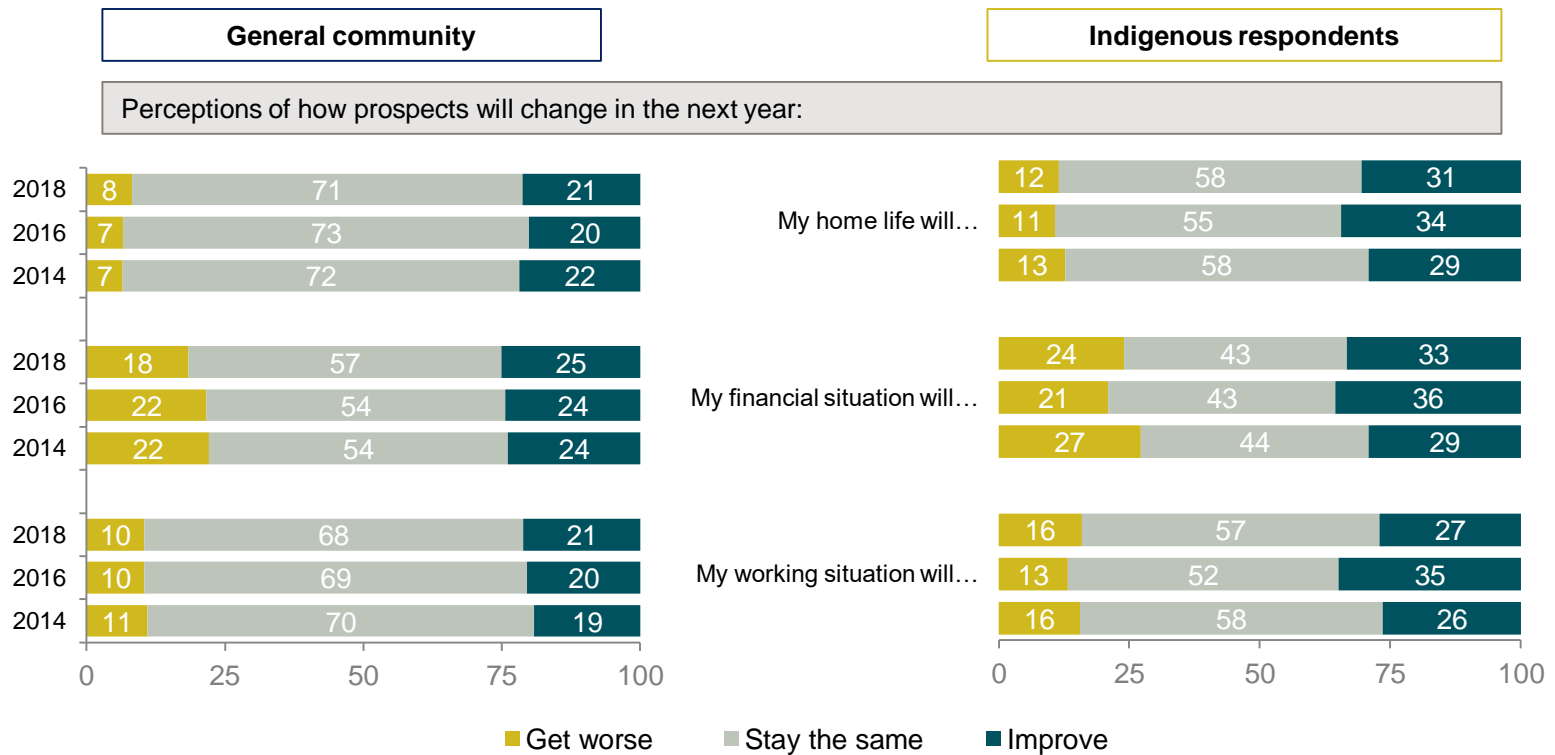
# Indigenous Australians remain more likely to consider their living conditions are poor



While 65% of the general community consider their own living conditions to be comfortable, only 48% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people do so. This 'gap' has worsened slightly since 2016, with less Indigenous respondents now comfortable.

Notably, while only 2% of the general public consider their own living conditions to be a lot worse than the majority of people in Australia, 7% of Indigenous respondents feel that way.

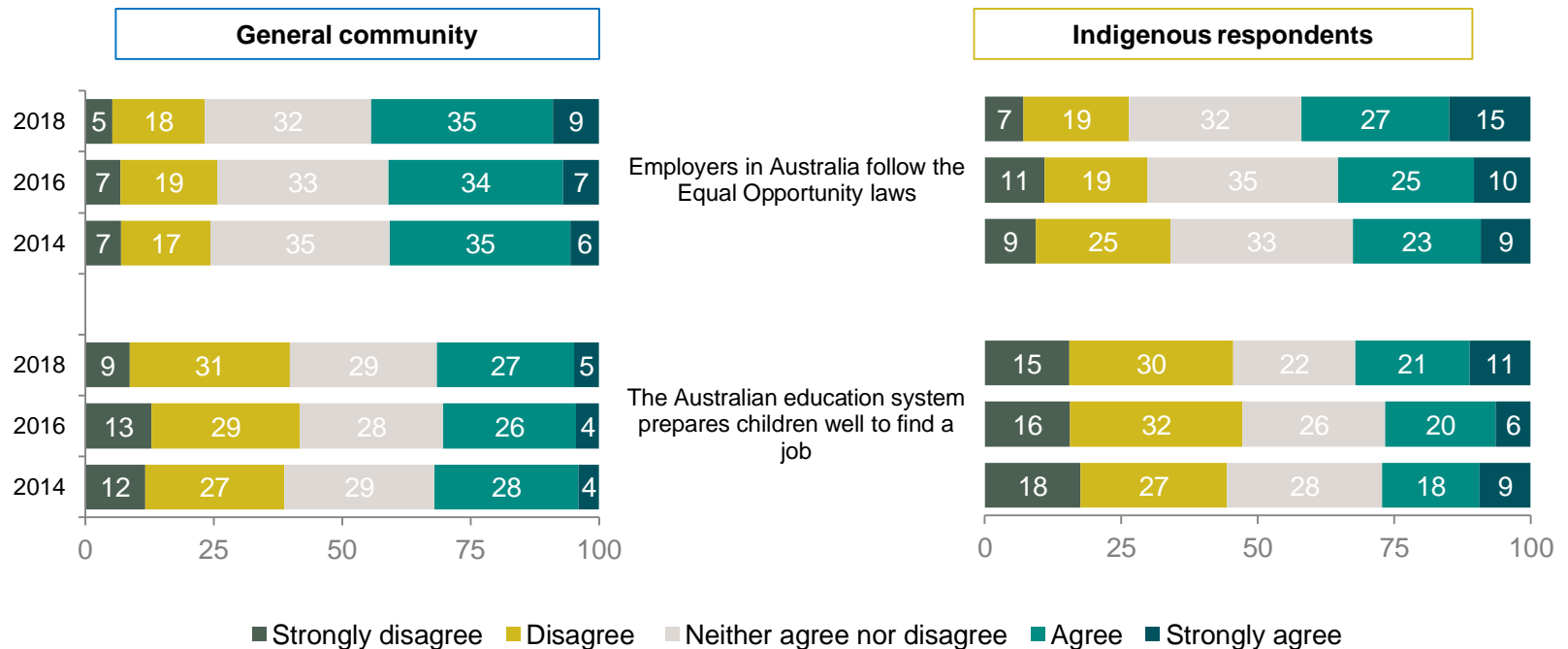
# Indigenous Australians remain more likely to feel their prospects will change for the worse



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

However, more Indigenous respondents still think their conditions will deteriorate, in terms of home life, financial situation and working situation, compared to the general community.

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

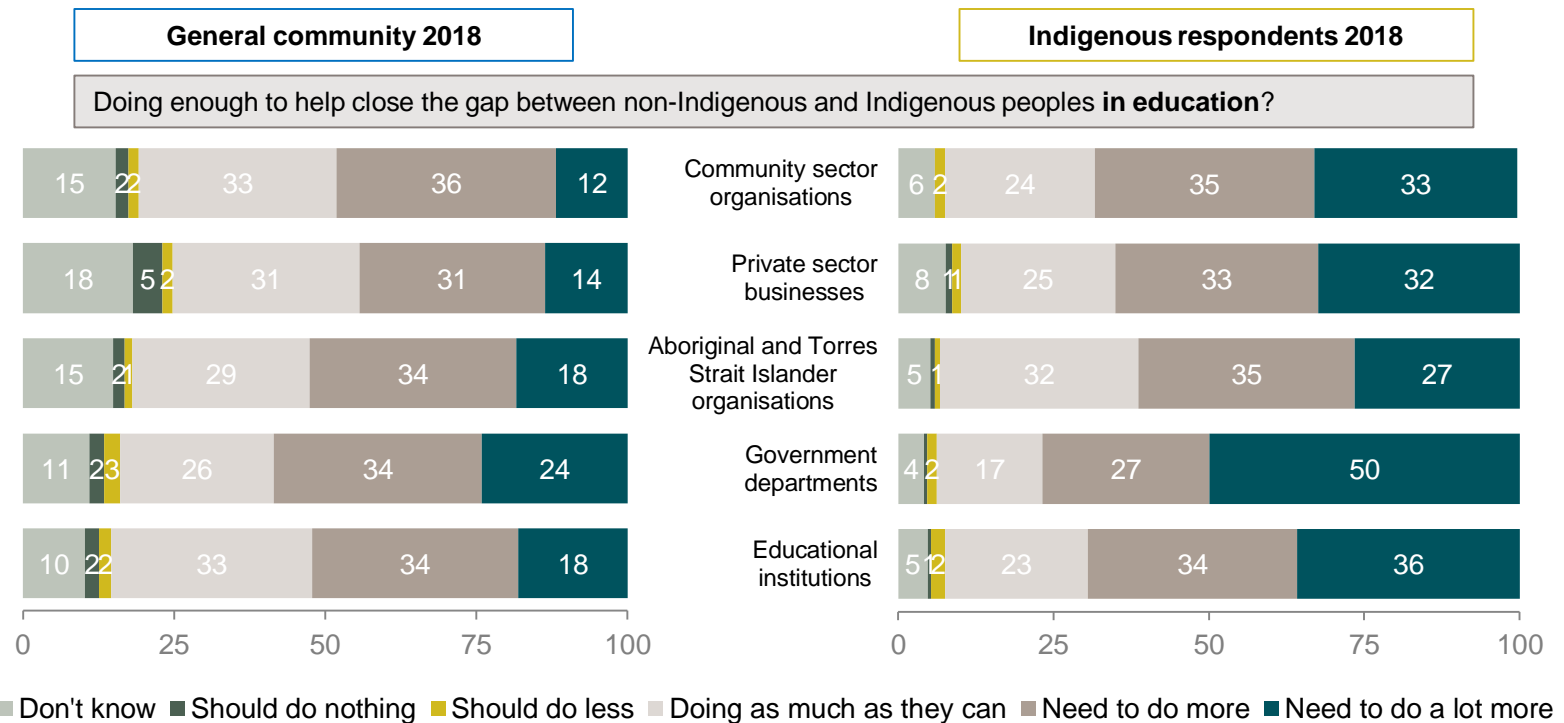


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are now more likely to feel that employers in Australia *do* follow equal opportunity laws and practices (42%), in line with the general community (44%).

Similarly, more Indigenous respondents now agree (32%) that the education system prepares children well for employment. However, they are also more likely to strongly disagree with this premise (15%), than the general public (9%).



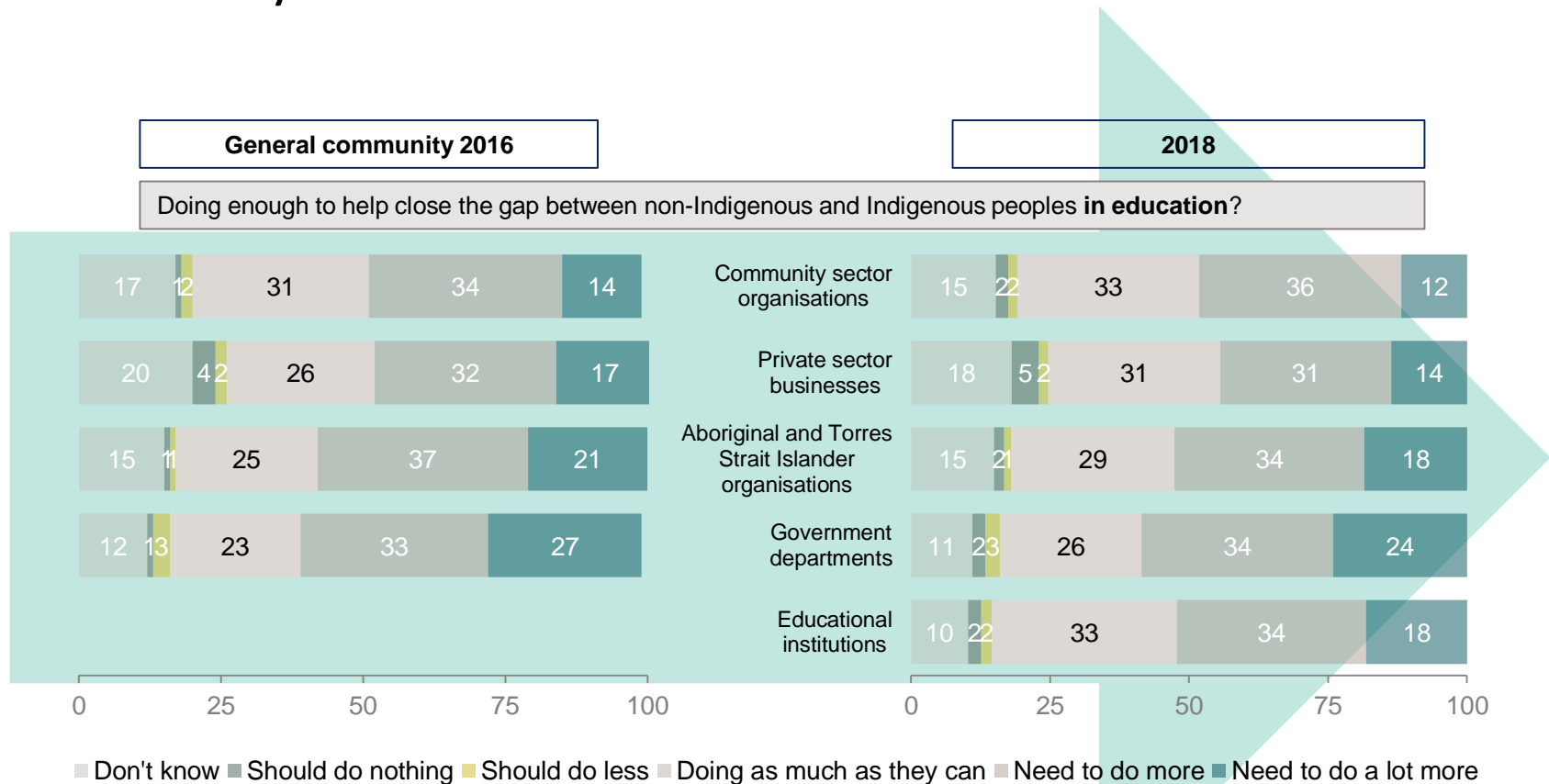
# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of education to close the gap



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 (50%), the community sector (33%) and the business sector (32%) need to do a lot more.

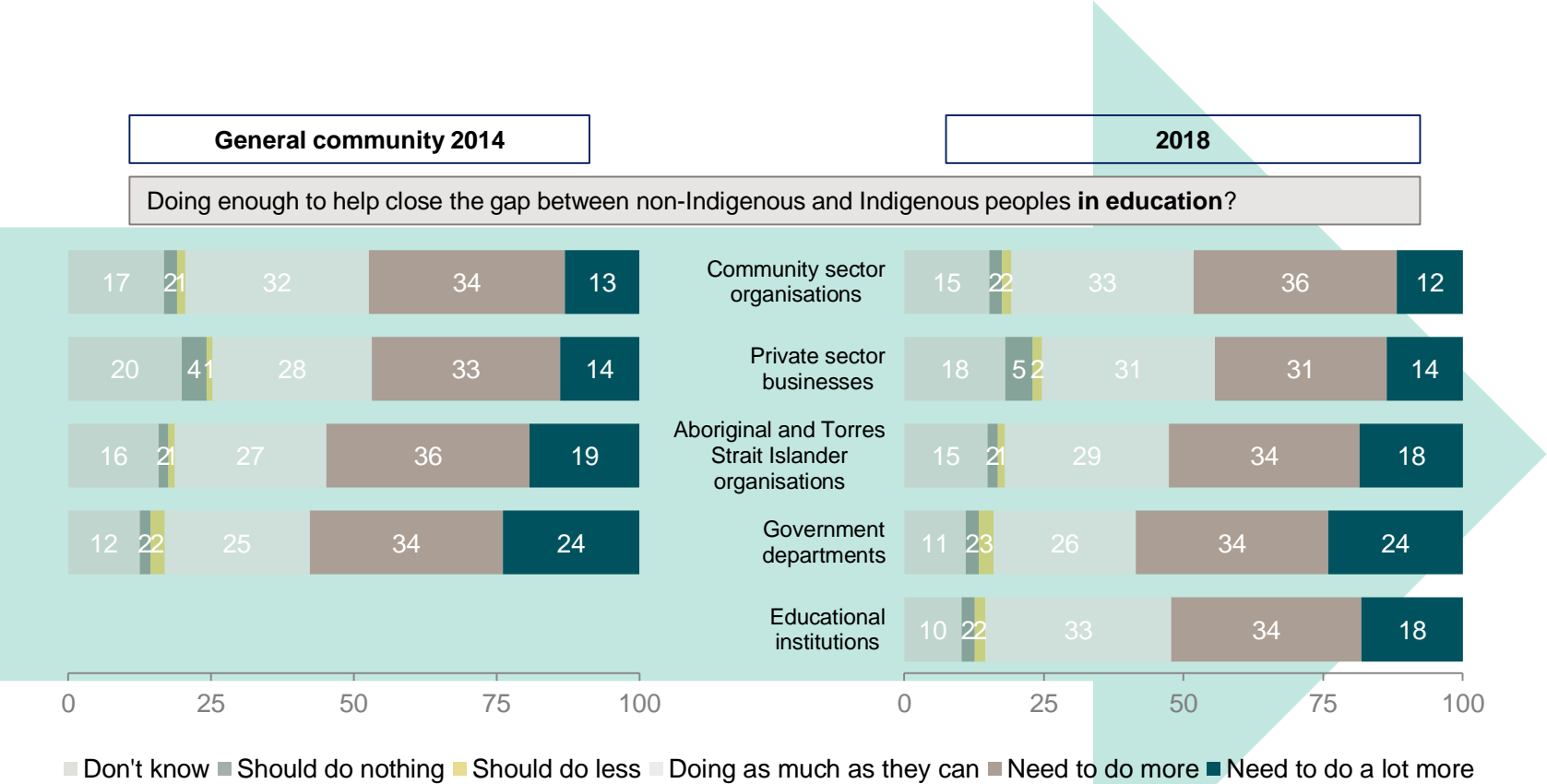
# More Australians think organisations are doing as much as they can in areas of education



There has been a slight decrease 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 2016.

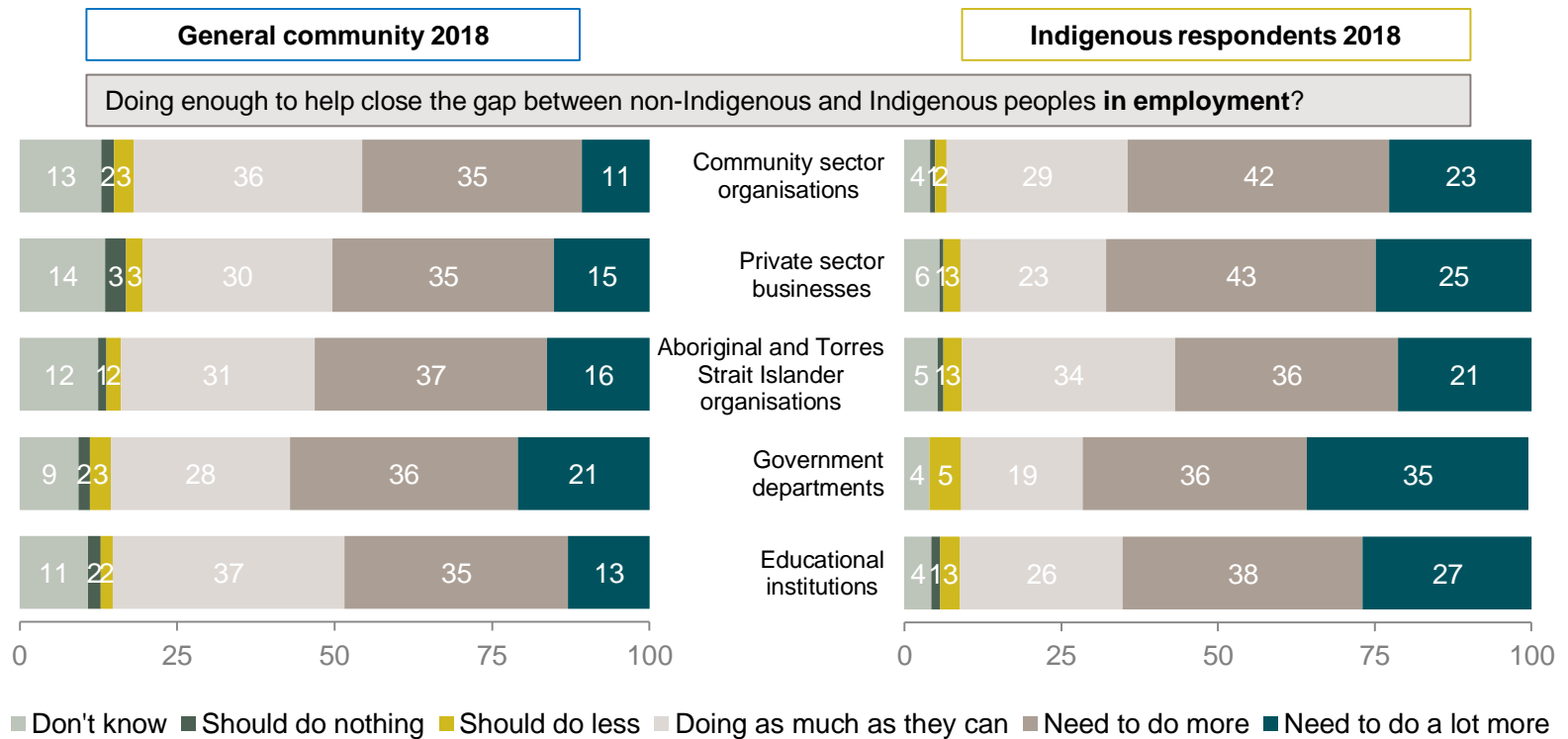
In particular, more Australians now believe that businesses (31%) are doing as much as they can, compared to 2016.

# Most Australians still think organisations need to do more in areas of education, as in 2014



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

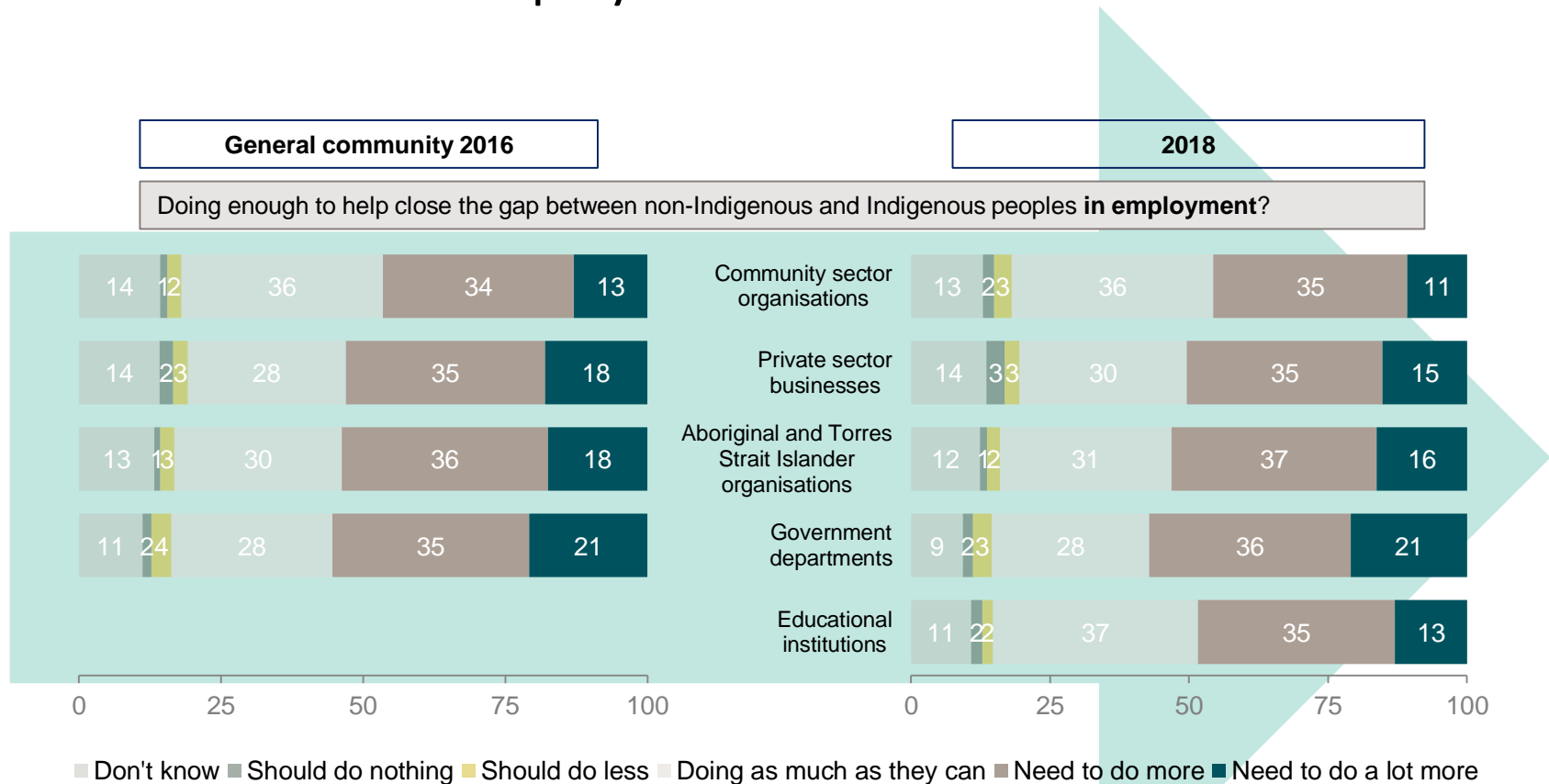
# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of employment to close the gap



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.

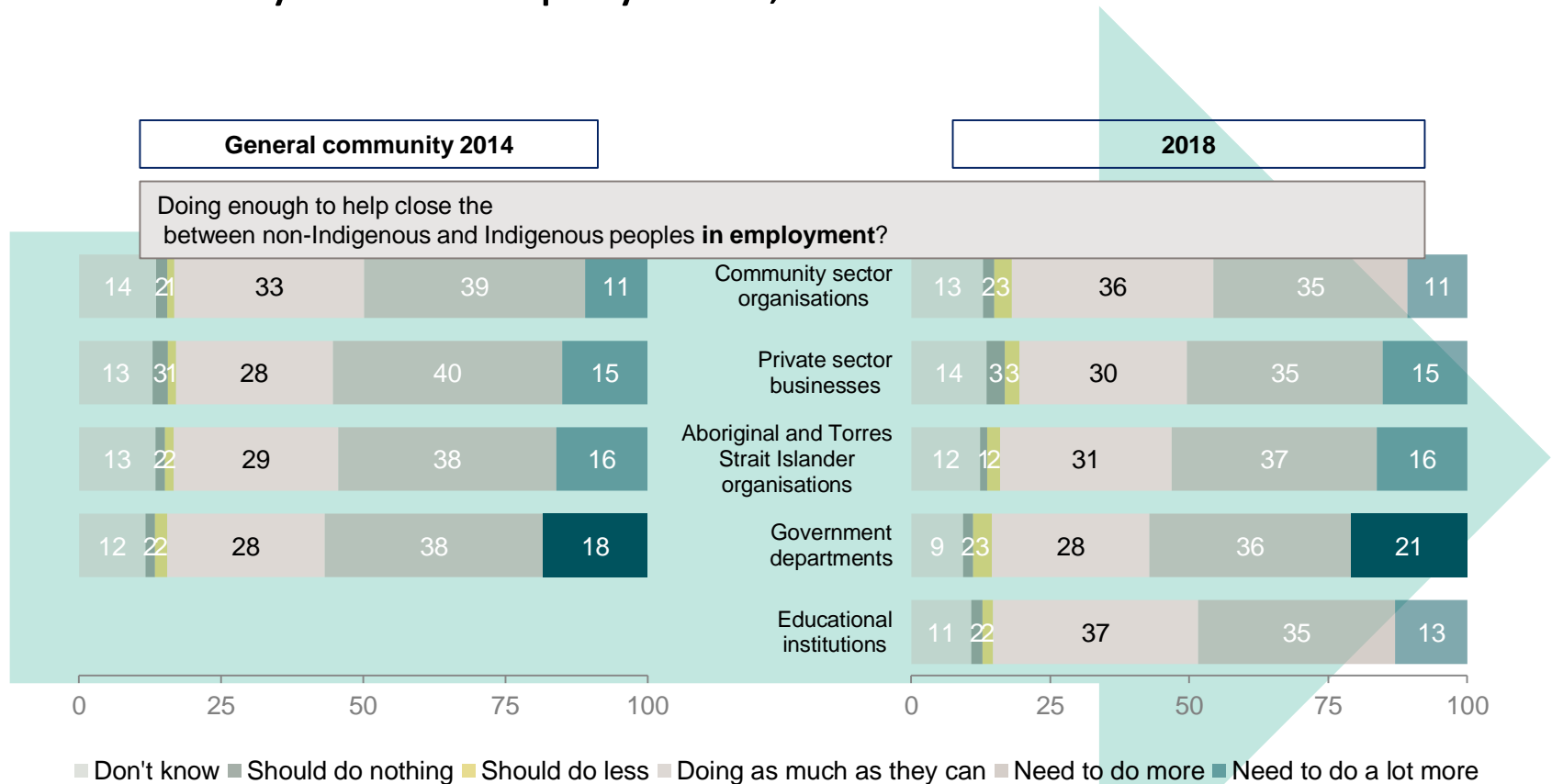
In particular, Indigenous respondents more widely believe the education sector (27%), the community sector (23%) and the business sector (25%) need to do a lot more.

# Most Australians still think organisations need to do more in areas of employment



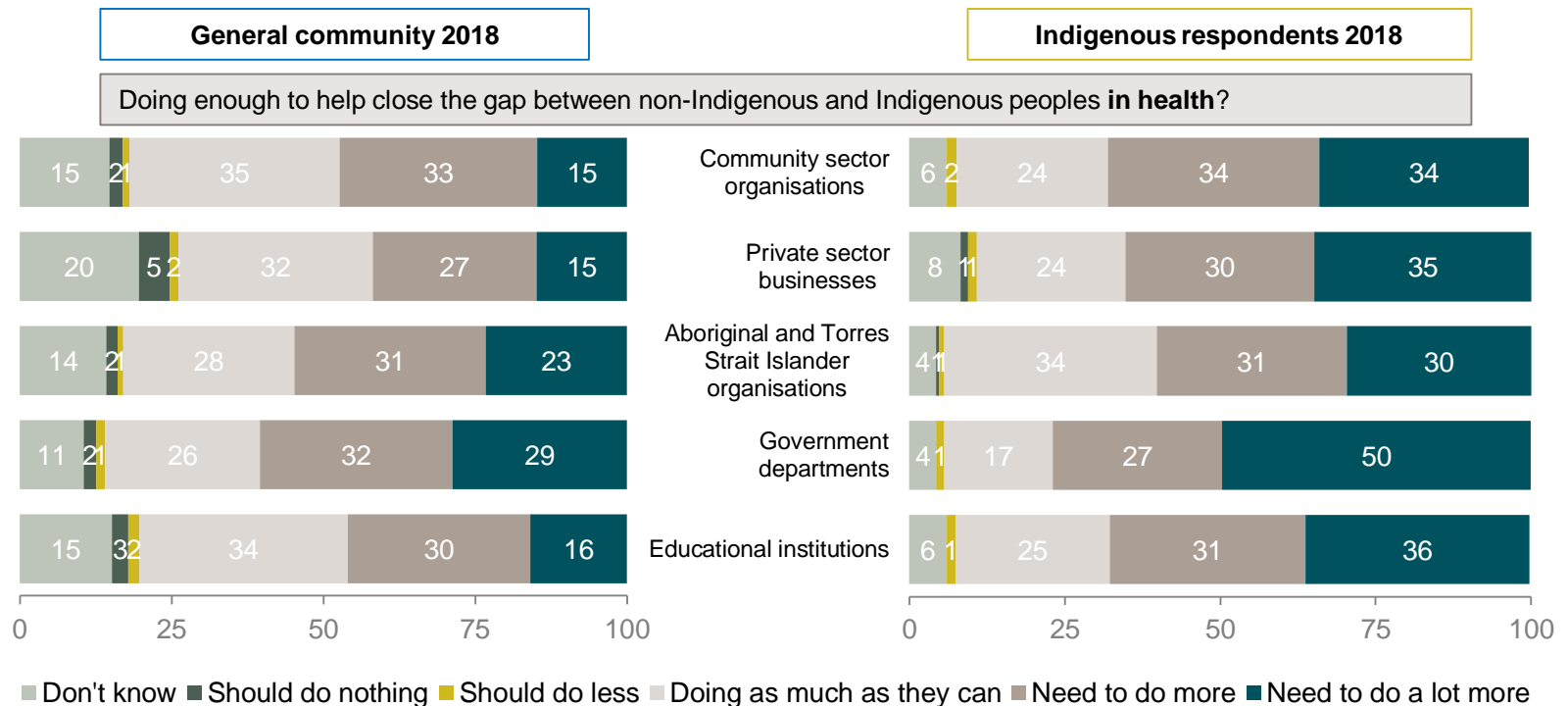
There has been little change in the general community regarding how various organisations need to do more in areas of employment, to help close the gap, since 2016.

# More Australians think organisations are doing as much as they can in employment, since 2014



There has been a slight increase in the general community of people who think that various organisations are doing as much as they can in areas of employment, to help close the gap, since 2014. In particular, more Australians now believe the community sector (36%) is doing as much as they can, compared to 4 years ago. However, more people now feel government needs to do a lot more (21%).

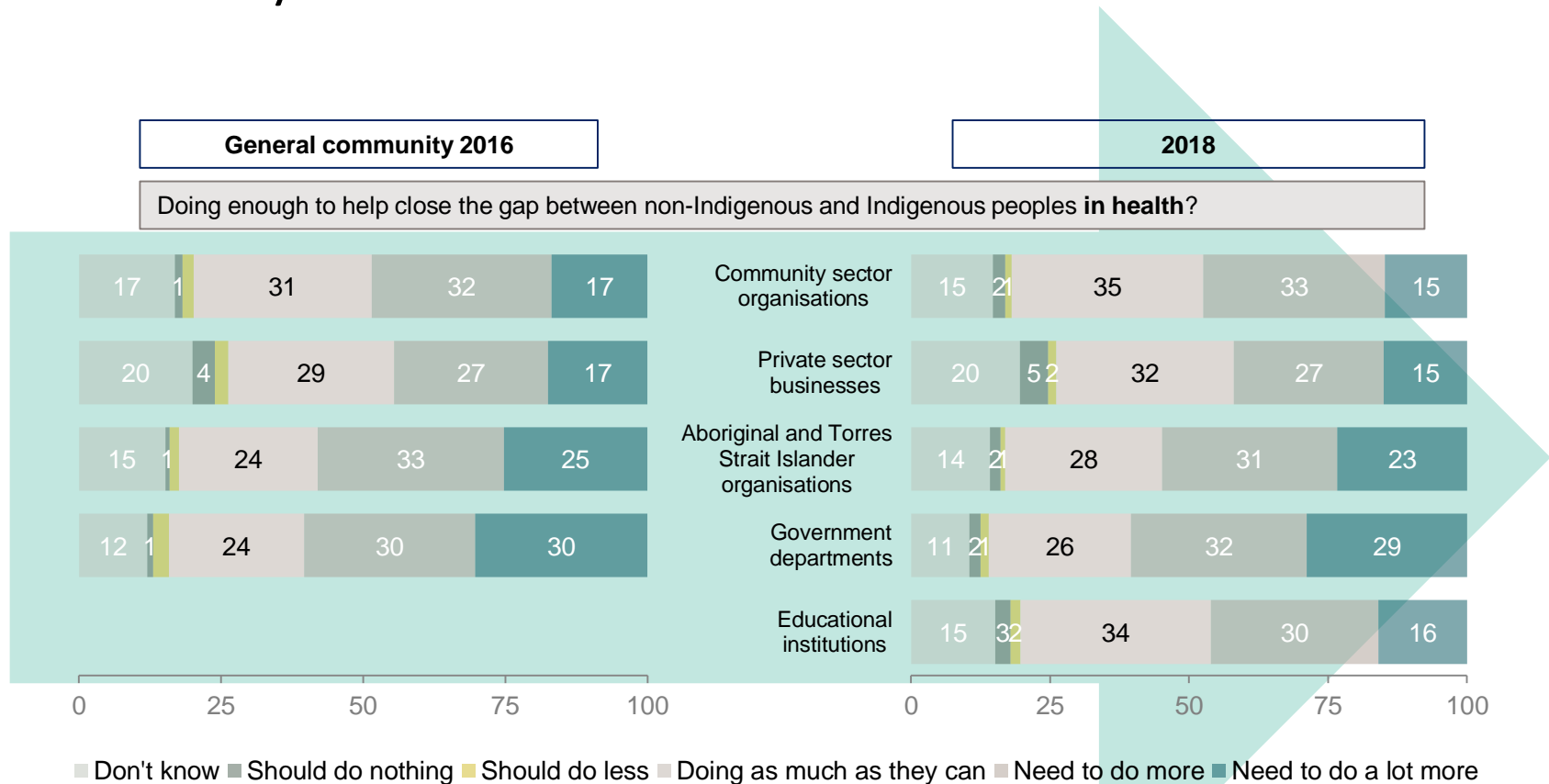
# We mostly think more needs to be done in areas of health to close the gap



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, Indigenous respondents more widely believe educational institutions (36%), the community sector (34%) and the business sector (35%) need to do a lot more.

# More Australians think organisations are doing as much as they can in areas of health

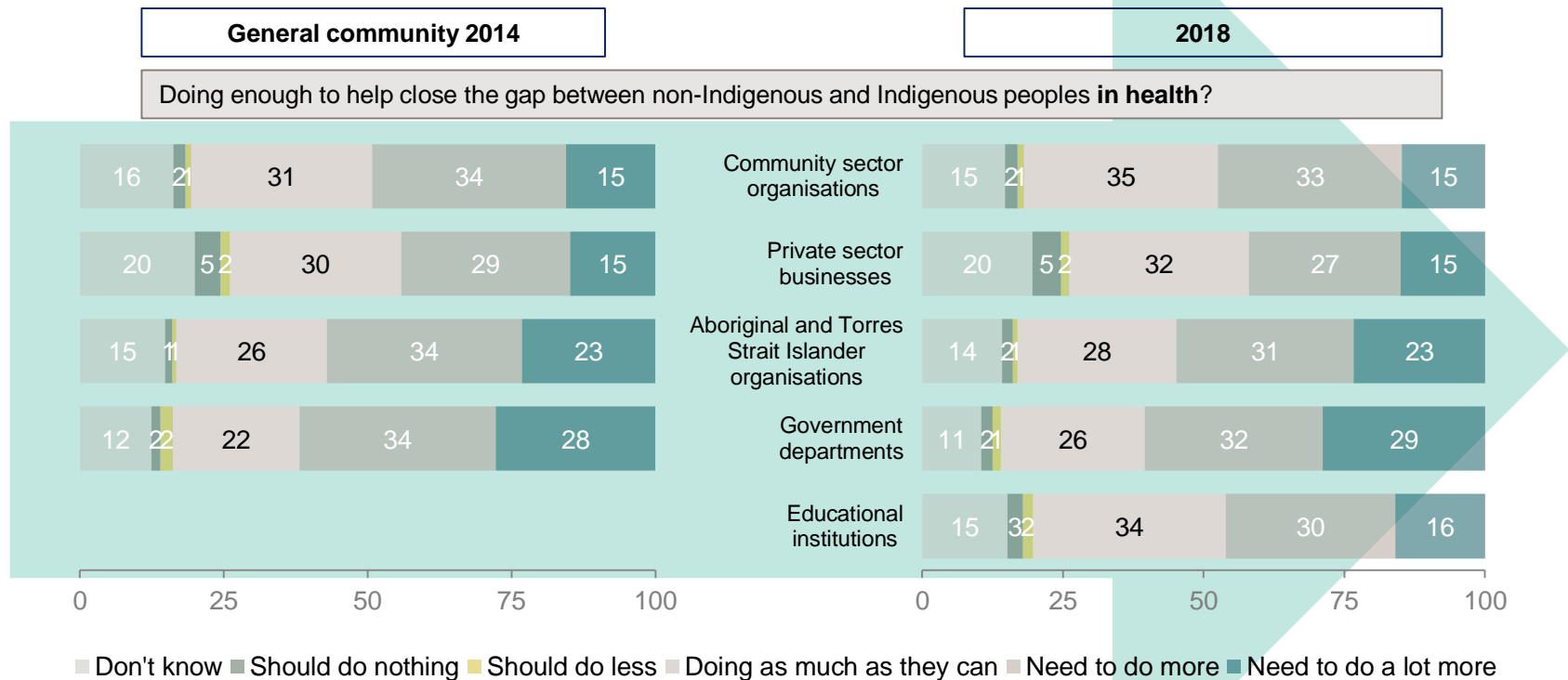


There has been a slight decrease in the general community of people who think that various organisations need to do a lot more in areas of health, to help close the gap, since 2016.

In particular, more Australians now believe the community sector (35%) and Indigenous organisations (28%) are doing as much as they can, compared to 2016.

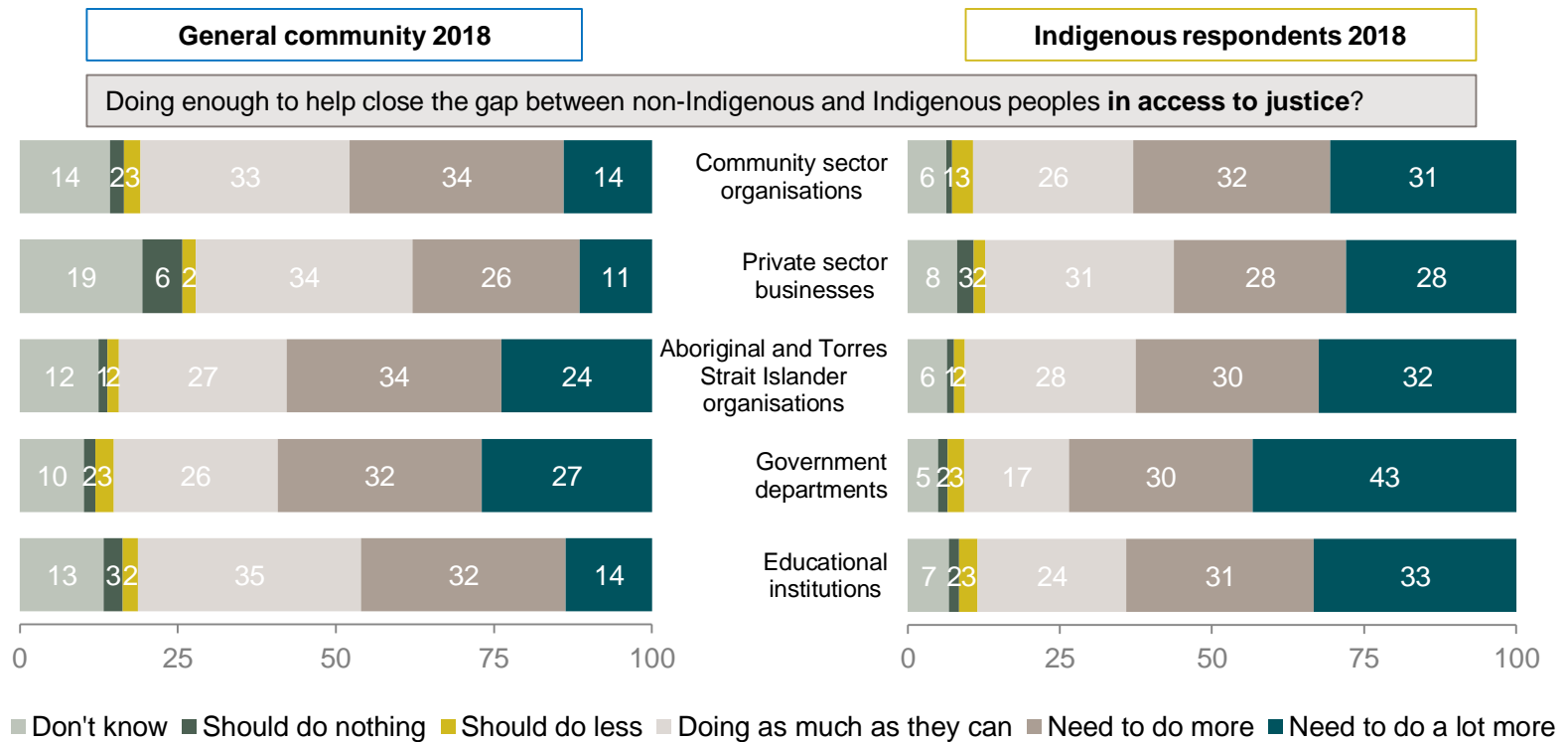


# More Australians think organisations are doing as much as they can in areas of health, since 2014



More people in the general community now believe various organisations are doing as much as they can 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, Indigenous respondents more widely believe the educational sector (33%), the community sector (31%) and the business sector (28%) need to do a lot more.

# 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:**

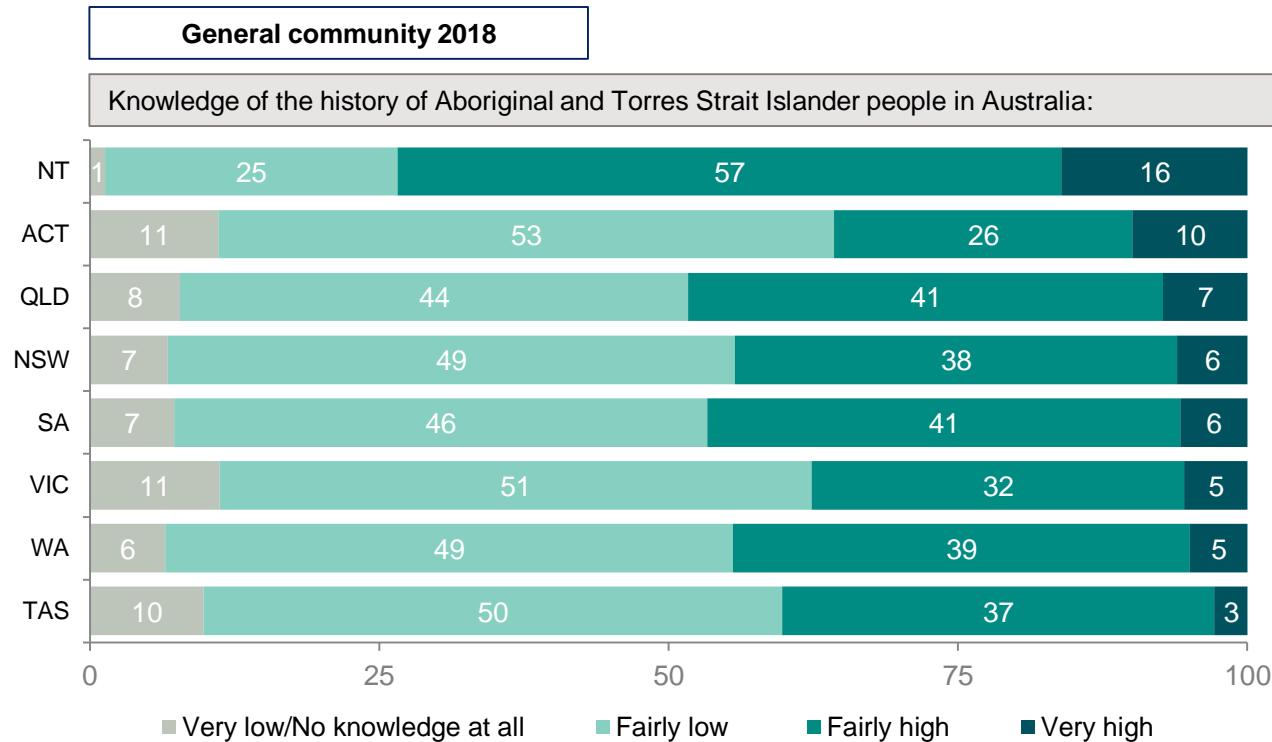
73% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would like to do something to help improve reconciliation, compared to 54% of the general community.

81% of the general community believes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures should be recognised in the Constitution.

64% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents support a treaty, compared to 47% of the general community.

More Australians believe it is possible to become united – 74% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and 72% of Australians in the general community

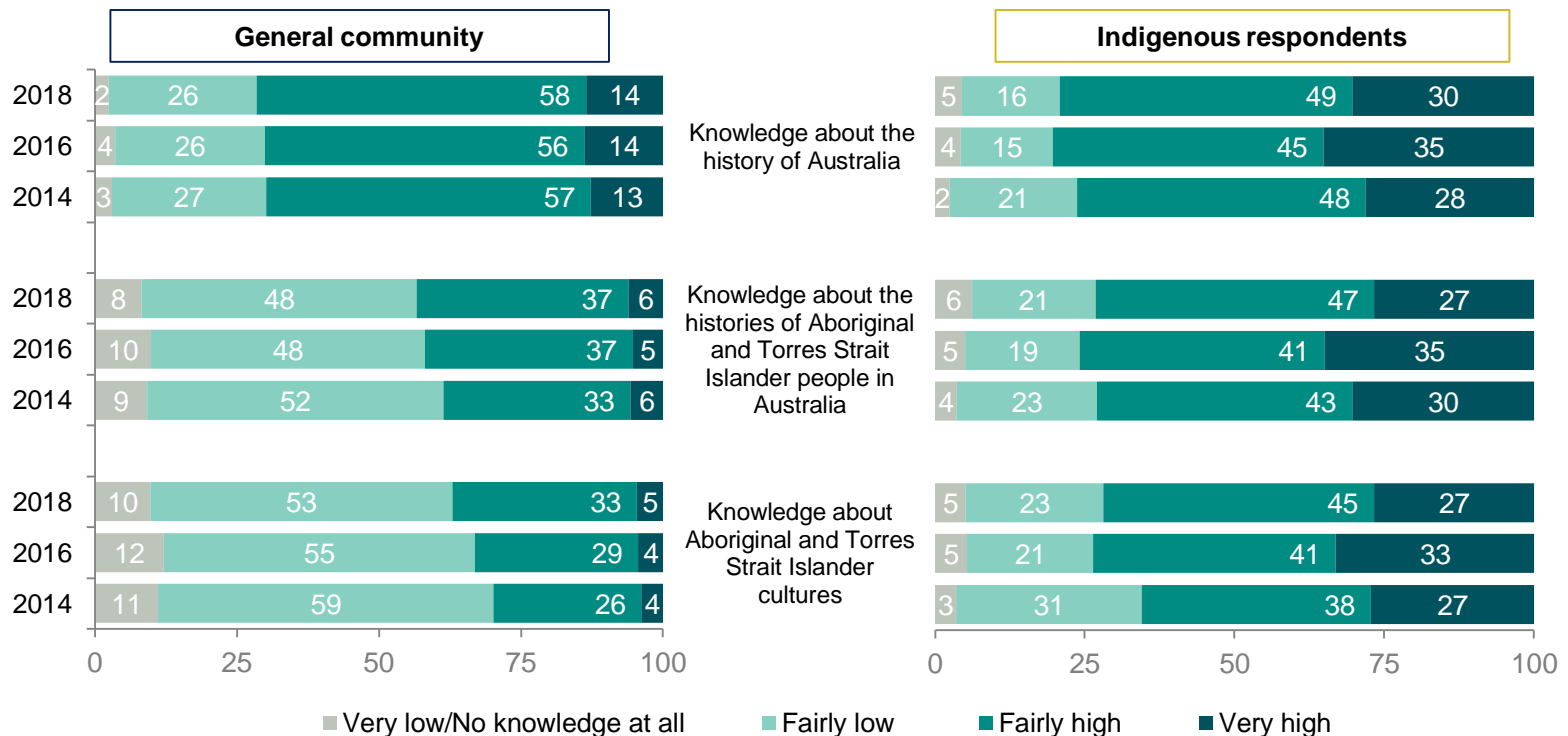
# Most Northern Territorians feel they know about Indigenous history



73% of the general community in NT believe they have a high level of knowledge about the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Conversely, Capital Territorians are least likely to feel they have a high level of knowledge about the history of Indigenous people in Australia (36%).

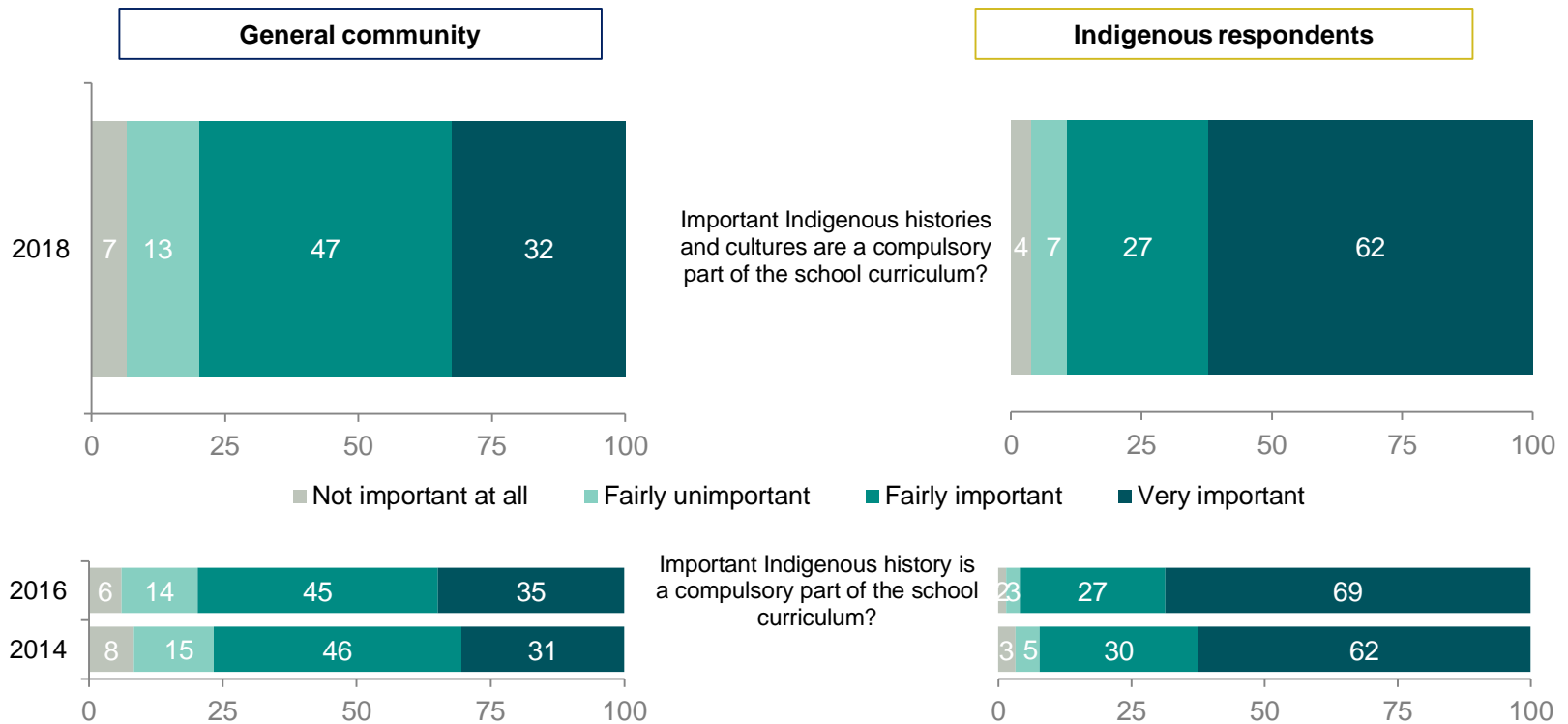
# Our knowledge of Indigenous histories and cultures continues to increase slowly



72% of the general community and 79% 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 (74%) or their cultures (72%), than the general community (43% and 38% respectively). This can be seen to highlight how, for Indigenous respondents, Indigenous history is central to Australian history overall.

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

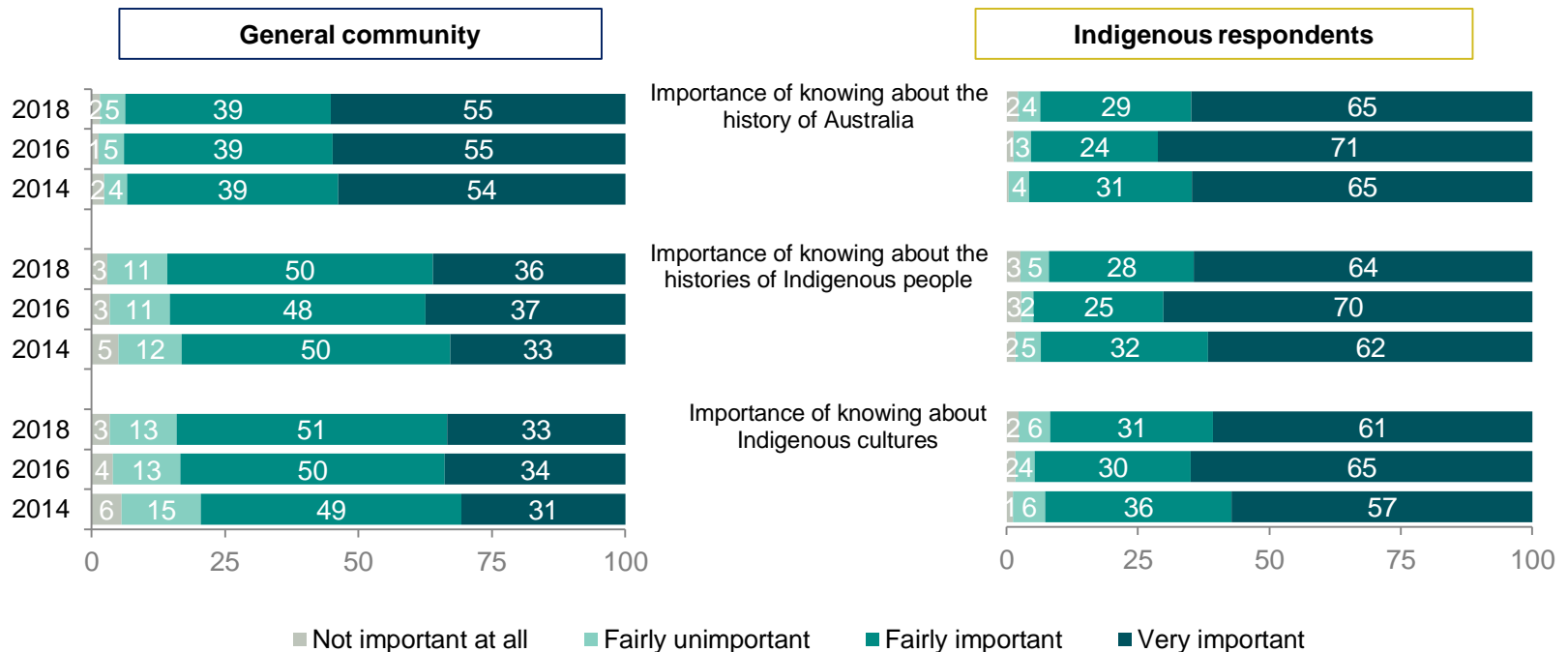
# The importance of knowing and learning about Indigenous history and cultures remains steady



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are twice as likely to believe it is very important that Indigenous histories and cultures should be compulsory in school (62%), compared to the general public (32%).

The levels of importance in both communities has remained steady since 2014.

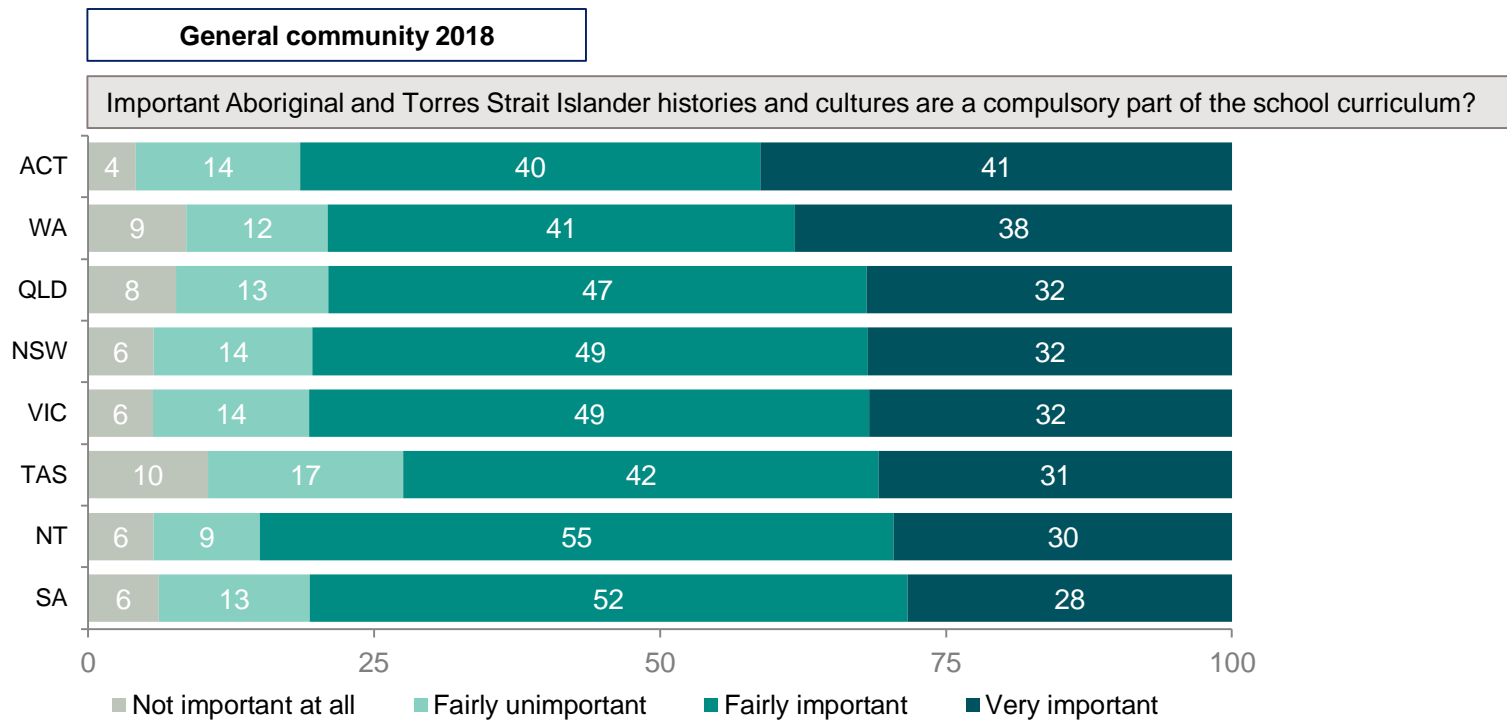
# The importance of learning about Indigenous histories and cultures remains stable



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain more likely to believe it is very important for all Australians to learn about the histories of Indigenous people (64%) or their cultures (61%). However, it is encouraging that there has been a slight increase in these sentiments in both communities since 2014.

Similarly, Indigenous respondents are also 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.

# There is widespread support in ACT for Indigenous histories and cultures to be formally taught in schools

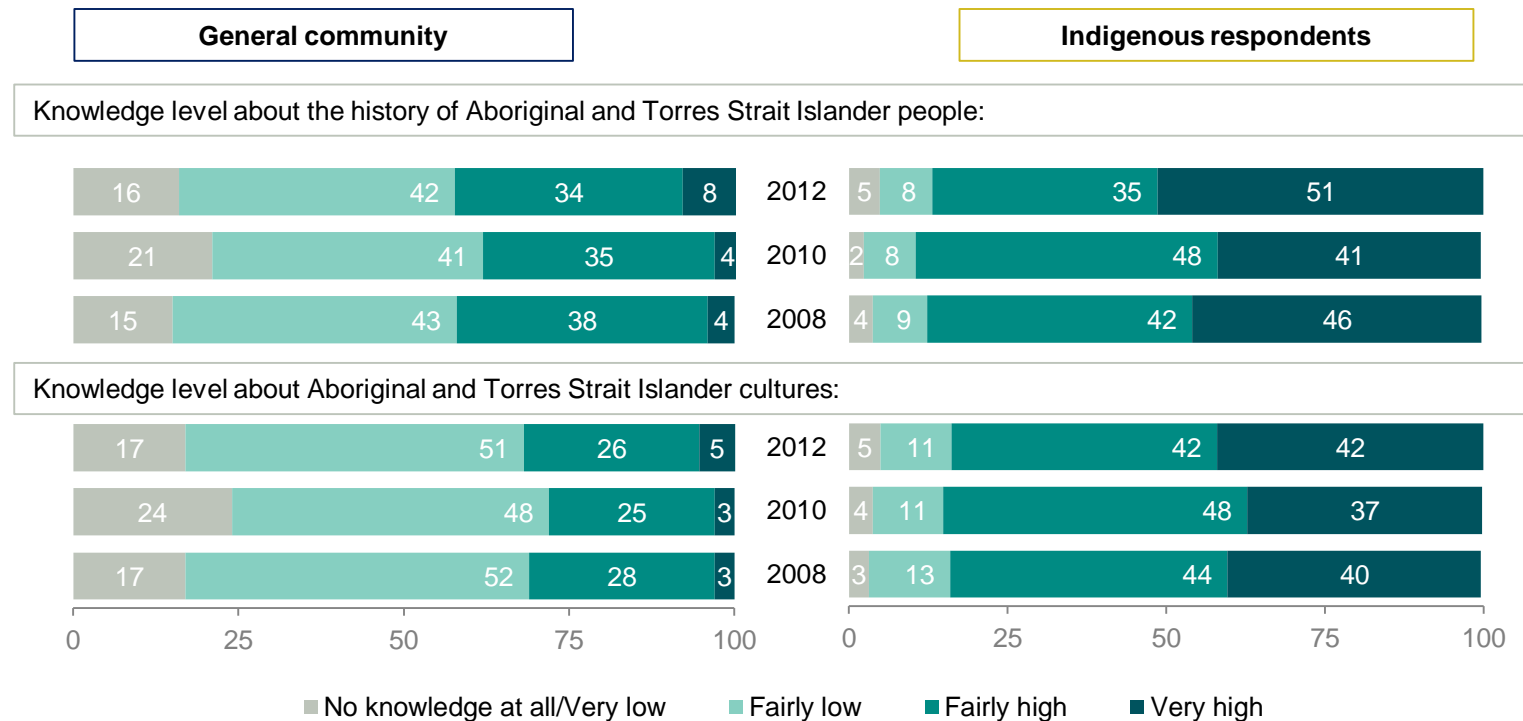


People in ACT are most likely to believe it is very important for Indigenous history to be compulsory in school (41%).

It is notable that Tasmania is where the general community is most divided on the importance of this, with 31% saying it's very important but 27% saying its unimportant.



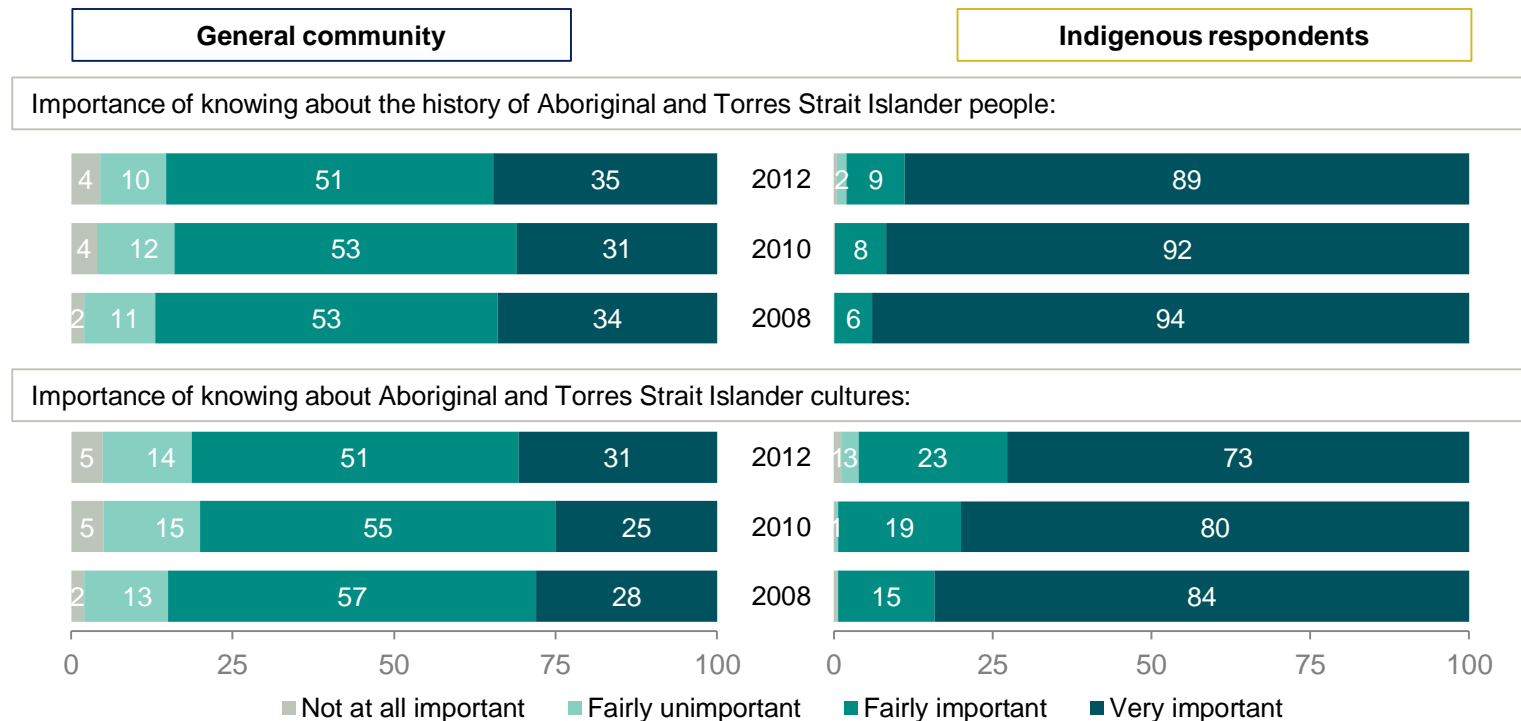
# Levels of knowledge about Indigenous history and cultures 2008-2012:



Between 2008-12, there remained a widespread lack of knowledge about Indigenous history and culture among the general community, with more than half claiming to have a low level of knowledge or none at all.

Unsurprisingly, knowledge levels among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were far higher.

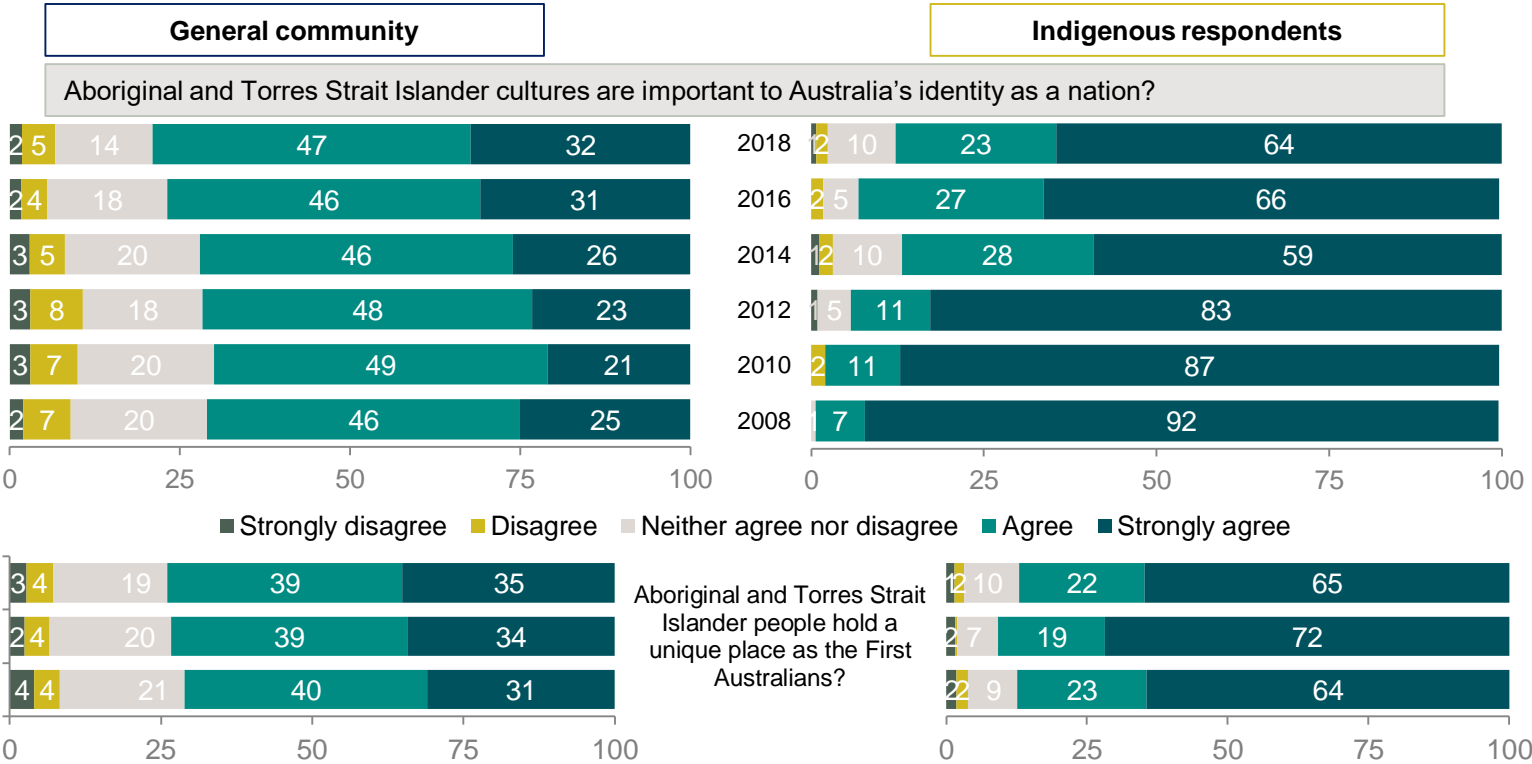
# Perceptions of importance of Indigenous history and culture 2008-2012:



Between 2008-2012, there was widespread agreement amongst both groups that it is important for all Australians to know about Indigenous history and cultures.

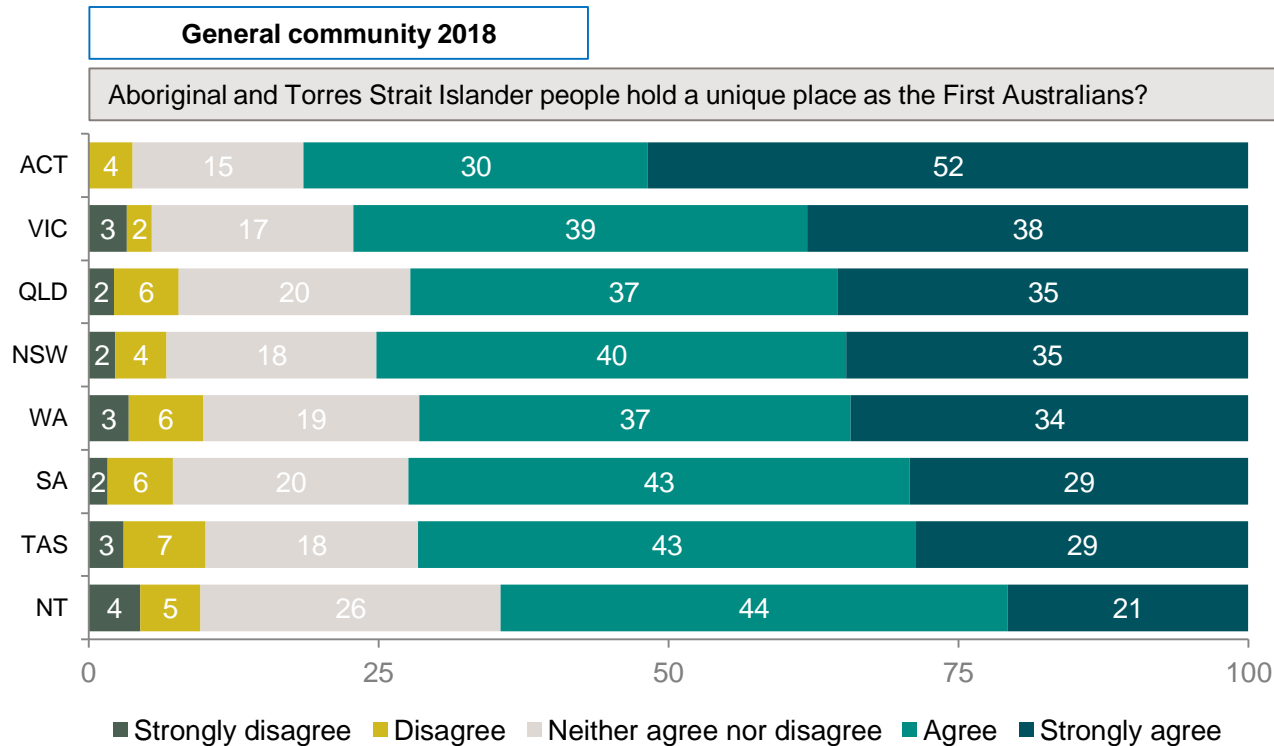
However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were much more likely to consider it very important.

# We widely agree Indigenous people hold a unique and important place in the national identity



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be twice as likely to strongly agree (64%) that their cultures are important for Australia's national identity, compared to the general community (32%). Similarly, twice as many Indigenous respondents strongly agree that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold a unique place as the First Australians. However, there has been an encouraging increase in both sentiments in the general community, since 2014.

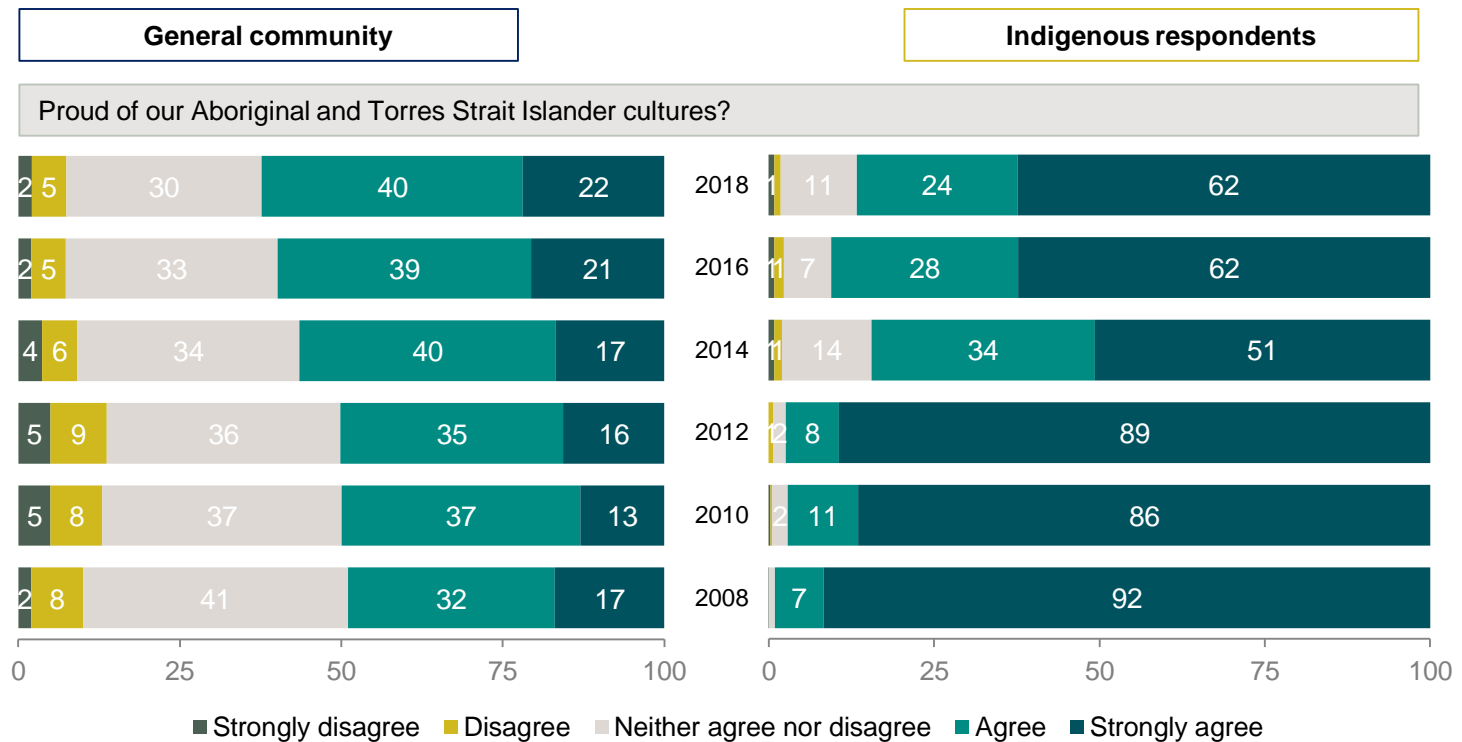
# People in ACT widely agree Indigenous people hold a unique place as the First Australians



More people in the ACT strongly agree Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have a unique standing as the First Australians (52%), than in other areas.

Conversely, people in Tasmania are most likely to disagree (10%) that Indigenous people hold a unique place.

# We remain proud of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures

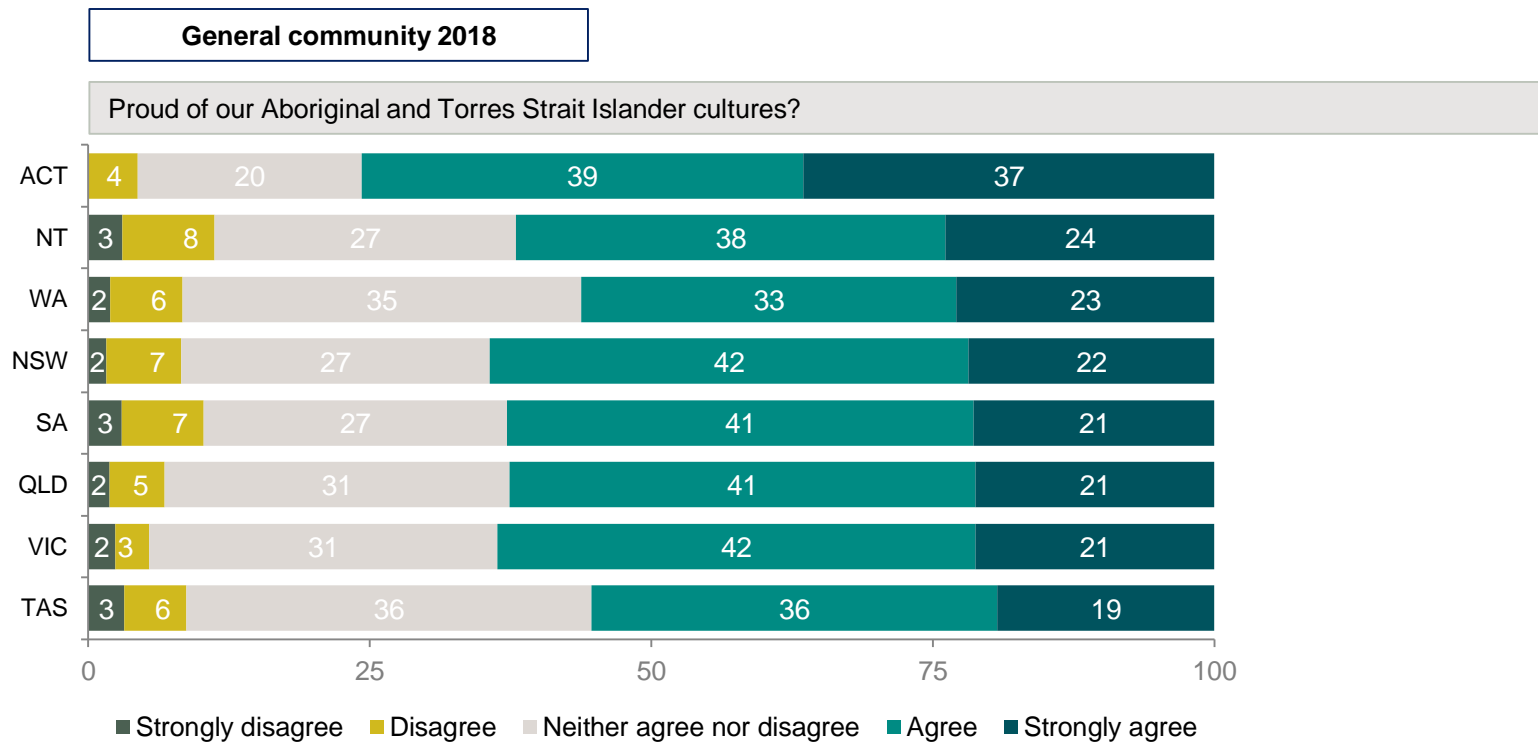


Most people in the general community agree they are proud of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures (62%).

However, this continues to lag behind the prevalence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who agree they are proud of their cultures (86%).

Again, it is encouraging that this sentiment has increased in both communities since 2014.

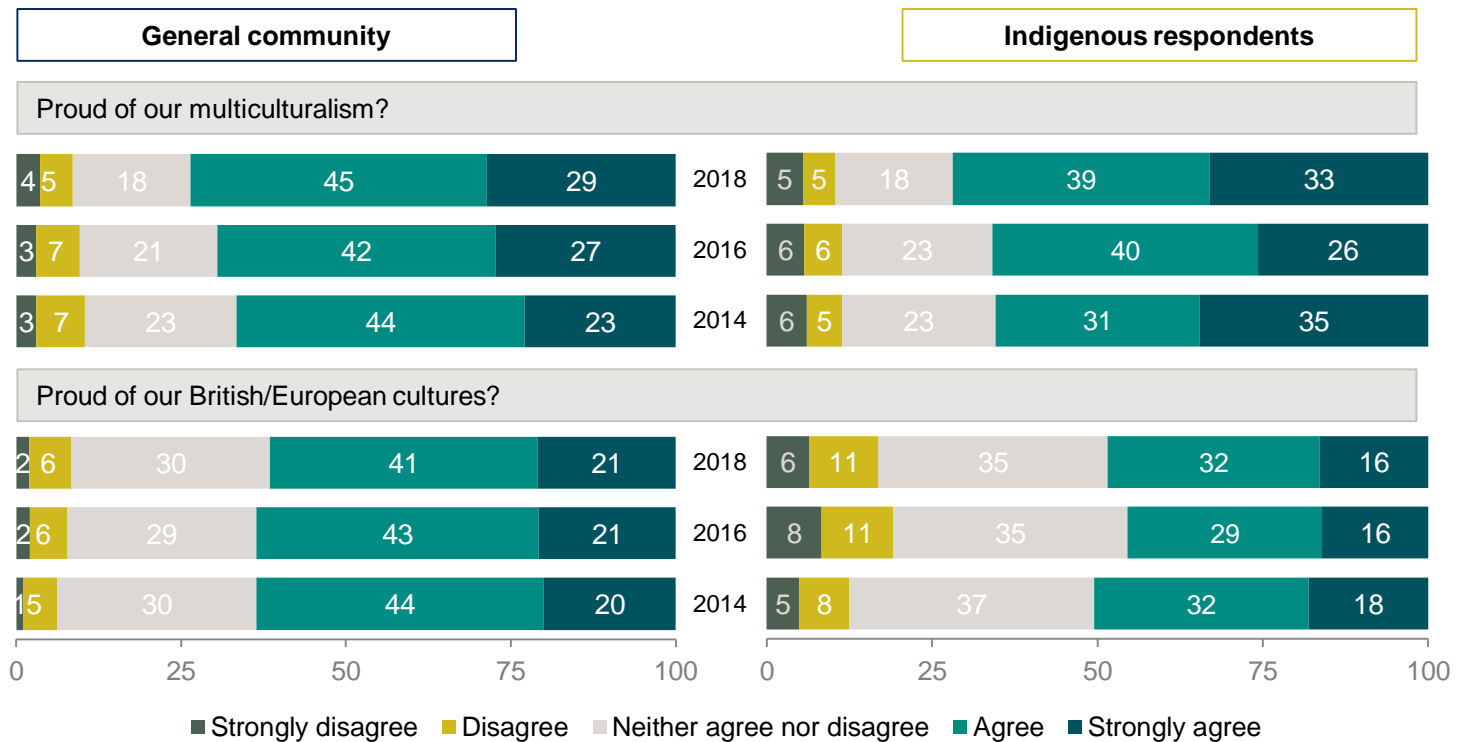
# More people in ACT are strongly proud of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures



More people in the general community in the ACT strongly agree they are proud of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures (37%), than in other areas.

Conversely, more people in NT (11%) and SA (10%) disagree they are proud of Indigenous cultures.

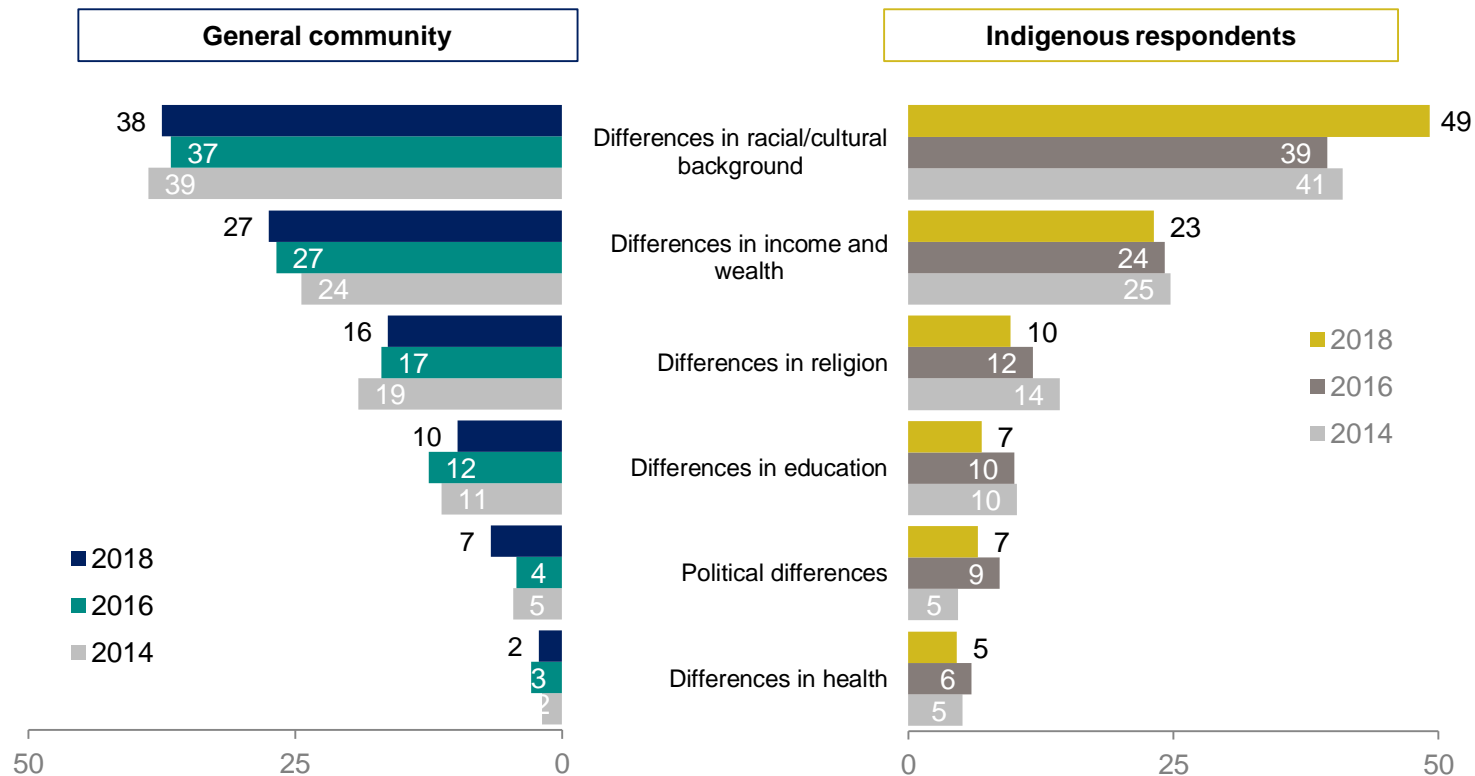
# More Australians continue to be proud of our multiculturalism than our Indigenous cultures



The general community are more likely to agree they are proud of Australia’s multiculturalism (74%) than they are of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures (62%).

Conversely, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are much more likely to agree they are proud of their cultures (86%), compared to Australia’s multiculturalism (72%).

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

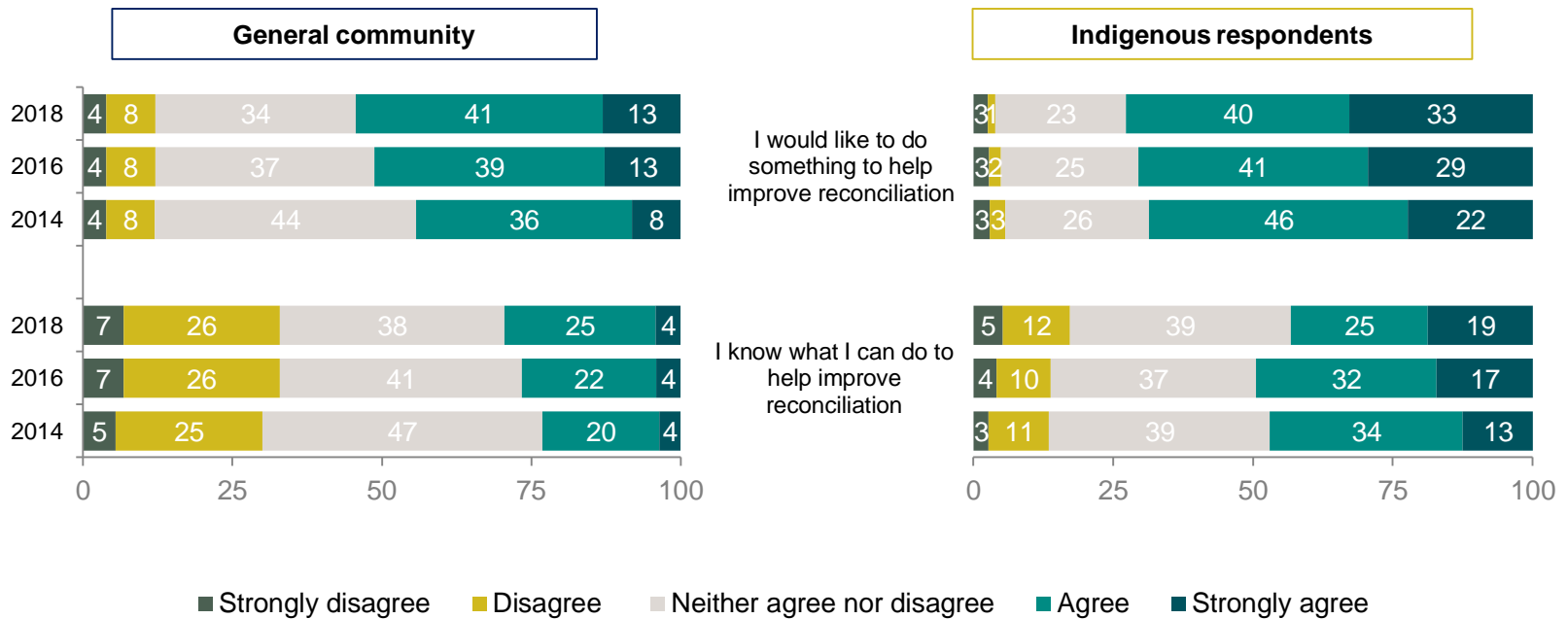


Racial/cultural differences continue to be most widely viewed as the biggest cause of divisions in our society, by both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Worryingly, there has been a sharp increase in the number of Indigenous respondents with this view (49%), since 2014.

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



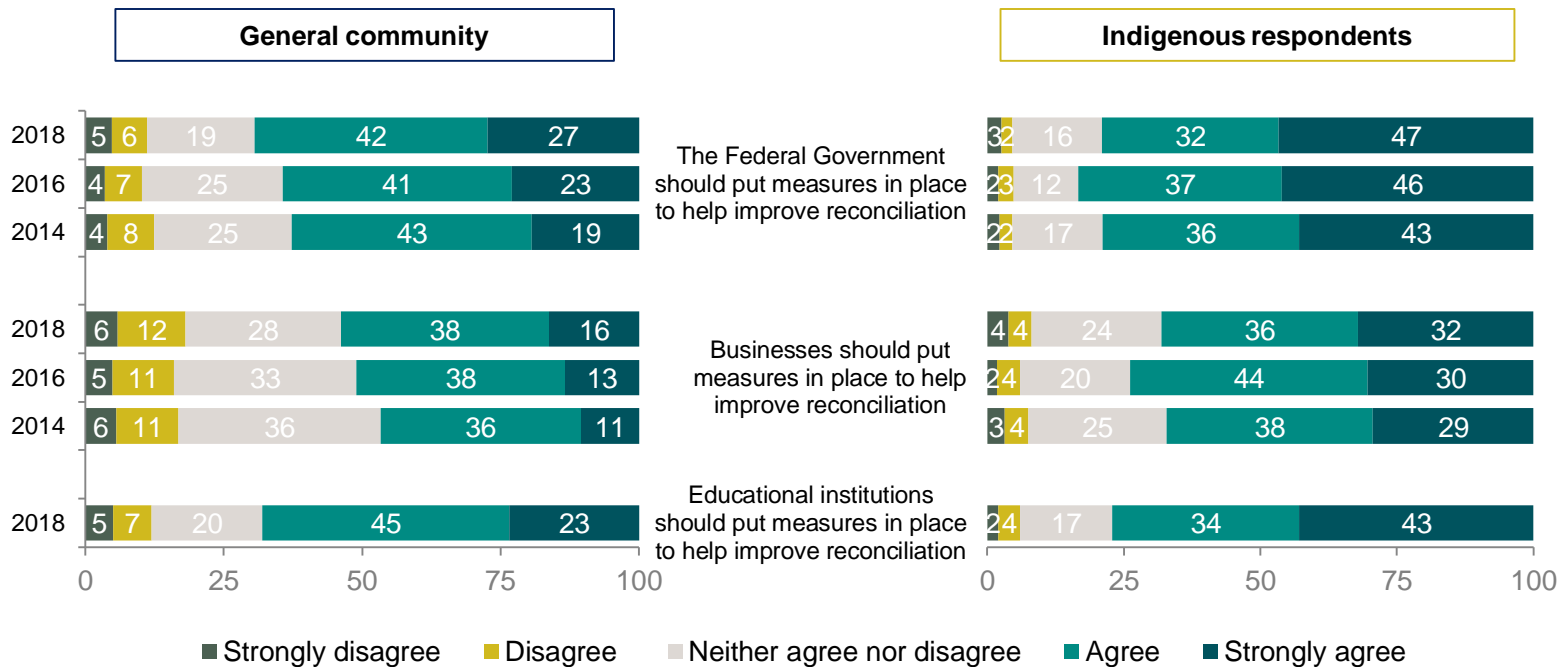
# More Australians would like to do something to improve reconciliation



There has been a steady increase in both communities since 2014 of people who want to help improve reconciliation, now 54% in the general community and 73% 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.

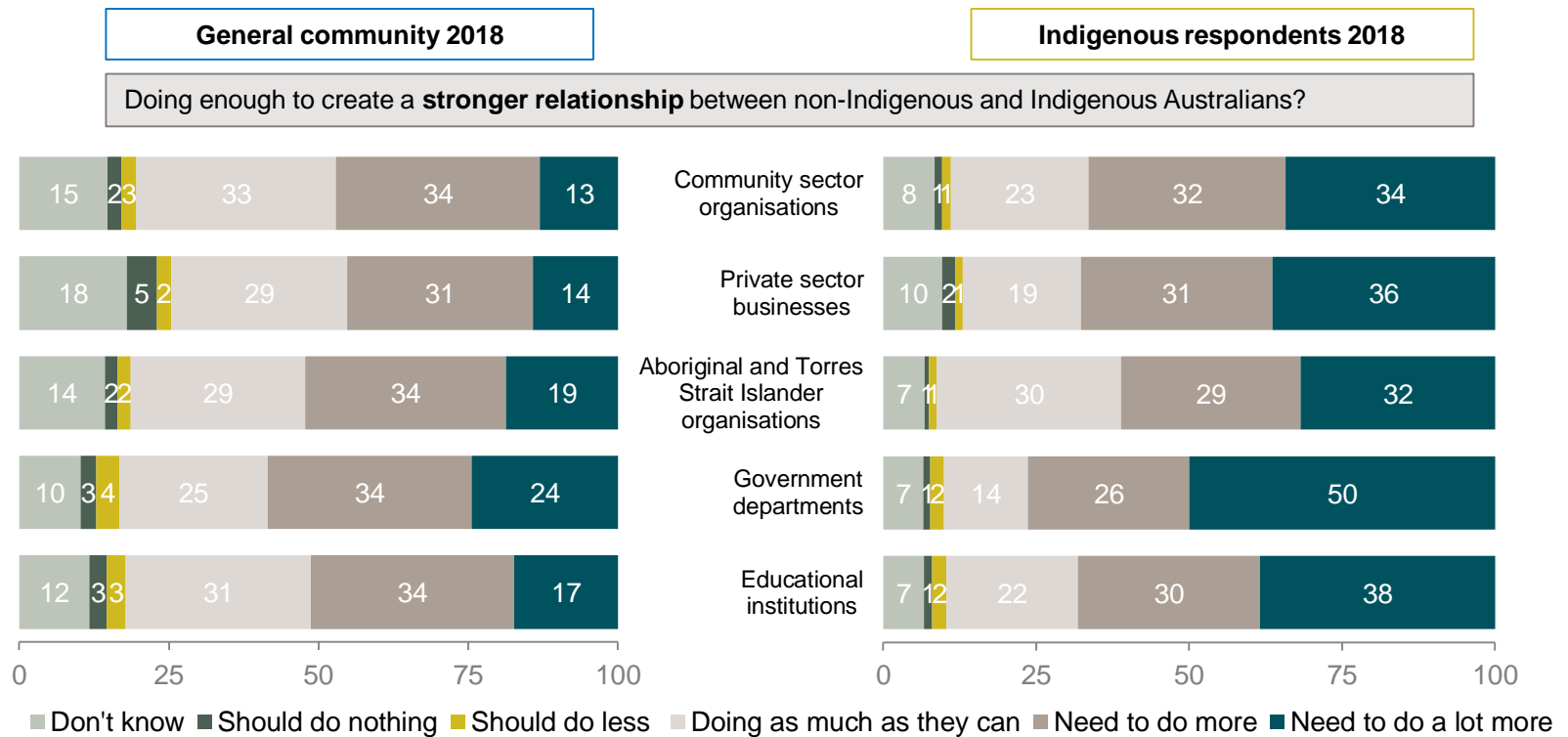
# More Australians believe the Government should initiate measures to improve reconciliation



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. There is also widespread agreement that educational institutions should adopt a leading role.

However, Indigenous respondents remain more likely to strongly agree with these notions, compared to the general public.

# We mostly think more needs to be done to create a stronger relationship



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to think that various organisations need to do more to create a stronger relationship among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, than the general community.

In particular, Indigenous respondents widely believe Government (50%), educational institutions (38%) and the private sector (36%) need to do a lot more.

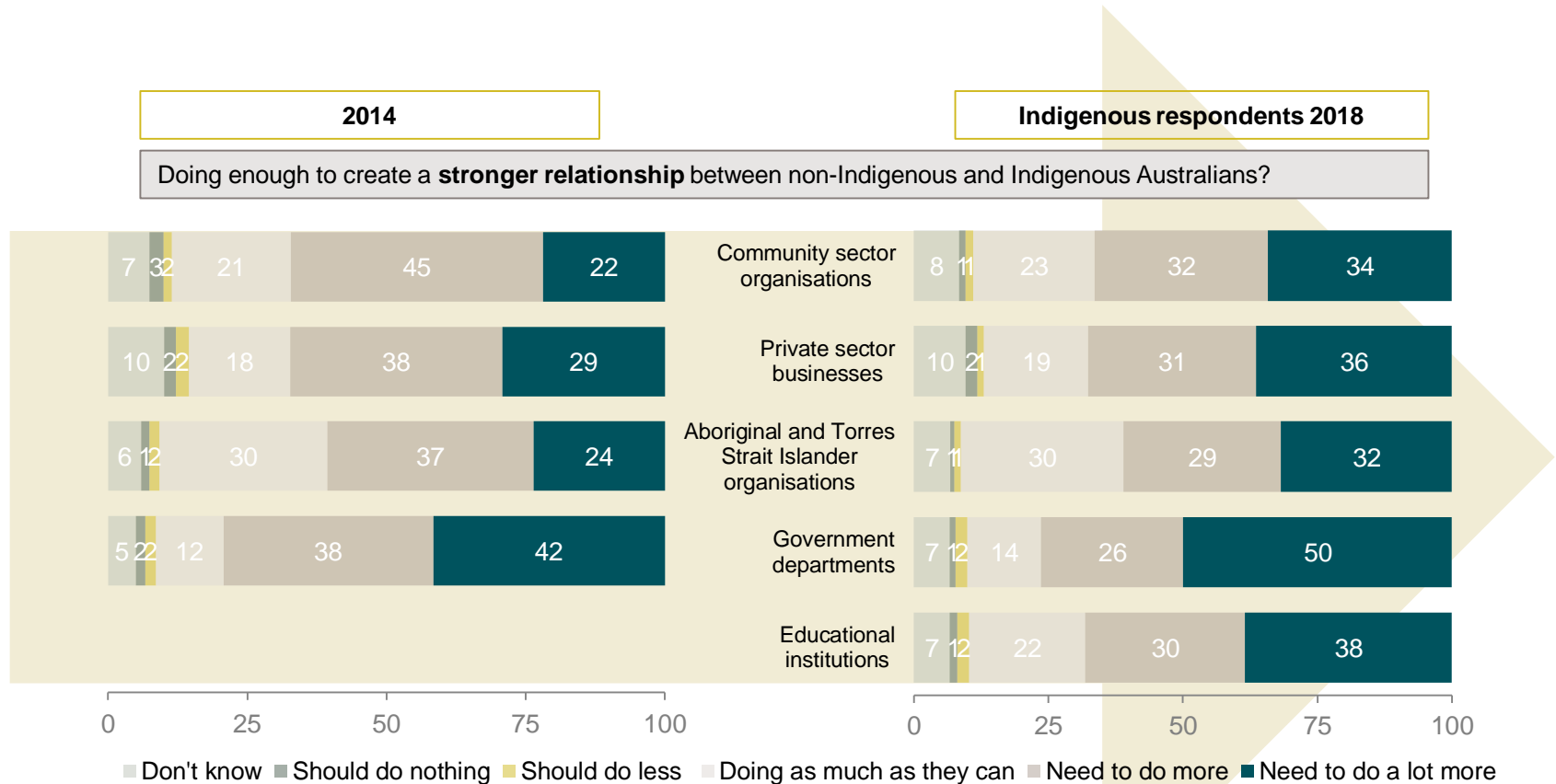
# More Indigenous Australians think a lot more needs to be done for a stronger relationship



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely think that various organisations need to do a lot more to create stronger relationships in Australia, than in 2016.

In particular, more Indigenous respondents now believe Indigenous organisations (32%) and businesses (36%) need to do a lot more, than two years ago.

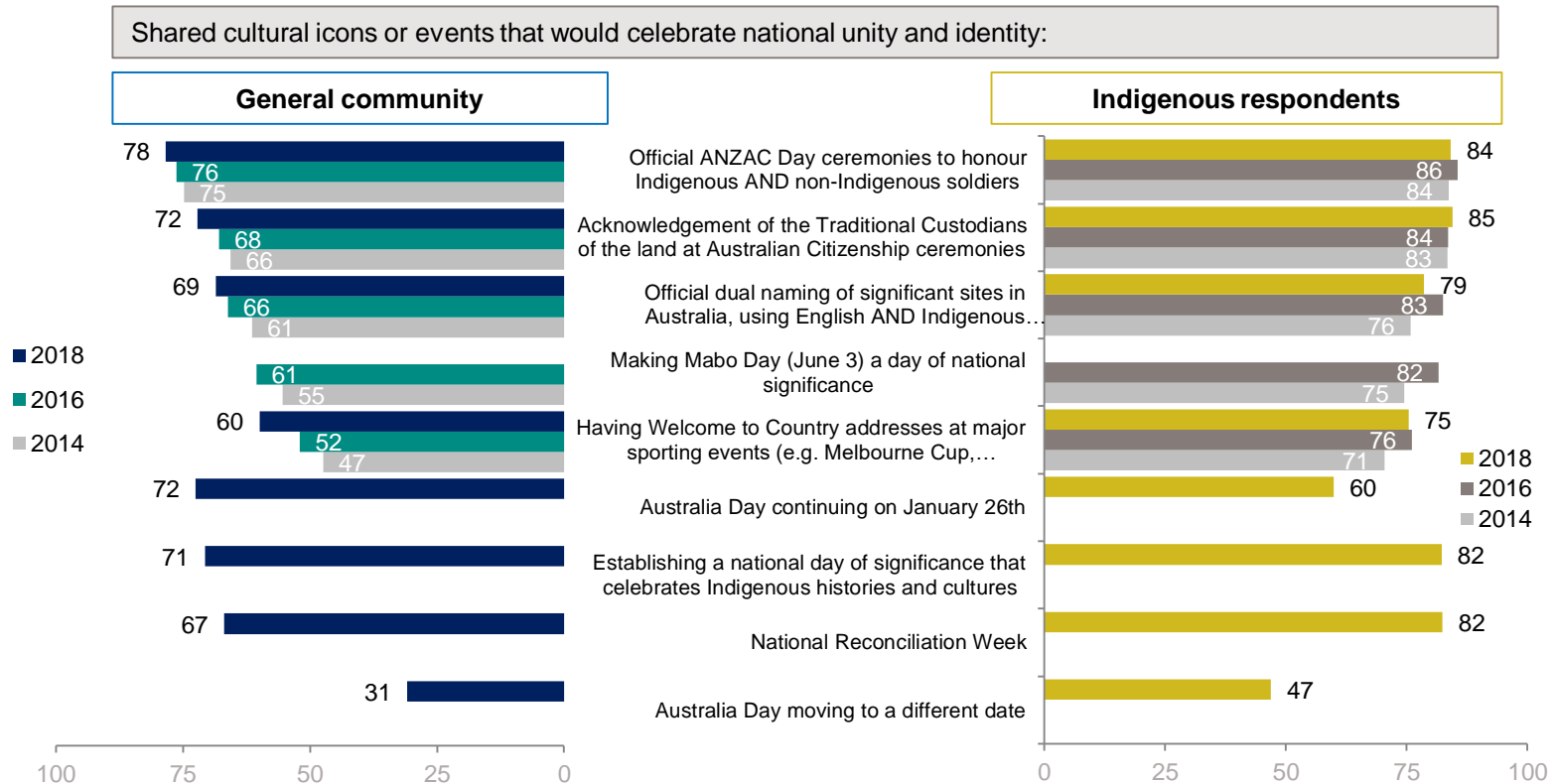
# More Indigenous Australians think a lot more needs to be done since 2014



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely think that various organisations need to do a lot more to create stronger relationships in Australia, than in 2014.

In particular, more Indigenous respondents now believe Indigenous organisations (32%) and the government sector (50%) need to do a lot more, than four years ago.

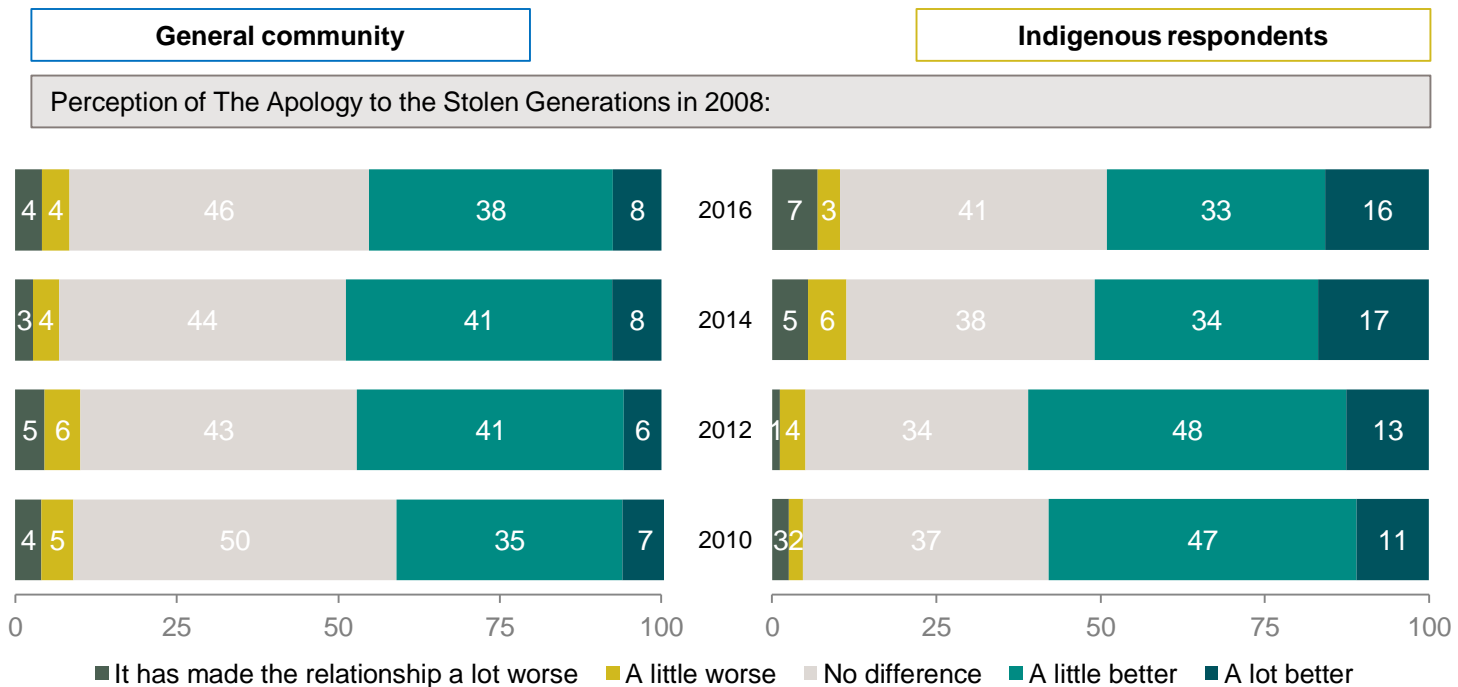
# We most agree ANZAC Day could celebrate Australia's national unity with more shared ceremonies



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. There is also strong support for 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.

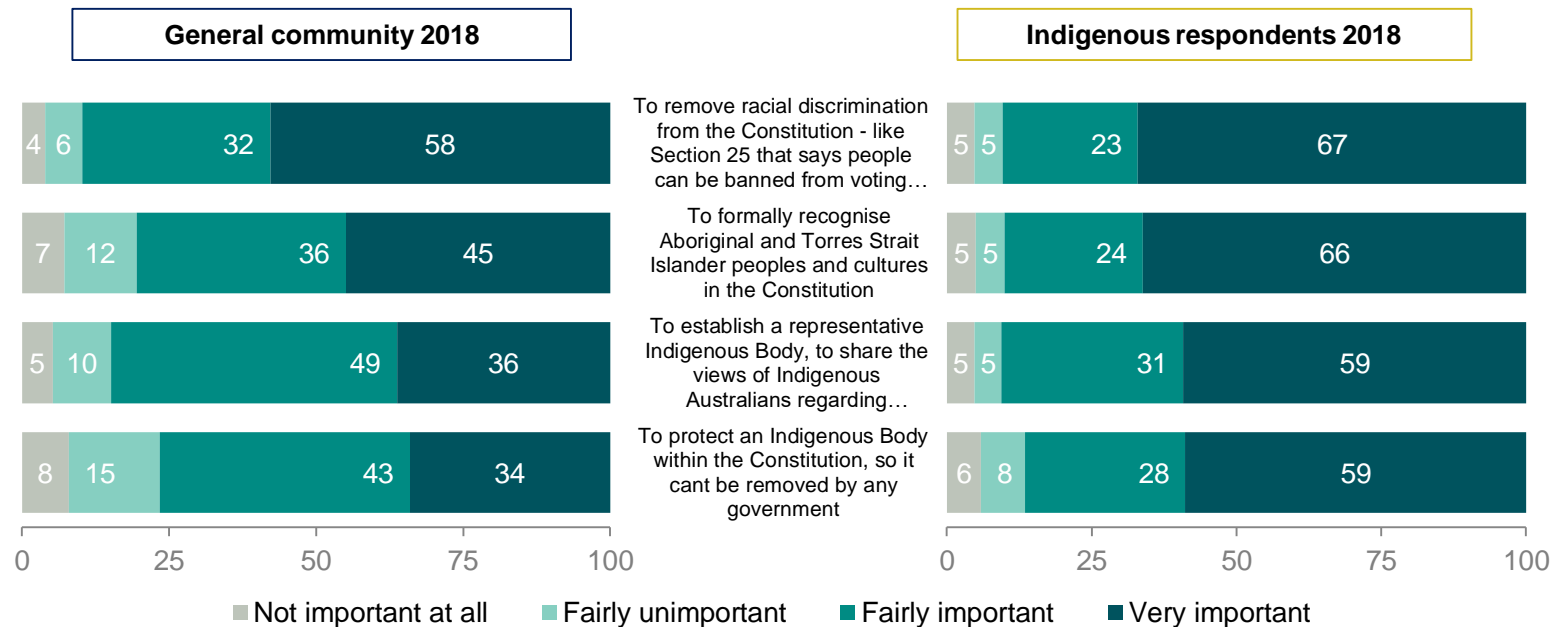
# Perceptions of the 2008 Apology 2010-16:



46% of the general community believe the 2008 Apology to the stolen generations has made the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians better, similar to 49% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

However, while the general community sentiment has remained stable since 2012, Indigenous respondents remain less sure, with the majority thinking it has made things worse or no different since 2014.

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



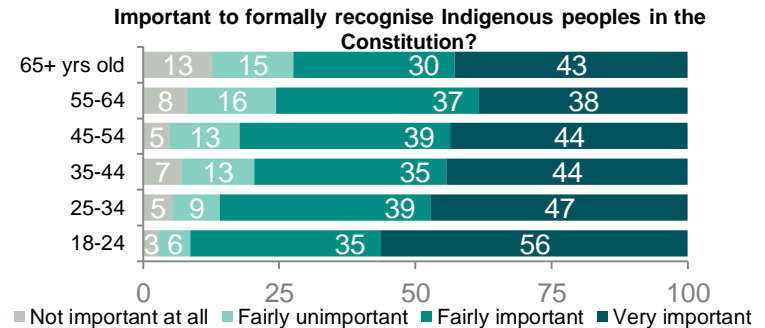
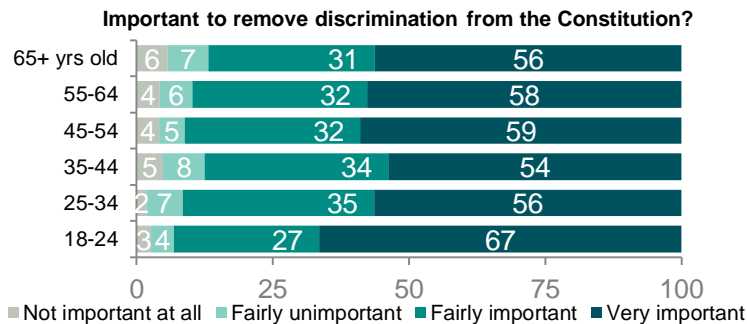
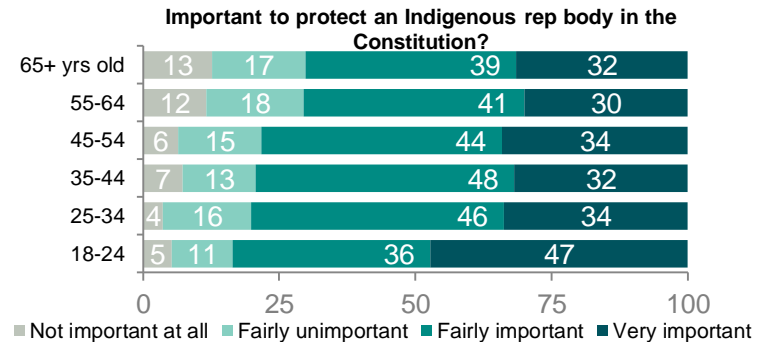
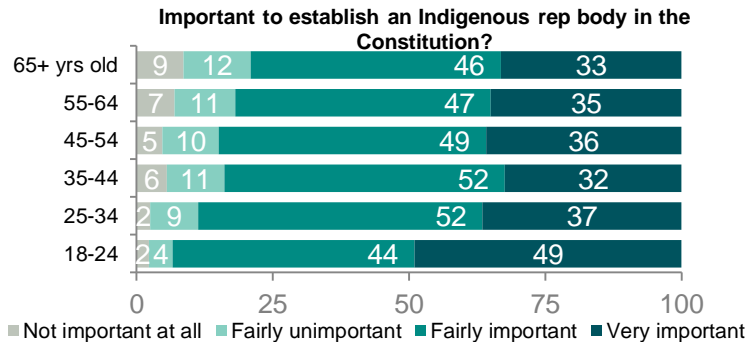
The general community and Indigenous communities widely believe it's important to implement the key constitutional changes that have been proposed in Australia.

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



# Younger Australians place high importance on Constitutional change

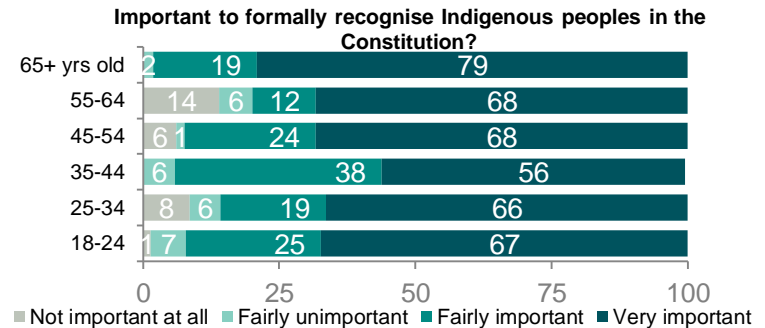
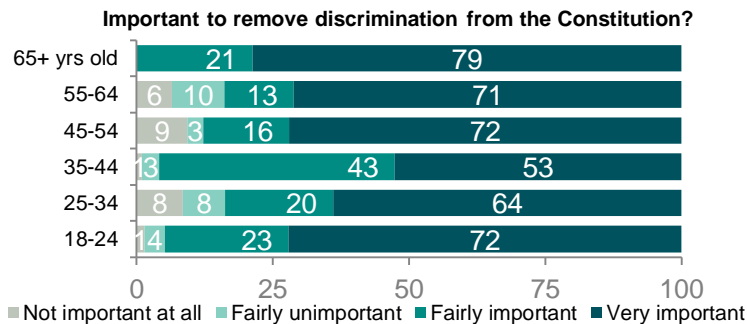
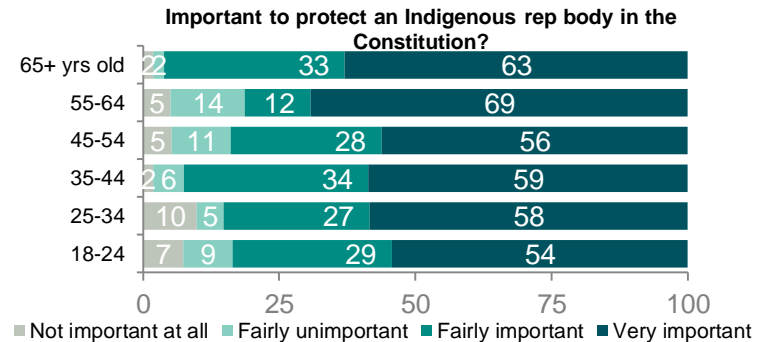
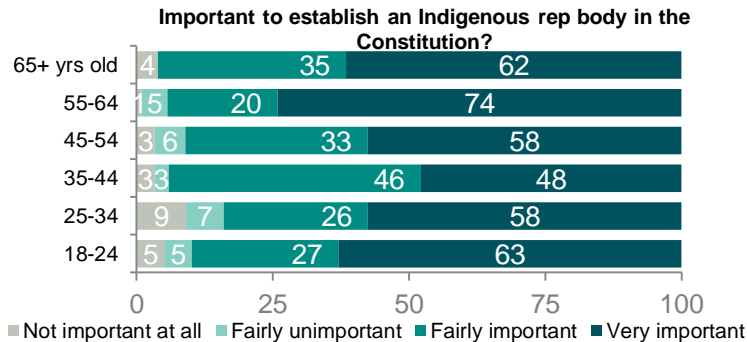
General community 2018



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

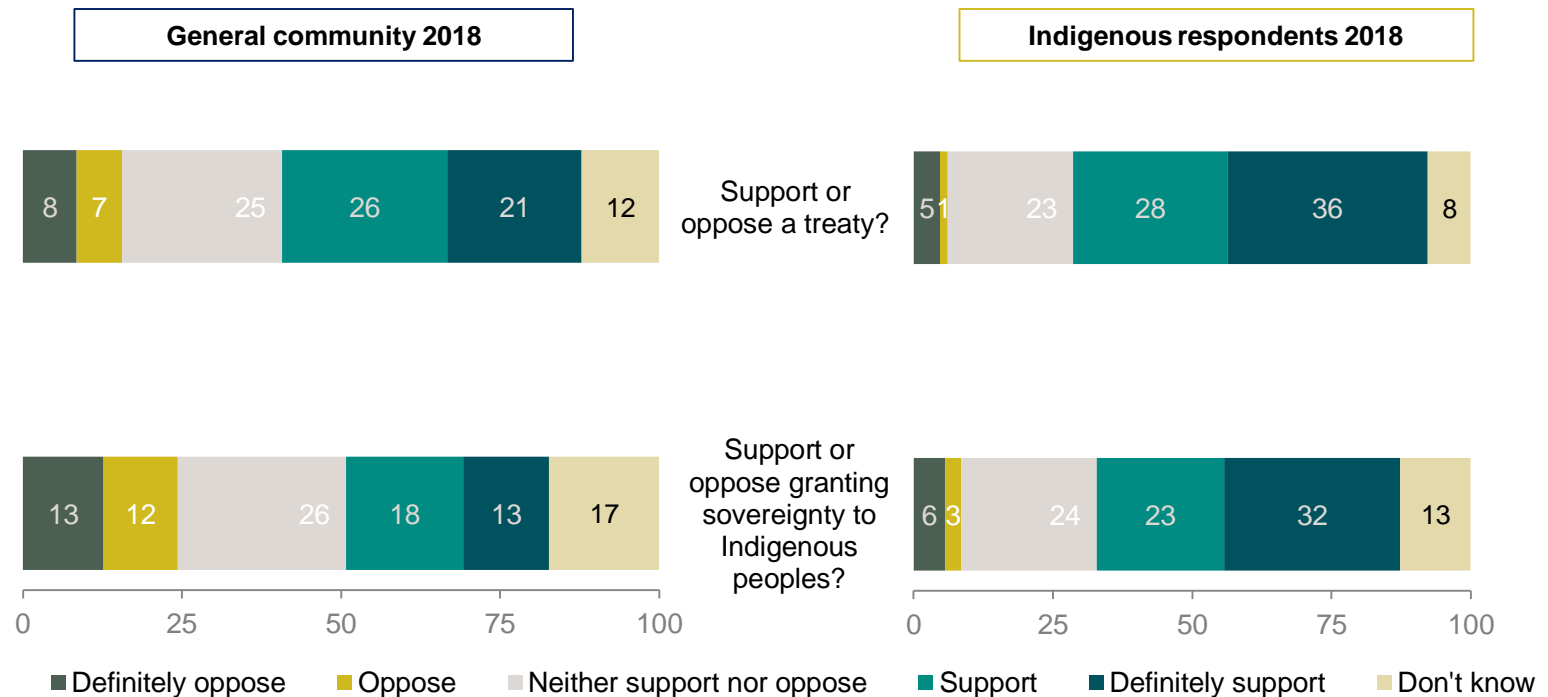
# Older Indigenous Australians place high importance on Constitutional change

## Indigenous respondents 2018



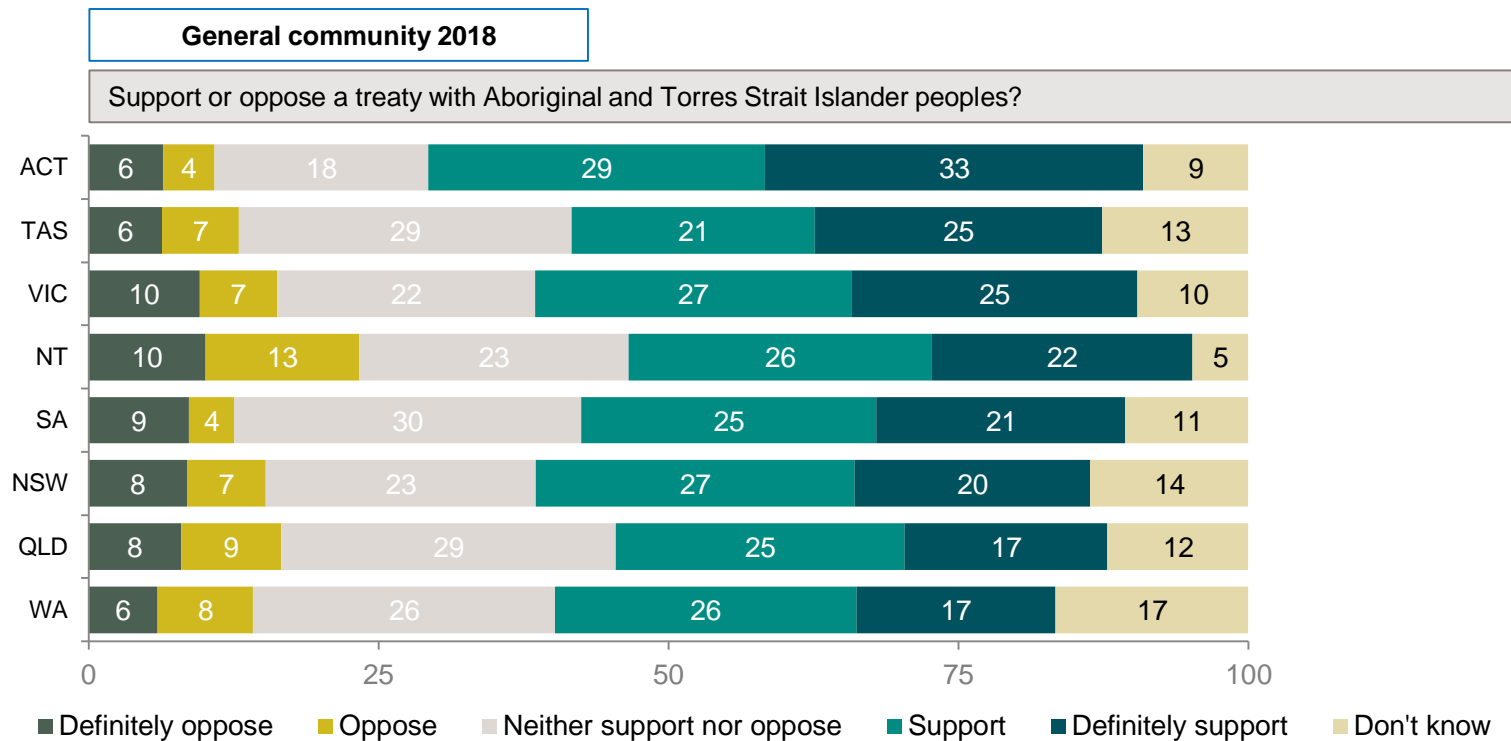
When it comes to the importance of removing race discrimination, recognition and establishing a representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the Constitution, 55+ year olds are ahead of all other age groups in Indigenous communities.

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



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely support a treaty (64%) between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and granting sovereignty (55%), than the general public.

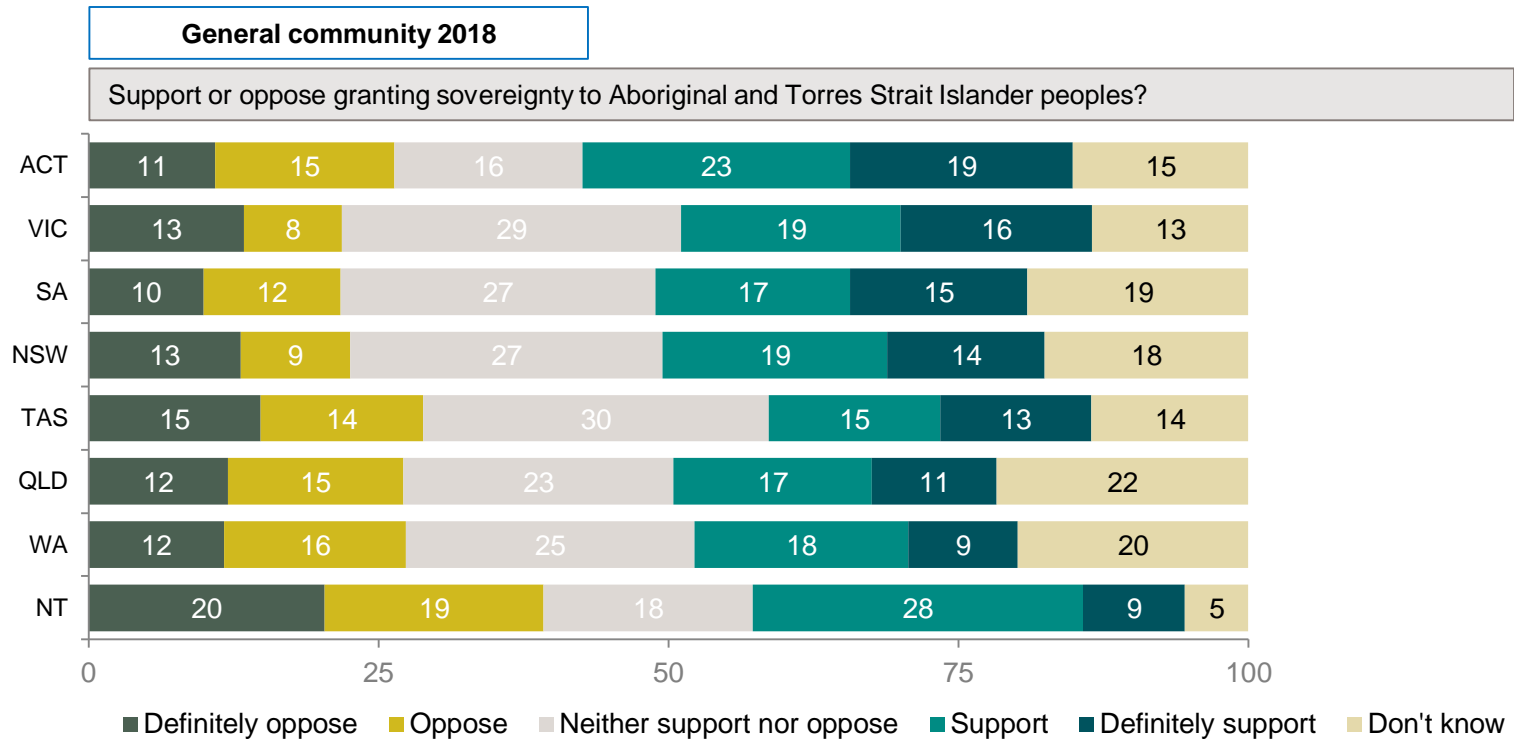
# More people from the ACT support a treaty with Indigenous peoples



More people in the ACT general community support a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (62%), than in other areas. There is also a high level of support in Victoria (52%).

Conversely, people in NT are most likely to oppose (23%) a treaty.

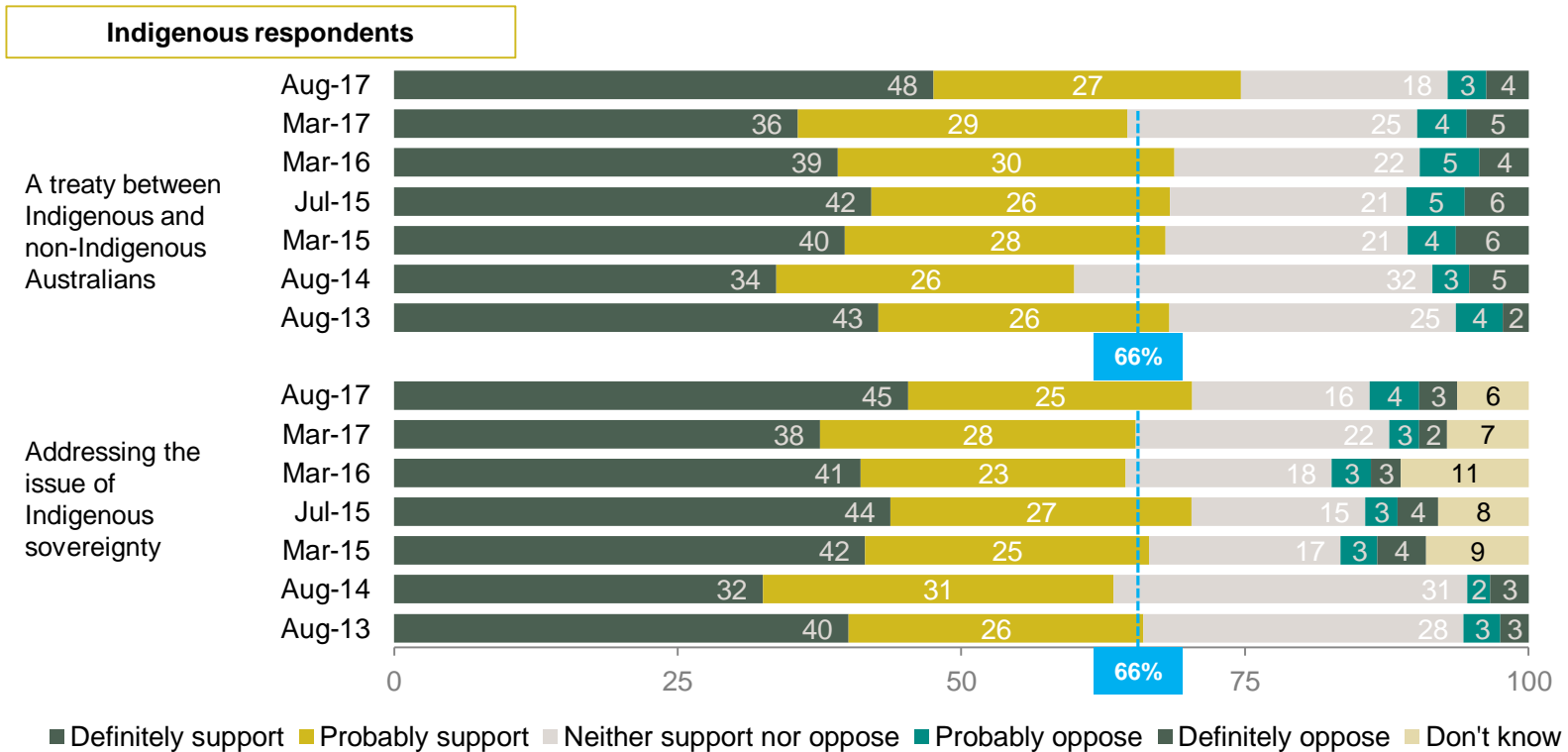
# Northern Territorians are widely divided on granting sovereignty to Indigenous peoples



More people in the ACT general community support granting sovereignty to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (42%), than in other areas.

Conversely, people in the NT are divided, with 39% opposing and 37% supporting this proposal.

# Results from Recognise campaign tracking 2013-17:



In August 2017, 75% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents supported a treaty between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, a strong increase on the long term average of 66% of previous waves, between August 2013-March 2017.

70% supported the resolution of the issue of Indigenous sovereignty, also ahead of the long term average of 66%.

# 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:**

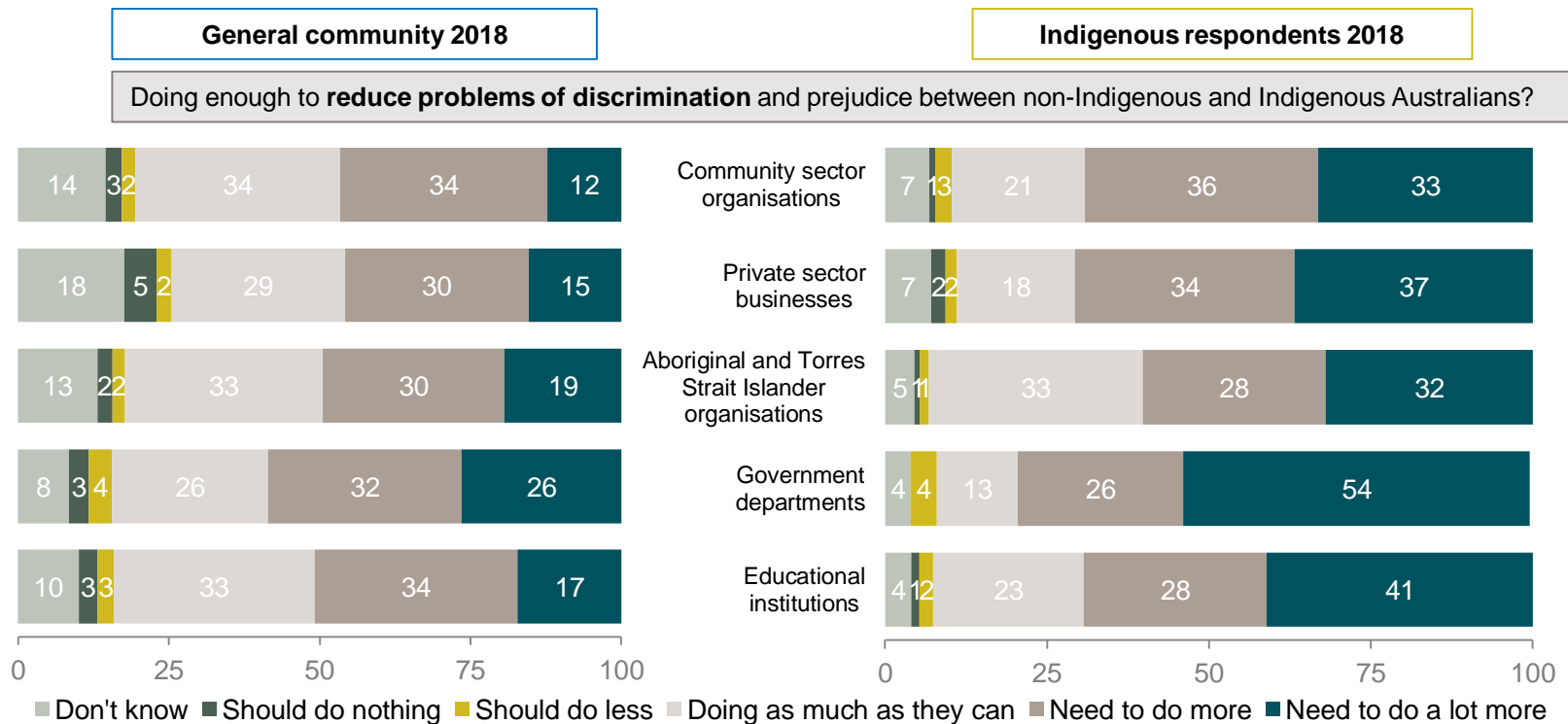
Experiences of racial prejudice towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has slightly reduced:

- 18% in interactions with local shop owners/staff (20% in 2016)
- And most notably, 16% in interactions with police (29% in 2016)

19% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel they cannot be true to their cultures or personal beliefs.

50% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe media portrayal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is usually negative, compared to 42% of the general community.

# We mostly think more needs to be done to reduce problems of prejudice

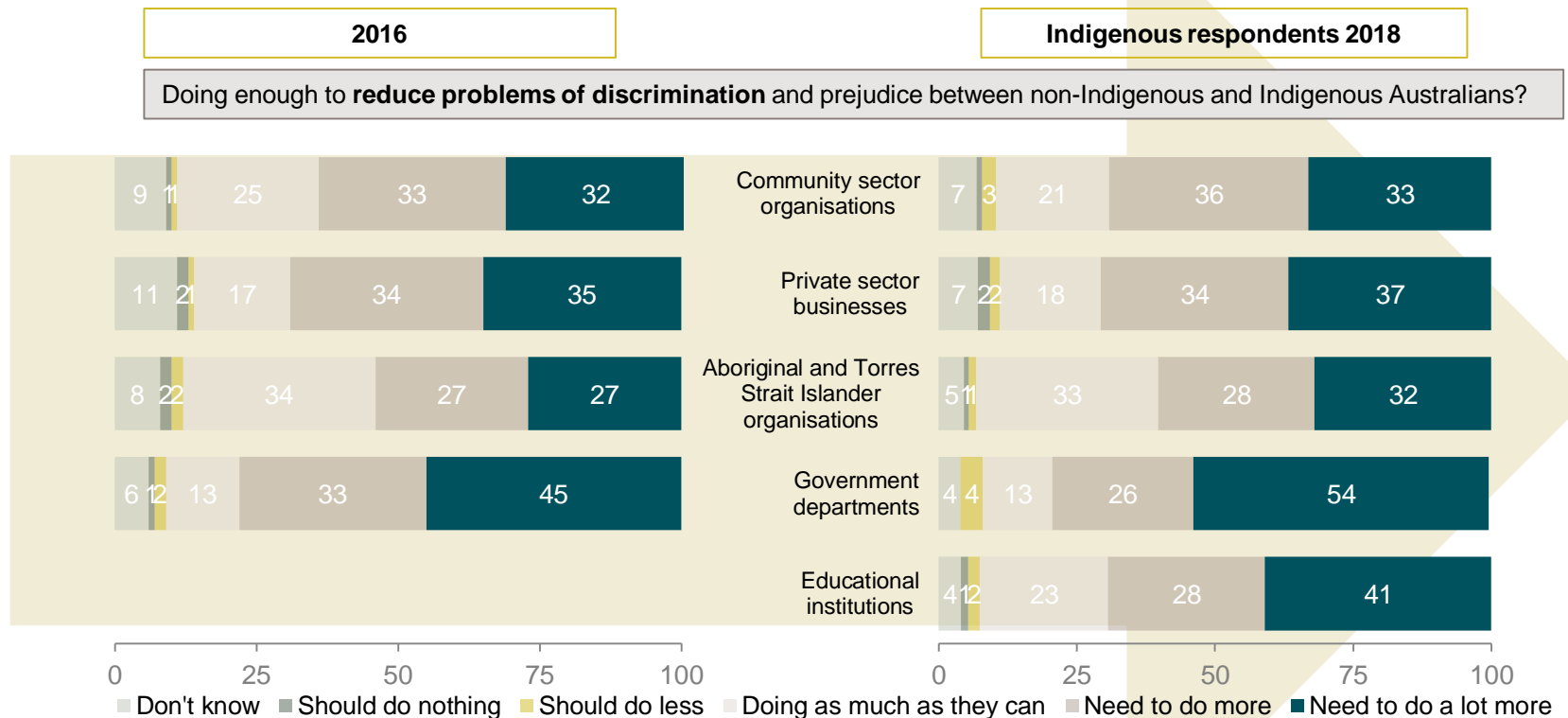


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to think that various organisations need to do more to reduce problems of prejudice in Australia, than the general community.

In particular, Indigenous respondents widely believe Government (54%), educational institutions (41%) and the private sector (37%) need to do a lot more.



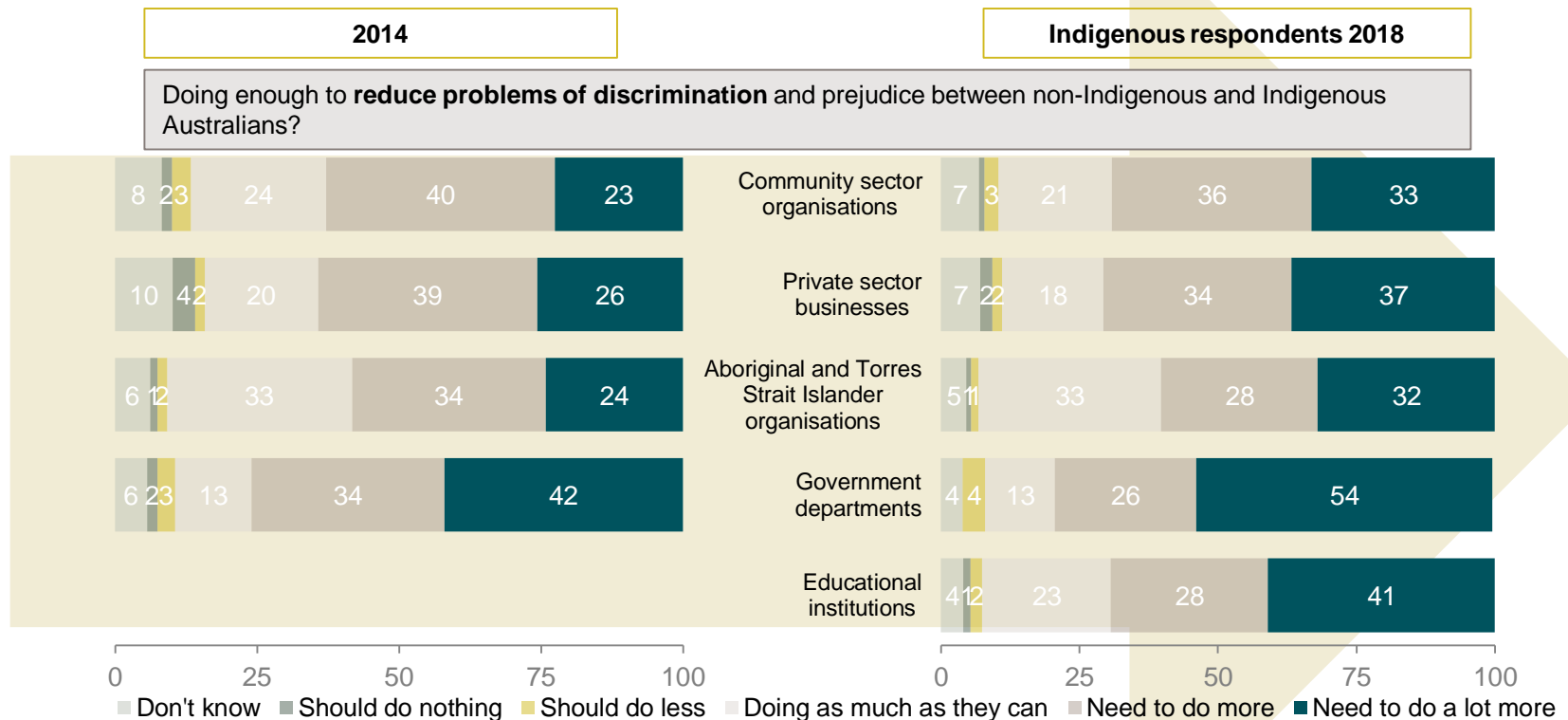
# More Indigenous Australians think a lot more needs to be done to reduce prejudice



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely think that various organisations need to do a lot more to reduce problems of prejudice in Australia, than in 2016.

In particular, more Indigenous respondents now believe Government (54%) and Indigenous organisations (32%) need to do a lot more, than two years ago.

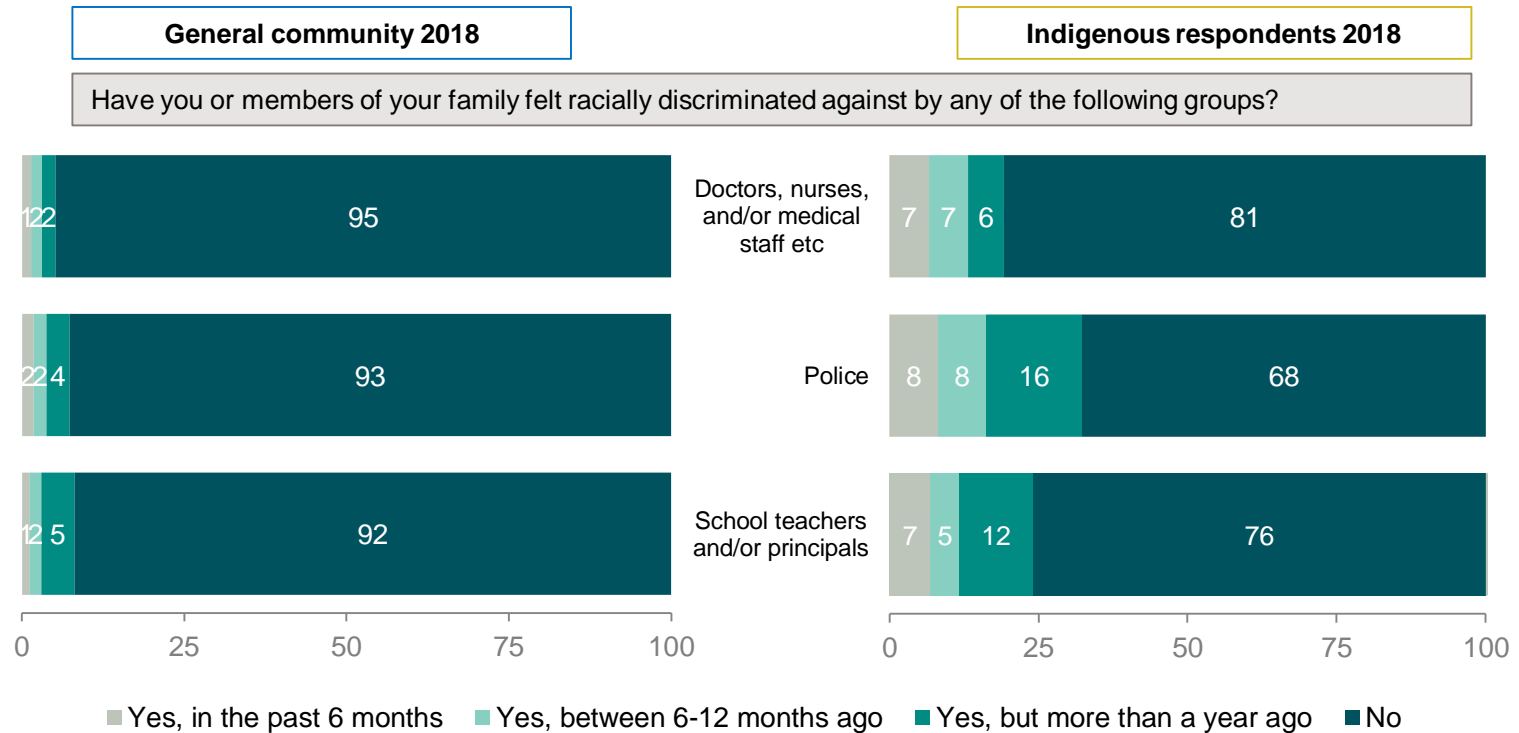
# More Indigenous Australians think a lot more needs to be done since 2014



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more widely think that various organisations need to do a lot more to reduce problems of prejudice in Australia, than in 2014.

In particular, more Indigenous respondents now believe Indigenous organisations and the government sector need to do a lot more, than four years ago.

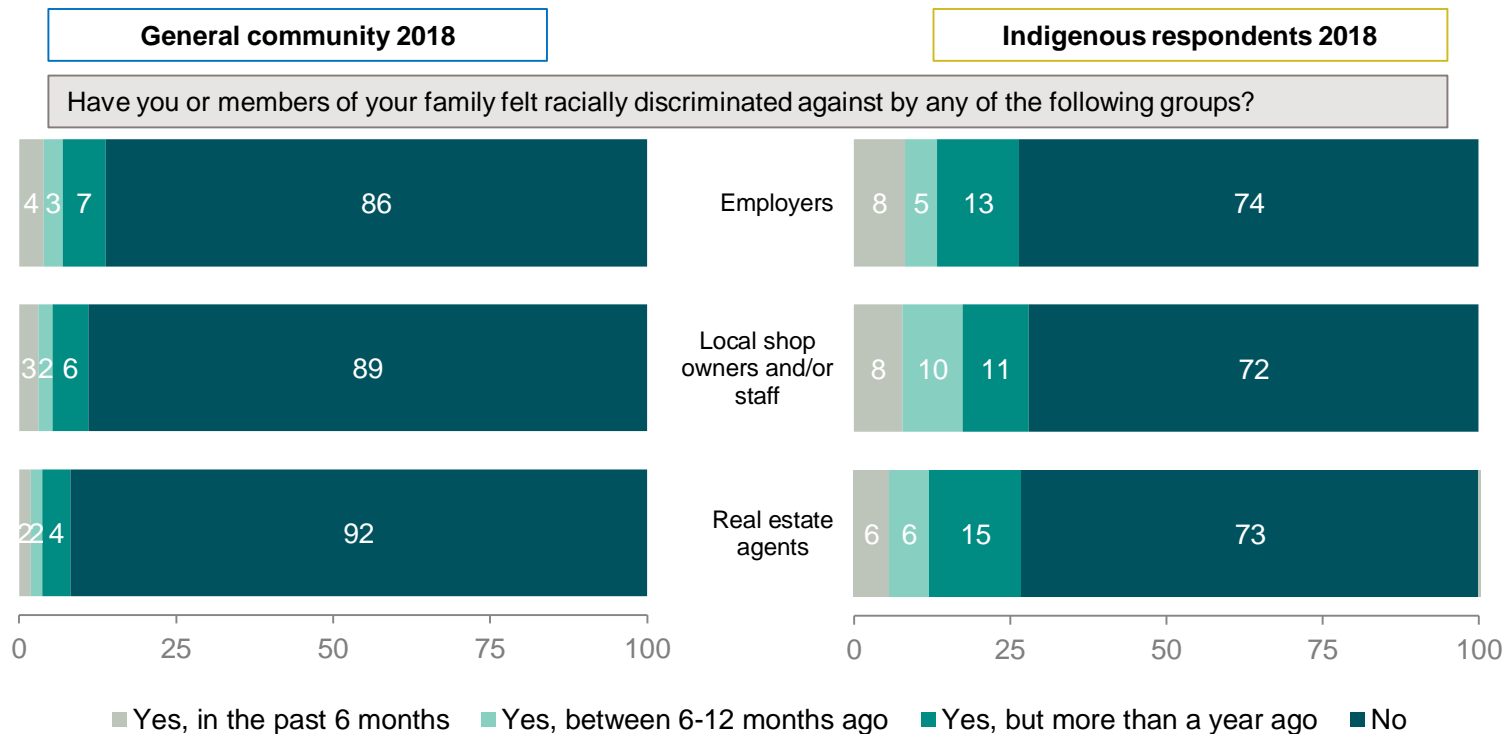
# Indigenous Australians are more likely to experience racial discrimination from professionals



7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have felt racially discriminated against by medical professionals in the past six months, compared to only 1% of the general community.

Indigenous Australians are also more likely to have experienced racial discrimination recently from police (8%) and school staff (7%), than the general community.

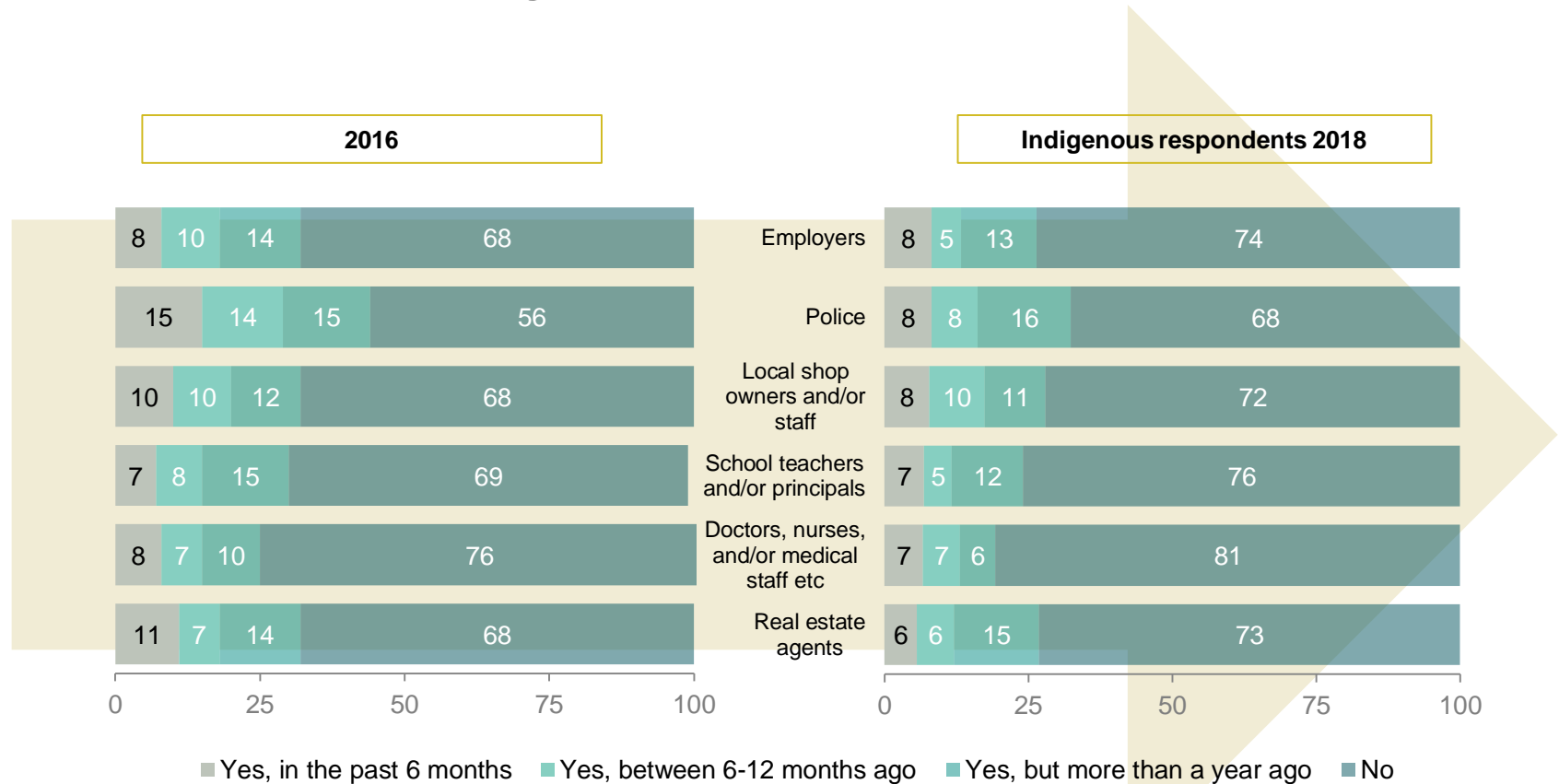
# Indigenous Australians are more likely to experience racial discrimination (cont.)



6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have felt racially discriminated against by a real estate agent in the past six months, compared to only 2% of the general community.

Similarly, more Indigenous respondents have experienced racial discrimination recently by a local shop owner and/or staff (8%) and employers (8%), compared to the general community.

# Indigenous experience of racial discrimination from professionals has changed little since 2016



Indigenous experience of racial discrimination has changed little in professional and service contexts, since 2016.

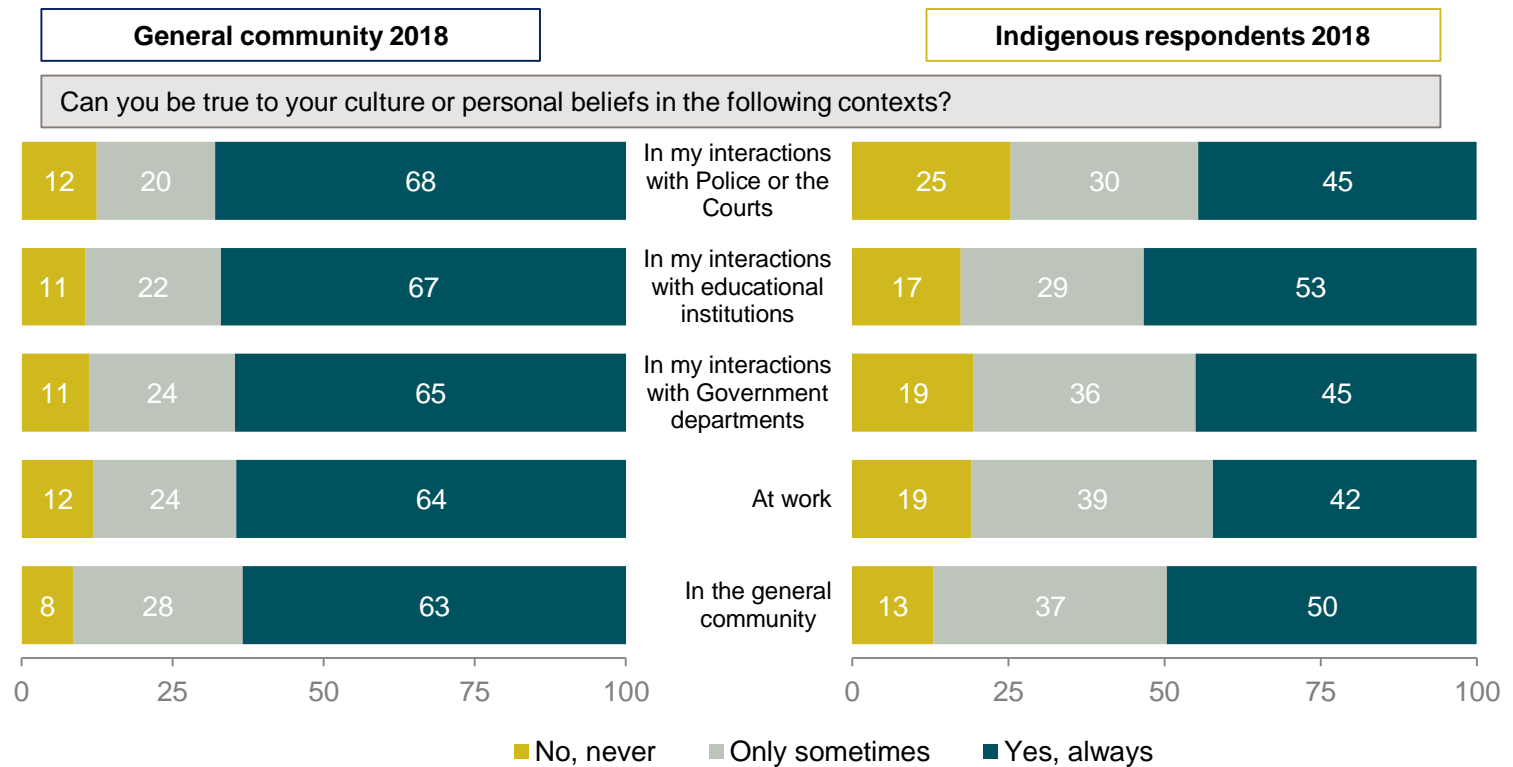
However, there has been a notable improvement regarding police, with 8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have felt racially discriminated against by police in the past six months, half as many as two years ago (15%).

# Indigenous experience of racial discrimination from professionals has changed little since 2014



There has been no improvement in Indigenous experience of racial discrimination in professional and service contexts, since 2014.

# Indigenous Australians more often feel they can't be true to their culture with Police and the Courts



The general community continue to be more likely to believe they can always be true to their own culture or personal beliefs 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 (25%), than the general public (12%).

# Fewer Indigenous Australians now feel empowered culturally



More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel they can never be true to their culture or beliefs in various contexts, than in 2016.

Most notably, more Indigenous respondents now feel they can never be themselves at work (19%) or in their interactions with law and order (25%), compared to two years ago.



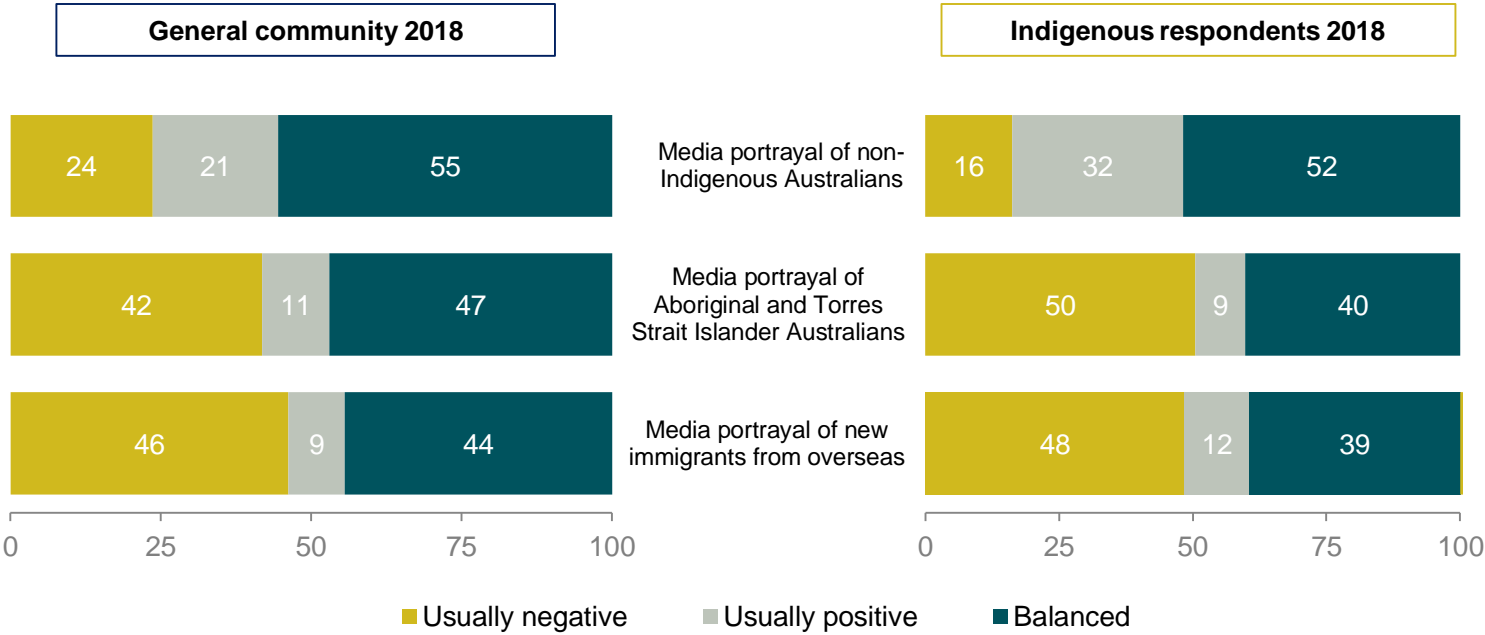
# Fewer Indigenous Australians now feel empowered culturally than in 2014



More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now feel they can never 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 at work (19%) or in their interactions with law and order (25%) or government (19%), compared to four years ago.

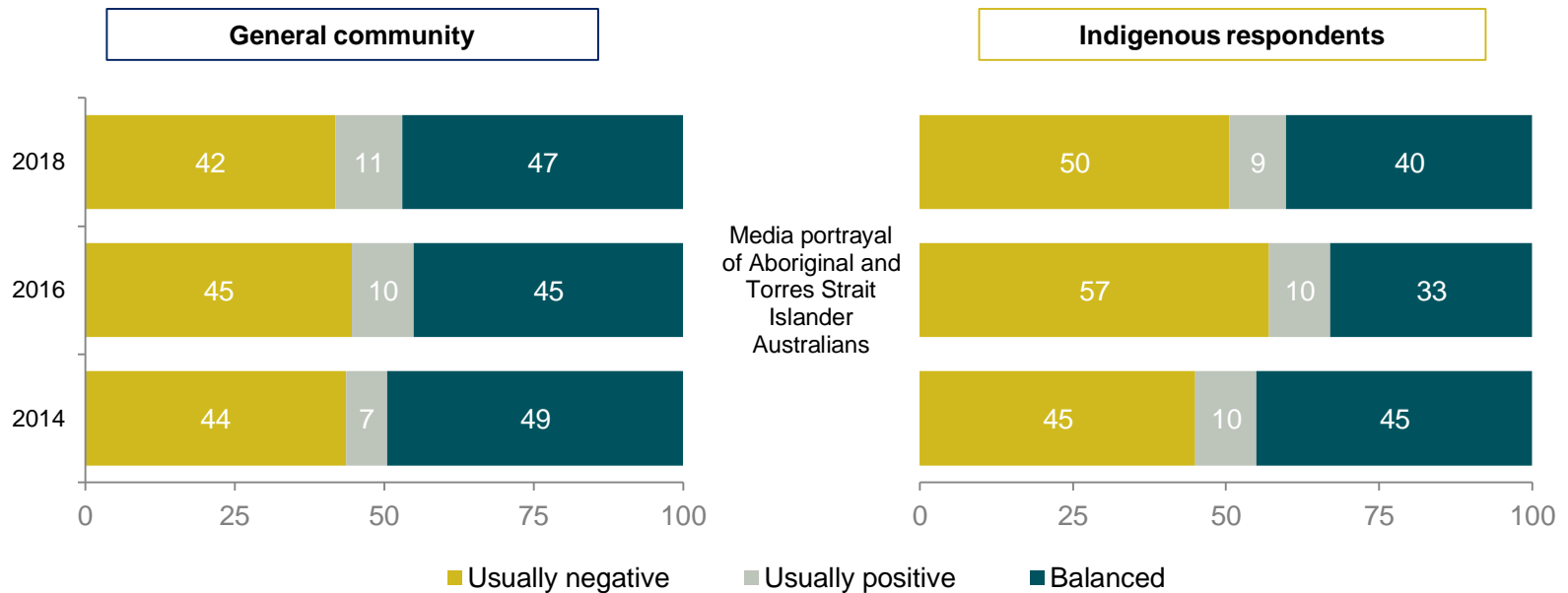
# We are divided on whether the media usually portrays Indigenous people in a balanced way



The general community is divided over whether the media usually portrays Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a negative (42%) or balanced way (47%).

While Indigenous respondents are also divided, they are more likely to believe the media usually portrays Indigenous Australians negatively (50%), than in a balanced way (40%).

# Indigenous people have become 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 both 2014 and 2016.

However, while Indigenous people are also divided, they are now more likely to believe the media usually portrays them in a balanced way (40%), than 2016 (33%).

# 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:**

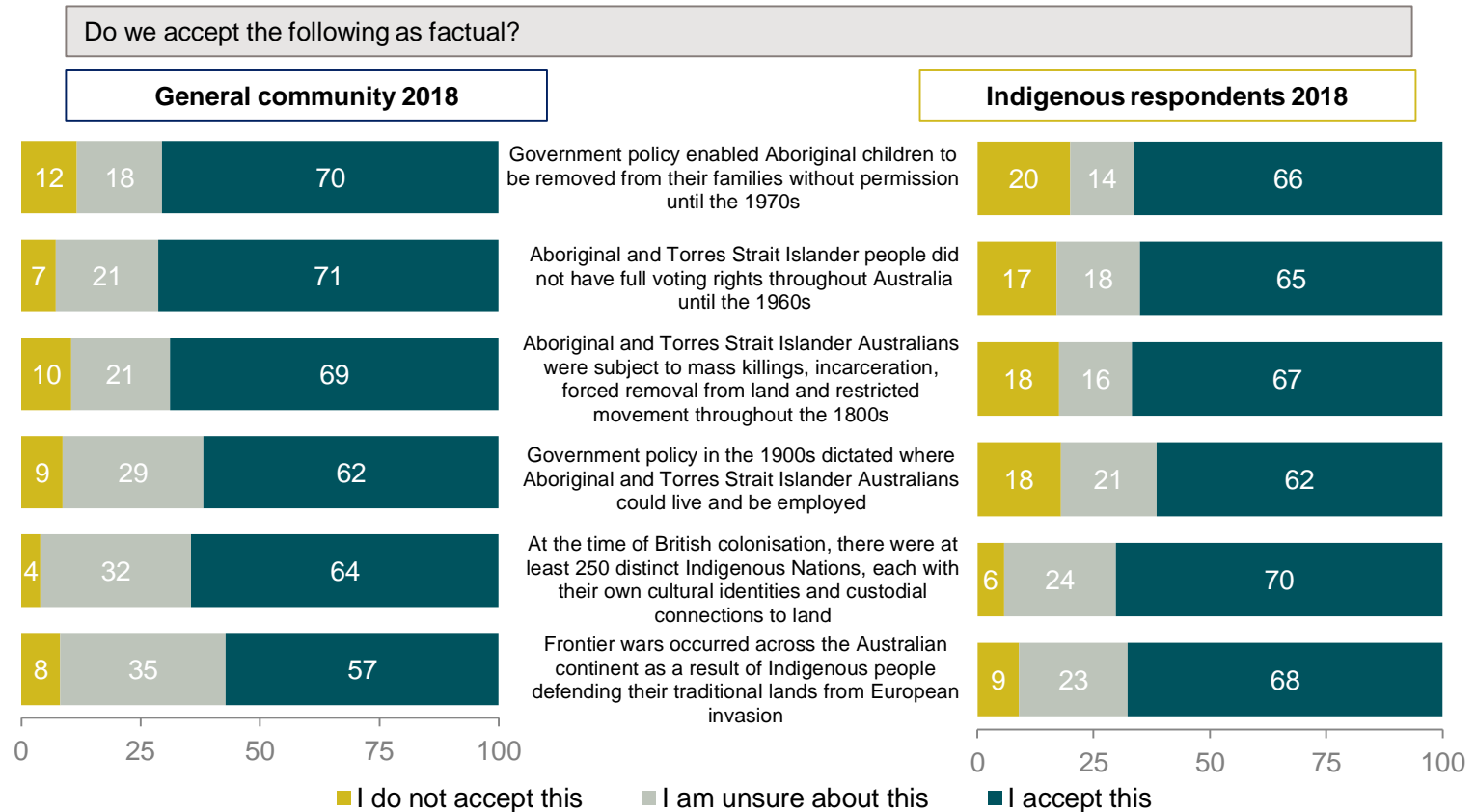
86% of the general community agrees it is important for all Australians to learn about past issues, compared to 87% in 2016

80% of the general community and 91% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents believe it is important to undertake a formal truth telling process in Australia

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

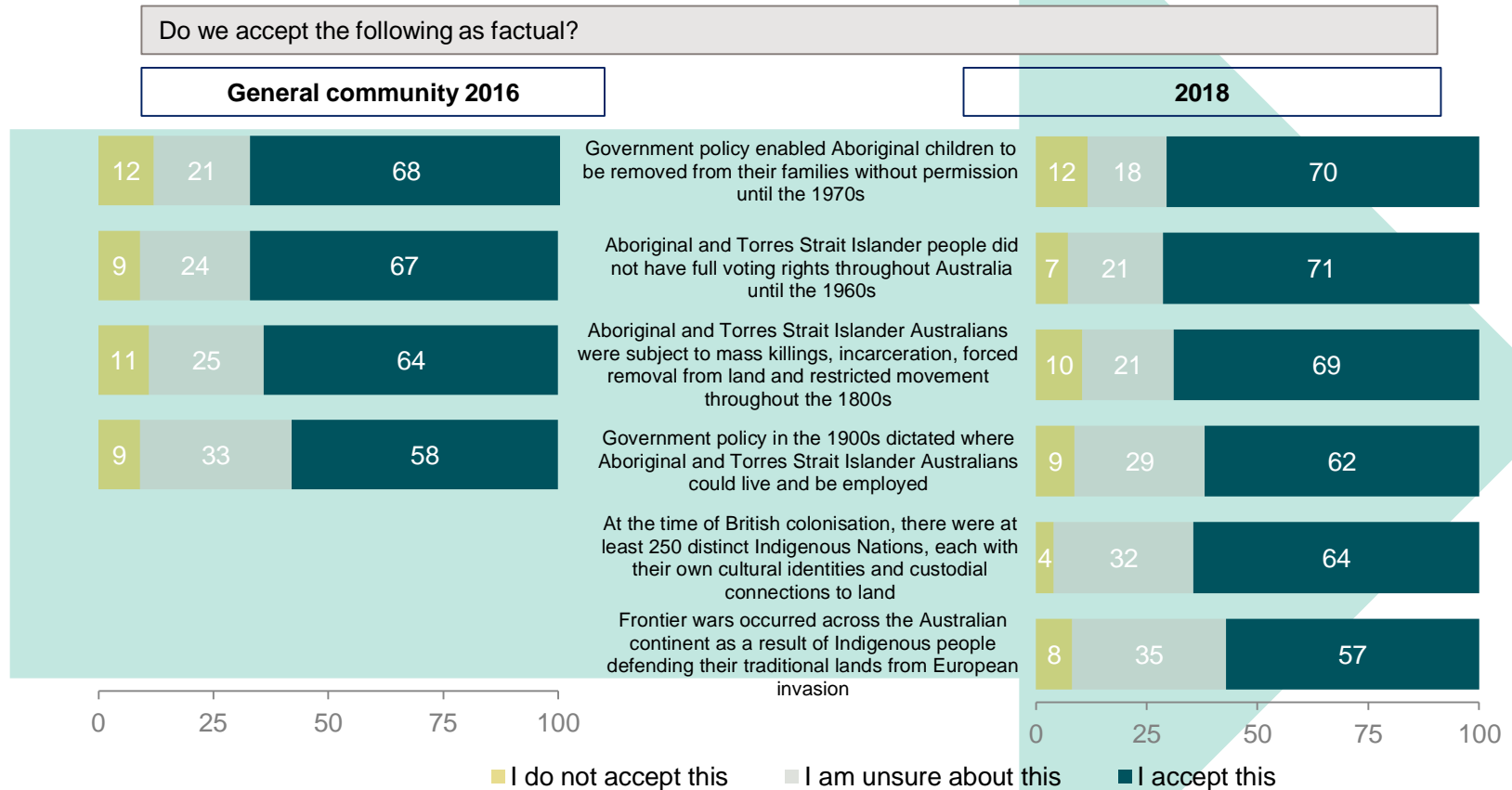
# We mostly accept key facts about past injustices



Both the general community and Indigenous respondents largely accept a number of key facts about historical realities and Australia's past institutional prejudices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Interestingly, the general community accepts a number of key facts at a higher rate than First Peoples' respondents.

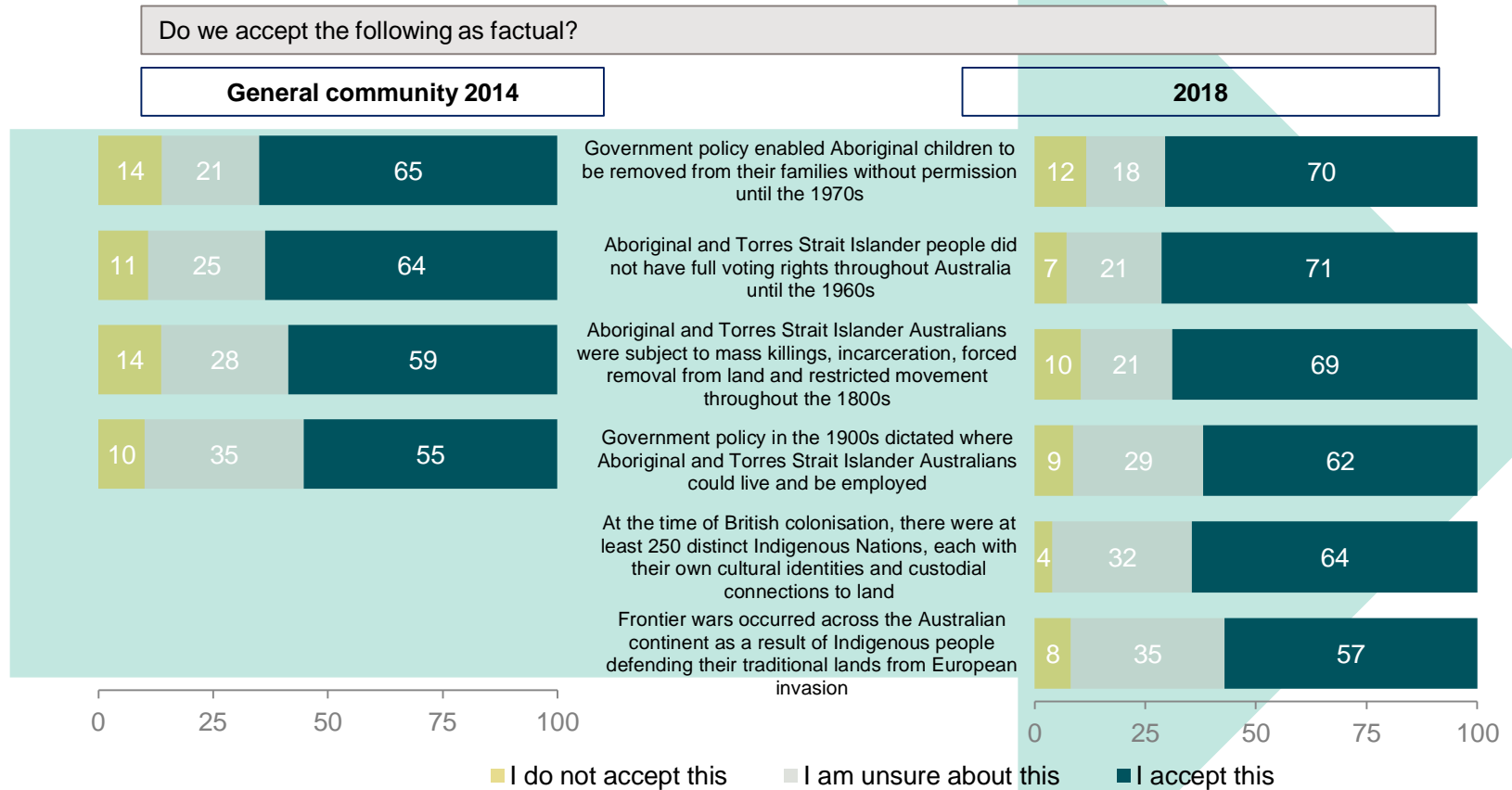
However, there are greatest disagreements between the groups regarding the facts that Australia was inhabited by Indigenous Nations at the time of British colonisation, and that frontier wars occurred due to Indigenous peoples

# More of us now accept key facts about past injustices



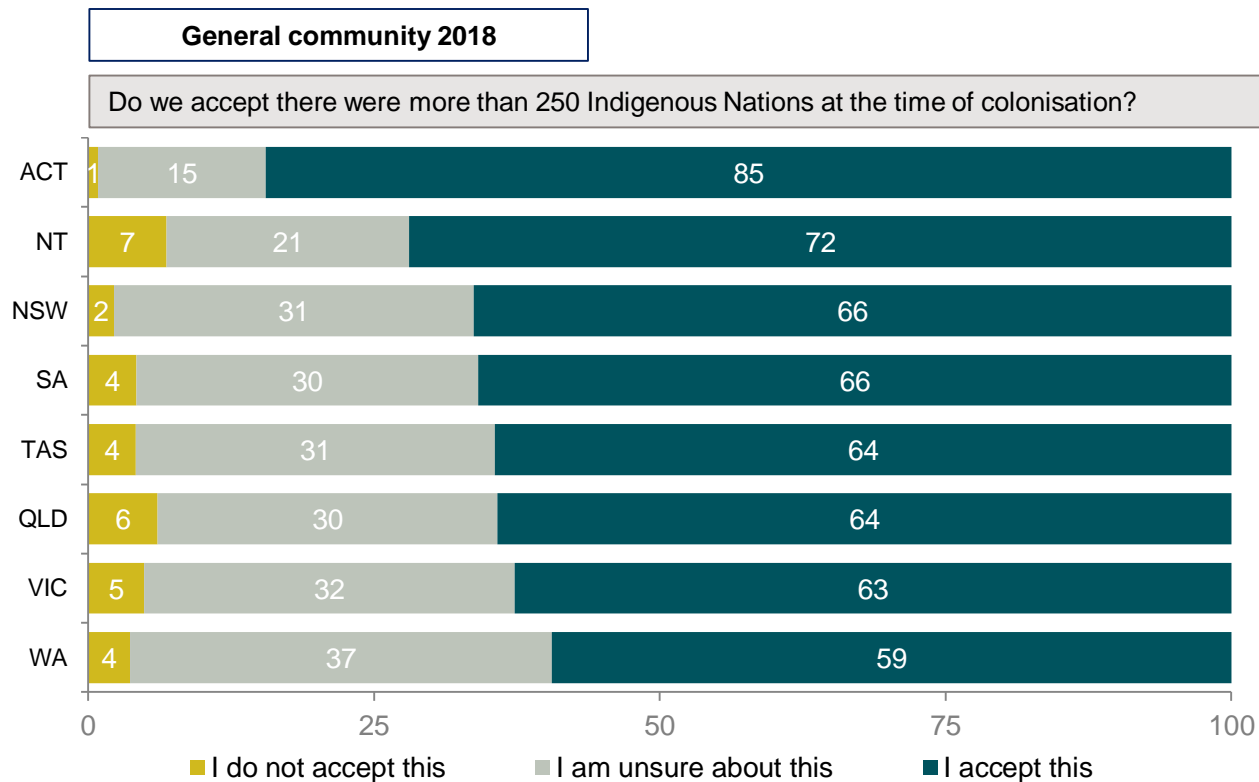
More people in the general community now accept a number of key facts about Australia's past history and institutional prejudices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Since 2016, there has been an increase of between 2-5% for acceptance of each statement by the general public.

# More of us now accept key facts about past injustices, since 2014



More people in the general community now accept a number of key facts about Australia's past history and institutional prejudices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Since 2014, there has been a solid increase of between 7-10% for acceptance of each statement by the general public.

# More people in the Territories accept that pre-colonial Australia *was* inhabited by Indigenous Nations, than the States

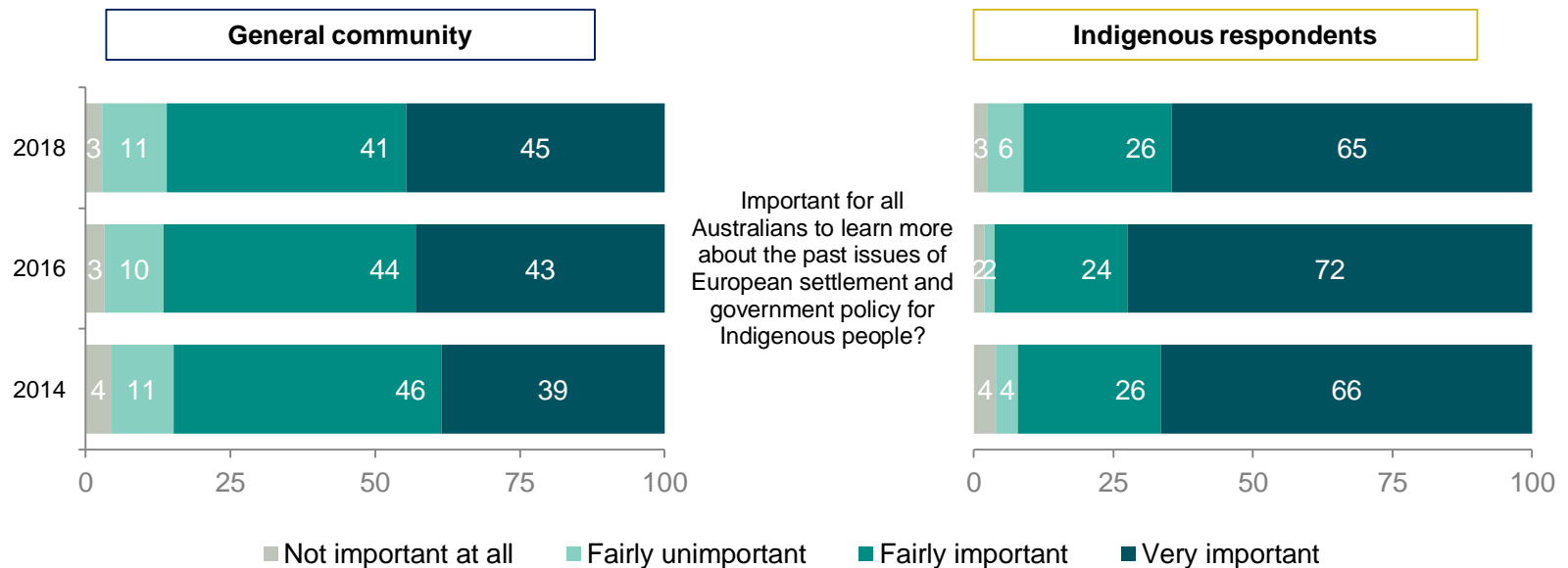


The general communities of ACT and NT most widely accept the fact that Australia was inhabited by Indigenous nations at the time of British colonisation.

Conversely, more people in Qld and also in the Northern Territory do not accept this as factual, compared to other areas of Australia.



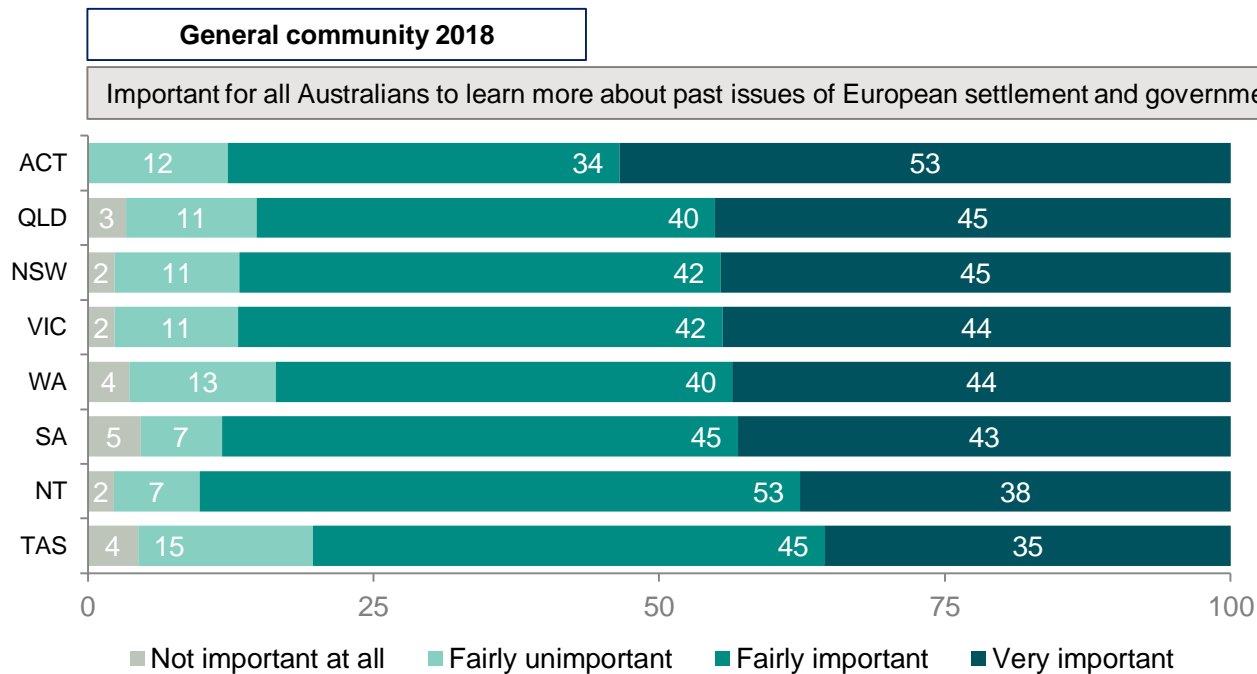
# We continue to agree it is important for all Australians to learn more about past issues



The general community (45%) remain 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 (65%).

However, the vast majority in both communities has continued to believe that it's important, since 2014.

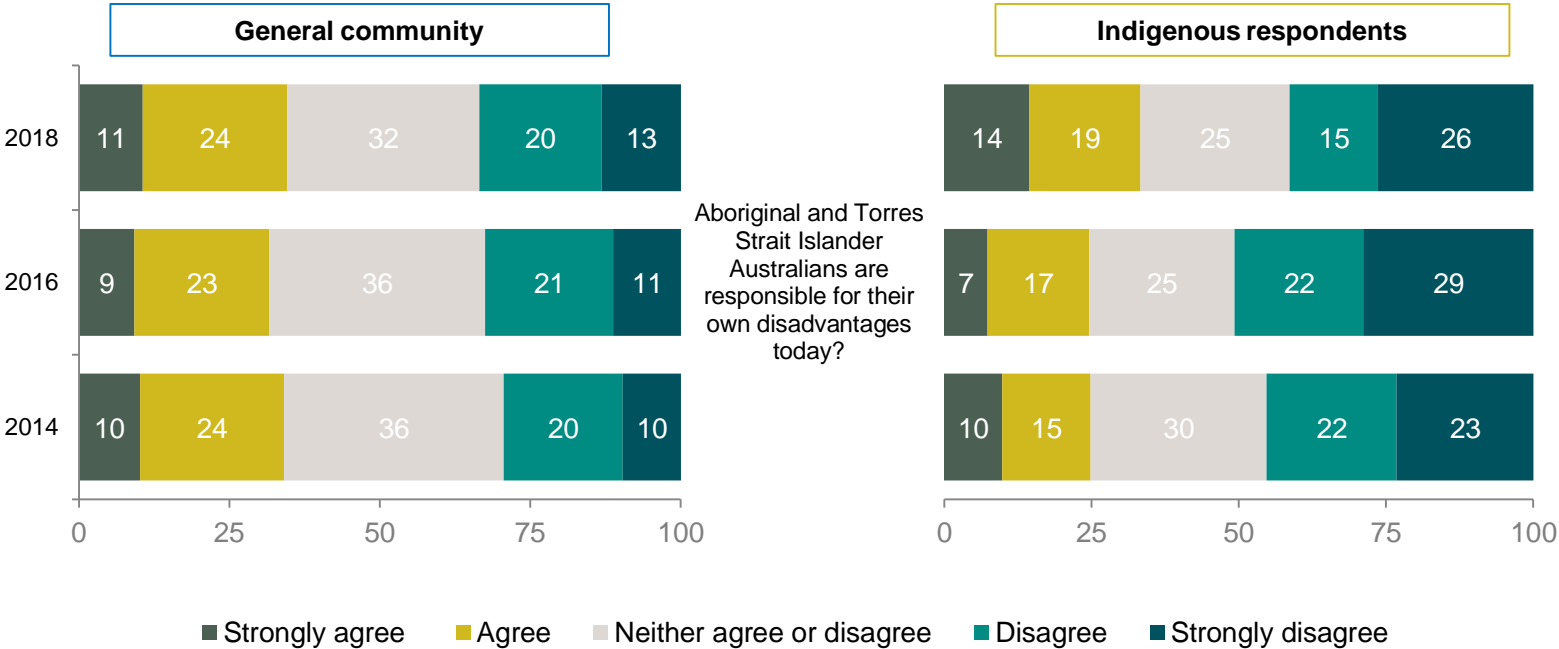
# More people from the ACT strongly agree it is important for all Australians to learn more about past issues



The general community in ACT mostly believe (53%) 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 other areas.

Conversely, only 35% of people in Tasmania feel this way, with 19% saying it's not important.

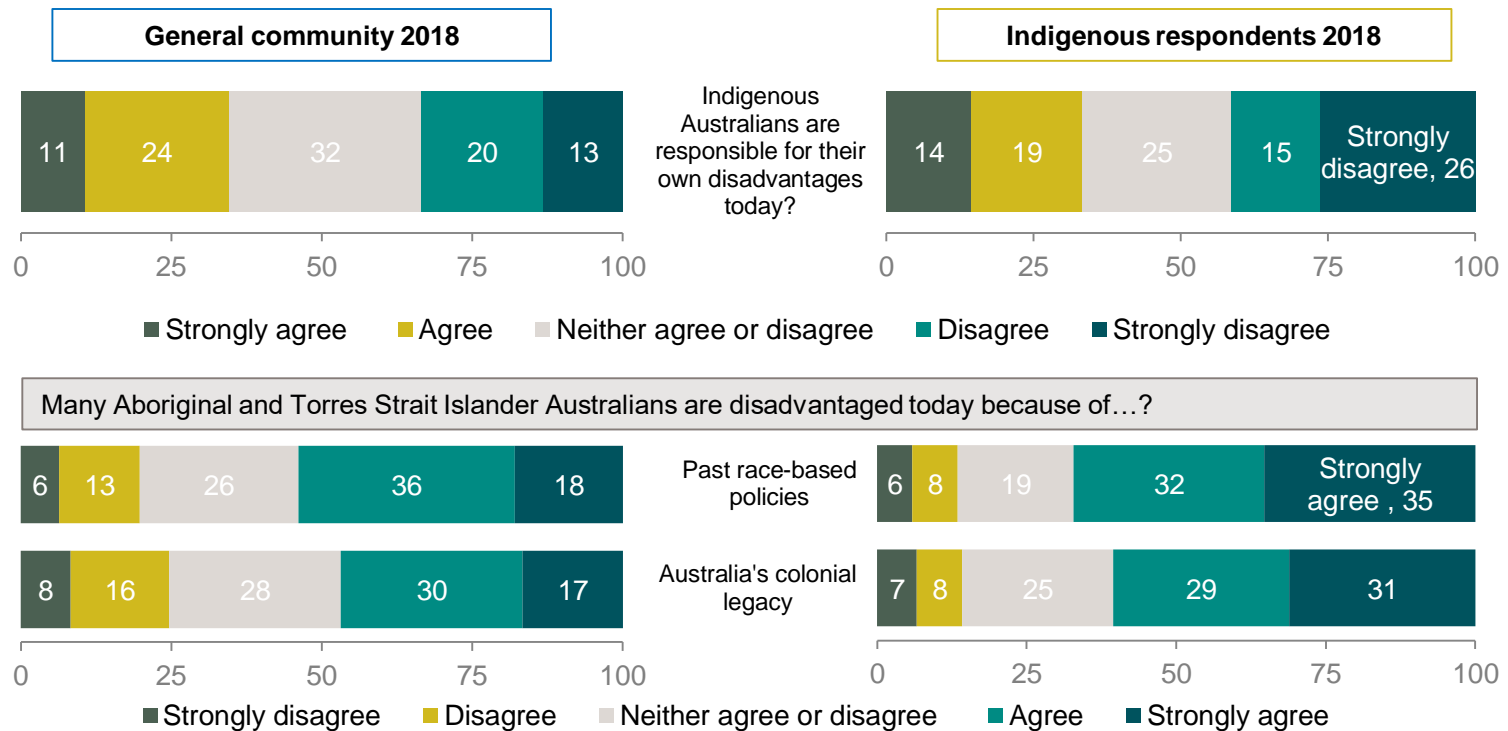
# More Indigenous respondents disagree that they are responsible for their own disadvantage



While the general community remain divided on Indigenous responsibility for their disadvantages, there has been an increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who strongly agree Indigenous people are responsible for their own disadvantages today, than in 2016.

This may highlight how some Indigenous respondents believe their own people should take the initiative regarding their current disadvantages, despite not being responsible for causing them.

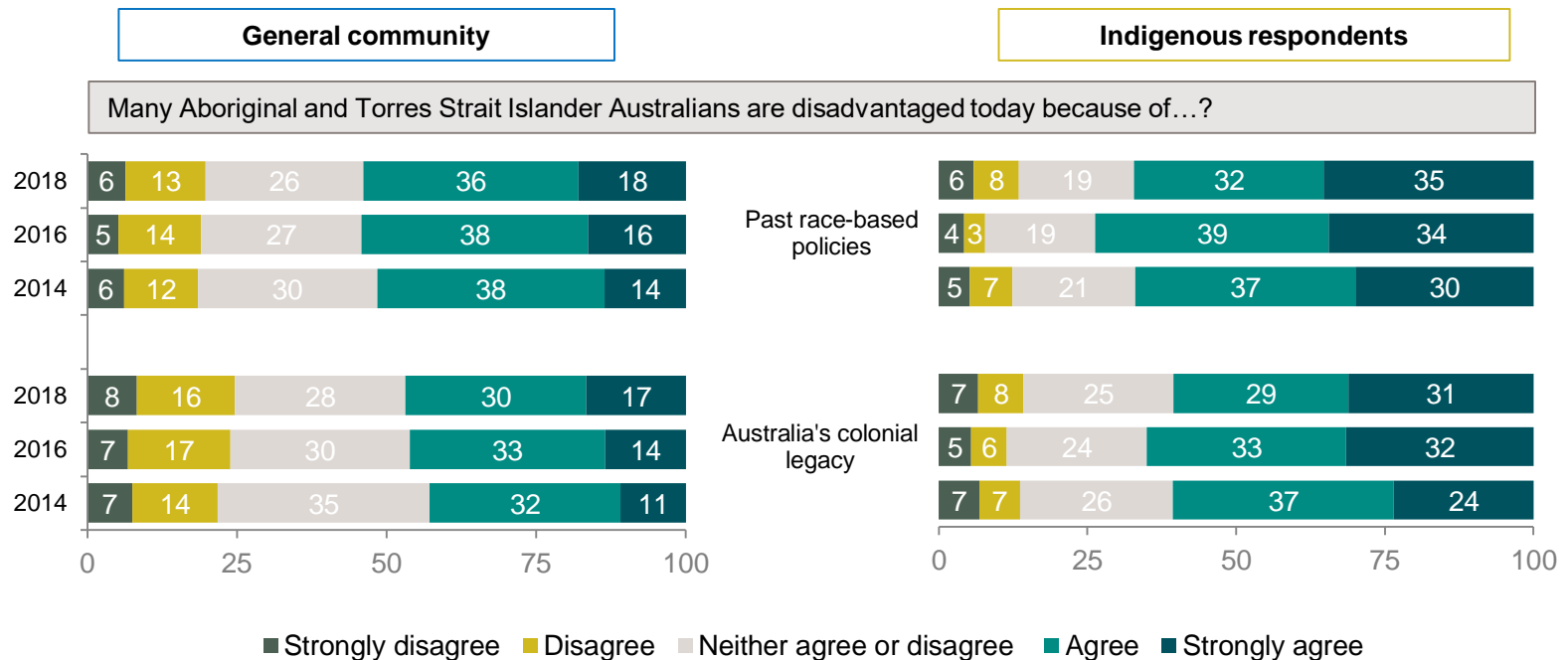
# We widely agree that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disadvantaged today because of past race-based policies and colonial legacy



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

Somewhat paradoxically, this may highlight how some Australians believe Indigenous people should take the initiative regarding their current disadvantages, despite not being responsible for causing them.

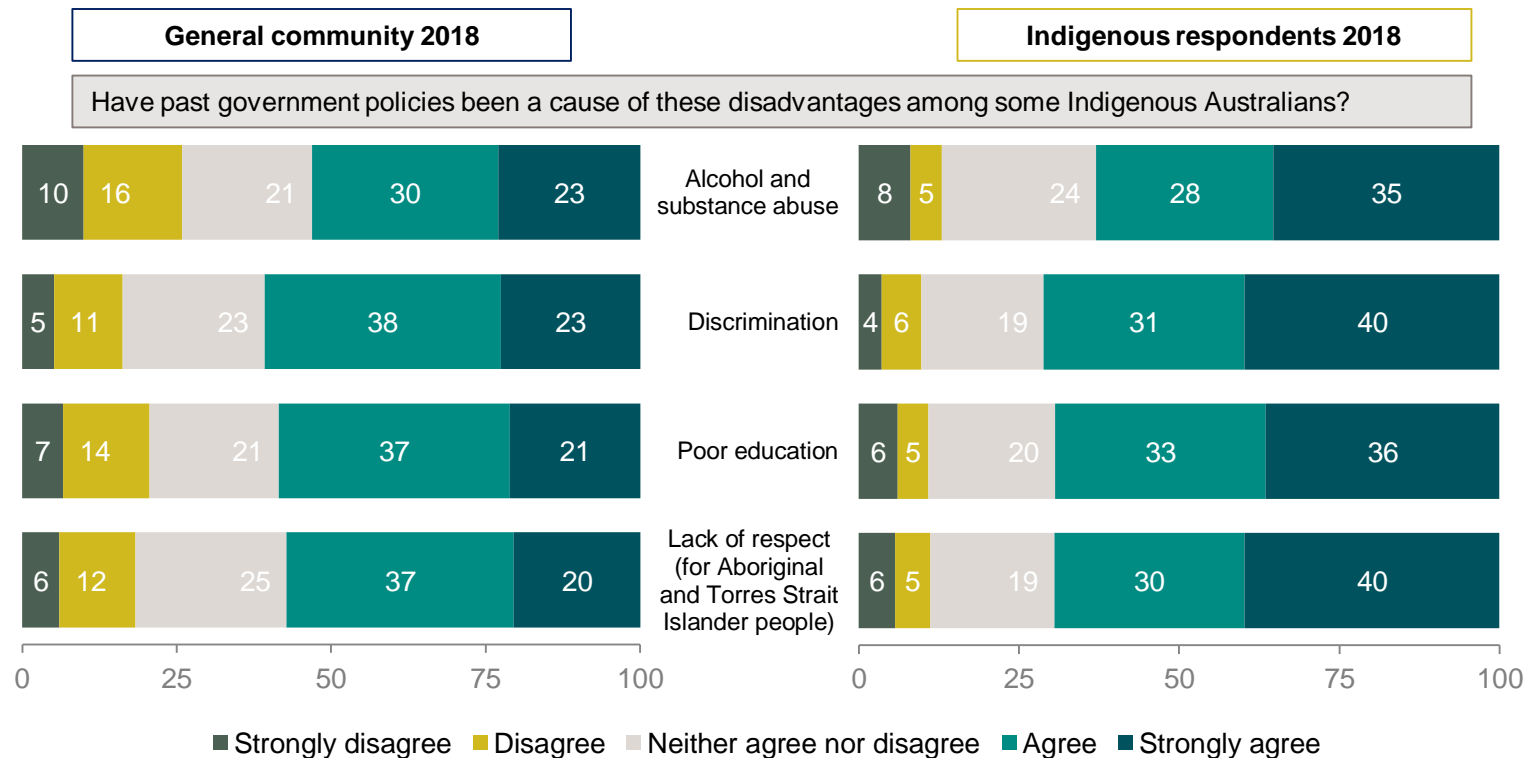
# We mostly agree the past is responsible for Indigenous disadvantages today



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

Notably, there has been a steady increase in those who strongly agree among both groups since 2014.

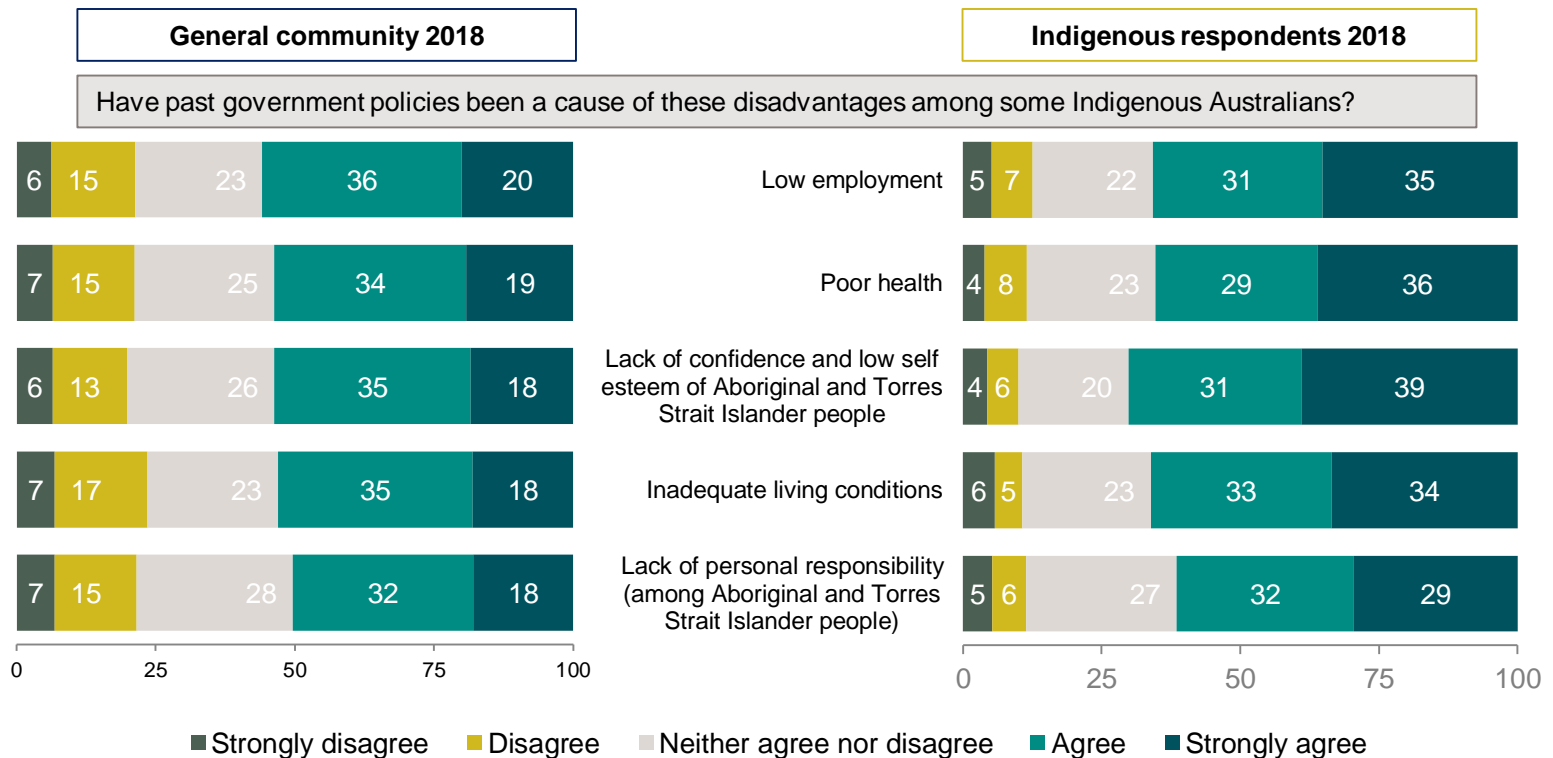
# In 2018 we widely agree that past policies have been a cause of many Indigenous disadvantages



Both the general community and Indigenous respondents 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 far less likely to strongly agree, than Indigenous people.

It is also notable that the general public more widely disagree past policies have been a cause of alcohol and substance issues (26%), compared to just 13% of Indigenous respondents.

# In 2018 we widely agree that past policies have been a cause of many Indigenous disadvantages (cont.)

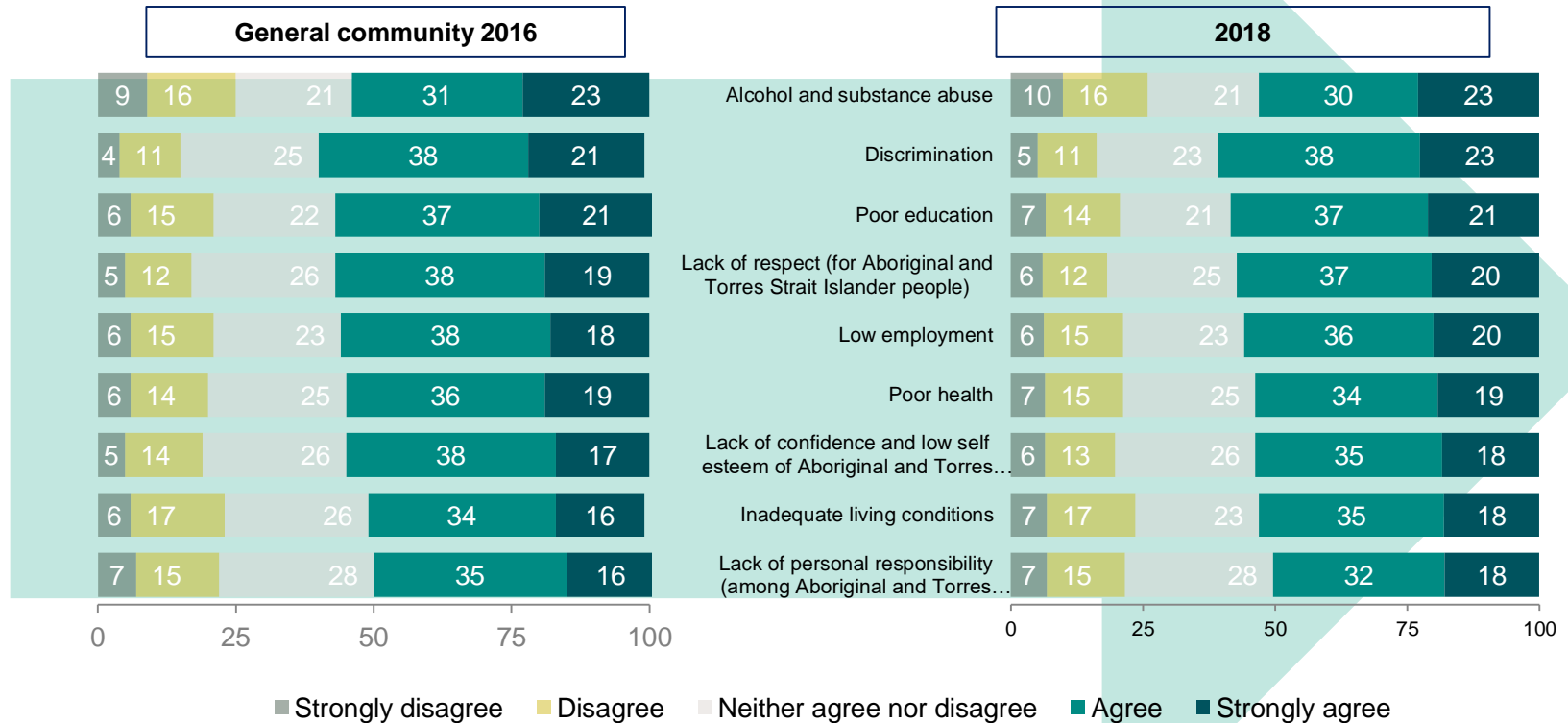


Both the general community and Indigenous respondents widely agree that past government policies are responsible for many forms of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today. However, the general public are far less likely to strongly agree, than Indigenous people.

It is also notable that the general public more widely disagree past policies have been a cause of housing issues (24%), compared to just 11% of Indigenous respondents.

# We continue to widely agree that past policies have been a cause of many Indigenous disadvantages

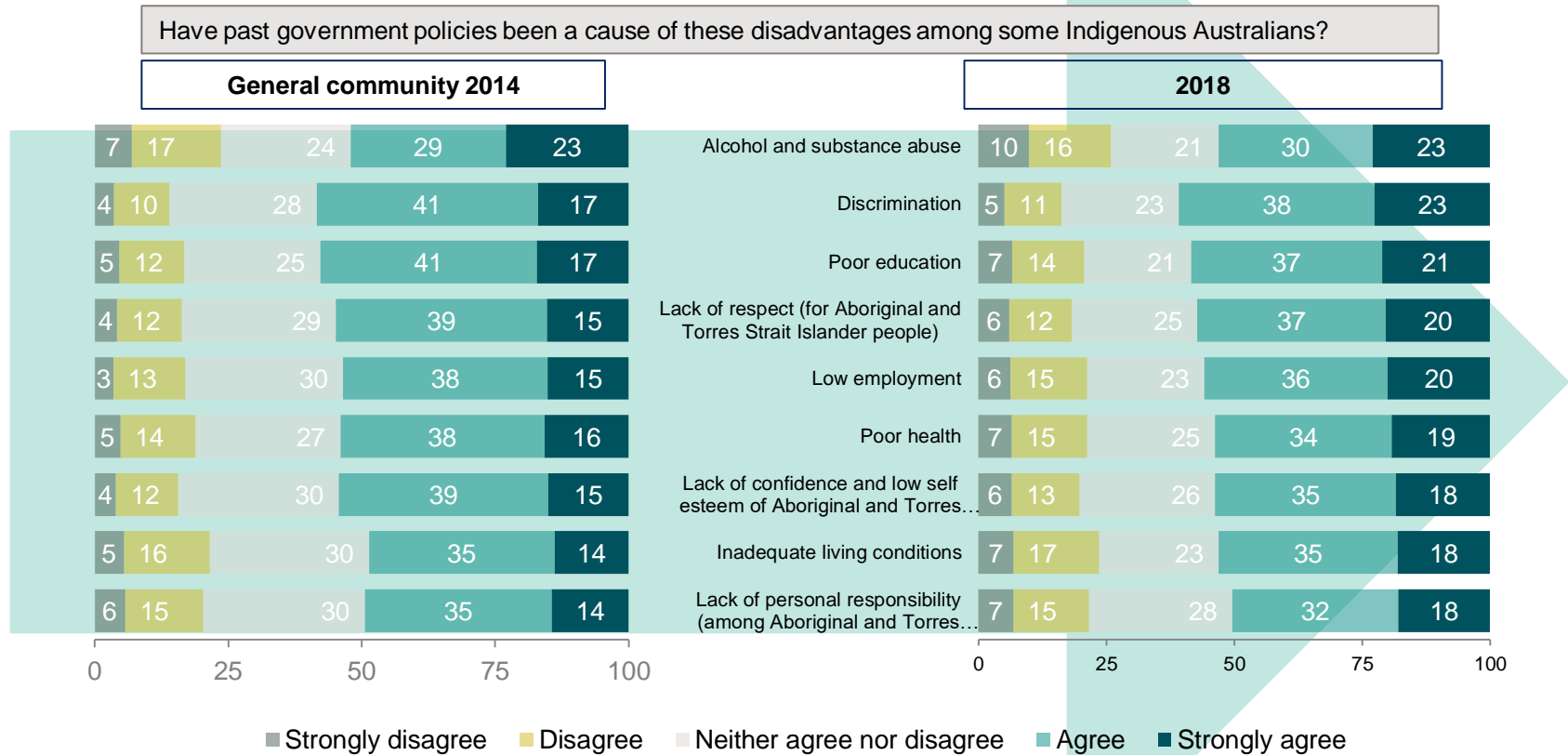
Have past government policies been a cause of these disadvantages among some Indigenous Australians?



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, as in 2016.



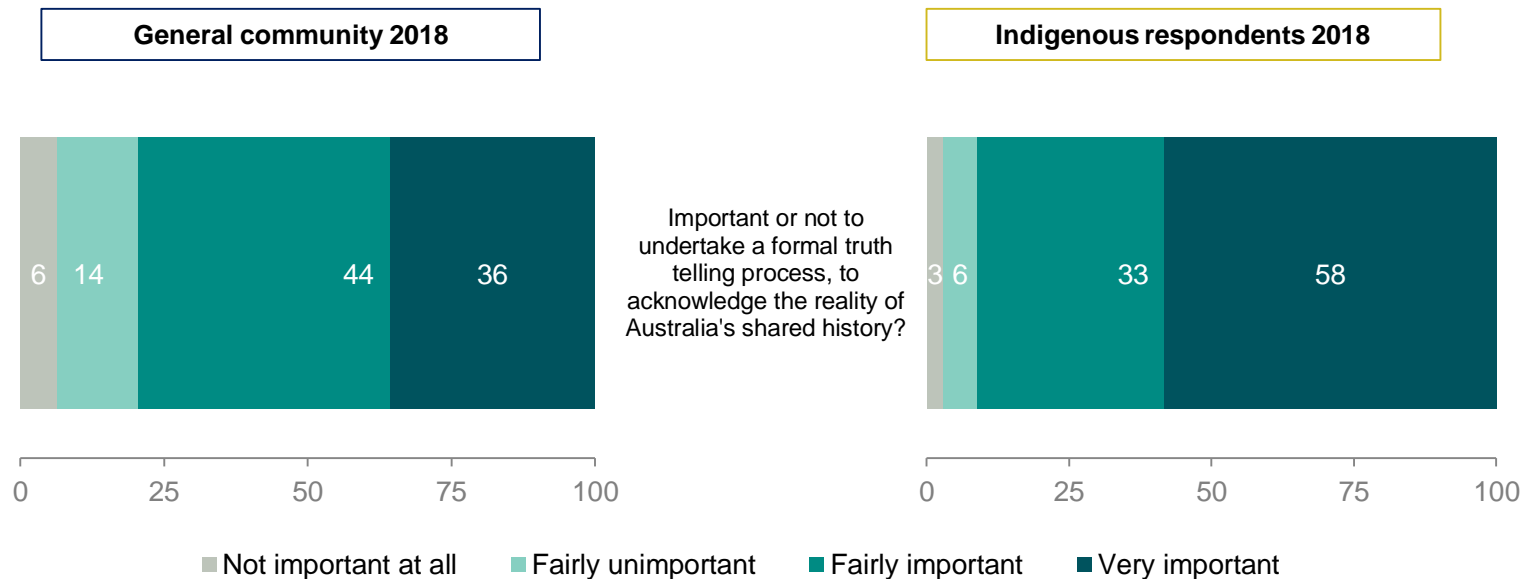
# Since 2014 more of us now strongly agree that past policies have been a cause of Indigenous disadvantages



More people in the general community now agree strongly 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 low employment for Indigenous people, than four years ago.

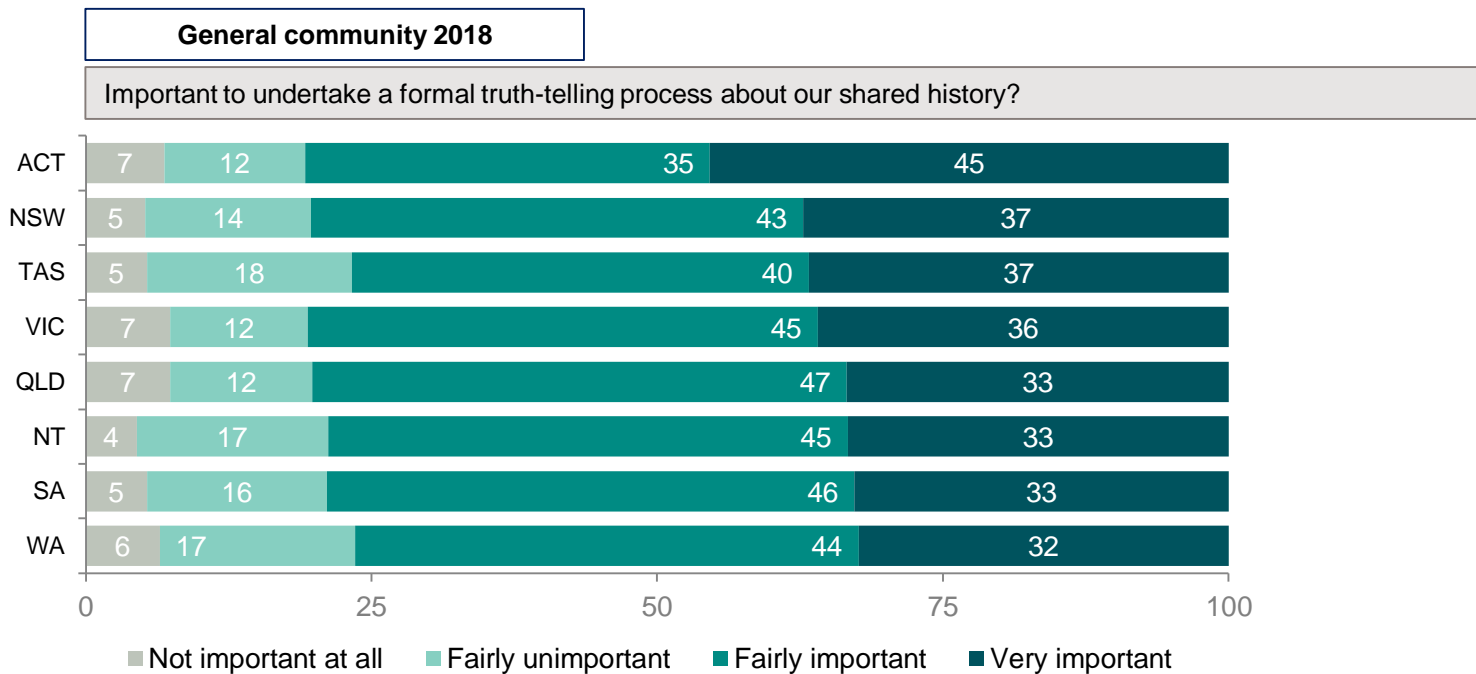
# We mostly believe it is important to undertake a formal truth-telling process



The general community (80%) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (91%) widely believe it's important to undertake a formal truth telling process, in relation to Australia's shared history.

However, Indigenous respondents are much more likely to feel this is very important, compared to the general public.

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

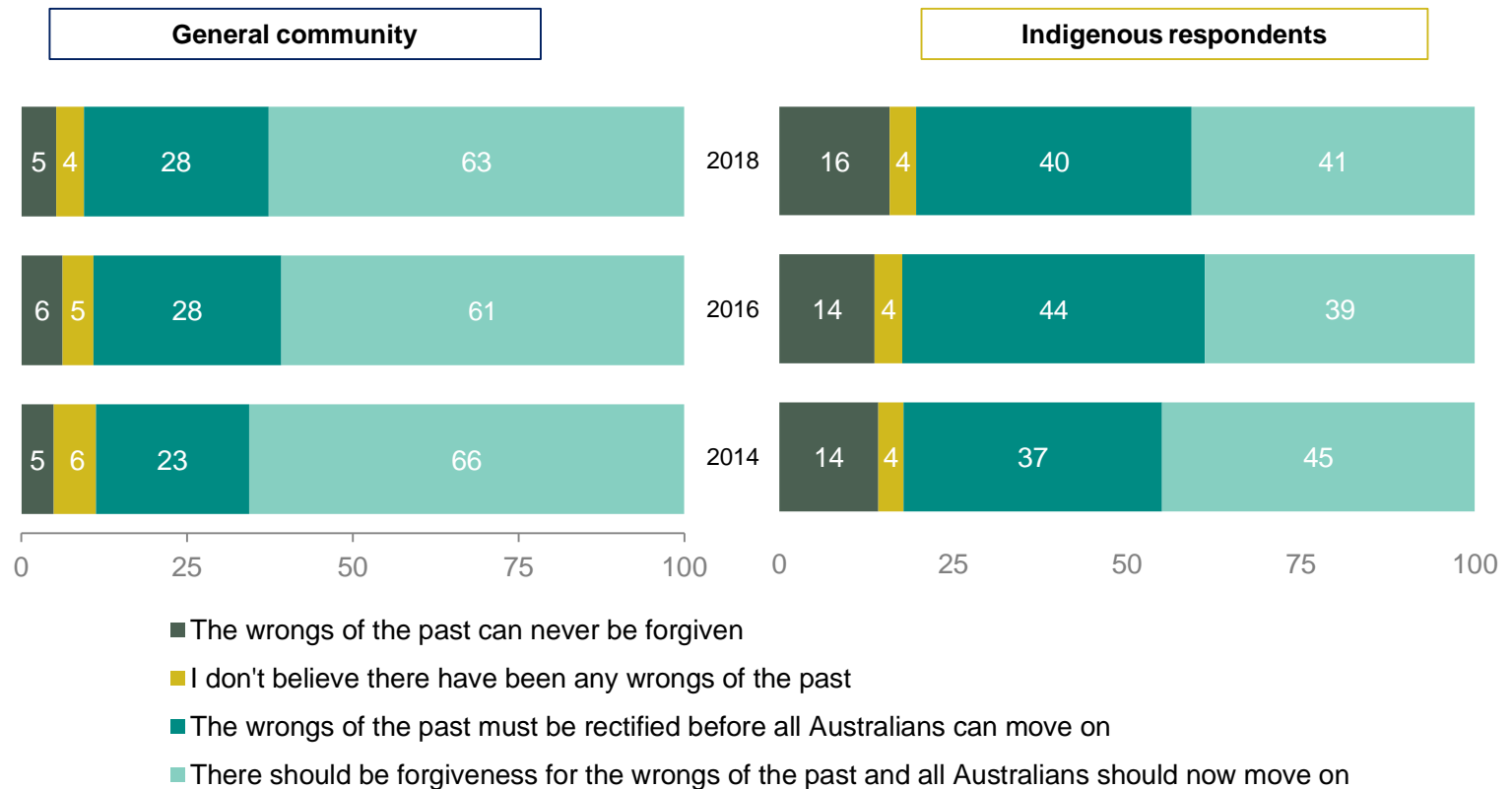


The general community in ACT mostly believe (45%) that it's very important to hold a formal truth-telling process about the past issues of European settlement and government policies experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This is notably higher than in other areas.

Conversely, more people in Tasmania (23%) and WA (23%) feel it's not important, than in other areas.

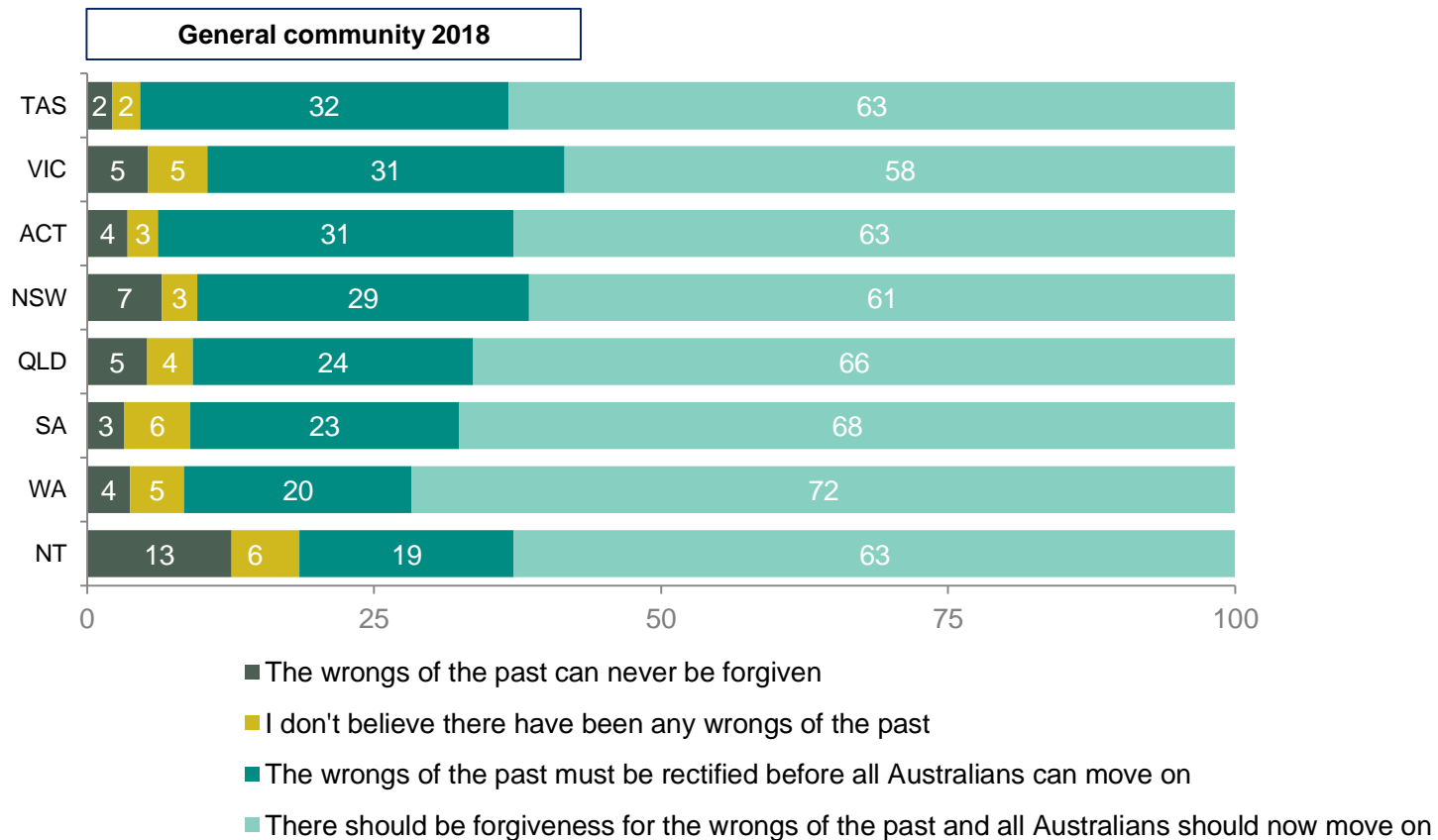
# We mostly continue to believe that past issues should be forgiven and all of us should move on

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 (40%), compared with the general community (28%).



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

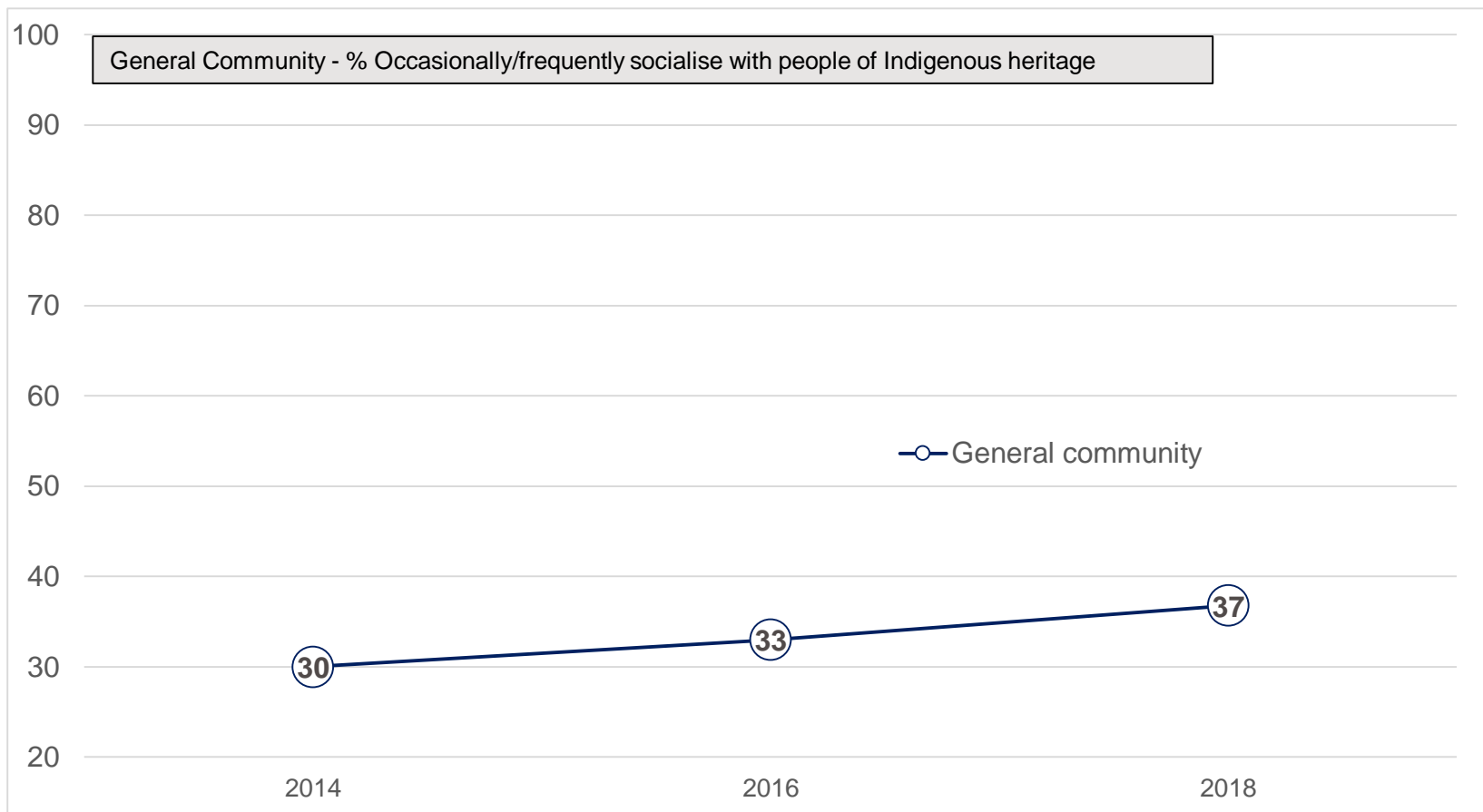
Tasmania has the largest percentage of people who feel “past wrongs must be rectified” (32%), while the NT has the largest percentage of people who believe “the wrongs of the past can never be forgiven” (13%). The general community in WA more widely believe “there should be forgiveness so we can now move on” (72%), compared to other States and Territories.



# Trends Analysis

# Tracking social contact between the general community and First Peoples:

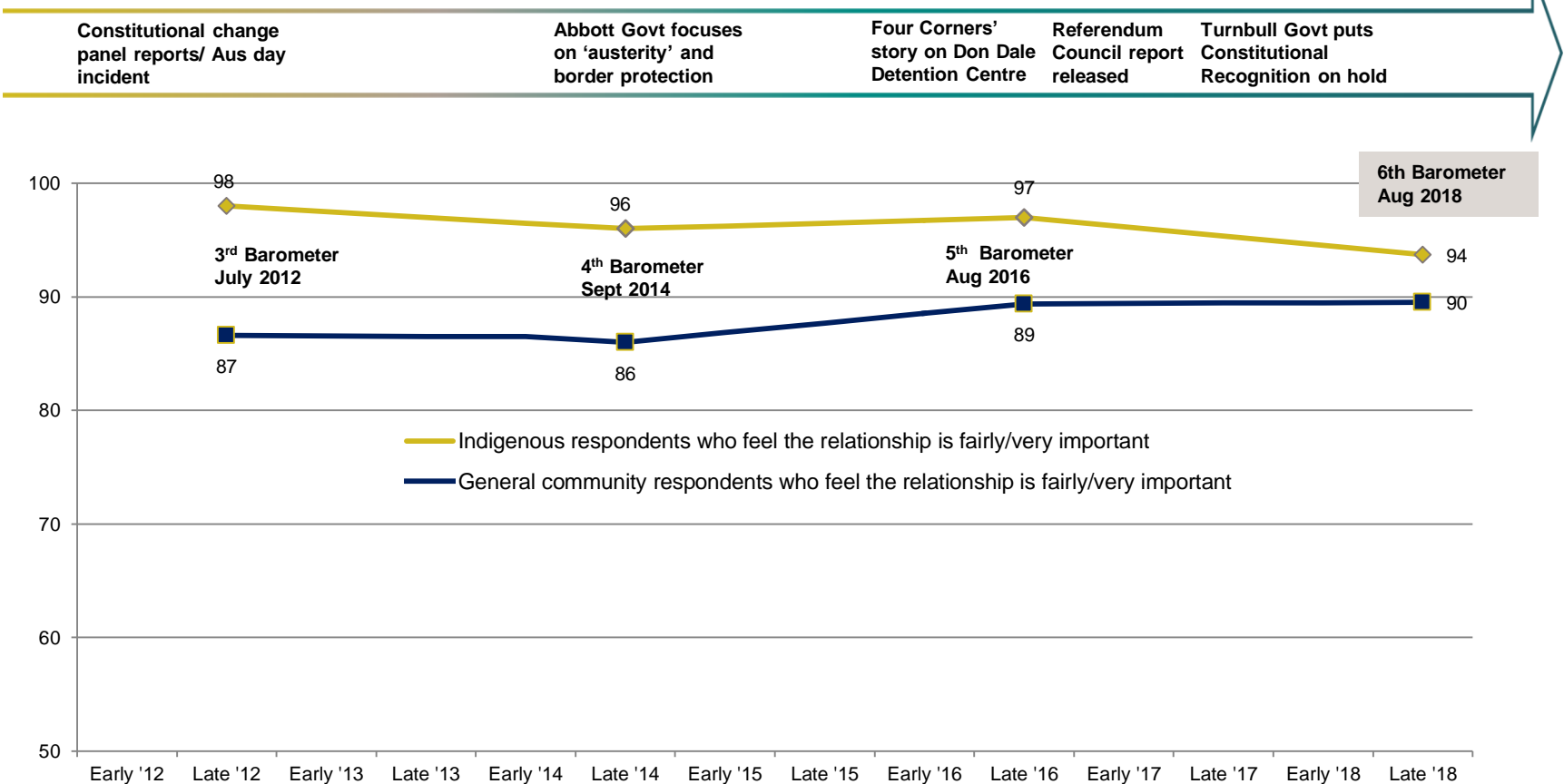
While a relatively small proportion of people in the general community regularly socialise with Indigenous peoples, there has been an encouraging increase since 2014.



# We continue to view the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians as important

The vast majority of both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities continue to feel that the relationship between them is an important one. However, Indigenous people remain more likely than the general community to feel this way.

Levels of importance have remained largely consistent since 2012, though have converged more between the groups.

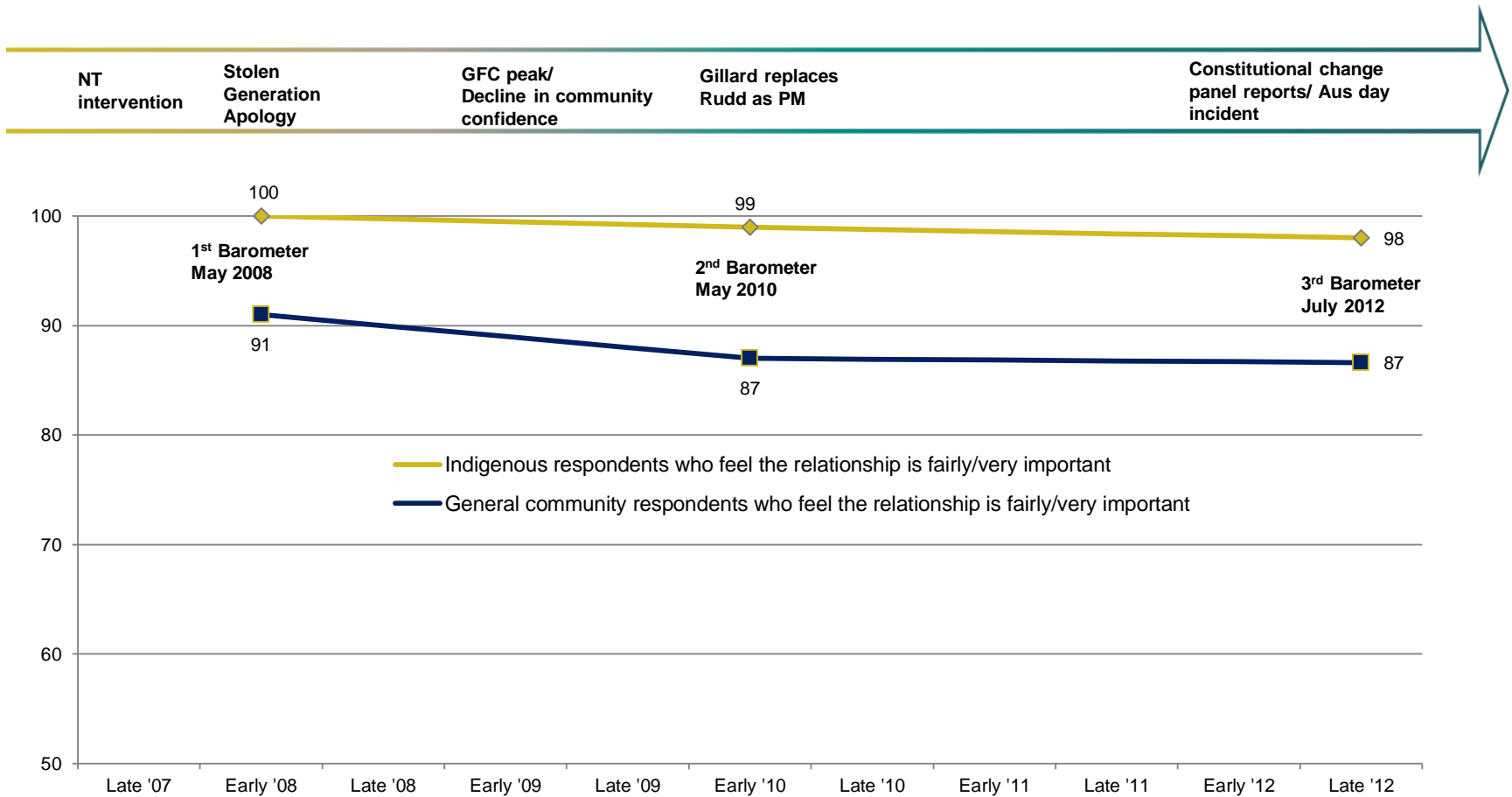




# Barometer 2008-2012:

Between 2008-12, the vast majority of both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities continued to feel that the relationship between them was an important one.

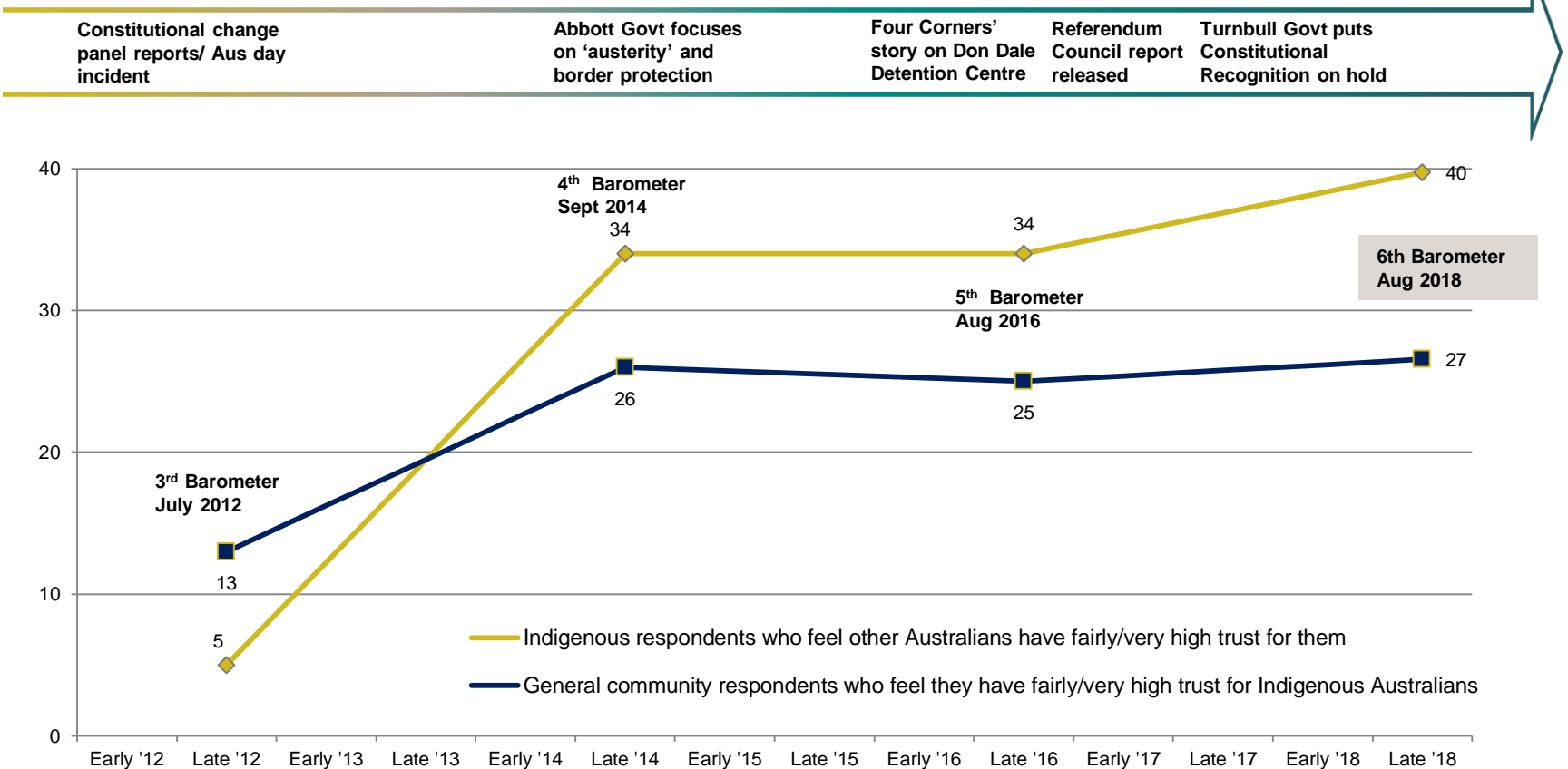
However, Indigenous respondents were much more likely than the general community to feel this way.



# Indigenous Australians are more likely to feel other Australians trust them, than the general public do

A gap remains in the level of trust seen to be held by other Australians for Indigenous Australians. While only one in four (27%) of the general community see fairly high/very high trust for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 40% of Indigenous respondents feel other Australians hold that level of trust for them.

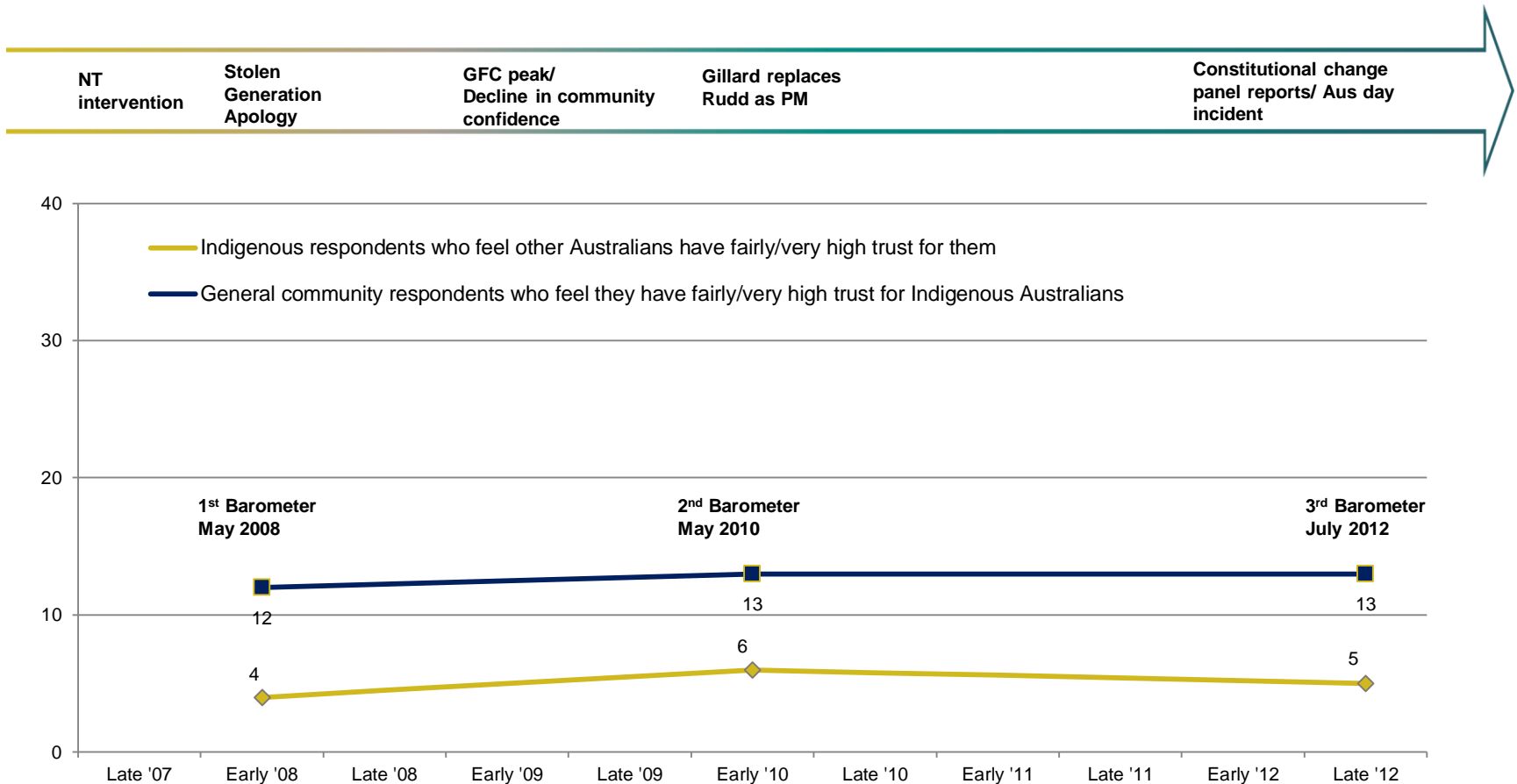
This highlights how more work is needed with non-Indigenous Australians in particular, to build levels of shared trust.



# Barometer 2008-2012:

Between 2008-12, perceptions of high trust held by other Australians for Indigenous Australians were low but stable.

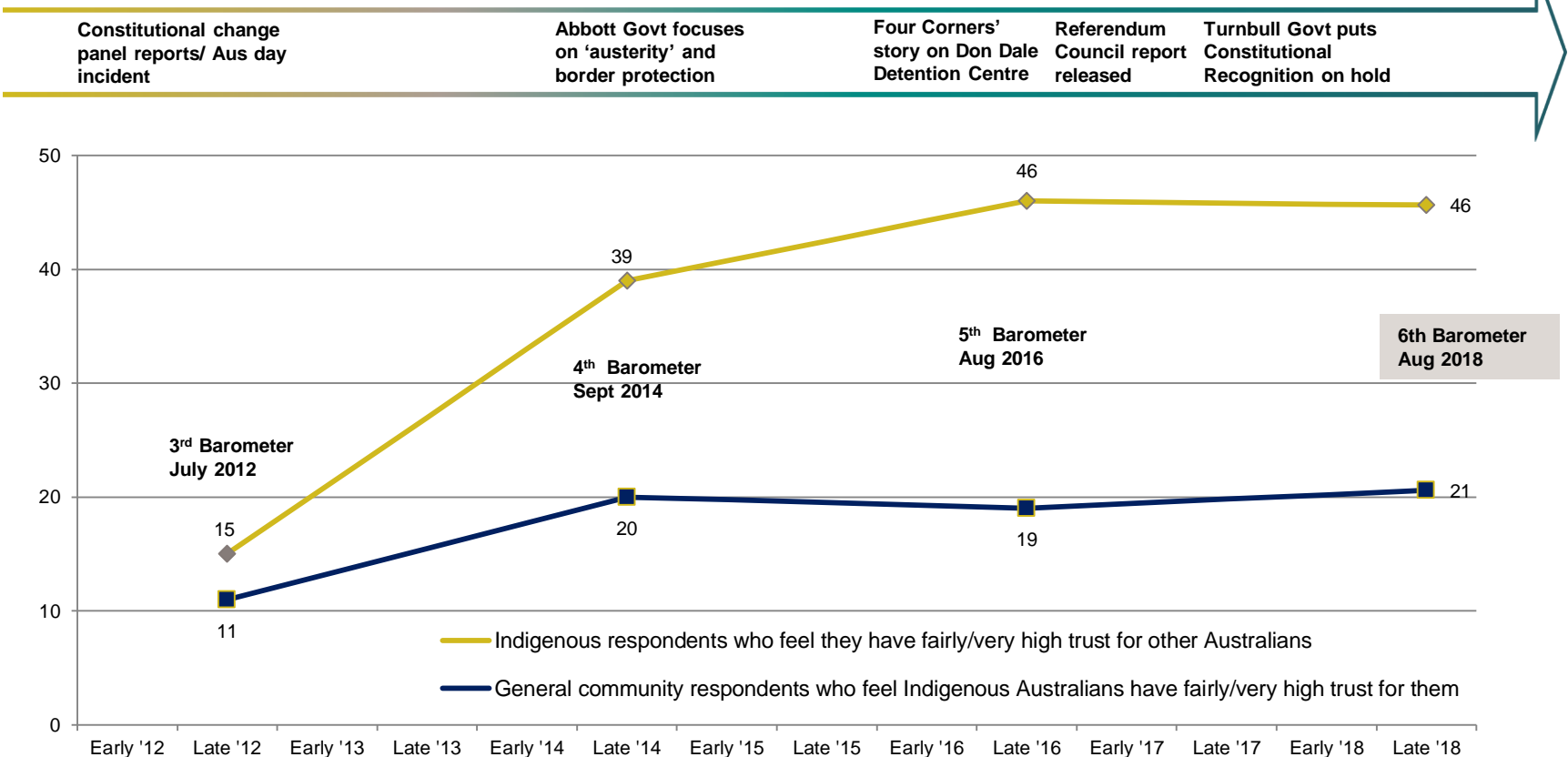
However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were much less likely to feel other Australians had that level of trust for them.



# Indigenous trust towards other Australians has remained steady

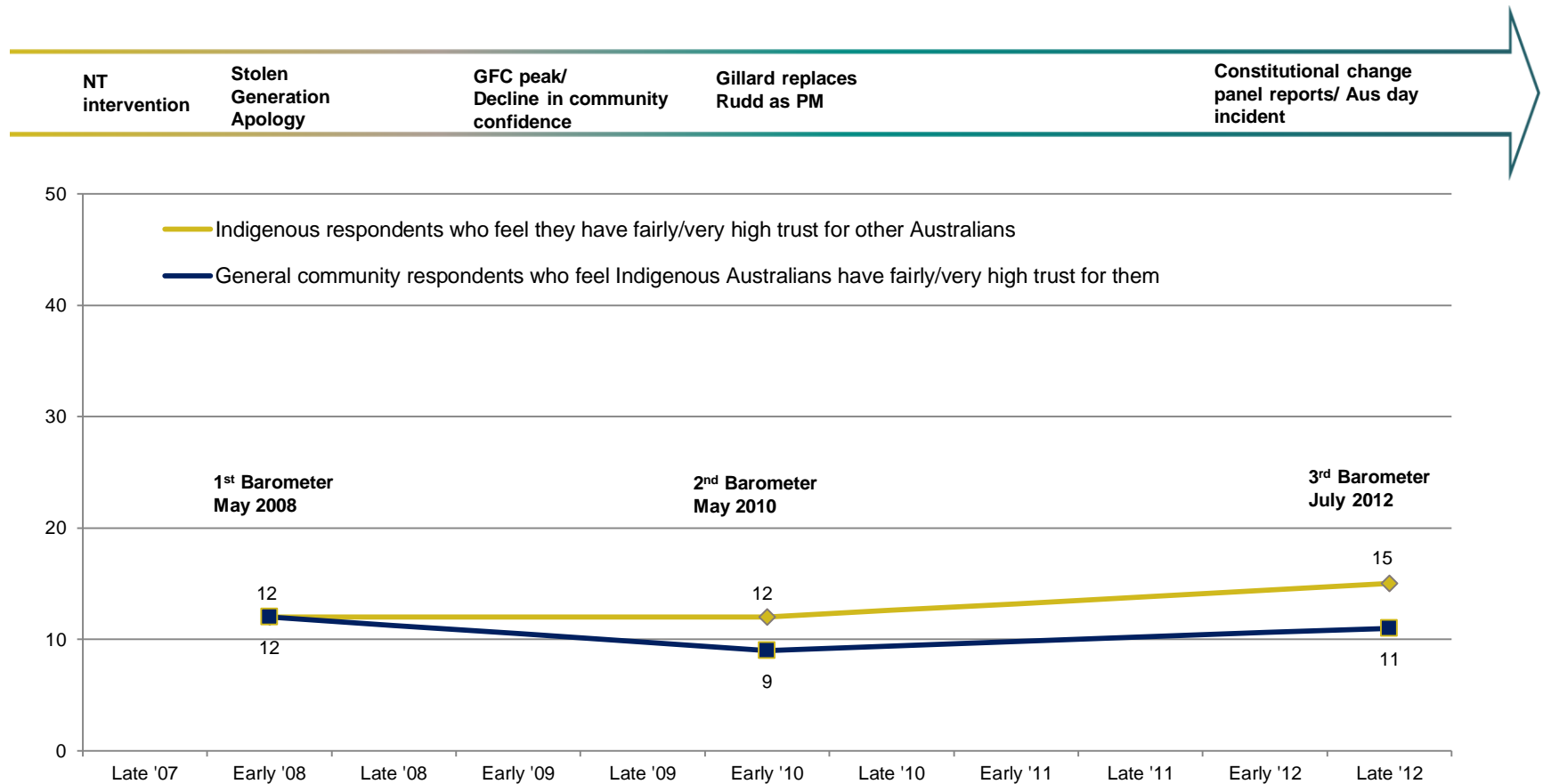
There has been another solid result in the numbers of Indigenous Australians who hold fairly high/very high trust for other Australians, now nearly half (46%). However, a considerable gap remains evident between communities, with only 21% of the general community believing Indigenous Australians hold such trust for them.

Again, this reflects the greater need for more work to be done in the general community to build a sense of shared trust.



# Barometer 2008-2012:

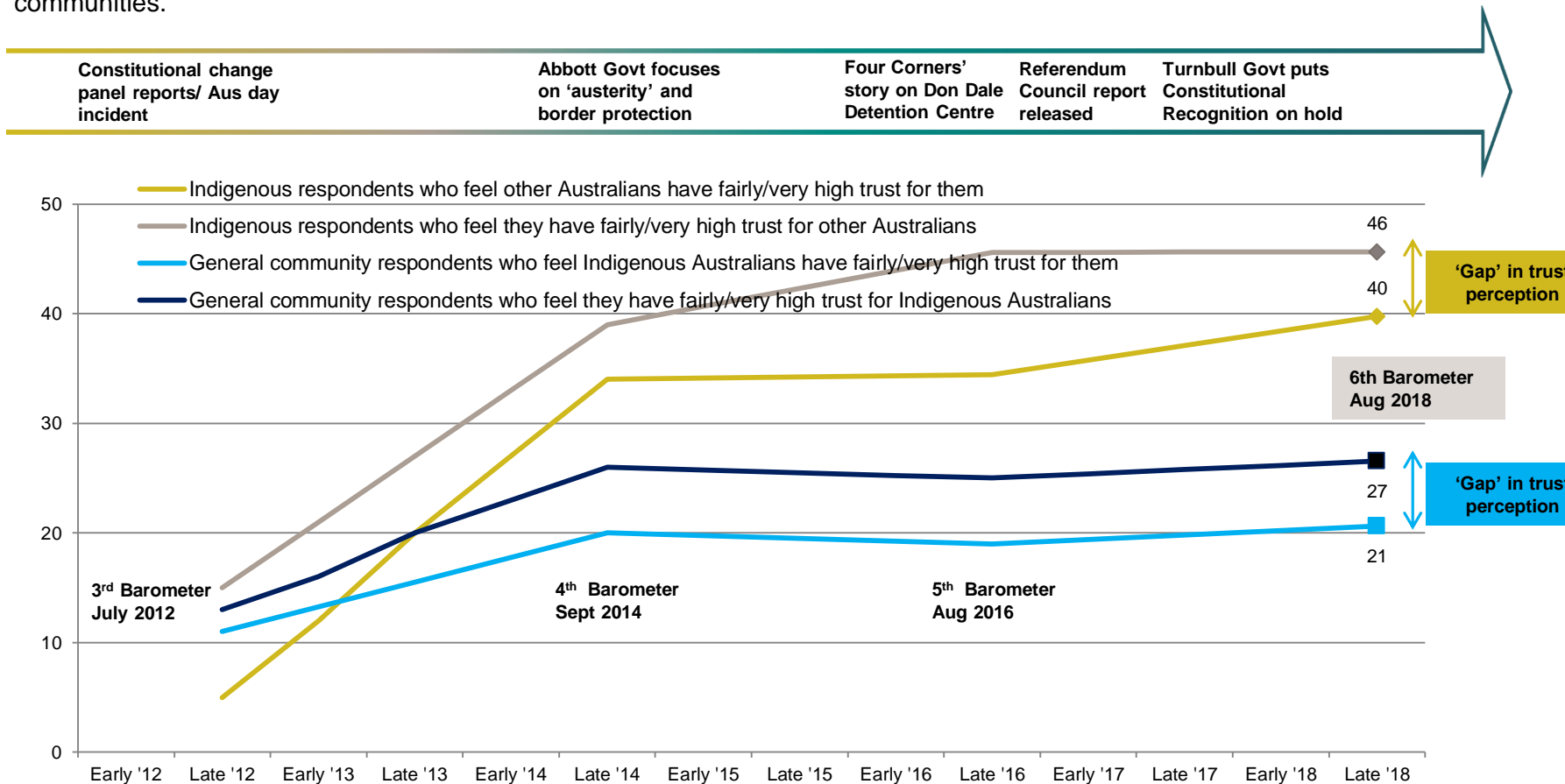
Between 2008-12, perceptions of high trust held by Indigenous peoples for other Australians were low but stable among both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.



# Both groups continue to believe they trust more than the other group does

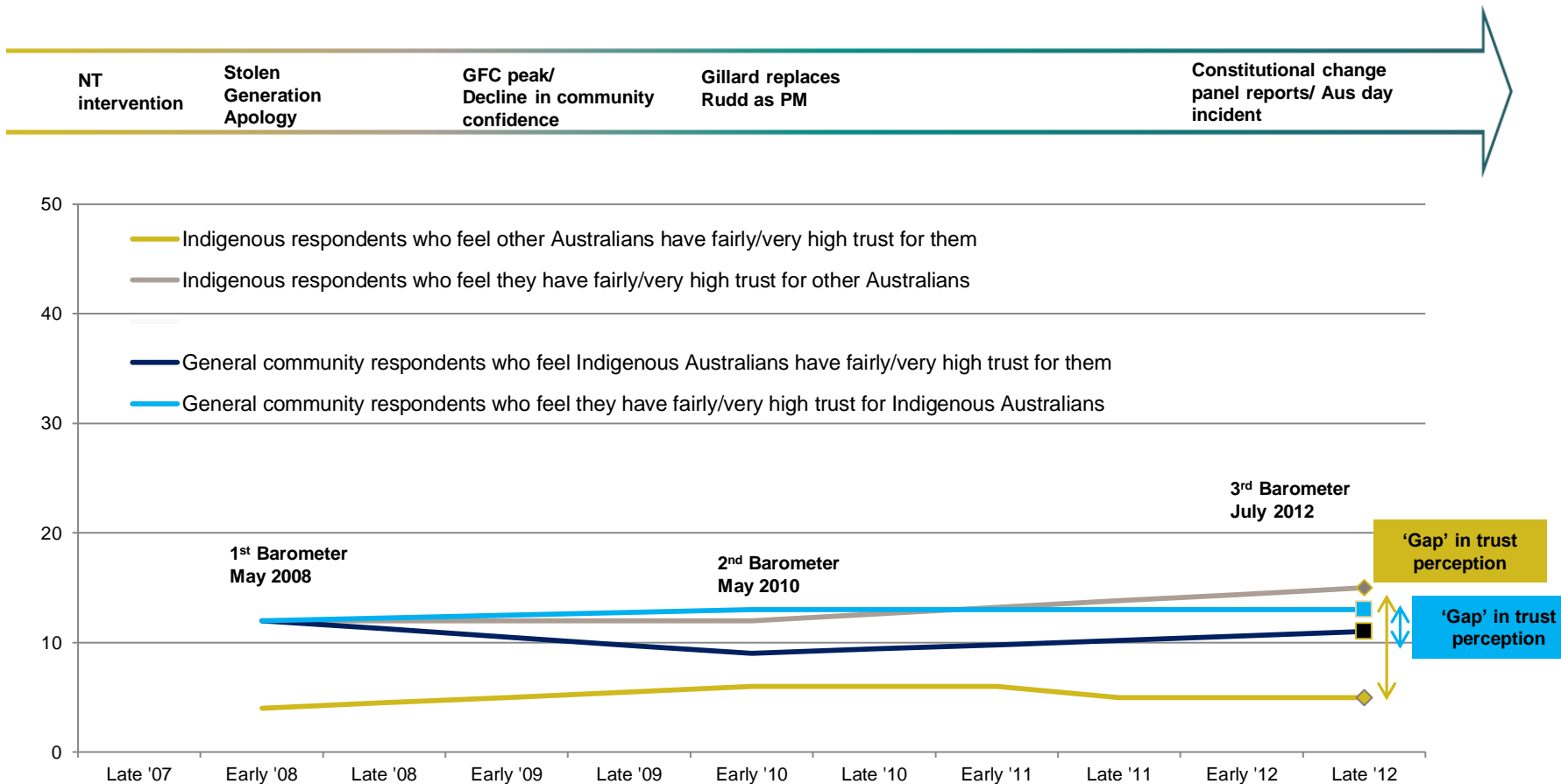
Throughout the eight years since the first Barometer, both non-Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have widely felt that they trust the other group, than the other group trusts them.

These 'gaps' in the perceptions of shared trust continue to highlight a key ongoing misunderstanding between the communities.



# Barometer 2008-2012:

Between 2008-12, both non-Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians more widely felt that they trusted the other group, than the other group trusted them. This was particularly evident with the Indigenous respondents.



# Australian Reconciliation Barometer 2008-18

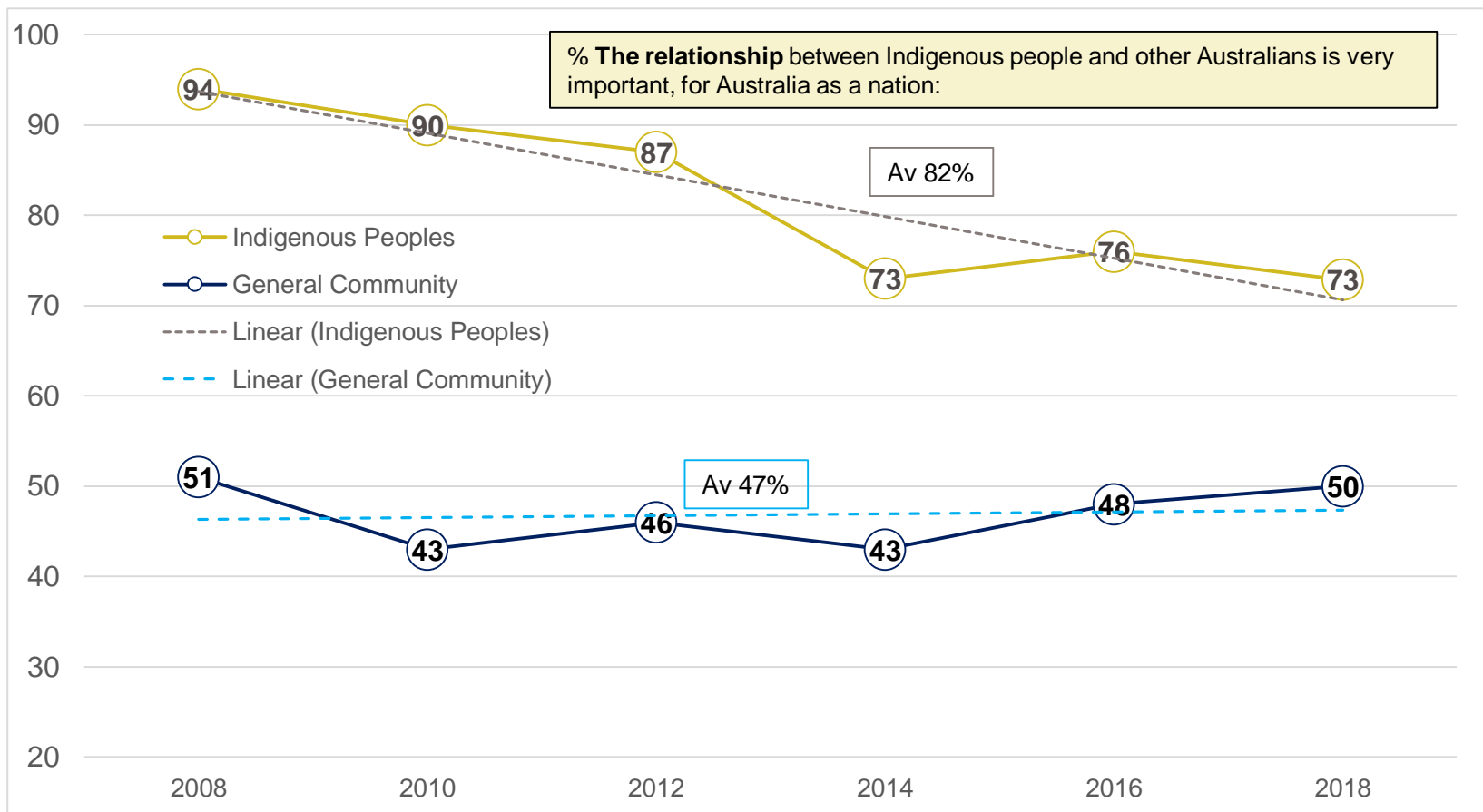
Key trends across 10 years tracking reconciliation



# ARB 10 year tracking:

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, the importance of their relationship with other Australians has remained consistently high since 2008 (long term average of 82% very important). This compares with a long term average of 47% very important among the general community.

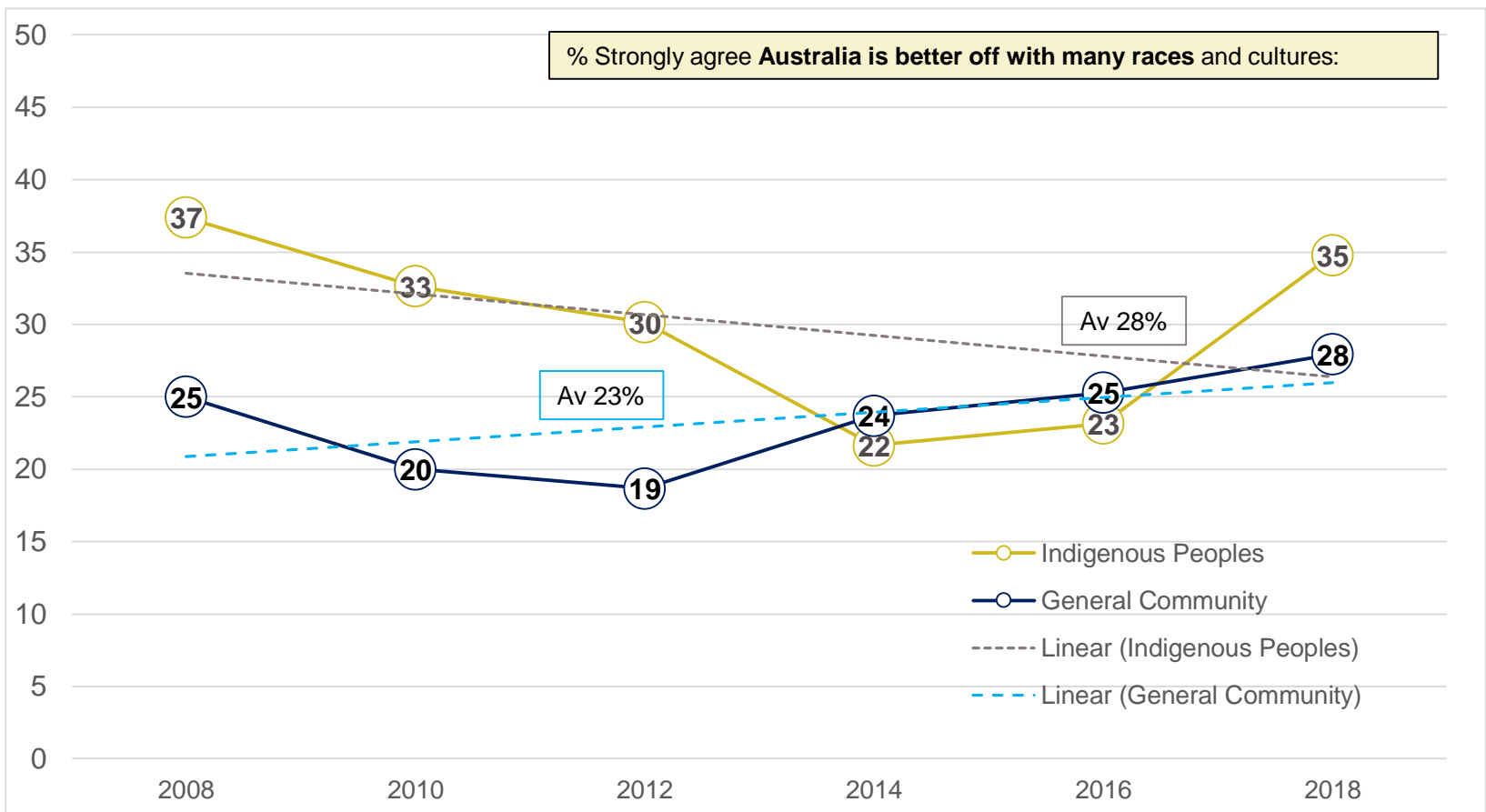
However, most notably, there has been a solid increase in both groups since 2014.



# ARB 10 year tracking:

Since 2008, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have consistently agreed strongly that Australia is better off with many races/cultures (long term average of 28%), compared to the general public (long term average of 23%).

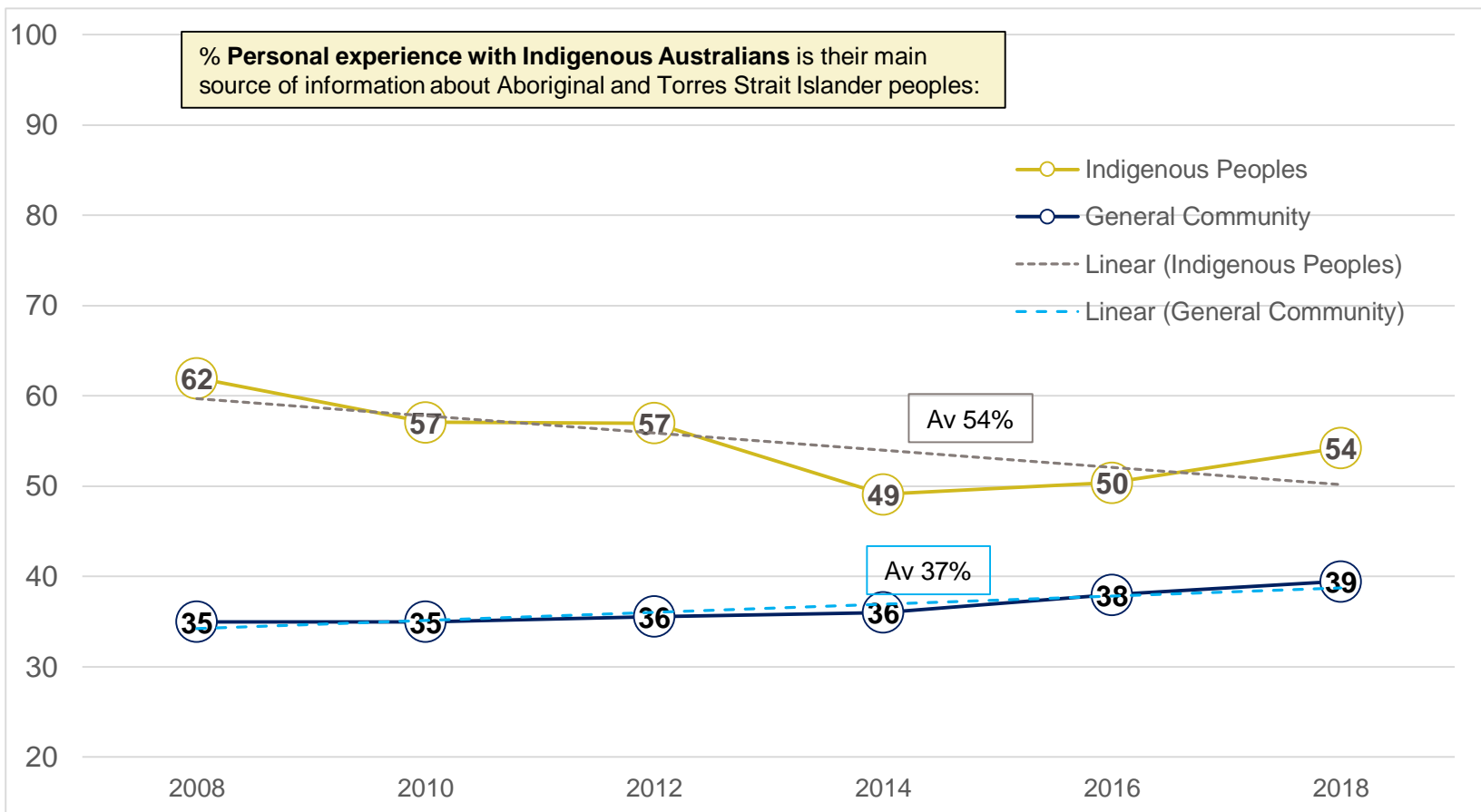
However, encouragingly there have been solid increases since 2014, particularly among Indigenous respondents, and the linear averages of each community have been converging across the 10 years.



# ARB 10 year tracking:

Since 2008, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians citing personal experience as their main source of information about their people has declined slightly (long term average of 54%). This compares to a steady increase within the general public (long term average of 37%).

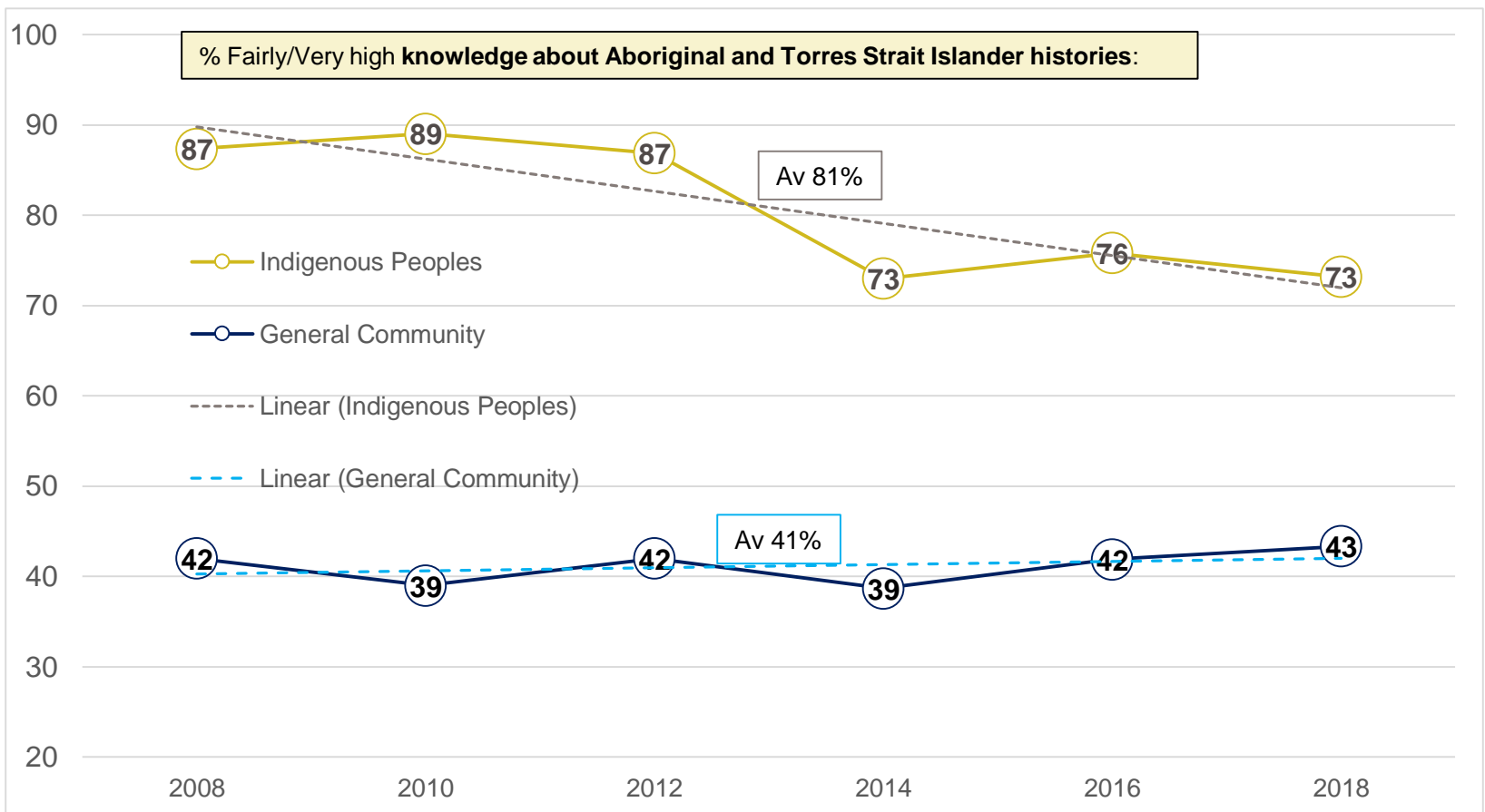
However, most notably, there has been a slight increase in both groups since 2014



# ARB 10 year tracking:

Since 2008, the prevalence of high knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories has remained steady, both within the Indigenous community (long term average of 81%) and within the general public (long term average of 41%).

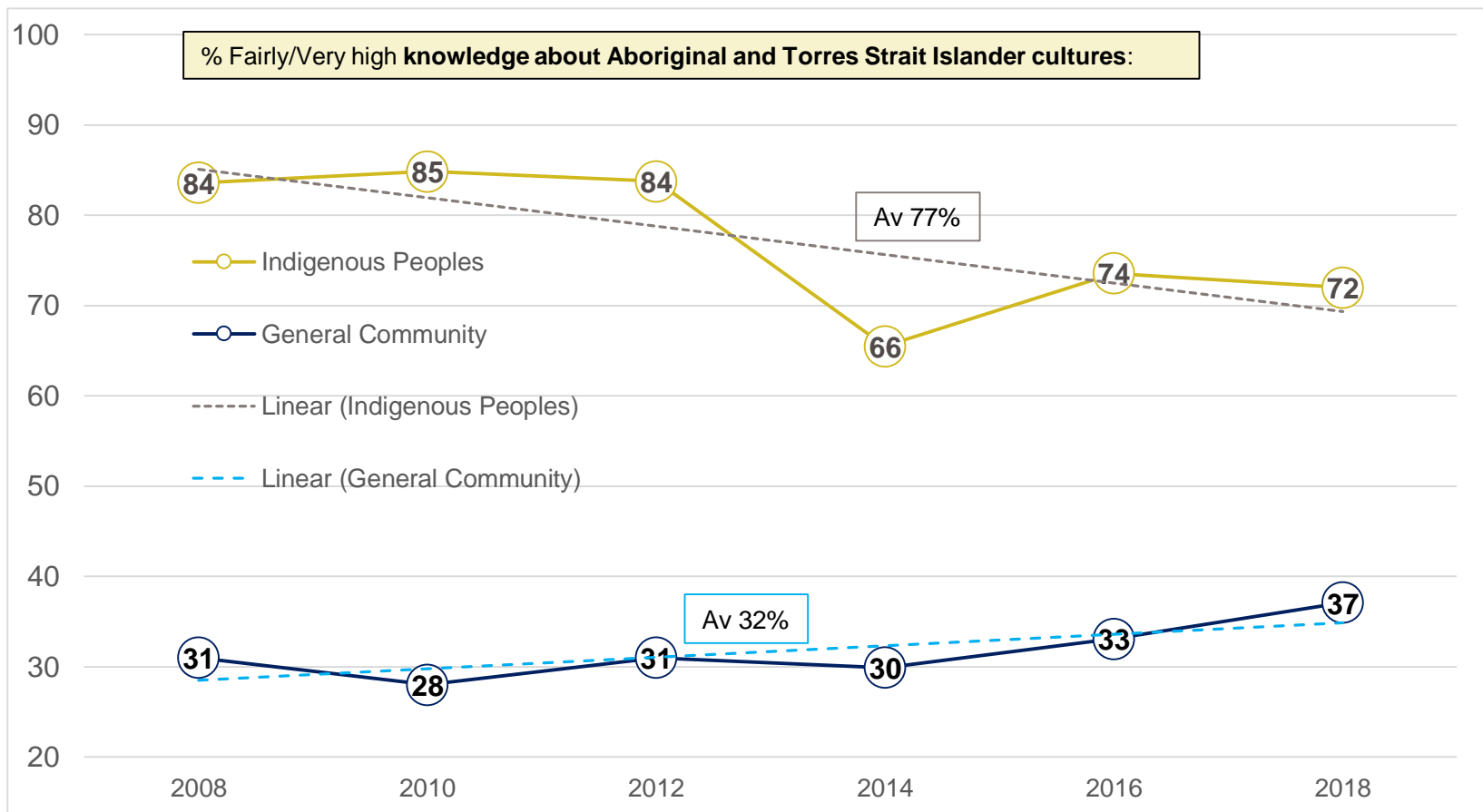
However, it is notable that general community knowledge has increased since 2014.



# ARB 10 year tracking:

Since 2008, the prevalence of high knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures has remained steady within the Indigenous community (long term average of 77%), while increasing slightly within the general public (long term average of 32%).

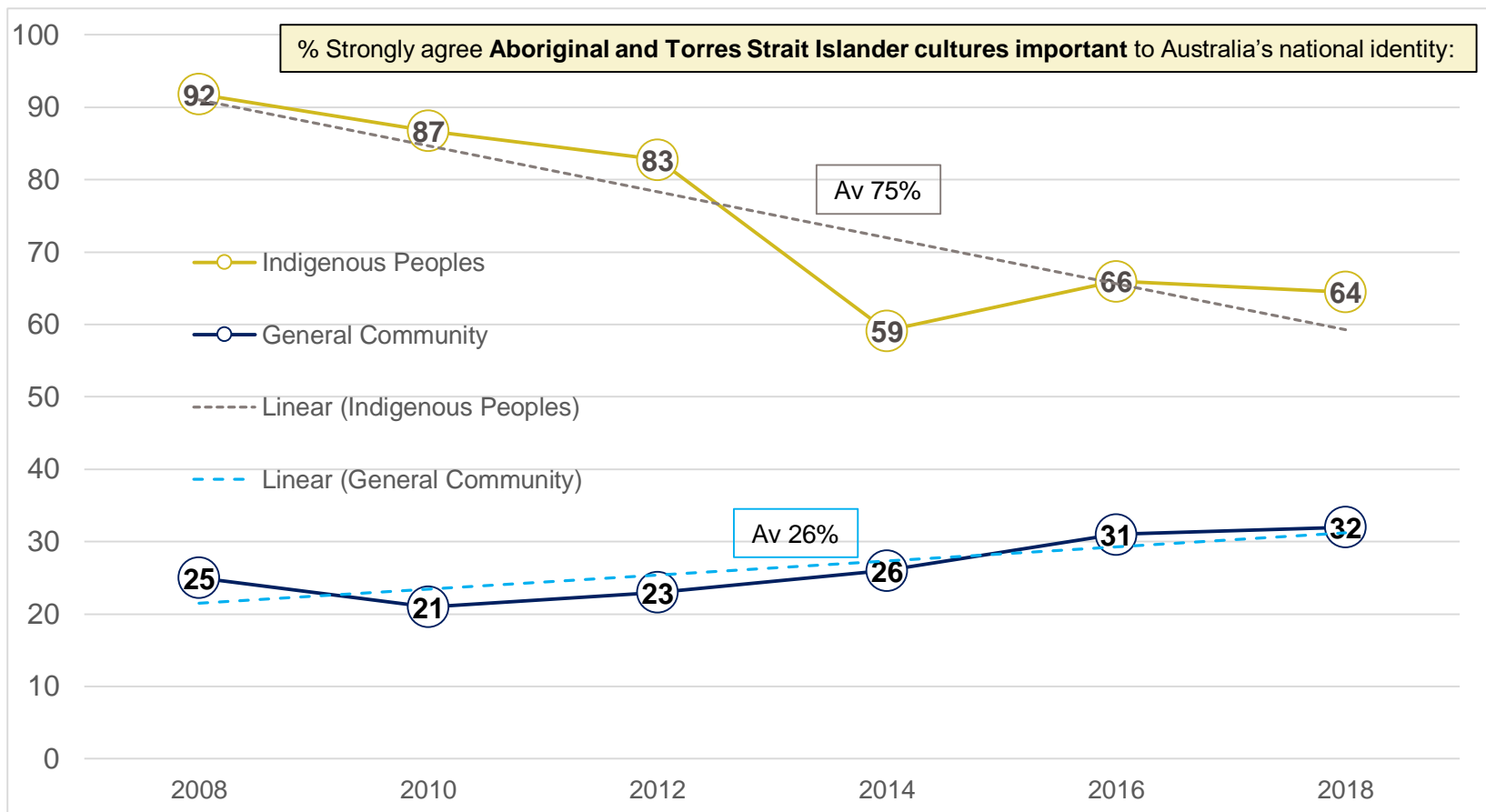
However, notably, both communities have seen increased knowledge levels since 2014.



# ARB 10 year tracking:

Since 2008, 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 75%).

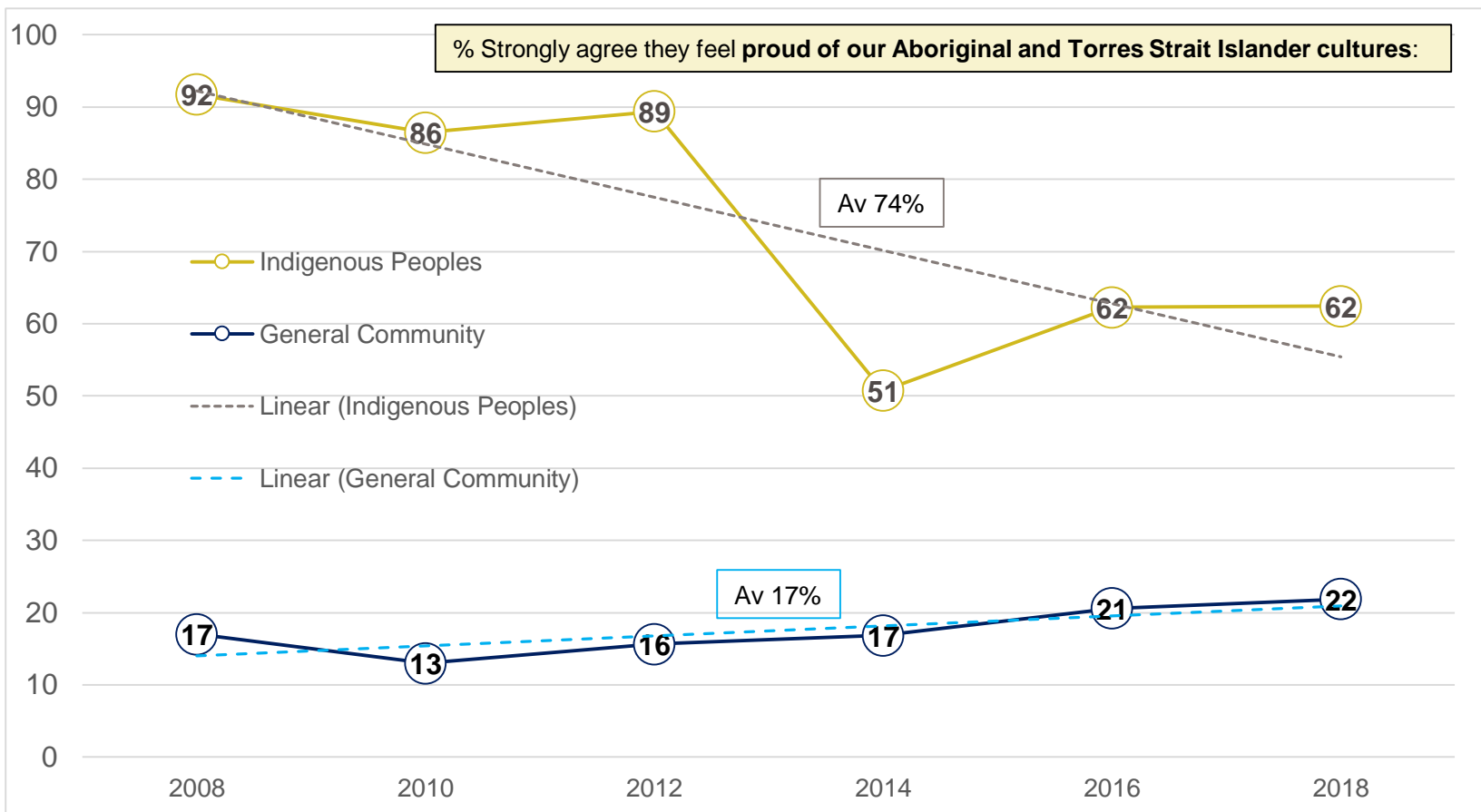
However, this sentiment has increased within the general public over the past 10 years (long term average of 26%) and, most notably, in both communities since 2014.



# ARB 10 year tracking:

Since 2008, strong pride about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures has remained considerably higher within Indigenous communities (long term average of 74%).

However, this sentiment has increased slightly within the general public over the past 10 years (long term average of 17%) and, most notably, has grown among both communities since 2014.



# Appendix

Respondent profiles



# Sample characteristics:

Gender and age	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Male	49%	997	50%	157
Female	51%	998	50%	340
Non-binary/other gender	0%	5	0%	3
18-24 years old	12%	244	21%	76
25-34	19%	266	23%	121
35-44	17%	343	19%	112
45-54	17%	335	17%	83
55-64	15%	406	12%	65
65+	20%	401	8%	40

Education level	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Working full-time	34%	640	29%	123
Working part-time	20%	397	20%	106
Unemployed/not working	4%	94	13%	62
Student	12%	225	5%	24
Retired	19%	429	13%	58
Manage household/ family	8%	158	16%	93
Other	3%	52	5%	31

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%	400	33%	208
VIC	26%	398	7%	67
QLD	20%	399	29%	107
WA	11%	200	12%	40
SA	7%	199	5%	29
TAS	2%	200	4%	31
ACT	2%	99	1%	9
NT	1%	100	9%	6

Metro/Regional	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Capital city	64%	1245	42%	212
Major regional city	15%	290	15%	77
Regional town	9%	177	13%	72
Rural town	8%	169	17%	89
Remote town or community	4%	114	12%	47

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)
Part of secondary school	6%	113	15%	62
Secondary school	22%	468	29%	134
TAFE / Apprenticeship	27%	575	40%	197
University degree	31%	592	13%	85
Postgraduate university degree	13%	247	4%	19

Household income (gross)	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Less than \$30,000	14%	298	28%	138
\$30,000 - \$49,999	16%	348	19%	96
\$50,000 - \$69,999	13%	256	11%	58
\$70,000 - \$89,999	10%	196	10%	57
\$90,000 - \$119,999	14%	274	10%	45
\$120,000 - \$149,999	8%	154	7%	26
\$150,000 - \$249,999	8%	164	5%	20
\$250,000 or more	2%	35	1%	4
Don't know/prefer not to say	14%	270	10%	53

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:

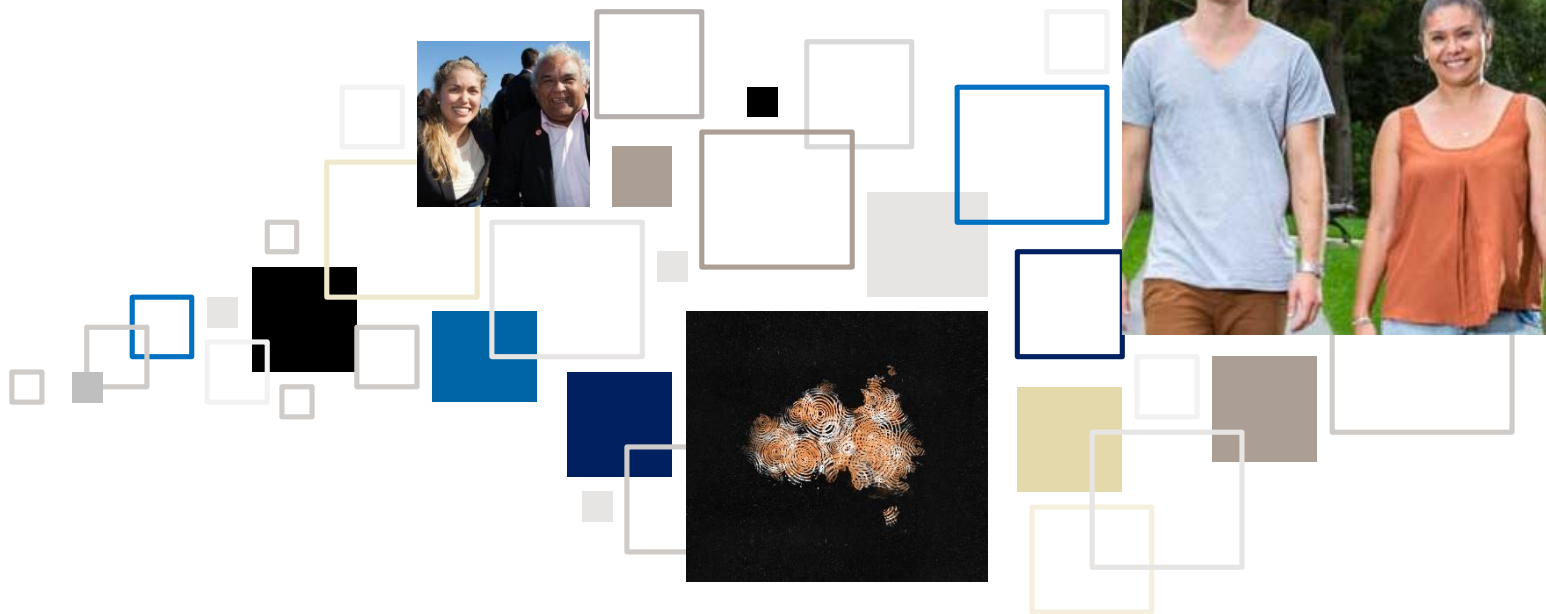
Birth/Language	General community weighted %	General community (raw numbers)	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Born in Australia	70%	1415	99%	493
Not born in Australia	30%	580	1%	4
English-speaking at home	91%	1842	96%	490
Non-English speaking at home	9%	153	4%	7

Cultural Heritage	Indigenous community weighted %	Indigenous community (raw numbers)
Australian Aboriginal	88%	443
Torres Strait Islander	3%	15
Aboriginal AND Torres Strait Islander	9%	39

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.

# POLITY

RESEARCH & CONSULTING



## Australian Reconciliation Barometer 2018

Darryl Nelson  
Managing Director  
Polity Pty. Ltd.  
[darryl@polityresearch.com.au](mailto:darryl@polityresearch.com.au)

September 2018





# **POLITY PTY. LTD.**

**RESEARCH & CONSULTING**

---

**POLITYRESEARCH.COM.AU**

**SYDNEY; NSW 2010**

**ABN: 93 169 495 130**