Life in Sydney

The new L4 Westmead and Carlingford line

February 2025

Committee for Sydney

Ipsos

SYDNEY SUMMIT

Delivered in partnership by Ipsos Australia and Committee for Sydney:

- Matt Levinson
- Jeremy Gill
- Stuart Clark
- Jessica Elgood
- Adira Wiryoatmojo
- Himanika Agarwal

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of our land. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We recognise sovereignty was never ceded. This was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

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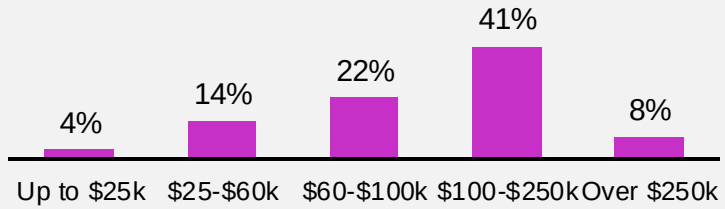
Demographic distribution 2025

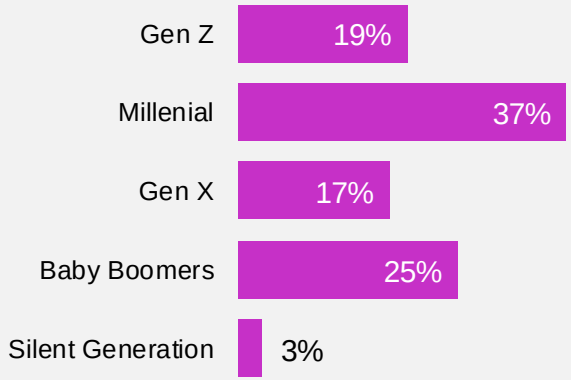
Gender

Location

Household income



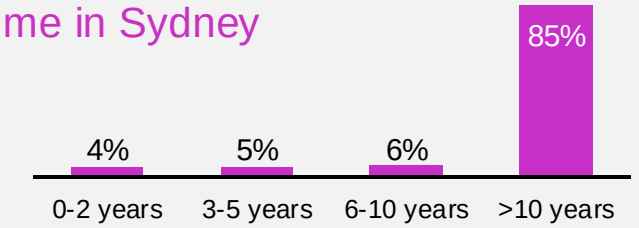
Generation



Highest level of education

Occupation

Time in Sydney



Culturally and linguistically diverse

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SQ1. What best describes your gender?
SQ2. In which of the following age groups do you fall under?
Q25. Do you or your parents mainly speak a language other than English?

SQ3. And what is the postcode of where you live?
Q29. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?
SQ4. How long have you been living in Sydney?

Q28. What is your approximate annual household income before tax?
SQ5. Which of the following best describes you?

Base: All respondents (n=1000)

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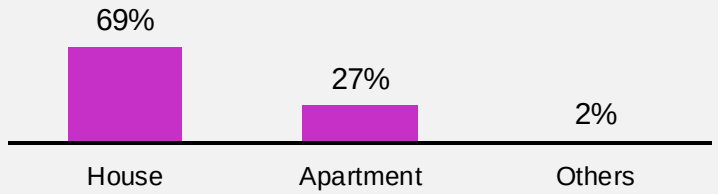
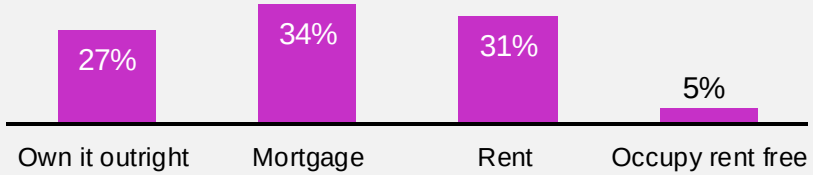
Demographic distribution 2025

Property type

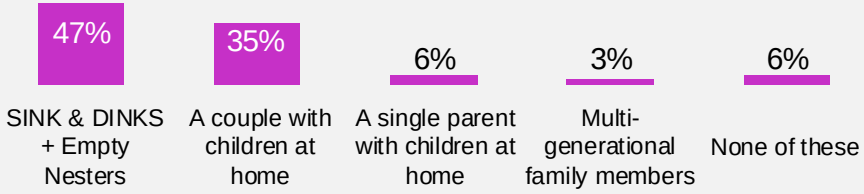


Property status



First Nations

Life stage



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Q95. What type of home do you currently live in?
Q84A. Thinking about the property in which you currently live, do you…
Q27. Do you identify as being of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander or both?
Q118 Which of the following best describes your household?

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Housing and density

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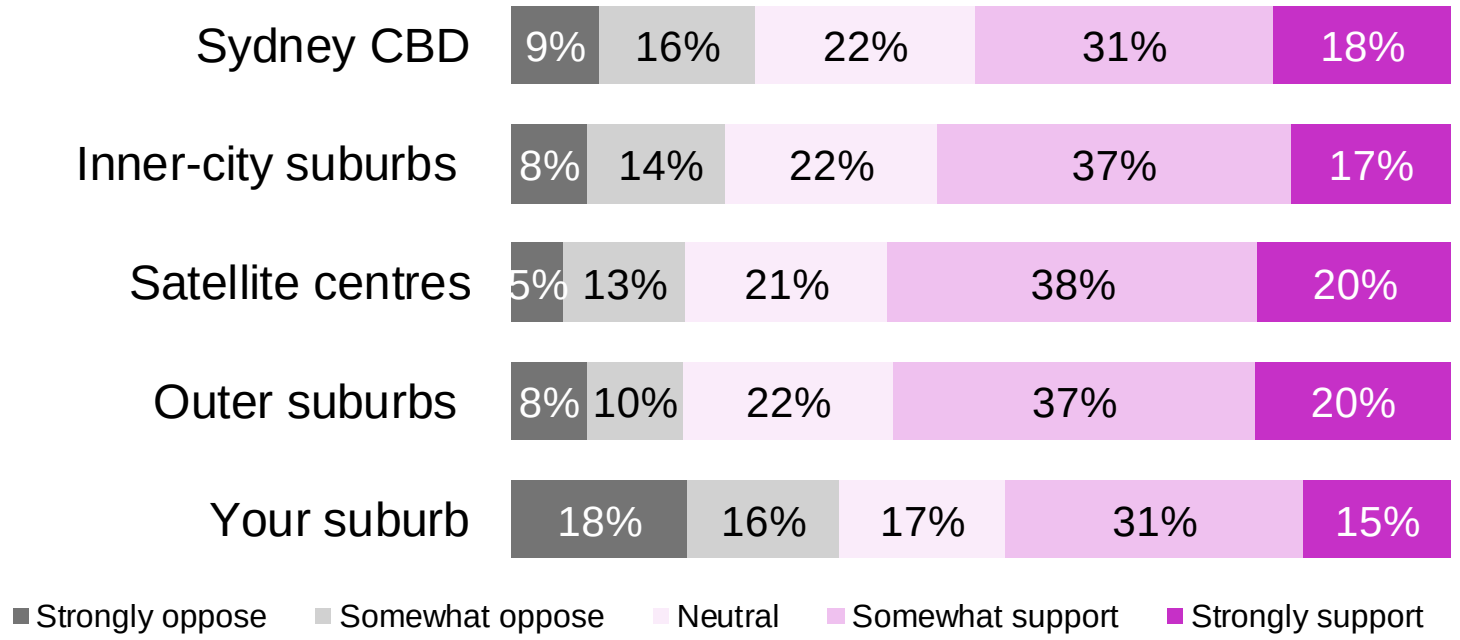
More support for increasing density



Strongly + somewhat support

2023	2024	2025
39%	46% ▲	49%
43%	48% ▲	53% ▲
47%	57% ▲	58%
50%	55% ▲	58%
39%	44% ▲	46%

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Q40. To what extent do you support or oppose increasing the density of development in each of the following areas of Sydney over the next 10 years?
Base: Sydney 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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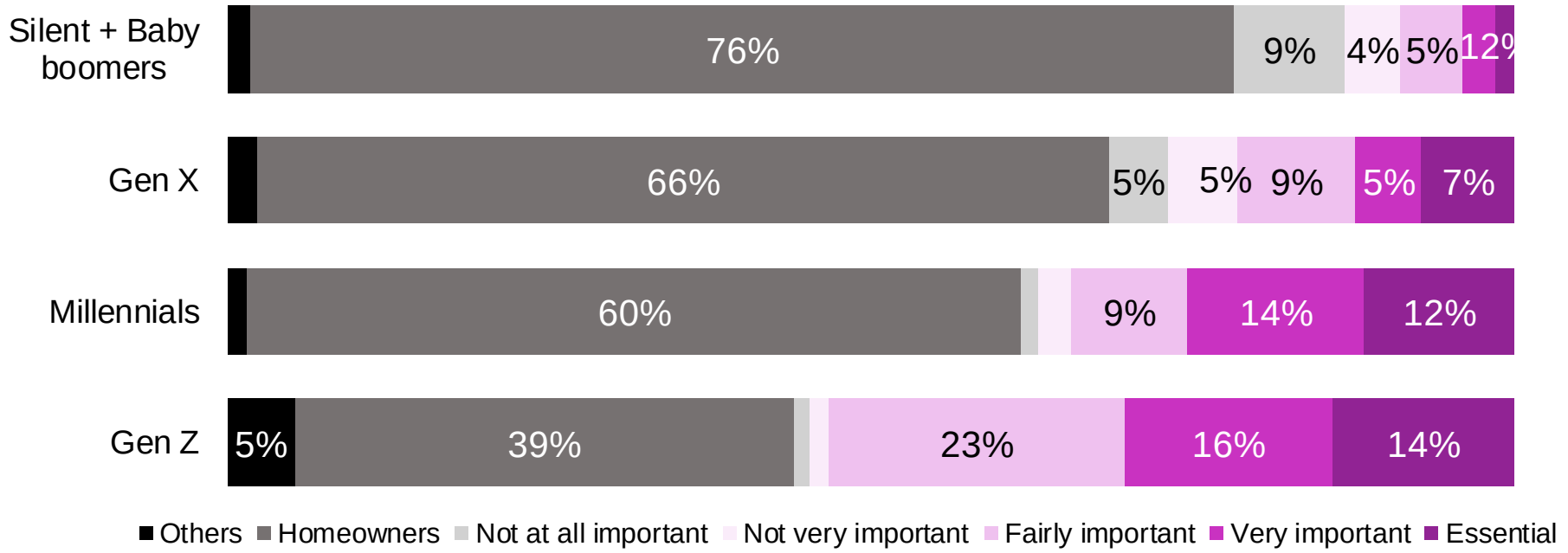
Young people still want to own a home



Total
Essential + Fairly important + Very important

2024	2025
12%	9%
26%	22%
35%	34%
40%	53%▲

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Q109. How important is it to you that you can own your own home one day?
Base: Sydney 2024 n=1035, 2025 n=1000
Data 3% and below not labelled

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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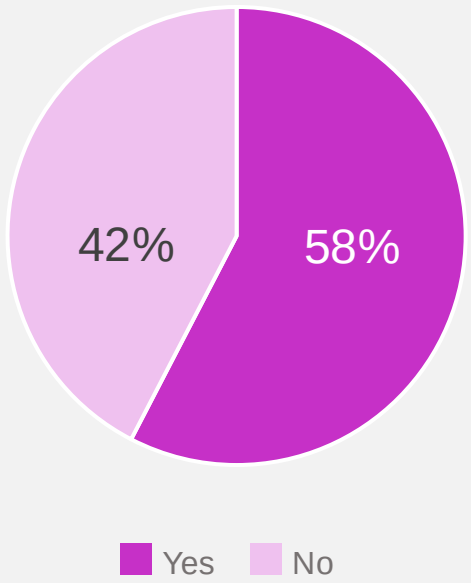
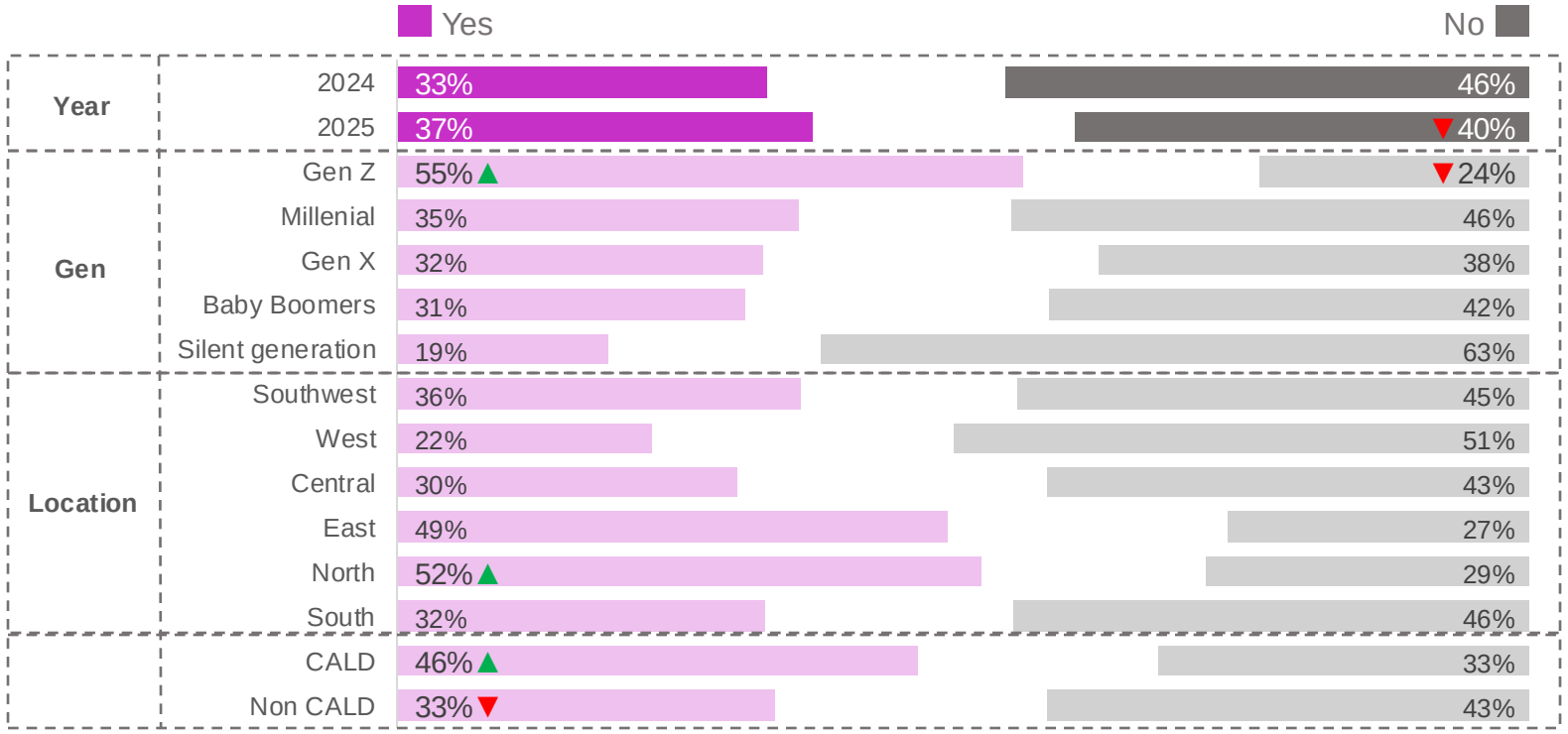
More Sydneysiders open to apartment living

Have you ever lived in an apartment?



Would you consider living in an apartment in the future?



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Q98. Have you ever lived in an apartment? Base: Sydney 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)
Q99. Would you consider living in an apartment in the future? Among those who are not living in apartments
Base: Sydney 2024 (n=712), 2025 (n=718)

▲ Significantly higher than previous year/total
▼ Significantly lower than previous year/total

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Are apartments appropriate for a family?

More likely to say 'No'

62%

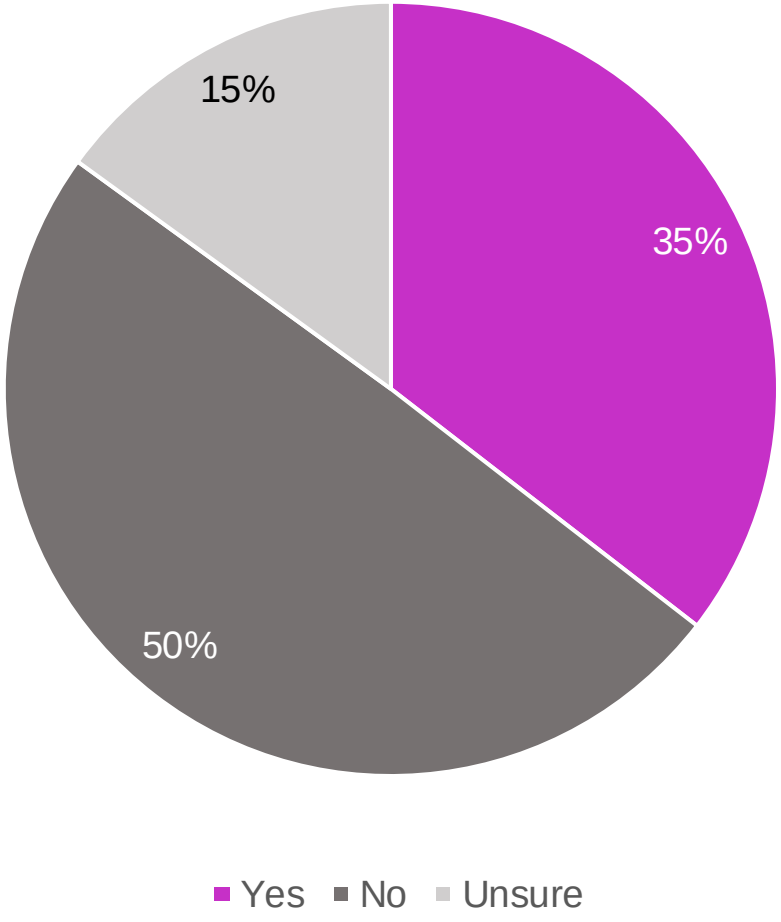
Southwest

75%

Silent Generation

60%

Retired



More likely to say 'Yes'

67%

Shared house with other families

41%

Working 35+ hours per week

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Q99a. Do you consider an apartment an appropriate place to raise a family?
Base: Sydney 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)

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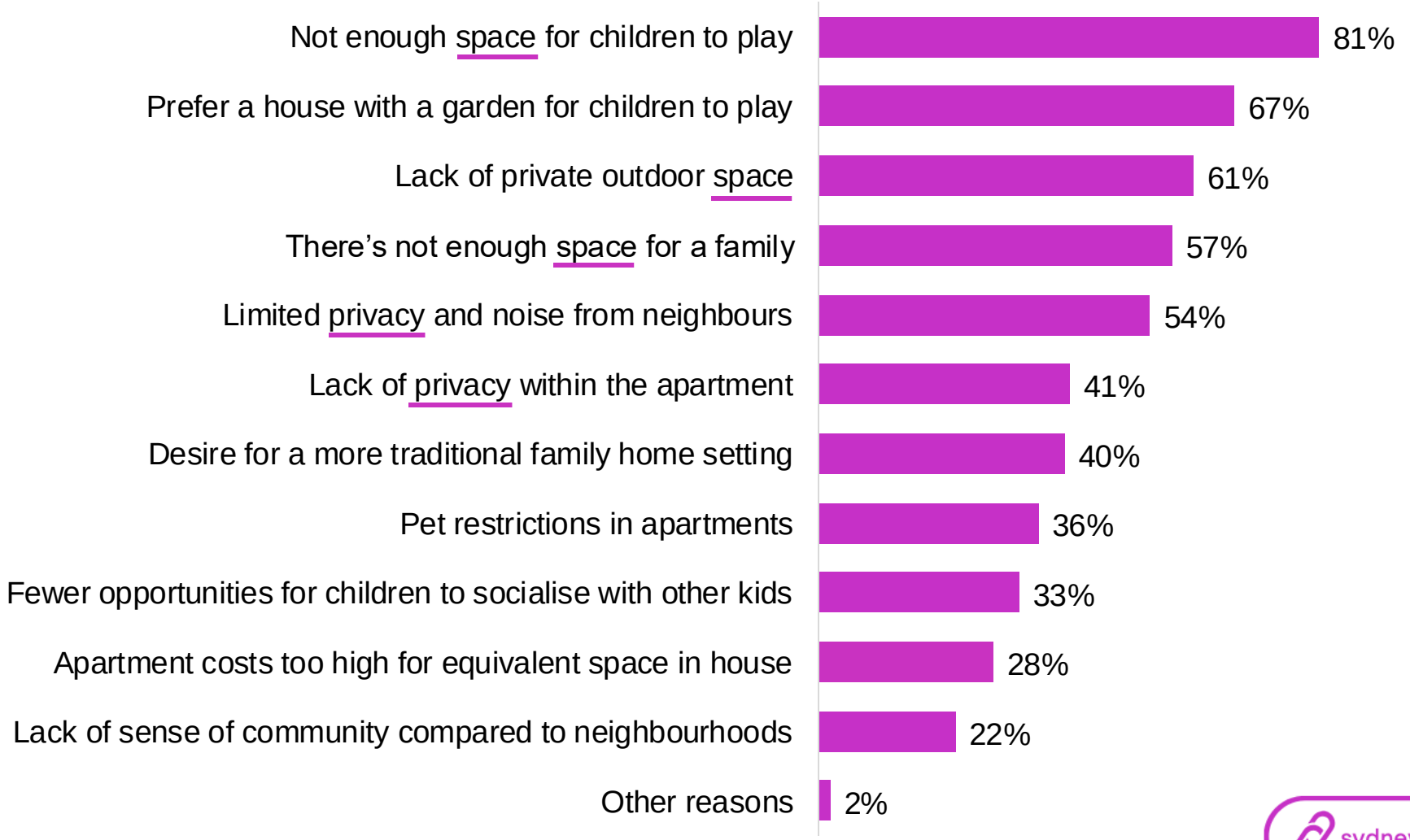
Why not raise a family in an apartment?



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Q141. Why do you say that an apartment is not an appropriate place to raise a family?
Base: Those who said 'no' to consider living in an apartment – 2025 (n=500)

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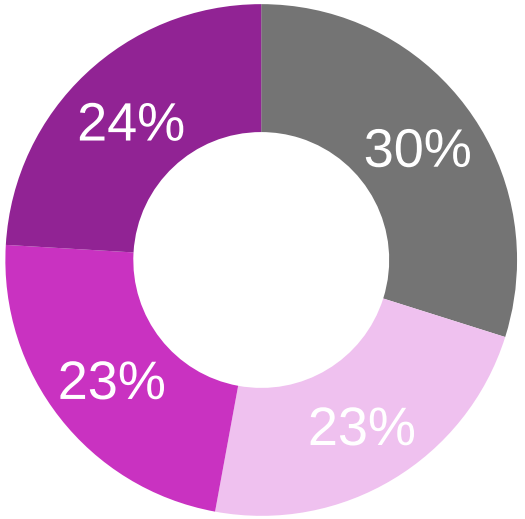
How many spare rooms do you have?

70% have at least 1 spare room

More likely to have two spare rooms

South

35%



More likely to have no spare rooms

East

44%

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Q130. Thinking about the current home that you live in, how many spare rooms do you have? That is, rooms that are or could be used as bedrooms.
Base: Sydney 2025 n=1000

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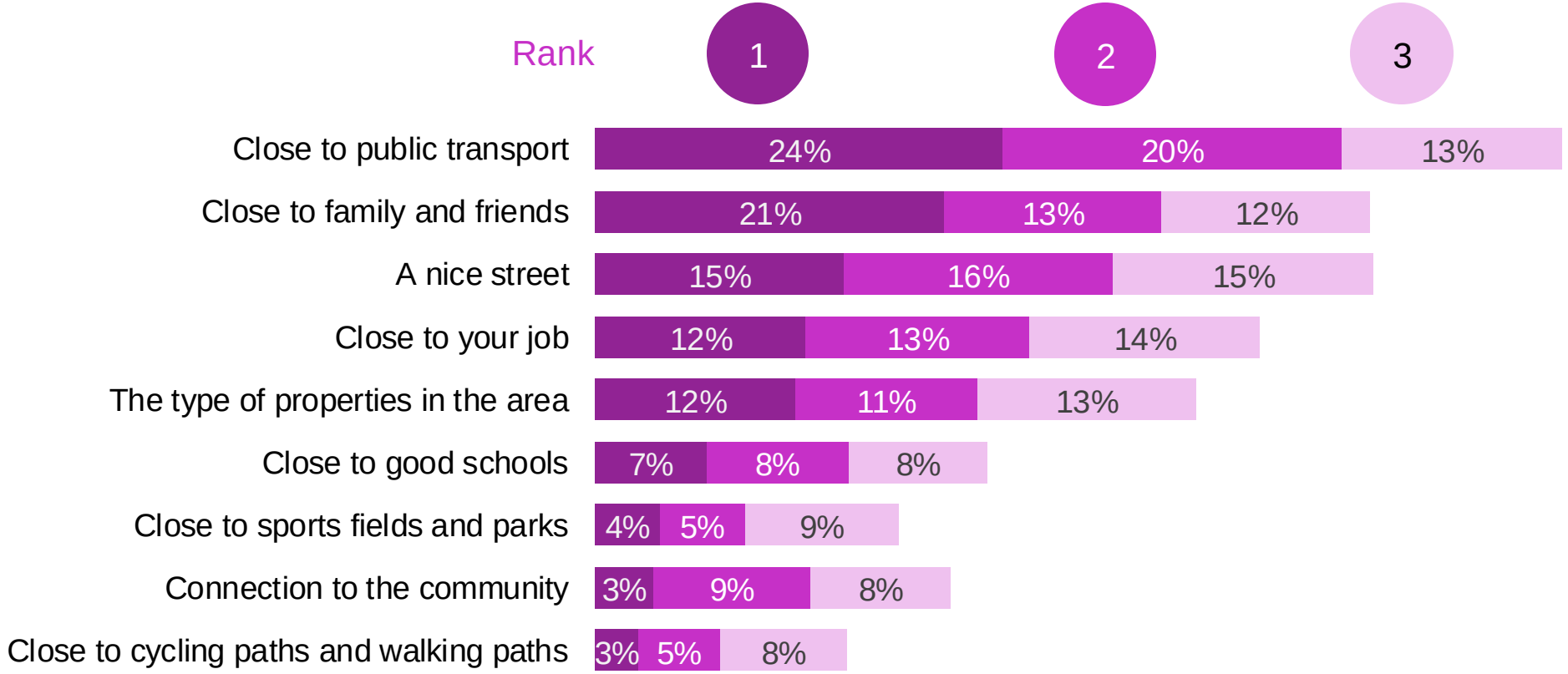
What do you look for in a neighbourhood?



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Q38. Now we are going to ask you a question about neighbourhood preferences. Please rank in order of personal preference the following 9 aspects when considering moving to a new place. Rank 1 as the most important, and 9 as the least important.
Base: 2025 (n=1000)

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Mobility

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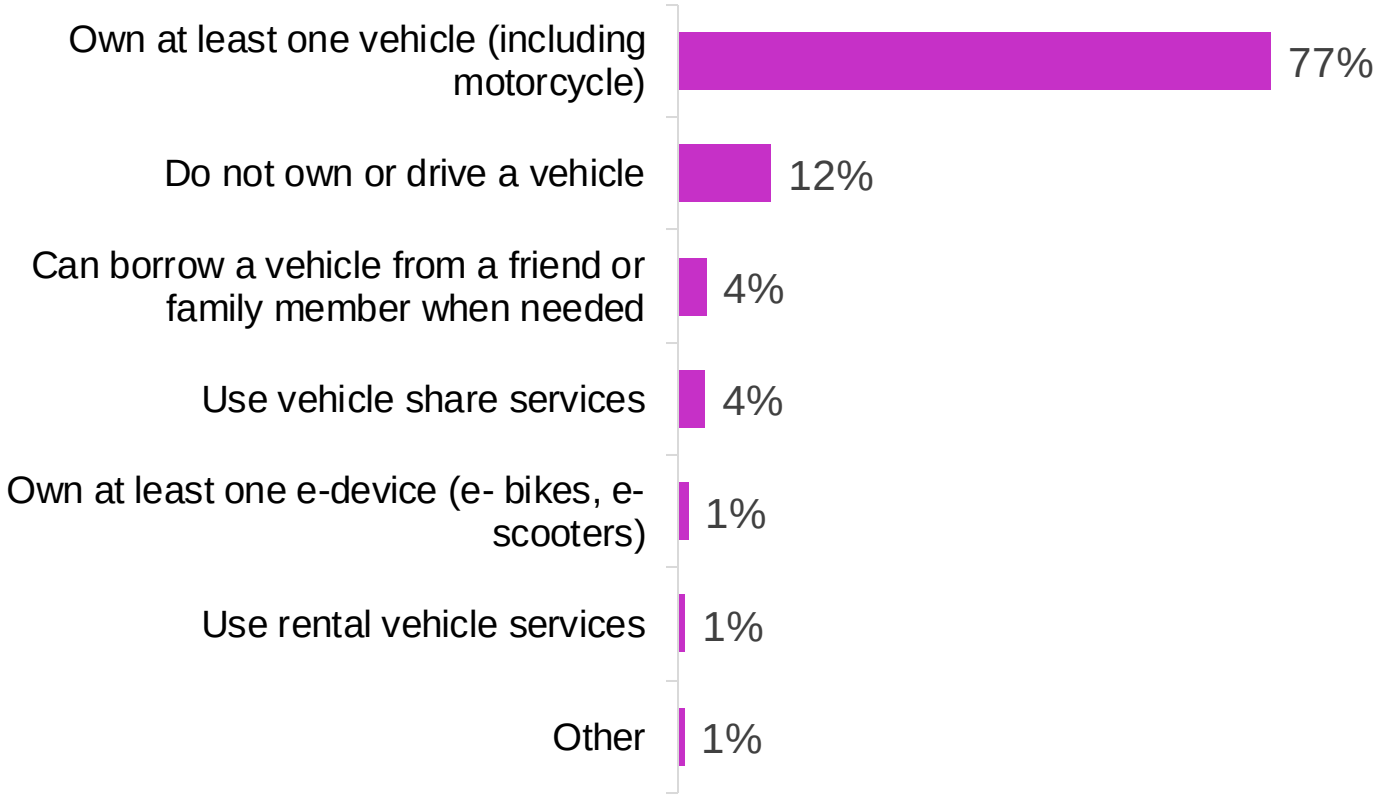
What vehicles do you own or use?



More likely to own at least one motorised vehicle

Silent Generation & Baby Boomers **87%**

Less likely to own at least one motorised vehicle

Gen Z **58%**

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Q49. Thinking about your vehicle usage and or ownership which of the following best describes you?
Base: 2025 (n=1000)

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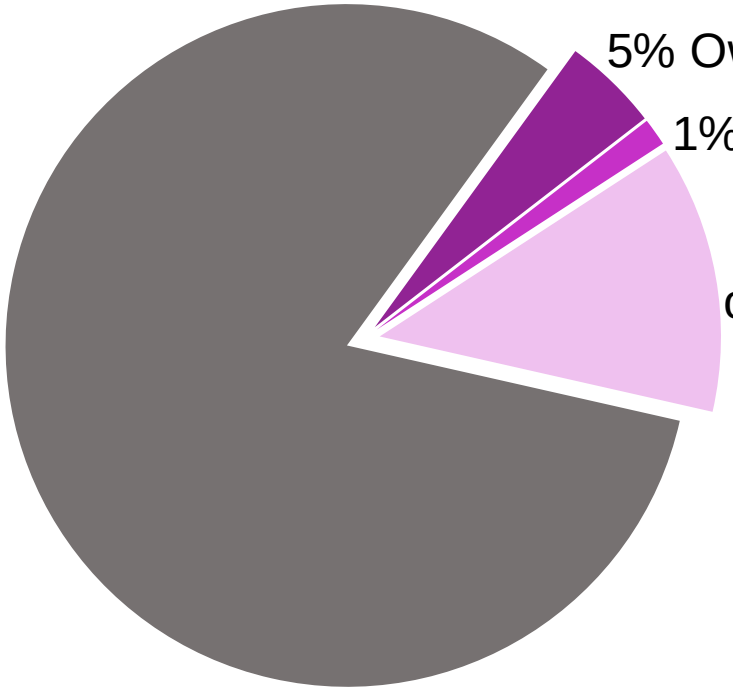
Are people using e-bikes?



81%
Do not own or use an e-bike

5% Own an e-bike

1% Lease an e-bike

13% Do not own or lease but **have used** an e-bike

19%
are e-bike users

More likely to be e-bike users

Gen Z **32%**

Millennials **26%**

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Q139. Thinking about e-bikes, which of the following most accurately describes you? Select all that apply.
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=1000)

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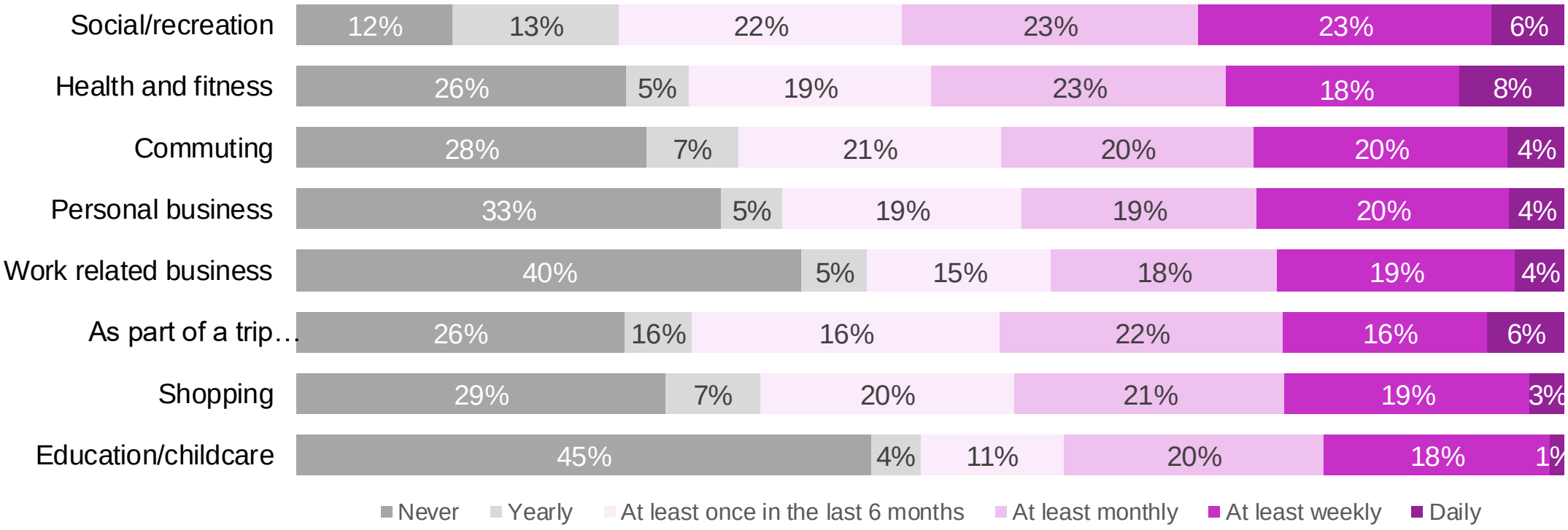
How often do you ride an e-bike for…



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Q140. When thinking about how you use an e-bike, how often do you use it for the following reasons?
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=176)

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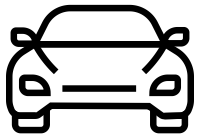
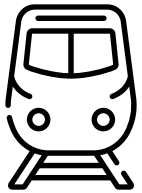
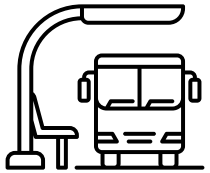
Mode share for commuting stable

	Car	Train	Bus	Walk	Cycle
2025	58%	42%	26%	28%	3%
2024	57%	41% ▲	29%	32% ▲	4% ▼
2023	57%	29%	33%	27%	10% ▲
2022	57%	34%	26%	29%	3%







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Q15. Which, if any, of the following modes of transport do you currently use to commute to and from work/study?
Base: Among those who work/study - 2022 Sydney (n=699), 2023 Sydney (n=690), 2024 Sydney (n=774), 2025 Sydney (n=721)

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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Flexible work

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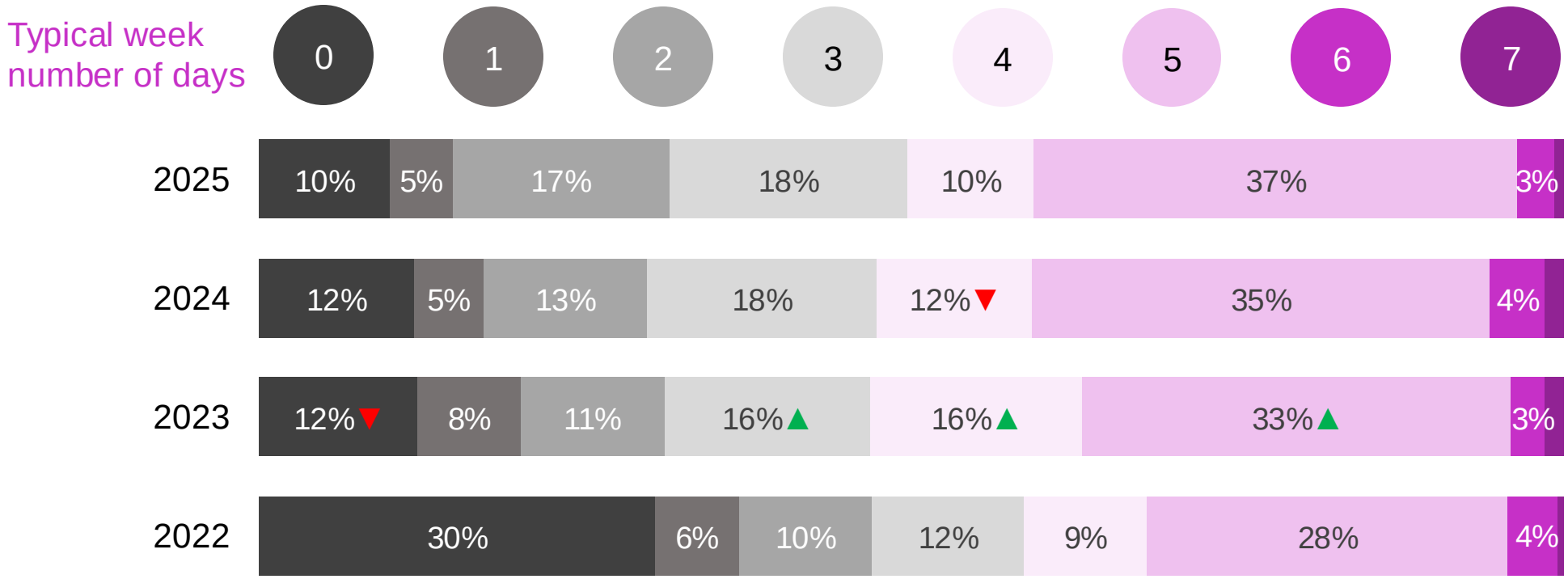
How many days do you currently commute?



Average time spent commuting

70

minutes per day vs. 73 mins in 2024

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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Q46. In a typical week, how many days (do you currently commute)? Base: Among those who work/study 2022 Sydney (n=699), 2023Sydney (n=690), 2024 Sydney (n=774), 2025 Sydney (n=721). Note: 'Statements showed in descending order based on 'Ranked 1st'
Q45A. How long does your commute take on a normal day? Base: Among those who commute at least 1 day a week– 2025 Sydney (n=666)

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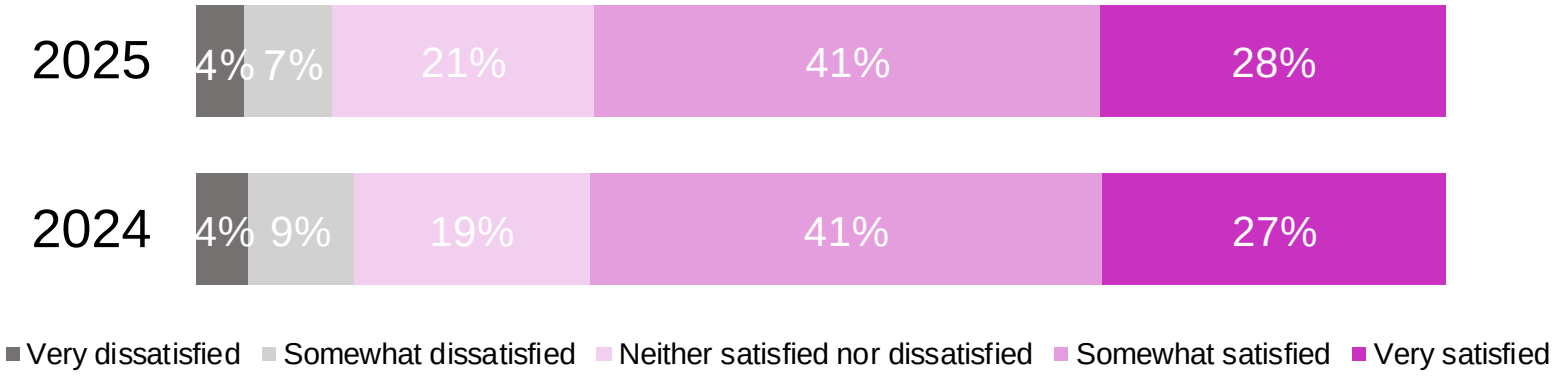
Workplace flexibility satisfaction stabilising



Total very + somewhat dissatisfied	Total very + somewhat satisfied
11%	68%
13%	69%

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Q89. How satisfied are you with the flexibility your current job offers you?
Base: 2024 Sydney (n=734), 2025 Sydney (n=694)
Note: Data under 3% not labelled

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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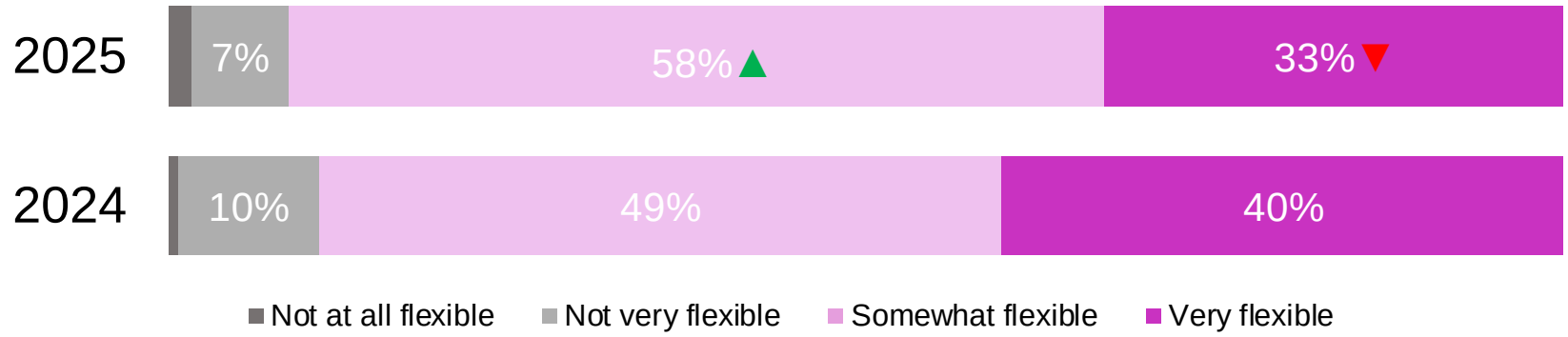
Sydneysiders feel their work arrangements are becoming less flexible



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Q88. How would you rate the flexibility of your workplace? (Among those who can work from home)
Base: 2024 Sydney (n=387), 2025 Sydney (n=371)
Note: Data under 3% not labelled

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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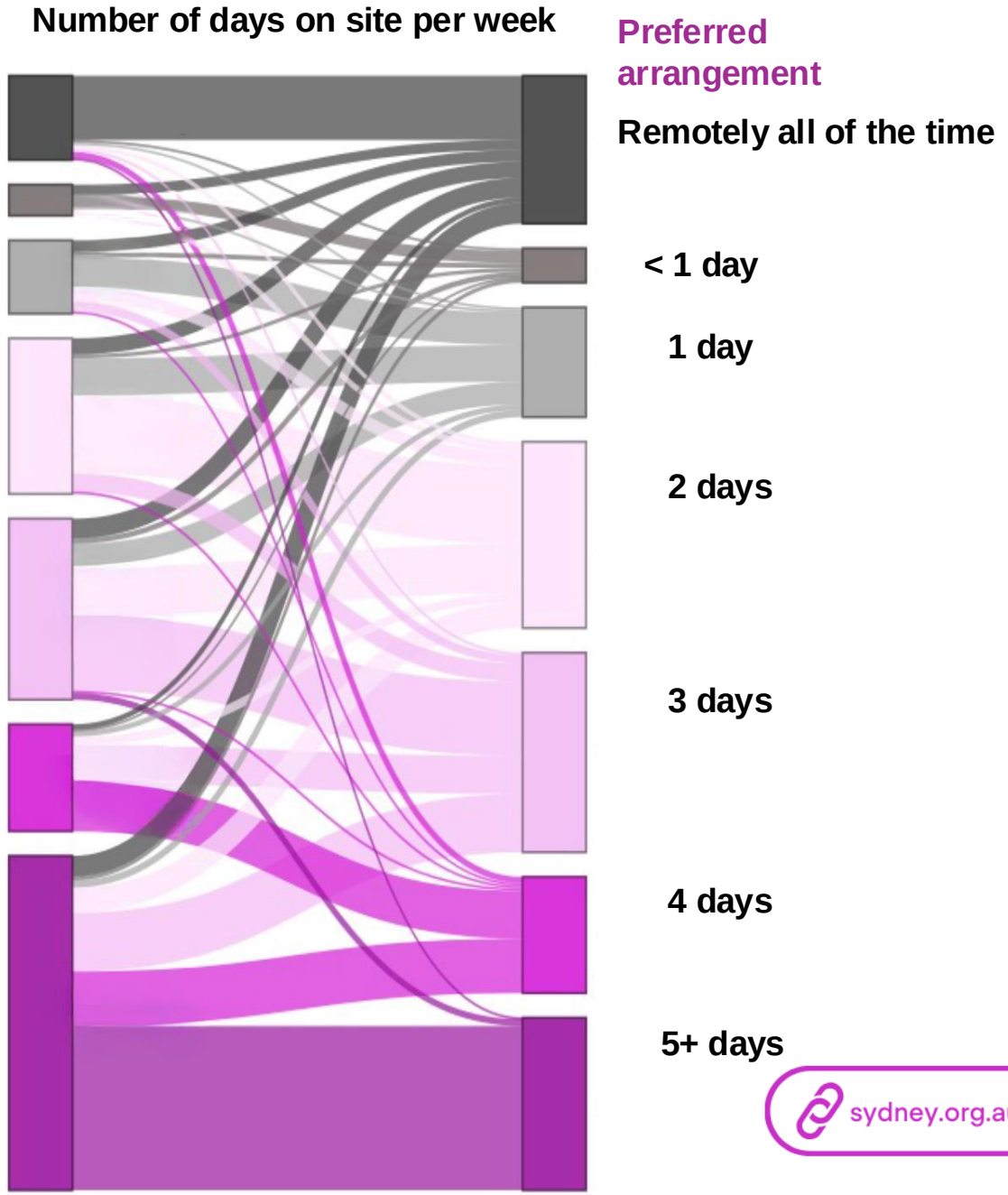
Most Sydneysiders would rather work more days at home than they are

Q127. How often do you usually work at your employer's location (office, contact centre, sites, etc)?
Q128. Regardless of your current work arrangement, how often would you prefer working at your employer's location moving forward?
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=694)
Note: Data under 3% not labelled



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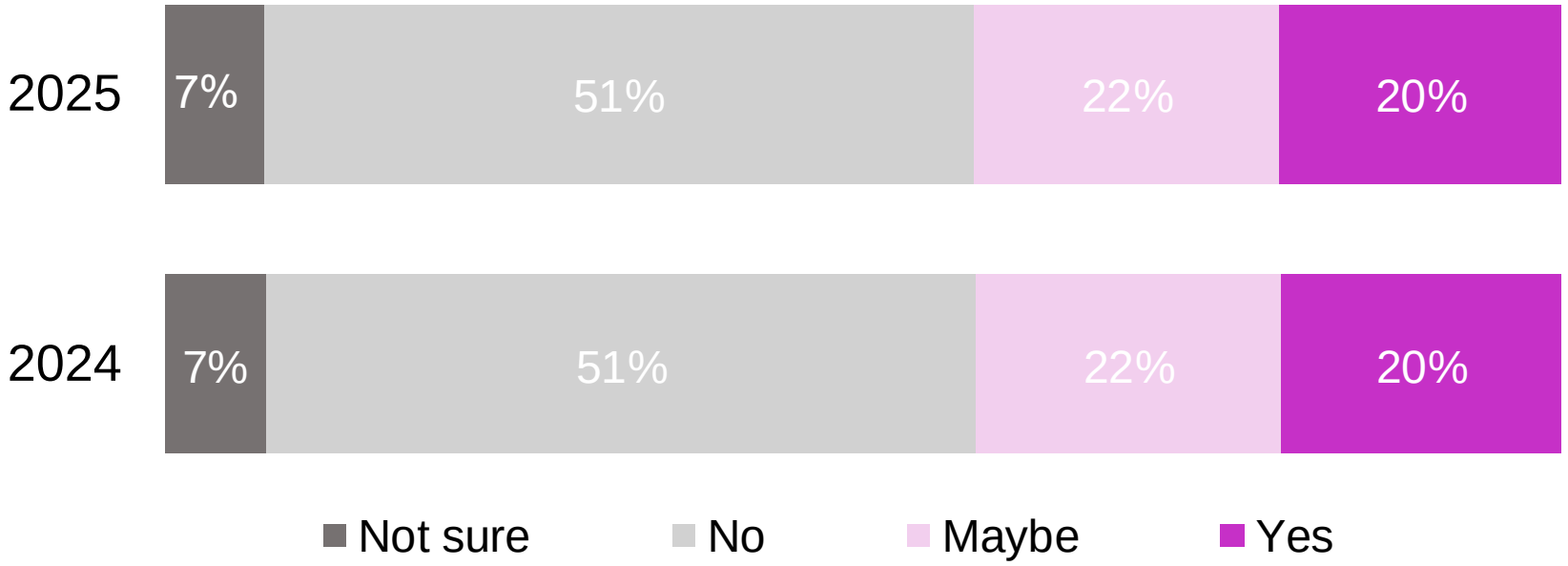
Would you change jobs for more flexibility?



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Q90. Are you considering changing jobs or employers to one that offers more flexibility? (Among those who are employed)
Base: 2024 Sydney (n=734), 2025 Sydney (n=694)
Note: Data under 3% not labelled

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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Artificial Intelligence

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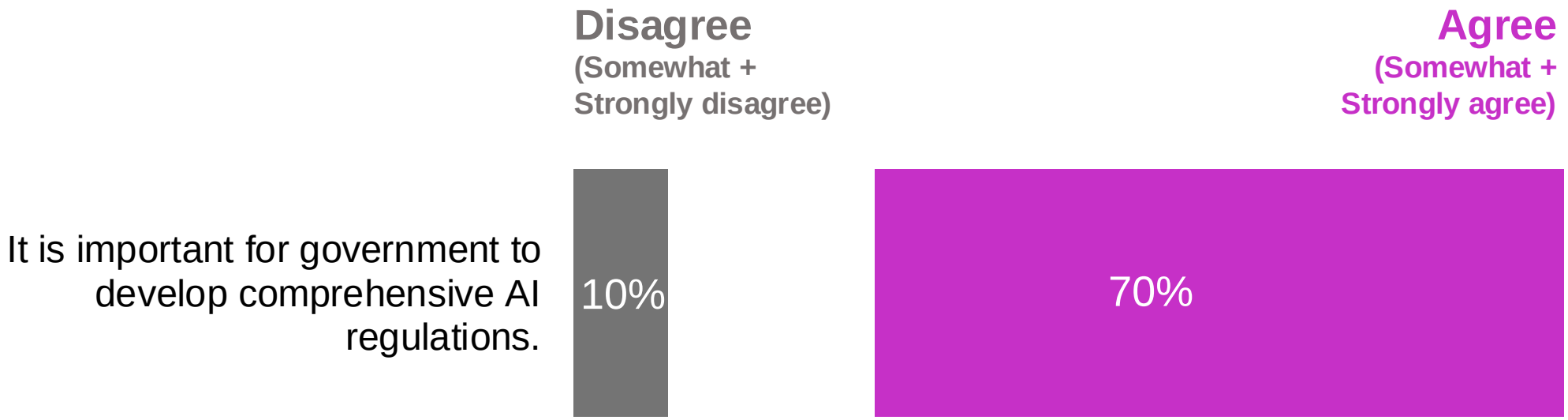
Sydneysiders want government to regulate artificial intelligence



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Q132. Thinking about AI (Artificial Intelligence), how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=1000)

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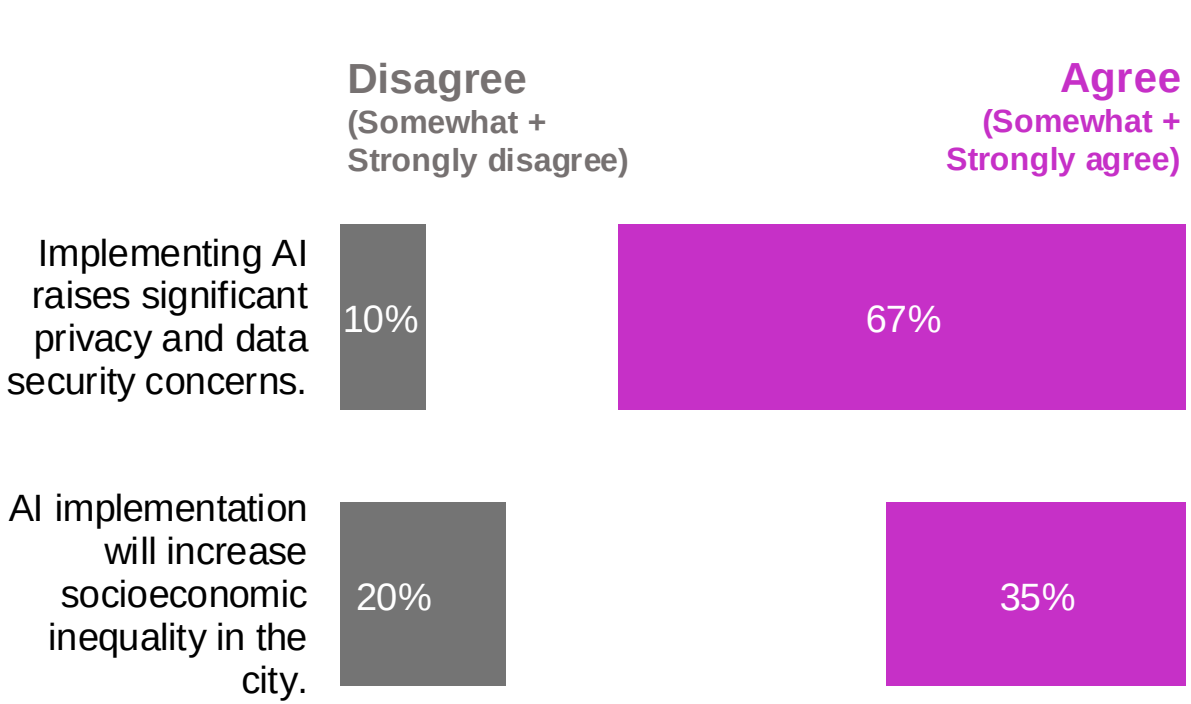
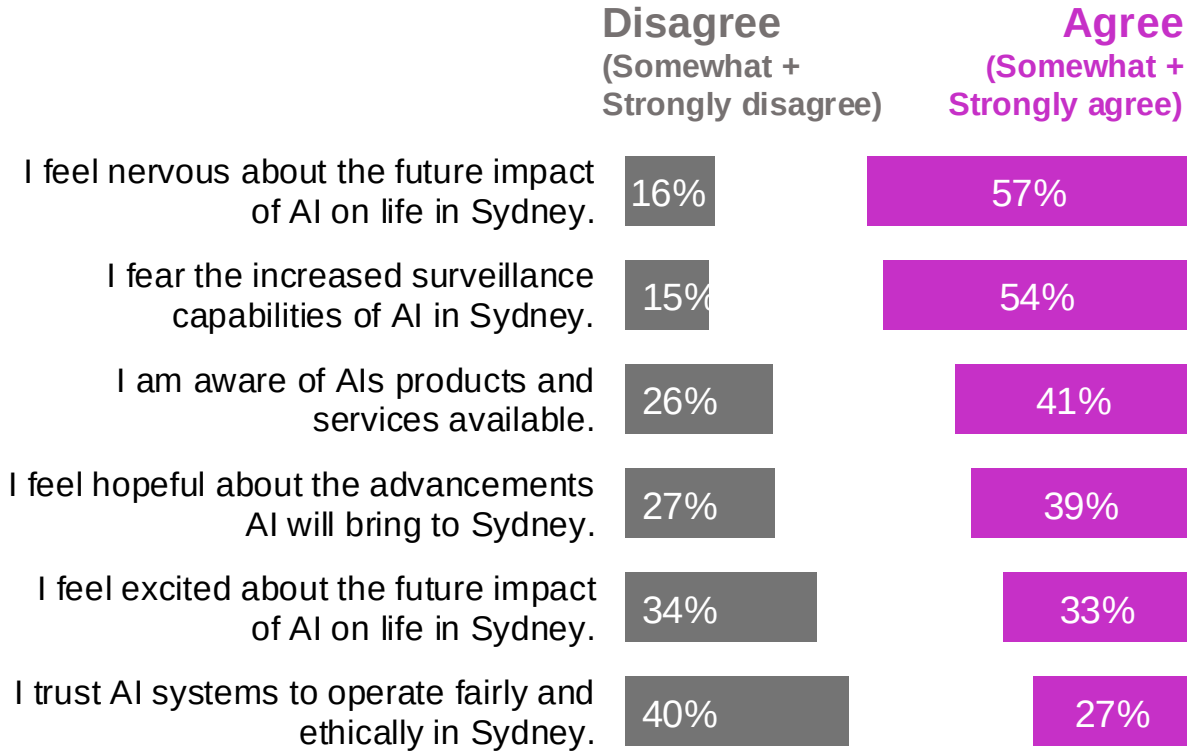
Sydneysiders are concerned about AI





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Q132. Thinking about AI (Artificial Intelligence), how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=1000)

Q133. Again, thinking about AI (Artificial Intelligence), how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=1000)

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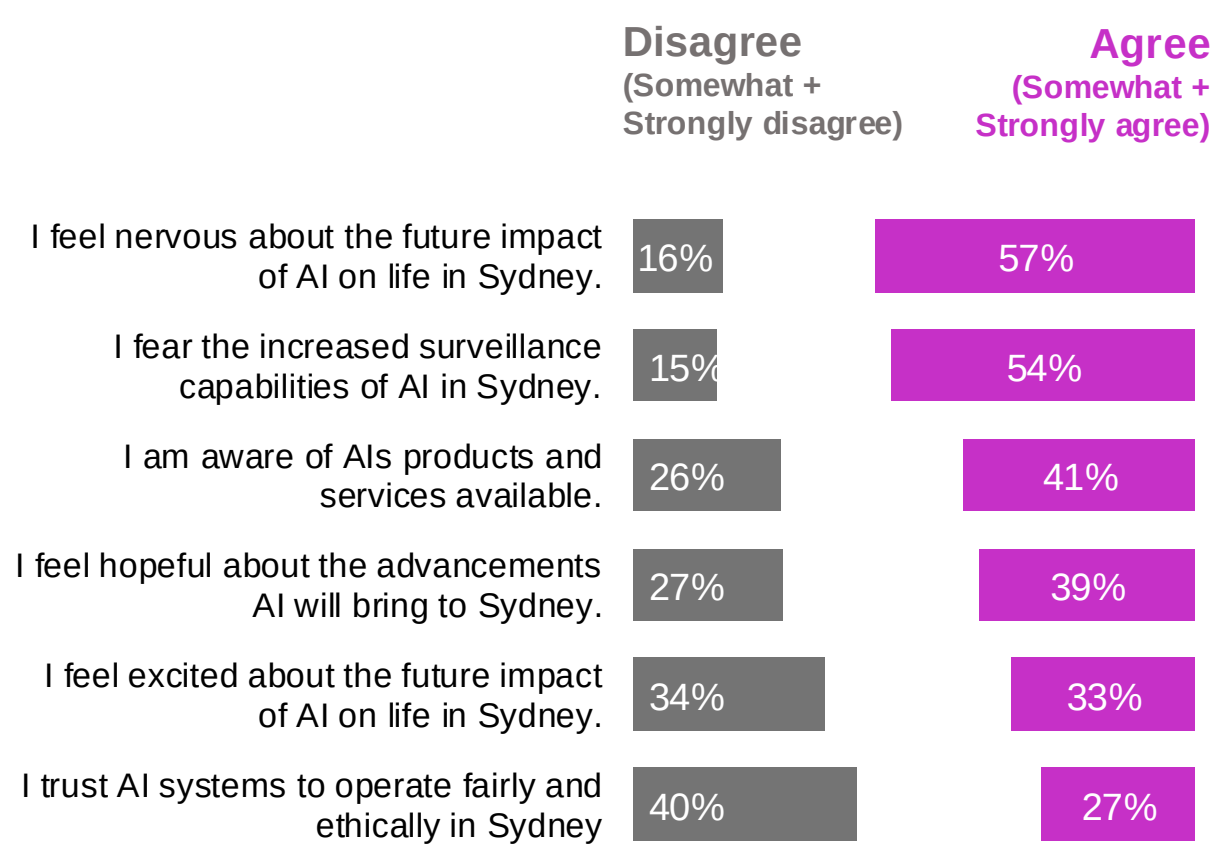
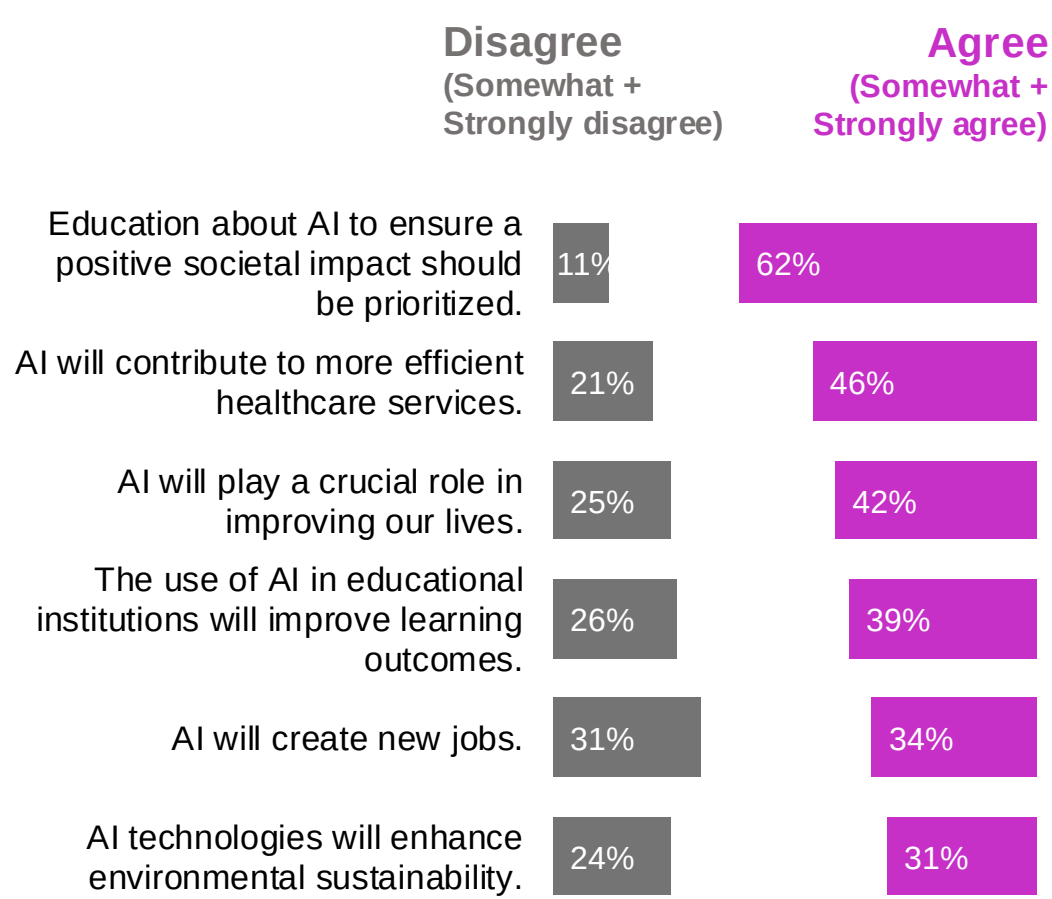
But also open to AI's potential



Q133. Again, thinking about AI (Artificial Intelligence), how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=1000)



Q132. Thinking about AI (Artificial Intelligence), how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=1000)

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Care and community

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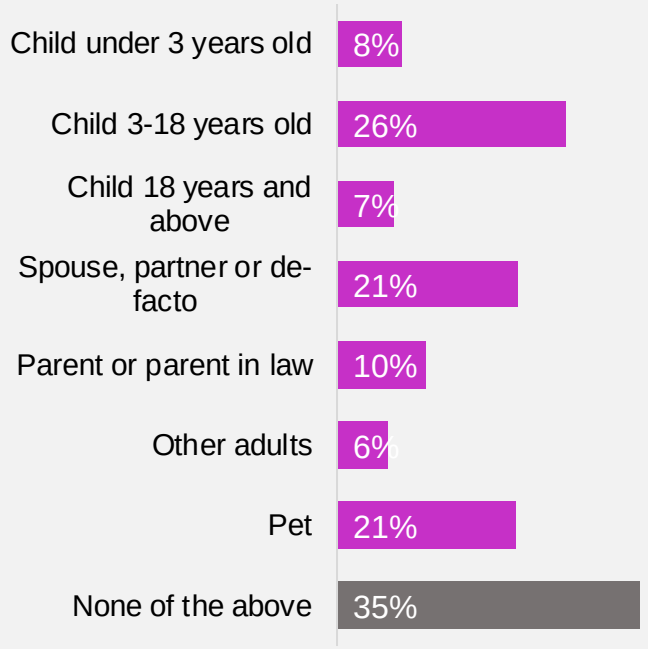
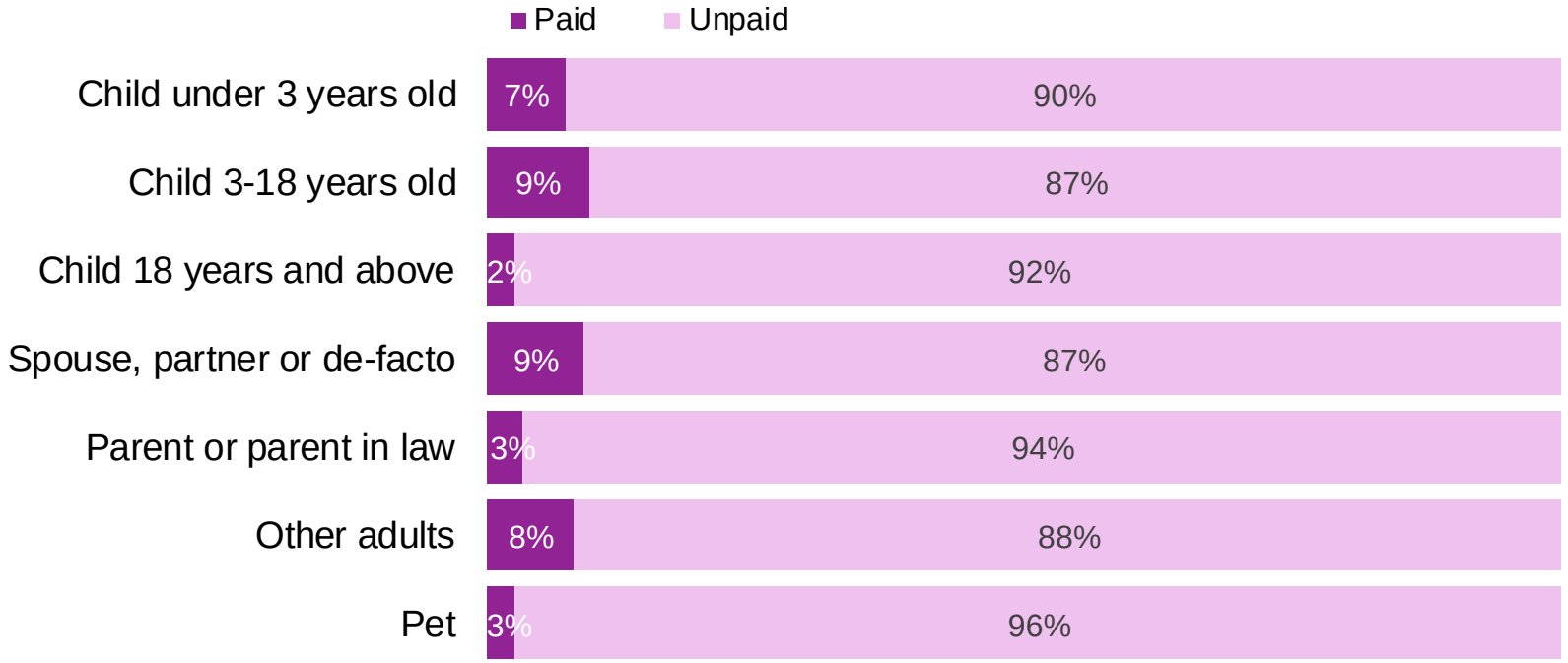
Regular care or support

Who do you provide regular care or support to?



Among those who provide care and support… Is this care paid or unpaid?



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Q134. Who do you provide regular care and support to? Base: 2025 Sydney (n=1000)
Q135. Is this care paid or unpaid? Base: Those who provide care 2025 (n=655)

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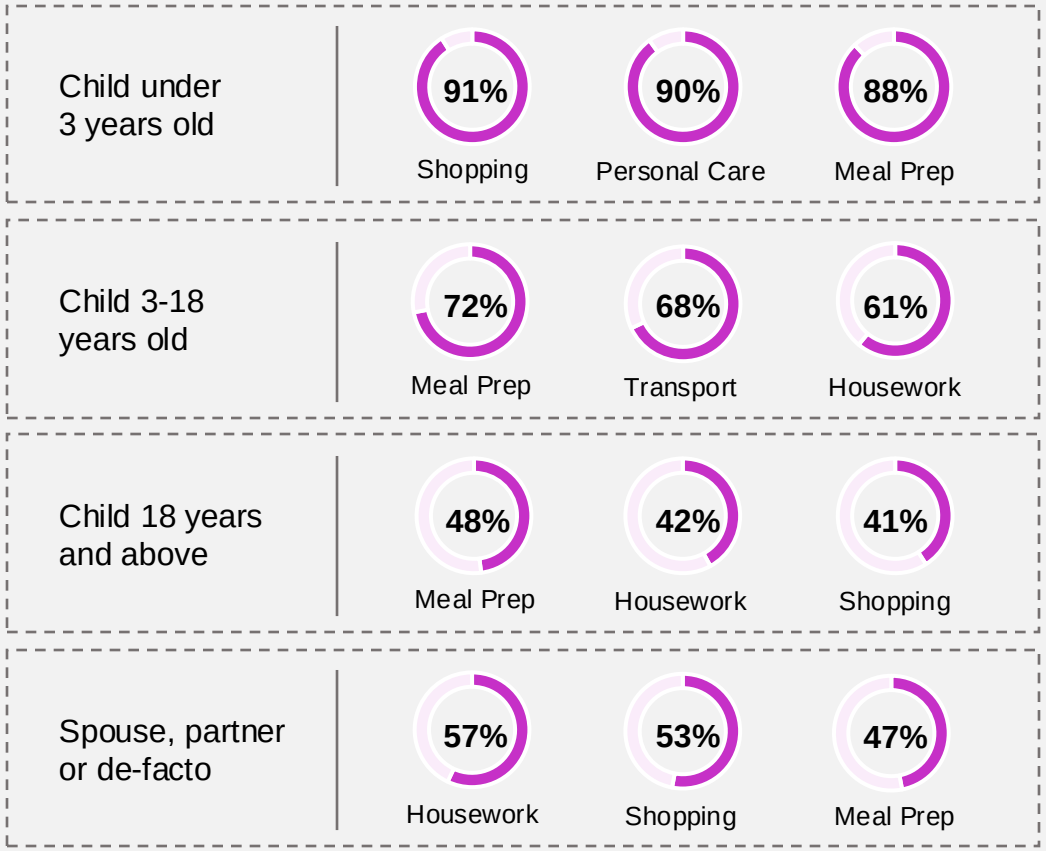
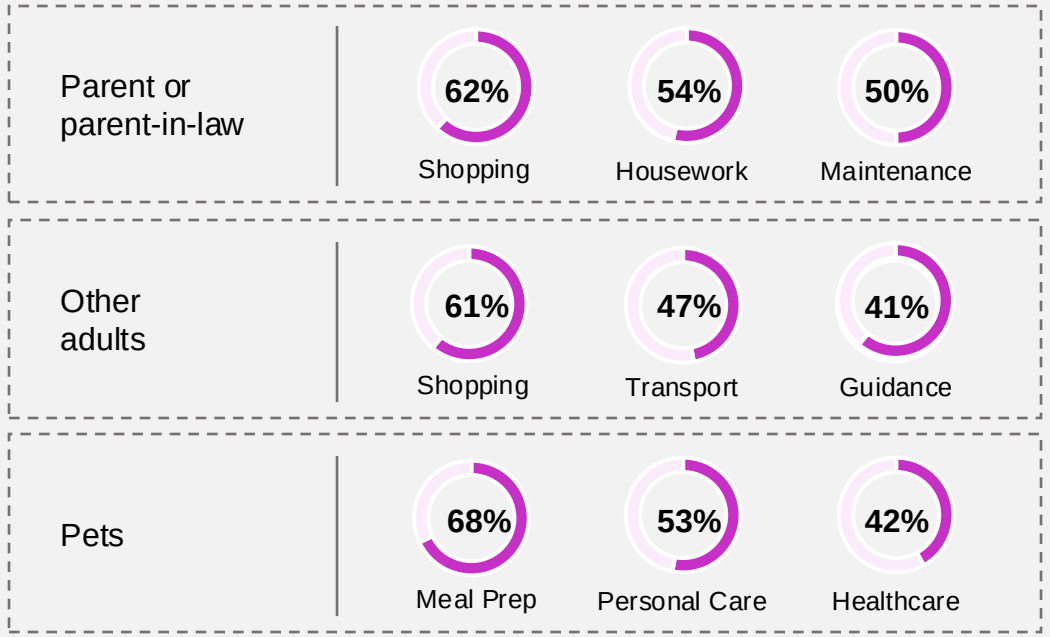
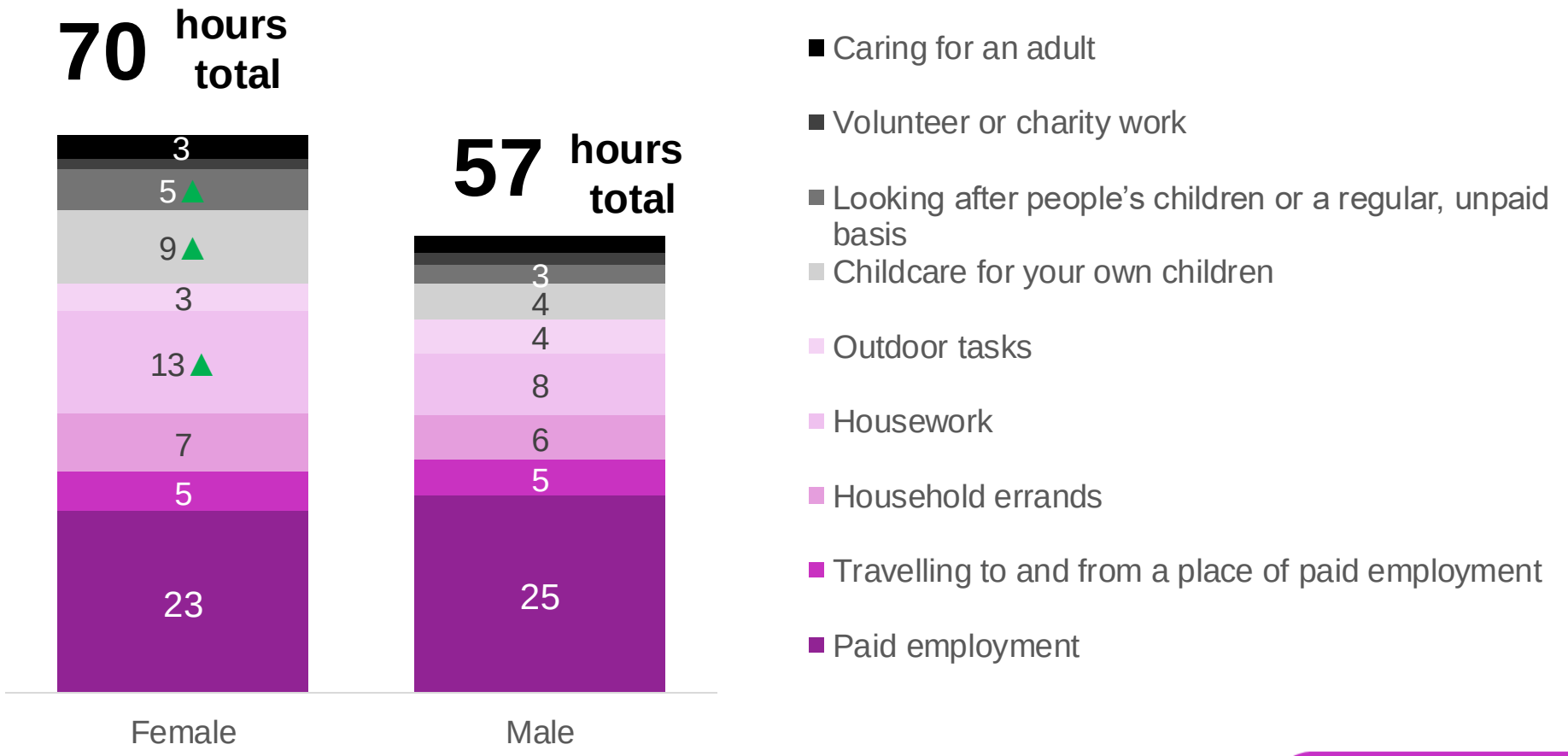
What help or support do you provide?





Q136. What type of help and support do you provide? Please answer all that apply.
Base: Among those who provide care and support 2025 Sydney (n=655)

How much time do you spend on the following activities in a given week?



Proudly presented by Committee for Sydney

Q137. How much time would you spend on each of the following activities in a typical week?
Base: Among those with caring responsibilities 2025 Sydney (n=485)

▲ Significantly higher than male
▼ Significantly lower than male

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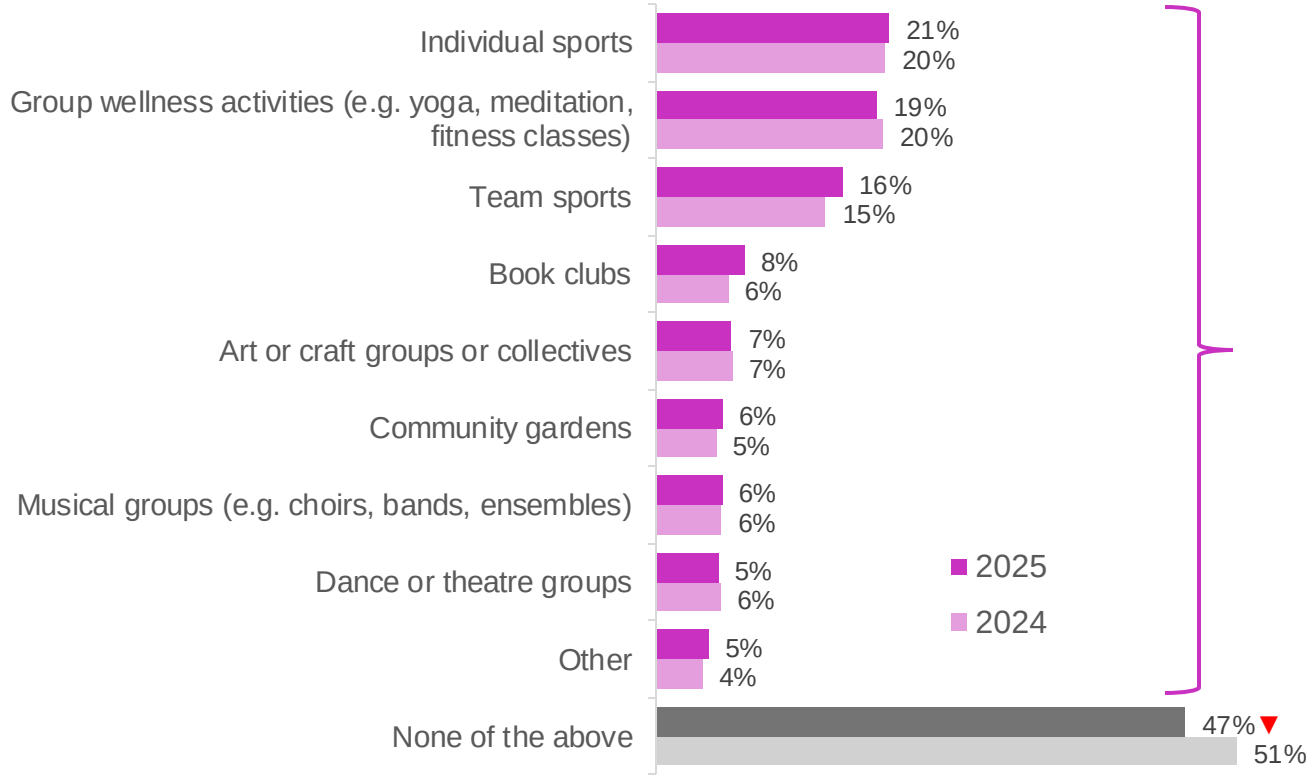
Do you regularly participate in community activities?



53%

engage in some type community activity

More likely to engage

61%
Millennials

59%
Male

60%
Working 35+ hours per week

Proudly presented by Committee for Sydney

Q114. Do you regularly participate in any of the following?
Base: 2024 Sydney (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)

▲ Significantly higher than previous year
▼ Significantly lower than previous year

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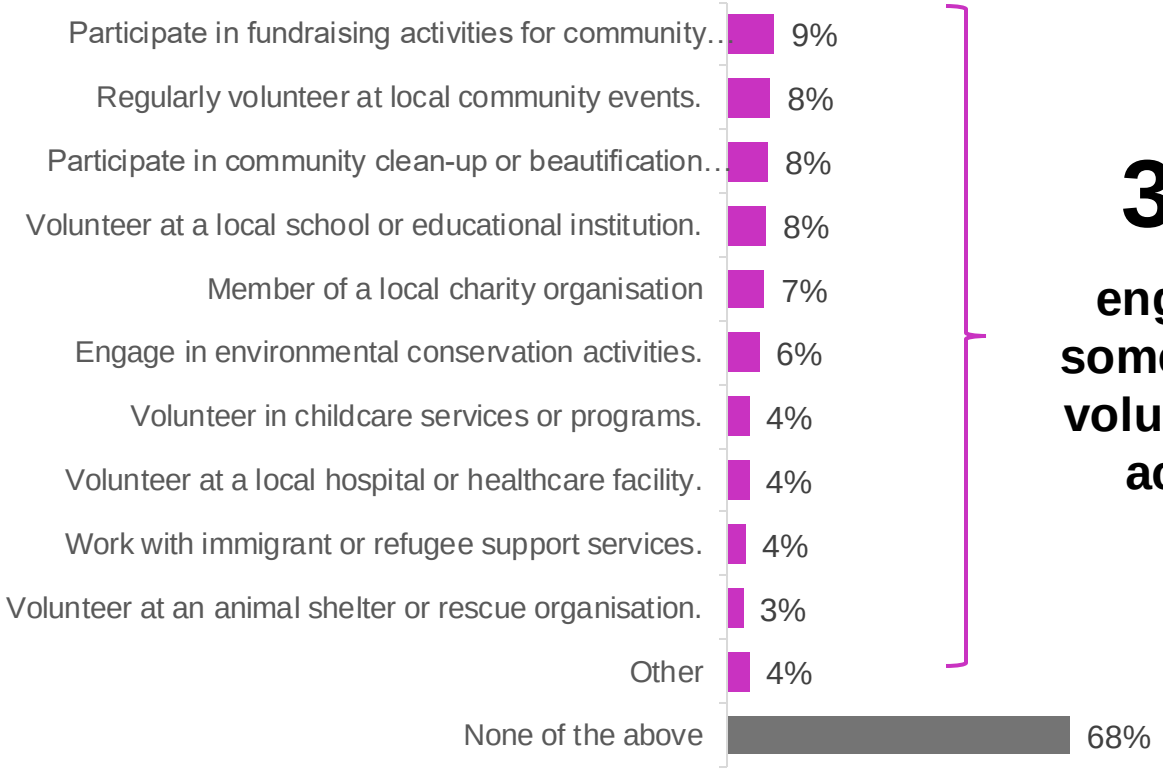
Which of these things do you do?



32%

engage in some type of volunteering activity

More likely to do any volunteer work

38%
Millennials

40%
Couple with children at home

41%
Postgraduate

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Committee for Sydney

Q131. Below is a list of ways some people volunteer in their communities. Looking at the list, which if any of these things do you do?
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=1000)

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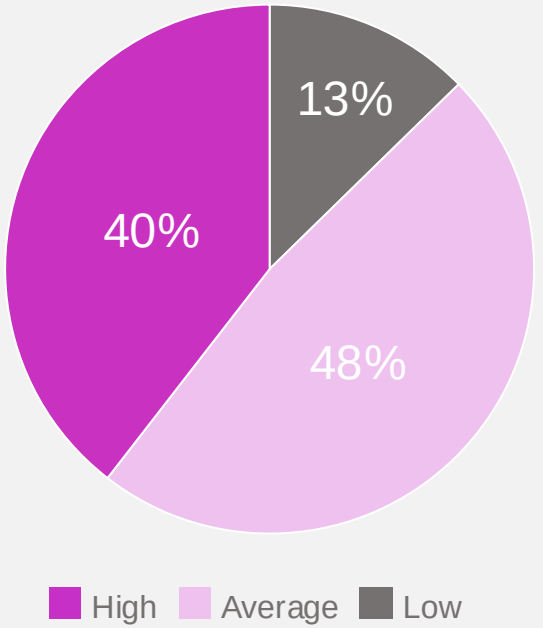
Level of social support

Level of social support



High social support: Young people least likely to Report high social support

25%	26%	30%	40%
Generation Z	Millennials	Generation X	Baby Boomers/ Silent Generation

Low social support: Multi-generational households least likely to report unsupported

9%	12%	16%	17%	33%
Multi-generational family	Shared house with other families	Couple with children	SINKs + DINKs + Empty Nesters	Single Parents

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F7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that each statement describes your current relationships with other people?
Base: 2025 Sydney (n=1000)

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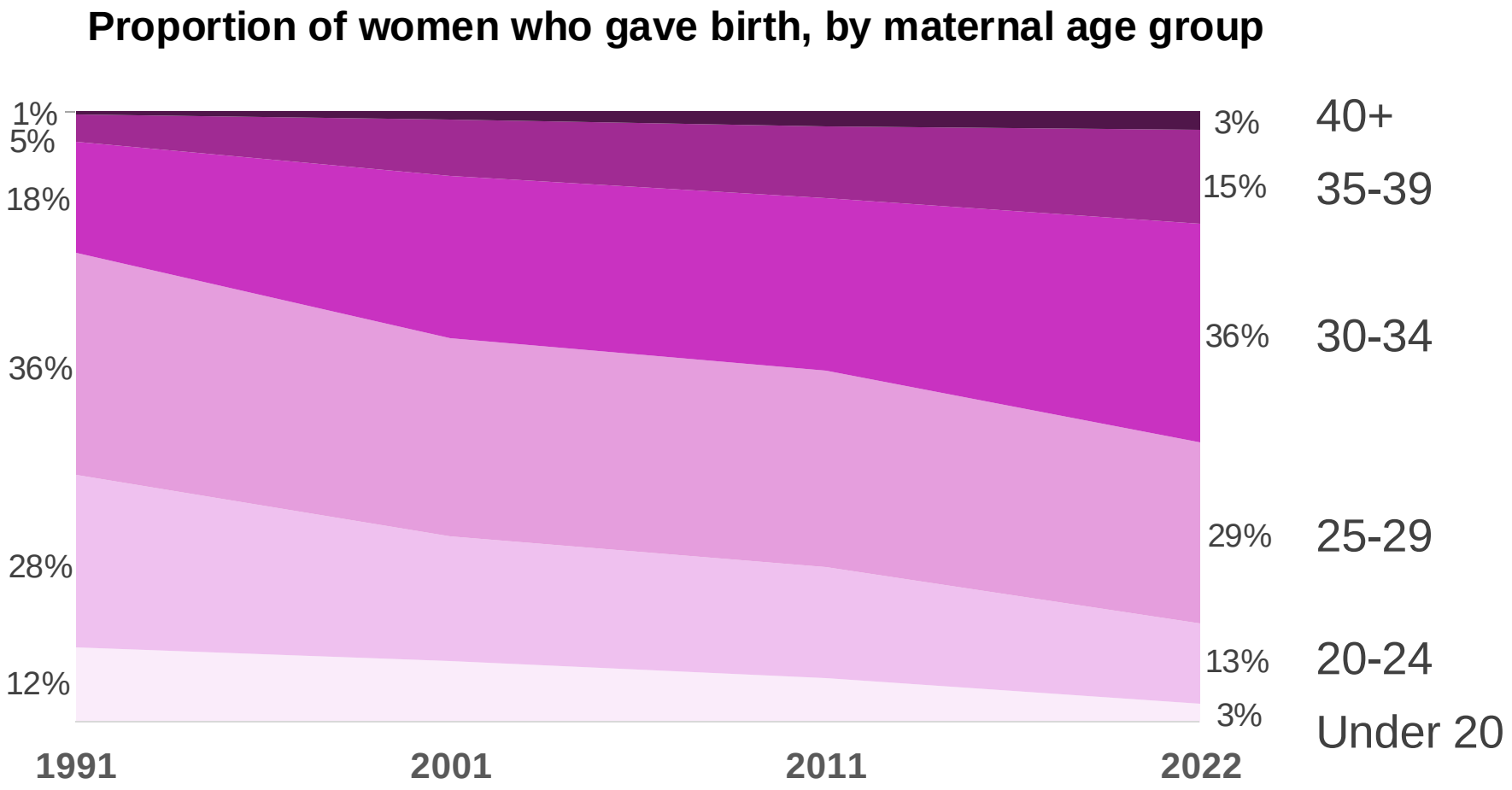
“Sandwich generation” under pressure



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Data source: Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing. Totals for Australia totals.

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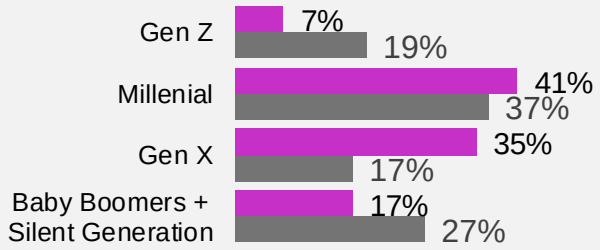
“Sandwich generation” under pressure

4%

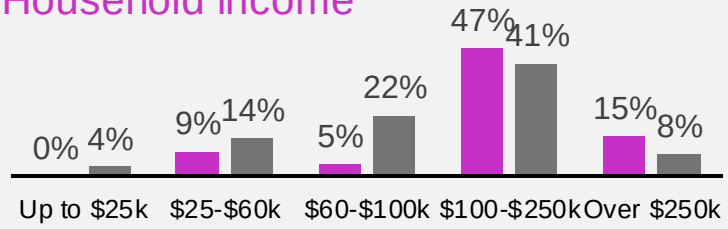
of Sydneysiders formally care for parent(s) and child(ren) at the same time

Gender

Generation



Household income



41%

think that quality of life in Sydney 12 months from now will be worse

vs. 22% Sydneysiders

14%

rank Household or Personal debt as the #1 issue in Sydney

vs. 5% Sydneysiders

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Life in Sydney 2025

Quality of life

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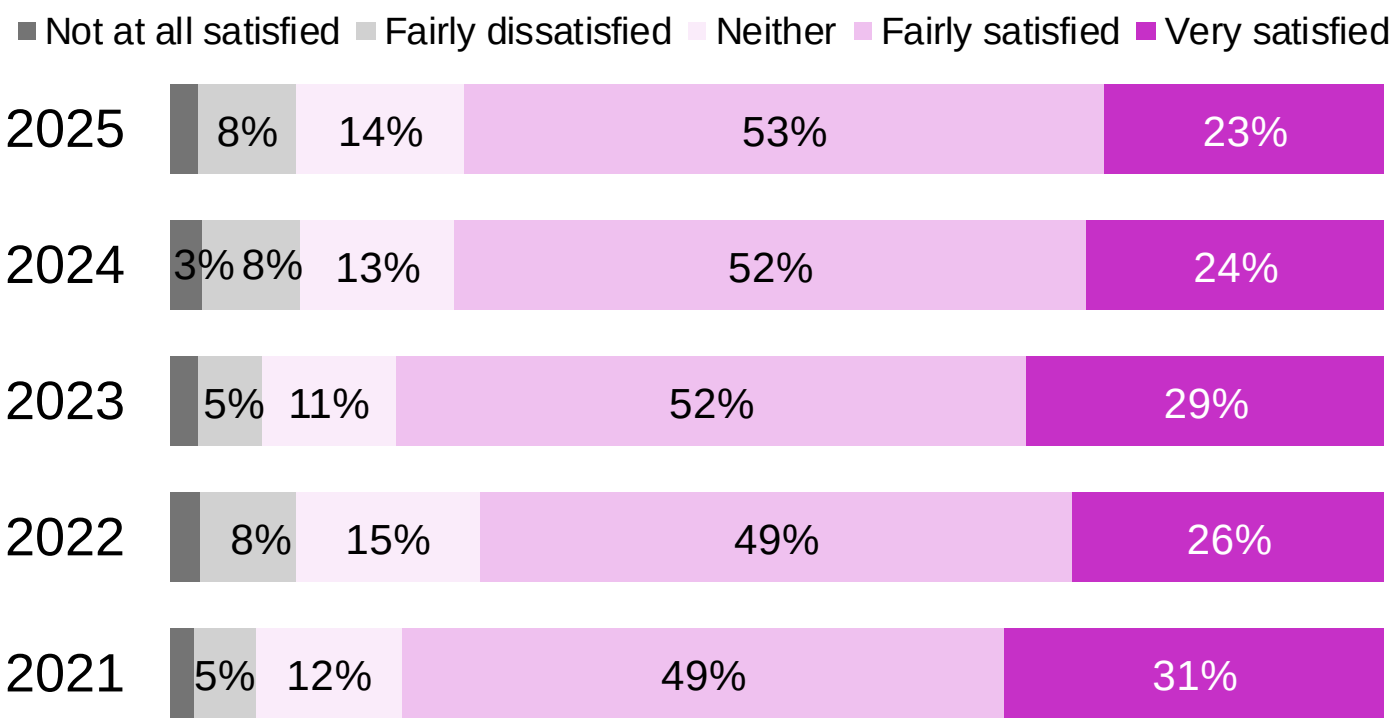
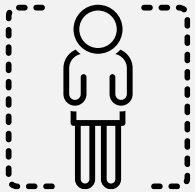
Satisfaction with quality of life is stabilising



	Total dissatisfied	Total satisfied
2025	10%	76%
2024	11% ▲	76% ▼
2023	8%	81% ▲
2022	10%	74%
2021	7%	80%



23%

Low social support more likely to be **dissatisfied**

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Committee for Sydney

Q1. Thinking about your life in Sydney overall, how satisfied are you with your quality of life in Sydney?
Base: Sydney 2021 (n=984), 2022 (n=1034), 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)
Note: 'Don't know' responses excluded from the chart for analysis purposes. Data under 3% not labelled

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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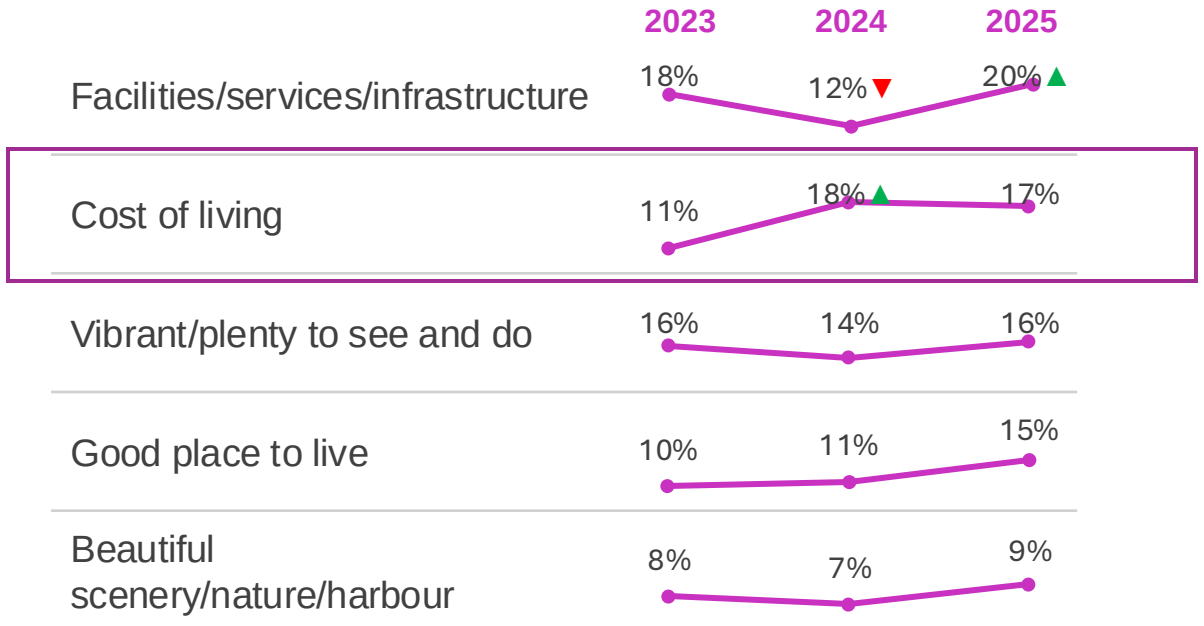
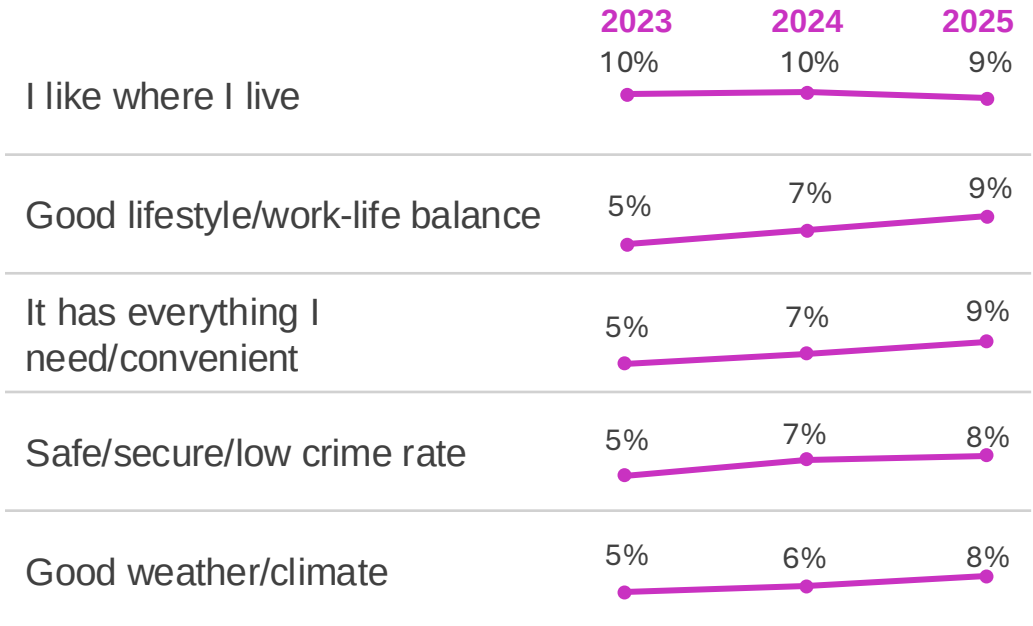
Why are you satisfied with life in Sydney?





While the cost of living is high is Sydney, the quality is also high, with amazing beach view and lovely temperature, it is a great place to live.

Good access to leisure pursuits like theatre, movies, concerts, art galleries, restaurants, shopping. Also, good access to hospitals and health care..

I live in a safe, vibrant city that offers everything you can hope for in life.

Proudly presented by

Committee for Sydney

Q2. Why do you say that?
Base: Sydney 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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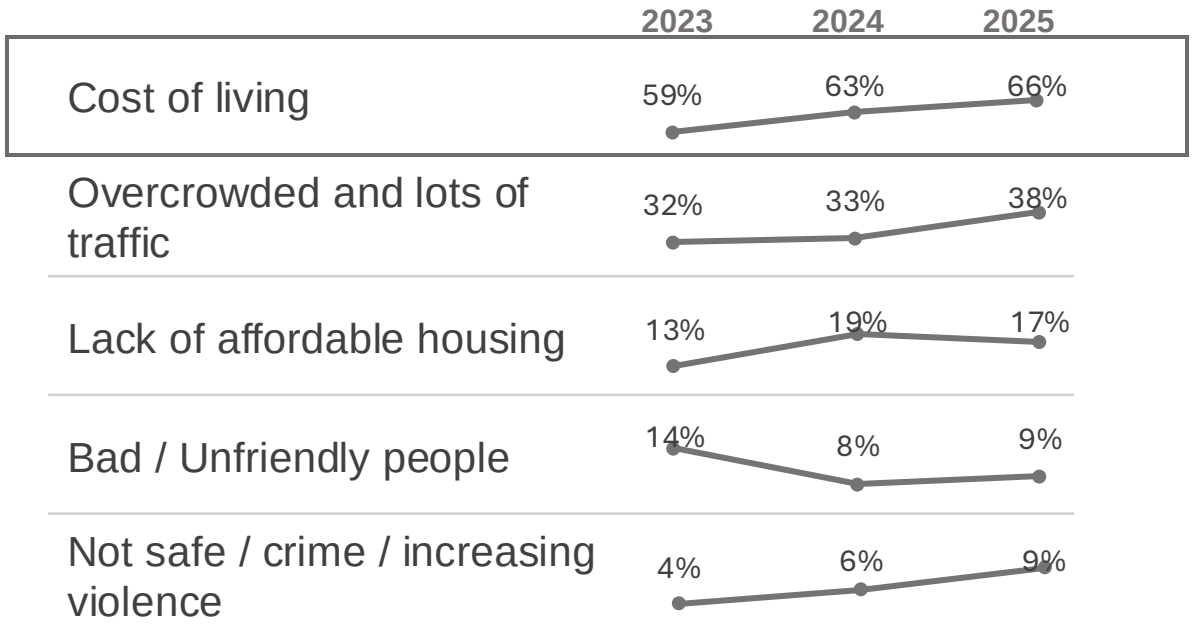
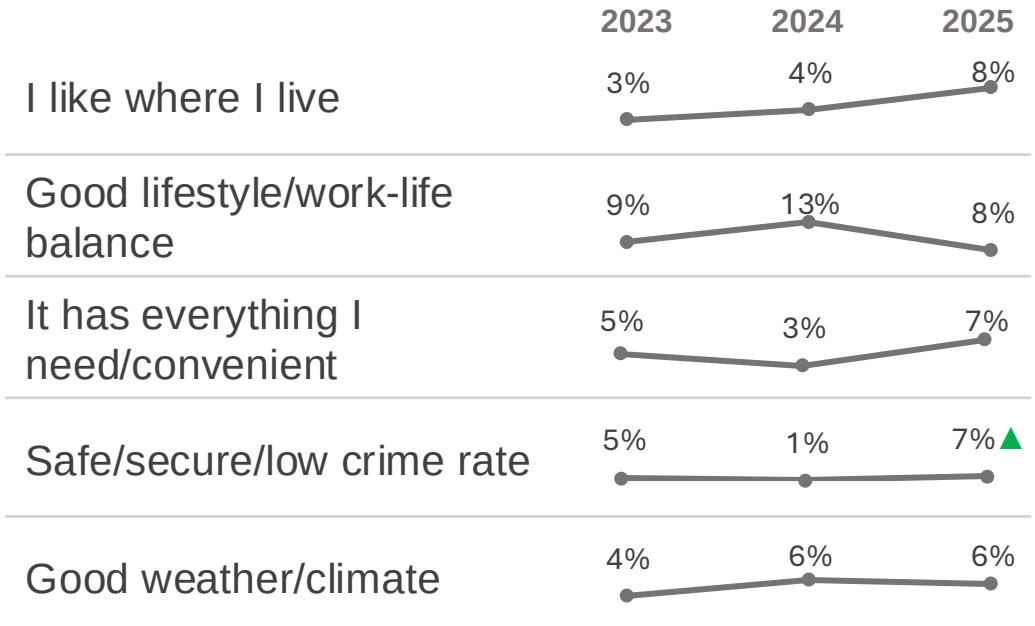
Why are you dissatisfied with life in Sydney?





Everyday it is getting more and more expensive and nearly impossible to live comfortably in Sydney

Mainly, due to the cost of living

Because of cost of living raising taxes and huge student loans

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Committee for Sydney

Q2. Why do you say that?
Base: Sydney 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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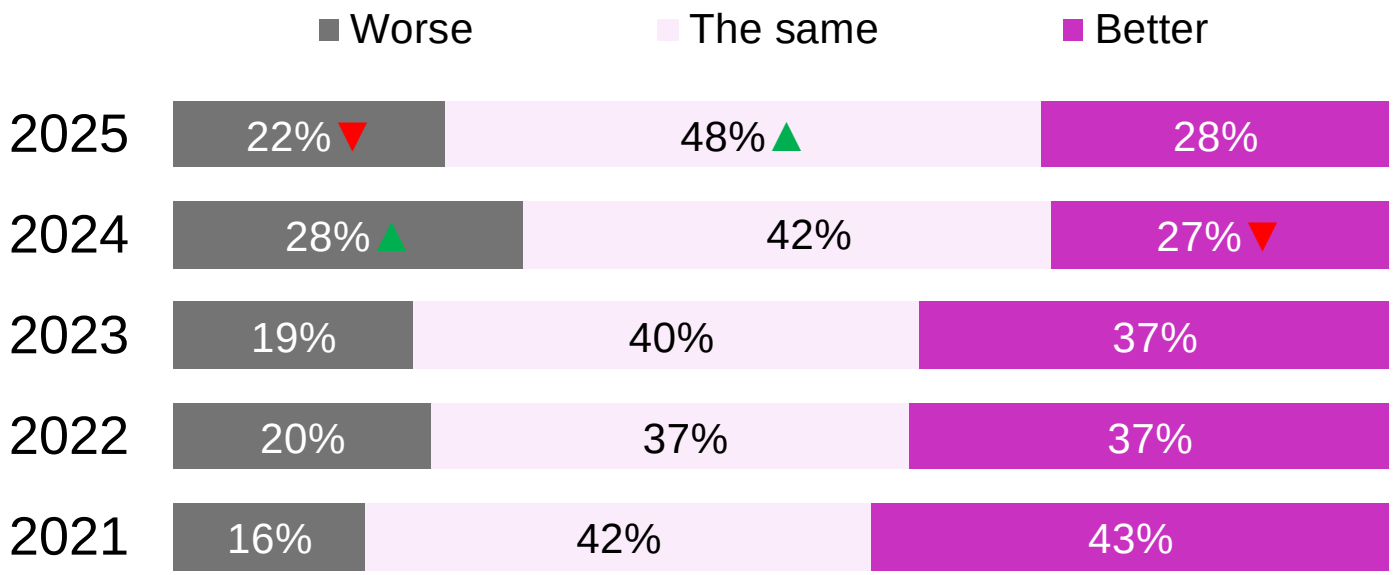
Do you expect your quality of life in Sydney to be better or worse 12 months from now?



More likely to expect better quality of life

47% **Gen Z**

33% **Satisfied**

37% **Renters**

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Committee for Sydney

Q4 And do you expect your quality of life in Sydney to be better or worse 12 months from now?
Base: Sydney 2021 (n=984), Sydney 2022 (n=1034), 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)
Note: 'Don't know' responses excluded from the chart for analysis purposes

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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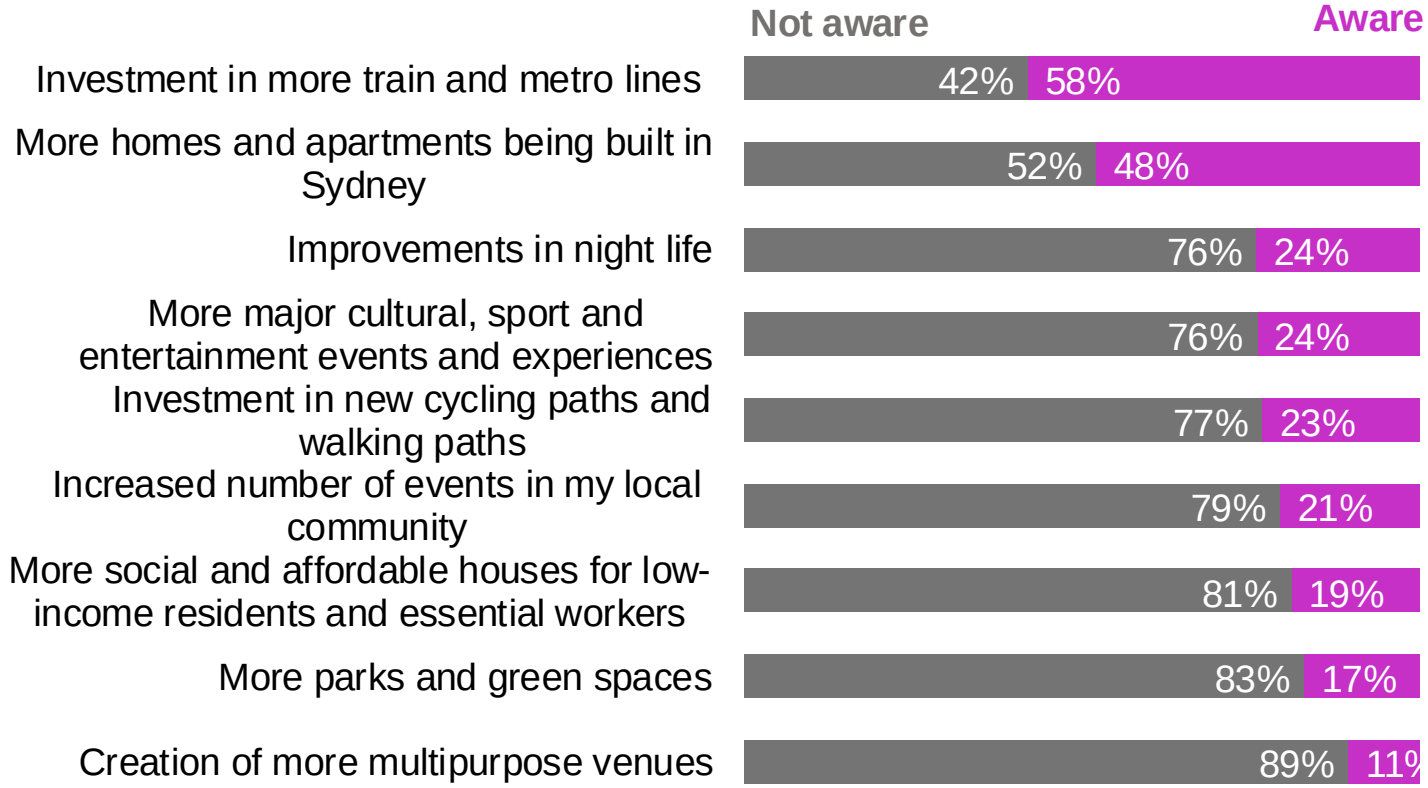
Reform is seen to be having a positive impact



Among those who are aware	
No impact	Total positive impact
3%	55%
10%	37%
2%	22%
2%	22%
4%	19%
2%	19%
2%	17%
1%	17%
1%	9%

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Q126. Are you aware of any of the following changes in Sydney over the past 12 months?
Q126b. How much, if any, positive impact do you think each of the following has had on life in Sydney in the past 12 months?
Base: 2022 (n=1034), 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)

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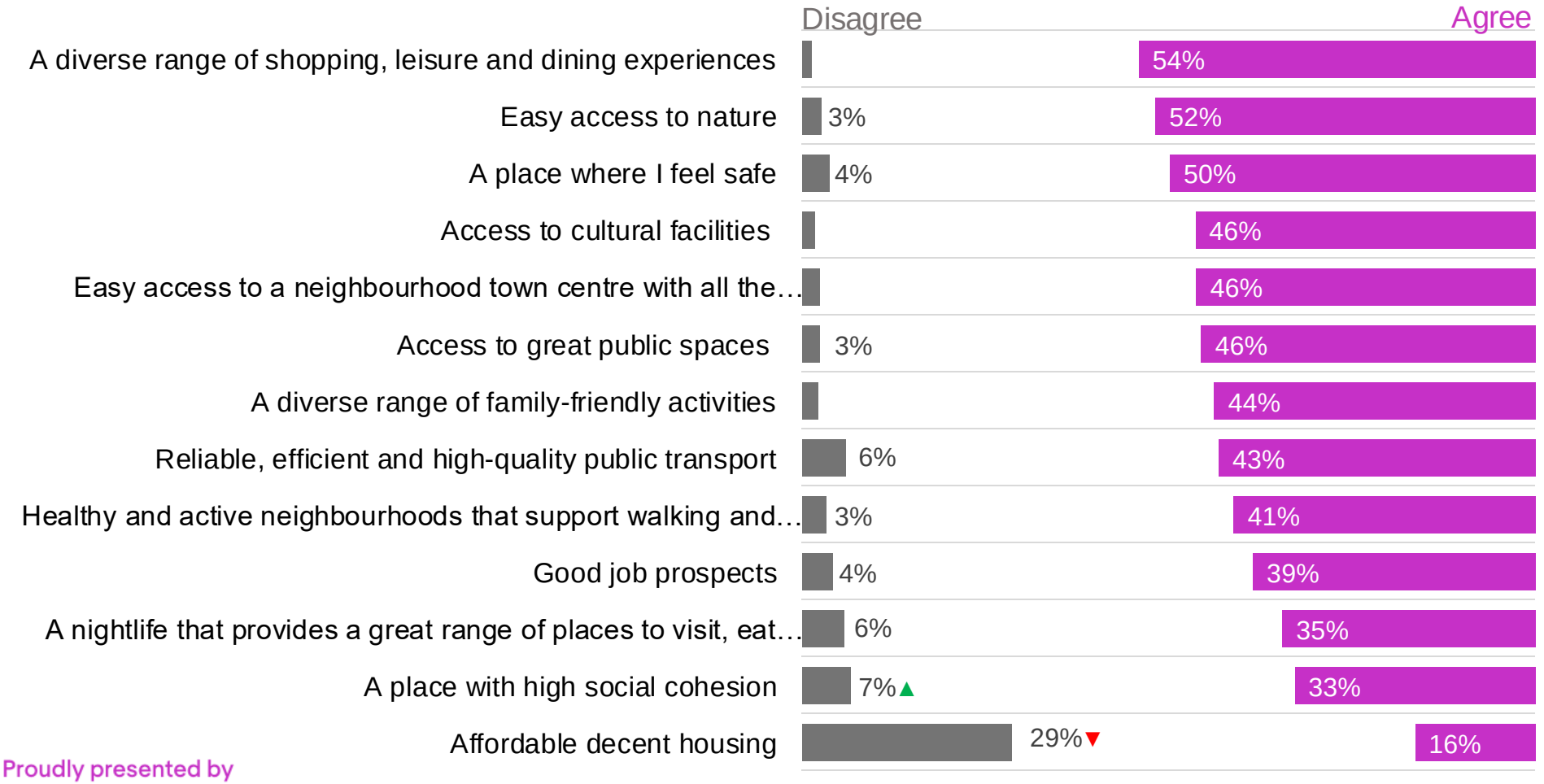
Perceptions of liveability in Sydney



	Agree		
	2023	2024	2025
A diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining experiences	58%	62%	54%▼
Easy access to nature	54%	55%	52%
A place where I feel safe	47%	50%	50%
Access to cultural facilities	55%	56%	46%▼
Easy access to a neighbourhood town centre with all the…	51%	48%	46%
Access to great public spaces	52%	54%	46%▼
A diverse range of family-friendly activities	50%	49%	44%▼
Reliable, efficient and high-quality public transport	40%	38%	43%
Healthy and active neighbourhoods that support walking and…	46%	45%	41%
Good job prospects	43%	43%	39%
A nightlife that provides a great range of places to visit, eat…	42%	41%	35%▼
A place with high social cohesion	40%	35%▼	33%
Affordable decent housing	17%	12%▼	16%▲

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Q5. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Sydney?
Base: Sydney 2023 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)
Note: 'Don't know' responses excluded from the chart for analysis purposes. Data under 3% not labelled

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

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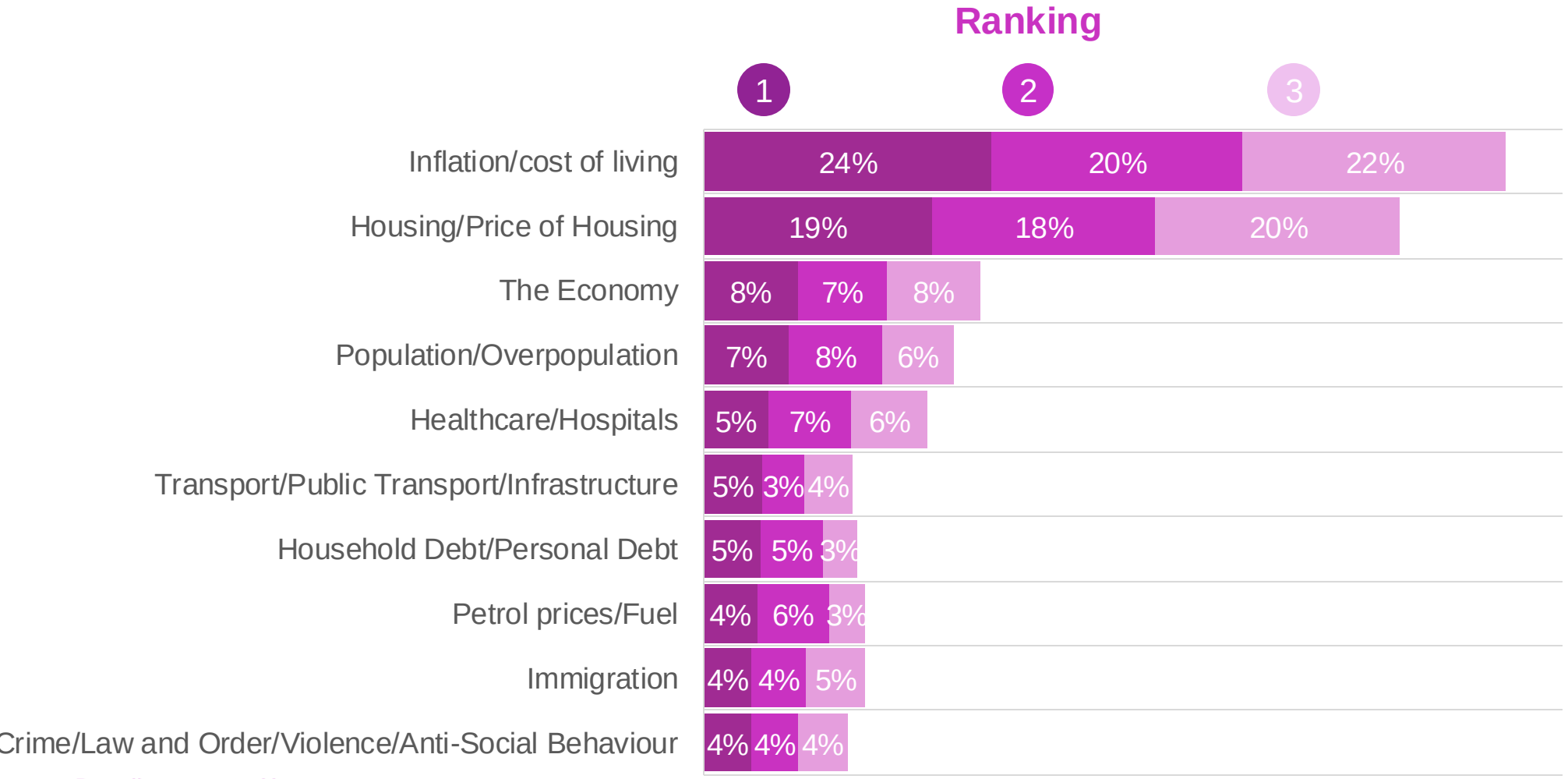
Most important issues facing Sydney today



Total top three

2022	2023	2024	2025
45%	56% ▲	66% ▲	65%
51%	42% ▼	57% ▲	57%
23%	23%	21%	23%
18%	15%	19% ▲	20%
38%	24% ▼	18% ▼	18%
18%	15%	16%	12% ▼
10%	14%	12%	13%
15%	26% ▲	20% ▼	13% ▼
7%	6%	10% ▲	13% ▲
12%	14%	8% ▼	12% ▲

▲ Significantly higher than previous years
▼ Significantly lower than previous years

Q42. What would you say are the three most important issues facing Sydney today?
Base: 2022 (n=1034), 2023 (n=1000), 2024 (n=1035), 2025 (n=1000)
Note: 'Don't know' responses excluded from the chart for analysis purposes. Data under 3% not labelled. Question added in 2022.

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