

Attitudes to the Olympics

February 2021





COVID concerns put dampener on Olympics

A majority (51%) of Australians are against the Olympics going ahead in Tokyo during July and August this year. Only 30% think the games should go ahead.

Strongest opinions against the Olympics going ahead are held by people aged 55+ years (57%) and women (55%). Men have a significantly higher preference than the national average for the games to go ahead (36%), but more (47%) would prefer they didn't.

22% of Australians are strongly of the view that the games should not go ahead, a view held most strongly by those aged 55+ years (29%).

A majority of Victorians (53%), Queenslanders (53%) and West Australians (54%) do not think the Olympics should go ahead. West Australians are also least supportive of the Games going ahead (18%), whilst NSW residents are most supportive, although more NSW residents would prefer the games don't go ahead (48%) than do (37%).

Australians have mixed views on whether Australia should send a team of athletes and their support staff to compete if the Tokyo Olympics were to go ahead. 37% think Australia should send a team and 38% think it should not, whilst 14% would need to know more and 12% can't say.

There are clear distinctions by gender, with men more inclined to think Australia should compete (44%) than not (35%), whilst women are more strongly of the view that Australia should not send a team (30%) than should (41%).

No demographic group holds a majority view that the Tokyo Olympics should go ahead or, if they do, that Australia should send a team to compete.

Concerns and risks about COVID-19 far outweigh the merits of holding the Tokyo Olympics in July and August this year, with a majority of Australians agreeing (and people aged 55+ years and women typically holding the firmest views):

- We need to focus on coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic rather than sporting events like these Games (60% agree)
- Australians returning from these Games present too much unnecessary risk to the health of our community (60% agree)
- Holding these Games presents too high a risk to all involved (59% agree)

Reasons for going generate far less agreement:

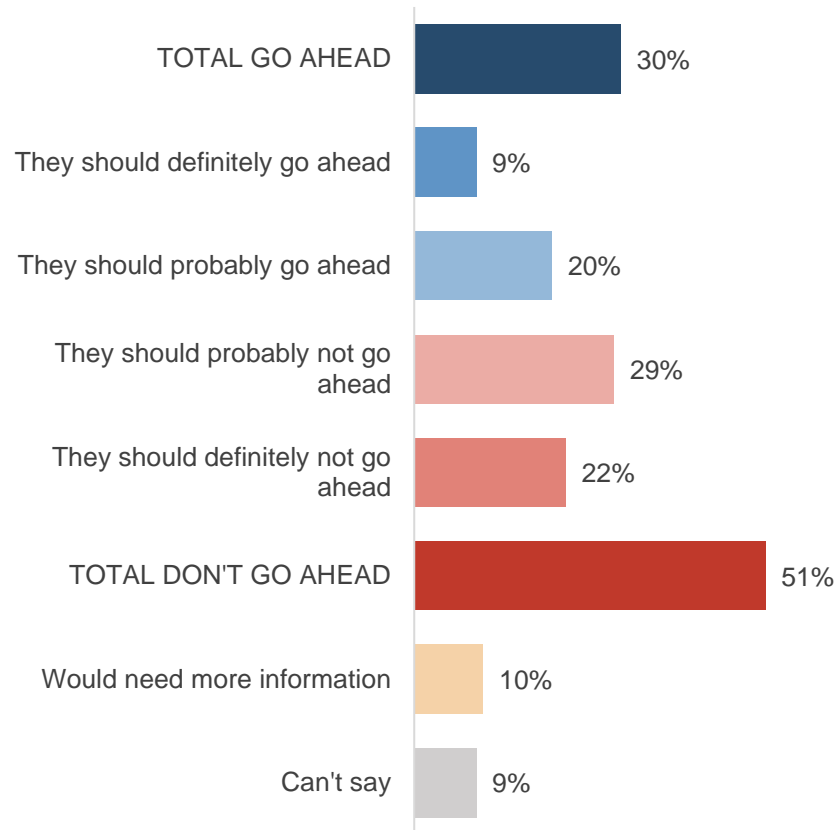
- Athletes accept the risks and still want to compete, so we should support them to do so (44% agree, 26% disagree)
- It is important to unite the global community in a positive experience like these Games (42% agree, 24% disagree)
- The financial impact on governments, organisers, sponsors and broadcasters will be too high, if these Games do not go ahead (41% agree, 19% disagree)

More Australians disagree (38%) than agree (34%) that "It is possible for these Games to be 'COVID-19 safe'".

The majority of Australians do not think the Tokyo Olympics should go ahead in 2021



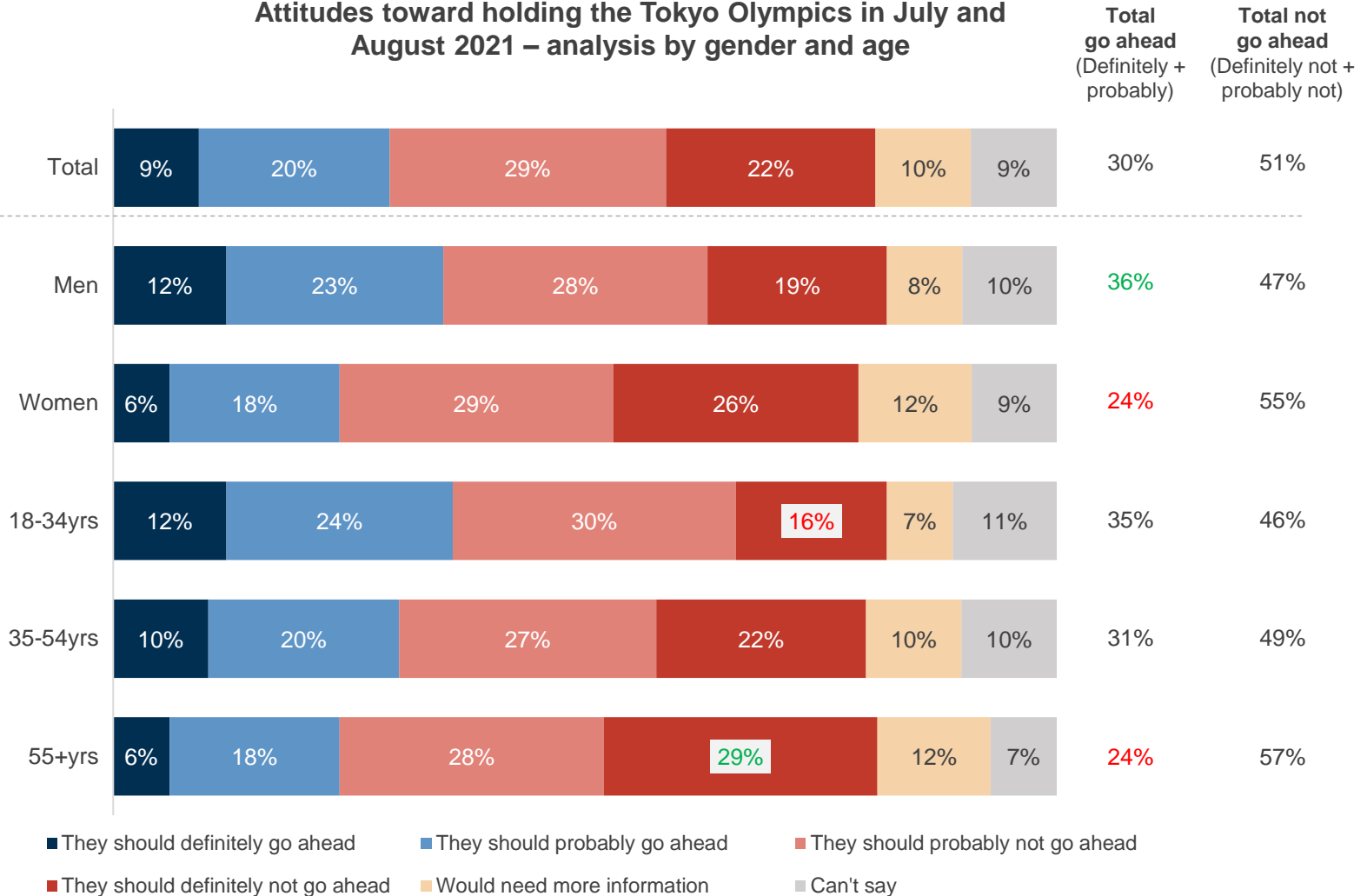
Attitudes toward holding the Tokyo Olympics in July and August 2021



Women and people aged 55+ years have strongest preference for games not to go ahead



Attitudes toward holding the Tokyo Olympics in July and August 2021 – analysis by gender and age



Significantly higher / lower than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.

Q65. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are now planned to run 23rd July to 8th August, 2021.

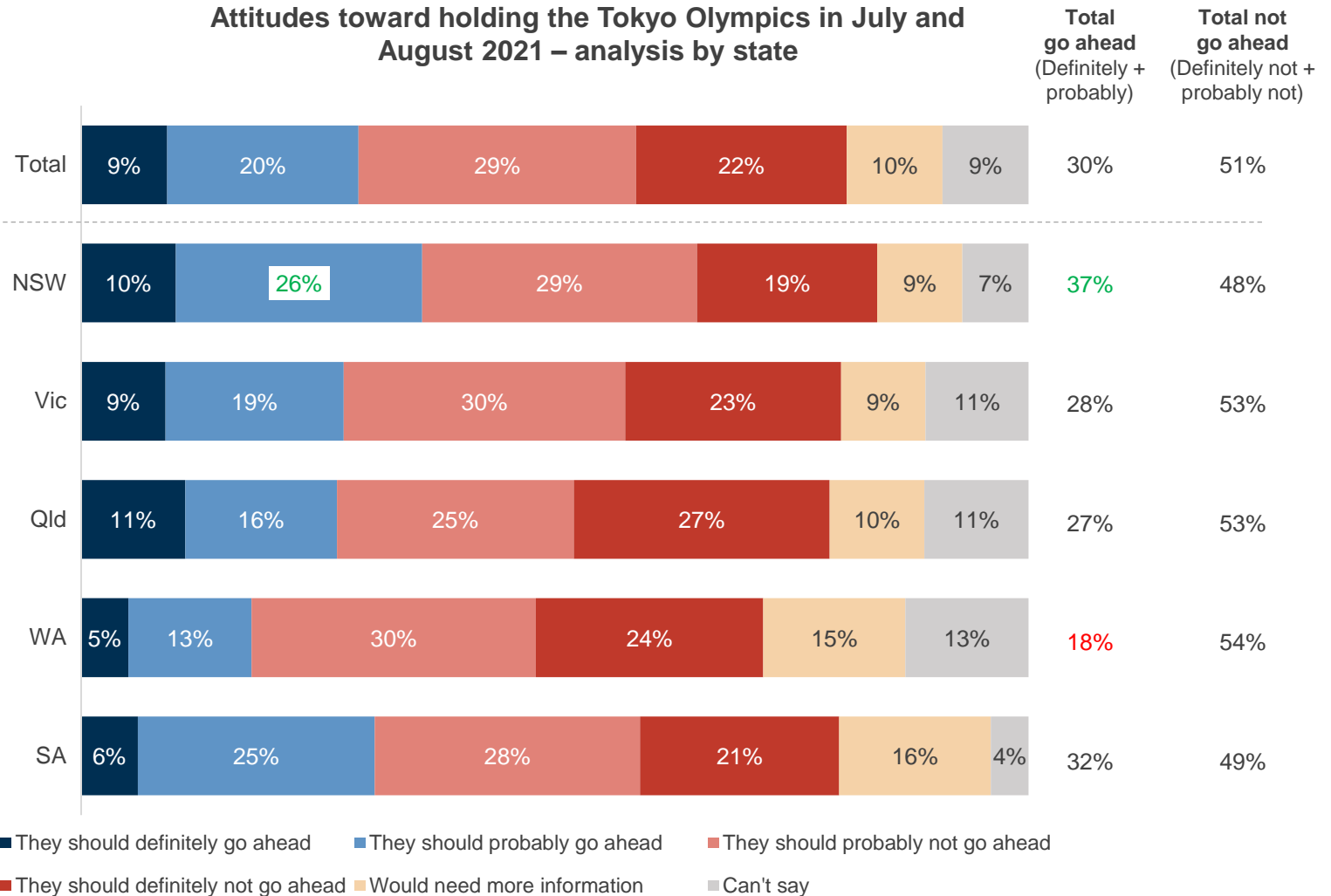
Which of these comes closest to your view about holding the Olympics in Tokyo during July and August this year?

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

NSW residents have highest preference for games to go ahead, but even there more would prefer they didn't



Attitudes toward holding the Tokyo Olympics in July and August 2021 – analysis by state



Significantly higher / lower than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.

Q65. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are now planned to run 23rd July to 8th August, 2021.

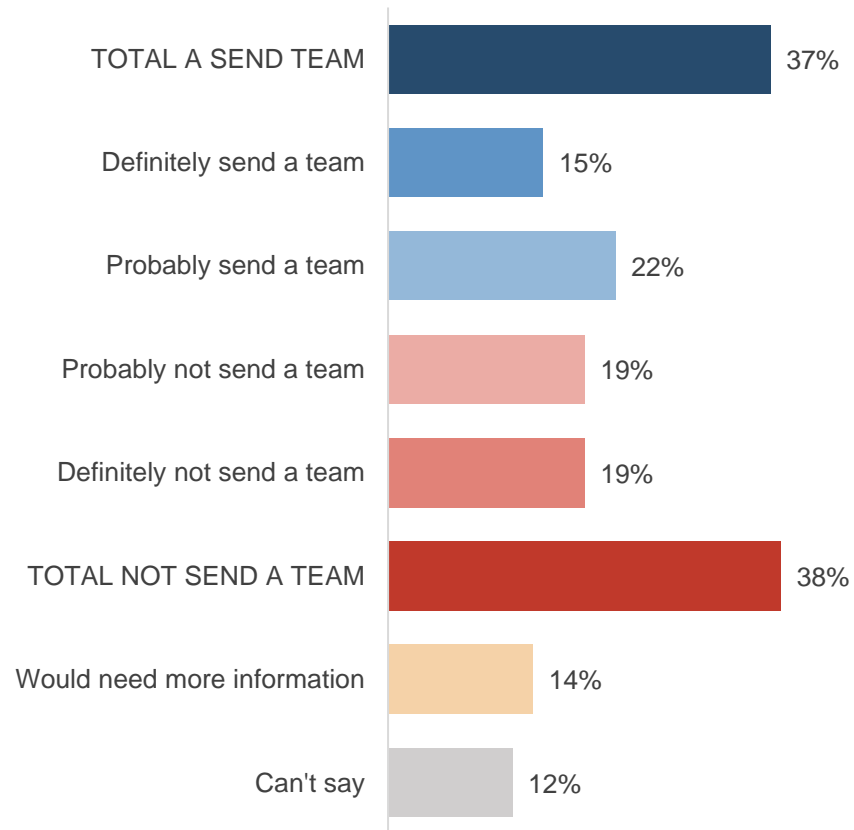
Which of these comes closest to your view about holding the Olympics in Tokyo during July and August this year?

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

There are mixed attitudes on sending an Australian team to compete in Tokyo, if the games were to go ahead



Total attitudes toward Australia sending a team of athletes and support staff to the 2021 Tokyo Olympics



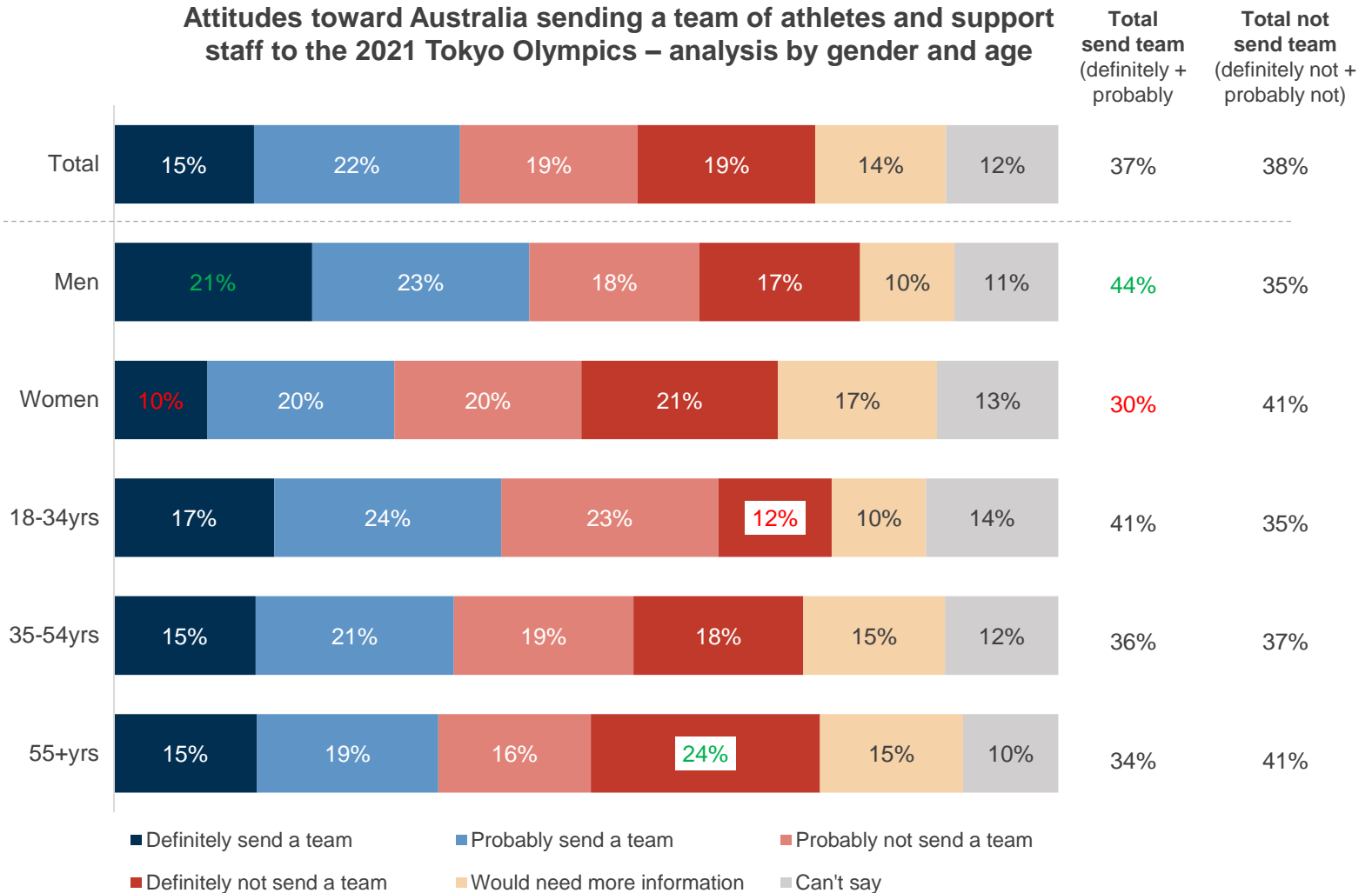
Q66. If the Tokyo Olympics go ahead in July and August this year, do you think Australia should send a team of athletes and their support staff to compete?

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

Men are more in favour of the games going ahead than not, but women feel more strongly that they shouldn't



Attitudes toward Australia sending a team of athletes and support staff to the 2021 Tokyo Olympics – analysis by gender and age

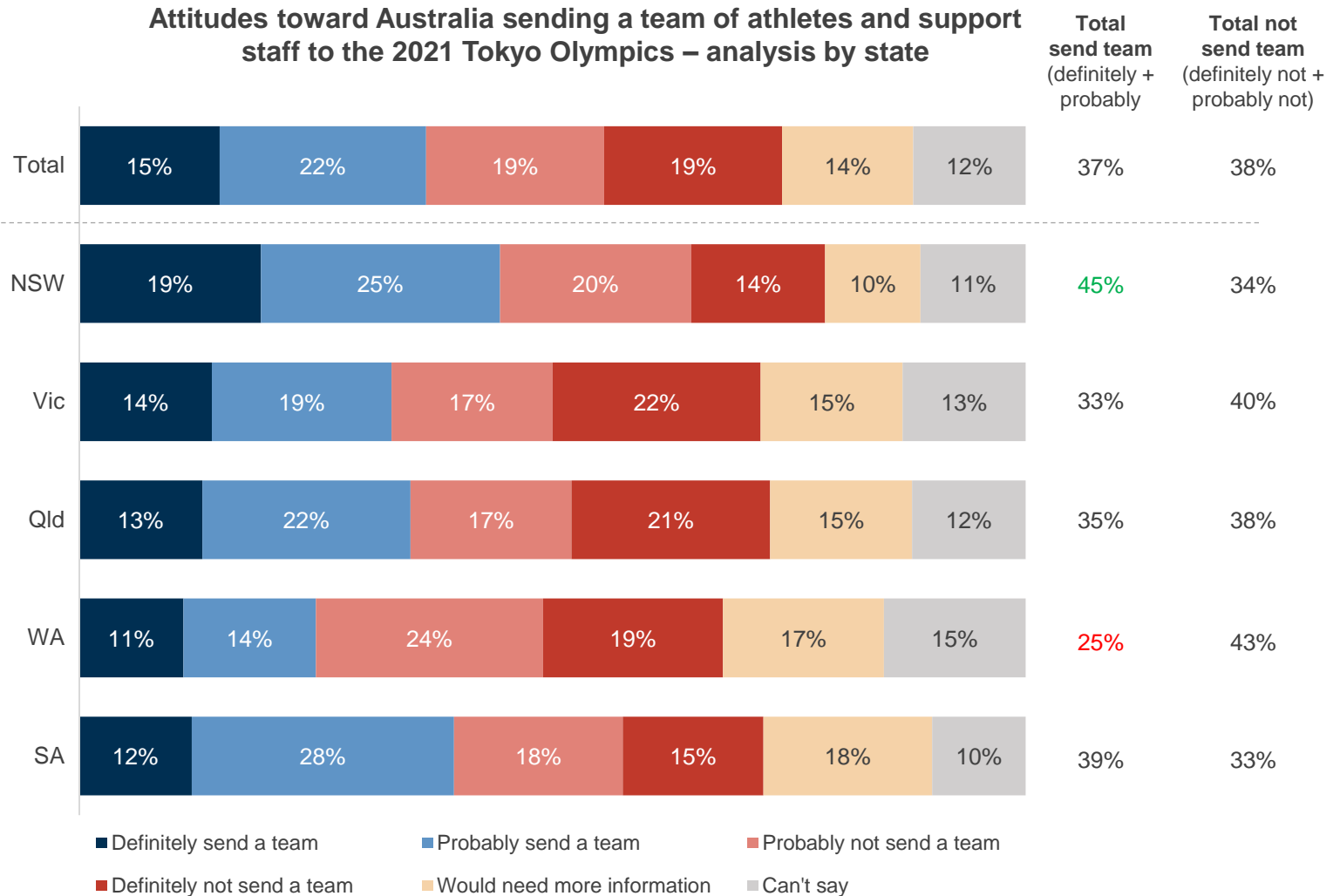


Significantly higher / lower than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.

Q66. If the Tokyo Olympics go ahead in July and August this year, do you think Australia should send a team of athletes and their support staff to compete?

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

NSW has strongest preference for sending an Australian team to Tokyo, while WA most prefer they don't go



Significantly higher / lower than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.

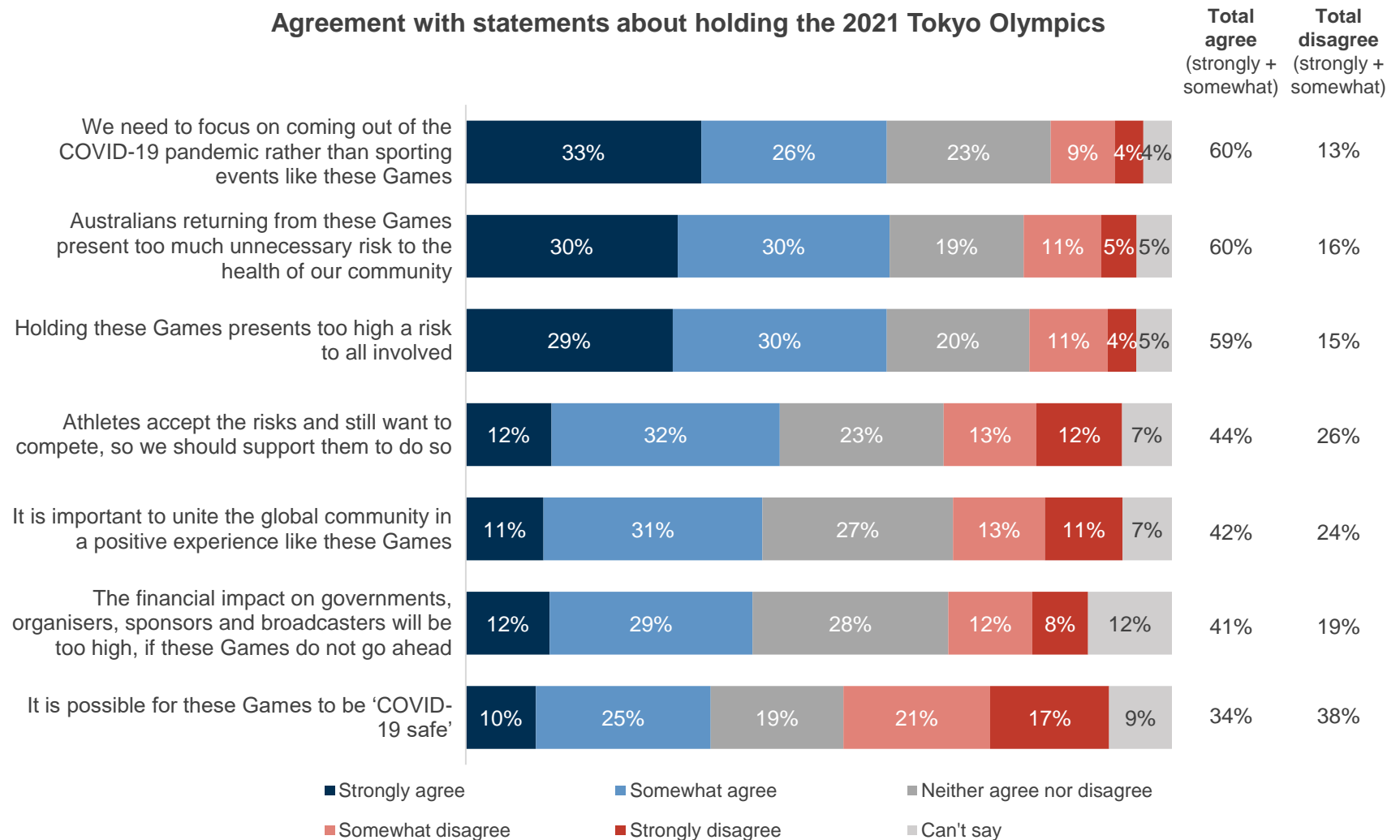
Q66. If the Tokyo Olympics go ahead in July and August this year, do you think Australia should send a team of athletes and their support staff to compete?

Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

Prevailing COVID concerns and priorities outweigh the benefits of holding the Tokyo Olympics in 2021



Agreement with statements about holding the 2021 Tokyo Olympics

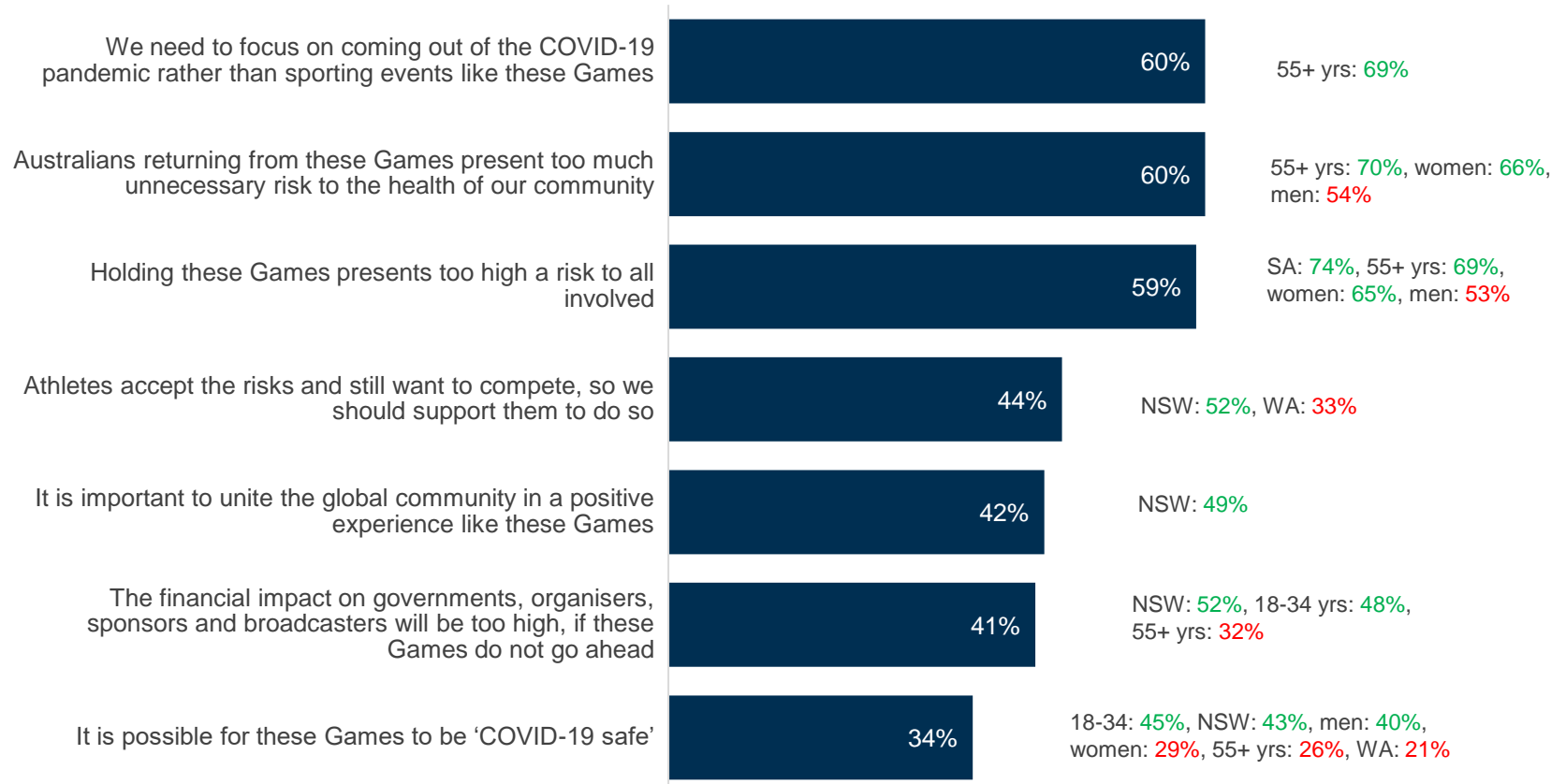


Q67. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about holding the Tokyo Olympics in July and August this year?
Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

Women and people aged 55+ years have strongest agreement that COVID risks take precedence over Olympics



Agreement with statements about holding the 2021 Tokyo Olympics (Total 'strongly' + 'somewhat' agree)





Survey methodology



National Online Survey

n=1,000 Australian adults

- Conducted Thursday 18th – Monday 22nd February 2021.
- Sample quotas on age, gender and location, with post-survey weighting to actual age / gender / location proportions from 2016 Census.
- Maximum margin of error on n=1,000 is +/-3.1% at the 95% confidence level.
- Differences of +/-1% for net scores are due to rounding.

Note: This survey was conducted nearing the end of the Australian Open tennis championship (held 7th – 21st February 2021), but before the announcement on 24th February that Brisbane has been accepted as the preferred bidder for the 2032 Summer Olympics.

**THERE ARE
OVER
25 MILLION
PEOPLE
IN AUSTRALIA...**

**FIND OUT
WHAT THEY'RE
THINKING.**



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