



TRUE ISSUES®

**SPECIAL RELEASE
FEDERAL BUDGET 2022**

October 2022



Federal Budget fails to impress Australians, among those who know about it and those that don't



Australians underwhelmed by Federal Budget

Australians are largely underwhelmed by Federal Labor's recent Budget, with only 13% saying it is good for them personally and 20% saying it is good for the nation.

On the personal front, 13% in total say the Budget is either very good (3%) or good (11%) for them personally, against 31% in total who say it is either poor (18%) or very poor (13%), while a further 36% say it is average and 20% can't say.

People aged 55 years or over (38%) and those living in regional Australia (37%) are more likely than all Australians (31%) to say the Budget is poor for them personally, while people aged 18 to 34 years are significantly less likely to be critical and say the Budget is poor either personally (20%) or for Australia as a whole (18%).

Even taking the 'average' results into account, less than a majority of Australians (49%) say the Budget is either average or good for them.

Thinking about the Budget for Australia as a whole, 20% in total say it is either very good (3%) or good (17%), against 25% in total who say it is either poor (16%) or very poor (9%), while 36% say it is average and 19% can't say.

People aged 35 to 54 years are significantly less likely than all Australians to think the Budget is good for the nation (15% compared to 20% overall).

Interestingly, analysis by both gender and household income groups reveals no significant differences on good or poor views of the Budget, either personally or for the nation.

Knowledge of Federal Budget is limited

About half (51%) of Australians say they know about last Tuesday's Budget, but this mainly comprises those who say they know a little (41%) rather than a lot (10%). The balance say they either know not (28%), nothing at all (17%) or couldn't say (4%).

Across all key demographic groups, those aged 55 years or over are the only ones with above average knowledge of the Budget (58% know a lot or a little, compared to 51% overall).

Being more informed about the Budget drives both significantly higher good (21% compared to 13% overall) and poor (38% compared 31%) about the impact of the Budget personally, but the relative differential between good and poor is no different than for all Australians.

Strong majority support for many Budget measures, but hit and miss results for targeted initiatives



More than six-in-ten support many Budget measures

A range of Budget measures are supported by strong majorities of more than 60% of Australians, including:

- Reducing the cost of medicines by cutting the maximum PBS co-payment from \$42.50 to \$30 a script (73% support)
- \$235 million for 50 Medicare urgent care clinics, to reduce pressure on public hospitals (69% support)
- Funding for an Aged Care Complaints Commissioner, Inspector General of Aged Care, nurses in aged care homes, and a pay rise for aged care workers (69% support)
- Tax changes targeting multinational corporations, to raise \$1 billion over 4 years (64% support)
- Funding for 480,000 fee-free TAFE places and an extra 20,000 university places in areas of skills shortage (62% support)
- Funding for stronger fraud detection, an extra 380 staff, and other initiatives to improve the NDIS system (62% support)
- \$1.7 billion over the next 6 years to tackle violence against women and children (61% support).

Hit and miss results on targeted initiatives

Not surprisingly, aged care users are significantly more likely to support the aged care package, childcare users are more likely to support increased childcare subsidies and people with dependent children are more likely to support extended paid parental leave.

However, NDIS users are no more likely than all Australians to support the NDIS measures (potentially thinking the fraud detection is aimed at users rather than suppliers), women are not significantly more supportive of additional funding to tackle violence against women and children and renters are not more likely to support the housing affordability measures.

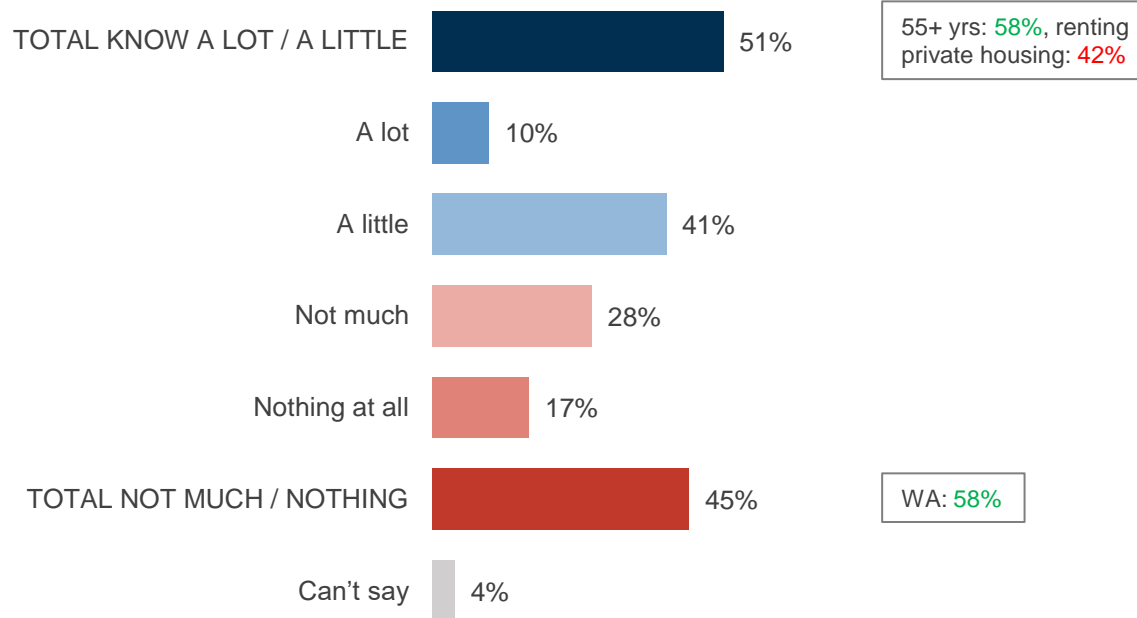
Given the relatively high levels of support for individual measures compared to the overall poor reception of the Budget, it could be argued that it is a case of people having just not heard enough of the detail. However, support versus opposition for the various Budget varies inconsistently between those who have little knowledge of the Budget compared to those with knowledge, even the well informed – so level of knowledge is not a key differentiator of responses.

It may just be that the Government failed to address people's key burning concerns on their most important issue, cost of living.

One-in-two Australians know something about the Budget, but only 10% say they are very well informed



Knowledge of 2022 Federal Budget measures



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

Q. The Federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, delivered the first budget of the new Federal Labor Government on Tuesday, 25th October.

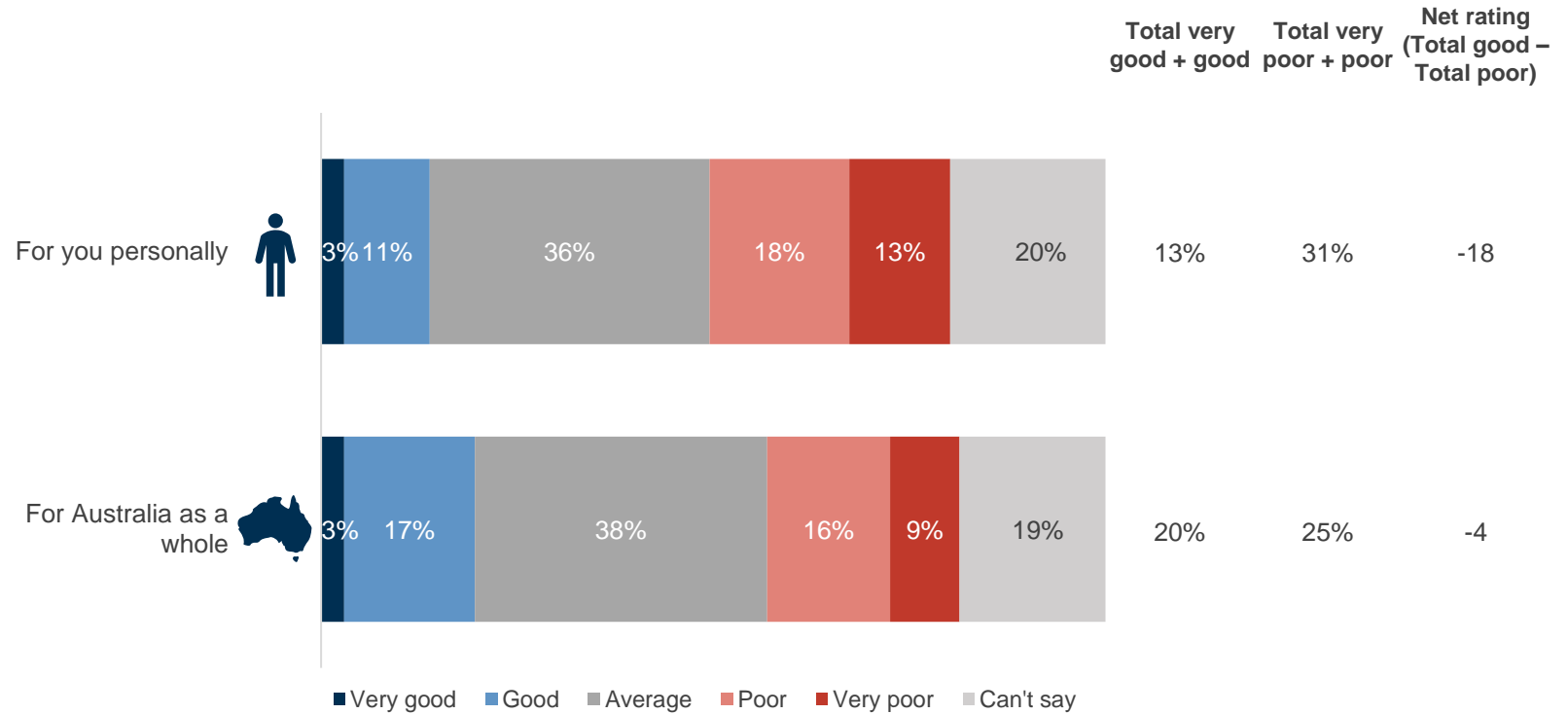
Firstly, how much would you say you know about Tuesday's budget?

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

The Budget was not received well, particularly on the personal front



Rating of 2022 Federal Budget

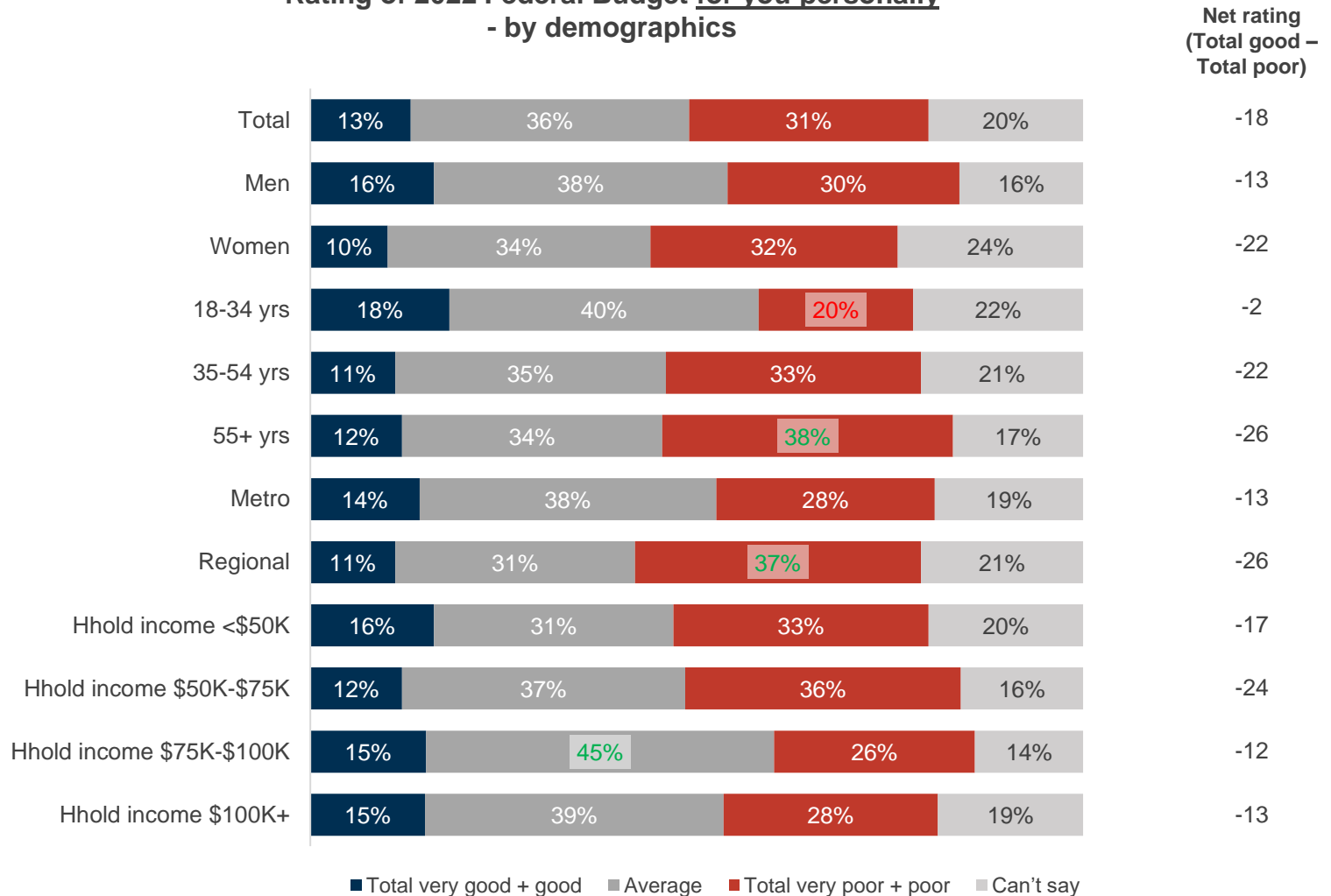


Q. How would you rate the budget for you personally? / Q. And how would you rate the budget for Australia as a whole?
 Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

All key demographics net negative on Budget personally, with above average poor ratings for older and regional



Rating of 2022 Federal Budget for you personally
- by demographics

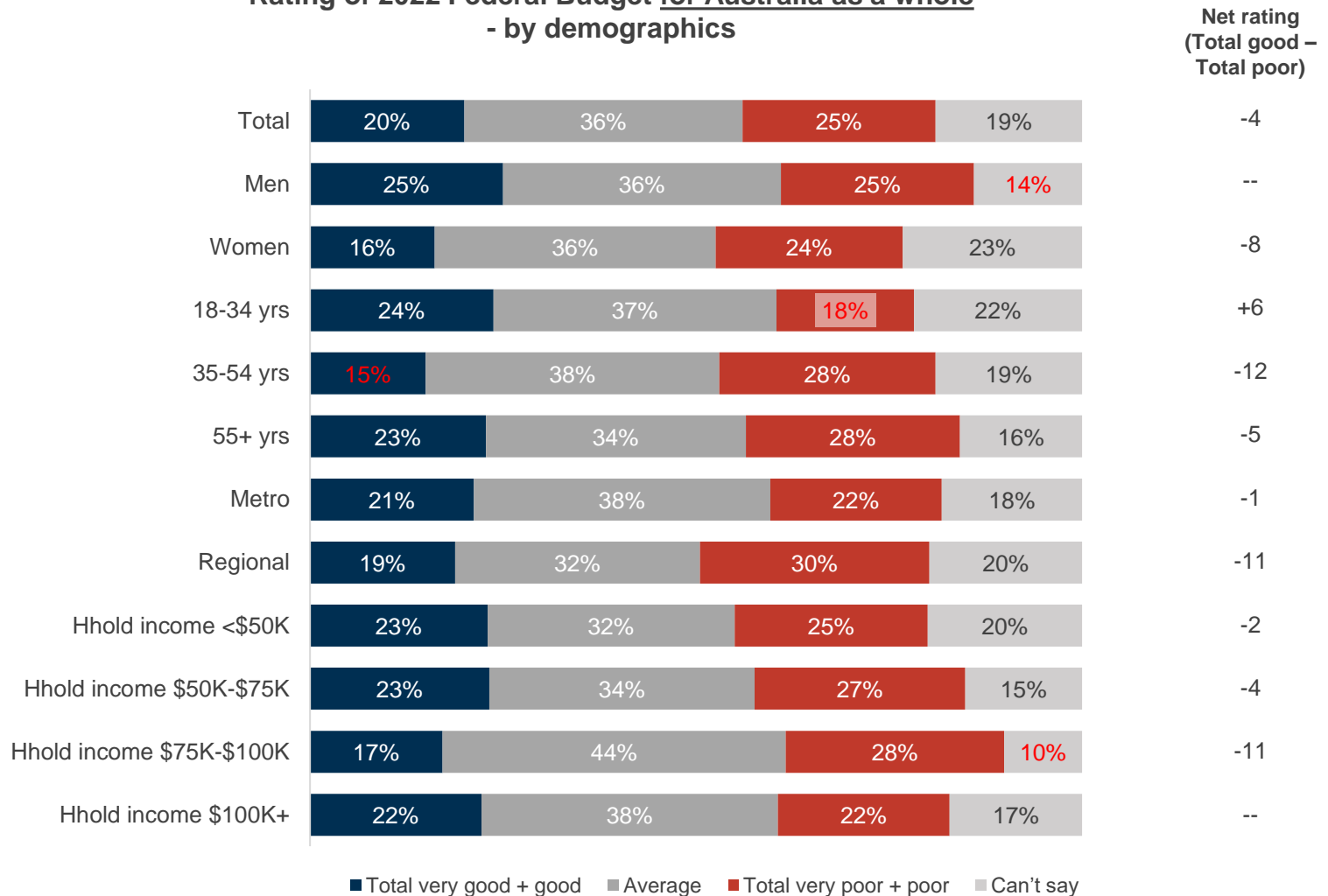


Significantly higher / lower than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.
 Q. How would you rate the budget for you personally?
 Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

Younger people are net positive on Budget for nation as a whole; middle aged are significantly less positive



**Rating of 2022 Federal Budget for Australia as a whole
- by demographics**

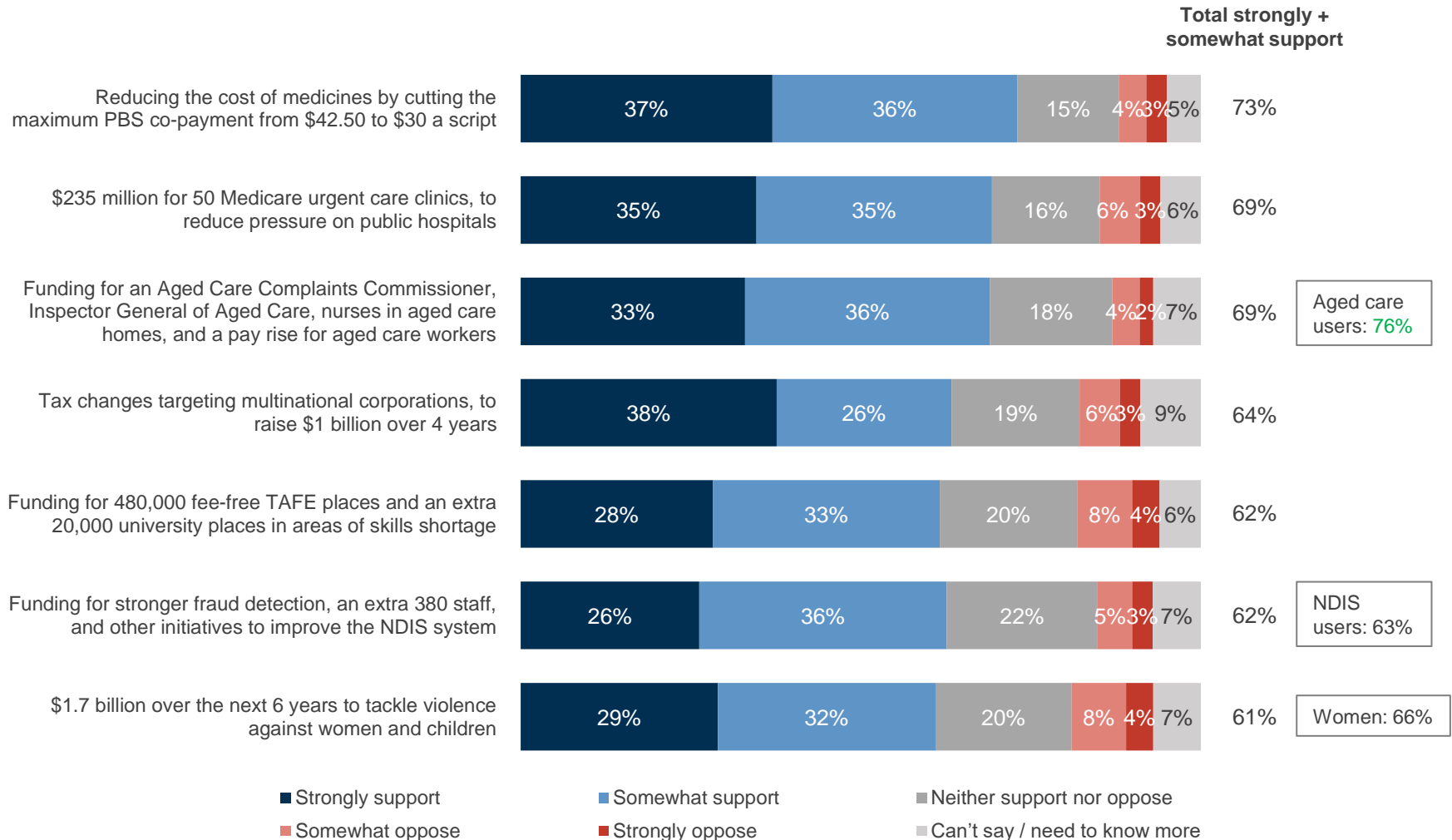


Significantly *lower* than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.
 Q. And how would you rate the budget for Australia as a whole?
 Base: All respondents (n=1,000).



There is strong majority support for many Budget measures, belying its poor overall reception

Support for measures contained in the 2022 Federal Budget

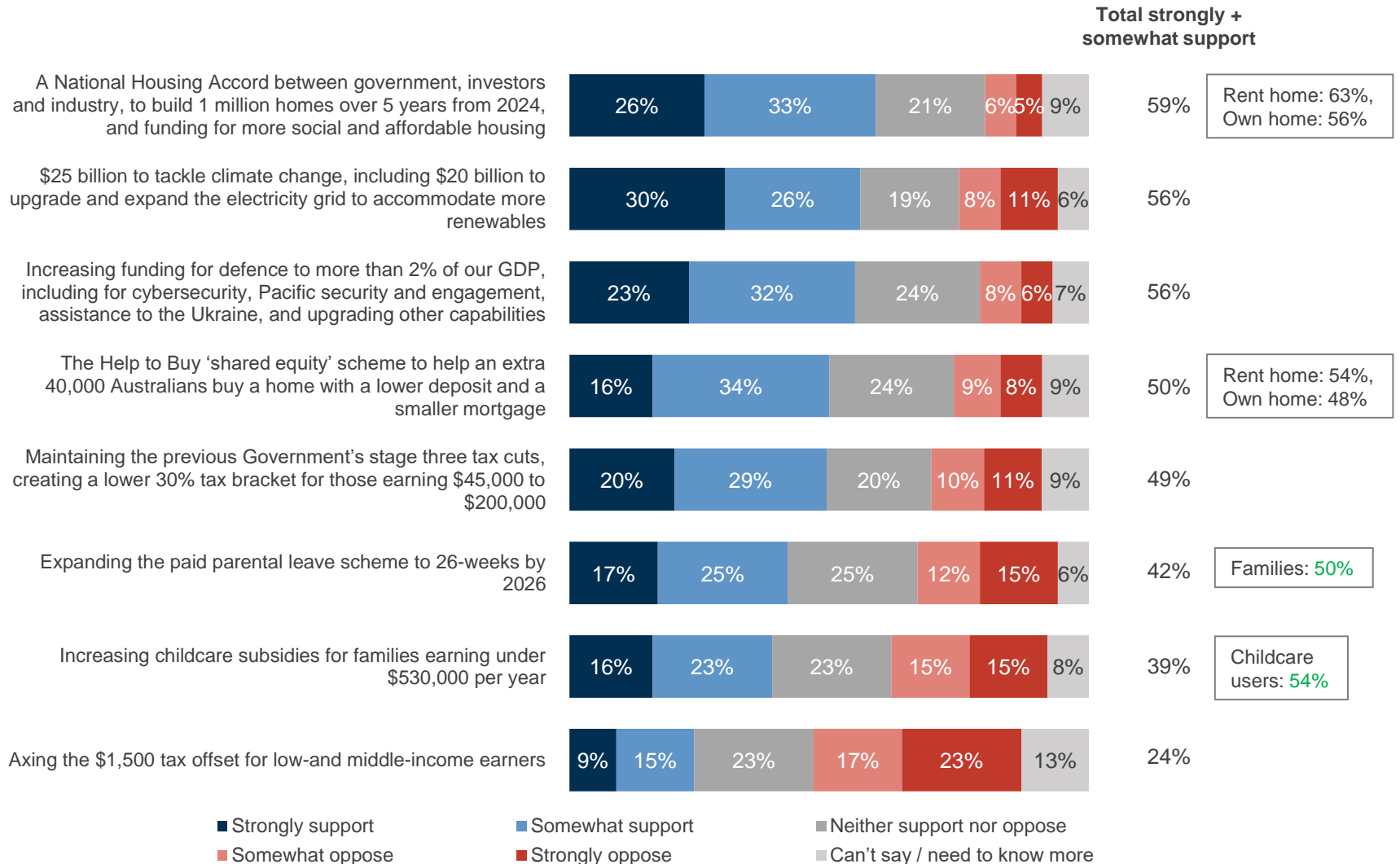


Significantly higher than the national total at the 95% confidence interval.
 Q. Do you support or oppose the following measures contained in the Federal Government's 2022 Budget?
 Base: All respondents (n=1,000).

Axing the \$1,500 low and middle-income tax offset is the only measure to attract more opposition than support



Support for measures contained in the 2022 Federal Budget (cont'd)



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

Q. Do you support or oppose the following measures contained in the Federal Government's 2022 Budget?

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

Younger Australians are less supportive of most well supported Budget measures, older people more supportive



Support for measures contained in the 2022 Federal Budget - by demographics (Total strongly + somewhat support)

Support for Budget measures	Total	Men	Women	18-34 yrs	35-54 yrs	55+ yrs	Metro	Regional	Hhold income <\$50K	Hhold income \$50K-\$75K	Hhold income \$75K-\$100K	Hhold income \$100K+
Reducing the cost of medicines by cutting the maximum PBS co-payment from \$42.50 to \$30 a script	73%	70%	76%	65%	68%	84%	70%	79%	75%	78%	65%	75%
\$235 million for 50 Medicare urgent care clinics, to reduce pressure on public hospitals	69%	66%	72%	58%	68%	78%	68%	71%	71%	66%	62%	74%
Funding for an Aged Care Complaints Commissioner, Inspector General of Aged Care, nurses in aged care homes, and a pay rise for aged care workers	69%	65%	72%	59%	62%	81%	66%	74%	72%	66%	66%	70%
Tax changes targeting multinational corporations, to raise \$1 billion over 4 years	64%	66%	63%	54%	61%	75%	65%	63%	65%	63%	61%	71%
Funding for 480,000 fee-free TAFE places and an extra 20,000 university places in areas of skills shortage	62%	59%	64%	53%	59%	71%	61%	63%	67%	59%	55%	64%
Funding for stronger fraud detection, an extra 380 staff, and other initiatives to improve the NDIS system	62%	61%	64%	51%	57%	76%	60%	68%	65%	63%	63%	66%
\$1.7 billion over the next 6 years to tackle violence against women and children	61%	56%	66%	57%	54%	71%	61%	62%	63%	58%	57%	65%

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

Q. Do you support or oppose the following measures contained in the Federal Government's 2022 Budget?

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

Younger Australians are more supportive of expanded paid parental leave and increased childcare subsidies



Support for measures contained in the 2022 Federal Budget (cont'd) - by demographics (Total strongly + somewhat support)

Support for Budget measures	Total	Men	Women	18-34 yrs	35-54 yrs	55+ yrs	Metro	Regional	Hhold income <\$50K	Hhold income \$50K-\$75K	Hhold income \$75K-\$100K	Hhold income \$100K+
A National Housing Accord between government, investors and industry, to build 1 million homes over 5 years from 2024, and funding for more social and affordable housing	59%	56%	61%	59%	50%	66%	58%	61%	60%	58%	54%	61%
\$25 billion to tackle climate change, including \$20 billion to upgrade and expand the electricity grid to accommodate more renewables	56%	53%	59%	55%	52%	60%	56%	55%	55%	57%	54%	58%
Increasing funding for defence to more than 2% of our GDP, including for cybersecurity, Pacific security and engagement, assistance to the Ukraine, and upgrading other capabilities	56%	54%	57%	44%	51%	69%	53%	62%	61%	57%	49%	58%
The Help to Buy 'shared equity' scheme to help an extra 40,000 Australians buy a home with a lower deposit and a smaller mortgage	50%	52%	49%	49%	43%	57%	50%	50%	51%	55%	47%	50%
Maintaining the previous Government's stage three tax cuts, creating a lower 30% tax bracket for those earning \$45,000 to \$200,000	49%	49%	50%	51%	52%	46%	49%	49%	39%	46%	52%	64%
Expanding the paid parental leave scheme to 26-weeks by 2026	42%	40%	44%	56%	39%	34%	44%	38%	35%	37%	44%	54%
Increasing childcare subsidies for families earning under \$530,000 per year	39%	36%	42%	47%	36%	36%	39%	39%	37%	36%	36%	48%
Axing the \$1,500 tax offset for low-and middle-income earners	24%	26%	22%	28%	25%	20%	25%	22%	23%	25%	24%	27%

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

Q. Do you support or oppose the following measures contained in the Federal Government's 2022 Budget?

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



Survey methodology



National Online Survey

n=1,000 Australian adults

- Conducted Friday 28th – Monday 31st October 2022.
- Sample quotas on age, gender and location, with post-survey weighting to actual age / gender / location proportions from Census data.
- 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.

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

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



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