

NOVEMBER 2023

THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA

A Survey of the Values and Beliefs of Young Australians



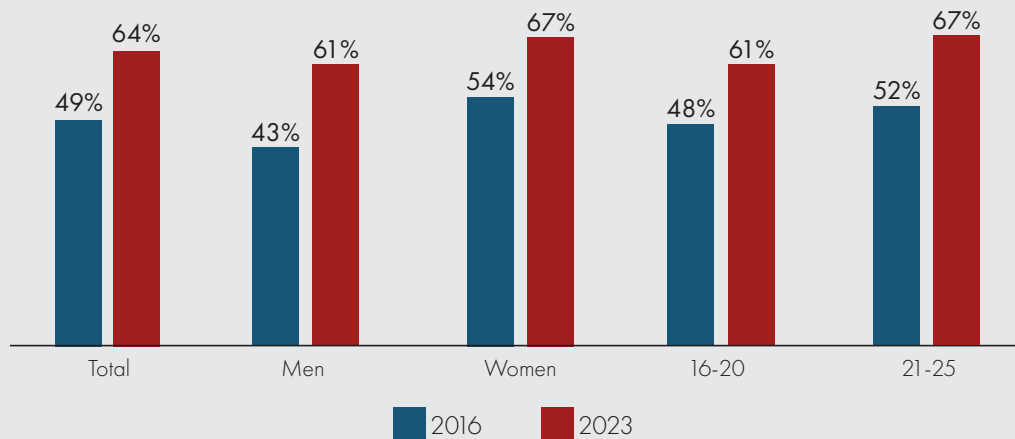
FUTURE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS

Young Australians are aspirational but believe they will be worse off than their parents' generation

1. Do you think your generation will be better off, worse off, or about the same as your parents' generation?

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
Better off	17%	17%	16%	17%	16%
Worse off	64%	61%	67%	61%	67%
About the same	15%	17%	13%	18%	13%
Don't know	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%

Percentage of young Australians who think they will be worse off than their parents' generation in 2016 and 2023



The majority of young Australians think they will be worse off than their parent's generation.

Pessimism about the future has increased from 49% in 2016 to 64% in 2023.

Pessimism about the future was broadly consistent across gender and age demographics.

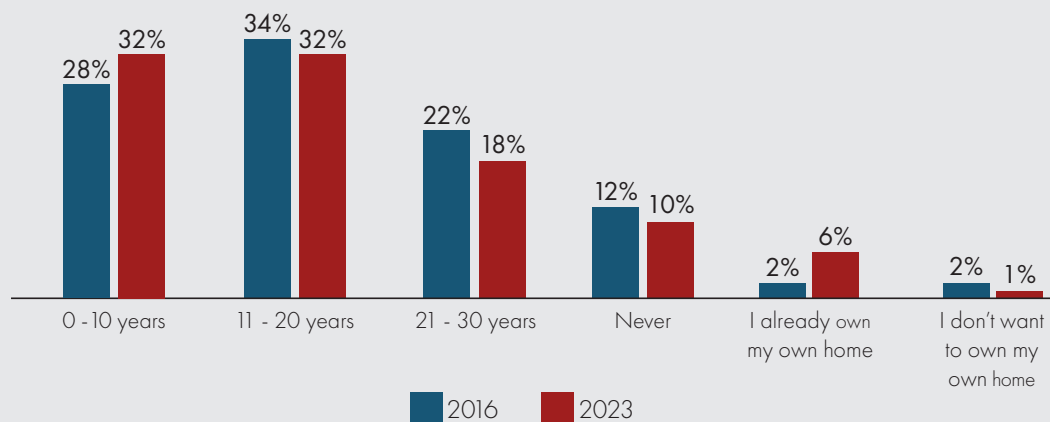
FUTURE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS

Young Australians are aspirational but believe they will be worse off than their parent's generation

2. When do you think you will be able to afford to purchase your own home?

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
0-10 years	32%	33%	31%	30%	33%
11-20 years	32%	35%	30%	37%	29%
21-30 years	18%	17%	19%	22%	15%
Never	10%	8%	13%	9%	11%
I already own my own home	6%	6%	7%	0%	12%
I don't want to own my own home	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%

When do young Australians think they will be able to afford their own home?



The narrative that young Australians do not want to own their own home is false.

Despite financial pressures, two-thirds believe they will own their own home in two decades.

Only one in 10 either don't want to own their own home or believe they never will.

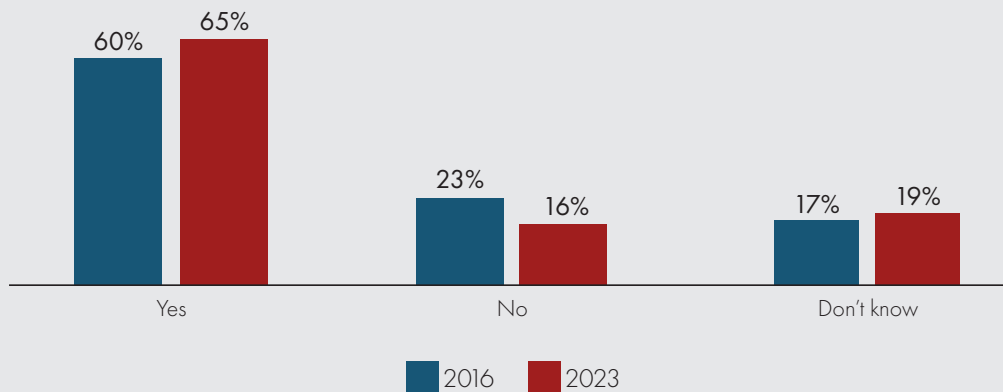
FUTURE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS

Young Australians are aspirational but believe they will be worse off than their parent's generation

3. Would you like to start your own business one day?

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
Yes	65%	69%	61%	61%	69%
No	16%	14%	17%	16%	15%
Don't know	19%	17%	22%	23%	16%

The majority of young Australians would like to start their own business one day



Two-thirds of young Australians harbour ambitions as future business owners

Young Australians have become more entrepreneurial since 2016 despite the covid disruption.

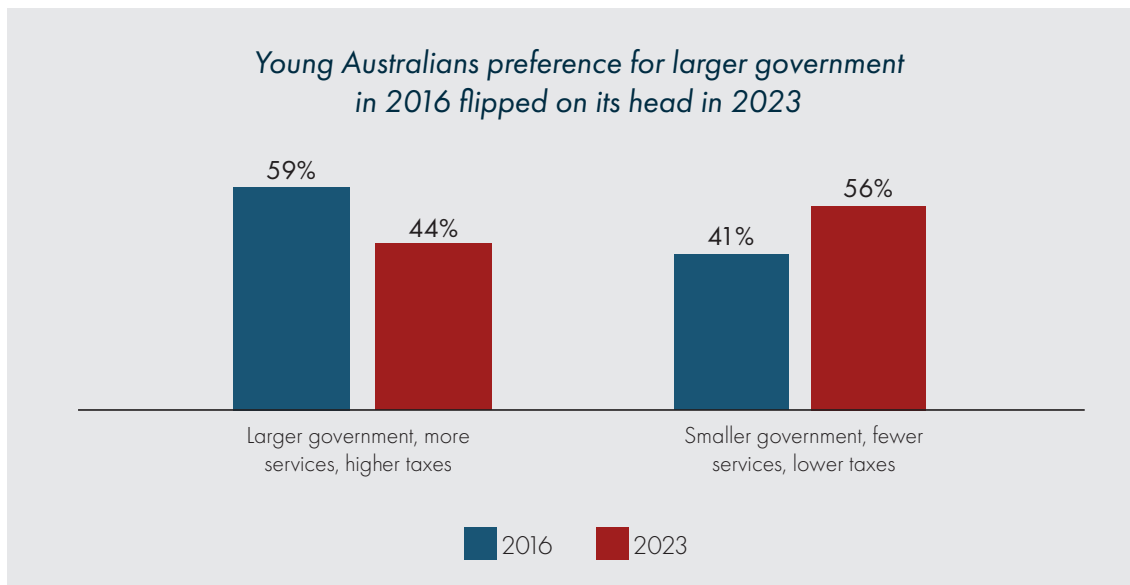
The desire to own a business is strong across age and gender demographics.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Young Australians prefer a small government which prioritises cost-of-living.

4. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services with low taxes, or a larger government providing more services with high taxes?

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
Larger government, more services, higher taxes	44%	44%	43%	43%	44%
Smaller government, fewer services, lower taxes	56%	56%	57%	57%	56%



Young Australians across the age and gender demographics are consistent in their preference for small government, with lower taxes and fewer services in 2023.

This contrasts sharply with the 2016 survey which found 59 per cent of young Australians said they would prefer larger government, more services and high taxes.

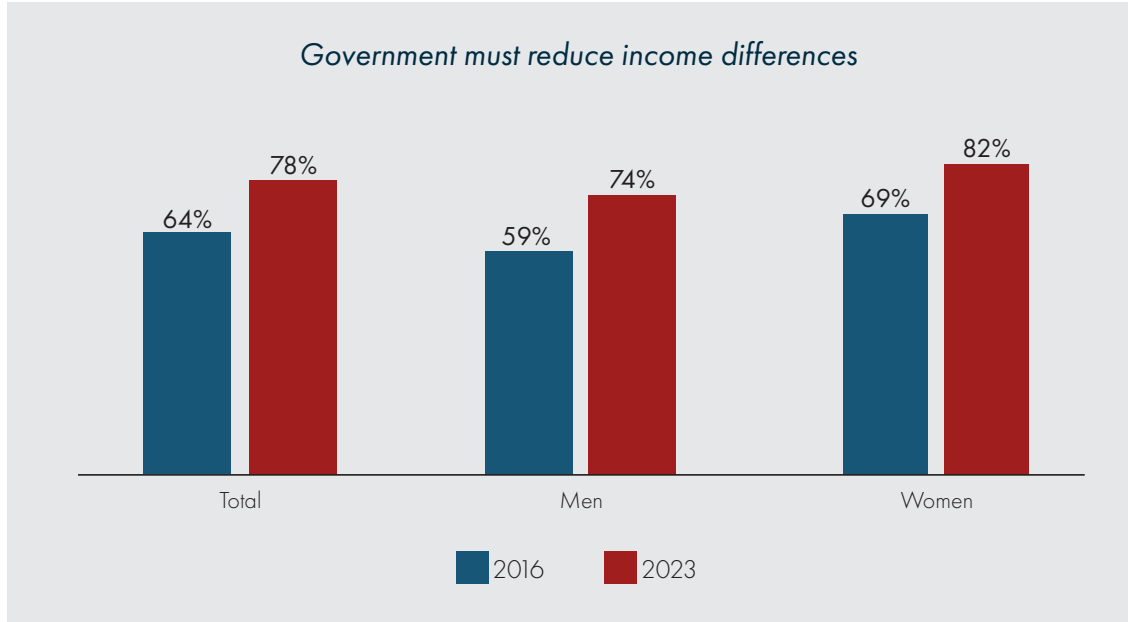
Young Australians' preference for smaller government aligns with the views of the broader community identified in other recent surveys (ANU Taking STOCK survey, 2023).

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Young Australians prefer a small government which prioritises cost-of-living.

5. Government have a responsibility to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes? (Agree/disagree)

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
Agree	78%	74%	82%	77%	78%
Disagree	22%	26%	18%	23%	22%



78% of young Australians believe government has a responsibility to reduce income differences.

Support for this statement in 2023 is much stronger than it was in 2016 where only 64% of those surveyed agreed with the statement.

Women (82%) were more likely to agree with this statement than men (74%).

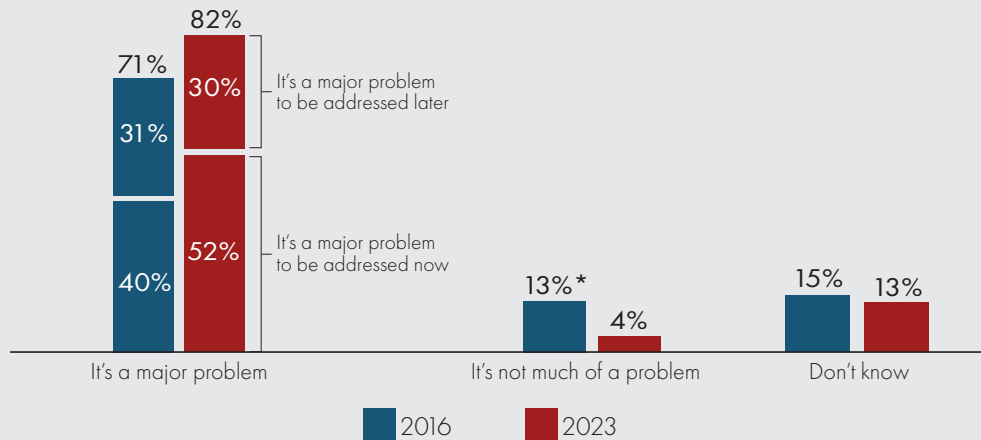
ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Young Australians prefer a small government which prioritises cost-of-living.

6. Which of these statements do you think best describes the federal budget deficit and national debt?

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
TOTAL MAJOR PROBLEM	82%	83%	81%	80%	84%
It's a major problem to address now	52%	49%	55%	49%	55%
It's a major problem to address later	30%	33%	26%	31%	29%
IT'S NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM	4%	6%	3%	4%	5%
DON'T KNOW	13%	11%	16%	16%	11%

Young Australians believe the federal budget deficit/national debt are a major problem



*The question asked in 2016 included an extra statement option for respondents to choose, "It is a minor problem" in addition to the statement option, "It is not much of a problem". The percentage of respondents who picked these two options in 2016 have been added together in this diagram.

Young Australians overwhelmingly agree that the federal budget deficit and national debt are a major problem.

The number of young Australians who think it is a major problem have increased from 71% in 2016 to 82% in 2023.

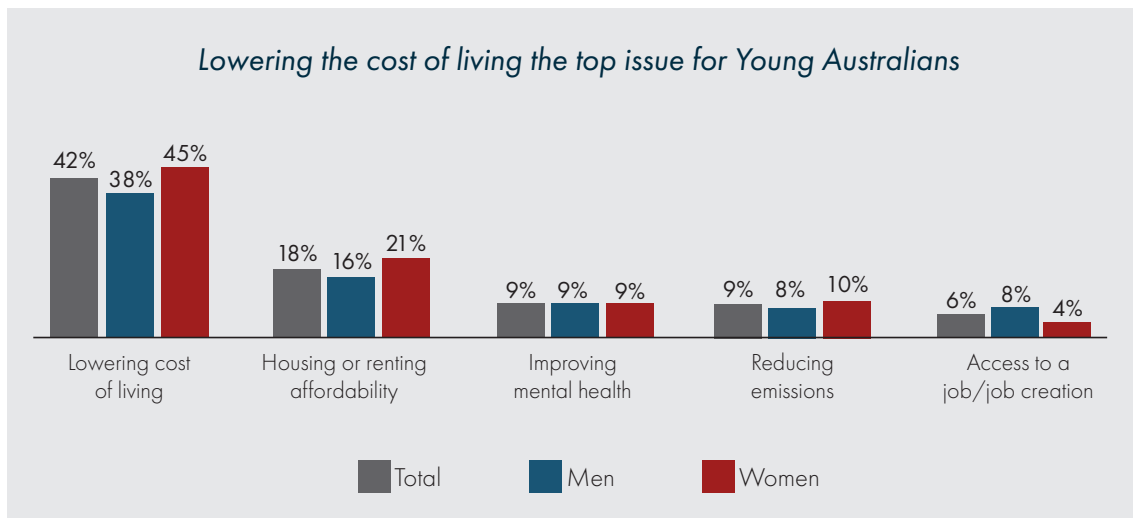
More than twice as many young Australians in the 2016 survey saw it as "not much of a problem."

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Young Australians prefer a small government which prioritises cost-of-living.

7. Out of the following, what do you believe the government should prioritise? Please rank in the order from highest to lowest priority?

COLUMN % (TOP 5 RESPONSES)	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
Lowering the cost of living	42%	38%	45%	41%	42%
Housing or rental affordability	18%	16%	21%	17%	20%
Improving mental health	9%	9%	9%	11%	7%
Reducing emissions	9%	8%	10%	12%	6%
Access to a job / job creation	6%	8%	4%	5%	7%



Lowering cost-of-living is more than twice as important to young Australians than any other issue.

Fewer than one in 10 young Australians think reducing emissions is a priority for the government.

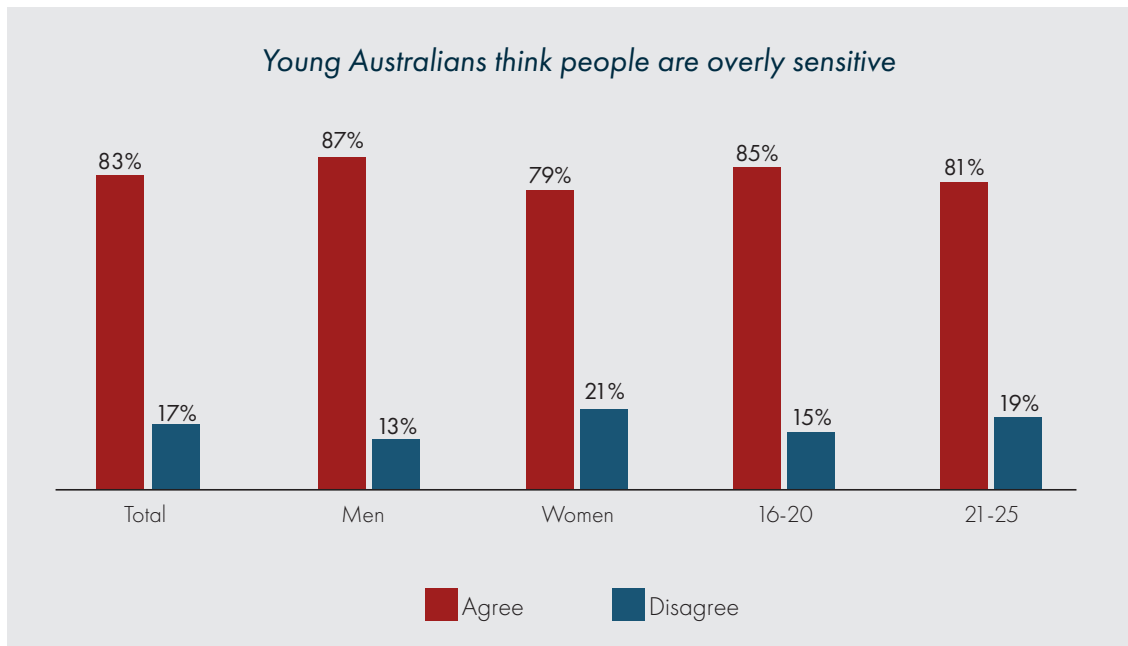
However, young Australians aged 16-20 were twice as likely to list reducing emissions as a top priority than their 21 to 25-year-old counterparts.

CENSORSHIP

Young Australians strongly oppose censorship and believe that activism has gone too far

8. I think a lot more people today are overly sensitive and likely to take offence at ideas they disagree with (agree/disagree).

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
Agree	83%	87%	79%	85%	81%
Disagree	17%	13%	21%	15%	19%



A large majority of young Australians (83%) think more people today are overly sensitive and likely to take offence at ideas they disagree with.

Young Australians aged 16-17 were the most likely to agree with this statement at 90% while those who had received a university education were least likely at 75%.

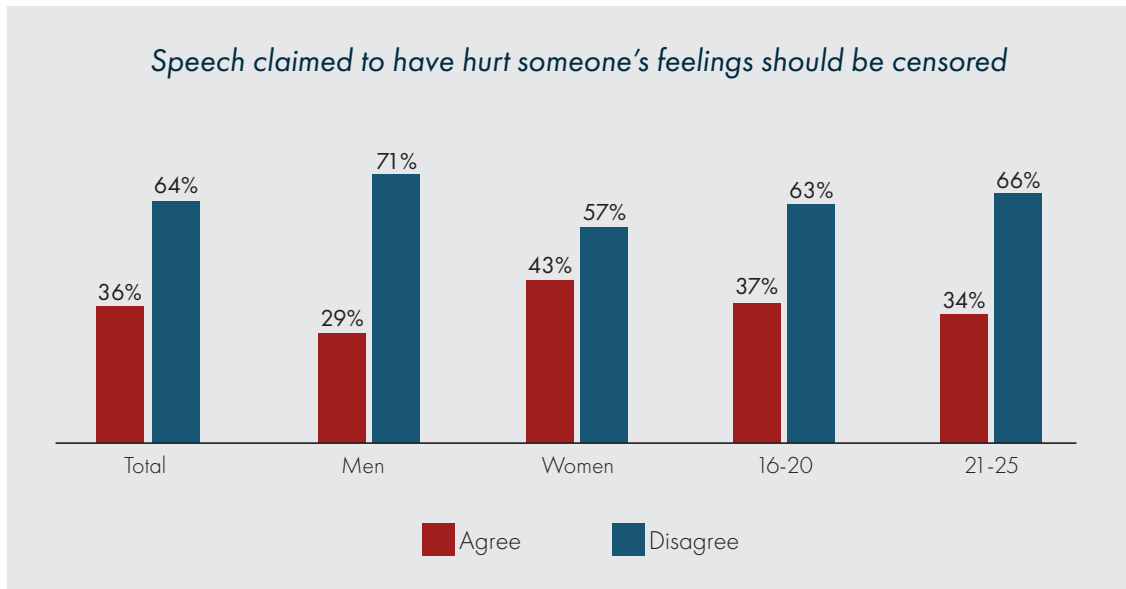
Men at 87% were more likely to agree with this statement than women at 79%.

CENSORSHIP

Young Australians strongly oppose censorship and believe that activism has gone too far

9. Speech which is claimed to have hurt someone's feelings should be censored (agree/disagree).

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
Agree	36%	29%	43%	37%	34%
Disagree	64%	71%	57%	63%	66%



The strong majority of young Australians explicitly oppose censorship.

Men at 71% were far more likely to oppose censorship than women at 57%.

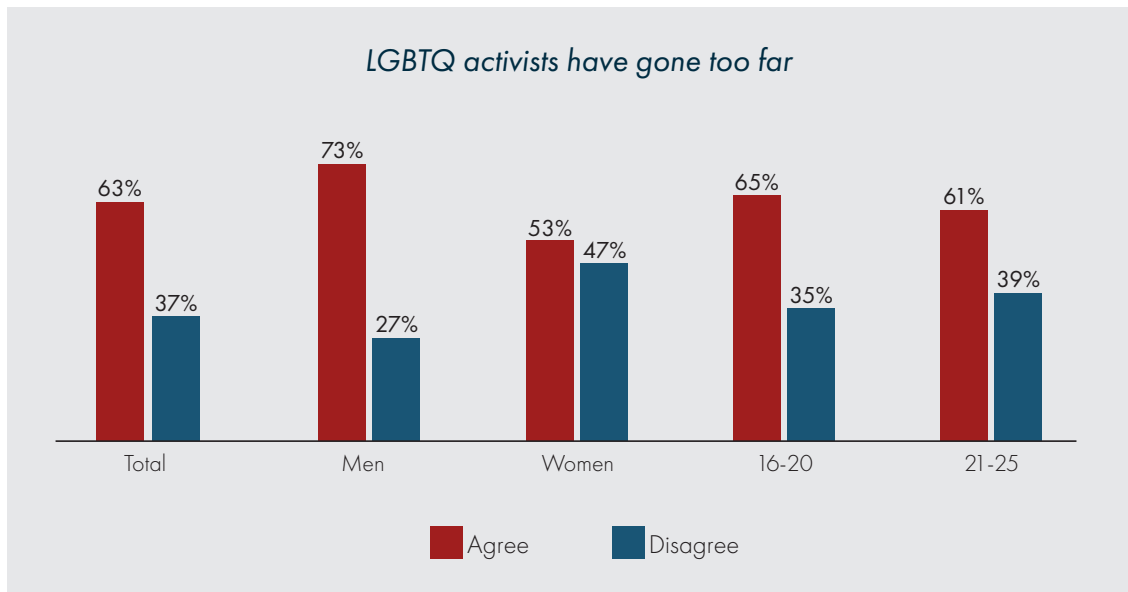
Women aged 16-20 were the least likely to oppose censorship at 55% followed closely by those with a university education at 56%.

CENSORSHIP

Young Australians strongly oppose censorship and believe that activism has gone too far

10. Having achieved acceptance in the broader community, some LGBTQ activists have gone too far and are now imposing their views on other Australians (agree/disagree).

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
Agree	63%	73%	53%	65%	61%
Disagree	37%	27%	47%	35%	39%



A majority of young Australians (63%) agreed that LGBTQ activist have gone too far and are now imposing their views on other Australians.

Young Australians aged 16-20 were more likely to agree that LGBTQ activists had gone too far than those aged 21-25.

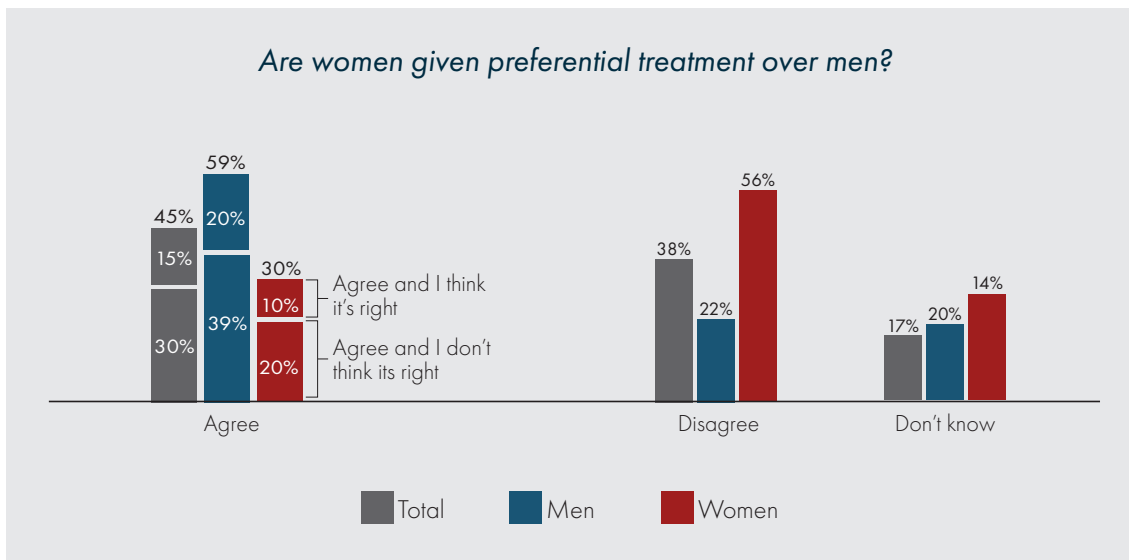
Young Australians who had received a vocational education were 10% more likely to agree that LGBTQ activists had gone too far than those who had received a university education.

FEMINISM

Young Australian men and women are fundamentally divided by feminism

11. Do you agree that women today are sometimes given preferential treatment over men when going for a job, pay rise or promotion, and do you think that is right?

COLUMN %	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	16-20	21-25
TOTAL AGREE	45%	59%	30%	43%	47%
Agree, and I think it's right	15%	20%	10%	13%	17%
Agree, and I don't think it's right	30%	39%	21%	29%	30%
I DISAGREE	38%	22%	56%	39%	38%
DON'T KNOW	17%	20%	14%	18%	16%



More than half of respondents either disagreed that women are sometimes given preferential treatment, or thought that if it was happening, it was a good thing.

45% of respondents agreed that women are given preferential treatment over men, with twice as many men agreeing than women.

Feminism is a fundamental source of disagreement between young men and women. Men think feminism has gone too far and preferential treatment for women is not right. Women do not think they receive preferential treatment or if they do, they think it is right.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The nationwide online survey of n=848 Australians aged 16-25 years of age was conducted by an independent market research agency (Insightfully Pty Ltd) from 28 July to 7 August from multiple panel pools of more than 400,000 Australians.

The survey includes some questions identical to those asked in a survey published by the IPA in 2016, to track young people's changing views over the past seven years and adds some new questions. The blended panel methodology included direct youth targeting and diverse recruitment channels.

To ensure a representative sample of young Australians completed the survey, quotas targets were applied on age, gender and location. Data were post-weighted based on the latest ABS 2021 Census population statistics by location (metropolitan and regional) within each state, and then individually within states by gender, age and education.

Smaller sub-samples may have varying margins of error and the total sample results are an accurate representation of the views of Australians 16-25 years of age to within +/-3.5 percentage points (at the 95% confidence interval).