

**Essential.**  
RESEARCH

# Mapping civic disposition, media use and affective polarisation

RESEARCH REPORT

**Prepared for Monash University**

December 2024



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## Background and methodology

# Background

Essential Research was commissioned by Monash University to conduct social research to understand how civic disposition relates to media usage as well as exploring other factors such as belief in conspiracy theories and affective polarisation.

The research was designed in collaboration with a Monash University research group, which included Mark Andrejevic, Zala Volcic, Isabella Mahoney and Fae Gehren as the main researchers. This report is part of a Discovery Project for the Australian Research Council.

The research will also be used to inform the project 'Mapping Australians Media Use and Civic Attitudes' and the research group will look to publish a range of articles delving deeper into specific areas of the research.

## Research objectives included:

- Create a civic disposition rubric which categorises participants in groups and identifies demographics who are more likely to have high or low civic disposition.
- Gauge overall media usage and assess media usage patterns among different civic disposition groups.
- Measure belief in conspiracy theories and see how belief in conspiracy theories correlates to levels of civic disposition and media usage.
- Calculate affective polarisation at an overall level and amongst different voter groups and investigate how affective polarisation relates to civic disposition and media usage.



# Methodology

## Quantitative

### Approach:

Online survey: Participants were invited to participate and completed the survey online without an interviewer present and incentives were offered for participation.

### Sample:

The target population was all Australian residents aged 18+. Quotas were applied to be representative of the target population by gender, age and location.

The sample of n=2,046 participants was nationally representative of the target population. Participants were sourced via Dynata's online panel.

### Fieldwork Dates:

1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Weighting & margin of error:

RIM weighting was applied to the data using information sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The factors used in the weighting were gender, age and location.

The weighting efficiency applied to the results at a national level is 99%, which gives an effective sample size of 2,022. The maximal margin of error at the overall sample size is  $\pm 2.2\%$  (95% confidence level). The margins of error (all at 95% confidence level) for the civic disposition groups are:

Very High Civic Disposition: n=212  $\pm 6.7\%$  High Civic Disposition: n=299  $\pm 5.7\%$   
Moderate / High Civic Disposition: n=486  $\pm 4.4\%$   
Moderate / Low Civic Disposition: n=530  $\pm 4.3\%$   
Low Civic Disposition: n=311  $\pm 5.6\%$   
Very Low Civic Disposition: n=208  $\pm 6.8\%$



All Essential Research staff hold Research Society membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour. This research is also compliant with the Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards.

A hand is shown placing a wooden block on a grid of wooden blocks. A magnifying glass shadow is cast over the grid. The number '2' is inside a blue circle.

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## Key findings

# Key findings

## Age, voting intention, financial circumstance and education are among the driving factors of civic disposition

- Younger people, progressive voters (i.e. Labor and Greens), those who are financially comfortable and those with a university education are more likely to have high civic disposition.
- Conversely, middle aged people, minor party / independent voters, those who are financially struggling and those with only a school education are more likely to have low civic disposition.

## Social and commercial media are the dominant sources of news

- Commercial and social media are the most consumed media sources by participants on a daily basis and have higher numbers of heavy users compared to other sources.
- Ultimately, social and commercial media are the primary sources of information for most people when it comes to staying informed about news and current events.
- Younger people and Greens voters tend towards social media as their primary source of information, whereas older people and Coalition voters primarily use commercial media.

## There is evidence that civic disposition and media usage patterns are linked

- Those with high civic disposition are more likely than those with low civic disposition to use most listed media sources.
- In line with this, as civic disposition increases so does the average number of sources used.
- This suggests that higher media engagement is correlated to higher civic disposition.

## There are also clear differences in the primary source of information for different civic disposition groups

- Those with high civic disposition are more likely to use online newspapers and non-commercial media as primary sources of information.
- Whereas those with low civic disposition are more likely to primarily use commercial and social media.

# Key findings

## Affective polarisation largely depends on factors such as age, voting intention and financial circumstance

- High affective polarisation indicates a large difference between trust in participants' 'IN' and 'OUT' parties, while low affective polarisation indicates that there is little or no difference in the trust between participants' 'IN' and 'OUT' parties. The 'IN' party was defined as the political party that they felt closest to and the 'OUT' party was defined as the party they would be most worried about if they came to power. See slide 26 for the full explanation.
- Younger people and those who are financially comfortable are more likely to have low affective polarisation.
- Whereas older people, One Nation voters and those who are financially struggling are more likely to have high affective polarisation.
- Those with 'IN' and 'OUT' parties on opposing ends of the political spectrum also show high levels of affective polarisation, particularly those with One Nation 'IN' and Greens 'OUT'.

## Affective polarisation does not appear to correlate with civic disposition

- There is a relatively even distribution of affective polarisation scores across the six civic disposition categories.
- These findings highlight a potential area of future research.

## There are correlations between affective polarisation and media usage patterns

- As affective polarisation increases the average number of media sources used decreases.
- Those with very high affective polarisation are much more likely than those with very low affective polarisation to use commercial media as their primary source of information.
- However, these differences are likely driven by age differences between the very low and very high affective polarisation groups.

## While there is moderate belief in conspiracy theories, this does not appear to correlate with civic disposition

- Men, Coalition and One Nation voters have higher belief in conspiracy theories.
- The only conspiracy theory which shows links to civic disposition, is the climate change conspiracy (i.e. that climate change is a result of natural weather fluctuations unrelated to human activity), where those with low civic disposition are more likely to think it is true.
- Those who believe the climate change conspiracy get most of their information about news and current events from commercial and social media.

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# Civic disposition

# Civic Disposition Rubric

The Civic Disposition Rubric was created to measure participants' levels of civic disposition. The questions used to measure participants' civic disposition were based off Monash University's working definition of civic disposition, which consisted of four key factors: Trust, Civic identity, Civic value and Political views and engagement.

The Civic Disposition Rubric comprised of 18 questions. Each question followed the same structure, where participants gave their answer on a scale of 1 to 5. The end points were given labels, where 1 indicated the low civic disposition response and 5 indicated the high civic disposition response. The first question in the Civic Disposition Rubric is shown on the right as an example. Refer to the Appendix to see all the questions in the rubric.

To create the rubric, participants' scores (from 1 to 5) to the 18 questions were summed to give them an overall score ranging between 18 and 90. Participants were then grouped into six civic disposition categories based how their score relative to other participants. The very low civic disposition group contains participants with the lowest 10% of scores and the very high civic disposition group contains those with the highest 10% of scores. The table to the right illustrates the percentage of participants in each civic disposition group. It was decided to group participants into civic disposition categories based on their relative scores rather than their absolute scores because the raw civic disposition scores were grouped around the average. See the following slide for the distribution of raw civic disposition scores.

## EXAMPLE OF RUBRIC QUESTION

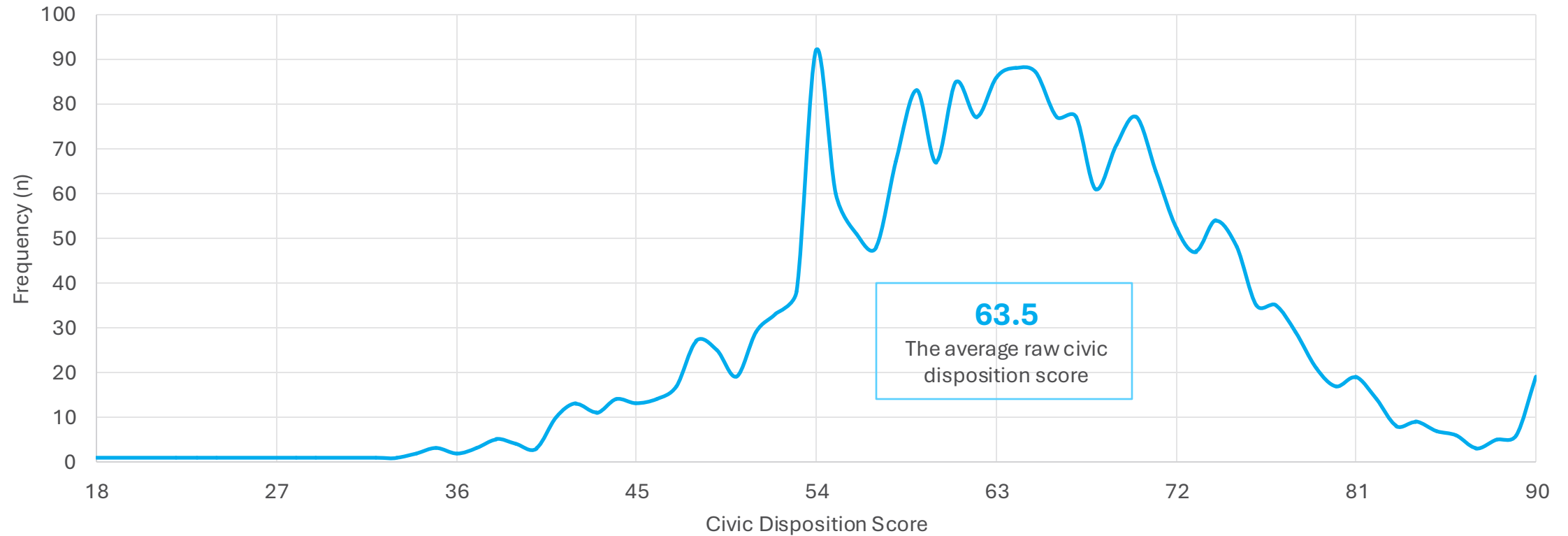
**Q. How would you rate your trust in mainstream media to report accurately?**

1. Mainstream media outlets cannot be trusted to report accurately
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Mainstream media outlets can always be trusted to be accurate in their reporting

Civic Disposition Group	%
Very High Civic Disposition	10%
High Civic Disposition	15%
Moderate / High Civic Disposition	24%
Moderate / Low Civic Disposition	26%
Low Civic Disposition	15%
Very Low Civic Disposition	10%
Total	100%

# The raw civic disposition scores are grouped around an average civic disposition score of 63.5

Civic Disposition Rubric - Raw  
Base: All participants (n=2,046)

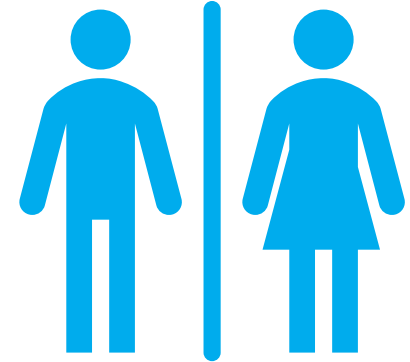


# Civic Disposition Rubric – Gender Balance

Once the Civic Disposition Rubric was created, we noticed a significant gender difference in the results, where men were more likely than women to be in high civic disposition groups and women were more likely than men to be in moderate civic disposition groups. After further investigation we discovered that this was because for 13 of the 18 Civic Disposition Rubric questions, women were more likely than men to select the mid point (3), resulting in women have lower average civic disposition scores than men. Please see the following slide for an example of this.

After extensive consideration, it was concluded that these results did not reflect an actual gender difference in civic disposition but were instead due to a research effect. The research effect being that when answering survey questions, women are less likely than men to give extreme opinions and more likely to tend towards neutral or unsure options.

To account for this research effect, men and women were categorised into the six civic disposition categories separately and then recombined. This resulted in there being an equal percentage of men and women in each civic disposition category and the Civic Disposition Rubric being gender balanced. Refer to the slide after next to see the civic disposition categories for each gender and how the absolute score ranges for each civic disposition category differ slightly for both genders.



# Women are more likely than men to select the middle option when it comes to trust in mainstream media

How would you rate your trust in mainstream media to report accurately?

Base: All participants (Overall n=2,046, Male n=995, Female n=1,043)

- 5 - Mainstream media outlets can always be trusted to be accurate in their reporting
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 - Mainstream media outlets cannot be trusted to report accurately

## Overall



## Male

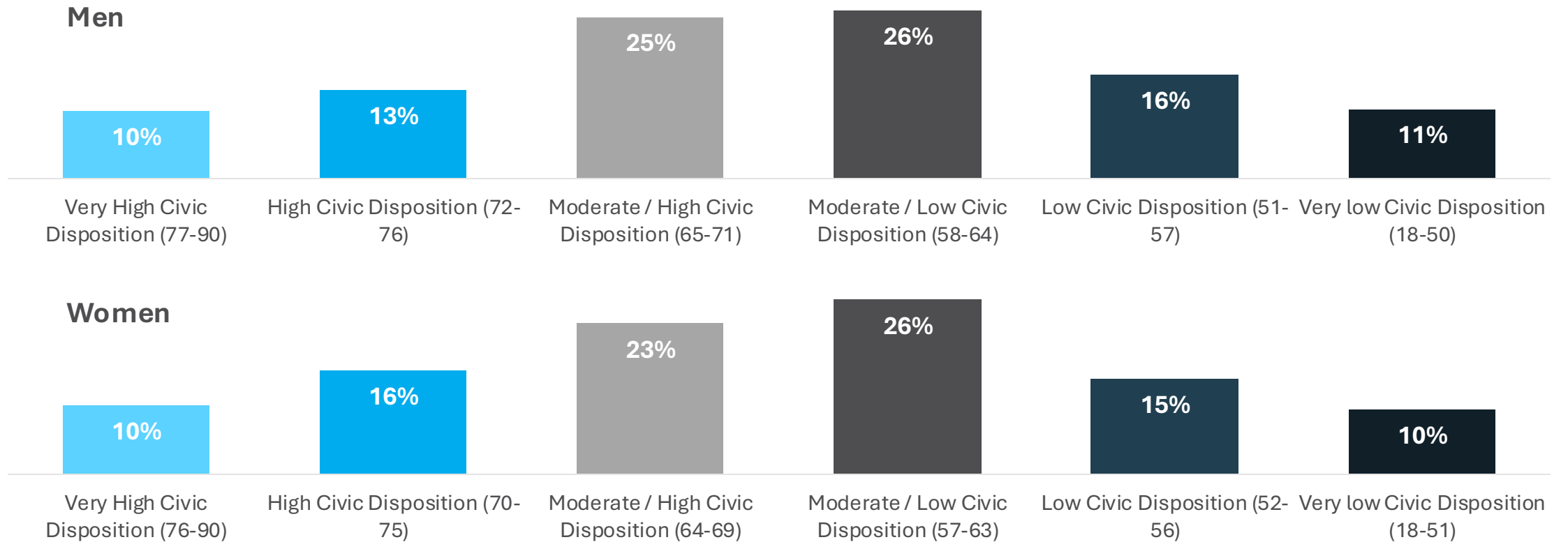


## Female



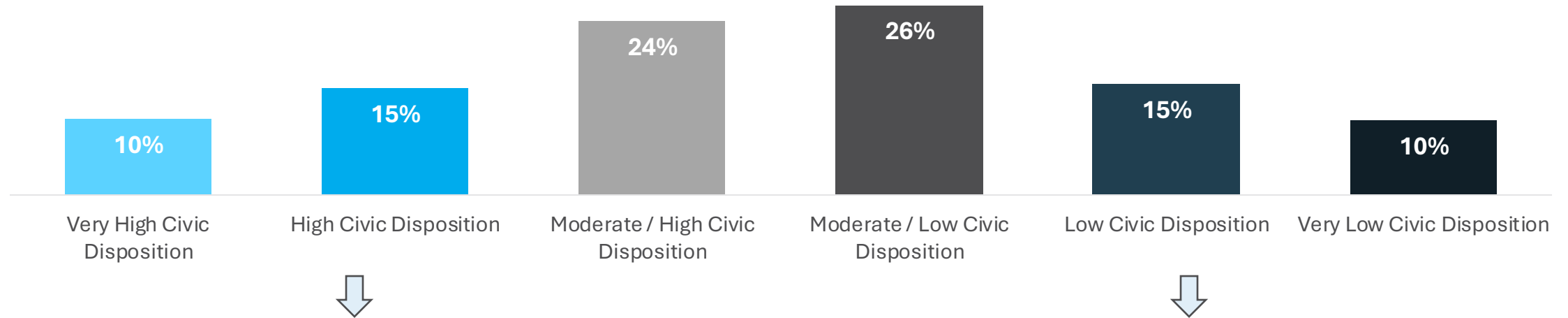
# Men and women have an equal distribution in each civic disposition category, however the absolute scores which define each category vary

Civic Disposition Rubric - Gender Balanced  
Base: All participants (Men n=995, Women n=1,043)



# Civic disposition largely varies based on factors including age, voting intention, financial circumstance and education

Civic Disposition Rubric - Gender Balanced  
Base: All participants (n=2,046)



## Those more likely to be in high civic disposition groups are:

- Those aged 18-34 (29% very high / high civic disposition)
- Labor and Greens voters (31% and 33%)
- Those who are financially comfortable (39%)
- Those with a university education (33%)
- Those living in capital cities (27%)

## Those more likely to be in low civic disposition groups are:

- Those aged 35-54 (30% low / very low civic disposition)
- Minor party / Independent voters (40%)
- Those in serious financial difficulty (33%)
- Those with only a school education (32%)



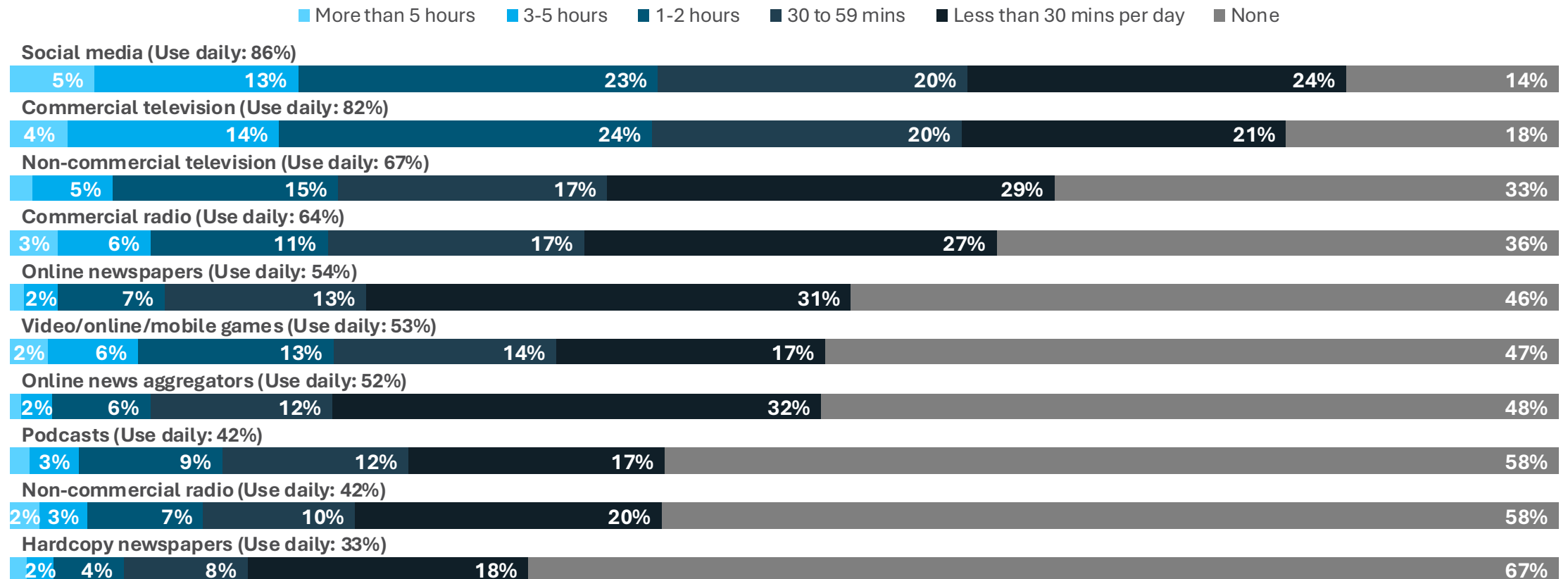
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# Media usage

# Social and commercial media are consumed the most by people in an average day

How much do you use the following on an average day?

Base: All participants (n=2,046)



# Social and commercial media also have higher numbers of heavy users compared to other sources

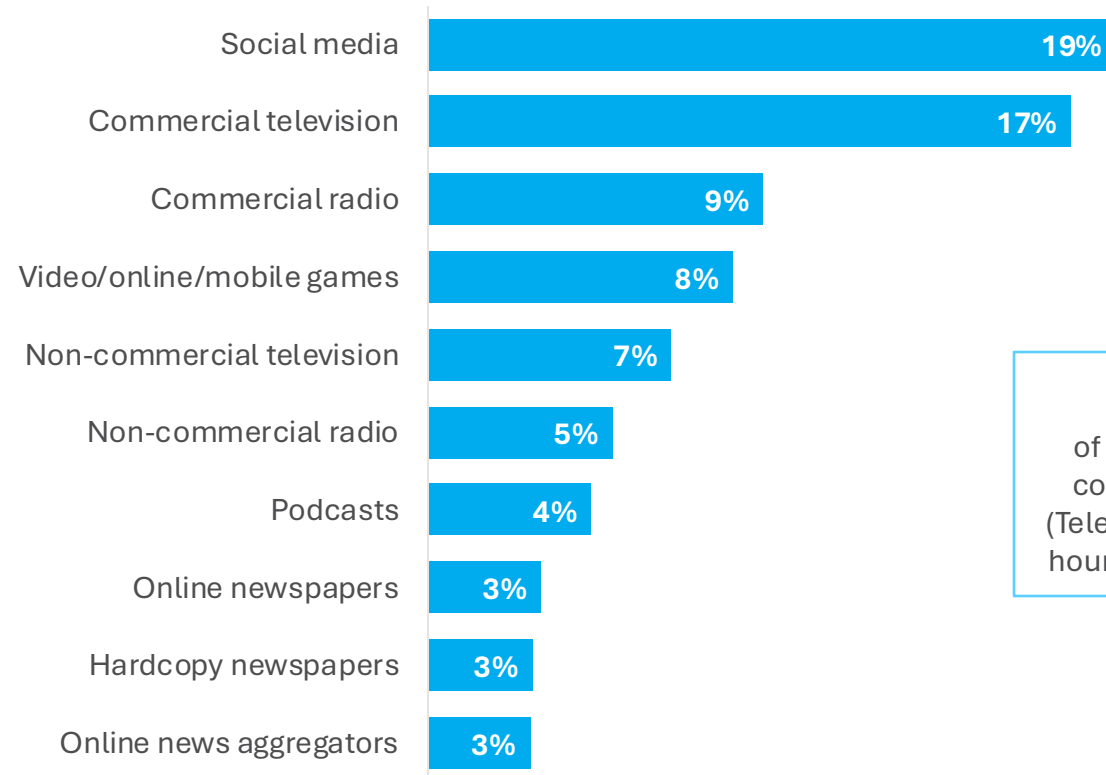
How much do you use the following on an average day? (% Heavy usage: 3 hours or more per day)

Base: All participants (n=2,046)

Almost one quarter (23%) of participants are heavy users of commercial media and 19% are heavy users of social media.

Older people (aged 55 and over) and Coalition voters are the most likely to be heavy users of commercial media (38% and 31% use commercial television or radio for 3 hours or more per day).

Whereas younger people (aged 18 to 34) are more likely to be heavy users of social media (38%), video games (17%) and podcasts (9%).



**23%**  
of participants use commercial media (Television/Radio) for 3 hours or more per day.

# Social and commercial media are the primary source of information for most people

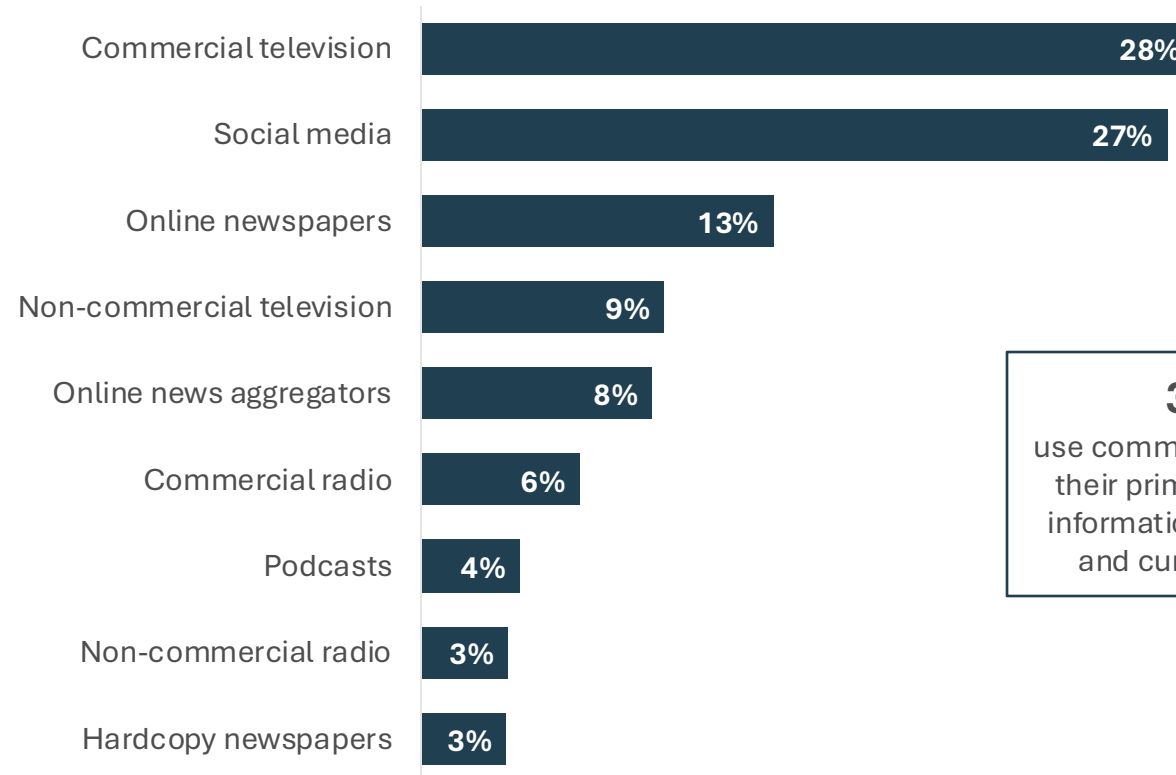
Where do you get most of your information about news and current events?

Base: All participants (n=2,046)

Commercial media and social media are the most popular primary sources of information for participants (34% and 27%).

Again, older people (aged 55 and over) and Coalition voters are the most likely to use commercial media as their primary source of information (49% and 41% respectively).

Over half (53%) of younger people (aged 18 to 34) and 43% of Greens voters get most of their information about news and current events from social media.



**34%**  
use commercial media as their primary source of information about news and current events.

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# Media usage & civic disposition

# Those with high civic disposition are more likely to use all listed sources daily compared to those with low civic disposition

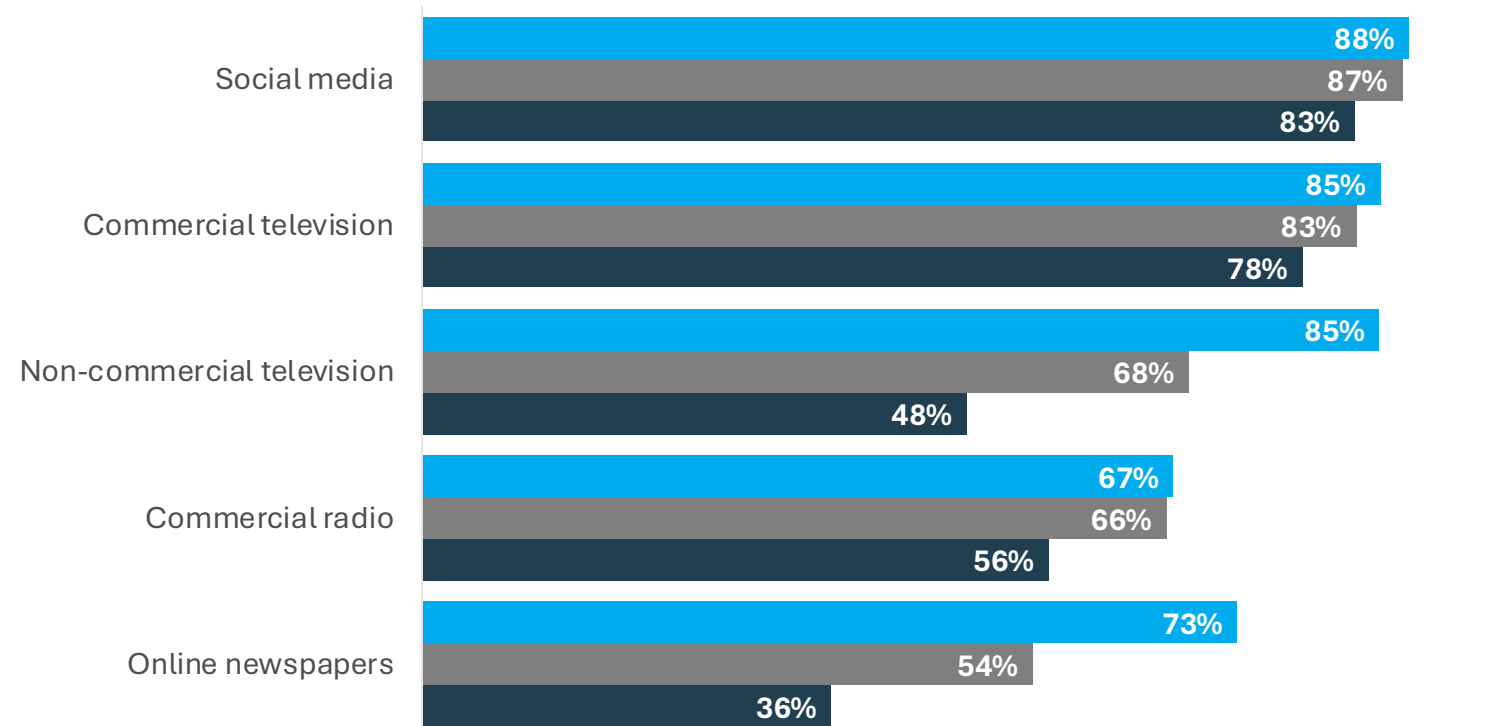
How much do you use the following on an average day? (% Use daily) \*Selected options shown

Base: All participants (Very High / High Civic Disposition n=511, Moderate Civic Disposition n=1,016, Low / Very Low Civic Disposition n=519)

■ Very High / High Civic Disposition ■ Moderate Civic Disposition ■ Low / Very Low Civic Disposition

As well as the sources shown to the right, those with high civic disposition are also more likely than those with low civic disposition to use the following sources daily:

- Video games (62% to 40% use daily)
- Online news aggregators (69% to 34%)
- Podcasts (60% to 30%)
- Non-commercial radio (65% to 26%)
- Hardcopy newspapers (51% to 20%)

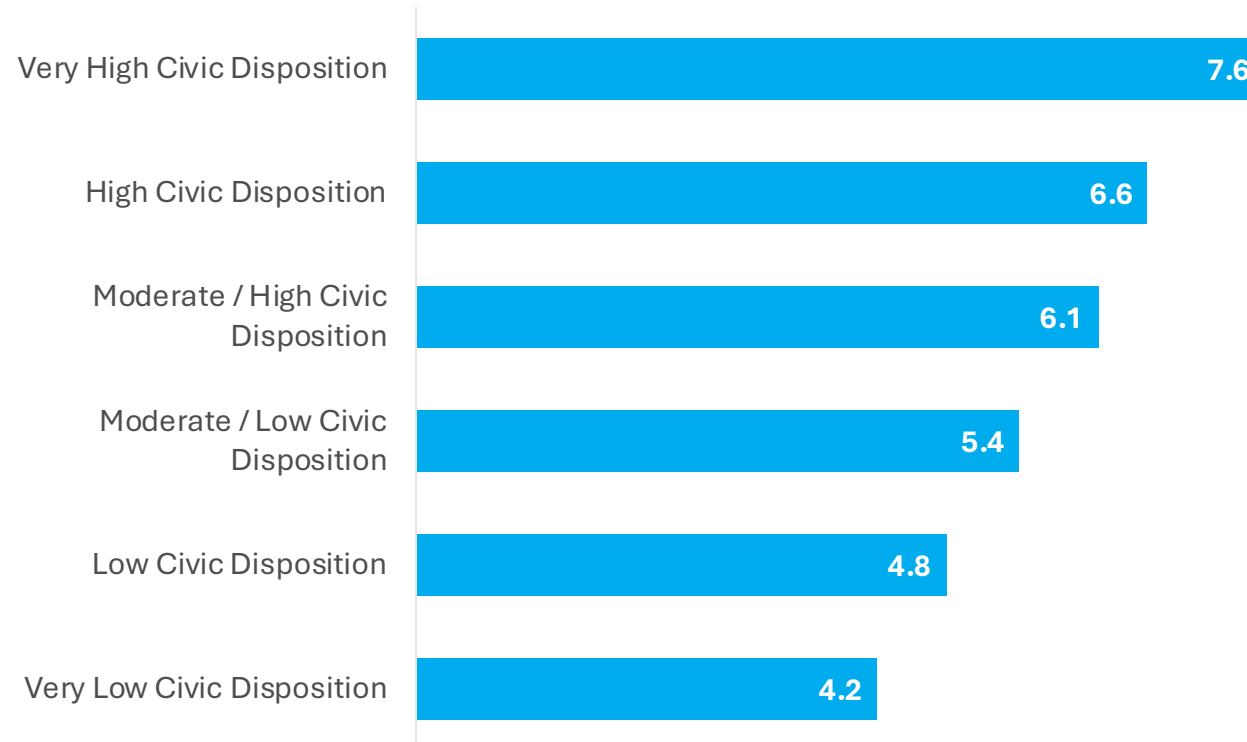


# As civic disposition increases so does the average number of sources used

How much do you use the following on an average day? - Number of sources used (**Average**)

Base: All participants (Very High Civic Disposition n=212, High Civic Disposition n=299, Moderate / High Civic Disposition n=486, Moderate / Low Civic Disposition n=530, Low Civic Disposition n=311, Very Low Civic Disposition n=208)

When looking at the six civic disposition categories by the number of sources used on an average day, we see a steady increase in the average number of sources used as civic disposition increases (Very Low Civic Disposition: 4.2 to Very High Civic Disposition: 7.6).



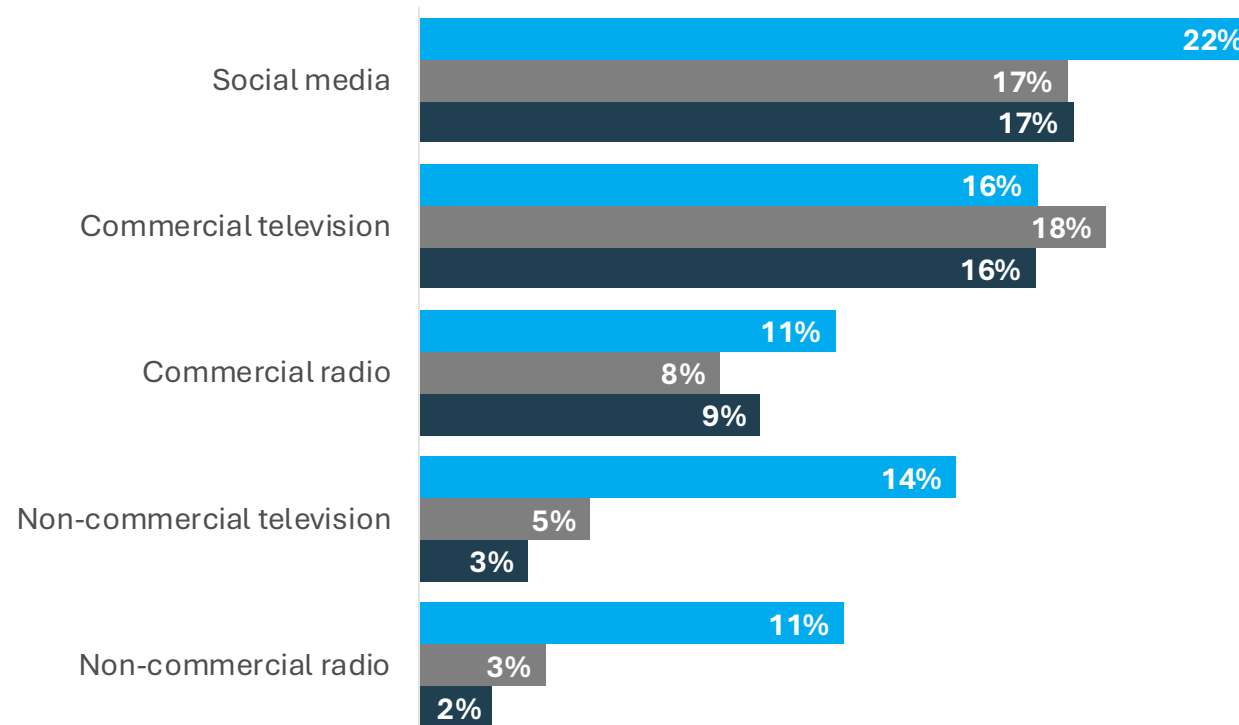
# Those with high civic disposition are more likely to be heavy users of most sources except for commercial media, compared to those with low civic disposition

How much do you use the following on an average day? (% Heavy usage: 3 hours or more per day) \*Selected options shown  
 Base: All participants (Very High / High Civic Disposition n=511, Moderate Civic Disposition n=1,016, Low / Very Low Civic Disposition n=519)

■ Very High / High Civic Disposition ■ Moderate Civic Disposition ■ Low / Very Low Civic Disposition

Those with high civic disposition are just as likely as those with low civic disposition to be heavy users of commercial media (23% and 22% use commercial television or radio for 3 hours or more per day).

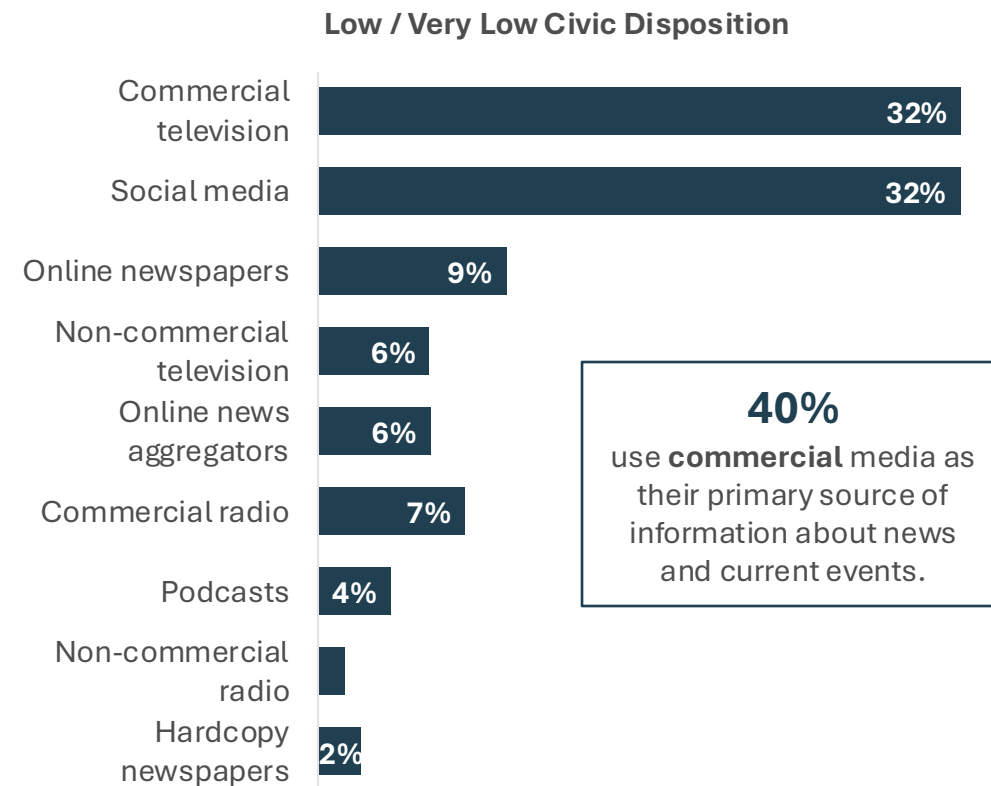
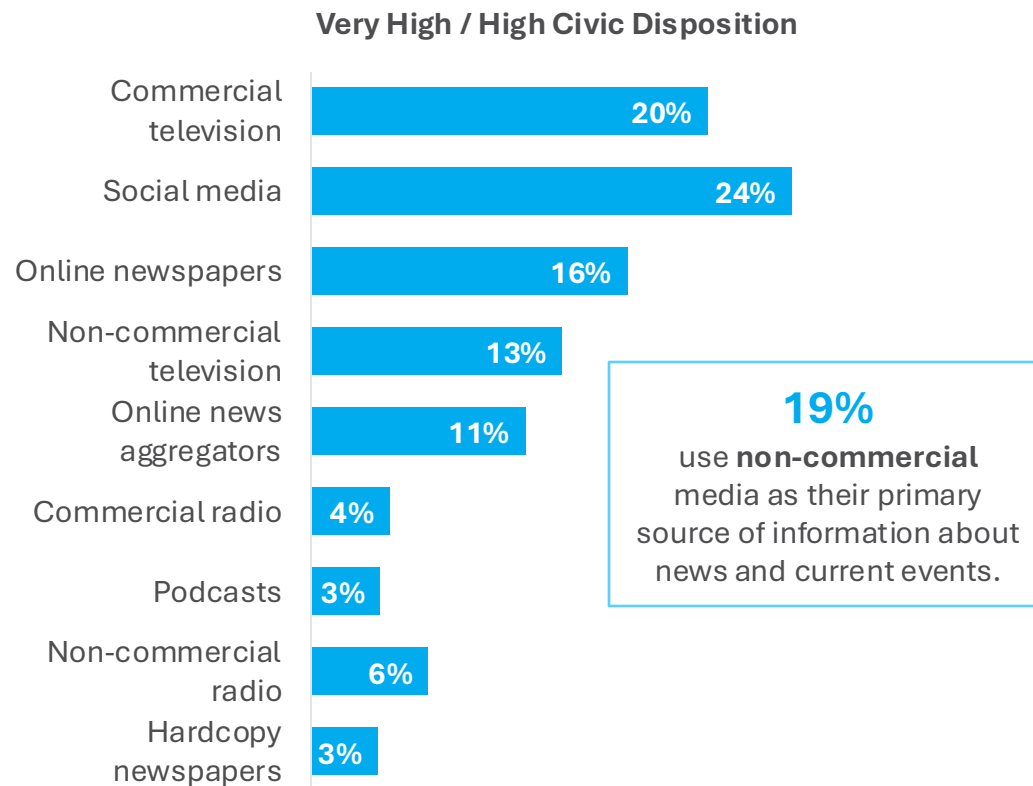
However, those with high civic disposition are much more likely than those with low civic disposition to be heavy users of non-commercial media (20% to 4% respectively).



# Those with high civic disposition are more likely to primarily use online newspapers and non-commercial media, whereas those with low civic disposition are more likely to use commercial and social media

Where do you get most of your information about news and current events?

Base: All participants (Very High / High Civic Disposition n=511, Moderate Civic Disposition n=1,016, Low / Very Low Civic Disposition n=519)





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# Affective polarisation

# Affective polarisation

Affective polarisation measures the difference between someone's trust in their own political party and their trust in opposing political parties.

The first step to measure affective polarisation was to define each participant's 'IN' and 'OUT' parties. The 'IN' party was defined as the political party that they felt closest to and the 'OUT' party was defined as the party they would be most worried about if they came to power.

Participants were then asked to rate how much they trust their 'IN' and 'OUT' parties to do what is right for the country, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'Do not trust at all' and 5 is 'Trust a lot'.

To calculate participants' affective polarisation score, participants' 'OUT' party trust score was subtracted from their 'IN' party trust score. This meant that participants with higher scores had greater affective polarisation as they had high trust in their 'IN' party, but low trust in their 'OUT' party.

The tables to the right show the distributions for 'IN' and 'OUT' parties. There are many different combinations of 'IN' and 'OUT' parties but only combinations of interest have been highlighted in this report.

IN Party	%
Labor	36%
Coalition	32%
Greens	13%
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	7%
United Australia Party	2%
Independent candidate or other party	10%
Total	100%

OUT Party	%
Labor	12%
Coalition	14%
Greens	29%
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	29%
United Australia Party	10%
Independent candidate or other party	7%
Total	100%

# At an overall level we see high levels of trust in 'IN' parties and low levels of trust in 'OUT' parties

How much do you trust 'IN Party' to do what is right for the country?  
How much do you trust 'OUT Party' to do what is right for the country?  
Base: All participants (n=2,046)

■ 5 - Trust a lot ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ 1 - Do not trust at all

## IN Party

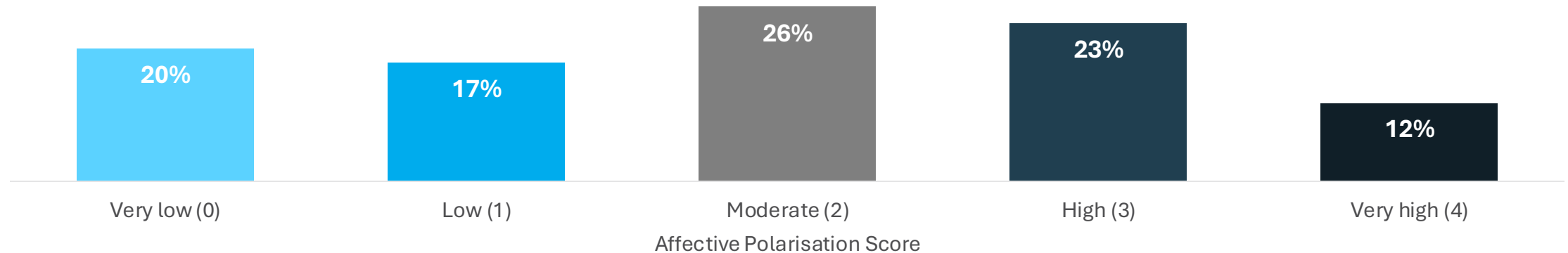


## OUT Party



# Age, voting intention and financial circumstance are key factors when it comes to affective polarisation

Affective Polarisation Score \*Selected scores shown  
Base: All participants (n=2,046)



## Those more likely to have Very low / Low affective polarisation (0-1) are:

- Those aged 18-34 (54% have a score of 0 or 1)
- Those who are financially comfortable (48%)
- Those in paid employment (42%)



## Those more likely to have High / Very high affective polarisation (3-4) are:

- Those aged 55+ (51% have a score of 3 or 4)
- One Nation voters (51%)
- Those in serious financial difficulty (39%)

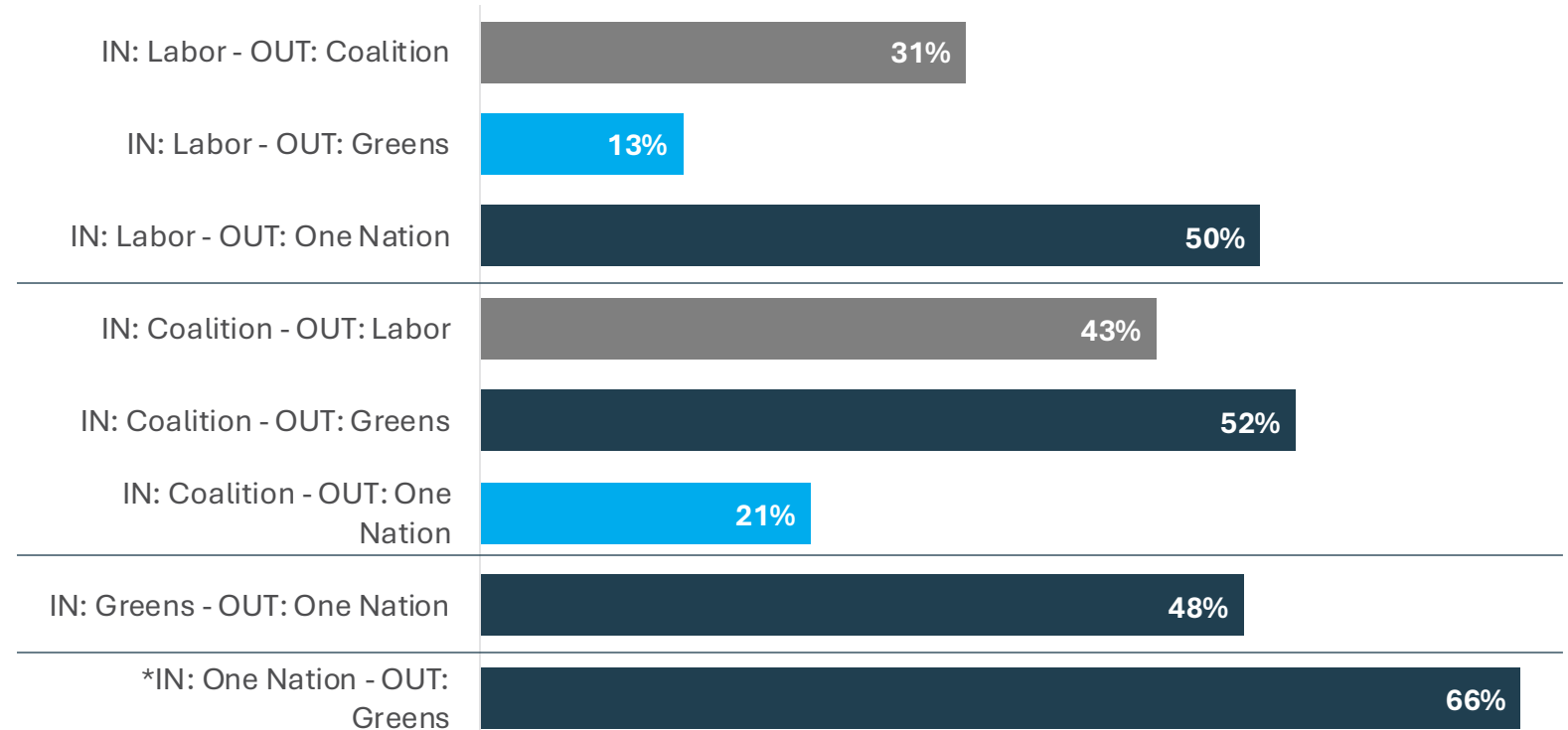
# Those with 'IN' and 'OUT' parties on opposing ends of the political spectrum have greater affective polarisation

## Affective Polarisation Score (% High / Very high affective polarisation (3-4))

Base: All participants (IN: Labor - OUT: Coalition n=179, IN: Labor - OUT: Greens n=141, IN: Labor - OUT: One Nation n=285, IN: Coalition - OUT: Labor n=124, IN: Coalition - OUT: Greens n=326, IN: Coalition - OUT: One Nation n=114, IN: Greens - OUT: One Nation n=122, \*IN: One Nation - OUT: Greens n=64) \*Caution small sample size

One Nation identifiers with Greens as their 'OUT' party have the highest affective polarisation (66% scored 3 or 4). Similarly, those with politically opposing 'IN' and 'OUT' parties also have high affective polarisation (bars in dark blue)

Coalition identifiers with Labor as their 'OUT' party have higher affective polarisation than Labor identifiers with Coalition as their 'OUT' party (43% to 31%).



# Those with higher affective polarisation would rather not live with, socialise with or have someone close to them marry an ‘OUT’ party voter

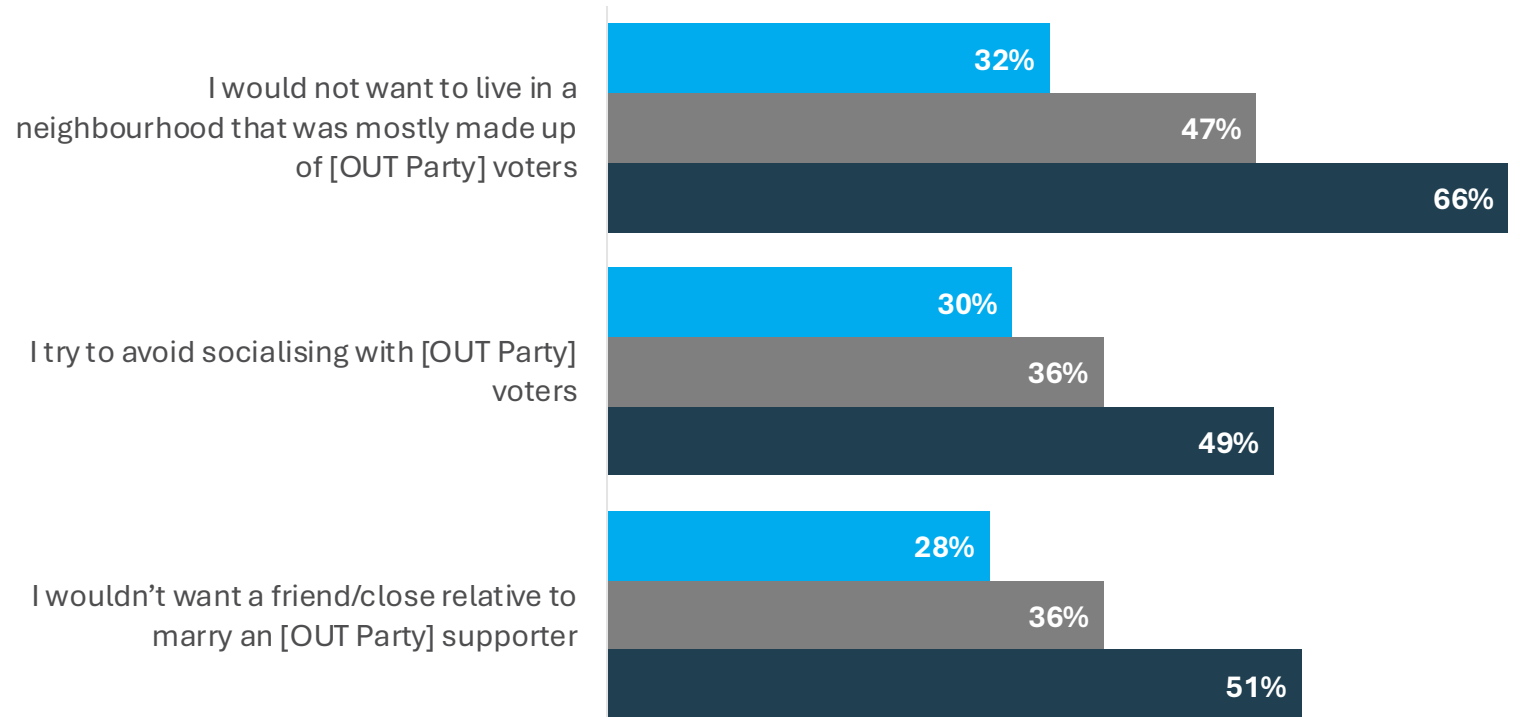
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about [OUT Party] voters?

Base: All participants (Very low / Low Affective Polarisation (0-1) n=759, Moderate Affective Polarisation (2) n=525, High / Very high Affective Polarisation (3-4) n=709)

■ Very low / Low Affective Polarisation (0-1) ■ Moderate Affective Polarisation (2) ■ High / Very high Affective Polarisation (3-4)

Agreement with these statements is also higher among those with politically opposing ‘IN’ and ‘OUT’ parties:

- In: Labor - Out: One Nation
- In: Coalition - Out: Greens
- In: Greens - Out: One Nation
- In: One Nation - Out: Greens



# Those with high affective polarisation also struggle to relate to ‘OUT’ party voters, are more likely to suspect them of spreading false information and are more likely to dislike them

To what extent can you relate to [OUT Party] voters or understand their concerns?

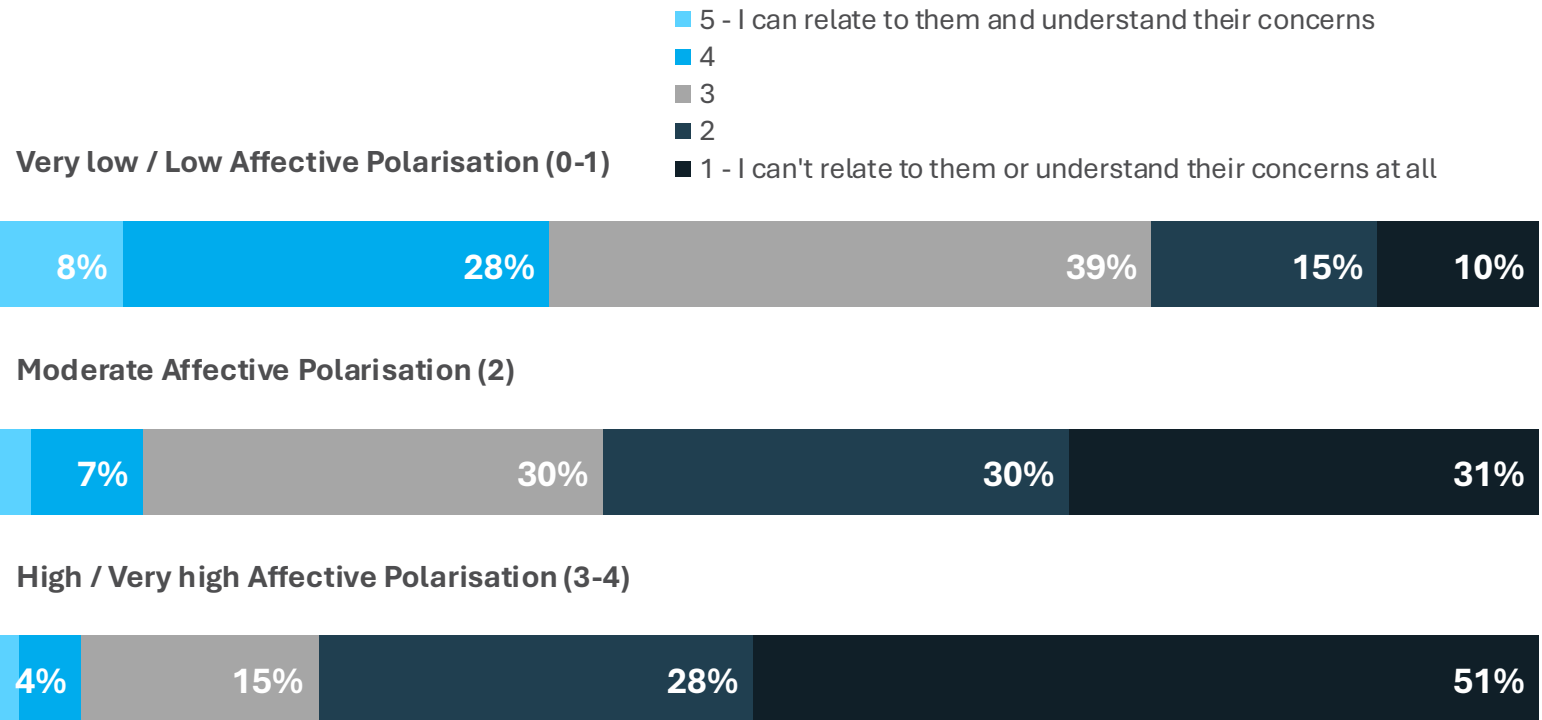
What best describes your attitude toward [OUT Party] voters?

How likely are [OUT Party] voters to spread false information?

Base: All participants (Very low / Low Affective Polarisation (0-1) n=759, Moderate Affective Polarisation (2) n=525, High / Very high Affective Polarisation (3-4) n=709)

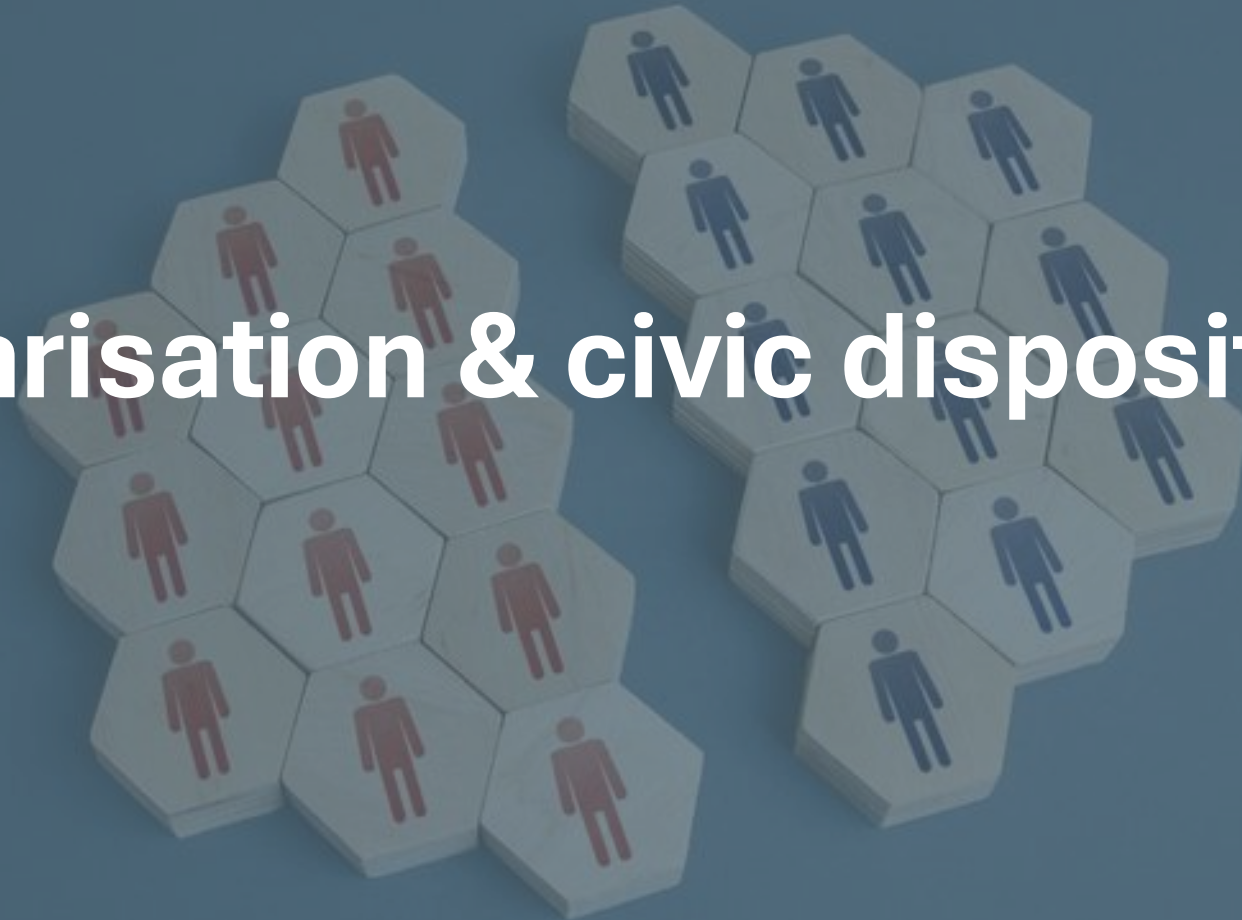
Those with high affective polarisation are more likely than those with low affective polarisation to say that they can't relate to or understand 'OUT' party voter concerns at all (51% to 10%).

They are also more likely say 'OUT' party voters are very likely to spread false information (45% to 8%) and more likely say they strongly dislike them (38% to 6%).



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## Affective polarisation & civic disposition



# Affective polarisation does not appear to correlate with civic disposition

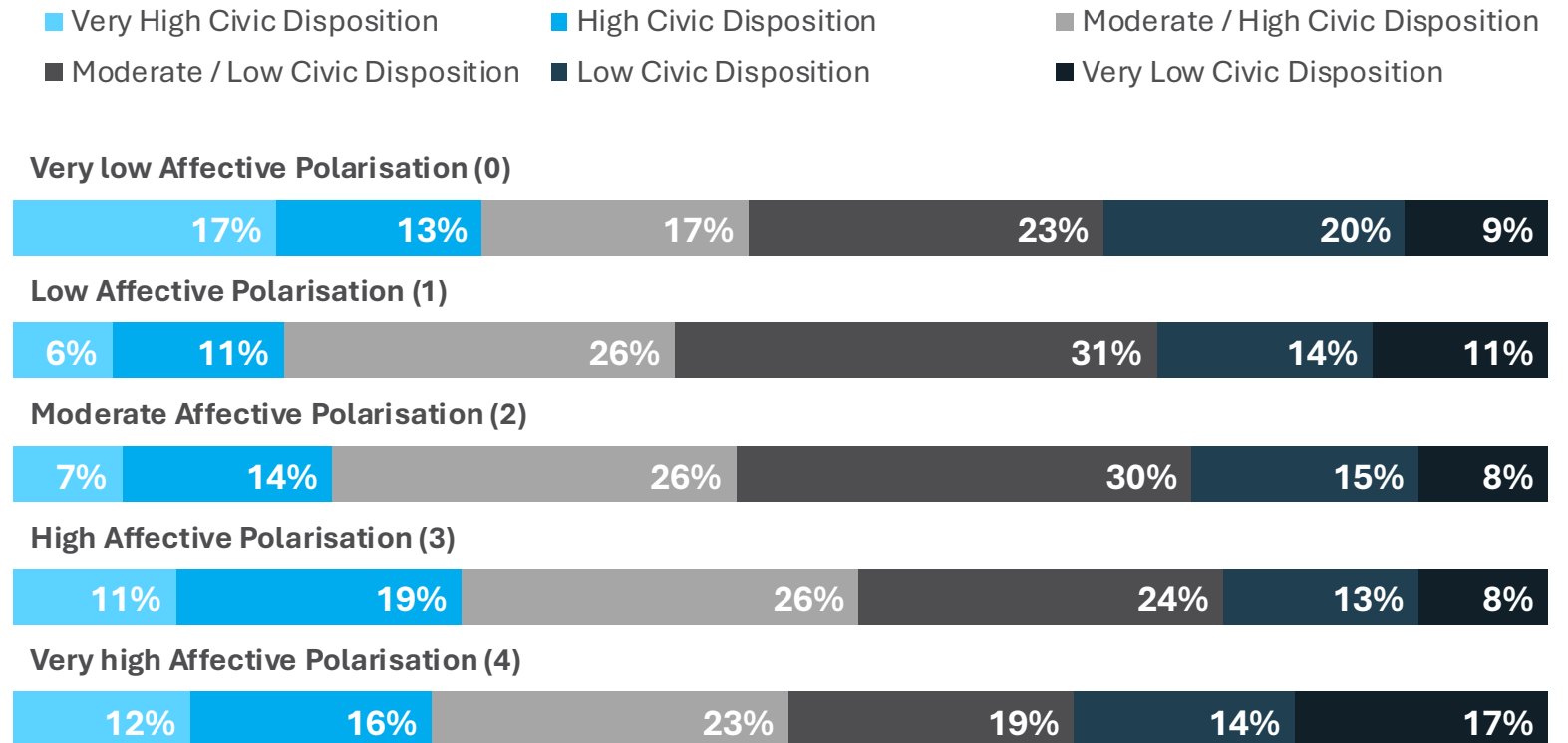
## Civic Disposition Rubric – Gender Balance

Base: All participants (Very low Affective Polarisation (0) n=402 , Low Affective Polarisation (1) n=357 , Moderate Affective Polarisation (2) n=525 , High Affective Polarisation (3) n=473 , Very high Affective Polarisation (4) n=236)

Those with very low affective polarisation are the most likely to have very high civic disposition (17%) and those with very high affective polarisation are the most likely to have very low civic disposition (17%).

However apart from this, there doesn't appear to be any clear relationship between affective polarisation and civic disposition.

This is somewhat surprising given the demographic similarities in corresponding civic disposition and affective polarisation groups. These findings highlight a potential area of future research.





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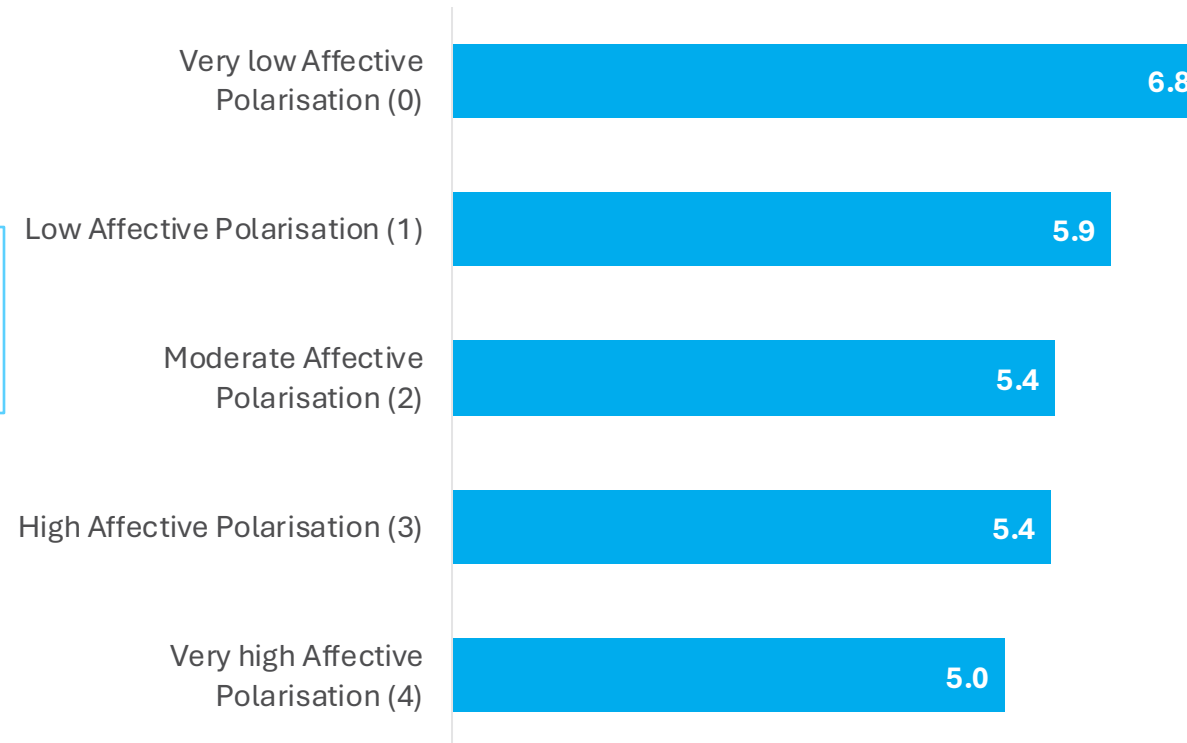
# Affective polarisation & media usage

# There is an inverse relationship between affective polarisation and the average number of sources used

How much do you use the following on an average day? - Number of sources used (**Average**)

Base: All participants (Very low Affective Polarisation (0) n=402 , Low Affective Polarisation (1) n=357 , Moderate Affective Polarisation (2) n=525 , High Affective Polarisation (3) n=473 , Very high Affective Polarisation (4) n=236)

As affective polarisation increases the average number of media sources used decreases (Very low Affective Polarisation (0): 6.8 to Very high Affective Polarisation (4): 5.0).



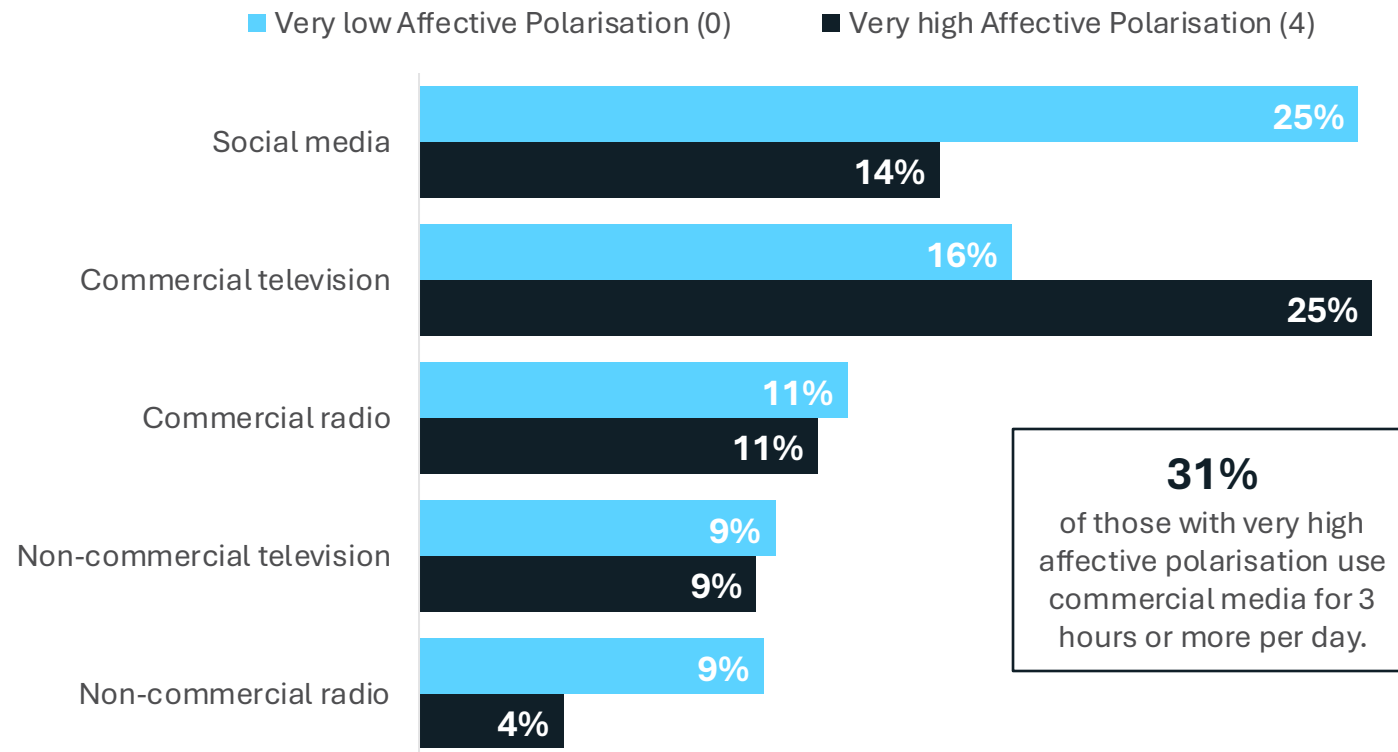
# There is evidence of a correlation between affective polarisation and commercial media consumption

How much do you use the following on an average day? (% Heavy usage: 3 hours or more per day) \*Selected options shown  
 Base: All participants (Very low Affective Polarisation (0) n=402 , Very high Affective Polarisation (4) n=236)

Those with very low affective polarisation are more likely to be heavy users of social media (25% use for 3 hours or more per day). Whereas those with very high affective polarisation are more likely to be heavy users of commercial television (25%).

However, these differences are likely driven by age differences between the very low and very high affective polarisation groups.

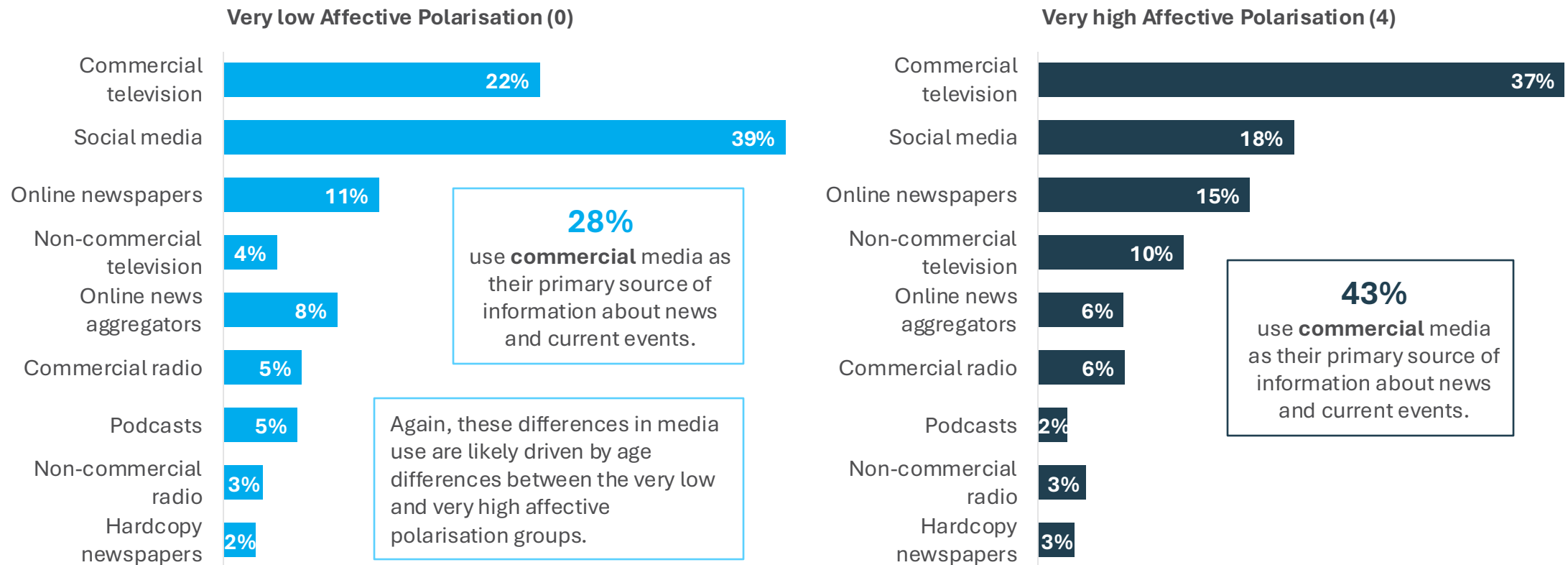
47% of those in the very low affective polarisation group are aged 18 to 34 and 58% of the very high affective polarisation group are aged 55 and over. As previously seen in the media usage section, younger people are more likely to be heavy users of social media, and older people are more likely to be heavy users of commercial media, which likely explains the difference here.



# Those with very high affective polarisation are much more likely than those with very low affective polarisation to use commercial media as their primary source of information

Where do you get most of your information about news and current events?

Base: All participants (Very low Affective Polarisation (0) n=402 , Very high Affective Polarisation (4) n=236))





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# Conspiracy theories

# At an overall level there is moderate belief in conspiracy theories

To what extent do you believe the following statements to be true or false?

Base: All participants (n=2,046)

■ Definitely true ■ Probably true ■ Unsure ■ Probably false ■ Definitely false

**Regardless of who is officially in charge of governments or organisations, there is an unelected group of people who are really in control (Total: True: 41%)**



**Fluctuations in the climate are the result of natural cycles that take place regardless of human activity (Total: True: 40%)**



**The Indigenous Voice to Parliament would have changed the Australian Constitution to allow all private land to be transferred to Indigenous Australians (Total: True: 30%)**



**Pharmaceutical companies and the medical establishment are concealing the fact that vaccines cause autism (Total: True: 20%)**



# Men, Coalition and One Nation voters have higher belief in conspiracy theories

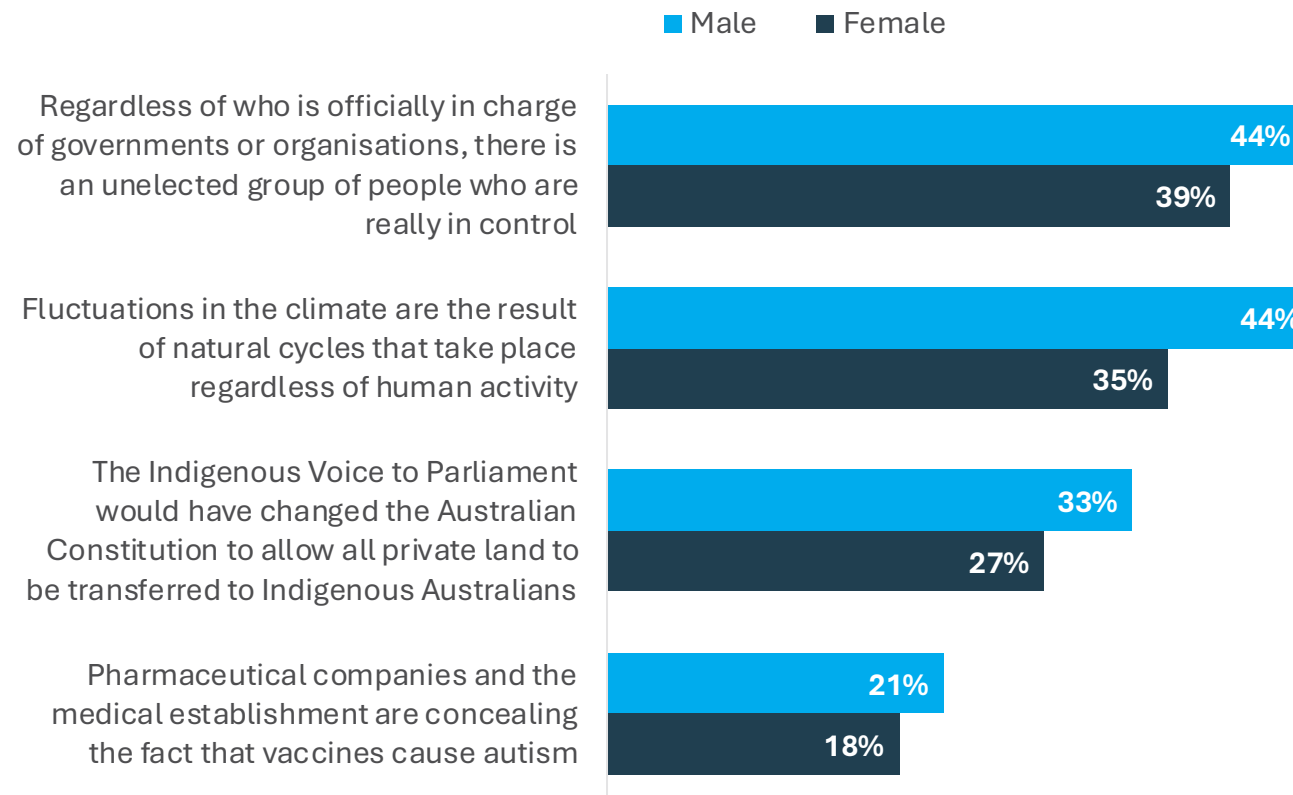
To what extent do you believe the following statements to be true or false? (% TOTAL: True)

Base: All participants (Male n=995, Female n=1,043)

Men are more likely than women to believe all the listed conspiracy theories except for the vaccine conspiracy.

Coalition and One Nation voters also show higher levels of belief in conspiracy theories:

- Group in control: 45% & 57%
- Climate change: 56% & 49%
- Voice to Parliament: 37% & 39%
- Vaccines: 19% & 33%

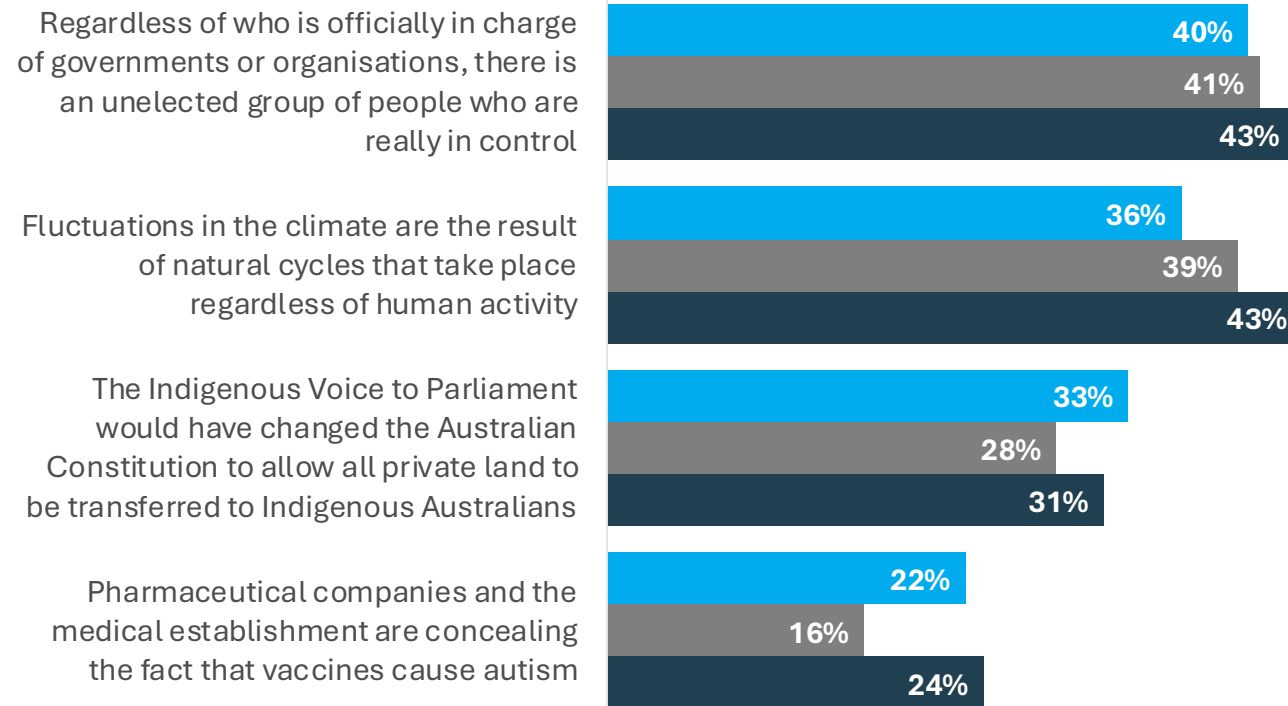


# Belief in conspiracy theories does not appear to correlate with civic disposition

To what extent do you believe the following statements to be true or false? (% TOTAL: True)

Base: All participants (Very High / High Civic Disposition n=511, Moderate Civic Disposition n=1,016, Low / Very Low Civic Disposition n=519)

■ Very High / High Civic Disposition ■ Moderate Civic Disposition ■ Low / Very Low Civic Disposition

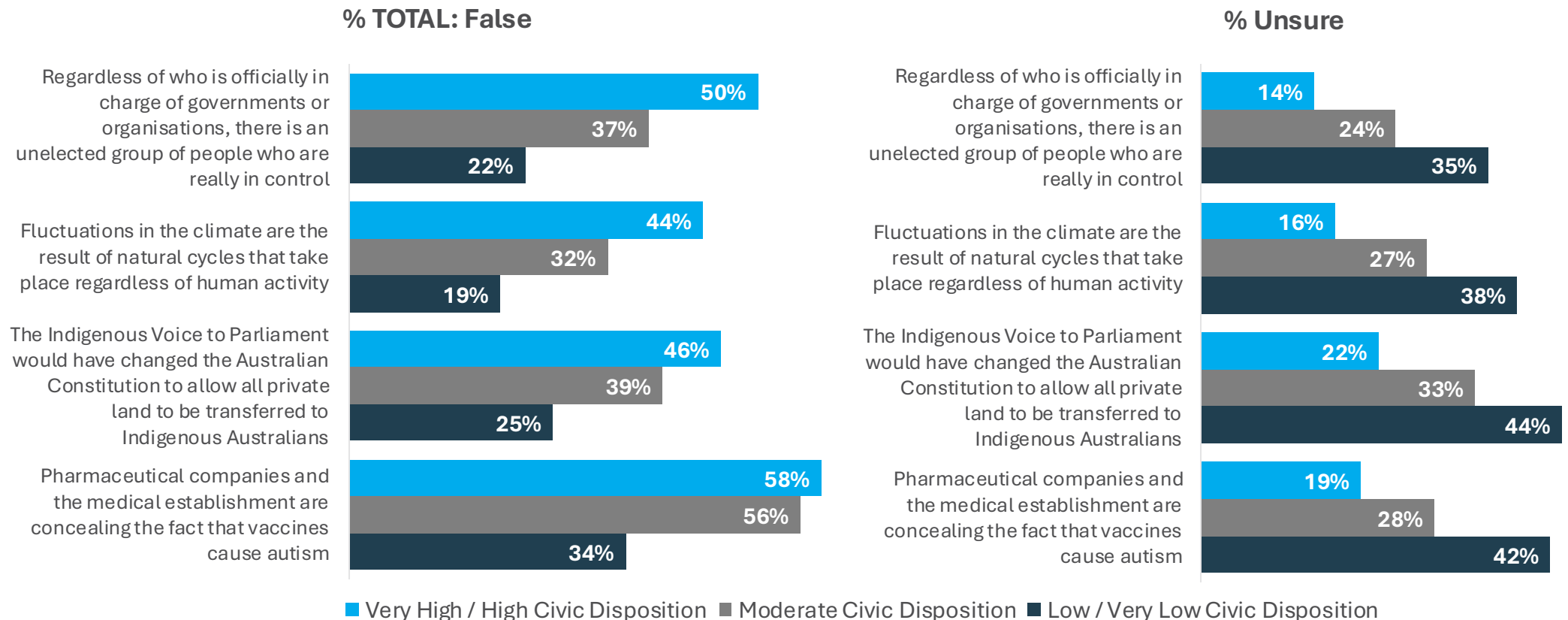


There are no differences between levels of belief in conspiracy theories for high and low civic disposition groups, except for the climate change conspiracy theory (36% to 43% true).

# However, those with high civic disposition are more likely to think that the conspiracies theories are false and those with low civic disposition are more likely to be unsure

To what extent do you believe the following statements to be true or false?

Base: All participants (Very High / High Civic Disposition n=511, Moderate Civic Disposition n=1,016, Low / Very Low Civic Disposition n=519)



# Those who believe the climate change conspiracy get most of their information about news and current events from commercial and social media

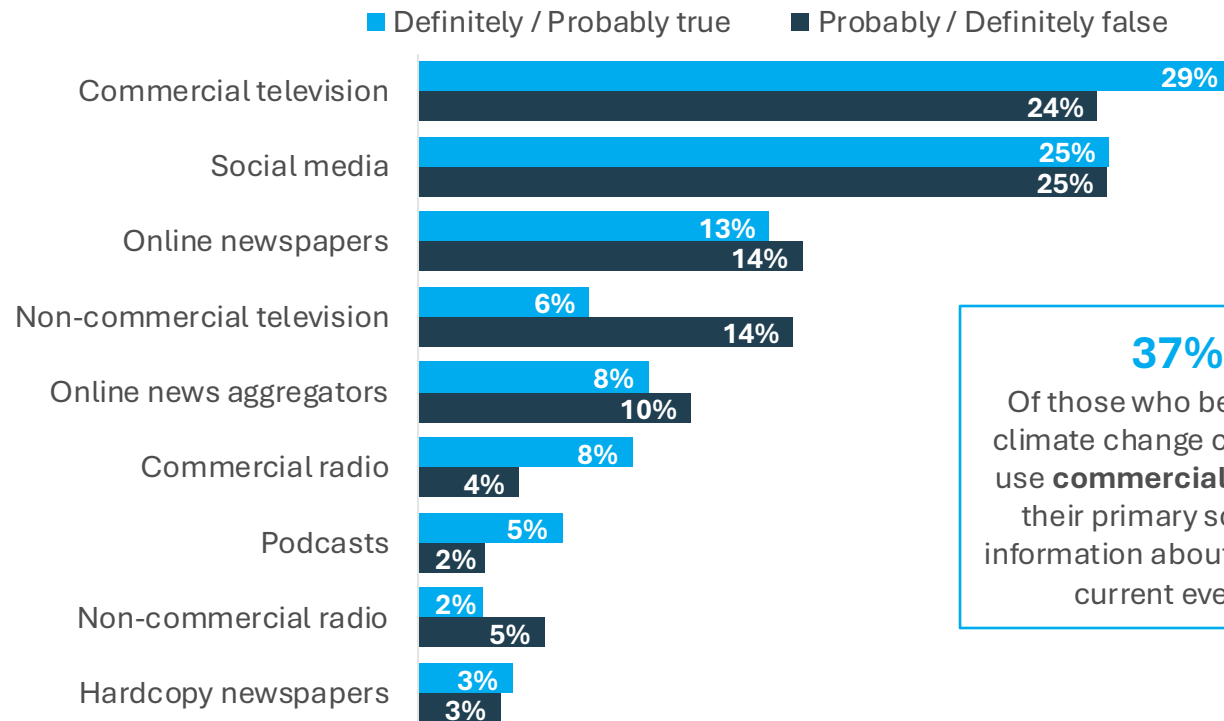
Where do you get most of your information about news and current events?

To what extent do you believe the following statements to be true or false? - **Fluctuations in the climate are the result of natural cycles that take place regardless of human activity**

Base: All participants (Definitely / Probably true n=807, Probably / Definitely false n=746)

Participants who think that fluctuations in climate are part of natural weather cycles are more likely to get most of their information from commercial media (37% commercial television or radio).

Whereas those who think the climate change conspiracy is false are more likely to get their information from non-commercial media (18%).



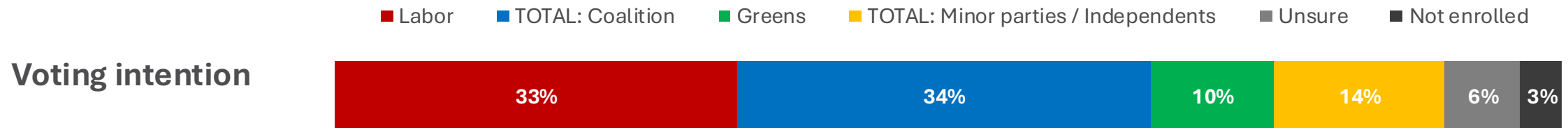
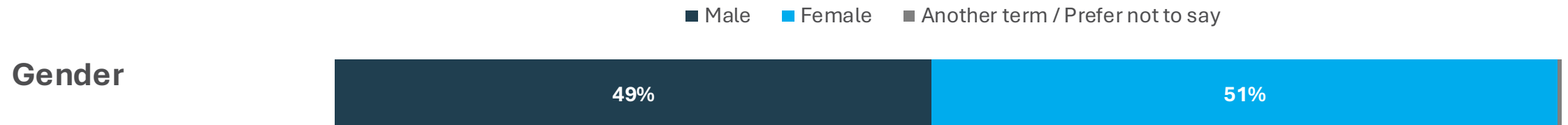
**37%**  
Of those who believe the climate change conspiracy use **commercial** media as their primary source of information about news and current events.



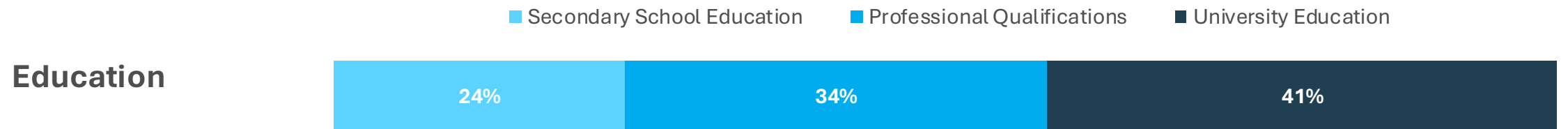
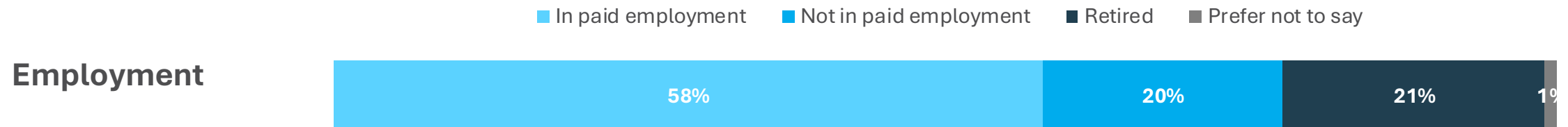
**10**

# Appendix

# Sample profile – Overall (n=2,046)



# Sample profile – Overall (n=2,046)



# Civic Disposition Rubric

C1. How would you rate your trust in mainstream media to report accurately?

1. Mainstream media outlets cannot be trusted to report accurately
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Mainstream media outlets can always be trusted to be accurate in their reporting

C2. How would you rate your trust in the shared opinion of recognised experts (scientists, industry leaders, people with relevant skills and qualifications) on subjects you have little knowledge about?

1. Experts are biased and cannot be trusted, it is better to do one's own research than to defer to experts
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. I trust the shared opinion of experts on subjects I have little knowledge about

C3. How would you rate your trust in our system of Federal government to do the right thing for Australians?

1. Our system of Federal government can never be trusted to do the right thing for Australians
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Our system of Federal government can always be trusted to do the right thing for Australians

C4. To what extent do you think there is a need for government regulation on business and industry to protect the public interest?

1. There is no need for government regulation on business and industry
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. There is a strong need for government regulation of business and industry to protect the public interest

C5. To what extent do you think there is such a thing as a common good or shared public interest?

1. There is no such thing as a common good or shared public interest, because we are all individuals with different goals and priorities
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. People may have their differences on many issues, but there is such a thing as a common good and shared public interest

C6. When you make a significant purchase such as a new car, furniture or technology, to what extent do you consider the broader social issues of that purchase such as labour conditions or environmental impact?

1. When making a significant purchase I never take into account the broader social issues of that purchase
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. When making a significant purchase, I always consider the broader social issues of that purchase such as labour conditions and environmental impact

# Civic Disposition Rubric

C7. Which of the following statements aligns more with your definition of a good citizen?

1. Being self-sufficient and not burdening or interfering with others or the government and in turn having the freedom to not be interfered with
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Taking into account the broader public good in both my actions and my decisions

C8. To what extent do you think Australians have a duty to inform themselves about political issues through the media?

1. It is totally up to individuals whether they choose to inform themselves about political issues
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Australians have a duty to inform themselves about political issues that impact themselves and society through the media

C9. To what extent do you think economic inequality is an issue in Australia?

1. Economic inequality is not an issue in Australia
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Economic inequality is a major issue in Australia

C10. To what extent do you think primary and secondary schools have a duty to teach students the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society?

1. Primary and secondary schools do not have a duty to teach citizenship responsibilities to students
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Primary and secondary schools have a duty to teach citizenship responsibilities to students

C11. To what extent do you think that public service media (i.e. ABC and SBS) should receive government funding?

1. The government should not fund public service media like the ABC and SBS
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Public service media including the ABC and SBS should receive a adequate government funding

C12. To what extent do you think that healthcare should receive government funding?

1. Healthcare should not receive government funding and should be run by the private sector and paid for by individuals when they need it
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Healthcare should be free for all and receive adequate government funding

# Civic Disposition Rubric

C13. When you encounter information about politics that challenges your point of view, what do you tend to do?

1. My tendency is not to waste my time with it – I already know what I think and there is too much information floating around to spend time investigating all of it
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. My tendency is to learn more about political issues to see if I should modify or change my point of view

C14. How often do you discuss political issues with people whose views differ from yours?

1. I avoid discussing political issues with people whose views differ from mine, because I usually have little to learn from someone I disagree with
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. I know that talking about politics can be divisive, but I try to interact with people whose political views differ from mine because I might learn something

C15. Thinking about Australia's connection to the global community, to what extent do you pay attention to international issues?

1. I don't pay much attention to international issues because what happens overseas does not have much impact in Australia
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. I pay a lot of attention to what happens overseas because the international community is closely connected

C16. How freely do you think people should be able to express their views and opinions online?

1. People should be able to say and share whatever they want online, with no limitations
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. There should be legal consequences for people who deliberately engage in untrue speech online that causes demonstrable harm

C17. If you were to share information about political issues with people online, which are you most likely to do?

1. I would share the information without verifying if it is true, as long as it supports my point of view
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. I would check multiple sources to verify that the information is true before sharing

C18. Which of the following do you think is the best way to run this country?

1. Have a strong leader who doesn't have to bother with Parliament or elections to get things done
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Have democratically elected representatives with multiple branches of government that serve as checks and balances on each other

# Essential.

RESEARCH

ROBERT LEAVER

 0409 487 975

 rob.leaver@essentialmedia.com.au

[www.essentialmedia.com.au](http://www.essentialmedia.com.au)