



THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY LEARNING MONITOR.

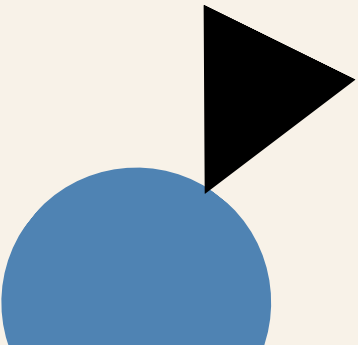
Level of education
June 2021.



**THRIVE
BY FIVE**

KEY FINDINGS.

1. While participants with university level education are more likely to believe the long-term and later life impact access to early learning can have – its vital importance to immediate development is well understood by people with secondary school education or professional qualifications.
2. Over two-thirds of participants agree that cheaper early childhood education and care would be good for the economy, and at least 75% believe a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system would improve the education system as a whole.
3. Though participants with university education are more likely to vote for a party committed to this early learning policy (55%), still two-fifths of participants with secondary school education (40%) or professional qualifications (44%) would vote for a party with this policy.
4. At least two-fifths of participants who have made family and/or career sacrifices say these sacrifices wouldn't have been as big if they had access to universal high-quality early childhood education and care system (43% with secondary school education, 48% with professional qualifications and 59% with university education).
5. Over 85% of parents (regardless of education level) say cheaper access to early childhood education and care would help their family.
6. This is despite of parents with secondary school education (49%) or professional qualifications (66%) being less likely to access daycare for their under school-age child – than parents with university education (77%).



METHODOLOGY.

Fieldwork: 22nd April – 7th May 2021

Sample: n=1,136 Secondary School Education
n=1,743 Professional Qualifications
n=1,832 University Education

Prepared by: Essential Research

Our researchers are members of the Research Society. This research is compliant with the Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards.



The quantitative poll was developed to canvas a representative sample of the Australian public on their views, attitudes and experiences with the early learning and childcare system in Australia, and to understand their views on relevant issues related to family life, working life and society more broadly.

The national online survey was hosted by Qualtrics and took respondents approximately 15 minutes to complete.

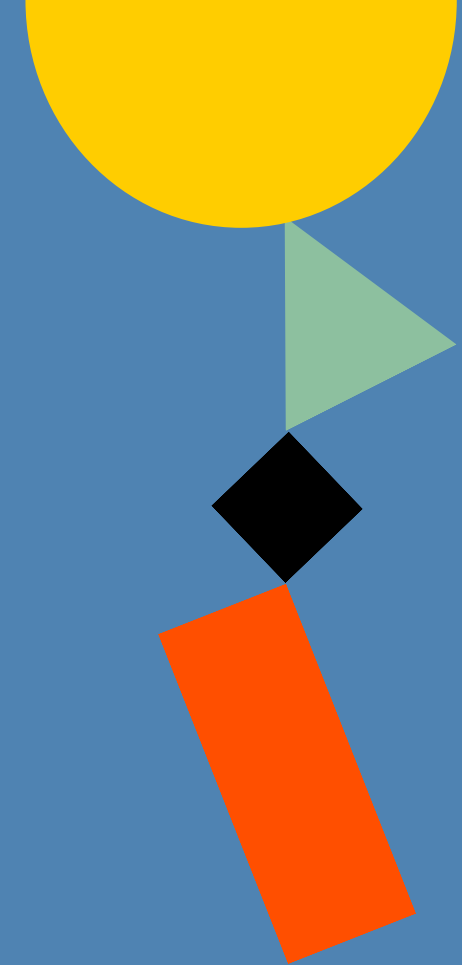
Note that some questions were asked of only half the sample to maximise the number of questions without increasing respondent burden.

The maximum margin of error is $\pm 2.9\%$ at a 95% confidence level for the full sample. For questions asked of half sample, maximum margin of error is $\pm 4.1\%$.

Some figures in this report will not total 100% due to rounding. Full methodology can be found [here](#). For more results from the Early Learning Monitor go to:

<https://thrivebyfive.org.au/earlylearningmonitor/>

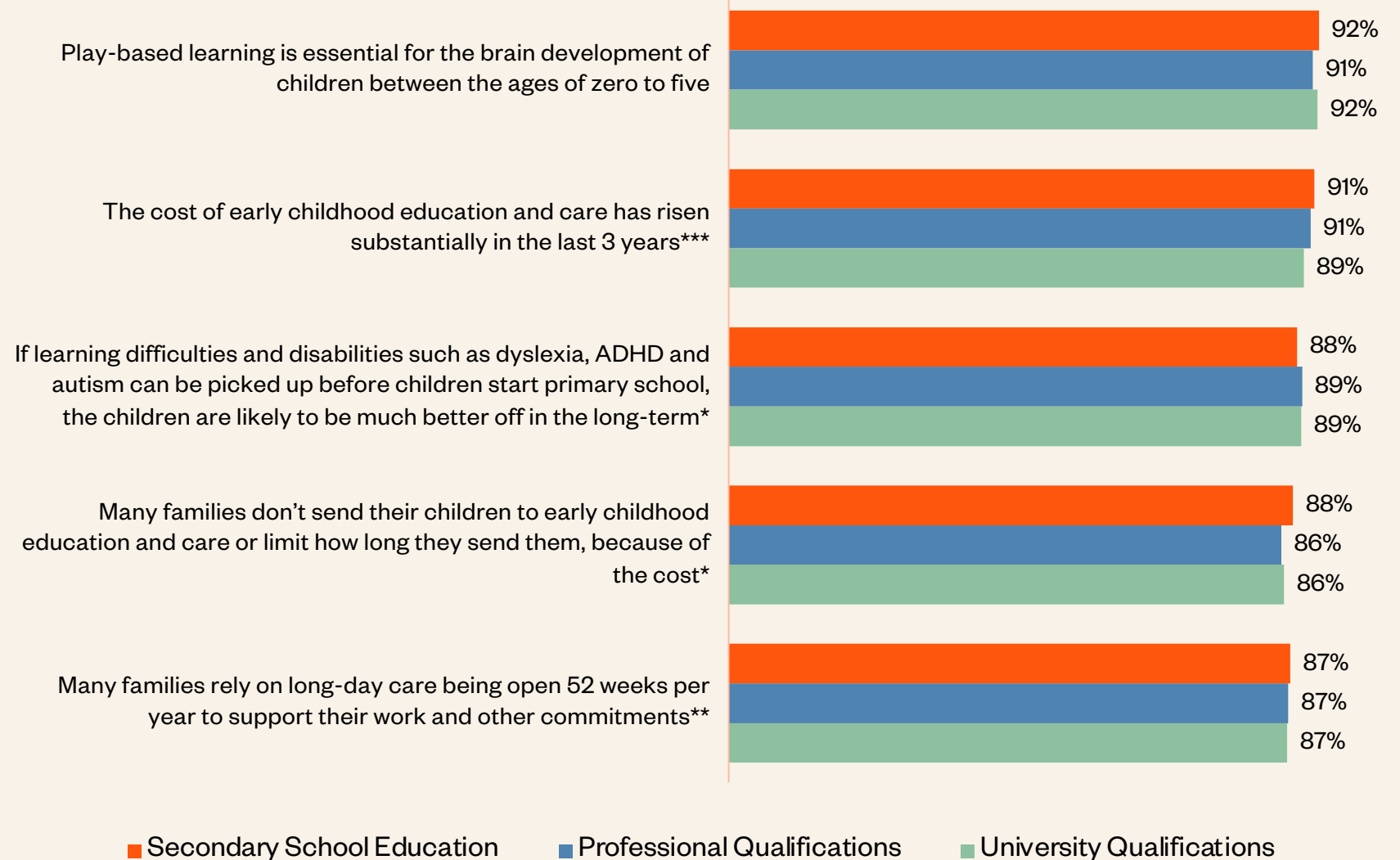
CURRENT ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS.



**THRIVE
BY FIVE**

REGARDLESS OF EDUCATION LEVEL, THE BENEFITS OF EARLY LEARNING ARE UNDERSTOOD BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS.

Understanding of the impact of early learning (% Definitely / Probably True)



Q. For each of the following statements about early childhood education and care, please indicate if you think they are definitely true, probably true, probably not true or definitely not true.

Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)

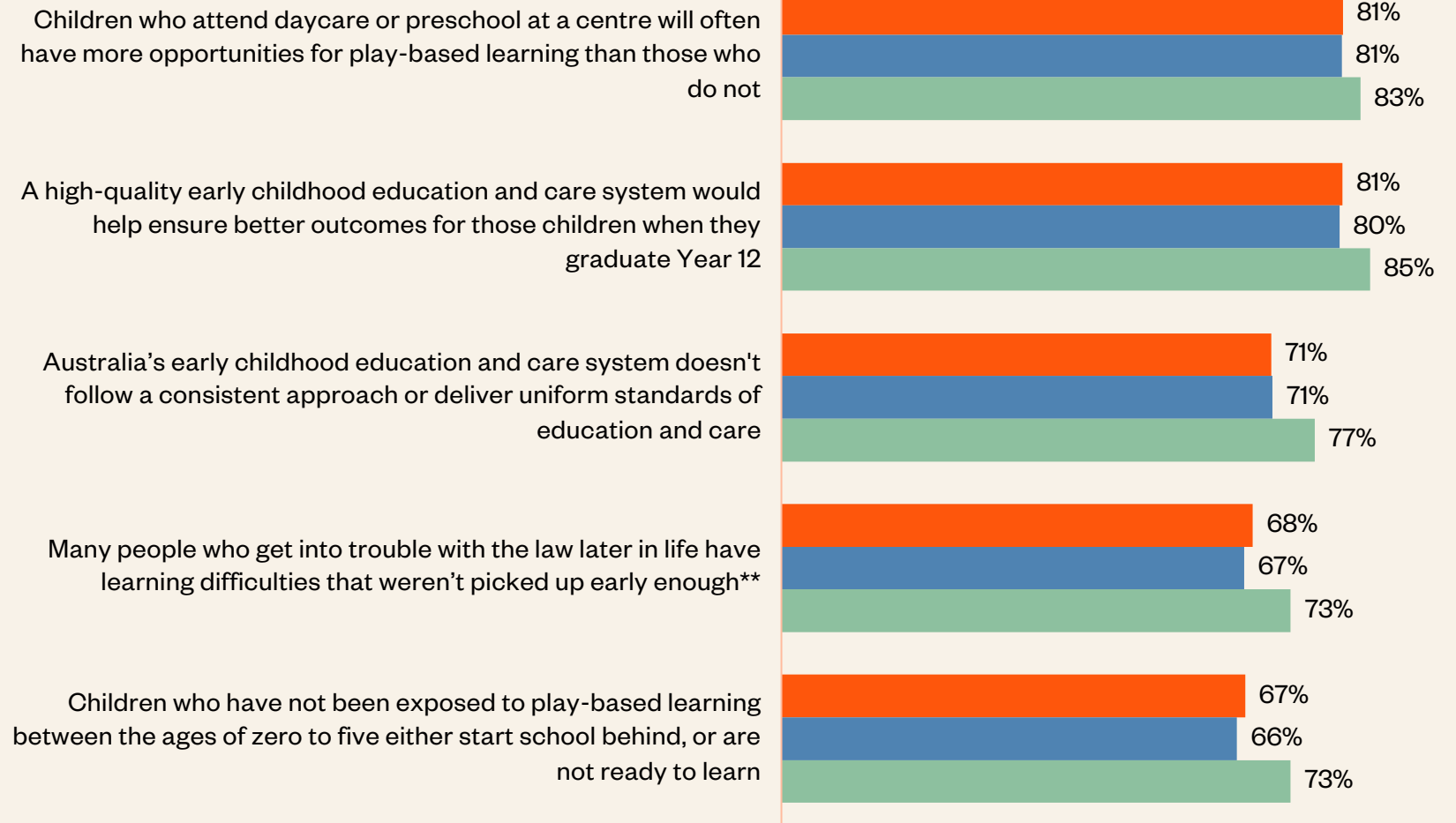
*Only shown to half sample: Secondary School Education (n=560), Professional Qualifications (n=857), University Education (n=934)

**Only shown to half sample: Secondary School Education (n=576), Professional Qualifications (n=886), University Education (n=898)

***Only shown to parents whose child attends/attended daycare: Secondary School Education (n=115), Professional Qualifications (n=290), University Education (n=505)

PARTICIPANTS WITH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION ARE MORE LIKELY, THAN THOSE WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL OR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, TO BELIEVE THAT EARLY LEARNING CAN HAVE IMPACTS INTO LATER LIFE.

Understanding of the impact of early learning (% Definitely / Probably True)



■ Secondary School Education ■ Professional Qualifications ■ University Qualifications

Q. For each of the following statements about early childhood education and care, please indicate if you think they are definitely true, probably true, probably not true or definitely not true.

Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)

**Only shown to half sample: Secondary School Education (n=576), Professional Qualifications (n=886), University Education (n=898)

**MORE THAN 8 IN 10
PEOPLE WITH
UNIVERSITY
QUALIFICATIONS AGREE
THE EARLY LEARNING
SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE
MORE COORDINATED.**

**Total agree with a coordinated future for early learning (%
Strongly / Somewhat agree)**

The quality of early childhood education and care
would improve if the system was more coordinated



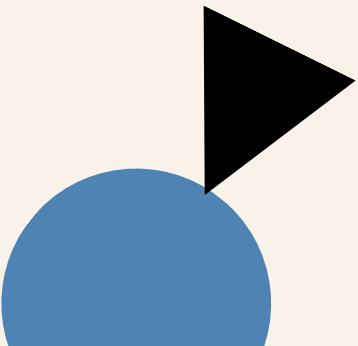
Early learning should be treated as part of the
education system



■ Secondary School Education ■ Professional Qualifications ■ University Qualifications

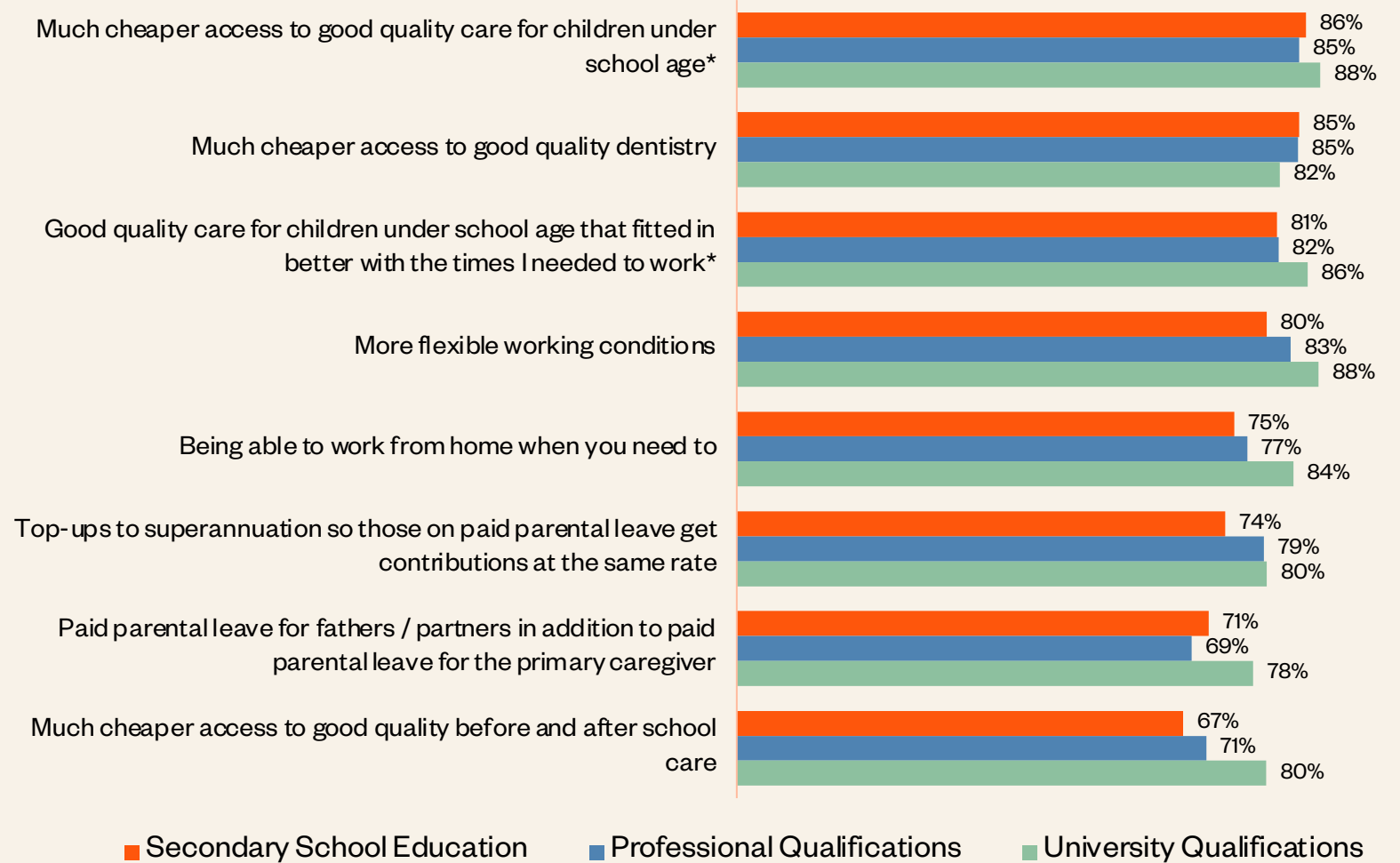
Q. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)



THE VAST MAJORITY OF PARENTS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR EDUCATION LEVEL, SAY CHEAPER ACCESS TO GOOD QUALITY CARE FOR CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE WOULD HELP THEIR FAMILIES.

**What would help respondents and their families
(% A lot /A fair amount)**



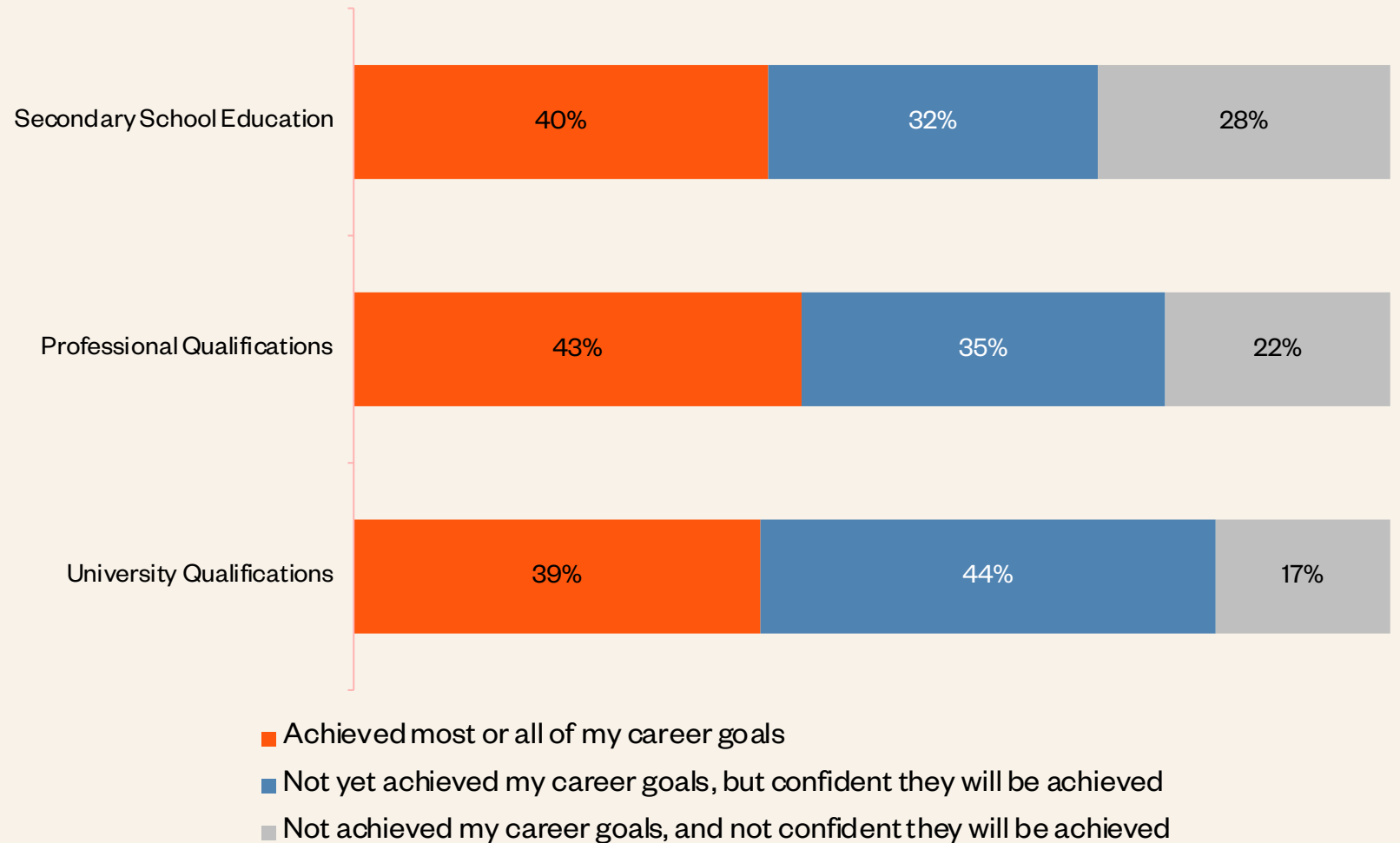
Q. How much would each of the following help you and your family, now or in the future?

Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)

*Only shown to parents with at least one child under school age: Secondary School Education (n=119), Professional Qualifications (n=190), University Education (n=356)

PARTICIPANTS WITH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL ACHIEVE THEIR CAREER GOALS.

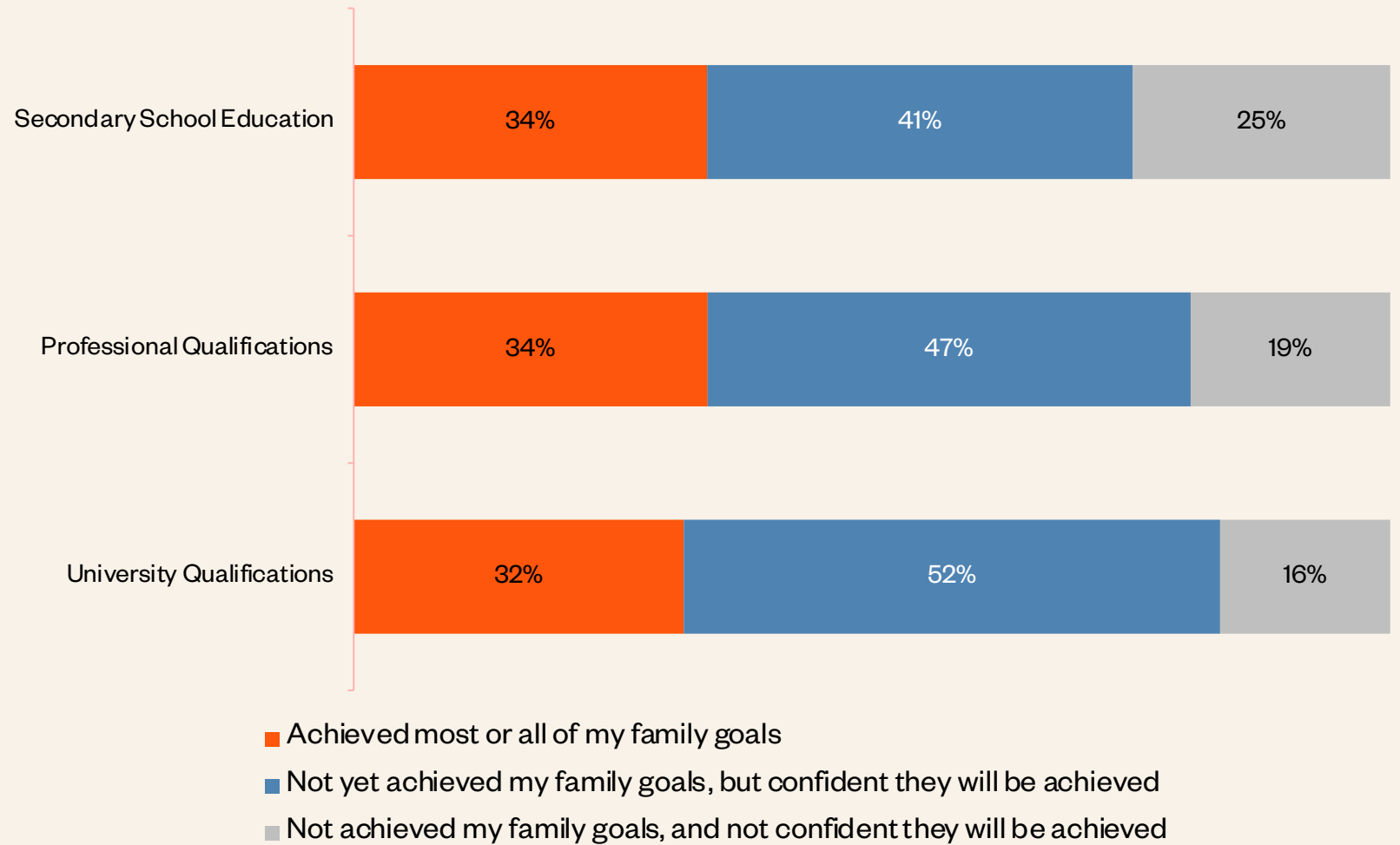
Career goals achieved (%)



Q. Which of the following best applies to you?
Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)

SIMILARLY, HALF OF PARTICIPANTS WITH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION SAY THEY ARE CONFIDENT THEY WILL ACHIEVE THEIR FAMILY GOALS.

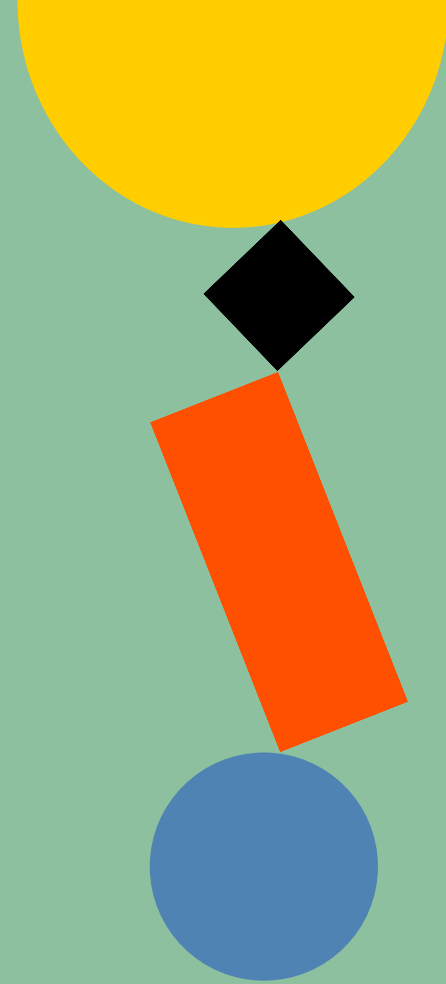
Family goals achieved (%)



Q. Which of the following best applies to you?

Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)

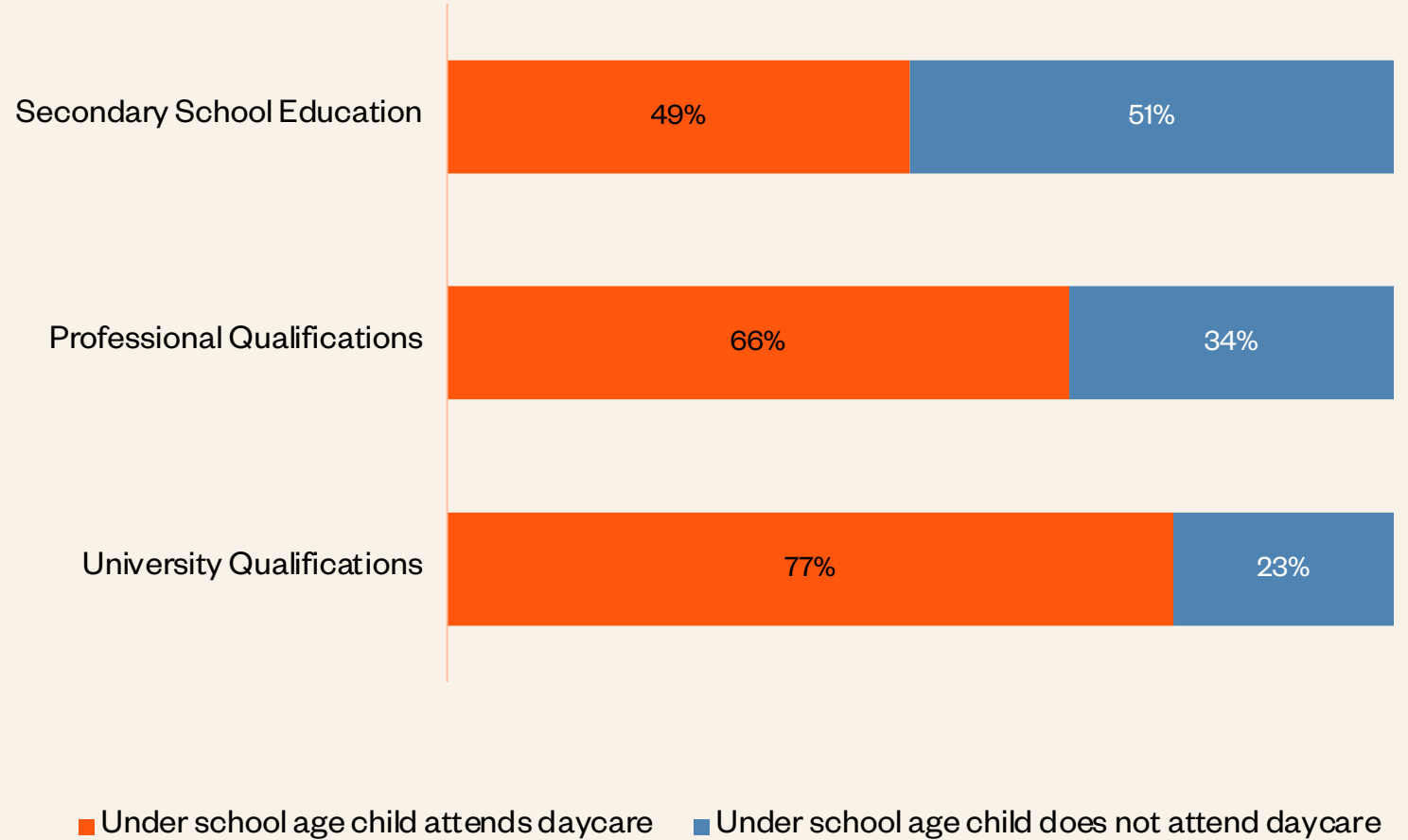
**TOWARDS A UNIVERSAL,
HIGH-QUALITY EARLY
LEARNING SYSTEM.**



**THRIVE
BY FIVE**

**THE HIGHER EDUCATION
THE PARENT HAS, THE
MORE LIKELY THEIR
CHILD UNDER SCHOOL
AGE ATTENDS DAYCARE.**

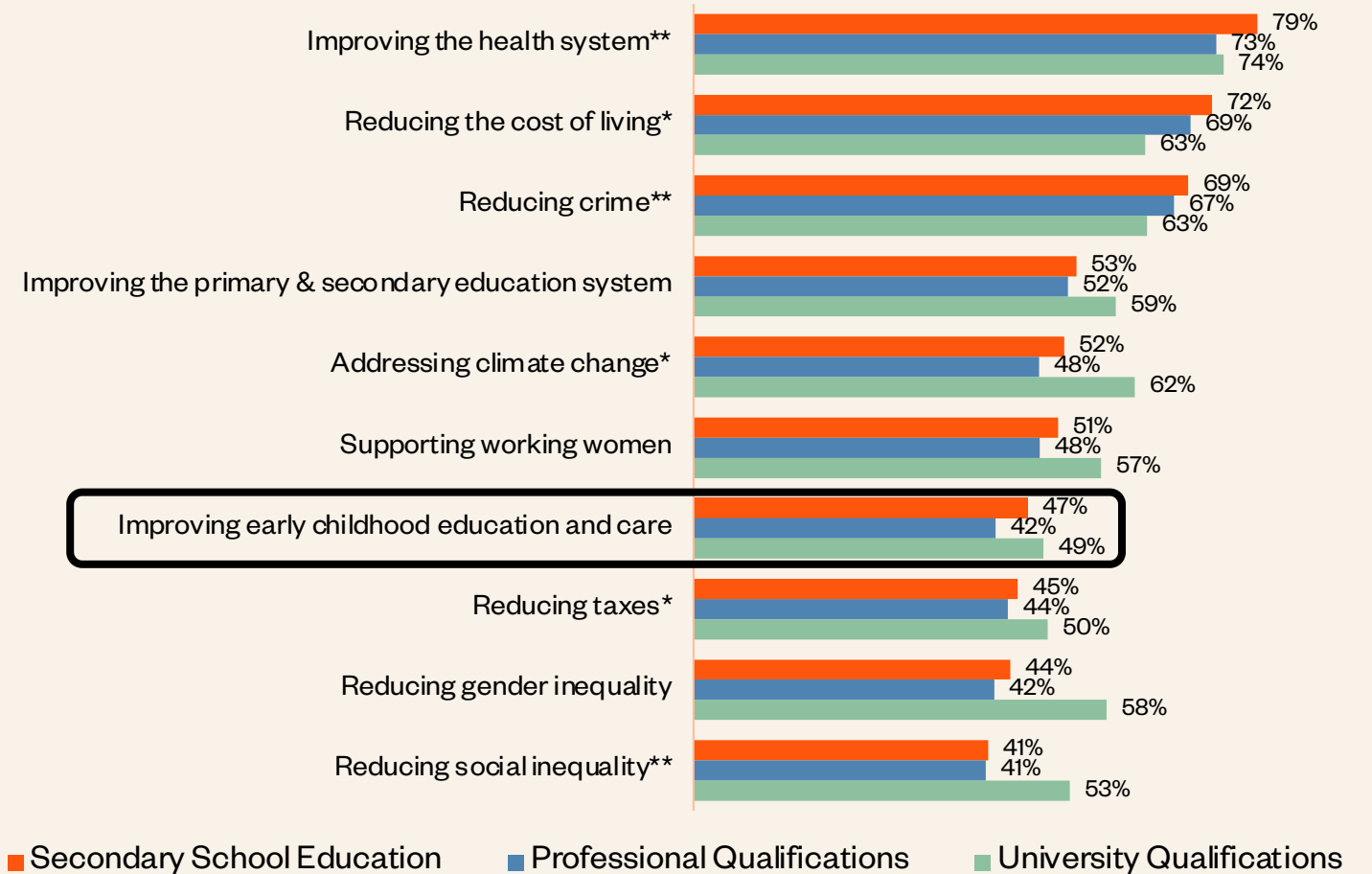
Attendance of centre-based daycare or preschool (%)



Base: Parent of a child under school age with secondary school education (n=119), Parent of a child under school age with professional qualifications (n=190), Parent of a child under school age with university education (n=356)

IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE IS SIMILARLY IMPORTANT FOR PARTICIPANTS REGARDLESS OF THEIR EDUCATION LEVEL.

**Importance of issues when voting at federal elections
(% Extremely/very important)**



Q. How important are each of the following issues when it comes to voting at federal elections?

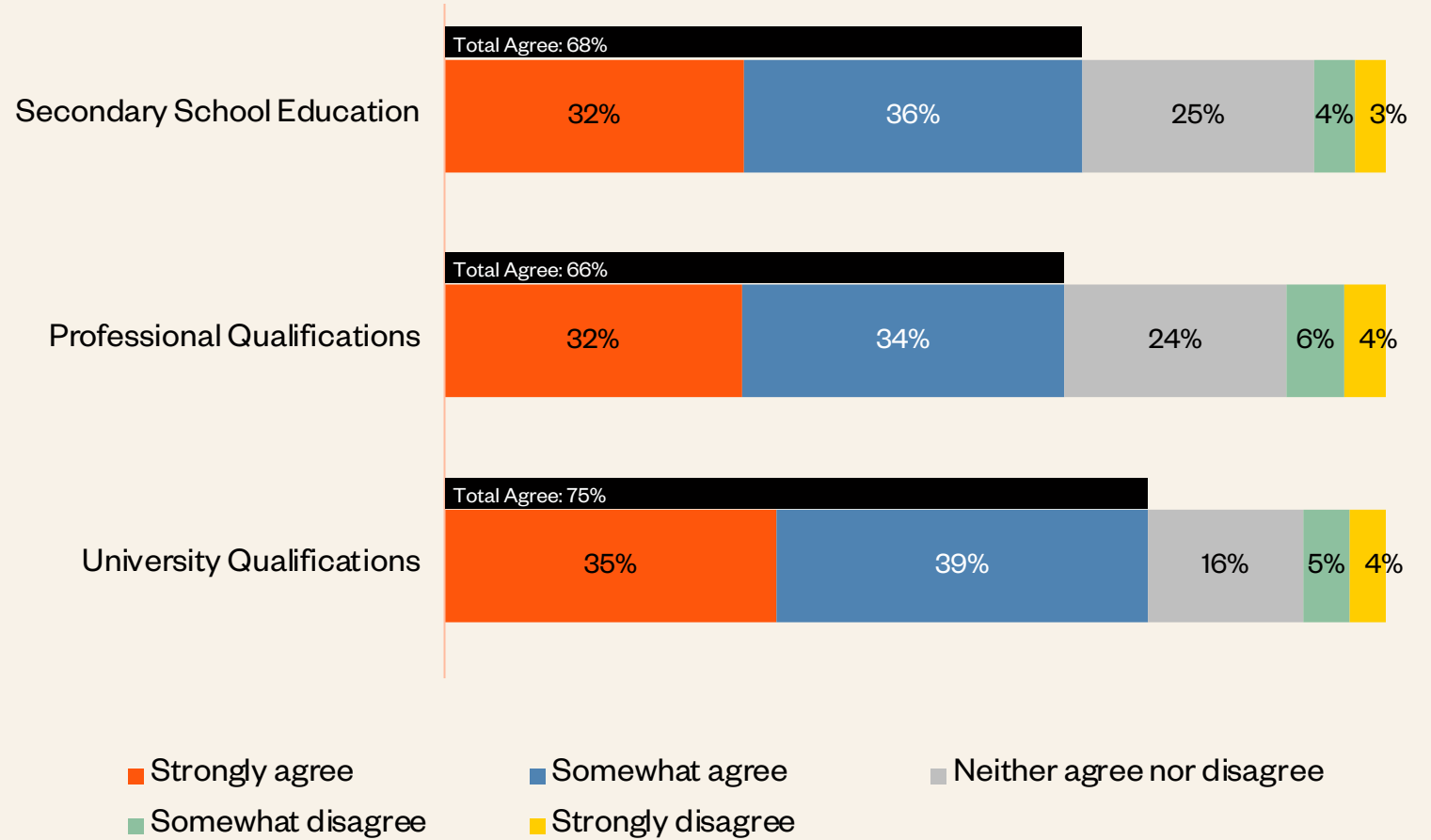
Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)

*Only shown to half sample: Secondary School Education (n=560), Professional Qualifications (n=857), University Education (n=934)

**Only shown to half sample: Secondary School Education (n=576), Professional Qualifications (n=886), University Education (n=898)

**MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS
OF PARTICIPANTS AGREE
THAT CHEAPER EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
AND CARE WOULD BE
GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY.**

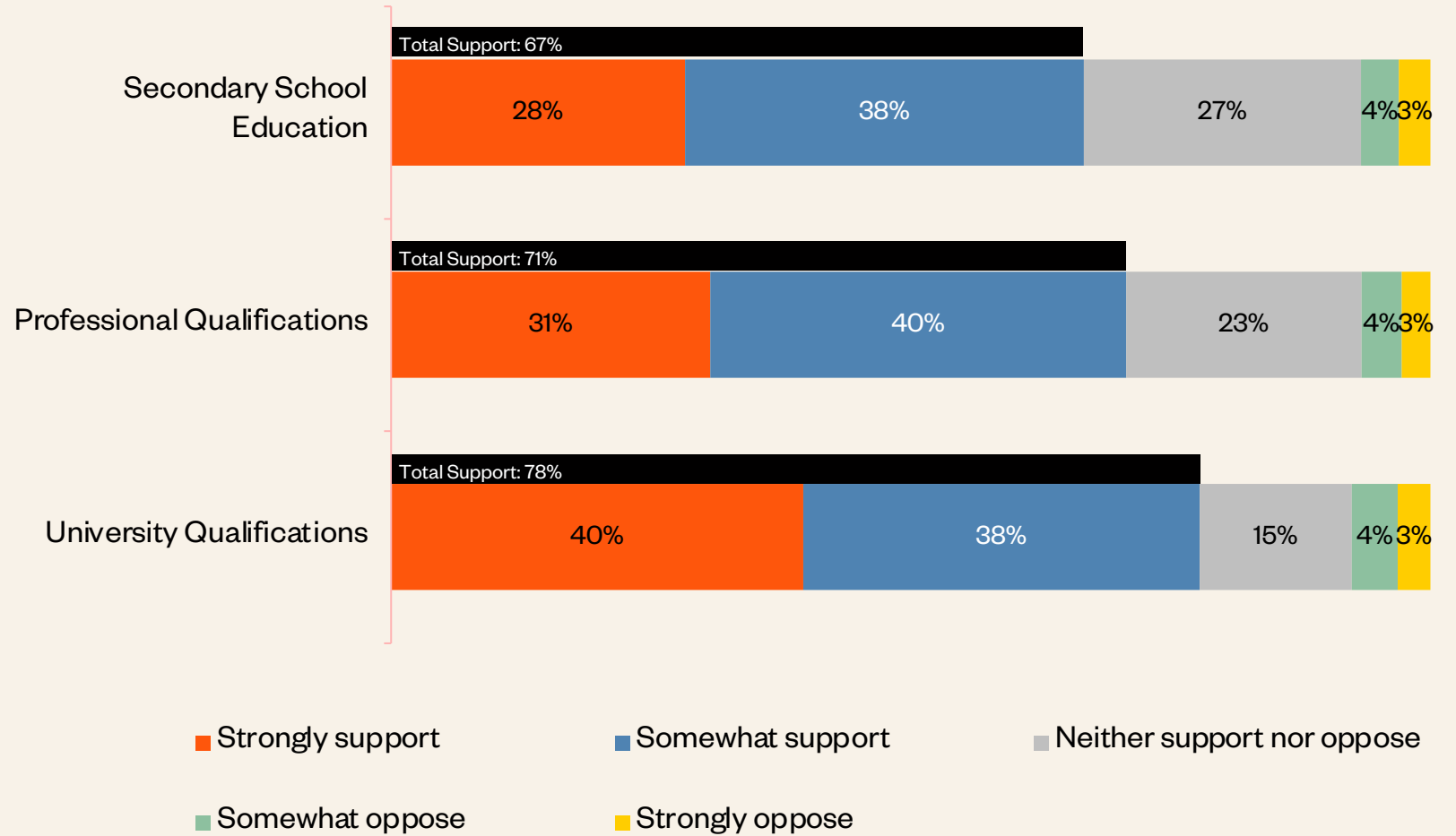
Agreement that cheaper early childhood education and care would be very good for the Australian economy as a whole (% Strongly / Somewhat agree)



Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)

**SIMILAR PROPORTIONS
SUPPORT A UNIVERSAL
HIGH-QUALITY EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
AND CARE SYSTEM.**

Support for a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system (%)

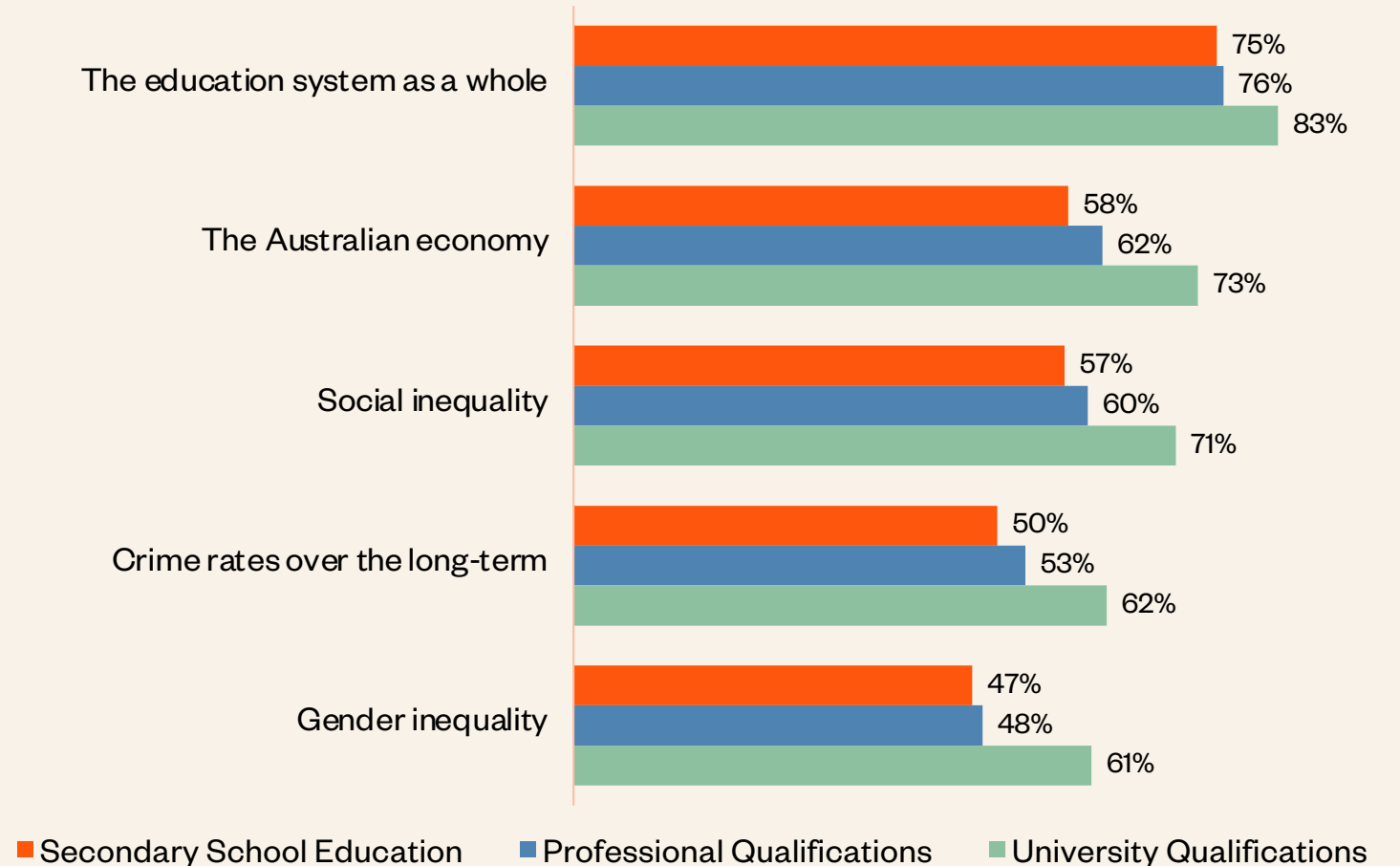


Q. For the purpose of the next few questions, please assume that 'a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system' would be one that was connected to the primary and secondary education system with a standard set of teaching priorities based around play-based learning. The system would be available at low or minimal cost to anyone who wants to use it, but using it would not be compulsory. How strongly do you support or oppose introducing a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system along those lines?

Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)

**AT LEAST THREE-
QUARTERS OF
PARTICIPANTS THINK A
UNIVERSAL HIGH-QUALITY
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION AND CARE
SYSTEM WOULD IMPROVE
THE EDUCATION SYSTEM -
WITH UNIVERSITY
EDUCATED PEOPLE MOST
LIKELY TO SEE WIDER
POSITIVE IMPACTS.**

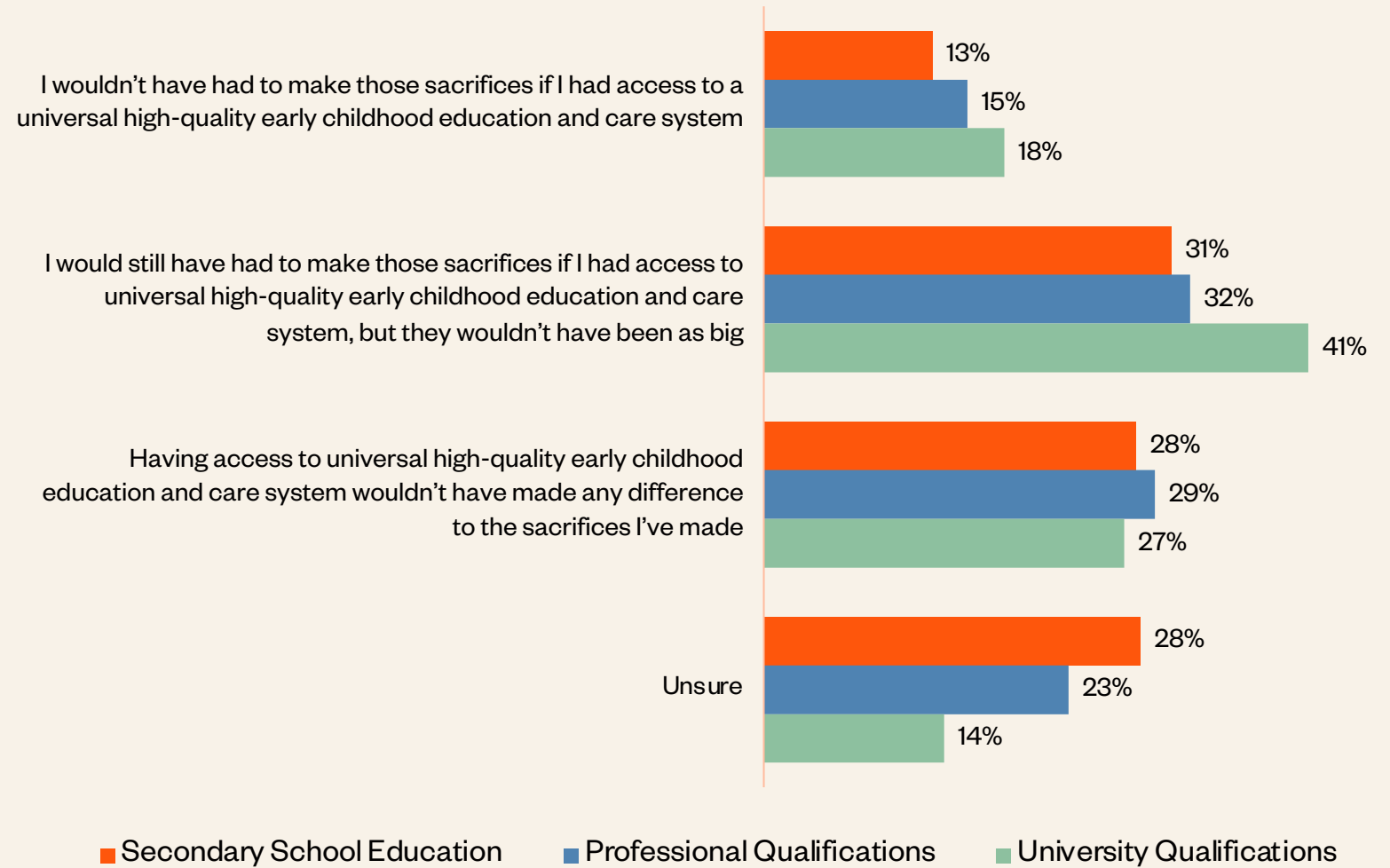
Effect of universal high-quality early childhood education and care system (% Make it a lot/a little better)



Q. If there was a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system, how do you think it would affect each of the following?
Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)

PEOPLE WITH UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATIONS ARE ESPECIALLY LIKELY TO SAY UNIVERSAL HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SYSTEM WOULD HAVE REDUCED THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE.

Views towards career/family sacrifices made (%)

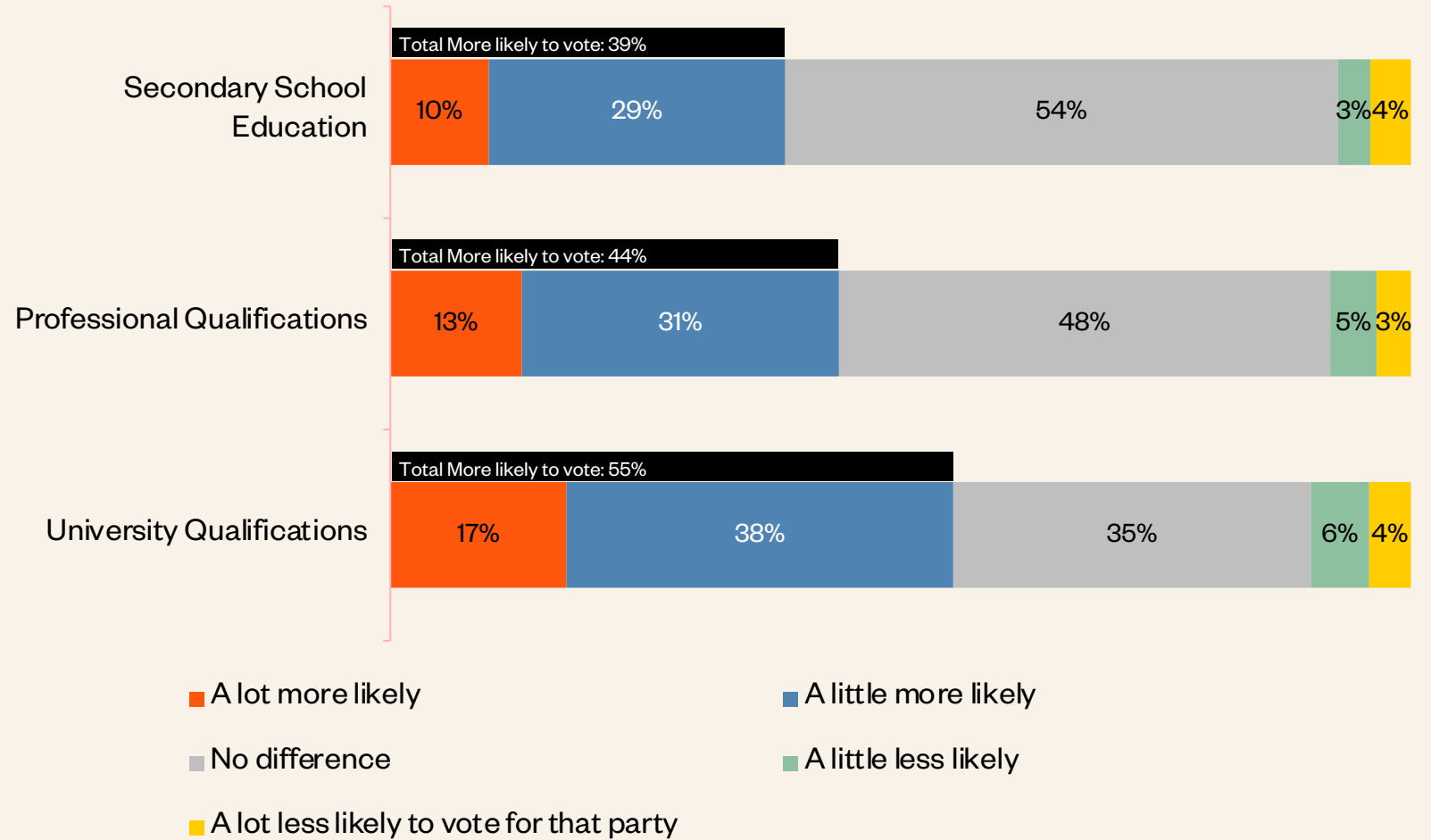


Q. You said earlier that you had made sacrifices in your career for your family or in your family life for your career. Which of the following do you think would have applied to you had you access to a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system?

Base Participants who strongly/somewhat agree that they have made career or family sacrifices: Secondary School Education (n=591), Professional Qualifications (n=1,089), University Education (n=1,273)

MOST PARTICIPANTS WITH UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATIONS WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR A PARTY COMMITTED TO THIS POLICY.

Influence of a universal ECE and care policy on voting intention (%)



Q. If a party committed to introducing a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system, how would that affect your likelihood of voting for that party?
 Base: Secondary School Education (n=1,136), Professional Qualifications (n=1,743), University Education (n=1,832)