



THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY LEARNING MONITOR.

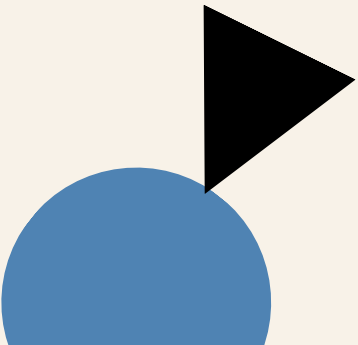
Parents and people without
children results
June 2021.



**THRIVE
BY FIVE**

KEY FINDINGS.

1. Parents are generally more engaged, supportive and aware of the broader impacts early learning can have on children under school-age – however – most people who don't have children are on board with the issue and feel this is an important election topic.
2. 82% of Australians who don't have children, believe high-quality learning would lead to better outcomes for children when the graduate year 12 (compared to 85% of parents with children under school-age).
3. Another 74% of people without children, agree early learning should be part of education system and the same proportion say the quality of the system would be improved with more coordination.
4. Two in five participants who don't have children say improving the early childhood education and care is important to their vote (40%); compared to 67% of parents with school-aged children who say the same.
5. Almost two-thirds of people without children agree cheaper early childhood education and care would be good for the economy (66%) and support implementing a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system (68%).
6. More than two in five (44%) say they would be more likely to vote for a party which committed to a universal high-quality early childhood education and care policy – though two-thirds of parents of school-aged children say the same (63%).



METHODOLOGY.

Fieldwork: 22nd April – 7th May 2021

Sample:

Parents of children under school age, n=670 (MoE \pm 3.8%)

Parents of school aged children, n=800 (MoE \pm 3.5%)

Parents of children above school age, n=1,416 (MoE \pm 2.6%)

People with no children, n=1,900 (MoE \pm 2.2%)

Prepared by: Essential Research

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



Australian
Polling Council
Quality Mark

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.

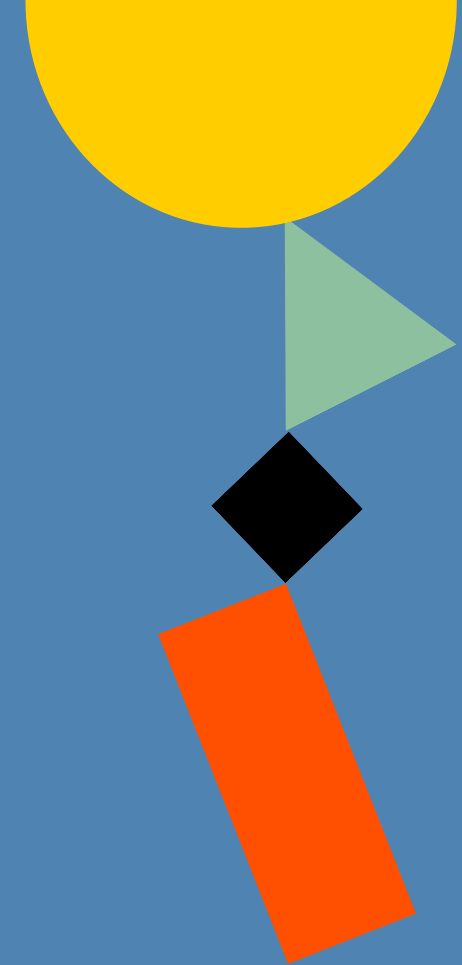
Note that some questions were asked of only half the sample to maximise the number of questions without increasing respondent burden.

The maximum margins of error at a 95% confidence level for the full samples are shown in the left-hand table. For questions asked of half sample, maximum margin of error for any sub-sample is \pm 5.5%.

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/>

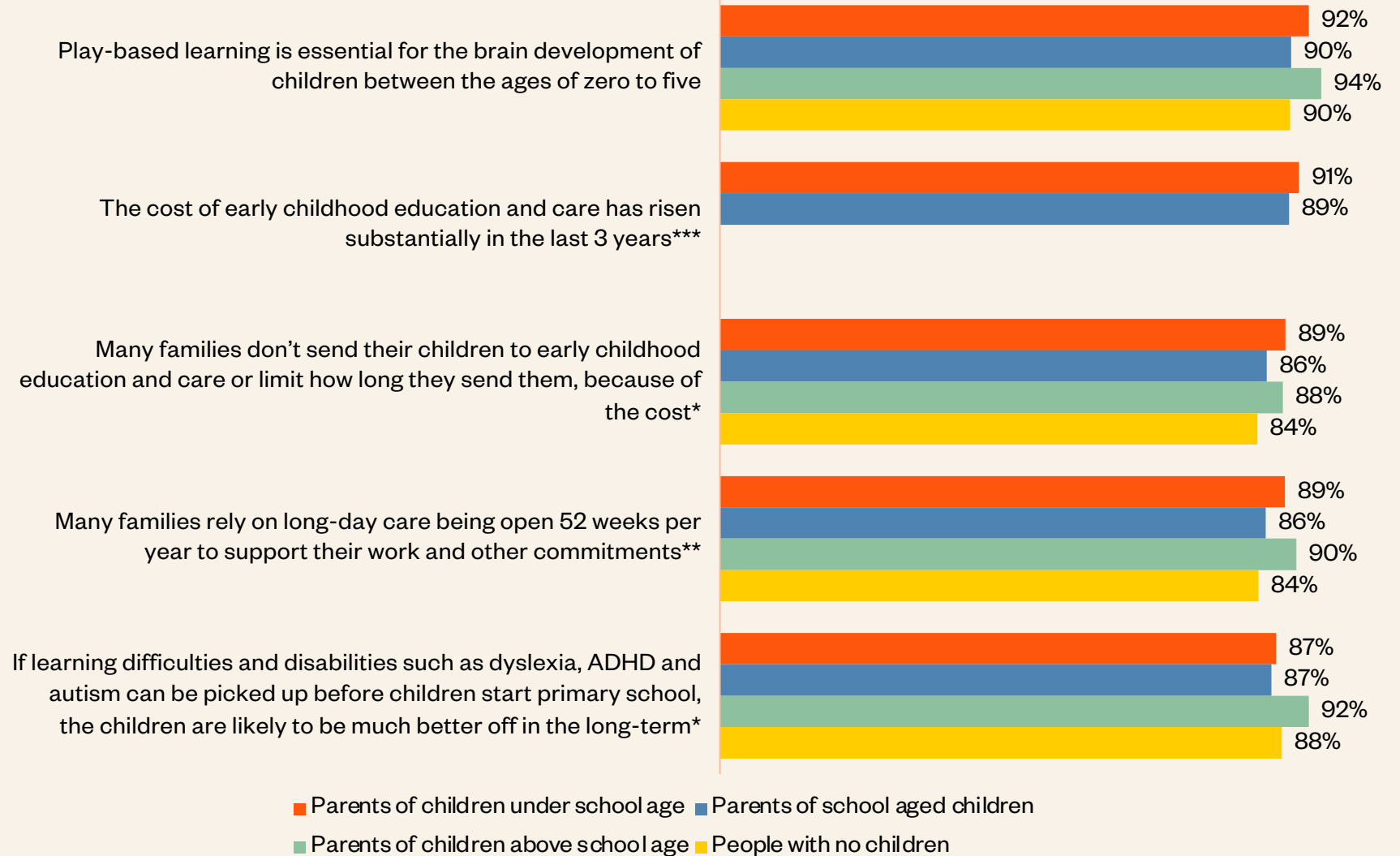
CURRENT ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS.



**THRIVE
BY FIVE**

THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARENTS AND NON-PARENTS IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPACT EARLY LEARNING CAN HAVE.

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: Parents of children under school age, n=670; Parents of school aged children, n=800; Parents of children above school age, n=1,416; People with no children, n=1,900

*Only shown to half sample: Parents of children under school age, n=348; Parents of school aged children, n=395; Parents of children above school age, n=720; People with no children, n=927

**Only shown to half sample: Parents of children under school age, n=322; Parents of school aged children, n=405; Parents of children above school age, n=696; People with no children, n=973

***Only shown to parents with a child that attends/attended daycare: Parents of children under school age, n=455; Parents of school aged children, n=463

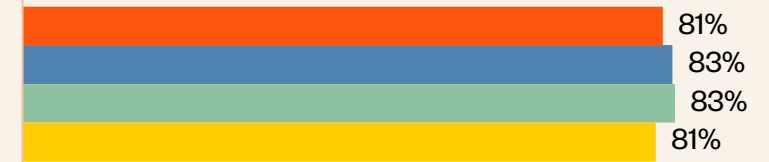
82% OF AUSTRALIANS WHO DON'T HAVE CHILDREN, BELIEVE HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING WOULD LEAD TO BETTER OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WHEN THEY GRADUATE YEAR 12.

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

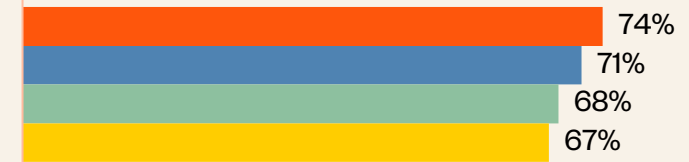
A high-quality early childhood education and care system would help ensure better outcomes for those children when they graduate Year 12



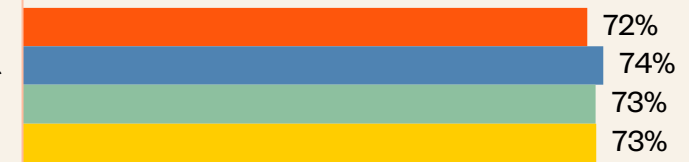
Children who attend daycare or preschool at a centre will often have more opportunities for play-based learning than those who do not



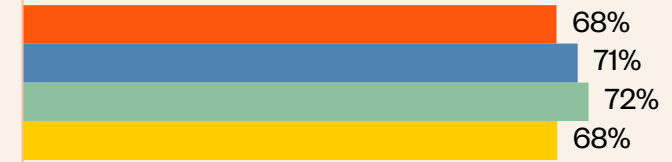
Children who have not been exposed to play-based learning between the ages of zero to five either start school behind, or are not ready to learn



Australia's early childhood education and care system doesn't follow a consistent approach or deliver uniform standards of education and care



Many people who get into trouble with the law later in life have learning difficulties that weren't picked up early enough**



■ Parents of children under school age ■ Parents of school aged children
 ■ Parents of children above school age ■ People with no children

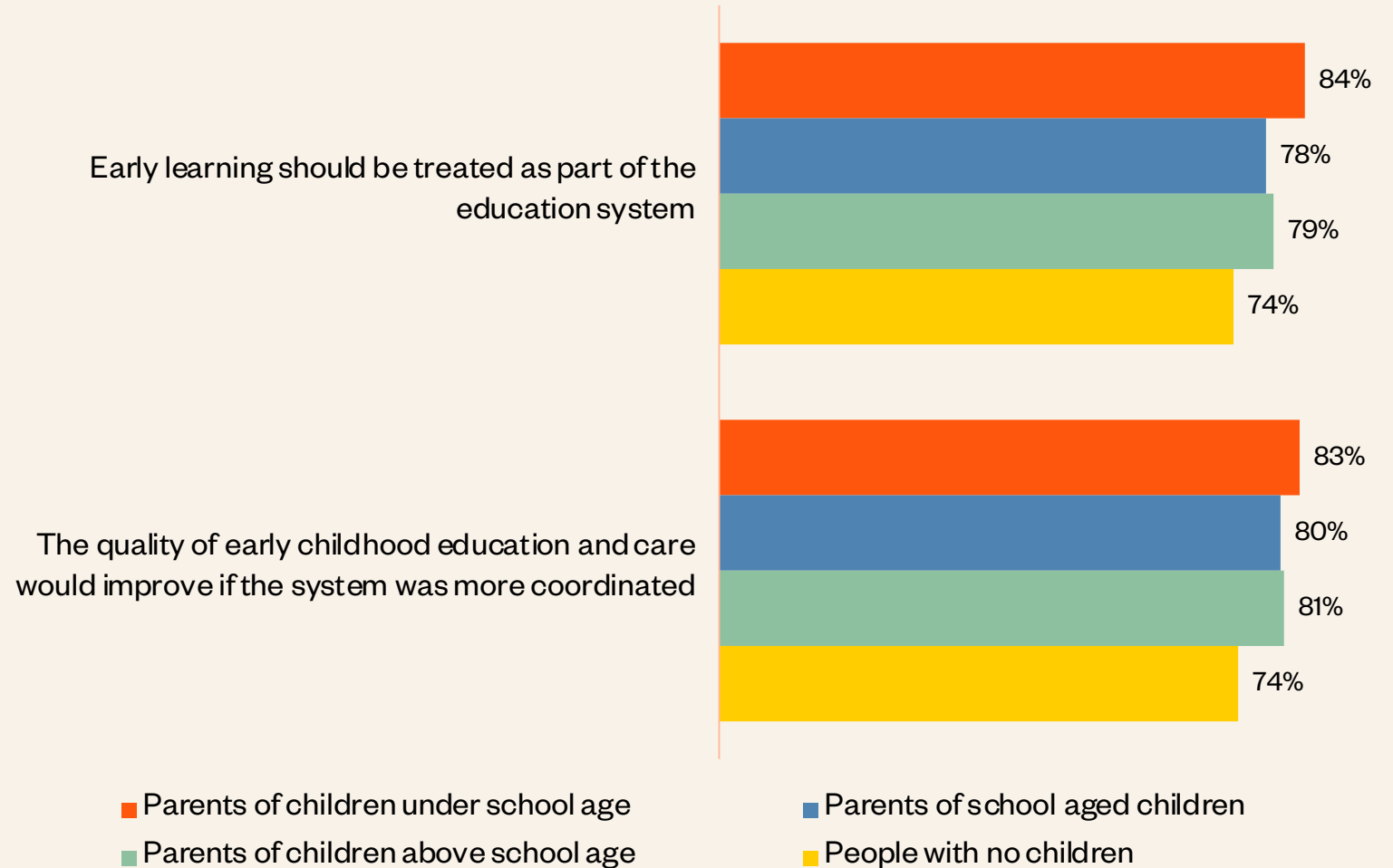
Q. For each of the following statements about early childhood education and care, please indicate if you think they are definitely true, probably true, probably not true or definitely not true.

Base: Parents of children under school age, n=670; Parents of school aged children, n=800; Parents of children above school age, n=1,416; People with no children, n=1,900

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THREE-QUARTERS OF AUSTRALIANS WHO DON'T HAVE CHILDREN, AGREE THAT EARLY LEARNING SHOULD BE PART OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THE QUALITY OF THE SYSTEM WOULD IMPROVE IF IT WAS MORE COORDINATED.

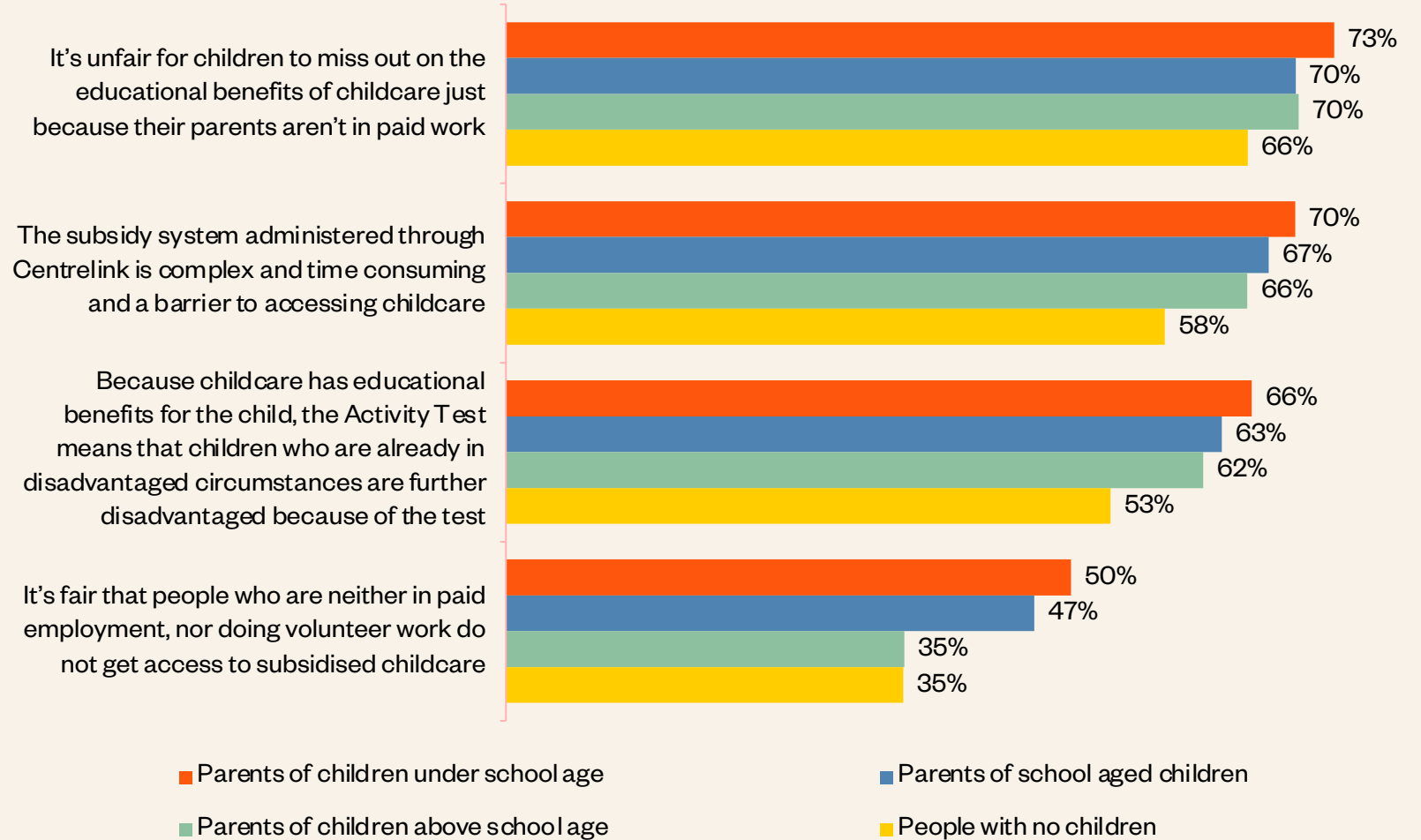
**Total agree with a coordinated future for early learning (%
Strongly / Somewhat agree)**



Q. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Base: Parents of children under school age, n=670; Parents of school aged children, n=800; Parents of children above school age, n=1,416; People with no children, n=1,900

MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT CHILDREN AGREE IT'S UNFAIR THAT CHILDREN MISS OUT ON CHILDCARE JUST BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS AREN'T IN PAID WORK.

Agreement with statements about the Activity Test (Strongly / Somewhat agree %)

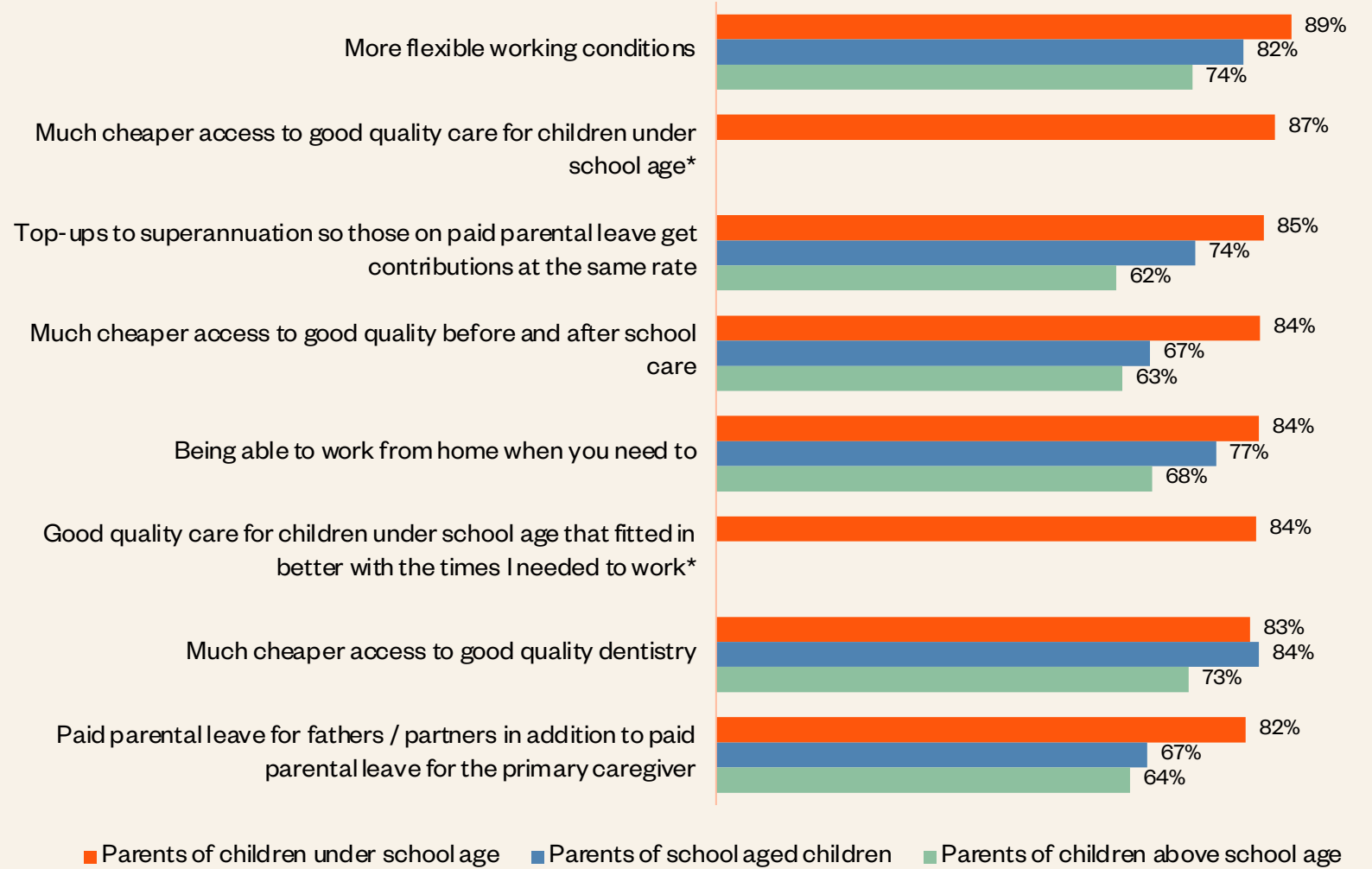


Q. As you may be aware, the childcare subsidy is administered through Centrelink, and is subject to an Activity Test. The Activity Test means that the number of hours of subsidised childcare parents can get depends on the number of hours they or their partner are in paid employment, study, training or doing volunteer work. Although families with incomes below \$69,390 are exempt from the Activity Test, the Activity Test means that families with incomes above \$69,390 can't get access to subsidised childcare if one of the parents is not in paid employment, study, training or doing volunteer work. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Parents of children under school age, n=670; Parents of school aged children, n=800; Parents of children above school age, n=1,416; People with no children, n=1,900

THE VAST MAJORITY OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL-AGE SAY EVERY SUGGESTED MEASURE WOULD HELP THEIR FAMILY.

**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?

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* Only shown to parents with at least one child under school age, n=455

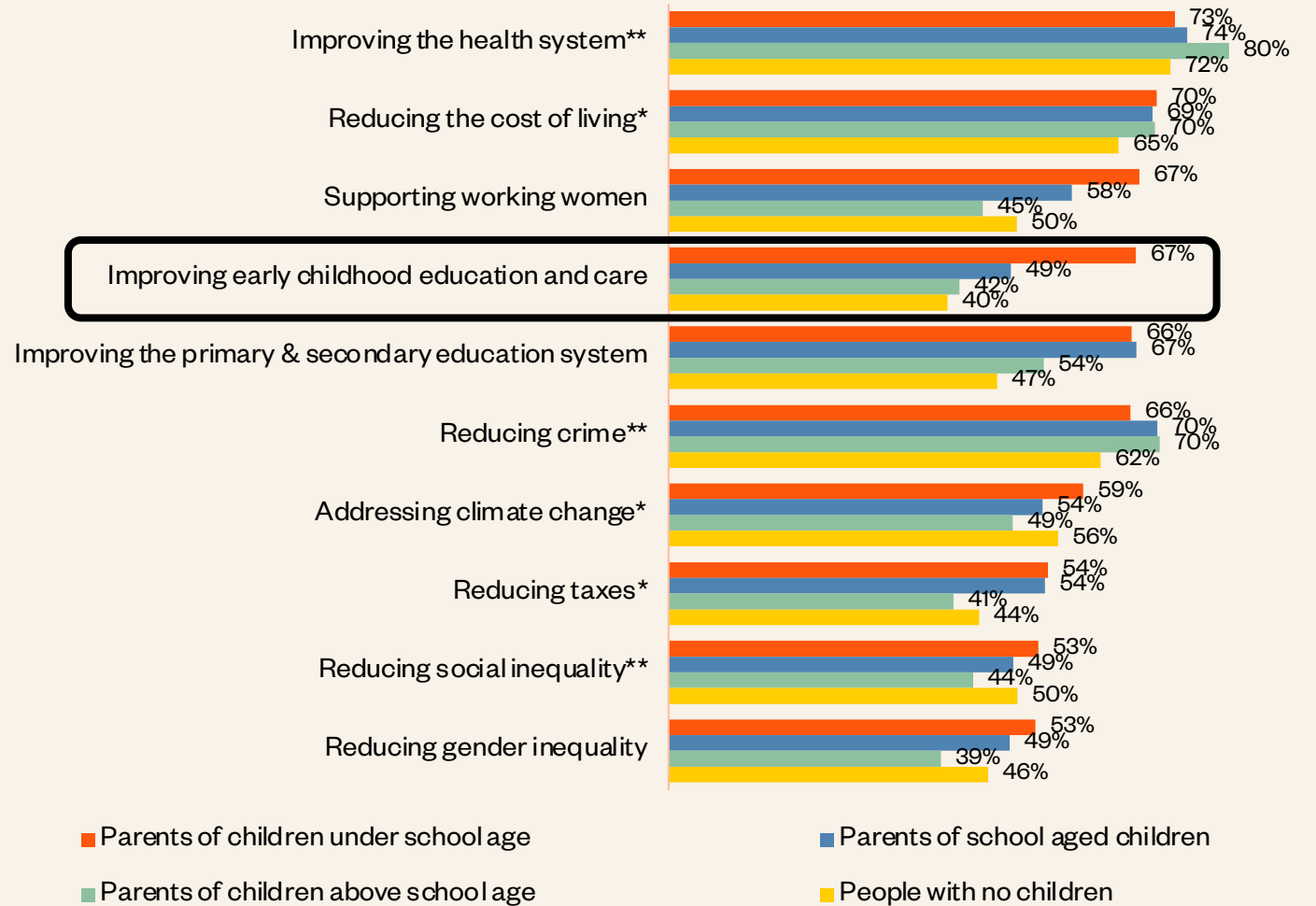
**TOWARDS A UNIVERSAL,
HIGH-QUALITY EARLY
LEARNING SYSTEM.**



**THRIVE
BY FIVE**

TWO-THIRDS OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL-AGE, SAY IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE IS IMPORTANT TO THEIR VOTE.

**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?

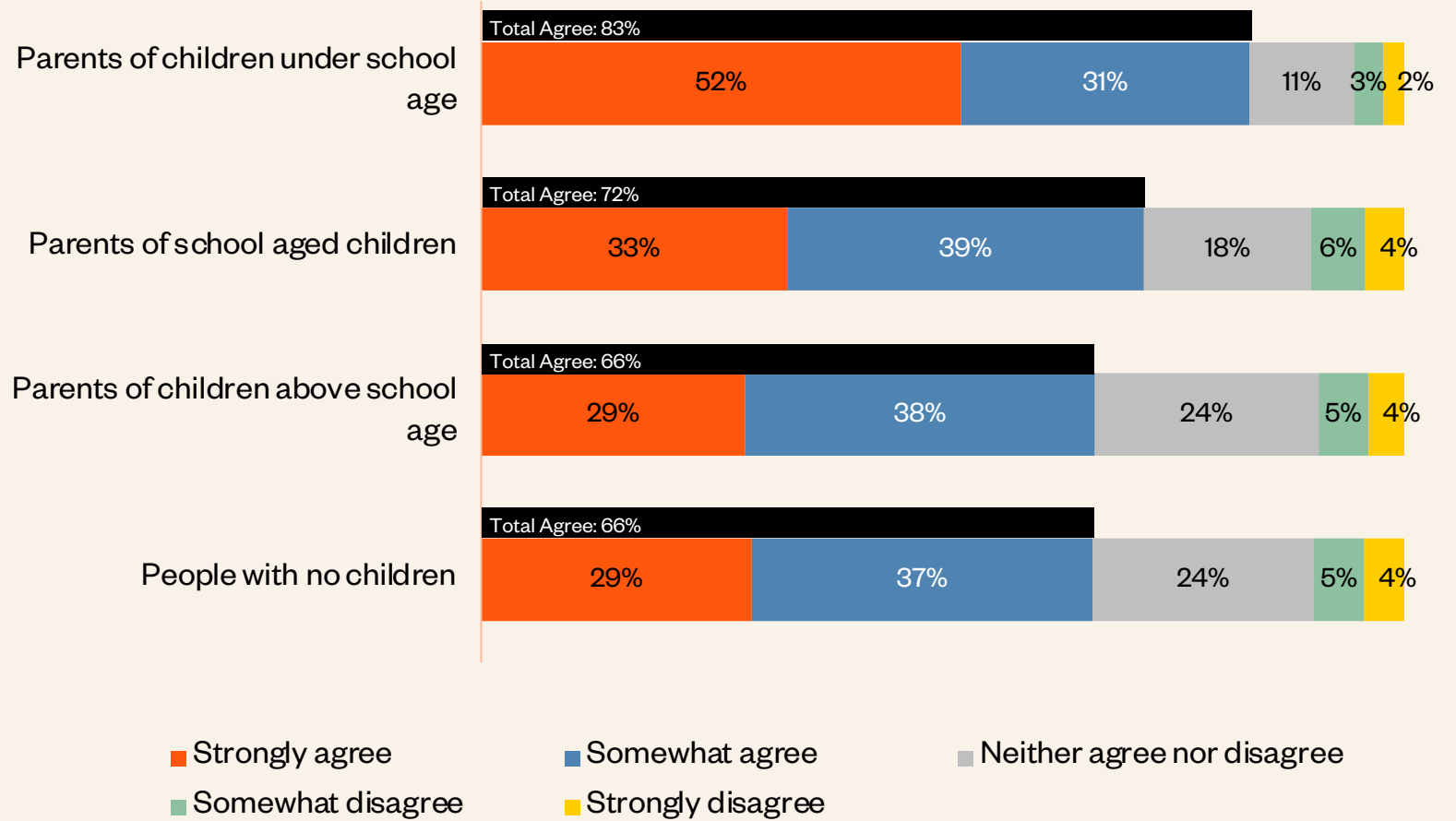
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MOST AUSTRALIANS - INCLUDING 66% OF THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE CHILDREN - AGREE THAT CHEAPER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY.

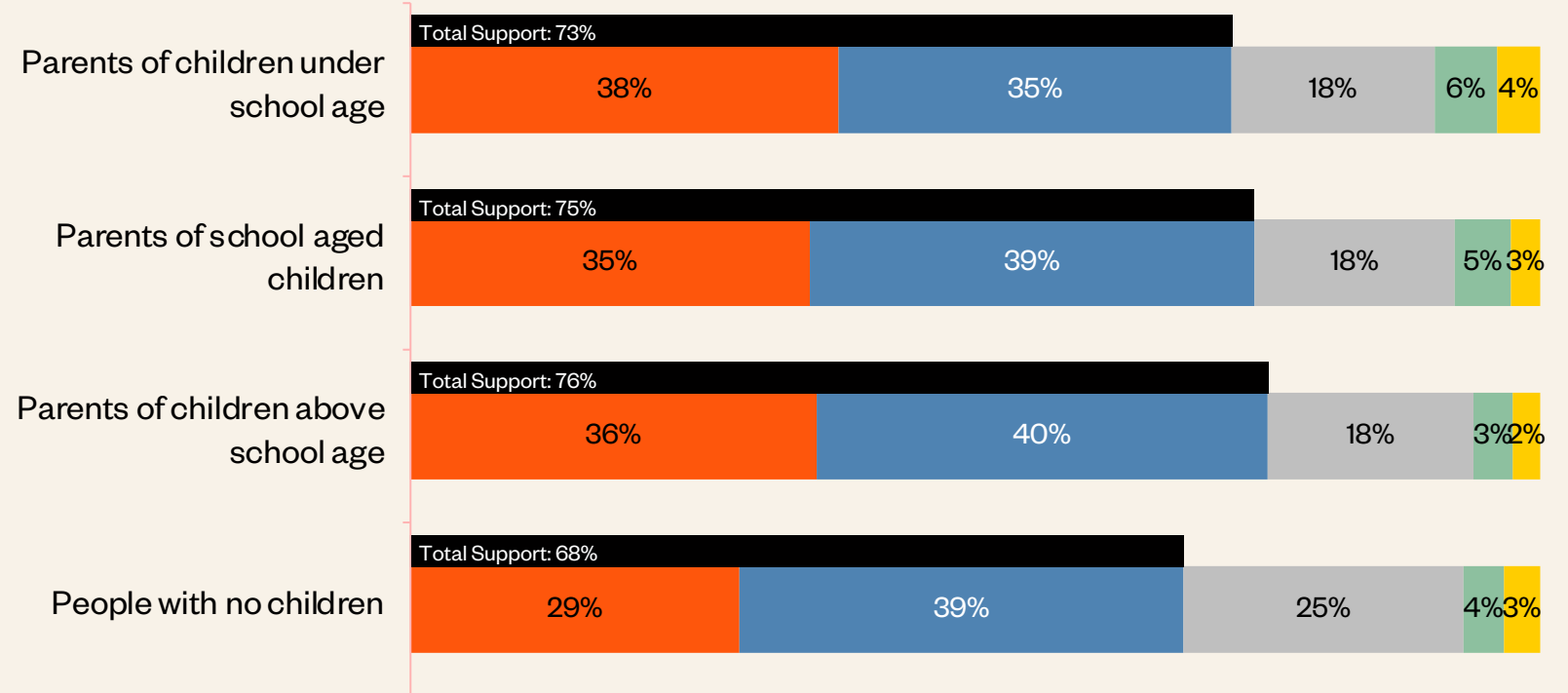
Agreement that cheaper early childhood education and care would be very good for the Australian economy as a whole (% Strongly / Somewhat agree)



Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
 Base: Parents of children under school age, n=670; Parents of school aged children, n=800; Parents of children above school age, n=1,416; People with no children, n=1,900

SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSAL HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE IS HIGHEST AMONG PARENTS BUT TWO-THIRDS OF NON-PARENTS SUPPORT THE CONCEPT AS WELL.

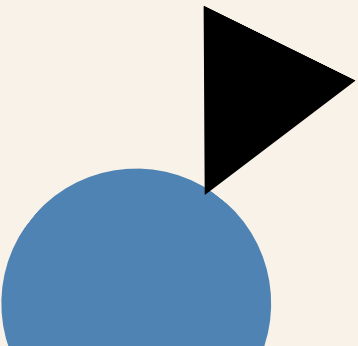
Support for a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system (%)



■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support ■ Neither support nor oppose
■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose

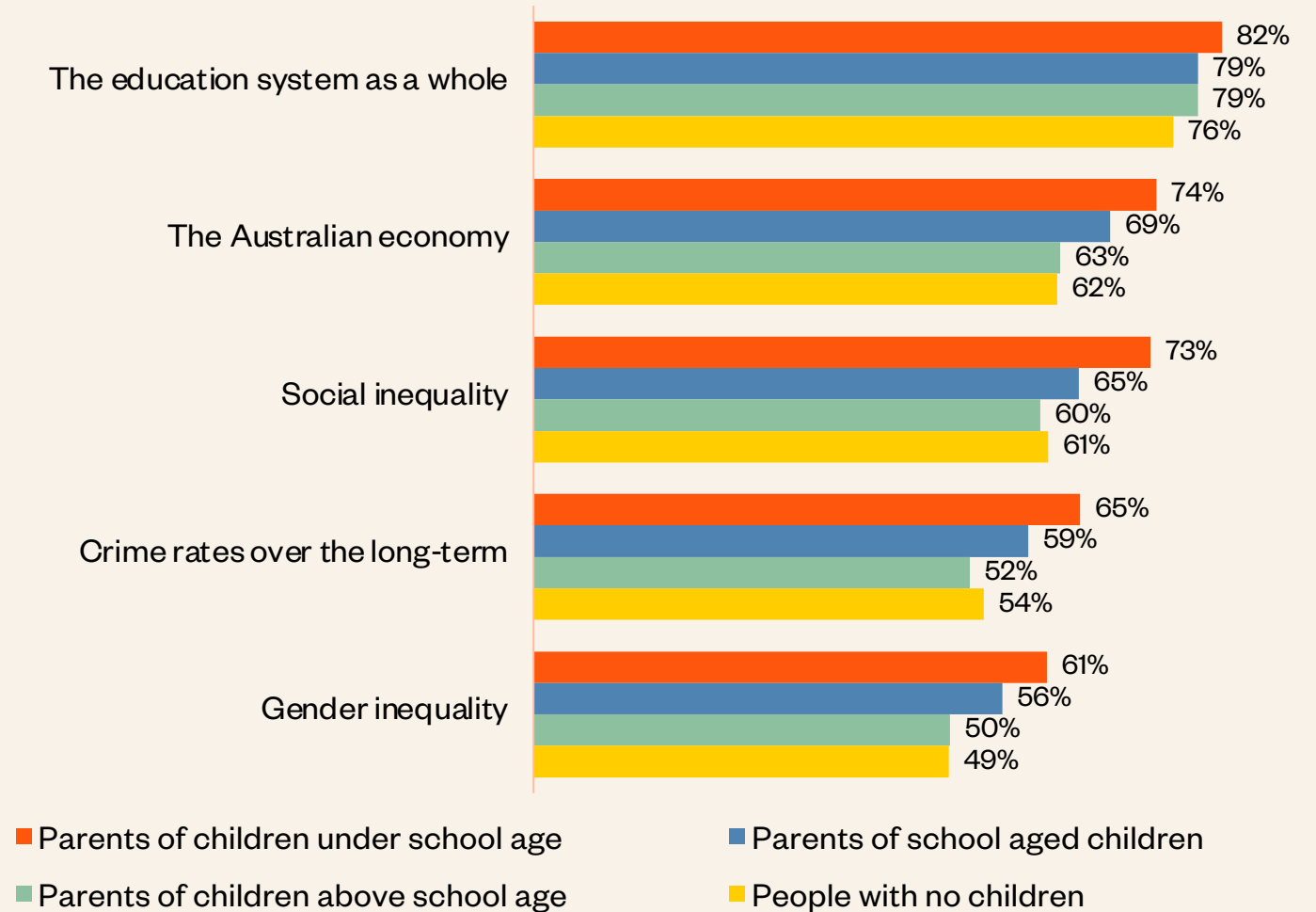
Q. For the purpose of the next few questions, please assume that 'a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system' would be one that was connected to the primary and secondary education system with a standard set of teaching priorities based around play-based learning. The system would 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: Parents of children under school age, n=670; Parents of school aged children, n=800; Parents of children above school age, n=1,416; People with no children, n=1,900



PARENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SEE THE EFFECT OF THIS POLICY THAN PARTICIPANTS WHO DON'T HAVE CHILDREN.

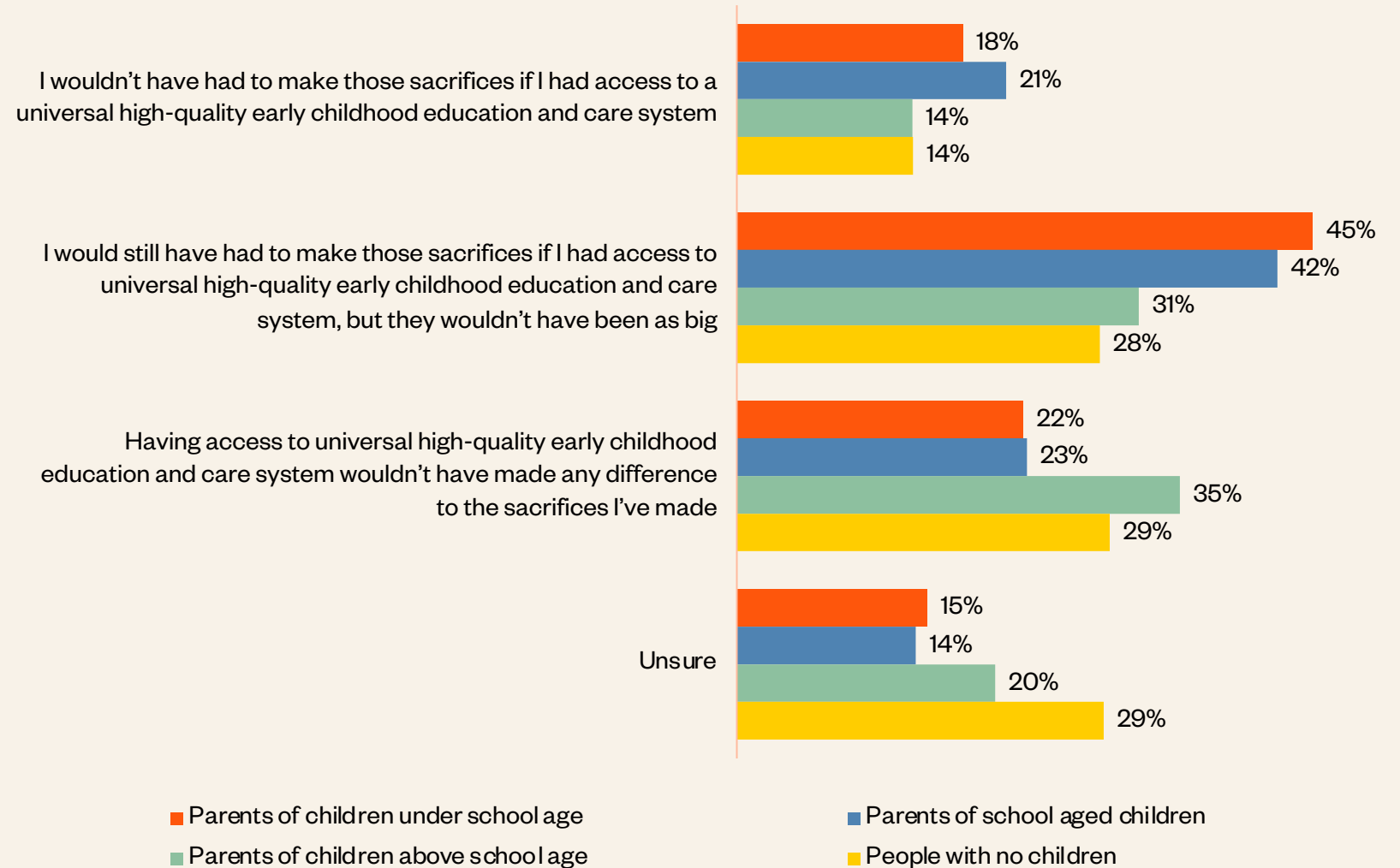
Effect of universal high-quality early childhood education and care system (% Make it a lot/a little better)



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: Parents of children under school age, n=546; Parents of school aged children, n=649; Parents of children above school age, n=931; People with no children, n=861

PARENTS WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO SAY THEIR SACRIFICES WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AS BIG, IF THEY HAD ACCESS TO UNIVERSAL HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE.

Views towards career/family sacrifices made (%)

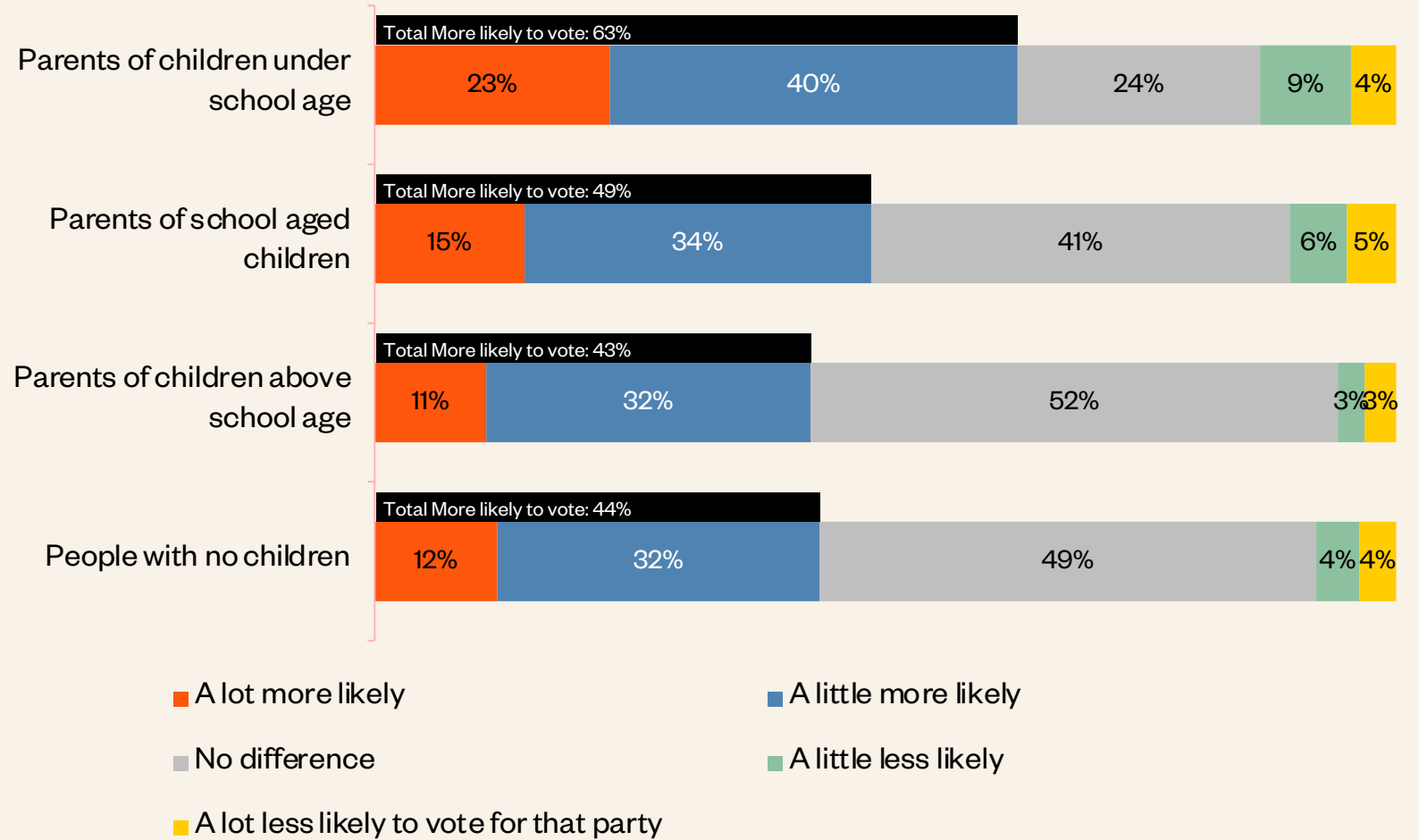


Q. You said earlier that you had made sacrifices in your career for your family or in your family life for your career. Which of the following do you think would have applied to you had you access to a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system?

Base: Parents of children under school age, n=670; Parents of school aged children, n=800; Parents of children above school age, n=1,416; People with no children, n=1,900

ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF PARENTS OF SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN ARE MOST LIKELY TO VOTE FOR A PARTY COMMITTED TO ACCESS TO UNIVERSAL HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE.

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: Parents of children under school age, n=670; Parents of school aged children, n=800; Parents of children above school age, n=1,416; People with no children, n=1,900