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Supporting Information

Supplementary material

This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed. It is posted as supplied by the authors.

Appendix to: Frykberg G, Ojinnaka-Psillakis A, Saw P, et al. The First Future Healthy Countdown 2030 progress report: tracking Australian children and young people's health and wellbeing to drive accountability. *Med J Aust* 2025; doi: 10.5694/mja2.70075.

Technical Appendix to the 2025 Future Healthy Countdown 2030 Progress Report

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Part 1: Tracking Measures

Approach

Measures included in the Future Healthy Countdown 2030 Progress Report were selected as part of a consensus-building process involving young people, academics, and policy experts (see details in Lycett et al, 2024 [https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2024/221/10/future-healthy-countdown-2030-consensus-statement-core-policy-actions-and]). Evidence-based selection criteria were provided, including that measures be relevant, applicable across population groups, technically sound, feasible to collect and report, timely, marketable, and lead to action.

Progress is assessed by comparing the most recent data available to a 2023 baseline (or most recent data as at 2023), the year the Countdown was launched. When two data points are available, 'progress' is assessed as *positive* (green arrow), *negative* (red arrow) or *negligible* (yellow line). Given the heterogeneity across measures, we interpret progress subjectively by considering the level of change that would shift the distribution on each measure at the population level and looking at precision estimate overlaps at both time points where available. We also flag two distinct types of data gaps: 1) *no new data* (black circle), reflecting measures with regular collection cycles expected to capture future progress, and 2) *lack of regular and timely data* (red circle with cross) reflecting systemic insufficiencies in measurement infrastructure.

National targets have been included for measures where they exist. National targets are only available for eight measures (four from Closing the Gap) – underscoring a critical accountability gap. Where new data were available since 2023, we assess the magnitude of the change between the two time points as either 'on track' or 'off track' to achieve the target by 2030.

Legend

The legend below refers to the assessment of change.

↑↓	Negative change
↑↓	Positive change
—	Negligible change
○	No new data
⊗	Lack of regular and timely data

Domain: Material Basics

Poverty ○

Measure	The proportion of 0–24-year-olds living in poverty
Latest population data	No new data available
Baseline population data	12.0% (2021)
Target	No national target has been established. Although the Sustainable Development Goals include a target for poverty, the Australian Government has not signed up to this.
Progress	There is insufficient data to assess progress, as no new data have been collected since 2021.
Calculation	The number of children and young people aged 0-24 years living in households with income below the poverty line (as defined by the ABS), divided by all children and young people. A decreasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	Unlike many countries, Australia does not have a have a legislated poverty line. *Poverty* is historically defined as living below 50% of median equivalised household income. We acknowledge that poverty goes beyond income, and multidimensional measurement is optimal for children and young people (see Bessell et al, 2025 [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1467-8462.70016?msockid=369c5136611264501dfb44a560656563]). Some of these other dimensions are captured by other measures in this domain. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (whole of population data). This measure was calculated using TableBuilder by Goldfeld et al (2023) (https://www.mja.com.au/sites/default/files/issues/219_10/mja252144-sup-0001-supinfo.pdf). Note: TableBuilder applies small random adjustments to all cell values to protect confidentiality, which may result in minor discrepancies in totals across analyses using the same data.
Data source	Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/census-population-and-housing).
Data provider	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Frequency	Every 5 years
Sample size (latest data)	7,315,156 children and young people
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2021

Housing stress, overcrowding, or homelessness ○

Measure	The proportion of 0–24-year-olds who are experiencing housing stress, overcrowding, or homelessness
Latest population data	No new data available
Baseline population data	Housing stress: 12.1%; Overcrowding: 9.9%; Homelessness: 0.6% (2021)
Target	No national target has been established.

Progress	There is insufficient data to assess progress, as no new data have been collected since 2021.
Calculation	The number of children and young people aged 0-24 years who meet the ABS definitions for housing stress, overcrowding, or homelessness, divided by all children and young people. A decreasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*Housing stress* is defined as living in a household that spends more than 30% of gross equivalised household income on house costs such as rent payments and mortgages. *Overcrowding* is defined as living in a household requiring one to three extra bedrooms to house occupants. *Homelessness* includes living in supported accommodation for homeless people; staying temporarily with another household, including couch surfing; staying in a boarding house or other temporary lodging; or living in a severely overcrowded situation (requiring four or more extra bedrooms). *Confidence intervals*: Not required (whole of population data). This measure was calculated using TableBuilder by Goldfeld et al (2023) (https://www.mja.com.au/sites/default/files/issues/219_10/mja252144-sup-0001-supinfo.pdf). Housing stress data excludes people in households where housing stress could not be calculated. Note: TableBuilder applies small random adjustments to all cell values to protect confidentiality, which may result in minor discrepancies in totals across analyses using the same data.
Data source	Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/census-population-and-housing)
Data provider	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Frequency	Every 5 years
Sample size (latest data)	6,656,946 (housing stress) to 7,315,156 (overcrowding and homelessness) children and young people
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2021

Not in employment, education or training (NEET) ○

Measure	The proportion of 15–24-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)
Latest population data	No new data available
Baseline population data	9.6% (2021)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	There is insufficient data to assess progress, as no new data have been collected since 2021.
Calculation	The number of young people aged 15-24 years who are not engaged in employment, education or training (as defined by the ABS), divided by all children and young people. A decreasing percentage is desirable.

Technical note	*Confidence intervals*: Not required (whole of population data). This measure was calculated using TableBuilder by Goldfeld et al (2023) (https://www.mja.com.au/sites/default/files/issues/219_10/mja252144-sup-0001-supinfo.pdf). Excludes individuals whose employment, education or training status was not applicable, not stated, or undetermined. Note: TableBuilder applies small random adjustments to all cell values to protect confidentiality, which may result in minor discrepancies in totals across analyses using the same data.
Data source	Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/census-population-and-housing)
Data provider	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Frequency	Every 5 years
Sample size (latest data)	2,858,418 young people
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2021

Material deprivation ↑

Measure	The proportion of caregivers of children (0-17 years) reporting material deprivation
Latest population data	41.4% [95% CI: 38.4 to 44.5%] (2024)
Baseline population data	34.5% [95% CI: 31.5 to 37.6%] (2023)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	The proportion of caregivers of children aged 0-17 reporting material deprivation increased by 6.9% from 2023 to 2024, indicating worsening progress in families' ability to meet essential needs.
Calculation	The number of caregivers of children aged 0-17 years who responded 'yes' to putting off paying for one or more of eight essential items in the past month due to money pressure: *mortgage or rent repayments; electricity, gas, water bills; food; healthcare; prescription medicines; home or car insurance; mobile phone bills; and internet*, divided by total caregivers. A decreasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	Unpublished data and confidence intervals provided to Future Healthy Countdown 2030 by the Royal Children's Hospital.
Data source	The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) National Child Health Poll (https://rchpoll.org.au/)
Data provider	The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH)
Frequency	Annual
Sample size (latest data)	1,991 caregivers
Data quality considerations	Survey data collected from an online panel using both non-probability and probability-based recruitment methods, which may affect generalisability to the general population.
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Domain: Valued, Loved and Safe

Developmental equity gap —

Measure	The gap between children living in the most and least socio-economically disadvantaged communities who are developmentally on track at school entry in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)
Latest population data	19.9% gap (*Q1: 41.2% vs Q5: 61.1%)* (2024)
Baseline population data	21.2% gap (*Q1: 42.5% vs Q5: 63.7%)* (2021)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	While the number of children developmentally on track at school entry declined across all socioeconomic quintiles in 2024, the gap between the most and least socio-economically disadvantaged communities narrowed slightly. This reflects a smaller decline in outcomes for children in the most disadvantaged communities and indicates some progress in reducing inequality. However, the overall decline in early childhood development across the population remains a concern.
Calculation	Calculated as the number of children in the first year of full-time schooling who scored above the cut off score for developmentally on track in all five AEDC domains (OT5) in SEIFA Quintile 5 (least disadvantaged), minus the number who scored OT5 in SEIFA Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged). A decreasing gap accompanied by increasing overall rates of children OT5 across all quintiles is desirable.
Technical note	*AEDC domains*: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills (school-based); communication skills and general knowledge. *On track on five domains (OT5)* is a strength-based indicator representing the percentage of children on track in all five AEDC domains. *Socio-economic disadvantage* is defined using the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) from the ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), which ranks geographic areas where children live based on their relative disadvantage (derived from the area's socio-economic characteristics like education, employment, income and housing). Areas are grouped into five equal quintiles: Quintile 1 (Q1) represents the most disadvantaged areas, while Quintile 5 (Q5) the least disadvantaged. It's important to note that SEIFA reflects area-level characteristics, not individual circumstances, and quintiles may contain both advantaged and disadvantaged pockets. *Note on 2024 data*: The AEDC applied the most recent SEIFA (IRSD) data retrospectively to previous collections, meaning 2024 figures are not directly comparable to earlier published SEIFA results. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (whole of population data).
Data source	Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) (https://www.aedc.gov.au/)
Data provider	Australian Government
Frequency	Every 3 years
Sample size (latest data)	288,483 children
Data quality considerations	None

Baseline year used in Countdown	2021

Care and protection orders —↓

Measure	Rate of 0–17-year-olds on care and protection orders, per 1000 children
Latest population data	All children: 10.3; non-Indigenous children: 6.4; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: 63.0 (as at 30 June 2024)
Baseline population data	All children: 10.5; non-Indigenous children: 6.6; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: 71.8 (as at 30 June 2023)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	The rate of children on care and protection orders has slightly decreased overall between 2023 and 2024, with the largest reduction observed among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. However, their rate remains disproportionately high compared to non-Indigenous children.
Calculation	The number of children aged 0-17 years who are on a care and protection order at a point in time, expressed as a rate per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years in the population. Data is disaggregated by population groups, including all children, non-Indigenous children, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
Technical note	A decreasing rate across all population groups is desirable. *Care and protection orders* are legal orders or arrangements made by a magistrate in the Children's Court that give child protection departments partial or full responsibility for a child's welfare. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (administrative data).
Data source	Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS) (https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2023-24/contents/about)
Data provider	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
Frequency	Annual
Sample size (latest data)	5,793,791 children
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Out-of-home care —↓

Measure	Rate of 0–17-year-olds in out-of-home care, per 1000 children
Latest population data	All children: 7.7; non-Indigenous children: 4.6; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: 50.3 (as at 30 June 2024)
Baseline population data	All children: 7.9; non-Indigenous children: 4.7; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: 57.0 (as at 30 June 2023)
Target	Closing the Gap Target 12 (https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/national-agreement-closing-the-gap/7-difference/b-targets/b12): By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (0–17 years old) in out-of-home care by 45% (baseline 2019 rate: 47.3 per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children). Target value: 26.0 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children)

Progress	The rate of children in out-of-home care has slightly decreased overall between 2023 and 2024, with the largest reduction observed among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. However, their rate remains disproportionately high compared to non-Indigenous children and off track from meeting the national target.
Calculation	The number of children aged 0-17 years who are in out-of-home care at a point in time, expressed as a rate per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years in the population. Data is disaggregated by population groups, including all children, non-Indigenous children, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. A decreasing rate across all population groups is desirable.
Technical note	*Out-of-home care* is overnight care for children aged under 18 who are unable to live with their families due to child safety concerns. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (administrative data). The Closing the Gap Information Repository reports different rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and non-Indigenous children in out-of-home care for 2023. These were updated to incorporate information from the most recent Census.
Data source	Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS) (https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2023-24/contents/about)
Data provider	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
Frequency	Annual
Sample size (latest data)	5,793,791 children
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Domain: Positive Sense of Identity and Culture

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children developmentally on track —

Measure	The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the AEDC.
Latest population data	33.9% (2024)
Baseline population data	34.3% (2021)
Target	Closing the Gap Target 4 (https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/national-agreement-closing-the-gap/7-difference/b-targets/b4): By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the AEDC to 55%. Target value: 55.0%
Progress	There was a small decline in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children developmentally on track at school entry between 2021 and 2024. However, this change was not considered statistically significant by the AEDC. This measure is off track to meet its national target.

Calculation	Calculated as the number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children in the first year of full-time schooling who scored above the cut off score for developmentally on track in all five AEDC domains (OT5), divided by total number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the first year of full-time schooling. An increasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*AEDC domains*: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills (school-based); communication skills and general knowledge. *On track on five domains (OT5)* is a strength-based indicator representing the percentage of children on track in all five AEDC domains. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (whole of population data).
Data source	Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) (https://www.aedc.gov.au/)
Data provider	Australian Government
Frequency	Every 3 years
Sample size (latest data)	19,008 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children
Data quality considerations	The AEDC has been shown to be appropriate for use with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. However, as a developmental measurement tool based on a Western paradigm, it may not fully demonstrate the progress and strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
Baseline year used in Countdown	2021

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early years services that are community-controlled

Measure	Number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused integrated early years services that are Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)
Latest population data	107 services (64.5%) are ACCOs (2024)
Baseline population data	106 services (65.8%) are ACCOs (2023)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	The number and proportion of ACCO-run early years services have remained stable between 2023 and 2024.
Calculation	Calculated as the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused early years services that are 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled' (ACCO), divided by the total number of such services, including government and/or non-Indigenous controlled services. An increasing number and proportion of ACCO-run services is desirable.
Technical note	*ACCO:* Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation *Confidence intervals*: Not required (administrative data).

	Amendments in 2025: The number of services in 2023 was previously reported as 107 services (69.0%). This has been revised to reflect two regional ACCO services consolidating and merging.
Data source	Register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused integrated early years services, as reported in the Closing the Gap Information Repository (https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/se/outcome-area3/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-early-childhood-education-and-care-service-providers)
Data provider	SNAICC – National Voice for our Children
Frequency	Annually
Sample size (latest data)	166 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused integrated early years services
Data quality considerations	The data is currently not available for government and/or non-Indigenous controlled services that do not receive funding via the Australian Government's Child Care Subsidy System or Community Child Care Fund (CCCF or CCCF Restricted) (such as state and territory government funded preschool services).
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language ⊗

Measure	Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 2-24 years who speak and/or are learning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander words or languages
Latest population data	No new data available
Baseline population data	Speak – 2-24 years: 33.4% [95% CI: 29.3 - 37.5%] Learning – 2-24 years: 22.0% [95% CI: 18.5 - 25.5%] (2022-2023)
Target	Closing the Gap Target 16 (https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/national-agreement-closing-the-gap/7-difference/b-targets/b16): By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken. This target is provided for the whole population and is not specific to children and young people only. Target value: Not provided
Progress	There is insufficient data to assess progress, as no new data have been collected since 2022-23.
Calculation	Speak: The weighted number of 2–24-year-olds who 1) speak an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander language, or 2) speak only some Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander words, divided by all 2–24-year-old respondents of the question. Learning: The weighted number of 2–24-year-olds who are currently learning an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander language, divided by all 2–24-year-old respondents of the question. An increasing percentage is desirable.

Technical note	The 2022-23 NATSIHS includes a sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in private dwellings. Non-private dwellings (such as hotels, hospitals, nursing homes, boarding schools) or households where all usual residents were less than 18 years of age were excluded from the survey. For children aged less than 15 years, their interview was completed by a proxy (that is, by a parent or guardian). For children aged 15–17 years, a personal interview was conducted if a parent or guardian provided consent, or their interview was completed by a proxy if a parent or guardian's consent was not provided. A parent or guardian was required to be present for any personal interviews conducted with persons aged 15–17 years. *Confidence intervals:* Direct calculation from relative standard error (RSE) from TableBuilder.
Data source	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), TableBuilder (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/national-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-survey-australia#data-item-lists)
Data provider	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
Frequency	Infrequent
Sample size (latest data)	466 children and young people
Data quality considerations	In the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), a lower-than-expected number of households were included in the survey.
Baseline year used in Countdown	2022-23

Domain: Healthy

Overweight/obesity ○

Measure	The prevalence of overweight and obesity in children and young people (2-24 years)
Latest population data	No new data available
Baseline population data	2-17 years: 26.4% [95% CI: 24.4 to 28.5%] 18-24 years: 42.1% [95% CI: 36.7 to 47.4%] (2022)
Target	National Obesity Strategy 2022–2032 (https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2022/03/national-obesity-strategy-2022-2032_0.pdf): Reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity in 2–17-year-olds by at least 5% by 2030. Target value: 21% (2-17 years) No target has been set for 18–24-year-olds.
Progress	There is insufficient data to assess progress, as no new data have been collected since 2022.
Calculation	Calculated as the number of children or young people classified as overweight or obese by the ABS, based on Body Mass Index (BMI) calculations, divided by all children or young people. A decreasing percentage is desirable.

Technical note	*Body Mass Index (BMI)* is a simple index of weight-for-height calculated from height and weight information, using the formula weight (kg) divided by the square of height (m). Height and weight in the NHS are objectively collected from respondents during an in-person interview. *Weight classification:* People are classified as underweight, normal weight, overweight or obese based on their BMI score as recommended by the World Health Organization's BMI Classification (https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/obesity-and-overweight). The BMI categories for children take into account the age and sex of the child. *Confidence intervals:* Direct calculation from relative standard error (RSE) from TableBuilder.
Data source	National Health Survey (NHS) (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-conditions-and-risks/national-health-survey/latest-release)
Data provider	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
Frequency	Every 3-4 years
Sample size (latest data)	4,842 children and young people
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2022

Mental health (4-17 years) ⊗

Measure	The prevalence of mental health distress and disorders in 4-17-year-olds.
Latest population data	No new data available
Baseline population data	High/very high psychological distress (11-17 years): 19.9% Mental health disorder (4-17 years): 13.9% (2013-14)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	There is insufficient data to assess progress, as no new data have been collected since 2013-14.
Calculation	*Mental distress*: The number of 11–17-year-olds who report high or very high levels of psychological distress on the Kessler 10 Psychological Distress Scale Plus (K10+), divided by all 11–17-year-old respondents. *Mental disorder*: The number of 4–17-year-olds who met symptom criteria for at least one of seven mental disorders in the past 12 months, divided by all 4–17-year-old respondents. A decreasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*Mental distress* was assessed using the Kessler 10 Psychological Distress Scale Plus (K10+), which classifies scores into low, moderate, high, and very high psychological distress. *Mental disorders* were assessed via Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) using the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children Version IV (DISC-IV), with interviewers asking parents and carers about their children's symptoms over the previous 12 months. The survey included seven disorders: social phobia; separation anxiety disorder; generalised anxiety disorder; major depressive disorder; attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); and conduct disorder.

	Confidence intervals: Unable to calculate based on available information.
Data source	Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/the-mental-health-of-children-and-adolescents)
Data provider	Australian Government
Frequency	Infrequent
Sample size (latest data)	6,310 families with children
Data quality considerations	As data are more than a decade old, they are unrepresentative of the current population.
Baseline year used in Countdown	2013-14

Mental health (16-24 years) ⊗

Measure	The prevalence of mental health distress and disorders in 16-24-year-olds.
Latest population data	No new data available
Baseline population data	High/very high psychological distress: 25.7% [95% CI: 23.6 to 27.8%] Mental health disorder: 38.8% [95% CI: 35.7 – 41.9%] (2020-2022)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	There is insufficient data to assess progress, as no new data have been collected since 2020-22.
Calculation	*Mental distress*: The number of 16–24-year-olds who report high or very high levels of psychological distress on the Kessler 10 Psychological Distress Scale Plus (K10+), divided by all 16–24-year-old respondents. *Mental disorder*: The number of 16–24-year-olds who met symptom criteria for at least one of 12 mental disorders in the past 12 months, divided by all 16–24-year-old respondents. A decreasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*Mental distress* was assessed using the Kessler 10 Psychological Distress Scale Plus (K10+) about symptoms in the past 4 weeks, which classifies scores into low, moderate, high, and very high psychological distress. *Mental disorders* were assessed using the World Health Organization Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI 3.0). The survey assessed 12 mental disorders categorised into three groups: anxiety disorders; affective disorders; and substance use disorders. *Confidence intervals*: Direct calculation from provided margin of error.
Data source	National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing (NSMHW) (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/mental-health/national-study-mental-health-and-wellbeing/latest-release)
Data provider	Australian Government
Frequency	Infrequent
Sample size (latest data)	2,712 young people
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2020-22

Domain: Learning and Employment Pathways

Public schools funded to 100% Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) —

Measure	Proportion of public schools fully funded to a bare minimum (100% of the Schooling Resource Standard)
Latest population data	1.4% (2024)
Baseline population data	1.3% (2023)
Target	Better and Fairer Schools Agreement 2025-2034 (https://ministers.education.gov.au/clare/building-better-and-fairer-education-system-support-stronger-economy#:~:text=The%2010%2Dyear%20Better%20and%20Fairer%20Schools%20Agreement%20will%20see%20the%20Commonwealth%20increase%20its%20contribution%20to%20the%20Schooling%20Resource%20Standard%20to%20put%20every%20public%20school%20on%20a%20path%20to%20receive%20full%20funding): To support all public schools on a path to 100 per cent of the SRS.
Progress	There has been minimal progress to the proportion of public schools receiving the full School Resource Standard from 2023 to 2024. The ACT remains the only state or territory to fully fund all public schools to a bare minimum.
Calculation	Calculated as the number of government schools in states or territories that are fully funded to 100% of the SRS, divided by the total number of public schools nationally. An increasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)* is an estimate of how much total public funding a school needs to meet its students' educational needs. It is based on recommendations made in the 2011 *Review of Funding for Schooling* (https://www.education.gov.au/school-funding/resources/review-funding-schooling-final-report-december-2011) led by Mr David Gonski AC. *Public schools* include Australian government primary, secondary or special schools. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (administrative data).
Data source	Table 35b Count of all schools (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release#data-downloads)
Data provider	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
Frequency	Annually
Sample size (latest data)	6,727 government schools
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Students in high-disadvantage concentration schools

Measure	The proportion of Australian students attending a school with high concentrations of socio-educationally disadvantaged students
Latest population data	14.7% (2024)
Baseline population data	14.6% (2023)
Target	No national target has been agreed upon.
Progress	There has been minimal change from 2023 to 2024.
Calculation	The number of full-time students enrolled at a government or non-government school where at least 50 per cent of students fall into the bottom quarter of socio-educational advantage (SEA), divided by the total number of full-time students enrolled at all schools in Australia. A decreasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*Socio-educational advantage* is defined using the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority's (ACARA) Index of Community Socio-Educational Disadvantage (ICSEA), which ranks schools based on the level of educational advantage or disadvantage that students bring to their academic studies. *ICSEA* is derived from multiple variables including parental school and non-school education and occupation, the school's geographic location and proportion of Indigenous students. Alongside a school's ICSEA value, ACARA reports the distribution of its students across four Socio-Educational Advantage (SEA) quarters, representing a scale of relative disadvantage ('bottom quarter') through to relative advantage ('top quarter'). These SEA quarters are based solely on student-level factors. *Missing data*: Approximately 3% of schools were excluded from the calculation due to missing SEA and/or enrolment data. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (administrative data).
Data source	School Profile (https://www.acara.edu.au/contact-us/acara-data-access)
Data provider	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
Frequency	Annual
Sample size (latest data)	4,173,661 students
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Literacy and numeracy achievement gap

Measure	Literacy and numeracy achievement gaps between most and least socio-educationally advantaged students in Year 3 and Year 9
Latest population data	Literacy – Year 3: 24.6% [95% CI: 24.1 to 25.2%]; Year 9: 16.3% [95% CI: 15.8 to 16.7%] Numeracy – Year 3: 21.1% [95% CI: 20.6 to 21.7%]; Year 9: 18.2% [95% CI: 17.7 to 18.8%] (2025)

Baseline population data	Literacy – Year 3: 23.1% [95% CI: 22.6 to 23.6%]; Year 9: 15.8% [95% CI: 15.4 to 16.2%] Numeracy – Year 3: 20.8% [95% CI: 20.5 to 21.3%]; Year 9: 16.8% [95% CI: 16.3 to 17.3%] (2023)
Target	No national target has been agreed upon.
Progress	Since 2023, the reading achievement gaps between the most and least socio-educationally advantaged students in Year 3 and Year 9 have increased by 0.4-1.6%, while the numeracy achievement gaps have increased by 0.3-1.4%. Due to overlapping confidence intervals, these changes have been deemed negligible.
Calculation	*Achievement gaps:* Calculated as the difference between reading/numeracy NAPLAN mean scores of students with a parent who has a Bachelor degree or higher and students with a parent who did not finish secondary school, expressed as a percentage shortfall of the least advantaged student in comparison to the most advantaged student. A decreasing gap is desirable.
Technical note	*Further interpretation example:* A literacy achievement gap of 24.6% can be interpreted as students from the least socio-educationally advantaged backgrounds scoring, on average, 24.6% lower than their most-advantaged peers. *Confidence intervals*: Direct calculation based on NAPLAN score confidence intervals. *Amendments in 2025*: This indicator was newly added to the Future Healthy Countdown 2030 to replace the *"Change in literacy and numeracy achievement gaps between most and least socio-educationally advantaged students as they progress from Year 3 to Year 9"*. Due to the complexity of the equivalised years of learning calculation, this indicator was not able to be replicated using new NAPLAN data.
Data source	NAPLAN national results (https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/naplan-national-results)
Data provider	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
Frequency	Annual
Sample size (latest data)	Year 3: around 324,404 Year 9: around 327,153
Data quality considerations	Interpretation of change or progress may be affected by cohort differences.
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Domain: Participating

Voter enrolment ↑

Measure	The proportion of young people aged 18-24 years enrolled to vote
Latest population data	91.0% (June 2025)
Baseline population data	90.3% (June 2023)
Target	Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) (https://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/Enrolment_stats/performance/): Ensure at least 95% of eligible Australians are on the electoral roll at all times. Target value: 95% *Note:* The AEC has a youth enrolment rate target of 85% for 18-24 year-olds. However, we feel that their overall target should be consistent across all age groups.
Progress	The proportion of young people enrolled to vote has increased by 0.7% from June 2023 to June 2025. This measure is on track to meet its target.
Calculation	Calculated as the number of enrolled individuals between 18 and 24 years old divided by the estimated number of eligible electors in that age group. An increasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*Confidence intervals*: Not required (administrative data). *Amendments in 2025*: Measure previously included the enrolment rate of 16–17-year-olds but this has been removed for data validity reasons.
Data source	National Youth Enrolment Rate (https://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/Enrolment_stats/performance/national-youth.htm)
Data provider	Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)
Frequency	Quarterly
Sample size (latest data)	Total population estimated to be eligible to enrol is 1,999,377
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	June 2024

Political participation —

Measure	The proportion of young people aged 15-19 years participating in political groups and activities
Latest population data	3.6% (2024)
Baseline population data	3.4% (2023)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	There has been minimal change in participation rates, which remain low.

Calculation	Calculated as the number of individuals between 15 and 19 years old who reported participating in political groups or activities in the past year, divided by the total number of survey respondents. An increasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*Weighting:* Survey responses are weighted by gender, state/territory, and SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas). *Confidence intervals:* Unable to calculate based on available information.
Data source	Mission Australia Youth Survey (https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/publications/youth-survey)
Data provider	Mission Australia
Frequency	Annually
Sample size (latest data)	17,480 young people
Data quality considerations	Data are drawn from an opt-in, non-probability sample, which may affect generalisability.
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Civics proficiency ↓

Measure	The proportion of Year 6 and Year 10 students proficient in civics
Latest population data	Year 6: 43% [95% CI: 41 – 46%] Year 10: 28% [95% CI: 26 – 30%] (2024)
Baseline population data	Year 6: 53% [95% CI: 51 – 55%] Year 10: 38% [95% CI: 35 – 41%] (2019)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	Civics proficiency has declined by 10% in both Year 6 and Year 10 students between 2019 and 2024.
Calculation	Calculated as the number of students in Year 6 and Year 10 who achieved at or above the proficient standard in the Civics and Citizenship assessment, divided by the total number of students in each year level. An increasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*Sample*: Randomly selected representative sample of students from government, catholic and independent schools in metropolitan and rural and remote locations across Australia. *Civics proficiency:* Includes students' knowledge of democratic principles, the Australian political system, and related historical contexts, as well as the ability to apply this knowledge to engage with and participate in civic processes. *Confidence intervals*: Added from originally calculated and reported data. *Amendments in 2025*: This indicator was newly added to the Future Healthy Countdown 2030.
Data source	National Assessment Program – Civics and Citizenship (NAP–CC) (https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/nap-sample-assessments)
Data provider	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

Frequency	Every 3 years
Sample size (latest data)	4,550 (Year 10) to 5,294 (Year 6) students
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2019

Domain: Environments and Sustainable Futures

New fossil fuel projects

Measure	The number of new coal, oil and gas projects proposed to begin production by 2030
Latest population data	91 (2024)
Baseline population data	92 (2023)
Target	The Paris Agreement (https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/net-zero-report.pdf): Australia has committed to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) (https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050), the pathway to net zero should involve no new oil and gas fields, coal mines, or mine extensions approved for development. Target value: 0
Progress	In 2024, there was minimal change in the number of fossil fuel projects proposed to begin production. This measure is not on track to meet its target.
Calculation	Calculated as the number of coal and oil & gas projects that are classified as in the publicly announced, advanced feasibility, and committed stage. Projects that are new or progressed to the 'completed' stage are counted separately. A value of zero is desirable.
Technical note	The REMP report includes only 'major' resource and energy investments and may exclude smaller-scale fossil fuel projects. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (administrative/count data).
Data source	Resources and Energy Major Projects (REMP) Report (https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/resources-and-energy-major-projects)
Data provider	Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Frequency	Annually
Sample size (latest data)	Not applicable
Data quality considerations	The REMP report focuses on 'major' investments and may exclude smaller scale projects.
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Fossil fuel subsidies ↑

Measure	Total annual government subsidies and assistance provided to major producers and users of fossil fuels
Latest population data	$14.9 billion (2024-25)
Baseline population data	$14.5 billion (2023-24)
Target	No national target has been established.
Progress	There was a 3% ($400 million) increase in the amount of federal, state and territory government subsidies and assistance provided to major producers and users of fossil fuels between 2023-24 and 2024-25.
Calculation	Calculated as the combined total of subsidies and other forms of assistance given by Australian federal, state and territory governments to fossil fuel producers and major users and expressed as total annual assistance in AUD. A decreasing amount is desirable.
Technical note	*Government subsidies and assistance:* Includes both direct budget expenditure (e.g., grants, infrastructure, program funding) and tax-based measures (e.g., fuel tax credits, rebates, concessions) that reduce costs for fossil fuel producers or users. *Methodology:* Items are identified from federal and state budget papers and annual reports of relevant departments and agencies. Full details of the methodology can be found in the Australia Institute's report (https://australiainstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/P1669-Fossil-fuel-subsidies-2025-Web.pdf). *Reporting period:* In the small number of cases where data is unavailable for an ongoing subsidy, estimates are based on data taken from the previous reporting period's document. The analysis does not include funding for fossil fuel projects or programs announced after the publication of that year's Federal, State and Territory Budget Papers. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (administrative/count data). *Amendments in 2025*: This newly added measure to the Future Healthy Countdown 2030 replaces *"Year-on-year change in CO_2 emissions"*. This change was made due to challenges with consistent reporting of CO_2 emissions and due to Scope 3 emissions being excluded, which includes CO_2 emitted domestically in the process of extracting, processing and distributing those fossil fuels purely for export.
Data source	Fossil Fuel Subsidies in Australia reports (https://australiainstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/P1669-Fossil-fuel-subsidies-2025-Web.pdf)
Data provider	The Australia Institute
Frequency	Annually
Sample size (latest data)	Not applicable
Data quality considerations	Relies on secondary compilation by the Australia Institute rather than an official data release by Australian governments. Transparency depends on the availability and consistency of government budget reporting across jurisdictions.
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Renewable energy share

Measure	Annual percentage of Australia's electricity produced from renewable sources
Latest population data	36.1% (2024)
Baseline population data	35.3% (2023)
Target	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/net-zero-report.pdf): The Australian Government has committed to achieving 82% renewable electricity by 2030.
Progress	There was negligible change in the percentage of energy generated from renewable sources between 2023 and 2024. This measure is off track to meet its target.
Calculation	Calculated as the amount of electricity (GWh) generated from renewable sources divided by the total amount of electricity generated over a calendar year. An increasing percentage is desirable.
Technical note	*Renewable energy:* Generated from renewable sources including bioenergy, wind, hydro, large-scale solar PV, small-scale solar PV, and geothermal. *Time period:* While DCCEEW publishes data for both financial and calendar years, this indicator reports figures for the calendar year. *Confidence intervals*: Not required (administrative/count data). *Amendments in 2025:* The data source has been updated. Previously reported data for 2023 (36%) were sourced from Our World in Data. This has been revised using figures from the Australian Energy Statistics.
Data source	Australian Energy Statistics, Table O Electricity generation by fuel type (https://www.energy.gov.au/energy-data/australian-energy-statistics)
Data provider	Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
Frequency	Annually
Sample size (latest data)	283,920 GWh of electricity
Data quality considerations	None
Baseline year used in Countdown	2023

Part 2: Tracking Policy Actions – Community Sentiment

Approach

Policy actions included in the Future Healthy Countdown 2030 Progress Report were selected as part of a consensus-building process involving young people, academics, and policy experts (see details in Lycett et al, 2024 [https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2024/221/10/future-healthy-countdown-2030-consensus-statement-core-policy-actions-and]). Evidence-based selection criteria were provided to guide policy prioritisation with guidelines to select one key policy action that would improve the health and wellbeing of today's children and young people (aged 0–24 years) within the next six years and build a strong foundation for future generations.

To assess community sentiment, we developed a suite of plain-language questions designed to gauge public support or opposition for each policy action. These were included in the 2025 Australian Unity Wellbeing Index Survey. Further details are provided below.

Policy action sentiment questions

Full wording of the Future Healthy Countdown 2030 policy actions and accompanying policy sentiment questions are listed in Table A. The sentiment questions were developed to:

1. reflect the policy action clearly
2. use plain language (around Grade 6 reading level); and
3. avoid technical terms.

Questions were asked using the following stem and response frame:

> To what extent do you *oppose* or *support* the government…
>
> (RESPONSE FRAME)
> 1. Strongly oppose
> 2. Oppose
> 3. Somewhat oppose
> 4. Neither support nor oppose
> 5. Somewhat support
> 6. Support
> 7. Strongly support

The question order of each policy action sentiment item was randomised for every participant.

Table A. Domain policy actions and policy sentiment questions

Domain	Policy Action	Policy Sentiment Question To what extent do you *oppose* or *support* the government …
Overarching	Establish a federal Future Generations Commission with legislated powers to protect the interests of future generations.	creating a process to ensure government decisions made today consider impacts on future generations?
Material Basics	Provide financial support to invest in families with young children and address poverty and material deprivation in the first 2,000 days of life.	providing additional financial help to families with young children (0-5 years) who can't afford the basics (e.g., food, school uniforms, healthcare)?
Valued, Loved, and Safe	Establish a national investment fund to provide sustained, culturally relevant, maternal and child health and development home visiting services for the first 2,000 days of life for all children facing structural disadvantage and/or adversity.	providing free home visits from community and health professionals to support families with young children (0-5 years) who are doing it tough?
Positive Sense of Identity and Culture	Implement a dedicated funding model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled early years services across the country to ensure these services are fully resourced to provide quality early learning and integrated services grounded in culture and community.	making sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-run early learning services have enough funding to offer quality education and care grounded in culture and community?
Healthy	Establish legislation and regulation to protect children and young people under 18 years from the marketing of unhealthy and harmful products.	protecting children and young people under 18 from all marketing of harmful products like unhealthy food, alcohol, and gambling?
Learning and Employment Pathways	Properly fund public schools, starting by providing full and accountable Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) funding for all schools, with immediate effect for schools in communities facing structural disadvantage.	making sure all public schools, starting with those in lower-income areas, get the funding they need now?
Participating	Amend the Electoral Act to extend the compulsory voting age to 16 years.	giving 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote?
Environments and Sustainable Futures	Legislate an immediate end to all new fossil fuel projects in Australia.	preventing new fossil fuel projects (e.g., coal, oil, and gas projects) from starting in Australia?

Survey methodology

The policy sentiment questions were included in the 2025 Australian Unity Wellbeing Index Survey (AUWI), a nationally representative survey of 9,905 Australian adults conducted between 2-26 June 2025. The survey was administered by the Social Research Centre using two online panels:

1) *Life in Australia*™ (LinA)

The Life in Australia™ panel is Australia's first national probability-based online panel, established by the Social Research Centre in 2016. It is the most methodologically rigorous online panel in Australia, and one of the few probability-based online panels available globally. The panel provides a balance between the speed and cost-effectiveness of online opt-in panels and the quality of the Random Digit Dialling (RDD) probability-based telephone surveys.

Each year, the panel is topped up with new participants using different methodologies to maintain consistent geographic, gender and age representativeness. Participants are recruited via RDD methods or address-based sampling and invited to respond to regular surveys conducted exclusively for social and health research purposes. Panel members are paid $20 for joining the panel and $10 for each survey they complete, which is limited to only a few surveys per month. The compensation for each survey increases proportionally with the length of the survey. Average completion rates for each survey conducted by the panel are 75-80%. Participants who don't have internet access are also invited to join the panel and are given the option to participate in a survey over the phone with a trained interviewer.

Data collection for the AUWI survey using the Life in Australia™ panel was conducted between 2 June and 17 June 2025. A total of 7,822 panel members (79.0% of total AUWI respondents) completed the AUWI survey. Of these, 7,746 people (99.0%) completed it online, and 76 people (1.0%) completed it over the phone.

2) *LiveTribe*

i-Link's panel, "LiveTribe", is an actively managed non-probability based online panel established exclusively for research purposes. Panel members are recruited through a range of strategies, including online marketing, print media, direct mail, social media, affiliate partnerships, and personal invitations, with the aim of diversifying recruitment sources and minimising sample bias. Although LiveTribe is designed as a general consumer panel rather than one focused on niche populations, i-Link employs a range of engagement strategies—including refer-a-friend campaigns and tiered loyalty programs—to support participant retention and panel diversity.

Membership in the panel is voluntary and open to the general public, with all participants required to complete a double opt-in email verification process. While the majority of panel members are recruited through affiliate networks, media agencies, and referral programs, i-Link also undertakes targeted campaigns to support representation of harder-to-reach groups.

LiveTribe members are not exposed to any direct marketing or promotional campaigns. The panel is governed by a strict privacy and confidentiality policy, and participant data are protected throughout the recruitment and research process.

Data collection for the AUWI survey using the LiveTribe panel was conducted between 17 June and 26 June 2025. A total of 2,083 panel members (21.0% of total AUWI respondents) completed the AUWI survey. This panel was used to boost sampling from underrepresented demographic groups (e.g., young males) that needed supplementing from the Life in Australia™ panel.

Sample characteristics and weighting

Unweighted sample characteristics for the entire 2025 Australian Unity Wellbeing Index sample, as well as broken down by panel, are presented in Table B.

Data from the online sample have been weighted to adjust for the chance of being sampled in the survey, and to bring the achieved respondent profile in line with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) demographic indicators.

Weights were derived by computing a *base weight* for each respondent as the product of two weights: their *enrolment weight* and their *response propensity weight*. The enrolment weight accounted for the initial chances of selection and subsequent post-stratification to key demographic benchmarks: sex, location, age group, highest level of education, household internet access and telephone status. The response propensity weights accounted for non-response bias due to withdrawal and were estimated from enrolment information available from both respondents and non-respondents to the present wave.

Final base weights were adjusted so that they satisfy the latest population benchmarks for the following demographic characteristics: number of adults in the household, age group by highest education, gender, language other than English spoken at home, geographic location, and the state or territory of residence.

Table B. Sample characteristics for the 2025 Australian Unity Wellbeing Index

Characteristic	Proportion, %			
	Whole sample (N = 9,905)	*LinA (n = 7,822)*	*LiveTribe (n = 2,083)*	2021 Population Norms[a]
Panel				
LinA (probability-based)	79.0	*100.0*	*0.0*	n/a
LiveTribe (non-probability based)	21.0	*0.0*	*100.0*	n/a
Gender				
Male	44.1	*41.3*	*54.4*	48.8
Female	55.2	*57.7*	*45.5*	51.2
Non-binary / gender diverse	0.8	*0.9*	*0.1*	n/a
Indigenous Status				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2.4	*2.1*	*3.4*	3.3
Age Groups				
18-24	9.6	*4.7*	*27.8*	12.5
25-34	16.7	*12.4*	*32.7*	18.4
35-44	16.6	*18.2*	*10.7*	17.2
45-54	14.6	*16.2*	*8.6*	16.2
55-64	16.6	*18.7*	*8.7*	15.0
65-74	16.8	*19.4*	*6.8*	11.9
75+	9.1	*10.3*	*4.7*	8.7
State				
New South Wales	30.7	*30.9*	*30.0*	31.8
Victoria	26.8	*26.0*	*29.8*	25.7
Queensland	18.9	*19.3*	*17.3*	20.1
Western Australia	9.7	*9.3*	*10.9*	10.4
South Australia	8.1	*8.3*	*7.3*	7.1
Tasmania	2.9	*3.0*	*2.5*	2.2
Australian Capital Territory	2.4	*2.6*	*1.7*	1.8
Northern Territory	0.5	*0.5*	*0.5*	0.9
SEIFA Quintile[b]				
Quintile 1 - Most disadvantaged	13.8	*13.4*	*14.9*	20.0
Quintile 2	17.5	*17.4*	*17.9*	20.0
Quintile 3	21.1	*21.0*	*21.4*	20.0
Quintile 4	22.6	*22.4*	*23.3*	20.0
Quintile 5 - Least disadvantaged	25.0	*25.7*	*25.0*	20.0

[a] Australian adult (18+ years) population norms from the 2021 Census
[b] SEIFA: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas is a measure of neighbourhood disadvantage based on postcode

Results

Weighted results for community sentiment on Future Healthy Countdown 2030 policy action items are presented in Table C. A small number of participants who responded ‘don’t know’ or ‘refused’ were excluded from analysis for each item. The final results are based on 9858 to 9892 respondents, depending on the item.

A sensitivity analysis of community sentiment for both panels and the probability-based panel (LinA) only is presented in Table D.

Community sentiment on each item is presented by age groups in Figures 1 to 8.

Table C. Community sentiment on Future Healthy Countdown 2030 policy actions collected as part of the 2025 Australian Unity Wellbeing Index survey

Domain	Policy question: To what extent do you *oppose* or *support* the government …	% (95% CI)						
		Strongly oppose	**Oppose**	**Somewhat oppose**	**Neither support nor oppose**	**Somewhat support**	**Support**	**Strongly support**
Overarching	creating a process to ensure government decisions made today consider impacts on future generations?	0.8 (0.6, 0.9)	0.9 (0.7, 1.1)	1.8 (1.5, 2.1)	9.7 (9.1, 10.3)	15.2 (14.5, 15.9)	32.0 (31.1, 32.9)	39.7 (38.8, 40.1)
Material Basics	providing additional financial help to families with young children (0-5 years) who can't afford the basics (e.g., food, school uniforms, healthcare)?	1.2 (1.0, 1.5)	1.3 (1.1, 1.5)	3.1 (2.8, 3.5)	7.7 (7.2, 8.3)	17.7 (17.0, 18.5)	30.1 (29.2, 31.0)	38.9 (38.0, 39.9)
Valued, Loved and Safe	providing free home visits from community and health professionals to support families with young children (0-5 years) who are doing it tough?	0.9 (0.7, 1.1)	1.4 (1.2, 1.7)	2.5 (2.2, 2.8)	10.3 (9.7, 10.9)	16.9 (16.1, 17.7)	33.2 (32.3, 34.2)	34.8 (33.8, 35.7)
Positive Sense of Culture and Identity	making sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-run early learning services have enough funding to offer quality education and care grounded in culture and community?	3.6 (3.2, 4.0)	3.3 (3.0, 3.7)	4.5 (4.1, 4.9)	18.2 (17.4, 18.9)	17.5 (16.8, 18.3)	25.6 (24.8, 26.5)	27.3 (26.4, 28.2)
Healthy	protecting children and young people under 18 from all marketing of harmful products like unhealthy food, alcohol, and gambling?	1.3 (1.1, 1.5)	1.6 (1.3, 1.8)	3.3 (3.0, 3.7)	9.2 (8.6, 9.8)	15.0 (14.3, 15.7)	28.7 (27.8, 29.6)	41.0 (40.0, 41.9)
Learning and Employment Pathways	making sure all public schools, starting with those in lower-income areas, get the funding they need now?	0.6 (0.4, 0.7)	0.7 (0.6, 0.9)	1.3 (1.1, 1.6)	7.1 (6.6, 7.6)	12.0 (11.4, 12.7)	32.1 (31.1, 33.0)	46.2 (45.2, 47.1)
Participating	giving 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote?	25.1 (24.3, 26.0)	20.5 (19.7, 21.3)	13.7 (13.0, 14.4)	20.1 (19.3, 20.9)	10.0 (9.4, 10.6)	6.7 (6.2, 7.2)	3.8 (3.5, 4.2)
Environment and Sustainable Futures	preventing new fossil fuel projects (e.g., coal, oil, and gas projects) from starting in Australia?	12.6 (11.9, 13.2)	9.2 (8.6, 9.8)	9.7 (9.1, 10.3)	24.3 (23.5, 25.2)	11.5 (10.0, 12.2)	14.8 (14.2, 15.6)	17.9 (17.2, 18.7)

Table D. Sensitivity analysis of community sentiment for both panels and LinA only.

Domain	Policy question: To what extent do you *oppose* or *support* the government …	Oppose, % (95% CI)		Neutral, % (95% CI)		Support, % (95% CI)	
		Both panels	LinA only	Both panels	LinA only	Both panels	LinA only
Overarching	creating a process to ensure government decisions made today consider impacts on future generations?	3.4 (3.1, 3.8)	2.8 (2.4, 3.1)	9.7 (9.1, 10.3)	7.6 (7.0, 8.2)	86.9 (86.2, 87.6)	89.7 (89.0, 90.4)
Material Basics	providing additional financial help to families with young children (0-5 years) who can't afford the basics (e.g., food, school uniforms, healthcare)?	5.5 (5.1, 6.0)	5.2 (4.7, 5.7)	7.7 (7.2, 8.3)	6.2 (5.7, 6.8)	86.7 (86.1, 87.4)	88.6 (87.8, 89.3)
Valued, Loved and Safe	providing free home visits from community and health professionals to support families with young children (0-5 years) who are doing it tough?	4.8 (4.4, 5.3)	4.5 (4.1, 5.0)	10.3 (9.7, 10.9)	8.4 (7.8, 9.0)	84.9 (84.2, 85.6)	87.1 (86.3, 87.8)
Positive Sense of Culture and Identity	making sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-run early learning services have enough funding to offer quality education and care grounded in culture and community?	11.4 (10.8, 12.0)	10.9 (10.2, 11.6)	18.1 (17.4, 18.9)	15.9 (15.1, 16.8)	70.4 (69.5, 71.3)	73.2 (72.2, 74.2)
Healthy	protecting children and young people under 18 from all marketing of harmful products like unhealthy food, alcohol, and gambling?	6.2 (5.7, 6.7)	6.1 (5.6, 6.7)	9.2 (8.6, 9.8)	8.1 (7.5, 8.8)	84.6 (83.9, 85.3)	85.7 (84.9, 86.5)
Learning and Employment Pathways	making sure all public schools, starting with those in lower-income areas, get the funding they need now?	2.6 (2.3, 2.9)	2.0 (1.7, 2.4)	7.1 (6.6, 7.6)	5.4 (5.0, 6.0)	90.3 (89.7, 90.9)	92.5 (91.9, 93.1)
Participating	giving 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote?	59.3 (58.4, 60.3)	60.5 (59.4, 61.6)	20.1 (19.3, 20.9)	19.2 (18.3, 20.0)	20.6 (19.8, 21.4)	20.3 (19.4, 21.2)
Environment and Sustainable Futures	preventing new fossil fuel projects (e.g., coal, oil, and gas projects) from starting in Australia?	31.4 (30.5, 32.3)	33.9 (32.8, 34.9)	24.3 (23.4, 25.1)	21.6 (20.7, 22.5)	44.3 (43.3, 45.3)	44.6 (43.5, 45.7)

Note: 'Oppose' collapses strongly oppose, oppose, and somewhat oppose. 'Support' collapses strongly support, support, and somewhat support.

Figure 1. Community sentiment for the *Material Basics* policy action by age groups

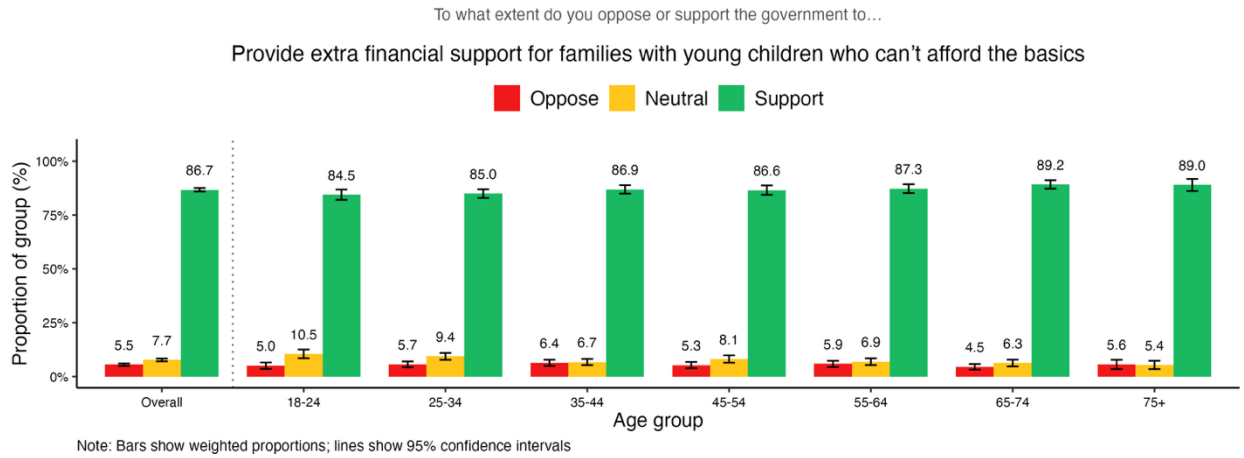

Figure 2. Community sentiment for the *Valued, Loved, and Safe* policy action by age groups

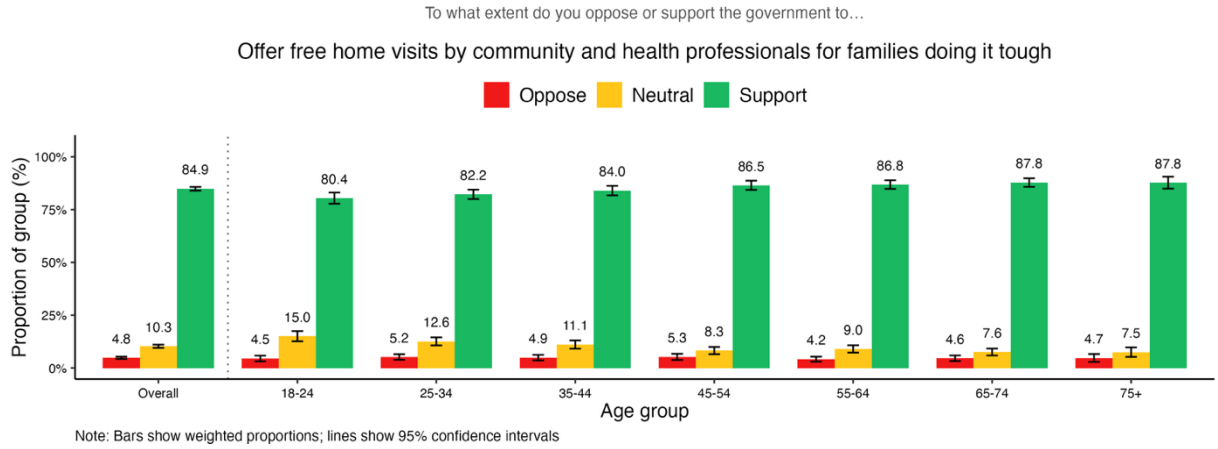

Figure 3. Community sentiment for the *Positive Sense of Culture and Identity* policy action by age groups

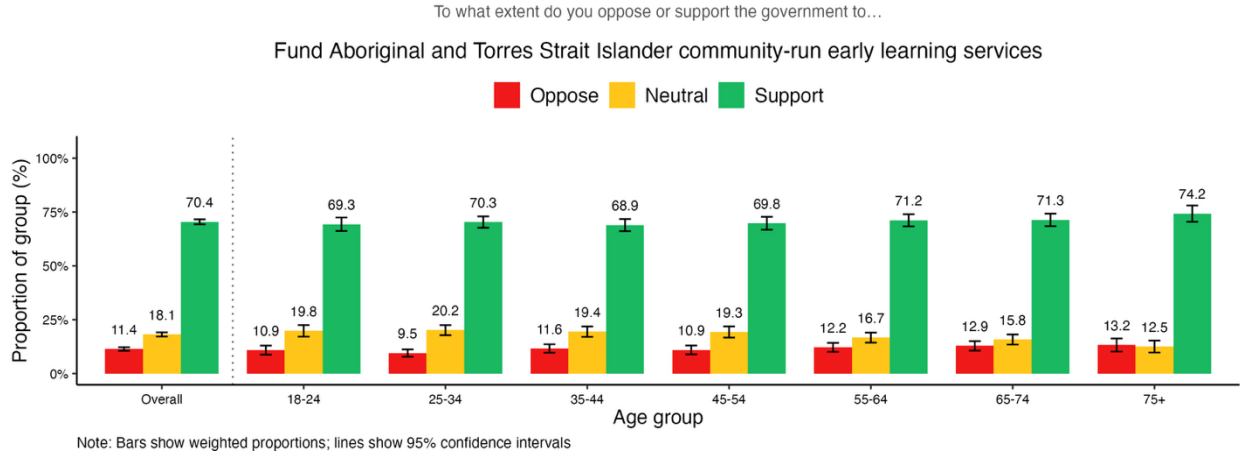

Figure 4. Community sentiment for the *Healthy* policy action by age groups

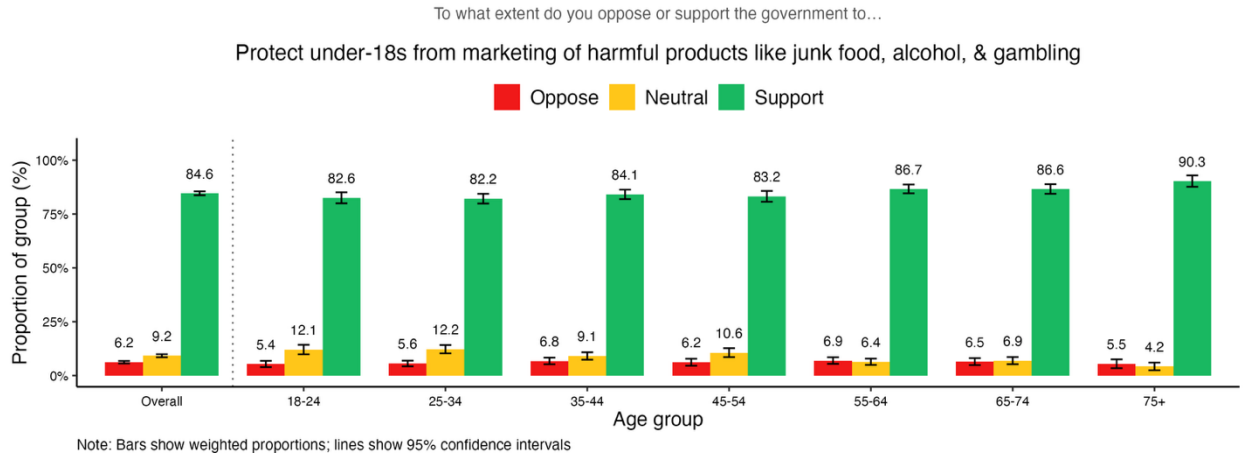

Figure 5. Community sentiment for the *Learning and Employment Pathways* policy action by age groups

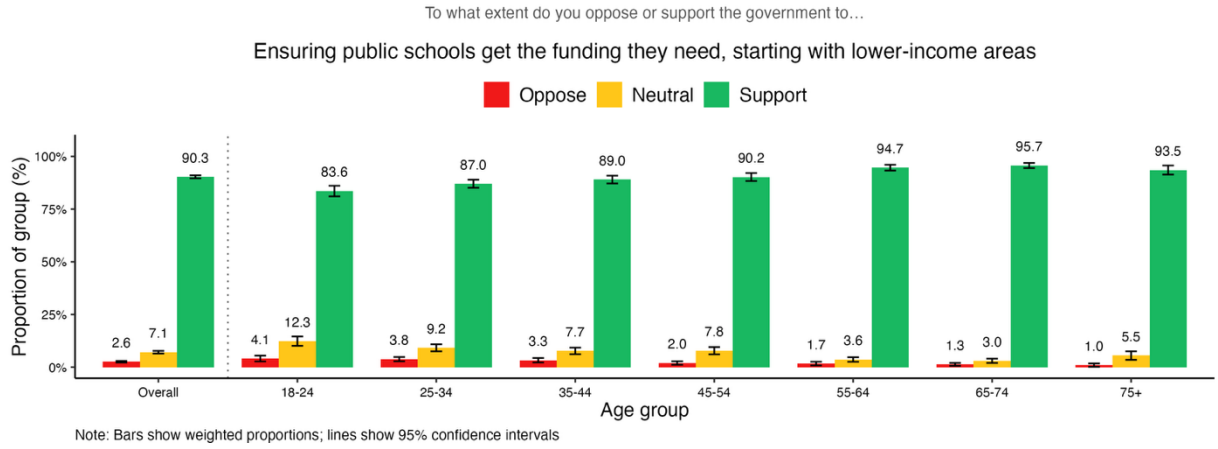

Figure 6. Community sentiment for the *Participating* policy action by age groups

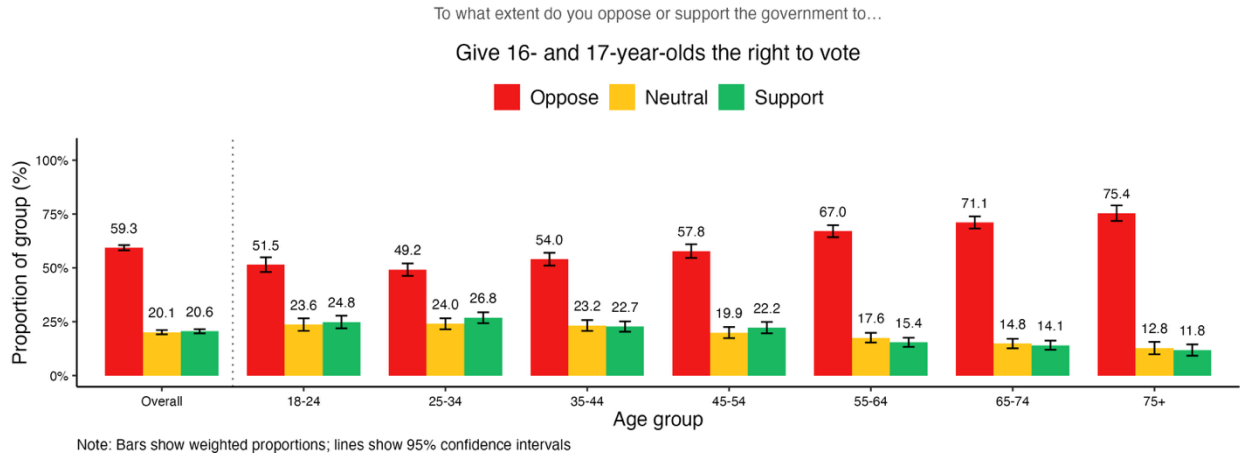

Figure 7. Community sentiment for the *Environment and Sustainable Futures* policy action by age groups

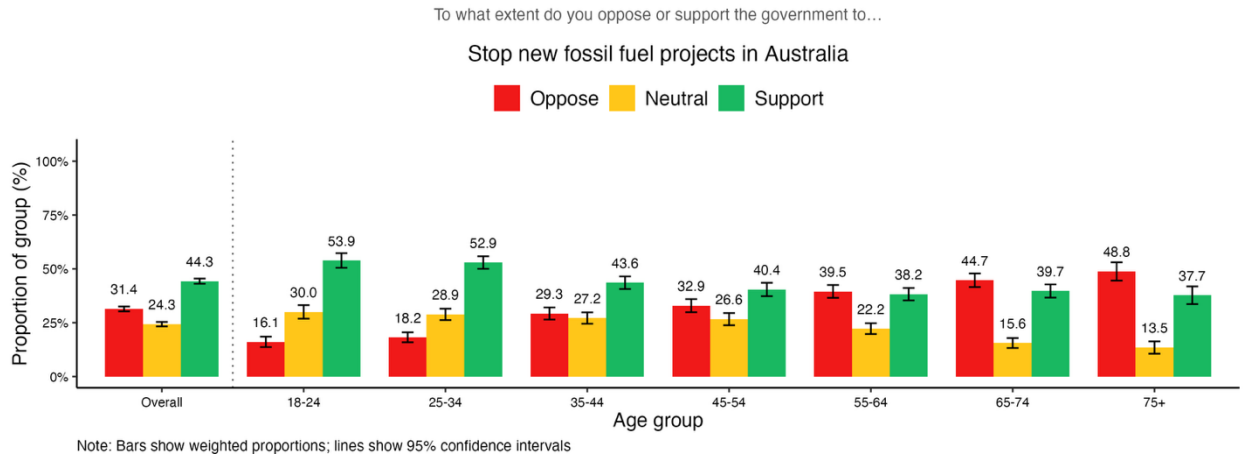

Figure 8. Community sentiment for the *Overarching* policy action by age groups