



National Seniors Australia Members Aged Care Survey Report

Prepared by: M. Pilar Rioseco L. (mpilar.rioseco@anu.edu.au)

March 2011

Background

Objective

Explore the opinions of National Seniors' members about the Productivity Commission's draft report 'Caring for Older Australians'.

Sample

The sample was obtained from an online survey, which was sent to a semi-stratified random sample of 12,000 NSA members on 9th March 2011..

The total sample is n=1,708 respondents.

Significance tests

When statistically significant differences were found between groups, letters were assigned to the columns. Different letters show a statistically significant difference at 0.05 level.

Example:

Variable 1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Response	10% a	15% a,b	20% b

In the example, responses from Group 1 and Group 3 are statistically different in Variable 1, while Group 2 is not significantly different from Group 1 nor Group 3.

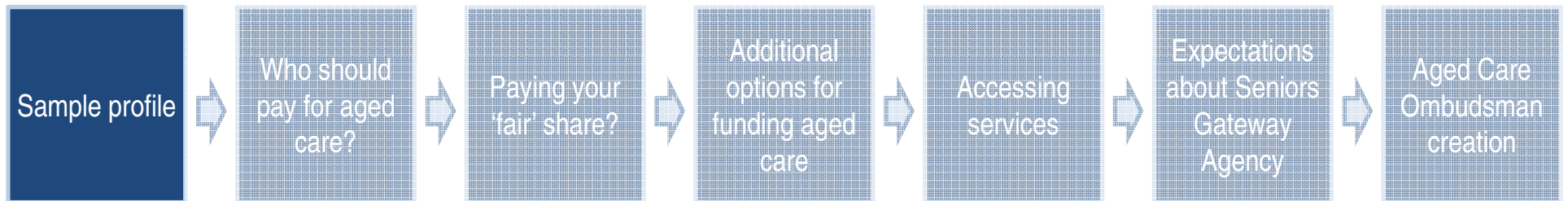
Only significant differences between groups in the top scores and bottom scores are shown in the graph. Significant differences in top two scores or bottom two scores – 'strongly agree + agree' and 'strongly disagree + disagree' - are shown in 'Total Agree'/'Total disagree'.

Estimates are not reliable when there is a small sample size.

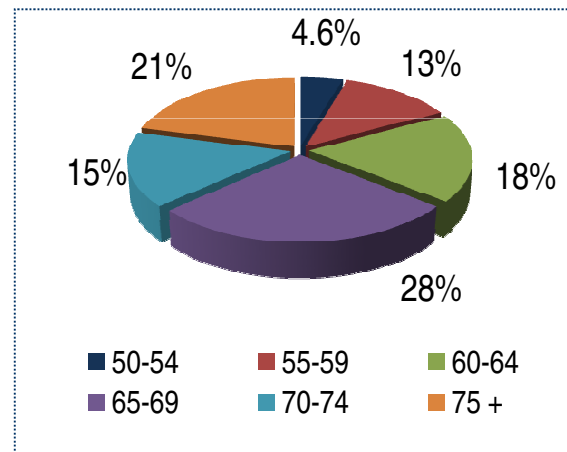
Note: Some 'Don't know' percentages have been removed to facilitate reading.

Report Outline

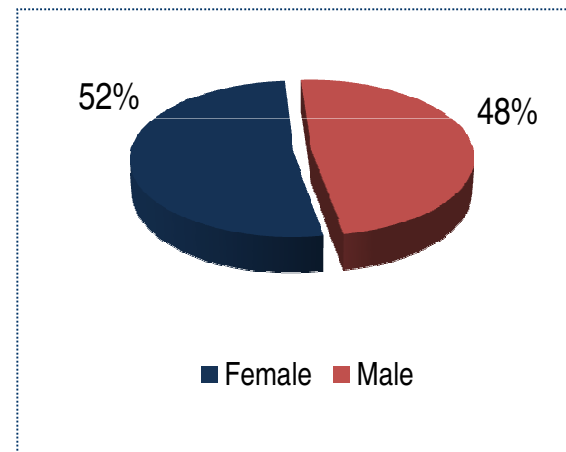




Age groups*

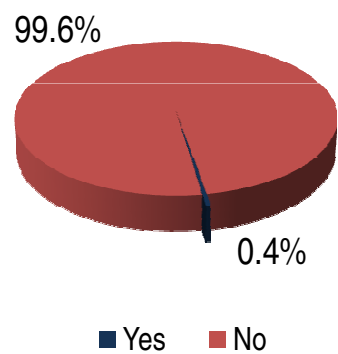


Gender

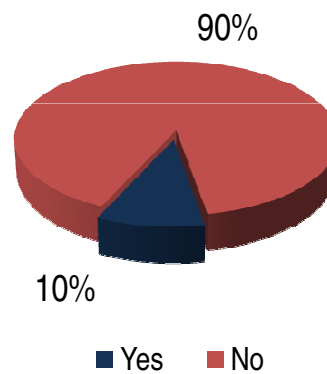


* Grouped 50-64; 65-74; 75+ for the analyses

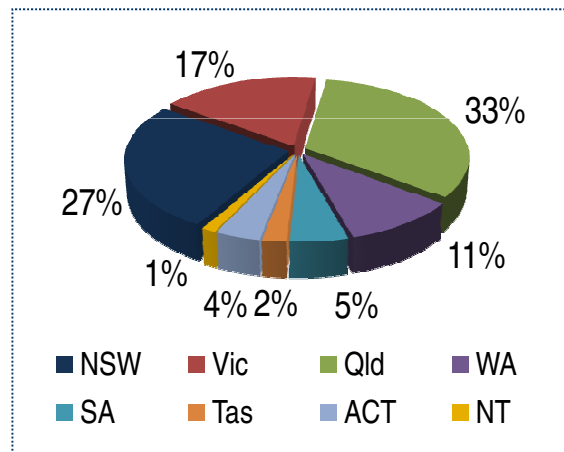
Aboriginal or Torres Strait descent



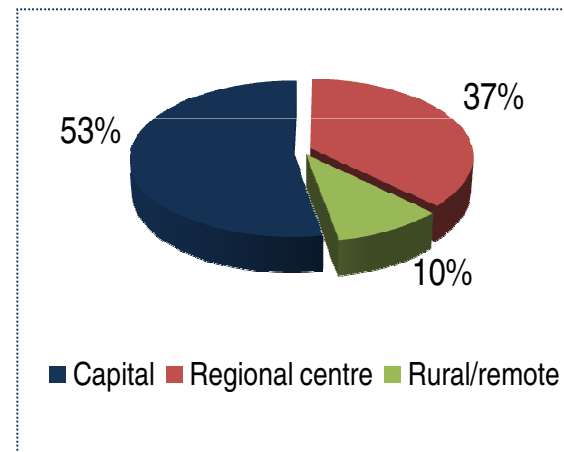
Speak language other than English at home



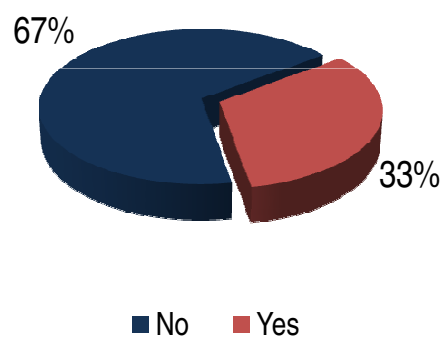
State



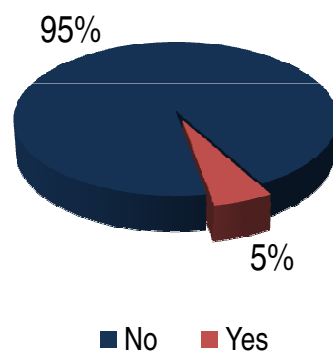
Location



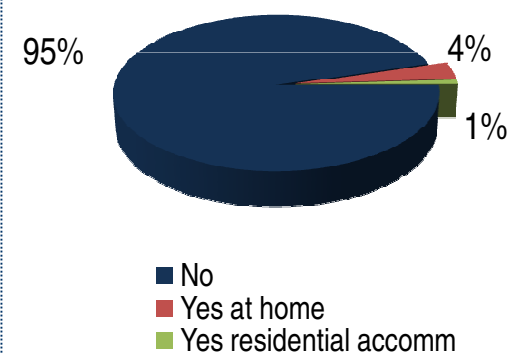
Looking after recipient of aged care services



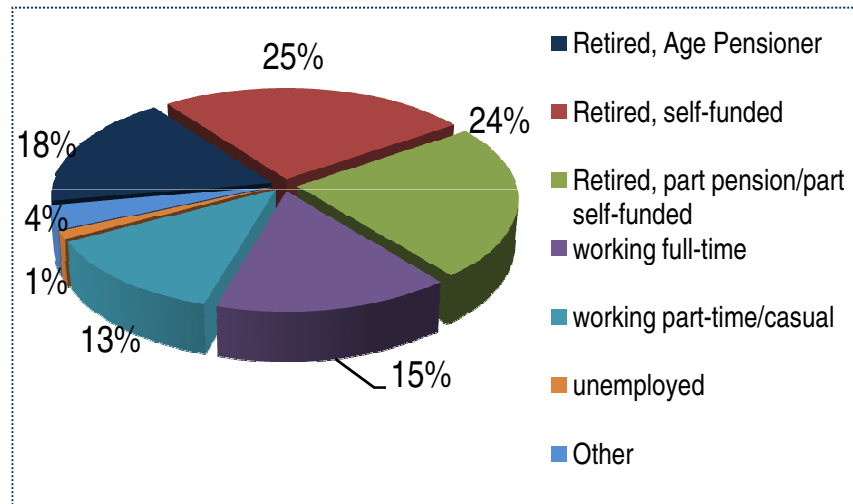
Looking after person with dementia



Personally receiving aged care services



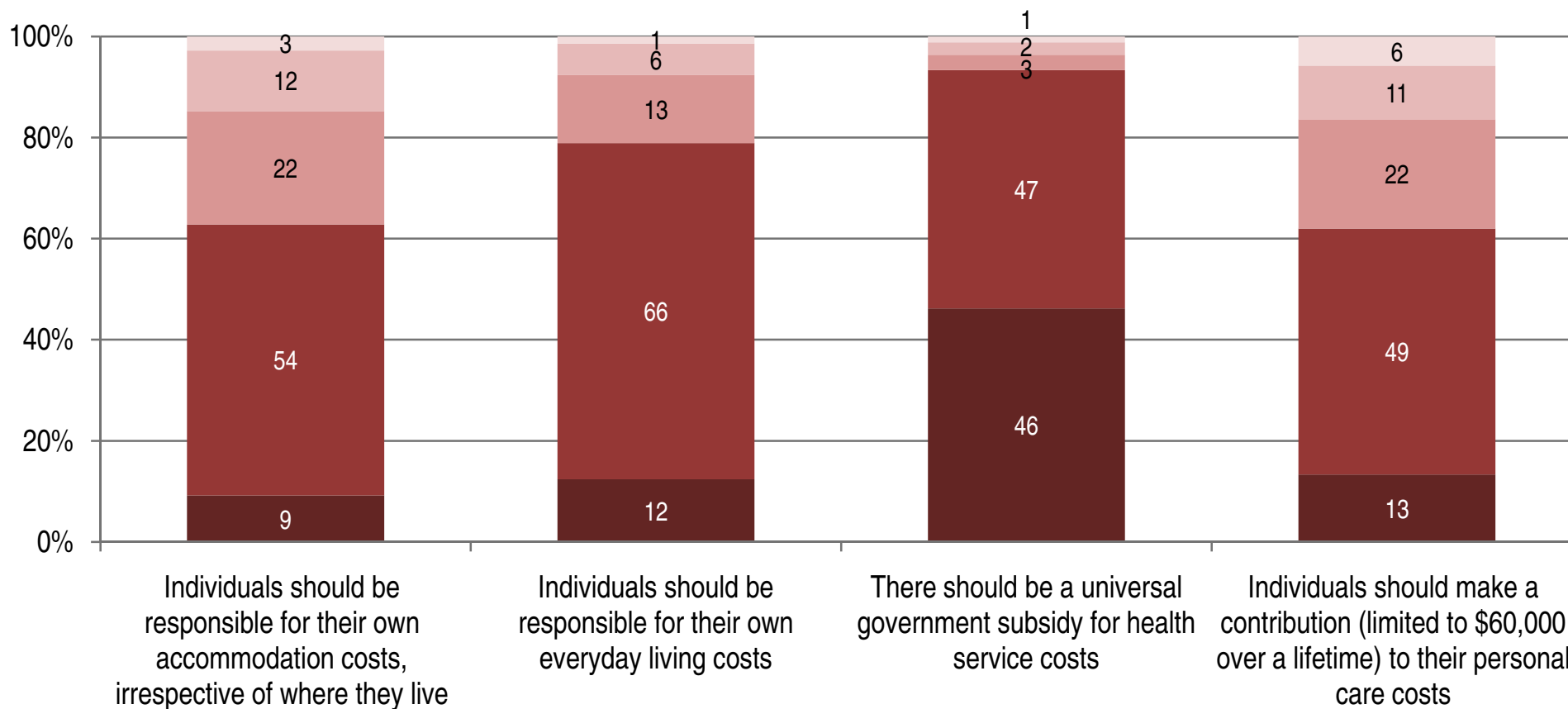
Current situation**



** 'Unemployed' and 'Other' were combined for the analyses, due to low numbers



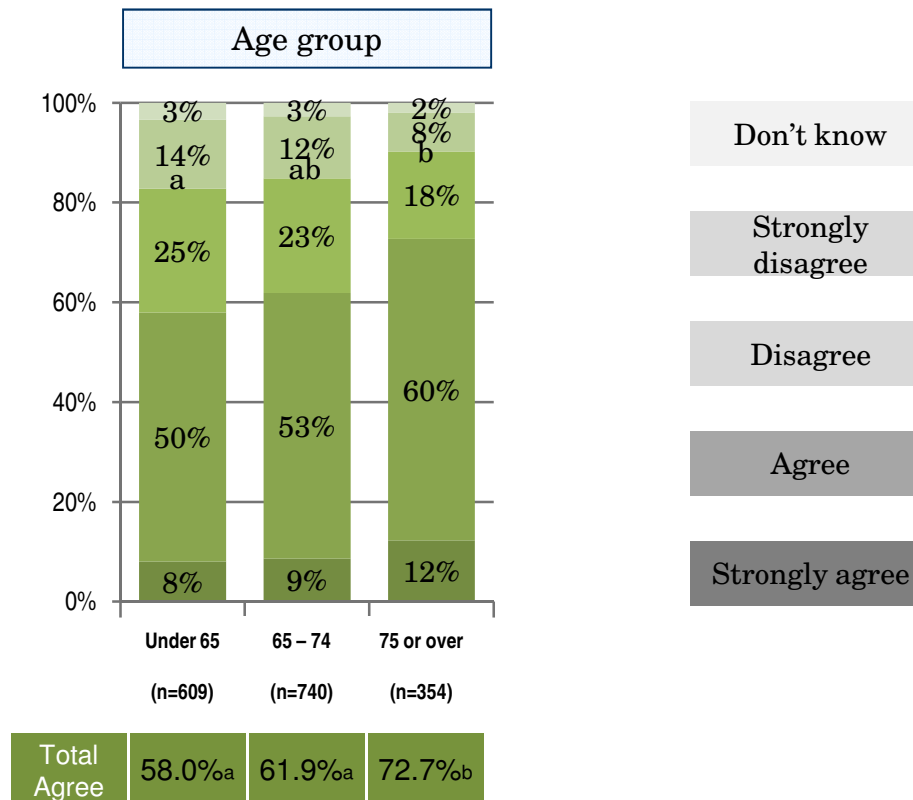
Who should pay for aged care?



Strongly agree
 Agree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree
 Don't know

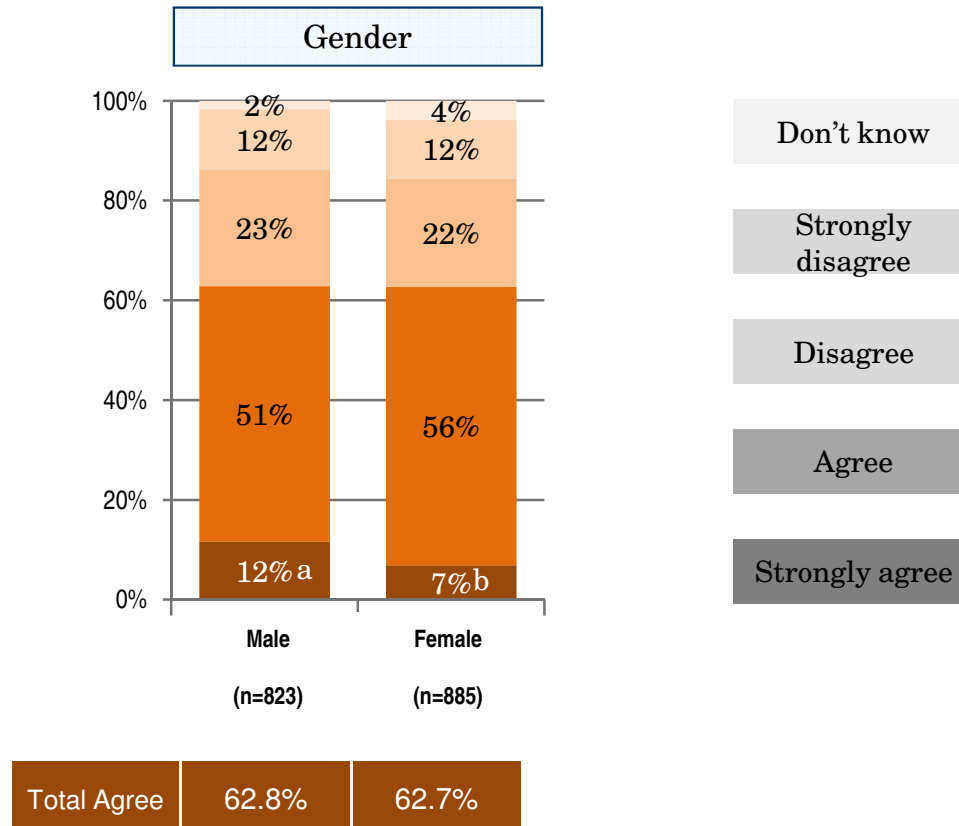
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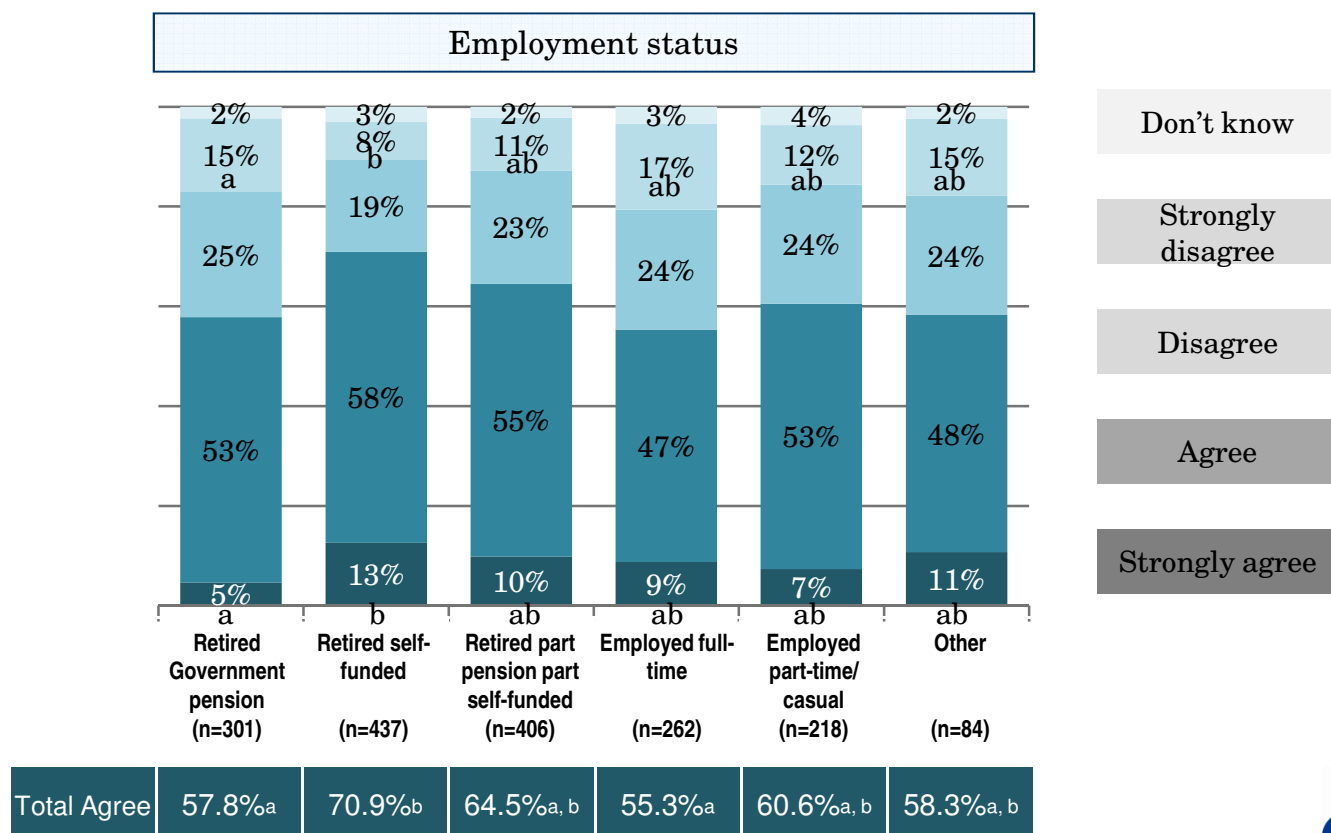
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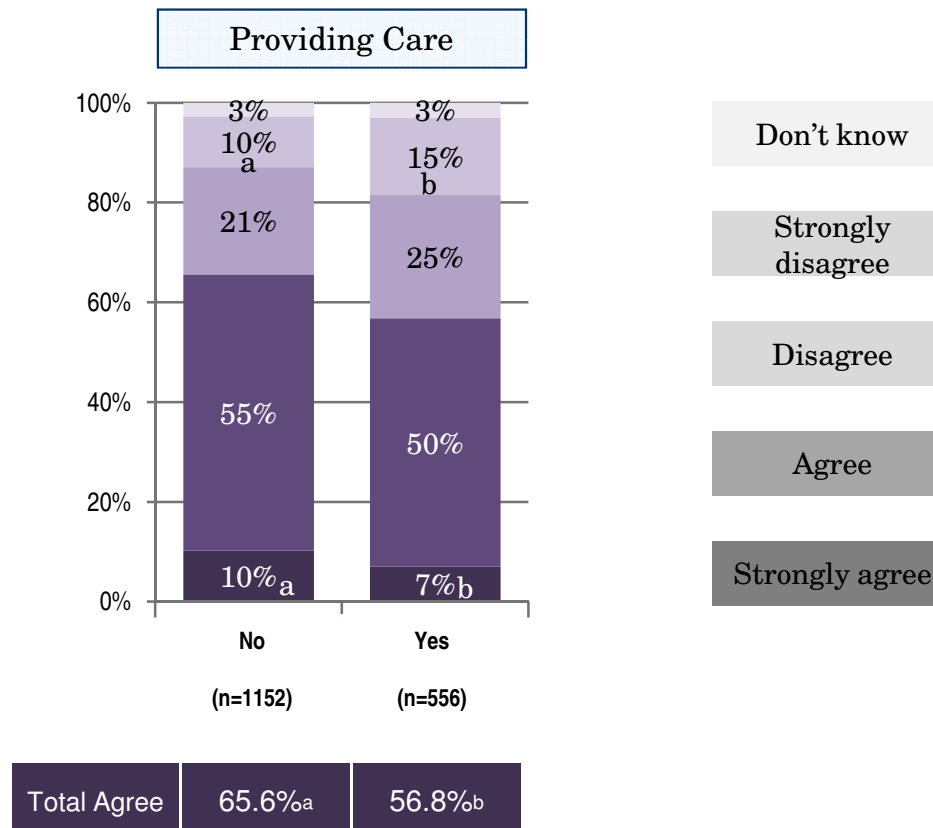
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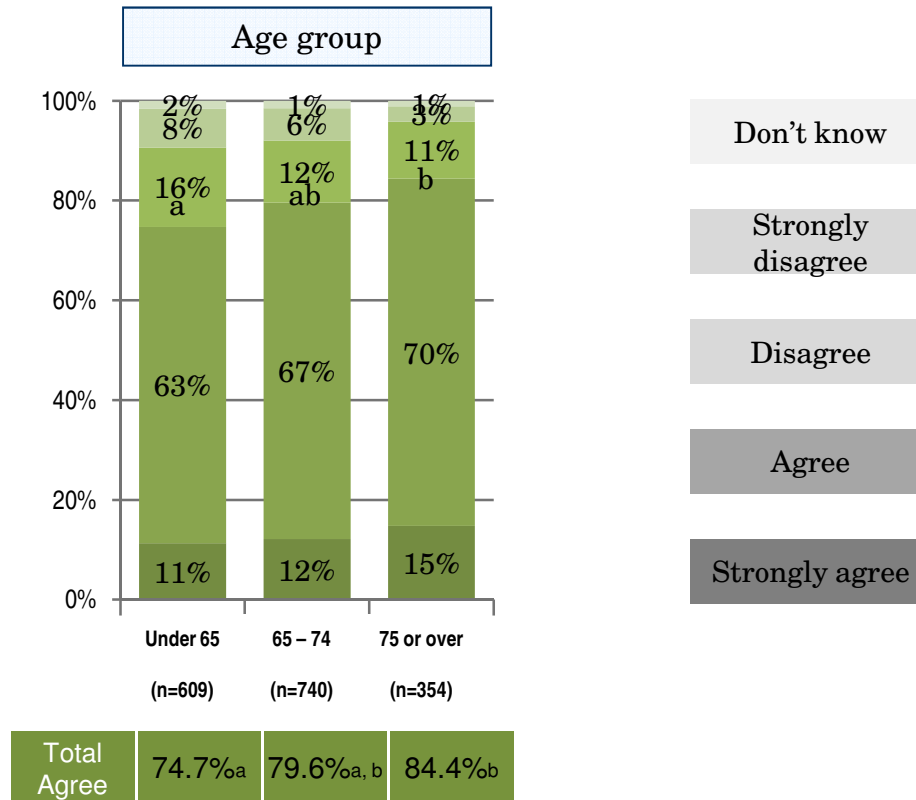
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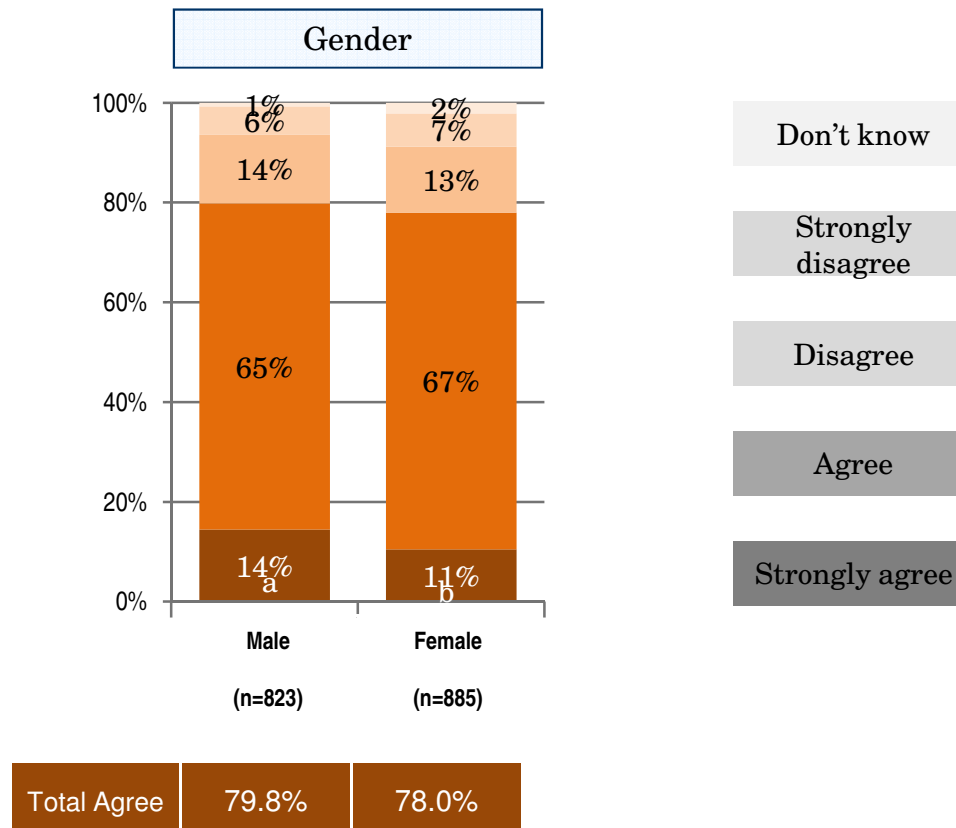
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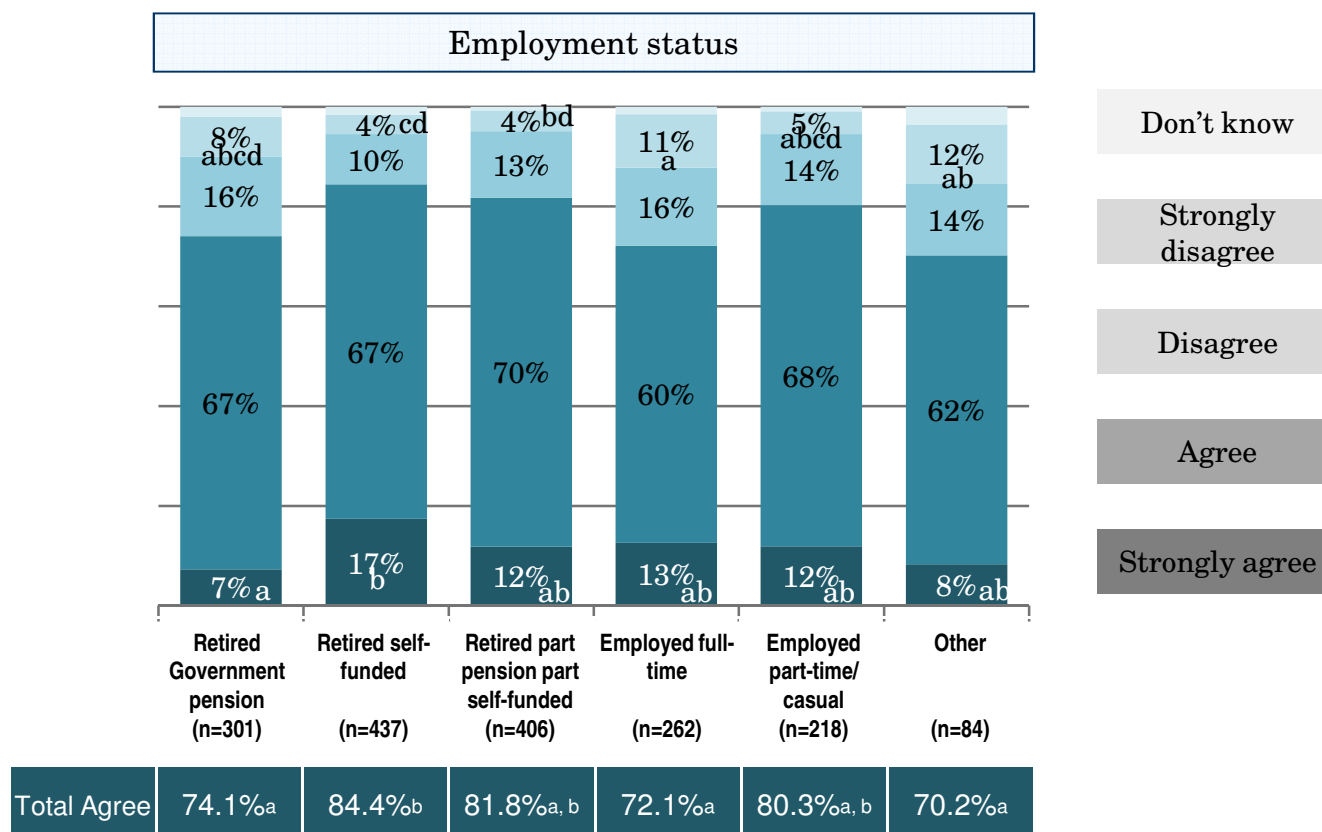
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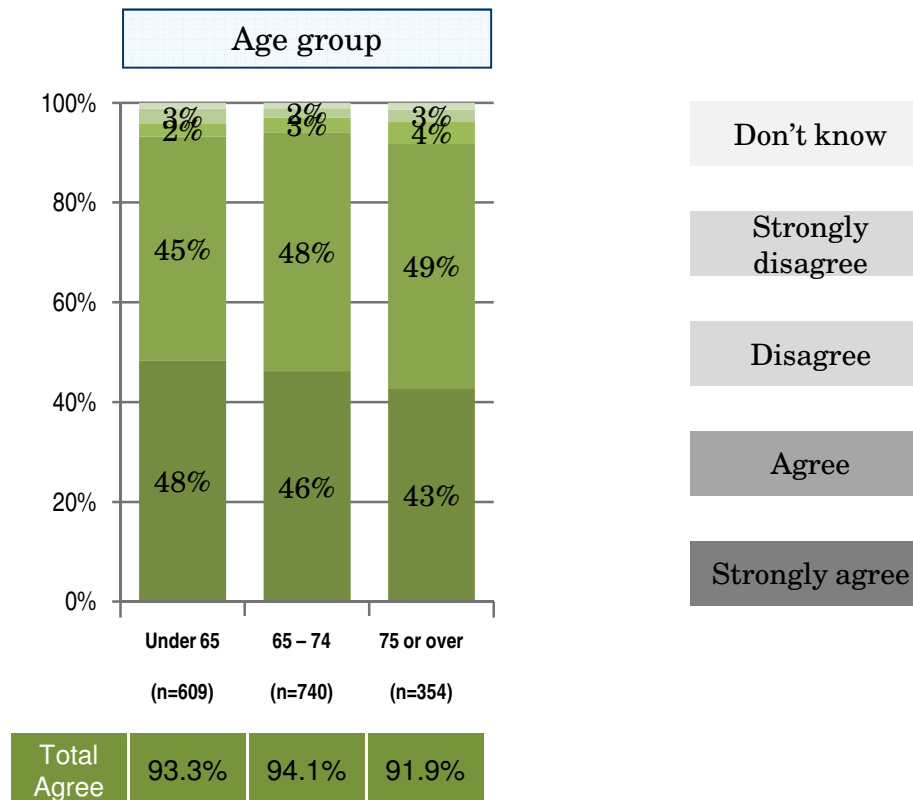
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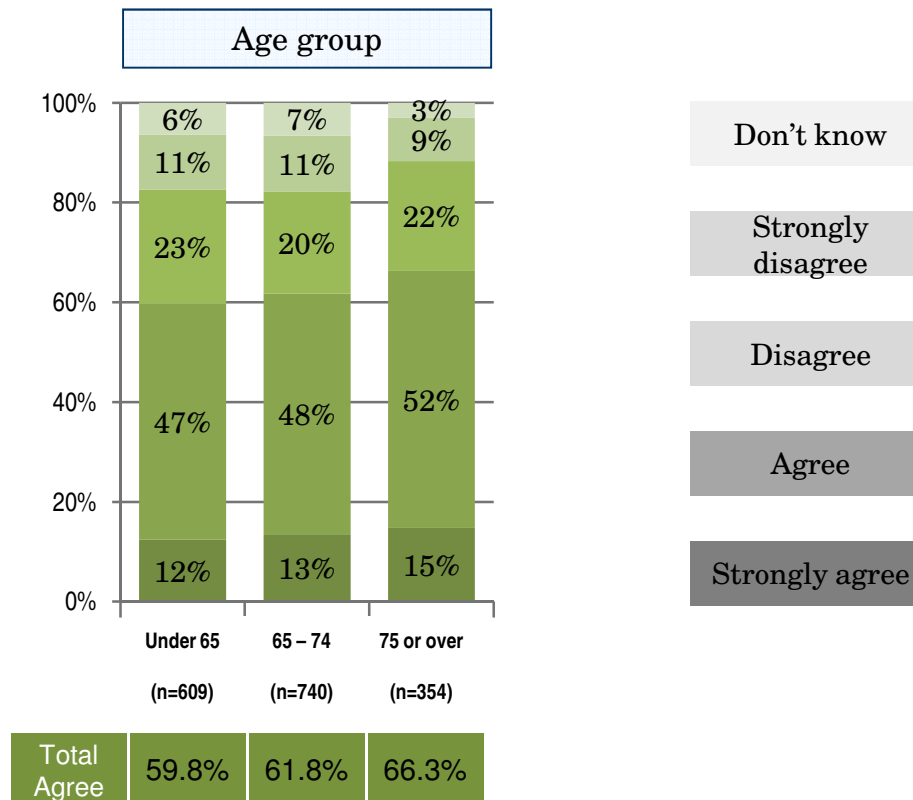
Who should pay for aged care?

There should be a universal government subsidy for health service costs, such as nursing, allied therapies and palliative care, in the same way Medicare provides a universal subsidy for primary health care. (There would be a 'safety net' for those who are unable to pay).



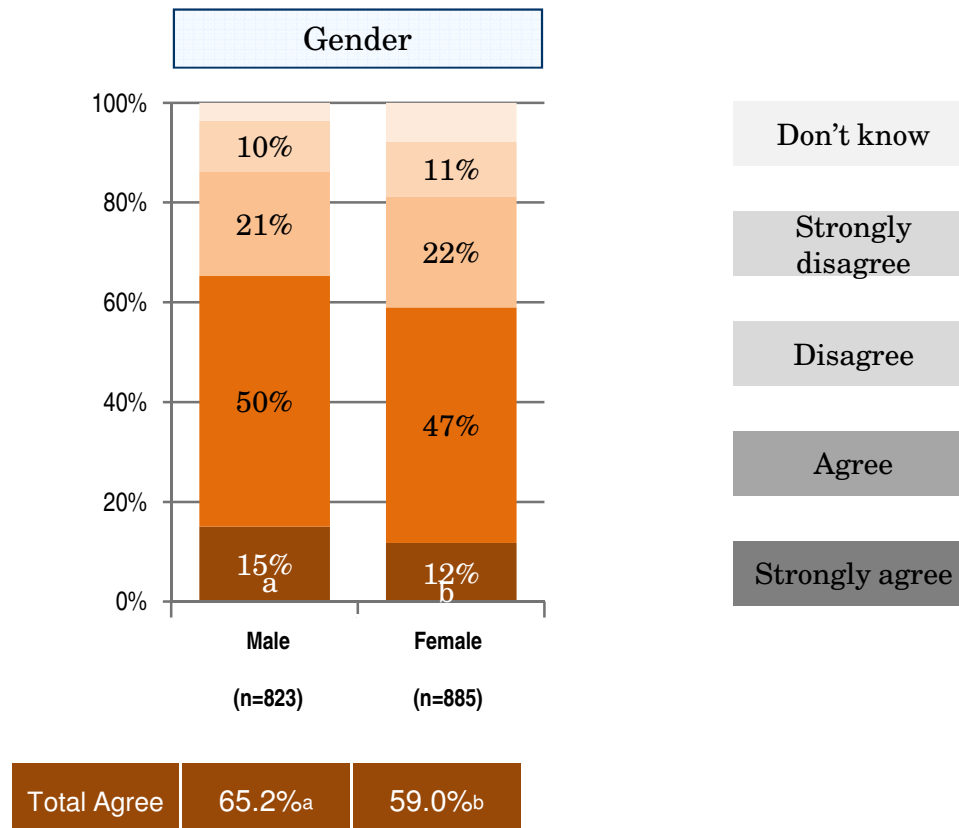
Who should pay for aged care?

Individuals should make a contribution (limited to \$60,000 over a lifetime) to their personal care costs – ie. the additional costs of being looked after because of frailty or disability - for example, help with bathing, dressing, feeding etc. (There would be a ‘safety net’ for those who are unable to pay).



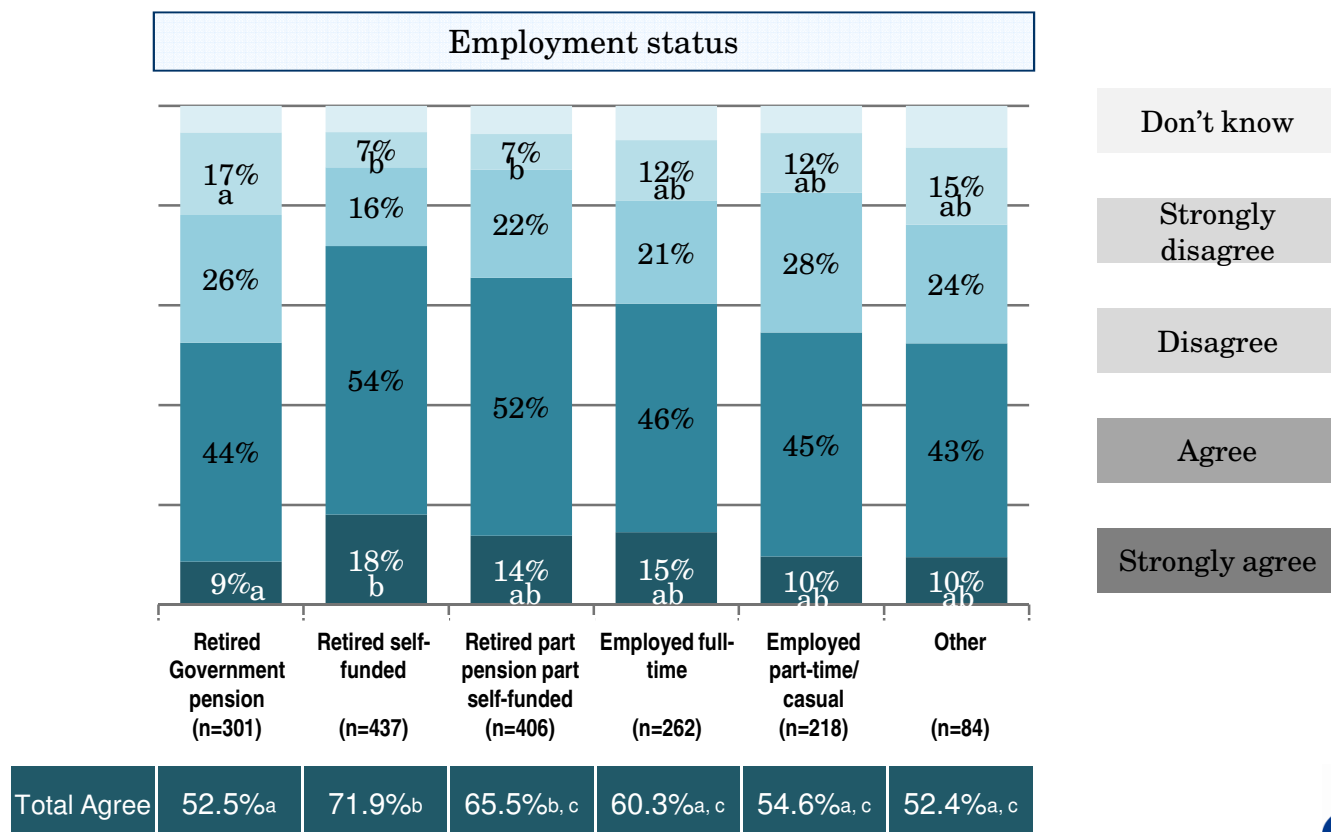
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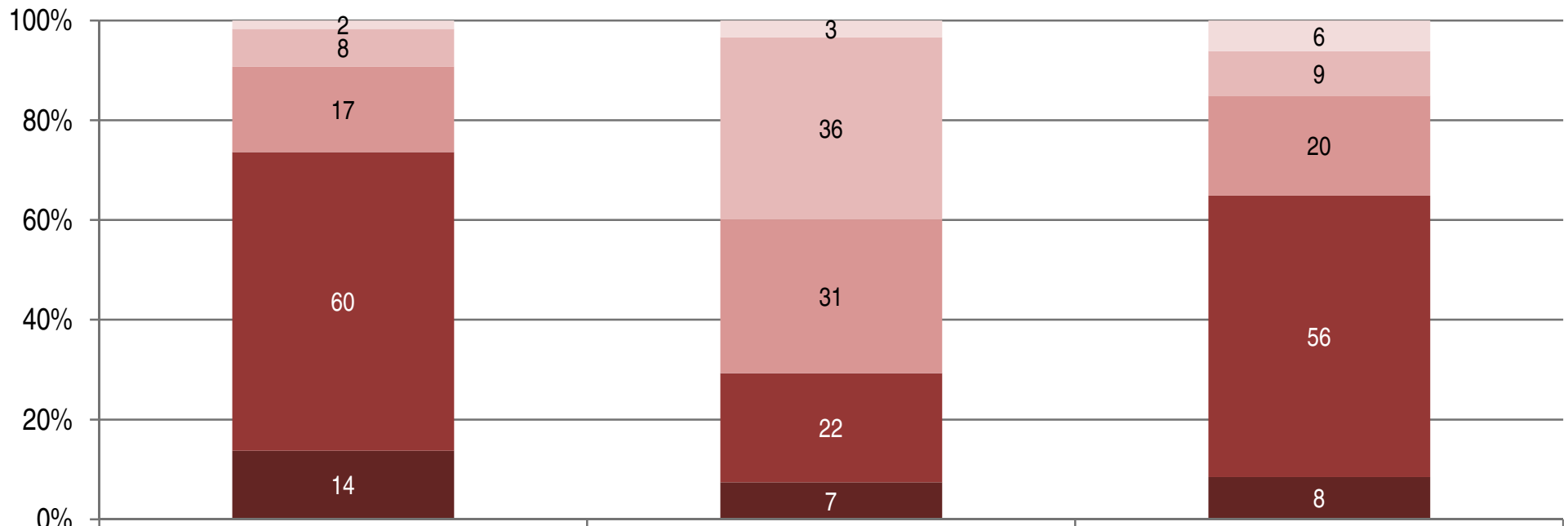
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Paying your 'fair' share?



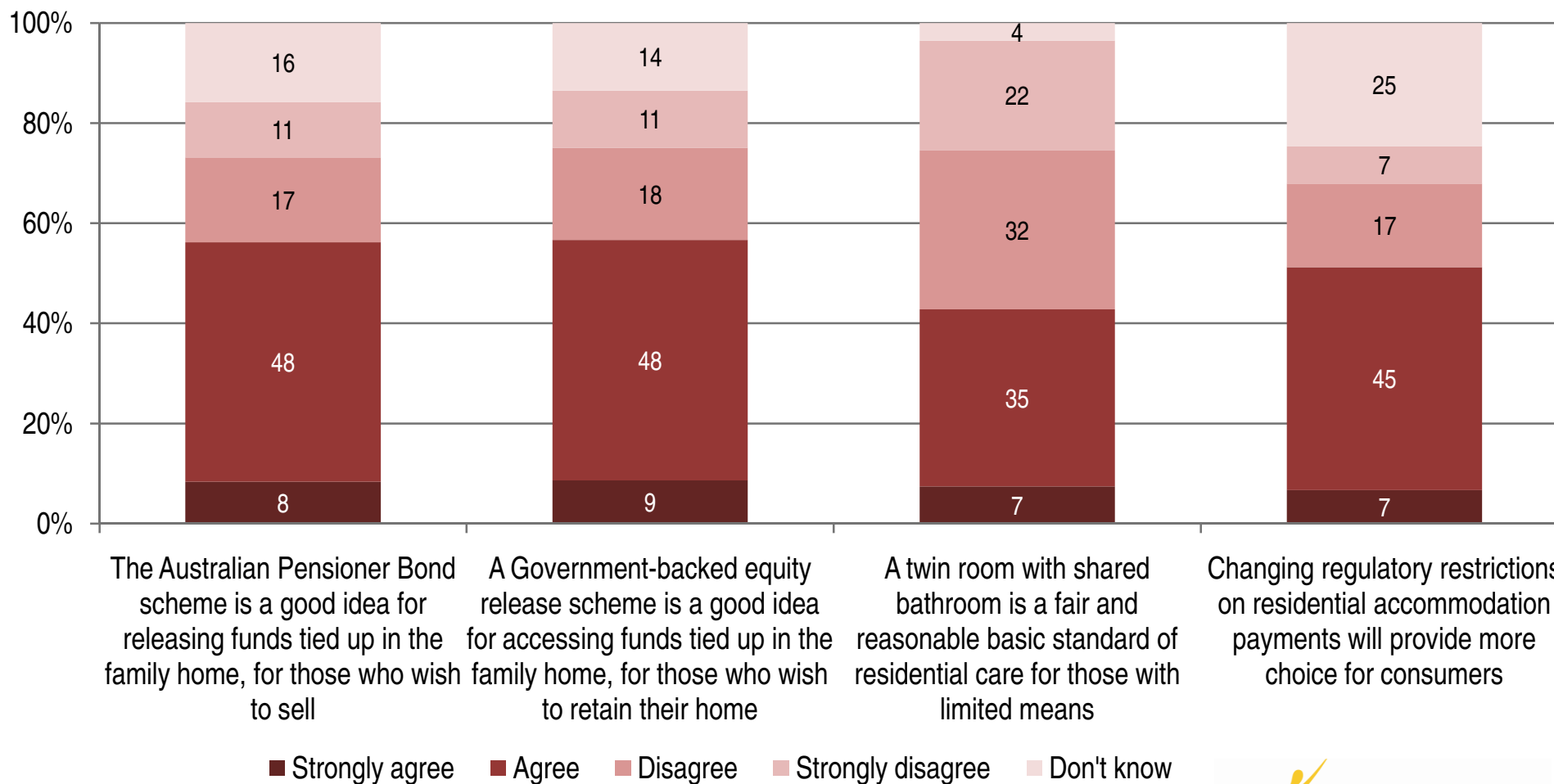
It is fair and reasonable to expect older Australians to contribute more to their costs of care, if they have the financial capacity to do so.

The family home should be included in a comprehensive means test to determine a person's contribution towards their cost of care.

Care contribution levels - ranging from 5% of the cost of care (for people with low incomes and low assets) to 25% of the cost of care (for people with high incomes and high assets) - seem fair and affordable.

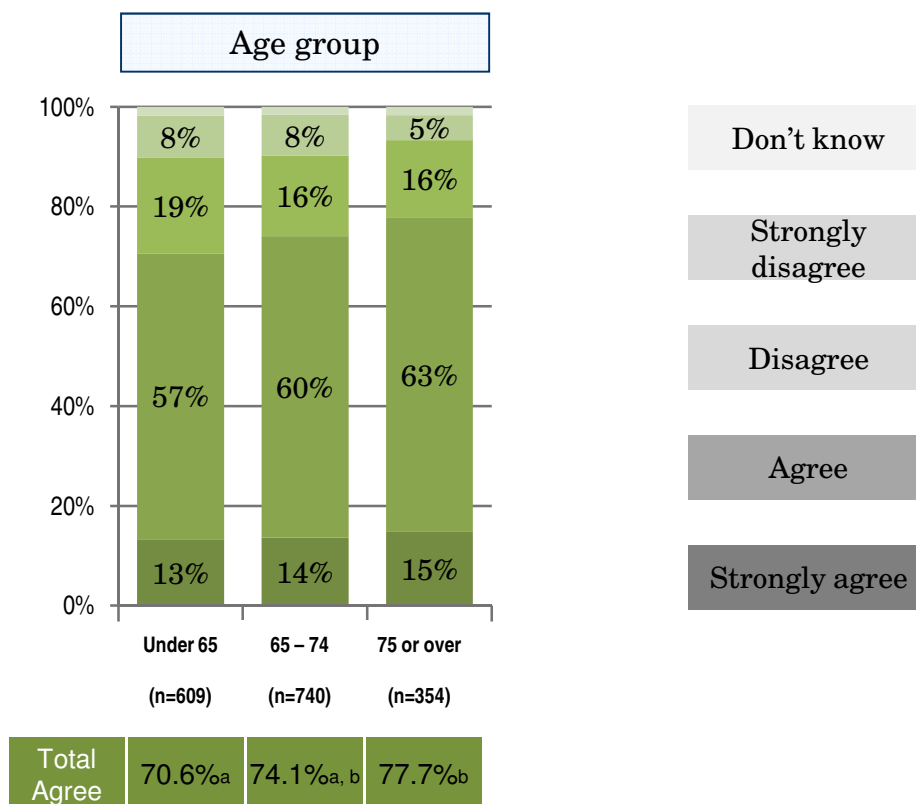
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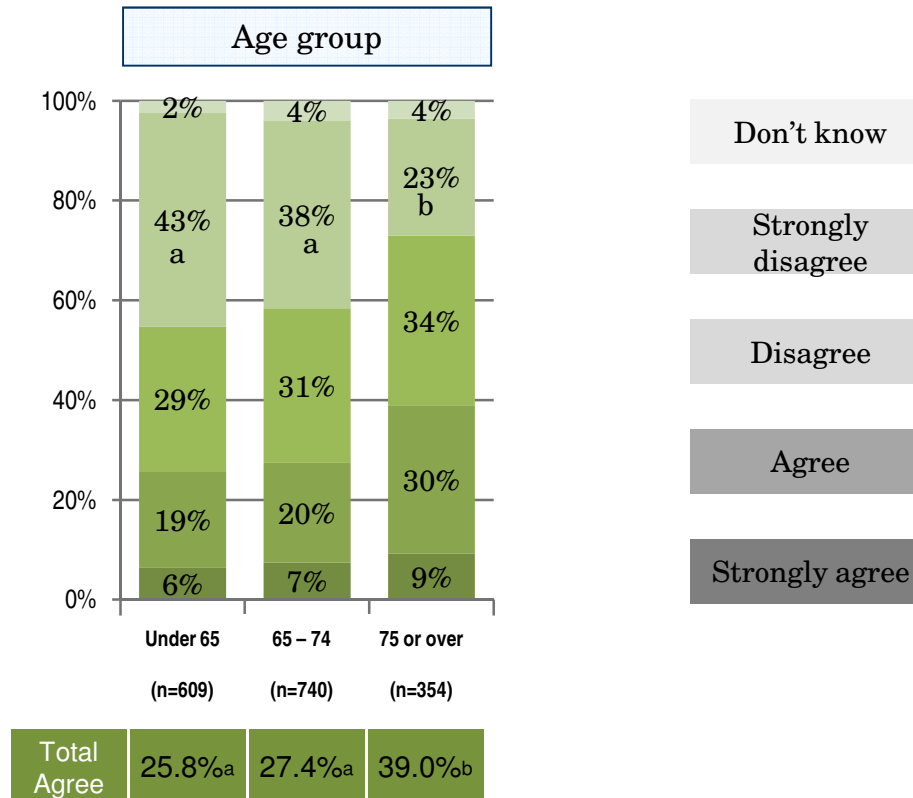
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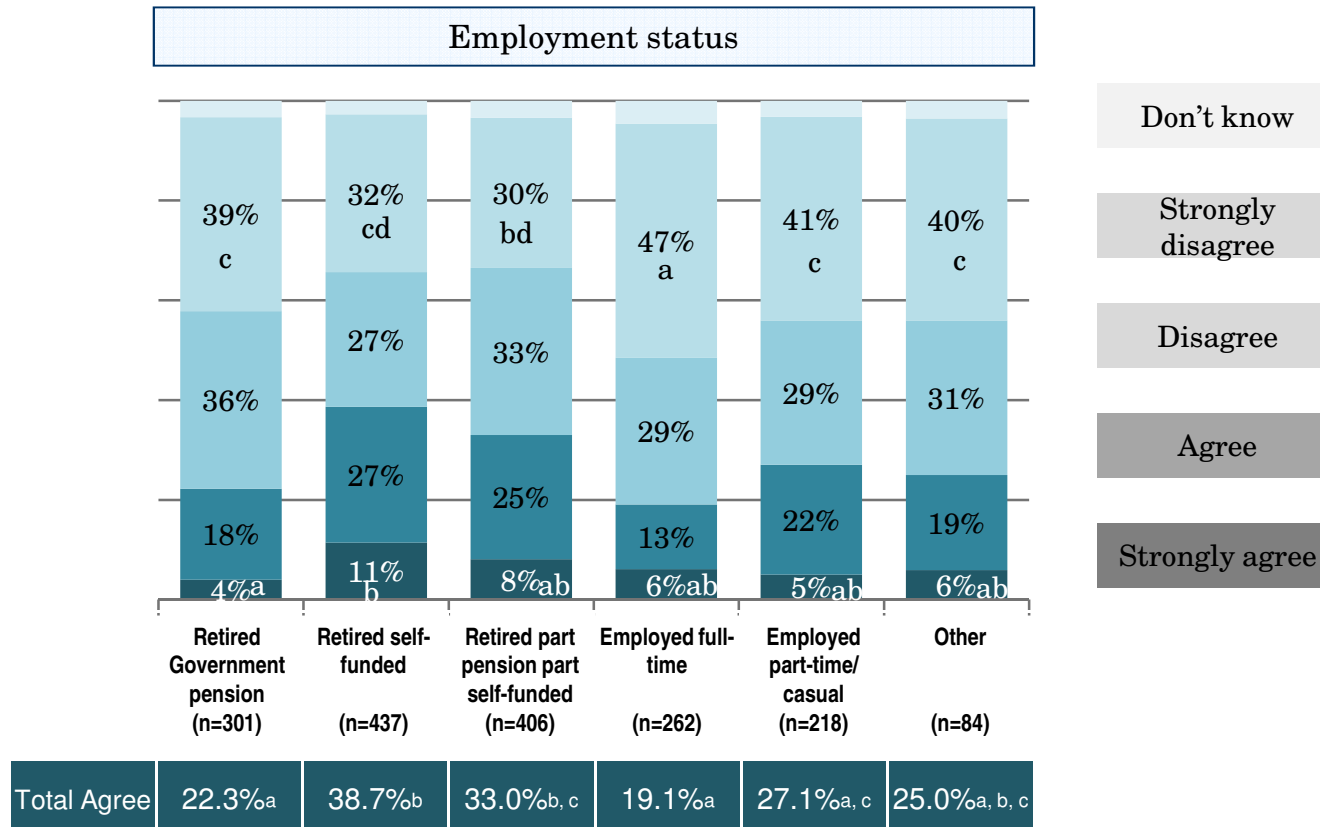
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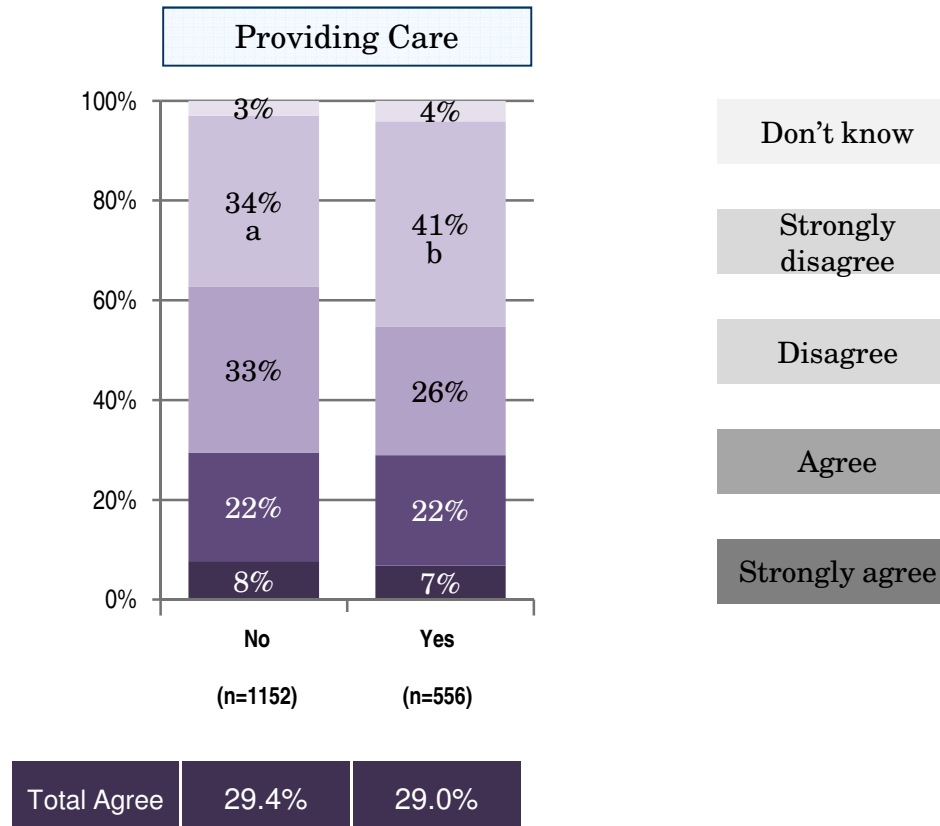
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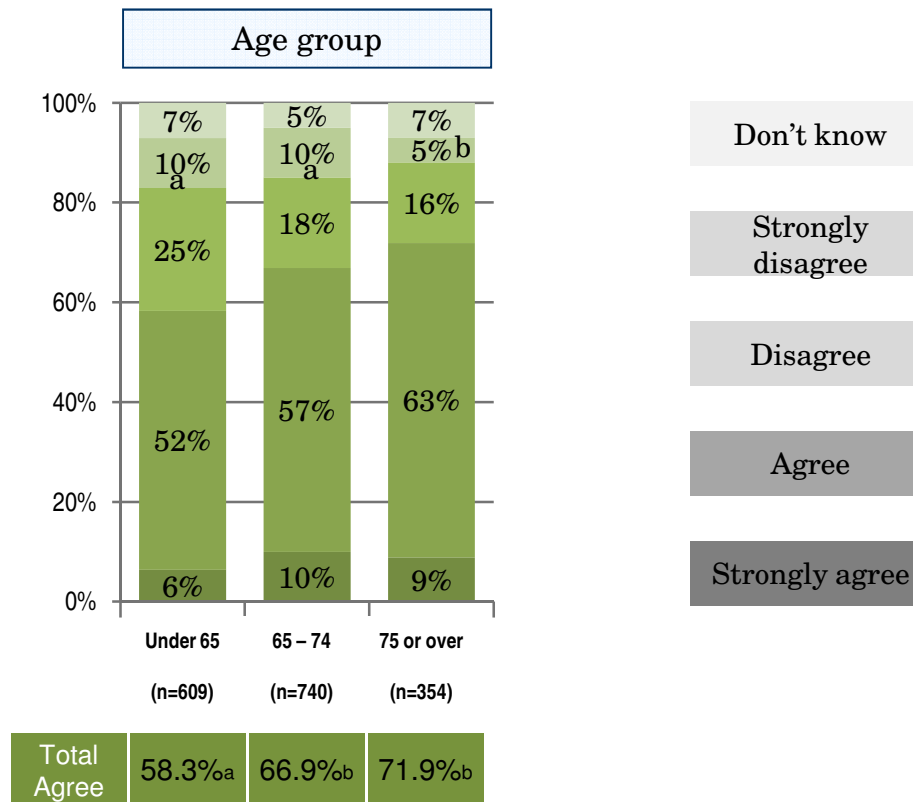
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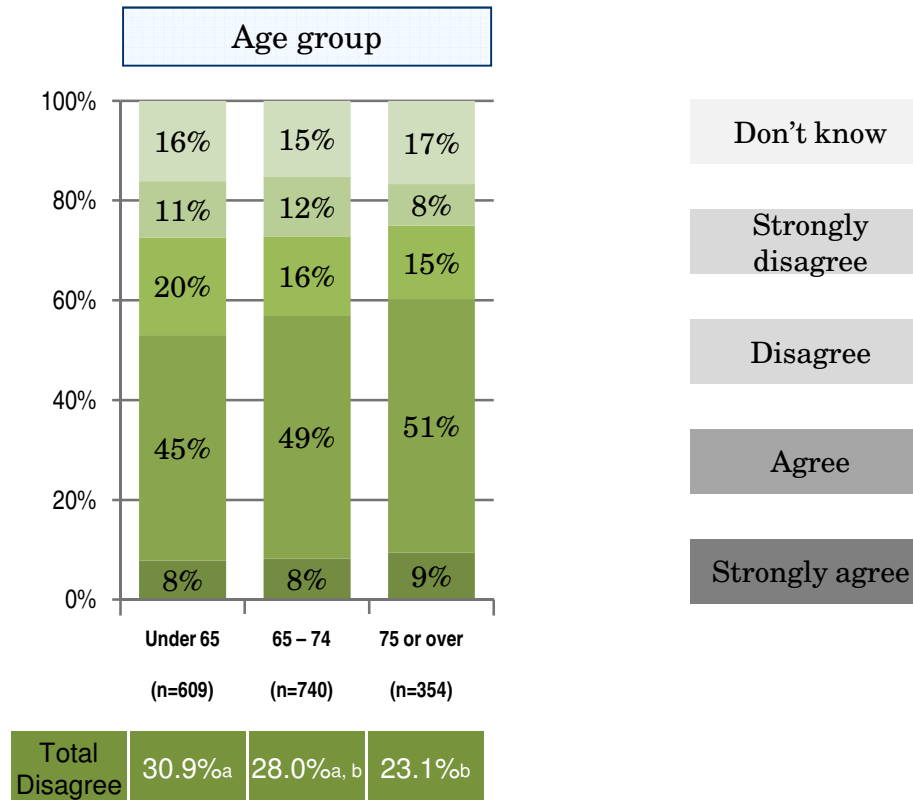
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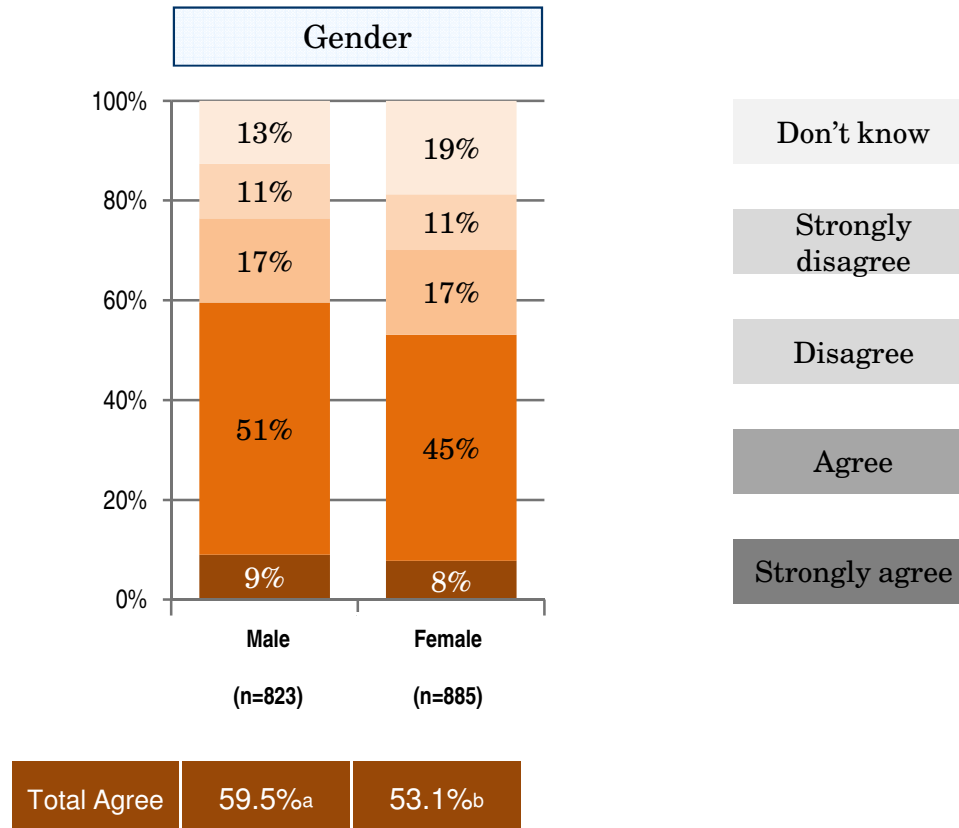
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The Australian Pensioner Bond scheme is a good idea for releasing funds tied up in the family home, for those who wish to sell.



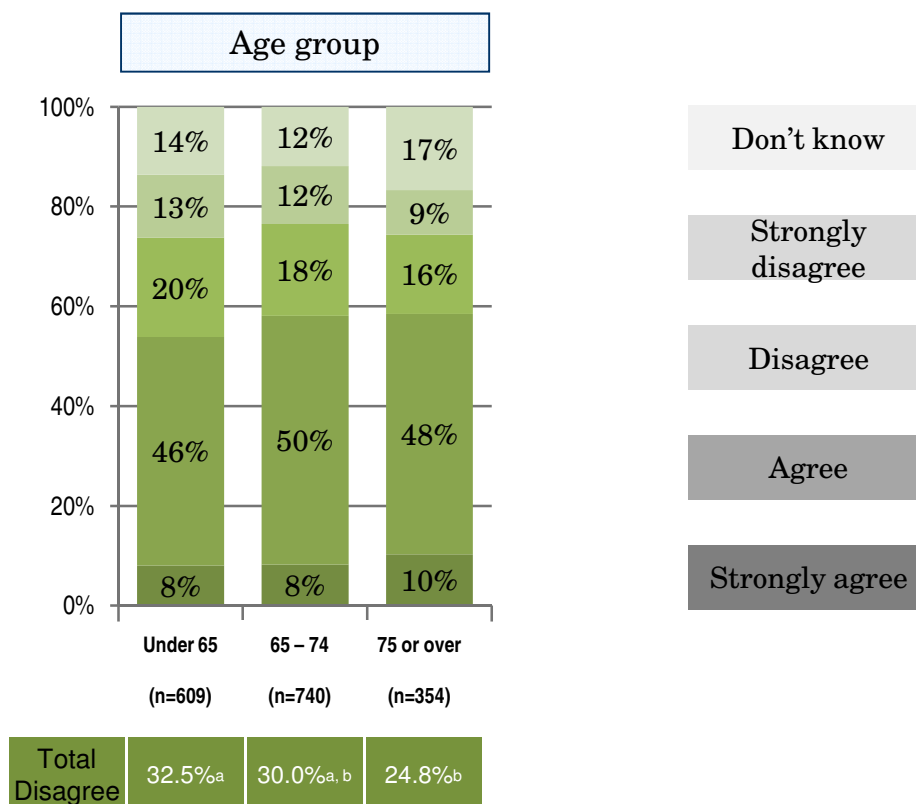
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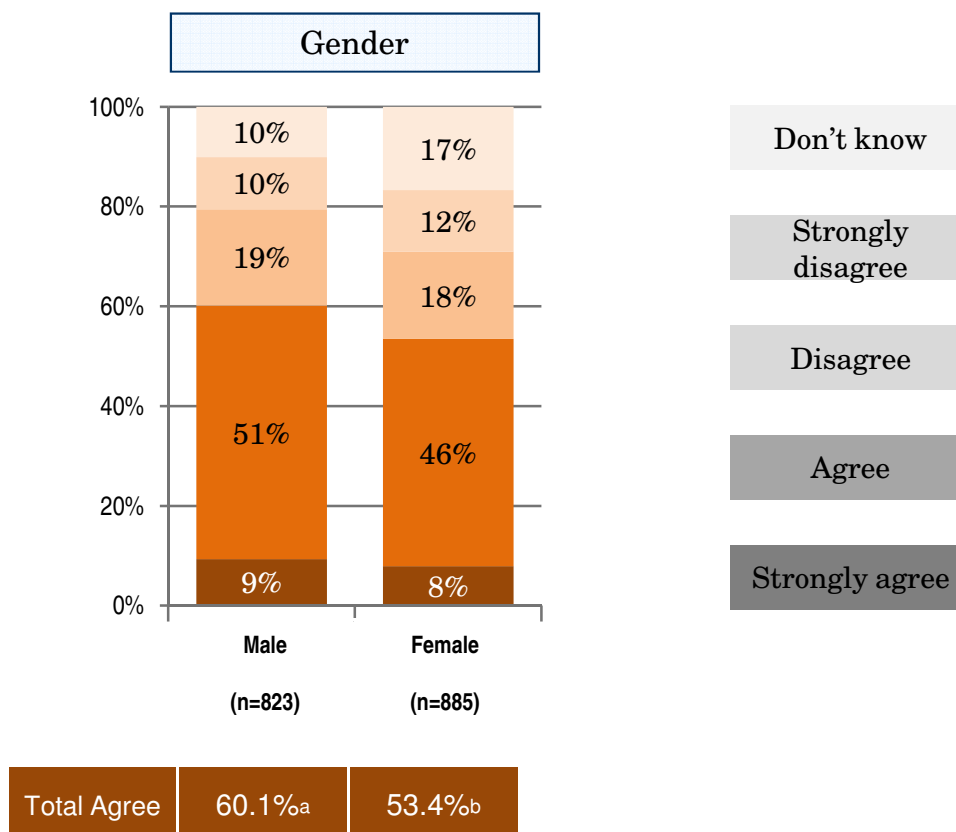
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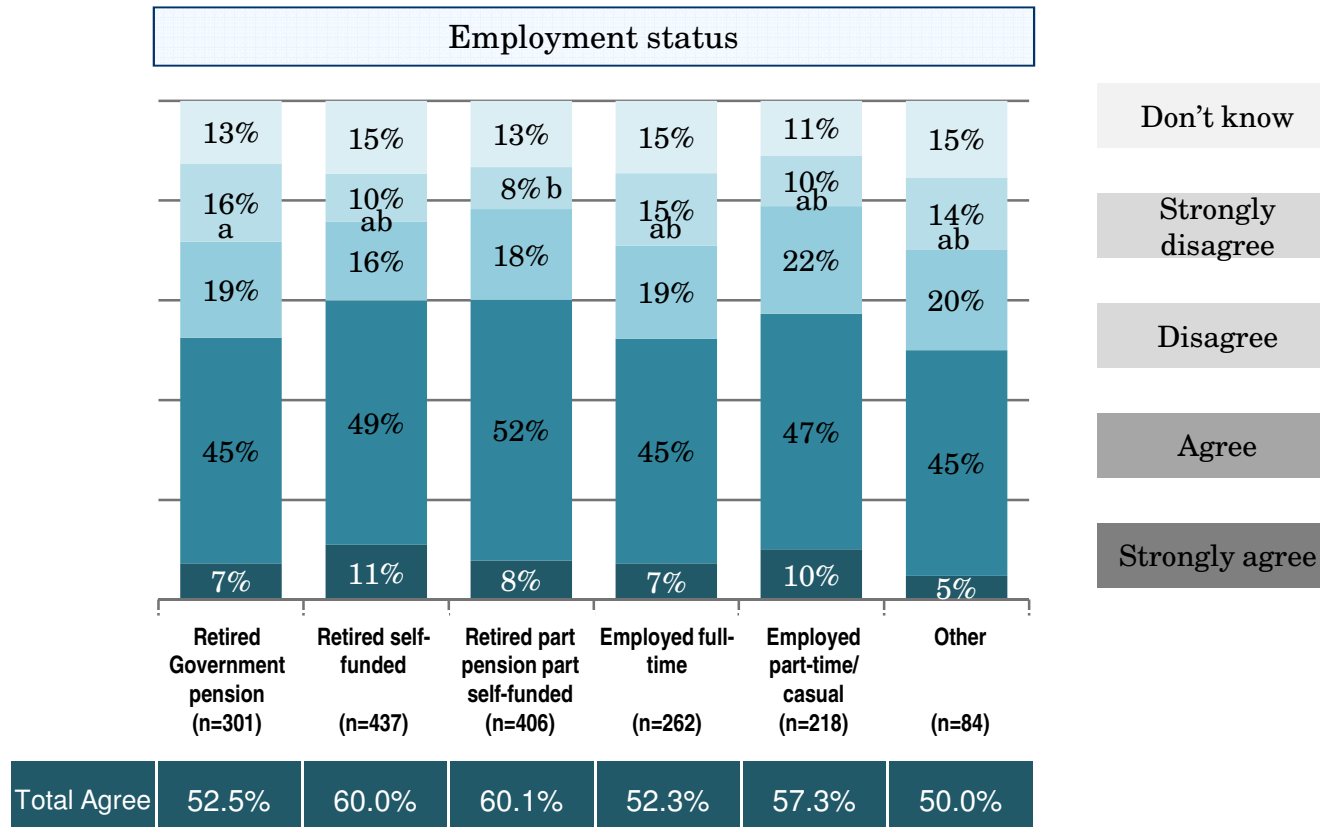
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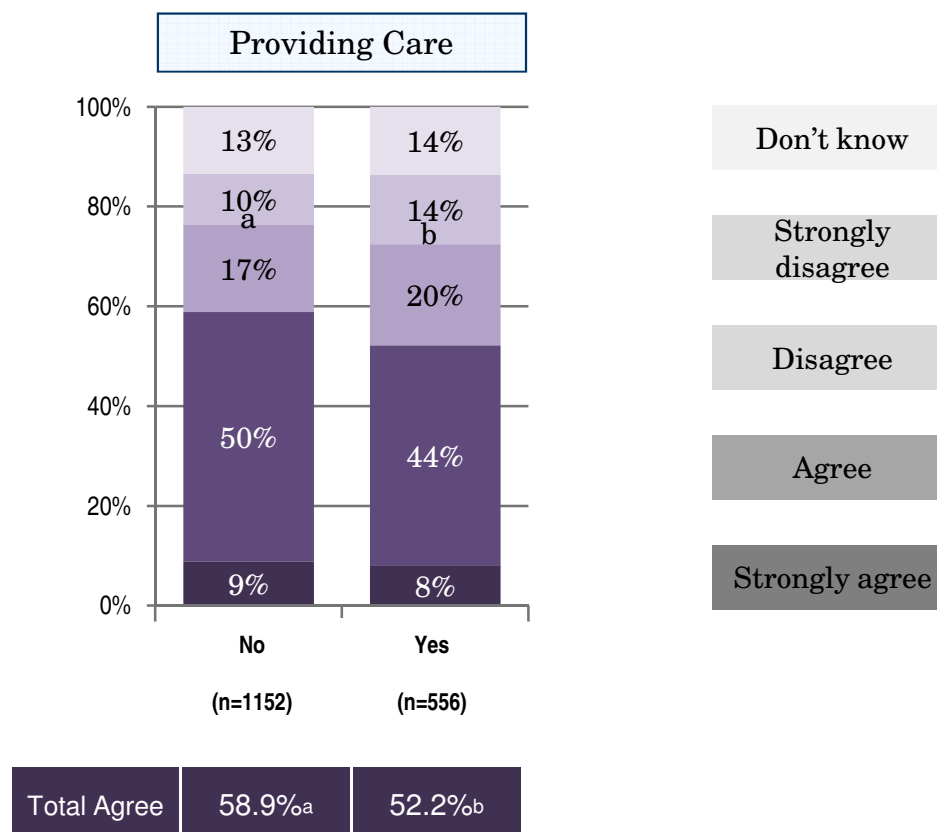
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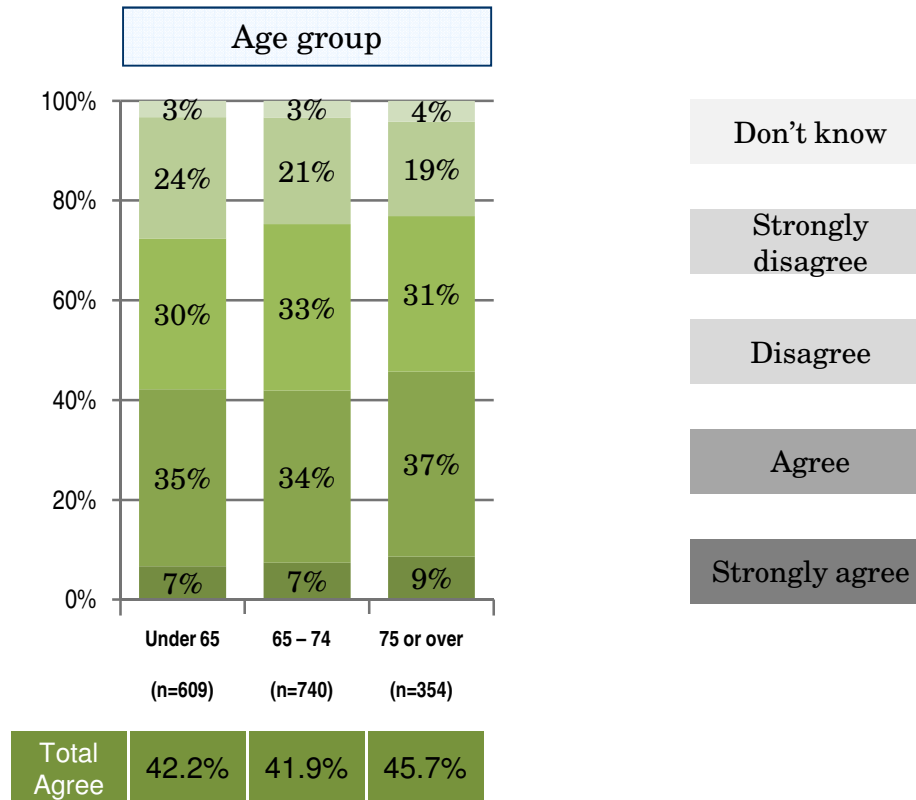
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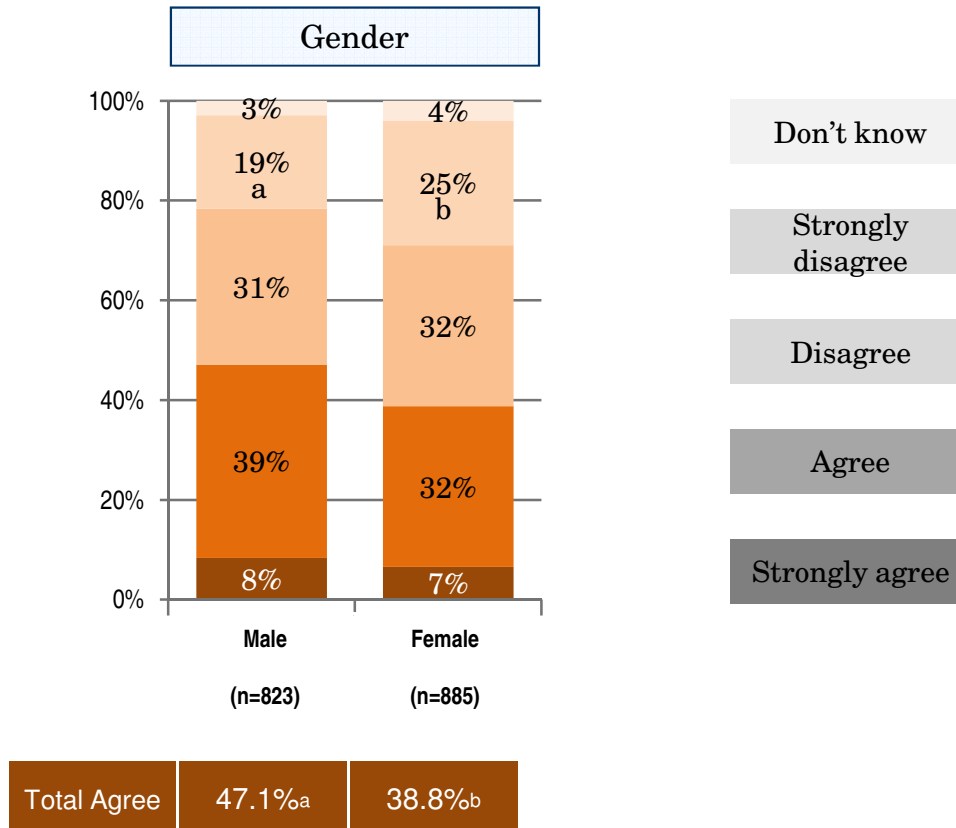
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A twin room with shared bathroom is a fair and reasonable basic standard of residential care for those with limited means.



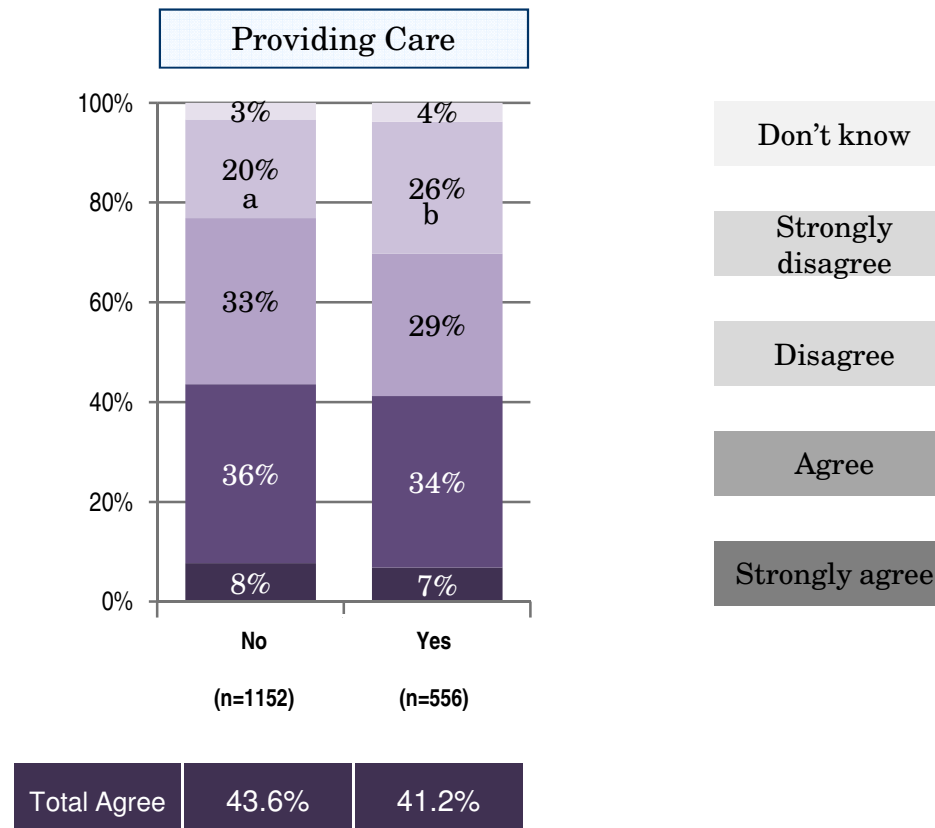
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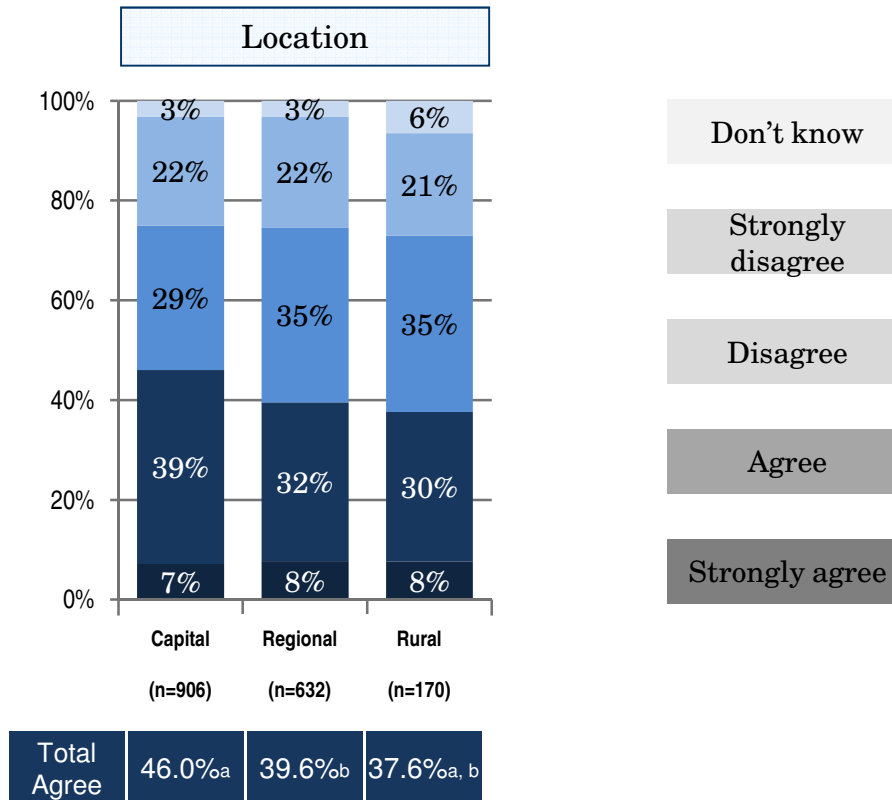
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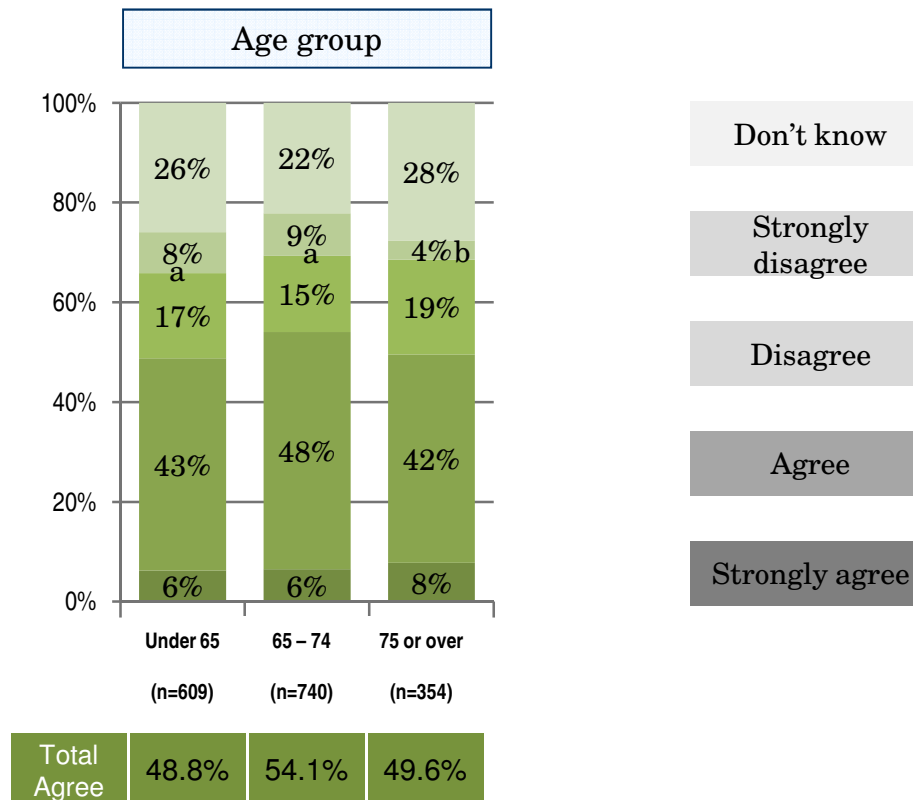
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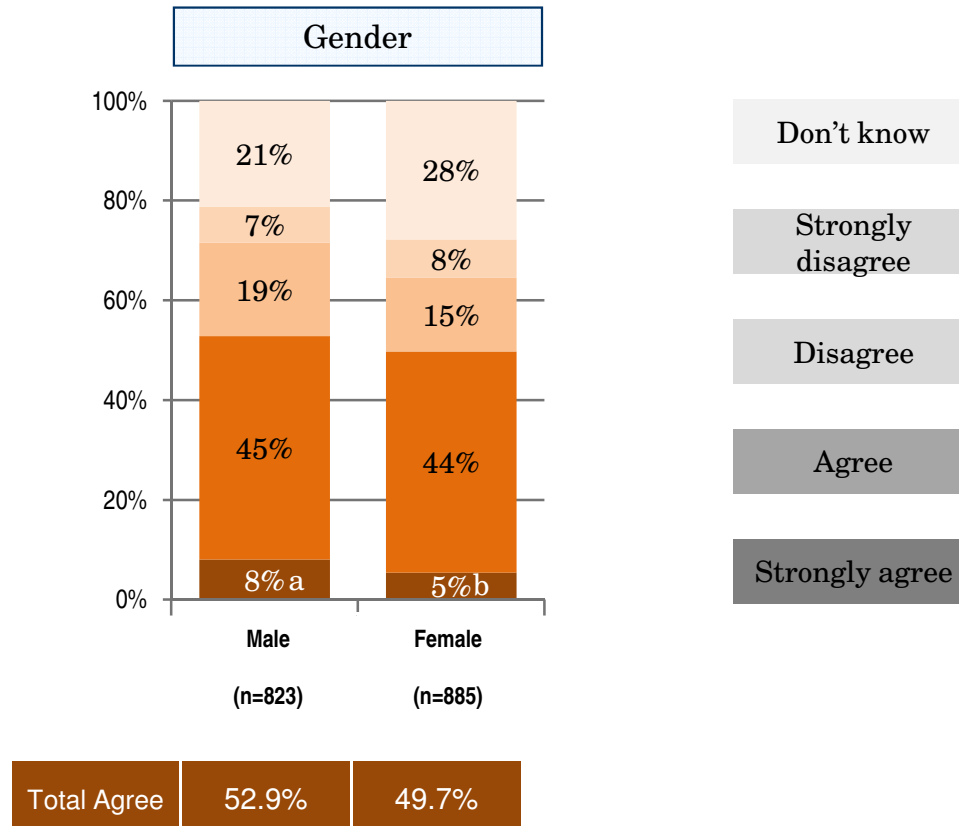
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Changing regulatory restrictions on residential accommodation payments will provide more choice for consumers.



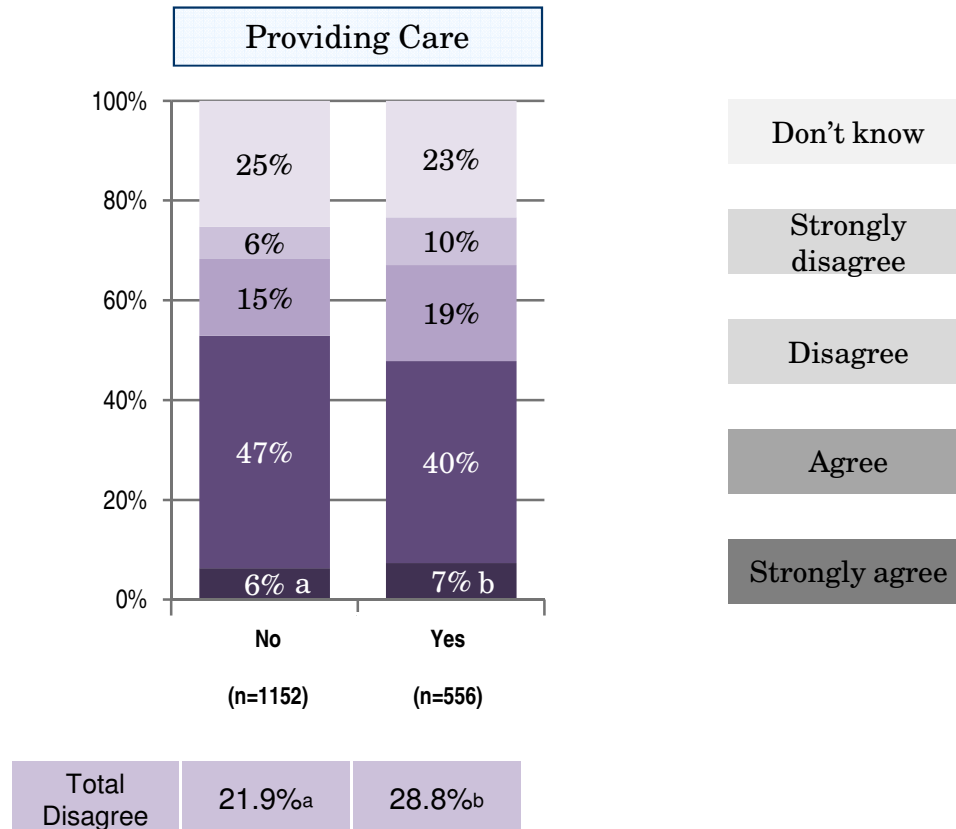
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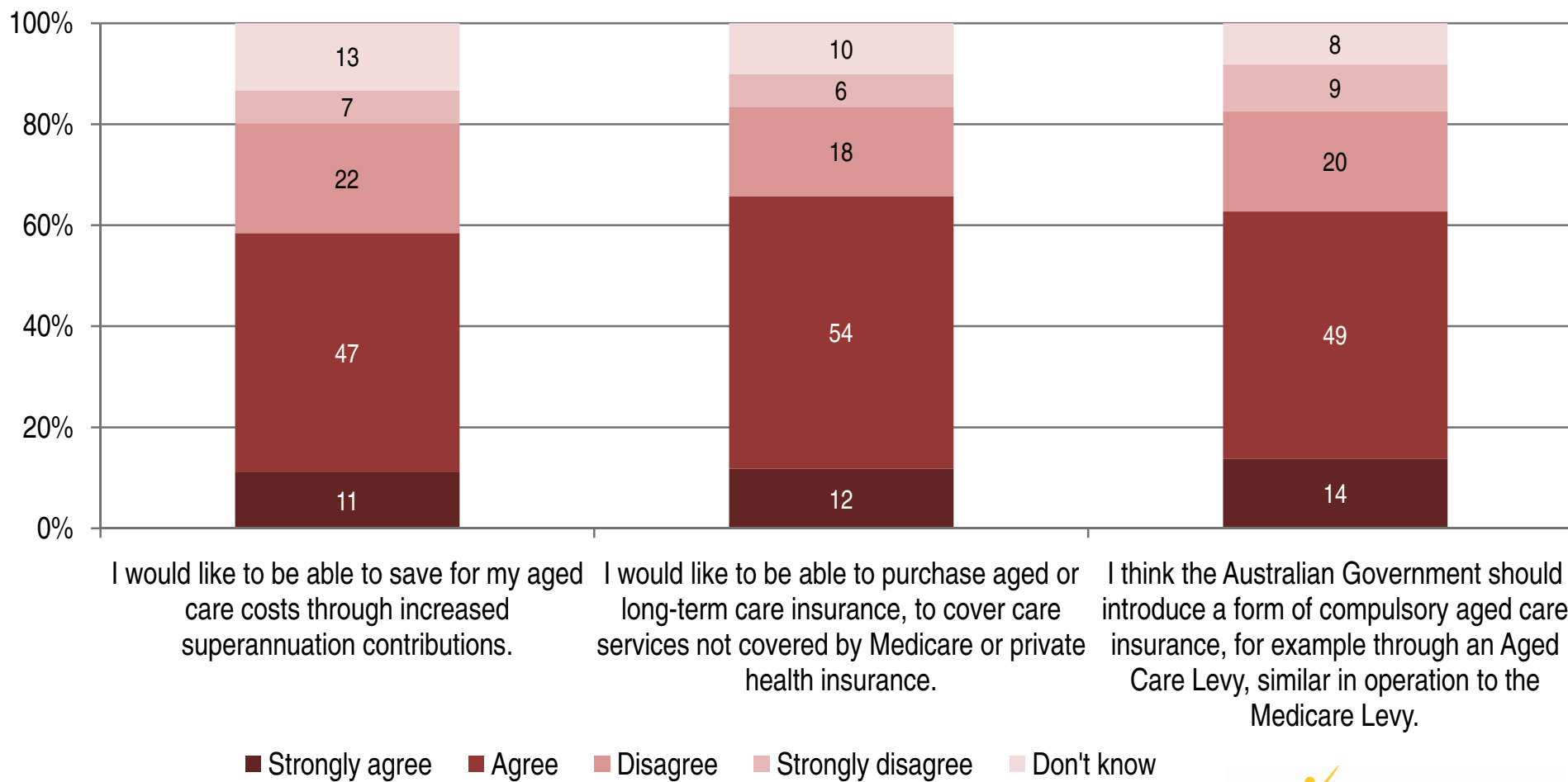
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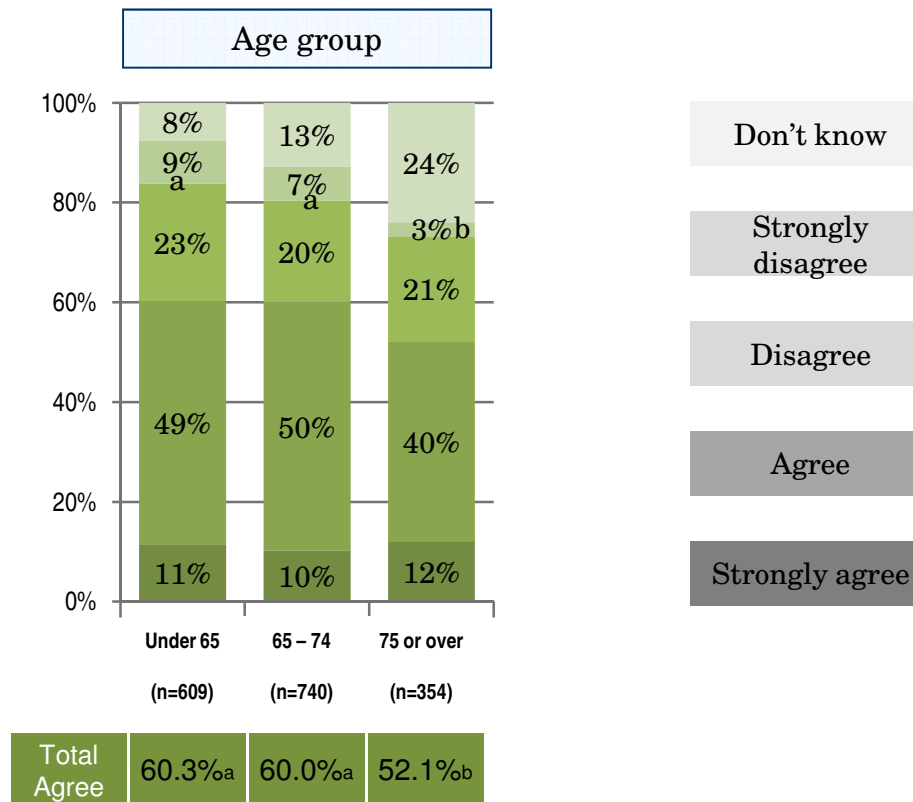


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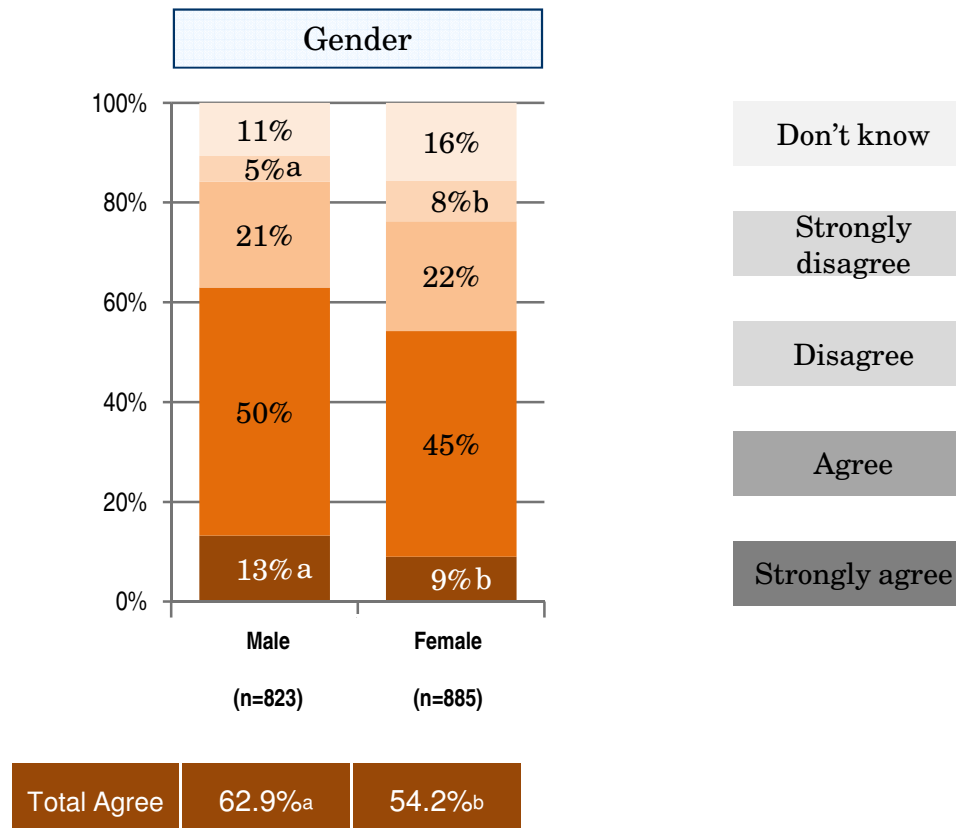
Additional options for funding personal aged care contributions

I would like to be able to save for my aged care costs through increased superannuation contributions.



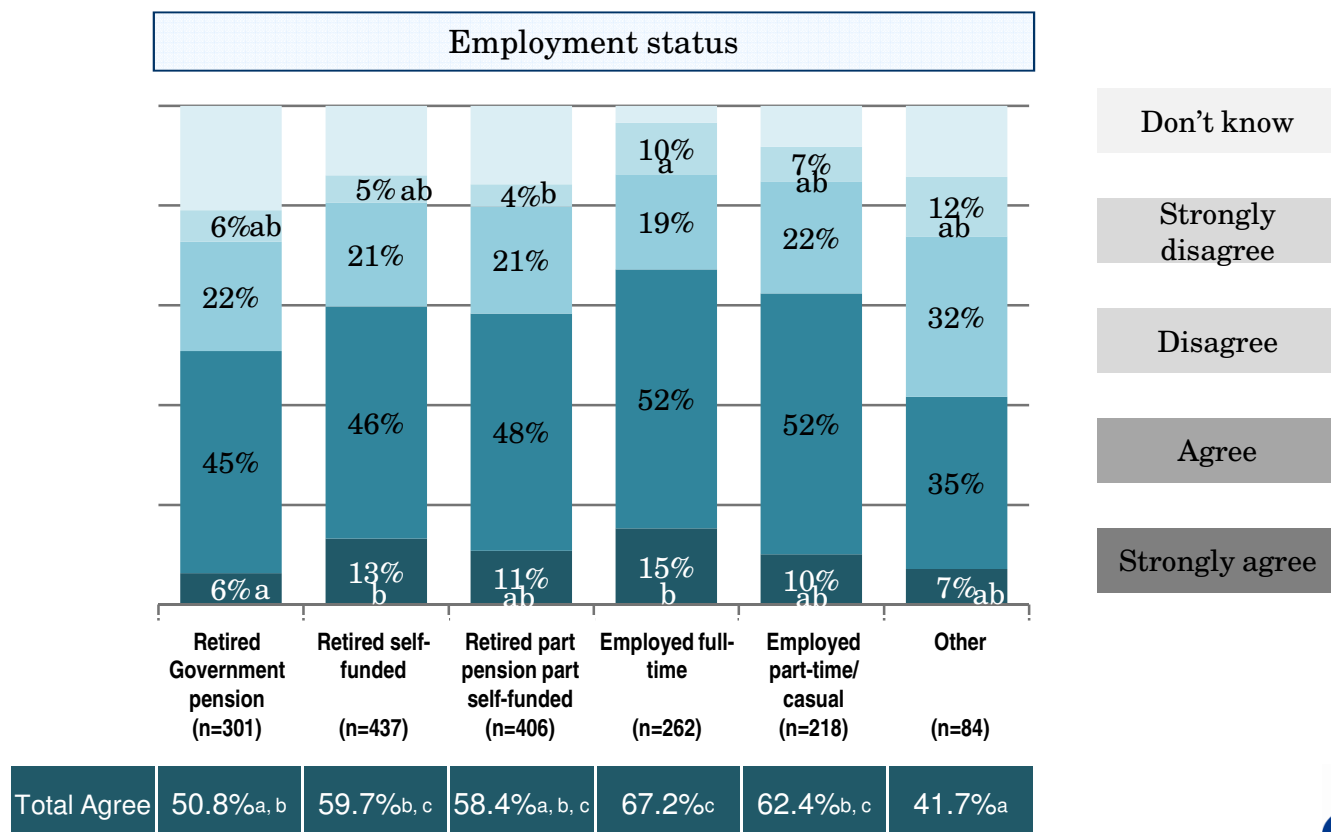
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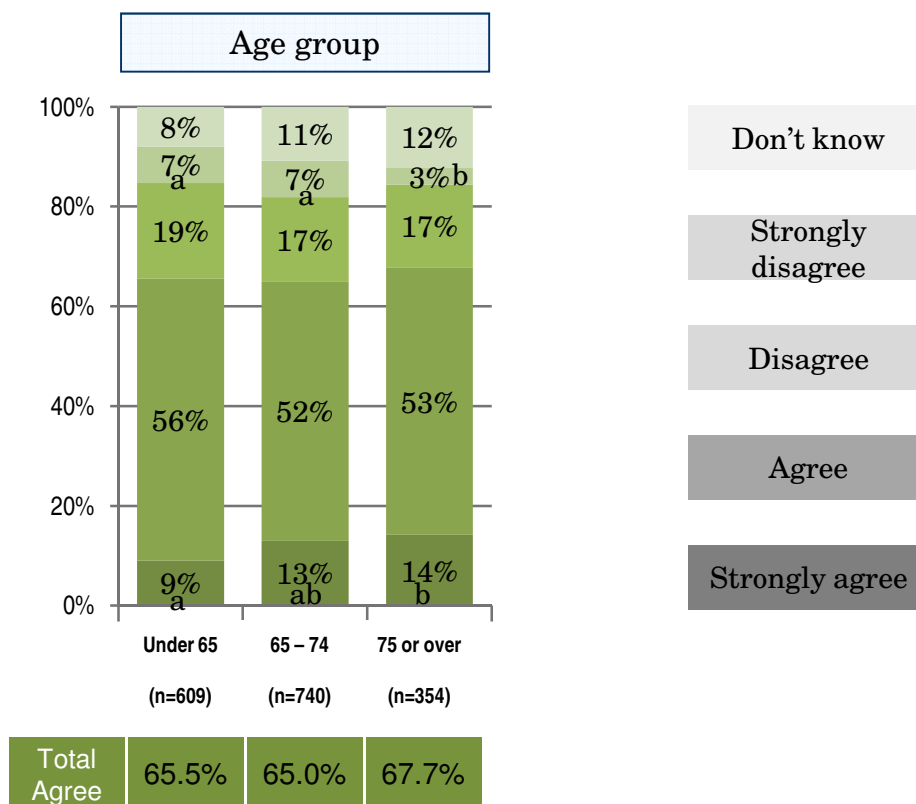
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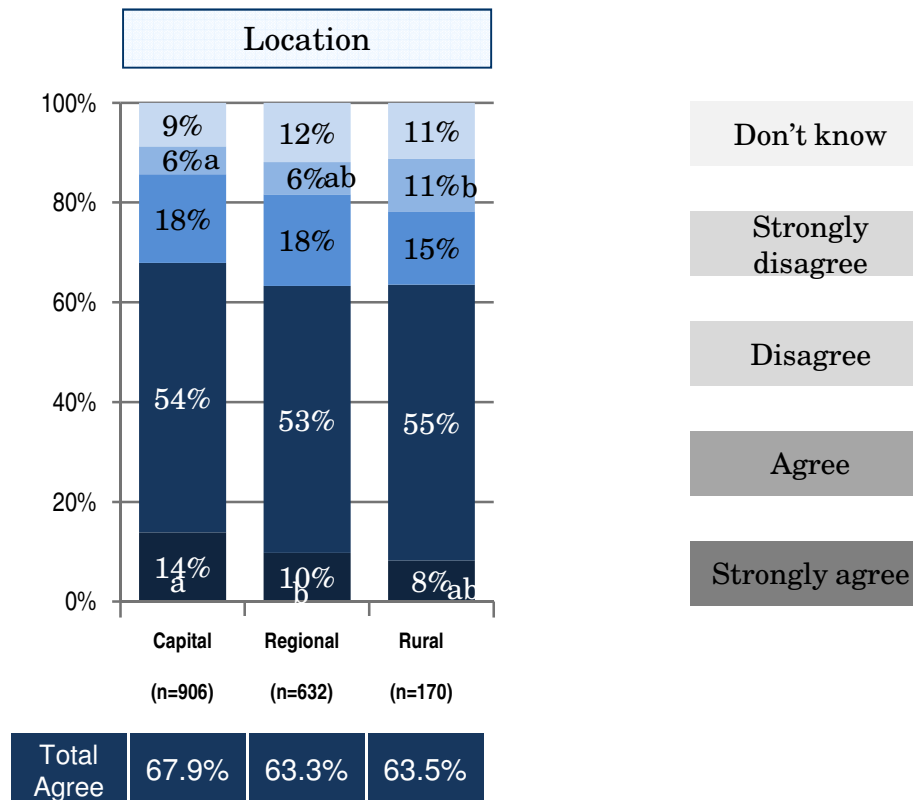
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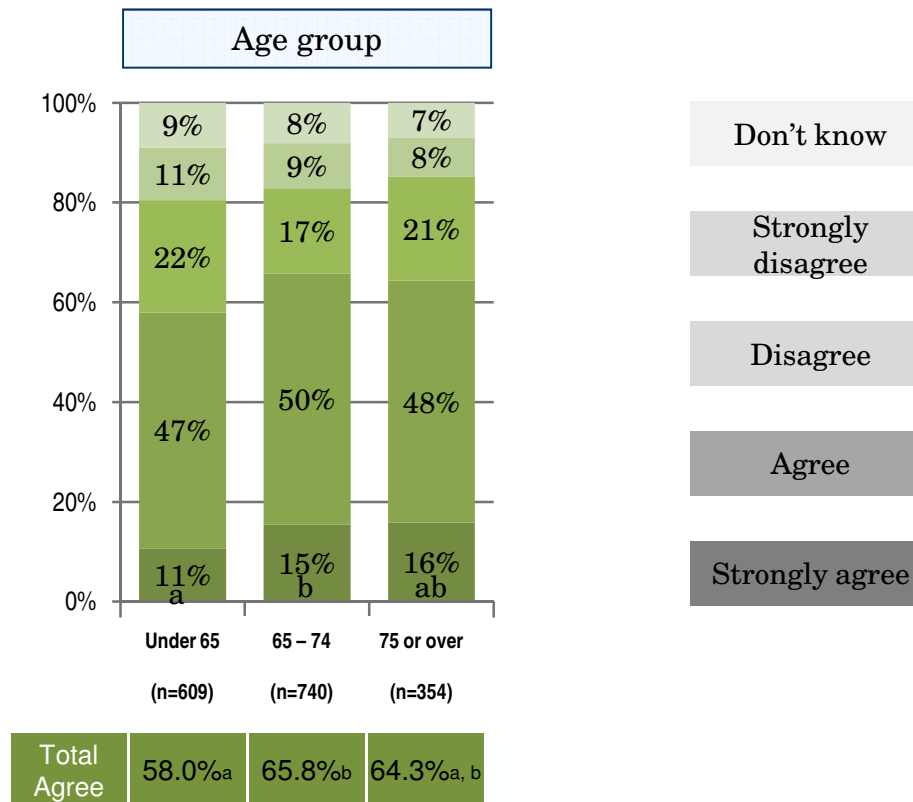
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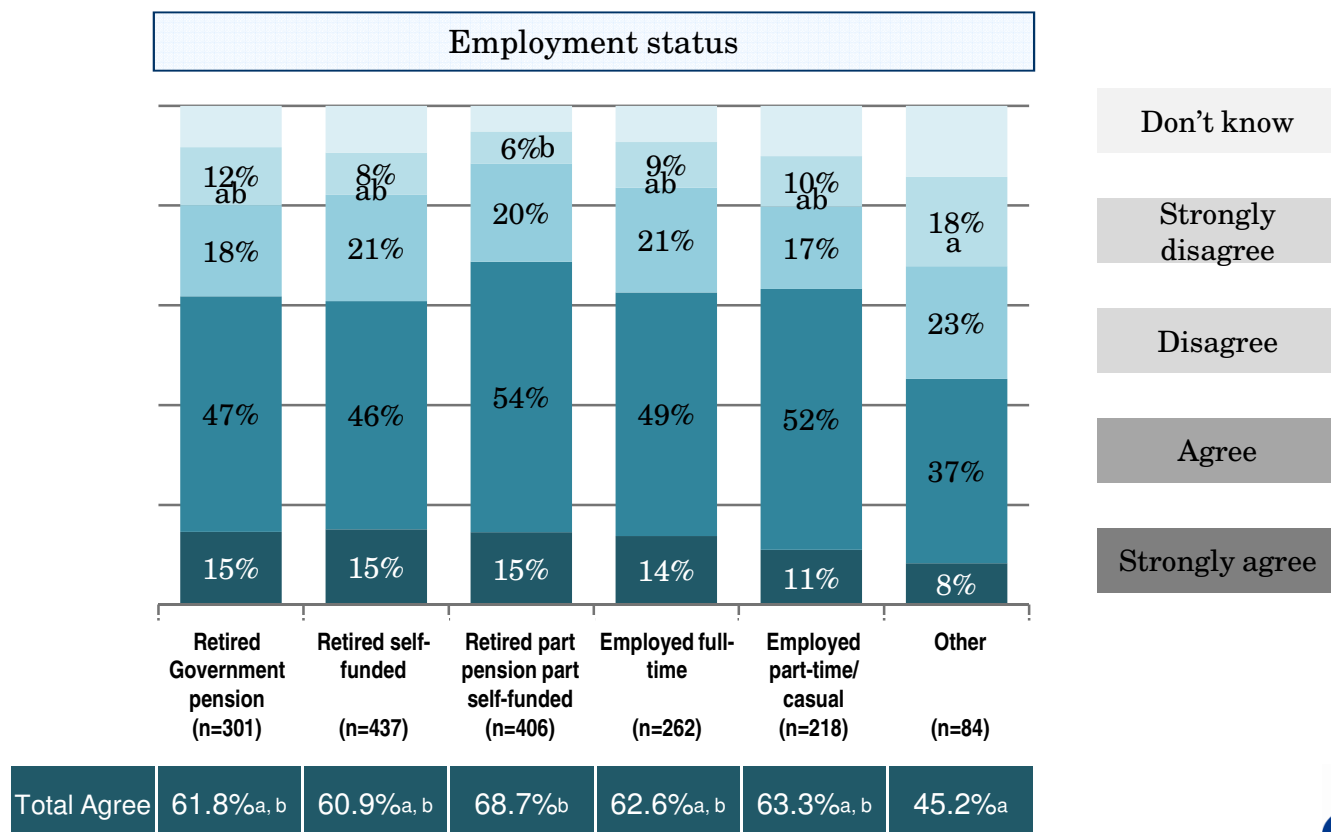
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I think the Australian Government should introduce a form of compulsory aged care insurance, for example through an Aged Care Levy, similar in operation to the Medicare Levy.



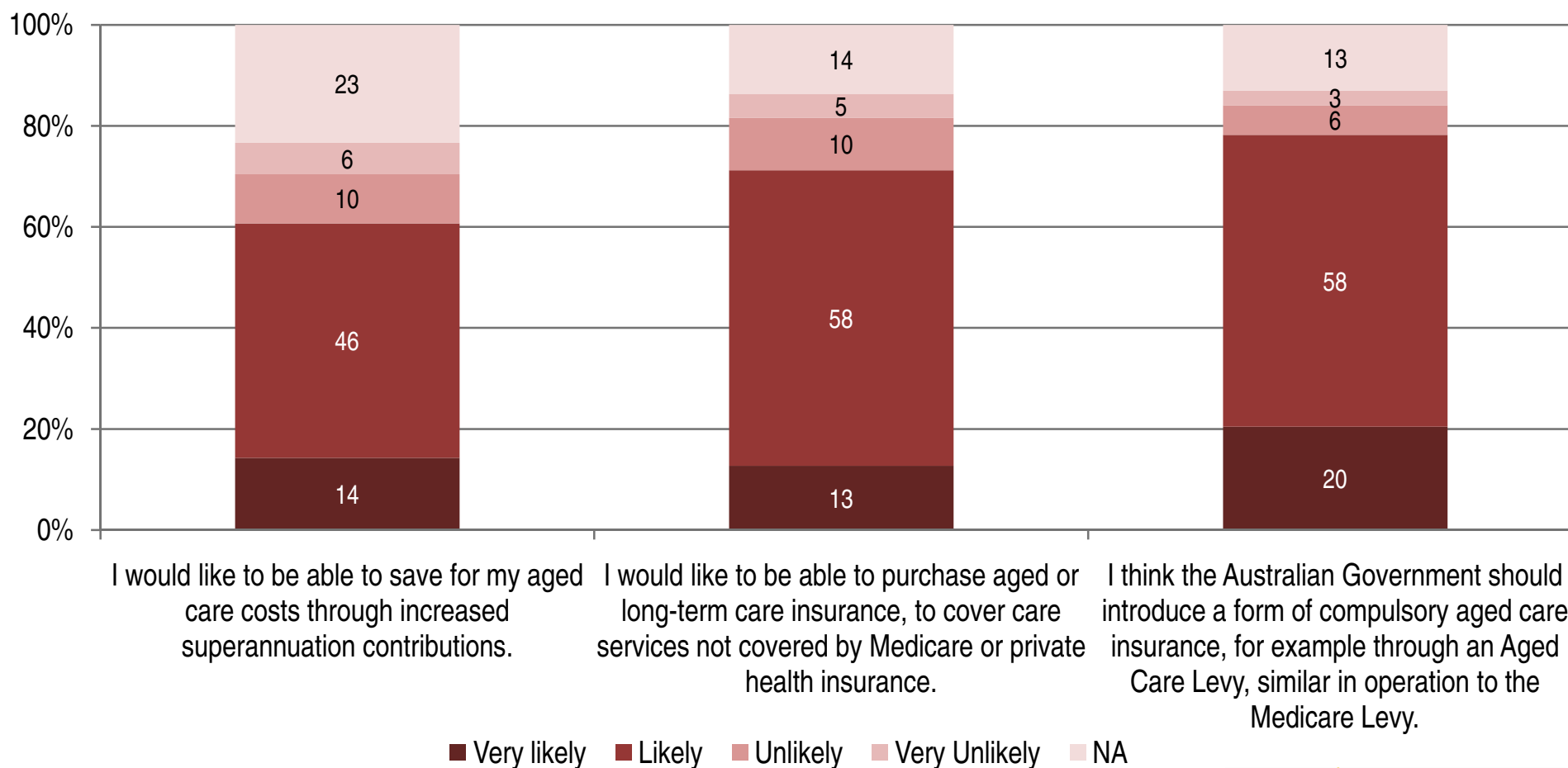
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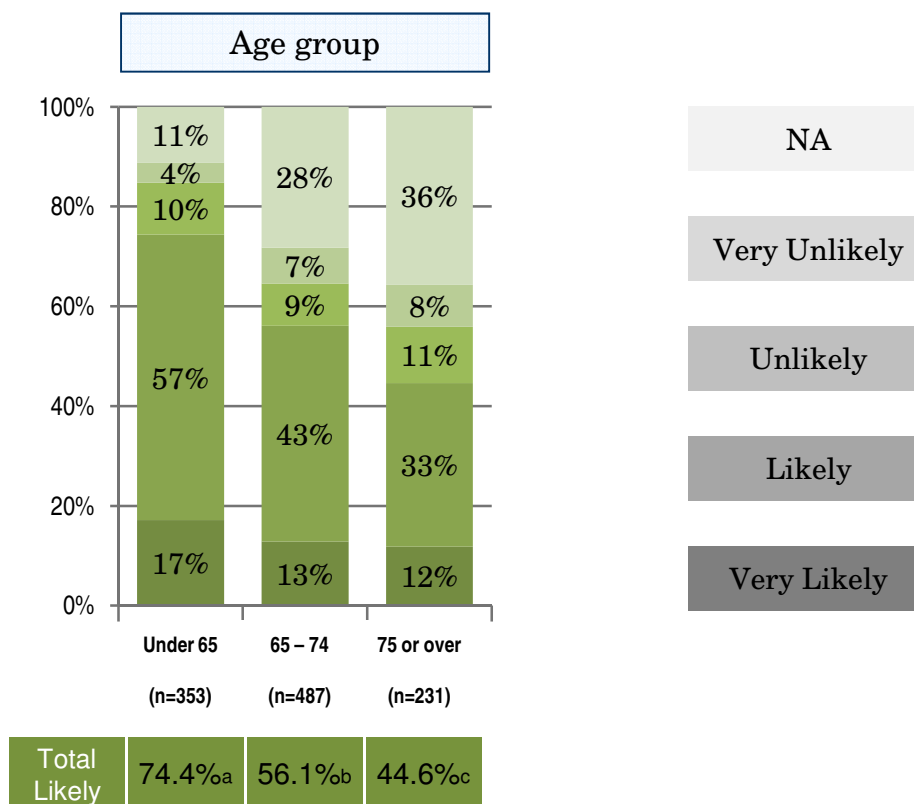
How likely would you be to take up these options?*



* Respondents: Selected Strongly agree / agree to the corresponding funding option in the previous question.

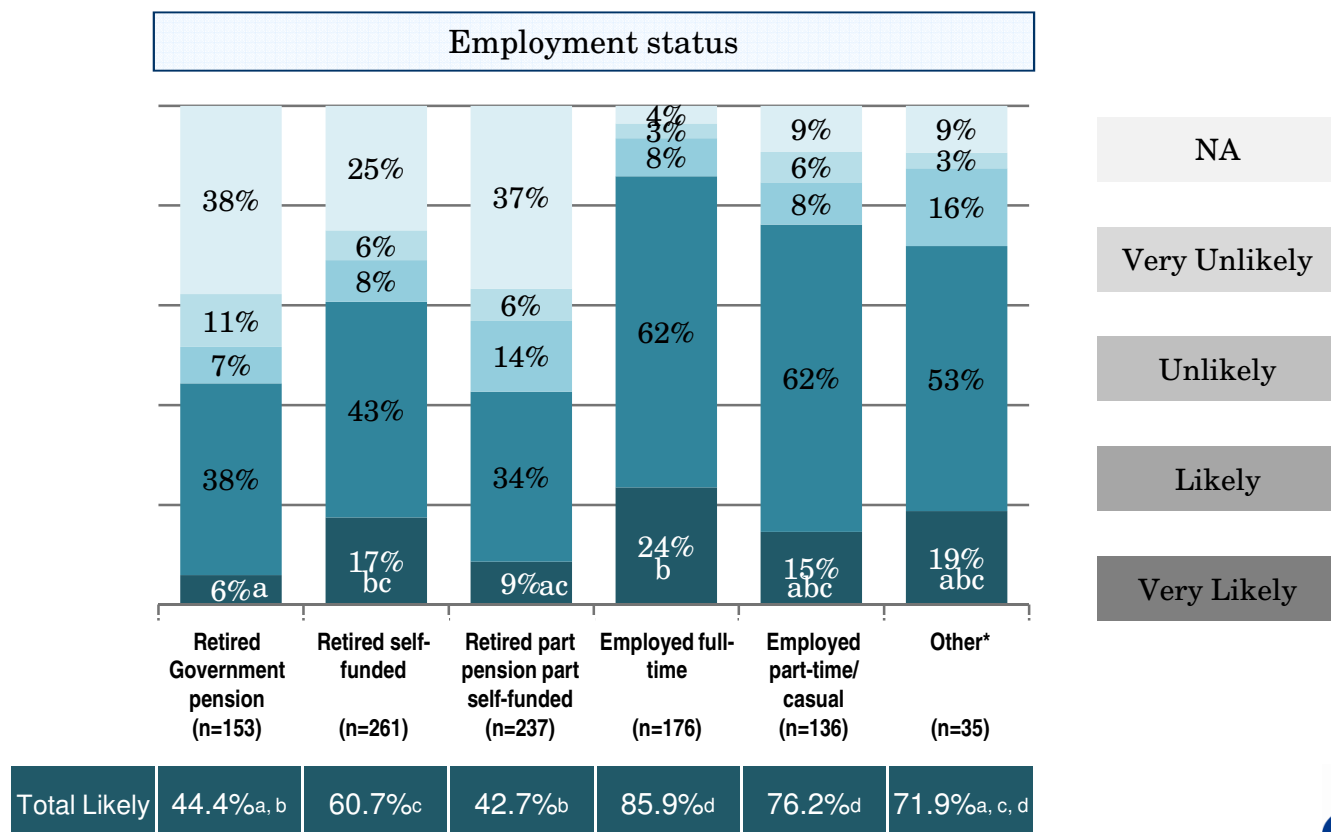
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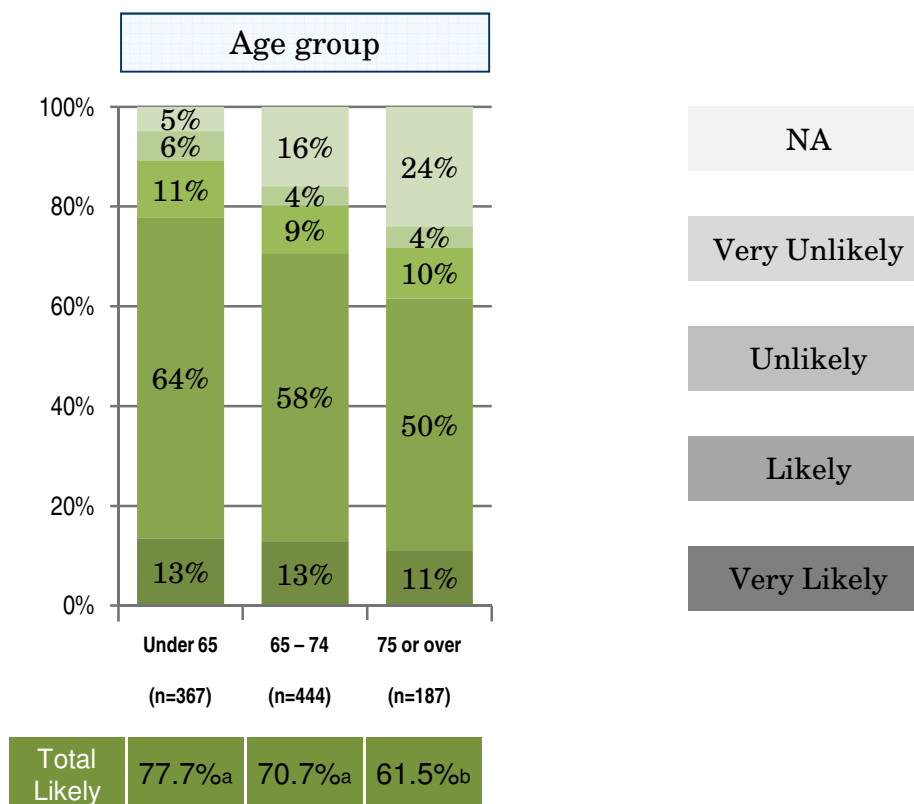
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*Small sample size, estimate not reliable

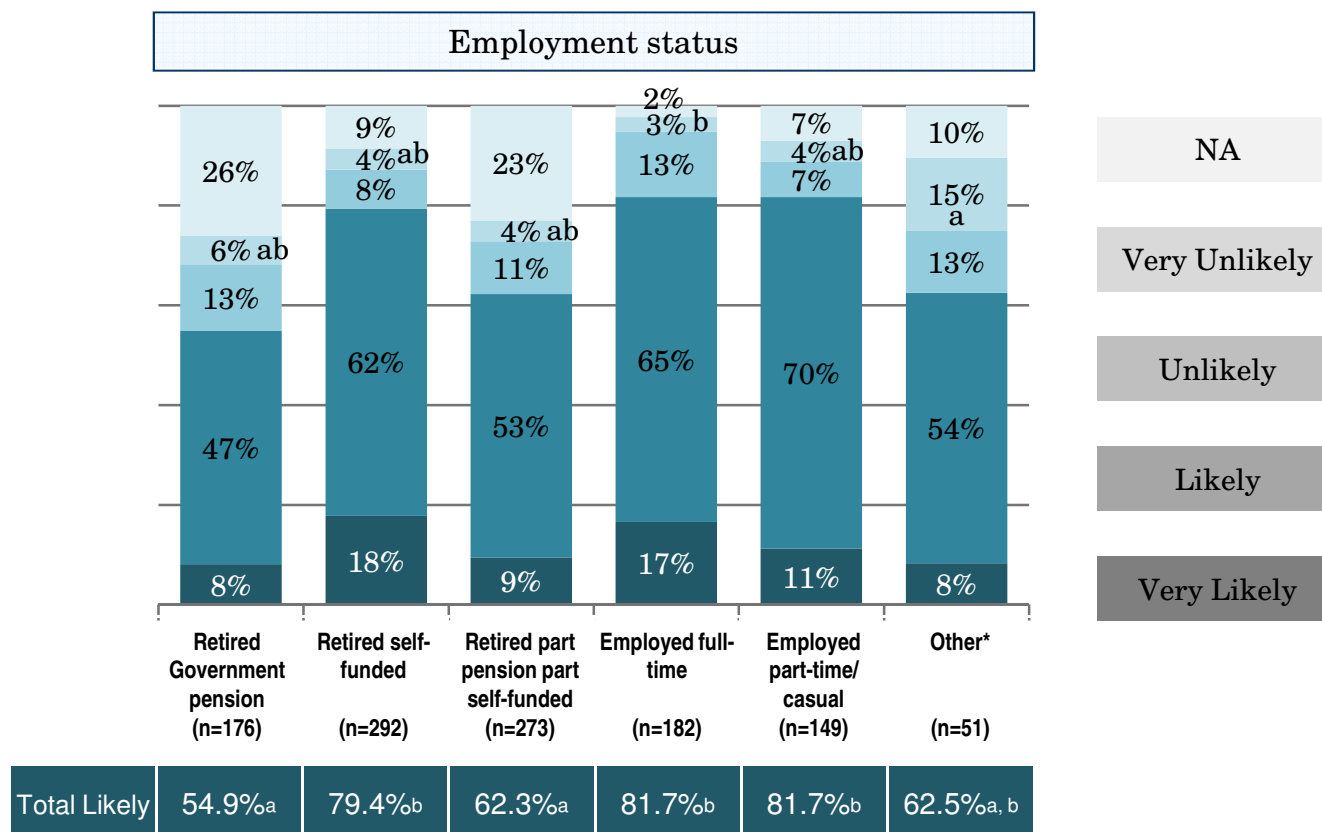
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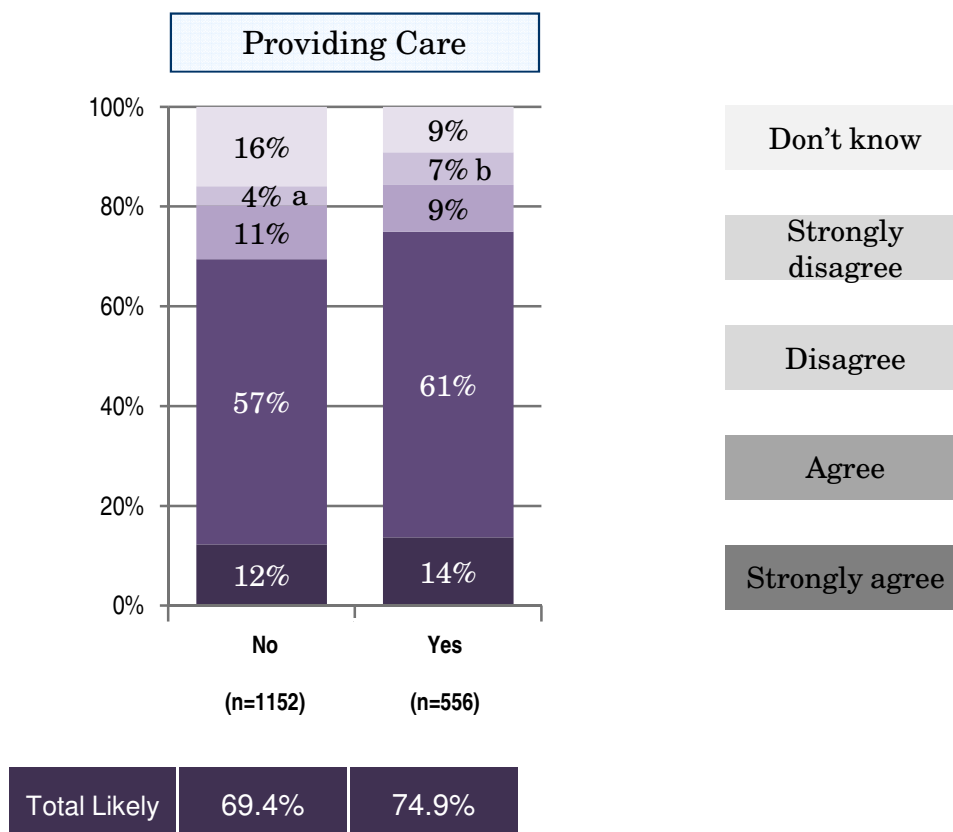
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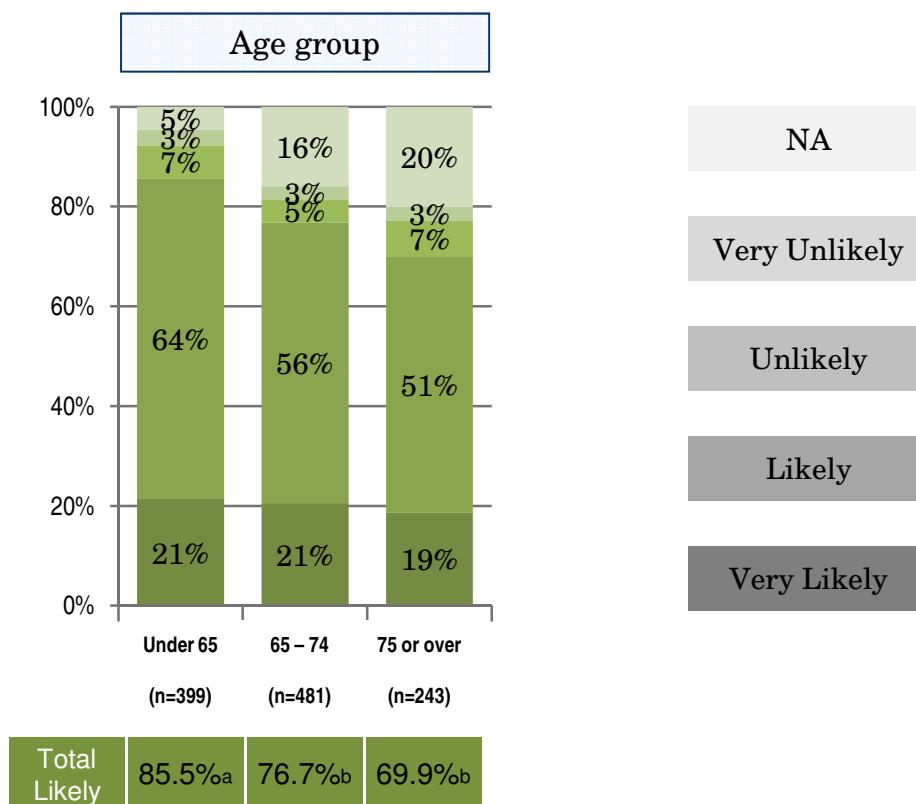
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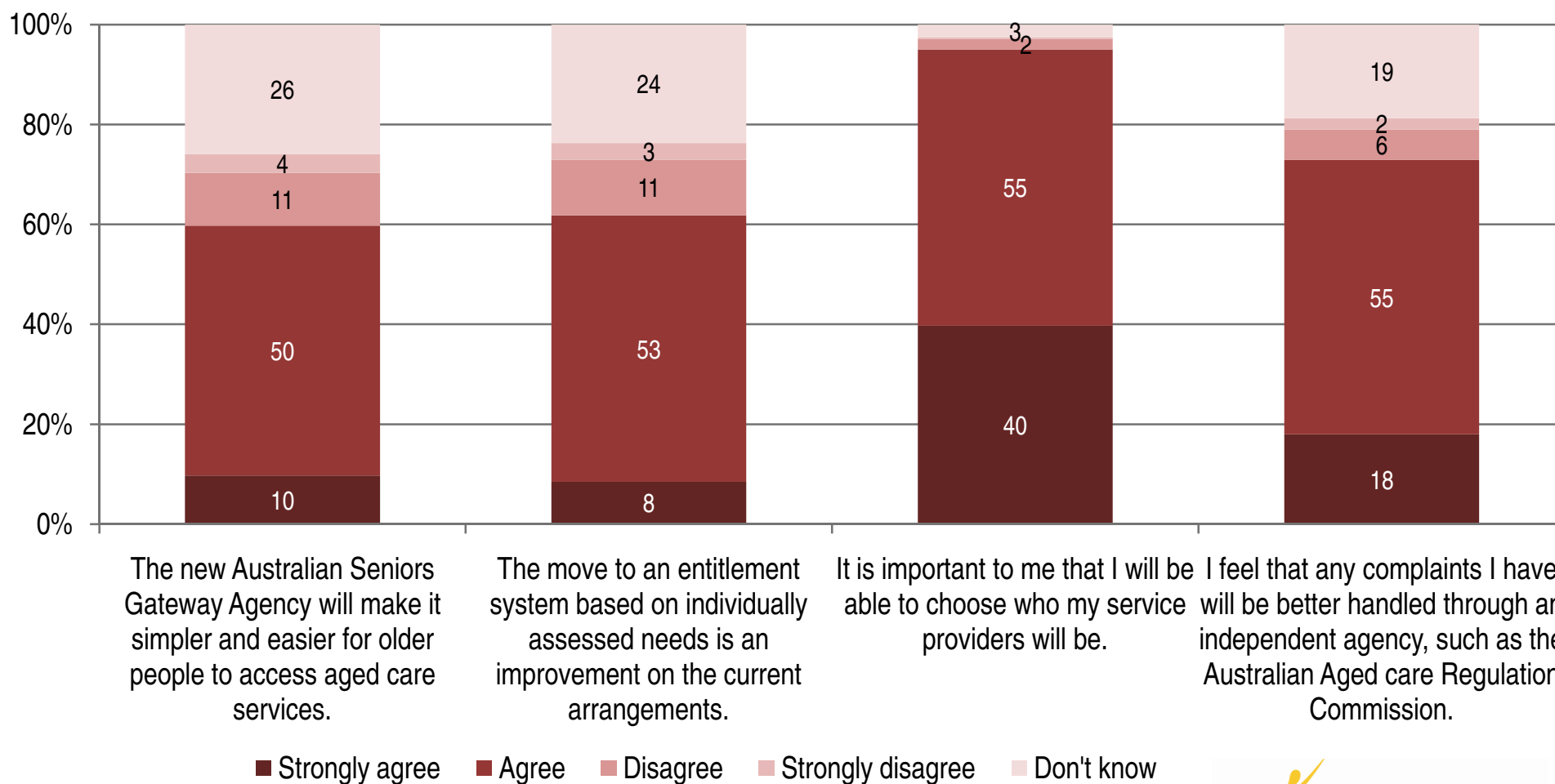
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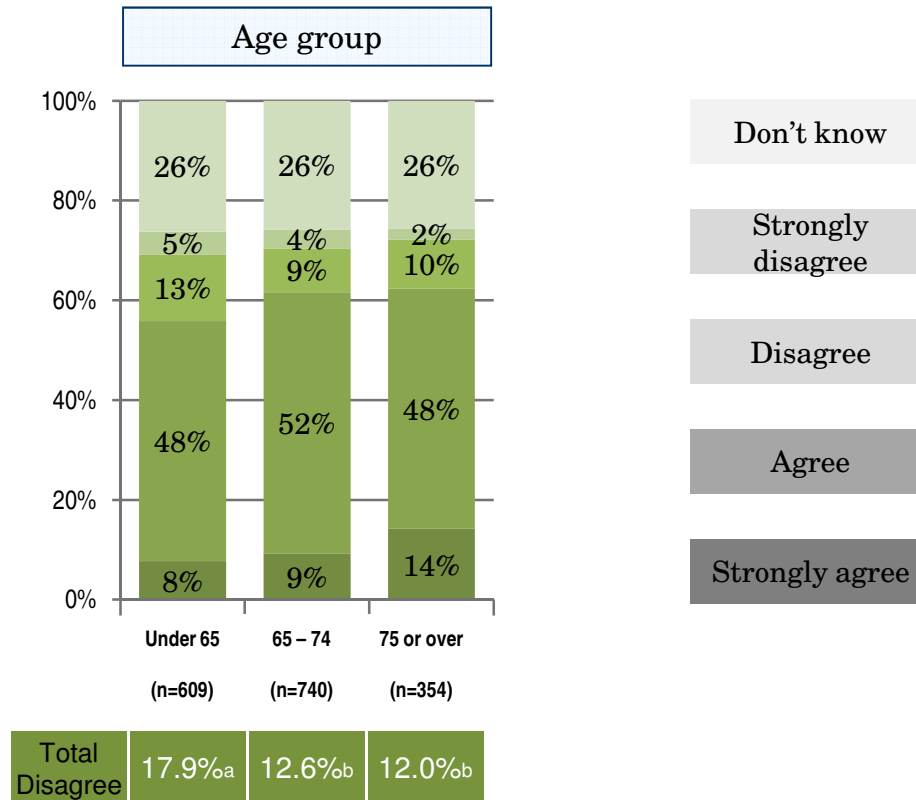


Accessing Services



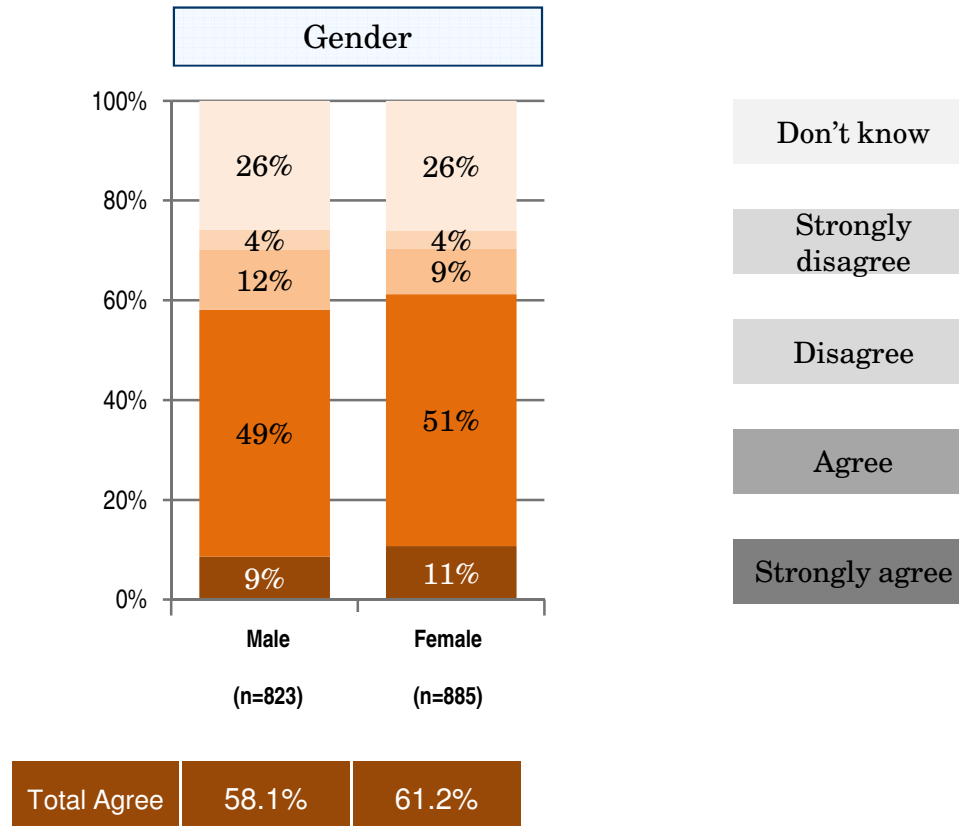
Accessing Services

The new Australian Seniors Gateway Agency will make it simpler and easier for older people to access aged care services.



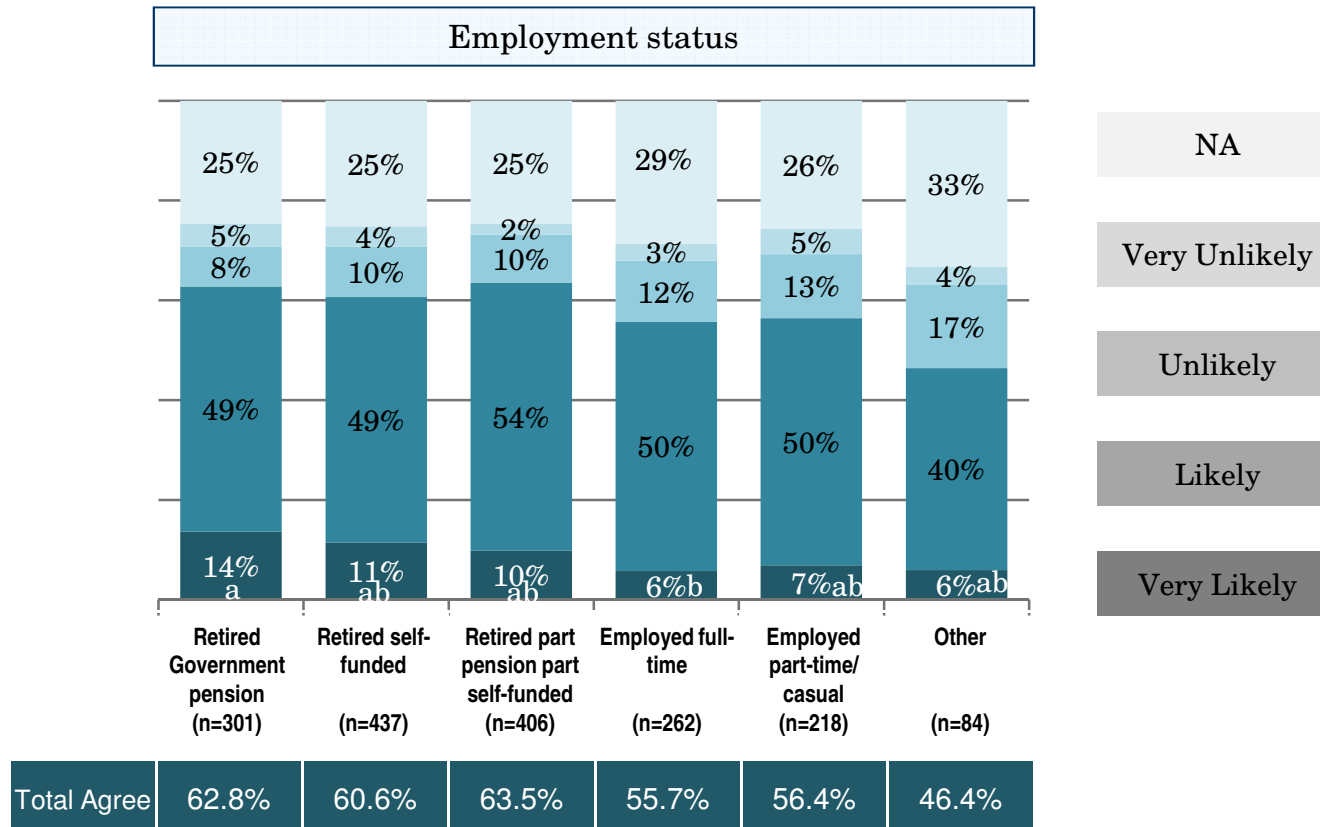
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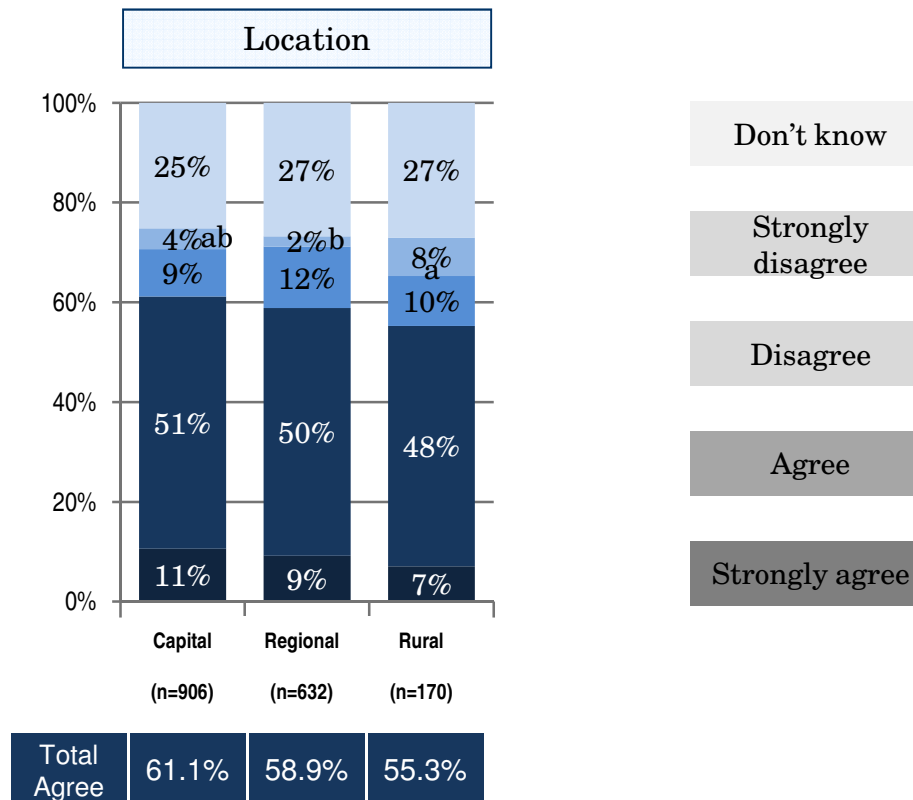
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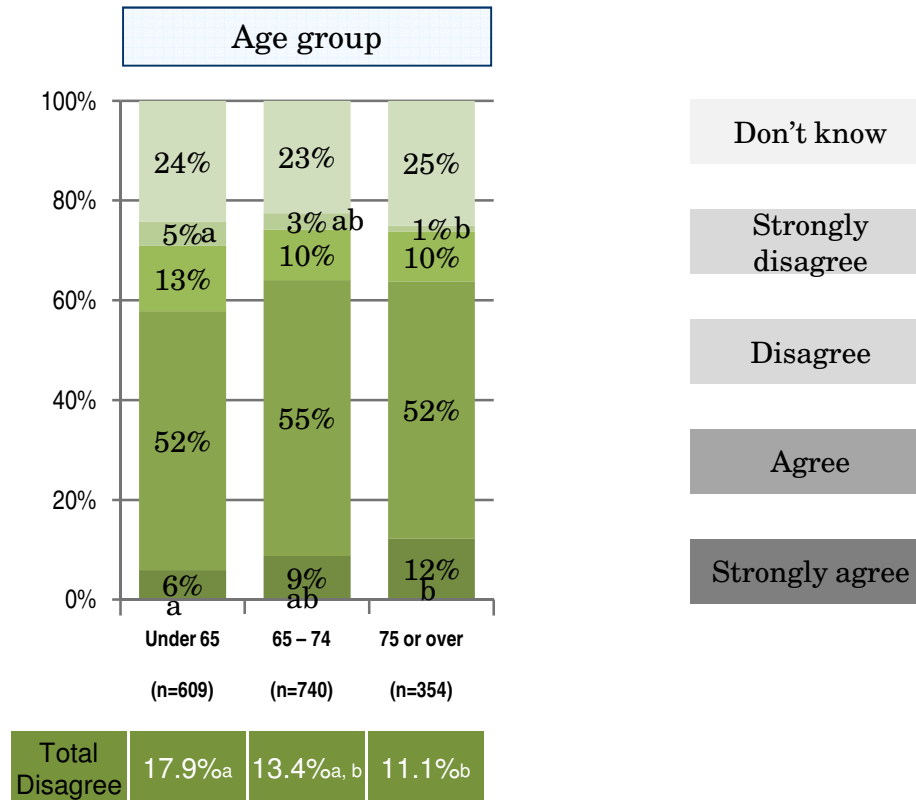
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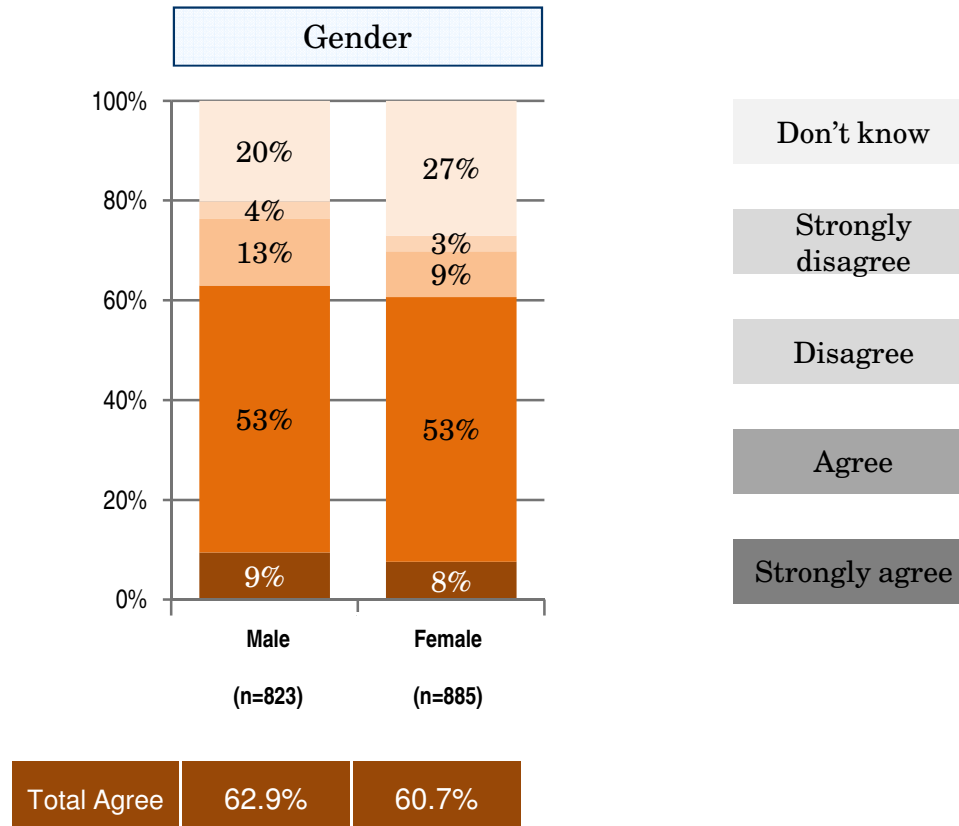
Accessing Services

The move to an entitlement system based on individually assessed needs is an improvement on the current arrangements.



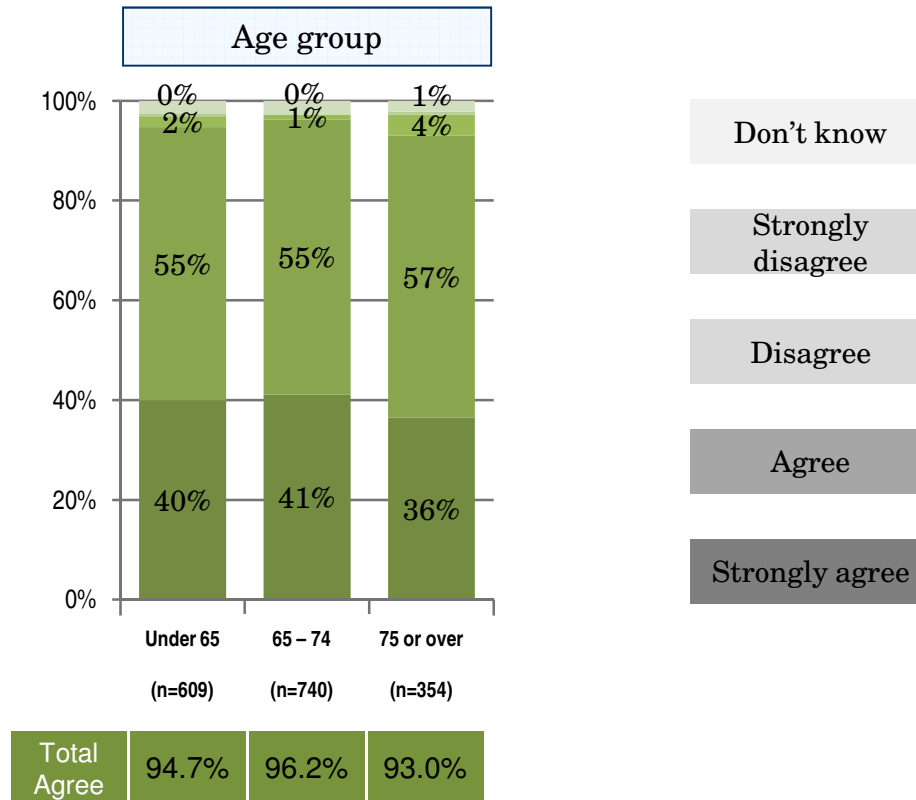
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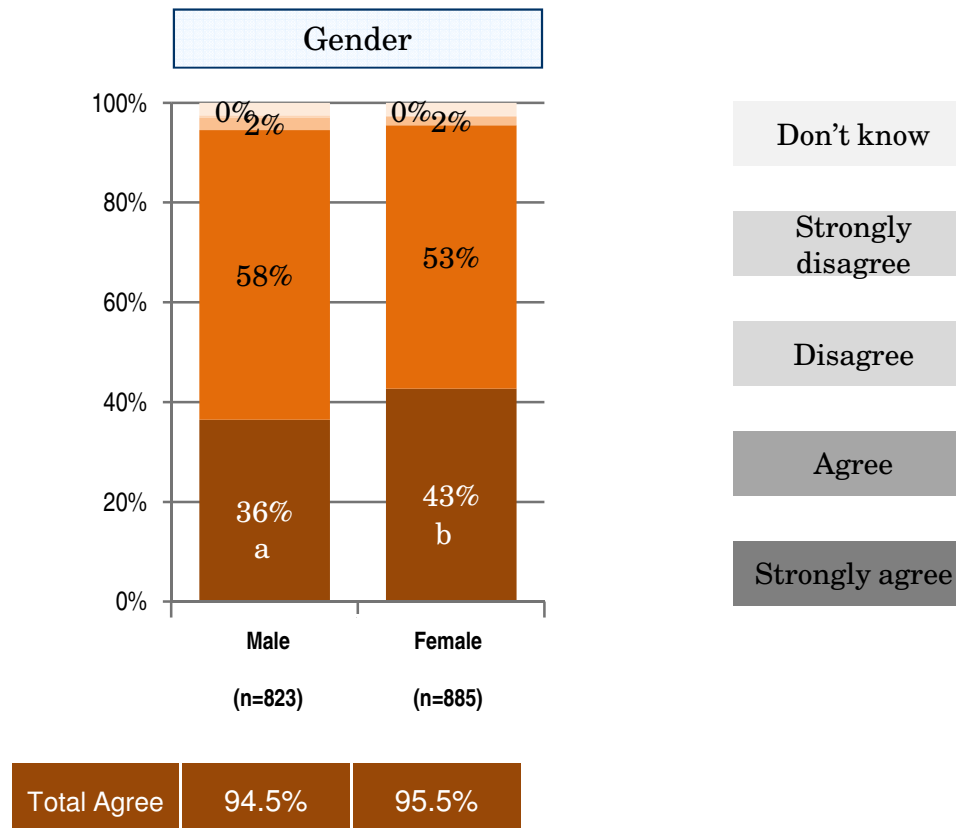
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It is important to me that I will be able to choose who my service providers will be.



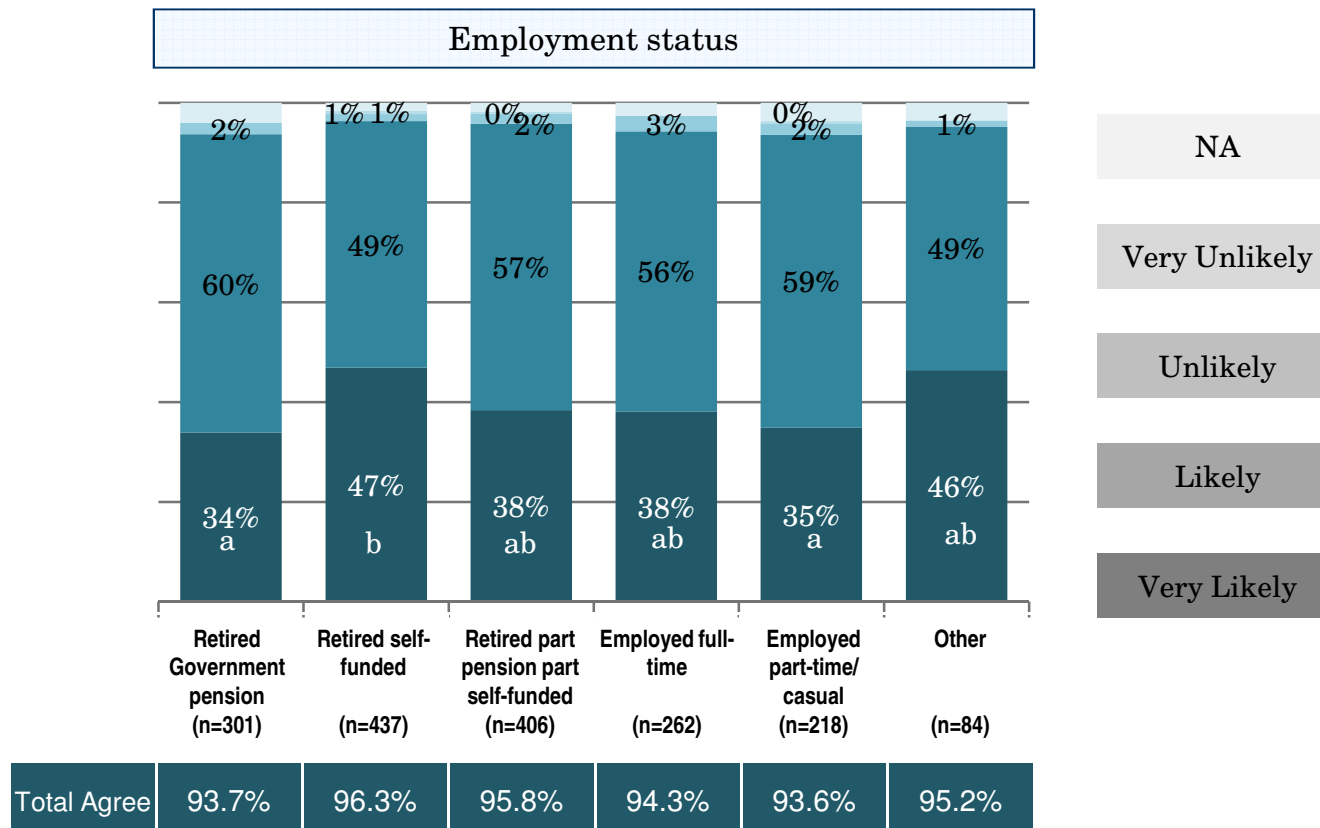
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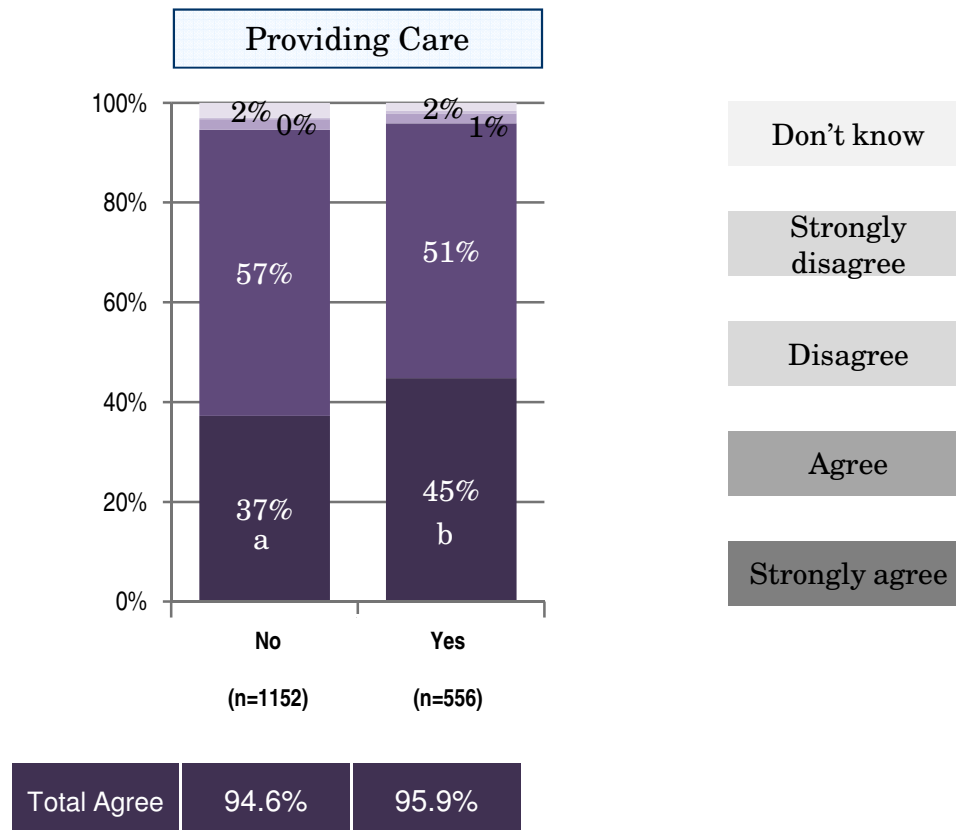
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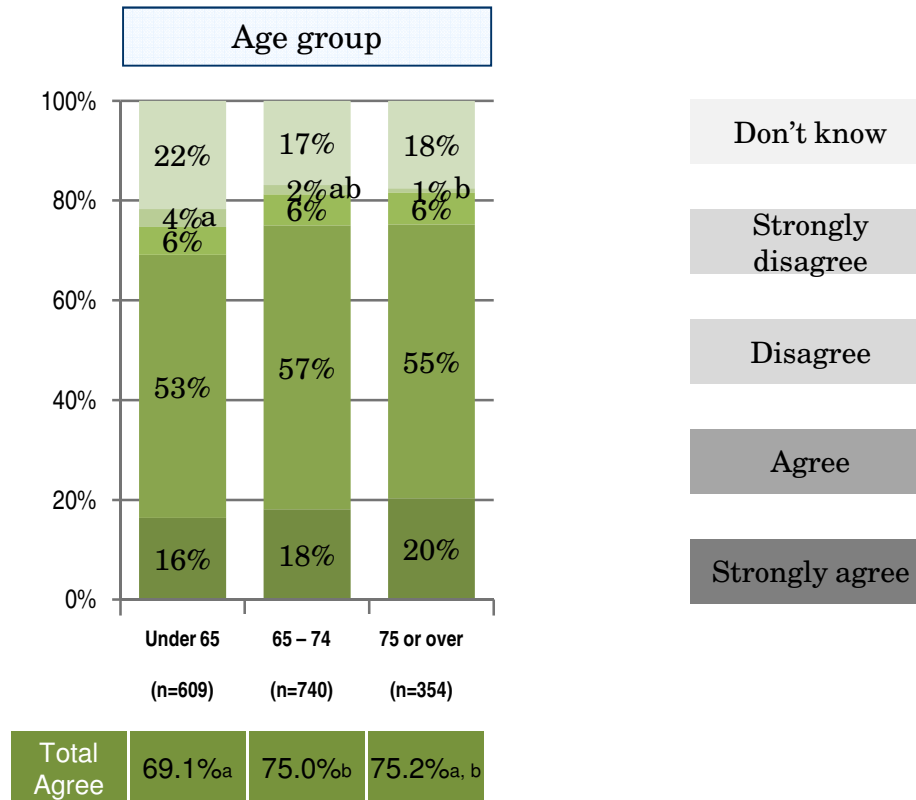
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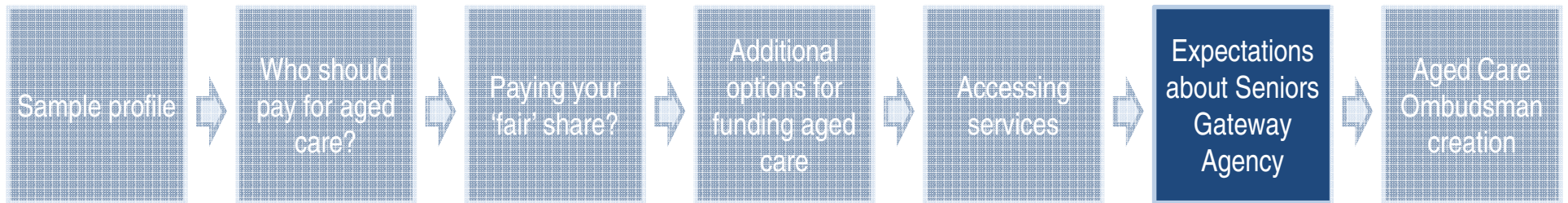
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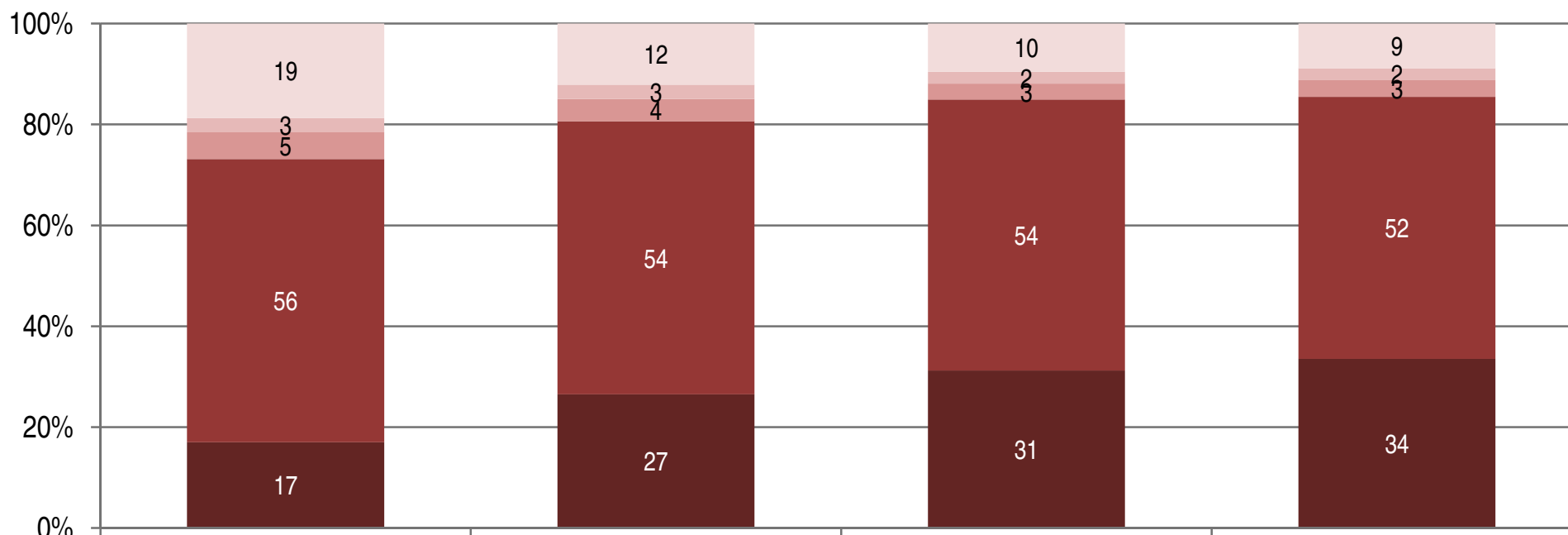
Accessing Services

I feel that any complaints I have will be better handled through an independent agency, such as the Australian Aged care Regulation Commission.





Expectations for a new Australian Seniors Gateway Agency



I think a new Australian Seniors Gateway Agency is needed to improve access to aged care services.

I expect a new Australian Seniors Gateway Agency to provide speedy and comprehensive assessment of my needs, and re-assessment of my needs as they change.

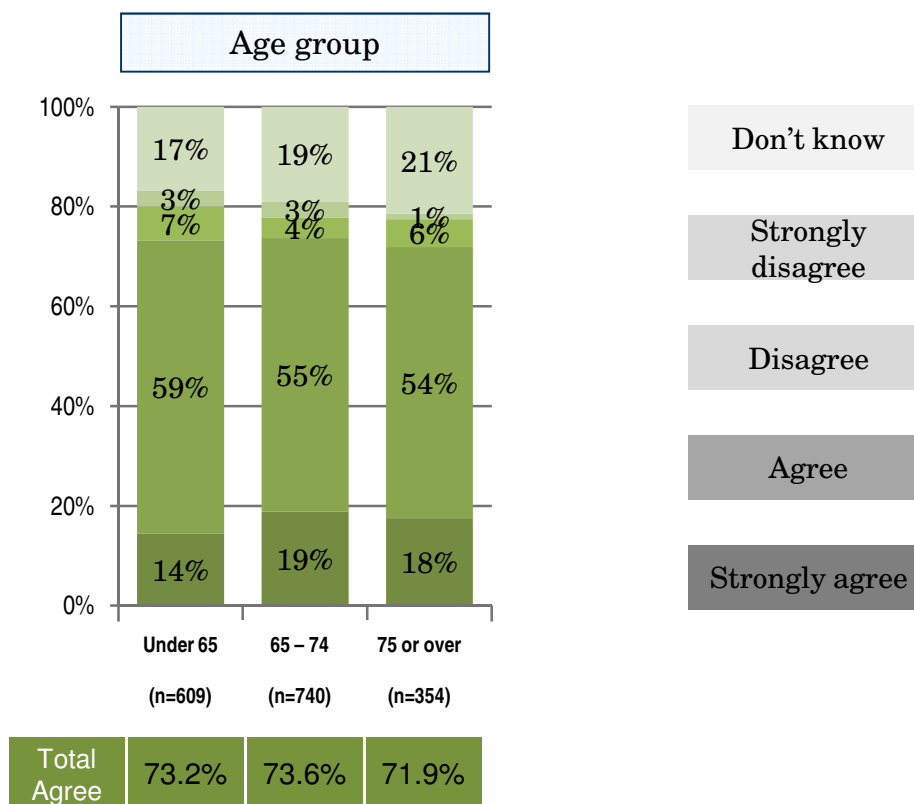
I expect a new Australian Seniors Gateway Agency to provide me with reliable information on the options available to meet my needs.

I expect a new Australian Seniors Gateway Agency to provide me with high quality information on local service providers who can meet my needs.

Strongly agree
 Agree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree
 Don't know

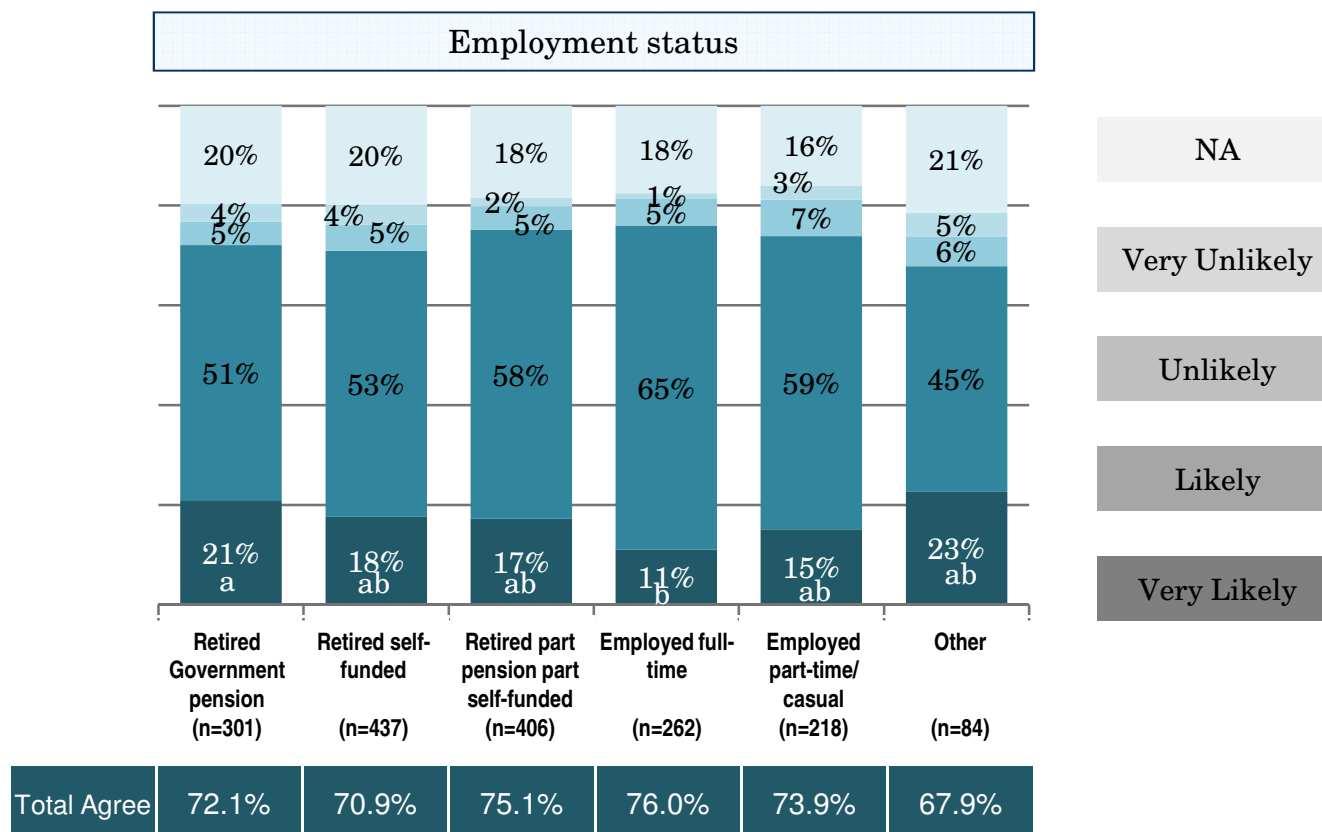
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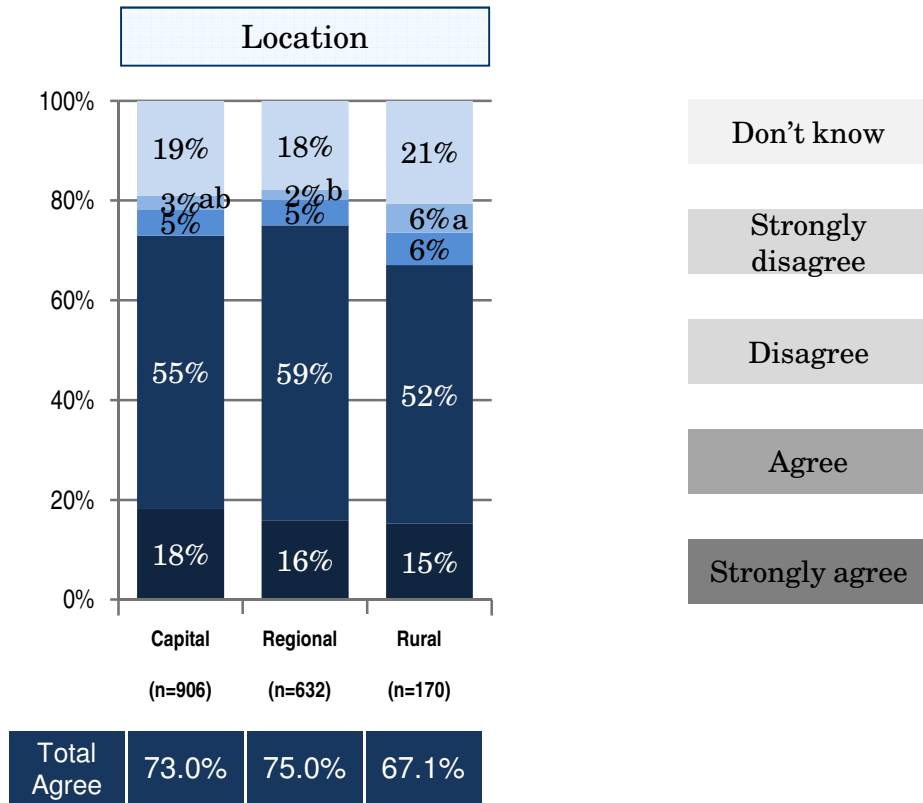
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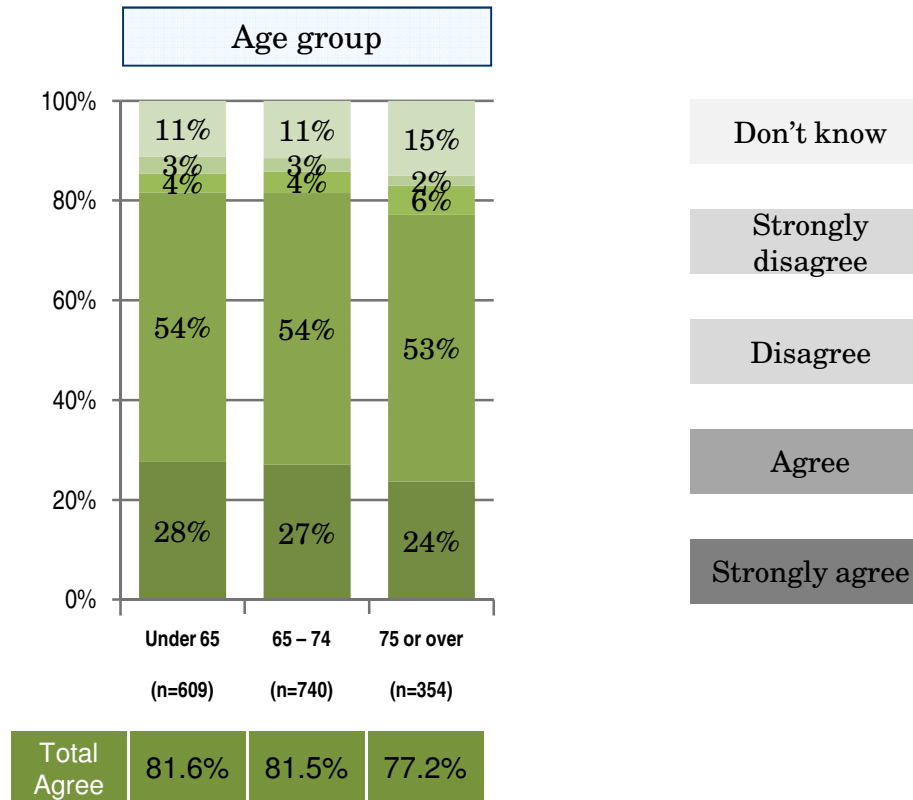
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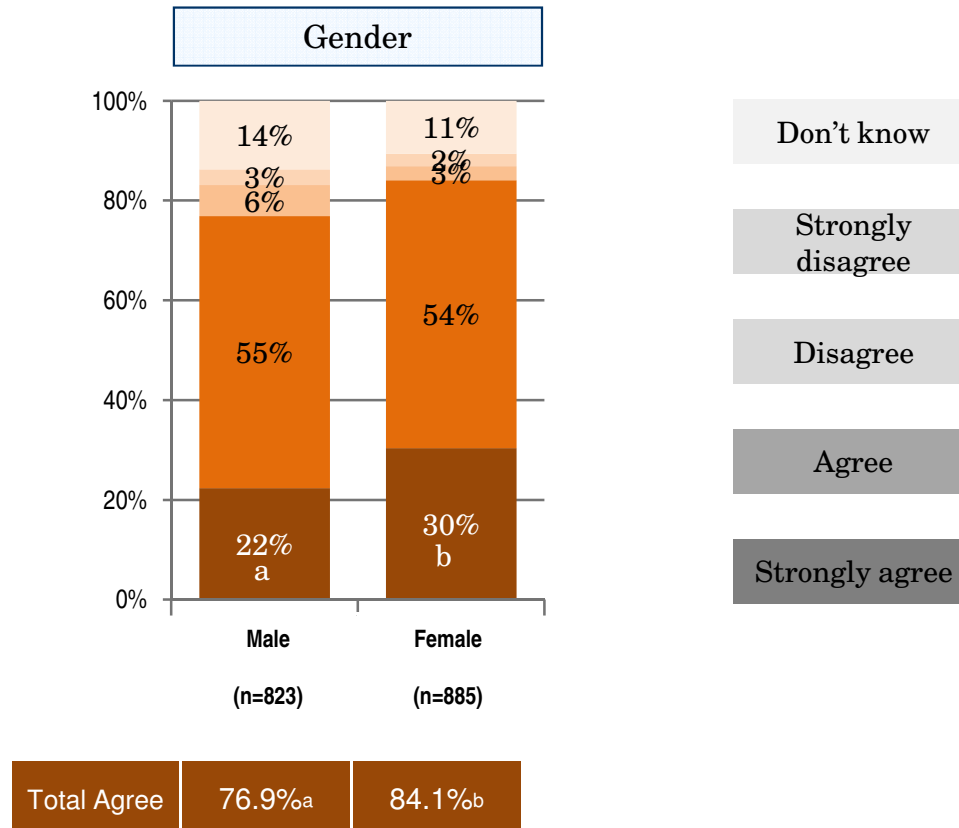
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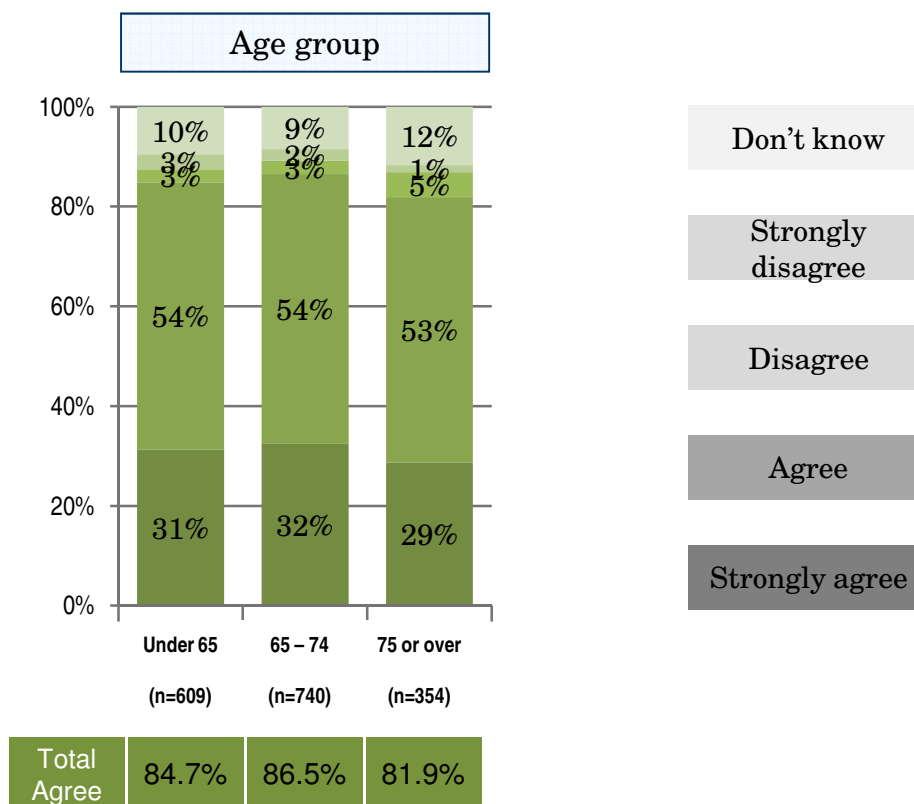
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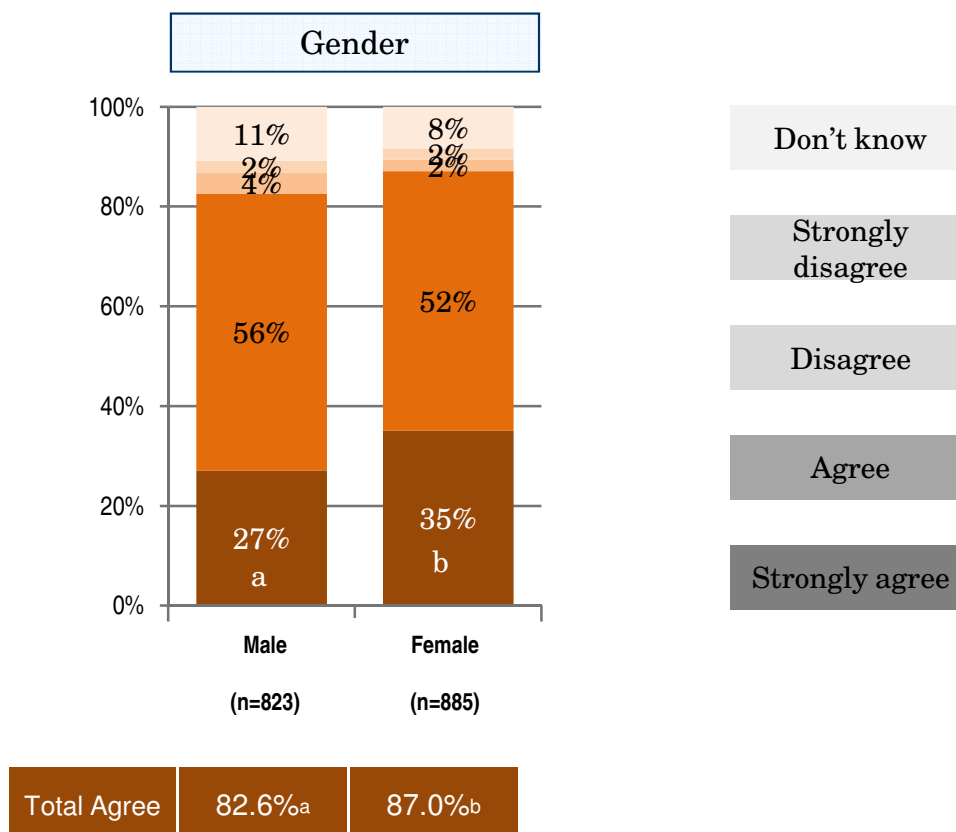
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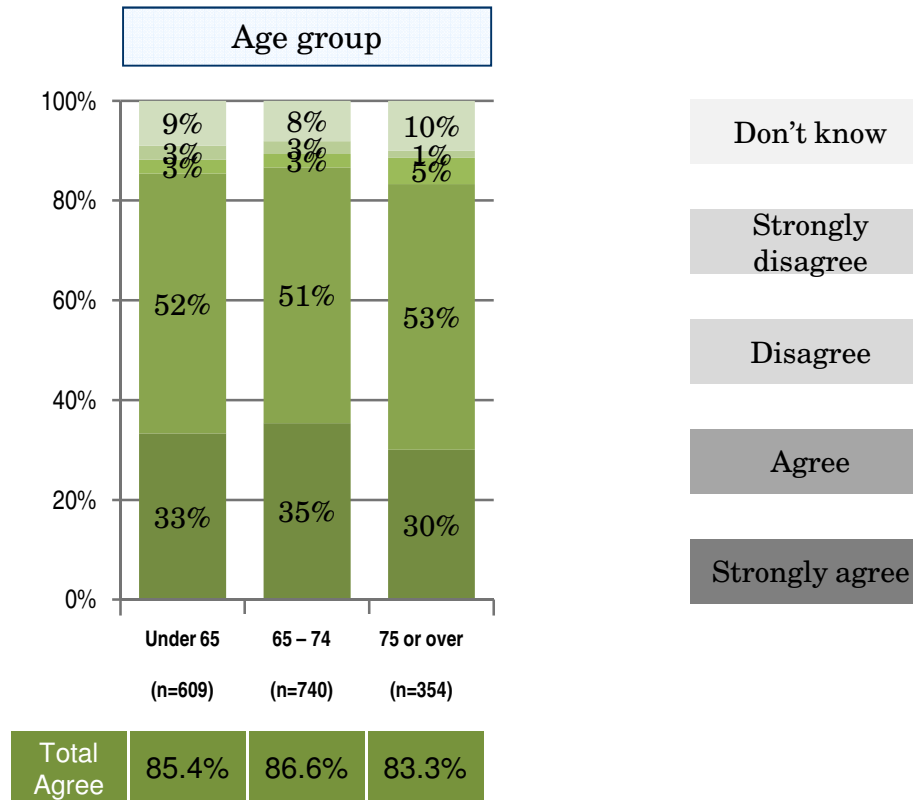
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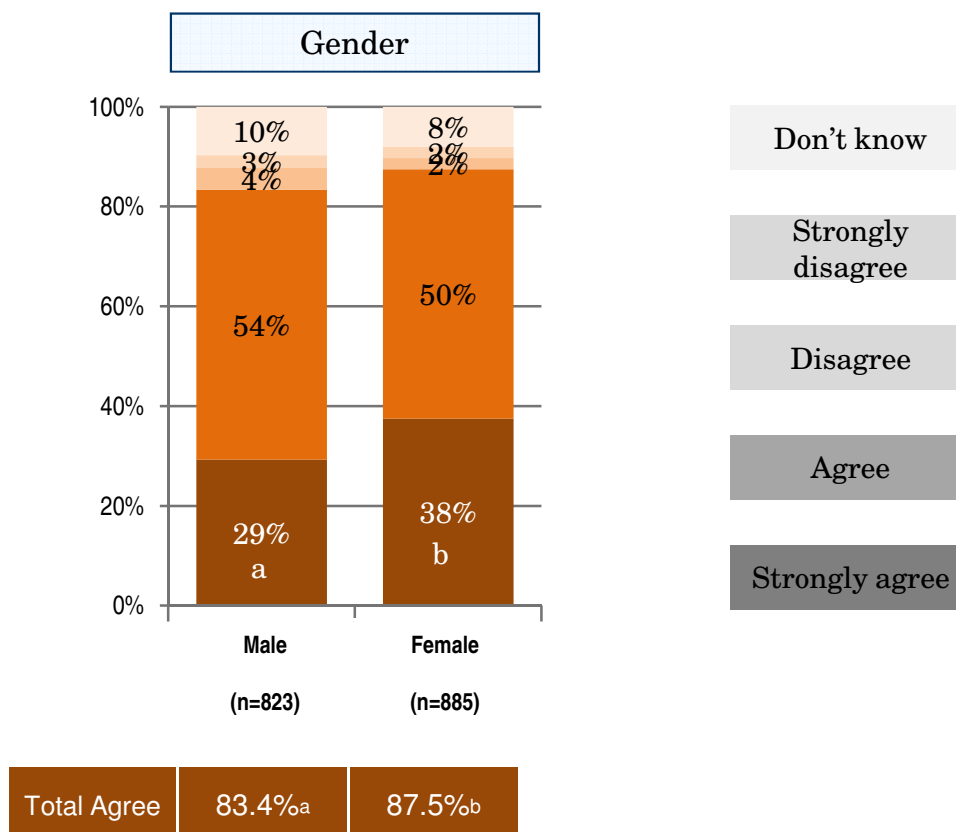
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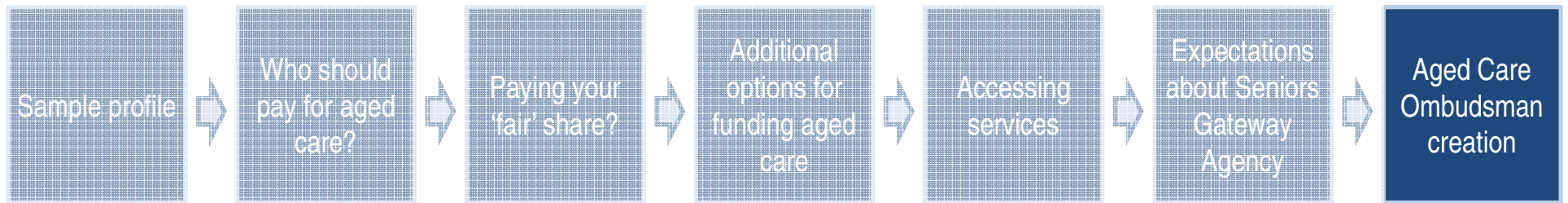
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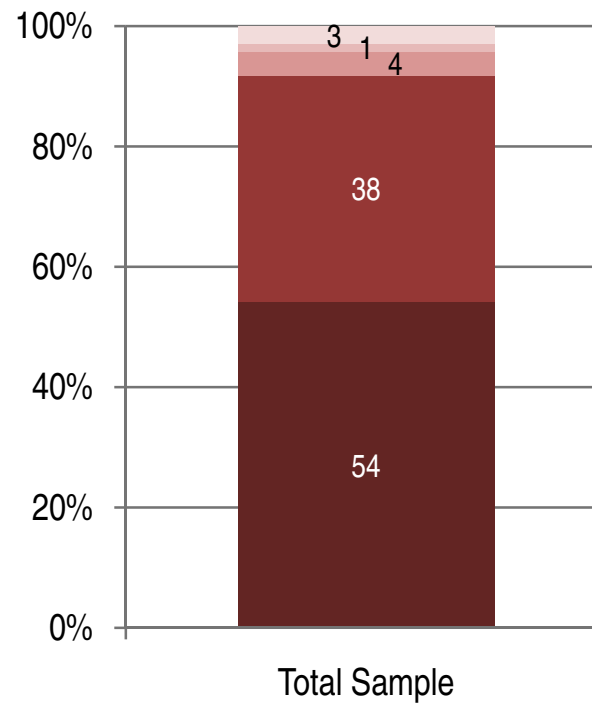
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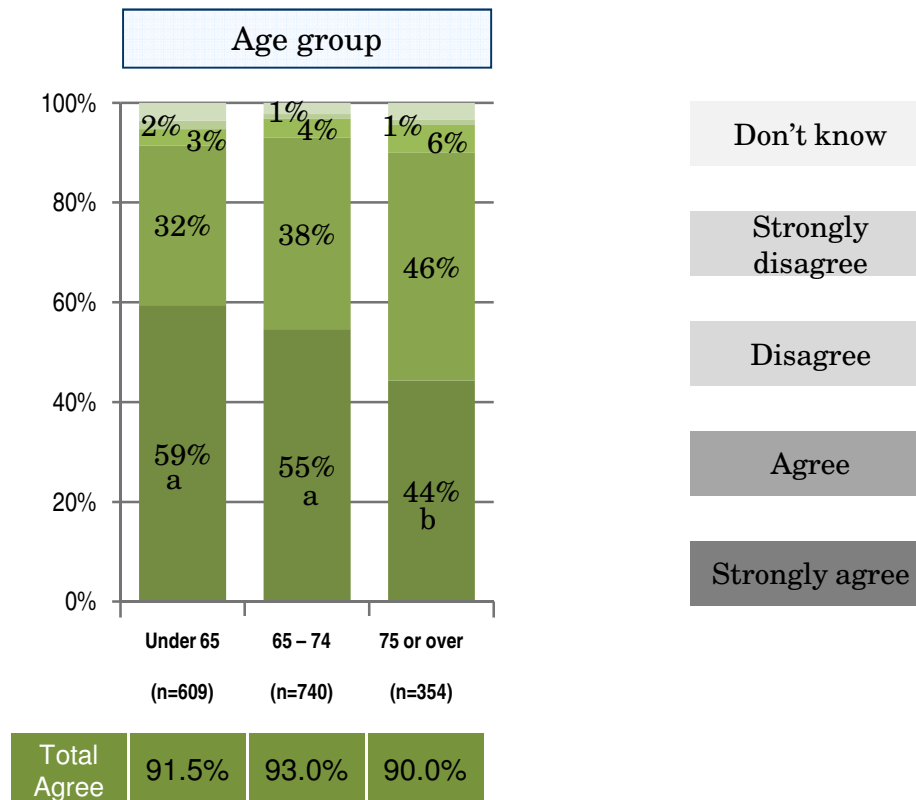


I think there should be a dedicated Aged Care Ombudsman to protect the interests of people in the aged care system or dealing with the system.



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know

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