

# IPC Community Attitudes Study

## Data Sharing

April 2024



information  
and privacy  
commission  
new south wales





## RESEARCH DESIGN

**Woolcott Research was commissioned by the IPC to investigate awareness of privacy, information access and data sharing rights amongst the general public of NSW.**

A phone and online survey amongst n=809 NSW residents aged 18+ years was conducted in February 2024.

Quotas were set by location (Sydney/ Regional NSW), gender and age; data was post-weighted by location, gender and age to reflect the latest ABS population estimates.

Where possible, this report compares results from the 2014 and 2016 omnibus studies, as well as the 2018, 2020 and 2022 mixed mode survey.

Significant differences in results at the 95% confidence level are shown as follows:

- Results from 2024 that are significantly higher or lower than the total are shown in **GREEN** or **RED** respectively
- Differences between reporting periods and their most recent comparative year (e.g. comparing 2024 data to 2022 data) are denoted by asterisks (\*)





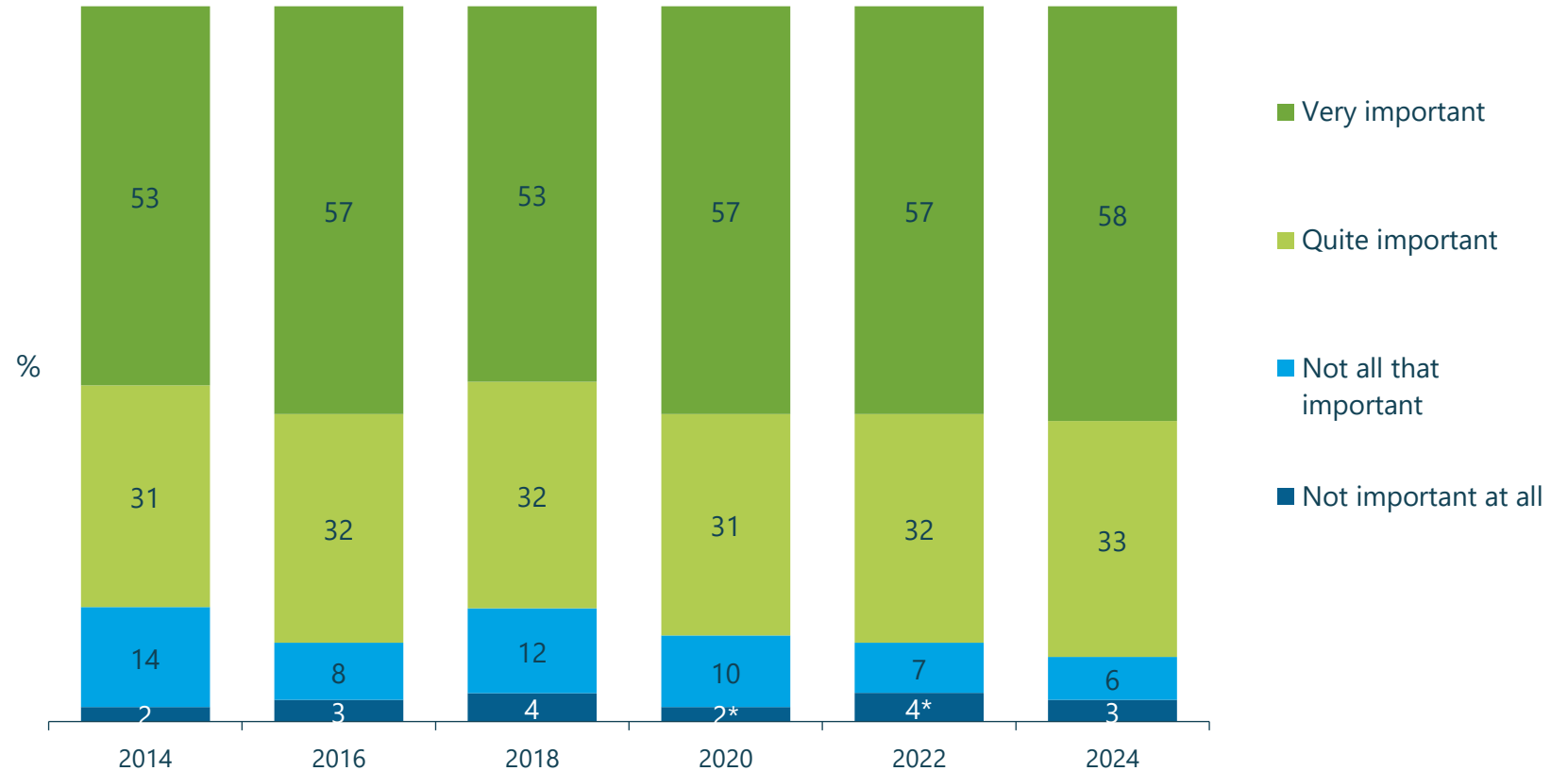
# DATA SHARING





# IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE RIGHT TO ACCESS GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

- Similar to last reporting period, around 9 in 10 respondents felt that the right to access Government information was quite or very important.

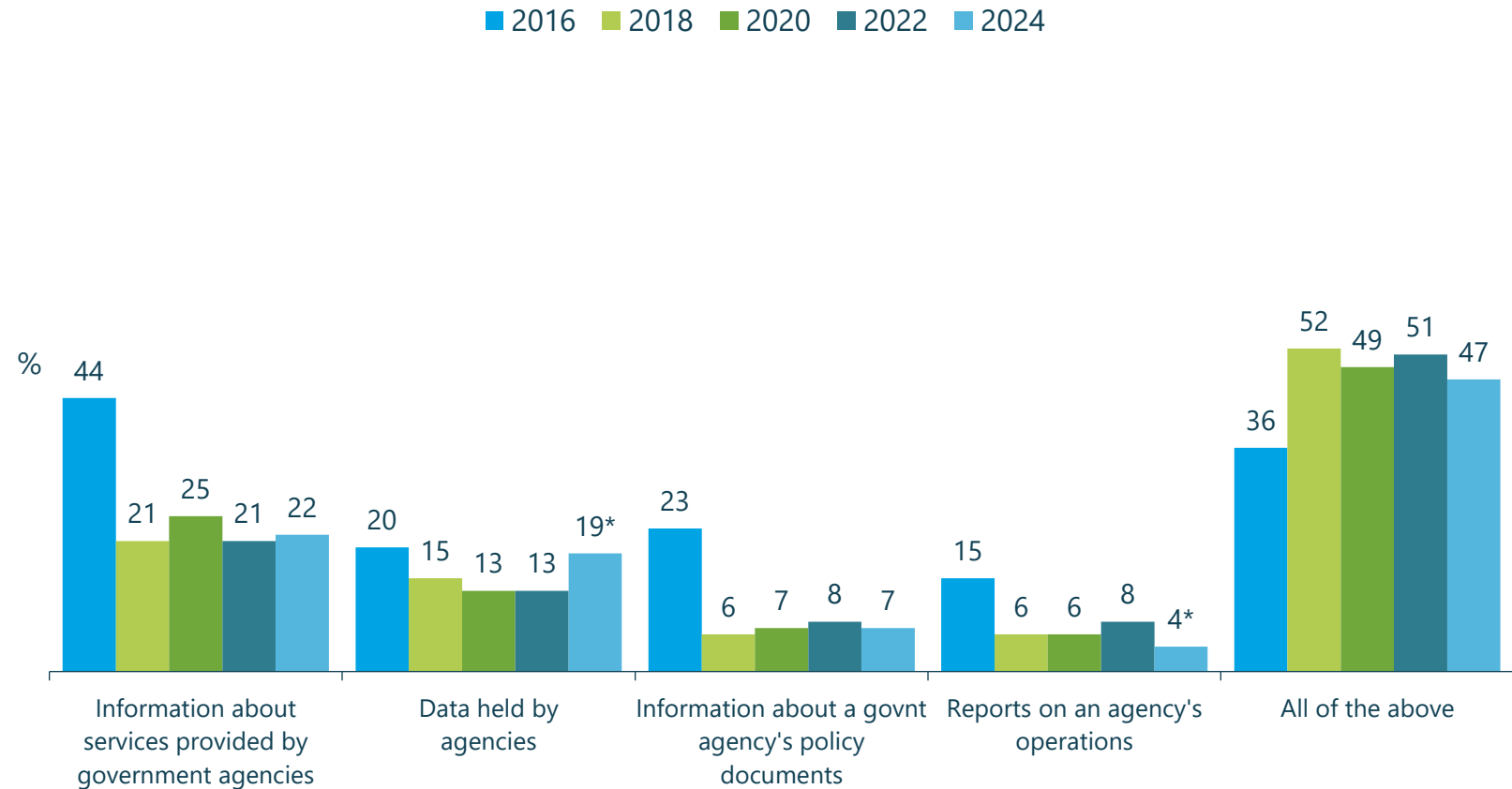


Q12. How important is it to you that you have a right to access government information?  
Base: All respondents (2014 n=340, 2016 n=340, 2018 n=803, 2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)  
Please note: Percentages have been amended so they add to 100%



# INTEREST IN TYPES OF GOVERNMENT HELD INFORMATION

- As in 2022, nearly half of respondents indicated that they had an interest in accessing all of the listed Government-held information.
- Specific interest in accessing data held by agencies increased, however, interest in accessing reports on an agency's operations decreased.

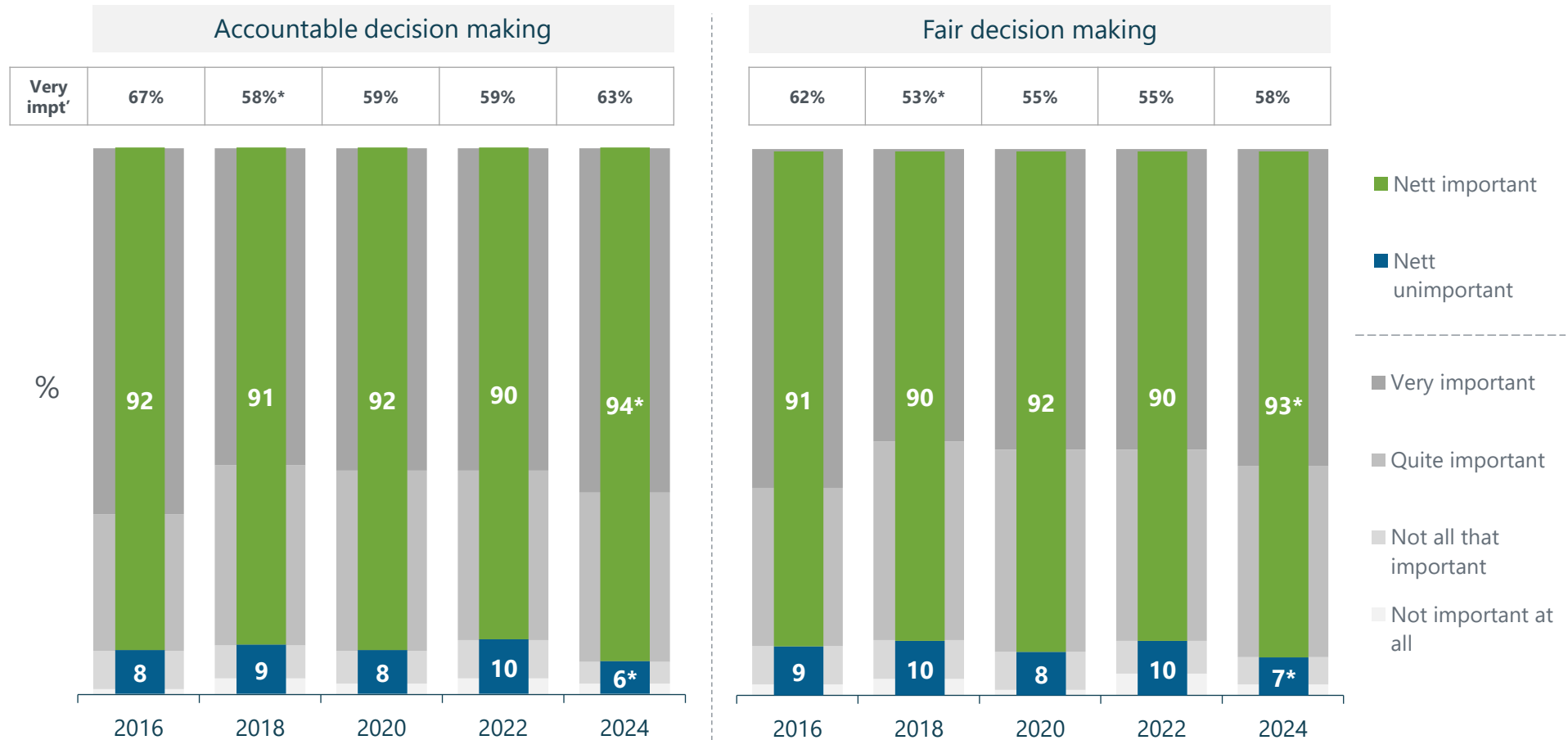


Q13. What type of government held information are you most interested in accessing?  
Base: All respondents (2016 n=340, 2018 n=803, 2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)  
PLEASE NOTE: QUESTION WAS MULTIPLE CHOICE IN 2016



# IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Respondents continued to feel that it was important to allow public access to information to assist in accountable and fair decision making.

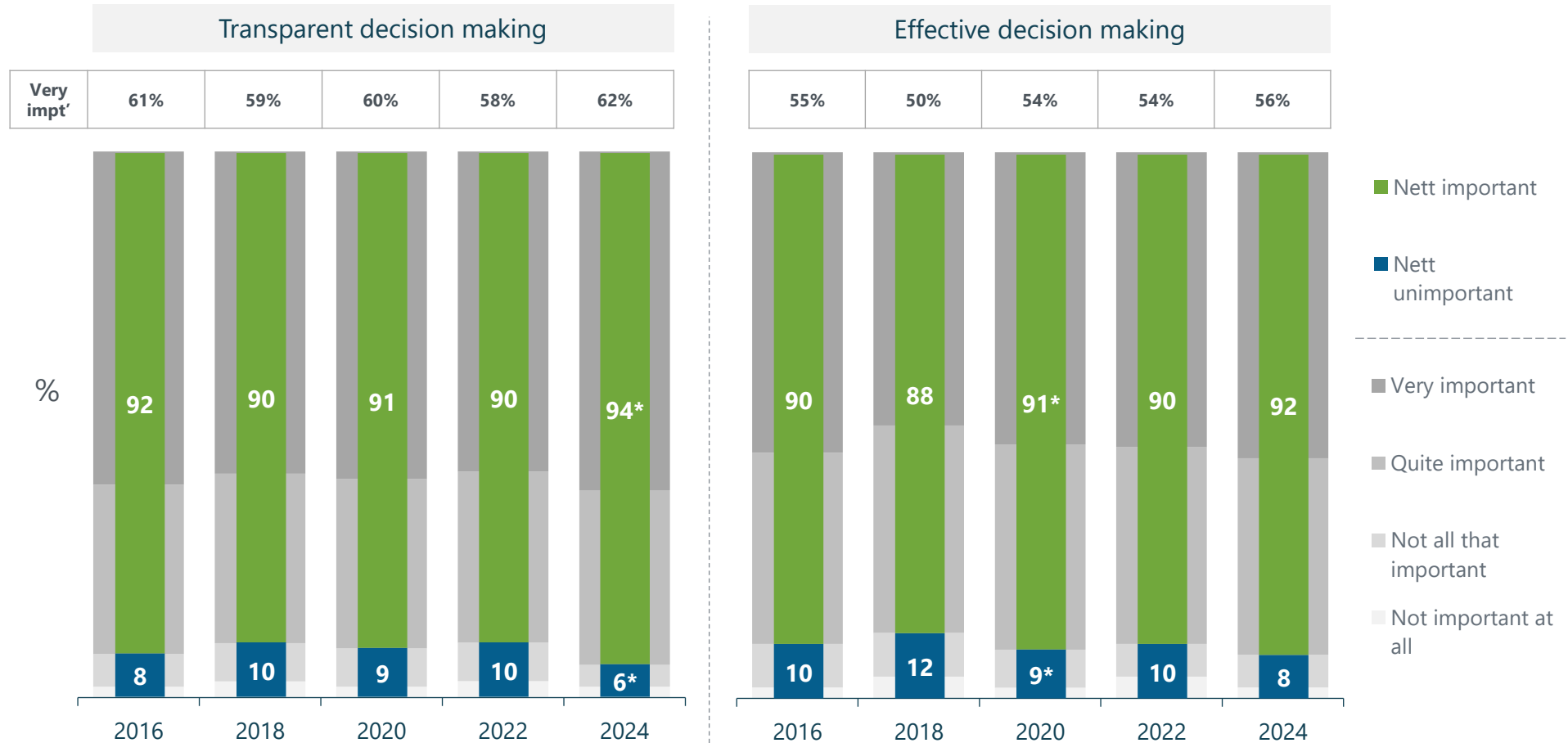


Q14. How important is allowing public access to information held by government agencies to help with the following...?†  
 Base: All respondents (2016 n=340, 2018 n=803, 2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)  
 † Slight wording change in 2020  
 Please note: Percentages have been amended so they add to 100%



# IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Similarly, around 9 in 10 respondents felt that allowing public access to information was important for transparent and effective decision making.

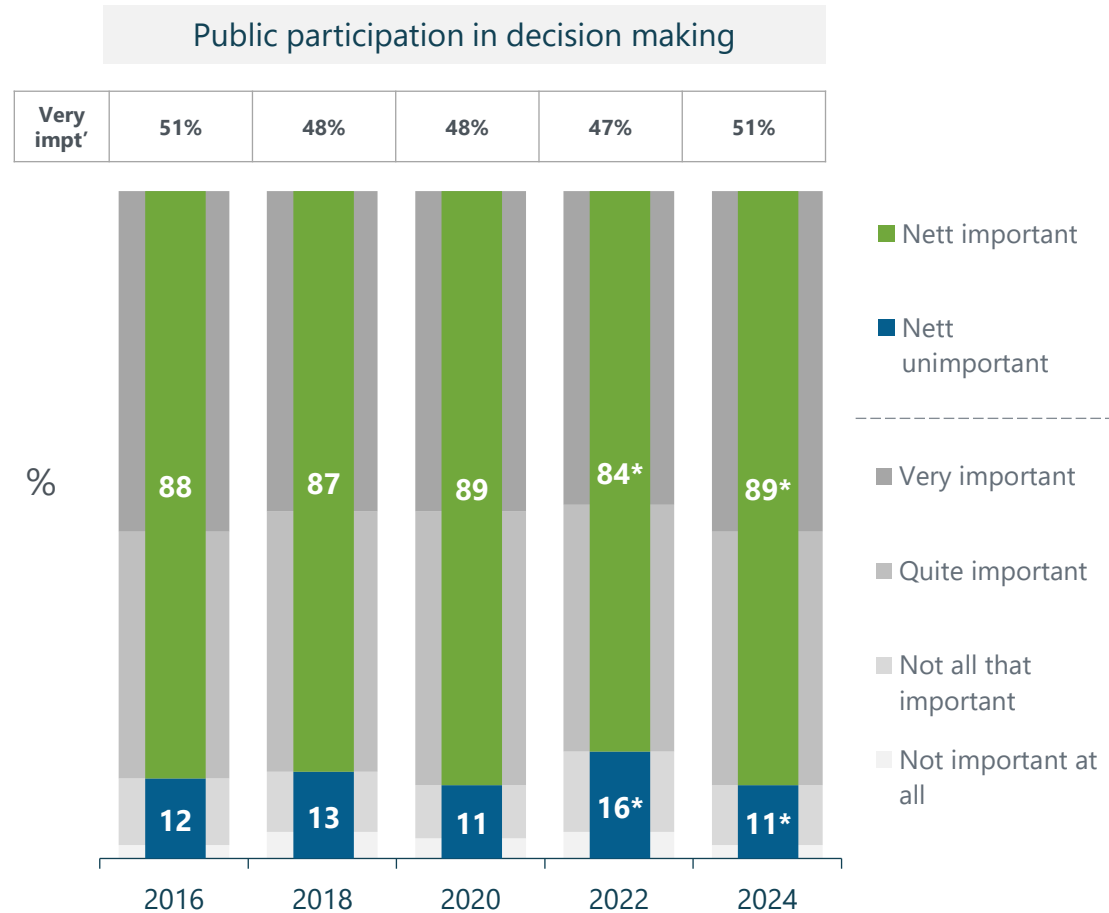


Q14. How important is allowing public access to information held by government agencies to help with the following...?†  
 Base: All respondents (2016 n=340, 2018 n=803, 2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)  
 † Slight wording change in 2020  
 Please note: Percentages have been amended so they add to 100%



# IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- An increased proportion of respondents in 2024 felt that it was important for public access to information to assist with public participation in decision making.



Q14. How important is allowing public access to information held by government agencies to help with the following...?†

Base: All respondents (2016 n=340, 2018 n=803, 2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)

† Slight wording change in 2020

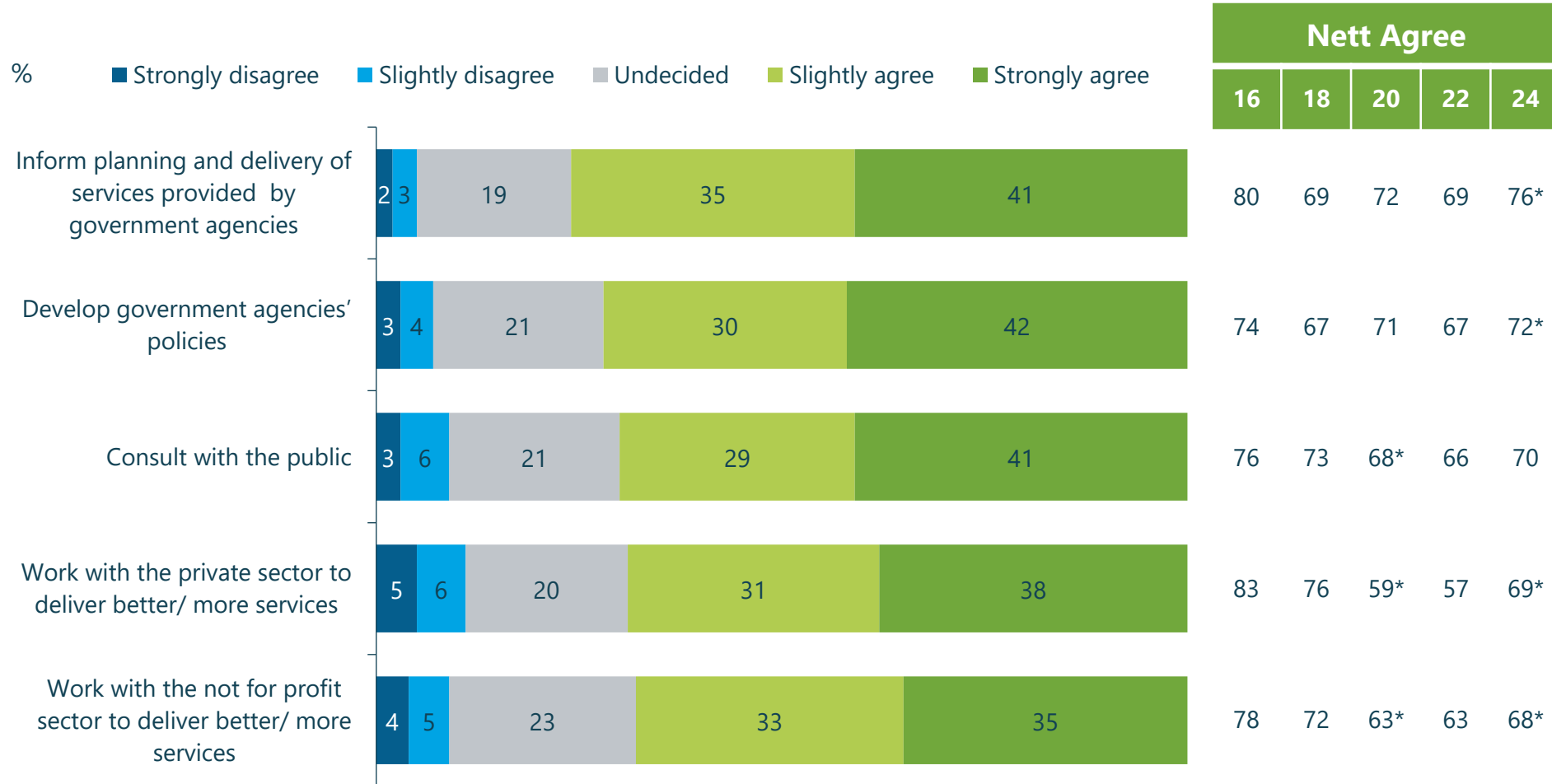
Please note: Percentages have been amended so they add to 100%





# AGREEMENT WITH DE-IDENTIFICATION OF INFORMATION FOR VARIOUS INSTANCES

- This reporting period, a greater proportion of respondents this year agreed with the use of de-identified information in all instances, especially to inform planning and delivery of services provided by government agencies.

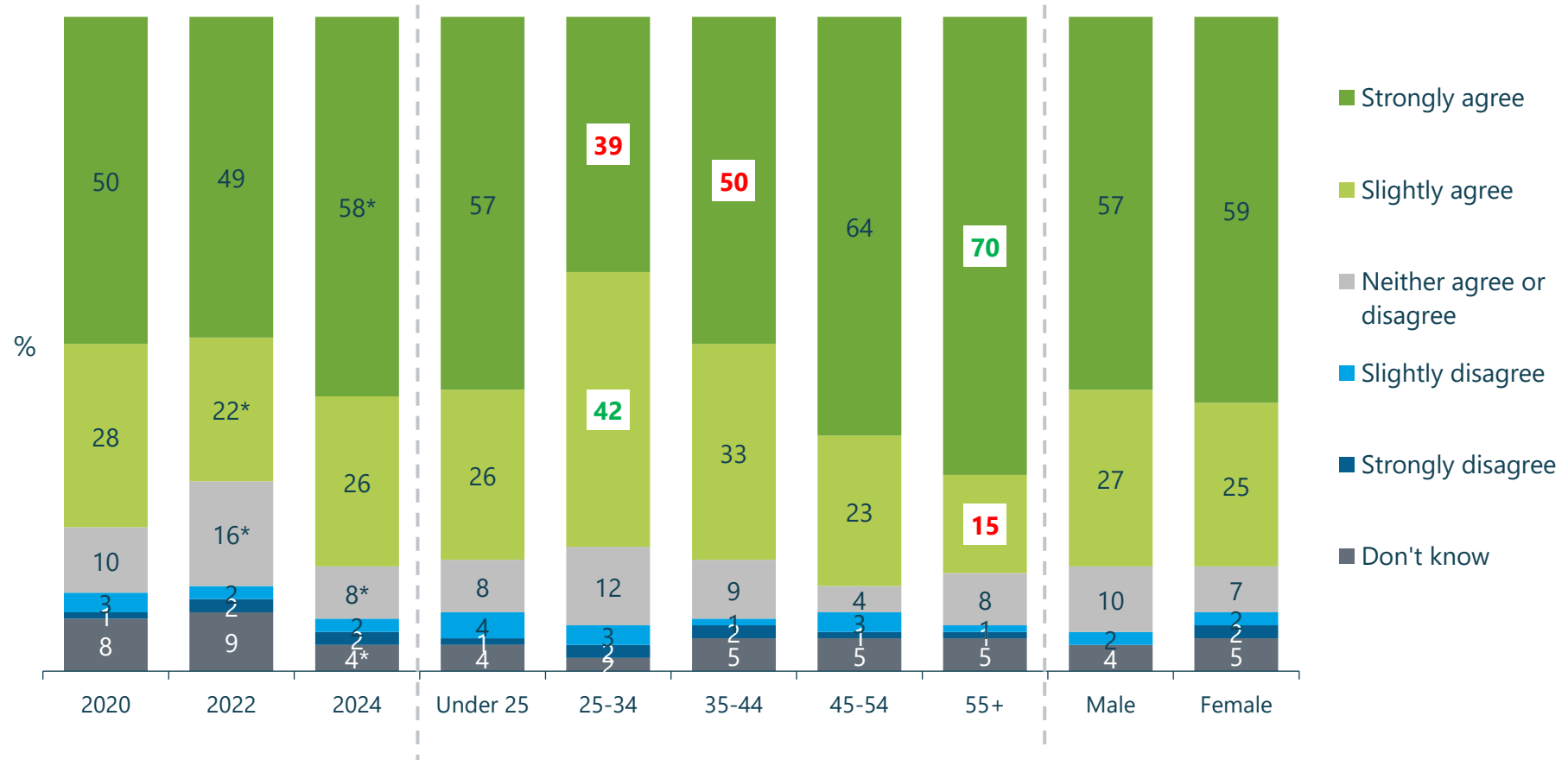


Q24. "Data collected and held about individuals can be fully de-identified so it cannot be used to identify a particular person"  
 To what extent do you agree or disagree that this de-identified information should be used to...?  
 Base: All respondents (2016 n=340, 2018 n=803, 2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)  
 Please note: Percentages have been amended so they add to 100%



# AGREEMENT THAT AGENCIES MUST PUBLICLY REPORT ON USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- More respondents this year agreed that agencies must publicly report on the use of artificial intelligence, particularly those aged over 55 years.



Q25. "Governments are increasingly using data, algorithms and other forms of artificial intelligence to inform decisions, for example subsidy and or payment calculations."

To what extent do you agree that government agencies should be required to publicly report on any systems used to inform agency decisions that impact an individuals?

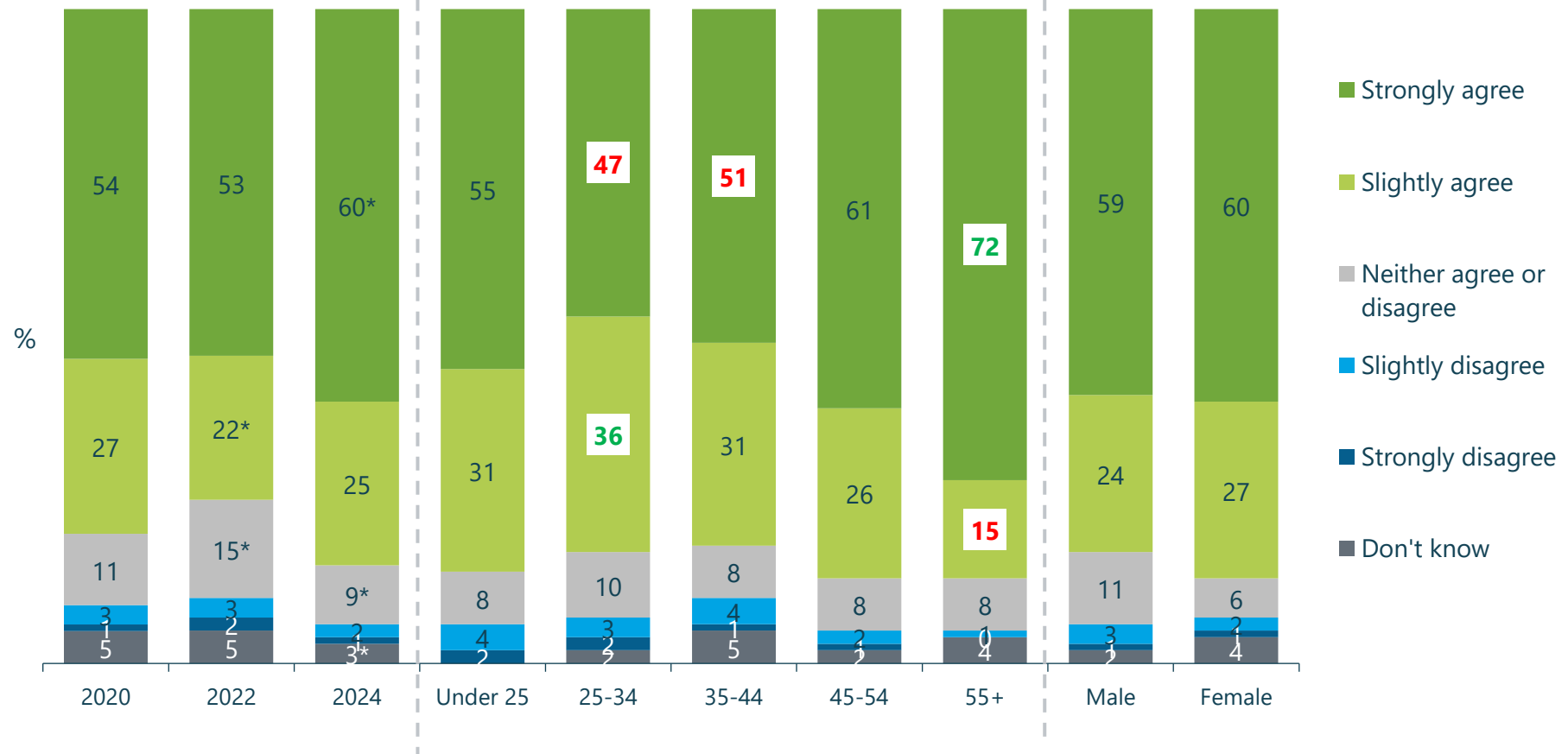
Base: All respondents (2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)

Please note: Percentages have been amended so they add to 100%



# AGREEMENT THAT AGENCIES SHOULD PUBLICLY REPORT ON THE INFORMATION THEY MAINTAIN

- The majority agreed that agencies should publicly report on the information they maintain, with this proportion increasing this reporting period.
- Those aged above 55 years were significantly more likely to strongly agree.



Q26. To what extent do you agree that government agencies should publicly report on the information they maintain?  
Base: All respondents (2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)  
Please note: Percentages have been amended so they add to 100%



# DEMOGRAPHICS



# GENDER AND AGE



%	2014 (n=340)	2016 (n=340)	2018 (n=803)	2020 (n=802)	2022 (n=800)	2024 (n=809)
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	44	49	48	50	50	50
Female	56	51	52	50	50	50
Gender neutral†	Not an option in 2014, 2016 or 2018			-	-	<1
Prefer not to indicate‡	Not an option in 2014, 2016 or 2018			-	-	<1
<b>Age</b>						
18-24	12	15	15	18	18	10
25-34	12	20	21	11	12	19
35-44	8	16	17	13	18	20
45-54	17	18	16	19	12	14
55-64	12	12	12	11	7	15
65-74	38	20	10	14	13	15
75+			8	14	20	8

D1. Which of the following age brackets do you belong to?

D2. Do you identify as being...?

Base: All respondents (2016 n=340, 2018 n=803, 2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)

†Options added in 2020

Please note: Percentages have been amended so they add to 100%

# WORK STATUS



%	2014 (n=340)	2016 (n=340)	2018 (n=803)	2020 (n=802)	2022 (n=800)	2024 (n=809)
<b>Working status</b>						
Working full time	Not asked in 2014	89	39	34	34	47
Working part time			17	14	12	18
Retired		4	23	29	32	19
Student		4	9	12	11	6
Unemployed		3	5	6	5	3
Engaged in home duties		1	7	4	5	5
Refused		-	1	1	1	1

D3. Which of these categories best describes you?  
 Base: All respondents (2016 n=340, 2018 n=803, 2020 n=802, 2022 n=800, 2024 n=809)  
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# MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN



%	2014 (n=340)	2016 (n=340)	2018 (n=803)	2020 (n=802)	2022 (n=800)	2024 (n=809)
Main Language Spoken						
English	Not asked in 2014 or 2016		90	86	88	85
Cantonese/Mandarin			1	6	4	4
Korean			-	1	<1	<1
Hindi			1	1	1	2
Arabic (incl. Lebanese)			1	1	<1	1
Indonesian			<1	1	<1	<1
Other			6	5	6	8



# SUMMARY







## Importance of Right to Access Government Information

- Similar to 2022, around 9 in 10 respondents felt that the right to access Government information was quite or very important.



## Interest in Government Held Information

- Half of respondents stated they had interest in accessing information from all listed organisations/agencies.
- Specific interest in accessing data held by agencies increased, however, interest in accessing reports on an agency's operations decreased.



## Consideration and Attempts to Access Information

- Respondents continued to feel that it was important to allow public access to information held by government agencies to assist across all areas listed.



## De-identification of Information

- This reporting period, a greater proportion of respondents this year agreed with the use of de-identified information in all instances, especially to inform planning and delivery of services provided by government agencies.



## Artificial Intelligence

- Agreement that agencies must publicly report on the use of artificial intelligence increased noticeably this reporting period, with respondents over 55 being the most likely to strongly agree.



## Retention of Information

- The increasing majority this year agreed that agencies should publicly report on the information they maintain, with agreement highest amongst over 55-year-olds.



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