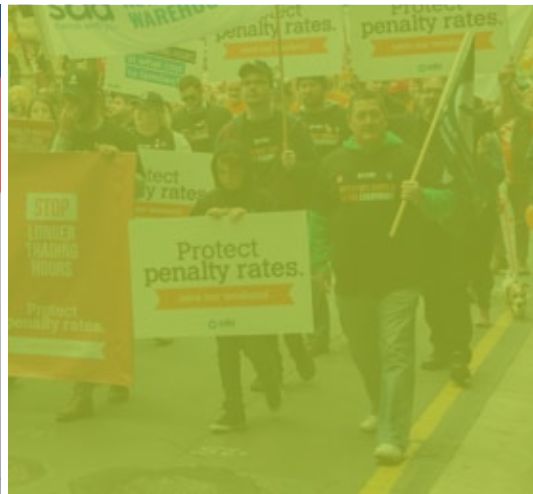


COMMUNITY PULSE

2018



the
economic
disconnect



Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

About this publication

Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect – Western Australia

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About CEDA

CEDA – the Committee for Economic Development of Australia – is a national, independent, member-based organisation providing thought leadership and policy perspectives on the economic and social issues affecting Australia.

We achieve this through a rigorous and evidence-based research agenda, and forums and events that deliver lively debate and critical perspectives.

CEDA's membership includes more than 750 of Australia's leading businesses and organisations, and leaders from a wide cross-section of industries and academia. It allows us to reach major decision makers across the private and public sectors.

CEDA is an independent not-for-profit organisation, founded in 1960 by leading Australian economist Sir Douglas Copland. Our funding comes from membership fees, events and sponsorship.

CEDA – the Committee for Economic Development of Australia

Level 13, 440 Collins Street

Melbourne 3000 Australia

Telephone: +61 3 9662 3544

Fax: +61 3 9663 7271

Email: info@ceda.com.au

Web: ceda.com.au



Western Australia results



Introduction

This brief paper summarises Western Australian results of nation-wide polling exploring Australians' attitudes to work, education, health, community and the economy.

The full results are contained in the report *Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect*. This Western Australian summary is a companion paper to the main report.

Additional state-specific papers have been produced to summarise results from New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria. *Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect* and companion reports are available from www.ceda.com.au.

State profile – Western Australia

Gross State Product (2016–17)	\$247.7 billion
Percentage of national economy	14.1 per cent
Average weekly earnings (November 2017)	\$1,742.80
Unemployment rate (May)	6.4 per cent
Population (September 2017)	2.59 million
Population in greater capital city	2.02 million
Population growth (2012–17)	0.141 million
Population over 65 years old	0.36 million
Annual Government Expenditure (2018–19)	\$30.5 billion
Largest industries	Mining, professional and scientific services, construction, healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing

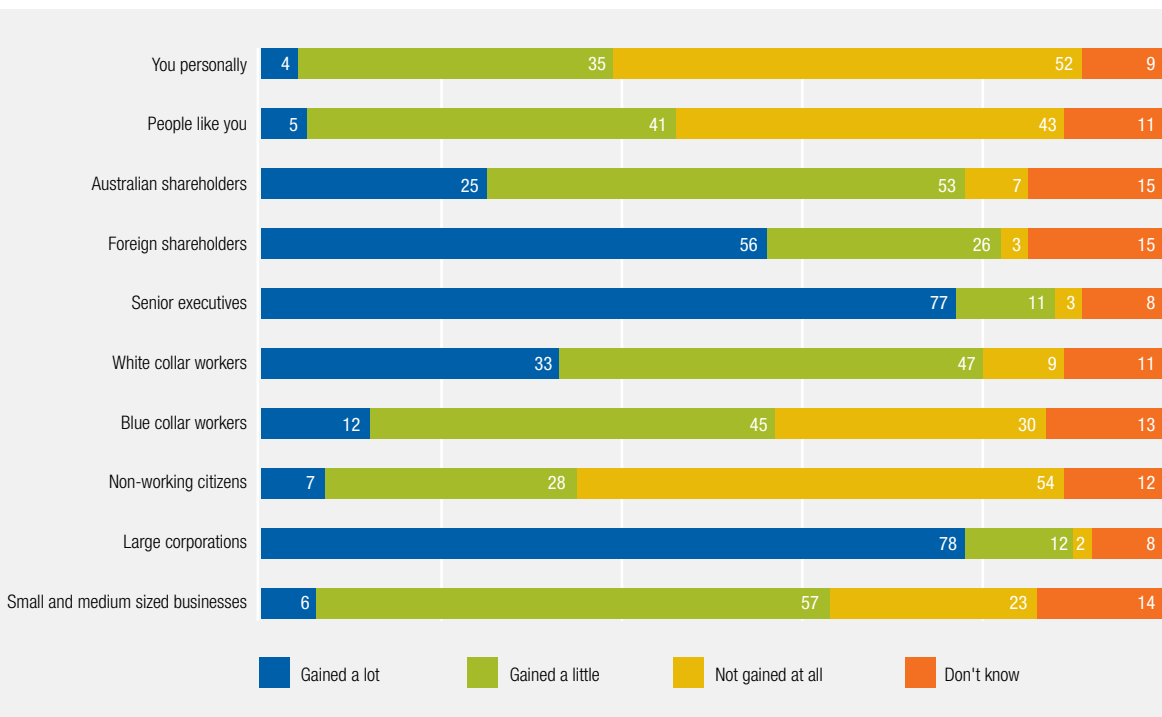
Source: ABS, State Budget papers

Attitudes to recent economic growth and development

Who has benefited from 26 years of economic growth?

- Compared to the national results, West Australians are more likely to believe that foreign shareholders have gained (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth – 82 per cent vs 75 per cent nationally.
- Around 40 per cent of WA respondents believe they have gained personally (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth, which is less than the national average of 45 per cent.
- 80 per cent of WA respondents believe that the gap between rich and poor in Australia is an unacceptable consequence of economic growth – compared to 79 per cent nationally.

FIGURE 1
WHO HAS GAINED FROM 26 YEARS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH? (% OF RESPONDENTS)*



*Please note numbers have been rounded and may not equal 100 per cent

Personal issues of greatest importance to West Australians

Issues of greatest importance

- In addition to the top six personal issues nationally (basic health services, essential services, affordable housing, chronic disease services, job security and reduced violence), WA respondents also place increased importance on mental health services.

Issues that are most contested

- WA respondents are most divided over access to affordable private health insurance and prevention of welfare fraud.
- At the national level people were also most divided over access to affordable private health insurance.

National issues of greatest importance to West Australians

Issues of greatest importance

- In addition to the top national issues across the population (public hospitals, limiting foreign ownership, aged care and increased pensions) West Australians place increased importance on tough criminal laws and strong security to combat terrorism.

Issues that are most contested

- West Australians are most divided over lower immigration and foreign working visas, in line with national trends.

FIGURE 2
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT AND LEAST IMPORTANT TO YOU PERSONALLY? (RESPONSE RATE)

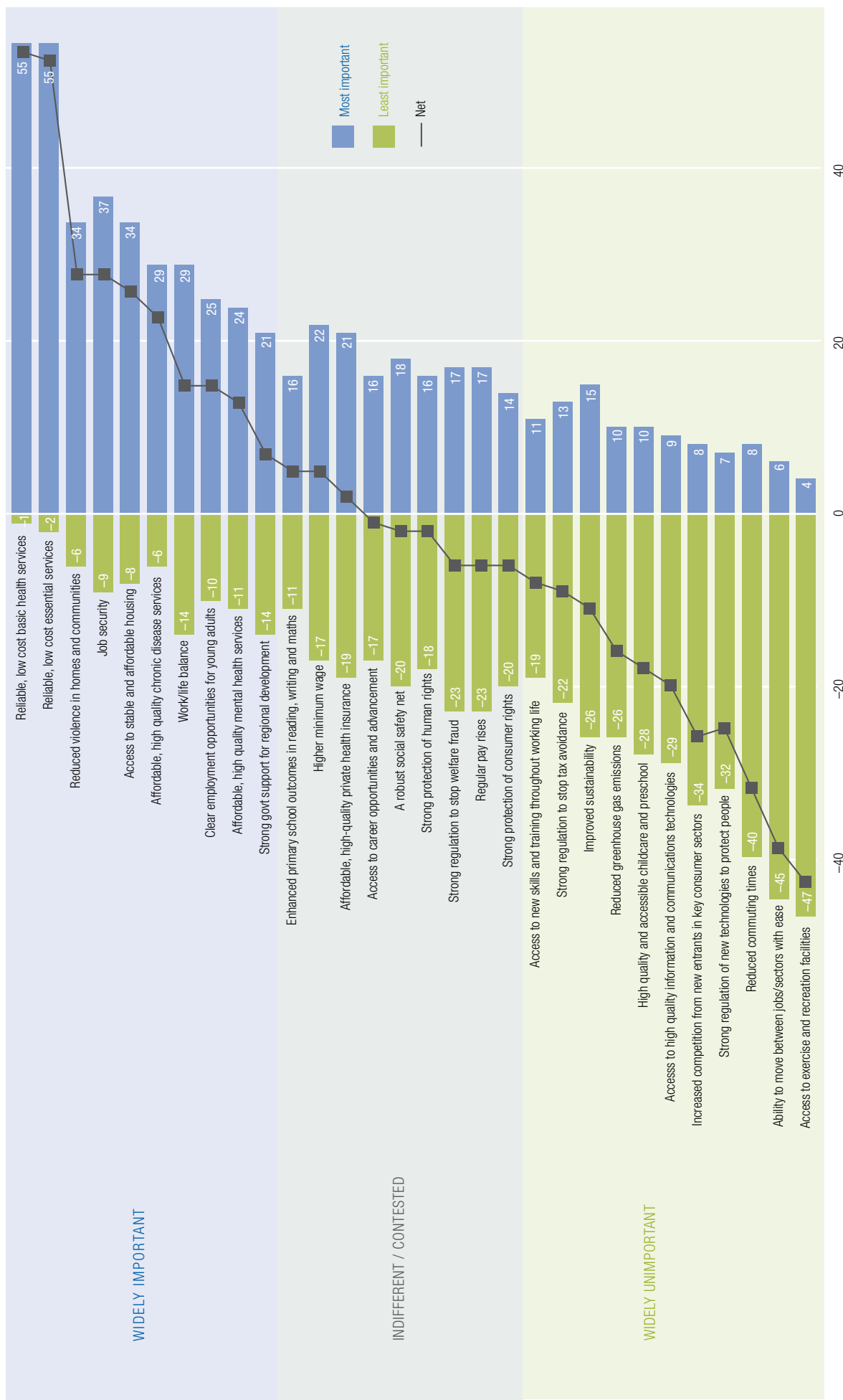


FIGURE 3
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE SCORES FOR PERSONAL ISSUES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

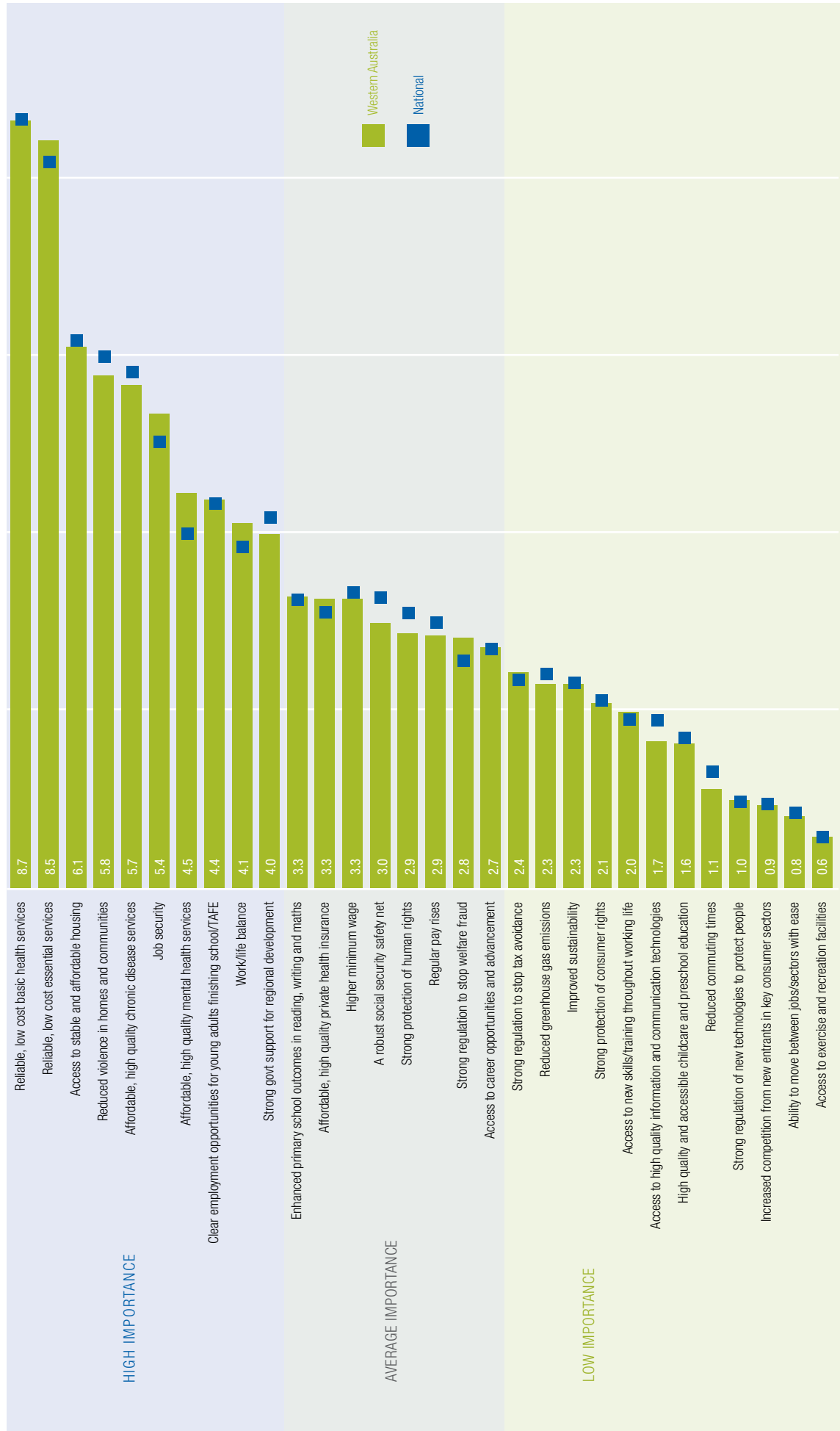


FIGURE 4
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MOST CRITICAL PATHS FOR THE NATION? (RESPONSE RATE)

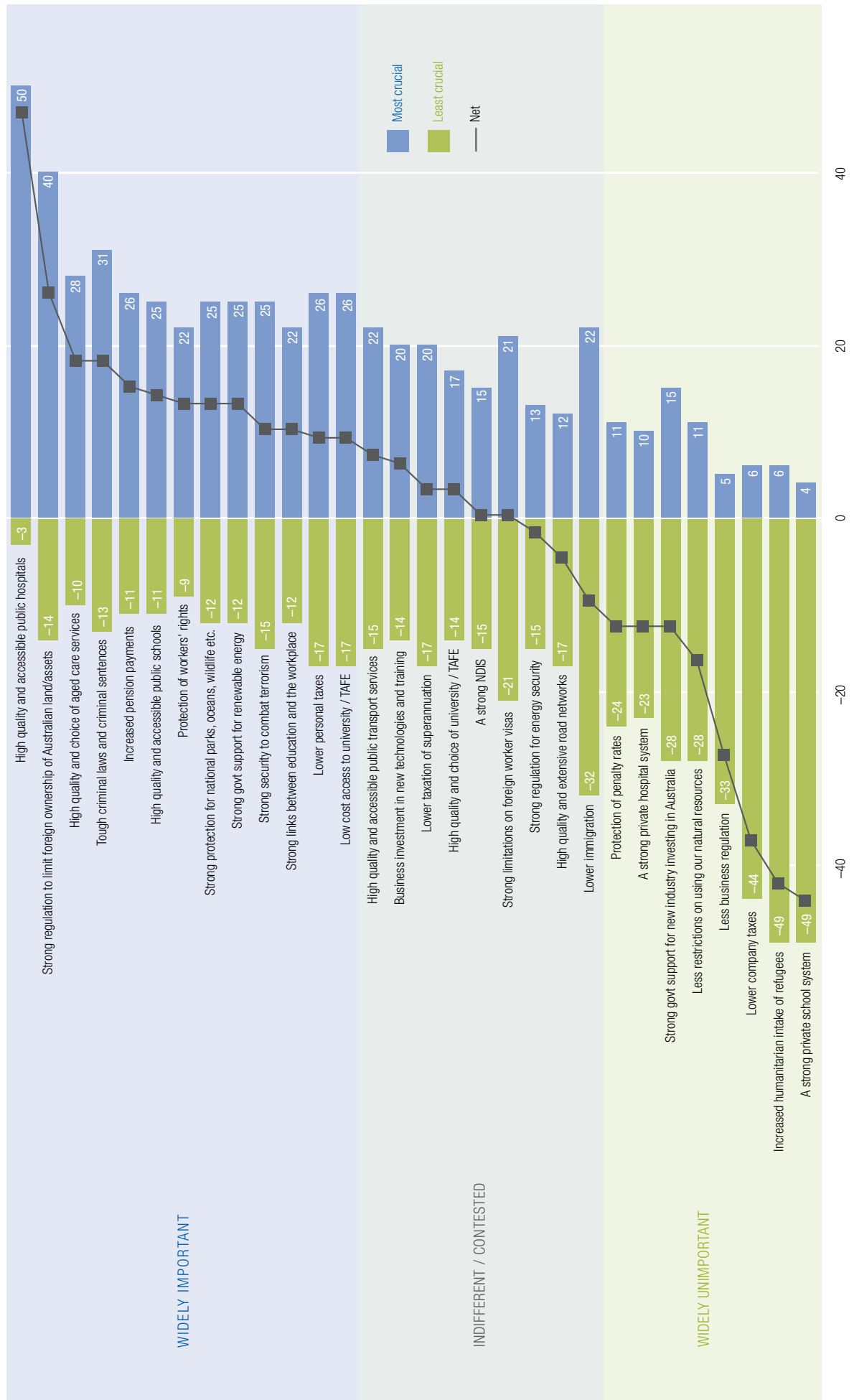
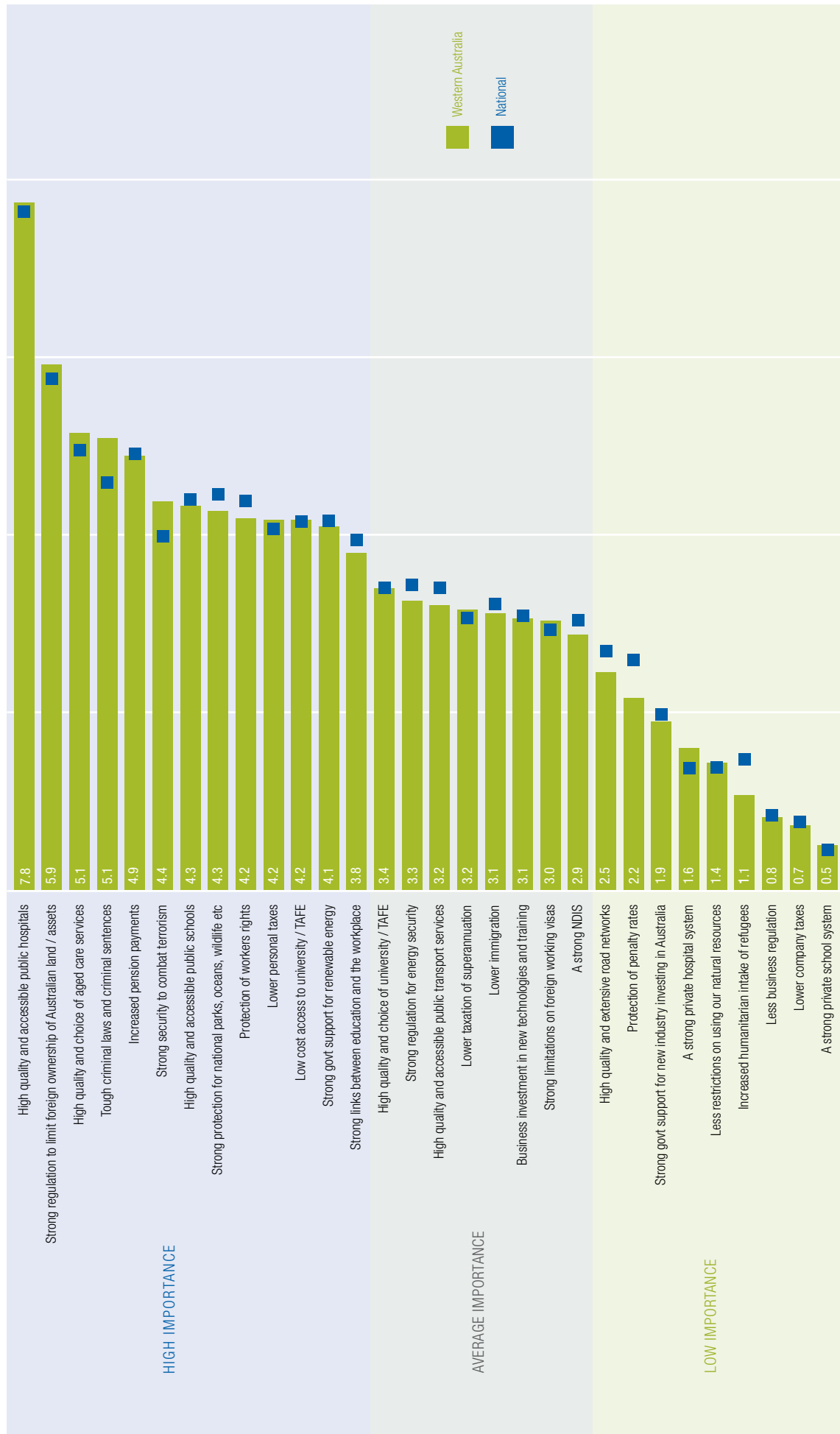


FIGURE 5
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE SCORES FOR NATIONAL ISSUES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



West Australians' attitudes to work

Work satisfaction

- 61 per cent of WA workers are satisfied with their level of pay and 59 per cent with other benefits (Figure 6). This is higher than the national population (53 per cent and 57 per cent respectively).

Work/life balance

- WA workers were more satisfied (very + somewhat) than the national population across a number of aspects of work/life balance (Figure 7):
 - Flexibility to work from home (38 per cent vs 34 per cent nationally)
 - Flexibility to take personal leave (69 per cent vs 67 per cent nationally)
 - Flexibility to take holidays when desired (68 per cent vs 65 per cent nationally).

Commuting

- 87 per cent of WA workers have a commute to work of less than an hour (nationally this was 81 per cent).

FIGURE 6
SATISFACTION WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WORK (% , VERY + SOMEWHAT SATISFIED)

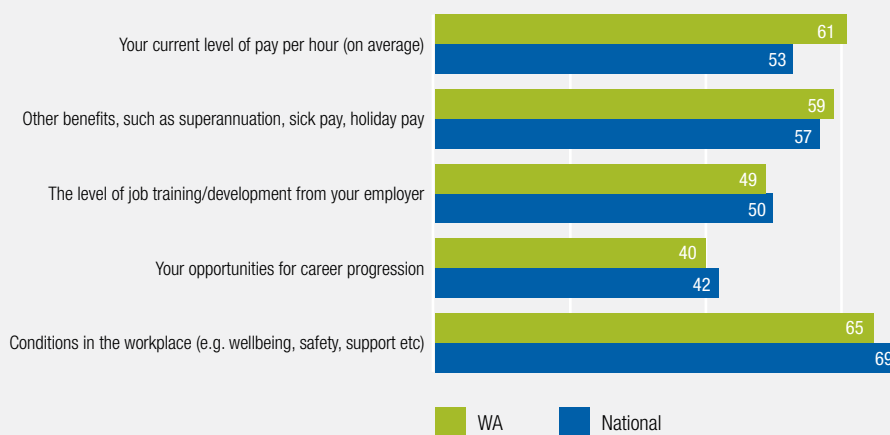


FIGURE 7
SATISFACTION WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WORK/LIFE BALANCE (%)



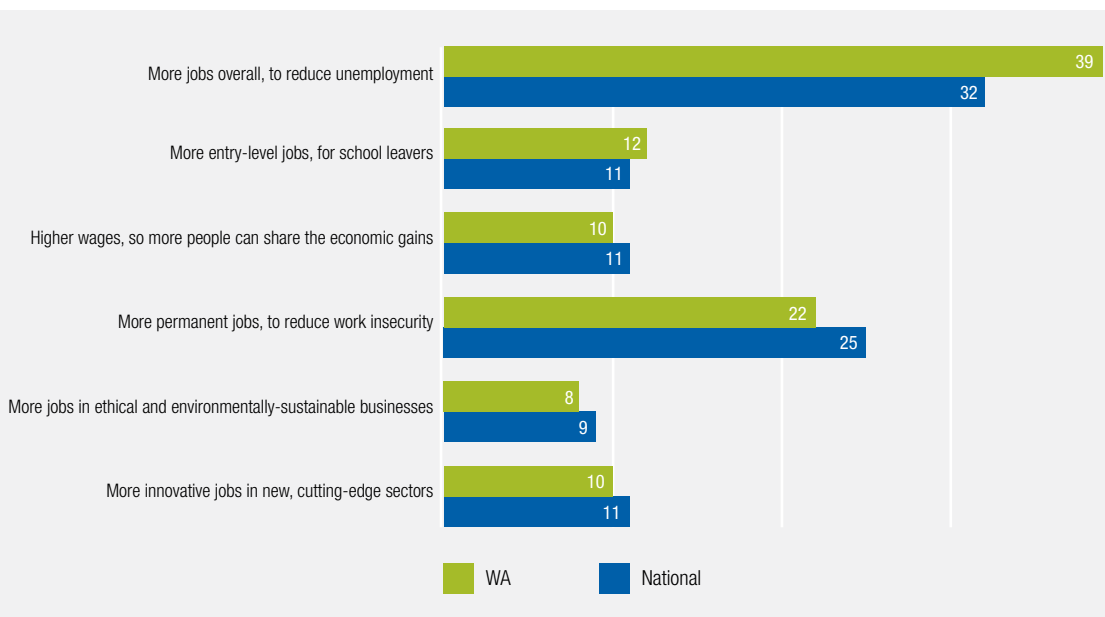
Technology

- West Australians are slightly less optimistic than the general population about the impact of technology on their job.
- 70 per cent would welcome new technology in their job (71 per cent nationally) and 16 per cent are worried it would replace them (12 per cent nationally).

Future jobs

- West Australians placed even greater priority on more jobs overall to reduce unemployment than the national population (Figure 8).
- When looking for a job, consistent with national trends conditions in the workplace are the most important factor.
- However, West Australians placed less importance on pay, training and career progression than the national population.

FIGURE 8
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS MOST CRITICAL FOR FUTURE JOB CREATION?



Notes on methodology and sample

- Total sample; Weight: WA Weight; base n = 400; total n = 3000.
- For Western Australia, the margin of error at the 95 per cent confidence interval is +/-4.9 per cent.
- This Western Australian results profile is supplementary to *Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect*. A full description of the methodology and sample is available in this report at pp. 47 to 55.

Acknowledgements

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National

Level 13, 440 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
GPO Box 2117
Melbourne VIC 3001
Telephone 03 9662 3544
Email info@ceda.com.au

South Australia and the Northern Territory

Level 5
2 Ebenezer Place
Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone 08 8211 7222
Email info@ceda.com.au

New South Wales and the ACT

Level 14
The John Hunter Building
9 Hunter Street
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 2100
Sydney NSW 2001
Telephone 02 9299 7022
Email info@ceda.com.au

Victoria and Tasmania

Level 13
440 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
GPO Box 2117
Melbourne VIC 3001
Telephone 03 9662 3544
Email info@ceda.com.au

Queensland

Level 17, 300 Adelaide Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2900
Brisbane QLD 4001
Telephone 07 3229 9955
Email info@ceda.com.au

Western Australia

Level 5
105 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
PO Box 5631
St Georges Tce
Perth WA 6831
Telephone 08 9226 4799
Email info@ceda.com.au