



Christian Schools Australia Community Profile Survey 2023 Longitudinal Survey Report



National Summary Report





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2023 Longitudinal Survey Report

Introduction



Background

Over the past decade, there have been seismic shifts in the families that enrol students in our Christian schools, and families are coming to our schools with diverse and at times surprising expectations and motivations for choosing Christian schooling options for their children.

The Christian Schools Community Profile (CSCP): Why Parents Choose Christian Schools Longitudinal Survey was commissioned to provide a detailed understanding of the parents that select Christian schools for their children. The study focused on CSA member school parents from across Australia and sought to identify, understand and analyse the backgrounds, values, faith commitments, spirituality, interests and decision-making practices and expectations of parents within Australia.

The 2023 CSCP: Why Parents Choose Christian Schools Longitudinal Survey is the second cycle of the survey. The survey was conducted for the first time in 2021. The 2021 survey results are shown in this report where appropriate and illustrate changes in results over time.

About the survey

The 2023 survey was conducted between 30 August and 3 November 2023. 60 Christian Schools across Australia participated.

A total of 6,238 families responded to the survey (22% of invitations sent by schools, compared to 25% in 2021). By state, the number of families who responded and the proportion of the total Australia wide responses were as follows:

- VIC/TAS – 2,190 & 35%
- QLD – 1,769 & 28%
- NSW/ACT – 1,209 & 19%
- SA – 636 & 10%
- WA – 434 & 7%

Throughout the report, results representing all Christian schools that participated in the surveys are presented under the heading **All Schools**.

The CSCP Longitudinal Survey recorded robust sample sizes in both 2023 (6,238 responses) and in 2021 (8,595 responses). The survey results are therefore highly representative of parents from participating schools. Additional information about the survey is contained in the [methodology report](#).

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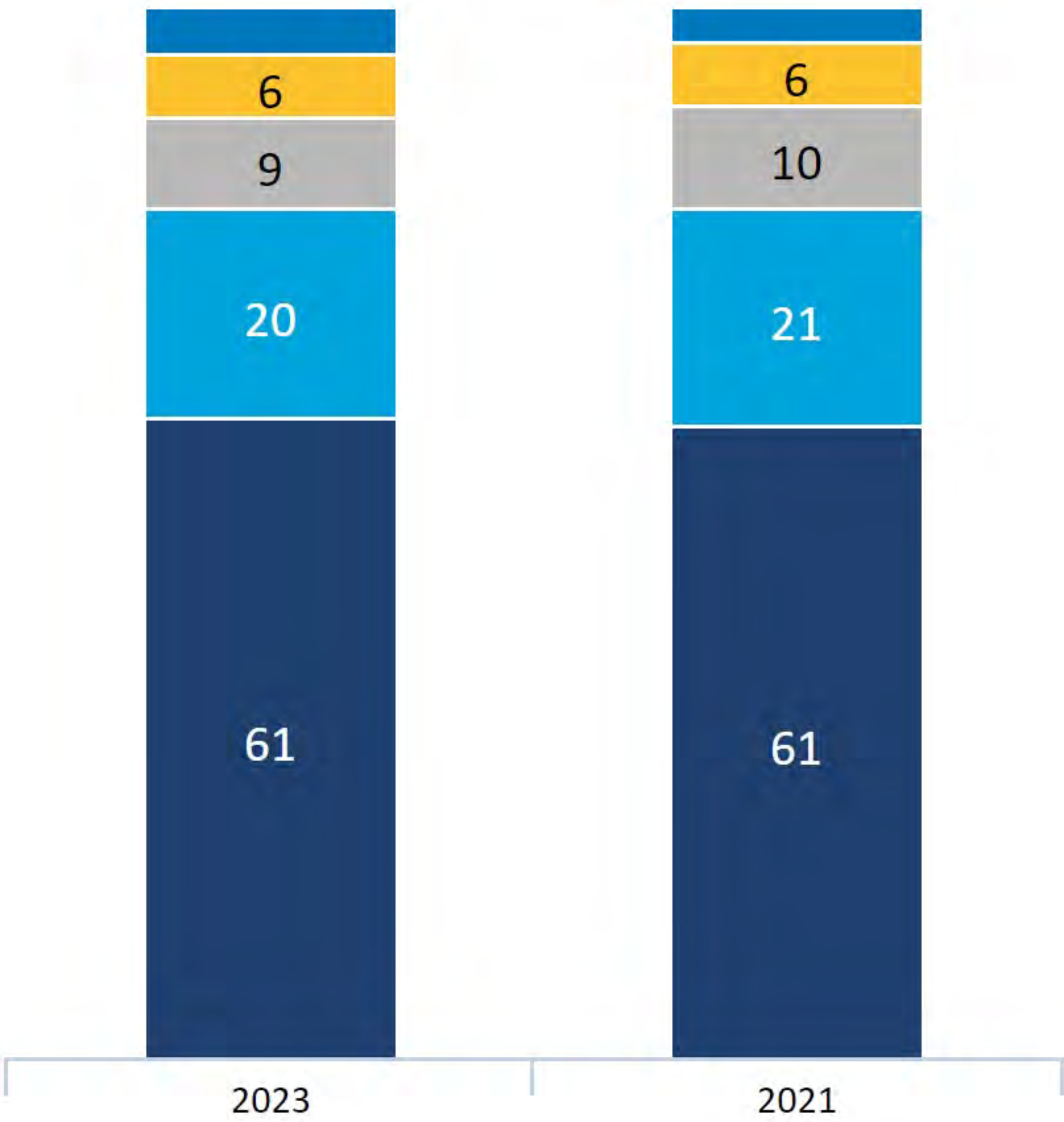
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Section 1: School Choice



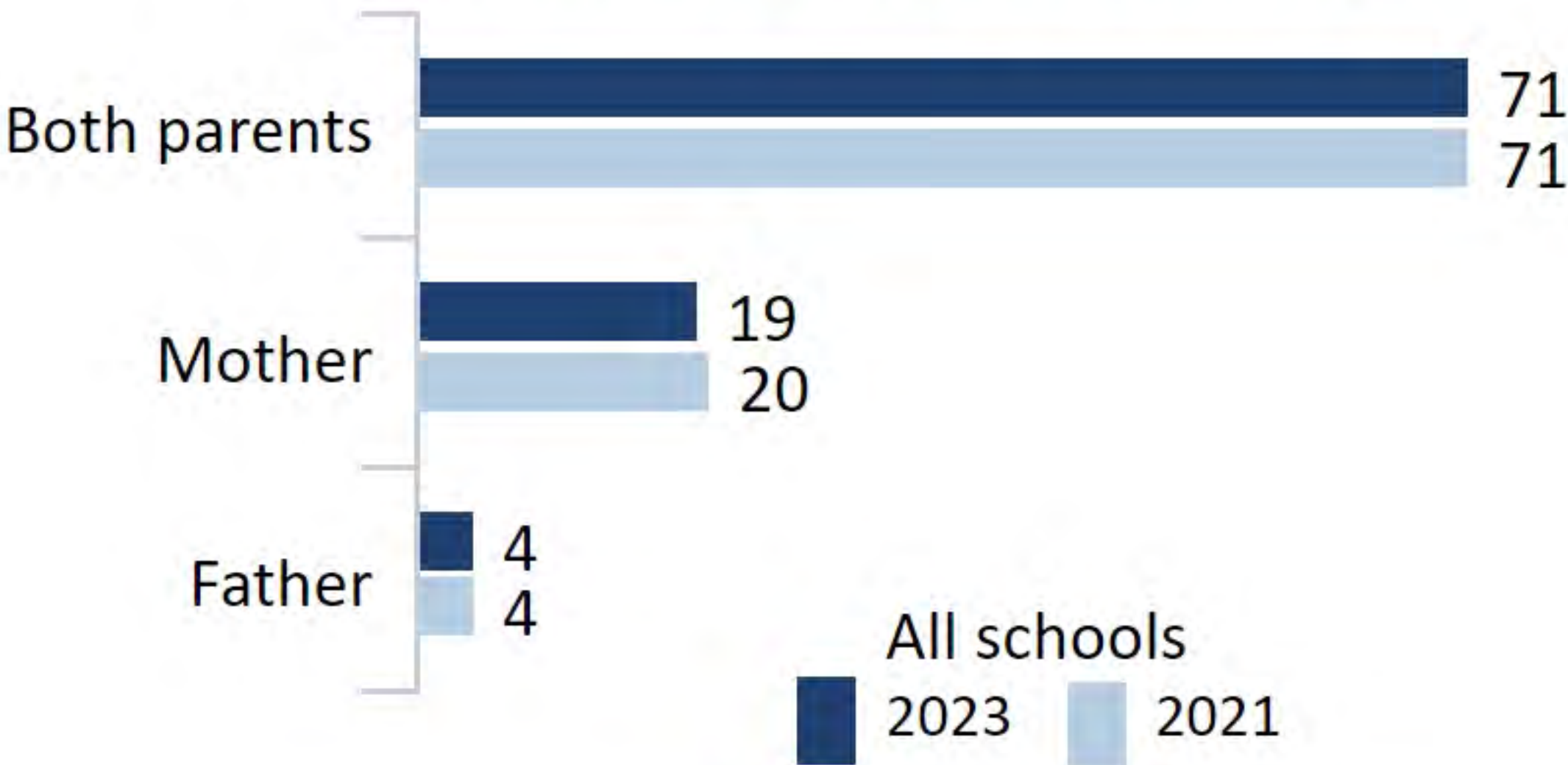
Time taken to select school

All schools

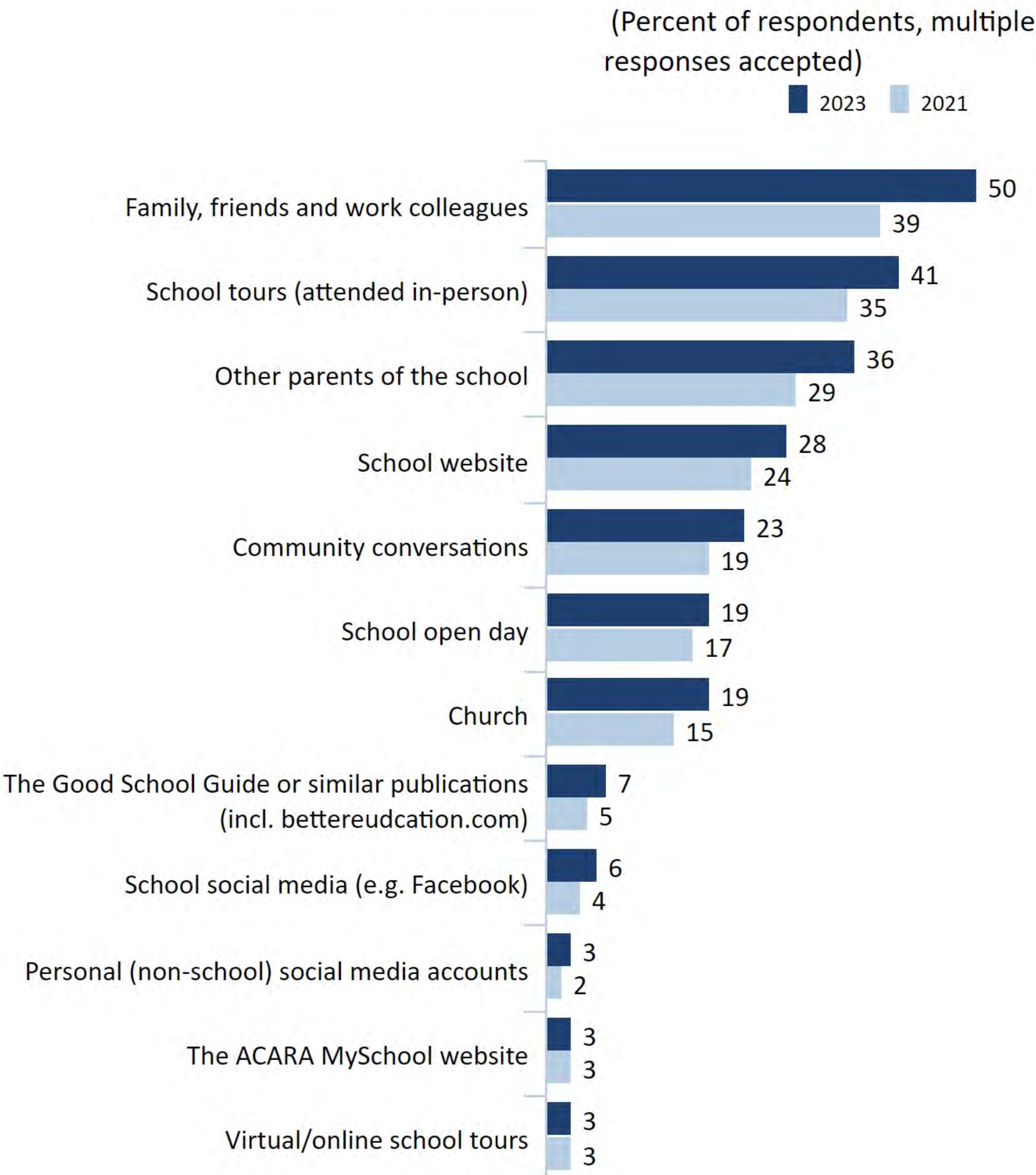


Longer than 5 years 2 years to 5 years
12 months to 2 years 6 months to 12 months
Less than 6 months

Main decision maker



Main sources of information families used to choose school



2023 survey results

	All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
Family, friends and work colleagues	50	47	52	49	51	49
School tours (attended in-person)	41	44	40	35	49	46
Other parents of the school	36	41	34	37	31	35
School website	28	30	24	33	26	28
Community conversations	23	24	22	26	20	22
School open day	19	20	24	14	15	24
Church	19	18	22	15	21	14
The Good School Guide or similar publications (incl. bettereducation.com)	7	4	11	4	6	5
School social media (e.g. Facebook)	6	5	4	8	5	5
Personal (non-school) social media accounts	3	3	3	4	3	3
The ACARA MySchool website	3	4	3	2	3	3
Virtual/online school tours	3	3	2	5	2	2



Main reason families chose your school

(Percent of respondents, multiple responses accepted)

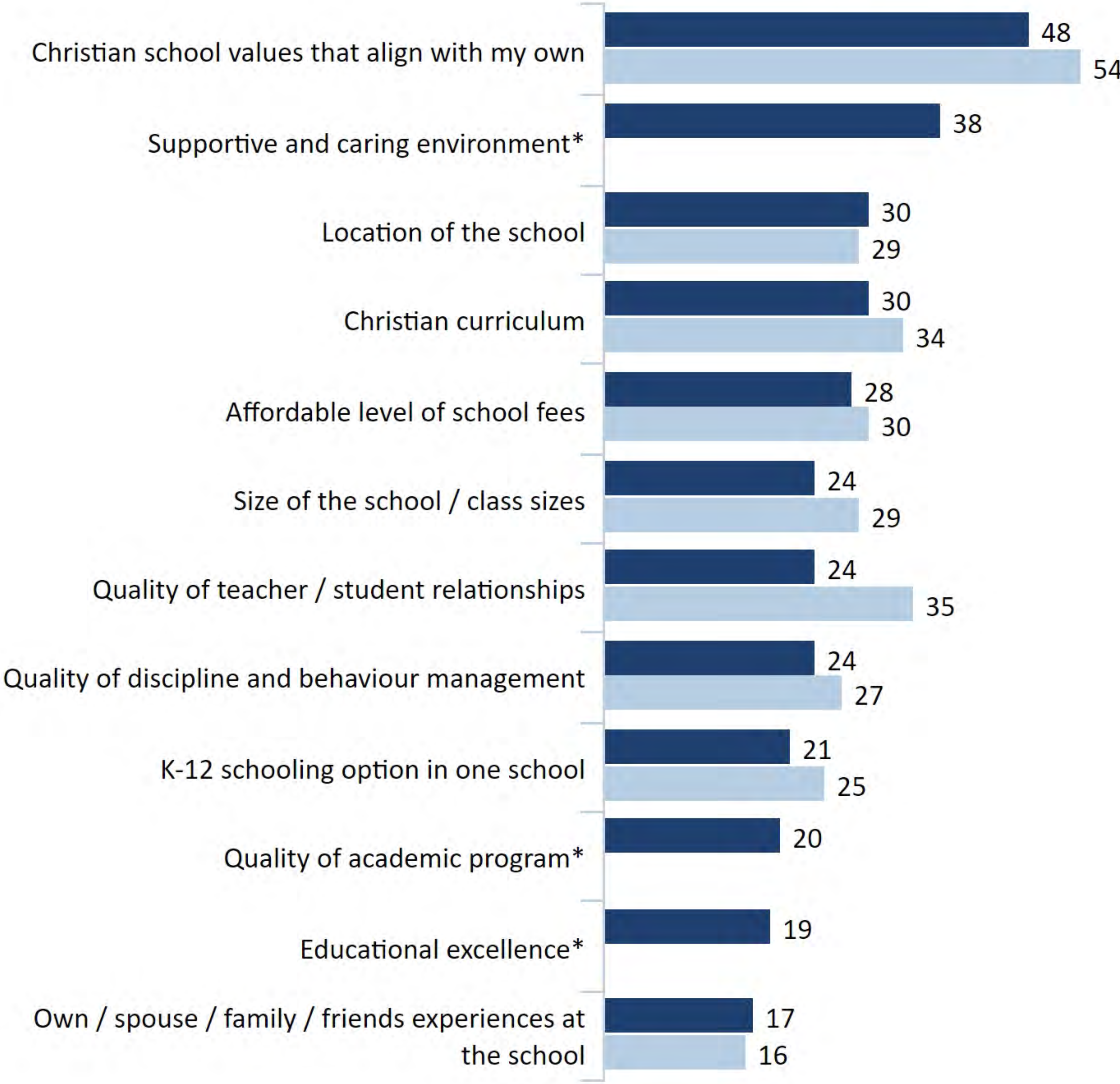
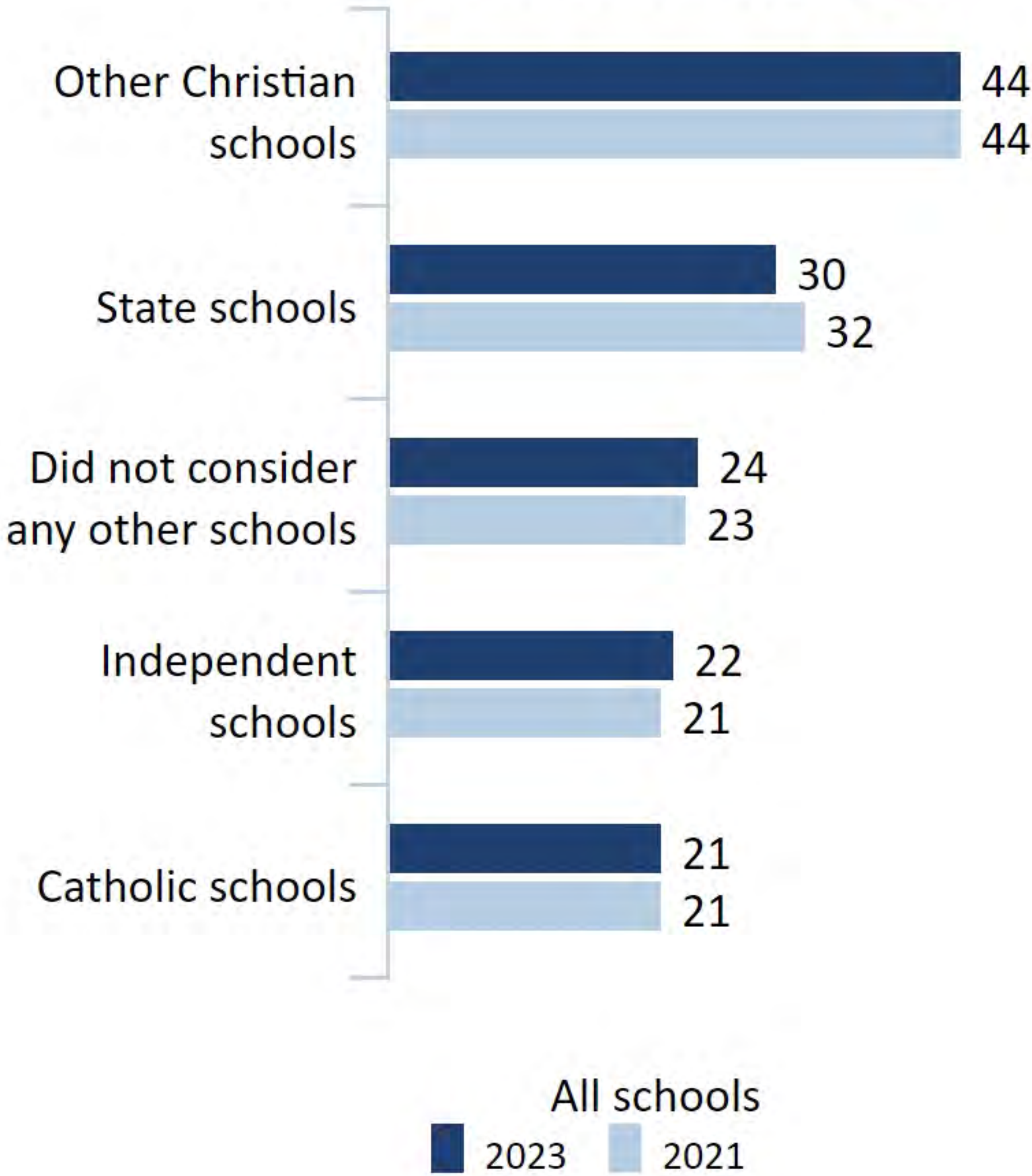
■ 2023 ■ 2021

2023 survey results

All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
48	51	49	44	53	39
38	45	35	38	39	32
30	27	30	29	38	36
30	29	32	30	31	26
28	22	26	33	28	32
24	22	25	25	26	21
24	29	23	25	21	18
24	20	25	23	25	31
21	30	16	22	21	21
20	19	24	19	18	17
19	17	23	17	16	15
17	19	14	17	20	18

Other schools considered

(Multiple responses accepted)



* These options were not included in the 2021 survey

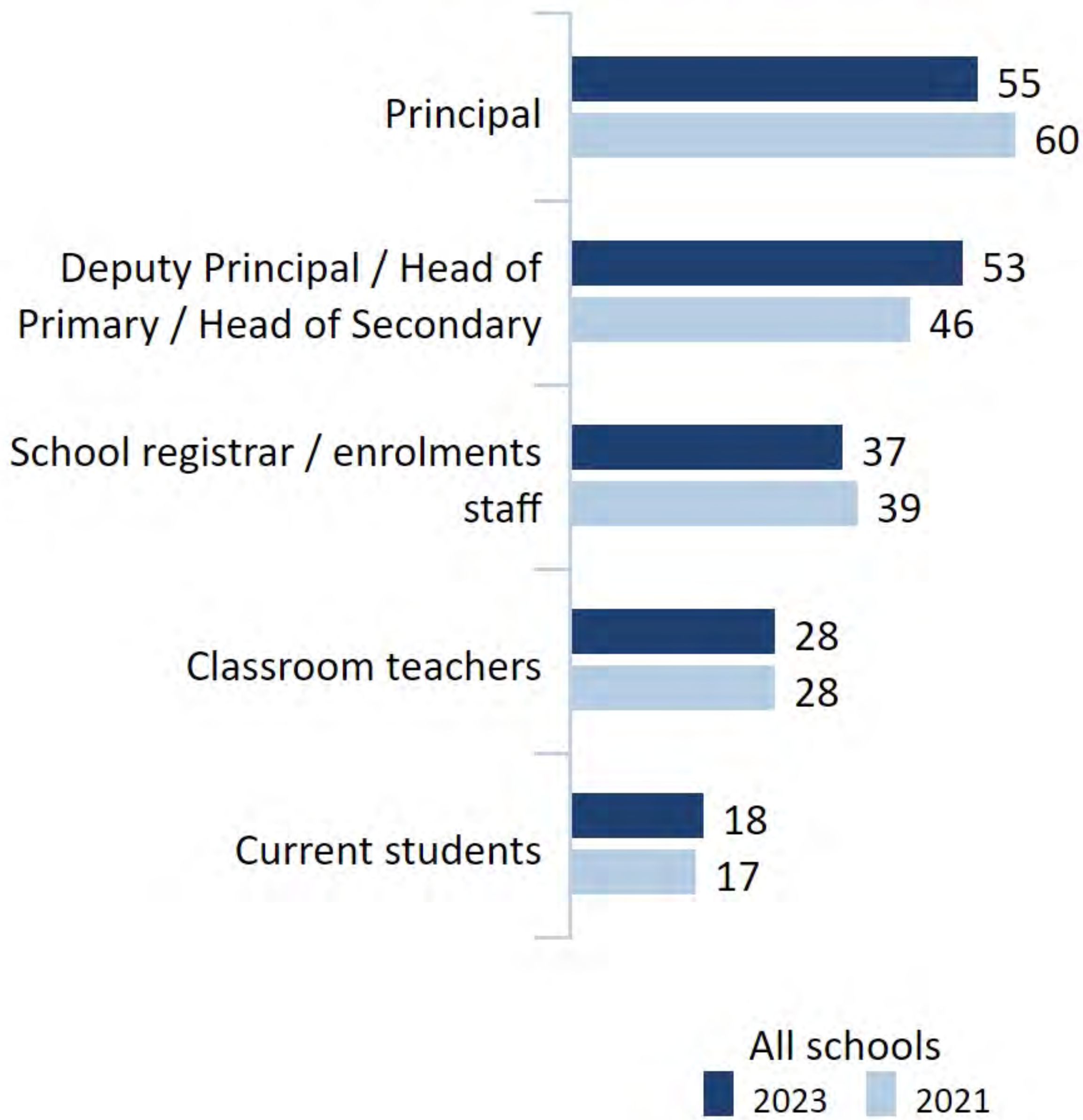


Practices families think should be most important at your school

Higher rated practices

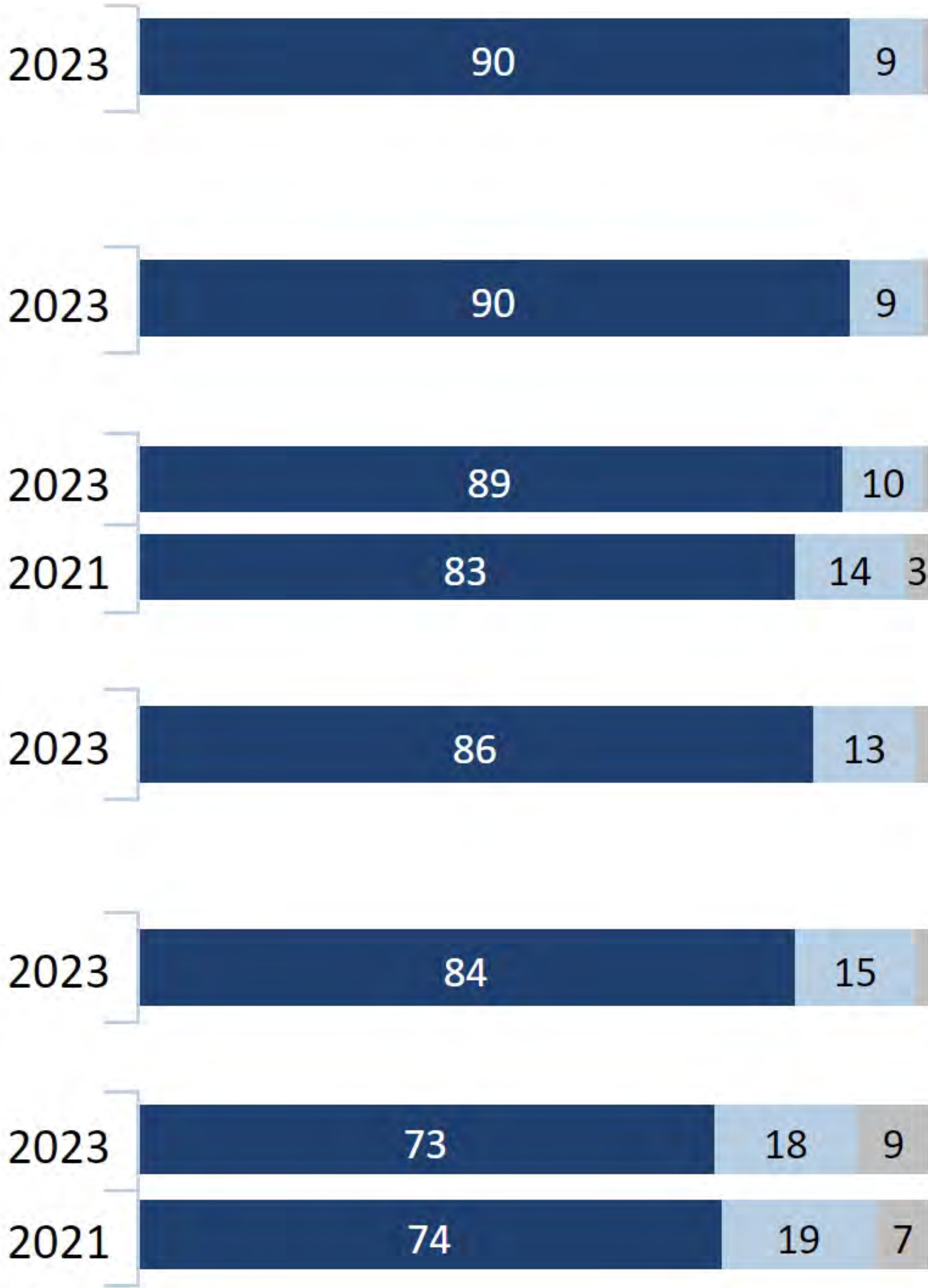
School representatives met when deciding school

(Multiple responses accepted)



2023 survey results

	All school	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
Learning support and enrichment programs*	90	90	90	90	91	91
Wellbeing programs*	90	88	91	89	89	91
Work / career guidance	89	85	89	91	88	93
Leadership development programs*	86	83	87	85	87	87
Academic rigour*	84	85	84	82	83	83
Teaching of traditional Christian values and beliefs	73	73	76	71	76	65



(Percent of respondents, Extremely/very important)

Extremely / very important Somewhat important Not at all / not very important

* These options were not included in the 2021 survey



Practices families think should be most important at your school

Lower rated practices

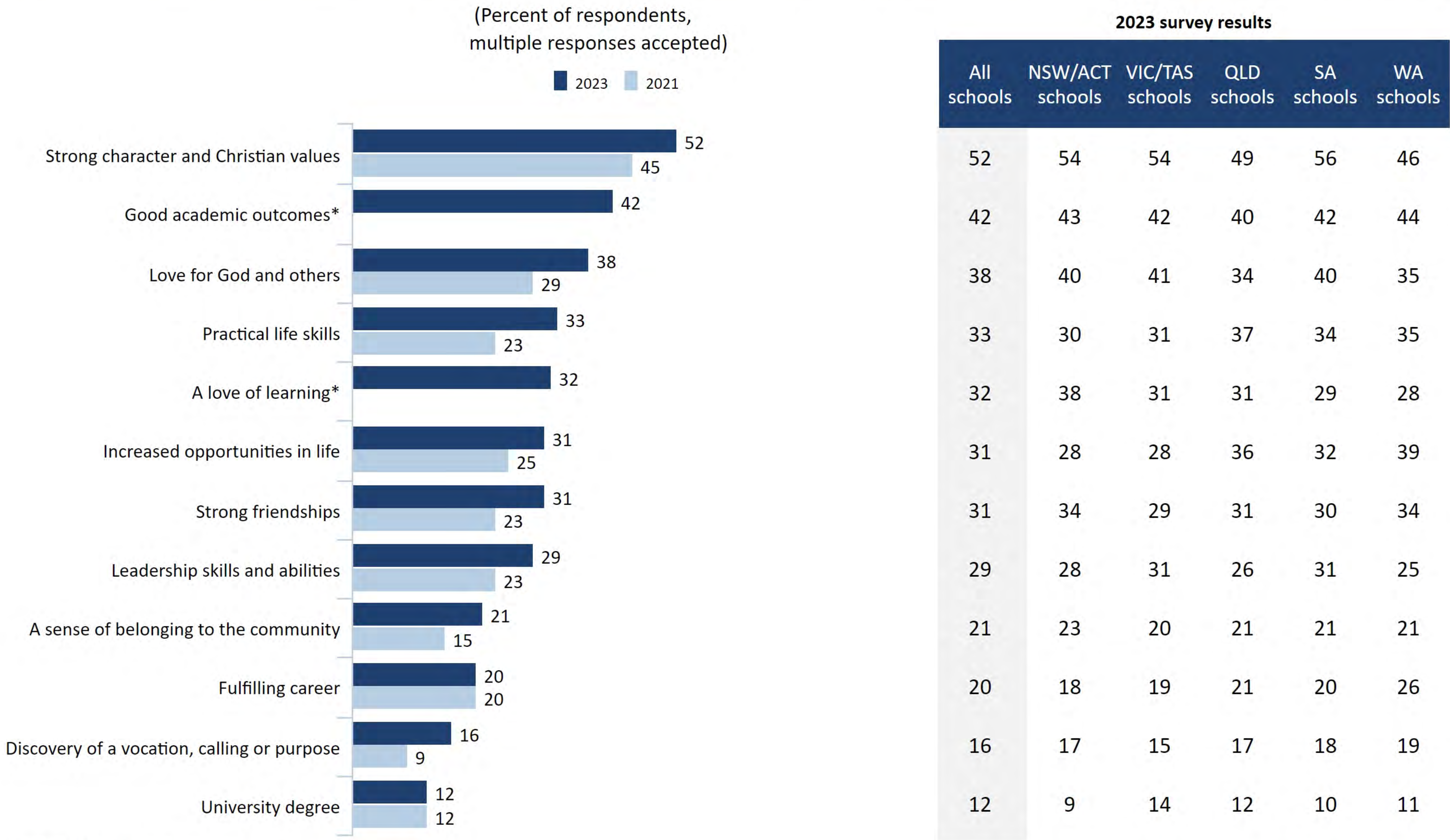
2023 survey results	All school	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools	
Community service	66	64	67	64	66	68	2023 66 29 5 2021 69 26 4
Christian studies program	62	62	65	59	69	56	2023 62 26 12 2021 64 26 11
Christian worship and chapel	61	61	64	60	65	51	2023 61 26 12 2021 62 26 12
Bible reading and memorisation	51	48	56	45	56	45	2023 51 26 24 2021 52 26 22
Local church involvement in the school	37	32	42	36	37	35	2023 37 37 26 2021 38 36 26
Missions trips	36	36	38	33	36	35	2023 36 38 26 2021 38 37 25

(Percent of respondents,
Extremely/very important)

Extremely / very important
 Somewhat important
 Not at all / not very important



Outcomes families hope their children will achieve from attending your school (top 12)



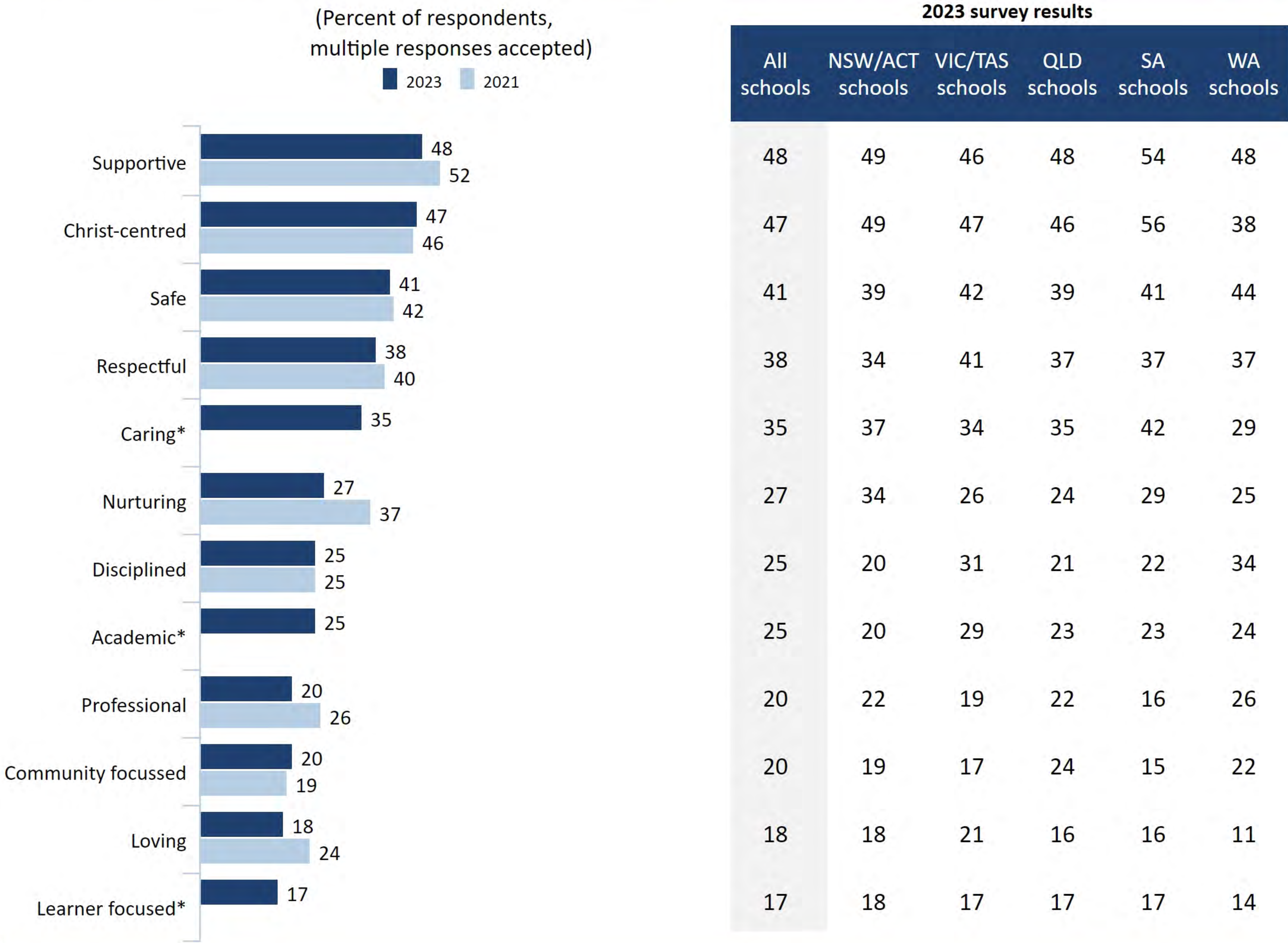
* These options were not included in the 2021 survey

Section 2: School Satisfaction





Words families used to describe the general ‘feel’ of your school (Top 12)



* These options were not included in the 2021 survey



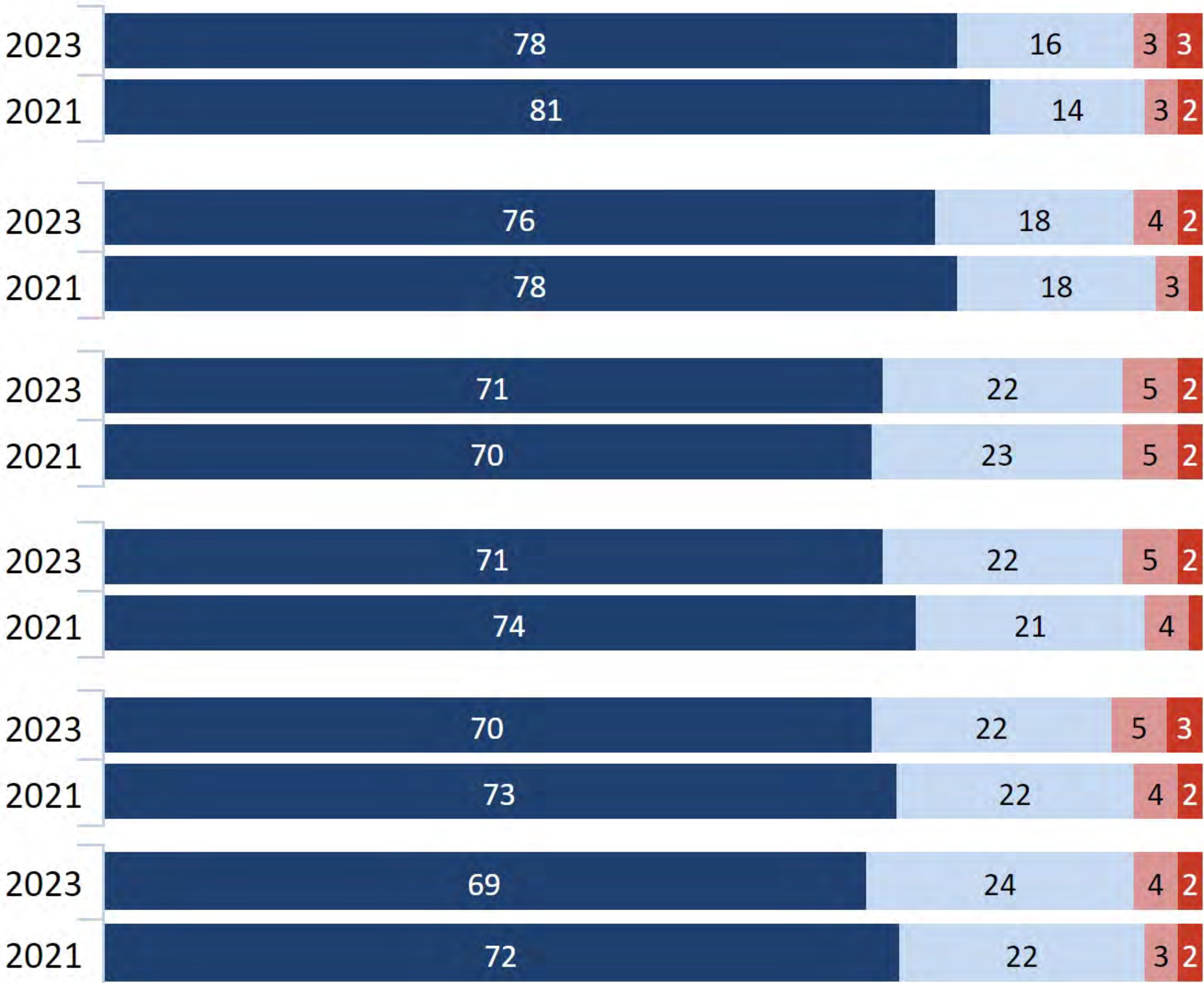
Families satisfaction with their experience at your school

2023 survey results

	All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
Safety and supportiveness of this school	78	78	78	78	76	77
The quality of buildings and classroom learning spaces at this school	76	77	73	84	66	76
The accessibility of this school in relation to where you live	71	69	68	76	78	66
The quality of relationships with your child's teachers	71	71	71	72	73	66
The wellbeing, pastoral care and support programs at this school	70	67	71	73	69	71
The Christian studies program at this school	69	67	69	70	71	66

(Percent of respondents, extremely / very satisfied)

Generally highest rated factors



■ Extremely / very satisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Extremely / very dissatisfied



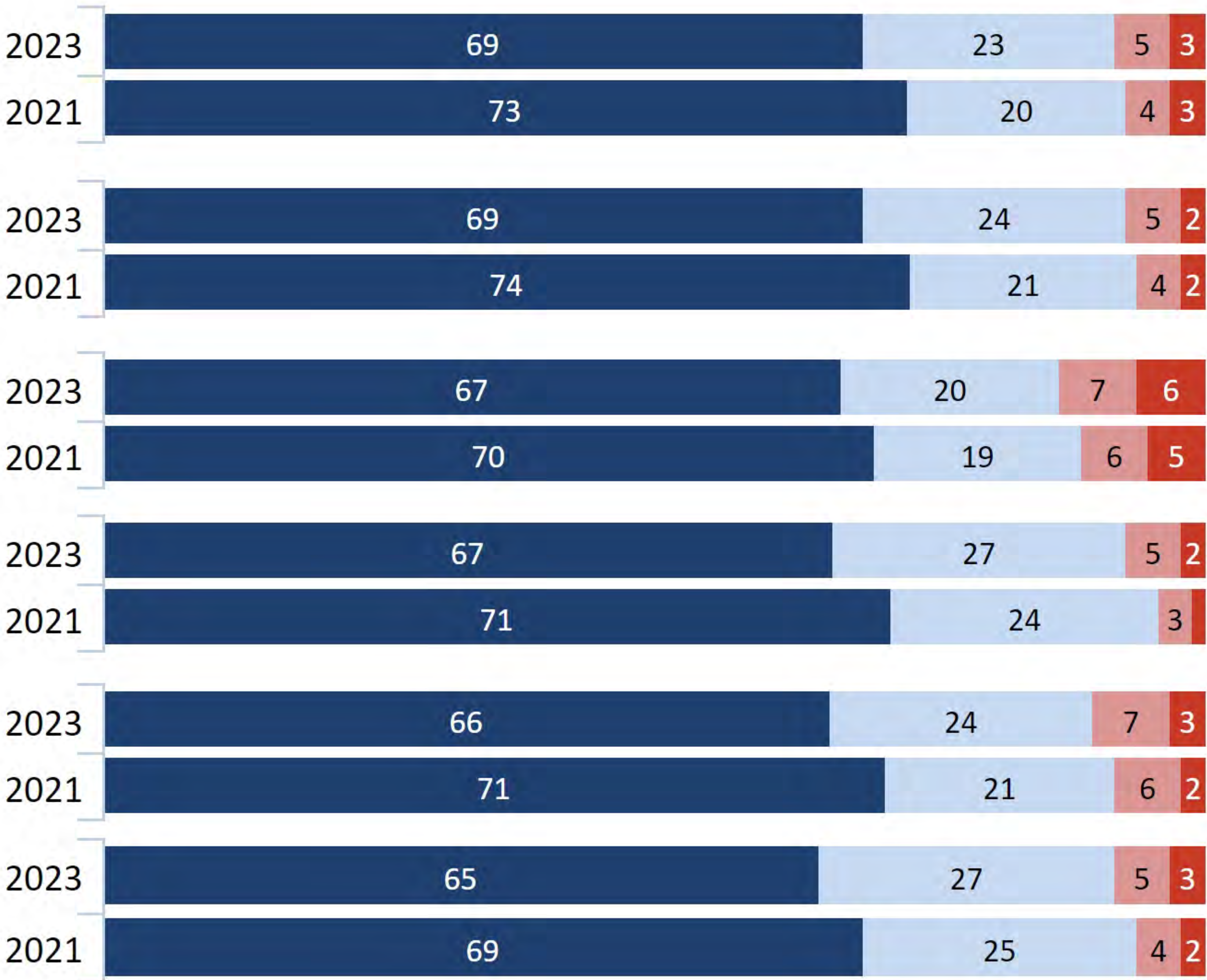
Families satisfaction with their experience at your school

2023 survey results

	All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
The quality of the leadership at this school	69	65	67	73	69	71
The quality of teaching at this school	69	66	67	72	72	65
The way this school responds to any genuine concerns raised	67	65	68	67	67	66
The quality of relationships with other students	67	70	68	64	64	66
The uniform and dress code standards	66	61	68	72	64	59
The character formation programs at this school	65	64	65	67	66	63

(Percent of respondents, extremely / very satisfied)

Generally middle rated factors



■ Extremely / very satisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Extremely / very dissatisfied



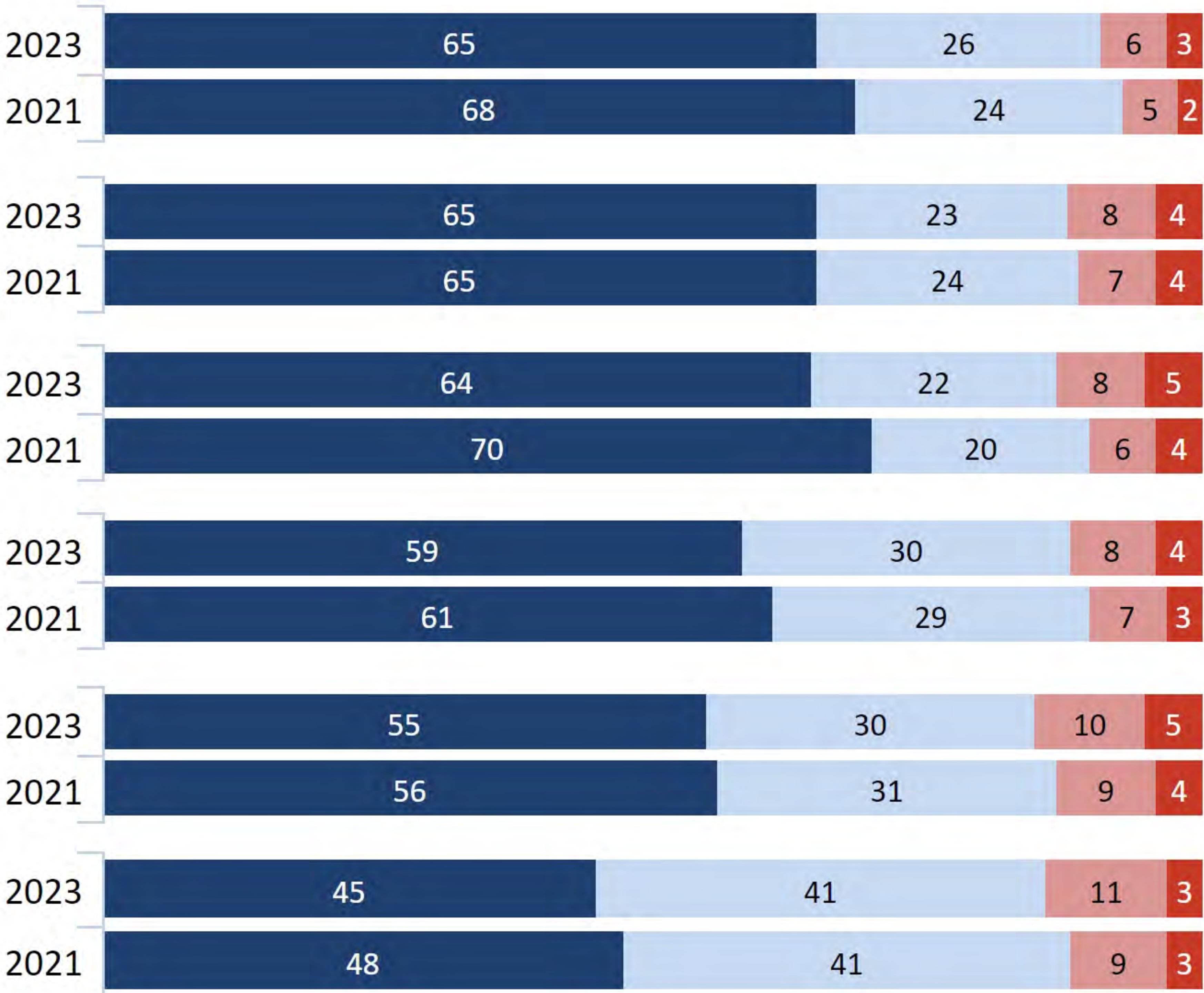
Families satisfaction with their experience at your school

2023 survey results

	All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
The quality of academic outcomes at this school	65	62	64	69	68	61
The quality of information I receive about my children's progress	65	57	66	67	66	67
The quality of discipline and behaviour management at this school	64	63	66	64	63	63
The quality of the co-curricular programs at this school	59	54	59	63	57	58
The quality of the sports programs at this school	55	50	55	59	51	55
The affordability of this school's tuition fees	45	35	39	56	50	44

(Percent of respondents, extremely / very satisfied)

Generally lowest rated factors



■ Extremely / very satisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Extremely / very dissatisfied

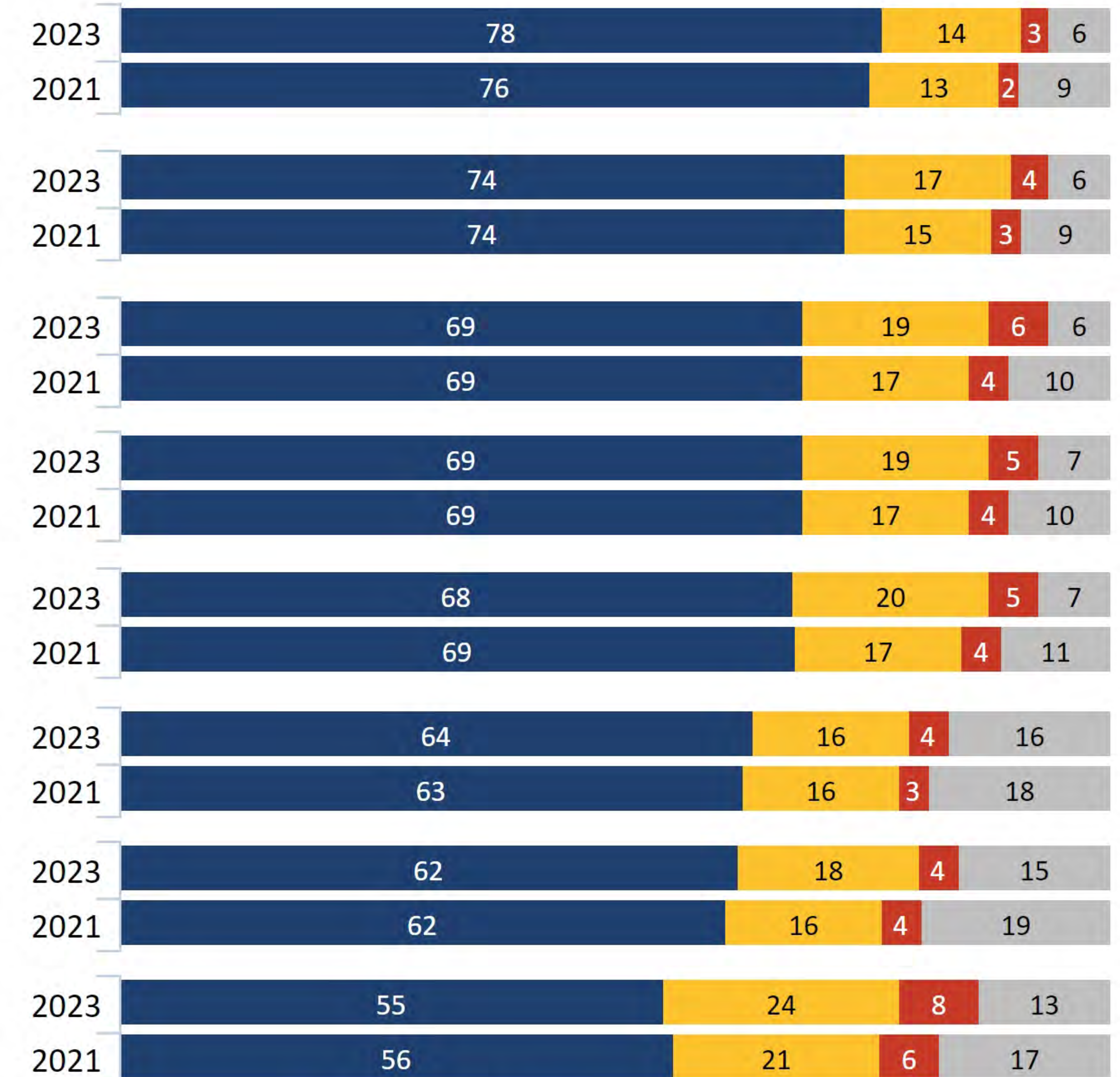


Parents' ratings of school's performance

2023 survey results

	All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
Contributing to the common good within society	78	76	77	78	80	78
Interacting with the society and culture around them	74	70	75	73	78	73
Dealing with interpersonal relationships and conflict	69	65	71	68	74	67
Finding a sense of meaning, purpose, and direction in life	69	65	71	69	70	66
Dealing with life's problems	68	65	68	69	74	67
Success in post-secondary education	64	57	63	66	71	62
Success in a job or career	62	56	62	68	66	55
Opportunities to innovate and be entrepreneurial	55	49	55	57	57	55

(Percent of respondents, very good / good)

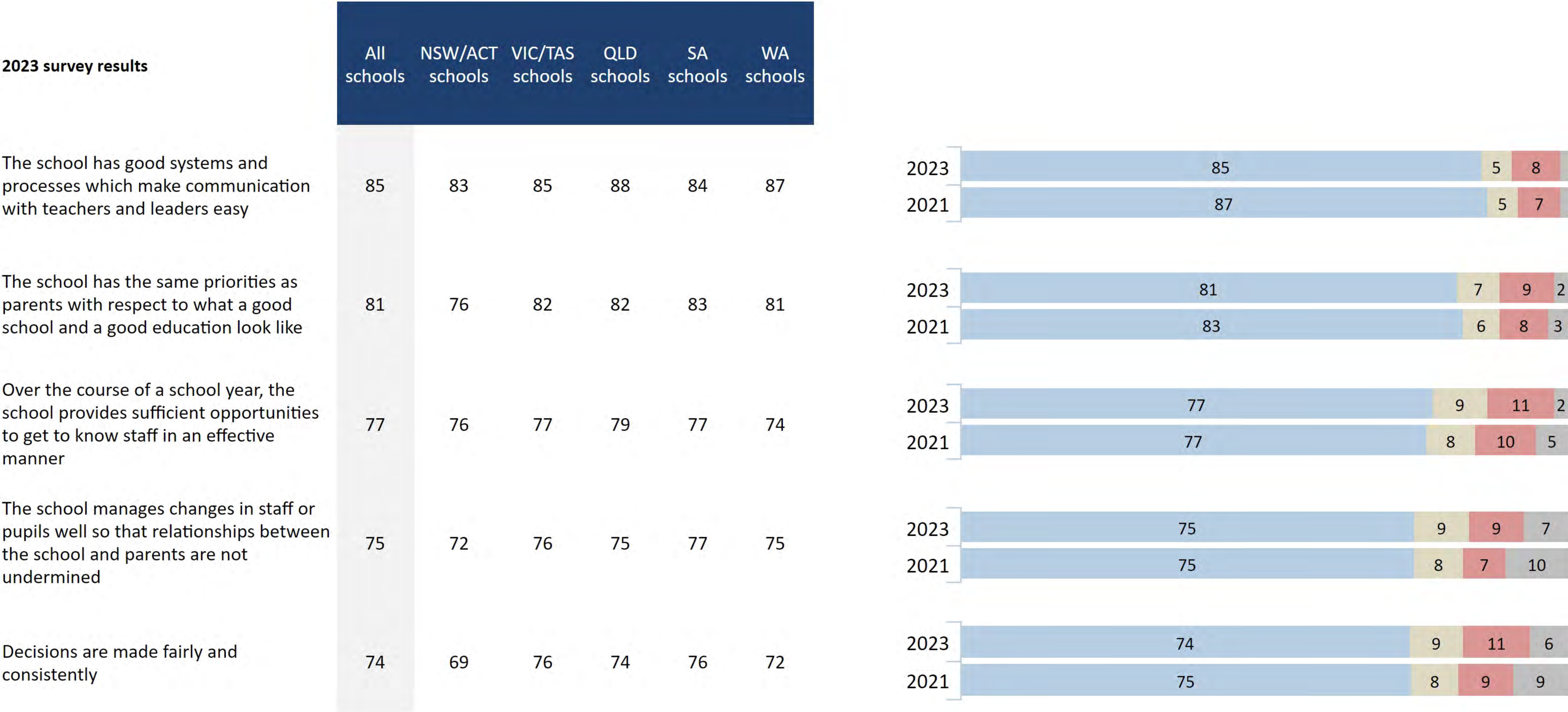


Very good / good Moderate Very poor / poor Don't know / not sure



Parents' perception of school's community and relationships

2023 survey results



(Percent of respondents, agree)

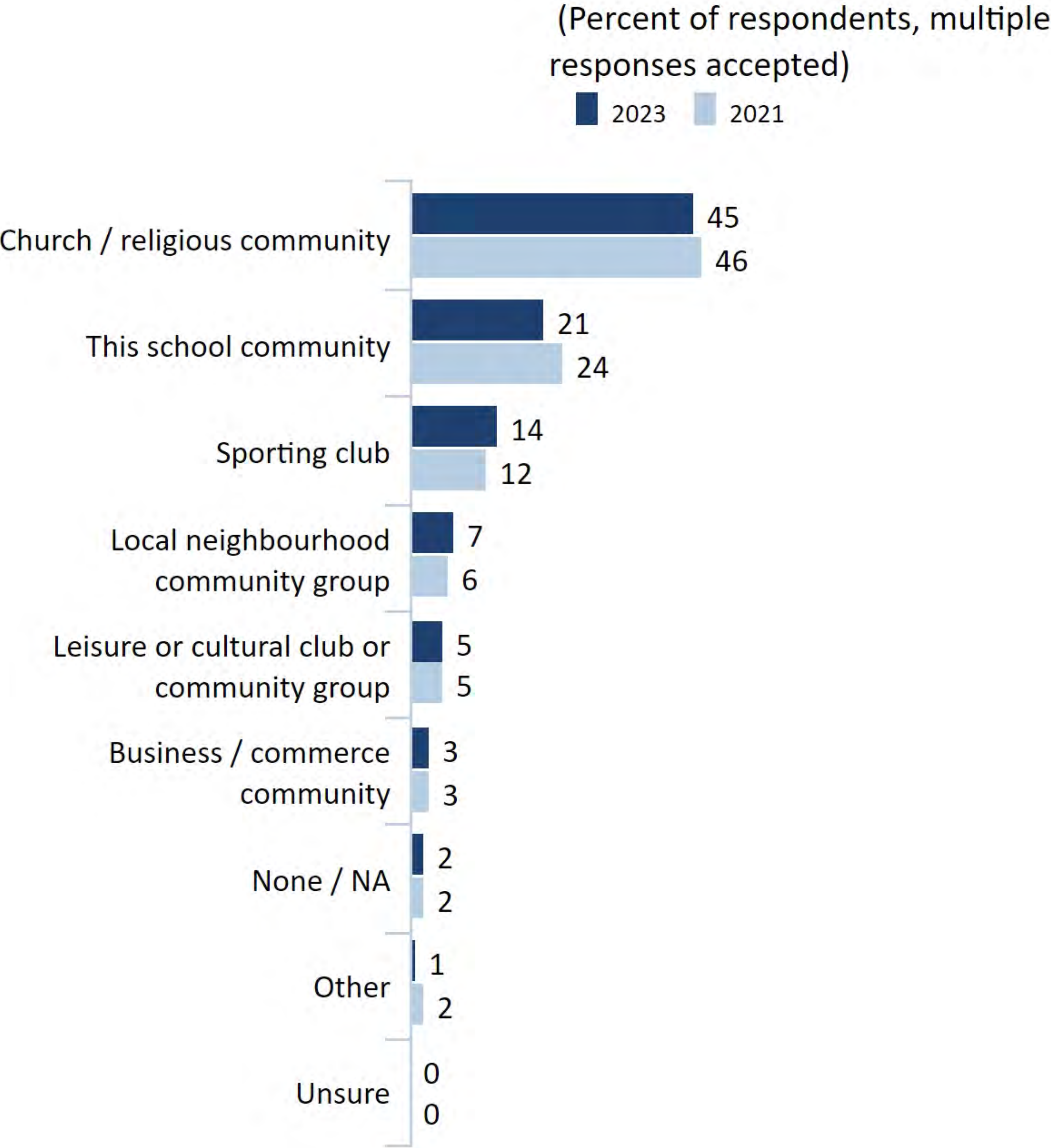
■ Agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Don't know / not sure

Section 3: School Engagement

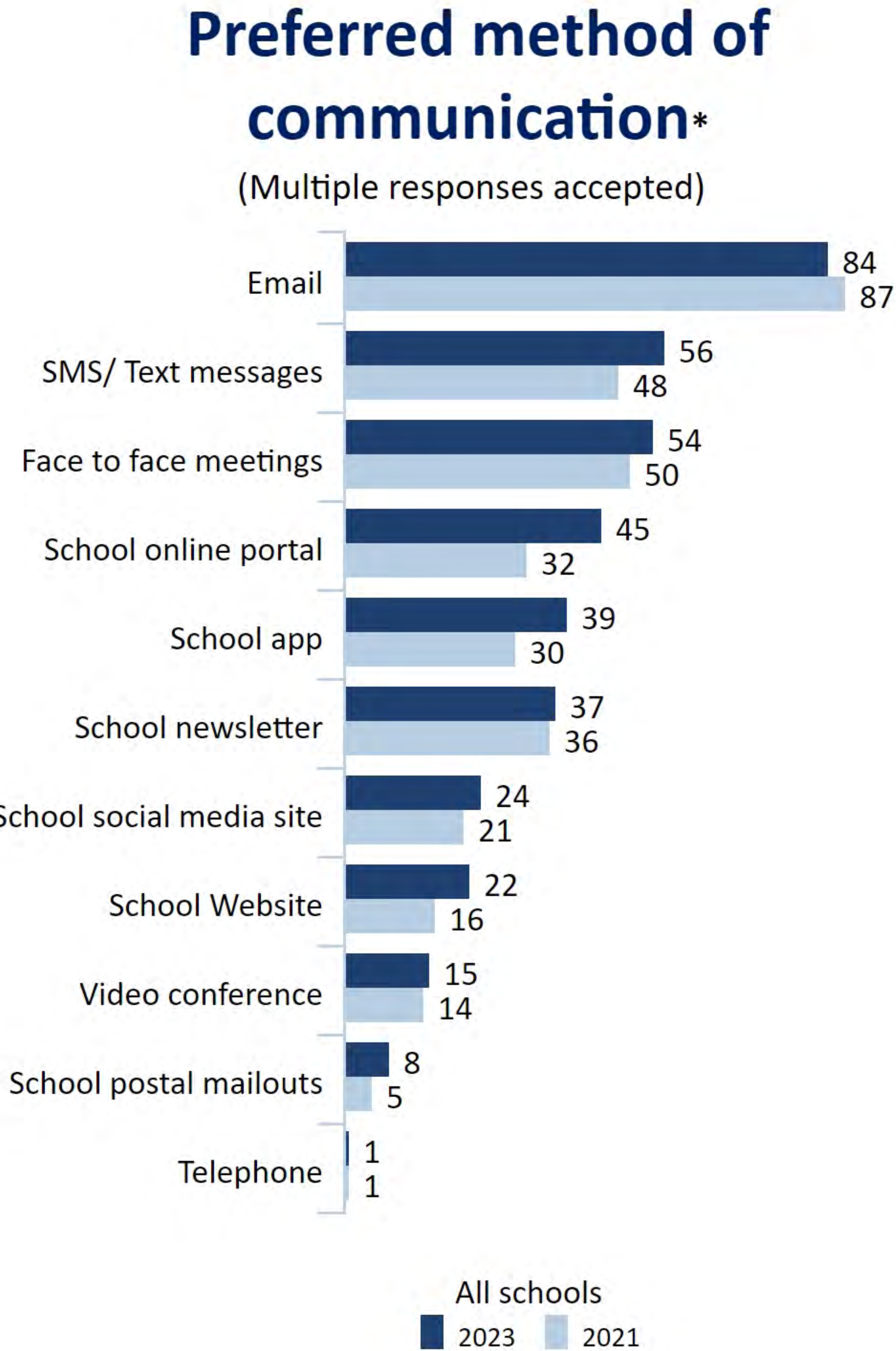




Important local community groups and organisations for parents



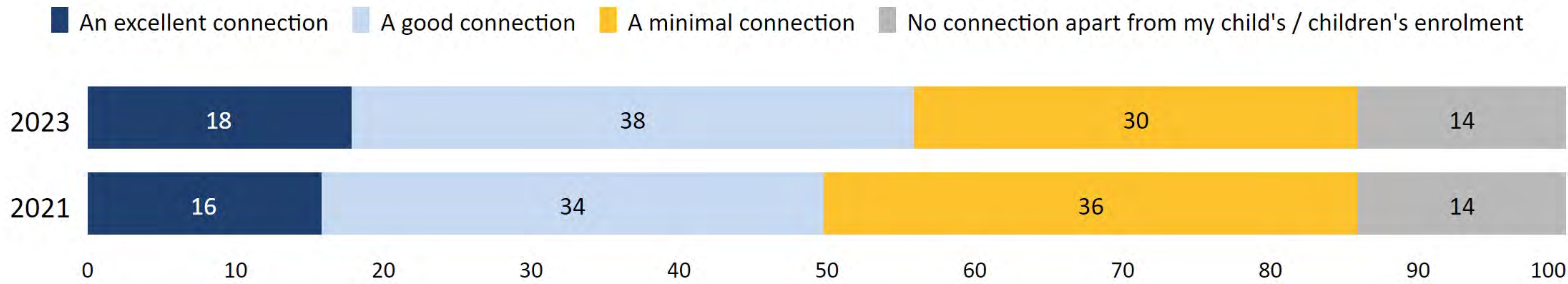
2023 survey results						
All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools	
45	47	50	39	50	37	Church / religious community
21	21	19	25	22	19	This school community
14	14	13	15	14	21	Sporting club
7	6	7	8	5	7	Local neighbourhood community group
5	5	5	6	4	6	Leisure or cultural club or community group
3	3	3	4	2	4	Business / commerce community
2	2	1	3	2	2	None / NA
1	1	1	2	1	3	Other
0	0	0	0	0	0	Unsure



*Note: In 2023, respondents were asked to rank their top 4 most preferred method instead of simply selecting the top 4 methods as asked in 2021. The 2023 results shown here have been adjusted to ensure consistency between the two years.



Parents' connection to the school



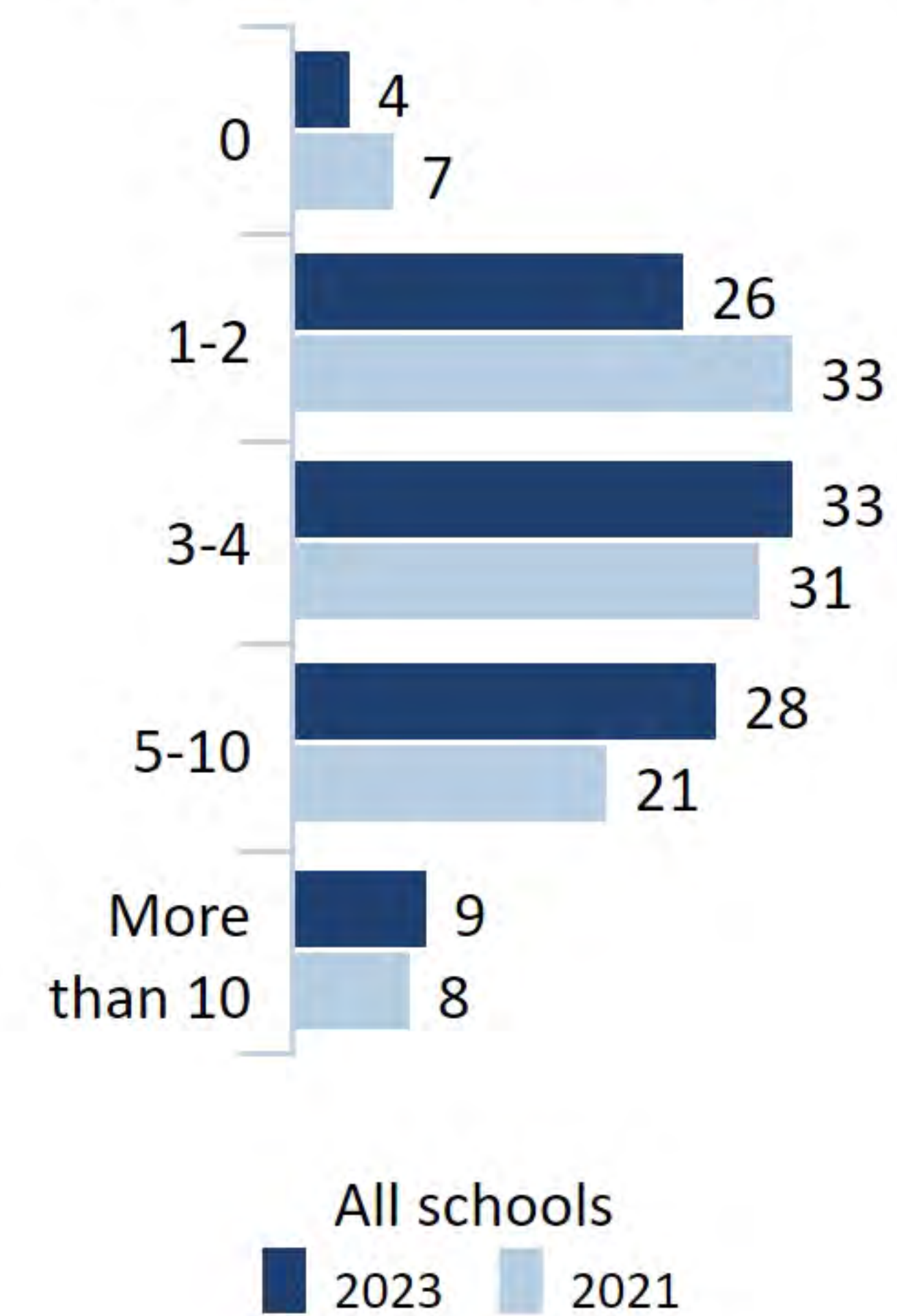
2023 survey results

All school	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
56	58	54	55	61	53

(Percent of respondents, excellent or good connection)

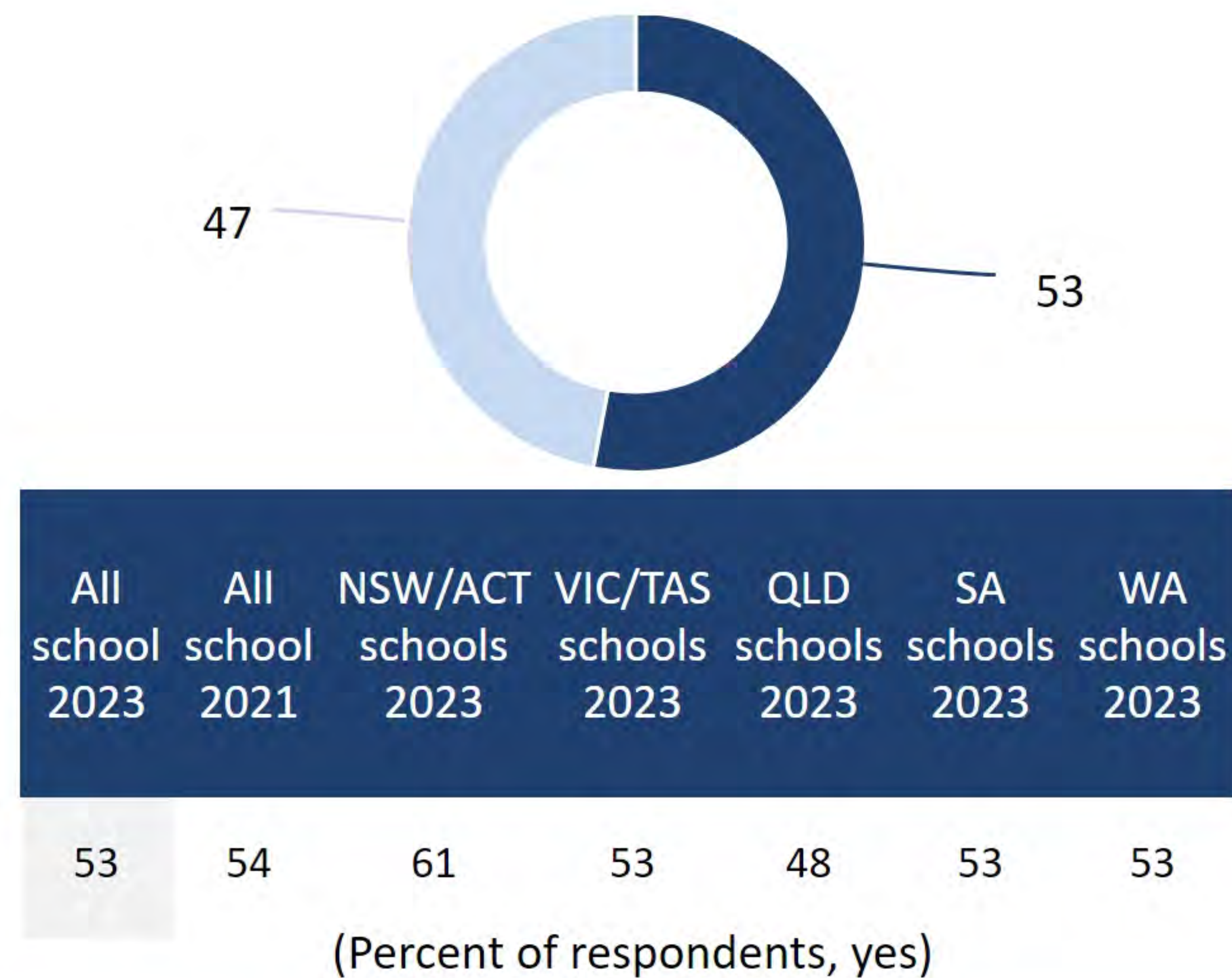
Number of school events attended

(Percent of respondents)



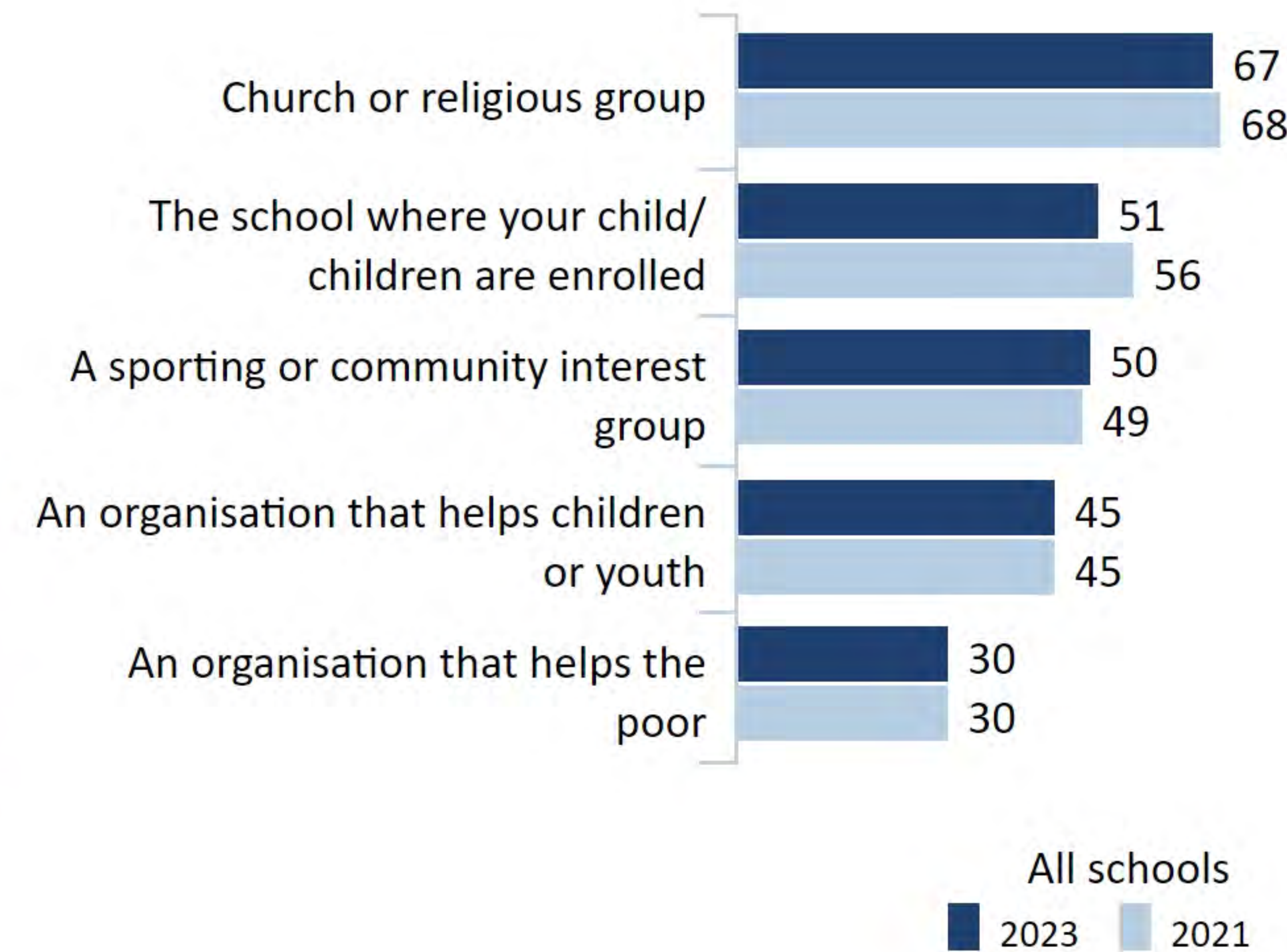
Do you do any volunteer work?

■ Yes ■ No



Most common types of volunteering

(Multiple responses accepted)

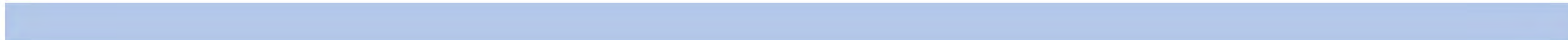


2023 survey results

All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
67	68	71	63	71	60
51	51	59	40	51	48
50	57	46	47	43	62
45	49	41	45	48	44
30	31	29	32	30	33

(Percent of respondents, yes)

Section 4: Family Profile

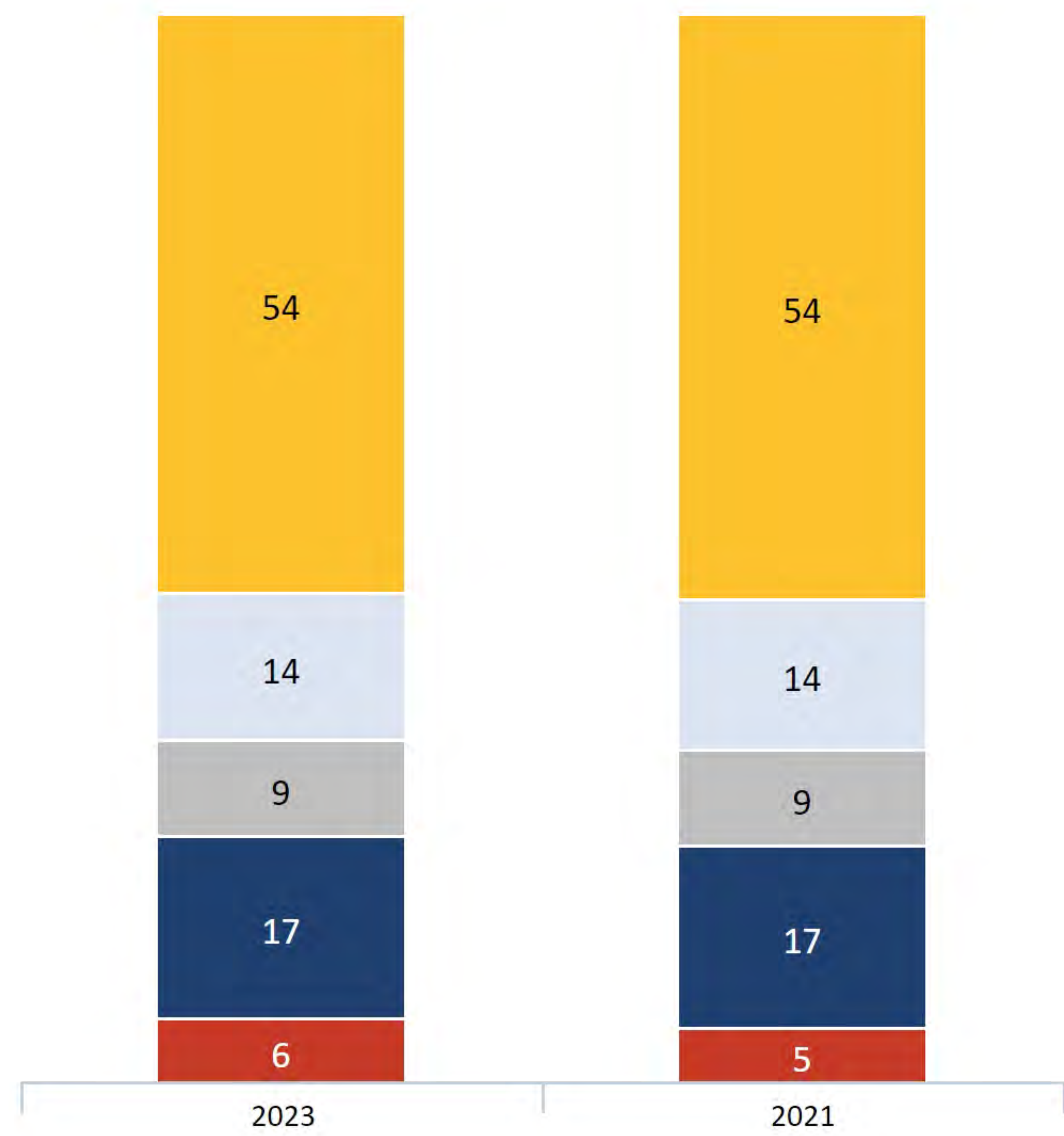




Family profile

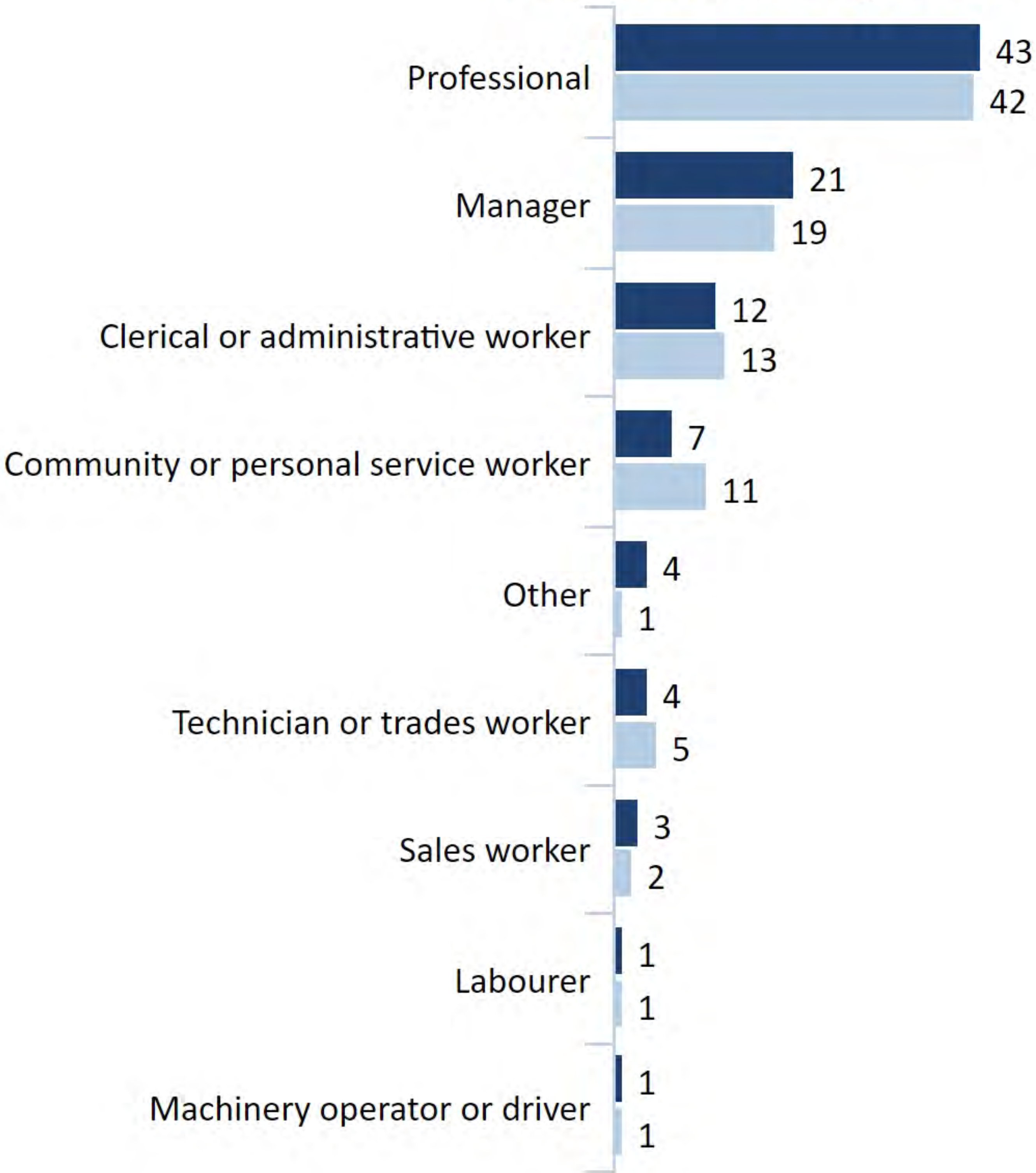
Type of school parent attended

All schools



State School Catholic School Independent school
Christian school Other

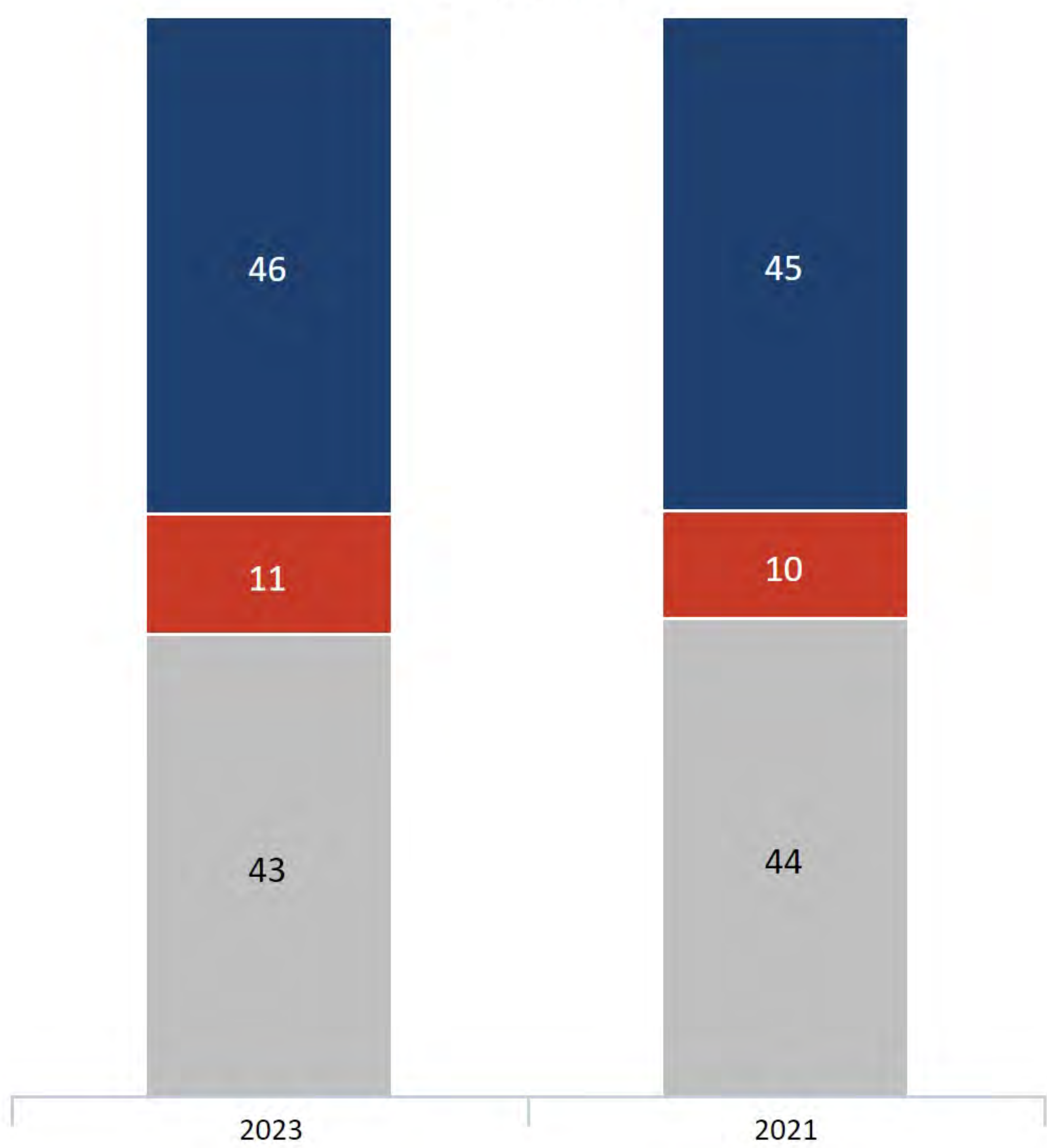
Parents' occupation



(Percent of respondents) All schools
2023 2021

Did the parents' schooling experience influence school choice for their child?

All schools



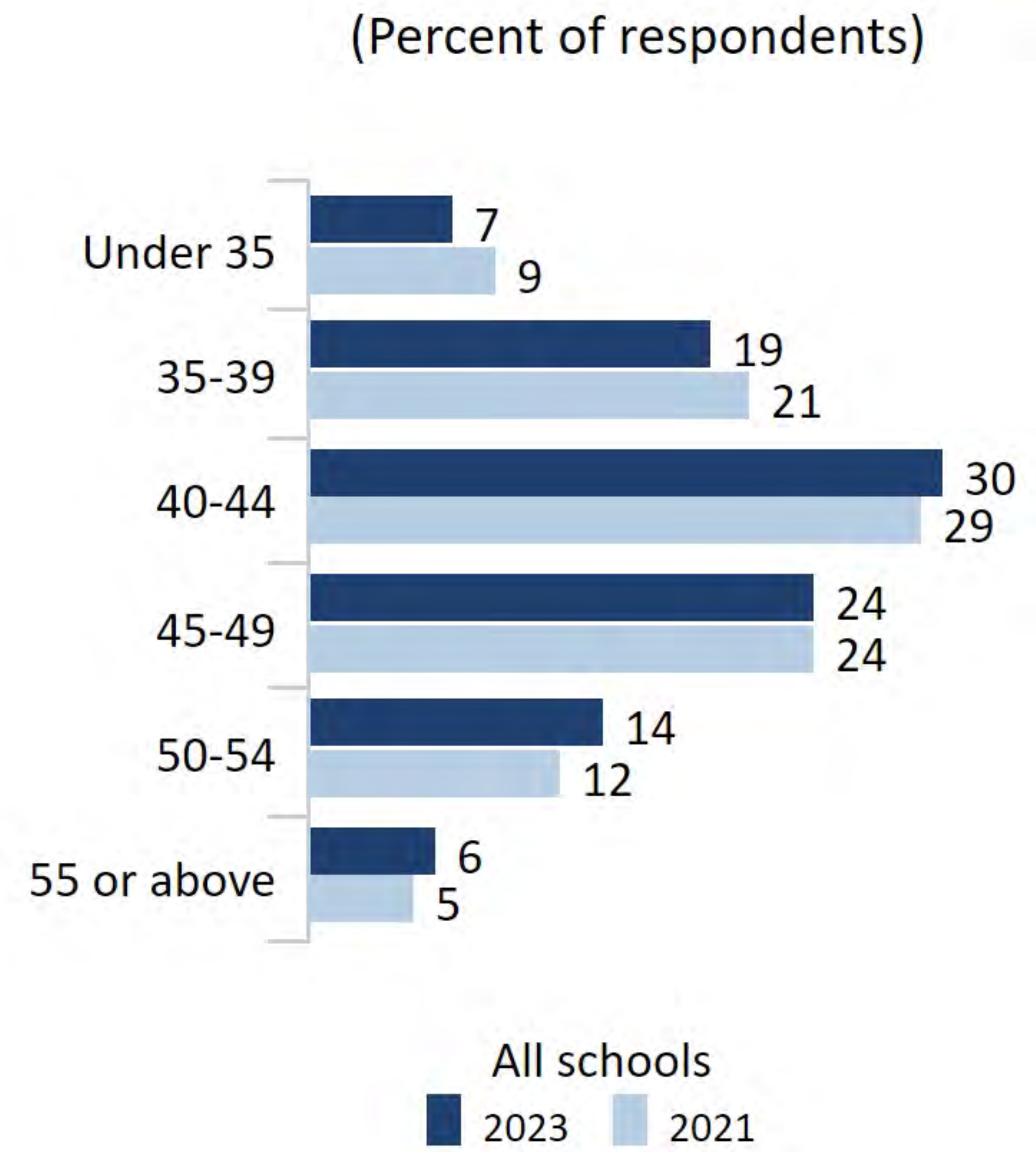
Yes, in a positive way Yes, in a negative way No



Family profile

Age of parents

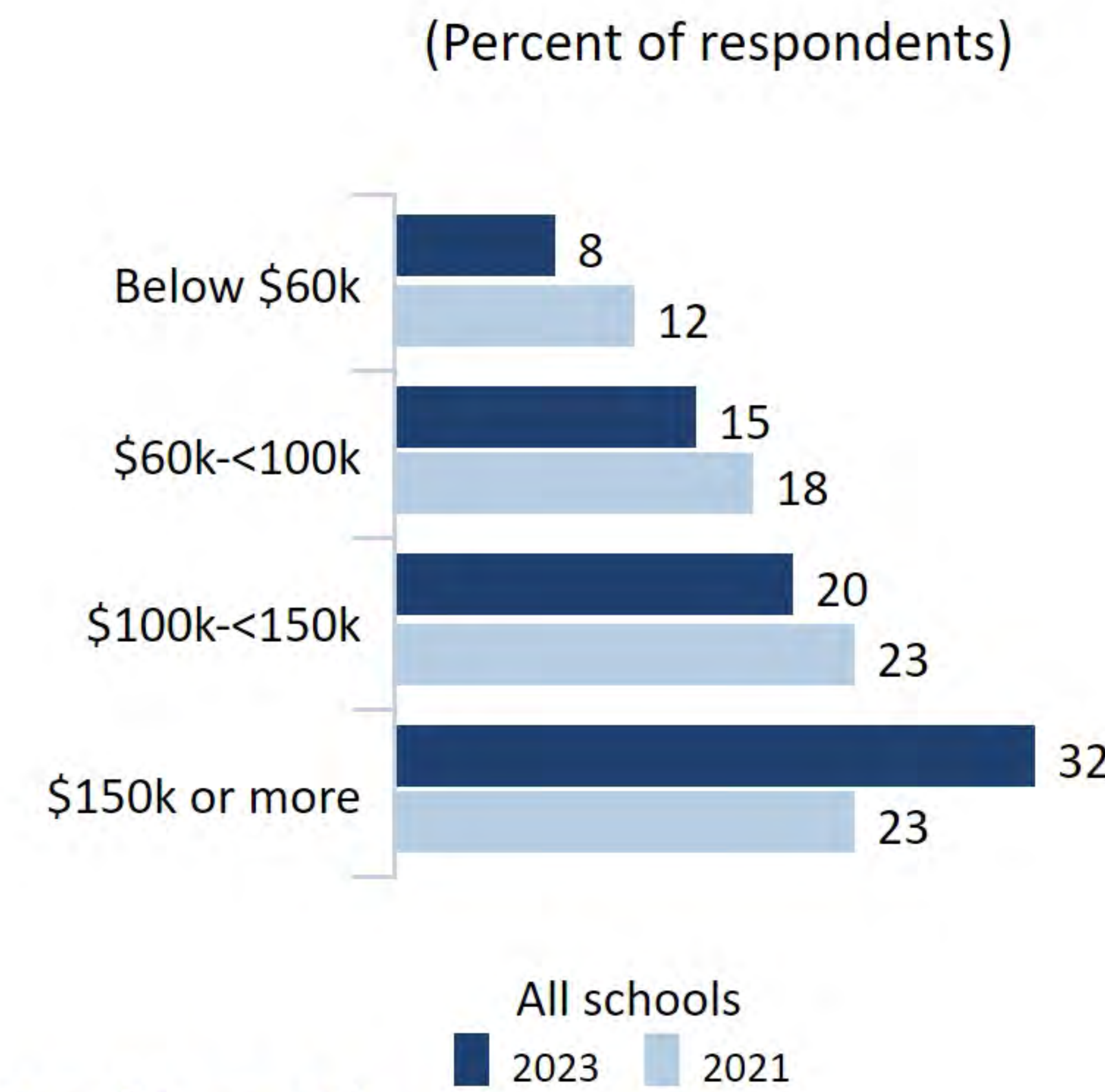
2023 survey results



All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
7	6	4	10	7	6
19	20	16	21	23	15
30	29	31	28	31	27
24	24	26	22	20	28
14	15	15	13	13	16
6	6	7	5	5	8

Household income

2023 survey results

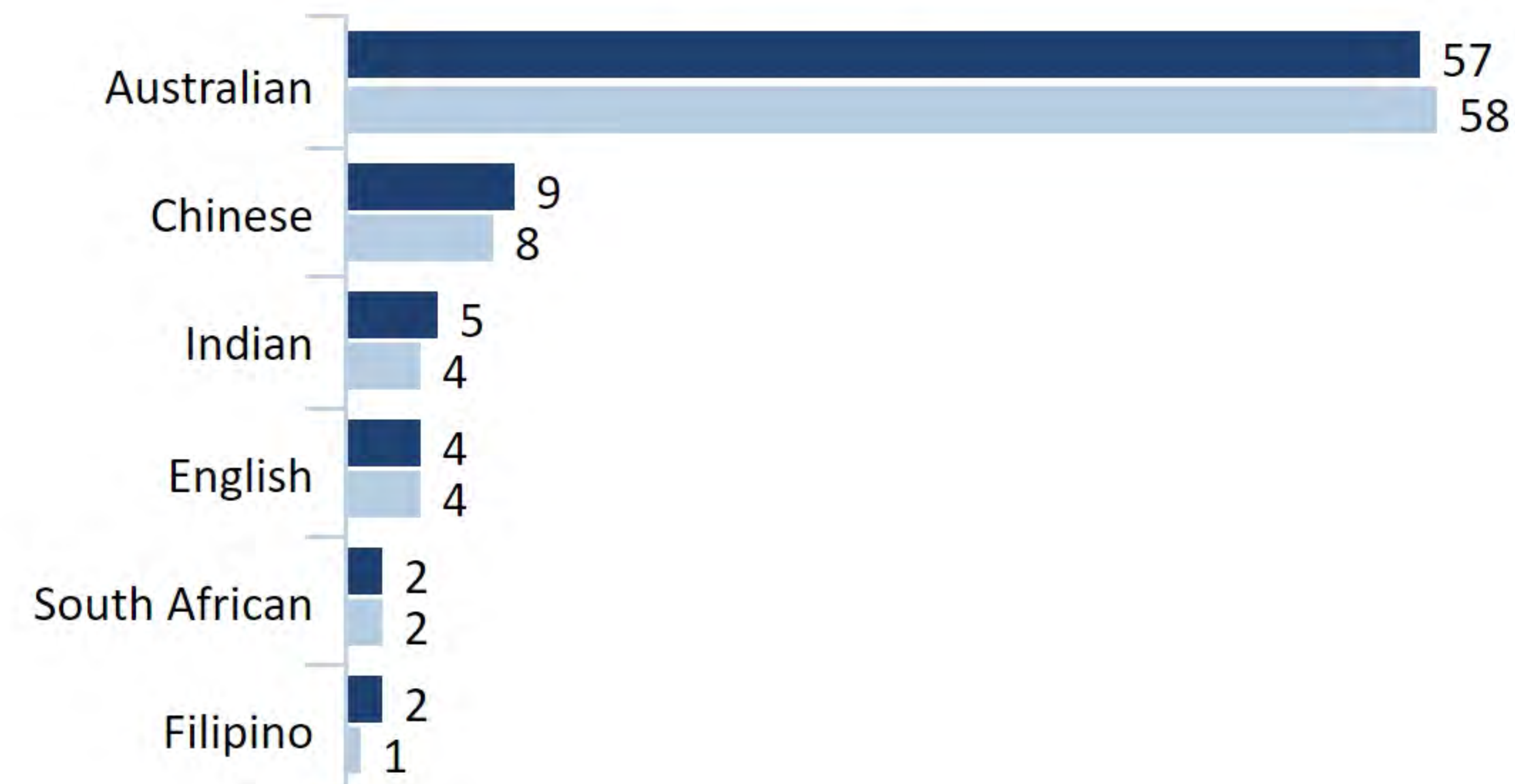


All school	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
8	7	9	7	12	5
15	11	15	16	19	14
20	20	18	23	25	18
32	40	30	32	21	37

Parents' ethnic origin (top 6)

(Percent of respondents)

All schools
2023 2021



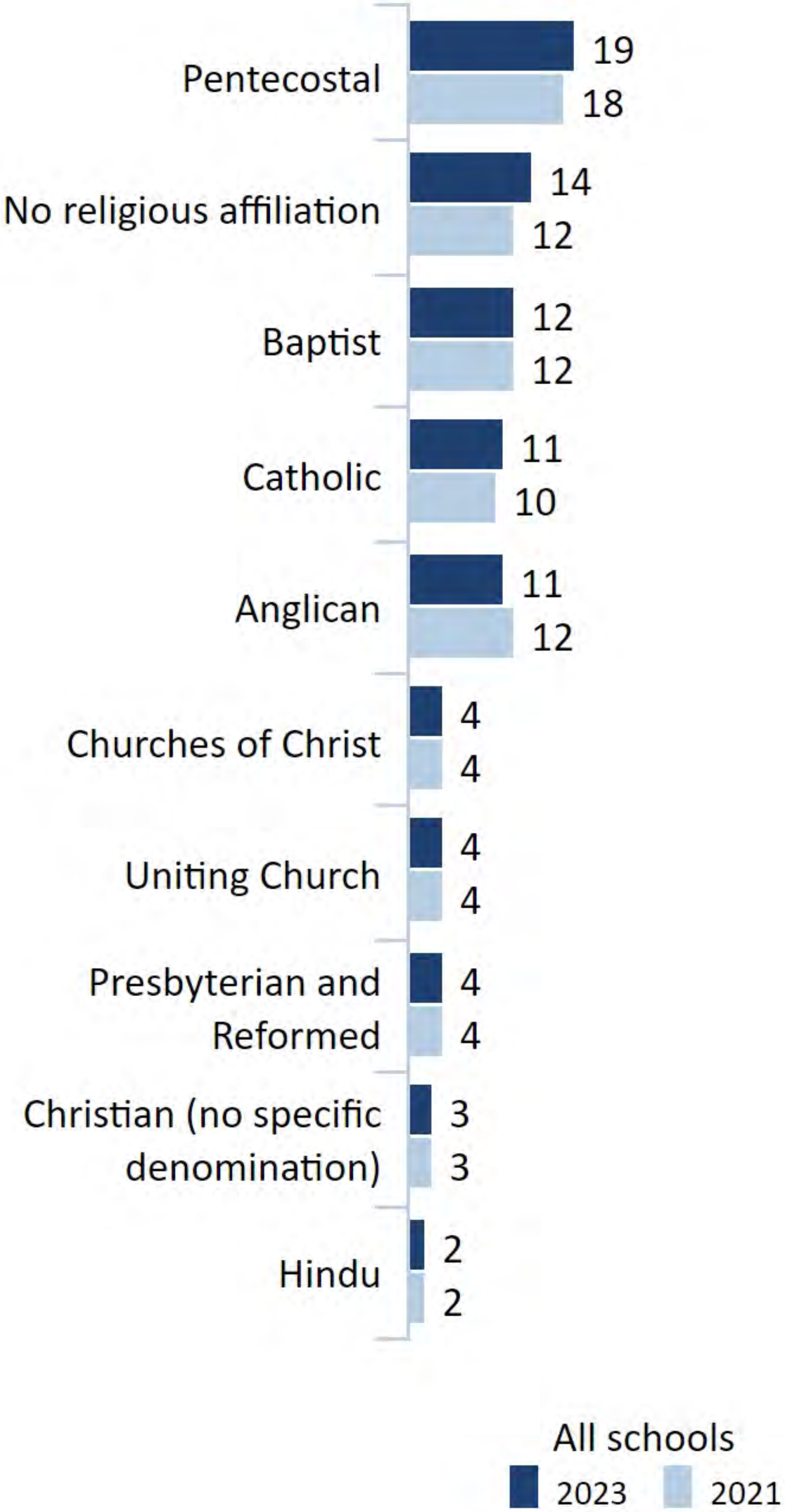
2023 survey results

All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
57	67	39	71	58	54
9	5	20	2	4	3
5	4	9	2	4	2
4	4	3	5	5	6
2	2	1	3	4	4
2	1	1	2	3	4

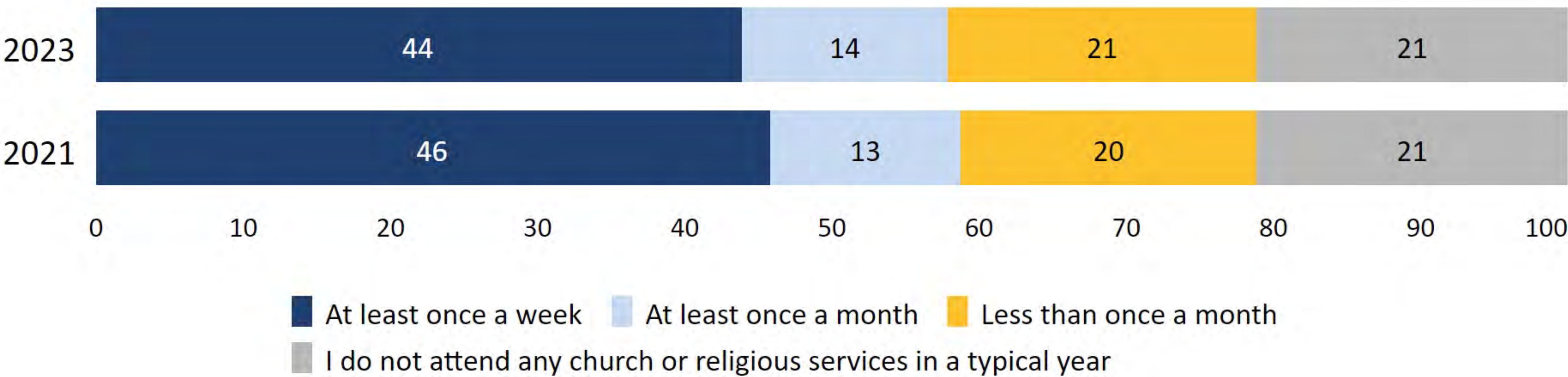


Parents' religious practices and perspectives

Parents' religious affiliation (top 10)



Frequency of church or religious service attendance

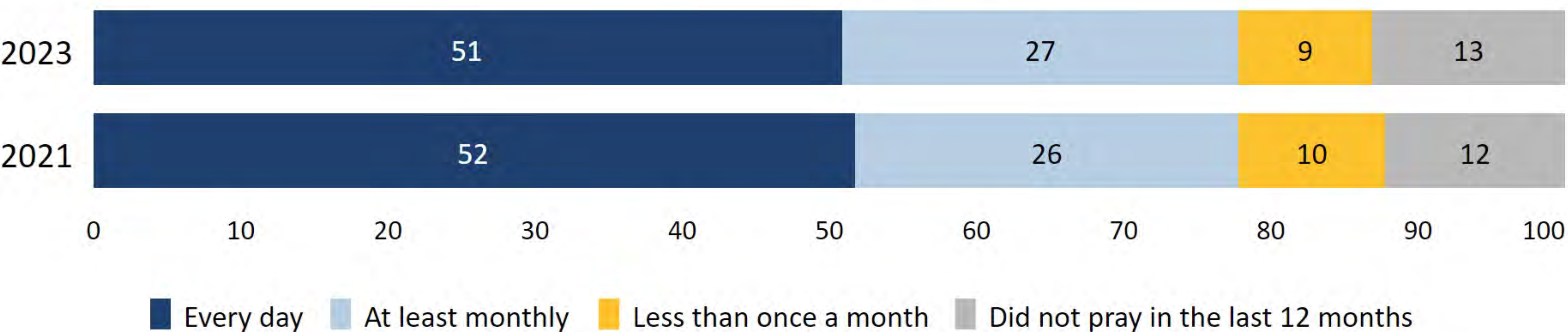


2023 survey results

All school	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
57	59	63	50	63	45

(Percent of respondents, at least once a week or at least once a month)

Frequency of prayer



2023 survey results

All schools	NSW/ACT schools	VIC/TAS schools	QLD schools	SA schools	WA schools
77	80	80	73	83	66

(Percent of respondents, every day or at least monthly)

2023 Longitudinal Survey Report

Summary of notable changes in survey results between 2023 and 2021

The CSCP Longitudinal Survey recorded robust sample sizes of 6,238 responses in 2023 and 8,595 in 2021 (with solid response rates of 22% and 25%, respectively). The survey results are therefore highly representative of parents from participating schools. The fact that findings were mostly similar in both years further supports the reliability of results. There were, however, a few notable differences.

- In 2023, families were presented with 12 school practices and were asked to provide their views on how important they should be within the school their child/children attend. Four of these practices were not included in the 2021 survey and they made up four of the five most important practices measured, with over 80% of families rating them 'extremely important' or 'very important':
 - Learning support and enrichment programs (90%);
 - Wellbeing programs (90%);
 - Leadership development programs (86%); and
 - Academic rigour (84%).
 - More families rated work / career guidance as 'extremely or very important' in 2023 (89%), compared to 2021 (83%).
- More families met with the deputy Principal / head of primary or secondary in 2023 when deciding which school to attend (53%, compared to 46% in 2021), and less met with the Principal (55%, compared to 60%).
- When asked about which outcomes they hope their children will obtain as a result of attending their schools, more families in 2023 chose:
 - stronger character and Christian values (52%, compared to 45%);
 - love for God and others (38%, compared to 29%);
 - practical life skills (33%, compared to 23%); and
 - discovery of a vocation, calling or purpose (16%, compared to 9%).
 - Good academic outcomes (42%) and a love of learning (32%) were not asked about in 2021 but were frequently chosen in 2023.
- More families reported they felt their connection to the school were good or excellent (56%, compared to 51%) and less said their connection was 'minimal' (30%, compared to 36%).
- In 2023, families remained generally satisfied with various aspects of their school. However, slightly less families rated their experiences as 'extremely or very satisfied' across all aspects measured in the survey, with the largest (albeit still modest) declines in:
 - the quality of teaching (69%, compared to 74%);
 - the schools' uniform and dress code standards (66%, compared to 71%); and
 - the quality of discipline and behaviour management (64%, compared to 70%).
- There was an increase in preference to receive school communication via school online portals (45%, compared to 32%), school apps (39%, compared to 30%) and school websites (22%, compared to 16%). However, email, SMS and face to face meetings remain the most preferred communication methods in 2023.