



MONASH University

Arts

SOCIAL COHESION: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Professor Andrew Markus



Overview

Context

**Scanlon-
Monash Index**

**Immigration
Diversity**

**Balance of
opinion**

**Trans-
nationalism**



MONASH University

Arts

MONITORING AUSTRALIAN OPINION: SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEYS

2007-14 surveys

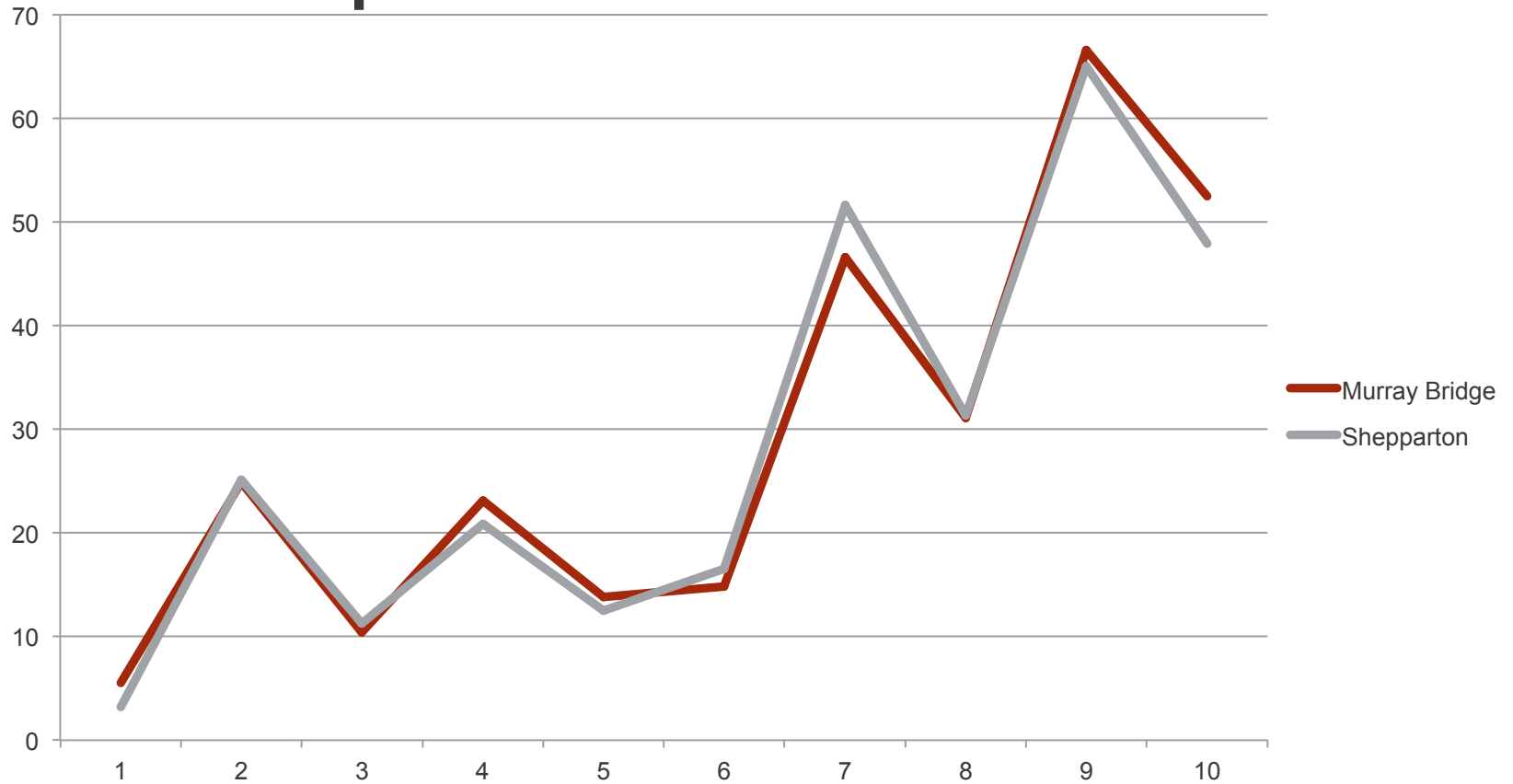
	National	Local	Experimenta l
2007	2,000	1,500	
2009	2,000		
2010	2,000	1,800	
2011	2,000		
2012	2,000	2,000	
2013	1,200	2,500	2,300
2014	1,500 (+500)		1,070
Total	12,700	7,800	3,370

**Total =
~24,000**

Survey reach

- **Detailed questionnaire** = 65 questions
- Seventh national survey since 2007
 - **Track shifts in opinion**
 - Understand stability and change
- Samples of sufficient size to enable **analysis of sub-groups**

Reliability/ consistency: 2 local areas, 10 selected questions



Internet site: Mapping Australia's

Quick links - Monash Uni x
monash.edu/mapping-population/

Skip to content | Monash home | Study | Research | Find people and places | Current students | Library | my.monash

MONASH University Mapping Australia's Population

Home | About this site | Public opinion | Statistical trends | Population maps | Documents

Public Opinion
What do Australians really think about social cohesion, population and immigration issues? The [Public Opinion](#) section includes fact sheets and reports on survey findings.

Quick links

Social cohesion report

- Statistical tables
- Mapping birthplace distribution
- Inventory of surveying
- Documents on immigration
- Launch videos

Fact sheets

- [Population growth](#)
- [Asylum policy](#)
- [Public opinion on boat arrivals](#)
- [Public opinion on immigration](#)

Mapping social cohesion report video

Mapping Social Cohesion 2014 discusses public opinion on social cohesion, trust, immigration, asylum seekers, and ethnic, cultural and religious diversity.

monash.edu/mapping-population/#

9:09 PM 13/04/2013



MONASH University

Arts

CONTEXT

Population growth, 2008-14

Country	Annual growth
Australia	1.5% – 2.2%
India	1.2%
Canada	1.1%
New Zealand	0.8%
USA	0.7%
UK	0.6%
China	0.5%
Japan	-0.2%

Population: 23.6 million

Annual increase=400,000

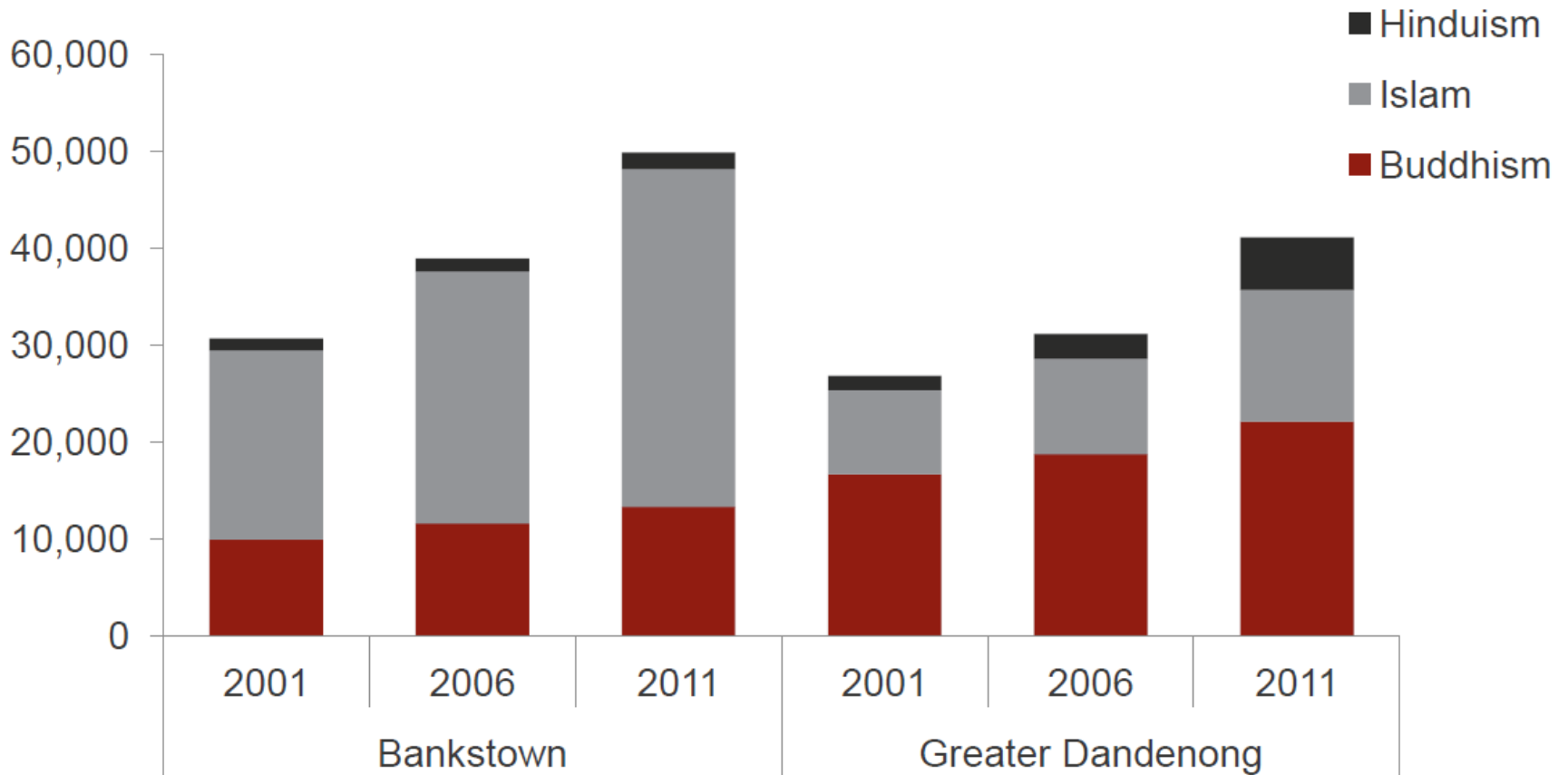
Overseas born

Australia	27%
Perth	37%
Sydney	36%
Melbourne	33%
Canada	20%
USA	13%
England	11%
Japan	~2%

Greater Dandenong (Melbourne LGA)

- population of **135,605** (2011); **+150 national groups**
- proportion born in Australia = **38%**
- **79%** of the population has both parents born overseas
- **23%** of the overseas born speak English 'not well' or 'not at all'

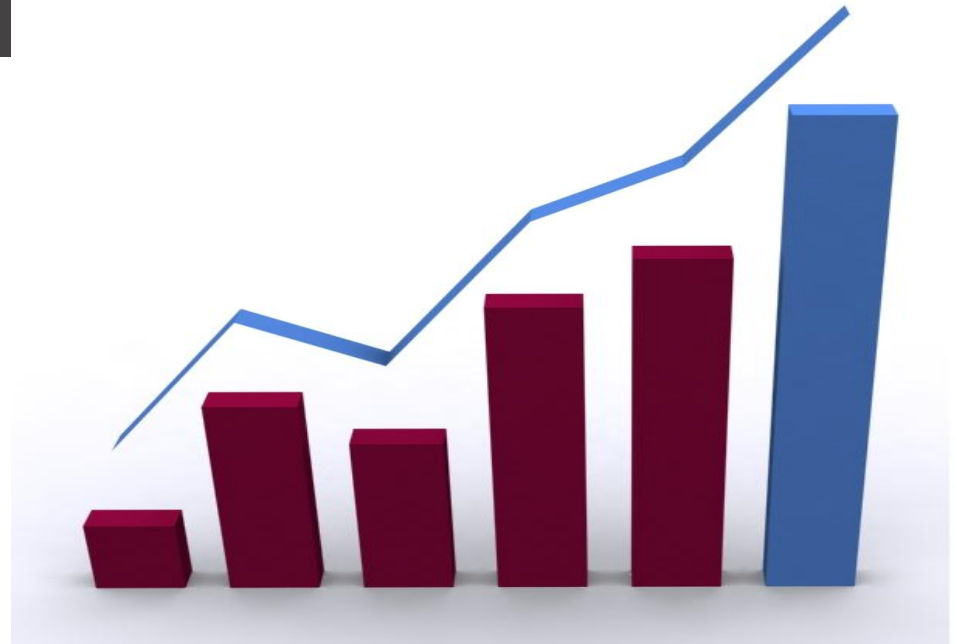
Rapid change: religion/ faith





Arts

SCANLON-MONASH INDEX OF SOCIAL COHESION (SMI)



Five domains of social cohesion



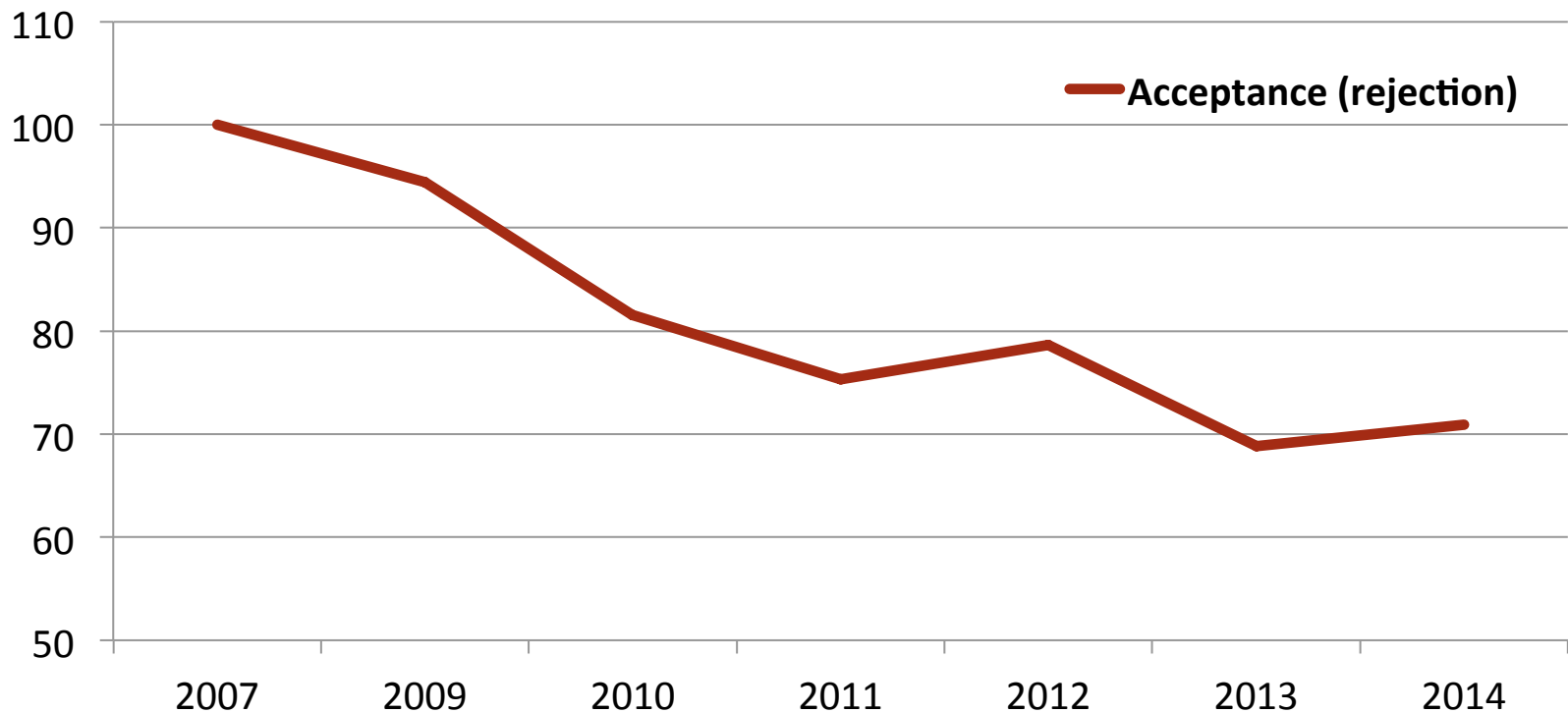
SMI 2007-2014

Domain	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change 2013–14 (percentage points)
1. Sense of belonging	100	96.9	95.0	96.6	95.1	91.0	92.6	1.6
2. Sense of worth	100	97.2	96.7	96.5	96.5	93.8	96.8	3.0
3. Social justice and equity	100	112.4	91.9	94.4	95.1	98.0	93.7	-4.3
4. Participation	100	105.3	98.0	106.4	106.6	90.8	93.6	2.8
5. Acceptance (rejection)	100	94.4	81.5	75.3	78.6	68.8	70.9	2.1
Average	100	101.24	92.62	93.84	94.38	88.48	89.52	1.0



Domain	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change 2013-14 (percentage points)
3. Social justice and equity	100	112.4	91.9	94.4	95.1	98.0	93.7	-4.3

SMI, 2007-2014: Acceptance/ rejection





MONASH University

Arts

CULTURAL DIVERSITY
IMMIGRATION
ASYLUM

Third generation Australians: **acceptance of diversity**

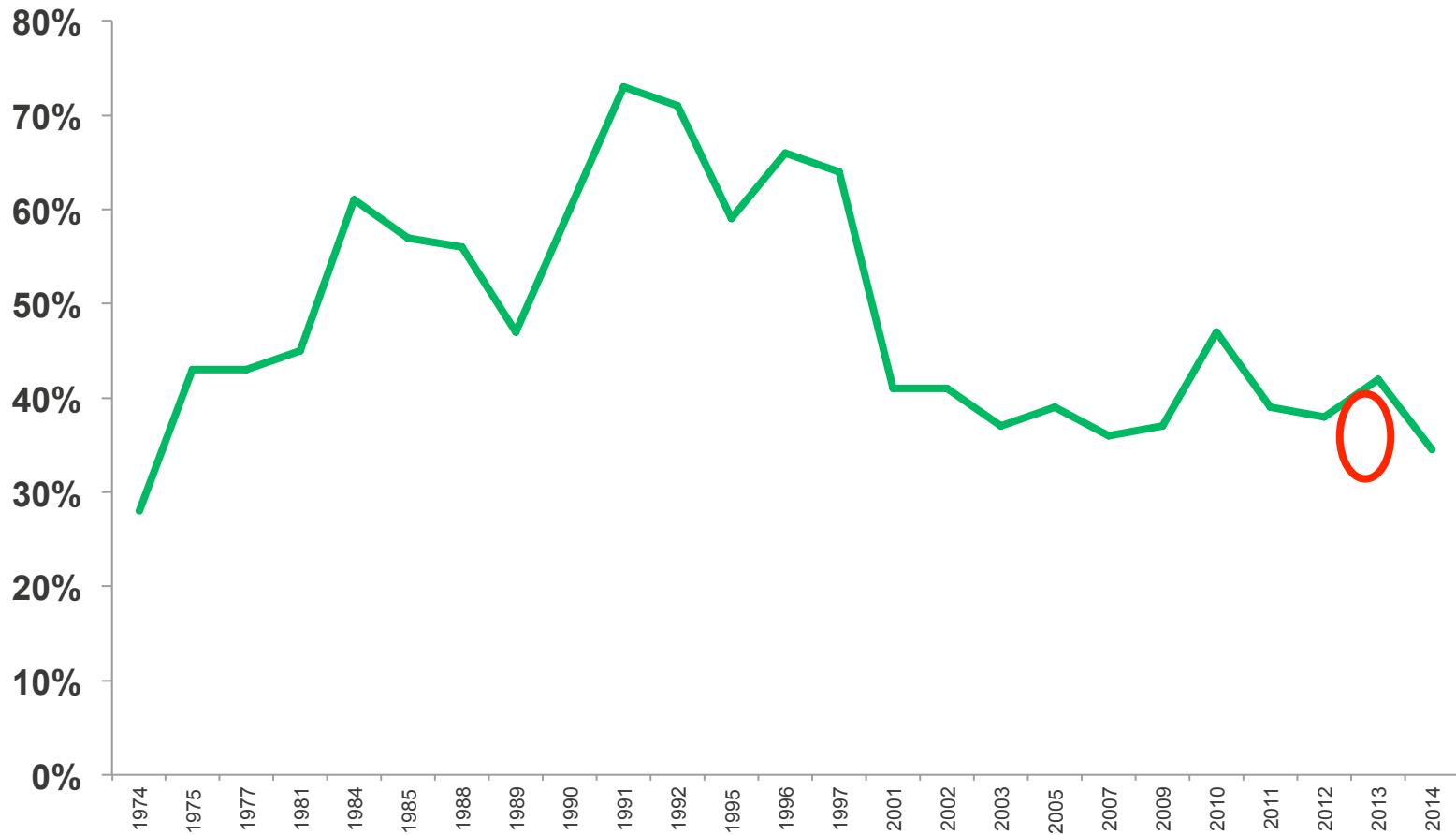
- ‘People from different national or ethnic backgrounds **get on well together**’
negative < 15%
- Diversity is **good for Australia**’
negative ~10%
- ‘**I like meeting and getting to know** people from other cultures’
negative < 5%

'Multiculturalism has been good for Australia', 2013-2014

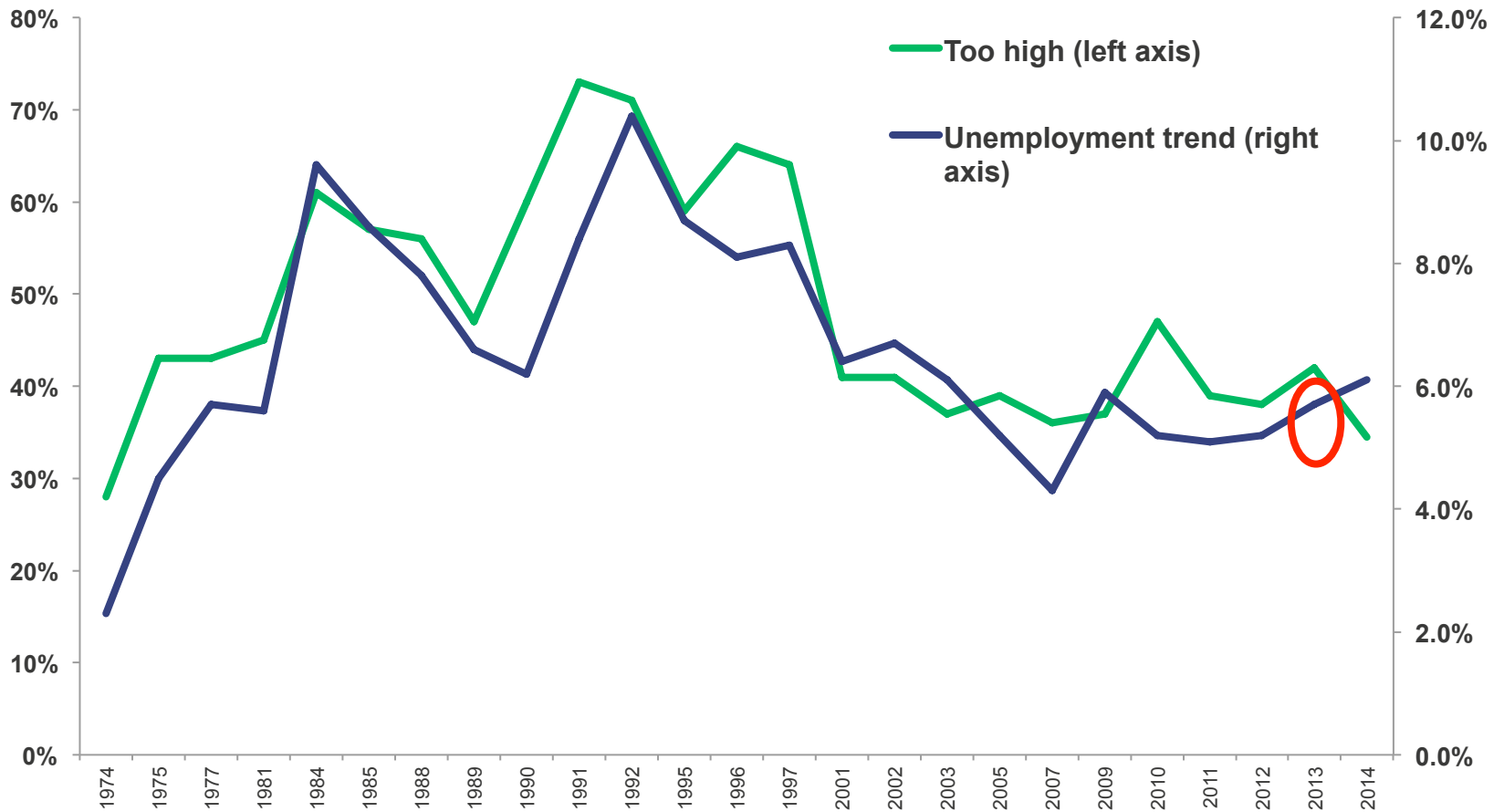
	'Strongly agree' and 'agree'
2013	84%
2014	85%

Multiculturalism = Strong 'brand' in Australia

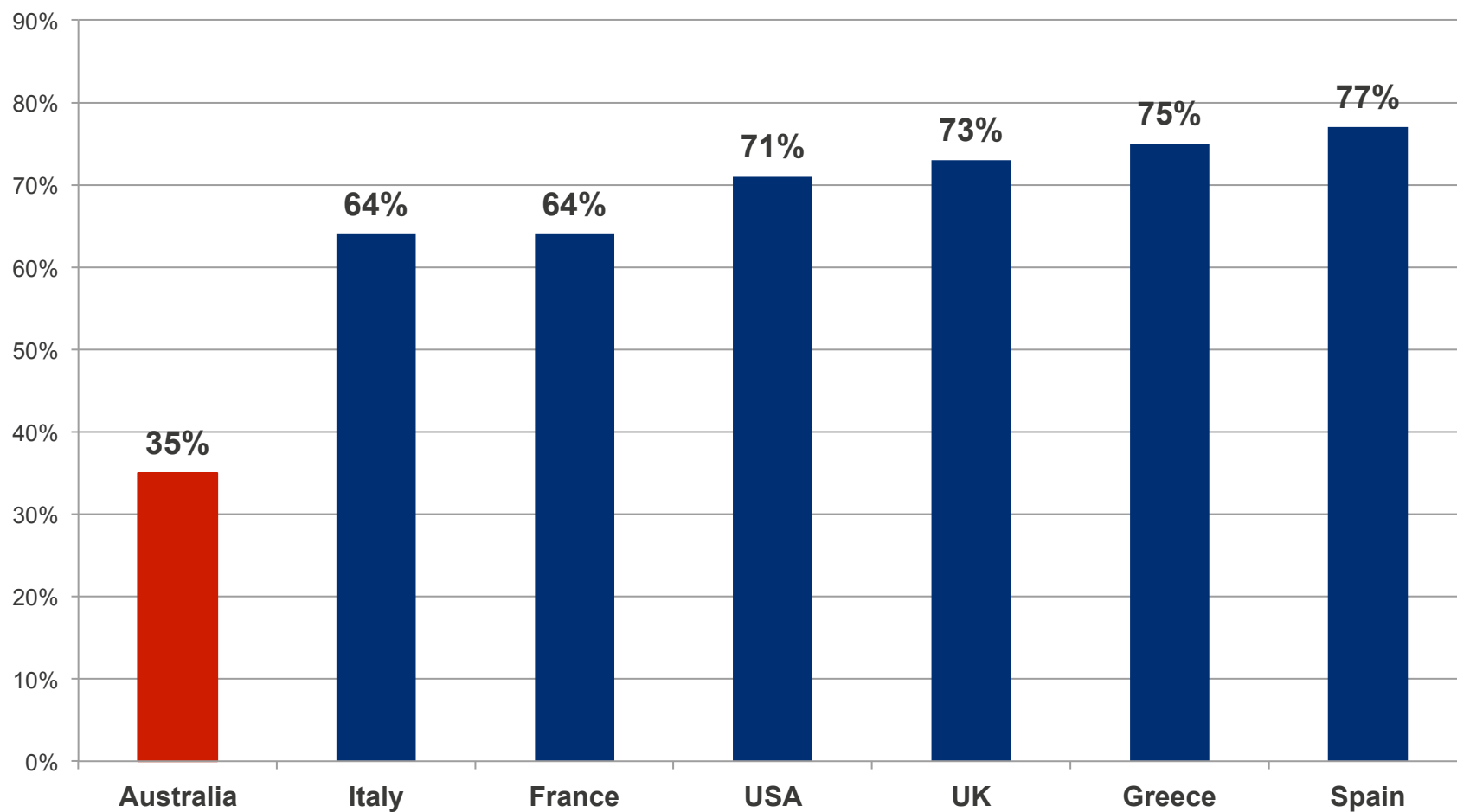
Immigration intake is 'too high', 1974–2014



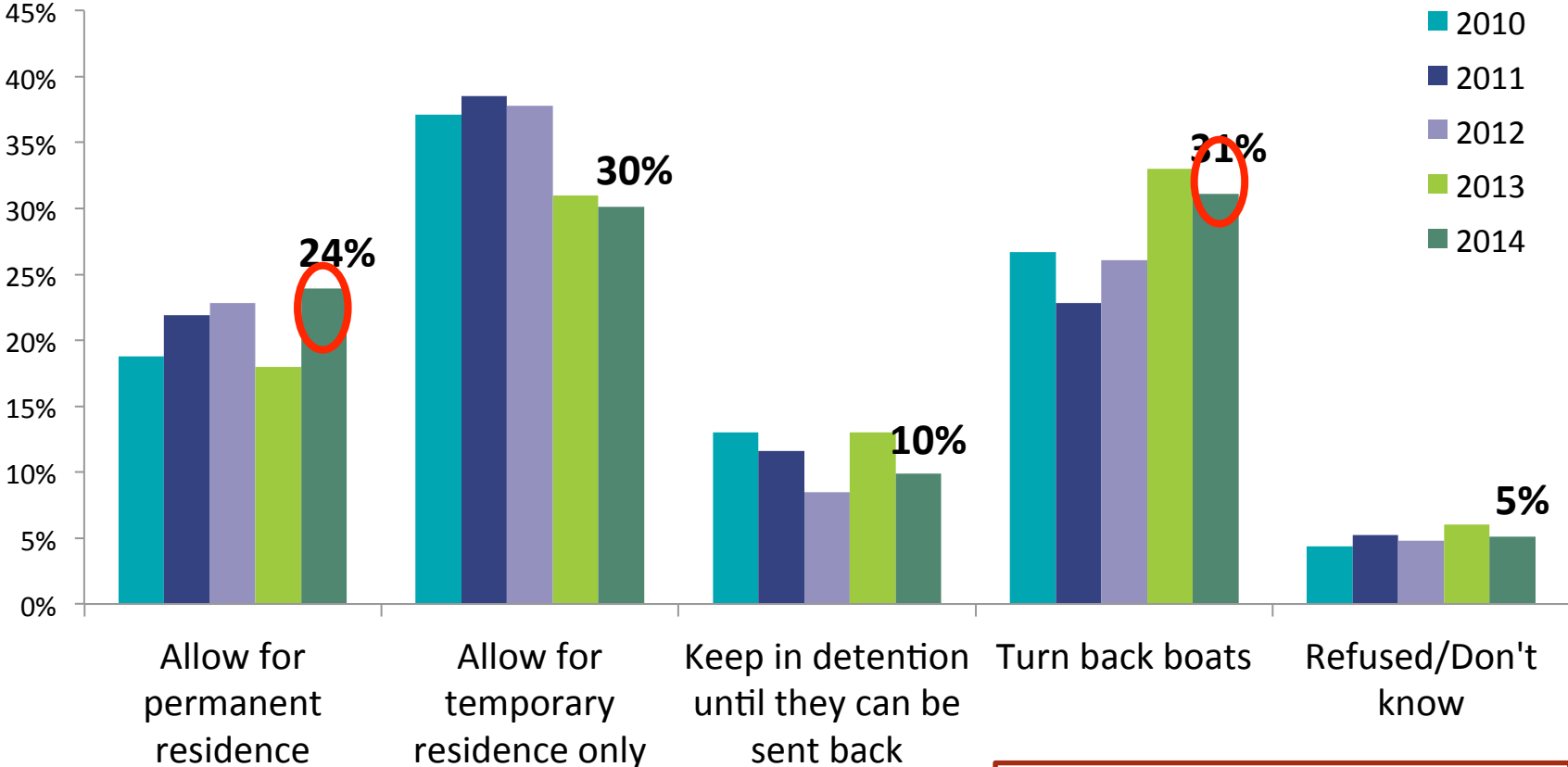
Correlation between unemployment and those of the view that the immigration intake is 'too high', 1974–2014



Disapproval of government handling of immigration , 2014



‘Which of the following four statements comes closest to your view about the best policy for dealing with asylum seekers trying to reach Australia by boat?’, 2010-2014



Consistent pattern

Table 24: ‘Which of the following four statements comes closest to your view about the best policy for dealing with asylum seekers trying to reach Australia by boat?’ Response: ‘They should be allowed to apply for permanent residence’ (percentage)

Gender	Male	Female				
	22.7	25.0				
State	Victoria	NSW	Western Australia	South Australia	Queensland	
	24.3	28.8	22.4	22.5	16.8	
Region	Capital	Rest of state				
	25.2	20.8				
Age	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+
	32.9	27.0	18.5	24.0	22.9	20.4
Level of completed education	BA or higher	Diploma/ Technical Certificate	Trade/ Apprenticeship	Year 12	Year 11 or below	
	33.1	25.8	11.8	27.1	14.7	
Financial situation	Prosperous/ very comfortable	Reasonably comfortable	Just getting along	Struggling to pay bills/ poor		
	31.0	22.7	20.8	27.2		
Intended vote	Greens	Labor	Liberal/ National			
	63.5	31.5	13.9			
Birthplace	Australia	Overseas-ESB	Overseas-NESB			
	24.6	28.2	20.6			

'Allowed to apply for permanent residence'

Age	18–24	25–34	35–44
	32.9	27.0	18.5
Level of completed education	BA or higher	Diploma/ Technical Certificate	Trade/ Apprenticeship
	33.1	25.8	11.8
Financial situation	Prosperous/ very comfortable	Reasonably comfortable	Just getting along
	31.0	22.7	20.8
Intended vote	Greens	Labor	Liberal/ National
	63.5	31.5	13.9

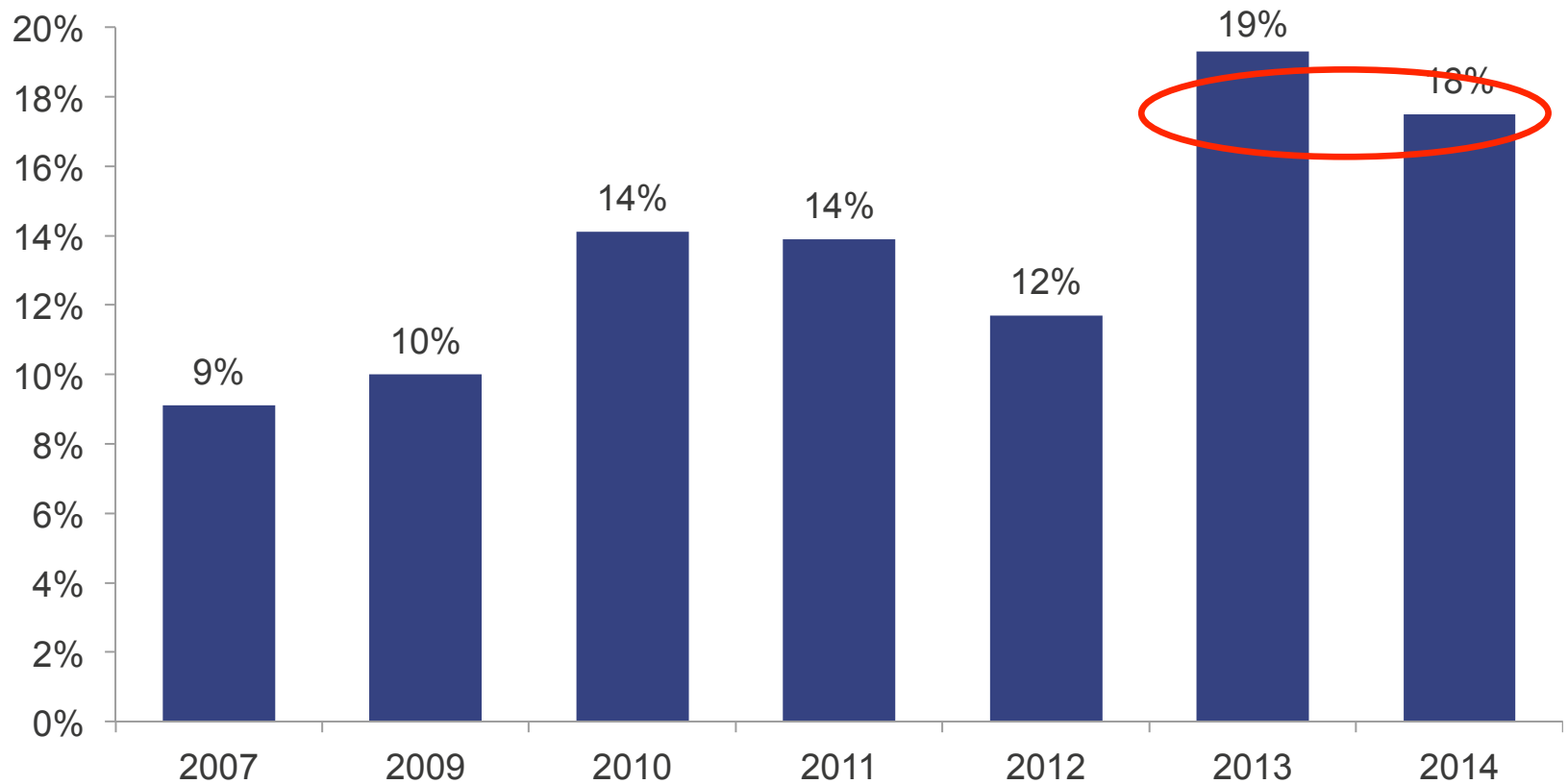


MONASH University

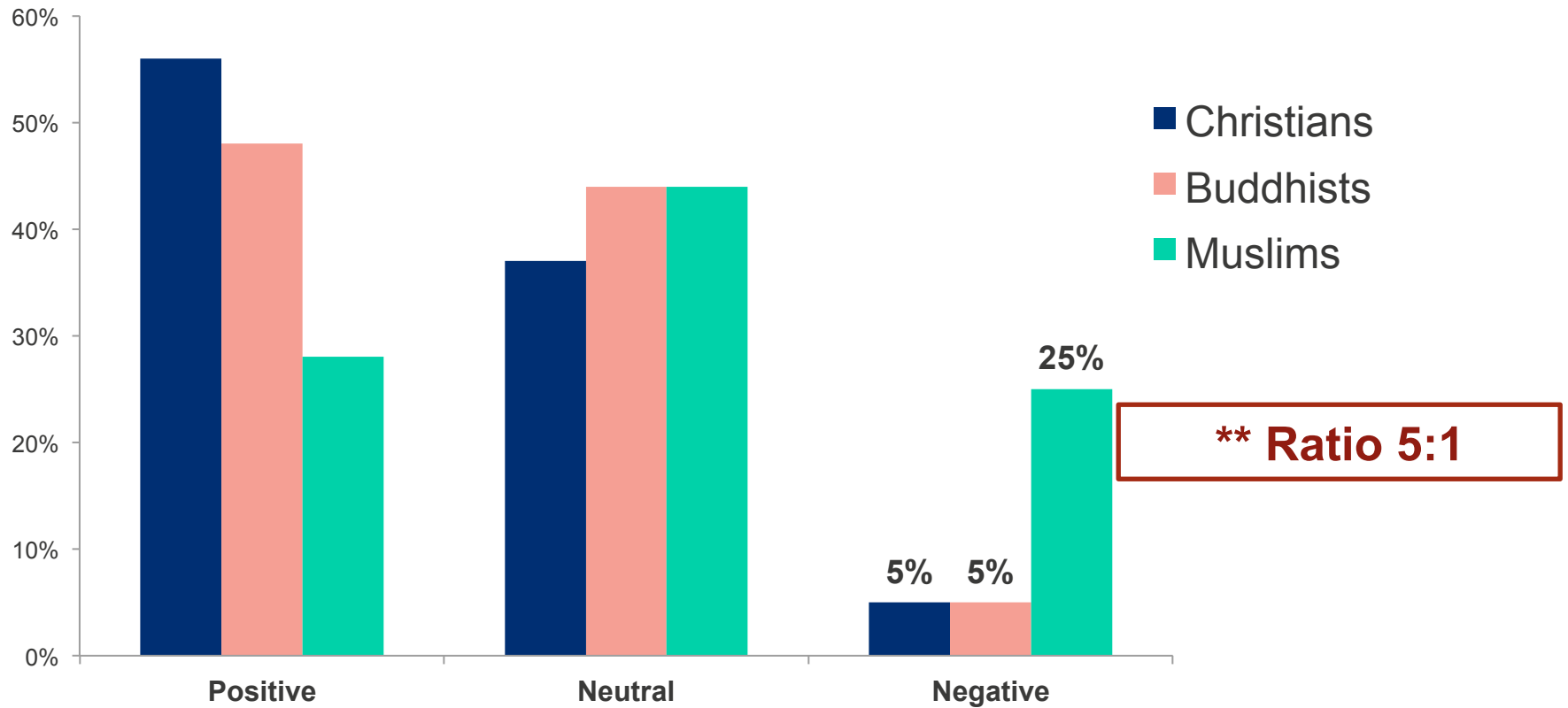
Arts

INTOLERANCE

‘Have you experienced discrimination in the last twelve months because of your skin colour, ethnic origin or religion?’, 2007-2014



'Is your personal attitude positive, negative or neutral towards...?', 2014



Victoria 17%; NSW 28%

VicHealth 2013: Feelings towards racial/ethnic groups: cold, warm, neither

	Cold/ very cold	Warm/very warm
Anglo-Australian	2%	69%
Mediterranean/ European	2%	69%
Aboriginal	3%	62%
Jewish	4%	57%
African	11%	50%
Refugee	11%	49%
Middle Eastern	14%	45%
Muslim	22%	40%

Understated? Unreliability of surveys on sensitive issues? Attitude to Muslims, third generation Australians, 2014

	Negative
Telephone	28%
Online	44%

Social Desirability Effect

Reported experience of discrimination by birthplace, 2013-14

Birthplace	2013	2014
Australia	16%	16%
English-speaking background	16%	11%
Non-English speaking background	29%	26%

National groups, discrimination

- Recent arrivals survey (Scanlon 2013)
 - India **46%**, China **44%** (arrived 2000-10)
- VicHealth survey 2010-11, non-probability sample
 - CALD respondents, nearly **65%** experienced racism, previous 12 month



MONASH University

Arts

BALANCE OF OPINION

Attitudes towards diversity: core

Positive Embrace diversity	Unsure Depends on the issue/ politicisation	Negative Reject diversity
~25%	~65%	~10%

'Multiculturalism has been good for Australia', 2014

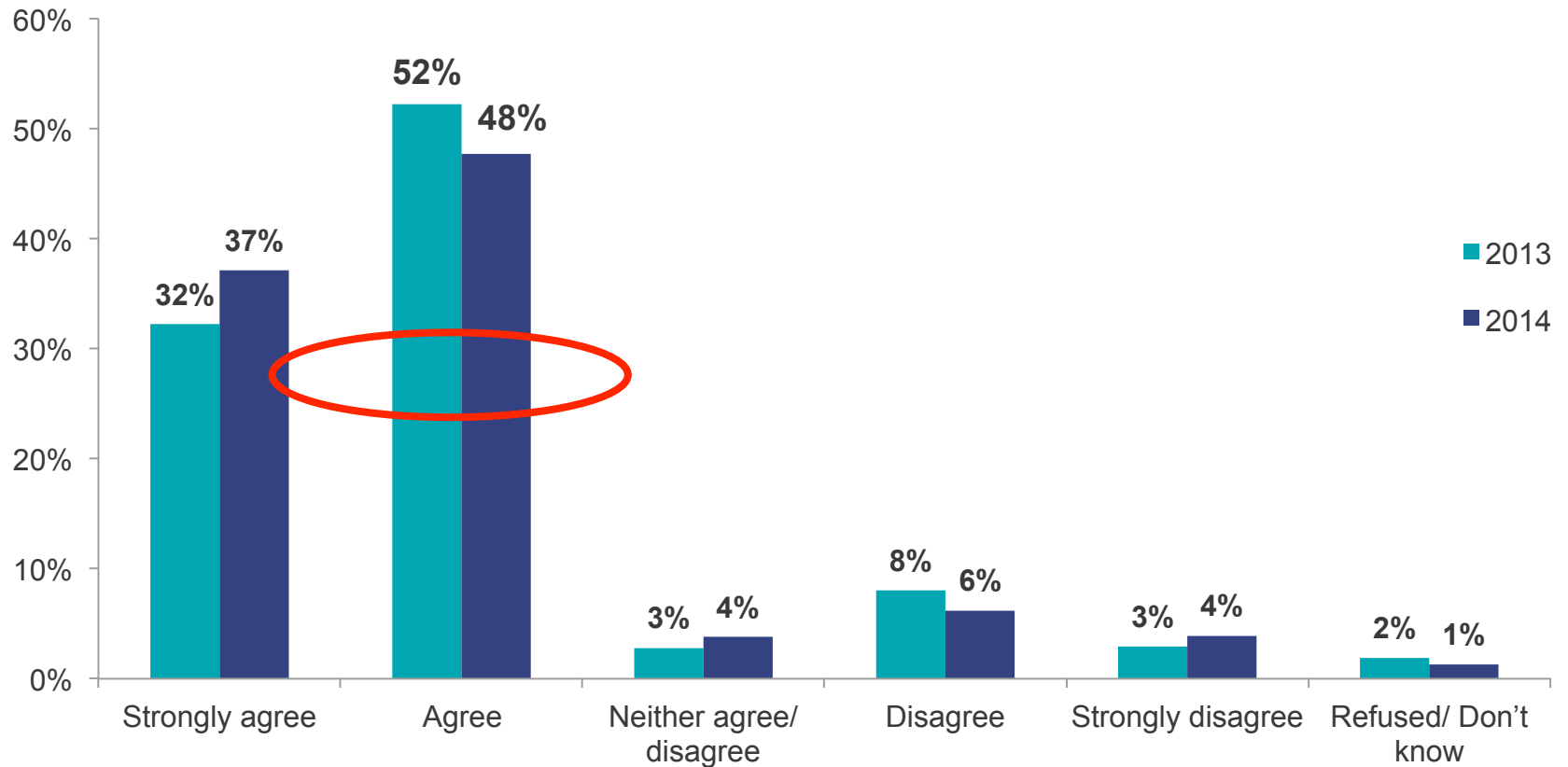
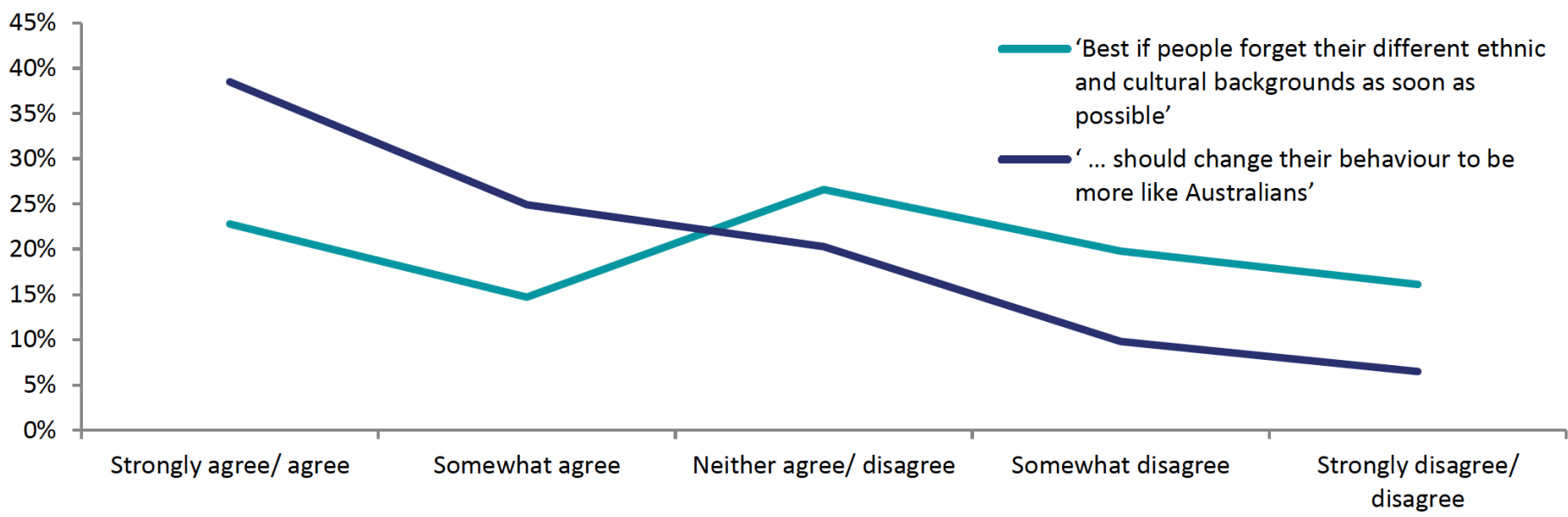


Figure 25: Attitudes towards integration of immigrants, third generation Australian





MONASH University

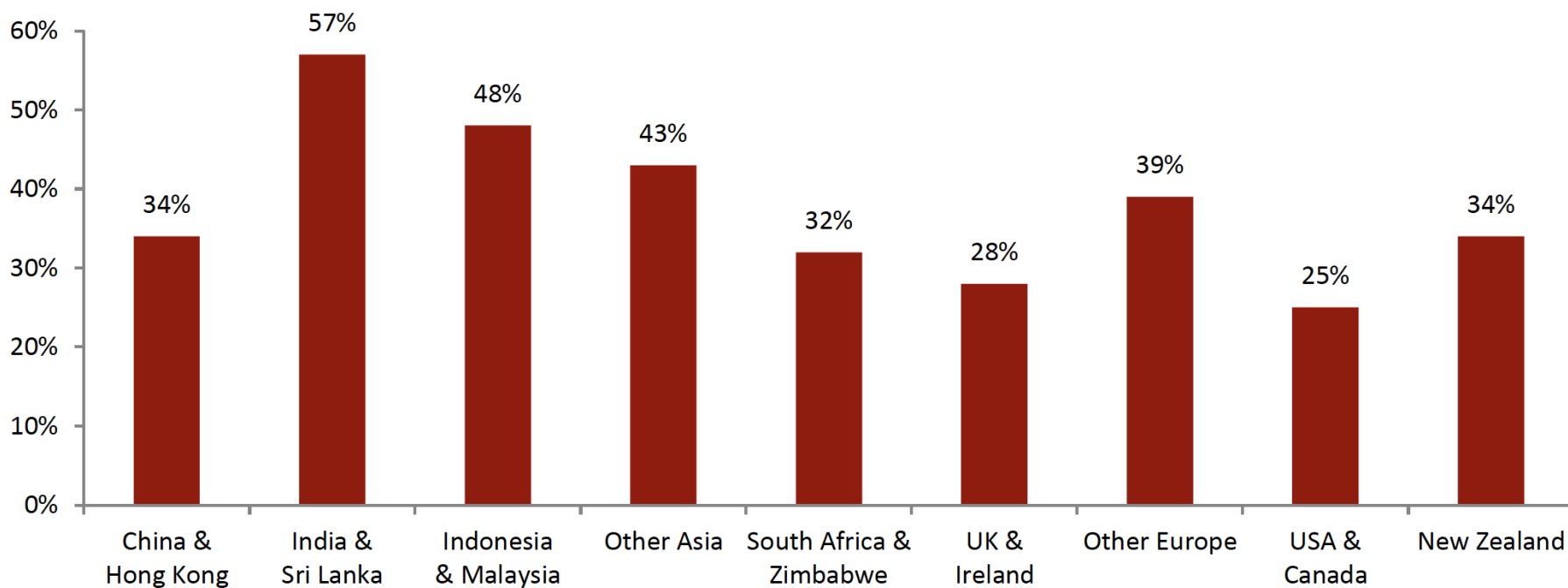
Arts

TRANSNATIONALISM

Table 19: Contact with former home country by decade of arrival, 'every day' or 'several times a week', arrived 1990-2010 (percentage)

Response	Arrived 1990-99	Arrived 2000-10
Watch television on cable or satellite	23.0	32.4
Read news reports on the internet	38.2	54.0
Read/ participate in discussion groups	9.5	17.2
N (unweighted)	775	1,549

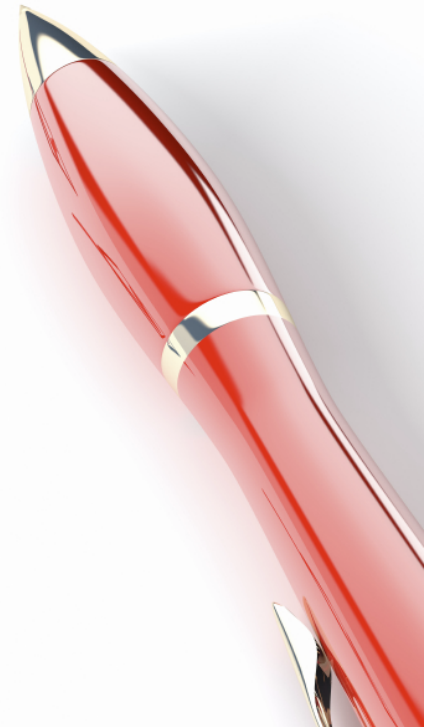
Figure 26: Contact with friends or relatives in home country by email, Skype+, mobile phone, social media (average), 'every day' or 'several times a week' by country of birth, arrived 2000-10





Arts

KEY POINTS



Trends

Social justice

**Extent of
diversity**

**Balance of
opinion**

**Muslim
Australians**

**Identity: trans-
nationalism**

2015 survey

- Triangulation
 - National survey (probability sample)
 - 50 focus groups, 3 states
 - Online survey (Australia@2105) – August-October
 - Available in 12 languages, open access
 - **Need help to promote**
 - andrew.markus@monash.edu

