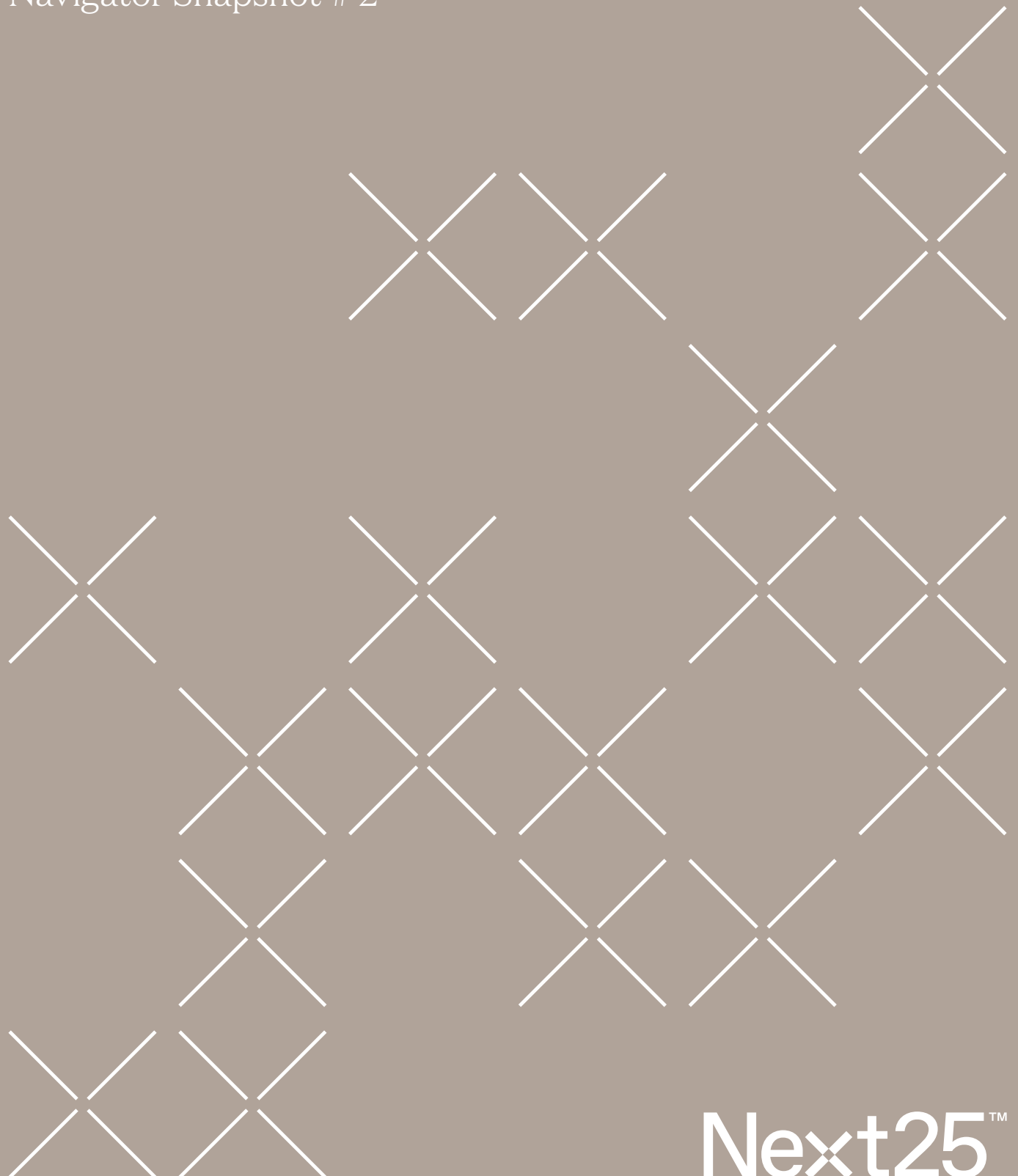


Generational and Gender Perspectives on Australia's Future

Navigator Snapshot # 2



Next25™

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1. Next25 Navigator and the Future Australia Wants

How do we define a flourishing Australian future? The Next25 Navigator survey (2021) sets a clear direction by engaging 2,825 people to answer the question, “What future does Australia want, and are we on track?” The survey results show that, overwhelmingly, the public believe Australia is not on track to deliver a flourishing future (see detailed findings here).

To dig deeper into the survey findings, Next25 conducted 26 qualitative interviews with demographically varied members of the public and an additional 16 people who are informed by their professional roles. Both interviewee groups presented similar responses to our questions and will be referred to as one group (N=42 for qualitative aspects). See Annex II for further details about the interviews and interviewees.

Generational and Gender Perspectives on Australia’s Future is the second in a series of snapshots. Each draw on in-depth interviews to investigate some of the most significant findings from the 2021 Navigator survey. The other two releases explore Australia’s failure to take responsibility for mistakes and the concept of the “fair go”. Together, these three snapshots provide significant additional insight on important national issues. This deeper understanding creates a foundation for actively improving Australia's future-making system.

Let’s make the future Australia wants.

2. Delving into the Nuance of the National Sentiment

The 2021 Navigator survey showed widespread dissatisfaction with institutions considering the public interest and uncovered the priority aspirations for Australia's future. But beneath this overall national sentiment is a tapestry of diverse perspectives. Examining the findings through a lens of age and gender reveals key findings:

- 01 Across age groups, women are consistently more dissatisfied than men with how institutions act in the public interest
- 02 Men under 50 are the most satisfied with institutions, however, men 50+ have a different sentiment to other age groups, which declines significantly to align more with women's dissatisfaction
- 03 Women under 30 are more likely than women of all other ages to read the news and lead discussions on important issues – and the only age group of women more likely to do so than men the same age
- 04 Young people have significantly different priority aspirations from the nation overall, placing more value on the environment, First Nations culture, empathy for disadvantaged groups, willingness to talk out disagreements, and acceptance of those with different views
- 05 Interviewees attribute the difference in priority aspirations between younger and older generations to changes in education, increased access to information and opinions through technology, and young people growing up in a more diverse society
- 06 While young people throughout time are often viewed as “idealists”, interviewees see a unique commitment by today's youth to create change
- 07 Many expressed how the aspirations of young people provide hope for a better Australian future, but acknowledged that young people do not currently hold positions of power to enact change

Despite differing views between younger and older generations on what Australia's future should look like, the 2021 Navigator survey shows that the nation is united on the need for the government to prioritise voters above vested interests. This snapshot highlights the importance of probing beneath the overarching national sentiment, revealing a contrast between how men and women across age groups perceive the public interest and how well institutions are delivering what Australia wants. Understanding the nuance of diverse voices is crucial to enabling a flourishing future for everyone, now and for generations to come.

Note: Data collection involved categorising survey respondents by demographics to examine trends between people of different genders (including men, women, and non-binary participants). As the number of participants identifying as non-binary was not sufficient to draw usable conclusions, the analysis and presentation has exclusively focused on providing comparisons between men and women.

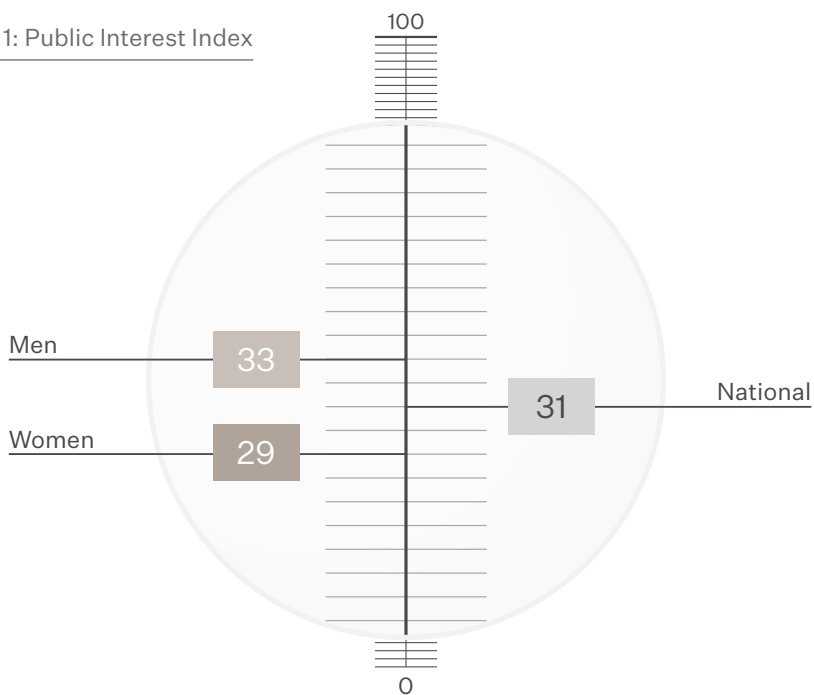
3. Do You Feel Heard?

Perspectives Towards Institutions

To create the future Australia wants, key institutions must listen to the public. So, Next25 created the Public Interest Index, asking people in Australia to assess how often politicians, NGOs, business, media, public service, and experts / academia consider what the public wants. The 2021 Public Interest Index demonstrates widespread disappointment in the performance of these six institutions, with a score of just 31/100 from the nation overall (Figure 1). This is already a low score – and splitting it between men and women reveals certain age and gender groups fall below the national average.

3.1 Women are more dissatisfied than men

Figure 1: Public Interest Index



Through a gender lens, women are feeling the most dissatisfied with institutions acting on the public interest. Women scored 29/100, below both men at 33/100 and the national average at 31/100.

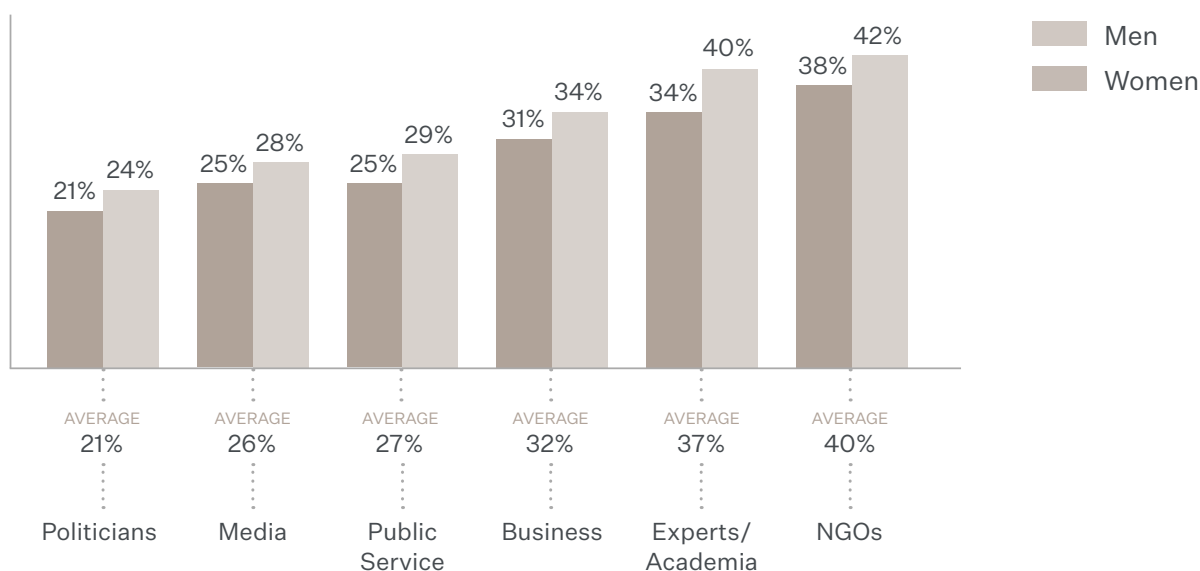
“The system supports men more than women”
– Man, 50-59

3. Do You Feel Heard?

Perspectives Towards Institutions

Breaking the Public Interest Index down by institution shows women have a consistently poorer perception of all six institutions measured (Figure 2). Both men and women share a similar sense of dissatisfaction towards politicians acting in the public interest, while NGOs are seen as doing better than the other institutions measured.

Figure 2: Public Interest Index by Institution and Gender



Our qualitative research dug deeper into the Public Interest Index with interviewees saying that Australia’s patriarchal system is a driver of women’s dissatisfaction. They say men dominating leadership positions engenders distrust and perpetuates unbalanced outcomes.

“You don’t trust and believe that they [leaders] are looking after Australian women”

– Woman, 40-49

“The current society doesn’t value women as much as men, it’s a simple fact... If I was a woman, why would I trust these intuitions?”

–Man, 30-39

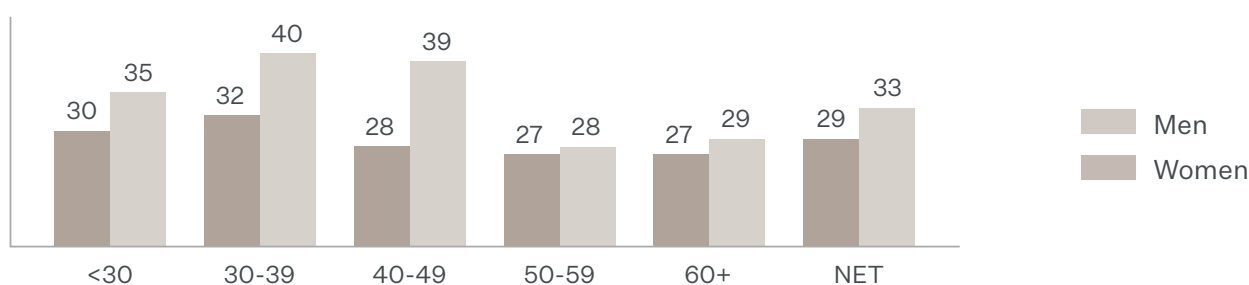
“Men are more positive because most of the leaders are other men [who] are decision-making in their favour”

– Man, 50-59

3.2 Women of all ages are consistently the most dissatisfied, while men's perceptions vary considerably across age groups

Dissecting the Public Interest Index by age shows that people under 50 are more satisfied with how institutions consider the public interest. Despite this, women under 50 feel significantly less satisfied than men the same age. Overall, the strongest sense of dissatisfaction is seen among women aged 50+, closely followed by men in the same cohort (Figure 3).

Figure 3 : Public Interest Index Scores by Age and Gender



Women's perspectives of institutions remain relatively consistent – and low – across all age groups, demonstrated by their close-knit Public Interest Index scores (Figure 3). However, men's views differ considerably. Our interviews unearthed the sense that men under 50 have abundant opportunity and a natural head start. But a significant shift occurs for men aged 50+ when their sentiment towards institutions seems to turn sour.

“For younger men, the world is your oyster in terms of the pecking order. [You] don't have to prove yourself as much. Younger men probably feel heard more”

– Woman, 50-59

“Men over 50 can afford to be cynical. More optimism from younger men who are still trying to make it or still can make it. Working towards whether or not you can be successful”

– Man, 50-59

“I'm white and over 60 - yesterday's guy. Pale, stale, and male... no-one wants us anymore”

– Man, 60-69

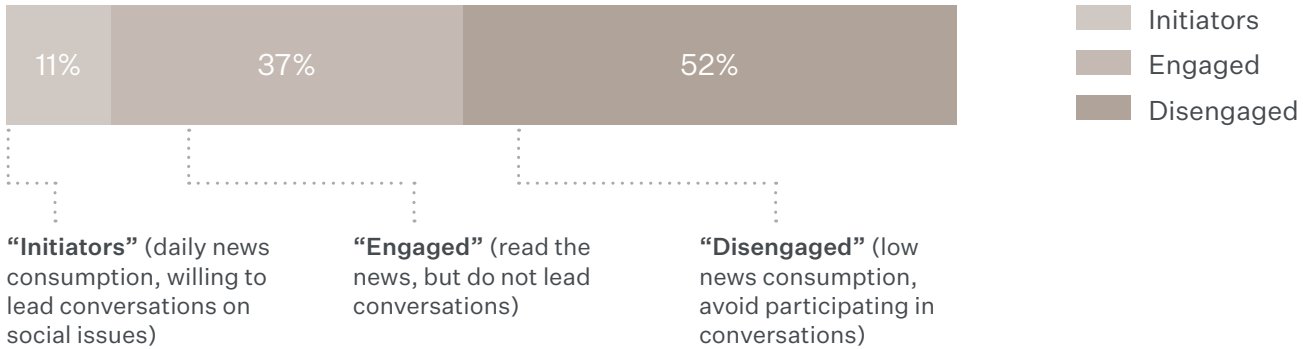
For women, this negative-turning outlook occurs earlier in life at age 40. A feeling of “invisibility” is said to accompany the sense that their needs are not considered by society as much as they once were.

“But as our culture is, there's value placed on women, younger women. I've heard a lot of women over the age of 45-50 say, 'I'm invisible'. And so, if you feel invisible, you're not going to feel heard”

– Man, 70+

3.3 Men in their 30s and 40s are most likely to initiate discussion and engage with the national conversation, followed by women under 30

Australia’s ability to listen up and speak up are reflected in the 2021 Navigator survey engagement segmentation (Figure 4). Based on frequency of news consumption (including newspapers, news websites, social media, and podcasts) and willingness to initiate conversations on social issues, people fall into three categories:



Breaking the engagement segmentation down by age and gender reveals who is most likely to lead conversations and who is more likely to avoid participation (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Engagement Segmentation by Age and Gender

| Men | | <30 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50-59 | 60-69 | 70+ | NET |
|------------|--|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Disengaged | | 45% | 33% | 38% | 57% | 61% | 61% | 51% |
| Engaged | | 41% | 47% | 43% | 31% | 31% | 33% | 37% |
| Initiators | | 14% | 20% | 19% | 12% | 9% | 6% | 12% |

| Women | | <30 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50-59 | 60-69 | 70+ | NET |
|------------|--|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Disengaged | | 42% | 46% | 59% | 58% | 67% | 71% | 52% |
| Engaged | | 43% | 44% | 34% | 34% | 28% | 25% | 38% |
| Initiators | | 16% | 10% | 7% | 8% | 5% | 3% | 10% |

Men

Men aged **30-39** and **40-49** are most likely to be “initiators”. Women in the same age groups are far less likely to initiate (10% and 7% respectively).

Women

Women **under 30** have the third-highest rate of “initiators” across the country and are more likely to engage in conversation and with the news than women of all other ages.

3. Do You Feel Heard?

Perspectives Towards Institutions

The way under 30s women stand out as initiators in their age and gender groups have not gone unnoticed by interviewees, who commented that young women are:

“... full of confidence [and] happy to state their case. It might be taught better now - stick up for yourself. Don't let people walk all over you”

– Woman, 60-69

“... go getters, [who] think differently to men, take on making change”

– Man, 60-69

“... full confidence that everyone will hear what they are saying. Invincible feeling”

– Woman, 30-39

The engagement segmentation also shows that men aged 50+ and women aged 40+ are less likely to lead conversations on social issues and read the news. This coincides with a declining perception of institutions, demonstrated by their lower Public Interest Index scores.



Could the perception of men aged 50+ and women aged 40+ towards institutions improve if they became more engaged in national discourse and community conversations?

4. People under 30 Want a Different Australian Future from the Rest of the Nation

The 2021 Navigator survey highlighted a generational divide on what living in Australia should look like. We asked the public to assess the importance and performance of 39 aspirations for modern life in Australia. The aspirations that have the greatest gap between these two scores – those that the public say are important and that the nation is doing a poor job on – are the country’s priority to-do list. The results show that people under 30 stand out from the nation on how they ranked five of the top ten priority aspirations, which are marked with a dot below (Table 4). Despite this divergence in views between generations, the 2021 Navigator survey showed that the nation overall is united on wanting the government to take future generations into account in decision-making (third-highest priority aspiration). Therefore, the findings in this snapshot about young people’s priority aspirations are a valuable reference point for the country’s leaders.

4. People under 30 Want a Different Australian Future from the Rest of the Nation

Table 4: Priority Aspirations

| Under 30s | | All Australians |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Government taking future generations into account | 3 |
| 2 | Caring for our natural environment, plants, and animals | ● 12 |
| 3 | All Australians being equal | 8 |
| 4 | Willing to talk out our disagreements | ● 16 |
| 5 | All Australians having access to support and resources | 9 |
| 6 | Respecting our First Nations heritage and culture | ● 32 |
| 7 | Empathy for disadvantaged groups | ● 22 |
| 8 | Empathy for disadvantaged groups | ● 17 |
| 9 | Fair, honest, and capable legal system | 5 |
| 10 | Australians should take responsibility for their own mistakes | 4 |

“In previous generations, mine included, you didn’t take on your grandparents, you just remain[ed] silent”
– Man, 50-59

“Older people may have more of a fixed mindset. Oldies don’t want to change anything and speak about disagreements. It takes a wider, more flexible, way of thinking. The difference may not be a threat – you may enjoy differences”
– Woman, 40-49

While under 30s overall rank five of the top ten priority aspirations significantly higher than the rest of the nation, there is still nuance between genders in this cohort. Young men and women are strongly aligned on the environment, First Nations culture, and disadvantaged groups (Section 4.1). However, under 30s women are more concerned about willingness to talk out disagreements and accepting those with different views than men the same age (Section 4.2).

4.1 Young people see the environment, First Nations culture, and disadvantaged groups as top national priorities

Of the five aspirations under 30s prioritise higher than the rest of the nation, young men and women are closely aligned on three. We investigated these aspirations further in conversations with interviewees to better understand this divide between young people and older generations.



As young people age, could these priority aspirations become the focus for Australia's future?

Caring for the environment

Interviewees explained that young people have more of a stake in environmental outcomes because they directly impact their future. Caring for the environment was the second-highest priority aspiration for under 30s, while the nation overall ranked it 12th. Men under 30 prioritised caring for the environment slightly higher (second) than women the same age (fourth).

Young people seem acutely aware of the importance decision-making today will have on the Australia they will inherit and pass on to the next generation.

“I think because young people are a little more switched on to what the issues are with climate change and deforestation, they are a lot more open to the idea if we don't look after the planet. Older people don't have the care factor, they are more cynical at their age. Older people have lived most of their life, it's not their problem, it's going to be someone else's from now on”

– Man, 40-49

“The younger generation care more [about the environment]. We have grown up hearing about it and it is our future. The older generation won't be around, it won't affect them”

– Woman, 20-29

“We are at the pointy end of climate change. Over 30s are more likely to be dead”

– Man, 20-29

“It's sad that it's just the young people [thinking that way]. I don't understand why not everyone does. Because without nature and native animals we are nothing, I think it's amazingly sickening that not everybody looks at that as our main priority, in 2022 particularly”

– Woman, 40-49

Respecting First Nations heritage and culture in everyday life

Respecting First Nations heritage and culture was ranked low by the nation overall at 32 out of the 39 priority aspirations. However, under 30s rank it much higher as their sixth-highest priority aspiration – fifth for women and seventh for men. Reinforcing the findings from our quantitative research, interviewees also observe that young people seem to place more emphasis on repairing Australia’s relationship with First Nations people, while older generations are seen as more resistant.

“Casual racism was much more acceptable when I was young. And not so casual”

– Man, 50-59

“The younger ones will put the pressure on because they haven’t been tainted by what has gone before”

– Man, 50-59

“Australia has this wonderful opportunity to learn so much from our First Nations people and many people embrace that. However, people who are late to the party or who have got entrenched views are now resisting. So, I think there’s a phenomenon happening, where some success has been happening for the last decade, which is now threatening small groups of people to be against it”

– Man, 50-59

Interviewees noted that many young people better understand how Australia’s colonial history is linked to systems of oppression today that perpetuate inequality and injustice for First Nations people.



“From our interactions, it does seem like young people do better understand and articulate the problems of colonisation. And I think this is actually coming through with Palestine and Black Lives Matter. We’re not just recognising them as individual problems on their own. We’re recognising this as a broader symptom of settler colonisation. The impacts that white superpower countries had on these places and continue to have in the world. So, there is this reframing of contemporary issues going on that we better understand and are able to articulate. And then of course, you have young people leading these movements like Black Lives Matter, January 26, deaths in custody... There are so many young people at the forefront of those conversations”

– Woman, 30-3’

With this being the most significant aspiration marking the generational schism, could progress on respecting First Nations culture accelerate as young people age?

Having empathy for disadvantaged groups

The nation overall ranks having empathy for disadvantaged groups as the 22nd priority aspiration, while under 30s elevate this to their seventh-highest priority aspiration. Of the three priority aspirations discussed in this section, young men and women are most aligned on Australia showing empathy for disadvantaged groups. Women under 30 rank this as the eighth priority aspiration and men in the same age group rank it ninth. Interviewees elaborated that young people seem to have a wider perception that extends beyond the individual experience.

“The media promotes the ‘me society’ but young people may be better equipped to understand the support needs of disadvantaged people”

– Man, 70+

“Younger people can see it’s a tough world”

– Man, 70+

“Old school people thought if they just get off their butts and do some hard work, they would be ok”

– Woman, 40-49

“The concern young Australians have for disadvantaged groups is not unexpected. Maybe it’s a hard concept for the rest of Australia to grasp because of our concept of the fair go?”

– Woman, 40-49

4.2 Young women prioritise acceptance of others and being willing to talk out disagreements

Of the five priority aspirations under 30s rank higher than the rest of the nation, there are two that young women are more concerned about than young men. Women under 30 rank acceptance of others and willingness to talk out disagreements higher, while men under 30 rank these lower. Young women’s priority aspirations are further explored in this snapshot because they diverge from the nation overall, while young men align more with the national sentiment (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Aspirations of under 30s Compared with the Nation Overall

| | Under 30s overall | Under 30s women | Under 30s men | Nation overall |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Accepting those with different views | 8th | 7th | 20th | 17th |
| Willing to talk out our disagreement | 4th | 2nd | 14th | 16th |

Our interviews showed men, in particular, recognise the difference between how each gender approaches discourse:

“I think women think more logical[ly] and are more able to see it from a different point of view through their life experiences, and generally, what it is like not to have a fair go. A lot of the time with disagreements, males will be the aggravator and the one intensifying. The woman wants to talk it out and the male just wants to tell their side. Women are more empathetic, more reasoning”

– Man, 50-59

“Women are more consultative whilst men just want to make a decision and get on with it. Women often make better CEOs and managers as they’re more open minded and seek a consultative approach”

– Man, 60-69

“That [data] suggests to me that men are a little more abrasive, where women would like to get to the crux of things and get a proper resolution. It suggests anger from men and less chance of talking things out and working out what’s wrong. Men are more closed with their emotions and prefer to keep things to themselves. Women are a lot more open to expressing their feelings”

– Man, 40-49

5. Drivers of Differing Priorities between Young People and the Nation

Our research highlighted a number of salient factors as to why under 30s desire a different Australia from the rest of the nation. We explore these factors below through the voices of interviewees.

Technology, media, and diversity?

Interviewees partly attribute Australia's current generational schism to the rise of social media and the increased uptake of technology by young people. Social media and online platforms are highlighted for providing greater exposure to diverse opinions. This is said to broaden the perspectives of younger generations, enabling more acceptance of those with different views.

“Today you have access to so much information and you can join groups online and find your tribe and get strength from other people”

Woman, 30-39

“Australia has become more diverse in recent times and the younger generation has been a part of that. Social media plays a role, we see and hear more opinions and other points of view”

Woman, 20-29

“Access to more information here and overseas, so now we have that knowledge”

Woman, 40-49

5. Drivers of Differing Priorities between Young People and the Nation

Supporting our quantitative findings, interviewees also perceive young people as caring more deeply about disadvantaged groups. They say Australia's growing and diverse population may position young people to be more accepting and empathetic of others. However, some are cynical that these displays of altruism originate from a desire for social capital and often rely on tokenistic gestures.

“I do think there is a lot of lip service that's paid to a lot of things at the moment. The Welcome to Country for example, you sit in a Welcome to Country, and you're in a room full of white dudes, and you're saying it, because you're meant to... And so, I think there's probably an element of the younger generation that truly cares about these things. There's then probably a slight slant on it, which would be, it's kind of cool to care about these things”

– Man, 30-39

“A lot of different communities living together compared to the past. Ethnic groups have a presence and work together – [being] accepting towards each other”

– Man, 30-39

Education

Interviewees explained how the different mindset of young people is influenced by changing approaches to education and school curricula – and further enabled by technology. Even if older family members do not support or share their children's views, interviewees said that young people can turn to social media to have these conversations with like-minded peers.

“I think this is a clear outcome of a very different approach in the education system over the past ten years, it's been a fundamental shift... Kids take these ideas home, and they socialise them in the home. They may or may not get a receptive base depending on their home context. But through technology, they're able to have these conversations. So, it's education teamed with social technology that enables peers, young peers, to have these different kinds of conversations”

– Woman, 50-59

“It's how they are taught at school. Brainwashed”

– Woman, 30-39

“I think that has to do with new education and programmes and policies in place”

– Woman, unspecified

5. Drivers of Differing Priorities between Young People and the Nation

Interviewees highlighted the role of education for instilling young people with certain values. They noted how students today learn about caring for the environment, respecting First Nations' culture, and being understanding and empathetic towards diversity and difference.

“Young people are taught about composting, and recycling, and saving the planet. It's at the fore of their minds”

– Man, 30-39

“It is being taught in schools now or universities and those areas, certainly, it's being brought up in workplaces now [that] you must respect everybody. But we still got a long way to go. You see that with football, of course, but it's not just football, it's a lot of areas”

– Man, 70+

“I think younger people have been taught in school, again, to respect disadvantaged groups more than [when] we were in school”

– Man, 30-39

“Better education and understanding of these issues. It was not an important thing in the past. Older people may not be flexible or have some negative experiences. Knowledge and capacity to understand will bring respect of other cultures”

– Man, 70+

“Our education system has gotten better at truth telling when it comes to First Nations justice. I wouldn't say it's great yet. But increasingly, younger people are becoming more aware of the genocides, massacres, and deaths in custody – how this is still showing up in society today. So, it is becoming more of a front-of-mind issue. And I would say social media probably has a place in that you can access information about First Nations communities”

– Woman, 30-39

6. Will the Priorities of Young People Endure – And What Could This Mean for Australia’s Future?

Is this divergence between young people today and the nation overall unique to our time? Or do young people, no matter the point in history, tend to express different views from older generations? Interviewees reflected on whether this cohort is simply following the rite of passage like youth before them, or if their priorities are here to stay

6.1 Young people are seen as “more socially focused” and “progressive”

Interviewees recognised that while Australia’s youth today have differing priority aspirations compared with the rest of the nation, this tendency of younger cohorts is also observed across other societies and points in history.

“My experience across a number of societies now, including Australia, is that younger age cohorts are much more socially focused than older people, and their parents and grandparents... Millennials are at the spearhead of thinking that corporations, as well as governments, needed to be much more forward leaning with respect to dealing with these kinds of issues”

– Man, 60-69

However, other interviewees see the resolve of Australia’s youth today as a standout compared with previous generations.

“I really feel like this generation is really progressive and making proper change. I think the way that they work has changed. I mean, I noticed a difference between the say, 20-year-olds, and 30-year-olds I work with”

– Woman, unspecified

6.2 Many believe our “empathy circles” tighten as we get older

Interviewees also considered why young people seem more idealistic than older generations. There is a perception that as we age, factors such as family responsibilities and financial pressure become paramount, causing a shift in priorities.

“I think there really is a true generational shift... But as you get older your empathy circles get ‘tighter’”

– Woman, 50-59

“I was really passionate and idealist[ic] as a younger person, but [now] the edges are less sharp as there are only so many fires you can fight”

– Woman, 50-59

“Older people have mortgages, kids, and other priorities take a different path. Unless you have a personal connection, you are getting on with your own life. Younger people have more time [no mortgage] and less of those financial pressures”

– Woman, 40-49

6.3 Sense of conflict between younger and older generations

Interviewees sense that the stark difference in priority aspirations between younger and older generations drives conflict. Young people’s push for greater empathy towards disadvantaged groups and desire to talk out disagreements is perceived as jarring against aspirations held by older generations.

“I look at my parents’ generation, and you talk about gay marriage, you talk about equal rights of men and women, or race, and their perspectives are just so deeply ingrained that it’s actually almost embarrassing... And it’s like, I think they just honestly [think] we need them to go away... But my brother’s generation is six years younger than me. And even then, you can see a huge shift, like, they just have a much greater awareness for so many of these things”

– Man, 30-39

“I literally had a conversation with my mum the other week about the impact of colonisation on First Nations people. And she was like, ‘Yeah, but that’s in the past’”

– Woman, 30-39

“[As we liberalise,] you’re seeing incredible backlash from the older people who feel this is threatening to their way of life. And as they tend to be those who vote... you’re getting a more right-wing holding. How do you preserve the old rather than restructure according to this liberalisation?”

– Man, unspecified

6.4 Hope is not a strategy

Many interviewees expressed how young people’s views instil a sense of hope for change. However, there is recognition that hope alone is not enough. Interviewees acknowledged that while Australia’s youth today hold different priority aspirations from older generations, young people are not front and centre in the nation’s decision-making.



“In some ways it’s quite hopeful, generationally, because it’s showing that, with time, perceptions of what I would consider to be the most important things will improve... In another way, you can look at the other side of the coin and say it’s not hopeful as well, because they [young people] are not the ones predominantly in power currently, so it’s going to take longer for us to get there. But we will get there, eventually”

– Woman, 40-49

“Those younger guys are actually prepared to walk and do stuff and band together in a way. I mean, we went to one of the climate school strike marches, and also the march for justice and stuff. It reminds me of when I grew up in the 70s”

– Woman, 50-59

“I think there is something about people under 30 at the moment, which is across class and culture. And I think it is a cause for hope, which is not a strategy. But of course, for me, I’m hoping that maybe not all is lost. Because I think those values align very much with my values, my social values”

– Man, 70+

Will young people still advocate for the same priority aspirations when they hold positions of power?

7. Opportunity for Positive Change

The 2021 Navigator survey revealed strong public dissatisfaction with how institutions act in the public interest. This snapshot uncovers a diversity in views by examining the findings through a lens of age and gender.

Our qualitative data indicates that people across society want to be heard. There is a need for politics, the media, business, NGOs, public service, and experts / academia to not only better engage with and listen to the public – but to take their concerns into account when making decisions. In a country where only 11% are initiators (those who consume news daily and are willing to lead conversations on social issues), there is an opportunity for the public as well as institutions to step up. Only when both are playing an informed and active role will Australia have what it takes to create a flourishing future.

But what does that future look like? Young people see the environment, First Nations' culture, empathy for disadvantaged groups, accepting those with different views, and willingness to talk out disagreements as top priority aspirations. But the nation overall has a different perspective. While interviewees acknowledged that young people throughout time tend to defy the status quo, many say today's cohort shows a unique commitment to their priority aspirations. Could this be foreshadowing a significant shift in Australia's mindset and policy priorities? Or will today's youth become more disengaged and diverge to other aspirations as they age? Regardless, younger and older people are united on the need for governments to take future generations into account when making decisions and prioritise voters above vested interests. Therefore, the in-depth knowledge in this snapshot dissecting the public interest by age and gender and examining the aspirations of young people shows Australia's leaders where to start.

Together, let's make the future Australia wants.

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8. Method and Limitations

I. Further detail on the quantitative Navigator survey

Navigator has a sample of 2,825, is nationally representative and has been analysed across gender, age, household income, education, employment, state / territory, and region (metro, rural / regional). Fieldwork was conducted by Catalyst Research, online, between 16 December 2020 and 12 February 2021. The margin of error for the full sample (2,825) is + / - 1.8%. Every demographic and segmentation measured has a sample size of 500 or more and the margin of error is + / - 3.7%. In terms of limitations, the study results reported represent the first iteration of a long-term research program. Therefore, not all elements in the Public Interest Model are measured in their entirety in this edition of the research.

II. Further detail on the qualitative research

Following the initial survey, semi-structured interviews were held with established and emerging leaders and the general public (n=42) to deepen Next25's understanding of three emergent themes: the fair go, responsibility for mistakes, and differences in age and gender. Between May-July 2021 the Next25 research team conducted hour long online interviews with emerging and established leaders (n=16) on the themes of fair go, responsibility, and age and gender. Participants ranged in gender, age, sector (ie, business, academia / expert, community). During August 2021, Catalyst Research conducted hour long online interviews on the same themes with the general public (n=26), participants ranged in gender, age, employment status, education level, and state and territory. Regarding limitations, the qualitative nature of the method could not eliminate respondent bias. Further, within the general public interviews, not all participants were asked all categories (individual, your community, general public, politicians, business leaders).

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