

VICTORIA

COMMUNITY PULSE

# 2018



the  
**economic**  
disconnect





# Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect

VICTORIA

### **About this publication**

Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect – Victoria

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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.

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# Victoria results





# Introduction

This brief paper summarises Victorian 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 Victorian 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 Western Australia. *Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect* and companion reports are available from [www.ceda.com.au](http://www.ceda.com.au).

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## State profile – Victoria

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Gross state product (2016–17)	\$406.5 billion
Percentage of national economy	23.2 per cent
Average weekly earnings (November 2017)	\$1518.20
Unemployment rate (May)	5.1 per cent
Population (September 2017)	6.36 million
Population in capital city (2016)	4.73 million
Population growth (2012–17)	Approximately 0.676 million
Population over 65 years old	0.959 million
Annual Government Expenditure (2018–19)	\$68.1 billion
Largest industries	Financial services, manufacturing, professional services, construction, healthcare

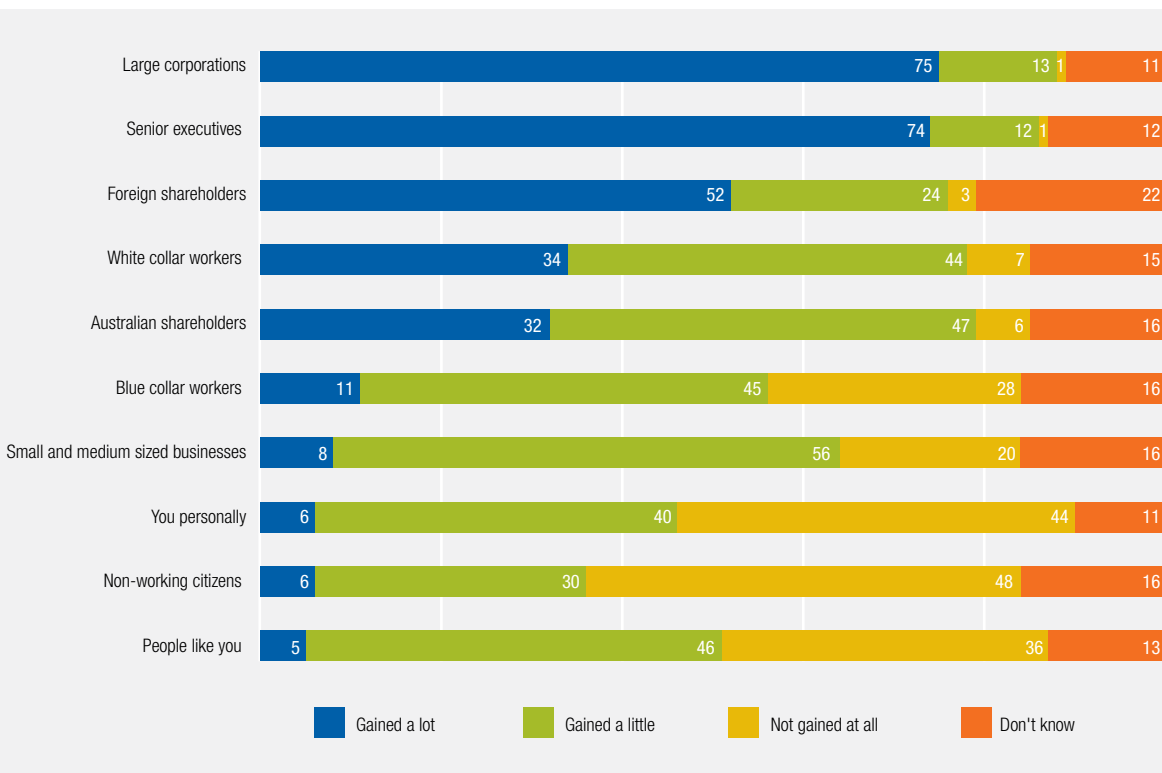
Source: ABS, State Budget papers

## Attitudes to recent economic growth and development

### Who has benefited from 26 years of economic growth?

- Compared to the national results, Victorians are slightly more likely to believe that Australian shareholders have gained (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth – 79 per cent vs 77 per cent nationally.
- Around 45 per cent of Victorians believe they have gained (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth, which is in line with the national average.
- Fewer Victorians believe that the gap between rich and poor in Australia is an acceptable consequence of economic growth – 19 per cent vs 21 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

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## Personal issues of greatest importance to Victoria

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### 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), Victorians place increased importance on:
  - mental health services
  - higher minimum wage.

### Issues that are most contested

- Victorians are most divided over the importance of regular pay rises (19 per cent most important vs 20 per cent least important).
- This is in contrast to the national level where people were most divided over access to affordable private health insurance and a robust social safety net.

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## National issues of greatest importance to Victoria

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### Issues of greatest importance

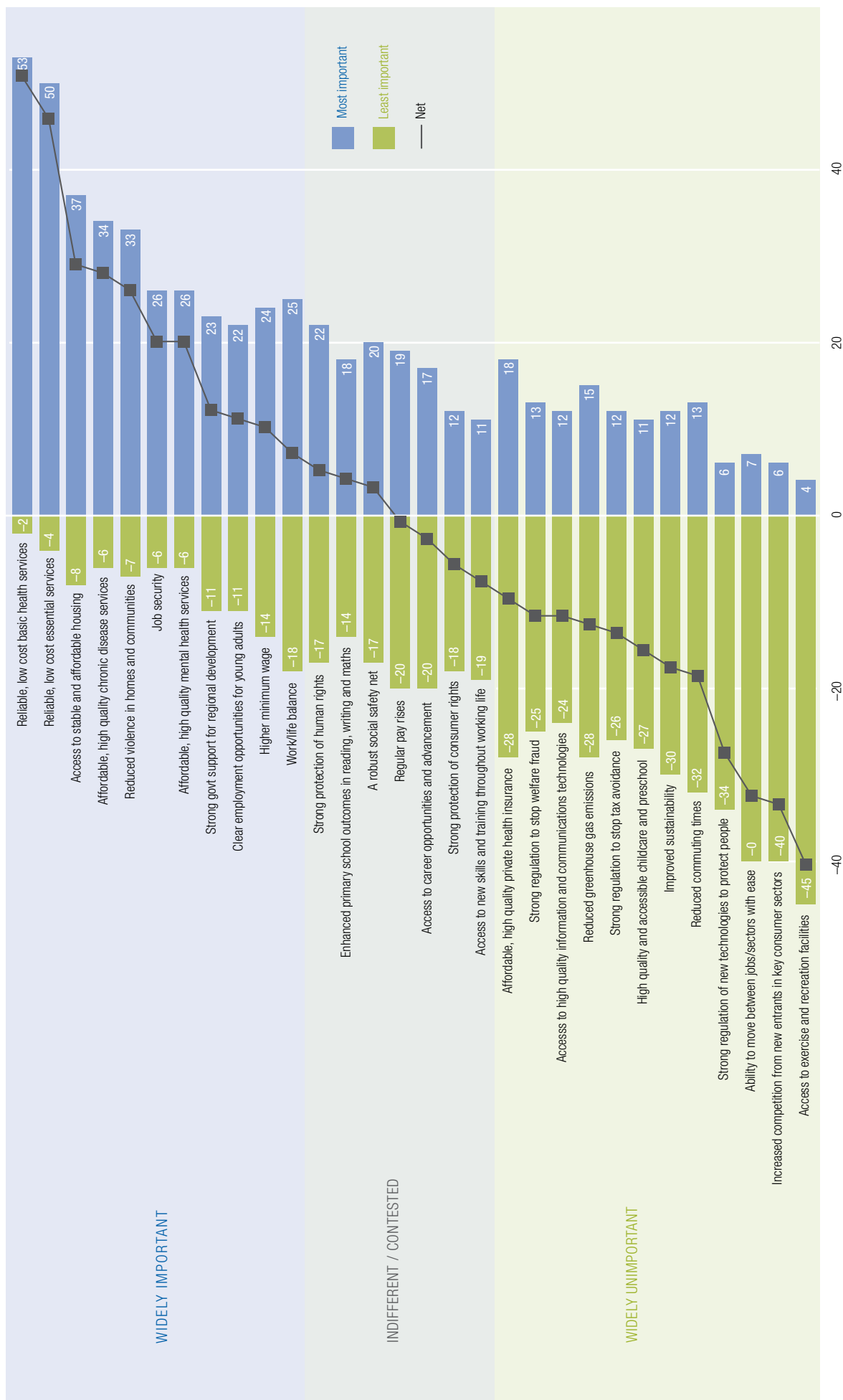
- In addition to the top national issues across the population (public hospitals, limiting foreign ownership, aged care and increased pensions) Victorians place increased importance on tough criminal laws and criminal sentences.

### Issues that are most contested

- Victorians are most divided over lower immigration and foreign working visas.



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 VICTORIA**

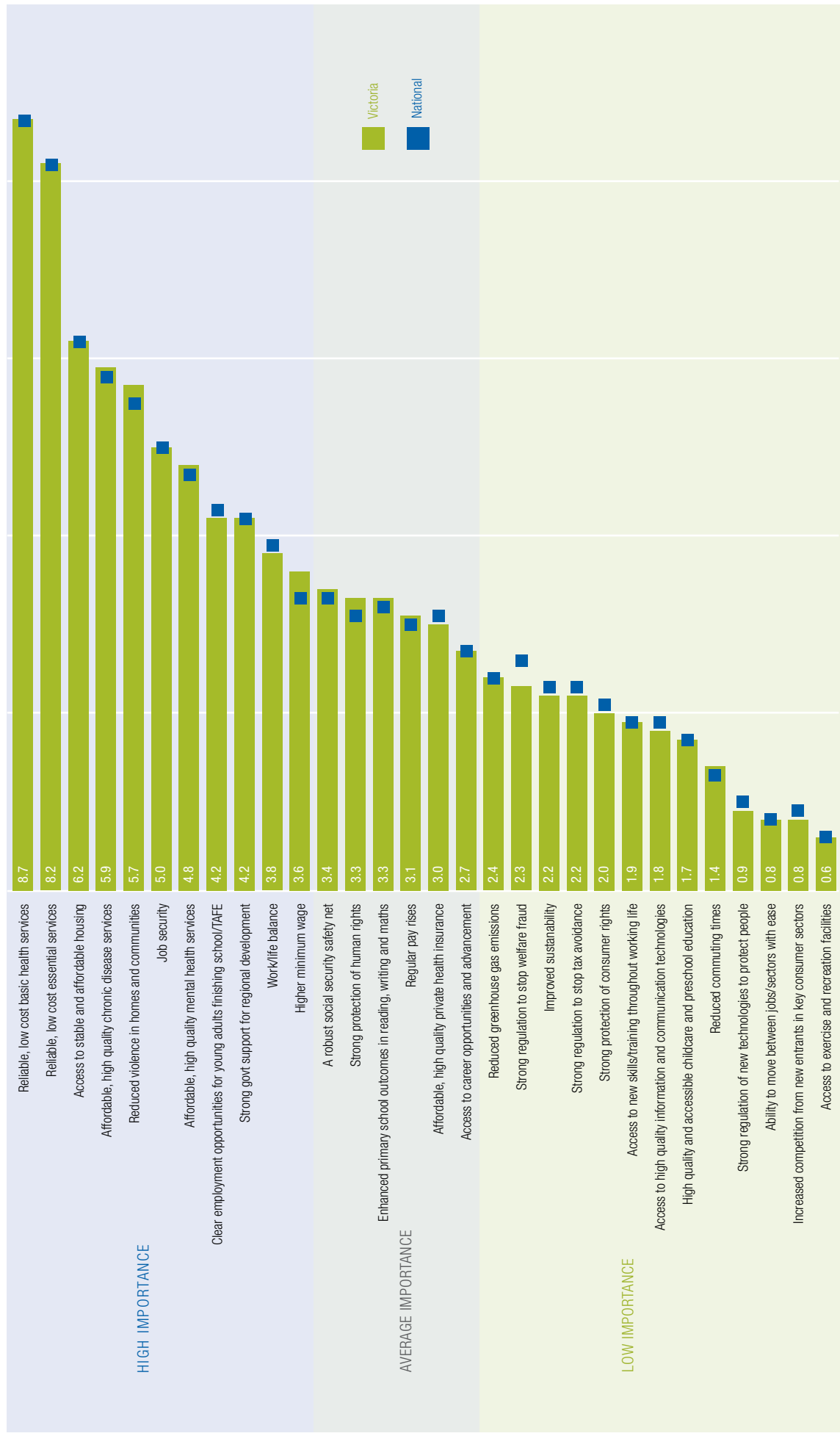
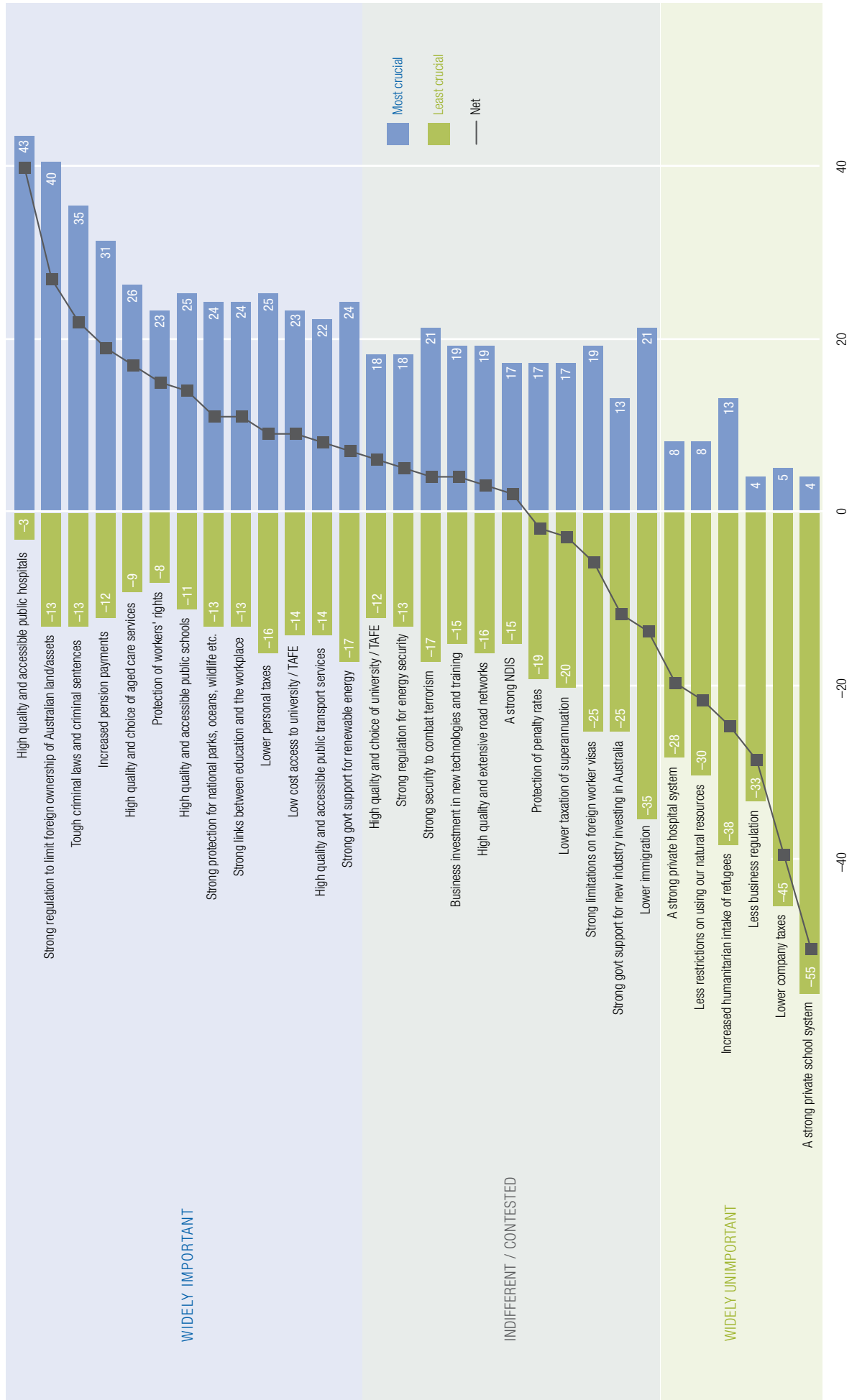
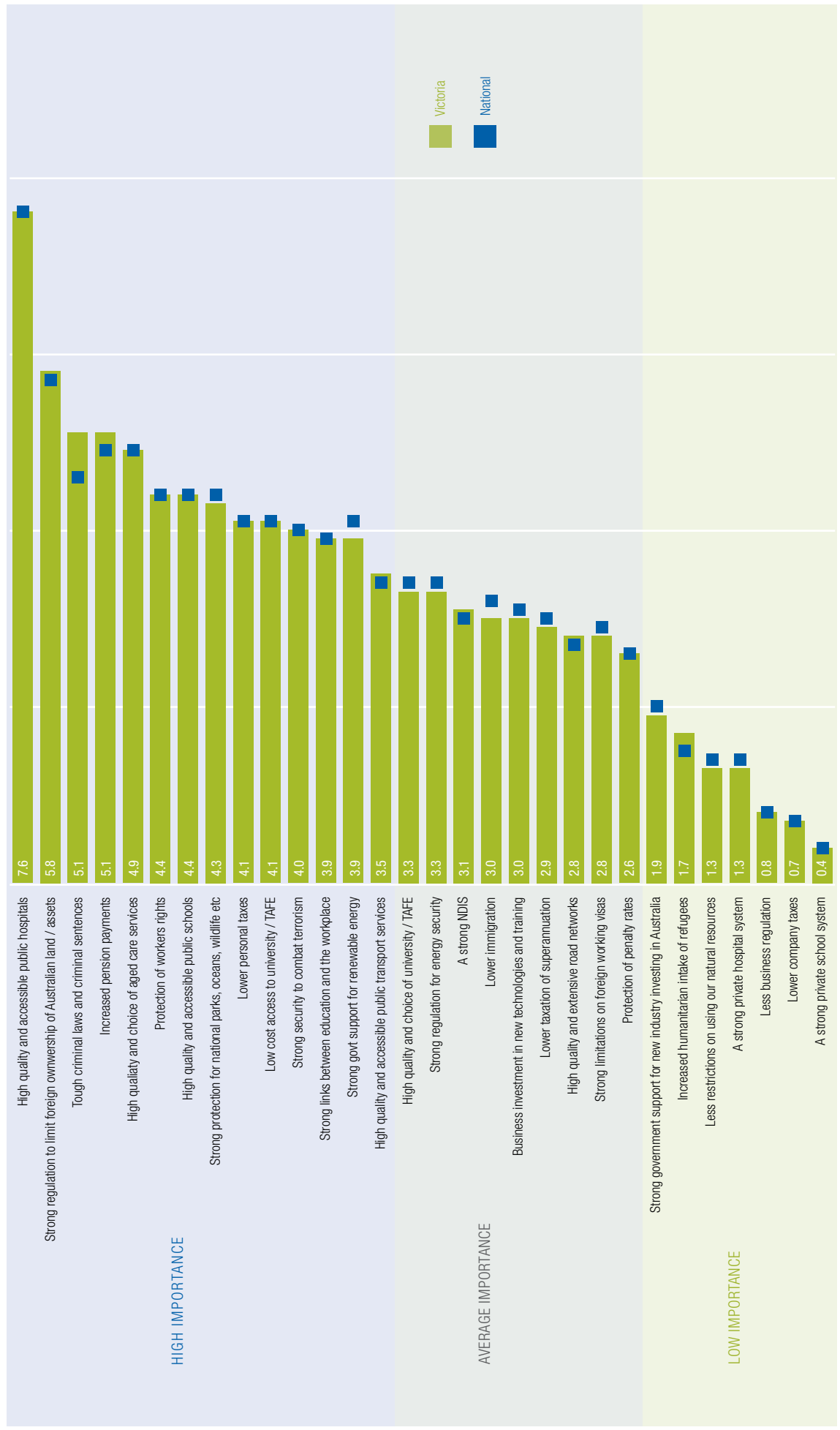


FIGURE 4  
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MOST CRITICAL PATHS FOR THE NATION? (RESPONSE RATE)



**FIGURE 5**  
**RELATIVE IMPORTANCE SCORES FOR NATIONAL ISSUES IN VICTORIA**



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## Victorians' attitudes to work

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### Work satisfaction

- 50 per cent of Victorians are satisfied with their level of pay and 40 per cent with opportunities for career progression. This is slightly lower than the national population (53 per cent and 42 per cent respectively).
- 62 per cent of Victorians are satisfied with their travel time to and from work.

### Hours of work

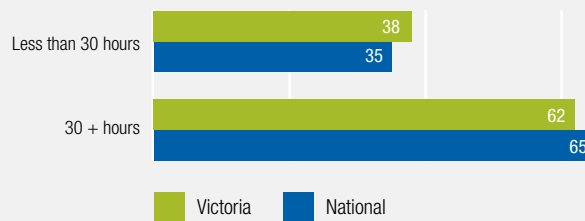
- Victorian respondents to this survey work relatively fewer hours than the national average (Figure 6).
- Victorian respondents were also more likely to want to work fewer hours, even if it means earning less (Figure 7).

### Commuting

- 83 per cent of Victorians have a commute to work of less than an hour. Nationally this was 81 per cent.

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**FIGURE 6**  
**HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU WORK IN A TYPICAL WEEK? (%)**



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**FIGURE 7**  
**WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK MORE OR LESS? (%)**



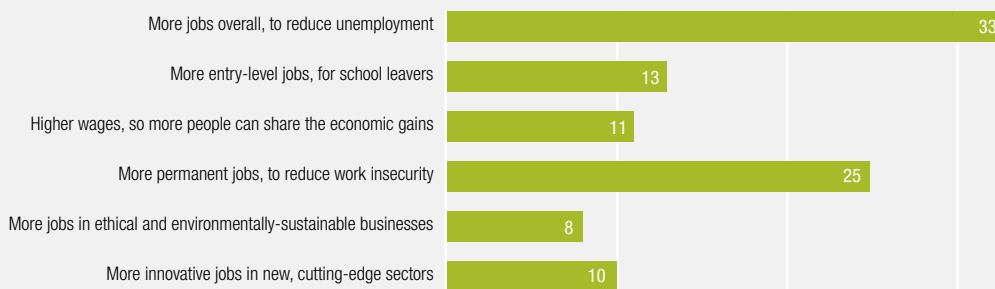
## Technology

- Victorians are more optimistic than the general population about the impact of technology on their job.
- 73 per cent would welcome new technology in their job (71 per cent nationally) and 10 per cent are worried it would replace them (12 per cent nationally).

## Future jobs

- Like most Australians, Victorians place greatest priority on more jobs overall and more permanent jobs for future job creation. Victorians place slightly greater importance on entry-level jobs (13 per cent vs 11 per cent nationally).
- When looking for a job, consistent with national trends, conditions in the workplace are the most important factor. However, Victorians place greater importance on job training and development (93 per cent vs 89 per cent) and flexible conditions (85 per cent vs 81 per cent).

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



## Notes on methodology and sample

- Total sample; Weight: VIC Weight; base n = 600; total n = 3000.
- For Victoria, the margin of error at the 95 per cent confidence interval is +/-4.0 per cent.
- This Victorian 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 pages 47 to 55.

## Acknowledgements

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