

# What's worrying Australians?

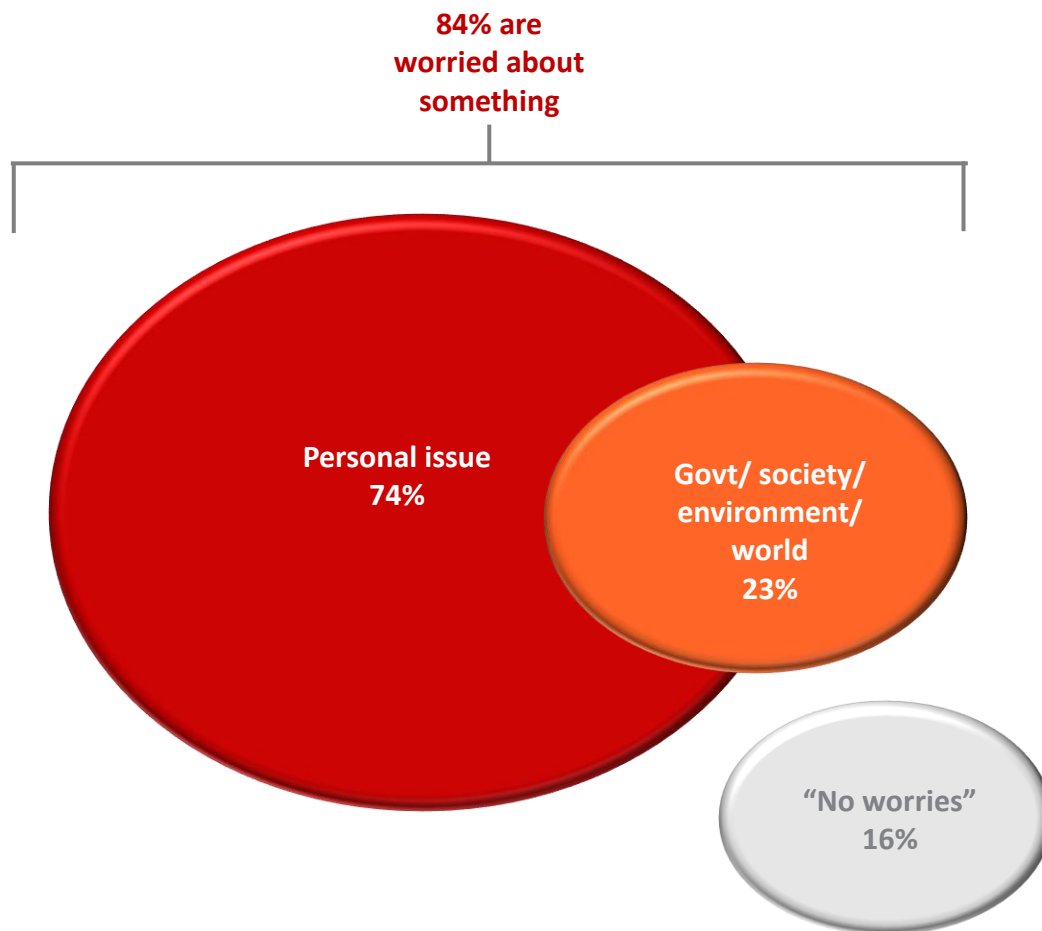


March 2018

# What's worrying Australians\*

## Most Australians have something to worry about

- Relatively few Australians describe their life in terms of “no worries!”.
- When we asked people about their life, and what (if anything) they were worried or concerned about, 84% had something on their mind.
- Most, 74%, report worries connected with their *personal* situation. Yet for a significant minority, 23%, their front-of-mind concerns relate to the broader sphere of *government, society, the environment* or *world issues*.



### Methodology

National online survey fielded March 1-6, 2018 among a national sample of 1,217 people aged 18 years and over. The results were post-weighted to ABS data to reflect the population distribution for age, sex, area and highest level of schooling completed.

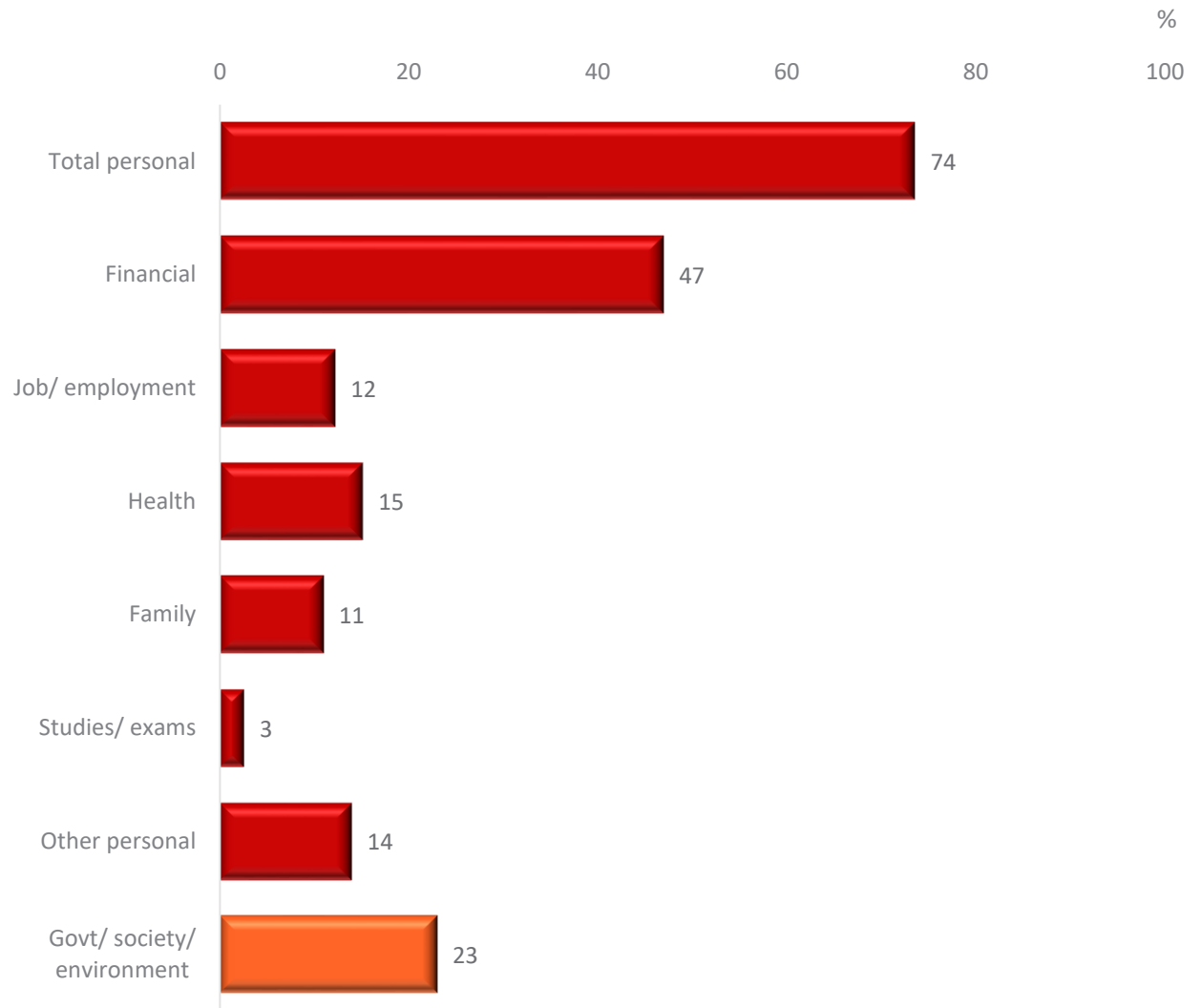
\* Question:

Now a question about your life at the moment. Please tell us all the things, if any, that you are worried or concerned about.

## Worries on the personal front

### Money is the big one

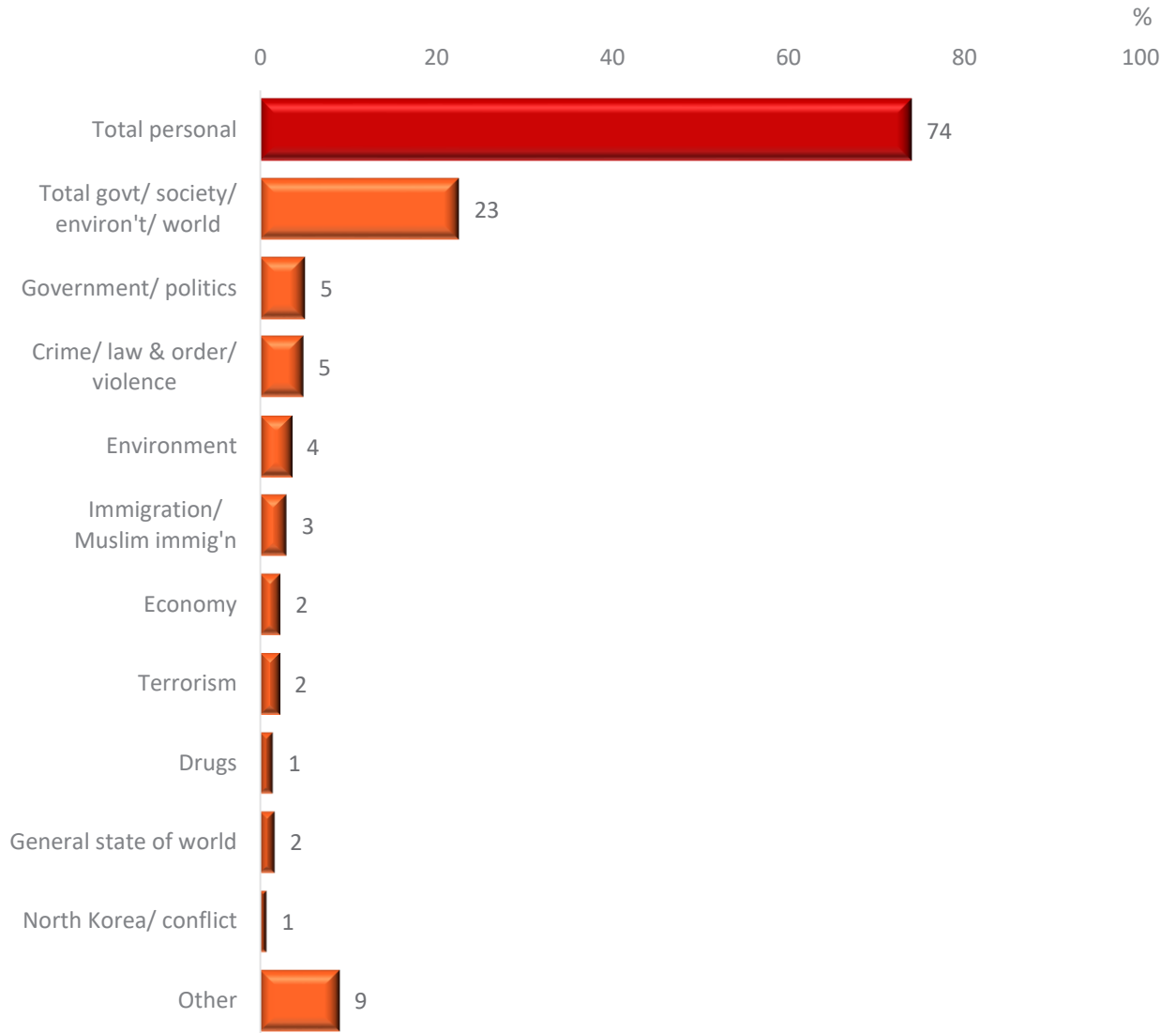
- On the personal front, people shared worries about an *incredibly* diverse range of things: health, family, job, pets, moving house, upcoming weddings, friends, getting older, loneliness, exams.....and many others.
- **Financial worries** were, however, *by far* the most common – reported by almost half. These include not having enough money, ‘cost of living’/ bills, debt, inability to save, and housing affordability.
- Apart from financial concerns, the three main other groups of worries were:
  - Job/ employment** (12%), covering issues at work, unemployment/ under-employment, job security, or concerns about career and the future.
  - Health** (15%), including general health, sickness, lack of fitness, weight and mental health.
  - Family** (11%), embracing everything from partner or child health or employment issues, children’s education, making the right decisions for children, to aging parents.



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## On the broader societal front

- A breakdown of broader societal concerns also shows a diversity of factors. Only 5% or less were worried about any given issue.
- Nonetheless, chief among them were:
  - concern about the current state of government/ politics (both federal and state);
  - crime/ law & order/ violence;
  - environment, including climate change; and,
  - immigration.
- It's important to appreciate that these concerns were raised in the context of people being asked about *their* life. It's entirely conceivable that many more could have concerns about issues of this nature if asked about, for example, 'the problems facing Australia today' or 'the most important things governments should be addressing'.
- Nonetheless the results show that these issues are very much front-of-mind concerns for some Australians.



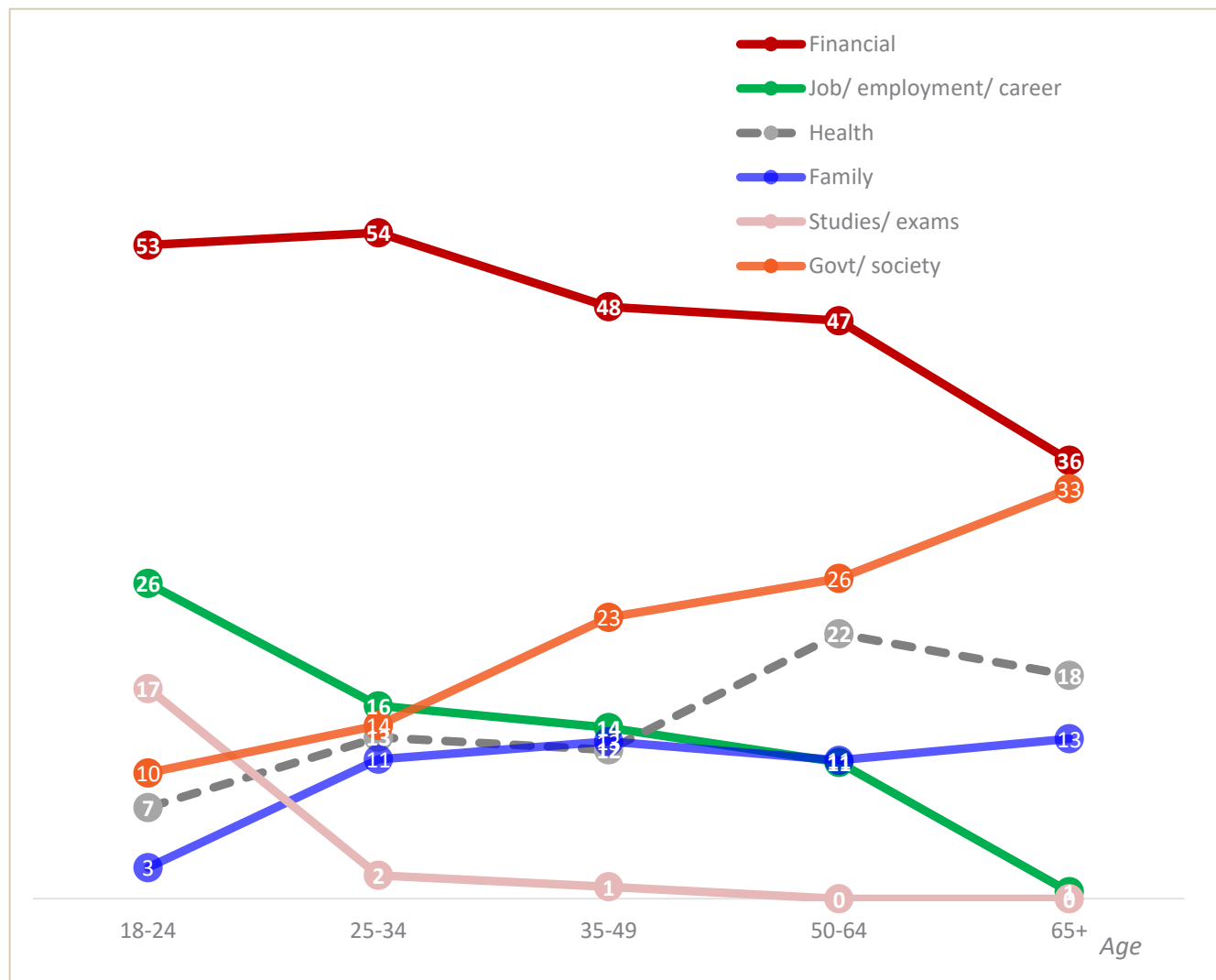
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## Themes among segments

### Age

Not surprisingly, lifestage has a bearing on the things worrying people.

- For 18-24 year olds, financial worries are already common, and concerns about job/ employment/ career along with studies/ exams are also relatively prevalent.
- Progression to the 25-34 age group sees concerns about health and family rise, while worries about job/employment/ career reduce, and studies/ exams all but dissipate. The mix of worries remains largely the same for 35-49's.
- After the age of 50, increased health concerns are added to the mix.
- After 65, although health and family worries remain, financial concerns become less prevalent, and concerns about job/ employment/ career disappear for most. Perhaps having more time in later life to follow broader societal issues in the news explains a surge in front-of-mind concerns of this nature.



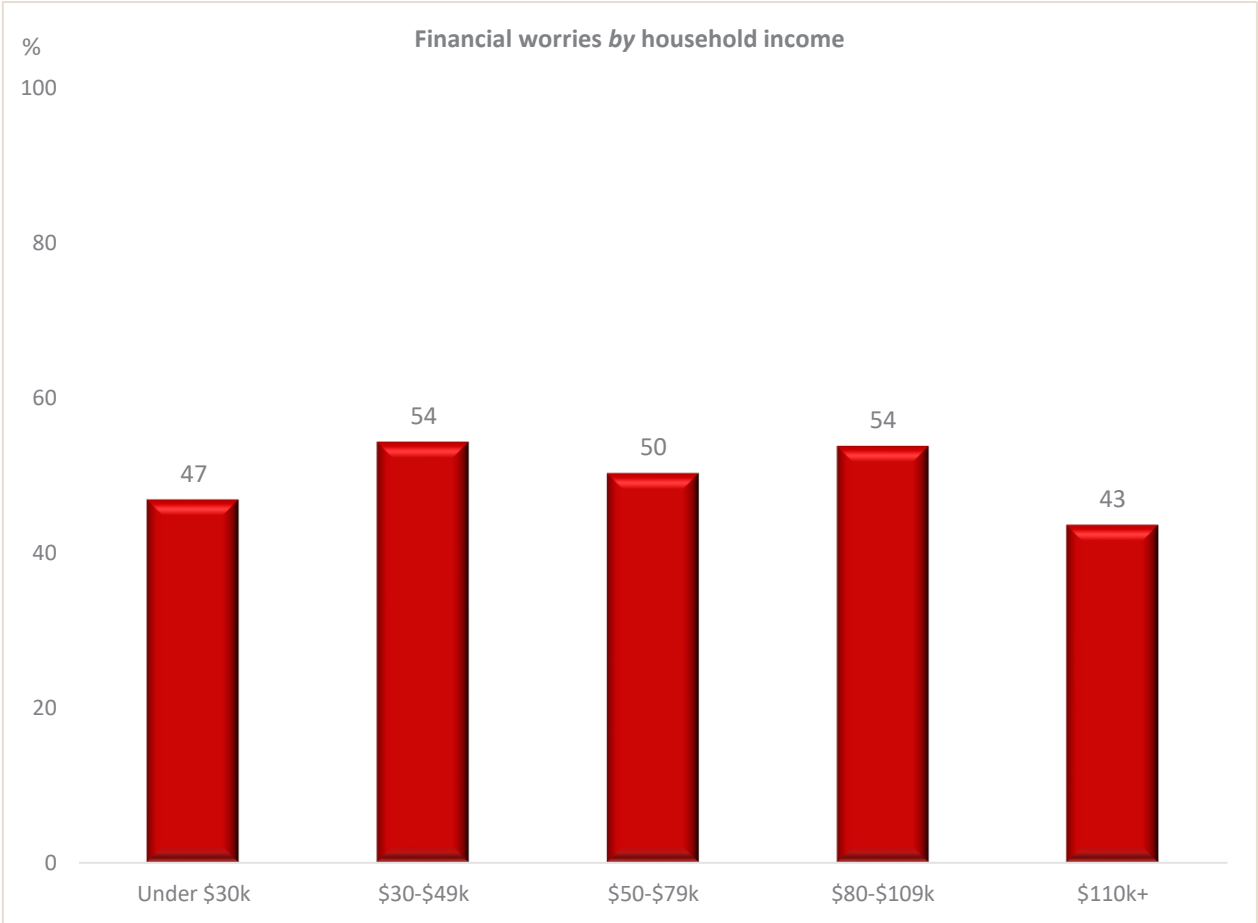
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# Themes among segments

## Household income

- Being worried about financial issues is fairly independent of household income.....it's all relative to a person's individual circumstances.



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