Special Report

TrustWatch:
Trust in Australia's National Institutions

April 2026

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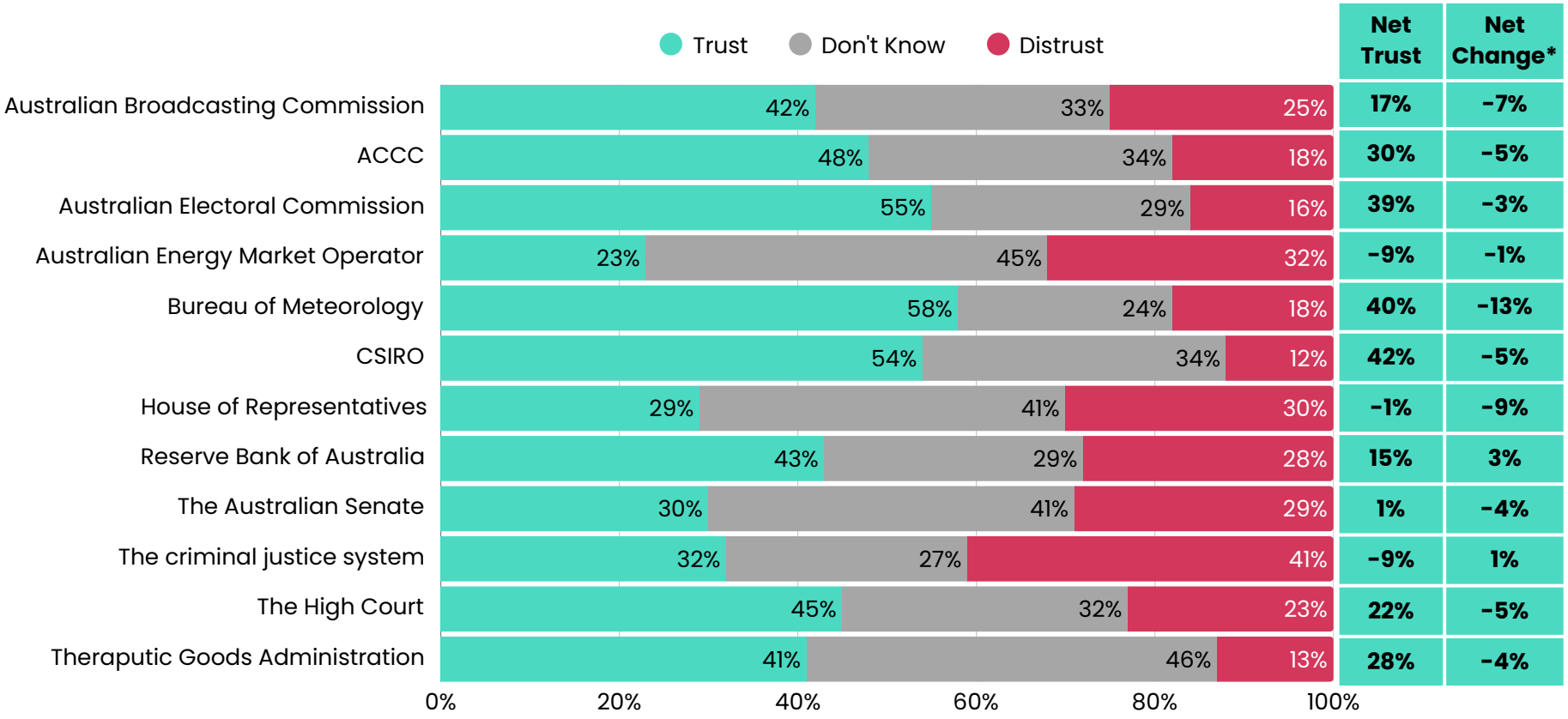
Methodology Statement

Australian Polling Council Quality Mark

Research company	DemosAU
Client commissioning the research	Self initiated
Fieldwork dates	9-14 April 2026
Mode of data collection	Internet panels
Target population	Australians 18+ eligible to vote at elections
Sample size	1,439
Is voting intention published?	Yes, in this report
Effective sample size after weighting applied	864
Margin of error associated with effective sample size	+/- 3.3%
Variables used in weighting	Age x gender, education, personal income, residential tenure, region, 2025 Federal Vote, Left-Right Self ID.
Weighting method used	Rim Weighting
Full question text, responses categories and randomisation	As set out in report. Order of answers in institutions question is randomly flipped. Order of answers in general trust question is random with don't know kept last.
Source of sample	Internet panels
Positioning of voting intention questions in questionnaire?	Federal VI was first substantive question after demographics.
How were undecided voters handled?	Initial undecided voters were asked a leaner question. Remaining undecided voters were excluded from final totals.
2PP calculation method	No 2PP calculated

Trust in National Institutions

Q. Please indicate whether you trust or distrust the following institutions:



	Net Trust	Net Change*
Australian Broadcasting Commission	17%	-7%
ACCC	30%	-5%
Australian Electoral Commission	39%	-3%
Australian Energy Market Operator	-9%	-1%
Bureau of Meteorology	40%	-13%
CSIRO	42%	-5%
House of Representatives	-1%	-9%
Reserve Bank of Australia	15%	3%
The Australian Senate	1%	-4%
The criminal justice system	-9%	1%
The High Court	22%	-5%
Theraputic Goods Administration	28%	-4%

*Changes since January 2025

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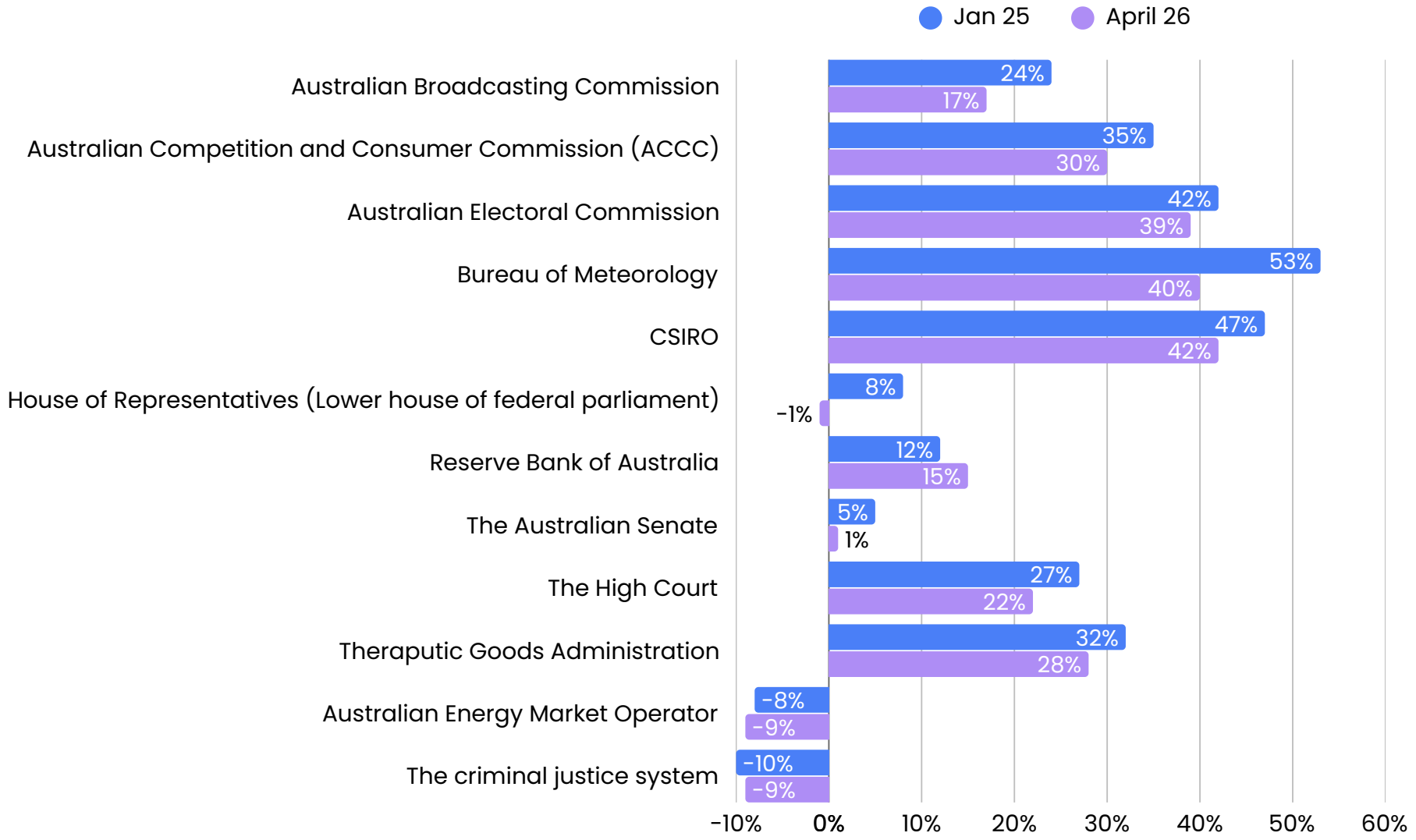
Net Trust Comparison: Jan 25 Vs April 26



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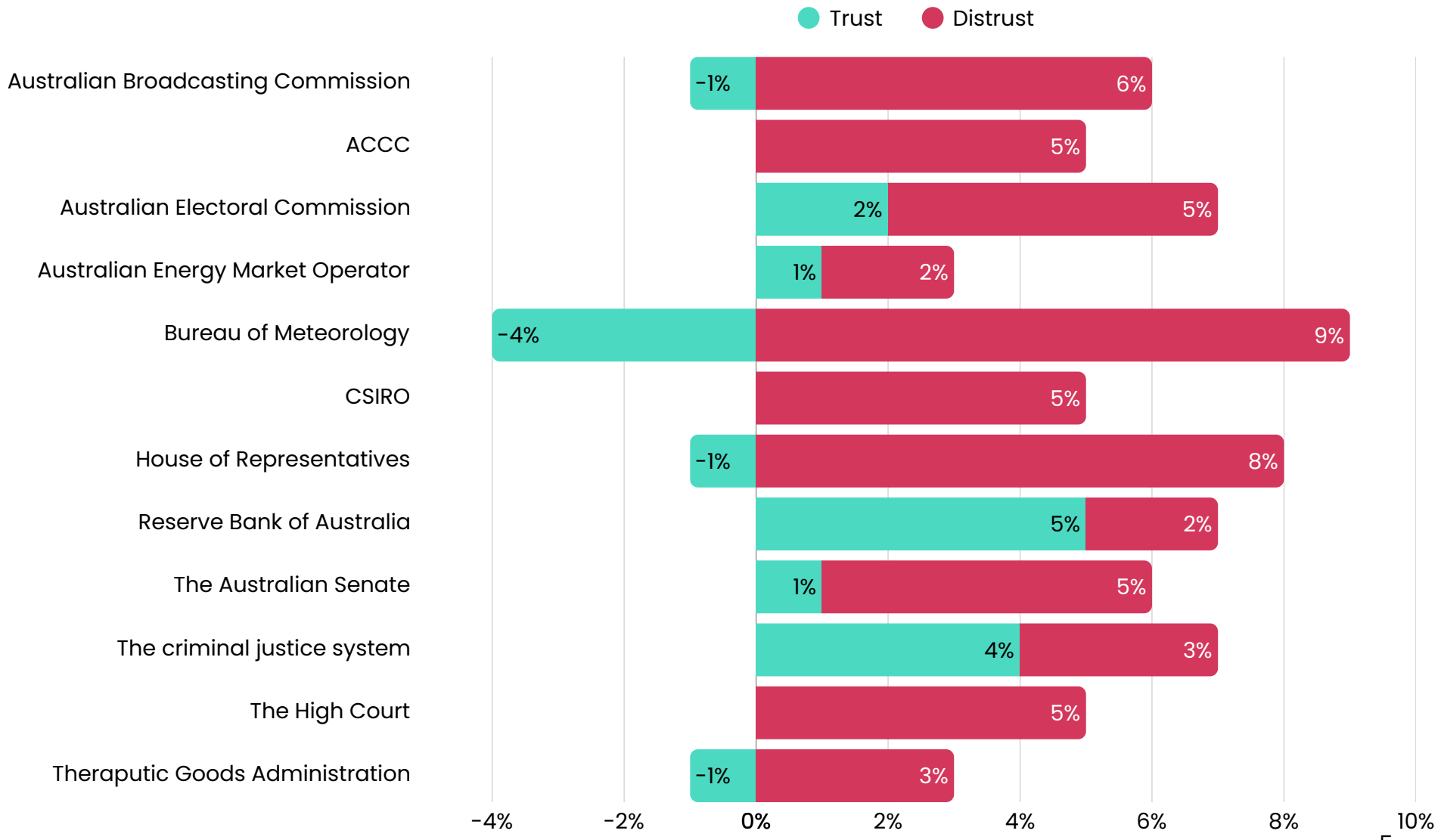
Changes Since 2025 %



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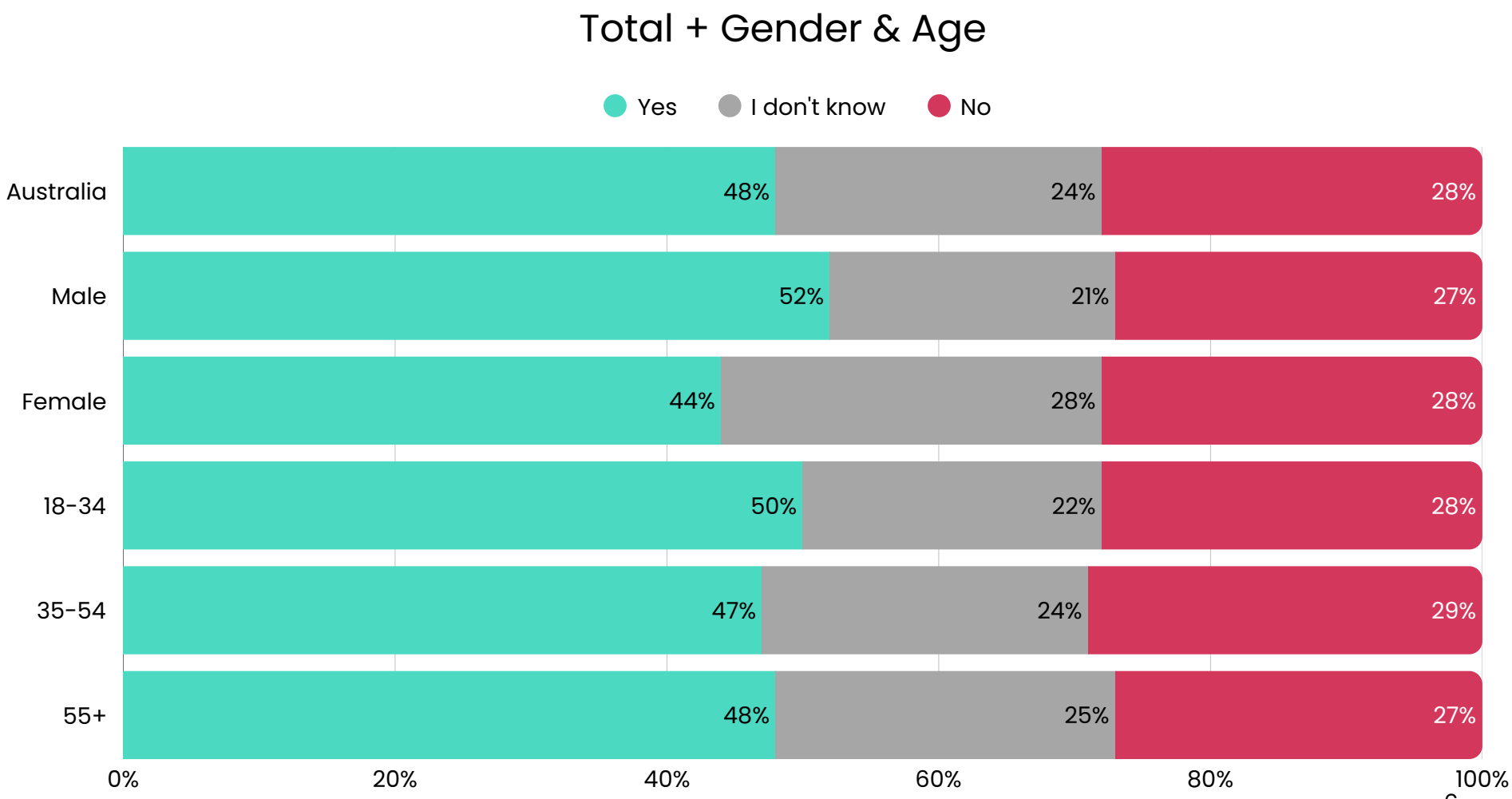
Trust in Institutions: Demographics

Q. Overall, do you trust the national institutions that exist in Australia?



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Changes: Total + Gender & Age

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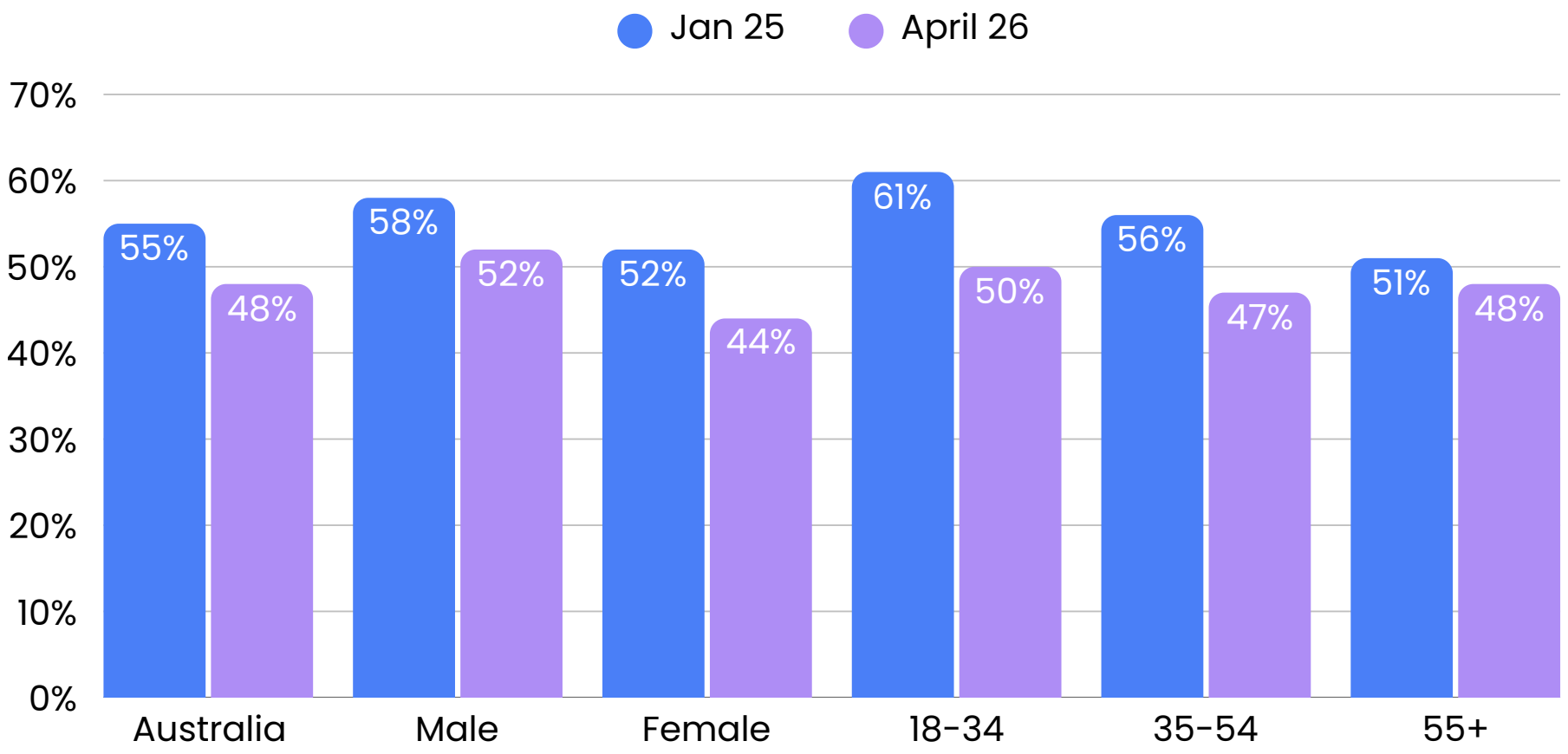

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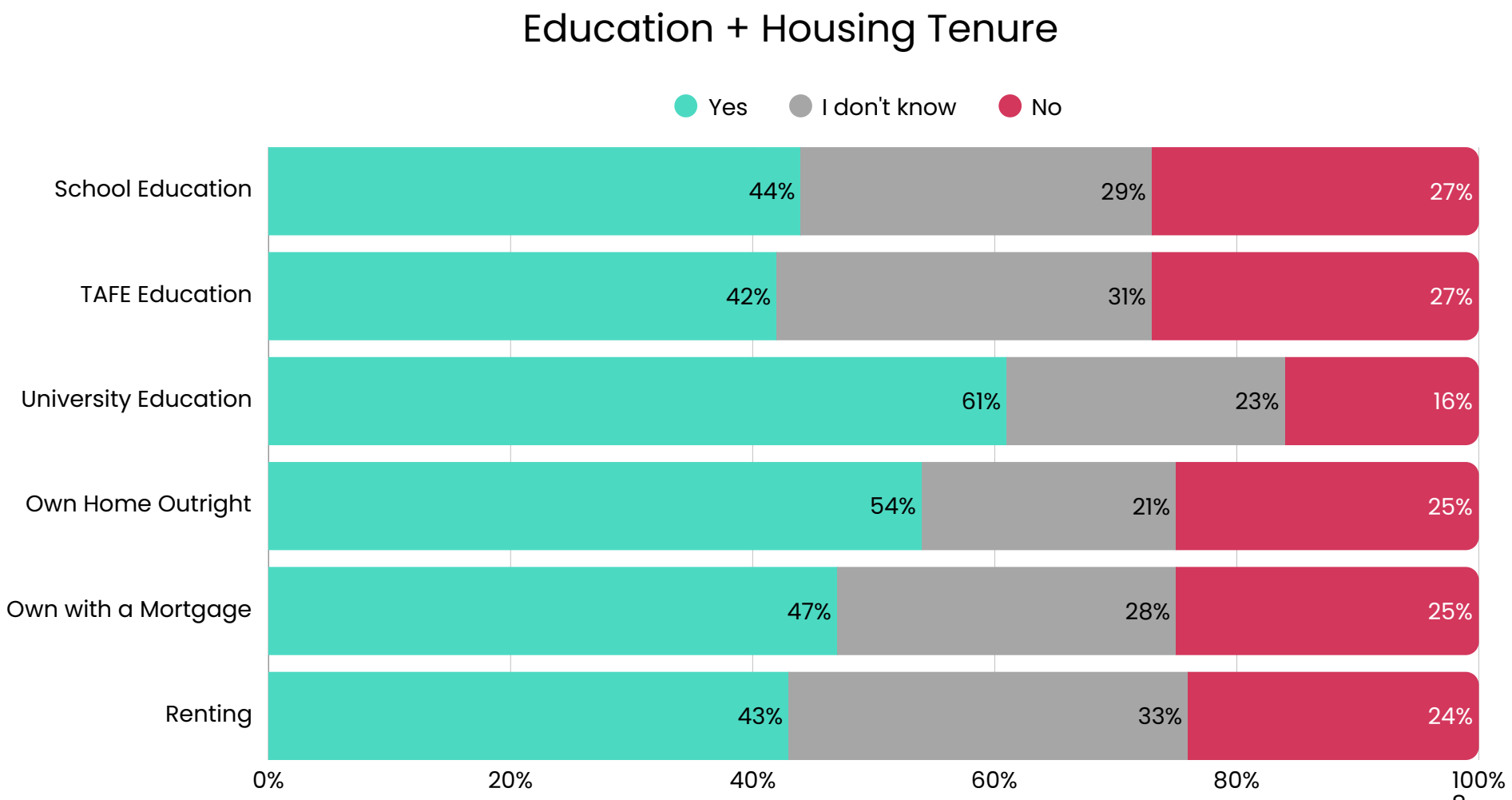

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Changes: Education + Housing Tenure

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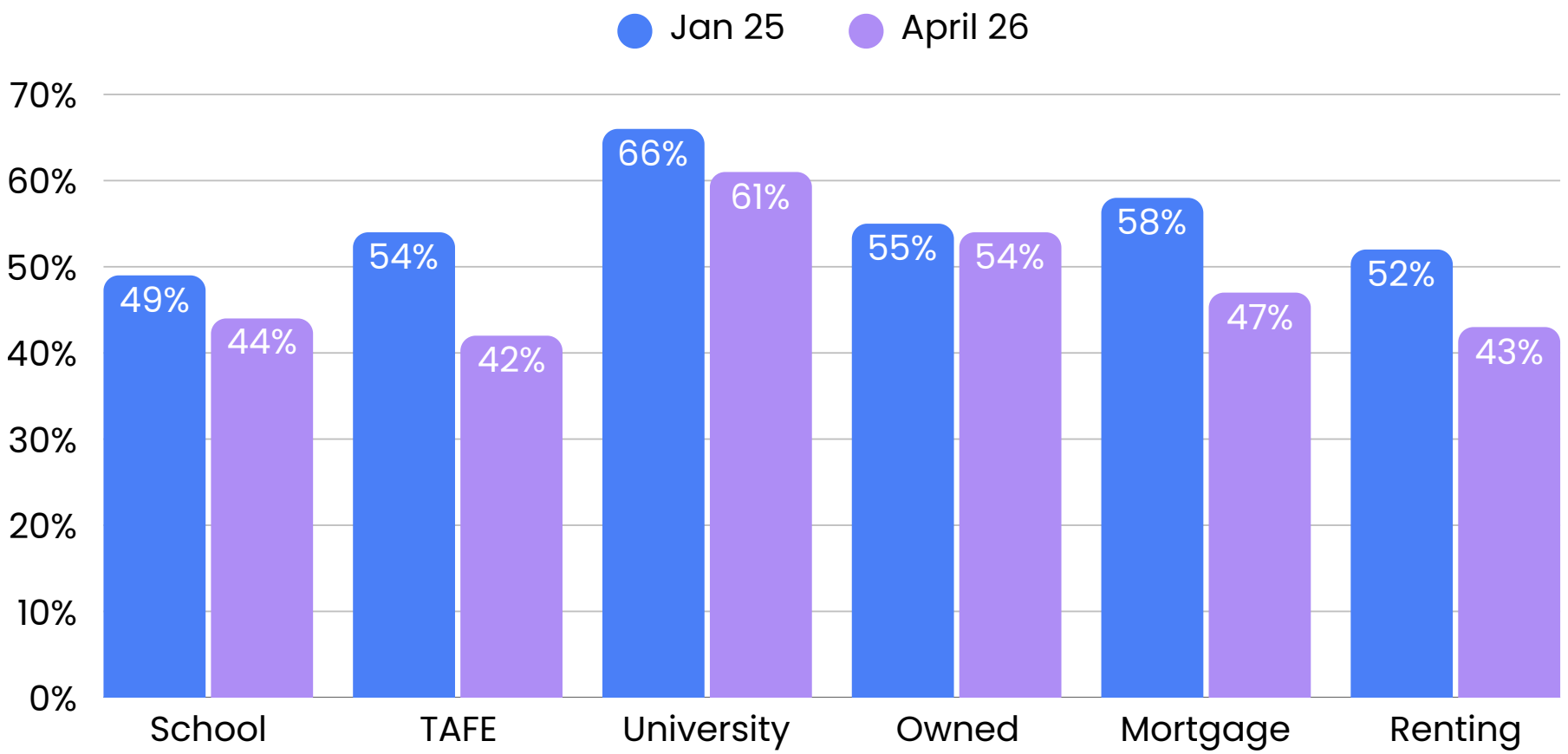

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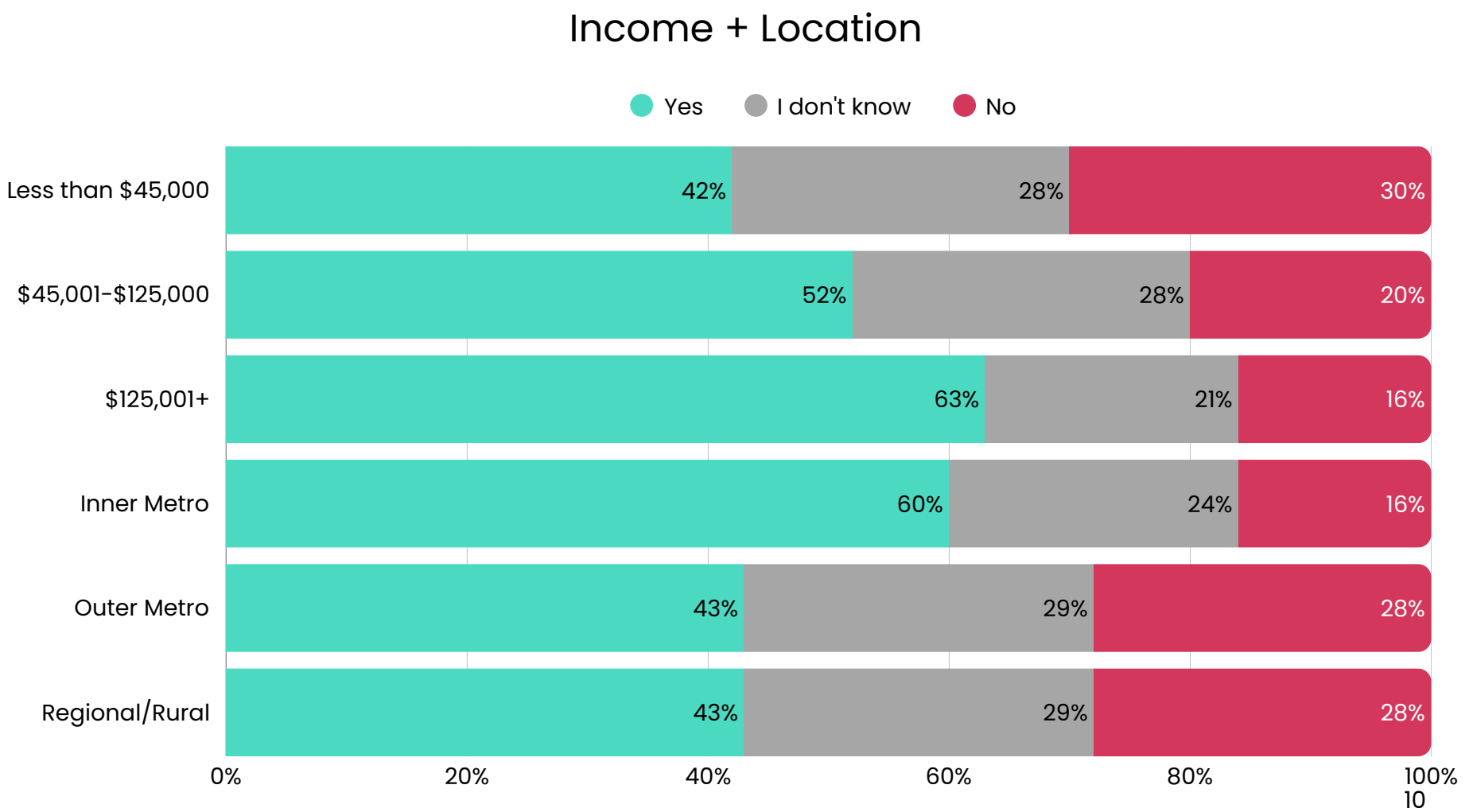

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Changes: Income + Location

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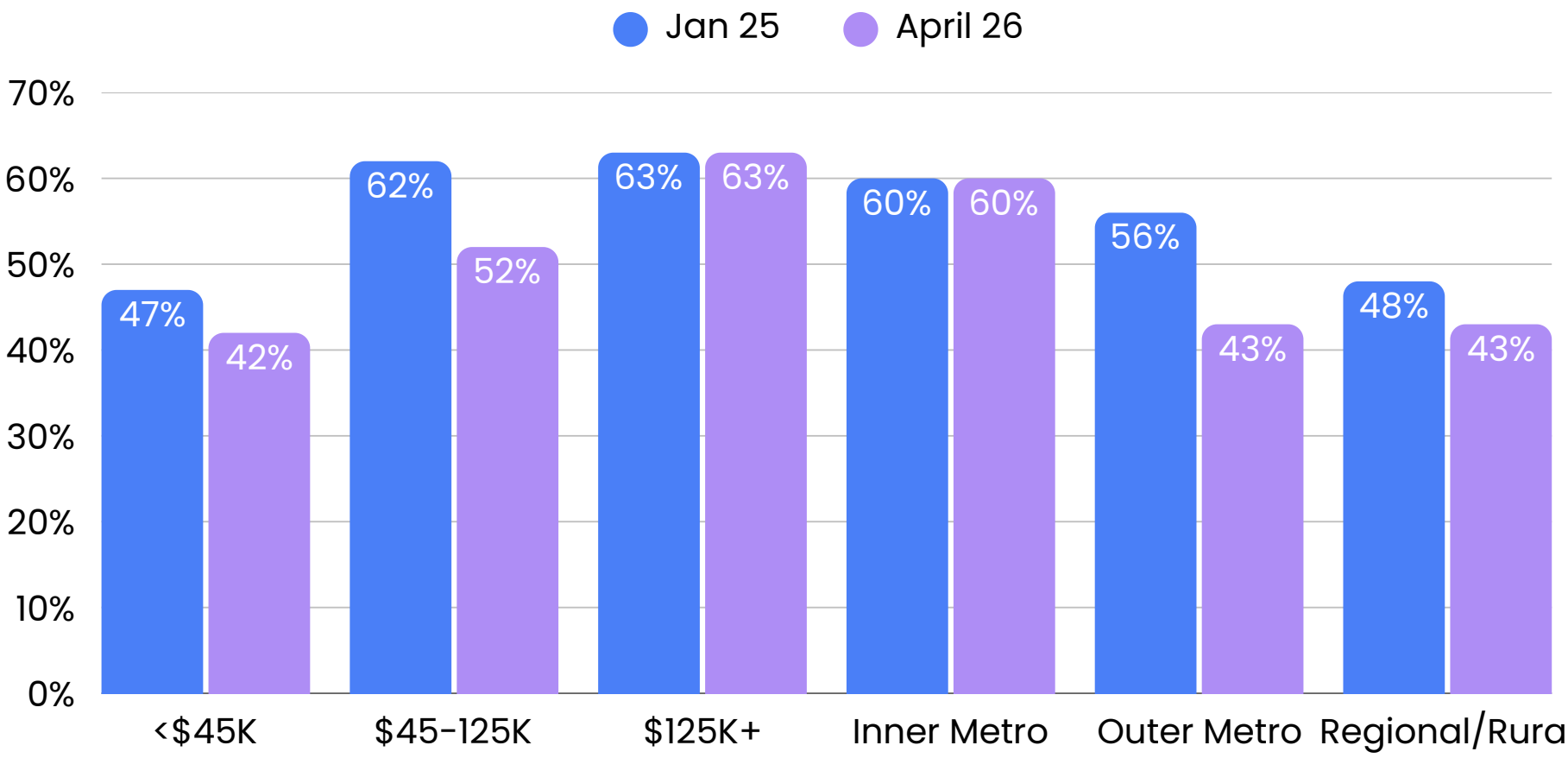

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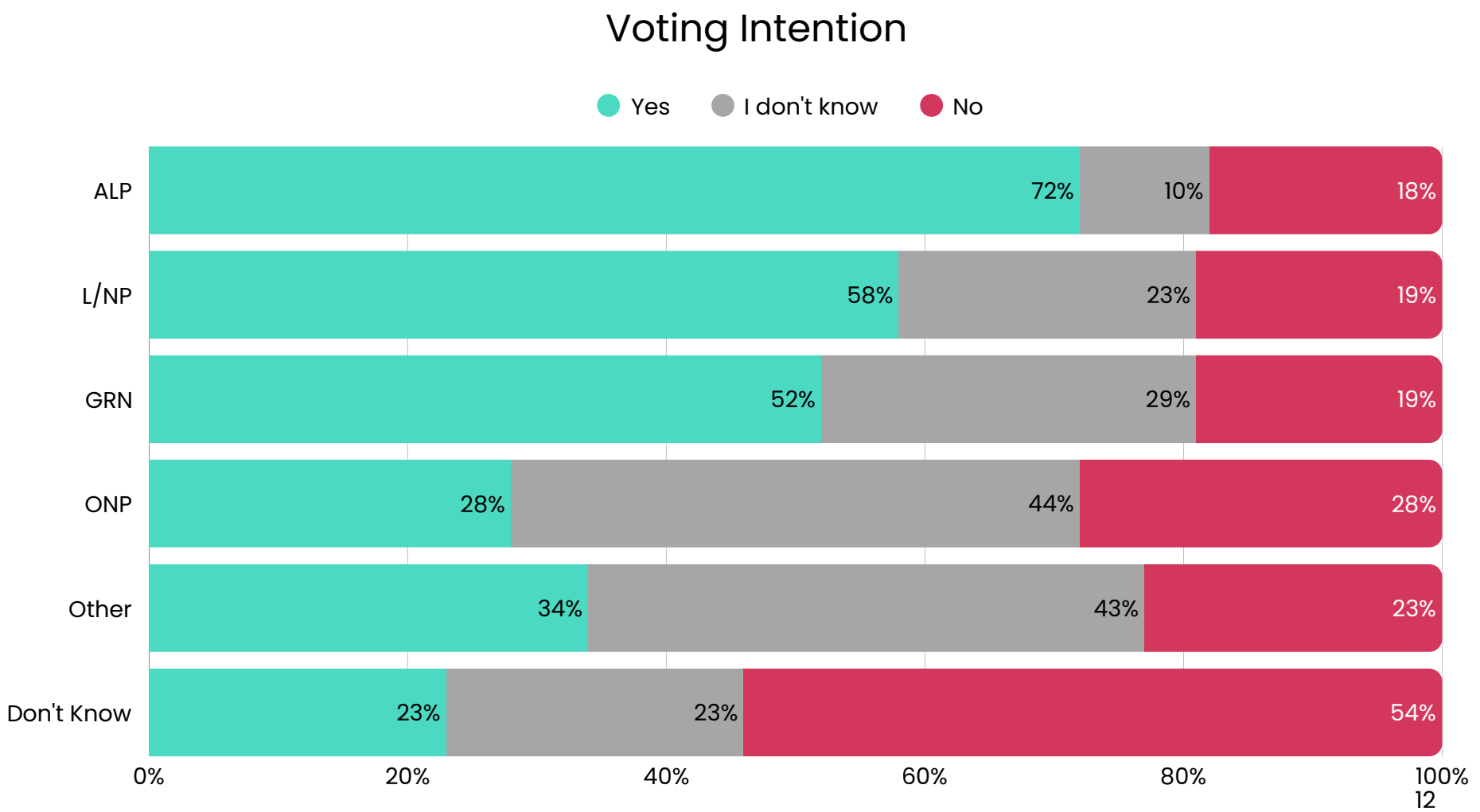

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Changes: Voting Intention

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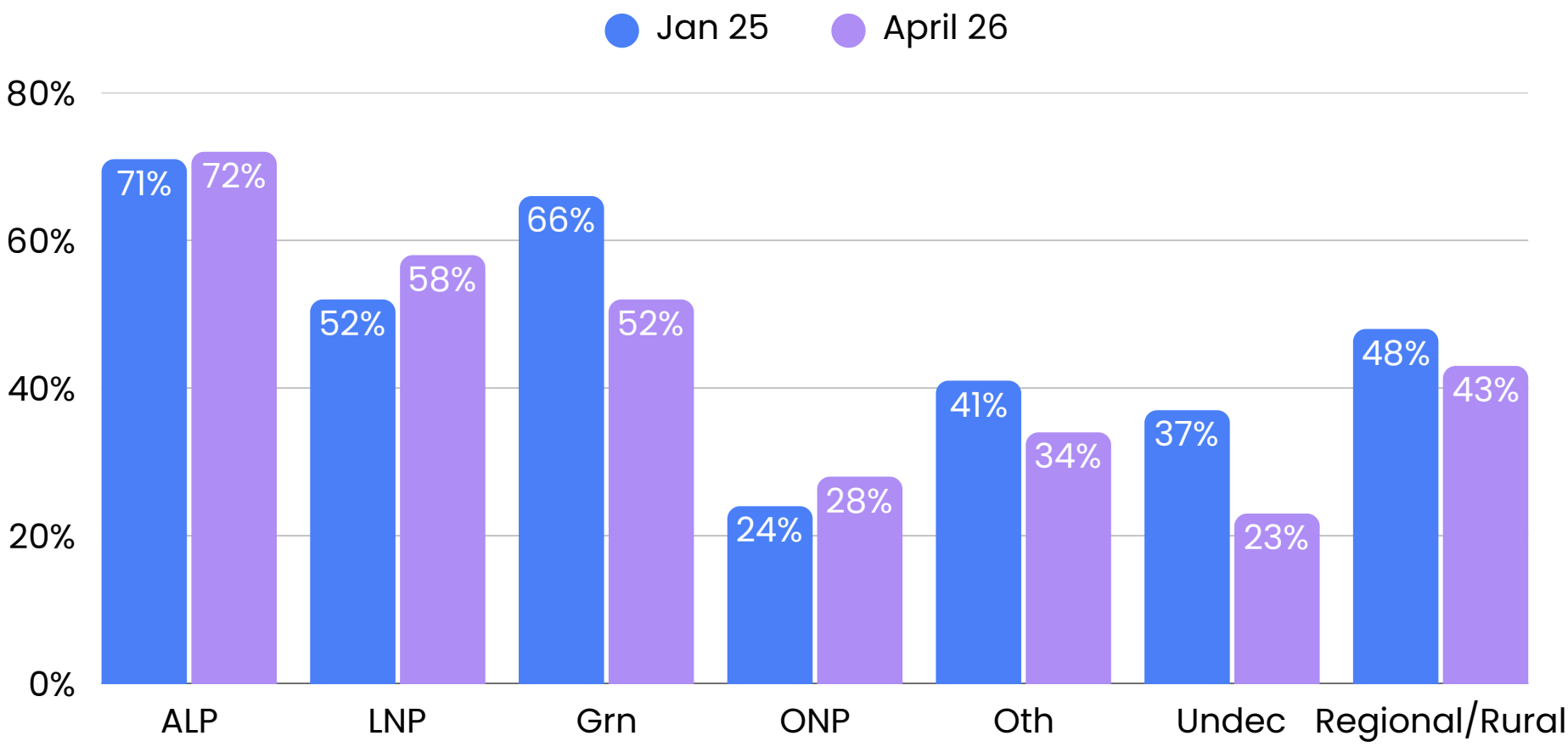

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