

A case for change
and support for citizen juries
Results from The Pulse – March 2017

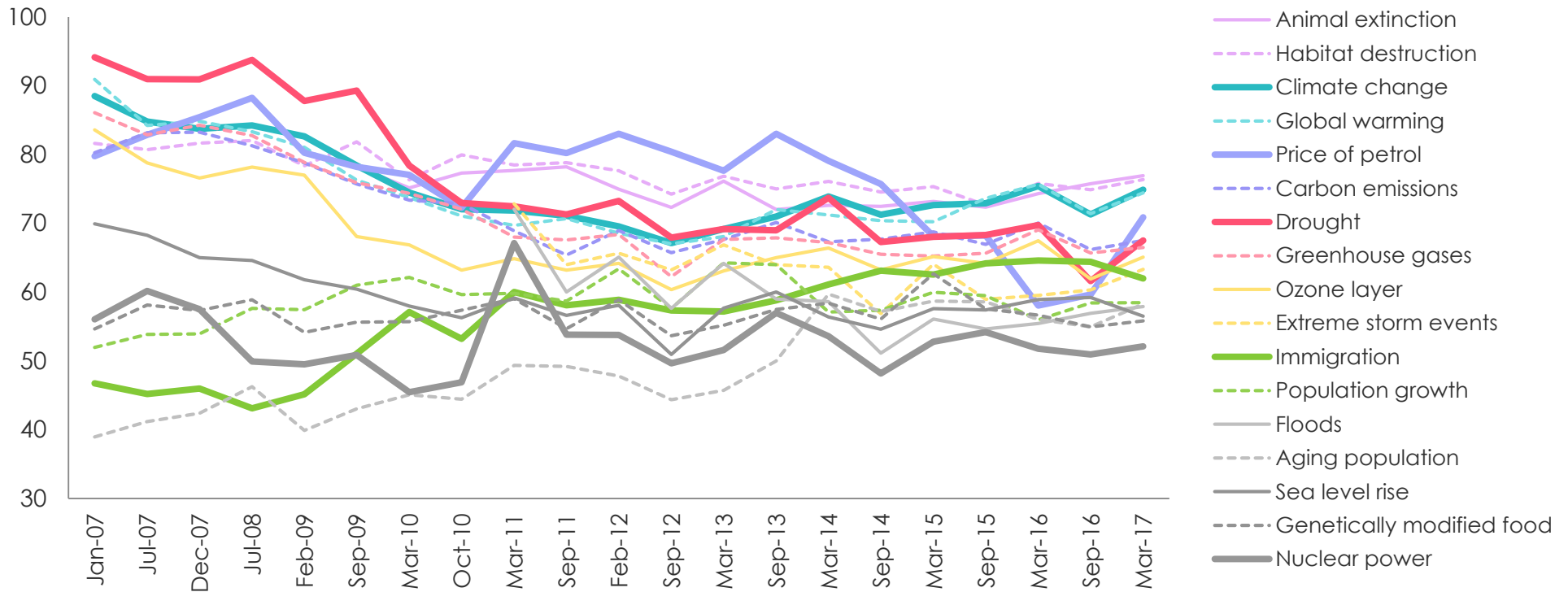
The key findings

- 1 The current system of government is broken ...
- 2 ... due to the self-interest of politicians, and complexity of issues
- 3 But there is a strong case for improving the system, with positive reactions to citizen juries

But first,
some context

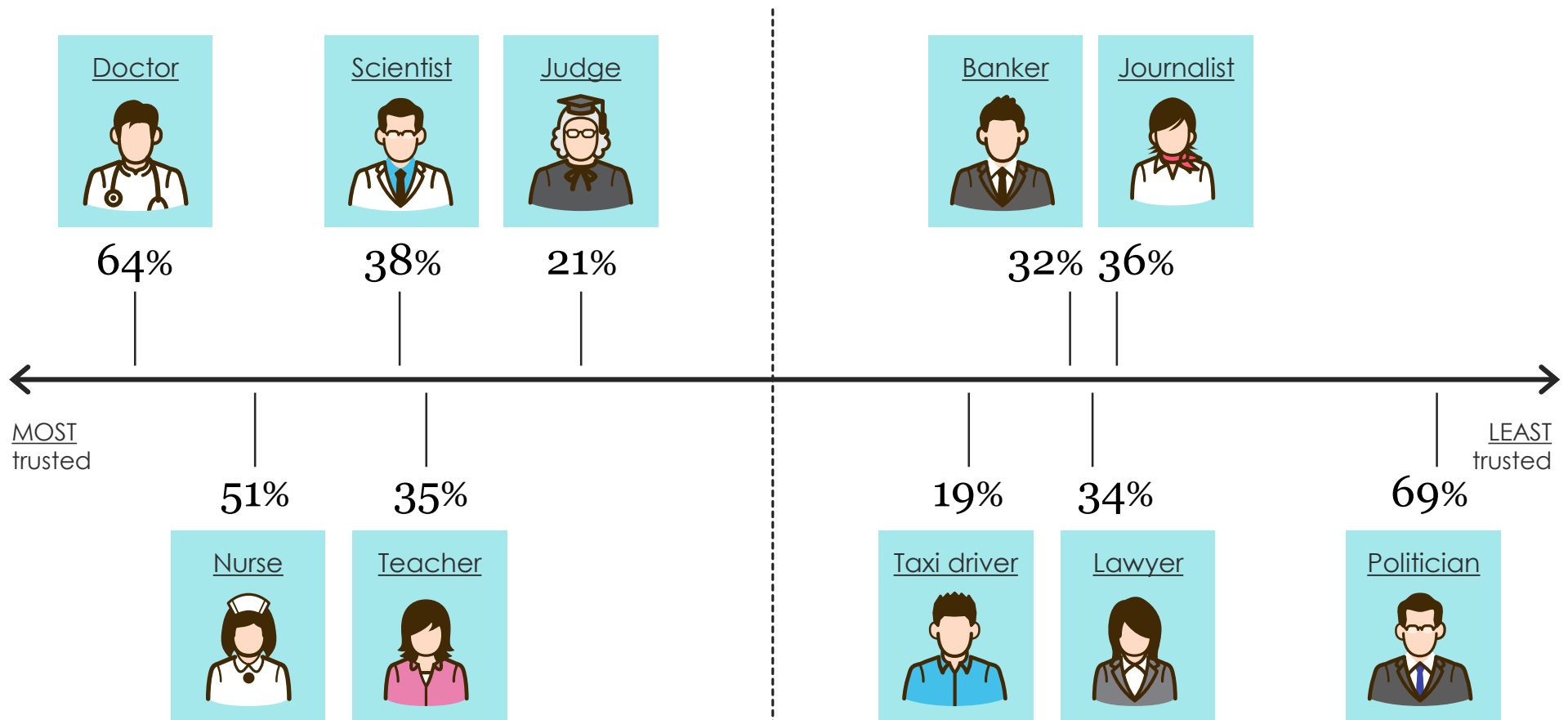
10 years ago Australians could agree on the big issues, but today people are concerned about many issues

Issues of concern (%)



Hypothesis: difficult for our current democracy to cope with this complex system of issues; hence fear mongering/wedge politics

Who are the most trusted people in Australian society?

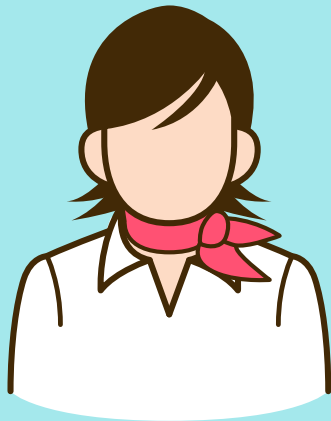


Numbers are % of people who put the profession in their Top 3 most trusted

Numbers are % of people who put the profession in their 3 least trusted

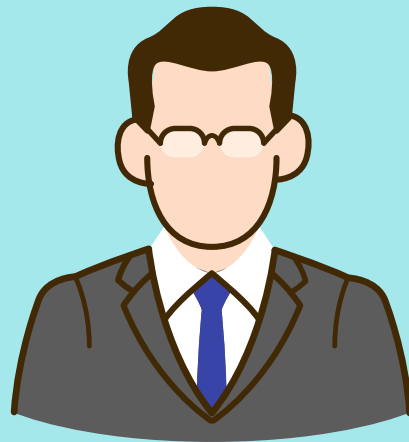
Journalist

36%



Politician

69%



Australians
place little
trust in the
government
and the
mainstream
media

Now, onto the specifics...

Q1. How much do you agree or disagree that:

- Everyday people should be allowed to make decisions on civic/governmental issues that impact their lives, i.e. health, education, transport, energy, wages, tax and welfare
- The current Australian political system is a broken system and isn't working
- The current Australian political system, where we elect representatives to form a governing body, is the best system there is
- The current Australian political system delivers positive and fair outcomes for the majority of Australians
- Everyday people should play a bigger part (than they currently do) in governmental decisions that impact their lives, i.e. health, education, transport, energy, wages, tax and welfare.

Q2. You indicated you think the current Australian political system is broken and isn't working. What specifically about the system is broken / what isn't working? Please focus on the system, not specific politicians, people or parties.

Q3. Please read the following and tell us what you think:

[DESCRIPTION OF CITIZEN JURIES SHOWN]

How much would you support this system?

Q4. And what makes you say that?

Q5. Which organisations, companies or individuals would you most trust to present your interests on issues, e.g. health, education, transport, energy, wages, tax, community and welfare?



54%

Agree that the
current political
system is broken
and isn't
working

Base: Australians aged 14-64, n=1071 (Top 2 Box agreement on a 5 point scale)

The problem stems from self-interested politicians and the complexity of issues

Reasons why the current system is broken

(coded open-ended responses %)

<u>NET Comments about politicians / parties</u>	~47%
They don't care about the people	~18%
All they do is argue with each other	~11%
They're just in it for the money	~10%
They don't follow through with promises	~7%
...	
<u>NET Comments about not focusing on the right issues</u>	~33%
Not addressing the real issues / nothing gets done	~12%
Not enough focus on welfare / low socio-economic groups	~6%
Wasting money / funds	~5%
Not enough focus on environment / sustainability	~4%
...	
<u>NET The system</u>	~15%
Dislike election/preferential voting system	~7%
Dislike everything about the system	~6%
...	
<u>NET Corruption</u>	~10%





I think the whole thing is corrupt. Industry have too much influence at the expense of the environment, health outcomes, equality in education etc.



You can't believe promises made leading up to elections, as they never keep them

The government appears focused on not implementing many policies and not listening to the majority. Appears to be elitist and looking after the wealthiest



Politicians only seem to care about themselves, not for the majority anymore. They have forgotten that they are supposed to represent the people...



Only

39%

agree that the
current
political system
is the best
there is

Base: Australians aged 14-64, n=1071 (Top 2 Box agreement on a 5 point scale)

71%

agree that everyday people should play a bigger part in government decisions that impact their lives

68%

agree that everyday people should be allowed to make decisions on civic/
governmental
issues that impact
their lives

Base: Australians aged 14-64, n=1071 (Top 2 Box agreement on a 5 point scale)

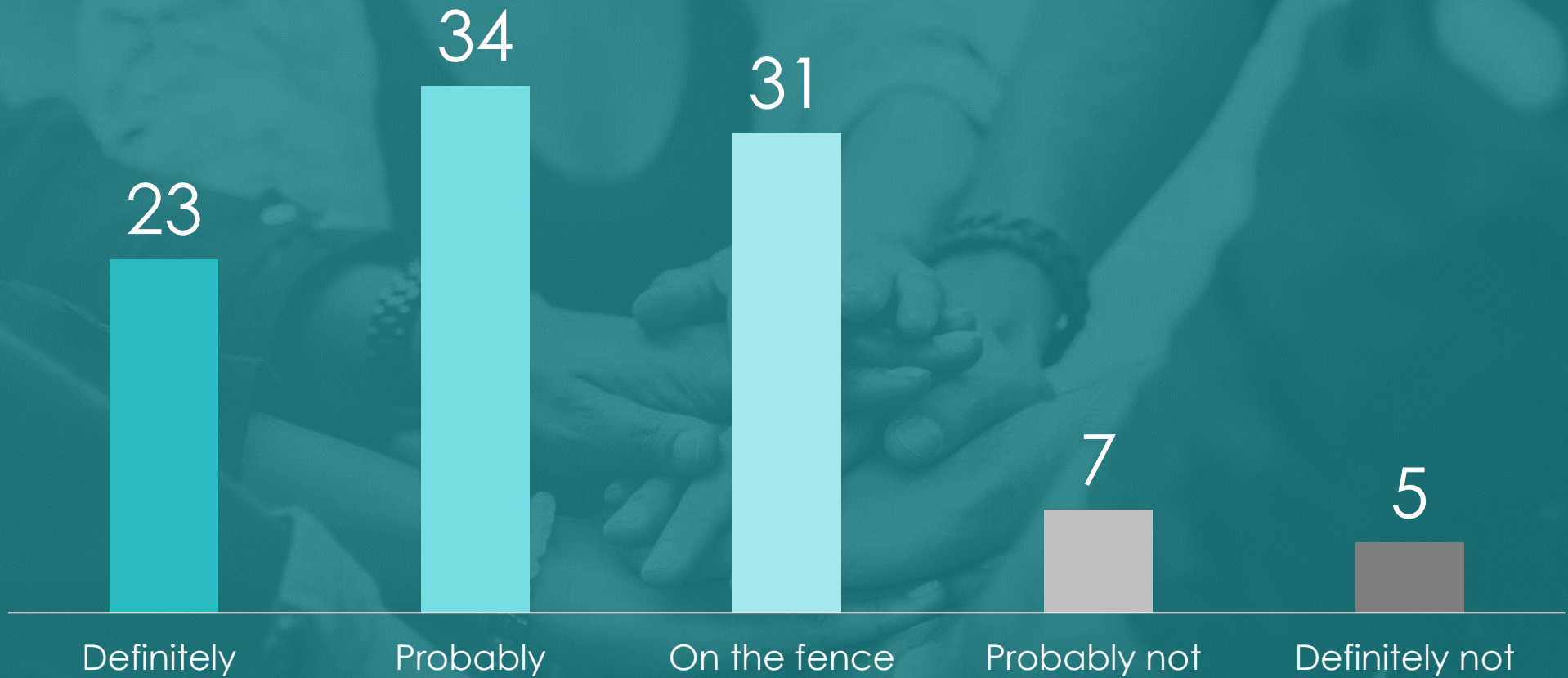
How the concept of citizen juries was presented

“Citizen juries” have been proposed as an alternative or complementary system to the current political system in some countries.

Citizen juries are ordinary people who are given the opportunity to make recommendations to the Government on issues (like health, education, transport, energy, wages, tax and welfare), on behalf of the rest of the population.

Citizen juries involve a random selection of everyday people (like in a jury in court) who are briefed in detail, given all the information they want and need, and given enough time to discuss and deliberate in order to come up with recommendations.

Level of support for this new system (%)



57% Probably or definitely support

Reasons for and against

For supporters

A move away from politicians who are out of touch

Towards giving 'real', independent people a voice

*“It gives the **power back to the people** who are more **in touch** with the day to day needs of **average Australians**”*

On the fence or non-supporters

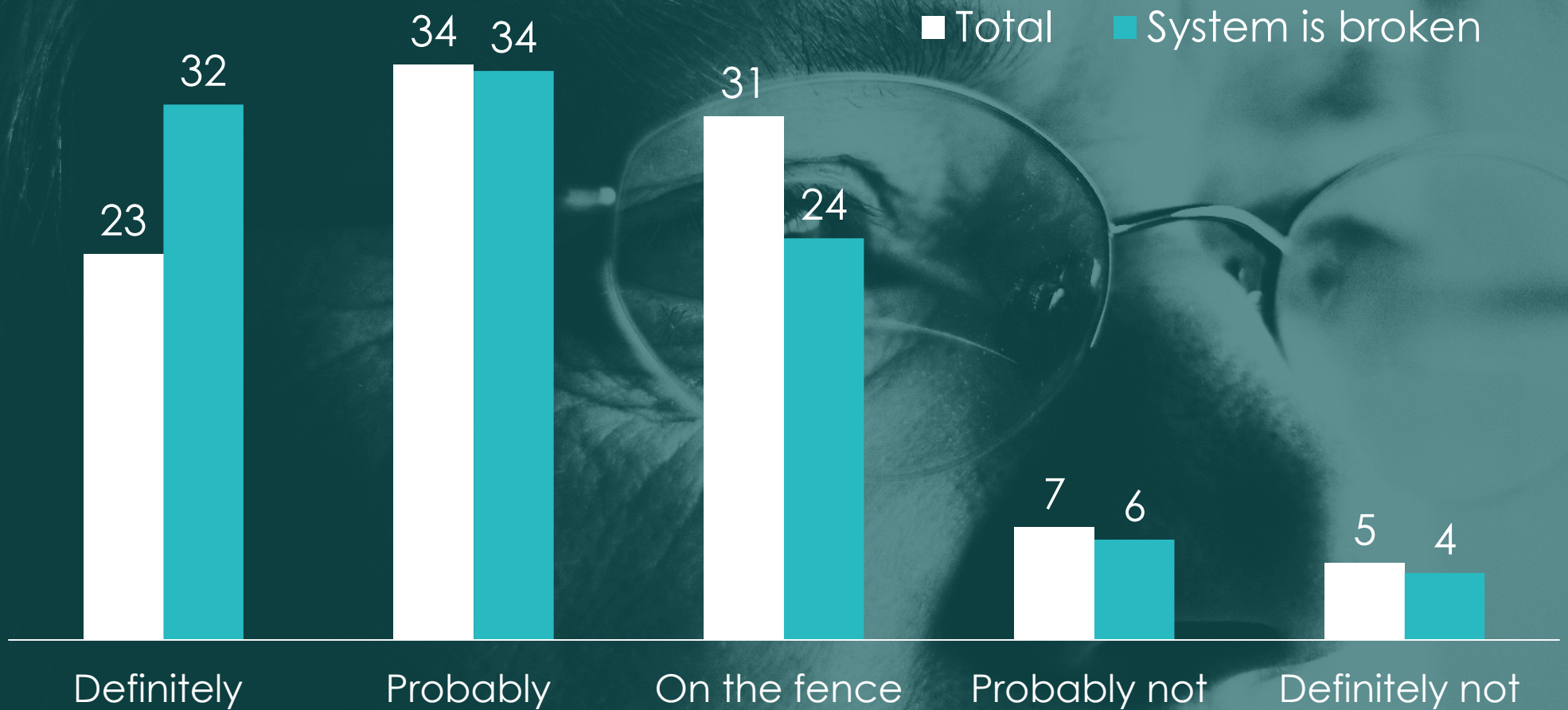
Need a little more information / evidence that it works

Reassurance that jurors will be well-equipped to make important decisions

*“Random people **do not have the experience and knowledge** to make those sort of decisions. They would only do what is good for them and not the country.”*

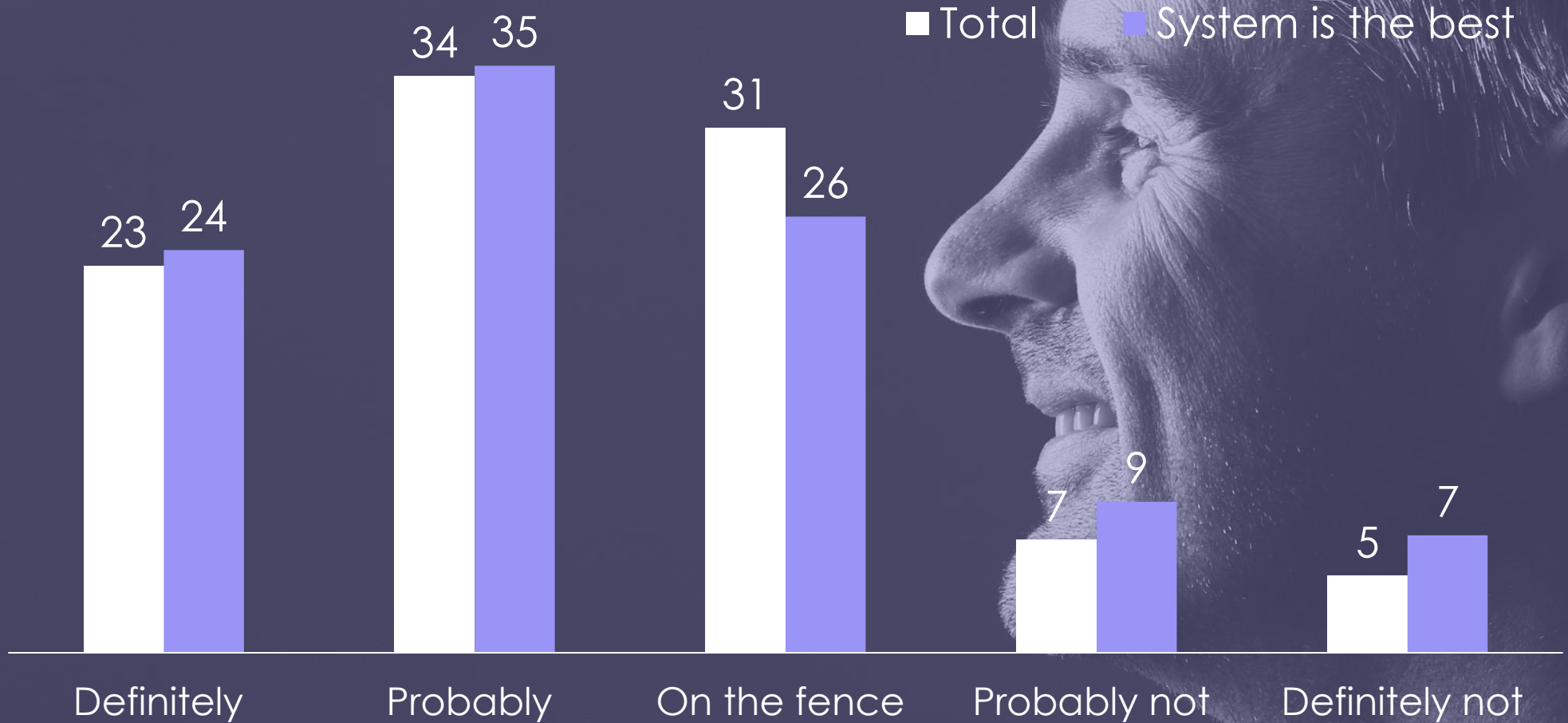
54%

Among the 54% who believe the current system is broken



39%

Among the 39% who believe the current system is the best



Wrapping it all up...

54%

of Australians agree that the current system of government is broken

... due to self-interested politicians and the increasing complexity of issues

71%

agree that everyday people should play a bigger role in government decisions

This also includes people who think the current system is the best we have

57%

support the idea of a citizen jury:

23% definite support

31% need more convincing

Only 12% are against it

Thank you

Pollinate

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