Australian Constitutional Values Survey 2010

Results Release 2

October 2010

Prepared for and by
Professor A J Brown & Dr Ron Levy
The Federalism Project
Griffith Law School
Griffith University
Gold Coast QLD 4222
Tel (07) 5552 7737

A.J.Brown@griffith.edu.au
www.griffith.edu.au/federalism

Level 5
Newspoll House
407 Elizabeth Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
Tel (02) 9921 1000
Fax (02) 9212 5880
newspoll@newspoll.com.au

Level 3
126 Wellington Parade
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Tel (03) 9416 4100
Fax (03) 9417 1800
newspoll.melb@newspoll.com.au

27 Torrens Street
Braddon ACT 2612
Tel (02) 6249 8706
Fax (02) 6247 4359
newspoll.canb@newspoll.com.au

METHODOLOGY & FUNDING

Sample

- Conducted nationally in Australia by Newspoll Limited among **1,201** respondents (2008) and **1,100** respondents (2010)
- Respondents aged 18 years and over.
- Respondents were selected via a stratified random sample process which included:
  - a quota being set for each capital city and non-capital city area, and within each of these areas, a quota being set for groups of statistical divisions or subdivisions;
  - random selection of household telephone numbers using random digit dialling (RDD);
  - random selection of an individual in each household by a "last birthday" screening question.

Interviewing

- Conducted by telephone over the period of **1-8 May 2008** and **1-14 March 2010** by fully trained and personally briefed interviewers.
- To ensure the sample included those people who tend to spend a lot of time away from home, a system of call backs and appointments was incorporated.

Weighting

- To reflect the population distribution, results were post-weighted to:
  - Australian Bureau of Statistics data on age, highest level of schooling completed, sex and area;
  - Federal voting intention (using the previous two Newspoll voting intention surveys) (2008 only).
- Results presented as weighted, with percentages based on these weighted figures.

Funding

- Funded by the Australian Research Council, Discovery Project DP0666833, led by Griffith University, with Charles Sturt University, University of New England and the University of Melbourne.

Results Release 2 - Questions

EE2. At the moment, the Constitution does not actually mention or officially recognise that **local government** exists in Australia. Which one of the following comes **closest** to your view?

1	The existence of local government **should** be officially recognised in the Constitution
2	**Or**, there is no real benefit in making this change to the Constitution
3	[Neither \ don't know]

EE3. Thinking about other things that could be changed in the Constitution. Do you think it is **important, or not important for Australia to have a referendum** about the following things in the next few years. [If important, is that **very** important or **somewha**t important?]

A	A referendum to decide if Australia should become a **Republic**
B	A referendum to recognise the **history and culture of Indigenous Australians** in the Constitution
C	A referendum about what **levels of government** Australia should have
D	A referendum to decide which level of government is **responsible for doing what**

A FIRST, THEN B-D RANDOMISED, MAINTAINING ORDER C-D

Fig 1. Should **local government** be officially recognised in the Constitution (2008 and 2010)

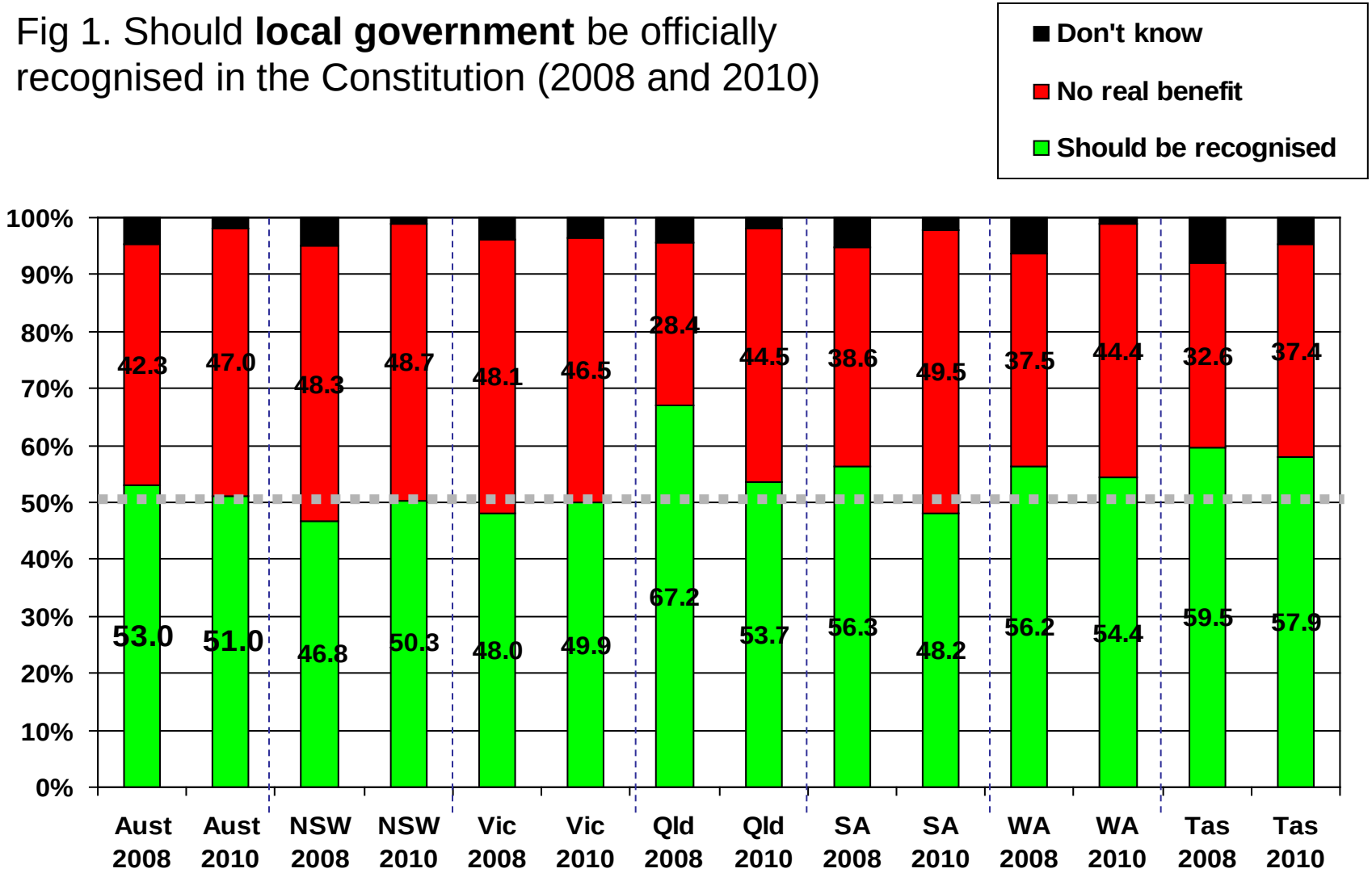

Fig 2. Predicted support for **substantive, reform-driven recognition** of local government (2008)

(If changes state there must always be a system of local government, set rules and standards of accountability, and guarantee a reasonable level of funding for local govt)
[See A J Brown (2008) UNSW Law Journal Vol 31(2)]

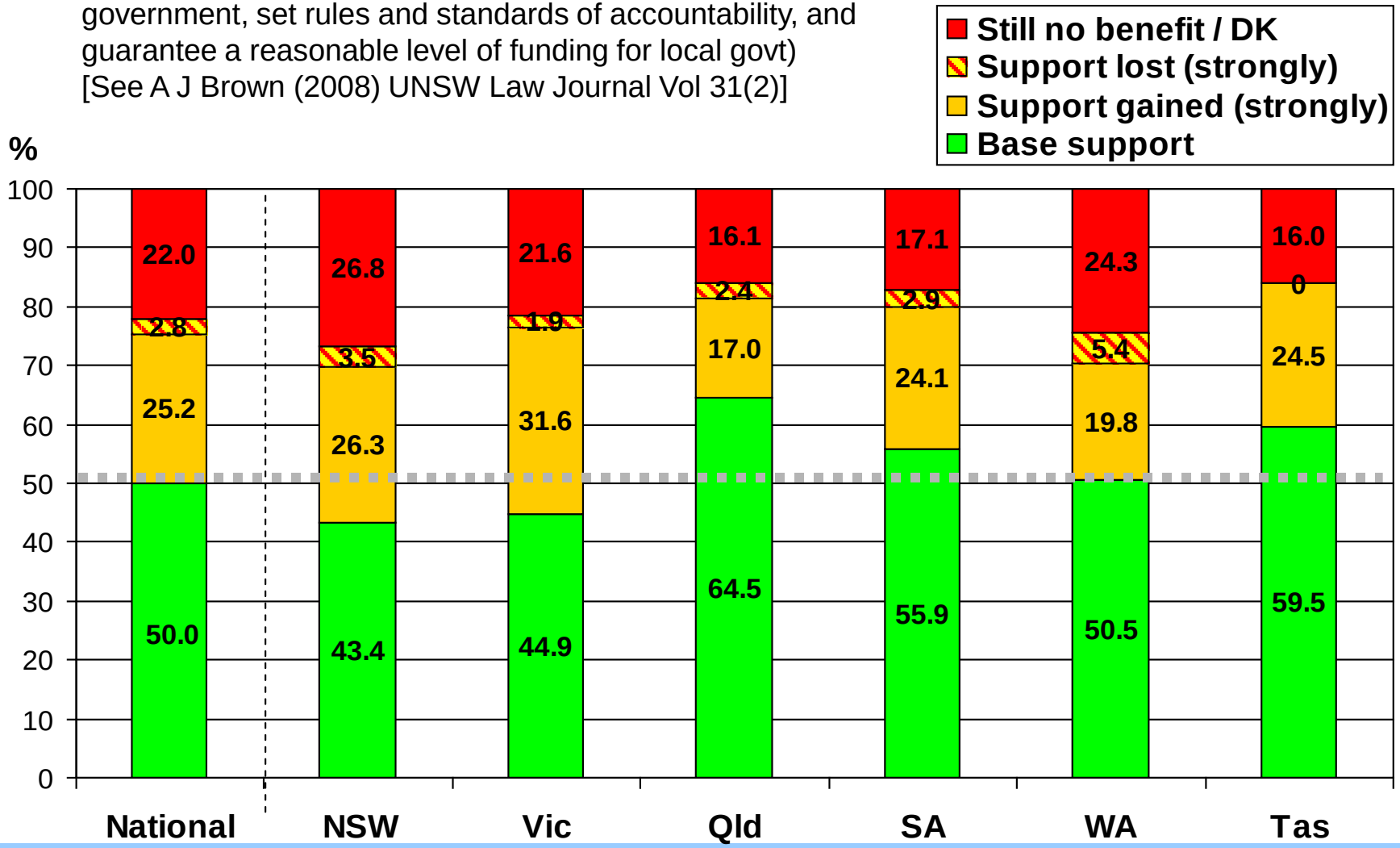

Fig 3. Should **local government** be officially recognised in the Constitution, by **voting preference** (2008 and 2010)

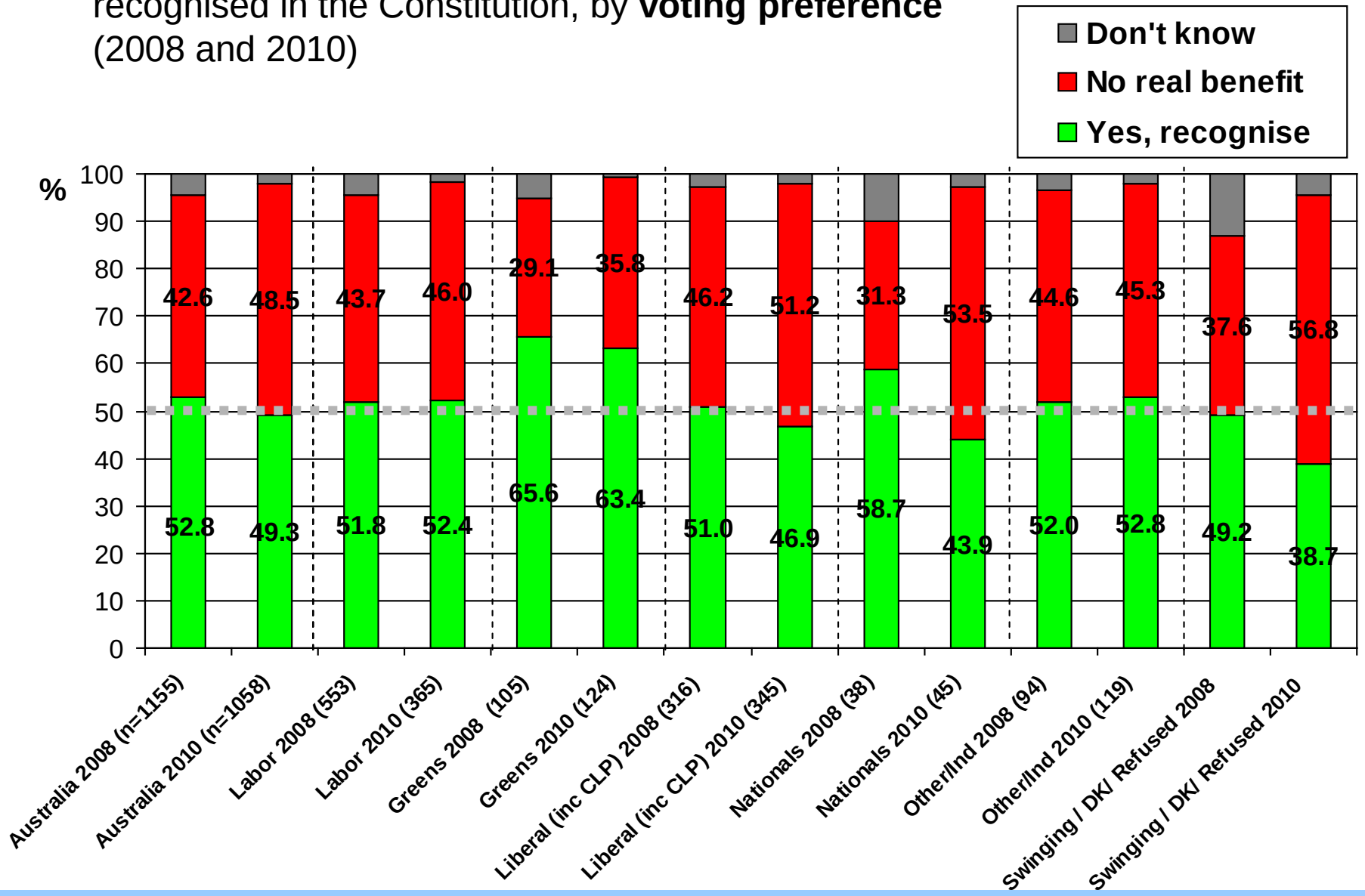

Fig 4. Importance of **holding referendum** in next few years, national (March 2010)

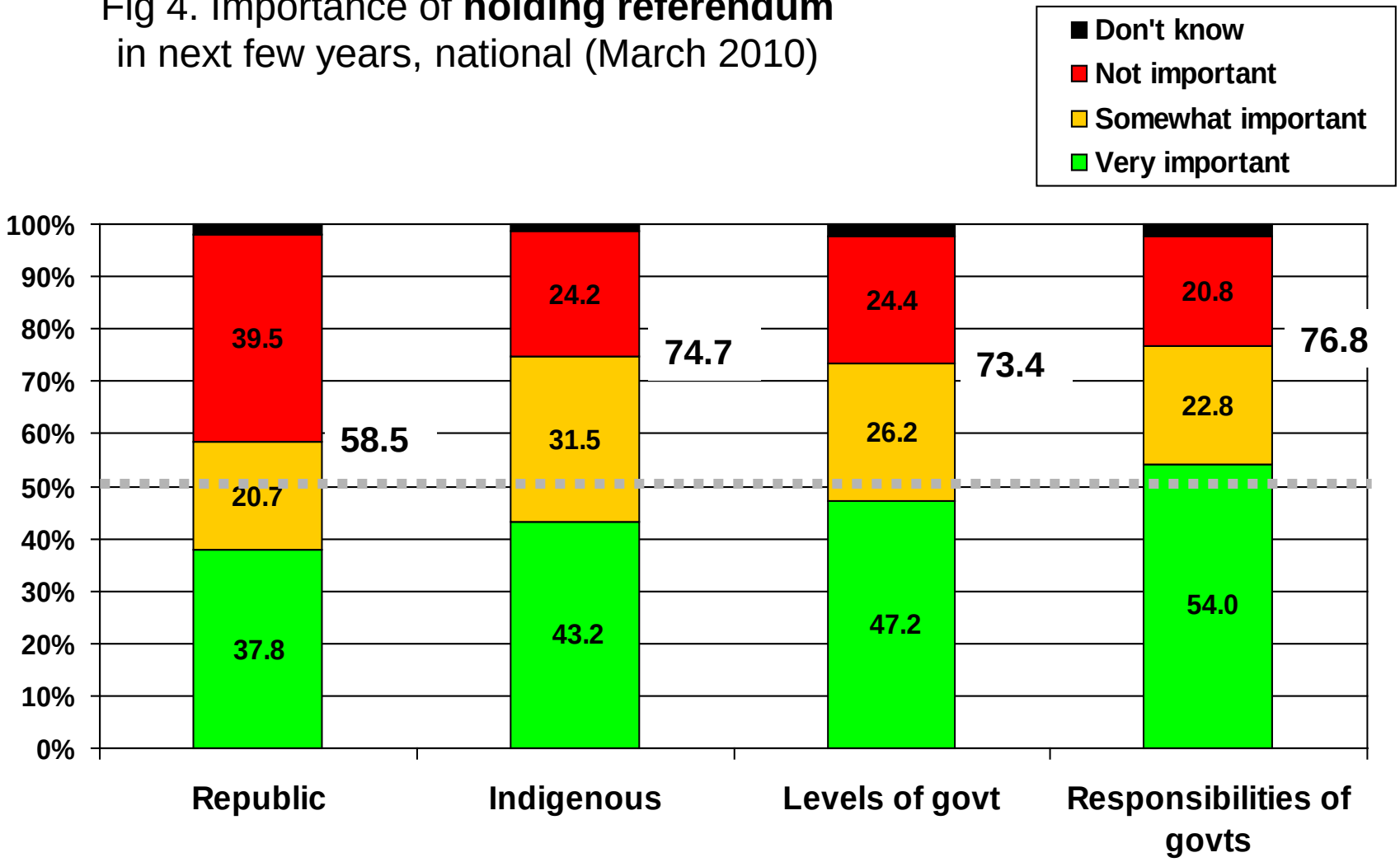

Fig 5. Importance of **holding referendum** in next few years, overall importance, national and by state (March 2010)

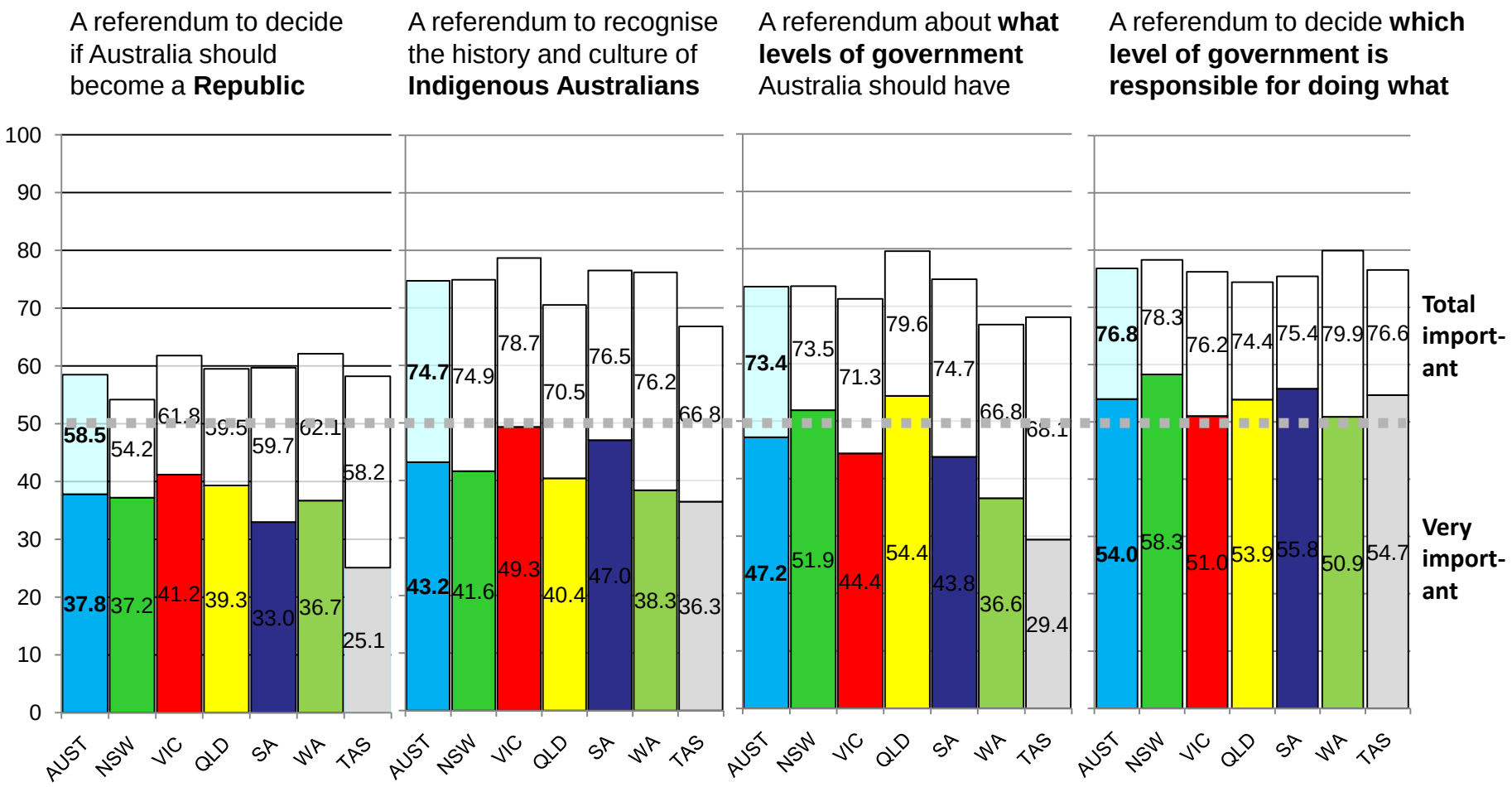

Fig 6. Importance of **holding referendum** in next few years by state (March 2010) (Very important only)

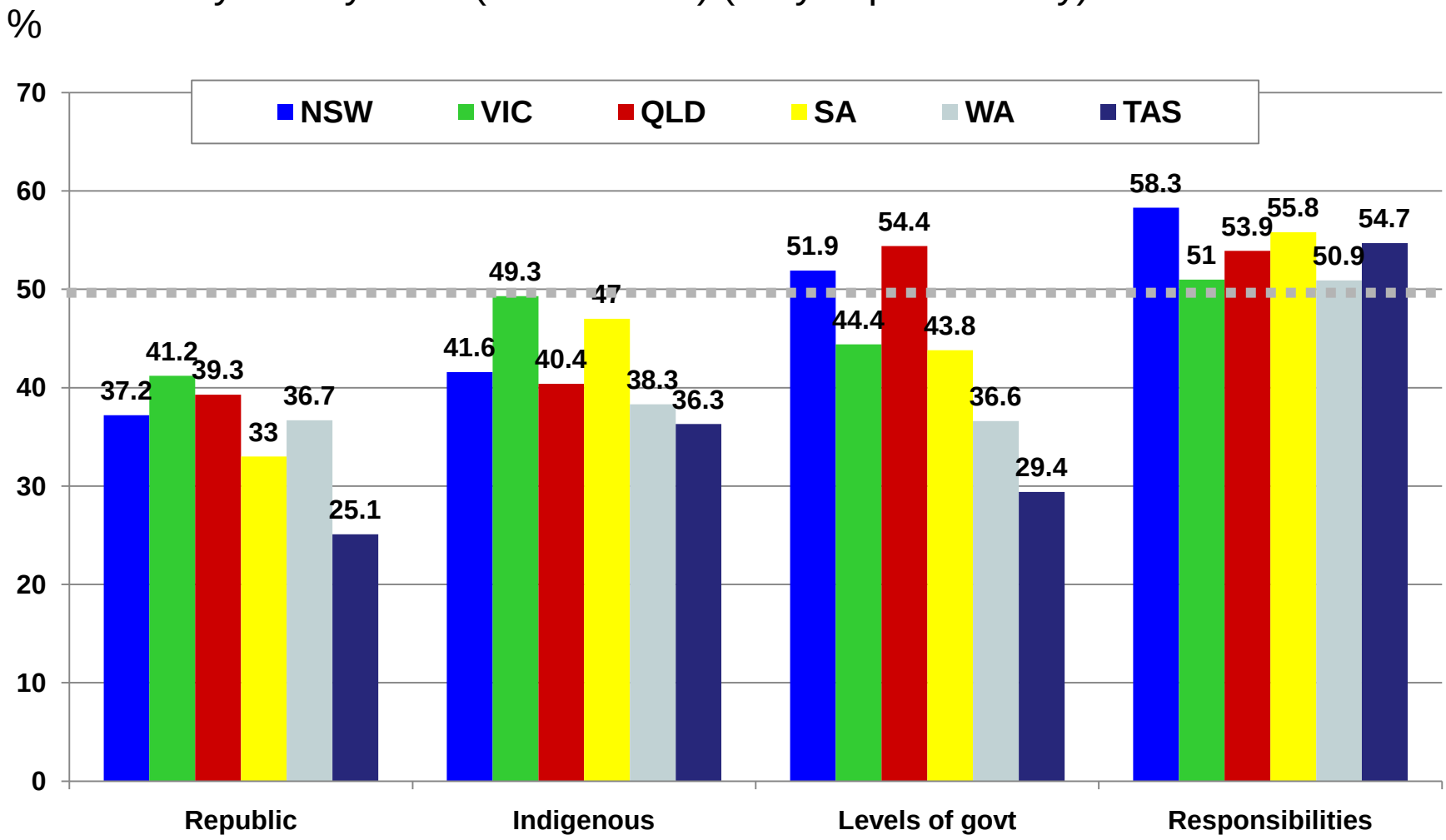

Fig 7. Importance of referendum to recognise **history and culture of Indigenous Australians**, by state (March 2010)

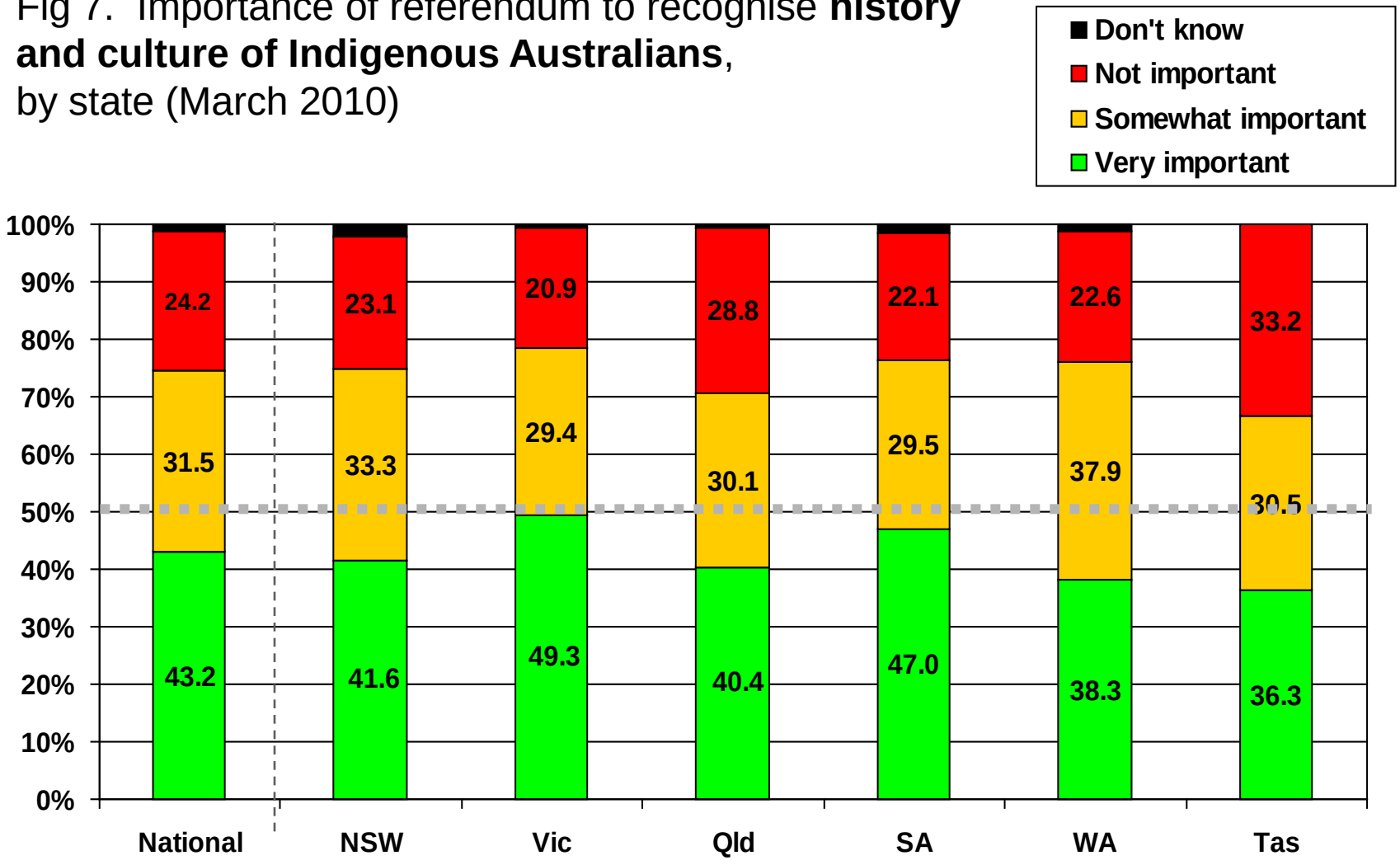

Fig 8. A referendum to recognise **history and culture of Indigenous Australians**, by voting preference

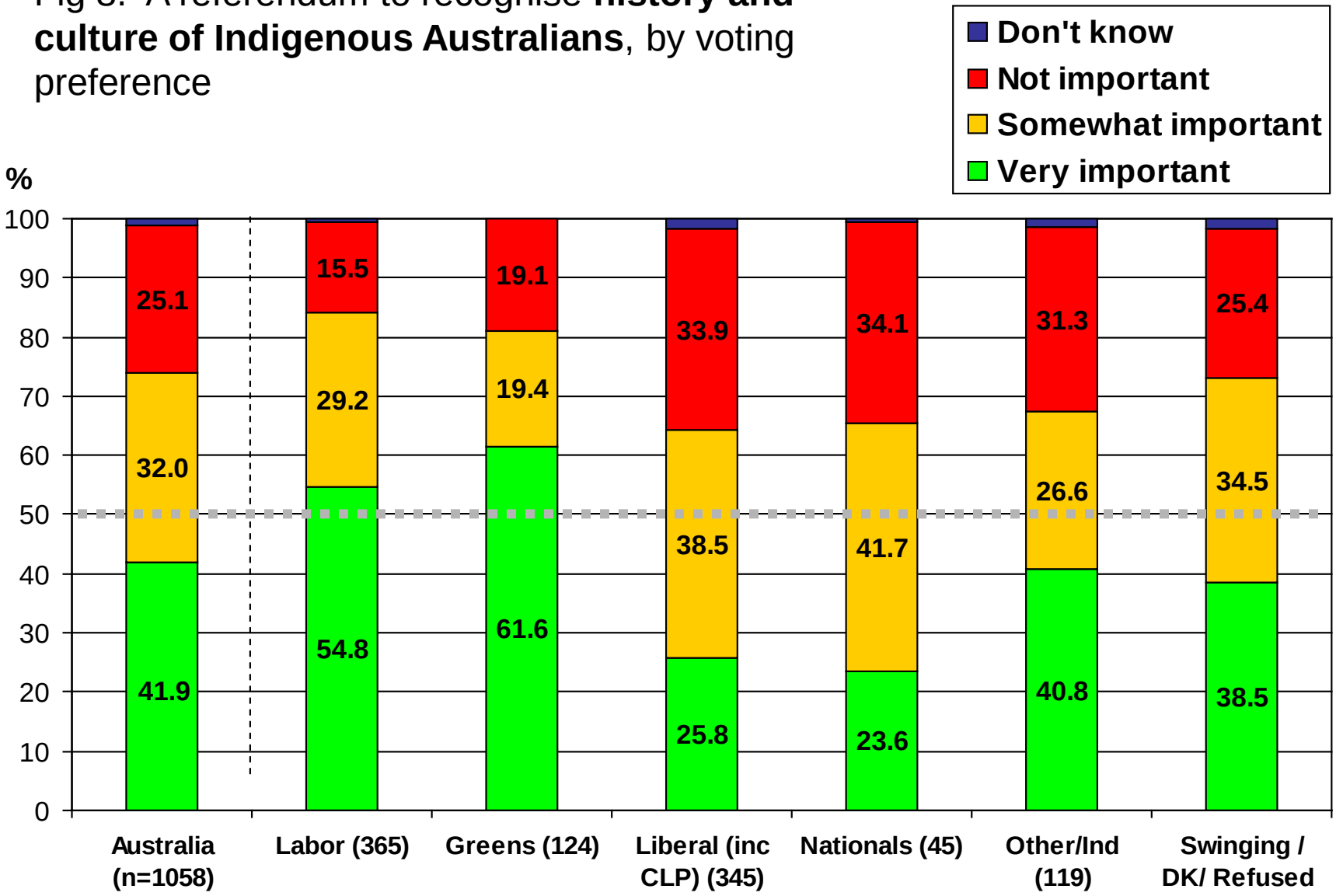

Fig 9. Both issues combined... by state (2010)

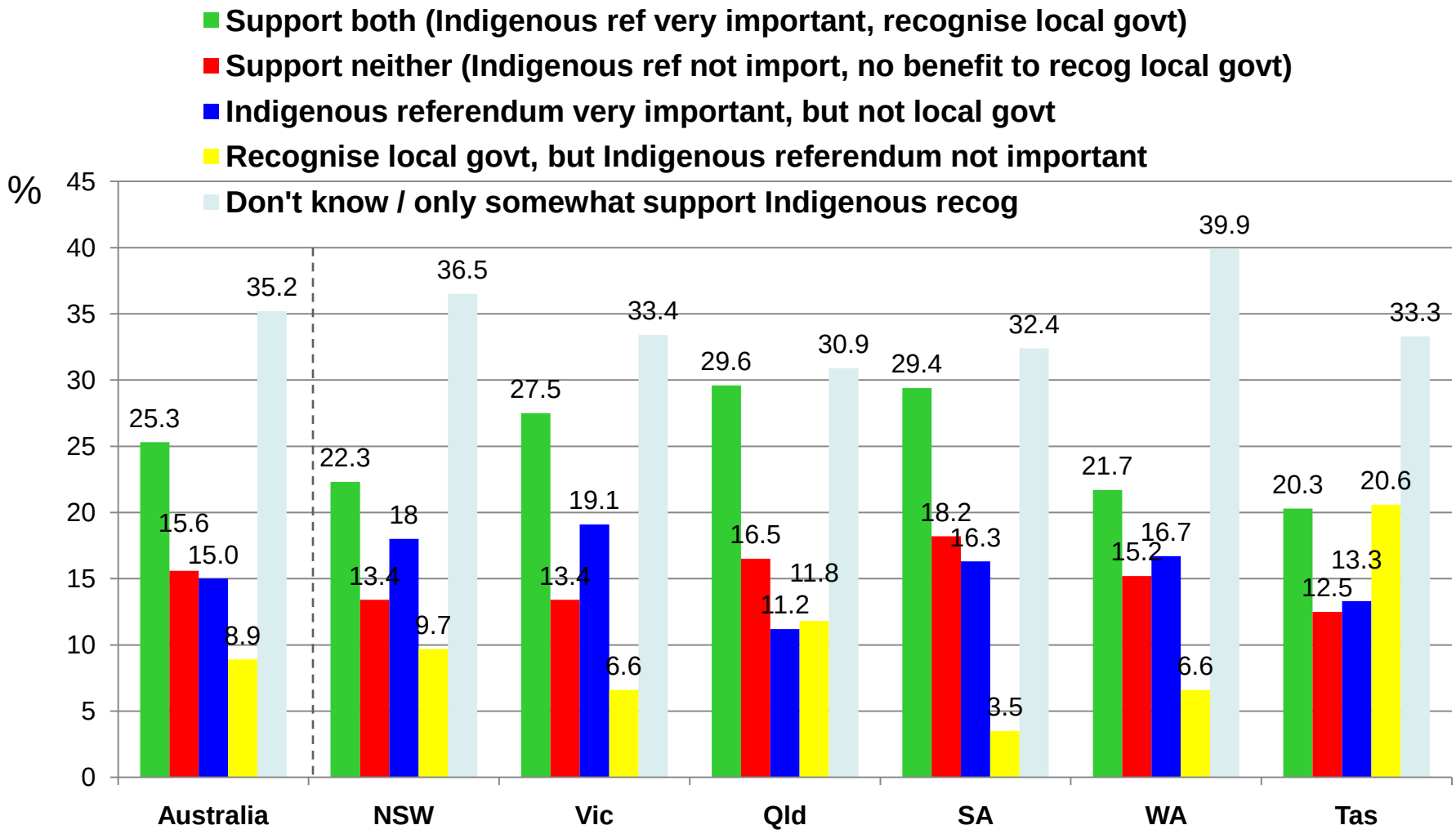
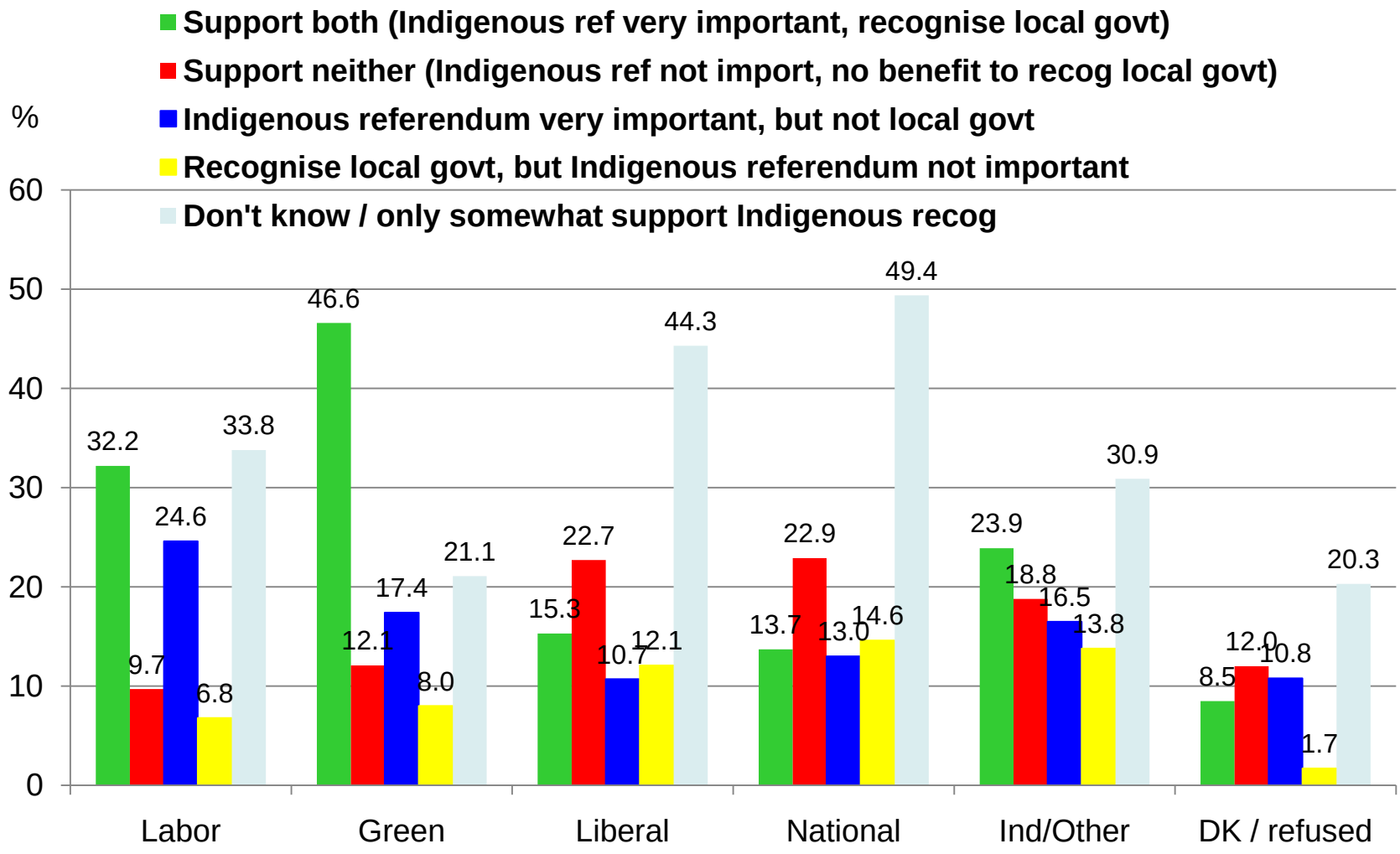
Fig 10. Both issues combined... by voting preference (2010)