

Public Attitudes Toward Higher Education:

Restoring the Public Service Mandate of Universities

***Jim Stanford, Economist & Director, Centre for Future Work
NTEU Campaign Meeting, August 2023***



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EDUCATION & TRAINING, PUBLIC SECTOR, PROCUREMENT & PRIVATISATION

Public Attitudes on Issues in Higher Education

Corporatised Model for Australian Universities is Eroding Public Trust, Education Quality

July 12, 2023 *by* Eliza Littleton



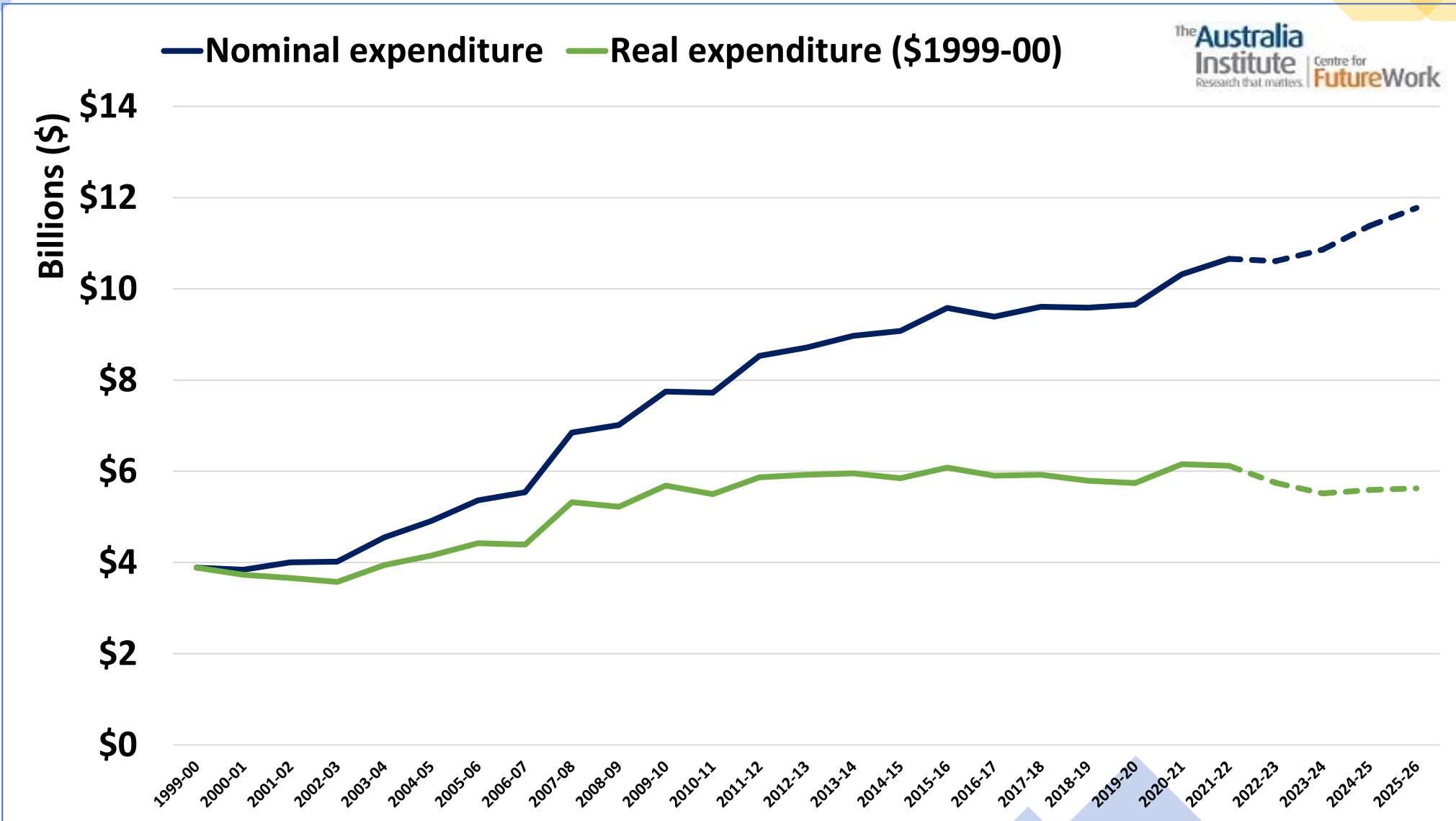


1. The Damage of Corporatisation and Underfunding

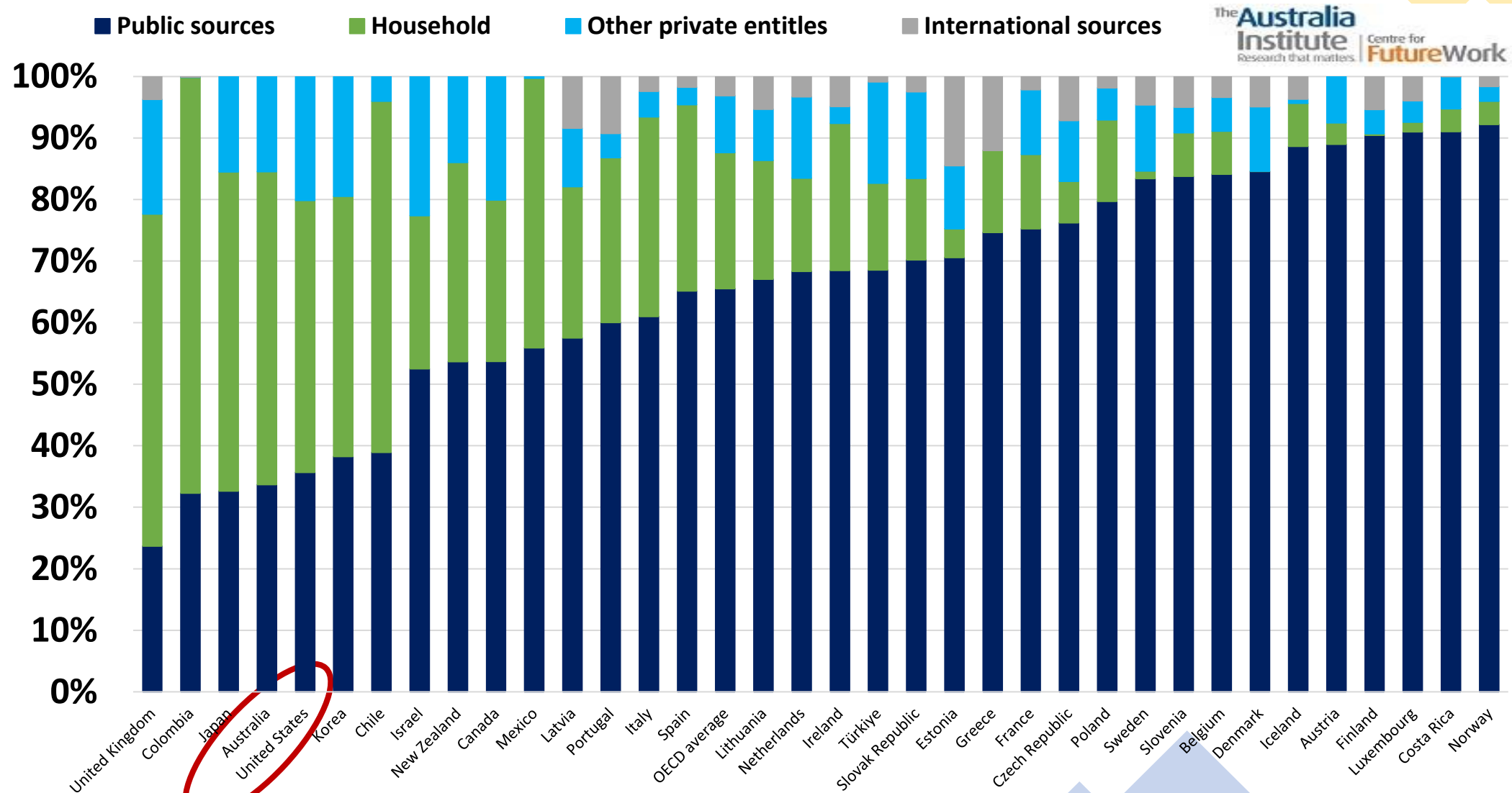
Consequences of University Corporatisation

- Direct public funding has stagnated for 15 years.
 - Fallen significantly in per capita and share GDP terms.
- Fees are more important (domestic and international).
- Student debt loads have grown (2X since 2008).
 - Indexation now sparking a crisis.
- Insecure work (casual and part-time) now constitutes the majority of university employment.
- Universities are run like private corporations (and their chief executives are paid like that, too).
- Abandonment of public service goals.

A Shrinking Federal Role



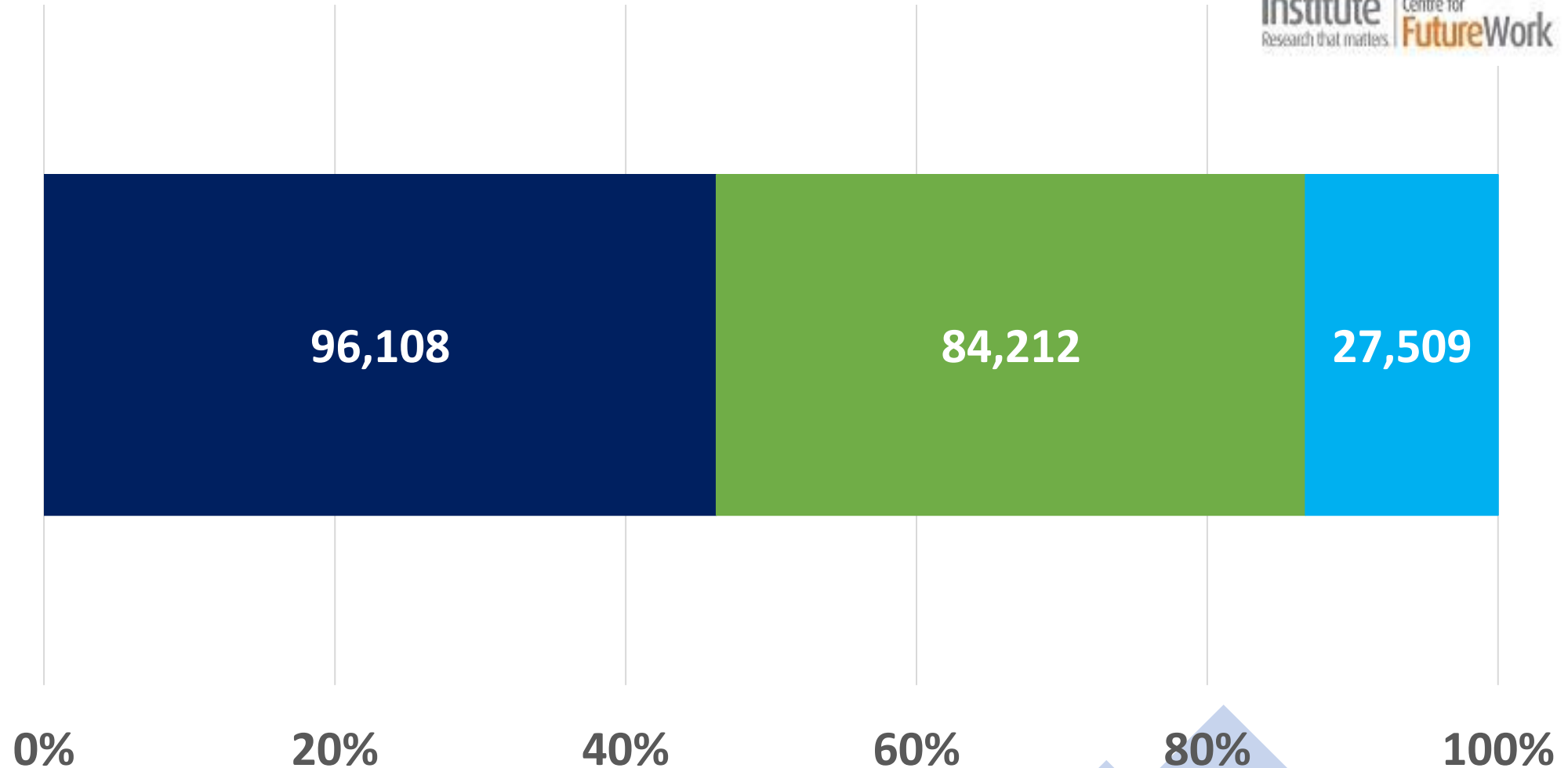
Worse Than America!



An Epidemic of Job Insecurity

■ Full-time ■ Casual ■ Part-time

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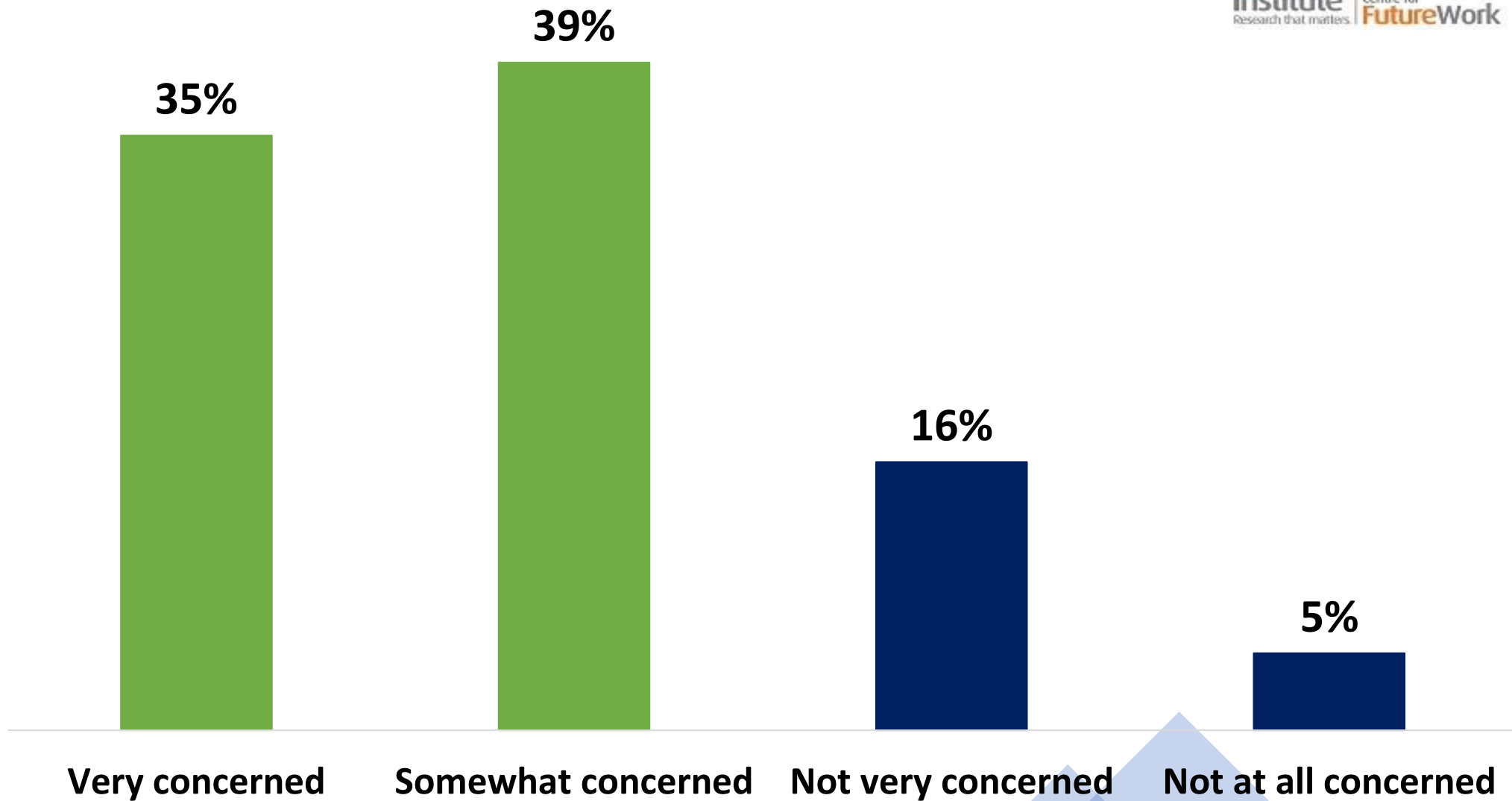
2. Public Attitudes on the State of Universities

A National Survey

- 14 to 17 March 2023.
- 1002 adults living in Australia.
- Online through Dynata panel.
- Nationally representative samples by gender age group and state/territory.

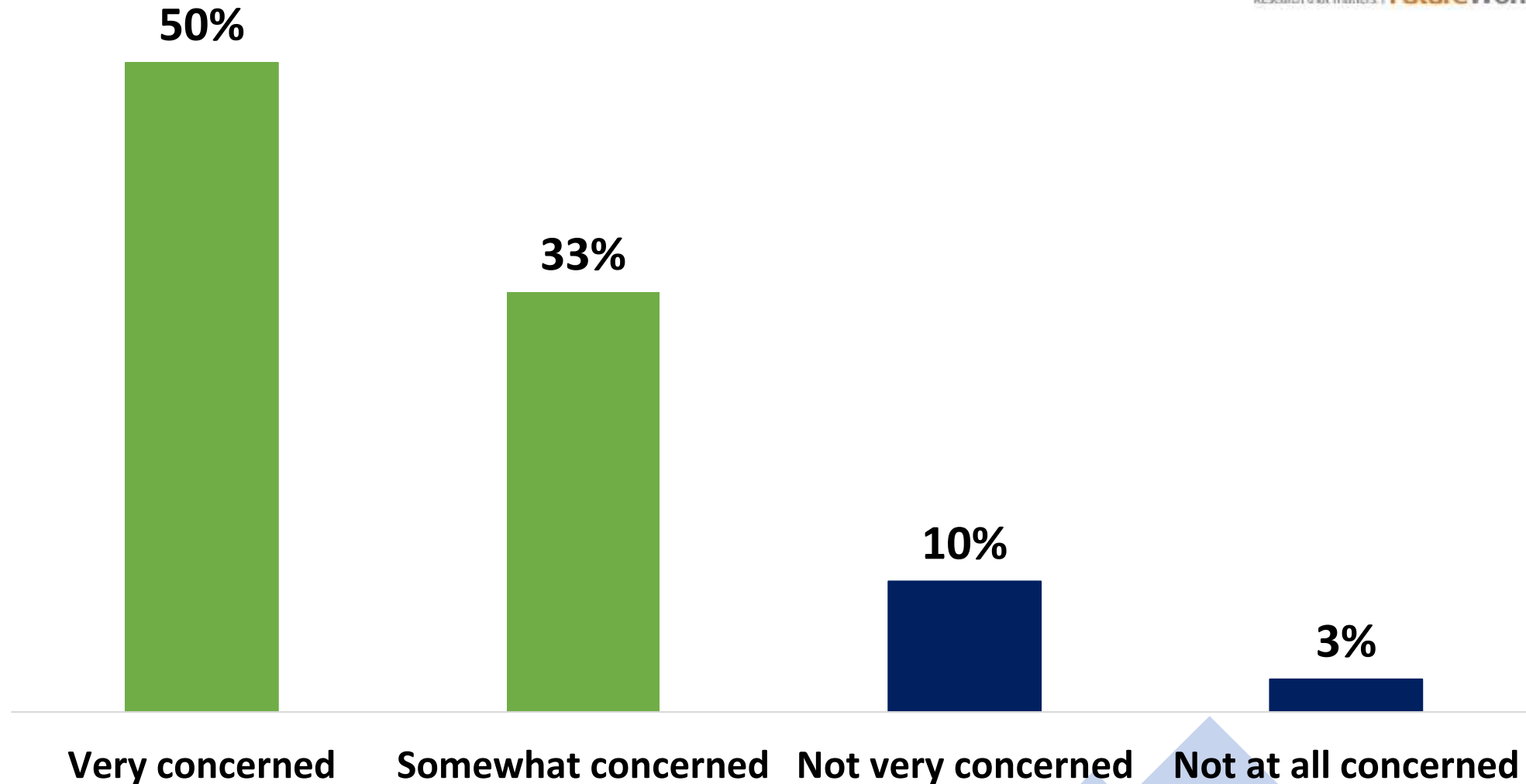
Concerned About Declining Funding

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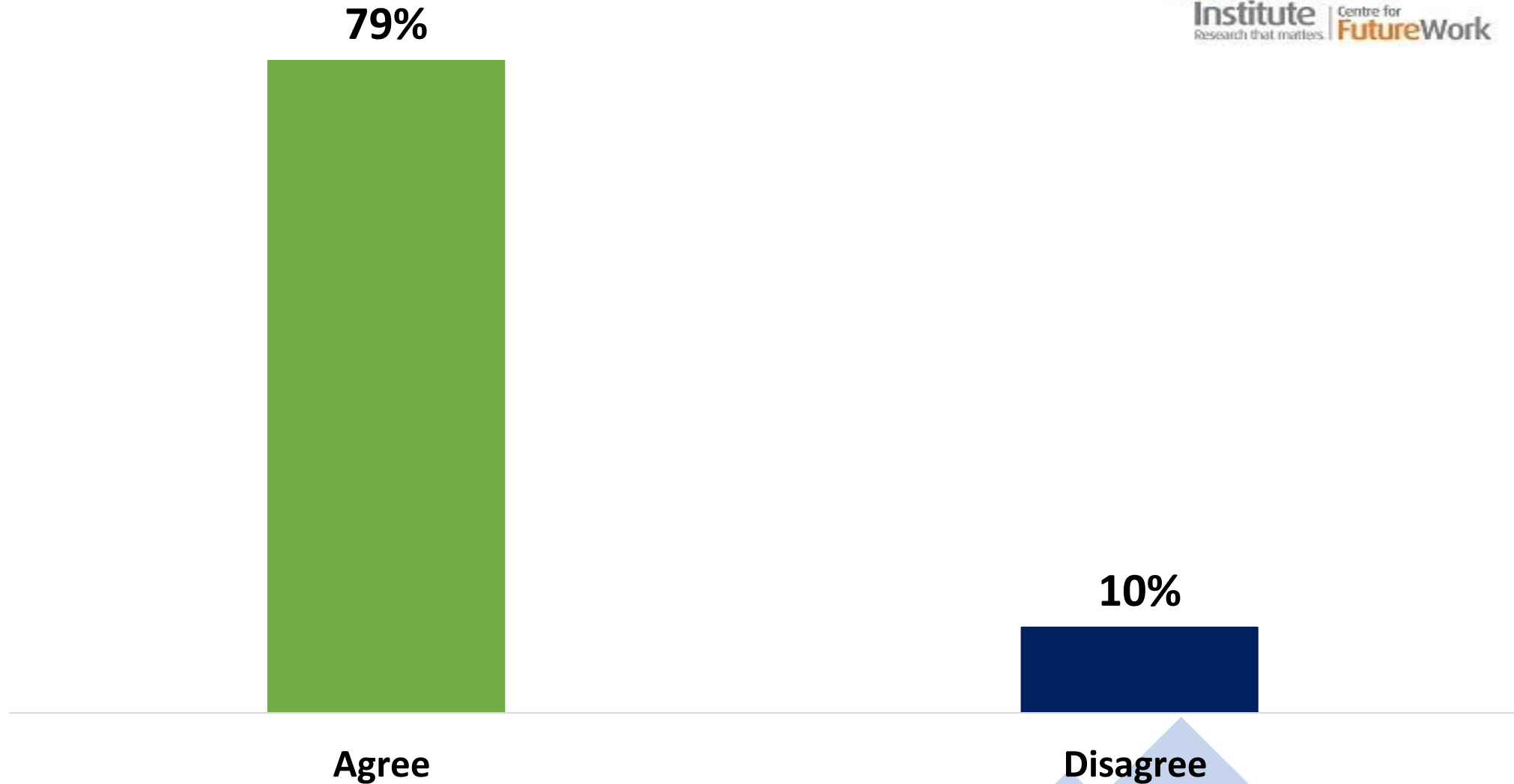
Universities Prioritise Profit Over Quality?

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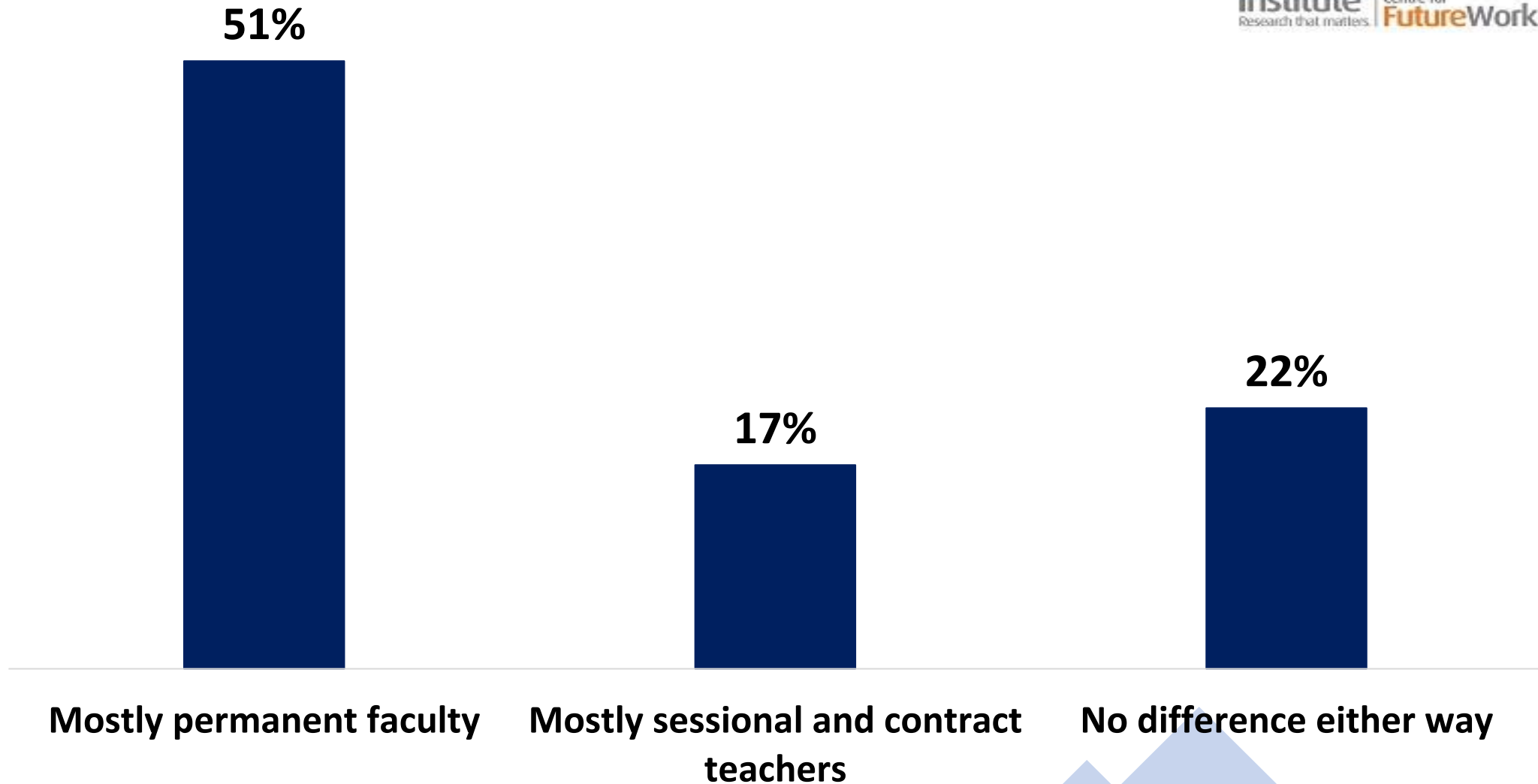


Cap V-C Salaries at No More Than PM?

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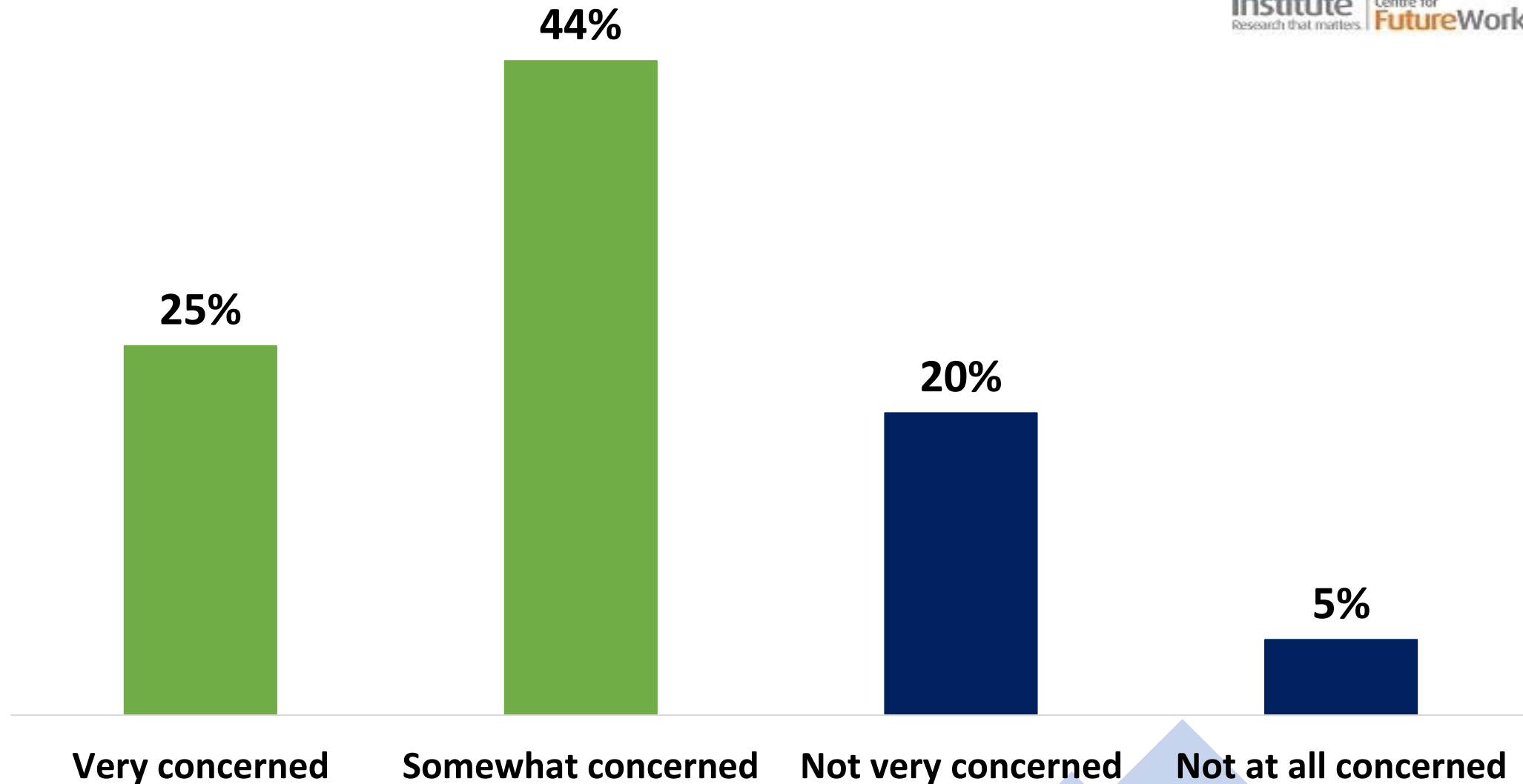


What's Best for Teaching Quality?



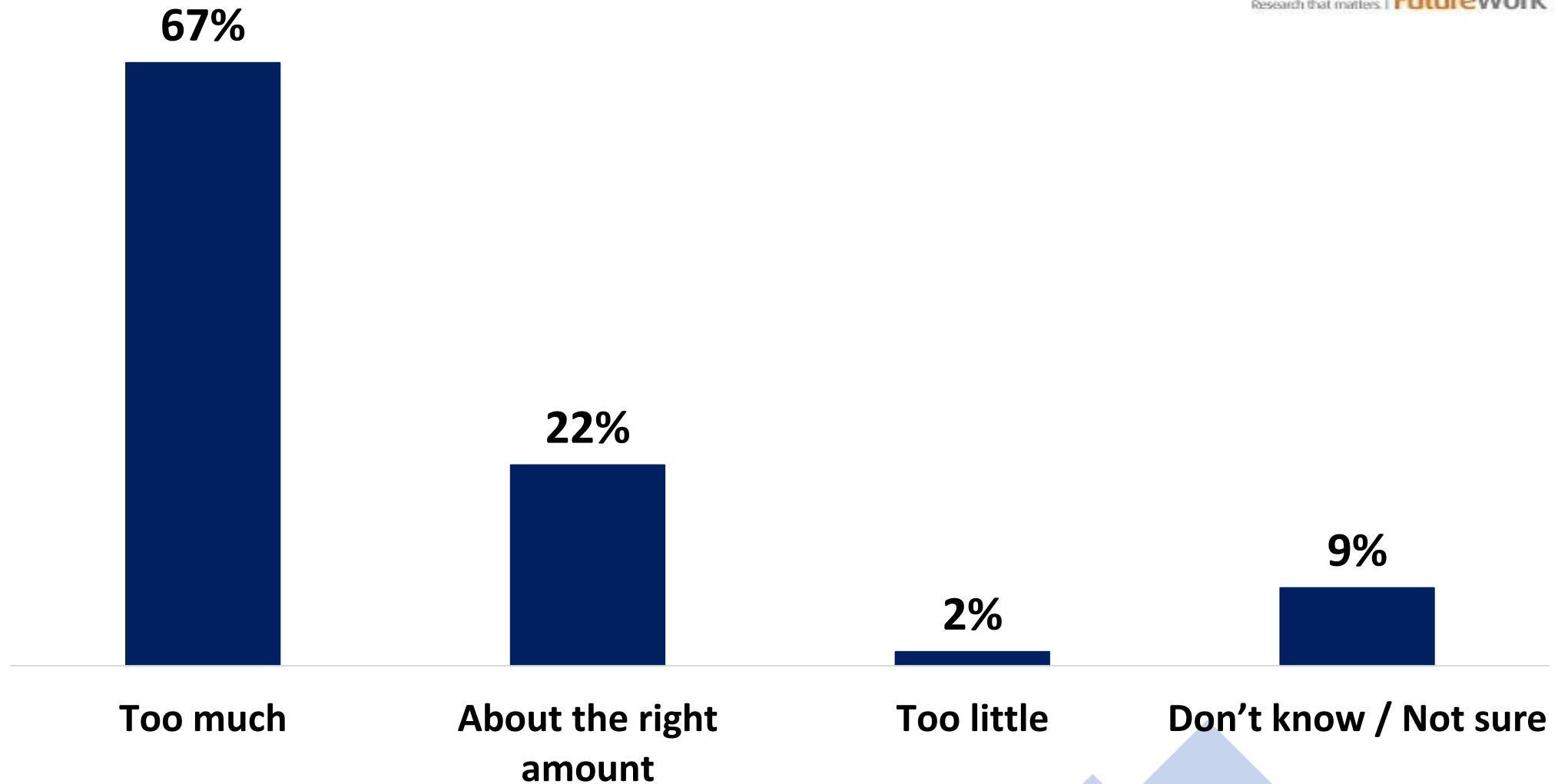
Concerned About Larger Classes?

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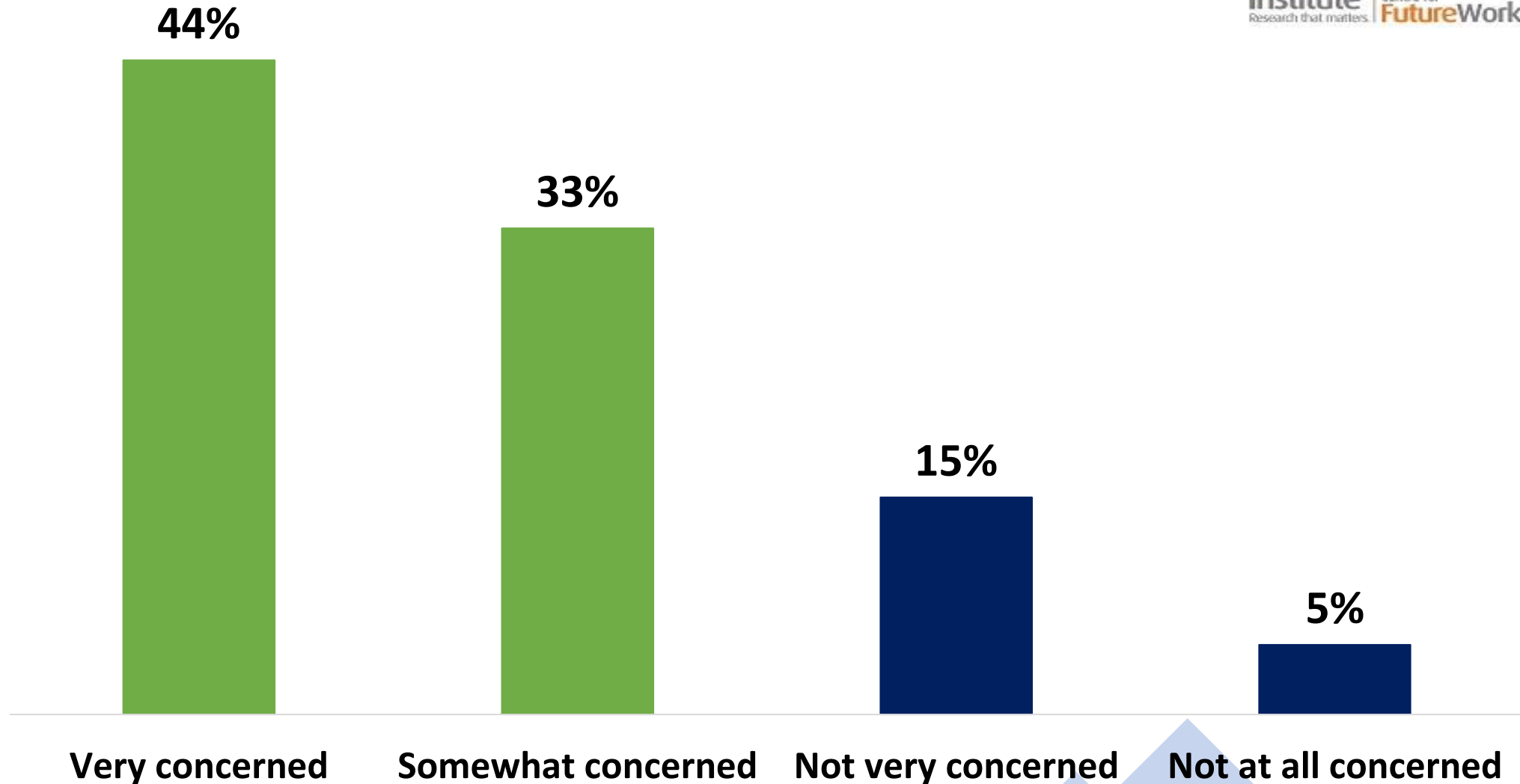
Attitude to Cost of Attending University?

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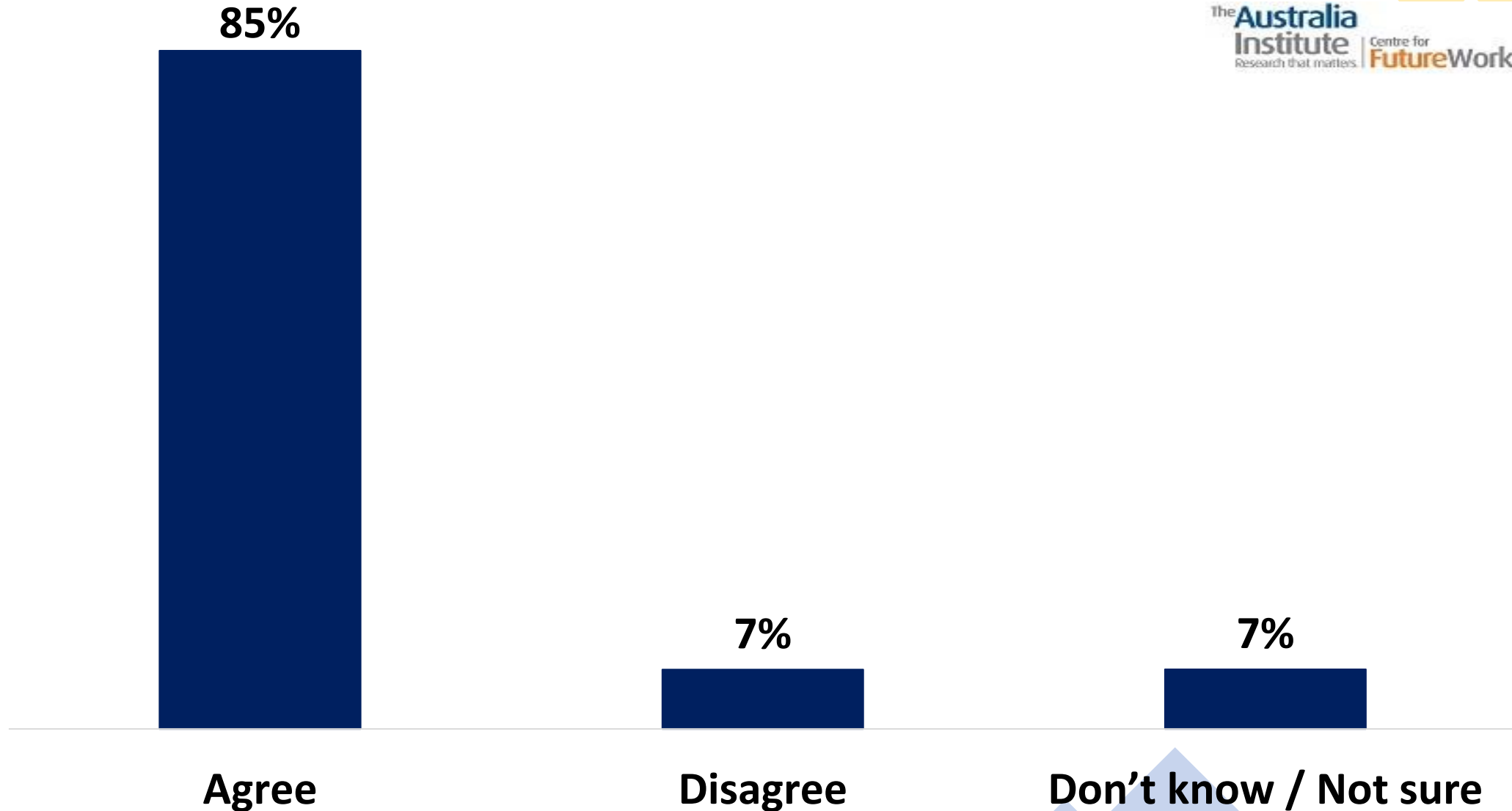
Concerned About Student Debt Burden?

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Affordability Should Not Stop Attendance?

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Conclusions

- Australians know universities have lost their public purpose.
- Profit-seeking & corporatisation are undermining the quality and stability of university work, and the quality of education.
- Australians strongly support accessibility to university regardless of ability to pay.
- There is strong public support for the NTEU's campaign to stop corporatisation and casualisation.
- There would be strong political support for a government that reinvents and restores universities' public service function.

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**Thank
You!**