



Australian
Institute of
Architects

Emerging Architect Prize

2022

Tour Review



BlueScope

The Australian Institute of Architects and Emerging Architect Prize Winners acknowledge that we live and work on traditional lands owned by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and pay respect to their spiritual relationship with their country.

The Australian Institute of Architects and Emerging Architect Prize Winners also pay their respects to elders past, present and emerging.

The Emerging Architect Prize Tour was delivered on the lands of the following peoples:

Turrbal
Larrakia
Ngunnawal
Ngambri
Gadigal
Muwinina
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Whadjuk Noongar
Kurna

Contents

Acknowledgement

2021 Emerging Architect Prize State Winners

Tamarind Taylor (QLD)
Sander de Vries (ACT)
Alexander Symes (NSW)
Emily Ouston (TAS)
Jacqui Alexander & Ben Sheridan (VIC)
Louise Ward (WA)

2021 Emerging Architect Prize National Winner

Dino Vrynios (SA)

Make Better – a film

A call to action

We should talk

National Mental Health and Wellbeing Poll Summary



Acknowledgement

It is an incredible privilege to be the recipient of the Emerging Architect Prize, and I want to congratulate all the recipients across the country for their achievements and contributions to date.

It was an absolute honour to travel the country and spend time with so many brilliant people and I want to thank the EAP State winners for sharing their stories on how they seek out opportunities for creating better.

Thank you to the Australian Institute of Architects, State Chapters and the EmAGN cohort for hosting me around the country.

Thank you to Bluescope for your commitment to the Architecture profession and supporting the Emerging Architect Program.

Thank you to the many people who have contributed to my career. Whether it be educators, colleagues, employers and friends, you have played a role in shaping the person and professional that I am.

Thank you to my team at Das Studio for believing there is a better way to provide Architecture and Design consultancy, and thank you to our clients, collaborators and champions for endorsing that idea by supporting us.

Thank you to my family for their patience, faith and unconditional support – through good times and bad, you have always been there – I am eternally grateful.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to my wife and partner in all things Sara Horstmann. This story is our story, and this achievement is our achievement. It simply would not have been possible with you.

Dino Vrynios

Emerging Architect Prize National Winner 2021

Connect via Instagram or LinkedIn

@dino.vrynios
@das__studio
@kin__life
@mdlr_au
@esca.au





Tamarind Taylor

Queensland Winner 2021

Tamarind engages, educates, and advocates as an expert in the promotion of heritage architecture to the broader public whilst contributing to the architectural profession through research, thought leadership and as a mentor for emerging architects.

This is exemplified by her nuanced heritage-focused work across multiple institutions and disciplines; providing valuable accessible research and raising public awareness in an area of growing cultural importance. Tamarind's commitment to excellence in practice and her leadership qualities are also evident.

This is seen through her position as an associate and heritage project lead at Conrad Gargett, her volunteer work in Myanmar with the Yangon Heritage Trust, and as a researcher with contribution to international heritage journals. She is also currently working on the documentation of modern heritage buildings for the DOCOMOMO Queensland Register, and as has been a consistent mentor in both practice and teaching, through her involvement with EmAGN.



Sander de Vries

ACT Winner 2021

Sander's passion for providing inspiring, fun, and flexible learning spaces and commitment to the end-users has been evident through his role as Education Sector Leader for SQC group, where he has led the delivery of a broad range of educational facilities; from public primary and high schools to University training facilities, over the past 15 years.

As a six-term ACT chapter councillor, Sander's enthusiastic and active engagement with the Institute is demonstrated through his roles as Chair of both the National and ACT Practice Committees; advocating on key issues such as Government Procurement, the Practice of Architecture, and the perception of the Architect within the building contract.

Sander is an engaged and approachable leader within the profession and strongly believes in the importance of ensuring the transfer of skills is passed on to the next generation of architects. This has been demonstrated through his dedication to providing mentoring to colleagues, graduates and peers not only in the workplace; but through his involvement tutoring at the University of Canberra, participating in the EmAGN mentoring program, and most recently the Institute National Mentoring Platform.



Alexander Symes

NSW Winner 2021

Since graduating from the University of New South Wales in 2006, Alexander Symes has been a part of many forums, conferences and mentorship programs, while also producing a diverse portfolio of projects. He has focused on creating a body of work that highlights his personal mission, to advance sustainable architecture and is now a qualified Passive House Designer.

Alexander's technical expertise in building physics and facade system design is built on the experience he gained working in Arup's Building Physics and Facade Engineer teams from 2010-2014. He has hands-on experience with construction and design for manufacture assembly (DFMA) and a passion for how buildings are put together. Alex has specialist training in the design and delivery of passive houses which we believe offer a pathway towards exceptionally comfortable and healthy homes.

Alex loves to collaborate with like-minded individuals and to test the boundaries of how we can challenge the status quo to advance sustainable architecture.





Emily Ouston

Tasmania Winner 2021

Emily is recognised for her excellence in both architectural practice and her leadership in design research and education, as well as advocacy for gender and social equity, sustainability and human rights.

Emily practices in an intelligent and generous manner. Her extensive skill set is demonstrated through her ability to navigate complex user groups, nurture meaningful collaborations and incorporate these into sustainable and astute architecture. This success is reflected by the multiple award-winning projects she has contributed to.

Emily has made honourable contributions to the Tasmanian architectural community through her role as a Chapter Councillor (2019-2020), as Vice-President to President Shamus Mulcahy (2020), and as Co-Creative Director for the Tasmanian architecture awards (2019), which offered for the first time access to the general public.

Emily weaves her environmental and social values through a determined architectural practice. She advocates for people and sustainability, while contributing selflessly to the community, and is an architect worthy of this high commendation.



Jacqui Alexander & Ben Sheridan

Victoria Winners 2021

This year's Victorian Emerging Architect Prize was jointly awarded to Jacqui Alexander and Ben Sheridan for demonstrating "the remarkable contributions emerging architects make to the culture of architecture in Australia."

The Jury recognised that "Jacqui has made a significant contribution to education as a Director of the Bachelor of Architecture program at Monash University. While Ben has shared his experience of practice through teaching positions at the University of Melbourne and involvement with the Robin Boyd Foundation.

"Jacqui and Ben have demonstrated design excellence through their sustained contribution to numerous award-winning projects in senior roles at Australia's leading architectural offices and more recently as Alexander Sheridan Architecture."



Louise Ward

Western Australia Winner 2021

A former Chapter Councillor of 4 years at the Australian Institute of Architects WA Chapter and Co-Chair of the WA Gender Equity Taskforce as well as member of the National Committee for Gender Equity, Louise is recognised for leading the charge in encouraging greater female participation and a more inclusive WA Chapter. Louise's work includes, driving events and education initiatives, contribution to policy, advocating for women in leadership roles such as Chapter Councillors and Fellows, and collaborations with Parlour.

She has also been a keen advocate for making membership more accessible for everyone, including younger members of the profession. Louise's focus on equity extends to her architecture work, with her clear focus being on architecture for the community. A valued project architect at Hillam Architects, Louise has contributed to a number of significant community projects in aged care and government education. She sees these important projects as having the potential to profoundly and positively impact the most vulnerable members of our West Australian community.





Dino Vrynios

South Australia & National Winner 2021

Dino Vrynios has continuously and passionately engaged himself in all aspects of architecture and the community, tirelessly searching for and achieving his studio motto, “Make better.” After graduating from the University of South Australia, he quickly established a high-responsibility career within practice, while determinedly contributing to many new initiatives within the Australian Institute of Architects as well as the broader local community.

Dino’s dedication to work outside his practice is exemplary, including: co-founding the Festival of Architecture and Design (FAD) and undertaking the role of creative director; developing and expanding the Future Forum initiative in partnership with the South Australian chapter of the Institute; creating the 20:MinuteCity Podcast in collaboration with CityMag; researching modular construction and co-founding commercial organizations Esca and MDLR; and sitting on the board of directors for Tutti Arts, a disability arts not-for-profit.



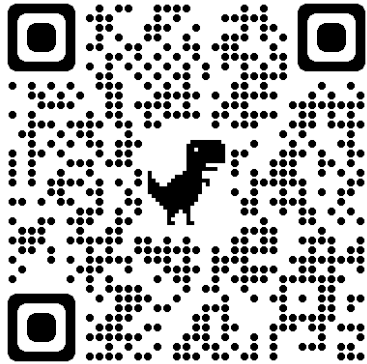
Dino's tireless work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit have seen him receive the Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship (2015), Indaily's 40 Under 40 award (2020) and multiple state architectural awards within his previous practice.

After a frank acknowledgement of the toll a heavy workload can have on individual wellbeing, Dino re-evaluated his direction and established Das Studio with his partner in 2019.

The practice has grown rapidly and become a "home" for a group of mostly young graduates and recently registered architects in which knowledge sharing, mentoring and wellbeing are a focus. Dino has proven himself to be an influential and entrepreneurial leader as he continues to spread his enthusiasm about architecture and its capacity to create a better world.



make better



make better – a film

Through the decisions we make everyday as Architects, I believe we have a greater ability than most to have an impact – and this is a huge responsibility.

It is also a privileged position.

‘make better’ is an ethos conceived together with our team at Das Studio to act as a lens to help guide how we live, learn, work and play.

We use this to support us as we endeavor to make the world a better place – to be good ancestors.

Because we can’t leave it for later – the time is now.

Architects are makers, so I ask you to consider how can you make better.



We should talk

Throughout 2017 – 18, I suffered episodes of mental and physical burnout. A manifestation of multiple factors – professional, extra-curricular and family – but my workload was a major contributor.

In February 2019, I needed a circuit breaker and so, with support from family and friends I stopped. I took leave to consider what was most important to me. I walked away and joined Sara to start our Das Studio journey together.

We wind ourselves up in our work to the point where it entraps us. This can become toxic and destructive. As we have built Das Studio, we have embedded a number of principles that ensure we create a supportive environment for our people where they can have balance in life and work.

It also requires strong leadership to stay the course and not be swayed and so, that is why I am using my platform as the National Emerging Architect to create space for discussion about mental health and wellbeing in our profession.



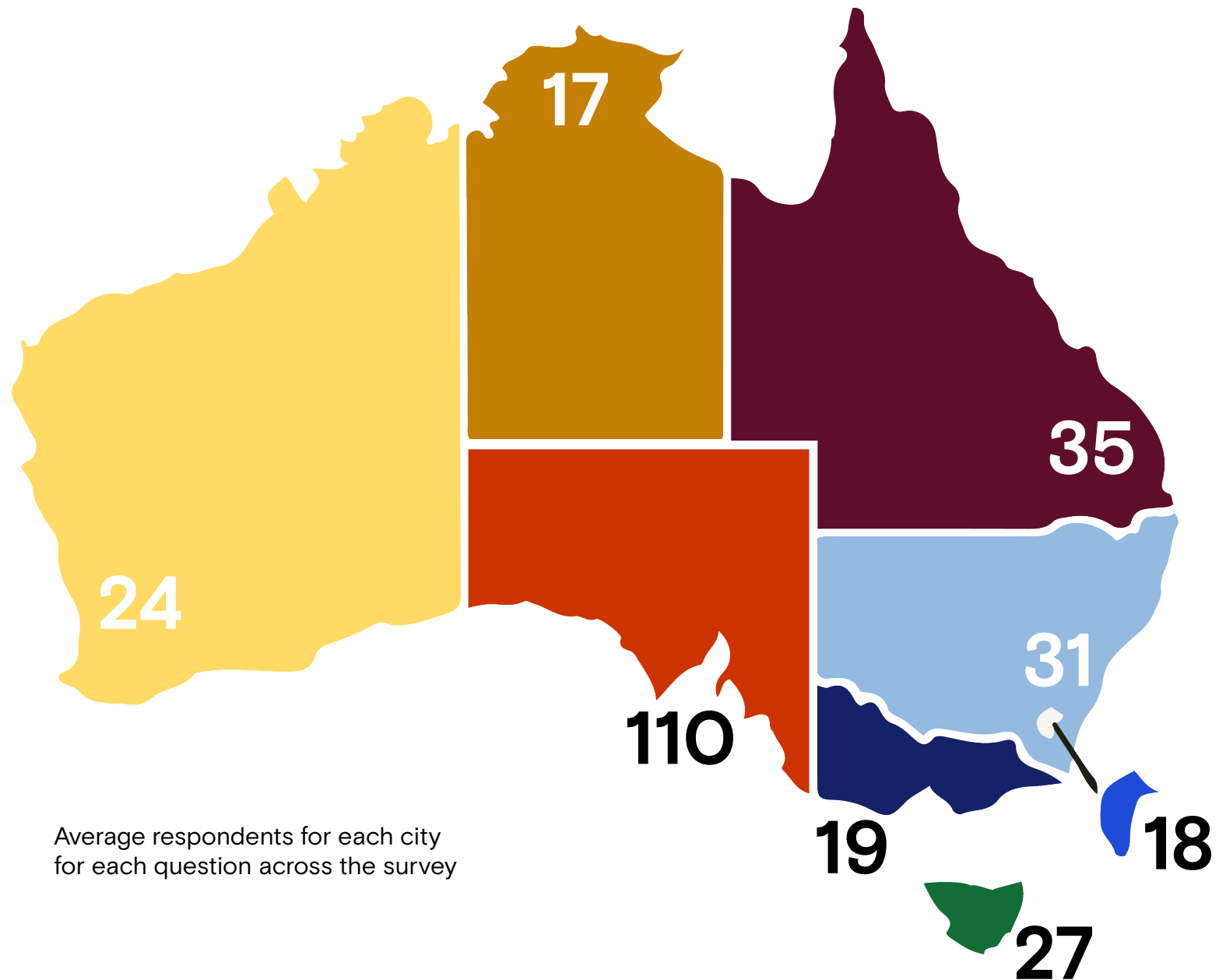
We should talk

Across all eight events around the country, attendees were invited to participate in an anonymous live poll that provided instantaneous responses to curated questions about mental health, wellbeing and the profession.

These questions were consistent across the country and approximately 280 attendees submitted responses.

The idea was to help people share in a discreet way their own thoughts and feelings, while also get an insight as to how their colleagues are thinking as well.

The results are not intended to be scientific, but rather a device to help the profession start conversations about the environments within which we work and how we can support each other.



Average respondents for each city
for each question across the survey

Q1. How are you?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Awesome	19%	21%	6%	29%	23%	16%	16%	13%
Good	46%	33%	44%	41%	31%	58%	32%	52%
Okay	13%	30%	33%	24%	27%	11%	24%	26%
Been better	12%	12%	17%	0%	19%	5%	16%	6%
Just hanging in there	7%	3%	0%	6%	0%	11%	12%	3%
Help!	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Q2. Do you feel comfortable talking about your mental health and wellbeing?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes	52%	48%	41%	65%	42%	47%	58%	39%
Sure	21%	36%	41%	29%	46%	26%	21%	35%
Not really	23%	15%	18%	6%	8%	26%	17%	23%
No chance	4%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	4%	3%

Q3. Have you ever chucked a ‘sickie’

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Hell yeah!	63%	58%	82%	75%	65%	63%	48%	58%
No, I’m an angel	31%	39%	12%	25%	19%	26%	29%	35%
What’s a sickie	5%	3%	6%	0%	15%	11%	24%	6%

Q4. Have you ever taken a sick day that was actually a mental health day?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes	57%	58%	83%	63%	52%	37%	61%	55%
No	43%	42%	17%	38%	48%	63%	39%	45%

Q5. Can talk to your employers about your mental health & wellbeing?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes, I can	41%	49%	33%	50%	43%	26%	41%	35%
Sometimes	39%	31%	50%	31%	43%	32%	36%	42%
No chance	20%	20%	17%	19%	14%	42%	23%	23%

Q6. Does your workplace have a mental health & wellbeing policy?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes, it does	35%	40%	39%	69%	39%	44%	38%	26%
No, it doesn't	34%	26%	22%	13%	25%	28%	19%	19%
I'm not sure	32%	34%	39%	19%	36%	28%	43%	55%

Q7. Have you ever talked to your employers about your mental health & wellbeing?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes, I have	56%	56%	56%	38%	43%	56%	46%	39%
No, I haven't	44%	44%	44%	62%	57%	44%	54%	61%

Q8. Do you have a positive culture towards mental health & wellbeing in your workplace?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yeah, we do!	53%	71%	44%	65%	71%	47%	63%	65%
It's changing	37%	18%	44%	29%	18%	42%	29%	35%
No, we don't	10%	12%	11%	6%	11%	11%	8%	0%

Q9. Do you feel that workplace management cares about your mental health & wellbeing?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yeah, they do!	62%	57%	44%	56%	52%	26%	46%	71%
Kind of	32%	34%	33%	25%	41%	53%	42%	23%
Not really	6%	9%	23%	19%	7%	21%	13%	6%

Q10. Do you feel that you have flexibility for how and when you work within your workplace?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes, I do	58%	55%	61%	53%	59%	58%	52%	65%
Sometimes	32%	33%	28%	35%	34%	32%	30%	35%
None at all	10%	12%	11%	12%	7%	11%	17%	6%

Q11. Do you feel you need to be available at all times in your role?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
There are boundaries	44%	46%	17%	24%	54%	32%	52%	39%
At times	41%	37%	61%	59%	25%	53%	17%	39%
Always	15%	17%	22%	18%	21%	16%	30%	23%

Q12. Do you feel you need to work overtime to complete your resourced workload?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Always	16%	9%	22%	0%	4%	6%	9%	10%
Consistently	44%	56%	33%	65%	38%	63%	57%	42%
Rarely	36%	35%	39%	24%	42%	31%	26%	48%
Never	4%	0%	6%	11%	15%	0%	9%	0%

Q13. Does your workplace have a clear overtime policy?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes, we do	29%	58%	33%	50%	59%	24%	25%	45%
No, we don't	45%	36%	50%	13%	26%	59%	58%	42%
Not sure?	26%	6%	17%	38%	15%	18%	17%	13%

Q13. Do you feel that you can ask for help or additional resources?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes, I can	48%	60%	44%	59%	65%	61%	52%	77%
It depends	43%	31%	56%	29%	31%	22%	43%	19%
No, I can't	9%	9%	0%	12%	4%	17%	5%	4%

Q14. Have you ever been forced or expected to work unpaid overtime?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Always	8%	6%	6%	12%	4%	22%	4%	6%
Consistently	8%	31%	33%	18%	18%	33%	52%	35%
Rarely	40%	46%	33%	47%	50%	28%	30%	48%
Never	17%	17%	28%	24%	29%	17%	13%	10%

Q15. Have you ever experienced ‘burn-out’?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes, I have	68%	77%	88%	71%	82%	79%	73%	74%
No, I haven't	14%	6%	0%	18%	14%	5%	14%	19%
Not sure	18%	17%	12%	11%	4%	16%	14%	6%

Q16. Was mental health and wellbeing ever discussed when at University?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes, it was	16%	17%	0%	41%	11%	16%	20%	16%
No, it wasn't	78%	83%	100%	47%	89%	79%	76%	78%
Not sure	6%	0%	0%	12%	0%	5%	4%	6%

Q17. Have you ever thought about leaving the Architecture and Design profession due to mental health & wellbeing challenges?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Seeya!	7%	11%	24%	6%	15%	11%	22%	13%
Toying with the idea...	43%	40%	24%	39%	38%	39%	26%	48%
No, I'm pretty happy	23%	23%	24%	33%	27%	22%	30%	13%
Design for life y'all	27%	26%	28%	22%	19%	28%	22%	26%

Q18. Is working in the Architecture and Design profession what you expected?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes, it was	31%	29%	6%	47%	29%	24%	16%	16%
No, it wasn't	57%	54%	59%	41%	69%	53%	73%	77%
Not sure	12%	17%	35%	12%	12%	24%	8%	7%

Q19. Did you know you can access a mental health plan from your GP?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes	80%	71%	71%	67%	72%	72%	57%	65%
No	20%	29%	29%	33%	28%	28%	43%	35%

Q20. Would you feel more comfortable talking to your colleagues after tonight?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes	86%	83%	88%	94%	74%	94%	77%	74%
No	14%	17%	12%	6%	26%	6%	23%	26%

Q21. Do you feel more comfortable talking to your employer after tonight?

	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Yes	80%	61%	53%	81%	79%	61%	55%	58%
No	20%	39%	47%	19%	21%	39%	45%	42%



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