

Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
New Colombo Plan Alumni Survey
Year 3

Report of survey findings

February 2019



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Australian Survey Research Group Pty Ltd is accredited under the AS ISO 20252 quality standard applying to market and social research.

This research project was carried out in compliance with the AS ISO 20252 quality standard.

Executive summary

In 2016, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) commissioned Australian Survey Research Group (ASR) to develop, conduct and analyse a recurring evaluation survey for New Colombo Plan (NCP) alumni.

This report presents the results of the third alumni survey conducted in late 2018 and reported as 2019. The survey focused on NCP alumni who completed their NCP activity around 12-15 months and 36 months before the survey was conducted.

ASR invited a total of 3,875 alumni to the survey. The invitation list was based on participants who were invited to the NCP Scholar and Mobility completion surveys. Each alumni survey participant received an invitation email containing a unique link to the online survey.

Sample and response rates

The 2019 alumni survey was open from October 2018 to the end of January 2019. In total, three reminders were sent to participants that had not yet completed the survey. Non-complete participants received at least two reminder emails and those with valid mobile phone numbers received a third (final) SMS reminder. Those without mobile phone numbers in their record were emailed a third (final) reminder.

The table below outlines the invitations sent, completions and email bounce backs. Consistent with earlier alumni surveys, the overall response rate was 18%. A total of 711 respondents completed the 2019 survey. The table below outlines the invitations sent, completions and email bounce backs.

Survey round	Email invitations count	Completions count	Bounce-backs count	Response rate %*
2016	1,324	197	97	16
Early 2018	3,954	586	245	16
Late 2018 (reported as 2019)	3,875	711	323	18

*Bounce-backs were subtracted from the email invitation count in the response rate calculation.

General demographics of the 2019 alumni sample

- The ratio of female to male responses was 59:41.
- There was a wide spread of host countries—where NCP alumni undertook their program. China (18%) and Indonesia (13%) were the most popular host countries in 2019.
- Only 2% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 3% of respondents identified as having a disability.
- Fifty-seven percent of respondents had an undergraduate degree including honours as their highest level of education. Notably, 28% of respondents had year 12 as their highest level of education, indicating that they were still studying for / had not yet completed a degree.
- Sixty percent of respondents were employed or self-employed, while 58% were undergraduate students and 8% were postgraduate students. Note that multiple answers were allowed for this question, so one person could be in several categories.
- Of the 60% of alumni who were employed and/or self-employed:
 - 34% believed their NCP experience / scholarship helped them get their current job
 - 17% manage staff, typically 10 or fewer staff members (78%)
 - 62% indicated that their NCP experience had some level of impact on their current employment.
- Field of study at the time of their NCP program was asked of alumni who were employed and/or self-employed, who indicated the NCP program had impact on their current employment or those who were

unsure whether it had an impact. Responses were grouped into categories with the following as the most common fields of study: Medicine and human health (21%), Social science (13%) and Business / Commerce / Economics / Accounting (13%). Fifty-four percent of respondents who indicated a degree of NCP impact / unsure of impact were still working in the same or similar field as when they had their NCP experience.

- Among the proportion of alumni who were studying, the vast majority (88%) were studying at undergraduate level and 10% were undertaking some form of post graduate study.

Future plans

Alumni were asked about their plans for the next five years. Fifty-six percent indicated that they intended to undertake further study, 53% wanted to seek employment in Australia and 36% wanted to seek advancement in their current career.

NCP experience /scholarship influence on career

Alumni were asked to if they would have had an NCP experience without NCP funding / support. A large majority (74%) indicated that the experience would not have been possible with NCP funding / support.

The NCP experience had a positive influence on the majority of alumni career choices and prospects. Sixty-nine percent indicated that their NCP experience influenced their career choices to a *great* or *moderate extent*. Eighty-four percent of respondents believed their experience had made a positive contribution to their career prospects to a *great* or *moderate extent*.

NCP contacts and links

Seventy-four percent of respondents maintained at least one significant link and 24% had maintained at least four significant links while 26% indicated they had not maintained any significant links. Most of the links maintained were personal in nature.

The main type of contact alumni had with their links was social media sharing (64% and higher). Around 50% of respondents had contact with their links at least monthly. A small proportion had contact less than once a year.

Seventy-eight percent of respondents reported that their NCP contacts enhanced their understanding and connections to the Indo Pacific region to a *great* or *moderate extent*. Fifty-four percent believed their study opportunities / outcomes were enhanced *greatly* or *moderately* and 47% reported their employment prospects / outcomes were *greatly* or *moderately* enhanced by their contacts. Notably, 20% of respondents did not believe that their contacts had enhanced their employment prospects / outcomes and 13% indicated the same for study opportunities / outcomes.

Seventy-two percent of respondents had travelled since completing their NCP experience / scholarship; 16% had travelled to their host location and 38% had travelled to another Indo-Pacific location.

Useful elements of the NCP Alumni Program

Sixty-three percent of respondents indicated that job or work opportunities would be the most useful to them as part of the NCP Alumni Program. Professional development opportunities (57%) and professional networking (56%) were also popular elements.

Attendance at NCP alumni events and likely future attendance / participation

Ten percent indicated that they had attended an NCP alumni event while 47% indicated they would be likely to attend an NCP alumni event. Respondents were most interested in job / work placement opportunities (73%) at these events, followed by professional networking (68%) and learning (58%).

NCP alumni are welcome to participate in a number of alumni and advocacy activities after the conclusion of their program. Social networking with other NCP students attracted 46% of respondents. Around a quarter of alumni had participated in each of other activities surveyed.

Sixty-eight percent of respondents who participated in mentoring/training of other NCP students prior to their departure found the exercise *very* or *somewhat useful*. Similarly, 62% of those who participated in social networking with other NCP students and 66% of those who did a job placement with a business or organisation associated with

NCP found the exercise *very* or *somewhat useful*.

Thirty-two percent of alumni answered they would be likely to participate in an NCP online event while 33% indicated that they would not participate. Job / work placement opportunities, learning and professional networking were the three main areas of interest to alumni who indicated they would likely participate in an online NCP alumni event.

Professional development as part of the alumni program

Working across or with different cultures (65%), access to leaders in their field of study (62%) and leadership / management skills (51%) were the three professional development of most interest in an NCP Alumni Program.

Participation in other NCP alumni groups

LinkedIn

Sixteen percent of respondents answered they were members of the NCP alumni LinkedIn group—a declining number since the survey commenced.

Of the alumni who belong to the NCP LinkedIn alumni group, 42% found event information useful, while 41% found new articles useful.

In some cases more than 50% of alumni did not read or did not know about particular resources available at the LinkedIn group. For example 21% of alumni didn't read and 30% didn't know about discussion forums available in the group.

Australia Global Alumni

Seventy-eight percent of respondents were not members of the Australia Global Alumni Network while 16% were unsure.

Of the small proportion of respondents who indicated that they were members of the Australia Global Alumni Network 24% found the event information on the site useful. Twenty-four percent found professional opportunities useful, and 28% found news articles useful.

Note that a very high proportion of Australia Global Alumni Network members have not read or did not know about the various resources available (50% or more for each of the resources).

Preferred communications channel for NCP alumni information

For 85% of respondents, email was the preferred channel for receiving alumni program information.

Mentoring

Thirty-seven percent of respondents would be willing to be a mentor for an NCP student or alumnus. Thirty-six percent answered *maybe* (implying a dependence on what the commitment would require).

Benefits of the NCP experience

There were a number of positive benefits the NCP alumni had gained from their NCP program that aligned with the strategic objectives of the program. These aligned benefits related to strengthening understanding, connections and work readiness of NCP alumni to businesses and institutions within the Indo-Pacific region.

Promoting NCP

One way in which NCP alumni respondents may demonstrate their positive attitude towards and sense of value of the NCP program is through recommending and actively promoting the NCP program to Australian students and organisations in the Indo-Pacific region.

The vast majority (91%) of respondents indicated that they recommended the program to Australian students either *frequently* or *occasionally*, 77% actively promoted the program *frequently* or *occasionally* and similarly, and 74% encouraged non-NCP friends, family and colleagues to take an interest in or to develop links with the Indo-Pacific region including their host country *frequently* or *occasionally*.

Sixty-six percent of all NCP alumni respondents indicated they were willing to promote the NCP program in some way and most commonly this was through providing promotional photos (43% of those who answered the question), mentoring NCP students (38%) speaking at schools/unis (37%) and helping with pre-departure briefings (36%).

Introduction

In 2016, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) commissioned Australian Survey Research Group (ASR) to develop, conduct and analyse a recurring evaluation survey for New Colombo Plan (NCP) alumni.

This report presents the results of the third alumni survey conducted in late 2018 and reported as 2019. The survey focused on NCP alumni who completed their NCP activity around 12-15 months and 36 months prior to the survey being conducted.

This report outlines how the ongoing online survey has been conducted, the profile of participants, key findings of the survey, and demographic differences. Results have been presented by round of surveying and cumulatively.

Methodology

Data collection

Online

ASR invited a total of 3,875 alumni to the survey. The invitation list was based on participants who were invited to the NCP Scholar and Mobility completion surveys. Each alumni survey participant received an invitation email containing a unique link to the online survey.

Sample and response rates

The 2019 alumni survey was open from October 2018 to the end of January 2019. In total, three reminders were sent to participants that had not yet completed the survey. Non-complete participants received at least two reminder emails and those with valid mobile phone numbers received a third (final) SMS reminder. Those without mobile phone numbers in their record were emailed a third (final) reminder.

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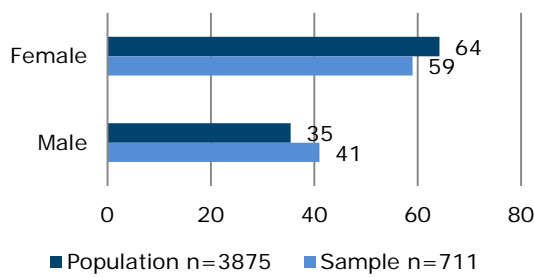
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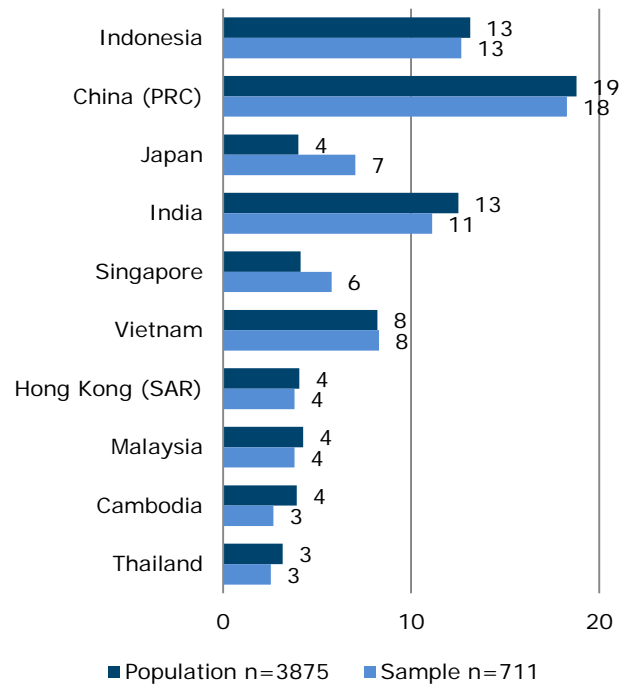
Population and sample comparison

In order to assess the representativeness of the survey sample, a comparison of the population of alumni (everyone sent an invitation) and the sample who responded for this round of reporting has been compared using two demographics that DFAT provided ASR in student files. The results show that the population and sample have a similar composition or profile on both demographics. Refer to the two charts below. Another way of saying this is that there is very little non-response bias in the survey sample—a good result. Consequently, the survey data has not been weighted.

Alumni gender comparison - population with completion survey sample (%)



Alumni host country comparison - population with completion survey sample (%)



Confidence level and interval

For the 2018, there were sufficient responses for the survey sample to be representative at the 95% confidence level and at the $\pm 5\%$ confidence interval, on the assumption that respondents randomly chose to answer.

This is a good result in terms of survey sample.

Confidence level means that you can be 95% sure that if the survey was completed again by the same / similar people that the same result would be achieved. **Confidence interval** is the margin of error that needs to be kept in mind when reading charts and tables. So if a result is 60% in a chart, it should be interpreted as 56% to 64% of respondents had that view.

Note about reading the charts and tables in this report

Charts show the results from the two alumni surveys conducted in quarter 1 and 4 of 2018 and 2016 surveys, as well as the total (cumulative) results. Commentary is based on the 2018 quarter 4 results, indicated as 2019 for reporting purposes, unless stated otherwise.

Within the report, data labels in the stacked charts with values of less than 2% have been removed for readability. Only values of 2% or higher have been labelled.

The NCP alumni survey was voluntary and only a few questions were made compulsory (they required an answer to move on to the next page). This meant that the number of people who answered each question varied throughout the survey. The total counts (n counts) presented in the report tables and charts are based on valid counts, that is, where a participant has actually answered a question, so the counts fluctuate throughout the report. Missing values (no answers) have been excluded in charts and tables. Total counts (n counts) are displayed alongside the survey year, either in the legend below a chart or next to the axes of a chart.

Because whole decimals have been used in charts and tables, values in charts may not sum to totals due to rounding and may be slightly different (by $\pm 1\%$) to numbers in the narrative around a chart.

Alumni survey participant profile

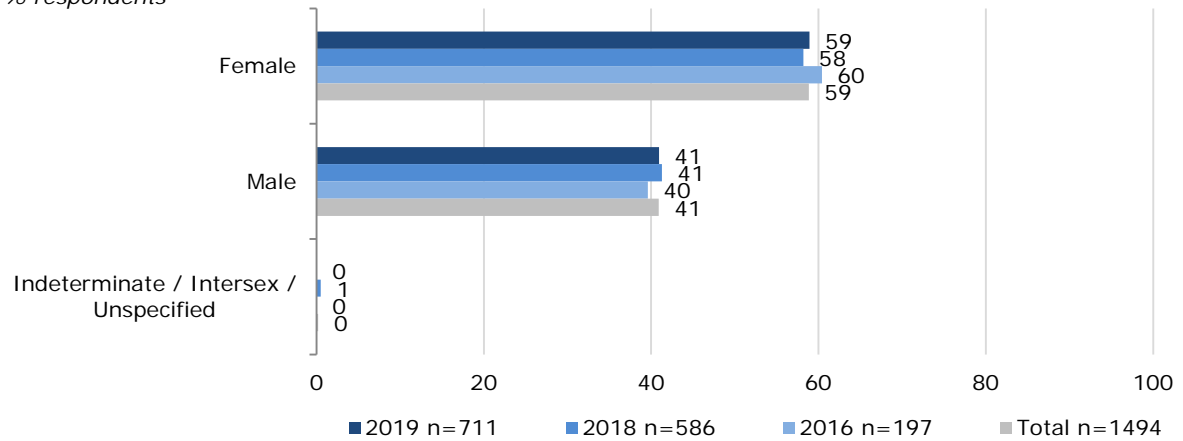
This section provides information on participant profiles based on broad demographics.

General demographics

The ratio of female to male responses was 59:41. Refer to the chart below.

Gender

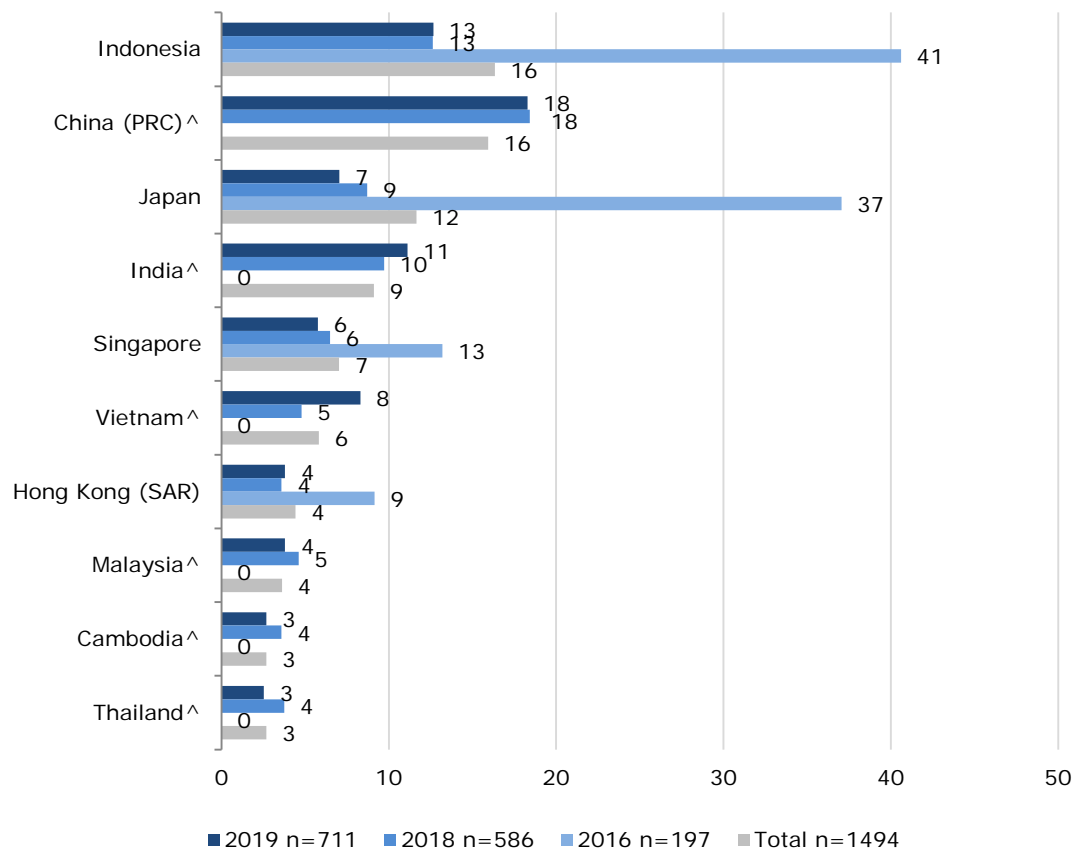
% respondents



The spread of countries where NCP alumni undertook their program between 2019 and 2018 was similar. China (PRC) (18%) and Indonesia (13%) were the most popular host countries, as they were in 2018.

Primary host country

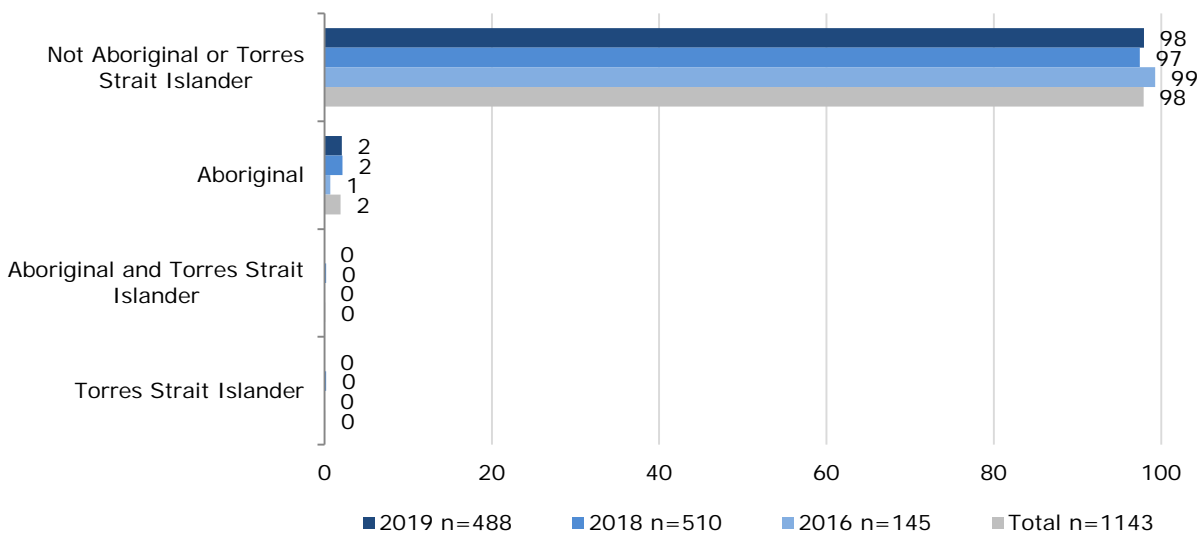
% respondents ^New response in 2018



Of those alumni who answered, 2% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

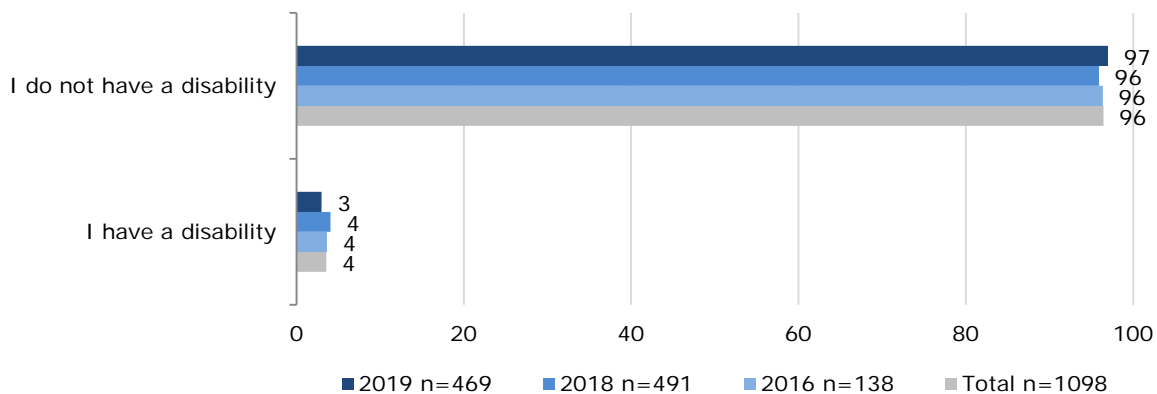
% respondents



Of those alumni who answered, 3% of respondents identified as having a disability.

Disability status

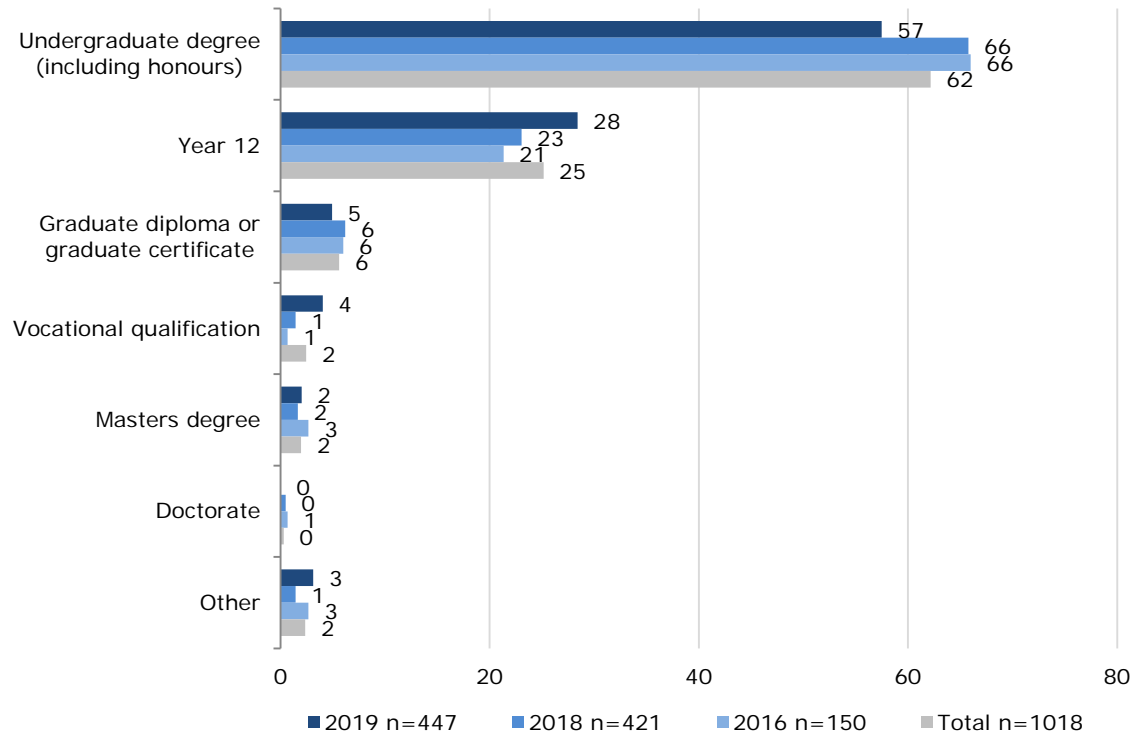
% respondents



Fifty-seven percent of alumni respondents had an undergraduate degree including honours as their highest level of education. Notably, 28% of respondents had year 12 as their highest level of education, indicating that they were still studying for or had not yet completed a degree.

Highest level of education

% respondents

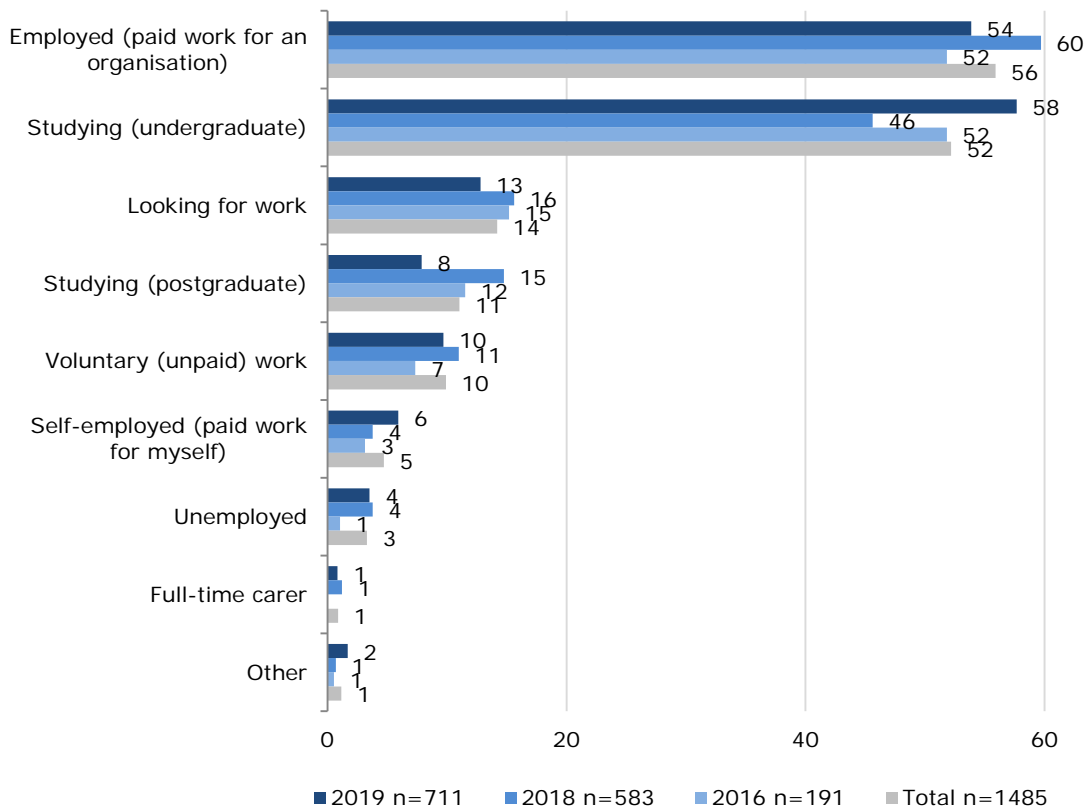


Employment

Sixty percent of respondents were employed or self-employed, while 58% were undergraduate students and 8% were postgraduate students. Note that multiple responses were allowed for this question, so one person could be in several categories.

Current employment status

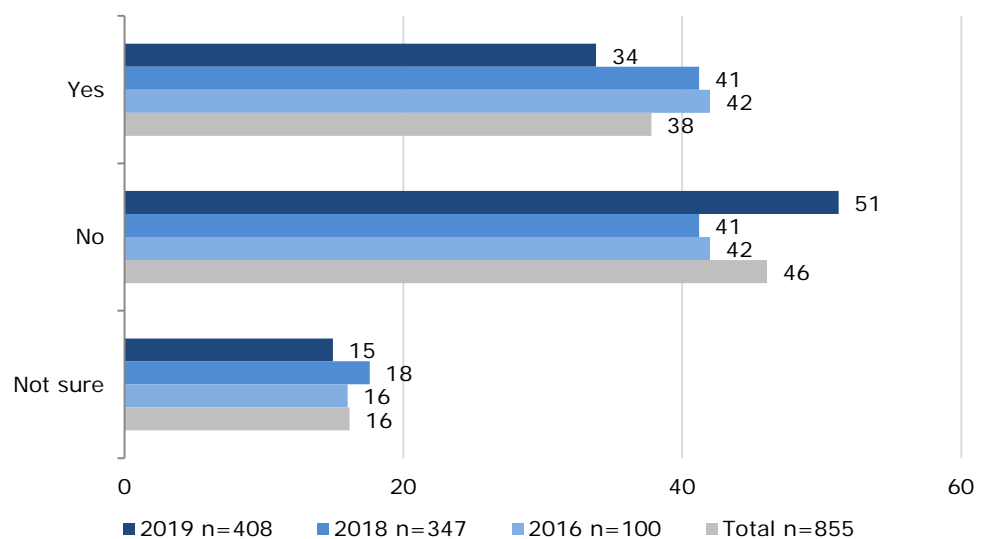
Multiple answers allowed so total >100%; % based on n counts in legend



Of the 60% of alumni who were employed and/or self-employed, 34% indicated that their NCP experience / scholarship helped them get their current job.

NCP experience helped you get this job

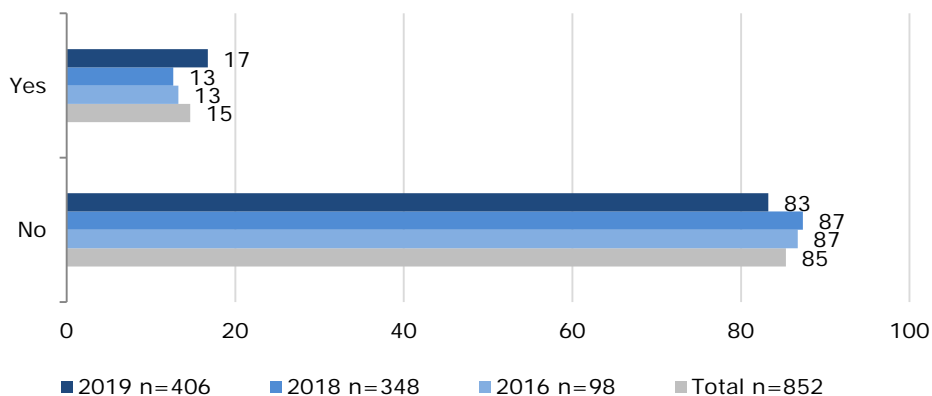
% respondents who were employed (excluding self-employed)



Of the 64% of alumni who were employed and/or self-employed, 17% managed staff.

Manage staff

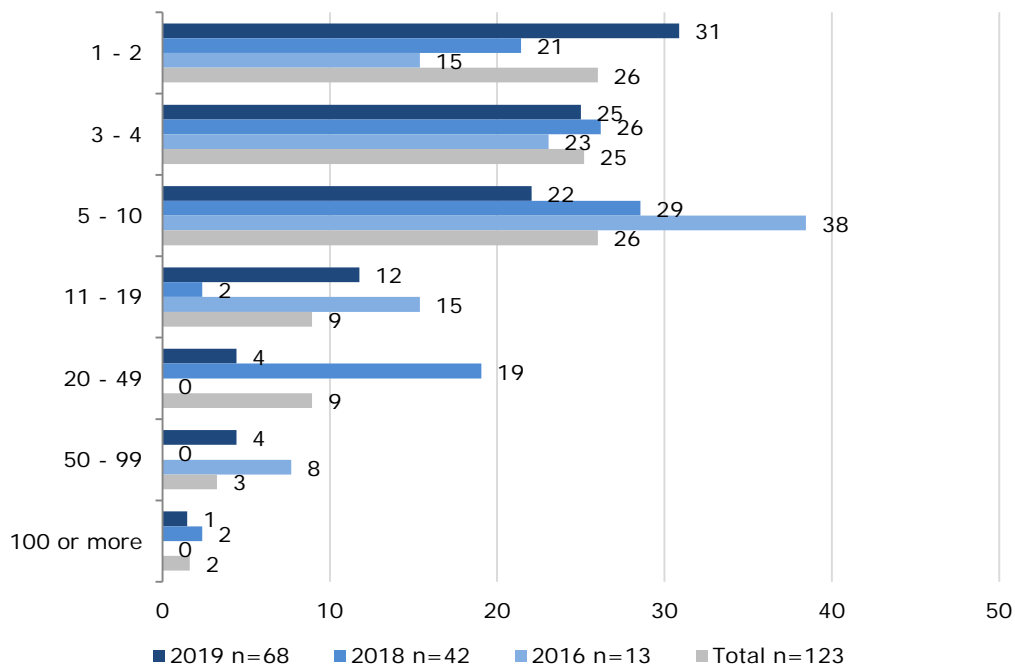
% respondents employed



Seventy-eight percent of alumni who managed staff managed 10 or fewer staff members.

Number of staff managed

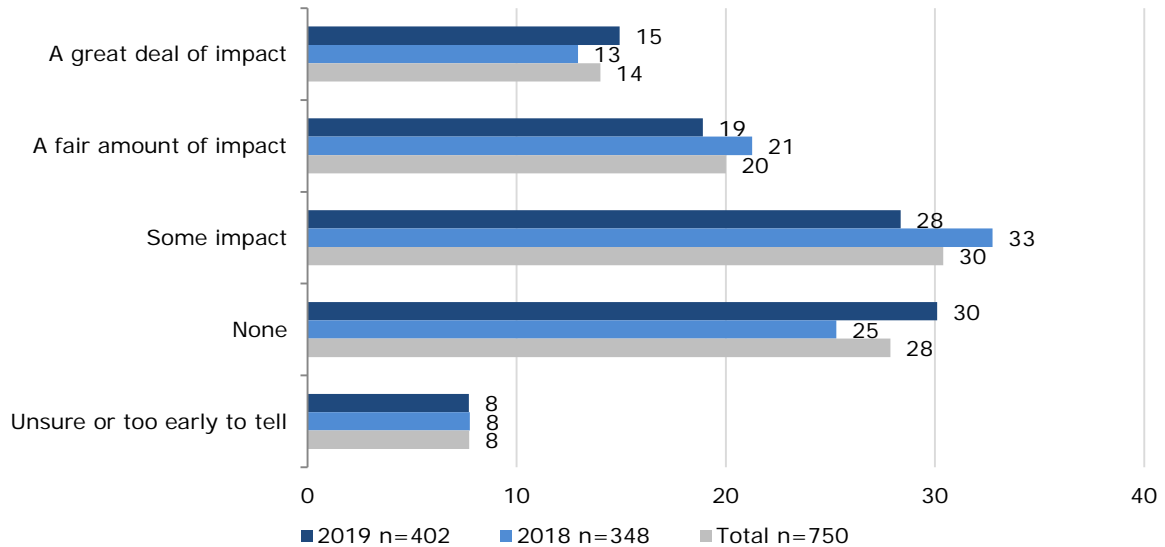
% respondents who manage staff



Of alumni who were employed and/or self-employed, 62% indicated that their NCP experience had some level of impact on their current employment.

Impact of NCP experience on current employment

% respondents employed, n=348
New question in 2018

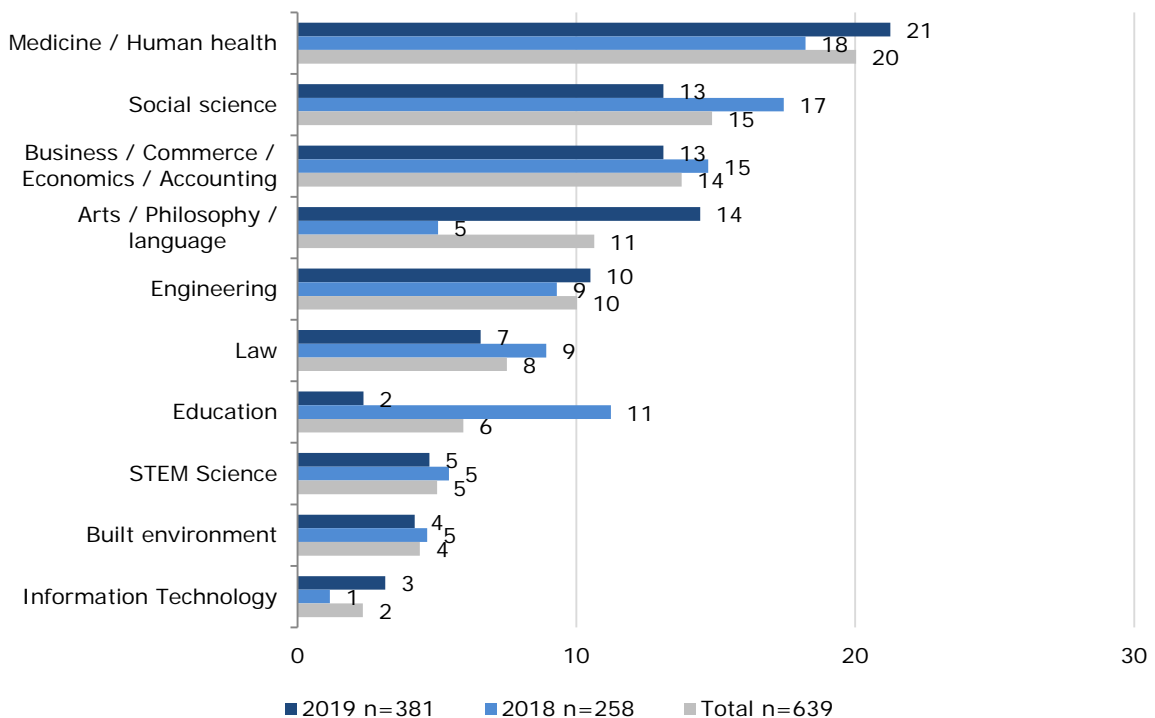


Field of study at the time of their NCP program was asked of alumni who were employed and/or self-employed or who indicated the NCP program had impact on their current employment or asked of those who were unsure whether it had any impact.

Responses were grouped into categories, with the top 10 shown in the chart below. Medicine and human health (21%), Social science (13%) and Business / Commerce / Economics / Accounting (13%) were the three most common fields.

Field of study at time of NCP program - top ten

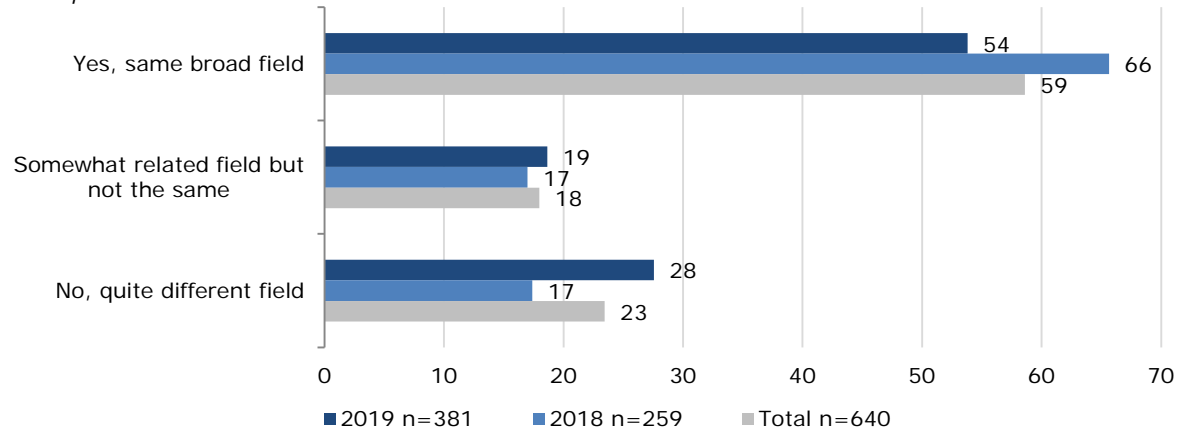
% employed respondents who indicated NCP had impact on employment / unsure about impact
New question 2018



Alumni who were employed and/or self-employed, who indicated the NCP program had impact on their current employment or who were unsure whether it had, were asked whether they were working in the same or similar field. Fifty-four percent indicated they were in the same field.

Working in same or similar field

*% respondents who said NCP program had impact on employment / unsure about impact;
New question 2018*

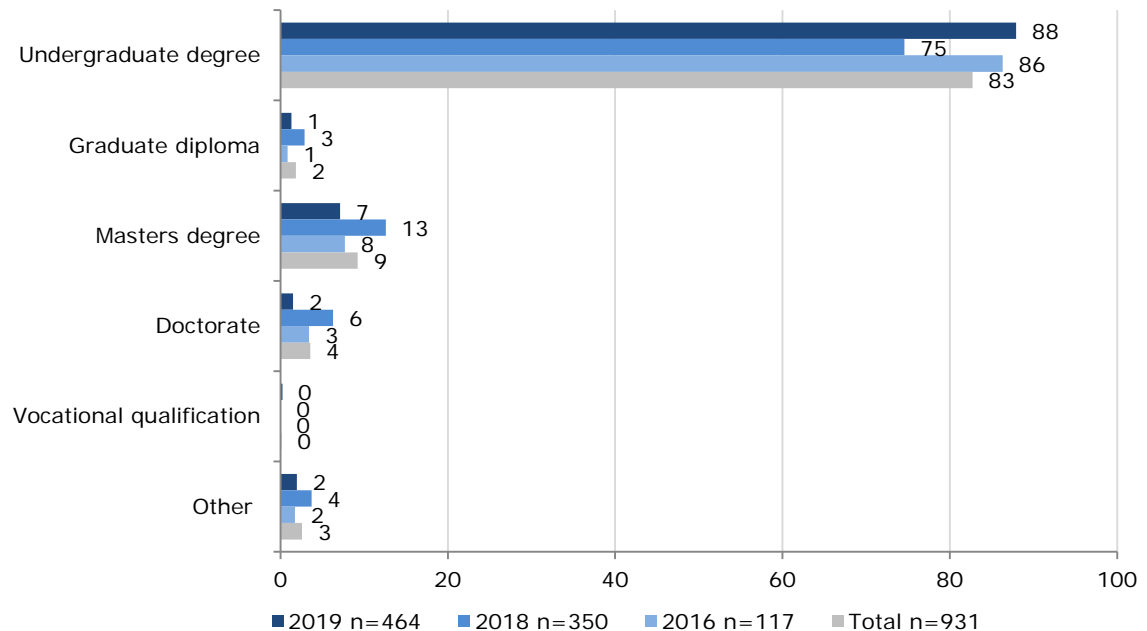


Current study

Among the proportion of alumni who were studying, the vast majority (88%) were studying at undergraduate level while 10% were undertaking some form of post graduate study. Refer to the chart below.

Current level of study

% respondents, those studying

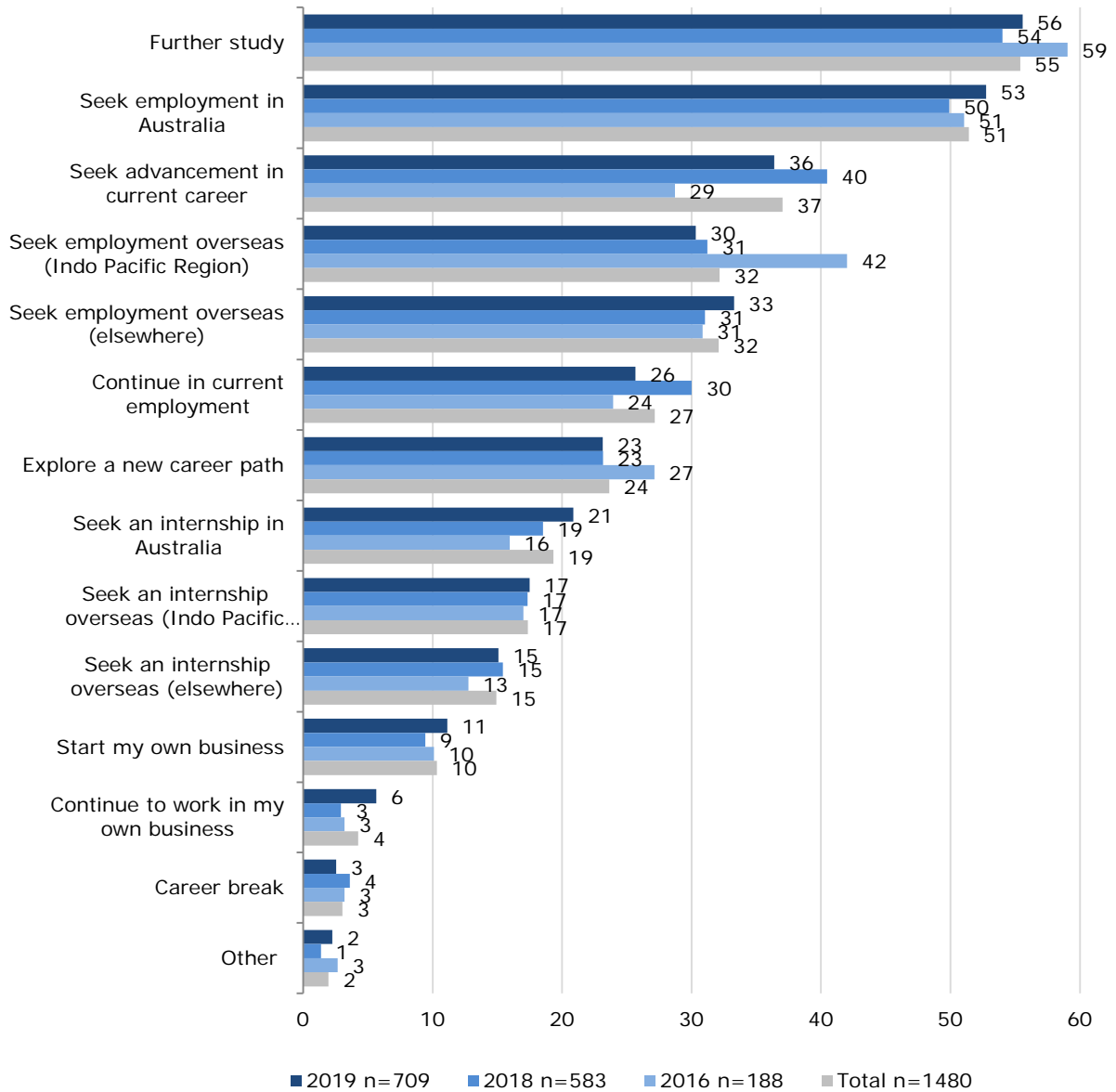


Future plans

Alumni were asked about their plans for the next five years. Fifty-six percent indicated that they intended to undertake further study; 53% wanted to seek employment in Australia and 36% wanted to seek advancement in their current career. Refer to the chart below.

Plans for the next five years

Multiple answers allowed so total > 100%; % based on n counts in legend



NCP impacts and networking links

The following section reports findings from survey questions about the impact of NCP on students personally.

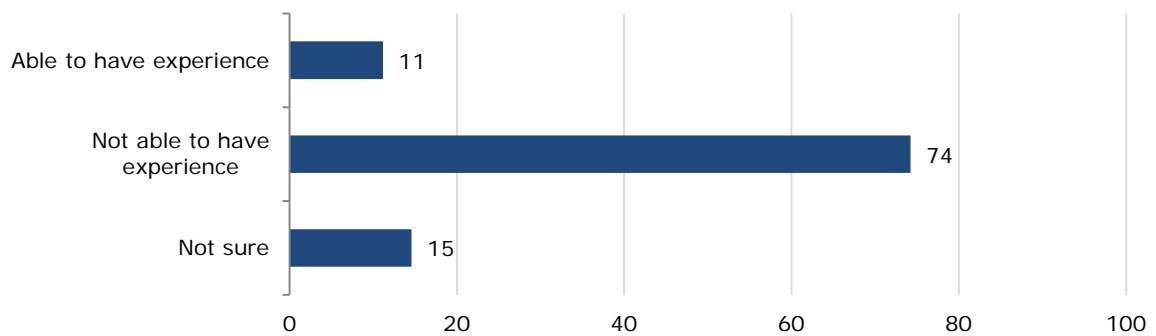
Importance of NCP funding

As a new question for the latest round of surveying, alumni were asked if they would have had an NCP experience without NCP funding / support. A large majority (74%) indicated that the experience would not have been possible with NCP funding / support. Those who answered this way were asked to provide further details and the predominant response was that they could not have had the experience they did without monetary or logistical support.

Ability to have NCP experience without funding / support

% respondents, n=555

New question in 2019

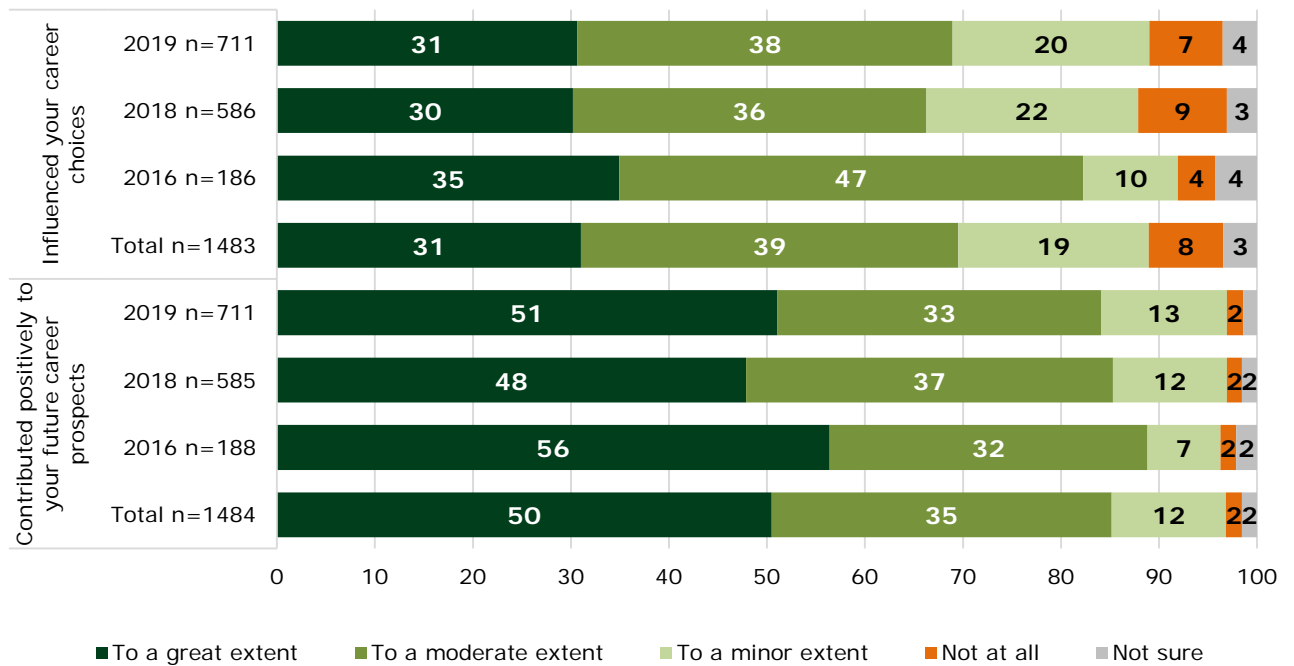


NCP experience /scholarship influence on career

The NCP experience had a positive influence on the majority of alumni career choices and prospects. Sixty-nine percent indicated that their NCP experience influenced their career choices to a *great or moderate extent*. Eighty-four percent of respondents believed their experience had made a positive contribution to their career prospects to a *great or moderate extent*. Refer to the chart below.

Extent to which NCP experience / scholarship has enhanced career

% respondents choosing a rating point



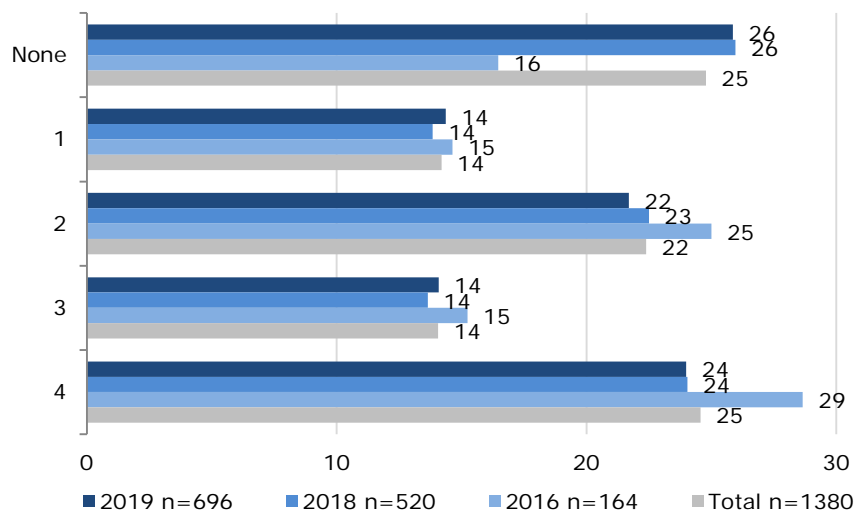
NCP contacts and links

NCP alumni were asked how many links they had maintained with anyone in their host location or anyone they had met through their NCP experience. They were also asked to indicate the nature of their four most significant links.

The chart below shows the number of significant links maintained by respondents. Seventy-four percent of respondents maintained at least one significant link and 24% had maintained at least four significant links while 26% indicated they had not maintained any significant links.

Number of most significant links maintained

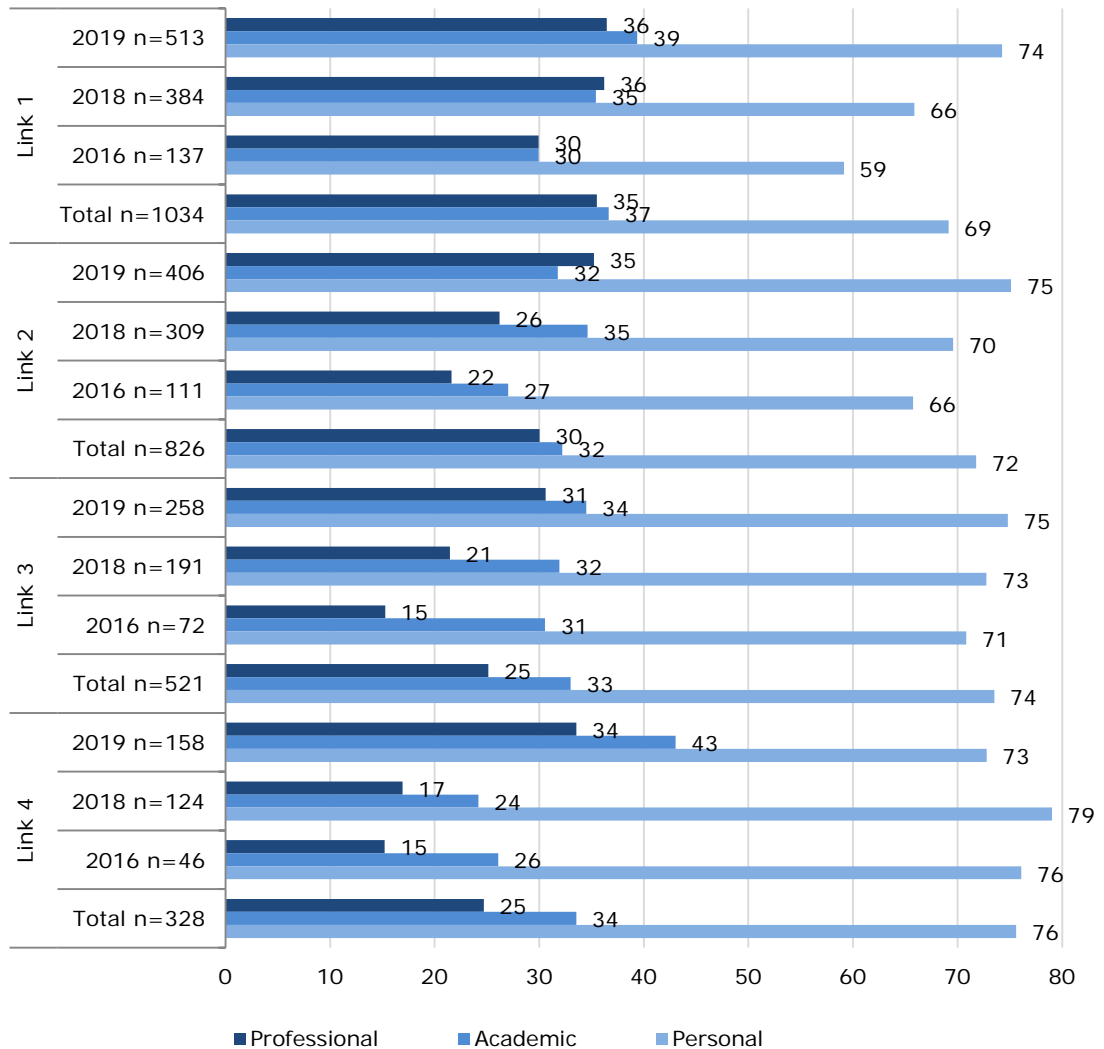
% respondents



The chart below shows the links maintained by type—whether professional, academic or personal (friends)—and most of the maintained links were personal. The classifications for each link allowed multiple answers, therefore a link could be nominated in up to three classifications. As a result the total percentages add to more than 100.

Type of link

Multiple answers allowed so total >100%; % based on n count in legend

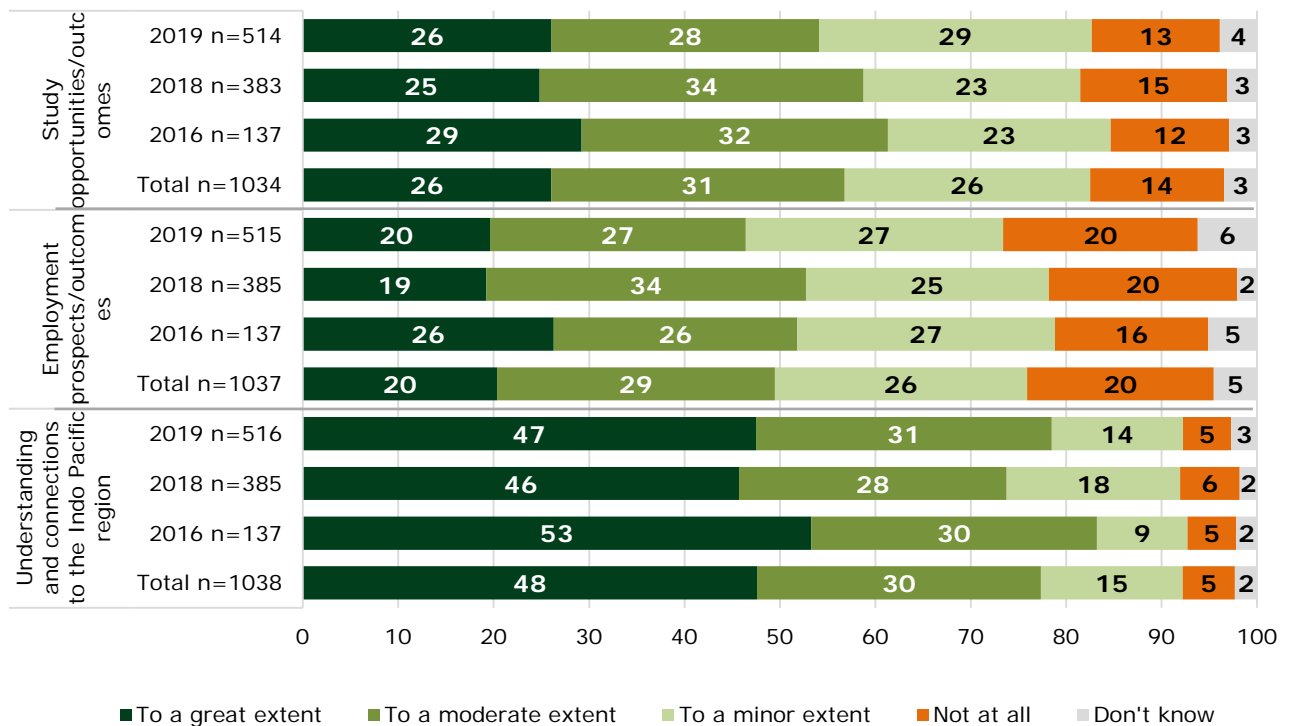


Seventy-eight percent of respondents reported that the NCP contacts / links that they had maintained had enhanced their understanding and connections to the Indo Pacific region to a *great or moderate extent*. Fifty-four percent believed their study opportunities / outcomes were enhanced to a *great or moderate extent* and 47% reported their employment prospects / outcomes were enhanced to a *great or moderate extent*. Refer to the chart below.

Notably, 20% of respondents did not believe that their contacts had enhanced their employment prospects / outcomes and 13% indicated the same for study opportunities / outcomes.

Extent to which NCP contacts/ links have enhanced ...

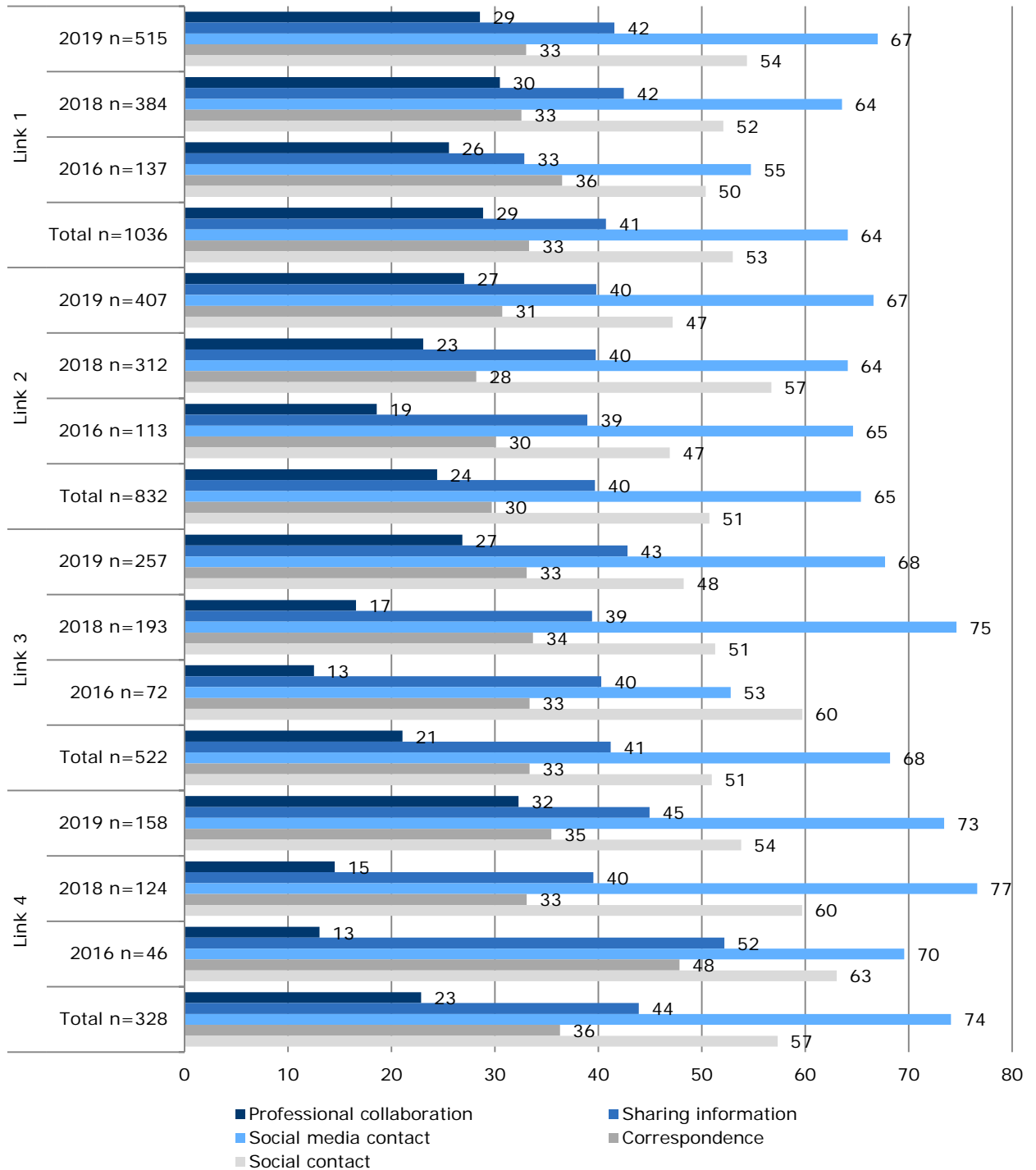
% respondents



The main type of contact alumni had with their links was through social media (64% or higher). The classifications for each link allowed multiple answers, therefore a link could be nominated in up to five classifications. As a result the total percentages add to more than 100.

Type of contact

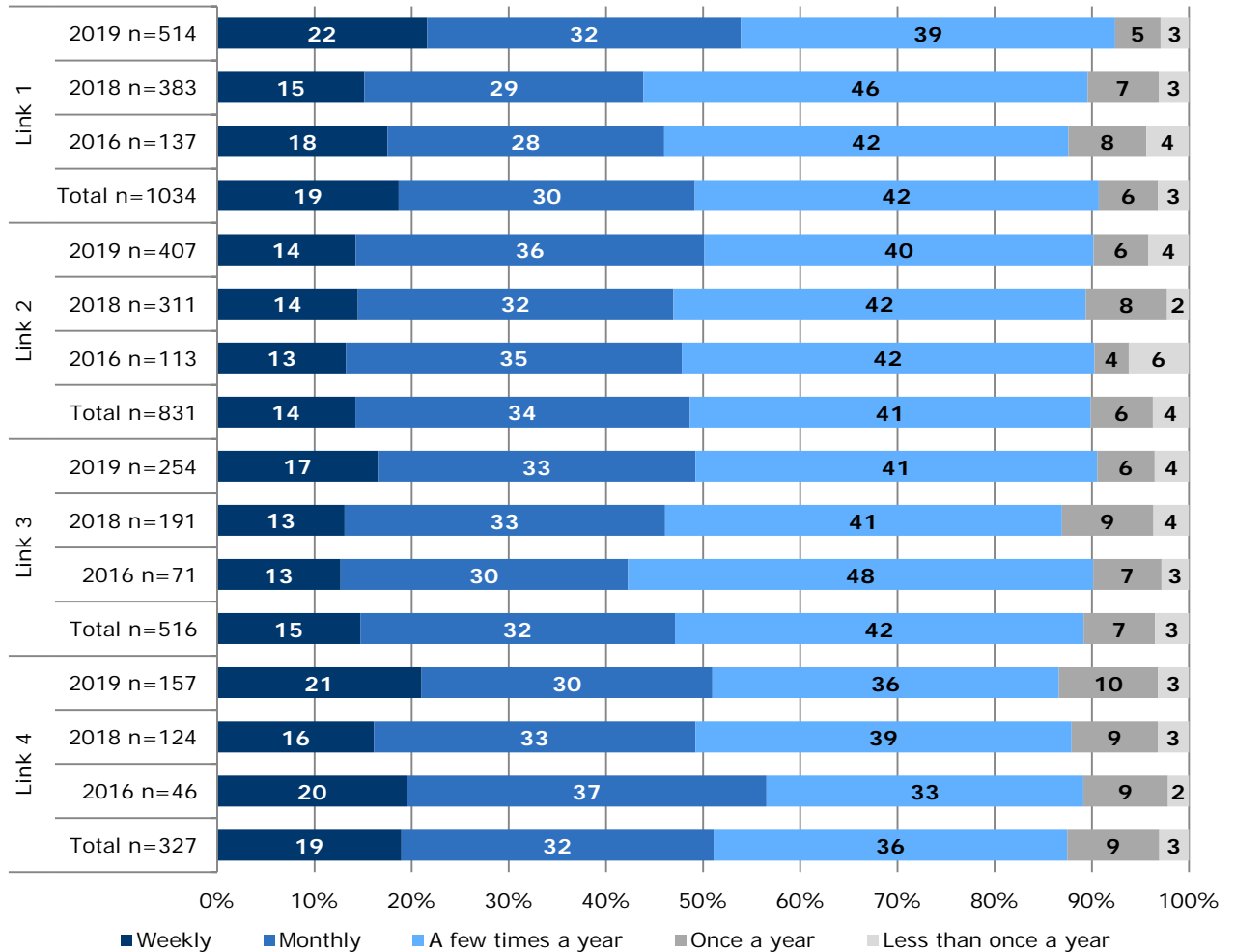
Multiple answers allowed so total >100%; % based on n count in legend



Around 50% of respondents had contact with their links at least monthly. A small proportion had contact less than once a year.

Frequency of contact

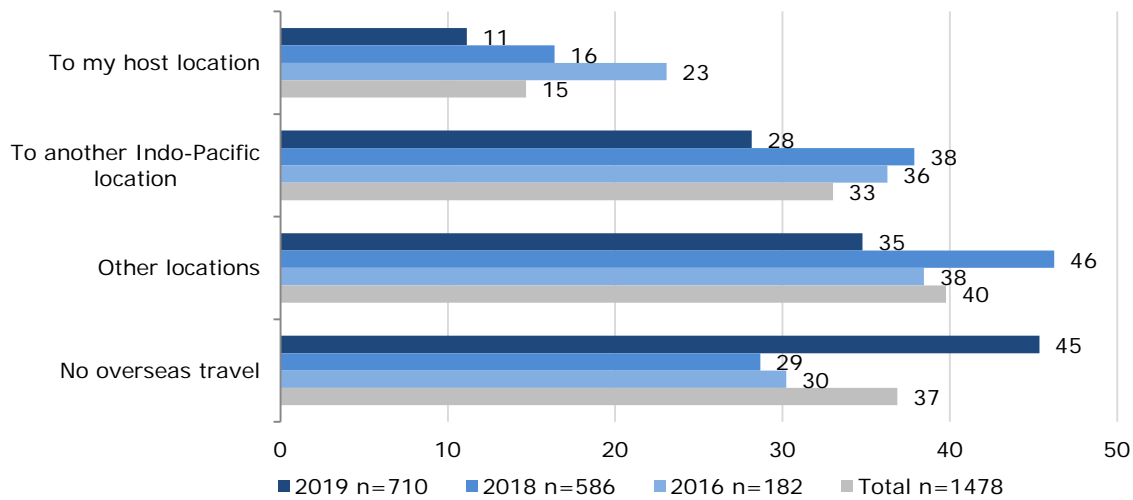
% respondents



Fifty-five percent of respondents had travelled since completing their NCP experience / scholarship—considerably lower than in the 2018 surveys—while 11% had travelled to their host location and 28% had travelled to another Indo-Pacific location. Note that multiple answers were allowed to this question.

Travelled since NCP experience / scholarship

Multiple answers allowed so total >100%; % based on n count in legend



The Alumni Program

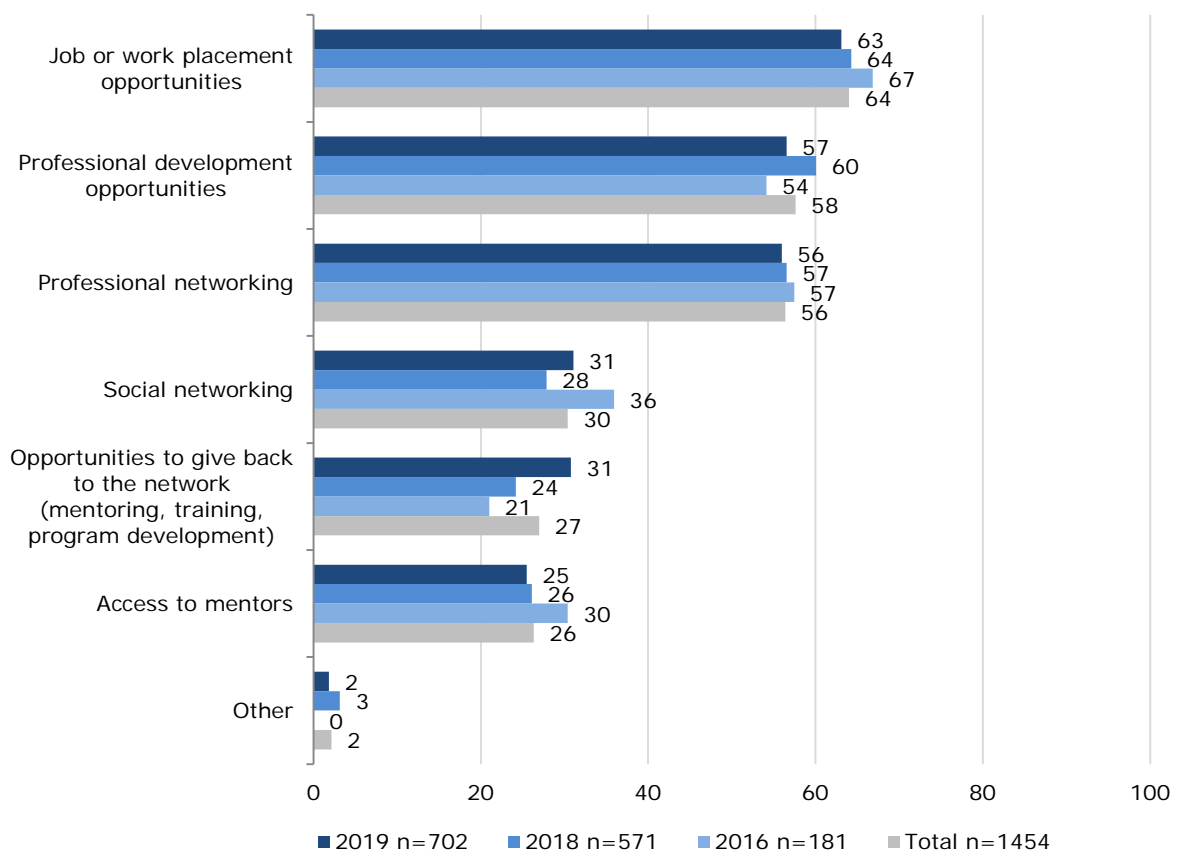
The following sections relate to events, professional development offerings and other opportunities that NCP alumni might be interested in as part of an ongoing alumni program.

Useful elements of the NCP Alumni Program

Sixty-three percent of respondents indicated that job or work opportunities would be the most useful to them as part of the NCP Alumni Program. Professional development opportunities (57%) and professional networking (56%) were also popular elements. Refer to the chart below.

Most useful elements of the NCP Alumni Program

*Multiple answers allowed so total >100%; % based on n count in legend
Respondents could select up to three elements*

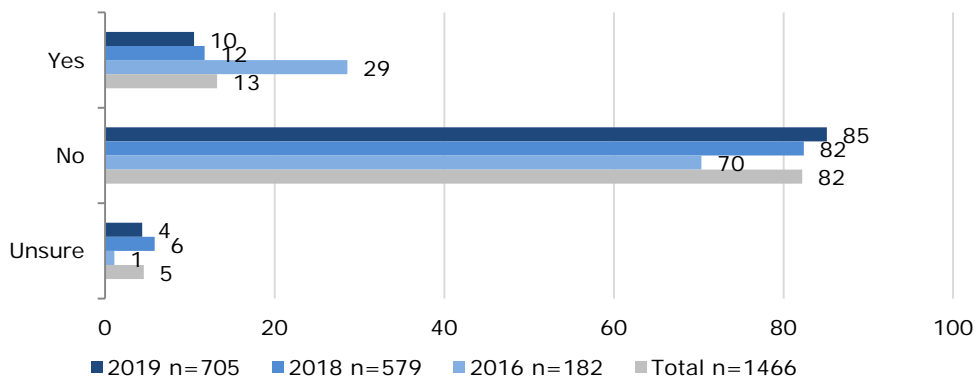


NCP alumni events

Ten percent indicated that they had attended an NCP alumni event.

Attended NCP event

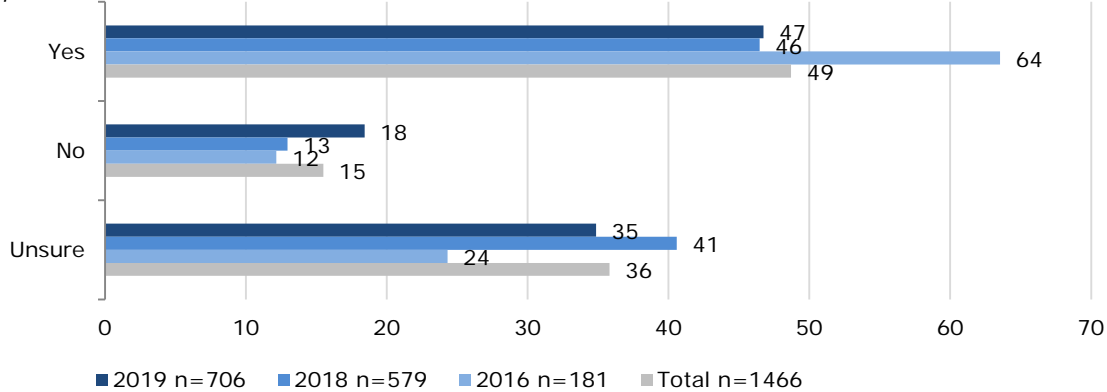
% respondents



Forty-seven percent indicated they would likely attend an NCP alumni event.

Likelihood of attending an NCP event

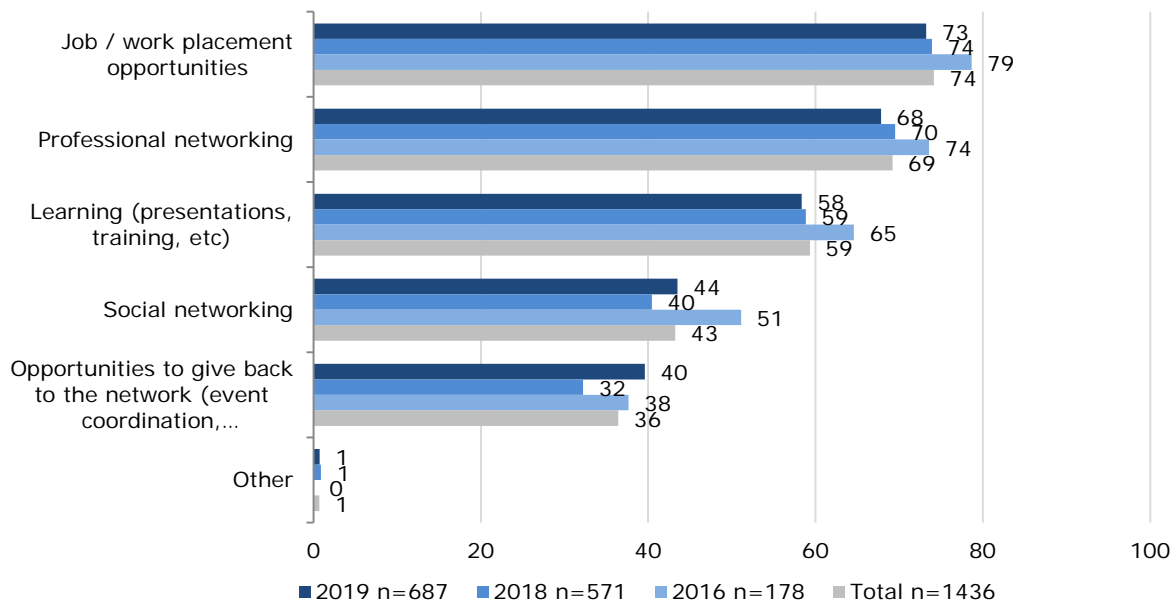
% respondents



Consistent with results from earlier rounds, respondents were most interested in job / work placement opportunities (73%) at NCP alumni events, followed by professional networking (68%) and learning (58%).

Elements of most interest at NCP Alumni Program events

Multiple answers allowed so total >%; % based on n count in legend

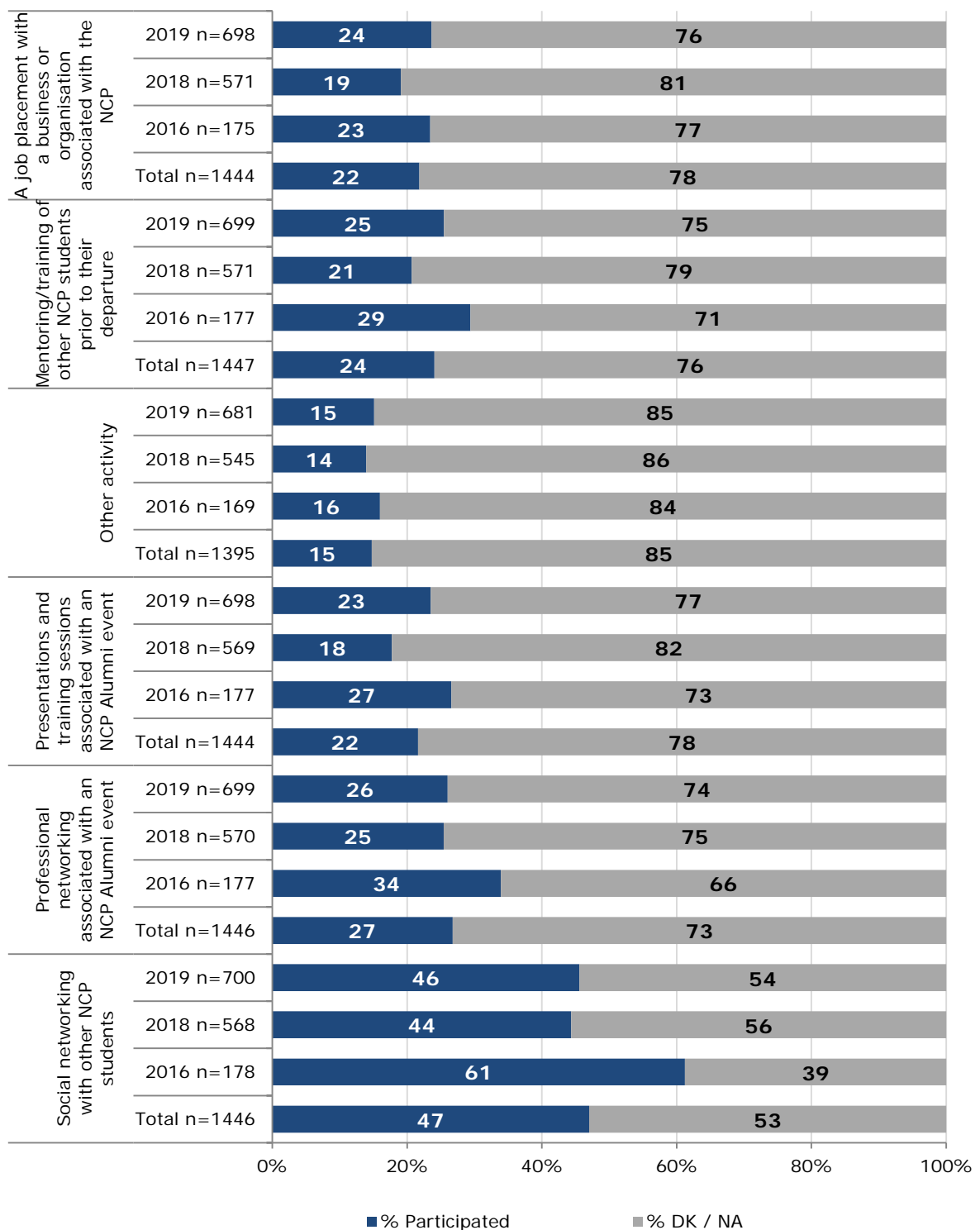


NCP alumni or advocacy activities

NCP alumni are welcome to participate in a number of alumni or advocacy activities after the conclusion of their program. The chart below shows the proportion of alumni responding to the survey that participated in one or more of these activities. Social networking with other NCP students attracted 46% of respondents. Around a quarter of alumni had participated in each of other activities surveyed.

NCP alumni / advocacy activities participated in

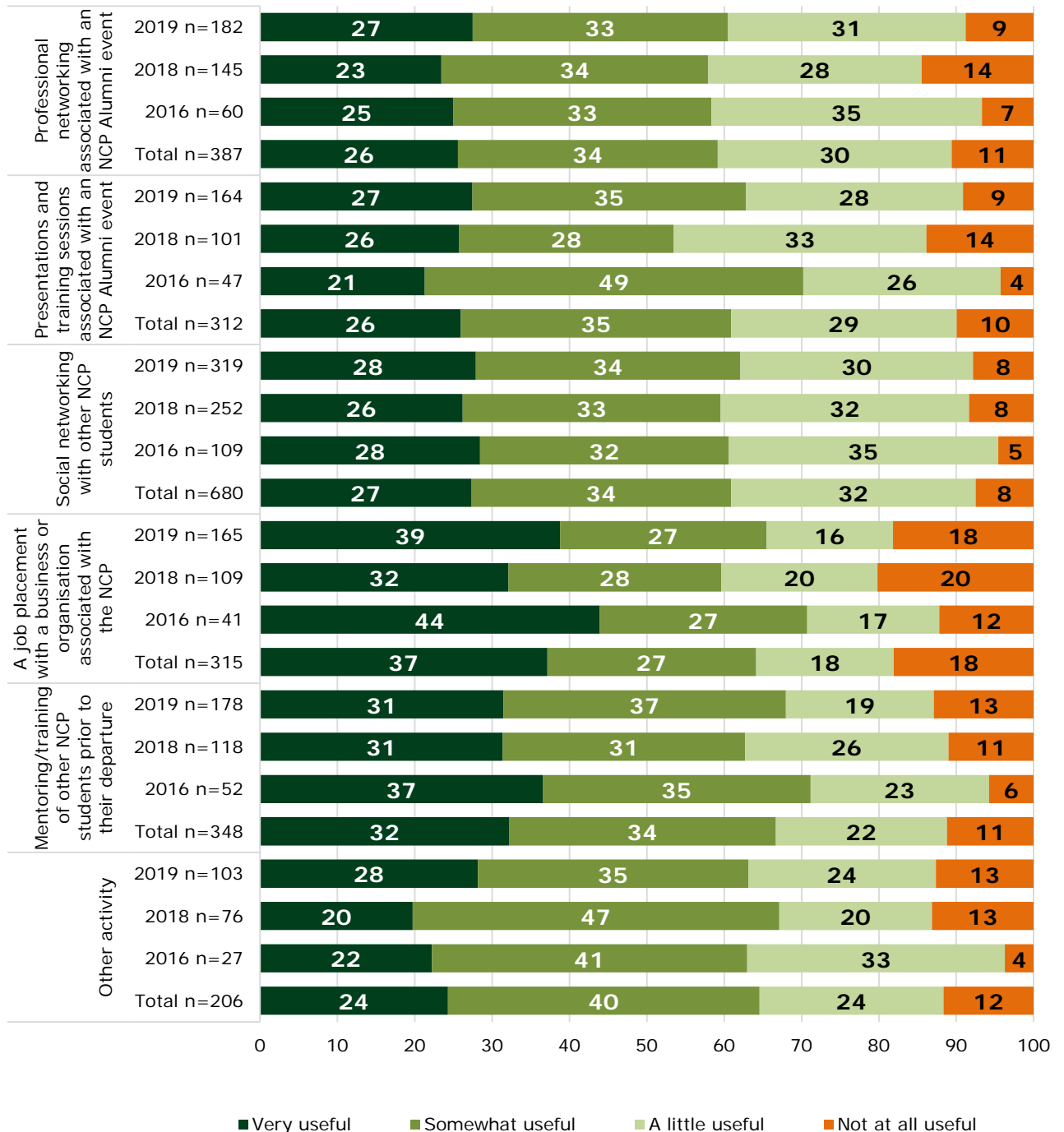
Multiple answers allowed so total >100%; % based on n count in y axis



Sixty-eight percent of respondents who participated in mentoring/training of other NCP students prior to their departure found the exercise *very or somewhat useful* for their career so far. Similarly, 62% of those who participated in social networking with other NCP students and 66% of those who did a job placement with a business or organisation associated with NCP found the exercise *very or somewhat useful*. Refer to the chart below.

Usefulness of NCP alumni / advocacy activities for career

% respondents; n count varies by activity

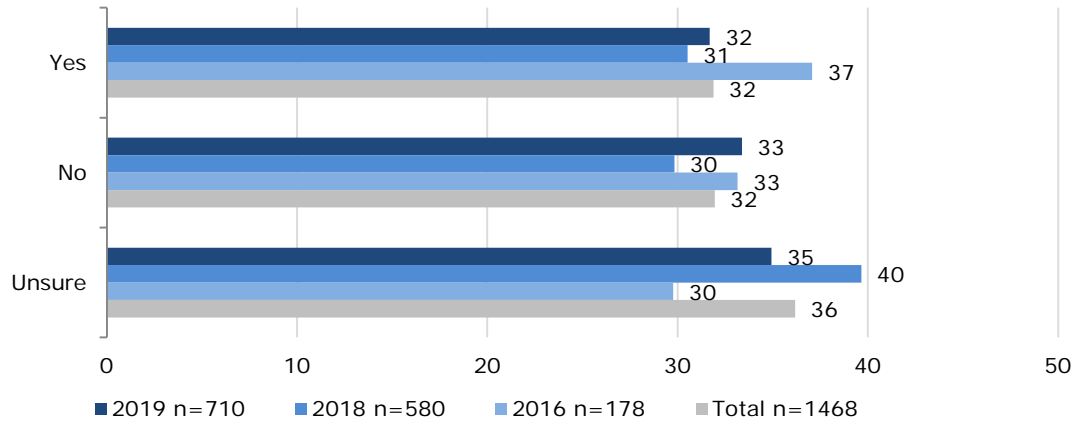


Online NCP alumni events

Thirty-two percent of alumni answered that they would be likely to participate in an NCP online event while 33% indicated that they would not participate.

Likelihood of participating in NCP alumni online events

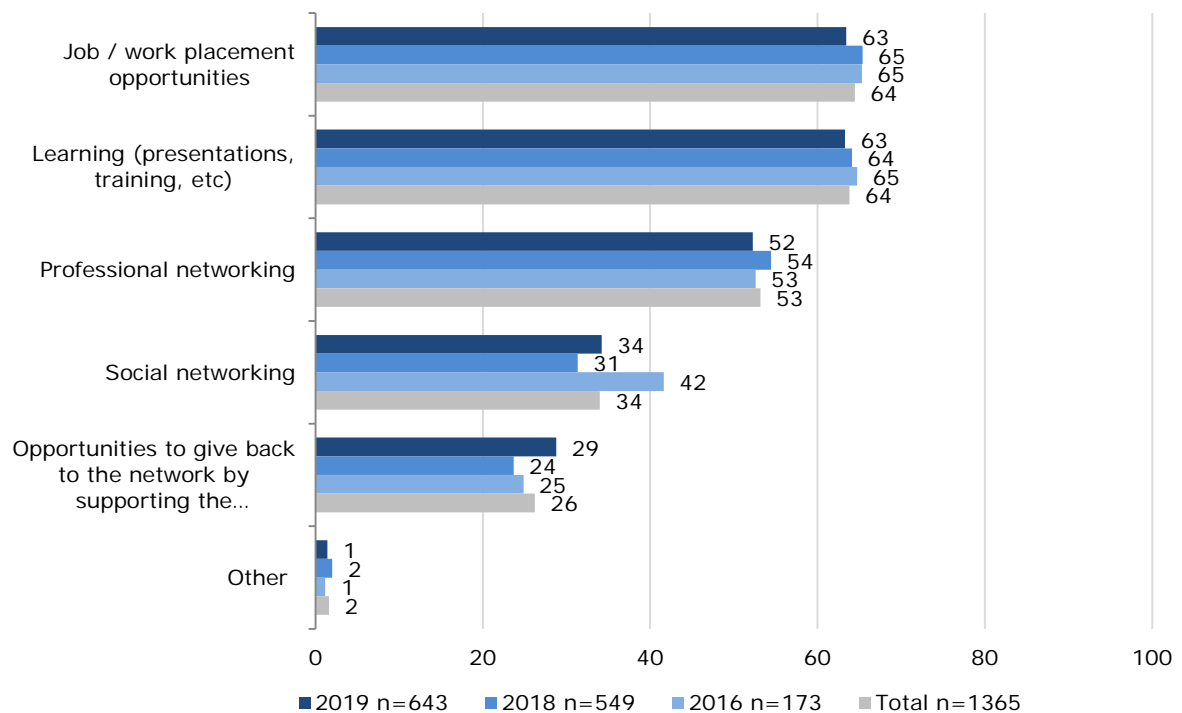
% respondents



Of those who answered the follow up question about elements of most interest in online events, job / work placement opportunities (63%), learning (63%) and professional networking (52%) were the three main areas.

Elements of most interest in NCP Alumni Program online events

Multiple answers allowed so total >100%; % based on n count in legend

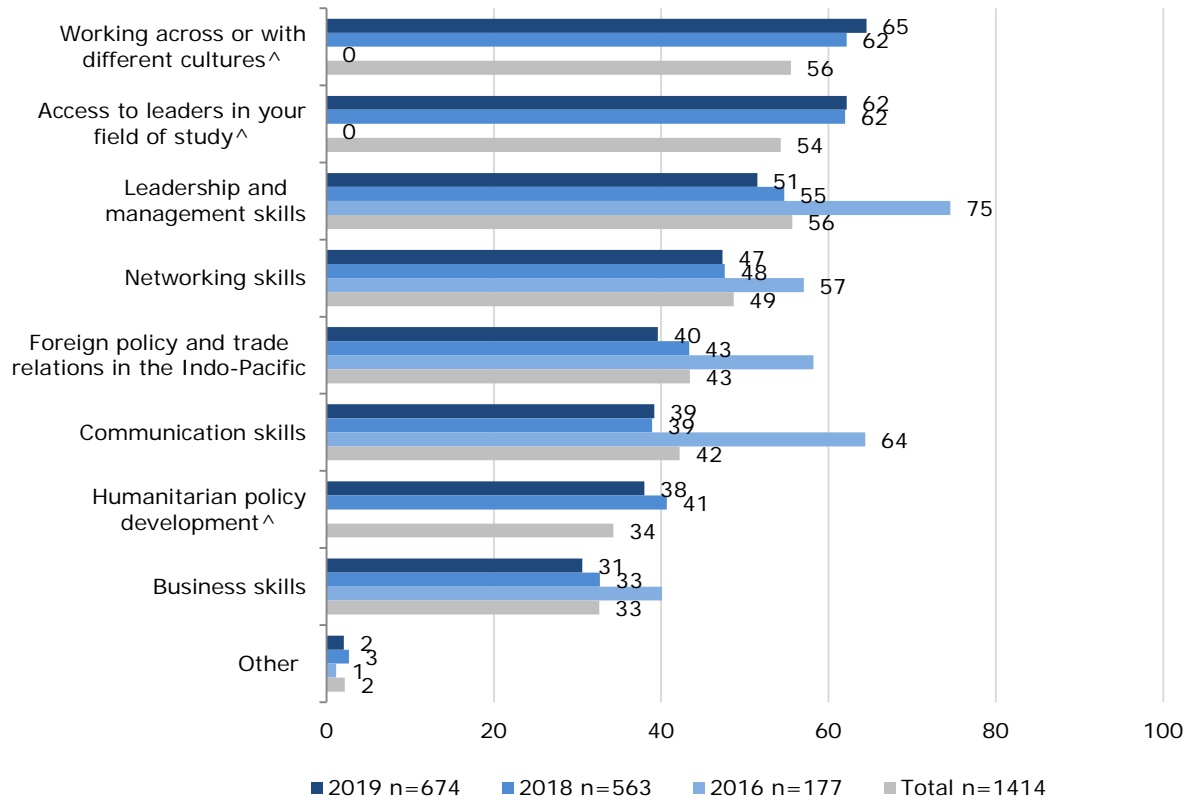


Professional development activities of interest

Working across or with different cultures (65%), access to leaders in their field of study (62%) and leadership / management skills (51%) were the three professional development of most interest in an NCP alumni program. Multiple answers were allowed to this question.

Professional development area of most interest in NCP Alumni Program

Multiple answers allowed so total >100%; % based on n count in legend
^indicates new item in 2018

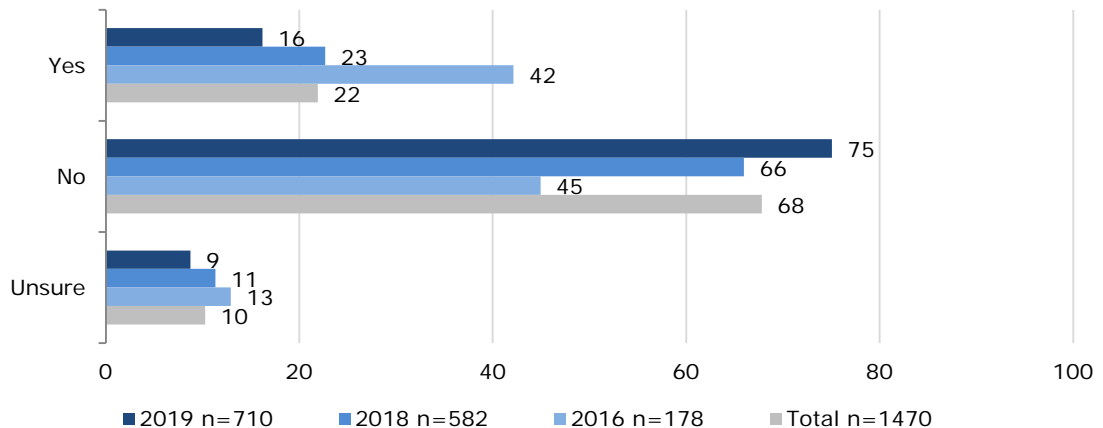


NCP alumni LinkedIn group

Sixteen percent of respondents answered that they were members of the NCP Alumni LinkedIn group—a declining number since the survey commenced.

Member of the NCP Alumni LinkedIn group

% respondents

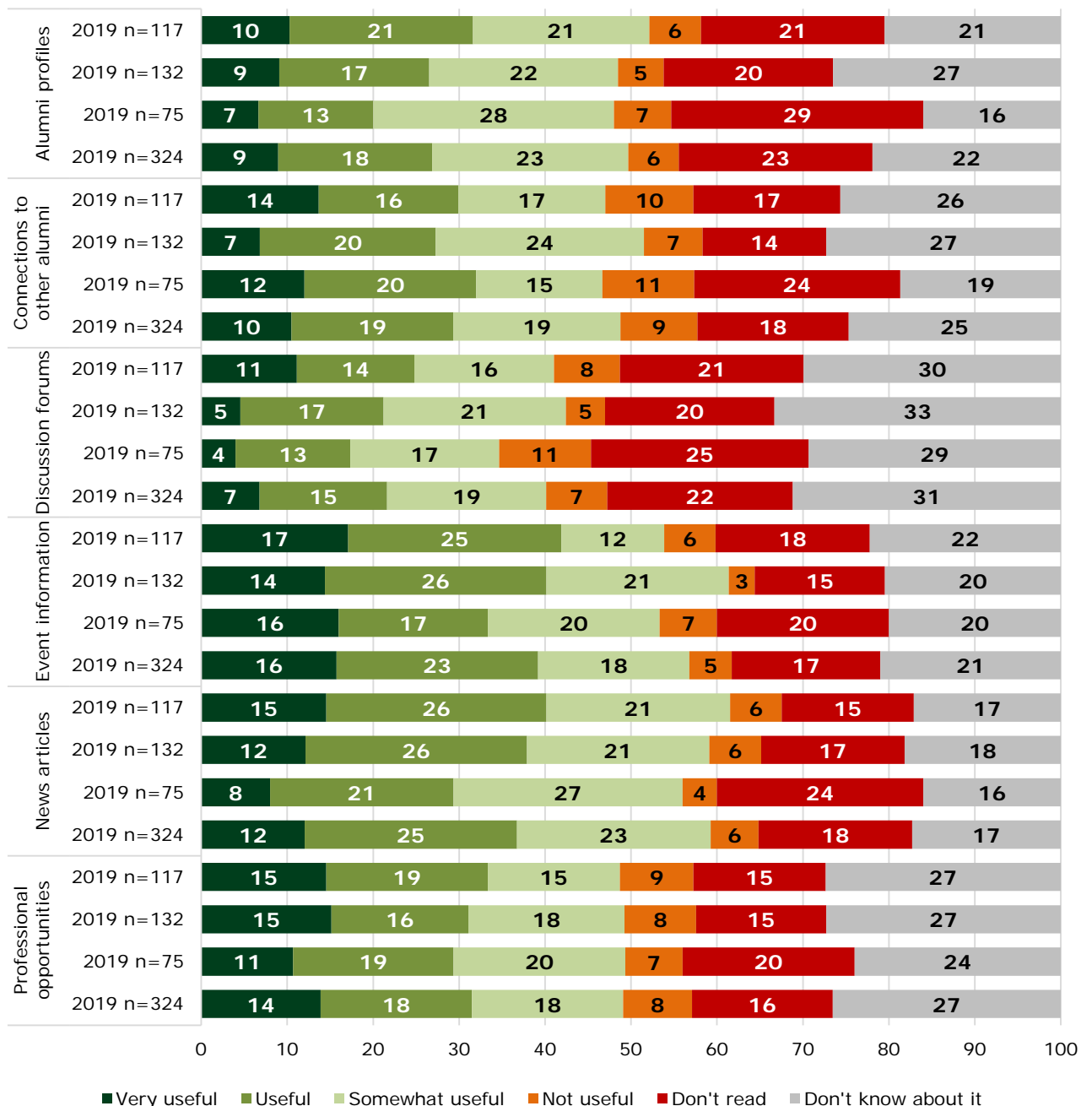


Of the alumni who belong to the NCP LinkedIn alumni group, 42% found event information useful (17% *very useful* and 25% *useful*), while 41% found news articles useful (15% *very useful* and 26% *useful*).

In some cases up more than 50% of alumni did not read or did not know about particular resources available at the LinkedIn group. For example 21% of alumni did not read and 30% did not know about discussion forums available in the group. Refer to the chart below.

Usefulness of NCP alumni LinkedIn articles and resources

% respondents; n count as shown in y axis

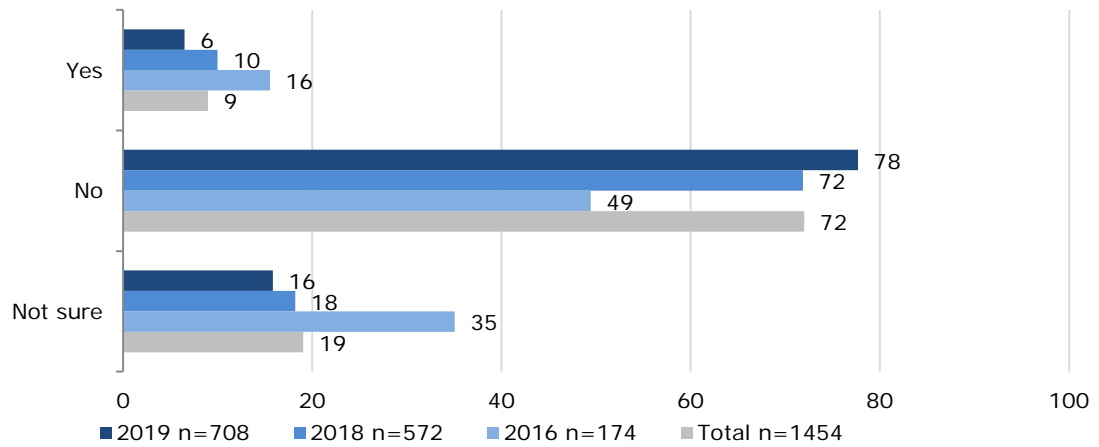


Australia Global Alumni Network

Seventy-eight percent of respondents were not members of the Australia Global Alumni Network while 16% were unsure. Refer to the chart below.

Member of the Australia Global Alumni Network

% respondents

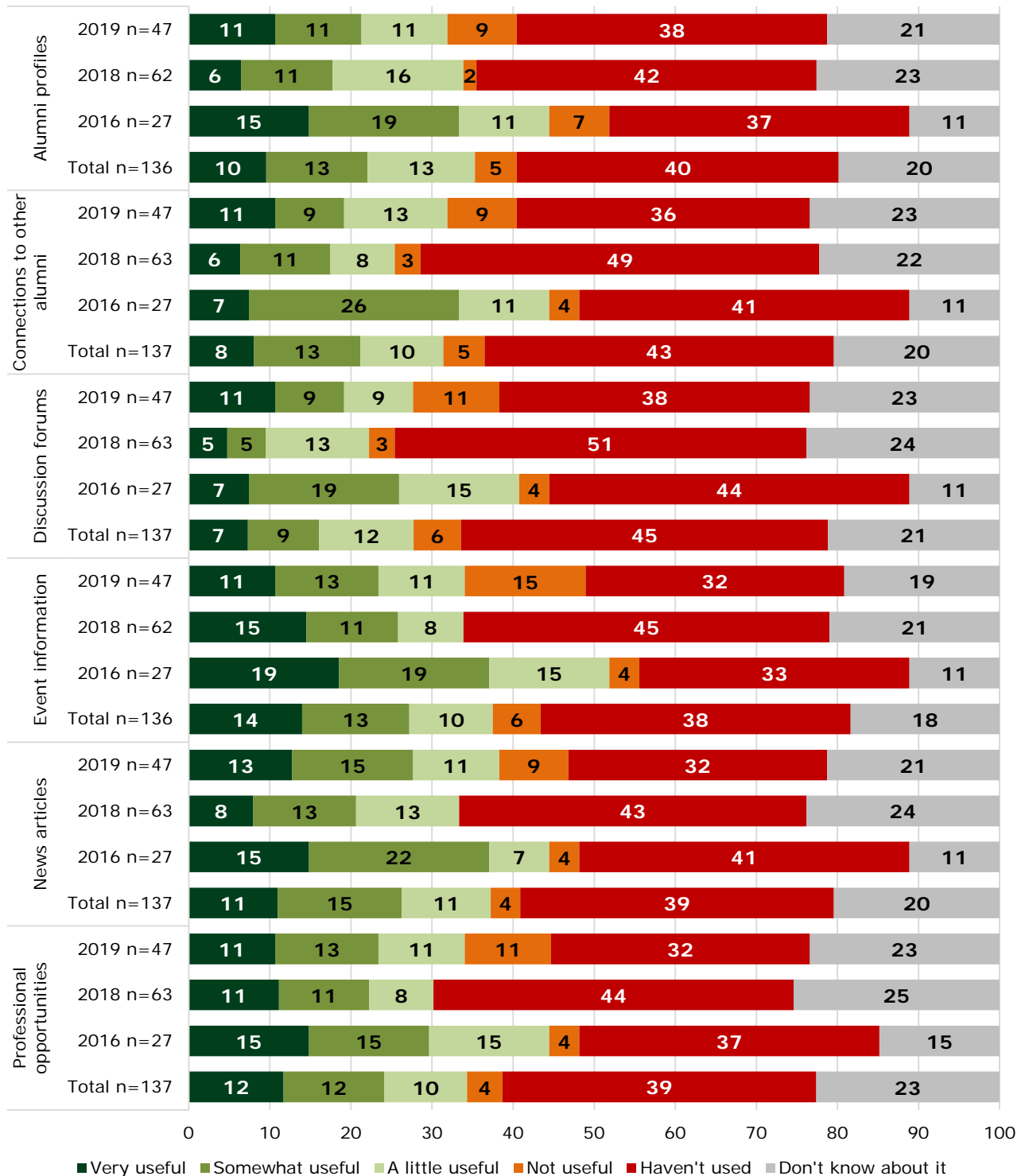


Of the small proportion of respondents who indicated that they were members of the Australia Global Alumni Network, 24% found the event information on the site useful (11% *very useful* and 13% *somewhat useful*). Twenty-four percent found professional opportunities useful (11% *very useful* and 13% *somewhat useful*), and 28% found news articles useful (13% *very useful* and 15% *useful*).

Note that a very high proportion of Australia Global Alumni Network members have not read or did not know about the various resources available (50% or more for each of the resources). Refer to the chart below.

Usefulness Australia Global Alumni Network information and resources

% respondents

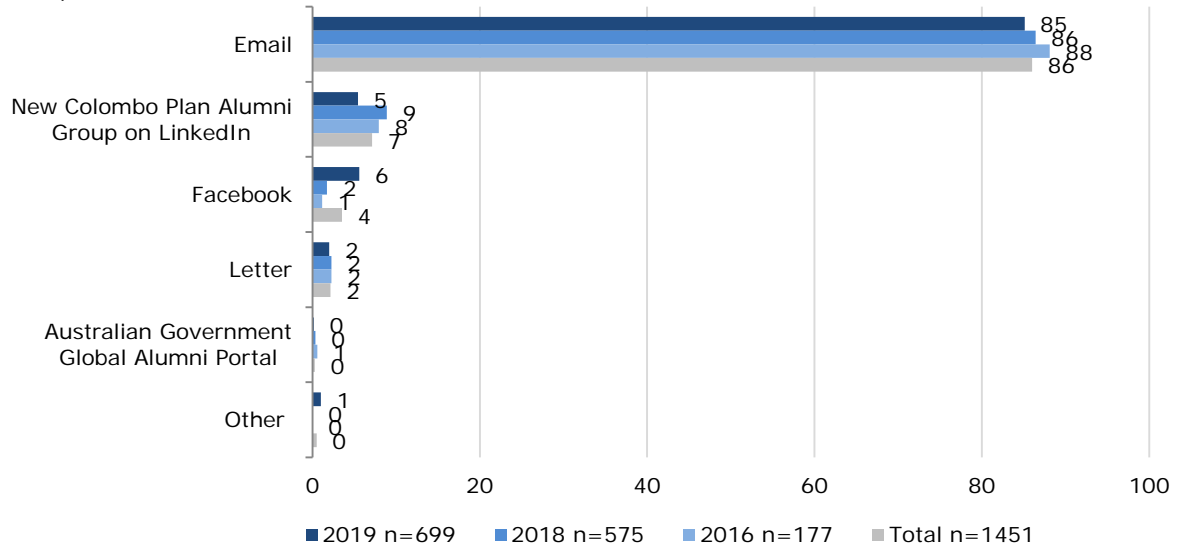


Preferred communication channel for NCP alumni information

For 85% of respondents, email was the preferred channel for receiving alumni program information. Only one answer was allowed for this question.

Most preferred method of receiving information about the NCP Alumni Program

% respondents

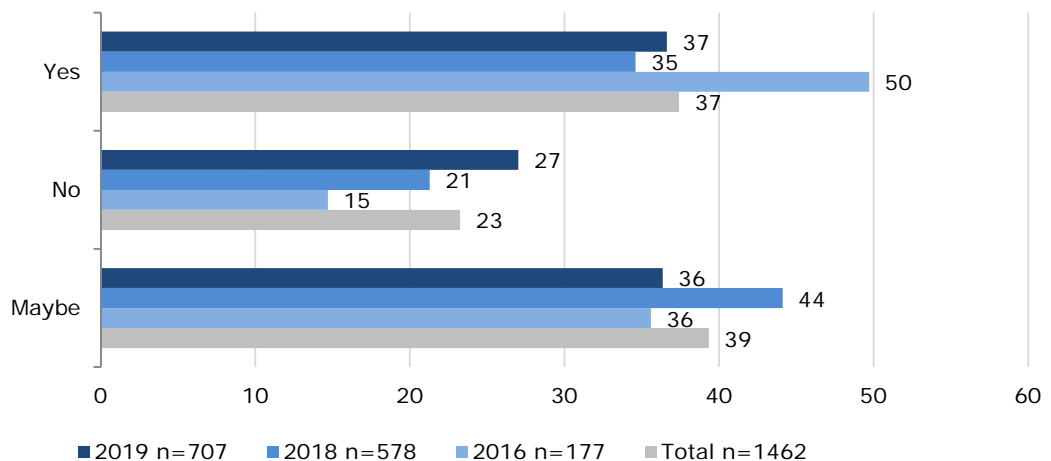


Mentoring

Thirty-seven percent of respondents would be willing to be a mentor for an NCP student or alumnus. Thirty-six percent answered *maybe* (possibly implying a dependence on what the commitment would require).

Willingness to be a mentor for an NCP student or alumnus

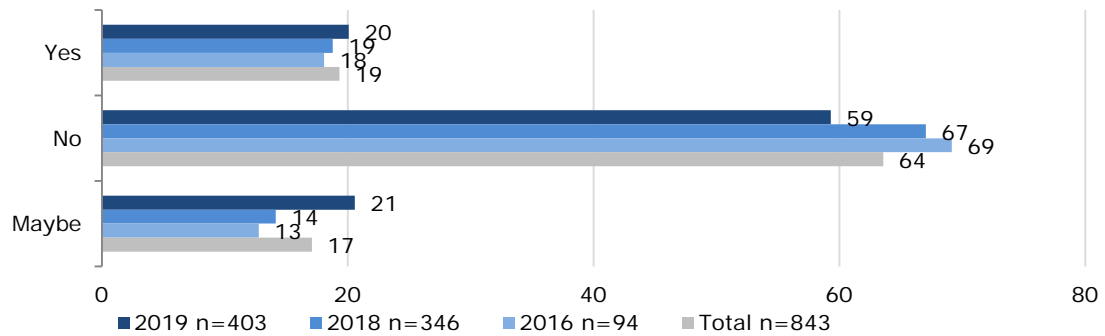
% respondents



Twenty percent of respondents indicated that they or their organisation would be interested in more information about the NCP Internship and Mentoring Network, Mobility Partners Program or ways to get involved with and support the NCP; 21% indicated *maybe*. Refer to the chart below.

Interest in receiving more information on the NCP Internship and Mentoring Network & NCP Mobility Partners Program

% respondents



Benefits of the NCP experience

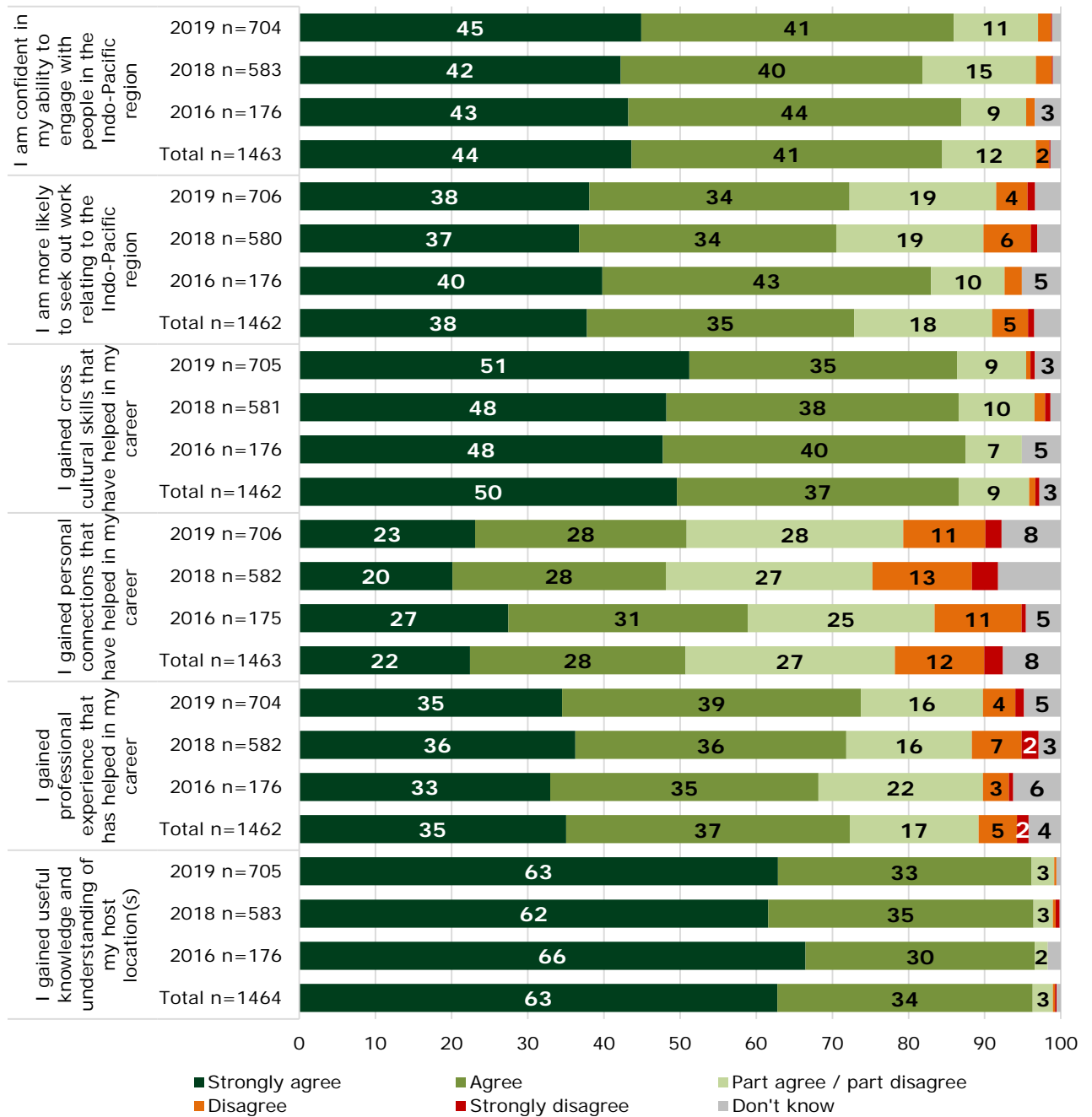
A number of positive benefits the NCP alumni had gained from their NCP experience aligned with the strategic objectives of the program. These aligned benefits related to strengthening understanding, connections and work readiness of NCP alumni to businesses and institutions within the Indo-Pacific region. Refer to the table below and the accompanying chart underneath.

There were significant differences between mobility students and scholars for three of the six measures, with scholars more likely overall to rate the items positively. Note that the sample size of scholars was very small (n=34). Men were significantly more likely to rate the item *I am more likely to seek out work relating to the Indo-Pacific region* positively than women. There were no significant differences between indigenous / non-indigenous status. Refer to the appendix in this report.

Objective	Measure	% positive (Strongly agree or agree)
Lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by increasing the number of Australian undergraduate students undertaking study and Internships in the region	I gained useful knowledge and understanding of my host location(s)	96%
Deepen Australia's people-to-people and institutional relationships with the region, through the engagement of students, universities, businesses and other stakeholder networks in the Program	I gained personal connections that have helped in my career	51%
	I gained cross cultural skills that have helped in my career	86%
Establish study in the Indo-Pacific as a rite of passage for Australian undergraduate students, and as an endeavour that is highly valued by the Australian community	I am confident in my ability to engage with people in the Indo-Pacific region	86%
	Increase the number of work-ready Australian graduates with regional experience.	
	I gained professional experience that has helped in my career	74%
	I am more likely to seek out work relating to the Indo-Pacific region	72%

Agreement with statements about personal gains from NCP

% respondents; % based on n counts in y axis



Comments on the most valuable elements of NCP

There were many elements of their NCP program that respondents found valuable. Refer to table below.

Improved cross cultural skills / awareness / understanding of the host country (ies) culture (34%) and building relationships and networks (33%) were the two most valuable aspects of the NCP program. Some respondents indicated that their contacts continued to be very worthwhile in obtaining work, references, advice, collaboration and personal support to help achieve their goals.

“The whole experience has influenced me a lot and made me love living in Asia. It has made me much more open to other cultures and ways of life. I think the most valuable element was the exposure itself and the skills that naturally come from living in a new society. My whole future career path has now changed to where I would like to work in Asia, and it has opened up my favourite area of study of Asian politics and history which I study in depth at uni.”

“The entire NCP experience was valuable. It increased my cultural awareness and helped to establish connections and develop skills that have since proven invaluable both in my career and life in general. These kinds of experiences are strong developmental experiences that, in an ideal world, every student would take part in.”

“I think the single most valuable element of the NCP program would have to be the opportunity to undertake internships. It gave me real world experience in an Indo-Pacific context. I created life-long professional and personal connections. I will cherish these memories forever.”

“The NCP expanded my horizons. I am now a more confident and creative person. I learned a lot about myself and what I am capable of and has broadened my scope of professional opportunities.”

“The most valuable elements of my program were being able to further develop my linguistic abilities in a real-world context and involve myself in the rich culture and society that Indonesia offers.”

Objective	% respondents n=463 [^]
Improved cross cultural skills / awareness / understanding	34
Built relationships and networks	33
Work experience	11
Increased confidence / independence / feel more relaxed / in control / able to step out of comfort zone	10
Improved host country language skills	8
Helped determine future career goals / know what I'm suited to	8
Look good on resume / attractive to potential employers / helped me get employment / more professional work	8
Improved / gained professional skills / professional development	8
Contributed to my academic activity / expanded knowledge or skills in field of study	6
Given a view of how an industry / organisation operated in another place and compared with Australia	6
Desire to / consider work or study in Indo-Pacific region	6
Enabled / opportunity to travel / work / study / live abroad	6
Widened perspective, more global, open minded, accepting of others' views	5
Deeper understanding of industry / organisation / field of study challenges in host country / region	5

[^]Only categories with 5% or more responses displayed in table, 2019 results only

Promoting the NCP

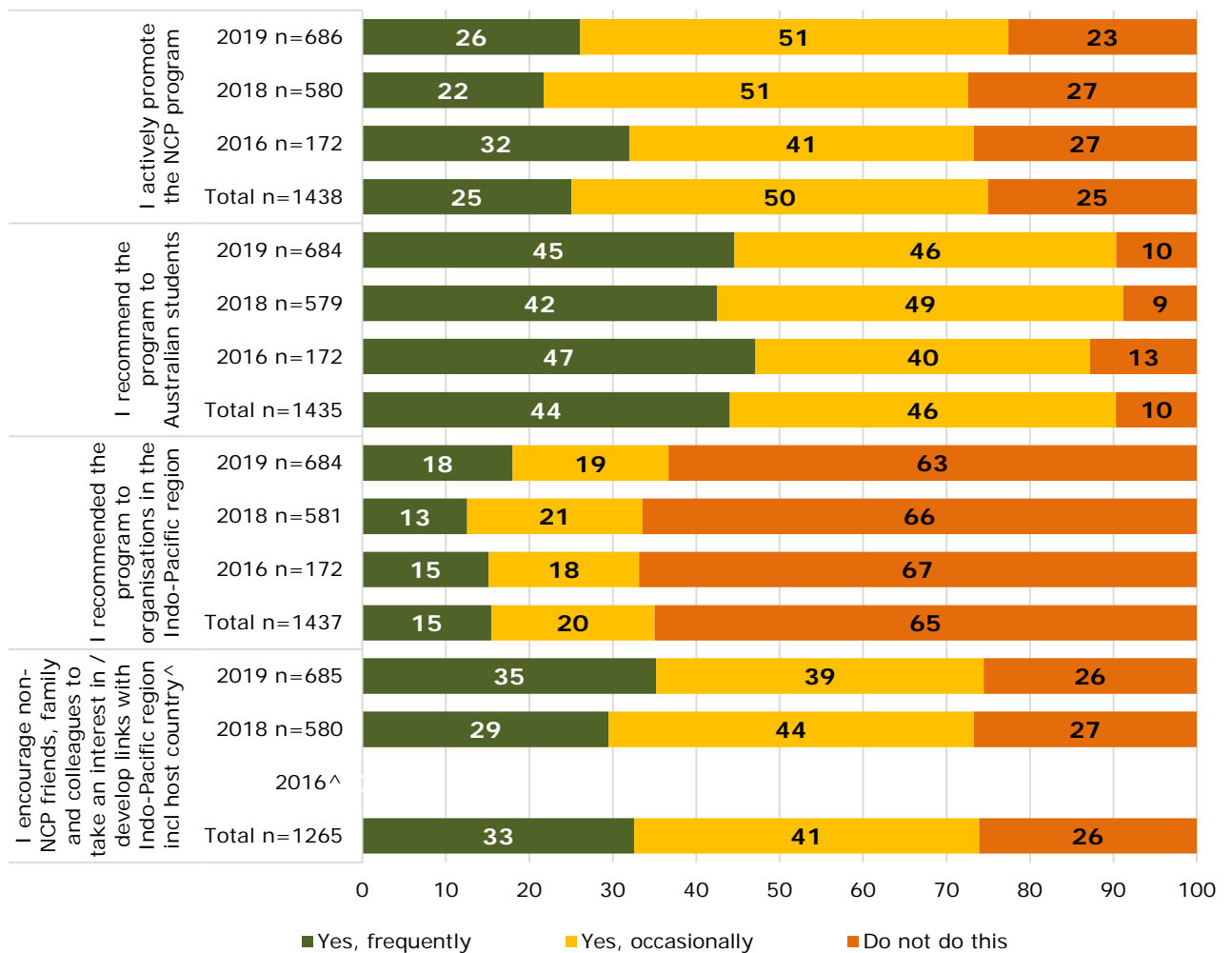
One way in which NCP alumni respondents may demonstrate their positive attitude towards and sense of value of the NCP program is through recommending and actively promoting the NCP program to Australian students and organisations in the Indo-Pacific region.

The vast majority (90%) of respondents indicated that they recommended the program to Australian students either *frequently* or *occasionally*, 77% actively promoted the program *frequently* or *occasionally* and similarly, and 74% encouraged non-NCP friends, family and colleagues to take an interest in or to develop links with the Indo-Pacific region including their host country *frequently* or *occasionally*. Refer to the chart below.

Promoting NCP program

% respondents

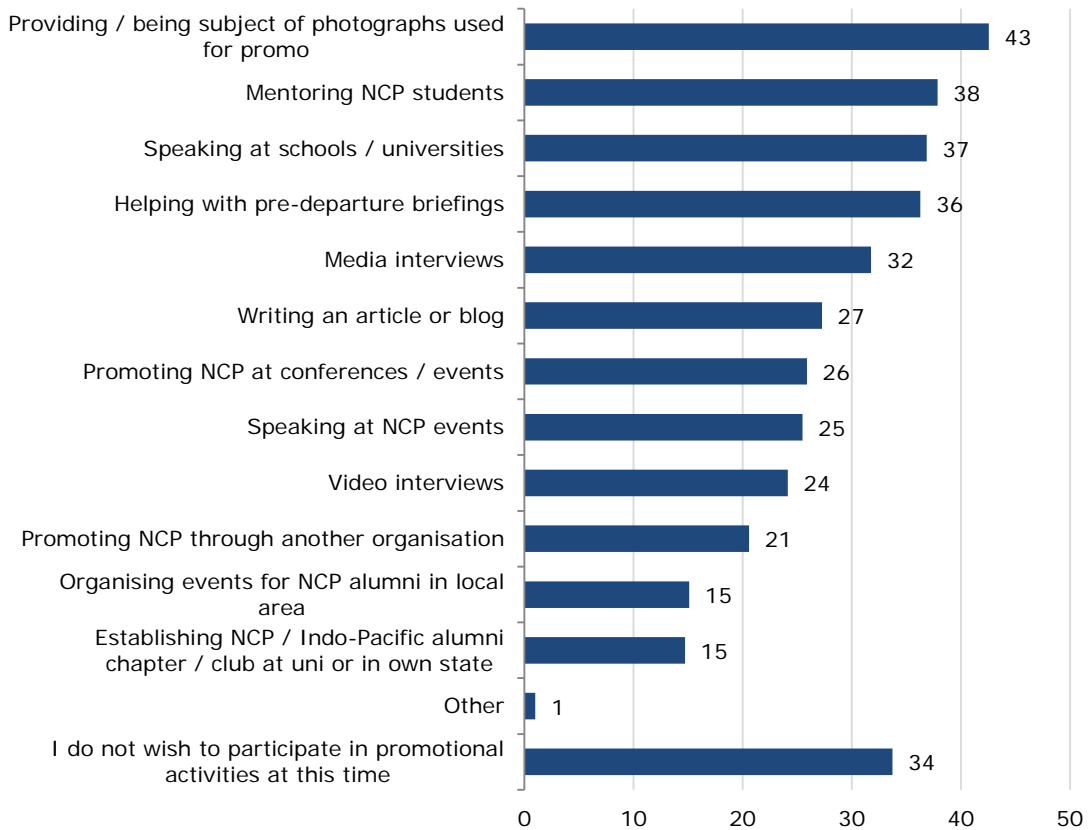
^ indicates new item in 2018



Sixty-six percent of all NCP alumni respondents indicated they were willing to promote the NCP program in some way and most commonly this was through providing promotional photos (43% of those who answered the question), mentoring NCP students (38%) speaking at schools/unis (37%) and helping with pre-departure briefings (36%). Refer to the chart below. Note that the answer options for this question were changed in last round of surveying and no previous round comparisons are available as the question was presented differently.

Activities willing to participate in to promote NCP program

Multiple answers allowed so total >100%; % based on n=510
 Answer options changed in 2019



Appendix

Benefits of the NCP experience by demographics

The below tables show the benefits NCP alumni had gained from their NCP program aligned with the strategic objectives of the program, broken by type of alumni, gender and their indigenous status.

There were significant differences between mobility students and scholars for three of the six measures (see the **bold** numbers in the table below). Scholars were more likely overall to rate the positively. Note the sample size of scholars was very small (n=34).

Objective	Measure	% positive Mobility students n=677	% positive Scholars n=34 [^]
Lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by increasing the number of Australian undergraduate students undertaking study and Internships in the region	I gained useful knowledge and understanding of my host location(s)	96.0	100.0
	Deepen Australia's people-to-people and institutional relationships with the region , through the engagement of students, universities, businesses and other stakeholder networks in the Program	49.3	82.4
Establish study in the Indo-Pacific as a rite of passage for Australian undergraduate students, and as an endeavour that is highly valued by the Australian community	I gained cross cultural skills that have helped in my career	86.1	91.2
	I am confident in my ability to engage with people in the Indo-Pacific region	85.4	97.1
	Increase the number of work-ready Australian graduates with regional experience.	72.7	94.1
	I gained professional experience that has helped in my career	71.1	94.1
	I am more likely to seek out work relating to the Indo-Pacific region	71.1	94.1

[^]Please note: Small sample size, results indicative only, **bold** numbers indicate a statistically significant difference at the 95% confidence level

Only one item was significantly different between male and female students (in bold).

Objective	Measure	% positive	% positive
		Female n=419	Male n=291
Lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by increasing the number of Australian undergraduate students undertaking study and Internships in the region	I gained useful knowledge and understanding of my host location(s)	96.4	95.9
	Deepen Australia's people-to-people and institutional relationships with the region , through the engagement of students, universities, businesses and other stakeholder networks in the Program	47.7	55.2
Establish study in the Indo-Pacific as a rite of passage for Australian undergraduate students, and as an endeavour that is highly valued by the Australian community	I gained cross cultural skills that have helped in my career	86.3	86.5
	I am confident in my ability to engage with people in the Indo-Pacific region	84.3	88.2
	Increase the number of work-ready Australian graduates with regional experience.	I gained professional experience that has helped in my career	73.1
	I am more likely to seek out work relating to the Indo-Pacific region	68.9	76.9

There were no significant differences between students from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background compared to those who weren't from that background.

Objective	Measure	% positive	% + positive
		Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander n=10^	Not Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander n=478
Lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by increasing the number of Australian undergraduate students undertaking study and Internships in the region	I gained useful knowledge and understanding of my host location(s)	100.0	96.4
	Deepen Australia's people-to-people and institutional relationships with the region , through the engagement of students, universities, businesses and other stakeholder networks in the Program	66.7	48.5
Establish study in the Indo-Pacific as a rite of passage for Australian undergraduate students, and as an endeavour that is highly valued by the Australian community	I gained cross cultural skills that have helped in my career	100.0	85.4
	I am confident in my ability to engage with people in the Indo-Pacific region	88.9	86.0
	Increase the number of work-ready Australian graduates with regional experience.	I gained professional experience that has helped in my career	100.0
	I am more likely to seek out work relating to the Indo-Pacific region	66.7	69.7

^Please note: Small sample size, results indicative only