

# INFORMATION TO ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPLOITATION

*Findings from the Information for Impact Survey*

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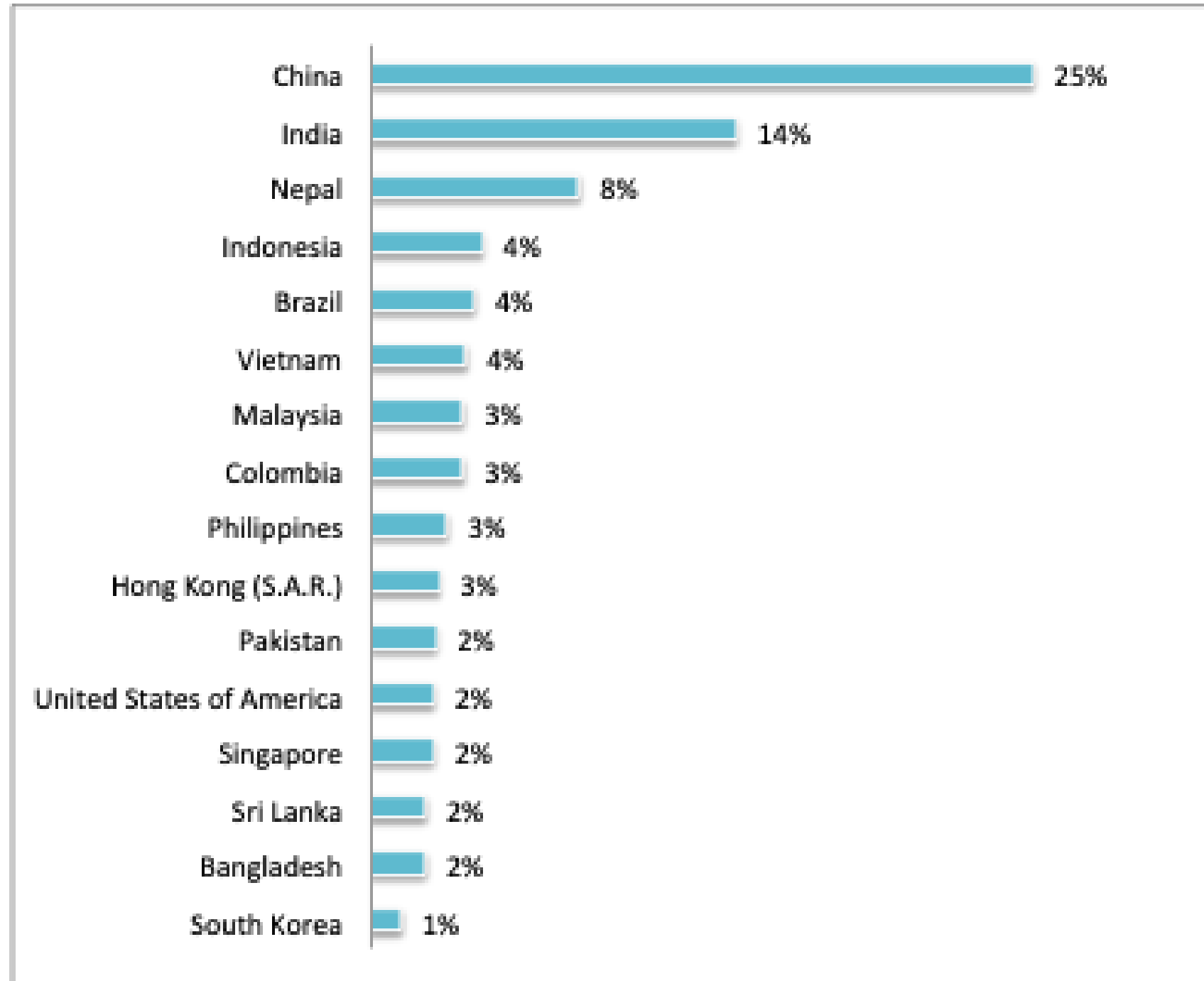
# About the survey

- Anonymous online survey, multiple choice with limited open responses
- Available in English, Mandarin, Spanish and Portuguese
- Over 5,000 valid responses, from international students who were nationals of 103 countries
- Randomly allocated to questions on work or accommodation

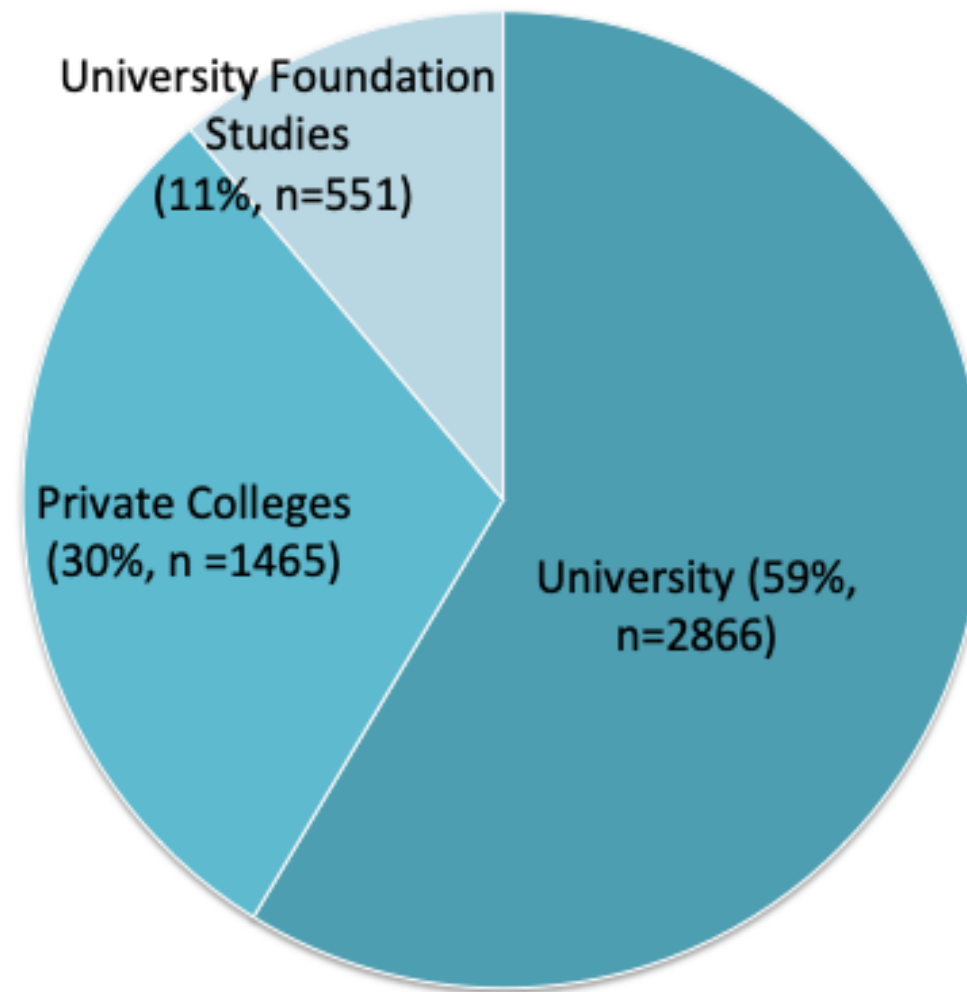
# Survey structure

<b>Personal characteristics:</b> nationality, age, year of arrival in Australia, gender, geographic location, education provider, course of study, and whether worked in Australia	
<b>First accommodation in Australia</b> (what type, how found, when found)	
<b>Problems with accommodation</b>	<b>Problems with work</b>
<b>Whether participants sought information/help for problems</b> (where; with what outcomes; if not, why not)	
<b>What information would help international students</b> avoid problems at work/accommodation (when, what form, from whom) and what would make them more likely to use services	
<b>Knowledge of tenancy rights</b>	<b>Knowledge of work rights</b>

# Nationality of survey participants



# Participants' education provider



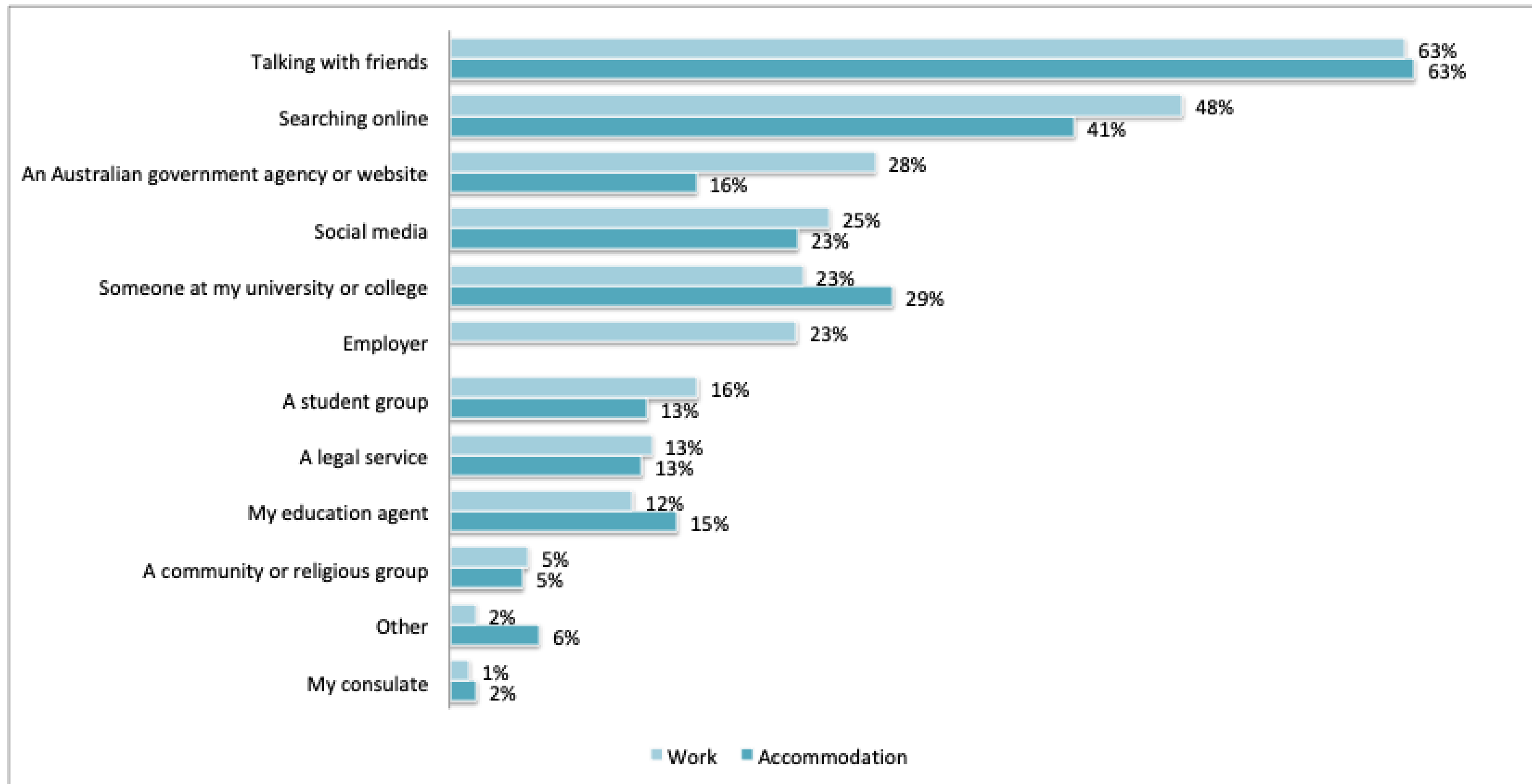
# Problems in Accommodation

- The most common type of first accommodation in Australia was in a share house (36%), where numerous serious problems were substantially more common than in other types of accommodation. See *No Place Like Home* report for overview of problems ([www.law.unsw.edu.au/noplacelikehome](http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/noplacelikehome))
- Half of respondents arranged their share house after arrival. The prevalence of problems was no better than for those who organised housing pre-arrival.
- Presence in Australia in itself does not lessen students' vulnerability. The problems were similarly common across respondents' first and subsequent accommodation, including deception and poor working conditions.
- Only 2% of students who arranged their first accommodation in a share house in Australia were assisted by their education provider.

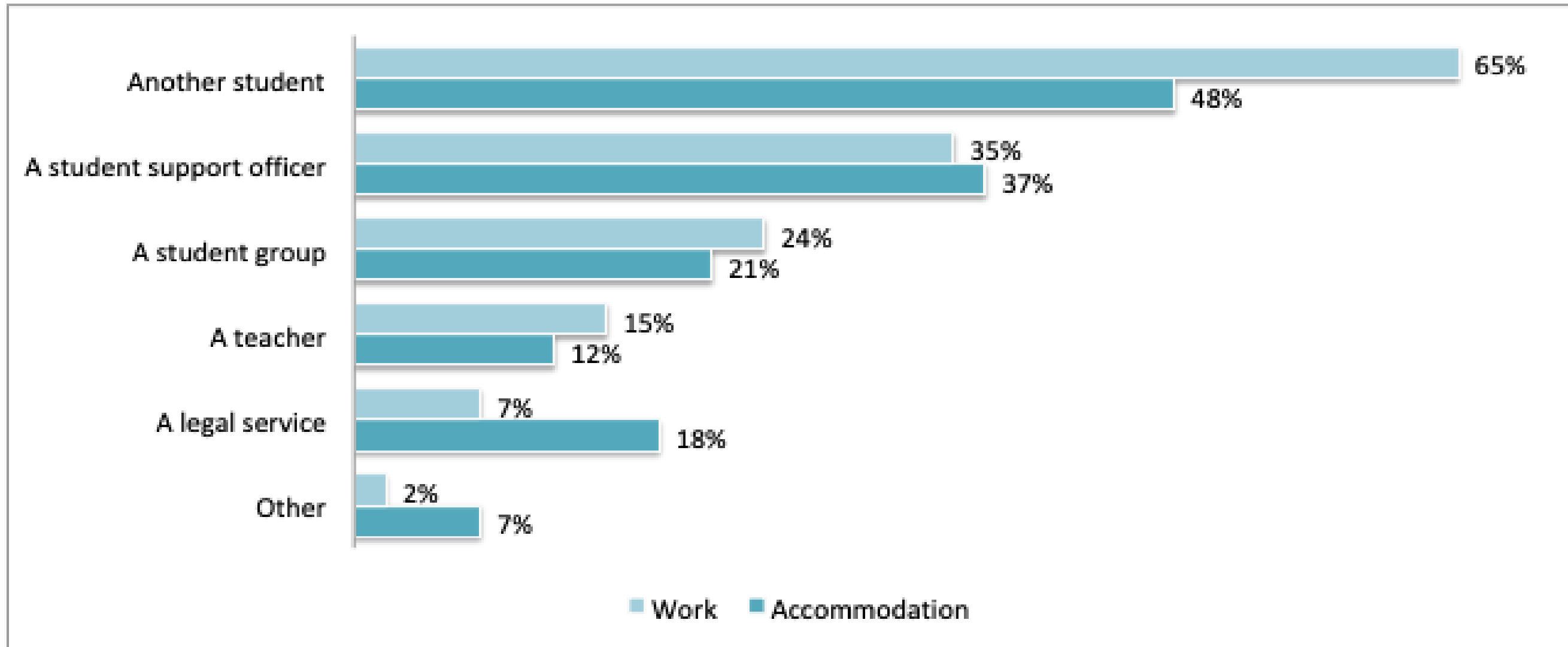
# Problems in Work

- The majority of international students were underpaid: 77 percent were paid below the minimum casual hourly wage.
- 26 percent earned just half the minimum casual hourly wage or less (a figure unchanged since the 2016 study).
- Two thirds worked in paid job in Australia (among those who had been in Australia 3+ months)
- International students encountered a range of other problems in addition to underpayment

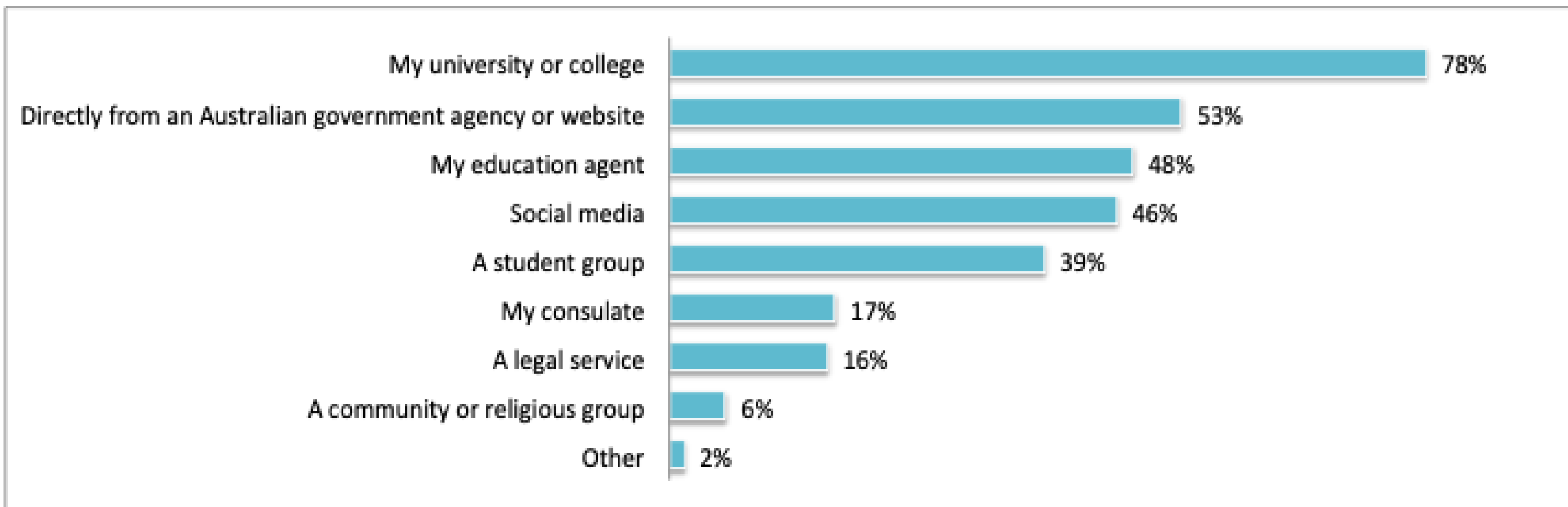
# Where international students sought information/help for problems with work or accommodation



# Whom participants contacted at their educational institution for information/help on accommodation or work problems



# From which sources international students believe information should be provided on accommodation



# Participants' knowledge

- The vast majority of international students knew the minimum wage in Australia (84%)
- 69% of respondents knew that international students are entitled to the same minimum wage as Australians, but one in three did not.
- A worker does not break the law if they agree to accept less than the minimum wage. 81% did not know that. They believe they are complicit with the underpayment and do not come forward.
- It is not illegal to accept (or make) wage payments in cash. 82% did not know this.
- 82% wrongly believed that their student visa could be cancelled for failure to pay rent or other tenancy breaches

# The COVID Impact Survey

- [www.mwji.org/covidsurvey](http://www.mwji.org/covidsurvey)
- Survey covers experiences with work, housing, financial insecurity, health, safety and discrimination.
- It is anonymous, multiple-choice and takes around 12 minutes.
- It is open to international students who were in Australia on 1 March, and is available in English and Mandarin.
- It closes on 22 July (next week!)

Have you been an international student in Australia during COVID?

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Take an anonymous SURVEY on your experiences this year to improve support for international students in Australia

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