Australian Responsible AI Index 2025

Fifth Quadrant
National Artificial Intelligence Centre

Voluntary Self-Assessment Tool Mini-report

Australian Government

National AI Centre

fifth quadrant

This publication is sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources through the National AI Centre.

About This Report

This report summarises the responsible AI practices of 241 organisations that completed the Responsible AI Self-Assessment Tool, developed by Fifth Quadrant with the National AI Centre.

The RAI Self-Assessment Tool

Since 2021, Fifth Quadrant's Responsible AI Index has measured how well Australian organisations turn responsible AI from principle into practice, providing a national benchmark aligned with the Australian Government's Guidance for AI Adoption. For the 2025 edition, sponsored by the National AI Centre, we built the Responsible AI Self-Assessment Tool, an online version of the Index that lets any organisation assess itself and receive a tailored report. The results reveal a gap between how seriously organisations take responsible AI and how little many do to control it once a system is live.

What it measures

Each organisation reported the responsible AI practices it has implemented, and those it plans to, across five dimensions aligned with the Voluntary AI Safety Standard: Transparency; Explainability and Contestability; Safety, Reliability and Privacy; Fairness; and Accountability.

The score and maturity segments

Responses generate a Responsible AI Index score from 0 to 100, grouping organisations into four maturity segments: Emerging (0-24), Developing (25-49), Implementing (50-69) and Leading (70-100).

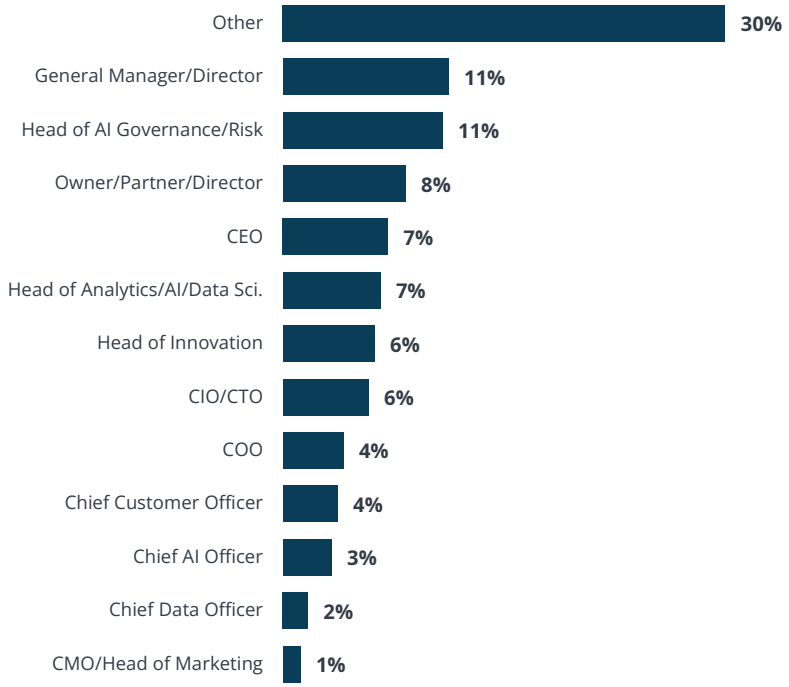
How to read this pack

Results cover all 241 organisations and, where it adds insight, are broken down by maturity segment to show how practices change as organisations mature. The Self-Assessment Tool is the diagnostic that underpins the Australian Responsible AI Index 2025.

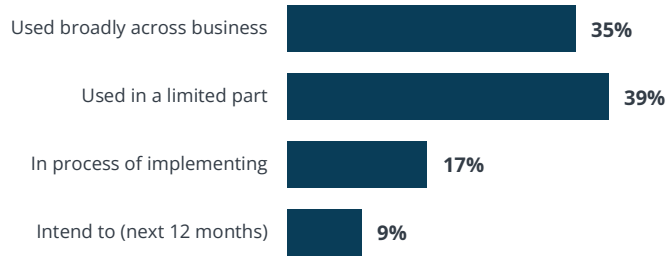
Sample Profile

Respondents are predominantly senior leaders with direct responsibility for or influence over AI decisions, drawn from organisations of all sizes and from every state and territory.

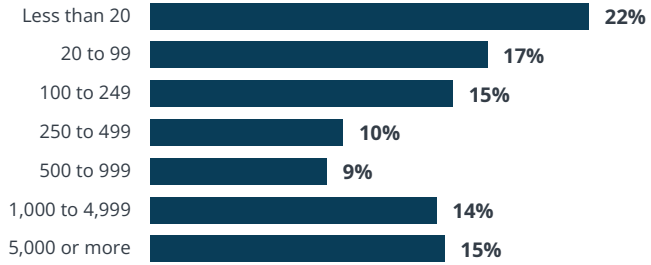
Role In Organisation



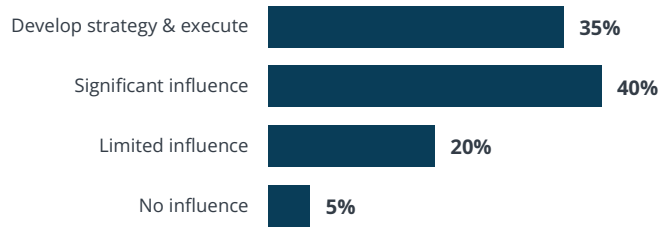
Use Of AI



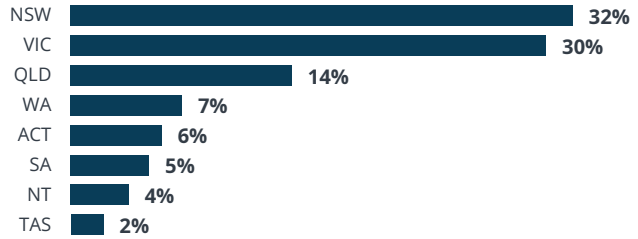
Business Size (Aus FTE)



Involvement In AI Decisions



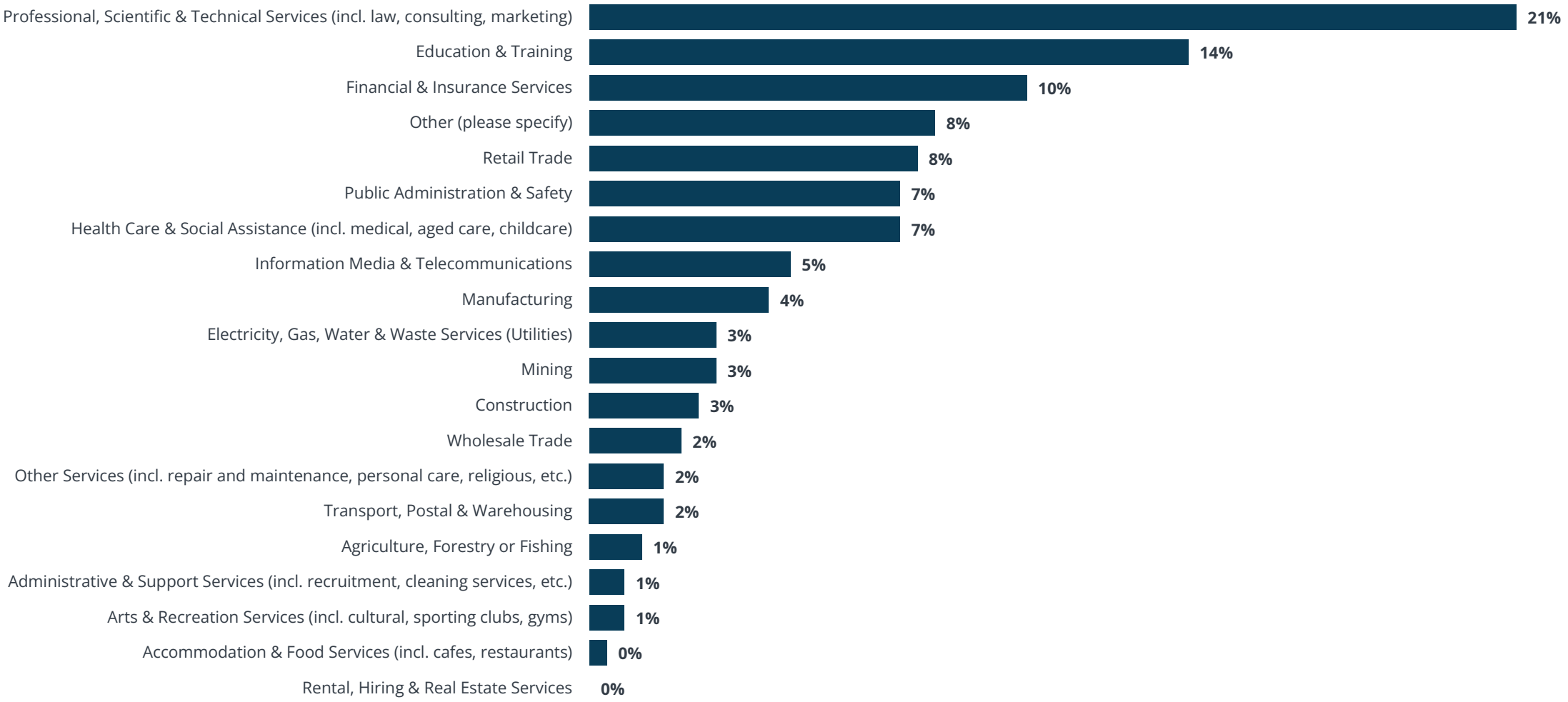
Head Office Location



Q1, Q2, Q16, Q17, Q18. Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241).

Sample Profile: Industry

The sample spans the breadth of the Australian economy. Professional, scientific and technical services represent the largest single industry at 21%, followed by education and training at 14% and financial and insurance services at 10%.



Q19. In which industry does your business operate? Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241).

How the Responsible AI Index Is Measured

The Responsible AI Index measures how well organisations put responsible AI into practice across five dimensions. Each organisation is scored on its adoption of 45 responsible AI practices, producing an overall score out of 100.

Transparency	Explainability & Contestability	Safety, Reliability & Privacy	Fairness	Accountability
Disclosing how and where AI is used, and how personal data is handled	Explaining AI decisions and offering recourse to people affected	Testing, monitoring, security and privacy across the AI lifecycle	Identifying and mitigating bias to support equitable outcomes	Governance, leadership and meaningful human oversight of AI

How the score is built

2 points
Practice implemented

1 point
Planned to implement

0 points
Neither implemented nor planned

Points within each dimension are re-weighted to 20.

The five dimensions sum to a total score out of 100.

In October 2025 the National AI Centre released the Guidance for AI Adoption, which consolidates this framework into six essential practices. This pack reports the five-dimension model on which the Self-Assessment Tool was built.

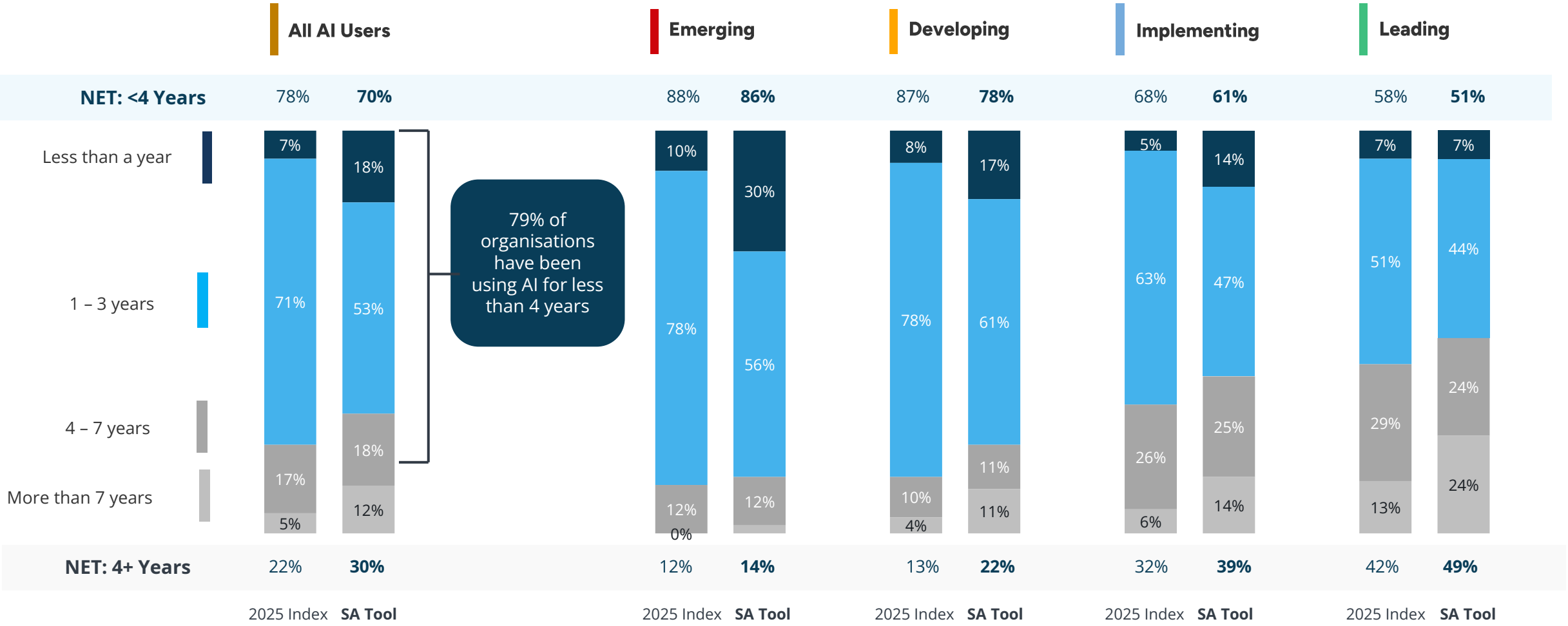
The Responsible AI Index: Overall

Among organisations that completed the Responsible AI Self-Assessment Tool, the mean RAI score is 44, almost identical to the 43 recorded by the representative 2025 Responsible AI Index. The distribution is more polarised, however, with a larger share of organisations in the Emerging stage (31%) and a notably larger share in the Leading stage (21%): a mix of organisations early in their journey and a strong group of advanced adopters.

RAI Index Score. Source: Responsible AI Self-Assessment tool.
Base: Total SA tool respondents (n=241), Emerging (n=75), Developing (n=67), Implementing (n=49), Leading (n=50)

RAI Maturity and Duration of AI Usage

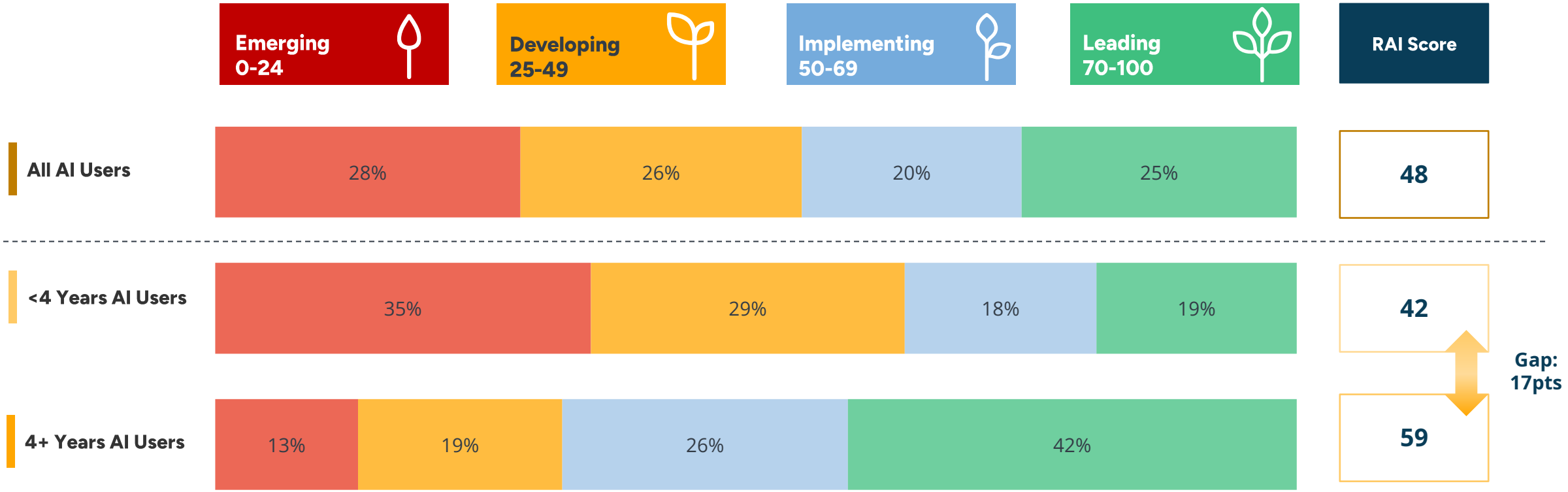
Among Self-Assessment Tool respondents, AI tenure is broadly similar to the 2025 RAI Index. The most striking shift is in the Leading segment: nearly half (49%) of Leading organisations in the tool have used AI for four or more years, compared with 42% in the 2025 Index. Across all segments, longer AI tenure remains strongly associated with higher RAI maturity.



Q1 - For how long has your organisation used AI?
Base: Total AI Users SA Tool (n=177), Emerging (n=50), Developing (n=46), Implementing (n=36), Leading (n=45)
Total AI Users 2025 Index (n=351), Emerging (n=51), Developing (n=171), Implementing (n=84), Leading (n=45)

The Responsible AI Index: Duration of AI Usage

Experience drives responsible AI maturity, with long-term users significantly outperforming newcomers. This maturity gap suggests newer adopters need targeted support and guidance to accelerate responsible AI development, particularly as rapid post-ChatGPT adoption increases systemic risk.

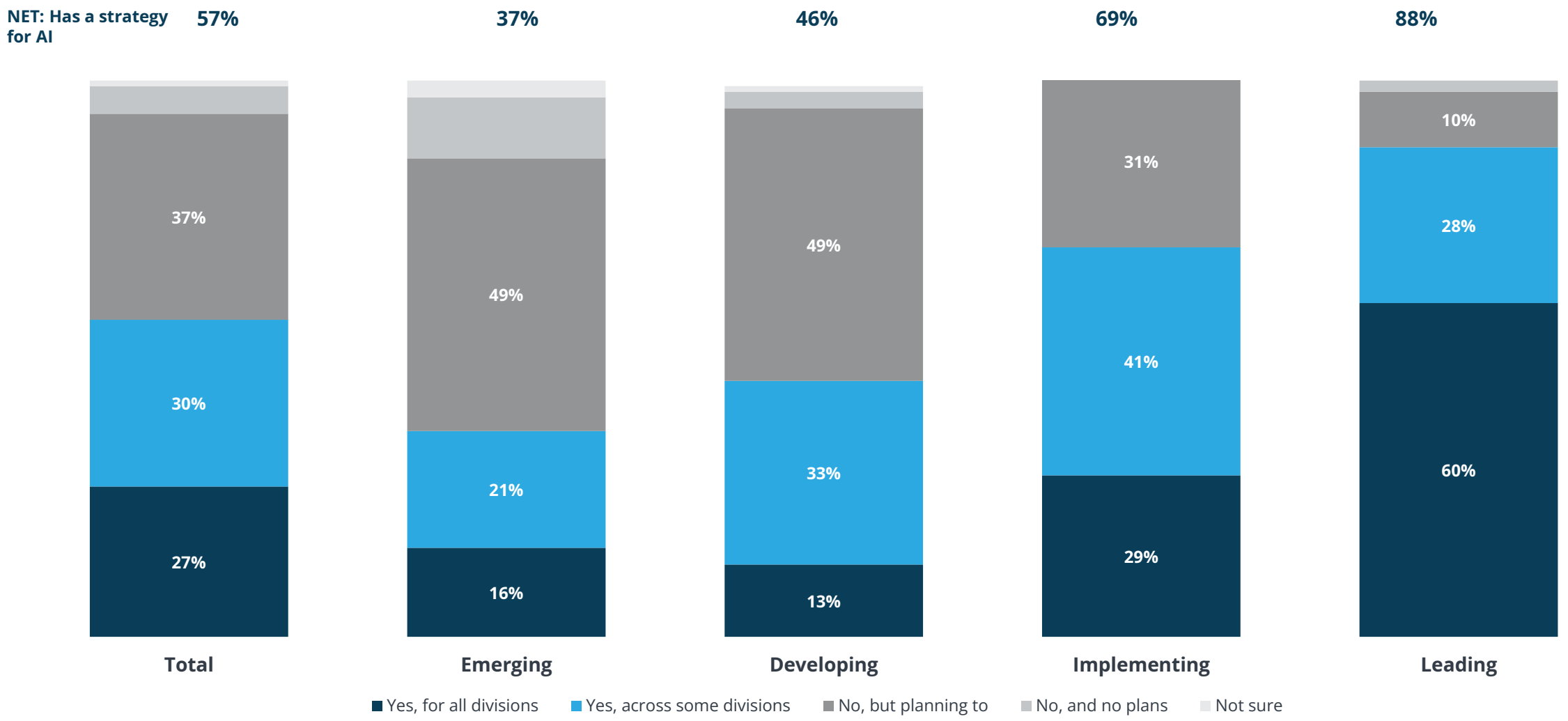


RAI Index Score. Source: Responsible AI Self-Assessment tool.
Base: Total AI Users (n=177), <4 years (n=124), 4+ years (n=53)

fifth quadrant

Organisational Strategy for AI

Most organisations have an AI strategy tied to their wider business strategy, although fewer than three in ten have one that spans all divisions. Strategic maturity rises sharply with responsible AI maturity: 88% of Leading organisations have an AI strategy, compared with 37% of Emerging organisations.



Q4. Do you have a strategy for the development and deployment of AI that is tied to your wider business strategy? Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241), Emerging (n=75), Developing (n=67), Implementing (n=49), Leading (n=50).

The Responsible AI Index: Score Summary

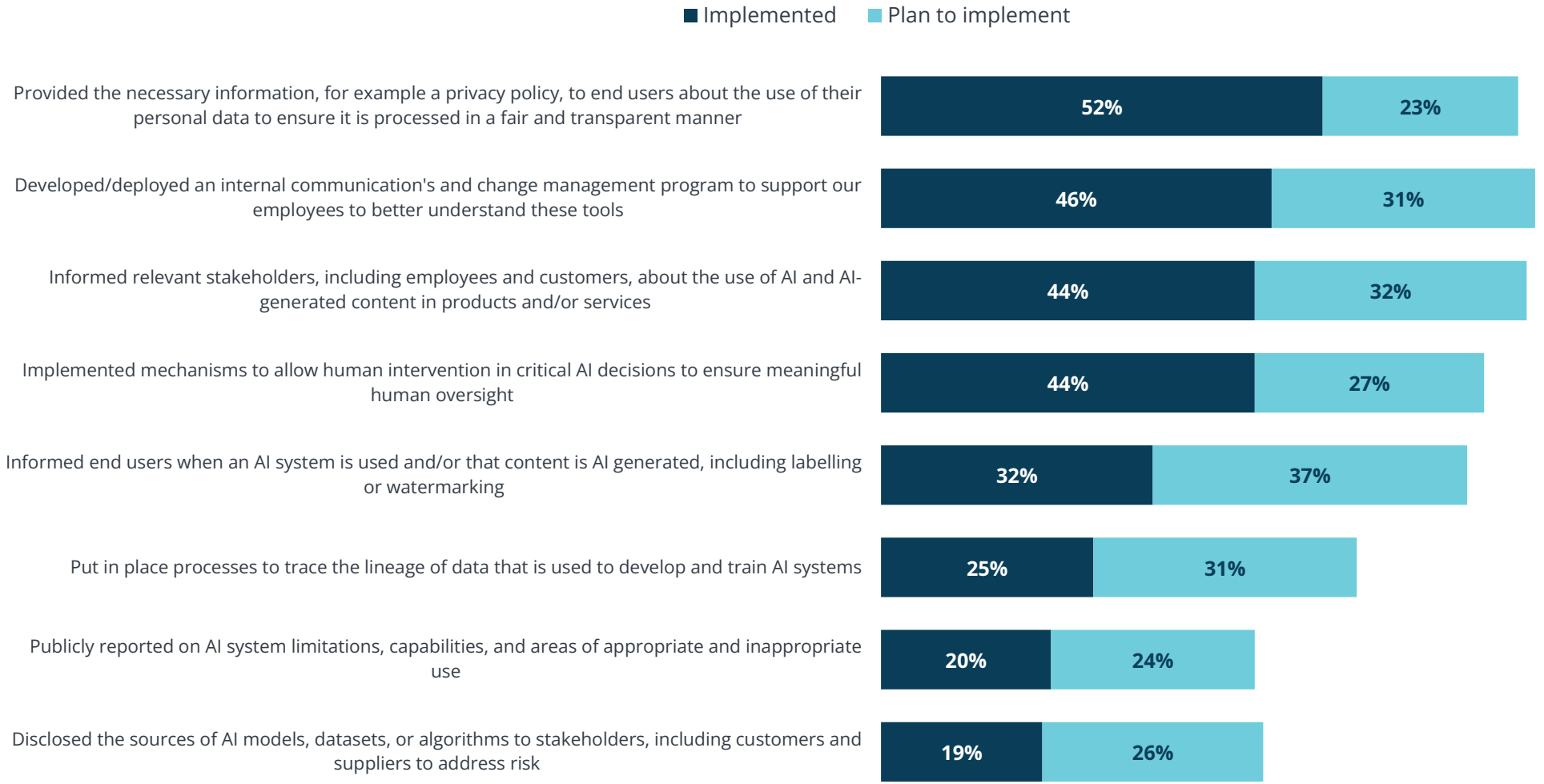
The overall RAI Index score of 44 is built from five dimension scores, each marked out of 20. Transparency and Accountability are the strongest dimensions, while Fairness is the weakest. The maturity gap is stark: Leading organisations score 81 out of 100, five times the Emerging average of 16.

Five Dimensions of Responsible AI	Transparency	Explainability & Contestability	Safety, Reliability & Privacy	Fairness	Accountability	Average RAI Index Score
Emerging (0-24)	4 /20	3 /20	3 /20	3 /20	3 /20	16/100
Developing (25-49)	9 /20	7 /20	8 /20	6 /20	8 /20	38/100
Implementing (50-69)	13 /20	11 /20	13 /20	10 /20	12 /20	59/100
Leading (70-100)	16 /20	16 /20	17 /20	15 /20	17 /20	81/100
Overall	10 /20	9 /20	9 /20	7 /20	9 /20	44/100

RAI Index Score. Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241), Emerging (n=75), Developing (n=67), Implementing (n=49), Leading (n=50).

Transparency: Practices Implemented and Planned

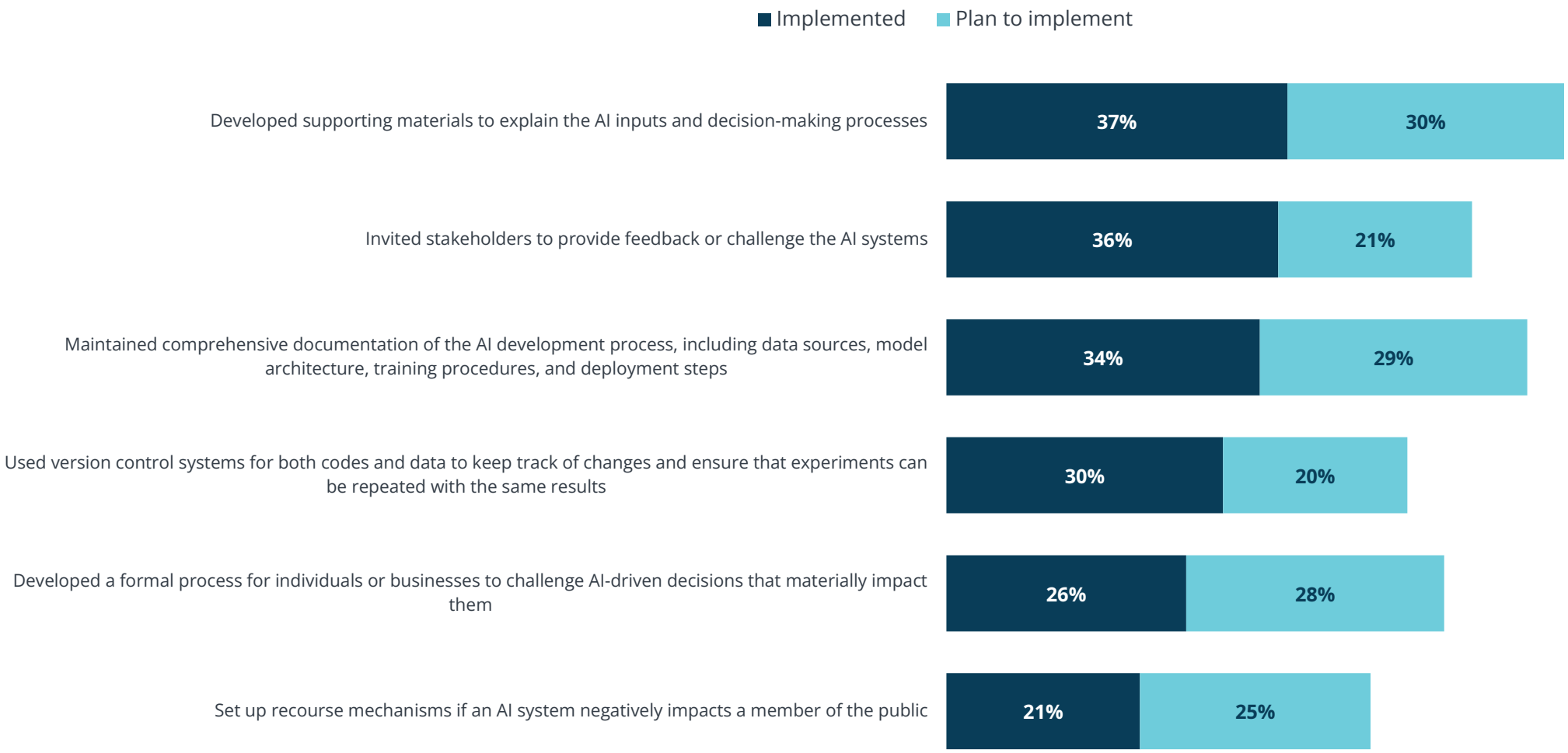
Transparency practices centre on data and disclosure. Just over half of organisations (52%) provide end users with the necessary information about how their personal data is used, the most widely implemented transparency practice. Practices that open AI systems to external scrutiny, such as disclosing model and data sources (19%), are least common, although many organisations plan to adopt them.



Q5 / Q6. Responsible AI practices implemented and planned - Transparency. Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241).

Explainability and Contestability: Practices Implemented and Planned

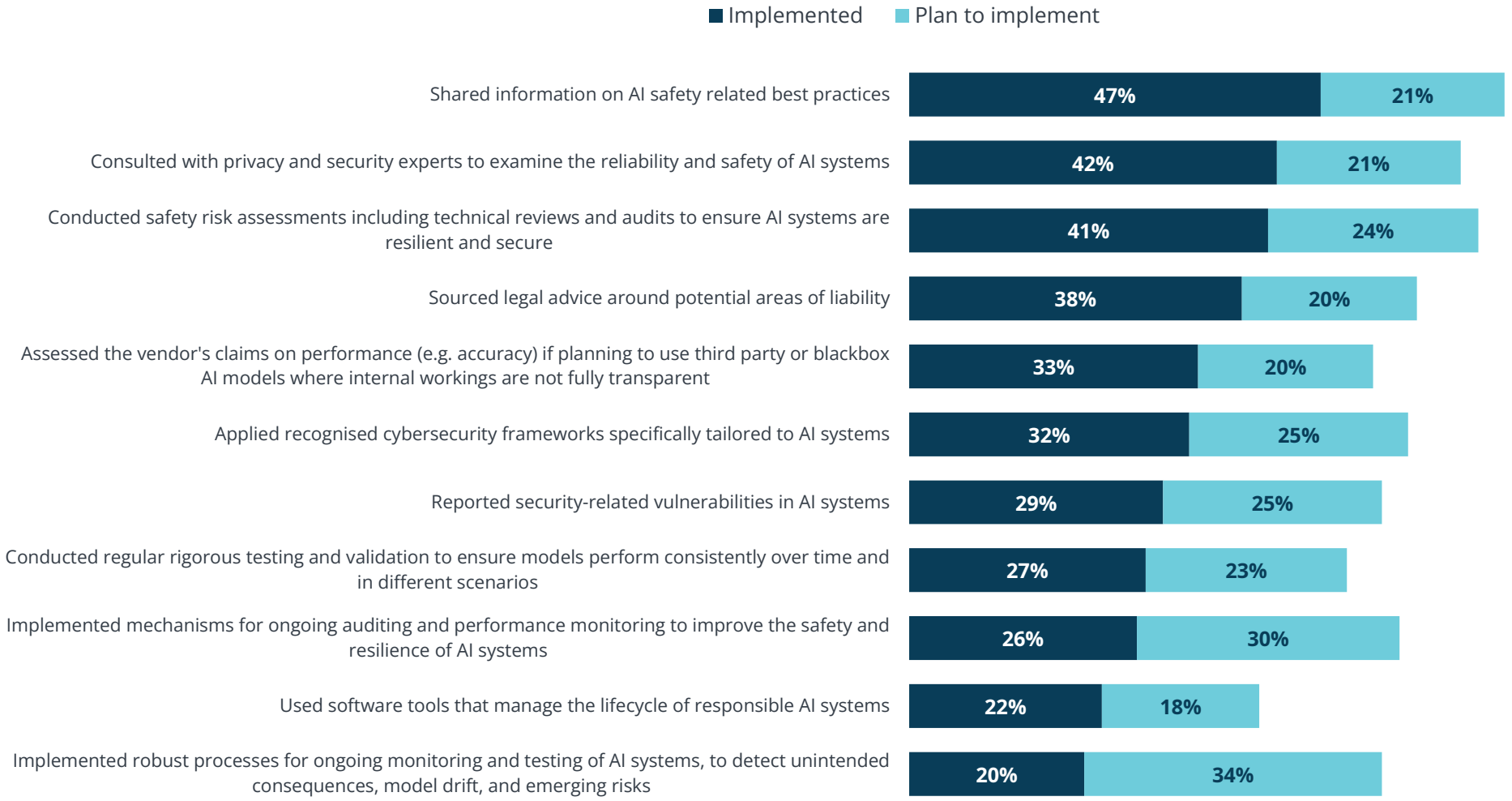
Explainability is the least mature dimension. Developing materials to explain AI inputs and decisions is the most common practice (37%), yet contestability lags: only 21% have set up recourse mechanisms for people negatively affected by AI. Planned adoption is substantial across every practice.



Q7 / Q8. Responsible AI practices implemented and planned - Explainability and Contestability. Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241).

Safety, Reliability and Privacy: Practices Implemented and Planned

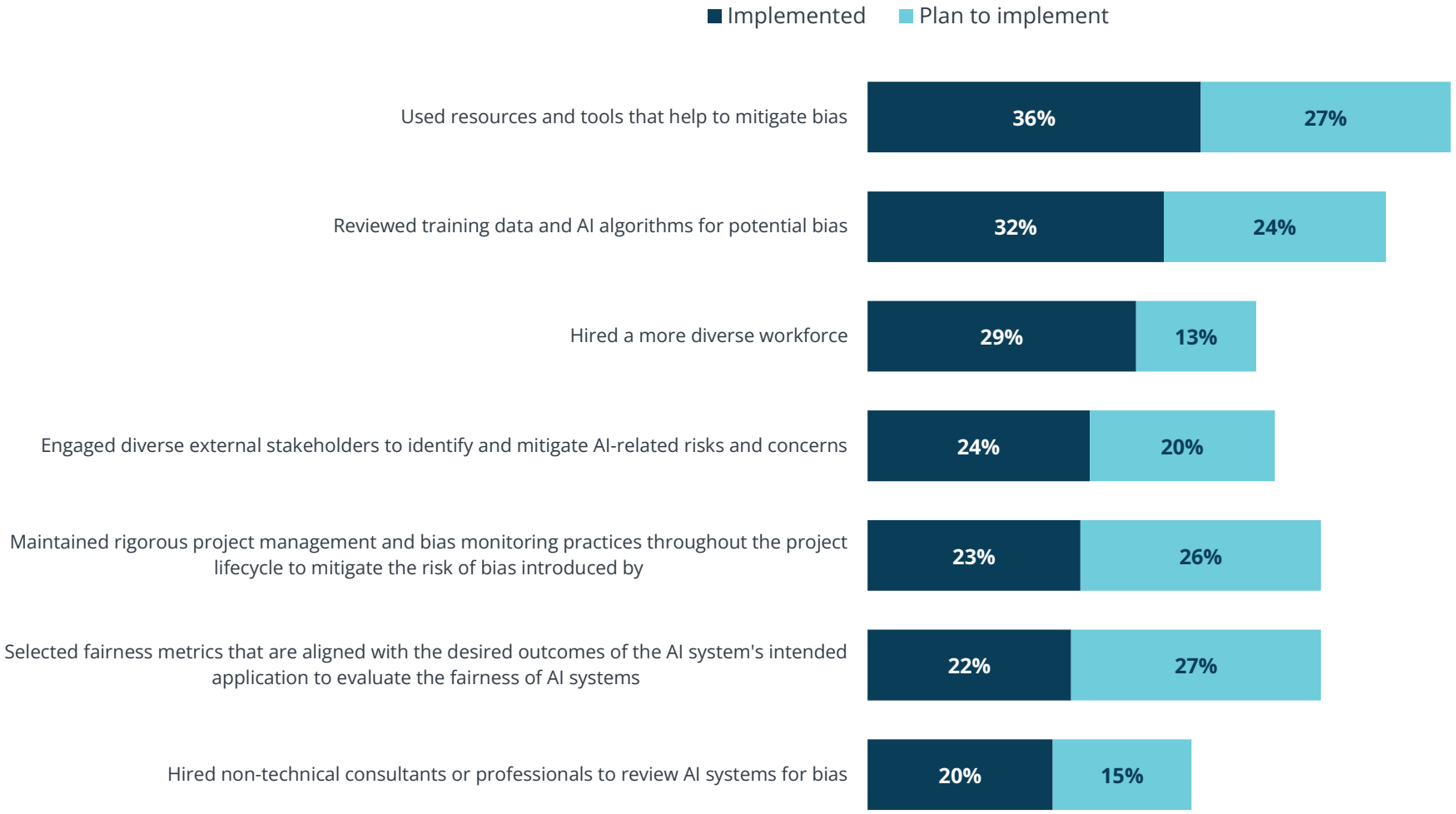
Organisations are more comfortable sharing and consulting on safety than embedding it operationally. Sharing safety best practices (47%) and consulting privacy and security experts (42%) lead, while robust ongoing monitoring for model drift and emerging risks (20%) is least implemented, despite one in three organisations planning to adopt it.



Q9 / Q10. Responsible AI practices implemented and planned - Safety, Reliability and Privacy. Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241).

Fairness: Practices Implemented and Planned

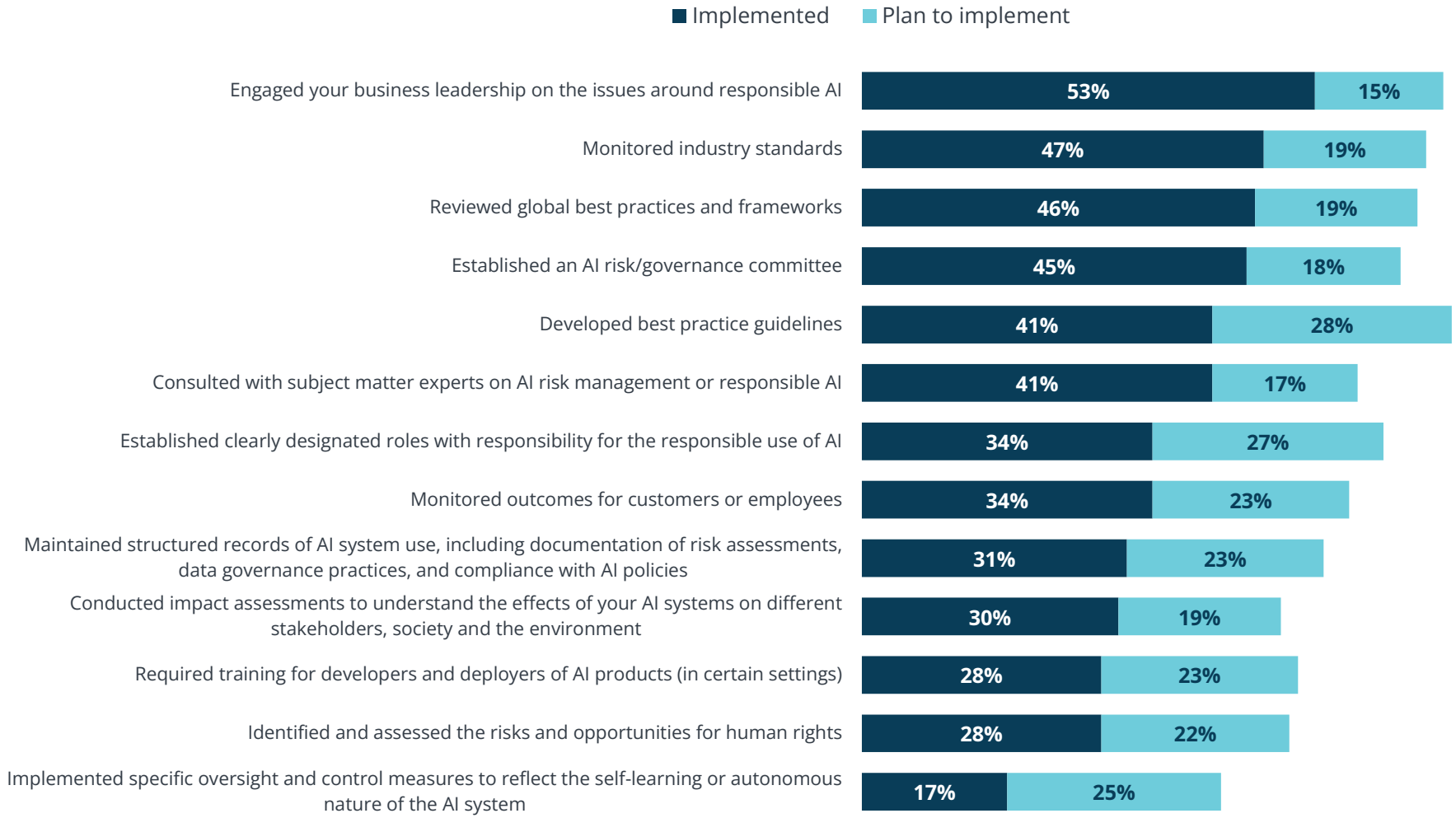
Fairness is the lowest-scoring dimension. Using tools to mitigate bias (36%) and reviewing training data and algorithms for bias (32%) are the most common practices, but no fairness practice is implemented by more than four in ten organisations. Hiring practices to improve workforce diversity attract the least planned investment.



Q11 / Q12. Responsible AI practices implemented and planned - Fairness. Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241).

Accountability: Practices Implemented and Planned

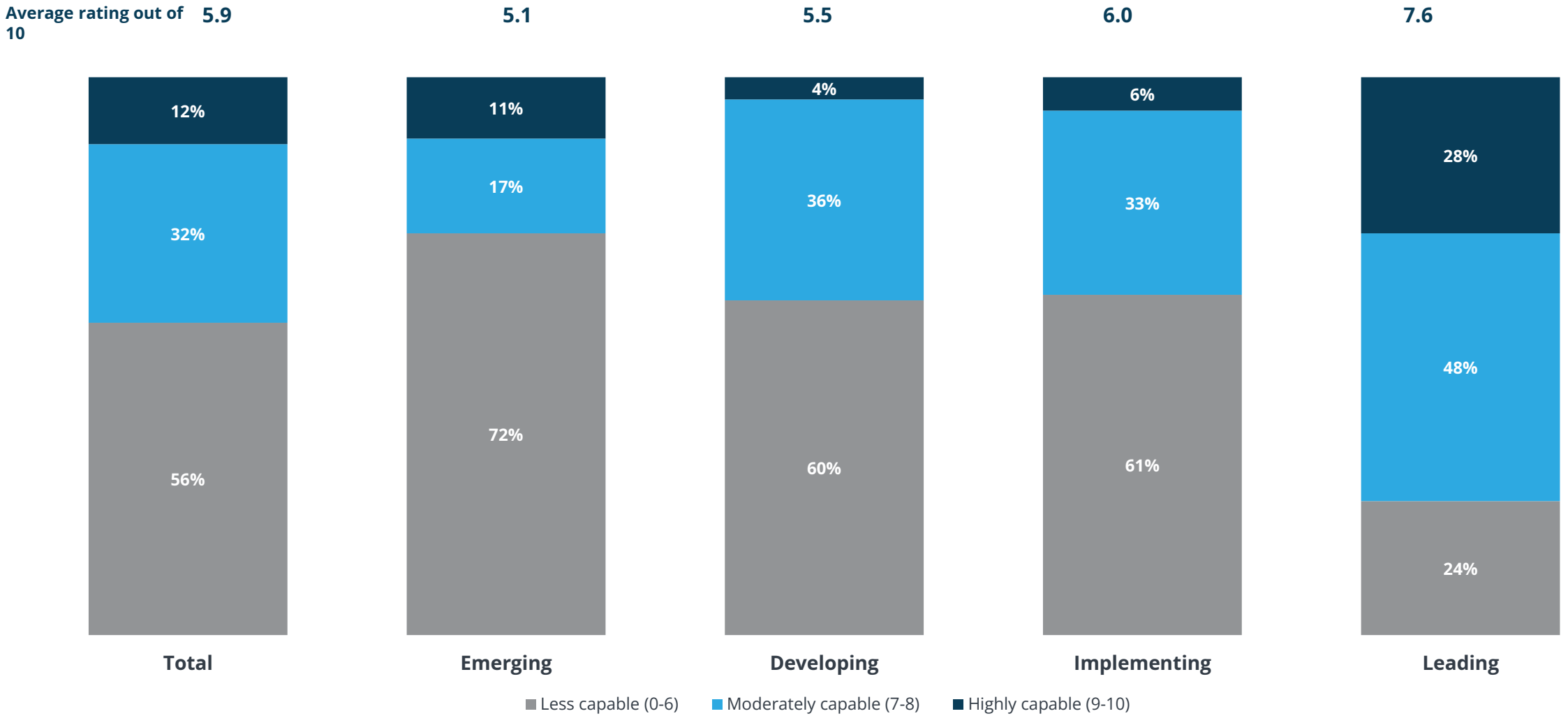
Accountability is anchored by leadership engagement: 53% have engaged business leadership on responsible AI, the single most implemented practice across all dimensions. Governance foundations such as monitoring industry standards (47%) and establishing a governance committee (45%) are also relatively common. Oversight controls for self-learning systems (17%) remain least adopted.



Q13 / Q14. Responsible AI practices implemented and planned - Accountability. Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241).

Self-Rated Capability to Use AI Responsibly

Organisations rate their own capability modestly, averaging 5.9 out of 10. Confidence tracks closely with measured maturity: Leading organisations rate themselves 7.6, while Emerging organisations average 5.1. The close alignment between self-perception and Index score suggests organisations hold a realistic view of their responsible AI capability.



Q15. How do you rate your organisation's ability to use AI responsibly? Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241), Emerging (n=75), Developing (n=67), Implementing (n=49), Leading (n=50).

Summary

Across 241 organisations, the Self-Assessment Tool points to one clear message: Australian organisations are stronger at committing to responsible AI than at controlling it in daily practice.

1. **A modest score, closely matched to the national benchmark.** The 241 organisations scored 44 out of 100, almost identical to the 2025 Responsible AI Index score of 43.

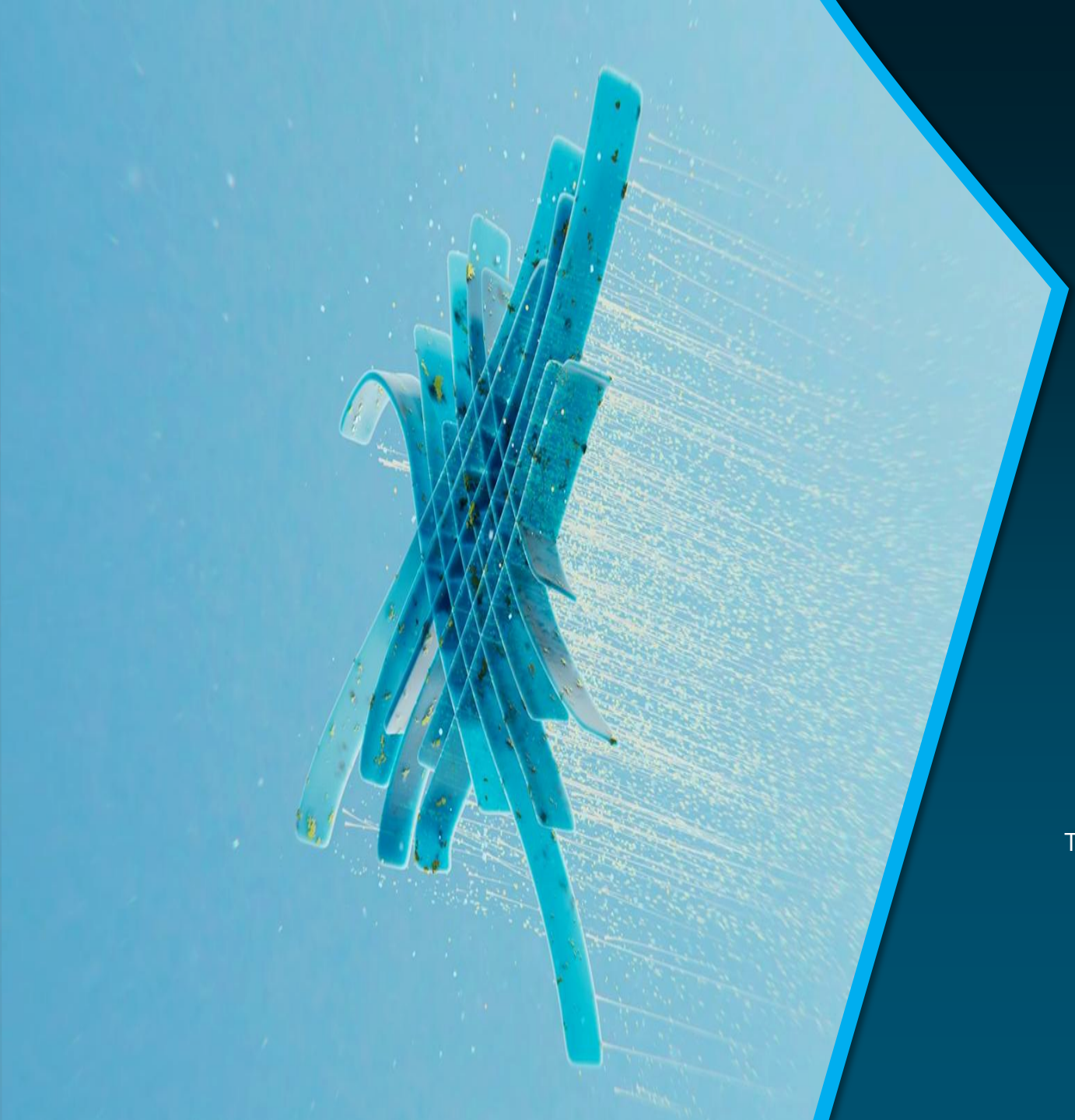
2. **Commitment is running ahead of control.** The visible, strategic practices are widely adopted, such as engaging leadership (53%) and forming a governance committee (45%). Far fewer organisations have the operational safeguards that catch an AI system when it drifts or causes harm, such as oversight of autonomous systems (17%) and monitoring for drift (20%).

3. **Responsible AI capability is concentrated in a minority.** Leading organisations score 81 out of 100, five times the Emerging average of 16.

4. **Fairness is the softest dimension.** No fairness practice is implemented by more than four in ten organisations.

5. **The intent to close the gap is visible.** Around a third of organisations plan to introduce the operational controls they currently lack, and self-rated capability, at 5.9 out of 10, tracks realistically with measured maturity.

Responsible AI Self-Assessment Tool. Base: Total SA Tool respondents (n=241).



Thank You

For further information, please contact:

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