



Australian
Small Business and
Family Enterprise
Ombudsman

Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman

Dr Craig Latham
Executive Director

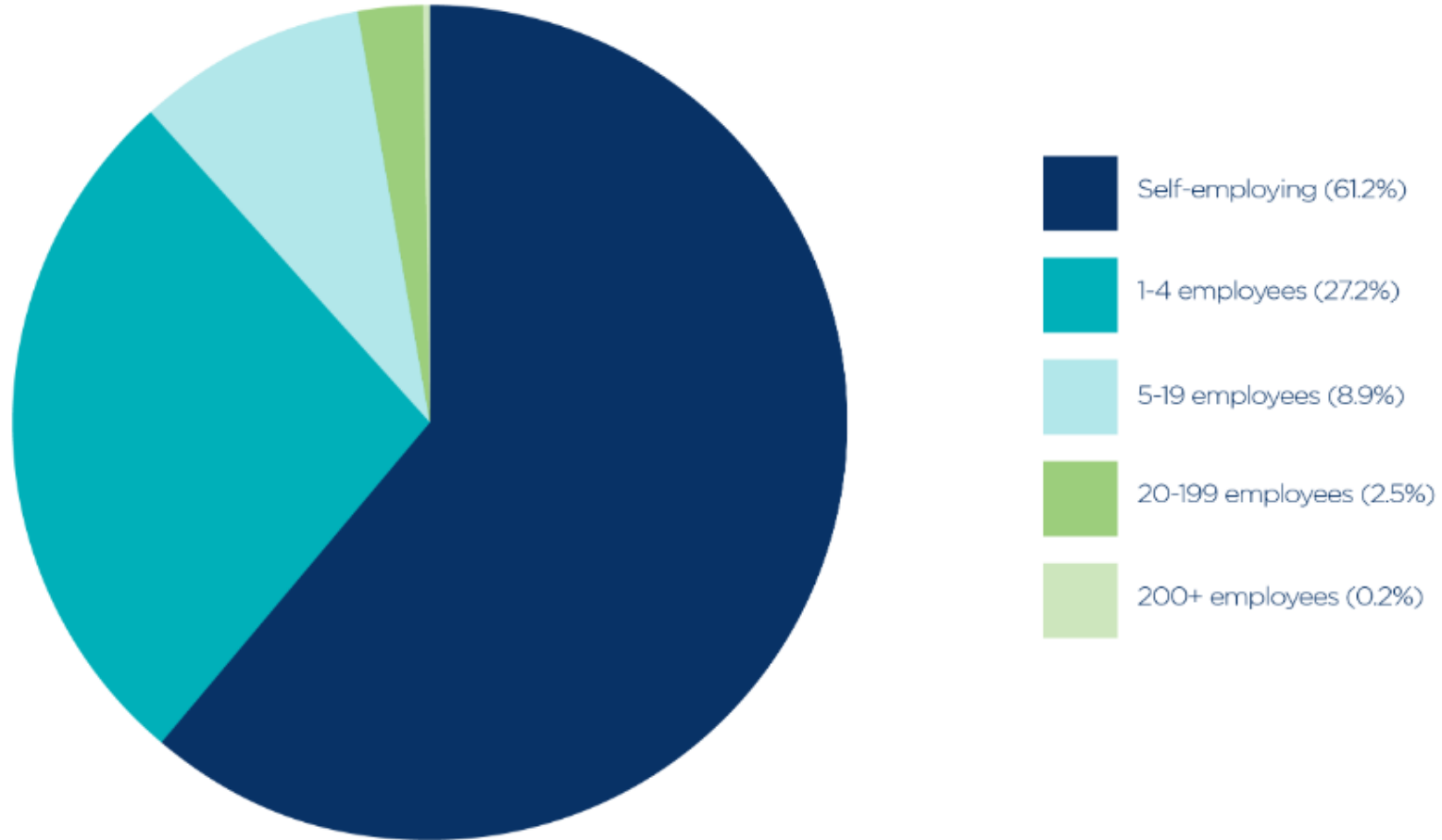
asbfeo.gov.au

20 March 2024

Small business snapshot

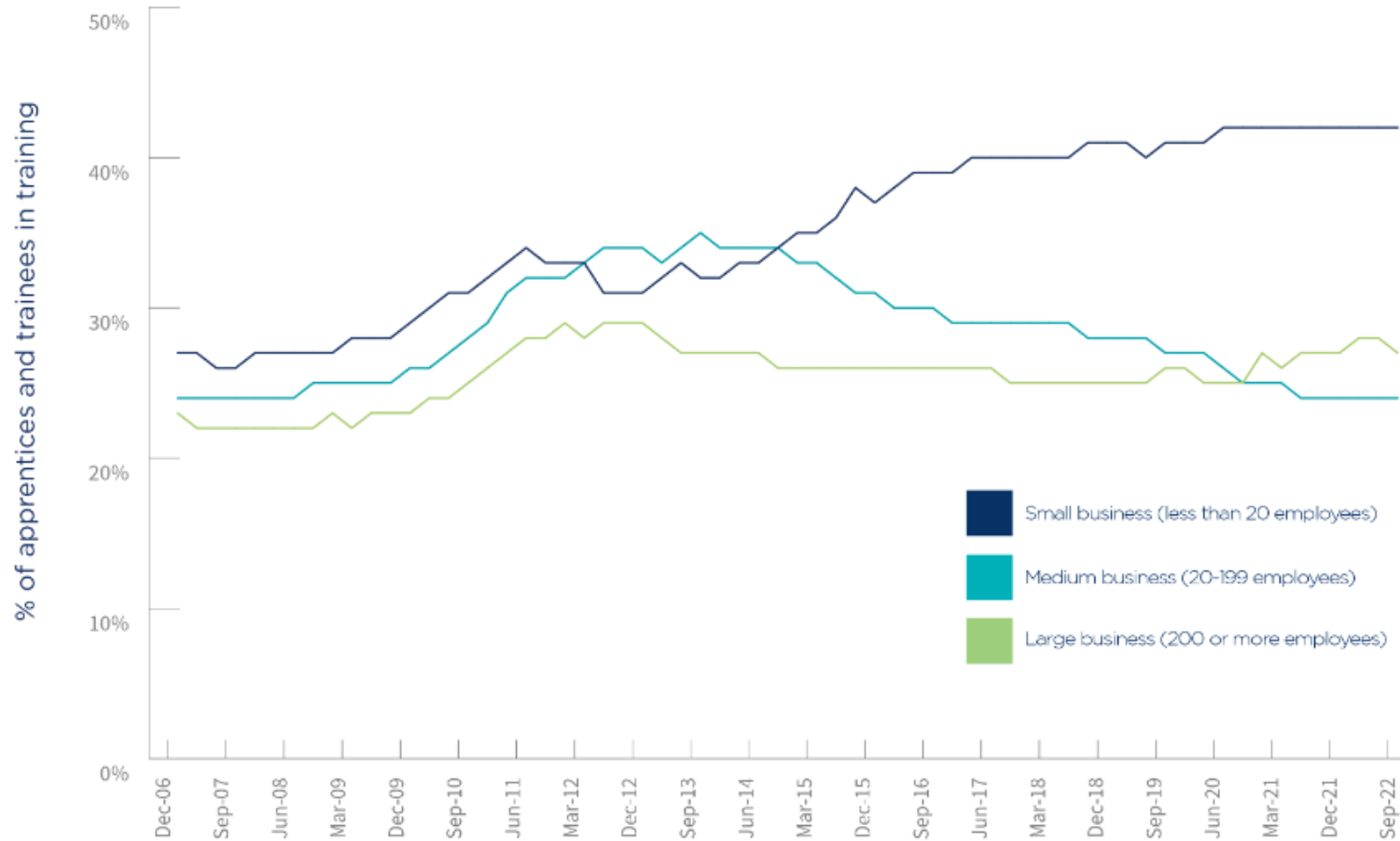
- 2.5 million small businesses (98% of all businesses)
- Over 5 million people employed
- Half a trillion dollars contributed to the economy last year
- Almost half of owners are aged 50+ and only 8% are <30 years
- 1/3 of small business owners are women (doubled since the 1970s)
- 1 in 3 small business owners were born outside Australia
- 43% of small businesses fail to make a profit (75% of self-employed small business owners working full-time earn < average full-time wage)
- Nearly 2/3 of small business owners with employees work ≥ 39 hours per week but almost 20% still do volunteer work

Australian businesses by employment size (June 2023)



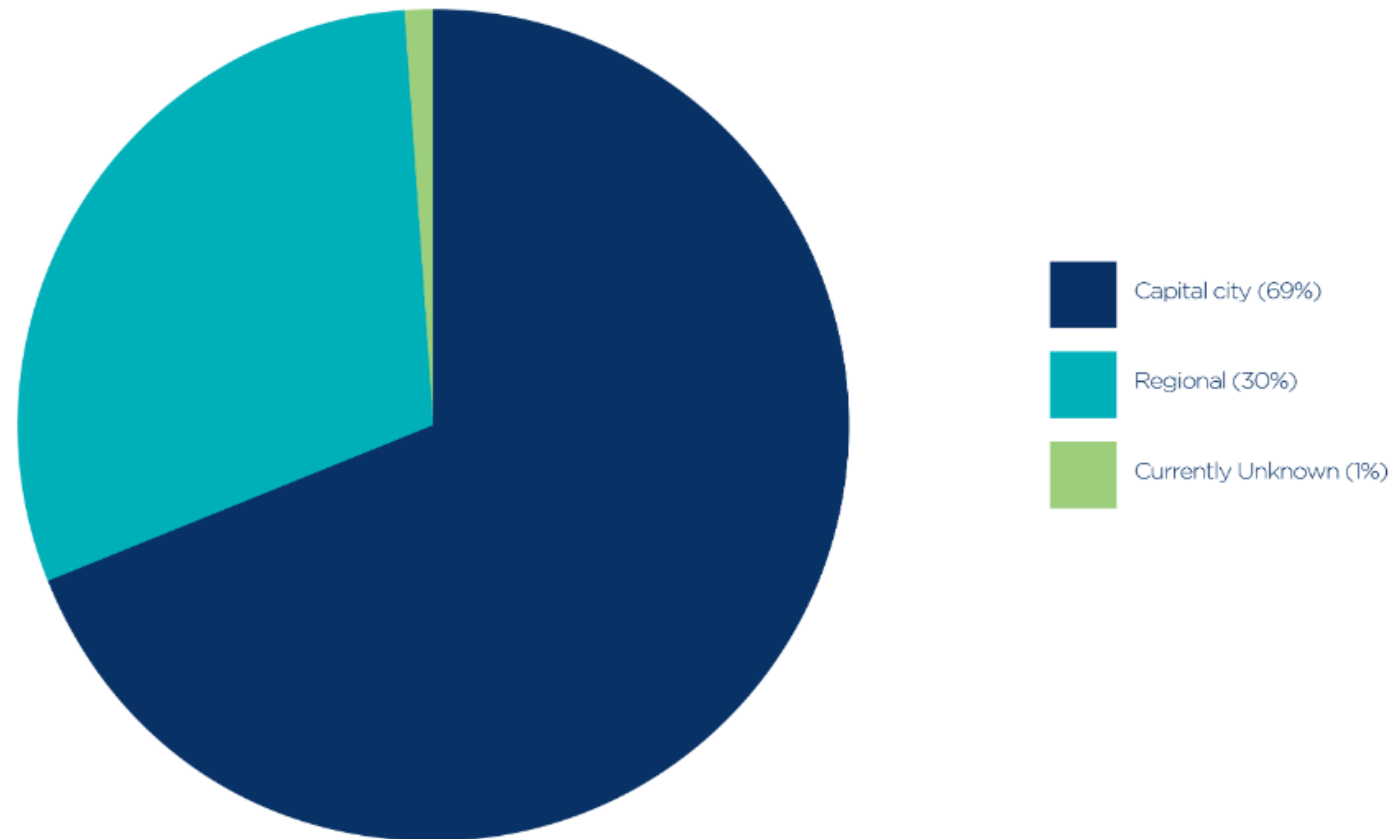
Source: ABS Counts of Australian Business, Table 13a, August 2023 and ASBFEO calculations (excl. businesses not registered for GST)

Apprentices and trainees in-training by Australian employer size



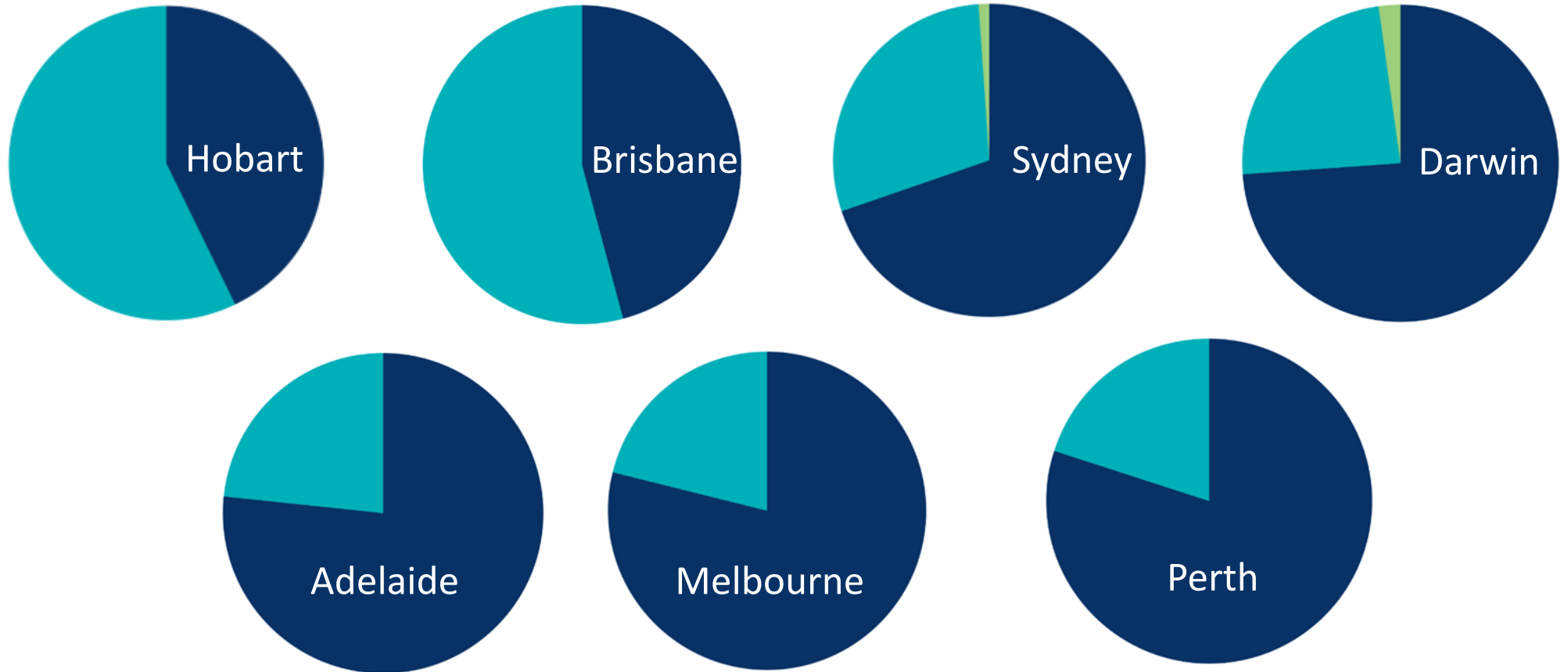
Source: VOCSTATS, extracted on 28/03/2023

Australian small business by location (30 June 2022)



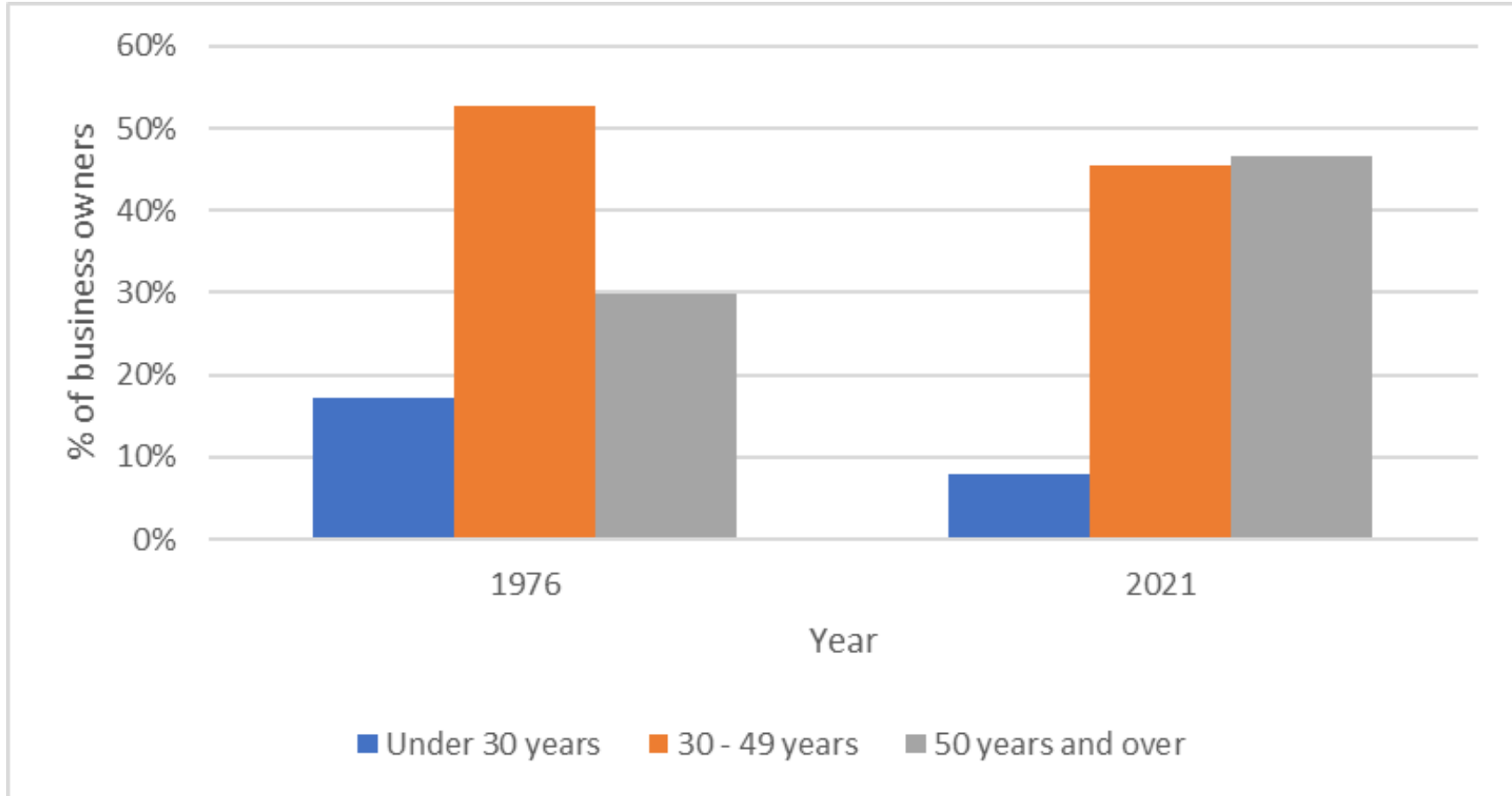
Source: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, customised data, 2022.

Australian small business by capital/regional location (30 June 2022)



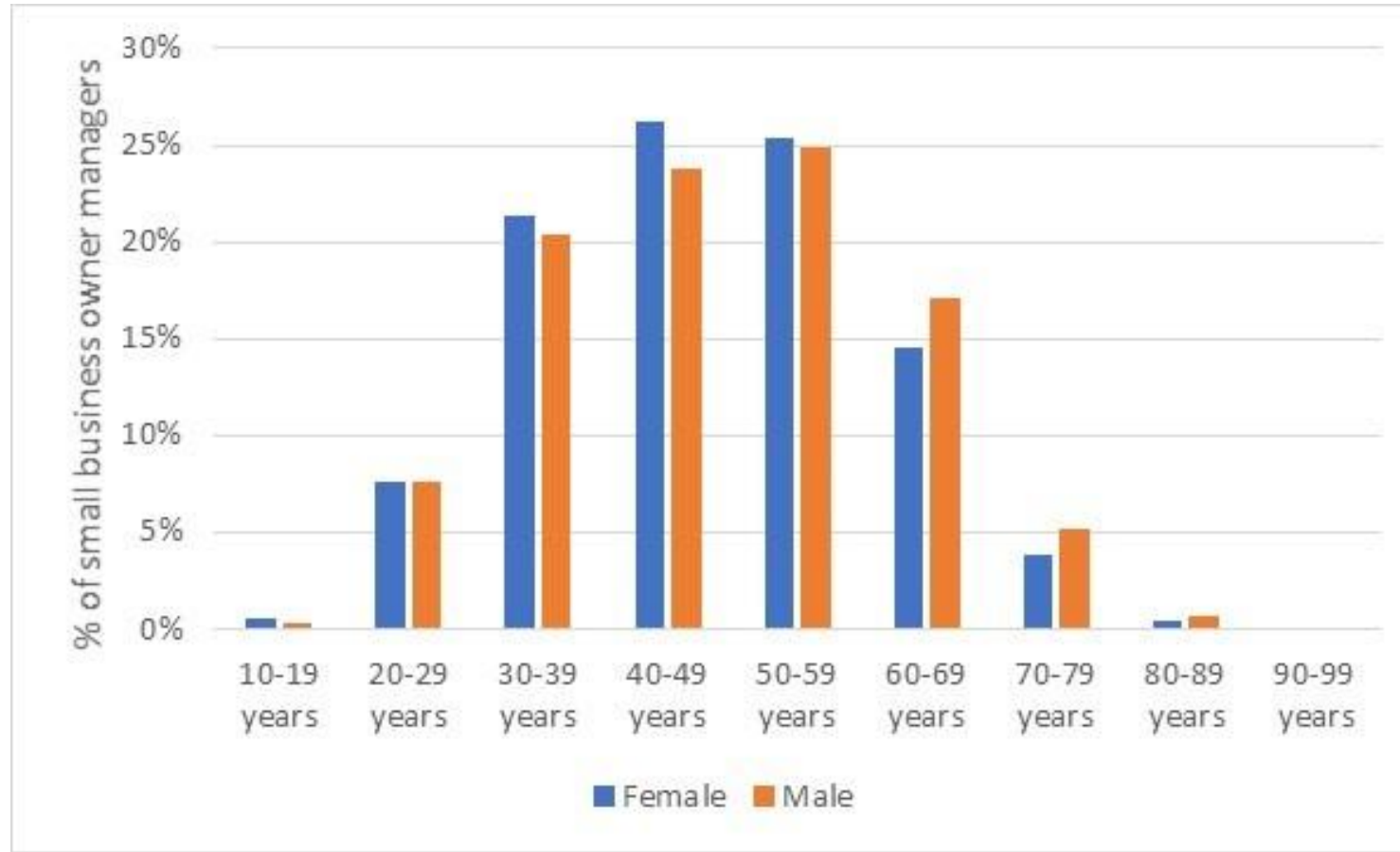
Source: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, customised data, 2022.

Age small business owners



Source: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, customised data, 2023

Age profile of small business owners (2021)



Source: ASBFEO calculations from Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census 2021*, TableBuilder, accessed 7 March 2023



Small & family business advocacy

Economic data
analytics

Commercial disputes
B2B & B2G

Guidance & communications

Requests for assistance via
our Infoline, online forms,
email and telephone



Small Business Tax
Concierge Service

Franchising, Dairy,
Horticulture and Oil
Industry Codes

Small Business Tax Concierge Service

- Low-cost and time-saving process to object to a negative decision letter by the ATO
- Service follows after small business objects to an assessment (e.g. following an audit) and ATO disagrees with the objection
- Help unrepresented small businesses to decide whether to appeal and navigate AAT processes and prepare for appeal (half of the approximately 200-400 per annum AAT small business applicants)
- Up to two hours consultation with an experienced tax lawyer (\$100 co-payment)



Current issues



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