

THE SCHOOL CANTEEN REVOLUTION

WHAT FOOD OPTIONS DO PARENTS WANT?

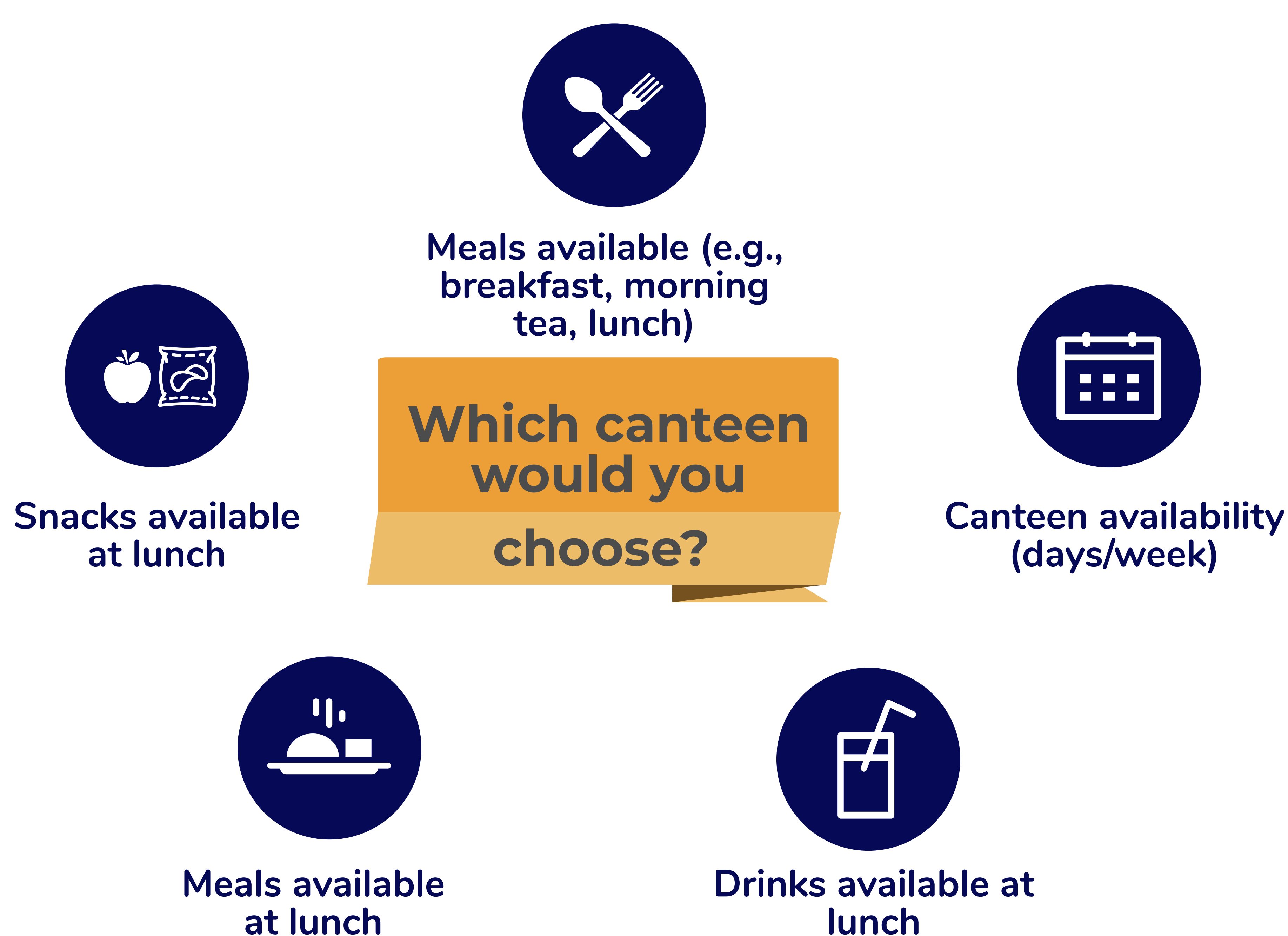
Who we asked...

We conducted an **online survey** with **416 NSW parents/caregivers** with at least one primary school aged child in 2017. Parents/caregivers indicated their preferences for school canteen menus through a choice experiment.

What we did...

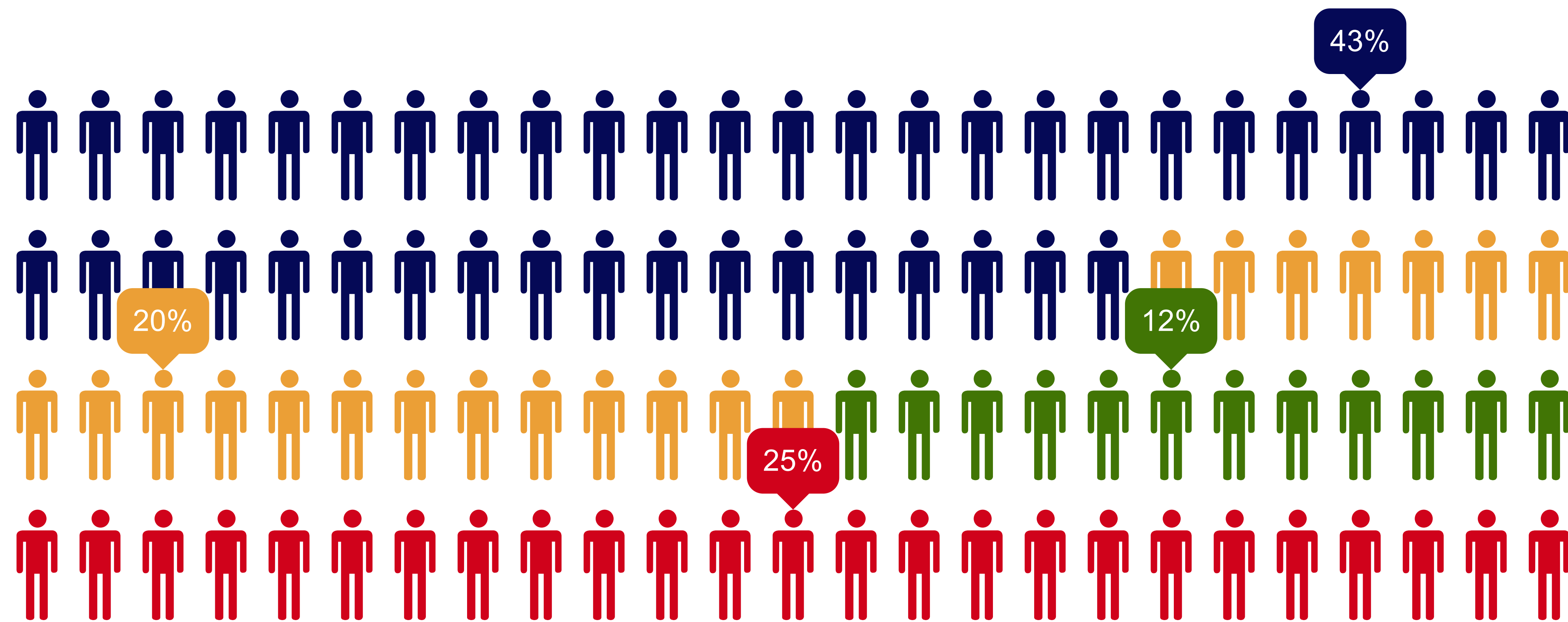
We showed parents/caregivers multiple canteen menu scenarios with different options and asked them to **choose their preferred canteen menu**. Meal, drink and snack options were either restricted to healthy options or had both healthy and unhealthy options.

People traded off the importance of the following features of canteen menus:



What we found...

Parents/caregivers split into **4 groups** based on their choices:



"Pro options" (43%)

- Prefers canteen to be open 5 days
- Prefers canteen to be available for all meals
- Prefers more meal & snack options

"Pro options, meals" (20%)

- Prefers canteen to be open 5 days
- Prefers canteen to be available for all meals
- Prefers more options for meals

"Pro healthy everything" (12%)

- Prefers canteen to be available for morning tea and lunch only (not for breakfast)
- Prefers to have healthy meal, drink and snack options only

"Pro healthy snacks" (25%)

- Strong preference for healthy snacks only

Overall, the **majority** of parents/caregivers preferred **having more food options** (including unhealthy options) available in the canteen. However, **all** parents/caregivers preferred **not to have unhealthy drinks** (sports drinks and soft drinks) available