



# for *love* or *money*™ 2020

The research study taking the pulse  
on customer loyalty and loyalty programs  
in Australia

## Executive Summary



Welcome to For Love or Money™ 2020, the 8th Australian consumer research study that tracks key trends and insights on customer loyalty and loyalty programs.

## 6. Data collection and use: personalisation and trust

1. How do members feel about loyalty programs collecting and using their personal information?
2. Personalisation: enhancing the member's shopping experience vs invading their privacy
- NEW** 3. How is loyalty program personalisation performing?
4. Loyalty program Data and Trust = the Net Data Trust score (NDT)

## 5. The five loyalty program persona profiles

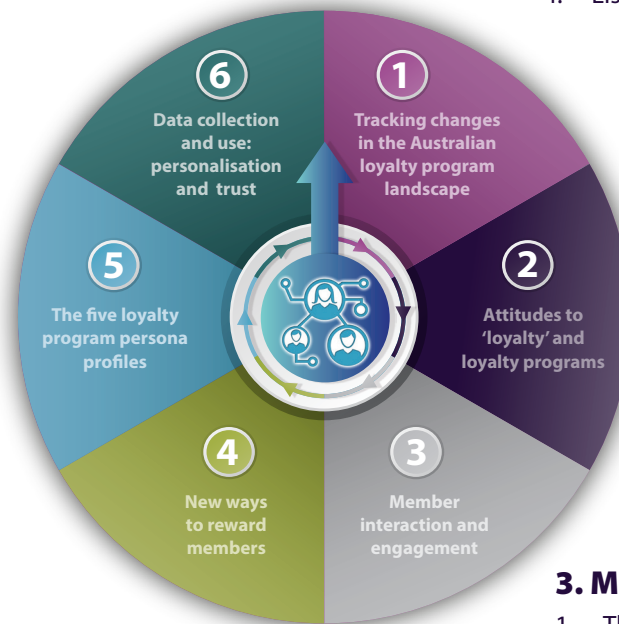
1. Loyalty program member persona profiles.
- A benchmark was set in 2019 – what's changed?

## 4. New ways to reward members

- NEW** 1. Identifying new ways for members to be rewarded including:
  - earning shares in a company
  - rewards for recycling
  - rewards for healthy behaviours
  - rewards redeemed to reduce the cost of a service and more
- NEW** 2. Earning cashback rewards – immediate or redeem via points?

## GEN Z

For the first time in the For Love or Money™ research studies we are looking at Gen Z to find unique insights to this young generation of loyalty program members.



## 1. Tracking changes in the Australian loyalty program landscape

1. Profiles of loyalty program members
2. Active participation in programs
3. Ranking Australian loyalty programs - 'doing a very good job'
4. Listing 38 programs by membership

## 2. Attitudes to 'loyalty' and loyalty programs

1. What is 'loyalty'? The consumers' point of view
2. Are loyalty programs valuable to a brand or business?
- NEW** 3. A loyalty program's influence on three motivations to interact with a brand: 1. Decide 2. Behave 3. Recommend
- NEW** 4. Do loyalty programs add to the overall brand experience?
5. The impact of closing a program
- NEW** 6. Concerns members have about loyalty programs

## 3. Member interaction and engagement

1. The three motivations to join a loyalty program
2. Do members feel they are making the most of their program membership/s?
- NEW** 3. Why don't members take advantage of their rewards and benefits?
4. Member interaction, identification and payment integration
- NEW** 5. Ranking the three principles for optimising program design
- NEW** 6. Money, time or ego – which benefits are most important to members?
- NEW** 7. Psychology of earning and redeeming rewards.
 

Do members change their behaviour:

  - as they get closer to earning a reward?
  - after redeeming a reward?
- NEW** 8. Points expiry: a point of tension between loyalty programs and members

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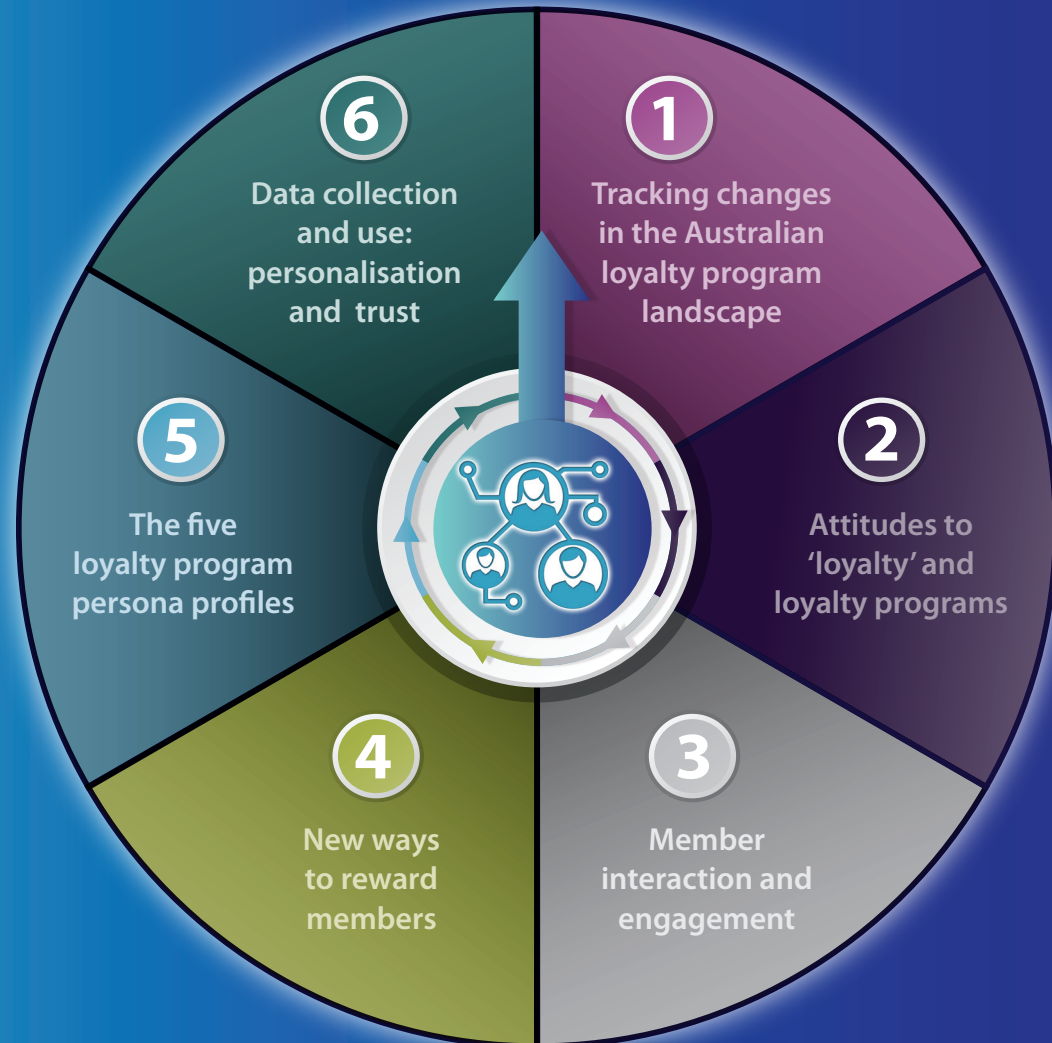
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# 1.

## Introduction and research methodology



# 1. Introduction and research methodology

## Welcome to For Love or Money™ 2020

This is the Executive Summary of the **8th** edition of the annual Australian consumer research study tracking key trends and identifying new insights on customer loyalty and loyalty programs.

With benchmarks first established in 2013, the 2020 study continues to track changes in the Australian loyalty program landscape and build on trends and insights revealed in previous studies.

We also aim to uncover new insights for brands that want to know more about 'what loyalty is' beyond enrolling in a loyalty program and the key success factors influencing the value and viability of loyalty programs in the future.

The **comprehensive report** is available for purchase at [www.thepointofloyalty.com.au](http://www.thepointofloyalty.com.au).

**A presentation of the research** by the author and customer loyalty specialist, Adam Posner, is also available by request at [www.thepointofloyalty.com.au](http://www.thepointofloyalty.com.au).

Adam will personally present a summary of the findings and their impact on the future of customer loyalty and loyalty programs.



## Research methodology

For Love or Money™ 2020 was commissioned by The Point of Loyalty and conducted independently by First Point Research and Consulting in the first quarter of 2020, through an online panel of Australian consumers (men and women aged 18 years +) who are all members of at least one loyalty program.

The research was structured to gain quantitative results with comparative analysis. Open text responses were included to gain actual feedback and comments from loyalty program members. The total sample of N = 1010 provided a margin of error of +/- 3% at a 95% level of confidence. Broad quotas were placed on the sample to ensure an appropriate distribution of responses by gender and age.

**Interpreting the results:** Throughout the report, significant differences have been highlighted as follows:

A result that is significantly **lower** is highlighted with **orange**.

A result that is significantly **higher** is highlighted with **green**.

In charts where the 2020 results are compared with previous years e.g. 2019, the significant difference is the difference (higher or lower) compared with the result of the comparison year e.g. 2019.

In charts where only the 2020 results are presented, the significant difference is the difference (higher or lower) for that consumer segment, compared with the 2020 total.

### Use of term 'loyalty program' in the research

For simplicity and consistency the For Love or Money™ research studies asked consumers their point of view on 'loyalty programs'.

In the research we defined 'loyalty programs' as any type loyalty or rewards program, VIP club, frequent buyer, member benefits or discount program.

# 1. Introduction and research methodology

The For Love or Money™ 2020 researched the following areas for insights with **new areas researched highlighted:**

## 1. Tracking changes in the Australian loyalty program landscape

1. Profiles of loyalty program members
2. Active participation in programs
3. Ranking Australian loyalty programs - 'doing a very good job'
4. Listing 38 programs by membership

## 2. Attitudes to 'loyalty' and loyalty programs

1. What is 'loyalty'? The consumers' point of view
2. Are loyalty programs valuable to a brand or business?
3. **A loyalty program's influence on three motivations to interact with a brand:**  
**1. Decide 2. Behave 3. Recommend**
4. **Do loyalty programs add to the overall brand experience?**
5. The impact of closing a program
6. **Concerns members have about loyalty programs**

## 3. Member interaction and engagement

1. The three motivations to join a loyalty program
2. Do members feel they are making the most of their program membership/s?
3. **Why don't members take advantage of their rewards and benefits?**
4. Member interaction, identification and payment integration
5. **Ranking the three principles for optimising program design**
6. **Money, time or ego – which benefits are most important to members?**
7. **Psychology of earning and redeeming rewards.**  
**Do members change their behaviour:**
  - as they get closer to earning a reward?
  - after redeeming a reward?
8. **Points expiry: a point of tension between loyalty programs and members**

## 4. New ways to reward members

1. **Identifying new ways for members to be rewarded including:**
  - earning shares in a company
  - rewards for recycling
  - rewards for healthy behaviours
  - rewards redeemed to reduce the cost of a service and more
2. **Earning cashback rewards - immediate or redeem via points?**

## 5. The five loyalty program persona profiles

1. Loyalty program member persona profiles. A benchmark was set in 2019 - what's changed?

## 6. Data collection and use: personalisation and trust

1. How do members feel about loyalty programs collecting and using their personal information?
2. Personalisation: enhancing the member's shopping experience vs invading their privacy
3. **How is loyalty program personalisation performing?**
4. Loyalty program Data and Trust = the Net Data Trust score (NDT)

Thank you for your interest in  
For Love or Money™ 2020.

As you continue to enhance and build your customer loyalty and loyalty program strategies and programs, For Love or Money™ 2020 will provide you with observations and insights to guide you along the journey to success.



**Adam Posner**  
CEO – The Point of Loyalty

**Retain the Best.  
Grow the Rest.**

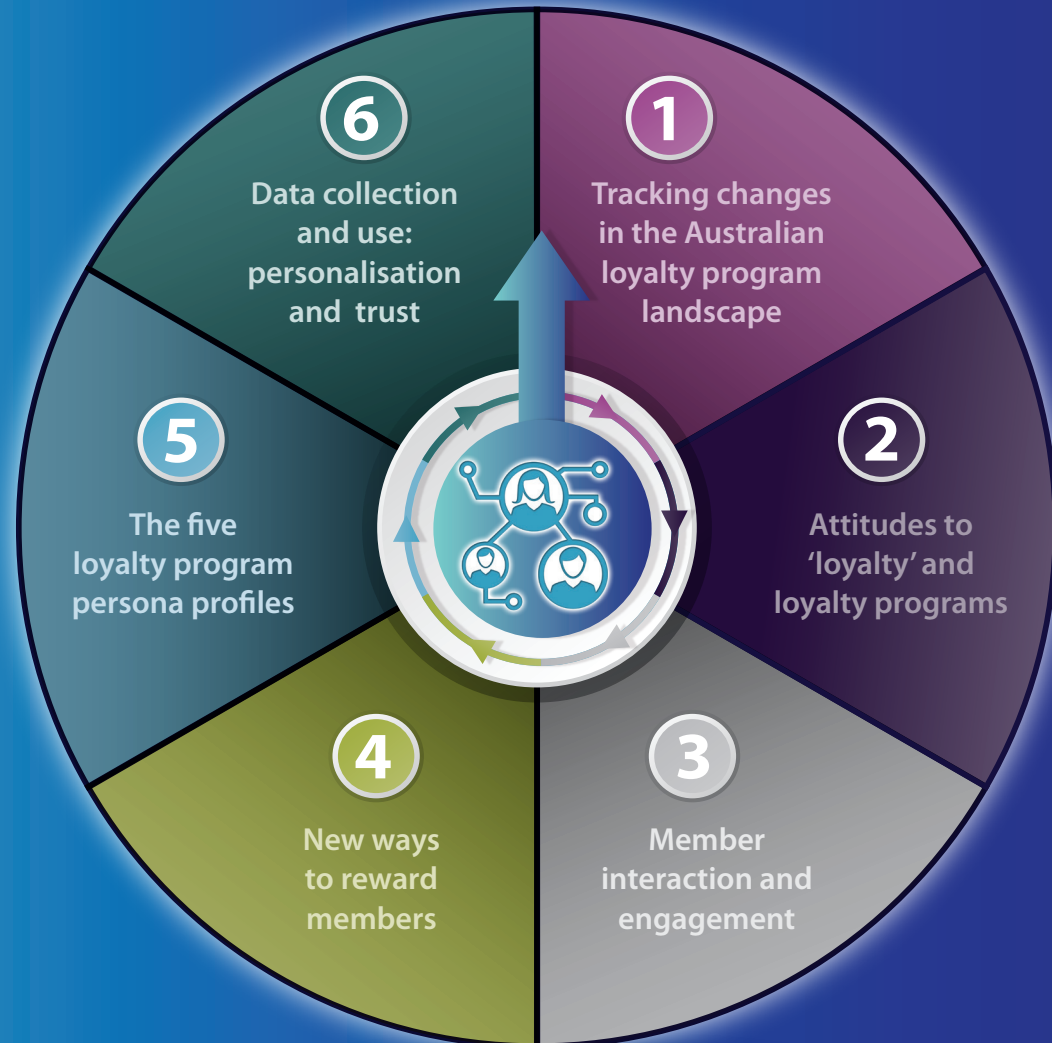
**THE Point of Loyalty**

For more depth on the results and insights in this Executive Summary you can purchase the comprehensive report at [www.thepointofloyalty.com.au](http://www.thepointofloyalty.com.au) or email [adam@thepointofloyalty.com.au](mailto:adam@thepointofloyalty.com.au)



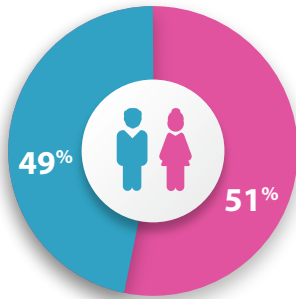
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## Profile of participants

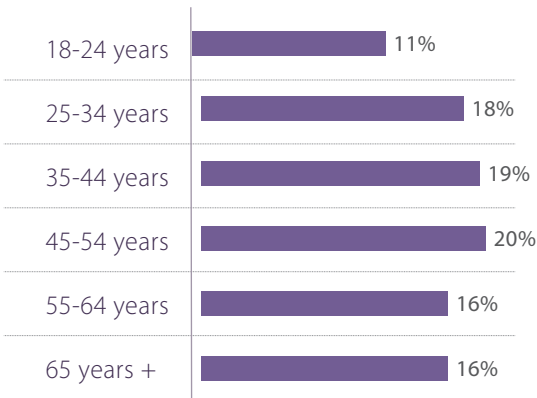


## 2. Profile of participants

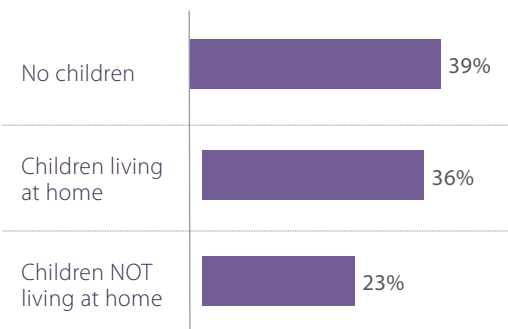
### Gender



### Age



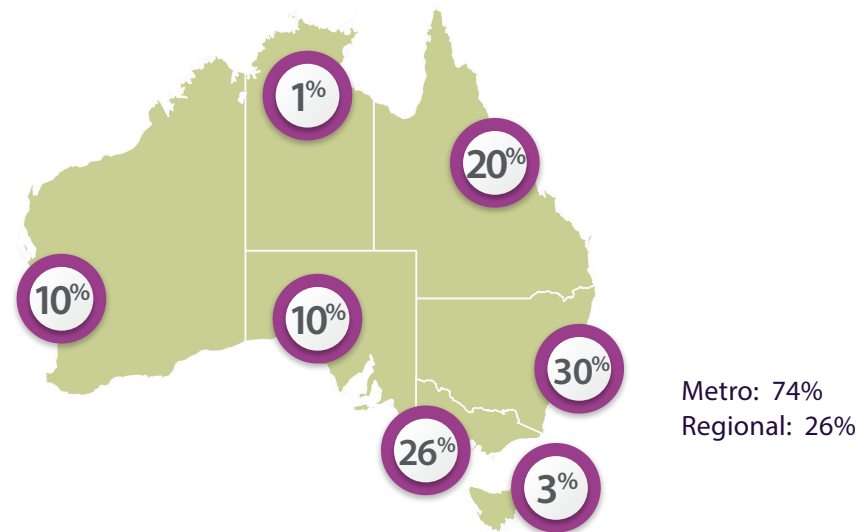
### Household structure



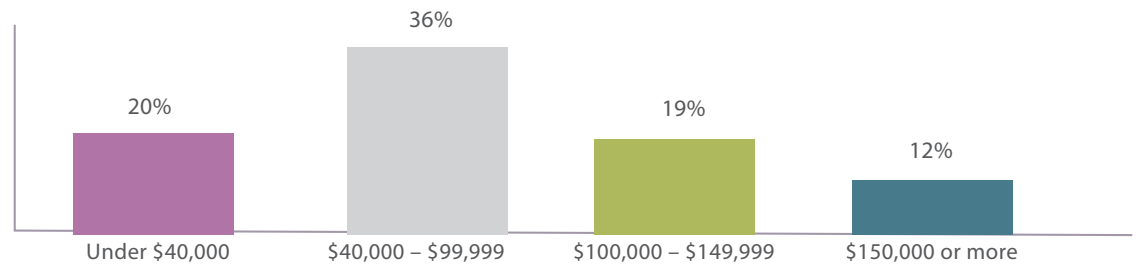
### Generational cohort



### Location



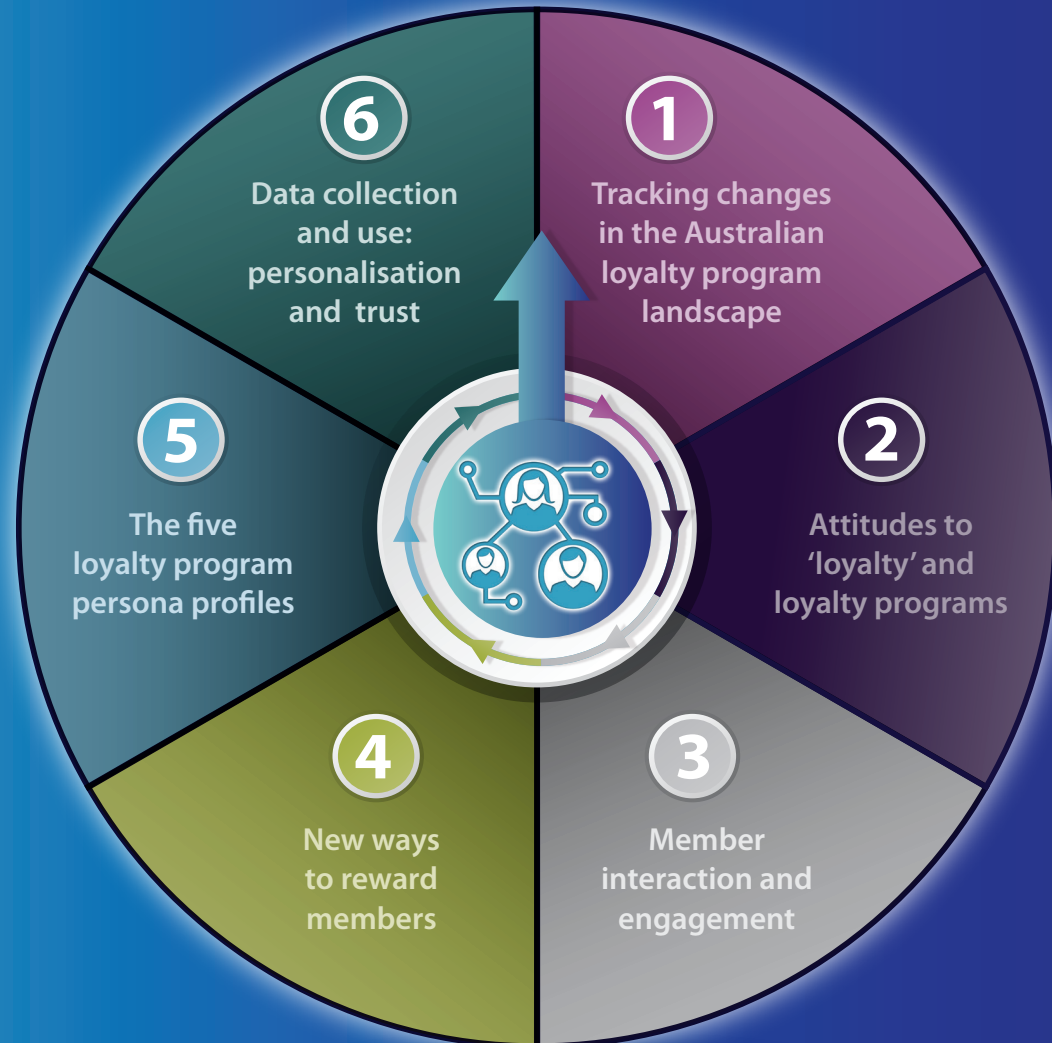
### Income





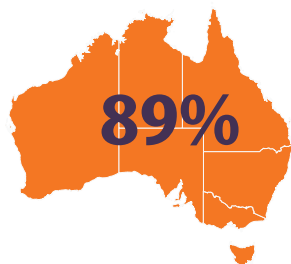
# 3.

## Executive summary of trends and new insights



# 1. Tracking changes in the Australian loyalty program landscape

## 1. Membership of loyalty programs



In 2020, 89% of Australians are enrolled in at least one loyalty program.

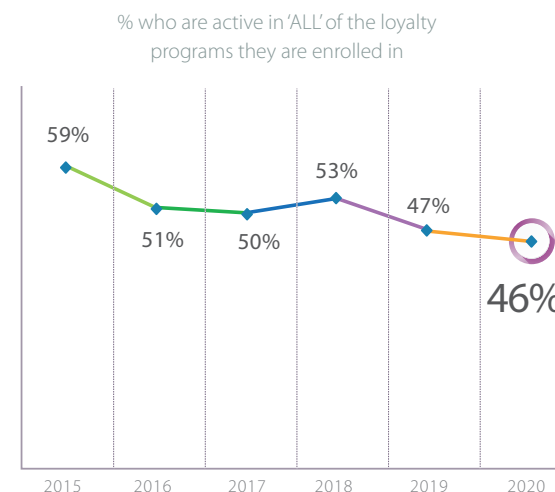
The average number of memberships per member is 4.4.



*The comprehensive report identifies all insights on memberships by age, household income, gender and the generations.*

## 2. Active participation in programs has declined significantly since 2015

In 2020, 46% of members indicated they are active in all of the loyalty programs they are enrolled in. This is the lowest result since 2015.



\* An active member in the research was defined as 'having presented their card or membership number when making a purchase in the past 12 months'



## 3. Ranking top Australian loyalty programs (unprompted) – 'doing a very good job'

flybuys maintains its number one ranking in 2020, with four new entrants in 2020 – CommBank Rewards; MYER one; Nando's PERi Perks and Supercheap Auto Club Plus

*Full results for 2020 and comparison to 2019 results are available in the comprehensive report, including the list of 53 other programs mentioned by members as 'doing a very good job'.*

A listing of 38 programs by membership is also available in the comprehensive report.



## 2. Attitudes to 'loyalty' and loyalty programs

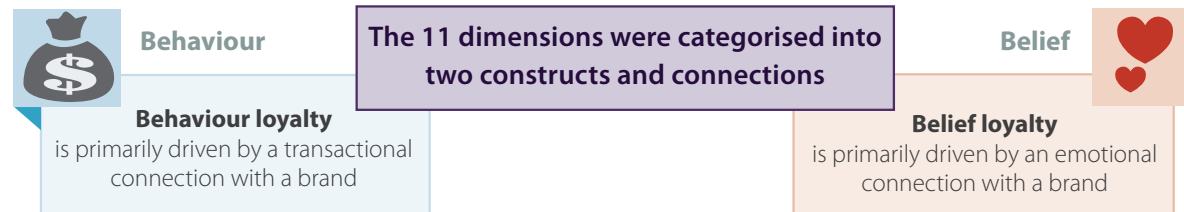


### 1. What is 'loyalty'? The consumers' point of view

Customer loyalty is an ongoing source of debate and discussion, ignited by the ever changing technology, data, social and demographic landscape.

As brands and businesses continue to invest more in customer retention and loyalty, gaining clarity on what 'loyalty' is helps to determine why it is important for a business to invest in customer loyalty as a growth strategy and how to achieve it as a profitable outcome.

The For Love or Money™ research asked consumers – 'Beyond enrolling in a loyalty program, what does loyalty to a brand/business mean to you?'. 11 dimensions of loyalty were assessed by members.



*The comprehensive report reveals the ranking of the 11 dimensions of loyalty based on 'behaviour loyalty' and 'belief loyalty'.*

### 2. Are loyalty programs valuable to a brand and business?

Do brands need a loyalty program to keep customers loyal?



It helps, it can be the difference between choosing one store over another

It's fun and very addictive. I feel as though I'm a part of something

To make sure people keep buying from them

I would not do business with them if there was no benefit to me

Rewards always help to encourage customers to buy more

Do brands need a loyalty program to keep customers loyal?



Because customers will usually go where they receive good products and services for good value

Businesses have niches and don't require a loyalty program to retain business

They (brands) should be confident of their products and service

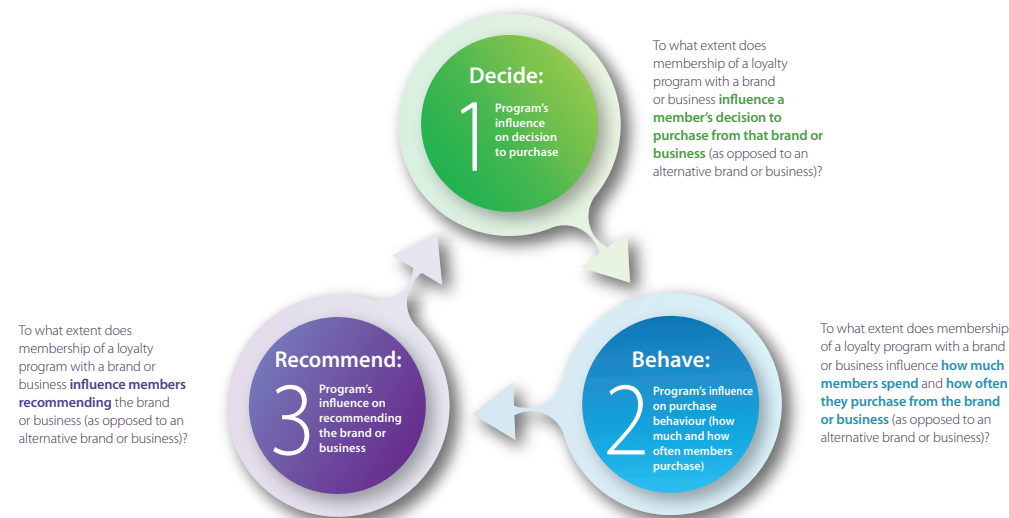
The brand should be good enough to keep its clients rather than having to bribe them. So many brands are much of a muchness that they have to have loyalty programs to compete

*The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.*

## 2. Attitudes to 'loyalty' and loyalty programs

### **NEW** 3. A loyalty program's influence on three motivations to interact with a brand

For the first time in the ongoing For Love or Money™ research studies, insights were identified on how a loyalty program influences a member's motivation to interact with a brand.

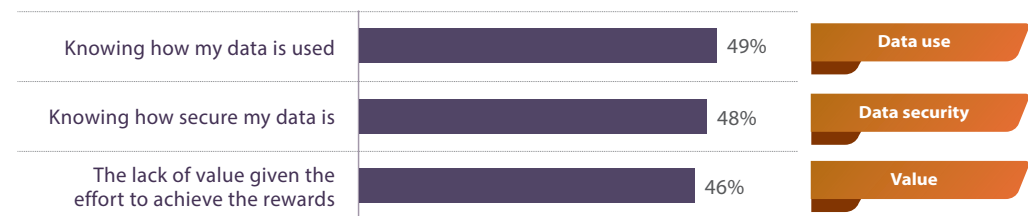


The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.

### **NEW** 6. Concerns members have about loyalty programs

For the first time in the For Love or Money™ research studies, members were asked to evaluate a list of concerns they have with programs. Eight areas of concern were research. How members' data is used and the security of their data are the top two concerns about loyalty programs.

This is followed by concerns about the lack of value for effort to achieve rewards.



The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.

### **NEW** 4. Do loyalty programs add to the overall brand experience?



**YES**

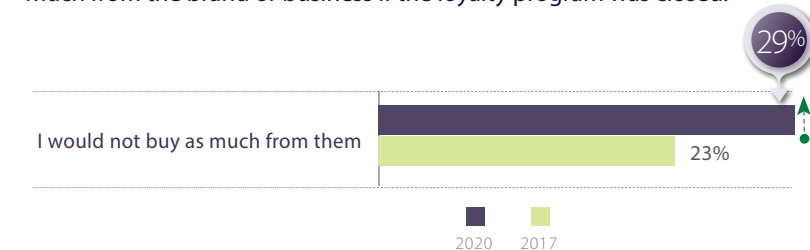
More than two-thirds of Australians (68%) agree loyalty programs enhance their experience with a brand or business.

The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.

### 5. The impact of closing a program

The value of loyalty programs is clear. Most brands would feel a tangible impact to their bottom line if their loyalty program was removed.

In 2020, more Australians compared with 2017 indicated they would not buy as much from the brand or business if the loyalty program was closed.



The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.

### 3. Member interaction and engagement

#### 1. The three motivations to join a loyalty program

Understanding consumers' motivations for joining a loyalty program and HOW MANY sit in each motivation of loyalty provides an insight into their impact on the value and viability of your program.

The three motivations to join a program researched were:



#### CONVENIENCE

I purchase from the brand/business anyway so I might as well get rewarded



#### TRANSACTIONAL

The benefits and rewards offered are worthwhile



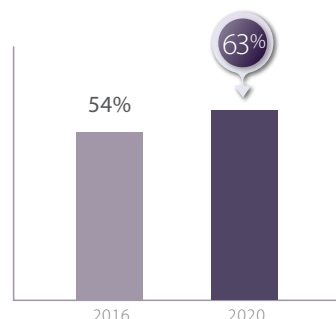
#### EMOTIONAL

I love the brand and its products/services

*The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.*

#### 2. Do members feel they are making the most of their program memberships?

% who say 'YES', they are taking advantage of their rewards and benefits



#### YES

Since 2016, there has been a significant increase in loyalty program members taking advantage of the rewards and benefits available to them from their loyalty program memberships.

This indicates an ongoing improvement in program propositions and member interaction with their programs.

*The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.*

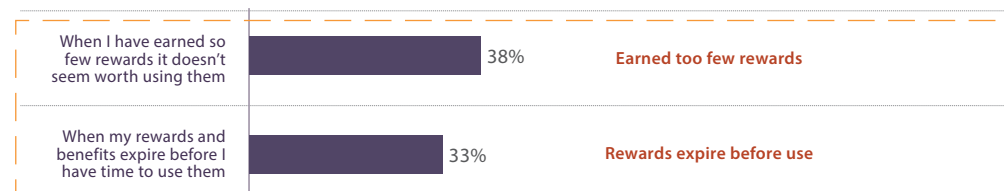


#### 3. Why don't members take advantage of rewards and benefits?

Six reasons members do not take advantage of their rewards and benefits were researched:

- When I don't know how to access the rewards and benefits available
- If it isn't easy to log-in into my rewards account
- If I forget my membership account log-in and can't be bothered to find it out
- When I have earned so few rewards it doesn't seem worth using them
- When I don't receive enough communication from the program reminding me of my rewards
- When my rewards and benefits expire before I have time to use them

The top two reasons identified were:



*The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.*

#### 4. Member interaction, identification and payment integration

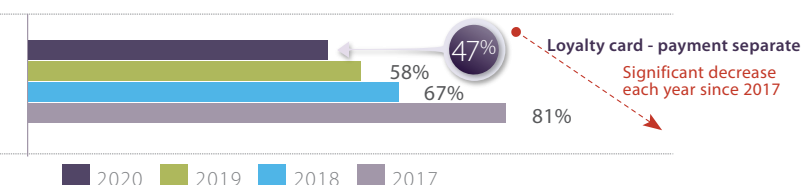
There continues to be a clear and significant decline in loyalty program members interacting with their programs with loyalty cards since 2017.

Full results available in the comprehensive report including the preference for digital interactions:

- Mobile app with rewards and payment integrated
- Mobile app with rewards – payment separate
- Unique identifier in-store/online – payment separate



Presenting a loyalty card to receive rewards/benefits and then pay separately with your preferred payment method



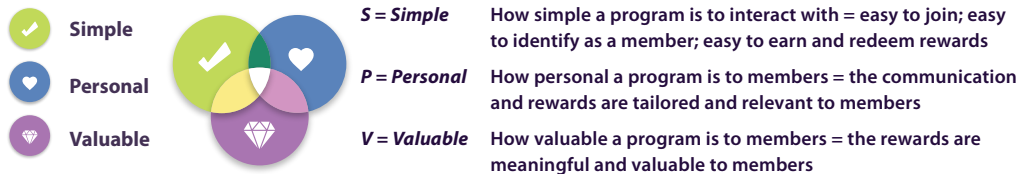
*The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.*

### 3. Member interaction and engagement



#### 5. Ranking the three principles for optimising program design

The Point of Loyalty has developed a design framework for creating loyalty program propositions. The three elements researched were:



The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.



#### 6. Money, time or ego – which benefits are most important to members?

The 2020 study researched how members perceive the benefits of loyalty programs in terms of:



The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.



#### 7. Psychology of earning and redeeming rewards

Do members change their behaviour as they get closer to earning a reward and after redeeming a reward?

For the first time in the For Love or Money™ research studies, we looked for insights on behaviour change as members get closer to earning a reward and after redeeming a reward.

##### Proximity to a reward



Almost half of members (49%) have either spent more, purchased more often or changed both behaviours (spent more and purchased more often) to earn rewards sooner

##### After reward redemption



63% have changed their behaviour after redeeming a reward by spending more or purchasing more often to earn more rewards, talking about the rewards with others and being more motivated to continue to interact with the program

The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.



#### 8. Points expiry: a point of tension between loyalty programs and members

Points expiry creates ongoing tension between loyalty programs and members. Members have a clear preference for points to expire from inactivity within a defined period (50%) ahead of expiry after a defined period (24%).

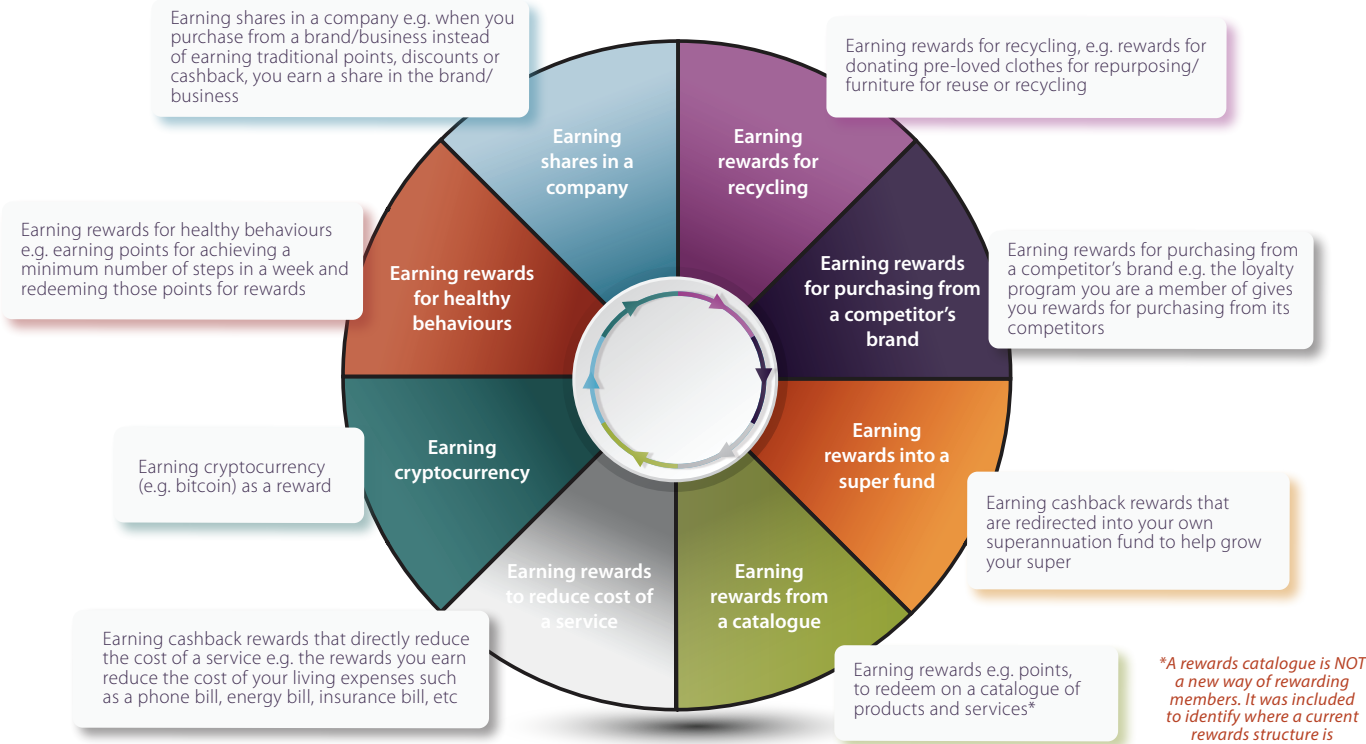
The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.

# 4. New ways to reward members



## 1. Identifying new ways for members to be rewarded

The For Love or Money™ research studies continue to identify new insights to make loyalty and rewards programs more meaningful and desirable for members. We have been gathering ideas from programs around the world and have identified a few unique ways to reward members. We included these in the 2020 research to identify how appealing they are to members.

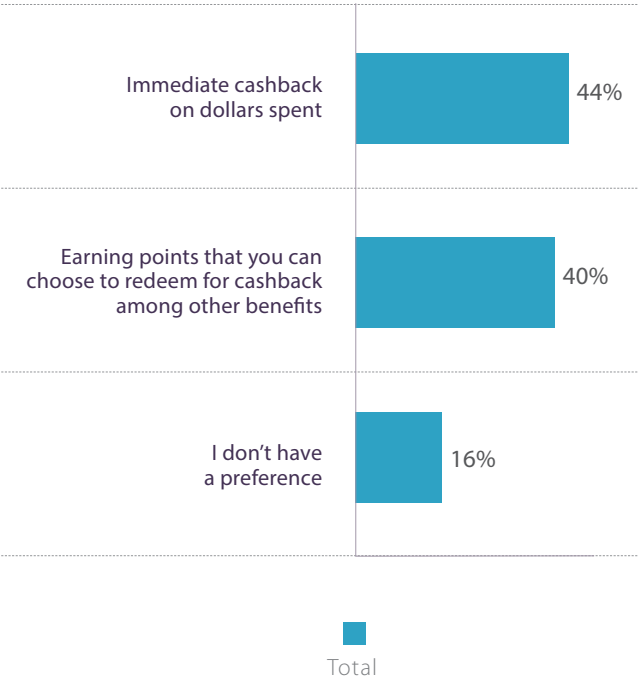


The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.



## 2. Earning cashback rewards – immediate or redeem via points?

There is no significant difference on how members prefer to earn cashback rewards.



The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.



## 5. The five loyalty program persona profiles

### 1. Loyalty program member persona profiles

The Point of Loyalty has developed the Five Benefits model for best-in-class loyalty and rewards programs. It provides the five benefit categories every loyalty program should consider blending into their structure. The depth and focus of each is tailored to the business category a program operates in, the program's objectives and member base behaviours.



In 2020, the majority of loyalty program members (70%) can be classified as 'transactional members', which is significantly lower than first benchmarked in 2019 (76%).

This is a sign members are slowly reducing their transactional connection to programs, with slight increases in experiential, personalisation and utility connections.

*The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.*

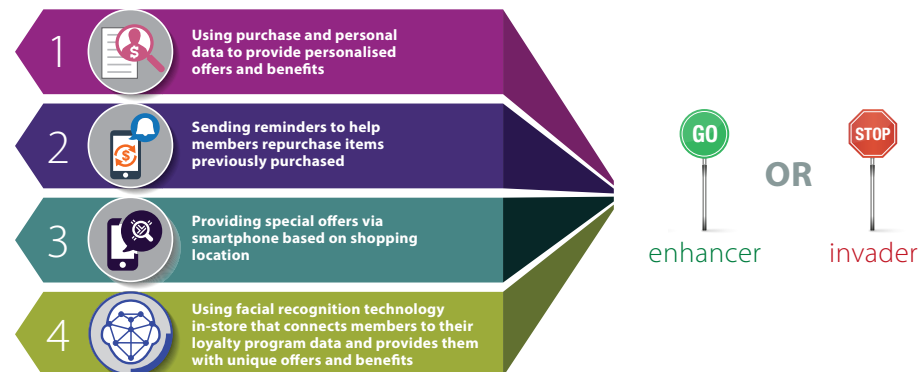
## 6. Data collection and use: personalisation and trust

### 1. How do members feel about loyalty programs collecting and using their information?

Enhancing members' shopping experience or invading their privacy?

In 2020, the majority of members (53%) are comfortable sharing their information with loyalty programs to enhance their shopping experience. Almost one in four (24%) feel the collection of personal information by loyalty programs is an invasion of their privacy.

### 2. Personalisation: enhancing the member's shopping experience vs invading their privacy



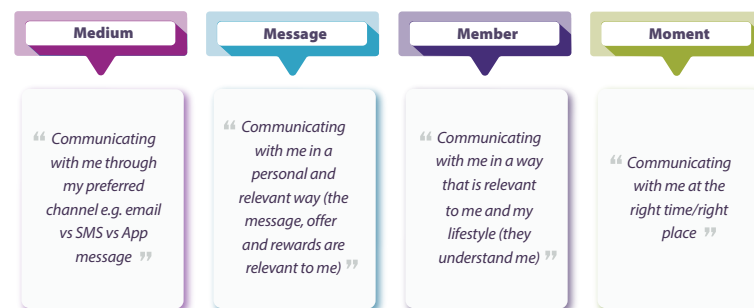
Four dimensions of personalisation were researched again in 2020, with members generally tolerant of the use of data collection when it is being used to deliver personalised offers and benefits (50% agree this enhances their shopping experience).

*The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.*



### 3. How is loyalty program personalisation performing?

Loyalty programs are known for data collection and the promise of personalisation in communications. In the 2020 For Love or Money™ research we identified the performance of four pillars of personalised communication.

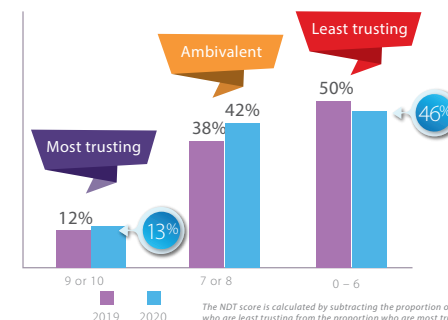


*The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.*

### 4. Loyalty program Data and Trust = the Net Data Trust score (NDT)

The Net Data Trust score (NDT) is a metric first introduced in For Love or Money™ 2019 to assess the level of confidence members have in loyalty programs to safeguard their personal details and data. With a NDT of -33 in 2020, there is still a trust issue!

To what extent do you trust the loyalty programs that you are a member of with your personal details and data? (Rating provided from 0 to 10)



*The Loyalty Program 2020 Net Data Trust score (NDT) = -33*



*The comprehensive report reveals all the results by age, gender and the generations.*

# 5.

## Behind the research

Who loves loyalty?



## 5. Behind the research – who loves loyalty?



Adam Posner is founder and CEO of The Point of Loyalty, a strategic customer loyalty specialist working with organisations to retain their best customers and grow the rest through thriving customer retention, loyalty and rewards programs.

Thriving programs balance three strategic dependencies:

- profitable and sustainable for the business
- meaningful and desirable for members
- believed in by the team.

Established in 2017, The Point of Loyalty (a divisional brand of Directivity – est. 2007) provides customer loyalty and rewards programs strategy, structure, deployment and research.

These have been provided for retail (various), hotels and accommodation, financial services, leisure and entertainment, trade, education and cryptocurrency coalition loyalty programs.

Since 2013, Adam has commissioned and authored 11 independent in-depth consumer research studies – For Love or Money™ on loyalty and loyalty programs in Australia and New Zealand.

To find out more about the results and insights in this Executive Summary you can purchase the comprehensive report at [www.thepointofloyalty.com.au](http://www.thepointofloyalty.com.au) or email [adam@thepointofloyalty.com.au](mailto:adam@thepointofloyalty.com.au)

Services to define, design and deploy thriving programs:

- Senior leadership and team alignment on 'what loyalty is'.
- 'Do You Really Need A Loyalty Program?' diagnostic to define goals, set the vision and quantify measures of success.
- Five Benefits model to move members from transactional to emotional connections with distinctive and unique program propositions.
- Buying behaviour analytics (past and predictive) and tailored customer research (see next point).
- Member, non-member and team research using benchmarks from 10 For Love or Money™ loyalty research studies.
- Program partnership evaluation for mutual revenue gain and member value-add.
- Financial modelling with a focus on Return on Loyalty Investment.
- 4E framework for team belief and buy-in (build a team of loyalty champions).
- Technology requirements specification and partner selection.
- Avoid the risks of loyalty program failure with our Failure Factors Risk Mitigation model and action plan.
- Loyalty mentoring for ongoing program optimisation.

Using proven methodologies:

- New loyalty programs: Four-stage DNA to a thriving program.
- Existing loyalty programs: Future-proof diagnostic to revitalise a valuable asset.

He is also the author of one of Australia's only practical books on loyalty programs – *Give-back to Get-back – 9 steps to a profitable loyalty program*.

Adam is a Certified Loyalty Marketing Professional (CLMP) and speaker on customer loyalty and loyalty programs at industry and client conferences.

# for *love* or *money*™ 2020

The research study taking the pulse on customer loyalty and loyalty programs in Australia

## Executive Summary

For more information on this report please contact:

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