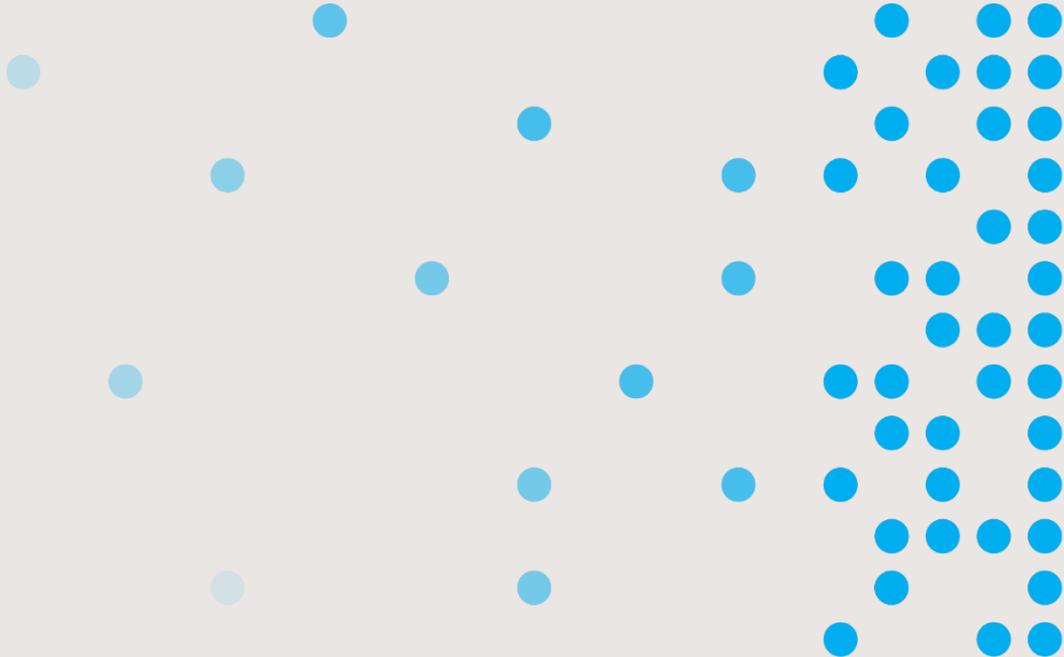


The Essential Report

16 May 2017



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Prepared By: Essential Research

Data Supplied by:



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Our researchers are members of the Australian Market and Social Research Society.



About this poll

This report summarises the results of a weekly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Your Source. The survey was conducted online from the 11th to 15th May 2017 and is based on 1,014 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on the federal budget.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 14.

Note that due to rounding, not all tables necessarily total 100% and subtotals may also vary.

Federal voting intention

Q If a Federal Election was held today to which party will you probably give your first preference vote? If not sure, which party are you currently leaning toward? If don't know - Well which party are you currently leaning to?

	Total	Last week 9/5/17	2 weeks ago 2/5/17	4 weeks ago 18/4/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	34%	35%	35%	33%	
National	3%	2%	2%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	37%	37%	38%	36%	42.0%
Labor	38%	38%	37%	37%	34.7%
Greens	10%	10%	9%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	6%	6%	7%	8%	
Other/Independent	6%	6%	6%	7%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	46%	46%	47%	46%	50.4%
Labor	54%	54%	53%	54%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,796. The data in the above tables comprise 2-week averages derived from the first preference/leaning to voting questions. Respondents who select 'don't know' are not included in the results. The two-party preferred estimate is calculated by distributing the votes of the other parties according to their preferences at the 2016 election.

Federal Budget

Q Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the Federal Budget that was handed down on Tuesday 9th May?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total Approve	41%	32%	66%	33%	31%
Total Disapprove	33%	45%	16%	39%	50%
Strongly approve	5%	2%	11%	4%	2%
Approve	36%	30%	55%	29%	29%
Disapprove	23%	30%	13%	31%	30%
Strongly disapprove	10%	15%	3%	8%	20%
Don't know	25%	23%	19%	29%	18%

Overall, more people approved of the budget (41%) than disapproved (33%). Approval for the budget was highest among Liberal/National voters (66% support) and those aged 65+ (57%). Disapproval was highest amongst other party/independent voters (50% disapprove) and ALP voters (45%).



Confidence in Economy

Q Does this budget make you feel more confident or less confident in the Government’s ability to manage the economy?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total more confident	27%	18%	48%	20%	17%
Total less confident	29%	38%	12%	33%	44%
A lot more confident	5%	3%	9%	4%	3%
A little more confident	22%	15%	39%	16%	14%
Makes no difference	33%	34%	33%	35%	35%
A little less confident	15%	18%	9%	18%	20%
A lot less confident	14%	20%	3%	15%	24%
Don't know	12%	10%	8%	11%	4%

More people said that the budget made them less confident in the Government’s ability to manage the economy (29%) than said that it made them more confident (27%), although 33% said that it made no difference.

Those most likely to say that the budget made them more confident were Liberal/National voters (48%) and those aged over 65 (40%).

Those most likely to say that the budget made them less confident were other part/independent voters (44%), ALP voters (38%) and those aged 45-54 (36%).



Budget Measures

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the following measures contained in the budget?

	Total approve	Total disapprove	Strongly Approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know
A levy on vacant properties owned by foreign investors	82%	7%	51%	31%	5%	2%	11%
Payment reductions for jobseekers who fail to attend Centrelink appointments	76%	14%	43%	33%	9%	5%	9%
A levy on businesses who hire foreign workers on permanent and temporary work visas	71%	16%	35%	36%	12%	4%	14%
A one-off cash payment for single parents and pensioners to compensate for increased energy prices	69%	19%	27%	42%	14%	5%	12%
A trial of drug testing for jobseekers receiving unemployment benefits	69%	22%	42%	27%	13%	9%	9%
A levy on big banks which will raise \$6.2bn over four years	66%	19%	38%	28%	12%	7%	14%
Building a second airport in Sydney at Badgerys Creek	54%	18%	15%	39%	13%	5%	28%
A 0.5% increase to the Medicare levy to fund the National Disability Insurance Scheme	49%	39%	15%	34%	22%	17%	13%

All but one measure, the increase to the Medicare levy to fund the NDIS, received majority approval.

The most popular measure was a levy of vacant properties owned by foreign investors (82% approve). Support for this measure was highest among those aged 65+ (94% approve), and lowest among those aged 18-24 (63%).

The least popular measure was the Medicare levy to fund the NDIS, although this still received 49% approval, and only 39% disapproval. Support for this measure was highest among Greens voters (68% approve) and Liberal/National voters (59%), and was lowest among those aged 35-44 (34% disapprove) and ALP voters (42%).

While 54% supported the Badgerys Creek airport, 67% of those living in NSW, where the airport would be located, supported the measure.



Budget Impact

Q In general, do you think the Federal Budget, will be good or bad for?

	Total good	Total bad	Very good	Good	Neither good nor bad	Bad	Very bad	Don't know
People who are well off	51%	5%	22%	29%	30%	4%	1%	14%
Australian business	45%	8%	9%	36%	32%	7%	1%	16%
The economy overall	38%	17%	6%	32%	31%	13%	4%	14%
First home-buyers	31%	18%	5%	26%	36%	10%	8%	14%
Australian families	25%	32%	3%	22%	31%	24%	8%	12%
Older Australians	25%	30%	3%	22%	31%	21%	9%	14%
Job seekers	23%	30%	4%	19%	34%	20%	10%	12%
Average working people	22%	36%	3%	19%	30%	25%	11%	12%
Primary/secondary students	21%	24%	3%	18%	39%	17%	7%	16%
People on lower incomes	20%	41%	4%	16%	27%	24%	17%	12%
You personally	18%	32%	4%	14%	39%	21%	11%	11%
University students	12%	49%	3%	9%	26%	30%	19%	13%

51% thought that the budget would be good for people who are well off. Only 43% of Liberal/National voters thought this, compared to 67% of Greens voters and 63% of ALP voters.

Only 12% thought that the budget would be good for University students. 22% of Liberal/National voters thought the budget would be good for University students, compared to 6% of ALP voters and 8% of Greens voters.



Budget Statements

Q Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Federal budget that was handed down on Tuesday 9th May?

	Total agree	Total disagree	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
This budget is more about improving the Government's popularity than improving the economy	51%	27%	19%	32%	23%	4%	21%
This budget favours businesses over workers	48%	28%	16%	32%	24%	4%	24%
Overall, the budget is fair and balanced	43%	38%	6%	37%	27%	11%	19%
This budget does not do enough to reduce the deficit	41%	31%	10%	31%	27%	4%	27%
This was the budget Australia needs at this time	39%	36%	8%	31%	26%	10%	25%

More people agreed than disagreed with each statement about the budget.

The most widely agreed with statement was that the budget is more about improving the Government's popularity than improving the economy (51% agree). 66% of ALP voters agreed with this statement, as did 64% of other party/independent voters, compared to 37% of Liberal/National voters.

The least widely agreed with statement was that this was the budget Australia needs at this time, with 39% agreement. 43% of men agreed with this statement, compared to only 34% of women. 51% of those aged 65+ agreed, compared to 38% of those aged 18-24.

Preferred Treasurer

Q Who would you trust most to handle Australia's economy – the Treasurer Scott Morrison or the Shadow Treasurer Chris Bowen?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Scott Morrison	26%	8%	57%	7%	18%
Chris Bowen	22%	43%	5%	31%	20%
Don't know	52%	49%	37%	62%	61%

26% trusted Scott Morrison to handle the economy, and 22% trusted Chris Bowen. 52% did not know who they trusted more.

Scott Morrison was most favoured by Liberal/National voters (57%) and those aged 65+ (45%). Chris Bowen was most favoured by ALP voters (43%).

64% of women said that they did not know who they trusted more, compared to 40% of men.

NDIS Funding

Q The federal budget includes a 0.5% increase to the Medicare levy for all taxpayers in order to fund the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Do you think that this is the right approach, or that high income earners should bear a greater share of the cost of funding the NDIS?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Higher income earners should bear a greater share of the cost	56%	69%	44%	58%	62%
Increasing the Medicare levy for all taxpayers is the right approach	27%	15%	45%	23%	20%
Don't know	17%	16%	11%	19%	17%

56% thought that higher income earners should bear a greater share of the cost of funding the NDIS. Those most likely to think this were ALP voters (69%), those earning between \$78k and \$104k per year (63%), and other party/independent voters (62%).

Those who thought that increasing the Medicare levy was the right approach were Liberal/National voters (45%), those aged 65+ (35%) and those earning over \$104k per year (34%).



Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a weekly online omnibus conducted by Your Source. Essential Research has been utilizing the Your Source online panel to conduct research on a week-by-week basis since November 2007.

Each week, the team at Essential Media Communications discusses issues that are topical and a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated regularly (such as political preference and leadership approval), while others are unique to each week and reflect media and social issues that are present at the time.

Your Source has a self-managed consumer online panel of over 100,000 members. The majority of panel members have been recruited using off line methodologies, effectively ruling out concerns associated with online self-selection.

Your Source has validation methods in place that prevent panelist over use and ensure member authenticity. Your Source randomly selects 18+ males and females (with the aim of targeting 50/50 males/females) from its Australia wide panel. An invitation is sent out to approximately 7000 – 8000 of their panel members.

The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ interviews. In theory, with a sample of this size, there is 95 per cent certainty that the results are within 3 percentage points of what they would be if the entire population had been polled. However, this assumes random sampling, which, because of non-response and less than 100% population coverage cannot be achieved in practice. Furthermore, there are other possible sources of error in all polls including question wording and question order, interviewer bias (for telephone and face-to-face polls), response errors and weighting. The best guide to a poll's accuracy is to look at the record of the polling company - how have they performed at previous elections or other occasions where their estimates can be compared with known population figures. In the last poll before the 2016 election, the Essential Report estimates of first preference votes averaged less than 1% difference from the election results and the two-party preferred difference was only 0.1%.

The Your Source online omnibus is live from the Wednesday night of each week and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants in the form of points. Essential Research uses the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyse the data. The data is weighted against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.

All Essential Research and senior Your Source staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour. Your Source is an Australian social and market research company specializing in recruitment, field research, data gathering and data analysis. Essential Research is a member of the Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO). Your Source holds Interviewer Quality Control Australia (IQCA) accreditation, Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO) membership and World Association of Opinion and Marketing Research Professionals (ESOMAR) membership.

