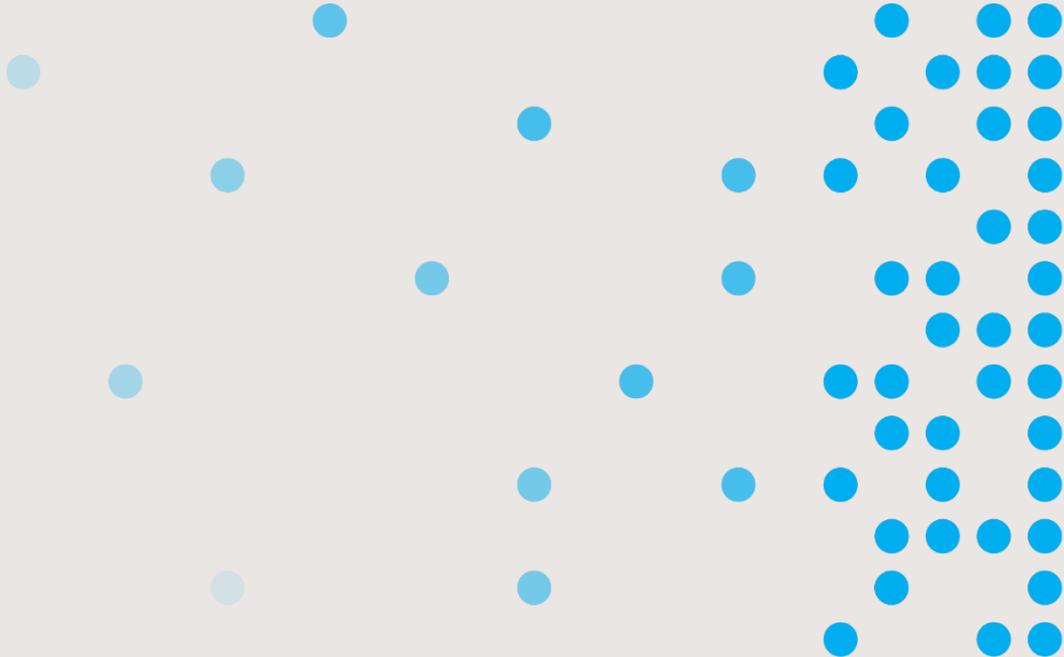


The Essential Report

13 June 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 8th to 13th June 2017 and is based on 1,020 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on national security, general happiness, and energy policy.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 13.

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 6/6/17	2 weeks ago 30/5/17	4 weeks ago 16/5/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	35%	36%	35%	34%	
National	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	38%	39%	38%	37%	42.0%
Labor	36%	37%	36%	38%	34.7%
Greens	10%	10%	11%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	6%	5%	6%	
Other/Independent	5%	6%	7%	6%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	48%	48%	47%	46%	50.4%
Labor	52%	52%	53%	54%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,785. 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.

Threat of terrorism

Q Over the last few years, do you think that the threat of terrorism happening in Australia has increased, decreased or stayed much the same?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other	Oct 2016	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Mar 2015	Sep 2014
Total Increased	74%	74%	81%	65%	73%	73%	76%	75%	75%	57%
Total Decreased	3%	2%	2%	2%	5%	2%	2%	1%	2%	6%
Increased a lot	39%	37%	44%	18%	47%	34%	42%	38%	39%	22%
Increased a little	35%	37%	37%	47%	26%	38%	34%	37%	36%	35%
Stayed about the same	20%	21%	16%	32%	22%	23%	19%	20%	20%	33%
Decreased a little	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Decreased a lot	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	-	1%	3%
Don't know	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%

74% thought that the threat of terrorism has increased, and only 3% thought it has decreased. 20% thought it had stayed the same. These figures have changed little since the question was last asked in October 2016.

Those most likely to think that it had increased were older (88% of 55-64 year olds, and 87% of over 65s), as well as Liberal/National voters (81%).

Less than 10% of each demographic group thought the threat of terrorism had decreased.



Spending on anti-terrorism

Q Do you think the Australian Government should be spending more or less on anti-terrorism measures or is current spending about right?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other	Mar 2015	Aug 2014
Spending more	46%	48%	53%	19%	48%	39%	28%
Spending less	9%	11%	4%	22%	9%	12%	19%
Current spending about right	30%	31%	33%	41%	24%	33%	36%
Don't know	16%	10%	10%	18%	19%	16%	16%

46% thought the government should be spending more on anti-terrorism measures (up 7% from March 2015), 9% thought the government should be spending less (down 3%), and 30% thought current spending was about right (down 3%).

Those most likely to think spending should increase were those aged 65+ (58%) and Liberal/National voters (53%).

Greens voters were much more likely than others to think spending should decrease (22%).

Greens voters were also more likely to think that current spending was about right (41%), as were 55-64 year olds (39%).

Restrictions on freedom

Q When it comes to issues of national security, do you think there should be more restrictions on rights and freedom for some people so there can be more security for others, or do you think our current laws already go too far in restricting freedom?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other
There should be more restrictions	54%	49%	66%	21%	68%
The current laws restrict freedom to much	12%	16%	9%	32%	8%
Current laws strike the right balance	19%	22%	17%	36%	13%
Don't know	15%	14%	8%	12%	11%

54% thought there should be more restrictions on rights and freedom to combat terrorism. 12% thought current restrictions went too far, and 19% thought they strike the right balance.

Those most likely to think there should be more restrictions were those aged 65+ (79%), other party/independent voters (68%) and Liberal/National voters (66%).

Those most likely to think that current laws strike the right balance were Greens voters (36%) and 18-24 year olds (29%).

Greens voters were the only demographic group for whom “more restrictions” was not the most popular answer.



Handling the threat of terrorism

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is handling the threat of terrorism in Australia?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other	Oct 2015	Mar 2015 (Abbott)
Total approve	47%	40%	68%	47%	41%	56%	46%
Total disapprove	24%	35%	11%	30%	38%	17%	33%
Strongly approve	5%	4%	10%	3%	3%	11%	13%
Approve	42%	36%	58%	44%	38%	45%	33%
Disapprove	16%	25%	7%	16%	23%	11%	18%
Strongly disapprove	8%	10%	4%	14%	15%	6%	15%
Don't know	27%	24%	21%	23%	21%	28%	22%

47% approve of the way Malcolm Turnbull is handling the threat of terrorism in Australia (down 9% since October 2015), and 24% disapprove (up 7%). The October 2015 poll was conducted only a few weeks after Turnbull became Prime Minister.

Those most likely to approve of the way Turnbull is handling the threat of terrorism were Liberal/National voters (68%) and those aged 65+ (61%). Men (51% approve) were more likely to approve than women (45%).

Those most likely to disapprove of the way Turnbull is handling the threat of terrorism were other party/independent voters (38%) and Labor voters (35%).

Personal Happiness

Q Thinking about your own personal situation, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Total agree	Total disagree	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am happy in my personal/family life	79%	7%	29%	50%	14%	5%	2%
I am happy in my life overall	74%	9%	22%	52%	17%	6%	3%
I am happy in my social life	71%	10%	22%	49%	19%	8%	2%
I am happy in my spiritual life	62%	7%	17%	45%	31%	4%	3%
I am happy in my work life	52%	15%	14%	38%	32%	11%	4%

Each statement received majority agreement.

The area in which happiness was the highest was personal/family life, in which 79% were happy. Those most likely to be happy in this area were those aged 65+ (89%), Queenslanders (85%), Liberal/National voters (84%) and those who work full-time (84%). Happiness was by far the lowest in this area amongst those earning less than \$31k per year (65%).

The area in which happiness was lowest overall was work life, in which 52% were happy. Those most likely to be happy with their work life were those who are employed (69% of full-time workers, and 67% of part-time workers), as well as those aged 25-34 (58%) and Liberal/National voters (57%).

Additional breakdowns of this question are on the following page.



Additional table

This table provides a cross-tabulation of the proportion who “very strongly” agreed with each statement across a number of demographics.

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Green	Vote Other	Male	Female	Earn <\$78k	Earn >78k	18-34	35-54	55+
I am happy in my personal/family life	29%	22%	36%	27%	36%	27%	31%	27%	31%	27%	25%	38%
I am happy in my social life	22%	17%	26%	17%	27%	20%	23%	19%	23%	20%	18%	28%
I am happy in my work life	14%	16%	15%	9%	17%	14%	14%	11%	17%	16%	13%	15%
I am happy in my spiritual life	17%	15%	18%	12%	25%	17%	17%	17%	16%	13%	15%	24%
I am happy in my life overall	22%	20%	24%	18%	26%	20%	23%	17%	26%	21%	17%	30%



Emissions Intensity Scheme or Low Emissions Target

Q An “emissions intensity scheme” and a “low emissions target” are two policy options which aim to reduce Australia’s carbon emissions.=

An emissions intensity scheme is designed to increase the cost of electricity production from high-emitting sources (like coal and gas) while decreasing the cost of less polluting sources (like renewables).

A low emissions target would expand the current Renewable Energy Target to include non-renewable electricity sources with emissions intensities below a certain limit. Depending on the emissions limit, this could include certain types of coal and gas technologies.

Which of the proposals would you prefer?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other
Emissions intensity scheme (EIS)	20%	24%	14%	46%	12%
Low emissions target (LET)	45%	46%	51%	31%	48%
Don't know	36%	29%	35%	23%	40%

45% preferred an LET, 20% preferred an EIS, and 36% did not know which proposal they preferred.

Those most likely to prefer an LET were those aged 65+ (51%), Liberal/National voters (51%) and those earning over \$104k per year (50%).

Greens voters were the only demographic group which preferred an EIS to a LET, with 46% preferring an EIS.



Carbon Capture and Storage

Q Do you think that coal generation with 100% "capture and storage", where carbon emissions from burning coal are captured and stored underground, should be considered a "low emission" energy source under a low emissions target?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote Other
Yes	27%	25%	36%	16%	28%
No	29%	35%	19%	55%	28%
Don't know	44%	39%	45%	29%	44%

27% thought carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) should be considered as a "low emission" energy source under a low emissions target, and 29% did not.

Those most likely to think CCS should be considered a low emission energy source were Liberal/National voters (36%), men (33%) and those aged 65+ (33%).

Those most likely to think CCS should not be considered a low emission energy source were Greens voters (55%), 18-24 year olds (37%), and South Australians (35%).

The largest proportion (44%) did not know if CCS should be considered a low emission source.



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.

