

The Essential Report

21 November 2017



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Prepared By: Essential Research

Data Supplied by:



AMSRS 

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 17th to 20th November 2017 and is based on 1,025 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on same-sex marriage legislation, the next Federal election, Australian society and trust in Government.

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 14/11/17	2 weeks ago 7/11/17	4 weeks ago 24/10/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	32%	33%	34%	34%	
National	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	35%	36%	37%	37%	42.0%
Labor	38%	38%	37%	36%	34.7%
Greens	9%	9%	10%	9%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	2%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	8%	8%	8%	
Other/Independent	7%	7%	6%	7%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	46%	46%	47%	48%	50.4%
Labor	54%	54%	53%	52%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,803. 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.

Protections for religious freedoms

Q If the Parliament passes legislation to allow same-sex marriage, do you think that the legislation needs to include more protections for religious freedoms or do you think current laws already provide enough protections for religious freedoms?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Needs to include more protection for religious freedoms	37%	31%	48%	17%	42%
Current laws provide enough protections for religious freedoms	42%	50%	39%	57%	44%
Don't know	21%	19%	13%	25%	14%

37% think that same-sex marriage legislation needs to include more protections for religious freedoms and 42% think current laws provide enough protection.

Those most likely to think that same-sex marriage legislation should include more protections were Liberal/National voters (48%) and aged 65+ (55%).

Those most likely to think that current laws provide enough protection were Labor voters (50%), Greens voters (57%) and university educated (50%).

Same-sex marriage legislation

Q Would you support or oppose the same-sex marriage legislation including each of the following –

	Total support	Total oppose	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Allow ministers of religion and celebrants to refuse to officiate same-sex weddings if they believe in the traditional definition of marriage	63%	27%	32%	31%	13%	14%	10%
Allow service providers to refuse to supply services to same-sex weddings (e.g. venue hire, wedding cakes)	43%	48%	23%	20%	22%	26%	9%
Allow people who believe they have been victimised on the basis of their marriage beliefs be able to seek court orders, injunctions and damages for loss suffered	41%	41%	17%	24%	20%	21%	19%
Allow parents to have their children removed from classes which don't reflect their views on marriage	42%	44%	22%	20%	22%	22%	15%

A solid majority (63%) support allowing ministers of religion and celebrants to refuse to officiate same-sex weddings.

However, they were fairly evenly split on the other three issues.

Men were somewhat more likely to support these measures than women. On allowing service providers to refuse to supply services, men were 49% support/42% oppose while women were 37% support/53% oppose.

Total support	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Allow ministers of religion and celebrants to refuse to officiate same-sex weddings if they believe in the traditional definition of marriage	63%	56%	74%	53%	75%
Allow service providers to refuse to supply services to same-sex weddings (e.g. venue hire, wedding cakes)	43%	36%	54%	21%	50%
Allow people who believe they have been victimised on the basis of their marriage beliefs be able to seek court orders, injunctions and damages for loss suffered	41%	46%	40%	53%	33%
Allow parents to have their children removed from classes which don't reflect their views on marriage	42%	33%	52%	24%	55%



Early election

- Q Do you think the Coalition Government should run its full term until 2019 when the next Federal election is due or do you think they should call an early election?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Should run full term	47%	34%	75%	26%	45%
Should call an early election	32%	45%	15%	55%	38%
Don't know	22%	21%	10%	19%	16%

37% think the Government should call an early election and 47% think the Government should run its full term.

Those most likely to support an early election were Labor voters (45%) and Greens voters (55%).

Expect to win next election

Q Which party do you expect will win the next Federal election?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Liberal National Coalition	20%	5%	53%	7%	11%
Labor Party	36%	75%	14%	40%	19%
Neither – there will be a hung Parliament	18%	7%	15%	21%	45%
Don't know	26%	13%	18%	32%	26%

36% expect the Labor Party will win the next election, 20% think the LNP coalition will win and 18% think there will be a hung Parliament. 75% of Labor voters think Labor will win, compared to 53% of Liberal/National voters who think the Coalition will win.

Australian society

Q Thinking about our current political and economic system - that is, the structures that set the rules for the way Australian society operates - which of the following best describes your view?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Jan 2017
The system needs to be fundamentally changed	32%	33%	26%	40%	42%	40%
The system is fundamentally sound but needs to be refined	44%	47%	53%	41%	39%	44%
The system works well as it is and should not be changed in any substantial way	10%	7%	15%	6%	10%	6%
Don't know	14%	13%	7%	13%	8%	11%

44% think Australia's political and economic system is fundamentally sound but needs to be refined and 32% think the system needs to be fundamentally changed. Only 10% think it should not be changed in any way.

Those thinking it needs fundamental change has dropped 8 points from 40% since January.

Those most likely to think it needs fundamental change were "other" voters (42%).

Those most likely to think the system just needs to be refined were LNP voters (53%) and aged 65+ (57%).



Trust in Federal Government

Q How much trust do you have in the Federal Government to do what is right for Australia?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
A lot of trust	8%	6%	17%	2%	2%
Some trust	34%	34%	49%	20%	22%
Not much trust	32%	37%	25%	45%	34%
No trust at all	21%	18%	8%	28%	42%
Don't know	5%	5%	1%	5%	-

42% have a lot or some trust in the Government to do what is right for Australia and 53% have not much or no trust.

Those least likely to trust the Government were Greens voters (73% not much/no trust) and other voters (76%).

Those most likely to trust the Government were LNP voters (66% trust) and university educated (58%).

Satisfaction with democracy in Australia

Q Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way democracy is working in Australia?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total satisfied	35%	34%	53%	18%	22%
Total dissatisfied	32%	32%	19%	43%	54%
Very satisfied	6%	5%	11%	1%	<1%
Satisfied	29%	29%	42%	17%	22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	28%	31%	28%	32%	23%
Dissatisfied	21%	24%	15%	29%	27%
Very dissatisfied	11%	8%	4%	14%	27%
Don't know	5%	4%	1%	7%	1%

35% are satisfied with the way democracy is working in Australia and 32% are dissatisfied.

Those most likely to be satisfied were LNP voters (53%), men (40%) and university educated (51%).

Those most likely to be dissatisfied were Greens voters (43%) and other voters (54%).

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.

