

The Essential Report

18 October 2016



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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 14th to 17th October 2016 and is based on 1,101 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on same-sex marriage, confidence in Government, early election, greyhound racing, Donald Trump, government decisions and renewable energy.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 15.

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 11/10/16	2 weeks ago 4/10/16	4 weeks ago 20/9/16	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	34%	34%	36%	34%	
National	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	37%	38%	40%	37%	42.0%
Labor	37%	36%	36%	37%	34.7%
Greens	11%	10%	8%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	3%	4%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	5%	6%	6%	6%	
Other/Independent	6%	7%	7%	7%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	47%	48%	49%	48%	50.4%
Labor	53%	52%	51%	52%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,775. 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.

Vote on same-sex marriage

Q The Labor Party has announced it will not support a plebiscite on same-sex marriage which means that it will not pass the Senate. What do you think the Government should do about same-sex marriage now?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Have a vote in Parliament about allowing same-sex marriage	55%	65%	47%	82%	46%
Leave the current policy in place until after the next election	30%	19%	42%	11%	46%
Don't know	15%	16%	11%	7%	9%

The majority of Australians (55%) believe that the government should now hold a vote in Parliament about allowing same-sex marriage.

Just 30% of Australians think the current policy should be left in place until the next election.

Greens voters (82%) are most likely to believe there should be a vote in Parliament, followed by Labor (65%), Lib/Nat (47%) and other voters (46%).

Females (57%) were only slightly more likely than males (53%) to think there should be a vote in Parliament.

Those aged 18-24 (65%) were more likely than the average to think that there should be a vote in Parliament.

Confidence in Government

Q How confident are you that the Turnbull Government - with current Senate – will be able to get things done that the nation needs?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total confident	31%	20%	57%	9%	18%
Total not confident	58%	69%	39%	86%	77%
Very confident	4%	4%	8%	<1%	<1%
Somewhat confident	27%	16%	49%	9%	18%
Not very confident	36%	38%	33%	47%	41%
Not at all confident	22%	31%	6%	39%	36%
Don't know	11%	12%	4%	5%	4%

Just under one third (31%) of Australians are confident that the Turnbull Government will be able to get things done that the nation needs. Just 4% are 'very confident'.

58% are not confident that the Turnbull Government will be able to get things done that the nation needs.

Lib/Nat voters (57%) are far more likely to be confident; however 39% still say they are not confident that the Turnbull Government will be able to get things done that the nation needs.

Labor (20%), other (18%) and Greens (9%) voters were less likely to be confident than the overall average.

Early election

- Q Do you expect the Coalition Government will run its full term until 2019 when the next Federal election is due or do you think there will be an early election?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Sep 2016
Will run full term	35%	23%	59%	19%	25%	35%
Will be an early election	39%	49%	27%	58%	51%	38%
Don't know	26%	28%	14%	23%	24%	27%

35% think that the Coalition Government will run its full term and 39% think there will be an early election. These results have not changed significantly since September 2016.

59% of Lib/Nat voters believe the Coalition Government will run its full term (up from 50% in September).

49% of Labor voters (down from 52% in September) and 58% of Greens voters (up from 43% in September) think there will be an early election.

Greyhound racing

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the NSW Government’s decision to reverse their proposed ban on greyhound racing?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	NSW
Total approve	41%	40%	52%	20%	39%	44%
Total disapprove	38%	38%	33%	70%	46%	40%
Strongly approve	12%	11%	15%	1%	16%	13%
Approve	29%	29%	37%	19%	23%	31%
Disapprove	19%	18%	20%	20%	21%	22%
Strongly disapprove	19%	20%	13%	50%	25%	18%
Don't know	21%	22%	16%	10%	15%	15%

41% of Australians approve of the NSW Government’s decision to reverse their proposed ban on greyhound racing. However, 38% disapprove.

These figures are not significantly different in NSW, where 44% approve and 40% disapprove.

Nationally, Greens voters (70%) are far more likely to disapprove. Lib/Nat voters (52%) are more likely than the average to approve. Labor (40% approve) and other voters (39% approve) do not differ significantly from the overall average.

Males (51%) were far more likely than females (31%) to approve of the decision to reverse the proposed ban on greyhound racing.



Donald Trump as President

Q How concerned would you be if Donald Trump was elected US President?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total concerned	79%	84%	81%	85%	69%
Total not concerned	14%	11%	15%	8%	28%
Very concerned	61%	66%	58%	75%	53%
Somewhat concerned	18%	18%	23%	10%	16%
Not very concerned	9%	9%	10%	5%	11%
Not at all concerned?	5%	2%	5%	3%	16%
Don't know	6%	5%	4%	6%	3%

More than three quarters of Australians (79%) would be concerned if Donald Trump was elected US President. 61% of these said they would be 'very concerned'.

Overall, just 14% said that they would not be concerned.

There was little difference in results amongst the major voting segments; 84% of Labor and 85% of Greens voters would be concerned, compared to 81% of Lib/Nat voters. Those that vote 'other' were slightly less likely to be concerned (69%).

Females (84%) were more likely than males (75%) to be concerned.



Major Government decisions

Q Thinking about some of the major decisions the Federal Government has made over the years, do you think the following decisions have been good for Australia or bad for Australia?

	Total good	Total bad	Very good	Good	Neither good nor bad	Bad	Very bad	Don't know	2011 total good	2011 total bad
Introducing the GST	46%	22%	12%	34%	25%	13%	9%	7%	39%	30%
Privatising Qantas	28%	33%	6%	22%	26%	23%	10%	14%	23%	44%
Privatising Telstra	22%	42%	6%	16%	24%	27%	15%	12%	20%	53%
Privatising the Commonwealth Bank	24%	39%	7%	17%	24%	24%	15%	14%	26%	42%
Floating the dollar	33%	12%	11%	22%	28%	8%	4%	27%	46%	11%
Free trade agreements	38%	21%	11%	27%	24%	13%	8%	18%	41%	21%
Compulsory superannuation	71%	8%	36%	35%	14%	5%	3%	7%	79%	7%
Medibank (now Medicare)	63%	10%	31%	32%	19%	7%	3%	9%	76%	6%
Reducing subsidies to car manufacturing	28%	27%	10%	18%	28%	18%	9%	16%	-	-

Note: comments on the following page

Major Government decisions: Comments

Only the Government decisions to introduce compulsory superannuation (71%) and Medibank (63%) were considered good for Australia by a majority of respondents – although opinions on floating the dollar (33% good/12% bad), free trade agreements (38%/21%), the GST (46%/22%) and (by only a small margin) reducing subsidies to car manufacturing (28% good/27% poor) were more likely to be positive than negative.

The decisions to privatise three major national enterprises were more likely to be considered bad; 42% think privatising Telstra was bad (22% good), 33% thought privatising Qantas was bad (28% good) and 39% thought privatising the Commonwealth Bank was bad (24% good).

Renewable energy target

- Q The Labor Party is committed to a target of 50% renewable energy by 2030. An independent report has said this policy would require about \$48 billion of new private sector (not Government) investment in large scale renewable energy production such as solar and wind farms. Do you approve or disapprove of this policy?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	59%	70%	48%	86%	59%
Total disapprove	19%	8%	32%	5%	25%
Strongly approve	20%	27%	10%	49%	17%
Approve	39%	43%	38%	37%	42%
Disapprove	11%	5%	18%	4%	12%
Strongly disapprove	8%	3%	14%	1%	13%
Don't know	23%	23%	20%	9%	16%

Over half (59%) of Australians approve of the target of 50% renewable energy by 2030. Just 19% disapprove.

Greens voters (86%) were far more likely to approve of this policy, followed by Labor voters (70%). Lib/Nat voters (48%) were less likely to approve.

Approval of this policy is higher with younger age groups, with 64% of those aged under 35 compared to 61% of those aged 35-54 and 39% of those aged 55+ approving.

There were no significant differences by gender, with 59% of males and 57% of females approving of this policy.

Tax measures

Q Would you support or oppose the following measures?

	Total support	Total oppose	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Cut corporate tax for small businesses with annual revenue/turnover of less than \$2million (90% of trading companies).	60%	17%	18%	42%	12%	5%	23%
Cut corporate tax for larger companies, those with annual revenue/turnover of \$2million or more (top 10% of trading companies).	20%	61%	5%	15%	32%	29%	20%
Change the definition of small business to give a tax cut to some companies with revenue of more than \$2 million per year, putting them in the top 10% biggest (trading) companies in Australia.	26%	41%	5%	21%	25%	16%	33%

Amongst the measures listed, 'Cut corporate tax for small businesses with annual revenue/turnover of less than \$2million (90% of trading companies)' was the only one with majority (60%) support.

A large number of Australians (61%) were opposed to 'cutting the corporate tax for larger companies, those with annual revenue/turnover of \$2million or more (top 10% of trading companies)'.

More Australians were opposed (41%) than supported (26%) changing 'the definition of small business to give a tax cut to some companies with revenue of more than \$2 million per year, putting them in the top 10% biggest (trading) companies in Australia.'



Tax measures: by vote

Q Would you support or oppose the following measures?

	Total support	Labor support	Lib/Nat support	Greens support	other support
Cut corporate tax for small businesses with annual revenue/turnover of less than \$2million (90% of trading companies).	60%	52%	72%	56%	61%
Cut corporate tax for larger companies, those with annual revenue/turnover of \$2million or more (top 10% of trading companies).	20%	15%	31%	9%	20%
Change the definition of small business to give a tax cut to some companies with revenue of more than \$2 million per year, putting them in the top 10% biggest (trading) companies in Australia.	26%	23%	37%	17%	24%

Cutting the corporate tax for small businesses with annual revenue/turnover of less than \$2million (90% of trading companies) was popular amongst all four voting groups, with 72% of Lib/Nat voters, 56% of Greens, 52% of Labor voters and 61% of other voters supporting this measure.

The other two measures were less popular, even amongst Lib/Nat voters; just 31% support cut corporate tax for larger companies, those with annual revenue/turnover of \$2million or more, and just 37% support changing the definition of small business to give a tax cut to some companies with revenue of more than \$2 million per year.



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.