

The Essential Report

18 April 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 13th to 16th April 2017 and is based on 1,017 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on US military action in Syria, global stability, housing and independent and minor party senators.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 12.

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 11/4/17	2 weeks ago 4/4/17	4 weeks ago 21/3/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	33%	35%	35%	31%	
National	3%	3%	2%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	36%	37%	37%	34%	42.0%
Labor	37%	36%	36%	37%	34.7%
Greens	10%	10%	10%	9%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	8%	8%	10%	
Other/Independent	7%	6%	6%	6%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	46%	47%	47%	45%	50.4%
Labor	54%	53%	53%	55%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,804. 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.

Approval of bombing Syria

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the US bombing of Syria in response to the Syrian Governments reported use of chemical weapons which killed civilians?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	41%	41%	55%	16%	41%
Total disapprove	36%	38%	26%	63%	39%
Strongly approve	14%	14%	20%	1%	15%
Approve	27%	27%	35%	15%	26%
Disapprove	21%	22%	16%	36%	21%
Strongly disapprove	15%	16%	10%	27%	18%
Don't know	23%	21%	20%	20%	19%

41% approve of the US bombing of Syria and 36% disapprove.

Those most likely to approve were Liberal/National voters (55%), men (50%) and aged 65+ (58%).

Those most likely to disapprove were Greens voters (63%) and aged 18-34 (43%).



Approval of sending troops into Syria

Q Would you approve or disapprove of the US sending ground troops into Syria?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	37%	41%	45%	14%	36%
Total disapprove	39%	38%	31%	69%	44%
Strongly approve	11%	14%	13%	-	10%
Approve	26%	27%	32%	14%	26%
Disapprove	25%	25%	20%	40%	27%
Strongly disapprove	14%	13%	11%	29%	17%
Don't know	24%	21%	24%	16%	20%

37% would approve of the US sending ground troops into Syria and 39% would disapprove.

Those most likely to approve were Liberal/National voters (45%) and men (42%).

Those most likely to disapprove were Greens voters (63%) and university educated (45%).



Approval of Australian military support

Q Would you approve or disapprove of the Australian Government providing military support to US actions in Syria?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	31%	34%	36%	14%	30%
Total disapprove	50%	50%	43%	74%	55%
Strongly approve	8%	8%	12%	1%	7%
Approve	23%	26%	24%	13%	23%
Disapprove	26%	26%	27%	33%	19%
Strongly disapprove	24%	24%	16%	41%	36%
Don't know	20%	15%	21%	11%	15%

31% would approve of the Australian Government providing military support to US actions in Syria and 50% would disapprove.

Those most likely to approve were Liberal/National voters (36%) and men (37%).

Those most likely to disapprove were Greens voters (74%).



Threats to global stability

Q Which of the following do you think is the biggest threat to global stability and world peace?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Terrorism	49%	48%	59%	22%	55%
US aggression	15%	18%	8%	32%	14%
Climate change	11%	13%	7%	33%	5%
Russian aggression	8%	7%	11%	7%	10%
China aggression	5%	4%	7%	1%	9%
Don't know	11%	10%	8%	4%	6%

49% think that terrorism is the biggest threat to global stability and world peace, 15% think the biggest threat is US aggression and 11% climate change.

Terrorism was thought to be the biggest threat by a majority of Liberal/National voters (59%), other party voters (55%) and aged over 65 (60%).

US aggression was thought to be the biggest threat by 32% of Greens voters and 19% of those aged 18-34.

Climate change was thought to be the biggest threat by 33% of Greens voters and 15% of university educated.

Housing affordability

Q The leader of the National Party, Barnaby Joyce, has suggested that people who cannot afford housing in Sydney and Melbourne should consider moving and buying a home in a country town or rural area. Do you think this would be a good idea or a bad idea?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total good idea	36%	33%	48%	29%	36%
Total bad idea	24%	31%	14%	37%	26%
A very good idea	12%	9%	18%	10%	13%
A good idea	24%	24%	30%	19%	23%
Neither a good nor bad idea	31%	29%	31%	30%	34%
A bad idea	12%	13%	10%	23%	11%
A very bad idea	12%	18%	4%	14%	15%
Don't know	9%	7%	6%	6%	3%

36% think it would be a good idea for people who cannot afford a house in Sydney or Melbourne to move to the country. 24% think it is a bad idea and 31% think it is neither.

Those most likely to think it is a good idea were Liberal/National voters (48%) and aged 65+ (46%).

Those most likely to think it is a bad idea were Greens voters (37%).



Accessing super to buy a home

Q Do you think people should be allowed to access their superannuation to buy a home or should superannuation be preserved for retirement?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	May 2015
Should be allowed to use to buy a home	38%	43%	34%	28%	44%	41%
Should be preserved for retirement	50%	46%	58%	60%	46%	46%
Don't know	12%	11%	8%	13%	9%	13%

38% think that people should be allowed to access their superannuation to buy a home and 50% think superannuation should be preserved for retirement. This represents a shift in opinion toward preserving superannuation for retirement since this question was asked in May 2015.

Those most likely to think people should be allowed to access their superannuation to buy a home were Labor voters (43%, other party voters (44%) and aged 35-44 (46%).

Approval ratings of Senators

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the following minor party and independent Senators?

	Total approve	Total dis-approve	Strongly approve	Approve	Dis-approve	Strongly dis-approve	Not sure	Don't know enough about them	Net Total voters	Net other party voters
Nick Xenophon	35%	25%	7%	28%	16%	9%	15%	26%	+10	+18
Derryn Hinch	35%	27%	6%	29%	17%	10%	17%	21%	+8	+30
Jacque Lambie	32%	30%	8%	24%	17%	13%	15%	23%	+2	+25
Pauline Hanson	32%	48%	9%	23%	15%	33%	10%	11%	-16	+27
David Leyonhjelm	9%	28%	2%	7%	15%	13%	14%	50%	-19	-14
Cory Bernardi	10%	34%	2%	8%	15%	19%	15%	41%	-24	-15

Cross-bench Senators with positive approval ratings were Nick Xenophon (35% approve/25% disapprove), Derryn Hinch (35%/27%) and Jacque Lambie (32%/30%). While Pauline Hanson had a similar level of approval (32%), nearly half (48%) disapproved.

David Leyonhjelm (net -19) and Cory Bernardi (-24) had substantial negative ratings.

Among other party voters, those with most positive ratings were Derryn Hinch (50% approve/20% disapprove), Pauline Hanson (58%/31%) and Jacque Lambie (48%/23%).



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.