

The Essential Report

25 April 2017



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Prepared By: Essential Research

Data Supplied by:



Essential Media Communications is a member of the Association of Market and Social Research Organisations



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 19th to 23rd April 2017 and is based on 1,017 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on 457 visas, Tony Abbott's future, Government responsibilities and voting behaviour.

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 18/4/17	2 weeks ago 11/4/17	4 weeks ago 28/3/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	34%	33%	35%	32%	
National	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	37%	36%	37%	35%	42.0%
Labor	36%	37%	36%	37%	34.7%
Greens	10%	10%	10%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	3%	4%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	8%	8%	8%	
Other/Independent	6%	7%	6%	7%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	47%	46%	47%	46%	50.4%
Labor	53%	54%	53%	54%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,809. 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.

Changes to 457 visas

Q Under 457 visas, businesses could employ foreign workers for up to 4 years in more than 650 occupations. The Federal Government is proposing to replace the 457 visas with new visas which are more restrictive and reduce the number of occupations that foreign workers can apply for. Do you think these changes –

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Go too far in regulating foreign workers	16%	22%	12%	27%	11%
Don't go far enough in regulating foreign workers	28%	27%	30%	21%	42%
Are about right	39%	34%	47%	35%	36%
Don't know	17%	17%	11%	17%	11%

39% think that the proposed changes to the 457 visa program are about right.

Those most likely to think the changes are about right were Liberal/National voters (47%) and those aged 55-64 (45%).

Those most likely to think the changes go too far are those aged 18-24 (34%) and Greens voters (27%).

Those most likely to think changes do not go far enough were those aged 65+ (43%), other party/independent voters (42%) and those earning less than \$31,200 per year (40%).

Importance of issues

Q Please rank the following issues in order of importance from 1 to 4 where 1 is the most important, 2 the second most important, etc.

Most important issue	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Restricting Australian businesses' use of foreign workers	26%	26%	24%	29%	25%
Protecting local industries from cheap imports	22%	23%	21%	20%	22%
Making companies pay tax in Australia by preventing them from shifting profits offshore	14%	14%	15%	12%	14%
Enforcing local content rules on Australian projects	38%	37%	40%	39%	38%

38% think that enforcing local content rules on Australian projects is the most important issue. Those most likely to think this were those earning less than \$31,200 (45%).

Those most likely to think that restricting Australian businesses' use of foreign workers is the most important issue were South Australians (34%) and those aged 65+ (30%).

Permanent residency changes

- Q Under the 457 visa system, visa holders could be eligible for permanent residency after 2 years. Under the new visa system, those on 4-year visas with high level skills will be eligible for permanent residency after 3 years. Do you approve or disapprove of allowing workers on visas to apply for permanent residency?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	59%	60%	68%	65%	48%
Total disapprove	23%	23%	21%	16%	35%
Strongly approve	13%	17%	13%	18%	5%
Approve	46%	43%	55%	47%	43%
Disapprove	13%	13%	14%	10%	16%
Strongly disapprove	10%	10%	7%	6%	19%
Don't know	18%	16%	11%	20%	17%

59% approve of allowing workers on visas to apply for permanent residency, and 23% disapprove.

Those most likely to approve were Liberal/National voters (68%) and those aged 18-24 (66%).

Those most likely to disapprove were those aged 65+ (36%) other party/independent voters (35%).

Permanent residency probationary visa

Q Do you agree or disagree that people applying for permanent residency in Australia should be first put on a probationary visa before being granted citizenship?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total agree	78%	79%	84%	62%	87%
Total disagree	10%	10%	9%	22%	6%
Strongly agree	37%	34%	43%	22%	51%
Agree	41%	45%	41%	40%	36%
Disagree	6%	7%	7%	11%	1%
Strongly disagree	4%	3%	2%	11%	5%
Don't know	12%	11%	8%	16%	7%

78% agree with putting people applying for permanent residency on a probationary visa, and 10% disagree.

Those most likely to agree were those aged 65+ (89%), those voting other party/independent (87%) and those voting Liberal/National (84%).

Those most likely to disagree were those voting Greens (27%) and those aged 25-34 (17%).



Tony Abbott

Q Do you think Tony Abbott should –

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Aug 2016
Stay in Parliament on the backbench	17%	17%	22%	10%	20%	21%
Stay in Parliament and be given a Ministry	17%	8%	27%	14%	21%	25%
Resign from Parliament	40%	54%	31%	57%	32%	37%
Don't know	26%	21%	20%	18%	26%	17%

40% think that Tony Abbott should resign from parliament, a slight increase from 37% when this question was last asked in August 2016.

Those most likely to think that Tony Abbott should resign were those voting Greens (57%) and Labor (54%), and South Australians (54%).

49% of Liberal/National voters think that Tony Abbott should stay in parliament, whether in the ministry or on the backbench, while 31% think that he should resign.



Government responsibilities

- Q Which of the following should be mainly the responsibility of the Federal Government and which should be mainly the responsibility of the State Governments - or should they have equal responsibility?

	Mainly Federal	Mainly State	Both equally	Don't know
Constructing new roads and highways	17%	29%	44%	10%
Investing in public transport	10%	45%	36%	8%
Improving the health system	36%	11%	47%	7%
Improving the education system	30%	14%	48%	7%
Managing mining projects and mining profits	35%	19%	34%	11%
Investing in regional areas	16%	33%	42%	8%
Managing the environment	28%	11%	53%	8%
Managing our water resources	21%	18%	52%	8%
Addressing climate change	35%	6%	48%	11%
Industrial relations issues	36%	14%	40%	10%
Reliable and affordable electricity and gas supply	27%	17%	48%	8%
Housing affordability	25%	18%	49%	9%

45% think that investing in public transport is mainly the responsibility of state governments, and 35% think that managing mining projects and mining profits is mainly the responsibility of the federal government. For all other responsibilities, the largest proportion think that responsibility should be shared equally between state and federal government.

Voting behaviour

Q Thinking about your voting in Federal and State elections, which of the following parties have you voted for over the last 10 years?

	Total	Liberal National	Labor	Greens	One Nation	PUP	Nick Xenophon Team	Family First	Other party	Independent
Liberal or National Party	48%	100%	27%	26%	52%	61%	53%	44%	37%	47%
Labor Party	47%	26%	100%	58%	43%	52%	55%	49%	60%	57%
The Greens	18%	10%	22%	100%	16%	21%	30%	43%	33%	32%
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	9%	8%	7%	100%	47%	6%	13%	20%	14%
Palmer United Party	1%	2%	1%	2%	7%	100%	4%	9%	6%	3%
Nick Xenophon Team	5%	5%	5%	8%	3%	15%	100%	27%	5%	10%
Family First	3%	3%	3%	8%	5%	22%	19%	100%	7%	7%
Some other minor party	3%	3%	4%	6%	8%	17%	4%	7%	100%	12%
An independent	11%	11%	13%	19%	19%	22%	24%	23%	39%	100%
Not sure	7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

48% of voters said they had voted Liberal/National in the past 10 years, 47% have voted Labor and 18% for the Greens.

13% of voters have voted for both Labor and Liberal/National in last 10 years.

29% have only voted Liberal/National, 23% have only voted Labor and 5% have only voted Greens



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.