

The Essential Report

22 August 2017



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Date: 22/8/2017

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 the 17th to 21st August 2017 and is based on 1,026 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on same-sex marriage and world peace.

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 15/8/17	2 weeks ago 8/8/17	4 weeks ago 25/7/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	34%	34%	34%	35%	
National	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	37%	37%	37%	38%	42.0%
Labor	37%	39%	39%	37%	34.7%
Greens	9%	9%	9%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	2%	3%	4%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	8%	8%	7%	
Other/Independent	6%	6%	5%	5%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	47%	46%	46%	47%	50.4%
Labor	53%	54%	54%	53%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,817. 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.

Same-sex marriage

Q Do you support changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other		Men	Women	Aged 18-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55+		Will definitely vote	Will probably vote	Will not vote
Yes	57%	71%	49%	69%	43%		48%	65%	65%	56%	50%		67%	57%	22%
No	32%	20%	42%	17%	49%		40%	24%	25%	30%	42%		30%	29%	59%
Don't know	11%	9%	10%	14%	8%		12%	11%	10%	14%	8%		3%	15%	19%

57% support changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry and 32% are opposed.

Those most in favour of changing the marriage laws are Labor voters (71%), Greens voters (69%), women (65%) and those aged 18-34 (65%).

Those who would definitely vote in the national survey are more likely to support same-sex marriage (67%).

A somewhat differently worded question asked in July showed 61% support for allowing same-sex couples to marry, 26% opposed and 13% don't know.



National vote on same-sex marriage

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the Government’s decision to hold a national voluntary postal vote on the issue of same-sex marriage?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Men	Women	Aged 18-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55+	Support same sex marriage	Don't support same sex marriage
Total approve	39%	37%	48%	31%	30%	41%	36%	41%	35%	39%	41%	39%
Total disapprove	49%	53%	42%	56%	61%	46%	53%	44%	52%	53%	50%	54%
Strongly approve	13%	13%	16%	7%	8%	14%	11%	14%	11%	12%	15%	12%
Approve	26%	24%	32%	24%	22%	27%	25%	27%	24%	27%	26%	27%
Disapprove	21%	23%	21%	20%	20%	18%	24%	24%	22%	17%	21%	22%
Strongly disapprove	28%	30%	21%	36%	41%	28%	29%	20%	30%	36%	29%	32%
Don't know	12%	11%	9%	14%	9%	13%	11%	15%	13%	8%	9%	7%

39% approve of the Government’s decision to hold a national voluntary postal vote on the issue of same-sex marriage and 49% disapprove.

These figures are very similar to the results of a similar question asked last week (39% approve/47% disapprove).

Those most likely to disapprove were Labor voters (53%) and Greens voters (56%).

Younger people were less likely to disapprove of the national vote than older people.

There was little difference between those who support and oppose same sex marriage in terms of approval of the national vote.



Enrolled to vote

Q Are you enrolled to vote at your current address?

	Total	Men	Women	Aged 18-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55+	Support same sex marriage	Don't support same sex marriage
Yes	88%	86%	91%	79%	91%	96%	92%	86%
No	7%	7%	7%	10%	7%	2%	5%	9%
Not sure	5%	8%	2%	11%	2%	2%	2%	5%

88% say they are enrolled to vote at their current address, 7% are not enrolled and 5% are not sure.

79% of those aged 18-34 say they are enrolled compared to 96% of those aged 55+.

Those who support same-sex marriage are a little more likely to be enrolled than those who are opposed (92% compared to 86%).



Likelihood of voting

Q How likely are you to vote in the national postal vote on same-sex marriage?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other		Men	Women	Aged 18-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55+	Support same sex marriage	Don't support same sex marriage
Total will vote	81%	84%	84%	89%	81%		78%	84%	78%	79%	87%	92%	74%
Total will not vote	10%	8%	10%	4%	12%		12%	10%	11%	12%	7%	4%	19%
Will definitely vote	63%	63%	70%	57%	65%		59%	67%	55%	63%	72%	74%	58%
Will probably vote	18%	21%	14%	32%	16%		19%	17%	23%	16%	15%	18%	16%
Will probably not vote	4%	4%	3%	1%	7%		5%	4%	7%	4%	2%	2%	7%
Will definitely not vote	6%	4%	7%	3%	5%		7%	6%	4%	8%	5%	2%	12%
Not sure	9%	8%	6%	7%	8%		10%	7%	10%	9%	6%	4%	7%

63% say they will definitely vote in the same-sex marriage national vote and 18% will probably vote.

A similar question asked in August 2016 showed - Definitely vote 48%, Probably vote 24%, Probably not vote 13%, Definitely not vote 6%, Not sure 8%.

Those most likely to definitely vote are Liberal/National voters (70%), women (67%) and aged 55+ (72%).

74% of those in favour of same-sex marriage will definitely vote compared to 58% of those opposed.



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	April 2017
Terrorism	52%	50%	61%	31%	54%	49%
North Korea aggression	14%	15%	16%	8%	15%	na
Climate change	13%	15%	9%	24%	13%	11%
US aggression	9%	10%	7%	23%	8%	15%
China aggression	2%	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%
Russian aggression	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	8%
Don't know	8%	8%	4%	10%	5%	11%

52% think that terrorism is the biggest threat to global stability and world peace, 14% think the biggest threat is North Korea aggression and 13% climate change.

Terrorism was thought to be the biggest threat by a majority of Liberal/National voters (61%).



Support US

Q If the US becomes involved in a war with North Korea, should Australia commit military support to the US?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Should commit military support	35%	34%	45%	18%	39%
Should not commit military support	38%	43%	32%	57%	38%
Don't know	26%	23%	23%	25%	23%

35% think that Australia should commit military support if the US becomes involved in a war with North Korea, 38% think they should not and 26% don't know.

Those most in favour of committing military support were Liberal/National voters (45%), men (43%) and aged 65+ (50%).

Decision on declaration of war

Q Should the decision about whether or not to declare war be made by the Prime Minister or should it be debated and voted on by Parliament?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Should be made by Prime Minister	22%	17%	33%	13%	21%
Should be voted on by Parliament	61%	68%	56%	71%	63%
Don't know	17%	16%	11%	16%	17%

61% believe that the decision about whether or not to declare war should it be debated and voted on by Parliament and 22% think it should be made by the Prime Minister.

Those most likely to favour a vote in Parliament were aged 65+ (72%), Greens voters (71%) and Labor voters (68%).



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.