

The Essential Report

29 August 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 the 24th to 28th August 2017 and is based on 1,027 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on Governments over the last 10 years, taxation, dual citizenship and Pauline Hanson.

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 22/8/17	2 weeks ago 15/8/17	4 weeks ago 1/8/17	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	34%	34%	34%	36%	
National	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	37%	37%	37%	38%	42.0%
Labor	36%	37%	39%	36%	34.7%
Greens	10%	9%	9%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	2%	4%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	8%	8%	8%	
Other/Independent	6%	6%	6%	4%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	47%	47%	46%	48%	50.4%
Labor	53%	53%	54%	52%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1,776. 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.

Best Government in last 10 years

Q How would you rate the different Federal Governments Australia has had over the last 10 years? Please rank them 1 to 4 from best to worst, where 1 is the best Government, 2 the second best, 3 the third and 4 the worst.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st Vote Labor	1 st Vote Lib/Nat	1 st Vote Greens	1 st Vote other
Kevin Rudd's (first) Labor Government	32%	27%	22%	19%	52%	8%	51%	30%
Julia Gillard's Labor Government	22%	28%	26%	24%	38%	6%	36%	19%
Tony Abbott's Coalition Government	20%	22%	21%	37%	5%	31%	2%	34%
Malcolm Turnbull's Coalition Government	26%	23%	31%	20%	6%	55%	11%	17%

Note – based on the 771 respondents who answered the question.

32% thought Kevin Rudd's Labor Government was Australia's best Government over the last 10 years, 26% selected the Turnbull Coalition Government and 22% Julia Gillard's Labor Government. 20% thought Tony Abbott's Coalition Government was the best – and 37% believed it was the worst. 25% of respondents said "don't know" and these have been excluded from these figures.

Opinions mainly follow party preferences, 90% of Labor voters selected a Labor Government and 86% of Liberal/National voters selected a Coalition Government. Greens voters preferred Labor Governments, while other party voters were divided – 34% preferred Tony Abbott's Coalition Government and 30% selected Kevin Rudd's Labor Government.

On a head-to-head basis –

57% rank Kevin Rudd ahead of Julia Gillard, 60% rank him ahead of Tony Abbott and 55% rank him better than Malcolm Turnbull.

54% rank Julia Gillard ahead of Tony Abbott and 51% rank her better than Malcolm Turnbull.

61% rank Malcolm Turnbull ahead of Tony Abbott.



Fairness of tax system

Q Now thinking about taxes – overall, how fair do you think our present Federal tax system is?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Income less than \$600 pw	Income \$600 - \$1,000 pw	Income \$1,000 - \$1,600 pw	Income \$1,600-\$2,000 pw	Income \$2,000 + pw	Dec 2015	Apr 2016
Total fair	40%	36%	57%	26%	28%	43%	38%	40%	41%	43%	40%	36%
Total not fair	51%	58%	36%	67%	67%	46%	49%	53%	54%	51%	52%	55%
Very fair	4%	4%	6%	-	3%	7%	4%	2%	2%	5%	4%	3%
Moderately fair	36%	32%	51%	26%	25%	36%	34%	38%	39%	38%	36%	33%
Not too fair	27%	27%	23%	39%	30%	24%	23%	28%	28%	30%	30%	30%
Not fair at all	24%	31%	13%	28%	37%	22%	26%	25%	26%	21%	22%	25%
Don't know	10%	7%	65	6%	5%	115	13%	7%	5%	6%	8%	10%

40% think the Federal tax system is very or moderately fair and 51% think it is not too fair or not fair at all. This represents a small shift toward thinking the tax system is fair since this question was asked in April last year.

Those most likely to think it not fair were Greens voters (67%) and other voters (67%).

Those most likely to think it is fair were Liberal/National voters (57%) and university educated (49%).

There was little difference across income groups.



View of tax system

Q How much, if at all, does each of the following bother you about the Federal tax system? Do they bother you a lot, some, not too much, or not at all?

	A lot	Some	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know	Dec 2015
The feeling that some corporations don't pay their fair share	60%	24%	8%	2%	6%	59%
The feeling that some wealthy people don't pay their fair share	53%	25%	12%	4%	6%	54%
The complexity of the tax system	26%	37%	22%	7%	9%	28%
The amount you pay in taxes	22%	34%	24%	11%	9%	23%
The feeling that some poor people don't pay their fair share	12%	20%	28%	32%	8%	12%

60% are bothered a lot by the feeling that some corporations don't pay their fair share of tax and 53% are bothered a lot by the feeling that some wealthy people don't pay their fair share.

26% are bothered a lot by the complexity of the system, 22% by the amount of tax they pay and 12% by the feeling that some poor people don't pay their fair share. These figures have changed little since this question was asked in December 2015.

Bothered a lot	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Income less than \$600 pw	Income \$600 - \$1,000 pw	Income \$1,000 - \$1,600 pw	Income \$1,600- \$2,000 pw	Income \$2,000 + pw
The feeling that some corporations don't pay their fair share	60%	71%	51%	67%	69%	64%	66%	62%	59%	59%
The feeling that some wealthy people don't pay their fair share	53%	66%	40%	66%	60%	59%	52%	58%	55%	50%
The complexity of the tax system	26%	28%	25%	16%	36%	27%	28%	28%	22%	28%
The amount you pay in taxes	22%	20%	19%	21%	36%	12%	18%	22%	31%	26%
The feeling that some poor people don't pay their fair share	12%	13%	14%	4%	14%	9%	8%	12%	17%	17%

Those more likely to be bothered by the feeling that some corporations don't pay their fair share were Labor voters (71%), Greens voters (71%), other party voters (69%), aged 55+ (77%), incomes \$600-1,000 pw (66%) and those not working (66%).

Those more likely to be bothered by the feeling that some wealthy people don't pay their fair share were aged 45+ (63%), Labor voters (66%) and Greens voters (66%).

Those more likely to be bothered by the complexity of the tax system were aged 55-64 (39%).

Those more likely to be bothered by the amount they pay were aged 35-44 (31%), other party voters (36%) and families with dependent children (29%).

Those more likely to be bothered by the feeling that some poor people don't pay their fair share were aged 35-44 (19%) and full-time workers (17%).



Dual citizenship

- Q Two members of Parliament have resigned and the position of several others is under question because they may be dual citizens of other countries. Do you think dual citizens should or should not be allowed to be members of Parliament?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Should be allowed	41%	37%	53%	42%	30%
Should not be allowed	40%	49%	34%	33%	54%
Don't know	18%	14%	13%	25%	17%

41% think that dual citizens should be allowed to be members of Parliament and 40% think they should not.

Those most likely to think they should be allowed to be members of Parliament were Liberal/National voters (53%) and university educated (49%).

Those most likely to think they should be not allowed to be members of Parliament were Labor voters (49%), other party voters (54%) and aged 45-54 (50%).

Should Ministers stand down

- Q Should Ministers who may hold dual citizenship – such as Barnaby Joyce and Fiona Nash – stand down until their cases are decided by the High Court?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Should stand down	41%	59%	25%	47%	45%
Should not stand down	40%	28%	59%	33%	40%
Don't know	19%	13%	15%	21%	15%

41% think that Ministers who may hold dual citizenship should stand down until their cases are decided by the High Court and 40% think they should not.

59% of Labor voters think they should stand down and 59% of Liberal/National voters think they should not.

Citizenship audit

Q Do you think there needs to be a review of all members of Parliament to identify all who might be dual citizens?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Needs to be a review	59%	62%	62%	52%	68%
Does not need to be a review	25%	27%	28%	26%	19%
Don't know	16%	12%	10%	23%	13%

A majority (59%) think that there needs to be a review of all members of Parliament to identify all who might be dual citizens and 25% think a review in not needed.

Those most likely to support a review where other party voters (68%) and aged 65+ (79%).

Pauline Hanson

Q Last week Pauline Hanson wore a burka into Parliament to draw attention to her view that wearing burkas should be banned in Australia. Do you approve or disapprove of her actions in wearing the burka into Parliament?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	39%	31%	46%	13%	67%
Total disapprove	38%	51%	32%	63%	16%
Strongly approve	21%	15%	20%	10%	47%
Approve	18%	16%	26%	3%	20%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%	13%	19%	19%	14%
Disapprove	10%	11%	10%	8%	6%
Strongly disapprove	28%	40%	22%	55%	10%
Didn't know about it	2%	2%	1%	1%	-
Don't know	5%	3%	2%	4%	4%

39% approved of Pauline Hanson wearing a burka into Parliament and 38% disapproved. A majority of Labor (51%) and Greens voters (63%) disapproved. 67% of other party voters approved while Liberal/National voters were more likely to approve (46%) than disapprove (32%).

50% of those aged 65+ approved.

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.

