

The Essential Report

27 February 2018



The Essential Report

Date: 27/02/2018

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 22nd to 25th February 2018 and is based on 1,028 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on bans on sex, Barnaby Joyce, Government priorities and health insurance.

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	2 weeks ago 13/2/18	4 weeks ago 30/1/18	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	32%	33%	32%	
National	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	35%	36%	35%	42.0%
Labor	35%	37%	36%	34.7%
Greens	10%	10%	10%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	2%	4%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	8%	6%	8%	
Other/Independent	10%	7%	8%	13.1%
2 party preferred				
Liberal National	47%	46%	46%	50.4%
Labor	53%	54%	54%	49.6%

NB. 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.

Bans on sex

Q Do you support or oppose the following bans on sex?

	Total support	Total oppose	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Ban on sex between Ministers and their staff	50%	32%	24%	26%	20%	12%	19%
Ban on politicians having extra-marital sex	44%	36%	25%	19%	21%	15%	21%
Ban on sex between managers and their staff in the workplace	48%	35%	22%	26%	22%	13%	17%
Ban on sex between workmates in general	22%	55%	9%	13%	33%	22%	22%

	Total support	Vote Labor	Vote LNP	Vote Greens	Vote other
Ban on sex between Ministers and their staff	50%	51%	44%	57%	58%
Ban on politicians having extra-marital sex	44%	46%	43%	45%	46%
Ban on sex between managers and their staff in the workplace	48%	49%	51%	51%	47%
Ban on sex between workmates in general	22%	23%	23%	23%	25%

50% support a ban on sex between Ministers and their staff and they are also more likely to support than oppose bans on politicians having extra-marital sex (44% to 36%) and bans on sex between managers and their staff in the workplace (48% to 35%). However they do not support a ban on sex between workmates in general (55% oppose).

Liberal National voters are less likely to support a ban on sex between Ministers and their staff (44% support and 44% oppose).



Bans on Ministers

Q Which statement is closest to your view?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote LNP	Vote Greens	Vote other
The Prime Minister is right to ban sexual relationships between ministers and their staff because of the power imbalance in the relationship	39%	38%	40%	41%	44%
The Government has no right to ban consensual relationships between adults, the ban is unenforceable but they do have the right to insist that such relationships are declared	48%	44%	53%	50%	50%
Don't know	13%	18%	7%	9%	6%

48% agree more with the statement that the Government has no right to ban consensual relationships between adults and 39% agree more that the Prime Minister is right to ban sexual relationships between ministers and their staff. 53% of Liberal National voters agree more that the Government has no right to ban consensual relationships between adults compared to 44% of Labor voters.



Barnaby Joyce

Q Do you think Barnaby Joyce should remain as leader of the National Party or should he resign?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote LNP	Vote Greens	Vote other
Should remain leader of the National party	19%	16%	27%	7%	23%
Should resign as leader but stay in Parliament	26%	21%	35%	27%	27%
Should resign as leader and leave Parliament	34%	44%	23%	44%	38%
Don't know	21%	19%	15%	21%	12%

34% believe that Barnaby Joyce should resign as leader of the National Party and leave Parliament, 26% think he should resign as leader and stay in Parliament and 19% think he should stay as leader. In aggregate, while 60% think he should resign as leader, 45% think he should stay in Parliament.

Among Liberal National voters, 35% think he should resign as leader and stay in Parliament, 27% think he should stay as leader and 23% think he should resign and leave Parliament.

Note that Barnaby Joyce announced his resignation as leader while this poll was being conducted - hence some responses occurred before the announcement and some after.

Media reporting private affairs

Q In general, do you approve or disapprove of the media reporting on politicians' private affairs?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote LNP	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total approve	44%	49%	42%	53%	47%
Total disapprove	41%	36%	51%	38%	43%
Strongly approve	13%	17%	8%	18%	18%
Approve	31%	32%	34%	35%	29%
Disapprove	23%	24%	26%	27%	22%
Strongly disapprove	18%	12%	25%	11%	21%
Don't know	14%	16%	8%	8%	9%

44% approve of the media reporting on politicians' private affairs and 41% disapprove.

Those most likely to approve were Greens voters (53%), Labor voters (49%) and aged 25-44 (52%).

Those most likely to disapprove were Liberal National voters (51%) and aged 55+ (60%).

Concerns about Barnaby Joyce affair

Q How concerning are the following issues regarding the Barnaby Joyce affair?

	A major concern	A moderate concern	Not much of a concern	Not sure
Alleged excessive use of travel entitlements by Joyce to be with Ms Campion	60%	22%	10%	8%
Potential misuse of Ministerial office in finding the staff member work in others office without due process	50%	29%	12%	9%
Free accommodation being provided to Joyce and Ms Campion in Armidale by a wealthy local businessman	45%	22%	24%	8%
He failed to declare the relationship to the PM who oversees the Ministerial Code of Conduct	36%	32%	23%	9%
He had a relationship with his staff member	23%	29%	40%	8%

	Total major concern	Vote Labor	Vote LNP	Vote Greens	Vote other
Alleged excessive use of travel entitlements by Joyce to be with Ms Campion	60%	61%	53%	75%	71%
Potential misuse of Ministerial office in finding the staff member work in others office without due process	50%	53%	44%	59%	57%
Free accommodation being provided to Joyce and Ms Campion in Armidale by a wealthy local businessman	45%	51%	36%	55%	54%
He failed to declare the relationship to the PM who oversees the Ministerial Code of Conduct	36%	36%	35%	47%	40%
He had a relationship with his staff member	23%	26%	20%	29%	27%

The main concerns about the Barnaby Joyce affair were alleged misuse of travel entitlements (60%), potential misuse of Ministerial office (50%) and the free accommodation being provided by a local businessman (45%).

Only 23% think that his relationship with his staff member is a major concern.

Liberal National voters tended to be less concerned about each aspect of this affair.

67% of women thought the alleged excessive use of travel entitlements was a major concern compared to 54% of men.



Government priorities

Q What is your view about the following issues and whether they should be a priority for the Government to address?

	I support this and it should be a high priority	I support this but it is not a high priority	I don't support this	Not sure
Meeting the Close the Gap indigenous health targets	43%	32%	14%	12%
Establishing an indigenous 'voice' to advise the Parliament	31%	37%	21%	11%
Including aboriginal recognition in the constitution	30%	40%	18%	12%
A treaty with indigenous Australia	27%	32%	26%	14%
Australia becoming a republic	21%	25%	35%	20%
Changing the date of Australia Day	11%	16%	60%	13%

43% think that meeting the Close the Gap indigenous health targets should be a high priority for the Government, 31% think establishing an indigenous 'voice' to advise the Parliament should be a high priority and 30% think that including aboriginal recognition in the constitution should be a high priority.

More than half the respondents supported each of the indigenous issues. They were split over becoming a republic (46% support/35% oppose) and only 27% supported changing the date of Australia Day.

Labor voters and Greens voters showed higher support for each issue and Liberal National voters and other voters lower support.

52% of men supported becoming a republic compared to 39% of women. 38% of those aged 25-44 supported changing the date of Australia Day compared to 17% those aged 55+.



	Total high priority	Vote Labor	Vote LNP	Vote Greens	Vote other
Meeting the Close the Gap indigenous health targets	43%	51%	34%	62%	38%
Establishing an indigenous 'voice' to advise the Parliament	31%	41%	22%	53%	23%
Including aboriginal recognition in the constitution	30%	41%	19%	52%	21%
A treaty with indigenous Australia	27%	37%	15%	48%	19%
Australia becoming a republic	21%	27%	16%	31%	18%
Changing the date of Australia Day	11%	11%	7%	34%	8%



Health insurance

Q Most Australians with private health insurance currently receive a subsidy from the Australian Government to help cover the cost of their premiums. Would you support or oppose abolishing the subsidy and using those funds to include dental care within Medicare?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote LNP	Vote Greens	Vote other
Total support	48%	55%	39%	65%	49%
Total oppose	32%	27%	45%	17%	35%
Strongly support	22%	28%	13%	31%	28%
Support	26%	27%	26%	34%	21%
Oppose	13%	11%	18%	6%	16%
Strongly oppose	19%	16%	27%	11%	19%
Don't know	20%	17%	16%	18%	16%

48% supported abolishing the private health insurance subsidy and using those funds to include dental care within Medicare and 32% opposed.

Those most likely to support this idea were Greens voters (65%), Labor voters (55%) and aged 18-34 (57%)

Those most likely to oppose were Liberal National voters (45%) and aged 55+ (44%).

Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a fortnightly online omnibus conducted by Your Source. Essential Research has been utilizing the Your Source online panel to conduct opinion polling since November 2007.

Every two weeks, the team at Essential considers 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 current media and social issues.

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 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. 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.