

# The Essential Report

8 July 2019



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**Prepared By:** Essential Research

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**Data Supplied by:**



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 Qualtrics. The survey was conducted online from 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and is based on 1,099 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on the direction and policies of the Government, freedom of speech, Israel Folau and Rugby Australia, and the greatest scientific achievement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix at the end of the report.

Note that due to rounding, not all tables necessarily total 100% and subtotals may also vary.

## Direction and policies of the new Government

Q Do you think the direction and policies of the new Government over the next three years will be good or bad for each of the following?

	NET: Very good/Quite good	NET: Very bad/Quite bad	Very good	Quite good	Neither good nor bad	Quite bad	Very bad	Don't know
Large companies and corporations	<b>54%</b>	<b>11%</b>	18%	36%	27%	7%	4%	9%
Australia in general	<b>36%</b>	<b>27%</b>	7%	29%	30%	17%	10%	7%
The economy	<b>33%</b>	<b>29%</b>	7%	26%	31%	19%	10%	7%
Small business	<b>33%</b>	<b>27%</b>	6%	27%	31%	19%	8%	8%
Younger Australians	<b>31%</b>	<b>32%</b>	6%	25%	30%	20%	12%	7%
You and your family	<b>28%</b>	<b>30%</b>	6%	23%	35%	18%	12%	8%
Farmers and rural communities	<b>27%</b>	<b>33%</b>	6%	21%	31%	22%	11%	9%
The environment	<b>26%</b>	<b>33%</b>	6%	20%	33%	16%	16%	8%
Older Australians	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	5%	20%	28%	23%	15%	8%

- Large companies were seen to be the main beneficiaries of Government direction and policies, with 54% predicting it would be Very, or Quite good for them
- Less than a third (28%) thought the direction and policies would be good for them, and their families.
- It is expected that older Australians (38%), the environment (33%) and farmers and rural communities (33%) will have a bad time over the next three years as a result of the Governments' direction and policies.



	NET: Very good/Quite good	Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
Large companies and corporations	<b>54%</b>	58%	57%	54%	55%
Australia in general	<b>36%</b>	20%	60%	17%	30%
The economy	<b>33%</b>	17%	57%	21%	26%
Small business	<b>33%</b>	24%	52%	17%	26%
Younger Australians	<b>31%</b>	19%	48%	23%	29%
You and your family	<b>28%</b>	18%	45%	18%	19%
Farmers and rural communities	<b>27%</b>	20%	39%	19%	22%
The environment	<b>26%</b>	18%	39%	14%	27%
Older Australians	<b>26%</b>	18%	37%	22%	18%

- Coalition voters were more likely than Labor, Greens or Other voters to say the direction and policies of the new Government would be very good for all groups listed – except for large companies and corporations. 14% of Coalition voters said the direction and policies of the new Government would be very good for large companies and corporations, compared to 23% of Labor voters and 25% of Greens voters.



	NET: Very good/Quite good	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Large companies and corporations	<b>54%</b>	58%	50%	47%	52%	62%
Australia in general	<b>36%</b>	41%	32%	38%	32%	39%
The economy	<b>33%</b>	37%	30%	32%	30%	38%
Small business	<b>33%</b>	39%	28%	29%	33%	38%
Younger Australians	<b>31%</b>	34%	29%	31%	27%	35%
You and your family	<b>28%</b>	33%	24%	34%	27%	25%
Farmers and rural communities	<b>27%</b>	31%	22%	28%	26%	27%
The environment	<b>26%</b>	29%	23%	28%	24%	27%
Older Australians	<b>26%</b>	29%	22%	33%	26%	18%

- Males were more likely than females to think that the direction and policies of the new Government would be very good or quite good for all the groups asked: you and your family (33% to 24%), small business (39% to 28%), large companies and corporations (58% to 50%), Australia in general (41% to 32%), the environment (29% to 23%), the economy (37% to 30%), older Australians (29% to 22%), younger Australians (34% to 29%), and farmers and rural communities (31% to 22%).
- 50% of older Australians thought that the direction and policies of the new Government would be very bad or quite bad for older Australians, compared to 37% of 35 to 54 year olds and 25% of 18 to 34 year olds.



## Freedom of speech

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding freedom of speech?

	NET: Agree	NET: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
It is only right that people consider how what they say can affect others	69%	9%	32%	37%	22%	6%	3%
People should not be allowed to argue religious freedom to abuse others	64%	13%	36%	28%	23%	7%	6%
Nowadays, people are unlikely to say what they really think, as they are afraid of how others will react	64%	16%	28%	36%	20%	11%	5%
Employers should not have the right to dictate what their employees say outside work	58%	18%	29%	29%	24%	12%	6%
There should be stronger laws to protect people who express their religious views in public	38%	28%	16%	22%	34%	16%	12%

- Over two thirds (69%) of Australians agreed that it is only right that people consider how what they say affects others. A large majority agreed that religious freedom should not be used to abuse others (64%).
- There is some concern for freedom of speech, with 64% agreeing that people are unlikely to say what they really think, as they are afraid of how others will react and 58% agreeing that employers should not have the right to dictate what their employees say outside work.
- Despite this, just 38% agree that stronger laws are needed to protect people to express their religious views.

	NET: Very good/Quite good	Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
It is only right that people consider how what they say can affect others	<b>69%</b>	76%	71%	73%	56%
People should not be allowed to argue religious freedom to abuse others	<b>64%</b>	68%	64%	75%	60%
Nowadays, people are unlikely to say what they really think, as they are afraid of how others will react	<b>64%</b>	61%	74%	47%	72%
Employers should not have the right to dictate what their employees say outside work	<b>58%</b>	59%	62%	55%	62%
There should be stronger laws to protect people who express their religious views in public	<b>38%</b>	38%	44%	29%	35%

- Less than half (44%) of Coalition voters agree that there should be stronger laws to protect people who express their religious views in public.
- 74% of Coalition voters agreed that 'Nowadays, people are unlikely to say what they really think, as they are afraid of how others will react', compared to 61% of Labor voters and 47% of Greens voters. Agreement with this statement was higher for those aged over 55 (75% agreement) than 35 to 54 year olds (62%) or 18 to 34 year olds (52%).



	NET: Agree	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
It is only right that people consider how what they say can affect others	<b>69%</b>	63%	74%	61%	67%	77%
People should not be allowed to argue religious freedom to abuse others	<b>64%</b>	60%	68%	56%	66%	69%
Nowadays, people are unlikely to say what they really think, as they are afraid of how others will react	<b>64%</b>	65%	63%	52%	62%	75%
Employers should not have the right to dictate what their employees say outside work	<b>58%</b>	60%	56%	48%	58%	67%
There should be stronger laws to protect people who express their religious views in public	<b>38%</b>	38%	38%	40%	37%	38%

- 74% of women agreed that ‘It is only right that people consider how what they say can affect others’, compared to 63% of men. Older people were also more likely to agree with the statement, with 77% of over-55s agreeing compared to 61% of 18 to 34 year olds.
- Agreement that ‘Employers should not have the right to dictate what their employees say outside work’ was higher for those over 55 (67%) than those than those between 35 and 54 (58%) or between 18 and 34 (48%).



## Awareness of dispute between Rugby Australia and Israel Folau

Q How closely have you been following the dispute between Rugby Australia and Israel Folau, following comments the player made on social media?

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
I have been following the dispute closely	<b>22%</b>	28%	16%	18%	20%	27%
I have read or seen some news about the dispute	<b>46%</b>	43%	49%	40%	45%	53%
I am aware of the dispute, but don't know any details	<b>17%</b>	16%	18%	19%	17%	15%
I am not aware of the dispute	<b>15%</b>	13%	17%	24%	17%	5%

- 28% of men stated that they have been following the dispute closely, compared to 16% of women.
- 18% of 18 to 34 year olds stated that they have been the dispute closely, compared to 27% of over 55 year olds.
- High-income earners were more likely than low- or mid-income earners to have been following the dispute closely (32% compared to 20% for both low- and mid-income earners).
- University-educated respondents were also more likely to be following the dispute closely (28%) than those with a secondary school education (18%) or a professional qualification (20%).



## General opinions on the dispute between Rugby Australia and Israel Folau

Q Do you see the Israel Folau situation as being:

	Total	Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
Mainly about Folau's freedom of speech and right to express his religious views	43%	35%	49%	28%	50%
Mainly about whether Rugby Australia should be able to dismiss an employee who is in breach of contract	49%	57%	45%	61%	41%
Don't know	9%	6%	11%	9%	12%

- Among those who have been following the dispute (either following it closely, or read or seen some news about it), the public is split, with similar proportions thinking the dispute between Rugby Australia and Israel Folau is mainly about Folau's freedom of speech and right to express his religious views (43%) and those thinking it's mainly about whether Rugby Australia should be able to dismiss an employee who is in breach of contract (49%).
- Slightly more Australians stated that the Israel Folau dispute is mainly about a breach of his contract (49%) than freedom of speech (43%).
- Coalition voters were more likely to select that the dispute is about Folau's freedom of speech (49%) than Labor (35%) or Greens voters (28%).

## Attitudes towards the dispute between Rugby Australia and Israel Folau

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the ongoing dispute between Israel Folau and Rugby Australia?

	NET: Agree	NET: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Israel Folau chose to share his religious views on social media and should take responsibility for them	<b>68%</b>	<b>7%</b>	45%	23%	15%	4%	3%	10%
Israel Folau has used his public profile to attack a minority group in the community	<b>51%</b>	<b>20%</b>	33%	18%	17%	10%	10%	13%
The actions of Israel Folau have caused damage to the Wallabies team and rugby in Australia	<b>46%</b>	<b>21%</b>	25%	20%	21%	11%	10%	12%
Israel Folau has the right to voice his religious views, regardless of the hurt it could cause others	<b>34%</b>	<b>36%</b>	16%	18%	20%	15%	20%	10%

- A majority of Australians agreed that 'Israel Folau chose to share his religious views on social media and should take responsibility for them' and that 'Israel Folau has used his public profile to attack a minority group in the community'.

	NET: Agree	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Israel Folau chose to share his religious views on social media and should take responsibility for them	68%	69%	67%	55%	66%	81%
Israel Folau has used his public profile to attack a minority group in the community	51%	48%	54%	42%	49%	59%
The actions of Israel Folau have caused damage to the Wallabies team and rugby in Australia	46%	45%	47%	44%	45%	48%
Israel Folau has the right to voice his religious views, regardless of the hurt it could cause others	34%	38%	30%	35%	33%	34%

- 81% of over 55s agreed that ‘Israel Folau chose to share his religious views on social media, and should take responsibility for them’, compared to 66% of 35 to 54 year olds and 55% of 18 to 34 year olds. These groups were more likely to select ‘Don’t know’.
- Similarly, 59% of over 55s agreed that ‘Israel Folau has used his public profile to attack a minority group in the community’ compared to 42% of 18 to 34 year olds. Younger Australians were more likely to select ‘Don’t know’ (19% to 7% of over 55s).
- 38% of men agreed that ‘Israel Folau has the right to voice his religious views, regardless of the hurt it could cause others’, while only 30% of women agreed.
- Coalition voters were more likely than Labor or Greens voters to agree that ‘Israel Folau has the right to voice his religious views, regardless of the hurt it could cause others’. 41% of Coalition voters agreed, while 30% of Labor voters and 20% of Greens voters did so.



## Greatest scientific achievement of 20<sup>th</sup> century

Q Which of the following do you think was the greatest scientific achievement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Discovery of penicillin	<b>40%</b>	36%	43%	24%	36%	56%
Launch of the World Wide Web	<b>18%</b>	20%	17%	21%	20%	14%
First person to walk on the moon	<b>10%</b>	11%	8%	10%	10%	9%
First powered aircraft flight	<b>8%</b>	10%	7%	12%	8%	5%
Generation of electricity from nuclear power	<b>6%</b>	6%	7%	10%	5%	4%
Introduction of the contraceptive pill	<b>6%</b>	3%	8%	8%	5%	4%
Invention of the television	<b>5%</b>	6%	4%	4%	7%	3%
World's first cloned animal	<b>2%</b>	3%	2%	4%	2%	1%
First person to reach the South Pole	<b>2%</b>	1%	2%	4%	1%	0%
Other scientific achievement	<b>3%</b>	4%	3%	2%	5%	3%

- The discovery of penicillin was the most selected event, with 40% selecting it as the greatest scientific achievement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of humans setting foot on the moon, 10% regard this as the greatest scientific achievement, behind the launch of the internet, selected by 18% of people.
- Over 55s were more likely to select the discovery of penicillin (56%) than younger respondents (36% of 35 to 54 year olds and 24% of 18 to 34 year olds).
- Those with a university education were more likely to select the launch of the World Wide Web (25%) than those with a secondary education (14%) or a professional qualification (16%).
- Just 5% regarded the invention of the television as the greatest scientific achievement of the previous century.



## Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a fortnightly online omnibus conducted by Qualtrics.

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.

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 online omnibus is live from the Wednesday night and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants. 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 staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour.