

**Trends in Australian Political Opinion**  
Results from the Australian Election Study  
1987–2016

Sarah M. Cameron  
Ian McAllister

# Appendix

## Question Wording and Tables

Sarah Cameron  
School of Politics and International Relations  
The Australian National University  
E [sarah.cameron@anu.edu.au](mailto:sarah.cameron@anu.edu.au)

Ian McAllister  
School of Politics and International Relations  
The Australian National University  
E [ian.mcallister@anu.edu.au](mailto:ian.mcallister@anu.edu.au)

# 1. The election campaign

## Followed the election in the mass media (Television)

### 1969: 'First of all, did you follow the election campaign on television?'

	1969
Yes	62.9
No	31.1
Don't have TV	5.8
(N)	1,872

### 1967, 1979: 'Do you follow politics much on television?'

	1967	1979
Yes	34.4	59.3
No	65.6	39.9
(N)	2,032	2,015

### 1987–90: 'During the election campaign, how often did you follow the election news on television, or did you follow it at all?'

	1987	1990
Often	51.9	42.2
Sometimes	32.1	36.9
Rarely	10.6	14.4
Not at all	5.4	6.5
(N)	1,771	2,007

### 1993–2016: 'Did you follow the election campaign news on television?'

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A good deal	41.9	30.5	32.3	26.4	28.0	36.5	35.7	30.4	24.7
Some	38.1	39.0	44.1	42.2	41.0	40.1	41.3	39.3	42.9
Not much	15.8	23.3	18.3	22.4	23.9	17.6	17.5	20.4	22.2
None at all	4.1	7.2	5.3	9.0	7.1	5.8	5.4	9.9	10.2
(N)	2,270	1,733	1,815	1,867	1,665	1,817	2,042	3,898	2,616

(N) = number

### Followed the election in the mass media (Radio)

#### 1969: 'Did you follow the election campaign on the radio?'

	1969
Yes	18.1
No	81.9
(N)	1,855

#### 1967, 1979: 'Do you follow politics much on the radio?'

	1967	1979
Yes	16.8	32.2
No	83.2	66.9
(N)	2,038	2,012

#### 1987–90: 'And how often did you follow the election news on the radio?'

	1987	1990
Often	30.2	22.5
Sometimes	27.7	29.2
Rarely	20.3	24.6
Not at all	21.7	23.6
(N)	1,594	1,916

#### 1993–2016: 'And did you follow the election campaign news on the radio?'

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A good deal	21.4	14.7	17.5	16.0	14.2	19.1	16.8	15.1	14.6
Some	33.4	31.1	32.6	27.2	29.9	30.8	31.2	29.8	30.2
Not much	25.9	30.4	26.2	29.2	30.7	26.8	29.3	26.4	29.8
None at all	19.3	23.8	23.7	27.7	25.2	23.3	22.7	28.6	25.5
(N)	2,102	1,642	1,686	1,818	1,622	1,664	1,874	3,534	2,493

### Followed the election in the mass media (Newspaper)

#### 1969: 'Did you follow the election campaign in the (first newspaper mentioned)?'

	1969
Yes	55.0
No	40.7
Don't read newspapers	4.3
(N)	1,866

#### 1967, 1979: 'Do you follow news about politics much in (first newspaper mentioned)?'

	1967	1979
Yes	39.7	47.9
No	53.4	46.5
Don't read newspapers	6.9	5.6
(N)	2,054	2,011

#### 1987-90: 'And how about newspapers, how often did you follow the election news there?'

	1987	1990
Often	33.1	27.4
Sometimes	32.3	32.2
Rarely	19.0	23.3
Not at all	15.6	16.9
(N)	1,622	1,924

#### 1993-2016: 'How much attention did you pay to reports about the election campaign in the newspapers?'

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A good deal	29.1	18.4	21.1	16.0	15.2	21.1	19.8	16.6	16.8
Some	38.4	40.2	41.6	37.4	41.7	40.0	41.8	33.6	33.6
Not much	23.5	29.1	26.2	30.9	30.1	26.7	28.7	30.3	26.2
None at all	8.9	12.3	11.1	15.6	13.0	12.2	9.6	19.5	23.4
(N)	2,359	1,787	1,876	1,998	1,744	1,836	2,059	3,941	2,571

#### Followed the election in the mass media (Talkback radio)

**2001–04: ‘There are a number of programs on radio in which people call in to voice their opinions about politics. How often do you listen to political talkback radio programs of this type?’**

	2001	2004
Every day	5.9	4.8
Most days	9.0	10.3
Once or twice a week	8.7	8.9
Only occasionally	25.6	29.4
Not at all	50.8	46.7
(N)	2,000	1,751

#### Followed the election in the mass media (Internet)

**1998–2013: ‘Did you make use of the internet at all to get news or information about the (1998/2001/2004/2007/2010/2013) Federal election?’**

	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013
Don’t have access	72.6	40.7	33.3	25.2	17.1	13.1
Have access but didn’t use	22.9	49.8	54.7	54.9	46.6	45.7
Once or twice	2.7	5.8	5.6	8.8	14.0	15.2
On several occasions	0.9	2.6	3.1	5.8	12.4	11.8
Many times	0.8	1.5	3.2	5.3	9.8	14.2
(N)	1,826	1,763	1,998	1,834	2,034	3,897

**2007–2016: ‘And how about the internet-did you follow the election campaign news on the internet?’**

	2007	2010	2013	2016
A good deal	6.6	9.7	14.2	18.5
Some	8.9	19.7	19.4	27.5
Not much	13.0	19.9	20.5	22.4

## Watched the leaders' debates

### 1990: 'Did you watch the televised debate between Bob Hawke and Andrew Peacock on Sunday 25 February?'

	1990
Yes	55.8
No	44.2
(N)	2,024

### 1993, 1996: 'Did you watch the two televised debates between Paul Keating and (1993: John Hewson; 1996: John Howard)?'

	1993	1996
Watched both	39.7	32.2
Watched one only	30.8	25.8
Didn't watch either	29.5	42.0
(N)	2,359	1,784

### 1998–2007: 'Did you watch the televised debate between John Howard and (1998, 2001: Kim Beazley; 2004: Mark Latham, 2007: Kevin Rudd) on (1998: Sunday 13 September; 2001: Sunday 14 October; 2004: Sunday 12 September; 2007: Sunday 21 October)?'

	1998	2001	2004	2007
Yes	42.7	40.1	35.0	46.5
No	57.3	59.9	65.0	53.5
(N)	1,871	1,957	1,752	1,850

### 2010–2013: 'Did you watch the televised debate between Tony Abbott and (2010: Julia Gillard; 2013: Kevin Rudd) on (2010: Sunday 25 July; 2013: Sunday 11 August)?'

	2010	2013
Yes	46.7	32.2
No	53.3	67.8
(N)	2,053	3,835

### 2016: 'Did you watch the televised debate between Bill Shorten and Malcolm Turnbull on Sunday 29 May?'

	2016
Yes	20.6
No	79.4
(N)	2,699

## Interest in the election

### 1993–2016: 'And how much interest would you say you took in the election campaign overall?'

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A good deal	49.1	34.2	37.6	30.7	29.7	40.2	34.2	32.7	29.9
Some	34.9	40.7	41.7	39.7	44.4	40.8	43.5	38.6	41.9
Not much	13.8	21.1	17.1	23.3	20.7	15.2	18.8	22.6	23.3
None at all	2.2	4.0	3.7	6.3	5.1	3.8	3.5	6.0	5.0
(N)	3,004	1,785	1,877	1,975	1,735	1,830	2,047	3,922	2,689

### 1967–1969: 'Would you say that you usually care a good deal which party wins a general election or that you don't care very much with party wins?'

	1967	1969
Care a good deal	60.2	65.9
Don't care very much	39.8	34.1
(N)	1,957	1,843

### 1987–2016: 'Would you say you cared a good deal which party won the federal election or that you did not care very much which party won?'

	1987
Cared a good deal	78.8
Didn't care very much	21.2
(N)	1,782

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Cared a good deal	82.3	74.8	74.0	65.0	71.7	75.9	67.6	68.3	65.2
Didn't care much	15.4	21.6	22.3	28.2	24.9	21.3	27.4	25.8	28.0
Didn't care at all	2.2	3.7	3.7	6.8	3.4	2.8	5.0	5.9	6.8
(N)	3,002	1,776	1,875	1,977	1,977	1,835	2,056	3,940	2,700

### Contacted by a candidate or political party

**2001–2007: ‘During the election campaign, did a candidate or anyone from a political party contact you to persuade you to vote for them?’**

	2001	2004	2007
Yes	28.1	28.8	33.0
No	71.9	71.2	67.0
(N)	1,985	1,720	1,826

**2010: ‘During the election campaign, did a candidate or anyone from a political party contact you to persuade you to vote for them? Please cross all that apply’**

	2010
No	55.1
Yes, by telephone	4.2
Yes, by mail	38.3
Yes, by face-to-face	3.7
Yes, by email or through the web	1.9
(N)	2,061

**2013: ‘During the election campaign, did a candidate or anyone from a political party contact you to persuade you to vote for them? Please cross all that apply’**

	2013
No	40.2
Yes, by telephone (your landline or mobile)	13.9
Yes, by mail (e.g. a leaflet posted to your home)	50.2
Yes, by face-to-face (e.g. in the street or at your house)	4.1
Yes, by text message or SMS	1.4
Yes, by email	4.5
Yes, by social network site or other web-based method	3.7
(N)	3,955

**2016: ‘During the election campaign, did a candidate or anyone from a political party contact you to persuade you to vote for them? Please cross all that apply’**

	2016
No	42.8
Yes, by telephone	20.2
Yes, by mail	43.3
Yes, by face-to-face	5.3
Yes, by text message or SMS	5.1
Yes, by email	6.3
Yes, by social network site or other web-based method	4.1
(N)	2,707



## Discussing the election campaign with others

### 1993–1998: 'During the election campaign, did you do any of the following things?'

	1993	1996	1998
Discuss politics with others	88.2	82.4	84.4
Talk to any people about why they should vote for or against one of the parties or candidates?	48.6	35.1	41.9
(N)	2,376	1,756	1,896

### 2001–2016: 'Here is a list of things some people do during elections. How often did you do any of these things during the recent election?'

#### Discuss politics with others (2010–2016: Discuss politics with others in person (i.e. face to face or over the phone))

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Frequently	19.6	21.2	28.1	28.3	27.3	26.6
Occasionally	46.9	47.0	46.7	47.3	45.4	45.3
Rarely	21.8	22.5	18.4	17.8	18.3	20.7
Not at all	11.7	9.3	6.8	6.7	8.9	7.4
(N)	1,975	1,740	1,834	2,058	3,922	2,695

#### Discuss politics with others online 2010: (i.e. through email or in a discussion group) 2013–2016: (i.e. through email or on a social network site like Facebook or Twitter)

	2010	2013	2016
Frequently	1.9	3.2	4.2
Occasionally	6.1	7.7	10.8
Rarely	11.0	14.0	21.0
Not at all	81.0	75.1	64.0
(N)	2,015	3,835	2,631

#### Talk to other people to persuade them to vote for a particular party or candidate

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Frequently	2.3	3.9	4.2	2.5	2.5	3.2
Occasionally	8.7	10.6	13.7	11.9	11.8	12.1
Rarely	15.6	17.9	19.6	19.7	17.5	21.1
Not at all	73.4	67.6	62.5	66.0	68.1	63.6
(N)	1,893	1,700	1,768	2,029	3,856	2,647

## Involvement in the election campaign

### 1969: 'Did you attend any political meetings during the campaign?'

	1969
Yes	3.4
No	96.6
(N)	1,869

### 1969: 'Did you do any work for any party or candidate during the campaign?'

	1969
Yes	2.4
No	97.6
(N)	1,866

### 1969: 'Did you make any donation to any of the parties or to a candidate?'

	1969
Yes	3.0
No	97.0
(N)	1,873

### 1993–1998: 'During the election campaign, did you do any of the following things?'

	1993	1996	1998
Go to any political meetings or rallies	3.2	2.1	2.3
Contribute money to a political party or election candidate	2.5	2	1.5
Do any work for a political party or election candidate	2.8	2.2	2
(N)	2,376	1,756	1,896

### 2001–2016: 'Here is a list of things some people do during elections. How often did you do any of these things during the recent election?'

#### Go to any political meetings or rallies

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Frequently	0.5	0.9	1.6	0.9	0.7	1.3
Occasionally	1.7	1.6	3.4	1.9	2.1	3.6
Rarely	2.9	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.6	7.1
Not at all	94.8	92.9	90.4	92.5	92.6	88.0
(N)	1,880	1,702	1,767	2,023	3,856	2,636

#### Show your support for a particular party or candidate by, for example, attending a meeting, putting up a poster, or in some other way.

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Frequently	2.0	2.8	4.5	2.8	2.6	3.8
Occasionally	5.0	5.1	7.1	5.3	6.1	6.7
Rarely	7.0	8.3	8.7	8.5	9.1	12.4
Not at all	85.9	83.7	79.8	83.4	82.1	77.1
(N)	1,889	1,769	1,873	2,028	3,865	2,641

#### Contribute money to a political party or election candidate (2010: by mail or phone)

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Frequently	0.9	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.9
Occasionally	1.7	1.9	2.5	1.2	2.1	2.8
Rarely	1.9	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.4	3.6
Not at all	95.5	94.3	93.7	95.0	94.8	92.7
(N)	1,888	1,709	1,771	2,026	3,840	2,631

<b>Contribute money to a political party or election candidate using the internet</b>	
	<b>2010</b>
Frequently	0.3
Occasionally	1.0
Rarely	2.0
Not at all	96.8
(N)	2,026

### Websites accessed during the election campaign

**2004–2013: 'During the (2004, 2007, 2010, 2013) election campaign did you read or access any of the following websites? Please cross all that apply'**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>
Party site (e.g. Liberals, ALP, Green etc)	3.6	5.9		
Your own MP's site	1.8	1.8		
Individual candidate site in your electorate (that is, other than that of your MP)	1.3	1.5		
Other candidate/MPs sites outside your electorate	1.1	1.3		
Party or candidate campaign sites (e.g. home pages, (2013: blogs), official Facebook profiles, official YouTube channels)			7.8	12.0
Federal Parliament site	1.7	2.0	2.5	1.7
Australian Electoral Commission site	5.4	7.7	9.9	14.3
Fun/political humour site	3.6			
Online opinion poll (e.g. Channel9/Bulletin poll)	3.6			
Mainstream news media (e.g. ABC Online, (2004: CNN), SMH site etc)	8.3	15.2	26.9	29.6
Unofficial online videos (i.e. non-party produced) with campaign or political content (e.g. YouTube) (2007: YouTube)		5.4	5.4	8.9
Political weblog or 'blog' (2010: Political blog)	0.7	2.7	3.9	
(N)	1,769	1,873	2,061	3,955

**2016: 'During the 2016 election campaign did you read or access any of the following?'**

	<b>2016</b>
Official party or candidate campaign sites (e.g. home pages, blogs, official Facebook profiles, official YouTube channels)	19.4
Mainstream news media sites (e.g. ABC Online, SMH site etc)	42.3
Unofficial online content (i.e. non-party produced campaign material (e.g. YouTube))	14.0
Federal Parliament site	3.4
Australian Electoral Commission site	20.7
(N)	2,711

### Online activity during the election campaign

<b>2010: 'During the 2010 election campaign did you do any of the following activities online?'</b>	<b>2010</b>
Signed up to receive information from a party or candidate and/or registered as a follower/friend/supporter	2.1
Used online tools to help parties and candidates (e.g. forwarded/shared/reposted campaign information)	1.9
Posted comments on a blog, twitter feed or wall of a social network site (either yours or someone else's)	6.0
Shared unofficial campaign content (e.g. links to videos, news stories) with others via email, Facebook, twitter or sms	4.3
Reposted unofficial campaign content (e.g. blog posts, links to videos) on your own pages (Facebook or twitter profile, blog)	1.8
(N)	2,061
<b>2013: 'During the 2013 election campaign did you do any of the following activities online?'</b>	<b>2013</b>
Signed up to receive information from a party or candidate and/or registered as their follower/friend/supporter on Twitter or Facebook	4.7
Used online tools to promote parties and candidates (e.g. shared, posted or reposted official campaign information on a blog, Twitter feed or social network profile)	3.6
Shared, posted, or reposted any non-official content (e.g. links to videos, news stories, jokes) on a blog, Twitter feed or social network profile	9.4
Joined or started a political or election related group on a social networking site (e.g. Facebook, MySpace, Bebo etc.)	1.8
(N)	3,955
<b>2016: 'During the 2016 election campaign did you do any of the following activities online?'</b>	<b>2016</b>
Signed up to receive information from a party or candidate and/or registered as their follower/friend/supporter on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram	6.7
Shared official campaign/political content on a blog, Twitter feed or social network profile	5.7
Shared unofficial campaign/political content (e.g. links to videos, news stories, jokes) on a blog, Twitter feed or social network profile	9.6
Joined or started a political or election related group on a social networking site (e.g. Facebook etc.)	1.9
(N)	2,711

## Voting and partisanship

### Timing of the voting decision

#### 1987: 'How long ago did you decide that you would definitely vote the way you did?'

	1987
A long time ago	50.0
Sometime last year	6.3
Sometime this year	16.8
During the election campaign	26.9
(N)	1,800

#### 1990–2016: 'When did you decide how you would definitely vote in this election?'

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A long time ago	45.9	42.1	49.9	35.2	44.8	46.9	55.3	36.9	45.0	35.3
A few months ago, before election day	10.7	13.2	12.1	13.6	13.8	14.3	16.1	15.9	14.0	12.7
About the time the election was announced	7.7	6.8	6.6	9.0	6.8	6.5	5.4	10.7	7.3	7.5
In the first few weeks of the campaign	9.5	14.5	8.0	13.6	8.9	9.6	6.5	10.0	6.8	10.6
A few days before election day	16.4	16.0	12.7	17.3	13.4	14.2	8.9	15.7	14.3	16.8
On election day	9.9	7.5	10.7	11.4	12.3	8.6	7.9	10.8	12.5	14.1
Did not vote in this election										3.0
(N)	2,026	2,355	1,768	1,885	1,978	1,750	1,838	2,059	3,932	2,706

### The use of voter prompts on polling day

#### 1996–2016: 'In voting for the House of Representatives, did you follow a party 'How to Vote' card or did you decide your own preferences?'

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Followed a 'How to Vote' card	56.0	52.2	50.2	53.1	50.8	46.5	43.4	34.1
Decided my own preferences	44.0	47.8	49.8	46.9	49.2	53.5	56.6	65.9
(N)	1,762	1,846	1,955	1,726	1,816	2,035	3,601	2,502

#### 1996–2010: 'And in voting for the Senate, did you vote by placing a '1' in a party box above the line or did you decide your own preferences by voting below the line?'

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010
Ticked a party box above the line	87.5	88.0	84.0	87.9	87.3	85.6
Decided my own preferences below the line	12.5	12.0	16.0	12.1	12.7	14.4
(N)	1,747	1,839	1,943	1,722	1,811	2,025

### Split ticket voting

#### 1987–2016: Estimates are based on voters preferring a different party in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Liberal and National parties are treated as a single group.

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Split tickets	12.0	11.3	10.7	12.2	14.8	18.1	17.2	18.8	18.3	22.3	19.4

## The extent of voting volatility

**1967–1979: ‘Since you have been voting in Federal elections, have you always voted for the same party or have you voted for different parties? (Which one was that?)’**

	1967	1969	1979
Same, Liberal	33.0	31.5	25.8
Same, Labor	33.2	32.4	33.3
Same, Country Party	4.2	4.1	1.6
Same, D.L.P	1.0	0.8	
Same, Other	0.2	0.4	0.1
Different	28.4	30.8	39.1
(N)	1,873	1,699	1,712

**1987: ‘Since you have been voting in Federal elections, have you always voted for the same party, or have you voted for different parties?’**

	1987
Always Liberal	20.5
Always Labor	37.9
Always National	3.6
Always Democrat	1.2
Liberal and Labor	21.8
Liberal and National	6.4
Labor and National	2.3
Other	6.3
(N)	1,728

**1990: Before this current election, have you always voted for the same party in Federal elections for the House of Representatives, or have you voted for different parties?**

**1993: ‘In previous Federal elections for the House of Representatives, had you always voted for the same party, or had you sometimes voted for different parties?’ 1) Sometimes voted Liberal 2) Sometimes voted Labor (ALP) 3) Sometimes voted National (Country) 4) Sometimes voted Australian Democrats 5) Did not vote before this election’**

**1996–2016: ‘Before this current Federal election for the House of Representatives, had you always voted for the same party, or had you sometimes voted for different parties? Please cross all that apply’**

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Always voted for the same party	59.9	54.7	52.9	48.9	48.0	50.1	45.2	51.7	46.1	39.8
Sometimes voted Liberal	10.5	20.7	21.6	21.1	19.2	20.6	31.1	17.1	15.8	18.0
Sometimes voted Labor (ALP)	10.6	19.2	22.9	22.7	23.9	24.1	33.0	16.5	18.8	20.9
Sometimes voted National (Country)	2.2	5.1	6.4	4.7	5.2	3.9	6.9	3.0	3.2	3.3
Sometimes voted Australian Democrats	4.2	9.3	9.9	10.6	11.4	10.9	12.9	-	-	-
Sometimes voted Greens							16.5	11.0	10.2	11.4
Sometimes voted for other party/independent	12.7	10.5	11.4	11.6	16.2	17.6	15.9	15.1	15.8	21.0
Did not vote before this election	3.5	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	6.2	6.2
(N)	1,979	1,665	1,795	1,897	1,967	1,724	1,873	2,061	3,955	2,711

**1987–1990: ‘Was there any time during the election campaign when you seriously thought you might vote for another party in the House of Representatives?’**

**1993–2016: ‘Was there any time during the election campaign when you seriously thought you might give your first preference to another party in the House of Representatives? Please cross one box only’**

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
No	75.4	69.7	75.5	77.9	70.6	71.4	75.0	76.6	71.2	69.8	66.4
Yes	24.6	30.3	24.5	22.1	29.4	28.6	25.0	23.4	28.8	30.2	33.6
(Liberal Party)	9.4	5.7	10.2	6.0	6.3	5.5	5.5	3.9	5.6	5.9	5.3
(Labor Party (ALP))	6.0	6.4	6.6	4.6	8.0	7.5	7.7	8.1	6.9	7.1	7.7
(National (Country) Party)	4.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.3
(Australian Democrats)	3.8	12.9	4.1	5.7	5.5	4.9	1.4	-	-	-	-
(Greens)				1.8	2.0	4.0	5.7	5.7	8.5	6.5	5.4
(One Nation)				-	5.0	2.5	1.3	-	-	-	-
(Another party/independent)	0.7	3.9	2.5	2.9	1.8	3.4	2.7	4.8	6.6	9.7	13.9
(N)	1,779	2,006	2,337	1,767	1,853	1,964	1,730	1,819	2,052	3,589	2,530

**1967–1979: ‘In the past did you ever prefer a different party?’**

	1967	1969	1979
Yes	20.7	22.9	27.9
No	79.3	77.1	72.1
(N)	1,738	1,643	1,677

**1967–1979: ‘Which was that?’**

	1967	1969	1979
Liberal	29.1	37.8	34.8
Labor	59.9	48.8	45.7
(National) Country Party	5.2	5.5	6.8
D.L.P.	2.9	3.5	
Australian Democrats			6.8
Other	2.9	4.5	5.9
(N)	353	376	446

### Considered changing vote during campaign

**1987–2016: Considered changing vote during election campaign, Labor and Liberal-National voters**

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Labor	28.2	29.9	26.9	26.4	26.7	30.7	27.5	24.9	32.8	37.3	35.9
Liberal-National	23.2	23.5	17.7	16.0	26.5	20.0	17.3	17.3	20.3	19.1	25.3

### Lifetime voting

**1967–2016: Proportion of the electorate who are Liberal-National or Labor voters and have always voted for the same party. The Liberal and National parties are treated as a single group.**

	1967	1969	1979	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Liberal-National	36.3	34.9	27.1	24.1	29.2	22.6	25.3	20.3	20.0	24.5	23.5	24.6	30.7	20.7
Labor	32.3	31.7	32.9	37.8	27.3	29.4	23.3	22.5	20.7	19.1	19.8	21.6	23.5	15.7

### Considerations in voting decision

#### 1996–2016: ‘In deciding how you would vote in the election, which was most important to you?’

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
The party leaders	15.3	8.5	18.0	18.6	16.1	15.1	14.1	9.3
The policy issues	48.6	66.0	47.3	49.0	52.4	51.8	54.1	59.1
The candidates in your electorate	6.9	5.9	8.7	6.4	5.7	7.7	7.5	9.0
The parties taken as a whole	29.2	19.6	26.0	25.9	25.8	25.3	24.4	22.6
(N)	1,698	1,861	1,971	1,738	1,823	2,053	3,918	2,577

### Two party preferences

#### 1996–2016: ‘If your first preference was for the (1996: Australian Democrats, Greens; 1998–2004: Australian Democrats, Greens, One Nation; 2007–2016: Greens) or other minor party: In the end, which of the two major parties, the Liberal-National Coalition or the Labor Party, did you give your preference to in the House of Representatives?’

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Liberal-National	43.5	35.8	35.2	40.7	34.3	35.4	20.1	26.0
Labor	35.0	40.5	40.4	37.9	47.2	46.7	50.8	50.0
Not sure/Don’t know	21.6	23.7	24.4	21.5	18.5	17.8	29.1	24.0
(N)	858	991	1,162	1,006	1,089	901	658	835

#### 1996–2016: ‘And in the Senate election?’

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Liberal-National	42.5	32.8	31.8	37.1	31.5	32.1	17.2	23.5
Labor	32.9	40.0	41.4	38.7	44.7	47.3	44.9	46.3
Not sure/Don’t know	24.6	27.2	26.8	24.2	23.8	20.6	37.8	30.2
(N)	833	918	1,095	803	1,067	905	879	773

### Difference between the parties

#### 1993–2016: ‘Considering everything the Labor Party and the Liberal Party stand for, would you say there is a good deal of difference between the parties, some difference between the parties, not much difference between the parties, or no difference between the parties?’

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Good deal of difference	43.8	30.6	29.8	24.2	29.7	30.4	25.6	31.7	26.5
Some difference	39.3	44.3	46.2	44.8	48.7	50.2	46.8	45.1	45.6
Not much difference	15.2	22.0	20.8	26.2	19.1	17.7	24.3	19.1	22.0
No difference	1.7	3.2	3.2	4.7	2.5	1.6	3.3	4.1	5.9
(N)	2,995	1,767	1,873	1,981	1,751	1,831	2,056	3,918	2,695



### Direction of political partisanship

**1967–1969: ‘Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Liberal, Labor, Country Party or D.L.P.?’**

**1979: ‘Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as Liberal, Labor, National Country Party or Australian Democrat?’**

**1987–2016: ‘Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as Liberal, Labor, National, or what?’**

	1967	1969	1979	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Liberal	40.5	40.2	36.4	34.1	36.0	35.9	36.5	34.1	37.5	41.5	36.3	36.3	34.4	32.9
National	7.1	6.6	4.1	6.3	5.0	4.4	4.8	4.4	3.5	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.7	3.7
Labor	38.2	39.9	42.4	49.4	46.6	44.4	37.2	40.5	35.6	32.0	37.1	38.0	34.8	30.2
D.L.P	2.8	2.6												
Democrats			2.6	2.2	5.4	1.1	3.2	2.4	2.6	0.7	0.4			
New Nat-Joh Party				1.0										
Greens					0.9		1.2	1.5	2.7	4.9	5.6	5.9	6.0	8.5
One Nation								2.5	2.5	0.6	0.2			0.7
Other	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.7		1.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.0	2.9	4.2	1.6
Independent				0.1	1.2						0.2			
None	11.2	10.0	14.1	6.1	4.2	12.0	16.5	13.8	15.0	16.2	15.5	13.7	16.9	19.4
(N)	2,054	1,873	2,016	1,787	1,960	2,346	1,738	1,857	1,956	1,719	1,830	2,058	3,951	2,704

### Strength of political partisanship

**1967–1979: ‘Now thinking of the Federal parties, how strongly (name of federal party preferred) do you feel, very strongly, fairly strongly, or not very strongly?’**

	1967	1969	1979	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001
Very strongly	33.4	33.7	34.0	20.1	17.5	19.9	18.8	18.0	18.3
Fairly strongly	43.9	48.3	47.2	47.1	47.7	49.0	45.5	50.2	47.5
Not very strongly	22.7	18.0	18.8	32.8	34.8	31.1	35.7	31.8	34.3
(N)	1,758	1,656	1,677	1,776	1,875	2,556	1,558	1,640	1,681

**1987–2016: ‘Would you call yourself a very strong, fairly strong, or not very strong supporter of that party?’**

	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Very strong supporter	20.5	24.4	19.0	20.8	21.3
Fairly strong supporter	47.5	48.8	52.0	50.1	50.2
Not very strong supporter	31.9	26.8	29.0	29.1	28.5
(N)	1,466	1,528	1,758	3,227	2,150

### Strength of partisanship by party identification

<b>Labor</b>	1967	1969	1979	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Very strong	38.5	41.3	37.0	28.2	16.8	19.1	18.3	22.5	22.0	22.3	26.4	16.2	16.3	19.0
Fairly strong	39.3	43.4	46.4	51.1	49.0	51.3	44.2	51.4	46.8	45.8	50.4	54.0	51.2	49.3
Not very strong	22.3	15.3	16.7	20.7	34.2	29.6	37.5	26.1	31.1	31.9	23.2	29.8	32.5	31.7
(N)	754	733	828	833	912	1,004	640	733	681	530	647	778	1,364	810

### **Liberal-National**

Very strong	29.1	27.1	31.8	34.5	18.7	20.0	20.1	14.1	16.6	20.8	23.8	20.6	23.9	21.1
Fairly strong	48.0	53.0	47.5	46.8	47.6	46.8	50.8	53.5	50.9	50.5	49.9	52.4	49.8	51.3
Not very strong	22.9	19.9	20.7	18.7	33.7	33.2	29.1	32.4	32.5	28.8	26.3	27.0	26.2	27.7
(N)	943	864	796	722	818	930	707	701	782	751	688	805	1,499	983

## Election issues

### Most important election issues

**1990: 'Which of these issues has worried you and your family most in the last 12 months?'**

**1993: 'Still thinking about the same 14 issues, which of these has worried you and your family most in the last 12 months?'**

**1996: 'Still thinking about these 13 issues, which of these issues has been most important to you and your family?'**

**1998–2016: 'Still thinking about these 13 (2007: 14, 2010: 12, 2013–2016: 10) issues, which of these issues has been most important to you and your family during the election campaign?'**

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Unemployment	10.7	27.2	13.4	8.8	3.8	1.9	2.2	3.3		
Inflation	17.6	2.8	2.1	0.7						
Wages	5.1									
Interest rates	29.2	6.0	9.8	1.5		9.4	7.0	7.2		
Education	5.1	6.5	11.2	5.8	17.0	15.0	10.5	12.6	14.9	12.1
The environment	11.0	4.0	5.1	2.9	3.7	5.5	7.7	4.6	5.8	5.5
Taxation	10.7		18.3	23.2	16.3	16.4	11.0	7.3	10.6	10.5
Cuts in government spending	1.8									
Privatisation			1.8	0.4						
Links with Asia			0.7	0.4						
Business taxes		6.3								
Child care		1.5								
Enterprise bargaining		1.5								
GST		22.6		42.0	12.8					
Employment contracts		4.0								
Medicare		6.2								
Social security		3.9								
Tariffs		1.1								
Immigration			4.0	2.8	4.5	1.8	2.9		2.2	4.2
Industrial relations			7.0	1.2	1.4	2.3	16.3	3.2	2.9	
Health and Medicare	8.8	6.4	25.5	9.9	16.1	30.2	20.5	23.0	19.0	24.1
Defence and national security			0.6		5.8	5.7	2.7			
Sale of Telstra				0.3						
State and Territory Issues			0.3							
Refugees, asylum seekers					13.0	2.7		5.6	10.1	6.1
Worker entitlements					0.8					
Terrorism					4.8	4.8	1.8			
The war in Iraq						4.3	2.4			
Global warming							7.4	7.8	3.5	4.1
Management of water							6.6			
Treatment of Indigenous Australians							0.9			
The resources tax								3.2		
Population policy								1.0		
Management of the economy								21.1	27.5	20.0
The carbon tax									3.6	
Government debt										7.2
Superannuation										6.3
(N)	1,915	2,208	1,622	1,765	1,849	1,677	1,796	1,911	3,619	2,636

## Preferred party policies

**1990–1996: ‘Here is a list of important issues that were discussed during the election campaign. Which of the Party’s views—the Labor Party or the Liberal-Coalition—would you say came closest to your own views on each of these issues?’**

**1998–2007: ‘Whose policies—the Labor Party’s or the Liberal-National Coalition’s would you say come closer to your own views on each of these issues?’**

**2010–2016: ‘Still thinking about these same issues, whose policies—the Labor Party’s or the Liberal-National Coalition’s—would you say come closer to your own views on each of these issues?’**

<b>Management of the economy</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
ALP	27	22.8	17.0
Coalition	36.8	43.7	44.1
No difference	21.5	18.3	21.7
Don’t know	14.7	15.1	17.2
(N)	2,010	3,791	2,590

<b>Education</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
ALP	34.1	43.7	28.7	40.2	47.5	44.3	57.5	41.1	42.8	42.2
Coalition	22.6	27.4	31.1	23.8	26.7	35.1	21	24.1	25.8	24.0
No difference	23.3	16.6	23.8	22.1	16.5	11.9	14.8	22	18.7	19.5
Don’t know	20	12.3	16.4	13.9	9.4	8.7	6.8	12.8	13.2	14.2
(N)	1,843	2,209	1,705	1,776	1,903	1,691	1,810	2,009	3,788	2,597

<b>Taxation</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
ALP	27.3	21	35.9	33.3	27.4	29.7	26.6	25	30.8
Coalition	38.9	42.1	44.8	3	41.4	31.9	33	34.4	33.2
No difference	17	20.6	10.5	17.5	18.1	26.8	24.3	21.6	19.4
Don’t know	16.8	16.4	8.8	10.2	13.1	11.6	16.1	19	16.6
(N)	1,856	1,693	1,803	1,899	1,689	1,815	2,007	3,774	2,610

<b>Health</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
ALP	45.8	52.6	38.7	41.4	40.9	43.5	48.3	37.2	36.5	44.8
Coalition	29	31.9	38.4	26.8	27.9	37.2	24.6	26.4	26.7	26.4
No difference	13.2	8.3	14	17.4	19.5	11.2	17.7	22.9	21.5	17.1
Don’t know	12	7.2	8.9	14.4	11.6	8.1	9.4	13.5	15.4	11.7
(N)	1,863	2,230	1,710	1,783	1,903	1,724	1,816	2,013	3,793	2,606

<b>Environment</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
ALP	54	33.9	29.5	28.1	26.9	34.6	55.5	32.7	35.6	31.4
Coalition	15.4	17.3	29.7	17.1	20.9	28.4	19	19.9	22.5	17.7
No difference	17.1	31.7	25.8	34.7	36.2	23.3	17.7	31.8	24.8	32.4
Don’t know	13.5	17	15	20	16.1	13.7	7.9	15.6	17	18.5
(N)	1,858	2,751	1,696	1,756	1,879	1,673	1,796	2,004	3,767	2,591

<b>Global warming</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
ALP	55.3	33.1	34.5	28.0
Coalition	17	22.2	22.5	16.4
No difference	17	29.3	24	33.5
Don’t know	10.6	15.5	19	22.1
(N)	1,797	2,017	3,763	2,584

<b>Immigration</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>		<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
ALP	19.6	25.8	19.9	22.1	29.5		20.8	22.5
Coalition	46.2	23	47.2	38.8	28.4		36.9	34.8
No difference	15.6	30.1	22.7	20.5	24.8		26.3	26.2
Don't know	18.6	21.2	10.2	18.7	17.3		16	16.6
(N)	1,700	1,773	1,888	1,659	1,789		3,779	2,596
<b>Refugees and asylum seekers</b>			<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>		<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
ALP			15.1	22		20.7	18.8	18.8
Coalition			46.4	35.8		38	40.7	34.1
No difference			27.4	21.6		26.6	27.1	31.2
Don't know			11.2	20.6		14.7	13.4	15.9
(N)			1,889	1,657		2,010	3,783	2,591
<b>Industrial Relations</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>
ALP	49.1	33.3	33.5	29.2	27.1	52.3	35.6	30.7
Coalition	27.1	41.9	29.9	32.2	37.3	31.6	27.1	30.3
No difference	12.8	10	16.7	20.1	15.5	7.8	20	17.9
Don't know	11	14.9	19.8	18.5	20.1	8.3	17.4	21.1
(N)	2,226	1,693	1,759	1,876	1,696	1,815	2,001	3,777
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>
ALP	35.3	30.1	23.6	38.7	30.6	25.6	26.4	29.8
Coalition	38.4	39.7	47.4	28.7	28.7	35.7	33.9	22.5
No difference	16	19.8	16.9	19.8	25.6	23	25.3	29.2
Don't know	10.3	10.3	12.1	12.8	15	15.7	14.4	18.5
(N)	1,882	2,248	1,707	1,778	1,939	1,709	1,789	2,014
<b>Interest rates</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>	
ALP	25.1	36.4	20.2	17.7	17.5	25.3	19.4	
Coalition	37.6	24.3	31	35.2	46.2	31.2	28.7	
No difference	23.3	22.2	24.7	26.6	22.7	30.8	33.9	
Don't know	14	17.1	24.1	20.5	13.6	12.7	18	
(N)	1,885	2,183	1,696	1,762	1,707	1,798	2,006	
<b>Defence and national security</b>		<b>1996</b>		<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>		
ALP		15.8		18.1	21.2	26		
Coalition		24.5		41.1	48.5	34.1		
No difference		27.2		27.9	18.6	25.5		
Don't know		32.5		12.9	11.7	14.4		
(N)		1,693		1,885	1,679	1,790		
<b>Terrorism</b>				<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>		
ALP				12.9	19.5	23.6		
Coalition				41.7	44.8	29.1		
No difference				31.3	22.7	29.1		
Don't know				14.1	13	18.1		
(N)				1,892	1,683	1,802		

## The economy

### Finances over past year

**1987–2016: ‘How does the financial situation of your household now compare with what it was 12 months ago?’**

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A lot better	5.6	2.9	3.8	4.2	5.5	4.7	6.5	10.1	4.0	4.3	3.3
A little better	12.9	10.2	11.3	14.9	15.0	16.0	21.2	16.5	16.0	14.1	14.2
About the same	38.3	33.2	40.8	45.2	49.7	38.3	49.0	41.6	44.7	46.3	47.6
A little worse	28.6	32.4	26.8	23.5	20.6	25.6	17.1	20.6	23.9	23.4	25.1
A lot worse	14.6	21.4	17.3	12.2	9.3	15.5	6.2	11.2	11.4	11.9	9.8
(N)	1,817	2,015	2,342	1,747	1,851	1,952	1,717	1,809	2,047	3,843	2,671

**1987: ‘How do you think the general economic situation in this country has changed over the last 12 months?’**

**1990, 1993: ‘And how do you think the general economic situation in the country (1993: in Australia) now compares with what it was a year ago?’**

**1996–2016: ‘And how do you think the general economic situation in Australia now compares with what it was 12 months ago?’**

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A lot better	5.1	0.8	1.3	1.7	6.7	6.8	11.7	13.9	5.6	2.4	0.7
A little better	26.2	7.3	14.4	15.4	22.9	18.9	30.9	21.9	22.6	13.5	8.8
About the same	22.4	17.7	22.2	35.6	34.8	33.8	42.2	35.1	35.6	38.1	43.4
A little worse	27.0	28.0	24.6	25.3	23.3	25.2	11.7	21.9	23.8	28.7	33.5
A lot worse	19.4	46.3	37.5	21.9	12.3	15.4	3.6	7.2	12.4	17.3	13.7
(N)	1,816	1,978	2,251	1,674	1,782	1,892	1,653	1,732	1,986	3,792	2,613

### Government effect on economy over past year

**1987: ‘Compared with a year ago, would you say that the government’s policies have had a good effect, a bad effect, or that they really have not made much difference with regard to the financial situation of your household?’**

**1990–1993: ‘Compared with a year ago, would you say that the Federal government’s policies have had a good effect, a bad effect, or that they really have not made much difference to the financial situation of your household?’**

**1996: ‘Compared with 12 months ago, would you say that the Federal Labor government’s policies have had a good effect, a bad effect, or that they really have not made much difference to the financial situation of your household?’**

**1998–2016: ‘Compared with 12 months ago, would you say that the Federal government’s policies have had a good effect, a bad effect, or that they really have not made much difference to the financial situation of your household?’**

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Good effect	10.0	4.7	5.2	8.1	9.5	11.8	18.7	18.9	12.8	8.4	4.1
Not much difference	59.2	56.9	65.8	66.6	75.1	56.8	68.8	59.5	67.9	63.1	74.3
Bad effect	30.8	38.4	29.0	25.3	15.4	31.4	12.6	21.6	19.3	28.5	21.6
(N)	1,788	2,007	2,340	1,750	1,853	1,950	1,720	1,804	2,044	3,866	2,664

**1987: ‘And how about the country’s general economic situation?’**

**1990–2016: ‘And what effect do you think they have had on the general economic situation in Australia as a whole?’**

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Good effect	29.0	8.8	9.1	13.2	27.7	23.4	34.6	29.9	28.7	13.3	6.9
Not much difference	40.2	38.9	43.6	46.5	56.0	50.1	57.2	51.6	46.3	50.0	68.5
Bad effect	30.9	52.3	47.3	40.3	16.3	26.5	8.2	18.5	25.0	36.7	24.5
(N)	1,758	1,981	2,896	1,690	1,896	1,894	1,667	1,752	2,014	3,823	2,611

## Finances in a year's time

### 1990–2016: 'Compared to now, what do you think the financial situation of your household will be in 12 months time?'

	1990	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A lot better	4.3	6.1	4.8	3.8	4.7	5.1	3.5	4.7	2.2
A little better	19.8	29.8	18.7	18.3	21.5	21.6	21.0	27.0	16.6
About the same	39.3	46.1	42.0	48.7	53.0	48.9	48.9	42.7	49.8
A little worse	23.1	13.1	23.6	19.0	15.7	19.1	19.1	17.7	23.2
A lot worse	13.5	4.9	11.0	10.2	5.1	5.3	7.5	8.0	8.2
(N)	1,996	1,745	1,851	1,952	1,712	1,795	2,035	3,867	2,651

### 1990–2016: 'And what do you think the general economic situation in Australia (1990: this country) as a whole will be in 12 months time? (1990: compared to now)'

#### 1993: 'Compared to now, what do you think the general economic situation in the country will be in 12 months time?'

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A lot better	3.0	5.7	4.7	4.7	4.2	6.1	3.7	4.0	7.1	1.5
A little better	20.1	37.6	34.0	19.8	18.2	23.9	16.4	23.5	29.9	14.6
About the same	27.0	29.1	39.6	35.7	42.0	48.4	44.0	42.4	36.4	45.7
A little worse	22.6	14.4	14.5	25.7	23.8	17.0	26.7	20.9	17.6	28.0
A lot worse	27.3	13.2	7.2	14.1	11.8	4.6	9.2	9.1	9.0	10.1
(N)	1,983	2,359	1,700	1,812	1,910	1,676	1,747	1,999	3,832	2,612

## Government effect on economy in year's time

### 1990–2016: 'Do you think that, a year from now (1996–2016: 12 months from now), the Federal government's policies will have had a good effect, a bad effect, or that they really will not make (1996–2016: will have not made) much difference to the financial situation of your household?'

	1990	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Good effect	11.0	21.5	13.2	10.7	15.8	17.8	9.2	21.9	7.4
Not much difference	67.6	66.9	60.6	70.4	73.0	68.8	73.2	61.1	73.2
Bad effect	21.4	11.6	26.2	18.9	11.2	13.4	17.6	17.0	19.4
(N)	1,991	1,737	1,844	1,949	1,704	1,781	2,014	3,850	2,641

### 1990: 'And how about the country's general economic situation?'

#### 1993: 'Do you think that, a year from now, the Federal government's policies will have had a good effect, a bad effect, or that they really will have not made much difference to the general economic situation in the country as a whole?'

#### 1996–2016: 'And what effect do you think they will have had on general economic situation in Australia as a whole?'

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Good effect	18.0	25.2	30.7	21.0	18.5	25.1	18.7	18.0	33.1	12.9
Not much difference	50.6	57.7	55.5	55.8	63.6	62.5	58.8	61.2	49.1	67
Bad effect	31.4	17.0	13.8	23.2	17.8	12.4	22.5	20.8	17.8	20.1
(N)	1,976	2,349	1,702	1,796	1,905	1,666	1,742	1,986	3,809	2,598

## Politics and political parties

### Interest in politics

**1967–2016: '(1993–2016: Generally speaking,) how much interest do you usually have in what's going on in politics?'**

	1967	1969	1979	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A good deal	17.7	21.8	26.7	35.2	35.6	37.5	32.0	36.5	32.4	33.0	39.3	33.7	32.4	33.7
Some	37.0	46.5	44.1	44.9	46.1	44.5	46.6	45.0	43.7	46.1	43.7	45.9	42.4	43.4
Not much	33.7	26.2	23.0	15.2	15.3	15.2	17.9	15.5	18.6	17.6	13.9	17.3	19.7	18.1
None	11.6	5.5	6.2	4.7	3.0	2.8	3.5	3.1	5.4	3.4	3.1	3.0	5.4	4.8
(N)	2,044	1,870	2,004	1,815	2,027	2,359	1,789	1,876	1,999	1,748	1,845	2,059	3,944	2,705

### Compulsory and voluntary voting

**1967–1979: 'Do you think that compulsory voting should be retained, or do you think that people should only have to vote at Federal and State elections if they want to?'**

	1967	1969	1979
Vote if want to	24.3	23.2	31.2
Compulsory better	75.7	76.8	68.8
(N)	1,998	1,833	1,985

**1987: 'Do you think that compulsory voting should be retained, or do you think that people should only have to vote at Federal and State elections if they want to?'**

	1987
Strongly favour voting only if they want to	19.7
Favour voting only if they want to	13.4
Doesn't matter	2.6
Favour compulsory voting	31.2
Strongly favour compulsory voting	33.1
(N)	1,812

**1993–2016: 'Do you think that voting at Federal elections should be compulsory, or do you think that people should only have to vote if they want to?'**

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly favour compulsory voting	39.9	42.4	43.7	46.9	46.9	50.6	42.4	45.0	46.5
Favour compulsory voting	27.8	28.3	27.7	22.7	27.2	26.1	27.0	25.2	23.9
Favour people voting only if they want to	18.2	17.5	18.3	17.1	14.9	14.6	17.7	16.9	17.3
Strongly favour people voting only if they want to	14.1	11.8	10.2	13.2	10.9	8.6	12.8	12.8	12.4
(N)	2,357	1,781	1,879	1,987	1,748	1,851	2,054	3,926	2,707

**1996–2016: 'Would you have voted in the election if voting had not been compulsory?'**

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Definitely would have voted	67.5	67.3	62.4	68.4	72.7	64.2	60.1	61.4
Probably would have voted	18.6	17.9	17.2	17.4	15.7	19.2	18.9	18.4
Might, might not	5.6	6.0	8.2	6.1	5.7	6.8	7.2	8.2
Probably not	5.1	6.1	7.4	5.5	3.8	5.8	8.8	6.8
Definitely not	3.3	2.7	4.8	2.6	2.1	4.0	5.1	5.2
(N)	1,780	1,865	1,983	1,748	1,849	2,054	3,927	2,705

## Political participation

**1987: 'There are various forms of political action that people can take. Please say, for each one, whether you have actually done any of these things, whether you would do it, or would never, under any circumstances, do any of them.'**

### Signing a petition 1987

Have done	72.3
Might do	22.3
Would never do	5.4
(N)	1,797

### Attending lawful demonstrations 1987

Have done	13.2
Might do	43.9
Would never do	42.9
(N)	1,763

**2001 – 2016: 'Over the past five years or so, have you done any of the following things to express your views about something the government should or should not be doing?'**

### Contacted a politician or government official either in person, or in writing (2001 – 2007: or some other way)

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Yes	26.6	29.1	24.0	18.3	15.2	16.7
No	73.4	70.9	76.0	81.7	84.8	83.3
(N)	1,869	1,651	1,730	1,981	3,693	2,559

### Contacted a politician or government official by email

	2010	2013	2016
Yes	13.2	16.8	19.3
No	86.8	83.2	80.7
(N)	1,974	3,710	2,567

### Taken part in a protest, march or demonstration

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Yes	12.3	13.7	13.0	10.7	10.3	12.4
No	87.7	86.3	87.0	89.3	89.7	87.6
(N)	1,776	1,624	1,659	1,967	3,677	2,537

### Worked together with people who shared the same concern

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Yes	22.2	22.7	23.8	19.8	19.2	23.2
No	77.8	77.3	76.2	80.2	80.8	76.8
(N)	1,804	1,627	1,681	1,975	3,687	2,554

### Signed a written petition

	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Yes	56.0	43.8	44.0	42.6	44.1
No	44.0	56.2	56.0	57.4	55.9
(N)	1,670	1,750	2,003	3,757	2,594

### Signed an online or e-petition (2004 – 2007: Signed an electronic petition)

	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Yes	11.8	16.9	20.5	28.7	38.5
No	88.2	83.1	79.5	71.3	61.5
(N)	1,615	1,648	1,963	3,686	2,554



## Feelings about political parties

**1993: 'We would like to know your feelings about the political parties. Please show how you feel about them by circling a number from 0 to 10. 10 is the highest rating, if you feel very favourable about a party, and 0 is the lowest rating, for parties you feel very unfavourable about. If you are neutral about a party or don't know much about them, you should give them a rating of 5. How do you feel about?'**

**1996–2016: 'We would like to know what you think about each of our political parties. Please rate each party on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you strongly dislike that party and 10 means that you strongly like that party. If you are neutral about a particular party or don't know much about them, you should give them a rating of 5. How do you feel about?'**

### Mean Scores

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Liberal	5.35	5.80	5.39	5.59	5.79	5.31	5.09	5.01	4.80
Labor	5.39	4.97	5.74	5.54	5.41	5.89	5.10	4.77	4.86
Green	3.86	3.99	4.36	4.66	4.17	4.44	4.19	3.79	3.90
Democrat	3.87	5.15	5.13	4.60	3.95				
One Nation			2.29	2.57	2.62				
National	4.24	4.76	4.73	4.72	4.8	4.40	4.33	4.48	4.43

## The role of political parties

**1967–1979: 'In general, would you say there is a good deal of difference between the parties, some difference, or not much difference?'**

	1967	1969	1979
Good deal of difference	33.7	39.9	39.5
Some difference	24.0	28.6	27.1
Not much difference	42.3	31.4	33.4
(N)	1,789	1,748	1,946

**1993–2016: 'Considering everything the Labor Party and the Liberal Party stand for, would you say there is ...'**

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A good deal of difference between the parties	44.1	30.6	29.8	24.2	29.7	30.4	25.6	31.7	26.5
Some difference between the parties	39.6	44.3	46.2	44.8	48.7	50.2	46.8	45.1	45.6
Not much difference between the parties	14.7	21.9	20.8	26.2	19.1	17.8	24.3	19.1	22.0
No difference between the parties	1.6	3.2	3.1	4.7	2.5	1.6	3.3	4.1	5.9
(N)	2,351	1,769	1,874	1,981	1,751	1,831	2,056	3,918	2,695

**1996–2016: 'Some people say that political parties in Australia care what ordinary people think. Others say that political parties in Australia don't care what ordinary people think. Where would you place your view on this scale from 1 to 5?'**

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
1 Care what ordinary people think	5.0	4.6	5.4	5.4	7.2	6.5	7.3	6.1
2	18.2	16.2	18.9	22.9	24.8	21.3	22.9	15.4
3	36.9	33.5	34.7	34.6	39.6	34.2	31.4	32.6
4	23.2	26.2	23.8	23.9	18.6	23.3	22.2	22.1
5 Don't care what ordinary people think	16.6	19.6	17.2	13.2	9.8	14.7	16.3	23.8
(N)	1,770	1,823	1,960	1,733	1,845	2,036	3,883	2,695

**1996–2016: 'Where would you place your view on this scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means that political parties are necessary to make our political system work, and 5 means that political parties are not needed in Australia?'**

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
1 Necessary to make our political system work	43.6	43.0	40.5	46.2	49.0	40.5	41.3	36.7
2	27.6	25.2	27.2	27.8	27.5	27.8	27.3	28.5
3	19.5	20.5	22.3	18.0	16.4	21.3	20.4	21.4
4	5.0	6.2	5.9	5.0	4.4	6.5	6.0	7.8
5 Not needed in Australia	4.4	5.1	4.0	3.0	2.7	3.9	5.0	5.7
(N)	1,768	1,816	1,952	1,733	1,840	2,042	3,879	2,682

## The left-right dimension

### Voters' left-right position

1996–2016: 'In politics, people sometimes talk about the 'left' and the 'right'. Where would you place yourself on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means the left and 10 means the right?'

Mean Scores	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Self	5.46	5.36	5.30	5.34	5.29	5.03	5.03	4.91
(N)	1,548	1,597	1,588	1,454	1,705	1,878	3,444	2,418

### Where voters place the parties

1996–2016: 'Using the same scale, where would you place each of the Federal political parties?'

Mean Scores	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Labor	4.33	4.52	4.71	4.31	4.35	4.23	4.17	4.03
Liberal	6.45	6.50	6.49	7.04	6.85	6.28	6.49	6.30
Green	3.84	3.74	3.65	3.21	3.61	3.27	2.99	2.98
Democrat	4.69	4.65	4.39	4.41				
National	6.50	6.36	6.31	6.59	6.57	6.08	6.20	6.32
One Nation		6.05	5.90	5.94				

## The political leaders

### How politicians were rated

**1987–1990:** ‘We would like to know your feelings about the party leaders you hear about in the news today. We would like you to show your feelings by rating them 0 to 10. You may use any number from 0 to 10. 10 is the highest rating for people you feel very favourable about, and 0 is the lowest rating for people you feel very strongly against. If you are neutral about a particular person, you should give them a rating of 5. How do you feel about?’

**1993:** ‘Again using the 0 to 10 scale, please show how favourable or unfavourable you feel about the party leaders.’

**1996–2016:** ‘Using a scale from 0 to 10, please show how much you like or dislike the party leaders. (1996–2007: Again,) If you don’t know much about them, you should give them a rating of 5. How do you feel about?’

Mean Scores	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
John Howard	4.87	4.93		5.73	5.30	5.57	5.71	5.14			
Bob Hawke	6.23	5.46									
Paul Keating	4.33	4.01	4.73	4.22							
Andrew Peacock	4.84	3.87									
Ian Sinclair	3.58										
Janine Haines	4.71	5.12									
John Bjelke-Petersen	2.58										
Charles Blunt		3.60									
John Hewson			5.18								
Tim Fischer			4.12	4.77	4.76						
John Coulter			3.27	5.36							
Cheryl Kernot					4.35						
Kim Beazley					6.11	5.73					
Gareth Evans					3.54						
Pauline Hanson					2.34	2.56	3.19				
Simon Crean						4.01	3.79				
John Anderson						4.92	5.22				
Natasha Stott-Despoja						5.01					
Mark Latham							5.05				
Andrew Bartlett							3.96				
Kevin Rudd								6.31	5.01	4.07	
Mark Vaile								4.60			
Bob Brown						4.37	4.01	4.48	4.10		
Peter Costello					4.27	4.29	4.72	4.13			
Julia Gillard								5.19	4.89	4.04	
Tony Abbott									4.26	4.29	3.60
Wayne Swan									4.03		
Warren Truss									4.12	4.34	
Christine Milne										3.81	
Bill Shorten											4.22
Malcolm Turnbull											4.94
Barnaby Joyce											4.13
Richard Di Natale											4.12

## Perceived qualities of political leaders

1993–2016: ‘Here is a list of words and phrases people use to describe party leaders. Thinking first about (e.g. Bill Shorten), in your opinion, how well does each of these describe him - extremely well, quite well, not too well or not well at all? Now thinking about (e.g. Malcolm Turnbull), in your opinion how well does each of these describe him - extremely well, quite well, not too well or not well at all?’ Estimates are the percent who responded ‘extremely well’.

	Moral	Intelligent	Compassionate	Sensible	Strong Leadership	Decent	Reliable	Knowledgeable	Inspiring	Dependable	Honest	Arrogant	Trustworthy	Competent
1993														
<b>Keating</b>	13.4	44.6	7.8	15.9	43.3	16.9	10.9	36.7	15.7	10.4				
<b>Hewson</b>	19.1	42.8	11.9	18.0	15.6	24.1	16.0	33.9	10.0	15.0				
1996														
<b>Keating</b>	9.2	47.7	4.4	13.5	43.4		8.9	39.4	14.4	8.2	6.5	54.7		
<b>Howard</b>	31.6	29.6	17.9	22.9	11.5		21.7	25.2	7.2	20.1	31.1	7.6		
1998														
<b>Howard</b>	28.8	29.6	14.4	21.2	12.3		16.1	23.3	4.4	13.4	23.4			
<b>Beazley</b>	22.4	28.2	24.2	17.2	17.8		12.6	22.9	11.2	12.5	18.0			
2001														
<b>Howard</b>		30.4	13.7	25.1	31.2			27.6	7.0		21.5		16.1	
<b>Beazley</b>		28.3	20.0	13.1	9.9			22.0	7.7		17.8		14.0	
2004														
<b>Howard</b>		42.4	16.3	29.0	46.6			35.1	10.9		14.5		13.7	
<b>Latham</b>		16.5	11.3	6.3	10.3			9.9	7.4		9.7		7.6	
2007														
<b>Howard</b>		42.3	13.4	27.8	42.6			35.3	10.6		15.1		12.6	33.4
<b>Rudd</b>		46.4	19.8	24.1	28.3			29.5	18.4		20.1		16.3	20.1
2010														
<b>Gillard</b>		33.7	9.4	18.6	15.3			23.4	10.2		9.0		6.1	17.2
<b>Abbott</b>		16.5	6.2	6.9	11.6			10.1	3.7		8.7		6.3	7.8
2013														
<b>Rudd</b>		30.9	8.7	9.3	10.6			26.3	7.8		6.7		5.5	10.5
<b>Abbott</b>		20.0	8.7	12.1	17.3			14.0	7.0		12.5		11.5	10.6
2016														
<b>Turnbull</b>		36.7	5.3	11.7	10.5			22.5	6.7		7.8		6.7	12.6
<b>Shorten</b>		9.5	8.5	7.8	9.0			9.0	3.7		5.2		4.5	7.0

## Democracy and institutions

### Satisfaction with democracy

**1969, 1979: 'On the whole, how do you feel about the state of government and politics in Australia? Would you say that you were very satisfied, fairly satisfied, or not satisfied?'**

	1969	1979
Very satisfied	6.7	3.7
Fairly Satisfied	69.9	51.8
Not satisfied	23.4	44.5
(N)	1,820	1,944

**1996: 'On the whole, are you satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in Australia?'**

**1998–2016: 'On the whole are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in Australia?'**

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Very satisfied	30.9	14.2	16.1	20.9	22.9	11.2	14.0	9.5
Fairly satisfied	47.1	57.0	57.5	60.7	62.7	60.3	57.7	50.5
Not very satisfied	17.2	22.6	21.8	14.5	11.9	23.4	22.2	29.7
Not at all satisfied	4.9	6.1	4.6	4.0	2.5	5.1	6.0	10.2
(N)	1,765	1,878	1,977	1,729	1,857	2,049	3,863	2,687

### Trust in government

**1969, 1979: 'In general, do you feel that the people in government are too often interested in looking after themselves, or do you feel that they can be trusted to do the right thing nearly all the time?'**

	1969	1979
Do right thing	51.0	29.3
Look after self	49.0	70.7
(N)	1,727	1,883

**1993–2016: 'In general, do you feel that the people in government are too often interested in looking after themselves, or do you feel that they can be trusted to do the right thing nearly all the time? 1) Usually look after themselves 2) Sometimes look after themselves 3) Sometimes can be trusted to do the right thing and 4) Usually can be trusted to do the right thing.'**

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Usually themselves	42.4	29.8	44.6	40.3	33.8	28.6	36.7	37.9	49.7
Sometimes themselves	23.6	22.5	21.9	28.1	26.7	28.5	26.4	27.8	24.1
Sometimes trusted	25.9	32.8	23.8	20.7	24.7	27.6	28.5	23.1	18.3
Usually trusted	8.1	14.9	9.7	11.0	14.8	15.3	8.4	11.1	7.9
(N)	2,326	1,727	1,864	1,960	1,706	1,819	2,051	3,871	2,697

### Who the government is run for

**1987, 1993: 'Would you say the Federal government is pretty much run for a few big groups (1993: interests) looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all people?'**

	1987	1993
Few big groups	65.2	71.6
All the people	34.8	28.4
(N)	1,773	2,299

**1998–2016: 'Would you say the government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all people?'**

	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Entirely run for big interests	15.0	13.6	10.5	7.8	9.3	11.3	16.9
Mostly run for big interests	37.5	34.1	31.2	30.2	35.1	35.6	38.6
About half and half	35.6	35.7	37.8	41.6	43.3	37.0	32.9
Mostly run for benefit of all	11.1	15.8	18.8	19.1	11.5	15.2	10.5
Entirely run for benefit of all	0.8	0.8	1.7	1.3	0.8	0.9	1.1
(N)	1,849	1,979	1,727	1,849	2,050	3,862	2,682

### Political efficacy and the use of the vote

**1996–1998: 'If 1 means no matter who people vote for, it won't make any difference to what happens, and 5 means that who people vote for can make a difference, where would you place your view?' (values presented in opposite direction)**

**2001–2016: 'Some people say that no matter who people vote for, it won't make any difference to what happens. Others say that who people vote for can make a big difference to what happens. Using the scale below, where would you place yourself?'**

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
1 Who people vote for can make a big difference	39.8	30.4	24.1	33.5	35.9	31.1	31.2	30.4
2	30.4	33.3	32.4	32.2	35.5	32.8	32.6	27.3
3	16.9	20.2	22.6	16.5	18.7	22.4	19.0	22.0
4	6.0	9.2	12.1	10.9	6.4	7.6	9.5	10.1
5 Who people vote for won't make any difference	6.9	6.8	8.8	7.0	3.5	6.1	7.7	10.1
(N)	1,773	1,846	1,976	1,750	1,854	2,049	3,864	2,679

### Makes a difference who is in power

**2001–2016: 'Some people say it makes a big difference who is in power. Others say that it doesn't make any difference who is in power. Using the scale below, where would you place yourself?'**

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
1 It makes a big difference who is in power	22.6	35.7	34.3	27.2	29.2	27.7
2	28.7	30.9	33.9	32.6	31.1	27.1
3	24.8	16.8	19.2	23.8	19.3	23.7
4	14.0	9.3	8.4	8.5	11.6	10.5
5 It doesn't make any difference who is in power	9.9	7.2	4.2	7.9	8.8	11.0
(N)	1,976	1,752	1,854	2,049	3,864	2,681

### Politicians know what ordinary people think

**2001–2016: ‘Some people say that Federal politicians know what ordinary people think. Others say that Federal politicians don’t know much about what ordinary people think. Where would you place your view on this scale from 1 to 5?’**

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
1 Federal politicians know what ordinary people think	2.4	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.5	2.6
2	13.5	18.2	19.4	12.6	18.1	11.2
3	34.9	36.9	42.4	36.1	35.0	33.8
4	27.9	25.3	22.8	29.8	25.6	27.1
5 Federal politicians don’t know what ordinary people think	21.3	16.4	12.2	17.8	17.7	25.2
(N)	1,978	1,743	1,849	2,050	3,843	2,680

### The Queen, the flag and republicanism

**1967, 1979: ‘How important do you feel the Queen and the Royal Family are to Australia, very important, fairly important or not very important?’**

**1987–2016: ‘How important do you feel the Queen and the Royal Family are to Australia?’**

	1967	1979	1987	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Very Important	27.5	24.7	18.1	13.4	12.4	9.9	10.2	9.5	10.6	12.7	16.2	14.0
Fairly Important	25.8	29.2	29.0	21.8	27.1	20.5	21.1	22.8	25.0	24.7	27.5	28.8
Not very Important	46.7	46.1	52.9	64.7	60.5	69.6	68.7	67.7	64.4	62.6	56.3	57.2
(N)	2,004	1,994	1,805	2,376	1,757	1,856	1,980	1,731	1,850	2,055	3,865	2,688

**1993–2016: ‘Do you think that Australia should become a republic with an Australian head of state, or should the Queen be retained as head of state?’**

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly favour republic	27.1	29.2	34.3	38.2	33.0	30.9	26.9	26.0	24.7
Favour republic	32.6	29.7	31.5	25.5	28.9	29.1	30.7	26.7	27.8
Favour retain Queen	26.4	28.8	25.2	25.3	27.4	30.3	30.3	32.6	34.8
Strongly favour retain Queen	13.8	12.4	9.0	11.1	10.6	9.7	12.1	14.7	12.7
(N)	2,376	1,730	1,833	1,960	1,722	1,830	2,047	3,841	2,679

**1987–1998: ‘On the issue of the Australian flag, do you 1) Strongly favour changing the flag 2) Favour changing the flag 3) Favour retaining the flag 4) Strongly favour retaining the flag.’**

	1987	1993	1996	1998
Strongly for flag change	12.6	17.0	15.5	15.1
For flag change	16.4	25.1	18.6	24.1
For retaining flag	28.5	25.2	27.4	27.7
Strongly for retaining flag	42.6	32.7	38.5	33.0
(N)	1,792	2,346	1,752	1,835

### Government control of parliament

**1993–2016: ‘Which do you think is better—when the Federal Government has a majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, OR when the Federal Government in the House of Representatives does not control the Senate?’**

	1993	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Much better when Government controls both	22.0	19.9	18.0	17.0	14.2	19.1	19.7	20.5
Better when Government controls both	20.6	18.6	16.3	16.9	16.6	20.8	22.0	19.4
Neither/doesn’t matter	14.0	14.3	21.9	14.1	18.4	20.6	20.9	21.2
Better when Government does not control the Senate	34.9	37.7	32.8	35.2	38.4	32.4	29.6	28.7
Much better when Government does not control the Senate	8.5	9.5	11.0	16.8	12.4	7.0	7.8	10.2
(N)	2,278	1,830	1,935	1,714	1,808	2,034	3,892	2,669

## Trade unions, business and wealth

### The power of trade unions and big business

#### 1967–1979: ‘Do you think that the trade unions in this country have too much power or not too much?’

	1967	1969	1979
Too Much	52.2	59.9	82.0
Not too much	46.8	40.1	18.0
(N)	1,740	1,658	1,903

#### 1967–1979: ‘Do you think big business in this country has too much power or not too much power?’

	1967	1969	1979
Too Much	59.8	62.4	68.3
Not too much	40.2	37.6	31.7
(N)	1,764	1,644	1,859

#### 1987: ‘Do you think that trade unions in this country have too much power or not enough power?’

	1987
Too much power	70.5
Not too much	13.9
It depends	15.5
(N)	1,802

#### 1987: ‘And how about big business? Do you think they have too much power or not enough power?’

	1987
Too much power	50.9
Not too much	18.5
It depends	30.6
(N)	1,765

#### 1990, 1996–2016: ‘Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.’

#### 1993: ‘Here are some statements about economic issues. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each statement.’

#### The trade unions in this country have too much power

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	35.4	38.0	37.6	24.2	19.4	15.5	14.6	19.4	17.9	23.0
Agree	33.1	24.4	24.2	28.8	28.2	25.7	22.8	29.2	27.5	23.8
Neither agree nor disagree	19.3	18.0	19.0	23.0	29.0	31.1	29.8	30.6	31.7	30.6
Disagree	10.7	14.8	14.0	18.2	18.2	22.2	25.3	17.2	18.5	17.2
Strongly disagree	1.4	4.8	5.2	5.9	5.2	5.8	7.5	3.6	4.4	5.4
(N)	2,004	2,314	1,749	1,842	1,940	1,702	1,834	2,039	3,815	2,648



## Big business in this country has too much power

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	22.1	27.7	29.0	31.1	31.8	27.1	25.3	27.2	25.0	31.0
Agree	42.4	34.6	35.5	39.7	39.8	44.5	43.9	44.9	41.3	43.1
Neither agree nor disagree	25.4	25.4	25.1	23.1	21.9	22.0	22.6	22.2	25.6	19.4
Disagree	9.2	10.6	9.0	5.4	5.2	4.9	7.1	5.1	7.2	5.3
Strongly disagree	0.9	1.7	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.5	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.2
(N)	1,998	2,300	1,736	1,829	1,939	1,697	1,817	2,039	3,815	2,645

## Class self-image

**1967: 'To which class would you belong?'**

**1969–1979: '(1979: Now I would like to talk for a moment about social classes in Australia) First of all, to what class would you say you belonged?'**

**1987: 'To what social class would you say you belong?'**

**1990–2016: 'Which social class would you say you belong to?'**

	1967	1969	1979	1987	1990	1993	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Upper	0.5	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.4	1.6	1.8	2.0
Middle	56.5	48.8	57.4	47.7	47.5	45.7	48.3	48.8	54.1	53.2	52.6	51.6	49.4
Working	43.0	49.7	41.3	51.3	51.3	52.7	50.2	49.8	44.2	44.4	38.7	37.9	39.9
None											7.2	8.7	8.7
(N)	1,516	1,792	1,933	1,476	1,649	2,139	1,626	1,737	1,532	1,633	2,043	3,826	2,668

## Trade union membership and support for industrial action

**1967–1979, 1987, 1996–2016: 'Do you belong to a trade union?'**

**1990, 1993: 'Do you belong to a trade union or staff association?'**

	1967	1969	1979	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Yes	26.1	25.7	27.9	41.8	40.5	30.4	29.9	26.0	24.4	25.0	24.4	22.7	20.7	18.1
No	73.9	74.3	72.1	58.2	59.5	69.6	70.1	74.0	75.6	75.0	75.6	77.3	79.3	81.9
(N)	1,962	1,869	2,011	1,437	1,816	2,296	1,586	1,703	1,807	1,603	1,698	1,937	3,610	2,527

**1990, 1996–2016: 'Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.'**

**1993: 'Here are some statements about economic issues. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each statement.'**

**There should be stricter laws to regulate the activities of trade unions**

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	28.0	32.9	26.0	19.7	17.6	14.6	15.1	17.6	15.9	21.7
Agree	39.7	29.0	32.8	33.4	31.4	29.3	26.8	31.4	30.4	32.8
Neither agree nor disagree	20.2	19.5	23.1	27.3	31.4	34.2	32.6	34.2	36.9	31.8
Disagree	10.6	13.9	13.1	14.9	15.0	15.7	19.1	13.1	13.1	10.6
Strongly disagree	1.5	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.6	6.3	6.4	3.7	3.7	3.1
(N)	1,995	2,304	1,739	1,827	1,950	1,709	1,820	2,041	3,816	2,640

### Government spending: less tax or more social services

**1987–2016: ‘If the government had a choice between reducing taxes or spending more on social services, which do you think it should do?’**

	1987	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly favour reducing taxes	43.7	37.4	40.8	33.4	27.1	21.7	21.4	24.6	20.4	19.9
Mildly favour reducing taxes	21.6	18.0	16.3	13.5	14.8	13.8	12.6	13.9	15.8	15.0
Depends	19.8	26.6	26.1	27.5	28.5	27.5	19.2	27.6	33.4	32.7
Mildly favour spending more on social services	7.6	10.7	9.4	12.4	14.5	16.5	20.3	18.1	17.1	17.3
Strongly favour spending on more social services	7.2	7.3	7.4	13.2	15.0	20.5	26.6	15.7	13.3	15.1
(N)	1,740	2,312	1,797	1,804	1,951	1,711	1,816	2,047	3,850	2,682

### Redistribution of income and wealth

**1987–2016: ‘Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.’**

**Income and wealth should be redistributed towards ordinary working people**

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	17.3	16.3	24.1	18.2	17.0	20.9	17.6	19.2	17.1	16.2	17.4
Agree	28.4	25.3	27.0	28.9	32.6	34.9	33.4	31.6	33.8	34.1	37.8
Neither agree nor disagree	20.1	23.3	23.2	28.2	27.2	26.6	28.9	27.0	30.4	28.5	26.3
Disagree	24.9	24.5	19.0	19.4	17.3	13.5	16.0	17.3	14.8	16.1	14.6
Strongly disagree	9.3	10.6	6.7	5.3	5.9	4.1	4.0	4.9	3.9	5.2	3.9
(N)	1,778	1,977	2,324	1,727	1,826	1,949	1,701	1,807	2,042	3,818	2,641

### High tax makes people unwilling to work

**1996–2016: ‘Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.’**

**High income tax makes people less willing to work hard**

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	36.8	38.2	29.8	25.3	25.1	24.4	14.8	13.9
Agree	37.2	38.1	39.6	39.3	35.5	36.2	33.1	31.2
Neither agree nor disagree	15.0	13.7	17.2	19.8	22.1	21.7	26.1	25.4
Disagree	9.0	8.9	10.8	12.8	14.8	14.8	21.6	23.6
Strongly disagree	1.9	1.1	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.9	4.4	5.9
(N)	1,735	1,836	1,948	1,699	1,835	2,038	3,815	2,647

## Changes in economic conditions since previous election

1998–2010: 'Thinking back to the Federal Election of (1996/1998/2001/2004/2007) when (John Howard/Kevin Rudd) won against (Paul Keating/Kim Beazley/Mark Latham/John Howard) would you say that since then the following have increased or fallen?'

<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>
Increased a lot	15.4	14.1	4.9	4.6	5.8
Increased a little	25.1	30.4	14.9	8.5	29.4
Stayed the same	23.1	22.8	23.2	17.5	34.5
Fallen a little	32.0	27.0	46.4	42.3	26.4
Fallen a lot	4.4	5.8	10.6	27.2	3.8
(N)	1,813	1,907	1,668	1,771	2,021

<b>Prices</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>
Increased a lot	23.1	45.0	35.4	16.1	33.7
Increased a little	50.0	42.2	48.8	25.6	48.3
Stayed the same	21.6	8.8	11.5	26.4	14.2
Fallen a little	4.8	3.2	3.3	28.3	2.7
Fallen a lot	0.5	0.8	0.9	3.6	1.1
(N)	1,795	1,921	1,687	1,744	2,033

<b>Quality of Industrial Relations</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>
Increased a lot	3.4	2.8	3.2	6.1	9.2
Increased a little	14.9	14.3	15.3	15.5	21.6
Stayed the same	35.2	42.4	49.7	21.2	45.9
Fallen a little	26.9	25.2	19.8	21.4	17.2
Fallen a lot	19.6	15.3	12.1	35.7	6.1
(N)	1,755	1,867	1,633	1,746	2,022

<b>Your own standard of living</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>
Increased a lot	3.5	3.9	3.9	5.3	3.1
Increased a little	16.2	17.7	21.2	21.9	17.7
Stayed the same	48.7	41.9	48.4	44.9	48.9
Fallen a little	24.2	26.8	19.9	20.1	23.6
Fallen a lot	7.3	9.7	6.6	7.7	6.7
(N)	1,793	1,923	1,697	1,787	2,042

<b>General standard of living</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>
Increased a lot	2.4	2.3	3.4	4.5	2.5
Increased a little	11.9	14.5	23.5	23.0	15.9
Stayed the same	41.8	34.5	42.3	33.7	42.4
Fallen a little	35.8	36.9	24.3	29.7	31.2
Fallen a lot	8.1	11.9	6.5	9.1	8.1
(N)	1,767	1,923	1,686	1,786	2,036

<b>Taxes</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>
Increased a lot	13.5	28.5	20.2	16.1	11.9
Increased a little	33.5	31.3	37.6	25.6	32.1
Stayed the same	47.8	20.3	28.0	26.4	42.5
Fallen a little	4.4	18.0	12.8	28.3	12.8
Fallen a lot	0.9	1.9	1.4	3.6	0.7
(N)	1,742	1,876	1,637	1,744	2,005

<b>The standard of health services</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>
Increased a lot	5.1	3.5	3.8	3.1	3.6
Increased a little	7.0	9.4	8.1	6.9	16.6
Stayed the same	25.2	32.9	28.3	29.7	44.7
Fallen a little	34.2	31.6	35.1	33.0	24.7
Fallen a lot	28.6	22.6	24.8	27.4	10.3
(N)	1,780	1,913	1,677	1,775	2,037

<b>Quality of education</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>
Increased a lot	2.1	2.3	2.2	3.8
Increased a little	9.5	10.1	7.8	20.9
Stayed the same	40.9	44.3	43.3	51.5
Fallen a little	29.3	27.6	30.3	18.3
Fallen a lot	18.1	15.8	16.4	5.4
(N)	1,896	1,669	1,761	2,027

## Social issues

### Censorship

**1987–2016: ‘The statements below indicate some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years. For each one, please say whether you think the change has gone too far, not gone far enough, or is it about right?’**  
**The right to show nudity and sex in films and magazines.**

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Gone much too far		23.8	29.1	27.8	25.1	20.4	21.2	19.8	17.5	16.7	15.0
Gone too far	48.8	30.5	29.3	27.7	28.7	25.4	28.8	28.4	25.4	26.1	22.4
About right	43.5	37.8	33.3	36.8	39.0	44.8	40.0	41.4	46.3	48.1	52.6
Not gone far enough	7.7	6.0	5.1	5.0	4.9	6.6	6.9	6.8	7.7	6.5	7.2
Not nearly far enough		1.9	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.8	3.2	3.6	3.0	2.6	2.8
(N)	1,787	2,002	2,290	1,768	1,813	1,951	1,706	1,827	2,037	3,820	2,641

### Abortion

**1979, 1987: ‘Do you think women should be able to obtain an abortion easily when they want one, or do you think abortion should be allowed only in special circumstances?’**

**1990–2016: ‘Which one of these statements comes closest to how you feel about abortion in Australia?’**

**1) Women should be able to obtain an abortion readily when they want one**

**2) Abortion should be allowed only in special circumstances**

**3) Abortion should not be allowed under any circumstances**

**(2010–2016 4) Don’t know.’**

	1979	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Obtain readily	46.2	38.6	52.5	60.9	55.7	53.1	61.1	58.5	60.8	58.6	61.2	65.0
Special circumstances	48.5	55.0	41.2	33.8	38.5	42.0	34.5	37.2	34.9	30.9	27.9	25.9
Banned	5.3	6.4	6.3	5.2	5.7	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.6
Don’t know										6.5	6.9	5.5
(N)	1,939	1,793	1,937	2,227	1,706	1,741	1,854	1,595	1,748	2,045	3,861	2,694

### Marijuana

**1990: ‘Here are some statements about some legal issues and about some more general social concerns. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.’**

**1993–2016: ‘Here are some statements about general social concerns. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.’**

**The smoking of marijuana should NOT be a criminal offence.**

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	10.6	11.1	13.3	12.0	11.7	8.9	9.2	9.4	11.8	15.4
Agree	21.6	23.6	22.5	23.0	22.8	24.0	20.1	22.0	22.2	27.5
Neither agree nor disagree	18.1	21.6	18.5	20.2	21.4	20.3	20.5	21.9	22.1	25.4
Disagree	29.9	23.7	22.8	25.6	27.1	28.8	29.3	28.8	25.5	19.8
Strongly disagree	19.7	20.0	22.8	19.1	17.0	18.0	20.9	17.9	18.4	11.9
(N)	2,012	2,315	1,775	1,833	1,967	1,714	1,829	2,048	3,838	2,676

## Crime

**1987: 'Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.'**

**1990: 'Here are some statements about some legal issues and about some more general social concerns. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.'**

**1993–2016: 'Here are some statements about general social concerns. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.'**

### People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	56.5	39.0	42.2	43.9	40.0	33.3	30.0	29.2	31.6	29.5	26.0
Agree	31.3	43.1	38.7	36.9	39.9	41.0	40.5	40.8	39.5	40.8	38.8
Neither agree nor disagree	9.1	13.4	14.9	14.4	15.8	17.3	20.9	21.6	21.5	21.1	25.6
Disagree	2.4	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.7	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.2	6.2	7.5
Strongly disagree	0.7	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.6	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.0
(N)	1,775	2,016	2,313	1,771	1,822	1,956	1,708	1,815	2,053	3,835	2,683

### The death penalty should be reintroduced for murder (1987: Bring back the death penalty)

	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	40.8	39.7	40.8	38.8	38.6	29.9	24.0	19.5	20.9	22.5	19.0
Agree	18.7	26.8	26.8	27.5	26.6	26.6	27.1	24.1	23.6	25.3	20.9
Neither agree nor disagree	17.1	11.9	11.7	12.7	13.8	16.7	16.2	18.0	19.0	17.2	17.3
Disagree	11.2	12.9	12.2	11.5	12.1	15.0	16.4	18.8	18.8	17.1	19.7
Strongly disagree	12.3	8.7	8.5	9.5	8.9	11.9	16.3	19.6	17.7	17.9	23.1
(N)	1,774	2,015	2,328	1,781	1,833	1,965	1,718	1,833	2,050	3,843	2,681

**1998–2007: 'The statements below indicate some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years. For each one, please say whether you think the change has gone too far, not gone far enough, or is it about right?'**

### Government controls on firearms

	1998	2001	2004	2007
Gone much too far	11.1	8.6	6.9	5.0
Gone too far	10.8	10.2	10.2	8.4
About right	33.3	41.7	35.9	39.8
Not gone far enough	23.8	23.7	28.6	28.7
Not gone nearly far enough	21.0	15.7	18.4	18.1
(N)	1,818	1,950	1,701	1,822

## Indigenous Australians

**1990: 'On the whole, do you think that Indigenous Australians get too little or too much help from the government, or do you think that present arrangements are about right?'**

	1990
Too little help	16.4
About right	25.2
Too much help	58.4
(N)	1,774

**1993–2016: 'The statements below indicate some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years. For each one, please say whether you think the change has gone too far, not gone far enough, or is it about right?'**

### Government help for Indigenous Australians

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Much too far	21.4	29.6	24.0	19.6	19.8	10.8	13.1	12.5	12.0
Too far	23.0	25.8	30.2	27.6	24.9	19.8	21.5	21.3	17.8
About right	29.5	27.8	26.5	31.1	29.7	33.3	35.8	37.4	36.6
Not far enough	17.5	12.7	13.8	15.4	18.9	26.7	22.3	22.1	23.4
Not nearly far enough	8.5	4.2	5.4	6.3	6.7	9.4	7.4	6.7	10.2
(N)	2,293	1,758	1,802	1,934	1,689	1,812	2,034	3,827	2,635

**1987–2016: 'The statements below indicate some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years. For each one, please say whether you think the change has gone too far, not gone far enough, or is it about right?'**

### Aboriginal land rights (1987: Transferring land rights to Aboriginal people, 1990: Transfer of land rights to Aboriginal people)

	1987	1990	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Much too far		28.5	32.7	25.8	22.0	19.7	13.2	13.1	11.8	11.5
Too far	59.0	26.4	27.9	29.2	27.8	24.0	22.3	22.1	18.5	16.5
About right	28.6	28.9	26.2	24.3	30.3	31.8	39.3	45.3	45.7	41.6
Not far enough	12.4	13.1	10.0	14.5	13.3	17.0	17.7	15.5	18.0	21.9
Not nearly far enough		3.1	3.1	6.2	6.6	7.5	7.5	4.0	6.1	8.4
(N)	1,775	1,980	1,755	1,799	1,930	1,679	1,822	2,029	3,823	2,637

## Gender equality

**1990–2016: ‘The statements below indicate some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years. For each one, please say whether you think the change has gone too far, not gone far enough, or is it about right?’**

### Equal opportunities for women

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Much too far	7.1	6.2	5.9	3.8	3.1	3.0	2.0	1.9	2.3	3.7
Too far	14.1	11.9	11.7	8.3	7.9	6.5	4.0	5.2	5.3	6.3
About right	52.3	47.4	50.7	56.3	51.1	50.4	52.3	52.7	45.0	43.3
Not far enough	21.4	24.4	23.1	23.6	29.0	30.3	31.6	33.0	36.7	35.6
Not nearly far enough	5.2	10.1	8.6	8.0	8.9	9.9	10.1	7.2	10.7	11.2
(N)	1,998	2,281	1,759	1,811	1,921	1,685	1,805	2,020	3,822	2,642

**1993–2016: ‘Here are some statements about general social concerns. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.’**

### Women should be given preferential treatment when applying for jobs and promotions

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	3.0	3.9	2.7	3.5	4.1	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.8
Agree	5.0	4.8	5.2	5.9	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.1
Neither agree nor disagree	22.6	20.7	23.3	26.3	27.1	28.6	28.5	29.2	32.0
Disagree	48.6	48.8	48.1	45.2	45.7	46.1	45.8	41.9	41.9
Strongly disagree	20.7	21.7	20.8	19.1	16.0	14.7	15.5	19.3	17.2
(N)	2,309	1,777	1,831	1,970	1,721	1,826	2,051	3,836	2,675

### The government should increase opportunities for women in business and industry

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	8.9	9.8	9.5	10.7	10.7	8.9	10.7	12.2	14.2
Agree	32.1	29.5	32.4	31.8	33.7	31.3	35.7	38.3	35.7
Neither agree nor disagree	35.5	37.9	35.6	37.3	35.9	39.3	38.4	36.0	35.8
Disagree	18.2	17.4	16.4	15.1	14.8	16.1	12.3	10.2	10.3
Strongly disagree	5.3	5.4	6.2	5.1	4.9	4.4	2.9	3.3	4.0
(N)	2,302	1,778	1,833	1,971	1,725	1,818	2,051	3,826	2,673

## Attitudes towards asylum seeker arrivals by boat

**2001–2016: ‘Here are some statements about general social concerns. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.’**

### All boats carrying asylum seekers should be turned back

	2001	2004	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	37.1	28.7	29.6	28.8	27.5
Agree	25.2	25.7	21.5	19.7	20.1
Neither agree nor disagree	17.9	17.7	19.5	17.8	19.6
Disagree	12.3	17.7	17.1	17.6	18.6
Strongly disagree	7.6	10.3	12.3	16.1	14.2
(N)	1,967	1,715	2,057	3,840	2,671



### Attitudes towards immigrants and immigration

**1990–2016: 'The statements below indicate some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years. For each one, please say whether you think the change has gone too far, not gone far enough, or is it about right?'**

#### Equal opportunities for migrants

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Much too far	8.2	19.3	19.8	13.0	13.0	9.3	10.0	16.9	15.4	15.5
Too far	12.9	24.5	24.4	20.5	21.5	17.4	17.8	20.5	21.7	19.0
About right	59.6	45.1	45.7	53.6	53.5	56.3	55.3	49.7	45.9	44.7
Not far enough	15.3	8.7	8.4	10.8	9.2	13.6	13.5	11.0	13.8	16.6
Not nearly far enough	3.9	2.4	1.8	2.1	2.7	3.4	3.4	2.0	3.2	4.2
(N)	1,981	2,274	1,755	1,797	1,936	1,685	1,820	2,022	3,819	2,651

#### The number of migrants allowed into Australia at the present time

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Much too far	29.1	40.2	33.5	20.3	15.8	13.2	16.6	24.5	20.0	20.3
Too far	28.9	29.7	29.5	23.3	19.1	17.8	23.3	27.0	21.9	19.3
About right	33.8	23.3	30.4	45.8	46.5	49.0	46.4	35.0	38.8	37.5
Not far enough	6.6	4.4	4.8	8.2	14.3	15.6	10.3	10.4	13.9	16.0
Not nearly far enough	1.7	2.4	1.8	2.4	4.3	4.4	3.4	3.1	5.3	6.9
(N)	1,999	2,291	1,765	1,802	1,933	1,695	1,815	2,042	3,834	2,640

### Attitudes towards the level of immigration into Australia

**1996–2016: 'Do you think the number of immigrants allowed in Australia nowadays should be reduced or increased?'**

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Increased a lot	3	3.6	7.6	6.5	4.3	3.9	6.8	10.1
Increased a little	5.4	10	17.6	17.3	10.7	12	17.1	16.3
Remain about the same	28.2	38.4	38	41.1	38.7	32	34.9	31.8
Reduced a little	29.6	25.7	16.7	18.5	25.1	25.6	20.1	17.8
Reduced a lot	33.7	22.3	20.1	16.6	21.2	26.6	21.1	24.1
(N)	1,775	1,863	1,973	1,727	1,843	2,053	3,845	2,688

## The consequences of immigration

1996–2016: 'There are different opinions about the effects that immigrants have on Australia. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?'

### Immigrants increase the crime rate

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	21.4	16.9	15.8	12.2	12.8	14.7	11.7	12.6
Agree	30.4	30.1	30.9	28.6	29.9	28.7	27.9	24.6
Neither agree nor disagree	26.1	27.3	29.5	30.5	30.8	30.8	29.2	29.8
Disagree	16.4	20.5	18.4	21.5	20.8	19.2	23	22.4
Strongly disagree	5.7	5.2	5.4	7.2	5.7	6.7	8.2	10.7
(N)	1,765	1,855	1,957	1,709	1,818	2,044	3,837	2,675

### Immigrants are generally good for the Australian economy

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	8	6.9	7.4	10	6.9	6.2	8.2	9.9
Agree	41.8	49.9	46.5	49.6	52.2	46	48.2	43.7
Neither agree nor disagree	30.5	29.4	30.7	29.6	29.9	30.9	28.8	29.3
Disagree	14.6	11.1	11.2	8.5	9	12.7	10.7	12.1
Strongly disagree	5	2.7	4.1	2.3	2	4.1	4.1	4.9
(N)	1,754	1,852	1,951	1,715	1,821	2,047	3,834	2,662

### Immigrants take jobs away from people who are born in Australia

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	14.4	12.6	11.8	8.5	8.1	11	10.6	11.8
Agree	26.6	24.7	22.8	21.4	21	23.6	24.2	18.4
Neither agree nor disagree	27.8	25.7	28.2	29.6	29.1	31.2	27.6	28.9
Disagree	23.6	29.8	28.7	31.2	34.2	26.3	27.7	28.0
Strongly disagree	7.6	7.2	8.5	9.4	7.6	7.9	9.9	13.0
(N)	1,758	1,853	1,959	1,711	1,824	2,045	3,834	2,665

### Immigrants make Australia more open to new ideas and cultures

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	26.8	22	21	24	20.2	17.8	19.5	20.8
Agree	52.2	57.6	54.4	56.6	57.4	51.6	53.5	49.3
Neither agree nor disagree	13.7	14.5	17.1	13.7	16.2	20.5	17.1	19.4
Disagree	4.6	4	5.2	3.9	4.3	7.5	6.4	6.9
Strongly disagree	2.7	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.9	2.5	3.5	3.7
(N)	1,760	1,855	1,957	1,716	1,832	2,042	3,836	2,661

## Materialist and post-materialist values

**1990–2016: ‘A question about what you think the aims of Australia should be for the next ten years. Here is a list of four aims that different people would give priority. 1) Maintain order in the nation 2) Give people more say in important government decisions 3) Fight rising prices 4) Protect freedom of speech. If you had to choose among these four aims, which would be your first choice?’**

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Maintain order	26.4	37.5	36.1	37.2	37.9	37.5	34.4	35.1	35.1	34.2
Give people more say	30.4	32.6	31.7	33.0	26.1	26.0	18.2	24.0	24.9	29.0
Fight rising prices	34.6	18.7	17.7	15.7	20.7	19.6	33.6	28.7	26.9	19.2
Protect free speech	8.6	11.3	14.5	14.1	15.3	16.9	13.8	12.2	13.1	17.6
(N)	2,003	2,322	1,743	1,841	1,937	1,713	1,832	2,036	3,780	2,654

**1990–2016: ‘And which would be your second choice?’**

	1990	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Maintain order	21.3	21.2	19.4	19.4	18.9	18.7	20.6	22.6	21.2	22.3
Give people more say	28.0	25.5	27.9	25.4	27.9	26.2	27.2	28.0	27.7	24.1
Fight rising prices	30.6	29.9	27.7	27.8	28.6	28.6	29.4	29.9	26.5	26.0
Protect free speech	20.1	23.4	25.0	27.4	24.6	26.4	22.8	19.6	24.7	27.5
(N)	1,986	2,306	1,718	1,832	1,920	1,703	1,802	2,030	3,749	2,547

## Threat of global warming

**2007: ‘Do you think that global warming will pose a serious threat to your way of life in your lifetime?’**

	2007
Yes, will pose a threat	52.9
No, will not pose a threat	21.9
Depends	25.1
(N)	1,851

**2010–2016: ‘How serious a threat do you think global warming will pose to you or your way of life in your lifetime?’**

	2010	2013	2016
Very serious	18.6	18.9	23.0
Fairly serious	36.8	36.8	39.2
Not very serious	33.3	32.5	27.2
Not at all serious	11.2	11.8	10.6
(N)	2,053	3,864	2,691

## Environment group membership

**1990: ‘For each of these groups and movements could you indicate how likely you are to join each of them, or are you already a member? Groups campaigning to protect the environment.’**

**1993: ‘How likely are you to join a group campaigning to protect the environment?’ 1996: ‘How likely are you to join any of these environmental groups or movements?’ 2001–07: ‘How likely are you to join any environmental groups or movements?’**

	1990	1993	1996	2001	2004	2007
Already a member	1.2	4.4	2.4	5.4	6.5	7.2
Not a member, but have considered joining	10.2	18.9	12.2	20.8	19.1	22.6
Not a member and have not considered joining	61.0	50.9	48.2	46.9	45.8	48.0
Would never consider joining	27.6	25.6	37.2	26.9	28.6	22.2
(N)	1,995	2,366	1,763	1,966	1,735	1,855

## Defence and foreign affairs

### Attitudes towards Australia's defence capability

**1996–2016: 'Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each the following statements.'**

#### Australia would be able to defend itself successfully if it were ever attacked

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	3.4	5.2	3.9	3.1	3.7	5.2	3.6	4.4
Agree	11.4	14.5	11.8	16.1	19.2	25.3	24.6	26.7
Neither agree nor disagree	20.3	20.2	22.2	24.5	28.9	30.1	29.1	33.1
Disagree	40.1	40.2	42.0	41.9	37.2	31.4	32.4	28.5
Strongly disagree	24.8	20.0	20.1	14.4	11.0	8.0	10.2	7.3
(N)	1,712	1,843	1,942	1,711	1,801	2,041	3,827	2,654

#### Australia's defence is stronger now than it was 10 years ago

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	4.5	3.3	5.4	10.4	9.0	8.8	6.1	8.7
Agree	23.4	19.5	26.1	44.1	45.0	40.8	32.6	36.2
Neither agree nor disagree	43.1	42.2	40.1	30.7	33.2	42.1	43.6	45.9
Disagree	21.9	26.1	21.8	12.1	11.2	7.2	14.0	7.1
Strongly disagree	7.1	8.9	6.5	2.7	1.6	1.2	3.7	1.1
(N)	1,722	1,833	1,960	1,719	1,834	2,045	3,837	2,663

### Support for war on terrorism

**2001–2016: 'Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.'**

#### Australia should provide military assistance for the war on terrorism.

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	20.2	13.9	11.8	11.0	8.2	12.7
Agree	48.3	43.6	40.1	42.1	35.6	39.1
Neither agree nor disagree	18.7	22.1	26.8	26.1	30.8	28.0
Disagree	8.2	14.1	14.4	14.2	16.6	14.3
Strongly disagree	4.5	6.3	6.9	6.5	8.7	5.9
(N)	1,953	1,717	1,835	2,040	3,822	2,651

## Security threats to Australia

### 1996–2016: 'In your opinion, are any of the following countries likely to pose a threat to Australia's security?'

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
<b>Indonesia</b>								
Very likely	23.6	23.1	31.3	28.8	28.1	22.6	16.1	14.7
Fairly likely	35.9	38.8	42.2	43.1	44.7	39.4	36.0	35.2
Not very likely	40.5	38.1	26.6	28.1	27.2	38.0	47.9	50.1
(N)	1,674	1,731	1,888	1,562	1,781	2,022	3,785	2,617
<b>China</b>								
Very likely	18.6	14.3	9.0	7.7	10.4	14.7	13.7	17.5
Fairly likely	41.1	37.7	33.0	31.7	35.3	41.8	37.7	41.8
Not very likely	40.4	47.9	57.9	60.6	54.3	43.5	48.7	40.7
(N)	1,643	1,709	1,792	1,577	1,680	2,012	3,764	2,624
<b>Japan</b>								
Very likely	10.7	9.3	4.8	3.5	4.1	4.1	4.3	3.4
Fairly likely	21.2	21.3	14.9	10.3	13.9	16.8	14.4	11.1
Not very likely	68.2	69.4	80.3	86.2	82.0	79.1	81.3	85.5
(N)	1,629	1,682	1,788	1,562	1,659	1,990	3,714	2,609
<b>Malaysia</b>								
Very likely	8.1	7.7	6.5	7.2	7.3	6.4	5.6	5.2
Fairly likely	25.8	29.8	29.0	31.4	26.6	23.5	18.8	19.1
Not very likely	66.1	62.6	64.5	61.5	66.1	70.1	75.5	75.7
(N)	1,606	1,667	1,779	1,565	1,654	1,988	3,710	2,595
<b>Vietnam</b>								
Very likely	5.0	5.1	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.8	3.1	3.9
Fairly likely	19.5	18.6	16.6	15.5	16.2	16.7	7.5	13.3
Not very likely	75.5	76.3	79.9	80.6	80.3	79.5	89.4	82.8
(N)	1,601	1,655	1,777	1,553	1,627	1,991	3,713	2,590
<b>United States</b>								
Very likely	3.3	2.3	2.2	5.8	3.7	2.3	3.4	2.4
Fairly likely	6.2	5.5	5.5	7.6	7.3	7.5	14.1	9.6
Not very likely	90.5	92.2	92.5	86.5	89.0	90.2	82.5	87.9
(N)	1,598	1,672	1,791	1,576	1,640	1,999	3,695	2,599

### Attitudes towards defence links with the United States

**1993: 'As you may know, Australia is allied with the United States in the ANZUS Treaty. How important do you think the United States alliance under ANZUS is for protecting Australia's security?'**

**1996–2016: 'How important do you think the Australian alliance with the United States under the ANZUS treaty is for protecting Australia's security?'**

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Very important	36.5	55.4	47.0	57.9	45.3	41.5	45.8	45.8	41.5
Fairly important	42.1	33.4	41.1	31.9	39.2	42.9	41.3	40.1	45.1
Not very important	18.2	9.0	9.6	8.3	12.2	12.1	9.4	11.1	10.9
Not at all important	3.1	2.2	2.3	1.9	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.0	2.5
(N)	2,325	1,730	1,848	1,970	1,736	1,841	2,046	3,860	2,673

**1996–2016: 'If Australia's security were threatened by some other country, how much trust do you feel Australia can have in the United States to come to Australia's defence?'**

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
A great deal	25.4	35.5	33.1	38.5	33.4	31.3	32.6	36.1	30.8
A fair amount	43.3	45.1	46.7	44.5	39.9	43.5	47.2	46.0	49.4
Not very much	27.0	16.2	17.7	14.4	22.5	20.7	16.3	15.4	17.3
None at all	4.3	3.2	2.5	2.6	4.2	4.5	3.9	2.4	2.5
(N)	2,329	1,736	1,857	1,973	1,733	1,842	2,047	3,865	2,689

### Attitudes towards closer relations with Asia

**1996–2016: 'The statements below indicate some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years. For each one, please say whether you think the change has gone too far, not gone far enough, or is it about right?'**

#### Building closer relations with Asia

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Much too far	10.9	8.7	5.1	4.5	4.4	5.3	5.5	6.2
Too far	13.2	11.8	10.0	8.1	8.5	9.6	9.9	10.2
About right	53.6	55.0	51.0	51.5	60.0	62.8	56.1	58.4
Not far enough	17.7	20.2	26.7	29.0	22.0	20.1	23.4	20.5
Not nearly far enough	4.7	4.3	7.1	6.9	5.1	2.2	5.1	4.6
(N)	1,759	1,806	1,917	1,686	1,814	2,037	3,828	2,634

### Attitudes towards more trade relations with Asia

**1993: 'During the election campaign, there was a lot of discussion about Australia's trade with other countries. Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.'**

**1996: 'Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements about Australia's trade with other countries.'**

**1998–2016: 'Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.'**

#### Australia's trading future lies in Asia

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Strongly agree	23.1	20.9	11.1	10.8	14.4	25.9	15.4	19.6	14.2
Agree	45.5	45.4	43.7	46.0	49.0	30.8	51.5	51.5	47.9
Neither agree nor disagree	23.6	25.6	30	32.7	27.8	20.1	26.4	22.3	28.8
Disagree	6.0	6.5	11.9	8.4	6.6	16.5	5.3	4.7	6.3
Strongly disagree	1.8	1.5	3.4	2.1	2.2	6.7	1.4	1.9	2.8
(N)	2,277	1,715	1,836	1,938	1,717	1,816	2,041	3,824	2,647

## Defence spending

### 1987: 'Do you think the government should spend more or less money on defence?'

	1987
Spend more	48.9
Doesn't matter	24.5
Spend less	26.6
(N)	1,780

### 1993–2010: 'Do you think that the government should spend more or spend less on defence?'

	1993	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010
Spend much more on defence	14.1	10.2	18.5	20.6	15.5	14.9	15.1
Spend some more on defence	27.5	28.8	33.6	39.7	36.4	31.9	29.4
About right at present	43.3	45.7	38.4	33.2	37.7	41.2	45.3
Spend less on defence	11.3	11.2	7.5	4.7	8.0	8.4	7.7
Spend a lot less on defence	3.8	4.1	1.9	1.7	2.4	3.6	2.4
(N)	2,311	1,751	1,849	1,968	1,730	1,842	2,049