

The Essential Report

25 October 2016



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Prepared By: Essential Research

Data Supplied by:



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Our researchers are members of the Australian Market and Social Research Society.

About this poll

This report summarises the results of a weekly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Your Source. The survey was conducted online from the 19th to 24th October 2016 and is based on 1001 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on terrorism and international security, Julian Assange and the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC).

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 12.

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

Federal voting intention

Q If a Federal Election was held today to which party will you probably give your first preference vote? If not sure, which party are you currently leaning toward? If don't know - Well which party are you currently leaning to?

	Total	Last week 11/10/16	2 weeks ago 4/10/16	4 weeks ago 20/9/16	Election 2 Jul 16
Liberal	36%	34%	34%	36%	
National	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Total Liberal/National	38%	37%	38%	39%	42.0%
Labor	37%	37%	36%	36%	34.7%
Greens	10%	11%	10%	9%	10.2%
Nick Xenophon Team	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	6%	5%	6%	6%	
Other/Independent	6%	6%	7%	7%	13.1%
2 party preferred					
Liberal National	48%	47%	48%	48%	50.4%
Labor	52%	53%	52%	52%	49.6%

NB. Sample = 1783 The data in the above tables comprise 2-week averages derived from the first preference/leaning to voting questions. Respondents who select 'don't know' are not included in the results. The two-party preferred estimate is calculated by distributing the votes of the other parties according to their preferences at the 2016 election.



Concern about the risk of terrorism in Australia

Q How concerned are you about the risk of a terrorism attack on Australian soil?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
TOTAL Concern	72%	74%	80%	42%	76%
Very concerned	24%	23%	28%	2%	33%
Somewhat concerned	48%	51%	52%	40%	43%
Not very concerned	19%	20%	15%	39%	17%
Not at all concerned	6%	5%	4%	19%	7%
Don't know	3%	1%	1%	0%	1%

Almost three quarters of Australians (72%) are concerned about the risk of a terrorism attack on Australian soil. 24% of those are 'very' concerned. Greens voters (42%) are less likely than Labor (74%), Lib/Nat (80%) or Other voters (76%) to be concerned.

Older Australians were more likely to be concerned; 81% of those aged 55+ compared to 71% of those aged 35-54 and 63% of those aged 34 and under were concerned.

There were no significant differences between males and females.

Increasing risk of terrorism

Q Over the last few years, do you think that the threat of terrorism happening in Australia has increased, decreased or stayed much the same?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Mar 2015	Sept 2014
TOTAL Increased	73%	73%	82%	57%	73%	76%	75%	75%	57%
TOTAL Decreased	2%	2%	2%	5%	2%	2%	1%	2%	6%
Increased a lot	34%	35%	39%	9%	41%	42%	38%	39%	22%
Increased a little	38%	38%	43%	48%	32%	34%	37%	36%	35%
Stayed about the same	23%	25%	15%	38%	25%	19%	20%	20%	33%
Decreased a little	1%	1%	1%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Decreased a lot	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	3%
Don't know	3%	1%	2%	-	1%	3%	3%	4%	4%

Almost three-quarters (73%) of Australians think that the threat of terrorism happening in Australia has increased over the last few years. This figure is consistent with results from March 2015, October 2015 and November 2016. It is substantially higher than September 2014 (prior to the Lindt Café siege).

Again, Greens voters (57%) were less likely than Labor (73%), Lib/Nat (82%) or Other voters (73%) to think that the threat had increased.

Again, older Australians were more likely to think that the threat had increased; 80% of those aged 55+ thought it had increased compared to 72% of those aged 35-54 and 66% of those aged 34 and under.

There were no significant differences based on gender.



Support for anti-terrorism measures

Q Would you support or oppose the following measures?

	TOTAL Support	TOTAL Oppose	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Preventing Australian citizens suspected of fighting in Syria from leaving the country	64%	19%	33%	31%	10%	9%	18%
Preventing dual nationals who are suspected of fighting in Syria from returning to Australia	81%	8%	54%	27%	6%	2%	12%
Allowing the government to monitor phone calls and data of all citizens	44%	43%	20%	24%	22%	21%	14%
Supporting on the ground intervention by western military, including Australia, in Syria	49%	29%	16%	33%	19%	10%	23%
Investing in local programs to help de-radicalise youth	79%	9%	34%	45%	6%	3%	13%

The most strong support for anti-terrorism measures was to 'prevent dual nationals who are suspected of fighting in Syria from returning to Australia' (81%). This was followed by 'investing in local programs to help de-radicalise youth' (79%).

A strong majority (64%) also supported 'preventing Australian citizens suspected of fighting in Syria from leaving the country'.

Less popular (and supported by under half of Australians) were 'supporting on the ground intervention by western military, including Australia, in Syria' (49%) and 'allowing the government to monitor phone calls and data of all citizens' (44%).



Comments on 'Allowing the government to monitor phone calls and data of all citizens'

Support for this measure increases with age; while just 31% of those aged 34 and under support allowing the government to monitor phone calls and data of all citizens, support increases to 44% for those aged 35-54 and 55% for those aged 55+.

Lib/Nat voters (57%) were far more likely to support this measure. Greens voters (15%) were far less likely, and Labor voters (41%) did not differ significantly from the average.



Biggest threat to international peace and security

Q What of these is the biggest threat to international peace and stability?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other
Global warming	6%	8%	4%	20%	2%
ISIS and Islamic radicalisation	42%	41%	53%	16%	46%
Russian aggression	5%	3%	7%	3%	3%
Growing level of inequality	11%	13%	8%	15%	14%
Over-population	9%	8%	10%	8%	14%
A Trump presidency	21%	22%	16%	35%	17%
None of these	6%	4%	2%	3%	4%

Almost half (42%) of Australians consider 'ISIS and Islamic radicalisation' to be the biggest threat to international peace and stability (from the list offered).

This was followed by 'A Trump presidency', which more than one in five (21%) of Australians consider to be the biggest threat to international peace and stability.

Lib/Nat voters (53%) were more likely than the other voter group to select 'ISIS and Islamic radicalisation', while Greens voters were more likely to select 'A Trump presidency' (at 35% this was seen by Green voters to be the biggest threat from the list offered). One in five (20%) of Greens voters selected 'global warming', far more than any other voting group.

Support for Julian Assange

Q Julian Assange faces extradition from the UK to Sweden for an investigation into sexual assault allegations. In Sweden he will be detained while the investigation continues, and he may be extradited to the United States to face charges relating to WikiLeaks’s release of US diplomatic cables.

Do you think the Australian government has provided appropriate support to Assange given he faces investigation for sexual assault in Sweden and possible extradition to the US?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	July 2012
Government have provided appropriate support	28%	28%	36%	24%	24%	22%
Government have not provided appropriate support	26%	33%	19%	30%	36%	36%
Don't know	46%	39%	45%	46%	40%	41%

When asked whether they thought the Australian government has provided appropriate support to Julian Assange, the largest proportion (46%) of Australians selected ‘don’t know’.

28% said they had provided appropriate support, and almost the same amount said they had not provided appropriate support (26%).

These results are in line with those from July 2012, the last time this question was asked.

Lib/Nat voters were slightly more likely to believe that the Government had provided appropriate support (36%).



Support for re-establishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission

Q The Government plans to re-establish the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) to address claims of union militancy in the construction industry. The ABCC’s powers included preventing any person from revealing they had been forced to give testimony to the Commission, and overriding a person’s right to silence. Do you support or oppose re-establishing the ABCC?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Aug 2016	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Oct 2013
TOTAL Support	36%	26%	57%	22%	35%	32%	35%	35%	29%
TOTAL Oppose	16%	23%	5%	33%	17%	18%	16%	17%	22%
Strongly support	16%	9%	31%	4%	18%	13%	17%	17%	12%
Support	20%	17%	26%	18%	17%	19%	18%	18%	17%
Neither support nor oppose	24%	27%	21%	28%	24%	28%	23%	27%	23%
Oppose	8%	9%	5%	16%	8%	9%	8%	8%	9%
Strongly oppose	8%	14%	-	17%	9%	9%	8%	9%	13%
Don't know	24%	24%	18%	17%	23%	23%	27%	22%	25%

Just over one in three Australians (36%) support the re-establishing of the ABCC, whilst 16% oppose it. The remaining 48% either ‘neither support or oppose’ (24%) or ‘don’t know’ (24%).

These results are in line with those gathered previously.

Lib/Nat voters (57%) are significantly more likely to support the re-establishing of the ABCC, while Greens (33%) and Labor (23%) voters were more likely to oppose it.

Males (40%) were slightly more likely than females (32%) to support the re-establishing of the ABCC – however females were far more likely to select ‘don’t know’ (32% of females compared to 17% of males).



Importance of re-establishing the ABCC

Q Compared to other issues the Government needs to address, how important is the issue of re-establishing the ABCC?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Vote other	Aug 2016	Apr 2016
TOTAL Important	39%	29%	57%	29%	38%	35%	34%
TOTAL not important	38%	47%	25%	55%	43%	40%	41%
Very important	12%	9%	19%	5%	12%	9%	10%
Somewhat important	27%	20%	38%	24%	26%	26%	24%
Not so important	25%	26%	22%	28%	27%	25%	26%
Not at all important	13%	21%	3%	27%	16%	15%	15%
Don't know	24%	24%	18%	16%	19%	26%	26%

39% of Australians consider the re-establishing of the ABCC to be important compared to the other issues the Government needs to address. 38% consider it to be not important.

These results are not significantly different from those of August and April 2016.

Lib/Nat voters (57%) were more likely to consider it to be important. Labor (47%), Greens (55%) and Other voters (43%) were more likely to consider it to be not important.

Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a weekly online omnibus conducted by Your Source. Essential Research has been utilizing the Your Source online panel to conduct research on a week-by-week basis since November 2007.

Each week, the team at Essential Media Communications discusses issues that are topical and a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated regularly (such as political preference and leadership approval), while others are unique to each week and reflect media and social issues that are present at the time.

Your Source has a self-managed consumer online panel of over 100,000 members. The majority of panel members have been recruited using off line methodologies, effectively ruling out concerns associated with online self-selection.

Your Source has validation methods in place that prevent panelist over use and ensure member authenticity. Your Source randomly selects 18+ males and females (with the aim of targeting 50/50 males/females) from its Australia wide panel. An invitation is sent out to approximately 7000 – 8000 of their panel members.

The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ interviews. In theory, with a sample of this size, there is 95 per cent certainty that the results are within 3 percentage points of what they would be if the entire population had been polled. However, this assumes random sampling, which, because of non-response and less than 100% population coverage cannot be achieved in practice. Furthermore, there are other possible sources of error in all polls including question wording and question order, interviewer bias (for telephone and face-to-face polls), response errors and weighting. The best guide to a poll's accuracy is to look at the record of the polling company - how have they performed at previous elections or other occasions where their estimates can be compared with known population figures. In the last poll before the 2016 election, the Essential Report estimates of first preference votes averaged less than 1% difference from the election results and the two-party preferred difference was only 0.1%.

The Your Source online omnibus is live from the Wednesday night of each week and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants in the form of points. Essential Research uses the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyse the data. The data is weighted against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.

All Essential Research and senior Your Source staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour. Your Source is an Australian social and market research company specializing in recruitment, field research, data gathering and data analysis. Essential Research is a member of the Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO). Your Source holds Interviewer Quality Control Australia (IQCA) accreditation, Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO) membership and World Association of Opinion and Marketing Research Professionals (ESOMAR) membership.