



## Essential Report

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With data supplied by



## **Executive Summary**

This report summarises the results of a weekly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Your Source. The omnibus was conducted online from the 27<sup>th</sup> of July to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August and attracted 1009 responses.

Aside from the standard question we ask each week on Federal voting intention, this week we ask the Australian public whether they think the Liberal Party should support or oppose the Government's emissions trading scheme. This week we test a series of statements related to the responsibility of the Australian Government with regard Australian citizens abroad. We ask people whether they support or oppose the Federal Government taking responsibility of health services from the states. This week we take a look at how people's experiences at work and public opinion regarding the lowering of the voting age.

The methodology used to carry out this research is available in appendix one (page 10).

Please note not all tables total 100% due to rounding.



## Federal politics – voting intention

*Q. If there was a Federal election held today, to which party would you probably give your first preference?*

*Q. If you 'don't know' on the above question, which party are you currently leaning to?*

\* 1805 sample size

<b>2 week average</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2PP</b>	<b>2PP shift from last week</b>
Liberal	32%		
National	3%		
<b>Total Lib/Nat</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>Labor</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>+2%</b>
Greens	7%		
Family First	3%		
Other/Independent	6%		

NB. The data in the above table is derived from our weekly first preference voting question. Respondents who select 'don't know' as their first preference are not included in the results.

\* Sample is the culmination of two week's data.



## Emissions trading scheme

*Q. Do you think the Liberal Party should support or oppose the Rudd Labor Government's plans for introducing an emissions trading scheme to tackle climate change?*

	%
Should support	51%
Should oppose	20%
Don't know	29%

Just over half (51%) of those surveyed think the Liberal Party should support the Rudd Labor Government's plans for introducing an emissions trading scheme to tackle climate change.

Coalition voters were split on the issue – 41% think the Liberal Party should oppose and 33% think party support the Government's plans for an ETS. Labor and Green voters were more likely to think that the Liberal Party should support the Government's plans for an ETS (69% Labor and 66% Greens).

People aged over 55 were more likely to think the Liberal Party should oppose the ETS (32%), while respondents aged 18 – 34 were more likely to think the Liberal Party should support the Government's plan (55%).

With a similar question asked in June this year, 35% of people thought that the Opposition should vote in favour of the Government's proposed emissions trading scheme, 25% thought the Opposition should vote against and 40% didn't know. This suggests a strengthening of support for the Government's position.



## Australian citizens in foreign countries and Australian Government responsibility

*Q. In each of the following situations involving Australian citizens in foreign countries, what sort of action do you think the Australian Government should take?*

	Take strong action even if it damages Australia's relations with that country	Give support and assistance without damaging relations with that country	There is no obligation for the Government to get involved	Don't know
A tourist gets into trouble while traveling in a war zone	17%	59%	20%	5%
A journalist reporting on a war gets into trouble in a war zone	24%	58%	12%	5%
A tourist is charged with an offence while traveling in an Asian country	9%	59%	27%	5%
A tourist is charged with an offence while traveling in a European country	8%	60%	26%	5%
A businessperson is charged with an offence while working in an Asian country	9%	57%	27%	6%
A businessperson is charged with an offence while working in a European country	9%	59%	26%	6%
An Australian, whether a business person or a tourist, is charged with a crime carrying a long prison sentence or the death penalty and there is serious doubt the person actually committed the crime.	52%	36%	7%	5%

People were most likely to think that if an Australian citizen gets in trouble in foreign countries, the Australian Government should give support and assistance without damaging relations with that particular country. People were most likely to think that the Australian Government should take action, even if it means damaging our relations with that country if it is an Australian journalist reporting on a war zone (24%), or a tourist gets into trouble while travelling in a war zone (17%). People were most likely to agree that the Government should take strong action, if an Australian; whether a business person or a tourist is charged with a crime carrying a long prison sentence or the death penalty and there is serious doubt the person actually committed the crime, even if it damages our relations with that country (52%).



## **Federal Government takeover of health services, excluding hospitals**

*Q. A report into health and hospitals has recommended that the Federal Government take over some health services from the states – including outpatient services, community health centres and aged care, but not hospitals. Would you support or oppose the Federal Government taking over these services from the states?*

	%
Support	62%
Oppose	11%
Don't know	27%

62% of people support a Federal Government takeover of some health services, excluding hospitals, from the states; only 11% are opposed to the idea.

Support for a Federal takeover of health services, excluding hospitals, increased with age – 51% of 18 – 34 year olds compared with 70% of people aged over 55.

Labor voters were more likely to support a Federal takeover of health services, excluding hospitals (71%) while Coalition voters were more likely to oppose (20%).

Support was consistent across all states.



## **Federal Government takeover of hospital services**

*Q. Would you support or oppose the Federal Government taking over all hospitals services from the states?*

	<b>%</b>
Support	57%
Oppose	18%
Don't know	26%

Over half (57%) of those surveyed support the Federal Government going further than the recommendations of the report by taking over all hospital services from the states, and 18% oppose such a move.

Support increased with age - 45% of people aged 34 years and younger support the Federal takeover of hospitals compared with 69% of people aged over 55 that support such a move.

Labor voters were more likely to support a Federal takeover of hospitals (63%) while Coalition voters were more likely to oppose such a move (23%).

Support was consistent across all states.



## Work stress

Q. Thinking about your main job, do you agree or disagree that: “It often seems like I have too much work for one person to do.”

	%
<b>Total agree</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Total disagree</b>	<b>38%</b>
Strongly agree	21%
Somewhat agree	37%
Somewhat disagree	26%
Strongly disagree	12%
Don't know	5%

58% of people surveyed agree with the statement that “it often seems like I have too much work for one person to do” and 38% disagree with this statement.

Respondents on higher incomes (\$1600 per week) were more likely to strongly agree/somewhat agree that “it often seems like I have too much work for one person to do” (68%).





## Lowering the voting age

*Q. Do you support or oppose allowing 16-17 year olds to vote in elections?*

	%
Support	13%
Oppose	79%
Don't know	9%

The majority (79%) of people surveyed oppose allowing 16 - 17 year olds to vote in elections.

Opposition to allowing 16 - 17 year olds the vote increased with age – 70% of people aged 18 – 34 years compared with 87% of people aged 55 years and over.

Green voters were more likely to support allowing 16 - 17 year olds to vote (21%), while Coalition voters were more likely to oppose such a move (84%).



## **Appendix One – Methodology**

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a weekly online omnibus conducted by Your Source. Your Source is an Australian social and market research company specializing in recruitment, field research, data gathering and data analysis. Your Source holds Interviewer Quality Control Australia (IQCA) accreditation, Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO) membership and World Association of Opinion and Marketing Research Professionals (ESOMAR) membership. Senior Your Source staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behavior.

Essential Research has been utilizing the Your Source online panel to conduct research on a week by week basis since the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2007. Each Monday, the team at Essential Media Communications discusses issues that are topical. From there a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated each week (such as political preference and social perspective), while others are unique to each week and reflect prominent media and social issues that are present at the time.

Your Source has a self managed consumer online panel of 109 500. 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 + responses. The Your Source online omnibus is live from the Tuesday night of each week and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants in the form of points (referred to as 'Zoints').

EMC 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.

