

The Essential Report

02 November 2020



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Prepared By: Essential Research

Data Supplied by:



AMSRS 

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



About this poll

This report summarises the results of a fortnightly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Qualtrics. The survey was conducted online from 28th October to 1st November 2020 and is based on 1,063 respondents.

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

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

Federal government response to Covid-19

Q Overall, how would you rate **the federal government's** response to the Covid-19 outbreak?

	02/11	05/10	21/09	07/09	24/08	10/08	27/07	13/07	22/06	15/06	08/06	01/06
Very poor	5%	5%	5%	8%	6%	7%	6%	6%	4%	3%	4%	5%
Quite poor	10%	12%	13%	12%	11%	8%	11%	10%	8%	8%	8%	7%
Neither good, nor poor	24%	22%	21%	22%	22%	21%	20%	20%	17%	16%	18%	20%
Quite good	39%	39%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	43%	42%	40%	39%
Very good	22%	21%	21%	18%	22%	24%	24%	24%	27%	30%	30%	28%
TOTAL: Poor	15%	18%	18%	19%	17%	16%	16%	16%	12%	11%	12%	12%
TOTAL: Good	61%	60%	61%	59%	61%	63%	64%	64%	71%	72%	70%	68%
Base (n)	1,063	1,066	1,081	1,076	1,068	1,010	1,058	1,054	1,079	1,087	1,073	1,059

- Rating of the Federal Government's handling of Covid-19 stays steady at 61% rating it very or quite good (60% last month).



State government response to Covid-19

Q How would you rate your **state government's** response to the Covid-19 outbreak?

TOTAL: Good	02/11	05/10	21/09	07/09	24/08	10/08	27/07	13/07	22/06	15/06	08/06	01/06
NSW	68%	65%	67%	57%	59%	61%	62%	63%	70%	65%	67%	62%
VIC	55%	45%	47%	50%	47%	49%	53%	49%	65%	75%	72%	71%
QLD	69%	69%	68%	66%	73%	68%	67%	69%	64%	67%	68%	69%
SA	77%	81%	81%	74%	65%	72%	76%	79%	79%	76%	79%	70%
WA	81%	83%	84%	87%	84%	86%	82%	77%	75%	77%	84%	79%

- Positive rating of the NSW Government has increased again this week, now at 68%, up from 57% in September and to high ratings seen in June.
- Following the easing of lockdown restrictions and low numbers of new community transmissions, positive ratings in Victoria have increased 10%pts from 45% last month to 55%. This is the highest ratings have been in Victoria since June.



Performance of State Premiers

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the job <NAME> is doing as State Premier?

[Only asked in NSW, VIC, QLD, SA and WA]

	Gladys Berejiklian NSW	Daniel Andrews VIC	Annastacia Palaszczuk QLD	Mark McGowan WA
Strongly approve	28%	29%	28%	45%
Approve	40%	31%	37%	33%
Disapprove	13%	15%	16%	6%
Strongly disapprove	8%	18%	8%	7%
Don't know	11%	6%	11%	10%
TOTAL: Approve	68%	61%	65%	78%
TOTAL: Disapprove	21%	33%	24%	12%
Base (n)	345	275	209	102

RESULTS FROM 19/10/20	Gladys Berejiklian NSW	Daniel Andrews VIC	Annastacia Palaszczuk QLD	Mark McGowan WA
Strongly approve	27%	25%	23%	53%
Approve	41%	29%	39%	31%
Disapprove	14%	16%	12%	6%
Strongly disapprove	9%	24%	15%	1%

Don't know	11%	6%	10%	10%
TOTAL: Approve	67%	54%	62%	84%
TOTAL: Disapprove	22%	40%	28%	7%
Base (n)	352	274	217	105

- In NSW, Gladys Berejiklian has maintained her approval ratings over the past two weeks with 68% approval (67% earlier in October).
- After the easing of lockdown restrictions, Daniel Andrews has seen his approval rating increase from 54% to 61%. He still has the highest disapproval of State premiers however (33%), but lower than 40% disapproval earlier in the month.
- On the eve of her Queensland election victory, Anastacia Palaszczuk had 65% approval.



Federal ICAC

Q To what extent would you support or oppose the establishment of an independent federal corruption body to monitor the behaviour of our politicians and public servants?

	Nov'20	Jan'20	Dec'19	Sep'18
Strongly support	45%	49%	42%	46%
Support	36%	31%	33%	36%
Oppose	5%	5%	7%	4%
Strongly oppose	1%	2%	2%	1%
Unsure	13%	13%	17%	14%
TOTAL: Support	81%	80%	75%	82%
TOTAL: Oppose	6%	7%	8%	5%
Base (n)	1,063	1,080	1,035	1,030

	Total	Federal Voting Intention			
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Strongly support	45%	50%	42%	49%	51%
Support	36%	32%	46%	28%	27%
Oppose	5%	4%	5%	7%	4%
Strongly oppose	1%	1%	1%	0%	5%
Unsure	13%	12%	6%	16%	14%
TOTAL: Support	81%	82%	88%	77%	78%
TOTAL: Oppose	6%	6%	6%	7%	9%
Base (n)	1,063	352	431	85	100



- There is strong support for the establishment of an independent federal corruption body, 81% supporting this and just 6% opposing.
- Support is consistent with earlier in the year, when 80% supported a federal ICAC.
- There is majority support within voters of both major parties, 82% among Labor voters and 88% among Coalition.



Federal ICAC Timing

Q Which of the following is closer to your view on Australia establishing an independent federal corruption body at this time?

	Total	Labor	Federal Voting Intention		TOTAL: Other
			Coalition	Greens	
Now is not the time to set up a corruption watchdog as Australia needs to deal with the pandemic first.	40%	37%	43%	30%	41%
The amounts of money being spent by the government during the pandemic makes it more necessary that a corruption watchdog is set up right now.	60%	63%	57%	70%	59%
Base (n)	1,063	352	431	85	100

- Most people think the establishment of a federal ICAC is needed now, with 60% saying “The amounts of money being spent by the government during the pandemic makes it more necessary that a corruption watchdog is set up right now”, with the remaining 40% believing “Now is not the time to set up a corruption watchdog as Australia needs to deal with the pandemic first.”



Interest in horse racing

Q How would you describe your level of interest in horse racing?

	Total	Age			Difference to previous years		
		18-34	35-54	55+	Nov'19	Nov'18	Oct'11
High interest	12%	14%	15%	8%	9%	8%	6%
Moderate interest	16%	22%	19%	9%	22%	20%	16%
Low interest	24%	27%	23%	22%	24%	26%	33%
No interest	45%	32%	42%	60%	44%	44%	44%
Don't know	3%	5%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Base (n)	1,063	319	371	373	1,033	1,028	1,046

- Just over one in 10 people say they have a high interest in horse racing (12%) while 45% have no interest. Interest in horse racing is consistent with previous years, with no significant shift in interest.
- Older people are more likely than younger people aged 18-34 to have no interest in horse racing (60% among those aged 55+, to 32% of 18-34-year olds).



Betting activity and horse racing

Q Which of the following best describes your regular betting activity?

	Total	Age			Gender	
		18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
I regularly bet on horse races and will place a bet on the Melbourne Cup	16%	18%	20%	10%	25%	8%
I rarely bet on horse races but will watch the Melbourne Cup and place a bet	26%	28%	26%	23%	25%	26%
I will watch the Melbourne Cup but will not place a bet	26%	17%	26%	35%	25%	28%
I have never been interested in the Melbourne Cup and will not place a bet	32%	36%	28%	32%	26%	38%
Base (n)	1,063	319	371	373	530	533

- Around a third of people are not interested in the Melbourne Cup and will not place a bet on Tuesday (32%). A quarter (26%) will place a bet on the race, despite rarely betting and the same number will watch the race without betting (26%). The remaining 16% say they regularly bet on horse races and will place a bet on the Melbourne Cup.
- Men are more likely than women to bet regularly on horse racing (25% to 8%).
- Despite having less interest in horse racing than other age groups, people aged over 55 are just as likely to watch the Melbourne Cup or place a bet on the race (68%).



Statements about horse racing

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about horse racing?

	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
The Melbourne Cup is a unique part of Australia's national identity	74%	19%	35%	39%	11%	9%	7%
I have become less interested in the Melbourne Cup because of my concerns about animal cruelty	47%	45%	22%	24%	24%	21%	8%
I have become less interested in the Melbourne Cup over recent years because of my concerns with gambling	37%	54%	15%	22%	26%	29%	9%

	TOTAL: Agree	Nov'20	Oct'19	Nov'18	Difference
The Melbourne Cup is a unique part of Australia's national identity	74%	74%	78%	-	-4
I have become less interested in the Melbourne Cup because of my concerns about animal cruelty	47%	47%	44%	29%	+3
I have become less interested in the Melbourne Cup over recent years because of my concerns with gambling	37%	37%	34%	26%	+3
Base (n)		1,063	1,033	1,028	-



- The Melbourne Cup has a strong place in the Australian consciousness, with 74% agreeing that the race is a unique part of Australia's national identity.
- Just under half of people (47%) agree that they have become less interested in the Melbourne Cup because of concerns about animal cruelty and 37% have become less interested in the Melbourne Cup over recent years because of concerns with gambling.



US Presidential Nominee Favourability

Q How favourable or unfavourable do you feel towards each of the US Presidential nominees?

	TOTAL: Favourable	TOTAL: Unfavourable	Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Unsure	Never heard of them
Donald Trump	28%	61%	13%	14%	14%	47%	10%	1%
Joe Biden	43%	37%	13%	30%	17%	20%	18%	3%

TOTAL: Favourable	Total	Federal Voting Intention				Gender	
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other	Male	Female
Donald Trump	28%	22%	39%	16%	31%	36%	20%
Joe Biden	43%	49%	45%	58%	29%	47%	40%
Base (n)	1,063	352	431	85	100	530	533

- Joe Biden is viewed more favourably by Australians ahead of the Presidential election this week. 43% say they feel favourable to the Democrat nominee, compared to 28% who feel favourable to Republican Donald Trump.
- Men have a higher favourability towards Donald Trump than women (36% to 20%). Coalition voters are more likely to be favourable to Trump than Labor or Greens voters (39% to 22% and 16% respectively).



Preferred US Presidential Election Winner

Q Thinking about the 2020 US presidential election, which candidate do you want to win?

	Total	Federal Voting Intention				Gender	
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other	Male	Female
Donald Trump	26%	20%	38%	10%	25%	33%	19%
Joe Biden	51%	60%	44%	72%	37%	49%	52%
Unsure	24%	20%	18%	18%	39%	18%	29%
Base (n)	1,063	352	431	85	100	530	533

- Joe Biden would be the preferred winner of the Presidential election, with 51% selecting him over the 26% preferring Donald Trump.
- Joe Biden has the majority of preferences among Labor voters (60%), Greens voters (72%) and women (52%).



US Presidential Nominee Attributes

Q Which of the following describe your opinion of the Democratic American Presidential nominee?

	Donald Trump	Joe Biden	Difference
Aggressive	72%	15%	+57
Arrogant	73%	18%	+55
Intolerant	63%	19%	+44
Erratic	67%	23%	+44
Narrow-minded	62%	22%	+42
More dishonest than other politicians	54%	21%	+33
Out of touch with ordinary people	60%	28%	+32
Visionary	29%	34%	-5
Hard-working	37%	48%	-11
Good in a crisis	22%	33%	-11
A capable leader	29%	41%	-12
Intelligent	36%	50%	-14
Someone who will strengthen the US relationship with Australia	27%	42%	-15
Understands the problems facing America	32%	51%	-19



- Donald Trump is seen to be aggressive (72% describing the president as this), arrogant (73%) and erratic (67%).
- Joe Biden is more likely than his opponent to be seen as understanding the problems facing America (51%), intelligent (50%) and hard-working (48%).
- 42% of people think Joe Biden is someone who will strengthen the US relationship with Australia, compared to 27% who think Donald Trump would do the same during a second term as president.



US Relations Statements

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about relations with the USA?

	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
It is important for the Prime Minister to have a good relationship with the US President, whoever they might be, for the good of the nation	72%	18%	36%	36%	12%	6%	10%
The Trump Presidency has diminished the USA's reputation	65%	21%	43%	23%	13%	8%	14%
The US is less relevant to Australia's interests than it has been in the past	54%	31%	19%	35%	22%	9%	15%
The Trump Presidency has been good for Australia	32%	48%	13%	19%	21%	27%	20%

- Regardless of the result on Tuesday, almost three-quarters of people agree that it is important for the Prime Minister to have a good relationship with the US President, whoever they might be, for the good of the nation (72%).
- 65% agree that the Trump Presidency has diminished the USA's reputation and just 32% agree that the Trump Presidency has been good for Australia.

Appendix: Household income definitions*

TOTAL: Lower Income	Up to \$51,999 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)
TOTAL: Mid Income	\$52,000 to \$103,999 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)
TOTAL: High Income	More than \$104,000 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)

Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

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

Every two weeks, the team at Essential considers issues that are topical, and a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated regularly (such as political preference and leadership approval), while others are unique to each week and reflect current media and social issues.

The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ interviews. In theory, with a sample of this size, there is 95 per cent certainty that the results are within 3 percentage points of what they would be if the entire population had been polled. However, this assumes random sampling, which, because of non-response and less than 100% population coverage cannot be achieved in practice. Furthermore, there are other possible sources of error in all polls including question wording and question order, interviewer bias (for telephone and face-to-face polls), response errors and weighting.

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

All Essential Research staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour.