

Friday, 19 September 2014

Small majority of Australians favour the Death Penalty for Deadly Terrorist Acts

A special snap SMS Morgan Poll today shows a small majority of Australians (52.5%) favour the death penalty for deadly terrorist acts while 47.5% don't. This is a significant increase from 2009 when only 23% of Australians supported the death penalty being imposed for convicted murderers. Today's special SMS Morgan Poll was conducted with a cross-section of 1,307 Australians.

Analysis by Voting Preference

Analysing the results by voting preference shows Liberal voters strongly in favour of the death penalty for deadly terrorist acts (67.5% cf. 32.5%), as are National voters (70.5% cf. 29.5%), however both ALP voters (39% cf. 61%) and Greens voters (18% cf. 82%) are against the death penalty.

Analysis by Gender

Analysis by gender shows a gender split with men in favour of the death penalty and women split almost evenly, but a slight majority against the death penalty:

- Men: Favour death penalty (55.5%) cf. against death penalty (44.5%);
- Women: Favour death penalty (49.5%) cf. against death penalty (50.5%).

Analysis by Age

Analysing by age shows younger Australians (under 35) are slightly against the death penalty for deadly terrorist acts while older Australians (35+) are in favour of the death penalty:

- 18-24yr olds: Favour death penalty (49.5%) cf. against death penalty (50.5%);
- 25-34yr olds: Favour death penalty (44%) cf. against death penalty (56%);
- 35-49yr olds: Favour death penalty (50.5%) cf. against death penalty (49.5%);
- 50-64yr olds: Favour death penalty (52.5%) cf. against death penalty (47.5%);
- 65+yr olds: Favour death penalty (62.5%) cf. against death penalty (37.5%).

Analysis by State

Analysing by State shows four States in favour of the death penalty for deadly terrorist acts: NSW (53% in favour cf. 47% against), Queensland (57% cf. 43%), Western Australia (59% cf. 41%) and Tasmania (63% cf. 37%) while two States are opposed: Victoria (47% in favour cf. 53% against) and South Australia (48.5% cf. 51.5%).

Gary Morgan says:

"A slight majority of Australians (52.5%) are in favour of the death penalty for terrorists convicted of a deadly terrorist attack according to a special snap SMS Morgan Poll of 1,307 Australians today while slightly fewer (47.5%) are against the idea.

"Support for the death penalty is strongest amongst Liberal voters (67.5% support) and National voters (70.5% support) while left-leaning voters are against: ALP voters (61% against) and Greens voters (82% against).

“This is a substantial increase in support for the death penalty since August 2009 when only 23% of Australians supported the death penalty for convicted murderers. However, less than 20 years ago, in August 1995, a majority of Australians (53%) supported the death penalty for convicted murderers.

“Support for imposing the death penalty for deadly terrorist acts is stronger amongst men (55.5% in favour cf. 44.5% against) than women (49.5% in favour cf. 50.5% against) while older Australians aged 50+ are clearly in favour and Australians aged 25-34 are the most opposed to the death penalty.”

Finding No. 5814 – This special snap SMS Morgan Poll was conducted with a representative cross-section of 1,307 Australians today, Friday September 19, 2014. They were asked “If a person is convicted of a terrorist act in Australia which kills someone should the penalty be death?”

For further information:

Contact	Office	Mobile
Gary Morgan:	+61 3 9224 5213	+61 411 129 094
Michele Levine:	+61 3 9224 5215	+61 411 129 093

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. The figures are approximate and for general guidance only, and assume a simple random sample. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4

Question:

Australians were asked: "If a person is convicted of a terrorist act in Australia which kills someone should the penalty be death?"

[Link to previous question on the Death Penalty: Historical Data](#)

Death Penalty or Imprisonment For Murder

Respondents were first asked: "Next about the penalty for **murder**. In your opinion, should the penalty for murder be **death** or **imprisonment**?"

	All Australians																
	Dec '47*	Feb '53*	Apr '62*	Nov '75	Oct '80	Jan '86	Jul '86	Jul '87	Feb '89	Feb '90	Jun '90	May '92	May '93	Aug '95	Nov '05	Dec '05	Aug '09
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Death Penalty	67	68	53	40	43	43	44	49	52	53	51	46	54	53	27	25	23
Imprisonment	24	24	37	43	40	41	40	37	34	35	35	39	36	36	66	69	64
Can't say	9	8	10	17	17	16	16	14	14	12	14	15	10	11	7	6	13
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Samples for 1947, 1953 and 1962 were electors aged 21 and over, from 1975 onwards the sample was all Australians aged 14 and over.

Voting Preference

	Total	Electors	Liberal	National	ALP	Greens	Other	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	52.5	51	67.5	70.5	39	18	45	72.5
No	47.5	49	32.5	29.5	61	82	55	27.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Age & Gender

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Men	Women	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	52.5	55.5	49.5	49.5	44	50.5	52.5	62.5
No	47.5	44.5	50.5	50.5	56	49.5	47.5	37.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

State & City/ Country

	Total	State						Region	
		NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	City	Country
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	52.5	53	47	57	59	48.5	63	51.5	56
No	47.5	47	53	43	41	51.5	37	48.5	44
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Morgan Poll Accuracy — Recent Elections State & Federal (2006 – 2013)

The Morgan Poll has proven to be consistently the most accurate regular poll in recent Australian Elections — including the 2013 Federal Election, 2010 Federal Election, 2007 Federal Election, 2010 Victorian State Election & 2012 Queensland State Election.

The **Morgan Poll** was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2013 Federal Election](#) for the two-party preferred vote (L-NP: 53.5% cf. ALP 46.5%) (sample 4,937 electors).

The **Morgan Poll** was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2007 Federal Election](#) for both primary vote and two-party preferred predictions (sample 2,115 electors).

The **Morgan Poll** accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Queensland Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 604 electors).

The **Morgan Poll** accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Victorian Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 956 electors). The **Morgan Poll** was also the most accurate on the primary vote of the major parties for the Victorian election.

Note: The [discussion on Possum Pollytics](#) regarding Morgan and Newspoll is well worth reading.

The following included comment says it all: “I find it interesting that for the only poll in the last five years for which there is any ‘real’ figure with which to compare, i.e. the polls immediately before the 2004 election, Morgan (45.5%) was closer to the actual Coalition Primary (46.7%) than Newspoll (45%) or Nielsen (49%), and Morgan (38.5%) was also closer to the ALP actual primary (37.6%) than Newspoll (39%), and only marginally further away than Nielsen (37%). Since we have no idea of how far away the ongoing polls are from ‘reality’ (whatever that means), surely we should just go with what we know, that in the most recent testable case, Morgan was better at forecasting the actual primary vote than Newspoll. On what possible basis should we decide that the Newspoll or Nielsen primary vote estimate is ‘better’ than Morgan’s.”

[View Federal Voting Intention Trend](#)