

Tuesday, 20 October 2015

A majority of Australians support higher immigration – including supporting Muslim and Asylum seeker immigration. For the first time a majority of Australians support a population of over 30 million

Today 57% (up 22% since July 2010) of Australians support an Australian population of over 30 million in 30 years' time – a stunning increase from only five years ago. Only 9% (down 15%) support a population of under 25 million, a further 23% (down 9%) support a population of 25-30 million and 11% (up 2%) can't say.

A clear majority of Australians 69% (up 11%) support immigration (of 210,000 in 2013/14) remaining the same 37% (down 10%) or increasing 32% (up 21%) while 26% (down 14%) want immigration levels reduced and 5% (up 3%) can't say.

Importantly, more Australians believe immigration has a positive effect on Australia 37% (up 4%) than a negative effect 31% (up 1%) while 19% (down 2%) believe immigration has little effect and 13% (down 3%) can't say according to a special Morgan Poll conducted over three nights last week with a cross-section of 647 Australians aged 14+.

Not surprisingly, a vast majority of Australians support both Skilled migrant immigration (89% cf. 8% oppose) and Family reunion migration (79% cf. 16% oppose).

In addition, the negative debate about Muslims and Asylum seekers has had little impact on how Australians consider these types of migration – 65% of Australians support Muslim immigration up from 54% support in July 2010, while 28% of Australians oppose Muslim immigration.

A large majority of Australians support Asylum seeker immigration (71% up from 52% support in July 2010) while 21% of Australians oppose Asylum immigration.

Analysing by Federal Voting Intention

However, a political divide emerges for both Muslim and Asylum seeker immigration:

For Muslim immigration:

- Greens supporters heavily support Muslim immigration (95% support cf. 1% oppose);
- ALP supporters also clearly support Muslim immigration (74% support cf. 20% oppose);
- L-NP supporters are more evenly split on Muslim immigration (54% support cf. 41% oppose).

For Asylum seeker immigration:

- Greens supporters heavily support Asylum seeker immigration (95% support cf. 0% oppose);
- ALP supporters clearly support Asylum seeker immigration (78% support cf. 17% oppose);
- A majority of L-NP supporters support Asylum seeker immigration (59% support cf. 34% oppose).

Gary Morgan says:

“Despite recent media coverage about the dangers of Islamic terrorism – a clear majority of Australians support Muslim immigration (65% support cf. 28% oppose) – this is significantly higher than five years ago in July 2010 when 54% supported and 35% opposed Muslim immigration. A large majority of Australians also support Asylum seeker immigration (71% support cf. 21% oppose) compared to a closer split in July 2010 (52% support cf. 39% oppose).”

“Significantly, a rising number of Australians support a ‘bigger Australia’ – now 69% (up 11% since July 2010) of Australians say they want immigration levels of about 210,000 immigrants in 2013/14 to either be increased 32% (up 21%) or remain about the same 37% (down 10%). Only 26% (down 14%) of Australians want Australia’s immigration levels to be reduced.

“The support for maintaining or increasing current levels of immigration is also reflected in the clear desire for Australia to have a larger population. Now 57% (up 22% since July 2010) of Australians wants Australia to have a population of over 30 million in 30 years’ time – this is the first time a majority of Australians have wanted Australia to have a population of over 30 million. Now only 9% (down 15%) of Australians want Australia to have a population of under 25 million in 30 years’ time. Australia’s current population is just under 24 million.”

These are the main insights from the special Roy Morgan telephone survey conducted over the three nights of October 13-15, 2015, with an Australia-wide cross-section of 647 men and women aged 14 or over.

For the ‘poll-watchers’ out there this latest telephone Morgan Poll revealed a two-party preferred lead for the L-NP 54% cf. ALP 46% based on how a cross-section of 601 Australian electors said they would vote – similar to the latest Morgan Poll conducted over the last two weekends which showed the L-NP 56% cf. ALP 44% on a two-party preferred basis.

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Immigration Levels

When Australians were asked: *“Over the last year (2013/14) about 210,000 immigrants came to Australia. Do you think the number of people coming here to live permanently should be increased, or reduced, or remain about the same?”*

Of Australians 32% said that immigration should be ‘increased,’ while 26% say it should be ‘reduced’ and 37% say it should ‘remain about the same.’ Only 5% of Australians can’t say.

Australians 14+

	July 1952*	July 1955*	May 1956*	Jan 1959*	Feb 1969*	Oct 1970*	March 2010	July 2010	Oct 13-15, 2015
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Remain about the same	29	39	40	33	45	45	45	47	37
Increased	14	10	8	26	19	12	9	11	32
Remain the same or Increased	43	49	48	59	64	57	54	58	69
Reduced	52	45	45	34	26	38	41	40	26
Can’t say	5	6	7	7	10	5	5	2	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* In 1952 immigration level asked about was not stated; 1955 & 1956 – 125,000; 1958 – 100,000; 1969 – 160,000; 1970 – 180,000; 2010 – 170,000.

Immigrants effect on Australian Life

Respondents were then asked: "Judging by what you see and hear, do you think immigrants are changing Australia's culture and way of life – or having little effect."

Respondents who responded that immigrants are changing us were then asked: "Do you think immigrants are changing Australia's culture and way of life for better or for worse?"

Australians 14+

Analysis by Voting Intention

	<u>March 2010</u>	<u>July 2010</u>	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Electors</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>Other#</u>	<u>Can't say#</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	38	33	37	38	31	49	49	26	11
Worse	34	30	31	32	45	22	3	47	57
Can't say (Better or Worse)	13	13	10	9	7	7	13	16	22
They're changing us	85	76	78	79	83	78	65	89	90
Having little effect	14	21	19	18	15	20	29	10	8
Can't say (Immigrants changing us)	1	3	3	3	2	2	6	1	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

Analysis by Sex and Age

	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>18-24</u>	<u>25-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	37	35	40	43	43	38	35	29
Worse	31	32	31	27	23	27	37	41
Can't say (Better or Worse)	10	9	10	6	12	11	9	9
They're changing us	78	76	81	76	78	76	81	79
Having little effect	19	20	17	17	20	23	17	16
Can't say (Immigrations changing us)	3	4	2	7	2	1	2	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Analysis by States & Regions

	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Capital Cities</u>	<u>Country Areas</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>Vic</u>	<u>Qld</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>Tas</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	37	38	35	38	46	28	41	29	46
Worse	31	31	32	32	26	36	41	32	9
Can't say (Better or Worse)	10	11	8	9	9	9	5	14	7
They're changing us	78	80	75	79	81	73	87	75	62
Having little effect	19	16	24	17	16	25	11	21	35
Can't say (Immigrations changing us)	3	4	1	4	3	2	2	4	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Australian Population Size

Respondents were then asked: "Australia's population has increased by 6 million from 18 million to 24 million over the last 20 years. What population do you think we should aim to have in Australia in 30 years – that is, by 2045?"

	Australians 14+			Electors	Analysis by Voting Intention				
	March 2010	July 2010	Oct 13-15, 2015		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Other#	Can't say#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under 25 million	26	24	9	9	9	6	9	18	18
25 – Under 30 million	35	32	23	22	26	18	20	19	24
30 – Under 35 million	21	22	27	28	33	26	23	24	7
Total under 35 million	82	78	59	59	68	50	52	61	49
35 million or more	9	13	30	29	25	39	25	26	27
Can't say	9	9	11	12	7	11	23	13	24
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

Analysis by Sex and Age

	Oct 13-15, 2015			14-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
		Men	Women					
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under 25 million	9	9	8	10	9	9	10	7
25 – Under 30 million	23	21	25	22	17	23	24	28
30 – Under 35 million	27	29	26	41	19	28	25	28
Total under 35 million	59	59	59	73	45	60	59	63
35 million or more	30	31	28	16	45	32	29	24
Can't say	11	10	13	11	10	8	12	13
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Analysis by States & Regions

	Oct 13-15, 2015			NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas
		Capital Cities	Country Areas						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under 25 million	9	9	9	8	11	9	9	6	3
25 – Under 30 million	23	23	22	28	18	27	21	13	27
30 – Under 35 million	27	28	27	27	25	26	26	39	31
Total under 35 million	59	60	58	63	54	62	56	58	61
35 million or more	30	29	31	29	31	28	27	31	21
Can't say	11	11	11	8	15	10	17	11	18
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Types of Immigrant to Australia

Respondents were then asked: "Please say whether you support or oppose (Muslim / Asylum seeker/ Skilled migrant/ Family reunion) immigration?"

Muslim immigration

Australians 14+

Analysis by Voting Intention

	<u>March 2010</u>	<u>July 2010</u>	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Electors</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>Other#</u>	<u>Can't say#</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	55	54	65	64	54	74	95	41	34
Oppose	36	35	28	29	41	20	1	55	22
Can't say	9	11	7	7	5	6	4	4	44
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

Analysis by Sex and Age

<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>14-24</u>	<u>25-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	65	64	78	84	69	53	50
Oppose	28	29	14	11	27	37	40
Can't say	7	7	8	5	4	10	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Analysis by States & Regions

<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Capital Cities</u>	<u>Country Areas</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>Vic</u>	<u>Qld</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>Tas</u>
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	65	66	65	69	64	64	59	70
Oppose	28	27	29	24	29	29	31	16
Can't say	7	7	6	7	7	7	10	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Asylum seeker immigration

Australians 14+

Analysis by Voting Intention

	March 2010	July 2010	Oct 13-15, 2015	Electors	L-NP	ALP	Greens	Other#	Can't say#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	49	52	71	70	59	78	95	54	54
Oppose	41	39	21	22	34	17	-	29	14
Can't say	10	9	8	8	7	5	5	17	32
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

Analysis by Sex and Age

	Oct 13-15, 2015	Men	Women	14-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	71	70	72	81	83	72	63	63
Oppose	21	21	21	16	6	20	27	30
Can't say	8	9	7	3	11	8	10	7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Analysis by States & Regions

	Oct 13-15, 2015	Capital Cities	Country Areas	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	71	71	72	70	74	69	68	72	84
Oppose	21	21	21	23	18	24	22	15	16
Can't say	8	8	7	7	8	7	10	13	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Skilled migrant immigration

Australians 14+

Analysis by Voting Intention

	<u>March 2010</u>	<u>July 2010</u>	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Electors</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>Other#</u>	<u>Can't say#</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	87	88	89	88	91	88	90	71	87
Oppose	11	10	8	9	7	8	9	25	3
Can't say	2	2	3	3	2	4	1	4	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

Analysis by Sex and Age

	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>14-24</u>	<u>25-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	89	86	90	82	90	90	91	88
Oppose	8	10	7	9	9	10	6	8
Can't say	3	4	3	9	1	-	3	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Analysis by States & Regions

	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Capital Cities</u>	<u>Country Areas</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>Vic</u>	<u>Qld</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>Tas</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	89	89	87	87	85	87	96	97	93
Oppose	8	8	9	9	9	11	4	1	7
Can't say	3	3	4	4	6	2	-	2	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Family reunion immigration

Australians 14+

Analysis by Voting Intention

	<u>March 2010</u>	<u>July 2010</u>	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Electors</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>Other#</u>	<u>Can't say#</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	77	75	79	78	75	82	88	64	64
Oppose	18	16	16	17	19	12	11	27	22
Can't say	5	9	5	5	6	6	1	9	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

Analysis by Sex and Age

	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>14-24</u>	<u>25-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	79	80	77	83	80	84	76	70
Oppose	16	14	18	12	18	11	18	21
Can't say	5	6	5	5	2	5	6	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Analysis by States & Regions

	<u>Oct 13-15, 2015</u>	<u>Capital Cities</u>	<u>Country Areas</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>Vic</u>	<u>Qld</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>Tas</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	79	81	74	72	82	79	86	88	80
Oppose	16	14	20	24	12	15	7	6	9
Can't say	5	5	6	4	6	6	7	6	11
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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%
500	±4.5	±3.9	±2.7	±1.9
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
1,500	±2.6	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1
2,000	±2.2	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0

Morgan Poll Accuracy — Recent Elections State & Federal (2006 – 2015)

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.”

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