

Monday, 24 October 2016

## Majority of Australians support Muslim & Asylum seeker immigration; and 58% want Australia's population kept under 35 million

Clear majorities of Australians support Muslim immigration (58% cf. 33% oppose) and Asylum seeker immigration (66% cf. 25% oppose), although even larger majorities of Australians support both Family reunion immigration (74% cf. 21% oppose) and Skilled migrant immigration (77% cf. 18% oppose) according to a special Roy Morgan survey conducted over three nights last week with a nationally representative cross-section of 656 Australians aged 14+.

### Muslim Immigration

Support for Muslim immigration is down 7% from a year ago (65% support in October 2015), although it is up 4% from July 2010 (54% support).

Importantly, a majority of L-NP supporters (51% support cf. 36% oppose), ALP supporters (67% support cf. 25% oppose), Greens supporters (88% support cf. 5% oppose) and supporters of Independents/ Others (58% support cf. 34% oppose) all support Muslim immigration.

However, the overwhelming majority of One Nation supporters are opposed to Muslim immigration (87% opposed cf. 4% support).

### Immigration Levels & Population

Now 40% (up 3%) of Australians support immigration remaining about the same and a further 21% (down 11%) want to see immigration levels increased; this constitutes a clear majority of Australians 61% (down 8%) who support immigration remaining the same or increasing while 34% (up 8%) want immigration levels reduced and 5% (unchanged) can't say.

Australians are split on the effect of immigrants on Australia's culture and way of life: However, there has been a negative shift in the last year – back to lower than recorded in 2010. 32% (down 5%) of Australians believe immigration has a positive effect on Australia; 32% (up 1%) believe immigration has a negative effect while 25% (up 6%) believe immigration has little effect and 11% (down 2%) can't say.

Most Australians want relatively moderate population growth – 34% (up 2%) want a population under 30 million in 2046, and only 24% (down 6%) want a population of 35 million or more. This is a shift away from growth levels that were seen as acceptable a year ago – but nowhere near the 2010 levels when 56% wanted a population under 30 million in the year 2040.

### Gary Morgan says:

*"Today's special Roy Morgan survey conducted over three nights last week shows a clear majority of Australians (58%) support Muslim immigration compared to only 33% that oppose. Even larger majorities of Australians support Asylum seeker immigration (66% cf. 25% oppose), Family reunion immigration (74% cf. 21% oppose) and Skilled migration (77% cf. 18% oppose).*

*"Importantly, majorities of supporters of Australia's major political parties support Muslim immigration as well – 51% of L-NP supporters (cf. 36% oppose); 67% of ALP supporters (cf. 25% oppose); 88% of Greens supporters (cf. 5% oppose). Only supporters of a resurgent One Nation party are strongly opposed to Muslim immigration – 87% opposed cf. 4% support.*

*“Today’s Roy Morgan survey results are in stark contrast to a well-publicised poll conducted by [Essential Research in September](#) which showed one-in-two Australians (49%) would support a ban on Muslim immigration compared to 40% of Australians that would oppose such a ban.*

*“Previous Roy Morgan surveys have consistently showed a majority of Australians support Muslim immigration: 65% of Australians supported Muslim immigration a year ago in October 2015 ([full results here](#)) compared to 28% that opposed; and in July 2010 54% of Australians supported Muslim immigration compared to 35% that were opposed ([full results here](#)).”*

*“However, across a number of questions relating to immigration, and the ideal size for Australia, there has been a shift away from supporting growth and immigration over the last year. This is not back to the levels recorded in 2010 but does give a clear sense that Australians are becoming less open to immigration.*

These are the main insights from the special Roy Morgan telephone survey conducted over the three nights of October 18-20, 2016, with an Australia-wide cross-section of 656 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 ALP 55% cf. L-NP 45% based on how a cross-section of 588 Australian electors said they would vote.

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#### Immigration Levels

When Australians were asked: *“Over the last year (2015) about 180,000 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 21% (down 11%) said that immigration should be ‘increased,’ while 34% (up 8%) say it should be ‘reduced’ and 40% (up 3%) say it should ‘remain about the same.’ Only 5% (unchanged) of Australians can’t say.

#### Australians 14+

	<u>July 1952*</u> %	<u>July 1955*</u> %	<u>May 1956*</u> %	<u>Jan 1959*</u> %	<u>Feb 1969*</u> %	<u>Oct 1970*</u> %	<u>Mar 2010</u> %	<u>July 2010</u> %	<u>Oct 2015</u> %	<u>Oct 18-20, 2016</u> %
Remain about the same	29	39	40	33	45	45	45	47	37	40
Increased	14	10	8	26	19	12	9	11	32	21
<b>Remain the same or Increased</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>61</b>
Reduced	52	45	45	34	26	38	41	40	26	34
Can’t say	5	6	7	7	10	5	5	2	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

\* In 1952 immigration level asked about was not stated; 1955 & 1956 – 125,000; 1959 – 100,000; 1969 – 160,000; 1970 – 180,000; 2010 – 170,000; 2013/14 – 210,000.



## 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?"

However, there has been a negative shift in the last year, back to levels lower than seen in 2010. Now 32% (down 5%) say 'better' while 32% (up 1%) say 'worse' and 36% can't say or believe there has been little effect.

Australians 14+				Analysis by Voting Intention						
	July 2010	Oct 2015	Oct 18-20, 2016	Electors	L-NP	ALP	Greens	One Nation#	Other#	Can't say#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	33	37	32	34	28	38	56	-	39	12
Worse	30	31	32	30	39	18	5	84	27	79
Can't say (Better or Worse)	13	10	8	9	8	8	11	6	14	3
<b>They're changing us</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>94</b>
Having little effect	21	19	25	23	19	31	25	10	20	-
Can't say (Immigrants changing us)	3	3	3	4	6	5	3	-	-	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

# Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

## Analysis by Sex and Age

	Oct 18-20, 2016	Men	Women	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	32	25	39	34	33	29	29
Worse	32	35	29	35	23	38	35
Can't say (Better or Worse)	8	8	9	5	5	12	12
<b>They're changing us</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>76</b>
Having little effect	25	31	18	22	34	19	23
Can't say (Immigrations changing us)	3	1	5	4	5	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## Analysis by States & Regions

	Oct 18-20, 2016	Capital Cities	Country Areas	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	32	42	23	30	49	32	21	10	30
Worse	32	20	41	31	24	28	37	49	34
Can't say (Better or Worse)	8	7	9	9	9	9	12	13	-
<b>They're changing us</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>64</b>
Having little effect	25	25	24	21	13	30	29	28	27
Can't say (Immigrations changing us)	3	6	3	9	5	1	1	0	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## Australian Population Size

Respondents were then asked: "Australia's population has increased by 6 million from 18 million to just over 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 2046?"

	Australians 14+			Electors	Analysis by Voting Intention					
	July 2010	Oct 2015	Oct 18-20, 2016		L-NP	ALP	Greens	One Nation#	Other#	Can't say#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under 30 million	56	32	34	36	35	32	24	77	38	62
30 – Under 35 million	22	27	24	25	33	19	31	7	28	18
<b>Total under 35 million</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>80</b>
35 million or more	13	30	24	23	20	28	28	10	23	2
Can't say	9	11	18	16	12	21	17	6	11	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

# Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

## Analysis by Sex and Age

	Oct 18-20, 2016	Men		Women		18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
		%	%	%	%				
Under 30 million	34	40	29	31	39	43	30		
30 – Under 35 million	24	28	20	30	18	20	27		
<b>Total under 35 million</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>57</b>		
35 million or more	24	22	27	28	26	23	16		
Can't say	18	10	24	11	17	14	27		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>		

## Analysis by States & Regions

	Oct 18-20, 2016	Capital Cities	Country Areas	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under 30 million	34	28	40	42	27	29	40	40	39
30 – Under 35 million	24	29	20	17	22	27	30	23	23
<b>Total under 35 million</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>62</b>
35 million or more	24	28	22	31	34	28	13	26	15
Can't say	18	15	18	10	17	16	17	11	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## 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+			Electors	Analysis by Voting Intention					
	July 2010	Oct 2015	Oct 18-20, 2016		L-NP	ALP	Greens	One Nation#	Other#	Can't say#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	54	65	58	59	51	67	88	4	58	49
Oppose	35	28	33	32	36	25	5	87	34	37
Can't say	11	7	9	9	13	8	7	9	8	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

# Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

### Analysis by Sex and Age

	Oct 18-20, 2016	Sex		Age			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	58	51	65	63	67	54	40
Oppose	33	37	29	31	25	30	52
Can't say	9	12	6	6	8	16	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### Analysis by States & Regions

	Oct 18-20, 2016	Capital Cities	Country Areas	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	58	67	51	53	70	56	63	44	56
Oppose	33	24	40	35	25	32	28	44	36
Can't say	9	9	9	12	5	12	9	12	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Asylum seeker immigration**

	Australians 14+			Electors	Analysis by Voting Intention					
	July 2010	Oct 2015	Oct 18-20, 2016		L-NP	ALP	Greens	One Nation#	Other#	Can't say#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	52	71	66	65	59	70	91	43	57	39
Oppose	39	21	25	26	30	21	3	52	33	37
Can't say	9	8	9	9	11	9	6	5	10	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

# Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

**Analysis by Sex and Age**

	Oct 18-20, 2016	Sex		Age			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	66	65	66	77	68	63	49
Oppose	25	24	26	14	23	29	40
Can't say	9	11	8	9	9	8	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Analysis by States & Regions**

	Oct 18-20, 2016	Capital Cities	Country Areas	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	66	72	61	63	60	64	70	64	69
Oppose	25	17	32	27	30	24	28	24	23
Can't say	9	11	7	10	10	12	2	12	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

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## Skilled migrant immigration

### Australians 14+

### Analysis by Voting Intention

	<u>July 2010</u>	<u>Oct 2015</u>	<u>Oct 18-20, 2016</u>	<u>Electors</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>One Nation#</u>	<u>Other#</u>	<u>Can't say#</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	88	89	77	77	81	74	94	44	83	51
Oppose	10	8	18	18	14	19	-	51	17	47
Can't say	2	3	5	5	5	7	6	5	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

# Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

### Analysis by Sex and Age

	<u>Oct 18-20, 2016</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	77	81	73	75	78	79	77
Oppose	18	14	22	20	20	14	22
Can't say	5	5	5	5	2	7	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### Analysis by States & Regions

	<u>Oct 18-20, 2016</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	77	86	70	88	76	84	87	78	46
Oppose	18	9	25	8	19	12	13	19	42
Can't say	5	5	5	4	5	4	-	3	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>



## Family reunion immigration

### Australians 14+

### Analysis by Voting Intention

	<u>July 2010</u>	<u>Oct 2015</u>	<u>Oct 18-20, 2016</u>	<u>Electors</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>One Nation#</u>	<u>Other#</u>	<u>Can't say#</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	75	79	74	74	70	82	94	26	65	65
Oppose	16	16	21	20	22	13	5	66	26	25
Can't say	9	5	5	6	8	5	1	8	9	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

# Sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution.

### Analysis by Sex and Age

	<u>Oct 18-20, 2016</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support	74	71	77	74	75	80	61
Oppose	21	24	19	25	16	17	32
Can't say	5	5	4	1	9	3	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### Analysis by States & Regions

	<u>Oct 18-20, 2016</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	74	84	66	67	82	76	73	77	68
Oppose	21	12	29	22	13	18	26	18	32
Can't say	5	4	5	11	5	6	1	5	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### **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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