

Thursday, 15 February 2018

Reducing taxation and improving health benefits are major issues

Taxation issues, including lower taxes and tax reform, are mentioned by 22% of Australian electors as the leading issue the Federal Government could address that would most benefit electors and their families, unchanged since the last time this question was asked in May 2010.

A further 17% of electors mention Health issues including private health insurance and Medicare/bulk billing, down 1% from May 2010, and an unchanged 13% mention Social welfare and the aged.

Two issues now mentioned by 12% of electors are Quality of government/politicians and Reducing utilities/electricity/gas prices both now mentioned by a much increased 12% of electors.

Analysis of issues by voting intention shows L-NP supporters (33%) are far more likely to mention Taxation related issues than ALP supporters (24%), private health insurance (L-NP 10% cf. ALP 4%), Reducing utilities/ electricity/ gas prices (L-NP 13% cf. ALP 5%) and Stopping/reducing spending/wasting taxpayer's money (L-NP 9% cf. ALP 3%).

In contrast, ALP supporters (11%) are more concerned with general health issues than L-NP supporters (5%), the Quality of government/politicians (ALP 16% cf. L-NP 9%), Education/HELP fees (ALP 11% cf. L-NP 7%), Housing affordability (ALP 10% cf. L-NP 6%) and the Environment (ALP 11% cf. L-NP 1%).

Michele Levine, Chief Executive Officer, Roy Morgan says:

"The L-NP Government has endured a challenging week with the revelations about Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce's illicit extra-marital affair dominating media time and distracting the Government from its core responsibility of governing.

"However, today's special Roy Morgan SMS survey shows the Government must concentrate on improving Australia's taxation system (mentioned by 22% of Australian electors), investing in better health outcomes (17%), improving social welfare and services for the aged (13%) and reducing the prices of key utilities including electricity, gas and water (12%) if it wants to gain wider support from the Australian people.

"Addressing these sets of issues competently would also go some way to improving the perception of the Quality of government/politicians named by 12% of Australian electors as an area that improvement would most benefit regular Australians.

"The examples splashed extensively over our media in the last week illustrate the challenges the Government faces on this front."

An Australia-wide cross-section of 938 electors was asked: *"Thinking about yourself. What could the Federal Government do, that would most benefit you and your family?"*

These are the main findings of a special Roy Morgan SMS survey of 938 electors conducted during this week, February 9-12, 2018 throughout Australia.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What could the Federal Government do that would be of most benefit to you and your family?

All Electors

Summary Issues	Jul '94	Jul '95	Nov '95	Feb '99	Nov '99	Mar '01	Oct '01	Dec '02	May '03	May '04	May '07	Oct '07	May '10	Feb '18
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Taxation/Lower taxes	n/a	n/a	n/a	18	15	12	13	15	26	25	15	11	15	15
Tax reform	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	*	5	4	6	5	5	1	1	3	2
Taxation/no GST	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	3	8	12	3	3	3	2	1	1	*
Mining taxes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	*
Other taxation issues	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	8	*	3	4	1	1	2	1	3	5
Total Taxation	26	25	25	29	26	25	30	25	34	32	18	14	22	22
Health	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	13	12	26	17	8
Private health insurance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	2	*	*	1	6
Medicare/Bulk billing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	2	*	1	1	3
Total Health	8	9	8	10	12	7	10	12	22	16	12	27	18	17
Social welfare and the aged	11	11	11	9	11	13	12	13	10	13	11	12	13	13
Quality of govt./Politicians	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	3	12
Reduce utilities/Electricity/ Gas prices	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	12
Education/ HELP fees	6	6	6	5	9	9	13	8	13	12	9	16	10	7
Housing affordability	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	2	3	5	4	6
Stop/Reduce spending/Wasting taxpayer's money	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	6
Environment	1	2	1	1	*	1	1	1	3	3	7	5	4	3
Carbon trading, ETS, carbon price, Renewables	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	3
Total Environment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	6
Increase wages	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	5	1	3	2	4
Paid maternity leave/ Childcare	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	4
Reduce cost of living	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	2	2	1	2	4
Give out more money/ Stimulus	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	3
Limit immigration	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	*	*	1	1	2	3
Unemployment	9	8	7	6	8	5	5	3	2	3	1	1	2	3
Cheap energy/ Coal, nuclear etc	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
Increase payments for disabled	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	2
Superannuation/Self-funded retirees	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	4	1	1	6	2
Transport/Roads	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	4	4	2
Aborigines	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	*	-	1	*	-	1
Defence/National security	*	*	*	*	*	1	1	2	1	*	1	1	-	1
Economy and finance	6	8	9	4	4	6	3	3	2	1	2	1	3	1
Industry and business	4	5	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	2	2	4	1
Interest rates	3	5	7	1	1	2	1	*	*	3	2	7	8	1
Law and order	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	1
Petrol prices	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	2	4	2	1	1
Work conditions/IR	4	4	4	1	3	5	4	3	1	*	4	3	1	1
Child and youth services	5	3	4	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	4	2	*
Equality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	*	-	1	*	*	*
Family issues	2	1	2	3	2	3	3	3	1	3	2	2	3	*
Trade and foreign policy	*	2	1	1	1	*	*	1	-	1	2	1	*	*
Water supply/management	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	2	*	*
Other	4	3	3	7	2	3	3	3	7	6	*	1	1	1
Total mentioned an issue	81	78	80	84	79	81	80	78	88	89	71	85	85	99
Nothing/Can't say	19	22	20	16	21	19	20	22	12	11	29	15	15	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Results from sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution. - Not mentioned. * Less than 1%. n/a Not available. Percentages add to more than 100% as some electors gave multiple answers.



What could the Federal Government do that would be of most benefit to you and your family?

Summary Issues	Total	Analysis by Federal Voting Intention	
		ALP	L-NP
	%	%	%
Taxation/Lower taxes	15	12	24
Tax reform	2	5	3
Taxation/no GST	*	*	-
Mining Taxes	*	*	-
Other taxation issues	5	7	6
Total Taxation	22	24	33
Health	8	11	5
Private health insurance	6	4	10
Medicare/Bulk billing	3	5	3
Total Health	17	20	18
Social welfare and the aged	13	15	15
Quality of Govt./Politicians	12	16	9
Reduce utilities/ Electricity/ Gas prices	12	5	13
Education/ HELP fees	7	11	7
Housing affordability	6	10	6
Stop/ Reduce spending/Wasting Tax Payer's money	6	3	9
Carbon Trading, ETS, Carbon Price	3	6	1
Environment	3	5	*
Total Environment	6	11	1
Increase wages	4	6	3
Paid maternity leave/ Childcare	4	4	5
Reduce cost of living	4	4	7
Give out more money/Stimulus	3	4	2
Limit immigration	3	1	3
Unemployment	3	3	1
Cheap energy/ Coal, nuclear etc.	2	*	3
Increase payments for disabled	2	4	1
Superannuation/Self-funded retirees	2	2	4
Transport/Roads	2	2	1
Aborigines	1	1	-
Defence/ National security	1	*	*
Economy and finance	1	1	1
Industry and business	1	1	1
Interest rates	1	1	1
Law and order	1	2	*
Petrol prices	1	*	3
Work conditions/IR	1	1	1
Child and youth services	*	1	-
Equality	*	*	-
Family issues	*	*	*
Trade and foreign policy	*	*	*
Water supply/Management	*	*	-
Other	1	1	2
Total mentioned an issue	99	99	99
Nothing/Can't say	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100

Results from sample sizes less than 50 should be treated with caution. - Not mentioned. * Less than 1% . n/a Not available. Percentages add to more than 100% as some electors gave multiple answers.



About Roy Morgan

Roy Morgan is the largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state of Australia, as well as in the United States and the United Kingdom. A full service research organisation specialising in omnibus and syndicated data, Roy Morgan has over 75 years' experience in collecting objective, independent information on consumers.

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. Margin of error 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. 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%
5,000	±1.4	±1.2	±0.8	±0.6
20,000	±0.7	±0.6	±0.4	±0.3
50,000	±0.4	±0.4	±0.3	±0.2