

Friday, 1 March 2019

## Government Confidence virtually unchanged after Medevac Bill

**Two Roy Morgan Polls conducted in the fortnight before and fortnight after the passage of the controversial Medevac Bill for asylum seekers through Federal Parliament on February 12 show the bill had virtually no impact on overall Government Confidence although there were significant shifts in sentiment when analysing sentiment for different demographics.**

Roy Morgan's Government Confidence Rating slipped 1pt to 90.5 for the fortnight of February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019 with 37% (unchanged) of electors saying Australia is now heading in the 'right direction' and 46.5% (up 1%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

### Government Confidence increases for ALP supporters but slides for Greens supporters

There was little change in the sentiment of L-NP supporters following the passage of the Medevac Bill. L-NP supporters now have a Government Confidence Rating of 110, up 1pt from before the passage of the bill, with 48% (up 2%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 38% (up 1%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

In contrast, there was an increase in Government Confidence for ALP supporters after the passage of the Medevac Bill. The passage of the bill marked the first time a sitting Government had lost a vote in the House of Representatives for 90 years since 1929.

Government Confidence for ALP supporters increased 4.5pts to 94 with 38.5% (up 2%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 44.5% (down 2.5%) saying Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

However, balancing these increases in Government Confidence for both L-NP and ALP supporters there were large declines for Greens' supporters and supporters of Independents/Others.

Government Confidence for Greens' supporters dropped 9.5pts to 75 with only 27.5% (down 5.5%) saying Australia is heading in the 'right direction' while a majority of 52.5% (up 4%) now say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

There was an even bigger decline for supporters of Independents/Others with Government Confidence plummeting to only 53 with just 19.5% (down 5%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 66.5% (up 8%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

### Government Confidence plunges in regional Australia, but up in metro areas

The passage of the Medevac Bill has not impressed rural and regional Australia with Government Confidence plunging by 8pts to 78 in Country Areas. Now only 31.5% (down 3.5%) of Australians in Country Areas say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and a clear majority of 53.5% (up 4.5%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

This plunge was not replicated in Australia's Capital Cities. Now 40.5% (up 2.5%) of Australians in Capital Cities say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 42% (down 1.5%) now say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

### Government Confidence up for men, but drops for women

Following the passage of the Medevac Bill Government Confidence increased for Australian men by 4.5pts to 98.5 with 42% (up 4%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 43.5% (down 0.5%) saying Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

In contrast, Government Confidence for Australian women fell by 6pts to only 83.5. Now just 32.5% (down 3.5%) say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and nearly half, 49% (up 2.5%), say Australia is now heading in the 'wrong direction'.

## Government Confidence up strongly for young Australians but down for other age groups

Government Confidence increased strongly for Australians aged 18-34 years old following the passage of the Medevac Bill, up by 10pts to 107 and now the highest of any age groups. Now 42% (up 3.5%) of Australians aged 18-34 say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 35% (down 6.5%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

In contrast to younger Australians, Government Confidence dropped slightly for the three older age groups following the passage of the Medevac Bill.

Government Confidence for Australians aged 35-49 years old dropped 3pts to 97.5, and dropped by 2.5pts to 77 for Australians aged 50-64 years old and for Australians aged 65+ Government Confidence was down 4.5pts to 84.5.

## Michele Levine, CEO, Roy Morgan says, the 'Medevac' Bill which allows the evacuation of asylum seekers in need of medical care provoked strong reactions around Australia but the net impact is unlikely to be significant on the Federal election:

*"The passage of the controversial 'Medevac' Bill in mid-February created a media storm as the Morrison Government lost a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives for the first time. In fact this was the first time any Federal Government had lost a vote on the House of Representatives for 90 years since 1929.*

*"The 'Medevac' Bill allows for asylum seekers in need of medical care to be evacuated from the remote islands such as Nauru and Manus Island on which they are located while their asylum claims are assessed.*

*"Although the bill was clearly controversial, the net impact on the Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating has been negligible. Government Confidence slipped only 1pt to 90.5 following the passage of the 'Medevac' Bill.*

*"History shows that a Government Confidence Rating below the neutral level of 100 spells trouble for a Government. In the lead-up to the 2013 Federal Election the final Morgan telephone poll of the campaign showed a Government Confidence Rating of only 99 and a few days later the Rudd Government was roundly defeated at that election.*

*"The final Morgan Poll prior to the 2016 Federal Election showed the Turnbull Government was in trouble when Government Confidence fell to only 102pts, barely above neutral. The final result of that election was a narrow victory for the Government with a majority of only 1 seat.*

*"These historical precedents show that the Morrison Government has to do more than be tough on asylum seekers to have a chance at winning this year's Federal election due in May.*

*"When Australians are asked to nominate the most important issues they face they consistently – and across the political and demographic spectrum – nominate 'Keeping day to day living costs down' (54%) rather than either 'Managing immigration and population growth' (17%) or 'Reducing the number of illegal migrants coming to Australia' (9%).*

*"Although appearing 'tough' on asylum seekers is popular with the Government's political base it is unlikely to significantly increase the Government's political support in the lead-up to the Federal Election."*

Electors were asked: *"Generally speaking, do you feel that things in Australia are heading in the right direction or would you say things are seriously heading in the wrong direction?"*

Visit the Roy Morgan Online Store to browse our range of [Voter Profiles](#) by electorate, detailed [Voting Intention Demographics Reports](#) and [Most important Political Issue Reports](#) (all 150 electorates ranked by an issue).

*Finding No. 7893 – These two Morgan Polls on Roy Morgan Government Confidence were conducted via face-to-face interviewing during the month of February. Roy Morgan interviewed 1,673 Australian electors aged 18+ on the weekends of February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019 (pre Medevac Bill) and 1,708 Australian electors aged 18+ on the weekends of February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019 (post Medevac Bill).*

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## Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating

Electors	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	37	45.5	91.5	17.5	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	37	46.5	90.5	16.5	100
<b>Change</b>	-	+1	-1pt	-1	

## Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by Federal Voting Intention

Voting Intention	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
<b>L-NP</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	46	37	109	17	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	48	38	110	14	100
<b>Change</b>	+2	+1	+1pt	-3	
<b>ALP</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	36.5	47	89.5	16.5	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	38.5	44.5	94	17	100
<b>Change</b>	+2	-2.5	+4.5pts	+0.5	
<b>Greens</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	33	48.5	84.5	18.5	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	27.5	52.5	75	20	100
<b>Change</b>	-5.5	+4	-9.5pt	+1.5	
<b>Independents/Others</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	24.5	58.5	66	17	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	19.5	66.5	53	14	100
<b>Change</b>	-5	+8	-13pts	-3	
<b>Can't say</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	31.5	42.5	89	26	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	29	40	89	31	100
<b>Change</b>	-2.5	-2.5	-	+5	

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## Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by Region

Region	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
<b>Capital Cities</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	38	43.5	<b>94.5</b>	18.5	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	40.5	42	<b>98.5</b>	17.5	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>+2.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>+4pts</b>	<b>-1</b>	
<b>Country Areas</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	35	49	<b>86</b>	16	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	31.5	53.5	<b>78</b>	14.5	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>+4.5</b>	<b>-8pts</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	

## Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by State

State	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
<b>NSW</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	34.5	44.5	<b>90</b>	21	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	40	43.5	<b>96.5</b>	16.5	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>+5.5</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>+6.5pts</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	
<b>Victoria</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	38	44.5	<b>93.5</b>	17.5	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	37.5	46.5	<b>91</b>	16	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>-2.5pts</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	
<b>Queensland</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	32	52	<b>80</b>	16	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	30.5	49.5	<b>81</b>	20	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>+1pt</b>	<b>+4</b>	
<b>WA</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	44.5	40.5	<b>104</b>	15	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	43.5	46	<b>97.5</b>	10.5	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>+5.5</b>	<b>-6.5pts</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	
<b>SA</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	48	32	<b>116</b>	20	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	39	44	<b>95</b>	17	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>+12</b>	<b>-21pts</b>	<b>-3</b>	
<b>Tasmania</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	31	53	<b>78</b>	16	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	25.5	53	<b>72.5</b>	21.5	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-5.5pts</b>	<b>+1.5</b>	

## Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by Gender

Gender	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
<b>Women</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	36	46.5	<b>89.5</b>	17.5	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	32.5	49	<b>83.5</b>	18.5	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>+2.5</b>	<b>-6pts</b>	<b>+1</b>	
<b>Men</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	38	44	<b>94</b>	18	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	42	43.5	<b>98.5</b>	14.5	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>+4.5pts</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	

## Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by Age

Age	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
<b>18-34</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	38.5	41.5	<b>97</b>	20	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	42	35	<b>107</b>	23	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>-6.5</b>	<b>+10pts</b>	<b>+3</b>	
<b>35-49</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	41.5	41	<b>100.5</b>	17.5	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	40	42.5	<b>97.5</b>	17.5	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>+1.5</b>	<b>-3pts</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>50-64</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	32	52.5	<b>79.5</b>	15.5	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	33	56	<b>77</b>	11	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>+3.5</b>	<b>-2.5pts</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	
<b>65+</b>					
February 2/3 & 9/10, 2019	36	47	<b>89</b>	17	100
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	34.5	50	<b>84.5</b>	15.5	100
<b>Change</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>-4.5pts</b>	<b>-1.5</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%
<b>1,000</b>	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
<b>1,500</b>	±2.6	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1
<b>2,000</b>	±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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