



Australian
National
University



INNOVATION, SCIENCE, AND BUSINESS:
Australian Attitudes to Government Support

Report No. 23: April 2017

(ANUpoll data collected November 2016)

ANU College of
Arts & Social
Sciences

ANUPOLL

INNOVATION, SCIENCE, AND BUSINESS: **Australian attitudes to government support**

Dr Jill Sheppard, School of Politics and International Relations
and Professor Matthew Gray, ANU Centre for Social Research
and Methods

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

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About the poll

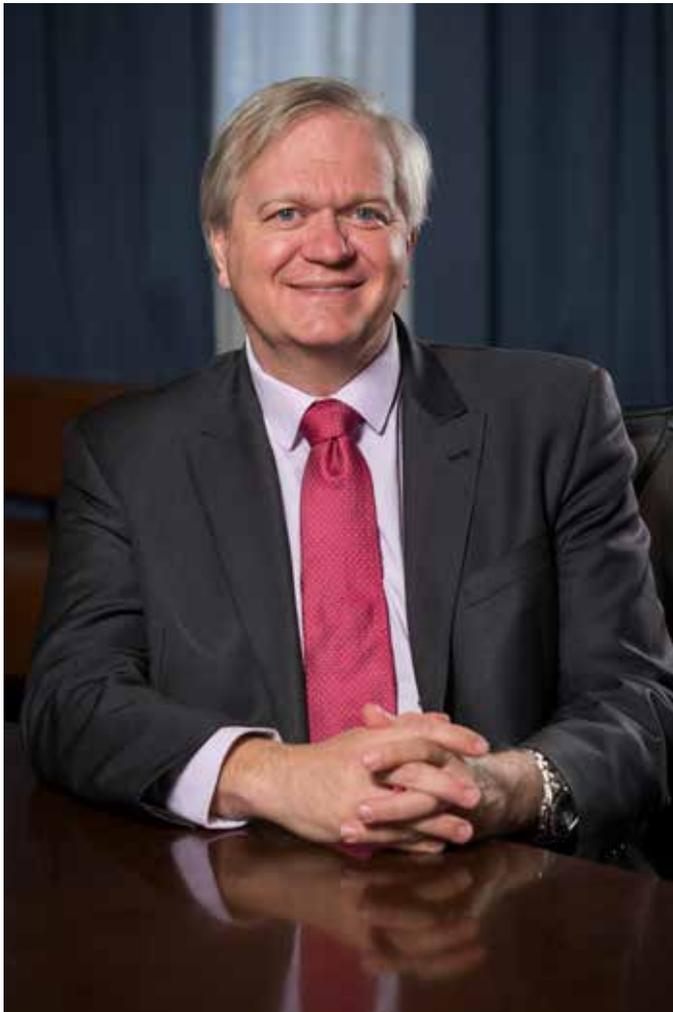
ANUpoll is conducted for The Australian National University (ANU) by the Social Research Centre, an ANU Enterprise business. The poll is a national random sample of the adult population, and is conducted by telephone. In this poll, 1,202 people were interviewed between 24 October and 8 November 2016 with a response rate of 19.8 per cent. The results have been weighted to represent the national population. The poll's margin of error is ± 2.5 per cent.

Sheppard, J & Gray, M, ANU Poll 23, Australian Innovation, Science, and Business: Attitudes to Government Support [Computer file]. Canberra: Australian Data Archive, The Australian National University, 2017.

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VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



Science and innovation are central to the Australian story. We often think of ourselves as ‘punching above our weight’ with our contribution to scientific developments, whether it be the development of wi-fi technology, numerous medical discoveries, or advances in agriculture.

With the Australian Government committed to the National Innovation and Science Agenda, it is timely to examine how Australians view the country’s achievements in science and innovation, its future, and the best ways of funding that agenda.

As academic researchers, we are reassured to find that an immense majority of Australians want politicians to rely more on scientific advice. This poll also finds that most Australians want scientific research to be publicly funded. It also shows that medical and agricultural funding is preferred to other forms of scientific funding – this is something we should heed as we continue these important national policy debates.

This report provides an important contribution to the ongoing public debate on future directions for science and innovation in Australia.

The ANUpoll, conducted by the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, is designed to inform public and policy debate, as well as to assist scholarly research. It is an important contribution that ANU makes to public debate about the key social issues facing Australia and the type of country in which we want to live.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'B. P. Schmidt'.

Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC

Vice-Chancellor and President

SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY IN AUSTRALIA

Key points

- > 82 per cent of Australians want politicians to rely more on the advice of expert scientists.
- > Two thirds (67 per cent) of Australians believe science is best funded by government, rather than by private investment.
- > Despite broad support of government assistance for 'start-up' companies, when presented with hypothetical companies and scenarios Australians are more supportive of government assistance for farming and medical companies.

Innovation and science have underpinned rising living standards across the world.

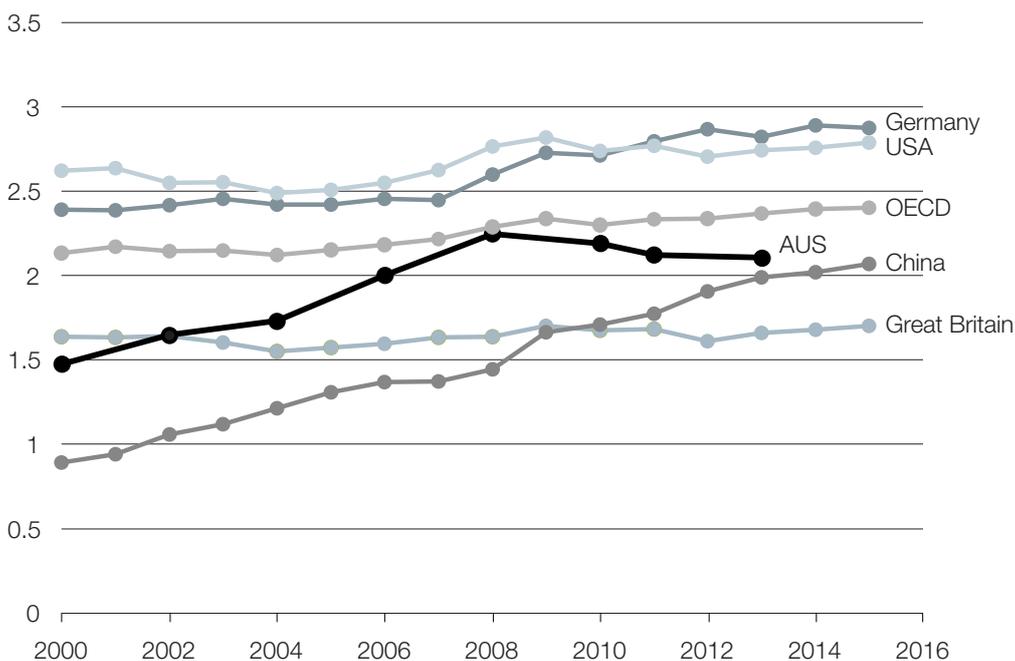
A focus of Australian government policy since the 1980s has been to increase the level of private sector research and development (R&D), including measures such as R&D tax concessions, competitive grants and policies designed to increase collaboration between public sector research institutions and the private sector.

Australian expenditure on R&D in 2013 was 2.1 per cent of the size of the economy (as measured by GDP), slightly below the OECD average of 2.4 per cent of GDP. There is evidence that following a strong increase in R&D expenditure in Australia from 2000 to about 2008, it has subsequently declined at the same time as it is increasing in many other countries. Australia is falling behind other countries such as Germany and the USA. China is now spending a similar proportion of GDP on R&D as Australia.

This ANUpoll provides a snapshot of Australian attitudes to science and innovation.

Gross domestic spending on R&D (as percentage of GDP 2000-2015)

Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2017), Gross domestic spending on R&D (indicator). doi: 10.1787/d8b068b4-en



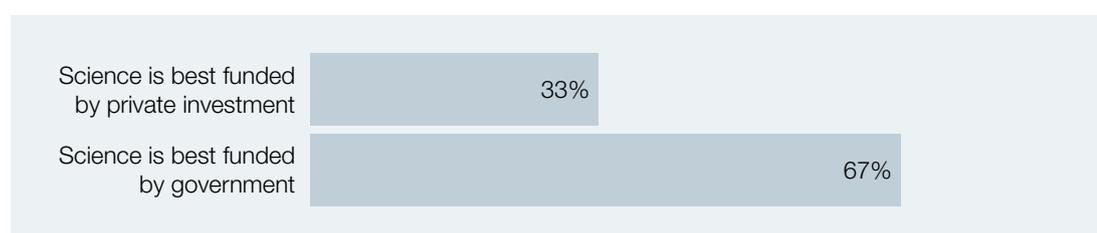
In Australia a smaller proportion of expenditure on R&D is contributed by the private sector compared to other OECD countries. For example, in 2013 the figure for Australia was 56.3 per cent compared to an OECD average of 81.1 per cent, and lower than countries such as the US (70.6 per cent), Japan (76.1 per cent) and Germany (67.2 per cent).

The relatively low proportion of Australian R&D being undertaken by the private sector is one of the reasons for successive governments attempting to increase private sector R&D expenditure.

When asked how scientific research in Australia should be funded, two thirds (67 per cent) of respondents believe that 'science is best funded by government' and one third of respondents agree with the alternative position, that 'science is best funded by private investment'.

“Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



Looking more closely at the Australian Government's role in funding innovation, this ANUpoll asks respondents whether 'much more', 'somewhat more', 'the same', 'somewhat less' or 'much less than now' should be committed to supporting 'start up' companies. Start-up companies are chosen to represent the 'modern face' of scientific and technological innovation, and are something that Australians can be expected to have heard about and have opinions towards.

With any question referencing real-world governments and policies, researchers face the problem that respondents draw on limited or incorrect information when answering questions. For instance, a respondent who does not support the current government might respond negatively to any question about current government policy. Consequently, this question was asked in different ways to different respondents: one randomly selected half (603) of the total respondents were provided with information on recent Australian Government assistance for start-up companies (i.e. \$23 million in the 2016-17 Federal Budget). The other half (598) of the total respondents were provided with that information as well as the amount committed by the United States Government to funding start-up companies in the comparable period (i.e. \$2.6 billion).

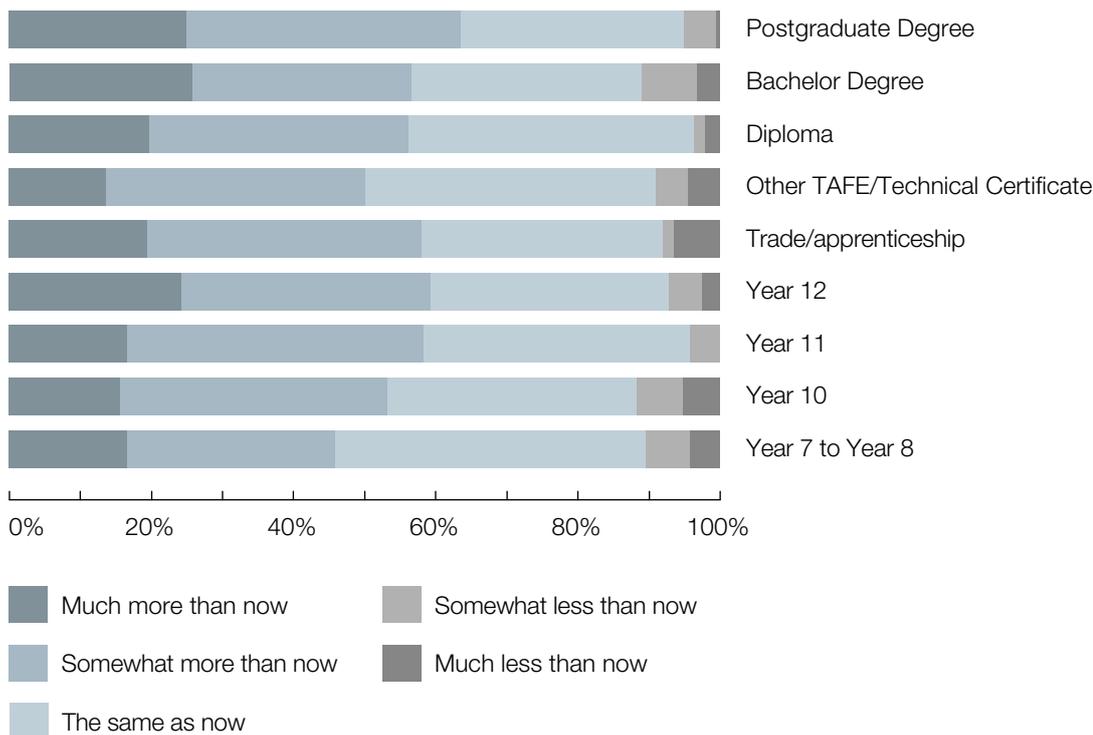
The poll finds no significant difference in the responses between the two groups. Consequently, they are presented together here. Just more than one in five (22 per cent) believe the government should commit 'much more than now'. Approximately one third (35 per cent) want 'somewhat more than now', while a further 35 per cent want 'the same as now'. Only very small numbers believe the government should commit 'somewhat less than now' (five per cent) or 'much less than now' (three per cent).

We might expect to see differences in attitudes by respondents' level of education: that the more educational attainment an individual has, the more likely they are to support increased funding for start-up companies. Rather, we find no strong pattern. Australians with a postgraduate degree are the most likely to support more funding (64 per cent in total), followed closely by those with a highest level of education of Year 12 and Year 11 (59 per cent respectively). Australians with a trade or technical degree are the next most supportive. There is perhaps some evidence that those with very low levels of education (Year 10 or less) are slightly less likely to support increased funding for start-up companies.

“The Australian Government has committed \$23 million Australian dollars to supporting start-up companies. Do you think it should commit ...?”

Note: Half of the sample was given additional information about comparative rates of spending: “The US Government has committed \$2.6 billion to supporting start-up companies. The Australian Government has committed \$23 million.”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



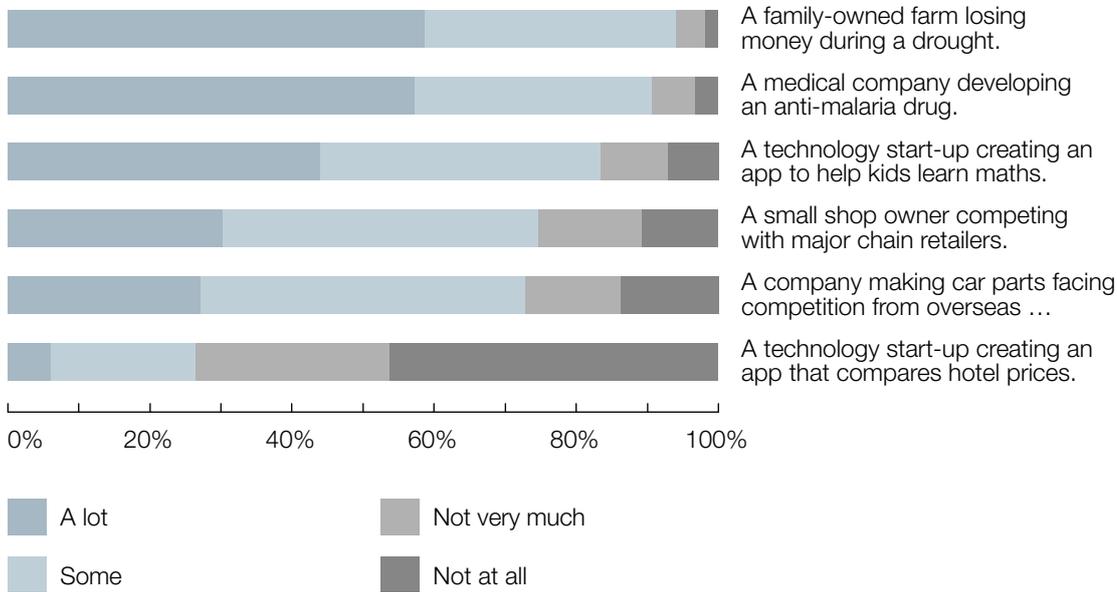
To further tease out the extent of Australians’ support for government assistance, the poll presented respondents with a range of hypothetical companies, and asked how much support the government should provide to each.

Despite the strong statements in support of science and innovation generally, and government assistance for start-up companies, this comparison reveals that farmers are deemed more worthy of government support than technological entrepreneurs. Almost six in ten (59 per cent) respondents believe a family-owned farm losing money during a drought should receive ‘a lot’ of government assistance. A further 35 per cent believe the farm should receive ‘some’ assistance. In comparison, a hypothetical ‘technology start-up creating an app to help kids learn maths’ is less deserving: 44 per cent of respondents believe it should receive ‘a lot’ of assistance, and a further 40 per cent say ‘some assistance’.

When the example of a start-up company is decoupled from any sort of scientific or educational endeavour – as in the hypothetical app comparing hotel prices – support for government assistance falls dramatically. Almost half – 46 per cent – of Australians say that such a company should receive no government assistance whatsoever, while a further 27 per cent believe the government should provide ‘not very much’ assistance. It seems that Australians do not support public subsidisation of technology and innovation without some obvious scientific or educational benefit.

“How much support do you think the government should provide to ...?”

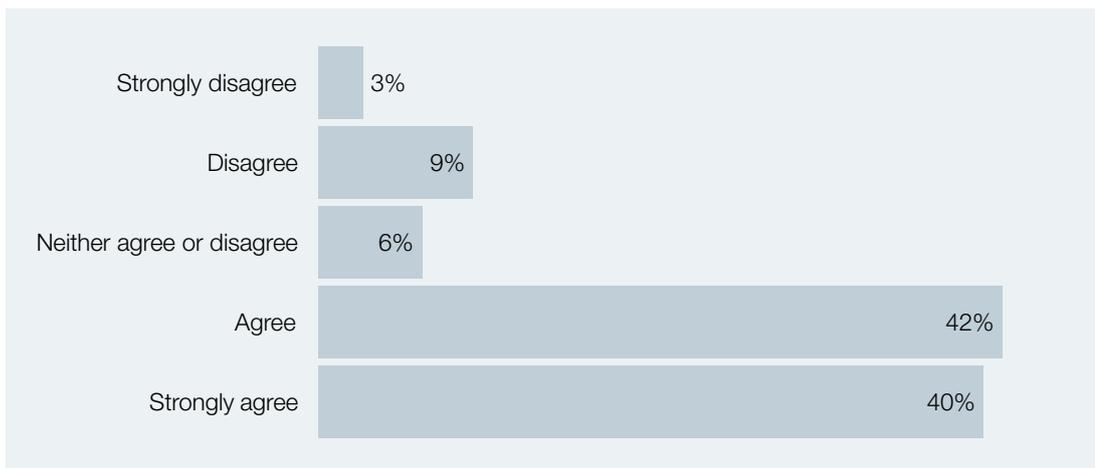
Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



Australians overwhelmingly believe that ‘politicians should rely more on the advice of expert scientists’: a total of 82 per cent of respondents either agree or strongly agree with this statement.

“Could you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements ...? Politicians should rely more on the advice of expert scientists.”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



SCIENCE AND INNOVATION: AUSTRALIA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

Key points

- > Half of all Australians (51 per cent) think Australia's scientific achievements are 'above average' on the world stage, while five per cent believe they are the 'best in the world'.
- > Eighty-four per cent believe there should be more people working in research and technological development in Australia.
- > Even more (94 per cent) believe scientists and industry should co-operate more.

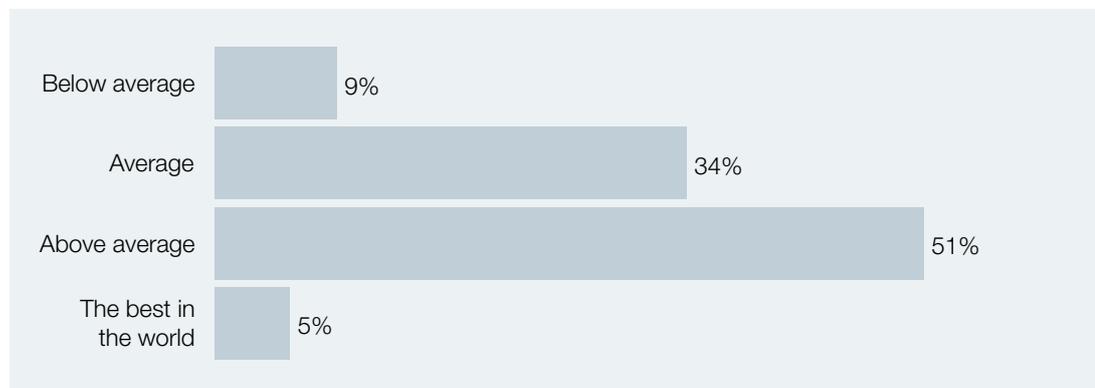
Australians have varying views about the country's scientific achievements. This poll finds that, while only five per cent consider Australia's scientific achievements 'the best in the world', 51 per cent rate them as 'better than average', 34 per cent as 'average' and 9 per cent as 'below average'.

Taking this finding in conjunction with other existing survey measures suggests that science has a special role in Australians' feelings about their country. In 1995, 93 per cent of Australians surveyed by the International Social Survey Programme reported being proud of Australia's scientific achievements (compared with 91 per cent reporting pride in the nation's sporting achievements). More recently, 90 per cent of Australians reported being proud of the country's scientific achievements in 2015 (*Australian Attitudes to National Identity? ANUpoll 18*).

However, more than 40 per cent of respondents rate Australia's scientific achievements as either 'average' or 'below average'. One possible explanation is that people value science, but that a sizeable minority believe that Australia is performing only at an average level and thus there needs to be more public investment in science and innovation.

“Comparing Australia to other industrialised countries in terms of its scientific achievements, do you think that Australia is ...?”

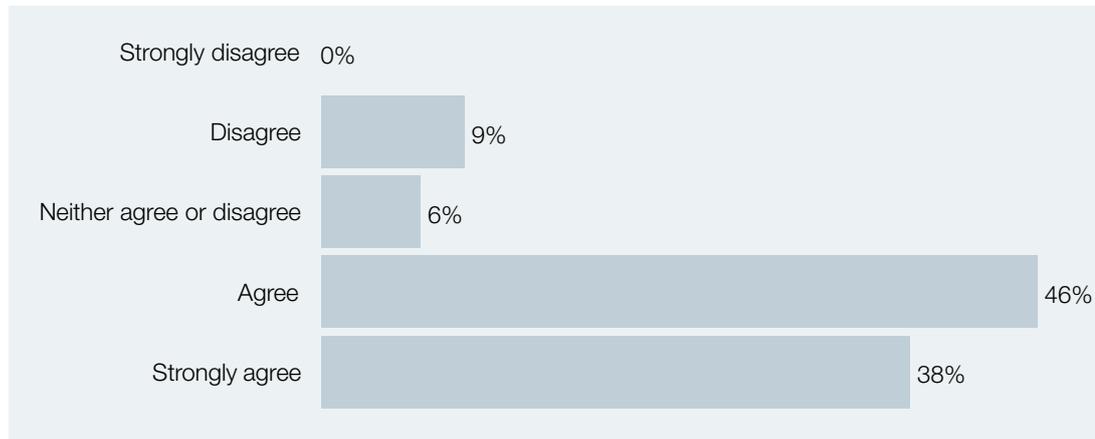
Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



There is broad agreement among respondents that the research and technological sector in Australia should be larger. More than eight in ten (84 per cent) either 'agree' or 'strongly agree' that 'there should be more people working in research and technological development' in Australia. However, as has been shown, a smaller number (67 per cent) believe government is best placed to fund such research.

“Could you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements ...? In Australia, there should be more people working in research and technological development.”

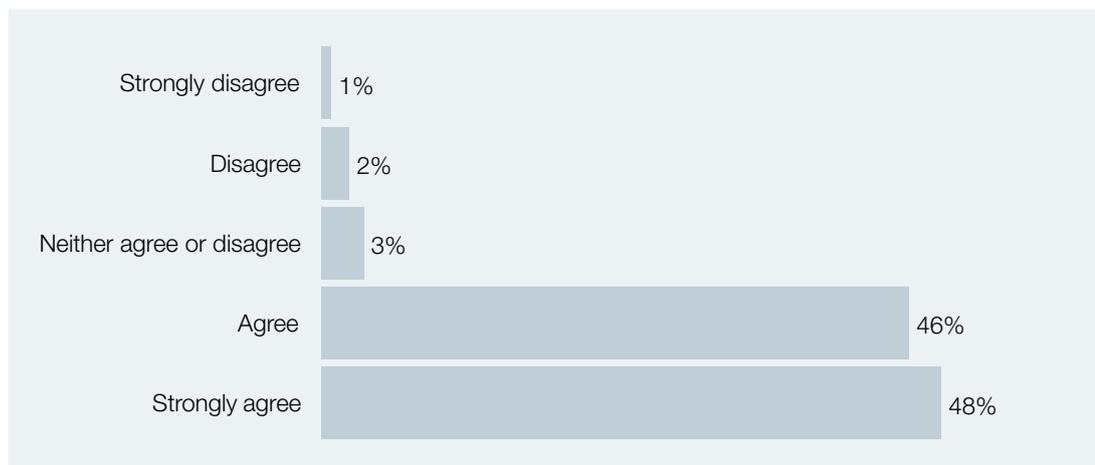
Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



Almost all respondents (94 per cent) either ‘agree’ or ‘strongly agree’ that ‘scientists and industry should co-operate more with each other’. However the nature of such co-operation is not examined. To the extent that respondents may be expressing support for co-operation leading to the commercialisation of scientific research, this position is reflected in current Australian Government policy. Whatever the intent of respondents, there is very little apparent concern about the intermingling of science and industry among Australians.

“Could you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements ...? Scientists and industry should co-operate more with each other.”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



HOW AUSTRALIANS FEEL ABOUT SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

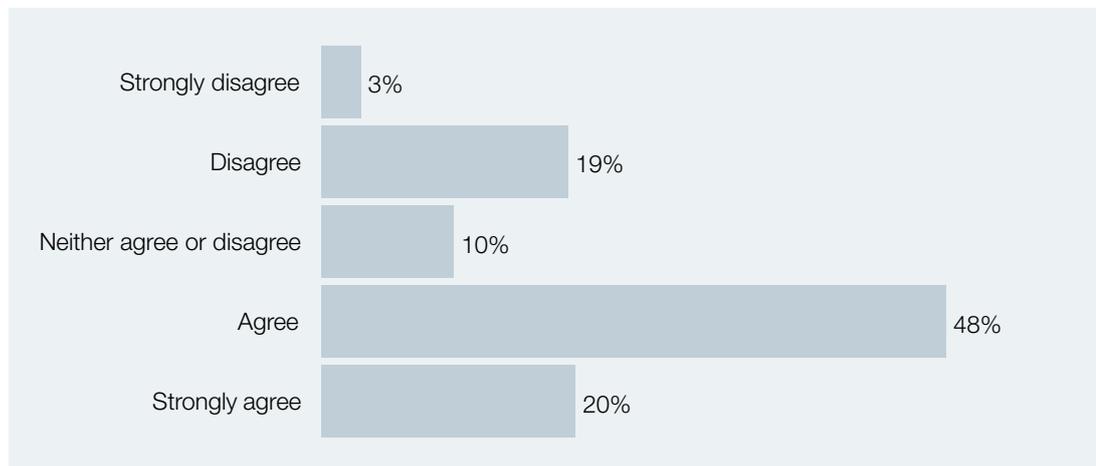
Key points

- > Australians report mixed feelings about the opportunities afforded by scientific research.
- > Sixty-eight per cent of Australians feel more excited than concerned about new technologies.
- > Forty-five per cent say that technological change happens too fast to keep up with; this increases to 74 per cent among those with a Year 10 education or less, and falls to 15 per cent among those with postgraduate qualifications.
- > Forty-two per cent of Australians believe scientific advances tend to benefit the rich more than the poor, compared to 47 per cent who disagree.
- > A large majority (75 per cent) believe that the benefits of technological progress outweigh the risks.

Digging more deeply into Australians' views on science and research in the context of their everyday lives reveals greater nuance than in their attitudes towards science and politics. While a majority (68 per cent) either 'agree' or 'strongly agree' with the position that 'new technologies excite me more than they concern me', almost one in four (22 per cent) either 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree'. There is some evident reticence among a substantial number of Australians in the face of scientific and technological development.

“Could you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements ...? New technologies excite me more than they concern me.”

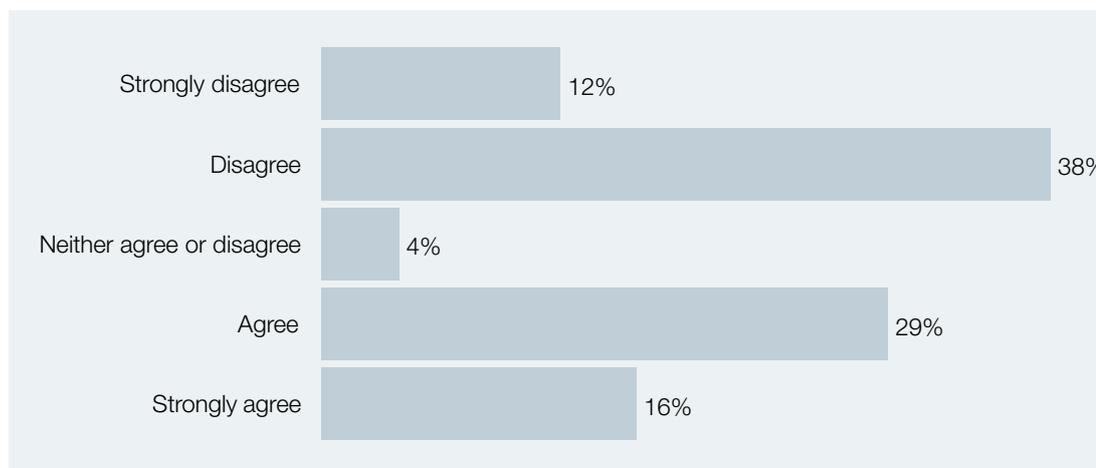
Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



Similarly, almost half (45 per cent) of respondents either ‘agree or ‘strongly agree with the statement that ‘technological change happens too fast for me to keep up with it’. Half of all respondents ‘disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’ with the statement, but only 12 per cent take the strongest position against it. That is to say, only 12 per cent of Australians feel very strongly that they can keep up with the current, rapid pace of technological change. This finding mirrors results from a 2010 ANUpoll survey, in which 45 per cent of respondents described themselves as either ‘not very well’ or ‘not at all’ informed about science (*Public Opinion About Science, ANUpoll 8*).

“Could you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements ...? Technological change happens too fast for me to keep up with it.”

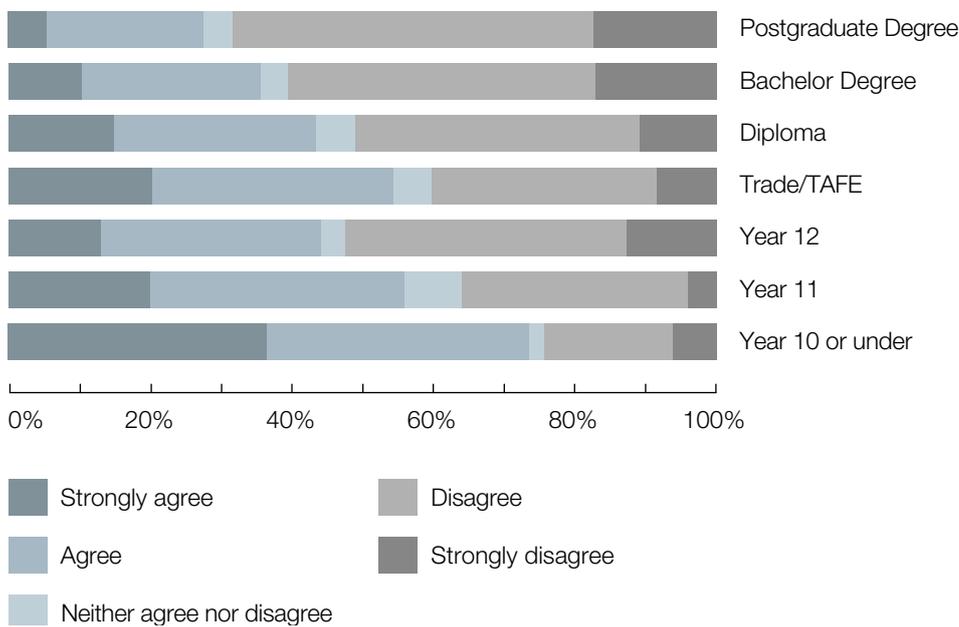
Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



There is a strong relationship between Australians' belief that technological change happens too fast to keep up with and their level of educational attainment. A large majority (67 per cent) of respondents who possess a postgraduate qualification 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' with the statement. On the other hand, 54 per cent of Australians with a trade or other technical qualification, and 74 per cent of those who did not pursue formal education after completing Year 10 (or earlier) do feel that they cannot keep pace with technological change.

“Could you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements ...? Technological change happens too fast for me to keep up with it”, by level of educational qualification.

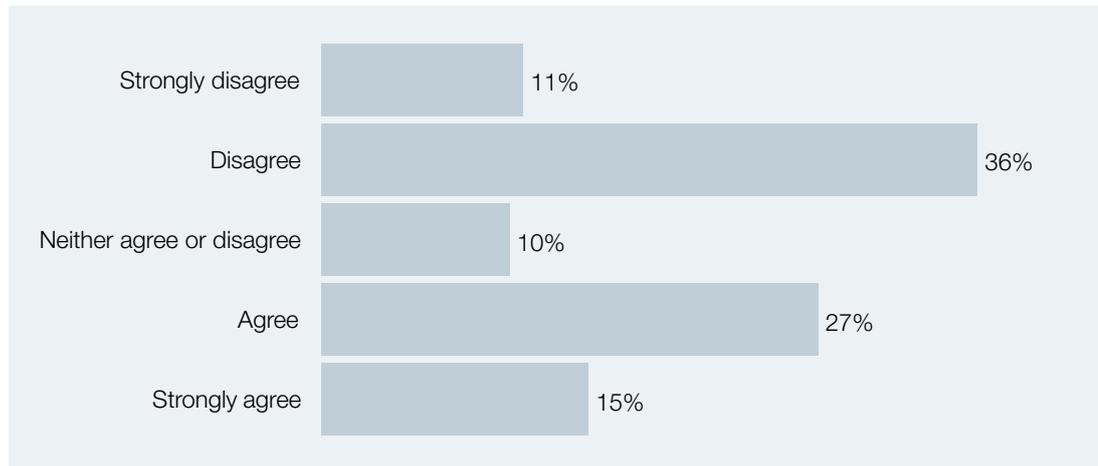
Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



Australians are split almost evenly on the question of whether 'scientific advances tend to benefit the rich more than they benefit the poor'. Here, however, the results have little relationship with respondents' education levels or other similar socio-demographic measures. Just less than half (47 per cent) either 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' with the statement, but a similar number (42 per cent) do agree that advances in science tend to accrue to the already rich. A further 10 per cent have no opinion in either direction. This finding poses potential problems for governments and researchers trying to convince the Australian public of the society-wide benefits of their scientific programs.

“Could you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements ...? Scientific advances tend to benefit the rich more than they benefit the poor.”

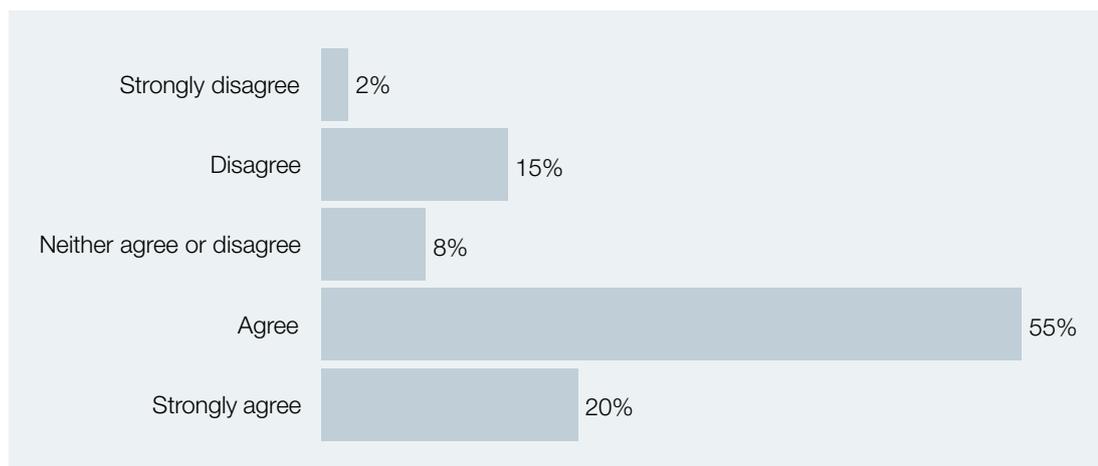
Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



Finally, this ANUpoll asks Australians whether, in total, the benefits of technological progress are greater than the risks. Concerns about not keeping pace with technological change and the skewed benefits of scientific progress notwithstanding, a full three quarters (75 per cent) of respondents either ‘agree’ or ‘strongly agree’ with this sentiment. This should offer some cause for optimism among governments and researchers.

“Could you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements ...? The benefits of technological progress are greater than the risks.”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



KEY TRENDS: MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL MOOD

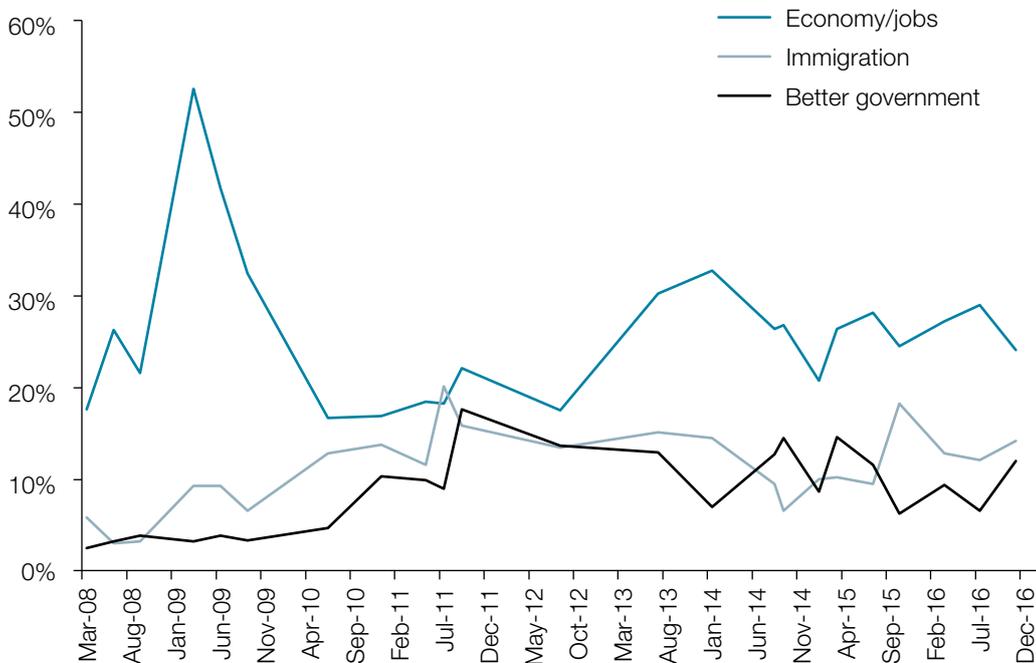
Key points

- > Continuing a five-year trend, Australians' three most important issues are the economy, immigration, and better government respectively.
- > Australians' satisfaction with the direction of the country remains stable, with 59 per cent either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'.
- > Net satisfaction (the percentage satisfied minus the percentage dissatisfied) is stable at 26 percentage points.

Continuing a trend of almost five years, Australians surveyed in the 23rd ANUpoll name the economy and jobs, immigration, and better government as the three most important issues currently facing the country. The percentage of respondents nominating the economy and jobs as the number one issue has fallen by five percentage points between July 2016 (29 per cent of respondents) and November 2016 (24 per cent). Immigration has stayed steady (12 per cent to 13.3 per cent) while better government has increased a notable amount, from 6.6 per cent to 11.2 per cent of respondents over the four-month period. Overall, the relative importance, or salience, of these three issues has remained remarkably stable since 2013.

“What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?”

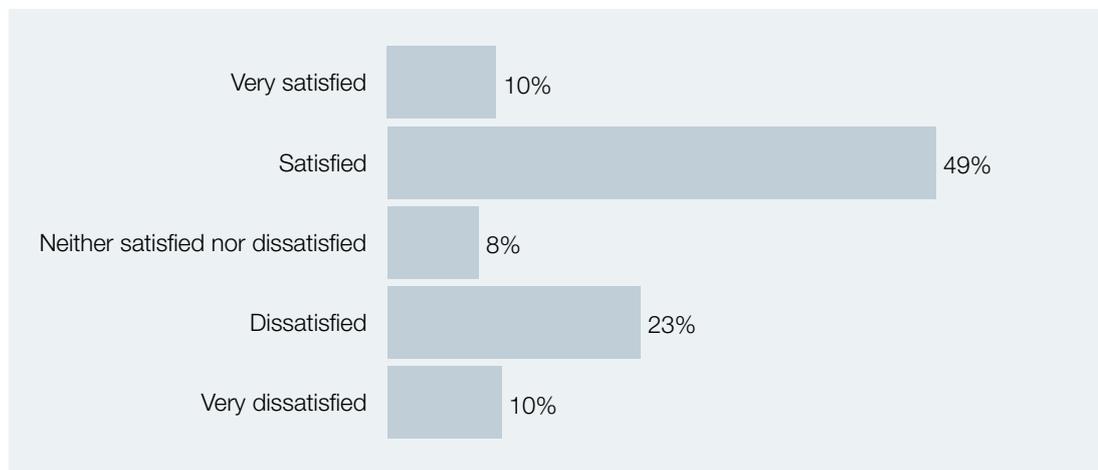
Source: ANUpolls March 2008-July 2016



Australians' satisfaction with the direction of the country likewise remains stable. In this ANUpoll from November 2016, ten per cent of respondents report being 'very satisfied' with the country's direction; 49 per cent are 'satisfied'; eight per cent 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'; 23 per cent 'dissatisfied'; and 10 per cent 'very dissatisfied'. Net satisfaction (i.e. those 'satisfied' plus those 'very satisfied') is at 59 per cent, an increase of three percentage points from the July 2016 poll. Dissatisfaction (33 per cent) has fallen by two points. Such small movements do not represent any meaningful change in Australia's political mood during the period from July to December 2016.

“All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian Innovation, Science and Business, November 2016



Net satisfaction with the way the country is heading (total satisfied minus total dissatisfied)

Source: ANUpoll data collected between March 2008 and November 2016



ANUPOLL QUESTIONS

The following tables report the frequency of responses to questions in the November 2016 ANUpoll, weighted to reflect population age, gender, and education benchmarks. Estimates derived from surveys are subject to sampling variability. This variability can be expressed as a standard error (i.e. the extent to which the estimate of responses may vary from the estimate if the entire population answered the same questions). Cases where this error is large relative to the estimate are marked with a single asterisk (where the relative standard error is greater than 25 per cent of the estimate) and two asterisks (where the relative standard error is greater than 50 per cent of the estimate) respectively. Such estimates should be reported with caution.

All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very satisfied	116	9.7
Satisfied	583	48.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	96	8.0
Dissatisfied	268	22.3
Very dissatisfied	121	10.0
Total valid responses	1183	98.4
Refused	3	0.2
Don't know/not sure	16	1.3
Total	1202	

All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading? Time series data.

ANUpoll	Total satisfied	Total dissatisfied	Net satisfaction (satisfied minus dissatisfied)
Mar 08	72.9	20.3	52.6
Sep 08	66.9	24.7	42.2
Mar 09	70	23.7	46.3
Jul 09	71.1	23.5	47.6
Oct 09	70	22.2	47.8
Jun 10	65.6	23.6	42.0
Dec 10	62.7	29.4	33.3
Apr 11	64.9	25	39.9
Jul 11	62.8	26.7	36.1
Oct 11	55.2	30.8	24.4
Oct 12	54	36	18.0
Aug 13	55.3	33.9	21.4
Jan 14	61	32	29.0
Aug 14	51.5	35.8	15.7
Sep 14	52	38.8	13.2
Jan 15	55.9	34.7	21.2
Apr 15	53.9	35	18.9
Jul 15	50.6	39.7	10.9
Oct 15	58.5	31.6	26.9
Mar 16	56.1	35.2	19.9
Jul 16	55.7	34.8	20.9
Nov 16	59.0	32.8	26.2

What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?

	Frequency	Per cent
Economy / jobs	272	24.1
Immigration	160	14.2
Better government	135	12
Poverty / social exclusion / inequality	90	8
Environment / global warming	71	6.3
Values / morals / respect for others	42	3.7
Terrorism	38	3.4
Housing affordability	37	3.3
Education	31	2.7
Law and order / crime / justice system	30	2.7
Health care	29	2.6
Infrastructure / planning / innovation	24	2.1
Ageing population	22	2.0
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc.)	18	1.6
Foreign influence / Australia's position in world	18	1.6
Other	18	1.6
None / no other	16	1.4
Alcohol and drug use	15	1.4
The budget	12	1.0*
Defence / national security	10	0.9*
Young people's behaviour / attitudes	10	0.9*
Taxation	6	0.6*
Trade balance / loss of jobs to overseas	7	0.6*
Indigenous affairs	4	0.3*
Rural / farming issues	3	0.3*
Family / community / societal breakdown	4	0.3*
Water management	2	0.2*
Industrial relations	1	0.1*
Interest rates	2	0.1*
Total valid responses	1126	100.0
Refused	5	
Don't know	71	
Total	1202	

What do you think is the second most important problem facing Australia today?

	Frequency	Per cent
Economy / jobs	157	16.3
Immigration	103	10.6
Better government	83	8.6
Poverty / social exclusion / inequality	70	7.3
Housing affordability	61	6.3
Environment / global warming	56	5.8
Health care	54	5.6
Education	46	4.8
Values / morals / respect for others	35	3.6
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc.)	35	3.6
Infrastructure / planning / innovation	35	3.6
Law and order / crime / justice system	29	3
None / no other	28	2.9
Alcohol and drug use	23	2.4
Foreign influence / Australia's position in world	20	2.1
Young people's behaviour / attitudes	18	1.8
Terrorism	16	1.6
Ageing population	16	1.6
Industrial relations	12	1.2
Defence / national security	11	1.1*
Other	10	1.0*
The budget	9	1.0*
Indigenous affairs	8	0.8*
Family / community / societal breakdown	8	0.8*
Trade balance / loss of jobs to overseas	7	0.8*
Rural / farming issues	7	0.7*
Taxation	5	0.5*
Water management	4	0.4*
Iraq war	1	0.1*
Total valid responses	967	100.0
Don't know / Can't say	143	
No answer	92	
Total	1202	

What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today? Time series data.

ANUpoll	Economy/ jobs	Immigration	Better government
Mar-08	17.6	5.8	2.5
Sep-08	21.6	3.2	3.8
Mar-09	52.6	9.3	3.2
Jul-09	41.7	9.3	3.8
Oct-09	32.4	6.6	3.3
Jun-10	16.7	12.8	4.7
Dec-10	16.9	13.8	10.3
Apr-11	18.5	11.6	9.9
Jul-11	18.2	20.1	9
Oct-11	22.1	15.8	17.6
Oct-12	17.5	13.5	13.7
Aug-13	30.3	15.1	12.9
Jan-14	32.8	14.5	7
Aug-14	26.4	9.5	12.7
Sep-14	26.8	6.6	14.5
Jan-15	20.8	10	8.6
Apr-15	26.4	10.2	14.6
Jul-15	28.2	9.5	11.6
Oct-15	24.5	18.2	6.2
Mar-16	27.2	12.8	9.4
Jul-16	29.0	12.1	6.6
Nov-16	24.1	14.2	12.0

Q3. Comparing Australia to other industrialised countries in terms of its scientific achievements, do you think that Australia is ...?

	Frequency	Per cent
The best in the world	64	5.4
Above average	605	51.4
Average	402	34.2
Below average	105	8.9
Total valid responses	1176	100.0
Refused	1	
Don't know/not sure	25	
Total	1202	

Scientists and industry should co-operate more with each other.

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	569	48.1
Agree	539	45.6
Neither agree nor disagree	39	3.3
Disagree	27	2.2
Strongly disagree	9	0.7
Total valid responses	1183	100.0
Refused	0	
Don't know / not sure	19	
Total	1202	

New technologies excite me more than they concern me.

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	231	19.5
Agree	574	48.4
Neither agree nor disagree	120	10.1
Disagree	226	19.0
Strongly disagree	35	3.0
Total valid responses	1186	100.0
Refused	3	
Don't know	13	
Total	1202	

Technological change happens too fast for me to keep up with it.

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	195	16.3
Agree	351	29.4
Neither agree nor disagree	49	4.1
Disagree	452	37.8
Strongly disagree	148	12.4
Total valid responses	1195	100.0
Refused	0	
Don't know	7	
Total	1202	

In Australia, there should be more people working in research and technological development.

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	439	38
Agree	534	46.2
Neither agree nor disagree	73	6.3
Disagree	107	9.2
Strongly disagree	3	0.3
Total valid responses	1157	100
Refused		
Don't know	45	
Total	1202	

Scientific advances tend to benefit the rich more than they benefit the poor.

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	171	14.8
Agree	318	27.4
Neither agree nor disagree	121	10.4
Disagree	421	36.2
Strongly disagree	131	11.2
Total valid responses	1162	100.0
Refused	3	
Don't know	37	
Total	1202	

Politicians should rely more on the advice of expert scientists.

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	472	40.4
Agree	484	41.5
Neither agree nor disagree	73	6.2
Disagree	108	9.3
Strongly disagree	30	2.6
Total valid responses	1167	100.0
Refused	3	
Don't know	32	
Total	1202	

The benefits of technological progress are greater than the risks.

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	231	20.2
Agree	630	55.1
Neither agree nor disagree	92	8.1
Disagree	166	14.6
Strongly disagree	24	2.1
Total valid responses	1144	100.0
Refused	4	
Don't know	55	
Total	1202	

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

	Frequency	Per cent
Science is best funded by government	714	67.4
Science is best funded by private investment	345	32.6
Total valid responses	1060	100
Refused	23	
Don't know	119	
Total	1202	

How much support do you think the government should provide to: A family-owned farm losing money during a drought?

	Frequency	Per cent
A lot	702	58.8
Some	421	35.3
Not very much	50	4.2
None at all	21	1.8
Total valid responses	1194	100.0
Don't know	8	
Total	1202	

How much support do you think the government should provide to: A small shop owner competing with major chain retailers?

	Frequency	Per cent
A lot	361	30.4
Some	524	44.2
Not very much	174	14.7
None at all	126	10.7
Total valid responses	1184	100.0
Don't know	18	
Total	1202	

How much support do you think the government should provide to: A technology start-up creating an app to help kids learn maths?

	Frequency	Per cent
A lot	522	43.9
Some	471	39.6
Not very much	112	9.4
None at all	84	7
Total valid responses	1188	100
Don't know	14	
Total	1202	

How much support do you think the government should provide to: A technology start-up creating an app that compares hotel prices?

	Frequency	Per cent
A lot	72	6.1
Some	241	20.5
Not very much	321	27.3
None at all	544	46.2
Total valid responses	1177	100.0
Refused	3	
Don't know	21	
Total	1202	

How much support do you think the government should provide to: A medical company developing an anti-malaria drug?

	Frequency	Per cent
A lot	675	57.3
Some	394	33.5
Not very much	71	6.1
None at all	38	3.2
Total valid responses	1178	100.0
Refused	2	
Don't know	21	
Total	1202	

How much support do you think the government should provide to: A company making car parts facing competition from overseas companies?

	Frequency	Per cent
A lot	322	27.3
Some	537	45.5
Not very much	160	13.5
None at all	161	13.7
Total valid responses	1180	100.0
Refused	1	
Don't know	21	
Total	1202	

The US Government has committed \$2.6 billion to supporting start-up companies. The Australian Government has committed \$23 million. Do you think the Australian government should commit ...?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	129	22.8
Somewhat more than now	203	35.8
The same as now	195	34.5
Somewhat less than now	26	4.5
Much less than now	13	2.3
Total valid responses	566	100.0
Refused	4	
Don't know	28	
Total	598	

The Australian Government has committed \$23 million Australian dollars to supporting start-up companies. Do you think it should commit ...?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	117	20.7
Somewhat more than now	189	33.6
The same as now	208	36.9
Somewhat less than now	29	5.2
Much less than now	20	3.6
Total valid responses	563	100.0
Refused	1	
Don't know	39	
Total	603	

CONTACT US

**ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods
Research School of Social Sciences**

E jill.sheppard@anu.edu.au

T 02 6125 7898 (57898)

The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2601

T +61 2 6125 5111

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