



AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC OPINION ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES: INJUSTICE, DISADVANTAGE AND SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION

ANUPOLL MARCH 2015

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

# ANUPOLL

### Australian Public Opinion on Indigenous Issues: Injustice, Disadvantage and Support for Recognition

Professor Matthew Gray and Dr William Sanders

Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research Research School of Social Sciences ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

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### Survey contributors

### > Dr Jill Sheppard

Australian Centre for Applied Social Research Methods ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

### > Dr Janet Hunt

Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research Research School of Social Sciences ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

### Front cover photo

Lauren Black, Defence Digital Media, Commonwealth of Australia.

### 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, 1,201 people were interviewed between 22 September and 5 October 2014 with a response rate of 25.4 per cent. The results have been weighted to represent the national population. The poll's margin of error is  $\pm$  2.5 per cent. The majority of respondents who participated in the survey did not identify as Indigenous (98.9 per cent).

Note: This ANUpoll was introduced to respondents as about issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Many questions used the term Aboriginal or Indigenous for brevity, or to maintain comparability with past surveys. In this paper the term Indigenous is often used when reporting the results.

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# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



Amidst debate on constitutional recognition of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, this study — the 17<sup>th</sup> ANUPoll — provides a snapshot of Australian attitudes towards Indigenous issues. It reveals that the majority of Australians recognise that Indigenous people continue to experience injustice and high levels of disadvantage, and that broad support exists for various forms of Indigenous recognition, like land rights, additional assistance and constitutional amendment.

Approximately half the Australian population views the problems experienced by Indigenous Australians as largely the result of the attitudes of other Australians and government policies and about one-third see responsibility as shared between these factors and Indigenous people themselves. Governments, universities and employers are all seen as having a role to play in providing additional assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in education and employment.

These attitudes provide a strong basis of support for proposed changes to the Constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. When asked whether they would support changes to the Australian Constitution to remove clauses referring to race, Australians showed strong support across age and geographic groups. There was also strong support for changes to the Constitution to recognise the continuing cultures, languages and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a basis for Commonwealth law making.

The ANUPoll is designed to inform public and policy debate, as well as to assist scholarly research. It builds on the University's long tradition of social survey research, which began in the 1960s. Today, it fulfils the University's mission of addressing and contributing to issues of national importance.

I trust that the release of this poll's findings will substantially contribute to the greater understanding of Australian attitudes towards Indigenous affairs.

J.R. Gun

**Professor Ian Young AO** Vice-Chancellor and President

# IMPORTANCE OF INDIGENOUS ISSUES

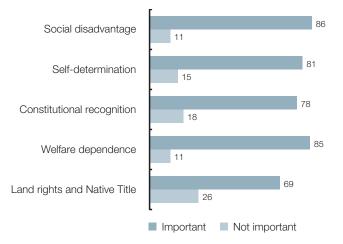
### Key points

- > Few Australians consider Indigenous issues as either the first or second most important issue facing the country today.
- > When asked about specific Indigenous issues, Australians overwhelmingly describe them as important.

When asked to think about the first and second most important problem facing Australia today, only a very small proportion of respondents (1 per cent) nominated Indigenous affairs, compared to other issues like the economy and jobs (41 per cent), immigration (20 per cent) and defence and national security (7 per cent). These rankings are consistent with previous ANUPoll findings.

Economy/jobs	41
Immigration	20
Terrorism	19
Better government	15
Environment/global warming	14
Poverty/Social exclusion/Inequality	13
Education	9
Defence/national security	7
Values/morals/respect for others	7
Health care	6
Housing affordability	4
Ageing population	3
Industrial relations	3
Law and order/crime/justice system	3
The budget	3
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	2
Family/community societal breakdown	2
Acohol and drug use	2
Infrastructure/planning/innovation	2
Foreign influence/Australia's position in the world	1
Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	1
Indigenous affairs	1
Iraq war	1
Taxation	1
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	1
Water management	1
Rural/farming issues	1
	Per cent

However, when five issues relating to Indigenous people were specified, the majority of respondents then acknowledged their importance for Australia – ranging from 86 per cent of people saying that Indigenous social disadvantage was 'very' or 'fairly' important to 69 per cent saying that land rights and native title was 'very' or 'fairly' important.



"How important for Australia do you regard the following issues relating to Aboriginal people?" Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014

While social disadvantage and welfare dependence are seen as the most important Indigenous issues, self-determination, recognition in the constitution and Indigenous land laws are also seen as being important by a substantial majority of Australians.

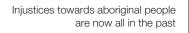
"What do you think is the most/second most important issue facing Australia today?" Percentage naming each issue as either most or second important. 'Don't know', 'Other' and 'None' excluded. Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014

# THE SITUATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA TODAY

### Key points

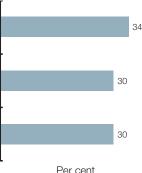
- Four-fifths of Australians agree that Indigenous people should be able to decide their own way of life. However, three-fifths also agree that in the long run it would be best for Indigenous Australians to be completely assimilated.
- A third of Australians believe that injustices to Indigenous Australians and unequal treatment are now all in the past.
- Australians are less likely than 20 year ago to believe that government assistance to Indigenous Australians and native title rights have gone too far.

These results reveal a depth of recognition among Australians of ongoing injustice and discrimination towards Indigenous people and support for Indigenous-specific legal and policy measures. However, in a somewhat contrary vein, 59 per cent of respondents thought that in the long run it would be best for Indigenous people to be completely assimilated into Australian society. This suggests a complexity and tension in Australian opinion on Indigenous issues combining ideas of both equality and difference, or assimilation and self-determination.



Recognising land rights and Native Title of Aboriginal people is unfair to other Australians

Aboriginal people are now treated equally to other Australians



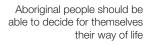
"Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the situation of Aboriginal people in Australia today?" Percentage who agree/strongly agree.

Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014

Respondents were asked whether changes in Indigenous policy over the years had gone too far, not far enough or were about right. The three changes identified were land rights and native title, government intervention in Indigenous communities, and government help for Indigenous people.

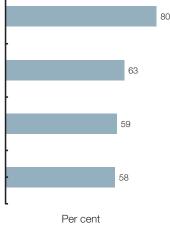
About a fifth of Australians felt that these changes had gone too far. 44 per cent thought that changes to land rights and native title were about right, and 26 per cent thought that they had not gone far enough. One-third (33 per cent) thought that government help for Aboriginal people was about right and 39 per cent that it had not gone far enough. Finally, 36 per cent thought that government intervention in Aboriginal communities was about right and 29 per cent that it had not gone far enough.

Asked whether they agreed or disagreed with statements about the situation of Aboriginal people in Australia today, 80 per cent of respondents agreed that Aboriginal people should be able to decide for themselves their way of life. 63 per cent agreed that the Aboriginal people's level of disadvantage justifies extra government assistance, and 58 per cent that, as the first Australians, Aboriginal people should have more cultural protection than others.



Aboriginal people's level of disadvantage justifies extra government assistance

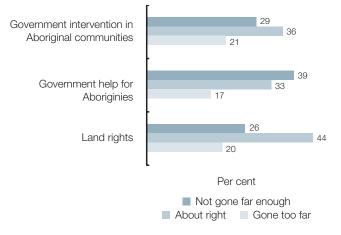
In the long run, it would be best for aboriginal people to be completely assimilated into Australian society As the first Australians, aboriginal people should have special cultural protection that other groups don't have



### "Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the situation of Aboriginal people in Australia today?" Percentage who agree/ strongly agree.

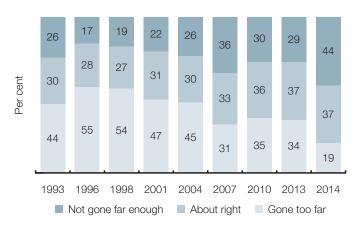
Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014

A minority of respondents agreed that injustices towards Aboriginal people are now all in the past (34 per cent), that Aboriginal people are now treated equally to other Australians (30 per cent) and that recognising Aboriginal land rights and native title is unfair to other Australians (30 per cent).



"I am now going to read out some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years. For each one, could you please tell me whether you think the change has gone too far, not gone far enough, or is it about right?" Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014

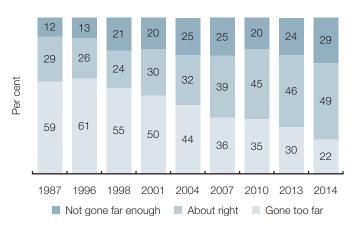
The questions about land rights and government help for Aborigines replicated ones asked in the Australian Election Survey (AES) over the previous 25 years. Results from eight of these surveys show a clear trend since 1996 of fewer respondents thinking that policy changes in Indigenous affairs have gone too far. More respondents now think these policies are 'about right' or have 'not gone far enough.' The 2014 ANUpoll results continue this trend, but should be treated with caution as ANUpoll is a phone survey, whilst the Australian Election Survey is a mail survey.



### Views about extent of government help for Aborigines, 1993 to 2014

Notes Don't know and refused responses excluded. Data from the AES combines the response categories 'much too far' and 'too far' and combines 'not far enough' and 'not nearly far enough'.

Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014, Australian Election Studies, various 1993 to 2013. Estimates from McAllister and Cameron (2014).



#### Views about extent of land rights, 1987 to 2014

Notes Don't know and refused responses excluded. Data from the AES combines the response categories 'much too far' and 'too far' and combines 'not far enough' and 'not nearly far enough'.

Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014, Australian Election Studies, 1987 to 2013. Estimates from McAllister and Cameron (2014).

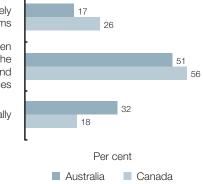
## RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

### Key points

- Australians are less likely than Canadians to say that Indigenous peoples are largely responsible for Indigenous problems in their respective countries.
- > Half say that government policies and the attitudes of other citizens are largely responsible.
- One-third say that Indigenous people, government policies and attitudes of other citizens are equally responsible.

Since 1990 Canadian polling has asked who bears primary responsibility for the problems experienced by Aboriginal people. A largely stable pattern of responses has emerged, with just over a quarter of Canadians thinking Aboriginal people themselves bear primary responsibility, just over half thinking that the attitudes of non-Aboriginal Canadians and government policies are primary and the rest that both are equally responsible. The ANUpoll in 2014 replicated this question and is compared with the Canadian response from 2009.

Like Canadians, roughly half of Australians (51 per cent) see government policies and the attitudes of other Australians as bearing primary responsibility for Aboriginal problems. However, the number of Australians placing primary responsibility on Aboriginal people themselves is less than a fifth (17 per cent) and the proportion saying that both are equally responsible is accordingly increased to almost a third (32 per cent). Aboriginal people have largely caused their own problems The problems have been caused primarily by the attitudes of other citizens and government policies Both equally



## Responsibility for problems experienced by Indigenous people, Australia and Canada

- Notes Survey question: "In your opinion, have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia [Aboriginal people in Canada] largely caused their own problems or have the problems been caused primarily by the attitudes of other Australians [Canadians] and the policies of governments?" 'Neither' and 'don't know' responses are excluded.
- Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014: Canadian Urban Aboriginal Peoples Survey Non-Aboriginal Survey, 2009 — http://www.uaps.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/UAPS-Non-Aboriginal-Survey-Data-Tables.pdf.

## POLICIES FOR IMPROVING INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

### Key points

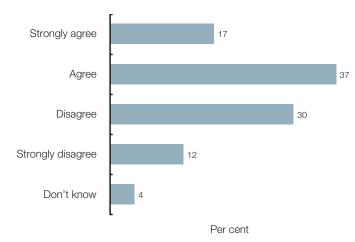
- Australians are divided for and against universities having special programs and admission standards for Indigenous people.
- > Two-thirds of Australians support governments and employers doing more on Aboriginal employment.

Indigenous Australians have much lower levels of education and employment than the Australian population as a whole. Increasing Indigenous education and employment levels is often seen as a key factor in improving socio-economic outcomes and has been a focus of policy effort within government, the education sector and among employers. The ANUpoll asked about additional assistance for Indigenous Australians in education and employment.

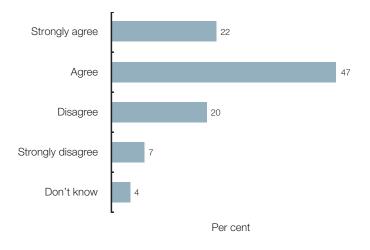
Opinion is divided on whether universities should have special programs and admission standards for Indigenous peoples. Just under one-in-five (17 per cent) strongly agree that there should be special programs and admission standards and just over one-third (37 per cent) agree. On the other hand, 30 per cent disagree and 12 per cent strongly disagree.

There is stronger support for governments providing extra help for Indigenous peoples to gain employment. Just over one-in-five strongly agree and nearly half agree (47 per cent), making the proportion that either strongly agree or agree 69 per cent.

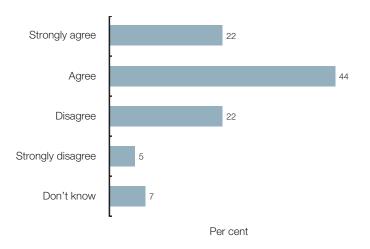
There is a similar level of agreement with the idea that the private sector should do more to employ Indigenous peoples, with 66 per cent strongly agreeing or just agreeing.



"Do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Universities should have special programs and admission standards for Aboriginal people?" Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014



"Do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Governments should provide extra help for Aboriginal people to gain employment?" Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014

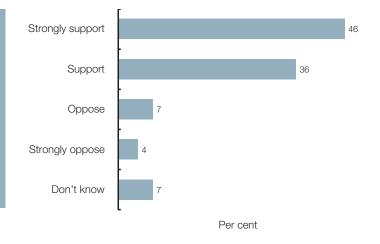


"Do you agree or disagree with the following statements. The private sector should do more to employ Aboriginal people?" Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014

# CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

### Key points

- > Australians overwhelmingly support removal of references to race in the Constitution.
- > A strong majority support acknowledgement of Indigenous culture, language and heritage in the Constitution as a basis of Commonwealth law making, but that support is not quite as overwhelming as for removal of the race references.
- Support for both proposed constitutional amendments is strongest among young, metropolitan-based Australians.



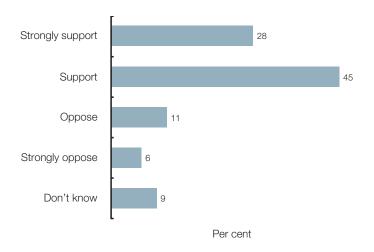
The Australian Constitution was amended in 1967 to delete two references to Aboriginal people. While now having no references to Aboriginal people, the Constitution still contains two references to 'race', including the section 51(xxvi) power which enables the Commonwealth to make laws on Indigenous issues. An Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians was appointed in December 2010 and reported in January 2012 (Dodson and Leibler Co-Chairs, 2012).

During 2013 and 2014 a Joint Select Committee of the Australian Parliament deliberated on how to progress constitutional recognition. Recommendations from these deliberations suggest repealing the two current references to 'race' in the Australian Constitution, which are now seen as discriminatory, and inserting a new section that both recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and gives the Commonwealth a new power to make laws with respect to them. Two other constitutional changes have also been contemplated: introducing an explicit prohibition of racial discrimination; and recognising Indigenous languages.

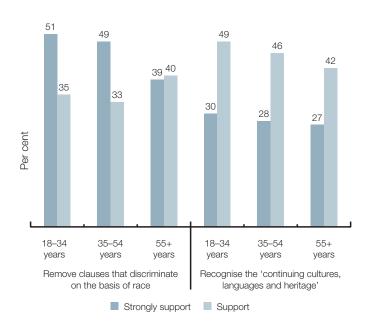
The ANUpoll asked respondents whether they would support or oppose changes to the Constitution in order to: remove clauses that discriminate on the basis of race; and recognise the "continuing cultures, languages and heritage" of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a basis of Commonwealth law making.

There was general support for removing provisions that discriminate on the basis of race, with 46 per cent strongly supporting this change and a further 36 per cent supporting the change (a total of 82 per cent). There was also general support for recognising continuing cultures, languages and heritage as a basis of Commonwealth law making – though support for this change to the Constitution was less strong than for removing clauses that discriminate on the basis of race. Just over one-in-four respondents (28 per cent) said they would strongly support this change to Commonwealth law making power, with a further 45 per cent indicating support (a total of 73 per cent).

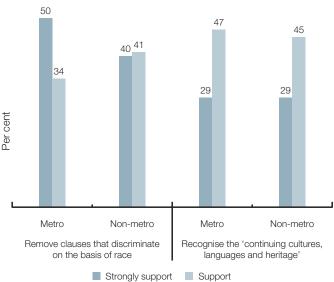
Only a small proportion of people strongly opposed changes to the Constitution, four per cent for removing the clauses that discriminate on the basis of race and six per cent for recognising the continuing cultures, languages and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a basis of Commonwealth law making. "A parliamentary committee is currently examining changes to the Australian constitution relating to race and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Would you support or oppose changes to the Constitution in order to remove clauses that discriminate on the basis of race?"



"A parliamentary committee is currently examining changes to the Australian constitution relating to race and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Would you support or oppose changes to the Constitution in order to recognise the 'continuing cultures, languages and heritage' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a basis of Commonwealth law making?" Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014 Support for these constitutional changes is higher amongst younger age groups than older age groups, and in metropolitan areas than in non-metropolitan areas. But a substantial majority of Australians in all these groups either strongly support or support the changes.



"A parliamentary committee is currently examining changes to the Australian constitution relating to race and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Would you support or oppose changes to the Constitution in order to ...?" Source ANUpoll on Indiaenous Issues, 2014



"A parliamentary committee is currently examining changes to the Australian constitution relating to race and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Would you support or oppose changes to the Constitution in order to ..?" Source ANUpoll on Indigenous Issues, 2014

#### References

Dodson, P. and Leibler, M. (Co-Chairs) 2012. Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution: Report of the Expert Panel, Canberra, Commonwealth of Australia. McAllister, I. and Cameron, S. 2014. Trends in Australian Political Opinion: Results from the Australian Election Study, 1987-2013, School of Politics and International Relations, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University.

## ANUPOLL QUESTIONS -TABLES OF RESULTS

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

	Frequency	Per cent
Very satisfied	136	11.3
Satisfied	535	44.6
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	92	7.7
Dissatisfied	290	24.1
Very dissatisfied	128	10.6
Refused	1	0.1
Don't know/not sure	19	1.6
Total	1201	100.0

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

	Frequency	Per cent
Economy/jobs	250	20.8
Terrorism	170	14.2
Immigration	121	10.0
Better government	103	8.6
Environment/global warming	96	8.0
Poverty/Social exclusion/Inequality	74	6.2
None	60	5.0
Defence/National security	57	4.7
Values/Morals/respect for others	49	4.1
Education	46	3.8
Ageing population	22	1.8
Health care	18	1.5
The budget	14	1.2
Industrial relations	12	1.0
Other	12	1.0
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	11	0.9
Law and order/crime/justice system	10	0.8
Foreign influence/Australia's position in world	10	0.8
Family/community/societal breakdown	9	0.8
Housing affordability	8	0.6
Alcohol and Drug use	7	0.6
Infrastructure/ Planning/Innovation	6	0.5
Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	6	0.5
Iraq war	6	0.5
Taxation	5	0.4
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	5	0.4
Afghan war	2	0.2
Indigenous affairs	2	0.1
Interest rates	1	0.1
Carbon Tax	1	0.1
Water management	0	0.0
Refused	2	0.2
Don't know/can't say	5	0.4
Total	1201	100.0

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

Economy/jobs     232     20.5       Immigration     109     9.6       (None/no other)     81     7.2       Better government     77     6.8       Poverty/Social exclusion/ inequality     72     6.4       Education     64     5.6       Environment/global warming     63     5.5       Terrorism     56     4.9       Health care     47     4.2       Don't know/can't say     37     3.2       Values/morals/respect for others     36     3.2       Housing affordability     34     3.0       Defence/national security     29     2.6       Other (Specify)     20     1.8       Law and order/crime/justice system     20     1.8       Industrial relations     18     1.6       Ageing population     16     1.4       The budget     15     1.3       Indigenous affairs     12     1.1       Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)     12     1.1       Infrastructure/planning/innovation		Frequency	Per cent
(None/no other)     81     7.2       Better government     77     6.8       Poverty/Social exclusion/ inequality     72     6.4       Education     64     5.6       Environment/global warming     63     5.5       Terrorism     56     4.9       Health care     47     4.2       Don't know/can't say     37     3.2       Values/morals/respect for others     36     3.2       Housing affordability     34     3.0       Defence/national security     29     2.6       Other (Specify)     20     1.8       Law and order/crime/justice system     20     1.8       Industrial relations     18     1.6       Ageing population     16     1.4       The budget     15     1.3       Indigenous affairs     12     1.1       Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)     12     1.1       Infrastructure/planning/innovation     11     1.0     9       Alcohol and Drug use     7     0.6     7	Economy/jobs	232	20.5
Better government     77     6.8       Poverty/Social exclusion/ inequality     72     6.4       Education     64     5.6       Environment/global warming     63     5.5       Terrorism     56     4.9       Health care     47     4.2       Don't know/can't say     37     3.2       Values/morals/respect for others     36     3.2       Housing affordability     34     3.0       Defence/national security     29     2.6       Other (Specify)     20     1.8       Law and order/crime/justice system     20     1.8       Industrial relations     18     1.6       Ageing population     16     1.4       The budget     15     1.3       Indigenous affairs     12     1.1       Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)     12     1.1       Infrastructure/planning/innovation     11     1.0     9       Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas     9     0.8     7       Foreign influence/Australia's position in world	Immigration	109	9.6
Poverty/Social exclusion/ inequality     72     6.4       Education     64     5.6       Environment/global warming     63     5.5       Terrorism     56     4.9       Health care     47     4.2       Don't know/can't say     37     3.2       Values/morals/respect for others     36     3.2       Housing affordability     34     3.0       Defence/national security     29     2.6       Other (Specify)     20     1.8       Law and order/crime/justice system     20     1.8       Industrial relations     18     1.6       Ageing population     16     1.4       The budget     15     1.3       Indigenous affairs     12     1.1       Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)     12     1.1       Infrastructure/planning/innovation     11     0.9     9       Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas     9     0.8     9       Family/community/societal breakdown     9     0.8     1       Young people's behav	(None/no other)	81	7.2
Education     64     5.6       Environment/global warming     63     5.5       Terrorism     56     4.9       Health care     47     4.2       Don't know/can't say     37     3.2       Values/morals/respect for others     36     3.2       Housing affordability     34     3.0       Defence/national security     29     2.6       Other (Specify)     20     1.8       Law and order/crime/justice system     20     1.8       Industrial relations     18     1.6       Ageing population     16     1.4       The budget     15     1.3       Indigenous affairs     12     1.1       Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)     12     1.1       Infrastructure/planning/innovation     11     0.9     9       Trace balance/loss of jobs to overseas     9     0.8     8       Family/community/societal breakdown     9     0.8     1       Teoreign influence/Australia's position in world     7     0.6     7	Better government	77	6.8
Environment/global warming     63     5.5       Terrorism     56     4.9       Health care     47     4.2       Don't know/can't say     37     3.2       Values/morals/respect for others     36     3.2       Housing affordability     34     3.0       Defence/national security     29     2.6       Other (Specify)     20     1.8       Law and order/crime/justice system     20     1.8       Industrial relations     18     1.6       Ageing population     16     1.4       The budget     15     1.3       Indigenous affairs     12     1.1       Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)     12     1.1       Infrastructure/planning/innovation     11     1.0     9       Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas     9     0.8     8       Family/community/societal breakdown     9     0.8     9       Iraq war     8     0.7     6       Young people's behaviour/attitudes     7     0.6     7	Poverty/Social exclusion/ inequality	72	6.4
Terrorism564.9Health care474.2Don't know/can't say373.2Values/morals/respect for others363.2Housing affordability343.0Defence/national security292.6Other (Specify)201.8Law and order/crime/justice system201.8Industrial relations181.6Ageing population161.4The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Education	64	5.6
Health care   47   4.2     Don't know/can't say   37   3.2     Values/morals/respect for others   36   3.2     Housing affordability   34   3.0     Defence/national security   29   2.6     Other (Specify)   20   1.8     Law and order/crime/justice system   20   1.8     Industrial relations   18   1.6     Ageing population   16   1.4     The budget   15   1.3     Indigenous affairs   12   1.1     Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)   12   1.1     Infrastructure/planning/innovation   11   1.0     Alcohol and Drug use   1   0.9     Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas   9   0.8     Family/community/societal breakdown   9   0.8     Iraq war   8   0.7     Foreign influence/Australia's position in world   7   0.6     Young people's behaviour/attitudes   7   0.6     Taxation   6   0.6     Mater management   6   0.6	Environment/global warming	63	5.5
Don't know/can't say373.2Values/morals/respect for others363.2Housing affordability343.0Defence/national security292.6Other (Specify)201.8Law and order/crime/justice system201.8Industrial relations181.6Ageing population161.4The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Terrorism	56	4.9
Values/morals/respect for others363.2Housing affordability343.0Defence/national security292.6Other (Specify)201.8Law and order/crime/justice system201.8Industrial relations181.6Ageing population161.4The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Health care	47	4.2
Housing affordability343.0Defence/national security292.6Other (Specify)201.8Law and order/crime/justice system201.8Industrial relations181.6Ageing population161.4The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.30.3Carbon Tax20.20.2Interest rates20.20.0Refused11.0	Don't know/can't say	37	3.2
Defence/national security292.6Other (Specify)201.8Law and order/crime/justice system201.8Industrial relations181.6Ageing population161.4The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.01Refused11.0	Values/morals/respect for others	36	3.2
Other (Specify)201.8Law and order/crime/justice system201.8Industrial relations181.6Ageing population161.4The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Housing affordability	34	3.0
Law and order/crime/justice system201.8Industrial relations181.6Ageing population161.4The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.01Refused11.0	Defence/national security	29	2.6
Industrial relations181.6Ageing population161.4The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.01Refused11.0	Other (Specify)	20	1.8
Ageing population161.4The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.01	Law and order/crime/justice system	20	1.8
The budget151.3Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.01Refused11.0	Industrial relations	18	1.6
Indigenous affairs121.1Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.01Refused11.0	Ageing population	16	1.4
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)121.1Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.01Refused11.0	The budget	15	1.3
Infrastructure/planning/innovation111.0Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Indigenous affairs	12	1.1
Alcohol and Drug use110.9Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	12	1.1
Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas90.8Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Infrastructure/planning/innovation	11	1.0
Family/community/societal breakdown90.8Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.01Refused11.0	Alcohol and Drug use	11	0.9
Iraq war80.7Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	9	0.8
Foreign influence/Australia's position in world70.6Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Family/community/societal breakdown	9	0.8
Young people's behaviour/attitudes70.6Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Iraq war	8	0.7
Taxation60.6Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Foreign influence/Australia's position in world	7	0.6
Water management60.6Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Young people's behaviour/attitudes	7	0.6
Rural/farming issues30.3Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Taxation	6	0.6
Carbon Tax20.2Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Water management	6	0.6
Interest rates20.2Afghan war0.0Refused11.0	Rural/farming issues	3	0.3
Afghan war 0.0   Refused 1 1.0	Carbon Tax	2	0.2
Refused 1 1.0	Interest rates	2	0.2
	Afghan war		0.0
Total <b>1133 100.0</b>	Refused	1	1.0
	Total	1133	100.0

How important for Australia do you regard the following issues relating to Indigenous people: ... land rights and native title?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	395	32.9
Fairly important	437	36.4
Not very important	219	18.2
Not at all important	99	8.2
Refused	10	0.8
Don't know	42	3.5
Total	1201	100.0

### ... Constitutional recognition?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	591	49.2
Fairly important	343	28.5
Not very important	141	11.7
Not at all important	81	6.7
Refused	4	0.3
Don't know	42	3.5
Total	1201	100.0

#### ... Self-determination?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	608	50.6
Fairly important	367	30.6
Not very important	122	10.1
Not at all important	64	5.3
Refused	2	0.2
Don't know	38	3.2
Total	1201	100.0

### ... Welfare dependence?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	563	46.9
Fairly important	462	38.5
Not very important	104	8.7
Not at all important	31	2.5
Refused	7	0.6
Don't know	34	32.8
Total	1201	100.0

### ... Social disadvantage?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	652	54.3
Fairly important	376	31.3
Not very important	93	7.8
Not at all important	42	3.5
Refused	6	0.5
Don't know	31	2.6
Total	1201	100.0

I am now going to read out some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years: ... Aboriginal land rights and Native Title

	Frequency	Per cent
Gone too far	241	20.1
Not gone far enough	314	26.1
About right	532	44.3
Refused	7	0.6
Don't know	107	8.9
Total	1201	100.0

### ... Government help for Aborigines

	Frequency	Per cent
Gone too far	202	16.8
Not gone far enough	466	38.8
About right	399	33.3
Refused	13	1.1
Don't know	121	10.1
Total	1201	100.0

... Government intervention in Aboriginal communities

	Frequency	Per cent
Gone too far	251	20.9
Not gone far enough	345	28.8
About right	426	35.5
Refused	8	0.7
Don't know	170	14.2
Total	1201	100.0

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements: ... Aboriginal people are now treated equally to other Australians

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	103	8.5
Agree	262	21.8
Disagree	512	42.6
Strongly disagree	270	22.4
Refused	9	0.7
Don't know	46	3.8
Total	1201	100.0

... Aboriginal people's level of disadvantage justifies extra government assistance

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	226	18.9
Agree	534	44.4
Disagree	271	22.6
Strongly disagree	112	9.3
Refused	8	0.6
Don't know	50	4.1
Total	1201	100.0

... Recognising land rights and Native Title of Aboriginal people is unfair to other Australians

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	119	9.9
Agree	245	20.4
Disagree	577	48.0
Strongly disagree	177	14.7
Refused	14	1.1
Don't know	70	5.9
Total	1201	100.0

... Injustices towards Aboriginal people are now all in the past

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	109	9.1
Agree	297	24.7
Disagree	441	36.8
Strongly disagree	271	22.5
Refused	6	0.5
Don't know	77	6.4
Total	1201	100.0

... Aborigines should be able to decide for themselves their way of life

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	412	34.3
Agree	548	45.6
Disagree	145	12.0
Strongly disagree	41	3.4
Refused	14	1.2
Don't know	41	3.4
Total	1201	100.0

... As the first Australians, Aborigines should have special cultural protection that other groups don't have

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	232	19.4
Agree	465	38.7
Disagree	323	26.9
Strongly disagree	124	10.4
Refused	7	0.6
Don't know	49	4.1
Total	1201	100.0

... In the long run, it would be best for Aboriginal people to be completely assimilated into Australian society

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	256	21.3
Agree	456	37.9
Disagree	287	23.9
Strongly disagree	100	8.3
Refused	20	1.7
Don't know	83	6.9
Total	1201	100.0

In your opinion, have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia...

	Frequency	Per cent
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia have largely caused their own problems	192	16.0
The problems have been caused primarily by the attitudes of other Australians and the policies of governments	566	47.2
Both equally	192	16.0
Refused	15	1.3
Don't know	80	6.6
Total	1201	100.0

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements: ... Universities should have special programs and admission standards for Aboriginal people

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	202	16.8
Agree	445	37.1
Disagree	357	29.7
Strongly disagree	140	11.6
Refused	5	0.4
Don't know	52	4.3
Total	1201	100.0

... Governments should provide extra help for Aboriginal people to gain employment

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	266	22.1
Agree	567	47.2
Disagree	236	19.7
Strongly disagree	85	7.0
Refused	4	0.3
Don't know	43	3.6
Total	1201	100.0

## ... The private sector should do more to employ Aboriginal people

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	259	21.6
Agree	534	44.5
Disagree	265	22.1
Strongly disagree	60	5.0
Refused	1	0.1
Don't know	82	6.8
Total	1201	100.0

Do you think land claims settlements with Aboriginal people should...

	Frequency	Per cent
be reached before using their land for economic purposes, or	644	53.7
should not be a reason for postponing major economic projects	341	28.4
(Neither)	41	3.4
Refused	30	2.5
Don't know	145	12.1
Total	1201	100.0

Would you support or oppose changes to the Constitution in order to: ... remove clauses that discriminate on the basis of race

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly support	549	45.7
Support	423	35.2
Oppose	86	7.2
Strongly oppose	45	3.7
Refused	17	1.4
Don't know	80	6.7
Total	1201	100.0

... recognise the 'continuing cultures, languages and heritage' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a basis of Commonwealth law making

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly support	336	28.0
Support	540	45.0
Oppose	132	11.0
Strongly oppose	72	6.0
Refused	13	1.1
Don't know	108	9.0
Total	1201	100.0

### Which of the following statements most closely reflects your own situation?

	Frequency	Per cent
l mix regularly with Aboriginal people on a day to day basis	227	18.9
I know Aboriginal people but do not regularly mix with them	536	44.6
I do not know any Aboriginal people personally	428	35.7
Refused	2	0.1
Don't know	7	0.6
Total	1201	100.0

Do you identify yourself as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	25	2.0
No	1173	97.7
Refused	1	0.1
Don't know	3	0.2
Total	1201	100.0

## CONTACT US

The Australian National University Canberra ACT 0200 T 02 6125 5111 CRICOS #00120C