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PUBLIC PRIORITIES FOR
GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE
ANUPOLL JANUARY 2014

Public Priorities for Government Expenditure

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About the Survey

The ANU Poll is conducted for The Australian National University by the Social Research Centre, Melbourne. The survey is a national random sample of the adult population aged 18 years and over conducted by telephone. In this survey, 1,142 people were interviewed between 25 November and 16 December 2013, with a response rate of 49 per cent. The results have been weighted to represent the national population. The survey’s margin of error is ± 2.5 per cent. Full details of survey can be found at <http://www.anu.edu.au/anupoll/>.

VICE-CHANCELLOR’S MESSAGE



In a period of austerity, few issues are more controversial than government spending. What government chooses to spend public money on, and the level of its support, is influenced by a wide variety of factors. One key influence on the spending priorities of government is public opinion. The aim of this ANUpoll, the 15th in the series, is to evaluate what the public thinks about government spending and what it sees as the main priorities for spending.

Underlying these opinions about government spending is the broader question concerning the role of government in people’s everyday lives. Accordingly, the survey also seeks to gauge how far the public wants the government to be involved in the economy and the society as a whole.

The results paint a picture of a public that is generally comfortable about the tax system, and accepts government intervention across a wide range of activities. Indeed, when given the choice between a reduction in income tax or more government spending on social services, the past two decades have seen a consistent increase in the proportion favouring more spending.

Nevertheless, dilemmas remain. The public is divided over whether extra government revenue should come from an increase in the rate of GST or from higher income tax. Subsidies for the car industry—a decision that may have been overtaken by events—also divides the public. And not least, the public is lukewarm towards government spending on business and industry, social welfare and unemployment benefits.

This ANUpoll sheds new light on public opinion towards these and other issues. The survey contributes to the ongoing public debate about how government should direct its resources at a time when the government’s finances are under pressure.

Professor Ian Young AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

TAXATION

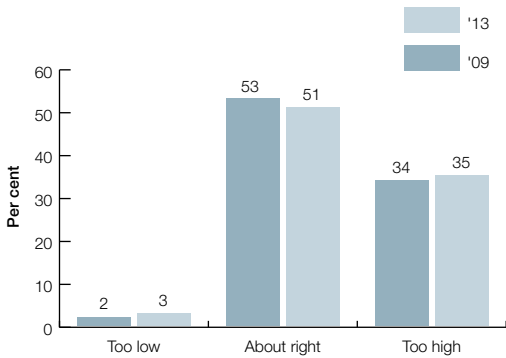
Key points

- > A narrow majority believe that the amount of income tax they pay is ‘about right.’ One in three believe that it is ‘too high.’
- > Around six in 10 believe that the amount of tax they pay is fair.
- > Opinions are evenly divided on whether additional revenue should be raised by increasing the rate of GST, or by increasing the level of income tax.

One of the most influential definitions of politics, coined by Harold Lasswell in 1958, is ‘who gets what, when and how.’ In Lasswell’s view, politics is concerned primarily with distributional outcomes, a key element of which is public opinion towards income inequality. In this context, the public’s views about the level of tax they have to pay helps to inform their overall judgment about government spending. If they believe that the level of tax they have to pay is reasonable, then they will be more inclined to support government spending; if they take the opposite view, then their view of government spending will be less benign.

A narrow majority of the public believe that the level of income tax they have to pay is ‘about right’, and there has been virtually no change in this proportion since 2009, when the question was last asked in an ANUpoll. About one in three believe that the level of income tax they pay is too high; just 3 per cent in 2013 considered that the level was too low.

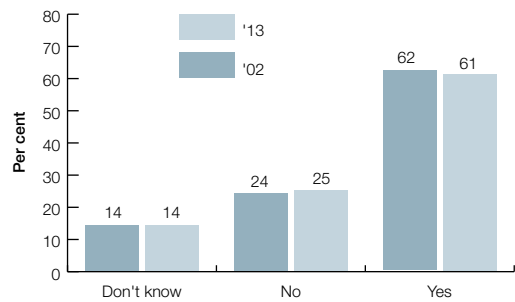
If the estimates are recalculated just for those who currently pay tax, the proportion who believe that they pay too much tax increases from 35 to 42 per cent. These beliefs about the level of taxation are unrelated to the respondents’ level of family income (the correlation is 0.03). In general, then, the majority of people view the level of income tax they have to pay as being about right, and this should have a positive effect on their views of government spending.



‘Do you consider the amount of income tax you have to pay as too high, about right, or too low?’

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

These relatively benign views about the level of income tax that people have to pay are also reflected in opinions about the fairness of the tax system. Around six in every 10 respondents regard the tax system as fair, with just one in four taking a negative view. Once again, the estimates are almost exactly the same as those recorded in 2009.



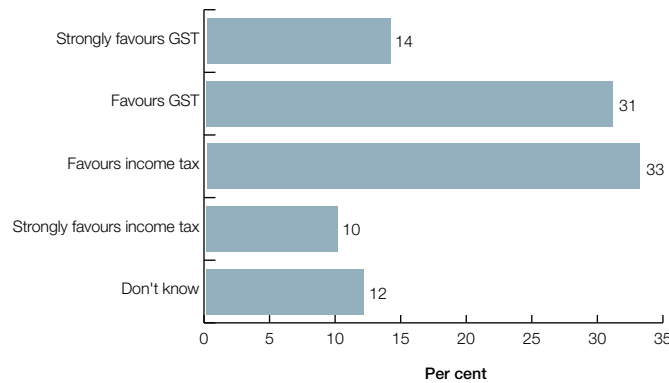
‘Do you feel that the income tax you will have to pay this year is fair?’

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

Few postwar tax changes have generated as much controversy as the introduction of a goods and services tax. The idea for a GST had been advanced by both major parties in the 1980s and 1990s, but it was not until the Howard Coalition government won the 1998 election with the GST as a major plank in its platform that it became a reality. In the years leading up to the introduction of a GST in July 2000, a majority were in favour of the reform, but as the date of its implementation drew closer, that majority began to decline.

One argument that was advanced by opponents of the GST was that a future government could easily raise the rate above the agreed 10 per cent. To counter this objection, the government included in the legislation a requirement that any future change in the level would need the agreement of all of the states and territories. With declining government revenues and greater demands on the public purse, the issue of an increase in the rate of the GST is once again being debated.

The survey asked the respondents to choose between increasing the rate of GST or increasing income tax if the government needed extra revenue. Opinions were evenly split: a total of 45 per cent favoured an increase in the GST, while 43 per cent favoured an increase in the rate of income tax; just 12 per cent failed to express an opinion. Slightly more respondents were ‘strongly’ in favour of an increase in the GST than were ‘strongly’ in favour of an increase in the rate of income tax. These results tend to confirm the findings of other surveys that the public is generally more receptive to ‘invisible’ taxes such as a sales tax, rather than to ‘visible’ taxes such as income tax.



‘If the government had to raise taxation to pay for government services, should it do so by increasing income tax, or by increasing the goods and services tax (GST)?’

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

A second argument against the GST is that it is a regressive tax, disproportionately affecting those on low incomes who have less discretionary income. This is reflected in the level of support for the GST among high and low income earners. For example, among those earning less than \$40,000 per year and who pay tax, 43 per cent support increasing the rate of GST rather than increasing the rate of income tax. The same figure for those earning \$150,000 or more is 67 per cent.

The overall picture is of a public that is generally satisfied with the level of taxation, and who believe that the system is generally fair. However, there remains a sizeable minority who view the income tax they pay as too high, and who believe that the system is unfair. The conundrum for government is the clear division of opinion over whether additional government revenue should be raised directly through income tax or indirectly through an increase in the GST. While successive governments have been committed not to raise the rate of GST, about half of the population would prefer this rather than an increase in income tax.

PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Key points

- > Across nine areas of government activity, there is a balance of opinion in favour of more rather than less government spending. Areas of priority for the public are health, education and old age pensions, in that order.
- > Opinions are evenly divided on whether or not the government should subsidise the car industry, with 41 per cent supporting subsidies, 45 per cent opposing them.
- > Since 1987 the proportion favouring more spending on social services rather than paying less tax has increased (with the exception of 2009, just after the global financial crisis).
- > This long-term trend is ‘secular’ insofar as it is unrelated to whichever political party occupies government.

Perhaps the most sensitive issue for any government to deal with is its spending priorities. One constraint on government spending is its party platform, and what it agreed to do at the election when it was returned to office. A second constraint is path dependency, and the spending commitments that have already been made by previous governments. A third constraint is what the public sees as important areas for government spending.

The survey respondents were asked whether they wanted more, less or about the same amount of government spending across nine areas ranging from health and education to welfare and unemployment benefits. Across eight of the nine areas, the public were more likely to support a spending increase, the exception being unemployment benefits. The areas where the public want to see the greatest increases are in health (75 per cent difference between those wanting more spending and those wanting less), education (67 per cent) and old age pensions (63 per cent). Apart from unemployment benefits, the areas of welfare, business and industry, and defence are viewed in much less favourable terms.

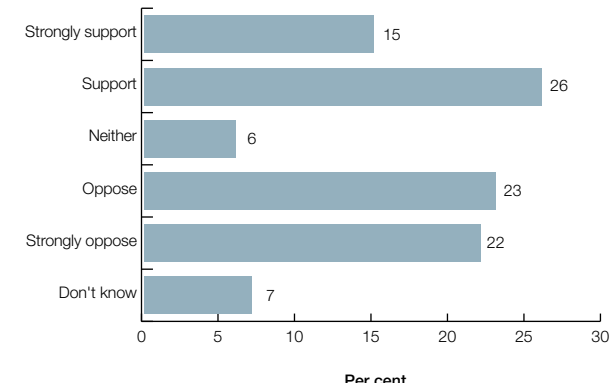
	Much more	Somewhat more	Same as now	Somewhat less	Much less	Don't know	Total	More - Less
Health	36	45	11	4	2	2	100	+75
Education	41	32	18	5	1	3	100	+67
Old age pensions	29	38	25	3	1	4	100	+63
Police and law enforcement	24	34	32	7	1	2	100	+50
Environmental protection	25	29	26	10	6	4	100	+38
Welfare benefits	11	25	33	16	10	5	100	+10
Business and industry	12	26	27	19	9	7	100	+10
Defence	11	21	36	16	10	6	100	+5
Unemployment benefits	10	13	31	23	19	4	100	-19

‘I’m now going to read out a number of different areas that government currently funds through taxes. Could you please say whether there should be more or less public expenditure in each area? Please bear in mind that if you say ‘more’ it could require a tax increase, and if you say ‘less’ it could require a reduction in those services. Should there be more or less public expenditure in ...’

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

A major issue for the Coalition government in its first six months in office has been whether to continue to subsidise the car industry in order to continue production in Australia. The government was committed to maintaining subsidies to the industry, albeit at a lesser rate than in the past. However, in December 2013 Holden announced it would end the production of cars in Australia; Ford had already reached a similar decision in May, prior to the federal election.

The public is evenly divided on whether or not to subsidise car manufacturing; 41 per cent support subsidies while 45 per cent oppose them. Just 6 per cent take neither position, suggesting that the public debate around the topic has provided sufficient information for the respondents to form a view. It is perhaps notable that opinions against subsidies are more strongly held than those in favour of subsidies. Moreover, the fieldwork for the survey was conducted between 25 November and 16 December with the bulk of the interviews being conducted in early December. While Holden’s announcement was made on 11 December, at the end of the fieldwork period, the decision was widely expected in the fortnight before.

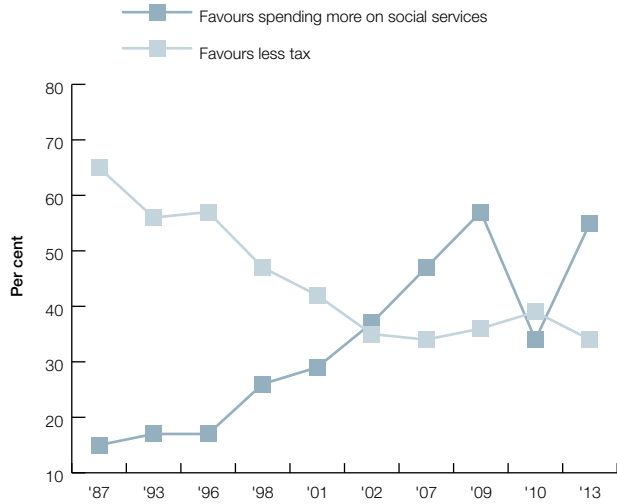


‘To what extent do you support or oppose the government providing a subsidy to the car manufacturing industry?’

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

There are significant state variations in these patterns, as we would expect since car manufacturing and the associated industries are concentrated in South Australia and Victoria. In South Australia, 51 per cent support a subsidy, while 40 per cent oppose it; in Victoria, the same figures are 45 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively. By contrast, in NSW, where involvement in the industry is much lower, support for a subsidy is lower, at 40 per cent.

A final piece of evidence about the public’s views on government spending is whether the public would like to pay less tax, or have more government spending on social services. Comparable survey evidence on public views on this question go back to 1987 when, for example, 65 per cent favoured less tax and just 15 per cent more spending on social services. This large proportion gradually declined through the 1990s and early 2000s, and by 2004, for the first time, slightly more respondents favoured more spending as opposed to less tax.



‘If the government had a choice between reducing taxes or spending more on social services, which do you think it should do?’

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

The trend in favour of more spending on social services continued through the 2000s, peaking at 57 per cent in an ANUpoll in 2009. In 2010 there was a sharp drop in support caused, most probably, by the global financial crisis which made the public wary of more government spending. In the current survey, the proportions have returned to the pre-GFC figure, with 55 per cent favouring more spending and 34 per cent less tax. This trend is important because it appears to be ‘secular’, in the sense that it is unrelated to whichever party holds office.

These trends are important in that they inform the earlier figures for priorities for government spending, which showed a balance in favour of more spending across seven of the eight areas of government activity. The majority in favour of more spending on social services underpins these findings, and suggests that the public is indeed more inclined to see more rather than less government spending.

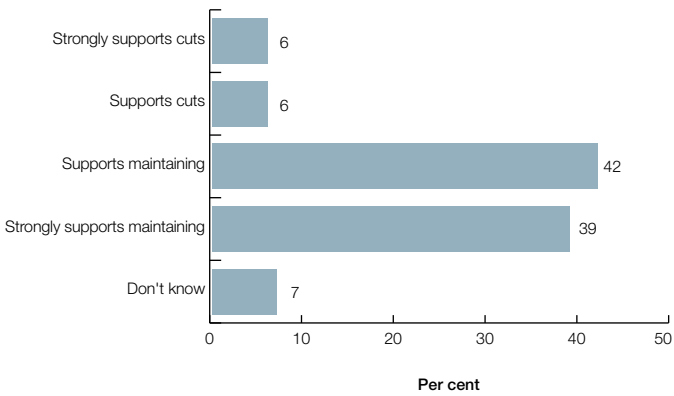
THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Key points

- > There is overwhelming support for maintaining government programs at their current level. Just 12 per cent want to see a cut in government programs.
- > A majority believe that government is the most appropriate agency to deal with a range of common activities. There is most support for government involvement in health care, the economy, and in the care of the elderly.
- > Opinions are lukewarm about how well the federal government runs its programs. The largest group of respondents, 44 per cent, sees government performance as ‘only fair’.

Few issues have generated as much controversy as the role of government in the economy and society. Traditionally, governments in the advanced democracies have performed a wide variety of functions, from regulating economic markets to providing a social safety net. How effective does the public believe that government has been in carrying out these initiatives? And do they think that government is the best agency to deal with them, as opposed to the private sector or the wider community? The survey asked the respondents a range of questions designed to elicit their views about what they expected government to do, and how well they thought government performed its role.

The public is generally comfortable with the current reach of government in their lives. When asked if they thought government should be cut or maintained, a large majority—81 per cent— support the maintenance of government programs. Moreover, almost four in 10 were strongly in support of this view. Just 12 per cent believed that there should be cuts and only 7 per cent indicated that they had no opinion on the issue.



‘Should federal government programs be cut back to reduce the power of government, or should government programs be maintained to deal with important problems?’

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

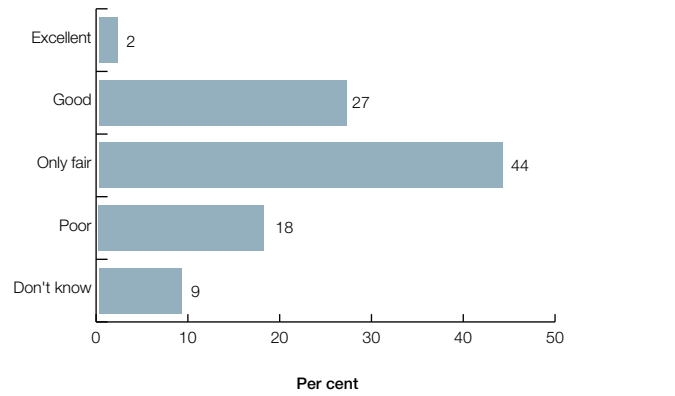
In line with their strong support for maintaining the current level of government involvement, a majority of the public view government as the most appropriate body to be responsible for a wide range of activities. The survey asked the respondents about seven areas, ranging from health care to youth crime. In each case, a majority thought that the area was best dealt with by government; only a small minority considered private industry to have any role to play in any of the seven activities. In two areas—reducing youth crime and protecting the environment—38 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively, thought that individual and community groups had a role to play.

	Govern- ment	Private industry	Individuals community groups	Don't know	Total
Ensuring access to affordable health care	86	5	6	3	100
Managing the economy to prevent another recession	84	10	2	4	100
Providing a decent standard of living for the elderly	81	4	12	3	100
Reducing poverty	69	6	20	5	100
Setting academic standards for public schools	65	9	21	5	100
Protecting the environment	60	7	30	3	100
Reducing youth crime	56	2	38	4	100

‘In your opinion, who should be primarily responsible for the following areas? The government, the private industry, or individuals and community groups?’

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

Finally, despite the emphasis on government involvement in many areas of society, views about how good a job the government does is decidedly equivocal. A plurality of respondents—44 per cent—believe that government performance is ‘only fair’. Just over one in four consider it to be good, while just under one in five consider it to be ‘poor’ and only 2 per cent consider it to be ‘excellent’.



‘All in all, how good a job does the federal government do running its programs? An excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?’

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

Public opinion is therefore somewhat contradictory concerning the role of government. At one level there is strong support for maintaining government programs at their current level, and for maintaining government responsibility over a range of activities across the economy and the society. However, views about how well the government runs its programs is lukewarm at best. It would seem that the public wants and expects a strong role for government, but is pessimistic about its likely effectiveness. Moreover, the public sees no realistic alternative to government.

KEY TRENDS: MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL MOOD

Key points

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The economy remains the most important problem facing Australia for respondents, followed by immigration.

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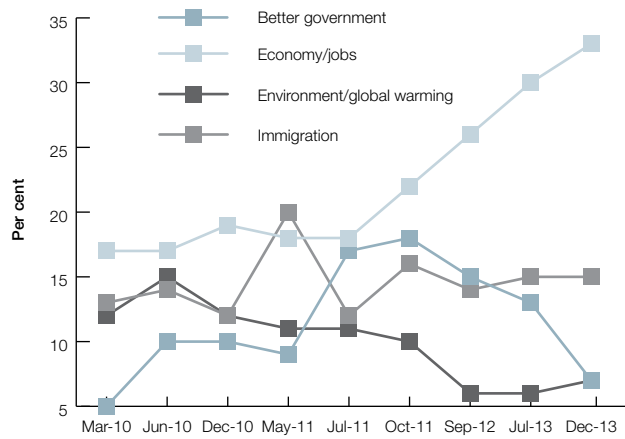
Concerns about better government have declined following the 2013 election.

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The political mood is positive, but has not returned to the levels found prior to the 2010 election.

Although the global financial crisis was more benign in Australia than in most other countries, the public remains concerned about the economy and jobs. When asked in an open-format question to nominate the most important problem facing Australia, one in three mentioned the economy and jobs, an increase of three per centage points compared to the last poll in July 2013. Since 2011, the proportion mentioning the economy as the most important problem has doubled.

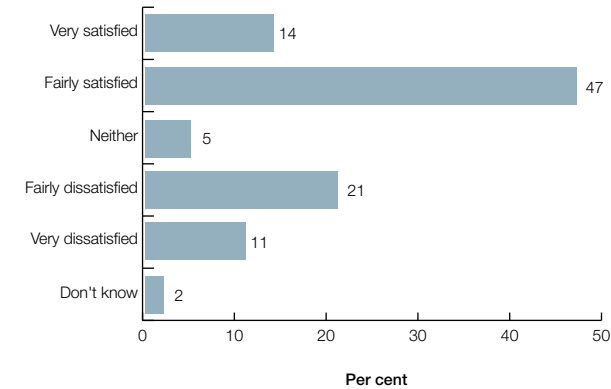
The second ranked concern is immigration (which includes asylum seekers), and was mentioned by 15 per cent of the respondents as the most important problem facing the country. This proportion has remained relatively stable since 2010, with some minor fluctuations. Better government is third in importance; this concern first emerged after the 2010 election and it was evident then that this was related to the experience of the Labor minority government. The 2013 election and the change of government appears to have eased these concerns; the proportion mentioning better government as the most important problem in this survey is around half that recorded in 2012. The fourth ranked issue was the environment and global warming, mentioned by 7 per cent. This represents a decline of about half since early 2010.



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

Sources: ANUpolls, March 2010–December 2013.

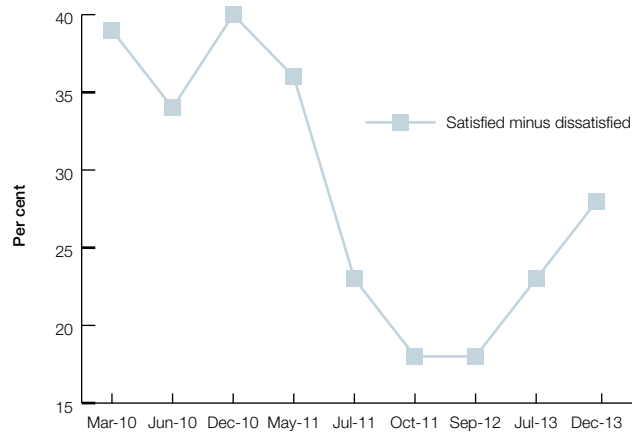
Since the November 2013 election the political mood has improved. In the current survey, a total of 61 per cent said that they were satisfied with the way the country was heading, compared to 56 per cent in mid-2013, before the election. One in three said that they were dissatisfied, the same proportion as in the previous survey. Just 5 per cent of the respondents took an intermediate view and only 2 per cent had no opinion.



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

Source: ANUpoll on Government Expenditure, 2013.

The long term trend for the political mood shows the extent of the collapse in optimism following the August 2010 election. By mid-2011 optimism had declined substantially, and it declined further in late 2011, recovering only after June 2013, when Kevin Rudd replaced Julia Gillard as prime minister. Nevertheless, the political mood has still not improved to the level it was prior to the 2010 election.



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

Source: ANUpolls, March 2010–December 2013.

ANUPOLL QUESTIONS

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

	Frequency	Per cent
Very satisfied	156	13.7
Satisfied	540	47.3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	61	5.3
Dissatisfied	245	21.4
Very dissatisfied	121	10.6
Don't know / Not sure	19	1.6
Total	1142	100.0

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

	Frequency	Per cent
Economy/jobs	374	32.8
Industrial relations	19	1.7
Housing affordability	11	1.0
Health care	34	3.0
Education	63	5.5
Defence/national security	2	.2
Afghan war	2	.2
Environment/global warming	79	6.9
Water management	3	.3
Immigration	166	14.5
Indigenous affairs	6	.5
Taxation	10	.9
Better government	80	7.0
Law and order/ crime/ justice system	22	1.9
Ageing population	14	1.2
Values/ morals/ respect for others	43	3.8
Poverty/ Social exclusion/ inequality	59	5.1
Carbon Tax	5	.4
Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	9	.8
Rural/farming issues	2	.2
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	8	.7
Infrastructure/ Planning/ Innovation	17	1.5
Alcohol and Drug use	5	.5
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	7	.6
Foreign influence/Australia's position in world	19	1.7
Family/community/societal breakdown	4	.3
None/ no other	10	.9
Other	13	1.1
Refused	6	.5
Don't Know / Can't Say	50	4.4
Total	1142	100.0

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

	Frequency	Per cent
Economy/jobs	198	18.4
Industrial relations	17	1.6
Interest rates	3	.3
Housing affordability	22	2.1
Health care	66	6.1
Education	97	9.1
Defence/national security	15	1.4
Terrorism	1	.1
Iraq war	0	.0
Afghan war	2	.2
Environment/global warming	72	6.7
Water management	6	.5
Immigration	121	11.2
Indigenous affairs	7	.6
Taxation	14	1.3
Better government	41	3.8
Law and order/ crime/ justice system	32	3.0
Ageing population	31	2.8
Values/ morals/ respect for others	36	3.3
Poverty/ Social exclusion/ inequality	45	4.1
Carbon Tax	3	.3
Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	8	.7
Rural/farming issues	2	.2
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	13	1.2
Infrastructure/ Planning/ Innovation	23	2.2
Alcohol and Drug use	3	.3
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	6	.5
Foreign influence/Australia's position in world	14	1.3
Family/community/societal breakdown	3	.3
None/ no other	74	6.9
Other	11	1.0
Refused	4	.3
Don't Know / Can't Say	85	7.9
Total	1076	100.0

Overall, do you consider the amount of income tax you have to pay as too high, about right, or too low?

	Frequency	Per cent
Too high	404	35.4
About right	581	50.9
Too low	31	2.7
Don't know	116	10.2
Refused	10	.9
Total	1142	100.0

Do you feel that the income tax you will have to pay this year is fair?

	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	693	60.7
No	286	25.0
Don't know	142	12.5
Refused	21	1.8
Total	1142	100.0

If the government had to raise taxation to pay for government services, should it do so by increasing income tax, OR by increasing the goods and services tax (GST)?

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly favour increasing income tax	109	9.5
Favour increasing income tax	374	32.7
Favour increasing GST	357	31.3
Strongly favour increasing GST	163	14.3
Don't know	124	10.8
Refused	16	1.4
Total	1142	100.0

I’m now going to read out a number of different areas that government currently funds through taxes. Could you please say whether there should be more or less public expenditure in each area? Please bear in mind that if you say ‘more’ it could require a tax increase, and if you say ‘less’ it could require a reduction in those services. Should there be more or less public expenditure in ... health?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	415	36.3
Somewhat more than now	515	45.1
Same as now	128	11.3
Somewhat less than now	47	4.1
Much less than now	22	1.9
Don't know	12	1.0
Refused	3	.3
Total	1142	100.0

Should there be more or less public expenditure in ... education?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	467	40.9
Somewhat more than now	365	31.9
Same as now	201	17.6
Somewhat less than now	53	4.7
Much less than now	18	1.6
Don't know	35	3.1
Refused	3	.3
Total	1142	100.0

Should there be more or less public expenditure in ... unemployment benefits?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	109	9.5
Somewhat more than now	149	13.1
Same as now	355	31.1
Somewhat less than now	258	22.6
Much less than now	224	19.6
Don't know	43	3.7
Refused	5	.4
Total	1142	100.0

Should there be more or less public expenditure in ... defence?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	127	11.1
Somewhat more than now	236	20.6
Same as now	410	35.9
Somewhat less than now	190	16.6
Much less than now	113	9.9
Don't know	64	5.6
Refused	2	.2
Total	1142	100.0

Should there be more or less public expenditure in ... old-age pensions?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	339	29.7
Somewhat more than now	432	37.8
Same as now	286	25.0
Somewhat less than now	33	2.9
Much less than now	8	.7
Don't know	42	3.7
Refused	4	.3
Total	1142	100.0

Should there be more or less public expenditure in ... business and industry?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	134	11.7
Somewhat more than now	298	26.1
Same as now	303	26.5
Somewhat less than now	221	19.4
Much less than now	104	9.1
Don't know	79	6.9
Refused	4	.3
Total	1142	100.0

Should there be more or less public expenditure in ... police and law enforcement?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	268	23.5
Somewhat more than now	387	33.9
Same as now	359	31.5
Somewhat less than now	74	6.5
Much less than now	29	2.5
Don't know	20	1.8
Refused	4	.3
Total	1142	100.0

Should there be more or less public expenditure in ... welfare benefits?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	125	11.0
Somewhat more than now	282	24.7
Same as now	377	33.0
Somewhat less than now	188	16.4
Much less than now	119	10.4
Don't know	47	4.1
Refused	5	.4
Total	1142	100.0

Should there be more or less public expenditure in ... environmental protection?

	Frequency	Per cent
Much more than now	289	25.3
Somewhat more than now	331	29.0
Same as now	299	26.2
Somewhat less than now	116	10.1
Much less than now	67	5.9
Don't know	34	3.0
Refused	6	.5
Total	1142	100.0

To what extent do you support or oppose the government providing a subsidy to the car manufacturing industry?

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly support	173	15.1
Support	301	26.4
Neither support nor oppose	72	6.3
Oppose	266	23.3
Strongly oppose	250	21.9
Don't know	77	6.7
Refused	3	.3
Total	1142	100.0

If the government had a choice between reducing taxes or spending more on social services, which do you think it should do?

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly favour reducing taxes	193	16.9
Mildly favour reducing taxes	197	17.2
Depends	67	5.9
Mildly favour spending more on social services	350	30.6
Strongly favour spending more on social services	277	24.3
Don't know	50	4.4
Refused	9	.8
Total	1142	100.0

In general, do you feel that the people in government are too often interested in looking after themselves, or do you feel that they can be trusted to do the right thing nearly all the time?

	Frequency	Per cent
Usually look after themselves	620	54.3
Sometimes look after themselves	180	15.8
Sometimes can be trusted to do the right thing	107	9.3
Usually can be trusted to do the right thing	157	13.8
Don't know	70	6.1
Refused	8	.7
Total	1142	100.0

I'd now like you to tell me your views on federal government programs. Should federal government programs be cut back to reduce the power of government, or should government programs be maintained to deal with important problems?

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly support cuts	67	5.8
Support cuts	73	6.4
Support maintaining programs	476	41.7
Strongly support maintaining programs	440	38.5
Don't know	78	6.8
Refused	9	.8
Total	1142	100.0

All in all, how good a job does the federal government do running its programs?

	Frequency	Per cent
Excellent	22	1.9
Good	310	27.1
Only fair	502	44.0
Poor	201	17.6
Don't know	97	8.5
Refused	10	.8
Total	1142	100.0

In your opinion, who should be primarily responsible for the following areas? The government, the private industry, or individuals and community groups? ... Setting academic standards for public schools?

	Frequency	Per cent
Government	741	64.9
Private industry	99	8.6
Individuals and community groups	244	21.3
Don't know	53	4.6
Refused	5	.5
Total	1142	100.0

Who should be primarily responsible for ... protecting the environment?

	Frequency	Per cent
Government	680	59.6
Private industry	85	7.5
Individuals and community groups	337	29.5
Don't know	32	2.8
Refused	7	.6
Total	1142	100.0

Who should be primarily responsible for ... ensuring access to affordable health care?

	Frequency	Per cent
Government	987	86.5
Private industry	55	4.9
Individuals and community groups	70	6.1
Don't know	27	2.4
Refused	2	.2
Total	1142	100.0

Who should be primarily responsible for ... providing a decent standard of living for the elderly?

	Frequency	Per cent
Government	930	81.4
Private industry	41	3.6
Individuals and community groups	139	12.2
Don't know	29	2.6
Refused	3	.2
Total	1142	100.0

Who should be primarily responsible for ... reducing youth crime?

	Frequency	Per cent
Government	645	56.5
Private industry	26	2.2
Individuals and community groups	430	37.6
Don't know	34	3.0
Refused	8	.7
Total	1142	100.0

Who should be primarily responsible for ... reducing poverty?

	Frequency	Per cent
Government	784	68.7
Private industry	71	6.2
Individuals and community groups	227	19.8
Don't know	52	4.5
Refused	8	.7
Total	1142	100.0

Who should be primarily responsible for ... managing the economy to prevent another recession?

	Frequency	Per cent
Government	953	83.5
Private industry	110	9.7
Individuals and community groups	27	2.4
Don't know	42	3.7
Refused	9	.8
Total	1142	100.0

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