



Australian
National
University



AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS
NATIONAL IDENTITY: CITIZENSHIP,
IMMIGRATION AND TRADITION
ANUPOLL APRIL 2015

ANU College of
Arts & Social
Sciences

AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS NATIONAL IDENTITY: CITIZENSHIP, IMMIGRATION AND TRADITION

Dr Jill Sheppard

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

Report No. 18

April 2015

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, 1,200 people were interviewed between 2 and 15 March 2015 with a response rate of 23.4 per cent. The results have been weighted to represent the national population. The poll's margin of error is ± 2.5 per cent.

CONTENTS

What it means to be 'Australian'	2
Pride in Australia	3
Local versus national identity	5
Australia's place in the world	6
Immigration and Australian society	7
Monarchy, symbolism and identity	9
Key trends	11
ANUpoll questions	12

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



National identity and what it means to be 'Australian' regularly influence the political and public debate in Australia, but they are not always clearly defined. This study, the 18th ANUpoll, explores how Australians identify with their country and how they view themselves as citizens. It reveals that Australians are largely welcoming of those born overseas, that 'being Australian' can describe a broad range of characteristics and behaviours, and that immigration is viewed positively in regard to its consequences for Australian cultural and economic life.

More than nine in 10 Australians believe that the ability to speak English is important to 'being truly Australian', while fewer than half believe that being born in Australia is important. Australians are most proud of the country's sporting and scientific achievements, while support for Australia's social security system and fair and equal treatment of all groups in society is considerably lower. Australians identify more strongly with their country than with their town or state, but feel increasingly close to the Asia/Oceanic region.

This study also provides insights into contemporary political debates. While Australians are supportive of current rates of immigration to Australia, and of immigrants' contribution to Australian society, a majority support stronger measures to exclude illegal immigrants.

Support for the monarchy has increased since the 1999 referendum, but a majority of Australians favour an Australian head of state. Although they strongly favour retaining the current Australian flag, Australians overwhelmingly disapprove of the decision to reintroduce British-style 'knight and dame' honours.

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 national identity, immigration and constitutional arrangements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'I.R. Young'.

Professor Ian Young AO

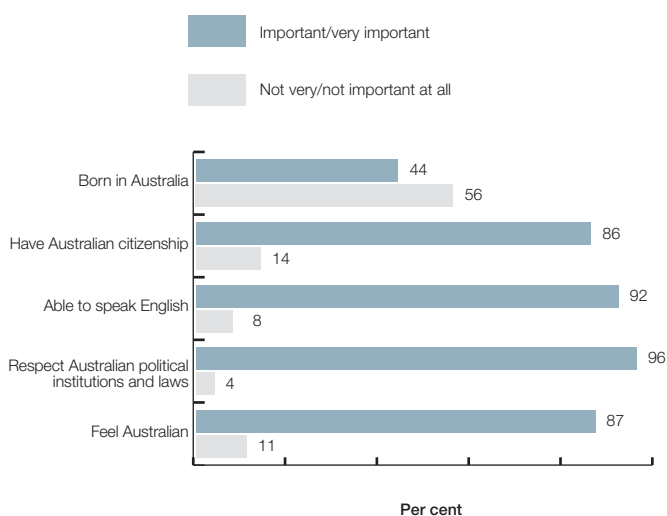
Vice-Chancellor and President

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ‘AUSTRALIAN’

Key points

- > An ability to speak English and to respect political institutions and laws are considered to be the most important factors in ‘being Australian’.
- > Being born in Australia is the least important factor, with more than half of Australians describing it as not important.
- > Since 1995, fewer Australians believe that being born outside of Australia is a barrier to ‘being Australian’, although speaking English is considered more important than previously.

‘Australian’ – and its counter, ‘unAustralian’ – is regularly used to describe intangible qualities of members of Australian society. To understand what ‘Australian’ really means to people in Australia, respondents were asked to rate the importance of a range of traits and behaviours. Overwhelmingly, Australians believe that the ability to speak English is important to being Australian; while 92 per cent agree that language is important, 65 per cent see it as being ‘very important’, with only 27 per cent responding ‘fairly important’. This represents an increase from 1995, when the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) asked identical questions. In that survey, 86 per cent responded that the ability to speak English was important, with 59 per cent responding with ‘very important’. Since 1995, the percentage who do not believe English language skills are important to being Australian fell from 12 to eight per cent.



“Some people say that the following things are important for being truly Australian. Others say they are not important. How important do you think each of the following is...”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

By contrast, a majority of Australians believe it is not important to have been born in Australia to ‘be Australian’: 44 per cent say that it is important, compared to 56 per cent who say it is not. These figures have reversed since 1995, when 55 per cent said it was important and 44 per cent said it was not. Where Australians have become more likely to believe that ‘Australianness’ requires the ability to speak English, being born overseas has become less of a barrier.

Other measures of ‘Australianness’ – citizenship, respect for political institutions and laws, and that individuals feel Australian – are overwhelmingly considered important. Furthermore, the strong agreement on the importance of these measures has been consistent since 1995, suggesting that they are not easily shifted by external factors and are central to somebody being described as ‘Australian’.

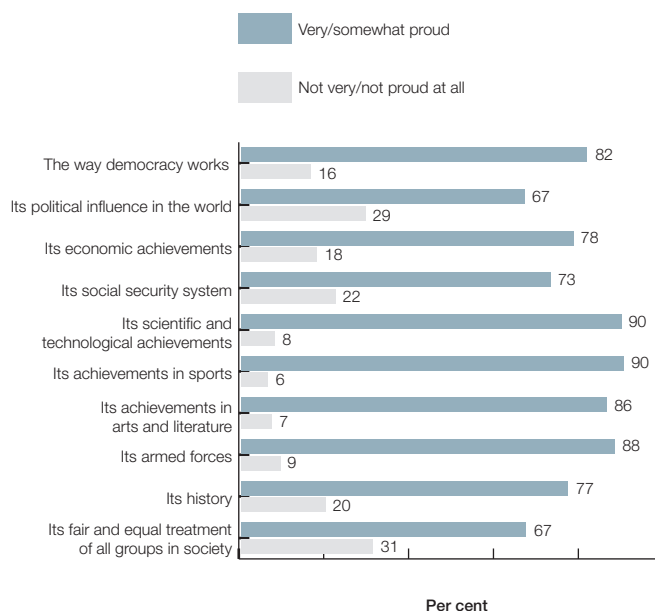
PRIDE IN AUSTRALIA

Key points

- > Australians are overwhelmingly proud of their country across a range of dimensions.
- > Sporting and scientific achievements evoke the most pride among Australians, compared with the country's social security system and fair and equal treatment of all groups in society.
- > Pride in most areas of Australian society has largely increased since 1995, with greater numbers expressing the strongest levels of pride.

Pride in one's country is inextricably linked with a sense of national identity. If someone expresses a strong sense of national identity, it tends to follow that they are proud of that nation. To this end, Australians report high levels of pride across a range of dimensions of Australian society. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Australians are most proud of the country's achievement in sports, and science and technology with 90 per cent of respondents, in both cases, reporting they were proud. Moreover, this pride is deep-seated: in 1995, 93 per cent of ISSP respondents reported being proud of Australian scientific achievements, and 91 per cent were proud of national sporting achievements.

More central to Australia's political system, 82 per cent of respondents are proud of the way democracy works in Australia. Only 32 per cent are 'very proud', while 49 per cent are only 'somewhat proud'. However, this represents a substantial increase from previous studies: the 2003 ISSP study found that 25 per cent of respondents were 'very proud' and 53 per cent 'somewhat proud', while the 1995 ISSP study found only 16 per cent of respondents were 'very proud' and 64 per cent 'somewhat proud'. The data here suggest that pride in Australia's democracy has not necessarily become more widespread over the past 20 years, but has become stronger.



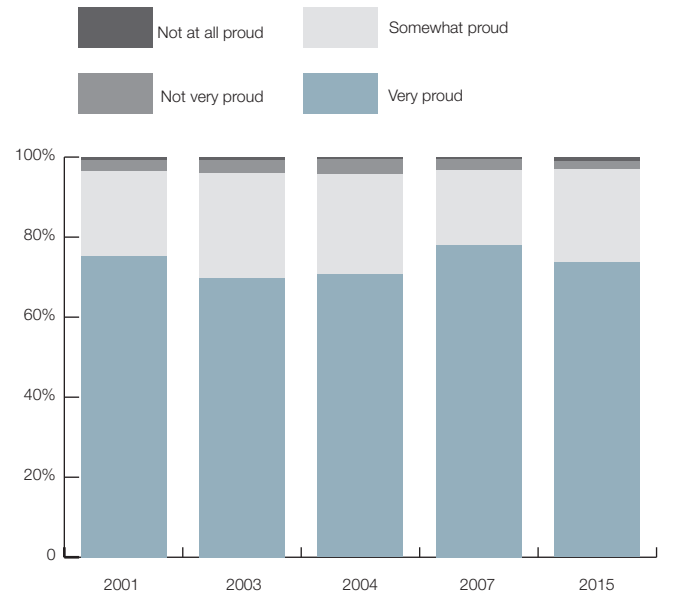
"How proud are you of Australia in each of the following...?"

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

While Australians report high levels of pride across most of the dimensions, in some areas they are notably less proud: Australia's political influence in the world, its social security system and its fair and equal treatment of all groups. Pride in Australia's political influence in the world has increased dramatically over time, from total support of 50 per cent of Australians in 1995, a low of 24 per cent of Australians in 2003, and subsequent 43 point increase to 2015. This may be attributable to Australia's temporary membership of the United Nations Security Council in 2013-2014, or it may represent a more permanent shift in Australians' perceptions of the country's role in global affairs.

Opinion on Australia's social security system and fair and equal treatment of all groups in society has improved since 1995. Pride in the social security system has increased from 52 per cent in 1995 and 57 per cent in 2003, while pride in the country's fair and equal treatment of all groups has risen from 56 per cent in 1995 and 58 per cent in 2003. The similar trends across these various measures suggest the existence of genuine shifts towards greater national pride among Australians. Even where some factors of Australian life evoke less pride than the 'high watermarks' of sport and scientific achievements, Australians are reporting greater pride over time.

When asked whether they are proud of being Australian, respondents are even more forthright. In 2015, 70 per cent report being 'very proud', 22 per cent 'somewhat proud', with only three per cent either 'not very' or 'not at all proud'. This continues a trend in very high levels of pride among Australians: since being asked in the 2001 Australian Election Study (AES), no fewer than 93 per cent of respondents have reported being either very or somewhat proud of being Australian. In fact, 2015 represents the lowest level of pride in recent years, although percentages have remained consistently above 90 per cent.



"How proud are you of being Australian? Would you say..."
Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

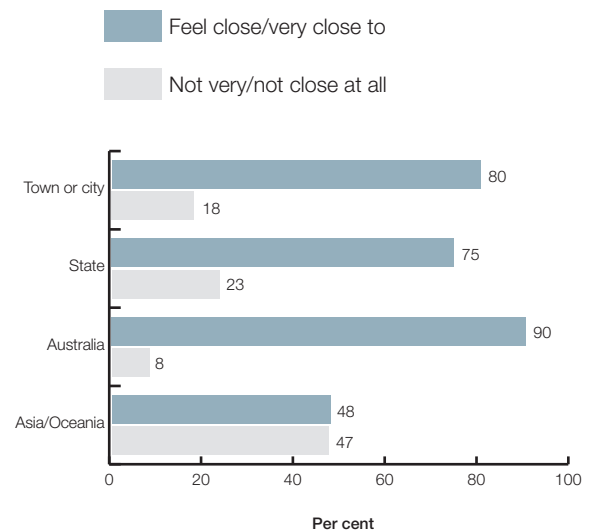
LOCAL VERSUS NATIONAL IDENTITY

Key points

- > Australians are most likely to identify with their country, followed closely by their town or city, and their state.
- > Only 48 per cent of respondents feel either 'close' or 'very close' to the Asia/Oceanic continent.
- > Since 1995 the percentage of Australians who feel close to Asia/Oceania has increased by 15 points, likely reflecting the 'Asian Century' phenomenon.

Citizens belong not only to a country, but also a neighbourhood, town, state and continent. To compare the strength of identification between citizens and levels of geographic region, respondents are asked how close they feel to their town or city, state, country and the Asian/Oceanic region. Reflecting the levels of pride in being Australian, 90 per cent of Australians feel either close or very close to their country. Responses are split quite evenly between those who feel 'very close' (48 per cent) and those who feel 'close' only (42 per cent).

Fewer Australians identify closely with their town or state, although they overwhelmingly feel at least 'close' to them. While rates of identification with the continental region – Asia/Oceania – are notably lower than for the smaller regions, the 48 per cent of Australians who feel either 'close' or 'very close' represent an increase of 15 points since the 1995 ISSP. This has corresponded with continuing immigration from Asian nations and an emphasis on the 'Asian Century' as both a demographic phenomenon and a foreign policy priority for countries, including Australia. Internationally, Australia's rate of identification with the continental region is slightly above average. For example, in the 2011 ISSP study 22 per cent of British citizens and 51 per cent of French citizens felt 'close' or 'very close' to Europe.



“Thinking now about where you live in Australia, how close do you feel to your...”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

AUSTRALIA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

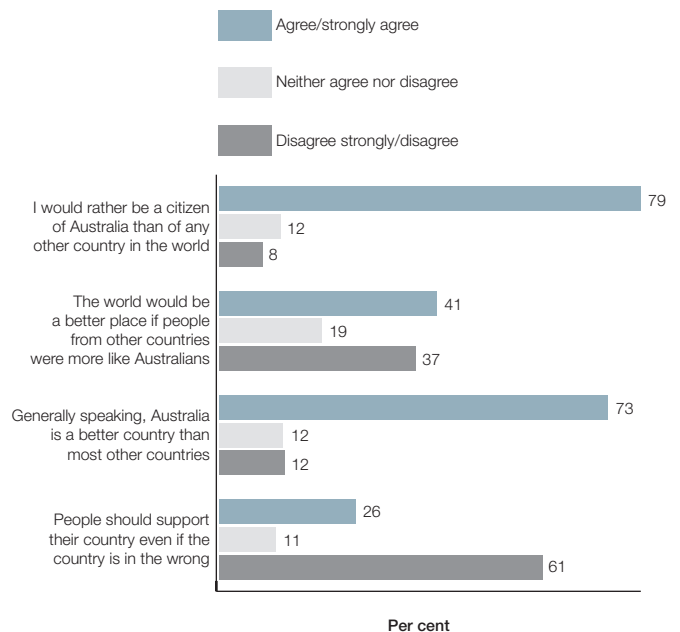
Key points

- > Australians overwhelmingly believe that it is better to be a citizen of Australia than of anywhere else in the world.
- > However, over time fewer Australians believe that the world would be a better place if other countries' citizens were more like us, and that people should support their country even when it is wrong.
- > As they become more outward-looking with regard to Australia's place in the region and the world, Australians have become more critical of aspects of Australian citizenship.

As Australians increasingly identify with the Asian-Oceanic region, they are also less likely to want to be a citizen of Australia than of any other country in the world. While a vast majority of respondents (79 per cent) agree that Australian citizenship is preferable to that of any other country, the percentage has fallen by eight points since 1995 and five points since 2003. At the same time, the percentage who agree that, generally speaking, Australia is a better country than most others has fallen by 10 points since 2003, from 83 to 73 per cent.

This trend extends to opinion on whether the world would be a better place if people from other countries were more like Australians. While more respondents agree than disagree, the percentage who either 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' has increased by 17 points since 2003. Interestingly, the percentage who agrees have remained stable over the 20 year period: 39 per cent in 1995 and 42 per cent in 2003, compared with 41 per cent in 2015. It appears that Australians have shifted from neither agreeing nor disagreeing to firmly disagreeing.

Similarly, more people oppose the suggestion that they should support their country even if it is wrong. The percentage who disagree has grown to 61 per cent in 2015 from 55 per cent in 1995 and 47 per cent in 2003. The percentage who agree – 26 per cent in 2015 – has remained stable over the same period while those without an opinion have more than halved. As Australians become more outward-looking in other ways – for example identifying with Asia/Oceania and disagreeing that being born in Australia is important to being Australian – they are less likely to believe that citizens of other countries should be more like Australians, and that patriotic duty should persist even when a country errs.



"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

IMMIGRATION & AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

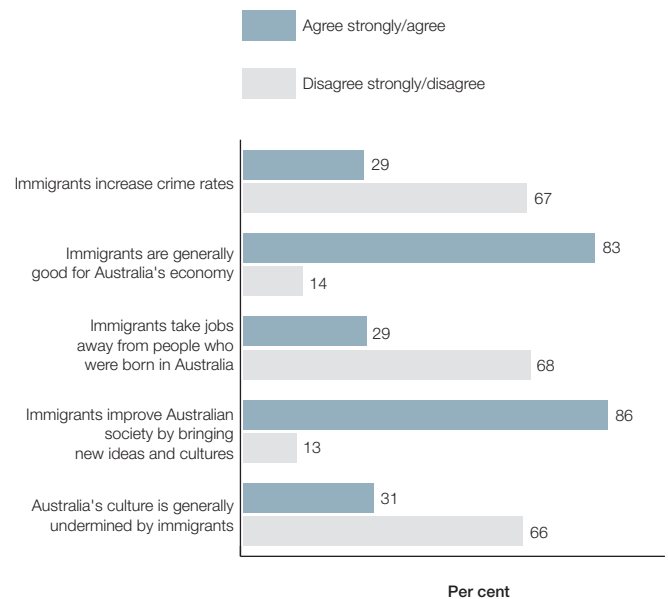
Key points

- > Australians overwhelmingly believe immigrants make positive contributions to the economic and cultural life of the country.
- > Since 2003, the percentage of Australians who believe the immigration rate should be reduced has fallen from 61 to 28 per cent.
- > Support for tougher measures to exclude illegal immigrants is both widespread (65 per cent of respondents) and stable over time.

As an increasing number of immigrants make Australia their home, public opinion has remained generally favourable toward immigrants' contribution to Australian society. Two thirds of respondents disagree with the statement that immigrants increase crime rates, 83 per cent believe immigrants are good for the country and only 29 per cent believe immigrants take jobs away from native-born Australians. In regard to culture, 86 per cent of Australians agree that immigrants improve Australian society by bringing new ideas and cultures with them, although 31 per cent agree that Australian culture is undermined in the process.

With the caveat that previous studies gave respondents the option of 'neither agreeing nor disagreeing', support for immigration has been largely stable since 1995. The percentage of respondents who believe that immigrants increase crime rates has fallen by five points since 1995. However, the percentage who disagree has increased dramatically, from 35 per cent in 1995 and 42 per cent in 2003 to 67 per cent in 2015.

Similar patterns hold for questions on whether immigrants are generally good for the economy and whether immigrants take jobs away from people born in Australia. In 1995, 70 per cent of respondents agreed that immigrants are good for the economy, with only eight per cent disagreeing. Likewise, only 25 per cent of respondents in 1995 believed that immigrants took jobs from people born in Australia, increasing to 36 per cent in 2003 before falling to 29 per cent in 2015. Following earlier trends from this study, it might be expected that Australians who responded 'neither agreed nor disagreed' previously would be more likely to agree with pro-immigrant statements in 2015.

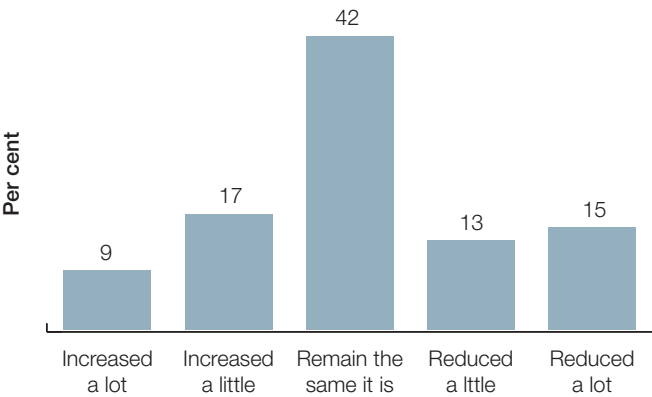


"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

When asked directly whether the number of immigrants coming to Australia should increase, respondents are more circumspect. Almost half – 42 per cent – believe the number should remain as it is currently. Just more than one quarter – 26 per cent – believe it should be increased, while 28 per cent believe it should be reduced. The distribution of opinions on this question suggests that governments are currently in line with public beliefs on the rate of immigration into Australia.

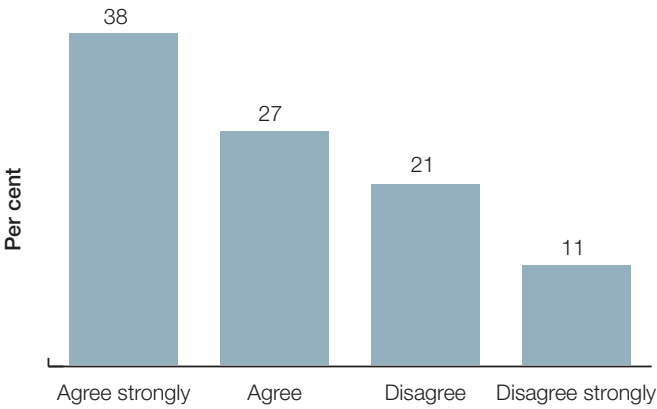
These figures represent a sizable shift over the past 20 years. In 1995, 39 per cent of respondents felt the number of immigrants coming to Australia should be reduced, with only eight per cent responding that it should be increased (and 38 per cent that it should not change). In 2003, 61 per cent believed that the number should be reduced, 11 per cent that it should be increased and 28 per cent that it should stay the same. In 2015, Australians appear much more comfortable with immigration – even as the rate of immigration has increased as a proportion of total population growth – than in previous years.



“Do you think the number of immigrants to Australia nowadays should be...?”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

While public opinion appears to support a relatively expansive immigration policy and is positive towards immigrants’ contribution to Australian life, Australians overwhelmingly believe stronger measures should be taken to exclude illegal immigrants. A total of 65 per cent of respondents either ‘agree’ or ‘strongly agree’ that current measures do not go far enough in stopping illegal immigration. Moreover, these figures closely reflect those from the 2003 ISSP study, when 43 per cent of Australians agreed strongly that Australia should take stronger measures and 30 per cent agreed, even with the additional response option of ‘neither agree nor disagree’. It appears support for Australia’s border protection policies of recent years is both widespread and resilient.



“How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Australia should take stronger measures to exclude illegal immigrants.”

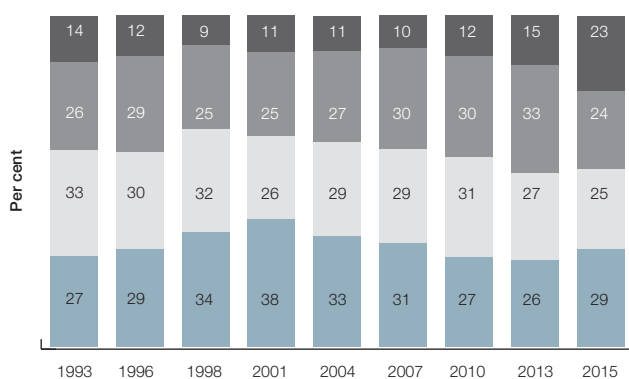
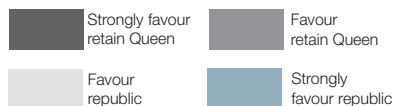
Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

MONARCHY, SYMBOLISM & IDENTITY

Key points

- > Support for Australia becoming a republic has fallen consistently since the 1999 referendum, although a majority still support change.
- > The number of Australians who believe the Queen and royal family are important to Australia has increased since the referendum, but they remain a minority.
- > A strong majority of Australians disapprove of the decision to reintroduce 'Knights' and 'Dames' to official Australian honours.

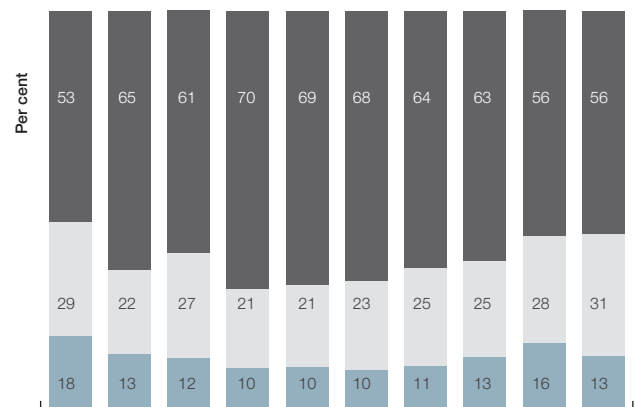
Since the republic referendum in 1999, Australian public opinion has become more favourable towards the royal family and the monarchy generally. When asked whether they believe that Australia should become a republic or retain the Queen as head of state, 54 per cent favour a republic. However, those who 'strongly favour' retaining the Queen as head of state – that is, remaining a constitutional monarchy – has increased from 15 per cent in the 2013 Australian Election Study (AES) to 23 per cent just two years later. Overall, support for a republic has fallen consistently from 66 per cent in the 1998 AES conducted in the months preceding the referendum.



“Do you think that Australia should become a republic with an Australian head of state, or should the Queen be retained as head of state?”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015; Australian Election Studies 1993-2013.

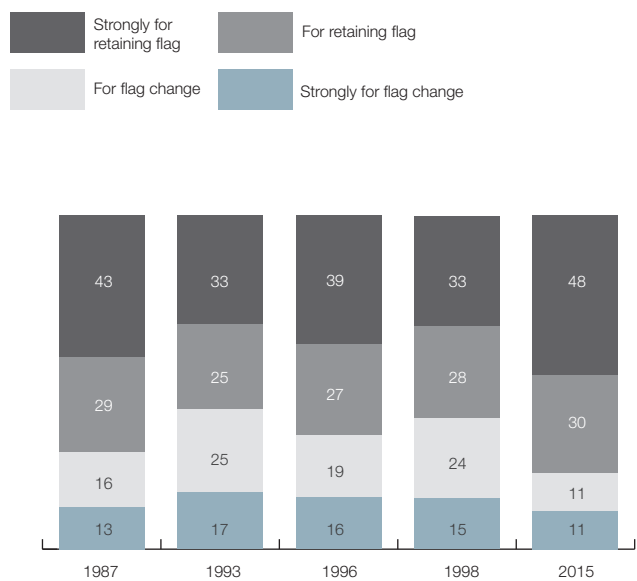
Likewise, the opinion that the Queen and royal family are either 'very' or 'fairly important' to Australia has become more prevalent since 1998. While a strong majority (56 per cent) of Australians believe that they are 'not very important' to Australia, that percentage has fallen 14 points since the referendum. However, the largest increase has been among Australians who believe that the Queen and her family are only 'fairly important', suggesting this measure of support for the monarchy is relatively soft. The percentage who believe the royals are 'very important' to Australia remains low, at 13 per cent.



“How important do you feel the Queen and the Royal Family are to Australia?”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015; Australian Election Studies 1993-2013.

Debate on the merits of changing the Australian flag to remove references to Britain often accompanies debate on becoming a republic. However, where a majority of Australians support moves to become a republic, only 22 per cent favour changing the flag. Further, 48 per cent of Australians ‘strongly favour’ retaining the current flag. Support for changing the flag peaked in the 1993 AES, with 42 per cent of respondents in favour. Between the 1999 referendum and 2015, public opinion has swung firmly behind support for the current flag.

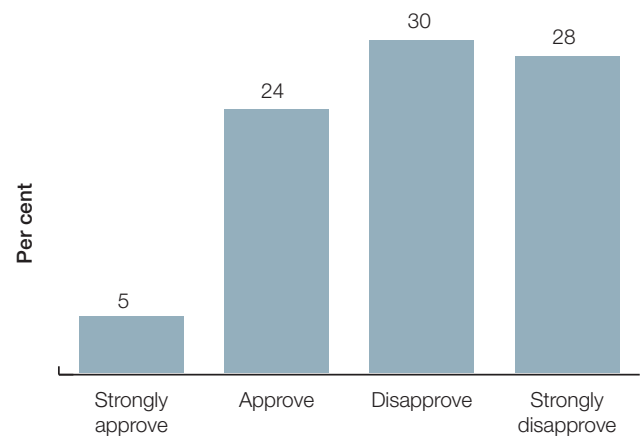


“Do you favour a flag change or would you prefer the flag to be retained?”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015; Australian Election Studies 1993-2013.

As an avowed supporter of Australia’s constitutional monarchy, Prime Minister Tony Abbott reintroduced the national honour categories of Knight and Dame of the Order of Australia. The categories were initiated by the Queen in 1976, on the advice of the then Prime Minister, before being discontinued by the Federal Government in 1986. Respondents were asked whether they approve or disapprove the reinstatement of these honour categories, amidst criticism of the Prime Minister’s decision to honour Prince Phillip with a knighthood, announced on Australia Day (26 January) 2015. This survey was conducted in the first two weeks of March, commencing five weeks after the Prime Minister’s announcement.

Australians emphatically disapprove of the decision to reinstate ‘Knight and Dame’ honours in Australia. More than half (58 per cent) either ‘disapprove’ or ‘strongly disapprove’, with only 29 per cent approving and 12 per cent not decided. While 28 per cent ‘strongly disapprove’ only five per cent ‘strongly approve’, suggesting that opinion against the decision is more fervent than that in favour.



“Do you approve or disapprove the reintroduction of knights and dames to official Australian honours?”

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

KEY TRENDS: MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS & POLITICAL MOOD

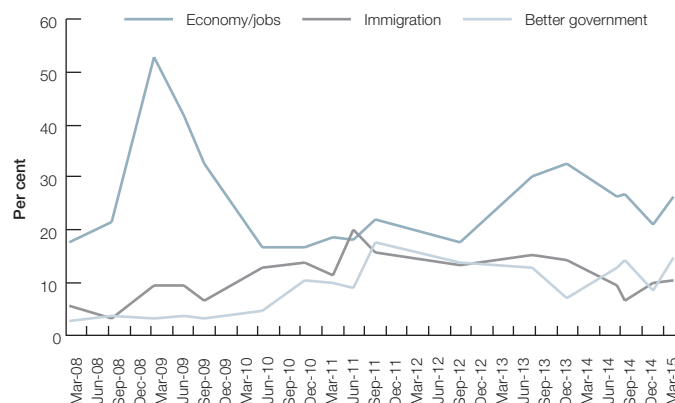
Key points

- > Among Australians, the economy remains the most important problem facing Australia, followed by better government and immigration.
- > A majority of Australians are broadly satisfied with the direction of the country, although only 10 per cent are very satisfied.
- > The political mood in Australia has declined markedly since 2008, but there are some signs of a possible recovery.

Since 2008, the ANUpoll studies have asked Australians to name the most important problems facing the country. Since 2011, the economy and jobs have dominated responses, and the current ANUpoll continues that trend. One in four – 26 per cent – nominated the economy and jobs as the most important issue, an increase of six points from the last ANUpoll in March 2015. Almost half of respondents – 47 per cent – named the economy and jobs in the top two most important problems facing Australia.

The second most frequently named problem in this ANUpoll is better government, with 15 per cent of respondents nominating it as most important. This has increased by six points since the March 2015 and eight points since January 2014, but is still three points lower than its peak in October 2011 (during the term of minority government).

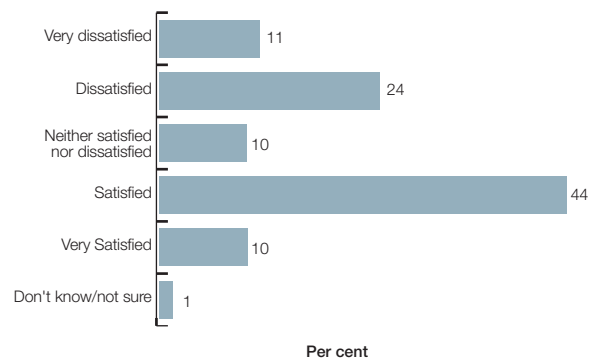
The third ranked problem facing Australia is immigration. Immigration (including asylum seekers) was replaced by terrorism as the third ranked problem in the last ANUpoll, but decreased visibility of terrorism-related issues in the media has led to a decrease in the public's concern. The percentage of Australians (10 per cent) nominating immigration as the most important problem remains steady from the previous poll, but has fallen five points since January 2014 and ten points from its peak in July 2011.



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

Source: ANUpolls March 2008-March 2015

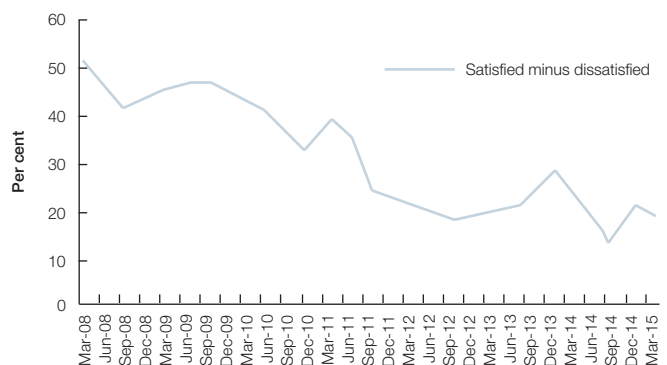
The political mood in Australia, measured by respondents' satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the way the country is heading, remains largely positive. More than half – 54 per cent – of respondents are either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied', although only ten per cent express the strongest satisfaction. Overall satisfaction has fallen seven points since the January 2014 poll. Dissatisfaction has remained stable since the previous poll, at 35 per cent. This represents a three point increase since January 2014, and a 15 point increase from the lowest level of dissatisfaction recorded in March 2008.



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

Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

Mapping the political mood over time reveals that the political mood has been in steady decline since 2008. Net satisfaction among Australians, measured by the total percentage who are satisfied minus the total percentage dissatisfied, has fallen from more than 50 per cent in March 2008 to 19 per cent in March 2015. While net satisfaction rose throughout late 2012 and 2013, that recovery came to a halt in 2014. Net satisfaction increased by eight points between September 2014 and January 2015, but has fallen two points in the past months.



Source: ANUpoll on Australian attitudes towards national identity, 2015

ANUPOLL QUESTIONS

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

	Frequency	Per cent
	Frequency	Per cent
Very satisfied	115	9.6
Satisfied	533	44.4
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	114	9.5
Dissatisfied	288	24.0
Very dissatisfied	132	11.0
Refused	1	0.1
Don't know/not sure	17	1.5
Total	1,200	100.0

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

	Frequency	Per cent
	Frequency	Per cent
Economy/jobs	317	26.4
Better government	175	14.6
Immigration	122	10.2
Environment/global warming	72	6.0
Terrorism	54	4.5
Education	39	3.2
Poverty/social exclusion/inequality	32	2.7
Health care	31	2.6
Values/morals/respect for others	30	2.5
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	29	2.5
Ageing population	29	2.4
Housing affordability	21	1.7
Industrial relations	18	1.5
Rural/farming issues	17	1.4
Infrastructure/planning/innovation	16	1.3
Foreign influence/Australia's position in world	15	1.2
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	12	1.0
Defence/national security	11	0.9
The budget	10	0.9
Law and order/crime/justice system	7	0.6
Taxation	7	0.6
Alcohol and drug use	5	0.4
Indigenous affairs	4	0.3
Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	2	0.2
Water management	1	0.1
Other	35	2.9
None/no other	6	0.5
Don't know/can't say	67	5.6
Refused	14	1.2
Total	1,200	100.0

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

	Frequency	Per cent
Economy/jobs	227	20.4
Better government	98	8.8
Immigration	89	8.0
Education	76	6.8
Environment/global warming	73	6.6
Health care	55	4.9
Poverty/social exclusion inequality	52	4.7
Terrorism	40	3.6
Values/morals/respect for others	37	3.3
Ageing population	36	3.2
Rural/farming issues	33	3.0
Defence/national security	23	2.1
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	21	1.9
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	19	1.7
Foreign influence/Australia's position in world	16	1.4
Housing affordability	15	1.4
Industrial relations	13	1.2
The budget	11	1.0
Infrastructure/planning/innovation	10	0.9
Law and order/crime/justice system	10	0.9
Alcohol and drug use	8	0.7
Indigenous affairs	8	0.7
Taxation	8	0.7
Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	3	0.3
Iraq war	2	0.2
Water management	3	0.2
Other	19	1.7
None/no other	10	0.9
Don't know/can't say	89	8.0
Refused	7	0.7
Missing	87	-
Total	1,113	100.0
Don't Know / Can't Say	85	7.9
Total	1076	100.0

Thinking now about where you live in Australia, how close do you feel to:

... Your town or city?

	Frequency	Per cent
	Frequency	Per cent
Very close	458	38.2
Close	504	42.0
Not very close	142	11.9
Not close at all	72	6.0
Refused	2	0.1
Don't know	21	1.7
Total	1,200	100.0

... Your state?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very close	328	27.4
Close	565	47.1
Not very close	211	17.6
Not close at all	69	5.8
Refused	5	0.4
Don't know	22	1.9
Total	1,200	100.0

... Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very close	580	48.4
Close	501	41.8
Not very close	77	6.4
Not close at all	20	1.7
Don't know	22	1.8
Total	1,200	100.0

... The region (Asia/Oceania)?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very close	153	12.8
Close	418	34.8
Not very close	395	32.9
Not close at all	170	14.2
Refused	6	0.5
Don't know	58	4.8
Total	1,200	100.0

In your opinion, how important do you think each of the following is:

... To have been born in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	244	20.4
Fairly important	283	23.6
Not very important	382	31.9
Not important at all	284	23.7
Don't know	5	0.5
Total	1,200	100.0

... To have Australian citizenship?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	645	53.8
Fairly important	386	32.2
Not very important	118	9.9
Not important at all	44	3.7
Don't know	6	0.5
Total	1,200	100.0

... To be able to speak English?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	774	64.5
Fairly important	330	27.5
Not very important	64	5.3
Not important at all	30	2.5
Refused	1	0.1
Don't know	1	0.1
Total	1,200	100.0

... To respect Australian political institutions and laws?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	954	79.5
Fairly important	196	16.3
Not very important	33	2.7
Not important at all	11	0.9
Refused	4	0.3
Don't know	3	0.3
Total	1,200	100.0

...To feel Australian?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	673	56.1
Fairly important	371	30.9
Not very important	95	8.0
Not important at all	33	2.7
Refused	7	0.6
Don't know	20	1.7
Total	1,200	100.0

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

... I would rather be a citizen of Australia than of any other country in the world?

	Frequency	Per cent
Agree strongly	648	54.0
Agree	305	25.4
Neither agree nor disagree	140	11.6
Disagree	83	6.9
Disagree strongly	16	1.3
Refused	2	0.1
Don't know	6	0.5
Total	1,200	100.0

... The world would be a better place if people from other countries were more like Australians?

	Frequency	Per cent
Agree strongly	212	17.6
Agree	281	23.4
Neither agree nor disagree	233	19.4
Disagree	327	27.3
Disagree strongly	118	9.8
Refused	9	0.7
Don't know	21	1.8
Total	1,200	100.0

... Generally speaking, Australia is a better country than most other countries?

	Frequency	Per cent
Agree strongly	443	36.9
Agree	437	36.4
Neither agree nor disagree	144	12.0
Disagree	109	9.1
Disagree strongly	39	3.2
Refused	8	0.6
Don't know	20	1.7
Total	1,200	100.0

... People should support their country even if their country is in the wrong?

	Frequency	Per cent
Agree strongly	88	7.4
Agree	220	18.4
Neither agree nor disagree	127	10.6
Disagree	521	43.4
Disagree strongly	210	17.5
Refused	8	0.6
Don't know	26	2.2
Total	1,200	100.0

How proud are you of Australia in each of the following:

... The way democracy works?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	387	32.2
Somewhat proud	592	49.3
Not very proud	153	12.8
Not proud at all	42	3.5
Refused	6	0.5
Don't know	21	1.7
Total	1,200	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0

... Its political influence in the world?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	155	12.9
Somewhat proud	647	53.9
Not very proud	259	21.5
Not proud at all	94	7.9
Refused	5	0.4
Don't know	41	3.4
Total	1,200	100.0

... Its economic achievements?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	274	22.9
Somewhat proud	665	55.4
Not very proud	169	14.0
Not proud at all	47	3.9
Refused	4	0.3
Don't know	41	3.4
Total	1,200	100.0

... Its social security system?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	319	26.6
Somewhat proud	556	46.3
Not very proud	189	15.7
Not proud at all	79	6.6
Refused	3	0.3
Don't know	54	4.5
Total	1,200	100.0

... Its scientific and technological achievements?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	628	52.3
Somewhat proud	447	37.3
Not very proud	73	6.1
Not proud at all	22	1.9
Refused	2	0.1
Don't know	28	2.3
Total	1,200	100.0

... Its achievement in sports?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	664	55.3
Somewhat proud	418	34.8
Not very proud	46	3.8
Not proud at all	30	2.5
Refused	6	0.5
Don't know	37	3.0
Total	1,200	100.0

... Its achievements in the arts and literature?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	478	39.8
Somewhat proud	555	46.2
Not very proud	67	5.6
Not proud at all	19	1.6
Refused	5	0.4
Don't know	76	6.4
Total	1,200	100.0

... Its armed forces?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	672	56.0
Somewhat proud	383	31.9
Not very proud	78	6.5
Not proud at all	32	2.7
Refused	3	0.3
Don't know	32	2.7
Total	1,200	100.0

... Its history?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	483	40.3
Somewhat proud	445	37.1
Not very proud	187	15.6
Not proud at all	56	4.7
Refused	6	0.5
Don't know	22	1.8
Total	1,200	100.0

... Its fair and equal treatment of all groups in society?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	314	26.2
Somewhat proud	493	41.1
Not very proud	268	22.3
Not proud at all	104	8.7
Refused	6	0.5
Don't know	14	1.2
Total	1,200	100.0

Do you think that Australia should become a republic with an Australian head of state, or should the Queen be retained as head of state?

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly favour becoming a republic	313	26.1
Favour becoming a republic	264	22.0
Favour retaining the Queen	252	21.0
Strongly favour retaining the Queen	244	20.4
Refused	9	0.7
Don't know	118	9.9
Total	1,200	100.0

How important do you feel the Queen and the Royal Family are to Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent
Very important	154	12.8
Fairly important	365	30.5
Not very important	657	54.8
Refused	3	0.2
Don't know	20	1.7
Total	1,200	100.0

Do you approve or disapprove the reintroduction of knights and dames to official Australian honours?

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly approve	61	5.1
Approve	284	23.6
Disapprove	358	29.8
Strongly disapprove	341	28.4
Refused	16	1.3
Don't know	142	11.8
Total	1,200	100.0

Do you favour a flag change or would you prefer the flag to be retained?

	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly favour a flag change	129	10.8
Favour a flag change	126	10.5
Favour retaining the flag	334	27.8
Strongly favour retaining the flag	541	45.1
Refused	10	0.9
Don't know	59	4.9
Total	1,200	100.0

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

... Immigrants increase crime rates?

	Frequency	Per cent
Agree strongly	127	10.6
Agree	214	17.9
Disagree	474	39.5
Disagree strongly	329	27.4
Refused	7	0.6
Don't know	48	4.0
Total	1,200	100.0

...Immigrants are generally good for Australia's economy?

	Frequency	Per cent
Agree strongly	353	29.4
Agree	640	53.3
Disagree	129	10.8
Disagree strongly	39	3.3
Refused	1	0.1
Don't know	37	3.1
Total	1,200	100.0

... Immigrants take jobs away from people who were born in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent
Agree strongly	114	9.5
Agree	234	19.5
Disagree	513	42.7
Disagree strongly	301	25.1
Refused	9	0.7
Don't know	29	2.4
Total	1,200	100.0

... Immigrants improve Australian society by bringing new ideas and cultures?

	Frequency	Per cent
(Refused)	2	0.2
(Don't know)	19	1.6
Agree strongly	446	37.2
Agree	583	48.6
Disagree	111	9.2
Disagree strongly	39	3.3
Total	1,200	100.0

... Australia's culture is generally undermined by immigrants?

	Frequency	Per cent
Agree strongly	138	11.5
Agree	232	19.3
Disagree	460	38.3
Disagree strongly	329	27.5
Refused	6	0.5
Don't know	34	2.8
Total	1,200	100.0

... Australia should take stronger measures to exclude illegal immigrants?

	Frequency	Per cent
Agree strongly	458	38.1
Agree	323	26.9
Disagree	250	20.8
Disagree strongly	137	11.4
Refused	9	0.7
Don't know	24	2.0
Total	1,200	100.0

Do you think the number of immigrants to Australia nowadays should be ...

	Frequency	Per cent
Increased a lot	102	8.5
Increased a little	198	16.5
Remain the same as it is	505	42.1
Reduced a lot	154	12.8
Reduced a little	177	14.7
Refused	6	0.5
Don't know	58	4.8
Total	1,200	100.0

How proud are you of being Australian? Would you say ...

	Frequency	Per cent
Very proud	842	70.2
Somewhat proud	265	22.1
Not very proud	26	2.1
Not proud at all	16	1.3
I am not Australian	42	3.5
Refused	3	0.2
Don't know	7	0.6
Total	1,200	100.0

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

ANUpoll	Economy/jobs	Immigration	Better government
Mar 2008	17.6	5.8	2.5
Sep 2008	21.6	3.2	3.8
Mar 2009	52.6	9.3	3.2
Jul 2009	41.7	9.3	3.8
Oct 2009	32.4	6.6	3.3
Jun 2010	16.7	12.8	4.7
Dec 2010	16.9	13.8	10.3
Apr 2011	18.5	11.6	9.9
Jul 2011	18.2	20.1	9.0
Oct 2011	22.1	15.8	17.6
Oct 2012	17.5	13.5	13.7
Aug 2013	30.3	15.1	12.9
Jan 2014	32.8	14.5	7.0
Aug 2014	26.4	9.5	12.7
Sep 2014	26.8	6.6	14.5
Jan 2015	20.8	10.0	8.6
April 2015	26.4	10.2	14.6

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?

ANUpoll	Total satisfied	Total dissatisfied	Net satisfaction (satisfied minus dissatisfied)
Mar 2008	72.9	20.3	52.6
Sep 2008	66.9	24.7	42.2
Mar 2009	70.0	23.7	46.3
Jul 2009	71.1	23.5	47.6
Oct 2009	70.0	22.2	47.8
Jun 2010	65.6	23.6	42.0
Dec 2010	62.7	29.4	33.3
Apr 2011	64.9	25.0	39.9
Jul 2011	62.8	26.7	36.1
Oct 2011	55.2	30.8	24.4
Oct 2012	54.0	36.0	18.0
Aug 2013	55.3	33.9	21.4
Jan 2014	61.0	32.0	29.0
Aug 2014	51.5	35.8	15.7
Sep 2014	52.0	38.8	13.2
Jan 2015	55.9	34.7	21.2
April 2015	53.9	35.0	18.9

CONTACT US

The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
T 02 6125 5111

CRICOS #00120C