

Media Release

20 April 2017

Trump election ‘negative for the world’: Poll

Ahead of an official visit by Vice President Mike Pence, Australia Institute polling of 1420 Australian residents* reveals that 60% feel Donald Trump becoming US President is a negative outcome for the world.

48% said Australia should be more independent from USA on military and security matters with only 15% of respondents supporting a closer alliance.

Question: Following the election of Donald Trump as President, do you think Australia should now be more independent or more closely aligned with the United States on military and security matters? Australia should be:

	Total
More closely aligned with USA	15%
More independent from USA	48%
No change	30%
Don't know	8%

The poll showed a majority of voters for all parties except One Nation think Trump’s election was a negative outcome.

“Most Australians have a negative view of Trump as a politician, as a world leader and as an ally,” Deputy Director of The Australia Institute, Ebony Bennett said.

“Half of voters think Australia should be more independent from the US on military and security issues, something the Turnbull government should heed as the Trump administration escalates its military involvement in Syria and with North Korea.

“As a nation with a strong alliance with the United States, Australia is well positioned to provide frank and fearless counsel to the Trump administration.”

Senior ministers have previously expressed concerns with Trump prior to the election, including Minister for Defence Industry Christopher Pyne, describing rise of Trump as "terrifying", making US democracy look "kind of weird".

The polling reveals that Australians are sceptical of Trump’s claim to be fighting for ordinary Americans, and believe that the President will weaken the rule of law and democracy in the US.

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Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following?*

	Total agree	Total disagree
Trump will fight for the interests of ordinary Americans over big business	30%	54%
Australian politicians should be more like Donald Trump	21%	70%
Trump wants to weaken the rule of law and democracy in the USA	43%	35%

**Statements presented in randomised order*

“Australian politicians will undoubtedly talk about ‘shared values’ during the Vice President’s visit. But they should also recognise where our values and interests differ, and not be afraid to stand up for ourselves,” Bennett said.

**From 17 March to 24 March 2017, The Australia Institute conducted a national poll of 1420 people through Research Now using representative samples by gender, age and state or territory.*

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