

Polling - Parliamentary oversight of COVID-19 response

April 2020

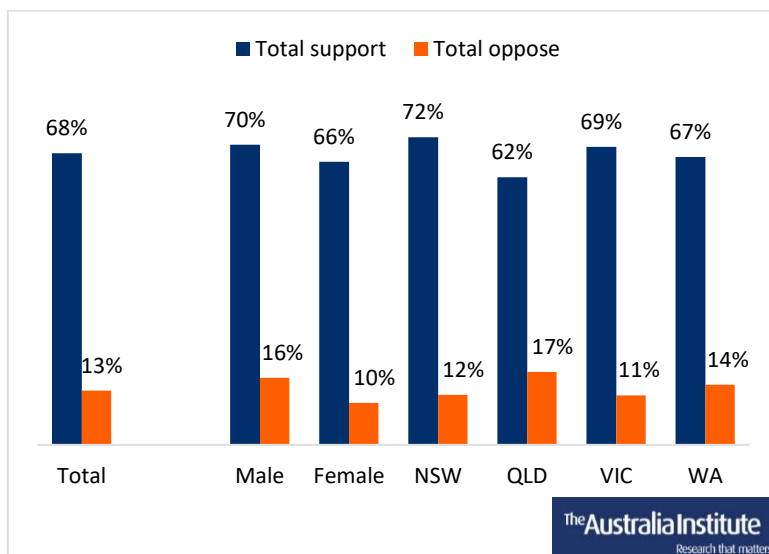
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,008 Australians about whether they support Australia adopting a parliamentary committee to oversee the government's COVID-19 (coronavirus) response.¹

Results show that Australians overwhelmingly support establishing a committee to oversee the COVID-19 response.

- Two in three Australians (68%) support establishing the committee, including one in three (32%) who strongly support the proposal.
- Only 13% of Australians are opposed, including 4% strongly opposed.
- A majority of Australians support the proposal across men and women and the four largest states.

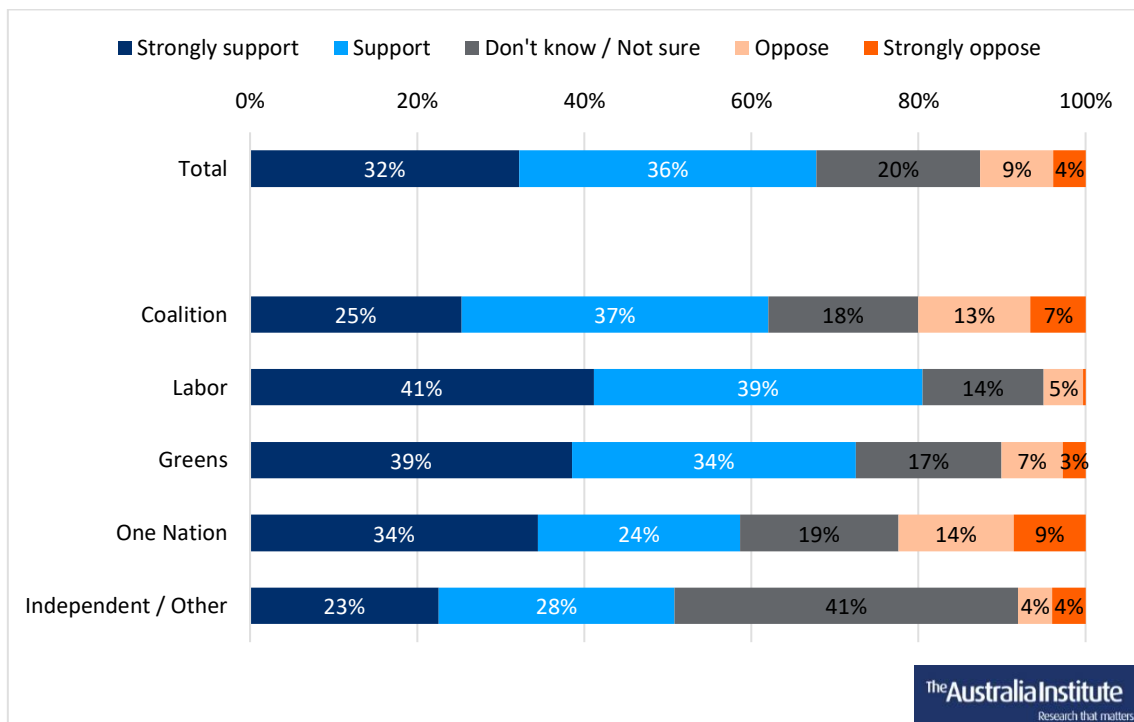
Figure 1: Total support for a committee to oversee COVID-19 response



¹ For details, see The Australia Institute (2020) *Former Judges Call for Establishment of NZ-Style Multi-Partisan COVID-19 Parliamentary Oversight Committee*, <https://www.tai.org.au/content/former-judges-call-establishment-nz-style-multi-partisan-covid-19-parliamentary-oversight>

- The proposal to establish a committee to oversee the COVID-19 response is supported by a majority of all voting intentions.
 - 62% of Coalition voters support establishing the committee, three times as many as oppose establishing the committee (20%).
 - 80% of Labor voters and 72% of Greens voters support establishing the committee, compared to 5% and 10% (respectively) that oppose.
 - 59% of One Nation voters and 51% of Independent/Other voters support establishing the committee, compared to 22% and 8% (respectively) that oppose.

Figure 2: Support for a committee to oversee COVID-19 response, by voting intention



Method

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,008 people between 3 and 6 April 2020, online through Dynata's weekly "OmniPulse", with nationally representative samples by gender, age and region.

The margin of error (95% confidence level) for the national results is 3.1%.

Results are shown only for larger states.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the House of Representatives. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs. "Coalition" includes separate responses for Liberal and National. "Other" includes Centre Alliance, Jacqui Lambie Network and Independent/Other.

Detailed results

Like the Australian Parliament, the New Zealand Parliament has been suspended as a result of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis.

Before it was suspended, the New Zealand Parliament established a parliamentary committee to scrutinise the New Zealand government’s COVID-19 response. The committee is chaired by the Opposition Leader and includes representatives of all political parties.

A committee of former judges has called for Australia to set up a similar committee.

Do you support or oppose Australia setting up a COVID-19 response committee modelled on the New Zealand model?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	32%	35%	29%	36%	26%	30%	33%
Support	36%	34%	37%	35%	36%	39%	34%
Oppose	9%	11%	7%	7%	12%	9%	11%
Strongly oppose	4%	5%	3%	5%	4%	2%	3%
Don't know / Not sure	20%	15%	24%	17%	21%	19%	19%

	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	25%	41%	39%	34%	23%
Support	37%	39%	34%	24%	28%
Oppose	13%	5%	7%	14%	4%
Strongly oppose	7%	0%	3%	9%	4%
Don't know / Not sure	18%	14%	17%	19%	41%