

Polling - SA Parliament Integrity

August 2020

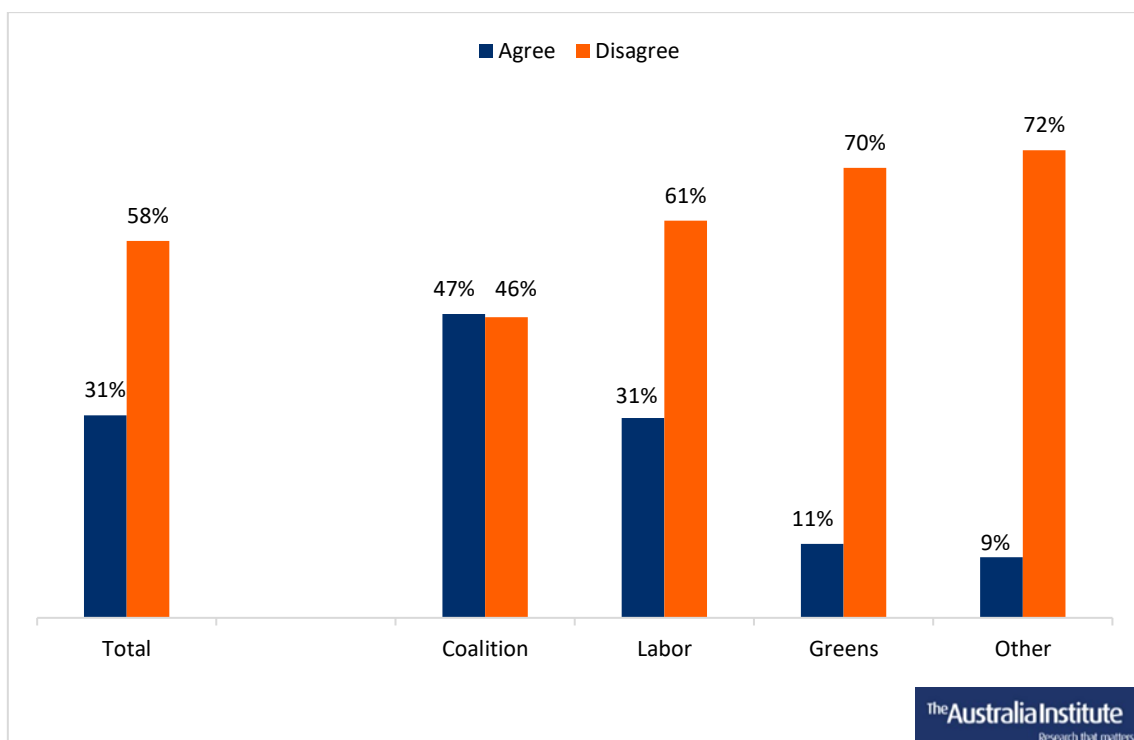
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a sample of 510 South Australians regarding their level of trust when it comes to the entitlements claimed by Members of State Parliament (MPs).

Respondents were also asked their opinion regarding transparency and the penalties that are applied when State MPs claim benefits to which they are not entitled.

- One in three South Australians (31%) trust their State MPs to act in an honest and transparent way when it comes to claiming their salary and benefits.
 - Three in five South Australians (58%) do not trust their State MPs.
 - Coalition voters are the most trusting, while minor party and 'Other' voters are the least trusting.

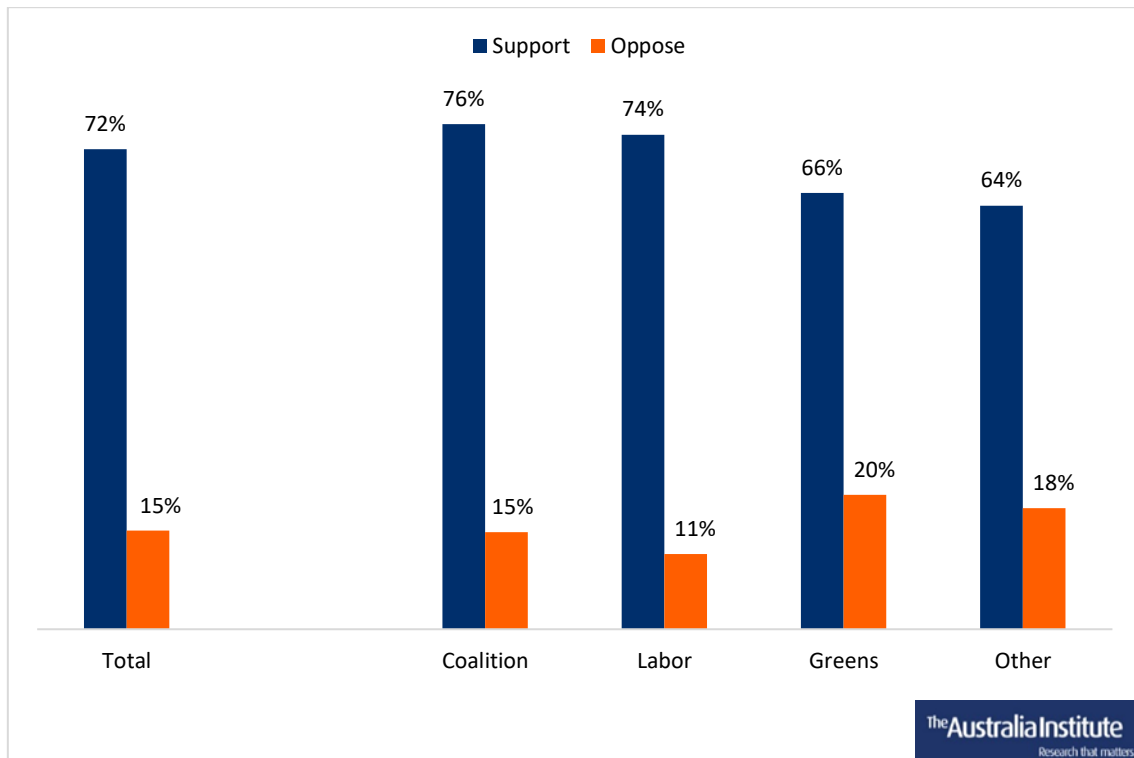
Figure 1: Politicians can be trusted when claiming salary and benefits?



Respondents were asked whether they supported or opposed a policy of having the full salary and benefits paid by the government to each Member of State Parliament listed publicly.

- Seven in ten South Australians (72%) support such a policy, including four in ten (43%) who strongly support it.
 - Only 15% are opposed.
 - There is majority support for the policy across voters for all political parties

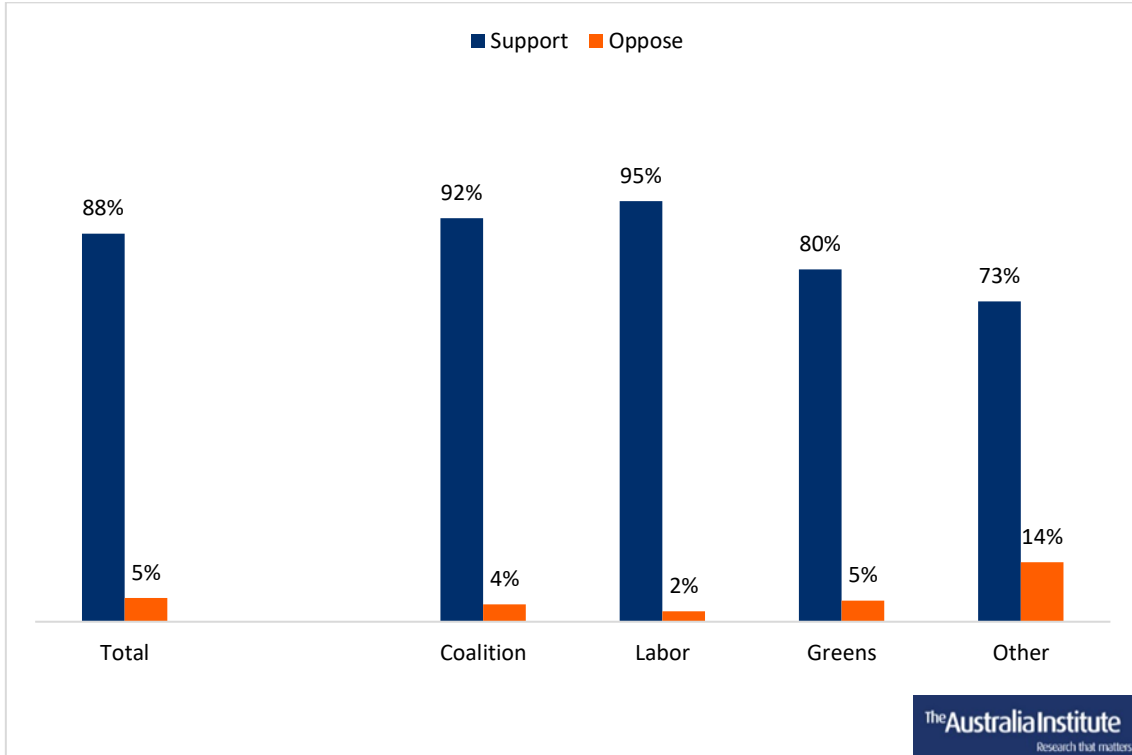
Figure 2: Support or oppose public listing of MPs' full salary and benefits



Respondents were also asked whether they supported or opposed increasing the penalties for MPs who are found to have incorrectly claimed benefits and received public money that they were not entitled to.

- Nine in ten South Australians (88%) support increasing penalties, including a majority (55%) who strongly support it.
 - Just 5% are opposed.

Figure 3: Support or oppose increasing penalties



Method

The Australia Institute conducted a survey of 510 South Australians between 23 and 27 July 2020, online through Dynata, post-weighted to reflect social demographics by age and gender in South Australia.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the lower house. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs, but results are also shown separately for undecideds. “LNP” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” includes Centre Alliance, One Nation, Jacqui Lambie Network and Independent/Other.

Detailed results

Do you support or oppose a policy of having the full salary and benefits paid by the government to each Member of State Parliament listed publicly?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>LNP</i>	<i>ALP</i>	<i>GRN</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	43%	48%	38%	40%	49%	39%	39%
Support	30%	29%	31%	36%	25%	27%	25%
Oppose	8%	9%	8%	11%	6%	7%	8%
Strongly oppose	6%	8%	5%	4%	5%	13%	11%
Don't know / Not sure	13%	7%	19%	9%	14%	14%	18%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'I trust politicians in the State Parliament to act in an honest and transparent way when it comes to claiming their salary and benefits'?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>LNP</i>	<i>ALP</i>	<i>GRN</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly agree	6%	7%	6%	10%	7%	0%	1%
Agree	25%	27%	22%	37%	24%	11%	8%
Disagree	33%	36%	30%	31%	34%	35%	34%
Strongly Disagree	25%	25%	26%	16%	27%	35%	38%
Don't know / Not sure	10%	4%	16%	7%	8%	19%	18%

Do you support or oppose increasing the penalties that are applied to politicians when it is found that they have incorrectly claimed benefits and received public money that they were not entitled to?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>LNP</i>	<i>ALP</i>	<i>GRN</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	55%	54%	56%	48%	64%	52%	54%
Support	33%	35%	32%	43%	31%	28%	19%
Oppose	3%	4%	2%	1%	2%	5%	11%
Strongly oppose	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%	0%	3%
Don't know / Not sure	7%	4%	9%	4%	2%	15%	14%