

Asylum Seeker Policy – Polling Brief

The Australia Institute – June 2016

Key Results

- 61% said that Australia should accept New Zealand’s offer to take 150 refugees from Manus Island and Nauru. This included 58% of Coalition voters and 62% of Labor voters.
- 66% said it should be legal for doctors to speak publicly about conditions in the camps and report and incidences of abuse to the police.
- About processing and setline asylum seekers arriving by boat:
 - Only 27% said they should be sent to Manus and Nauru, and not come to Australia under any circumstances.
 - 35% said they should be processed at these offshore camps, but those found to be genuine refugees should be settled in Australia.
 - 28% said processing should happen in Australia.

Method

Between 23 May and 3 June 2016The Australia Institute conducted a national opinion poll of 1437 people through Research Now, with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state or territory.

The poll asked questions about asylum seeker policy. Results here are shown with crosstabs for voting intention in the House of Representatives. ‘LNP’ combines separate results for Liberal and Nationals.

New Zealand’s offer

The New Zealand Government has offered to resettle 150 people, whose claims have been processed and accepted as genuine refugees, from the camps on Manus Island and Nauru and resettle them in New Zealand. The Australian Government has turned down this offer.

Should Australia accept or reject New Zealand’s offer to resettle 150 refugees?

	Total	Male	Female	Coalition	Labor	Greens	Other
accept New Zealand's offer	61%	62%	60%	58%	62%	72%	56%
reject New Zealand's offer	20%	22%	18%	23%	19%	10%	22%
Don't know / not sure	19%	16%	22%	18%	19%	18%	22%

Legality of reporting abuse

Under current Australian law, doctors who treat refugees and asylum seekers at offshore detention camps are not allowed to speak publicly or report incidences of abuse to authorities beyond the immigration department.

Do you think the law should be changed to allow doctors to speak publicly about conditions in the camps and report any incidences of abuse to the police?

	Total	Male	Female	Coalition	Labor	Greens	Other
Yes	66%	64%	68%	54%	75%	87%	60%
No	21%	24%	17%	32%	14%	2%	21%
Don't know / not sure	13%	12%	15%	14%	11%	11%	19%

Where to process asylum seekers? Should refugees come to Australia?

Of the following, how would you like to see asylum seekers and refugees who arrive in Australia by boat managed?

	Total	Male	Female	Coalition	Labor	Greens	Other
They should be sent to camps on Manus Island and Nauru, and none should be allowed to come to Australia under any circumstances	22%	25%	19%	30%	15%	11%	28%
They should be sent to camps on Manus Island and Nauru, and after having their claims assessed, those found to be genuine refugees should be allowed to stay in Australia. Those who are not found to be genuine refugees should be deported.	35%	34%	35%	38%	39%	23%	25%
They should be brought to Australia, and after having their claims assessed, those people found to be genuine refugees should be allowed to stay in Australia. Those who are not should be deported. Those who are not found to be genuine refugees should be deported.	28%	26%	30%	17%	32%	50%	25%
Other (please specify)	3%	4%	2%	4%	2%	3%	4%
Don't know / not sure	13%	11%	14%	11%	12%	13%	18%