

Polling - National political issues

December 2020

Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed nationally representative samples of over 1,000 Australians each month from August about what they think the most important national political issue is right now.

- In every month, more Australians identified the economy as the most important national political issue than any other issue (between 37% and 48%).
- Health was second-most likely to be identified as most important in every month, but has steadily declined from 35% in August to 23% in December.
- Climate change was third-most likely to be identified as most important, and has steadily increased from 7% in August to 13% in December.

Figure 1: Most important national political issue right now (five-month average)

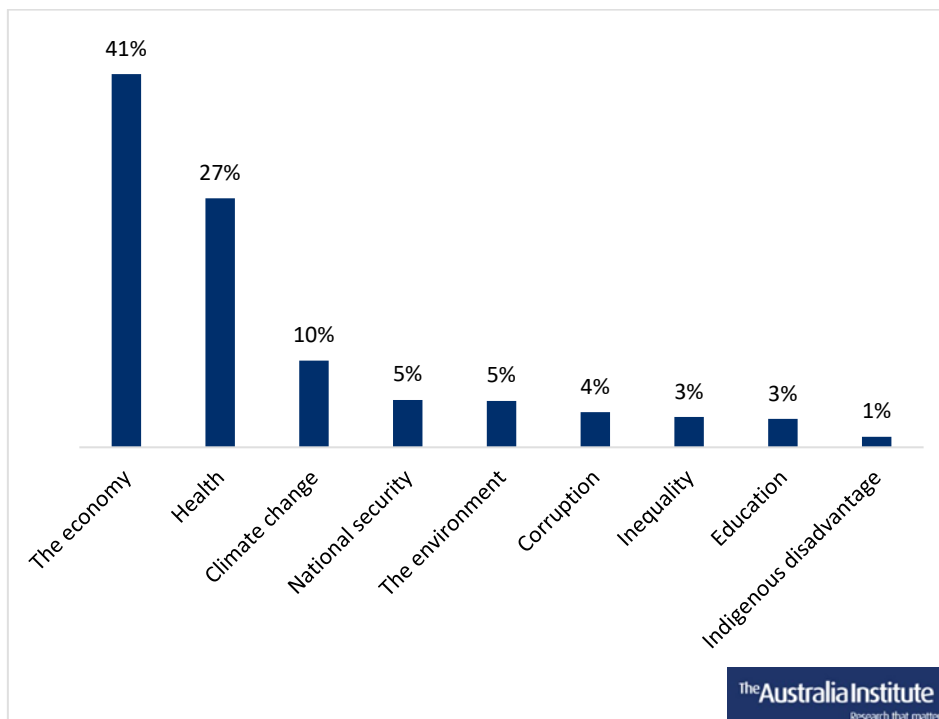
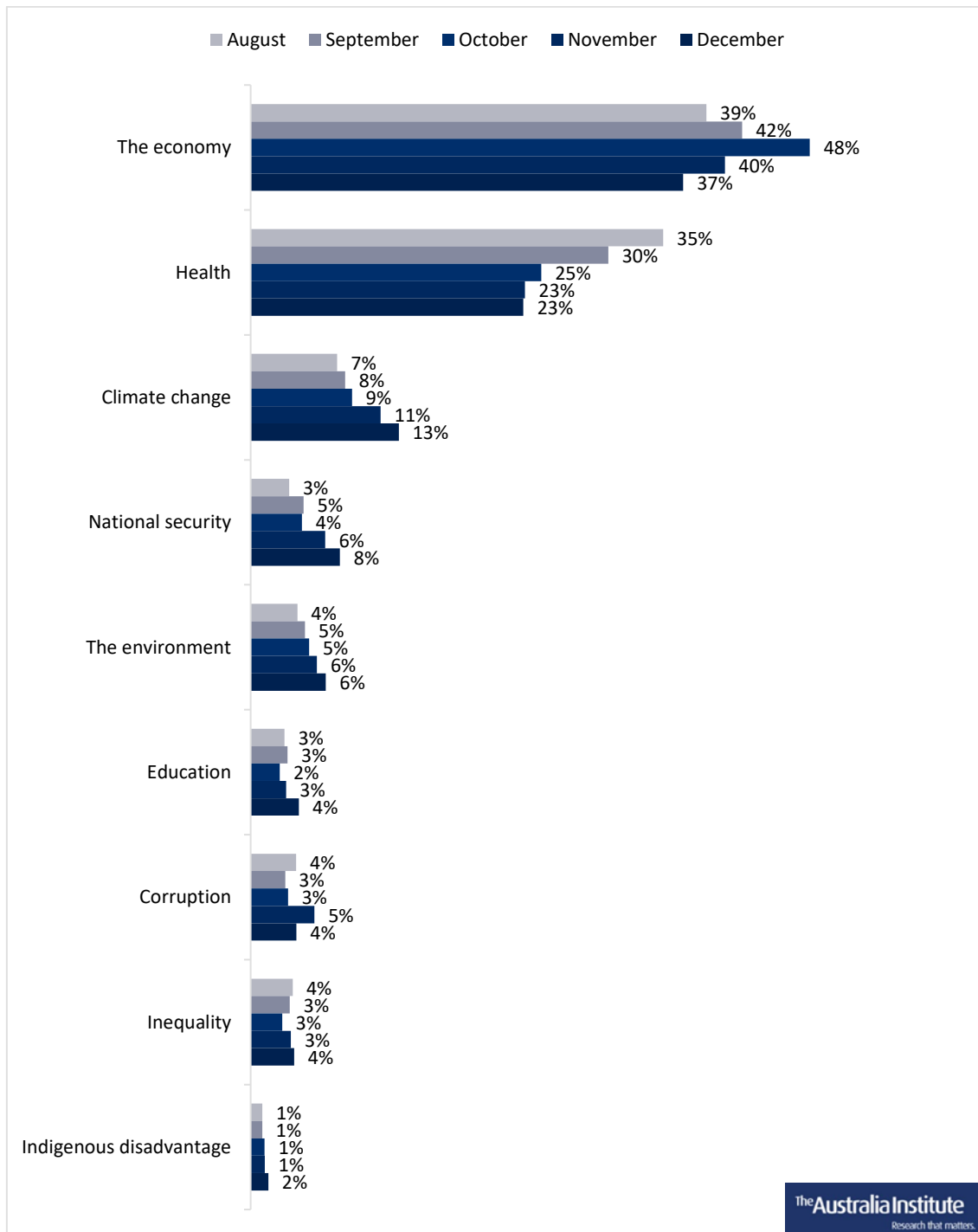


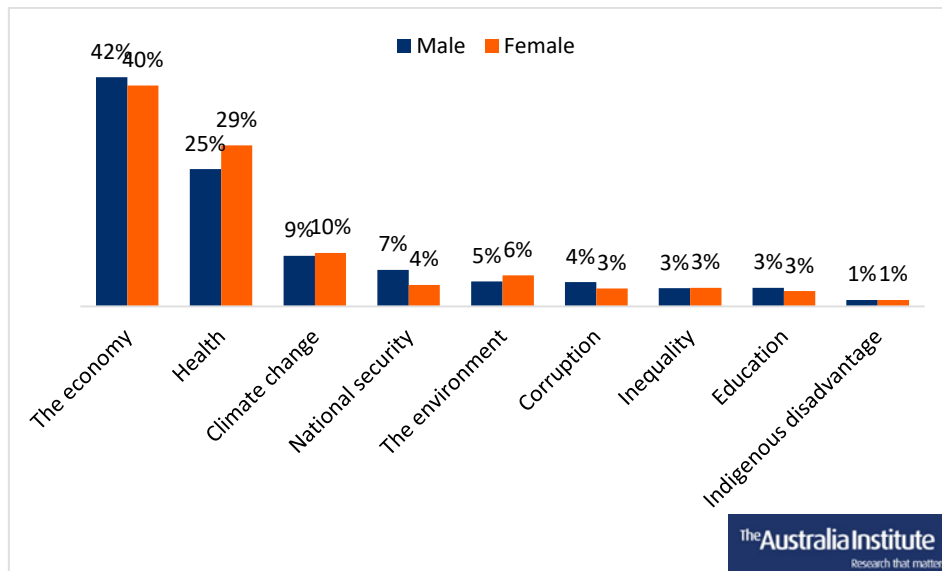
Figure 2: Most important national political issue right now



Taking the average of the results for the five polls, there are few marked differences between Australians on the basis of gender, age or state of residence.

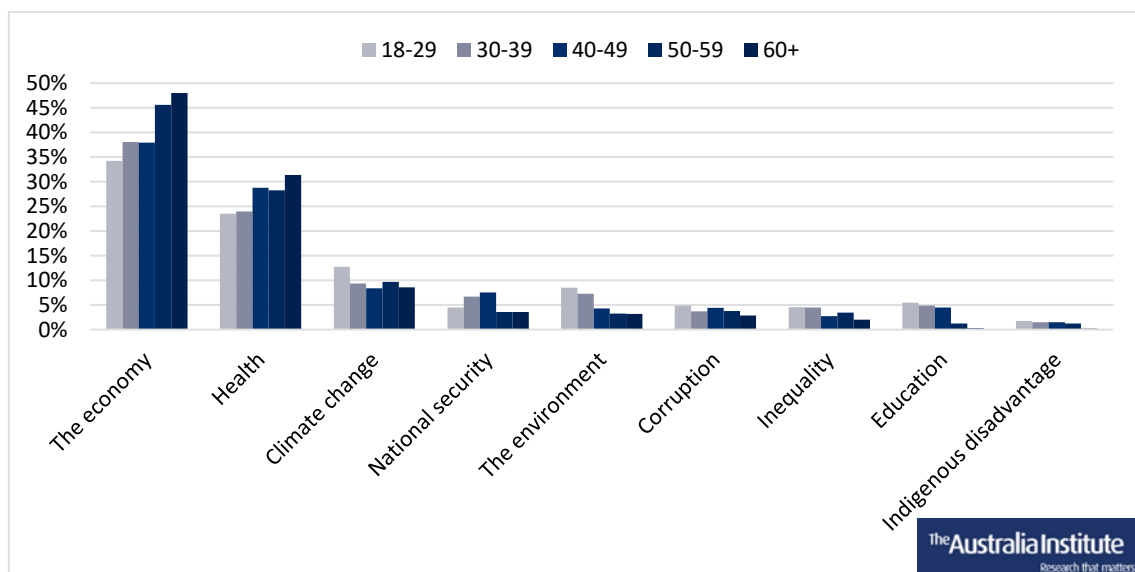
While men were somewhat more likely to select national security as the most important issue, and women were somewhat more likely to select health, these differences were within the margins of error.

Figure 3: Most important national political issue right now (five-month average)



Older people were more likely than younger people to identify the economy and health as the most important national political issue, and younger people were more likely than older people to identify the environment and education as the most important issue.

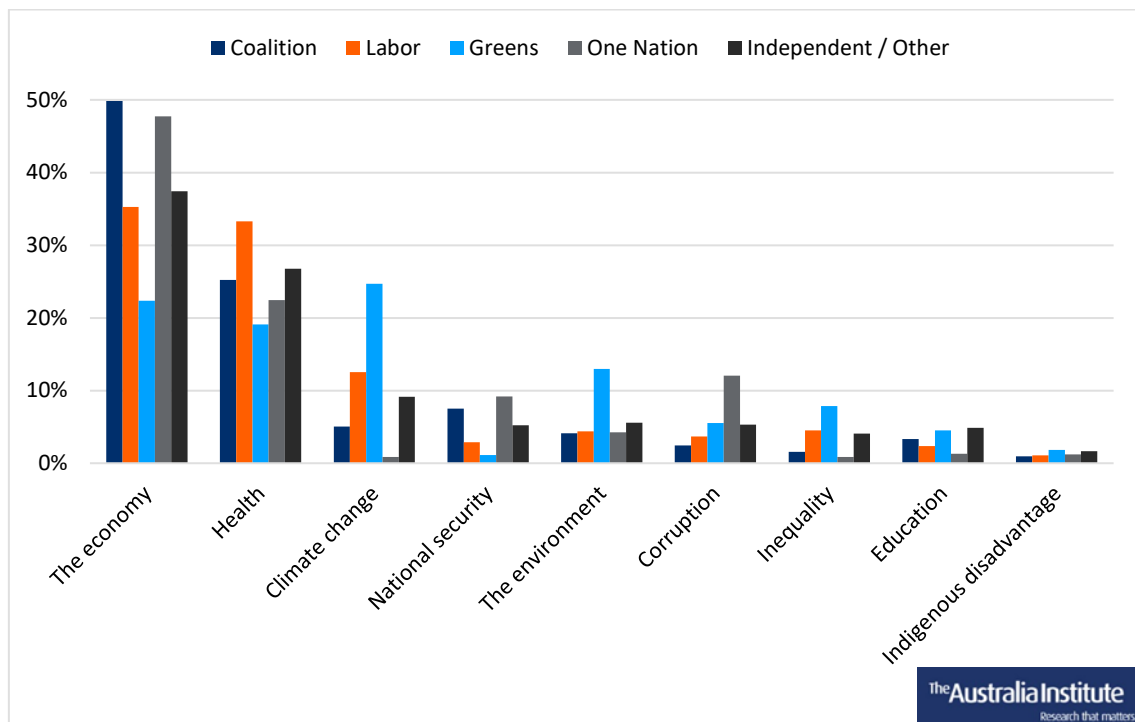
Figure 4: Most important national political issue right now (five-month average)



There was more variation by voting intention.

- The economy was most likely to be selected as the most important national political issue by Coalition (50%), One Nation (48%) and Independent/Other voters (48%).
 - Greens voters were more likely to select climate change as the most important issue (25%) than the economy (22%).
 - Labor voters were almost as likely to choose health as they were to choose the economy (33% vs 35%), as were Greens voters (19% vs 22%).
- Coalition and One Nation voters were significantly more likely to select national security as the most important national political issue (8% and 9% respectively) than Labor (3%) or Greens (1%) voters.
- Greens voters were significantly more likely to select the environment as the most important national political issue (13%) than other voters (4–6%).
- One Nation voters were significantly more likely to select corruption as the most important political issue (12%) than other voters (2–6%).

Figure 5: Most important national political issue right now (five-month average)



Method

The Australia Institute conducted five surveys, each of 1,000 people or more, on 13–14 August, 10–11 September, 8–9 October, 5–6 November and 3–4 December 2020, online through Dynata’s Rapid Results polling, with nationally representative samples by gender, age and region.

The margin of error (95% confidence level) for the national results is 3%.

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” refers to Independent/Other.

Detailed results

What is the most important national political issue right now?

Options are presented to respondents in random order (shown here in alphabetical order).

December

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>
Climate change	13%	13%	13%	12%	13%	9%	17%
Corruption	4%	5%	3%	4%	6%	3%	3%
Education	4%	5%	3%	7%	3%	4%	0%
Health	23%	21%	25%	25%	26%	21%	17%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Inequality	4%	5%	3%	5%	3%	5%	3%
National security	8%	10%	6%	7%	9%	6%	8%
The economy	37%	35%	38%	35%	36%	43%	43%
The environment	6%	5%	8%	6%	5%	8%	7%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Climate change	13%	7%	16%	30%	0%	16%
Corruption	4%	1%	5%	7%	10%	5%
Education	4%	4%	3%	7%	0%	7%
Health	23%	24%	25%	16%	12%	28%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	1%	4%	4%	2%
Inequality	4%	1%	6%	4%	2%	4%
National security	8%	12%	3%	3%	16%	6%
The economy	37%	44%	34%	17%	50%	28%
The environment	6%	5%	6%	13%	6%	6%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Climate change	13%	13%	10%	11%	16%	13%
Corruption	4%	6%	3%	3%	5%	3%
Education	4%	7%	8%	5%	1%	0%
Health	23%	23%	18%	25%	23%	28%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Inequality	4%	4%	6%	1%	5%	3%
National security	8%	5%	8%	12%	5%	7%
The economy	37%	30%	35%	35%	41%	41%
The environment	6%	8%	10%	6%	3%	5%

November

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>
Climate change	11%	10%	12%	9%	12%	13%	10%
Corruption	5%	6%	5%	5%	7%	5%	3%
Education	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%
Health	23%	21%	26%	24%	25%	21%	19%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%
Inequality	3%	3%	4%	5%	3%	3%	1%
National security	6%	9%	4%	6%	7%	5%	5%
The economy	40%	42%	39%	40%	36%	45%	52%
The environment	6%	6%	5%	8%	6%	4%	6%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Climate change	11%	6%	13%	29%	2%	9%
Corruption	5%	4%	5%	6%	21%	7%
Education	3%	3%	2%	6%	2%	5%
Health	23%	21%	30%	12%	21%	25%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%	2%
Inequality	3%	2%	4%	8%	2%	3%
National security	6%	9%	4%	2%	5%	10%
The economy	40%	50%	36%	21%	40%	34%
The environment	6%	5%	4%	14%	7%	5%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Climate change	11%	13%	11%	11%	12%	10%
Corruption	5%	8%	4%	5%	7%	3%
Education	3%	5%	5%	4%	1%	1%
Health	23%	20%	21%	24%	17%	32%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%
Inequality	3%	7%	4%	3%	3%	1%
National security	6%	8%	10%	6%	3%	5%
The economy	40%	29%	36%	44%	47%	44%
The environment	6%	8%	7%	3%	7%	5%

October

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>
Climate change	9%	8%	9%	7%	13%	5%	6%
Corruption	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%
Education	2%	3%	2%	3%	0%	3%	4%
Health	25%	24%	26%	26%	29%	18%	21%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Inequality	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%	4%
National security	4%	6%	3%	6%	3%	3%	5%
The economy	48%	47%	48%	46%	43%	59%	55%
The environment	5%	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%	1%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Climate change	9%	5%	11%	24%	0%	8%
Corruption	3%	3%	3%	2%	11%	5%
Education	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	4%
Health	25%	21%	32%	17%	22%	26%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Inequality	3%	1%	4%	6%	0%	6%
National security	4%	6%	2%	0%	9%	5%
The economy	48%	57%	40%	30%	52%	39%
The environment	5%	3%	5%	15%	2%	6%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Climate change	9%	16%	10%	8%	7%	6%
Corruption	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%	2%
Education	2%	4%	3%	5%	1%	0%
Health	25%	21%	25%	26%	25%	25%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Inequality	3%	1%	3%	3%	4%	3%
National security	4%	4%	6%	9%	3%	0%
The economy	48%	41%	40%	41%	54%	59%
The environment	5%	9%	7%	4%	3%	4%

September

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>
Climate change	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	4%
Corruption	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%
Education	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	6%
Health	30%	28%	32%	30%	36%	23%	30%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Inequality	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	5%
National security	5%	5%	4%	5%	3%	4%	3%
The economy	42%	42%	41%	41%	40%	50%	43%
The environment	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Climate change	8%	3%	13%	20%	2%	8%
Corruption	3%	2%	2%	6%	6%	6%
Education	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	7%
Health	30%	28%	37%	29%	25%	24%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Inequality	3%	2%	5%	7%	0%	5%
National security	5%	7%	2%	1%	13%	1%
The economy	42%	50%	36%	19%	50%	41%
The environment	5%	3%	3%	13%	2%	8%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Climate change	8%	10%	6%	8%	7%	9%
Corruption	3%	3%	4%	5%	1%	2%
Education	3%	6%	5%	4%	2%	0%
Health	30%	25%	28%	28%	38%	33%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	0%	3%	1%	0%
Inequality	3%	7%	3%	4%	3%	1%
National security	5%	3%	6%	6%	3%	4%
The economy	42%	37%	40%	37%	45%	48%
The environment	5%	8%	7%	6%	1%	2%

August

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>
Climate change	7%	8%	6%	9%	6%	9%	2%
Corruption	4%	5%	3%	2%	6%	5%	2%
Education	3%	3%	3%	2%	5%	1%	2%
Health	35%	31%	39%	33%	38%	33%	38%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Inequality	4%	3%	5%	5%	2%	4%	1%
National security	3%	4%	3%	5%	2%	4%	3%
The economy	39%	43%	35%	39%	37%	43%	44%
The environment	4%	3%	5%	5%	3%	1%	5%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Climate change	7%	5%	9%	19%	0%	5%
Corruption	4%	2%	4%	6%	12%	5%
Education	3%	4%	2%	3%	0%	2%
Health	35%	33%	42%	22%	33%	32%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%
Inequality	4%	2%	4%	14%	0%	3%
National security	3%	3%	4%	0%	4%	5%
The economy	39%	47%	31%	25%	47%	45%
The environment	4%	4%	3%	11%	4%	4%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Climate change	7%	12%	10%	5%	6%	4%
Corruption	4%	4%	4%	5%	2%	4%
Education	3%	6%	3%	4%	2%	0%
Health	35%	28%	28%	41%	38%	39%
Indigenous disadvantage	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Inequality	4%	4%	6%	3%	2%	3%
National security	3%	2%	4%	5%	4%	1%
The economy	39%	33%	39%	33%	41%	47%
The environment	4%	9%	5%	3%	2%	1%