

# Polling - Poker machines in South Australia

*November 2019*

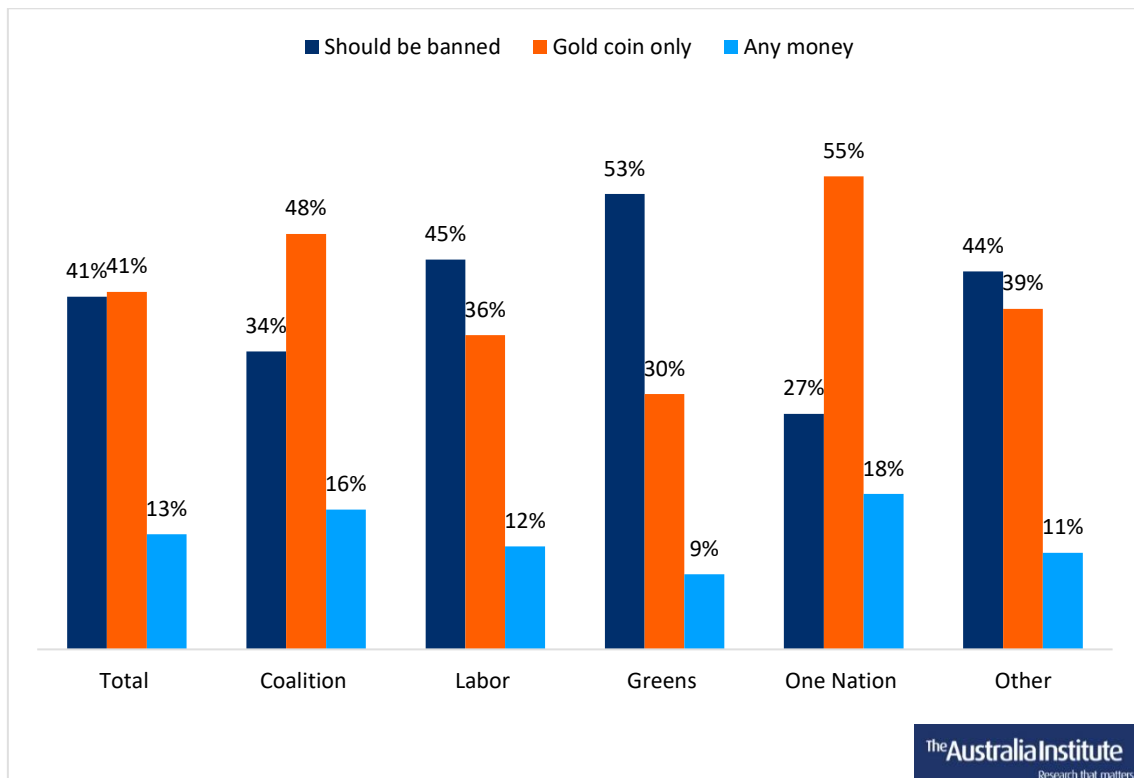
## Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a state representative sample of 503 South Australians about whether poker machines should be allowed to accept notes.

**South Australians were asked whether poker machines should be banned, limited to those that accept gold coins or permitted to accept any money.**

- Only 13% of South Australians say that poker machines that accept any money should be permitted.
- Two in five South Australians (41%) say that poker machines should be banned.
  - A further two in five (41%) say that poker machines that only accept gold coins should be permitted.

**Figure 1: Position on poker machines, by voting intention**

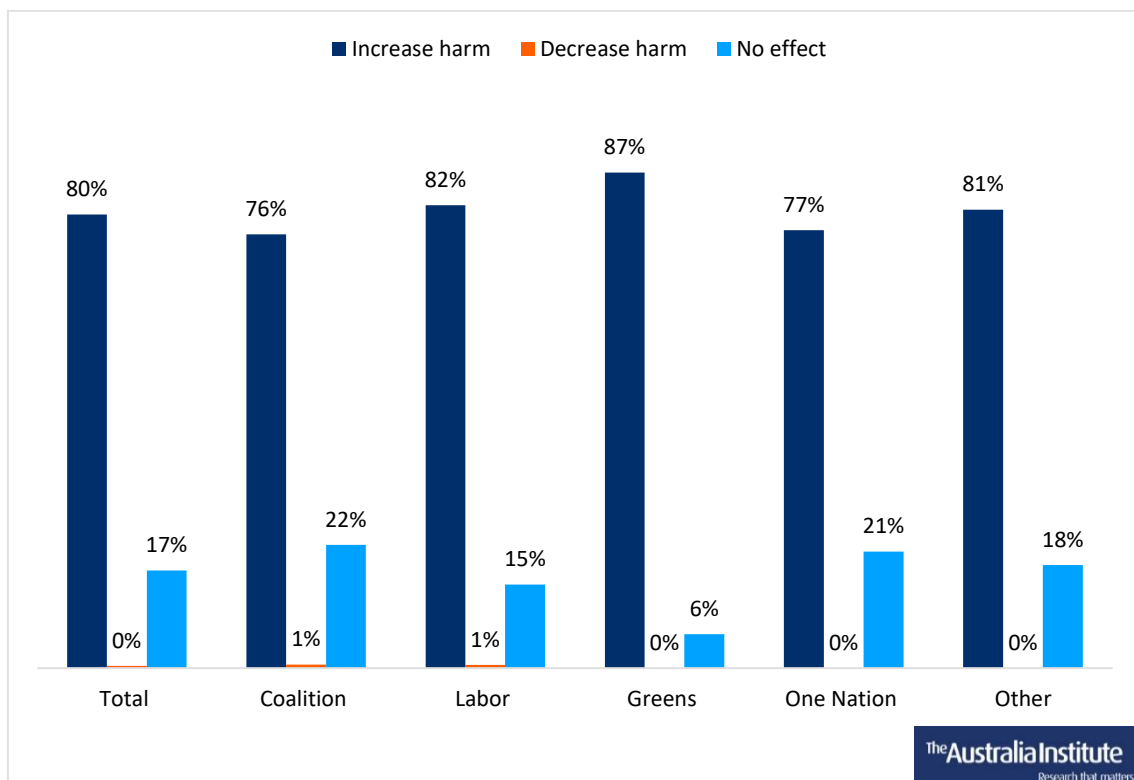


- Banning poker machines altogether was the most popular choice for Labor (45%), Greens (53%) and Independent/Other voters (44%).
  - Restricting poker machines to gold coins only was the most popular choice for Coalition (48%) and One Nation (55%) voters.
- Allowing poker machines that accept any money was the least popular choice for men and women and all voting intentions, age groups and income groups.

**South Australians were then asked what effect they thought allowing poker machines to accept notes would have on the level of harm that results from poker machine addition.**

- Four in five South Australians (80%) say that allowing poker machines to accept notes would increase harm.
  - Fewer than one in five South Australians (17%) say that allowing poker machines to accept notes would have no effect on harm.
  - Fewer than 1% of South Australians say that allowing poker machines to accept notes would decrease harm.

**Figure 2: Harm from poker machines, by voting intention**



## Method

The Australia Institute conducted a survey of 503 South Australians between 1 and 13 November 2019, 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, Jacqui Lambie Network and Independent/Other.



## Detailed results

The State Government is currently seeking to change the laws around how poker machines are regulated in South Australia. Currently poker machines can only accept gold coins, but the proposal is for them to also be able to accept notes. Which best describes your position?

|   | <i>Total</i> | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Coalition</i> | <i>Labor</i> | <i>Greens</i> | <i>One Nation</i> | <i>Other</i> |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Poker machines should be banned</b>                                | 41%          | 43%         | 39%           | 34%              | 45%          | 53%           | 27%               | 44%          |
| <b>Poker machines that only accept gold coins should be permitted</b> | 41%          | 40%         | 42%           | 48%              | 36%          | 30%           | 55%               | 39%          |
| <b>Poker machines that accept any money should be permitted</b>       | 13%          | 12%         | 15%           | 16%              | 12%          | 9%            | 18%               | 11%          |
| <b>Don't know / Not sure</b>  | 4%           | 5%          | 4%            | 1%               | 7%           | 9%            | 0%                | 6%           |

Do you think allowing poker machines to accept notes as well as coins will increase or decrease the level of harm that results from poker machine addiction?

|                              | <i>Total</i> | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Coalition</i> | <i>Labor</i> | <i>Greens</i> | <i>One Nation</i> | <i>Other</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Increase harm</b>         | 80%          | 80%         | 80%           | 76%              | 82%          | 87%           | 77%               | 81%          |
| <b>Decrease harm</b>         | 0.4%         | 1%          | 0%            | 1%               | 1%           | 0%            | 0%                | 0%           |
| <b>No effect</b>             | 17%          | 17%         | 17%           | 22%              | 15%          | 6%            | 21%               | 18%          |
| <b>Don't know / Not sure</b> | 2%           | 2%          | 3%            | 1%               | 3%           | 7%            | 2%                | 1%           |