

# Polling - Budget

*October 2020*

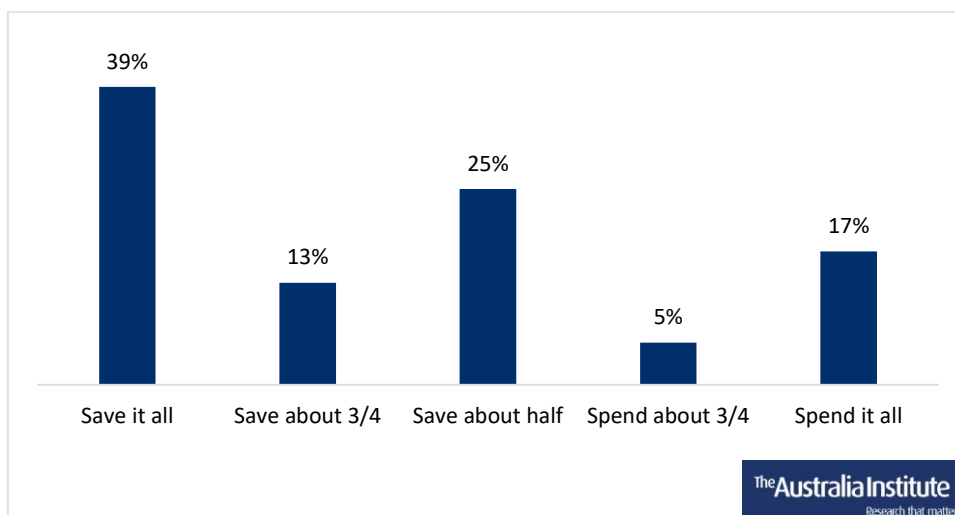
## Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,005 Australians about their priorities for government spending, their perceptions of the Budget, and how they intend to spend this year's personal income tax cuts.

In summary,

- The share of Australians who think that the Budget will be good for the Australian economy increased from 44% in 2019 to 58% in 2020.
- Almost half of Australians (47%) think that they personally will be better off as a result of the Budget, an increase on 34% from the previous year.
- Income support for people looking for work is the most popular Budget priority (chosen by 31%), followed by infrastructure and government services (26%).
  - Only 20% of Australians choose bringing forward income tax cuts as the priority, followed by 12% who choose decreasing the deficit.
- Half of Australians (52%) intend to save about three quarters or more of the tax cut, including 39% who intend to save all of the tax cut.

**Figure: How respondents expect to use income tax cuts**

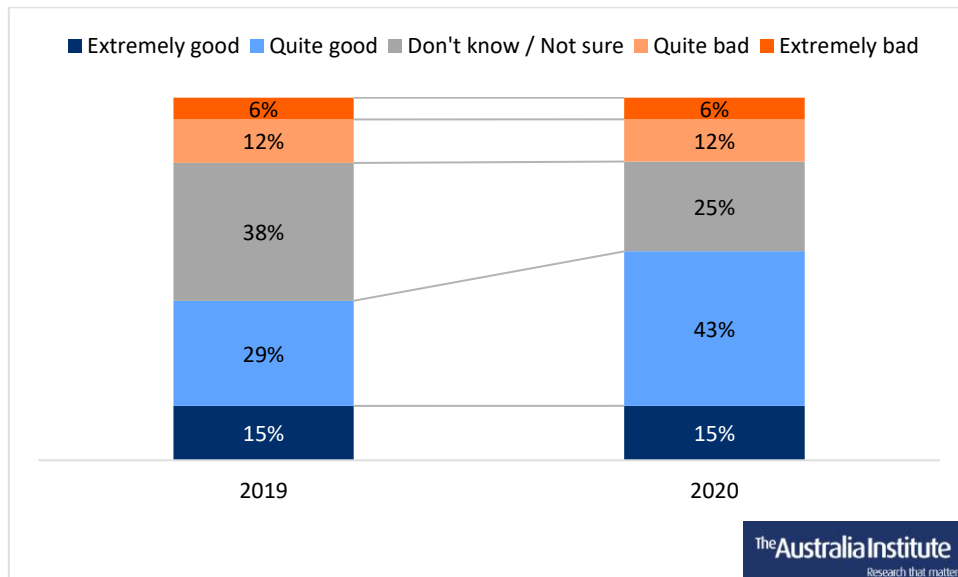


## Budget well-received by Australians

Respondents were asked two Budget opinion questions that have been asked by *The Australian* in previous years: how good they think the Budget will be overall for the economy and how they think the Budget will affect their own financial position.<sup>1</sup>

- The share of Australians who think that the Budget will be good for the Australian economy has increased from fewer than one in two (44%) to almost three in five (58%).
- There is no change in those who think the Budget will be quite bad or extremely bad (18% in both years).
- There is a significant fall in the share of those “uncommitted” or who don’t know/aren’t sure, from 38% to 25%.

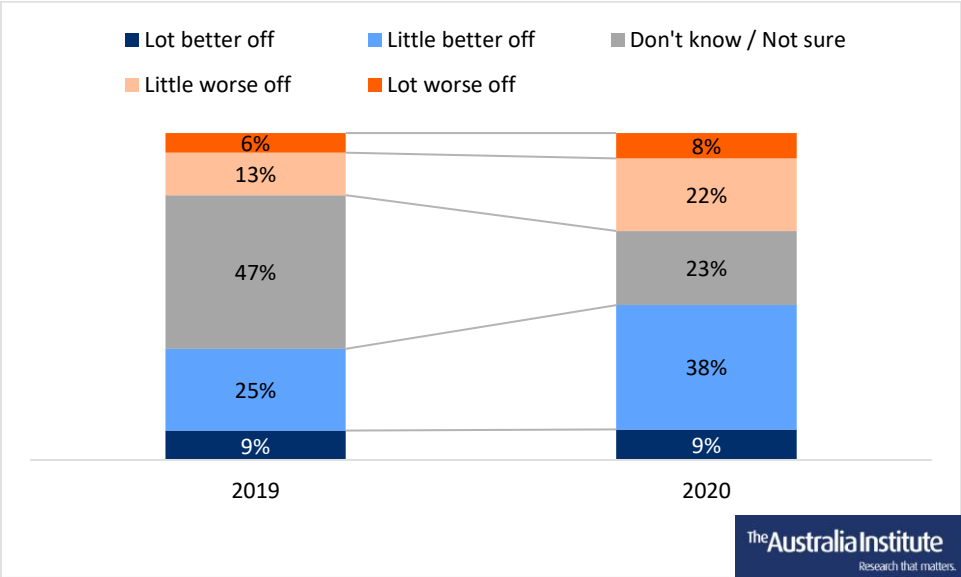
**Figure 1: Budget overall good or bad for the economy**



<sup>1</sup> For the questions and last year’s results, see Benson (2019) *Game on: Morrison’s budget bounce*, <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/coalition-in-striking-distance-of-labor/news-story/e0a8b9992b0980a62f922edf649996b3>

- Almost half of Australians (47%) think that they personally will be better off as a result of the Budget, an increase on 34% from the previous year.
- There is also an increase in the number of Australians who think they will be worse off, from 19% to 30%.

**Figure 2: How Budget will affect personal financial position**

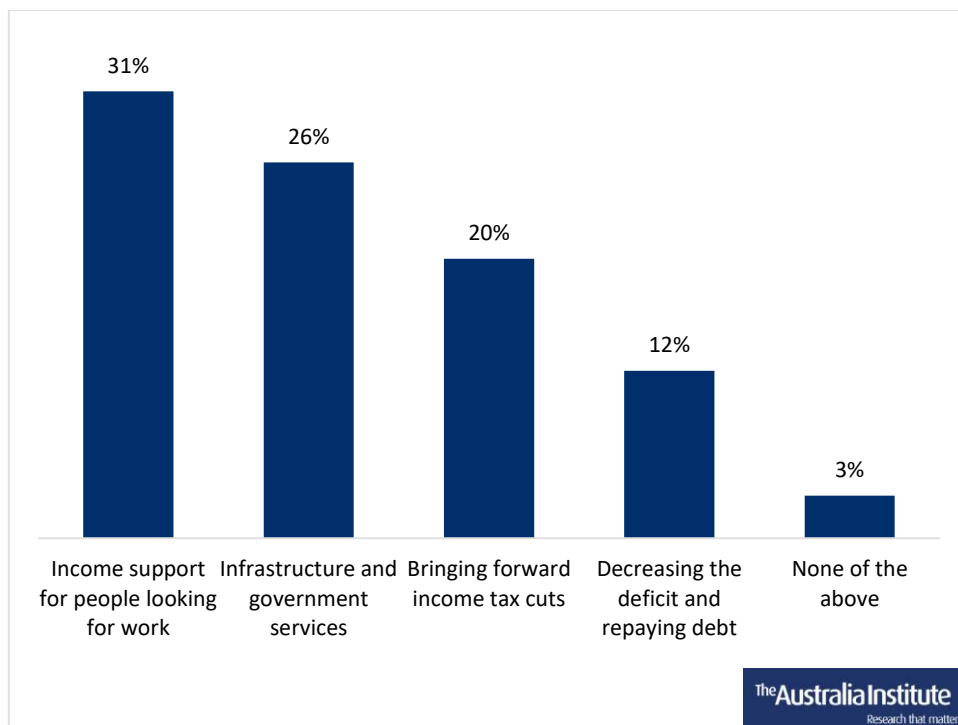


## Income support for jobseekers top Budget priority for Australians

Respondents were told that the federal government had brought forward part of its personal income tax cuts. They were then asked which was their preferred funding priority, out of bringing forward income tax cuts, decreasing the deficit, spending on infrastructure and government services, or income support for jobseekers.<sup>2</sup>

- Income support for people looking for work was the most popular priority, chosen by three in 10 Australians (31%).
- Spending on infrastructure and government services like health and education was the second most popular priority, chosen by one in four Australians (26%).
- Bringing forward income tax cuts was the third most popular priority, chosen by one in five Australians (20%).
- Decreasing the deficit was least popular, chosen by one in 10 (12%).

**Figure 3: Priority for government spending**

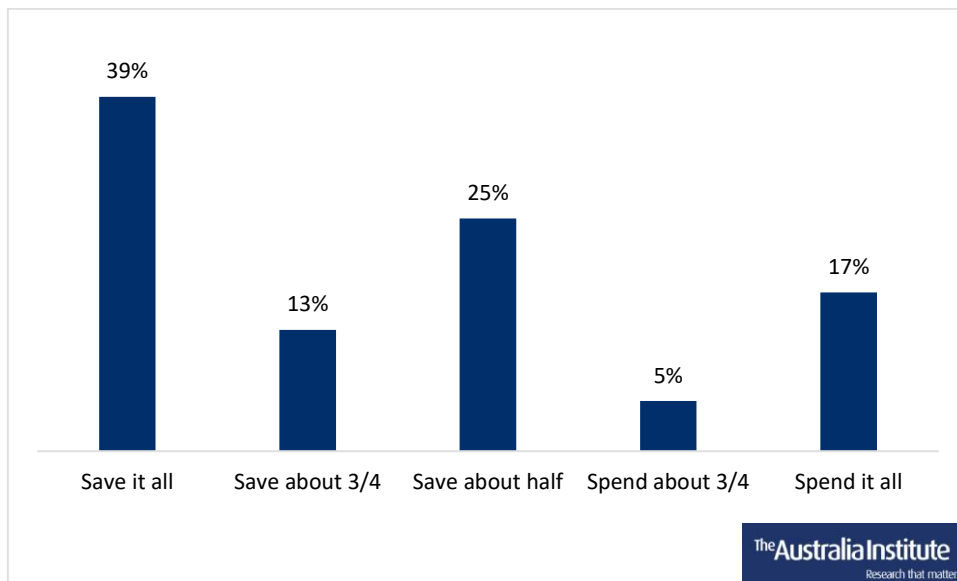


<sup>2</sup> For equivalent results for September 2020 before the Budget, see The Australia Institute (2020) *Polling - Should income tax cuts be brought forward?*, <https://www.tai.org.au/content/polling-voters-want-jobseeker-boost-government-spending-over-tax-cuts>

### Most will save tax cut stimulus, not spend it

- Less than one in five (17%) Australians intend to spend the entire tax cut they receive. A further 5% intend to spend about three quarters of the tax cut.
- One in four Australians (25%) intend to save about half of the tax cut and spend the other half.
- Half of Australians (52%) intend to save about three quarters or more of the tax cut, including 39% who intend to save all of the tax cut.

**Figure 4: How respondents expect to use income tax cuts**



## Method

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,005 people on 8–9 October 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

*In the Federal Budget released this week, the government announced that it plans to bring forward some of its legislated personal income tax cuts.*

*During the economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, which would you prefer government spending to prioritise?*

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>
<b>Bringing forward income tax cuts</b>	20%	18%	21%	20%	18%	21%	20%
<b>Decreasing the deficit and repaying debt</b>	12%	10%	13%	10%	12%	9%	11%
<b>Spending on infrastructure and government services like health and education</b>	26%	34%	20%	25%	29%	27%	25%
<b>Income support for people looking for work</b>	31%	32%	31%	32%	35%	30%	28%
<b>None of the above</b>	3%	3%	3%	6%	0%	2%	2%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	8%	3%	12%	7%	5%	10%	14%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
<b>Bringing forward income tax cuts</b>	20%	21%	19%	13%	28%	16%
<b>Decreasing the deficit and repaying debt</b>	12%	14%	9%	11%	9%	14%
<b>Spending on infrastructure and government services like health and education</b>	26%	29%	24%	30%	22%	21%
<b>Income support for people looking for work</b>	31%	27%	39%	35%	20%	28%
<b>None of the above</b>	3%	3%	3%	1%	7%	2%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	8%	6%	7%	9%	15%	18%

**Thinking of the federal budget handed down by Treasurer Josh Frydenberg recently. Overall do you believe the budget will be good or bad for the Australian economy?**

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
<b>Extremely good</b>	15%	23%	8%	20%	11%	14%	14%
<b>Quite good</b>	43%	47%	39%	41%	46%	43%	39%
<b>Quite bad</b>	12%	11%	12%	14%	9%	11%	12%
<b>Extremely bad</b>	6%	5%	7%	4%	8%	4%	6%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	25%	14%	34%	21%	25%	28%	29%

	<i>Total</i>	Coalition	Labor	Greens	One Nation	Other
<b>Extremely good</b>	15%	24%	8%	9%	9%	5%
<b>Quite good</b>	43%	52%	38%	26%	41%	28%
<b>Quite bad</b>	12%	5%	16%	22%	11%	18%
<b>Extremely bad</b>	6%	1%	10%	11%	4%	14%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	25%	18%	28%	33%	35%	35%

**How do you think the budget will affect your own financial position in the next 12 months? Do you believe you personally will be better or worse off?**

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA
<b>Lot better off</b>	9%	14%	5%	14%	6%	6%	7%
<b>Little better off</b>	38%	40%	37%	36%	43%	38%	33%
<b>Little worse off</b>	22%	21%	23%	25%	20%	20%	25%
<b>Lot worse off</b>	8%	9%	6%	7%	8%	8%	6%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	23%	16%	29%	18%	22%	29%	29%

	<i>Total</i>	Coalition	Labor	Greens	One Nation	Other
<b>Lot better off</b>	9%	14%	6%	7%	2%	4%
<b>Little better off</b>	38%	43%	35%	28%	35%	35%
<b>Little worse off</b>	22%	16%	28%	30%	22%	25%
<b>Lot worse off</b>	8%	5%	10%	11%	13%	9%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	23%	22%	22%	23%	28%	27%



***Approximately how much of any tax cut that you receive this year do you intend to spend and how much do you intend to save?***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>WA</b>
<b>Save it all</b>	39%	40%	37%	43%	35%	37%	32%
<b>Save about three quarters (spend about one quarter)</b>	13%	11%	15%	14%	16%	11%	11%
<b>Save about half, spend about half</b>	25%	25%	26%	21%	27%	29%	29%
<b>Spend about three quarters (save about one quarter)</b>	5%	6%	5%	7%	5%	4%	6%
<b>Spend it all</b>	17%	18%	17%	15%	16%	19%	22%

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Coalition</b>	<b>Labor</b>	<b>Greens</b>	<b>One Nation</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Save it all</b>	39%	36%	40%	41%	22%	52%
<b>Save about three quarters (spend about one quarter)</b>	13%	15%	13%	13%	2%	12%
<b>Save about half, spend about half</b>	25%	24%	27%	29%	33%	18%
<b>Spend about three quarters (save about one quarter)</b>	5%	7%	4%	2%	9%	4%
<b>Spend it all</b>	17%	17%	16%	13%	35%	15%