

# Polling - Prime Minister Morrison's response to COVID-19 misinformation and the US Capitol riots

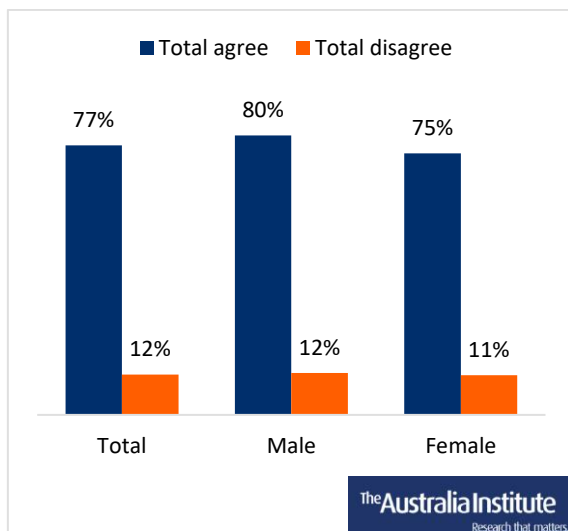
*January 2021*

## Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,003 Australians about how Prime Minister Scott Morrison should handle two current issues: a Liberal politician who posted misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic on social media and President Trump's role in last week's riots in the US Capitol.

- On the matter of a Liberal politician who has posted misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic on social media, three in four Australians (77%) agree that the Prime Minister has a responsibility to criticise and correct the politician.
  - 12% disagree.

**Figure 1: Morrison has a responsibility to criticise and correct Liberal politician**



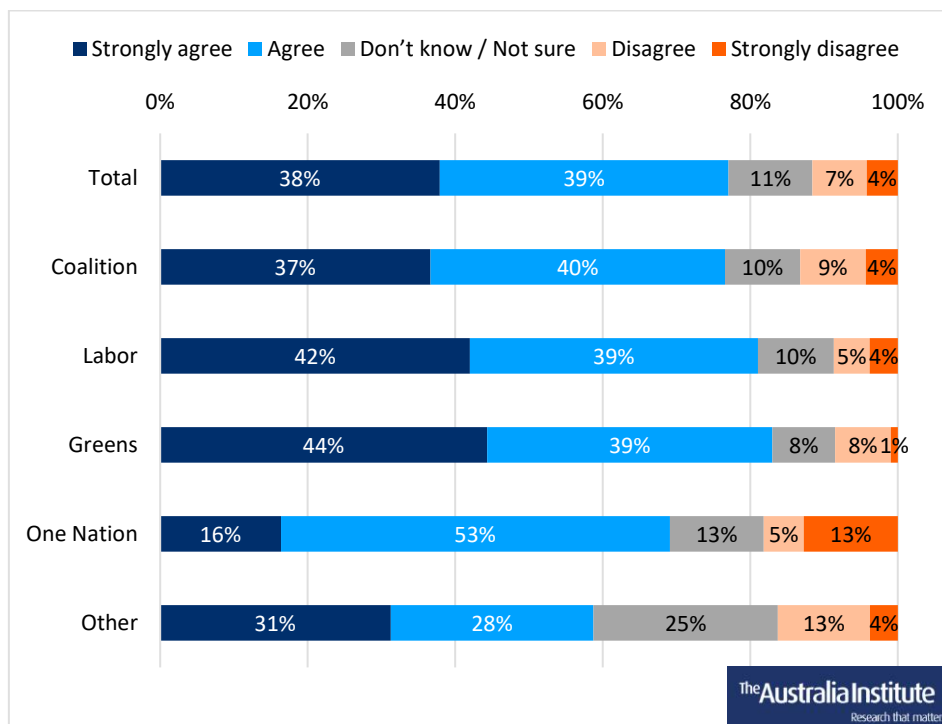
- On the matter of President Trump's role in the riots in the US, half of Australians (56%) say the Prime Minister should criticise President Trump.
  - One in four (26%) say he should not criticise President Trump.

Respondents were told that a federal Liberal Party politician has posted misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic on social media, including promoting unproven drugs, and has described masks for schoolchildren as “child abuse”.

They were then asked whether they agreed or disagreed that Prime Minister Scott Morrison has a responsibility to clearly and publicly criticise this politician and correct the misinformation.

- Three in four Australians (77%) agree that Prime Minister Morrison has a responsibility to criticise and correct the politician, including 38% who strongly agree.
  - Only 12% disagree, including 4% who strongly disagree.
- Most Coalition (77%), Labor (81%), Greens (83%), One Nation (69%) and Independent/Other (59%) voters agree that Morrison has a responsibility to criticise and correct the politician.

**Figure 2: Morrison has a responsibility to criticise and correct Liberal politician**

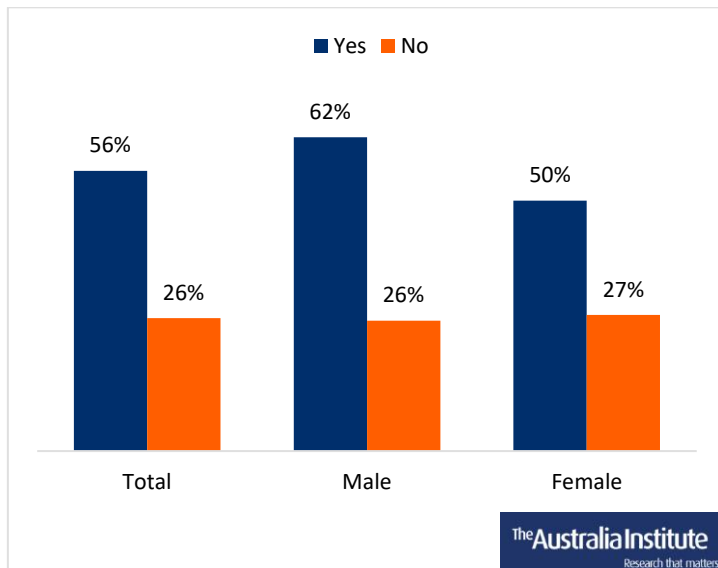


Respondents were told that world leaders, including Boris Johnson, Angela Merkel and Justin Trudeau, have criticised or condemned United States President Donald Trump’s role in inciting last week’s riots in the US Capitol but that, so far, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has not.

They were then asked whether Prime Minister Morrison should criticise or condemn President Trump for his role in inciting last week’s riots in the Capitol.

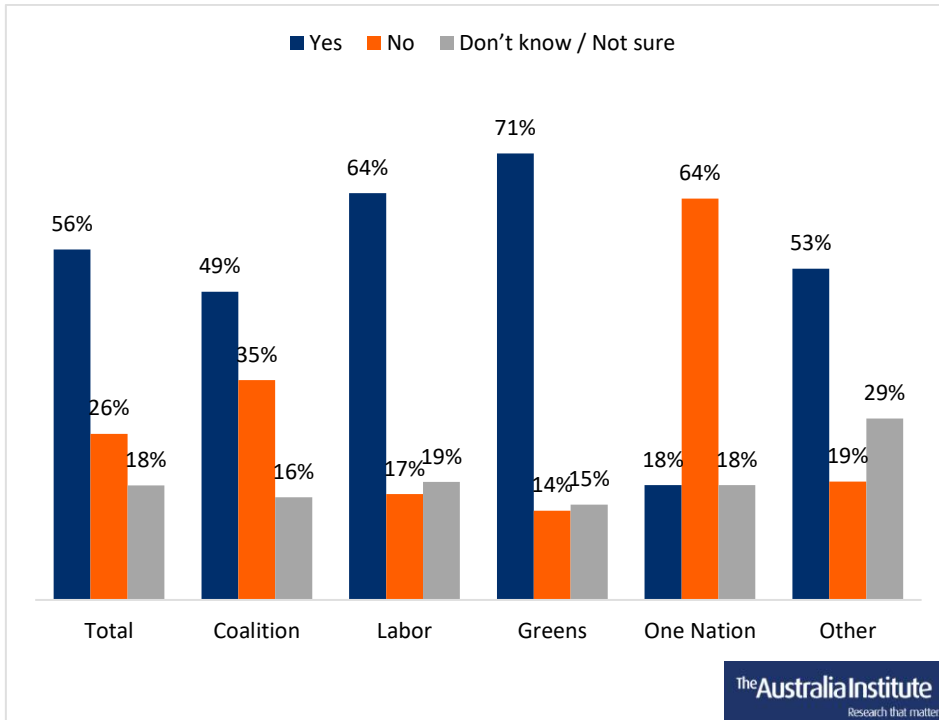
- Half of Australians (56%) say yes, Prime Minister Morrison should criticise or condemn President Trump for his role in inciting last week’s riots in the Capitol.
- One in four (26%) Australians say no, Prime Minister Morrison should not criticise or condemn President Trump for his role in inciting last week’s riots.
- 18% say that they don’t know or aren’t sure.

**Figure 3: Should Morrison criticise Trump for his role in the Capitol riots? (by gender)**



- Half of Coalition voters (49%) say that Prime Minister Morrison should criticise President Trump, compared to one in three (35%) who disagree.
- Most Labor (64%), Greens (71%) and Independent/Other (53%) voters say that Prime Minister Morrison should criticise President Trump.
- Two in three One Nation voters (64%) say that Prime Minister Morrison should not criticise President Trump, compared to 18% who say he should criticise Trump.

**Figure 4: Should Morrison criticise Trump for his role in the Capitol riots?  
(by voting intention)**



## Method

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,003 people on 14 to 15 January 2021, 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

A federal Liberal Party politician has posted misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic on social media, including promoting unproven drugs, and has described masks for schoolchildren as “child abuse”.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“Prime Minister Scott Morrison has a responsibility to clearly and publicly criticise this politician and correct the misinformation”.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	38%	44%	33%	44%	39%	33%	40%
<b>Agree</b>	39%	36%	42%	36%	38%	44%	40%
<b>Disagree</b>	7%	8%	7%	6%	8%	8%	4%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	7%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	11%	8%	14%	11%	11%	10%	10%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	38%	37%	42%	44%	16%	31%
<b>Agree</b>	39%	40%	39%	39%	53%	28%
<b>Disagree</b>	7%	9%	5%	8%	5%	13%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	4%	4%	4%	1%	13%	4%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	11%	10%	10%	8%	13%	25%

World leaders, including Boris Johnson, Angela Merkel and Justin Trudeau, have criticised or condemned United States President Donald Trump's role in inciting last week's riots in the US Capitol. So far, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has not.

Should Prime Minister Scott Morrison criticise or condemn President Trump for his role in inciting last week's riots in the Capitol?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>
<b>Yes</b>	56%	62%	50%	54%	57%	54%	52%
<b>No</b>	26%	26%	27%	27%	28%	28%	29%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	18%	12%	23%	19%	15%	19%	20%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
<b>Yes</b>	56%	49%	64%	71%	18%	53%
<b>No</b>	26%	35%	17%	14%	64%	19%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	18%	16%	19%	15%	18%	29%