

Polling - National Anti-Corruption Commission public hearings

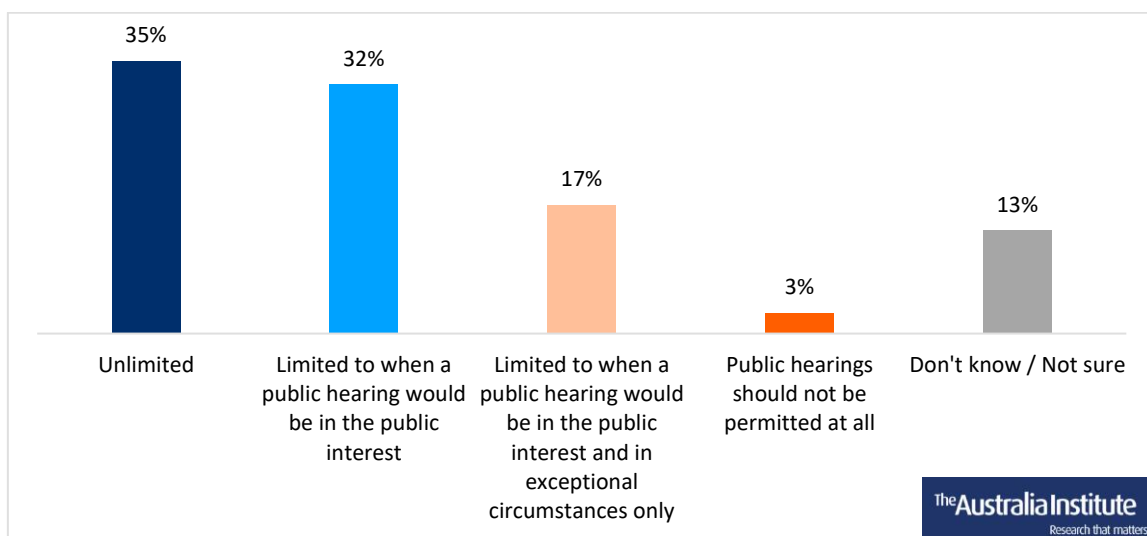
October 2022

Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,003 Australians about the circumstances under which the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) should be allowed to hold public hearings. The results show that most Australians say the NACC should be allowed to hold public hearings under more circumstances than the tabled legislation.

- More than four in five Australians (84%) say that the National Anti-Corruption Commission should be allowed to hold public hearings.
- Fewer than one in five Australians say the Commission's ability to hold public hearings should be limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest and in exceptional circumstances only (17%), as prescribed.
- Two in three Australians (67%) say the Commission should be allowed to hold public hearings under more circumstances than the tabled legislation, either when in the public interest (32%) or in unlimited circumstances (35%).
- 3% of Australians say that public hearings should not be permitted at all.

Figure 1: Circumstances for NACC public hearings



Circumstances under which the Commission should be allowed to hold public hearings

The National Anti-Corruption Commission legislation was tabled in Parliament on the 28th of September 2022. The tabled NACC legislation allows for the Commissioner to hold a public hearing if “exceptional circumstances justify it”, and it is in the public interest to do so.

Respondents were asked to select the circumstances under which the Commission should be allowed to hold public hearings, from:

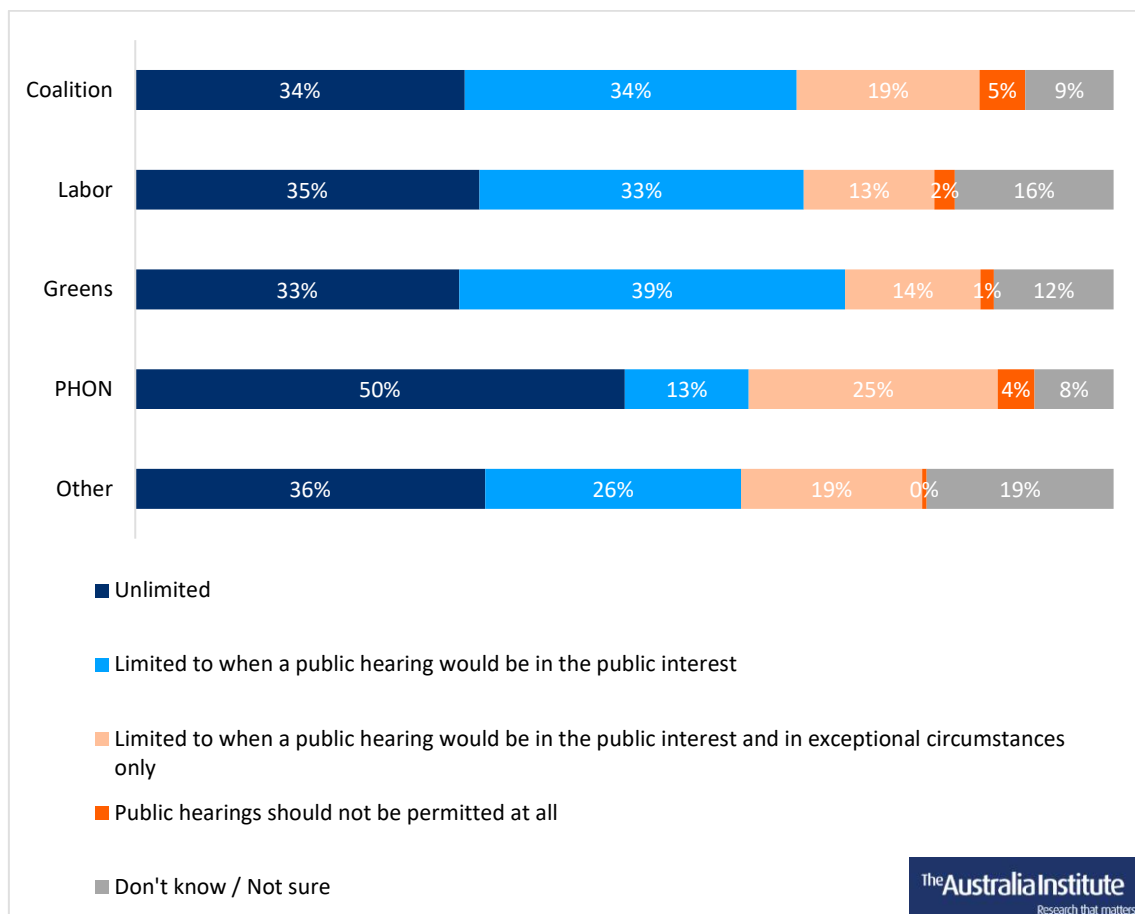
- a) Unlimited
- b) Limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest
- c) Limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest and in exceptional circumstances only
- d) Public hearings should not be permitted at all
- e) Don't know/Not sure

Response c) represents the circumstances under which public hearings would be allowed under the tabled legislation.

By voting intention

- The majority of Australians say the Commission should be allowed to hold public hearings under more circumstances than prescribed by the tabled legislation, regardless of voting intention, including
 - two in three Coalition voters (68%),
 - two in three Labor voters (68%),
 - three in four Greens voters (73%),
 - three in five One Nation voters (63%), and
 - three in five Independent/Other voters (62%).
- Of Coalition and Labor voters who say the Commission should be allowed to hold more public hearings, similar proportions say it should be unlimited (34% and 35% respectively), as who say it should be limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest (34% and 33% respectively), as who say it should be limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest (34% and 33% respectively).

Figure 2: Circumstances for NACC public hearings, by voting intention



Method

Between 4 and 7 October 2022, The Australia Institute surveyed 1,003 adults living in Australia, online through Dynata’s panel, with nationally representative samples by gender, age group and state/territory.

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.

The research is compliant with the [Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards](#). The long methodology disclosure statement follows.

Long disclosure statement

The results were weighted by three variables (gender, age group, and state or territory) based on Australian Bureau of Statistics [“National, state and territory population”](#) data, using the raking method. This resulted in an effective sample size of 936.

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

Results are shown only for larger states.

Voting intention questions appeared just after the initial demographic questions, before policy questions. Respondents who answered “Don’t know / Not sure” for voting intention were then asked a leaning question; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs. “Coalition” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” refers to Independent/Other, and minor parties in cases where they were included in the voting intention but represent too small a sample to be reported separately in the crosstabs.



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Detailed results

No preceding questions in the poll are expected to have influenced the results of the questions published here.

A National Anti-Corruption Commission would investigate corruption within federal law enforcement, the public service, service providers, contractors, federal parliamentarians and their staff.

Under what circumstances should the Commission be allowed to hold public hearings?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Unlimited	35%	40%	30%	37%	33%	43%	28%
Limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest	32%	33%	31%	32%	33%	26%	36%
Limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest and in exceptional circumstances only	17%	17%	16%	16%	19%	17%	17%
Public hearings should not be permitted at all	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%	6%
Don't know / Not sure	13%	7%	20%	12%	14%	13%	13%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Other</i>
Unlimited	35%	34%	35%	33%	50%	36%
Limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest	32%	34%	33%	39%	13%	26%
Limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest and in exceptional circumstances only	17%	19%	13%	14%	25%	19%
Public hearings should not be permitted at all	3%	5%	2%	1%	4%	0%
Don't know / Not sure	13%	9%	16%	12%	8%	19%

	<i>Total</i>	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Unlimited	35%	27%	36%	37%	37%	38%
Limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest	32%	31%	35%	31%	33%	32%
Limited to when a public hearing would be in the public interest and in exceptional circumstances only	17%	29%	13%	12%	12%	15%
Public hearings should not be permitted at all	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%	4%
Don't know / Not sure	13%	10%	14%	18%	16%	11%