

Polling - The Voice

July 2023

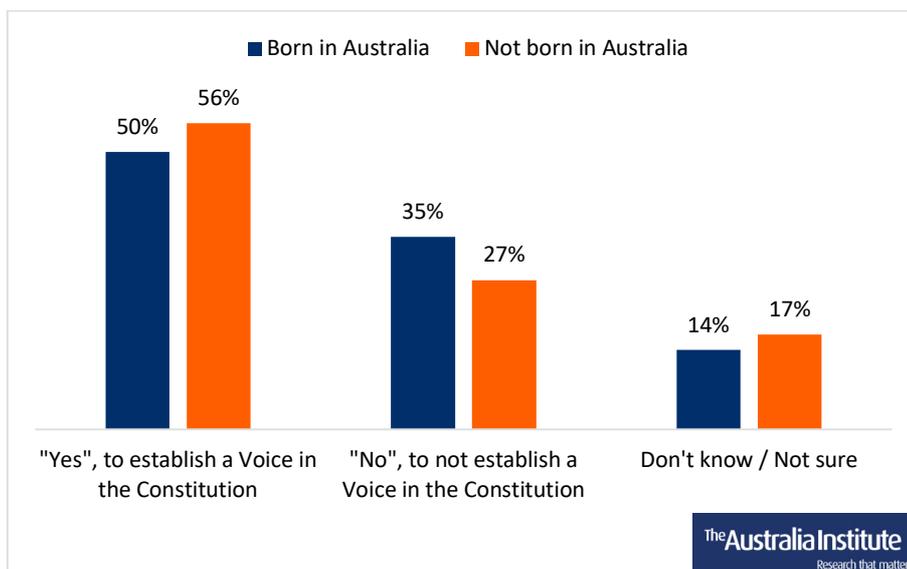
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1004 Australians about their attitudes towards the upcoming referendum to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The results show that:

- A majority of Australians (52%) say they will vote “Yes” to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. A third of Australians (33%) say they will vote “No”, 15% say they are not sure how they will vote in the referendum.
- Migrants are more likely to support the Voice than those born in Australia, with most (56%) of those not born in Australia saying they will vote yes, 27% saying they will vote no, and 17% don’t know.
 - Comparatively, 50% of those born in Australia say they will vote yes, 35% will vote no, and 14% don’t know.

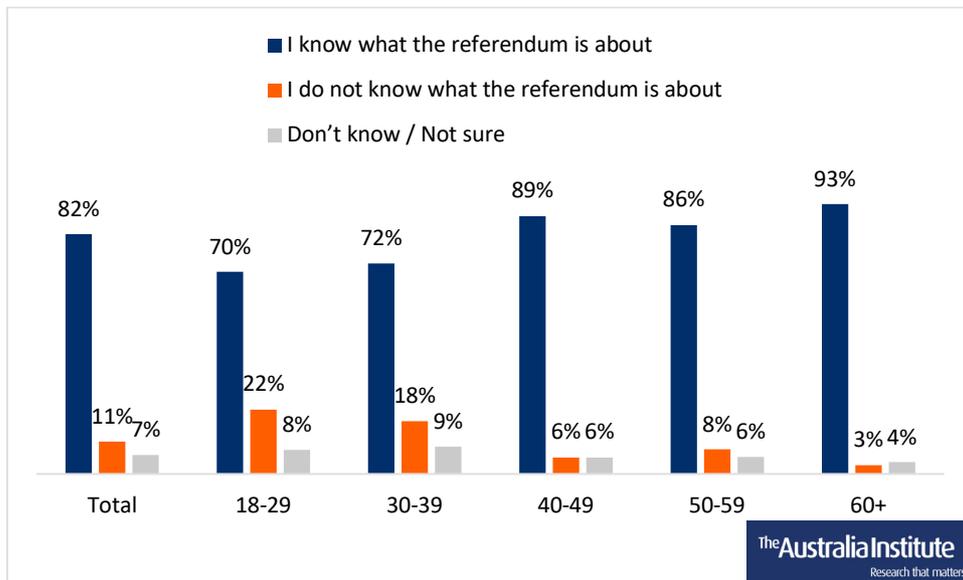
Figure 1: Voice referendum voting intention by place of birth



Respondents were told there will be a referendum held this year. They were then asked if they knew what it is about.

- Vast majority (82%) of Australians say they know what the referendum is about, while one in 10 Australians (11%) say they do not know what the referendum is about, and 7% were unsure how to answer the question.
- Across all age groups, there is a strong majority of those who say they know what the referendum is about, including 70% of 18-29 year olds, and increasing with age: 72% of Australians aged 30-39, 89% of Australians aged 40-49, 86% of Australians aged 50-59, and 93% of Australians aged 60 or over.
- One in five (22%) of Australians aged 18-29 say they do not know what the referendum is about, the highest of all aged groups.

Figure 1: Understanding of the referendum question by age



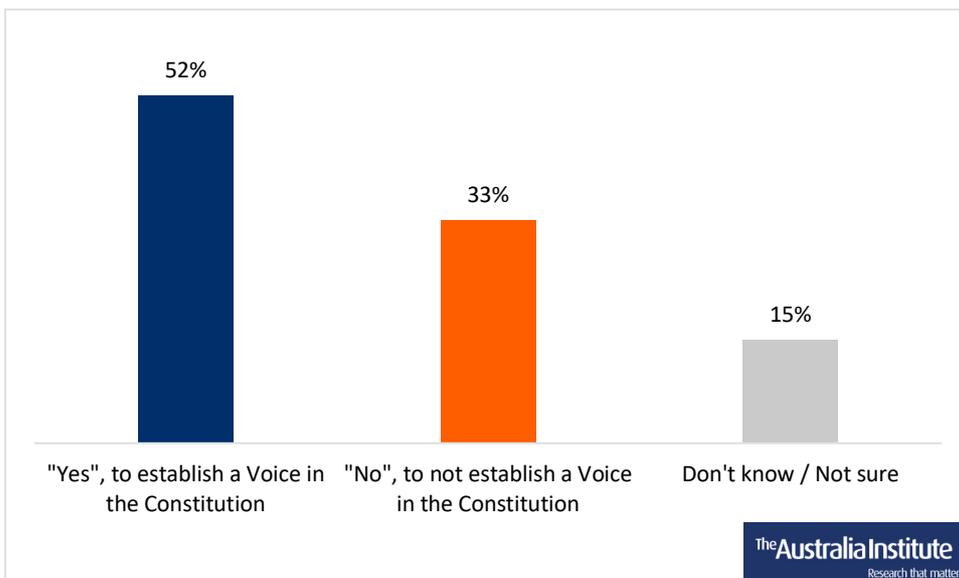
Respondents were then told:

This year, a referendum will be held on the question of whether to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution. The Voice would be able to make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

They were then asked about whether they would vote “Yes” or “No” to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

A majority of Australians (52%) will vote “Yes” to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. A third of Australians (33%) will vote “No”.

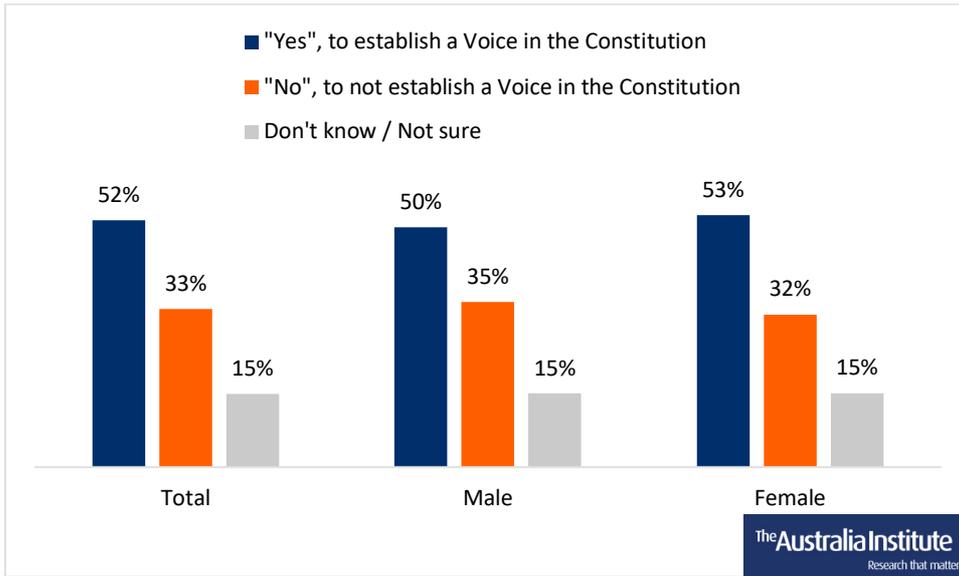
Figure 2: Voice referendum voting intention



Referendum voting intention does not vary with gender.

- Men and women were as likely to support the Voice, with 50% of men and 53% of women saying they intend to vote “Yes”. 35% of men and 32% of women say they intend to vote “No”, and 15% of men and women say they don’t know / not sure.

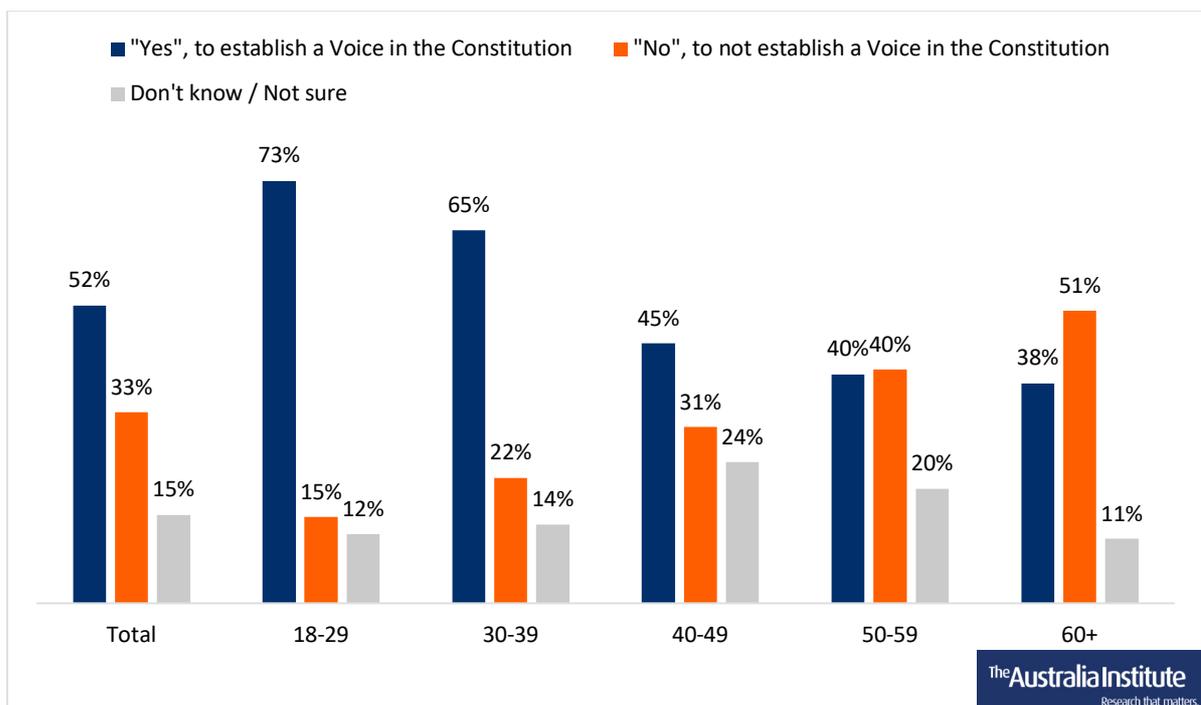
Figure 3: Voice referendum voting intention by gender



Referendum voting intention varies with age.

- Younger Australians are most likely to support the Voice, and support declines with age.
 - Almost three in four 18-29 year olds (73%) say they will vote yes, 15% say they will vote no, and 12 % don't know.
 - A majority (65%) of 30-39 year olds say they will vote yes, 22% say they will vote no, and 14% don't know.
 - More 40-49 year olds (45%) say they will vote yes, 31% say they will vote no, and almost a quarter (24%) say they don't know.
 - 50-59 year olds were evenly split 40% saying they will vote yes and 40% saying they will vote no, and 20% don't know.
 - A majority of 60+ (51%) say they will vote no, and 38% say they will vote yes, 11% don't know.

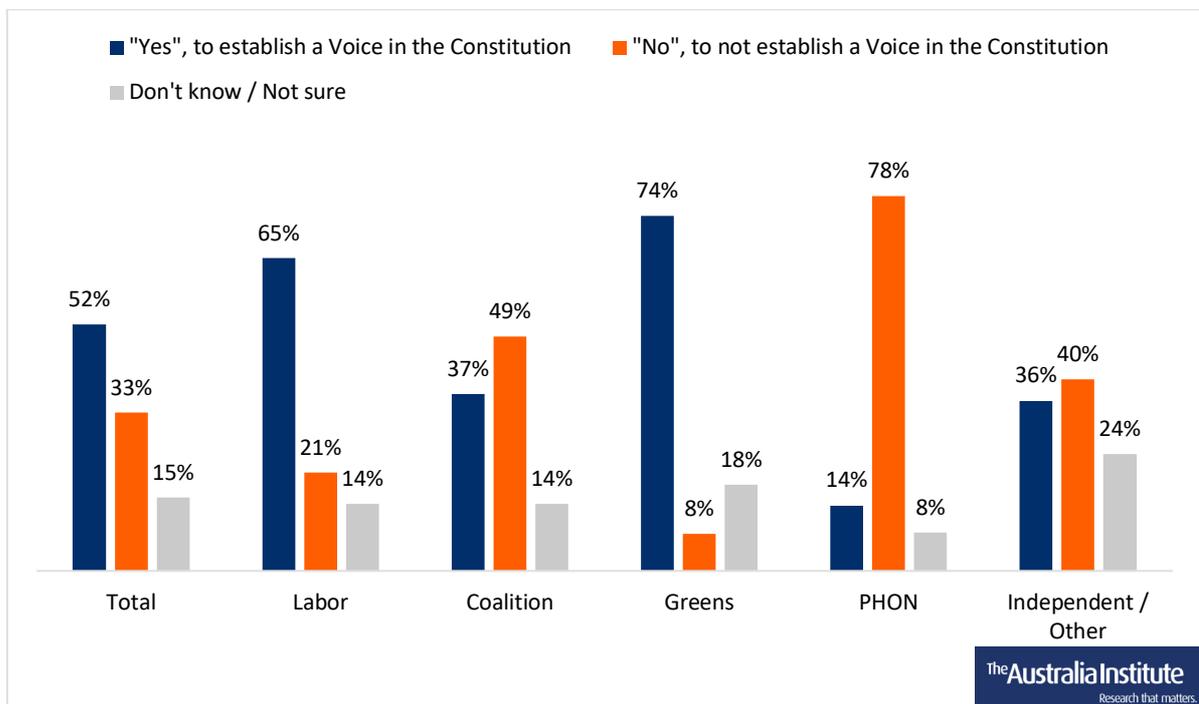
Figure 4: Voice referendum voting intention by age



Referendum voting intention varies with election voting intention.

- Among party affiliations who are most likely to support the Voice: almost three in four Greens voters (74%) and two thirds of Labor voters (65%) intend to vote “Yes” to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.
- Among party affiliations who are most likely to oppose the Voice: more than three in four One Nation voters (78%) and almost half of Coalition voters (49%) intend to vote “No” to establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.
- Independent voters were the most divided, with 36% intending to vote “Yes” and 40% intending to vote “No”, with another 24% undecided – the highest undecided vote of any party affiliation.

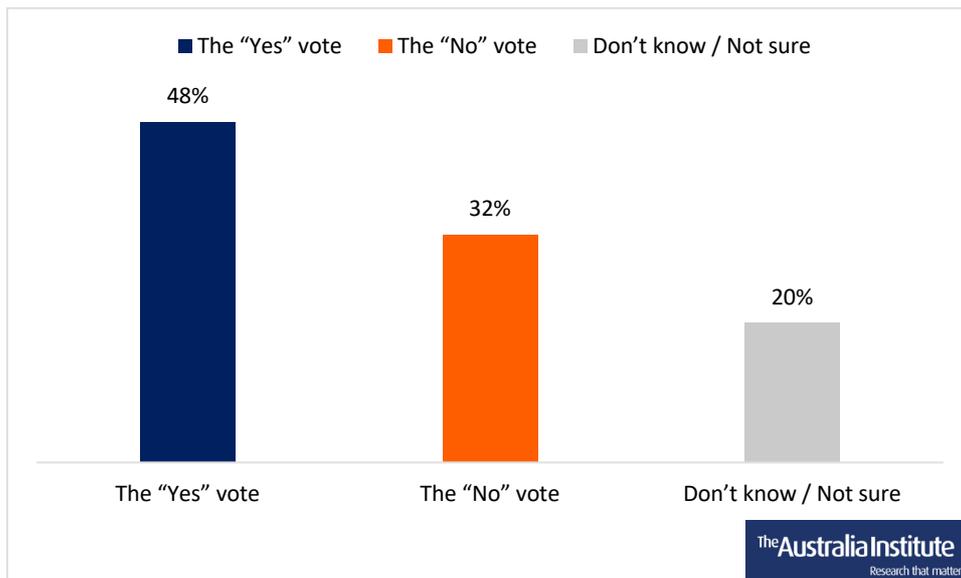
Figure 5: Voice referendum voting intention by election voting intention



Respondents were then asked which vote they think will win the referendum for a Voice to Parliament.

- More Australians (48%) think the “Yes” vote will win the referendum for a Voice to Parliament, than any other outcome
- One in three (32%) of Australian think the “No” vote will win
- One in five Australians (20%) are unsure what the outcome of the referendum will be.

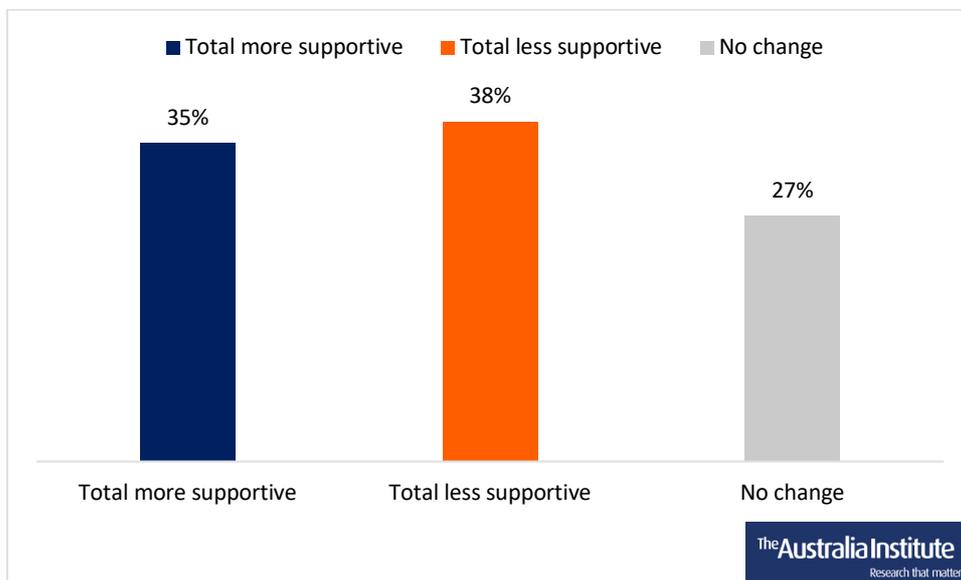
Figure 6: Opinion on which vote will win the Voice referendum



Respondents were asked if they thought public support for a Voice to Parliament has changed this year compared to when it was announced. The results show that Australians are divided in how they perceive the change in support for the Voice.

- One in three (35%) Australians think the public is more supportive of the Voice now, than when it was announced.
- Slightly more (38%) Australians think the public is now less supportive of the Voice than when it was announced.
- One in four (27%) think that there has been no change over time in support for or against the Voice to Parliament.

Figure 7: Opinion on change in support for the Voice since its announcement



Method

Between 4 and 7 July 2023, The Australia Institute surveyed 1004 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. Those who answered the gender identity question as “Non-binary”, “I use a different term”, or “Prefer not to answer” had their responses included with females for the purpose of reporting, due to constraints from weighting data availability. This resulted in an effective sample size of 939.2.

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

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.



**Australian
Polling Council
Quality Mark**

Detailed results

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

There will be a referendum held this year, do you know what it is about?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Yes	82%	85%	80%	70%	72%	89%	86%	93%
No	11%	9%	13%	22%	18%	6%	8%	3%
Don't know / Not sure	7%	6%	7%	8%	9%	6%	6%	4%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Independent / Other</i>
Yes	82%	84%	83%	74%	92%	82%
No	11%	9%	11%	16%	8%	15%
Don't know / Not sure	7%	8%	6%	10%	0%	3%

This year, a referendum will be held on the question of whether to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution. The Voice would be able to make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In the referendum, will you vote “Yes” or “No” to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
“Yes” to establish a Voice in the Constitution	52%	50%	53%	73%	65%	45%	40%	38%
“No” to not establish a Voice in the Constitution	33%	35%	32%	15%	22%	31%	40%	51%
Don't know / Not sure	15%	15%	15%	12%	14%	24%	20%	11%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Independent / Other</i>
“Yes” to establish a Voice in the Constitution	52%	65%	37%	74%	14%	36%
“No” to not establish a Voice in the Constitution	33%	21%	49%	8%	78%	40%
Don’t know / Not sure	15%	14%	14%	18%	8%	24%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Born in Australia</i>	<i>Not born in Australia</i>	<i>Don’t know / Not sure</i>
“Yes” to establish a Voice in the Constitution	52%	50%	56%	0%
“No” to not establish a Voice in the Constitution	33%	35%	27%	0%
Don’t know / Not sure	15%	14%	17%	100%

Which vote do you think will win the referendum for a Voice to Parliament?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
The “Yes” vote	48%	46%	50%	73%	60%	43%	33%	34%
The “No” vote	32%	36%	29%	17%	19%	31%	42%	47%
Don’t know / Not sure	20%	18%	22%	10%	21%	26%	25%	20%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Independent / Other</i>
The “Yes” vote	48%	57%	39%	69%	17%	32%
The “No” vote	32%	24%	42%	13%	67%	38%
Don’t know / Not sure	20%	19%	18%	18%	16%	30%

How do you think public support for a Voice to Parliament has changed this year compared to when it was announced?

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Much more supportive	10%	12%	8%	19%	18%	8%	7%	2%
More supportive	25%	22%	27%	40%	33%	25%	17%	14%
No change	27%	24%	30%	30%	31%	31%	32%	19%
Less supportive	29%	32%	26%	9%	14%	29%	32%	50%
Much less supportive	9%	10%	9%	3%	5%	7%	12%	16%

	<i>Total</i>	Labor	Coalition	Greens	PHON	Independent / Other
Much more supportive	10%	11%	10%	12%	6%	7%
More supportive	25%	25%	23%	43%	15%	14%
No change	27%	31%	22%	28%	14%	36%
Less supportive	29%	27%	32%	16%	49%	31%
Much less supportive	9%	6%	13%	1%	17%	12%