

# Polling - Corruption in offshore detention

*August 2023*

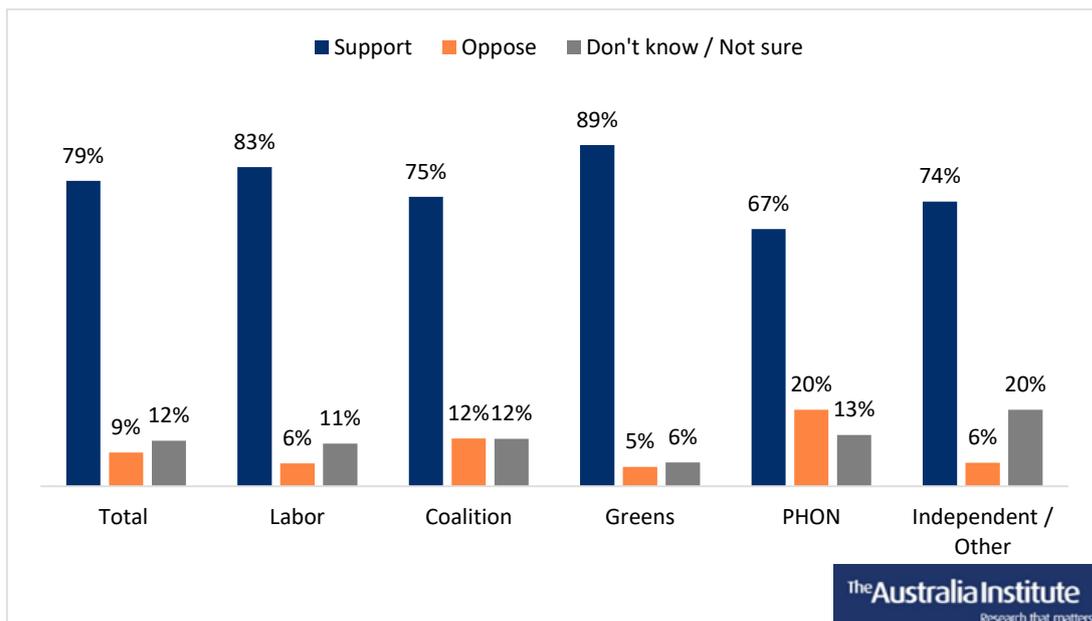
## Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed 1501 Australians about their attitudes towards allegations of potential corruption and bribery in relation to Australia’s offshore detention camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

Results show that overwhelming majorities of Australians support a Royal Commission into Australia’s offshore detention policy beyond just these allegations:

- Nearly four in five Australians (79%) would support a Royal Commission into Australia’s offshore detention policy. Less than one in 10 (9%) oppose.
- Five in six Labor voters (83%) would support a Royal Commission, while only 6% oppose.
- Establishing a Royal Commission into offshore detention is popular with voters of all parties, with 83% of Labor voters, 75% of Coalition voters, 89% of Greens voters, 67% of One Nation voters and 74% of independent voters in support.

**Figure 1: Support for a Royal Commission into detention, by voting intention**



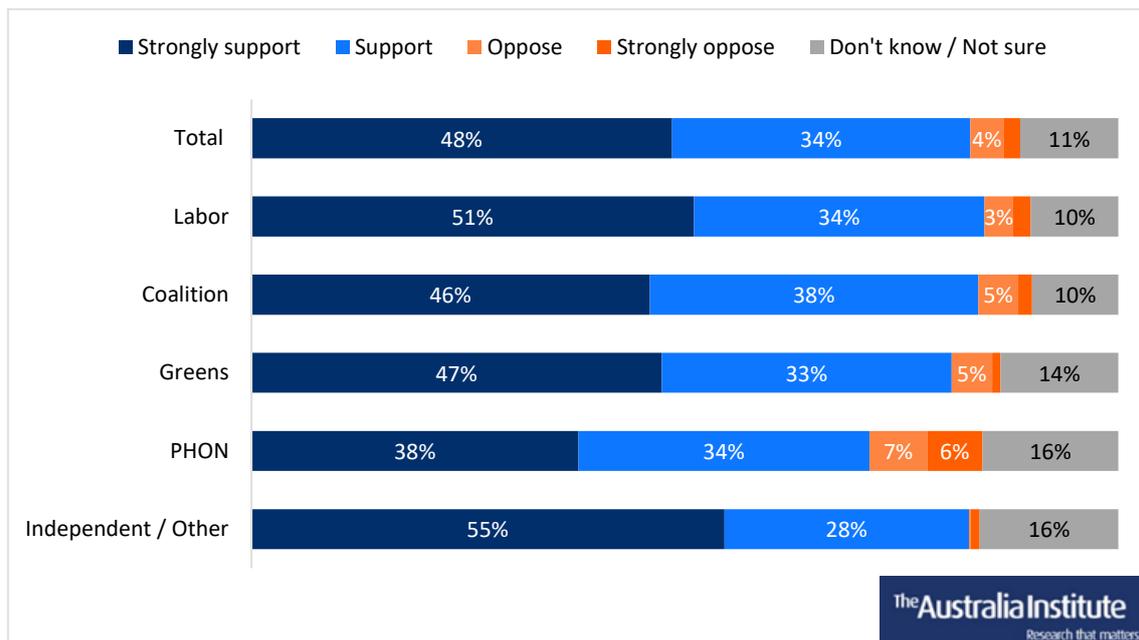
Respondents were presented with the following context:

Reports in the media over recent weeks have raised concerns about potential corruption and bribery in relation to Australia’s offshore detention camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. These reports include allegations that millions of taxpayer dollars were paid to powerful Pacific Island politicians through a chain of suspect contracts.

They were then asked to what extent they would support or oppose the establishment of an inquiry by the National Anti-Corruption Committee to look into these allegations.

- Large majorities of voters of all parties support a National Anti-Corruption Committee inquiry into corruption in Australia’s offshore detention system.
- Eighty-five per cent of Labor voters support an inquiry, and a majority of Labor voters (51%) are in strong support.
- Fourteen times as many Coalition voters (84%) support an inquiry than oppose one (6%).

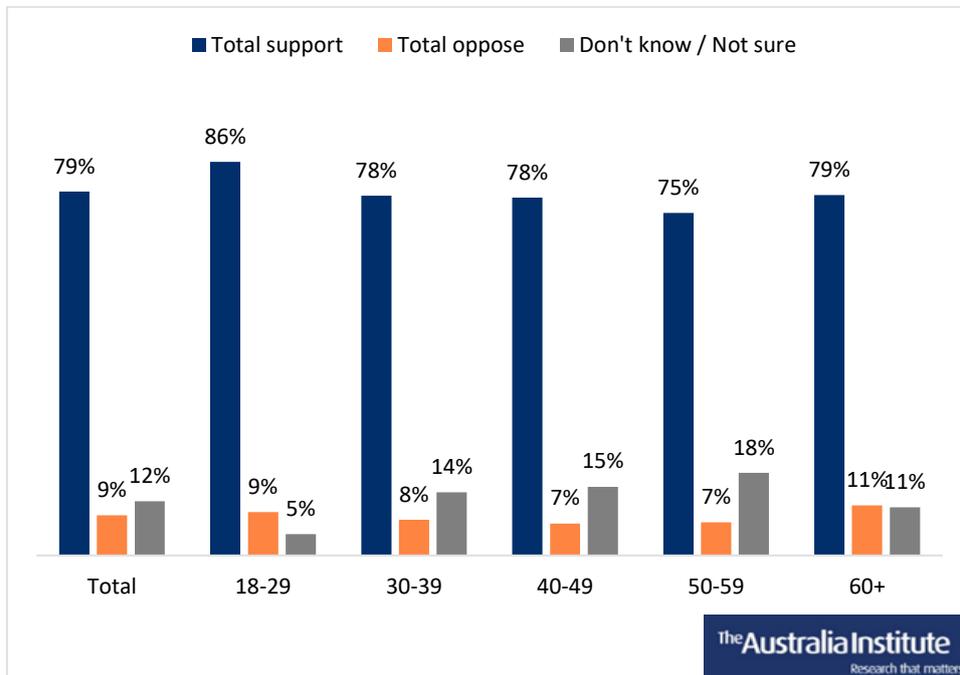
**Figure 2: NACC should investigate corruption allegations, by voting intention**



Australians were then asked whether they supported the establishment of a Royal Commission into these corruption allegations, as well as into Australia’s offshore detention policy more generally.

- Nearly four in five Australians (79%) support the establishment of a Royal Commission into offshore detention.
- Support is highest amongst those aged 18-29, with 86% supporting a Royal Commission.
- At least three quarters of Australians of all age brackets are in favour of a Royal Commission into offshore detention.

**Figure 3: Support for a Royal Commission into offshore detention by age**



## Method

Between 1 August and 4 August 2023, The Australia Institute surveyed 1501 adults living in Australia, online through Dynata’s panel, with nationally representative samples by gender, age group, and state/territory. South Australia and Queensland were “over-sampled” to produce more precise results, but weighting was used to ensure that people from these states were not over-represented in national results.

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 1169.

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. Lower house voting intention was asked first, followed by upper house voting intention. 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

Preceding questions in the poll are not expected to have influenced the results of the questions published here. The questions, and the response options for each question, are as follows:

**Reports in the media over recent weeks have raised concerns about potential corruption and bribery in relation to Australia’s offshore detention camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. These reports include allegations that millions of taxpayer dollars were paid to powerful Pacific Island politicians through a chain of suspect contracts.**

**To what extent would you support or oppose the establishment of an inquiry by the National Anti-Corruption Committee to look into these allegations?**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
<b>Strongly support</b>	48%	52%	45%	48%	48%	53%	44%
<b>Support</b>	34%	33%	35%	35%	36%	32%	35%
<b>Oppose</b>	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	2%	5%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	11%	8%	15%	10%	11%	12%	15%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
<b>Strongly support</b>	48%	50%	44%	39%	50%	55%
<b>Support</b>	34%	36%	38%	38%	32%	30%
<b>Oppose</b>	4%	4%	3%	5%	2%	4%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	1%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	11%	7%	13%	16%	13%	10%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>Other</i>
<b>Strongly support</b>	48%	51%	46%	47%	38%	55%
<b>Support</b>	34%	34%	38%	33%	34%	28%
<b>Oppose</b>	4%	3%	5%	5%	7%	0%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	2%	2%	2%	1%	6%	1%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	11%	10%	10%	14%	16%	16%

To what extent would you support or oppose the establishment of a Royal Commission to look into these allegations and Australia's offshore detention policy more generally?

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA
<b>Strongly support</b>	40%	42%	39%	40%	40%	42%	36%
<b>Support</b>	39%	36%	42%	38%	41%	36%	44%
<b>Oppose</b>	7%	10%	3%	8%	6%	7%	6%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	12%	10%	14%	12%	11%	13%	12%

	<i>Total</i>	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
<b>Strongly support</b>	40%	45%	39%	35%	42%	40%
<b>Support</b>	39%	41%	40%	43%	33%	39%
<b>Oppose</b>	7%	8%	5%	4%	6%	8%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	12%	5%	14%	15%	18%	11%

	<i>Total</i>	Labor	Coalition	Greens	PHON	Other
<b>Strongly support</b>	40%	45%	30%	52%	30%	46%
<b>Support</b>	39%	38%	46%	37%	37%	28%
<b>Oppose</b>	7%	5%	9%	4%	14%	5%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	2%	1%	4%	1%	6%	1%
<b>Don't know / Not sure</b>	12%	11%	12%	6%	13%	20%