

Polling - RBA Governor and employment waiting period

August 2023

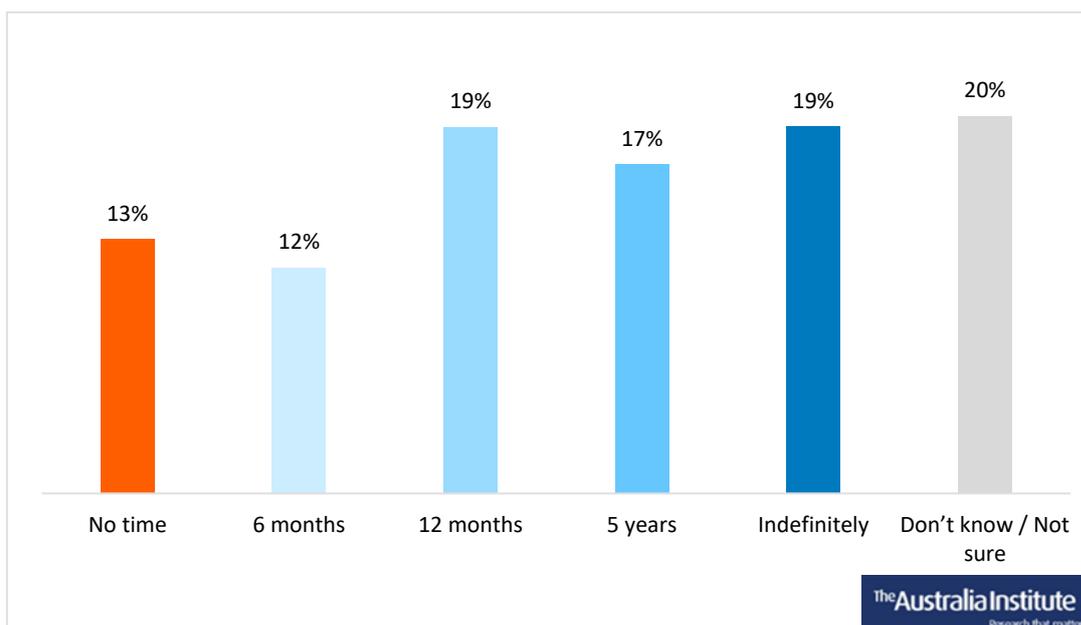
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a sample of 1,501 Australians about how long the outgoing Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Philip Lowe, should have to wait before being able to begin work at a private bank.

The results show that:

- Two in three Australians (67%) think that the outgoing RBA Governor should have to wait some period of time before being able to begin work at a private bank.
- One in five Australians (19%) think the outgoing RBA Governor should be indefinitely prohibited from beginning work at a private bank.
- One in eight Australians (13%) think the outgoing RBA Governor should be able to immediately begin work at a private bank.

Figure 1: Wait time for RBA Gov'r to begin work at private bank



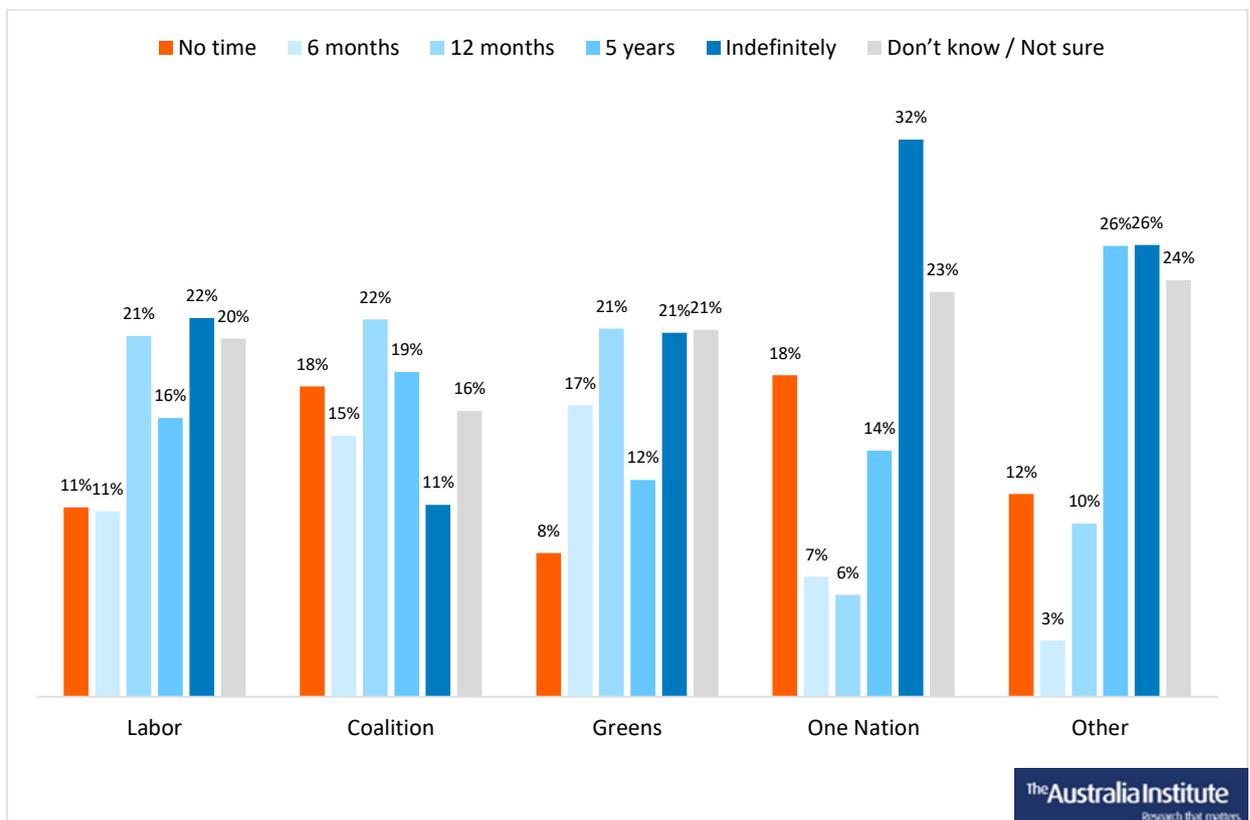
Respondents were told that:

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Philip Lowe, is ending his term in September this year. As RBA Governor, he had access to confidential information.

Respondents were then asked, in their opinion, how long the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia should have to wait before being able to begin work at a private bank.

- One in eight Australians (13%) think the outgoing RBA Governor should be able to immediately begin work at a private bank.
- Two in three Australians (67%) think that the outgoing RBA Governor should have to wait some period of time before being able to begin work at a private bank, including one in six Australians (17%) who think the outgoing RBA Governor should have to wait 5 years before beginning work at a private bank, and one in five Australians (19%) who think the outgoing RBA Governor should be indefinitely prohibited from beginning work at a private bank.
- One in five Australians (20%) do not know or are not sure how long the outgoing RBA Governor should have to wait to begin work at a private bank.

Figure 2: Wait time for RBA Gov'r to begin work at private bank; voting preference



Results are broken down by voting preference in Figure 2 (above).

- Across all voting intentions, three in five (59%) or more Australians think that the outgoing RBA Governor should have to wait some period of time before being able to begin work at a private bank, including seven in ten Labor voters (69%) and seven in ten Greens voters (71%).
- One Nation voters (32%) and other voters (26%) were the most likely to think that the outgoing RBA Governor should be indefinitely prohibited from beginning work at a private bank, where Coalition voters (11%) were the least likely to think that the outgoing RBA Governor should be indefinitely prohibited from beginning work at a private bank.
- Across all voting intentions, fewer than one in five Australians (18%) think that the outgoing RBA Governor should be able to immediately begin work at a private bank.

Method

Between 1 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

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

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Philip Lowe, is ending his term in September this year. As RBA Governor, he had access to confidential information.

In your opinion, how long should the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia have to wait before being able to begin work at a private bank?

| | <i>Total</i> | <i>Labor</i> | <i>Coalition</i> | <i>Greens</i> | <i>PHON</i> | <i>Other</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| No time | 13% | 11% | 18% | 8% | 18% | 12% |
| 6 months | 12% | 11% | 15% | 17% | 7% | 3% |
| 12 months | 19% | 21% | 22% | 21% | 6% | 10% |
| 5 years | 17% | 16% | 19% | 12% | 14% | 26% |
| Indefinitely | 19% | 22% | 11% | 21% | 32% | 26% |
| Don't know / Not sure | 20% | 20% | 16% | 21% | 23% | 24% |

| | <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> |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| No time | 13% | 13% | 13% | 6% | 7% | 11% | 16% | 22% |
| 6 months | 12% | 14% | 10% | 22% | 19% | 8% | 5% | 5% |
| 12 months | 19% | 22% | 16% | 24% | 17% | 21% | 14% | 18% |
| 5 years | 17% | 19% | 15% | 16% | 15% | 20% | 21% | 15% |
| Indefinitely | 19% | 17% | 21% | 15% | 20% | 22% | 24% | 17% |
| Don't know / Not sure | 20% | 14% | 25% | 16% | 22% | 16% | 20% | 23% |

| | <i>Total</i> | <i>NSW</i> | <i>VIC</i> | <i>QLD</i> | <i>WA</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| No time | 13% | 14% | 10% | 16% | 14% |
| 6 months | 12% | 13% | 11% | 10% | 16% |
| 12 months | 19% | 20% | 18% | 19% | 19% |
| 5 years | 17% | 14% | 19% | 15% | 20% |
| Indefinitely | 19% | 18% | 19% | 22% | 15% |
| Don't know / Not sure | 20% | 21% | 23% | 19% | 16% |