

Polling - ABC Board

September 2023

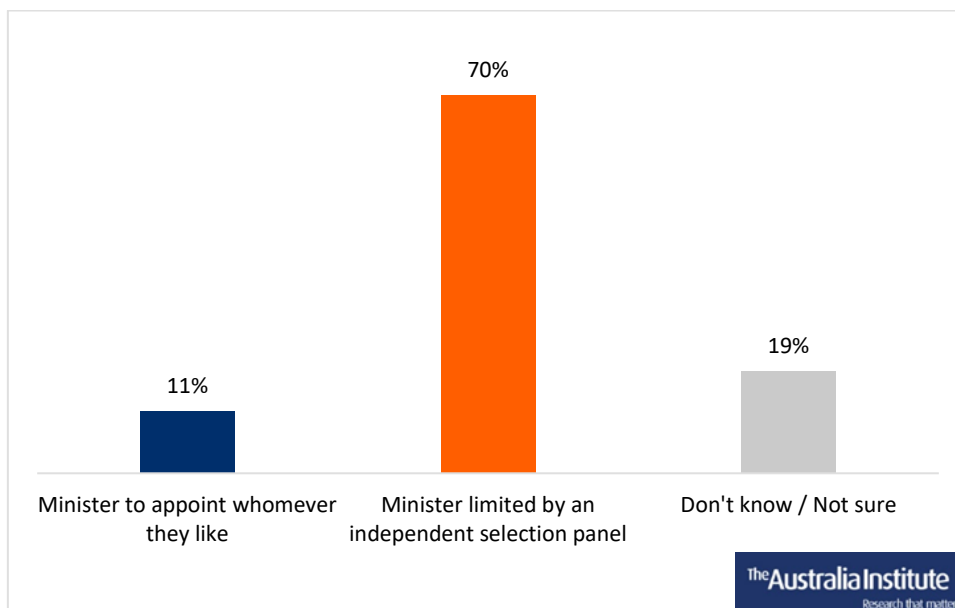
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a sample of 1,535 Australians about how the Communications Minister makes appointments to the ABC Board.

The results show that:

- Seven in 10 Australians (70%) would prefer the Communications Minister be limited to appointing candidates who have been shortlisted by an independent selection panel.
- Only one in 10 (11%) would prefer that the Communications Minister be able to appoint whomever they like.
- Across all voting intentions, two in three or more prefer that the Communications Minister be limited to appointing candidates who have been shortlisted by an independent selection panel (65–71%).

Figure 1: Preference for ABC Board appointments



Respondents were shown:

The ABC board is responsible for ensuring that the functions of the ABC are performed efficiently with maximum benefit to the people of Australia, and for maintaining the independence and integrity of the ABC.

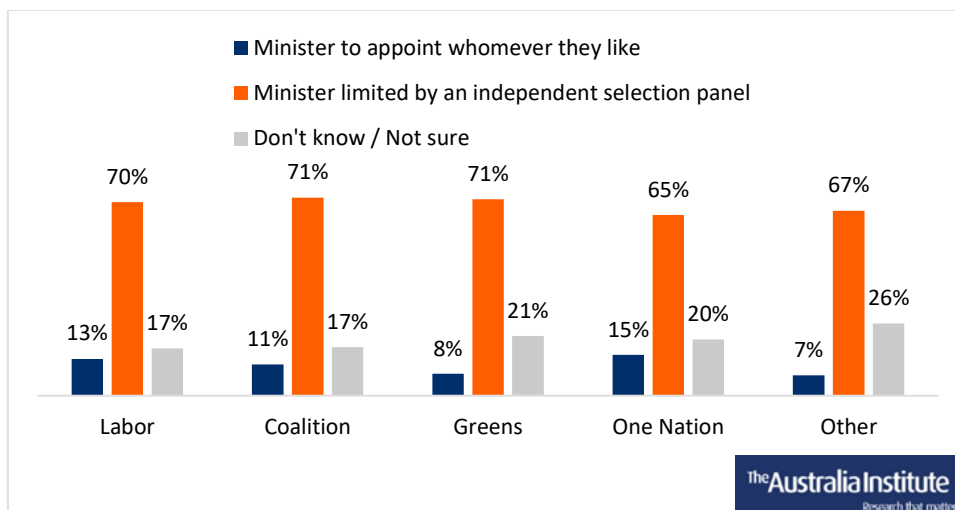
The Communications Minister is responsible for most appointments to the ABC Board.

They were then asked whether they thought the Communications Minister should be able to appoint whomever they like, or whether they should be limited to appointing candidates who have been shortlisted by an independent selection panel.

The results show that:

- Seven in 10 Australians (70%) would prefer the Communications Minister be limited to appointing candidates who have been shortlisted by an independent selection panel.
- Only one in 10 (11%) would prefer that the Communications Minister be able to appoint whomever they like.
- Across all voting intentions, two in three or more prefer that the Communications Minister be limited to appointing candidates who have been shortlisted by an independent selection panel (65–71%).
- Among all age groups, most prefer that the Communications Minister be limited to appointing candidates who have been shortlisted by an independent selection panel.
- There is little difference among those aged 18–59 (63–68% prefer the shortlist), but those aged sixty and older are particularly likely to prefer the shortlist (81%).

Figure 2: Preference for ABC Board appointments, by voting intention



Method

Between 29 August and 1 September 2023, The Australia Institute surveyed 1002 adults living in Australia, online through Dynata’s panel, with nationally representative samples by gender, age group and state/territory. A further 406 South Australians and 127 Queenslanders were 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 1138.

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.

Response options were presented in random order.

The ABC board is responsible for ensuring that the functions of the ABC are performed efficiently with maximum benefit to the people of Australia, and for maintaining the independence and integrity of the ABC.

The Communications Minister is responsible for most appointments to the ABC Board.

Which is closer to your preference?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
The Communications Minister should be able to appoint whomever they like	11%	13%	10%	13%	13%	8%	10%
The Communications Minister should be limited to appointing candidates who have been shortlisted by an independent selection panel	70%	73%	67%	70%	65%	74%	70%
Don't know / Not sure	19%	14%	23%	17%	22%	19%	20%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
The Communications Minister should be able to appoint whomever they like	11%	13%	11%	8%	15%	7%
The Communications Minister should be limited to appointing candidates who have been shortlisted by an independent selection panel	70%	70%	71%	71%	65%	67%
Don't know / Not sure	19%	17%	17%	21%	20%	26%

	<i>Total</i>	18—29	30—39	40—49	50—59	60+
The Communications Minister should be able to appoint whomever they like	11%	19%	13%	10%	8%	8%
The Communications Minister should be limited to appointing candidates who have been shortlisted by an independent selection panel	70%	63%	65%	68%	66%	81%
Don't know / Not sure	19%	18%	22%	22%	27%	11%