

Polling - Australian attitudes to ACT policies

May 2024

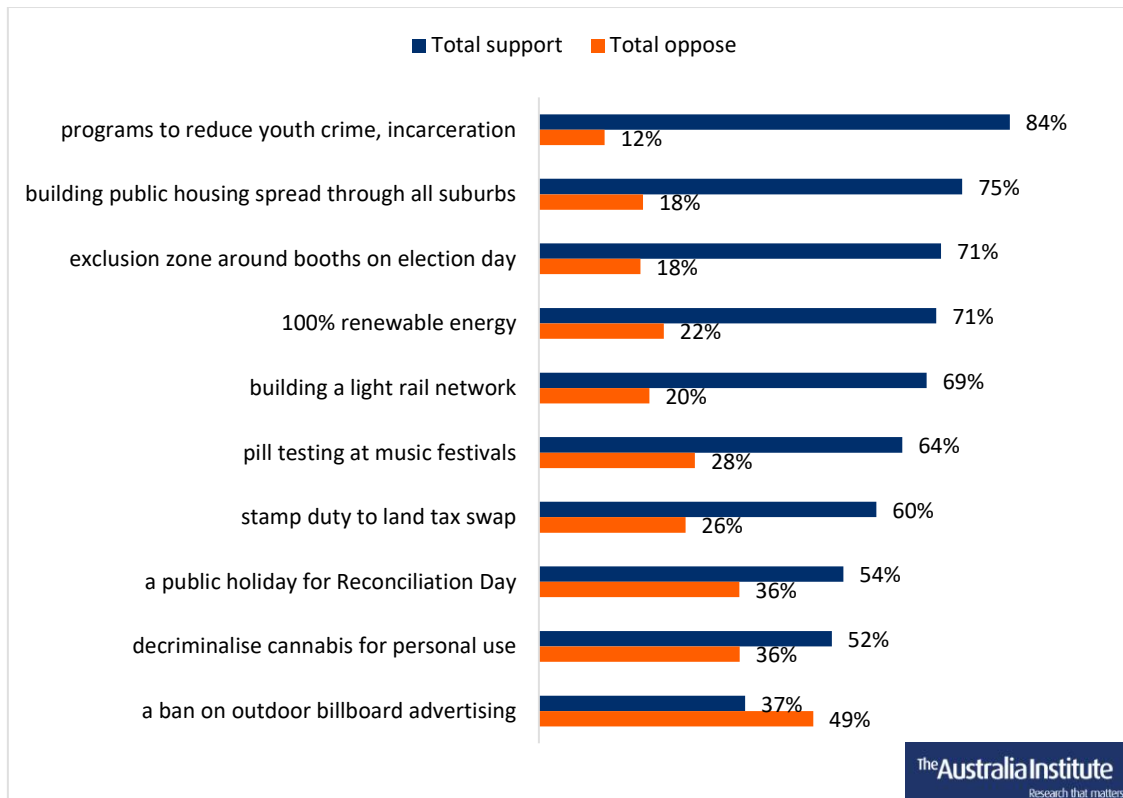
Key results

In 2019, the Australia Institute published *Canberra: Laboratory of democracy*, which described innovative, politically controversial policies from the Australian Capital Territory that were popular across the country.

In May 2024, the Australia Institute once again surveyed a nationally representative sample of Australians about whether they support, for their own state or territory, each of those 10 policies.

The results show that most of these policies have widespread support across Australia.

Figure 1: National support for ACT policies

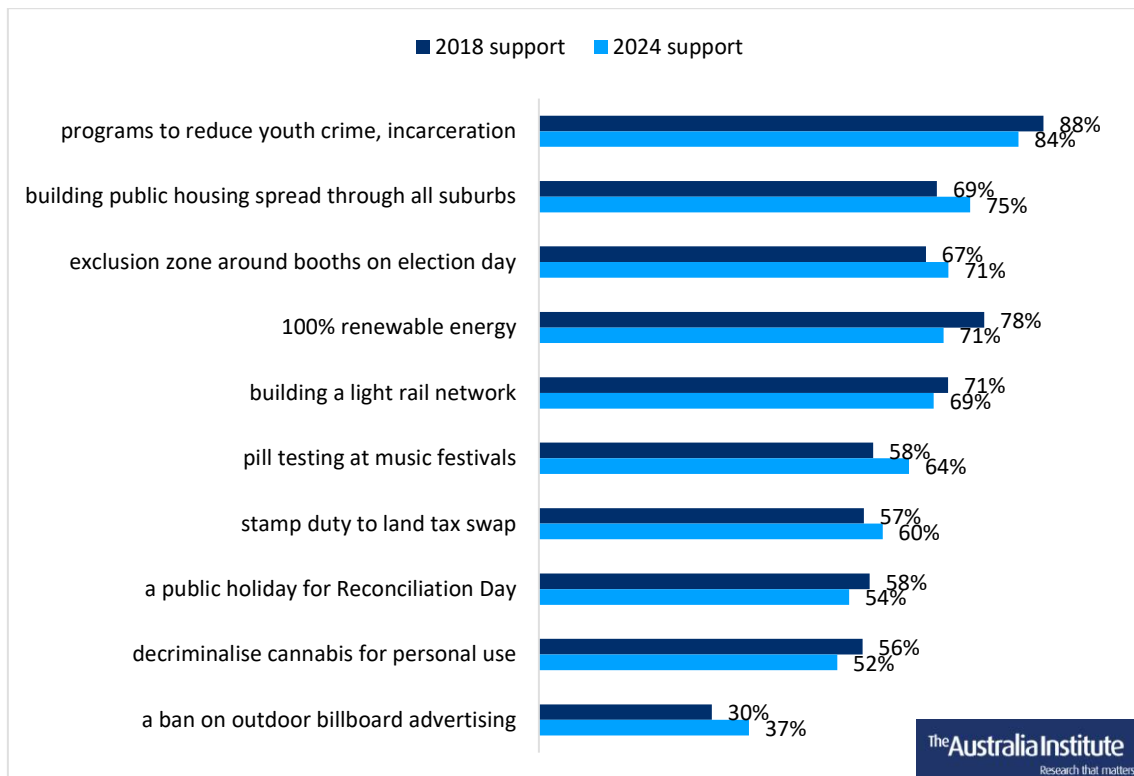


Nine of the 10 policies attracted majority support.

- Spending on **programs to reduce youth crime and incarceration** is the most popular ACT policy, supported by 84% of Australians.
- The practice of “**salt and peppering**” **public housing throughout suburbs**, including new developments, is supported by three in four Australians (75%).
- Seven in 10 Australians (71%) support an **exclusion zone around booths on election day** (where people cannot hand out electoral material).
- Seven in 10 Australians support **100% renewable energy** (71%), including most Labor (80%), Coalition (54%), Greens (91%) and Independent/Other (69%) voters.
- Two in three Australians (64%) support allowing people at music festivals to test the contents of recreational drugs for poisonous substances (**pill testing**). Support is similar across the large states, with 66% of WA, 64% of NSW and Queensland and 60% of Victorian residents in support.
- Three in five Australians (60%) support **removing stamp duty and replacing it with an annual tax based on property value**.
 - Support for a stamp duty for land tax swap is highest among those aged 18–29 (at 70%), but there is majority support even among those 60 and older (54%).
 - Across the four large states, a majority support a stamp duty for land tax swap (59% in NSW, 58% in Victoria, 56% in Queensland and 73% in WA).
- Over half of Australians (54%) support a **public holiday for Reconciliation Day** to share Indigenous cultures and history, and explore reconciliation in Australia.
 - A majority of NSW residents, Victorians and Queenslanders support a public holiday for Reconciliation Day (56%, 53% and 56% respectively).
 - Among the large states, only in WA are more opposed than supportive (48% vs 39%) of a public holiday for Reconciliation Day.
- Over half of Australians (52%) support **decriminalising cannabis for personal use**, compared to one in three (36%) who oppose.
- The ACT’s **ban on outdoor billboard advertising** is the only policy where more Australians were opposed than supportive (49% vs 37%).

The Australia Institute first asked Australians whether they supported or opposed innovative policies from the ACT in 2018. The results were described in more detail in *Canberra: Laboratory of democracy*.¹ There is little change in overall levels of support since 2018, and most changes on individual policies are within the sum of the margins of error of the two polls.

Figure 2: National support for ACT policies



¹ Browne (2019) *Canberra: Laboratory of democracy*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/canberra-laboratory-of-democracy/>

Method

Short disclosure statement

Panel provider	Dynata
Research company	The Australia Institute
Client commissioning the research	NA
Fieldwork dates	21 May 2024 to 23 May 2024
Mode of data collection	Online recruited from research panel
Target population	Australian adults aged 18+
Sample size	1,005
Australian Polling Council compliant	Yes
Voting intention published	No
Long disclosure statement	See below

Long disclosure statement

Effective sample size after weighting applied	935
Margin of error associated with effective sample size	±3%
Variables used in weighting	Age, gender, state/territory based on Australian Bureau of Statistics “National, state and territory population” data
Gender identity categorisation	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
Weighting method used	Raking method
Full question text, responses categories and randomisation	See below
Source of online sample	Dynata’s online panel
Positioning of voting intention questions in questionnaire	Immediately after demographics, before policy questions
How were undecided voters handled?	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
Method of calculating 2PP	NA
Voting intention categorisation	Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the House of Representatives. “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
Location results	Results are shown only for larger states



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Detailed results

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

To what extent would you support or oppose the following policies in your own state or territory?

The 11 policy issues were presented in random order.

removing the tax on buying and selling houses (stamp duty) and replacing it with a progressive rates system (annual tax based on property value)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	26%	24%	28%	27%	23%	26%	31%
Support	33%	34%	33%	32%	35%	30%	42%
Oppose	14%	17%	12%	15%	14%	16%	7%
Strongly oppose	12%	14%	10%	14%	12%	13%	7%
Don't know / not sure	14%	11%	17%	12%	16%	15%	13%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	26%	24%	26%	31%	35%	24%
Support	33%	38%	31%	35%	25%	28%
Oppose	14%	12%	18%	9%	17%	15%
Strongly oppose	12%	11%	13%	9%	14%	15%
Don't know / not sure	14%	15%	11%	16%	9%	19%

100% renewable energy

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	36%	33%	38%	35%	33%	36%	41%
Support	35%	35%	35%	35%	33%	33%	35%
Oppose	12%	14%	11%	12%	15%	14%	8%
Strongly oppose	10%	13%	7%	12%	10%	12%	5%
Don't know / not sure	7%	4%	10%	6%	9%	5%	11%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	36%	42%	22%	62%	16%	27%
Support	35%	38%	33%	29%	30%	42%
Oppose	12%	8%	19%	6%	14%	15%
Strongly oppose	10%	4%	19%	1%	27%	5%
Don't know / not sure	7%	7%	8%	2%	13%	10%

spending on programs to reduce youth crime and incarceration

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	41%	38%	43%	36%	42%	47%	37%
Support	43%	42%	43%	47%	39%	36%	46%
Oppose	8%	11%	6%	10%	9%	8%	6%
Strongly oppose	3%	5%	2%	2%	4%	5%	4%
Don't know / not sure	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	3%	7%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	41%	43%	37%	42%	53%	38%
Support	43%	45%	45%	39%	29%	41%
Oppose	8%	5%	10%	11%	6%	12%
Strongly oppose	3%	2%	4%	4%	7%	3%
Don't know / not sure	5%	5%	3%	5%	5%	7%

a ban on outdoor billboard advertising

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	13%	14%	13%	14%	11%	14%	15%
Support	23%	25%	22%	19%	25%	25%	24%
Oppose	34%	34%	34%	36%	34%	36%	33%
Strongly oppose	15%	16%	13%	15%	16%	15%	13%
Don't know / not sure	15%	11%	18%	16%	15%	11%	14%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	13%	15%	11%	13%	21%	10%
Support	23%	22%	23%	27%	18%	26%
Oppose	34%	34%	36%	31%	30%	36%
Strongly oppose	15%	12%	18%	14%	19%	12%
Don't know / not sure	15%	17%	12%	16%	11%	16%

allowing people at music festivals to test the contents of recreational drugs for poisonous substances

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	32%	31%	33%	31%	29%	33%	38%
Support	32%	32%	32%	33%	31%	31%	28%
Oppose	12%	14%	11%	13%	14%	12%	13%
Strongly oppose	16%	16%	15%	15%	16%	18%	13%
Don't know / not sure	8%	6%	9%	8%	9%	6%	8%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	32%	34%	22%	46%	36%	33%
Support	32%	33%	35%	27%	27%	32%
Oppose	12%	11%	15%	10%	13%	10%
Strongly oppose	16%	13%	23%	10%	16%	13%
Don't know / not sure	8%	10%	5%	7%	7%	11%

building public housing so it is spread out throughout all suburbs including new developments

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	37%	36%	37%	37%	32%	42%	34%
Support	38%	39%	38%	40%	39%	33%	37%
Oppose	12%	13%	11%	11%	14%	13%	13%
Strongly oppose	6%	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%	6%
Don't know / not sure	6%	4%	8%	6%	7%	5%	10%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	37%	39%	28%	49%	43%	32%
Support	38%	39%	42%	36%	22%	36%
Oppose	12%	12%	14%	6%	13%	15%
Strongly oppose	6%	4%	8%	5%	13%	7%
Don't know / not sure	6%	5%	7%	4%	8%	11%

decriminalise cannabis for personal use

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	24%	25%	23%	21%	20%	33%	25%
Support	28%	29%	27%	28%	32%	20%	22%
Oppose	18%	20%	17%	22%	15%	20%	18%
Strongly oppose	17%	17%	18%	17%	18%	18%	19%
Don't know / not sure	12%	10%	15%	11%	15%	10%	17%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	24%	23%	14%	41%	38%	19%
Support	28%	30%	29%	25%	18%	30%
Oppose	18%	18%	22%	13%	15%	18%
Strongly oppose	17%	15%	23%	10%	18%	18%
Don't know / not sure	12%	14%	11%	11%	10%	16%

legalising and regulating assisted dying for terminally ill²

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	38%	36%	41%	37%	34%	42%	41%
Support	36%	37%	35%	37%	40%	29%	33%
Oppose	9%	10%	9%	9%	10%	11%	8%
Strongly oppose	8%	9%	7%	8%	7%	9%	8%
Don't know / not sure	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%	8%	11%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	38%	39%	35%	40%	53%	35%
Support	36%	38%	38%	36%	17%	34%
Oppose	9%	7%	13%	9%	9%	7%
Strongly oppose	8%	6%	9%	7%	13%	6%
Don't know / not sure	9%	9%	6%	8%	9%	18%

exclusion zone around polling booths on election day, where people cannot hand out electoral material

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	37%	39%	35%	35%	34%	40%	36%
Support	35%	36%	34%	37%	35%	34%	32%
Oppose	13%	13%	14%	13%	15%	10%	18%
Strongly oppose	5%	6%	4%	4%	5%	6%	3%
Don't know / not sure	11%	6%	14%	11%	11%	10%	11%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	37%	36%	36%	40%	41%	34%
Support	35%	35%	39%	29%	28%	35%
Oppose	13%	15%	12%	13%	9%	14%
Strongly oppose	5%	4%	6%	5%	7%	3%
Don't know / not sure	11%	11%	7%	13%	15%	14%

² This policy issue was included in 2018, and to keep the question consistent it was left in for the 2024 poll. However, since 2018 it is the states that have led on voluntary assisted dying and the ACT does not (yet) have such laws.

a public holiday for “Reconciliation Day” to share Indigenous cultures and history, and explore reconciliation in Australia

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	23%	20%	26%	24%	20%	26%	18%
Support	31%	31%	31%	32%	33%	29%	21%
Oppose	15%	16%	13%	13%	16%	15%	20%
Strongly oppose	21%	24%	18%	20%	19%	23%	28%
Don’t know / not sure	10%	9%	12%	11%	12%	6%	13%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	23%	24%	15%	42%	21%	18%
Support	31%	39%	23%	38%	9%	29%
Oppose	15%	14%	18%	8%	16%	17%
Strongly oppose	21%	14%	34%	5%	39%	20%
Don’t know / not sure	10%	10%	10%	6%	14%	16%

building a light rail network

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly support	23%	25%	21%	21%	23%	23%	28%
Support	46%	46%	46%	45%	48%	42%	44%
Oppose	13%	15%	12%	17%	11%	16%	8%
Strongly oppose	6%	7%	6%	8%	5%	7%	8%
Don’t know / not sure	12%	8%	15%	10%	13%	12%	12%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	23%	24%	20%	28%	24%	21%
Support	46%	48%	47%	44%	40%	42%
Oppose	13%	9%	14%	12%	18%	21%
Strongly oppose	6%	5%	9%	6%	7%	5%
Don’t know / not sure	12%	15%	9%	10%	11%	11%