

Polling - Gun Control

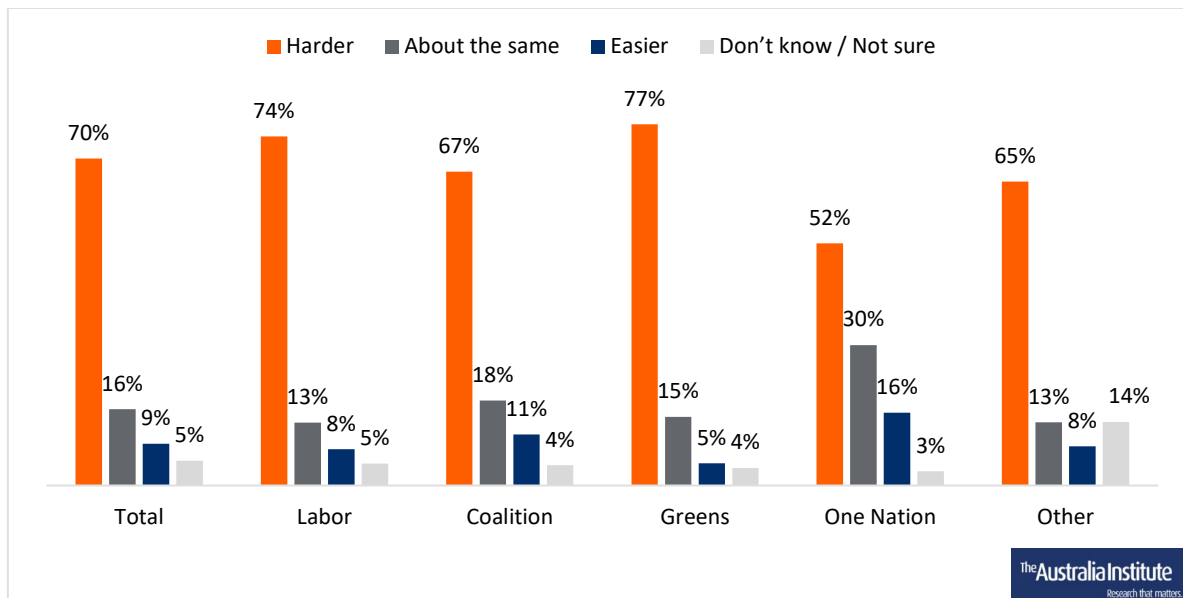
January 2025

Key results

The Australia Institute conducted a nationally representative survey of 1,010 Australians about views on gun laws between 17 and 19 September 2024. The results show that the vast majority of Australians support stricter firearm regulations.

- Seven in ten Australians (70%) think gun laws should make it harder to access a gun. A majority of voters for all political parties and candidates think gun laws should make it harder to access a gun.
- Three in five Australians (59%) think donations from the gun lobby to politicians and parties should be banned.
- Most Australians (64%) think Australia’s gun laws should be strengthened, including most Australians (65%) living in regional areas. Only one in four Australians (25%) think Australia’s gun laws should be kept the same, and only one in 16 (6%) think they should be wound back.

Figure 1: Australia’s gun laws should make it harder to buy to a gun, by voting intention



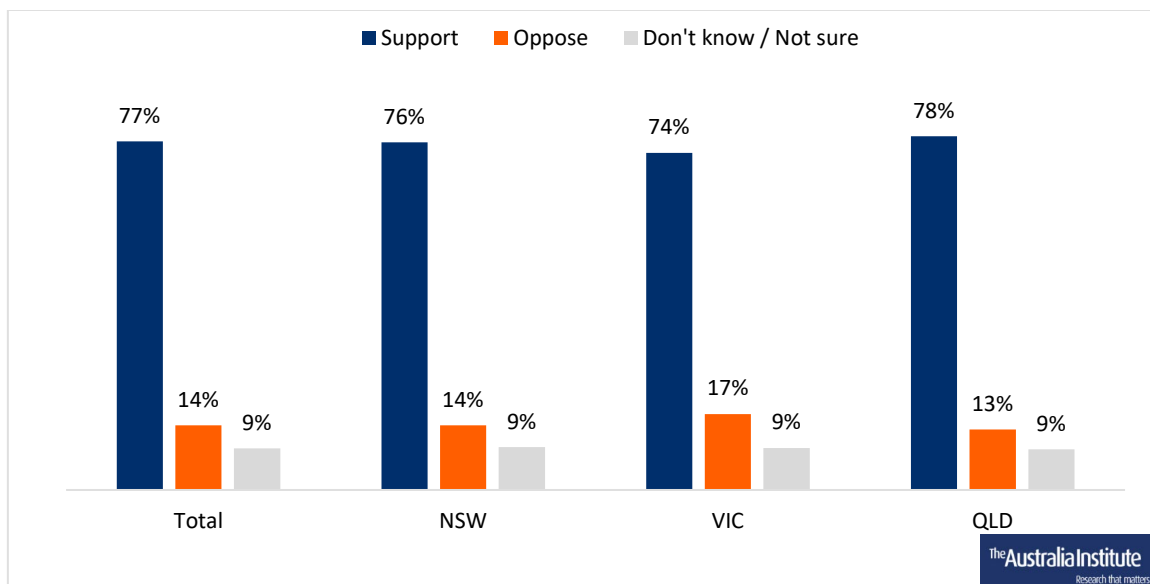
Respondents living in all states and territories outside of Western Australia were told:

These questions are about gun laws in Australia. In June 2024, the Western Australian Government limited the number of firearms an individual can possess to a maximum of 10.

They were then asked if they support or oppose a similar policy being introduced in their state or territory.

- Three in four Australians living outside WA (77%) support the introduction of a policy limiting the number of firearms an individual can possess to a maximum of 10.
- Three in four Australians living in Queensland (78%), NSW (76%) and Victoria (74%) support such a policy.
- There is a similar level of support for such a policy in metro areas (75%) and regional areas (77%) in states and territories excluding WA.

Figure 2: Support for firearms limits to 10 per individual 2024 (by state, excluding WA)



Respondents living in WA were told:

These questions are about gun laws in Australia. In June 2024, the Western Australian Government limited the number of firearms an individual can possess to a maximum of 10.

They were then asked if they support or oppose this policy.

- Almost four in five Western Australians (78%) support this policy, with half (52%) strongly supporting it.
- Only one in 10 (12%) Western Australians oppose this policy.

Respondents in all states and territories were told:

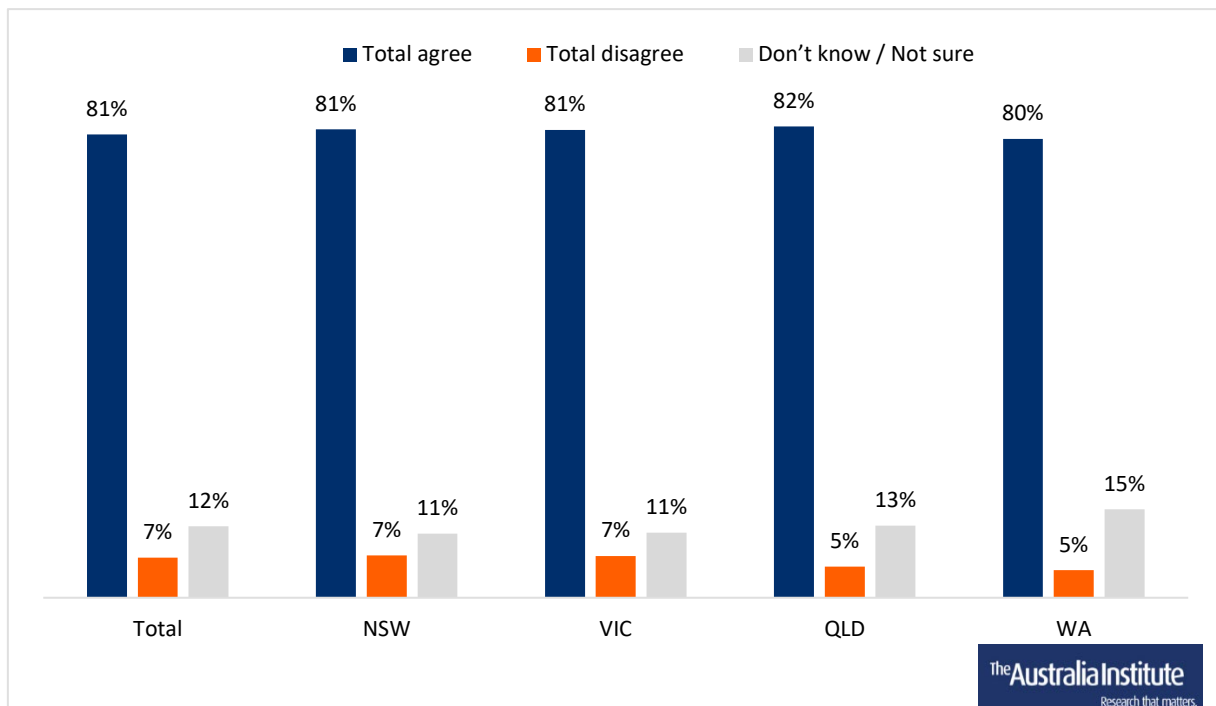
In NSW, the police force disclose detailed data about registered firearm ownership, including the number of firearms in each postcode.

They were then asked if they agree or disagree with the following statement:

“Police forces in every state and territory should disclose the same firearm information that NSW Police disclose.”

- Four in five (81%) Australians agree that police forces in every state and territory should disclose the same firearm information as that disclosed by NSW Police.
- Four in five Australians living in Queensland (82%), NSW (81%), Victoria (81%), and WA (80%) agree that police forces in every state and territory should disclose the same firearm information that NSW Police disclose.
- Four in five Labor (84%), Coalition (82%) and Greens (82%) voters, two in three One Nation (67%), and seven in 10 Independent/Other (71%) voters agree that police forces in every state and territory should disclose the same firearm information that NSW Police disclose.

Figure 3: Police forces should disclose more firearm information, by state



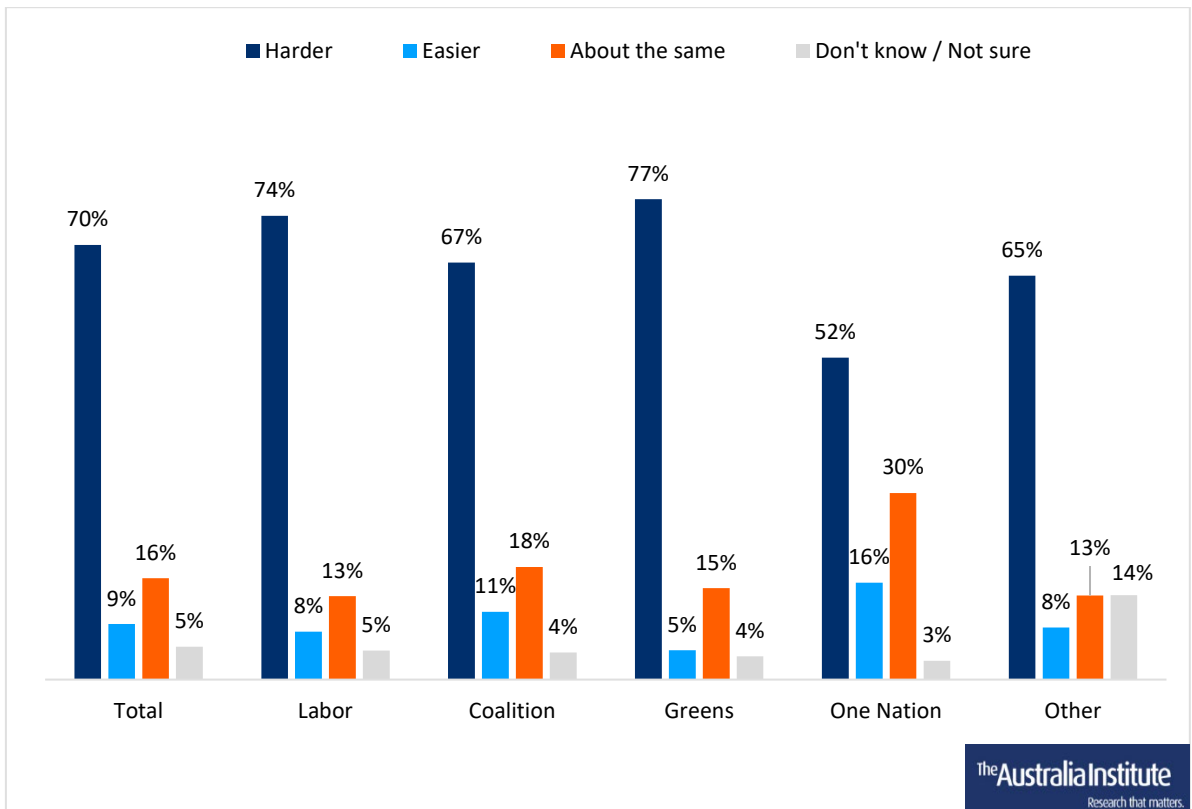
Respondents were asked if they thought Australia’s gun laws should be strengthened, kept the same, or wound back. Strengthening gun laws has broad support across all voting intentions.

- Three in four Labor and Greens voters (both 74%), two in three Coalition (67%) and Independent/Other voters (65%), and half of One Nation voters (52%) think Australia’s gun laws should be strengthened.

Respondents were asked whether Australia’s gun laws should make it easier or harder to get legal access to a gun in Australia.

- Seven in ten Australians (70%) think gun laws should make it harder to access a gun.
- A majority of voters for all political parties and candidates think gun laws should make it harder to access a gun, including three in four Greens voters (77%), Labor voters (74%), and two in three Coalition voters (67%).

Figure 4: Do you think Australia’s gun laws should make it easier or harder to get legal access to a gun in Australia, by voting intention



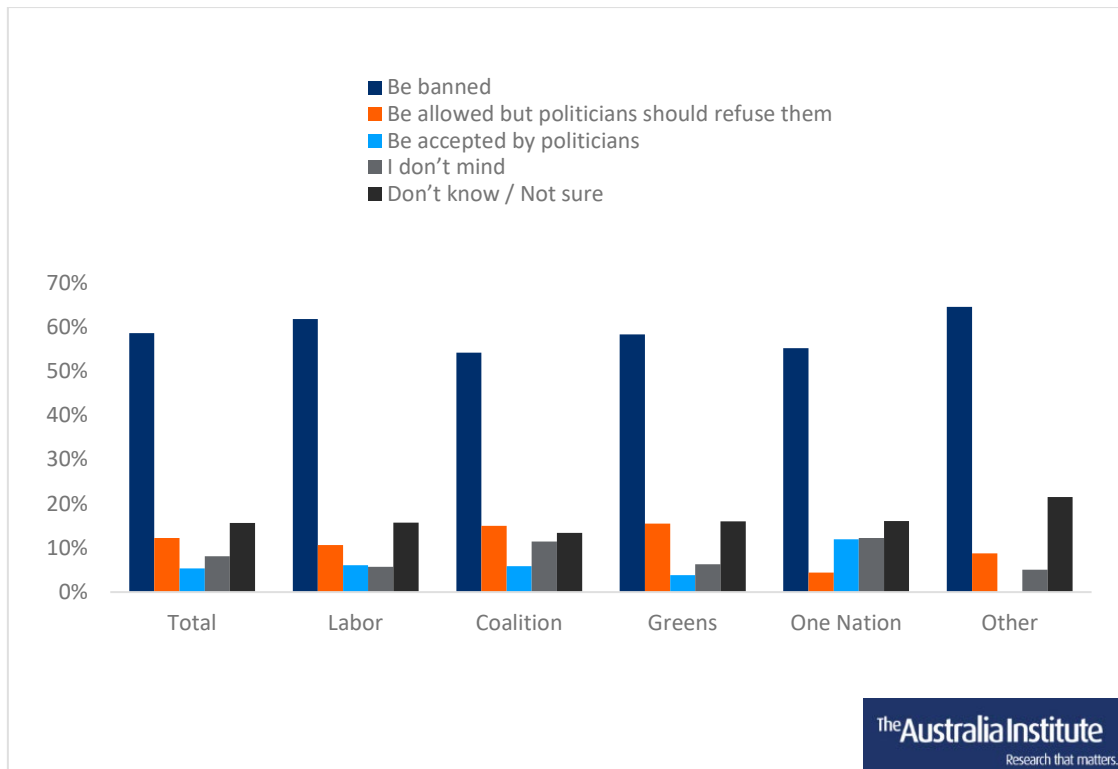
Respondents were told:

The gun lobby in Australia makes political donations to politicians and parties.

They were then asked whether they think political donations from the gun lobby should be banned, should be allowed but politicians should refuse them, should be accepted by politicians, or if they don't mind.

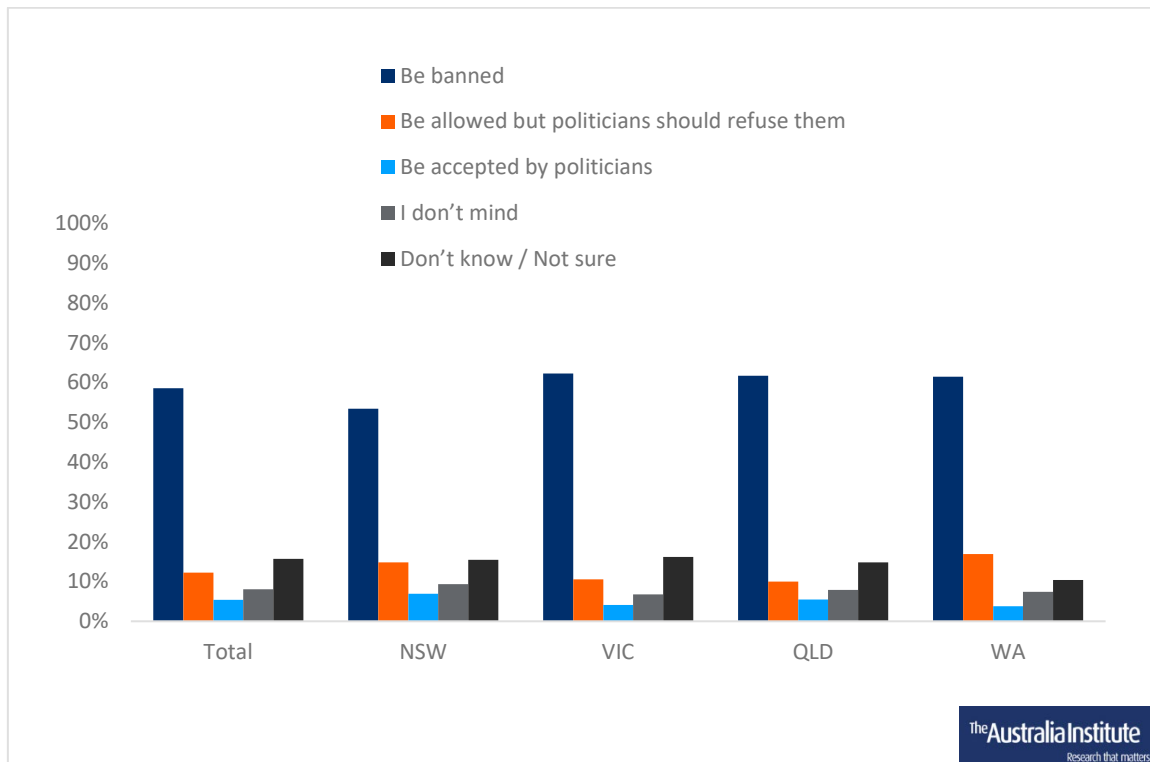
- Most Australians (59%) think political donations from the gun lobby to politicians and parties should be banned.
- More than half of Australians of all voting intentions think political donations from the gun lobby should be banned, including 62% of Labor voters, 58% of Greens voters, 55% of One Nation voters, and 54% of Coalition voters.

Figure 5: Gun lobby political donations should ..., 2024, by voting intention



- Over half of Australians in all states and territories think political donations from the gun lobby should be banned, including 62% of Western Australians, Queenslanders and Victorians, and 53% of NSW residents.

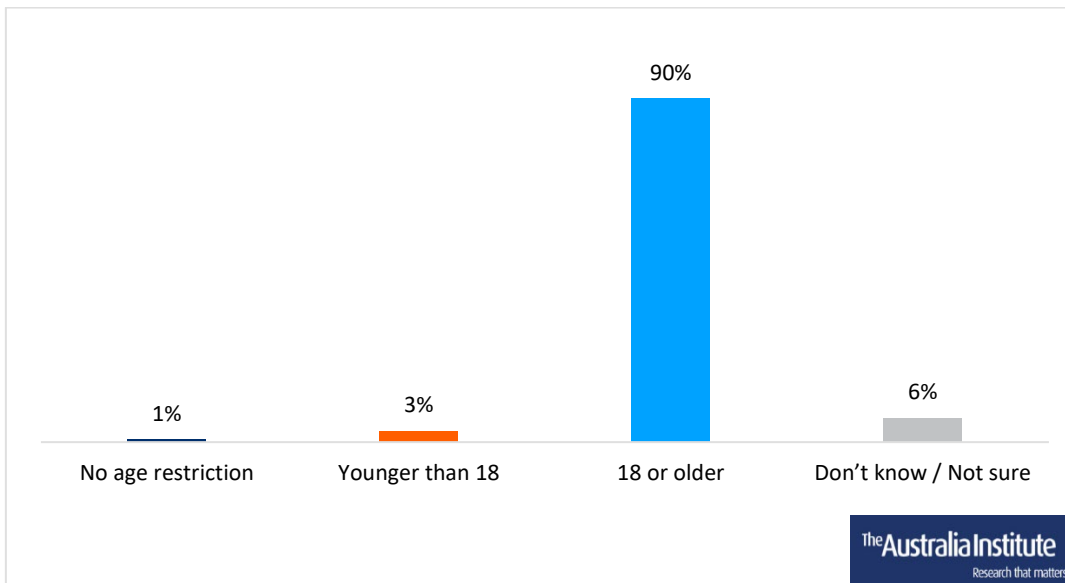
Figure 6: Gun lobby political donations should ..., 2024, by state and territory



Respondents were asked about the age at which a person should be able to acquire a firearms licence.

- Nine in ten Australians (90%) think that a person should only be able to acquire a firearms licence at the age of 18 or older.
- This includes four in ten Australians (40%) who think that a person should only be able to acquire a firearms licence when they are older than 25.
- Less than one in thirty (3%) Australians think that a person should be able to acquire a firearms licence when they are younger than 18.

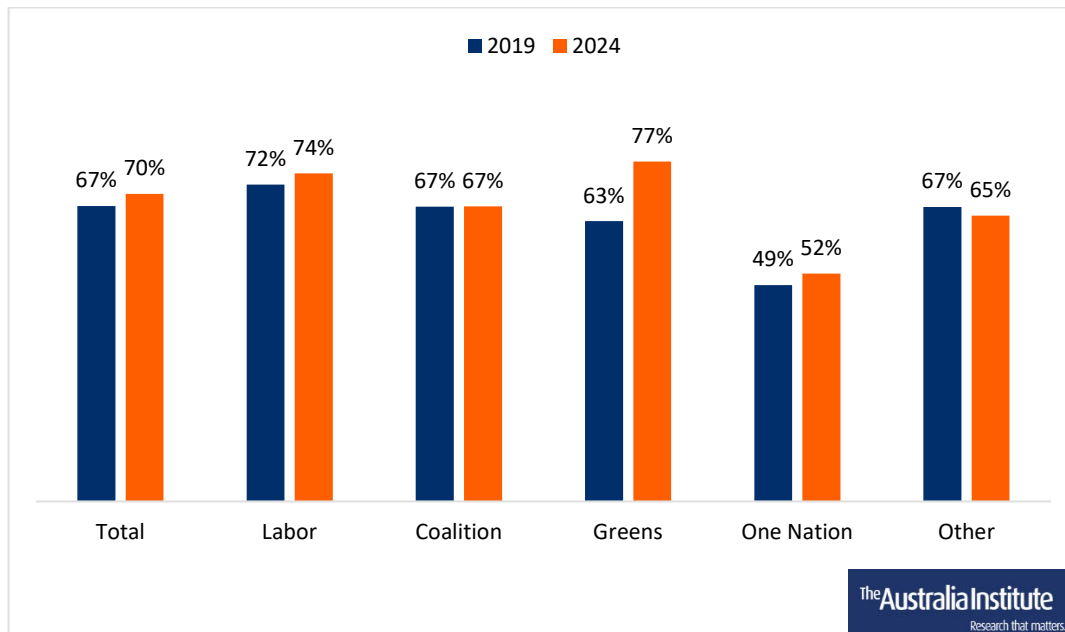
Figure 7: At what age should a person be able to acquire a firearms licence?



The Australia Institute also conducted a nationally representative survey in 2019, surveying 1,426 Australians about views on gun laws in Australia.

- In 2019, two in three (67%) Australians thought gun laws should make it harder to access a gun, about as many who thought the same in 2024 (70%).
- In both 2019 and 2024, three in five Australians (59%) thought donations from the gun lobby to politicians and parties should be banned.
- In 2024, support for stricter gun laws was the same or higher across all voting intentions compared with the 2019 poll, except for a slight decrease among Other/Independent voters.

Figure 8: Laws should make it harder to buy a gun, 2019 and 2024, by voting intention



Method 2024

Short disclosure statement

Panel provider	Dynata
Research company	The Australia Institute
Client commissioning the research	Gun Control Australia
Fieldwork dates	17 September 2024 to 19 September 2024
Mode of data collection	Online recruited from research panel
Target population	Australian adults aged 18+
Sample size	1,010
Australian Polling Council compliant	Yes
Voting intention published	No
Long disclosure statement	See below

Long disclosure statement

Effective sample size after weighting applied	1,000
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



**Australian
Polling Council
Quality Mark**

Detailed results 2024

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

These questions are about gun laws in Australia.

In June 2024, the Western Australian Government limited the number of firearms an individual can possess to a maximum of 10.

To what extent would you support or oppose a similar policy being introduced in your state or territory?

This question was only asked of Australians living outside Western Australia.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>
Strongly support	52%	50%	54%	49%	49%	57%
Support	25%	29%	20%	27%	25%	21%
Oppose	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%
Strongly oppose	8%	8%	8%	8%	10%	7%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	6%	12%	9%	9%	9%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	52%	52%	53%	59%	40%	46%
Support	25%	25%	25%	21%	26%	25%
Oppose	6%	3%	9%	4%	14%	5%
Strongly oppose	8%	8%	7%	6%	14%	10%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	11%	6%	10%	5%	15%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Strongly support	52%	33%	48%	50%	56%	67%
Support	25%	39%	24%	25%	21%	16%
Oppose	6%	12%	5%	7%	7%	2%
Strongly oppose	8%	6%	9%	5%	9%	10%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	10%	14%	12%	7%	5%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Metro</i>	<i>Regional</i>
Strongly support	52%	51%	55%
Support	25%	26%	21%
Oppose	6%	6%	8%
Strongly oppose	8%	8%	8%
Don't know / Not sure	9%	9%	9%

These questions are about gun laws in Australia.

In June 2024, the Western Australian Government limited the number of firearms an individual can possess to a maximum of 10.

To what extent do you support or oppose this policy?

This question was only asked of Australians living in Western Australia.

	<i>Total</i>
Strongly support	52%
Support	26%
Oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	5%
Don't know / Not sure	10%

In NSW, the police force disclose detailed data about registered firearm ownership, including the number of firearms in each postcode.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

“Police forces in every state and territory should disclose the same firearm information that NSW Police disclose.”

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Strongly agree	47%	47%	47%	47%	43%	53%	45%
Agree	34%	34%	33%	35%	38%	29%	35%
Disagree	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Strongly disagree	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	1%	0%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	11%	14%	11%	11%	13%	15%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly agree	47%	48%	46%	54%	43%	40%
Agree	34%	35%	37%	29%	24%	31%
Disagree	5%	4%	5%	6%	9%	2%
Strongly disagree	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	6%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	12%	10%	9%	21%	21%

	Total	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Strongly agree	47%	30%	44%	47%	51%	58%
Agree	34%	46%	38%	28%	33%	25%
Disagree	5%	8%	5%	6%	2%	3%
Strongly disagree	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	1%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	11%	10%	16%	11%	13%

	Total	Metro	Regional
Strongly agree	47%	45%	51%
Agree	34%	36%	28%
Disagree	5%	4%	6%
Strongly disagree	2%	2%	2%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	13%	12%

Australia's gun laws should be

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA
Strengthened	64%	66%	63%	62%	66%	65%	70%
Kept the same	25%	25%	26%	27%	24%	26%	20%
Wound back	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	6%	6%
Don't know / Not sure	4%	3%	5%	5%	4%	3%	5%

	Total	Labor	Coalition	Greens	One Nation	Other
Strengthened	64%	69%	69%	59%	45%	57%
Kept the same	25%	22%	25%	33%	30%	24%
Wound back	6%	6%	4%	4%	22%	8%
Don't know / Not sure	4%	4%	2%	4%	3%	12%

	Total	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Strengthened	64%	48%	63%	54%	72%	78%
Kept the same	25%	37%	25%	36%	19%	15%
Wound back	6%	9%	5%	5%	7%	5%
Don't know / Not sure	4%	6%	6%	5%	2%	3%

	Total	Metro	Regional
Strengthened	64%	64%	65%
Kept the same	25%	25%	27%
Wound back	6%	6%	6%
Don't know / Not sure	4%	5%	3%

Do you think Australia's gun laws should make it easier or harder to get legal access to a gun in Australia?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
Harder	70%	65%	74%	66%	72%	71%	74%
Easier	9%	12%	5%	11%	9%	6%	6%
About the same	16%	18%	14%	17%	15%	18%	13%
Don't know / Not sure	5%	4%	6%	6%	4%	5%	7%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Harder	70%	74%	67%	77%	52%	65%
Easier	9%	8%	11%	5%	16%	8%
About the same	16%	13%	18%	15%	30%	13%
Don't know / Not sure	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%	14%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
Harder	70%	60%	65%	70%	76%	76%
Easier	9%	19%	11%	6%	5%	4%
About the same	16%	17%	17%	18%	15%	15%
Don't know / Not sure	5%	3%	7%	6%	4%	6%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Metro</i>	<i>Regional</i>
Harder	70%	69%	70%
Easier	9%	10%	7%
About the same	16%	15%	19%
Don't know / Not sure	5%	6%	4%

The gun lobby in Australia makes political donations to politicians and parties.

Which statement best matches your view?

Political donations from the gun lobby to politicians and parties should

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
be banned	59%	56%	62%	53%	62%	62%	62%
be allowed but politicians should refuse them	12%	16%	9%	15%	11%	10%	17%
be accepted by politicians	5%	8%	3%	7%	4%	5%	4%
I don't mind	8%	10%	6%	9%	7%	8%	7%
Don't know / Not sure	16%	10%	21%	15%	16%	15%	10%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
be banned	59%	62%	54%	58%	55%	65%
be allowed but politicians should refuse them	12%	11%	15%	15%	4%	9%
be accepted by politicians	5%	6%	6%	4%	12%	0%
I don't mind	8%	6%	11%	6%	12%	5%
Don't know / Not sure	16%	16%	13%	16%	16%	22%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
be banned	59%	43%	50%	56%	71%	71%
be allowed but politicians should refuse them	12%	20%	17%	9%	7%	8%
be accepted by politicians	5%	13%	4%	4%	4%	3%
I don't mind	8%	7%	9%	9%	7%	9%
Don't know / Not sure	16%	18%	20%	23%	11%	10%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Metro</i>	<i>Regional</i>
be banned	59%	60%	56%
be allowed but politicians should refuse them	12%	12%	13%
be accepted by politicians	5%	6%	4%
I don't mind	8%	8%	9%
Don't know / Not sure	16%	15%	18%

At what age should a person be able to acquire a firearms licence?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
No age restriction	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%
Younger than 12	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
16	2%	4%	1%	2%	2%	4%	2%
18	15%	21%	10%	12%	15%	14%	18%
21	22%	27%	17%	20%	21%	27%	16%
25	14%	15%	14%	15%	13%	17%	15%
Older than 25	39%	28%	49%	43%	38%	32%	42%
Don't know / Not sure	6%	4%	8%	6%	8%	5%	7%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
No age restriction	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	2%
Younger than 12	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
12	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%
16	2%	1%	4%	2%	5%	0%
18	15%	16%	17%	11%	9%	17%
21	22%	18%	25%	23%	25%	20%
25	14%	14%	14%	16%	18%	11%
Older than 25	39%	42%	33%	43%	33%	43%
Don't know / Not sure	6%	8%	5%	5%	4%	9%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-29</i>	<i>30-39</i>	<i>40-49</i>	<i>50-59</i>	<i>60+</i>
No age restriction	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Younger than 12	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
16	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%
18	15%	14%	12%	15%	14%	19%
21	22%	23%	12%	20%	25%	27%
25	14%	19%	17%	12%	11%	12%
Older than 25	39%	32%	48%	40%	42%	34%
Don't know / Not sure	6%	6%	7%	9%	6%	4%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Metro</i>	<i>Regional</i>
No age restriction	1%	1%	1%
Younger than 12	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	1%
16	2%	1%	5%
18	15%	15%	16%
21	22%	21%	23%
25	14%	13%	18%
Older than 25	39%	41%	32%
Don't know / Not sure	6%	7%	5%

Method 2019

The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1,426 people between 11 and 18 April 2019, online through Dynata (formerly Research Now) with nationally representative samples by gender, age, state and territory, and household income.

Results are shown only for larger states.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the lower house. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs, but results are also shown separately for undecideds. “LNP” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” includes Centre Alliance, United Australia Party and Independent/Other.

Detailed results 2019

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

These questions are about gun laws in Australia.

Should Australia's gun laws should be...

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA
Strengthened	56%	49%	62%	56%	53%	56%	61%
Kept the same	33%	37%	29%	32%	37%	32%	29%
Wound back	7%	10%	5%	8%	6%	8%	7%
Don't know / Not sure	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%

	<i>Total</i>	Labor	Coalition	Greens	One Nation	Other
Strengthened	56%	61%	55%	60%	32%	53%
Kept the same	33%	31%	34%	32%	46%	30%
Wound back	7%	5%	8%	5%	17%	8%
Don't know / Not sure	4%	3%	3%	3%	5%	9%

Do you think Australia's gun laws should make it easier or harder to get legal access to a gun in Australia?

	<i>Total</i>	Male	Female	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA
Harder	67%	59%	75%	66%	65%	66%	75%
Easier	9%	12%	7%	9%	11%	9%	7%
About the same	19%	24%	14%	20%	17%	21%	16%
Don't know / Not sure	4%	5%	4%	4%	7%	3%	1%

	<i>Total</i>	Labor	Coalition	Greens	One Nation	Other
Harder	67%	72%	67%	63%	49%	67%
Easier	9%	10%	8%	14%	15%	6%
About the same	19%	14%	22%	22%	29%	19%
Don't know / Not sure	4%	4%	4%	1%	7%	8%

The gun lobby in Australia makes political donations to politicians and parties.

Which statement best matches your view?

Political donations from the gun lobby to politicians and parties should

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>WA</i>
be banned	59%	54%	65%	61%	57%	58%	60%
be allowed but politicians should refuse them	14%	16%	11%	14%	13%	12%	14%
be accepted by politicians	5%	7%	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%
I don't mind	10%	12%	7%	8%	12%	12%	10%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	11%	13%	12%	12%	13%	11%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
be banned	59%	64%	56%	69%	43%	60%
be allowed but politicians should refuse them	14%	16%	14%	13%	11%	9%
be accepted by politicians	5%	4%	6%	5%	7%	4%
I don't mind	10%	7%	11%	6%	21%	11%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	10%	13%	7%	18%	16%