



**Australian
Polling Council
Quality Mark**

YouGov®

Ground Floor, 2-14 Mountain Street
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FINAL RESULTS

When interpreting this document, please consider the following items:

- *For small sample ($n < 50$) – interpret with caution*
- *All figures have been weighted to be representative of Australian voters (the target population).*
- *All results are based on percentages and have been rounded to 0 decimal places*
- *For the banner “2025 federal vote” all party names have been abbreviated as follows:*
 - *ALP – Labor*
 - *COA – Liberal / National Coalition*
 - *GRE – Greens*
 - *ON – Pauline Hanson’s One Nation*
 - *IND – Independent*
 - *Other – Other parties*

Methodology:

YouGov conducted a national survey of 1,535 voters on behalf of The Australia Institute between 6 and 11 June 2025, using an online survey polling methodology. Full details are provided in the methodology statement. The poll is compliant with the Australian Polling Council’s requirements.

The Long Disclosure Statement can be found here: [Australian Polling Council Long Methodology Disclosure Statements - The Australia Institute](#)



Question

In your view, how many years should a full-time worker on an average income pay HECs/HELP for a standard three-year degree? (single select)

Key findings – Just under half (47%) of Australian voters believe the HECs/HELP debt for a standard three-year degree should be able to be paid off within 5 years by a full-time worker on average income.

Just under 1 in 5 (18%) believe a standard three-year degree should be free of HECs/HELP debt on completion. People aged between 18-24 (39%), Greens voters (37%) and Victorians (25%) feel strongest that a standard three-year degree should be free of HECS/HELP debt on completion.

Column %	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
NET 5 years or less	47	43	51	65	54	47	45	37
NET 10 years or less	66	64	68	78	69	71	68	53
0 years (free)	18	15	20	39	19	15	15	15
Up to 5 years	29	28	30	26	35	32	30	22
Up to 10 years	19	21	18	13	15	24	22	16
Over 10 years	6	6	5	2	5	5	7	6
Don't know/Not sure	28	30	27	20	26	24	26	41
Column n	1535	728	807	152	229	361	433	360

Column %	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	ACT/N T/TAS	ALP	COA	GRE	ON	IND	Other
NET 5 years or less	47	45	53	48	40	45	36	48	43	63	42	42	46
NET 10 years or less	66	63	69	66	65	70	63	67	66	79	55	60	68
0 years (free)	18	14	25	17	16	17	18	18	8	37	18	28	16
Up to 5 years	29	32	28	31	24	28	18	30	34	26	24	15	30
Up to 10 years	19	18	16	18	25	26	27	20	23	16	13	17	22
Over 10 years	6	4	6	7	3	6	4	4	8	2	8	1	10
Don't know/Not sure	28	32	25	27	32	23	33	28	27	19	37	39	22
Column n	1535	466	396	293	134	166	80	562	455	176	109	95	80



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Question

How much should students pay for each year of a standard university degree? (single select)

Key findings – Just under 3 in 5 (58%) of Australian voters believe a student should pay \$5000 or less per year for a standard university degree.

Just under half (48%) of voters aged 18-24 believe that university should be free.

	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
NET \$5000 or less	58	56	60	72	67	54	51	59
NET \$10,000 or less	77	76	77	84	85	79	70	72
Free	29	25	33	48	34	28	21	28
Up to \$5,000	29	31	27	24	33	26	30	31
Up to \$10,000	19	19	17	12	18	25	19	13
Over \$10,000	4	6	3	6	3	4	6	3
Don't know/Not sure	19	19	20	10	12	17	24	25
Column n	1535	728	807	152	229	361	433	360

	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	ACT/ NT/T AS	ALP	COA	GRE	ON	IND	Other
NET \$5000 or less	58	53	65	54	62	63	63	57	54	79	56	59	57
NET \$10,000 or less	77	77	78	70	79	79	77	75	76	92	67	74	76
Free	29	29	35	21	28	29	29	31	17	52	26	41	28
Up to \$5,000	29	23	29	32	34	34	34	26	37	27	30	18	30
Up to \$10,000	19	25	14	17	17	16	15	18	22	13	12	15	18
Over \$10,000	4	5	4	5	3	4	1	4	7	1	2	7	2
Don't know/Not sure	19	18	18	25	18	17	21	21	17	7	30	19	22
Column n	1535	466	396	293	134	166	80	562	455	176	109	95	80



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Question

In your view, what should be the primary purpose of universities? (multiple select)

Key findings – 4 in 5 (80%) Australian voters believe the primary purpose of universities should be to educate students. The next highest selected options were training people to enter the workforce (71%) and conducting research (37%).

Only 3% believe the primary purpose of universities should be to make a profit.

	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
NET Non-Profit Purposes	96	95	97	91	94	98	98	95
Educating students	80	80	79	84	83	79	83	74
Training people to enter the workforce	71	69	73	65	70	77	72	67
Conducting research	37	40	33	40	43	43	33	27
Getting a high international ranking	7	9	6	7	14	8	6	4
Making a profit	3	5	2	5	7	4	1	2
Don't know/Not sure	3	3	3	6	4	2	2	4
Column n	1535	728	807	152	229	361	433	360

	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	ACT/ NT/T AS	ALP	COA	GRE	ON	IND	Other
NET Non-Profit Purposes	96	95	97	94	98	98	100	95	96	97	97	99	97
Educating students	80	79	78	81	83	83	79	81	75	88	78	81	84
Training people to enter the workforce	71	72	74	67	68	68	76	75	69	72	70	71	69
Conducting research	37	41	35	31	36	37	39	38	27	55	35	44	36
Getting a high international ranking	7	9	6	6	5	12	6	8	5	9	7	9	4
Making a profit	3	4	2	2	6	6	0	3	3	3	2	3	0
Don't know/Not sure	3	3	3	5	0	2	0	4	2	2	3	1	3
Column n	1535	466	396	293	134	166	80	562	455	176	109	95	80



Question

In your view, what is currently the primary purpose of universities? (multiple select)

Key findings – Over half (54%) of Australian voters believe that the current primary purpose of universities is to make a profit; this is followed by educating students (44%) and getting a higher international rank (34%).

The purpose of training people to enter the workforce shows the largest gap between expected purpose and current primary purpose of a university (28% vs 71%) followed by the gap for educating students (80% vs 44%)

	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Making a profit	54	56	51	57	61	59	54	42
Educating students	44	44	44	45	38	40	48	47
Getting a high international ranking	34	36	31	45	37	34	30	31
Training people to enter the workforce	28	27	30	26	25	25	32	32
Conducting research	25	28	22	28	18	25	24	28
Don't know/Not sure	7	6	7	10	8	7	5	5
Column n	1535	728	807	152	229	361	433	360

Column %	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	ACT/ NT/T AS	ALP	COA	GRE	ON	IND	Other
Making a profit	54	53	58	56	43	50	54	53	53	63	48	50	59
Educating students	44	42	40	41	41	61	53	50	37	44	40	47	40
Getting a high international ranking	34	34	35	35	31	32	26	31	35	42	37	30	37
Training people to enter the workforce	28	28	25	29	31	37	21	31	26	29	31	24	25
Conducting research	25	23	26	23	28	29	26	27	21	24	29	31	20
Don't know/Not sure	7	8	7	7	5	5	2	8	4	3	14	7	5
Column n	1535	466	396	293	134	166	80	562	455	176	109	95	80