

Polling - Whistleblowers

June 2026

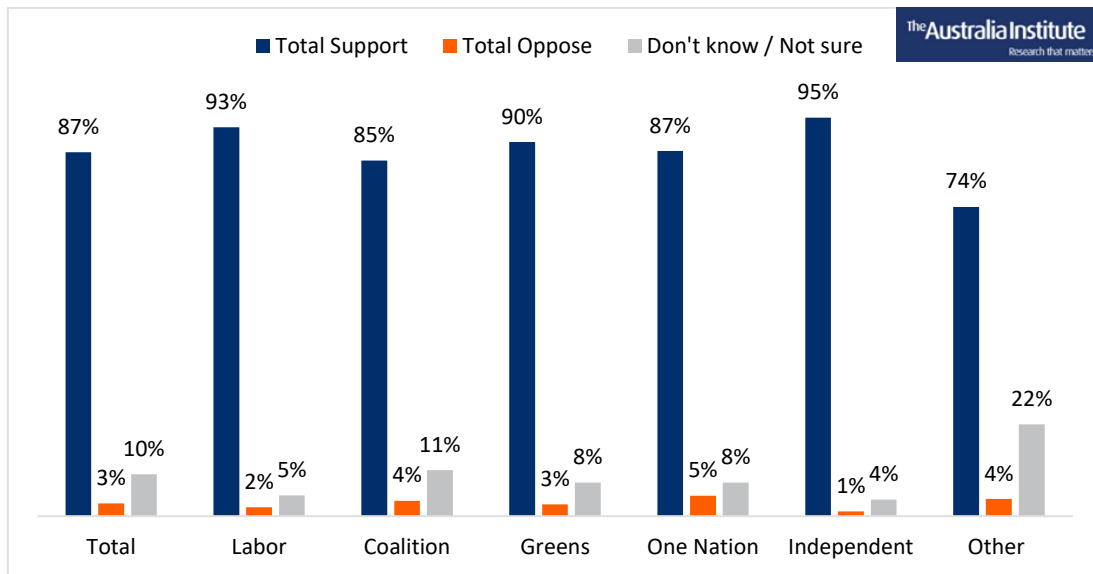
Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,502 Australians in March 2026 about their attitudes to Australian whistleblowers. The survey was developed in collaboration with the Human Rights Law Centre and Whistleblower Justice Fund.

The results show that:

- More than four in five (87%) Australians support or strongly support stronger legal protections for Australian whistleblowers.
- Four in five (81%) Australians think that whistleblowers make Australia a better place; only 3% think they make Australia a worse place.
- Four in five (84%) Australians would support the introduction of a whistleblower protection authority, and only 4% would oppose.
 - Support for a whistleblower protection authority includes nine in ten (91%) Labor voters, four in five (86%) Coalition voters, four in five (85%) Greens voters, nine in ten (91%) of One Nation voters, and more than nine in ten (94%) of independent voters.
- Nearly two in three (63%) Australians would support laws that reward whistleblowers in Australia who exposed corporate wrongdoing.

Figure 1: Stronger legal protections for whistleblowers, by voting intention



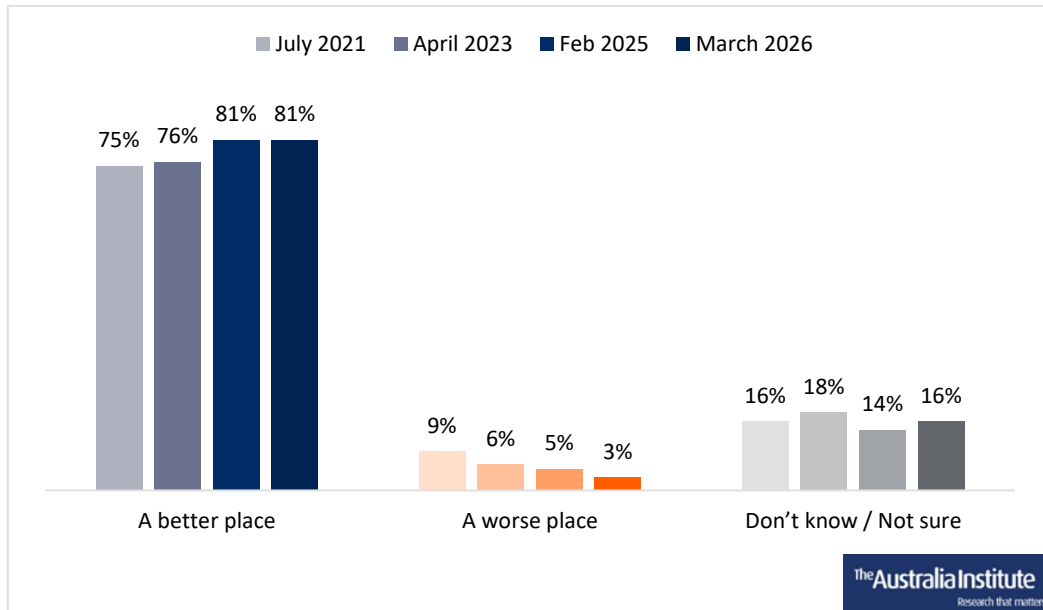
Respondents were told “A whistleblower is someone who reports potential wrongdoing that isn’t already being addressed” and then asked whether in general they think whistleblowers make Australia a better or worse place. The Australia Institute has also asked this question in 2021, 2023 and 2025.¹

Results over time show:

- Four in five Australians (81%) think that whistleblowers make Australia a better place, equivalent to polling in 2025, and more than in 2023 (76%) and 2021 (75%).

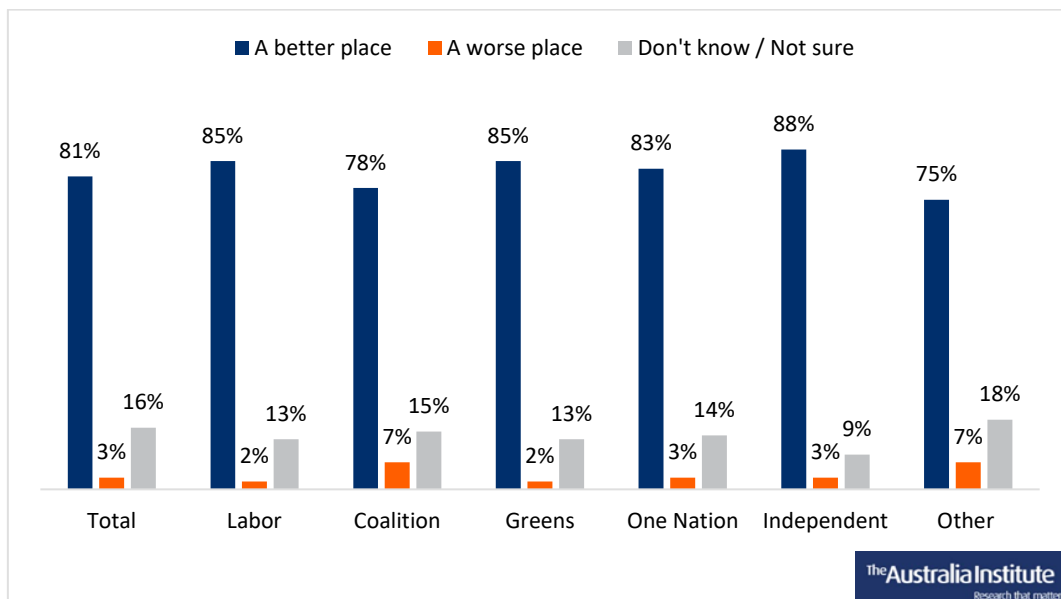
¹ The Australia Institute (2021) *Polling – Whistleblowers*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/polling-whistleblowers/>; The Australia Institute (2023) *Polling – Whistleblowing & secrecy*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/polling-whistleblowing-secrecy/>; The Australia Institute (2025) *Polling – Whistleblowers*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/polling-whistleblowers-2/>

Figure 2: Whistleblowers make Australia ...



There is broad agreement across all voting intentions that whistleblowers make Australia a better place, and little variation between voters for different political parties. More than four in five Labor voters (85%) believe that whistleblowers make Australia a better place, as do four in five (78%) Coalition voters, more than four in five (85%) Greens voters, more than four in five (83%) One Nation voters, nearly nine in ten (88%) independent voters and three quarters (75%) of voters for other minor party voters.

Figure 3: Whistleblowers make Australia ..., by voting intention



Respondents were told:

Research shows that a high proportion of Australians who blow the whistle on wrongdoing at work suffer direct damage as a result, such as harassment, suspension or demotion. Some even lose their jobs.

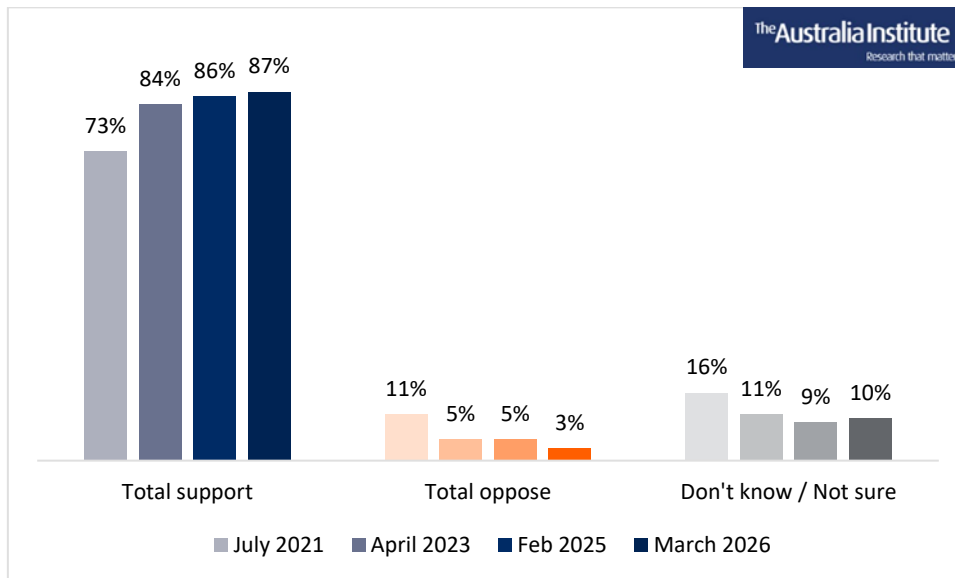
They were then asked whether they support or oppose stronger legal protections for Australian whistleblowers.

The Australia Institute asked this question in 2025 and 2023, and a similarly worded question in 2021.

Results over time show:

- Nearly nine in ten Australians (87%) currently support having stronger legal protections for Australian whistleblowers, including half (51%) who strongly support them. This is around the same as when this question was asked in 2025 (86%) and 2023 (84%), and higher than in 2021 (73%).
- Within these results, “strong support” for greater legal protections has increased from 36% in 2021, to 41% in 2023, to more than half in 2025 (52%) and 2026 (51%).

Figure 4: Stronger legal protections for Australian whistleblowers



Note: The wording of the 2021 question was slightly different: *Research shows that 80% of Australians who blow the whistle on wrongdoing at work suffer retaliation. Some lose their jobs. Would you support or oppose more legal protections for Australian whistleblowers?*

Respondents were told:

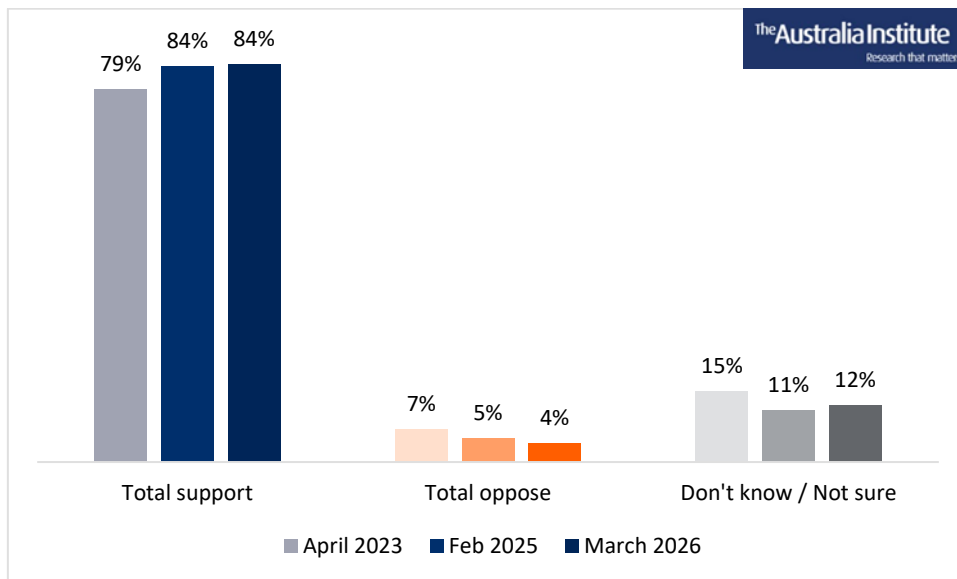
Several countries have bodies that oversee and enforce whistleblower protection laws and provide guidance to whistleblowers. Australia has no such body.

They were then asked if they would support or oppose the introduction of an Australian whistleblower protection authority. The Australia Institute has previously asked this question in 2023 and 2025.

Results over time show:

- More than four in five (84%) Australians support introducing an Australian whistleblower protection authority, including nearly half (46%) who strongly support. This is equivalent to 2025 (84%) and higher than the 79% of Australians who supported this in 2023, which included 35% strong support.
- A related question was asked in 2021, at which point seven in ten (71%) Australians agreed that whistleblower protections for public servants should be strengthened.²

Figure 5: Introduction of an Australian whistleblower protection authority



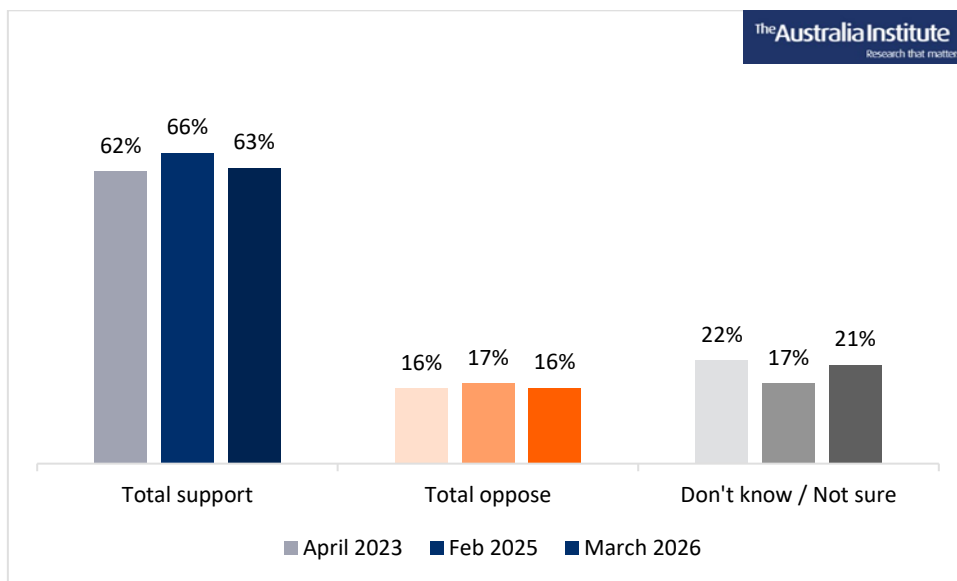
² The Australia Institute (2021) *Polling – Whistleblowers*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/polling-whistleblowers/>

Respondents were told that “In the United States, whistleblowers can be financially rewarded for exposing corporate wrongdoing.”

They were then asked whether they would support or oppose new laws that rewarded whistleblowers in Australia who exposed corporate wrongdoing.

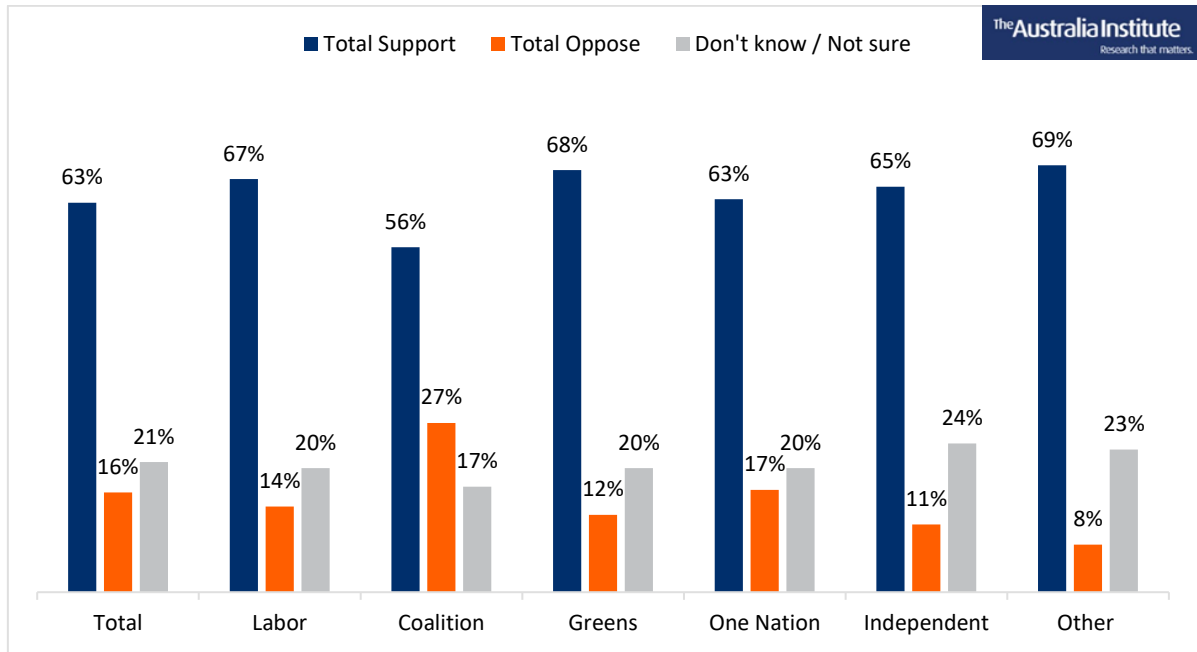
The results show that nearly two in three (63%) Australians would support laws that reward whistleblowers in Australia who exposed corporate wrongdoing. Support has remained roughly consistent across time, including two in three (66%) Australians supporting these laws in 2025 and three in five (62%) Australians supporting these laws in 2023.

Figure 6: Introduction of a whistleblower rewards scheme



Support for laws that reward whistleblowers who exposed corporate wrongdoing is relatively consistent across voting intentions, with the greatest support coming from other minor party voters (69%) and the least support from Coalition voters (56%).

Figure 7: Introduction of a whistleblower rewards scheme, by voting intention



Method

Short disclosure statement

Short Methodology Statement	
Research company	YouGov Galaxy Pty Ltd
Client commissioning the research	Australia Institute
Fieldwork dates	12th March – 19th March 2026
Mode of data collection	Online recruited from research panel (100%)
Target population	Australians eligible to vote
Sample size	1,502
Australian Polling Council compliant	Yes
URL of Long Methodology statement	https://australiainstitute.org.au/australian-polling-council-long-methodology-disclosure-statements/
Is voting intention published?	No



**Australian
Polling Council
Quality Mark**

YouGov®

Detailed results

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

A whistleblower is someone who reports potential wrongdoing that isn't already being addressed.

In general, do whistleblowers:

Column %	Total	Male	Female	18 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 49	50 - 64	65+
Make Australia a better place	81%	84%	79%	75%	77%	86%	81%	82%
Make Australia a worse place	3%	4%	2%	6%	3%	4%	2%	3%
Don't know / Not sure	16%	12%	19%	19%	20%	10%	17%	15%
Column n	1502	655	842	164	234	338	344	422

A whistleblower is someone who reports potential wrongdoing that isn't already being addressed.

In general, do whistleblowers:

Column %	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	Other
Make Australia a better place	81%	81%	84%	80%	80%	76%	87%
Make Australia a worse place	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	5%
Don't know / Not sure	16%	15%	14%	17%	17%	22%	8%
Column n	1502	489	385	315	127	110	76

A whistleblower is someone who reports potential wrongdoing that isn't already being addressed.

In general, do whistleblowers:

Column %	Total	ALP	COA	GRE	PHON	IND	Other	UND
Make Australia a better place	81%	85%	78%	85%	83%	88%	75%	66%
Make Australia a worse place	3%	2%	7%	2%	3%	3%	7%	1%
Don't know / Not sure	16%	13%	15%	13%	14%	9%	18%	33%
Column n	1502	448	281	189	337	85	52	110

Research shows that a high proportion of Australians who blow the whistle on wrongdoing at work suffer direct damage as a result, such as harassment, suspension or demotion. Some even lose their jobs.

Would you support or oppose stronger legal protections for Australian whistleblowers?

Column %	Total	Male	Female	18 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 49	50 - 64	65+
Strongly support	51%	49%	54%	44%	43%	52%	52%	58%
Support	36%	37%	34%	34%	37%	38%	38%	32%
Oppose	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%	2%
Strongly oppose	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%
Don't know / Not sure	10%	10%	9%	17%	15%	9%	8%	6%
NET: Total Support	87%	86%	88%	79%	80%	89%	90%	90%
NET: Total Oppose	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	2%	2%	4%
Column n	1502	655	842	164	234	338	344	422

Research shows that a high proportion of Australians who blow the whistle on wrongdoing at work suffer direct damage as a result, such as harassment, suspension or demotion. Some even lose their jobs.

Would you support or oppose stronger legal protections for Australian whistleblowers?

Column %	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	Other
Strongly support	51%	48%	53%	54%	48%	55%	58%
Support	36%	38%	38%	31%	37%	29%	35%
Oppose	2%	2%	1%	2%	4%	1%	3%
Strongly oppose	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Don't know / Not sure	10%	11%	7%	11%	11%	13%	4%
NET: Total Support	87%	85%	91%	85%	85%	84%	92%
NET: Total Oppose	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%
Column n	1502	489	385	315	127	110	76

Research shows that a high proportion of Australians who blow the whistle on wrongdoing at work suffer direct damage as a result, such as harassment, suspension or demotion. Some even lose their jobs.

Would you support or oppose stronger legal protections for Australian whistleblowers?

Column %	Total	ALP	COA	GRE	PHON	IND	Other	UND
Strongly support	51%	60%	40%	58%	56%	57%	40%	28%
Support	36%	33%	45%	31%	31%	38%	34%	42%
Oppose	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%	1%	2%	0%
Strongly oppose	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Don't know / Not sure	10%	5%	11%	8%	8%	4%	22%	30%
NET: Total Support	87%	93%	85%	90%	87%	95%	74%	71%
NET: Total Oppose	3%	2%	4%	3%	5%	1%	4%	0%
Column n	1502	448	281	189	337	85	52	110

Several countries have bodies that oversee and enforce whistleblower protection laws and provide guidance to whistleblowers. Australia has no such body.

Would you support or oppose the introduction of an Australian whistleblower protection authority?

Column %	Total	Male	Female	18 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 49	50 - 64	65+
Strongly support	46%	43%	48%	42%	42%	47%	43%	53%
Support	38%	40%	36%	39%	38%	40%	41%	34%
Oppose	3%	4%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	3%
Strongly oppose	1%	2%	1%	0%	3%	0%	1%	1%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	11%	13%	17%	13%	11%	13%	9%
NET: Total Support	84%	84%	85%	81%	80%	87%	84%	87%
NET: Total Oppose	4%	5%	3%	2%	7%	3%	4%	4%
Column n	1502	655	842	164	234	338	344	422

Several countries have bodies that oversee and enforce whistleblower protection laws and provide guidance to whistleblowers. Australia has no such body.

Would you support or oppose the introduction of an Australian whistleblower protection authority?

Column %	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	Other
Strongly support	46%	46%	46%	47%	38%	54%	53%
Support	38%	39%	41%	36%	44%	27%	33%
Oppose	3%	4%	1%	2%	5%	1%	3%
Strongly oppose	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	10%	11%	13%	13%	17%	11%
NET: Total Support	84%	85%	87%	83%	82%	81%	86%
NET: Total Oppose	4%	5%	2%	4%	5%	3%	3%
Column n	1502	489	385	315	127	110	76

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Would you support or oppose the introduction of an Australian whistleblower protection authority?

Column %	Total	ALP	COA	GRE	PHON	IND	Other	UND
Strongly support	46%	50%	36%	55%	48%	63%	43%	29%
Support	38%	41%	50%	30%	33%	31%	33%	39%
Oppose	3%	1%	3%	5%	3%	1%	7%	1%
Strongly oppose	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%	2%	0%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	7%	10%	9%	13%	5%	15%	31%
NET: Total Support	84%	91%	86%	85%	81%	94%	76%	68%
NET: Total Oppose	4%	2%	4%	6%	6%	1%	9%	1%
Column n	1502	448	281	189	337	85	52	110

In the United States, whistleblowers can be financially rewarded for exposing corporate wrongdoing.

Would you support or oppose new laws that rewarded whistleblowers in Australia who exposed corporate wrongdoing?

Column %	Total	Male	Female	18 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 49	50 - 64	65+
Strongly support	27%	27%	26%	30%	28%	30%	26%	21%
Support	36%	40%	32%	42%	39%	34%	35%	35%
Oppose	13%	12%	14%	11%	12%	11%	14%	15%
Strongly oppose	3%	4%	3%	0%	2%	4%	4%	4%
Don't know / Not sure	21%	17%	25%	17%	19%	21%	21%	25%
NET: Total Support	63%	68%	58%	72%	67%	64%	61%	56%
NET: Total Oppose	16%	16%	17%	11%	14%	15%	18%	19%
Column n	1502	655	842	164	234	338	344	422

In the United States, whistleblowers can be financially rewarded for exposing corporate wrongdoing.

Would you support or oppose new laws that rewarded whistleblowers in Australia who exposed corporate wrongdoing?

Column %	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	Other
Strongly support	27%	24%	27%	27%	24%	35%	28%
Support	36%	39%	41%	31%	34%	37%	25%
Oppose	13%	12%	11%	15%	17%	10%	10%
Strongly oppose	3%	3%	2%	7%	0%	1%	4%
Don't know / Not sure	21%	22%	19%	20%	25%	17%	33%
NET: Total Support	63%	63%	68%	58%	58%	72%	53%
NET: Total Oppose	16%	15%	14%	22%	17%	11%	14%
Column n	1502	489	385	315	127	110	76

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Strongly support	27%	25%	21%	31%	34%	22%	25%	18%
Support	36%	41%	35%	37%	30%	43%	44%	33%
Oppose	13%	9%	23%	11%	13%	8%	8%	7%
Strongly oppose	3%	5%	4%	1%	3%	3%	0%	3%
Don't know / Not sure	21%	20%	17%	20%	20%	24%	23%	39%
NET: Total Support	63%	67%	56%	68%	63%	65%	69%	51%
NET: Total Oppose	16%	14%	27%	12%	17%	11%	8%	10%
Column n	1502	448	281	189	337	85	52	110