

# PUBLIC OPINION

MURRAY GOOT

**I**N THE LAST fifty years public opinion has come to be increasingly equated with public opinion polls—the regular sampling of the public's view, tastes and behaviour by commercial market research organisations.

The longest running of the Australian polls, Australian Public Opinion Polls (the Gallup method), was established in 1941 by Sir Keith Murdoch of the Melbourne-based newspaper chain, the Herald and Weekly Times, and conducted from then until 1973 by Roy Morgan. On Morgan's retirement, the Herald shifted its APOP contract to McNair Anderson and Associates in Sydney. In the same year, the Roy Morgan Research Centre, now run by Roy's son Gary, secured its position in public opinion polling with a contract from the Packer family's Consolidated Press, also based in Sydney, and the publisher of the weekly business and current affairs magazine the *Bulletin*.

McNair Anderson was not the only, or even the first, firm to break the Morgan monopoly on repetitive polling. From the early 1940s—when she turned down an offer from Murdoch in favour of Packer—to the 1960s, Sylvia Ashby, one of the founders of Australian market research, carried out a number of polls, including nationwide pre-election polls, for the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mirror*.

Much more important, however, was the break away from the Morgan monopoly in the early 1970s. In 1971 Irving Saulwick & Associates were commissioned to produce polls—first in Melbourne and Sydney, later nationwide—for the *Melbourne Age* (the 'Age poll') and *Sydney Morning Herald* (the 'Herald survey'). Australian Nationwide Opinion Polls (ANOP) undertook similar projects for Rupert Murdoch's national daily the *Australian*. Other polls, most of them confined to a single city or state, emerged later in the seventies. These included Gardner & Associates for the *Adelaide Advertiser*; Tasmanian Opinion Polls (TOP) for the *Hobart Mercury*; and Spectrum Research, which conducted nationwide telephone polls for Murdoch's News Limited. In 1985, News Limited, the originator of ANOP, set up a new polling organisation, Newspoll.

The subject matter addressed by the polls has been vast: from Aborigines, banking and cabinet, to World War II, youth and zoos. Some topics have been covered on a fairly regular basis, others only once. Most topics have been polled more than once, but irregularly and infrequently; the polls are very much geared to agenda set by the press. The topics most frequently addressed are

political parties and their leaders—voting intentions and assessments of the prime minister, the premier or the leader of the opposition.

No less impressive than the range of subject matter is the range of population characteristics—sex, occupation, education, religion, life (age, marital status, and so on), state of residence, country of birth, and so on—in terms of which the results of the polls are reported. The range varies from organisation to organisation and sometimes from survey to survey, and has increased greatly since the 1940s.

Access to the crosstabulation or even individual-level data is now much more open. The Morgan and McNair agencies both offer a subscription service to summaries of their findings and to their computer sheets; Saulwick's computer sheets can be inspected in the Department of Political Science, University of Melbourne; and in addition to the McNair and Saulwick polls, much of the Morgan data to 1966 are available on magnetic tape from the Social Science Data Archives at the Australian National University.

Not all polling organisations report their results in terms of the same variables; sex or even voting intention is widely used, lifecycle or work status—full time versus part time, and so on—is not. And, sex apart, no two firms have exactly the same understanding of the values each variable should take. The varying occupation categories and codes represent the most striking of all such differences. In the case of the age variable, of course, differences spring in the first instance from differences in the lower age limit of the populations sampled. It is also worth noting that on some occasions—illustrated in this chapter by two questions on the flag and the national anthem—responses to one question are crosstabulated with responses to another.

In interpreting the data that the polls produce it is important to bear in mind three of their characteristics. Firstly, the figures that the polls produce are no more than estimates of the relevant populations; the possible error due to sampling increases as the sample or subsample size drops below 2000, and even more markedly as it drops below 1000. Sampling error is also likely to be slightly greater where the sample splits evenly on an item (a 50:50 response) than when it is polarised (say 80:20).

Secondly, responses may be affected by the way questions are worded. Questions about the flag illustrate this, as perhaps do the questions about Aboriginal land rights. In addition, open-ended questions (rarely asked because of coding costs) will produce a very much greater range of response than precoded questions. And, among the latter, multiple-choice questions are likely to produce a much greater variety of opinion than are questions that offer no more than the standard yes or no response; the questions on abortion clearly make the point.

Finally, responses may vary even when two firms ask the same question at more or less the same time. This probably reflects the quality of sampling as well as sampling variance. It may also reflect differences in interviewing skills, errors in processing responses, and so on.

Readers should bear in mind that data of this type is generated not only by the polling agencies but by academics, especially social scientists, increasingly by political parties and pressure groups, and by governments, both state and federal. Wherever more than one poll is cited in the tables, an attempt has been made to list each and every poll on the question at hand. This will provide some scope (and perhaps whet the appetite) for the analysis of trends. In that sense, and only that sense, the data listed here can be said to be complete.



## PO 1-28 CHURCH ATTENDANCE, AUSTRALIA 1947-1983

	SEX	AGE						RELIGION						OCCUPATION <sup>a</sup>						REGION						STATE							
		Total	M	F	21-29	30-49	50-59	60+	Roman Catholic	Baptist	Uniting Church	Methodist	Presbyterian	Church of England	Other Protestant	White collar	Blue collar	Capital city	Country	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	Acr							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					
OCT '47	Last week/ fortnight	%	35	29	38				63	54			34		31	19																	
JUNE '50	Weekly %	23	18	28					62	53			19		11	6																	
MAR '54	Fortnightly %	24							14	15			27		27	28																	
FEB '55	Monthly %	29							24	32			54		62	66																	
JUNE '56	Rarely %	24																															
JUNE '58	Never %	24																															
FEB '60	Last week %	30	24	36					53				29		22	16																	
APR '61	2 weeks ago %	8																															
DEC '61	Within year %	22																															
APR '61	3 weeks ago %	21																															
APR '61	Within year %	12																															
NOV '70	Last week %	25	20	30	20	26	25	30	51	43	21	20	11	36	28	21	24	25	26	27	23	25	27	23	12								
JUNE '72	2 weeks ago %	6	7	6	7	5	4	4	6	4	6	6	5	8	6	5	5	5	6	4	5	7	8	7	6	3							
NOV '72	Within year %	24	23	25	31	24	20	16	16	11	19	21	23	24	20	19	23	24	23	22	20	19	29	20									
JUNE '72	3 weeks ago %	23	22	26	22	20	19	16	16	11	19	21	23	24	20	19	23	24	23	22	20	19	29	20									
NOV '72	Longer %	35	42	49	36	41	48	40	44	34	34	46	47	52	44	46	46	46	37	42	42	43	42	48	45								
JUNE '72	Don't know %	6	7	5	3	5	8	10	4	4	4	8	7	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	3	3					
NOV '72	Total polled <sup>c</sup>	3914	2080	1834	768	1672	1206	268	942	75	477	448	1510	269	1823	1983	2509	1405	1371	1208	517	456	130	232									
MAY '71 <sup>c</sup>	Weekly %	21	16	27	23	15	22	32	42	43	41	40	20	14	5	27																	
DEC '61	Monthly %	12	10	13	12	9	10	12	12	11	11	11	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19				
APR '61	Less often %	67																															
APR '61	Total polled																																
MAY '71 <sup>c</sup>	2 weeks ago %	6	6	6	5	6	7	5	5	5	5	5	47	280	65	94	371	110															
OCT '72	Within year %	19	18	20	20	24	20	17	14	18	17	14	21	17	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10				
OCT '72	3 weeks ago %	5	7	6	8	8	7	6	5	6	5	6	41	34	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50			
OCT '72	Longer %	42	48	36	35	44	52	39	38	44	33	44	49	50	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52			
OCT '72	Don't know %	5	6	7	5	5	6	5	7	7	3	0	5	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		
OCT '72	Total polled	2893	1566	1328	222	121	649	970	736	196	719	48	329	279	1048	219	1402	1348	1834	1060	953	903	404	278	130	226							
APR '76	Within month %	30	24	34	28	25	32	30	36	30	20	14	20	14	30	32	26	20	22	20	19	26	9	14	18	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	
APR '76	2 weeks ago %	4	3	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	1	7	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
APR '76	Within year %	50	57	44	48	56	50	49	41	41	40	40	51	51	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50		
APR '76	Longer %	2	2	5	2	5	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
APR '76	Don't know %	2004	988	1016	158	488	675	515	168																								
JUNE '76	Within month %	20	16	24	26	12	21	20	32	42	56	16	11	9	28	23	17	20	21	22	20	19	26	9	14	18	21	21	21	21	21	21	
JUNE '76	2 weeks ago %	5	4	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	6	4	4	4	10	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
JUNE '76	Within year %	19	19	20	27	18	22	15	17	18	10	6	6	6	10	10	6	4	4														

PO 29-48 AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR ABORIGINES, AUSTRALIA 1964-1984

	SEX	AGE		STATE						REGION		VOTING INTENTION								
		Total	M	F	18-24	25-44	45+	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	ACT	Urban	Rural	ALP	AD	L-NP <sup>a</sup>	
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	
AUG 1964	A lot more %	56	19	19																
	A little more %	16	16	16																
	As now %	9	9	9																
	Don't know %																			
	Total polled	1875																		
SEPT 1976	More %	46	48	53	66	53	48	48	41	52	64	33	42	61	31	70	55	41		
	As now %	25	24	26	13	23	26	28	24	21	23	19	23	19	22	25	25	25		
	Wrong way %	2	2	2	1	3	2	5	1	1	1	3	1	1	12	4	2	3		
	Less %	16	19	12	13	17	15	15	17	12	7	28	25	6	31	4	12	23		
	Don't know %	7	6	7	5	8	6	8	7	5	10	9	9	5	0	6	6	7		
	Total polled	2010	1001	1009	185	490	675	492	168	769	529	271	203	67	143	28	1350	680		
MAY 1974	More %	46	59																	
	As now %	26																		
	Less %	15																		
	Don't know %	13																		
	Total polled	1875																		
SEPT 1976	No budget cut %	46	43	48	54	47	45	41	43	51	52	40	39	43	40	64	49	40	54	37
	Budget cut %	26	27	25	18	24	25	30	36	22	21	33	26	20	27	5	20	36	19	35
	Don't know %	28	30	27	28	29	30	29	21	27	27	35	37	33	31	31	24	27	28	
	Total polled	1961	771	990	183	403	640	504	171	724	476	310	204	68	151	30	1192	769	720	876
MAY 1978	More %	44	44	43	57	46	40	33	49	53	29	30	46	32	47	49	33	57	49	32
	As now %	28	27	29	22	27	28	35	30	30	24	26	39	21	25	26	32	23	19	35
	Wrong way %	2	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	5	0	9	9	2	3	2	4	2	
	Less %	17	19	16	14	16	20	19	14	8	33	28	8	7	13	26	12	21	22	
	Don't know %	9	7	10	6	9	8	11	6	9	9	16	7	10	10	6	6	7	10	
	Total polled	1983	972	991	416	613	429	505	705	496	296	205	70	161	30	1302	661	687	189	896
DEC 1978	More %	50	49	50	65	57	43	47	43	49	64	28	47	43	43	64	63	56	54	
	As now %	36	35	37	25	25	27	28	35	38	29	45	38	37	37	32	32	31	50	
	Less %	10	12	8	7	10	8	5	5	22	10	16	16	16	8	12	12	12		
	Don't know %	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	5		
	Total polled	2000	1003	997	128				400	748	542	294	191	163			832	103	882	
SEPT 1981	More %	50	47	54	59	51	47	45	52	64	35	40	55	38	64	58	37	62	58	36
	As now %	25	26	24	18	24	26	31	23	22	30	29	26	29	19	23	28	19	21	36
	Don't know %	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	4	8	9	9	11	11	7	8	6	4	5
	Total polled	2010	995	1015	385	657	453	515	741	551	284	185	69	150	30	1312	698	934	158	666
OCT 1983	More %	32	30	34	45	31	28	26	34	41	21	25	49	20	35	37	24	38	30	20
	As now %	33	30	36	31	33	31	36	32	34	34	33	33	33	34	34	31	34	27	35
	Less %	28	33	23	20	30	31	29	27	18	32	25	39	25	39	22	33	21	33	40
	Don't know %	7	7	4	7	4	7	10	9	7	8	11	2	7	2	8	6	7	11	6
	Total polled	2036	1010	1026	403	669	457	507	752	554	268	201	68	165	28	1339	697	1082	98	657
DECEMBER 1984	As now %	32	31	32	32	32	32	33	34	34	27	32	32	27	28	32	32	32	32	33
	Less %	32	36	29	27	30	37	36	31	20	46	35	37	50	11	26	44	27	33	43
	Don't know %	5	4	5	4	5	4	6	4	5	4	5	8	3	6	0	5	4	5	3
	Total polled	2059	988	1071	359	719	433	548	655	542	284	212	106	222	28	1282	777	1079	135	704

NOTE Respondents were asked: 'Do you think we are doing enough to educate and house Aborigines or should more be spent on them?' (MGP 1964); whether Aborigines are receiving too much, too little or about the right amount of financial support (ANOP, 1974), whether federal and state governments are doing too much, not enough, about the right amount for Aborigines (McNair 1978, 1983, 1984), or going about things the wrong way (McNair, 1976, 1978); if federal budget cuts in direct aid to Aborigines were particularly good, in view of Australia's present rate of inflation and high level of unemployment, or particularly bad (McNair, 1976); 'Do you think the federal government should be doing more or about the same or less than it is to help Aborigines?' (Age, 1978).

(a) And predecessors.

PO 49-68 LAND RIGHTS FOR ABORIGINES, AUSTRALIA 1981-1984

	SEX	AGE		STATE						REGION			VOTING INTENTION		
		Total	M	16-24	25-39	40-54	55+	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	ACT	Capital city

## PO 69-101 KEEPING THE UNION JACK IN THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG, 1967-1984

		SEX		AGE					EDUCATION					BIRTHPLACE					RELIGION			STATE				REGION		VOTING INTENTION								
		Total	M	F	16-20	21-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Primary only	Some Secondary	Inter- mediate Year 4	Years 5-6	Post- secondary	Aust	UK	Other Europe	Asia, other	Roman Catholic	Other Christian	None	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	Capital city	Other	ALP	DLP	L-NP <sup>a</sup>	AD	Other		
		69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101		
JULY 1967	Yes %	72	67	77	66	71	76	85										63	76	54	69	73	80	71	75	69	70	77								
	No %	17	23	11	20	17	16	11										23	14	31	17	17	14	20	12	19	19	13								
	Don't know %	11	10	12	14	12	8	4										14	10	15	14	10	6	10	13	12	12	10								
	Total polled	2044	1004	1040	386	934	595	129										477	1463	91	779	564	296	195	66	144	1364	681								
OCT 1972	Yes %	61	57	64	55	54	56	73	74									53	67	36	61	58	62	64	67	61	58	64	57	55	70	48				
	No %	26	31	20	34	30	26	18	16									32	20	42	24	30	24	23	18	24	27	23	30	22	20	32				
	Don't know %	14	12	16	10	16	18	10	10									15	13	22	14	12	14	14	15	16	15	13	13	23	9	20				
	Total polled	2189	1197	992	314	462	792	529	92									556	1449	172	742	663	310	231	111	132	1349	840	989	119	835	111				
SEPT 1979	Yes %	67	65	70	65	62	66	72	75	69	68	68	64	69	70	71	39	51																		
	No %	22	24	20	22	29	22	16	17	19	21	27	23	21	18	29	31																			
	Don't know %	11	11	11	13	9	12	11	8	15	12	12	9	8	9	11	33	18																		
	Total polled	1070	524	546	142	231	393	233	71	118	333	223	224	152	819	136	58	57		429	231	170	80	40	120	674	396	451	468	46	28					
JUNE 1982	Yes %	69	65	73	82	63	66	70	80	79	70	71	68	61	71	83	47	48																		
	No %	26	31	21	16	31	30	22	16	16	25	25	29	31	25	13	40	40																		
	Don't know %	5	5	6	2	6	4	8	3	5	5	4	4	8	4	4	13	12																		
	Total polled	1006	506	500	91	231	389	229	66	101	262	220	235	188	796	93	74	43		369	257	150	110	20	100	616	390	425	427	57	21					
APR 1984	Yes %	66	62	69	65	59	60	75	82	77	71	59	56																							
	No %	28	33	24	31	36	31	20	11	17	22	24	36	38																						
	Don't know %	6	5	7	4	5	9	5	7	7	8	5	5	7																						
	Total polled	2107	1082	1025	209	443	837	407	211	188	626	383	458	452																						

NOTE Respondents were asked: 'Do you think the Union Jack should continue to be in [one corner of] our [National] flag or not?'

(a) And predecessors.

## PO 102-122 A COMPETITION FOR A NEW AUSTRALIAN FLAG, 1984

		SEX		AGE					NSW		Vic		STATE					VOTING INTENTION						
		Total	M	F	16-24	25-39	40-54	55+					Qld	SA	Tas	WA	ACT	Capital city	Other	ALP	L-NP	AD	Other	No answer
		102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122		
MAY 1984	Yes %	52	55	49	59	62	61	37	56	48	50	55	48	49	69	55	48	59	42	54	30	47		
	No %	43	41	45	38	35	44	57	40	47	45	37	42	49	25	41	47	37	54	41	52	43		

## PO 129-154 MORGAN GALLUP POLL, PRE-ELECTION SURVEYS OF VOTING

## INTENTIONS FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AUSTRALIA 1966-1984

			SEX		AGE					EDUCATION			OCCUPATION <sup>a</sup>												RELIGION							
			Total	M	F	18-19	21-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Pri-mary only	Some second- ary	Inter- medi- ate Year 4	Years 5-6	Post- sec- ondary	Profes- sional	Man- agerial	Small business	Clerk	Skilled	Semi- skilled	Un- skilled	Farm owner	Farm labourer	Other	Roman Cath- olic	Other Chris- tian	None				
			129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154				
NOV 1966			ALP %	34	37	32		32	37	32	32								14	12	28	28	41	47	62	14	41	31	37	33	43	
			DLP %	8	8	7		9	7	7	10								8	4	4	6	9	10	10	5	8	5	18	4	3	
			L-CP %	49	47	52		53	46	52	50								67	75	59	57	40	35	22	74	40	52	35	55	29	
			Other %	2	3	2		1	3	2	2								0	3	1	3	2	2	3	0	0	0	1	2	7	
			Don't know %	7	6	8		5	8	7	7								11	7	7	6	8	6	3	7	11	13	9	6	18	
			Total polled	2093	1007	1043		341	940	602	166								88	153	71	451	535	331	145	156	43	77	487	1454	94	
OCT 1969			ALP %	43	49	37		45	43	42	40								21	24	35	39	51	56	69	15	46	35	52	39	46	
			DLP %	6	5	7		6	7	5	3								12	4	4	7	6	6	7	2	4	6	13	4	3	
			L-CP %	42	38	46		41	41	43	48								55	60	52	45	33	32	17	80	37	27	28	48	24	
			Other %	3	4	2		3	3	3	2								7	4	2	4	3	1	2	1	5	4	1	3	11	
			Don't know %	7	5	8		6	6	8	7								6	8	7	6	7	6	2	28	6	6	15			
			Total polled	2671	1288	1344		464	1183	790	195								96	244	65	610	695	407	204	214	40	57	638	1850	116	
NOV 1972			ALP %	47	50	43		50	49	42	39								38	21	33	45	53	60	69	19	69	39	51	45	55	
			DLP %	5	5	5		5	5	4	3								1	4	3	5	4	4	5	6	9	11	3	2		
			L-CP %	39	36	42		35	36	45	49								53	67	53	39	33	27	19	69	23	36	28	44	22	
			Other %	3	3	3		4	4	2	2								5	4	4	4	3	2	4	1	0	1	2	3	8	
			Don't know %	6	6	7		6	6	7	7								3	5	6	7	6	5	6	2	15	8	5	13		
			Total polled	2836	1521	1315		666	1151	868	151								87	191	77	820	650	465	168	241	35	102	660	1961	199	
MAY 1974			ALP %	46	50	42		37	47	45	48	43							30	23	30	43	53	60	62	12	37	43	51	42	57	
			AP %	3	4	2		10	4	3	3	2							5	7	4	4	2	1	1	2	2	7	3	3	8	
			L-CP %	43	40	46		47	42	44	43	44							62	64	65	42	37	31	26	82	57	38	37	47	23	
			Other %	2	2	2		2	1	2	2	1							3	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	2	3	2	0		
			Don't know %	7	5	9		4	7	7	5	12							1	4	1	8	6	6	9	3	5	11	6	6	13	
			Total polled	2572	1360	1212		108	620	923	727	194							114	113	69	843	642	363	130	138	35	126	612	1738	201	
DEC 1975			ALP %	39	41	37		45	38	40	43																					
			L-CP %	52	50	54		47	53	54	50	47																				
			Other %	4	5	3		1	5	4	3	5																				
			Don't know %	5	4	6		7	3	5	7	5																				
			Total polled	2535	1360	1681		119	572	936	741	167																				
DEC 1977			ALP %	40	42	38		48	45	35	40	44	50	43	39			36	32	26	17	22	37	49	49	53	8	42	44	43	39	46
			AD(LM) %	9	8	10		9	9	11	7	3	5	9	7			11	12	8	12	10	8	10	7	5	6	3	8	13		
			L-NCP %	44	43	44		37	39	46	45	46	37	41	46			45	49	55	71	56	46	37	32	29	80	46	39	40	47	33
			Other %	3	2	3		3	4	2	3	0	2	3	3			2	3	4	2	3	2	5	3	0	3	2	3	2		

PO 155-176 ABORTION ON DEMAND, AUSTRALIA 1975-1978

	SEX	AGE					NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	ACT	Capital Country cty	ALP	DLP	AP	L-NP	Other	REGION	VOTING INTENTION		
		Total	M	F	16-19	20-29	30-49	50-69	70+													
MAY 1975	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176
Yes %	48	50	45	52	58	50	39	52	48	38	42	43	50	70	51	42	54	23	58	45	52	
No %	47	43	51	42	39	45	55	65	43	49	56	51	42	45	26	45	52	41	71	37	63	41
Don't know %	5	6	4	6	3	6	6	6	5	3	7	7	15	5	4	5	6	5	7	5	5	7
Total polled	1988	974	1014	178	477	663	502	168	720	548	274	201	69	146	30	1349	639	765	53	83	965	20
				16-24	25-39	40-54	55+															
				47	47	31	49	50	38	49	47	41	39	45	54	62	49	44				
				48	47	49	43	47	45	56	47	46	55	55	50	37	38	47	50			
				5	7	4	6	4	5	7	4	7	4	5	5	9	0	5	6			
				2067	1012	1055	402	696	463	506	741	554	311	202	70	159	30	1328	739			

NOTE In 1975 respondents were asked whether they were 'for' or 'against abortion on demand'; in 1978 they were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the recommendation by the recent Royal Commission on Human Relationships that 'abortion in practice be free of all legal regulation for anyone over 14 years of age if performed by a medical practitioner'.

PO 177-182 ABORTION (MULTIPLE CHOICE), AUSTRALIA 1968-1980

	June 1968	Feb 1970	March 1972	Nov 1972	Apr 1973	Aug 1973	July 1975	Aug 1975	July 1978	June 1980
Not legal in any circumstances	177%	11%	11%	13%	13%	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%
Legal only if mother's life in danger	178%	37%	29%	15%	19%	16%	14%	12%	13%	13%
Legal if mother's health is in danger (physical or mental)	179%		27%	61	21	24	24	22	22	23
Legal in cases of exceptional hardship (physical, mental or social)	180%	35%	41%	23%	20%	22%	24%	23%	24%	24%
Legal in all circumstances/On demand	181%	13%	16%	19%	25%	23%	29%	31%	29%	29%
No opinion	182%	4%	3%	5%	1%	4%	7%	1%	2%	2%
Respondent's age	21+	21+	16+	21+	16+	14+	16+	16+	16+	16+

## ABBREVIATIONS

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Periodical titles are followed, as appropriate, by volume or series number, issue number and year of publication.

%	per cent	lbs	pounds
£	pound(s)	L-NP	Liberal-National Party
<b>ABS</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics	m/mill	million
<b>ACT</b>	Australian Capital Territory	M <sup>3</sup>	cubic metre
<b>AD</b>	Australian Democrats	MGP	Morgan Gallup Poll
<b>ANOP</b>	Australian National Opinion Polls	mm	millimetre
<b>ANU</b>	Australian National University		
<b>app</b>	appendix	nd	no date
<b>ASIC</b>	Australian standard industrial classification	No	number
		NSW	New South Wales
		NT	Northern Territory
<b>BPP</b>	British parliamentary papers	NZ	New Zealand
<b>°C</b>	degrees centigrade	PJ	petajoule
<b>CBA</b>	Commonwealth Bank of Australia	pm pa	per million per annum
<b>CBCS</b>	Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics	PNG	Papua New Guinea
<b>CIF</b>	cost, insurance, freight	POW	Prisoner(s) of war
<b>Co</b>	company	Pt	Port
<b>Com</b>	Commonwealth		
<b>comp</b>	compiled by	Qld	Queensland
<b>CPI</b>	consumer price index	RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
<b>d</b>	penny/pence	RAN	Royal Australian Navy
<b>DEIR</b>	Department of Employment and Industrial Relations	RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
<b>DLP</b>	Democratic Labor Party	Rm	Reichsmark
<b>DM</b>	Deutsche Mark	s	shilling
<b>DSS</b>	Department of Social Security	SA	South Australia
		SANFL	South Australian National Football League
<b>ed(s)</b>	editor(s)	SMH	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>
<b>EEC</b>	European Economic Community	soc	society
<i>et al</i>	and others	SRC	Swan River Colony
<b>EVAO</b>	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations	SRD	statutory reserve deposit
		supp	supplementary
<b>FOB</b>	free on board	TAA	Trans-Australia Airlines
<b>g</b>	gram	Tas	Tasmania
<b>gals</b>	gallons	Tb(s)	table(s)
<b>GDP</b>	gross domestic product		
<b>GNP</b>	gross national product	UK	United Kingdom
<b>Govt</b>	government	USA	United States of America
<b>GW</b>	gigawatt	USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
<b>GWh</b>	gigawatthour	VDC	Volunteer Defence Corps
<b>ha</b>	hectare	VDL	Van Diemen's Land
		VFL	Victorian Football League
<i>Ibid</i>	in the same work	Vic	Victoria
<b>IWW</b>	International Workers of the World	vol(s)	volume(s)
<b>J</b>	journal	WA	Western Australia
		WPI	wholesale price index
<b>kg</b>	kilogram		
<b>Km(s)</b>	kilometre(s)	yrs	years