

# Foundation for Young Australians

July 2020



# Research Background and Methodology



## Political Attitudes & Covid-19 Survey 2020

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Client:** Foundation for Young Australians

**Prepared By:** John Remington & Gavin White

**Notes:** FINAL Version



Our researchers are members of the Australian Market and Social Research Society.

- Participants were filtered to only those aged 18-24
- The survey was in the field from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.
- n=1,020 participants completed the online survey recruited through professional marker research panels. The survey was hosted online by Qualtrics.
- Minimum quotas of 40% of the sample were established for gender due to participation and inclusion in online panels. This was corrected to nationally representative levels through weighting.
- The data is weighted against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census 2016 data for gender, age and location within the 18-24 year old population.
- The maximum margin of error is  $\pm 3.0\%$  at a 95% confidence level.

# Executive Summary

## **THERE IS OBVIOUS HIGH CONCERN ABOUT THE COVID-19 CRISIS, WHICH HAS ALREADY HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE LIVES AND ASPIRATIONS OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS**

The impacts of Covid-19 are front- and- centre when young Australians are talking about their lives.

The health of others (both physical and mental) is a paramount concern for young people, when asked specifically about their concerns over Covid-19. Young people are positive about the Government's handling of the Covid-19 crisis – particularly stopping the spread of the virus and the financial support schemes put in place (JobSeeker and JobKeeper). Over a third of 18-24 year- olds in this survey are receiving payments from one of these schemes.

The pandemic has hit jobs and future career aspirations, with a quarter of young people saying they had lost paid employment since the start of the outbreak – this is higher than other groups in the working age population. Over half of participants are currently not in paid employment.

The biggest concerns for the future are income stability and finding meaningful employment. Over one third of participants don't expect to start a career path in the next two years.

## **GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE COVID-19 RECOVERY STRATEGY ARE RECEIVED LESS WARMLY AMONG WOMEN THAN MEN**

Although there is net support for the Government's announcement regarding the change to university fees, made in June, women are more likely than men to oppose this change

Similarly, when asked about the prioritisation of the announcement of fast-tracking major infrastructure projects (such as building a rail link between Melbourne and Brisbane, an underwater power cable between the mainland and Tasmania, and the expansion of a copper mine in South Australia), men were more likely than women to say this should be a top priority, while the majority of women thought this proposal should either be a lower priority or not important at all.

Overall, investment in healthcare, mental health and building affordable housing were rated as the highest priorities for the Government during the Covid-19 recovery.

# Executive Summary

## **PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORT FOR BUSHFIRE RECOVERY AND PREVENTION WERE THE MOST FAVOURABLE AND INFLUENTIAL POLICIES TESTED**

Participants were asked to rate a series of social and environmental policies in terms of support and likelihood to influence vote.

There is a high amount of support for greater protection for environments such as the Outback, rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef and policies promoting this have a high influence on the voting intention of young people.

The lowest support was shown for policies that used tax-payer money to subsidise mining companies and allowed onshore gas extraction.

Young people are highly engaged with the global Black Lives Matter protests in recent months and this issue receives the strongest support among the social issues tested. An investigation into the disproportionate Indigenous deaths in police custody is also supported by most young Australians.

The majority would also support changing the law to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution. Constitutional recognition is the strongest influence on vote, with 73% of those who have an opinion on this issue saying they would be likely to vote for a party that promotes this policy.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE ARE POLITICALLY AWARE AND INTERESTED IN THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT THEM, BUT MORE COULD BE DONE TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER ENGAGEMENT**

Around half of young people say they keep up to date with politics at least weekly, however others pay little attention, apart from major issues or only pay attention at election times. Signing online or written petitions, attending a protest or contacting a local MP or politician were the main channels for young people to engage.

However many younger Australians feel that they are not the priority for politicians – compared to businesses, corporations, and older people and there is a high degree of frustration and lack of trust in the political process.

Across the political spectrum, there is demand to see more diversity and a greater presence of younger people in politics.

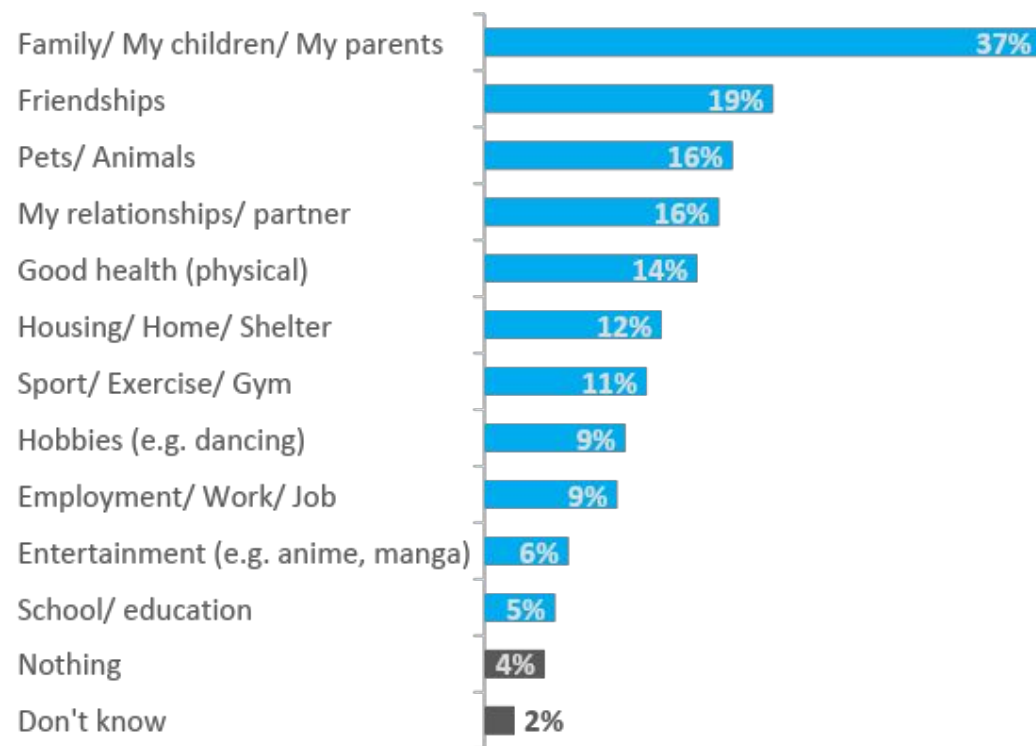
Women more likely than men to agree that there should be more ethnic and gender diversity in politics.

# 1. Everyday Lives



# What are young people thankful for?

## Things most enjoy or are thankful for (%)



Relationships with family and friends are the most important part of young people's lives. Family (mentioned by 37% of people) friends (19%) and relationships (16%) are all mentioned as elements which young people are grateful for.

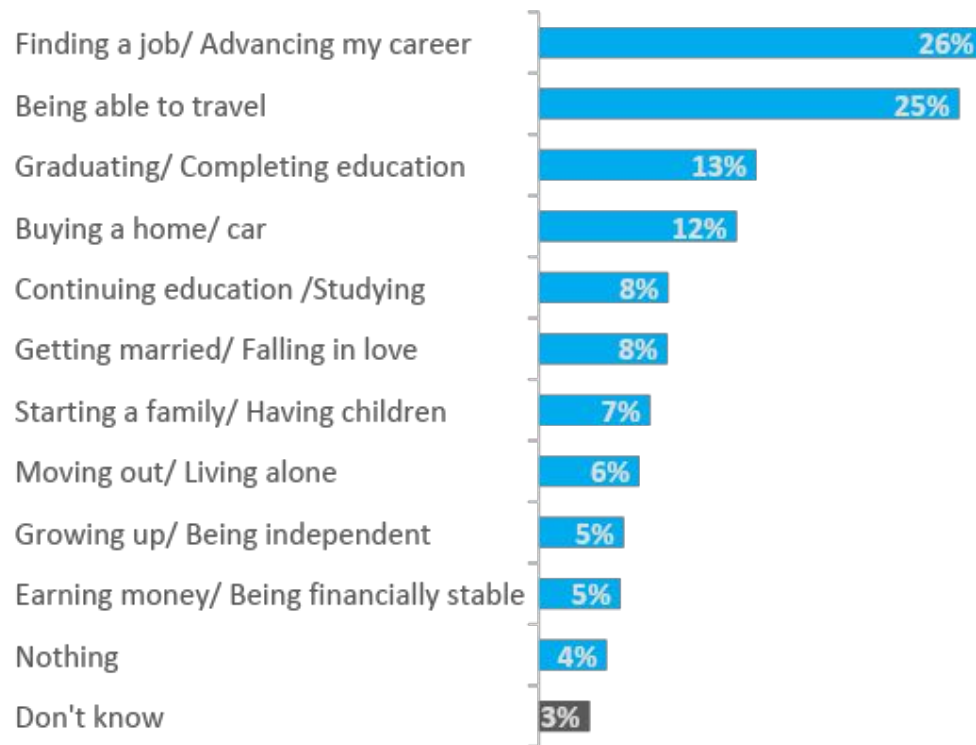
During the Covid-19 lockdown good health (16%) is an important factor in quality of life. One in ten are thankful to be employed during the Covid-19 crisis (10%).

Those aged 23-24 are more likely to mention their good health, job and financial stability than younger participants.

A small minority of young people say they don't feel thankful for anything (4%).

# What are young people looking forward to?

## Things looking forward to (%)



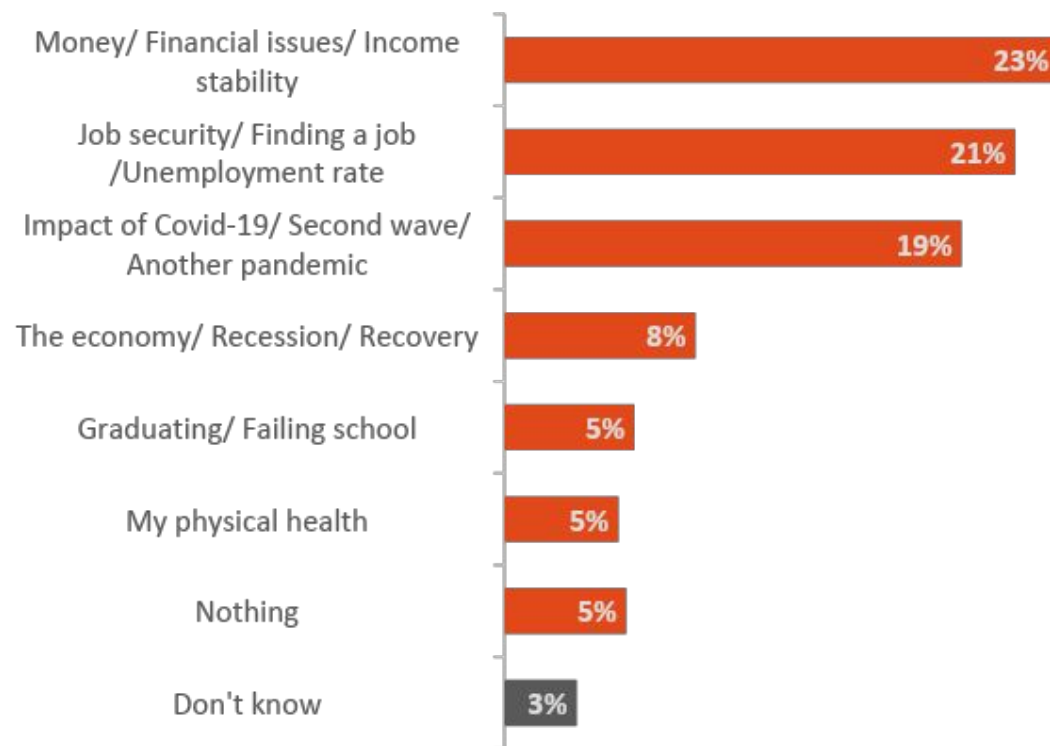
The most exciting challenge for young people are career opportunities – with a quarter looking forward to finding a job in their chosen career (26%). 13% are looking forward to completing their education and starting on this journey. Part of this career advancement is the ability to travel (mentioned by 25%), this is often mentioned together with career aspirations.

Older members of the cohort are more likely to mention travelling than younger members (30% of 23-24 year-olds vs 14% of 18 year-olds); whereas younger participants are more likely to mention continuing their education (19% of 18 year-olds).

Regional young people are twice as likely as their metropolitan counterparts to mention looking forward to starting a family (11% and 5% respectively); while more than a third of Greens voters are looking forward to travelling (38% vs 20% other voters).

# What are young people concerned about?

## Things most concerned about (%)



The biggest concern for the future is of financial nature, with a quarter of young people concerned about money and financial issues (23%) while 21% are concerned about job security – both tend to be mentioned alongside other unspecified impacts of Covid-19 (19%).

23-24 year-olds are more concerned about the economy (13%) than younger members of the cohort; while 18 year-olds are more concerned about whether they will graduate (11%).

Regional young people are less concerned about job security or finding a job (16%) than their metropolitan counterparts (23%).

8% of Greens voters explicitly mention concerns about the environment, though only 1% of other voters do the same.



# Life Goals: Qualifications & Education

Most young people will either start or complete qualifications and education courses over the next two years – if they haven't done so already. Over half have either started their studies (37%) or intend to do so in the next two years (27%).

A quarter have already completed their education (25%), and 38% will do so in the next two years. A further quarter (26%) expect to do this, but not in the next two years.

	Commence study/qualifications	Complete my studies/qualifications
I already have this	37%	25%
I expect to do this within the next two years	27%	38%
I expect to do this, but don't think it'll happen in the next two years	18%	26%
I would like to do this, but don't think it will ever happen	6%	6%
I don't want this	12%	6%

College and university qualifications are the most popular type of study, with 49% of people currently completing a course at these establishments (full or part time). 9% are currently completing a TAFE course and 9% other professional qualifications.

GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, AND HOPEFULLY CONTINUING MY EDUCATION IN THE TERTIARY INSTITUTION OF MY CHOICE AND WITH THE DEGREE OF MY CHOICE AS WELL.

DOING MY POSTGRADUATE STUDY AND MOVING CLOSER TOWARDS MY DESIRED CAREER.

# Life Goals: Home and Living

Where young people live, and who they live with are considered major milestones in a person's life and the first step in this journey is to move out of their childhood home.

A third of the 18-24-year-olds we spoke to have already moved out of their parents' house (31%) and the majority of young people aspire to so at some point, with 28% expecting to do this within the next two years and a further 27% at some point after that.

	Move out of my parents' house	Own my own home	Live abroad
I already have this	31%	10%	17%
I expect to do this within the next two years	28%	19%	12%
I expect to do this, but don't think it'll happen in the next two years	27%	50%	26%
I would like to do this, but don't think it will ever happen	7%	17%	21%
I don't want this	7%	3%	25%

Home ownership is more of a distant dream for many, with just 10% having reached this goal already. For half of young people (50%), home ownership is more than two years away. Despite wanting to become home-owners, 17% of young people think this may be out of reach for them.

Coalition voters are more likely to own their own home already (16%), than Labor (11%) or Greens (7%) voters.

Living and working abroad is an aspiration for more than half of young people (58%). 12% expect to have this experience in the next two years and 26% at some point after that.

# Life Goals: Relationships

A third of participants say they are currently in a long-term relationship (33%) and a further quarter (26%) expect to start one within the next two years.

Just over half of participants expect to start a family of their own, but not in the near future (53%). Another 12% think this may never happen for them, and 14% say a family is not something they want.

Regional residents are twice as likely as their metropolitan counterparts to specifically mention starting a family (11% and 5% respectively) when talking about what they look forward to.

	Have a long-term relationship	Start a family
I already have this	33%	9%
I expect to do this within the next two years	26%	12%
I expect to do this, but don't think it'll happen in the next two years	26%	53%
I would like to do this, but don't think it will ever happen	10%	12%
I don't want this	6%	14%

NOT BEING ABLE TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PARTNER

MY FUTURE AND CAREER ALONG WITH LOVE LIFE

MARRIAGE 😊 MORE GREAT MEMORIES WITH MY ANIMALS & PARTNER, SEE WHAT THE FURTHER THROWS AT ME

# Life Goals: Career

	Secure a full-time/part-time/casual job to pay the bills	Find a job that is part of my long-term career plans	Become self-employed / Start my own business	Pay off all my debt
I already have this	33%	15%	8%	25%
I expect to do this within the next two years	38%	38%	17%	20%
I expect to do this, but don't think it'll happen in the next two years	19%	33%	26%	36%
I would like to do this, but don't think it will ever happen	6%	9%	24%	10%
I don't want this	4%	5%	25%	8%

While a third of young people (33%) have managed to secure a job to earn income, only 15% consider their current work to be part of their long-term career plans. There is a high expectancy that both a temporary paying job, or a career path role will be secured in the next two years (both 38%).

A quarter of young people say they are living debt-free (25%), but just under half say they will be paying off debt over the next two years or longer (46%).

Around two-thirds have an interest in becoming self-employed or running their own business (67%), but for the majority, this is further into the future – 26% thinking it won't happen in the next two years and 24% are apprehensive it may never happen.

Men are more likely to aspire to or have already become self-employed than women (80% to 69%).

## 2. Impact of Covid-19



# Concerns during Covid-19

## % Concern with aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic (Very/Quite concerned)

The physical health of close friends or family members if they catch the virus	66%
Being able to find a job, or change jobs	60%
My close family members' mental health	59%
My mental wellbeing	55%
My ability to travel abroad	55%
My physical health if I catch the virus	55%
How much debt the country will owe	54%
Being able to pay my bills due to losing my job or reduced hours	49%
Getting a promotion or pay rise	37%

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected younger people more so than other age groups – not only are they more likely to have lost work and income, they are disproportionately impacted by social distancing requirements. In addition to that they have more concern for the wellbeing of vulnerable friends and family members.

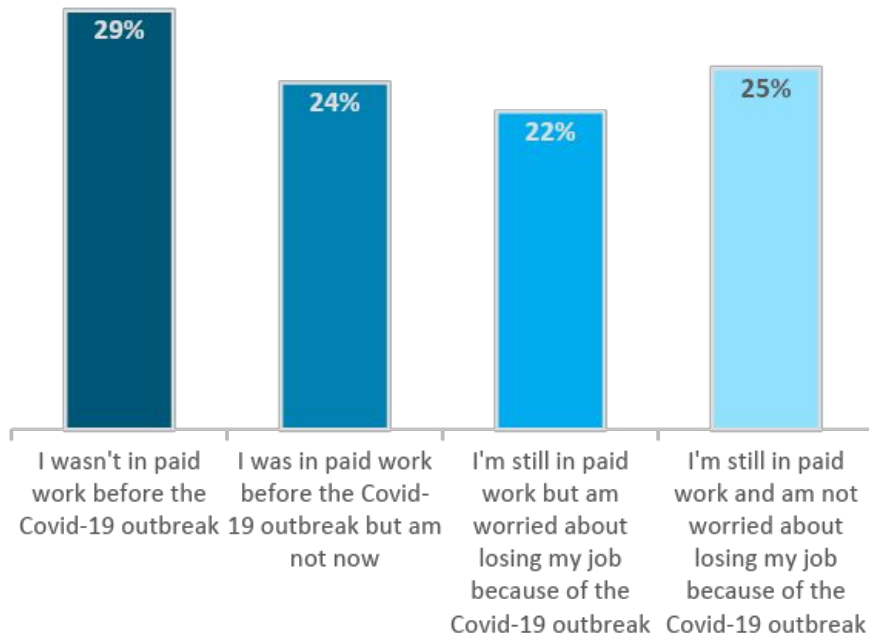
In fact, the main concern for younger Australians at this time, are the health implications for their friends and family, with 66% saying they are concerned about others contracting the virus, and 59% are concerned about the mental health of others.

Issues of lower concern are getting a promotion or pay rise (37%) and their ability to pay bills (49%).

Women are more likely than men to be concerned about implications of the Covid-19 virus, including being concerned about catching the virus (60% to 52%), their personal mental health (63% to 48%), the health of friends and family (70% to 63%) and ability to pay bills (53% to 45%).

# Covid-19 and employment

## Impact of Covid-19 on employment (%)



One-in-four young Australians have lost employment since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic (24%).

Adding this to the 29% who were not in paid work before the outbreak **means over half of people aged 18-24 are currently not in paid employment (53%).**

# 14%

General population aged 25-64 who have lost their employment since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak

Covid-19 has had a greater impact on the employment situation of young people than older workers. 14% of people aged 25-64, said they've lost work due to Covid-19 – this is significantly lower than the **24% of 18-24 years affected**. Those aged between 19 and 22 have the highest incidence of unemployment due to Covid-19 (27%).

The proportion of 18-year-olds who were not in employment before Covid-19 was higher than other ages (45%) due to the higher incidence of full-time study among this group.

# Financial impact of Covid-19

There is low confidence that there will be a quick recovery in the jobs market among people who are currently not in paid employment. Just 14% think they will find paid employment straight after the outbreak, when restrictions have eased.

40% think they will find work quickly, but **33% think it will take a long time for them to find paid work.**

Overall, 18% said they were currently receiving JobSeeker support and 18% were receiving (or their employer was receiving) JobKeeper payments.

Over half (55%) were not receiving either of these Government support packages, with 9% unsure.

TO BE HONEST, I AM SOMEWHAT WORRIED ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION HAPPENING INVOLVING COVID-19, THE WAY IT WOULD OR MAY STRIKE BACK AND HAVE A CERTAIN IMPACT RISK ON JOBS, ECONOMY, TRANSPORTATION ETC

**33%**

Of those without paid employment think it will take a long time to find work after Covid-19

**18%**

Are receiving JobSeeker payments

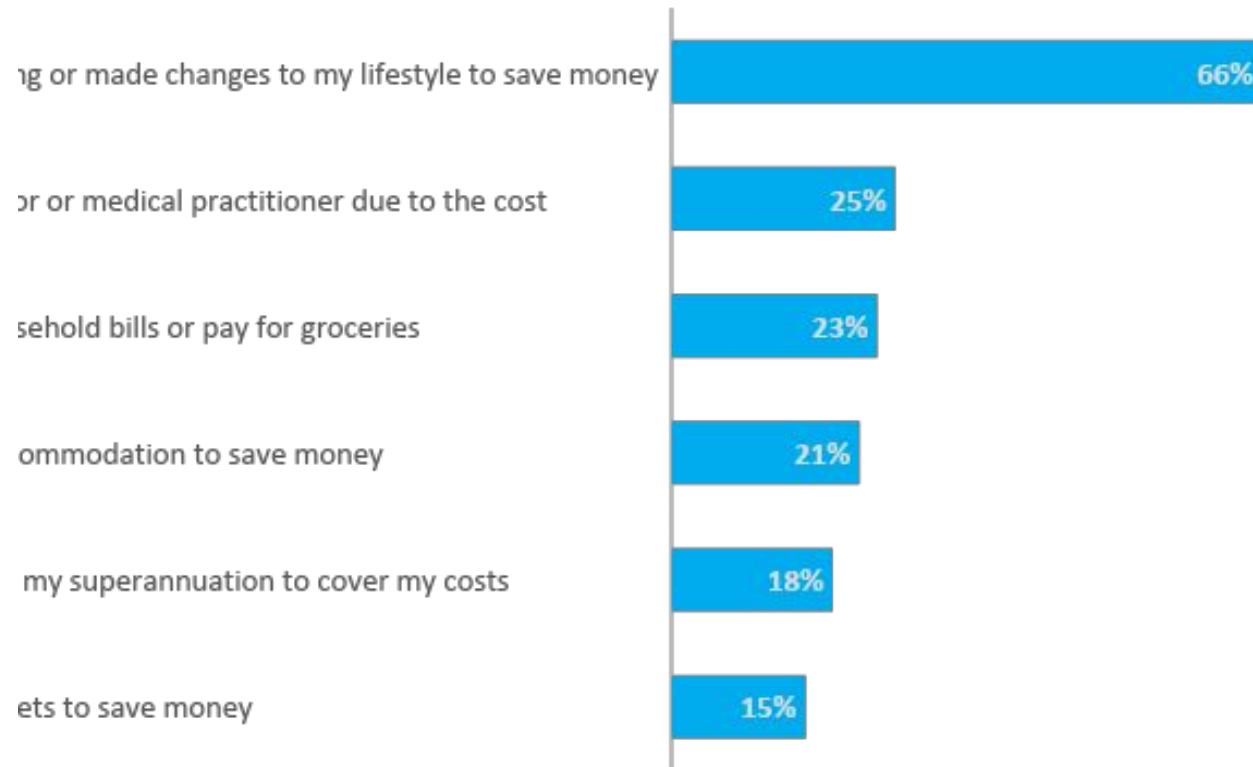
**18%**

Are receiving JobKeeper payments from my employer, or my employer is receiving JobKeeper payments while I continue to work



# Financial impact of Covid-19

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, have you ever experienced any of the following? (%)



The financial hit of the Covid-19 pandemic is already affecting the behaviour of younger Australians.

Two-thirds say they have made changes to their lifestyle to cut down on their spending (66%).

Of more concern, however, are the **25% who have avoided medical appointments due to the cost** and 23% who have had difficulty paying household bills.

Around a fifth of young people say they have moved to cheaper accommodation (21%) and **18% say they have removed money from their superannuation accounts.**

# Performance of Government

Young people currently approve of the protection of the community and the financial support provided by the Government during the pandemic.

30% said they agree with a lot of things the Government has done to protect the community from the spread of Covid-19, and 29% agree with the financial support offered to people out of work, and to businesses to maintain staff.

However, approval is lower for the Governments’ approach to providing financial support to universities (16% agree with a lot of what has been done) and providing support for international students (also 16%). There is also lower understanding of these issues, with more people say they don’t know enough to have an opinion (both 18%).

Coalition voters tend to agree more with the steps taken by the Government than Labor or Greens voters.

At the time of fieldwork, people in Victoria were most likely to think the Government hadn’t done enough to relax the restrictions on social distancing (26% to 19% in all other states and territories), while people in regional areas are more likely to disagree with the steps to relax social distancing (21%).

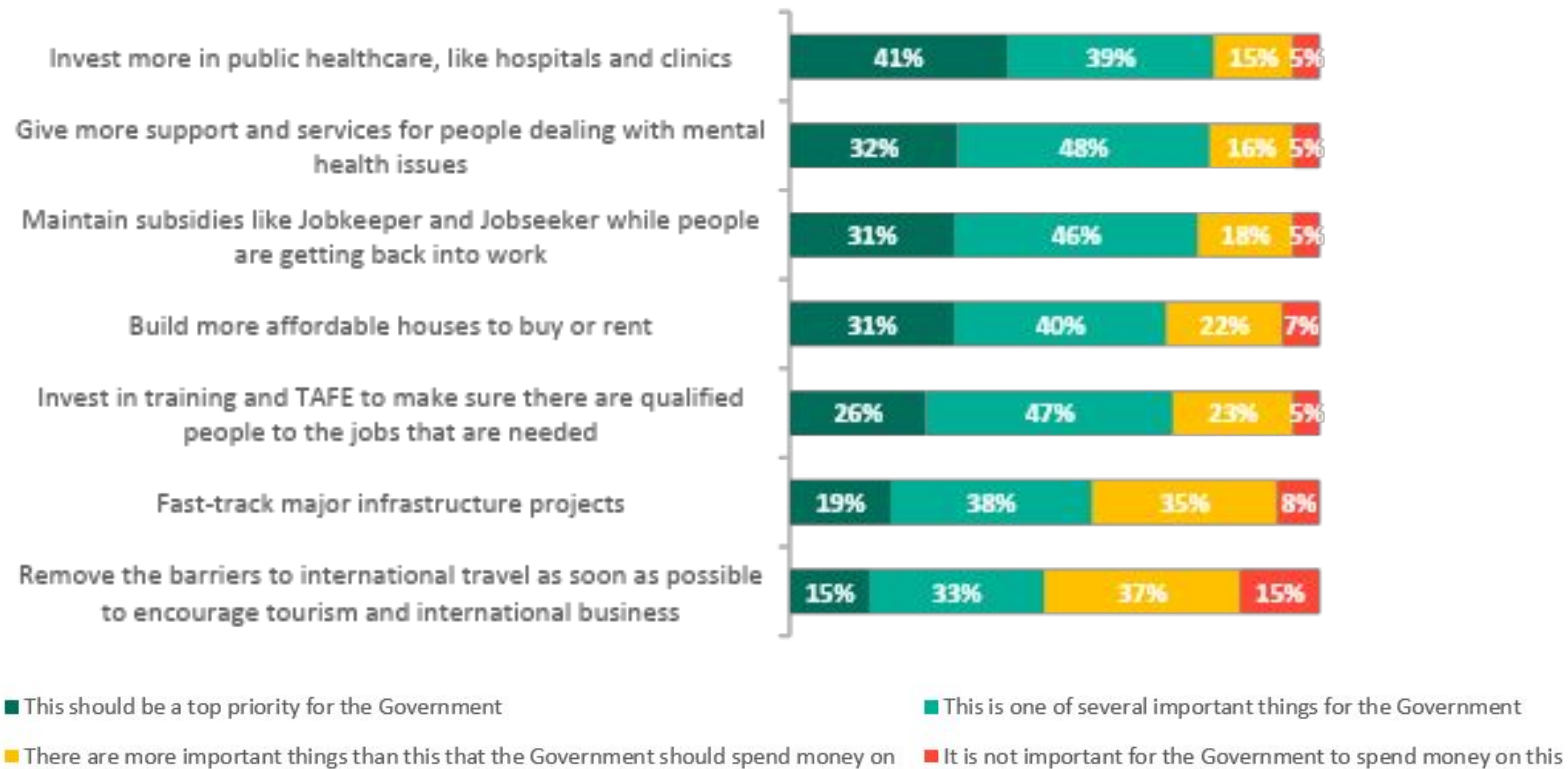
How you think the Federal Government has dealt with Covid-19 issues (%)



Q. We’re now going to ask you about your views on how the Government has dealt with the impact of COVID-19 on Australia and the economy. For each, we’d like to know how you think the Federal Government has dealt with the issue. If you do not have an opinion on the issue, or don’t feel you know enough about it, please select ‘I don’t know enough about what they’ve done on this issue’  
Base: Australians 18-24 years old (n=1,020)

# Priorities for Government Investment

## Priorities for the Federal Government (%)



Healthcare is considered the most important area for investment by young Australians, with 41% rating this as the top priority for the Government.

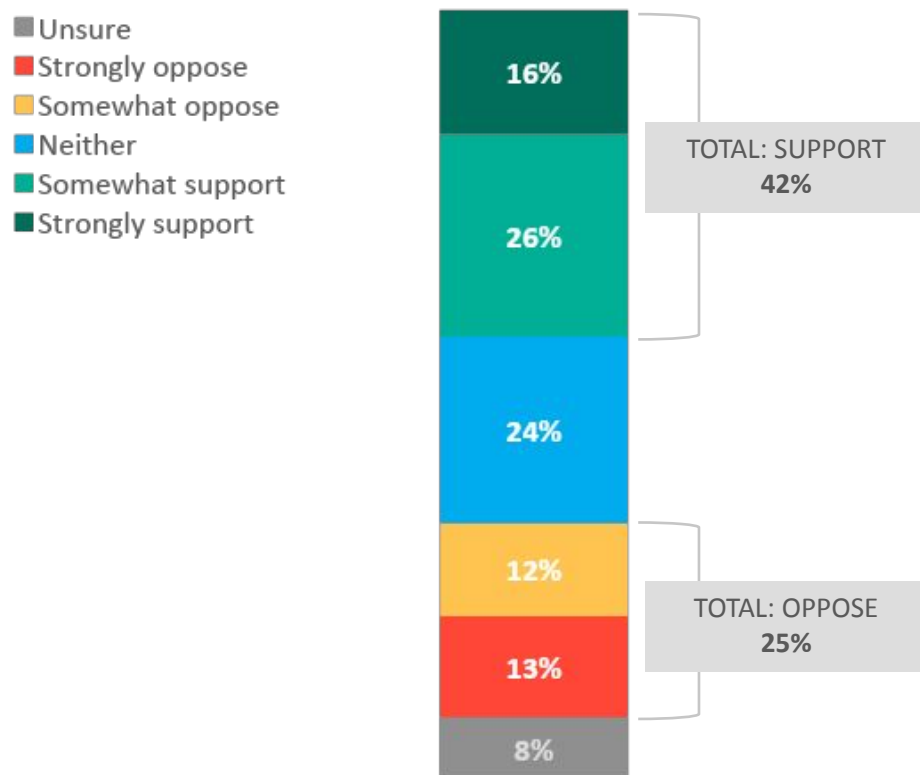
This is followed by support for mental health services (32%), maintaining financial subsidies (31%) and building affordable homes (31%).

Fast-tracking of major infrastructure and removal of international travel barriers were lower priorities (35% and 37% respectively saying these should not be a priority for the Government).

Men were more likely than women to say the fast-tracking of major infrastructure projects should be a top priority (24% to 13%), while the majority of women thought this proposal should either be a lower priority (41%), or not important at all (11%).

# University Funding

## Support for changes to university fees (%)



In June, the Government announced a change to the fee structure of many university courses. This includes fees for teaching, nursing, clinical psychology, English, languages, maths and agriculture courses cut in half to \$3,700 per year, while fees for humanities and communications courses more than double to \$14,500 per year.

42% of young Australians support this announcement, with 16% strong support and 26% somewhat so. Overall opposition is 25%, though women are more likely to oppose the change (30%, compared to 21% of men), while men are more supportive (49% to 36% women).

Greens voters oppose the announced change (42%, compared to 22% all other people); while those intending to vote Coalition are more likely to show support (57%, compared to 38% of all other people).

Support for the announcement is consistent with the wider population. In a recent national survey, 42% supported the change to university fees when asked the same question and 26% opposed.

# 42%

Support for the change to university fees among 25-64 year-old Australians

### 3. Importance of Issues





# Support and Influence of policies: Social

## Support and influence of social policies (% Strongly/Somewhat support)



Young people show a high engagement with the global Black Lives Matter protests in recent months. This issue receives the strongest support, with **70% supporting (either strongly or somewhat) the movement to end institutionalized racism.**

In Australia, the Black Lives Matter movement has been linked to disproportionate Indigenous deaths in police custody, and an investigation into this is supported by 67%. Of those who either support or oppose this policy, **71% would be likely to vote for a party that proposes to launch an investigation into police discrimination.**

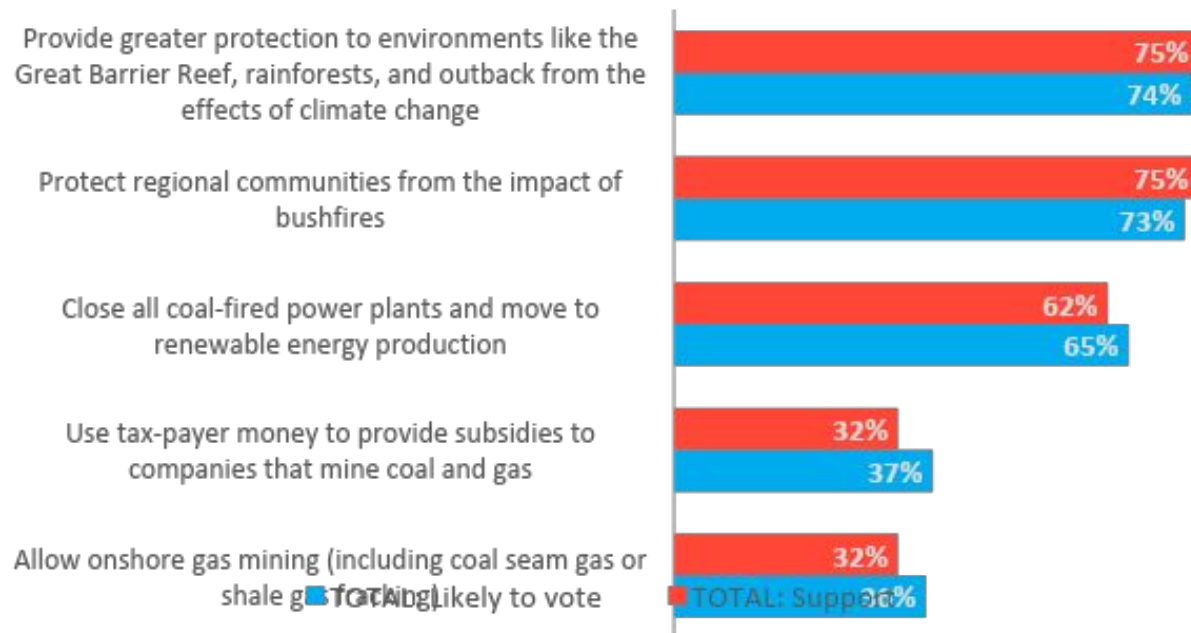
Support for changing the law to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution is at 67%. Women are more likely to **strongly support constitutional recognition** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (50% to 38% of men). Constitutional recognition has the strongest influence on vote, with 73% of those who have an opinion on this issue saying they would be likely to vote for a party that promotes this policy.

Making a permanent increase to JobSeeker and the closure of offshore detention facilities receive lower support (57% and 51% respectively).

In all cases, support was higher among Greens voters, while opposition was higher among Coalition and Other parties (including One Nation, United Australia Party, minor parties and independent candidates).

# Support and Influence of policies: Environmental

## Support and influence of environmental policies (% Strongly/Somewhat support)



Three-quarters of young people support greater protection for environments such as the Outback, rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef. Among those who expressed an opinion on this issue, **74% said they would be likely to vote for a party that announced this policy.**

Protection of regional communities against the impact of bushfires received equivalent levels of support and influence on voting (75% support, 73% likely to vote).

The lowest support were for policies that used tax-payer money to subsidise mining companies (32%) and allowing onshore gas extraction (32%).

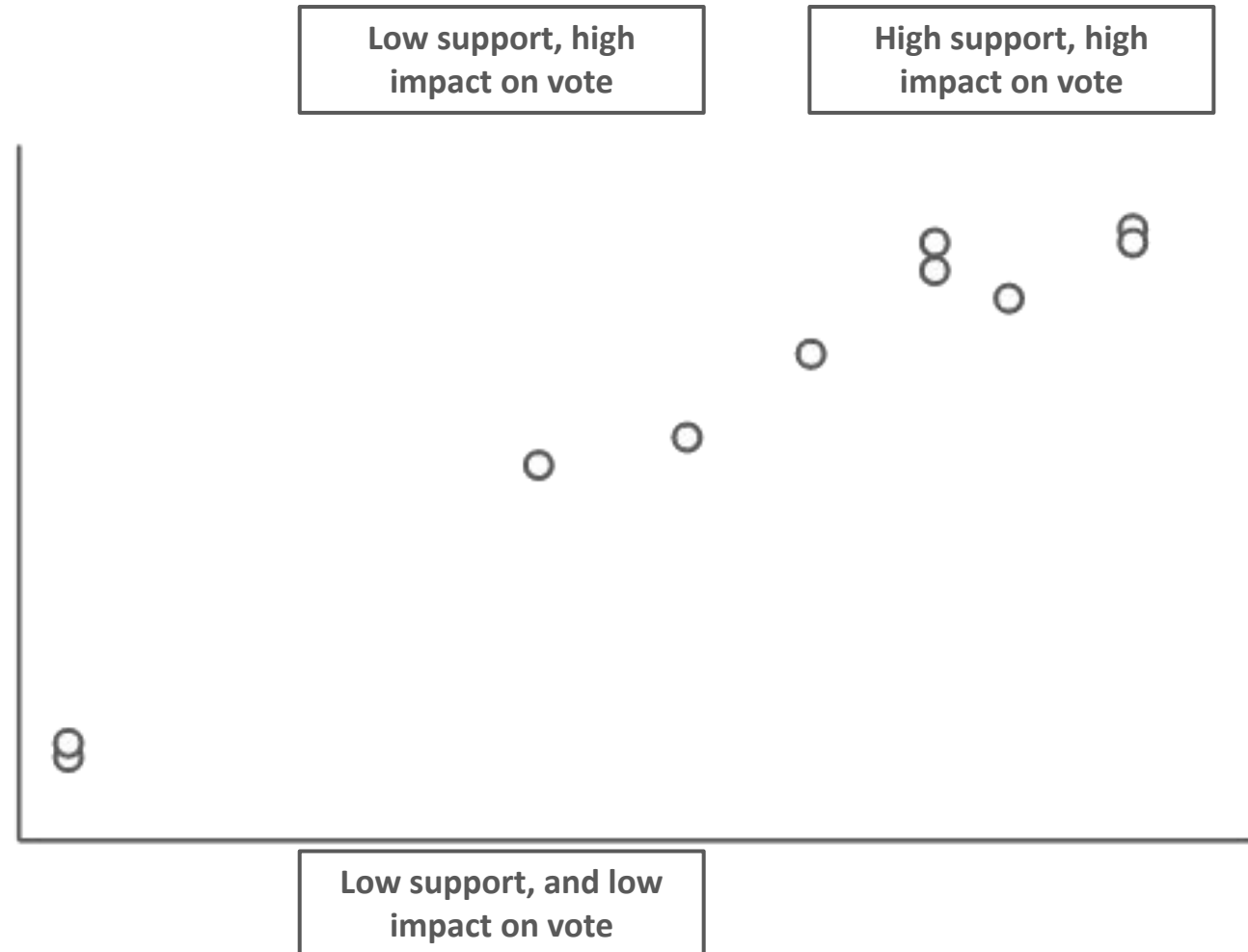
Greens voters are more likely to strongly support environmental protection and transition to renewables policies, while strongly opposing mining subsidies and onshore gas exploration.

# Issues matrix

The chart on the right compares the support for issues and the influence of a person's vote. Policies in the top right-hand side have the highest support, and the highest likelihood to prompt a person to vote for a party or candidate.

Environmental protection and support for communities affected by bushfires have the highest support and greatest influence on voting behaviour. Whereas policies that subsidise mining companies or allow onshore gas exploration receive the lowest support and would prompt only a small number of people to vote for a party.

Policies concerning increasing JobSeeker and the closure of offshore detention receive moderately high support but have a lower influence to vote than other policies such as environmental protection, changing the constitution or investigation of institutional racism.



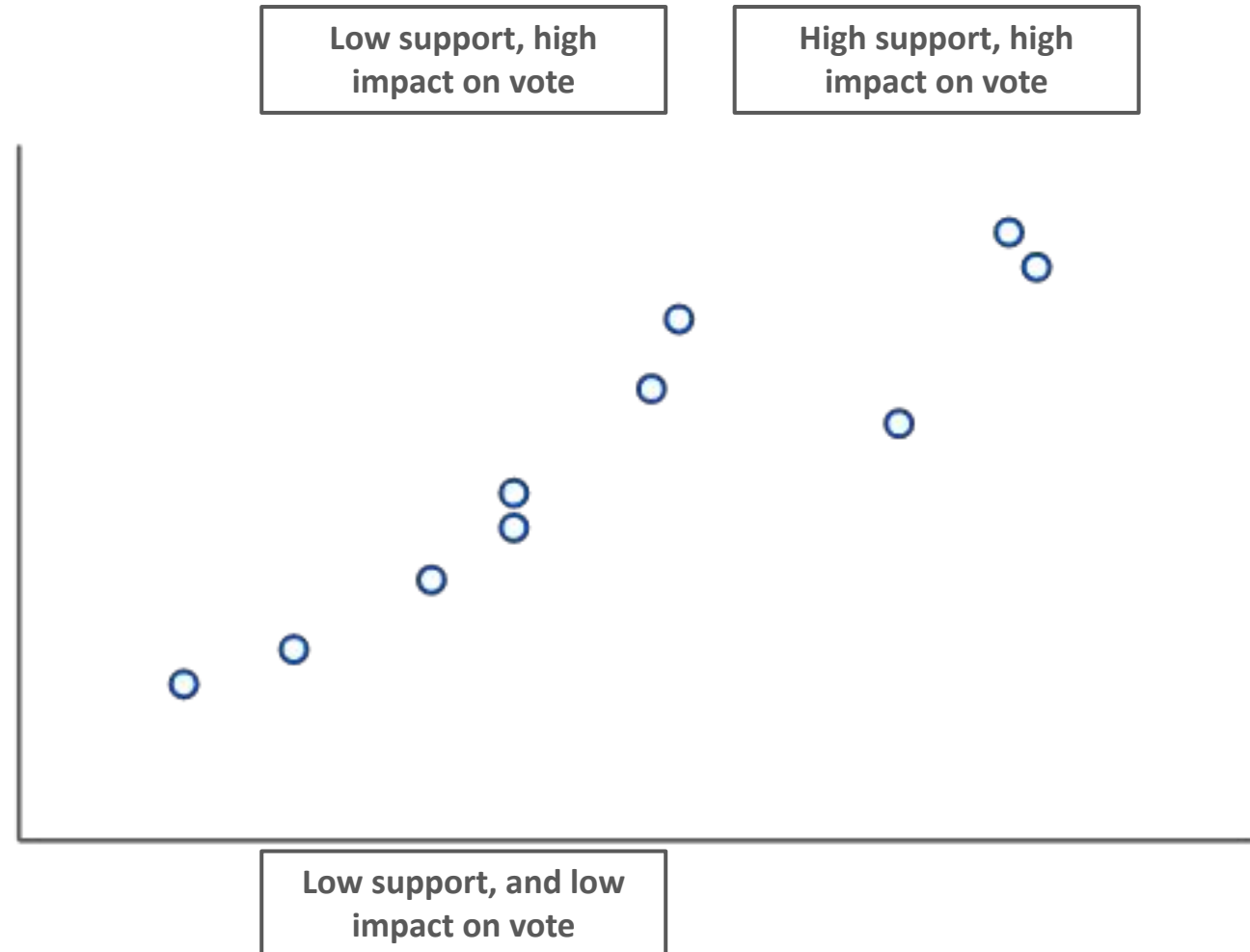


# Issues matrix: Coalition Voters

The influence and importance of issues change when just those who intend to vote for the Coalition are considered.

The funding of mining companies and onshore gas mining are more favourable – moving closer to other issues. Transitioning to renewable energy receives lower support and is less of an influence on voting intention within Coalition voters.

Protection of the environment and support for bushfire communities remain the most supported and influential policies.

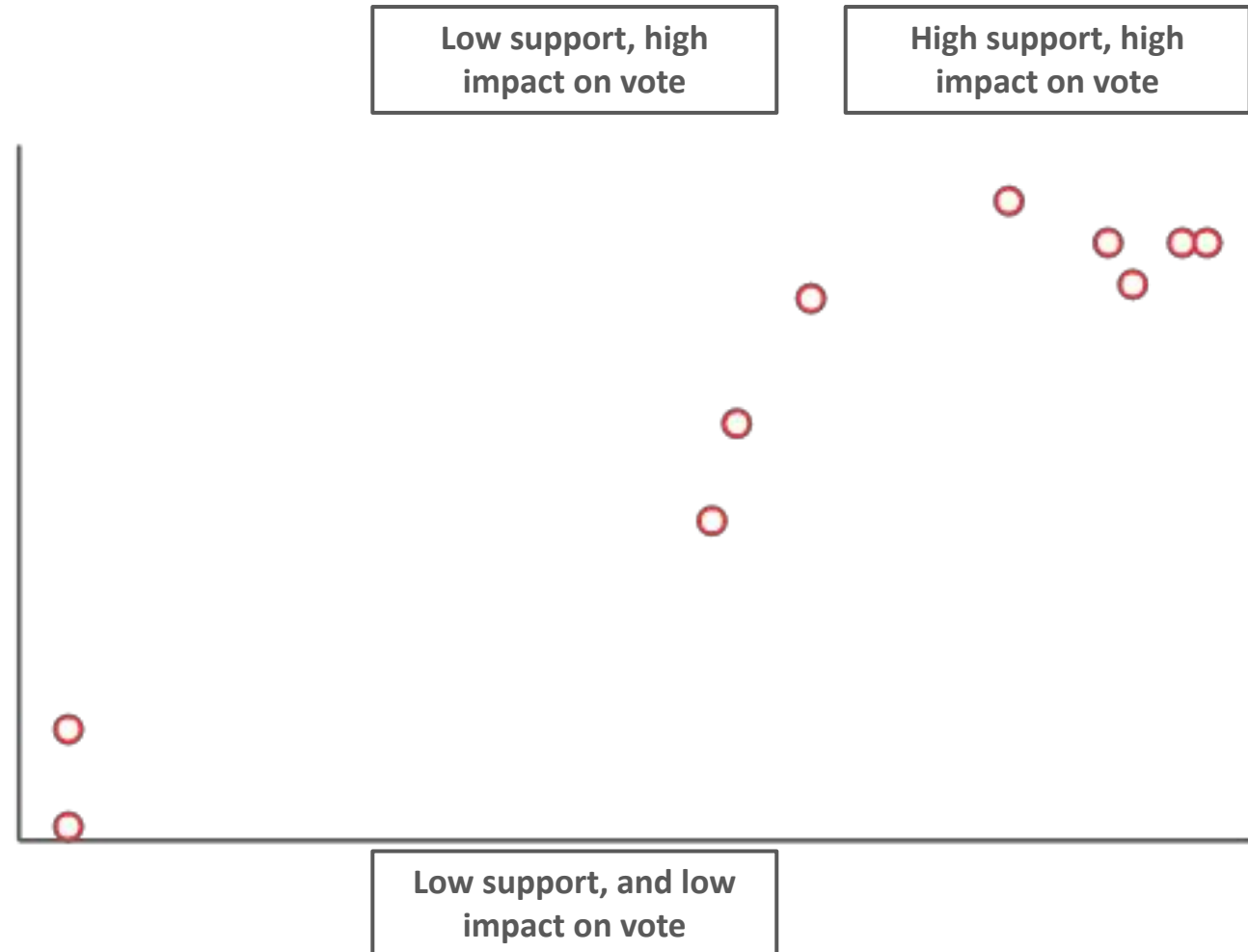


# Issues matrix: Labor voters

For Labor voters, policies to allow onshore gas mining and subsidies for mining companies are separate to all other policies – receiving by far the lowest support and would not influence voting intention.

Labor voters have higher support for the policies to change the constitution and launch an investigation into institutional racism.

Constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples would be the biggest vote influencer (76% of those who have an opinion on the issue).



## 4. Voting Behaviour

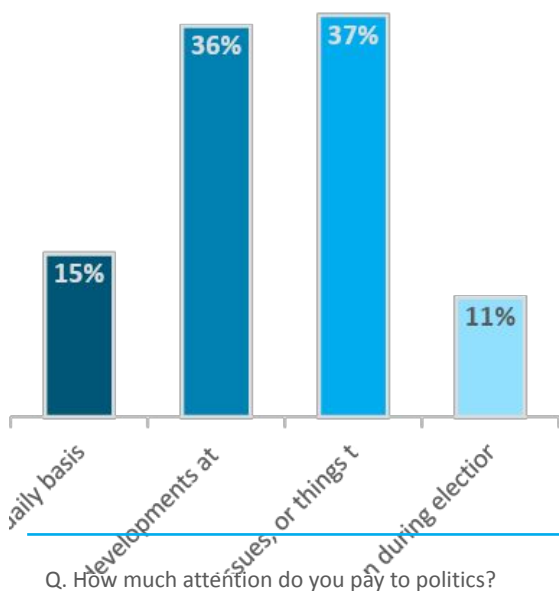


# Engagement with politics

**Young people are engaged and interested in politics.** Around half keep up to date with politics at least weekly, **with 15% following news and updates daily** and 36% at least weekly. 37% say they pay little attention, apart from major issues and 11% only pay attention at election times.

People aged 18 are less likely to pay attention (at least weekly) than those aged 19 and over (42%, compared to 53% of those aged 19 to 24). **Women say they are less engaged**, with 44% only paying attention to major issues, compared to 31% of men.

Attention paid to politics (%)



**One in five (20%) are confident they can name their local Federal MP**, with a further 44% unsure of their name.

**Over half of people have engaged politically in the past year**, including signing online or written petitions (36%), attending a protest (17%) or contacting a local MP or politician (13%). Those intending to vote Greens are most likely to sign a petition (53%), while Coalition voters are most likely to contact politicians directly (19%).

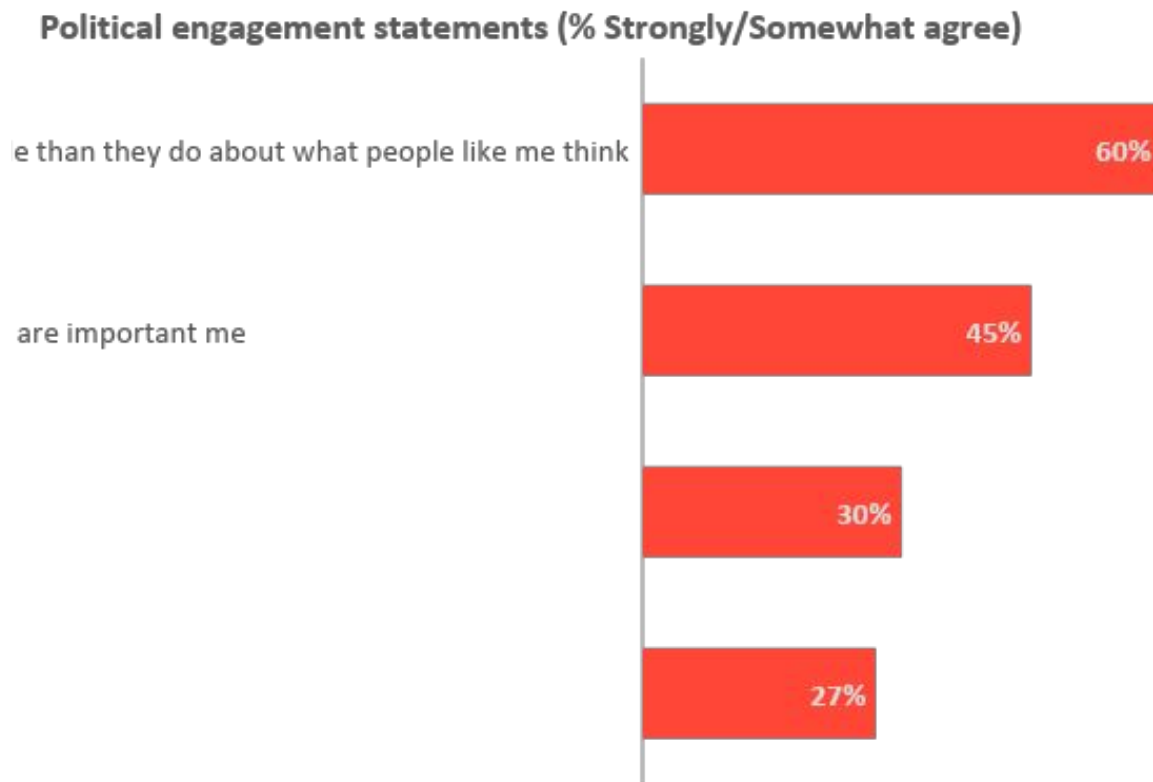
The majority of the people included in this research voted in the last federal election (59%). Most that didn't were not eligible to vote, with the **highest proportion of non-voters among those aged 18** (59%).

For those that did vote, the party and candidates' policies were the main factors when deciding who to vote for (50% and 44%). 38% voted for a party or leadership and 30% voted for the candidate who seemed like they'd be good at the job.

Men are more likely than women to vote for a candidate based on their personality (28% to 17%), while Greens voters are most likely to vote based on party (52%) and their policies (69%).

# Barriers to engagement with politics

There is a perception among younger Australians that **they are not the priority for politicians**. 60% agree that 'Politicians care more about businesses, corporations, and older people than they do about what people like me think'.



There is also a **high degree of frustration** with the political process among young Australians. 45% agree that 'Nothing I can do or say will change what happens on issues that I feel are important to me' and just 27% agree that 'I trust that politicians will do what they say'. Men are more likely than women to trust politicians will do what they say (32% to 22%).

Their perceptions on the impact of politics are more divided. While 30% agree that 'What happens in politics doesn't affect me or the way I live my life', 40% disagreed with that statement. Coalition supporters feel more distant to the effect of politics and were more **likely to agree** with the statement (41%), while Greens supporters were most likely to **disagree** (55%).

**11%**

Who voted at the last Federal Election picked their vote at random

**31%**

Say they have no idea who their Federal MP is in their electorate

# Greater representation in politics would help engagement

Across the political spectrum, there is a demand to see more diversity and a **greater presence of younger people in politics**.

61% agree that 'There should be more women and people from diverse backgrounds in politics' and 63% agree that 'There should be more women and people from diverse backgrounds in politics'.

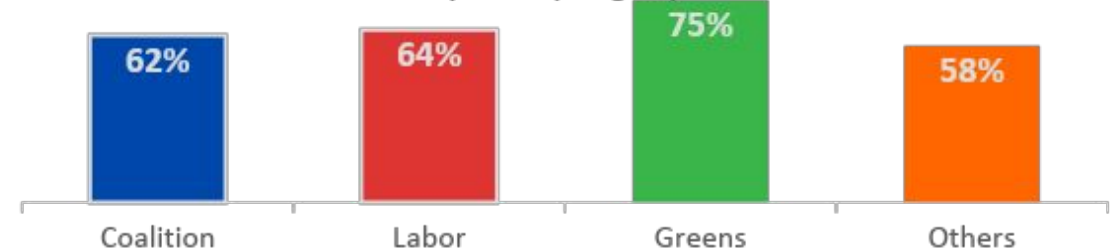
This represents the **majority of people** who intend to vote for each of the major parties at the next federal election. Those voting Greens have the highest agreement with both statements (75% and 73%).

Women more likely than men to agree there should be more ethnic and gender diversity in politics (70% to 58%).

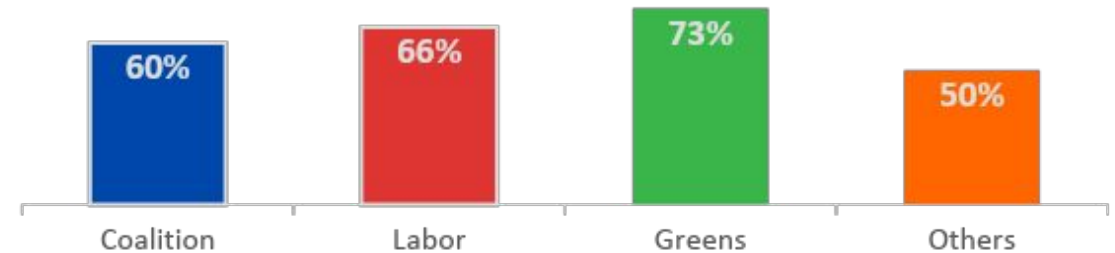
Women who **strongly agree** that there should be more women and people from diverse backgrounds in politics

45%

There should be more women and people from diverse backgrounds in politics (% Agree)



There should be more young people in politics (% Agree)





## 5. Appendices



# Questionnaire

## Foundation for Young Australians

Draft Quantitative Questionnaire D3  
9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Q1. What is your age?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Under 18 [TERMINATE]
2. 18
3. 19-20
4. 21-22
5. 23-24
6. Over 24 [TERMINATE]
7. Prefer not to say [TERMINATE]

Q2. What is your gender?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Male
2. Female
3. Other (please specify)
4. Prefer not to say

Q3. In which one of the following areas do you live?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Brisbane
2. Queensland other than Brisbane
3. Sydney
4. NSW other than Sydney
5. Melbourne
6. Victoria other than Melbourne
7. Adelaide
8. South Australia other than Adelaide
9. Perth
10. Western Australia other than Perth
11. Hobart
12. Tasmania other than Hobart
13. Darwin
14. Northern Territory other than Darwin
15. Australian Capital Territory
16. Other

Q4. What is your postcode?

4-DIGIT OPEN-BOX

### General well-being -- how are young people doing right now?

Thank you for giving those details, the good news is you're eligible to take part in this survey. To start, we'd like to ask you about your life at the minute.

Q5. What are the things you most enjoy, or are thankful for in your life at the moment?

This could be absolutely anything -- your home, relationships, hobbies, health, pets etc.

OPEN-ENDED

Q6. What are the things you are most looking forward to, or excited about over the next few years?

OPEN ENDED

Q7. And lastly, what would you say are your biggest concerns or worries for the next few years?

OPEN ENDED

Q8. For each of the following, use the below scale to tell us if it is something you already have, would like to have in the next two years, or not at all.

- a. I already have this
- b. I expect to do this within the next two years
- c. I expect to do this, but don't think it'll happen in the next two years
- d. I would like to do this, but don't think it will ever happen
- e. I don't want this

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Own my own home
2. Start a family
3. Have a long-term relationship
4. Become self-employed/Start my own business
5. Commence study/qualifications
6. Complete my studies/qualifications
7. Secure a full-time/part-time/casual job to pay the bills
8. Find a job that is part of my long-term career plans
9. Pay off all my debt
10. Live abroad
11. Move out of my parents' house

### Impacts of COVID-19 -- how has COVID-19 changed your wellbeing?

Next, we have some questions about the current Covid-19 situation in Australia.

ASK ALL

Q9. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, have you ever experienced any of the following?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. I have been unable to pay household bills or pay for groceries
2. I have avoided going to a doctor or medical practitioner due to the cost
3. I have cut down on my spending or made changes to my lifestyle to save money
4. I have moved into cheaper accommodation to save money
5. I have sold my car or other assets to save money
6. I have withdrawn money from my superannuation to cover my costs.

Q10. Which of the following best describes the impact of Covid-19 on your work?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. I wasn't in paid work before the Covid-19 outbreak
2. I was in paid work before the Covid-19 outbreak but am not now



# Questionnaire

3. I'm still in paid work but am worried about losing my job because of the Covid-19 outbreak
4. I'm still in paid work and am not worried about losing my job because of the Covid-19 outbreak

## ASK TO THOSE NOT IN PAID WORK (Q10=1 OR 2)

Q11. Once the Covid-19 outbreak is over and restrictions are eased, how long do you think it will be before you are back in paid work?

## SINGLE RESPONSE

1. I'll be back in paid work straight away
2. I don't think I'll be back straight away but I'm confident I'll find paid work fairly quickly
3. I think it will take a long time for me to find paid work
4. I won't be looking for paid work after the restrictions are eased

## ASK ALL

Q12. Are you, or your employer currently receiving either Jobseeker or Jobkeeper payments?

## SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Yes, I am receiving Jobseeker payments
2. Yes, I am receiving Jobkeeper payments from my employer, or my employer is receiving Jobkeeper payments while I continue to work
3. No
4. Unsure

Q13. In the long term, to what extent are you concerned about these impacts of the Covid-19?

- a. Very concerned
- b. Quite concerned
- c. Not that concerned
- d. Not at all concerned
- e. This does not apply to me

## SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE ROWS

1. My physical health if I catch the virus
2. The physical health of close friends or family members if they catch the virus
3. Being able to find a job, or change jobs
4. Being able to pay my bills due to losing my job or reduced hours
5. Getting a promotion or pay rise
6. My mental wellbeing
7. My close family members' mental health
8. My ability to travel abroad
9. How much debt the country will owe

## Government action – what do you think of the government's response to COVID-19?

Q14. We're now going to ask you about your views on how the Government has dealt with the impact of COVID-19 on Australia and the economy.

For each, we'd like to know how you think the Federal Government has dealt with the issue. If you do not have an opinion on the issue, or don't feel you know enough about it, please select 'I don't know enough about what they've done on this issue'

- a. They've done a lot that I agree with
- b. They've done some things, but could've done better
- c. They haven't done enough on this issue
- d. They've done a lot of things I disagree with
- e. I don't know enough about what they've done on this issue

## SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Providing support specifically for people working in industries affected by Covid-19 (e.g. hospitality, entertainment)
2. Providing support for international students in Australia
3. Protecting the community from the spread of Covid-19
4. Providing financial support for businesses to maintain staff (i.e. Jobkeeper subsidies)
5. Providing financial support for people who are looking for work (i.e. increases to the Jobseeker payments)
6. Providing financial support for universities
7. Planning for the future to create jobs following the outbreak
8. Relaxing social distancing rules quickly to get businesses operating again

Q15. Now we'd like to hear your views on these issues of Government spending and investment related to COVID-19.

The following are things the Federal Government could spend money on to help the country recover from Covid-19.

In your opinion, how much should the Federal Government prioritise spending money on each option?

- a. This should be a top priority for the Government
- b. This is one of several important things for the Government
- c. There are more important things than this that the Government should spend money on
- d. It is not important for the Government to spend money on this

## SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Fast-track major infrastructure projects - for example building a rail link between Melbourne and Brisbane, an underwater power cable between the mainland and Tasmania, and the expansion of a copper mine in South Australia
2. Invest in training and TAFE to make sure there are qualified people to the jobs that are needed
3. Build more affordable houses to buy or rent
4. Invest more in public healthcare, like hospitals and clinics
5. Maintain subsidies like Jobkeeper and Jobseeker while people are getting back into work
6. Remove the barriers to international travel as soon as possible to encourage tourism and international business
7. Give more support and services for people dealing with mental health issues

Q35. As you may be aware, the government recently announced changes to university fees, which include fees for teaching, nursing, clinical psychology, English, languages, maths and agriculture courses cut in half to \$3700 per year, while fees for humanities and communications courses more than double to \$14,500 per year.

To what extent do you support or oppose those changes?

## SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Neither support, nor oppose
4. Somewhat oppose
5. Strongly oppose
6. Unsure

## Government action more generally – besides COVID-19, how is the Government doing?

Q16. The next few questions will focus on issues that may be of concern to you, and how politics can influence these issues.

# Questionnaire

To start, how much would you support or oppose the following actions the Federal Government could make that affect some under-represented groups in society?

For each, tell us if you would support or oppose the action. If you do not have an opinion on the issue, or don't feel you know enough about it, please select 'I don't know enough about what this issue to say'.

- a. Strongly support
- b. Somewhat support
- c. Somewhat oppose
- d. Strongly oppose
- e. I don't know enough about this issue to say

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Close the offshore detention facilities for asylum seekers and refugees
2. Permanently increase the Jobseeker payment for people looking for work
3. Change the law so Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are recognised in the Australian Constitution
4. Investigate concerns about the disproportionate number of Aboriginal deaths in police custody and police discrimination towards Indigenous people
5. Demonstrate support with the Black Lives Matter movement and commitment to addressing institutionalised racism

Q17. Next, how much would you support or oppose the following actions the Federal Government could make that involve the environment?

For each, tell us if you would support or oppose the action. If you do not have an opinion on the issue, or don't feel you know enough about it, please select 'I don't know enough about what this issue to say'.

- a. Strongly support
- b. Somewhat support
- c. Somewhat oppose
- d. Strongly oppose
- e. I don't know enough about this issue to say

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Close all coal-fired power plants and move to renewable energy production
2. Provide greater protection to environments like the Great Barrier Reef, rainforests, and outback from the effects of climate change
3. Protect regional communities from the impact of bushfires
4. Allow onshore gas mining (including coal seam gas or shale gas fracking)
5. Use tax-payer money to provide subsidies to companies that mine coal and gas

ONLY SHOW FOR ISSUES WHERE RESPONDENT ANSWERS A-D [HAS A VIEW ON THE TOPIC]

Q18. How likely are you to vote for a political party (or candidate's) if they took this position at the next federal election?

- a. Very likely
- b. Quite likely
- c. Not very likely
- d. Not at all likely
- e. This issue would not affect the way I would vote

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Close the offshore detention facilities for asylum seekers and refugees
2. Permanently increase the Jobseeker payment for people looking for work
3. Change the law so Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are recognised in the Australian Constitution
4. Investigate concerns about the disproportionate number of Aboriginal deaths in police custody and police discrimination towards Indigenous people
5. Demonstrate support with the Black Lives Matter movement and commitment to addressing institutionalised racism

1. Close all coal-fired power plants and move to renewable energy production
2. Provide greater protection to environments like the Great Barrier Reef, rainforests, and outback from the effects of climate change
3. Protect regional communities from the impact of bushfires
4. Allow onshore gas mining (including coal seam gas or shale gas fracking)
5. Use tax-payer money to provide subsidies to companies that mine coal and gas

## Political engagement -- how engaged are you?

ASK ALL

Q19. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements on politics and politicians?

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Somewhat agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Somewhat disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Nothing I can do or say will change what happens on issues that I feel are important me
2. What happens in politics doesn't affect me or the way I live my life
3. I trust that politicians will do what they say
4. Politicians care more about businesses, corporations, and older people than they do about what people like me think
5. There should be more young people in politics
6. There should be more women and people from diverse backgrounds in politics

Q20. How much attention do you pay to politics?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. I keep up to date on a daily basis
2. I catch up on the latest developments at least weekly
3. I hear about any major issues, or things that are important to me, but pay little attention otherwise
4. I really only pay attention during elections

Q21. Do you know the name of the Federal member of parliament (MP) in the area where you live?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Yes, I definitely know this person's name
2. I think I do, but not 100% sure or can't remember their name
3. No, I have no idea
4. I don't know what a Federal Member of Parliament is

Q22. Have you done any of the following in the last year?

MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE OPTIONS 1-4. OPTION 5 EXCLUSIVE

1. Spoken to, or written to your local MP or other politician about important issues to you
2. Signed an online or written petition
3. Attended a protest or march<sup>74</sup> |
4. Attended a town hall meeting
5. I haven't done any of these

## Political engagement -- voting behaviour

# Questionnaire

Q23. Did you vote in the last Federal election in 2019?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Yes
2. No
3. I wasn't eligible, or not registered to vote
4. Do not wish to disclose

IF VOTED IN LAST ELECTION (Q23=1)

Q24. Which of the following were considerations when deciding who to vote for in the last election?

MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE OPTIONS 1-7

1. Which party do they belong to, or who the party leader was
2. What the party's policies were on issues that matter to you
3. What the candidates personal views were on the issues that matter to you
4. The personality of the candidate
5. Who my parents were voting for
6. They seemed like they would be good at the job
7. I didn't know who to vote for so I picked a random candidate
8. Other reason (please specify)

IF VOTED IN LAST ELECTION (Q23=1)

Q25. If you can remember, who did you give your 1<sup>st</sup> preference vote to in the House of Representatives (Lower House)?

SINGLE RESPONSE. OPTIONS 9, 10 & 11 TO REMAIN AT BOTTOM OF LIST RANDOMISE OPTIONS 1 & 2/4/5

1. Labor
2. Liberal (Do not show in QLD or NT)
3. National (Do not show in QLD or NT)
4. Liberal National Party (Only show in QLD)
5. Country Liberals (Only show in NT)
6. Greens
7. Pauline Hanson's One Nation
8. United Australia Party
9. Independent or other party
10. Don't know
11. Don't want to disclose

ASK ALL

Q26. If a Federal election was held tomorrow, to which party would you give your first preference vote in the House of Representatives (Lower House)?

SINGLE RESPONSE. OPTIONS 9, 10 & 11 TO REMAIN AT BOTTOM OF LIST RANDOMISE OPTIONS 1 & 2/4/5

1. Labor
2. Liberal (Do not show in QLD or NT)
3. National (Do not show in QLD or NT)
4. Liberal National Party (Only show in QLD)
5. Country Liberals (Only show in NT)
6. Greens
7. Pauline Hanson's One Nation
8. United Australia Party
9. Independent or other party
10. Don't know
11. Do not want to disclose
12. I am not enrolled to vote at Federal elections

## Closing demographic questions

ASK ALL

Q27. Which of the following best describes your current living arrangements in the property where you spend most of your time?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. I live with my parents, or other family member
2. I am in a rental property
3. I own, or am paying a mortgage I live in
5. I live in university housing or on-campus
4. I don't have a permanent address

IF RENT, OR OWN PROPERTY (Q27=2 OR 3)

Q28. Which other people over the age of 18 do you currently live with?

Please select all that apply

MULTIPLE RESPONSE

1. No one else over the age of 18 [EXCLUSIVE]
2. I live with my partner
3. I live with friends/housemates
4. I live with other family member

Q29. Do you have any dependent children under the age of 18 living in your household?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Yes
2. No

IF IN EMPLOYMENT (Q10=3 OR 4)

Q30. Which of the following best describes your current working status?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Full-time
2. Part-time
3. On a casual contract
4. Work experience or internship placement
5. Independent contractor or gig worker

ASK ALL

Q31. Are you currently studying, or completing any professional qualifications?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Full-time college or university student
2. Part-time college or university student
3. Completing an apprenticeship or TAFE qualification
4. Studying towards professional qualifications
5. None of the above

Q32. Do you receive any of the following benefit payments?  
Please select all that apply.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE OPTIONS 1-5

1. Carers payments

# Questionnaire

2. Family payments (including child care subsidy, single income family supplement, or parenting payment)
3. Jobseeker payments
4. Youth allowance
5. Disability payments (incl. mobility allowance, disability support pension)
6. None of these [EXCLUSIVE]

Q33. Which of the following applies to you?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

SINGLE RESPONSE FOR EACH OPTION. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. I identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
2. I was born in Australia
3. I prefer to speak a language other than English at home or with close family members

Thank you for your time today.

This survey has been commissioned by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) to listen to the concerns and views of young people about current issues.

The FYA is all about backing the next generation of young people who are going to rethink the world and create a better future. If you would like to find out more about the FYA and the work it does, please visit their website at <https://www.fya.org.au/>

Q34. If you have any final comments, or thoughts you wish to share us about the topics raised today, please let us know below

OPEN ENDED BOX. NON-COMPULSORY

# Sample Profile

Gender		State		Education status	
Male	33%	Victoria	26%	Full-time college/university	33%
Female	16%	New South Wales	31%	Part-time college/university	16%
Other	9%	Queensland	21%	Apprenticeship/TAFE qualification	9%
Prefer not to say	9%	South Australia	7%	Studying towards professional qualifications	9%
		Western Australia	10%	None of the above	34%
		Tasmania	2%	Social benefits/support	
		Northern Territory	<1%	Carers payments	6%
		Australian Capital Territory	2%	Family payments	8%
Age		Cultural and linguistic diversity		Jobseeker payments	20%
18	13%	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	8%	Youth allowance	16%
19-20	28%	Born outside of Australia	28%	Disability payments	4%
21-22	29%	Speak a language other than English	27%	None of the above	54%
23-24	30%				
Region					
Metropolitan	77%				
Regional	23%				

# Sample Profile

## Living arrangements

Live with parents/other family	50%
Rental property	33%
Own or paying a mortgage	12%
University housing/on-campus	3%
Don't have a permanent address	2%

## People over 18 living in household

I live with my partner	17%
I live with friends/housemates	15%
I live with other family member	8%
No one else over the age of 18	7%
Don't own or rent property	55%

## Have dependent children

Yes	23%
No	77%

## Voted in 2019 federal election

Yes	59%
No	14%
I wasn't eligible, or not registered to vote	20%
Do not wish to disclose	6%

## Party voted for in 2019 federal election

Labor	33%
Coalition	27%
Greens	18%
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	2%
United Australia Party	2%
Independent or other party	2%
Don't know	8%
Don't want to disclose	8%

## Current voting intention

Labor	25%
Coalition	23%
Greens	16%
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	3%
United Australia Party	1%
Independent or other party	2%
Don't know	14%
Don't want to disclose	9%
Not enrolled to vote	7%