

METHODOLOGY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Project name	Mood of the Nation (Wave 12)
Project reference	NGR 2203003

Research dates:	16th - 21st August 2023
Target population:	The target population for the research was Australian residents (all states and territories) aged 18+.
Research methodology:	The research comprised of a 20-minute self-complete online survey with n=1,213 participants sourced from an ISO accredited market research panel.
Weighting approach:	The data was weighted using ABS Census population statistics on age, gender, location and occupation to match the estimated population of all Australian residents aged 18+. The total effective sample size after weighting was approximately 73%, equating to a margin of error of approximately +/-3.3% (at the 95% confidence interval).
Research questions:	A combination of single choice, multiple choice and open-ended (text response) questions were used in the research. All questions and response options were displayed in full during interviews.

This research was conducted in accordance with the Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards which can be viewed here: <https://www.australianpollingcouncil.com/>

PUBLISHED QUESTIONS

What are the main issues facing Australians that are most important to you right now – the specific cares, concerns, or priorities that you typically talk about with friends or family?

Overall, do you think Australia, <insert state>, and your local area are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	1	2
	Heading in the right direction	Heading in the wrong direction
A	Australia	
B	STATE/TERRITORY	
C	Your local area	

In this question we will show you a series of 36 things that some people believe are important for Australia's future.

We know it's a long list, but the results will provide important information to Australia's leaders.

How important are these things to you personally?

	1	2	3	4
	Extremely important	Quite important	Slightly important	Not important at all
1	Reducing personal taxes			
2	Strengthening pensions, welfare payments and support for vulnerable people			
3	Improving representation and conditions for women in the workplace			
4	Promoting diversity, inclusion, and respect for minority groups			
5	Strengthening our economy			
6	Investing more in programs to boost jobs and address unemployment			
7	Supporting small businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship			

8	Addressing Aboriginal disadvantage and promoting reconciliation
9	Acting decisively on climate change and transitioning to renewables
10	Increasing our local manufacturing capacity
11	Strengthening our defence capabilities
12	Strengthening our borders against illegal immigration
13	Increasing migration to fill workplace shortages
14	Expanding and strengthening public services
15	Investing more to ensure quality affordable healthcare for all Australians
16	Investing more to ensure access to affordable University and TAFE education
17	Investing more to improve the quality of primary and high schools in all local communities
18	Investing more in new transport and other infrastructure projects
19	Investing more to improve the aged care sector
20	Improving the preparedness and support for fires, floods and other disasters
21	Reducing government debt
22	Improving pay and conditions for workers
23	Effectively managing the COVID pandemic recovery
24	Improving the treatment of asylum seekers
25	Preserving freedom of speech and rejecting excessive political correctness
26	Keeping interest rates low
27	Reducing cost increases for household bills and other essential expenses
28	Providing opportunities for more people to own their own home
29	Increasing the availability of affordable rental housing
30	Protecting the natural environment, habitats and wildlife
31	Creating favourable conditions and opportunities for people to build personal wealth

32	Strengthening international alliances to counteract aggression from other countries
33	Strengthening our response to violence against women
34	Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour
35	Investing more to increase the availability of affordable childcare services
36	Improving and securing international trade and supply chains

Next please select the 3 of these things that are most important to you personally.

	Select 3
Reducing personal taxes	1
Strengthening pensions, welfare payments and support for vulnerable people	2
Improving representation and conditions for women in the workplace	3
Promoting diversity, inclusion, and respect for minority groups	4
Strengthening our economy	5
Investing more in programs to boost jobs and address unemployment	6
Supporting small businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship	7
Addressing Aboriginal disadvantage and promoting reconciliation	8
Acting decisively on climate change and transitioning to renewables	9
Increasing our local manufacturing capacity	10
Strengthening our defence capabilities	11
Strengthening our borders against illegal immigration	12
Increasing migration to fill workplace shortages	13
Expanding and strengthening public services	14
Investing more to ensure quality affordable healthcare for all Australians	15
Investing more to ensure access to affordable University and TAFE education	16

Investing more to improve the quality of primary and high schools in all local communities	17
Investing more in new transport and other infrastructure projects	18
Investing more to improve the aged care sector	19
Improving the preparedness and support for fires, floods and other disasters	20
Reducing government debt	21
Improving pay and conditions for workers	22
Effectively managing the COVID pandemic recovery	23
Improving the treatment of asylum seekers	24
Preserving freedom of speech and rejecting excessive political correctness	25
Keeping interest rates low	26
Reducing cost increases for household bills and other essential expenses	27
Providing opportunities for more people to own their own home	28
Increasing the availability of affordable rental housing	29
Protecting the natural environment, habitats and wildlife	30
Creating favourable conditions and opportunities for people to build personal wealth	31
Strengthening international alliances to counteract aggression from other countries	32
Strengthening our response to violence against women	33
Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour	34
Investing more to increase the availability of affordable childcare services	35
Improving and securing international trade and supply chains	36

How do you think the Australian economy will change over the following time frames?

		It will get a lot worse	It will get a little worse	It will stay the same	It will get a little better	It will get a lot better
A	In 3 months	1	2	3	4	5
B	In 12 months	1	2	3	4	5
C	In 3 years	1	2	3	4	5

Please select all the emotions that best describe how you have been feeling over the last few weeks?

		Select all that apply
1	Happy	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Grateful	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Calm	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Content	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Inspired	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Confident	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Optimistic	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Loved	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Excited	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Ambitious	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Proud	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Brave	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Energised	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Joyful	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Angry	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Annoyed	<input type="checkbox"/>

17	Anxious	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Envious	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Bored	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Confused	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Pessimistic	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Sad	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Scared	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Stressed	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Lonely	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Depressed	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Exhausted	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Disappointed	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Rushed	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Overwhelmed	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Included	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Valued	<input type="checkbox"/>

Overall, how would you rate the performance of the following governments?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	99
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
A	The STATE/TERRITORY Government						
B	The Federal Government						

Thinking now about cost of living. How concerned, if at all, are you about the following cost of living issues?

	1	2	3	4	5
	Extremely concerned	Quite concerned	Slightly concerned	Not concerned	This cost isn't relevant to me
A	Petrol prices				
B	Gas bills				
C	Grocery prices				
D	Electricity bills				
E	Rent				
F	Mortgage repayments				
G	Insurance premiums				
H	Motorway tolls				

Have you experienced any of the following things in the last two months as a response to the rising cost of living?

1	Experienced more arguments or tension at home than usual
2	Felt more anxious or worried than usual
3	Been unable to buy your usual groceries
4	Been unable to pay for education-related expenses
5	Been unable to pay a bill on time
6	Been unable to make a mortgage payment in part or full
7	Been unable to pay rent on time
8	Been unable to pay for needed medical expenses
9	Been unable to meet the minimum payments on your credit card
10	Used less heating or cooling in your home than usual
11	Reduced your usual spending on entertainment (restaurants, cinemas, events etc.)
12	Contacted your bank or a financial counsellor because you were having financial difficulties
13	Bought necessities using buy now pay later service
14	Relied on family or friends to help you financially

15	Received assistance from a charity
16	Cut back or stopped spending on holidays
99	None of the above

How would you describe your current financial situation?

1	Doing well and feeling comfortable
2	Doing OK and making ends meet
3	Having some difficulty but just making ends meet
4	Having a lot of difficulty paying bills and covering basic living expenses

Overall, do you agree or disagree with the following statement about the current behaviour of large companies operating in Australia (i.e. Australia's "corporate sector")?

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The are behaving ethically and doing the right thing				

Thinking now about the overall state and long-term direction of modern society in Australia. On balance, do you think it is...

Improving a lot
Improving a little
Staying about the same
Declining a little
Declining a lot

To what extent, if at all, do you think the following things are problems for the overall state of modern society in Australia?

Huge problem 1	big problem 2	Medium problem 3	Small problem 4	Not a problem at all 5
Social inequality including a growing gap between the rich and the poor				

Environmental degradation including waste, pollution and habitat loss
Delays in taking effective action on climate change
Governments that can't be trusted to act with integrity and do the right thing
Companies that can't be trusted to act with integrity and do the right thing
Stress that comes from fast-paced modern lives and information overload
Stress from societal expectations for success and achievement
Overexposure to violence in the media, movies and video games
Growing loneliness and weaker social connections with family, neighbours and other people
The spread of misinformation, fake news, and information manipulation via digital platforms
Overuse of screens, digital devices and social media
Growing materialism and the related effects of modern advertising and marketing
Unequal access to quality affordable housing
Unequal access to affordable education opportunities
Globalisation leading to a loss of local culture and traditions
The aging population placing pressure on a smaller number of working taxpayers
The rise of extremism including the growing polarisation of attitudes and extreme views
Poor future prospects and uncertainties for younger people
Fundamental lack of courtesy and respect that people have for each other
Increasing political correctness with people afraid to say what they really think
Reduced job security and the growth in casual work

The Reserve Bank of Australia will announce its next interest rate decision on the 5th of September. The

decision will affect interest rates for home mortgages and other financial products. What do you think is their most likely decision from this decision? Your best guess is fine.

They will raise interest rates
They will keep interest rates unchanged
They will reduce interest rates
Don't know

And what do you think Australia's official cash interest rate will be over the following timeframes?

	It will be <u>higher</u> than now	It will be <u>the same</u> as now	It will be <u>lower</u> than now
In 6 months	1	2	3
In 12 months	1	2	3
In 3 years	1	2	3

Before the end of 2023, the Federal Government plans to hold a referendum to alter the constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Do you approve this proposed alteration of the constitution?

1	Yes
2	No
3	Don't know

(ASK IF DON'T KNOW) Voting at this referendum will be compulsory for Australian citizens. If you had to vote today, would you approve this proposed alteration of the constitution?

1	Yes
2	No
3	Don't know

How likely are you to vote in the planned referendum to alter the constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?

Definitely won't										Definitely will
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

As part of its plan to reduce carbon emissions and transition to more renewable energy, the Victorian Government recently banned gas connections to new housing developments from 2024 onwards – making new housing all electric for heating, cooking and hot water.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose

Australia is currently transitioning away from coal-fired electricity generation to more renewable energy from solar, wind farms and other generation sources. Many of these projects need to be connected to the electricity network through new transmission lines and towers in regional areas. In principle, do you support or oppose the government compulsorily acquiring land on private properties such as farms for this purpose if the landowner is paid a fair price?

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose

The Federal Government is currently considering the best approach to fund Australia’s aged care system in a sustainable way while keeping the system fair and equitable for all Australians.

In principle, do you support or oppose the following funding approaches?

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Superannuation ‘ring fencing’- where Australians are required to set aside part of their superannuation to pay for their aged care				
A new “Aged Care Levy” (similar to the existing Medicare Levy) on taxpayers which is used to fund the aged care system				
A 1% increase on income tax rates				

As construction costs rise, several governments across Australia are considering pausing or cancelling some large transport infrastructure projects that they had previously committed to. In principle, how do you feel about this?

They should complete the projects they have already committed to, even if the final cost is significantly higher than anticipated
They should pause or cancel the projects if they think they are becoming too expensive