

METHODOLOGY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Project name	Mood of the Nation (Wave 25)
Project reference	NGR 2203003

Research dates:	13 th - 18 th May 2026
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=1,210 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 54%, equating to a margin of error of approximately +/-3.1% (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

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. 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?

(Please list these issues in the box below and be as specific as possible about them)

PROG NOTE: OPEN TEXT FIELD. MINIMUM 10 CHARACTERS

Q. Overall, do you think Australia, <insert state>, and your local area are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: RANDOMISE 1-2

	1	2
	Heading in the right direction	Heading in the wrong direction
A	Australia	
B	(PROG NOTE: INSERT STATE/TERRITORY FROM Q)	
C	Your local area	

PROG NOTE: ASK IF AUSTRALIA HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION IE CODE 1 IN Q. CODE 2 GO TO Q.

Q. For what reasons do you think Australia is heading in the right direction?

(Please list these reasons in the box below and be as specific as possible about them)

PROG NOTE: OPEN TEXT FIELD. MINIMUM 10 CHARACTERS

PROG NOTE: ASK IF AUSTRALIA HEADING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION IE CODE 2 IN Q. CODE 1 GO TO Q.

Q. For what reasons do you think Australia is heading in the wrong direction?

(Please list these reasons in the box below and be as specific as possible about them)

PROG NOTE: OPEN TEXT FIELD. MINIMUM 10 CHARACTERS

Q. 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? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: RANDOMISE 1-36

	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	Boosting jobs and addressing 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	Addressing the deliberate spread of misinformation and “fake news”			
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 public transport infrastructure
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	Investing more in road infrastructure
24	Strengthening our response to racial and religious violence and intimidation in Australia
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	Managing risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI)
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	Dealing with international tariffs and supporting affected businesses

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

PROG NOTE: ONLY POPULATE WITH RESPONSES FROM Q THAT ARE NOTED AS BEING "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT" (RESPONSE CODE =1). DO NOT ASK IF THERE ARE 3 OR LESS RESPONSES WITH CODE 1 IN Q. FOR THESE PARTICIPANTS POPULATE ALL CODE 1 RESPONSES IN Q FOR Q. IF PARTICIPANT GAVE NO "CODE 1" RESPONSES IN Q THEN POPULATE WITH CODE 2 RESPONSES. IF PARTICIPANT GAVE NO "CODE 1" OR "CODE 2" RESPONSES IN Q THEN SKIP QUESTION. RANDOMISE OPTIONS

	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
Boosting jobs and addressing 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
Addressing the deliberate spread of misinformation and "fake news"	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 public transport infrastructure	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
Investing more in road infrastructure	23
Strengthening our response to racial and religious violence and intimidation in Australia	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
Managing risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI)	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
Dealing with international tariffs and supporting affected businesses	36

Q. How do you think the **Australian economy** will change over the following time frames? (Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1-5 AND 5-1

		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

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. Please select all the emotions that best describe how you have been **feeling** over the last few weeks?
 (Select all that apply)

PROG NOTE: MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE 1-32

1	Happy		17	Anxious
2	Grateful		18	Envious
3	Calm		19	Bored
4	Content		20	Confused
5	Inspired		21	Pessimistic
6	Confident		22	Sad
7	Optimistic		23	Scared
8	Loved		24	Stressed
9	Excited		25	Lonely
10	Ambitious		26	Depressed
11	Proud		27	Exhausted
12	Brave		28	Disappointed
13	Energised		29	Rushed
14	Joyful		30	Overwhelmed
15	Angry		31	Included
16	Annoyed		32	Valued

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. Overall, how would you rate the performance of the following governments? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-B

	1	2	3	4	5	6	99
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
A	The (PROG NOTE: INSERT STATE/TERRITORY FROM Q) Government						
B	The Federal Government						

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

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-I. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 4,3,2,1,5

	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				
I	Water bills				

Q. How would you describe your current financial situation? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

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

Q. 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")? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
A	They are behaving ethically and doing the right thing				

Q. Thinking about social cohesion - by that we mean the way in which different people and groups in society get along and feel connected to one another.

How would you rate the level of social cohesion in Australia at the current time? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

1	Excellent
2	Very good
3	Good
4	Fair
5	Poor
6	Very Poor

Q. And how do you think social cohesion in Australia will change over the following time frames? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3 AND 3,2,1

		It will get worse	It will stay the same	It will get better
A	In 12 months	1	2	3
B	In 3 years	1	2	3

Q. To what extent do you think each of these has a role in improving social cohesion in Australia?
(Select one answer)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE A-E. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4 AND 4,3,2,1

	1	2	3	4
	Major role	Moderate role	Minor role	No role
A	The media			
B	Governments			
C	Businesses			
D	Cultural and faith leaders			
E	Everyday people			

Q. Overall, do you feel positive or negative about Australia transitioning its electricity generation to renewables like solar, wind and hydro and moving away from coal and other fossil fuels? (Select one answer)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5, AND 5,4,3,2,1

Very positive	Somewhat positive	Neither positive nor negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative
1	2	3	4	5

Q. In Australia, do you think the transition to renewable energy like solar, wind and hydro is currently moving... (Select one answer)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1

Far too quickly	A bit too quickly	At an appropriate pace	A bit too slowly	Far too slowly
1	2	3	4	5

Q. In principle, do you support or oppose Australia developing new electricity generation projects using the following types of energy? (Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 & 5,4,3,2,1. RANDOMISE A-M

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

A	Coal fired power plants
B	Gas fired power plants
D	Offshore wind farms (typically 10-40 kilometers from the coastline)
E	Onshore wind farms (typically in regional areas)
F	Nuclear power
G	Solar farms
H	Rooftop solar
I	Hydro-electric power
J	Waste-to-energy projects (which use household and other waste as a fuel source)
K	Renewable gas (e.g. biomethane generated from farming and agricultural waste)
L	Hydrogen gas created from renewables such as solar and wind
M	Hydrogen gas created from fossil fuels such as coal and gas

Q. Do you support or oppose the following actions related to energy in Australia? (Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 & 5,4,3,2,1.

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
	1	2	3	4	5
B	The Federal Government's target to reduce carbon emissions by 62% to 70% by 2035 (compared to 2005 levels)				
C	The Federal Government committing to "Net zero carbon emissions" by 2050 (meaning that carbon pollution released will be balanced by carbon storage or other offsets)				

Q. How confident are you that each of the following will occur? (Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 4,3,2,1,5.

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5
B	Australia reducing carbon emissions by 62% to 70% by 2035 (compared to 2005 levels)				
C	Australia achieving "Net zero carbon emissions" by 2050 (meaning that carbon pollution released will be balanced by carbon storage or other offsets)				

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. Thinking now about the Federal Budget that was handed down recently on Tuesday 12th May. Based on what you may have seen or heard about it, overall what type of impact do you think it will have on **you and your immediate family**? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5,99 AND 5,4,3,2,1,99

1	A very positive impact
2	A somewhat positive impact
3	Neither positive nor negative impact
4	Somewhat negative impact
5	A very negative impact
99	Don't know

Q. Based on what you may have seen or heard about the Federal Budget, overall what impact do you think it will have on **Australia**? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5,99 AND 5,4,3,2,1,99

1	A very positive impact
2	A somewhat positive impact
3	Neither positive nor negative impact
4	Somewhat negative impact
5	A very negative impact
99	Don't know

PROG NOTE: RANDOMISE Q-Q

Q. In the Federal Budget, the Federal Government announced changes to the **capital gains tax (CGT)** discount on assets (such as investment properties or shares) held for more than a year.

- The current rule – where only 50% of any profit is taxed - will be replaced.
- Under the new system, when an asset is sold, the profit will first be reduced to account for inflation over the time it was held, and the remaining gain will then be taxed, with a minimum tax rate of 30%.
- These changes will apply to gains made from 1 July 2027 onwards, with existing gains remaining under the current rules.

Some argue this could help improve housing affordability, while others argue it may discourage investment in rental housing.

Do you support or oppose this change? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5,99 AND 5,4,3,2,1,99

1	Strongly support
2	Somewhat support
3	Neither support nor oppose
4	Somewhat oppose
5	Strongly oppose
99	Don't know

Q. In the Federal Budget, the Federal Government announced changes to **negative gearing** for property investors. Negative gearing allows investors to offset losses from a rental property against other income, such as wages, to reduce the amount of tax they pay.

- Under the new system, investors will only be able to use these losses to reduce tax on other income if the property is a newly built home.
- For other investment properties, losses can only be offset against rental income or used later to reduce profits when a property is sold, rather than other income such as wages.
- Existing investment properties will not be affected by these changes.

Some argue this could help improve housing affordability, while others argue it may discourage investment in rental housing.

Do you support or oppose this change? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5,99 AND 5,4,3,2,1,99

1	Strongly support
2	Somewhat support
3	Neither support nor oppose
4	Somewhat oppose
5	Strongly oppose
99	Don't know

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. Which of the following best describes your work status? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

1	Working full time
2	Working part time
3	Working casually
4	Retired
5	Unemployed
6	Full-time student
7	Full time home / parent duties
98	Other

PROG NOTE: ASK IF EMPLOYED IE CODE 1-3 IN Q. OTHERS GO TO Q

Q. Thinking about job security in your current employment.

How secure or insecure do you feel about your own job at the current point in time? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

1	Very secure
2	Somewhat secure
3	Somewhat insecure
4	Very insecure
99	Don't know

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. Thinking now about the availability of fuel for households and businesses in Australia. This includes petrol and diesel. How much of a problem, if at all, do you think fuel availability is or will be...
(Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW

		Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	Don't know
A	At the current point in time	1	2	3	99
B	1 month from now	1	2	3	99
C	12 months from now	1	2	3	99

Q. Do you think the Federal Government is currently doing too much, about the right amount or too little to manage the availability of fuel in Australia? (Select one answer)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

1	Too much
2	About the right amount
3	Too little
99	Don't know

Q. Would you support or oppose the following things in Australia to reduce the reliance on imports of fuel? (Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-C

		Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
A	Allowing more oil and gas drilling to produce more fuel	1	2	3	4	5	99
B	Developing more fuel refineries, which turn raw or crude oil into fuels	1	2	3	4	5	99
C	Developing bio-fuels using locally grown agricultural materials (such as Canola)	1	2	3	4	5	99

Q. Fuel rationing involves limiting how much petrol or diesel households and businesses can buy, to manage supply shortages. Overall, which one of the following best reflects your view? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

1	You support at least some level of fuel rationing being introduced now
2	You support at least some level of fuel rationing but only if supply issues become worse
3	You don't support fuel rationing at any time
99	Don't know

Q. How much of an impact do you think fuel availability will have on each of the following over the next couple of months? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-E

		Large impact	Small impact	No impact	Don't know
A	The Australian economy	1	2	3	99
B	The cost of electricity	1	2	3	99
C	The cost of housing	1	2	3	99
D	The cost of food and groceries	1	2	3	99
E	The cost of air travel	1	2	3	99

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. Which of the following, if any, have you personally done specifically in response to recent rises in fuel prices? *(Select all that apply)*

PROG NOTE: MULTI RESPONSE. RANDOMISE 1-9 THEN 99 LAST. CODE 99 IS EXCLUSIVE

1	Driven less or combined multiple destinations into one trip
2	PROG NOTE: ONLY SHOW IF EMPLOYED IE CODES 1-3 IN Q Worked from home more often
3	PROG NOTE: ONLY SHOW IF EMPLOYED IE CODES 1-3 IN Q Changed or cancelled work travel plans
4	Changed holiday travel plans
5	Cancelled holiday travel plans
6	Used public transport more often than you otherwise would
7	Shopped around for cheaper fuel more often than you otherwise would
8	Changed vehicle use (e.g. used a more fuel efficient car)
9	Carpooled with a colleague or friend
99	None of the above

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. How do you rate the current relationship between Australia and the following countries? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-M

	1	2	3	4	5	6	99
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
A	United States						
B	Russia						
D	China						
E	Indonesia						
F	South Korea						
G	Japan						
H	Canada						
I	India						
J	France						
K	Germany						
L	New Zealand						
M	United Kingdom						

Q. Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom have formed a long-term security partnership known as AUKUS.

The agreement aims to strengthen defence and security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, including helping Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines and access advanced defence technologies. Do you support or oppose Australia's involvement in the AUKUS partnership? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1

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

Q. Which one of the following do you think should be the main priority for the Federal Government when it comes to national security? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE 1-2 THEN 3 LAST

1	Strengthening our alliance with the USA
2	Strengthening our alliance with other countries
3	Don't know

Q. Overall, do you feel positive or negative towards US President Donald Trump? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1

1	Very positive
2	Somewhat positive
3	Neither positive nor negative
4	Somewhat negative
5	Very negative

Q. Do you personally think US President Donald Trump is...? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4 AND 2,1,3,4

1	Making the world a more safe place
2	Making the world a less safe place
3	Making no difference to how safe the world is
4	Don't know