

CONFIDENTIAL



ANU COLLEGE OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Australian Candidate Study

A NOTE ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

We realise you are very busy, and in order to save your time and effort we have limited the number of questions and kept them as brief and straightforward as we can. In most cases, please answer a question by simply crossing the box that **most closely** represents your experience, situation or view.

Many of the questions in the section on 'Election Issues' have also been asked of a large national sample of voters, allowing aggregate comparisons to be made between the views of candidates and voters.

Other questions ask about your political background, the election campaign and your personal background. These are important to our on-going research on the background and experience of candidates for political office and comparison with similar international studies.

We give you every assurance that the information collected in this study will not be used in any form which allows identification of individual candidates. Numbering of questionnaires is only necessary for the conduct of the survey and for allocating responses to various groups (e.g. political party, State) for analysis. *(If you do not wish to take part, simply return the blank questionnaire and we will not contact you again).*

HOW TO FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

To answer most of the questions you only need to **cross a box**. Please cross the box which is **closest** to your view—there are no right or wrong answers. Here is an example.

Do you think the government should spend more or less on education?	
Spend more on education	1
Doesn't matter	2
Spend less on education	3
If you think the government should spend more on education, you would put a cross in the box as shown.	

Please read each question carefully. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers - we just want to know **your own** personal opinions.

We hope you enjoy the questionnaire. And thank you very much for taking part in this study.

Professor Ian McAllister, Australian National University

Dr Juliet Pietsch, Australian National University

Professor Clive Bean, Queensland University of Technology

Professor Rachel Gibson, University of Manchester

Section A: The Election Campaign

First, some questions about your political background.

A.1. In which years have you stood as a candidate for the Federal Parliament and were you elected in those years?

Please cross all that apply

	2007	2004	2001	1998	1996	earlier
Candidate, not elected	1	2	3	4	5	6
Elected	1	2	3	4	5	6

A.2. And for how many years have you been a...

Please round up to the nearest year. Write "0" for never.

- ...member of a local government or council |_|_|_|_| years
- ...member of a state/territory legislature |_|_|_|_| years
- ...member of a state/territory government |_|_|_|_| years
- ...member of the Federal Parliament |_|_|_|_| years
- ...member of a Federal Government |_|_|_|_| years

A.3. Has anyone in your immediate family run for public office?

Please cross all that apply

- No 1
- Yes, in local politics 2
- Yes, in State/Territory politics..... 3
- Yes, in Federal or national politics 4

A.4. In what year did you join the political party for which you are now a candidate?

Year |_|_|_|_|_|

A.5. Have you ever been a member of another political party?

- No 1
- Yes, Liberal Party member 2
- Yes, Australian Labor Party member 3
- Yes, National (Country) Party member 4
- Yes, Greens Party member 5
- Yes, Australian Democrats member 6
- Yes, other party (please specify below) 7

A.6. Have you ever been active in any of the following voluntary or community organisations?

	Very active	Somewhat	Not active
Community service organisation	1	2	3
Business association.....	1	2	3
Professional association	1	2	3
Trade union or staff association	1	2	3
Religious organisation.....	1	2	3
Women's organisation.....	1	2	3
Environmental group	1	2	3
Sports club	1	2	3
Hospital board	1	2	3
School board/PTA	1	2	3
Ethnic group organisation	1	2	3

A.7. a. Before becoming a candidate for Federal Parliament, were you ever **employed** in a State or Federal MP's or minister's office?

- Yes 1
- No 2

b. Were you ever **employed** as a State or Federal party official?

- Yes 1
- No 2

c. Did you ever hold any **elected position** within the party organisation?

- Yes 1
- No 2

A.8. For the following questions read "electorate" if you are a **House of Representatives Candidate** or read "state or territory" if you are a **Senate Candidate**

a. Do you live in the electorate / state or territory for which you stood as a candidate?

- Yes 1
- No 2

b. **IF YES:** How long have you lived in the electorate / state or territory for which you stood as a candidate?

Years lived in electorate / state or territory |____|____|

c. Have you ever been active politically in a different electorate / state or territory?

- Yes 1
- No 2

If you were member of the House of Representatives or Senate prior to the election continue. Other candidates please go to Section B.

- A.10. We are interested in the amount of time you spent in your electorate and what you did there.
 a. Thinking back over the past year, about how many hours per month did you usually devote to the following activities within your electorate?

	Hours per month
Speaking at public meetings	_____
Attending local community functions	_____
Party fund-raising	_____
Dealing with constituents' problems	_____
Attending party meetings in your electorate	_____
Travelling between your electorate and Canberra	_____

- b. Did you maintain an electoral office over the past year? Apart from during the election campaign, how many staff do (or did) you normally employ there?

Did not maintain electoral office 1
 Maintained electoral office..... 2
 Number of (full-time equivalent) staff _____

Section B: Candidates & Campaigning

- B.1. Some people receive encouragement from those around them when they decide to run for public office, while others experience indifference or disapproval.
 How positive or negative were the following people in encouraging you to become a candidate in the 2010 election?

	Very positive	Positive	Indifferent	Negative	Very negative
Your spouse	1	2	3	4	5
Other family members	1	2	3	4	5
Friends	1	2	3	4	5
Women's groups	1	2	3	4	5
Community groups	1	2	3	4	5
Your employer/work colleagues	1	2	3	4	5
Business groups.....	1	2	3	4	5
Trade unions or staff associations	1	2	3	4	5
Local party activists.....	1	2	3	4	5

- B.2. And how long before the election did you begin to....

	Over a year before the election	Towards the end of 2009	Early in 2010, before the election was announced	About the time the election was announced	Only in the last few weeks before election day
Organise your campaign					
Campaign fulltime					

B.3. Some candidates experience difficulties in their election campaigns while others find campaigning easy. Were the following activities easy or difficult for you in this campaign?

	Very difficult	Fairly difficult	Fairly easy	Very easy
Finding volunteers.....	1	2	3	4
Raising money	1	2	3	4
Gaining name recognition	1	2	3	4
Finding a campaign manager	1	2	3	4
Having enough time	1	2	3	4
Organising a campaign strategy	1	2	3	4
Gaining party support.....	1	2	3	4
Getting good media coverage.....	1	2	3	4
Accessing IT/computing resources	1	2	3	4
Setting up web/internet applications	1	2	3	4

B.4. Please indicate below how many hours per week you spent on each of the following activities in your campaign?

	No. of hours		No. of hours
Doorknocking, canvassing	_____	Distributing leaflets	_____
Organising direct mailing	_____	Managing content for a website	_____
Speaking on the telephone	_____	Managing content for a social network profile	_____
Radio and television interviews	_____	Managing content for a blog	_____
Newspaper interviews	_____	Managing content for online videos	_____
Attending fund raising events	_____	Communicating using twitter	_____
Meetings with party members	_____	Managing content for an email newsletter	_____

B.5. Approximately how many workers could you count on to work for your campaign on an average day?

Number of campaign workers (on average day) _____

B.6. Did your party leader visit your electorate to support your election campaign?

- Yes, visited once 1
- Yes, visited more than once 2
- No, did not visit..... 3

B.7. Did you make use of the internet at all to get news or information about the 2010 Federal election?

- Don't have access to the internet..... 1 [GO TO B10]
- Have access but didn't use it for election information 2 [GO TO B10]
- Yes, once or twice 3
- Yes, on several occasions..... 4
- Yes, many times..... 5

- B.8. Below is a list of internet-related tools that can be used to communicate with voters during elections. For each one please say how important they were for you in the election campaign

Please cross one box from each row

	Did not use/not at all important	Somewhat important	Fairly important	Very important	Extremely important
Personal website (independent of the party)	1	2	3	4	5
Webpages on a party site	1	2	3	4	5
Email	1	2	3	4	5
E-news/bulletins	1	2	3	4	5
Campaignlog	1	2	3	4	5
Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook)	1	2	3	4	5
Video-sharing sites (e.g. YouTube)	1	2	3	4	5
Flickr	1	2	3	4	5
Twitter	1	2	3	4	5
SMS/text messages	1	2	3	4	5

- B.9. In the election campaign generally, how important would you rate the following media and communication tools for campaigning?

Please cross one box from each row

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Fairly important	Very important	Extremely important
Posters	1	2	3	4	5
Leaflets	1	2	3	4	5
Canvassing	1	2	3	4	5
Public meetings	1	2	3	4	5
Database management	1	2	3	4	5
Telemarketing	1	2	3	4	5
Direct mail	1	2	3	4	5
TV	1	2	3	4	5
Radio	1	2	3	4	5
Print/newspapers	1	2	3	4	5
Internet/WWW in general	1	2	3	4	5
Email	1	2	3	4	5

- B.10. Some candidates consider online technologies to be an effective way of communicating with voters. Other candidates see traditional doorknocking and face-to-face methods as much more effective in communicating with voters. Overall where would you place your views on this scale?

Online methods best way to
communicate with voters

Traditional methods best way to
communicate with voters

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- B.11. In politics, people sometimes talk about the 'left' and the 'right'. Where would you place yourself on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means the left and 10 means the right?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Left Right

B.12. And where would you place the political views of your electorate on this scale?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Left **Right**

B.13. And where would you place your party on this scale?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Left **Right**

Section C: Election Issues

C.1. From the following list, in order of importance what would you say are the four most important problems facing the country?

Please cross one box from each column.

Issues	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Global warming	1	2	3	4
Taxation.....	1	2	3	4
Education	1	2	3	4
Unemployment	1	2	3	4
The environment	1	2	3	4
Interest rates	1	2	3	4
Industrial relations	1	2	3	4
Health and Medicare	1	2	3	4
Refugees and asylum seekers....	1	2	3	4
The resources tax.....	1	2	3	4
Population policy	1	2	3	4
Management of the economy.....	1	2	3	4

C.2. The statements below indicate some of the changes that have been happening in Australia over the years. For each one, please say whether you think the change has gone too far, not gone far enough, or is it about right?

	Gone much too far	Gone too far	About right	Not gone far enough	Not gone nearly far enough
Equal opportunities for migrants.....	1	2	3	4	5
The right to show nudity and sex in films and magazines	1	2	3	4	5
Aboriginal land rights	1	2	3	4	5
Equal opportunities for women	1	2	3	4	5
Government help for Aborigines.....	1	2	3	4	5
Building closer relations with Asia	1	2	3	4	5
Australia's support for the fight against terrorism	1	2	3	4	5

C.3. How serious a threat do you think global warming will pose to you or your way of life in your lifetime?

- Very serious..... 1
 Fairly serious 2
 Not very serious..... 3
 Not at all serious..... 4

C.4. How important do you think the Australian alliance with the United States under the ANZUS treaty is for protecting Australia's security?

- Very important 1
 Fairly important..... 2
 Not very important 3
 Not at all important 4

C.5. In your opinion, are any of the following countries likely to pose a threat to Australia's security?

Countries	Very likely	Fairly likely	Not very likely
Japan	1	2	3
United States	1	2	3
China	1	2	3
Vietnam	1	2	3
Malaysia	1	2	3
Indonesia	1	2	3

C.6. If Australia's security were threatened by some other country, how much trust do you feel Australia can have in the United States to come to Australia's defence?

- A great deal 1
 A fair amount 2
 Not very much 3
 None at all 4

C.7. Do you think that the government should spend more or spend less on defence?

- Spend much more on defence 1
 Spend some more on defence 2
 About right at present 3
 Spend less on defence..... 4
 Spend a lot less on defence 5

C.8. Do you approve or disapprove of Australia's involvement in the war in Afghanistan?

- Strongly approve 1
 Approve 2
 Disapprove 3
 Strongly disapprove..... 4

C.9. Here are some statements about general social concerns. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The death penalty should be reintroduced for murder.....	1	2	3	4	5
The smoking of marijuana should NOT be a criminal offence	1	2	3	4	5
People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences	1	2	3	4	5
Women should be given preferential treatment when applying for jobs and promotions	1	2	3	4	5
All boats carrying asylum seekers should be turned back	1	2	3	4	5
The government should increase opportunities for women in business and industry	1	2	3	4	5

C.10. And here are some statements about economic issues. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
High income tax makes people less willing to work hard	1	2	3	4	5
The trade unions in this country have too much power	1	2	3	4	5
Big business in this country has too much power	1	2	3	4	5
Income and wealth should be redistributed towards ordinary working people	1	2	3	4	5
There should be stricter laws to regulate the activities of trade unions	1	2	3	4	5

C.11. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

- Most people can be trusted 1
- Can't be too careful 2

Section D: Democracy and Representation

D.1. Thinking about how elections in Australia work in practice, how well do you think elections ensure that the views of MPs accurately reflect the views of voters?

- Very well 1
- Fairly well..... 2
- Not very well..... 3
- Not at all well 4

D.2. Do you think that the voting age in elections should be lowered to 16, or should it stay at 18?

- Definitely lowered to 16..... 1
- Probably lowered to 16..... 2
- Probably stay at 18..... 3
- Definitely stay at 18..... 4

D.3. Currently, most people vote on a Saturday. Would it be easier or more difficult for voters to cast their votes on the following days instead of Saturday?

	Much easier	Somewhat easier	No difference	More difficult	Much more difficult
On a weekday (Monday-Friday)	1	2	3	4	5
On a Sunday	1	2	3	4	5
Over a weekend	1	2	3	4	5
Over a one week period	1	2	3	4	5

D.4. Currently, most voters complete paper ballots at polling booths on election day. Again do you think it would be easier or more difficult for voters to cast their votes in the following ways?

	Much easier	Somewhat easier	No difference	More difficult	Much more difficult
Electronic voting machines available in polling booths	1	2	3	4	5
Early voting on paper ballots at pre-poll centres	1	2	3	4	5
Voting online via the internet	1	2	3	4	5
Other forms of electronic voting (e.g. via smart phones, SMS texts)	1	2	3	4	5
Postal voting	1	2	3	4	5

D.4. Do you think that Australia should become a republic with an Australian head of state, or should the Queen be retained as head of state?

- Strongly favour becoming republic..... 1
- Favour becoming republic..... 2
- Favour retaining the Queen as head of state..... 3
- Strongly favour retaining the Queen as head of state..... 4

D.5. If Australia becomes a republic with an Australian head of state, should the head of state be elected by the voters or elected by Parliament?

- Strongly favour election by voters 1
- Favour election by voters 2
- Favour election by Parliament..... 3
- Strongly favour election by Parliament..... 4

D.6. Now some questions about the role of a Member of Parliament.

a. Do you view a Member of Parliament to be first and foremost a representative of the party, of the MP's voters, of the electorate, of the entire country, or of a specific group in society?

- Representative of the party 1
- Representative of the MP's voters 2
- Representative of the electorate 3
- Representative of the entire country 4
- Representative of a specific group in society..... 5

b. Members of Parliament differ in how they describe their functions and duties. How important do you consider the following functions of an MP?

	Very important	Fairly important	Somewhat important	Not so important	Not at all important
Controlling the functioning of government.....	1	2	3	4	5
Making legislation	1	2	3	4	5
Representing citizens' interests	1	2	3	4	5
Influencing public opinion	1	2	3	4	5

c. How important are the following activities in the work of a Member of Parliament?

	Very important	Fairly important	Somewhat important	Not so important	Not at all important
Activities in the electorate/state.....	1	2	3	4	5
Activities in parliamentary committees	1	2	3	4	5
Activities within parliamentary groups ..	1	2	3	4	5
Activities on the floor of Parliament	1	2	3	4	5

d. When you think about an MP's work in Parliament, do you see this work as more as a specialist in a specific area or more as a generalist?

- More as a specialist in a specific area 1
- More as a generalist..... 2

Section E: Personal Background

In this final section, a few questions about yourself.

E.1. In what year were you born? Year 19 |__|__|

E.2. In which country were you born?

Country of birth

- Australia..... 1
- New Zealand..... 2
- United Kingdom 3
- Italy 4
- Greece 5
- China..... 6
- Vietnam..... 7
- Yugoslavia (former) 8
- Other (please specify below) 9

E.3. Would you say you now live in ...?

- A rural area or village 1
- A small country town (under 10,000 people)..... 2
- A larger country town (over 10,000 people) 3
- A large town (over 25,000 people) 4
- A major city (over 100,000 people) 5

E.4. How old were you when you left school?

Age _____

E.5. In all, how many years of **tertiary** study have you completed since you left secondary school?
If your tertiary study was part-time, give the number of years of equivalent full-time study.

- No tertiary study 1
- Years of full-time tertiary study |____|____|..... 2

E.6. In general, how often do you use the internet?

- Several times a day 1
- About once a day 2
- Three to five days a week 3
- One to two days a week 4
- Every few weeks..... 5
- Less often 6
- Do not use the internet 7 GO TO E.9.

E.7. When did you first start using the internet?

- Do not use the internet 1
- Within the last six months..... 2
- Within the last few years 3
- Five to ten years ago..... 4
- Ten to fifteen years ago..... 5
- More than fifteen years ago..... 6

E.8. Have you personally done any of the following tasks on the internet?

Please cross all that apply

- Sent an attachment with an email 1
- Posted audio, video or image files 2
- Personally designed a webpage or blog 3
- Downloaded a software program to your computer 4

E.9. What is your religion or faith?

- Roman Catholic..... 1
- Anglican/Church of England..... 2
- Uniting Church/Methodist..... 3
- Orthodox Church 4
- Presbyterian 5
- Other (please specify) _____ 6
- No religion 7

E.10. Apart from weddings, funerals and baptisms, about how often do you attend religious services?

- At least once a week 1
 At least once a month 2
 Several times a year..... 3
 At least once a year..... 4
 Less than once a year..... 5
 Never 6

E.11. Prior to the election, what was your employment status?

- Self-employed..... 1
 Employed full time (32 hrs or more weekly) 2
 Employed part time (15 to less than 32 hrs weekly) 3
 Employed less than 15 hrs weekly 4
 Helping family member..... 5
 Unemployed (including temporarily unemployed) 6
 Student, in school, vocational training..... 7
 Retired 8
 Responsible for home duties..... 9
 Others not in the labour force..... 10

E.12. What is your current occupation?

If you are a member of parliament and/or retired: What was your former occupation?

**That is the end of the questionnaire.
 Please put the questionnaire in the pre-paid reply envelope and post it back to us.
 Thank you again for your co-operation.**

Australian Election Study
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Barcode Panel