

IPA MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW POLL SHOWS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR FREE SPEECH

New Galaxy Research polling commissioned by the Institute of Public Affairs has found that 64 per cent of Australians oppose a newspaper cartoonist being investigated by the Australian Human Rights Commission, and 45 per cent of Australians support change to the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to “offend” or “insult”

Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs, John Roskam said “Two thirds of Australians know what is happening is wrong. It is outrageous in a free country that any citizen should be forced to justify their political opinion to the government.”

“This proves there is widespread public support for restoring freedom of speech and changing Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act.”

“Labor and the Greens claim that freedom of speech is ‘not a mainstream issue’ is just wrong. The public understands the Government should not censor Bill Leak’s cartoon.”

The legal philosopher C Edwin Baker's points out in his book *Human Liberty and Freedom of Speech*, "As an interested party, the government should be least trusted in making those determinations regarding political speech."

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Section 18C Study

Prepared for the Institute of Public Affairs
November 2016

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Methodology



Methodology

This study was conducted on the Galaxy Online Omnibus between Thursday 3 November and Sunday 6 November 2016.

The sample was 1,000 Australians aged 18 years and older distributed throughout Australia, as follows:

➤ NSW/ACT	329
➤ Victoria/Tasmania	262
➤ Queensland	202
➤ South Australia	105
➤ Western Australia	102

Age, gender and region quotas were applied to the sample.

Following the completion of interviewing, the data was weighted by age, gender and region to reflect the latest ABS population estimates.

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Main Findings



Main Findings

- Just less than half of Australians (45%) approve of the proposal to change the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to offend or insult someone because of their race or ethnicity, while 38% disapprove and 18% say they don't know.
- Men (48%) are more likely than women (41%) to approve of the proposal to change the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to offend or insult someone because of their race or ethnicity.
- Australians 50 years and older (51%) are more likely than those 35-49 years (38%) and those 18-34 years (42%) to approve of the proposal to change the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to offend or insult someone because of their race or ethnicity.
- Just one in five Australians (19%) approve of the Australian Human Rights Commission investigating a newspaper cartoonist over a political cartoon because one person finds that cartoon offensive or insulting, while nearly two thirds (64%) disapprove and 17% say they don't know.
- Those 18-34 years (26%) are more likely than those 35-49 years (17%) and those 50 years and older (15%) to say they approve of the Australian Human Rights Commission investigating a newspaper cartoonist over a political cartoon because one person finds that cartoon offensive or insulting.
- Those living in major capital cities (22%) are more likely than those living in regional and rural areas (14%) to say they approve of the Australian Human Rights Commission investigating a newspaper cartoonist over a political cartoon because one person finds that cartoon offensive or insulting.

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Questionnaire

SECTION B – ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

B1. Thinking now about another topic. Do you approve or disapprove of the proposal to change the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to “offend” or “insult” someone because of their race or ethnicity? It will still be unlawful to “humiliate” or “intimidate” someone because of their race or ethnicity.

Please select one option only

SR
Strongly approve 1
Approve 2
Disapprove 3
Strongly disapprove..... 4
Don't know..... 5

B2. Do you approve or disapprove of the Australian Human Rights Commission investigating a newspaper cartoonist over a political cartoon because one person finds that cartoon offensive or insulting?

Please select one option only

SR
Strongly approve 1
Approve 2
Disapprove 3
Strongly disapprove..... 4
Don't know..... 5

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Detailed Tabular Findings



Tables

The tables of findings are set out such that they include the following details:

Base Weight Sample (000s):

The number of completed interviews has been weighted to reflect the latest ABS population estimates. These estimates are shown in thousands (000's). The percentages in the table are based on these weighted figures.

Weights:

This indicates that in order to reflect the latest ABS population estimates the data has been weighted by age, gender and area.

Filters (where applicable):

If the table is based on a subset of respondents then this will be titled as a Filter and accompanied by a description of the sample upon which the table is based.

Respondents:

These figures show the actual sample size, indicating the total number of respondents who were asked the relevant question.



Tables *...continued*

Each question has been analysed by a series of demographic variables as follows:

SEX:

- Male
- Female

AGE:

- 18-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-49 years
- 50 years or older

GROCERY BUYER:

- Main or joint grocery buyer
- Not main or joint grocery buyer

MARITAL STATUS:

- Married (Married/de facto, living together)
- Not married (Never married, separated, divorced, widowed)

CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME:

- Children aged under eighteen years living in the household
- No Children aged under eighteen years living in the household



Tables *...continued*

WORK STATUS:

- Full time
- Part time
- Not working

LOCATION:

- NSW/ACT
- Victoria/Tasmania
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Western Australia

CAPITAL CITY:

- Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide
- Rest of Australia

HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

- Under \$40,000
- \$40,000-\$89,999
- \$90,000 or more

GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 1

Standard Banner 1

BY B1. Approve/ disapprove of proposal to change the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to offend/ insult someone because of their race or ethnicity

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

	Total	Sex		Age				Grocery Buyer		Marital Status		Children		Work Status		
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Yes	No	Marr-ied	Not Marr-ied	Yes	No	Full Time	Part Time	Not Working
RESPONDENTS	1000	500	500	112	185	279	424	732	268	630	370	338	662	350	228	422
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	18228	8901	9327	2230	3263	5033	7702	13390	4838	11360	6868	6159	12069	6253	4185	7789
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
B1. Approve/ disapprove of proposal to change the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to offend/ insult someone because of their race or ethnicity																
TOTAL APPROVE																
Strongly approve	3044	1653	1392	462	607	580	1395	2444	600	1991	1053	1027	2017	1066	621	1357
	17%	19%	15%	21%	19%	12%	18%	18%	12%	18%	15%	17%	17%	17%	15%	17%
Approve	5100	2634	2466	406	846	1326	2522	3741	1359	3285	1816	1626	3475	1683	1181	2237
	28%	30%	26%	18%	26%	26%	33%	28%	28%	29%	26%	26%	29%	27%	28%	29%
**SUBTOTALS	8145	4287	3858	868	1453	1907	3916	6185	1959	5276	2869	2653	5492	2749	1802	3594
	45%	48%	41%	39%	45%	38%	51%	46%	40%	46%	42%	43%	46%	44%	43%	46%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE																
Disapprove	3286	1344	1942	446	554	1079	1208	2396	890	2026	1260	1128	2158	1140	799	1347
	18%	15%	21%	20%	17%	21%	16%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	19%	17%
Strongly disapprove	3553	1932	1620	553	619	978	1402	2682	870	2100	1452	1216	2336	1224	819	1510
	19%	22%	17%	25%	19%	19%	18%	20%	18%	18%	21%	20%	19%	20%	20%	19%
**SUBTOTALS	6839	3277	3562	999	1173	2057	2610	5078	1761	4127	2712	2344	4495	2363	1618	2857
	38%	37%	38%	45%	36%	41%	34%	38%	36%	36%	39%	38%	37%	38%	39%	37%
Don't know	3244	1337	1907	363	637	1069	1176	2126	1118	1958	1287	1162	2083	1141	765	1338
	18%	15%	20%	16%	20%	21%	15%	16%	23%	17%	19%	19%	17%	18%	18%	17%
TOTALS	18228	8901	9327	2230	3263	5033	7702	13390	4838	11360	6868	6159	12069	6253	4185	7789
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 2 Standard Banner 2

BY B1. Approve/ disapprove of proposal to change the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to offend/ insult someone because of their race or ethnicity

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

	Total	State				Capital City		Household Income			
		NSW Vic/Tas	Qld	SA	WA	Yes	No	< \$50K	\$50K-\$99K	\$100K+	
RESPONDENTS	1000	329	262	202	105	102	660	340	351	307	200
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	18228	6233	5049	3652	1389	1905	11529	6699	6482	5545	3578
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
B1. Approve/ disapprove of proposal to change the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is no longer unlawful to offend/ insult someone because of their race or ethnicity											
TOTAL APPROVE											
Strongly approve	3044	1059	732	747	278	230	1950	1094	1122	931	610
	17%	17%	14%	20%	20%	12%	17%	16%	17%	17%	17%
Approve	5100	1597	1565	915	392	632	3054	2046	1953	1622	987
	28%	26%	31%	25%	28%	33%	26%	31%	30%	29%	28%
**SUBTOTALS	8145	2655	2296	1662	670	861	5004	3140	3075	2552	1597
	45%	43%	45%	46%	48%	45%	43%	47%	47%	46%	45%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE											
Disapprove	3286	1333	912	534	145	363	2032	1254	1082	1016	683
	18%	21%	18%	15%	10%	19%	18%	19%	17%	18%	19%
Strongly disapprove	3553	1238	943	693	342	336	2243	1310	1216	1109	723
	19%	20%	19%	19%	25%	18%	19%	20%	19%	20%	20%
**SUBTOTALS	6839	2571	1855	1227	487	698	4275	2564	2298	2125	1405
	38%	41%	37%	34%	35%	37%	37%	38%	35%	38%	39%
Don't know	3244	1006	897	763	232	345	2249	995	1109	867	575
	18%	16%	18%	21%	17%	18%	20%	15%	17%	16%	16%
TOTALS	18228	6233	5049	3652	1389	1905	11529	6699	6482	5545	3578
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

GALAXY RESEARCH
 TABLE 3 Standard Banner 1
 BY B2. Approve/ disapprove of the Australian Human Rights Commission investigating a newspaper cartoonist over a political cartoon because one person finds that cartoon offensive or insulting
 BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)
 WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

Total	Sex		Age				Grocery Buyer		Marital Status		Children		Work Status			
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Yes	No	Marr-ied	Not Marr-ied	Yes	No	Full Time	Part Time	Not Working	
RESPONDENTS	1000	500	500	112	185	279	424	732	268	630	370	338	662	350	228	422
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	18228	8901	9327	2230	3263	5033	7702	13390	4838	11360	6868	6159	12069	6253	4185	7789
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
B2. Approve/ disapprove of the Australian Human Rights Commission investigating a newspaper cartoonist over a political cartoon because one person finds that cartoon offensive or insulting																
TOTAL APPROVE																
Strongly approve	955	495	460	221	347	237	150	776	179	552	403	479	476	534	233	189
	5%	6%	5%	10%	11%	5%	2%	6%	4%	5%	6%	8%	4%	9%	6%	2%
Approve	2476	1358	1118	301	565	597	1014	1970	506	1434	1042	794	1681	998	553	925
	14%	15%	12%	13%	17%	12%	13%	15%	10%	13%	15%	13%	14%	16%	13%	12%
**SUBTOTALS	3431	1853	1578	522	912	834	1164	2746	685	1986	1445	1273	2158	1532	785	1114
	19%	21%	17%	23%	28%	17%	15%	21%	14%	17%	21%	21%	18%	24%	19%	14%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE																
Disapprove	5954	2541	3413	607	936	1806	2605	4313	1642	3969	1985	2064	3891	1855	1472	2627
	33%	29%	37%	27%	29%	36%	34%	32%	34%	35%	29%	34%	32%	30%	35%	34%
Strongly disapprove	5762	3164	2598	675	746	1140	3201	4201	1561	3624	2138	1605	4157	1822	1175	2765
	32%	36%	28%	30%	23%	23%	42%	31%	32%	32%	31%	26%	34%	29%	28%	35%
**SUBTOTALS	11717	5705	6011	1282	1682	2946	5806	8514	3203	7593	4123	3669	8048	3677	2647	5392
	64%	64%	64%	57%	52%	59%	75%	64%	66%	67%	60%	60%	67%	59%	63%	69%
Don't know	3080	1343	1738	427	669	1253	732	2130	950	1781	1299	1217	1864	1044	753	1284
	17%	15%	19%	19%	21%	25%	10%	16%	20%	16%	19%	20%	15%	17%	18%	16%
TOTALS	18228	8901	9327	2230	3263	5033	7702	13390	4838	11360	6868	6159	12069	6253	4185	7789
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 4 Standard Banner 2

BY B2. Approve/ disapprove of the Australian Human Rights Commission investigating a newspaper cartoonist over a political cartoon because one person finds that cartoon offensive or insulting

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area

Total	State					Capital City		Household Income			
	NSW Vic/Tas	Qld	SA	WA	Yes	No	< \$50K	\$50K-\$99K	\$100K+		
RESPONDENTS	1000	329	262	202	105	102	660	340	351	307	200
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	18228	6233	5049	3652	1389	1905	11529	6699	6482	5545	3578
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
B2. Approve/ disapprove of the Australian Human Rights Commission investigating a newspaper cartoonist over a political cartoon because one person finds that cartoon offensive or insulting											
TOTAL APPROVE											
Strongly approve	955 5%	311 5%	294 6%	197 5%	94 7%	60 3%	678 6%	277 4%	321 5%	273 5%	267 7%
Approve	2476 14%	739 12%	730 14%	461 13%	235 17%	311 16%	1803 16%	673 10%	856 13%	1014 18%	357 10%
**SUBTOTALS	3431 19%	1050 17%	1023 20%	658 18%	329 24%	371 19%	2481 22%	950 14%	1177 18%	1287 23%	624 17%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE											
Disapprove	5954 33%	2180 35%	1543 31%	1133 31%	467 34%	631 33%	3772 33%	2183 33%	2187 34%	1678 30%	1231 34%
Strongly disapprove	5762 32%	1915 31%	1511 30%	1354 37%	415 30%	567 30%	3216 28%	2546 38%	2222 34%	1657 30%	1233 34%
**SUBTOTALS	11717 64%	4095 66%	3055 61%	2488 68%	881 63%	1199 63%	6988 61%	4729 71%	4408 68%	3335 60%	2464 69%
Don't know	3080 17%	1089 17%	971 19%	507 14%	179 13%	336 18%	2060 18%	1020 15%	897 14%	923 17%	490 14%
TOTALS	18228 100%	6233 100%	5049 100%	3652 100%	1389 100%	1905 100%	11529 100%	6699 100%	6482 100%	5545 100%	3578 100%



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