

THE FREE SPEECH CRISIS AT AUSTRALIA'S UNIVERSITIES

A survey of 500 Australian students reveals the state of free speech at universities.

A NEW RESEARCH PROJECT BY

IA Institute of Public Affairs

41% OF STUDENTS FEEL THEY ARE SOMETIMES UNABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION AT UNIVERSITY.

I sometimes feel unable to express my opinion at university.

41% AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE

28% NEUTRAL

31% DISAGREE OR STRONGLY DISAGREE

31% OF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE BY A UNIVERSITY TEACHER FOR EXPRESSING THEIR OPINION.

I have been made to feel uncomfortable by a university teacher for expressing my opinion.

31% AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE

19% NEUTRAL

50% DISAGREE OR STRONGLY DISAGREE

59% OF STUDENTS BELIEVE THEY ARE SOMETIMES PREVENTED FROM VOICING THEIR OPINIONS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES BY OTHER STUDENTS.

Sometimes students are prevented from voicing their opinions on controversial issues by other students.

59% AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE

22% NEUTRAL

19% DISAGREE OR STRONGLY DISAGREE

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES ARE FAILING TO PROVIDE A CULTURE OF FREE SPEECH AND TRUE INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY, SO STUDENTS ARE TURNING TO SOCIAL MEDIA:

47%

of students feel more comfortable expressing their views on social media than at university.

58%

of students feel they are more exposed to new ideas on social media than at university.

45%

of students believe social media plays a bigger role in shaping their opinion than what they learn at university.

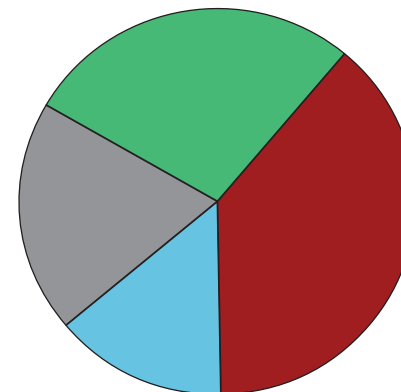
STUDENTS MAY NOT HAVE FREE SPEECH, BUT THEY WANT IT.

In response to the statement: At university students should be exposed to different views, even if those views are challenging or offensive.

82% OF STUDENTS AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED

16% OF STUDENTS WERE NEUTRAL

ONLY **2%** OF STUDENTS DISAGREED OR STRONGLY DISAGREED



VOTING PREFERENCE:

This survey, conducted by independent market research company Dynata, includes students of all political persuasions:

39% OF STUDENTS SUPPORT THE ALP

28% SUPPORT THE GREENS

14% SUPPORT THE COALITION

20% SUPPORT OTHER OR UNDECIDED