Wednesday 28 September, 2011

**82% OF AUSTRALIANS THINK FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE RIGHT NOT TO BE OFFENDED**

A new poll has found that 82% of Australians think protecting freedom of speech is more important than protecting people from being offended.

The poll conducted last weekend for the Institute of Public Affairs by Galaxy Research surveyed 1052 people across the country.

The finding comes in the lead up to this morning’s judgement in the Federal Court of the Andrew Bolt freedom of speech trial. Judgement in the trial of *Pat Eatock v Andrew Bolt & Anor* is scheduled to be announced at 10.15 am in Melbourne today.

John Roskam, the Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs said ‘freedom of speech is a bedrock of Australian democracy.’

‘The law which sent Andrew Bolt to trial does not reflect community attitudes to freedom of speech.

‘The trial is another illustration of how freedom of speech is under threat in Australia,’ said Mr Roskam.

The poll question was:

*In your opinion, which of these two options is the most important? That the government protect the right to free speech, or that people are protected from being offended?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Right to free speech</th>
<th>82%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection from being offended</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details of the freedom of speech poll are available at www.ipa.org.au.

For media comment: John Roskam Executive Director 0415 475 673 jroskam@ipa.org.au
Freedom of Speech Survey

Prepared for:
Institute of Public Affairs
September, 2011
A1. In your opinion, which of these two options is the most important? That the government protect the right to free speech, or that people are protected from being offended?

Right to free speech ...................... 1
Protection from being offended .... 2
Don’t know............................... 3
### TABLE 1

**A1. Free speech more important than protection from being offended**

**BASE:** WGHT SAMPLE (000s)  
**WEIGHTS:** Age/Sex/Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Grocery Buyer</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Work Status</th>
<th>S.E.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>35-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESPONDENTS</td>
<td>1052</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGHT SAMPLE (000s)</td>
<td>16970</td>
<td>8265</td>
<td>8705</td>
<td>2108</td>
<td>2774</td>
<td>5149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Right to free speech

- **13986**  
  - Male: 6914  
  - Female: 7072  
  - 18-24: 1578  
  - 25-34: 2366  
  - 35-49: 4192  
  - 50+: 5851  
  - Married: 9063  
  - Not married: 4922  
  - Grocery buyer: 9054  
  - Yes: 5211  
  - No: 8775  
  - Work status:  
    - Full time: 6195  
    - Part time: 3042  
    - Not working: 4748  
  - S.E.S.:  
    - White: 8326  
    - Blue: 5660  
  - Percentage:  
    - Total: 82%  
    - Male: 84%  
    - Female: 81%  
    - 18-24: 75%  
    - 25-34: 85%  
    - 35-49: 84%  
    - 50+: 83%  
    - Married: 82%  
    - Not married: 82%  
    - Grocery buyer: 80%  
    - Yes: 83%  
    - No: 81%  
    - Full time: 84%  
    - Part time: 79%  
    - Not working: 82%  
    - White: 83%  
    - Blue: 81%  

#### Protection from being offended

- **2538**  
  - Male: 1087  
  - Female: 1451  
  - 18-24: 471  
  - 25-34: 408  
  - 35-49: 827  
  - 50+: 832  
  - Married: 1646  
  - Not married: 892  
  - Grocery buyer: 1641  
  - Yes: 1162  
  - No: 1376  
  - Work status:  
    - Full time: 1000  
    - Part time: 740  
    - Not working: 798  
  - S.E.S.:  
    - White: 1471  
    - Blue: 1067  
  - Percentage:  
    - Total: 15%  
    - Male: 13%  
    - Female: 17%  
    - 18-24: 22%  
    - 25-34: 15%  
    - 35-49: 16%  
    - 50+: 12%  
    - Married: 15%  
    - Not married: 15%  
    - Grocery buyer: 18%  
    - Yes: 18%  
    - No: 13%  
    - Full time: 14%  
    - Part time: 19%  
    - Not working: 14%  
    - White: 15%  
    - Blue: 15%  

#### Don't know

- **446**  
  - Male: 264  
  - Female: 182  
  - 18-24: 60  
  - 25-34: 130  
  - 35-49: 257  
  - 50+: 241  
  - Married: 292  
  - Not married: 154  
  - Grocery buyer: 121  
  - Yes: 325  
  - No: 47  
  - Work status:  
    - Full time: 147  
    - Part time: 56  
    - Not working: 243  
  - S.E.S.:  
    - White: 184  
    - Blue: 263  
  - Percentage:  
    - Total: 3%  
    - Male: 3%  
    - Female: 2%  
    - 18-24: 3%  
    - 25-34: 3%  
    - 35-49: 4%  
    - 50+: 2%  
    - Married: 3%  
    - Not married: 3%  
    - Grocery buyer: 3%  
    - Yes: 2%  
    - No: 1%  
    - Full time: 2%  
    - Part time: 1%  
    - Not working: 4%  
    - White: 2%  
    - Blue: 4%  

#### TOTALS

- **16970**  
  - Male: 8265  
  - Female: 8705  
  - 18-24: 2108  
  - 25-34: 2774  
  - 35-49: 5149  
  - 50+: 6939  
  - Married: 10950  
  - Not married: 6020  
  - Grocery buyer: 10987  
  - Yes: 5983  
  - No: 10476  
  - Work status:  
    - Full time: 7342  
    - Part time: 3839  
    - Not working: 5789  
  - S.E.S.:  
    - White: 9981  
    - Blue: 6989  
  - Percentage:  
    - Total: 100%  
    - Male: 100%  
    - Female: 100%  
    - 18-24: 100%  
    - 25-34: 100%  
    - 35-49: 100%  
    - 50+: 100%  
    - Married: 100%  
    - Not married: 100%  
    - Grocery buyer: 100%  
    - Yes: 100%  
    - No: 100%  
    - Full time: 100%  
    - Part time: 100%  
    - Not working: 100%  
    - White: 100%  
    - Blue: 100%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Capital City</th>
<th>Household Income</th>
<th>Schooling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>&lt; $40K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESPONDENTS</td>
<td>1052</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGH SAMPLE (000s)</td>
<td>16970</td>
<td>10459</td>
<td>6511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Vic/Tas</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qld</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 2**

Standard Banner 2 *BY* Al. Free speech more important than protection from being offended

BASE: WGH SAMPLE (000s)
WEIGHTS: Age/sex/area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Right to free speech</th>
<th>Protection from being offended</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13986</td>
<td>2538</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4926</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3802</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2774</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1067</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1418</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8462</td>
<td>1672</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5523</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3294</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2770</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6182</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4082</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9903</td>
<td>1711</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GALAXY RESEARCH - 23/25 SEPT 2011

JOB:110902A

PAGE 2