

2016-2019 Australian Election Study

Participant Information

I am Ian McAllister, a Professor of Political Science in the School of Politics and International Relations, College of Arts and Social Sciences at the Australian National University and I am the lead investigator on the 2016-2019 Australian Election Study.

This is a survey of voting in the recent federal election, conducted by The Australian National University and the Queensland University of Technology. The study is supported by a grant from the Australian Research Council for the next four years. We are interested in how people voted in the election and the reasons for their choice.

Why we need to hear from you

This survey forms part of an important long-term study of Australian politics and elections, which examines such questions as changing support for the political parties, the role of the party leaders and the importance of political issues, like the economy and the environment. This study has been running since 1987 and several hundred researchers have used the data to publish in academic journals, undertake policy analysis and assisted PhD students to write theses.

Benefits and risks

In completing the questionnaire you will help to provide researchers and policy makers with a better understanding of what Australians think and feel about the way government works and the decisions that it makes. The study will also become part of a large resource maintained by the Australian Data Archive to be used in Australia and overseas for social and comparative research. General information about the study is available at aes.anu.edu.au. There are no risks beyond normal day-to-day living associated with your participation in this project.

Completing the questionnaire

This questionnaire should take around half an hour to complete and your participation is entirely voluntary. If you choose to participate, you can complete the questionnaire online by going to www.srcentre.com.au/aes and following the links. To access the questionnaire you will need the username and password located with your invitation to participate. Alternatively, you can go straight into the questionnaire on your mobile or tablet device using the QR Code provided. If you would prefer not to complete online, you will receive a paper questionnaire mailed to your household. Please complete this and return it in the reply-paid envelope provided. We ask that you complete the questionnaire once only.

Confidentiality

Your views will remain strictly confidential and will be reported only as part of the general findings from the survey. The only identifying feature on the questionnaire is a barcode that is used to avoid sending you reminders after you have returned the completed questionnaire. The link between this barcode and your name and address is securely stored and is destroyed once the survey is completed.

Respondents who complete the Australian Election Study early and return the questionnaire by 11 July 2016 will be entered into a prize draw to win \$750. In total there will be 8 x \$750 prizes to be won, with one drawn in each state and territory. All those who complete and return the questionnaire by 25 August 2016 (including those who complete early) will be entered into a second prize draw to win \$500. There will be 8 x \$500 prizes, with one drawn in each state and territory (refer to prize draw terms and conditions of entry at www.srcentre.com.au/aes).

Participating in the next 2019 election

An important aspect of this project is to monitor political change. At the end of the questionnaire we will ask if you would like to participate in the next study. If you choose to stay in the study we will retain your name and address and from time to time send you updates about the project, key findings and media activity. If you decide at a later stage you want to withdraw you will just need to email us and we will delete the barcode and your name and address.

How did you get my details?

The Australian Electoral Commission has supplied name and address information for the project in accordance with Item 3 of subsection 90B(4) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918. The information has been provided by the AEC on a confidential basis and will not be used or dealt with, including forwarded on or sold, or otherwise disclosed for any other purpose other than to contact participants for this project. You were chosen from a scientifically designed random sample of voters listed on the Electoral Roll.

In total, we are contacting 12,500 households and asking them to participate.

Queries

If you have any questions about the survey or would like to opt out, you can call the toll free hotline on **1800 023 040**.

What if I have concerns about the ethical conduct of the survey?

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2010/079). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

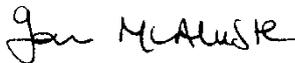
Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au

The ANU Research Ethics Unit is not connected with the research project and can facilitate a resolution to your concern in an impartial manner.

If you have concerns about your privacy in regards to this project you may contact the Office of Australian Information Commissioner at enquiries@oaic.gov.au or on 1300 363 992.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Ian McAllister
The Australian National University