

Polling - more or less spending, tax, inequality?

April 2018

Key Results

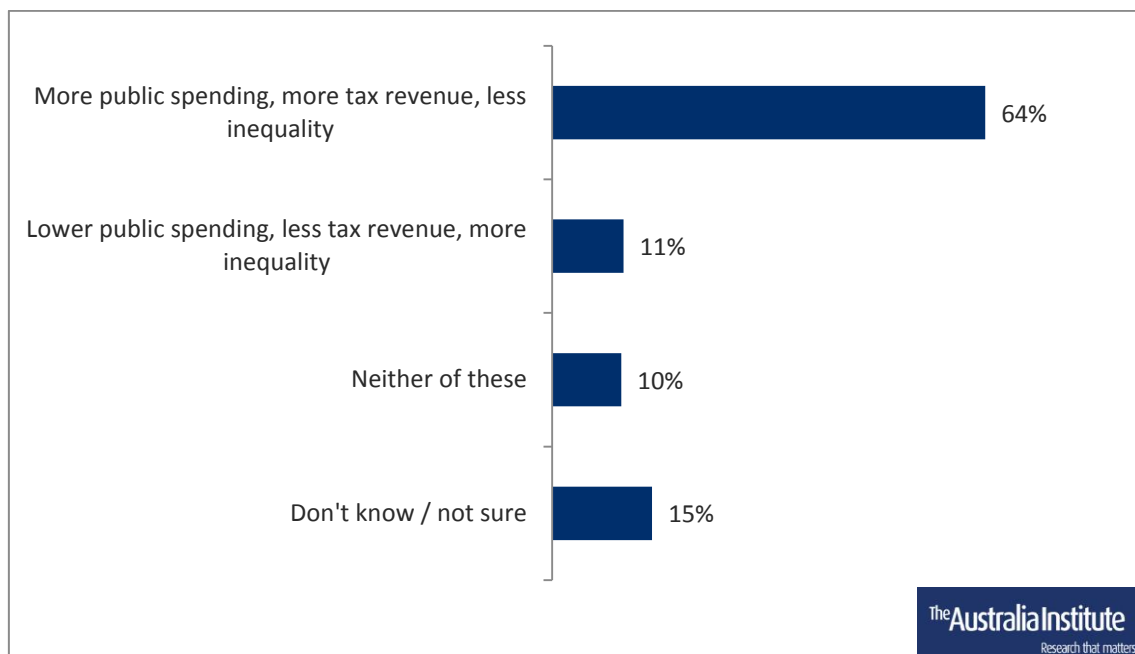
The Australia Institute surveyed 1,557 Australians about which of the following approaches to economic, social and tax policy they would in Australia:

- **More public spending** on public services and infrastructure, **funded by more tax revenue, in particular** from wealthy people and profitable companies, **and less inequality** in Australian society;

Or

- **Lower public spending** on public services and infrastructure, **funded by less tax revenue**, including from wealthy people and profitable companies, **and more inequality** in Australian society.

Figure 1 – Poll: spending, tax, inequality - more or less?



- Two thirds (64%) said they would prefer more public spending funded by more tax and less inequality.
 - Only 11% said they wanted lower public spending, lower tax and more inequality.
 - 15% chose “Don’t know / not sure”
 - 10% chose “Neither”.
 - These respondents were then asked which of the other options they would prefer: including these preferences, 68% in total chose more public spending and tax, while 13% chose less.
- A majority of voters for all parties selected more spending and more tax:
 - 56% of both PHON voters and Other voters;
 - 60% of LNP voters;
 - 71% of ALP voters;
 - 75% of Green voters.
- A majority of respondents in all household income brackets selected more spending and more tax. Responses were generally higher at the lower income brackets than the higher.

Method

The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1,557 people between 27 March and 7 April 2018 online through Research Now with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state and territory.

Results are shown only for larger states.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the lower house. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs, but results are also shown separately for undecideds. “LNP” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” includes Nick Xenophon Team and Independent/Other.

Detailed results

Which of the following approaches to economic, social and tax policy would you prefer Australian governments to aim for?

	Total	Male	Female	NSW	Qld	VIC	WA
More public spending on public services and infrastructure, funded by more tax revenue, in particular from wealthy people and profitable companies, and less inequality in Australian society.	64.3%	62%	67%	64%	66%	63%	61%
Lower public spending on public services and infrastructure, funded by less tax revenue, including from wealthy people and profitable companies, and more inequality in Australian society.	10.6%	13%	8%	11%	9%	13%	8%
Neither of these	10.3%	10%	10%	12%	11%	8%	13%
Don't know / not sure	14.8%	15%	15%	13%	14%	16%	19%

	Total	LNP	ALP	GRN	PHON	Other
More public spending on public services and infrastructure, funded by more tax revenue, in particular from wealthy people and profitable companies, and less inequality in Australian society.	64.3%	60%	71%	75%	56%	56%
Lower public spending on public services and infrastructure, funded by less tax revenue, including from wealthy people and profitable companies, and more inequality in Australian society.	10.6%	13%	8%	10%	13%	9%
Neither of these	10.3%	14%	7%	5%	14%	13%
Don't know / not sure	14.8%	13%	14%	11%	17%	23%

	Total	<\$40k	\$40k- \$80k	\$80k- \$100k	\$100k- \$150k	\$150k- \$200k	\$200k+	Not sure/ not say
More public spending on public services and infrastructure, funded by more tax revenue, in particular from wealthy people and profitable companies, and less inequality in Australian society.	64.3%	62%	70%	65%	65%	65%	60%	55%
Lower public spending on public services and infrastructure, funded by less tax revenue, including from wealthy people and profitable companies, and more inequality in Australian society.	10.6%	10%	10%	15%	12%	16%	11%	5%
Neither of these	10.3%	12%	8%	9%	11%	8%	13%	11%
Don't know / not sure	14.8%	16%	11%	10%	12%	10%	16%	29%

NB: Those who responded “Neither of these” were then asked

If you had to choose, which of the following would you choose?

And given the options, without “Neither”.

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