

Polling - Refugees

April 2017

Key Results

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,408 Australians about asylum seekers and refugees.

Respondents were asked how they would like to see asylum seekers and refugees who arrive in Australia by boat to be managed:

- Almost three quarters (72%) of respondents think those assessed to be genuine refugees who arrive in Australia by boat should be allowed to stay in Australia; of these 37% said they should be brought directly to Australia to have their claims assessed, 35% say their claims should be assessed in offshore detention first.
- One quarter (24%) of respondents said that asylum seekers should be sent to camps on Manus Island and Nauru and none should be allowed to come to Australia under any circumstances.

Survey respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about the 'refugee swap' deal between the USA and Australia.

- Half of respondents (51%) disagree that Donald Trump will follow through on the agreement (agree 28%, don't know 21%)
- More people disagreed (46%) with the statement 'the agreement is a good way to manage the asylum seeker issue' than agreed (agree 40%, don't know 14%)
- Half of respondents (56%) agree that people in the camps who are found to be genuine refugees should be brought immediately to Australia, not wait longer to see when or if the USA will take them (disagree 34%, don't know 10%)

Method

Between 26 April May and 5 May 2017 The Australia Institute conducted a national opinion poll of 1,408 people through Research Now, with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state or territory.

Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning. These leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs. "LNP" includes separate responses for Liberal and National. "Other" includes Nick Xenophon Team, Australian Conservatives and Independent/Other.

Detailed Results

Q. Of the following, how would you like to see asylum seekers and refugees who arrive in Australia by boat managed?

	Total	Male	Female	18-24y	25-34y	35-44y	45-54y	55-64y	65y+
They should be sent to camps on Manus Island and Nauru, and none should be allowed to come to Australia under any circumstances	24%	27%	21%	17%	15%	24%	27%	29%	29%
They should be sent to camps on Manus Island and Nauru, and after having their claims assessed, those found to be genuine refugees should be allowed to stay in Australia. Those who are not found to be genuine refugees should be deported.	35%	34%	36%	36%	44%	37%	38%	27%	29%
They should be brought to Australia, and after having their claims assessed, those people found to be genuine refugees should be allowed to stay in Australia. Those who are not found to be genuine refugees should be deported.	37%	34%	40%	40%	37%	34%	31%	40%	41%
Don't know / not sure	4%	5%	3%	7%	4%	5%	4%	4%	1%

Of the following, how would you like to see asylum seekers and refugees who arrive in Australia by boat managed?	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	All Other	Undecided
They should be sent to camps on Manus Island and Nauru, and none should be allowed to come to Australia under any circumstances	24%	29%	16%	9%	56%	26%	21%
They should be sent to camps on Manus Island and Nauru, and after having their claims assessed, those found to be genuine refugees should be allowed to stay in Australia. Those who are not found to be genuine refugees should be deported.	35%	43%	38%	15%	29%	30%	37%
They should be brought to Australia, and after having their claims assessed, those people found to be genuine refugees should be allowed to stay in Australia. Those who are not found to be genuine refugees should be deported.	37%	24%	42%	73%	14%	39%	36%
Don't know / not sure	4%	5%	4%	3%	1%	4%	7%

Q. Under a deal between the USA and Australia, the US government has agreed to settle some of the asylum seekers on Manus Island and Nauru in the USA, in exchange for Australia taking some people who are seeking asylum in the USA. No one from Manus Island or Nauru has yet been settled in the USA and the process may take many more months. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following?

This agreement is a good way to manage the asylum seeker issue.

	Total	Male	Female	18-24y	25-34y	35-44y	45-54y	55-64y	65y+
Total agree	40%	44%	35%	45%	42%	37%	32%	38%	45%
Total disagree	46%	44%	49%	41%	44%	48%	51%	49%	42%
Strongly agree	8%	10%	5%	8%	9%	8%	8%	6%	10%
Agree	32%	34%	29%	37%	34%	30%	24%	32%	35%
Disagree	29%	28%	31%	33%	28%	31%	28%	29%	27%
Strongly disagree	17%	16%	18%	9%	15%	18%	23%	20%	15%
Don't know / not sure	14%	12%	16%	14%	14%	14%	17%	13%	13%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	All Other	Undecided
Total agree	40%	52%	34%	26%	43%	35%	30%
Total disagree	46%	34%	52%	64%	44%	48%	48%
Strongly agree	8%	12%	4%	4%	11%	10%	4%
Agree	32%	39%	30%	22%	32%	25%	27%
Disagree	29%	24%	35%	35%	28%	22%	33%
Strongly disagree	17%	10%	17%	28%	16%	25%	15%
Don't know / not sure	14%	14%	13%	11%	13%	17%	22%

Q. Donald Trump will follow through on the agreement.

	Total	Male	Female	18-24y	25-34y	35-44y	45-54y	55-64y	65y+
Total agree	28%	35%	20%	23%	25%	29%	25%	31%	32%
Total disagree	51%	44%	59%	61%	60%	55%	49%	45%	42%
Strongly agree	4%	5%	3%	6%	4%	5%	3%	3%	3%
Agree	24%	30%	17%	18%	21%	24%	22%	28%	29%
Disagree	27%	26%	29%	37%	31%	29%	23%	23%	24%
Strongly disagree	24%	18%	30%	24%	29%	25%	26%	22%	17%
Don't know / not sure	21%	21%	21%	15%	14%	17%	27%	24%	27%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	All Other	Undecided
Total agree	28%	39%	20%	14%	44%	22%	17%
Total disagree	51%	40%	63%	71%	33%	46%	52%
Strongly agree	4%	4%	3%	3%	7%	4%	4%
Agree	24%	35%	17%	11%	37%	18%	14%
Disagree	27%	25%	31%	34%	20%	23%	29%
Strongly disagree	24%	16%	31%	36%	13%	22%	24%
Don't know / not sure	21%	21%	17%	15%	24%	32%	30%

Q. People in the camps who are found to be genuine refugees should be brought immediately to Australia, not wait longer to see when or if the USA will take them.

	Total	Male	Female	18-24y	25-34y	35-44y	45-54y	55-64y	65y+
Total agree	56%	54%	58%	60%	61%	59%	48%	54%	57%
Total disagree	34%	36%	31%	30%	30%	28%	43%	36%	35%
Strongly agree	21%	18%	23%	24%	21%	21%	16%	22%	21%
Agree	36%	36%	35%	36%	40%	38%	32%	32%	36%
Disagree	20%	20%	19%	18%	20%	19%	22%	20%	19%
Strongly disagree	14%	16%	12%	12%	9%	10%	21%	16%	17%
Don't know / not sure	10%	9%	10%	10%	9%	13%	10%	10%	8%

	Total	LNP	Labor	Greens	PHON	All Other	Undecided
Total agree	56%	47%	66%	80%	28%	54%	53%
Total disagree	34%	41%	25%	13%	62%	35%	31%
Strongly agree	21%	13%	25%	46%	7%	19%	13%
Agree	36%	35%	41%	34%	21%	35%	40%
Disagree	20%	25%	17%	7%	29%	16%	20%
Strongly disagree	14%	16%	8%	6%	33%	19%	11%
Don't know / not sure	10%	11%	9%	7%	10%	11%	15%