

Polling - National ICAC

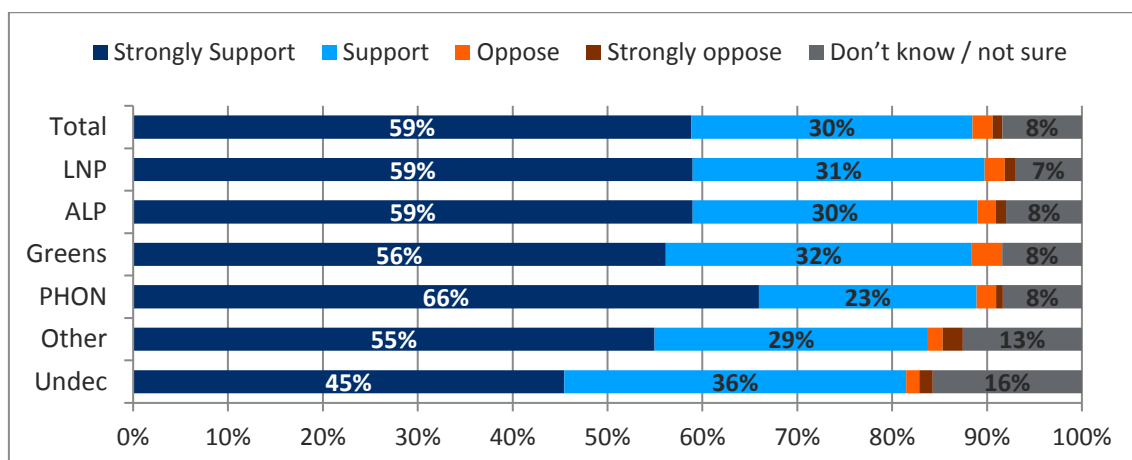
September 2017

Amid low levels of trust in Parliament, there is overwhelming and increasing support for a National ICAC. But voters are discerning. Most say a National ICAC would increase public trust in Parliament if it can investigate politicians and hold public hearings, but an ICAC without these powers may further erode trust in Parliament.

Key Results

The Australia Institute conducts regular, nationally representative polls on a range of policy issues. In September 2017 The Australia Institute surveyed 1,421 Australians about whether there should be a National Independent Commission Against Corruption (National ICAC), as also asked in The Australia Institute’s March 2017 poll.¹

- **88% now support a National ICAC. 59% strongly support it.**
 - Only 3% oppose it, and 8% are not sure.
- Support has increased from 80% in May 2017.
- Support was very high among voters for all parties, including majority strongly support from each.



¹ <http://www.tai.org.au/content/support-federal-icac-poll>

Both polls also asked about trust in Parliament and how to design a National ICAC.

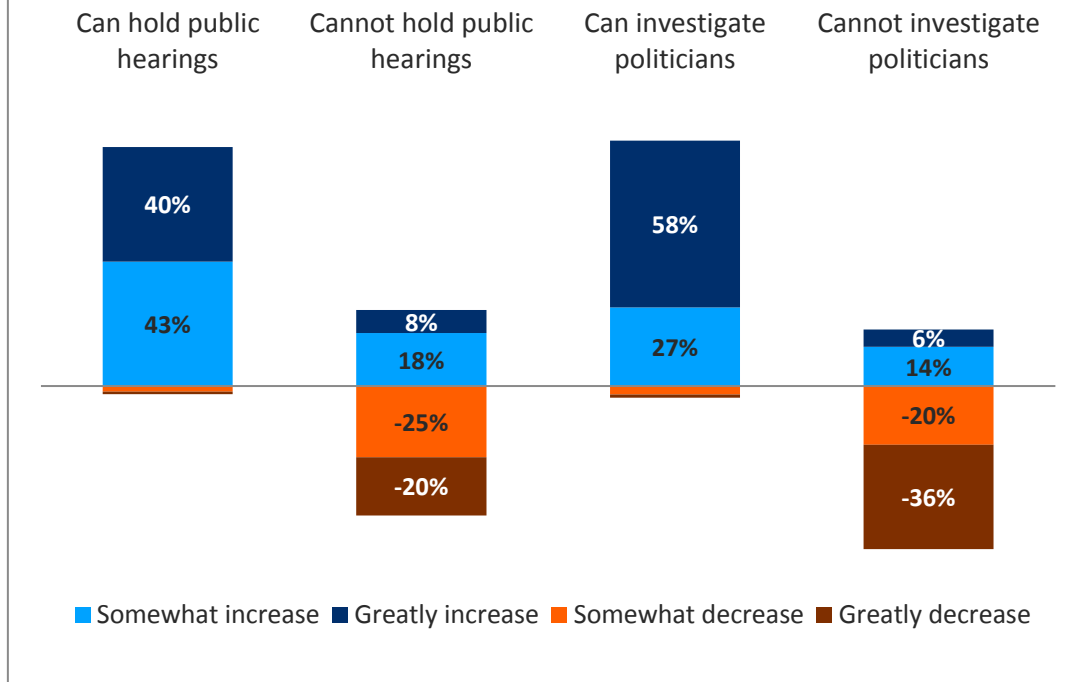
In March 2017,

- 63% said there was low trust in Parliament amongst people like them; only 10% saying there was a high level of trust.
- 63% said a National ICAC would increase public trust in Parliament.
- 78% agreed a National ICAC should be able to hold public hearings.

In September 2017 respondents were asked how trust in Parliament amongst people like them would be impacted by the announcement of an ICAC that can, and cannot hold public hearings, and that can, and cannot investigate politicians.

- **More than four in five said a National ICAC would *increase* trust in Parliament if it can hold public hearings (85%) can investigate all holders of public office, including politicians (83%).**
 - A clear majority (58%) said trust would *greatly* increase if a National ICAC could investigate politicians.
 - Two in five (40%) said trust would *greatly* increase if the National ICAC could hold public hearings.
- **There was also a strong view that announcing a National ICAC that does not have these powers would *decrease* trust in Parliament.**
 - If Parliament announced a National ICAC that could not investigate politicians, 57% thought public trust would decrease, while only 20% thought trust would increase.
 - If Parliament announced a National ICAC that could not holding public hearings, twice as many thought public trust would decrease (45%) as thought it would increase (26%)

What would happen to public trust in Parliament if it announced a National ICAC that



Source: The Australia Institute national poll, September 2017

Method

Between 17 and 26 September 2017 The Australia Institute conducted a national survey of 1421 Australians through Research Now, with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state or territory.

Results are shown only for larger eastern states – New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. States were included where the margin of error was 6% or lower.

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

A National Independent Commission Against Corruption would investigate and expose corruption in federal politics.

Do you support or oppose establishing a National Independent Commission Against Corruption?

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Strongly Support	59%	67%	51%	59%	59%	56%	66%	55%	45%
Support	30%	26%	34%	31%	30%	32%	23%	29%	36%
Oppose	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Strongly oppose	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%
Don't know / not sure	8%	5%	12%	7%	8%	8%	8%	13%	16%

	18-24y	25-34y	35-44y	45-54y	55-64y	65+	NSW	Qld	Vic
Strongly Support	39%	55%	57%	62%	64%	70%	61%	56%	58%
Support	33%	31%	33%	28%	28%	26%	28%	31%	30%
Oppose	6%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%
Strongly oppose	2%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Don't know / not sure	19%	12%	7%	7%	6%	2%	7%	10%	9%

Imagine that the Parliament passed legislation to create a National Independent Commission Against Corruption.

If this new Commission had the following features, how do you think it would impact on trust in Parliament amongst people like you?

Can hold public hearings as part of its investigations

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Total increase trust	83%	86%	79%	73%	83%	84%	81%	81%	75%
Total decrease trust	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%
Greatly increase trust	40%	44%	35%	36%	40%	43%	47%	40%	30%
Somewhat increase trust	43%	42%	44%	47%	43%	41%	34%	41%	45%
No impact	8%	7%	9%	10%	6%	6%	7%	8%	11%
Somewhat decrease trust	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%	1%
Greatly decrease trust	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Don't know / not sure	6%	3%	9%	4%	7%	7%	8%	7%	11%

Can hold private hearings as part of its investigations, but cannot hold public hearings.

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Total increase trust	26%	30%	22%	33%	22%	26%	23%	22%	24%
Total decrease trust	45%	46%	44%	40%	45%	46%	51%	52%	39%
Greatly increase trust	8%	11%	5%	13%	6%	9%	6%	3%	7%
Somewhat increase trust	18%	20%	17%	21%	17%	17%	17%	19%	17%
No impact	19%	19%	20%	20%	22%	17%	13%	16%	21%
Somewhat decrease trust	25%	24%	26%	25%	25%	26%	24%	23%	22%
Greatly decrease trust	20%	22%	19%	15%	20%	20%	28%	29%	17%
Don't know / not sure	10%	5%	14%	7%	11%	10%	13%	9%	16%

Can investigate politicians and all holders of public office

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Total increase trust	85%	87%	84%	83%	86%	85%	87%	87%	79%
Total decrease trust	4%	6%	3%	7%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Greatly increase trust	58%	63%	53%	52%	59%	63%	67%	58%	48%
Somewhat increase trust	27%	24%	31%	31%	27%	22%	20%	29%	31%
No impact	5%	5%	6%	6%	5%	6%	4%	6%	8%
Somewhat decrease trust	3%	4%	2%	6%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%
Greatly decrease trust	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%
Don't know / not sure	5%	3%	8%	4%	6%	6%	7%	5%	9%

Can investigate public servants but not politicians

	Total	Male	Female	LNP	ALP	Greens	PHON	Other	Undec
Total increase trust	20%	21%	18%	25%	17%	15%	19%	16%	20%
Total decrease trust	57%	57%	56%	50%	57%	65%	58%	65%	51%
Greatly increase trust	6%	7%	5%	9%	5%	3%	8%	2%	7%
Somewhat increase trust	14%	14%	13%	16%	12%	12%	11%	14%	13%
No impact	17%	18%	16%	19%	17%	14%	15%	13%	17%
Somewhat decrease trust	20%	21%	20%	20%	22%	23%	10%	23%	20%
Greatly decrease trust	36%	36%	36%	30%	35%	41%	48%	42%	31%
Don't know / not sure	7%	5%	9%	6%	9%	6%	8%	6%	12%