

Screener

S1. Are you...?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Male
2. Female
3. Other
4. Prefer not to say **[TERMINATE]**

S2. What is your age?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Under 18 **[TERMINATE]**
2. 18-19
3. 20-24
4. 25-29
5. 30-34
6. 35-39
7. 40-44
8. 45-49
9. 50-54
10. 55-59
11. 60-64
12. 65-69
13. 70-74
14. 75 and over
15. Prefer not to say **[TERMINATE]**

S3. What is your residential postcode?

4-DIGIT OPEN-BOX.

PROGRAMMER NOTE: HIDDEN QUESTION, AUTOCODE BASED ON POSTCODE.

S4. Location

ALLOCATE TO STATE/LOCATION. CHECK QUOTAS

PROGRAMMER NOTE: HIDDEN QUESTION

S5. Wave

RANDOMLY ALLOCATE EACH PARTICIPANT TO WAVE 1 OR WAVE 2 FOR LOGIC LATER IN SURVEY

D1. If a Federal election was held tomorrow, to which party would you give your first preference vote in the House of Representatives (Lower House)?

SINGLE RESPONSE. OPTIONS 7, 8 & 9 TO REMAIN AT BOTTOM OF LIST RANDOMISE OPTIONS 1 & 2/11/12

1. Labor
2. **[DO NOT SHOW IN QLD OR NT]** Liberal
3. **[DO NOT SHOW IN QLD OR NT]** National
11. **[SHOW IN QLD]** Liberal National Party
12. **[SHOW IN NT]** Country Liberals
4. Greens
5. Pauline Hanson's One Nation
10. United Australia Party
7. Independent or other party
8. Don't know
9. I am not enrolled to vote at Federal elections

ASK IF D1=1-7 or 10-12

D2. And how likely are you to change your vote between now and the next Federal election?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Not at all likely to change
2. Not that likely to change
3. Quite likely to change
4. Very likely to change

ASK IF D1=8

D3. Well which party are you currently leaning towards?

SINGLE RESPONSE. OPTIONS 7, 8 & 9 TO REMAIN AT BOTTOM OF LIST RANDOMISE OPTIONS 1 & 2/11/12

1. Labor
2. **[DO NOT SHOW IN QLD OR NT]** Liberal
11. **[DO NOT SHOW IN QLD OR NT]** National
12. **[SHOW IN QLD]** Liberal National Party
13. **[SHOW IN NT]** Country Liberals
3. Greens
4. Pauline Hanson's One Nation
10. United Australia Party
7. Independent or other party
8. Don't know

ASK IF D1=4-7, 10 OR D3=3-7, 10

D4. Following your first preference vote, which of the following would you preference higher in the House of Representatives (Lower House)?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Labor
2. Liberal/National Coalition
3. Unsure

Household Life

ASK ALL

H1. What is your current employment status?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Employed, working full-time (more than 35hours a week)
2. Self-employed, working full-time (more than 35hours a week)
3. Employed, working part-time (less than 35hours a week)
4. Unemployed, looking for full-time work (more than 35 hours a week)
5. Unemployed, looking for part-time work (less than 35 hours a week)
6. Not employed and not looking for work
7. Student
8. Beneficiary/Welfare
9. Retired
10. Look after the house full-time
11. Other (please specify)
12. Prefer not to say

H2. Which of the following apply to you?

- a. Yes
- b. No

SINGLE RESPONSE FOR EACH OPTION

1. I have at least one dependent child (i.e. a child under the age of 18 who you are responsible for)
2. I have at least one child over the age of 18
3. I look after grandchildren or other children who do not live with me at least once a week (excluding what you do for a job)
4. I live with a spouse or partner

ASK IF H2/1=1 (Have dependent children)

H3. Do any of your dependent children have a disability or special needs (e.g., autism, global developmental delay or cerebral palsy)?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Yes
2. No

ASK IF H2/1=1 (Have dependent children)

H4. Which of the following apply to you?

- a. Yes
- b. No

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

- 1. I have at least one child under school age
- 2. I have at least one child attending primary school
- 3. I have at least once child attending secondary school

ASK IF H4/1=1 (Have children under school age)

H5. How many children under school age do you have?

SINGLE RESPONSE

- 1. One
- 2. Two
- 3. Three or more

SHOW IF H5=2,3 (Have more than one child under school age)

You've said you have two or more children under school age. For the following questions, please answer for your child under school age who most recently had a birthday.

ASK IF H4/1=1 (Have children under school age)

H6. How old is that child?

SINGLE RESPONSE

- 1. Under 1
- 2. 1
- 3. 2
- 4. 3
- 5. 4
- 6. 5

ASK IF H4/1=1 (Have children under school age)

H7. Different names for early learning centres are used in different states and territories. For the purpose of the next few questions, please assume that 'centre-based daycare or preschool'

refers to any formal early learning & care provided for children under school age through a centre.

Does your child regularly attend centre-based daycare or preschool?

If you have more than one child under school age, please answer for the child who most recently had a birthday.

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Yes
2. No, but they used to
3. No, they have not yet attended daycare or preschool

ASK IF H7=2,3 (Child does not attend daycare/preschool)

H8. What are the main reasons why your child does not regularly attend centre-based daycare or preschool?

Please select all that apply

MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE OPTION 1-12. OPTION 13 TO REMAIN AT BOTTOM OF LIST

1. I'm not working regularly so I don't need to use it regularly
2. Either me or my partner can provide care right now
3. Centre-based daycare or preschool is too expensive
4. My child gets better care from me and/or my partner
5. Other adults such as grandparents are able to provide care
6. I feel uncomfortable leaving my child in the care of strangers
7. I think my child is not ready
8. I can't find a suitable centre-based daycare or preschool
9. Waitlists are too long
10. I can't find session times that work for me
11. I can't find places in a centre that's in a convenient location
12. The available centres don't provide good quality education or care
13. Other (please specify)

ASK IF H7=2,3 (Child does not attend daycare/preschool)

H9. How likely is it that this child will attend centre-based daycare or preschool before they start primary school?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Not likely at all

2. Not that likely
3. Fairly likely
4. Very likely
5. Unsure

ASK IF H7=1 (Child attends daycare/preschool)

H10. What are the main reasons why your child regularly attends centre-based daycare or preschool?

Please select all that apply.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE OPTION 1-7. OPTION 8 TO REMAIN AT BOTTOM OF LIST

1. To provide your child with opportunities for early learning
2. So you or your partner can participate in the workforce
3. So you or your partner can study, undertake training, or undertake volunteer or job search activities
4. To give you or your partner a break
5. So you or your partner can look after younger children or others who need care
6. To provide your child with opportunities to socialise
7. To prepare them for school
8. Other (please specify)

ASK IF H4≠1 AND H4=2,3 (Have dependent children in primary or secondary school, but none under school age)

H11. Did any of your children attend centre-based daycare or preschool?

Different names for early learning centres are used in different states and territories. Please assume that 'centre-based daycare or preschool' refers to any formal early learning & care provided for children under school age through a centre.

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Yes
2. No

ASK ALL

P1. How important are each of the following issues when it comes to voting at Federal elections?

- a. Not important at all

- b. Not important
- c. Not that important
- d. Neutral
- e. Fairly important
- f. Very important
- g. Extremely important

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

- 1. Reducing gender inequality
- 2. Improving the primary & secondary education system
- 3. Improving early childhood education and care
- 4. Supporting working women
- 5. [SHOW IF WAVE 1] Reducing taxes
- 6. [SHOW IF WAVE 1] Reducing the cost of living
- 7. [SHOW IF WAVE 1] Addressing climate change
- 8. [SHOW IF WAVE 2] Reducing social inequality
- 9. [SHOW IF WAVE 2] Reducing crime
- 10. [SHOW IF WAVE 2] Improving the health system

P2. Which party do you think is better on each of the following issues?

- a. Liberal–National Coalition
- b. Labor

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE ANSWER OPTIONS. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

- 1. Reducing gender inequality
- 2. Improving the primary & secondary education system
- 3. Improving early childhood education and care
- 4. Supporting working women
- 5. [SHOW IF WAVE 1] Reducing taxes
- 6. [SHOW IF WAVE 1] Reducing the cost of living
- 7. [SHOW IF WAVE 1] Addressing climate change
- 8. [SHOW IF WAVE 2] Reducing social inequality
- 9. [SHOW IF WAVE 2] Reducing crime
- 10. [SHOW IF WAVE 2] Improving the health system

LIFESTYLE

ASK ALL

L1. How positive or negative do you feel about each of the following?

- a. Very negative
- b. Fairly negative
- c. Neutral
- d. Fairly positive
- e. Very positive

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. [SHOW IF H1≠9 (Not retired)] Your long-term career prospects
2. [SHOW IF H1≠9 (Not retired)] Your short-term career prospects
3. Your financial situation
4. Access to friends and support when you need it
5. Your health
6. Your personal safety (e.g. the likelihood of you being a victim of crime)
7. Your relationship with partners and family members
8. [SHOW IF H2/1=1 OR H2/2=1 (Have children)] Your child or children's future prospects

ASK ALL

L2. Which of the following best applies to you?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. I have already achieved most or all of my career goals
2. I have not yet achieved most or all of my career goals, but I'm confident I'll achieve those goals
3. I have not yet achieved most or all of my career goals, and I'm not confident I'll achieve those goals

L3. Which of the following best applies to you?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. I have already achieved most or all of my goals for my family
2. I have not yet achieved most or all of my goals for my family, but I'm confident I'll achieve those goals
3. I have not yet achieved most or all of my goals for my family, and I'm not confident I'll achieve those goals

L4. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Somewhat disagree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Somewhat agree
- e. Strongly agree

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

- 1. I have made sacrifices in my career to look after family
- 2. I have made sacrifices in my family life so I can progress in my career
- 3. **[SHOW IF H2/4=1 (Live with partner)]** My partner has made sacrifices in their career to look after family
- 4. **[SHOW IF H2/4=1 (Live with partner)]** My partner has made sacrifices in our family life so they can progress in their career

ASK ALL

L5. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Somewhat disagree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Somewhat agree
- e. Strongly agree

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

- 1. I chose to have children later and / or to have fewer children because I worried about the impact on my career
- 2. Having children often means that people end up with less retirement savings
- 3. The government should help and encourage fathers to take a more active role in looking after their children

ASK IF H2/1=1 (Have dependent children)

L6. How much would each of the following help you and your family, now or in the future?

- a. Hardly at all
- b. Not that much
- c. A fair amount
- d. A lot

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. [SHOW IF H4/1=1 (Have children under school age)] Much cheaper access to good quality care for children under school age
2. Much cheaper access to good quality before and after school care
3. Much cheaper access to good quality dentistry
4. Paid parental leave for fathers / partners in addition to paid parental leave for the primary caregiver
5. More flexible working conditions
6. Being able to work from home when you need to
7. Top-ups to superannuation so those on paid parental leave get contributions to their super at the same rate as they did when they were working full-time
8. [SHOW IF H4/1=1 (Have children under school age)] Good quality care for children under school age that fitted in better with the times I needed to work

ASK ALL

- L7. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
- a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Somewhat disagree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Somewhat agree
 - e. Strongly agree

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Even if I was entitled to support from the Government, the thought of having to go through Centrelink would put me off applying for it
2. The possibility that I could make a mistake in my application would put me off applying for support through Centrelink, even if I knew I was entitled to it

Childcare

C1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Cheaper early childhood education and care would be very good for the Australian economy as a whole

1. Strongly disagree
2. Somewhat disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat agree
5. Strongly agree

C2. Which of the following most applies to you?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. I tend to think of early childhood education and care in my state or territory as a system in the same way primary schools are a system
2. I tend to think of early childhood education and care in my state or territory as more of a disconnected series of independent operators which are all doing different things

C3. For each of the following statements about early childhood education and care, please indicate if you think they are definitely true, probably true, probably not true or definitely not true.

- a. Definitely not true
- b. Probably not true
- c. Probably true
- d. Definitely true

SINGLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Play-based learning is essential for the brain development of children between the ages of zero to five
2. Children who have not been exposed to play-based learning between the ages of zero to five either start school behind, or are not ready to learn
3. Children who attend daycare or preschool at a centre will often have more opportunities for play-based learning than those who do not
4. A high-quality early childhood education and care system would help ensure better outcomes for those children when they graduate Year 12
5. **[SHOW IF H7=1 OR H11=1 (Have child that does/did attend daycare)]** The cost of early childhood education and care has risen substantially in the last 3 years

6. Australia's early childhood education and care system doesn't follow a consistent approach or deliver uniform standards of education and care
7. **[SHOW IF WAVE 1]** If learning difficulties and disabilities such as dyslexia, ADHD and autism can be picked up before children start primary school, the children are likely to be much better off in the long-term
8. **[SHOW IF WAVE 1]** Many families don't send their children to early childhood education and care or limit how long they send them, because of the cost
9. **[SHOW IF WAVE 2]** Many people who get into trouble with the law later in life have learning difficulties that weren't picked up early enough
10. **[SHOW IF WAVE 2]** Many families rely on long-day care being open 52 weeks per year to support their work and other commitments

ASK ALL

C4. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Somewhat disagree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Somewhat agree
- e. Strongly agree

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. Early learning should be treated as part of the education system
2. The quality of early childhood education and care would improve if the system was more coordinated

C5. For the purpose of the next few questions, please assume that 'a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system' would be one that was connected to the primary and secondary education system with a standard set of teaching priorities based around play-based learning. The system would be available at low or minimal cost to anyone who wants to use it, but using it would not be compulsory.

How strongly do you support or oppose introducing a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system along those lines?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Strongly oppose
2. Somewhat oppose
3. Neither support nor oppose
4. Somewhat support

5. Strongly support

C6. If there was a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system, how do you think it would affect each of the following?

- a. Make it a lot worse
- b. Make it a little worse
- c. Make no difference
- d. Make it a little better
- e. Make it a lot better

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. The Australian economy
2. The education system as a whole
3. Gender inequality
4. Social inequality
5. Crime rates over the long-term

ASK IF L4/1=4 OR 5 OR L4/2=4 OR 5 (Strongly /Somewhat agree that they have made career or family sacrifices)

C7. You said earlier that you had made sacrifices in your career for your family or in your family life for your career.

Which of the following do you think would have applied to you had you access to a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. I wouldn't have had to make those sacrifices if I had access to a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system
2. I would still have had to make those sacrifices if I had access to universal high-quality early childhood education and care system, but they wouldn't have been as big
3. Having access to universal high-quality early childhood education and care system wouldn't have made any difference to the sacrifices I've made
4. Unsure

ASK ALL

C8. If a party committed to introducing a universal high-quality early childhood education and care system, how would that affect your likelihood of voting for that party?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. I would be a lot more likely to vote for that party
2. I would be a little more likely to vote for that party
3. It would make no difference
4. I would be a little less likely to vote for that party
5. I would be a lot less likely to vote for that party

C9. As you may be aware, the childcare subsidy is administered through Centrelink, and is subject to an Activity Test.

The Activity Test means that the number of hours of subsidised childcare parents can get depends on the number of hours they or their partner are in paid employment, study, training or doing volunteer work.

Although families with incomes below \$69,390 are exempt from the Activity Test, the Activity Test means that families with incomes above \$69,390 can't get access to subsidised childcare if one of the parents is not in paid employment, study, training or doing volunteer work.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Somewhat disagree
- c. Neither agree, nor disagree
- d. Somewhat agree
- e. Strongly agree

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. It's fair that people who are neither in paid employment, nor doing volunteer work do not get access to subsidised childcare
2. Because childcare has educational benefits for the child, the Activity Test means that children who are already in disadvantaged circumstances are further disadvantaged because of the test
3. The subsidy system administered through Centrelink is complex and time consuming and a barrier to accessing childcare
4. It's unfair for children to miss out on the educational benefits of childcare just because their parents aren't in paid work

C10. Have you seen or heard any media stories or campaigns in the past month about improving the early childhood education and care system for children aged 0-5 years?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Yes

2. No

C11. The Australian Labor Party has announced a new policy on early childhood education. They have said they will:

- Increase the childcare subsidy from 85% to 90% which will reduce fees for families earning up to \$100,000 from \$5 an hour to \$2 an hour
- Change the subsidy for families earning more than \$100,000 so it reduces at a slower rate, so families earning more than \$100,000 get more support than they do now

How strongly do you support or oppose that policy?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Strongly oppose
2. Somewhat oppose
3. Neither support nor oppose
4. Somewhat support
5. Strongly support

C12. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Labor's policy?

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Somewhat disagree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Somewhat agree
- e. Strongly agree

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. The policy would probably pay for itself as it would mean parents could choose to return to work sooner and / or work longer hours than they would have
2. The policy would have significant long-term benefits as having more children in early childhood education will mean learning difficulties and behavioural issues are more likely to be picked up
3. The policy would have significant long-term benefits as parents would be able to participate in the workforce more and not have to put their careers on hold as much
4. The policy is unnecessary as the current system means most family are only paying \$5 an hour for childcare
5. As Australia is already spending \$9B on childcare subsidies, we can't afford to increase spending more
6. The policy provides too much support to people on high incomes who don't really need it

C13. People sometimes change their minds in surveys. To what extent do you now agree or disagree with the following statement?

Cheaper early childhood education and care would be very good for the Australian economy as a whole

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Strongly disagree
2. Somewhat disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat agree
5. Strongly agree

Demographics

Thank you for your time so far, we only have a few more questions.

D5. What is the total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances, and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. \$3,500 or more per week (\$182,000 or more per year)
2. \$3,000-\$3,499 per week (\$156,000-\$181,999 per year)
3. \$2,500-\$2,999 per week (\$130,000-\$155,999 per year)
4. \$2,000-\$2,499 per week (\$104,000-\$129,999 per year)
5. \$1,500-\$1,999 per week (\$78,000-\$103,999 per year)
6. \$1,250-\$1,499 per week (\$65,000-\$77,999 per year)
7. \$1,000-\$1,249 per week (\$52,000-\$64,999 per year)
8. \$800-\$999 per week (\$41,600-\$51,999 per year)
9. \$600-\$799 per week (\$31,200-\$41,599 per year)
10. \$400-\$599 per week (\$20,800-\$31,199 per year)
11. \$300-\$399 per week (\$15,600-\$20,799 per year)
12. \$200-\$299 per week (\$10,400-\$15,599 per year)
13. \$1-\$199 per week (\$1-\$10,399 per year)
14. No income
15. Negative income
16. Prefer not to say

D6. Approximately how many hours each week do you spend doing the following:

- a. None
- b. Two hours or less
- c. Three to five hours
- d. Six to eight hours
- e. Nine hours or more

SINGLE RESPONSE PER STATEMENT. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS

1. **[SHOW IF H1=3 (Employed, working part-time)]** Doing work that you are paid for
2. Looking after children on an unpaid basis
3. Doing volunteer work
4. Doing housework, home maintenance etc.
5. Participating in leisure activities

ASK ALL

D7. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Year 9 and below
2. Year 10 and above
3. Certificate levels I-IV
4. Diploma or advanced diploma
5. Graduate diploma or certificate
6. Bachelor or honours degree
7. Post-graduate degree
8. Other (please specify)
9. I prefer not to answer

D8. And which of the following best describes the type of household you currently live in?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. Single without children
2. Couple with no children

3. Group household with no children
4. Mix of adults - no children under 18yrs in the household
5. Young family - mainly dependent pre-school kids
6. Middle family - mainly dependent school aged kids
7. Older family - mainly dependent teenagers or older still at home
8. Single or couple whose children have left home
9. Other

ASK IF D8≠1 (Not single person household)

D9. Including yourself, how many people in total live in your household?

SINGLE RESPONSE

1. **[SHOW IF D8=8 (Single or couple whose children have left home)]** One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four
5. Five
6. Six or more