



Australian
National
University



PERCEPTIONS OF CORRUPTION
AND ETHICAL CONDUCT
ANUPOLL OCTOBER 2012

ANU College of
Arts & Social
Sciences

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

Corruption in our world affects everybody. The existence of corruption leads to a lack of confidence in our institutions, and in turn this has the potential to undermine public policy. All countries experience corruption. When it is widespread, corruption deters investment, weakens economic growth and undermines the rule of law. It is found in rich countries and in poor countries.

This ANUpoll confines itself to potential corruption in the Australian public sector. It does not attempt to cover corruption in the private sector, in activities such as sport, or in developing countries. It explores Australians' perceptions of corruption against a backdrop of their confidence in a range of public institutions. It also explores perceptions of ethical behaviour of our elected politicians.

Public policy research, teaching and engagement are key features of the ANU Strategic Plan, *ANU to 2020*. Understanding the nature and effects of corruption on public policy is an important, tangible contribution that the ANU can make to our social knowledge and our practices in government.

The results of this ANUpoll highlight an interesting contradiction. ANUpoll confirms that acts of bribery involving public officials are very low in Australia and that, internationally, we rank as a low corruption country. The poll also shows that people have virtually no personal or family experience of corruption, however there is a public belief that corruption is increasing. This poses challenges in ensuring our policy framework is built on the highest ethical standards.



Like previous ANUpolls, this study sheds new light on public opinion about a major topic that shapes Australia's confidence and policy development. The survey fulfils the University's mission of addressing topics of national importance. ANUpoll was designed to inform public and policy debate, and to assist in scholarly research. It builds on the University's long tradition of social survey research, which began in the 1960s. I hope this ANUpoll contributes to a greater understanding of ethics, confidence and corruption in Australian public life.

Professor Ian Young
Vice-Chancellor

ANUPOLL

Perceptions of corruption and ethical conduct

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ABOUT THE SURVEY

The *ANUpoll* is conducted for The Australian National University by the Social Research Centre, Melbourne. The survey is a national random sample of the adult population aged 18 years and over conducted by telephone. In this survey, 2,020 people were interviewed between 13 August and 9 September 2012, with a response rate of 43 percent. The results have been weighted to represent the national population. The survey's margin of error is ± 2.0 percent. Full details of the survey can be found at <http://www.anu.edu.au/anupoll/>

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KEY POINTS SUMMARY

Confidence in government and institutions

- > Satisfaction with democracy in Australia remains high by international standards, although it is lower in 2012 than at any time since 1998.
- > The lower levels of satisfaction with democracy since 2010 are substantially related to concerns about the quality of government.
- > Public confidence in the armed forces and the police remains high; public confidence is lowest in the media and political parties.
- > Judged over more than decade, the largest increases in confidence have been in the public service and the legal system, and the largest decreases have been in the federal government and political parties.

Perceptions and experience of corruption

- > Very few Australians have direct experience of corruption among public officials. Less than 1 percent say they or a family member have often experienced corruption in the past five years.
- > There is a widespread perception that corruption in Australia has increased, with 43 percent taking this view and 41 percent seeing corruption as having remained the same.
- > The media, trade unions and political parties are viewed as the most corrupt institutions in Australian society; the armed services, the public service and the police are viewed as the least corrupt.
- > Around half of those interviewed in the survey did not know to whom or where to report corruption.

Ethical conduct in government

- > The public sees relatively few elected representatives as being involved in corruption. Just over half of the respondents see 'almost none' or 'a few' federal politicians as being corrupt.
- > Just one in three of the respondents believe that politicians can be trusted to look after the public's interests.
- > The level of public scepticism about politicians' motives has been generally stable since at least the 1990s, with the exception of when new governments have been elected in 1996 and 2007.

Key trends: most important problems and political mood

- > The economy and employment represent the main concerns of the survey respondents, and the proportion mentioning them has increased consistently since March 2010.
- > The two other major concerns among the public are immigration and better government. Concern about the environment shows a significant decline.
- > Satisfaction with the direction in which the country is headed remains positive, and has been virtually unchanged over the past year.

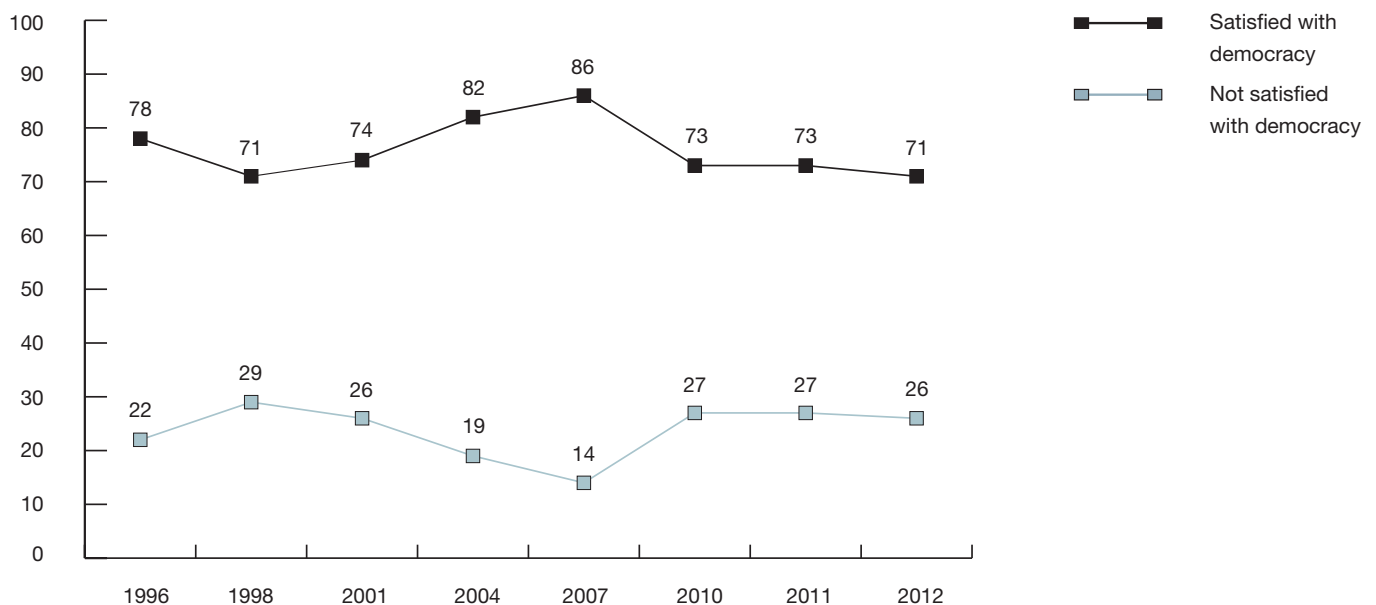
CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONS

Key points

- > Satisfaction with democracy in Australia remains high by international standards, although it is lower in 2012 than at any time since 1998
- > The lower levels of satisfaction with democracy since 2010 are substantially related to concerns about the quality of government
- > Public confidence in the armed forces and the police remains high; public confidence is lowest in the media and political parties
- > Judged over more than decade, the largest increases in confidence have been in the public service and the legal system, and the largest decreases have been in the federal government and political parties.

A distinctive characteristic of Australian democracy is the internationally high level of popular satisfaction with the system. Since the question was first asked in a survey in Australia in 1969, satisfaction with democracy has never fallen below seven in 10 citizens, with the exception of the period immediately following the dismissal of the Whitlam government in 1975, when it declined to 56 percent.

The question was first asked in the Australian Election Study (AES) in 1996, when almost eight out of every 10 Australians said they were 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied' with democracy. Satisfaction declined slightly thereafter, and peaked again just after the 2007 election, which marked the end of 11 years of Liberal government and the election of the Labor government. Since 2010, satisfaction has been noticeably lower than during the 2004-2007 period, declining to 73 percent in 2010 and 71 percent in this ANUpoll.



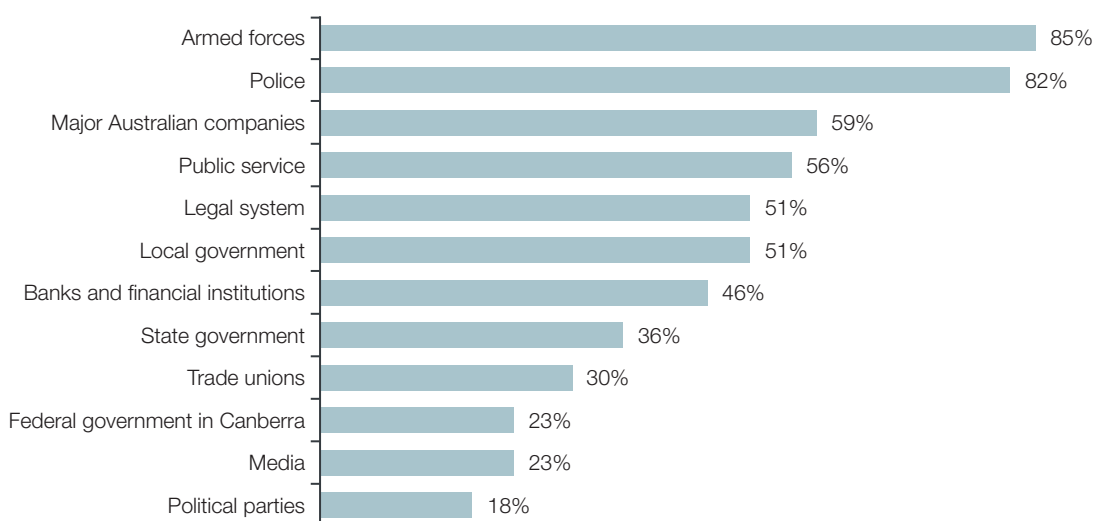
'On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in Australia?'

Sources AES 1996-2010; ANUpoll on Government Services, 2011; ANUpoll on Perceptions of Corruption 2012

While remaining high by international standards, current levels of satisfaction with democracy in Australia are at their lowest point since 1998. Relating these opinions about satisfaction with democracy to the problems that the respondents see facing Australia (which are examined in detail in the final section of this report), dissatisfaction with democracy is most strongly associated with concerns about 'better government' and immigration. This suggests that these are areas in which government performance is viewed as having been least effective. By contrast, those most satisfied with democracy are more likely to see the environment and global warming as the main problems facing Australia. This suggests that they see government action in these areas as having been most effective.

Public confidence in the major institutions of society is often viewed as a pre-requisite to an effective, widely supported democracy. Without such public confidence, and the belief that citizens will be treated equitably by such institutions, the roots of democracy are often shallow. The survey asked the respondents about their level of confidence in 12 institutions, broadly divided between public institutions (for example, the police and government) and private or non-profit institutions (for example, companies and trade unions).

In general, public confidence is higher in public than in private institutions. Confidence is highest in the armed forces and the police, two traditional public institutions, and lowest for the media and political parties, two private institutions that have experienced widespread criticism in recent years. However, the public/private division is not completely clear-cut: major Australian companies attract almost as much confidence as the major public institutions, while the federal government, a public institution, attracts some of the lowest levels of confidence among the public.



'I will now read out a list of organisations. For each one, could you please indicate how much confidence you have in them?' Estimates combine 'a great deal' and 'quite a lot' of confidence.

Source ANUpoll on Perceptions of Corruption 2012

There is a considerable literature which illustrates how these trends in public confidence in institutions have fluctuated over the past quarter of a century. Much of the changes can be traced to varying performance among the institutions, and their associated public image among the public. For example, although not included in this survey, public confidence in the churches, once one of the most widely supported institutions internationally, has declined dramatically as the clergy have been rocked by scandals. While support for specific institutions tends to ebb and flow depending on events and circumstances, there is no evidence that there is a secular decline in public support for institutions.

In order to examine the trends in confidence in public and private institutions over time, we compared support for the 10 of the 12 institutions where similar evidence exists in previous surveys, going back as far as 1983. The results suggest that there has indeed been significant changes in confidence, both positive and negative. Confidence in the public service, the police and the legal system has increased from low points in 1995 and 2001. The armed forces have attracted increasing levels of confidence, peaking at 91 percent in 2010, reflecting their involvement in overseas conflicts. In particular, the jump in support between 1995 and 2001 reflects the military's positive involvement in the East Timor operation in 1999.

Rank in 2012	Confidence in:	2012	2010	2008	2001	1995	1983
1	Armed forces	85	91	88	84	68	67
2	Police	82	79	80	68	76	80
3	Major Australian companies	59	54	—	46	59	79
4	Public service	56	41	51	35	38	47
5	Legal system	51	40	48	36	35	61
6	Banks and financial institutions	46	44	34	—	—	—
7	Trade unions	30	29	39	26	26	24
8	Federal government in Canberra	23	43	—	51	26	55
9	Media	23	20	—	23	21	—
10	Political parties	18	31	—	33	16	—

Questions vary slightly between surveys. 'Media' in 2010 and 2001 averages responses to 'press' and 'television.'

Sources ANUpoll on Perceptions of Corruption 2012; AES 2010, ANUpoll 2008, AES 2001, World Values Study 1995, 1983

At the other end of the scale, confidence in the federal government has fluctuated considerably, peaking in 1983 and 2001 but registering significant lows in 1995 and 2012. Political parties were significantly less popular in 2012 compared to 2001 and 2010. Both the media and trade unions have registered consistently low levels of confidence throughout the nearly 30 year period of the surveys, rarely attracting the confidence of more than one in four citizens.

These patterns reinforce the findings of international research that there has been no long term decline in confidence; rather, institutions that have declined in public confidence have been at least matched by those moving in the opposite direction. Nevertheless, the large declines in support for the federal government and for political parties since 2001 suggest that the current problem of public confidence is very much situated in political institutions.

PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF CORRUPTION

Key points

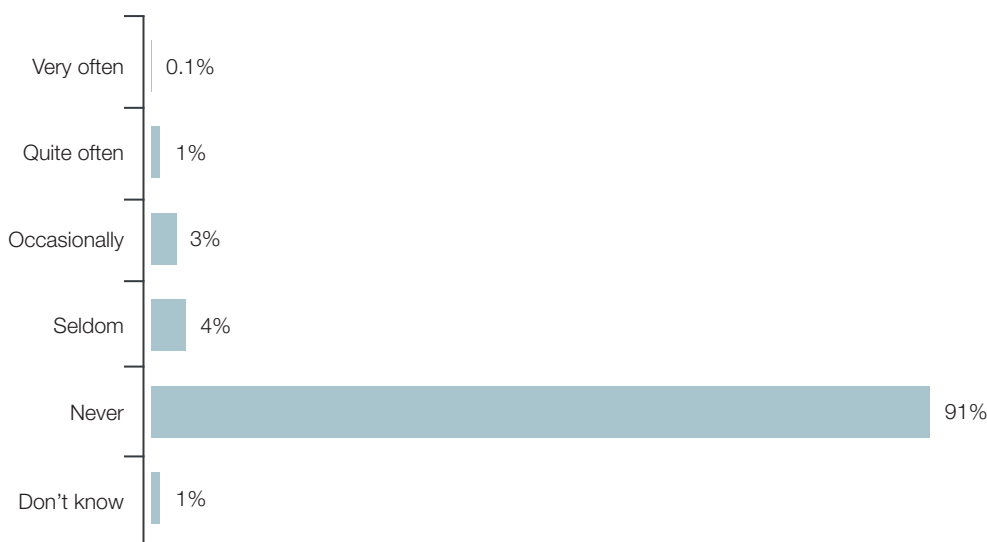
- > Very few Australians have direct experience of corruption among public officials. Less than 1 percent say they or a family member have often experienced corruption in the past five years
- > There is a widespread perception that corruption in Australia has increased, with 43 percent taking this view and 41 percent seeing corruption as having remained the same
- > The media, trade unions and political parties are viewed as the most corrupt institutions in Australian society; the armed services, the public service and the police are viewed as the least corrupt
- > Around half of those interviewed in the survey did not know to whom or where to report corruption.

Corruption has a wide range of consequences for societies, ranging from weak confidence in public institutions to the distortion of economic markets. Corruption is not the exclusive domain of developing countries or failed states. In rich countries corruption certainly exists and has implications for governance, the delivery of services, the development of infrastructure, and general economic conditions, not least if there is a widespread perception that corruption is rife or increasing.

The survey measured two separate aspects of corruption. First, the survey asked if the respondent or anyone in their family had experienced an act of bribery over the previous five years and, if so, who that act involved. Second, the survey asked a question about the public's perceptions of whether corruption was increasing or decreasing.

The results confirm international surveys that show that the proportion of Australians who report an act of bribery involving a public official is consistently low. Less than one percent of the Australian population report that they have 'often' experienced bribery, and a further 3 percent report that they have experienced it 'occasionally', and 4 percent said it had 'seldom' happened. More than nine out of every 10 respondents said this had not happened to them or a family member in the previous five years.

Australia is ranked by Transparency International as one of the 10 least corrupt countries in the world, and Australia's low rate of bribery experience compares with a global average of 24 percent of people who report in Transparency International surveys that they paid a bribe in the previous 12 months.



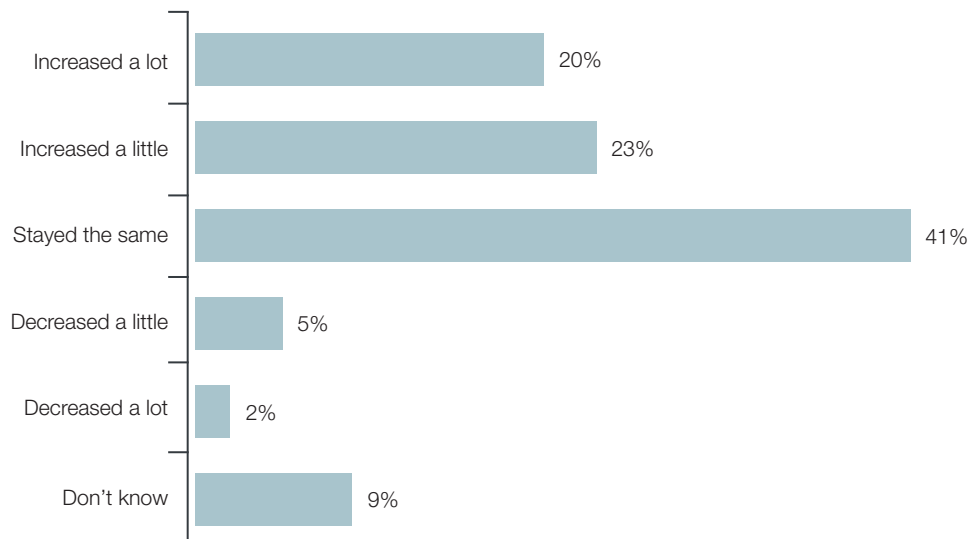
'In the last five years, how often have you or a member of your immediate family come across a public official who hinted they wanted, or asked for, a bribe or a favour in return for a service in Australia?'

Source ANUpoll on Perceptions of Corruption 2012

As we would expect, the public's personal experience of bribery is more likely to occur among those who are in the labour force, employed in manual as opposed to non-manual occupations, and who are younger. Nevertheless, systematic variations across the population are generally weak, reflecting the relatively small numbers of people involved.

In contrast to the low levels of personal or family experience of corruption, the public believes that corruption is increasing. Around one in five think that it has increased a lot, and a further one in four think that it has increased a little; one in four think it has remained stable. Just 7 percent believe that corruption has declined. There is only a weak relationship between experience of corruption and perceptions that it has increased ($r = 0.09$, $p = <.00$), suggesting that perceptions of corruption are rooted more in indirect sources of information, such as the mass media, rather than in personal experience.

Women were more likely than men to believe that corruption in Australia had increased (47 percent compared with 39 percent), and people over 55 years of age were more likely than those under 55 to believe that corruption had increased (51 percent compared with 39 percent).



'In the past three years, to what extent has the level of corruption in Australia changed?'

Source ANUpoll on Perceptions of Corruption 2012

The view among a plurality of the Australian public that corruption has increased is mirrored by the international survey findings. TI's 2011 survey found that globally, 58 percent of respondents believed that corruption had increased, while just 16 percent thought it had declined. Even among the six least corrupt countries, 55 percent of the respondents considered corruption to have increased. Low levels of personal experiences of corruption are therefore not incompatible with a belief that it is increasing across the society as a whole.

The final set of questions concerning corruption asked the respondents how corrupt they considered were the 12 public and private institutions asked about earlier. The results show that there is a strong relationship between public confidence and perceptions of corruption. The media, trade unions and political parties, which registered the lowest levels of public confidence, are also seen as those that are most likely to be corrupt. For example, 44 percent regard the media as corrupt, while less than half that number view them as not corrupt.

Rank		Corrupt	Neither	Not Corrupt	Don't know	Corrupt-not corrupt
1	Media	44	34	20	2	+24
2	Trade unions	38	31	24	7	+14
3	Political parties	37	38	22	3	+15
4	Federal government in Canberra	32	34	32	2	0
5	Banks and financial institutions	25	30	42	3	-17
6	State government	25	36	36	3	-11
7	Legal system	23	33	41	3	-18
8	Local government	19	31	48	2	-29
9	Australian companies	18	36	40	6	-22
10	Police	16	27	56	1	-40
11	Public service	13	32	51	4	-38
12	Armed forces	8	19	69	4	-61

'To what extent do you see the following institutions being affected by corruption? Please answer on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means not at all corrupt and 5 means extremely corrupt.' 'Corrupt' is coded as 1, 2, 'neither' as 3, 'not corrupt' as 4, 5

Source ANUpoll on Perceptions of Corruption 2012

The three public institutions that enjoy the highest level of public confidence—the armed forces, the public service and the police—are regarded as the least corrupt. Of the three levels of government asked about in the survey—local, state and federal—local government was seen as corrupt by just 19 percent of the respondents, followed by 25 percent who mentioned state government. The federal government was seen as corrupt by almost one in three of the respondents.

There were some observable age differences in perceptions of corruption in Australia. People over 55 were more likely than those under 35 to think the federal government in Canberra was corrupt (36 percent compared with 28 percent), as they also were to think trade unions were corrupt (44 percent compared with 29 percent). When it comes to the media however, the reverse is observable, with 53 per cent of those under 35 believing the media is corrupt compared with 34 percent of those aged over 55.

A systematic assessment by Transparency International in 2012 of the integrity systems of 25 European countries examined the institutional contributions to anti-corruption. While not exactly the same as this Australian survey of perceptions of corruption, in Europe both the media and political parties ranked in the bottom half of institutional performers in the integrity systems of the 25 countries. In this Australian survey, the public service ranked as one of the least corrupt institutions in Australia, but in Europe public service ranked lower on the integrity scale than the media or political parties.

A matter of policy relevance in Australia is the reporting of corruption. Three states have established or are establishing new anti-corruption agencies, and the Commonwealth government is working on a national anti-corruption plan. The survey therefore asked would people know where to report corrupt activity they might suspect or observe. Only one half of the respondents felt they knew where they would report such activity, and of those, one half nominated the police, and 15 percent nominated the Ombudsman. Only 5 percent of the total survey mentioned one of the existing anti-corruption agencies.

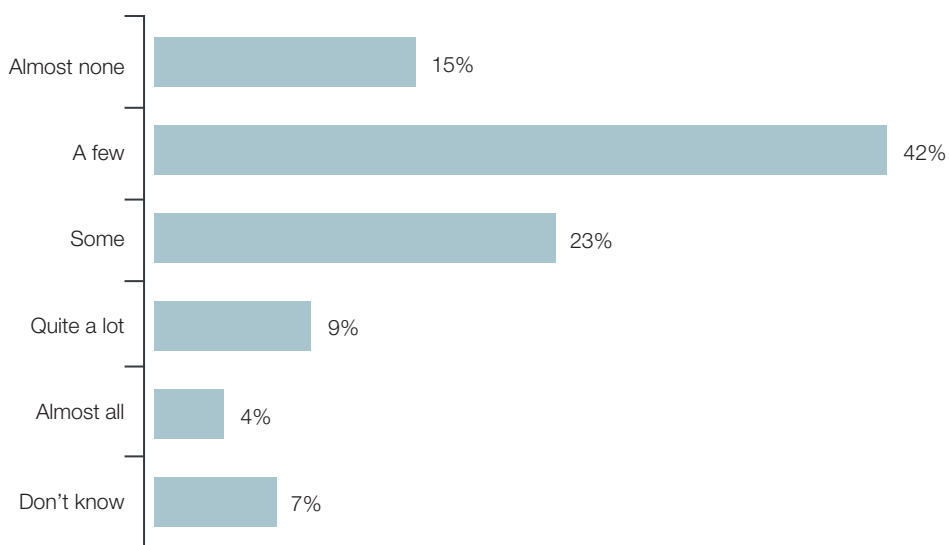
ETHICAL CONDUCT IN GOVERNMENT

Key points

- > The public sees relatively few elected representatives as being involved in corruption. Just over half of the respondents see 'almost none' or 'a few' federal politicians as being corrupt
- > Just one in three of the respondents believe that politicians can be trusted to look after their interests
- > The level of public scepticism about politicians' motives has been generally consistent since at least the 1990s, with the exception of when new governments have been elected in 1996 and 2007.

The survey results have highlighted the relatively low standing of the federal government among citizens, although the overtime findings show that this has fluctuated considerably. While almost one in three of the survey respondents view the federal government as being corrupt, to what extent do these opinions translate into a similar view about elected representatives? To test this, the ANUpoll asked how many elected representatives they believed were involved in corruption.

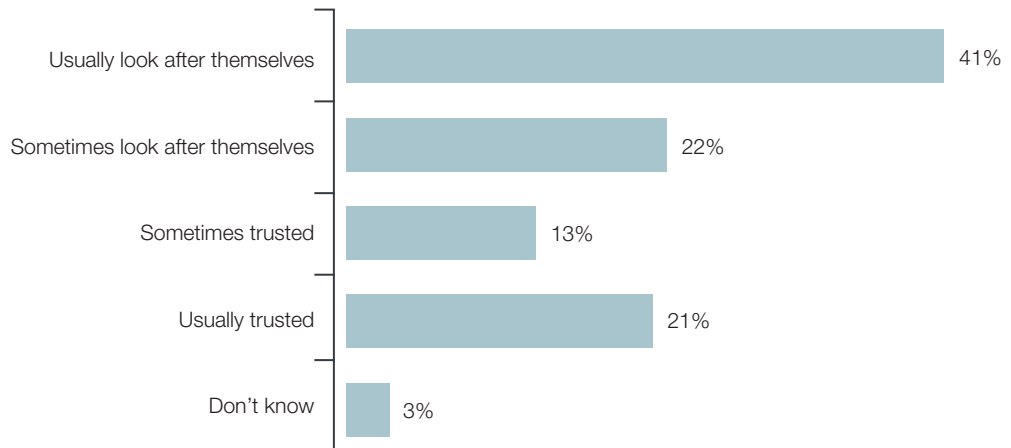
The results show that a majority of the respondents believed that few, if any, elected representatives were involved in corruption. A further 23 percent said that ‘some’ were corrupt, and around one in eight said ‘quite a lot’ or ‘almost all.’ These figures are similar to those found in the United States and the other established democracies concerning public perceptions of corruption among elected representatives.



‘Thinking about corruption in government. In your opinion, about how many elected federal politicians in Australia are involved in corruption? Would it be...?’

Source ANUpoll on Perceptions of Corruption 2012

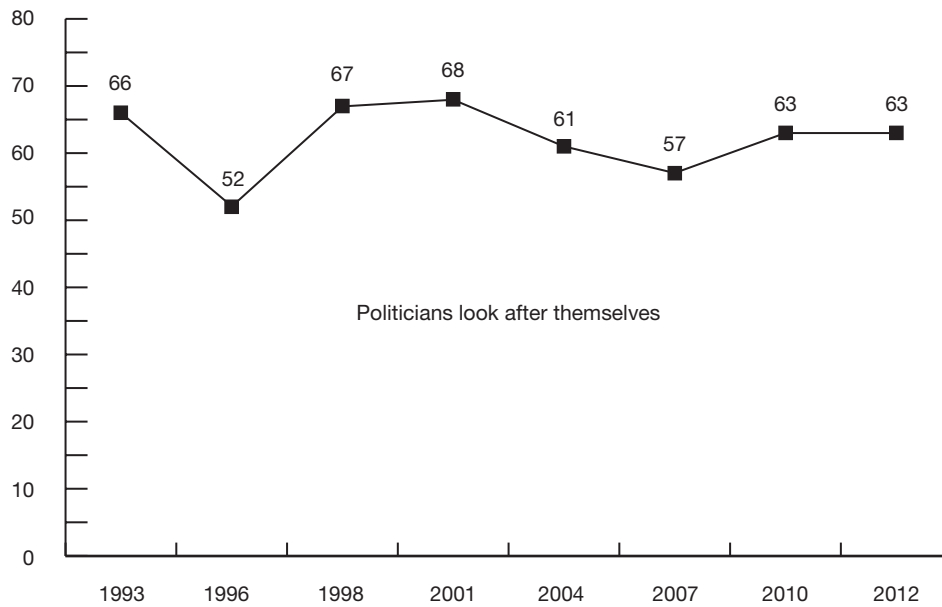
A second aspect of the public’s views of ethical conduct in government is how far they believe citizens’ interests are looked after by elected representatives, as against the interests of the elected representatives themselves. In general, the public is highly sceptical about how far their interests are looked after: almost two in three respondents believe that elected representatives look after themselves and just one in three believe that they can be trusted.



'In general, do you feel that the people in government are too often interested in looking after themselves, or do you feel that they can be trusted to do the right thing nearly all the time?'

Source ANUpoll on Perceptions of Corruption 2012

These results are consistent with the long term trends since 1993 which, using the same question wording, have demonstrated that the public generally regards politicians as looking after themselves, rather than looking after the public's interests. In 1993, when the question was first asked in a survey, the figure who believed that politicians looked after themselves was 66 percent; in 2010 and the current ANUpoll, the figure was almost the same, at 63 percent. There is a minor cyclical pattern to the trends: in the years when a new government is elected (as in 1996 and 2007), the public is more sympathetic, and as the government ages, the public becomes more pessimistic.



Sources AES 1993-2010; ANUpoll on Perceptions of Corruption 2012

Taken together with the survey results for public confidence in institutions, these findings confirm the current low standing of politics and politicians in Australia. The contradiction is that along with these views, Australians show one of the highest levels of satisfaction with democracy in the world. The public appears able to distinguish between the broad institutions of the political system as a whole (which they have confidence in), and the individuals who occupy elected positions within that system (in whom confidence is low).

KEY TRENDS: MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL MOOD

Key points

- > The economy and employment represent the main concerns of the survey respondents, and the proportion mentioning them has increased consistently since March 2010
- > The two other major concerns among the public are immigration and better government. Concern about the environment shows a significant decline
- > Satisfaction with the direction in which the country is headed remains positive, and has been virtually unchanged over the past year.

The ANUpolls that have been conducted over the past three years have found that the most frequently mentioned problems facing Australia are the economy and employment. However, with the exception of the period covering the global financial crisis, these concerns have rarely been mentioned by more than one in four of the survey respondents. This survey continues this trend, with 26 percent of the respondents mentioning the economy and jobs as their first concern. While still a minority of the respondents, it is the highest figure since the beginning of 2010 and the trend shows a slow but consistent increase. This reflects worries about declining jobs in manufacturing and a possible slow-down in the economy.

	Sep 12	Oct 11	May 11	Dec 10	June 10	Mar 10
Economy/jobs	26	22	18	19	17	17
Better government	15	16	20	12	14	13
Immigration	14	18	9	10	10	5
Environment/global warming	6	10	11	12	15	12

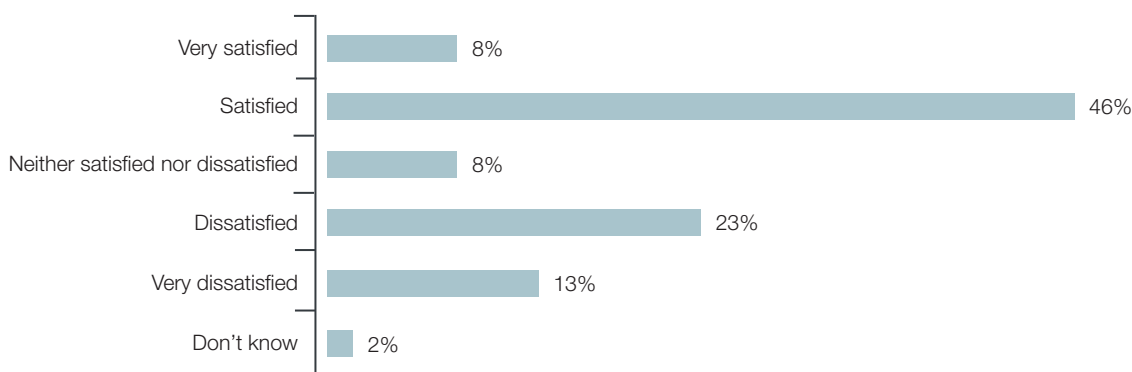
'What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?'

Source ANUpolls, March 2010-October 2011.

Immigration is the second most mentioned problem, at 15 percent, down from the peak of 20 percent who mentioned it in the May 2011 poll. Once again, this trend has been generally consistent since the 2010 election. The public's concern about 'better government' is the third most frequently mentioned problem. In the current poll, the proportion is 14 percent, which is a decline of four percentage points from the October 2011 figure, but still nearly three times the figure we recorded in March 2010.

The proportion mentioning the environment and global warming as their first concern has also declined from the most recent surveys, in this survey being mentioned by just 6 percent of the respondents. The remaining problems that were raised in the survey attracted relatively few mentions. The fifth and sixth ranked issues were, respectively, 'values and morals' and education.

The political mood remains generally positive. Just under one in 10 say that they are 'very satisfied' with the direction in which the country is heading, while almost half are 'satisfied.' This is almost the same distribution of opinion as we found in the October 2011 ANUpoll, although that represented a modest decline from the May 2011 ANUpoll, when 12 percent were 'very satisfied' and 51 percent were 'satisfied.'



'All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?'

Source ANUpoll on Corruption 2012

ANUPOLL QUESTIONS

What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?

	Number	Per cent
Economy/jobs	518	25.6
Industrial relations	16	.8
Interest rates	1	.0
Housing affordability	10	.5
Health care	68	3.4
Education	80	4.0
Defence/national security	6	.3
Terrorism	0	.0
Afghan war	6	.3
Environment/global warming	111	5.5
Water management	5	.2
Immigration	308	15.3
Indigenous affairs	9	.5
Taxation	25	1.3
Better government	276	13.7
Law and order/ crime/ justice system	46	2.3
Ageing population	14	.7
Values/ morals/ respect for others	88	4.3
Poverty/ Social exclusion/ inequality	76	3.8
Carbon Tax	36	1.8
Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	21	1.0
Rural/farming issues	9	.5
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	19	.9
Infrastructure/ Planning/ Innovation	21	1.1
Alcohol and Drug use	12	.6
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	4	.2
Foreign influence/Australia's position in world	16	.8
Family/community/societal breakdown	6	.3
Other	69	3.4
None/ no other	26	1.3
Don't know/can't say	112	5.6
Refused	3	.2
Total	2020	100.0

	Number	Per cent
Economy/jobs	353	17.5
Industrial relations	8	.4
Interest rates	3	.1
Housing affordability	23	1.1
Health care	106	5.2
Education	84	4.2
Defence/national security	13	.7
Terrorism	0	.0
Iraq war	4	.2
Afghan war	5	.3
Environment/global warming	84	4.2
Water management	17	.8
Immigration	272	13.5
Indigenous affairs	21	1.0
Taxation	18	.9
Better government	173	8.6
Law and order/ crime/ justice system	46	2.3
Ageing population	18	.9
Values/ morals/ respect for others	77	3.8
Poverty/ Social exclusion/ inequality	79	3.9
Carbon Tax	30	1.5
Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	9	.5
Rural/farming issues	7	.3
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	29	1.4
Infrastructure/ Planning/ Innovation	30	1.5
Alcohol and Drug use	17	.8
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	6	.3
Foreign influence/Australia's position in world	19	1.0
Family/community/societal breakdown	3	.1
Other	82	4.1
None/ no other	73	3.6
Don't know/can't say	165	8.1
Refused	2	.1
Total	1878	93.0

And what do you think is the second most important problem facing Australia today?

On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in Australia?

	Number	Per cent
Very satisfied	311	15.4
Fairly satisfied	1121	55.5
Not very satisfied	365	18.1
Not at all satisfied	156	7.7
Don't know/can't say	64	3.2
Refused	4	.2
Total	2020	100.0

I will now read out a list of organisations. For each one, could you please indicate how much confidence you have in them?... The armed forces

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	833	41.2
Quite a lot of confidence	887	43.9
Not very much confidence	201	9.9
None at all	38	1.9
Don't Know/Can't Say	56	2.8
Refused	5	.2
Total	2020	100.0

... The legal system

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	230	11.4
Quite a lot of confidence	796	39.4
Not very much confidence	771	38.2
None at all	177	8.8
Don't Know/Can't Say	44	2.2
Refused	2	.1
Total	2020	100.0

... The Federal government in Canberra

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	94	4.7
Quite a lot of confidence	508	25.1
Not very much confidence	904	44.7
None at all	449	22.2
Don't Know/Can't Say	54	2.7
Refused	11	.5
Total	2020	100.0

... The media

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	78	3.8
Quite a lot of confidence	395	19.5
Not very much confidence	1121	55.5
None at all	383	19.0
Don't Know/Can't Say	41	2.0
Refused	2	.1
Total	2020	100.0

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	105	5.2
Quite a lot of confidence	629	31.2
Not very much confidence	916	45.3
None at all	313	15.5
Don't Know/Can't Say	50	2.5
Refused	7	.3
Total	2020	100.0

... The state government

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	99	4.9
Quite a lot of confidence	516	25.6
Not very much confidence	775	38.4
None at all	426	21.1
Don't Know/Can't Say	198	9.8
Refused	5	.3
Total	2020	100.0

... Trade unions

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	632	31.3
Quite a lot of confidence	1019	50.4
Not very much confidence	295	14.6
None at all	58	2.9
Don't Know/Can't Say	16	.8
Refused	1	.0
Total	2020	100.0

... The police

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	53	2.6
Quite a lot of confidence	319	15.8
Not very much confidence	1166	57.7
None at all	402	19.9
Don't Know/Can't Say	71	3.5
Refused	10	.5
Total	2020	100.0

... Political parties

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	221	10.9
Quite a lot of confidence	906	44.8
Not very much confidence	654	32.4
None at all	128	6.4
Don't Know/Can't Say	103	5.1
Refused	8	.4
Total	2020	100.0

... The public service

... Major Australian companies

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	229	11.3
Quite a lot of confidence	971	48.1
Not very much confidence	596	29.5
None at all	96	4.8
Don't Know/Can't Say	117	5.8
Refused	11	.5
Total	2020	100.0

... Local government

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	193	9.5
Quite a lot of confidence	843	41.7
Not very much confidence	743	36.8
None at all	186	9.2
Don't Know/Can't Say	51	2.5
Refused	5	.2
Total	2020	100.0

... Banks and financial institutions

	Number	Per cent
A great deal of confidence	215	10.7
Quite a lot of confidence	716	35.4
Not very much confidence	793	39.3
None at all	241	11.9
Don't Know/Can't Say	51	2.5
Refused	3	.2
Total	2020	100.0

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?

	Number	Per cent
Complete distrust	50	2.5
Some distrust	241	11.9
Neither trust nor distrust	612	30.3
Some trust	870	43.1
Complete trust	238	11.8
Don't know/can't say	9	.5
Refused	1	.1
Total	2020	100.0

In the past 3 years, to what extent has the level of corruption in Australia changed. Has it ... ?

	Number	Per cent
Increased a lot	403	19.9
Increased a little	466	23.1
Stayed the same	824	40.8
Decreased a little	114	5.6
Decreased a lot	35	1.7
Don't know/can't say	175	8.6
Refused	3	.2
Total	2020	100.0

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	667	33.0
2	726	35.9
3	392	19.4
4	108	5.4
5 Extremely corrupt	44	2.2
Don't Know/Can't Say	79	3.9
Refused	3	.2
Total	2020	100.0

To what extent do you see the following institutions being affected by corruption? ...The armed forces

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	200	9.9
2	629	31.1
3	674	33.3
4	305	15.1
5 Extremely corrupt	160	7.9
Don't Know/Can't Say	47	2.4
Refused	5	.2
Total	2020	100.0

...The legal system

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	159	7.9
2	481	23.8
3	689	34.1
4	365	18.1
5 Extremely corrupt	287	14.2
Don't Know/Can't Say	35	1.7
Refused	5	.3
Total	2020	100.0

...The Federal government in Canberra

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	155	7.7
2	579	28.7
3	731	36.2
4	328	16.2
5 Extremely corrupt	169	8.4
Don't Know/Can't Say	52	2.6
Refused	6	.3
Total	2020	100.0

... The state government

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	128	6.4
2	359	17.8
3	624	30.9
4	462	22.9
5 Extremely corrupt	300	14.9
Don't Know/Can't Say	143	7.1
Refused	4	.2
Total	2020	100.0

... Trade unions

... The police

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	315	15.6
2	817	40.5
3	539	26.7
4	237	11.7
5 Extremely corrupt	84	4.1
Don't Know/Can't Say	26	1.3
Refused	3	.1
Total	2020	100.0

... Political parties

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	76	3.8
2	372	18.4
3	771	38.1
4	517	25.6
5 Extremely corrupt	217	10.7
Don't Know/Can't Say	61	3.0
Refused	6	.3
Total	2020	100.0

... The public service

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	265	13.1
2	765	37.9
3	645	31.9
4	199	9.8
5 Extremely corrupt	69	3.4
Don't Know/Can't Say	74	3.6
Refused	3	.2
Total	2020	100.0

... Major Australian companies

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	157	7.8
2	647	32.0
3	736	36.5
4	280	13.9
5 Extremely corrupt	83	4.1
Don't Know/Can't Say	111	5.5
Refused	6	.3
Total	2020	100.0

... Local government

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	225	11.1
2	740	36.7
3	624	30.9
4	258	12.8
5 Extremely corrupt	126	6.2
Don't Know/Can't Say	46	2.3
Refused	3	.1
Total	2020	100.0

	Number	Per cent
1 Not at all corrupt	221	10.9
2	639	31.6
3	603	29.8
4	301	14.9
5 Extremely corrupt	198	9.8
Don't Know/Can't Say	52	2.6
Refused	6	.3
Total	2020	100.0

... Banks and financial institutions

	Number	Per cent
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI)	10	1.0
Consumer affairs/ fair trading	22	2.1
Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC)	49	4.8
Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC)	20	1.9
Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)	41	4.0
Local bank manager	1	0.1
Local councilor	9	0.9
Ombudsman	150	14.7
Parliament / member of parliament	15	1.5
Police	508	49.8
Public servant	3	0.3
School principal	1	0.1
Australian Competition And Consumer Commission (ACCC)	16	1.6
Australian Securities And Investments Commission (ASIC)	11	1.1
Depends on the type of corruption/ situation/ circumstances	37	3.6
Media (TV/ Newspapers/ etc)	16	1.6
Crime stoppers	14	1.4
Internet	6	0.6
Work superior/ boss/ senior management	11	1.1
Other	48	4.7
Don't know / can't say	30	2.9
Refused	2	0.2
Total	1020	100.0

If you suspected or observed corrupt activity, would you know where to report this corrupt activity?

In the last five years, how often have you or a member of your immediate family come across a public official who hinted they wanted, or asked for, a bribe or a favour in return for a service in Australia?

	Number	Per cent
Never	1842	91.2
Seldom	90	4.4
Occasionally	60	3.0
Quite often	14	.7
Very often	1	.1
Don't know/can't say	8	.4
Refused	4	.2
Total	2020	100.0

Do you remember what institution or organisation the public official worked for?

	Number	Per cent
Local government	14	18.4
Police	14	18.4
Other	27	35.5
Don't Know / Can't Say	20	26.3
Refused	1	1.3
Total	76	100.0
Refused	4	.2
Total	2020	100.0

Thinking about corruption in government. In your opinion, about how many elected federal politicians in Australia are involved in corruption? Would it be...

	Number	Per cent
Almost none	308	15.2
A few	850	42.1
Some	468	23.1
Quite a lot	189	9.4
Or, almost all	74	3.7
Don't know	128	6.3
Refused	5	.2
Total	2020	100.0

In general, do you feel that the people in government are too often interested in looking after themselves, or do you feel that they can be trusted to do the right thing nearly all the time?

	Number	Per cent
Usually look after themselves	832	41.2
Sometimes look after themselves	436	21.6
Sometimes can be trusted to do the right thing	256	12.7
Usually can be trusted to do the right thing	433	21.4
Don't know/can't say	57	2.8
Refused	7	.3
Total	2020	100.0

All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?

	Number	Per cent
Very satisfied	163	8.1
Satisfied	934	46.2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	165	8.2
Dissatisfied	471	23.3
Very dissatisfied	252	12.5
Don't know/not sure	34	1.7
Refused	1	.0
Total	2020	100.0

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