

METHODOLOGY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Project name | Mood of the Nation (Wave 24) |
| Project reference | NGR 2203003 |
| Research dates: | 2 nd - 9 th February 2026 |
| Target population: | The target population for the research was Australian residents (all states and territories) aged 18+. |
| Research methodology: | The research comprised of a 20-minute self-complete online survey with n=2,166 participants, including a sample boost in Victoria and South Australia, sourced from an ISO accredited market research panel. |
| Weighting approach: | The data was weighted using ABS Census population statistics on age, gender, location and occupation to match the estimated population of all Australian residents aged 18+. The total effective sample size after weighting was approximately 54%, equating to a margin of error of approximately +/-2.9% (at the 95% confidence interval). |
| Research questions: | A combination of single choice, multiple choice and open-ended (text response) questions were used in the research. All questions and response options were displayed in full during interviews. |

This research was conducted in accordance with the Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards which can be viewed here: <https://www.australianpollingcouncil.com/>

PUBLISHED QUESTIONS

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. What are the main issues facing Australians that are most important to you right now - the specific cares, concerns, or priorities that you typically talk about with friends or family?

(Please list these issues in the box below and be as specific as possible about them)

PROG NOTE: OPEN TEXT FIELD. MINIMUM 10 CHARACTERS

Q. Overall, do you think Australia, <insert state>, and your local area are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: RANDOMISE 1-2

| | 1 | 2 |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| | Heading in the right direction | Heading in the wrong direction |
| A | Australia | |
| B | (PROG NOTE: INSERT STATE/TERRITORY FROM A4) | |
| C | Your local area | |

Q. In this question we will show you a series of 36 things that some people believe are important for Australia's future.

We know it's a long list, but the results will provide important information to Australia's leaders.

How important are these things to you personally? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: RANDOMISE 1-36

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|--|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Extremely important | Quite important | Slightly important | Not important at all |
| 1 | Reducing personal taxes | | | |
| 2 | Strengthening pensions, welfare payments and support for vulnerable people | | | |
| 3 | Improving representation and conditions for women in the workplace | | | |

| | |
|----|--|
| 4 | Promoting diversity, inclusion, and respect for minority groups |
| 5 | Strengthening our economy |
| 6 | Boosting jobs and addressing unemployment |
| 7 | Supporting small businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship |
| 8 | Addressing Aboriginal disadvantage and promoting reconciliation |
| 9 | Acting decisively on climate change and transitioning to renewables |
| 10 | Increasing our local manufacturing capacity |
| 11 | Strengthening our defence capabilities |
| 12 | Strengthening our borders against illegal immigration |
| 13 | Increasing migration to fill workplace shortages |
| 14 | Addressing the deliberate spread of misinformation and "fake news" |
| 15 | Investing more to ensure quality affordable healthcare for all Australians |
| 16 | Investing more to ensure access to affordable University and TAFE education |
| 17 | Investing more to improve the quality of primary and high schools in all local communities |
| 18 | Investing more in public transport infrastructure |
| 19 | Investing more to improve the aged care sector |
| 20 | Improving the preparedness and support for fires, floods and other disasters |
| 21 | Reducing government debt |
| 22 | Improving pay and conditions for workers |
| 23 | Investing more in road infrastructure |
| 24 | Strengthening our response to racial and religious violence and intimidation in Australia |
| 25 | Preserving freedom of speech and rejecting excessive political correctness |
| 26 | Keeping interest rates low |
| 27 | Reducing cost increases for household bills and other essential expenses |

| | |
|----|---|
| 28 | Providing opportunities for more people to own their own home |
| 29 | Increasing the availability of affordable rental housing |
| 30 | Protecting the natural environment, habitats and wildlife |
| 31 | Managing risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) |
| 32 | Strengthening international alliances to counteract aggression from other countries |
| 33 | Strengthening our response to violence against women |
| 34 | Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour |
| 35 | Investing more to increase the availability of affordable childcare services |
| 36 | Dealing with international tariffs and supporting affected businesses |

Q. Next please select the 3 of these things that are most important to you personally.

| | Select 3 |
|--|----------|
| Reducing personal taxes | 1 |
| Strengthening pensions, welfare payments and support for vulnerable people | 2 |
| Improving representation and conditions for women in the workplace | 3 |
| Promoting diversity, inclusion, and respect for minority groups | 4 |
| Strengthening our economy | 5 |
| Boosting jobs and addressing unemployment | 6 |
| Supporting small businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship | 7 |
| Addressing Aboriginal disadvantage and promoting reconciliation | 8 |
| Acting decisively on climate change and transitioning to renewables | 9 |
| Increasing our local manufacturing capacity | 10 |
| Strengthening our defence capabilities | 11 |
| Strengthening our borders against illegal immigration | 12 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Increasing migration to fill workplace shortages | 13 |
| Addressing the deliberate spread of misinformation and “fake news” | 14 |
| Investing more to ensure quality affordable healthcare for all Australians | 15 |
| Investing more to ensure access to affordable University and TAFE education | 16 |
| Investing more to improve the quality of primary and high schools in all local communities | 17 |
| Investing more in public transport infrastructure | 18 |
| Investing more to improve the aged care sector | 19 |
| Improving the preparedness and support for fires, floods and other disasters | 20 |
| Reducing government debt | 21 |
| Improving pay and conditions for workers | 22 |
| Investing more in road infrastructure | 23 |
| Strengthening our response to racial and religious violence and intimidation in Australia | 24 |
| Preserving freedom of speech and rejecting excessive political correctness | 25 |
| Keeping interest rates low | 26 |
| Reducing cost increases for household bills and other essential expenses | 27 |
| Providing opportunities for more people to own their own home | 28 |
| Increasing the availability of affordable rental housing | 29 |
| Protecting the natural environment, habitats and wildlife | 30 |
| Managing risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) | 31 |
| Strengthening international alliances to counteract aggression from other countries | 32 |
| Strengthening our response to violence against women | 33 |
| Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour | 34 |
| Investing more to increase the availability of affordable childcare services | 35 |
| Dealing with international tariffs and supporting affected businesses | 36 |

Q. How do you think the **Australian economy** will change over the following time frames? (Select one answer per item)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1-5 AND 5-1

| | | It will get a lot worse | It will get a little worse | It will stay the same | It will get a little better | It will get a lot better |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| A | In 3 months | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B | In 12 months | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C | In 3 years | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. Please select all the emotions that best describe how you have been **feeling** over the last few weeks? (Select all that apply)

PROG NOTE: MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE 1-32

| | | | | |
|----|------------|--|----|--------------|
| 1 | Happy | | 17 | Anxious |
| 2 | Grateful | | 18 | Envious |
| 3 | Calm | | 19 | Bored |
| 4 | Content | | 20 | Confused |
| 5 | Inspired | | 21 | Pessimistic |
| 6 | Confident | | 22 | Sad |
| 7 | Optimistic | | 23 | Scared |
| 8 | Loved | | 24 | Stressed |
| 9 | Excited | | 25 | Lonely |
| 10 | Ambitious | | 26 | Depressed |
| 11 | Proud | | 27 | Exhausted |
| 12 | Brave | | 28 | Disappointed |
| 13 | Energised | | 29 | Rushed |
| 14 | Joyful | | 30 | Overwhelmed |

| | | | | |
|----|---------|--|----|----------|
| 15 | Angry | | 31 | Included |
| 16 | Annoyed | | 32 | Valued |

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. Overall, how would you rate the performance of the following governments? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-B

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 99 |
|---|--|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|------------|
| | Excellent | Very good | Good | Fair | Poor | Very poor | Don't know |
| A | The (PROG NOTE: INSERT STATE/TERRITORY FROM A3a) Government | | | | | | |
| B | The Federal Government | | | | | | |

Q. Thinking now about cost of living. How concerned, if at all, are you about the following cost of living issues?

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-I. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 4,3,2,1,5

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| | Extremely concerned | Quite concerned | Slightly concerned | Not concerned | This cost isn't relevant to me |
| A | Petrol prices | | | | |
| B | Gas bills | | | | |
| C | Grocery prices | | | | |
| D | Electricity bills | | | | |
| E | Rent | | | | |
| F | Mortgage repayments | | | | |
| G | Insurance premiums | | | | |
| H | Motorway tolls | | | | |
| I | Water bills | | | | |

Q. Have you experienced any of the following things in the **last two months** as a response to the rising cost of living? *(Select all that apply)*

PROG NOTE: MULTIPLE RESPONSE. RANDOMISE 1-16 THEN 99 LAST. IF CODE 1-16 SELECTED THEN CANNOT SELECT CODE 99

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Experienced more arguments or tension at home than usual |
| 2 | Felt more anxious or worried than usual |
| 3 | Been unable to buy your usual groceries |
| 4 | Been unable to pay for education-related expenses |
| 5 | Been unable to pay a bill on time |
| 6 | Been unable to make a mortgage payment in part or full |
| 7 | Been unable to pay rent on time |
| 8 | Been unable to pay for needed medical expenses |
| 9 | Been unable to meet the minimum payments on your credit card |
| 10 | Used less heating or cooling in your home than usual |
| 11 | Reduced your usual spending on entertainment (restaurants, cinemas, events etc.) |
| 12 | Contacted your bank or a financial counsellor because you were having financial difficulties |
| 13 | Bought necessities using buy now pay later service |
| 14 | Relied on family or friends to help you financially |
| 15 | Received assistance from a charity |
| 16 | Cut back or stopped spending on holidays |
| 99 | None of the above |

Q. How would you describe your current financial situation? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Doing well and feeling comfortable |
| 2 | Doing OK and making ends meet |
| 3 | Having some difficulty but just making ends meet |
| 4 | Having a lot of difficulty paying bills and covering basic living expenses |

Q. Overall, do you agree or disagree with the following statement about the current behaviour of large companies operating in Australia (i.e. Australia's "corporate sector")? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
| A | They are behaving ethically and doing the right thing | | | | |

Q. Thinking about social cohesion - by that we mean the way in which different people and groups in society get along and feel connected to one another.

How would you rate the level of social cohesion in Australia at the current time? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1 | Excellent |
| 2 | Very good |
| 3 | Good |
| 4 | Fair |
| 5 | Poor |
| 6 | Very Poor |

Q. And how do you think social cohesion in Australia will change over the following time frames? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3 AND 3,2,1

| | | It will get worse | It will stay the same | It will get better |
|---|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| A | In 12 months | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| B | In 3 years | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q. What, if anything, do you think could be done to improve social cohesion in Australia? *(Please write an answer in the box below, giving as much detail as possible).*

PROG NOTE: OPEN TEXT FIELD. MINIMUM 10 CHARACTERS

Q. Overall, do you feel positive or negative about Australia transitioning its electricity generation to renewables like solar, wind and hydro and moving away from coal and other fossil fuels? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5, AND 5,4,3,2,1

| Very positive | Somewhat positive | Neither positive nor negative | Somewhat negative | Very negative |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Q. In Australia, do you think the transition to renewable energy like solar, wind and hydro is currently moving... *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1

| Far too quickly | A bit too quickly | At an appropriate pace | A bit too slowly | Far too slowly |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Q. In principle, do you support or oppose Australia developing new electricity generation projects using the following types of energy? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 & 5,4,3,2,1. RANDOMISE A-M

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neither support nor oppose | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
|---|---|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| A | Coal fired power plants | | | | |
| B | Gas fired power plants | | | | |
| D | Offshore wind farms (typically 10-40 kilometers from the coastline) | | | | |
| E | Onshore wind farms (typically in regional areas) | | | | |
| F | Nuclear power | | | | |
| G | Solar farms | | | | |
| H | Rooftop solar | | | | |
| I | Hydro-electric power | | | | |
| J | Waste-to-energy projects (which use household and other waste as a fuel source) | | | | |
| K | Renewable gas (e.g. biomethane generated from farming and agricultural waste) | | | | |
| L | Hydrogen gas created from renewables such as solar and wind | | | | |
| M | Hydrogen gas created from fossil fuels such as coal and gas | | | | |

Q. Do you support or oppose the following actions related to energy in Australia? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 & 5,4,3,2,1.

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neither support nor oppose | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
|---|--|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| A | The Federal Government's target to reduce carbon emissions by 43% by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels) | | | | |
| B | The Federal Government's target to reduce carbon emissions by 62% to 70% by 2035 (compared to 2005 levels) | | | | |
| C | The Federal Government committing to "Net zero carbon emissions" by 2050 (meaning that carbon pollution released will be balanced by carbon storage or other offsets) | | | | |

Q. How confident are you that each of the following will occur? *(Select one answer per item)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 4,3,2,1,5.

| | Very confident | Somewhat confident | Not very confident | Not at all confident | Don't know |
|---|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| A | Australia reducing carbon emissions by 43% by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels) | | | | |
| B | Australia reducing carbon emissions by 62% to 70% by 2035 (compared to 2005 levels) | | | | |
| C | Australia achieving "Net zero carbon emissions" by 2050 (meaning that carbon pollution released will be balanced by carbon storage or other offsets) | | | | |

Q. Thinking now about your own personal standard of living. To what extent do you believe your own personal standard of living will improve, stay the same or worsen during 2026? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 | Improve a lot |
| 2 | Improve a little |
| 3 | Stay the same |
| 4 | Worsen a little |
| 5 | Worsen a lot |

PROG NOTE: ASK IF EMPLOYED IE CODE 1-3 IN Q. OTHERS GO TO Q

Q. Thinking about job security in your current employment.

How confident are you in your job security and that you **won't** be made redundant over the next 12 months? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Very confident |
| 2 | Somewhat confident |
| 3 | Not very confident |
| 4 | Not at all confident |

PROG NOTE: ASK ASLL RESPONDENTS

Q. Looking ahead to the end of 2026, do you think interest rates will be... *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4 AND 3,2,1,4

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Higher than they are now |
| 2 | About the same as they are now |
| 3 | Lower than they are now |
| 4 | Don't know |

Q. Do you personally think that the current level of immigration in Australia is...? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4 AND 3,2,1,4

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 1 | Too high |
| 2 | About right |
| 3 | Too low |
| 4 | Don't know |

Q. Overall, do you feel positive or negative towards US President Donald Trump? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4,5 AND 5,4,3,2,1

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Very positive |
| 2 | Somewhat positive |
| 3 | Neither positive nor negative |
| 4 | Somewhat negative |
| 5 | Very negative |

Q. Do you personally think US President Donald Trump is...? *(Select one answer)*

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4 AND 2,1,3,4

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Making the world a more safe place |
| 2 | Making the world a less safe place |
| 3 | Making no difference to how safe the world is |
| 4 | Don't know |

Q. Which specific brands, platforms or apps do you **specifically** use to get information on **news and current affairs**? (Please select only things you specifically do to get news and current affairs)

PROG NOTE: MULTI RESPONSE.

| | |
|----|--|
| | Watch TV for news and current affairs |
| 1 | Public TV broadcaster (e.g. ABC, SBS) |
| 2 | Commercial TV network (e.g. channel 7,9,10) |
| 3 | Pay TV (e.g. Sky) |
| | |
| | Listen to radio for news and current affairs |
| 4 | AM Radio |
| 5 | FM Radio |
| 6 | Digital or online streaming radio |
| | |
| | Read print newspapers / magazines for news and current affairs |
| 7 | Local or regional newspaper |
| 8 | State newspaper e.g. (PROG NOTE: INSERT EXAMPLES) |
| 9 | National newspaper (e.g. Australian Financial Review, The Australian) |
| 10 | Magazine |
| | |
| | Read or watch online news <u>websites</u> directly (i.e. by going to their URL or via their app) for news and current affairs |
| 11 | Public broadcaster (e.g. ABC, SBS online) |
| 12 | Commercial broadcaster (e.g. channel 7,9,10 online) |
| 13 | Other online-only news publishers (e.g. news.com.au, Guardian, Crikey, The Conversation) |
| 14 | International news (e.g. BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera online) |
| 15 | News aggregator (e.g. Apple News, Google News, Flipboard) |
| 16 | Other specialist news website or app |
| | |
| | Use social media for news and current affairs |
| 20 | Facebook |

| | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 21 | X (formerly Twitter) |
| 22 | Instagram |
| 23 | Snapchat |
| 24 | TikTok |
| 25 | Reddit |
| 26 | YouTube |
| 27 | LinkedIn |
| 28 | Other social media platform |

PROG NOTE: ASK IF USE SOCIAL MEDIA IE CODE 5 IN Q. OTHERS GO TO NEXT SECTION

Q. Which of these types of **social media** accounts do you **follow** to get information on **news and current affairs**? (*Select one answer*)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ROW. RANDOMISE A-E

| | Social media accounts for... | Yes / follow this type of account on social media for news and current affairs | No / do not follow this type of account on social media for news and current affairs |
|---|--|--|---|
| A | TV broadcasters (e.g. ABC, SBS, Channel 7, 9, 10, Sky) | 1 | 2 |
| B | Radio broadcasters (AM, FM or digital/streaming) | 1 | 2 |
| C | Print newspaper/magazine publishers | 1 | 2 |
| | Other online only news publishers (e.g. news.com.au, Guardian, Crikey, The Conversation) | 1 | 2 |
| D | Individual journalists or commentators | 1 | 2 |
| E | Social media influencers | 1 | 2 |

PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

Q. How much trust do you have in the following to provide accurate and balanced information? (Select one answer)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE PER ITEM

| | A large amount of trust | A fair amount of trust | Not much trust | No trust at all |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| A | Mainstream news media in Australia | | | |
| B | Social media platforms | | | |

Q. How confident are you in your ability to detect misinformation or “fake news” in general? (Select one answer)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Very confident |
| 2 | Somewhat confident |
| 3 | Not very confident |
| 4 | Not at all confident |

Q. Do you think it will get harder or easier to detect misinformation or “fake news” in the next few years? (Select one answer)

PROG NOTE: SINGLE RESPONSE. ROTATE BETWEEN 1,2,3,4 AND 4,3,2,1

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | It will get harder |
| 2 | It will remain the same as now |
| 3 | It will get easier |
| 4 | Don't know |

Q. Can you please share the reasons why Pauline Hanson’s One Nation Party appeals to you? (Please write an answer in the box below, giving as much detail as possible).

PROG NOTE: OPEN TEXT FIELD. MINIMUM 10 CHARACTERS