

Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Large majority of Australians (76%) in favour of allowing gay marriage

An SMS Morgan Poll shows a clear majority of Australians (76%) say gay people should have the right to get married in Australia while only 24% say they should not. This special SMS Morgan Poll was conducted last week, February 25-26, 2016 with a cross-section of 1,572 Australians.

In comparison, an extensive Roy Morgan Poll on all aspects of the institution of marriage conducted in July 2011 in conjunction with the former Channel Ten program 'Can of Worms' found that at that time 68% of Australians supported the right of gay people to get married in Australia compared to 30% that said they should not while a further 2% were undecided.

The full results of that special Roy Morgan Poll – 'Does Marriage Matter Anymore?' can be [viewed here](#).

Analysis by Voting Preference

Analysing the results by voting preference shows a majority of supporters of all parties except Family First support gay people having the right to get married.

- Liberal voters: Approve (59%) cf. disapprove (41%);
- National voters: Approve (67%) cf. disapprove (33%);
- ALP voters: Approve (88%) cf. disapprove (12%);
- Greens voters: Approve (97%) cf. disapprove (3%);
- Family First voters: Approve (49%) cf. disapprove (51%);
- Independent/ Others voters: Approve (68%) cf. disapprove (32%).

Analysis by Gender

Analysis by gender shows a large gender split with a greater majority of women approving of the right of gay people to get married:

- Men: Approve (69%) cf. disapprove (31%);
- Women: Approve (84%) cf. disapprove (16%).

Analysis by Age

Analysing by age shows a majority of all age groups approving of the right of gay people to get married with younger people far more supportive:

- 18-24yr olds: Approve (94%) cf. disapprove (6%);
- 25-34yr olds: Approve (83%) cf. disapprove (17%);
- 35-49yr olds: Approve (78%) cf. disapprove (22%);
- 50-64yr olds: Approve (72%) cf. disapprove (28%);
- 65+yr olds: Approve (66%) cf. disapprove (34%).

Analysis by State

Analysing by State shows clear majorities in all Australian States approving of the right of gay people to get married:

- New South Wales: Approve (75%) cf. disapprove (25%);
- Victoria: Approve (82%) cf. disapprove (18%);
- Queensland: Approve (76%) cf. disapprove (24%);
- Western Australia: Approve (73%) cf. disapprove (27%);
- South Australia: Approve (73%) cf. disapprove (27%);
- Tasmania: Approve (77%) cf. disapprove (23%).

Roy Morgan Research comment:

“A clear majority (76%) of Australians approve of gay people in Australia having the right to get married while only 24% disapprove. Majorities of supporters of all major parties approve of gay people having the right to get married with Greens supporters (97%) the most supportive followed by ALP supporters (88%) and National supporters (67%). Of the major parties, Liberal supporters are the most evenly divided on the issue with 59% supportive of gay marriage while 41% do not support it.

“Approval of gay people having the right of marriage in Australia is supported more strongly by women than men. Women approve of gay people having the right to get married (84%) compared to those who don’t (16%). Of Men 69% approve while 31% disapprove. Those aged 18-24+ are the most approving with 94% approving (only 6% disapproving) of gay marriage in Australia. Australians aged 25-34 also strongly approve (83% approve cf. 17% disapprove). Of Australians 35-49yr olds 78% approve cf. 22% disapprove whilst 50-64yr olds also approve (72% approve cf. 28% disapprove). Also of Australians 65+yr olds 66% approve cf. 34% disapprove.

“Majorities in all Australian States think gay people should have the right to get married with Victorians (82%) more likely to approve of gay people getting married than those in other States. The least supportive States of the right of gay people to get married are South Australia and Western Australia, but still a large majority support the right of gay people to get married (73%) with only 27% disapproving in both of these two States.”

Finding No. 6707 – This special snap SMS Morgan Poll was conducted with a representative cross-section of 1,572 Australians on February 25-26, 2016. They were asked “Do you think gay people should have the right to get married?”

Roy Morgan SMS Polling was extremely accurate at both the last two Federal Elections: See [2014 Accuracy Results here](#).

Results analysed by Roy Morgan Helix Personas are available on a subscription basis. www.HelixPersonas.com.au.

For further information:

Contact	Office	Mobile
Gary Morgan:	+61 3 9224 5213	+61 411 129 094
Michele Levine:	+61 3 9224 5215	+61 411 129 093

Question:

Australians were asked (February 25-26, 2016): *“Do you think gay people should have the right to get married?”*

Analysis by Voting Preference

	Total	Liberal	National	ALP	Greens	Other	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	76	59	67	88	97	68	64
No	24	41	33	12	3	32	36
Total	100						

Analysis by Age & Gender

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Men	Women	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	76	69	84	94	83	78	72	66
No	24	31	16	6	17	22	28	34
Total	100							

Analysis by State

	Total	State					
		NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	76	75	82	76	73	73	77
No	24	25	18	24	27	27	23
Total	100						

Respondents were then asked: “Any why do you say that?”

Those who approved of allowing gay people the right to get married talked about equality, fairness, discrimination, love, freedom of choice and because it's no one else's business and that everyone should be allowed to have the security that marriage provides.

“Because it's equitable.”

“It's basic human rights. To deny them that right is discrimination based on sexuality.”

“They deserve to be treated as equals.”

“Equal treatment is a human right.”

“It's about equality and recognition.”

“We live in a secular society where everyone deserves equal rights.”

“Fairness!”

“Everybody deserves to have the right to get married.”

“They should be allowed to suffer just like the rest of us!”

“Equality for all.”

“No one in Australia should be discriminated against.”

“Two people who love each other and are committed should be able to marry.”

“Why not, they are people in love. We have gay friends who had to go to America for their vows.”

“Why not? There are plenty of bad heterosexual parents. The world's fucked anyway.”

“Because gay people are people too.”

"It's a human rights issue – people shouldn't be discriminated against on the basis of their beliefs."

"Discrimination should not be based on what sex you fall in love with."

"Everyone deserves love and the security of a legal union."

"It's not harming anyone, it's a personal choice."

"Everyone deserves the freedom to express love as you desire."

"Because it's nobody else's business and politicians should stop abusing their power by interfering in everybody's lives."

"Marriage is a legal contract between consenting adults. No more or no less."

"I don't care, so let them. Nothing to do with me."

"It is discrimination not to. Love is love after all."

"It is simply the right thing to do. Love should be celebrated."

"Because it is a basic human right."

"Because love is love and commitment to love should be allowed regardless of race, creed or sexual orientation."

"Everyone has the right to do what makes them happy. Being married doesn't change anything, but if it makes them happy then so be it."

Those who disapproved of allowing gay people the right to get married referred to the definition of marriage as having stood for thousands of years, the impact on children, because too many traditional values are being discarded, because it isn't natural, there are more important issues to address and because it is against religious teachings as well as several other reasons.

"It is what I believe and have always done so."

"As a traditionalist I'm happy for all to have the legal rights, but that doesn't have to be marriage."

"Nothing against gay people, but marriage for them is something I don't support."

"That is not marriage in the traditional sense so it should be called something else."

"Marriage should remain between a man and a woman, call it something other than marriage."

"The word marriage is a union between a man and a woman. Happy for them to have a legal union with a different title."

"Marriage in the eyes of God is between a man and a woman."

"I believe in equal rights for all under the law but believe that marriage by definition and historically is between a man and a woman."

"It is against nature and humanity."

"Maybe a civil union should be available, but marriage is between a man and a woman."

"Because I am a Christian and I believe marriage is a sanctity between a man and a woman."

"It doesn't align with my values and beliefs."

"There are plenty of other issues that are more important to address."

"I am not religious, but marriage is between a man and a woman. If gays want some sort of partnership fine, but it is NOT marriage."

"I think marriage is for opposite sex couples. There are other terms that can be used for homosexual couples. It all seems to be more about activism than anything else."

"I am happy with the current definition of marriage being between a man and a woman."

"It devalues the concept of family. Children are the future."

"I didn't really care until the rainbow lobby called anyone who didn't agree homophobes."

"It's wrong, it's unnatural."

"Because it is against all I believe in. I have a gay nephew and I accept him as a person, but don't believe that they should get married."

"I believe marriage as we know it today should be between men and women only."

"Gay couples already have civil unions and recognition under federal law for most matters."

"Marriage is a religious concept and changing this will have impacts not fully documented."

"Because it is about the right of children to have, to know, and to live in a house with both their genetic parents – their mother and father."

"It is not natural and against human nature. God made woman to be with man."

"For all of human history the definition of marriage has been man/woman, even in cultures that embraced homosexuality. To think we can unilaterally change that is hubris and arrogance."

Morgan Poll Accuracy — Recent Elections State & Federal (2006 – 2013)

The Morgan Poll has proven to be consistently the most accurate regular poll in recent Australian Elections — including the 2013 Federal Election, 2010 Federal Election, 2007 Federal Election, 2010 Victorian State Election & 2012 Queensland State Election.

The Morgan Poll was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2013 Federal Election](#) for the two-party preferred vote (L-NP: 53.5% cf. ALP 46.5%) (sample 4,937 electors).

The Morgan Poll was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2007 Federal Election](#) for both primary vote and two-party preferred predictions (sample 2,115 electors).

The Morgan Poll accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Queensland Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 604 electors).

The Morgan Poll accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Victorian Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 956 electors). The Morgan Poll was also the most accurate on the primary vote of the major parties for the Victorian election.

Note: The [discussion on Possum Pollytics](#) regarding Morgan and Newspoll is well worth reading.

The following included comment says it all: “I find it interesting that for the only poll in the last five years for which there is any ‘real’ figure with which to compare, i.e. the polls immediately before the 2004 election, Morgan (45.5%) was closer to the actual Coalition Primary (46.7%) than Newspoll (45%) or Nielsen (49%), and Morgan (38.5%) was also closer to the ALP actual primary (37.6%) than Newspoll (39%), and only marginally further away than Nielsen (37%). Since we have no idea of how far away the ongoing polls are from ‘reality’ (whatever that means), surely we should just go with what we know, that in the most recent testable case, Morgan was better at forecasting the actual primary vote than Newspoll. On what possible basis should we decide that the Newspoll or Nielsen primary vote estimate is ‘better’ than Morgan’s.”

[View Federal Voting Intention Trend](#)

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. The figures are approximate and for general guidance only, and assume a simple random sample. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4