



Abortion Study

Prepared for the Australian Family Association
May 2016

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Methodology



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This study was conducted between Friday 6 May and Sunday 8 May 2016.

The sample comprises 400 voters in Queensland, distributed across the state as follows;

Brisbane	200
Rest of Queensland	200

Galaxy Research designed the questionnaire, a copy of which has been included in this report.

Interviews were conducted using CATI (computer assisted telephone interviewing) with telephone numbers randomly selected from telephone lists.

All interviewers were personally trained and briefed on the requirements of the study.

Following the completion of interviewing, the data was weighted by age, gender and area to reflect the latest ABS population estimates.

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Main Findings



Main Findings

- Most voters in Queensland (55%) believe abortion involves the taking of a human life. This view is most commonly held by women (56%), those that have not completed year 12 (58%) and those living in regional and rural Queensland (58%).
- Two thirds of voters in Queensland (66%) believe that an unborn child at 20 weeks of pregnancy is a human person with human rights.
- It is widely accepted that abortion can harm the mental and physical health of a woman (84%). Those aged 18-34 years (90%) are the most likely to have concerns about the harm to the physical and mental health of the woman.
- Only 38% of Queensland voters support abortion in cases where a healthy mother is carrying a healthy unborn baby. In contrast, 45% are opposed to abortion under these circumstances and 17% are uncommitted.
- Those aged 18-34 years are the most likely to be in favour of abortion in circumstances when the mother and baby are both healthy. In contrast, among those aged 50 years and older those opposed to abortion in these circumstances outnumber those in favour by more than two to one.
- Most voters in Queensland (72%) would not allow abortion after 13 weeks. This includes 50% that would allow abortion up to 13 weeks and 22% opposed to abortion at any time.



Main Findings *...continued*

- There is widespread belief in Queensland (94%) that before having an abortion a woman should receive free independent counselling and information so that she can make a fully informed decision.
- There is also strong support (87%) for a cooling off period of several days between making an appointment for an abortion and the actual operation.
- Three quarters of Queensland voters (75%) believe parental consent should normally be required for girls under the age of 16 to have an abortion.
- Eight in ten voters (79%) support conscientious objection provisions allowing doctors and nurses to opt out of having to perform abortion operations against their will.
- The community is divided over abortion laws in Queensland with 39% of the opinion that the law as it currently stands is too restrictive and 42% thinking it is about right. A further 11% do not believe the law is restrictive enough.
- Those that believe abortion should not be decriminalised (49%) outnumber those in favour of the decriminalisation of abortion (43%).
- Around half of all Queensland voters (48%) say that if their local Member of Parliament voted in favour of decriminalising abortion it would influence their vote, and this issue would be more likely to cost the MP votes (50%) than be a vote winner (38%).

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Questionnaire

GALAXY RESEARCH

GALAXY JOB NO. 160522

To be fielded no later than

Sunday, 8 May 2016

QUESTIONNAIRE NO: _____

INTERVIEWER NAME: _____

Interview Start Time: ____ / ____

RECORD AREA

Brisbane1
Gold Coast2
Sunshine Coast....3
Rest Qld4

Good morning/ afternoon / evening. My name is...(NAME) from Galaxy Research. We are currently conducting a poll among Queensland voters and would appreciate your assistance. Could I please speak to the...

This will take about three minutes to do, and if you have the time to complete the interview now...

A1. Firstly, are you aged ..? **READ OUT 1-4**

18 to 24..... 1
25 to 34..... 2
35 to 49..... 3
Or, 50 years or older.... 4
Refused 5

RECORD GENDER

Male..... 1
Female..... 2

A2. Can I just check, are you eligible to vote at elections?

Yes 1 * NS
No..... 2 # Term

SECTION B - ASK IF ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IE CODE 1 IN A2. CODE 2 TERMINATE WITH THANKS

B1. A few questions now about abortion. Abortion is an operation or procedure which involves termination of an unwanted or difficult pregnancy, preventing birth of a live baby. Do you believe abortion involves the taking of a human life?

Yes.....1
No2
Don't know3

B2. 20 weeks of pregnancy is the earliest point at which survival outside the womb is possible. Do you believe that at that time an unborn baby is a human person with human rights?

Yes.....1
No2
Don't know3

B3. Do you believe that abortion can harm the physical and/or mental health of a woman?

Yes.....1
No2
Don't know3

B4. Research shows that the vast majority of abortions in Australia are performed for social or financial reasons. Do you support abortion in cases where a healthy mother is carrying a healthy unborn baby?

Yes 1
No..... 2
Don't know..... 3

		<u>SR</u>
B5.	Up to what stage of pregnancy would you allow abortion, would it be...? READ OUT 1-4	Not at all 1 At any time up to 13 weeks, that is 3 months 2 At any time up to 20 weeks, that is half-way through pregnancy 3 Or, at any time during pregnancy up to birth 4 Don't know 5
B6.	Do you believe that before having an abortion, a woman should receive free independent counselling and information on the development of her unborn baby, the nature of the procedure, the physical and psychological risks of the operation and the alternatives of keeping the baby or adoption, so that she can make a fully informed decision?	Yes 1 No 2 Don't know 3
B7.	Do you believe there should be a cooling-off period of several days between making an appointment to have an abortion, and the actual operation?	Yes 1 No 2 Don't know 3
B8.	Do you believe that parental consent should normally be required for girls under the age of 16 to have an abortion?	Yes 1 No 2 Don't know 3
B9.	Do you support conscientious objection provisions to allow doctors and nurses to opt out of having to perform abortion operations against their will?	Yes 1 No 2 Don't know 3
B10.	Under the current law about 10,000 abortions are performed each year in Queensland. The Queensland law on abortion, as has been interpreted by the courts, is that abortion is legal only for medical reasons where there is a serious risk to the physical or mental health of a woman. Do you believe the law as it stands is....? READ OUT 1-3	Too restrictive 1 Not restrictive enough 2 or, about right 3 Don't know 4
B11.	Recently there have been calls for abortion to be decriminalised in Queensland. This would mean that abortion would be legal for any reason until birth. Do you believe that abortion should be decriminalised?	Yes 1 No 2 Don't know 3
B12.	If your local Member of Parliament voted in favour of decriminalising abortion, would this influence the way you vote at the next state election?	Yes 1 * B13 No 2 # Next Don't know 3 # Sect

ASK IF PARLIAMENT VOTE WOULD INFLUENCE THEIR VOTE IE CODE 1 IN B12. CODE 2-3 GO TO NEXT SECTION

B13.	If your local Member of Parliament voted in favour of decriminalising abortion would you be more likely or less likely to vote for your Member of Parliament?	More Likely 1 Less Likely 2 Neither/ Don't know 3
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SECTION C – ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

- C1. Finally, a few questions to ensure that we have spoken to a good cross-section of people. Which of the following best describes your current marital status? **READ OUT 1-4**
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Never married | 1 |
| Defacto or living together | 2 |
| Married | 3 |
| Separated, Divorced or Widowed..... | 4 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 5 |
- C2. Which of the following describes the highest level of schooling you have completed? **READ OUT 1-2**
- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Below Year 12..... | 1 |
| Completed Year 12 | 2 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 3 |
- C3. Which one of the following categories best describes your total household income before tax? **READ OUT 1-4**
- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Under \$40,000 | 1 |
| \$40,000 - \$70,000..... | 2 |
| \$70,000 - \$90,000..... | 3 |
| More than \$90,000..... | 4 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 5 |

Thank you very much for your help, as I said my name is ...(NAME).