

Tuesday, 26 September 2023

Roy Morgan predicts 'No' will win 'The Voice' referendum; 'No' (44%) well ahead of 'Yes' (39%) as voting set to start

Now 44% (up 8% points since May) of Australians say they would vote 'No' to establish an 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice' at next month's referendum if it were held today – the first time more Australians have indicated to Roy Morgan they would vote 'No' to this proposition.

In comparison, only 39% (down 7% points since May 2023) say they would vote 'Yes' and a further 17% (down 1% point) are 'Undecided' on how they would vote.

If 'Undecided' respondents are removed the split in favour of the 'No' vote is 53% cf. 47%. However, past experience with surveys conducted before previous referenda shows that 'Undecided' voters are far more likely to end up as a 'No' rather than a 'Yes' vote meaning the actual figure is likely to be a larger majority in favour of 'No' than indicated here.

Respondents around Australia were asked: "Next month's referendum proposes a law to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. At the referendum to be held on October 14, will you vote yes, no, or are you undecided?"

This special Roy Morgan online survey was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,511 Australian electors aged 18+ from Monday September 18 - Sunday September 24, 2023.

Victoria and Tasmania are only States in which more respondents say they will vote 'Yes' to 'The Voice'

It's worth noting that the road to a successful referendum demands not only a majority of people nationally but also a majority of people in a majority of states (at least four out of six).

The results of this Roy Morgan online survey on 'The Voice' show that Victoria is the only mainland State which has more in favour of 'The Voice' at 46% compared to 42% who say they will vote 'No'. There are a majority in favour in Tasmania at 56% compared to 43% against but this result is based on a small sample.

In the four other mainland States there are pluralities who say they will vote 'No' to 'The Voice' including in New South Wales (42%), Queensland (49%), Western Australia (46%) and South Australia (48%).

Support for a 'Voice to Parliament' by State (Changes in support since May 2023):

- Tasmania: Yes (56%, up 14%) cf. No (43%, up 17%) cf. Undecided (1%, down 31%);
- Victoria: Yes (46%, down 1%) cf. No (42%, up 10%) cf. Undecided (12%, down 9%);
- New South Wales: Yes (40%, down 8%) cf. No (42%, up 4%) cf. Undecided (18%, up 4%);
- South Australia: Yes (36%, down 11%) cf. No (48%, up 16%) cf. Undecided (16%, down 5%);
- Queensland: Yes (31%, down 8%) cf. No (49%, up 3%) cf. Undecided (20%, up 5%);
- Western Australia: Yes (30%, down 11%) cf. No (46%, up 11%) cf. Undecided (24%, unchanged).

A majority of ALP and Greens voters support 'The Voice' but majorities of L-NP, One Nation and Other Party voters are against; Independent voters remain split either way

There are large differences on views on 'The Voice' based on voting intention. There is strong support for 'The Voice' from both ALP supporters (67%, unchanged since May) and Greens supporters (83%, down 7% points).

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However, there are clear majorities who say they will vote 'No' among L-NP supporters (76%, up 3% points), One Nation supporters (94%, up 8% points) and voters for Other Parties (62%, up 12% points).

Australians who support Independent candidates are split down the middle with 42% (down 7% points) saying they will vote 'Yes' compared to the same number, 42% (up 16% points) who say they'll vote 'No'.

The proportion of 'Undecided' voters has fallen significantly for both ALP supporters to 15% (down 6% points) and L-NP supporters to 12% (down 5% points).

A majority of men are against 'The Voice', while a plurality of women support 'The Voice'

There remains a clear gender split when it comes to support of 'The Voice'. A slim majority of 52% (up 10% points since May) of men say they will vote 'No' compared to around two-fifths, 36% (down 4% points) who will vote 'Yes' while there are 12% (down 6% points) who are undecided.

In contrast, a plurality of 42% of women (down 9% points) say they will vote 'Yes' compared to 37% (up 6% points) who will vote 'No' while around a fifth, 21% (up 3% points) are 'Undecided'.

A look at the four key age groups shows support for 'The Voice' is down for all Australians aged under 65 – and those aged 65+ are already the most opposed of any age group.

Now 47% (down 16% points) of those aged under 35 say they would vote 'Yes' to 'The Voice' – the only age group with more in support than opposed. Only 28% (up 2% points) say they will vote 'No'.

A narrow plurality of 43% (up 10% points) of those aged 35-49 say they will vote 'No' compared to 41% (down 7% points) who say they will vote 'Yes'. A clear plurality of 49% (up 11% points) of those aged 50-64 say they will vote 'No' compared to 36% (down 4% points) of this age group who say they will vote 'Yes'.

In contrast, a rising majority of 57% (up 6% points) of people aged 65+ say they will vote 'No' compared to only 33% (up 1% point) of this age group who say they will vote 'Yes'.

Interestingly, the proportion of 'undecided' voters is heavily correlated to age and is highest for those aged 18-24 (31%) followed by those aged 25-34 (25%), 35-49 (16%) and 50-64 (15%).

Michele Levine, CEO Roy Morgan, says support for 'The Voice' has continued to fall over the last four months and has now plunged below 40% of electors – only 39% (down 7% points since May) of electors now say they plan to vote 'Yes' to 'The Voice' at next month's referendum:

"A special Roy Morgan online survey in late September shows support for 'The Voice' has fallen further over the last four months. Now a clear plurality of 44% of electors say they plan to vote 'No' at next month's referendum – up a significant 8% points since May 2023.

"This is the first time in a Roy Morgan survey that more electors have indicated they plan to vote 'No' rather than 'Yes' regarding the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. However, a still sizeable 17% of electors – around one-in-six – still say they are 'Undecided'.

"On these results the referendum proposal is set to fail with past experience showing the vast majority of undecided voters eventually decide to vote 'No'.

"There is a clear precedent here with the [Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey](#) in 2017. A special Roy Morgan survey conducted in early October 2017 – while voting was already under way – showed 61.5% of electors said they would vote 'Yes' to the proposal. A further 38.5% of electors said they would either vote 'No', were 'undecided' or would not reveal how they would vote.

"The official result of the plebiscite revealed in late November 2017 was that 61.6% of electors eventually voted 'Yes' to the proposal and 38.4% voted 'No'. This indicated almost all those who were 'undecided' or wouldn't reveal how they would vote eventually decided to vote 'No'.



"If the trends from the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey are repeated at next month's referendum the proposal is set to be rejected both at a national level and in the key states the proposal needs to win to stand a chance of being successful.

"On the results in today's Roy Morgan survey only Tasmania, and perhaps Victoria, are set to vote in favour of the proposal. The referendum proposal is set to be rejected in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia.

"Crucially, for a referendum to pass in Australia a majority of voters around the country as well as a majority of voters in at least four out of the six States must vote in favour of a change.

"There are clear gender and age splits on the question of 'The Voice'. A majority of 52% of men say they will vote 'No' to 'The Voice' while a plurality of 42% of women will vote 'Yes'.

"In terms of age groups, only people aged under 35 are more in favour of 'The Voice' than opposed – 47% set to vote 'Yes' compared to 28% voting 'No'. A plurality of 43% of 35-49 year olds and 49% of 50-64 year olds say they will vote 'No' while a clear majority of 57% of those aged 65+ plan to vote 'No'.

"The question remains heavily politicised with 67% of ALP supporters and 83% of Greens supporters planning to vote 'Yes' while over three-quarters of L-NP supporters (76%) and almost all One Nation supporters (94%) say they will vote 'No'."

For further comment or more information contact:

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Australians surveyed were each asked the following question:

- **Question 1:** *"Next month's referendum proposes a law to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. At the referendum to be held on October 14, will you vote yes, no, or are you undecided?" 'Yes' 39% (down 7% points since May 2023) cf. 'No' 44% (up 8% points) cf. 'Undecided' 17% (down 1% points). Previous question asked in December 2022, April 2023 and May 2023 was: "If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?"*
- **Question 2:** *"And why do you say that?"*

This special Roy Morgan online survey was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,511 Australian electors aged 18+ from Monday September 18 - Sunday September 24, 2023.

See below for detailed tables on the results of all four surveys on 'The Voice to Parliament' conducted in December 2022, April 2023, May 2023 & September 2023.

About Roy Morgan

Roy Morgan is Australia's largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state, as well as in the U.S. and U.K. A full-service research organisation, Roy Morgan has over 80 years' experience collecting objective, independent information on consumers.



The Voice Referendum (September 2023) – Australians 18+

“Next month Australia votes in a referendum to propose a law to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration? Yes, No or are you undecided?”

By Gender & Age

	<u>Dec 2022*</u>	<u>April 2023*</u>	<u>May 2023*</u>	<u>Sep 2023</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>			
					<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	46	46	39	36	42	47	41	36	33
No	30	39	36	44	52	37	28	43	49	57
Undecided	17	15	18	17	12	21	25	16	15	10
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 100 respondents should be treated with caution. *The surveys conducted in December 2022, April 2023 and May 2023 were via special Roy Morgan SMS Snap Polls.

By States & City/Country

	<u>Sep 2023</u>	<u>Areas</u>		<u>States</u>					
		<u>Capital Cities</u>	<u>Country Regions</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>VIC</u>	<u>QLD</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>TAS#</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	41	37	40	46	31	30	36	56
No	44	40	51	42	42	49	46	48	43
Undecided	17	19	12	18	12	20	24	16	1
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 100 respondents should be treated with caution.

By Party Vote

	<u>Sep 2023</u>	<u>Party Vote</u>						
		<u>ALP</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>One Nation#</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Other Parties#</u>	<u>Can't Say</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	67	12	83	2	42	22	29
No	44	18	76	5	94	42	62	34
Undecided	17	15	12	12	4	16	16	37
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 100 respondents should be treated with caution.

September 2023: This special Roy Morgan online survey was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,511 Australian electors aged 18+ from Monday September 18 - Sunday September 24, 2023.



The Voice Referendum (May 2023) – Australians 18+

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Gender & Age

	<u>Dec 2022</u>	<u>April 2023</u>	<u>May 2023</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>			
				<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	46	46	40	51	63	48	40	32
No	30	39	36	42	31	26	33	38	51
Undecided	17	15	18	18	18	11	19	22	17
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By States & City/Country

		<u>Areas</u>		<u>States</u>					
	<u>May 2023</u>	<u>Capital Cities</u>	<u>Country Regions</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>VIC</u>	<u>QLD</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>TAS</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	46	49	40	48	47	39	41	47	42
No	36	34	41	38	32	46	35	32	26
Undecided	18	17	19	14	21	15	24	21	32
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Party Vote

		<u>Party Vote</u>					
	<u>May 2023</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>One Nation</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Other Parties</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	46	67	10	90	2	49	30
No	36	12	73	3	86	26	50
Undecided	18	21	17	7	12	25	20
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

May 2023: This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS Poll was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,833 Australian electors aged 18+ from Friday May 26 - Monday May 29, 2023.



The Voice Referendum (April 2023) – Australians 18+

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Gender & Age

	<u>Dec 2022</u>	<u>April 2023</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>			
			<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	46	43	50	51	52	41	37
No	30	39	46	31	35	32	42	48
Undecided	17	15	11	19	14	16	17	15
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By States & City/Country

		<u>Areas</u>		<u>States</u>					
	<u>April 2023</u>	<u>Capital Cities</u>	<u>Country Regions</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>VIC</u>	<u>QLD</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>TAS</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	46	48	43	46	52	41	46	39	38
No	39	36	44	38	31	46	41	50	33
Undecided	15	16	13	16	17	13	13	11	29
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Party Vote

		<u>Party Vote</u>					
	<u>April 2023</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>One Nation</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Other Parties</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	75	6	89	7	40	21
No	31	14	74	5	89	32	50
Undecided	16	11	20	6	4	28	29
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

April 2023: This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS Poll was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,181 Australians aged 18+ from Friday April 14 – Tuesday April 18, 2023.



The Voice Referendum (December 2022)

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Gender & Age

	Australians 18+	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	17-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	49	57	60	57	52	40
No	30	35	26	22	28	31	47
Undecided	17	16	17	18	15	17	13
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By States & City/Country

	Australians 18+	Areas		States					
		Capital Cities	Country Regions	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	54	51	52	55	44	63	54	68
No	30	28	35	29	28	38	26	33	24
Undecided	17	18	14	19	17	18	11	13	8
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Party Vote

	Electors	Party Vote					
		ALP	L-NP	Greens	One Nation	Independents	Other Parties
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	76	15	89	18	54	59
No	31	9	64	2	71	21	25
Undecided	16	15	21	9	11	25	16
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

December 2022: This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS Poll was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,499 Australians aged 17+ from Friday December 9 – Monday December 12, 2022.



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. Margin of error 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. 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	±3.0	±2.7	±1.9	±1.3
1,500	±2.5	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1