

MEDIA RELEASE

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Global Corruption Barometer Survey Results

RISING CORRUPTION CONCERN DRIVES SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL INTEGRITY BODY

Australians' trust in government has continued to slide, driven by growing concerns about corruption at the federal level, according to a special **Global Corruption Barometer survey** conducted by Griffith University and Transparency International Australia.

The results also show strong support for creation of a new federal anti-corruption body, with two-thirds (67%) supporting the idea, especially in Victoria, NSW and South Australia – with those 'strongly supporting' the idea outstripping those who strongly oppose it by 4 to 1.

Combined with Griffith University's Australian Constitutional Values Survey, the in-person telephone poll of 2,218 adults, conducted in May-June, provides the first measure since 2012 of the growing impact of corruption on citizens' trust and confidence in government. The survey shows:

- **Trust & confidence in all levels of government fell** in the last year, to 46% for federal and state levels and 51% for local government nationally
- Continued low levels of experienced bribery (less than 2%), but high concerns about officials or politicians **using their position to benefit themselves or family** (62%) or **favouring businesses and individuals in return for political donations or support** (56%)
- A 9 point increase since 2016 in perceptions that **federal members of parliament** are corrupt (85% at least 'some' corrupt, 18% 'most/all' corrupt) – placing them on par with state parliamentarians and worse than local officials.

Project leader Professor A J Brown, of Griffith University's Centre for Governance & Public Policy, said the results provide both a warning and an opportunity for Australian governments.

"We now see a stronger correlation between trust and action against corruption."

"Well over a third of citizens' total trust and confidence is now explained by whether they feel the **government is doing a 'good job in fighting corruption'** (37% at the federal level, 25% state).

"Continued slippage in the perceived integrity of federal officials clearly has a disproportionate effect on overall trust and confidence, nationwide."

Federal anti-corruption agency support

The survey is the first to **test support for a federal anti-corruption body** by also presenting respondents with a counter proposition – but still records strong support across the community, especially among respondents who have ever worked for the federal government itself.

Two-thirds of Australians (67%) support the idea, with most of these (43%) expressing strong support, against only 10% expressing strong opposition.

Respondents were also told: “Other people say **a new agency isn’t needed** because existing bodies like the Australian Federal Police are already adequate to deal with federal corruption”, before being asked to express a view.

Support is slightly higher among women (70%) than men (65%), and among citizens of Victoria (73%), NSW (69%) and South Australia (68%), and lower among those over the age of 65 (60%) but otherwise spread broadly across the community including all education levels.

Among the 1,011 respondents who had worked in government, the 245 respondents who had ever **worked in the federal government** recorded the highest level of strong support for a new federal agency – 54% against the national average of 42%.

The same group were marginally less likely than other respondents to rate corruption in government as **a big or very big problem** (50% against the national average of 57%), but were:

- the least likely to say that the **“task of fighting corruption” was currently being handled well at the federal level** (35% against the national average of 48%)
- more likely than other respondents to have witnessed or suspected an official or politician of making **a decision in favour of a business or individual who gave them political donations or support** in the last 12 months (68% against national average of 56%)

Undue influence a major concern

Serena Lillywhite, CEO of Transparency International Australia, said the results “firmly show that the risk of **undue influence and decisions that benefit business and powerful individuals** is real, and driving increasing corruption concerns”.

“For 56% of respondents – equating to over 10.2 million Australians – to say they had personally witnessed or suspected favouritism by a politician or official in exchange for donations or support is nothing less than shocking.”

“This snapshot also shows the case for a strong, comprehensive federal anti-corruption agency is well understood by those within government, not just based on the fears of outsiders.”

“Improved transparency and strengthened oversight of government decision making, including the regulation of lobbyists, is also long overdue,” Ms Lillywhite concluded.

New options paper to be released – Canberra symposium 21st August

The Corruption Barometer results coincide with [Australia’s Public Integrity Institutions: Strengths, Weaknesses, Gaps](#), being held in Canberra on Tuesday 21 August. A major new paper, **A National Integrity Commission: Options for Australia**, will be released at the symposium.

The survey and symposium form part of the Australian Research Council project [Strengthening Australia’s national integrity system: priorities for reform](#), led by Griffith University and Transparency International Australia, conducting Australia’s second National Integrity System Assessment.

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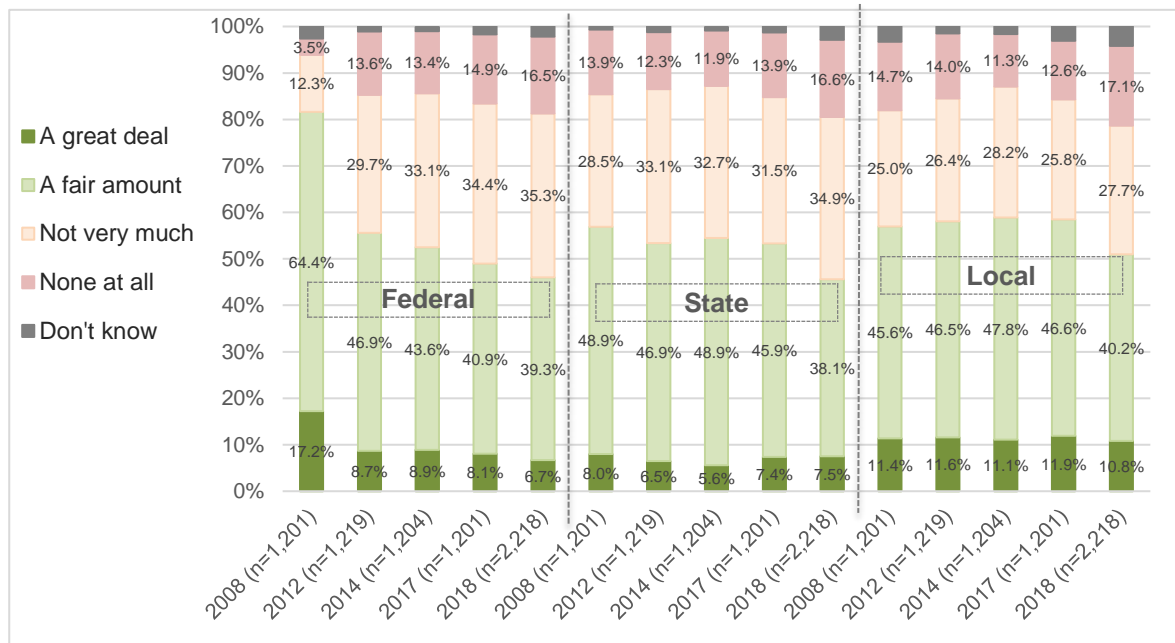
DATA RELEASE

Global Corruption Barometer Survey (Australia)

Trust and confidence

'B2. Overall, how much trust and confidence do you have in each level of government to do a good job in carrying out its responsibilities?'

(Australian Constitutional Values Surveys, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017; GCB 2018)



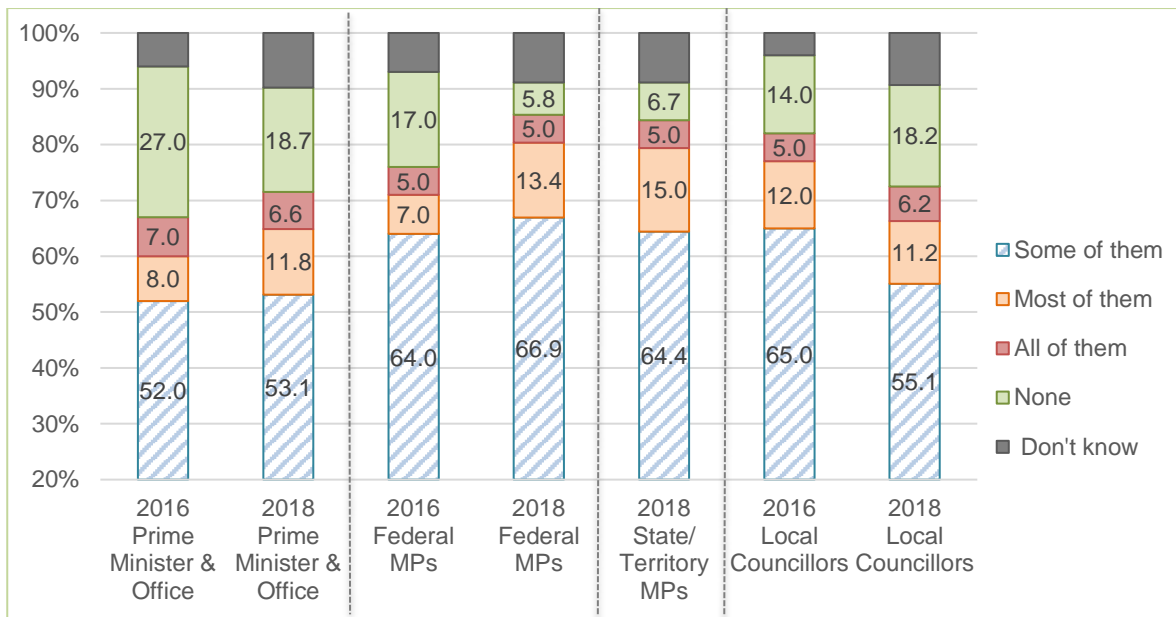
B2a - Overall, how much **trust and confidence** do you have in each level of government to do a good job in carrying out its responsibilities? - The

	Federal level of government	State/Territory level of government	Local level of government
Column %	2018	2018	2018
None at all	16.5	16.6	17.1
Not very much	35.3	34.9	27.7
TOTAL NOT VERY MUCH/ NONE AT ALL	51.8	51.5	44.8
A fair amount	39.3	38.1	40.2
A great deal	6.7	7.5	10.8
TOTAL GREAT DEAL/ FAIR AMOUNT	46.0	45.6	51.0
None \ don't know	2.2	2.9	4.2
NET	100.0	100.0	100.0
Column n	2218	2218	2218

Perceptions and experiences of corruption

Extent of corruption perceived among Australian elected officials (2016-2018)

'B5. How many of the following government officials do you think are **involved in corruption**?' (Global Corruption Barometer 2016 and 2018)



B5a - How many of the following government officials do you think are involved in corruption

Column %	The Prime Minister and Officials in his Office		Members of Federal Parliament		Members of the State/Territory parliament	The Councillors in your local council	
	2016 (GCB)	2018	2016 (GCB)	2018	2018	2016 (GCB)	2018
None	27.0	18.7	17.0	5.8	6.7	14.0	18.2
Some of them	52.0	53.1	64.0	66.9	64.4	65.0	55.1
Most of them	8.0	11.8	7.0	13.4	15.0	12.0	11.2
All of them	7.0	6.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.2
TOTAL SOME/MOST/ALL	67.0	71.5	76.0	85.3	84.4	82.0	72.5
TOTAL MOST/ALL	15.0	18.4	12.0	18.4	19.9	17.0	17.4
Don't know	6.0	9.8	7.0	8.9	8.9	4.0	9.3
NET	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Column n	1002	2218	1002	2218	2218	1002	2194
Column Population		18147		18147	18147		17847

B5b - How many of these types of public servants do you think are involved in corruption								
	Government officials	Federal public servants	Public servants in the State/Territory govt	Public servants in your local council	Police		Judges and Magistrates	
Column %	2016 (GCB)	2018	2018	2018	2016 (GCB)	2018	2016 (GCB)	2018
None	12.0	7.4	6.8	18.9	17.0	15.6	38	29.5
Some of them	72.0	71.6	72.8	59.9	75.0	70.6	54	53.4
Most of them	7.0	7.8	8.2	8.5	4.0	5.8	3	5.1
All of them	5.0	2.2	2.0	2.3	1.0	1.3	1	1.0
TOTAL SOME/MOST/ALL	84.0	81.7	83.0	70.6	80.0	77.7	58.0	59.5
TOTAL MOST/ALL	12.0	10.1	10.2	10.8	5.0	7.1	4.0	6.1
Don't know	4.0	10.9	10.2	10.5	3.0	6.6	4	10.9
NET	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Column n	1002	2218	2218	2194	1002	2218	1002	2218
Column Population		18147	18147	17847		18147		18147

Greater trust in the **federal level of government** (M = 2.35, SD = 0.88) is negatively correlated to the perceived quantity of corrupt officials among the Prime Minister and his Office (M = 1.84, SD = 0.94), $r = -0.31$, $p < .001$; the perceived quantity of corrupt Members of Federal Parliament (M = 2.02, SD = 0.80), $r = -0.23$, $p < .001$; and the perceived quantity of corrupt officials among Federal public servants (M = 1.85, SD = 0.76), $r = -0.16$, $p < .001$.

Greater trust in the **state level of government** (M = 2.35, SD = 0.88) is negatively correlated to the perceived quantity of corrupt State Politicians (M = 2.02, SD = 0.81), $r = -0.29$, $p < .001$; and to the perceived quantity of corrupt State public servants (M = 1.86, SD = 0.75), $r = -0.13$, $p < .001$.

C2 - In the past 12 months, how many times have you personally witnessed, or suspected , a government official or politician doing the following things - An official or politician	having unexplained income beyond their public salary	using their position to benefit themselves or their family	making a decision in favour of a business or individual who gave them political donations or support	accepting a bribe, gift or favour for a particular service or decision
Column %				
Never	48.0	35.7	39.8	42.1
Once or twice	18.4	22.2	18.9	21.0
A few times	17.2	22.6	21.4	20.7
Many times	10.0	17.4	16.0	11.5
TOTAL ANY PAST 12 MONTHS	45.6	62.2	56.3	53.2
Don't know	6.2	1.9	3.5	4.5
Refused	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2
NET	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Column n	2218	2218	2218	2218

C2(3) - In the past 12 months, how many times have you personally witnessed, or suspected, a government official or politician doing the following things - **An official or politician making a decision in favour of a business or individual who gave them political donations or support**

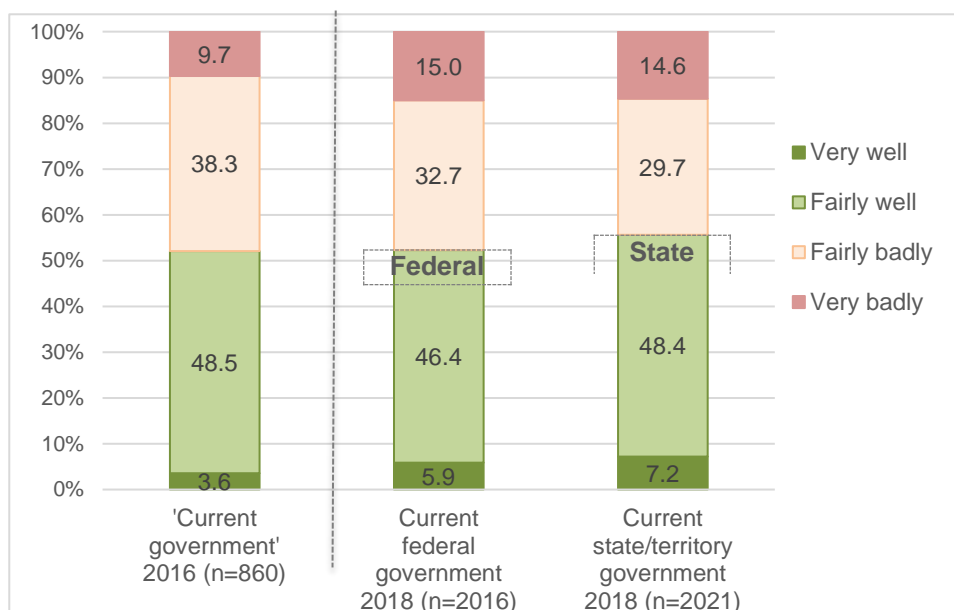
Column %	TOTAL	EVER WORKED IN GOVT.				
		Local	State	Federal	Other	Total
Never	39.8	35.3	33.1	28.7	50.4	36.1
Once or twice	18.9	15.1	18.2	20.1	18.7	18.2
A few times	21.4	22.9	26.4	29.3	19.2	24.8
Many times	16.0	23.1	20.4	18.1	8.8	18.1
TOTAL ANY PAST 12 MONTHS	56.3	61.1	65.0	67.5	46.6	61.1
Don't know	3.5	1.2	1.8	3.4	3.0	2.3
Refused	0.4	2.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.6
NET	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Column n	2218	181	583	245	123	1011
Column Population	18147	1431	3707	1586	834	6922

Those who had ever worked in federal government had seen more instances of an official or politician making a decision in favour of someone who gave them a political donation or support ($M = 2.34$, $SD = 1.15$) compared to those who had not worked in federal government ($M = 2.09$, $SD = 1.16$), $t = 3.19$ ($df = 2212$), $p = 0.14$

Doing a good job

How well are governments handling the fight against corruption?

'D1/D8. How well or badly would you say the current [State/Territory / Federal] government is handling the task of fighting corruption?' ('Current government' GCB Sept-Oct 2016; 'Current federal' / 'state/territory' GCB June 2018) (Excluding **don't knows**: 2016 **14.2%**; 2018 **9.1%** Federal; **8.9%** State)



Doing a good job (continued)

D1 - How well or badly would you say the current **State/Territory government is handling the task of fighting corruption** in [State/Territory]?

Column %	TOTAL	AREA						
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT/ NT
Very badly	13.3	15.8	12.8	13.7	7.3	13.3	11.0	4.7
Fairly badly	27.1	26.1	33.0	30.1	11.5	20.9	29.4	23.3
TOTAL BADLY	40.4	41.9	45.8	43.8	18.8	34.2	40.3	28.0
Fairly well	44.1	43.1	40.9	44.5	50.2	49.9	44.4	44.1
Very well	6.6	7.1	5.2	5.2	11.4	4.7	9.4	14.8
TOTAL WELL	50.7	50.2	46.2	49.7	61.7	54.6	53.8	58.8
Don't know	8.9	7.9	8.0	6.5	19.5	11.1	5.8	13.1
NET	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Column n	2218	380	295	1001	85	125	301	31
Column Population	18147	5827	4631	3601	1322	1900	399	467

Greater trust in the **state level of government** (M = 2.35, SD = 0.90) is correlated to higher perceptions that the state government is handling **the task of fighting corruption** well (M = 2.38, SD = 1.09), $r = 0.25$, $p < .001$.

D8 - Now thinking about the Federal government. Overall, how well or badly would you say **Australia's current Federal government is handling the task of fighting corruption**?

Column %	TOTAL	AREA							EVER WORKED IN GOVT.				
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT/ NT	Local	State	Federal	Other	Total
Very badly	13.6	16.3	12.3	13.1	9.4	12.6	14.7	10.2	15.7	15.2	18.2	19.7	15.4
Fairly badly	29.7	29.8	32.4	30.5	21.0	23.8	32.1	43.1	36.8	32.3	36.2	31.9	33.8
BADLY	43.3	46.0	44.7	43.6	30.3	36.4	46.7	53.3	52.5	47.5	54.4	51.6	49.1
Fairly well	42.2	41.4	39.0	45.1	53.0	44.5	45.2	19.0	41.1	41.6	30.1	34.1	38.4
Very well	5.4	4.9	5.9	5.1	6.9	2.3	3.6	19.1	2.4	4.2	4.4	3.4	4.8
WELL	47.6	46.4	44.8	50.2	59.9	46.8	48.8	38.2	43.5	45.8	34.5	37.6	43.2
Don't know	9.1	7.6	10.4	6.2	9.7	16.8	4.5	8.5	4.0	6.7	11.0	10.8	7.7
NET	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Column n	2218	380	295	1001	85	125	301	31	181	583	245	123	1011
Column Population	18147	5827	4631	3601	1322	1900	399	467	1431	3707	1586	834	6922

Greater trust in the **federal level of government** (M = 2.35, SD = 0.88) is correlated to higher perception that the federal government is handling **the task of fighting corruption** well (M = 2.28, SD = 0.99), $r = 0.37$, $p < .001$.

Those who had **ever worked in federal government** had less confidence in how the federal government was handling the task of fighting corruption (M = 2.09, SD = 1.04) compared to those who had not worked in federal government (M = 2.30, SD = 0.99), $t = -3.19$ (df = 2216), $p < .001$.

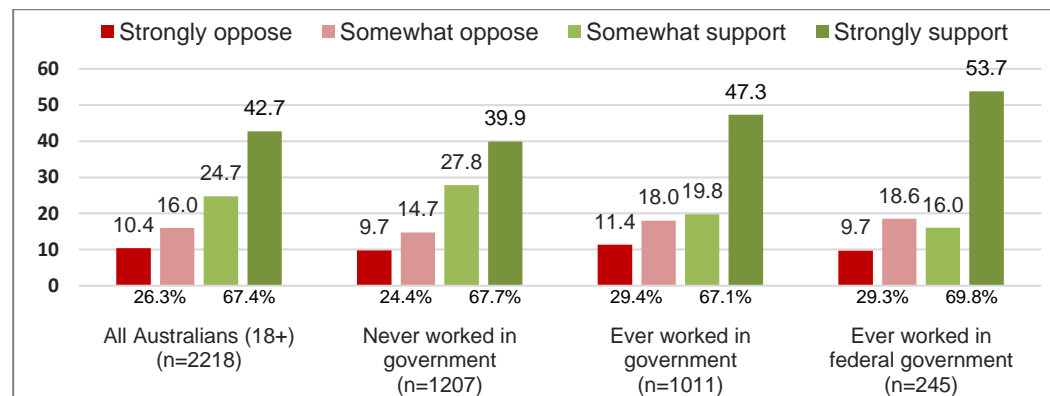
Anti-corruption agency

D9 - Some people say the Federal government should establish a **new, national anti-corruption agency**, similar to the states, to deal with corruption in federal government agencies and parliament.

Other people say a **new agency isn't needed** because existing bodies like the Australian Federal Police are already adequate to deal with federal corruption.

Would you personally **support** or **oppose** the creation of a new, national anti-corruption agency?

Column %	TOTAL	AREA							EVER WORKED IN GOVT.				
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT/ NT	Local	State	Federal	Other	Total
Strongly oppose	10.4	10.0	7.2	11.6	12.5	13.8	11.6	15.3	12.9	10.4	9.7	6.5	11.4
Somewhat oppose	16.0	14.5	14.9	18.5	15.1	19.1	16.4	15.6	14.9	19.0	18.6	15.0	18.0
TOTAL OPPOSE	26.3	24.5	22.1	30.0	27.6	32.9	28.0	30.9	27.7	29.3	28.3	21.5	29.4
Somewhat support	24.7	19.2	28.8	23.6	32.6	31.1	27.1	12.1	27.5	17.6	16.0	23.3	19.8
Strongly support	42.7	50.2	43.8	38.2	35.7	28.3	39.1	54.0	42.6	50.5	53.7	49.1	47.3
TOTAL SUPPORT	67.4	69.4	72.6	61.8	68.3	59.4	66.2	66.1	70.1	68.1	69.8	72.4	67.1
Don't know	6.2	6.1	5.3	8.1	4.1	7.7	5.8	3.0	2.2	2.5	2.0	6.1	3.5
NET	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Column n	2218	380	295	1001	85	125	301	31	181	583	245	123	1011
Column Population	18147	5827	4631	3601	1322	1900	399	467	1431	3707	1586	834	6922



Data sources – Data Release 1

2018 – Global Corruption Barometer (Australia)

Global Corruption Barometer (Australia) conducted nationally by telephone among 2,218 respondents aged 18 years and over. Survey fieldwork conducted over the period May 21 - June 27 2018.

All results post-weighted to ABS data on age *within* sex *within* each major region (i.e. within each of Sydney, rest of NSW/ ACT, Melbourne, etc.); a national rim weight for level of highest schooling completed; and phone accessibility ('mobile only'/'landline only'/'dual').

Project Funding

Conducted by OmniPoll for Griffith University and funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC Linkage Project LP160100267), Transparency International Australia, Crime & Corruption Commission (Queensland) and Integrity Commission (Tasmania). Full details www.griffith.edu.au/anti-corruption. Further results to be released after further analysis.

2016/2017 – Global Corruption Barometer (Transparency International)

The world's largest survey of public opinion and experience with respect to corruption: <http://www.transparency.org/research/gcb>

Australia -- Conducted nationally by Action Mark Research (Adelaide) for Effience3 for Transparency International.

Survey fieldwork conducted over the period 6 September to 12 October 2016.

Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews of representative sample of 1002 citizens.

Full results released in *People and Corruption: Asia Pacific* (March 2017)

2008-2017 -- Australian Constitutional Values Survey

Conducted nationally by telephone for Griffith University by Newspoll Limited (2008-2014) and OmniPoll (2016-2017)

Respondents: Australian citizens and permanent residents aged 18 years and over.

	n	Fieldwork conducted over the period
2008	1,201	1-8 May
2010	1,100	1-14 March
2012	1,219	24 Sept–9 Oct
2014	1,204	19 Aug-2 Sept
2017	1,201	1-24 Aug