

10 October 2017

Overwhelming voter support for Victorian Assisted Dying legislation

An important voting issue for eight out of ten voters

Between eight and nine out of ten Victorian voters surveyed are in favour of Assisted Dying legislation proposed in Victoria.

Eight out of ten voters also regard this as an important voting issue in relation to how they would vote at a Victorian State election.

These are the findings of a comprehensive series of surveys conducted among 9002 Victorian voters by OmniPoll over the period July to September 2017.

OmniPoll Partner, Martin O'Shannessy said "this is the most comprehensive programme of research on this topic I have been involved in either at Newspoll or at OmniPoll." Mr O'Shannessy went on "this is an issue on which voters have clearly made up their minds. These results are overwhelmingly in favour of the legislation being considered in Victoria".

Results reflect a series of polls in other states

Mr O'Shannessy said that the results paralleled research reaching back ten years in other states. "All the work we have done on this issue at Newspoll or at OmniPoll shows that voters are overwhelmingly in favour of the type of assisted dying legislation under consideration" he said.

Voter support high among voters of all persuasions

The poll revealed that the high level of overall support was consistent across the voting spectrum. "Every voter bloc we have examined, rural, urban, marginal or safe, Labor, Coalition or Green is strongly in favour of the proposed legislation" he said.

Media Contacts

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About OmniPoll

OmniPoll is the market research and polling firm led by the former CEO and senior directors of Newspoll. OmniPoll uses the same polling techniques that allowed Newspoll to correctly predict 100% of the 60 state and federal election outcomes between 1985 and 2015. OmniPoll is a member of AMSRO and is covered by the Privacy (Market and Social Research) Code 2014.

As Newspoll CEO, Martin O'Shannessy was for ten years, Australia's highest profile opinion pollster. He has a 100% record estimating state and federal election outcomes at IRIS Research and at Newspoll and has surveyed over 2 million Australians. He is a member of the Australian Market and Social Research Society.

<i>"If a terminally ill patient, asks a doctor for a lethal dose, should a doctor be allowed to provide a lethal dose, or not?" PERCENT ANSWERING YES TO THIS QUESTION</i>								
		Voting intention						
Location	Electorates	TOTAL	Male	Female	Labor Party	Coalition	The Greens	Other
Melbourne Labor Marginals	Frankston, Carrum, Mordialloc and Bentleigh (1000 voters surveyed)	86%	87%	86%	87%	83%	91%	89%
Liberal Seats	Bayswater, Gembrook, Hawthorn (3000 voters surveyed)	84%	82%	85%	87%	78%	94%	78%
Regional Liberal/National Seats	Eildon, Euroa, Ovens Valley (3000 voters surveyed)	85%	84%	86%	91%	80%	95%	85%
Labor Inner West	Niddrie, Tarneit (2000 voters surveyed)	80%	77%	82%	81%	77%	86%	81%

<i>"Would you say that the issue of voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying is very important, fairly important or not important on how you personally would vote in a state Election?" PERCENT RATING IMPORTANT OR VERY IMPORTANT</i>								
		Voting intention						
Location	Electorate	TOTAL	Male	Female	Labor Party	Coalition	The Greens	Other
Melbourne Labor Marginals	Frankston, Carrum, Mordialloc and Bentleigh (1000 voters surveyed)	79%	75%	84%	82%	72%	91%	85%
Liberal Seats	Bayswater, Gembrook, Hawthorn (3000 voters surveyed)	78%	71%	84%	83%	73%	82%	76%
Regional Liberal/National Seats	Eildon, Euroa, Ovens Valley (3000 voters surveyed)	80%	75%	85%	85%	77%	82%	79%
Labor Inner West	Niddrie, Tarneit (2000 voters surveyed)	77%	70%	84%	78%	75%	87%	78%

If local member were <i>to support the legislation to legalise voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying</i> would that influence the way you would vote for local member at next State election? Would I make you				
	Bayswater, Gembrook, Hawthorn	Frankston, Carrum, Mordialloc and Bentleigh	Eildon, Euroa, Ovens Valley	Niddrie, Tarneit
More likely to vote for them	47%	51%	49%	43%
Less likely to vote for them	8%	6%	7%	9%
No difference	42%	40%	40%	43%
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	3%	3%	4%	5%
Sample size	3000	1000	3000	2002

These surveys were conducted among 9002 eligible voters in the named electorates in the period July to September 2017. Voters were interviewed on the telephone using landline and mobile numbers using trained and fully briefed interviewers. Quotas were set for age and sex within each electorate. To help reflect the overall population distribution, results were post-weighted to Australian Bureau of Statistics data on age, sex, highest level of schooling completed of electors each electorate. The maximum error on estimates in any location is approximately +/- 3%.