

MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIANS SUPPORT A TREATY WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Key findings:

- 53% (up 7%) support the notion of a treaty. 34% (down 6%) oppose.
- 78% of voters (up 4%) support process of reconciliation.
- 43% (steady) agree with apology; 52% (down 1%) disagree.

A majority of the Australian people support the notion of a treaty with Aboriginal people, according to the latest ACNielsen Poll.

The poll of 2,066 Australians on 3-5 November found that 53% (up 7%) support a treaty while only 34% (down 6%) are opposed. There was majority support for a treaty in all states except Western Australia, where only 42% of voters were in favour. Support was highest in Victoria (57%) and NSW (55%).

78% (up 4%) of Australians support the process of reconciliation between white Australians and Aboriginal people, and only 14% (down 1%) are opposed.

Despite the gains for a treaty and reconciliation, Australians remain unmoved on the question of an apology, with 43% (unchanged) agreeing that the Australian Government should apologise for past treatment of aboriginal people.

Support for reconciliation was strongest in Victoria (83% support) and weakest in Queensland and Western Australia (74% support). There was majority opposition to an apology in all states except Victoria, where a majority (55%) agreed with an apology.

	March 2000	May 2000	June 2000	November 2000
RECONCILIATION				
Support reconciliation	76%	76%	74%	78%
Oppose reconciliation	17%	19%	15%	14%
APOLOGY				
Agree with apology	42%	42%	43%	43%
Disagree with apology	54%	55%	53%	52%
TREATY				
Support treaty			46%	53%
Oppose treaty			40%	34%



Questions:

Q.1 I'd now like to ask a couple of questions about reconciliation. Generally speaking do you support or oppose the process of reconciliation between white Australians and Aboriginal people?
Is that [strongly support/support] / [strongly oppose/oppose]?
DO NOT READ OUT

Strongly support	35%
Support	43%
Oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	5%
Don't know	7%

Q.2 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The Australian Government should apologise for past treatment of Aboriginal people."
Is that [strongly agree/agree] / [strongly disagree/disagree]?
DO NOT READ OUT

Strongly Agree	21%
Agree	22%
Disagree	29%
Strongly Disagree	23%
Don't know	5%

Q.3 Do you support or oppose the notion of a treaty with Aboriginal people?
Is that [strongly support/support] / [strongly oppose/oppose]?
DO NOT READ OUT

Strongly support	16%
Support	38%
Oppose	21%
Strongly oppose	12%
Don't know	13%

POLL PROFILE

Fieldwork Dates	: 3-5 November 2000
Sample Size	: 2066 Respondents
Sample Spread	: Nationwide, 18+
Pollster	: ACNielsen
Method	: Telephone

The maximum margin of error that might apply given this sample size is approximately 2%. Telephone numbers were selected at random. The data has been weighted to reflect the population distribution.