

# What Australians Really Think About ABORTION

A report on comprehensive independent market research conducted by Market Facts (Qld) Pty Ltd, commissioned by the Australian Federation of Right to Life Associations.

This national opinion poll of 1200 Australians was conducted in two stages – in April/May and August/September 2005 – with 15 questions in total.

February, 2006



**Market Facts (Qld) Pty Ltd**  
Market Research Consultants



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## NATIONAL OPINION POLL OF 1200 AUSTRALIANS

### Stage 1 - April/May 2005

Believe abortion involves the taking of a human life - Yes 54%, No 34%

Believe that an unborn child by 20 weeks is a person with human rights  
– Yes 57%, No 26%

Believe that abortion can harm a woman's physical and/or mental health  
– Yes 79%, No 12%

Support abortion on demand – Yes 60%, No 32%

**Support abortion for non-medical, that is for financial or social reasons**  
– Yes 39%, No 51%

**Believe that a woman should receive free independent counselling before abortion**  
– Yes 95%, No 2%

Believe there should be a cooling-off period of several days between appointment and abortion – Yes 86%, No 9%

Believe that parental consent should normally be required for girls under 16  
– Yes 73%, No 18%

Support conscientious objection provisions for doctors and nurses – Yes 73%, No 15%

Support Medicare funding for abortion on demand – Yes 54%, No 38%

**Support Medicare funding for abortions for non-medical, that is for financial or social reasons – Yes 39%, No 53%**

Believe that partial birth abortion should be banned – Yes 59%, No 20%

## **Stage 2 – August/September 2005**

Allow abortion – Not at all 34%; up to 13 weeks 38%; up to 20 weeks 13%; up to birth 6%

**Approve Medicare funding of abortion – Not at all 37%; up to 13 weeks 30%; up to 20 weeks 11%; up to birth 14%**

Allow *late-term* abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy for *non-medical* reasons, that is in cases of financial or emotional stress? - Yes 12%, No 82%

**Key findings of this research are:**

- 1. A slight majority (51%) of Australians are opposed to abortion for non-medical, that is for financial or social reasons (which comprise 98% of all abortions) – and 53% are opposed to Medicare funding in these circumstances;**
- 2. An overwhelming majority (95%) of Australians believe that, before having an abortion, a woman should receive free independent counselling and information on the development of her unborn child, the nature of the procedure, the physical and psychological risks of the operation and the alternatives of keeping her child or adoption, so she can make a fully informed decision; and**
- 3. A substantial majority (78%) of Australians oppose Medicare funding of late-term abortions (i.e. past 20 weeks of pregnancy) – and 67% oppose Medicare funding after the first trimester (13 weeks).**

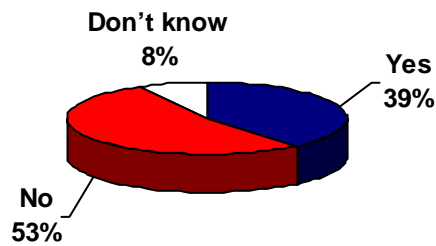
**This new research complements and reinforces the findings of the national opinion poll released by Southern Cross Bioethics Institute in May last year, in which 1200 Australians were surveyed by Sexton Marketing Group in December 2004.**

Key findings of the Southern Cross research included:

- 71% want greater public discussion
- 76% say men have equal right to public comment (71% of women)
- 87% want number of abortions reduced
- 78% want mandatory counselling
- 86% want this to be independent of the abortion provider
- Only 15% believe abortion is moral when mother and baby are healthy

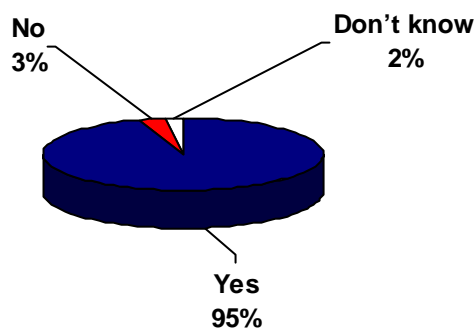
The details of this research are at [www.bioethics.org.au](http://www.bioethics.org.au)

**Support Medicare funding for abortions for non-medical i.e. financial/social reasons**



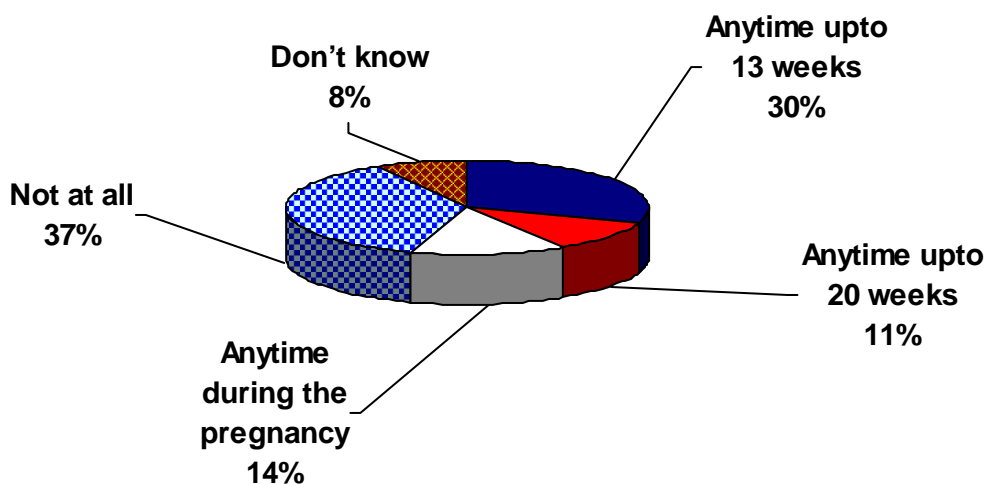
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**Believe that before having an abortion, a woman should receive free independent counselling on risks, alternatives etc**



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**Up to what stage of pregnancy – approve Medicare funding**



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1. Background

**The Australian Federation of Right to Life Associations** commissioned an opinion poll among the people across Australia on the issue of abortion. Stage 1 was conducted in April/May 2005.

**Explanation given to respondents at the beginning of the survey:**

*Abortion is an operation or procedure which involves termination of an unwanted or difficult pregnancy, preventing the birth of a live child. Approximately 90,000 abortions are performed each year in Australia.*

**Explanation on Medicare coverage:**

*Over the past 35 years, Australian taxpayers have paid for more than 2 million abortions through Medicare and the public hospital system. As approximately 98% of abortions are performed for financial or social reasons, it has been said that abortion is the only elective surgery Medicare covers.*

**Explanation on Partial birth abortion:**

*Partial birth abortion is a method of late-term abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy which was recently banned in the United States. It involves the abortionist inducing early labour and aborting the unborn child before full delivery is completed.*

**Market Facts** was commissioned to conduct this market research study.

This document details the findings of the research study carried out.

## 1.2. Research Methodology

**Target Respondents:** Men and women aged 18 years and above, across Australia.

**Sample size:** A total of **1200** respondents were interviewed. The following table gives the spread of the sample across the various states and by age and gender of respondents.

<u>State</u>	<u>Nos.</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Nos.</u>
Queensland	225	Male	528
NSW	390	Female	672
Victoria	300	<b>Age</b>	
South Australia/Northern Territory (SA/NT)	105	18-34 yrs	279
Western Australia (WA)	120	35-44 yrs	238
ACT	30	45-54 yrs	238
Tasmania	30	55-64 yrs	215
<b>Region</b>		65 yrs+	227
Metro	757		
Other	443		

**Methodology:** Telephone interviews were carried out using a structured questionnaire.

**Sampling:** The sample was drawn from the White Pages.

### Fieldwork details:

Total attempted calls – 10294 nos.

Connected calls - 5621 nos.

Refusals – 2162 nos.

Answering machines/no response – 1903 nos.

Other reasons for non response – 5029 nos.

Completed telephone questionnaires – 1200 nos.

Fieldwork commencement – April 14, 2005.

Fieldwork completion – May 5, 2005.

### 1.3. Analysis and Reporting

The data in this study has been presented by regions and states:

- Total
- Region
  - Metros
  - Other regions
- States
  - New South Wales
  - Queensland
  - Victoria
  - South Australia/Northern territory
  - Western Australia
  - ACT
  - Tasmania

Detailed tables have also been provided by gender and age as follows:

- Gender -Men
  - Women
- Age – 18-34 years
  - 35-44 years
  - 45-54 years
  - 55-64 years
  - 65 +years

Wherever variations were observed, comments have also been made on opinions of the residents by household situation and working status of respondent / occupation of main income earner.

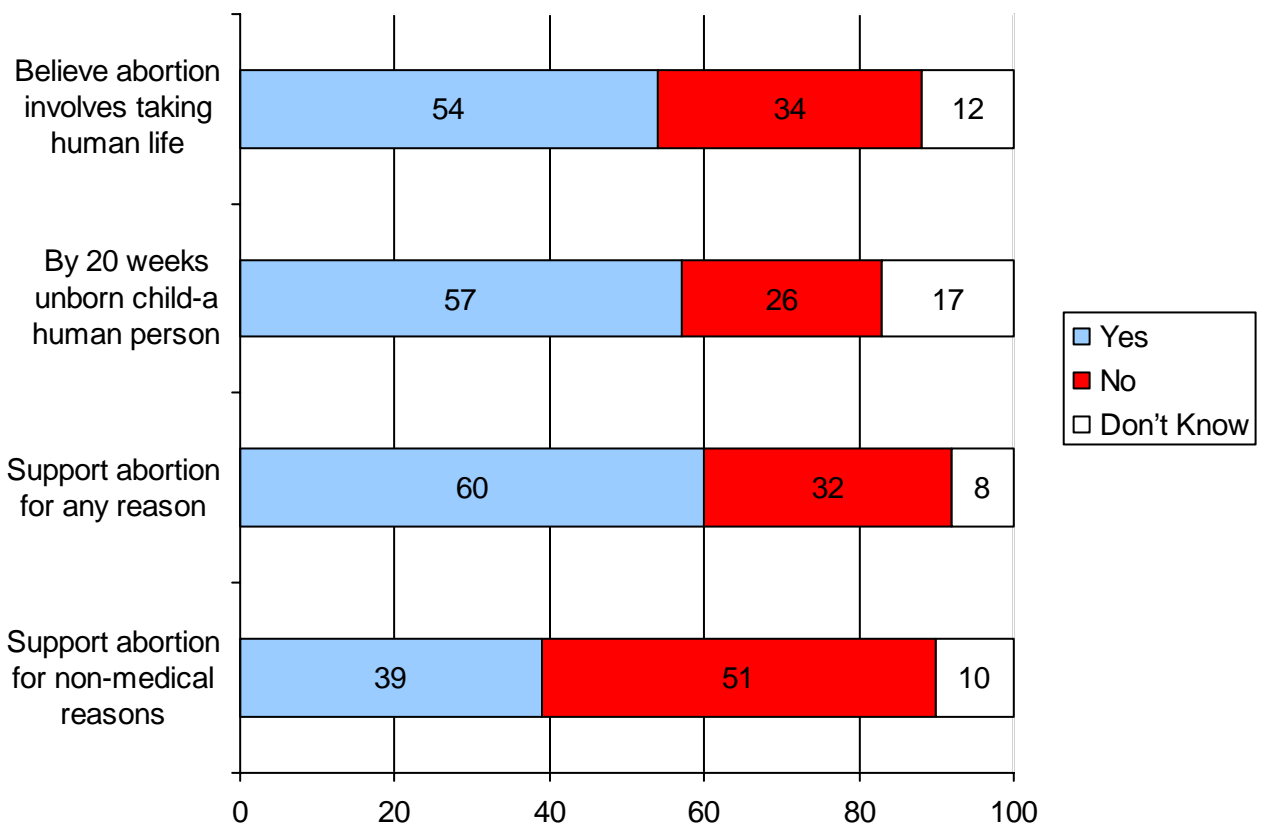


## 2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### Views on the issue of abortion

Over half the adults across Australia believe that abortion involves taking of human life and by 20 weeks of pregnancy, an unborn child is a human person with human rights.

While 60% supported abortion on demand, only about 39% supported abortion for non-medical reasons, which indicates some confusion in the public mind as to what abortion on demand is.



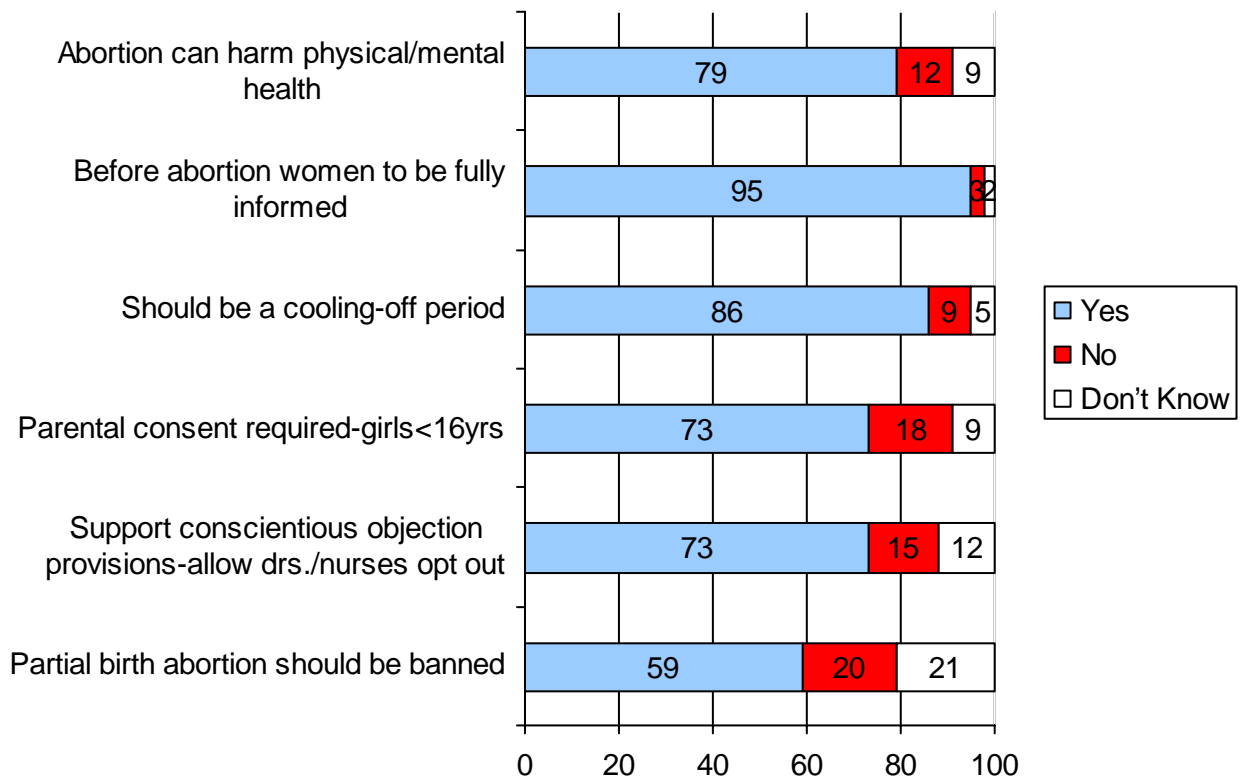
**Abortion and women/other related issues**

Almost 80% believe that abortion has health risks for the woman.

There was near unanimous support for women receiving counselling and being fully informed of all procedures and risks before abortion and the vast majority believe there should be a cooling-of period between the appointment and the actual operation.

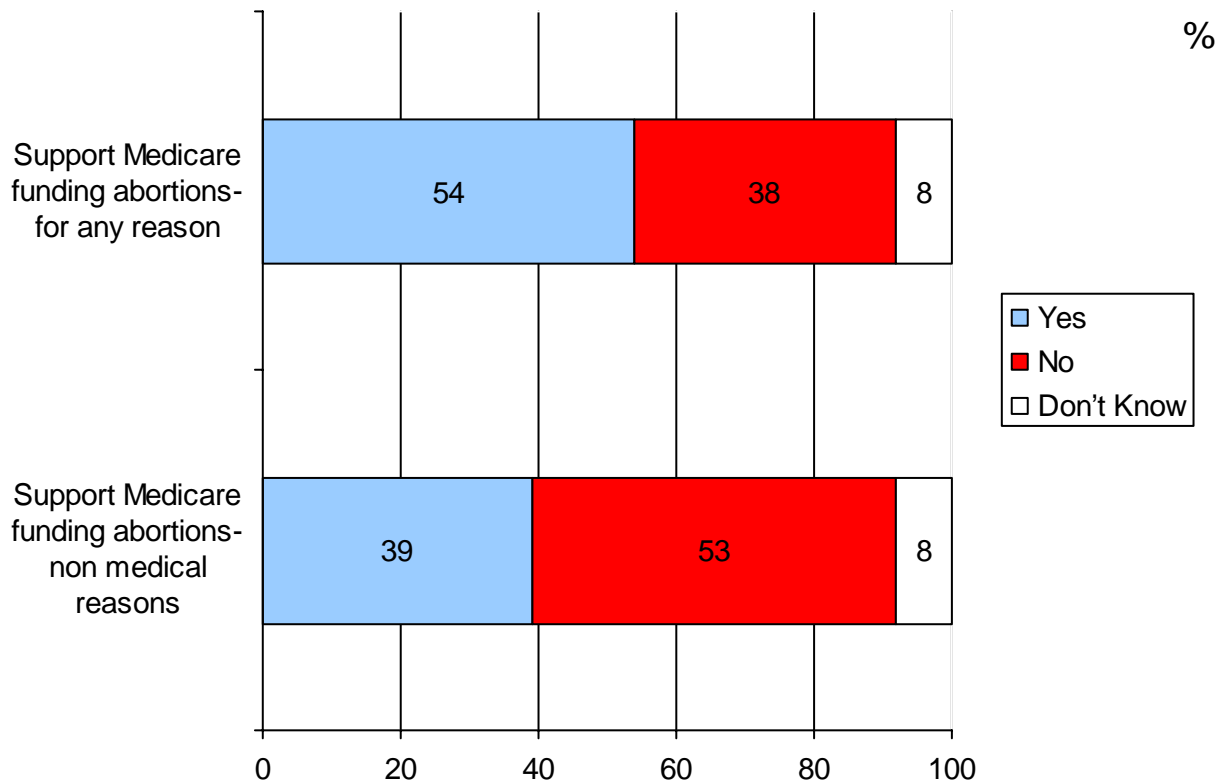
About three-quarters were in favour of parental consent for abortion for girls under 16 years of age and the same proportion also supported conscientious objection provisions to allow the medical fraternity to opt out of having to perform abortion operations against their will.

Almost 60% support a ban on the late-term partial-birth abortion procedure.



**Views on Medicare funding for abortions**

There was divided opinion on Medicare funding of abortion. More than half (54%) stated their support for Medicare funding of abortion on demand, but 15% of these changed their minds when asked if Medicare should pay for abortions on medical grounds. A slight majority (53%) opposed Medicare funding of abortion for financial or social reasons. Again, this may indicate public confusion on what “abortion on demand” actually means.



**Respondent profile**

The sample was skewed a little more towards women and was spread near equally across the various age groups. It was found that males, as a rule, preferred not to make comment on this topic.

- Women 56%
- Men 44%

63% of the respondents were residing in the metropolitan areas of the country and the spread across the various states was as per the population pattern existing in the country.

60% of all respondents were working (43% working full time), 11% were engaged in home duties, and about a quarter were retired.

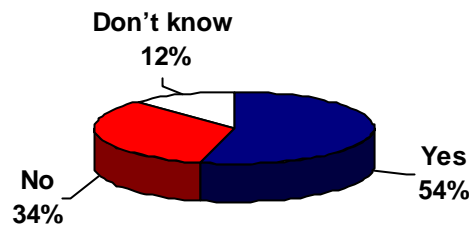
34% of the sample were living alone or singles sharing accommodation, 29% were living as couples and the rest (35%) as families.

### 3. DETAILED FINDINGS

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#### 3.1. Views on the issue of abortion

##### 3.1.1. Believe that abortion involves taking of a human life



A little over a half of all the respondents interviewed believe that abortion involves the taking of a human life. There were variations across states and regions - with a significantly higher proportion of the residents of Queensland (68%) and those residing in the non-metro areas (59%) expressing this opinion. On the other hand in NSW (41%) and in the metro areas (36%), a relatively smaller proportion gave an affirmative response.

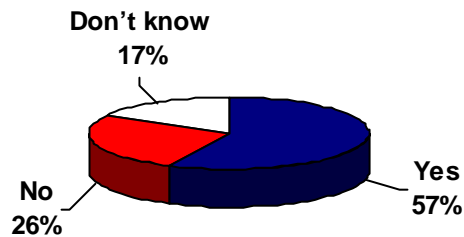
It was observed that many more women (60%) than men (46%) believe that abortion involves the taking of a human life.

It was also seen that a relatively higher proportion of adults who live as families (61%) when compared to singles and couples (52%) believe that abortion involves the taking of a human life.

Q1. Do you believe abortion involves the taking of a human life?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	53.9	51.1	58.7	68.4	47.4	51.0	66.7	48.6	58.3	46.7
		--	++	+++	---					
No	33.9	36.3	29.8	12.4	41.3	38.3	13.3	41.0	35.8	43.3
		++	--	---	+++	+	--			
Don't know	12.2	12.5	11.5	19.1	11.3	10.7	20.0	10.5	5.8	10.0
				+++					--	

**3.1.2. Believe that by 20 weeks of pregnancy... an unborn child is a human person with human rights**



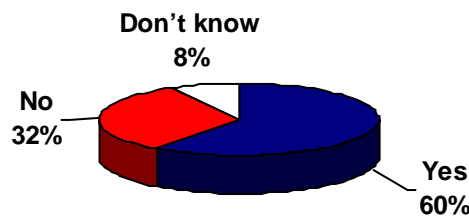
Across the residents of Australia, over half believe that by 20 weeks of pregnancy, an unborn child is a human person with human rights. On this issue, the largest proportion of affirmatives came from the residents of Western Australia.

Again a relatively higher proportion of those residing in the non-metro areas (66%) and women (60%) gave an affirmative response.

Q2. Do you believe that by 20 weeks of pregnancy, the earliest point at which survival outside the womb is possible, that an unborn child is a human person with human rights?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	NT	SA/ WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	56.8	51.4	65.9	54.2	57.9	53.3	60.0	55.2	69.2	46.7
		---	+++						+++	
No	26.1	28.5	21.9	12.0	31.5	28.3	16.7	36.2	20.0	36.7
		++	--	---	+++			++		
Don't know	17.2	20.1	12.2	33.8	10.5	18.3	23.3	8.6	10.8	16.7
		+++	---	+++	---			--	-	

### 3.1.3. Support abortion on demand

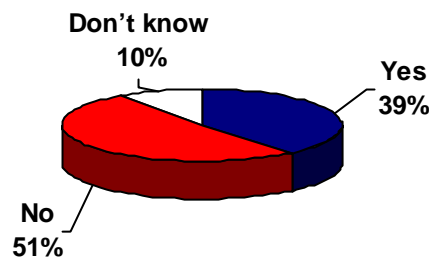


When asked if they supported abortion for any reason whatsoever, that is abortion on demand, as many as 60% said 'yes'. A relatively higher proportion of these respondents were residents of NSW and SA/NT and from the metro regions. A relatively fewer proportion of respondents in Queensland supported abortion on demand (44%) and it was seen that higher proportion of the residents in this state did not express an opinion on the issue.

There were some variations by age, region and occupation of main earner in the household – a significantly higher proportion of those aged 65 and above (44%) did not support abortion on demand. Again more residents from the non-metro areas (41%) did not express their support on this issue. 66% of the respondents who hailed from households where the main earner worked in a managerial or clerical position supported abortion on demand.

Q4 Do you support abortion for any reason whatsoever that is abortion on demand?	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/	WA	ACT
								NT		
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	59.8	64.5	51.7	44.4	63.8	60.3	46.7	71.4	65.8	63.3
		+++	---	---	++			++		
No	31.9	26.6	41.1	35.1	30.3	33.3	46.7	24.8	31.7	26.7
		---	+++				+	-		
Don't know	8.3	9.0	7.2	20.4	5.9	6.3	6.7	3.8	2.5	10.0
				+++	--				-	--

**3.1.4. Support abortion for non-medical i.e. financial/social reasons**



However, when discussing abortion for non-medical reasons like financial/social circumstances, a higher proportion did not support it - 51% compared to 32% who did not support abortion on demand. A relatively higher proportion of these respondents were from WA and the non-metro regions of Australia.

39% supported abortion for non-medical reasons, as against 60 % who supported abortion on demand. Many of these people were residents of NSW and ACT and mainly from the metro regions.

A higher proportion of the residents hailing from households where the main earner worked as manager or in clerical/sales positions supported abortion for non-medical reasons (47%).

There were wide variations by age – while many of the younger age group (18-34 yrs-47%) supported abortion for non-medical purposes, a large proportion of those aged 65+yrs (63%) did not support it.

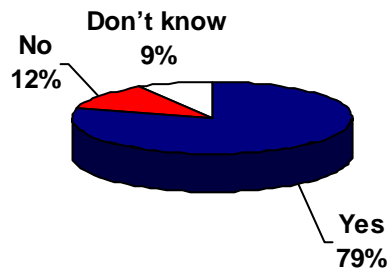
Q5 Do you support abortion for non-medical that is for financial or social reasons?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	39.4	45.8	28.4	27.6	44.1	41.3	33.3	46.7	31.7	60.0
		+++	---	---	++				-	++
No	50.8	42.9	64.1	52.9	51.8	44.7	63.3	47.6	63.3	30.0
		---	+++			--			+++	--
Don't know	9.8	11.2	7.4	19.6	4.1	14.0	3.3	5.7	5.0	10.0
		++	--	+++	---	+++			-	



### 3.2. Abortion and women/other related issues

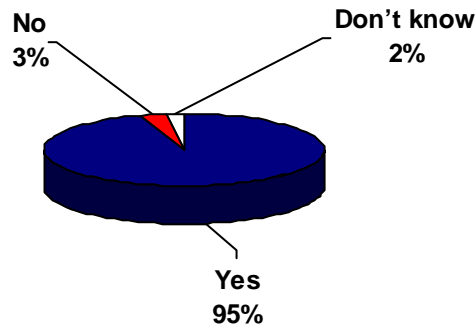
#### 3.2.1. Can abortion harm physical/mental health of a woman?



A substantial majority of the residents of Australia (79%) were of the view that there were health risks associated with abortion, that abortion did harm the health of a woman - physical and/or mental. This response was seen across states and metro/non-metro areas. The younger respondents (18-34 yrs – 85%) and adults who lived as families (83%) were significantly more vehement about this.

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/		
								NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	78.6	76.8	81.7	80.9	76.4	74.0	90.0	81.9	88.3	73.3
		--	++			--			+++	
No	11.6	12.7	9.7	8.0	13.8	14.7	-	10.5	6.7	13.3
				-	+	+			-	
Don't know	9.8	10.6	8.6	11.1	9.7	11.3	10.0	7.6	5.0	13.3
									-	

**3.2.2. Believe that before having an abortion, a woman should receive free independent counselling on risks, alternatives etc.**

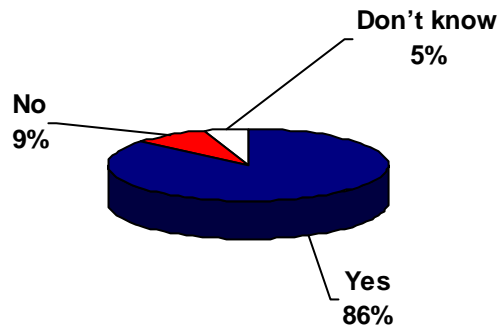


When posed the question- *“Do you believe that, before having an abortion, a woman should receive free independent counselling and information on the development of her unborn child, the nature of the procedure, the physical and psychological risks of the operation and the alternatives of keeping the child or adoption, so she can make a fully informed decision?”* - there was near unanimous support for women receiving free independent counselling and information on risks etc.

Q6 Do you believe that before having an abortion a woman should receive free independent counselling and information .....so she can make a fully informed decision?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	94.8	94.7	95.0	95.1	94.9	91.7	96.7	100.0	98.3	90.0
						---		++	+	
No	2.3	2.4	2.3	0.9	3.3	3.0	3.3	-	0.8	6.7
Don't know	2.8	2.9	2.7	4.0	1.8	5.3	-	-	0.8	3.3
						+++				

**3.2.3. Believe there should be a cooling-off period between appointment and actual operation**

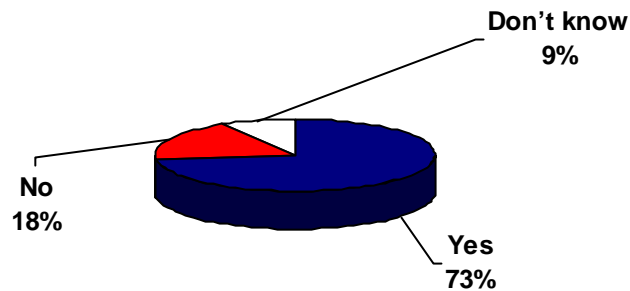


The vast majority of the respondents supported the idea of having a cooling-off period between making an appointment to have an abortion and the actual operation. This was stated particularly by a larger proportion in Queensland and SA/NT.

Q7 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?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	86.2	84.9	88.3	91.6	83.6	82.3	83.3	93.3	91.7	73.3
				+++	-	--		++	+	--
No	8.5	9.2	7.2	5.3	11.5	8.0	10.0	3.8	5.8	23.3
				-	+++			-		+++
Don't know	5.3	5.8	4.5	3.1	4.9	9.7	6.7	2.9	2.5	3.3
				-		+++				

### 3.2.4. Believe that parental consent should be required for girls under 16 having an abortion

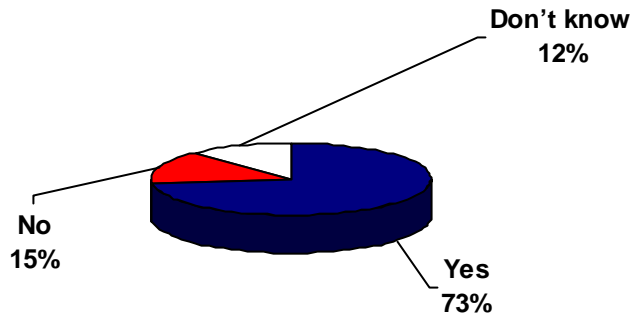


Almost three-quarters of all in the survey believe that parental consent is essential for girls under 16 years of age before they have an abortion. Significantly higher affirmations on this issue came from residents of Queensland (86%), WA (83%) and those residing in non-metro regions (80%). However, relatively fewer (67%) of those in ages 18-34 years agreed on this issue.

Q8 Do you believe that parental consent should normally be required for girls under 16 having an abortion?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	73.1	69.1	79.9	86.2	71.5	66.0	63.3	66.7	82.5	60.0
		---	+++	+++		---			++	
No	18.3	21.0	13.8	7.1	20.8	22.7	26.7	21.0	14.2	26.7
		+++	---	---		++				
Don't know	8.6	9.9	6.3	6.7	7.7	11.3	10.0	12.4	3.3	13.3
		++	--			++			--	

**3.2.5. Support conscientious objection provisions to allow doctors/nurses to opt out of having to perform abortions against their will**



Again about three-quarters of all respondents expressed their support on this issue. A relatively higher proportion of those from the non-metro regions said 'yes' to this query. There were no significant variations observed in the response by age, gender or family type.

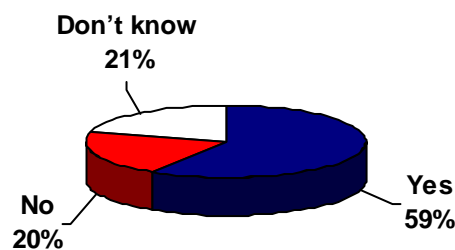
Q9 Do you support conscientious objection to allow doctors and nurses to opt out of having to perform abortions against their will?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	72.9	70.3	77.4	69.8	76.9	62.7	90.0	80.0	77.5	86.7
		---	+++		++	---	++	+		+
No	14.9	15.7	13.5	10.2	15.4	20.3	3.3	15.2	14.2	3.3
				--		+++	-			-
Don't know	12.2	14.0	9.0	20.0	7.7	17.0	6.7	4.8	8.3	10.0
		++	--	+++	---	+++		--		

### 3.2.6. Partial birth abortion - should it be banned?

An explanation on partial abortion was given to the respondents and they were then asked about their views:

*Partial birth abortion is a method of late-term abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy which was recently banned in the United States. It involves the abortionist inducing early labour and aborting the unborn child before full delivery is completed. Do you believe that partial birth abortion should be banned in Australia?*



A large proportion of the respondents (59%) said that partial abortion should be banned in Australia. This response was more vehement amongst those who lived in the non-metro areas (66%). There was no significant variation in response by age or gender. On this issue a fifth of all interviewed did not express an opinion, possibly because they were unsure of what the procedure actually involved.

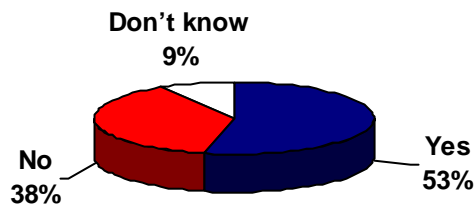
Q12 ....Do you believe that partial birth abortion should be banned in Australia?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	59.1	55.4	65.5	63.1	54.1	65.3	73.3	50.5	59.2	46.7
		---	+++		--	++		-		
No	19.8	20.6	18.5	7.1	28.7	14.0	13.3	30.5	20.8	23.3
				---	+++	---		+++		
Don't know	21.1	24.0	16.0	29.8	17.2	20.7	13.3	19.0	20.0	30.0
		+++	---	+++	--					

### 3.3. Views on Medicare funding for abortions

Information read out to respondents- *Over the past 35 years, Australian taxpayers have paid for more than 2 million abortions through Medicare and the public hospital system. As approximately 98% of abortions are performed for financial or social reasons, it has been said that abortion is the only elective surgery Medicare covers.*

#### 3.3.1. Support Medicare funding for abortion on demand



About half of all adults interviewed supported Medicare funding for abortion on demand. When compared to the others, a relatively higher proportion of the younger age group supported this (60%).

When analysing the information by regions and states, it was observed that a relatively higher proportion of respondents residing in metro areas and from NSW and SA/NT support Medicare funding of abortion on demand. In the states of Queensland, WA and Tasmania, as many as 45% did not approve of this.

Q10 Do you support Medicare funding for abortions for any reason whatsoever, that is, abortion on demand?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	53.6	61.4	40.2	35.1	58.5	58.0	50.0	63.8	50.8	63.3
		+++	---	---	++	+		++		
No	37.8	29.1	52.6	48.4	34.9	32.7	50.0	30.5	45.0	30.0
		---	+++	+++		--			+	
Don't know	8.7	9.5	7.2	16.4	6.7	9.3	-	5.7	4.2	6.7
				+++	-				-	

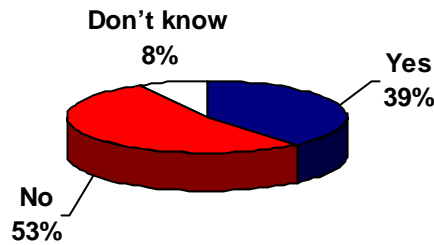
The following table displays the respondents' views on abortion on demand cross-tabulated with their views on Medicare funding of abortion on demand:

Abortion on demand		Total	Yes	No
	<b>%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>32</b>
Medicare funding	Yes	54	<b>76</b>	19
	No	38	19	<b>75</b>

Not all who support abortion on demand support Medicare funding of the same – about three-quarters of them support Medicare funding.



**3.3.2. Support Medicare funding for abortions for non-medical i.e. financial/social reasons**



Support for Medicare funding of abortions for non-medical reasons was given by 39% of all adults. Again this response was supported more by those in the younger age group (48%). More than half the respondents expressed a negative response on this. Among the senior citizens (65+yrs), as many as 65% did not think that Medicare should be funding abortions for non-medical reasons. Again a large proportion of the residents of Queensland (61%), WA (63%) and Tasmania (60%) expressed a negative on this.

Q11 Do you support Medicare funding for abortions for non-medical, that is, for financial or social reasons?

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5
Yes	38.8	47.0	24.6	26.2	42.3	43.3	40.0	43.8	30.0	56.7
		+++	---	---	+	+			--	++
No	53.3	44.0	69.1	61.3	50.3	49.0	60.0	50.5	63.3	36.7
		---	+++	+++		-			++	-
Don't know	8.0	9.0	6.3	12.4	7.4	7.7	-	5.7	6.7	6.7
				+++						

The following table displays the respondents' views on abortion for non-medical reasons cross-tabulated with their views on Medicare funding for such abortions:

Abortion for non-medical reasons		Total	Yes	No	Don't know
<b>%</b>		100	39	51	10
Medicare funding	Yes	39	<b>77</b>	10	30
	No	53	16	<b>85</b>	<b>40</b>

Of those who support abortion for non-medical reasons, about three-quarters support Medicare funding for it. However, in this study, a larger proportion did not support abortion for non-medical reasons and the vast majority of them do not support Medicare funding for it.

### 3.4. Respondent profile

#### 3.4.1. Gender/age group

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
				yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
%		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9

#### 3.4.2. Working status/Occupation of main income earner

	Present work status						Occupation of Main Breadwinner				
	Total	Full time	Part time	Home Duties	Retir -ed	Other	Manag	Skill	Cler-	Man-	None/
							erial	-ed	ical	ual/	N/W
Unweighted Base	1200	511	202	127	283	77	395	212	141	70	332
%		42.6	16.8	10.6	23.6	6.4	32.9	17.7	11.8	5.8	27.7

### 3.4.3. Household situation

	Home ownership		Household Situation			
	Total	Rent	Own home	Mostly alone	Couple	2 Par-ent family
Unweighted Base	1200	273	882	402	345	416
%		22.8	73.5	33.5	28.8	34.7

### 3.4.4. Location

	Region			State						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	757	443	225	390	300	30	105	120	30
%		63.1	36.9	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.8	10.0	2.5

**APPENDIX 1 – TABLES BY GENDER/AGE**

Table 1: 1 Do you believe abortion involves the taking of a human life?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	53.9	46.8	59.5	52.0	58.0	56.3	51.6	52.4
		---	+++					
No	33.9	41.5	28.0	33.7	31.5	32.4	34.0	37.9
		+++	---					
Don't know	12.2	11.7	12.5	14.3	10.5	11.3	14.4	9.7

Table 2: 2. Do you believe that by 20 weeks of pregnancy, the earliest point at which survival outside the womb is possible, that an unborn child is a human person with human rights?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	56.8	52.5	60.1	54.1	59.7	55.9	55.8	58.6
		---	+++					
No	26.1	32.6	21.0	28.0	24.8	26.9	27.0	23.3
		+++	---					
Don't know	17.2	15.0	18.9	17.9	15.5	17.2	17.2	18.1
		-	+					

Table 3: 3 Do you believe that abortion can harm the physical and/or mental health of a woman?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	78.6	78.0	79.0	84.9 +++	79.8	81.5	78.1	67.4 ---
No	11.6	11.2	11.9	7.9 --	11.3	10.1	12.1	17.6 +++
Don't know	9.8	10.8	9.1	7.2 -	8.8	8.4	9.8	15.0 +++

Table 4: 4 Do you support abortion for any reason whatsoever, that is abortion on demand?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	59.8	59.8	59.7	63.8	63.0	63.0	56.7	51.1 ---
No	31.9	31.8	32.0	28.3	29.4	26.9 -	32.1	44.1 +++
Don't know	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.9	7.6	10.1	11.2 +	4.8 --

Table 5: 5 Do you support abortion for non-medical, that is for financial or social reasons?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
No	50.8	49.8	51.5	42.7	49.6	45.0	55.8	63.4
				---		--		+++
Yes	39.4	40.2	38.8	46.6	39.9	45.0	35.3	28.2
				+++		+		---
Don't know	9.8	10.0	9.7	10.8	10.5	10.1	8.8	8.4

Table 6: 6 Do you believe that before having an abortion a woman should receive free independent counselling and information .....so she can make a fully informed decision?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	94.8	94.1	95.4	97.1	95.0	95.8	94.9	91.6
				++				--
Don't know	2.8	3.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	4.0
No	2.3	2.5	2.2	0.4	2.5	1.7	2.8	4.4
				--				++

Table 7: 7 Do you believe there should be a cooling-off period of several days between making an appointment have an abortion and the actual operation?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	86.2	85.6	86.6	83.9	87.0	89.1	88.4	83.7
No	8.5	9.3	7.9	8.6	8.8	7.6	8.8	8.8
Don't know	5.3	5.1	5.5	7.5	4.2	3.4	2.8	7.5
				+			-	

Table 8: 8 Do you believe that parental consent should normally be required for girls under 16 having an abortion?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	73.1	70.6	75.0	66.7	73.1	74.4	77.7	75.8
		-	+	---			+	
No	18.3	19.3	17.6	22.9	15.5	19.7	14.9	17.2
				++				
Don't know	8.6	10.0	7.4	10.4	11.3	5.9	7.4	7.0
					+	-		

Table 9: 9 Do you support conscientious objection to allow doctors and nurses to opt out of having to perform abortions against their will?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	72.9	71.6	74.0	72.0	72.7	78.2	72.6	69.6
						++		
No	14.9	17.2	13.1	13.6	17.2	13.4	16.3	14.1
		++	--					
Don't know	12.2	11.2	12.9	14.3	10.1	8.4	11.2	16.3
						--		++

Table 10: 10 Do you support Medicare funding for abortions for any reason whatsoever, that is, abortion on demand?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	53.6	56.1	51.6	59.5	56.7	60.9	47.0	41.9
				++		++	--	---
No	37.8	36.4	38.8	31.2	36.1	33.2	41.9	48.5
				---				+++
Don't know	8.7	7.6	9.5	9.3	7.1	5.9	11.2	9.7
						-		



Table 11: 11 Do you support Medicare funding for abortions for non-medical, that is, for financial or social reasons?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
No	53.3	52.1	54.2	43.4	51.3	52.9	56.3	65.2
				---				+++
Yes	38.8	40.9	37.1	47.7	40.3	42.9	34.0	26.4
				+++				---
Don't know	8.0	7.0	8.8	9.0	8.4	4.2	9.8	8.4
						--		

Table 12: 12 ....Do you believe that partial birth abortion should be banned in Australia?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	528	672	279	238	238	215	227
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		44.0	56.0	23.3	19.8	19.8	17.9	18.9
Yes	59.1	60.0	58.3	62.0	58.8	54.2	58.1	62.1
						-		
Don't know	21.1	19.9	22.0	19.0	22.7	23.5	16.7	22.9
							-	
No	19.8	20.1	19.6	19.0	18.5	22.3	25.1	15.0
							++	--

**APPENDIX 2 - RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

Market Facts  
60-68 Byng Road  
Birkdale Q 4159  
07 38229588

J2056  
April 2005

Q# \_\_\_\_\_

**National Opinion Poll on Abortion in Australia – Stage 1**

**SAMPLE:** 1200 Residents of Australia. Equal Males and Females – a good spread of age groups

**Introduction:** Good morning/afternoon/evening my name is \_\_\_\_\_ from Market Facts. We are speaking to residents of Australia on the issue of abortion.

Abortion is an operation or procedure which involves termination of an unwanted or difficult pregnancy, preventing the birth of a live child. Approximately 90,000 abortions are performed each year in Australia.

1. Do you believe abortion involves the taking of a human life?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

2. Do you believe that by 20 weeks of pregnancy, the earliest point at which survival outside the womb is possible, that an unborn child is a human person with human rights?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

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

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW

4. Do you support abortion for any reason whatsoever, that is, abortion on demand?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

5. Do you support abortion for non-medical, that is, for financial or social reasons?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

6. Do you believe that, before having an abortion, a woman should receive free independent counselling and information on the development of her unborn child, the nature of the procedure, the physical and psychological risks of the operation and the alternatives of keeping the child or adoption, so she can make a fully informed decision?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

7. 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

8. Do you believe that parental consent should normally be required for girls under 16 having an abortion?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

9. 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

**(READ OUT)** Over the past 35 years, Australian taxpayers have paid for more than 2 million abortions through Medicare and the public hospital system. As approximately 98% of abortions are performed for financial or social reasons, it has been said that abortion is the only elective surgery Medicare covers.

10. Do you support Medicare funding for abortions for any reason whatsoever, that is, abortion on demand?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

11. Do you support Medicare funding for abortions for non-medical, that is, for financial or social reasons?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

12. Partial birth abortion is a method of late-term abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy which was recently banned in the United States. It involves the abortionist inducing early labour and aborting the unborn child before full delivery is completed. Do you believe that partial birth abortion should be banned in Australia?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

RECORD GENDER Male 1 Female 2

What age group are you in? Would you be.....

18 - 24?	1	45 - 54 ?	4
25 - 34 ?	2	55 - 64 ?	5
35 - 44 ?	3	65 yrs and over	6

What is your present work status? Are you...

Working full-time?	1	Home duties?	4
Working part-time?	2	Retired?	5
Unemployed?	3	Incapacitated?	6

Are you renting, or living in your own home?

Renting	1
Own home	2

And what is the present occupation of the main income-earner of your household?  
**(PROBE, WRITE ON THE LINE AND THEN CODE BELOW)**

_____	1
Manager/Administrator/Professional	1
Para-professional/Trades person	2
Clerical worker/ Sales or Personal Service worker	3
Plant or machine operator/ Driver/ Labourer/ Farm worker	4
Main income-earner not working / No breadwinner	5

a) What is your household situation? Are you...

Living alone	1
A single person, sharing accommodation	2
Living as a couple	3
Living as a family (2 parent)	4
Living as a family (1 parent)	5

My supervisor is required to validate 10% of my work for that reason could I just have your first name please \_\_\_\_\_ and the telephone number I dialled was \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this survey. My name again is \_\_\_\_\_ from Market Facts.

As per call sheet:

Region:		State/Territory			
Metropolitan	1	Qld	1	SA	5
Other		NSW	2	NT	6
		Vic	3	WA	7
		Tas	4	ACT	8

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Appendix 3: Tables by age/gender

Appendix 4: Research Instrument

## 4. INTRODUCTION

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### 4.1. Background

The Australian Federation of Right to Life Associations had commissioned **Market Facts** to do an opinion poll among the people across Australia on the issue of abortion in April/ May 2005. A few follow-up questions on abortion were required to be asked of the populace. **This stage 2 of the survey was conducted in August/September 2005 using an entirely different sample of 1200 people.**

This document details the findings of the research study carried out in the second stage.

It should be noted that the Stage 2 questionnaire repeated three introductory questions from the Stage 1 questionnaire, before asking the three new questions (see Research Instrument in Appendix 4).

We have not reported the results of these repeated questions, preferring to use the Stage 1 figures. Suffice it to say that the results of all three questions in Stage 2 were more supportive of the pro-life position than the original sample surveyed in April/May.

### 4.2. Research Methodology

**Target Respondents:** Men and women aged 18 years and above, across Australia.

**Sample size:** A total of **1200** respondents were interviewed. The following table gives the spread of the sample across the various states and by age and gender of respondents.

<u>State</u>	<u>Nos.</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Nos.</u>
Queensland	226	Male	481
NSW	390	Female	719
Victoria	300	<u>Age</u>	
South Australia/Northern Territory (SA/NT)	104	18-34 yrs	296
Western Australia (WA)	120	35-44 yrs	276
ACT	30	45-54 yrs	223
Tasmania	30	55-64 yrs	195

<b>Region</b>		65 yrs+	208
Metro	750		
Other	450		

**Methodology:** Telephone interviews were carried out using a structured questionnaire.

**Sampling:** The sample was drawn from the White Pages.

**Fieldwork details:**

Total attempted calls – 10060 nos.

Connected calls - 5932 nos.

Refusals – 3468 nos.

Answering machines/no response – 2888 nos.

Other reasons for non response – 5104 nos.

Completed telephone questionnaires – 1200 nos.

Fieldwork commencement – 19 August 2005

Fieldwork completion – 5 Sept 2005

### 4.3. Analysis and Reporting

The data in this study has been presented by regions and states:

- Total
- Region
  - Metros
  - Other regions
- States
  - New South Wales
  - Queensland
  - Victoria
  - South Australia/Northern territory
  - Western Australia
  - ACT
  - Tasmania

Detailed tables have also been provided by gender and age as follows:

- Gender -Men
  - Women
- Age – 18-34 years
  - 35-44 years
  - 45-54 years
  - 55-64 years
  - 65 +years

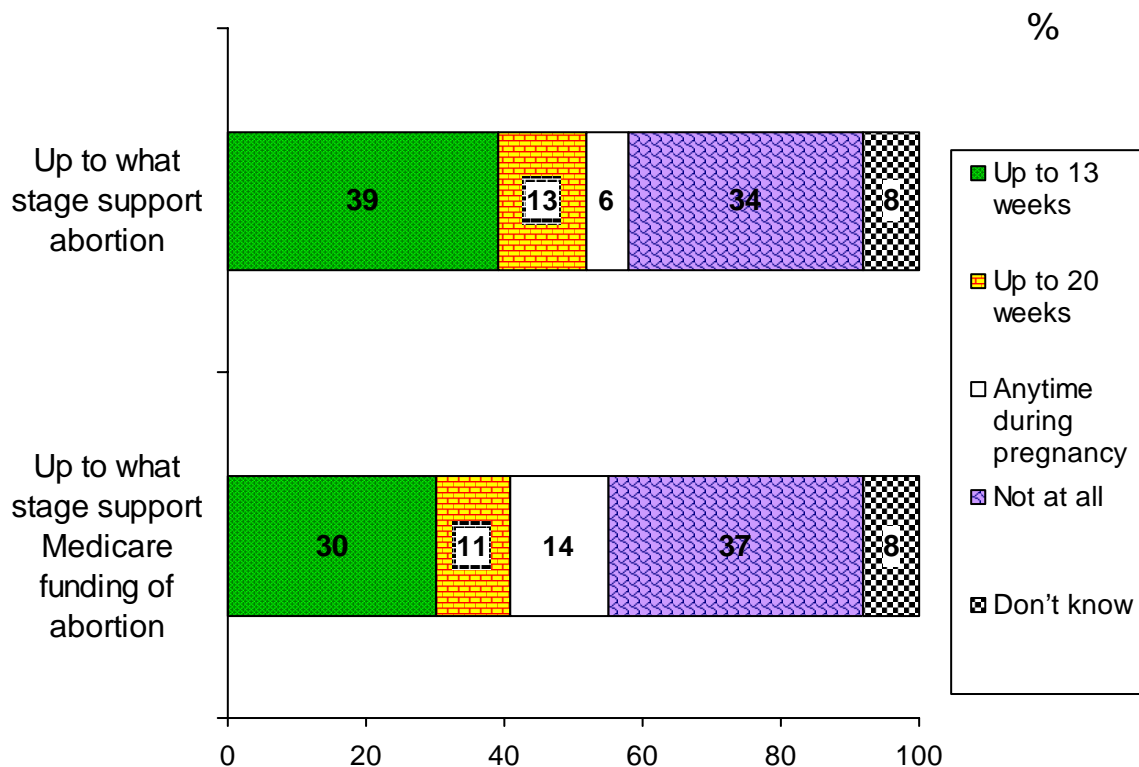
## 5. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### ***Stage up to which there is support for abortion***

About a third did not support it at all. Of the others, most supported it in the earlier stages of pregnancy. Similar responses were seen for Medicare funding of abortion.

73% of Australians are opposed to abortion taking place after the first trimester of pregnancy, i.e. 13 weeks. Only 6% are in favour of abortion occurring past 20 weeks.

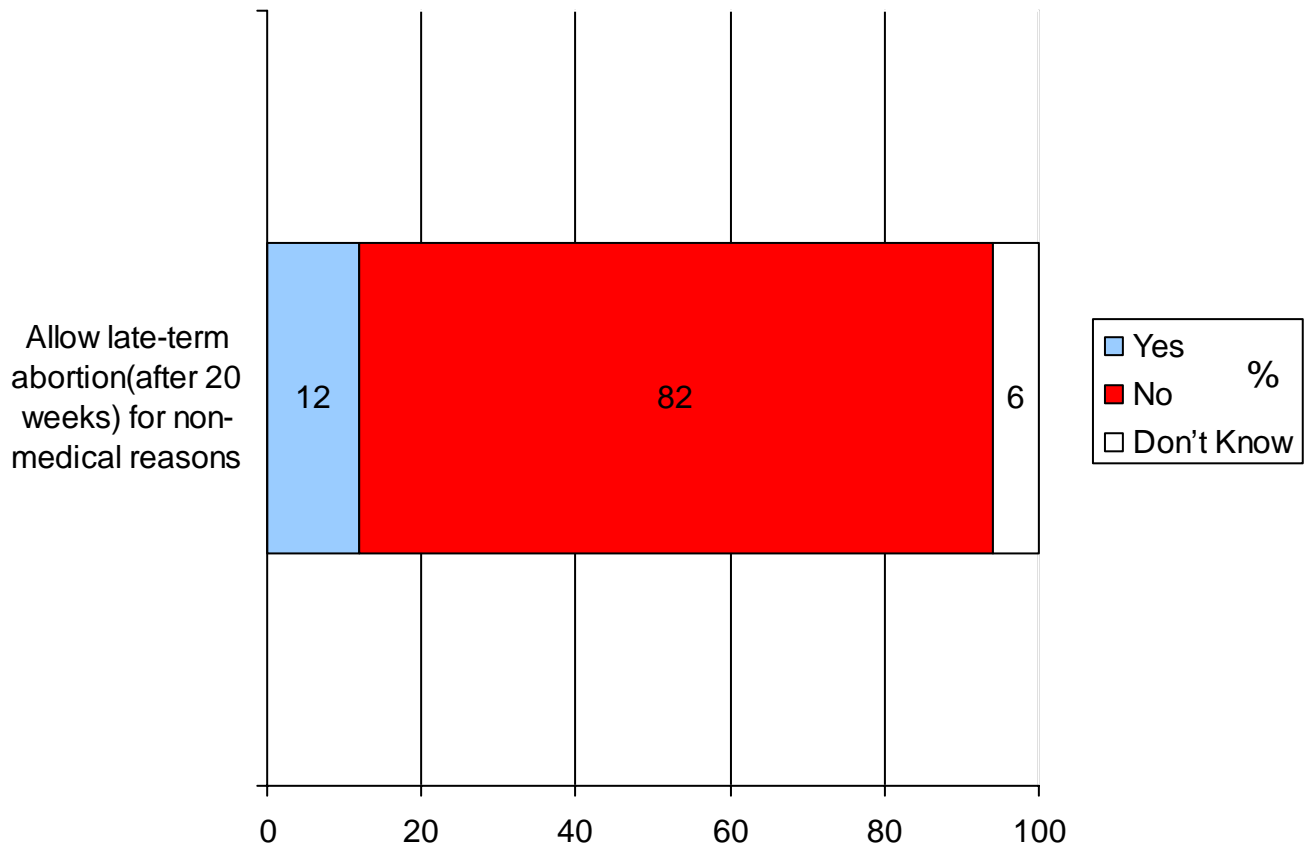
78% of Australians want the time limit on Medicare funding restricted to 20 weeks of pregnancy and more than two-thirds want it reduced to 13 weeks.





**View on justification of late-term abortion**

On the issue of late-term abortion (after 20 weeks of pregnancy), very few – only 12% - were in favour of allowing it for non-medical reasons i.e. for reasons of financial or emotional stress.



**Respondent profile**

The sample was skewed more towards women (60%) and was spread near equally across the various age groups.

63% of the respondents were residing in the metropolitan areas of the country and the spread across the various states was as per the population pattern existing in the country.

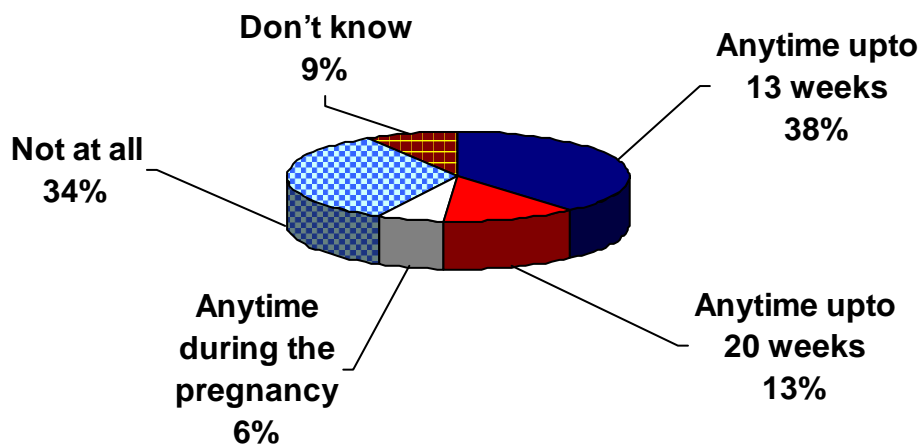
56% of all respondents were working (35% working full time), 13% were engaged in home duties and about a fourth retired.

27% of the sample was living alone or as singles sharing accommodation, 34% were living as couples and the rest (38%) as families.

## 6. DETAILED FINDINGS

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### 6.1. Up to which stage of pregnancy would you allow abortion?



About a third of the respondents opined that they would not allow abortion at any stage. A relatively higher proportion of these respondents were from the non-metro regions and from Queensland. A significantly higher proportion of the older age group (65+yrs - 43%) were not in favour of abortion at any stage.

Of the other respondents, most stated that they would allow it only in the early stages of pregnancy – this response came more from those in the metro regions and those hailing from NSW and WA.

13% would allow abortion up to half way through the pregnancy. Only 6% would allow abortion anytime during the pregnancy – a relatively higher proportion of men and those living alone, gave this response.

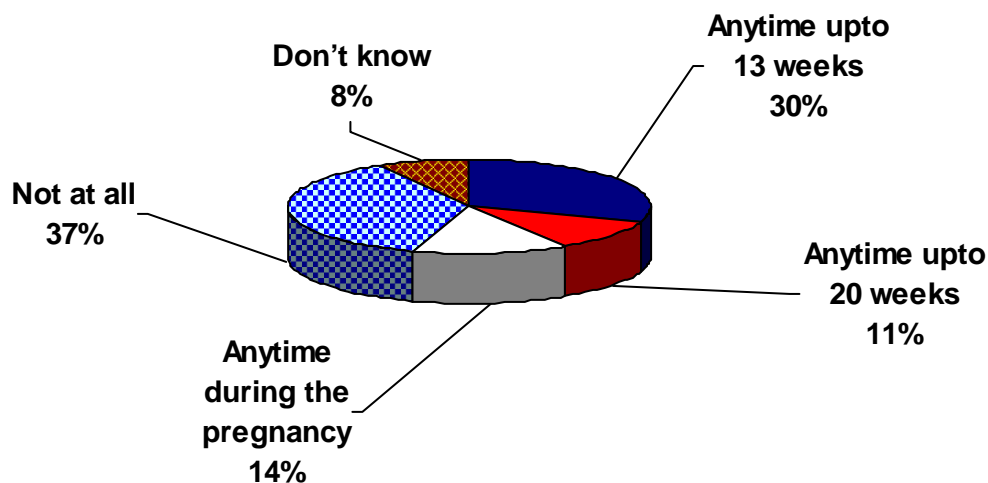
**A total of 72% of Australians are opposed to abortion after the first trimester (13 weeks), with 85% opposed to late-term abortion after 20 weeks.**

Q4 Up to what stage of pregnancy would you allow abortion?

	Region			Stat						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	750	450	226	390	300	30	104	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		62.5	37.5	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.7	10.0	2.5
At any time up to 13 weeks, that is 3 months	38.5	42.8	31.3	31.4	44.4	31.7	40.0	26.9	56.7	50.0
		+++	---	--	+++	---		--	+++	
At any time up to 20 weeks, that is half-way through preg.	12.6	15.7	7.3	8.4	9.7	22.7	10.0	12.5	5.0	13.3
		+++	---	--	--	+++			---	
At any time during pregnancy up to birth	5.9	5.1	7.3	6.6	5.9	4.7	3.3	4.8	9.2	6.7
Not at all	34.0	28.5	43.1	42.0	32.6	35.3	33.3	38.5	20.0	20.0
		---	+++	+++					---	
Don't know	9.0	7.9	10.9	11.5	7.4	5.7	13.3	17.3	9.2	10.0
		-	+			--		+++		

## 6.2. Up to what stage of pregnancy would you approve Medicare funding of abortion?

Information read out to respondents - *Over the past 35 years, Australian taxpayers have paid for more than 2 million abortions through Medicare and the public hospital system. As approximately 98% of abortions are performed for financial or social reasons, it has been said that abortion is the only elective surgery Medicare covers. Up to what stage would you approve Medicare funding of abortion?*



37% opined that they would not approve of Medicare funding of abortion at any stage – in the non-metro areas, this proportion was as high as 47% and in Queensland 43%. Again, a higher proportion of the older respondents gave this response.

Of the others, more than half (overall 30%) approved of Medicare funding for abortion only in the early stages of pregnancy. This response came more from the respondents in the metro areas and in NSW.

11% would allow Medicare funding of abortion up to half way through the pregnancy. 14% would allow it anytime during the pregnancy – a relatively higher proportion of men and those living alone gave this response.

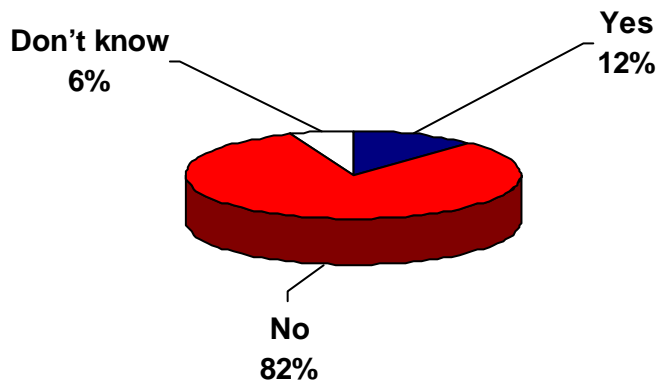
**A total of 67% of Australians are opposed to Medicare funding of abortion after the first trimester (13 weeks), with 78% opposed to Medicare funding of late-term abortion (after 20 weeks).**

Q5 Up to what stage of pregnancy would you approve Medicare funding of abortion?

	Region			Stat						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	750	450	226	390	300	30	104	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		62.5	37.5	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.7	10.0	2.5
At any time up to 13 weeks, that is 3 months	29.8	33.3	23.8	20.4	38.2	27.0	36.7	17.3	34.2	36.7
		+++	---	---	+++			---		
At any time up to 20 weeks, that is half-way through preg.	11.3	14.7	5.8	4.4	9.5	21.3	6.7	13.5	5.0	10.0
		+++	---	---		+++			--	
At any time during pregnancy up to birth	13.9	13.1	15.3	21.2	11.0	5.3	13.3	17.3	26.7	20.0
				+++	--	---			+++	
Not at all	37.4	31.6	47.1	42.9	35.9	42.0	40.0	41.3	20.0	23.3
		---	+++	+		+			---	
Don't know	7.6	7.3	8.0	11.1	5.4	4.3	3.3	10.6	14.2	10.0
				++	--	--			+++	

### 6.3. Would you allow late-term abortion for non-medical reasons, i.e. financial/emotional stress?

The following question relates to late-term abortion, which is abortion after 20 weeks, or about 5 months, of pregnancy. In Australia premature babies can survive from 23 weeks, although some babies as young as 20 weeks have survived overseas. Would you allow late-term abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy for non-medical reasons, that is in cases of financial or emotional stress?



When discussing supporting abortion for non-medical reasons like financial or emotional stress, large majority of the respondents (82%) did not support it.

A significantly higher proportion of these respondents were from WA.

There were variations by gender – with more women (86%) than men (75%) not supporting late abortion for non-medical purposes.

When analysing the data by working status, it was seen that a significantly large proportion of those engaged in home duties (93%) were against this issue.

Among those supporting the case, a large proportion were those living as singles/alone (45%) and males (55%).

Q6 Would you allow late-term abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy for non-medical reasons, that is in cases of financial or emotional stress?

	Region			Stat						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	750	450	226	390	300	30	104	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		62.5	37.5	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.7	10.0	2.5
Yes	12.4	11.2	14.4	14.6	10.5	6.0	20.0	20.2	20.8	16.7
		-	+			---		++	+++	
No	81.5	82.5	79.8	75.2	84.1	91.0	73.3	76.0	68.3	80.0
				---		+++			---	
Don't know	6.1	6.3	5.8	10.2	5.4	3.0	6.7	3.8	10.8	3.3
				+++		--			++	

## 6.4. Respondent profile

### 6.4.1. Gender/age group

	Region			Stat						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	750	450	226	390	300	30	104	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		62.5	37.5	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.7	10.0	2.5
Female	59.9	62.7	55.3	50.9	60.3	59.7	80.0	87.5	50.0	50.0
		++	--	---			++	+++	--	
Male	40.1	37.3	44.7	49.1	39.7	40.3	20.0	12.5	50.0	50.0
		--	++	+++			--	---	++	

**6.4.2. Working status/Occupation of main income earner**

	Region			Stat						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/ NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	750	450	226	390	300	30	104	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		62.5	37.5	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.7	10.0	2.5
Working Full-time	35.2	33.2	38.4	32.7	32.8	39.3	26.7	32.7	39.2	43.3
Retired	23.7	22.5	25.6	28.8	24.9	13.0	26.7	32.7	24.2	40.0
		-	+	++		+		++		++
Working Part-time	20.7	22.7	17.3	22.1	19.5	24.7	26.7	18.3	15.8	6.7
Home duties	12.7	12.7	12.7	11.9	14.1	14.0	13.3	10.6	10.0	3.3
Unemployed	4.0	4.7	2.9	2.7	3.3	7.7	3.3	3.8	0.8	-
Student	2.2	2.4	1.8	1.3	2.6	-	-	-	9.2	6.7
						+++			-	
Incapacitated	1.2	1.5	0.7	0.4	2.1	1.0	-	1.0	0.8	-
					++				+++	+
Refused	0.5	0.4	0.7	-	0.8	0.3	3.3	1.0	-	-



### 6.4.3. Household situation

	Region			Stat						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/		
								NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	750	450	226	390	300	30	104	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		62.5	37.5	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.7	10.0	2.5
Living as a couple	33.9	32.0	37.1	37.2	26.9	41.7	20.0	32.7	35.8	33.3
		-	+		---	+++				
Living as a family (2 parent family)	31.6	33.9	27.8	35.8	39.5	19.0	43.3	31.7	29.2	20.0
		++	--		+++	---				
Living alone	20.3	18.5	23.1	15.5	17.7	28.0	23.3	18.3	17.5	26.7
		-	+	--		+++				
Single person/ sharing accommodation	7.0	9.1	3.6	7.1	4.6	8.3	3.3	8.7	8.3	16.7
		+++	---		--					++
Living as a family (1 parent family)	5.5	5.5	5.6	4.0	7.9	2.0	6.7	5.8	9.2	3.3
					+++	---			+	
Refused	1.8	1.1	2.9	0.4	3.3	1.0	3.3	2.9	-	-
		--	++	-	+++					

### 6.4.4. Location

	Region			Stat						
	Total	Metro	Other	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA/		
								NT	WA	ACT
Unweighted Base	1200	750	450	226	390	300	30	104	120	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		62.5	37.5	18.8	32.5	25.0	2.5	8.7	10.0	2.5
Metropolitan	62.5	100.0	-	43.8	60.0	72.0	43.3	69.2	71.7	100.0
		+++		---		+++	--		++	+++
Non - Metro	37.5	-	100.0	56.2	40.0	28.0	56.7	30.8	28.3	-
			+++	+++		---	++		--	

**APPENDIX 3 – TABLES BY GENDER/AGE**

Table 1: 1. Up to what stage of pregnancy would you allow abortion?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	481	719	296	276	223	195	208
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		40.1	59.9	24.7	23.0	18.6	16.3	17.3
At any time up to 13 weeks,38.5 that is 3 months	38.5	35.1	40.8	38.5	37.7	36.3	44.6	36.5
		-	+				+	
At any time up to 20 weeks,12.6 that is half-way through preg.	12.6	14.1	11.5	18.2	15.9	15.2	7.2	1.9
				+++	+		--	---
At any time during pregnancy up to birth	5.9	7.7	4.7	4.7	7.6	5.4	5.1	6.3
		++	--					
Not at all	34.0	33.1	34.6	32.1	28.6	33.2	36.4	42.8
					--			+++
Don't know	9.0	10.0	8.3	6.4	10.1	9.9	6.7	12.5

Table 2: 2 Up to what stage of pregnancy would you approve Medicare funding of abortion?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	481	719	296	276	223	195	208
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		40.1	59.9	24.7	23.0	18.6	16.3	17.3
At any time up to 13 weeks,29.8 that is 3 months	29.8	28.3	30.7	30.7	29.7	30.9	29.7	27.4
At any time up to 20 weeks,11.3 that is half-way through preg.	11.3	10.6	11.8	14.5	16.3	12.1	7.7	2.4
				++	+++		-	---
At any time during pregnancy up to birth	13.9	18.5	10.8	12.5	13.4	15.2	16.9	12.0
		+++	---					
Not at all	37.4	34.7	39.2	35.1	32.2	35.9	40.5	46.6
					--			+++
Don't know	7.6	7.9	7.4	7.1	8.3	5.8	5.1	11.5

Table 3: 3 Would you allow late-term abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy for non-medical reasons, that is in cases of financial or emotional stress?

	Gender			Age Group				
	Total	Male	Female	18-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65+ yrs
Unweighted Base	1200	481	719	296	276	223	195	208
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		40.1	59.9	24.7	23.0	18.6	16.3	17.3
Yes	12.4	17.3	9.2	11.5	11.2	13.9	13.8	12.0
		+++	---					
No	81.5	74.8	86.0	81.8	85.5	80.7	80.5	77.9
		---	+++		+			
Don't know	6.1	7.9	4.9	6.8	3.3	5.4	5.6	10.1
		++	--		--			+++

**APPENDIX 4 - RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

Market Facts  
60-68 Byng Road  
Birkdale Q 4159  
07 38229588

J2074  
August 2005

Q# \_\_\_\_\_

**National Opinion Poll on Abortion in Australia – Stage 2**

**SAMPLE:** 1200 Residents of Australia. Equal Males and Females – a good spread of age groups

**Introduction:** Good morning/afternoon/evening my name is \_\_\_\_\_ from Market Facts. We are speaking to residents of Australia on the issue of abortion. Abortion is an operation or procedure which involves termination of an unwanted or difficult pregnancy, preventing the birth of a live child. Approximately 90,000 abortions are performed each year in Australia.

1. Do you believe abortion involves the taking of a human life?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

2. Do you believe that by 20 weeks of pregnancy, the earliest point at which survival outside the womb is possible, that an unborn child is a human person with human rights?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

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

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

4. Up to what stage of pregnancy would you allow abortion? **(READ OUT FIRST 4 CHOICES)**

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
At any time during pregnancy up to birth	4
Don't know	5

**(READ OUT)** Over the past 35 years, Australian taxpayers have paid for more than 2 million abortions through Medicare and the public hospital system. As approximately 98% of abortions are performed for financial or social reasons, it has been said that abortion is the only elective surgery Medicare covers.

5. Up to what stage of pregnancy would you approve Medicare funding of abortion? **(READ OUT FIRST 4 CHOICES)**

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
At any time during pregnancy up to birth	4
Don't know	5

**(READ OUT)** The following question relates to late-term abortion, which is abortion after 20 weeks, or about 5 months, of pregnancy. In Australia premature babies can survive from 23 weeks, although some babies as young as 20 weeks have survived overseas.

6. Would you allow *late-term* abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy for *non-medical* reasons, that is in cases of financial or emotional stress?

YES 1 NO 2 DON'T KNOW 3

RECORD GENDER Male 1 Female 2

What age group are you in? Would you be.....

18 - 24 ?	1	45 - 54 ?	4
25 - 34 ?	2	55 - 64 ?	5
35 - 44 ?	3	65 yrs and over	6

What is your present work status? Are you...

Working full-time?	1	Home duties?	4
Working part-time?	2	Retired?	5
Unemployed?	3	Incapacitated?	6

Are you renting, or living in your own home?

Renting	1
Own home	2

And what is the present occupation of the main income-earner of your household?  
**(PROBE, WRITE ON THE LINE AND THEN CODE BELOW)**

_____ Manager/Administrator/Professional	1
Para-professional/Trades person	2
Clerical worker/ Sales or Personal Service worker	3
Plant or machine operator/ Driver/ Labourer/ Farm worker	4
Main income-earner not working / No breadwinner	5

b) What is your household situation? Are you...

Living alone	1
A single person, sharing accommodation	2
Living as a couple	3
Living as a family (2 parent)	4
Living as a family (1 parent)	5

My supervisor is required to validate 10% of my work for that reason could I just have your first name please \_\_\_\_\_ and the telephone number I dialled was \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this survey. My name again is \_\_\_\_\_ from Market Facts.

As per call sheet:

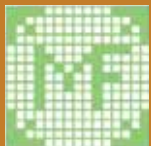
Region:		State/Territory			
Metropolitan	1	Qld	1	SA	5
Fringe Metro	2	NSW	2	NT	6
Provincial	3	Vic	3	WA	7
Rural	4	Tas	4	ACT	8



**Australian Federation  
of Right to Life Associations**

PO Box 333  
Civic Square ACT 2608

Telephone (02) 6253 3100  
Facsimile (02) 6253 0362  
[www.righttolife.asn.au](http://www.righttolife.asn.au)



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