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# I C P R

Australian National Political Attitudes — Wave I

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Wave I

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AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL POLITICAL ATTITUDES

WAVE I

(ICPR STUDY NUMBER 7282)

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## STUDY DESCRIPTION

THE 1967 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL POLITICAL ATTITUDES STUDY WAS CONDUCTED BY DONALD AITKIN, MICHAEL KAHAN, AND DONALD E. STOKES, AS PART OF A PROPOSED TWO-WAVE STUDY OF THE POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR OF AUSTRALIAN VOTERS AND THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. THE PRESENT STUDY, WAVE ONE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SURVEY PROJECT, EXAMINES THE POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND INTERESTS OF A SAMPLE OF 2054 AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS WHO WERE INTERVIEWED DURING SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, AND NOVEMBER OF 1967, APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AFTER THE 1966 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL ELECTION.

THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE STUDY WAS THE REACTION OF THE VOTERS TO THE PARTIES, LEADERS, AND POLITICAL ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA IN 1967. IN ORDER TO TAP A RESPONDENT'S REACTIONS TO THESE ITEMS, A SERIES OF QUESTIONS WAS ASKED WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO ELICIT EVALUATIONS OF THE PARTIES AND THE POLITICAL LEADERS OF AUSTRALIA, AND SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THESE EVALUATIONS. THE INVESTIGATORS USED THIS INFORMATION TO CONSTRUCT SEVERAL SUMMARY MEASURES, WHICH HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DATA.

RESPONDENTS WERE ALSO ASKED THEIR OPINIONS ON A NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, SUCH AS COMPULSORY VOTING, AID TO SCHOOLS, AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION, TAXATION FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIETNAM WAR, DRINKING HOURS, THE SALE OF WHEAT TO CHINA, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF AUSTRALIA TO THE UNITED STATES. FOR SEVERAL OF THESE ISSUES, THE STRENGTH AS WELL AS THE DIRECTION OF OPINION WAS OBTAINED; AND ON SELECTED ISSUES, RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED NOT ONLY FOR THEIR OWN OPINIONS, BUT ALSO TO IDENTIFY THE STANDS OF SEVERAL OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES. IN ADDITION, RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED TO PLACE THEMSELVES AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES ON AN IDEOLOGICAL CONTINUUM. A SERIES OF PARTY IDENTIFICATION QUESTIONS WAS ALSO INCLUDED.

OTHER QUESTIONS PROBED EACH RESPONDENT'S INTEREST IN AUSTRALIAN POLITICS, VOTING HISTORY, SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICS, AND INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL PARTY WORK. QUESTIONS WERE INCLUDED TO ASCERTAIN THE EXTENT OF THE RESPONDENT'S KNOWLEDGE OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, INCLUDING THE NATURE AND FREQUENCY OF ANY CONTACTS WITH STATE AND FEDERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, PERCEPTIONS OF THE M.P.'S ISSUE POSITIONS, AND EVALUATIONS OF THE M.P.'S PERFORMANCE. THE DEGREE OF THE RESPONDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WAS

ASCERTAINED, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON LABOUR UNION MEMBERSHIP.

RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED TO DESCRIBE AND EVALUATE SEVERAL DIMENSIONS OF THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CLIMATE OF AUSTRALIA, AND TO COMPARE THEIR PRESENT ECONOMIC WELL-BEING TO THEIR PAST SITUATION AND TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EXISTENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL CLASSES IN AUSTRALIA WAS INCLUDED, AND RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED TO PLACE THEMSELVES IN A SOCIAL CLASS AND TO DESCRIBE THEIR POTENTIAL FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY.

FINALLY, THE FAMILY BACKGROUND OF THE HOUSEHOLD HEAD AND HIS/HER SPOUSE WAS OBTAINED, INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE EACH WAS BORN AND BROUGHT UP, THEIR PARENTS' PLACES OF ORIGIN, AND THEIR PARENTS' OCCUPATIONS, EDUCATION, PERCEIVED SOCIAL CLASS, AND RELIGION. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA WERE OBTAINED ABOUT EACH HOUSEHOLD AND ITS MEMBERS. THIS "HOUSEHOLD ENUMERATION" SECTION INCLUDED INFORMATION ABOUT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD, THEIR AGES, SEX, AND EDUCATION, AS WELL AS INDICATORS OF THE TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND HOME OWNERSHIP.

#### SAMPLING INFORMATION

THE INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED IN THE 1967 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL POLITICAL ATTITUDES STUDY WERE SELECTED FROM A MULTISTAGE STRATIFIED PROBABILITY SAMPLE. THE PRIMARY SAMPLING UNIT WAS THE FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, OR FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION; THE ELECTORAL ROLL WAS THE SAMPLING FRAME. INTERVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED IN EIGHTY OF THE 122 FEDERAL DIVISIONS.

A SAMPLE DESIGN WAS DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD ALLOW ANALYSIS OF VOTER ATTITUDES WITHIN SELECTED FEDERAL DIVISIONS, AS WELL AS COMPARISONS ACROSS THE SIX AUSTRALIAN STATES. THE STATES WERE TREATED AS DOMAINS, OR PRIMARY STRATA, AND DIVISIONS WITHIN EACH STATE WERE SORTED INTO SUBSTRATA ACCORDING TO POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS DETERMINED IN ADVANCE. THESE CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDED SUCH VARIABLES AS MEASURES OF THE STRENGTH OF VARIOUS PARTIES IN SELECTED ELECTIONS, THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION LIVING IN RURAL AND IN URBAN AREAS, THE DOMINANT RURAL INDUSTRY, AND THE SIZE OF THE ELECTORAL POPULATION IN 1966. BY TREATING EACH

STATE AS A SEPARATE DOMAIN, THE INVESTIGATORS WERE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS. STRATIFICATION ALSO ALLOWED THE GROUPING OF SIMILAR DIVISIONS TOGETHER AND THE SELECTION OF DIVISIONS TO REPRESENT EACH GROUP OF POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS, WHICH IN TURN ALLOWED THE SELECTION OF RESPONDENTS FROM ALL SUCH GROUPS. SUBSTRATIFICATION WITHIN SOME DIVISIONS ALSO OCCURRED; FOR EXAMPLE, RURAL DIVISIONS WERE IN SOME INSTANCES REGARDED AS A SET OF SUBDIVISIONS WHICH WERE THEN STRATIFIED ON SELECTED POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THE DIVISIONS.

THE INVESTIGATORS EXCLUDED BOTH THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY FROM THEIR UNIVERSE BECAUSE OF THEIR NON-STATE STATUS. THE REDUCTION OF THE SAMPLE WAS ALSO PERMITTED BY THEIR SMALL SIZE; THE COMBINED VOTERS OF THE TWO TERRITORIES REPRESENT ONE PERCENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORATE. THE SIX STATES INCLUDED, WITH THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL DIVISIONS SELECTED FOR STUDY IN PARENTHESES, WERE: NEW SOUTH WALES (46), VICTORIA (33), QUEENSLAND (18), SOUTH AUSTRALIA (11), WESTERN AUSTRALIA (9), AND TASMANIA (5).

USERS WHO DESIRE MORE DETAILED SAMPLING INFORMATION MAY OBTAIN FROM ICPR A COPY OF THE SAMPLING DESCRIPTION PROVIDED BY THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS.

#### FILE STRUCTURE

THE DATA ARE AVAILABLE FROM ICPR IN TWO FORMATS: A CARD IMAGE FILE AND AN OSIRIS DATASET. THE CARD IMAGE FILE CONTAINS 9 DECKS PER RESPONDENT IN A FORMAT BASED ON 80 COLUMN PUNCHED CARDS. THE DATA ARE SORTED BY INTERVIEW NUMBER WITH ALL DECKS FOR EACH CASE TOGETHER IN ASCENDING ORDER. THERE ARE TWO COMPONENTS TO THE OSIRIS DATASET. THE OSIRIS DICTIONARY GIVES THE FORMAT AND OTHER INFORMATION FOR EACH VARIABLE IN THE OSIRIS DATA FILE. THE DICTIONARY OR DICTIONARY-CODEBOOK FILE IS USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OSIRIS SOFTWARE PACKAGE. THE OSIRIS DATA FILE IS CONSTRUCTED WITH A SINGLE LOGICAL RECORD OF 592 BYTES FOR EACH RESPONDENT.

THE OSIRIS DATA FILE CAN BE ACCESSED DIRECTLY BY SOFTWARE PACKAGES WHICH DO NOT USE THE OSIRIS DICTIONARY BY SPECIFYING THE TAPE LOCATIONS OF THE DESIRED VARIABLES. THE TAPE LOCATIONS ARE CONTAINED IN THE OSIRIS CODEBOOK.