

**Australia**  
**ISSP 1985 – Role of Government I**  
**Questionnaire**

**Confidential**

# **National Social Science Survey**

Research School of Social Sciences  
The Australian National University  
Canberra ACT



## **International Social Survey Programme**

Australia · Britain  
Germany · United States





EVERYONE SHOULD ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS!

\*\*\*\*\*

----- SECTION 5. INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -----

>> Next comes the international part of the questionnaire. These questions are being asked in Australia, Britain, Germany, Austria, and the United States. Because we need to ask them in exactly the same order as they are asked in the other countries, we'll have to go back over some topics we've already covered, as well as covering entirely new topics.

>> These are important questions and we think you'll find them very interesting.

1a. Suppose a newspaper got hold of confidential government papers about defence plans and wanted to publish them.

- Should the newspaper be allowed to publish the papers? . . . . . 1
- or
- Should the government have the power to prevent publication? . . . . 2

b. Now suppose the confidential government papers were about economic plans.

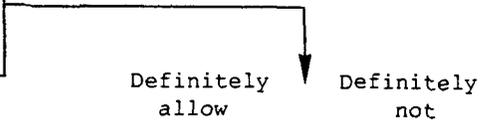
- Should the newspaper be allowed to publish the papers? . . . . . 1
- or
- Should the government have the power to prevent publication? . . . . 2

2. In general, would you say that people should obey the law without exception, or are there exceptional occasions on which people should follow their consciences even if it means breaking the law?

- Obey the law without exception . . . . . 1
- Follow conscience on occasions . . . . . 2

3. There are many ways people or organizations can protest against a government action they strongly oppose. Which of these do you think should be allowed and which not allowed...

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Definitely allowed     |
| 2 | Probably allowed       |
| 3 | Probably not allowed   |
| 4 | Definitely not allowed |



	1	2	3	4
a. Organizing public meetings to protest against the government . . . . .	1	2	3	4
b. Publishing pamphlets to protest against the government . . . . .	1	2	3	4
c. Organizing protest marches and demonstrations . . . . .	1	2	3	4
d. Occupying a government office and stopping work there for several days. . . . .	1	2	3	4
e. Seriously damaging government buildings . . . . .	1	2	3	4
f. Organizing a nationwide strike of all workers against the government . . . . .	1	2	3	4

----- INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -----

4. There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority...

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Definitely allowed     |
| 2 | Probably allowed       |
| 3 | Probably not allowed   |
| 4 | Definitely not allowed |

Definitely allow      ↓      Definitely not

First, consider people who want to overthrow the government by revolution. Do you think such people should be allowed to...

- |    |  |   |   |   |   |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|
| a. | Hold public meetings to express their views? . . | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| b. | Teach 15-year-olds in schools? . . . . .         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| c. | Publish books expressing their views? . . . . .  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

5. Second, consider people who believe that whites are racially superior to all other races. Do you think such people should be allowed to ...

- |    |  |   |   |   |   |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|
| a. | Hold public meetings to express their views? . . | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| b. | Teach 15-year-olds in schools? . . . . .         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| c. | Publish books expressing their views? . . . . .  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

6. Suppose the police get an anonymous tip that a man with a long criminal record is planning to break into a warehouse. Do you think police should be allowed without a court order to ...

- |    |  |   |   |   |   |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|
| a. | Keep the man under surveillance . . . . .        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| b. | Tap his telephone . . . . .                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| c. | Open his mail . . . . .                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| d. | Detain the man overnight for questioning . . . . | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

7. Now, suppose the tip is about a man without a criminal record. Do you think police should be allowed without a court order to ...

- |    |  |   |   |   |   |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|
| a. | Keep the man under surveillance . . . . .        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| b. | Tap his telephone . . . . .                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| c. | Open his mail . . . . .                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| d. | Detain the man overnight for questioning . . . . | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

8. All systems of justice make mistakes, but which do you think is worse?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| To convict an innocent person . . . . .  | 1 |
| To let a guilty person go free . . . . . | 2 |

----- INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -----

9. The federal government has a lot of different pieces of information about people which computers can bring together very quickly. Is this ...

- A very serious threat to individual privacy . . . . . 1
- A fairly serious threat . . . . . 2
- Not a serious threat . . . . . 3
- Not a threat at all to individual privacy . . . . . 4

10. Some people think those with high incomes should pay a larger proportion (percentage) of their earnings in taxes than those who earn low incomes. Other people think that those with high incomes and those with low incomes should pay the same proportion of their earnings in taxes. Do you think those with high incomes should ...

- Pay a much larger proportion . . . . . 1
- Pay a larger proportion . . . . . 2
- Pay the same proportion as those who earn low incomes . . 3
- Pay a smaller proportion . . . . . 4
- Pay a much smaller proportion . . . . . 5

11.

- |       |                            |
|-------|----------------------------|
| Yes!! | Agree strongly             |
| Yes   | Agree                      |
| ??    | Neither agree nor disagree |
| No    | Disagree                   |
| No!!  | Disagree strongly          |

↓  
Please circle a whole word

- a. It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!
- b. A person whose parents are rich has a better chance of earning a lot of money than a person whose parents are poor . . . . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!
- c. A person whose father is a professional has a much better chance of getting ahead in life than a person whose father is a factory worker . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!
- d. In Australia what you achieve in life depends largely on your family background . . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!  
1 2 3 4 5

12. Would you say that opportunities for a university education are, in general, better or worse for women than for men?

- Much better for women . . . . . 1
- Better for women . . . . . 2
- No difference . . . . . 3
- Worse for women . . . . . 4
- Much worse for women . . . . . 5

13. How about job opportunities for women -- do you think they are, in general, better or worse than job opportunities for men with similar education and experience?

- Much better for women . . . . . 1
- Better for women . . . . . 2
- No difference . . . . . 3
- Worse for women . . . . . 4
- Much worse for women . . . . . 5

----- INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -----

14. And how about income and wages -- compared with men who have similar education and jobs -- are women, in general, paid better or worse than men?

- Women are paid much better . . . . . 1
- Women are paid better . . . . . 2
- No difference . . . . . 3
- Women are paid worse . . . . . 4
- Women are paid much worse . . . . . 5

15.

- Yes!! Strongly in favour
- Yes In favour
- ?? Neither for nor against
- No Against
- No!! Strongly against

Please circle a whole word

- a. The government should increase opportunities for women in business and industry . . . . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!
- b. The government should increase opportunities for women to go to university . . . . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!
- c. Women should be given preferential treatment when applying for jobs or promotions . . . . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!  
 1 2 3 4 5

16. Here are some things that might be taught in school. How important is it that schools teach each of these to 15-year-olds?

- 1 Essential, must be taught
- 2 Very important
- 3 Fairly important
- 4 Not very important
- 5 Not needed, should not be taught

- |   | Essential |   |   |   |   | Not needed |
|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|------------|
|   | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |
| a. Reading, writing and mathematics . . . . .     | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |
| b. Sex education . . . . .                        | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |
| c. Respect for authority . . . . .                | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |
| d. History, literature and the arts . . . . .     | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |
| e. Ability to make one's own judgements . . . . . | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |
| f. Job training . . . . .                         | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |
| g. Science and technology . . . . .               | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |
| h. Concern for minorities and the poor . . . . .  | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |
| i. Discipline and orderliness . . . . .           | 1         | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |            |

17. How do you feel about opportunities for young people to go to university? Should opportunities be ...

- Increased a lot . . . . . 1
- Increased a little . . . . . 2
- Kept the same as now . . . . . 3
- Reduced a little . . . . . 4
- Reduced a lot . . . . . 5

----- INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -----

18. Some people think the government should provide financial assistance to university students. Others think the government should not provide such aid. In each of the circumstances listed below should the government...

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Give GRANTS that would <u>not</u> have to be paid back |
| 2 | Make LOANS that <u>would</u> have to be paid back      |
| 3 | Give NO government assistance                          |

PLEASE CIRCLE A PHRASE

- |   |                  |                 |                    |
|---|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| a. For university students whose parents have a low income . . . . .        | Give grants      | Make loans      | No assistance      |
| b. For students who have outstanding grades in secondary school . . . . .   | Give grants      | Make loans      | No assistance      |
| c. For students who have average grades and middle income parents . . . . . | Give grants<br>1 | Make loans<br>2 | No assistance<br>3 |

19. Sometimes public authorities intervene with parents in raising their children. Please show in each of the following cases how far you think public authorities should go in dealing with a 10-year-old child and his or her parents...

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Take <u>no</u> action                  |
| 2 | Give <u>warnings</u> or counselling    |
| 3 | <u>Take</u> the child from its parents |

PLEASE CIRCLE A PHRASE

- |  |                |                   |                 |
|--|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| a. The child uses drugs and the parents don't do anything about it . . . . .                                 | No action      | Give warning      | Take child      |
| b. The child frequently skips school and the parents don't do anything . . . . .                             | No action      | Give warning      | Take child      |
| c. The parents regularly let the child stay out late at night without knowing where the child is . . . . .   | No action      | Give warning      | Take child      |
| d. The parents fail to provide the child with proper food and clothing . . . . .                             | No action      | Give warning      | Take child      |
| e. The parents regularly beat the child . . . . .  | No action      | Give warning      | Take child      |
| f. The parents refuse essential medical treatment for the child because of their religious beliefs . . . . . | No action      | Give warning      | Take child      |
| g. The parents refuse to send their child to school because they wish to educate the child at home . . . . . | No action      | Give warning      | Take child      |
| h. The parents allow the child to watch violent or pornographic films . . . . .                              | No action<br>1 | Give warning<br>2 | Take child<br>3 |

----- INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -----

20. Do you agree or disagree...

Yes!!	Agree strongly
Yes	Agree
??	Neither agree nor disagree
No	Disagree
No!!	Disagree strongly



Please circle a whole word

a. The wearing of seat belts in cars should be required by law . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
b. Smoking in public places should be prohibited by law . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
c. All employees should be required to retire at an age set by law . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
d. The public has little control over what politicians do in office . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
e. The average person can get nowhere by talking to public officials . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
f. The average citizen has considerable influence on politics . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
g. The average person has much to say about running local government . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
h. People like me have much to say about government . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
i. The average person has a great deal of influence on government decisions . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
j. The government is generally responsive to public opinion . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
k. I am usually interested in local elections.	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
l. By taking an active part in political and social affairs the people can control world affairs . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
m. Taking everything into account, the world is getting better . . . . .	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!
	1	2	3	4	5

----- INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -----

21. Here are some things the government might do for the economy. Circle one word for each action to show whether you are in favour of it or against it.

Yes!!	Strongly in favour
Yes	In favour
??	Neither for nor against
No	Against
No!!	Strongly against

Please circle a whole word

- |   |       |     |    |    |      |
|---|-------|-----|----|----|------|
| a. Control of wages by legislation . . . . .                                | Yes!! | Yes | ?? | No | No!! |
| b. Control of prices by legislation . . . . .                               | Yes!! | Yes | ?? | No | No!! |
| c. Cuts in government spending . . . . .                                    | Yes!! | Yes | ?? | No | No!! |
| d. Government financing of projects to<br>create new jobs . . . . .         | Yes!! | Yes | ?? | No | No!! |
| e. Less government regulation of business . .                               | Yes!! | Yes | ?? | No | No!! |
| f. Support for industry to develop new<br>products and technology . . . . . | Yes!! | Yes | ?? | No | No!! |
| g. Support for declining industries to<br>protect jobs . . . . .            | Yes!! | Yes | ?? | No | No!! |
| h. Reducing the work week to create more jobs.                              | Yes!! | Yes | ?? | No | No!! |
|   | 1     | 2   | 3  | 4  | 5    |

22. Listed below are various areas of government spending. Please show whether you would like to see more or less government spending in each area. Remember that if you say "much more", it might require a tax increase to pay for it.

1	Spend much more
2	Spend more
3	Spend the same as now
4	Spend less
5	Spend much less

- |   |   |             |   |   |             |
|---|---|-------------|---|---|-------------|
|   |   | <u>Much</u> |   |   | <u>Much</u> |
|   |   | <u>more</u> |   |   | <u>less</u> |
| a. The environment -- spend more or less? . . . . . | 1 | 2           | 3 | 4 | 5           |
| b. Health? . . . . .                                | 1 | 2           | 3 | 4 | 5           |
| c. The police and law enforcement? . . . . .        | 1 | 2           | 3 | 4 | 5           |
| d. Education -- spend more or less? . . . . .       | 1 | 2           | 3 | 4 | 5           |
| e. The military and defence? . . . . .              | 1 | 2           | 3 | 4 | 5           |
| f. Old age pensions? . . . . .                      | 1 | 2           | 3 | 4 | 5           |
| g. Unemployment benefits? . . . . .                 | 1 | 2           | 3 | 4 | 5           |
| h. Culture and the arts? . . . . .                  | 1 | 2           | 3 | 4 | 5           |

----- INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -----

23. Do you consider the amount of income tax that your household has to pay is ...

- Much too high . . . . . 1
- Too high . . . . . 2
- About right . . . . . 3
- Too low . . . . . 4
- Much too low . . . . . 5

24. Do you consider the amount of tax that business and industry have to pay is too high or too low?

- Much too high . . . . . 1
- Too high . . . . . 2
- About right . . . . . 3
- Too low . . . . . 4
- Much too low . . . . . 5

25. If the government had to choose between keeping down inflation or keeping down unemployment, to which do you think it should give highest priority?

- Keeping down inflation . . . . . 1
- Keeping down unemployment . . . . . 2

Now some questions about power...

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Far too much power              |
| 2 | Too much power                  |
| 3 | About the right amount of power |
| 4 | Too little power                |
| 5 | Far too little power            |

Far too much                      Far too little

26. Do you think that trade unions in this country have too much power or too little power? . . . . . 1 2 3 4 5

27. How about business and industry, do they have too much power or too little power? . . . . . 1 2 3 4 5

28. And what about the federal government, does it have too much power or too little power? . . . . . 1 2 3 4 5

29. What should the government's role in each of these industries be?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | OWN it  |
| 2 | CONTROL prices and profits but not own it         |
| 3 | NEITHER own it nor control its prices and profits |

PLEASE CIRCLE A WORD

- |  |     |         |         |
|--|-----|---------|---------|
| a. Electricity . . . . .                 | Own | Control | Neither |
| b. Local public transportation . . . . . | Own | Control | Neither |
| c. The steel industry . . . . .          | Own | Control | Neither |
| d. Banking and insurance . . . . .       | Own | Control | Neither |
| e. The automobile industry . . . . .     | Own | Control | Neither |
|  | 1   | 2       | 3       |

----- INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -----

30. On the whole, do you think it should or should not be the government's responsibility to ...

1	Definitely should
2	Probably should
3	Probably should not
4	Definitely should not

	Definitely should	2	3	Definitely not
a. Provide a job for everyone who wants one . . .	1	2	3	4
b. Keep prices under control . . . . .	1	2	3	4
c. Provide health care for the sick . . . . .	1	2	3	4
d. Provide a decent standard of living for the old . . . . .	1	2	3	4
e. Provide industry with the help it needs to grow	1	2	3	4
f. Provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed . . . . .	1	2	3	4
g. Reduce income differences between the rich and poor . . . . .	1	2	3	4
There has been some talk about privatisation -- about selling government owned industries to the private sector. Do you think the government should ...				
h. Sell the railways to private industry? . . .	1	2	3	4
i. Sell Telecom to private industry? . . . . .	1	2	3	4
j. Sell the airlines, Qantas and Australian Airlines (TAA)? . . . . .	1	2	3	4
k. Sell the Post Office to private industry? . .	1	2	3	4

31. Has the Labor government in Canberra made Australia as a whole better off, worse off, or hasn't it made much difference so far?

	So far	Next few years	If Liberals came in
Much better off . . . . .	1	1	1
Somewhat better off . . .	2	2	2
A little better off . . .	3	3	3
No difference . . . . .	4	4	4
A little worse off . . . .	5	5	5
Somewhat worse off . . . .	6	6	6
Much worse off . . . . .	7	7	7

32. And looking ahead over the next few years, will the Labor government make Australia better off? >> Please put your answer in the box above

33. What if a Liberal government came in -- would Australia as a whole be better off?

----- Thank you for filling out the international questionnaire! -----