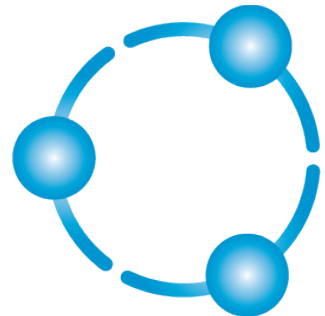


# Same-Sex Marriage Study

Commissioned by: Australian Marriage Equality and  
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
October 2010





# 1. Methodology

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# Methodology

- ▶ This study was conducted on the Galaxy Omnibus on the weekend of 8-10 October 2010.
- ▶ The sample was 1,050 respondents aged 18 years and older distributed throughout Australia, as follows:
  - NSW/ACT 316
  - Victoria/Tasmania 296
  - Queensland 192
  - South Australia 124
  - Western Australia 124
- ▶ Interviews were conducted using CATI (computer assisted telephone interviewing) with telephone numbers randomly selected from electronic White Pages. All interviewers were personally trained and briefed on the requirements of the study.
- ▶ Age, gender and region quotas were applied to the sample.
- ▶ Following the completion of interviewing, the data was weighted by age, gender and region to reflect the latest ABS population estimates.



## 2. Main Findings

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# Main Findings

- ▶ The majority (62%) of Australians agree that same-sex couples should be able to marry. This is up from the previous measure on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009 of 60%. Note that while the question is the same, the latest question also includes the introduction “A number of countries allow same-sex couples to marry. These include Argentina, Canada, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa and Spain, as well as parts of the United States and Mexico”.
- ▶ One in four (25%) Australians ‘strongly agree’ that same sex couples should be able to marry (44% of age 18-24 years and 16% of age 50+ years strongly agree). One in five (21%) ‘strongly disagree’ (13% of ages 18-24 years and 30% of ages 50+ years). Clearly same-sex marriage is a status whose time is coming. Overall 80% of 18-24 years olds agree that same-sex couples should be able to marry compared to 46% of ages 50+ years.
- ▶ Females are more likely than males to agree that same-sex couples should be able to marry (67% compared to 57% among males), however this difference is less than that found in May 2009 (68% compared to 53% among males) suggesting that males have improved in acceptance of the idea.
- ▶ Australians who intend to vote for The Greens or the Australian Labor Party are significantly more likely to agree that same-sex couples should be able to marry than those who intend to vote for the coalition or other parties:
  - 81% of those who intend to vote for The Greens agree
  - 74% of those who intend to vote for ALP agree
  - 48% of those who intend to vote for the coalition agree
  - 58% of those who intend to vote for others agree



# Main Findings

- ▶ Households with children aged less than eighteen years are more likely to agree that same-sex couples should be able to marry (72% agree compared to 56% in other households).

## Conscience Vote

- ▶ Three in four (78%) of Australians believe that there should be a conscience vote when a bill to allow same sex couples to marry is introduced in parliament.
- ▶ Australians who intend to vote for The Greens are more likely to agree (compared with other voters for other parties) that there should be a conscience vote when a bill to allow same- sex couples to marry is introduced in parliament, although there is generally strong support among all voters:
  - 88% of those who intend to vote for The Greens agree
  - 80% of those who intend to vote for ALP agree
  - 75% of those who intend to vote for the coalition agree
  - 81% of those who intend to vote for others agree



# 3. Questionnaire

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**SECTION D – ASK IF AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER**

- D1. A number of countries allow same-sex couples to marry. These include Argentina, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa and Spain, as well as parts of the United States and Mexico. Do you agree or disagree that same-sex couples in Australia should be able to marry?
- IF AGREE** Is that strongly agree or just agree?
- IF DISAGREE** Is that strongly disagree or just disagree?
- D2. A conscience vote is where politicians do not have to vote according to the official line of their party. Do you believe that there should be a conscience vote when a bill to allow same-sex couples to marry is introduced in parliament?
- SR  
Strongly agree ..... 1  
Agree ..... 2  
Disagree ..... 3  
Strongly Disagree .... 4  
Don't know ..... 5
- Yes ..... 1  
No..... 2  
Don't know..... 3





## 4. Detailed Tabular Findings

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# Tables

▶ **The tables of findings are set out such that they include the following details:**

**1 BASE: Weight Sample (000's):**

The number of completed interviews has been weighted to reflect the latest ABS population estimates. These estimates are shown in thousands (000's). The percentages in the table are based on these weighted figures.

**2 WEIGHTS:**

This indicates that in order to reflect the latest ABS population estimates the data has been weighted by age, gender and area.

**3 FILTERS (Where applicable):**

If the table is based on a subset of respondents then this will be titled as a Filter and accompanied by a description of the sample upon which the table is based.

**4 RESPONDENTS:**

These figures show the actual sample size, indicating the total number of respondents who were asked the relevant question.



# Tables ... continued

▶ Each question has been analysed by a series of demographic variables as follows:

→ **SEX:**

- Male
- Female

→ **AGE:**

- 16-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-49 years
- 50 years or older

→ **MARITAL STATUS:**

- Married (married/de facto/living together)
- Not married (never married/separated/divorced/widowed)

→ **MAIN GROCERY BUYER:**

- Yes/Shared
- No

→ **CHILDREN AT HOME:**

- Children under 18 living in the household
- No children under 18 living in the household



# Tables ... continued

## → WORK STATUS:

- Working full-time
- Working part-time
- Not working

## → SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS:

- *Occupation of the main income earner of the household:*
  - White collar (professional/senior management, upper white collar, lower white collar)
  - Blue collar (upper blue collar, lower blue collar)

## → LOCATION:

- NSW / ACT
- Victoria / Tasmania
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Western Australia

## → CAPITAL CITY:

- Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth
- Rest of Australia



# Tables ... continued

## → **HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**

- Under \$40,000
- \$40,000 - \$69,999
- \$70,000 plus

## → **HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOLING:**

- Below Year 12
- Year 12.

## → **VOTING INTENTION:**

- Intends to vote for the ALP
- Intends to vote for the Coalition (Liberal Party or National Party)
- Intends to vote for The Greens
- Intends to vote for another party or candidate

GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 1 Standard Banner 1 \*BY\* D1 Agree same sex couples should be allowed to marry

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area/Cap

	Total	Sex		Age				Marital Status		Grocery Buyer		Children		Work Status			S.E.S.	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Marr-ied	Not Marr-ied	Yes /Shared	No	Yes	No	Full Time	Part Time	Not Working	White	Blue
RESPONDENTS	1052	525	527	114	124	367	447	697	355	704	348	425	627	441	233	378	579	473
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	16644	8105	8539	2067	2861	4910	6806	10754	5890	11171	5473	6745	9899	6837	3821	5986	9227	7417
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
D1 Agree same sex couples should be allowed to marry																		
TOTAL AGREE																		
Strongly agree	4202 25%	1742 21%	2460 29%	910 44%	753 26%	1444 29%	1095 16%	2591 24%	1611 27%	2885 26%	1317 24%	2102 31%	2100 21%	1936 28%	1054 28%	1212 20%	2754 30%	1448 20%
Agree	6165 37%	2893 36%	3272 38%	739 36%	1466 51%	1907 39%	2053 30%	3878 36%	2287 39%	4215 38%	1950 36%	2758 41%	3407 34%	2930 43%	1449 38%	1786 30%	3358 36%	2808 38%
**SUBTOTALS	10367 62%	4635 57%	5733 67%	1648 80%	2219 78%	3352 68%	3148 46%	6469 60%	3898 66%	7100 64%	3267 60%	4860 72%	5507 56%	4866 71%	2502 65%	2998 50%	6112 66%	4255 57%
TOTAL DISAGREE																		
Disagree	1872 11%	1084 13%	788 9%	155 8%	226 8%	413 8%	1078 16%	1157 11%	715 12%	1108 10%	765 14%	488 7%	1384 14%	645 9%	307 8%	920 15%	980 11%	893 12%
Strongly disagree	3572 21%	1960 24%	1611 19%	264 13%	334 12%	900 18%	2074 30%	2531 24%	1041 18%	2377 21%	1195 22%	1186 18%	2386 24%	1115 16%	767 20%	1690 28%	1787 19%	1785 24%
**SUBTOTALS	5444 33%	3045 38%	2399 28%	419 20%	559 20%	1314 27%	3152 46%	3688 34%	1756 30%	3484 31%	1960 36%	1674 25%	3770 38%	1760 26%	1074 28%	2610 44%	2767 30%	2677 36%
Don't know	833 5%	426 5%	407 5%		83 3%	245 5%	506 7%	597 6%	236 4%	587 5%	246 4%	211 3%	622 6%	211 3%	245 6%	377 6%	348 4%	485 7%
TOTALS	16644 100%	8105 100%	8539 100%	2067 100%	2861 100%	4910 100%	6806 100%	10754 100%	5890 100%	11171 100%	5473 100%	6745 100%	9899 100%	6837 100%	3821 100%	5986 100%	9227 100%	7417 100%

GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 2 Standard Banner 2 \*BY\* D1 Agree same sex couples should be allowed to marry  
 BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)  
 WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area/Cap

	Total	State				Capital City		Household Income			Schooling		Voting Intention				
		NSW	Vic/Tas	Qld	SA	WA	Yes	No	< \$40K	\$40K-\$69K	\$70K+	Below Year 12	Year 12	ALP	Coal -ition	Green	Other
RESPONDENTS	1052	316	296	192	124	124	672	380	301	211	409	341	711	317	413	148	55
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	16644	5821	4611	3263	1304	1645	10263	6381	4767	3447	6419	5333	11311	5264	6527	2079	981
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
D1 Agree same sex couples should be allowed to marry																	
TOTAL AGREE																	
Strongly agree	4202	1481	1245	795	369	313	2738	1464	953	800	1899	954	3248	1460	1047	925	313
	25%	25%	27%	24%	28%	19%	27%	23%	20%	23%	30%	18%	29%	28%	16%	44%	32%
Agree	6165	1988	1731	1345	437	665	3881	2284	1653	1164	2713	1983	4183	2460	2092	751	258
	37%	34%	38%	41%	33%	40%	38%	36%	35%	34%	42%	37%	37%	47%	32%	36%	26%
**SUBTOTALS	10367	3468	2976	2140	806	978	6619	3749	2606	1964	4613	2936	7431	3920	3139	1676	571
	62%	60%	65%	66%	62%	59%	64%	59%	55%	57%	72%	55%	66%	74%	48%	81%	58%
TOTAL DISAGREE																	
Disagree	1872	676	467	340	157	233	1093	780	770	363	520	586	1286	528	946	144	43
	11%	12%	10%	10%	12%	14%	11%	12%	16%	11%	8%	11%	11%	10%	14%	7%	4%
Strongly disagree	3572	1392	875	634	301	370	2015	1556	1185	866	1091	1505	2067	650	2046	157	354
	21%	24%	19%	19%	23%	22%	20%	24%	25%	25%	17%	28%	18%	12%	31%	8%	36%
**SUBTOTALS	5444	2068	1342	974	458	603	3108	2336	1954	1229	1610	2091	3353	1178	2991	301	397
	33%	36%	29%	30%	35%	37%	30%	37%	41%	36%	25%	39%	30%	22%	46%	14%	40%
Don't know	833	285	293	149	41	64	537	296	207	255	195	306	527	166	397	102	14
	5%	5%	6%	5%	3%	4%	5%	5%	4%	7%	3%	6%	5%	3%	6%	5%	1%
TOTALS	16644	5821	4611	3263	1304	1645	10263	6381	4767	3447	6419	5333	11311	5264	6527	2079	981
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 3

Standard Banner 1 \*BY\* D2 Should be a conscience vote

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area/Cap

	Total	Sex		Age				Marital Status		Grocery Buyer		Children		Work Status			S.E.S.	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Marr-ied	Not Marr-ied	Yes /Shared	No	Yes	No	Full Time	Part Time	Not Working	White	Blue
RESPONDENTS	1052	525	527	114	124	367	447	697	355	704	348	425	627	441	233	378	579	473
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	16644	8105	8539	2067	2861	4910	6806	10754	5890	11171	5473	6745	9899	6837	3821	5986	9227	7417
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
D2 Should be a conscience vote																		
Yes	12979	6192	6787	1733	2299	3663	5284	8248	4731	8707	4272	5157	7822	5615	2998	4367	7382	5597
	78%	76%	79%	84%	80%	75%	78%	77%	80%	78%	78%	76%	79%	82%	78%	73%	80%	75%
No	2635	1442	1193	302	406	853	1074	1830	805	1737	898	1178	1457	932	621	1082	1523	1112
	16%	18%	14%	15%	14%	17%	16%	17%	14%	16%	16%	17%	15%	14%	16%	18%	17%	15%
Don't know	1030	471	559	31	156	395	447	677	353	727	303	409	621	290	203	537	321	708
	6%	6%	7%	2%	5%	8%	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	4%	5%	9%	3%	10%
TOTALS	16644	8105	8539	2067	2861	4910	6806	10754	5890	11171	5473	6745	9899	6837	3821	5986	9227	7417
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



GALAXY RESEARCH

TABLE 4

Standard Banner 2 \*BY\* D2 Should be a conscience vote

BASE: WGHT SAMPLE (000s)

WEIGHTS: Age/Sex/Area/Cap

	Total	State				Capital City		Household Income			Schooling		Voting Intention				
		NSW	Vic/Tas	Qld	SA	WA	Yes	No	< \$40K	\$40K-\$69K	\$70K+	Below Year 12	Year 12	ALP	Coal -ition	Green	Other
RESPONDENTS	1052	316	296	192	124	124	672	380	301	211	409	341	711	317	413	148	55
WGHT SAMPLE (000s)	16644	5821	4611	3263	1304	1645	10263	6381	4767	3447	6419	5333	11311	5264	6527	2079	981
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
D2 Should be a conscience vote																	
Yes	12979	4397	3585	2636	1080	1281	8141	4839	3491	2660	5250	3795	9184	4211	4906	1832	795
	78%	76%	78%	81%	83%	78%	79%	76%	73%	77%	82%	71%	81%	80%	75%	88%	81%
No	2635	1038	781	424	182	210	1667	968	835	576	981	931	1703	763	1286	159	154
	16%	18%	17%	13%	14%	13%	16%	15%	18%	17%	15%	17%	15%	15%	20%	8%	16%
Don't know	1030	386	246	203	42	154	455	575	441	212	187	607	423	290	335	89	32
	6%	7%	5%	6%	3%	9%	4%	9%	9%	6%	3%	11%	4%	6%	5%	4%	3%
TOTALS	16644	5821	4611	3263	1304	1645	10263	6381	4767	3447	6419	5333	11311	5264	6527	2079	981
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



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