



# The Coalition and marriage equality

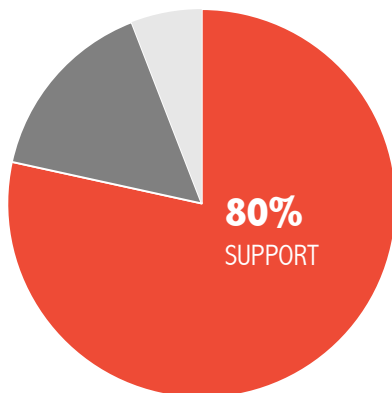
**Why a conscience vote will keep the Coalition relevant to mainstream Australia**

## 4 in 5 Australians want the Coalition to allow a conscience vote

A Galaxy poll in November 2011 found that 4 in 5 Australians – **80%** – want the Coalition to have a conscience vote on allowing same-sex couples to marry.

This includes **76% of Coalition voters** and almost 90% of young voters.

### Australians who want the Coalition to allow a conscience vote



## Key conservative figures endorse marriage equality

“My personal views on [gay marriage] are I am for it.”

**Campbell Newman**  
Queensland LNP Leader

“I have always been in favour of marriage equality. For those in the Liberal Party it’s always been a conscience vote.”

**Isobel Redmond**  
South Australian Liberal Leader

## Coalition figures who support a conscience vote

**Barnaby Joyce**, federal deputy leader, National Party

**Malcolm Turnbull**, fmr federal Coalition leader

**Joe Hockey**, federal shadow treasurer

**Barry O’Farrell**, NSW Premier

**Isobel Redmond**, SA Coalition leader

**Russell Broadbent**, federal Liberal MP

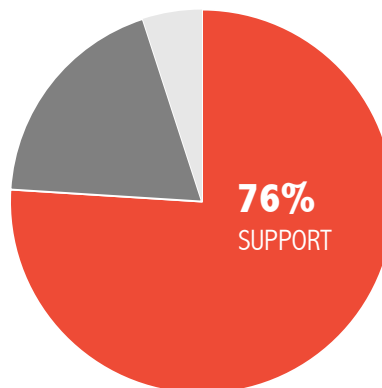
**Simon Birmingham**, federal Liberal MP

## 3 in 4 Coalition voters want the Coalition to allow a conscience vote

Polls also show a majority of Coalition voters – **50%** – support same-sex marriage with 44% against. The Coalition’s blanket opposition to marriage equality no longer represents those who vote for it.

The overwhelming majority of Australians want the Coalition to adopt a conscience vote so it can better represent the diversity of views among its supporters and within its own ranks.

### Coalition voters who want the Coalition to allow a conscience vote



“I don’t think the issue of gay marriage could be described as a radical, left-wing agenda. It’s very relevant to many Australians.”

**Heather Ridout**,  
Australian Industry Group

“Marriage is a private form of social welfare. Spouses insure each other against sudden loss of income. Married couples are less vulnerable to financial stress than single people. The benefits of marriage on mental health and wellbeing, income and happiness are widely acknowledged.

Married people tend to lead more stable lives. Their relationships are more durable. Extending the marital franchise to gay and lesbian couples would multiply the number of Australians who can join this crucial social institution, spreading the positive impact of marriage on society.”

**Chris Berg**, Research fellow, Australian Institute of Public Affairs

## Why conservatives support marriage equality

- Marriage promotes **stability & responsibility** in relationships;
- Marriage **strengthens family bonds** and gives children a greater sense of security;
- Marriage promotes **mutual support** between partners and their family members so they are less likely to rely on the state at times of crisis in their lives;
- Marriage equality is about **personal freedom** within the bounds of social responsibility;
- Marriage equality promotes **religious freedom** by allowing churches that affirm same-sex couples to legally marry them;
- Marriage equality has an **economic dividend** of up to \$700 million through the wedding spend of same-sex couples.