

4 May 2026

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Level 1, 113 Canberra Avenue  
Griffith ACT 2603

PO Box 3839  
Manuka ACT 2603

+61 2 6130 0530  
mail@australiainstitute.org.au  
australiainstitute.org.au

ABN 90 061 969 284  
ACN 061 969 284

Dear Committee Secretary,

During the 21 April hearing on firearms reform, we were asked:

*Do you have polling or insights on these reforms or similar ones from other jurisdictions? And if so, can you explain what the polling tells us about community attitudes to firearms reforms, particularly, ideally, in jurisdictions like the ACT?*



I want to take the opportunity to provide full information on public opinion of firearms reform on notice.

Polling data has consistently shown that a majority of Australians, and in some cases a supermajority, support strengthening Australia's gun laws.

An Australia Institute poll in January 2025 found that seven in ten (70%) Australians believed Australia's gun laws should make it harder to buy a gun.<sup>1</sup> Asked the same question in 2019, two thirds (67%) of Australians said they should make it harder to buy a gun, indicating consistently strong support.

In the 2025 poll, 64% of Australians also thought Australia's gun laws should be strengthened, with 25% thinking Australia's gun laws should remain the same and only 6% thinking they should be wound back.

Immediately after the Bondi massacre in December 2025, *The Age* released a Resolve poll showing three quarters (76%) of Australians preferred toughening Australia's gun laws, with 10% wanting to keep them as they were, 6% wanting to relax them, and 8% unsure.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Australia Institute (2025) "Polling – Gun control in Australia", <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/polling-gun-control-in-australia/>

<sup>2</sup> Wright (2025) "Australians unite in backing gun reform", <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/australians-unite-in-backing-gun-reform-20251221-p5npaf.html>

A YouGov poll conducted between 15 and 22 December 2025 found even greater support for strengthened gun control laws. In that poll, nine in ten (92%) Australians supported tightening gun laws, and just 8% wanted no change.<sup>3</sup>

An Essential poll published by the *Guardian* in January continued this trend. Even as the specifics of the Federal Government's gun control legislation were revealed and the Liberal-National Coalition announced its opposition to the reforms, a clear majority (63%) of Australians still supported strengthening gun laws, while less than one in five (18%) opposed it.<sup>4</sup>

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,



Skye Predavec  
Researcher  
The Australia Institute

---

<sup>3</sup> YouGov (2025) "Australians overwhelmingly support stronger gun laws following Bondi attack", <https://yougov.com/articles/53777-australians-overwhelmingly-support-stronger-gun-laws-following-bondi-attack>

<sup>4</sup> Lewis (2026) "Albanese has long framed his leadership around the 'politics of kindness' – there's never been a better time to embrace it", <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2026/jan/28/albanese-leadership-politics-of-kindness-essential-poll>