

National Opinion Poll 2009

Industrial Relations Report

March 2009

Conducted for
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)

Conducted by



15 – 31 Pelham Street
Carlton South
Victoria 3053

The Survey

This report summarises the results of a public opinion survey on political issues in Australia conducted by Essential Research on behalf of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

It is based on 1,020 interviews conducted online from 17th-22nd February 2009.

The sample has been weighted in proportion to the age/gender/region profile of the Australian population aged 18+. The margin of error is 2-3%.

1. Do you agree a lot, agree a little, disagree a little or disagree a lot with each of the following statements about WorkChoices and Labor's new IR laws?

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot	Don't know
With the economic downturn, increasing the rights and protection of working people through new IR laws is more important than ever	29%	38%	12%	5%	16%
The Rudd Government should keep its election promise to get rid of WorkChoices and the Parliament should pass new, fairer IR laws as soon as possible.	34%	33%	12%	5%	16%
Maintaining jobs and incomes helps demand and provides stimulus to the economy	41%	45%	4%	1%	9%
Collective bargaining is necessary to give workers job and income security	25%	39%	15%	4%	17%

2. Do you agree a lot, agree a little, disagree a little or disagree a lot with each of the following proposed changes to industrial relations laws?

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot	Don't know
Restoring unfair dismissal protection for all workers	41%	36%	11%	4%	8%
Restoring collective bargaining rights for all workers	33%	41%	11%	3%	11%
Re-establishing a strong independent workplace umpire to resolve industrial disputes	39%	42%	7%	2%	11%
Restoring the independent umpire to set and ensure increases in the minimum wage	40%	40%	9%	2%	10%
Getting rid of laws that restrict workers accessing advice and information from unions in their workplace	40%	36%	9%	5%	10%
Creating a set of guaranteed minimum conditions of employment for all workers through national employment standards and modern awards	44%	39%	6%	2%	9%
Requiring that all parties – employers, employees and unions - negotiate in good faith to reach agreements	51%	36%	3%	1%	9%
Providing special help for low-paid workers to bargain with a group of employers to lift their wages and conditions	37%	43%	8%	2%	10%
Ensuring workers can be represented by the union of their choice, not a union selected by their employer.	44%	35%	7%	4%	10%