



Fw: Action: DAvid's speech
Samantha Palmer
to:
Michelle S Howe
09/11/2017 02:33 PM
Hide Details
From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS,

Samantha Palmer

General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion

Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)
47 (E) samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

It is always the simple that produces the marvelous -- Amelia Barr

----- Forwarded by Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS on 09/11/2017 02:33 PM -----

From: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: David Kalisch/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Cc: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS
Date: 09/11/2017 10:02 AM
Subject: Fw: Action: DAvid's speech

David,

Sam has done some work on your speech. 47C
47C
47C

My view is that we should:

- 47C
[Redacted text block]

Jonathan Palmer

Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics

P: 47E(d) | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS on 09/11/2017 09:32 AM -----

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS,

Date: 07/11/2017 09:56 AM
Subject: Action: DAVid's speech

Hi

47C

47C

[attachment "Draft David Kalisch speech AMLPS results v3.docx" deleted by Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS]

Samantha Palmer

General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion

Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

47 (E) samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

It is always the simple that produces the marvelous -- Amelia Barr



Re: Reminder: Please send media run sheet and key contact names who would need to relocate if ABS house evacuated EOM

Michelle S Howe

to:

47E(d)

10/11/2017 05:19 PM

Cc:

47E(d)

Hide Details

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS

To: 47E(d)

Cc: 47E(d)

47E(d)

Hi 47E(

Run sheet copied below.

47E

- Sam Palmer
- Michelle Howe
- 47E(d)
- 47E(d)

22		
9:00am	David Kalisch rehearsal	David Kalisch and Auslan interpreter
22		
9:55am	David Kalisch and Jonathan Palmer arrive in Carver Room 11, opposite room	Marriage Survey Media Team on hand to provide media briefing if required.
9:58am	David Kalisch enters room and moves to lectern; Jonathan Palmer seated in front row	Auslan interpreter moves to the stage beside David.
10:00am	David Kalisch begins speech	Auslan interpreter present.

MCT Ops Daily Meeting - 13/11 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] (Response to : Daily Ops Meeting [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only])

Marriage Collection Taskforce WDB

47E(d)

13/11/2017 10:36 AM

For-Official-Use-Only

Basics

Protective Mark	For-Official-Use-Only
-----------------	-----------------------

Meeting	Daily Operational Stand Up
Date & Time	Friday 10 November, 10:30am
Invitees	MCT Team

22

Meeting Agenda Items

#	Operational Area	Lead	Notes
0	22		
1			
2			

	22		
3	[Redacted]		
4	[Redacted]		
5	Data Capture and Processing	47E(d)	<p>22 [Redacted] Created briefing for DK's speech writing, brief DK at 2pm today with SP.</p> <p>47C [Redacted]</p>
6	22		
7	[Redacted]		
8	[Redacted]		
9	[Redacted]		
10	[Redacted]		
11	[Redacted]		
12	[Redacted]		
13	[Redacted]		
14	[Redacted]		



**Draft AMLPS media release and DK speech
[DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]**

Michelle S Howe to: 47E(d)

13/11/2017 10:48 AM

This message is digitally signed.

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Hi 47E() - just sending the draft media release and speech for Wed again so you have them.

47C



Media Release Survey Results_AS MH.docx AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce
Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

----- Forwarded by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS on 13/11/2017 10:36 AM -----

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS
To: 47E(d)
Cc: 47E(d)
Date: 09/11/2017 02:17 PM
Subject: Re: A few questions [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi 47E(),

Happy to go with whatever you produce for David.

I've attached current drafts in case that helps. The speech is with Jonathan and David so could change, and media release hasn't yet gone to Sam or further up.

47C

47E

22

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) [REDACTED] (M) [REDACTED]

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

[REDACTED] Hi Michelle, A few things I wanted to run past... 09/11/2017 01:12:09 PM

From: [REDACTED]
To: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 09/11/2017 01:12 PM
Subject: A few questions

Hi Michelle,

A few things I wanted to run past you before release day (argh!)....

1. [REDACTED] 47C [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED] 47C [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED] 47E [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 47E [REDACTED]

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Director (a/g)

Marriage Collection Taskforce | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) [REDACTED] (M) [REDACTED]

(E) [REDACTED] (W) www.abs.gov.au

Part time: Monday & Tuesday 9.15am - 6.30pm | Wednesday & Thursday 7.30am - 2.45pm

Australia supports/opposes changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry

15 November 2017

Today the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) announced the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, revealing the majority (xx.x per cent) of eligible Australians (*supported/opposed*) changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry.

xx.x per cent (*said they did/did not*) want the law being changed.

Over the past 99 days, xxx million people participated in the voluntary survey – a total of xx.x per cent of the more than 16 million eligible Australians.

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

The detailed results published for national, states and territories and Federal Electoral Divisions are accompanied by an independent statement on the quality and integrity of the results, which accompanies all ABS statistical data releases.

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

The Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey asked the views of 16 million eligible Australians on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll on whether or not the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

The official statistics, including a count of responses (Yes, No and Response Not Clear) by Federal Electoral Division (FED), State/Territory and National, are available from www.marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au

Key results

Region	Yes	No	Unclear	Participation
Australia	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	%	%	%	%
Victoria	%	%	%	%
Queensland	%	%	%	%
South Australia	%	%	%	%
Western Australia	%	%	%	%
Tasmania	%	%	%	%
Northern Territory	%	%	%	%
Australian Capital Territory	%	%	%	%

Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey
Australian Statistician announcement of results
ABS House media conference 15 November 2017

My name is David Kalisch and I am the Australian Statistician.

I would like to welcome everyone to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

I'd like to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of land and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I called this media conference to announce the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey – it's probably the only time millions of Australians will gather to hear from the Australian Statistician.

As the nation's official statistical agency, the ABS provides trusted, relevant, objective statistics to inform important decisions. Our statistics provide quality information about our society, our population, the economy and the environment.

On August 9 2017, the Treasurer legally directed me, as Australian Statistician, to:

- Ask everyone on the electoral roll if they wish to express a view on the issue on whether the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry
- Provide results for the nation as a whole, each state and territory and every Federal Electoral Division, as well as provide information on participation in the survey, and
- Publish results by today.

Today the ABS completes all the requirements of the Treasurer's Direction.

We have sought to enable as many people who wished to participate in the survey to do so. Together with our partner agencies across government and a number of private suppliers, we have made the process as easy as possible for the community.

We made the survey accessible for those travelling or living overseas, those in remote communities, people with disability, and those with language difficulties.

We also established processes to safeguard the integrity of the survey, to deal with any identified cases of inappropriate use of survey forms, and ensure the integrity of the collection and counting process.

[And while costs are still being tallied, the ABS has been prudent with taxpayer funds and is confident the final cost for the survey will be under \\$100 million, many millions less than the budget provided.](#)

47C [redacted] a quality survey to the public.

47C [redacted]

47C [redacted]

47C [redacted]

I am pleased to announce that **(Insert)** eligible Australians have responded to this voluntary survey.

47C [redacted]

Participation was strong across all ages, with all age groups having higher than 70% participation.

[Anything else on participation?]

47C [redacted]

47C [redacted]

47C [redacted]

47C [redacted]

- 47C [redacted]
- 47C [redacted]
- 47C [redacted]
- 47C [redacted]
- 47C [redacted]
- 47C [redacted]

And now – the results of the Australian Law Marriage Postal Survey.

1. The official result of the survey is:

For the national result:

Yes responses – *insert* per cent

No responses – *insert* per cent

Response not clear – *insert* per cent

[Potential of absolute majority of all eligible?]

2. At a state and territory level the results are:

- List state and territory results

3. By Federal Electoral Division:

- Highest/the lowest/notable results (TBC won't be able to list all)

The full results will shortly be made available on the dedicated Marriage Law Postal Survey website (marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au) and via the ABS website.

It gives me great pleasure to return these results back to the community today. Ultimately, the strong participation by the Australian public and their clear responses to the survey have delivered this quality information for the community.

In closing, I thank the ABS staff who have worked long hours with terrific energy to deliver this survey through a Taskforce led by Deputy Australian Statistician Jonathan Palmer.

This has been a superb team effort, drawing expert and dedicated staff from across the ABS to again deliver quality statistics to inform the nation.

I also recognise our entire ABS team who continued to deliver the many official statistics also expected from the ABS during these past 99 days – latest economic statistics, population numbers, a further release of quality data from the 2016 Census, and much more.

I acknowledge and thank the large number of agencies across Government and the private sector, including the Australian Electoral Commission, Department of Human Services and Australia Post, that assisted the ABS to undertake this survey.

While the Government directed the ABS to undertake this survey, they also assisted the ABS to conduct it in a timely manner, and I would like to recognise the efforts of Minister Cormann and his office.

Finally, a bouquet for the media, who gave the ABS frequent access to communicate with the public and helped increase community awareness of the survey process.

That brings a close to this morning's announcement. Thank you for your attention and interest.

Jonathan Palmer, Deputy Australian Statistician overseeing the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, and I are available to take questions on the results and the process.

DRAFT

MCT Ops Daily Meeting 14/11 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] (Response to : Daily Ops Meeting [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only])
Marriage Collection Taskforce WDB

47E(d) 13/11/2017 03:15 PM

For-Official-Use-Only

Basics

Protective Mark	For-Official-Use-Only
-----------------	-----------------------

Meeting	Daily Operational Stand Up
Date & Time	Tuesday 14 November, 10:30am
Invitees	MCT Team
22	

Meeting Agenda Items

#	Operational Area	Lead	Notes
0	22		
1			

	22		
2			
3			
4			
5	Data Capture and Processing	47E(d)	<p data-bbox="954 808 1362 904">22</p> <p data-bbox="954 931 1374 1323">22</p> <p data-bbox="954 1323 1337 1391">Validating data in DK's speech.</p>
6	22		
7			
8			
9			
10			

Re: For approval - AMLPS media release for Wed [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Marriage Collection Taskforce WDB

Samantha Palmer 17/11/2017 10:03 AM

Basics

Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS 13/11/2017 03:54 PM

Send	To Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS, cc 47E(d) bcc
Subject	Re: For approval - AMLPS media release for Wed [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Protective Mark	
Categories	03. Communication and Media

Hi

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]



Media Release Survey Results_AS MH sp.docx

Independent firm Protiviti was engaged to provide independent assurance of the rigour and quality of survey processes and said: "The approach adopted by the ABS was considered innovative, thorough and comprehensive and has supported the transparent and rigorous management of risks to the Survey."

Samantha Palmer

General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion |

Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E)

samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

It is always the simple that produces the marvellous -- Amelia Barr



Updated AMLPS media release for Wed [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Michelle S Howe to: 47E(d)

13/11/2017 04:01 PM

Cc: 47E(d)

This message is digitally signed.

History: This message has been forwarded.

Hi 47E(d) - latest version of AMLPS media release attached (no data) - incorporating changes requested by Sam.



Media Release Survey Results_final no data.docx

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

----- Forwarded by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS on 13/11/2017 03:57 PM -----

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Cc: 47E(d)
Date: 13/11/2017 03:54 PM
Subject: Re: For approval - AMLPS media release for Wed [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi

47C

47C

47C

Independent firm Protiviti was engaged to provide independent assurance of the rigour and quality of survey processes and said: "The approach adopted by the ABS was considered innovative, thorough and comprehensive and has supported the transparent and rigorous management of risks to the Survey."

Samantha Palmer

General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion | Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E) samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

It is always the simple that produces the marvellous -- Amelia Barr

Michelle S Howe | Hi Sam, Please see attached the draft media... | 13/11/2017 11:45:40 AM

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS
To: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Cc: 47E(d)
Date: 13/11/2017 11:45 AM
Subject: For approval - AMLPS media release for Wed [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Sam,

Please see attached the draft media release for Wed (no data in it yet).

Can you please let us know of any changes. 47C

[attachment "Media Release Survey Results_AS MH.docx" deleted by Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS]

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Australia supports/opposes changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry

15 November 2017

Today the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) announced the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, revealing the majority (xx.x per cent) of eligible Australians (*supported/opposed*) changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry.

xx.x per cent (*said they did/did not*) want the law being changed.

All states and territories recorded a *Yes/No* result/The majority of States and territories recorded a *Yes/No* result with ... *detail differences in states where they appear*.

Of the 150 Commonwealth Electoral Divisions *x number* recorded a *Yes/No* result.

Over the past 99 days, xxx million people participated in the voluntary survey – a total of xx.x per cent of the more than 16 million eligible Australians.

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

The ABS had rigorous methods to avoid fraud, identify, mitigate and manage risks and protected the integrity of all responses.

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

The detailed results published for national, states and territories and Federal Electoral Divisions are accompanied by a statement on the quality and integrity of the results, which accompanies all ABS statistical data releases.

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

The Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey asked the 16 million eligible Australians on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll whether or not the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

The official statistics, including a count of responses (Yes, No and Response Not Clear) by Federal Electoral Division (FED), State/Territory and National, are available from www.marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au

Key results

Region	Yes	No	Unclear ^[SP1]	Participation
Australia	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	%	%	%	%
Victoria	%	%	%	%
Queensland	%	%	%	%
South Australia	%	%	%	%
Western Australia	%	%	%	%
Tasmania	%	%	%	%
Northern Territory	%	%	%	%
Australian Capital Territory	%	%	%	%

Add table for electorates noting the number that had results in certain percentage ranges

Reference the location of electorate by electorate results

Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey
Australian Statistician announcement of results
ABS House media conference 15 November 2017

My name is David Kalisch and I am the Australian Statistician.

I would like to welcome everyone to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

I'd like to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of land and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I called this media conference to announce the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey – it's probably the only time millions of Australians will gather to hear from the Australian Statistician.

As the nation's official statistical agency, the ABS provides trusted, relevant, objective statistics to inform important decisions. Our statistics provide quality information about our society, our population, the economy and the environment.

On August 9 2017, the Treasurer legally directed me, as Australian Statistician, to:

- Ask everyone on the electoral roll if they wish to express a view on the issue on whether the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry
- Provide results for the nation as a whole, each state and territory and every Federal Electoral Division, as well as provide information on participation in the survey, and
- Publish results by today.

Today the ABS completes all the requirements of the Treasurer's Direction.

We have sought to enable as many people who wished to participate in the survey to do so. Together with our partner agencies across government and a number of private suppliers, we have made the process as easy as possible for the community.

We made the survey accessible for those travelling or living overseas, those in remote communities, people with disability, and those with language difficulties.

We also established processes to safeguard the integrity of the survey, to deal with any identified cases of inappropriate use of survey forms, and ensure the integrity of the collection and counting process.

[And while costs are still being tallied, the ABS has been prudent with taxpayer funds and is confident the final cost for the survey will be under \\$100 million, many millions less than the budget provided.](#)

47C

47C

47C

47C

I am pleased to announce that **(insert)** eligible Australians have responded to this voluntary survey.

Overall, this survey achieved a response rate of **(insert)** per cent. This is outstanding compared to the 50 per cent response usually expected for voluntary surveys and well above other voluntary exercises conducted around the world.

Participation was strong across all ages, with all age groups having higher than 70% participation.

47C

47C

[The survey results are accompanied by a statement on the quality and integrity of the results.](#)

47C

47C

And now – the results of the Australian Law Marriage Postal Survey.

1. The official result of the survey is:

For the national result:

Yes responses – *insert* per cent

No responses – *insert* per cent

47C

[Potential of absolute majority of all eligible?]

2. At a state and territory level the results are:

- List state and territory results

3. By Federal Electoral Division:

- Highest/the lowest/notable results (TBC won't be able to list all)

The full results will shortly be made available on the dedicated Marriage Law Postal Survey website (marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au)

47C

It gives me great pleasure to return these results back to the community today. Ultimately, the strong participation by the Australian public and their clear responses to the survey have delivered this quality information for the community.

In closing, I thank the ABS staff who have worked long hours with terrific energy to deliver this survey through a Taskforce led by Deputy Australian Statistician Jonathan Palmer.

This has been a superb team effort, drawing expert and dedicated staff from across the ABS to again deliver quality statistics to inform the nation.

I also recognise our entire ABS team who continued to deliver the many official statistics also expected from the ABS during these past 99 days – latest economic statistics, population numbers, a further release of quality data from the 2016 Census, and much more.

I acknowledge and thank the large number of agencies across Government and the private sector, including the Australian Electoral Commission, Department of Human Services and Australia Post, that assisted the ABS to undertake this survey.

While the Government directed the ABS to undertake this survey, they also assisted the ABS to conduct it in a timely manner, and I would like to recognise the efforts of Minister Cormann and his office.

Finally, a bouquet for the media, who gave the ABS frequent access to communicate with the public and helped increase community awareness of the survey process.

That brings a close to this morning's announcement. Thank you for your attention and interest.

Jonathan Palmer, Deputy Australian Statistician overseeing the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, and I are available to take questions on the results and the process.

DRAFT



Re: PLEASE READ AND ACTION : with attachment this time apologies
Re: Updated from Sam Fw : Latest AMLPS release speech
[DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

David Kalisch to: [redacted]
Cc: Samantha Palmer, Jonathan Palmer, Michelle S Howe
This message is digitally signed.

14/11/2017 01:23 PM

Thanks [redacted]

Have done and now [redacted]

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

[redacted] (w) david.kalisch@abs.gov.au

[redacted] Hi all we have set your accesses for the secu... 14/11/2017 12:55:26 PM

From: [redacted]
To: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, David Kalisch/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Cc: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS
Date: 14/11/2017 12:55 PM
Subject: PLEASE READ AND ACTION: with attachment this time apologies Re: Updated from Sam Fw: Latest AMLPS release speech [DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

Hi all

[redacted]

[redacted]

I'll transfer latest versions there.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Many thanks for your assistance

[redacted]

Samantha Palmer Samantha Palmer General Manager of Peopl... 14/11/2017 11:45:36 AM

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Cc: [redacted] Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS
Date: 14/11/2017 11:45 AM
Subject: with attachment this time apologies Re: Updated from Sam Fw: Latest AMLPS release speech [DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

Samantha Palmer
General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion |

Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) [REDACTED] (M) [REDACTED] (E)
samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

Perseverance is failing nineteen times and succeeding the twentieth -- Julie Andrews

Samantha Palmer | HI just sending this to you and JP so you can... 14/11/2017 11:30:52 AM

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 14/11/2017 11:30 AM
Subject: Updated from Sam Fw: Latest AMLPS release speech [DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

HI

just sending this to you and JP so you can finalise my queries and send back to DK. Note when you do that Michelle needs it so her quotes in the MR align with David's thanks

Samantha Palmer

General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion |
Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) [REDACTED] (M) [REDACTED] (E)
samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

Perseverance is failing nineteen times and succeeding the twentieth -- Julie Andrews

----- Forwarded by Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS on 14/11/2017 11:29 AM -----

From: David Kalisch/Staff/ABS
To: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 14/11/2017 10:05 AM
Subject: Latest AMLPS release speech [DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

Colleagues

The latest version of the speech for your consideration. Added in the key numbers from my perspective and some more on other ABS releases at the end.

Appreciate any comments and any QA

thanks

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

[REDACTED] (w) david.kalisch@abs.gov.au
[attachment "AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v6.docx" deleted by Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS]

Re: Action - confirming David 's plans for practising AMLPS speech tom morning

Marriage Collection Taskforce WDB

Samantha Palmer 17/11/2017 10:03 AM

Basics

Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS 14/11/2017 01:46 PM

Send	To Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@abs, cc bcc
Subject	Re: Action - confirming David's plans for practising AMLPS speech tom morning
Protective Mark	DOCUMENT NOT YET CLASSIFIED
Categories	03. Communication and Media\Unfiled\Michelle Howe

Hi

47C [Redacted]

Sam Palmer, GM People, Culture & Communication, ABS
Sent from my iPad

On 14 Nov 2017, at 1:03 PM, Michelle S Howe <michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Sam,

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C

Let me know if you'd rather I check with him directly.

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) [REDACTED] (M) [REDACTED]

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.



Re: Update on AMLPS media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

47E(d) to: Michelle S Howe

14/11/2017 01:58 PM

Cc: 47E(d), Samantha Palmer

Thanks Michelle

47C

47C

Cheers

47E(d)

47E(d)

Director (a/g)

Marriage Collection Taskforce | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) 47E(d) (W) www.abs.gov.au

Part time: Monday & Tuesday 9.15am - 6.30pm | Wednesday & Thursday 7.30am - 2.45pm

Michelle S Howe | Hi 47E(d), Just letting you know we've saved a... 14/11/2017 01:32:22 PM

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS
To: 47E(d)
Cc: 47E(d), Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, 47E(d)
Date: 14/11/2017 01:32 PM
Subject: Update on AMLPS media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi 47E(d),

47C

47C

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Re: Announcement details
Marriage Collection Taskforce WDB

Jonathan Palmer 14/11/2017 03:03 PM

Basics

Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS 14/11/2017 03:04 PM

Send	To: 22 <22 >, cc: 47E(d) <47E(d) >, Marriage Collection Taskforce WDB@ABS bcc:
Subject	Re: Announcement details
Protective Mark	UNCLASSIFIED
Categories	03. Communication and Media\Stakeholder Engagement

Yes - [redacted] 47E

Jonathan Palmer

Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics

P: 47E(d) | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au

22 Excellent - thanks Jonathan! Also - will we ge... 14/11/2017 03:00:12 PM

From: 22 <22 >
To: Jonathan Palmer <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>
Cc: 47E(d)
Date: 14/11/2017 03:00 PM
Subject: Re: Announcement details

Excellent - thanks Jonathan!

[redacted] 47E

Cheers

22

On 14 November 2017 at 14:49, Jonathan Palmer <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au> wrote:
It has been a very quick 98 days!

[redacted] 47E

Re: AMLPS media conference run sheet and brief and confirming practice arrangements
 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Marriage Collection Taskforce WDB

47E(d)

17/11/2017 10:03 AM

Basics

47E(d) 14/11/2017 03:12 PM

Send	To Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS, 47E(d), David Kalisch/Staff/ABS@ABS, Jonathan cc Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, 47E(d) 47E(d), Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS bcc
Subject	Re: AMLPS media conference run sheet and brief and confirming practice arrangements [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Protective Mark	
Categories	03. Communication and Media\Unfiled\Michelle Howe

Michelle

I will give you a call in a moment to make the arrangements for the below.

Thanks

47E(d)

47E(d)

Executive Assistant to the Australian Statistician

Office of the Statistician - Coordination and Support | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 47E(d) (E) 47E(d) (W) www.abs.gov.au

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

Michelle S Howe Hi David, Please see attached a briefing docu... 14/11/2017 02:25:16 PM

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS
 To: David Kalisch/Staff/ABS@ABS,
 Cc: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, 47E(d)
 47E(d),
 Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS
 Date: 14/11/2017 02:25 PM
 Subject: AMLPS media conference run sheet and brief and confirming practice arrangements
 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi David,

Please see attached a briefing document with background for tomorrow's AMLPS media conference. Note Jonathan has indicated he also has the background information he requires.

Can you also please confirm a couple of things as follows :

- 4 [REDACTED]
- 4 [REDACTED]
- 4 [REDACTED]

[attachment "AMLPS media conference brief 151117.docx" deleted by 47E(d) [REDACTED]]

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) [REDACTED] (M) 47E(d) [REDACTED]

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.



Approximate Speech timing

David Kalisch to: Jonathan Palmer, Samantha Palmer,
Michelle S Howe, 47E(d)

14/11/2017 04:58 PM

This message is digitally signed.

From a run through, it is about five minutes from the very start until the key national results are delivered, and the total speech runs for just under 9 minutes

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

47E(d) (w) david.kalisch@abs.gov.au



As discussed

47E(d)

to:

Michelle S Howe

14/11/2017 05:00 PM

Cc:

47E(d)

Hide Details

From: 47E(d)

To: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS,

Cc: 47E(d)

MEDIA STRATEGY 15 November (post-survey announcement)

Background

There is intense media interest in the announcement of the marriage survey results. A 'super pool' has been arranged with the ABC, SBS and commercial networks to live broadcast the media conference at 10:00am on Wednesday 15 November. In addition, there has been a strong response from print journalists to attend.

The media conference will begin a speech from David Kalisch in which he will announce the results of the survey. At the conclusion of the speech, David Kalisch and Jonathan Palmer will take questions from journalists. The media team will be on hand to call a halt to questions as required. We would expect these questions to focus on the survey results, the participation rate, the performance of the ABS in conducting the survey and the process.

The Q&A adds important context to the announcement. It is an opportunity for the ABS to use the success of the survey – huge logistical task, accomplished in a tight timeframe – to demonstrate the capacity and skills of the Bureau. The outstanding participation rate is further evidence of the quality and integrity of the survey.

It also gives participating journalists direct access to the architects of the survey – the people who made it work.

Post-media conference there will continue to be requests for interviews – especially from outlets which weren't at the media conference. There will also be interest in the breakdown of the results, particularly across states and territories and electorates.

Our advice is to agree to some media interview requests after the usual assessment around geographical spread, syndication etc. At this point we expect the interviews will again focus on the result, the high participation rate and the performance of the ABS in conducting the survey.

Through these post-announcement interviews we can broaden our messaging, especially the role of the ABS in making the survey work. It also effectively 'bookends' our work and provides an end point for media coverage.

Marriage Collection Taskforce | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 47E(d) (E) 47E(d) (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Contact the Marriage Survey Media Line on **1800 683 051** or marriagesurveymedia@abs.gov.au

Fwd: Media release, speech and infographics [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Samantha Palmer
to:
Michelle S Howe
14/11/2017 06:10 PM
Hide Details
From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@abs,

Sam Palmer
Sent from my iPhone

(Please excuse any typos - keyboard too tiny for my fingers)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "47E(d)"
Date: 14 November 2017 at 5:07:52 pm AEDT
To: "Samantha Palmer" <samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au>
Cc: "Michelle S Howe" <michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au>, "Jonathan Palmer" <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>
Subject: Media release, speech and infographics [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Sam

47C

The Media Release, speech and infographics are now in this folder for your viewing.

47E

47E(

47E(d)

Director (a/g)

Marriage Collection Taskforce | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) 47E(d) (W) www.abs.gov.au

Part time: Monday & Tuesday 9.15am - 6.30pm | Wednesday & Thursday 7.30am - 2.45pm



AMLPS post-announcement media strategy for 15 Nov [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Michelle S Howe

to:

Samantha Palmer, Jonathan Palmer

14/11/2017 06:51 PM

Cc:

47E(d), Marriage Survey Media WDB, "Marriage Collection Taskforce WDB"

Hide Details

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS

To: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS,

Cc: **47E(d)**, Marriage Survey Media WDB@ABS, "Marriage Collection Taskforce WDB" <Marriage_Collection_Taskforce_WDB@abs.gov.au>

Hi Sam and Jonathan,

As discussed today, please see below a summary of the media strategy for implementation following tomorrow's AMLPS announcement. **47E(d)**

Note it refers to a media statement that we'll issue where appropriate and relevant in response to enquiries received after tomorrow. We will get a draft of this to you for approval tomorrow afternoon once we're clear of the media conference.

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) **47E(d)** (M) **47E(d)**

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey Post-announcement media strategy 15 November 2017 15 November media conference

There is intense media interest in the announcement of the marriage survey results. The ABS expects strong attendance at its 15 November media conference, including a 'super pool' that has been arranged with the ABC, SBS and commercial networks to live broadcast the media conference at 10:00am on Wednesday 15 November. In addition, a number of print journalists are expected to attend.

David Kalisch will announce the results of the survey at the media conference. At the conclusion of his speech, David Kalisch will take questions from journalists (with Jonathan Palmer also available to answer questions if required). The AMLPS media team will wrap

up the question time after 10 minutes of questions (or earlier if the Prime Minister holds a media conference that cuts across this time). Questions are expected to focus on the survey results, the participation rate, the performance of the ABS in conducting the survey and the process.

The Q&A adds important context to the announcement. It is an opportunity for the ABS to use the success of the survey – a huge logistical task, successfully delivered a tight time frame and under budget – to demonstrate the capacity and skills of the ABS. The outstanding participation rate is further evidence of the quality and integrity of the survey.

It also gives participating journalists direct access to the architects of the survey – the people who made it work.

15 November interviews following media conference

Post-media conference on 15 November, there will continue to be requests for interviews, especially from outlets that wish to source direct quotes from ABS spokespeople in addition to those delivered during the media conference and Q&A (for colour, context and points of difference), and from outlets that weren't at the media conference. There will also be interest in the breakdown of the results, particularly across states and territories and electorates, for state/territory/regional media.

The ABS will assess these interview requests in terms of geographical spread, angle, syndication etc, and seek to fulfil those that will provide additional positive coverage and reach. These interviews will again focus on the result, the high participation rate and the performance of the ABS in conducting the survey.

Through these post-announcement interviews, the ABS can broaden messaging, especially to talk in greater detail about the role of the ABS in delivering the survey. It also effectively 'bookends' and provides continuity of the successful media strategy and approach implemented through the survey process, providing an end point for media coverage.

Media approach after 15 November release

After 15 November, the ABS will no longer provide media interviews about the survey, unless they represent a significant strategic opportunity for the ABS or the Statistician (similar to the profile piece published in Fairfax publications on 12 November 2017).

The ABS will provide pre-approved responses to enquiries received after this time, including a statement where appropriate and relevant explaining that the ABS has finalised the survey and met the requirements of the Government direction, released the results and quality statement, and it's now a matter for Government. Note this statement will be finalised and approved by close of business 15 November for use from 16 November.

Fyi wd: One last thought re the speech.

Samantha Palmer

to:

Michelle S Howe

14/11/2017 07:37 PM

Hide Details

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS

To: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@abs,

Sam Palmer

Sent from my iPhone

(Please excuse any typos - keyboard too tiny for my fingers)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jonathan Palmer" <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>

Date: 14 November 2017 at 7:34:16 pm AEDT

To: "David Kalisch" <david.kalisch@abs.gov.au>

Cc: "Samantha Palmer" <samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au>

Subject: One last thought re the speech.

David,

47C

47C

AMPLS results 15 November 17 v8.docx

Jonathan Palmer

Deputy Australian Statistician

Census & Enabling Services Group

Australian Bureau of Statistics

P: 47E(d) | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au



Fw: Action - David's AMLPS speech for publishing once he announces the result [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Michelle S Howe

to:

47E(d)

15/11/2017 10:48 AM

Hide Details

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS

To: 47E(d)

1 Attachment



Australian Statistician speech_Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey results_15November17_final for publishing.docx

Hi 47E(d) - not the priority but here's the speech for publishing when you have a clear minute or two!!

(See attached file: Australian Statistician speech_Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey results_15November17_final for publishing.docx)

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

----- Forwarded by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS on 15/11/2017 10:47 AM -----

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS

To: 47E(d)

Cc: 47E(d)

Date: 15/11/2017 08:59 AM

Subject: Action - David's AMLPS speech for publishing once he announces the result [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi 47E(d)

As discussed, we would like to publish David's speech on the Marriage Law website once he announces the results.

The final speech is here. I've included 'Check against delivery' at the top in case he doesn't say this version word for word. Sam will check it against what he says at the media conference and if required, we can update it afterwards.

47E

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey
Australian Statistician announcement of results
ABS House media conference 15 November 2017

My name is David Kalisch and I am the Australian Statistician.

I would like to welcome everyone to the Australian Bureau of Statistics and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, paying my respects to elders past and present.

I called this media conference to announce the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey – it's probably the only time millions of Australians will gather to hear from the Australian Statistician.

As the nation's official statistical agency, the ABS provides trusted, relevant, objective statistics to inform Australia's important decisions.

ABS statistics provide quality information about our society, our population, the economy and the environment.

On August 9 2017, the Treasurer directed the ABS to:

- Ask everyone on the electoral roll if they wish to express a view on the issue on whether the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry
- The ABS was required to provide results for the nation as a whole, at the state and territory level, and for every Commonwealth Electoral Division.

The Treasurer's Direction required the results by today, which the ABS has achieved.

The ABS worked to enable as many eligible people as possible to participate in the voluntary survey. Together with our government partners and a number of suppliers, our goal was to make the process as easy as possible without compromising the integrity of the process or the results.

The survey was simple and could be completed by those travelling or living overseas, those in remote communities, people with disability, and those who speak different languages. Only one response per eligible Australian was counted.

Today, along with the results, we also provide a statement on quality and integrity of the survey. Australians can have trust in these statistics.

So now to the final count of participation - Millions of Australians responded to this voluntary survey – and the final number was 12 million, 727 thousand, and 920 people.

Overall, this survey achieved a response rate of 79.5 per cent. This is outstanding for a voluntary survey and well above other voluntary exercises conducted around the world.

It shows how important this issue is to many Australians.

Participation was strong across all ages, with all age groups having higher than 70% participation. Participation in the survey was slightly higher at older ages and slightly lower for younger age groups, but not markedly so. It's worth noting our youngest on the electoral role – the 18 and 19 year olds – responded strongly with around 78 per cent participating.

Participation was between 77.9 per cent and 82.4 per cent in every state and territory, except the Northern Territory where 58.4 per cent of those eligible chose to have a say.

Participation in the survey was over 70 per cent in 146 of the 150 Commonwealth electorate divisions. For the remaining four electorates, it was over 60 per cent for three and over 50 per cent for the remaining one.

With this high and consistent participation rate across ages, states and territories and Commonwealth electorates, Australians can have confidence these statistics reflect the view of the eligible population.

And now – the official results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

1. For the national result:

- **Yes responses** – 7 million, 817 thousand and 247, representing **61.6** per cent of clear responses. That's 61.6 per cent of clear responses were yes.
- **No responses** – 4 million, 873 thousand and 987 representing **38.4** per cent of clear responses. That's 38.4 per cent of clear responses were no.
- A further 36,686 responses were unclear, representing **0.2** per cent of total responses

2. At a state and territory level:

Every State and Territory recorded a majority yes result.

Every state and territory recorded a majority **yes** result over 60 per cent, with the exception of NSW which recorded a majority **yes** result of 57.8 per cent. ACT had the highest majority **yes**, at 74 per cent.

3. By Commonwealth Electoral Division:

Of the 150 Commonwealth Electorates, a majority **yes** outcome was recorded for 133 electorates and a majority **no** outcome was recorded for only 17 electorates.

Results were clearly in favour of yes or no in every Commonwealth Electoral Division.

Within those 133 Electorates with a majority **yes** response, there were 95 Electorates with a majority **yes** response of at least 60 per cent.

Within those 17 Electorates with a majority **no** response, there were 6 Electorates with a majority **no** response of at least 60 per cent.

Five Electorates had a closer result, within the 49/51 range: three had a marginal **no** outcome and two of these had a marginal **yes** outcome.

The full results will shortly be made available on the dedicated Marriage Law Postal Survey website (marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au) and via the ABS website.

It gives me great pleasure to return these results back to the community today. Ultimately, the strong participation by the Australian public and their clear responses to the survey has delivered this quality information for the community.

I thank everyone who followed the instructions, and nearly everyone did – as this helped us process the forms quickly and accurately.

The ABS has been prudent with taxpayer funds. While the costs are still being tallied, I am confident the final cost for the survey will be under \$100 million, many millions of dollars less than the available budget.

In closing, I thank the ABS staff who worked long hours with terrific energy to deliver this survey through a Taskforce led by Deputy Australian Statistician Jonathan Palmer.

This has been a superb team effort, drawing expert and dedicated staff from across the ABS.

I acknowledge and thank the large number of agencies across Government and the private sector, including the Australian Electoral Commission, Department of Human Services and Australia Post, that assisted the ABS to undertake this survey.

I also recognise our entire ABS team who continued to deliver the many official statistics continuously expected from the ABS during these past 99 days – these included the latest economic statistics, population numbers, a further release of quality data from the 2016 Census, and more.

Later this morning, the ABS will release the latest wage growth estimates, tomorrow it's the monthly labour force estimates for October, and Friday we release overseas arrivals and departures statistics that are a key input for our population estimates.

While the Government directed the ABS to undertake this survey, they also assisted us to conduct it in a timely manner, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Minister Cormann, his office and Department.

Finally, a bouquet for the media, who gave the ABS frequent access to communicate to the public and helped increase community awareness of the survey process. Thank you.

That brings a close to this morning's announcement. Thank you for your attention and interest.

Jonathan Palmer, Deputy Australian Statistician and Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey Lead, and I are available to take questions on the results and the process.



Media Release Survey Results_AS.docx

47E(d)

Director, Communication

Marriage Collection Taskforce | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E) andrew.sillis@abs.gov.au (W)
<http://www.abs.gov.au/www.abs.gov.au>

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Contact the Marriage Survey Media Line on **1800 683 051** or marriagesurveymedia@abs.gov.au

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS
 To: 47E(d)
 Date: 08/11/2017 10:39 AM
 Subject: Fw: Action: DAvid's speech draft

Here you go - might change of course, but in case it helps with reviewing media releases.

----- Forwarded by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS on 08/11/2017 10:38 AM -----

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
 To: David Kalisch/Staff/ABS@ABS, Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS,
 Date: 08/11/2017 10:35 AM
 Subject: Fw: Action: DAvid's speech draft

Hi

47C

Cheers

Samantha Palmer

General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion
 /Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E)
samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) <http://www.abs.gov.au/www.abs.gov.au>

It is always the simple that produces the marvelous -- Amelia Barr

----- Forwarded by Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS on 08/11/2017 10:35 AM -----

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
 To: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS,

Date: 07/11/2017 09:56 AM
Subject: Action: DAvid's speech

Hi

47C

47C

47C

Samantha Palmer

General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion
/Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E)
samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) <http://www.abs.gov.au/www.abs.gov.au>

It is always the simple that produces the marvelous -- Amelia Barr

Australian Electorate supports/opposes changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry

15 November 2017

Today the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) announced the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, revealing the majority (xx.x per cent) of eligible Australians (*supported/opposed*) changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry.

xx.x per cent of survey respondents (*were opposed to/supported*) the law being changed.

Over the past 99 days, xxx million people participated in the voluntary survey – a total of xx.x per cent of the more than 16 million eligible Australians.

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

The detailed results published for national, states and territories and Federal Electoral Divisions are accompanied by an independent statement on the quality and integrity of the results, which accompanies all ABS statistical data releases.

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

47C [Redacted]

The Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey asked the views of 16 million eligible Australians on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll on whether or not the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

The official statistics, including a count of responses (Yes, No and Response Not Clear) by Federal Electoral Division (FED), State/Territory and National, are available from www.marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au

Key results

Region	Yes	No	Unclear	Participation
Australia	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	%	%	%	%
Victoria	%	%	%	%
Queensland	%	%	%	%
South Australia	%	%	%	%
Western Australia	%	%	%	%
Tasmania	%	%	%	%
Northern Territory	%	%	%	%
Australian Capital Territory	%	%	%	%

Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey
Australian Statistician announcement of results
ABS House media conference 15 November 2017

My name is David Kalisch and as the 15th Australian Statistician I welcome everyone to the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Canberra.

I'd like to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of land and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I called this media conference to announce the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey – it's probably the only time millions of Australians will gather to hear from the Australian Statistician.

As the nation's official statistical agency, the ABS provides trusted, relevant, objective statistics to inform important decisions that affect our society, the community, the economy and the environment. And this survey fits very well with this ABS purpose.

Over the past 99 days the ABS has undertaken a huge logistical exercise to provide 16 million eligible Australians with the opportunity to have their say on whether the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

On August 9, the Treasurer legally directed me to:

- Ask everyone on the electoral roll if they wish to express a view on this issue
- Provide results for the nation as a whole, each state and territory and every Federal Electoral Division, and
- Publish results by today.

Now we complete all the requirements of the Treasurer's Direction.

47C

47C

At the outset, we were very pleased so many Australians updated their electoral status. Around 100,000 people enrolled for the first time and around 800,000 updated their electoral roll details before 24 August.

We are also very pleased (*Insert*) per cent of total eligible Australians have responded to this voluntary survey.

Participation was strong across all ages, with all age groups having higher than 70% participation.

47C

In terms of total participation, Australians should also be proud this outstanding result compares favourably with other voluntary exercises conducted around the world.

I would like to thank everyone who participated: from Thursday Island in the north, to Christmas Island in the west, Norfolk Island in the east, those stationed in Antarctica and all points in between.

I'd like to make special mention of all the Aussies overseas who completed their survey via our telephone or online options. These paperless options were also taken up by people travelling in Australia, or unable to use the post due to disability.

To assist others who do not have easy access to the post across Australia, ABS staff also visited more than 200 regional and remote communities.

We translated materials into nearly 40 languages (including Indigenous), and worked closely with stakeholders from the defence force, offshore Australian territories, Indigenous, disability, aged care and prison sectors. Many people gave us their time and we are grateful.

47C

The survey's results, which I am about to announce, are accompanied by an independent statement on the quality and integrity of the results. This, of course, accompanies all ABS statistical data releases.

The Australian people can have confidence these statistics reflect the view of the eligible population. We had a high participation rate. We maximised people's opportunity to have their say. We had rigorous methods to avoid fraud. Independent assurers checked our approach and actions along the way, and observers reviewed our processing and scanning.

And now – the results of the Australian Law Marriage Postal Survey.

1. The official result of the survey is:

Survey participation – national; state/territory; Federal Electoral Division

Yes responses – national

No responses – national

Response not clear – national

2. At a state and territory level the results are:

- List state and territory results

3. By Federal Electoral Division:

- Highest/the lowest/notable results (TBC won't be able to list all)
- Participation rates categorised by electorate – highest/lowest.

The full results will shortly be made available on the dedicated Marriage Law Postal Survey website and via the ABS website.

In closing, I thank the ABS staff who have worked long hours with terrific energy to deliver this survey through a Taskforce led by Deputy Australian Statistician Jonathan Palmer.

This has been a superb team effort, drawing expert and dedicated staff from across the ABS to again deliver quality statistics to inform Australia's key decisions.

I also recognise our ABS team who continued to deliver the many official statistics also expected from the ABS during this period.

Finally I acknowledge the large number of agencies across Government and the private sector, including the Australian Electoral Commission, Department of Human Services and Australia Post, that assisted the ABS to undertake this survey. Their contribution was invaluable and helped us deliver a high-quality survey and statistics.

That brings a close to this morning's announcement. Thank you for your attention and interest.

Jonathan Palmer and I will now take questions.

From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS
To: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Date: 11/11/2017 12:10 PM
Subject: Fw: AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx [DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

Hi - couple of suggestions from me on latest version of speech. 47C

47C



AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

----- Forwarded by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS on 11/11/2017 12:07 PM -----

From: David Kalisch/Staff/ABS
To: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Date: 10/11/2017 04:03 PM
Subject: AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx [DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

Colleagues

As discussed, the latest version

Obviously data needs to be included next week, but useful to look at earlier with an eye to what is essential. 47C

47C

regards

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

47E(d) (w) david.kalisch@abs.gov.au
[attachment "AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx" deleted by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS]

From: David Kalisch/Staff/ABS
 To: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS,
 Cc: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS
 Date: 13/11/2017 03:01 PM
 Subject: Re: AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx [DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

Thanks Sam

47C

Will get another version back to people tomorrow to have a look at before it gets locked down

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

47E(d) (w) david.kalisch@abs.gov.au

Samantha Palmer Hi Done a revisit to add a bit more clear detai... 13/11/2017 02:00:55 PM

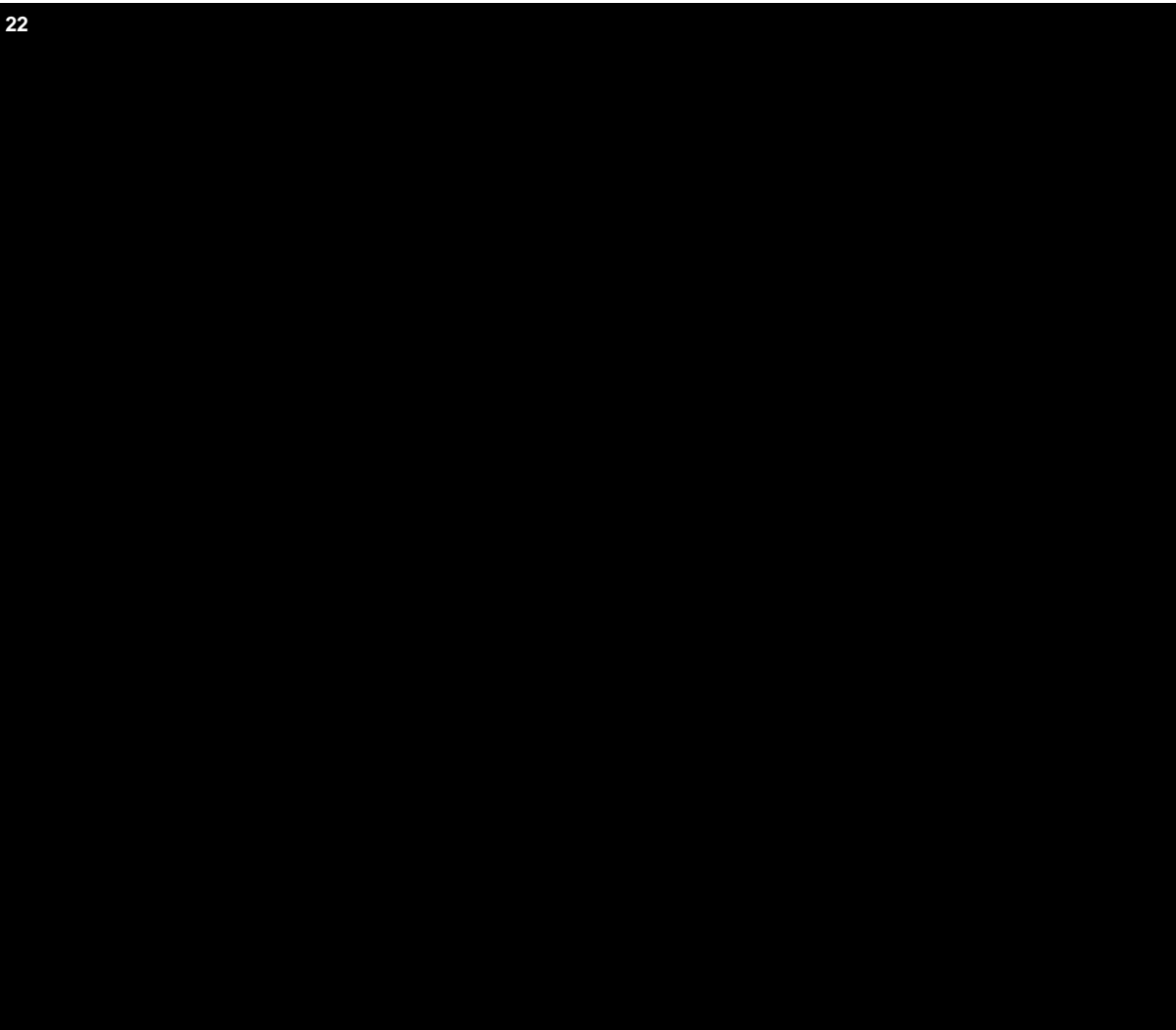
From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
 To: David Kalisch/Staff/ABS@ABS,
 Cc: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS
 Date: 13/11/2017 02:00 PM
 Subject: Re: AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx [DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

Hi
 Done a revisit to add a bit more clear detail 47C - Suggest you view in final

See what you think

[attachment "AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v5.docx" deleted by David Kalisch/Staff/ABS]

Samantha Palmer
General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion |
Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E)
samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au



COMMS

- 22 [redacted]
- 22 [redacted]
- 22 [redacted]
- 10 am event
 - DK and JP will attend
 - DK speech at 10am (5minutes)
 - 22 [redacted]
 - 22 [redacted]
- 22 [redacted]

- During/after speech- publish on website- less than 2 minutes

- 22

- 22

22

