



BUDGET SPENDING PRIORITIES

MARCH 2017



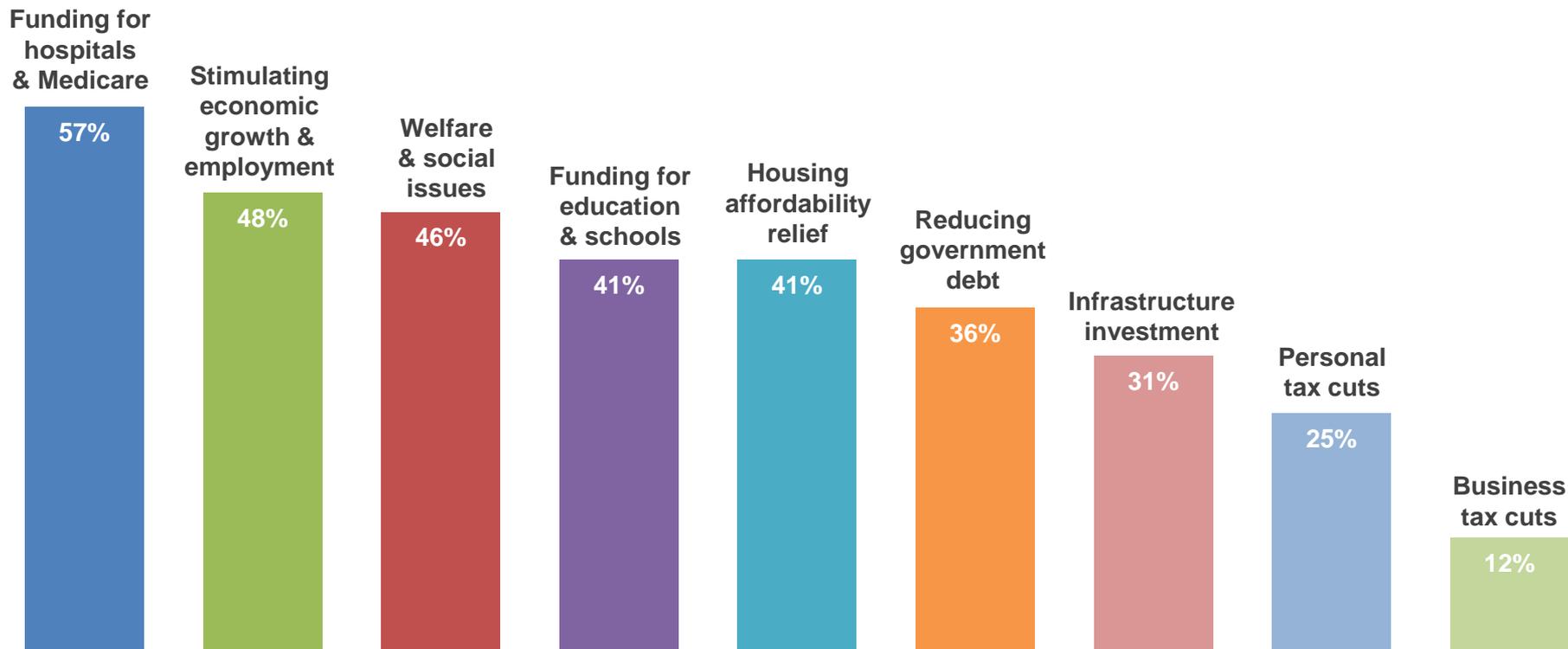
JWS RESEARCH

FUNDING FOR HOSPITALS AND MEDICARE IS A MAIN FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITY FOR A MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIAN ADULTS

- A majority of Australians believe funding for hospitals and Medicare should be a main priority in the May 2017 Federal Budget (57%), and this is the top community priority regardless of age, gender or location. Residents of regional areas and older Australians (aged 55 and over) are significantly more likely to nominate health funding as a priority.
- Almost half of Australians think stimulating economic growth and employment (48%) and welfare and social issues (46%) should be the main priorities for Budget spending. Again, older Australians are most likely to nominate these areas, with a majority of over 55s looking for action on these in the 2017-18 Budget.
- Funding for education and schools and housing affordability relief (41% each) round out the top five community priorities. While much public debate around housing affordability relief focuses on younger adults looking to buy a first home, 18-34s do not place a stronger priority on this as a Budget issue than older groups. However, there is a slight gender skew on this issue, with women (46%) more likely than men (36%) to want Budget measures on housing affordability.
- Other differences by gender include greater calls by men than women (37% cf 26%) to prioritise infrastructure investment and business tax cuts (15% cf 8%) in the Budget. Middle income earners (those on \$75-100K per annum) place a significantly higher than average emphasis on business tax cuts (18% cf 12% overall), whilst those in current employment (31%) and on household incomes of \$100K+ per annum (32%) place a significantly greater weight on personal tax cuts than all Australians (25%).

HEALTH FUNDING, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WELFARE/SOCIAL ISSUES ARE AUSTRALIANS' MAIN PRIORITIES FOR 2017-18 FEDERAL BUDGET

Main community priorities for the 2017-18 Federal Budget



Note: Respondents were able to select more than one priority area

Q. Federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison, will hand down the 2017-18 Budget in May this year. Which of the following areas do you think should be the Government's main priority for the May Budget?

Base: All respondents, n=1,228

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Conducted as part of True Issues Wave 12, in field 15-23 March, 2017

Comprised of a representative sample of 1,228 Australians aged 18+

Conducted as an online survey with sample drawn from the Cint's OpinionHUB panel marketplace platform (www.cint.com)+

Survey quotas on age, gender and location, as well as post-weighting to ABS population distribution, to ensure accurate representation.

The maximum margin of error on a sample of n=1,228 interviews is +/-2.8% at the 95% confidence level for results around 50%.

This research was conducted in compliance with AS-ISO 20252.

**THERE ARE OVER
24 MILLION PEOPLE
IN AUSTRALIA...**

**FIND OUT
WHAT THEY'RE
THINKING.**

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