



**TRUE ISSUES SPECIAL RELEASE  
ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY  
AUGUST, 2016**



## KEY FINDINGS

From a list of key policy areas, 11% of Australian adults select **defence, security and terrorism** as the **single most important issue** governments should be focusing on.

This follows **hospitals and healthcare** (21%) and the **economy and finances** (14%), but is slightly ahead of **education and training** and the **environment** (10% each).

Half of Australians include defence, security and terrorism in their **top five** most important issues (49%) and, among this group, the top concerns governments should be addressing in this area are: **terrorism** (56%), **homegrown terrorism** (39%), **religious and ethnically motivated violence** (24%), and **radicalisation** of individuals in the community, especially youth (22%).

Other key areas include: Australia's **security alliances** (17%), **Cyberwarfare** (16%), Australian **military involvement in the Middle East, Syria and Iraq** (15%), Australia's **foreign aid budget** (15%), and **Australians travelling to the Middle East to fight as insurgents** (12%).

Reflecting this concern around terrorism, almost eight-in-ten Australian adults (**79%**) are **concerned about an act of terrorism taking place in Australia in the next 6 months**, including one-in-five who are *extremely* concerned (19%). A further 24% are *very* concerned and 37% are *somewhat* concerned.



## KEY FINDINGS

For a majority of adults (57%), concern about the threat of terrorism in Australia has **increased** over the last six months, including one-in-five for whom it has *greatly* increased (19%). Among 38%, their level of concern has only *somewhat* increased, and for a further 38% it has **stayed the same**. Very few say their level of concern has **decreased** over the last six months (3%).

Levels of concern about terrorism in Australia are high across the board, regardless of gender, age or area. In NSW, concern is significantly higher – 49% are *extremely/very* concerned about an act of terrorism taking place in Australia in the next 6 months (versus 43% nationally).

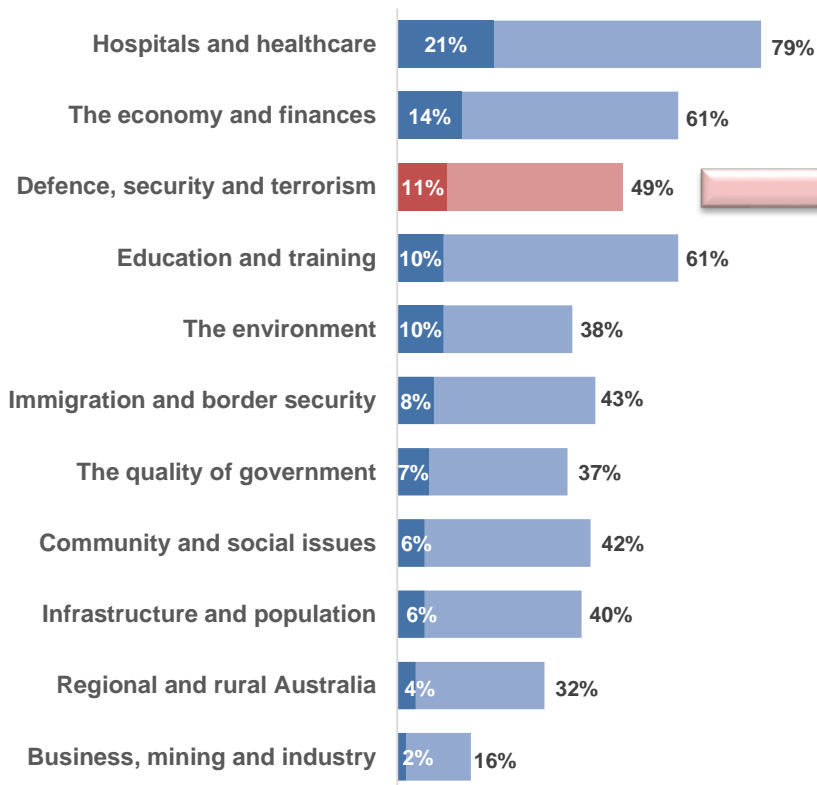
Four-in-ten Australians rate the performance of the Federal Government in countering terrorism in Australia as **good** (41%), including 7% who say it has been *very good*. However, almost as many rate the Government's performance as **average** (39%).

A sizeable group view the Government's performance as **poor** on countering terrorism (15%), including 9% who say it has been *very poor*.

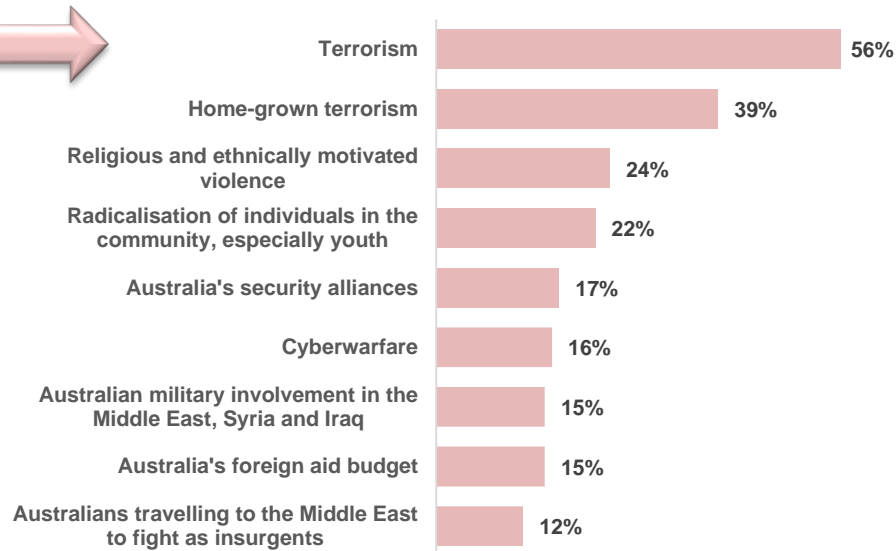
Again, ratings are similar across the board, regardless of gender, age or area.

# DEFENCE, SECURITY AND TERRORISM IS SINGULARLY THE THIRD MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON, WITH TERRORISM THE STAND-OUT CONCERN

## Key policy areas – % most important, % top five



## Leading concerns related to defence, security, terrorism



Q1. From the following list, please select the 5 most important issues to you as something governments should be focusing on. Please put a '1' next to the most important issue, followed by a '2', a '3' and so on. [Chart shows total '1', total '1-5']

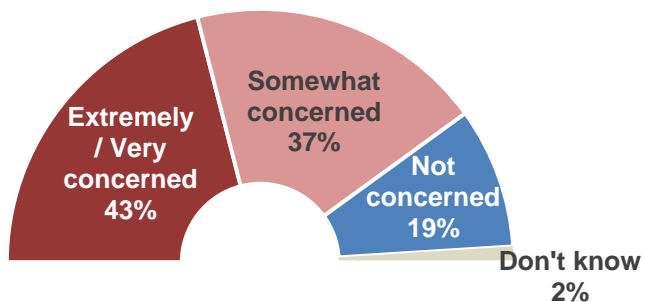
Base: All respondents, n=1002

Q2. Please select up to three issues or concerns relating to <defence, security and terrorism> that are most important to you that you think governments should be addressing or focusing on specifically.

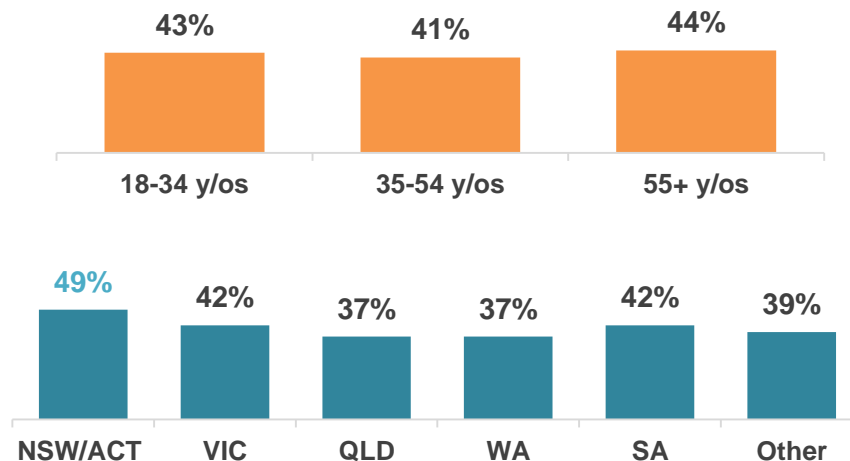
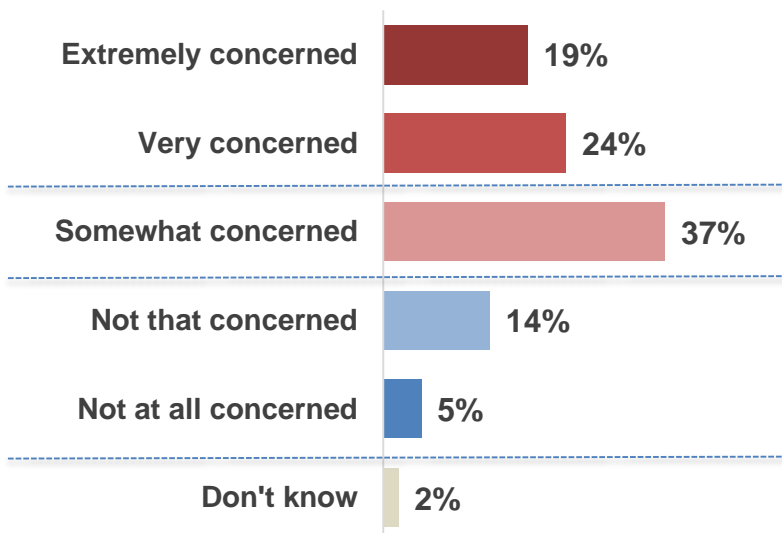
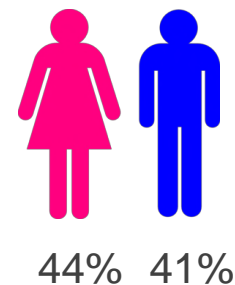
Base: Defence, security and terrorism selected in top five issues, n=492

# THERE IS STRONG CONCERN ABOUT AN ACT OF TERRORISM TAKING PLACE IN AUSTRALIA IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, WITH SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE-AVERAGE CONCERN IN NSW

Concern that an act of terrorism will take place in Australia in the next 6 months



Total 'extremely / very concerned' amongst demographics

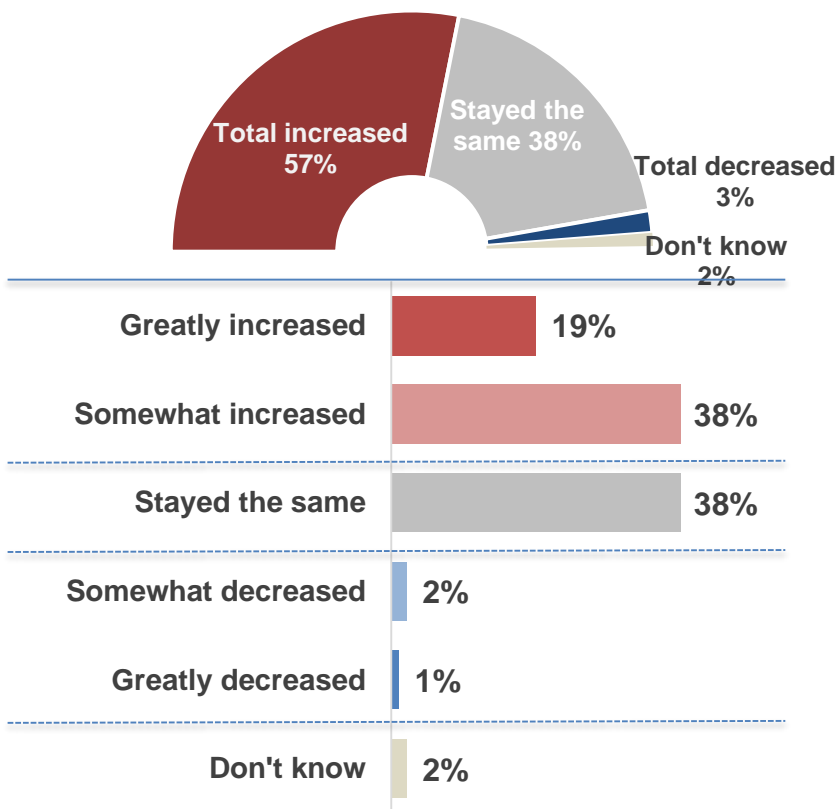


Q38. To what extent are you concerned about an act of terrorism taking place in Australia in the next 6 months?

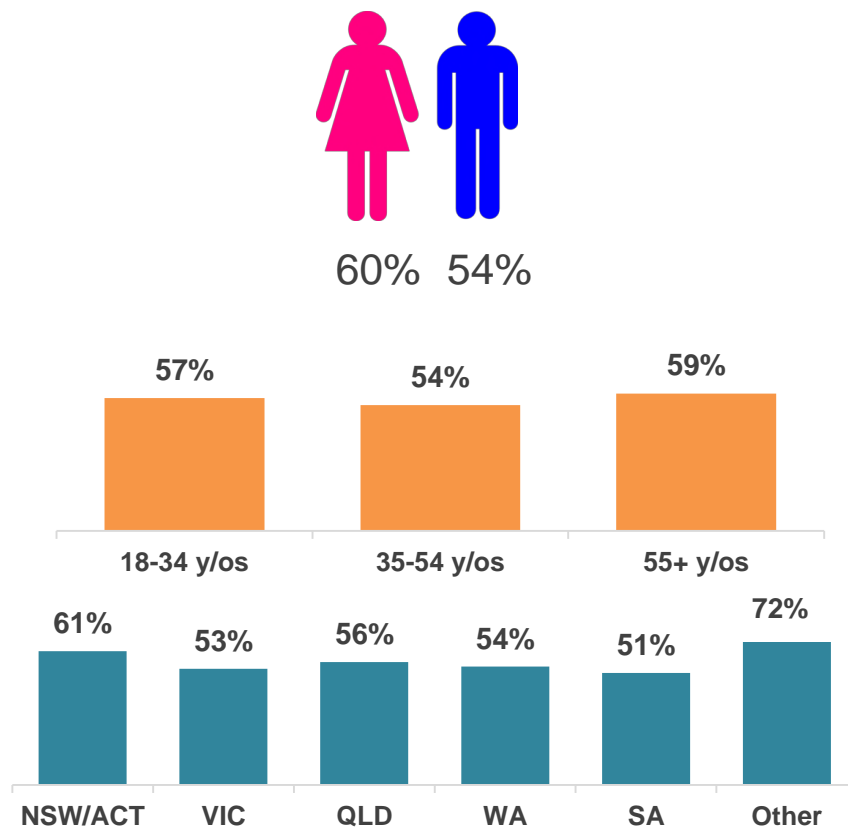
Base: All respondents, n=1002

# A MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIANS THINK THE THREAT OF TERRORISM IS ON THE INCREASE

*Concern about the threat of terrorism over the last 6 months*



*Total 'increased' amongst demographics*

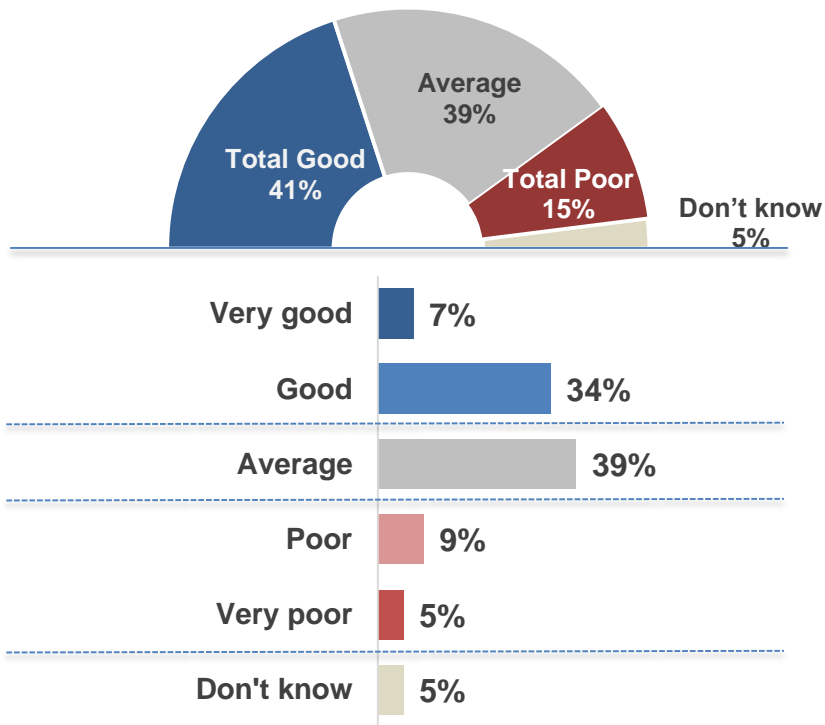


Q39. Has your concern about the threat of terrorism in Australia increased, decreased or stayed the same over the last six months?

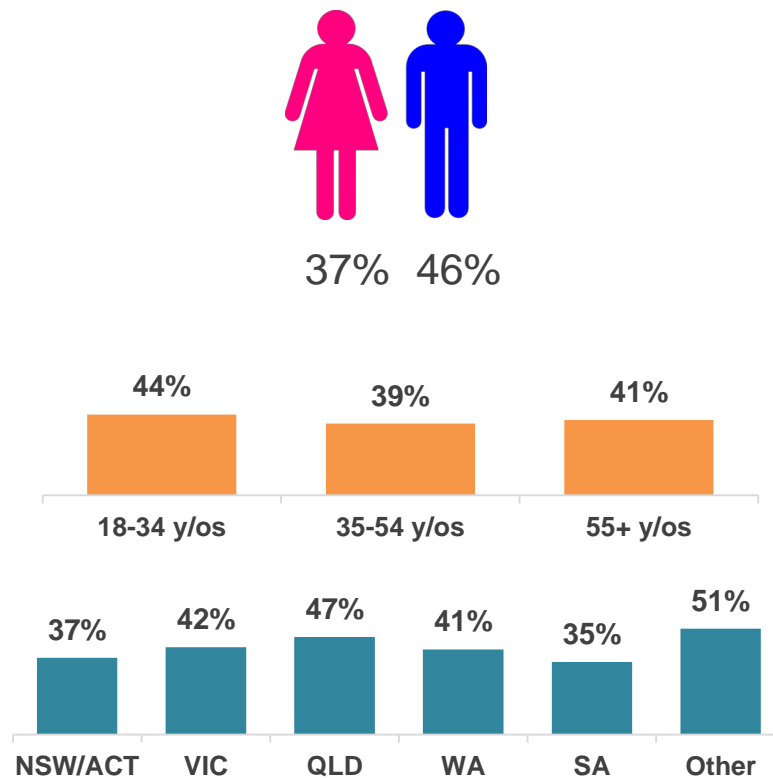
Base: All respondents, n=1002

# 2-IN-5 (41%) AUSTRALIANS THINK THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN COUNTERING TERRORISM IN AUSTRALIA IS GOOD, COMPARED TO ONLY 15% WHO THINK IT IS POOR

*Rating of the performance of the Australian Federal Government in countering terrorism in Australia*



*Total 'good' amongst demographics*



Q40. How would you rate the performance of the Australian Federal Government in countering terrorism in Australia?  
 Base: All respondents, n=1002

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Part of True Issues Wave 10 (W10): in field 15 – 18 August, 2016

Comprised of a representative sample of 1,002 Australians aged 18+

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

Margin of error is +/-3.1% at the 95% confidence level for results near 50%

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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