

October 2009 Frequencies

All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Very satisfied	176	14.6	14.6
Satisfied	665	55.4	70.0
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	75	6.2	76.3
Dissatisfied	188	15.7	91.9
Very dissatisfied	77	6.5	98.4
(Don't know/Not sure)	15	1.2	99.6
(Refused)	5	.4	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Economy/jobs	389	32.4	32.4
Industrial relations	12	1.0	33.5
Interest rates	3	.2	33.7
Housing affordability	15	1.3	35.0
Health care	81	6.8	41.7
Education	34	2.9	44.6
Defence/national security	22	1.8	46.4
Terrorism	11	.9	47.4
Iraq war	5	.4	47.8
Environment/global warming	163	13.6	61.4
Water management	41	3.5	64.8
Immigration	79	6.6	71.4
Indigenous affairs	4	.4	71.8
Taxation	7	.6	72.4
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc)	7	.6	73.0
Law and order/crime/justice system	43	3.6	76.6
Poverty/social exclusion/inequality	17	1.5	78.0
Infrastructure/planning/innovation	8	.7	78.7
Alcohol and drug use	15	1.3	80.0
Better government	39	3.3	83.3
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	35	2.9	86.1
Foreign influence/Australia's position in the world	12	1.0	87.2
Values/ morals/respect for others	22	1.9	89.0
Family/ community/societal breakdown	12	1.0	90.0
Increasing/ageing population	8	.7	90.7
Other	41	3.5	94.1
(None/no other)	6	.5	94.6
(Don't know/can't say)	62	5.2	99.8
(Refused)	3	.2	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

What do you think is the second most important problem facing Australia today?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Economy/jobs	212	17.7	23.5
Industrial relations	14	1.2	24.7
Interest rates	4	.3	25.0
Housing affordability	27	2.2	27.2
Health care	89	7.5	34.7
Education	75	6.2	40.9
Defence/national security	33	2.7	43.6
Terrorism	10	.8	44.4
Iraq war	4	.3	44.8
Afghan war	7	.6	45.4
Environment/global warming	129	10.8	56.1
Water management	30	2.5	58.6
Immigration	82	6.9	65.5
Indigenous affairs	13	1.0	66.5
Taxation	10	.9	67.4
Social services (including aged care, the disabled etc)	9	.8	68.2
Law and order/crime/ justice system	27	2.2	70.4
Poverty/social exclusion/inequality	24	2.0	72.4
Infrastructure/planning/innovation	15	1.3	73.7
Alcohol and drug use	18	1.5	75.2
Better government	20	1.7	76.9
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	21	1.8	78.7
Foreign influence/Australia's position in the world	8	.7	79.4
Values/morals/respect for others	10	.9	80.2
Family/community/societal breakdown	14	1.2	81.4
Increasing/ageing population	12	1.0	82.4
Other	50	4.2	86.6
(None/no other)	7	.6	87.2
(Don't know/can't say)	151	12.6	99.8
(Refused)	3	.2	100.0
(Missing)	70	5.9	5.9
Total	1,200	100.0	

**Taking into account social, economic and environmental conditions and trends:
Would you say that life in Australia is getting better, worse or staying about
the same?**

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
A lot better	79	6.5	6.5
A little better	210	17.5	24.0
Staying about the same	590	49.1	73.2
A little worse	199	16.6	89.8
A lot worse	105	8.8	98.5
(Don't know/can't say)	18	1.5	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

What do you think is the most important problem facing rural Australia today?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Low commodity prices	56	4.7	4.7
Poor levels of services generally	93	7.7	12.4
Drought	318	26.5	38.9
Ageing population	10	.8	39.7
Poor health care	56	4.7	44.4
Poor telecommunications	18	1.5	45.9
Environmental degradation	115	9.6	55.5
Water shortages	164	13.7	69.2
Cost of living/living expenses	39	3.2	72.4
Other	231	19.2	91.7
(None/no other)	6	.5	92.2
(Don't know/can't say)	91	7.6	99.8
(Refused)	3	.2	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

What do you think is the second most important problem facing rural Australia today?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Low commodity prices	67	5.6	6.5
Poor levels of services generally	121	10.1	18.2
Drought	88	7.3	26.7
Ageing population	17	1.4	28.3
Poor health care	42	3.5	32.4
Poor telecommunications	23	1.9	34.6
Environmental degradation	75	6.3	41.9
Water shortages	64	5.3	48.1
Cost of living/living expenses	59	4.9	53.7
Other	336	28.0	86.2
(None/no other)	5	.4	86.7
(Don't know/can't say)	138	11.5	100.0
Total	1,035	86.3	
(Missing)	165	13.7	
Total	1,200	100.0	

Thinking of (most important problem facing rural Australia), who do you think is most responsible for providing solutions?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
The federal government	619	51.6	61.5
The state government	152	12.7	76.6
Local government	32	2.7	79.8
Local community organisations	19	1.6	81.7
Employers or businesses	18	1.5	83.4
Individuals	81	6.8	91.5
Someone else	39	3.2	95.3
(Don't know/not sure)	46	3.8	99.9
(Refused)	1	.1	100.0
Total	1,007	83.9	
(Missing)	193	16.1	
Total	1,200	100.0	

Do you have any close family members who live on a farm in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Yes	308	25.7	25.7
No	889	74.1	99.8
(Don't know/not sure)	3	.2	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Do you have any close friends who live on a farm in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Yes	431	35.9	35.9
No	767	63.9	99.8
(Don't know/not sure)	2	.2	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Do you have any distant relatives who live on a farm in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Yes	348	29.0	29.0
No	836	69.7	98.6
(Don't know/not sure)	16	1.4	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Do you have any casual friends or acquaintances who live on a farm in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Yes	569	47.4	47.4
No	627	52.3	99.7
(Don't know/not sure)	3	.3	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Do you have any close family members who live in rural towns in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Yes	612	51.0	51.0
No	585	48.7	99.7
(Don't know/not sure)	3	.3	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Do you have any close friends who live in rural towns in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Yes	644	53.7	53.7
No	553	46.1	99.8
(Don't know/not sure)	3	.2	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Do you have any distant relatives who live in rural towns in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Yes	498	41.5	41.5
No	682	56.8	98.3
(Don't know/not sure)	20	1.7	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Do you have any casual friends or acquaintances who live in rural towns in Australia?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Yes	678	56.5	56.5
No	518	43.2	99.7
(Don't know/not sure)	4	.3	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

How important do you think agriculture production is for our future?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Very important	1,019	84.9	84.9
Fairly important	159	13.3	98.2
Not very important	9	.8	99.0
Not at all important	6	.5	99.4
(Don't know/not sure)	6	.5	99.9
(Refused)	1	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

How important do you think rural areas are for our future?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Very important	1,004	83.7	83.7
Fairly important	178	14.8	98.5
Not very important	12	1.0	99.5
(Don't know/not sure)	5	.4	99.9
(Refused)	2	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

There have been several television shows set in rural areas. Do you believe the portrayals of rural Australia on television shows is very accurate, fairly accurate, not very accurate or not at all accurate?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Very accurate	58	4.9	4.9
Fairly accurate	458	38.1	43.0
Not very accurate	289	24.1	67.1
Not at all accurate	91	7.5	74.7
(Don't know/not sure)	299	24.9	99.5
(Refused)	5	.5	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Now I am going to read you a list of phrases. For each phrase, please tell me whether you associate it with people who live in rural areas and small towns, or with people who live in cities and suburbs.

...Commitment to community

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	897	74.8	74.8
Cities/suburbs	85	7.1	81.9
Both	191	15.9	97.8
Neither	7	.6	98.4
(Don't know/not sure)	17	1.4	99.9
(Refused)	2	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Strong sense of family

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	671	55.9	55.9
Cities/suburbs	54	4.5	60.5
Both	436	36.4	96.8
Neither	17	1.4	98.3
(Don't know/not sure)	21	1.7	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Strong religious beliefs

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	348	29.0	29.0
Cities/suburbs	254	21.1	50.1
Both	369	30.7	80.8
Neither	109	9.1	89.9
(Don't know/not sure)	113	9.4	99.3
(Refused)	9	.7	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Hard working

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	537	44.7	44.7
Cities/suburbs	87	7.3	52.0
Both	557	46.4	98.4
Neither	7	.6	99.0
(Don't know/not sure)	10	.9	99.9
(Refused)	1	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Loyal to their country

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	581	48.4	48.4
Cities/suburbs	46	3.8	52.3
Both	504	42.0	94.3
Neither	16	1.3	95.6
(Don't know/not sure)	49	4.1	99.7
(Refused)	4	.3	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Tolerant of others

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	526	43.8	43.8
Cities/suburbs	355	29.6	73.4
Both	241	20.1	93.5
Neither	34	2.8	96.3
(Don't know/not sure)	38	3.2	99.5
(Refused)	6	.5	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Sophisticated

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	52	4.3	4.3
Cities/suburbs	939	78.3	82.6
Both	144	12.0	94.6
Neither	31	2.6	97.1
(Don't know/not sure)	27	2.2	99.4
(Refused)	7	.6	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Tough or resilient

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	924	77.0	77.0
Cities/suburbs	79	6.6	83.6
Both	169	14.1	97.6
Neither	12	1.0	98.6
(Don't know/not sure)	15	1.3	99.9
(Refused)	1	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Self-sufficient

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	940	78.3	78.3
Cities/suburbs	104	8.6	87.0
Both	134	11.2	98.2
Neither	8	.7	98.8
(Don't know/not sure)	12	1.0	99.9
(Refused)	1	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Behind the times

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	651	54.3	54.3
Cities/suburbs	90	7.5	61.8
Both	124	10.3	72.1
Neither	245	20.4	92.5
(Don't know/not sure)	76	6.3	98.9
(Refused)	14	1.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Lacking initiative

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Rural areas/small towns	148	12.4	12.4
Cities/suburbs	512	42.6	55.0
Both	154	12.8	67.8
Neither	274	22.9	90.7
(Don't know/not sure)	103	8.6	99.3
(Refused)	9	.7	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

I'm now going to read you some statements about Australian farming. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree... Australian farmers are generally undertaking sustainable farming practices.

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Strongly agree	221	18.4	18.4
Agree	622	51.8	70.2
Neither agree nor disagree	54	4.5	74.7
Disagree	152	12.7	87.4
Strongly disagree	34	2.9	90.2
(Don't know/not sure)	114	9.5	99.7
(Refused)	3	.3	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

I'm now going to read you some statements about Australian farming. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree... Australian farmers are generally undertaking sustainable farming practices.

...Australian farmers are adequately looking after animal welfare.

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Strongly agree	293	24.4	24.4
Agree	625	52.1	76.5
Neither agree nor disagree	34	2.8	79.3
Disagree	124	10.4	89.7
Strongly disagree	26	2.2	91.8
(Don't know/not sure)	96	8.0	99.9
(Refused)	2	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Australian farmers are producing clean and safe food.

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Strongly agree	396	33.0	33.0
Agree	615	51.3	84.3
Neither agree nor disagree	45	3.8	88.1
Disagree	76	6.3	94.4
Strongly disagree	15	1.2	95.7
(Don't know/not sure)	50	4.2	99.9
(Refused)	2	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Do you think farmers should receive more, less or the same amount of financial assistance from the government?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Much more	334	27.8	27.8
More	401	33.4	61.2
Remain the same	312	26.0	87.2
Less	22	1.8	89.0
Much less	13	1.1	90.2
(Don't know/not sure)	108	9.0	99.2
(Refused)	10	.8	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

As you may know, some food products and medicines are being developed using new scientific techniques. The general area is called 'biotechnology' and includes tools such as genetic engineering and genetic modification of food. How closely have you been following the news about this issue?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Very closely	141	11.8	11.8
Somewhat closely	469	39.0	50.8
Not too closely	380	31.6	82.4
Not at all	198	16.5	98.9
(Don't know/not sure)	12	1.0	99.9
(Refused)	1	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Overall, would you say you support or oppose the use of biotechnology in agriculture and food production?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Strongly support	168	14.0	14.0
Moderately support	438	36.5	50.5
Moderately oppose	226	18.8	69.3
Strongly oppose	235	19.6	88.9
(Don't know/not sure)	129	10.8	99.6
(Refused)	4	.4	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

From what you know or have heard, do you believe that foods that have been produced using biotechnology pose a serious health hazard to consumers?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Pose serious hazard	373	31.1	31.1
Don't pose serious hazard	547	45.6	76.7
(Don't know/not sure)	279	23.2	99.9
(Refused)	1	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement. You are willing to buy environmentally friendly products even if they cost a little bit more.

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Totally agree	545	45.4	45.4
Tend to agree	493	41.1	86.5
Tend to disagree	91	7.6	94.1
Totally disagree	44	3.7	97.8
(Don't know/not sure)	22	1.8	99.6
(Refused)	5	.4	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

When you purchase meat (this includes chicken and fish), how often do you think about the welfare or protection of the animals from which these meat products have been sourced?

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Most of the time	355	29.6	29.6
Some of the time	323	26.9	56.5
Very rarely	295	24.6	81.1
Never	191	15.9	97.0
I don't purchase meat	28	2.3	99.3
(Don't know/not sure)	5	.4	99.8
(Refused)	3	.2	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you think it is true or false.

...More than one in five Australian workers are working on farms

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
True	214	17.8	17.8
False	869	72.4	90.2
(Don't know/not sure)	116	9.7	99.9
(Refused)	1	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Most of Australia's exports are farm products.

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
True	458	38.1	38.1
False	639	53.3	91.4
(Don't know/not sure)	102	8.5	99.9
(Refused)	1	.1	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Australian farmers produce more than three times as much food and fibre as Australia consumes.

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
True	630	52.5	52.5
False	314	26.1	78.7
(Don't know/not sure)	256	21.3	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...The average age of Australian farmers is approximately 35.

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
True	454	37.8	37.8
False	604	50.4	88.2
(Don't know/not sure)	142	11.8	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	

...Australia is the one of the most urbanised countries in the world.

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
True	669	55.7	55.7
False	409	34.0	89.8
(Don't know/not sure)	120	10.0	99.8
(Refused)	2	.2	100.0
Total	1,200	100.0	