

Tax Working Group Public Submissions Information Release

Release Document

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Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- [1] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people;
- [2] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [1] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

The 2016 ISSP module was on the ‘Role of Government’ – with some similarities to other modules collected in 1996 and 2006. The design and field work were carried out by COMPASS at University of Auckland. (Thanks to Dr Barry Milne).

Mode of collection: Mail with sample drawn from Electoral Roll. N=1350 and 95% confidence limits= ± 2.67 . The data is weighted to bring into line with census proportions.

General Views on Government Spending

	Strongly in favour of Row N %	In favour of Row N %	Neither in favour of nor against Row N %	Against Row N %	Strongly against Row N %
A5a. Opinion on cuts in government spending	16.3%	31.7%	29.2%	17.3%	5.5%
A5b. Opinion on government financing of projects to create jobs	32.5%	54.5%	11.1%	1.5%	0.5%
A5c. Opinion on their being less government regulation of business	14.5%	30.7%	34.6%	16.0%	4.2%
A5d. Opinion on government support for industry to develop new products and technology	38.9%	50.5%	8.6%	1.8%	0.2%
A5e. Opinion on government support for declining industries, to protect jobs	11.9%	30.0%	31.1%	23.4%	3.6%
A5f. Opinion on reducing the working week to create more jobs	8.1%	16.4%	32.2%	32.7%	10.5%

A5g. Opinion on reducing taxes in general	22.9%	32.6%	26.4%	15.1%	2.9%
A5h. Opinion on introducing import controls	13.5%	34.5%	31.7%	15.3%	5.0%
A5i. Opinion on controlling wages by law	7.3%	29.4%	22.9%	29.2%	11.2%
A5j. Opinion on controlling prices by law	8.0%	26.1%	24.9%	30.4%	10.6%
A5k. Opinion on introducing a capital gains tax	21.0%	24.4%	22.0%	18.4%	14.3%
A5l. Opinion on increasing the tax rate for high income earners	28.5%	29.0%	19.3%	15.8%	7.3%

Government Spending: areas for increase/decrease

	Spend much more Row N %	Spend more Row N %	Spend the same as now Row N %	Spend less Row N %	Spend much less Row N %
A6a. Opinion on government spending on the environment	13.6%	34.7%	46.4%	4.9%	0.4%
A6b. Opinion on government spending on health	30.5%	53.7%	15.2%	0.4%	0.2%
A6c. Opinion on government spending on police and law enforcement	16.6%	46.0%	34.4%	2.2%	0.8%
A6d. Opinion on government spending on education	27.0%	49.0%	23.0%	0.9%	0.1%
A6e. Opinion on government spending on military and defence	4.8%	15.1%	54.3%	19.3%	6.6%

A6f. Opinion on government spending on old age pensions	13.4%	33.5%	48.8%	3.5%	0.8%
A6g. Opinion on government spending on unemployment benefits	2.7%	11.6%	46.6%	27.8%	11.3%
A6h. Opinion on government spending on culture and the arts	2.8%	11.2%	50.4%	26.6%	9.1%
A6i. Opinion on government spending on business and industry	4.9%	26.0%	53.1%	14.0%	2.0%
A6j. Opinion on government spending on housing	19.4%	46.8%	27.9%	5.2%	0.8%
A6k. Opinion on government spending on Maori development	6.7%	14.4%	39.7%	20.3%	18.9%

Government Responsibilities

	Definitely should be Row N %	Probably should be Row N %	Probably should not be Row N %	Definitely should not be Row N %
A7a. Should government provide a job for everyone who wants one?	13.3%	29.0%	37.1%	20.6%
A7b. Should government keep prices under control?	24.6%	47.9%	22.2%	5.3%
A7c. Should government provide healthcare for the sick?	71.0%	26.6%	1.9%	0.4%
A7d. Should government provide a decent standard of living for the old?	52.7%	43.6%	3.1%	0.5%

A7e. Should government provide industry with the help it needs to grow?	24.4%	61.6%	12.7%	1.3%
A7f. Should government provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed?	12.9%	49.2%	28.7%	9.1%
A7g. Should government reduce income differences between the rich and the poor?	33.3%	31.4%	22.8%	12.5%
A7h. Should government give financial help to university students from low-income families?	29.5%	52.8%	13.7%	4.0%
A7i. Should government provide decent housing for those who can afford it?	25.9%	53.9%	16.5%	3.6%
A7j. Should government impose strict laws to make industry do less damage to the environment?	54.6%	37.2%	6.0%	2.2%
A7k. Should government promote equality between men and women?	51.8%	32.7%	11.9%	3.5%
A7l. Should government promote equality between ethnic groups?	43.1%	37.8%	13.7%	5.4%
A7m. Should government provide free education from pre-school through to tertiary and university?	36.0%	36.3%	21.5%	6.2%
A7n. Should government ensure Treaty of Waitangi claims are settled fairly?	30.3%	46.4%	13.3%	10.0%

A7o. Should government provide free healthcare for everyone?	40.0%	38.9%	18.2%	2.9%
A7p. Should government ensure Maori have opportunities to achieve greater levels of self-determination over all thing	16.5%	34.9%	28.6%	20.0%

	Government Row N %	Private companies / for-profit organisations Row N %	Non-profit organisations / charities / cooperatives Row N %	Religious organisations Row N %	Family, relatives, or friends Row N %
A9a. Who should provide healthcare for the sick?	92.9%	2.5%	2.7%	0.2%	1.7%
A9b. Who should provide care for older people?	71.1%	8.3%	9.0%	0.1%	11.5%
A9c. Who should provide school education for children?	92.6%	1.8%	1.6%	0.3%	3.7%
A9d. Who should provide prison services?	81.3%	14.6%	3.5%	0.7%	0.0%

Government Performance

Very successful Row N %	Quite successful Row N %	Neither successful nor unsuccessful Row N %	Quite unsuccessful Row N %	Very unsuccessful Row N %
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A8a. How well is government doing at providing healthcare for the sick?	6.2%	52.5%	25.3%	11.9%	4.2%
A8b. How well is government doing at providing a decent standard of living for the old?	4.9%	41.8%	34.3%	15.1%	4.0%
A8c. How well is government doing at dealing with threats to New Zealand's security?	9.3%	45.5%	34.8%	7.3%	3.1%
A8d. How well is government doing at ensuring work that pays?	3.6%	26.8%	46.5%	17.3%	5.9%
A8e. How well is government doing at providing families the support they need?	3.5%	36.6%	34.1%	19.3%	6.5%
A8f. How well is government doing at addressing child poverty?	1.9%	17.2%	32.3%	29.5%	19.0%
A8g. How well is government doing at addressing income inequality?	1.5%	11.9%	38.5%	29.5%	18.5%
A8h. How well is government doing at addressing ethnic inequality?	2.9%	21.3%	46.6%	19.4%	9.9%

Column N %

A10. Are the government's 'social impact bonds' an appropriate way to fund services?	Yes	10.1%
	Maybe - it depends on the services	59.4%
	No	30.5%
A11. Is the government's transferring responsibility for some state housing to non-government agencies an appropriate way?	Yes	13.2%
	Maybe - it depends on which agencies are used and which hous	46.3%
	No	40.5%
A12. Should people take more responsibility for themselves or should the government help more?	People should take more responsibility	18.1%
	2	11.5%
	3	18.6%
	4	10.8%
	5	18.5%
	6	7.5%
	7	7.2%
	8	3.3%
	9	0.9%
	Government should take more responsibility	3.4%
A14. Should government require working-age benefit recipients to meet work-related obligations with financial penalties	Yes	44.9%
	Maybe - it depends on the circumstances	47.5%
	No	7.6%
A15. Should government require benefit recipients with children to meet social obligations with financial penalties for	Yes	56.0%
	Maybe - it depends on the circumstances	34.9%
	No	9.1%

	The media	Trade unions	Business, banks and industry	Religious organisations/authorities	The military/army	Organised crime	People who vote for the party/parties in government
	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
A16a. Which organisation or group of people has the most influence on the actions of the New Zealand government?	22.5%	3.0%	39.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	14.7%
A16b. Which organisation or group of people has the second most influence on the actions of the New Zealand government?	19.4%	5.5%	22.7%	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	16.8%

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
A24a. Should 3-5 year olds have opportunities to influence government decisions?	2.2%	4.5%	14.3%	38.8%	40.1%
A24b. Should 6-10 year olds have opportunities to influence government decisions?	2.8%	6.9%	18.8%	38.1%	33.5%

A24c. Should 11-14 year olds have opportunities to influence government decisions?	4.8%	23.6%	24.1%	25.8%	21.7%
A24d. Should 15-18 year olds have opportunities to influence government decisions?	18.0%	45.4%	18.5%	11.0%	7.2%

	Much too high Row N %	Too high Row N %	About right Row N %	Too low Row N %	Much too low Row N %
A25a. Opinion on tax rates for those with high incomes	5.2%	10.8%	34.6%	35.5%	13.9%
A25b. Opinion on tax rates for those with middle incomes	6.3%	35.5%	54.6%	3.6%	0.0%
A25c. Opinion on tax rates for those with low incomes	16.8%	40.7%	39.8%	2.4%	0.4%

		Column N %
A26. Should government reduce taxes and have people pay more for their own health and education, or increase taxes so it	Government should reduce taxes and people should pay for the	3.6%
	2	2.1%
	3	8.1%
	4	31.3%
	5	28.3%

	6	15.5%
	Government should increase taxes to pay for health and educa	11.1%
A27. Are the government's tax credits to families with children with low-to-middle incomes an appropriate way to assist	Yes	44.8%
	Maybe - it depends on the circumstances	45.6%
	No	9.6%
A28. Is the In-Work Tax Credit, paid only to families with children where a parent is working more than 20 hours a week,	Yes	40.3%
	Maybe - it depends on the circumstances	46.6%
	No	13.0%
A29a. How often should tax authorities make sure people pay their taxes?	Almost always	40.2%
	Often	39.9%
	Sometimes	18.0%
	Almost never	1.9%
A29b. How often should tax authorities treat everyone in accordance with the law, regardless of their contacts or positi	Almost always	31.0%
	Often	33.6%
	Sometimes	31.3%
	Almost never	4.2%
A30a. How often should major private companies comply with laws and regulations?	Almost always	19.0%
	Often	41.5%
	Sometimes	36.1%
	Almost never	3.4%
A30b. How often should major private companies try to avoid paying their taxes?	Almost always	22.9%
	Often	33.5%
	Sometimes	35.9%
	Almost never	7.8%

