

Indicative questions: How Politicians Evaluate Public Opinion

This interview will be undertaken in two parts. The first is a set of closed-questions covering:

- Personal backgrounds
- Opinions on the positioning of Australian political parties
- Views on various public policy questions
- Assessments of the public's and voters' views on various public policy questions
- Assessment of the quality of Australian democracy and various democratic practices

The second half of the interview will consist of a short number of open-ended questions where interviewees are able to explain and explore aspects of their work. The following are indicative of the subjects asked:

1. What would you say are the most common characteristics of the people you represent?
2. There has been a lot of talk recently about a divide between urban and rural people, what is your view on this? Is this important to you and the people you represent?
3. What kind of public opinion research do you personally consider most valuable (and why)?
4. If you had the power to do so, how would you go about rebuilding citizens' trust in politicians in Australia?
5. Do you think you have changed as a person since you became a member of parliament, or do you think you are the same person as before you became a member of parliament?