

Plus61JMedia
Israel, Australia and the Jewish world



Plus61J Media/Shalom Survey 2019

MAIN FINDINGS

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report is based on data from the Plus61J Media and Shalom NSW online survey which explored attitudes and values within a segment of the Australian Jewish population. Where possible, data is compared with results obtained from the Gen17 Australian Jewish Community Survey which was conducted by the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC) at Monash University Melbourne in partnership with the Jewish Communal Appeal (JCA) in Sydney.¹ Dr David Graham of JCA provided the weightings for the Gen17 data on which our analysis in this report is based. We also gratefully acknowledge the use of his estimated Jewish denominational proportions which were published in the Gen17 Preliminary Findings.

Data is also compared with findings from the 2019 Mapping Social Cohesion survey, made possible by the Scanlon Foundation which we also gratefully acknowledge.

We acknowledge the expertise and generous commitment of time by those who made these projects happen, more detail can be found in the acknowledgement sections of the Gen17 Preliminary Findings report and the 2019 Mapping Social Cohesion report.²

The Plus61J Media/Shalom questionnaire was designed by Professor Andrew Markus and Tanya Munz of ACJC and Ilona Lee and Uri Windt of Plus 61J Media. The survey was programmed by Tanya Munz who also undertook the statistical analysis.

¹ David Graham and Andrew Markus, *Gen17 Australian Jewish Community Survey, Preliminary Findings*, Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University, and JCA, NSW, 2018, <https://tinyurl.com/vbs8w8o>. There are some minor differences in the Gen17 data here reported and in the Gen17 Preliminary Findings as the data here refers to the full Gen17 Australian sample whereas the Preliminary Findings were limited to Victoria and New South Wales.

² Andrew Markus, *Mapping Social Cohesion. The Scanlon Foundation Surveys 2019*, <https://tinyurl.com/qoezvys>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is based on data from the Plus61J Media and Shalom NSW online survey, promoted by email and social media and conducted online between June-September 2019. It was an opt-in survey open to respondents who identify as Jewish.

The objective of the survey was to provide insight into attitudes within the segment of the Jewish community that has an interest in the activities of Plus61J and Shalom NSW.

To provide context, in this report data is compared with Jewish community perspectives obtained by the Gen17 survey and attitudes within the Australian population indicated by the 2019 Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion survey.

The survey was completed by close to 550 people. Comparison of the sample with the census indicates that respondents are broadly representative demographically of the Jewish population, with the exception of an overrepresentation of those with university level education, residents of NSW, and the 65-74 age group.

With reference to representativeness in attitudinal terms, **it is likely that the achieved sample over-represents the centre-left segment of the community.** There is no reference data available on political alignment within the Jewish community, although the common assumption is that the majority supports the Liberal Party. The survey respondents do not match the community in this regard: only a minority (30%) of survey respondents indicated support for the Liberal Party, while half support Labor or the Greens (30% and 21% respectively).

JEWISH IDENTITY

Seven questions explored aspects of Jewish identity: the current religious affiliation of respondents, their strength of religious identification and their sense of connectedness with the Jewish people.

In response to a question on religious identification, 40% considered themselves as 'not religious at all', a further 25% as 'not so religious', compared to 33% as religious. **While there was relatively low proportion identifying as religious, 96% agreed with the proposition that 'I am proud to be a Jew', 92% agreed that 'I have strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people', and 91% agreed that 'I feel connected to other Jews even if I do not know them personally.'** The proportion indicating pride and connectedness were almost identical with the proportions obtained in the Gen17 Jewish community survey.

AUSTRALIA SOCIETY

The 61J/Shalom survey included a number of questions concerning Australian society that were not included in the Gen17 survey. In response to the question "What do you consider to be the most important issue facing Australia today?", 'environment/ climate/ global warming' was by a large margin the most often mentioned.

A relatively high proportion (60%) of the survey respondents were trusting of people, which compares with 43% in the Australian population as indicated by the Scanlon Foundation survey. **A high level of concern for social justice issues was indicated in the survey**, with almost four out of five (78%) agreeing with the proposition that 'in Australia today, the gap between those with high incomes and those with low incomes is too large', and a majority (68%) indicating disagreement with the proposition that 'people living on low incomes in Australia receive enough financial support from the government.'

DEMOCRACY AND POLITICS

A strong finding of the 61J/Shalom survey concerns a **relatively high level of interest in politics: 53% of respondents indicated that they were 'very interested' in politics**, compared to a much lower 16% of the Australian population. However, a question on the working of Australian democracy finds little difference between survey respondents and the general population: close to 60% consider that the Australian system of government 'works fine' or only needs 'minor change', while close to 40% are of the view that it needs major change or should be replaced.'

IMMIGRATION, MULTICULTURALISM AND DIVERSITY

61J/Shalom respondents are **more positive than the general population in their attitudes towards immigration, multiculturalism and diversity**; thus, 76% view the current immigration intake to be 'about right' or 'too low', compared to 58% in the Scanlon Foundation survey of the Australian population; 89% agree that multiculturalism has been 'good for Australia', compared to 80% of the Australian population; a relatively large minority (42%) agree with government assistance to ethnic minorities 'to maintain their customs and traditions', compared to less than one-in-three (30%) in the general population. Also a high proportion of 61J/Shalom respondents, close to 60%, 'strongly disagree' with discrimination in selection policy on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion, while a further 22% 'disagree' with such discrimination, a combined proportion above 80%.

A marked difference with the general population is over the issue of asylum policy. Respondents were asked if they were 'concerned that Australia is too harsh in its treatment of asylum seekers and refugees.' 77% of 61J/Shalom respondents indicated that they were 'a great deal' or 'somewhat' concerned, compared with 49% of the general population.

In response to a question on attitudes towards Muslims, 27% of 61J/Shalom respondents were negative, compared to 41% of the general population.

A large majority of 61J/Shalom respondents gave a positive response when asked if they took pride in the 'Australian way of life and culture', indicated by 80%, marginally lower than the general population at 85%.

ANTISEMITISM

Given the difference in the respondent profile, with a higher proportion indicating a centre-left outlook among 61J/Shalom than Gen17 respondents, a perhaps surprising finding is **a higher level of concern over the extent of antisemitism in Australia today**: 52% of 61J/Shalom respondents consider that antisemitism in Australia is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem, almost ten percentage points higher (43%) than Gen17 respondents

Close to one-in-five of 61J/Shalom respondents have witnessed or experienced verbal insult or harassment in the last twelve months and almost half (45%) have witnessed antisemitic graffiti or vandalism.

A question included in the 61J/Shalom survey, but not in Gen17, asked respondents concerning **the biggest threat to the Australian Jewish community: 41% indicated right-wing extremism**, 12% Islamic terrorism, 11% left-wing extremism, and 32% that 'all present a threat equally.' Just 1% indicated that they did not consider that any of these groups presented a threat to the Jewish community.

ISRAEL

The final section of the 61J/Shalom survey replicated a series of questions on Israel included in the Gen17 survey. The key finding is of **a more critical view of Israel and a greater level of openness to the pursuit of peace with the Palestinians, although the 61J/Shalom survey also found a large measure of scepticism and reserve.**

With regard to connectedness with Israel, there is a large degree of commonality in the two surveys. When asked 'how many different times have you visited Israel?', 62% of 61J/Shalom and 61% of Gen17 respondents indicated that they had visited Israel three or more times.

With regard to keeping up with 'current events which involve Israel', 71% of 61J/Shalom and 67% of Gen17 respondents indicated 'a lot' or 'quite a lot.'

Greater difference was indicated when statements on Israeli society were presented. For instance, a higher proportion in the 61J/Shalom survey disagree with the statement that 'Democracy in Israel is alive and well,' 36% compared to 14% in Gen17.

Almost three-quarters of 61J/Shalom survey respondents agreed that 'there is too much corruption in Israel's political system' (76% 61J/Shalom, 48% Gen17) and 63% (38%) agreed that in Israel 'non-Jewish groups suffer from discrimination.'

With regard to the peace process, there are relatively minor differences between 61J/Shalom and Gen17 respondents. Thus, a bare majority (51%) agree that 'Israel should give up territory in exchange for guarantees of peace with the Palestinians', compared to 42% in the Gen17 survey; only a minority agree that Israel should negotiate with Hamas (39%, compared to 32%). A question not included in the Gen17 survey finds that among 61J/Shalom survey respondents there is substantial majority (74%) agreement with negotiation with the Palestinian authority.

An issue which has gained recent prominence concerns President Trump's handling of U.S.-Israel relations. **49% 61J/Shalom survey respondents disapproved of the President's handling of relations with Israel, 37% approved,** and 14% did not know.

The highest level of agreement was obtained in response to a question on the importance of a 'thriving State of Israel ... for the long-term future of the Jewish people': an over-whelming 81% agreed that it was 'vital.'

1. THE SURVEY

Following on from the Australia-wide Gen17 survey, Plus61J Media, in conjunction with Shalom NSW and assisted by the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University, ran an online survey to further explore the attitudes and values within the Australian Jewish population.

The survey ran from 16 June to 10 September 2019, with the largest proportion of surveys completed in August (Figure 1). It comprised 37 questions and took on average 13 minutes to complete.

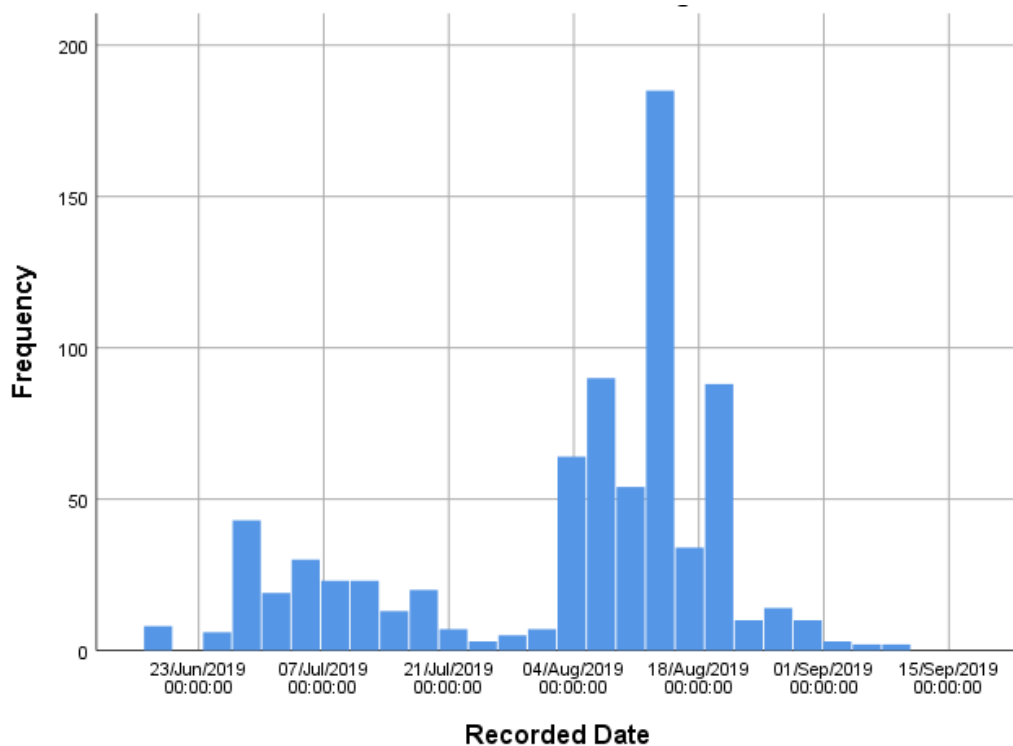
The survey, which was only available online, was distributed by Plus 61j Media, Shalom NSW and Limmud Oz Melbourne to their subscribers through their newsletters and emails. It was promoted via social media including the Facebook pages of Plus61j Media and Shalom NSW. 763 survey responses were recorded, although some 220 people either dropped out at the outset or did not complete the survey, giving actual completions of close to 550.

In this report, unweighted results of the Plus61J Media/Shalom (henceforth referred to as 61J/Shalom) survey are presented. With a small non-probability sample there is risk of distorting findings by application of weights. Rather, judgements concerning the representativeness of the achieved sample need to be made on the basis of demographic characteristics which are discussed in the following section of this report.

The objective of the 61J/Shalom survey was to provide a broad overview of attitudes within specific demographics, primarily those with an interest in Plus61J and Shalom NSW. To further understanding of these demographics the Plus61J survey includes some questions concerning Australian society that have not been included in other Jewish community surveys. Where findings are compared with the Gen17 survey, which was completed by a very large (8,621) number of respondents, weighted Gen17 data is employed.

As shown in the following sections, there is not much difference between the two surveys in sample demographics or in general markers of Jewish identity.

Figure 1: Survey completions by date



2. DEMOGRAPHICS

The 61J/Shalom survey was open for online completion to respondents who identified as Jewish in any way and were aged 18 or over. The gender distribution of the achieved sample was 57% female, 40% male. Close to half of the respondents (52%) were from NSW, a further 37% from Victoria. The highest proportion of respondents (24%) were in the 65-74-year group. Table 1 (below) indicates the demographics of the 61J/Shalom survey respondents compared to 2016 Australian Census Jewish population estimates; where census data is unavailable, the comparison is with the Gen17 survey. Comparisons of the sample with the census indicates that the 61J/Shalom demographic is broadly representative of the Jewish population, with the exception of an overrepresentation of those with university level education, residents of NSW, and the 65-74 age group.

With regard to political alignment, there is no reference data currently available, although the Jewish community understanding is that a majority supports the Liberal Party. Among the 61J/Shalom respondents, a minority (30%) indicated that they voted for the Liberal Party, while 6% did not answer; 30% indicated that they voted for Labor and 21% for the Greens. Hence with regard to political alignment it is likely that the achieved sample is skewed, representing the centre-left segment of the community.

Table 1: Demographic distribution of the Plus61J survey respondents compared with the Jewish population in the 2016 Census

CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	Plus61J Media/Shalom	2016 CENSUS – JEWISH POPULATION (ESTIMATE)
Sex	Female	57%	53%
	Male	40%	47%
	Other	3%	
State	NSW	52%	41%
	Vic	37%	46%
	WA	3%	6%
	Qld	2%	4%
	SA	2%	1%
	ACT	4%	1%
	Tasmania	1%	<1%
Age	18-24	6%	7%
	25-34	12%	14%
	35-44	16%	16%
	45-54	13%	15%
	55-64	18%	17%
	65-74	24%	16%
	75/+	11%	14%
Country of birth	Australia	57%	53%
	South Africa	9%	14%
	Israel	8%	7%
	UK	5%	5%
	USA	4%	3%
	Hungary	3%	1%
	Russia/FSU	2%	6%
	Other	12%	12%
Citizenship	Australia	96%	91%
	Not Australia or not stated	4%	9%
Highest level of completed education	Postgraduate	38%	13%
	BA	38%	26%
	Diploma/ Certificate	8%	14%
	Trade/ apprenticeship	1%	
	Year 12 or below	8%	
	Other	7%	
Employment status	Full-time	34%	29%
	Part-time/casual	15%	16%
	Self-employed	15%	19%
	Unemployed	1%	6%
	Student	5%	8%
	Retired	24%	12%
	Home duties	3%	5%
	Other/ Prefer not to say	3%	5%

Table 2: Selected demographic distribution of the Plus61J survey compared with Gen17

CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	GEN17 JEWISH COMMUNITY SURVEY
Self-described financial circumstances	Prosperous	7%	6%
	Very comfortable	31%	27%
	Reasonably comfortable	38%	44%
	Just getting along	16%	16%
	Struggling to pay bills/ nearly poor	4%	2%
	Poor	1%	1%
	Prefer not to say	3%	3%
Political party preference*	Labor	30%	
	Liberal	30%	
	Greens	21%	
	One Nation	0%	
	Independent/other	8%	
	Informal	1%	
	Did not vote	4%	
	Prefer not to say	6%	

*Gen17 asked: 'In the 2019 Federal election, for which party did you vote?'

3. JEWISH IDENTITY

Seven questions explored aspects of Jewish identity: the current religious affiliation of respondents, their strength and clarity of religious identification, and their sense of connectedness with the Jewish people.

When compared with the estimates for the Jewish community of Dr David Graham³, the 61J/Shalom sample obtained a higher proportion of respondents who identified as non-practicing, secular or cultural (24% compared to 21%) and fewer 'Traditional' (19%, 30%) (Table 3). In response to a question on religious identification, 40% considered themselves as 'not religious at all', a further 25% as 'not so religious', compared to a combined 33% as religious (5% 'very religious', 28% 'somewhat religious') (Figure 3).

Generally, there is no significant difference in responses to the five statements on identity, belonging and peoplehood, compared to the Gen17 survey as indicated in Figure 4. A very high proportion of respondents indicated agreement with four of the five statements, ranging from 91%-96%, with a lower 79% in agreement with the statement that they have a 'a special responsibility to take care of other Jews around the world.' 96% strongly agreed or agreed that they were 'proud to be a Jew', the same result that was obtained in Gen17.

³ David Graham in David Graham and Andrew Markus, *Gen17 Australian Jewish Community Survey, Preliminary Findings*, p. 13

Table 3: ‘How would you describe your current religious identification?’ Plus61J and Gen17

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	ESTIMATED PROPORTION*
Strictly Orthodox/Hareidi	1%	4%
Modern Orthodox	17%	18%
Traditional	19%	30%
Masorti/Conservative	5%	3%
Progressive/Reform	15%	11%
No denomination – just Jewish	9%	12%
Non-practising (secular/cultural)	24%	21%
Mixed religion (Jewish and another religion)	1%	1%
Other	8%	NA
Prefer not to say	1%	NA
Total	100%	100%
N	549	85,000

* These estimates are based on analysis by Dr David Graham of JCA as discussed in the Gen17 Preliminary Findings.

Figure 2: Self-described religious affiliation of the Plus61J Media/Shalom survey respondents

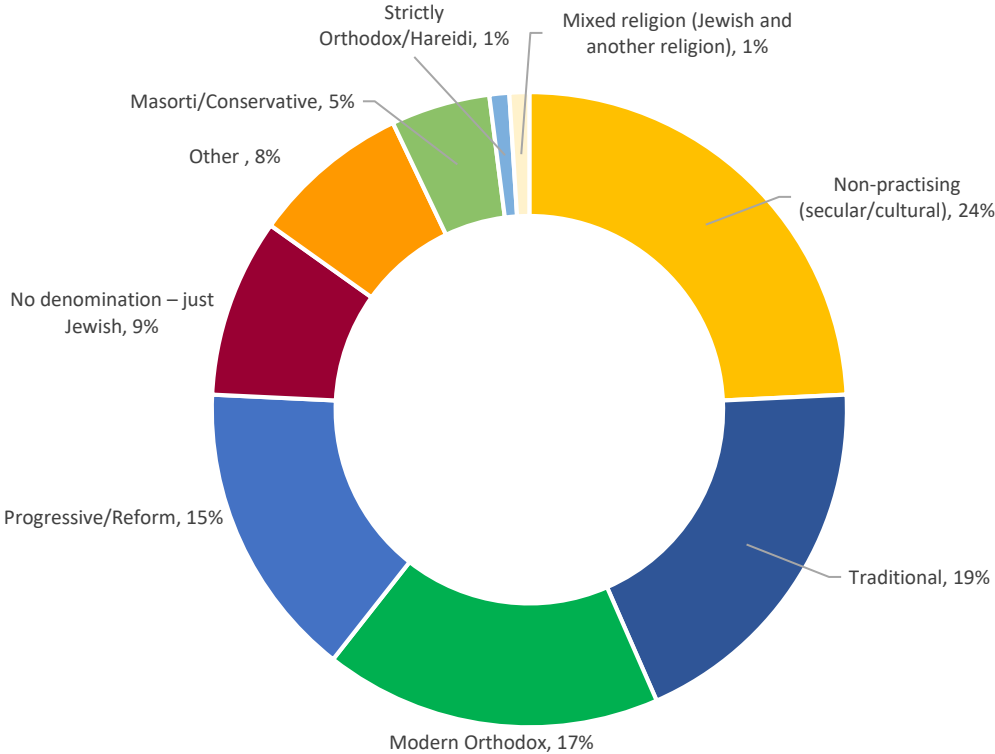


Figure 3: 'Do you consider yourself to be...?', Plus61J

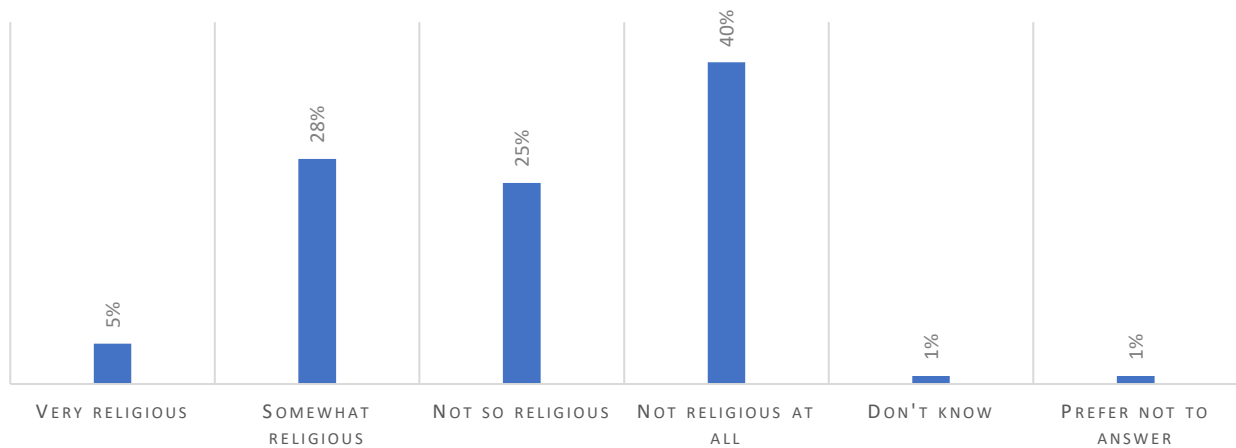
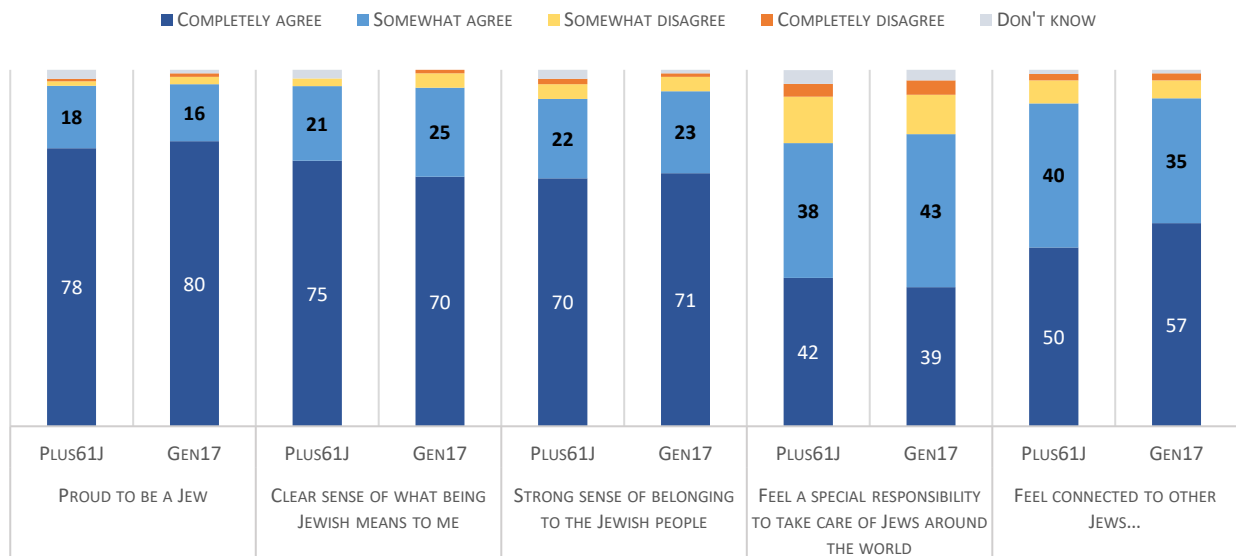


Table 4: 'To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?' Plus61J Media/Shalom

	'I AM PROUD TO BE A JEW'	'I HAVE A CLEAR SENSE OF WHAT BEING JEWISH MEANS TO ME'	'I HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE'	'I HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF JEWS IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD'	'I FEEL CONNECTED TO OTHER JEWS EVEN IF I DO NOT KNOW THEM PERSONALLY'
Completely agree	78	75	70	42	50
Somewhat agree	18	21	22	38	40
Sub-total agree	96	95	92	79	91
Somewhat disagree	1	2	4	13	6
Completely disagree	1	0	2	4	2
Don't know	3	2	3	4	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100
N	550	550	550	550	550

Figure 4: Statements of Jewish identity/peoplehood, comparison of responses from the Plus61J Media/Shalom and Gen17 (percentage)



4. AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

The 61J/Shalom survey included a number of questions concerning Australian society that were not included in the Gen17 survey. These questions are taken from the annual Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion surveys, which provides a reference point for attitudes within the Australian mainstream. The Scanlon Foundation results are obtained from a probability (representative) sample, with the results weighted for key demographic characteristics of the Australian population.

The following section looks at attitudes towards social justice issues, Australian democracy, national identity, trust, immigration and multiculturalism, and compares the 61J/Shalom responses with the online version of the Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion survey results obtained in July 2019. Notable differences are highlighted by shading in the tables of results. In the following discussion, the abbreviation SF refers to the Scanlon Foundation social cohesion survey.

4.1 Ranking of issues

The first question that appeared in both the 61J/Shalom and the SF survey asked ‘What do you consider to be the most important issues facing Australia today?’ It was an open-ended question allowing respondents to type in their answer. 61J/Shalom respondents were then asked a similarly worded follow-up question with a list of specified issues and asked to rank the issues ‘in order of preference from 1 (most important) to 3.’

A recode of the open-ended responses indicated several key themes that were of concern. The most frequently mentioned issue facing Australia today was ‘environment/ climate/ global warming’, mentioned by an overwhelming 184 respondents. This was followed by ‘disconnection/ division in society / inequality’, with 50 mentions, and the ‘economy/ economic issues’ with 46 mentions.

Issues facing Australia today- verbatim responses, listed in order of most mentions:

- Environment/climate/global warming (184)
- Disconnect and disengagement/division/ inequality (wealth, gender etc) (50)
- Economy/economic issues (46)
- Government and politics (37)
- Affordability and cost of living (35)
- Racism and intolerance (28)
- Antisemitism (20)
- Immigration/refugees (both concern and negative attitudes) (18)
- Assimilation/intermarriage (17)
- Islamisation and terrorism (17)
- Social issues (family values, education, drugs etc) (14)
- Extremism (e.g. rise of the far right) (10)

As seen in the table below, which compares the 61J/Shalom and SF responses, there is a large degree of commonality in the two surveys: one important difference is the top ranking of environmental issues and lower ranking of economic issues in the 61J/Shalom survey.

Table 5: ‘What do you consider to be the most important issues facing Australia today.? Please rank in order of preference from 1 (most important) to 3.’ Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys (percentage)

LIST OF ISSUES	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM RANK 1	2019 SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY
Environment, climate change	23	17
Economic issues/ unemployment/ poverty	16	29
Government/ quality of politicians	8	6
Housing/ affordability/ shortages	6	4
Social issues – drug use, family breakdown, overuse of social media. Internet	5	10
Asylum seekers/ immigration	5	11*
Aboriginal/indigenous issues	4	0
Racism	2	2
Defence, national security, terrorism	3	2
Crime/ law and order	2	2
Women’s issues – equal opportunity, violence, pay	1	0
LGBTQ+ issues	0	NA

*The Social Cohesion survey has ‘Immigration’ and ‘Asylum’ issues listed separately. 1% of respondents indicated ‘asylum issues’, 10% indicated ‘immigration/population.’ In the Plus 61J survey, the two issues were combined

4.2 Trust in people

61J/Shalom respondents are more trusting of people compared to the SF survey. 60% 61J/Shalom respondents indicated that most people ‘can be trusted’, 24% that ‘you can’t be too careful in dealing with people’, while a high proportion, 16% were undecided; the relative proportions in the SF survey were 43% trust, 56% can’t be too careful, 1% undecided.

Figure 5: ‘Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can’t be too careful in dealing with people?’, Plus61J Media/Shalom

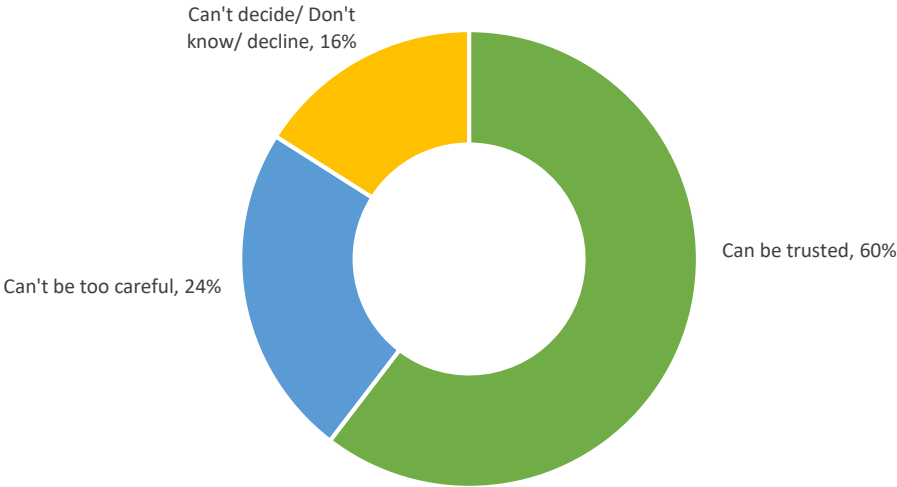
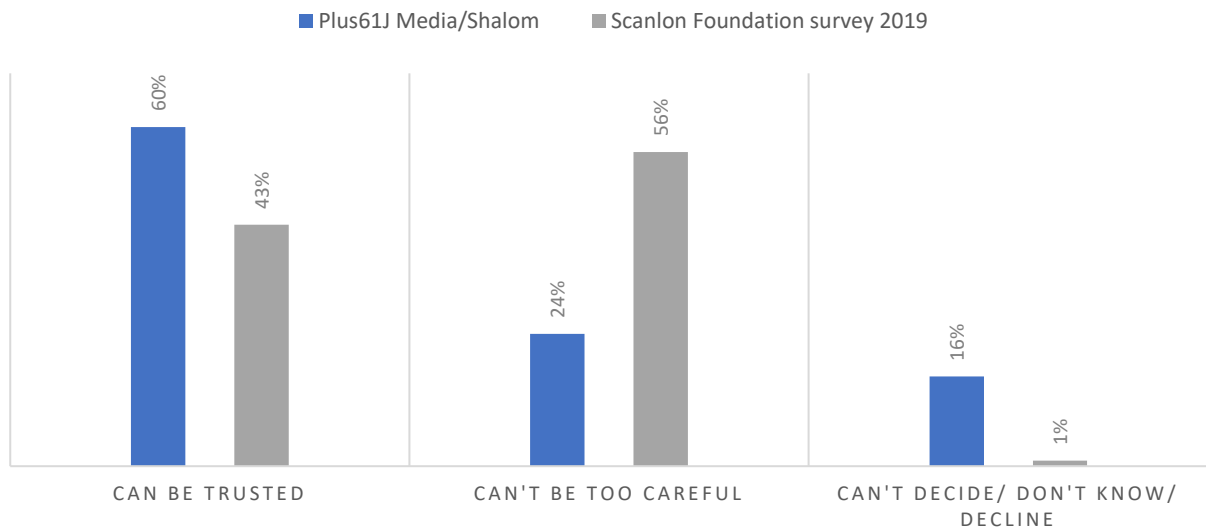


Figure 6: ‘Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can’t be too careful in dealing with people?’, Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys



4.3 Social justice and Australian society

The surveys asked three questions on social justice and equity in Australian society. First, respondents were presented with the statement that ‘People living on low incomes in Australia receive enough financial support from the government.’ Only 14% of 61J/Shalom respondents indicated agreement, while 68% disagreed.

In response to the statement that ‘In Australia today, the gap between those with high incomes and those with low incomes is too large’, 78% agreed, just 10% disagreed.

In response to a third statement that ‘Australia is a land of economic opportunity where in the long-run hard work brings a better life’, 47% agreed, 29% disagreed, while a relatively high proportion at 22% opted for the mid-point response, ‘neither agree nor disagree.’

When findings are compared with the national SF survey, a heightened sense of concern for social justice issues is indicated among 61J/Shalom respondents. Thus, while only 14% of 61J/Shalom respondents agreed that people on low incomes receive enough government financial support, the proportion was 40% in the SF national survey; while 47% of 61J/Shalom respondents agreed with the proposition that Australia is a land of economic opportunity, this was substantially lower than the 71% of respondents of this view in the SF national survey. Although almost an identical proportion in both surveys agreed that in Australia the gap in incomes was too large (78%, 77%), ‘strong agreement’ was at 44% in the 61J/Shalom survey, higher than the 31% in the SF national survey (Table 6).

Table 6: Questions on social justice, Plus61J and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys (percentage)

RESPONSE	'PEOPLE LIVING ON LOW INCOMES IN AUSTRALIA RECEIVE ENOUGH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'		'IN AUSTRALIA TODAY, THE GAP BETWEEN THOSE WITH HIGH INCOMES AND THOSE WITH LOW INCOMES IS TOO LARGE'		'AUSTRALIA IS A LAND OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY WHERE IN THE LONG-RUN, HARD WORK BRINGS A BETTER LIFE'	
	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	2019 SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	2019SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	2019 SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY
Strongly agree	3	8	44	31	9	19
Agree	11	32	34	46	38	52
Sub-total agree	14	40	78	77	47	71
Neither agree nor disagree	14	1	10	0	22	1
Disagree	31	44	8	18	22	24
Strongly disagree	36	15	2	4	7	5
Sub-total disagree	68	59	10	22	29	29
Don't know/decline	5	0	2	0	1	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
N	615	2,033	611	2,033	609	2,033

4.4 Democracy and politics

A strong finding of the 61J survey concerns the relatively high level of interest in politics: 53% of respondents indicated that they were 'very interested' in politics, compared to a much lower 16% of SF respondents. Conversely, 14% of 61J/Shalom respondents were 'a little bit' or 'not at all' interested, compared to almost half (45%) of SF respondents.

Trust in the Australian government 'to do the right thing for the Australian people' is lower in the 61J survey, again indicating a more critical attitude, with a difference of around 10%; in both surveys a large majority indicated that the government can be trusted 'only some of the time' or 'almost never' – 73% 61J/Shalom, 63% SF.

A question on the workings of Australian government finds little difference between the two surveys: close to 60% consider that the Australian system of government 'works fine' or only needs 'minor change', while close to 40% are of the view that it needs major change or should be replaced (Table 7, Figure 8).

Figure 7: ‘How interested are you in politics?’ Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys (percentage)

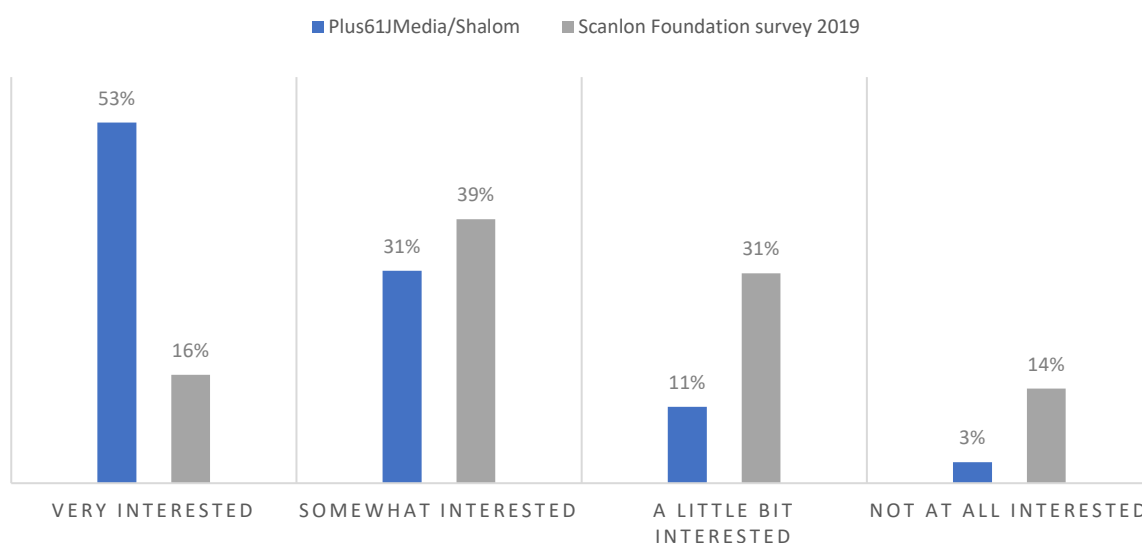
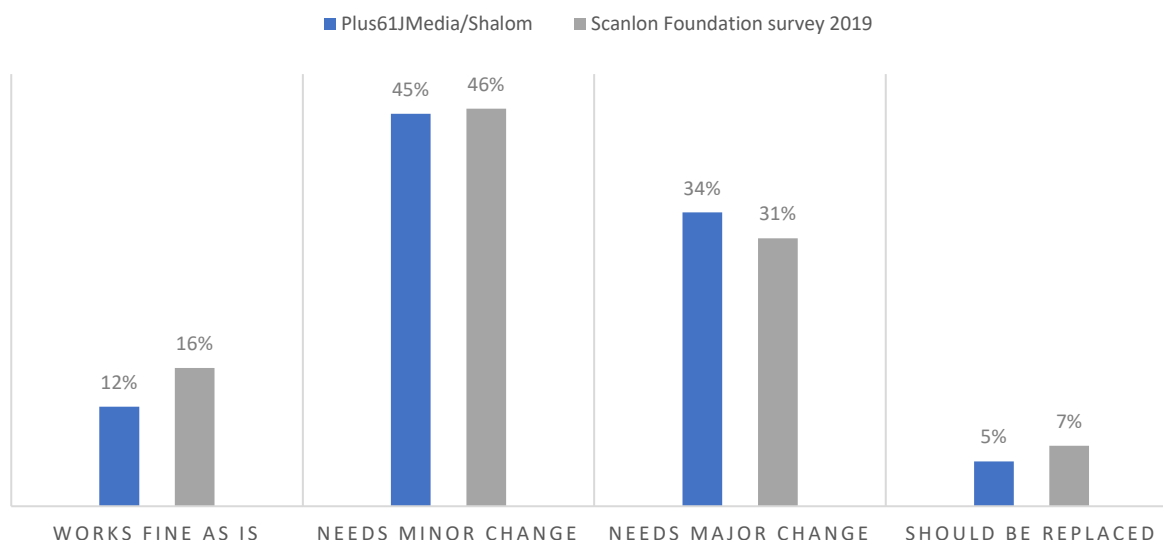


Table 7: Questions on government in Australia, Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys (percentage)

RESPONSE	‘HOW OFTEN DO YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT IN CANBERRA CAN BE TRUSTED TO DO THE RIGHT THING FOR THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE?’		RESPONSE	‘WOULD YOU SAY THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WE HAVE IN AUSTRALIA...’	
	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY 2019		PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY 2019
Almost always	2	3	Works fine	12	16
Most of the time	23	33	Needs minor change	45	46
Sub-total	25	36	Sub-total	57	62
Only some of the time	55	50	Needs major change	34	31
Almost never	18	13	Should be replaced	5	7
Sub-total	73	63	Sub-total	39	38
Don't know/decline	3	0	Don't know/decline	4	1
Total	100	100	Total	100	100
N	574	2,033	N	573	2,033

Figure 8: ‘Would you say the system of government we have in Australia ...’ Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys



4.5 Attitudes towards immigration, multiculturalism and diversity

The Scanlon Foundation survey provides the only probability based annual tracking in Australia of opinion on immigration. 61J/Shalom included a number of questions from the SF survey to locate attitudes within this sample of the Jewish population in the context of the general Australian population.

The consistent finding is of more positive attitudes in 61J/Shalom in comparison with the general population, although even within the general population a majority are strongly positive in response to the issues considered.

Comparison shows that 61J/Shalom respondents were:

- More supportive of the current immigration level – 76% indicated ‘about right’ or ‘too low’, compared to 58% in the SF survey (Figure 8)
- Almost three-out of four (77%) in agreement that ‘accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger’, ten percentage points higher (67%) than in the SF survey (Table 8)
- Very supportive of multiculturalism, 89% ‘strongly agree’ or ‘agree’ that it has been ‘good for Australia,’ compared to 80% (Table 8)
- More open towards government assistance to ethnic minorities ‘to maintain their customs and traditions’, although agreement in 61J/Shalom is indicated by a minority of 42%, compared to 30% in the SF survey (Table 8)

Figure 9: ‘What do you think of the number of immigrants accepted into Australia at present? Would you say it is ...’ Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys

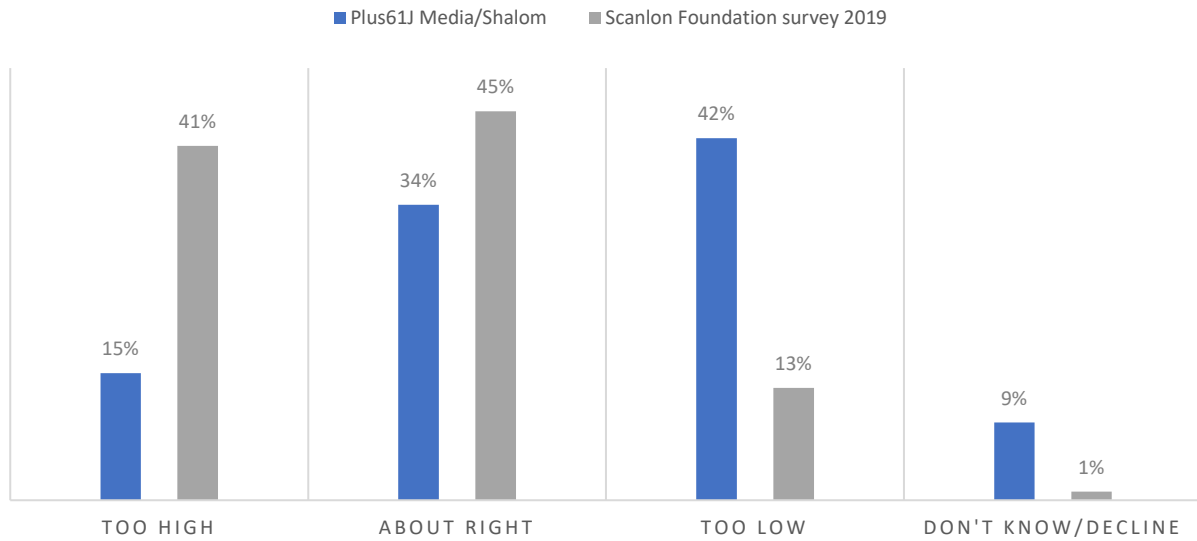
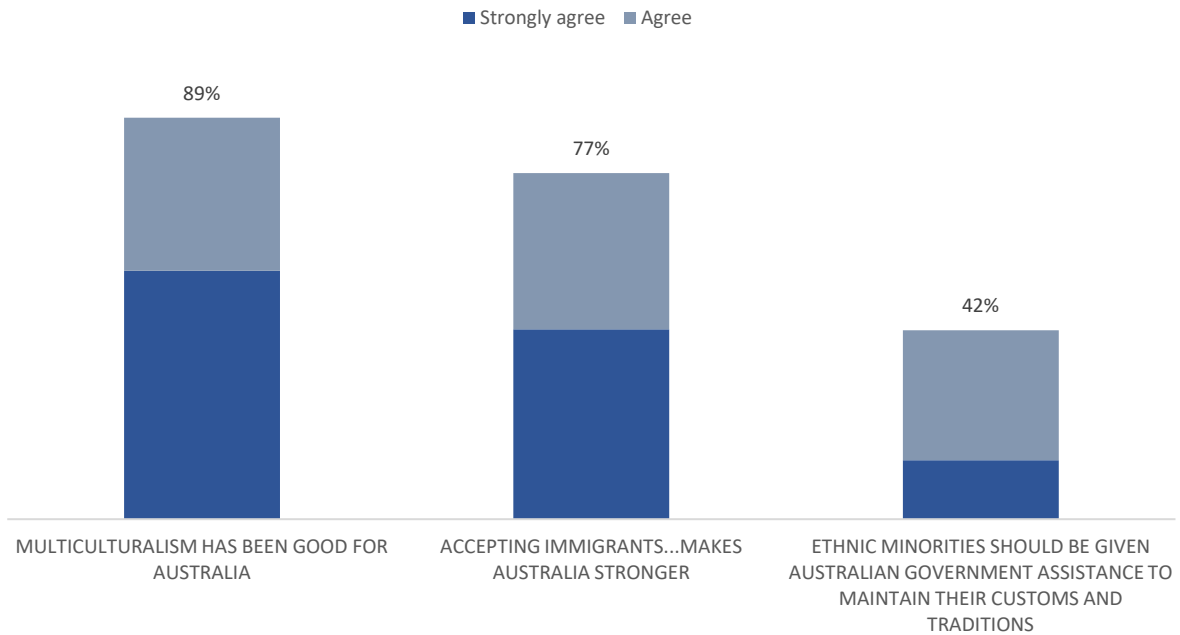


Table 8: Questions on acceptance of immigration in Australia, Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys (percentage)

RESPONSE	ACCEPTING IMMIGRANTS FROM MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES MAKES AUSTRALIA STRONGER		ETHNIC MINORITIES IN AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE GIVEN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO MAINTAIN THEIR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS		MULTICULTURALISM HAS BEEN GOOD FOR AUSTRALIA	
	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY 2019	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY 2019	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY 2019
Strongly agree	42	17	13	4	55	25
Agree	35	50	29	26	34	55
Sub-total agree	77	67	42	30	89	80
Neither agree nor disagree	12	0	25	0	6	1
Disagree	6	22	24	40	2	12
Strongly disagree	4	11	7	29	1	7
Sub-total disagree	9	33	31	69	3	19
Don't know/decline	3	1	2	1	2	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
N	570	2,033	566	2,033	566	2,033

Figure 10: Questions on acceptance of immigration and multiculturalism in Australia, Plus61J Media/Shalom, positive response



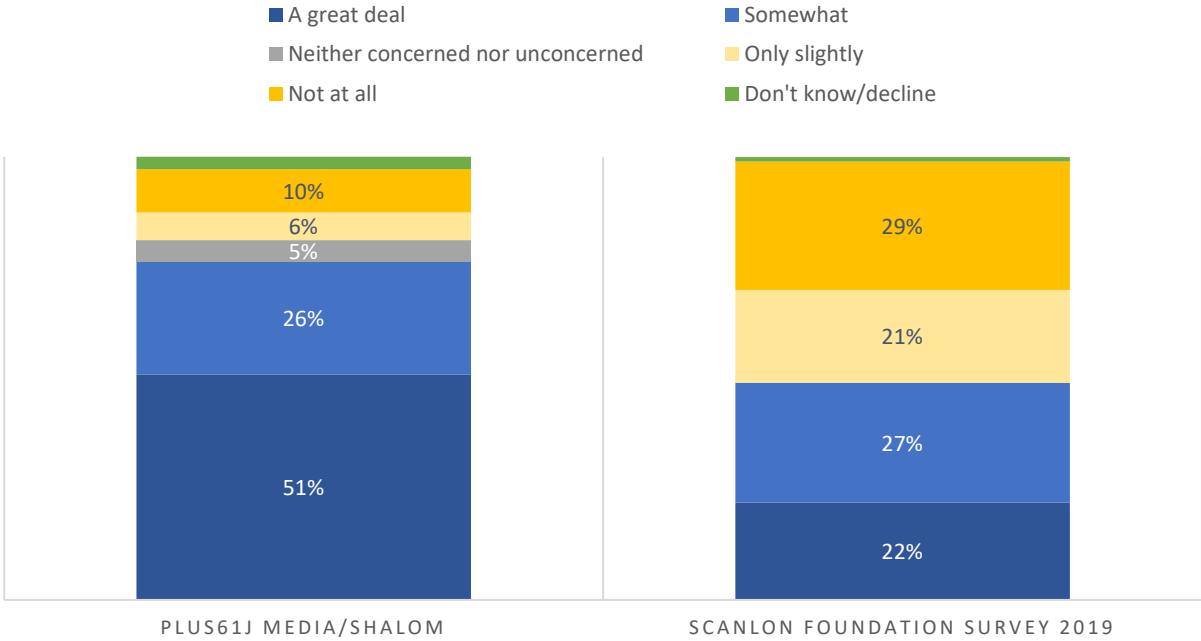
Discrimination in selection policy on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion, is rejected by more than 70% of respondents in both the 61J/Shalom and SF surveys, but again by a higher proportion in the 61J/Shalom survey; just 7% of 61J/Shalom respondents agree with discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity and 10% on the basis of religion, compared to 23% and 29% in the SF survey (Table 9).

Table 9: ‘Do you agree or disagree that when a family or individual applies to migrate to Australia, that it should be possible for them to be rejected simply on the basis of...’ Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys (percentage)

RESPONSE	THEIR RACE OR ETHNICITY		THEIR RELIGION	
	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY 2019	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY 2019
Strongly agree	2	8	3	11
Agree	5	15	7	18
Sub-total agree	7	23	10	29
Neither agree nor disagree	5	0	6	0
Disagree	22	41	22	40
Strongly disagree	63	36	60	30
Sub-total disagree	85	77	82	70
Don't know/decline	3	0	2	1
Total	100	100	100	100
N	558	2,033	558	2,033

A very large difference was obtained in response to a question on asylum seekers. Respondents were asked if they were ‘concerned that Australia is too harsh in its treatment of asylum seekers and refugees.’ In the general population, as indicated by the SF survey, 50% responded that they were ‘only slightly’ or ‘not at all’ concerned, compared to just 16% of 61J/Shalom respondents; on the other hand 51% were ‘a great deal’ concerned, compared to 22% of SF respondents (Figure 10).

Figure 11: ‘Are you personally concerned that Australia is too harsh in its treatment of asylum seekers and refugees? Would you say it concerns you ...?’ Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys



A final question asked respondents concerning their attitude towards Muslims. In the 61J/Shalom survey a minority of 38% were positive, but this was twenty percentage points higher than the 18% obtained in the SF survey. In both surveys a substantial proportion indicated that they were neutral (34%, 41%), while 27% in the 61J/Shalom survey and 41% in the SF indicated that they were negative.

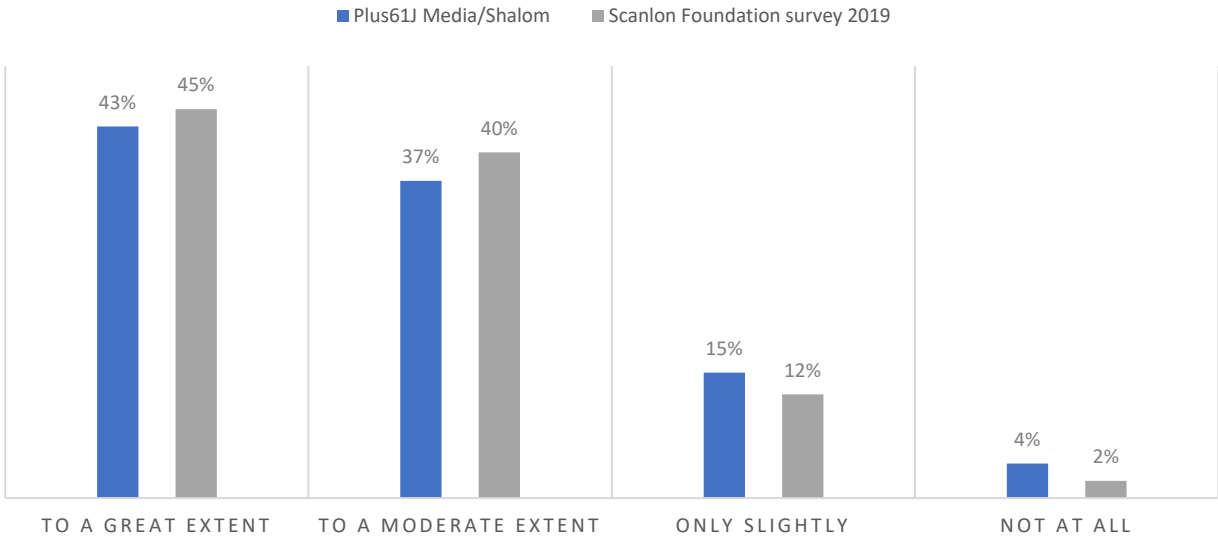
Table 10: ‘Is your personal attitude positive, negative, or neutral towards Muslims?’, Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys (percentage)

RESPONSE	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	SCANLON FOUNDATION SURVEY 2019
Very positive	16	5
Somewhat positive	22	13
Sub-total positive	38	18
Neutral	34	41
Somewhat negative	21	24
Very negative	6	17
Sub-total negative	27	41
Don't know/decline	1	0
Total	100	100
N	558	2,033

5. THE AUSTRALIAN WAY OF LIFE

In response to a question on the Australian way of life, very little difference was obtained between the 61J/Shalom and SF surveys, with only a marginally lower indication of positive response. Thus 43% indicated pride in the Australian way of life 'to a great extent' in the 61J/Shalom survey, 45% in SF; the combined 'to a great extent' and 'moderate extent' was 80% in 61J/Shalom, 85% in SF. 'Not at all' was indicated by 4% in 61J/Shalom, 2% in SF.

Figure 12: 'To what extent do you take pride in the Australian way of life and culture? Plus61J Media/Shalom and 2019 Scanlon Foundation surveys (percentage)



6. ANTISEMITISM

Four questions on antisemitism were included in the survey, with three of the questions also included in the Gen17 survey.

Given the differences in demographics, with indications of a more progressive outlook among 61J/Shalom than Gen17 respondents, a perhaps surprising finding is a higher level of concern over the extent of antisemitism in Australia today: 52% of 61J/Shalom respondents consider that antisemitism in Australia is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem, compared to almost ten percentage points lower (43%) of Gen17 respondents. Less than half (44%) of 61J/Shalom respondents indicated that antisemitism is 'not a very big problem', compared to 51% of Gen17 respondents (Figure 13).

Close to one-in-five of 61J/Shalom respondents have witnessed or experienced verbal insult or harassment in the last twelve months and almost half (45%) had witnessed antisemitic graffiti or vandalism. Almost no-one (1%) indicated a physical attack (Table 11).

In common with Gen17, when online content was considered antisemitic content was most often experienced on Facebook, indicated by 41% of 61J/Shalom and 51% of Gen17 respondents. A lower proportion of 61J/Shalom respondents indicated witnessing antisemitic content, with the exception of Twitter (18%, 11%), perhaps indicating greater use of that platform. Just one-in-five respondents or less (20%, 15%) indicated that they had not seen any antisemitic content online or on social media in the last twelve months (Table 12).

A question included in 61J/Shalom, but not in Gen17, asked respondents concerning the biggest threat to the Australian Jewish community: 41% indicated right-wing extremism, 12% Islamic terrorism, 11% left-wing extremism, and 32% that 'all present a threat equally.' Just 1% indicated that they did not consider that any of these groups presented a threat to the Jewish community (Figure 14).

Figure 13: In your opinion, how big a problem, if at all, is antisemitism in Australia today? Plus61J Media/Shalom and Gen17

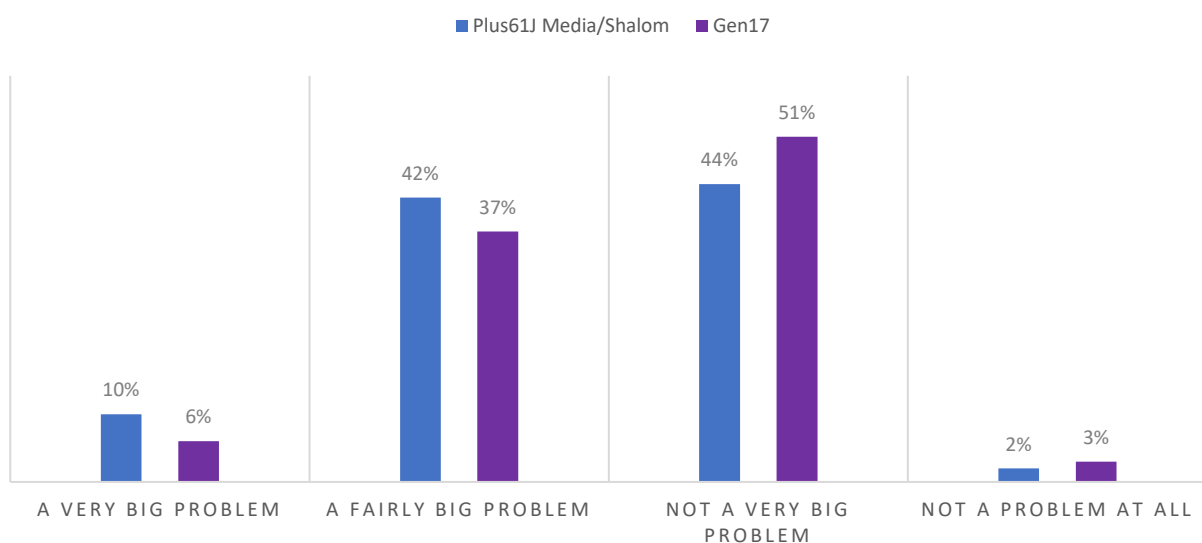


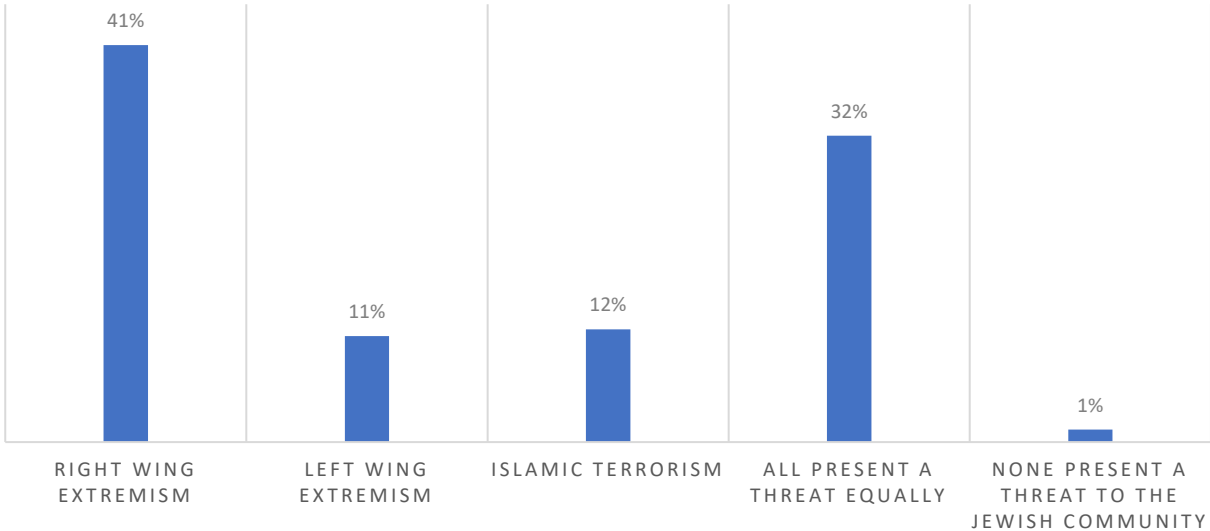
Table 11: In the last twelve months, have you personally witnessed or experienced any of the following types of antisemitism incidents in Australia, and how frequently? Plus61J Media/Shalom

	No	YES, ONCE OR TWICE	YES, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS
Verbal insult/ harassment	78%	17%	4%
Physical attack	99%	1%	0%
Antisemitic graffiti, vandalism	55%	35%	10%

Table 12: ‘In the last 12 months, have you personally seen antisemitic content on any of the following?’ Plus61J Media/Shalom and Gen17

	PLUS61J MEDIA/ SHALOM	GEN17
Facebook	41%	51%
Online discussion and comment forum	35%	42%
Online news	29%	38%
Twitter	18%	11%
YouTube	17%	24%
None - I have not seen any antisemitic content online or on social media in the last 12 months	15%	20%

Figure 14: ‘What is a bigger threat to the Australian Jewish community: right wing extremism, left wing extremism or Islamic terrorism?’, Plus61J Media/Shalom



7. ISRAEL

The final section of the 61J/Shalom survey replicated a series of questions on Israel included in the Gen17 survey. The key finding is of a more critical view of Israel and a greater level of openness to the pursuit of peace with the Palestinians, although the 61J/Shalom survey also found a large measure of scepticism and reserve.

With regard to connectedness with Israel, there is a large degree in commonality in the two surveys. When asked ‘how many different times have you visited Israel?’, 62% of 61J/Shalom and 61% of Gen17 respondents indicated that they had visited Israel three or more times (Table 13).

With regard to keeping up with ‘current events which involve Israel’, 71% of 61J/Shalom and 67% of Gen17 respondents indicated ‘a lot’ or ‘quite a lot’, with a higher proportion of 61J/Shalom respondents indicating the strongest response (‘a lot’), 37% compared to 29% Gen17 (Table 14).

Table 13: ‘How many different times in your life have you visited Israel, if at all?’ Plus61J Media/Shalom and Gen17

	PLUS61J MEDIA/ SHALOM	GEN17
Never	12%	8%
Once	11%	15%
Twice	14%	15%
Three or more times	62%	61%
Don't know/decline	1%	1%

Table 14: ‘To what extent do you keep up with current events which involve Israel??’ Plus61J Media/Shalom and Gen17

	PLUS61J MEDIA/ SHALOM	GEN17
A lot	37%	29%
Quite a lot	34%	38%
A little	26%	28%
Not at all	3%	3%
Don't know/decline	1%	1%

Greater difference was indicated when statements on Israeli society were presented. For instance, a higher proportion in the 61J/Shalom survey disagree with the statement that 'Democracy in Israel is alive and well,' 36% compared to 14% in Gen17. The proportion who 'strongly disagree' is 15%, compared to just 4% in Gen17. Conversely, 56% in the 61J/Shalom survey and 74% in Gen17 agree that Israeli democracy is 'alive and well.'

This pattern of differentiation is evident in response to other statements: almost three-quarters of 61J/Shalom survey respondents agreed that 'there is too much corruption in Israel's political system' (76% 61J/Shalom, 48% Gen17), 84% (65% Gen17) agreed that 'Orthodox Judaism has too much influence,' and 63% (38%) agreed that 'in Israel non-Jewish groups suffer from discrimination,' with strong agreement for these propositions 19%-29% higher than in the Gen17 survey (Table 15)

Differences were also evident in response to questions on the peace process, but the differences between the two surveys are less marked and lack of confidence in response is indicated – thus in the 61J/Shalom survey, in response to four propositions, 17%, 14%, 16%, and 10% indicated that they do not know or decline to answer.

The lowest level of uncertainty is in response to the proposition that 'Israel should negotiate with the Palestinian Authority in its efforts to achieve peace'; just 10% indicated that they do not know or decline to answer, while 74% agreed. But only 39% agreed that 'Israel should negotiate with Hamas (32% Gen17), a bare majority (51%, 42% Gen17) agreed that 'Israel should give up territory in exchange for guarantees of peace with the Palestinians.' Almost half of the 61J/Shalom respondents (45%, 58% Gen17) agreed that 'Israeli control of the West Bank (Judea/ Samaria) is vital for Israel's security' (Table 15).

Table 15: Questions on Israeli society. 'To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements', Plus61J Media/Shalom and Gen17 responses compared (percentages) Notable differences (20% or more) highlighted in yellow

	DEMOCRACY IN ISRAEL IS ALIVE AND WELL		THERE IS TOO MUCH CORRUPTION IN ISRAEL'S POLITICAL SYSTEM		ORTHODOX JUDAISM HAS TOO MUCH INFLUENCE IN ISRAEL'S SOCIETY		IN ISRAEL, NON-JEWISH GROUPS SUFFER FROM DISCRIMINATION	
	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	GEN17	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	GEN17	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	GEN17	P PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	GEN17
Strongly Disagree	15%	4%	2%	3%	2%	6%	9%	16%
Tend to disagree	21%	10%	7%	11%	6%	11%	14%	19%
Sub-total disagree	36%	14%	9%	14%	8%	17%	23%	35%
Tend to Agree	34%	37%	30%	31%	28%	28%	31%	25%
Strongly agree	22%	37%	46%	17%	56%	37%	32%	13%
Sub-total agree	56%	74%	76%	48%	84%	65%	63%	38%
Don't know/decline*	8%	12%	16%	26%	8%	11	14%	20%

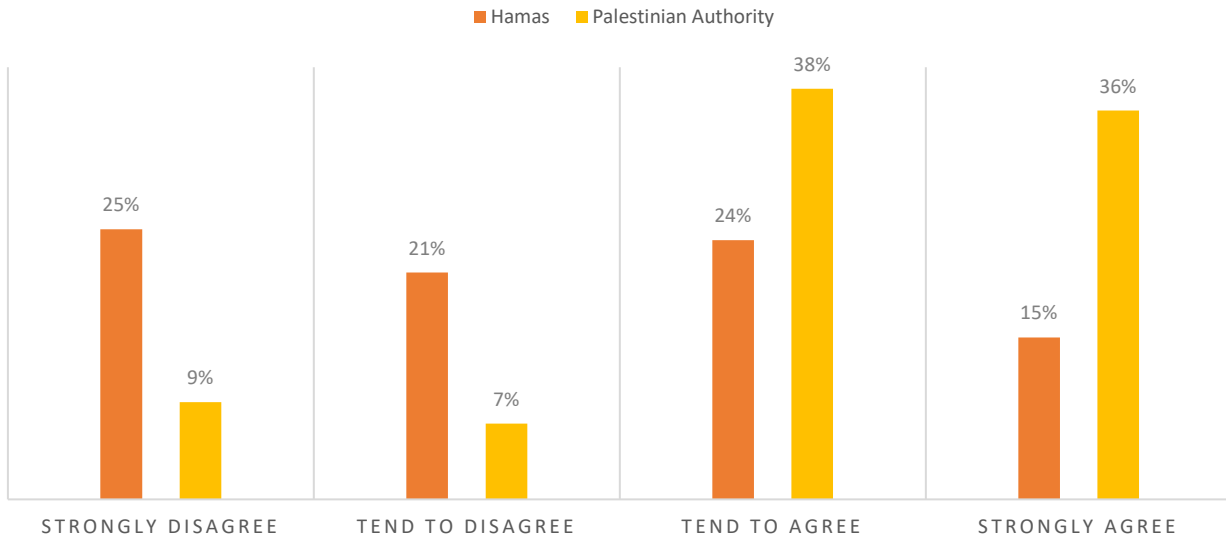
Table 16: Questions on the peace process. 'To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements', Plus61J Media/Shalom and Gen17 responses compared (percentages)

	ISRAELI CONTROL OF THE WEST BANK (JUDEA/SAMARIA) IS VITAL FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY		ISRAEL SHOULD GIVE UP TERRITORY IN EXCHANGE FOR GUARANTEES OF PEACE WITH THE PALESTINIANS		THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH HAMAS IN ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE		THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY IN ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE**
	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	GEN17	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	GEN17	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM	GEN17	PLUS61J MEDIA/SHALOM
Strongly Disagree	21%	10%	20%	27%	25%	32%	9%
Tend to disagree	16%	14%	14%	17%	21%	19%	7%
Sub-total disagree	37%	24%	34%	44%	46%	51%	16%
Tend to Agree	24%	28%	24%	25%	24%	23%	38%
Strongly agree	21%	30%	27%	17%	15%	9%	36%
Sub-total agree	45%	58%	51%	42%	39%	32%	74%
Don't know/decline*	17%	14%	14%	10%	16%	13%	10%

* NB Gen17 totals do not add to 100% due to the fact that 'No Opinion' was also given as an option but omitted from this table for easier comparison.

** not asked in Gen17.

Figure 15: ‘To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: ‘The government of Israel should negotiate with the Palestinian Authority in its efforts to achieve peace’ and ‘The government of Israel should negotiate with Hamas in its efforts to achieve peace’, Plus61J Media/Shalom



In addition to the above, two questions not included in Gen17 were asked in the 61J/Shalom survey.

An issue which has gained recent prominence concerns President Trump’s handling of U.S.-Israel relations. A small minority, 15%, indicated strong approval for the President’s actions while more than double that proportion (34%) indicated strong disapproval. However, the combined proportion indicating disapproval (strongly disapprove, disapprove) was far from decisive at 49%; 37% approved and 14% did not know or declined to answer (Figure 16).

A more decisive response was obtained in response to a question on the importance of a ‘thriving State of Israel ... for the long-term future of the Jewish people’: an over-whelming 81% agreed that it was ‘vital’ (Figure 17).

Figure 16: ‘Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump is handling U.S.-Israel relations?’ Plus61J Media/Shalom

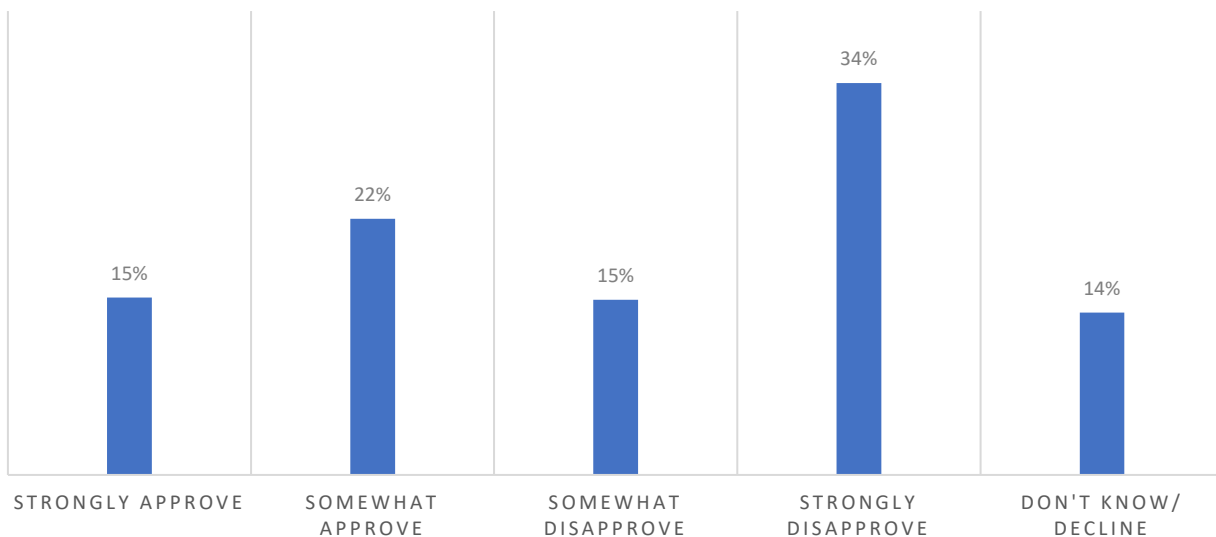


Figure 17: 'Do you think a thriving State of Israel is vital for the long-term future of the Jewish people?' Plus61J Media/Shalom

