

**Australia**  
**ISSP 2006 – Role of Government IV**  
**Questionnaire**



## HOW TO FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

1. To answer most of the questions you only need to put a cross in the box that is closest to your view - there are no right or wrong answers. We just want your opinions.

Here is an example:

**Do you think the government should spend more or less on education?**

Spend more on education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Spend less on education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you think the government should spend more on education, you would cross the first box as shown.

2. Sometimes you are asked to write in an answer - in that case, simply put your answer in the space provided.

Here is an example:

**How long have you lived in this area?**

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<i>Number of years</i>
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3.  Sometimes additional information that will help you answer the question will appear next to this symbol.

Please read each question carefully. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers - we just want to know your own personal opinions.



## Section A - Describing Australia

**A1. Here is a list of issues facing Australia. Which of the following do you see as most important? And the next most important?**

- A. An ageing population
- B. Lack of affordable housing
- C. Crime
- D. Environmental damage
- E. Taxes too high on ordinary Australians
- F. Inadequate public transport
- G. Lack of moral values in the community
- H. Terrorism
- I. Not enough progress towards Aboriginal reconciliation
- J. Corruption in government
- K. Gap between rich and poor
- L. Australian jobs going to other countries
- M. Drugs
- N. Minorities having too much say in politics
- O. Health care and hospitals
- P. Too much 'red tape' holding business back
- Q. Refugees and asylum seekers
- R. Australian involvement in military conflicts overseas

*Put the letter of the statement in the appropriate box below*

First choice

Second choice

## Section B - Role of Government

**B1. In general, would you say that people should obey the law without exception, or are there exceptional occasions when people should follow their conscience even if it means breaking the law?**

*Please cross ONE box only*

Obey the law without exception

Follow conscience on occasions

Can't choose











**B16. Some people because of their job, position in the community or contacts, are asked by others to help influence important decisions in their favour. What about you? How often are you asked to help influence important decisions in other people's favour?**

- Never
- Seldom
- Occasionally
- Often
- Can't choose

**B17. And are there people you could ask to help influence important decisions in your favour?**

- No, nobody
- Yes, a few people
- Yes, some people
- Yes, a lot of people
- Can't choose

**B18. In your opinion, how often do public officials deal fairly with people like you?**

- Almost always
- Often
- Occasionally
- Seldom
- Almost never
- Can't choose

**B19. Do you think that the treatment people get from public officials in Australia depends on who they know?**

- Definitely does
- Probably does
- Probably does not
- Definitely does not
- Can't choose



**B20. In your opinion, about how many politicians in Australia are involved in corruption?**

- Almost none
- A few
- Some
- Quite a lot
- Almost all
- Can't choose

**B21. And in your opinion, about how many public officials in Australia are involved in corruption?**

- Almost none
- A few
- Some
- Quite a lot
- Almost all
- Can't choose

**B22. In the last five years, how often have you or a member of your immediate family come across a public official who hinted they wanted, or asked for, a bribe or favour in return for a service?**

- Never
- Seldom
- Occasionally
- Quite often
- Very often
- Can't choose



**B23. On average, about how many people do you have contact with in a typical week day, including people you live with?**

① We are interested in contact on a one-to-one basis, including everyone with whom you chat, talk, or discuss matters. This can be face-to-face, by telephone, by mail, or on the internet.

② Please include only people you know.

③ Please select one from the following categories that best matches your estimate.

- 0 - 4 persons
- 5 - 9
- 10 - 19
- 20 - 49
- 50 or more
- Can't choose

**Section C - Risk**

**C1. Thinking about your own circumstances, to what extent do you worry about...**

	Worry a lot	Worry a little	Do not worry at all	Don't think about this
having enough income to meet your needs or the needs of your family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
what would happen if you (or your partner) lost your job	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
your living standards when you retire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
having enough time for family and friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
new immigrants in your neighbourhood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
having people who can care for you or your family if you become ill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
the effects of global warming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
having access to good quality water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
the quality of the food you buy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Section D - Culture

**D1. Please say whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
People with intellectual and cultural skills have a responsibility to use them for the public good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Generally the best way to settle problems about culture or communications is to let the market decide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cultural and intellectual standards of Australian life are declining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In the contemporary world, there is no longer any certain basis for our ideas of truth and justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section E - Retirement

Now, some questions about retirement.

**E1. Are you completely retired?**

Yes, I am completely retired.

No, I am not completely retired  **Skip to E3**

**E2. How important are the following for your satisfaction in retirement.**

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Fairly important	Quite important	Very important
Being socially active with friends or family	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Being mentally active	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Being physically active	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Being financially secure	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Being in some kind of paid, unpaid or voluntary work	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Being in housing that meets your needs	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Go to question F1



**E3. How much, if any, planning have you done for each of the following aspects of your future retirement life?**

	Not at all	Thought about it	Made some plans	Have firm plans
To be socially active with friends or family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To be mentally active	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To be physically active	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To be financially secure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To be in some kind of paid, unpaid or voluntary work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To be in housing that meets your needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section F - Private Health Insurance

Now a few questions about health care...

**F1. Do you currently have private health insurance?**

No

Yes, Hospital and Extras (dentists, physiotherapists, etc.) Cover

Yes, Hospital Cover only

Yes, Extras (dentists, physiotherapists, etc.) Cover only

**F2. Do you think privately run health services or publicly run health services provide higher quality medical care?**

Privately run health services

Publicly run health services

They both provide the same quality of care

Can't decide





## Section H - Aboriginality

**H1. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the situation of Aboriginal people in Australia today?**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Aboriginal people are now treated equally to other Australians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aboriginal people's level of disadvantage justifies extra government assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aboriginal people should not have to change their culture to fit into Australian society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Granting land rights to Aboriginal people is unfair to other Australians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aboriginal people who no longer follow traditional lifestyles are not really Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Injustices towards Aboriginal people are now all in the past	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**H2. Which of the following statements most closely reflects your own situation?**

I mix regularly with Aboriginal people on a day to day basis

I know Aboriginal people but do not regularly mix with them

I do not know any Aboriginal people personally

**H3. How would you feel if an Aboriginal person were to...**

	Very happy	Happy	Neither happy nor unhappy	Unhappy	Very unhappy
Marry a member of your immediate family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Be employed in the same area as you in a similar level job as your own	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Be made your supervisor at work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Move into the house next door to you	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section I - Work

Now, a few questions about your current job, or if you are not working, the last job you had.

**I1. Have you ever worked for pay?**

Yes

No  **Skip to J1**



**I2. Of the following methods, which one did you mainly use in looking for your current (or last) job?**

- Looked at media advertisements
- Used university career services
- Used an employment agency
- Used the Internet
- Got help or information from family or relatives
- Got help or information from friends
- Got help or information from acquaintances
- Approached an employer
- An employer approached me
- I was reallocated or transferred by the organisation I work for
- I am self-employed
- Other
- Don't know

**I3. Among the methods you used to look for a job, which one was most helpful to get a job interview?**

- Looked at media advertisements
- Used university career services
- Used an employment agency
- Used the Internet
- Got help or information from family or relatives
- Got help or information from friends
- Got help or information from acquaintances
- Approached an employer
- An employer approached me
- I was reallocated or transferred by the organisation I work for
- I am self-employed
- Other
- Don't know



**I4. On the whole, which ONE method was most important for getting your current (last) job?**

- Looked at media advertisements
- Used university career services
- Used an employment agency
- Used the Internet
- Got help or information from family or relatives
- Got help or information from friends
- Got help or information from acquaintances
- Approached an employer
- An employer approached me
- I was reallocated or transferred by the organisation I work for
- I am self-employed
- Other
- Don't know

**I5. In terms of the specified level of skills or experience for your current (last) job, were you...**

- Over-qualified
- A good match
- Under-qualified
- There was no specified level of skills or experience
- Don't know



**16. How did the people you know (e.g. acquaintances, family members, relatives, friends etc.) mainly help you to look for your current (last) job?**

☞ Choose one response only

They provided employment information

They helped to prepare a job application

They approached people to exert influence on my behalf

They helped to solve practical problems

They provided emotional support

Other

No help

Don't know

**17. Was there one particular person among those who helped you to get this job?**

Yes, acquaintance

Yes, friend

Yes, family member / relative

Yes, other

No

**18. In your main place of work, are the staff... ?**

☞ If no current workplace, answer for your last place of work.

Mainly men

Mainly women

About the same number of men and women

Not applicable



**I9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement - "I spend a lot of time and energy juggling the demands of my work and my home"?**

If not currently working, answer for the last time you were working.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

**I10. As an official part of your main job, do you supervise the work of other employees?**

If no current job, answer for the last job you held.

Yes

No

Not applicable

## Section J - Gender

Now, thinking about your current situation ...

**J1. On average, how many hours per week do you spend looking after children in your home?**

*If not applicable, enter: 999*

Hours per week

**J2. On average, how many hours per week do you spend on household work - that is, work in and around the home?**

Please exclude hours spent looking after children, disabled or elderly people.

*If not applicable, enter: 999*

Hours per week



**J3. When you and your spouse/partner make major decisions, which of the following best describes who has the final say?**

- Mostly you
- Mostly your spouse/partner
- Sometimes you and sometimes your spouse/partner
- You usually decide together equally
- Not applicable

**J4. Are your close friends mostly women, mostly men, or about the same number of men and women?**

- Mostly women
- Mostly men
- About the same number of men and women
- Not applicable

**J5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I always take care about the way I dress and the way I look	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It's OK for men to play around, but a woman should be faithful to her husband or boyfriend	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women have been unfairly treated in the workplace and need better pay and promotion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**J6. Which one of the following statements best describes the type of men you admire most?**

- A man who takes charge and makes things happen
- A man who is creative and flexible
- A man who is reliable and hardworking

**J7. Which one of the following statements best describes the type of women you admire most?**

- A woman who is lively and attractive
- A woman who knows how to look after other people
- A woman who is intelligent and independent



## Section K - IVF Technology and Sex Selection

### K1. Do you approve or disapprove of the use of IVF technology to avoid characteristics of children such as:

	Strongly approve	Approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove
An intellectual disability (e.g. Down syndrome)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A physical disability (e.g. resulting in an inability to use the arms and legs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A tendency to develop obesity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A tendency to develop cancer in adulthood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A certain sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low level of intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### K2. Do you approve or disapprove of the use of abortion to avoid having children with characteristics such as:

	Strongly approve	Approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove
An intellectual disability (e.g. Down syndrome)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A physical disability (e.g. resulting in an inability to use the arms and legs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A tendency to develop obesity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A tendency to develop cancer in adulthood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A certain sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low level of intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### K3. Suppose you did not have any children but would very much want to. If given a choice, would you like your first born child to be...?

A boy

A girl

No preference

I don't know



**K4. If for whatever reason you could only have one child, what sex would you wish your only child to be?**

A boy

A girl

No preference

I don't know

**K5. Suppose there was a medication available that enabled parents to choose the sex of their children. Couples simply had to take a blue pill to ensure the birth of a boy or a pink pill to ensure the birth of a girl.**

**Do you think such a medication should be legally available?**

Yes

No

I don't know

**K6. If you were planning to have children, would you take advantage of such a medication?**

Yes

No

I don't know

## **Section L - Politics and Society**

**L1. Which social class would you say you belong to?**

Upper

Middle

Working

None



















**M22. Would you say you now live in...**

- A rural area or village
- A small country town (under 10,000 people)
- A larger country town (over 10,000 people)
- A large town (over 25,000 people)
- Outer metropolitan area of a major city (over 100,000 people)
- Inner metropolitan area of a major city (over 100,000 people)

**M23. What is your current marital status?**

- Single, never married
- De facto
- Married
- Divorced
- Separated but not divorced
- Widowed

**M24. Do you live together with a partner?**

- Yes
- No

**M25. Are you...**

- Heterosexual or straight
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Transgendered
- Can't choose

**M26. How many people live in your house (including yourself)?**



**M27. Thinking about the people OTHER THAN YOURSELF who live in your house, please tell us how old each person is and cross the option that describes your relationship with each of them.**

	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5	Person 6	Person 7	Person 8	Person 9
Age	<input type="text"/>							
Partner	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Child or step-child	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Father/step-father/ father-in-law	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Mother/step-mother/ mother-in-law	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Brother/step-brother/ brother-in-law	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Sister/step-sister/ sister-in-law	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Grandfather	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Grandmother	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Grandson	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Granddaughter	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Other male relative	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Other female relative	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Other male (i.e. friend or flatmate)	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Other female (i.e. friend or flatmate)	<input type="checkbox"/>							

**M28. Do you have a religion?**

Yes

No  **Skip to M30**





**M31. What is your gross annual income, before tax or other deductions, from all sources?**

**ⓘ** Please include any pensions and allowances, and income from interest or dividends.

- Nil income
- \$1 - \$119 per week (\$1 - \$6,239 per year)
- \$120 - \$159 per week (\$6,240 - \$8,319 per year)
- \$160 - \$199 per week (\$8,320 - \$10,399 per year)
- \$200 - \$299 per week (\$10,400 - \$15,599 per year)
- \$300 - \$399 per week (\$15,600 - \$20,799 per year)
- \$400 - \$499 per week (\$20,800 - \$25,999 per year)
- \$500 - \$599 per week (\$26,000 - \$31,199 per year)
- \$600 - \$699 per week (\$31,200 - \$36,399 per year)
- \$700 - \$799 per week (\$36,400 - \$41,599 per year)
- \$800 - \$999 per week (\$41,600 - \$51,999 per year)
- \$1,000 - \$1,499 per week (\$52,000 - \$77,999 per year)
- \$1,500 - \$1,999 per week (\$78,000 - \$103,999 per year)
- \$2,000 or more per week (\$104,000 or more per year)



**M32. What is your gross household income, before tax or other deductions, from all sources?**

☑ Please include any pensions and allowances, and income from interest or dividends.

☑ If you are the only income earner in your household, please cross SAME AS ABOVE

- SAME AS ABOVE
- \$1 - \$199 per week (\$1- \$10,399 per year)
- \$200 - \$299 per week (\$10,400 - \$15,599 per year)
- \$300 - \$399 per week (\$15,600 - \$20,799 per year)
- \$400 - \$499 per week (\$20,800 - \$25,999 per year)
- \$500 - \$599 per week (\$26,000 - \$31,199 per year)
- \$600 - \$699 per week (\$31,200 - \$36,399 per year)
- \$700 - \$799 per week (\$36,400 - \$41,599 per year)
- \$800 - \$999 per week (\$41,600 - \$51,999 per year)
- \$1,000 - \$1,499 per week (\$52,000 - \$77,999 per year)
- \$1,500 - \$1,999 per week (\$78,000 - \$103,999 per year)
- \$2,000 - \$2,499 per week (\$104,000 - \$129,999 per year)
- \$2,500 - \$3,499 per week (\$130,000 - \$181,999 per year)
- \$3,500 or more per week (\$182,000 or more per year)

If you do not have a partner, this is the end of the questionnaire. Please put the questionnaire in the pre-paid reply envelope and post it back to us. We really appreciate your cooperation and effort!

If you have a partner, please continue







**N8. What is the highest level of education your partner has completed since leaving high school?**

None

Trade qualification or apprenticeship

Certificate or Diploma (TAFE or business college)

Bachelor Degree (including Honours)

Postgraduate Degree or Postgraduate Diploma

**N9. What is your partner's gross annual income, before tax or other deductions, from all sources?**

Please include any pensions and allowances, and income from interest or dividends.

Nil income

\$1 - \$119 per week (\$1 - \$6,239 per year)

\$120 - \$159 per week (\$6,240 - \$8,319 per year)

\$160 - \$199 per week (\$8,320 - \$10,399 per year)

\$200 - \$299 per week (\$10,400 - \$15,599 per year)

\$300 - \$399 per week (\$15,600 - \$20,799 per year)

\$400 - \$499 per week (\$20,800 - \$25,999 per year)

\$500 - \$599 per week (\$26,000 - \$31,199 per year)

\$600 - \$699 per week (\$31,200 - \$36,399 per year)

\$700 - \$799 per week (\$36,400 - \$41,599 per year)

\$800 - \$999 per week (\$41,600 - \$51,999 per year)

\$1,000 - \$1,499 per week (\$52,000 - \$77,999 per year)

\$1,500 - \$1,999 per week (\$78,000 - \$103,999 per year)

\$2,000 or more per week (\$104,000 or more per year)

That is the end of the questionnaire.  
Please put the questionnaire in the pre-paid reply envelope and post it back to us.

We really appreciate your cooperation and effort!