

Do Australians want a private welfare state? Are they getting one anyway?

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APPENDIX A

The Australian Survey of Social Attitudes

The 2003 Australian Survey of Social Attitudes (AuSSA) (Gibson et al. 2004) was the first in a planned biennial series that studies social attitudes and behaviour of Australian citizens for the Australian and international research community. AuSSA provides cross-sectional data on the social attitudes and behaviour of Australians, repeating a core questionnaire for each cross-section and fielding specific modules relevant to the changing needs of the social research community.

The 2003 Survey includes attitudes and behaviours that are organised into seven standard categories: Describing Australia; Community Life; The Law and Authority; Families and Relationships, Australia and the World; Taxes and Government Services; and Work, Education and Living Standards.

AuSSA 2003 also includes demographic and behavioural variables that survey: sex, year born, income, education, employment, home ownership, union membership, languages spoken, birthplace, ancestry, household composition and religion. Also included are questions about the partner of the respondent: employment, highest-level of education and income.

The mail out, mail back survey was conducted between 3 August and 24 December 2003. The sample was a stratified systematic random sample selected to be proportional to population on a state by state basis. The response rate was 44 per cent and amounted to 4,270 responses.

In this paper, I explore answers to a set of questions included in half the surveys in the section called Taxes and Government Services.

REFERENCES

Gibson, R., Wilson, S., Denmark, D., Meagher, G., & Western, M. 2004, The Australian Survey of Social Attitudes 2003, Australian Social Science Data Archive, The Australian National University.

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Table A.1: Attitudes about who is best suited to delivering human services (per cent of responses)

	Education n=2044	Health services n=2034	Services for job seekers n=2032	Child care n=2035	Counselling or welfare support n=2014	Care for the disabled n=2036	Care for elderly persons n=2044
Governments	82.5	80.1	53.7	33.8	43.3	60.6	54.6
Charities	0.4	1.2	4.9	2.9	30.4	13.6	10.4
Private businesses	10.2	13.5	32.8	29.7	12	8.6	10.9
Families and relatives	1.9	0.3	0.5	27	6.2	10.9	18
Can't choose	4.9	4.8	3.8	6.7	8.1	6.2	6.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Gibson et al. (2004).