

Tuesday, 12 December 2023

Penny Wong most trusted Australian politician; Peter Dutton most distrusted

Senator Penny Wong has emerged in a recent poll as the political leader with the highest Net Trust Score (Trust Score – Distrust Score). She was followed by Shadow Indigenous Affairs Minister Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, who came to the forefront of Australian politics as a lead spokesperson for the successful ‘No’ campaign in the October Voice referendum.

Penny Wong retains the position she held in March 2022. Nampijinpa Price and Treasurer Jim Chalmers also record more trust than distrust.

	Political Leaders with a Net Trust Score March 2022		Political Leaders with a Net Trust Score November 2023
1	Penny Wong	→	1 Penny Wong
2	Anthony Albanese		2 Jacinta Nampijinpa Price
3	Tanya Plibersek		3 Jim Chalmers
4	Mark McGowan		
5	Jacqui Lambie		
	<i>Gladys Berejiklian</i>		
6	Adam Bandt		

Source: Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey: February 28 – March 1, 2022; 16-20 November 2023

Base: Australians aged 18+. n=1426; n=1,095. Note: Sitting Australian political leaders with minimum of 20 unaided mentions included. Those not sitting or sitting overseas are shaded in grey and not ranked.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton emerges as the most distrusted politician, while PM Anthony Albanese also moves into Net Distrust territory, having been a trusted leader in 2022.

Australia's most distrusted politician is Peter Dutton, up from second place last year. While former Prime Minister Scott Morrison, despite virtual invisibility, is the second most distrusted.

Crucially, **Anthony Albanese** has gone from the **second most trusted** politician in Australia to the **third most distrusted**, with the exclusion of Clive Palmer who, as a former politician, is not ranked.

Rounding out the top five are Barnaby Joyce and soon-to-be former Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk. Interestingly, last year none of the most distrusted were Labor politicians. This year half are. There's no doubt, being in Government shines a light on leaders.

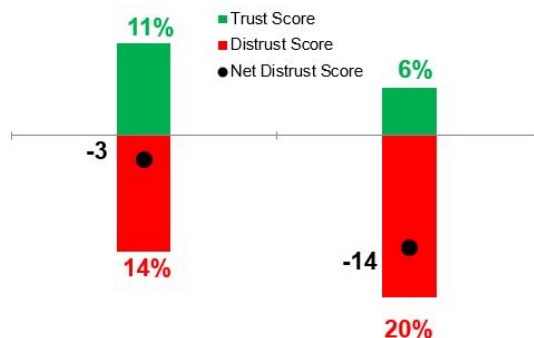
Top Political Leaders with a Net Distrust Score March 2022	
	<i>Clive Palmer</i>
1	Scott Morrison
2	Peter Dutton
3	Barnaby Joyce
4	Pauline Hanson
5	Craig Kelly
6	Dominic Perrottet
7	Angus Taylor
8	Michaelia Cash
9	Josh Frydenberg
10	Matthew Guy

Top Political Leaders with a Net Distrust Score November 2023			
1	Peter Dutton	11	Sussan Ley
2	Scott Morrison		<i>Daniel Andrews</i>
	<i>Clive Palmer</i>	12	David Littleproud
3	Anthony Albanese	13	Katy Gallagher
4	Barnaby Joyce	14	Bill Shorten
5	Annastacia Palaszczuk	15	Pauline Hanson
6	Chris Bowen	16	Chris Minns
7	Tony Burke	17	Richard Marles
8	Angus Taylor	18	Tanya Plibersek
9	Michaelia Cash		
10	Adam Bandt		
	<i>Tony Abbott</i>		

Source: Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey: February 28 – March 1, 2022; 16-20 November 2023

Base: Australians aged 18+. n=1426; n=1095. Note: Sitting Australian political leaders with minimum of 20 unaided mentions included. Those not sitting or sitting overseas are shaded in grey and not ranked.

While Prime Minister Albanese recorded more distrust than trust, his trust levels were higher and distrust levels lower than Opposition Leader Peter Dutton.



Source: Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey: 16-20 November 2023. **Base:** Australians aged 18+. n=1095.

Some reasons Australians gave for trusting Albanese and Dutton include:

"His actions show integrity and a genuine commitment to improving Australia." [Anthony Albanese]

"He is being transparent and plain-talking. Logical and heart on his sleeve." [Anthony Albanese]

"He is the only politician with integrity and who shows leadership. I am disgusted with our PM who may as well live overseas for all he cares." [Peter Dutton]

"Exposed the Voice for what it really was and is trying to keep a very wayward Labor Party to account." [Peter Dutton]

Some reasons Australians gave for distrusting Albanese and Dutton include:

"Albanese constantly belittles the country and regional areas by changing things that work and implementing things that will ruin our country." [Anthony Albanese]

"Made bad decisions for Australia, leaving all of Australia to struggle to put food on the table or rooves over their heads." [Anthony Albanese]

"Self serving with very little compassion for ordinary people." [Peter Dutton]

"Peter Dutton is only interested in what he sees as political gain. Doesn't understand the word cooperation or care for what is best for country or its people." [Peter Dutton]

Source: Roy Morgan Single Source (Australia). Risk Monitor, 12-month average to June 2023.

Base: Australians 14+, Latest 12-month average n=25,662. Profit motivations n=5,658.

Andrew Forrest is the only business leader to record a Net Trust Score. QANTAS leadership, including former CEO Alan Joyce recorded the Highest Net Distrust Score, surpassing Gina Rinehart.

Business Leaders with Net Trust Score March 2022		Business Leaders with Net Trust Score November 2023	
1	Mike Cannon-Brookes	1	Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest
2	Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest		
3	Dick Smith		

Source: Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey: February 28 – March 1, 2022; 16-20 November 2023

Base: Australians aged 18+. n=1,426; n=1,095.

Top Business Leaders with a Net Distrust Score March 2022		Top Business Leaders with a Net Distrust Score November 2023	
1	Gina Rinehart	1	QANTAS leadership (CEO Alan Joyce)
2	Rupert Murdoch	2	Gina Rinehart
3	Alan Joyce	3	Optus leadership (CEO Kelly Bayer Rosmarin)
		4	Rupert Murdoch
		5	Gerry Harvey

Source: Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey: February 28 – March 1, 2022; 16-20 November 2023. **Base:** Australians aged 18+. n=1,426; n=1,095. **Note:** Mentions of 'Alan Joyce', 'Vanessa Hudson' and 'QANTAS CEO' combined as it was unclear if respondents were referring to current or former CEO.

Roy Morgan CEO Michele Levine says while Dutton is more far more distrusted than Albanese, many Labor ministers, including the Prime Minister are more distrusted than trusted, making them vulnerable.

"The high levels of trust in Senator Penny Wong show that she is an asset to the government. While the high levels of trust in Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price help to explain how she was able to cut through during the Voice debate, and convince undecided voters to vote no."

"The very high levels of distrust in Peter Dutton, and others in the Opposition make it unlikely they would be able to win government in the current climate."

"Prime Minister Albanese has a Net Distrust Score of -3, while Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has a Net Distrust Score of -14 – that's almost five times worse than the Prime Minister."

"This is remarkably similar to the picture immediately before the Victorian election, held just 13 months ago, and puts Albanese in a strong position electorally."

"Our analysis of trust and distrust prior to the State election showed Daniel Andrews was always going to win. Opposition Leader Matthew Guy had no chance with a Net Distrust Score of -15 – virtually identical to Peter Dutton."

"On the other side, Anthony Albanese has a Net Distrust Score of -3 (2 better than Daniel Andrews)."

"In an even more deeply worrying trend for Peter Dutton, his scores are moving very close to Scott Morrison's just weeks before the Coalition suffered a disastrous defeat at the 2022 Federal election."

"Having pondered over the volumes of different responses, words, expressions, and emotions, I believe the issue of distrust with our current two leaders is much less personal than we've seen previously, and more ideological."

"The leaders are proxies for the great political divide we are seeing emerge on so many issues – The Voice and Gaza being the most-high profile."



Michele will present the findings from this research in more detail in this week's extended Weekly Update video. Subscribe to Roy Morgan's Market Research Update to receive the Weekly Update newsletter. **[INSERT LINK]**

Subscribe to Roy Morgan's YouTube channel to ensure you don't miss our regular webinars on trust and distrust: <https://www.youtube.com/c/roymorganaus>.

Australians surveyed were each asked the following questions:

Question 1: *"Which government and business leaders do you trust?"*

Question 2: *"And why do you trust them?"*

Question 3: *"Which government and business leaders do you distrust?"*

Question 4: *"And why do you distrust them?"*

About Roy Morgan

Roy Morgan is the source of the most comprehensive data on Australians' behaviour and attitudes, surveying over 1,000 people weekly in a continuous cycle that has been running for two decades. The company has more than 80 years' experience collecting objective, independent information.

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. Margin of error gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.0	±2.7	±1.9	±1.3
2,000	±2.2	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0
60,000	±0.4	±0.3	±0.2	±0.2