

What do Australians think about aid?

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Introduction

- Overview of research agenda
- Why does public opinion matter?

Australians need to talk about the value of foreign aid

Foreign aid: which countries are the most generous?

The blind truth of Australia's foreign aid cuts

Budget exploits our indifference to the suffering of foreigners

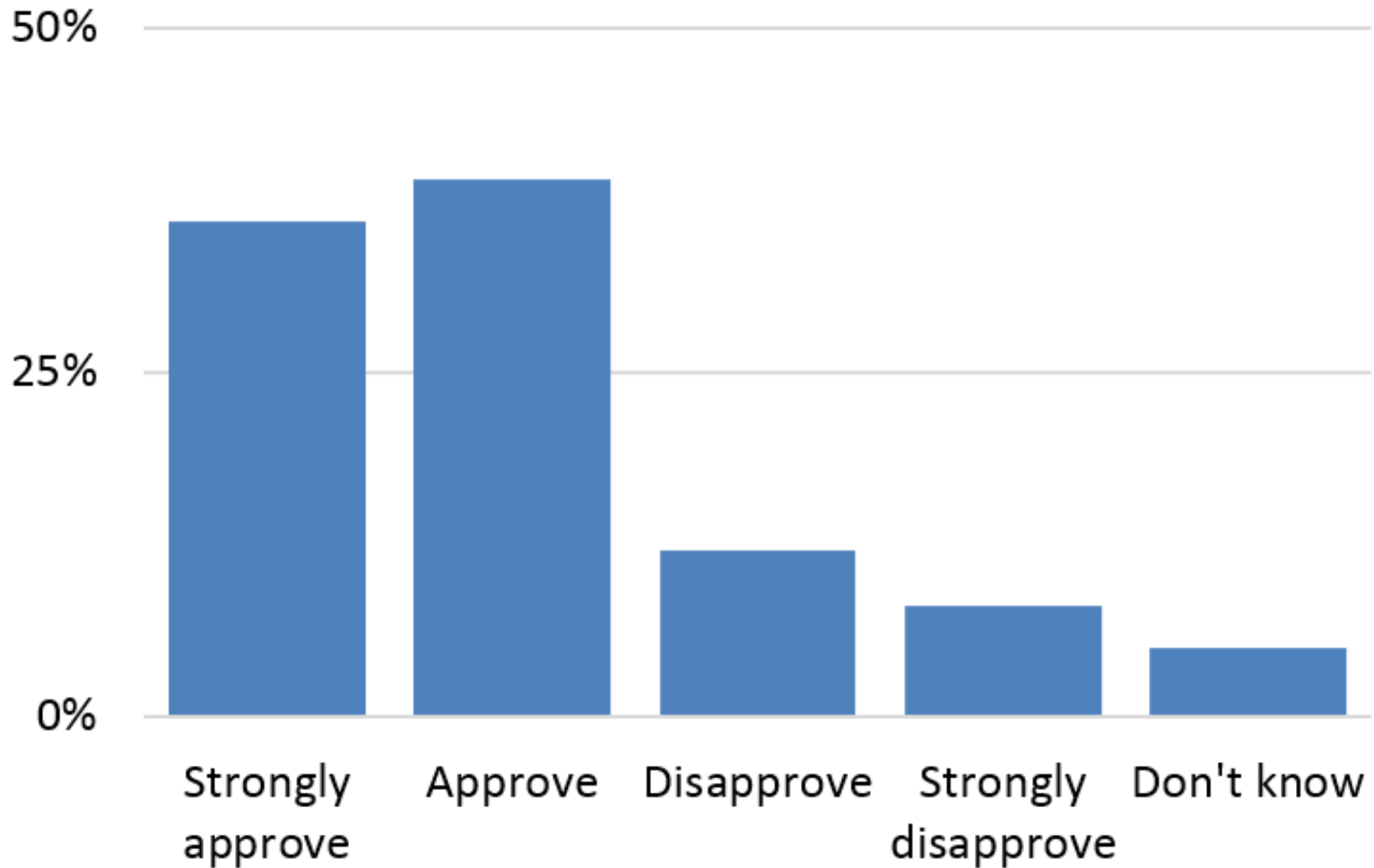
Voices › Comment

How popular is foreign aid spending? It depends how you ask the question

A new poll suggests that UKIP may be wrong to claim aid is unpopular

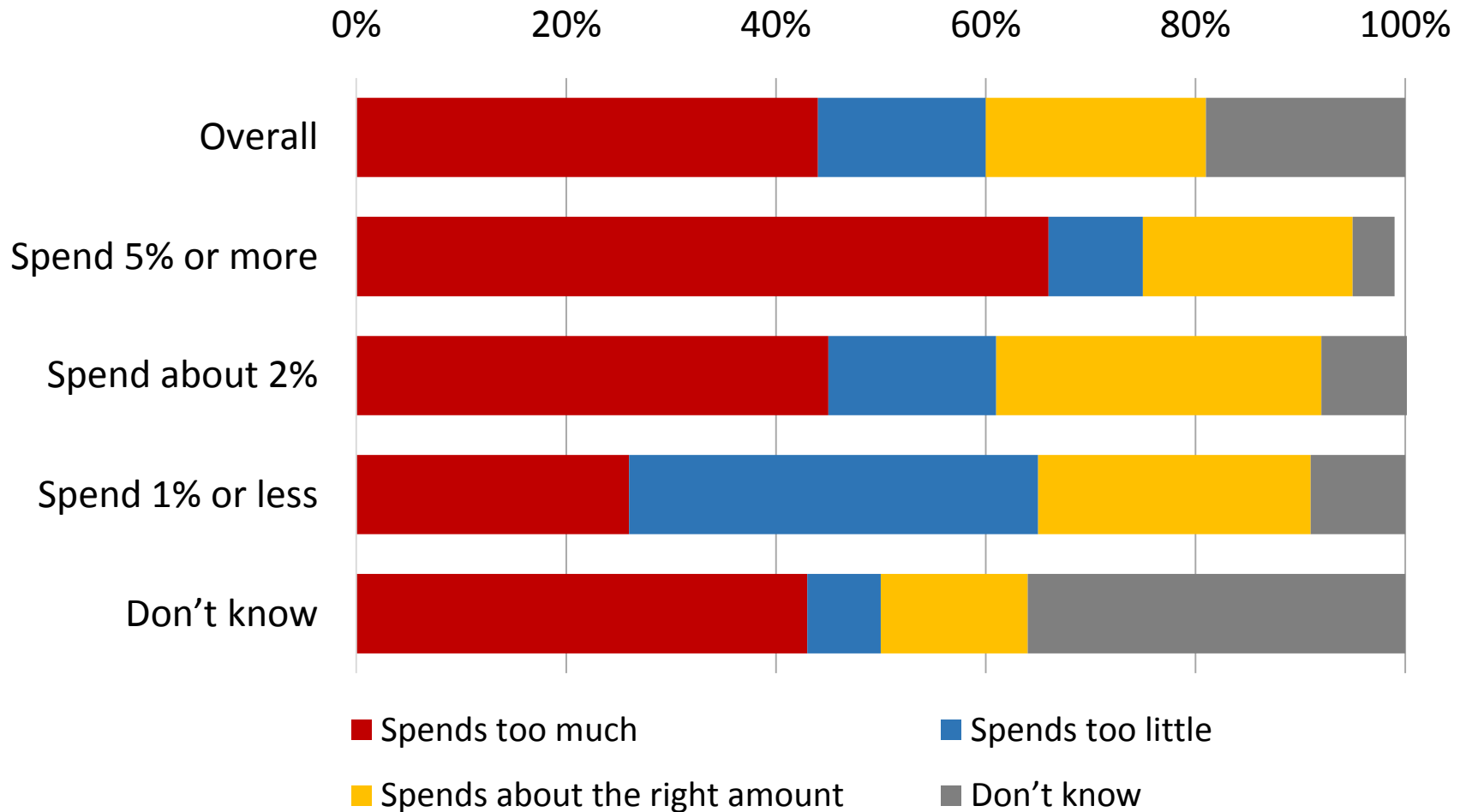
John Rentoul | @johnrentoul | Tuesday 13 January 2015 | 2 comments

Overall, how supportive are Australians?



Source: ANUpoll, 12-25 May 2014

...but what about aid volumes?



Source: Essential Media Communications, 2 June 2015

Where aid's support is higher?



young people

academic educated



"I've been working out for six months, but all my gains have been in cognitive function."



on the left

cosmopolitans



atheists...and
the very devout



Changing opinion: survey experiments

1/2

Control question (all 3 experiments): Every year the Australian government provides aid money to poorer countries. Which of the following options best reflects your opinion about aid spending: too much; not enough; about right; don't know

Experiment 1 treatment: Told how little aid Australia gives (as % of federal spending)

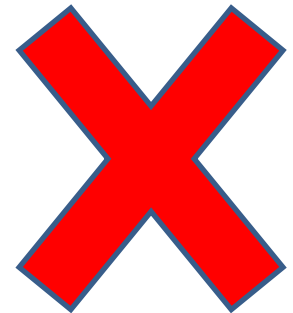
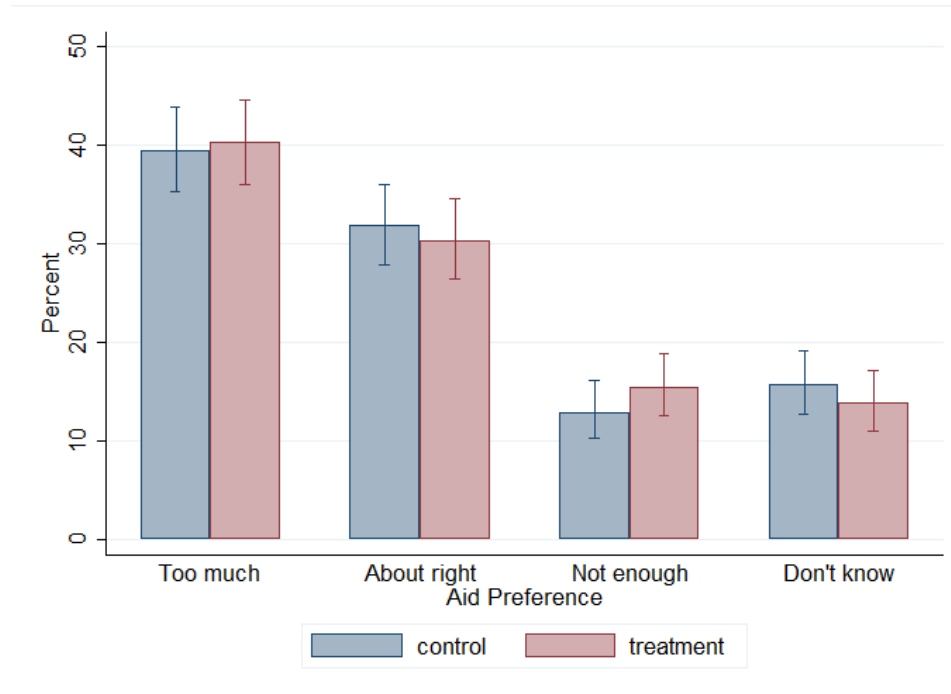
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Experiment 2 treatment: Shown trends in Aus aid spending (%GNI) over time

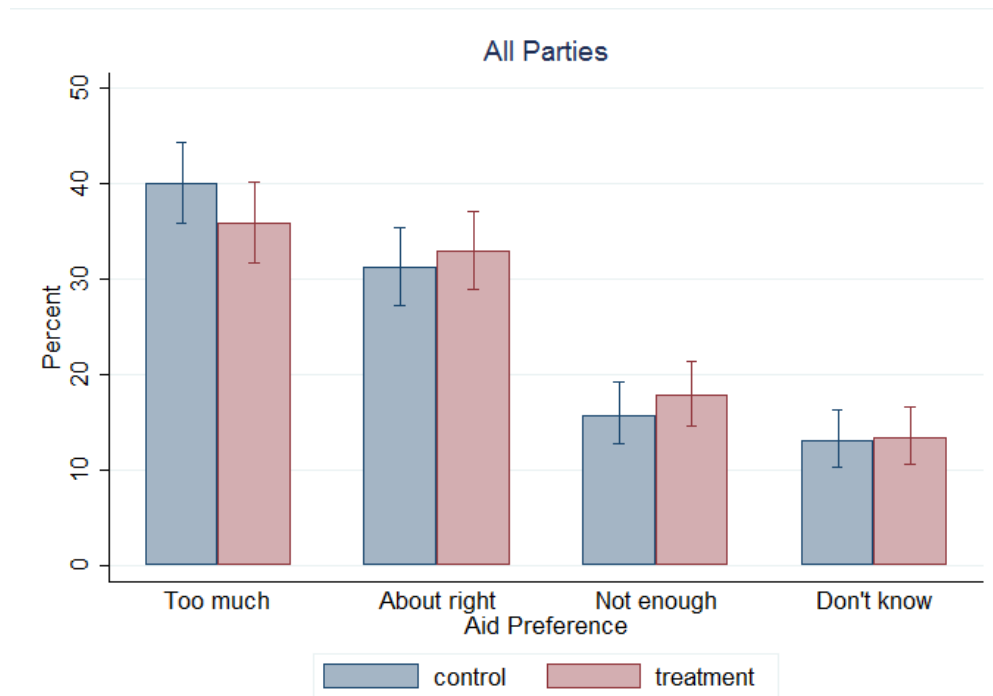
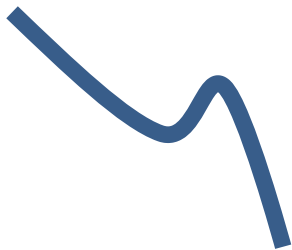
Experiment 3 treatment: Contrasted Australian aid decline with UK trends aid rise (%GNI)

The results?

Treatment 1

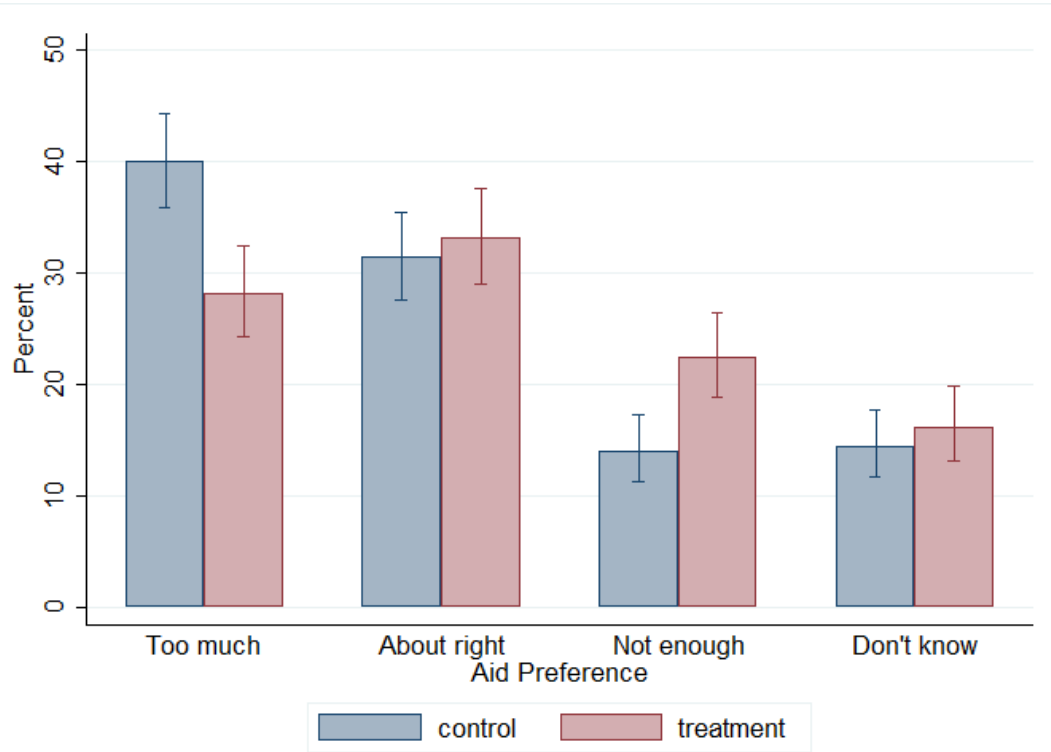


Treatment 2



$\frac{1}{2}$

Treatment 3



Avenues for future research

- Searching for a cure (for aid hostility)
- We know (some things) about aid.... what about poverty?
- Newspaper experiments
- Moving from thoughts to actions