Putting our money where our mouths are? Support for Government ODA and NGO Donations in Australia

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Why research public opinion and aid?

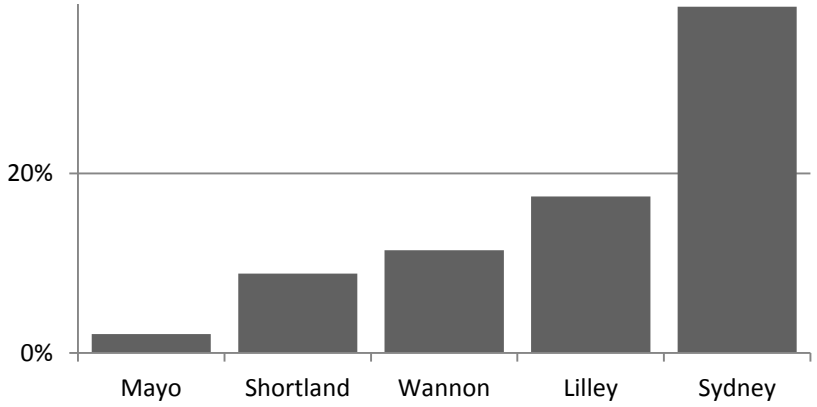
In democracies public opinion likely has some impact on policy

Knowing who supports ODA affords insight into politics of ODA

And comparing ODA support with NGO giving offers depth of commitment

And practical utility to knowing about NGO support too

Proportion of population who gave to NGOs in 2013 (selected electorates)



In this study

1. Combined new datasets to learn more about Australians' support for government aid (ODA)
2. And compared this with Australians' actual private donations to aid NGOs.

3 Key Questions

1. What socio-economic and political traits are associated with Australians' support for ODA?
2. Is support for ODA correlated with private donations to NGOs?
3. What socio-economic and political traits are associated with Australians' support for private donations?

What does the literature tell us?

	ODA	ODA Australia (recent acad)	Donations to aid NGOs
Income/wealth	+ve	?	?
Education	+ve	?	?
Religion	mixed	?	?
Youth	+ve	?	?
Politics (left)	+ve	?	?

The data…

Unit of analysis: all data aggregated to electorate level (i.e. do wealthier electorates support aid more)

Dataset 1: Surveyed support for increasing ODA from Vote Compass online election survey 2013 (n≈1,400,000; weighted data)

Dataset 2: ACFID data on number of people who donated to member NGOs in 2013 (almost all large Aust. aid NGOs; only number of donations not volume)

Combined with: Census data on socio-economics; and election results.

Data imperfect but usable (happy to defend in question time).

Results

A bonus slide for social scientists!

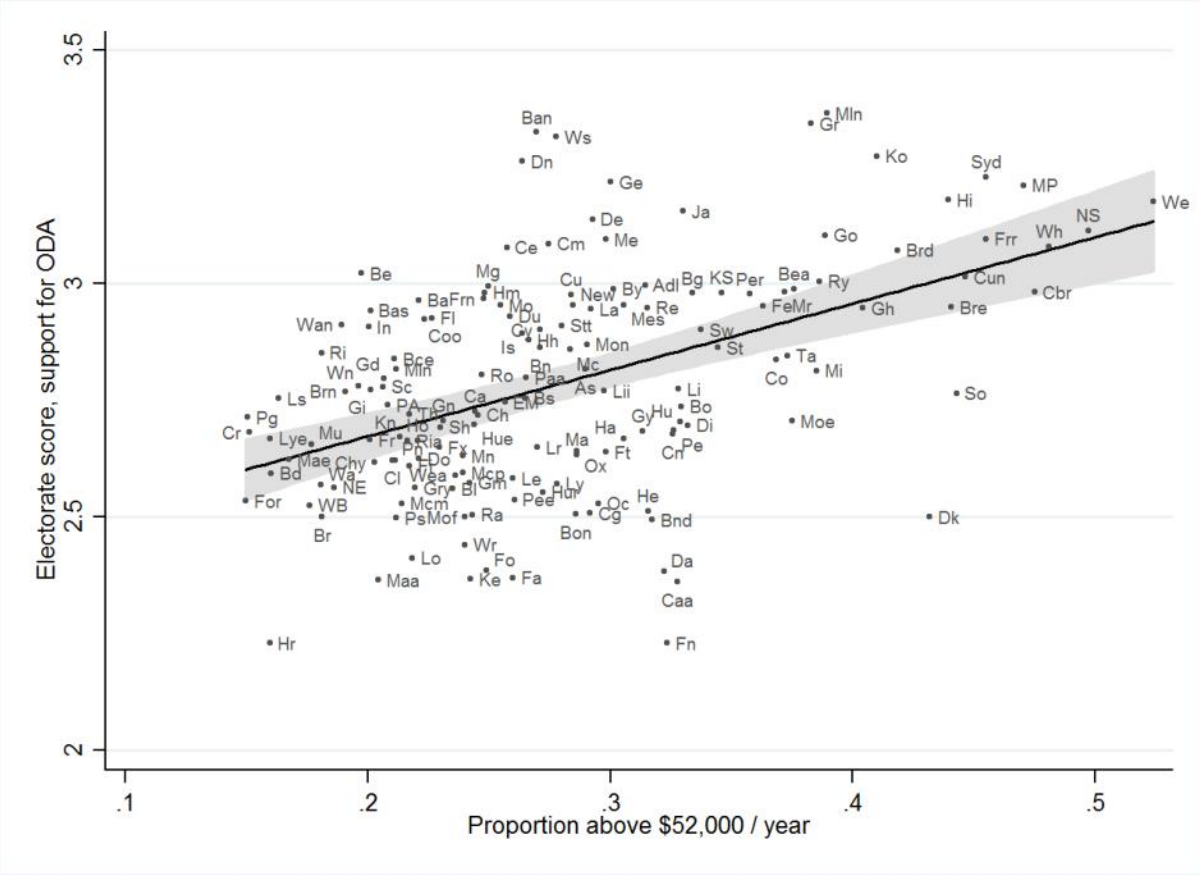
In all regression results: Huber-White standard errors used (changes little)

All results robust to exclusion of outliers

Multicollinearity tolerable

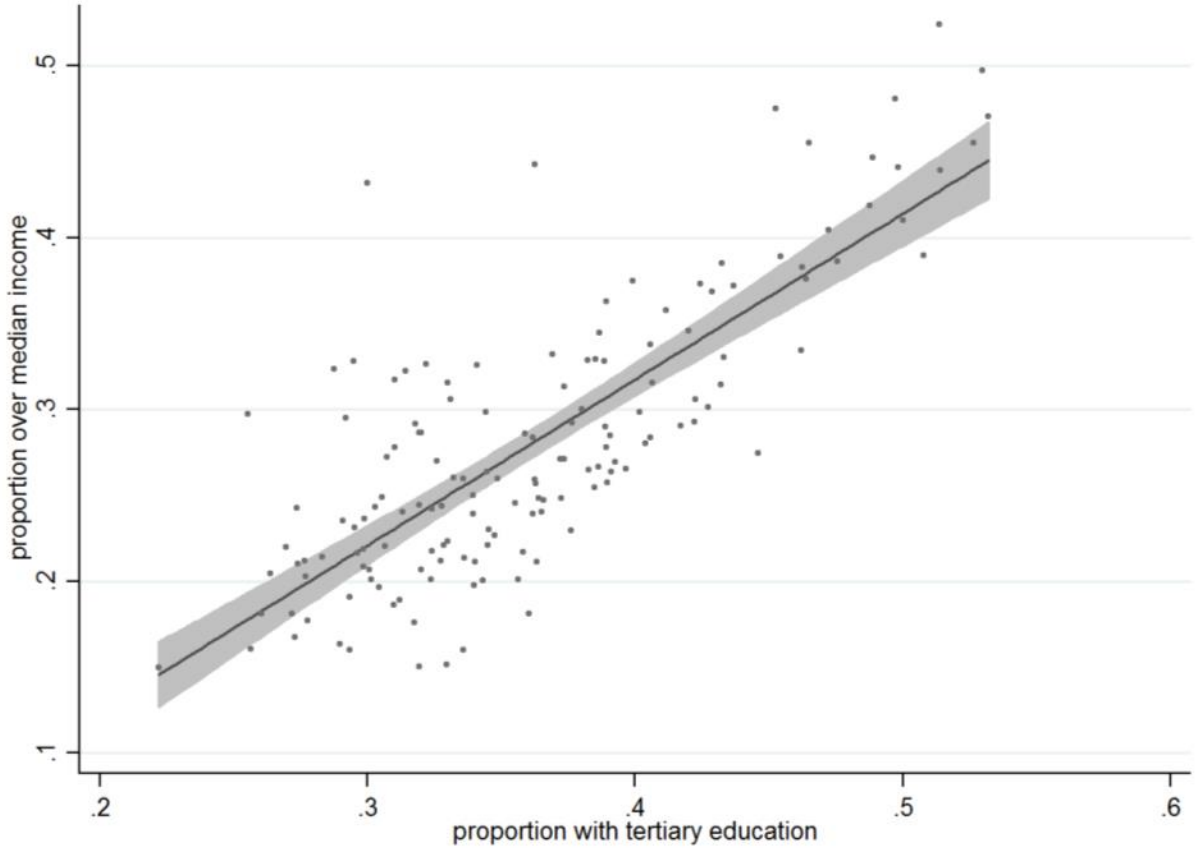
Issues of ecological inference (talking about electorates not people)

Support for ODA: simple bivariate correlation, income and support



But…

Correlation between income and education



Socio-economic traits and support for ODA

multiple regression on Vote Compass (1-5) & census, by electorate

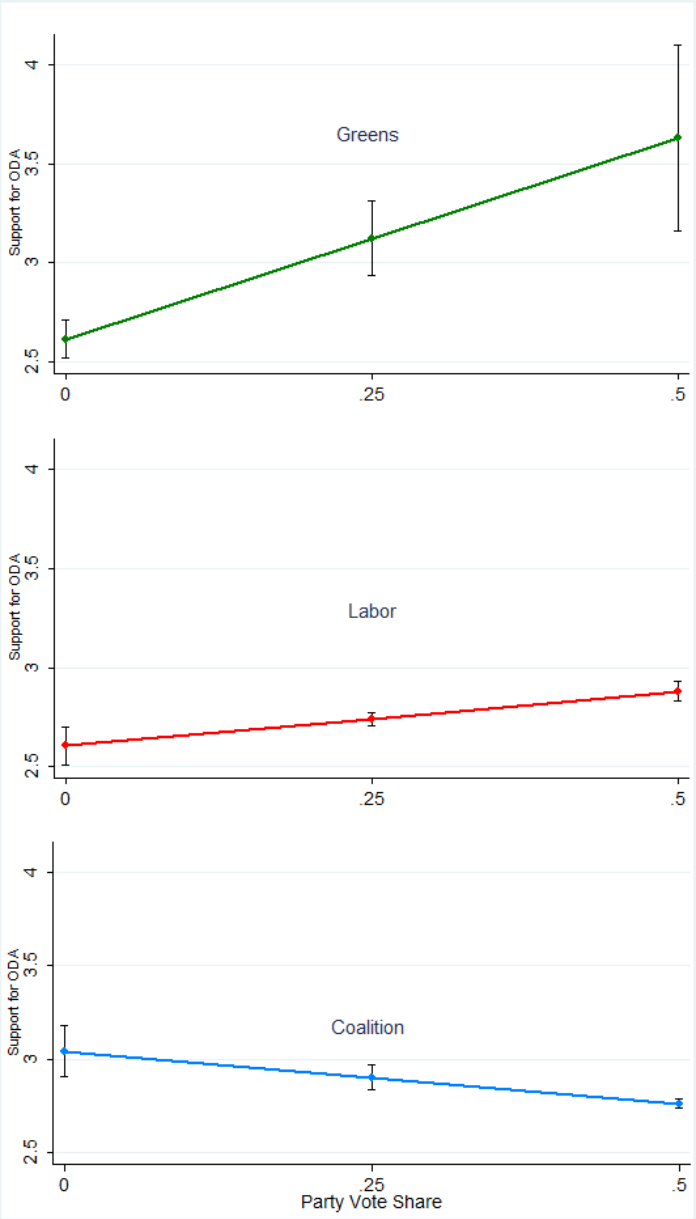
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Income (%>med)	1.421***		-0.990***	-1.326***
	(0.176)		(0.254)	(0.256)
Education (% tert)		2.763***	3.719***	3.591***
		(0.162)	(0.315)	(0.319)
Religiosity (% rel)				-0.577***
				(0.172)
Population <35				0.436
				(0.326)
Urbanisation				0.057
				(0.035)
Intercept	2.389***	1.787***	1.719***	2.060***
	(0.050)	(0.061)	(0.064)	(0.234)
r-squared	0.232	0.590	0.632	0.661
n	150	150	150	150

Political traits and support for ODA

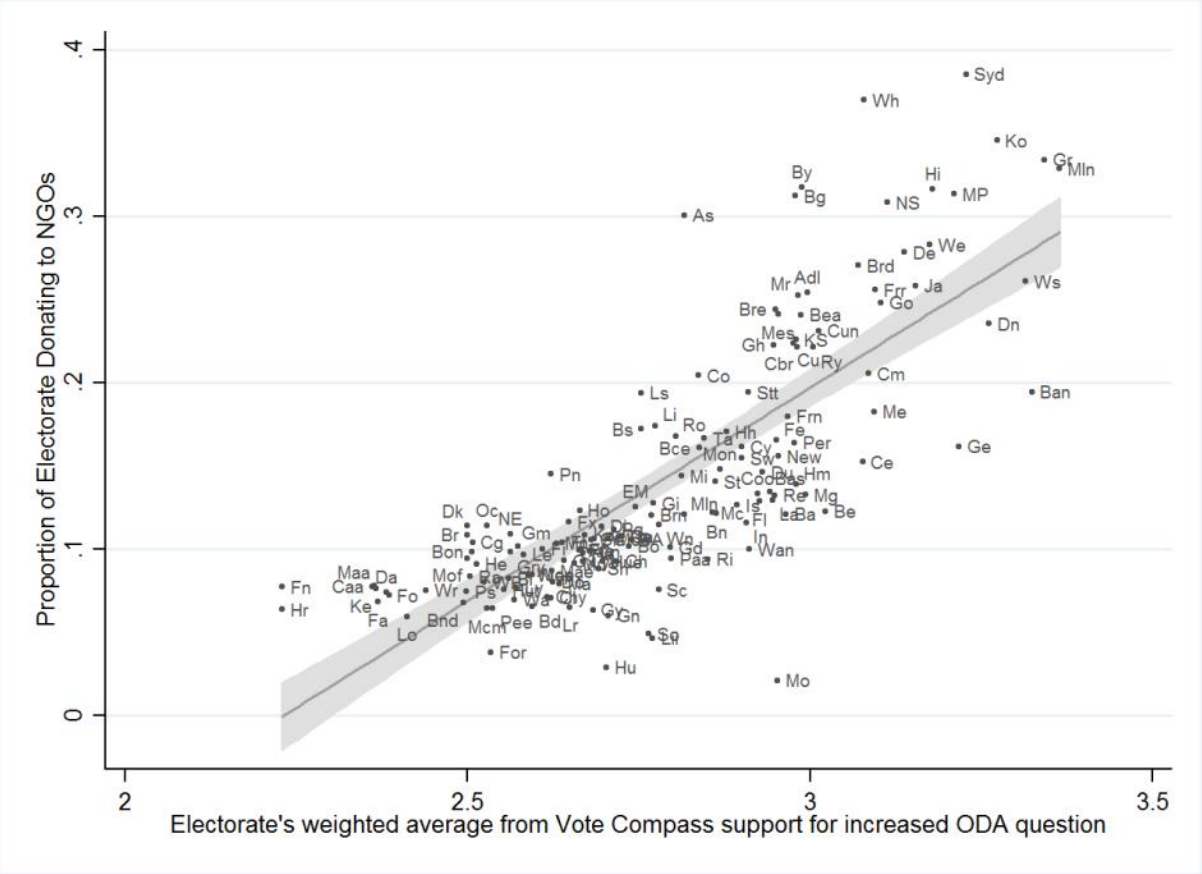
(multiple regression on Vote Compass, census & eln results by elect)

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
Greens (1st pref)	3.573***			2.039***		
	(0.576)			(0.574)		
Labor (1st pref)		0.193			0.549***	
		(0.195)			(0.141)	
Coaln (1st pref)			-0.346			-0.560***
			(0.226)			(0.151)
Income				-0.993***	-0.900***	-0.752**
				(0.250)	(0.300)	(0.295)
Education				2.400***	3.478***	3.334***
				(0.319)	(0.320)	(0.317)
Religiosity				-0.034	-0.598***	-0.385**
				(0.197)	(0.187)	(0.173)
Population <35				-0.020	-0.172	-0.387
				(0.355)	(0.361)	(0.387)
Urbanisation				0.058*	0.017	0.036
				(0.031)	(0.035)	(0.033)
r-squared	0.593	0.007	0.021	0.740	0.696	0.696

Magnitude of effect of political belief ODA



NGO Donations

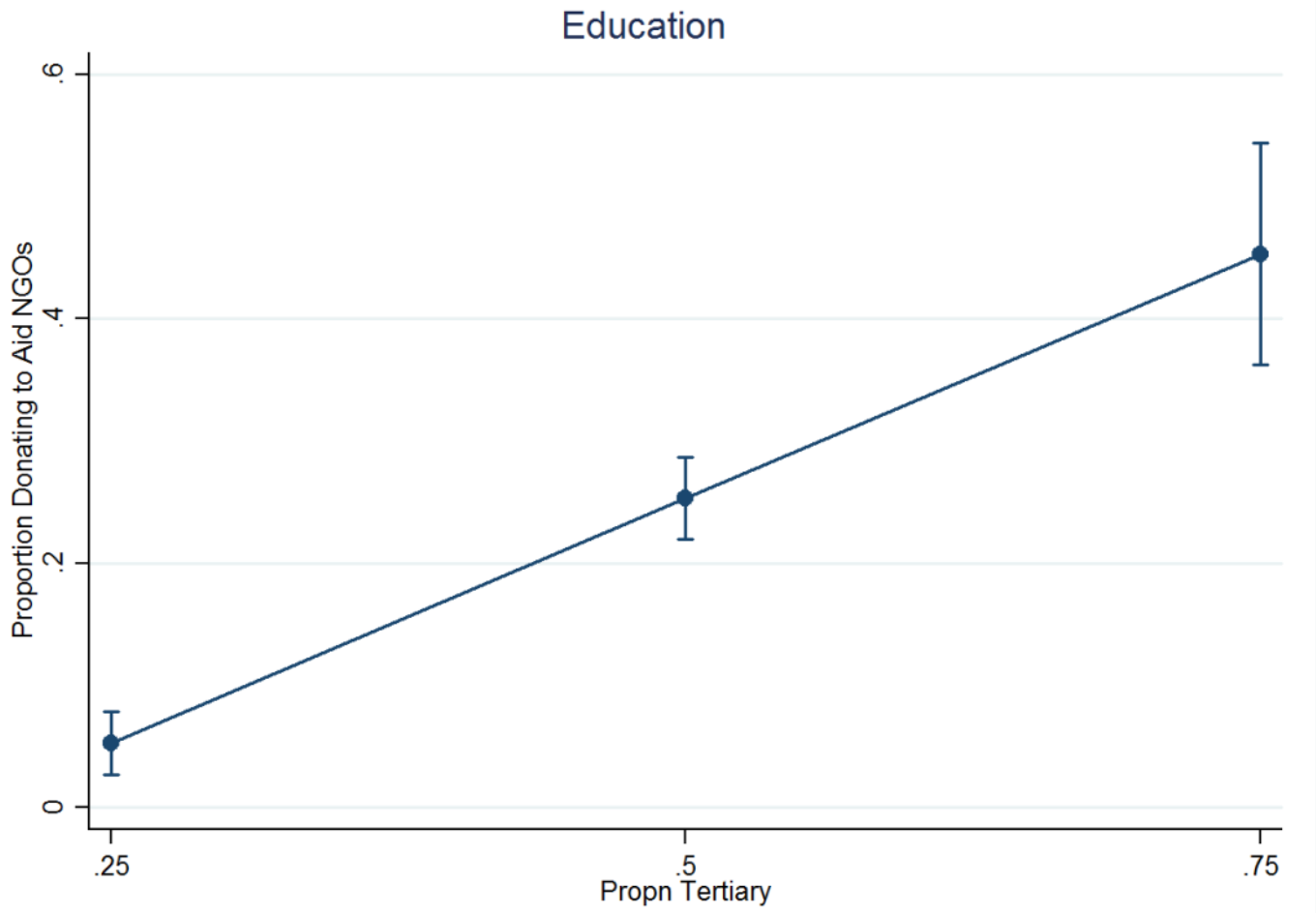


Socio-economic traits and donations to NGOs

(multiple regression using ACFID data (0-1) & census by electorate)

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Income	0.612***		-0.084	-0.066
	(0.067)		(0.072)	(0.084)
Education		0.992***	1.072***	0.958***
		(0.051)	(0.086)	(0.101)
Religiosity				-0.146**
				(0.063)
Population <35				-0.098
				(0.101)
Urbanisation				0.012
				(0.008)
Intercept	-0.029*	-0.217***	-0.222***	-0.038
	(0.017)	(0.018)	-0.018	(0.081)
r-squared	0.405	0.714	0.717	0.731
n	150	150	150	150

Education & donations to NGOs

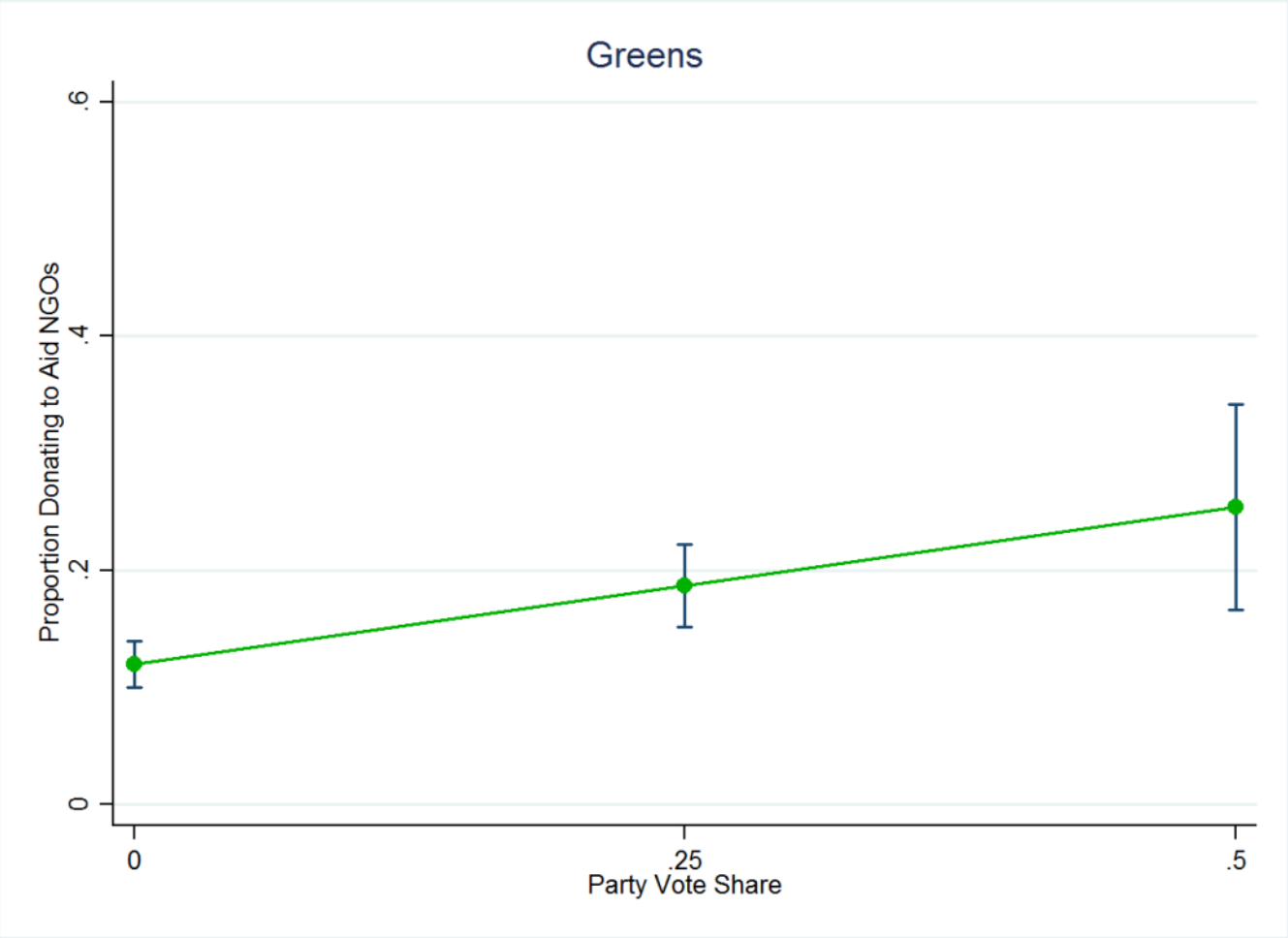


Political traits and donations to NGOs

(multiple regression on ACFID, census & eln results by elect)

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
Greens	1.045***			0.269**		
	(0.178)			(0.108)		
Labor		-0.090			0.043	
		(0.063)			(0.038)	
Coalition			0.053			-0.043
			(0.079)			(0.041)
Income				-0.022	-0.032	-0.022
				(0.081)	(0.089)	(0.090)
Education				0.801***	0.949***	0.938***
				(0.118)	(0.102)	(0.101)
Religiosity				-0.074	-0.148**	-0.131**
				(0.064)	(0.064)	(0.063)
Population <35				-0.158	-0.146	-0.161
				(0.102)	(0.108)	(0.110)
Urbanisation				0.012	0.009	0.010
				(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.008)
r-squared	0.478	0.014	0.005	0.744	0.733	0.733

Green support & donations to NGOs



Summary table

	ODA	NGOs
Income	-ve	no sig.
Education	+ve	+ve
Religion	-ve	-ve (usually)
Age	no sig. (usually)	no sig. (usually)
Urbanisation	no sig. (usually)	no sig. (usually)
Labor	+ve	no sig.
Coalition	-ve	no sig.
Greens	+ve	+ve

Future Research

Different Data (disaggregated NGO; NGO volume)

ANU poll - better survey data & Ecological inference

Causal Pathways (i.e. why does education lead to aid support?)

Experiments on framing and shifting people's attitudes to aid.