

**Australian public
sentiment about the
Middle East war**

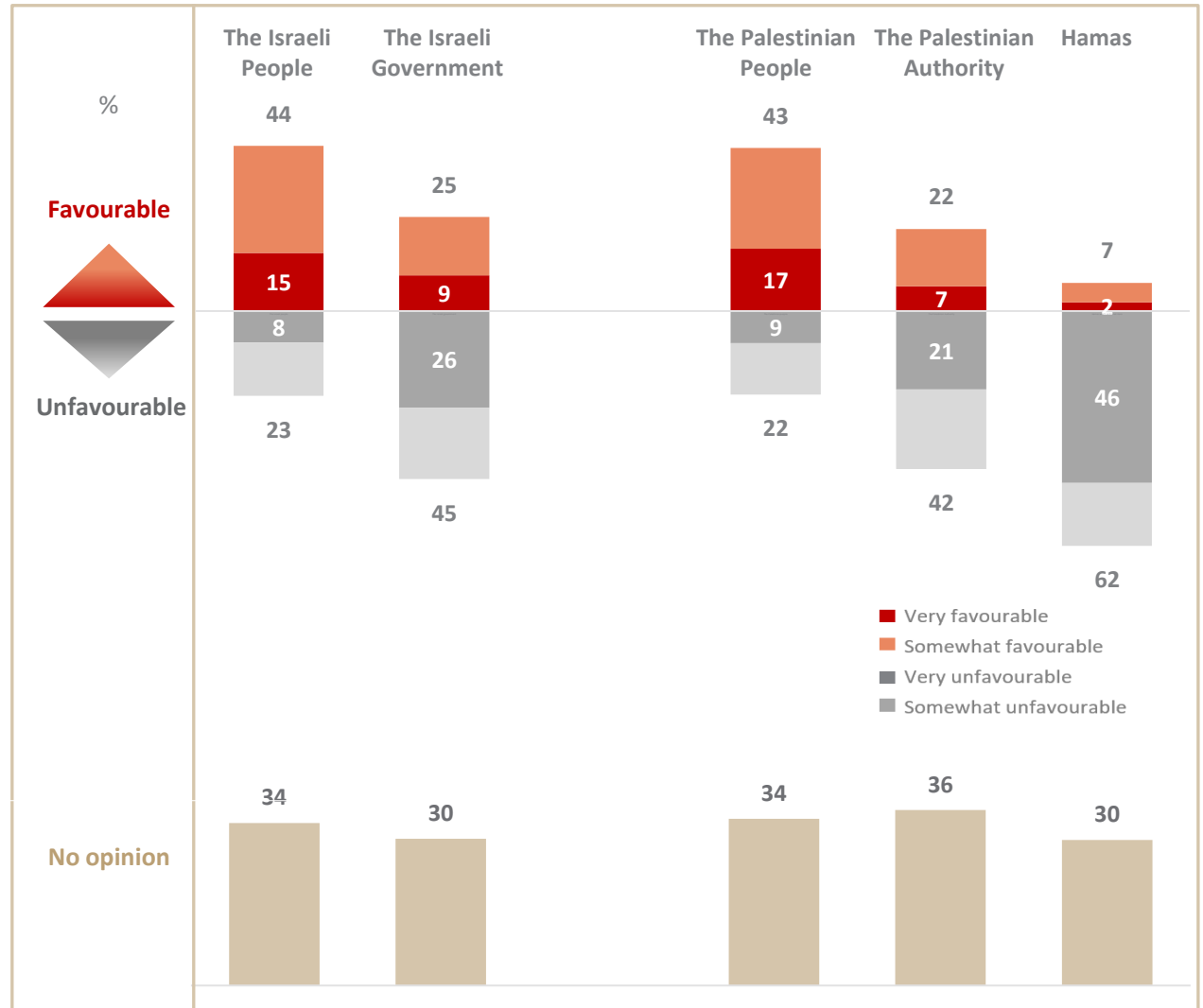


Image by freepik

May 2024

Australian Sentiment about Leaders and Peoples

Question: Now some questions about the war in the Middle East. To what extent do you have a favourable or unfavourable opinion about each of the following?



Australians have more favourable opinions about Israeli people and Palestinian people than about their leaders – the Israeli government, the Palestinian Authority, and Hamas who controlled Gaza.

Australians are by far the most critical of Hamas, with 62% having an unfavourable opinion about them. Nonetheless, 7% have a favourable opinion.

The level of favourable opinion about both Israeli people and Palestinian people is about the same, as is the level of unfavourable opinion.

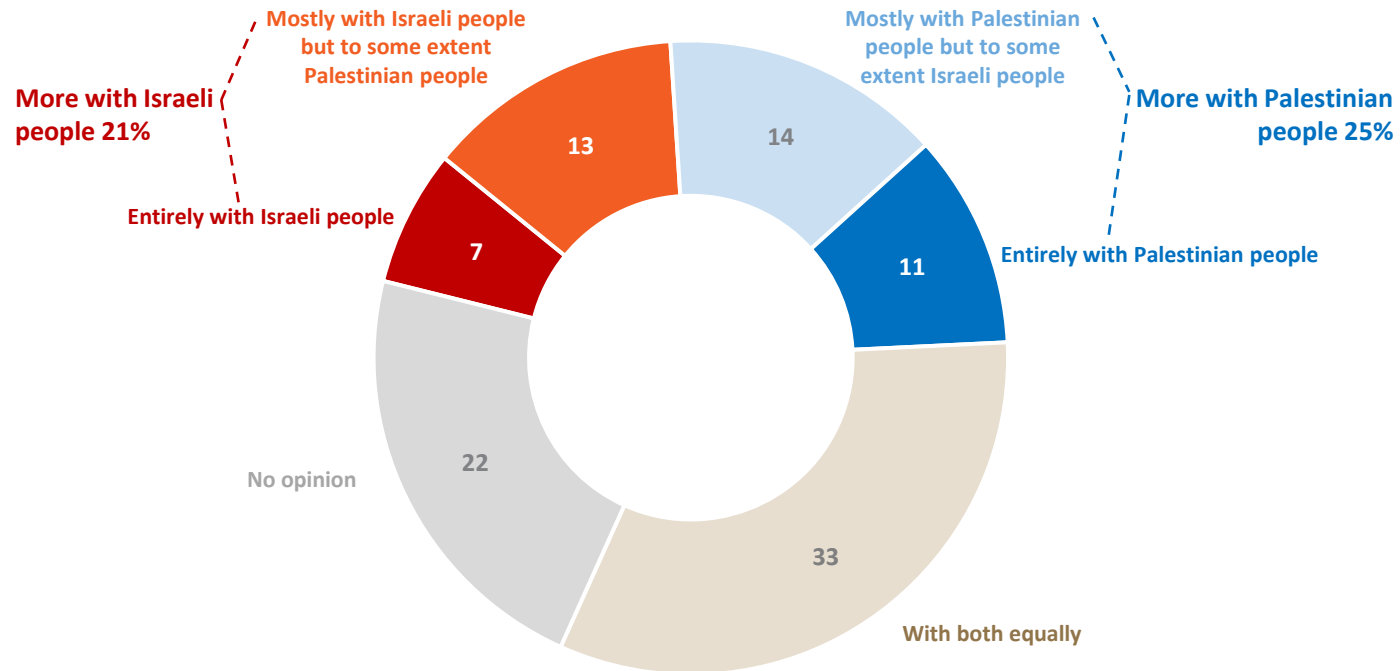
Across the board, a significant minority of around one-third of Australians have no opinion. This suggests that many Australians are disengaged from events concerning the Middle East war, despite it being a leading news item for close on eight months since October 7, 2023.

Methodology: National online survey among 1,238 people aged 18+ fielded over the period May 16-21, 2024. Results were post-weighted to reflect the population distribution for age, sex, area and education.

Acknowledgement: The questions in this survey were adapted from questions previously used by the Pew Research Centre in the United States.

Where do Australian sympathies lie?

Now thinking about the extent to which you sympathise with the Israeli people versus the Palestinian people.
Do you sympathise...?



■ One-in-three Australians, 33%, sympathise equally with both Israeli people and Palestinian people.

■ Among the remainder, 25% sympathise *entirely* or *mostly* with Palestinian people, while 21% sympathise *entirely* or *mostly* with Israeli people. Again, a significant minority of around 20% have no opinion.

Where do Australian sympathies lie?

There are striking contrasts along political party lines. Coalition voters and One Nation voters are by far the most likely to sympathise more with Israeli people. Conversely, Greens voters are by far the most likely to sympathise more with Palestinian people. Labor voters sit in-between, with roughly equal numbers sympathising more with Israelis and Palestinians. Labor voters are also more likely than others to sympathise equally with both.

Among age groups:

- Greater sympathy with Palestinians is by far the highest among younger people under 35. Sympathy with Palestinians then declines progressively across age groups.
- At the opposite end of the age spectrum, greater sympathy with Israeli people is by far the highest among people aged 65+.

