



## Opening the ACC Work Account up to Competition

The Minister for ACC, Dr Nick Smith, announced recently that among other changes to ACC, the Work Account would be opened up to private insurance providers, thus making it subject to competition. The objective of this change, said Dr Smith, was to keep levies affordable, provide incentives for workplace safety, and improve the services provided to claimants.

Research New Zealand decided to ask a question in its recent social poll to establish whether this change had support among New Zealanders.

A small majority of 50 percent were in favour of the Work Account being opened up to competition; some 43 percent were against. There were no significant differences between males and females in this respect.

The lowest level of support for opening the Work Account up to competition was found among those in the age group 55 years and over at 37 percent with 54 percent opposed. In the age groups 15–34 years and 35–54 years, the proportions in favour was 56 percent and 55 percent respectively. “This shows that there is a sharp divide by age group when it comes to supporting or opposing this change”, said Research New Zealand Director, Emanuel Kalafatelis.

There were no significant difference between the various ethnic groups in their support or otherwise for opening up the ACC Work Account to competition. Likewise, there were no significant differences between the geographical regions, or between the various income groups.

*The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone on 7–15 June 2011. The maximum margin of error for the sample as a whole is +/- 4.8 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organization, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.*

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**Table 1:**

*Q21c. The national government plans to allow private insurers to compete with ACC for workplace accident insurance. Are you in favour or not in favour of this?*

|                   | Base = | Total<br>500*<br>% | Male<br>230<br>% | Female<br>270<br>% |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Yes, in favour    |        | 50                 | 53               | 48                 |
| No, not in favour |        | 43                 | 40               | 45                 |
| Don't know        |        | 7                  | 7                | 7                  |
| Total             |        | 100                | 100              | 100                |

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 2:**

*Q21c. The national government plans to allow private insurers to compete with ACC for workplace accident insurance. Are you in favour or not in favour of this?*

|                   | Base = | Total<br>500*<br>% | 15-34 years<br>106<br>% | 35 to 54 years<br>164<br>% | 55 years and<br>over<br>230<br>% |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Yes, in favour    |        | 50                 | 56                      | 55                         | 37                               |
| No, not in favour |        | 43                 | 35                      | 41                         | 54                               |
| Don't know        |        | 7                  | 9                       | 4                          | 9                                |
| Total             |        | 100                | 100                     | 100                        | 100                              |

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 3:**

*Q21c. The national government plans to allow private insurers to compete with ACC for workplace accident insurance. Are you in favour or not in favour of this?*

|                   | Base = | Total<br>500*<br>% | NZ<br>European/Pakeha<br>378<br>% | Maori/Pacific<br>57<br>% | Other<br>65<br>% |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Yes, in favour    |        | 50                 | 49                                | 51                       | 55               |
| No, not in favour |        | 43                 | 44                                | 43                       | 37               |
| Don't know        |        | 7                  | 7                                 | 6                        | 8                |
| Total             |        | 100                | 100                               | 100                      | 100              |

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



**Table 4:**

*Q21c. The national government plans to allow private insurers to compete with ACC for workplace accident insurance. Are you in favour or not in favour of this?*

| Base =            | Total<br>500*<br>% | Lower/Central North            |                    |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                   |                    | Upper North Island<br>232<br>% | Island<br>109<br>% | South Island<br>159<br>% |
| Yes, in favour    | 50                 | 49                             | 48                 | 53                       |
| No, not in favour | 43                 | 43                             | 46                 | 40                       |
| Don't know        | 7                  | 7                              | 6                  | 8                        |
| Total             | 100                | 100                            | 100                | 100                      |

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 5:**

*Q21c. The national government plans to allow private insurers to compete with ACC for workplace accident insurance. Are you in favour or not in favour of this?*

| Base =            | Total<br>480*<br>% | At least \$40,000<br>but less than |                      |                              |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
|                   |                    | Under \$40,000<br>180<br>%         | \$80,000<br>154<br>% | \$80,000 or more<br>146<br>% |
| Yes, in favour    | 50                 | 50                                 | 48                   | 51                           |
| No, not in favour | 44                 | 43                                 | 45                   | 44                           |
| Don't know        | 6                  | 6                                  | 7                    | 6                            |
| Total             | 100                | 100                                | 100                  | 100                          |

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

\*Sub-sample based on those respondents who were willing to disclose their income.

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