

**Statement from Dr Kevin Bonham, polling analyst:**

At all times Labor had a clear lead in 2PP polling - all twelve voting intention polls released in 2023 showed Labor ahead at least 52-48, often more, or would have if a 2PP was published, as did eight out of nine polls released in September to December 2022.

At all times in the last six months Labor's average lead in polling across multiple polls was such that Labor would have most likely won if an election had been held at that time. At no time in that time was it reasonable to read the polling as saying that chances were evenly balanced or that the election necessarily was (as opposed to potentially might be) very close. By the end of the campaign even prior to Newspoll it was very clear that if the polls to that time had been accurate, Labor had by far the better chances and would probably win comfortably, whether in majority or not.

An issue with this election was that the starting pendulum was very unfriendly to Labor. We can see this in that they are projecting to win the 2PP close to 55-45 but it is not yet clear that they will have a substantial majority. Had the Coalition managed to only lose 51-49 it would have had good chances of having more seats than Labor, so had the closest polls been correct the result could have been very close. Even before the Newspoll with the 2PP at around 53-47 there would have been a slim chance in theory of the Coalition winning about as many seats as Labor. However claims that this was a particularly close election were never justified.