

MEDIA RELEASE

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Kiwis divided over monarchy and Queen's successor

New Zealanders are divided over whether we should retain the Queen as Head of State, and whether Prince Charles or Prince William should succeed her.

The latest Research New Zealand poll has found that 48 percent of New Zealanders did not favour a review of whether the Queen should remain New Zealand's Head of State.

However, a further 42 percent said New Zealand should consider becoming a republic, while 9 percent were unsure, Research New Zealand Director Emanuel Kalafatelis said.

Australia is debating becoming a republic and a referendum on the issue is proposed for 2010.

The Research New Zealand polling showed that support for the monarchy was strongest among older people.

"The younger a person is the more likely they are to support reviewing the monarchy," Mr Kalafatelis said.

"Support for the monarchy was lowest (38 percent) in those aged 15 to 39 and strongest (61 percent) in those aged 60 or over," Mr Kalafatelis said.

Women (52 percent) were also more supportive of retaining the monarchy than men (44 percent), Mr Kalafatelis said.

There were also clear differences between men and women when it came to deciding who should succeed the Queen.

Overall, New Zealanders were almost evenly divided on the Queen's successor with 45 percent preferring her grandson Prince William, and 43 percent preferring her son Prince Charles.

"However, women were more supportive of Prince William (49 percent) as the next Head of State than Charles (40 percent). Conversely, men were more likely to choose Prince Charles (50 percent), compared with 37 percent who chose Prince William.



“Younger people were also keener on Prince William with 58 percent of those aged between 30 and 39 favouring the younger Prince, compared with 37 percent of those aged 60 and over.”

Mr Kalafatelis said that the results showed that the debate of the future of the Monarchy was finely balanced at present.

“However, with younger New Zealanders leaning towards a republic, the clear challenge for the monarchy will be to demonstrate its relevance to younger people,” Mr Kalafatelis said.

Research New Zealand polling was conducted between 26 November and 3 December.

The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between the 26 November and 3 December. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.6 % (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 organisation but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

Respondents were asked: *Australians are considering becoming a republic, which means the Queen of England will no longer be their Head of State. Do you believe New Zealand should also consider this?*

If the Queen does remain our Head of State should she be succeeded by Prince Charles or Prince William?

Table 1: Should New Zealand consider becoming a republic? - by gender

Australians are considering becoming a republic, which means the Queen of England will no longer be their Head of State. Do you believe New Zealand should also consider this?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	230	270
	%	%	%
Yes	42	48	37
No	48	44	52
Don't know	9	8	10
Refused	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 2: Should New Zealand consider becoming a republic? - by age group

Australians are considering becoming a republic, which means the Queen of England will no longer be their Head of State. Do you believe New Zealand should also consider this?

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	500	96	81	82	82	159
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	42	50	49	42	41	32
No	48	38	38	50	51	61
Don't know	9	12	11	8	7	6
Refused	1	0	1	0	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3: Who should succeed the Queen? – by gender

If the Queen does remain our Head of State, should she be succeeded by Prince Charles or Prince William?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	230	270
	%	%	%
Prince Charles	45	50	40
Prince William	43	37	49
Don't care	1	0	2
Other	1	1	0
None/neither	1	2	1
Don't know/Refused	9	10	8
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 4: Who should succeed the Queen? – by age group

If the Queen does remain our Head of State, should she be succeeded by Prince Charles or Prince William?

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	500	96	81	82	82	159
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Prince Charles	45	40	33	46	49	51
Prince William	43	47	58	38	41	37
Don't care	1	0	2	2	1	1
Other	1	0	1	1	1	0
None/neither	1	2	2	0	0	2
Don't know/Refused	9	11	2	12	7	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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