

Australians warm to US buddies

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AUSTRALIANS are sophisticated in distinguishing between peoples and their governments, according to a survey.

Crosby Textor, the firm that conducts polls for the Liberal Party, said its survey showed it was not valid to describe Australians as pro or anti-American. Eighty-nine per cent saw the United States as an important trading partner, the highest score of any country for that question. Seventy-one per cent agreed that the US shared our values and 76 per cent thought Americans were likeable people.

However only 50 per cent thought the US was in tune with events outside its borders and even fewer - 46 per cent - thought the US trustworthy. Eighty-three per cent of those surveyed saw China as an important trade partner, 61 per cent said the Chinese are likeable, but only 20 per cent consider China trustworthy.

Australians felt closest to Britain and New Zealand, according to the nationwide poll of 501 Australians aged 18 and over. Only 5 per cent thought Saudi Arabia shared our values.