

Appendix E: Assessment of fact-checking coverage

To assess whether the misinformation narratives surfaced by participants corresponded with narratives identified by professional fact-checking organizations, we compiled a dataset of election-related fact checks published by Australian Associated Press (AAP) FactCheck.¹ Because election misinformation typically circulates well before polling day, we deliberately used a wider collection window (January 9–May 14, 2025). Each fact check was reviewed and coded using the same narrative theme codebook applied to participant submissions. Coding focused on the central narrative claim addressed by the fact check rather than the specific wording of the claim or the individual post investigated. This allowed comparison between narratives identified through crowdsourced monitoring and those documented through professional fact-checking.

In total, 34 AAP fact checks were published during the monitoring period. Table E1 summarizes their distribution across narrative themes. Electoral integrity claims were the most frequently fact-checked category ($n = 11$, 32.4%), with a notable concentration in the post-election period (May 3–14), driven by claims about ballot counts, voter turnout, and electoral fraud. Government spending ($n = 5$, 14.7%) and cost of living and inflation ($n = 4$, 11.8%) were the next most common categories. Together, these three themes accounted for approximately 59% of all professional fact checks in the dataset. The remaining ten themes each appeared in one or two fact checks.

Table E1. *Distribution of AAP FactCheck articles by narrative theme (January 9 – May 14, 2025; $N = 34$).*

Narrative theme	Fact checks (n)	% of total
Electoral integrity	11	32.4%
Government spending	5	14.7%
Cost of living / Inflation	4	11.8%
Energy policy	2	5.9%
Health & education funding	2	5.9%
National security	2	5.9%
Tax policy fearmongering	2	5.9%
Anti-government spending	1	2.9%
Housing crisis	1	2.9%
Immigration	1	2.9%
Impersonation	1	2.9%
Misconduct allegation	1	2.9%
Nuclear energy	1	2.9%
Total	34	100%

¹ See: <https://www.aap.com.au/factcheck/>