



**19 March 2012**



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With data supplied by



## **About the Poll**

This report summarises the results of a weekly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Your Source. The survey was conducted online between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and is based on 1,043 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on troops in Afghanistan, women in the defence forces, Wikileaks and unions.

The methodology used to carry out this research is available in the appendix on page 10.

Note that due to rounding, not all tables necessarily total 100% and subtotals may also vary.



**Federal politics – voting intention**

*Q. If a Federal Election was held today to which party will you probably give your first preference vote? If not sure, which party are you currently leaning toward?*

*Q. If don't know -Well which party are you currently leaning to?*

*Sample size = 1,918 respondents*

First preference/leaning to	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Liberal		45%	47%	46%	45%
National		3%	3%	3%	3%
<b>Total Lib/Nat</b>	<b>43.6%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Labor</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Greens	11.8%	11%	10%	10%	11%
Other/Independent	6.6%	9%	9%	10%	9%

2PP	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Total Lib/Nat	<b>49.9%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>56%</b>
Labor	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>44%</b>

NB. The data in the above tables comprise 2-week averages derived from the first preference/leaning to voting questions. Respondents who select 'don't know' are not included in the results. The two-party preferred estimate is calculated by distributing the votes of the other parties according to their preferences at the 2010 election.



## **Troops in Afghanistan**

*Q. Thinking about the Australian troops in Afghanistan, do you think Australia should –*

	<b>25 Oct 2010</b>	<b>21 Mar 2011</b>	<b>29 Aug</b>	<b>21 Nov</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
Increase the number of troops in Afghanistan	10%	5%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	6%
Keep the same number of troops in Afghanistan	30%	30%	26%	22%	22%	21%	27%	18%
Withdraw our troops from Afghanistan	47%	56%	64%	64%	64%	64%	62%	69%
Don't know	14%	9%	7%	11%	10%	11%	7%	6%

64% (no change since November 2011) think Australia should withdraw our troops from Afghanistan, 22% (no change) think we should maintain troop numbers and 4% (up 1%) think we should increase them.

In the past 12 months, support for withdrawal of Australian troops has increased from 56% to 64%. There was majority support for withdrawal by all voting groups - 62% of Lib/Nat voters, 64% Labor and 69% Greens. Support for withdrawal was 71% among people aged 55+ and women were more likely than men to support withdrawal of troops (69% to 59%).

## Women in Defence Forces

*Q. From what you've read and heard, do you think that women are generally respected and treated fairly in Australia's defence forces or are they not respected or treated fairly?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Respected and treated fairly	31%	34%	34%	24%	37%	25%
Not respected or treated fairly	44%	43%	41%	58%	40%	48%
Don't know	25%	23%	25%	18%	23%	27%

44% think that women in Australia's defence forces are not respected or treated fairly, 31% think they are respected and treated fairly and 25% don't know.

Only 25% of women think women in the defence forces are respected and treated fairly compared to 37% of men. 54% of respondents aged 55+ think they are not respected or treated fairly.

## Approval of Wikileaks

*Q. The online organisation Wikileaks, which is headed by the Australian Julian Assange, has released diplomatic material leaked to it by an American source. It has also provided this material to other media which have also published information about the leaks. Do you approve or disapprove of Wikileaks and media outlets releasing this material?*

	<b>20 Dec 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
<b>Total approve</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Total disapprove</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Strongly approve	20%	20%	21%	18%	32%
Approve	33%	33%	40%	30%	38%
Disapprove	14%	18%	16%	21%	13%
Strongly disapprove	11%	8%	6%	10%	5%
Don't know	22%	22%	17%	20%	12%

Approval of Wikileaks release of leaked information remains unchanged since this question was asked over 12 months ago. 53% approve of Wikileaks activities and 26% disapprove.

80% of Greens voters approve compared to 55% of Labor voters and 51% of Liberal/National voters.

60% of men approve and 22% disapprove while women split 45% approve/30% disapprove. Younger respondents (aged 18-34) are also more likely to approve - 61% approve and 16% disapprove.



## Support for Julian Assange

*Q. Julian Assange faces extradition from the UK to Sweden for an investigation into sexual assault allegations. In Sweden he will be detained while the investigation continues, and he may be extradited to the United States to face charges relating to WikiLeaks's release of US diplomatic cables.*

*Do you think the Australian government has provided appropriate support to Assange given he faces investigation for sexual assault in Sweden and possible extradition to the US?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>
Government have provided appropriate support	22%	26%	26%	14%	21%	23%	21%
Government have not provided appropriate support	36%	34%	35%	53%	36%	38%	33%
Don't know	41%	40%	39%	33%	43%	39%	46%

36% believe that Julian Assange has received appropriate support from the Australian Government and 22% think he has received appropriate support. 41% could not give an opinion.

47% of men think the Government has not provided appropriate support compared to 26% of women - mainly due the 53% of women who said they "don't know". Despite their higher approval of Wikileaks, only 33% of respondents aged 18-34 think Julian Assange has not received appropriate support.



## Opinion of Unions

*Q. Overall, do you think unions have been good or bad for Australian working people?*

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Work full time	Work part time
<b>Total good</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Total bad</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Very good	12%	26%	4%	21%	13%	10%
Good	36%	46%	27%	49%	35%	38%
Neither good nor bad	28%	19%	34%	16%	28%	29%
Bad	11%	4%	19%	3%	12%	10%
Very bad	6%	2%	12%	-	6%	8%
Don't know	6%	3%	4%	10%	6%	5%

48% think that unions have been good for Australian working people, 17% think they have been bad, and 28% think they have been neither good nor bad.

72% of Labor voters and 70% of Greens voters think they have been good and Liberal/National voters are split 31% good/31% bad. There was no difference between the views of workers and non-workers and very little difference by age, gender or income.





## Importance of Unions

Q. And how important are unions for Australian working people today?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Work full time	Work part time
<b>Total very/quite important</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>57%</b>
Very important	19%	34%	8%	31%	18%	16%
Quite important	37%	46%	31%	40%	37%	41%
Not very important	27%	12%	39%	21%	30%	31%
Not at all important	8%	2%	16%	-	8%	8%
Don't know	9%	6%	6%	7%	7%	5%

56% think that unions are very or quite important for Australian working people today.

80% of Labor voters and 71% of Greens voters think they are important compared to only 39% of Liberal/National voters.

There was little difference by age and gender groups - but those on lower incomes were a little more likely to think unions are important (63% of those earning less than \$1,000pw).

## **Appendix One – Methodology**

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a weekly online omnibus conducted by Your Source. Your Source is an Australian social and market research company specializing in recruitment, field research, data gathering and data analysis. Your Source holds Interviewer Quality Control Australia (IQCA) accreditation, Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO) membership and World Association of Opinion and Marketing Research Professionals (ESOMAR) membership. Senior Your Source staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behavior.

Essential Research has been utilizing the Your Source online panel to conduct research on a week by week basis since November 2007. Each Monday, the team at Essential Media Communications discusses issues that are topical. From there a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated each week (such as political preference and social perspective), while others are unique to each week and reflect prominent media and social issues that are present at the time.

Your Source has a self-managed consumer online panel of over 100,000 members. The majority of panel members have been recruited using off line methodologies, effectively ruling out concerns associated with online self-selection. Your Source has validation methods in place that prevent panelist over use and ensure member authenticity. Your Source randomly selects 18+ males and females (with the aim of targeting 50/50 males/females) from its Australia wide panel. An invitation is sent out to approximately 7000 – 8000 of their panel members. The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ responses. The Your Source online omnibus is live from the Tuesday night of each week and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants in the form of points.

EMC uses the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyse the data. The data is weighted against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.

