



**12 June 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 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June and is based on 1,005 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on leadership approval, preferred Prime Minister, overseas workers, indigenous land rights, Australia as a republic and trust in institutions.

The methodology used to carry out this research is available in the appendix on page 15.

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 = 1,830 respondents*

First preference/leaning to	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago 14/5/12	2 weeks ago 28/5/12	Last week 4/6/12	This week 12/6/12
Liberal		47%	47%	47%	46%
National		3%	3%	3%	3%
<b>Total Lib/Nat</b>	<b>43.6%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Labor</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Greens	11.8%	11%	10%	10%	10%
Other/Independent	6.6%	9%	7%	7%	9%

2PP	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Total Lib/Nat	<b>49.9%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>56%</b>
Labor	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>44%</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. These estimates have a confidence interval of approx. + or - 2%.



## **Approval of Julia Gillard**

*Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Julia Gillard is doing as Prime Minister?*

	19 Jul 2010	20 Dec 2010	14 Mar 2011	14 June	12 Sept	12 Dec	16 Jan 2012	13 Feb	12 Mar	16 Apr	14 May	12 Jun
<b>Total approve</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Total disapprove</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>56%</b>
Strongly approve	11%	10%	7%	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%	8%	7%	5%	6%
Approve	41%	33%	34%	28%	23%	28%	31%	30%	24%	25%	26%	26%
Disapprove	17%	24%	22%	29%	28%	25%	27%	26%	29%	31%	26%	22%
Strongly disapprove	13%	16%	24%	25%	36%	29%	25%	27%	32%	27%	34%	34%
Don't know	18%	17%	13%	13%	8%	11%	12%	11%	7%	10%	10%	12%

Julia Gillard's approval rating has improved a little since last month. 32% (up 1%) approve of the job Julia Gillard is doing as Prime Minister and 56% (down 4%) disapprove – a change in net rating from -29 to -24 over the last 4 weeks.

74% of Labor voters approve (up 5%) and 16% disapprove (down 8%).

By gender – men 32% approve/57% disapprove, women 32% approve/54% disapprove.



## **Approval of Tony Abbott**

*Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Tony Abbott is doing as Opposition Leader?*

	<b>18 Jan 2010</b>	<b>5 Jul 2010</b>	<b>20 Dec 2010</b>	<b>14 Mar 2011</b>	<b>14 June</b>	<b>12 Sept</b>	<b>12 Dec</b>	<b>16 Jan 2012</b>	<b>13 Feb</b>	<b>12 Mar</b>	<b>16 Apr</b>	<b>14 May</b>	<b>12 Jun</b>
<b>Total approve</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Total disapprove</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>54%</b>
Strongly approve	5%	8%	9%	7%	6%	8%	6%	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%	<b>6%</b>
Approve	32%	29%	30%	31%	32%	31%	26%	28%	29%	29%	31%	29%	<b>26%</b>
Disapprove	20%	23%	21%	24%	25%	23%	25%	25%	23%	23%	23%	24%	<b>24%</b>
Strongly disapprove	17%	24%	18%	23%	23%	27%	28%	26%	30%	29%	27%	29%	<b>30%</b>
Don't know	26%	16%	22%	16%	15%	11%	14%	13%	12%	12%	13%	11%	<b>13%</b>

Tony Abbott's approval rating has declined a little over the last month. 32% (down 4%) approve of the job Tony Abbott is doing as Opposition Leader and 54% (up 1%) disapprove – a change in net rating from -17 to -22 over the last 4 weeks.

67% (down 4%) of Coalition voters approve and 22% (up 3%) disapprove.

By gender – men 35% approve/56% disapprove, women 30% approve/52% disapprove.



## Better Prime Minister

*Q. Who do you think would make the better Prime Minister out of Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott?*

	5 Jul 2010	14 Mar 2011	14 June	12 Sept	12 Dec	16 Jan 2012	13 Feb	12 Mar	16 Apr	14 May	12 Jun	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Julia Gillard	53%	44%	41%	36%	39%	39%	41%	40%	38%	38%	<b>37%</b>	83%	4%	66%
Tony Abbott	26%	33%	36%	40%	35%	36%	34%	37%	36%	37%	<b>37%</b>	3%	78%	4%
Don't know	21%	23%	24%	24%	26%	25%	25%	23%	25%	24%	<b>26%</b>	14%	18%	30%

37% (down 1%) believe Julia Gillard would make the better Prime Minister and 37% (no change) prefer Tony Abbott.

Men prefer Tony Abbott 38%/35% and women prefer Julia Gillard 39%/35%.



## **Approval of Overseas Workers**

*Q. The Federal Government recently gave approval to Gina Rinehart's mining company to bring in 1,700 overseas workers. Do you approve or disapprove of overseas workers being brought in to work in Australia's mining industry?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
<b>Total approve</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total disapprove</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>58%</b>
Strongly approve	3%	3%	3%	5%
Approve	13%	17%	16%	5%
Neither approve nor disapprove	20%	23%	18%	30%
Disapprove	25%	27%	25%	30%
Strongly disapprove	35%	28%	36%	28%
Don't know	5%	3%	2%	2%

16% approve of the Government's approval for Gina Rinehart's mining company to bring in 1,700 overseas workers and 60% disapprove.

A majority of all voter groups disapproved.

Highest approval came from men (20%), full-time workers (20%) and respondents aged 65+ (21%).



## Reason for Bringing in Overseas Workers

Q. Why do you think mining companies would bring in overseas workers for Australia's mines?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
Australia doesn't have enough skilled workers	18%	20%	18%	19%
Australians don't want to work in the mining industry	17%	17%	18%	18%
It is cheaper to bring in overseas workers	59%	60%	58%	58%
Don't know	6%	3%	5%	5%

59% think that mining companies bring in overseas workers because it is cheaper, 18% think Australia doesn't have enough skilled workers and 17% think Australians don't want to work in the mining industry.

Views were similar across all voter and demographic groups.





## **Mining Investment**

*Q. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
Labour costs and taxes threaten the future of mining investment in Australia	32%	19%	47%	16%
Mining companies want Australian resources and they will continue to invest here despite labour costs and taxes	49%	62%	39%	69%
Don't know	20%	19%	14%	15%

49% agree with the statement that mining companies want Australian resources and they will continue to invest here despite labour costs and taxes and 32% agree that labour costs and taxes threaten the future of mining investment in Australia.

Those most likely to agree that labour costs and taxes threaten the future of mining investment in Australia were Liberal/National voters (47%) and residents of Queensland (41%).



## Mabo Decision

*Q. This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the High Court's "Mabo" decision which established land rights for Australia's indigenous people. Do you think this decision has been good or bad for the following -*

	<b>Total good</b>	<b>Total bad</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Made no difference</b>	<b>Bad</b>	<b>Very bad</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Aboriginal people	<b>65%</b>	<b>4%</b>	27%	38%	19%	3%	1%	11%
Farmers	<b>15%</b>	<b>35%</b>	4%	11%	32%	28%	7%	17%
Miners	<b>13%</b>	<b>35%</b>	3%	10%	35%	26%	9%	17%
Regional communities	<b>30%</b>	<b>23%</b>	6%	24%	32%	17%	6%	15%
All Australians	<b>33%</b>	<b>22%</b>	10%	23%	30%	16%	6%	14%

Two thirds (65%) believe that the "Mabo" decision has been good for aboriginal people and only 4% think it has been bad. A majority of all voter groups think it has been good for aboriginal people - 80% of Greens voters, 72% of Labor voters and 63% of Liberal/National voters.

Respondents were also more likely to think the decision was good for regional communities (30% good/23% bad) and all Australian (33%/22%).

35% think it has been bad for farmers and miners. However, 47% think it has been good or made no difference for farmers and 48% think it has been good or made no difference for miners.

Liberal/National voters were more inclined to think it was bad for all groups other than aboriginal people. For all Australians, 62% of Greens voters, 44% of Labor voters and 25% of Liberal/National voters think it has been good.



## **Republic**

*Q. Are you in favour or against Australia becoming a republic?*

	<b>Jan 2010</b>	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>Oct 2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
In favour	41%	39%	41%	<b>39%</b>	56%	27%	54%
Against	32%	34%	33%	<b>35%</b>	22%	51%	21%
No opinion	27%	27%	26%	<b>27%</b>	22%	22%	25%

39% favour Australia becoming a republic and 35% are against - showing only a little change since this question was asked in October 2011 (from net +8 to net +4 in favour). 27% have no opinion.

Those most in favour were respondents aged 45-64 (45%), people earning \$1,600+pw (45%), Labor voters (56%) and Greens voters (54%).

Those most against were aged 65+ (58%) and Liberal/National voters (51%).

36% of respondents aged under 35 had no opinion.



## Will Australia ever become a Republic

*Q. Do you think that Australia is likely or unlikely to ever become a republic?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
<b>Total likely</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Total unlikely</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Very likely	12%	16%	9%	16%
Somewhat likely	40%	49%	39%	41%
Somewhat unlikely	25%	21%	26%	28%
Very unlikely	9%	5%	12%	4%
Don't know	15%	9%	13%	11%

52% think that it is very or somewhat likely that Australia will ever become a republic - and 34% think it is somewhat or very unlikely.

For people aged 45+, 61%+ think it is likely and 29% unlikely while for those aged under 35, 42% think it is likely and 40% unlikely.



## Trust in Institutions

Q. How much trust do you have in the following institutions and organisations?

	<b>Total trust 26 Sep 11</b>	<b>Total trust 12 Jun 12</b>	<b>A lot of trust</b>	<b>Some trust</b>	<b>A little trust</b>	<b>No trust</b>	<b>Don't know</b>		<b>% change</b>
The High Court	72%	<b>60%</b>	20%	40%	24%	9%	7%		-12
The ABC	46%	<b>54%</b>	15%	39%	31%	10%	6%		+8
Charitable organisations	61%	<b>50%</b>	8%	42%	35%	10%	5%		-9
The Reserve Bank	67%	<b>49%</b>	13%	36%	30%	14%	7%		-18
Environment groups	45%	<b>32%</b>	6%	26%	35%	25%	7%		-13
The Commonwealth Public Service	49%*	<b>30%</b>	4%	26%	42%	18%	9%		-19
Religious organisations	29%	<b>27%</b>	5%	22%	30%	37%	6%		-2
Newspapers	na	<b>26%</b>	3%	23%	46%	23%	5%		na
Online news media	na	<b>23%</b>	2%	21%	45%	25%	6%		na
Federal Parliament	55%	<b>22%</b>	3%	19%	37%	36%	6%		-33
Trade unions	39%	<b>22%</b>	3%	19%	32%	37%	9%		-17
Business groups	38%	<b>22%</b>	2%	20%	46%	24%	8%		-16
TV news media	na	<b>21%</b>	3%	18%	43%	30%	5%		na
Political parties	na	<b>12%</b>	2%	10%	31%	52%	5%		na

**Note:** 'Total Trust' is an aggregate figure achieved by adding 'A lot of trust' and 'Some trust'.

\* This Commonwealth Public Service figure is from a question asked in 6 Feb 12.



Respondents had most trust in the High Court (60%), the ABC (54%), charitable organisations (50%) and the Reserve bank (49%). They had least trust in political parties (12%), TV news media (21%) Federal Parliament, trade unions and business groups (all 22%).

Trust in all institutions (except the ABC) declined since this question was asked last year. The major changes were a collapse in trust in Federal Parliament (-33%) and substantial declines in trust in the Commonwealth Public Service (-19%), the Reserve Bank (-18%), trade unions (-17%) and business groups (-16%).

Compared to the average, Labor voters had more trust in political parties (19%), Federal Parliament (34%), the High Court (67%), the Reserve Bank (57%), the Commonwealth Public Service (42%), trade unions (36%) and environment groups (43%).

Liberal/National voters, compared to the average, had more trust in religious organisations (33%) and business groups (27%) but less trust in Federal parliament (17%), the ABC (46%), trade unions (14%) and environment groups (21%).



## **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 Wednesday 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.

