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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 from the 14th to 17th March and is based on 1,001 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on WorkChoices, major Government decisions, trust in institutions, 457 visas and party values.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix on page 11.

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 = 1,874 respondents

First preference/leaning to	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago 18/2/13	2 weeks ago 4/2/13	Last week 11/3/13	This week 18/3/13
Liberal		44%	46%	45%	45%
National		3%	3%	3%	2%
Total Lib/Nat	43.6%	47%	49%	48%	47%
Labor	38.0%	35%	32%	34%	35%
Greens	11.8%	9%	10%	9%	9%
Other/Independent	6.6%	8%	8%	9%	8%

2PP	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Total Lib/Nat	49.9%	54%	56%	55%	54%
Labor	50.1%	46%	44%	45%	46%

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. plus or minus 2-3%.

Liberal Party and WorkChoices

Q. If they won the next election, how likely do you think it would be that Tony Abbott and the Liberal Party would try to bring back industrial laws similar to WorkChoices?

	31 May 10	12 July 10	21 Nov 11	23 Jul 12	3 Sept 12	Total 18 Mar 13	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Work full time	Work part time
Total likely	58%	56%	51%	53%	51%	48%	67%	31%	67%	48%	49%
Total unlikely	21%	24%	27%	22%	25%	28%	17%	44%	10%	31%	20%
Very likely	28%	26%	22%	26%	23%	25%	45%	7%	42%	27%	22%
Quite likely	30%	30%	29%	27%	28%	23%	22%	24%	25%	21%	27%
Not very likely	18%	18%	19%	16%	18%	19%	12%	31%	8%	22%	12%
Not at all likely	3%	6%	8%	6%	7%	9%	5%	13%	2%	9%	8%
Don't know	20%	20%	22%	26%	24%	25%	15%	26%	23%	21%	31%

Respondents were a little less likely to think that Tony Abbott and the Liberal Party would try to bring back industrial laws similar to WorkChoices than when a similar question was asked in September. 48% (down 3%) think it is likely that Tony Abbott and the Liberal Party would try to bring back industrial laws similar to WorkChoices if they won the next election and 28% (up 3%) think it is unlikely.

67% (down 7%) of Labor voters and 67% (down 1%) of Greens voters think it is likely, while Liberal/National voters are split 31% likely (down 2%) to 44% unlikely (up 1%).

Concern about Liberals Bringing Back WorkChoices

Q. If the Liberals won the election and reintroduced WorkChoices or similar laws, how concerned would you be?

	31 May 10	12 July 10	21 Nov 11	23 Jul 12	3 Sept 12	Total 18 Mar 13	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Work full time	Work part time
Very concerned	28%	29%	26%	30%	27%	27%	48%	6%	48%	30%	29%
Quite concerned	17%	19%	15%	16%	15%	16%	24%	10%	25%	17%	23%
A little concerned	20%	16%	20%	15%	19%	17%	14%	21%	8%	17%	17%
Not concerned	24%	25%	27%	26%	26%	25%	4%	50%	3%	23%	15%
Don't know	11%	11%	11%	14%	13%	15%	10%	12%	16%	13%	17%

Concern about the re-introduction of WorkChoices has not changed significantly since this question was last asked in September. 43% (up 1%) would be quite or very concerned if WorkChoices or similar laws were re-introduced and 42% (down 3%) were only a little or not concerned.

72% of Labor voters and 73% of Greens voters would be concerned. 71% of Liberal/National voters would be a little/not concerned and 16% concerned. 47% of full-time workers and 52% of part-time workers said they would be very/quite concerned.

52% of those aged 45-54 said they would be very/quite concerned.

Support for Major Government Decisions

Q. Do you support or oppose the following Government decisions?

	26 Nov 12		18 Mar 13		Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
	Total Support	Total Oppose	Total Support	Total Oppose					
NBN (National Broadband Network) - high speed broadband access across Australia	69%	20%	73%	19%	35%	38%	10%	9%	8%
The Minerals Resource Rent Tax (MRRT) - a tax on large profits of mining companies	63%	22%	57%	29%	24%	33%	15%	14%	14%
The carbon pricing scheme - a tax on industries based on the amount of carbon pollution they emit	46%	44%	44%	46%	17%	27%	20%	26%	10%

The decision which has the most support amongst respondents is the NBN, with 73% in favour and only 19% opposed - an increase in support since this question was last asked in November (from net +49 to net +54).

There is majority support from respondents for the MRRT, with 57% in favour of the tax and 29% opposed. However, this represents a significant drop in support since November - from net +41 to net +28.

Support for the carbon pricing scheme has declined a little since the last time the question was polled in November. Support has decreased from 46% to 44% and opposition increased from 44% to 46% - a change from net +2 to net -2.

Support for Reducing Workers on 457 Visas

Q. Would you support or oppose Government legislation to reduce the number of overseas workers being brought to Australia under short-term 457 visas?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Total support	58%	64%	58%	49%
Total oppose	24%	23%	28%	28%
Strongly support	29%	38%	26%	17%
Support	29%	26%	32%	32%
Oppose	15%	17%	15%	15%
Strongly oppose	9%	6%	13%	13%
Don't know	17%	14%	13%	23%

58% said they would support Government legislation to reduce the number of overseas workers being brought to Australia under short-term 457 visas and 24% would oppose. There was majority support from both Labor (64%) and Liberal/National voters (58%).

58% of full-time workers and 57% of part-time workers supported this legislation. Strongest support came from those aged 45-64 (67%).

Trust in Institutions

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

	Total trust 26 Sep 11	Total trust 12 Jun 12	Total trust 22 Oct 12	Total trust 18 Mar 13	A lot of trust	Some trust	A little trust	No trust	Don't know	% change
The High Court	72%	60%	63%	74%	34%	40%	13%	6%	8%	+11
The ABC	46%	54%	59%	70%	22%	48%	17%	6%	7%	+11
The Reserve Bank	67%	49%	53%	64%	21%	43%	21%	8%	7%	+11
Charitable organisations	61%	50%	53%	52%	9%	43%	33%	9%	6%	-1
Environment groups	45%	32%	36%	41%	6%	35%	33%	20%	7%	+5
The Commonwealth Public Service	49%*	30%	33%	36%	4%	32%	37%	17%	9%	+3
Federal Parliament	55%	22%	26%	34%	4%	30%	31%	29%	6%	+8
Your local council	na	na	32%	34%	3%	31%	39%	22%	6%	+2
TV news media	na	21%	26%	30%	4%	26%	46%	20%	4%	+4
State Parliament	na	na	25%	30%	4%	26%	32%	31%	6%	+5
Newspapers	na	26%	31%	30%	3%	27%	43%	22%	5%	-1
Religious organisations	29%	27%	31%	27%	5%	22%	29%	37%	7%	-4
Online news media	na	23%	28%	27%	3%	24%	48%	20%	6%	-1
Business groups	38%	22%	25%	26%	3%	23%	42%	23%	9%	+1
Trade unions	39%	22%	23%	25%	4%	21%	31%	36%	7%	+2
Political parties	na	12%	16%	12%	1%	11%	36%	45%	6%	-4

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.

Since this question was last asked in October, there has been a significant increase in trust in the High Court (+11%), the ABC (+11%), the Reserve Bank (+11%) and the Federal Parliament (+8). Trust in the High Court and Reserve Bank is back to similar levels to that recorded in 2011.

Respondents had most trust in the High Court (74%), the ABC (70%), the Reserve Bank (64%) and charitable organisations (52%). They had least trust in political parties (12%), trade unions (25%), business groups (26%), online news media (27%) and religious organisations (27%).

Compared to the average, Labor voters had more trust in the ABC (77%), environment groups (50%), the Commonwealth Public Service (44%), local councils (42%), Federal Parliament (43%) and trade unions (41%).

Liberal/National voters, compared to the average, had a little more trust in religious organisations (31%) and TV news media (35%).

Party Values

Q. Which statement best reflects your views about the Labor Party?

Q. Which statement best reflects your views about the Liberal Party?

Q. Which statement best reflects your views about the Greens?

	Labor Party	Liberal Party	Greens	Labor voters on Labor Party	Lib/Nat voters on Liberal Party	Greens voters on Greens
The party doesn't stand for anything	23%	22%	30%	3%	4%	-
Many of their politicians don't stand by party values	43%	27%	14%	37%	23%	10%
The party has values and politicians stand by them	19%	36%	33%	44%	63%	85%
Don't know	15%	15%	22%	16%	10%	5%

43% think that many Labor politicians don't stand by party values - compared to 27% for the Liberal Party and 14% for the Greens.

36% think the Liberal Party has values and their politicians stand by them - compared to 33% for the Greens and 19% for the Labor Party.

63% of Liberal/National voters think the Liberal Party has values and politicians stand by them and 85% of Greens voters think the Greens have values and politicians stand by them. However, Labor voters were more divided with 44% thinking party has values and politicians stand by them and 37% thinking many of their politicians don't stand by party values.

Appendix – 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.

