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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 from the 18th to 21st April and is based on 1,044 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on the Iraq War, same sex marriage, education funding and Liberal Government spending.

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 = 1,905 respondents

First preference/leaning to	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago 25/3/13	2 weeks ago 8/4/13	Last week 15/4/13	This week 22/4/13
Liberal		45%	47%	44%	44%
National		2%	2%	3%	3%
Total Lib/Nat	43.6%	47%	49%	48%	48%
Labor	38.0%	33%	32%	34%	34%
Greens	11.8%	11%	9%	9%	9%
Other/Independent	6.6%	9%	9%	9%	9%

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

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%.

War Against Iraq

Q. It is now 10 years since Australia went to war in Iraq. Do you think it was the right or wrong decision for Australia to go to war against Iraq?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Right decision	23%	22%	30%	7%
Wrong decision	51%	56%	42%	76%
Don't know	26%	21%	28%	18%

51% believe Australia made the wrong decision to go to war in Iraq and 23% think it was the right decision.

Those most likely to say it was the wrong decision were Greens voters (76%), Labor voters (56%) and people aged 45-64 (56%).

30% of Liberal/National voters and 30% of men thought it was the right decision.

Reason for War Against Iraq

Q. What do you think was the main reason John Howard's Government joined the war in Iraq?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
They believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction	18%	15%	26%	5%
To ensure access to Iraq's oil	9%	12%	6%	8%
To support the USA	56%	62%	49%	76%
To remove Saddam Hussein	7%	6%	8%	2%
Don't know	10%	5%	11%	8%

A majority (56%) thought that the main reason Australia joined the war in Iraq was to support the USA. Only 18% thought the main reason was that they believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Those most likely to think that the main reason was they believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction were Liberal/National voters (26%) and people aged 65+ (30%).

John Howard's Reason for War Against Iraq

Q. John Howard has said that regardless of whether Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction or not, the decision was right because it was in Australia's national interests, and the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime provided the Iraqi people with opportunities for freedom. Do you agree or disagree?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Total agree	44%	35%	58%	16%
Total disagree	37%	50%	23%	58%
Strongly agree	10%	7%	15%	1%
Agree	34%	28%	43%	15%
Disagree	20%	24%	15%	21%
Strongly Disagree	17%	26%	8%	37%
Don't know	19%	15%	19%	26%

44% agreed and 37% disagreed with John Howard's argument that regardless of whether Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction or not, the decision was right because it was in Australia's national interests, and the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime provided the Iraqi people with opportunities for freedom.

58% of Liberal/National voters agreed while 58% of Greens voters and 50% of Labor voters disagreed.

Same Sex marriage

Q. Do you think people of the same sex should or should not be allowed to marry?

	15 Nov 10	14 Mar 11	4 Jul 11	13 Aug 12	24 Sep 12	Total 22 Apr 13	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Should be allowed to marry	53%	49%	54%	54%	55%	54%	64%	42%	89%
Should not be allowed to marry	36%	40%	35%	33%	36%	33%	26%	44%	3%
Don't know	11%	10%	11%	13%	9%	13%	10%	13%	8%

There has been little movement in the figures since the last time the question was polled last September: with a 1% decrease in those in favour of same sex marriage (54%) and a 3% decrease in those opposed (33%).

There has been little movement in the results in the two years since the question was first polled in November 2010.

Those most in favour of same sex marriage were Greens voters (89%), Labor voters (64%) and women (62%). 44% of Liberal/National voters, 40% of men and 50% of people aged 65+ opposed.

Opinion of Gonski Report Recommendations

Q. The Gonski report on funding education has recommended a new model for school funding that would mean all students are entitled to a set level of funding regardless of where they go to school, disadvantaged schools receive more funding and taxpayer funding for private schools is adjusted down based on parents' capacity to pay.

Do you support or oppose these recommendations?

	27 Feb 12	30 Jul 12	Total 22 Apr 13	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Total support	68%	65%	62%	77%	49%	76%
Total oppose	13%	14%	18%	6%	31%	5%
Strongly support	25%	25%	25%	42%	12%	41%
Support	43%	40%	37%	35%	37%	35%
Oppose	9%	10%	11%	4%	18%	4%
Strongly oppose	4%	4%	7%	2%	13%	1%
Don't know	19%	20%	20%	16%	20%	19%

62% say they support the recommendations of the Gonski report on funding education and 18% were opposed. Support has weakened very slightly (-3%) since this question was asked last July.

Strongest support was shown by Labor voters (77%) and Greens voters (76%).

Since last July, support from Liberal/National voters has dropped from 59% to 49% and opposition increased from 20% to 31%.

Government's Plan for Education Funding

Q. The Government has announced a plan to implement the Gonski recommendations by providing substantially increased funding for public schools, some increased funding for private schools and some reduction in funding for universities. Do you approve or disapprove of the Government's plan?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Total approve	40%	60%	28%	42%
Total disapprove	43%	25%	59%	42%
Strongly approve	12%	23%	5%	14%
Approve	28%	37%	23%	28%
Disapprove	25%	15%	33%	30%
Strongly disapprove	18%	10%	26%	12%
Don't know	17%	16%	13%	15%

40% approved the Government's plan for implementing the Gonski recommendations and 43% disapproved. 60% of Labor voters approved and 59% of Liberal/National voters disapproved. Greens voters were split.

By income, for those earning \$600-\$1,600pw, 47% approve and 37% disapprove while for those earning over \$1,600 pw, 36% approve and 50% disapprove.

Spending by a Liberal Government

Q. If the Liberal Party won Government at the next election, do you think they would increase or decrease spending on the following areas or spend about the same as the Labor Government?

	Increase spending	Decrease spending	Spend about the same	Don't know
Public schools	22%	30%	33%	15%
Private schools	28%	27%	28%	16%
Universities	18%	29%	36%	16%
Support for manufacturing industries	26%	23%	32%	19%
Pensions	19%	32%	36%	14%
Welfare support	12%	45%	28%	14%
Health and hospitals	33%	27%	25%	14%
The environment	11%	39%	34%	16%
Defence	31%	19%	34%	16%
Foreign aid	8%	41%	33%	18%
Public transport	23%	26%	35%	16%
Roads	26%	22%	36%	16%
Border security	44%	14%	28%	14%
The arts	7%	40%	32%	21%
Subsidies for business	34%	20%	28%	18%

Overall, respondents were more likely to think a Liberal Government would reduce spending on welfare support, the arts, the environment, foreign aid, pensions, public schools and universities. They were more likely to think they would increase spending on border security, defence and subsidies for business.

Liberal voters thought a Liberal Government would be more likely to increase than decrease spending on public schools, manufacturing industries, pensions, public transport, health and hospitals, defence, roads, border security and subsidies for business.

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.

