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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 16th to 19th May and is based on 1,050 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on the budget, Workchoices and unions.

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 = 1,924 respondents

First preference/leaning to	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago 22/4/13	2 weeks ago 6/5/13	Last week 13/5/13	This week 20/5/13
Liberal		44%	44%	44%	45%
National		3%	4%	3%	3%
Total Lib/Nat	43.6%	48%	48%	48%	48%
Labor	38.0%	34%	33%	34%	35%
Greens	11.8%	9%	9%	9%	8%
Other/Independent	6.6%	9%	10%	10%	9%

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

Impact of Budget

Q. Do you think the Federal Budget was good or bad for you personally?

Q. Do you think the Federal Budget was good or bad for average working people?

Q. Do you think the Federal Budget was good or bad for Australian businesses?

Q. Do you think the Federal Budget was good or bad for the Australian economy overall?

	You personally				Working people		Australian businesses				Economy overall			
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total good	22%	11%	17%	13%	31%	17%	27%	20%	10%	15%	36%	27%	26%	26%
Total bad	26%	29%	26%	36%	24%	40%	32%	25%	43%	33%	28%	29%	32%	34%
Very good	3%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%	6%	4%	4%	5%
Good	19%	9%	15%	11%	27%	15%	24%	17%	9%	13%	30%	23%	22%	21%
Neither good nor bad	33%	44%	44%	38%	33%	30%	9%	31%	29%	32%	10%	25%	25%	24%
Bad	18%	21%	17%	22%	19%	27%	22%	19%	28%	20%	18%	21%	21%	21%
Very bad	8%	8%	9%	14%	5%	13%	10%	6%	15%	13%	10%	8%	11%	13%
Don't know	20%	16%	12%	12%	12%	12%	31%	23%	18%	19%	26%	20%	17%	15%

In terms of the economy overall, there was a similar response to the 2013 budget as to the last two year's budgets. 26% (no change from last year) thought the budget was good for the economy and 34% (up 2%) thought it was bad. 56% of Labor voters thought the budget was good for the economy and 8% bad while only 8% of Liberal/national voters thought it was good and 56% bad.

38% of respondents thought the Federal budget was neither good nor bad for them personally - 13% (down 4% on last year) said it was good and 36% (up 10%) bad. 51% of those aged 55+ thought it was neither.

17% (down 14%) thought it was good for working people and 40% (up 16%) thought it was bad.

15% (up 5%) thought the budget was good for businesses, 33% (down 10%) bad and 32% said it was neither.

Government Spending Cuts

Q. Do you think the Federal Budget has cut Government spending by too much, not enough or about the right amount?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Cut spending too much	20%	20%	19%	23%
Not cut spending enough	34%	13%	54%	25%
Cut spending about right amount	21%	42%	9%	29%
Don't know	25%	25%	18%	23%

34% thought that the Federal budget had not cut Government spending enough. 20% thought it had cut spending too much and 21% thought it had cut spending about right.

42% of Labor voters thought the spending cuts were about right while 54% of Liberal/National voters thought spending had not been cut enough.

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	21 Nov 11	23 Jul 12	3 Sept	18 Mar 13	Total 20 May	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Work full time	Work part time
Total likely	58%	56%	51%	53%	51%	48%	51%	78%	28%	84%	50%	47%
Total unlikely	21%	24%	27%	22%	25%	28%	27%	9%	48%	7%	29%	25%
Very likely	28%	26%	22%	26%	23%	25%	26%	49%	5%	57%	25%	19%
Quite likely	30%	30%	29%	27%	28%	23%	25%	29%	23%	27%	25%	28%
Not very likely	18%	18%	19%	16%	18%	19%	16%	5%	29%	7%	18%	14%
Not at all likely	3%	6%	8%	6%	7%	9%	11%	4%	19%	-	11%	11%
Don't know	20%	20%	22%	26%	24%	25%	23%	12%	24%	9%	22%	28%

Respondents were a little more 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 March. 51% (up 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 27% (down 1%) think it is unlikely.

78% (up 11%) of Labor voters and 84% (up 17%) of Greens voters think it is likely, while Liberal/National voters split 28% likely (down 3%) to 48% unlikely (up 4%).

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	21 Nov 11	23 Jul 12	3 Sept	18 Mar 13	Total 20 May	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Work full time	Work part time
Very concerned	28%	29%	26%	30%	27%	27%	26%	50%	5%	62%	25%	24%
Quite concerned	17%	19%	15%	16%	15%	16%	15%	22%	12%	15%	16%	13%
A little concerned	20%	16%	20%	15%	19%	17%	17%	12%	22%	5%	20%	18%
Not concerned	24%	25%	27%	26%	26%	25%	27%	8%	48%	13%	27%	25%
Don't know	11%	11%	11%	14%	13%	15%	14%	8%	14%	4%	11%	19%

Concern about the re-introduction of WorkChoices has not changed significantly since this question was last asked in March. 41% (down 2%) would be quite or very concerned if WorkChoices or similar laws were re-introduced and 44% (up 2%) were only a little or not concerned.

72% of Labor voters and 77% of Greens voters would be concerned. 70% of Liberal/National voters would be a little/not concerned and 17% concerned. 41% of full-time workers and 37% of part-time workers said they would be very/quite concerned.

45% of those aged 25-64 said they would be very/quite concerned.

Importance of Unions

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

	19 Mar 2012	10 Sept 12	Total 20 May 13	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Work full time	Work part time
Total important	56%	52%	56%	80%	38%	70%	54%	57%
Total not Important	35%	38%	36%	12%	59%	23%	39%	36%
Very important	19%	16%	21%	35%	8%	38%	18%	26%
Quite important	37%	36%	35%	45%	30%	32%	36%	31%
Not very important	27%	28%	24%	11%	36%	18%	25%	27%
Not at all important	8%	10%	12%	1%	23%	5%	14%	9%
Don't know	9%	10%	8%	7%	3%	7%	7%	7%

The majority of respondents regarded unions to be important for Australian working people today (56%), whilst 36% believe that they were not important. Belief that they are important increased 4 points from 52% in September 2012 to 56% in this week's results.

80% of Labor voters and 70% of Greens voters believed that unions were important for Australian working people today, while Coalition voters were the most likely to regard unions as not important (59%).

The majority of full time workers (54%) and part time workers (57%) regarded unions as important for Australian working people today.

Better or worse off with stronger unions

Q. Overall, would workers be better off or worse off if unions in Australia were stronger?

	10 Sept 12	Total 20 May 13	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Work full time	Work part time
Total better off	39%	43%	65%	28%	61%	43%	44%
Total worse off	30%	29%	11%	50%	10%	32%	28%
A lot better off	13%	14%	23%	7%	26%	15%	14%
A little better off	26%	29%	42%	21%	35%	28%	30%
A little worse off	15%	14%	9%	19%	9%	15%	16%
A lot worse off	15%	15%	2%	31%	1%	17%	12%
Make no difference	15%	12%	10%	12%	16%	13%	11%
Don't know	15%	14%	13%	10%	12%	12%	17%

The perception that workers would be better off with stronger unions has increased since this question was asked in September last year. 43% (up 4%) felt that workers would be better off if unions in Australia were stronger and 29% (down 1%) that believed workers would be worse off.

By voting intention, 65% of Labor voters and 61% of Greens voters believed that workers would be better off while Coalition voters were by far the most likely to believe that workers would be worse off (50%).

51% of respondents on incomes of \$600-\$1,000pw thought that workers would be better off with stronger unions.



Penalty Rates

Q. Do you think people who are required to work outside of normal hours – like night shifts, weekends or public holidays – should receive a higher hourly rate of pay?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Yes	81%	88%	74%	92%
No	12%	7%	19%	5%
Don't know	7%	5%	7%	3%

81% of respondents agreed that people who are required to work outside of normal hours – like night shifts, weekends or public holidays – should receive a higher hourly rate of pay.

79% of full-time workers and 88% of part-time workers agreed.

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.

