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With data supplied by



Executive Summary

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 1st and 5th February 2012 and is based on 1,048 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on wages and industrial relations laws, aboriginal issues and trust in institutions.

The methodology used to carry out this research is available in the appendix on page 12.

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	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Liberal		45%	44%	44%
National		3%	3%	3%
Total Lib/Nat	43.6%	48%	47%	47%
Labor	38.0%	35%	34%	33%
Greens	11.8%	10%	10%	11%
Other/Independent	6.6%	7%	8%	9%

2PP	Election 21 Aug 10	2 weeks ago	Last week	This week
Total Lib/Nat	49.9%	54%	54%	54%
Labor	50.1%	46%	46%	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.



Better or Worse for Aboriginal People

Q. Since the aboriginal tent embassy was established near Parliament House 40 years ago, have things got better or worse for Aboriginal people in Australia or have things stayed much the same?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Total better	53%	59%	53%	60%
Total worse/same	31%	28%	33%	30%
A lot better	25%	29%	28%	9%
A little better	28%	30%	25%	51%
A little worse	5%	4%	5%	12%
A lot worse	3%	3%	4%	2%
Stayed much the same	23%	21%	24%	16%
Don't know	17%	13%	15%	9%

25% think that since the Aboriginal tent embassy was established near Parliament House 40 years ago, things got a lot better for Aboriginal people in Australia, 28% think things have got a little better and 31% worse or stayed the same.

Greens voters are more likely to think things have only got a little better (51%). Older respondents were more likely to think things were the same or had got worse (40% of aged 55+).



Better or Worse for Aboriginal People

Q. And thinking about the last 40 years, do you think Australia's Aboriginal people are now better off or worse off in terms of the following?

	Total better	Total worse /same	A lot better	A little better	About the same	A little worse	A lot worse	Don't know
Health	69%	26%	29%	40%	19%	4%	3%	5%
Access to education	77%	19%	42%	35%	14%	3%	2%	5%
Access to jobs	69%	26%	31%	38%	20%	3%	3%	6%
Respect for Aboriginal culture	66%	29%	30%	36%	20%	5%	4%	6%
Control of traditional lands (land rights)	63%	29%	31%	32%	21%	5%	3%	8%
Discrimination against Aboriginal people	56%	37%	23%	33%	28%	5%	4%	6%

A majority believe that Australia's Aboriginal people are now better off or worse off on all issues measured.

Access to education was most likely to be considered better - 42% think it is a lot better and 35% a little better.

Discrimination against Aboriginal people was the issue least likely to have improved for Aboriginal people - 56% think it is better and 37% worse or the same.



Problems for Aboriginal People

Q. Are each of the following issues a larger problem or a smaller problem for Aboriginal people than they are for other Australians?

	Total bigger problem for Aboriginal people	A much bigger problem	A little bigger problem	A similar problem	A little smaller problem	A much smaller problem	Don't know
Alcohol abuse	74%	51%	23%	17%	2%	2%	6%
Health issues	65%	37%	28%	21%	6%	4%	5%
Unemployment	63%	37%	26%	22%	6%	4%	6%
Loss of culture and tradition.	56%	29%	27%	26%	5%	6%	8%
Discrimination	55%	25%	30%	28%	5%	6%	6%
Family breakdown	50%	25%	25%	33%	4%	3%	10%
Access to education	44%	17%	27%	31%	10%	8%	6%
Threats to their environment	41%	18%	23%	37%	7%	6%	9%
Access to accommodation	40%	15%	25%	30%	12%	9%	10%
Access to services/ resources in rural communities	37%	17%	20%	30%	13%	11%	9%
Legal rights	30%	11%	19%	34%	13%	15%	8%

A majority of respondents think Aboriginal people have larger problems than other Australians in terms of alcohol abuse (74%), health issues (65%), unemployment (63%), loss of culture and tradition (56%), discrimination (55%) and family breakdown (50%).

A majority believe they have similar or smaller problems in terms of legal rights (62%), access to services/resources in rural communities (54%), access to accommodation (51%) and threats to their environment (50%).



Party Best at Handling Aboriginal Issues

Q. Which party do you think is best to handle issues concerning Australia's Aboriginal people?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
The Labor Party	22%	54%	4%	32%
The Liberal Party	18%	2%	41%	1%
No difference	41%	30%	40%	52%
Don't know	19%	14%	16%	15%

41% think there is no difference between the Liberal and Labor Parties in terms of handling issues concerning Australia's Aboriginal people. 22% think the Labor Party is best and 18% favour the Liberal Party.

Liberal voters (41%) were less likely than Labor voters (54%) to think their own party would be best to handle Aboriginal issues.



Workers' Pay

Q. Overall, do you think most Australian employers pay their workers what they are worth or do they pay them more or less than they are worth?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Full time workers	Part time workers
Pay workers what they are worth	37%	41%	42%	23%	41%	33%
Pay workers more than they are worth	12%	6%	19%	6%	15%	8%
Pay workers less than they are worth	37%	38%	31%	56%	35%	45%
Don't know	14%	15%	9%	15%	8%	14%

37% of respondents think that, overall, most Australian employers pay their workers what they are worth - 37% think they pay them less than they are worth and 12% say they pay more than they are worth.

Part-time workers (45%) and women (42%) are more likely to think workers are paid less than they are worth.



Workers' Productivity

Q. And overall, in your experience, how productive are most Australian workers?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Full time workers	Part time workers
Very productive	15%	20%	14%	16%	18%	14%
Quite productive	59%	63%	57%	58%	58%	62%
Not so productive	19%	13%	24%	19%	19%	18%
Not at all productive	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%
Don't know	5%	3%	2%	7%	3%	4%

74% think that overall, most Australian workers are very or quite productive.

Labor voters (83%) are more likely than Liberal/National voters (71%) to think workers are productive. There were no significant differences across income or age groups.



Industrial Relations Laws

Q. Business groups have said that Australia's industrial relations laws favour workers and unions and should be changed so that businesses can increase productivity and have more flexibility with their workforce. Do you think Australia's industrial relations laws favour employers or workers or do they balance the interests of workers and employers?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens	Full time workers	Part time workers
Favour employers	25%	29%	23%	36%	27%	25%
Favour workers	24%	15%	39%	12%	26%	20%
Balance the interests of employers and workers	34%	43%	25%	37%	34%	38%
Don't know	17%	13%	13%	16%	13%	17%

Respondents were evenly divided over whether Australia's industrial relations laws favour employers or workers - 25% think they favour employers, 24% favour workers and 34% think they balance the interests of both.

Labor voters are more likely to think they balance workers and employers interests (43%) while Liberal/National voters are more likely to think they favour workers (39%). Only 15% of Labor voters and 12% of Greens voters think the laws favour workers.



Trust in Institutions

Q. How much trust do you have in the following national institutions:

	A lot of trust	Some trust	A little trust	No trust	Don't know
The Australian Defence Force	41%	37%	13%	4%	5%
The Federal Police	27%	41%	21%	6%	5%
The Federal and High Courts	24%	36%	26%	9%	5%
Our intelligence agencies like ASIO	20%	39%	23%	9%	10%
The Reserve Bank	19%	37%	27%	12%	5%
The Family Court	15%	35%	28%	15%	7%
The Commonwealth Public Service	10%	39%	30%	15%	6%
Business and banking regulators	6%	27%	34%	27%	6%

Respondents were most likely to say they had a lot of trust in the Australian Defence Force (41%), Federal Police (27%) and Federal and High Courts (24%).

The least trusted institutions were business and banking regulators (61% little/no trust), the Commonwealth Public Service (45%) and the Family Court (43%).

Labor voters were more likely to have a lot or some trust in the Commonwealth Public Service (59%), the Federal and High Courts (66%) and the Family Court (56%).

Liberal/National voters were more likely to have a lot or some trust in the Australian Defence Force (86%) and intelligence agencies like ASIO (66%).



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.

