



# EssentialReport

**26 September 2011**



15 – 31 Pelham Street  
Carlton  
Victoria 3053  
Phone 03 9929 9903  
Mobile 0416 121 969

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 from 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and is based on 1049 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on asylum seekers, the performance of Tony Abbot as Opposition Leader, trust in various Australian institutions and upcoming football grand finals.

The methodology used to carry out this research is available in the appendix on page 10.

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 = 1891 respondents*

<b>First preference/leaning to</b>	<b>Election 21 Aug 10</b>	<b>4 weeks ago</b>	<b>2 weeks ago</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>This week</b>
Liberal		46%	46%	46%	46%
National		3%	3%	3%	3%
<b>Total Lib/Nat</b>	<b>43.6%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Labor</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Greens	11.8%	10%	10%	10%	12%
Other/Independent	6.6%	8%	10%	9%	8%

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



## Perceived intake of asylum seekers as a proportion of annual immigration

Q. From what you have read and heard, what percentage of Australia's annual immigration intake are asylum seekers arriving by boat?

	7 Jun 2010	This week	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
50% or more	10%	12%	11%	13%	10%
About 25%	15%	11%	10%	12%	6%
About 10%	13%	10%	9%	10%	8%
About 5%	15%	16%	18%	17%	16%
1% or less	18%	25%	26%	24%	39%
Don't know	30%	27%	25%	23%	21%

Twenty three per cent (23%) of respondents think that the proportion of asylum seeker intake by boat is 25% or more of the annual immigration intake.

Ten per cent (10%) of respondents think that the percentage of boat arrivals is about 10% of annual immigration intake and 16% believe it to be about 5%.

Twenty five per cent (25%) of respondents believe that the proportion of asylum seekers arriving by boat constitutes 1% or less of our annual immigration intake and 27% of respondents don't know.

Greens voters are the most likely to think that the percentage was 1% or less, with 39% of Greens respondents selecting this response.

The proportion of respondents believing the proportion to be '1% or less' has shifted 7 points up from 18% to 25% since 7 June 2010.



## **Best way of processing of asylum seekers**

*Q. Thinking about the issue of asylum seekers arriving in Australia by boat, which of the following alternatives do you think is the best way to process those arriving:*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>	<b>50% or more</b>	<b>About 25%</b>	<b>About 10%</b>	<b>About 5%</b>	<b>1% or less</b>
<b>Offshore</b> , in any other country	11%	17%	11%	5%	17%	12%	10%	8%	9%
<b>Offshore</b> , but only in a country where human rights are protected	31%	31%	37%	25%	27%	41%	36%	40%	30%
<b>Onshore</b> (in Australia)	21%	24%	11%	58%	4%	7%	19%	27%	42%
Turn the boats around	28%	21%	36%	6%	51%	39%	30%	23%	15%
Don't know	9%	8%	6%	6%	1%	1%	5%	3%	4%

The most favoured method of processing asylum seekers was 'offshore, but only in a country where human rights are protected' (31%), followed by 'turn the boats around' (28%).

Respondents then favour processing 'onshore in Australia' (21%) over processing asylum seekers 'offshore in any other country' (11%).

Coalition voters are more likely to prefer processing asylum seekers offshore where human rights are protected (37%), as well as turning the boats around (36%).

Greens voters are much more likely to prefer onshore processing in Australia (58%). Labor voters are more likely to prefer processing offshore in any other country (17%) and somewhat more likely to prefer processing 'onshore in Australia' (24%).

Respondents that believe the proportion of boat arrivals constitute '50% or more' of the annual immigration intake are far more likely to favour 'turning the boats around' (51%).

Conversely, respondents that believe the proportion to be '1% or less' are far more likely to be in favour of processing onshore in Australia (42%).

## Features of a good refugee processing system in Australia

*Q. Thinking about asylum seekers arriving in Australia, how important do you think each of the following features are for a good refugee processing system?*

	<b>Total Important</b>	<b>Total Not Important</b>		Very important	Important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Keeping costs down	<b>81%</b>	13%		47%	34%	11%	2%	6%
Protecting human rights	<b>80%</b>	14%		42%	38%	9%	5%	6%
Stopping the boats	74%	19%		52%	22%	11%	8%	7%
Avoiding prolonged detention	68%	25%		35%	33%	13%	12%	8%
Making sure children have their claims processed in Australia	58%	31%		26%	32%	18%	13%	11%
Allowing Australian courts to review claims	56%	32%		22%	34%	16%	16%	12%
Approval from the United Nations	54%	<b>36%</b>		22%	32%	20%	16%	11%
Making sure asylum seekers are not returned to the countries they have fled	49%	<b>38%</b>		20%	29%	18%	20%	13%

**Please note:** 'Total Important' is an aggregate figure achieved by adding 'Very Important' and 'Important' together. 'Total Not Important' is an aggregate figure that has been achieved by adding 'Not very important' and 'Not at all important' together.

The most important feature of a 'good refugee processing system' is 'keeping the costs down', with 81% of respondents regarding this to be either very important or important, followed by 'protecting human rights' (80% total important).

Seventy four per cent (74%) of respondents believed that 'stopping the boats' is an important feature and 68% regard 'avoiding prolonged detention' to be an important feature.

Amongst the least important features of a good refugee processing system is 'approval from the United Nations', with only 54% regarding this to be important and 36% viewing it as not important.

Making sure asylum seekers are not returned to the countries they have fled was the least important attribute, with only 49% believing it to be important and 38% regarding it as not important.



## Performance of Tony Abbot as Opposition Leader

Q. Which of the following statements is closest to your view about the performance of Tony Abbott as Opposition leader?

	7 Mar 2011	6 Jun 2011	Total		Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Tony Abbott is performing the role of Opposition leader well and is keeping the Government accountable	41%	42%	38%		6%	77%	10%
Tony Abbott is just opposing everything and is obstructing the work of the Government	43%	44%	45%		82%	11%	77%
Don't know	16%	15%	17%		12%	11%	13%

The proportion of respondents that believe that Tony Abbott is performing the role of Opposition Leader well is 38%, down four points from when the question was last asked on 6 June 2011. Coalition voters are far more likely to regard Abbott as performing the role well (77%).

Forty five per cent (45%) of respondents believe that Abbott is just opposing everything and is obstructing the work of Government (45%), a result that is fairly consistent with the previous occasions on which the question has been polled. Labor voters are the most likely to agree with this position (82%), as are Greens voters (77%).

Respondents aged 65+ are much more likely to regard Abbott as performing well (56%).

Respondents from Queensland were also somewhat more likely to regard Abbott as doing well (44%).



## Trust in various Australian institutions

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

	Total Trust	Total No Trust	A lot of trust	Some trust	A little trust	No trust	Don't know
The High Court	72%	19%	33%	39%	13%	6%	10%
The Reserve Bank	67%	24%	23%	44%	17%	7%	10%
Courts in general	65%	26%	19%	46%	18%	8%	9%
Charitable organisations	61%	30%	18%	43%	22%	8%	9%
Federal Parliament	55%	36%	15%	40%	21%	15%	10%
The ABC	46%	44%	12%	34%	31%	13%	10%
Environment groups	45%	46%	11%	34%	28%	18%	9%
Trade unions	39%	52%	10%	29%	30%	22%	10%
Business groups	38%	51%	6%	32%	34%	17%	10%
Religious organisations	29%	62%	9%	20%	27%	35%	9%

**Please note:** 'Total Trust' is an aggregate figure achieved by adding 'A lot of trust' and 'Some trust' together. 'Total No Trust' is an aggregate figure achieved by combining 'A little trust' and 'No trust'.

The institution in which respondents place the most trust is the High Court with 72% of respondents stating that they either have 'a lot of trust' or 'some trust' in the High Court. The High Court is followed by the Reserve Bank (67%), Courts in general (65%) and Charitable organisations (61%).

Federal parliament features below these top four, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> with 55% of respondents having either 'a lot of trust' or 'some trust', followed by the ABC which ranked in sixth place (46% total trust).

The institutions for which respondents had the most distrust were trade unions (52% no trust), business groups (51% no trust) and Religious organisations, which attracted the highest proportion of distrust (62% no trust).





## Interest in upcoming Grand Finals

*Q. Which of the following upcoming sporting events are you most interested in?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vote Labor</b>	<b>Vote Lib/Nat</b>	<b>Vote Greens</b>
The AFL Grand Final	32%	35%	33%	28%
The NRL Grand Final	20%	19%	22%	17%
The Rugby World Cup	10%	9%	12%	10%
None of the above	38%	37%	34%	44%

Whilst 38% of respondents had no interest in any of the upcoming football finals, 32% were most interested in the AFL, 20% in the NRL and only 10% in the Rugby World Cup.

Female respondents are far more likely to state that they were not interested in any of the upcoming sport events (47%), as were respondents aged 18-24 years old (46%).

Respondents from NSW are far more likely to have an interest in the Rugby World Cup (15%) and the NRL Grand Final (35%).

Respondents from QLD are also far more likely to have an interest in the NRL Grand Final (32%).

Victorian respondents are the most likely to be most interested in the AFL Grand Final (67%).



## **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.

