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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 9th to 12th May and is based on 1,053 respondents.

Aside from the standard question on voting intention, this week's report includes questions on party leaders, the NDIS, the make-up of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the independents and paid parental leave.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described 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 = 1,945 respondents

First preference/leaning to	Election 21 Aug 10	4 weeks ago 15/4/13	2 weeks ago 29/4/13	Last week 6/5/13	This week 13/5/13
Liberal		44%	45%	44%	44%
National		3%	3%	4%	3%
Total Lib/Nat	43.6%	48%	48%	48%	48%
Labor	38.0%	34%	34%	33%	34%
Greens	11.8%	9%	9%	9%	9%
Other/Independent	6.6%	9%	9%	10%	10%

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

Approval of Julia Gillard

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Julia Gillard is doing as Prime Minister?

	19 Jul 2010	20 Dec	14 June 2011	12 Dec	12 Jun 2012	10 Dec	14 Jan 2013	11 Feb	11 Mar	15 Apr	13 May
Total approve	52%	43%	34%	34%	32%	37%	41%	36%	36%	34%	38%
Total disapprove	30%	40%	54%	54%	56%	53%	49%	55%	56%	56%	54%
Strongly approve	11%	10%	6%	6%	6%	10%	9%	7%	8%	8%	10%
Approve	41%	33%	28%	28%	26%	27%	32%	29%	28%	26%	28%
Disapprove	17%	24%	29%	25%	22%	25%	23%	25%	24%	23%	23%
Strongly disapprove	13%	16%	25%	29%	34%	28%	26%	30%	32%	33%	31%
Don't know	18%	17%	13%	11%	12%	11%	10%	9%	9%	9%	9%

38% (up 4%) approve of the job Julia Gillard is doing as Prime Minister and 54% (down 2%) disapprove – a 6-point change in net rating from -22 to -16 over the last 4 weeks.

78% of Labor voters approve (up 4%) and 16% disapprove (down 2%).

By gender – men 36% approve/57% disapprove, women 38% approve/51% disapprove. In net terms this represents no change with men and an improvement with women (from -25 to -13).

Approval of Tony Abbott

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Tony Abbott is doing as Opposition Leader?

	18 Jan 2010	5 Jul	20 Dec	14 June 2011	12 Dec	12 Jun 2012	10 Dec	14 Jan 2013	11 Feb	11 Mar	15 Apr	13 May
Total approve	37%	37%	39%	38%	32%	32%	33%	33%	36%	37%	37%	40%
Total disapprove	37%	47%	39%	48%	53%	54%	56%	57%	53%	51%	52%	50%
Strongly approve	5%	8%	9%	6%	6%	6%	8%	8%	7%	7%	8%	9%
Approve	32%	29%	30%	32%	26%	26%	25%	25%	29%	30%	29%	31%
Disapprove	20%	23%	21%	25%	25%	24%	25%	27%	22%	22%	24%	18%
Strongly disapprove	17%	24%	18%	23%	28%	30%	31%	30%	31%	29%	28%	32%
Don't know	26%	16%	22%	15%	14%	13%	12%	10%	11%	12%	10%	11%

40% (up 3%) approve of the job Tony Abbott is doing as Opposition Leader and 50% (down 2%) disapprove – a change in net rating from -15 to -10 over the last 4 weeks, Tony Abbott's best rating since July 2011.

77% (up 5%) of Coalition voters approve and 13% (down 8%) disapprove.

By gender – men 42% approve/49% disapprove, women 37% approve/50% disapprove. In net terms this represents a shift with men from -9 to -7 and with women from -22 to -13.

Better Prime Minister

Q. Who do you think would make the better Prime Minister out of Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott?

	5 Jul 2010	14 June 2011	12 Dec	12 Jun 2012	10 Dec	14 Jan 2013	11 Feb	11 Mar	15 Apr	13 May	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Julia Gillard	53%	41%	39%	37%	43%	42%	39%	39%	37%	39%	86%	2%	76%
Tony Abbott	26%	36%	35%	37%	34%	33%	37%	39%	39%	41%	3%	84%	2%
Don't know	21%	24%	26%	26%	23%	24%	24%	22%	24%	20%	11%	13%	22%

39% (up 2%) believe Julia Gillard would make the better Prime Minister and 41% (up 2%) prefer Tony Abbott.

Men prefer Tony Abbott 44%/35% and women prefer Julia Gillard 43%/38%.

NDIS

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the Government's decision to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme to be funded by increasing the Medicare levy from 1.5% to 2%?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
Total approve	57%	77%	45%	75%
Total disapprove	30%	14%	42%	18%
Strongly approve	20%	37%	6%	40%
Approve	37%	40%	39%	35%
Disapprove	17%	10%	24%	12%
Strongly disapprove	13%	4%	18%	6%
Don't know	13%	9%	12%	7%

57% approve and 30% disapprove the Government's decision to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme to be funded by increasing the Medicare levy from 1.5% to 2%.

A substantial majority of Labor (77%) and Greens voters (75%) approve but Liberal/National voters are split 45% approve/42% disapprove.

Respondents most likely to approve were aged 55+ (68% approve/22% disapprove) and those earning less than \$600pw (72%/19%).

House of Representatives

Q. Thinking about the House of Representatives, which of the following do you think would provide the best Government for Australia?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
The governing party has an absolute majority in the House of Representatives	49%	47%	61%	25%
The independents and minor parties hold the balance of power in the House of Representatives	25%	28%	18%	56%
Don't know	26%	24%	21%	19%

49% think that the best Government would be if the governing party has an absolute majority in the House of Representatives while 25% think the independents and minor parties should hold the balance of power.

A majority (56%) of Greens voters would prefer to see the independents and minor parties should hold the balance of power while a majority (61%) of Liberal/National voters think the governing party should have an absolute majority.

The Senate

Q. Now thinking about the Senate, which of the following do you think would provide the best Government for Australia?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
The Government also has a majority in the Senate	32%	36%	39%	18%
The Opposition has a majority in the Senate	8%	6%	11%	3%
The independents and minor parties hold the balance of power in the Senate	25%	31%	15%	54%
It doesn't matter who has control or balance of power in the Senate	7%	4%	8%	3%
Don't know	28%	23%	27%	23%

32% think that the Government should also have a majority in the Senate while 25% think the independents and minor parties hold the balance of power. 8% think the Opposition should have a majority.

Liberal/National voters were a little more likely to favour the Government having a majority in the Senate (39%) while Greens (54%) and Labor (31%) were more likely to favour the independents and minor parties holding the balance of power.

Rating of Independents

Q. Regardless of how you vote in federal elections, how would you rate the performance of the following Independent MPs in federal parliament?

	Total good	Total bad	Very Good	Good	Bad	Very Bad	Don't know		Oct 11 Total Good	Oct 11 Total Bad
Rob Oakeshott	30%	30%	6%	24%	14%	16%	41%		23%	34%
Tony Windsor	29%	29%	7%	22%	14%	15%	42%		23%	32%
Andrew Wilkie	28%	30%	4%	24%	17%	13%	42%		24%	34%
Bob Katter	26%	41%	4%	22%	19%	22%	34%		27%	36%

There were mixed opinions about the performance of the independents in Parliament. Respondents were similarly split over the performances of Rob Oakeshott, Tony Windsor and Andrew Wilkie but somewhat more negative about Bob Katter.

In NSW, Rob Oakeshott was rated 30% good/37% bad and Tony Windsor 29% good/36% bad. In Queensland Bob Katter was rated 33% good/36% bad.

Since this question was last asked in October 2011, the ratings of Rob Oakeshott, Tony Windsor and Andrew Wilkie have improved a little while Bob Katter's has declined.

Paid Parental Leave

Q. The Opposition's parental leave policy is to give new parents up to 26 weeks leave at their current full rate of pay (up to \$150,000) to be paid for by a 1.5 per cent levy on large companies. The Labor Government's policy gives new parents 18 weeks leave at the minimum wage rate paid for by the Government. Which scheme do you support most?

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/Nat	Vote Greens
The Government's scheme	34%	60%	17%	39%
The Opposition's scheme	24%	13%	36%	30%
Neither	31%	18%	38%	21%
Don't know	11%	9%	10%	10%

34% support the Government's paid parental leave policy and 24% support the Opposition's. 31% support neither policy.

The Government's policy was preferred over the Opposition's 41% to 24% by those aged 35-44 while those aged under 35 favoured the Opposition's policy 38% to 34%.

Those earning less than \$1,000 pw favoured the Government's policy 40% to 19% while those earning \$1,600+ pw slightly favoured the Opposition's policy (33% to 29%).

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.

