

search the AFR

PREMIUM

NEWS BUSINESS MARKETS STREET TALK REAL ESTATE OPINION TECHNOLOGY PERSONAL FINANCE LEADERSHIP LIFESTYLE ALL



I RUN FOR FUN...

Home / News / Politics

May 27 2016 at 5:10 PM | Updated May 27 2016 at 5:10 PM

Save article | Print Reprints & permissions

Election 2016: Boats still a vote winner, even though they've stopped



Apart from the howling from the Left, Dutton's remarks offended all those immigrants – often conservative voters – who did come to Australia poor and illiterate and have made spectacular successes of their lives. Andrew Meares



by Phillip Coorey

The federal government has received a big increase in approval over its handling of immigration and border protection, suggesting that just having the issue spoken about during the election campaign has boosted Malcolm Turnbull's prospects.

The finding is contained in the latest quarterly True Issues survey by JWS research, which periodically determines which issues matter most to voters and asks them to grade the government's handling of each.

Like the last survey conducted in November, just after Mr Turnbull became Prime Minister, health remains far and above the most significant voter concern, as rated by 82 per cent of the more than 1000 people surveyed.

Education and the economy are in a statistical battle for second at 64 per cent and 63

Legal Profession Admission Board of New South Wales

Are you a **corporate or government lawyer** in NSW...but not admitted?

You may need to notify the **LPAB by 30 June 2016**

Find out more at www.lpab.justice.nsw.gov.au

Advertisement

per cent respectively, while immigration and border security comes fourth with 45 per cent.

But 38 per cent support the government's handling of the issue, up from 29 per cent in November.

Of the 45 per cent who now rate it as a priority, 54 per cent list refugees and asylum seekers as the issue within immigration and border security which concerns them both.

Issue reawakening

Pollster John Scales reasoned that the reawakening of the issue during the first two weeks of the campaign had not only reignited the issue in the minds of voters, but shown that it is a winner for the government.

The first week of the campaign was marked by Labor candidates breaking ranks with the party's policy of supporting the Coalition's tough stance, causing problems for Labor leader Bill Shorten.

The issue continued in the second week when the government made it part of its campaign theme and Immigration Minister Peter Dutton sparked a row with controversial comments about refugees being illiterate and lazy.

Back in 2014, after the Abbott government had stopped the boats, concern about asylum seekers had dropped to 37 per cent, making it one of the lowest ranking concerns of the 11 issues surveyed.

The True Issues survey also finds a similar leap in support for the government's handling of defence and security, moving from 34 per cent in November to 41 per cent in May.

That coincides with the announcement of contracts to build submarines and warships.

Mr Scales said the clear importance of health, education and economy explained why the election was being predominantly fought on these issues.

Labor is prioritising health and education while the Coalition has the economy at the core of its campaign.

Related articles

Bill Shorten promises to balance budget in five years

3 mins ago |

Women won't battle 'hostile culture'

Fearing Brexit, RBA holds its firepower

Howard labels Xenophon a pest

Labor lays out alternative 10-year plan

Latest Stories



Election live: Labor pledges surplus in 2020-21

LIVE |



Markets Live: Break for mining rally

LIVE |



Bill Shorten promises to balance budget in five years

3 mins ago |

RECOMMENDED



John McGrath's AREC flop with REA boss Tracey Fellows

Guess why we procrastinate – (and guess how you can beat the habit)

FROM AROUND THE WEB



Stop paying tax on your super if you can start a pension

ESuperfund

He turned a modest \$10,600 investment into an \$8,016,867 fortune.



Sobriety turns Joe Aston into a total girl



Oliver Curtis found guilty of insider trading



A PwC receptionist was sent home for refusing to wear high heels



Motley Fool Australia



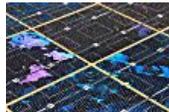
Using super to buy property: Are you able to handle it?

ESuperfund



10 Australian Dating Sites that Actually Work

Top 10 Best Australian Dating Sites



Breaking down solar batteries

AGL

Recommended by

MY FINANCIAL REVIEW

- My Alerts | Create alert
- Portfolio
- Account
- My Saved Articles (0)

TOOLS

- Markets Data
- Australian Equities
- World Equities
- Commodities
- Currencies
- Derivatives
- Interest Rates
- Share Tables

FAIRFAX BUSINESS MEDIA

- The Australian Financial Review Magazine
- BOSS
- BRW Lists
- Chanticleer
- Luxury
- Rear Window
- The Sophisticated Traveller

CONTACT & FEEDBACK

- FAQ
- Contact us
- Letters to the Editor
- Give feedback
- Advertise
- Reprints & Permissions

ABOUT

- About us
- Our Events
- Digital Subscription Terms
- Newspaper Subscription Terms
- Site Map
- Corporate Subscriptions

CONNECT WITH US

YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT TO US

GIVE FEEDBACK

CHOOSE YOUR READING EXPERIENCE