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Clear majority of voters do not trust Tony Abbott on IR laws; new TV ads begin today

Almost three in four Australians do not trust Tony Abbott's statements that he would not change workplace laws if he became Prime Minister, according to a new national poll.

Research commissioned by the ACTU found that 71% of Australians do not believe Mr Abbott's denial that he would never change the Fair Work laws.

The poll findings come as the ACTU today launches a major television advertising campaign to inform voters about the Liberals' record on WorkChoices.

A series of advertisements will screen in all capital cities and regional areas right up until the election blackout.

The television advertising complements grassroots activity taking place in seats across the nation by the Rights at Work network of community volunteers and activists.

In a morning peak hour blitz of major railway stations in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane last week, more than 10,000 leaflets were handed to commuters to inform them about the Coalition's industrial relations plans.

ACTU President Ged Kearney said the results of the survey conducted in recent days showed that working Australians did not trust Mr Abbott and would not be easily fooled by his constantly changing stories on industrial relations.

"Since becoming Liberal Leader, Tony Abbott has repeatedly stated he intends to bring back some of the worst aspects of the extreme WorkChoices industrial relations policies of the Howard Government.

"During this Federal Election campaign, Mr Abbott has tried to change his tune.

"But actions speak louder than words. Mr Abbott was one of John Howard's closest confidantes in the Government that brought in WorkChoices. He has a long history of supporting individual contracts, cuts to award conditions and the power of employers to dismiss workers unfairly.

"Working Australians simply can't trust Tony Abbott on WorkChoices."

The research company Auspoll was commissioned by the ACTU to conduct an online survey of 1515 voters on 20 and 22 July to determine their perceptions of Tony Abbott and his impact on Australia's IR laws should he become Prime Minister.

They were asked: *Mr Abbott, when asked this week if he would ever change the industrial relations laws said "not now, not ever". Do you believe that Mr Abbott, if he becomes Prime Minister, will never change the industrial relations laws? And 71% said they did not believe him.*

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