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BIG ISSUE

Australia speaks in exclusive voter survey

CLAIRE BICKERS

BABY Boomers, Millennials, mums and dads and every state and territory are united on one thing this election — the cost of living is the No.1 issue.

A YouGov Galaxy poll, conducted exclusively for News Corp, shows health will be the next biggest election battleground. But surprisingly, Baby Boomers are more likely to care about climate change and the environment on election day than Millennials.

Young voters rank health (43 per cent), jobs (41 per cent) and education (38 per cent) as their biggest issues behind the cost of living, which tops the list for every demographic and region.

Baby Boomers' biggest concerns are border security (42 per cent), law and order, economic management and national security (38 per cent), followed by climate change (36 per cent) and jobs (34 per cent).

Religious protections, the number of women in politics and whether Australia becomes a republic are factors for only a tiny proportion of the population.

Border protection and jobs tie as the third-biggest election issues in general (35 per cent) — and rank only slightly higher than climate change (34 per cent).

It's good news for independents such as Tony Abbott's key rival Zali Steggall and Kerry Phelps, who are seeking to secure traditional Liberal strongholds by pushing for more action on climate change.

One in five Coalition voters consider climate change a key issue, while the number soars to 68 per cent for Greens voters and 44 per cent for Labor voters.

Victorians are far more concerned about law and order (38 per cent), than house prices (27 per cent) or infrastructure (28 per cent).

Border security, economic management and education are the biggest issues in NSW behind the cost of living and health.

Queenslanders are equally concerned about jobs and climate change (36 per cent), and rank them higher than border security and migration (34 per cent) or tax (30 per cent).

South Australians see climate change as their third-biggest issue, in front of jobs, education, border security or welfare spending.

Labor is likely to benefit the most from the current mood in Australia, which is revealed in the wide-ranging Australia Speaks survey.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten unveiled a bold election pitch to battlers and a \$2.3 billion health package to slash the medical bills of cancer patients in his Budget reply speech on Thursday night.

VICTORIA'S TOP 10 ELECTION ISSUES

COST OF LIVING

62%

HEALTH

53%

LAW AND ORDER

38%

BORDER SECURITY/ MIGRATION

35%

JOBS

34%

TAX

33%

EDUCATION

33%

CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENT

32%

NATIONAL SECURITY

31%

ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

30%

*Source: YouGov Galaxy poll. Top 10 of 18 issues.

offering economic growth and stability as major selling points, but the survey shows economic management is a big issue for only about a third of Australians.

Border protection is a factor for 44 per cent of Coalition voters, but matters to only one in four Labor voters and 18 per cent of Greens supporters.

Education and jobs are the biggest issues for parents, after the cost of living and health.

Tax and welfare spending are the only issues where Australia's highest and lowest-paid workers really differ.

Low-income earners care far more about welfare (36 per cent) than those on the highest bracket (21 per cent), while tax is a much bigger issue for those earning more than \$100,000 a year than those making less than \$50,000 per year.

Drought relief is a key issue for one in five voters, the survey shows. Measures to crack down on banking misconduct may also be a factor — a massive 62 per cent of Australians say they don't think the banks have "learnt their lessons" from the royal commission.

In a sign that Coalition attacks on Labor's union ties are unlikely to sway voters, the poll showed 38 per cent of Australians view them as having a positive influence on the country, while 35 per cent see them as a negative.

Most Coalition supporters (57 per cent) see trade unions as having a negative influence, while most Labor (56 per cent) and Green (56 per cent) voters see them as a positive.

Craigieburn father of two Ben Williams, 43, is feeling the rising cost of living — and taking action.

"We ended up getting solar, hoping to save money, which it has. Our bills are a lot lower," Mr Williams said.

"I have also definitely noticed things like groceries going up in price.

"Ways we try to reduce the cost of groceries is by doing big cook-ups on the weekend ready for the week, that's one way we've found to reduce it."

He said buying tech devices for his children was an emerging cost.

"There are new requirements that all kids have devices," Mr Williams said.

"They've had to have iPads from prep upwards and that all sort of happens at once as well.

"It's almost the norm for kids to have phones these days as well, so there's all these kinds of new things younger people didn't have in the past.

"There are all these new sort of expenses now — having to have the technology."

WITH JAMES MOTTERSHEAD AND JOSEPH ARTHUR

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Passwords put memories to test

THE average person forgets an online password 36 times a year — that's more than once a fortnight — research has found. And one in six forgets it at least once a week.

With so many everyday services like banking, shopping and booking GP appointments now done online, everyone has more and more passwords to remember.

But keeping track of them all in a safe way is becoming in-

creasingly difficult, a study by Lloyds Banking Group revealed.

The survey of more than 2200 UK residents found 40 per cent preferred biometrics — like fingerprint or voice recognition — compared to 30 per cent who preferred passwords. The rest had no preference.

Nearly six in 10 people admitted to having been locked out of an account because they

put in the wrong password or username too many times.

Up to two-thirds of those surveyed used the same password across two or more accounts in an attempt to make it easier to remember, leaving them exposed to fraudsters who could access several accounts if they got hold of the password.

Nearly half of people surveyed admitted writing down their passwords.

BYRNE ON SUNDAY

WHEN HUGHES KNEW DRUG DAYS WERE OVER

PAGE 24

