

“I don’t get too carried away by what the media says, whether good or bad. It can be assured that in a longer life in politics you’ll get both.” – Kevin Andrews

generally taught me that you represent your client to the best of your ability, but you don’t become your client.

What are your thoughts about the current stances on immigration from the two federal leaders?

Obviously I agree with Tony (Abbott’s) views, partly because I helped shape them. Australia is a nation of immigrants and we will continue to require immigrants in the future. But immigration requires adequate infrastructure to support a larger population, and I think we are falling down in that regard. Australians will support higher levels of immigration if they believe

that the government is in control of what’s going on. By contrast, when the government is seen as not being in control it tends to lead Australians to be more sceptical about immigration, which is undesirable. The thing about the Howard years was that, despite what is said about “turning back the boats”, we had the highest levels of immigration to Australia up until that stage, which I think is because there was confidence among Australians who saw the government as being in control of it.

What are your thoughts on the political climate in Australia at the moment and the issues we face?

Australia faces a number of challenges including demographic change and population ageing, specifically, less people in the workforce compared with dependants. Beyond that, the obvious changes and challenges: in terms of the economy, I’m not sure that the world is “out of the woods”. The combination of those two things will radically colour what goes on here and internationally for the next few decades.

Would you encourage your children to go into law or politics?

So far they’ve done neither. I would let them make up their mind about what they want to do. I suspect that they have seen politics so closely that they may perhaps not want to go into it, but in the end it’s about what they want to do and we support that whatever it is. ●

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QUIZ: What type of politician are you?

With so many politicians starting out in law, many YLJ readers could be MPs in the making – and just not realise it. So just what kind of political leader would you be?

1 You are handed a baby. What is your instinct telling you to do?

- A. Give it a kiss and hope that someone pulls out a camera
- B. Try and give it a high five, throw it in a stroller and win the 100m sprint while pushing it
- C. Teach it basic Chinese foreign policy
- D. Hand it back to its parents and check whether they have a trust fund set up for it

2 What do you think of climate change?

- A. Unless we have consensus we can’t do anything, so we should ask a mum and dad on the street if they care about it.
- B. I’m not sure it exists, I will agree with people if it’s in my interest.
- C. It’s the biggest challenge we face, but someone else can deal with it in 3 years.
- D. It’s time to drag the deniers along kicking and screaming, even if that means that others aren’t too fond of you

3 What is your position on unlimited access to the internet?

- A. We should be able to access it faster, and it doesn’t matter how much it costs.
- B. The private sector will give us faster internet, though I don’t understand how.
- C. We should take the lead of the Chinese and ensure that that rubbish never reaches our shores
- D. It’s a free country, and if there is a market for filth, who cares?

4 What impression do you want to leave with people?

- A. That you are a real person
- B. That women like you (and your body)
- C. That you’re a good manager, really, despite what people say . . . You’re popular as well, right?
- D. That you have the full support of the people in your firm

5 \$5000 lands in your lap. What would you do?

- A. Give it to the Western Bulldogs
- B. Claim it as a tax rebate
- C. Spend it on an overseas trip
- D. Invest it in your business

6 Read this list of phrases. Which do you like the sound of?

- A. Moving forward
- B. Stop the boats
- C. Working families
- D. Straight talking

As = Julia Gillard
Cs = Kevin Rudd
Ds = Malcolm Turnbull
Bs = Tony Abbott

Results