

CABINET LEAKS RAISES VOTERS CONCERNS

By Rachel Loveday

The news of another cabinet leak has raised concern amongst voters.

The strength and reliability of the Labor government is being questioned after Prime Minister Julia Gillard was forced to defend herself against accusations that she was against senior pension rises and paid parental leave and she was quoted as saying; "old people never vote for us."

Ms Gillard denied the quote, stating that she wanted to support older Australians and working mothers, but she did however question the affordability of making these changes. She also stated that this would not distract her from her campaign in a press conference in Adelaide yesterday.

Although there are conspiracy theories spreading around the country and even within parliament in regards to the origin of the leaks, making this one the third in less than a fortnight, voters are expressing mixed opinions and concerns.

"I thought that she didn't have a good reputation and this confirmed my beliefs," Sally Parker, 20, of Tamworth said.

"I want to vote for a party where there is unity, unity is important," Vanessa Mercieca, 18 of Narooma said.

According to results in a poll by Australian publication; *The Herald Sun*, most participants preferred to have Tony Abbott as Prime Minister. Sean Crombie, 19, of Wollongong was not surprised at this result.

"I think this (the leaks) would hurt her chances," he said.

Ms Gillard's election campaign is continuing and Australians will be able to have their final say at the ballot box on August 21.