

A Functional Analysis of 2013 Australian Member of Parliament and Prime Minister Debates

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Abstract

Kevin Rudd (Labor) engaged in two election debates in 2013: first for his seat in Parliament (Griffith) and then for Prime Minister. In seeking re-election to his Griffith seat he was challenged by Bill Glasson (Liberal), Geoff Ebbs (Green), and Karen Hunter (Palmer United). He faced Tony Abbott (Liberal) in the PM Debate. This study content analyses these two debates: an August 6, 2013 Member of Parliament debate and an August 11, 2013 Prime Minister debate. Acclaims were more common in these two debates than attacks; defenses were the least common function. Statements about policy outnumbered those on policy. In each debate, when the candidates discussed record in office (past deeds), the incumbent acclaimed more and attacked less than the challenger. More acclaims and fewer attacks addressed general goals and ideals.

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In contrast to former Prime Minister Tony Abbott and former Australian Defense Minister Kevin Andrews, Turnbull has expressed reluctance to deploying Australian special forces troops in the. 20 Ibid. 21 Ibid. In practice, power is held by the Prime Minister and Cabinet, who are elected members of Parliament. Parliamentary elections are called by the government, but must be held at least once every three years. The Liberal-National Party Coalition and the Labor Party are the two main political forces in Australia. The Prime Minister advises the head of state on matters of national importance such as the prorogation and dissolution of parliament. Dual versus Single Executive: Presidential System. The offices of head and state are fused together to form a single executive, where in the executive presidency and the functions are performed by the chief executive or president. Government (the executive) comes from parliament, and parliament is the centre of government and hence the focus of political struggle in the political system. It is guided by the principle of the supremacy of government, and there is strict party discipline which makes for team work. Though in this system there is no real check on the powers of parliament. The Prime Minister and Opposition Leader held their first debate of the 2013 election campaign on Sunday 11 August at the National Press Club in Canberra. The economy dominated the exchange—although the issues of aged care, climate change, asylum seekers, Sydney's second airport and same-sex marriage were also addressed.[42]. A more nuanced analysis of the Vote Compass data by Antony Green—which took into account respondents' political leanings—revealed a strong correspondence between respondent's political

leanings and how they rated leaders' competence and trustworthiness: Source: A Green, 'Antony Green: Vote Compass reveals how voters view our leaders', ABC News, 13 August 2013, accessed 13 August 2013. The Prime Minister must ensure that a general election is held before the term expires. The Queen may issue writs for a new election at any time, except when a new ministry has been appointed and the Prime Minister has yet to appear before the Folketing. Polling day: Set by royal public notice. A draft of the statutory instrument must have been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament. The draft must be accompanied by a statement setting out the Prime Minister's reasons for proposing the change in polling day. Early general election: An early general election takes place if The Prime Minister. The Cabinet. The Speakers. While Parliament is in session, MPs typically spend Monday to Thursday in Ottawa, and Fridays and weekends in their riding, although this can change depending on their meeting schedules and on Parliament's business. When Parliament is sitting, there is a routine schedule to follow called the Daily Order of Business. MPs spend a set amount of time in the Chamber, in their offices and in committees. Like Senators, MPs work on committees to examine proposed bills in detail and to investigate issues. They also hear witnesses and report back to the House with their findings and recommendations.

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