



The rivalry between Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull is distracting the government. Digital image  
Opinion

## **Andrew Bolt on the Liberals: Either Tony Abbott or Malcolm Turnbull must go**

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, April 23, 2017 11:00pm  
Subscriber only

THIS can't go on. Either Malcolm Turnbull or Tony Abbott must go, or the Liberals will be smashed. The Prime Minister and the man he replaced are now in a fight to the death, except it's the Turnbull government that's doing the dying.

The hatred of these two rivals is so fierce that one must leave parliament. But the right one.

Last week proved how badly this war is distracting the government. Turnbull should have been crusading on his new jihad against foreigners, having cracked down on foreign workers and promised a tough new citizenship test.

He needed to sell this hard to convince voters it wasn't what it seems — a desperate U-turn to please conservative MPs who might back Abbott, and to win back supporters who've switched to Pauline Hanson. After all, Turnbull had long defended the 457 visas for foreign workers he's now scrapping and, as an Abbott minister, had let journalists know he despised Abbott's talk of "Team Australia".

Now he had to sell a "Real Malcolm" who wants a citizenship test that even asks immigrants (wink, wink — Muslims) if they plan to cut their children's genitalia or beat their wives. Yet by week's end, Turnbull was not waving his Australian flags but mud-wrestling Abbott. Again.

Some idiot in his office — or in the NSW Liberal machine that backs him — decided last week was also the time to leak a story to the Financial Review to make Abbott look a loser and Turnbull a hero. Here is the first paragraph in its full stupidity: “Malcolm Turnbull intervened personally during the final week of last year’s election campaign to help ‘save’ Tony Abbott after internal party polling showed the former prime minister was so unpopular in his own seat of Warringah he risked losing it in a landslide.”

Yes, someone close to Turnbull, if not the man himself, really thinks his intervention — a robocall to Warringah voters — turned Abbott’s potential landslide loss into a landslide win, with 62 per cent of the vote, after preferences. You’d have to be mad or a megalomaniac to believe Turnbull’s robocall worked such a miracle.

Maybe that’s why Turnbull’s letterhead on Liberal mailouts last week didn’t have a Liberal logo but Turnbull one — a big “M”.

Reality check: if Big M’s robocalls were so powerful, how did Turnbull lose 14 other seats?

Worse for Turnbull, the Financial Review story said his team also wanted influential 2GB broadcasters Alan Jones and Ray Hadley to do “a number” on one of Abbott opponents, James Mathison, a TV host backed by the media. But both Jones and Hadley furiously denied anyone from the Turnbull camp asked them to attack Mathison, and attacked Turnbull instead.

Jones even warned: “If this nonsense goes on, I’ll tell you a few stories that will make it quite clear who had the dream run at the last election from Alan Jones and it wasn’t Tony Abbott; it was Malcolm Turnbull.”

Abbott also denounced the leaking of the Liberal polling, and made clear he held Turnbull responsible. “The sneaky, underhand business of leaking needs to stop,” Abbott seethed.

The Federal Government announced changes to Australia’s citizenship test on April 20, with the Prime Minister declaring that new arrivals must commit to “Australian values”. Malcolm Turnbull said the new citizenship test will ask applicants to demonstrate they’ve integrated into Australian society including but not limited to being active in community, being employed, and screening for “values issues” such as attitudes towards domestic violence, forced marriage of children and female genital mutilation. The proposed new barriers to citizenship include increasing the wait time from 12 months to four years, more stringent English language requirements and penalties for repeatedly failing the test. The opposition party branded the proposed changes an appeasement to protect Turnbull from the right-flank of his own party and from the far-right populist One Nation party, both of which have pushed the traditionally centre-right Prime Minister further right. The citizenship test and the changes to the 457 visas for foreign workers earlier in the week point to a tonal shift by the Turnbull government. The nationalistic rhetoric echoes those seen in the Trump campaign ahead of the 2016 election and those being adopted ahead of Marine Le Pen in the French elections.

Australian government to test migrants on attitudes to domestic violence in citizenship test  
“The polling in question was very, very closely held. “And I’m just very disappointed that someone has chosen to put it out there for self-serving reasons.” Turnbull denies being the leaker, but the hatred is so intense that no one trusts what anyone says.

Pleas for Turnbull to resolve this war by making Abbott a minister will do no good. Turnbull won’t offer a job and Abbott would not now accept. Turnbull knows it was easier to undermine Abbott as a minister in Abbott’s government, so why help Abbott to pay him back?

Abbott, on the other hand, thinks Turnbull is such a hopeless leader that the best way to save the Liberals from a devastating defeat is to keep his distance and his freedom to speak out. And both despise the other.  
That’s why Turnbull supporters want to destroy Abbott instead, and many Liberal MPs and journalists agree: Abbott must go.

Normally, they’d be right. It’s the backbencher, and not the Prime Minister, who should quit if the government isn’t big enough for both. But not this time.

If Abbott left, would Turnbull suddenly become a good leader? Would his Budgets balance, unemployment fall and wages rise? Would Big M’s robocalls work more magic? Would he then lead in the polls? No, Abbott only counts because Turnbull can’t lead. Get rid of Abbott and the government still has Turnbull, the real problem.

So one must go to save the Liberals. But it’s not Abbott.

## **Andrew Bolt on citizenship tests: Left should be tested for our values as well**

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, April 23, 2017 7:12pm  
Subscriber only

IMMIGRATION Minister Peter Dutton is right to say we need tougher citizenship tests to get more migrants to fit in. “What I want is, frankly, for people to abide by our laws, adopt our values,” he said.

Great, but what’s the best way to get immigrants to “adopt our values”?  
Is it really to set them a test that asks: “Can you strike your spouse in the privacy of your home?”

Wouldn’t it be even better to keep reminding migrants — and their children — this is land worth their love? If so, step one must surely be to stop telling damaging lies about how evil we are, because some dangerous people now tend to believe them.

Take Hizb ut Tahrir. It tells Muslims not to honour Australia Day, claiming it marks a day “that brought terror and genocide to the indigenous people”.

But from where did these Islamists, most born here, get that perverted idea of our history?



Thousands of Melburnians protested against Australia Day this year. Picture: Chris Hopkins/Getty Images

Was it from our Human Rights Commission, which falsely claimed there was a “genocide” and falsely claimed up to 100,000 children were “stolen”.

Was it from our schools, which teach we really did steal a “generation” of children just because they were Aboriginal, when our courts cannot find even 10 such cases?

Was it from Fremantle council, which refuses now to hold its annual Australia Day festival on January 26, claiming it offends Aborigines?

Was it Labor leader Bill Shorten, who in a recent speech made us seem viciously racist by repeating invented fake atrocities against Aborigines: “We poisoned the water holes, we distributed blankets infested with diseases we knew would kill.”

Was it the politicians and public servants who suggest Australia does not morally belong to anyone not Aboriginal, holding ceremonies to pay respects to “the traditional owners”?

Was it the kind of academics who sneer at Anzac Day and “Anzackery”? Was it the kind of republicans who each Australia Day complain our flag is a colonial embarrassment?

Was it the ABC, which preaches Australia is racist, greedy, planet-destroying, homophobic and cruel to boat people? Was it the professional multiculturalists, who seem to admire every culture, but our own, and pay migrants not to assimilate?

I’m happy to test migrants for their love of Australia, but how many Australians of the black-armband Left would pass that test themselves?