



LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
THE HON. TONY ABBOTT MHR
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WARRINGAH

20 June 2010

TRANSCRIPT OF THE HON. TONY ABBOTT MHR
DOORSTOP INTERVIEW
SYDNEY

Subjects: Penrith by-election; resignation of the Rudd government's mental health adviser; Mini-Mos Fun Run.

E&OE.....

TONY ABBOTT:

Obviously the Penrith by-election result last night is a great outcome for Barry O'Farrell. There's still plenty of work to do for Liberals in New South Wales between now and next March but it's a great credit to Barry, a great credit to the local team out there at Penrith and I want to congratulate Stuart Ayres. I think every Liberal in Australia is really proud of the effort that Stuart and Barry put in yesterday.

QUESTION:

It was a massive swing. Were you expecting something as big as we saw last night?

TONY ABBOTT:

It was a very big swing but I think people are getting increasingly sick of bad Labor governments. We've got a bad Labor government here in New South Wales, we've got a bad Labor government in Canberra. I think that what we're seeing from the Rudd government in Canberra are increasing signs of desperation. They're now talking about the mining tax raising \$30 billion and I think this looks like some kind of an accounting fiddle to justify a subsequent backdown.

QUESTION:

Do you think Penrith kind of shows what people across the country are thinking or feeling?

TONY ABBOTT:

I think it shows that people are ready to vote against bad governments. We've got a very bad state government, we've got a very bad federal government. I think that the problem in the end is Labor and I think people are sick of the spin, they're sick of the broken promises, they're sick of the financial fiddles, they're sick of the addiction to spending and taxing and I think it's a growing feeling right around Australia.

QUESTION:

Just on another issue, is the party facing a split on paid parental leave?

TONY ABBOTT:

We've got a policy, it's a good policy and I'm proud of it.

QUESTION:

So, is there a split?

TONY ABBOTT:

As I said, we've got a policy, it's a good policy and I'm proud of it.

QUESTION:

So, is everyone in favour of it?

TONY ABBOTT:

Oh, look, I accept that when I announced the policy it was bold, it was radical, it was a break from the past but we've got to change and grow while being true to our enduring values.

QUESTION:

Tony, could I just get something on the federal government's mental health adviser stepping down?

TONY ABBOTT:

It's interesting that Professor Mendoza has quit as the federal government's principal mental health adviser and what he doesn't like about the Rudd government is the constant spin and the constant claiming of credit for initiatives that were actually the work of its predecessor and I think everyone who has anything to do with the Rudd government is sick of the spin, sick of the falsehoods, sick of the claiming credit for the work of its predecessors. Mr Rudd's constantly saying that he saved Australia from the global financial crisis. In fact it was the reforms of the two previous governments, the Hawke government and the Howard government, which saved Australia from possible financial disaster.

QUESTION:

And how did you feel about your run this morning?

TONY ABBOTT:

I'm a bit slower this year than I was last year. I suspect the extra stresses and strains are starting to take their toll, but still I was happy to be involved, it's a great community event.

Thank you.

[ends]