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News

Rudd ahead in leadership poll

Friday, December 1, 2006

Kevin Rudd would be a stronger Labor leader than Kim Beazley and compares well to John Howard on key issues such as national security and the economy, according to the results of a new poll.

Labor leadership challenger Kevin Rudd received more votes as preferred Prime Minister than John Howard in an exclusive poll conducted for *The Bulletin* by research company, CoreData.



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Rudd, who is expected to wrest the Labor leadership from Kim Beazley in Monday's caucus ballot, was preferred as Prime Minister by 35.8% of poll respondents, compared to 33.9% for Howard. Beazley received 14.4% of votes, while Treasurer Peter Costello received 5%.

But Howard received the highest rating from people when asked to rate the four men on the basis of their effectiveness as political leaders. The Prime Minister scored an average of 6.28 out of 10, compared to Rudd on 5.56, Costello 4.29 and Beazley 3.72.

Rudd, who has built a media profile as Labor's foreign affairs spokesman, also scored strongly when people were asked which of the four leaders they trusted most on issues of national security, the economy and the environment.

The Queenslander was trusted most on the environment with 46.9% of votes, compared to 23% for Howard, 21% for Beazley and 9% for Costello.

On national security, Howard (39.8%) shaded Rudd (39.2%), ahead of Beazley (17.4%) and Costello (3.5%).

On economic issues, Howard was trusted most by 33.8% of people, but Rudd was preferred by 33.7% of people, ahead of Costello (20%) and Beazley (12.5%).

The poll, conducted on Friday and Saturday among 1476 people, showed strong support for Rudd and Julia Gillard, who is running to replace Jenny Macklin as deputy Labor leader.

Rudd received almost double the level of support from people when asked who they would choose if they had to select either him or Beazley as Labor leader. Rudd received 65.8% of the votes, compared to Beazley's 34.2%.

Gillard, a Victorian left-winger, trounced Macklin, picking up 73.5% of the votes cast, while Macklin received 26.5%.

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