

Direct election of Federal Labor leader

July 2013

On 8 July 2013 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced reform to the way leaders of the Australian Parliamentary Labor Party are elected. Currently, the leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party is elected by the Caucus, Federal Labor's Members and Senators.

The Prime Minister proposed the following changes:

- The Leader of the Australian Labor Party is elected by a 50/50 split vote by Labor branch members and the Federal Labor Caucus.
- There are three triggers to change the leader:
 - a leader's resignation;
 - a federal election loss; or
 - a 75 per cent vote of no confidence by the Federal Labor Caucus.
- The Federal Labor Caucus will decide the members of the Ministry or Shadow Ministry, not the Leader.

These changes will be put to the Federal Labor Caucus on 22 July at a special Caucus meeting.

Accordingly, assuming no election is called until after that Caucus meeting, the earliest possible date for the federal election is now 31 August 2013.

The election can be called for a date up to 30 November 2013.