

On the ST survey

Tham Yuen-C

The Straits Times, 26 April 2014

The Straits Times commissioned a survey to get a sense of how Singaporeans view the policy changes that have taken place since the 2011 General Election.

The poll of some 500 citizens was done by market research firm Asia Insight over a week last month, after the Budget debate.

The respondents, who are broadly representative of the national age, gender and race profiles, were interviewed via street intercept across the island. Weights were added for education and income to better reflect the national profiles.

The survey posed questions on how important certain national issues are to the respondents today and in 2011; whether they feel the Government's handling of these issues has improved since 2011; and whether they feel confident in Singapore's future when it comes to these areas.

For these questions, ST homed in on seven policy areas: the elderly, the poor, housing, health care, transport, education, foreign workers and immigrants.

These were seen as issues top-most on people's minds and most commonly raised in public debate today and during the election campaign in 2011.

The respondents were also asked how satisfied they think Singaporeans are with government policies and the factors important to them in electing an MP.

Respondents were asked to name the Government's best accomplishment (26 per cent named housing) and worst failure (45 per cent named transport) since 2011.

The survey also homed in on four hot-button issues in particular: housing, health care, transport and education.

At a round-table organised by ST this week, two panellists - Dr Gillian Koh of the Institute of Policy Studies and Associate Professor Tan Ern Ser of the National University of Singapore - said the survey did not ask for respondents' views of employment, income security and how the Government is managing the economy.

Non-bread and butter issues like animal and human rights, which were not covered by the survey, might also be of greater importance to the young, said Dr Koh.