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Why Tony Abbott must ditch his blue tie

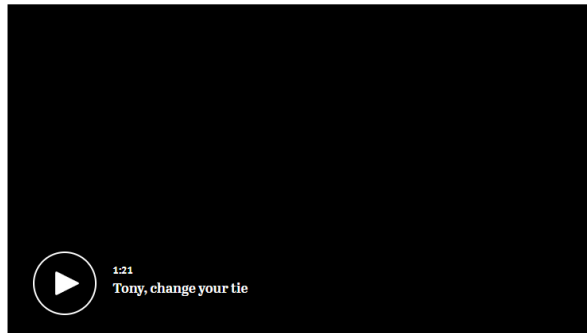
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- [PM stands by his blue tie](#)

Australia needs a sign from Tony Abbott that he has truly changed.

[Dumping a signature policy, reining in his interventionist office, promising to listen more](#) – none of these is enough.



Tony Abbott says he'll change, so why not start with his blue ties? Here are some helpful suggestions.

If the Prime Minister wants to convince the public he is a new man, he will ditch his blue tie. And that is why smh.com.au is calling for a tie spill.

For too long, in opposition and now in government, Abbott has exploited the reassuring powers of the colour blue. In all its forms – from the ultramarine to the aqua – the blue tie conveyed peace, trust, stability.

Now it risks symbolising stubbornness, tribalism, a lack of ideas.

Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

A new way demands a new colour.

Image consultant Imogen Lamport says Abbott has a number of options.

"If he wants to appear different, fresh and modern, a light pink could work," Lamport says.

"Or maybe a deep burgundy – red without the aggression."

Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

Abbott could take some advice from Pantone, the colour company, by adopting one of its new-season shades including Toasted Almond, Custard, Tangerine, Strawberry Ice and Marsala.

But why stop at hue? Why not display a willingness to tackle complexity by moving away from the block colour approach?

A tailor at GA Zink and Sons, Daniel Jones, would like to see the PM experiment more with textured ties and patterns such as small polka dots.

Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

While he is at it, Abbott could ditch those bulbous full Windsors for a looser knot. To signify his commitment to truly "radical" change, he might even try the

...to signing the comment to say "knot" change, is suggested by the languid [Onassis knot](#) favoured by Clive Palmer.

Or he could go the way of the Victorian Premier, Daniel "Dan the Man" Andrews, and shed neckwear altogether.

Whatever the final choice, one thing is for certain: Abbott must embrace change and say cyan-ara to his old favourite.

Tweet us [@smh](#) with [#tiespill](#) or comment on [our Facebook page](#) to suggest a new tie colour for the PM.

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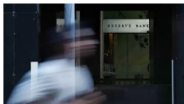
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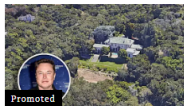
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