

The Essential Report

05 July 2021



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Prepared By: Essential Research

Data Supplied by:



Our researchers are members of the Research Society.



About this poll

This report summarises the results of a fortnightly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by Qualtrics. The survey was conducted online from 30th June to 4th July 2021 and is based on 1,099 respondents.

The weighting efficiency applied to the results at a national level is 90%, which gives an effective sample size of 987. The margin of error at this effective sample size is $\pm 3.1\%$ (95% confidence level).

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown in NSW, this wave included a boosted sample size of respondents in NSW to examine the state more closely. The total number of respondents in NSW this wave is $n=533$. The weighting efficiency applied to the results at a national level is 98%, which gives an effective sample size of 541. The margin of error at this effective sample size is $\pm 4.2\%$ (95% confidence level).

The full methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix at the end of the report.

Note that due to rounding, not all tables necessarily total 100% and subtotals may also vary.

Performance of Scott Morrison

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the job Scott Morrison is doing as Prime Minister?

	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	Apr'21	End Mar'21	Mid Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20	Sep'20	Aug'20
TOTAL: Approve	51%	57%	58%	54%	57%	62%	65%	61%	62%	66%	63%	64%	66%
TOTAL: Disapprove	40%	36%	32%	37%	35%	29%	28%	30%	28%	25%	27%	28%	23%
Don't know	9%	8%	10%	9%	8%	8%	7%	9%	11%	9%	10%	8%	11%
Base (n)	1,099	1,104	1,092	1,368	1,100	1,124	1,109	1,084	1,071	1,010	1,082	1,076	1,010

TOTAL: Approve	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	Apr'21
NSW	53%	59%	64%	55%
VIC	49%	52%	51%	51%
QLD	49%	60%	60%	57%
SA	50%	56%	52%	50%
WA	45%	41%	28%	36%

- The Prime Minister's approval rating has dropped to 51% (from 57% in June). This is the lowest approval rating in the last 12 months.
- Disapproval has increased to 40% (from 36% last month). This is the highest disapproval rating in the last 12 months.
- The PM's approval rating has fallen in all states except for WA. It has dropped the most significantly in QLD (49% from 60% in June).



TOTAL: Approve	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	12 Apr'21	29 Mar'21	15 Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20
Men	53%	61%	62%	61%	65%	65%	65%	62%	68%	65%
Women	49%	52%	55%	46%	49%	59%	65%	59%	56%	67%
TOTAL: Disapprove										
Men	41%	34%	31%	32%	30%	28%	28%	32%	25%	28%
Women	39%	38%	34%	42%	40%	30%	28%	29%	30%	23%

- Approval of Scott Morrison has fallen among both men and women to 53% and 49% respectively (from 61% and 52% in June). This is the lowest approval rating of the PM seen among men since last March, and among women since April.
- Disapproval of the PM among men has increased to 41% (from 34% in June), the highest disapproval rating among men since last March. Disapproval of the PM among women is at 39%, similar to last month but an increase from the level in May (34%).



Performance of Anthony Albanese

Q Do you approve or disapprove of the job Anthony Albanese is doing as Opposition Leader?

	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	Apr'21	Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20	Sep'20	Aug'20
TOTAL: Approve	41%	39%	39%	39%	41%	40%	42%	43%	40%	44%	44%	44%
TOTAL: Disapprove	35%	36%	35%	34%	32%	33%	33%	29%	33%	29%	29%	30%
Don't know	24%	24%	25%	27%	27%	27%	25%	28%	27%	27%	27%	25%
Base (n)	1,099	1,104	1,092	1,368	1,124	1,109	1,084	1,071	1,010	1,082	1,076	1,010

- The Opposition Leader's approval rating has increased slightly to 41% (from 39% in June).
- Similarly, the proportion of people disapproving of Albanese and those unsure are both consistent with last month (35% and 24% respectively).



Preferred Prime Minister

Q Who do you think would make the better Prime Minister out of Scott Morrison and Anthony Albanese?

	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	Apr'21	Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20	Sep'20	Aug'20
Scott Morrison	46%	48%	50%	47%	52%	52%	51%	50%	53%	50%	49%	52%
Anthony Albanese	28%	28%	24%	28%	26%	24%	25%	24%	24%	25%	26%	22%
Don't know	26%	24%	26%	25%	22%	24%	25%	26%	24%	25%	25%	26%
Base (n)	1,099	1,104	1,092	1,368	1,124	1,109	1,084	1,071	1,010	1,082	1,076	1,010

- Less than half (46%) of Australians now believe that Scott Morrison would make a better PM than Anthony Albanese (48% last month).
- 28% think the opposition leader would make the better Prime Minister (same level in June). 26% of participants don't know who would make the better PM.



Men	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	Apr'21	Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20
Scott Morrison	48%	54%	54%	53%	52%	54%	53%	54%	54%	52%
Anthony Albanese	31%	30%	26%	29%	30%	28%	28%	29%	28%	29%
Don't know	21%	16%	20%	18%	19%	19%	19%	17%	19%	19%
Women										
Scott Morrison	43%	43%	47%	42%	53%	51%	48%	47%	51%	47%
Anthony Albanese	26%	25%	22%	26%	23%	21%	22%	19%	20%	22%
Don't know	31%	31%	31%	32%	24%	29%	31%	34%	28%	31%

- Less than half (48%) of men now believe Scott Morrison makes the better PM (54% in June), the lowest number since last March. About the same proportion as last month think Albanese would make the better PM (31%). More men are now unsure who would make the better PM (21% from 16% last month).
- The proportion of women who think Scott Morrison makes the better PM has dropped since May to 43% (from 47%). Just over a quarter (26%) of women now think Anthony Albanese would make the better PM (from 22% in May). 31% are undecided, consistent with the past few months.



Scott Morrison’s treatment of NSW vs other states during Covid-19

Q Thinking about how Scott Morrison has treated your state compared to how he has treated NSW during the Covid-19 pandemic, which of the following is closer to your view? [ASKED TO ALL RESPONDENTS EXCEPT FOR THOSE IN NSW]

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Scott Morrison has treated my state less favourably than NSW	37%	41%	33%	38%	39%	34%	51%	26%	43%	35%
Scott Morrison has treated my state more favourably than NSW	8%	9%	7%	11%	11%	4%	7%	9%	16%	9%
Scott Morrison has treated my state the same as NSW	29%	29%	29%	21%	27%	37%	19%	47%	19%	31%
Unsure	26%	21%	31%	30%	23%	25%	23%	19%	21%	24%
Base (n)	743	366	377	247	250	246	297	236	61	83

	State			
	VIC	QLD	SA	WA
Scott Morrison has treated my state less favourably than NSW	40%	35%	22%	50%
Scott Morrison has treated my state more favourably than NSW	8%	7%	11%	9%
Scott Morrison has treated my state the same as NSW	26%	32%	39%	18%
Unsure	25%	26%	28%	22%
Base (n)	275	220	87	106



Q Thinking about how Scott Morrison has treated NSW compared to how he has treated other states during the Covid-19 pandemic, which of the following is closer to your view? [ASKED TO RESPONDENTS IN NSW ONLY]

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Scott Morrison has treated NSW less favourably than other states	14%	16%	11%	19%	14%	9%	18%	9%	20%	9%
Scott Morrison has treated NSW more favourably than other states	23%	28%	19%	27%	30%	15%	29%	23%	30%	13%
Scott Morrison has treated NSW the same as other states	46%	41%	50%	35%	39%	59%	33%	57%	40%	53%
Unsure	18%	15%	20%	19%	17%	17%	20%	11%	10%	24%
Base (n)	553	268	285	147	203	203	182	226	41	44

- When thinking about how Scott Morrison has treated their state compared to how he has treated NSW during the Covid-19 pandemic, over a third (37%) of respondents in states besides NSW say Scott Morrison has treated their state less favourably. 29% think Scott Morrison has treated their state the same as NSW and 26% are unsure. Only 8% think the PM has treated their state more favourably than NSW.
- Victorians and Western Australians are more likely than those in other states to think the PM has treated their state less favourably than NSW (40% and 50% respectively).
- When thinking about how Scott Morrison has treated NSW compared to how he has treated other states during the Covid-19 pandemic, just under half (46%) of those in NSW think the PM has treated their state equally, while 23% think he has treated NSW more favourably. 14% think the PM has treated NSW less favourably than other states, and 18% are unsure.
- In other states besides NSW, compared to other voters, Labor voters are most likely to think Scott Morrison has treated their state less favourably (51%), whereas Coalition voters are most likely to think their state has been treated equally (47%).
- In NSW, compared to other voters, Coalition voters are the most likely to think the PM has treated NSW equally (57%), while Labor voters are the least likely to think this (33%).



Federal government response to Covid-19

Q Overall, how would you rate the **federal government's** response to the Covid-19 outbreak?

	05/07	07/06	24/05	12/04	15/03	01/03	15/02	01/02	30/11	16/11	02/11	05/10	21/09
Very poor	12%	10%	6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	4%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Quite poor	17%	14%	12%	10%	7%	8%	7%	11%	8%	9%	10%	12%	13%
Neither good nor poor	26%	22%	25%	21%	18%	24%	19%	19%	19%	18%	24%	22%	21%
Quite good	33%	38%	40%	40%	39%	39%	42%	42%	41%	41%	39%	39%	40%
Very good	11%	15%	18%	22%	31%	23%	27%	25%	26%	26%	22%	21%	21%
TOTAL: Poor	30%	24%	18%	17%	12%	14%	12%	14%	13%	15%	15%	18%	18%
TOTAL: Good	44%	53%	58%	62%	70%	62%	69%	67%	67%	67%	61%	60%	61%
Base (n)	1,099	1,104	1,100	1,368	1,124	1,074	1,109	1,092	1,034	1,010	1,063	1,066	1,081

TOTAL: Good	05/07	07/06	24/05	12/04	15/03	01/03
NSW	44%	62%	56%	66%	69%	64%
VIC	40%	42%	57%	55%	65%	51%
QLD	48%	54%	56%	63%	69%	66%
SA	48%	58%	66%	62%	78%	68%
WA	42%	49%	56%	65%	75%	66%

- Since peaking at 70% in March, positive rating of the federal government's handling of Covid-19 has dropped off, falling sharply to 44% this month (from 53% last month). This is the lowest rating recorded to date for this question which was first asked in March 2020.
- Positive rating of the federal government's handling of Covid-19 has decreased in all states since last month, however it has fallen the most steeply in NSW where it is now 44% (down 18 percentage points from 62% in June).



- In SA, WA and QLD, this rating has also decreased to 48%, 42% and 48% respectively (from 58%, 49% and 54% in June).
- After a sharp fall last month, positive rating of the federal government's handling of Covid-19 remains the lowest of all states in VIC at 40%.



State government response to Covid-19

Q How would you rate your **state government's** response to the Covid-19 outbreak?

TOTAL: Good	05/07	07/06	24/05	12/04	15/03	01/03	15/02	01/02	30/11	16/11	02/11	05/10	21/09
NSW	57%	69%	68%	73%	75%	72%	72%	71%	76%	75%	68%	65%	67%
VIC	50%	48%	63%	58%	62%	49%	59%	61%	60%	59%	55%	45%	47%
QLD	61%	65%	68%	72%	75%	73%	76%	78%	72%	71%	69%	69%	68%
SA	67%	67%	71%	75%	85%	78%	79%	80%	70%	76%	77%	81%	81%
WA	86%	75%	77%	84%	91%	85%	88%	80%	83%	82%	81%	83%	84%

- With the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown in NSW, positive rating of the state government's response to Covid-19 has fallen steeply (down 12 percentage points from 69% in June).
- While restrictions continue to ease in Victoria, rating of the state government has improved only marginally compared to last month (now 50% from 48% in June).
- With Queensland affected by Covid-19 cases and a lockdown, rating of the state government remains moderately high but has decreased to 61% (from 65% last month).
- Despite WA also having been affected by Covid-19 cases and a lockdown, positive rating of the state government's response to Covid-19 has improved significantly – up 11 percentage points to 86% (from 75% last month). This is consistent with the level in April.
- Rating of the SA government's handling of Covid-19 remains high and stable at 67%.



Uptake of a Covid-19 vaccine

Q The Covid-19 vaccine rollout is underway in Australia.

Once a vaccine becomes available to you, how long would you wait before taking it?

	05/07	07/06	10/05	26/04	15/03	01/03	18/01	14/12	10/08
I'd get vaccinated as soon as possible / I've already been vaccinated / I've already had the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine / I've already had both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine	51%	52%	44%	42%	49%	50%	42%	43%	56%
I'd get vaccinated, but wouldn't do it straight away	33%	36%	42%	42%	40%	40%	47%	46%	35%
I'd never get vaccinated	16%	13%	14%	16%	12%	10%	11%	10%	8%
Base (n)	1,099	1,104	1,092	1,090	1,124	1,074	1,084	1,071	1,008

- About half of Australians say they would get vaccinated as soon as possible, already have been vaccinated, or already have had the first dose or both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine (51%), consistent with last month.
- Slightly fewer people now say they would get vaccinated but not straight away (33% from 36% last month).
- 16% now say they would never get vaccinated.



NSW	05/07	07/06	10/05
I'd get vaccinated as soon as possible / I've already been vaccinated / I've already had the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine / I've already had both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine	56%	56%	48%
I'd get vaccinated, but wouldn't do it straight away	30%	34%	40%
I'd never get vaccinated	14%	10%	12%
Base (n)	553	349	349

18-34	05/07	07/06	10/05
I'd get vaccinated as soon as possible / I've already been vaccinated / I've already had the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine / I've already had both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine	35%	45%	32%
I'd get vaccinated, but wouldn't do it straight away	39%	41%	48%
I'd never get vaccinated	26%	15%	20%
Base (n)	341	347	340

- Despite the Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown in NSW, a consistent level of those in NSW say they would get vaccinated as soon as possible, already have been vaccinated, or already have had the first dose or both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine compared to last month (56%).
- Fewer of those in NSW now say they would get vaccinated but not straight away (30% from 34% last month), and slightly more now say they would never get vaccinated (14% from 10% last month).
- With the recent changes in the federal government's Covid-19 vaccine rollout strategy affecting under 40s, fewer of those aged 18-34 now say they would get vaccinated as soon as possible, already have been vaccinated, or already have had the first dose or both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine (35% from 45% last month). This is consistent with the level in May.
- About a quarter (26%) of those aged 18-34 now say they would never get vaccinated (15% last month). This is the highest proportion recorded since this question was first asked in August last year.
- Slightly fewer of those 18-34 say they would get vaccinated but not straight away (39% from 41% last month).



Sufficiency of federal government’s efforts to protect Australians from Covid-19

Q On Monday 28 June, the federal government announced several measures responding to Covid-19. They announced that all aged care workers would have to have at least their first Covid vaccine by September, and that under 40-year-olds will now be able to choose to get the AstraZeneca vaccine if they are willing to sign a waiver protecting medical professionals should they get side effects.

Bearing that in mind, do you think the federal government is doing enough or not doing enough to protect Australians from Covid-19?

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
The federal government is doing enough to protect Australians from Covid-19	37%	39%	34%	37%	35%	38%	25%	57%	31%	27%
The federal government is not doing enough to protect Australians from Covid-19	46%	47%	45%	42%	50%	47%	62%	29%	56%	47%
Unsure	17%	14%	20%	21%	16%	15%	13%	14%	13%	26%
Base (n)	1,099	539	560	341	373	385	404	388	87	114

- In light of the federal government’s revised Covid-19 vaccine rollout plan, just under half (46%) of Australians think the federal government is not doing enough to protect Australians from Covid-19.
- 37% think the federal government is doing enough to protect Australians from Covid-19, and 17% are unsure.
- Labor voters are the most likely to think the federal government is not doing enough in this regard (62%), followed by 56% Greens voters and 47% minor/independent party voters. 29% of Coalition voters share this view.
- Coalition voters are the most likely to think the federal government’s efforts to protect Australians from Covid-19 are sufficient (57% compared to 26% of all other voters).



Preference towards Covid-19 vaccines

Q As you may be aware, there are currently two vaccines available in Australia – the Pfizer vaccine and the AstraZeneca (Oxford) vaccine.

Which of the following is closer to your view?

	05/07	07/06	26/04
I would be willing to get either the AstraZeneca vaccine or the Pfizer vaccine	33%	42%	37%
I would be willing to get the AstraZeneca vaccine but not the Pfizer vaccine	5%	6%	3%
I would be willing to get the Pfizer vaccine but not the AstraZeneca vaccine	36%	27%	27%
I would not be willing to get either the AstraZeneca vaccine or the Pfizer vaccine	14%	12%	14%
Unsure	12%	13%	19%
Base (n)	1,099	1,104	1,090

- The proportion of Australians willing to get either the AstraZeneca vaccine or the Pfizer vaccine has fallen sharply compared to last month (33% from 42%); this is the lowest number recorded since this question was first asked in April and is driven by an increase in those who would be willing to get the Pfizer vaccine only (36% from 27% in June).
- Consistent with last month, 5% say they would get the AstraZeneca vaccine only, 12% are unsure and 14% say they would not be willing to get either vaccine.

	Total	Gender		Age Group						Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and over	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
I would be willing to get either the AstraZeneca vaccine or the Pfizer vaccine	33%	38%	28%	17%	18%	24%	29%	56%	68%	33%	39%	30%	28%
I would be willing to get the AstraZeneca vaccine but not the Pfizer vaccine	5%	7%	4%	10%	5%	6%	1%	3%	7%	5%	5%	5%	6%
I would be willing to get the Pfizer vaccine but not the AstraZeneca vaccine	36%	34%	38%	37%	46%	47%	43%	21%	13%	40%	36%	40%	26%
I would not be willing to get either the AstraZeneca vaccine or the Pfizer vaccine	14%	11%	16%	15%	17%	12%	16%	11%	8%	11%	10%	19%	32%
Unsure	12%	11%	14%	21%	13%	12%	10%	9%	5%	11%	11%	6%	8%
Base (n)	1,099	539	560	224	207	172	184	174	138	404	388	87	114

- Willingness to get either vaccine among those 18-39 has fallen steeply; now 18% from 29% last month.
- Willingness to get either vaccine still increases with age but has now dropped across all age brackets – while 17% of those aged 18-29 would be willing to receive either vaccine, this increases to 68% of those 70 and over; last month this was 28% and 72% respectively.
- While men are still more likely than women to be willing to get either vaccine (38% to 28% respectively), this willingness has also dropped among both genders compared to last month (48% and 36% respectively).
- Coalition voters are still more likely than other voters to get either vaccine (39% to 33% Labor, 30% Greens and 28% minor/ independent party voters).



Reason those eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine have not been vaccinated yet

Q Thinking about why you haven't been vaccinated against Covid-19 yet, which of the following is closer to your situation?

[ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO SAY THEY WOULD GET VACCINATED AND ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A COVID-19 VACCINE]

	Total	Gender		Age Group		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
I would like to get vaccinated but I haven't been able to book an appointment	23%	32%	16%	38%	27%	15%
I would like to get vaccinated but I haven't gotten around to booking an appointment	15%	19%	12%	30%	17%	10%
I would like to get vaccinated but I want to see how others react to the Covid-19 vaccine first before booking an appointment	34%	26%	42%	22%	35%	38%
Other	27%	23%	30%	10%	21%	37%
Base (n)	355	170	185	44	166	145

- About a third (34%) of those who say they would get vaccinated and self-report they are eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine say they haven't been vaccinated yet because they want to see how others react to the Covid-19 vaccine first before booking an appointment. Women are much more likely than men to say this (42% to 26% respectively).
- 23% of this group say they would like to get vaccinated but haven't been able to book an appointment. Men are twice as likely as women to report this (32% to 16% respectively).
- 15% say they just haven't gotten around to booking an appointment. 27% have other reasons.



Confidence in Covid-19 vaccine rollout

Q As vaccinations against Covid-19 are rolled out across Australia, how confident are you in each of the following?

That the rollout of vaccinations against Covid-19 in Australia...

TOTAL: Confident	05/07	07/06	26/04	01/03	01/02
... are being done efficiently	40%	43%	43%	68%	68%
... are being done safely	64%	67%	63%	73%	72%
... will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within the country	56%	54%	52%	64%	58%

TOTAL: Confident	State				
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA
... are being done efficiently	41%	38%	39%	45%	34%
... are being done safely	67%	61%	59%	62%	63%
... will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within the country	58%	52%	54%	54%	54%
Base (n)	553	275	220	87	106

- Less than half of Australians are confident the rollout is being done efficiently (40% from 43% last month). Western Australians are now the least confident in this (34%), followed by Victorians (38%) and Queenslanders (39%).
- 56% of Australians are confident the Covid-19 vaccine rollout will be effective at stopping the virus within the country (54% last month), and 64% are confident that it is being done safely (67% last month).



TOTAL: Confident	NSW			
	05/07	07/06	26/04	01/03
... are being done efficiently	41%	47%	45%	66%
... are being done safely	67%	69%	65%	72%
... will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within the country	58%	55%	56%	65%
Base (n)	553	349	348	330

TOTAL: Confident	18-34			
	05/07	07/06	26/04	01/03
... are being done efficiently	40%	42%	50%	67%
... are being done safely	50%	58%	57%	71%
... will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within the country	45%	53%	53%	63%
Base (n)	341	347	359	326

- The confidence of those in NSW in the Covid-19 vaccine rollout being done efficiently has fallen since March, from 66% to a low of 41% this month.
- Confidence among those in NSW that the rollout is being done safely and will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within the country has also decreased since March (67% from 72%, and 58% from 65% in March respectively).
- The confidence of those aged 18-34 in the Covid-19 vaccine rollout continues to waver. 45% are now confident the rollout will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within Australia (63% in March). 50% of those aged 18-34 are confident it is being done safely, a notable decrease from last month (58%), as well as the level in March (71%). 40% are now confident the rollout is being done efficiently (from 67% in March).



Views towards federal vs state government responsibility to manage Covid-19 hotel quarantine system

Q Which of the following statements about Australia’s international borders and the Covid-19 hotel quarantine system for returning travellers is closest to your view?

	05/07	15/02
It should be the federal government’s responsibility to protect Australia’s international borders and manage the hotel quarantine system	71%	62%
It should be each state governments’ responsibility to quarantine travellers returning within their borders and the federal government should be left out of this	29%	38%
Base (n)	1,099	1,109

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
It should be the federal government’s responsibility to protect Australia’s international borders and manage the hotel quarantine system	71%	73%	69%	63%	74%	75%	75%	65%	69%	76%
It should be each state governments’ responsibility to quarantine travellers returning within their borders and the federal government should be left out of this	29%	27%	31%	37%	26%	25%	25%	35%	31%	24%
Base (n)	1,099	539	560	341	373	385	404	388	87	114



- More people think it should be the federal government's responsibility to protect Australia's international borders and manage the hotel quarantine system, than those who think it should be each state governments' responsibility to quarantine travellers returning within their borders (71% to 29%).
- The expectation that managing quarantine should be a federal government responsibility has increased from 62% in February to 71% this month.
- The view that quarantine should be a federal rather than state government responsibility is held by the majority of both men and women, all age groups and voting intentions.



Speed of NSW lockdown

Q Overall, do you think NSW moved too quickly, too slowly or at about the right speed in terms of enforcing lockdown restrictions?

[ASKED TO RESPONDENTS IN NSW ONLY]

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Moved too quickly	10%	9%	11%	14%	9%	7%	9%	8%	9%	21%
About the right speed	51%	50%	51%	51%	50%	51%	41%	62%	49%	44%
Moved too slowly	39%	41%	38%	35%	41%	41%	50%	30%	43%	35%
Base (n)	553	268	285	147	203	203	182	226	41	44

- Half of NSW residents think the state government imposed Covid-19 lockdowns at the right speed (51%), 39% think the decision was too slow and 10% think it was made too quickly.
- Coalition voters are most likely to think the government acted at the right speed (62%), while Labor and Greens voters are most likely to say it was too slow (50% and 43%).



Time for Covid-19 milestones to occur for NSW

Q How long do you think it will take for the following to occur in NSW?

[ASKED TO RESPONDENTS IN NSW ONLY]

	Two weeks up to one month	One month up to six months	Seven months up to one year	One to two years	More than two years	Never
The Covid-19 outbreak in NSW is controlled	50%	18%	7%	10%	7%	7%
The lockdown in Greater Sydney is lifted	76%	13%	5%	3%	2%	2%
The lockdown in other affected areas in NSW is lifted (e.g. Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour)	77%	11%	4%	3%	2%	2%
Interstate travel will be allowed without restriction	38%	26%	12%	11%	8%	5%
Quarantine will no longer be required after interstate travel	32%	20%	13%	15%	12%	7%
The Covid-19 vaccine rollout will be completed in NSW	14%	14%	28%	24%	12%	8%

- Most participants in NSW expect the lockdown restriction to be eased in the next month (76% in Sydney and 77% in other areas of NSW).
- Most think interstate travel will be allowed either within the next month (38%) or within 6 months (26%). A similar proportion also think there will be no quarantine requirements after this time (32% within the month, 20% within 6 months).
- 28% think the vaccine rollout will not be completed in under a year, 24% think it will take 1-2 years and 12% think it will take over 2 years.

Effect of Covid-19 lockdowns on adults and children

Q Thinking about Covid-19 lockdowns across Australia, to what extent are you concerned about the effect of these lockdowns on the following?

	TOTAL: Concerned	TOTAL: Not concerned	Very concerned	Moderately concerned	Not that concerned	Not concerned at all	Base (n)
My mental wellbeing	50%	50%	19%	31%	28%	21%	1,099
My personal relationships	39%	61%	15%	25%	32%	28%	1,099
My work-life balance [ASKED ONLY TO THOSE STILL IN PAID WORK SINCE COVID-19]	49%	51%	18%	31%	34%	17%	507
My child(ren)'s mental wellbeing [ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE DEPENDENT CHILDREN]	59%	41%	27%	33%	23%	17%	433
My child(ren) developing behavioural issues [ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE DEPENDENT CHILDREN]	49%	51%	21%	29%	27%	23%	433
My child(ren) falling behind in their learning at school [ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE DEPENDENT CHILDREN]	55%	45%	23%	32%	22%	23%	433

- Half of people say the Covid-19 lockdowns are giving them concern for their mental health (50% either very, or moderately concerned). There is less concern for the effect on personal relationships (39% concerned).
- Of those in paid employment, 49% say they are concerned that the Covid-19 lockdowns are impacting their work-life balance.
- Among those with dependent children in the household, 59% say they are concerned for the mental wellbeing of their children, 55% are concerned their children are falling behind at school, and 49% are concerned about their children developing behavioural issues.



Economic expectations post Covid-19

Q Which of the following is closer to your expectations of what will happen to the economy following the Covid-19 situation?

	Jul'21	Dec'20	Apr'20
The economy will rebound within 2-3 months and grow just as strong or stronger than before Covid-19	19%	18%	13%
The economy will be impacted for 6-12 months or longer and will stagnate or show slow growth thereafter	41%	43%	49%
Covid-19 will have long lasting impact on the economy and the country will fall into a lengthy recession	26%	22%	28%
Unsure	13%	17%	10%
Base (n)	1,099	1,071	1,054

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
The economy will rebound within 2-3 months and grow just as strong or stronger than before Covid-19	19%	23%	15%	17%	18%	22%	14%	29%	16%	15%
The economy will be impacted for 6-12 months or longer and will stagnate or show slow growth thereafter	41%	45%	38%	44%	39%	42%	45%	44%	45%	25%
Covid-19 will have long lasting impact on the economy and the country will fall into a lengthy recession	26%	23%	29%	26%	29%	24%	29%	17%	31%	49%
Unsure	13%	9%	17%	13%	14%	12%	12%	10%	8%	11%
Base (n)	1,099	539	560	341	373	385	404	388	87	114



- Most people expect the economy to recover in 6-12 months following the impact of Covid-19 (41%), with a further 19% thinking it will recover in the next 2-3 months.
- Expectations of a quick recovery in the next 2-3 months is highest among men (23%), older people aged over 55 (22%) and Coalition voters (29%).
- There has been an increase in the proportion of people expecting a lengthy recession following the pandemic. 26% now expect this scenario, up from 22% last December.



Past six months

Q **[JUL'21]** Thinking about the past six months, has it been a good or bad year so far for each of the following?

Q **[PREVIOUS MONTHS]** Thinking about the last 12 months, has it been a good or bad year for each of the following?

	TOTAL: Good	TOTAL: Bad	NET	2020 NET	2019 NET	2018 NET	2017 NET	2016 NET	2015 NET
The Australian economy	20%	48%	-28	-47	-13	+6	+11	-19	-11
Australian politics in general	20%	39%	-20	-7	-20	-50	-36	-53	-41
The Australian Government	24%	38%	-13	-7	-7	-41	-	-	-
Large companies and corporations	32%	22%	+10	-5	+23	+9	+22	+5	+5
Small business	12%	64%	-52	-43	-12	+6	-2	-22	-12
Trade unions	15%	22%	-7	-9	-11	-1	-7	-18	-27
The average Australian	18%	43%	-26	-32	-4	-1	-6	-18	-14
Your personal financial situation	25%	28%	-4	-4	-2	0	+1	-8	-6
Your workplace	23%	16%	+7	+4	+14	+28	+34	+12	+14
You and your family overall	32%	22%	+10	+4	+19	+28	+27	+12	+21
The planet	27%	37%	-11	-4	-29	-19	-22	-32	-
Women	24%	24%	0	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Since the start of the year, people think the economic situation has improved (moving from NET -47 in Dec'20 to -28). Other groups whose situation has improved include large businesses and corporations (NET score up from -5 to +10).
- People think the situation has deteriorated in 2021 for politics (down from -7 to -20), the government (-7 to -13), small businesses (-43 to -52) and the planet (-4 to -11).



Support and priority of Indigenous Issues

Q What is your view about the following issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and whether they should be a priority for the government to address?

	TOTAL: Support	Jul'21	Jun'19	Feb'18
Meet the 'Close the Gap' indigenous health, education and employment targets	69%	69%	74%	75%
Include aboriginal recognition in the constitution	69%	69%	70%	70%
Establish an indigenous 'voice' to advise the Parliament	66%	66%	66%	68%
Agree a treaty with indigenous Australia	61%	61%	59%	59%
Australia to become a republic	43%	43%	43%	46%
Change the date of Australia Day	37%	37%	30%	27%

	TOTAL: Support	TOTAL: Support	Support, and should be a priority	Support, but not a high priority	Don't support	Not sure
Meet the 'Close the Gap' indigenous health, education and employment targets	69%	69%	34%	35%	15%	15%
Include aboriginal recognition in the constitution	69%	69%	31%	38%	17%	14%
Establish an indigenous 'voice' to advise the Parliament	66%	66%	29%	37%	19%	15%
Agree a treaty with indigenous Australia	61%	61%	27%	33%	22%	17%
Australia to become a republic	43%	43%	17%	26%	34%	23%
Change the date of Australia Day	37%	37%	17%	20%	50%	12%



- There is majority support to meet the 'Close the Gap' targets (69%), inclusion of aboriginal recognition in the constitution (69%), and establishment of an Indigenous 'voice' to advise Parliament (66%). Support for these changes is consistent with 2019.
- Support for Australia to become a republic is greater than opposition (43% to 34%) with 23% unsure on the issue.
- Support for changing the date of Australia day is now at 37%, an increase from 30% in 2019.



Perceptions of change in the standard of living for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- Q In your opinion, over the past 10 years, have things got better or worse for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia, or have things stayed much the same?

	Jul'21	Jan'21	Jun'19
A lot better	18%	18%	18%
A little better	30%	30%	28%
Stayed much the same	33%	32%	36%
A little worse	6%	7%	5%
A lot worse	3%	3%	3%
Don't know	11%	11%	10%
TOTAL: Better	48%	48%	46%
TOTAL: Worse	9%	10%	8%
Base (n)	1,099	1,084	1,097

- Nearly half (48%) believe things have got better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over the last 10 years, unchanged since January this year (48%).
- About a third (33%) state that in their opinion, conditions have stayed much the same for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over the past 10 years, while 9% believe things have got worse. Both figures are consistent with perceptions from the start of the year.

	Total	Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
A lot better	18%	13%	27%	13%	22%
A little better	30%	28%	36%	28%	24%
Stayed much the same	33%	40%	24%	39%	34%
A little worse	6%	7%	4%	9%	7%
A lot worse	3%	3%	2%	3%	7%
Don't know	11%	9%	8%	7%	7%
TOTAL: Better	48%	41%	62%	41%	46%
TOTAL: Worse	9%	10%	6%	12%	13%
Base (n)	1,099	404	388	87	114

- Coalition voters are the most likely to think things have got better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the last decade (62% compared to 41% Labor voters, 41% Greens voters and 46% minor/independent party voters).



Indigenous Recognition Referendum

Q If a referendum was held to include recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution, would you vote for or against?

	Jul'21	Jun'19	Sep'16	Jul'15	Aug'14
Vote for	57%	57%	58%	61%	58%
Vote against	16%	18%	15%	16%	10%
Don't know	27%	25%	28%	23%	32%
Base (n)	1,099	1,097	1,005	1,006	1,008

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Vote for	57%	59%	55%	60%	58%	52%	64%	52%	79%	47%
Vote against	16%	19%	13%	13%	16%	19%	12%	21%	9%	22%
Don't know	27%	22%	32%	27%	27%	28%	24%	27%	12%	31%
Base (n)	1,099	539	560	341	373	385	404	388	87	114

- Over half (57%) of voters said they would vote for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution. This is three times as many that said they would vote against (16%). Support and opposition towards this issue has remained relatively constant since 2014.
- A quarter said they did not know how they would vote in such a referendum (27%).
- There is majority support for a referendum among both men and women, all age groups and those intending to vote for a major political party.



Awareness of NAIDOC Week

Q NAIDOC Week is a national observance starting from the first Sunday in July. NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Before today, were you aware of NAIDOC Week?

	Jul'21	Jun'19
Yes	70%	58%
No	22%	34%
Don't know	8%	8%
Base (n)	1,099	1,097

	Total	Labor	Coalition	Greens	NET: Other
Yes	70%	69%	69%	78%	73%
No	22%	24%	23%	18%	18%
Don't know	8%	7%	8%	4%	8%
Base (n)	1,099	404	388	87	114

- 70% of people said they were aware of NAIDOC week in 2021 (up from 58% in 2019).

Appendix: Household income definitions*

TOTAL: Lower Income	Up to \$51,999 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)
TOTAL: Mid Income	\$52,000 to \$103,999 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)
TOTAL: High Income	More than \$104,000 per year Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives (GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)

Appendix: Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a fortnightly online omnibus run by Essential Research with sample provided by Qualtrics from online panels.

The online omnibus is active from the Wednesday night of each week and closed on the following Sunday. The target population is all Australian residents aged 18+. Participants were invited to participate and completed the survey online without an interviewer present and incentives were offered for participation.

The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ interviews. Quotas are applied to be representative of the target population by age, gender and location.

RIM weighting is applied to the data using information sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). The factors used in the weighting are age, gender, location and party ID.

Information for the weighting efficiency, effective sample size and margin of error for each poll (from June 2021) can be found here: <https://essentialvision.com.au/about-this-poll>

Each fortnight, the team at Essential Media Communications discusses issues that are topical and a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated regularly (such as political preference and leadership approval), while others are unique to each week and reflect current media and



social issues. Full text for standard voting and regular political preferences can be found in the link above. No questions were asked prior to these questions which have material influence on results.

Participants not eligible to vote in federal elections (either for age, residency or other reasons) are excluded from voting intention. Eligible participants are able to select 'Unsure' for voting intention. They were then asked a 'leaner' question which also included an 'Unsure' option. Participants answering 'Unsure' are NOT excluded from published results, or any subsequent questions. 2 party preferred (2PP) calculations use stated preference. Preference flows from previous federal and state elections are only used for participants answering 'Unsure' for stated preference.

All Essential Research staff hold Research Society membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour. This research is compliant with the Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards.

