

# The Essential Report

22 June 2020



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**Date:** 22/06/2020

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**Prepared By:** Essential Research

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**Data Supplied by:**



**AMSRS** 

Our researchers are members of the Australian Market and Social 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 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020 and is based on 1,079 respondents.

The 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.

## Coronavirus concerns

Q To what extent are you concerned about the threat of Covid-19 (coronavirus) in Australia?

	22/06	15/06	08/06	01/06	25/05	18/05	11/05	04/05	27/04	20/04
Very concerned	<b>25%</b>	28%	27%	32%	30%	33%	34%	32%	39%	44%
Quite concerned	<b>50%</b>	45%	48%	49%	49%	47%	49%	46%	44%	43%
Not that concerned	<b>21%</b>	23%	21%	15%	16%	16%	14%	18%	13%	11%
Not at all concerned	<b>4%</b>	4%	5%	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%	2%
Base (n)	<b>1,079</b>	1,087	1,073	1,059	1,087	1,073	1,067	1,093	1,054	1,051

## Likelihood of developing Coronavirus

Q How likely do you think it is, that you will develop Covid-19?

	22/08	15/06	08/06	01/06	25/05	18/05	11/05	04/05	27/04	20/04
Very likely	<b>8%</b>	6%	6%	7%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	7%
Somewhat likely	<b>23%</b>	19%	22%	23%	22%	25%	24%	26%	21%	25%
Somewhat unlikely	<b>49%</b>	49%	47%	48%	51%	48%	48%	46%	50%	52%
Very unlikely	<b>21%</b>	26%	25%	22%	23%	21%	21%	23%	23%	17%
Base (n)	<b>1,079</b>	1,087	1,073	1,059	1,087	1,073	1,067	1,093	1,054	1,051

## Likelihood of second wave

Q How likely do you think it is, that there will be a second wave of Covid-19 infections will occur as a result of easing restrictions?

	Total	Gender		Age Group		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Very likely	<b>20%</b>	18%	21%	18%	24%	17%
Quite likely	<b>43%</b>	41%	45%	40%	40%	50%
Neither likely nor unlikely	<b>24%</b>	26%	23%	28%	24%	21%
Quite unlikely	<b>10%</b>	11%	8%	11%	8%	10%
Very unlikely	<b>3%</b>	4%	2%	4%	4%	2%
TOTAL: Likely	<b>63%</b>	59%	67%	58%	64%	67%
TOTAL: Unlikely	<b>13%</b>	15%	10%	14%	12%	12%
Base (n)	<b>1,079</b>	525	554	332	362	385

	NSW	VIC	State		
			QLD	SA	WA
Very likely	21%	24%	20%	14%	14%
Quite likely	41%	45%	43%	45%	43%
Neither likely nor unlikely	27%	21%	24%	23%	24%
Quite unlikely	9%	7%	10%	11%	15%
Very unlikely	3%	2%	3%	6%	4%
TOTAL: Likely	62%	70%	63%	59%	57%
TOTAL: Unlikely	12%	9%	13%	18%	19%
Very likely	352	261	216	88	110

- 63% of participants think a second wave of Covid-19 infections is probable with women (67%) and 55+ year olds (67%) more likely to say this will happen.



- Victorians (70%) are more likely than other state residents to think a second wave is probable (61%), which coincides with the announcement of 19 new cases over the weekend.
- There are no significant differences across voting intentions.



## Time to return to normal

Q Thinking about the future, how long do you think it will take for the following to occur?

	Within the next six months	Seven months up to one year	One to two years	More than two years	Never
Quarantine will no longer required after international travel	12%	27%	35%	22%	4%
A Covid-19 vaccine will be developed	11%	22%	43%	20%	4%
The housing market will return pre-pandemic levels	11%	22%	38%	25%	4%
International travel will be allowed without restriction	10%	23%	39%	24%	4%
Unemployment will return to pre-pandemic levels	8%	17%	37%	33%	6%
The population will build resistance to Covid-19 through exposure (herd immunity)	8%	15%	31%	27%	20%
Australia will pay off its national debt	5%	9%	12%	52%	22%

WITHIN NEXT SIX MONTHS	Gender		Age Group		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Quarantine will no longer required after international travel	13%	10%	14%	14%	7%
A Covid-19 vaccine will be developed	15%	8%	16%	12%	7%
The housing market will return pre-pandemic levels	13%	8%	15%	11%	6%
International travel will be allowed without restriction	12%	9%	16%	13%	4%
Unemployment will return to pre-pandemic levels	8%	7%	13%	8%	3%
The population will build resistance to Covid-19 through exposure (herd immunity)	9%	7%	11%	9%	3%
Australia will pay off its national debt	7%	3%	9%	6%	1%
Base (n)	525	554	332	362	385



- Most participants believe it will take one to two years for these Covid-19 events to occur, with removing quarantine after international travel (12% next six months), developing a Covid-19 vaccine (11%) and the housing market returning to pre-pandemic levels (also 11%) thought to return to normal the quickest.
- 31% believe the population will build resistance to Covid-19 through exposure in one to two years; while 52% believe we will be waiting more than two years for a vaccine. A fifth of participants believe that we will never pay off our national debt (22%) or build resistance to Covid-19 through herd immunity (20%).
- Broadly, men and 18-34 year olds tend to believe that these impacts of Covid-19 will return to normal sooner, than women and those over 55.





## Government response to Covid-19

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

	22/08	15/06	08/06	01/06	25/05	18/05	11/05	04/05	27/04	20/04
Very poor	4%	3%	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Quite poor	8%	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%	9%	9%	9%	10%
Neither good, nor poor	17%	16%	18%	20%	16%	17%	16%	20%	17%	21%
Quite good	43%	42%	40%	39%	43%	41%	39%	38%	44%	42%
Very good	27%	30%	30%	28%	30%	32%	32%	28%	26%	23%
TOTAL: Poor	12%	11%	12%	12%	11%	11%	13%	14%	13%	15%
TOTAL: Good	71%	72%	70%	68%	73%	73%	71%	66%	70%	65%
Base (n)	1,079	1,087	1,073	1,059	1,087	1,073	1,067	1,093	1,054	1,051

	Gender			Age Group			Location	
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Capital	Non-Capital
Very poor	4%	6%	2%	5%	5%	2%	4%	4%
Quite poor	8%	9%	8%	12%	7%	6%	9%	7%
Neither good, nor poor	17%	18%	16%	23%	21%	8%	16%	19%
Quite good	43%	39%	47%	44%	43%	43%	43%	43%
Very good	27%	28%	27%	17%	24%	40%	28%	27%
TOTAL: Poor	12%	14%	10%	17%	12%	9%	13%	11%
TOTAL: Good	71%	67%	74%	61%	67%	83%	71%	70%
Base (n)	1,079	525	554	332	362	385	728	351



## State Government response to Covid-19

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

	22/08	15/06	08/06	01/06	25/05	18/05	11/05	04/05	27/04	20/04
Very poor	5%	4%	4%	6%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Quite poor	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%
Neither good, nor poor	17%	17%	17%	20%	17%	17%	16%	18%	17%	20%
Quite good	41%	38%	39%	38%	38%	39%	39%	38%	41%	39%
Very good	28%	33%	32%	30%	35%	33%	34%	31%	30%	26%
TOTAL: Poor	13%	12%	11%	12%	11%	11%	12%	12%	13%	14%
TOTAL: Good	69%	71%	71%	68%	73%	72%	73%	70%	70%	66%
Base (n)	1,079	1,087	1,073	1,059	1,087	1,073	1,067	1,093	1,054	1,051

	Total	State				
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA
Very poor	5%	4%	8%	6%	4%	4%
Quite poor	8%	8%	5%	14%	5%	4%
Neither good, nor poor	17%	18%	22%	15%	13%	17%
Quite good	41%	45%	38%	42%	39%	27%
Very good	28%	25%	26%	22%	40%	48%
TOTAL: Poor	13%	12%	13%	20%	8%	8%
TOTAL: Good	69%	70%	65%	64%	79%	75%
Base (n)	1,079	352	261	216	88	110

- Victorian rating of their state government's response is down 10% this week (from 75% to 65%) with 19 new cases of Covid-19 recorded this weekend.



## Agreement with removal of monuments and memorials

Q Protesters are arguing for the removal of monuments and memorials of individuals or organisations connected to the slave trade, genocide of Indigenous Australians and racism. In some cases, the protesters have destroyed the monuments and memorials themselves.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with these statements about removing public monuments and memorials?

	NET: Agree	NET: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
The protesters should focus on making changes for people living now, rather than things that happened in the past	80%	14%	54%	26%	8%	6%	7%
Instead of removing monuments and memorials, we should include more information about the historical context of public figures	78%	15%	47%	30%	10%	5%	7%
Every public figure has their positive and negative aspects, and this isn't a good reason to remove their monuments or memorials	76%	16%	45%	31%	9%	7%	8%
We lose part of our history when monuments and memorials are removed	76%	17%	49%	27%	8%	8%	8%
It's wrong to judge historical figures by our modern standards of morality	72%	19%	44%	28%	11%	8%	9%
Monuments and memorials provide a constant reminder of racial discrimination in society	48%	42%	19%	29%	20%	21%	11%
Monuments and memorials of people who support racism, segregation or slavery glorify their actions	45%	41%	19%	26%	22%	19%	14%



	NET: Agree	Total	Labor	Federal Voting Intention Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
The protesters should focus on making changes for people living now, rather than things that happened in the past	<b>80%</b>		77%	89%	61%	83%
Instead of removing monuments and memorials, we should include more information about the historical context of public figures	<b>78%</b>		75%	85%	62%	81%
Every public figure has their positive and negative aspects, and this isn't a good reason to remove their monuments or memorials	<b>76%</b>		71%	87%	52%	79%
We lose part of our history when monuments and memorials are removed	<b>76%</b>		71%	88%	54%	71%
It's wrong to judge historical figures by our modern standards of morality	<b>72%</b>		65%	83%	55%	74%
Monuments and memorials provide a constant reminder of racial discrimination in society	<b>48%</b>		55%	38%	69%	43%
Monuments and memorials of people who support racism, segregation or slavery glorify their actions	<b>45%</b>		50%	37%	65%	41%
Base (n)		<b>1,079</b>	315	445	107	108

- Four-fifths of participants agree protesters should focus on making changes for people living now, rather than things that happened in the past (80%) while another 78% agree that instead of removing monuments and memorials, we should include more information about the historical context of public figures.
- Less than half of participants agree that monuments and memorials provide a constant reminder of racial discrimination in society (48%) and monuments and memorials of people who support racism, segregation or slavery glorify their actions (45%).



- 18-34 year olds are more likely than those over 55, to agree that monuments and memorials of people who support racism, segregation or slavery glorify their actions (58% of 18-34 year olds and 35% of 55+) or agree that monuments and memorials provide a constant reminder of racial discrimination in society (58% and 37% respectively).
- Participants over 55 are more likely to agree that we lose part of our history when monuments and memorials are removed (87% of those aged 55+ and 64% of 18-34) and it's wrong to judge historical figures by our modern standards of morality (80% of 55+ and 64% of 18-34).
- Broadly Greens voters are most likely to agree with negative statements about the impact of these monuments, while Coalition voters are least likely to agree with those statements.



## 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 conducted by Qualtrics.

Every two weeks, the team at Essential considers 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.

The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ interviews. In theory, with a sample of this size, there is 95 per cent certainty that the results are within 3 percentage points of what they would be if the entire population had been polled. However, this assumes random sampling, which, because of non-response and less than 100% population coverage cannot be achieved in practice. Furthermore, there are other possible sources of error in all polls including question wording and question order, interviewer bias (for telephone and face-to-face polls), response errors and weighting.

The online omnibus is live from the Wednesday night and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants. Essential Research uses the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyse the data. The data is weighted against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.

\*658556tttttttttttt35y-All Essential Research staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour.

