

The Essential Report

13 July 2020



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Prepared By: Essential Research

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 9th to 12th July 2020 and is based on 1,054 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.

Performance of Scott Morrison

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

	Jul'20	Jun'20	May'20	Apr'20	Mar'20	Feb'20	Jan'20	Dec'19	Nov'19	Oct'19	Sep'19	Aug'19
TOTAL: Approve	63%	65%	64%	59%	41%	39%	40%	45%	45%	47%	49%	48%
TOTAL: Disapprove	27%	26%	27%	31%	49%	52%	52%	43%	41%	38%	36%	37%
Don't know	10%	8%	9%	10%	10%	9%	8%	13%	13%	15%	15%	16%
Base (n)	1,054	1,059	1,093	1,069	1,096	1,056	1,081	1,035	1,075	1,088	1,093	1,096

	Total	Federal Voting Intention			TOTAL: Other
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	
Strongly approve	23%	12%	47%	3%	16%
Approve	40%	37%	43%	33%	42%
Disapprove	17%	31%	4%	24%	17%
Strongly disapprove	11%	14%	2%	26%	14%
Don't know	10%	6%	4%	14%	10%
TOTAL: Approve	63%	49%	90%	36%	59%
TOTAL: Disapprove	27%	45%	6%	50%	31%
Base (n)	1,054	299	420	108	125

- The Prime Minister's approval rating is on par with the previous month, now at 63% compared to 65% in June.
- Approval of the Prime Minister among is at 90% among Coalition supporters, and lower among Labor voters (49%) and Greens voters (36%). 59% of those intending to vote for a minor party or independent candidate approve of the PM.



Performance of Anthony Albanese

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

	Jul'20	Jun'20	May'20	Apr'20	Mar'20	Feb'20	Jan'20	Dec'19	Nov'19	Oct'19	Sep'19	Aug'19
TOTAL: Approve	44%	43%	42%	44%	41%	41%	43%	39%	37%	40%	36%	38%
TOTAL: Disapprove	28%	30%	27%	29%	33%	31%	30%	28%	34%	29%	31%	29%
Don't know	28%	26%	31%	27%	26%	28%	27%	33%	29%	31%	33%	33%
Base (n)	1,054	1,059	1,093	1,069	1,096	1,056	1,081	1,035	1,075	1,088	1,093	1,096

	Total	Labor	Federal Voting Intention			TOTAL: Other
			Coalition	Greens		
Strongly approve	10%	18%	7%	5%	8%	
Approve	34%	47%	31%	41%	16%	
Disapprove	19%	15%	25%	16%	31%	
Strongly disapprove	9%	1%	17%	4%	12%	
Don't know	28%	19%	21%	34%	32%	
TOTAL: Approve	44%	65%	37%	46%	25%	
TOTAL: Disapprove	28%	16%	42%	20%	43%	
Base (n)	1,054	299	420	108	125	

- The Opposition Leader's approval rating is consistent this month, at 44% compared to 43% in June.
- Albanese's approval among Labor voters remains relatively low at 65%, compared to Morrison's approval among Coalition voters (90%).



Preferred Prime Minister

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

	Jul'20	Jun'20	May'20	Apr'20	Mar'20	Feb'20	Jan'20	Nov'19	Oct'19	Sep'19	Aug'19	Jul'19
Scott Morrison	50%	53%	50%	46%	40%	36%	36%	44%	43%	46%	44%	44%
Anthony Albanese	27%	23%	25%	27%	35%	36%	39%	28%	28%	25%	28%	26%
Don't know	23%	24%	25%	27%	25%	28%	25%	29%	29%	29%	28%	31%
Base (n)	1,054	1,059	1,093	1,069	1,096	1,056	1,081	1,075	1,088	1,093	1,096	1,091

	Total	Labor	Federal Voting Intention		
			Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Scott Morrison	50%	27%	84%	17%	52%
Anthony Albanese	27%	50%	11%	45%	17%
Don't know	23%	23%	6%	38%	30%
Base (n)	1,054	299	420	108	125

- Half of participants believe that Scott Morrison would make a better PM than Anthony Albanese (50% to 27%). Around a quarter (23%) of participants don't know who would make the better PM.
- Morrison is strongly favoured by Coalition voters, with 84% believing Morrison makes the better PM, compared to Albanese (11%).
- Half of Labor voters believe Albanese would make the better PM (50%) compared to Morrison (27%). 23% said they didn't know who would make the better leader.



Coronavirus concerns

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

	13/07	22/06	15/06	08/06	01/06	25/05	18/05	11/05	04/05	27/04
Very concerned	36%	25%	28%	27%	32%	30%	33%	34%	32%	39%
Quite concerned	48%	50%	45%	48%	49%	49%	47%	49%	46%	44%
Not that concerned	12%	21%	23%	21%	15%	16%	16%	14%	18%	13%
Not at all concerned	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%
Base (n)	1,054	1,079	1,087	1,073	1,059	1,087	1,073	1,067	1,093	1,054

	Total	State				
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA
Very concerned	36%	42%	46%	25%	33%	26%
Quite concerned	48%	46%	45%	49%	44%	55%
Not that concerned	12%	8%	8%	19%	21%	13%
Not at all concerned	3%	3%	1%	6%	1%	7%
Base (n)	1,054	320	281	226	82	98

- Concern about Covid-19 has increased from last month. In June 25% said they were very concerned about the threat of Covid-19 – this has increased to 36% this week.
- Concern is highest in Victoria (46% are very concerned) and NSW (42%), while lower in Queensland (25% and Western Australia (26%).



Government response to Covid-19

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

	13/07	22/06	15/06	08/06	01/06	25/05	18/05	11/05	04/05	27/04
Very poor	6%	4%	3%	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Quite poor	10%	8%	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%	9%	9%	9%
Neither good, nor poor	20%	17%	16%	18%	20%	16%	17%	16%	20%	17%
Quite good	40%	43%	42%	40%	39%	43%	41%	39%	38%	44%
Very good	24%	27%	30%	30%	28%	30%	32%	32%	28%	26%
TOTAL: Poor	16%	12%	11%	12%	12%	11%	11%	13%	14%	13%
TOTAL: Good	64%	71%	72%	70%	68%	73%	73%	71%	66%	70%
Base (n)	1,054	1,079	1,087	1,073	1,059	1,087	1,073	1,067	1,093	1,054

- Rating of the Federal Government's handling of the crisis has declined from last month. 64% now rate the Government's response as good (Very good or quite good), down from 71% in June.
- Victoria has the lowest rating (60% rated very/quite good, down from 70% in June).



State Government response to Covid-19

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

All States	13/07	22/06	15/06	08/06	01/06	25/05	18/05	11/05	04/05	27/04
Very poor	7%	5%	4%	4%	6%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Quite poor	11%	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%
Neither good, nor poor	18%	17%	17%	17%	20%	17%	17%	16%	18%	17%
Quite good	36%	41%	38%	39%	38%	38%	39%	39%	38%	41%
Very good	28%	28%	33%	32%	30%	35%	33%	34%	31%	30%
TOTAL: Poor	17%	13%	12%	11%	12%	11%	11%	12%	12%	13%
TOTAL: Good	64%	69%	71%	71%	68%	73%	72%	73%	70%	70%
Base (n)	1,054	1,079	1,087	1,073	1,059	1,087	1,073	1,067	1,093	1,054

TOTAL: Good	13/07	22/06	15/06	08/06	01/06	25/05	18/05	11/05	04/05	27/04
NSW	63%	70%	65%	67%	62%	65%	70%	70%	68%	63%
VIC	49%	65%	75%	72%	71%	73%	71%	71%	72%	77%
QLD	69%	64%	67%	68%	69%	74%	66%	70%	65%	67%
SA	79%	79%	76%	79%	70%	84%	80%	78%	76%	77%
WA	77%	75%	77%	84%	79%	83%	86%	83%	79%	76%

- The positive rating of the State Government in Victoria has dropped from 65% in June to 49% this week. 17% think the Victorian government is doing a very good job (down from 26%) and those thinking they've done a quite good job has fallen from 28% to 32%.
- Southern Australia (79%) and Western Australia (77%) have the highest state government ratings at handling the crisis.

VICTORIA ONLY	13/07	22/06	15/06	08/06	01/06	25/05	18/05	11/05	04/05	27/04
Very poor	14%	8%	6%	6%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Quite poor	12%	5%	5%	6%	7%	9%	10%	11%	8%	6%
Neither good, nor poor	25%	22%	13%	16%	17%	16%	15%	15%	17%	14%
Quite good	32%	38%	39%	38%	39%	37%	38%	34%	32%	40%
Very good	17%	26%	36%	34%	33%	36%	33%	37%	40%	37%
TOTAL: Poor	26%	13%	11%	12%	11%	11%	14%	14%	11%	9%
TOTAL: Good	49%	65%	75%	72%	71%	73%	71%	71%	72%	77%
Base (n)	281	261	275	275	275	275	267	275	275	272

- At the same time, those rating the Victorian state Government’s performance as very or quite poor has doubled from 13% in June to 26% this week.



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.

