

# The Essential Report

12 April 2021



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Prepared By: Essential Research

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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 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and is based on 1,368 respondents.

This week the sample size was extended to increase the sample size following the Covid-19 vaccine announcements on the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

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?

	Apr'21	End Mar'21	Mid Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20	Sep'20	Aug'20	Jul'20	Jun'20	May'20
TOTAL: Approve	<b>54%</b>	57%	62%	65%	61%	62%	66%	63%	64%	66%	63%	65%	64%
TOTAL: Disapprove	<b>37%</b>	35%	29%	28%	30%	28%	25%	27%	28%	23%	27%	26%	27%
Don't know	<b>9%</b>	8%	8%	7%	9%	11%	9%	10%	8%	11%	10%	8%	9%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	1,100	1,124	1,109	1,084	1,071	1,010	1,082	1,076	1,010	1,054	1,059	1,093

	Total	Federal Voting Intention			
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Strongly approve	<b>19%</b>	8%	40%	12%	13%
Approve	<b>34%</b>	28%	49%	24%	22%
Disapprove	<b>21%</b>	29%	6%	26%	32%
Strongly disapprove	<b>16%</b>	28%	2%	28%	24%
Don't know	<b>9%</b>	7%	3%	10%	9%
TOTAL: Approve	<b>54%</b>	36%	88%	36%	34%
TOTAL: Disapprove	<b>37%</b>	57%	8%	55%	56%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	483	471	123	165



TOTAL: Approve		12 Apr'21	29 Mar'21	15 Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20
	Men	<b>61%</b>	65%	65%	65%	62%	68%	65%
	Women	<b>46%</b>	49%	59%	65%	59%	56%	67%
TOTAL: Disapprove								
	Men	<b>32%</b>	30%	28%	28%	32%	25%	28%
	Women	<b>42%</b>	40%	30%	28%	29%	30%	23%

- The Prime Minister's approval rating has dropped to 54% (from 65% in February). This is the lowest rating seen in the last 12 months.
- Disapproval of the PM among women has increased to 42%, from 28% in February.



## Performance of Anthony Albanese

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

	Apr'21	Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20	Sep'20	Aug'20	Jul'20	Jun'20	May'20
TOTAL: Approve	<b>39%</b>	41%	40%	42%	43%	40%	44%	44%	44%	44%	43%	42%
TOTAL: Disapprove	<b>34%</b>	32%	33%	33%	29%	33%	29%	29%	30%	28%	30%	27%
Don't know	<b>27%</b>	27%	27%	25%	28%	27%	27%	27%	25%	28%	26%	31%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	1,124	1,109	1,084	1,071	1,010	1,082	1,076	1,010	1,054	1,059	1,093

	Total	Federal Voting Intention			TOTAL: Other
		Labor	Coalition	Greens	
Strongly approve	<b>9%</b>	12%	9%	11%	9%
Approve	<b>29%</b>	44%	24%	30%	17%
Disapprove	<b>23%</b>	21%	28%	21%	23%
Strongly disapprove	<b>12%</b>	1%	21%	5%	22%
Don't know	<b>27%</b>	22%	17%	32%	29%
TOTAL: Approve	<b>39%</b>	55%	33%	41%	26%
TOTAL: Disapprove	<b>34%</b>	22%	49%	27%	45%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	483	471	123	165

- The Opposition Leader's approval rating is now at 39%, a slight dip from last month's level (41%).
- Approval of the Opposition Leader has fallen to 55% among Labor voters (from 60% in March) and is 33% among Coalition voters (30% in March).



## Preferred Prime Minister

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

	Apr'21	Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20	Sep'20	Aug'20	Jul'20	Jun'20	May'20
Scott Morrison	<b>47%</b>	52%	52%	51%	50%	53%	50%	49%	52%	50%	53%	50%
Anthony Albanese	<b>28%</b>	26%	24%	25%	24%	24%	25%	26%	22%	27%	23%	25%
Don't know	<b>25%</b>	22%	24%	25%	26%	24%	25%	25%	26%	23%	24%	25%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	1,124	1,109	1,084	1,071	1,010	1,082	1,076	1,010	1,054	1,059	1,093

Men	Apr'21	Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20
Scott Morrison	<b>53%</b>	52%	54%	53%	54%	54%	52%
Anthony Albanese	<b>29%</b>	30%	28%	28%	29%	28%	29%
Don't know	<b>18%</b>	19%	19%	19%	17%	19%	19%

  

Women	Apr'21	Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20
Scott Morrison	<b>42%</b>	53%	51%	48%	47%	51%	47%
Anthony Albanese	<b>26%</b>	23%	21%	22%	19%	20%	22%
Don't know	<b>32%</b>	24%	29%	31%	34%	28%	31%



Apr'21	Federal Voting Intention				
	Total	Labor	Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Scott Morrison	47%	27%	80%	28%	41%
Anthony Albanese	28%	50%	10%	45%	20%
Don't know	25%	24%	9%	26%	39%
Base (n)	1,368	483	471	123	165

- Just under half (47%) of participants believe that Scott Morrison would make a better PM than Anthony Albanese, a drop since last month (52%) and the lowest figure seen in the last 12 months.
- 28% would prefer the Opposition Leader (no change from 26% in March). A quarter (25%) of participants don't know who would make the better PM.
- Preference for Morrison has dropped among women from 53% last month to 42% in April. Preference is unchanged among men (52% and 53%).
- Half (50%) of Labor voters believe Albanese would make the better PM, consistent with levels last month (49%). Just under a third (27%) think Morrison would make the better leader and about a quarter (24%) don't know.





## Federal government response to Covid-19

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

	12/04	15/03	01/03	15/02	01/02	30/11	16/11	02/11	05/10	21/09	07/09	24/08	10/08
Very poor	<b>7%</b>	5%	6%	5%	4%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	8%	6%	7%
Quite poor	<b>10%</b>	7%	8%	7%	11%	8%	9%	10%	12%	13%	12%	11%	8%
Neither good nor poor	<b>21%</b>	18%	24%	19%	19%	19%	18%	24%	22%	21%	22%	22%	21%
Quite good	<b>40%</b>	39%	39%	42%	42%	41%	41%	39%	39%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Very good	<b>22%</b>	31%	23%	27%	25%	26%	26%	22%	21%	21%	18%	22%	24%
TOTAL: Poor	<b>17%</b>	12%	14%	12%	14%	13%	15%	15%	18%	18%	19%	17%	16%
TOTAL: Good	<b>62%</b>	70%	62%	69%	67%	67%	67%	61%	60%	61%	59%	61%	63%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	1,124	1,074	1,109	1,092	1,034	1,010	1,063	1,066	1,081	1,076	1,068	1,010

- Rating of the federal government's handling of Covid-19 has dropped back down to 62% (from 70% mid-March). This is consistent with levels at the start of March.

## State government response to Covid-19

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

TOTAL: Good	12/04	15/03	01/03	15/02	01/02	30/11	16/11	02/11	05/10	21/09	07/09	24/08	10/08
NSW	<b>73%</b>	75%	72%	72%	71%	76%	75%	68%	65%	67%	57%	59%	61%
VIC	<b>58%</b>	62%	49%	59%	61%	60%	59%	55%	45%	47%	50%	47%	49%
QLD	<b>72%</b>	75%	73%	76%	78%	72%	71%	69%	69%	68%	66%	73%	68%
SA	<b>75%</b>	85%	78%	79%	80%	70%	76%	77%	81%	81%	74%	65%	72%
WA	<b>84%</b>	91%	85%	88%	80%	83%	82%	81%	83%	84%	87%	84%	86%

- Positive rating of state governments' response to the Covid-19 outbreak has decreased in all states in the last month.
- While still high, the rating of the SA and WA governments have witnessed the largest drops in the last month – from 85% to 75% for the SA government and 91% to 84% for the WA government.
- Positive rating of the VIC government has dipped back down to 58% (from 62% a month ago). This is consistent with levels in February.
- Rating of the NSW and QLD governments are now at 73% and 72% respectively.

## Confidence in Labor government handling of Covid-19 pandemic

Q If a Labor government under Anthony Albanese had been in power, how confident are you that they would have done a good job at dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic?

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Very confident	<b>15%</b>	21%	10%	13%	21%	12%	24%	10%	19%	14%
Fairly confident	<b>29%</b>	27%	30%	33%	30%	24%	42%	22%	32%	22%
Not that confident	<b>24%</b>	25%	23%	25%	21%	25%	18%	30%	25%	20%
Not confident at all	<b>14%</b>	14%	13%	7%	10%	23%	3%	25%	5%	23%
Unsure	<b>18%</b>	12%	24%	22%	18%	16%	13%	12%	20%	21%
TOTAL: Confident	<b>44%</b>	49%	40%	46%	51%	36%	65%	32%	50%	35%
TOTAL: Not Confident	<b>37%</b>	39%	36%	32%	31%	48%	21%	56%	29%	44%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	669	699	426	460	482	483	471	123	165

- 44% of Australians are confident that if a Labor government under Anthony Albanese had been in power, they would have done a good job at dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. 37% are not confident about this and 18% are unsure.
- Labor voters are the most confident about this compared to other voters (65%). They are followed by Greens voters (50%). Coalition voters and minor and independent party voters are the least likely to be confident in this (32% and 35% respectively).
- Those aged 18-34 and 35-43 are more confident that a Labor government would have done a good job a dealing with Covid-19 than those over 55 (46% and 51% to 36% respectively).



## Satisfaction with speed of Covid-19 vaccine rollout

Q Which of the following best describes your view on how quickly Australians are being vaccinated against Covid-19?

They are being vaccinated...

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
... much more quickly than I would like	<b>13%</b>	16%	10%	17%	18%	4%	10%	12%	16%	22%
... a bit more quickly than I would like	<b>8%</b>	8%	7%	12%	9%	2%	7%	10%	8%	6%
... at about the right speed	<b>19%</b>	18%	20%	24%	20%	13%	15%	21%	22%	14%
... a bit more slowly than I would like	<b>25%</b>	23%	26%	24%	19%	31%	23%	34%	19%	13%
... a lot more slowly than I would like	<b>27%</b>	28%	27%	15%	24%	42%	37%	19%	30%	30%
Unsure	<b>9%</b>	7%	11%	9%	11%	8%	8%	4%	6%	16%
TOTAL: More quickly than I would like	<b>20%</b>	24%	17%	29%	27%	6%	16%	22%	24%	28%
TOTAL: More slowly than I would like	<b>52%</b>	52%	53%	39%	43%	73%	60%	52%	49%	42%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	669	699	426	460	482	483	471	123	165

- Just over half of Australians (52%) think Australians are being vaccinated against Covid-19 more slowly than they would like, with nearly a third (27%) feeling vaccinations are progressing a lot more slowly than they would like.
- 20% think Australians are being vaccinated against Covid-19 more quickly than they would like and 9% are unsure.
- Those over 55 are much more likely than younger cohorts to think the vaccine rollout is progressing more slowly than they would like (73% compared to 43% of those 35-54 and 39% those 18-34).
- Labor voters are the most likely voters to think the vaccine rollout is progressing more slowly than they would like (60% compared to 52% Coalition voters, 49% Greens voters and 42% independent and minor party voters).



## Party most responsible for slow vaccine rollout

Q Which do you think is MOST responsible for Australians being vaccinated more slowly than you would like?

[Asked only to those who think Australians are being vaccinated against Covid-19 a bit / a lot more slowly than they would like]

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
The federal government	<b>42%</b>	45%	39%	36%	51%	40%	57%	24%	44%	49%
State and territory governments	<b>7%</b>	8%	7%	16%	7%	4%	5%	11%	5%	13%
International supply chains	<b>24%</b>	29%	20%	24%	19%	28%	17%	35%	20%	17%
Unavoidable delays in the production of vaccines	<b>18%</b>	13%	22%	15%	18%	19%	15%	22%	22%	16%
Unsure	<b>8%</b>	6%	11%	9%	6%	9%	6%	8%	8%	5%
Base (n)	<b>713</b>	356	357	165	194	354	291	242	61	72

- The largest cohort within the group of those who think Australians are being vaccinated against Covid-19 more slowly than they would like, think the federal government is most responsible for this (42%).
- About a quarter (24%) place the onus on international supply chains, followed by 18% who feel unavoidable delays in the production of vaccines are the main reason for the slow progress of the vaccine rollout in Australia.
- Only 7% think state and territory governments are most responsible and 8% are unsure.
- Those most likely to place responsibility on the federal government for Australians being vaccinated more slowly than they would like include those aged 35-54 (51%) and Labor voters (57%).
- Coalition voters are the most likely to think international supply chains are most responsible for the delays (35%).



## Views towards progress of Covid-19 vaccine rollout

Q As you may be aware, distribution of the Covid-19 vaccines is primarily the responsibility of the federal government.

Scott Morrison promised in January this year that 4 million Australians would be vaccinated against Covid-19 by the end of March. This target was shifted out in March to 4 million Australians by April 26th. As of April 2nd, 750,000 Australians have been vaccinated.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I'm confident that 4 million Australians will be vaccinated against Covid-19 by April 26 <sup>th</sup>	19%	55%	6%	13%	26%	24%	31%
The federal government needs to step up and take more responsibility for ensuring Australians are vaccinated against Covid-19 as quickly as possible	56%	17%	28%	29%	27%	10%	7%
Delays in the distribution of Covid-19 vaccines are due to circumstances outside the federal government's control, and there's nothing more they could have done about it	47%	26%	15%	32%	27%	17%	10%
The slower than expected rollout indicates that the federal government is not doing as good a job as they claimed	48%	25%	21%	27%	27%	16%	9%

	TOTAL: Agree	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
			Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
I'm confident that 4 million Australians will be vaccinated against Covid-19 by April 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>19%</b>		25%	13%	22%	28%	7%	14%	27%	21%	13%
The federal government needs to step up and take more responsibility for ensuring Australians are vaccinated against Covid-19 as quickly as possible	<b>56%</b>		58%	55%	51%	56%	61%	65%	53%	62%	54%
Delays in the distribution of Covid-19 vaccines are due to circumstances outside the federal government's control, and there's nothing more they could have done about it	<b>47%</b>		51%	43%	41%	50%	48%	37%	66%	36%	39%
The slower than expected rollout indicates that the federal government is not doing as good a job as they claimed	<b>48%</b>		50%	46%	45%	51%	47%	59%	37%	61%	49%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>		669	699	426	460	482	483	471	123	165

- Well over half (56%) of Australians agree the federal government needs to step up and take more responsibility for ensuring Australians are vaccinated against Covid-19 as quickly as possible. Labor voters and those over 55 are the most likely to agree with this (65% and 61% respectively).
- Just under half (48%) agree the slower than expected rollout indicates that the federal government is not doing as good a job as they claimed. Labor voters and Greens voters are most likely to follow this view (59% and 61%).
- However, just under half as well (47%) agree the delays in the distribution of Covid-19 vaccines are due to circumstances outside the federal government's control, and there's nothing more they could have done about it. The majority of Coalition voters align with this view (66%).
- Only 19% are confident that 4 million Australians will be vaccinated against Covid-19 by the end of the month.



## Views towards interstate travel during Covid-19

Q The federal government recently announced incentives for Australians to travel to tourist destinations in Australia that have been badly affected by the lack of international visitors.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
As the Brisbane lockdown shows, there's not much point in the federal government encouraging people to travel to other parts of Australia until the vaccine program has been completed	57%	18%	24%	33%	24%	12%	6%
I would be nervous about booking a trip to another state because it's impossible to predict if the trip will suddenly be cancelled because of a Covid-19 outbreak	69%	14%	34%	35%	17%	8%	5%



TOTAL: Agree	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
As the Brisbane lockdown shows, there's not much point in the federal government encouraging people to travel to other parts of Australia until the vaccine program has been completed	<b>57%</b>	58%	57%	51%	58%	63%	60%	58%	59%	56%
I would be nervous about booking a trip to another state because it's impossible to predict if the trip will suddenly be cancelled because of a Covid-19 outbreak	<b>69%</b>	69%	69%	64%	69%	75%	71%	72%	72%	63%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	669	699	426	460	482	483	471	123	165

- The majority (69%) of Australians agree they would be nervous about booking a trip to another state because it's impossible to predict if the trip will suddenly be cancelled because of a Covid-19 outbreak.
- Most (57%) also agree that as the Brisbane lockdown shows, there's not much point in the federal government encouraging people to travel to other parts of Australia until the vaccine program has been completed.
- Those over 55 are more likely to agree with these statements than younger cohorts.



## Views towards end of JobKeeper and JobSeeker supplement

Q As you may be aware, the last JobKeeper payments will be paid in April 2021. JobKeeper was a fortnightly amount being paid through employers to help with employees' wages. The supplement to JobSeeker also ends this month. This will mean that people who are unemployed get \$50 less per week.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the end of JobKeeper and the supplement to JobSeeker?

	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I'm worried about how it will affect me	33%	41%	14%	18%	26%	16%	25%
I'm worried about how it will affect the economy	58%	15%	23%	36%	27%	10%	5%
There are a lot of businesses which have been surviving only because of JobKeeper and are unlikely to ever return	65%	9%	25%	40%	27%	5%	3%
The schemes should have been extended at least until the Covid-19 vaccine program is fully rolled out	48%	25%	22%	26%	26%	15%	11%
The schemes were far too expensive to continue any longer	53%	22%	22%	31%	26%	12%	9%
Big companies that have made a profit and paid dividends and bonuses should be forced to repay JobKeeper payments they received	66%	11%	36%	29%	24%	7%	4%
JobKeeper and the extra JobSeeker payments discouraged a lot of people from taking up jobs that were available	55%	20%	23%	32%	24%	11%	10%
The real problem the government should be addressing isn't the cost of JobKeeper and JobSeeker but the fact that there aren't enough decent jobs available	55%	18%	23%	32%	27%	12%	6%



Ending the supplement to JobSeeker will mean there is more poverty in the community	<b>55%</b>	<b>16%</b>	25%	30%	29%	11%	6%
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	TOTAL: Agree	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
			Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
I'm worried about how it will affect me	<b>33%</b>		37%	28%	48%	40%	13%	35%	31%	45%	26%
I'm worried about how it will affect the economy	<b>58%</b>		57%	59%	60%	59%	56%	67%	54%	62%	51%
There are a lot of businesses which have been surviving only because of JobKeeper and are unlikely to ever return	<b>65%</b>		63%	66%	62%	65%	67%	67%	64%	73%	64%
The schemes should have been extended at least until the Covid-19 vaccine program is fully rolled out	<b>48%</b>		48%	48%	57%	51%	38%	58%	37%	70%	48%
The schemes were far too expensive to continue any longer	<b>53%</b>		58%	47%	49%	50%	58%	44%	69%	38%	51%
Big companies that have made a profit and paid dividends and bonuses should be forced to repay JobKeeper payments they received	<b>66%</b>		69%	62%	57%	66%	73%	68%	67%	67%	67%
JobKeeper and the extra JobSeeker payments discouraged a lot of people from taking up jobs that were available	<b>55%</b>		58%	53%	51%	54%	60%	51%	65%	45%	53%
The real problem the government should be addressing isn't the cost of JobKeeper and JobSeeker but the fact that there aren't enough decent jobs available	<b>55%</b>		55%	55%	58%	59%	49%	65%	46%	63%	59%
Ending the supplement to JobSeeker will mean there is more poverty in the community	<b>55%</b>		52%	57%	57%	59%	49%	67%	42%	71%	54%
Base (n)		<b>1,368</b>	669	699	426	460	482	483	471	123	165



- When thinking about the end of JobKeeper and the end of the supplement to JobKeeper, most agree that big companies that have made a profit and paid dividends and bonuses should be forced to repay JobKeeper payments they received (66%), and there are a lot of businesses which have been surviving only because of JobKeeper and are unlikely to ever return (65%).
- This is followed by a large proportion of those who agree that they are worried about how these changes will affect the economy (58%).
- In general, Australians are less likely to agree that they are worried about how the changes to JobKeeper and JobSeeker will affect themselves (33%) and that the schemes should have been extended at least until the Covid-19 vaccine program is fully rolled out (48%).
- Older people are more likely to agree the schemes were far too expensive to continue any longer than younger cohorts (58% of those over 55 compared to 50% of those 35-54 and 49% those 18-34) and big companies that have made a profit and paid dividends and bonuses should be forced to repay JobKeeper payments they received (73% of those over 55 compared to 66% of those 35-54 and 57% of those 18-34).
- Younger people are much more likely to agree that they're worried about how the changes to the schemes will affect them personally than older cohorts (48% of those 18-34 and 40% of those 35-54 compared to 13% of those over 55). They are also more likely to agree that ending the supplement to JobSeeker will mean there is more poverty in the community (57% of those 18-34 and 59% those 35-54 compared to 49% those over 55).
- Labor voters and Greens voters are the most likely to agree they're worried about how it will affect the economy (67% and 62% respectively) compared to 54% of Coalition voters. These voters are also most likely to agree that the real problem the government should be addressing isn't the cost of JobKeeper and JobSeeker but the fact that there aren't enough decent jobs available (65% Labor voters and 63% Greens voters, compared to 46% Coalition voters).
- Coalition supporters are the most likely voters to agree the schemes were far too expensive to continue any longer (69% compared to 44% Labor voters, 38% Greens voters and 51% minor and independent party voters), and JobKeeper and the extra JobSeeker payments discouraged a lot of people from taking up jobs that were available (65% compared to 51% Labor voters, 45% Greens voters and 53% minor and independent party voters).

## Views towards paid parental leave

Q Below are two options for paid parental leave. Which of the two do you think would be better for Australia as a whole?

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention				Dependent Children	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other	Have dependent children	Do not have dependent children
Up to 18 weeks for primary carers, plus 2 weeks 'Dad & Partner pay'. Both are paid at the same rate as the national minimum wage.	<b>40%</b>	45%	35%	30%	35%	53%	36%	48%	27%	37%	36%	42%
Up to 26 weeks at full pay including super, which can be used by either parent and split between them if they choose.	<b>60%</b>	55%	65%	70%	65%	47%	64%	52%	73%	63%	64%	58%
Base (n)	<b>1,368</b>	669	699	426	460	482	483	471	123	165	496	872

- Of the two options for paid parental leave presented, the majority of Australians (60%) think up to 26 weeks at full pay including super, which can be used by either parent and split between them if they choose, would be better for Australia as a whole.
- 40% think 'Up to 18 weeks for primary carers, plus 2 weeks 'Dad & Partner pay'. Both are paid at the same rate as the national minimum wage.' would be better.
- Women, those aged 18-34 and 35-54, Greens, Labor and minor and independent party voters, and those with dependent children are the most likely to think the '26 weeks' option would be better for Australia.



## 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.

All Essential Research staff hold Research Society membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour.