

# The Essential Report

26 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 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and is based on 1,090 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.

## 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?

	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	<b>42%</b>	47%	50%	42%	43%	56%
I'd get vaccinated, but wouldn't do it straight away	<b>42%</b>	40%	40%	47%	46%	35%
I'd never get vaccinated	<b>16%</b>	12%	10%	11%	10%	8%
Base (n)	<b>1,090</b>	1,124	1,074	1,084	1,071	1,010

- With the rocky start to the nationwide Covid-19 vaccine rollout, 42% of Australians now say they would get vaccinated as soon as possible or they've already been vaccinated. This is a drop from last month (47%) and a return to levels at the start of this year / end of last year.
- About the same proportion of people as last month say that would get vaccinated but not straight away (42%).
- 16% now say they would never get vaccinated, the highest proportion since first recording data in August last year.



	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
I'd get vaccinated as soon as possible / I've already been vaccinated	<b>42%</b>	49%	36%	33%	39%	53%	43%	52%	33%	35%
I'd get vaccinated, but wouldn't do it straight away	<b>42%</b>	40%	44%	44%	44%	38%	45%	39%	50%	33%
I'd never get vaccinated	<b>16%</b>	12%	20%	23%	17%	9%	13%	10%	17%	33%
Base (n)	<b>1,090</b>	539	551	359	289	442	362	414	95	114

- Those most likely to get the vaccine immediately or already be vaccinated include men (49%) and those aged over 55 (53%) – however for the latter group this is a notable drop from last month (was 60%).
- Those voting for independent or minor parties are the most likely to say they would never get vaccinated (33%) – another significant increase since last month (20%).



## 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?

	Total	Gender		Age Group				Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-29	30-49	50-69	70 and over	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
I would be willing to get either the AstraZeneca vaccine or the Pfizer vaccine	<b>37%</b>	48%	27%	28%	31%	40%	61%	35%	47%	32%	31%
I would be willing to get the AstraZeneca vaccine but not the Pfizer vaccine	<b>3%</b>	4%	2%	6%	4%	1%	2%	4%	4%	3%	0%
I would be willing to get the Pfizer vaccine but not the AstraZeneca vaccine	<b>27%</b>	25%	28%	26%	29%	29%	16%	31%	28%	26%	22%
I would not be willing to get either the AstraZeneca vaccine or the Pfizer vaccine	<b>14%</b>	11%	18%	15%	15%	15%	11%	13%	10%	14%	30%
Unsure	<b>19%</b>	12%	25%	25%	21%	15%	11%	17%	11%	24%	18%
Base (n)	<b>1,090</b>	539	551	250	327	339	174	362	414	95	114

- 37% would be willing to get either the AstraZeneca vaccine or the Pfizer vaccine, however, nearly a third (27%) say they would only be willing to get the Pfizer vaccine. 14% would not be willing to get either vaccine, and 19% are unsure. Only 3% would get the AstraZeneca vaccine but not the Pfizer vaccine.
- Men are much more likely than women to be willing to get either vaccine (48% to 27% respectively); as women are more unsure (25% to 12% men).



- Willingness to get either vaccine increases with age – while 28% of those 18-29 would be willing to receive either vaccine, this increases to 61% of those 70 and over.
- Coalition voters are more likely to get either vaccine (47% to 35% Labor, 32% Greens and 31% minor and independent party voters).
- Despite the recommendation against the AstraZeneca vaccine only applying to under 50s, those 50-69 are on par with those under 50 in terms of their willingness to get the Pfizer vaccine but not the AstraZeneca vaccine. The proportion of those who would only be willing to get the Pfizer vaccine and not the AstraZeneca vaccine is consistent across all age groups under 70 – 26% of those 18-29, 29% of those 30-49, 29% of those 50-69 compared to 16% of those 70 and over would be willing to get the Pfizer vaccine only.



## 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	26/04	01/03	01/02
... are being done efficiently	43%	68%	68%
... are being done safely	63%	73%	72%
... will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within the country	52%	64%	58%
Base (n)	1,090	1,074	1,092

- With the issues affecting the Covid-19 vaccine rollout, now just over half are confident it will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within the country (52% from 64% last month).
- Additionally, less than half of Australians are confident the rollout is being done efficiently (43% from 68% last month) and two-thirds are now confident that it is being done safely (63% from 73% last month).





TOTAL: Confident	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
... are being done efficiently	<b>43%</b>	46%	41%	50%	43%	39%	39%	56%	32%	32%
... are being done safely	<b>63%</b>	68%	59%	57%	58%	74%	61%	74%	64%	52%
... will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within the country	<b>52%</b>	60%	44%	53%	46%	57%	49%	64%	56%	36%
Base (n)	<b>1,090</b>	539	551	359	289	442	362	414	95	114

- While confidence in the Covid-19 rollout has dropped across all demographics, the confidence of those 35-54, has been hit the hardest. Last month, 61% of those aged 35-54 were confident the rollout will be effective at stopping Covid-19 within the country, now 46% are confident this is the case. This trend is also reflected in confidence in the rollout's efficiency (was 64%, now 43%) and safety (was 69%, now 58%).
- Coalition voters are still the most confident that the vaccine rollout is being done efficiently (56%), safely (74%), and will be effective and stopping Covid-19 within the country (64%).



## 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...

	This week 26/04	Two weeks ago 12/04
... much more quickly than I would like	11%	13%
... a bit more quickly than I would like	9%	8%
... at about the right speed	21%	19%
... a bit more slowly than I would like	26%	25%
... a lot more slowly than I would like	19%	27%
Unsure	14%	9%
TOTAL: More quickly than I would like	19%	20%
TOTAL: More slowly than I would like	45%	52%
Base (n)	1,090	1,368



	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>11%</b>	13%	9%	16%	13%	4%	9%	11%	9%	19%
... a bit more quickly than I would like	<b>9%</b>	10%	7%	13%	11%	3%	10%	10%	8%	5%
... at about the right speed	<b>21%</b>	23%	20%	26%	19%	19%	17%	27%	18%	18%
... a bit more slowly than I would like	<b>26%</b>	25%	27%	23%	19%	36%	30%	29%	24%	17%
... a lot more slowly than I would like	<b>19%</b>	20%	19%	9%	18%	30%	24%	17%	20%	23%
Unsure	<b>14%</b>	9%	19%	14%	20%	8%	10%	6%	20%	18%
TOTAL: More quickly than I would like	<b>19%</b>	23%	16%	29%	24%	7%	19%	21%	17%	25%
TOTAL: More slowly than I would like	<b>45%</b>	45%	45%	32%	36%	66%	54%	45%	45%	39%
Base (n)	<b>1,090</b>	539	551	359	289	442	362	414	95	114

- 45% now think Australians are being vaccinated against Covid-19 more slowly than they would like, a drop from two weeks ago (52%), as more participants are unsure about the speed of the vaccination rollout (14% this week, 9% two weeks ago).
- The proportion of participants who think Australians are being vaccinated more quickly than they would like is on par with last fortnight (19% this week, 20% two weeks ago).
- Those over 55 are still more likely than younger cohorts to think the vaccine rollout is progressing more slowly than they would like (66% compared to 36% of 35-54 and 32% those 18-34 years old).
- Labor voters are also still the most likely voters to think the vaccine rollout is progressing more slowly than they would like (54% compared to 45% Coalition voters, 45% Greens voters and 39% 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]

	This week 26/04	Two weeks ago 12/04
The federal government	<b>48%</b>	42%
State and territory governments	<b>8%</b>	7%
International supply chains	<b>18%</b>	24%
Unavoidable delays in the production of vaccines	<b>16%</b>	18%
Unsure	<b>11%</b>	8%
Base (n)	<b>505</b>	713

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
The federal government	<b>48%</b>	54%	41%	43%	54%	46%	59%	32%	64%	47%
State and territory governments	<b>8%</b>	9%	7%	12%	10%	6%	5%	12%	6%	7%
International supply chains	<b>18%</b>	17%	18%	13%	12%	22%	11%	28%	5%	14%
Unavoidable delays in the production of vaccines	<b>16%</b>	14%	17%	23%	11%	15%	14%	21%	13%	12%
Unsure	<b>11%</b>	6%	16%	9%	13%	10%	10%	7%	12%	20%
Base (n)	<b>505</b>	262	243	112	102	291	200	196	40	44



- Almost half of those who say Australians are being vaccinated more slowly than they would like think the federal government is most responsible for this (48% up from 42% two weeks ago).
- 18% place the onus on international supply chains (a drop from 24% two weeks ago), followed by 16% (on par with 18% a fortnight ago) who feel unavoidable delays in the production of vaccines are the main reason for the slow progress of the vaccine rollout in Australia.
- Only 8% think state and territory governments are most responsible and 11% are unsure.
- Those most likely to place responsibility on the federal government for Australians being vaccinated more slowly than they would like include men (54%), Greens (64%) and Labor voters (59%).
- Coalition voters are the most likely to think international supply chains are most responsible for the delays (28%, compared to 10% of all other voters).



## Time to return to normal

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

APRIL 2021	Within the next six months	Seven months up to one year	One to two years	More than two years	Never
The Covid-19 vaccine rollout will be completed in Australia	7%	23%	42%	21%	7%
Quarantine will no longer be required after international travel	8%	15%	37%	31%	9%
The housing market will return pre-pandemic levels	16%	17%	30%	22%	15%
International travel will be allowed without restriction	7%	14%	32%	40%	8%
Unemployment will return to pre-pandemic levels	10%	20%	34%	27%	9%
Australia will pay off its national debt	5%	8%	11%	42%	34%

JULY 2020	Within the next six months	Seven months up to one year	One to two years	More than two years	Never
A Covid-19 vaccine will be developed	9%	21%	43%	20%	6%
Quarantine will no longer required after international travel	7%	17%	38%	32%	6%
The housing market will return pre-pandemic levels	7%	15%	35%	38%	5%
International travel will be allowed without restriction	6%	14%	36%	38%	6%
Unemployment will return to pre-pandemic levels	6%	13%	27%	48%	6%
Australia will pay off its national debt	5%	6%	14%	53%	23%

- Current expectations of when the Covid-19 vaccine rollout will be completed in Australia mirrors expectations in July 2020 of when a Covid-19 vaccine will be developed. The largest cohort (42%) think the rollout will be completed in one to two years, reflecting the 43% last July who thought a Covid-19 vaccine would be developed in one to two years.
- People are now more optimistic that the housing market will return to pre-pandemic levels, with 16% who currently think this will happen within the next six months, compared to the 7% who thought this last July.
- People are also now more hopeful that unemployment will return to pre-pandemic levels, with 20% now thinking this could happen in seven months up to one year (20%) or one to two years (34%).
- However, over a third (34%) now think Australia will never pay off its national debt, with the majority (42%) thinking this will take more than two years.
- Current expectations of when quarantine will no longer be required after international travel and when international travel will be allowed without restriction also align with expectations last July, with most people thinking this will take one to two years or more than two years.



## 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.