

The Essential Report

30 August 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 25th to 29th August 2021 and is based on 1,100 respondents.

The weighting efficiency applied to the results at a national level is 93%, which gives an effective sample size of 1,026. The margin of error at this effective sample size is $\pm 3.1\%$ (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?

	Sep'21	Aug'21	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	Apr'21	End Mar'21	Mid Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20
TOTAL: Approve	50%	50%	51%	57%	58%	54%	57%	62%	65%	61%	62%	66%	63%
TOTAL: Disapprove	41%	40%	40%	36%	32%	37%	35%	29%	28%	30%	28%	25%	27%
Don't know	9%	10%	9%	8%	10%	9%	8%	8%	7%	9%	11%	9%	10%
Base (n)	1,100	1,098	1,099	1,104	1,092	1,368	1,100	1,124	1,109	1,084	1,071	1,010	1,082

TOTAL: Approve	Sep'21	Aug'21	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	Apr'21
NSW	48%	50%	53%	59%	64%	55%
VIC	47%	45%	49%	52%	51%	51%
QLD	56%	54%	49%	60%	60%	57%
SA	47%	53%	50%	56%	52%	50%
WA	58%	53%	50%	50%	63%	56%

- The Prime Minister's approval rating is now at 50% - this is unchanged from last month. Disapproval remains similar to last month at 41% - the highest disapproval rating in the last 12 months.
- The PM's approval rating continues to decrease in NSW (48%, from 64% in May).
- The PM's approval rating in WA has increased to 58% from 53% last month, but still has not recovered to the level in May (63%).



Performance of Anthony Albanese

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

	Sep'21	Aug'21	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	Apr'21	Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20
TOTAL: Approve	37%	34%	41%	39%	39%	39%	41%	40%	42%	43%	40%	44%
TOTAL: Disapprove	36%	38%	35%	36%	35%	34%	32%	33%	33%	29%	33%	29%
Don't know	27%	28%	24%	24%	25%	27%	27%	27%	25%	28%	27%	27%
Base (n)	1,100	1,098	1,099	1,104	1,092	1,368	1,124	1,109	1,084	1,071	1,010	1,082

- The Opposition Leader's approval rating is now at 37% (34% last month).
- The proportion of people disapproving of Albanese is now at 36% (38% last month). 27% say they are unsure of his performance.



Preferred Prime Minister

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

	Sep'21	Aug'21	Jul'21	Jun'21	May'21	Apr'21	Mar'21	Feb'21	Jan'21	Dec'20	Nov'20	Oct'20
Scott Morrison	47%	45%	46%	48%	50%	47%	52%	52%	51%	50%	53%	50%
Anthony Albanese	26%	26%	28%	28%	24%	28%	26%	24%	25%	24%	24%	25%
Don't know	27%	29%	26%	24%	26%	25%	22%	24%	25%	26%	24%	25%
Base (n)	1,100	1,098	1,099	1,104	1,092	1,368	1,124	1,109	1,084	1,071	1,010	1,082

- 47% of Australians continue to think that Scott Morrison would make a better PM than Anthony Albanese (45% last month).
- Just over a quarter (26%) think the opposition leader would make the better Prime Minister (same last month). 27% of participants don't know who would make the better PM.



Views towards re-electing the federal Coalition government

Q Which is closer to your own view about the federal Coalition government?

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Deserves to be re-elected	36%	43%	29%	26%	35%	45%	14%	71%	18%	25%
Time to give someone else a go	41%	40%	42%	50%	36%	38%	65%	14%	69%	46%
Unsure	23%	17%	29%	24%	29%	17%	21%	16%	13%	29%
Base (n)	1,100	539	561	341	374	385	388	405	90	119

	State				
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA
Deserves to be re-elected	34%	37%	35%	40%	37%
Time to give someone else a go	45%	37%	42%	39%	37%
Unsure	21%	26%	23%	21%	25%
Base (n)	349	276	219	89	111

- When thinking about whether the current government should be re-elected, 41% think it's time to give someone else a go, compared to 36% who think the federal Coalition government deserves to be re-elected. 23% are unsure.
- Those most likely to think the current government deserves to be re-elected include men (43%), those over 55 (45%), and Coalition voters (71%).
- People aged 18-34 (50%), Labor voters (65%), and Greens voters (69%) are the most likely to think it's time to give someone else a go.
- NSW residents are more likely to think it's time to give someone else a go than Victorians (45% to 37% respectively).



Federal government response to Covid-19

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

	30/08	16/08	02/08	19/07	05/07	07/06	24/05	12/04	15/03	01/03	15/02	01/02	30/11
Very poor	16%	13%	16%	13%	12%	10%	6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	4%	6%
Quite poor	20%	22%	19%	19%	17%	14%	12%	10%	7%	8%	7%	11%	8%
Neither good nor poor	24%	24%	28%	23%	26%	22%	25%	21%	18%	24%	19%	19%	19%
Quite good	29%	32%	28%	32%	33%	38%	40%	40%	39%	39%	42%	42%	41%
Very good	10%	9%	10%	14%	11%	15%	18%	22%	31%	23%	27%	25%	26%
TOTAL: Poor	36%	35%	35%	31%	30%	24%	18%	17%	12%	14%	12%	14%	13%
TOTAL: Good	39%	41%	38%	46%	44%	53%	58%	62%	70%	62%	69%	67%	67%
Base (n)	1,100	1,100	1,098	1,100	1,099	1,104	1,100	1,368	1,124	1,074	1,109	1,092	1,034

TOTAL: Good	30/08	16/08	02/08	19/07	05/07	07/06	24/05	12/04	15/03	01/03
NSW	34%	34%	39%	49%	44%	62%	56%	66%	69%	64%
VIC	35%	37%	33%	39%	40%	42%	57%	55%	65%	51%
QLD	45%	44%	40%	46%	48%	54%	56%	63%	69%	66%
SA	48%	45%	48%	51%	48%	58%	66%	62%	78%	68%
WA	51%	53%	37%	51%	42%	49%	56%	65%	75%	66%

- 39% of people rate the federal government's response to the Covid-19 outbreak as quite good or very good (41% earlier in the month), with 36% rating it as quite poor or very poor.
- Positive rating of the federal government's handling of Covid-19 is unchanged from earlier this month among those in NSW (34%, still the lowest recorded rating in NSW).



State government response to Covid-19

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

TOTAL: Good	30/08	16/08	02/08	19/07	05/07	07/06	24/05	12/04	15/03	01/03	15/02	01/02	30/11
NSW	40%	42%	47%	54%	57%	69%	68%	73%	75%	72%	72%	71%	76%
VIC	44%	56%	54%	49%	50%	48%	63%	58%	62%	49%	59%	61%	60%
QLD	67%	66%	60%	62%	61%	65%	68%	72%	75%	73%	76%	78%	72%
SA	76%	68%	73%	68%	67%	67%	71%	75%	85%	78%	79%	80%	70%
WA	78%	87%	82%	77%	86%	75%	77%	84%	91%	85%	88%	80%	83%

- Amid the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown in NSW, positive rating of the state government's response to Covid-19 continues to drop, now at 40% from 47% earlier this month.
- Positive rating of the state government in Victoria has dropped by 12 percentage points to 44%, from 56% mid-August.
- Although it remains the highest of all states, positive rating of the WA government's handling of Covid-19 has decreased 9 percentage points to 78% from 87% mid-August.
- Positive rating of the SA government has increased by 8% in the past two weeks to 76%, the best rating since March.



Biggest barrier to the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in Australia

Q Which of the following do you think is currently the biggest barrier to the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in Australia?

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Unwillingness among people who are eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine to get vaccinated	48%	50%	47%	43%	44%	57%	41%	60%	30%	52%
A shortage of supply of Covid-19 vaccines for people who are eligible and willing to get vaccinated	52%	50%	53%	57%	56%	43%	59%	40%	70%	48%
Base (n)	1,100	539	561	341	374	385	388	405	90	119

- The general population is split on the biggest barrier to the national Covid-19 vaccine rollout; Just over half (52%) think the biggest barrier is a shortage of supply of Covid-19 vaccines for people who are eligible and willing to get vaccinated, while just under half (48%) think it's an unwillingness among people who are eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine to get vaccinated.
- Those aged over 55 are more likely than younger cohorts to think the biggest barrier is related to an unwillingness to get vaccinated among those who can (57% to 44% of those aged 35-54, and 43% of those aged 18-34).
- Coalition voters are also more likely than other voters to think unwillingness is the main issue (60% to 41% Labor voters, 30% Greens voters and 52% minor/independent party voters).
- There is no difference in views across states.



Views towards level of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions

Q Thinking about the latest Covid-19 lockdown in your area, do you think the restrictions are...?

[Asked only to respondents with lockdown restrictions in their area]

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Too strong	27%	30%	24%	24%	28%	30%	21%	32%	26%	43%
About right	61%	58%	65%	63%	60%	61%	67%	60%	66%	43%
Too weak	11%	11%	12%	13%	13%	9%	12%	8%	8%	14%
Base (n)	925	465	460	308	324	293	324	344	80	97

	NSW	VIC	State		
			QLD	SA	WA
Too strong	28%	35%	20%	12%	30%
About right	56%	57%	70%	70%	70%
Too weak	16%	8%	11%	18%	0%
Base (n)	345	275	156	58	51

- 61% of people under lockdown restrictions think the lockdown restrictions in their area are about right. 27% think they're too strong and 11% too weak.
- Victorians are most likely to think their restrictions are too strong (35%). In comparison, 28% of NSW residents think their restrictions are too strong. Those in NSW are more likely than Victorians to think the restrictions there are too weak (16% to 8% respectively).



Clarity of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions

Q How clear and easy to understand are the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions/rules affecting the area you live in?

[Asked only to respondents with lockdown restrictions in their area]

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Very clear and easy to understand	40%	42%	39%	32%	45%	44%	43%	44%	36%	27%
Fairly clear and easy to understand	42%	40%	45%	54%	36%	37%	42%	42%	46%	37%
Not that clear and easy to understand	12%	11%	13%	10%	12%	14%	11%	10%	15%	22%
Not at all clear and easy to understand	5%	7%	4%	4%	6%	6%	4%	4%	3%	14%
Base (n)	925	465	460	308	324	293	324	344	80	97

	State				
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA
Very clear and easy to understand	29%	50%	44%	46%	50%
Fairly clear and easy to understand	44%	36%	48%	37%	45%
Not that clear and easy to understand	19%	10%	7%	10%	4%
Not at all clear and easy to understand	8%	4%	2%	7%	1%
Base (n)	345	275	156	58	51

- Most people understand the Covid-19 restrictions in their area, with 40% saying they are very clear and easy to understand, and 42% saying they are fairly clear and easy to understand.
- Restrictions in NSW are less clear than in Victoria. Just 29% in NSW say the restrictions are very clear and easy to understand (50% in Victoria).



Information about Covid-19

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the information you've received about the Covid-19 pandemic in Australia?

	TOTAL: Agree	Aug'21 30/08/21	Aug'20 10/08/20	April'20 20/04/20	April'20 13/04/20	April'20 06/04/20	March'20 29/03/20	March'20 22/03/20
I feel informed about the situation and the impact on me and my family	69%	69%	66%	71%	70%	63%	64%	
I trust the medical experts advising the government on their Covid-19 strategy	68%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
I trust my state/territory government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic	63%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
I trust the federal government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic	52%	66%	62%	65%	63%	56%	56%	
I trust the media to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic	40%	50%	41%	42%	51%	42%	35%	

- Since the start of the pandemic, people are just as likely to agree they feel informed about the situation.
- However, agreement that people trust the federal government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic has decreased from 66% in August 2020 to 52%.
- Agreement that people trust the media to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic has also decreased in the past 12 months from 50% in August 2020 to 40%.

	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I feel informed about the situation and the impact on me and my family	69%	13%	23%	45%	19%	8%	5%
I trust the medical experts advising the government on their Covid-19 strategy	68%	12%	33%	36%	19%	7%	5%
I trust my state/territory government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic	63%	19%	23%	39%	18%	10%	10%
I trust the federal government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic	52%	26%	18%	34%	23%	14%	11%
I trust the media to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic	40%	33%	11%	30%	27%	18%	15%

- 69% agree they feel informed about the current Covid-19 situation. Agreement is highest among those aged over 55 (77%) and Coalition voters (75%).
- 68% of people agree that they trust the medical experts advising the government on their Covid-19 strategy, while 52% agree that they trust the federal government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Less than half (40%) of people trust the media to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic.



	TOTAL: Agree	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention				
			Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other	
I feel informed about the situation and the impact on me and my family	69%		69%	68%	58%	69%	77%	72%	75%	71%	48%	
I trust the medical experts advising the government on their Covid-19 strategy	68%		69%	68%	57%	69%	78%	70%	77%	65%	50%	
I trust my state/territory government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic	63%		62%	63%	60%	61%	68%	67%	69%	62%	43%	
I trust the federal government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic	52%		53%	51%	44%	54%	56%	42%	75%	37%	36%	
I trust the media to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic	40%		43%	37%	38%	42%	40%	42%	47%	36%	30%	
		Base (n)	1,100	539	561	341	374	385	388	405	90	119

	TOTAL: Agree	State					
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	
I feel informed about the situation and the impact on me and my family		66%	66%	66%	72%	78%	
I trust the medical experts advising the government on their Covid-19 strategy		70%	59%	69%	74%	75%	
I trust my state/territory government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic		55%	54%	69%	75%	80%	
I trust the federal government to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic		49%	46%	53%	62%	63%	
I trust the media to provide honest and objective information about the Covid-19 pandemic		42%	32%	39%	49%	52%	
		Base (n)	349	276	219	89	111



- Those aged over 55 are more likely than those aged 18-34 to agree they feel informed and have trust in governments.
- Trust in state governments is lowest in NSW (55%) and Victoria (54%).
- Victorians are also less likely than others to trust medical experts and the media for Covid-19 information.



Views towards ‘living with’ Covid-19: Preference for elimination vs suppression strategies

Q Thinking about Australia’s path out of the Covid-19 pandemic, which of the following strategies do you think Australia should pursue?

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Get Covid-19 cases down as close to zero as possible	44%	42%	46%	53%	44%	36%	52%	37%	53%	31%
Live with a few cases of Covid-19, as long as there are very few hospitalisations and deaths	44%	43%	45%	39%	45%	47%	41%	48%	38%	41%
Live with Covid-19, even if there are hospitalisations and deaths	12%	15%	9%	8%	11%	17%	7%	15%	10%	28%
Base (n)	1,100	539	561	341	374	385	388	405	90	119

	NSW	VIC	State		
			QLD	SA	WA
Get Covid-19 cases down as close to zero as possible	38%	37%	50%	51%	59%
Live with a few cases of Covid-19, as long as there are very few hospitalisations and deaths	50%	46%	39%	41%	35%
Live with Covid-19, even if there are hospitalisations and deaths	11%	18%	11%	8%	6%
Base (n)	349	276	219	89	111

- 44% of people prefer a strategy to get Covid-19 cases down as close to zero as possible. The same proportion think we need to live with a few cases of Covid-19, as long as there are very few hospitalisations and deaths (44%).



- 12% are willing to live with Covid-19, even if there are hospitalisations and deaths. Those most likely to have this position include men (15%), those aged over 55 (17%), and minor/independent party voters (28%).
- Victorians are more likely than residents in other states to want to live with Covid-19, even if there are hospitalisations and deaths (18%).



Number of Covid-19 deaths acceptable to 'live with'

Q How many deaths nationally from Covid-19 do you think is acceptable to 'live with' in Australia as lockdown restrictions are removed?

	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other
Less than 100 deaths per year	61%	52%	70%	55%	63%	65%	68%	56%	53%	53%
Between 100 and 1,000 deaths per year	25%	27%	22%	25%	22%	26%	21%	30%	29%	17%
Between 1,000 and 3,000 deaths per year	10%	13%	7%	13%	9%	8%	7%	9%	15%	23%
Between 3,000 and 5,000 deaths per year	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	3%
More than 5,000 deaths per year	3%	5%	1%	3%	4%	1%	3%	3%	2%	4%
Base (n)	1,100	539	561	341	374	385	388	405	90	119

	State				
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA
Less than 100 deaths per year	63%	56%	62%	66%	61%
Between 100 and 1,000 deaths per year	26%	29%	19%	22%	24%
Between 1,000 and 3,000 deaths per year	8%	10%	12%	11%	8%
Between 3,000 and 5,000 deaths per year	1%	2%	3%	0%	3%
More than 5,000 deaths per year	2%	2%	4%	1%	4%
Base (n)	349	276	219	89	111

- 61% of people say an 'acceptable' number of Covid-19 deaths is less than 100 per year. 25% say between 100 and 1,000 deaths would be 'acceptable'. Only a small percentage think over 1000 deaths would be acceptable, with 10% saying 1,000 to 3,000, 2% between 3,000 and 5,000, and 3% saying more than 5,000 deaths per year.



	Get Covid-19 cases down as close to zero as possible	Live with a few cases of Covid-19, as long as there are very few hospitalisations and deaths	Live with Covid-19, even if there are hospitalisations and deaths
Less than 100 deaths per year	78%	55%	22%
Between 100 and 1,000 deaths per year	13%	33%	35%
Between 1,000 and 3,000 deaths per year	5%	10%	28%
Between 3,000 and 5,000 deaths per year	2%	2%	2%
More than 5,000 deaths per year	2%	1%	12%
Base (n)	482	488	130

- Among those who said Australia should live with Covid-19, even if there are hospitalisations and deaths, 22% would accept up to 100 deaths per year, 35% would accept between 100 and 1,000 deaths, and 28% would accept 1,000 to 3,000.
- Among those who think we should live with Covid-19 as long as there are only a few cases of hospitalisations and deaths, 55% think this would mean less than 100 deaths per year, and 33% between 100 and 1,000 deaths.



Views towards Covid-19 vaccination thresholds (focus on children)

Q The national cabinet has set targets for easing Covid-19 restrictions once 70% of the adult population is fully vaccinated against Covid-19, and for lockdowns to stop once 80% of the adult population is fully vaccinated.

These targets are based on the percentage of the adult population who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

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

	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Actions to prevent the spread of Covid-19, like wearing masks in crowds and practicing social distancing, should be required even after we achieve the vaccination targets	65%	17%	31%	34%	18%	10%	7%
We should not be easing Covid-19 lockdown restrictions until a substantial proportion of children are fully vaccinated	58%	19%	26%	32%	24%	10%	9%
Children should be given priority for the Pfizer vaccine over those in the general population who are eligible for other vaccines	44%	23%	17%	26%	34%	15%	8%

	TOTAL: Agree	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention				
			Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other	
Actions to prevent the spread of Covid-19, like wearing masks in crowds and practicing social distancing, should be required even after we achieve the vaccination targets	65%		62%	67%	58%	61%	74%	71%	66%	63%	48%	
We should not be easing Covid-19 lockdown restrictions until a substantial proportion of children are fully vaccinated	58%		58%	58%	52%	55%	66%	65%	58%	59%	43%	
Children should be given priority for the Pfizer vaccine over those in the general population who are eligible for other vaccines	44%		47%	41%	43%	41%	47%	47%	46%	48%	31%	
		Base (n)	1,100	539	561	341	374	385	388	405	90	119

	TOTAL: Agree	State					Household Composition		
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Dependent Children	No Dependent Children	
Actions to prevent the spread of Covid-19, like wearing masks in crowds and practicing social distancing, should be required even after we achieve the vaccination targets		73%	59%	63%	63%	61%	68%	63%	
We should not be easing Covid-19 lockdown restrictions until a substantial proportion of children are fully vaccinated		60%	48%	58%	59%	71%	57%	58%	
Children should be given priority for the Pfizer vaccine over those in the general population who are eligible for other vaccines		44%	38%	46%	46%	50%	48%	41%	
		Base (n)	349	276	219	89	111	392	708



- Most people (65%) expect actions to prevent the spread of Covid-19, like wearing masks in crowds and practicing social distancing, should be required even after we achieve the vaccination targets.
- Over half of people agree that we should not be easing Covid-19 lockdown restrictions until a substantial proportion of children are fully vaccinated. Agreement for this is highest among those aged over 55 (66%), Labor voters (65%), and those in WA (71%).
- 44% agree that children should be given priority for the Pfizer vaccine over those in the general population who are eligible for other vaccines. Those with dependent children are more likely than those without to agree with this statement (48% to 41%).



Views towards Australia’s involvement in the Afghanistan conflict

Q How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Australian involvement in the 20-year conflict in Afghanistan?

	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Australia should increase its refugee intake to include more people fleeing the violence in Afghanistan	48%	24%	20%	28%	28%	11%	12%
The government should grant permanent visas to all Afghan nationals currently in Australia	43%	26%	19%	24%	31%	13%	13%
The deployment of Australian troops in Afghanistan has benefitted Afghanistan and its inhabitants	42%	22%	13%	28%	37%	11%	11%
The deployment of Australian troops in Afghanistan has improved Australia’s reputation internationally	36%	22%	11%	25%	42%	12%	10%

	TOTAL: Agree	Total	Gender		Age Group			Federal Voting Intention				
			Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Labor	TOTAL: Coalition	Greens	TOTAL: Other	
Australia should increase its refugee intake to include more people fleeing the violence in Afghanistan	48%		51%	45%	53%	46%	45%	54%	46%	72%	29%	
The government should grant permanent visas to all Afghan nationals currently in Australia	43%		48%	37%	46%	40%	42%	48%	41%	65%	26%	
The deployment of Australian troops in Afghanistan has benefitted Afghanistan and its inhabitants	42%		43%	40%	38%	45%	42%	36%	55%	38%	33%	
The deployment of Australian troops in Afghanistan has improved Australia’s reputation internationally	36%		42%	31%	35%	40%	33%	30%	47%	38%	27%	
		Base (n)	1,100	539	561	341	374	385	388	405	90	119



- Around half of people would support Australia increasing its refugee intake in light of recent events in Afghanistan (48%), and 43% agree that permanent visas should be granted for all Afghan nationals currently living in Australia.
- Agreement with increasing Australia's refugee intake is highest among men (51%), those aged 18-34 (53%), Labor voters (54%) and Greens voters (72%).
- When thinking about the impact of the Afghan conflict, 42% agree that the deployment of Australian troops in Afghanistan has benefitted Afghanistan and its inhabitants with 22% disagreeing.
- 36% agree that the deployment of Australian troops in Afghanistan has improved Australia's reputation internationally, 22% disagree.



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.

