

# The Essential Report

13 September 2021



## The Essential Report

Date: 13/09/2021

---

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 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 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 1,023. 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.

## Federal government response to Covid-19

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

|                       | 13/09        | 30/08 | 16/08 | 02/08 | 19/07 | 05/07 | 07/06 | 24/05 | 12/04 | 15/03 | 01/03 | 15/02 | 01/02 |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Very poor             | <b>16%</b>   | 16%   | 13%   | 16%   | 13%   | 12%   | 10%   | 6%    | 7%    | 5%    | 6%    | 5%    | 4%    |
| Quite poor            | <b>20%</b>   | 20%   | 22%   | 19%   | 19%   | 17%   | 14%   | 12%   | 10%   | 7%    | 8%    | 7%    | 11%   |
| Neither good nor poor | <b>21%</b>   | 24%   | 24%   | 28%   | 23%   | 26%   | 22%   | 25%   | 21%   | 18%   | 24%   | 19%   | 19%   |
| Quite good            | <b>28%</b>   | 29%   | 32%   | 28%   | 32%   | 33%   | 38%   | 40%   | 40%   | 39%   | 39%   | 42%   | 42%   |
| Very good             | <b>15%</b>   | 10%   | 9%    | 10%   | 14%   | 11%   | 15%   | 18%   | 22%   | 31%   | 23%   | 27%   | 25%   |
| TOTAL: Poor           | <b>35%</b>   | 36%   | 35%   | 35%   | 31%   | 30%   | 24%   | 18%   | 17%   | 12%   | 14%   | 12%   | 14%   |
| TOTAL: Good           | <b>43%</b>   | 39%   | 41%   | 38%   | 46%   | 44%   | 53%   | 58%   | 62%   | 70%   | 62%   | 69%   | 67%   |
| Base (n)              | <b>1,100</b> | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,098 | 1,100 | 1,099 | 1,104 | 1,100 | 1,368 | 1,124 | 1,074 | 1,109 | 1,092 |

| TOTAL: Good | 13/09      | 30/08 | 16/08 | 02/08 | 19/07 | 05/07 | 07/06 | 24/05 | 12/04 | 15/03 | 01/03 |
|-------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| NSW         | <b>41%</b> | 34%   | 34%   | 39%   | 49%   | 44%   | 62%   | 56%   | 66%   | 69%   | 64%   |
| VIC         | <b>39%</b> | 35%   | 37%   | 33%   | 39%   | 40%   | 42%   | 57%   | 55%   | 65%   | 51%   |
| QLD         | <b>43%</b> | 45%   | 44%   | 40%   | 46%   | 48%   | 54%   | 56%   | 63%   | 69%   | 66%   |
| SA          | <b>54%</b> | 48%   | 45%   | 48%   | 51%   | 48%   | 58%   | 66%   | 62%   | 78%   | 68%   |
| WA          | <b>51%</b> | 51%   | 53%   | 37%   | 51%   | 42%   | 49%   | 56%   | 65%   | 75%   | 66%   |

- 43% of people rate the federal government's response to the Covid-19 outbreak as quite good or very good (39% two weeks ago), with 35% rating it as quite poor or very poor.
- Positive rating of the federal government's handling of Covid-19 has increased in NSW from 34% a fortnight ago to 41%, in VIC from 35% to 39%, and in SA from 48% to 54%.



## State government response to Covid-19

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

| TOTAL: Good | 13/09      | 30/08 | 16/08 | 02/08 | 19/07 | 05/07 | 07/06 | 24/05 | 12/04 | 15/03 | 01/03 | 15/02 | 01/02 |
|-------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| NSW         | <b>46%</b> | 40%   | 42%   | 47%   | 54%   | 57%   | 69%   | 68%   | 73%   | 75%   | 72%   | 72%   | 71%   |
| VIC         | <b>50%</b> | 44%   | 56%   | 54%   | 49%   | 50%   | 48%   | 63%   | 58%   | 62%   | 49%   | 59%   | 61%   |
| QLD         | <b>65%</b> | 67%   | 66%   | 60%   | 62%   | 61%   | 65%   | 68%   | 72%   | 75%   | 73%   | 76%   | 78%   |
| SA          | <b>67%</b> | 76%   | 68%   | 73%   | 68%   | 67%   | 67%   | 71%   | 75%   | 85%   | 78%   | 79%   | 80%   |
| WA          | <b>87%</b> | 78%   | 87%   | 82%   | 77%   | 86%   | 75%   | 77%   | 84%   | 91%   | 85%   | 88%   | 80%   |

- Positive rating of the state government's response to Covid-19 has increased in both NSW and VIC by 6 percentage points respectively (now 46% and 50% respectively).
- After weeks of falling ratings, this is the first improvement seen in both states since the first half of August. However, we are yet to see these ratings recover to their high levels in the first quarter of the year.
- While still a relatively high rating, positive rating of the SA government's response to Covid-19 has dropped by 9 percentage points to 67% in the last fortnight.
- Contrastingly, positive rating of the WA government's handling of Covid-19 has increased 9 percentage points to 87%. Both SA and WA ratings reflect those seen a month ago.
- Positive rating of the QLD government is at 65%, consistent with last month (66%).



## Views towards reopening international borders

Q Thinking about reopening Australia’s international borders, which of the following is closer to your view?

|  | Total      | Gender |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |
|--|------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
|  |            | Male   | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |
| We need to accept some deaths to reopen our borders as the cost of remaining closed is too high                              | <b>20%</b> | 24%    | 17%    | 20%       | 23%   | 19% | 12%                      | 26%              | 18%    | 24%          |
| We need to accept some deaths but must take every reasonable step to minimise deaths, even if it means slowing our reopening | <b>45%</b> | 43%    | 48%    | 46%       | 45%   | 45% | 48%                      | 46%              | 47%    | 43%          |
| We cannot accept any deaths that could be prevented by keeping our borders closed until it's safe to reopen them             | <b>34%</b> | 34%    | 35%    | 35%       | 32%   | 36% | 40%                      | 27%              | 34%    | 33%          |
| Base (n)   | 1,100      | 539    | 561    | 341       | 374   | 385 | 367                      | 389              | 103    | 145          |

|  | NSW | VIC | State |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
|  |     |     | QLD   | SA  | WA  |
| We need to accept some deaths to reopen our borders as the cost of remaining closed is too high                              | 24% | 22% | 18%   | 14% | 15% |
| We need to accept some deaths but must take every reasonable step to minimise deaths, even if it means slowing our reopening | 49% | 47% | 42%   | 47% | 39% |
| We cannot accept any deaths that could be prevented by keeping our borders closed until it's safe to reopen them             | 27% | 30% | 40%   | 40% | 46% |
| Base (n)   | 352 | 274 | 217   | 89  | 111 |



- When thinking about reopening Australia's international borders, 45% think we need to accept some deaths but must take every reasonable step to minimise deaths, even if it means slowing our reopening.
- A third (34%) think we cannot accept any deaths that could be prevented by keeping our borders closed until it's safe to reopen them. 20% think we need to accept some deaths to reopen our borders as the cost of remaining closed is too high.
- Men are more likely than women to think the cost of remaining closed is too high (24% to 17%), as are Coalition voters compared to all other voters (26% to 15%).



## Views towards state border closures

Q Thinking about state border closures, which of the following is closer to your view?

|  | Total | Gender |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |
|--|-------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
|  |       | Male   | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |
| States with low or no Covid-19 cases should be allowed to keep their borders to other states closed for as long as they think is necessary                                       | 41%   | 39%    | 42%    | 37%       | 44%   | 40% | 46%                      | 33%              | 41%    | 41%          |
| States with low or no Covid-19 cases should be required to reopen their borders to other states when 80% of the <b>adult (16+) population</b> is fully vaccinated                | 37%   | 39%    | 35%    | 45%       | 36%   | 31% | 33%                      | 42%              | 36%    | 39%          |
| States with low or no Covid-19 cases should be required to reopen their borders to other states when 80% of the <b>total population (including children)</b> is fully vaccinated | 23%   | 22%    | 23%    | 18%       | 20%   | 29% | 21%                      | 24%              | 23%    | 20%          |
| Base (n)   | 1,100 | 539    | 561    | 341       | 374   | 385 | 367                      | 389              | 103    | 145          |

- 41% of people think states with low or no Covid-19 cases should be allowed to keep their borders to other states closed for as long as they think is necessary.
- On the other hand, 37% think these states should be required to reopen their borders to other states when 80% of the adult (16+) population is fully vaccinated, and 23% think this should be required when 80% of the total population (including children) is fully vaccinated.
- Those aged 18-34 are more likely than older cohorts to think states with low or no Covid-19 cases should be required to reopen their borders to other states when 80% of the adult (16+) population is fully vaccinated (45%, compared to 36% of those aged 35-54 and 31% of those over 55).
- Those aged over 55 are the most likely to think this should only be required when 80% of the total population (including children) is fully vaccinated (29% to 20% of those aged 35-54 and 18% of those aged 18-34).





|  | NSW | VIC | State<br>QLD | SA  | WA  |
|--|-----|-----|--------------|-----|-----|
| States with low or no Covid-19 cases should be allowed to keep their borders to other states closed for as long as they think is necessary                                       | 28% | 31% | 55%          | 47% | 67% |
| States with low or no Covid-19 cases should be required to reopen their borders to other states when 80% of the <b>adult (16+) population</b> is fully vaccinated                | 46% | 39% | 30%          | 36% | 17% |
| States with low or no Covid-19 cases should be required to reopen their borders to other states when 80% of the <b>total population (including children)</b> is fully vaccinated | 25% | 30% | 15%          | 17% | 16% |
| Base (n)   | 352 | 274 | 217          | 89  | 111 |

- Western Australians and Queenslanders are the most likely to think states with low or no Covid-19 cases should be allowed to keep their borders to other states closed for as long as they think is necessary (67% and 55% respectively).
- NSW residents are most likely to think these states should be required to reopen their borders to other states when 80% of the adult (16+) population is fully vaccinated (46%).
- Victorians are most likely to think opening state borders should be required when 80% of the total population (including children) is fully vaccinated (30%).



## Comprehension and confidence in PM’s plan to ‘safely reopen’ Australia

Q The Prime Minister Scott Morrison says he has a “safe plan to ensure that Australia can open up again with confidence”.

Thinking about this statement, which of the following applies to you?

|   | Total        | Gender |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |
|---|--------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
|   |              | Male   | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |
| I understand the plan and have confidence in it       | <b>26%</b>   | 34%    | 19%    | 30%       | 27%   | 23% | 18%                      | 40%              | 23%    | 19%          |
| I understand the plan but don’t have confidence in it | <b>39%</b>   | 38%    | 40%    | 38%       | 38%   | 40% | 49%                      | 30%              | 40%    | 43%          |
| I’m aware of the plan but don’t understand it         | <b>15%</b>   | 14%    | 17%    | 15%       | 13%   | 17% | 12%                      | 17%              | 19%    | 14%          |
| I’m not aware of the plan                             | <b>20%</b>   | 14%    | 25%    | 16%       | 22%   | 20% | 21%                      | 13%              | 19%    | 24%          |
| Base (n)  | <b>1,100</b> | 539    | 561    | 341       | 374   | 385 | 367                      | 389              | 103    | 145          |

|   | State |     |     |     |     |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|   | NSW   | VIC | QLD | SA  | WA  |
| I understand the plan and have confidence in it       | 32%   | 26% | 23% | 22% | 23% |
| I understand the plan but don’t have confidence in it | 38%   | 43% | 35% | 38% | 41% |
| I’m aware of the plan but don’t understand it         | 17%   | 14% | 15% | 18% | 14% |
| I’m not aware of the plan                             | 14%   | 17% | 27% | 22% | 22% |
| Base (n)  | 352   | 274 | 217 | 89  | 111 |

- About 4 in 10 (39%) say they understand the PM’s plan to ‘safely reopen’ Australia but don’t have confidence in it. In comparison, about a quarter (26%) say they understand the plan and have confidence in it.
- 20% aren’t aware of this plan, and 15% are aware of it but don’t understand it.



- Men are almost twice as likely as women to say they understand the plan and have confidence in it (34% to 19% respectively). Whereas women are more likely than men to say they aren't aware of the plan (25% to 14%).
- Besides men, those aged 18-34 (30%) and Coalition voters (40%) are more likely than others to say they understand and have confidence in the PM's plan.



## Uptake of a Covid-19 vaccine

Q The Covid-19 vaccine rollout is underway in Australia.

Which of the following best describes your situation?

|   | Total        | Gender |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |
|---|--------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
|   |              | Male   | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |
| I've already had the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine / I've already had both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine | <b>69%</b>   | 72%    | 66%    | 53%       | 67%   | 86% | 65%                      | 80%              | 67%    | 57%          |
| I've booked my vaccination and am waiting to get my first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine                      | <b>11%</b>   | 10%    | 12%    | 20%       | 11%   | 4%  | 13%                      | 10%              | 13%    | 9%           |
| I will get vaccinated but haven't booked my vaccination yet   | <b>14%</b>   | 13%    | 15%    | 20%       | 15%   | 7%  | 16%                      | 8%               | 16%    | 18%          |
| I'd never get vaccinated  | <b>6%</b>    | 6%     | 6%     | 8%        | 7%    | 3%  | 6%                       | 2%               | 4%     | 15%          |
| Base (n)  | <b>1,100</b> | 539    | 561    | 341       | 374   | 385 | 367                      | 389              | 103    | 145          |

|   | State |     |     |     |     |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|   | NSW   | VIC | QLD | SA  | WA  |
| I've already had the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine / I've already had both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine | 75%   | 66% | 72% | 59% | 63% |
| I've booked my vaccination and am waiting to get my first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine                      | 12%   | 15% | 6%  | 10% | 10% |
| I will get vaccinated but haven't booked my vaccination yet   | 9%    | 14% | 14% | 26% | 19% |
| I'd never get vaccinated  | 5%    | 6%  | 8%  | 4%  | 8%  |
| Base (n)  | 352   | 274 | 217 | 89  | 111 |



- 69% of people say they've had at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, while 11% say they've booked their Covid-19 vaccination and are waiting for their first dose.
- 14% say they will get vaccinated but haven't booked an appointment yet.
- Those most likely to say they've had at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine include men (72%), those aged over 55 (86%), Coalition voters (80%), those in NSW (75%) and Queenslanders (72%).
- 20% of people aged 18-34 have booked their vaccination and are waiting for their first dose. However, a further 20% say they haven't booked their vaccination yet (20%).
- Only 6% of people now say they would never get vaccinated – the lowest number recorded this year.



## Necessity of mandatory vaccinations in specific situations

Q In your opinion, should being vaccinated against Covid-19 be mandatory in the following circumstances?:

|   | Yes        | No  | Unsure |
|---|------------|-----|--------|
| For health workers to work at hospitals, clinics, etc.          | <b>83%</b> | 12% | 5%     |
| For aged and disability care workers to work at care facilities | <b>82%</b> | 14% | 5%     |
| For passengers to go on flights                                 | <b>77%</b> | 17% | 7%     |
| For teachers and teachers' aides to work at schools             | <b>74%</b> | 19% | 7%     |
| For spectators to attend sports events                          | <b>69%</b> | 22% | 9%     |
| For patrons to visit hospitality and entertainment venues       | <b>68%</b> | 22% | 10%    |
| For employees to work at their workplace                        | <b>62%</b> | 24% | 14%    |
| For students to attend school                                   | <b>58%</b> | 26% | 16%    |
| For customers to shop at retail stores                          | <b>58%</b> | 30% | 12%    |

- A high majority of people think being vaccinated against Covid-19 should be mandatory for health workers (83%), aged and disability care workers (82%), flight passengers (77%), and teachers and teacher's aides (74%) – at least three quarters of people think mandatory vaccinations are necessary in each case.
- Around two thirds think mandatory vaccinations are necessary for sports events spectators (69%), hospitality and entertainment venue patrons (68%), and employees going into workplaces (62%).
- Over half think being vaccinated against Covid-19 should be mandatory for students to attend school, and for retail store customers (58% respectively).

|   | TOTAL: Yes   | Total | Gender |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |
|---|--------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
|   |              |       | Male   | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |
| For health workers to work at hospitals, clinics, etc.          | <b>83%</b>   |       | 81%    | 85%    | 74%       | 81%   | 93% | 84%                      | 91%              | 77%    | 68%          |
| For aged and disability care workers to work at care facilities | <b>82%</b>   |       | 78%    | 85%    | 70%       | 79%   | 94% | 84%                      | 87%              | 83%    | 66%          |
| For passengers to go on flights                                 | <b>77%</b>   |       | 73%    | 80%    | 63%       | 74%   | 90% | 81%                      | 81%              | 76%    | 62%          |
| For teachers and teachers' aides to work at schools             | <b>74%</b>   |       | 72%    | 76%    | 61%       | 69%   | 90% | 78%                      | 80%              | 69%    | 58%          |
| For spectators to attend sports events                          | <b>69%</b>   |       | 70%    | 68%    | 55%       | 68%   | 82% | 72%                      | 76%              | 63%    | 53%          |
| For patrons to visit hospitality and entertainment venues       | <b>68%</b>   |       | 69%    | 66%    | 56%       | 65%   | 80% | 72%                      | 74%              | 62%    | 51%          |
| For employees to work at their workplace                        | <b>62%</b>   |       | 63%    | 60%    | 50%       | 60%   | 74% | 62%                      | 71%              | 56%    | 48%          |
| For students to attend school                                   | <b>58%</b>   |       | 60%    | 56%    | 52%       | 56%   | 65% | 61%                      | 63%              | 58%    | 43%          |
| For customers to shop at retail stores                          | <b>58%</b>   |       | 59%    | 56%    | 48%       | 57%   | 66% | 57%                      | 67%              | 53%    | 43%          |
| Base (n)  | <b>1,100</b> |       | 539    | 561    | 341       | 374   | 385 | 367                      | 389              | 103    | 145          |

- In each instance, those aged 18-34 and minor/independent party voters are the least likely to think being vaccinated against Covid-19 should be mandatory.
- While those over 55 are generally more likely to think mandatory vaccinations are necessary in each circumstance, their view is especially pronounced for health workers (93%), aged and disability care workers (94%), flight passengers (90%), and teachers and teachers' aides (90%).
- Coalition voters are the most likely voters to think mandatory vaccinations are necessary for employees to work at their workplace (71% to 58% all other voters).
- There is no difference between those who have and don't have dependent children in views towards whether mandatory vaccinations are necessary for students to attend school.



## Views towards easing restrictions for fully vaccinated people

Q Thinking about Covid-19 restrictions and vaccinations, which of the following is closer to your view?

|  | Total        | Gender |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |
|--|--------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
|  |              | Male   | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |
| Restrictions should be relaxed for people who have been fully vaccinated effective immediately | <b>39%</b>   | 42%    | 36%    | 40%       | 37%   | 39% | 34%                      | 47%              | 37%    | 31%          |
| Restrictions should only be relaxed when everyone has had the opportunity to get vaccinated    | <b>44%</b>   | 42%    | 45%    | 41%       | 43%   | 48% | 51%                      | 42%              | 47%    | 36%          |
| People who are vaccinated should not be treated any differently to unvaccinated people         | <b>17%</b>   | 16%    | 19%    | 19%       | 20%   | 13% | 16%                      | 11%              | 15%    | 33%          |
| Base (n)   | <b>1,100</b> | 539    | 561    | 341       | 374   | 385 | 367                      | 389              | 103    | 145          |

|  | NSW | VIC | State |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
|  |     |     | QLD   | SA  | WA  |
| Restrictions should be relaxed for people who have been fully vaccinated effective immediately | 46% | 38% | 36%   | 33% | 30% |
| Restrictions should only be relaxed when everyone has had the opportunity to get vaccinated    | 39% | 46% | 45%   | 49% | 51% |
| People who are vaccinated should not be treated any differently to unvaccinated people         | 15% | 16% | 19%   | 18% | 19% |
| Base (n)   | 352 | 274 | 217   | 89  | 111 |

- 44% of people think restrictions should only be relaxed when everyone has had the opportunity to get vaccinated. A further 39% think restrictions should be relaxed for people who have been fully vaccinated effective immediately. 17% think people who are vaccinated should not be treated any differently to unvaccinated people.





- Coalition voters (47%) and NSW residents (46%) are most likely to think restrictions should be relaxed for people who have been fully vaccinated effective immediately.
- Labor voters (51%) and Western Australians (51%) are most likely to think restrictions should only be relaxed when everyone has had the opportunity to get vaccinated.

|  | I've already had the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine / I've already had both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine | I've booked my vaccination and am waiting to get my first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine | I will get vaccinated but haven't booked my vaccination yet | I'd never get vaccinated |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| Restrictions should be relaxed for people who have been fully vaccinated effective immediately | 47%   | 25%  | 19%   | 11%                      |
| Restrictions should only be relaxed when everyone has had the opportunity to get vaccinated    | 45%   | 66%  | 38%   | 3%                       |
| People who are vaccinated should not be treated any differently to unvaccinated people         | 8%  | 9%   | 43%   | 87%                      |
| Base (n)   | 756   | 132  | 150   | 62                       |

- Support for easing of restrictions for fully vaccinated people is highest among those who themselves have already received a Covid-19 vaccine (47%).
- The majority of those waiting to receive a vaccine think restrictions should be eased only once everyone has had the opportunity to be vaccinated (66%).
- 43% of those who say they'll get vaccinated but haven't booked their vaccination yet think people who are vaccinated should not be treated any differently to unvaccinated people. Only 9% of those who have booked their vaccination say this.



## Decision maker for mandatory vaccinations for workers

Q Some employers want to require their workers to be vaccinated against Covid-19. Which of the following is closer to your view?

|   | Total        | Gender |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |
|---|--------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
|   |              | Male   | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |
| The federal government should coordinate uniform laws across the states           | <b>45%</b>   | 46%    | 43%    | 32%       | 41%   | 59% | 42%                      | 53%              | 29%    | 41%          |
| Individual state health authorities should impose health mandates on their states | <b>25%</b>   | 23%    | 26%    | 34%       | 24%   | 17% | 29%                      | 22%              | 28%    | 22%          |
| Individual workplaces should be able to make decisions about their own workers    | <b>31%</b>   | 30%    | 31%    | 34%       | 34%   | 25% | 29%                      | 25%              | 43%    | 38%          |
| Base (n)  | <b>1,100</b> | 539    | 561    | 341       | 374   | 385 | 367                      | 389              | 103    | 145          |

|   | NSW | VIC | State |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
|   |     |     | QLD   | SA  | WA  |
| The federal government should coordinate uniform laws across the states           | 51% | 44% | 42%   | 37% | 41% |
| Individual state health authorities should impose health mandates on their states | 19% | 28% | 21%   | 32% | 34% |
| Individual workplaces should be able to make decisions about their own workers    | 30% | 27% | 37%   | 31% | 25% |
| Base (n)  | 352 | 274 | 217   | 89  | 111 |



- More people think the federal government should take the responsibility for mandatory vaccinations for workers by coordinating uniform laws across states (45%), than those who think this responsibility should be left to individual state governments (25%), or individual workplaces (31%).
- Those most likely to want the federal government to take responsibility for decisions on mandatory vaccinations for workers include those aged over 55 (59%), Coalition voters (53%) and people in NSW (51%).



## Views towards impact of increasing Covid-19 cases on public health system

Q How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your state’s public health system during the Covid-19 pandemic?

|  | TOTAL:<br>Agree | TOTAL:<br>Disagree | Strongly<br>agree | Somewhat<br>agree | Neither<br>disagree nor<br>agree | Somewhat<br>disagree | Strongly<br>disagree |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| My state’s public health system is already struggling to cope and will be overwhelmed by any surge in Covid hospitalisations                                 | <b>55%</b>      | <b>19%</b>         | 27%               | 28%               | 27%                              | 14%                  | 4%                   |
| The federal government is planning to ease restrictions without paying enough attention to how the public health system will cope with increased Covid cases | <b>53%</b>      | <b>19%</b>         | 26%               | 27%               | 28%                              | 13%                  | 6%                   |
| My state’s public health system can manage any surge in Covid hospitalisations   | <b>40%</b>      | <b>29%</b>         | 13%               | 27%               | 31%                              | 17%                  | 12%                  |
| People vaccinated against Covid-19 should be prioritised for medical attention over unvaccinated people  | <b>39%</b>      | <b>34%</b>         | 18%               | 21%               | 28%                              | 14%                  | 20%                  |

- Over half of people believe that the public health system is already struggling to cope and will be overwhelmed by any surge in Covid hospitalisations (55%), and that the federal government is not paying enough attention to how the public health system will cope with increased Covid cases (53%).



|  | TOTAL: Agree | Total    | Gender       |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |     |
|--|--------------|----------|--------------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|-----|
|  |              |          | Male         | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |     |
| My state's public health system is already struggling to cope and will be overwhelmed by any surge in Covid hospitalisations                                 | <b>55%</b>   |          | 52%          | 57%    | 52%       | 57%   | 54% | 56%                      | 57%              | 54%    | 47%          |     |
| The federal government is planning to ease restrictions without paying enough attention to how the public health system will cope with increased Covid cases | <b>53%</b>   |          | 54%          | 53%    | 54%       | 54%   | 52% | 62%                      | 48%              | 61%    | 53%          |     |
| My state's public health system can manage any surge in Covid hospitalisations   | <b>40%</b>   |          | 46%          | 34%    | 48%       | 40%   | 33% | 37%                      | 51%              | 33%    | 33%          |     |
| People vaccinated against Covid-19 should be prioritised for medical attention over unvaccinated people  | <b>39%</b>   |          | 44%          | 33%    | 42%       | 39%   | 35% | 35%                      | 48%              | 40%    | 33%          |     |
|  |              | Base (n) | <b>1,100</b> | 539    | 561       | 341   | 374 | 385                      | 367              | 389    | 103          | 145 |

- Coalition voters are most likely to believe that their state's public health system can manage any surge in Covid hospitalisations (51%).



| TOTAL: Agree   | NSW | VIC | State<br>QLD | SA  | WA  |
|--|-----|-----|--------------|-----|-----|
| My state's public health system is already struggling to cope and will be overwhelmed by any surge in Covid hospitalisations                                 | 61% | 53% | 43%          | 56% | 66% |
| The federal government is planning to ease restrictions without paying enough attention to how the public health system will cope with increased Covid cases | 55% | 50% | 52%          | 50% | 65% |
| My state's public health system can manage any surge in Covid hospitalisations   | 42% | 44% | 39%          | 23% | 37% |
| People vaccinated against Covid-19 should be prioritised for medical attention over unvaccinated people  | 40% | 42% | 38%          | 31% | 39% |
| Base (n)   | 352 | 274 | 217          | 89  | 111 |

- However, South Australians are most concerned, with just 23% agreeing that any surges in Covid-19 hospitalisations can be managed by SA's public health system.



## Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on people’s health within the past year

Q Thinking about your health in the past year, which of the following applies to you as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic?

|  | Yes, applies to me | No, does not apply to me |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| I’ve visited my GP less regularly  | 44%                | 56%                      |
| My overall mental wellbeing has declined   | 40%                | 60%                      |
| I’ve avoided seeking medical attention for a health issue I would normally get looked at | 32%                | 68%                      |
| I’ve had medical check-ups/tests delayed or cancelled                                    | 32%                | 68%                      |
| My overall physical health has declined  | 31%                | 69%                      |
| I’ve had elective procedures delayed or cancelled  | 22%                | 78%                      |

- The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions have had a knock-on effect on many people’s general health, with 44% visiting their GP less regularly and 32% avoiding seeking medical attention. 32% have also had check-ups or tests delayed or cancelled, and 22% have had electives procedures delayed or cancelled.
- 40% acknowledge a decline in their mental wellbeing and 31% in their physical health.



| TOTAL: Yes, applies to me  | Total        | Gender |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |
|--|--------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
|  |              | Male   | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |
| I've visited my GP less regularly  | <b>44%</b>   | 41%    | 46%    | 52%       | 48%   | 33% | 45%                      | 44%              | 55%    | 41%          |
| My overall mental wellbeing has declined   | <b>40%</b>   | 38%    | 41%    | 53%       | 47%   | 22% | 41%                      | 36%              | 56%    | 40%          |
| I've avoided seeking medical attention for a health issue I would normally get looked at | <b>32%</b>   | 31%    | 33%    | 42%       | 38%   | 18% | 34%                      | 32%              | 46%    | 25%          |
| I've had medical check-ups/tests delayed or cancelled                                    | <b>32%</b>   | 33%    | 32%    | 42%       | 35%   | 20% | 28%                      | 34%              | 50%    | 36%          |
| My overall physical health has declined  | <b>31%</b>   | 32%    | 29%    | 37%       | 36%   | 20% | 31%                      | 29%              | 42%    | 32%          |
| I've had elective procedures delayed or cancelled  | <b>22%</b>   | 25%    | 20%    | 34%       | 23%   | 11% | 18%                      | 25%              | 29%    | 21%          |
| Base (n)   | <b>1,100</b> | 539    | 561    | 341       | 374   | 385 | 367                      | 389              | 103    | 145          |

| TOTAL: Yes, applies to me  | State |     |     |     |     |
|--|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|  | NSW   | VIC | QLD | SA  | WA  |
| I've visited my GP less regularly  | 52%   | 51% | 37% | 34% | 24% |
| My overall mental wellbeing has declined   | 43%   | 45% | 35% | 39% | 30% |
| I've avoided seeking medical attention for a health issue I would normally get looked at | 35%   | 35% | 30% | 27% | 24% |
| I've had medical check-ups/tests delayed or cancelled                                    | 40%   | 32% | 29% | 23% | 21% |
| My overall physical health has declined  | 35%   | 32% | 33% | 22% | 19% |
| I've had elective procedures delayed or cancelled  | 25%   | 24% | 21% | 14% | 19% |
| Base (n)   | 352   | 274 | 217 | 89  | 111 |

- Younger people are more likely than older people to have experienced the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on their health. Those aged 18-34 are more likely than those over 55 to have had delays or cancellations to medical appointments (42% to 20% for check-ups/tests, 34% to 11% for elective procedures).





- Younger people are most likely to have noticed a decline in both their mental wellbeing and physical health (53% and 37% respectively).
- People living in NSW and Victorians are more likely than those in other states to say their mental wellbeing has declined (43% and 45%).



## Confidence in meaningful outcomes from Women’s Safety Summit

Q The National Summit on Women's Safety was held on September 6-7.

The main objective of the event was to guide the development of the next National Plan to end violence against women and children. Experts, advocates, service providers, and people with lived experience were brought together to explore issues faced by women and children experiencing violence in Australia.

How confident are you that the National Summit on Women's Safety will result in meaningful changes to address violence against women and children in Australia?

|                      | Total        | Gender |        | Age Group |       |     | Federal Voting Intention |                  |        |              |
|----------------------|--------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
|                      |              | Male   | Female | 18-34     | 35-54 | 55+ | Labor                    | TOTAL: Coalition | Greens | TOTAL: Other |
| Very confident       | <b>14%</b>   | 18%    | 9%     | 21%       | 17%   | 4%  | 12%                      | 16%              | 17%    | 13%          |
| Fairly confident     | <b>24%</b>   | 23%    | 26%    | 29%       | 24%   | 21% | 24%                      | 29%              | 24%    | 19%          |
| Not that confident   | <b>32%</b>   | 31%    | 33%    | 24%       | 29%   | 41% | 35%                      | 31%              | 29%    | 28%          |
| Not confident at all | <b>16%</b>   | 16%    | 16%    | 10%       | 12%   | 25% | 17%                      | 14%              | 18%    | 22%          |
| Unsure               | <b>14%</b>   | 12%    | 16%    | 16%       | 18%   | 9%  | 13%                      | 10%              | 13%    | 18%          |
| TOTAL: Confident     | <b>38%</b>   | 41%    | 35%    | 50%       | 41%   | 24% | 36%                      | 45%              | 40%    | 32%          |
| TOTAL: Not confident | <b>48%</b>   | 47%    | 49%    | 34%       | 41%   | 67% | 51%                      | 45%              | 47%    | 50%          |
| Base (n)             | <b>1,100</b> | 539    | 561    | 341       | 374   | 385 | 367                      | 389              | 103    | 145          |

- Fewer people are confident that the recent National Summit on Women's Safety will result in meaningful changes for women and children in Australia. 38% are very or fairly confident changes will happen, while 48% have less confidence.
- Just 9% of women say they are very confident that the summit will result in meaningful changes, compared to 18% of men.



## Appendix: Household income definitions\*

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| TOTAL: Lower Income | Up to \$51,999 per year<br>Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives<br>(GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions)        |
| TOTAL: Mid Income   | \$52,000 to \$103,999 per year<br>Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives<br>(GROSS – before tax and superannuation deductions) |
| TOTAL: High Income  | More than \$104,000 per year<br>Total of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income that your household usually receives<br>(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.

