

Taking the Pulse of the Nation

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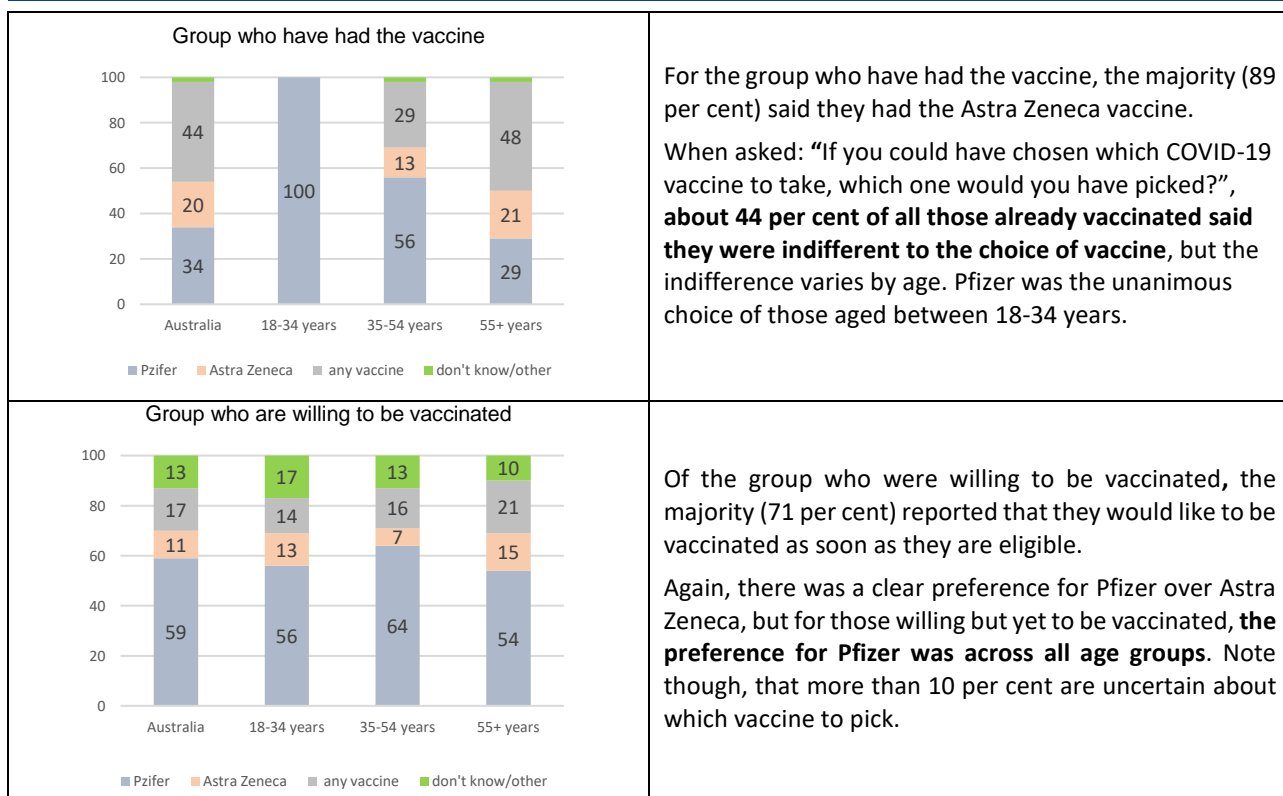
Melbourne Institute's Taking the Pulse of the Nation Survey

2021 Survey Results*: Wave 34 (31 May – 5 June)**

One in three Australians remain hesitant about being vaccinated against COVID-19

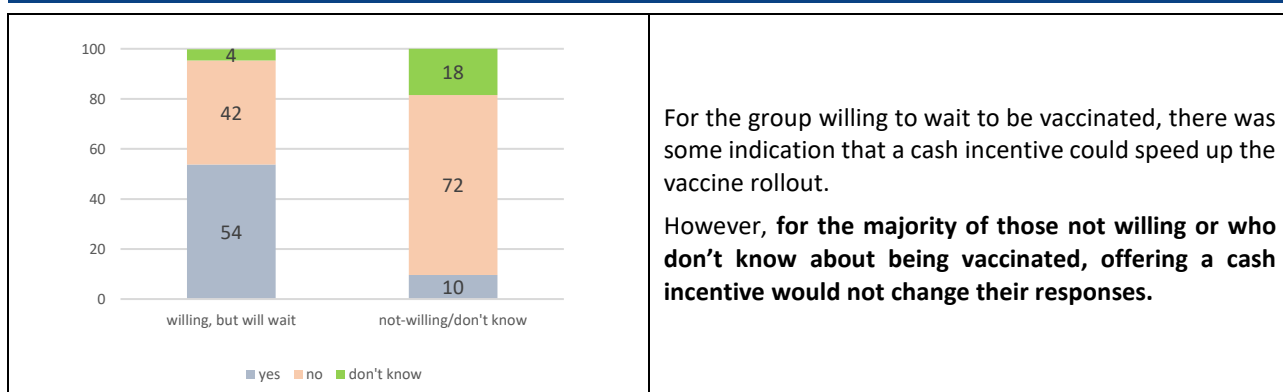
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Figure 1: Which Vaccine would you prefer: Pfizer? Astra Zeneca? Any vaccine will be fine?



Offering some form of cash incentive has been suggested as a way to speed up the vaccination rollout. In our survey we asked this question to two groups: those willing to be vaccinated but who prefer to wait (15 per cent) and those not willing to be vaccinated or who don't know whether they want to be vaccinated (30 per cent).

Figure 2: If you were paid a cash incentive would you get vaccinated as soon as possible?"



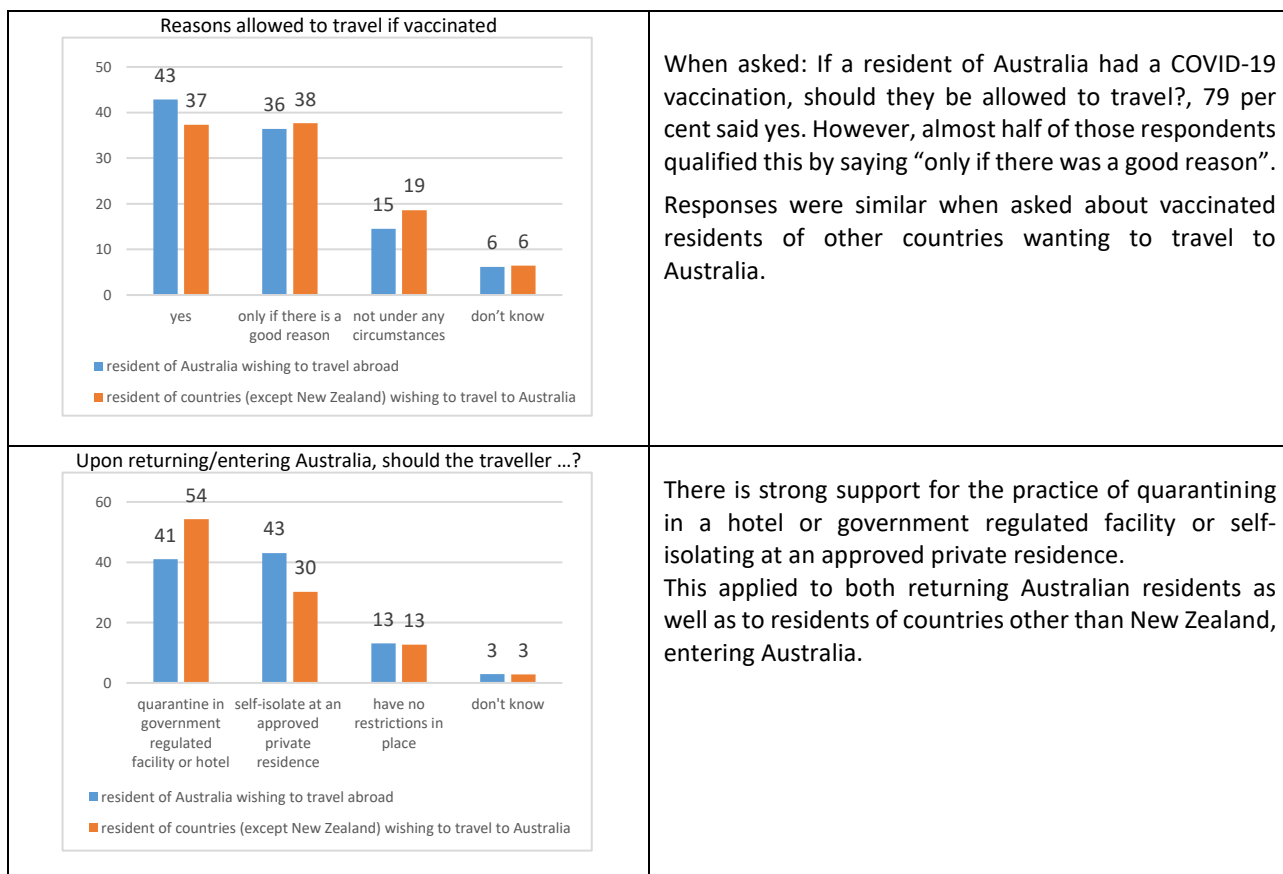
Survey reports divided views about linking vaccination with international travel

About 59 per cent of Australians said that the government should consider the take-up rate of the COVID-19 vaccine in Australia when deciding when to allow international travel into and out of Australia without restrictions. When asked about the percentage of the Australian population who should be vaccinated before international travel reopens, many suggested a take-up rate between 50-100 per cent, giving a sample (weighted average) vaccine take-up rate of about 78 per cent.

The remaining responses were evenly divided between those not for, or unsure of, the linking of vaccination take-up rate and international travel.

Most Australians support travel for vaccinated residents, but with quarantine in place.

Figure 3: Reasons for travel out/into Australia, and quarantine programs on returning/entering Australia



When asked: If a resident of Australia had a COVID-19 vaccination, should they be allowed to travel?, 79 per cent said yes. However, almost half of those respondents qualified this by saying “only if there was a good reason”. Responses were similar when asked about vaccinated residents of other countries wanting to travel to Australia.

There is strong support for the practice of quarantining in a hotel or government regulated facility or self-isolating at an approved private residence. This applied to both returning Australian residents as well as to residents of countries other than New Zealand, entering Australia.

For more analysis about the vaccine roll out, see:

[So you don't want the COVID-19 vaccine? Here's what research shows will change your mind?](#) (by Dr.Dajung Jun and Professor Anthony Scott)

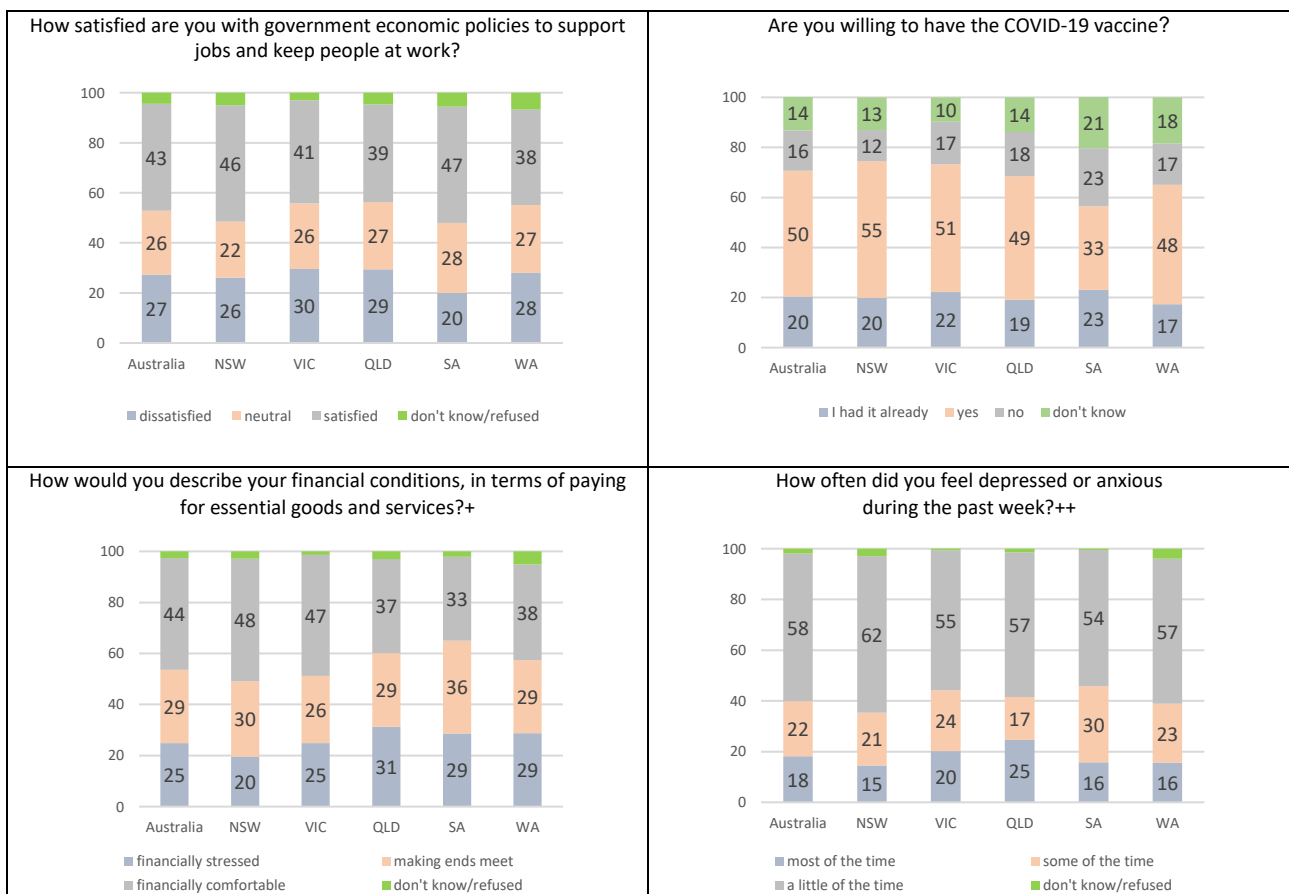
[Why is Australians' willingness to be vaccinated falling, and what can we do to increase it?](#) (by Professor Anthony Scott)

[Should we pay Australians to get Vaccinated?](#) (by Professor Anthony Scott), PURSUIT, University of Melbourne

Victoria is not a stand-out State in terms of policy dissatisfaction nor attitudes to the vaccine rollout.

Our latest survey was conducted in the week when Victoria was in lockdown. Yet, there is no clear survey evidence that Victorians are significantly more dissatisfied with government policy, more concerned about the vaccine rollout, more financially stressed, or mentally distressed.

Figure 4: Policy Satisfaction, Vaccine Rollout, Financial Stress and Mental Distress
Australia, NSW, VIC, QLD, SA and WA (proportions,%)



* The survey contains responses from 1200 persons, aged 18 years and over. The sample is stratified by gender, age and location to be representative of the Australian population.

+ Financial stress refers to the situation of having difficulties paying for essential goods and services while financial vulnerability refers to being in financial stress or making ends meet.

++ The question about feeling depressed is about assessing symptoms/experiences and not about assessing the presence of a clinical diagnosis or disorder. The responses are calibrated on a 5-point scale covering: all, most, some, little, none of the time.

**This Report is written by Professor Guay Lim and Dr.Viet Nguyen.

Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research

The Melbourne Institute applies cutting-edge statistical and econometric methodologies to develop primary and secondary user-ready data sets, and conducts research to inform government, education, business and community organisations. For more information, see: melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au.

About the survey

These results have been drawn from *Taking the Pulse of the Nation* - Melbourne Institute's survey of the impact of COVID-19. The aim of the weekly survey is to track changes in the economic and social wellbeing of Australians living through the effects of the coronavirus pandemic whilst adapting to various changes in Federal and State government policies.

The survey contains responses from 1200 persons, aged 18 years and over each week. The sample is stratified by gender, age and location to be representative of the Australian population.

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