

MEDIA FACT SHEET

EMBARGOED until 12.01am Tuesday 19 October 2021

AUSTRALIANS DIVIDED ON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

We asked 1,000 Australians about their views of our nations' leaders and their response to COVID-19. Here is what we found:

Australians believe the Federal and State Government did not collaborate well during the pandemic

- The poll found perceived failures of coordination between the Commonwealth and States predictably included the vaccination roll-out (76 per cent), border closures (73 per cent) and quarantine (70 per cent)
- State-by-state breakdown – disapproval of collaboration in the following areas:
 - Vaccination rollout
 - NSW – 30 per cent
 - VIC – 31 per cent
 - QLD – 17 per cent
 - SA – 6 per cent
 - WA – 11 per cent
 - Border closures
 - NSW – 32 per cent
 - VIC – 27 per cent
 - QLD – 16 per cent
 - SA – 7 per cent
 - WA – 11 per cent
 - Quarantine
 - NSW – 31 per cent
 - VIC – 31 per cent
 - QLD – 16 per cent
 - SA – 5 per cent
 - WA – 11 per cent
 - National Cabinet
 - NSW – 36 per cent
 - VIC – 28 per cent
 - QLD – 14 per cent
 - SA – 6 per cent
 - WA – 11 per cent

In 2021, a distinct divide of voting patterns grew between metropolitan and regional Australia

- 44 per cent of metropolitan respondents voted for major parties, compared with 32 per cent of regional respondents
- 28 per cent of both regional and metropolitan respondents were swing voters
- 19 per cent of rural respondents voted for an independent party, compared with less than 4 per cent in metropolitan respondents
- 49 per cent of non-metro respondents were unhappy with the pandemic response, as opposed to 44 per cent of metropolitan respondents
- State-by-state breakdown – percentage of voting population
 - Major party votes
 - NSW – 32 per cent
 - VIC – 25 per cent
 - QLD – 17 per cent
 - SA – 10 per cent
 - WA – 9 per cent
 - Swing votes

- NSW – 32 per cent
- VIC – 31 per cent
- QLD – 12 percent
- SA – 5 per cent
- WA – 11 per cent

The pandemic has raised Australian's expectations of their political leaders

- 60 per cent of Australians believe that political leaders performed either *in line with* or *better* than, their expectations – down from 84 per cent in February
- 70 per cent of respondents believe that Australia's political leaders handled at least one aspect of the response well
- Political leaders who were seen as effective during the coronavirus crisis:
 - Premier Daniel Andrews (24 per cent)
 - Premier Anastasia Palaszczuk (22 per cent)
 - Premier Matthew McGowan (16 per cent)
 - Prime Minister Scott Morrison (17 per cent)

Australians' approval of the government's pandemic response has significantly dropped since early 2021

- Over the past 12 months, 40 per cent of Australians believe our political leaders performed **worse** than they would have expected compared to 17.5 in February
 - 30 per cent for Victorians, compared to 23 in February
 - 35 per cent for New South Wales, compared to 18 in February
 - 9 per cent for West Australians, compared to 12 in February
 - 6 per cent for South Australians, compared to 10 in February
 - 16 per cent for Queenslanders, compared to 14 in February
 - 2 per cent for ACT residents, compared to 14 in February
- 15 per cent believe our leaders performed **better** than expected, compared to 45 per cent in February
 - 21 per cent for Victorians, compared to 38 in February
 - 39 per cent for New South Wales, compared to 45 in February
 - 12 per cent for West Australians, compared to 56 in February
 - 11 per cent for South Australians, compared to 53 in February
 - 13 per cent for Queenslanders, compared to 46 in February
 - 2 per cent for ACT residents, compared to 48 in February
- 45 per cent performed *in line* with their expectations, compared to 40 per cent in February

Australians are turning away from traditional news media towards alternative sources

- 44 per cent of people aged 18-34 do not consume any traditional news sources, compared to 22 per cent of those aged 35+
- 28 per cent of Australians do not consume media from traditional news sources
- 62 per cent of respondents who live in capital cities source their news from social media, compared to 38 per cent of those who live regionally
- State-by-state primary mainstream media consumption
 - VIC – 64 per cent
 - NSW – 69 per cent
 - QLD – 59 per cent
 - SA – 55 per cent
 - WA – 55 per cent
 - ACT – 66 per cent
 - TAS – 62 per cent