

The Essential Report – Friends of the Earth

07 July 2021



The Essential Report

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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 30th June to 4th July 2021 and is based on 1,099 respondents.

The weighting efficiency applied to the results is 90%, which gives an effective sample size of 987. 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.

Key Insights

1. There is a strong consensus that the Australian government should support the effort to waive WTO rules for COVID-19 vaccines

- 62% of people agree that the Australian government should support the effort to temporarily waive WTO rules for COVID-19 vaccines. 35% of people strongly agree they would support this position, with a further 27% somewhat agreeing.
- There is low disagreement with the statement, with just 10% disagreeing that the government should support this, however a relatively high proportion (27%) are undecided.

2. Older people are most likely to agree that the government should support waiving WTO rules

- Agreement that the WTO rules for Covid-19 vaccines should be waived increases with age; 48% of those aged 18-34 agree, followed by 63% of those 35-54 and 74% of those over 55. 45% of those aged over 55 strongly agree with this.
- Men are more likely than women to agree the Australian government should support the effort to temporarily waive WTO rules for COVID-19 vaccines (67% to 58% respectively). Women are more likely than men to neither agree nor disagree (30% to 24% respectively).
- There is higher agreement among those with university education than those with secondary school education or professional qualifications (77% to 54% and 59% respectively).
- NSW residents, followed by South Australians and Western Australians are most likely to agree the WTO rules should be waived (68%, 63% and 63%). Agreement is lower in Victoria and Queensland (56% and 57% respectively).

3. The high level of agreement that the government should support the effort to temporarily waive WTO rules for COVID-19 vaccines is consistent across major party lines

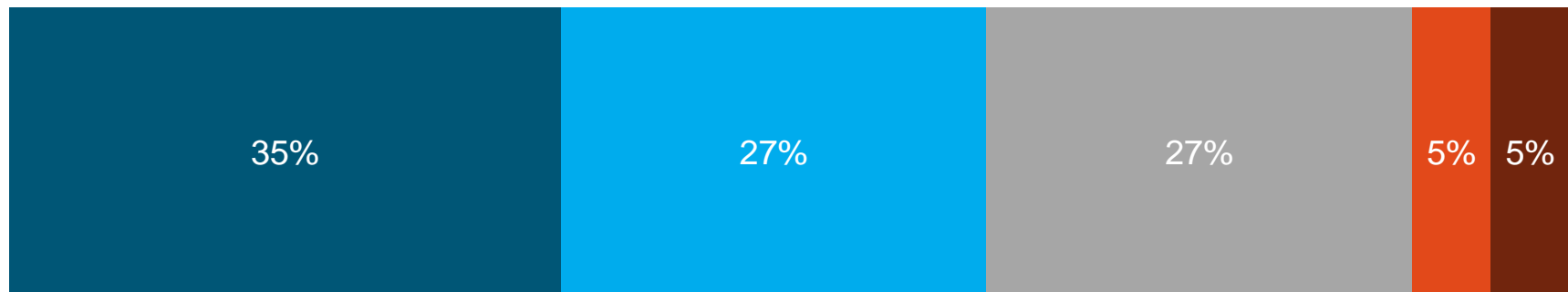
- 66% of Labor voters agree with this, followed by 65% of Greens voters and 64% of Coalition voters. 55% of minor/independent party voters agree.
- Across all parties there is around at least a third of voters who strongly agree the government should support this effort (42% of Labor voters, 36% Greens voters, 32% Coalition voters and 32% minor/independent party voters).

Agreement with waiving WTO rules for Covid-19 vaccines

Q Under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, pharmaceutical companies have a 20-year monopoly on COVID-19 vaccines, delaying affordable access for low income countries for years.

More than 100 nations have called on the WTO to temporarily waive these rules in order to increase production and reduce costs globally.

To what extent would you agree or disagree that the Australian government should support this effort to temporarily waive WTO rules for COVID-19 vaccines?



■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree

Agreement with waiving WTO rules for Covid-19 vaccines

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To what extent would you agree or disagree that the Australian government should support this effort to temporarily waive WTO rules for COVID-19 vaccines?

	Total	Gender		Age			Education		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Secondary Education	Professional Qualifications	University Education
Strongly agree	35%	38%	32%	23%	36%	45%	30%	33%	44%
Somewhat agree	27%	28%	26%	25%	27%	29%	25%	25%	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	27%	24%	30%	38%	27%	18%	33%	30%	16%
Somewhat disagree	5%	4%	7%	8%	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Strongly disagree	5%	5%	6%	7%	5%	4%	7%	6%	3%
TOTAL: Agree	62%	67%	58%	48%	63%	74%	54%	59%	77%
TOTAL: Disagree	10%	9%	12%	14%	9%	8%	12%	11%	7%
Base (n)	1,099	539	560	341	373	385	283	431	357



	State					Location		Employment Status		
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Capital City	Non-Capital City	In paid employment	Not in paid employment	Retired
Strongly agree	37%	31%	31%	38%	42%	35%	36%	33%	31%	45%
Somewhat agree	31%	25%	27%	25%	21%	29%	23%	30%	21%	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	23%	33%	27%	31%	29%	26%	30%	27%	35%	16%
Somewhat disagree	3%	5%	8%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%	7%	1%	3%	5%	5%	4%	7%	5%
TOTAL: Agree	68%	56%	57%	63%	63%	63%	60%	63%	52%	75%
TOTAL: Disagree	9%	11%	16%	6%	8%	11%	10%	9%	13%	8%
Base (n)	356	275	220	87	106	737	362	566	263	232

	Federal Voting Intention				Household Income*			Household Composition	
	Labor	Liberal + National	Greens	TOTAL: Other	TOTAL: Lower Income	TOTAL: Mid Income	TOTAL: High Income	Dependent Children	No Dependent Children
Strongly agree	42%	32%	36%	32%	39%	35%	34%	32%	38%
Somewhat agree	24%	32%	29%	23%	23%	29%	35%	29%	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	25%	26%	22%	28%	27%	27%	21%	31%	25%
Somewhat disagree	4%	5%	11%	8%	4%	6%	6%	4%	6%
Strongly disagree	5%	5%	2%	9%	7%	4%	4%	5%	6%
TOTAL: Agree	66%	64%	65%	55%	62%	63%	69%	60%	63%
TOTAL: Disagree	9%	10%	13%	17%	11%	10%	10%	9%	11%
Base (n)	404	388	87	114	398	311	292	433	666



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.

