Research Note on Experiences and Attitudes Going Forward with and Beyond Delta (Version 1: late-September[1])

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Abstract

The attitudinal base of support for the current 'elimination strategy' regime in NZ is assessed using current and recent survey data – covering attitudes and reports in relation to social distancing and mask wearing, to the boundary, and the lockdown and its effects. Evidence is compiled, too, on attitudes towards any resetting of New Zealand's Covid regime and possible pivots to alternatives.

Keywords: New Zealand, Auckland, Covid, lockdowns. Border, mask-wearing, social distancing, stress, economic difficulties, surveys

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[1] The next iteration of this paper hopefully by the end of September should include results and crosstabs from Research NZ, Perceptive and other emerging social research. More analysis will be added, since this 'research note' concentrates on reporting detailed data rather than drawing attention to patterns.

During and from mid-August 2021 New Zealand has experienced an out-break of the Delta version of Covid outbreak stemmed from a return flight organised to get Kiwis stuck in Sydney home as the trans-Tasman bubble was suspended. Vaccinations are around 75% at least one does and the 'closed border' is moving through thousands of returnees. The time-line of alert-levels has been:

17 August: All of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 at 11:59pm.
31 August: All of New Zealand south of Auckland moved to Alert Level 3 at 11:59pm, while Auckland and Northland remained at Alert Level 4.
2 September: Northland moved to Alert Level 3 at 11:59pm.
7 September: New Zealand (except Auckland) moved to Alert Level 2 at 11:59pm.
21 September: Auckland and Upper Hauraki moved to Alert Level 3 at 11:59pm.

The current Delta outbreak situation has differences from earlier 2020 episodes, including the extra social velocity of the Delta variant, not least through social learning and the 'Deja vue' inducing earlier on-setting 'Covid fatigue'. The MIQ system has been tweaked to allow access through a lottery mechanism, and this revealed that some the demand to return to NZ is approximately 30,000.

Covid has generated new terms and many are now well-worn. In this new phase one term that has been added is the "90% Project" attempting to mobilise vaccination levels, while 'Unite against Covid' is the central branding concept. There is still terminological debate around the meaning of 'elimination' of Covid as the main goal of New Zealand's strategy.

Currently (September 2021) as the delta variant infection begins to be brought under control and the Auckland and NZ economy begins to fire up to full throttle, the media are alive with clamour as the discontents of Covid continue to mount. Spokespeople for The business community pause in their clamour for the economy and borders to open, only to welcome lowering of levels. Charities and other welfare services are burdened by sharply rising levels of poverty and need and widespread economic costs undoubtedly afflict a wide array of employed let alone the unemployed. But, as well many are delighted that their concerns about being exposed to the risk of catching Covid are abated. Each group appears to be loudly addressing the general public without much taking into account the views of the others. How can we, and more particular the government thread their way through these competing claims. Can mutually acceptable trade-offs be grasped?

One policy analysis tool which might be used is a cost benefit analysis in which the costs and benefits accruing to various stakeholders are separately weighed up. This language tends to be naturally used 0 for example in announcing an extension of a lockdown the Government claimed that "The extra short-term cost ... will give "much greater long-term health and economic returns" On the benefit side lie deaths foregone, clearing the economy to later work at full capacity rather than at an impaired valve, and relief at lower Covid risk. Costs include deficits in the operation of the health and barrier defence apparatus, apparatus firms, workers and others who need state support. These would require for monetary values to be placed on them. Although more cost-benefit analyses might be lurking an early one was published by the Productivity Commission (Heatley, 2020, 2021; Lally, 2020) but these seemingly use a limited underlying model. A partial way station for such an analysis is provided by polling data, as long as these are soundly based and appropriate.

The current 'Covid regime' in New Zealand involves an 'elimination target' with the following components:

- Vaccinations
- Testing and contact tracing
- Lockdowns, alert levels
- Social distancing and mask wearing
- The closed border.

Attitudes and behaviours in relation to each of these needs to be considered. But in addition, New Zealand needs to consider moving towards a more open approach opening boundaries and relying mostly on vaccination coverage. So views on these futures also need to be considered.

The runs of Covid infections in 2020 had spurred many research programmes, almost all of which fell away during the long period without Covid. Re-imposition of studies to consider the delta outbreak has been sporadic. Various polling agencies have run recent polls which may include Covid-related information (Curia, UMR, Newshub-Reid, Business NZ) while a couple of previously discontinued operations have been recommissioned (Ministry of Health [MOH], Perceptive) and perhaps more will emerge. Beyond the immediate 'Delta' period there are several studies which might throw light on the current situation including MOH, Stuff, Statistics NZ, Ministry of Business employment and Innovation (Mbie) and Kea, While it is important to obtain information on the social distribution of responses (in terms of gender, age, region etc.) it is difficult to source such information so it is useful that several of the more important surveys include such information (although seldom by ethnicity). See appendix of description of some of these surveys. The intervening periods has seen a variety of studies where the experiences and lessons of 2020 are assayed and there has been time too for social knowledge to be accumulated as the academic literature builds up (see Crothers, 2021).

In addition, Stats NZ has assembled a large file of recent information relevant to Covid issues (https://www.stats.govt.nz/experimental/covid-19-data-portal). Undoubtedly other interests (e.g. the Government) are also doing private polling and focus group work in order to guide decision-making.

Results relating to 2021 Delta Lockdown

A scatter of polling results have appeared in the media, some from regular polling operations which have included Covid-relevant items.

A *BusinessNZ* survey (2021 see also Infometrics, 2021 on similar findings) showed about 40 per cent of New Zealand businesses could not operate under level 4, suggested the

Auckland proportion could be twice as high. Supply-chain issues stemming from difficulties in Auckland affect the rest of NZ. Businesses wanted policies to increase the uptake of vaccinations and make saliva testing more freely available and were supportive of compulsory QR code scanning and record-keeping but not vaccine passports.

Gross National Happiness

A measure of the New Zealand public's evaluative mood is derived from Twitter data, scaled between 0 (lowest) and 10 (highest), with 5 being neutral, thus neither happy nor unhappy. (Additionally, each tweet's underpinning emotions are analysed. Currently, a distinction is made between eight emotions: sadness, surprise, disgust, anticipation, fear, anger, trust, and joy. This data is not used here.) The last couple of years' results shows that happiness took a hit during 2020 lockdowns but isn't only very slightly dented in 2021.

Table 1: Gross National Happiness

Year	Month	Mean	Std. Deviation
2020	1	7.1591	.29702
	2	7.2581	.18007
	3	6.8063	.22995
	4	6.9976	.16676
	5	7.0391	.19377
	6	6.9952	.23487
	7	6.9511	.24827
	8	6.9519	.29256
	9	7.0243	.16973
	10	7.1696	.19651
	11	7.0937	.18640
	12	7.3393	.29289
	Total	7.0648	.26660
2021	1	7.0396	.32456
	2	7.0865	.21568
	3	7.1571	.25145
	4	7.3233	.23301
	5	7.2711	.20348
	6	7.2276	.24220
	7	7.2064	.20910
	8	7.0850	.23451
	9	7.1773	.22861
	Total	7.1750	.25403

Source: Stats NZ.

Curia's poll (n=1000; 5-9 September) commissioned by right-wing lobby group the Taxpayers Union and carried out by National's old private pollster Curia, also included Covid-related items. Voters rejected the Government's trans-Tasman bubble, with 54 per cent agreeing it was "the wrong thing to do" and 29 per cent saying it was "the right thing to do". Kiwis were generally wary about reopening borders, with 64 per cent agreeing that they should only be opened once the country had more than 90 per cent of people vaccinated. About a quarter (26 per cent) said the border settings should be relaxed once everyone had had a chance to get vaccinated. A large majority of Kiwis continue to believe the country's Covid-19 response has been good – 65 per cent (down from a height of 74 per cent in March). The outbreak appears to have also slightly boosted people's willingness to get vaccinated: 10 per cent said they would either definitely not or probably not get the jab, compared with 16 per cent the month prior. Covid-19 was cited as the most important voting issue by 18% followed by economy at 15%. In terms of which party was seen best at managing Covid-9 response Labour was picked by 61% and National by 12%

Research NZ (Radio NZ, 2021, n=1000) polled support for continuing lockdowns and mask (and related) mandates. They found solid support for continuance of lockdowns until an acceptable (90%0 vaccination rate has been reached. There is also widespread support for the drive for vaccination coverage although there is a hard core of about 10% opposing hard imposition of rules and indeed contemplating a return to the pre-Covid situation when there were no rules. Perhaps one-third are milder supporters of this position.

Half the respondents of Research NZ's latest survey said they supported the idea of restaurants and bars only serving vaccinated people.

Stewart (2021) reports that Stuff spoke to some 30 overseas Kiwis finding out that they were too entrenched in their overseas local situations when the return drawbridge came down. Reports of frustrations with the MIQ system are rife.

Perspective's reactivated survey rounds (early and mid-September) included results that three-quarters of New Zealanders believe the government made the correct choice to keep Auckland in alert Level 4. A slightly lower portion of Aucklanders agree (69%) with almost one-quarter believing it is too strict.

Of those who have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, three-quarters had planned on getting vaccinated from the start. Those who said they weren't sure or weren't planning to but then changed their mind said consideration for their friends and family's health was the main reason (60%), followed by their own health (48%), to help with herd immunity (40%), and to stop lockdowns (37%).

Negative sentiments have crept up, particularly in Auckland – see Table 2. Two out of five New Zealanders state they have been feeling negative emotions over the past week, increase since the start of the lockdown (17 September: 41% vs 30 August: 36%). Stress is the primary driver of this. Aucklanders are feeling more negative compared to the rest of the country with almost half feeling a negative emotion. High levels of concern about Covid-19 has significantly decreased since the start of the lockdown (17 September: 36% vs 30 August: 31%). Fears around a resurgence of the virus, economic conditions, and disconnecting from family and friends remain the most prevalent. However, concern towards community events and activities being cancelled is increasing (17 September: 33% vs 30 August: 26%). Three-quarters of New Zealanders believe the government made the correct choice to keep Auckland in alert Level 4. A slightly lower portion of Aucklanders agree (69%) with almost one-quarter believing it is too strict.

Table 2 compares NZ (2 weeks in early and mid-September, 2021 compared to 2 weeks in August 2020 when the last polling was carried out) and NZ v Auckland for the recent 2 polling weeks. Feelings at the national level have remained largely stable with some slight drops (e.g. scared-ness) presumably as a result of 'social learning' from experiencing the earlier outbreaks. However, there is a tilt of perhaps 5% on several moods with Aucklanders feeling more negative (or less happy), especially in the 2nd survey week. There are similar changes with concerns, and to a lesser extent information adequacy.

Table 2.1: Perceptive Results mid-2020 and mid-2021

Region	NZ	NZ	NZ	NZ	Auckland	Auckland
Year	2020	2020	2021	2021	2021	2021
Day of Month	14	18	31	17	31	17
Month	8	6	8	9	8	9
N of Cases	1107	1041	1051	1070	360	411
Q Thinking back over the last week, how often did you feel (Often + Very Often)	.	.	.	.	.	.
Loving	54	52	53	54	53	50
Happy	53	52	51	52	51	49
Positive	50	52	50	51	50	46
Content	48	46	47	48	47	43
Stressed	30	29	25	28	25	31
Joyful	38	38	36	36	36	35
Scared	14	13	9	9	9	10
Sad	18	17	15	15	15	17
Negative	18	18	17	18	17	21
Angry	14	14	15	14	15	17
	.	.	.	.	.	.
High Concern…	.	.	.	.	.	.
..With CV-19	44	36	38	33	44	41
Concern with Impact of Covid On…..	.	.	.	.	.	.
Other NZers	76	74	75	73	79	75
Globally	88	88	85	85	84	82
International businesses	90	90	82	80	81	79
Local businesses	88	86	86	85	89	88
My children's education	22	22	24	24	31	29

My friends/families health	58	55	58	52	63	60
My friends/families mental health	59	55	60	52	69	60
My health	47	48	47	44	56	50
My mental health	52	48	47	46	55	52
My/your family's financial situation	58	55	50	48	58	55
The global economy	93	91	85	85	86	82
NZ economy	90	88	79	82	84	85
NZ healthcare system	74	73	76	76	79	77
Information Adequacy						
Govt. I receive a lot but necessary	72	74	70	65	67	63
I receive a lot of information & am overwhelmed	14	15	19	23	20	25
I feel I'm not getting enough information and want more	8	9	8	8	10	6
I am not getting any and prefer it this way	.	.	.	.	3	3
Media: I receive a lot of information but necessary	59	60	58	56.	57	55
I feel I'm not getting enough information and want more	28	31	32	33.	31	33
I am not getting any and prefer in this way	10	7	7	7.	9	7
I receive a lot of information & am overwhelmed	2	.	.	.	3	.
Government Action						
Yes: Is the government doing as much as they can	62	61	60	55	56	46
Yes but should do more	28	28	25	28	28	31
No, not enough	9	10	13	4	14	21
DK	.	.	3	3	3	3

Table 2.2. Concerns and Support of Government Activity by Social background

Social Category	Yes: Is the government doing as much as they can	Yes but should do more	No, not enough	Concern Survey Week 1	Concern Survey week 2
Total NZ	55	28	15	38	33
Auckland	46	31	20	44	41
Men	49	24	25	37	34
Women	59	13	21	39	33
Generations					
Gen Z	66	26	6	31	24
Millennials	69	24	6	33	29
Gen X	63	23	12	39	35
Baby Boomers	51	30	15	44	36
Silent	54	18	23	38	34
Business (Size)					
<20 Employees	53	30	16	39	32
20-49	54	29	15	36	32
50-99	62	31	6	37	32
100+	75	17	8	37	33

Aucklanders are considerably more concerned and are more concerned about the level of government activity. The two genders have similar concerns but men are more critical of government. Concerns rise, and concern with government inactivity increases with age. There are few differences by size of business in terms of concern, but larger firms are more relaxed about government activity. Expectations of length of lockdown (Table 2.3) amongst Aucklanders run at about an average of 5 weeks and this has not changes with successive weeks or in comparison to the rest of the North Island (let alone other parts of NZ).

Table 2.3 Time expectations (%)

Expected Length of Lockdown	*Survey Week 1*	*Survey Week 2*	*Rest of North Is. Survey week 2*
Under 1 week	0	2	12
1-2 weeks	8	12	29
3-4 weeks	30	30	35
5-6 weeks	23	24	15
7-8 weeks	20	16	5
2-3 months	13	10	3
3- months	4	6	1

UMR/ Talbot-Mills

UMR/ Talbot-Mills polled 1050 people between August 31 and September 6, when NZ was in either level alert level 3 or 4, for its corporate clients (rather than as part of political polling carried out for the Labour Party). In addition, UMR has conducted monthly polls on some of the questions covered in this research note.

Just over one half are concerned about catching Covid: especially those who are female, 30-44 years old, Auckland, other than NZ European, with Dependent Children, part-timers, mid-income, and renters (see Table 2/3). Amongst those currently employed only a third are concerned about job security: especially males, those aged 30-44 (then there is an age drop-off, Aucklanders, non-Pakeha, not-working, low income (a very strong relationship), and renters (also a strong relationship).

About 2/3rds applaud government efforts, especially women, all age-groups except the most old, regions except Auckland, and Pākeha (slightly less). Nearly two-thirds are pessimistic, especially the Older 2 age groups, and richer households.

Multiple testing is strongly age-related; other than Polynesian, without children/not working, slightly poorer, outright owned. On the testing process Pacifica are very positive, and overall 84% satisfaction. Two-thirds have never been tested: higher amongst older people, non-Aucklanders, non-Polynesian, non-dependent children, nonworking, low income, own without mortgage. Again, there is a high (albeit lower than for testing) satisfaction with the vaccination process especially amongst women, non-youth, non-Aucklanders. Almost everyone is aware of the continuing risk despite vaccinations.

Two-thirds hold restrictive views on opening borders: especially women, non-Aucklanders, non-Maori, non-dependent children, and non-mortgage holders. There is cautious but moderately high support for opening to visitors or business people with adequate safeguards. Less than a third supported the opening of the Australasian bubble: especially richer people.

Table 3 UMR/ Talbot & Mills

How concerned are you about the risk of you or members of your immediate family catching coronavirus?	Total concern (1+2)	52
	3	25
	Total not concerned (4+5)	22
How concerned are you about the security of your job as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Total concern (1+2)	37
	3	22
	Total not concern (4+5)	40
Overall, how would you rate the official, all of government response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Total good (1+2)	65
	3	19
	Total poor (4+5)	16
Thinking about the problems the country is facing from the Covid-19 outbreak, do you think...?	The worst is behind us	37
	The worst is still to come	63
Thinking about vaccines to prevent COVID-19, do you think you will…	Have received at least one dose	56
	Definitely get a vaccine	22

	Probably get a vaccine	11
	Probably NOT get a vaccine	5
	Definitely NOT get a vaccine	5
How would you rate the whole process from making an appointment and the vaccination itself?	Total good (1+2)	84
	3	9
	Total poor (4+5)	6
How often have you been tested for Covid-19?	Never	65
	1c	20
	2x	9
	3x	6
How would you rate the whole process including possibly making an appointment, the test itself and re	Total good (1+2)	72
	3	17
	Total poor (4+5)	10
Which of the following is closer to your own views even if not quite right:	New Zealand border restrictions should only be relaxed once we have very high (90% plus) levels of vaccination and there is not a great deal of risk that infections amongst the non-vaccinated would overwhelm our health system.	64
	New Zealand border restriction should be relaxed once everybody has had a reasonable chance of getting vaccinated and if people haven't taken that chance it should be on their own heads.	26
Regardless of your answer to the previous question how strongly do you support or oppose the following	Visitors to New Zealand who come from low risk countries and have been vaccinated being able to enter and leave New Zealand freely	45
	Visitors to New Zealand who have been vaccinated and come from low risk countries going into quarantine just long enough to have a test taken to ensure they are Covid free	62
	New Zealanders who have been vaccinated and have been to low risk countries being able to serve any quarantine period in their own homes	56
	Businesses being allowed to be responsible for quarantine of any overseas labour they need coming in after checks and with ongoing monitoring by government authorities	50
Are you aware that people who have been fully vaccinated can still catch Covid and pass it on to others	Yes	92
	No	5
Do you think opening the Australasian travel bubble was the right or wrong thing to do?	Right	29
	Wrong	54

MOH NZHS data

The first 3 weeks of current 2021 MOH polling (https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-and-tools/covid-19-health-and-wellbeing-survey) cover general well-being, financial concerns, attitudes to rules and stress. The COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey interviewed people who have previously taken part in the New Zealand Health Survey and consented to being re-contacted for future research and the newer respondents are from the NZ Health Survey.

There is a slight increase in reported financial struggle but other measures are quite stable. There seem to be no over-time differences in understanding of the rules or the ease of their apparent: feelings of calmness and reactions dropped while nervousness and also compare anxiety/depression remain much at the same as the level of the end of the previous period. Concern about catching Covid, leaving the house or the health of family members has on the large remained below the earlier levels of implementation. Further results comparing Aucklanders to the rest of country will perhaps reveal different patterns. In terms of stress a uniform patterns is rise in stress and decline in happier items.

Table 4 Social Background differences re Concerns and Attitude to Government, Table 4.1: MOH 2021 Results

Year	Month	Agree or strongly agree that their household is financially struggling	Average family welfare (on a scale of 0-10)	Completely or somewhat satisfied with life as a whole	Lonely at least a little of the time in the past 7 days	Has the household relied on foodbanks etc because there wasn't enough money for food, in the last 7 days	Mean level of trust in most people
2020	- 05 April	5.6					
2020	- 12 April	6.5					
2020	- 19 April	5.5		74.9			
2020	- 26 April	6.0		70.5			
2020	- 02 August	6.5		81.8			
2021	19 - 31 August	7.3	7.8	76.1	28.2		
2021	01 - 07 Sep	8.0	7.7	74.3	29.4	3.6	7.1
2021	08 - 14 Sep	8.6	7.8	76.9	27.1	3.4	7.1

Table 4.2 Alert Level Rules

		Finds the rules around Alert Levels clear, very clear or neither clear nor unclear	Finds the rules around Alert Levels easy, very easy or neither hard nor easy to follow
2020	- 05 April	98.2	98.2
2020	- 12 April	98.7	97.7
2020	- 19 April	99.0	98.3
2020	- 26 April	98.8	97.1
2020	- 02 August	95.9	98.3
2021	19 - 31 August	98.8	98.2
2021	01 - 07 Sep	97.5	96.7
2021	08 - 14 Sep	97.2	97.8

Table 4.3: Stress Indicators

Stress		Strongly or somewhat feeling calm and relaxed right now	Strongly or somewhat feeling nervous right now	Strongly or somewhat feeling stressed about leaving home right now	Strongly or somewhat worried about the health of family members right now	Strongly or somewhat worried about the risk of getting COVID-19 right now	Either GAD-2 or PHQ-2 is at least 3 (very likely to have an anxiety or depression diagnosis)
2020	- 05 April	80.6	35.7	25.6	66.9	38.7	13.4
2020	- 12 April	82.7	33.6	24.4	59.4	32.5	11.7
2020	- 19 April	81.5	32.3	20.4	60.9	28.9	10.6
2020	- 26 April	79.3	30.4	18.9	56.5	29.7	11.4
2020	- 02 August	86.6	22.3	3.7	40.4	15.2	6.8
2021	19 - 31 August	75.6	37.0	20.1	58.1	33.8	15.1
2021	01 - 07 Sep	74.5	29.1	15.4	49.4	28.4	13.7
2021	08 - 14 Sep	76.3	30.0	14.9	48.7	25.8	13.3

Earlier 2021 Background Studies

Although they may not bear immediately on the current lockdown situation several other studies ae relevant in covering the intervening period since the last Covid outbreaks b but also suggesting people’s views on ways forward.

Vaccination surveys

Horizon has been tracking vaccination intentions since September 2020 for the Ministry of Health in association with Auckland University's School of Population Health. Currently the 6th survey (n=1234, June 2021) is available. Potential uptake of COVID-19 vaccine by people aged 16 or older in New Zealand had risen to 80%. Key survey insights include – more data on trends and breakdowns are available in the report:

Accepting a vaccine

- 77% of respondents not already vaccinated said they were likely to get vaccine.
- Overall, potential uptake, including those already vaccinated and those who are likely to get a vaccine is 80%; Māori potential uptake is 75% and Pasifika potential uptake 78%.
- If the vaccine is made available for 12 to 15-year olds, 55% of caregivers are likely to allow the children they care for to be vaccinated.

Barriers to uptake

- Those who are unlikely to have a vaccine if offered is 13%. Of those, 7% will “definitely not” get a vaccine. (Note that it is likely that, as the number vaccinated increases, those who are unlikely to get a vaccine will form a higher proportion of those who have not yet been vaccinated.)

- The highest percentage of respondents unlikely to get vaccinated are in Group 4, at 16%, with another 9% unsure. Those aged 45-54 years are the least likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine.
- The main reasons for being unsure or unlikely to get a vaccine continues to be concerns about long-term effects, safety and waiting to see if others have side-effects.
- 55% of respondents who will 'definitely not' get a vaccine say they don't see the need to get a vaccine.
- If the vaccine is made available for 12 to 15-year olds, 16% of caregivers will 'definitely not' allow the children they care for to be vaccinated. The main reason for this is needing to be assured about vaccine safety for children.
- Some Respondents who identified as disabled are more likely to reject getting vaccinated now (13%), but are less likely to now be unsure (7%).
- Respondents who identified as disabled said the reason they were unsure or unlikely to get a vaccine were:
    - they don't see the need to take a COVID-19 vaccine (54 compared with 21% overall)
    - they don't trust any vaccine (31 compared with 18% overall)
    - they don't take any vaccine (27 compared with 8% overall)
    - because of religious beliefs (23 compared with 4% overall).
- DHB regions where the likelihood for respondents to accept a vaccine is lower than the national average include Waikato, Northland, Bay of Plenty, Tairawhiti, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, and South Canterbury.

Making the decision to get a vaccine

- 56% of respondents say that helping to protect all New Zealanders is a key reason that will influence them to get a vaccine.
- In making the decision to get a vaccine, people continue to think about potential side effects, what might happen if they have an adverse reaction, how the vaccine will affect their health and that it is too soon see if there are long-term side effects.
- People who are unlikely to get a vaccine or unsure will be influenced by information about side effects, knowing the vaccine has been through extensive trials and approved by Medsafe, and, to some extent, helping them to travel internationally.
- As with the last report, people who live with impairments or long-term health conditions and those who identify as disabled were more concerned than average about whether the vaccine will adversely affect their existing medical conditions and symptoms, and whether it will leave their health worse overall.
- Those who identify as disabled continue to be more worried than average that there will be unknown side effects and, particularly, how the side-effects may affect them.
- Under 18-year-olds and people aged 45 to 54 have a higher level of concern about the vaccine compared with other age ranges, and are concerned about side effects, how the vaccine will affect their health, what might happen if they have a reaction and long-term effects.

Getting the vaccine

- Respondents would prefer to get a vaccine from their doctor (68%), a practice nurse (39%) or a 'pop up' clinic (35%).

- 30% of respondents believe they will be able to get vaccinated as soon the rollout for their group begins.
- 53% of respondents believe the vaccine rollout timing will depend on the supply of the vaccine to New Zealand.
- 44% of respondents believe the rollout programme may be different in different DHBs.
- A quarter of respondents think the Ministry of Health is deciding how the rollout will happen in their region; a third think their DHB will.
- 44% of respondents in Group 3 said they did not know how they would be offered a vaccine and 29% were not sure.
- 50% of respondents in Group 3 said they did not know when they would be offered a vaccine and 26% were not sure.

Influencing uptake

- 99% of respondents who have already been vaccinated are prepared to recommend getting vaccinated to people they know, and 75% will "recommend it to everyone".
- 34% of those who know someone who has been vaccinated (57% of total respondents) say that knowing someone who has had a COVID-19 vaccine makes them more inclined to do so themselves; 56% said it wouldn't influence their decision.
- As with the last report, those who live with impairments or long-term health conditions and those who identify as disabled are more likely than average to respond to a personal conversation with a health provider they trust when it comes to influencing their decision.

Confidence in and knowledge about the vaccine

- 77% of respondents believe people in New Zealand can choose whether or not to get vaccinated.
- 72% of respondents believe people who have been vaccinated can still catch COVID-19.
- Three-quarters believe they will need to continue with protective behaviours after being vaccinated.
- Over the last three months, there has been an increase in the belief that people who have been vaccinated can still pass on COVID-19 to others, 54% with 32% currently are unsure.
- Respondents who are vaccinated are more likely to believe that they could still pass on the COVID-19 virus to others (72%).

Communication and information

- The number of people who feel like they have all the information they need before deciding whether or not to get a vaccine has increased to 67%. Of those who have already received a vaccine, 92% felt they received enough information about their vaccination.
- The two main things respondents want more information about are side effects and risks (27%) and the long-term effects of the vaccine, based on longer and/or more clinical studies (16%). Respondents want more information on the logistics of how

they will get their vaccine, to know that the information they receive is honest, more detailed content and more information on side effects.
- Television (59%) is the primary place where respondents have seen official COVID-19 information advertising, in the past 30 days, followed by social media (20%) and radio (19%).

A more definitive study was published by Prickett et al (2021) which sought to:

(1) identify potential vaccine uptake rates among New Zealanders prior to programme rollout;
(2) understand reasons for unlikelihood/likelihood of vaccine uptake; and,
(3) explore sociodemographic differences in risk of and reasons for vaccine hesitancy.

Data were collected in March 2021 (n = 1,284) via a web-based survey. Respondents were a diverse sample of New Zealanders who were part of a large, pre-existing social research sampling frame. Multinomial and logit regressions were estimated to examine sociodemographic predictors of vaccine hesitancy and reasons for likelihood/hesitancy. Overall, 70% reported they would likely take the vaccine once available (i.e., very likely or somewhat likely). Being younger and less educated were correlated with greater vaccine hesitancy risk (i.e., very unlikely, somewhat likely, or unsure). Women were more likely than men to say they were unsure vs. either likely or unlikely and to identify concerns regarding personal health, such as potential side effects, as a reason. Men identified concerns surrounding trust in vaccines and the perceived exaggerated risk of COVID-19 to them and the population. Although a majority intend to take the COVID-19 vaccine once available, a sizeable minority who were more likely to be young, female, and less educated, were unsure about or unlikely to get the vaccine, primarily due to perceptions of unknown future side effects. Ethnicity was not statistically associated with vaccine hesitancy, suggesting that public health efforts aimed at increasing vaccine acceptance among Māori and Pacific peoples—subgroups most at-risk of COVID-19 infection and morbidity—should focus on inequities in health care access to increase uptake.

Incoming/Returning Migrants

Lorna Thornber (2021) reports from the Stuff *NowNext* survey (N= >21,000) early in 2021 as transtasman flights were scheduled to begin that many are concerned about international tourists returning to the country. Nearly half said they were worried at the prospect of overseas visitors returning, while less than a fifth (19 per cent) said they were pleased at the prospect, while 32 per cent were neutral. Nearly 95 per cent of those worried about international visitors returning said they were concerned about Covid-19 being transported to the country, while 36 per cent worried about the environmental impact. A quarter (25 per cent) said they were worried about how it would affect New Zealanders' access to popular destinations and attractions.

MBIE (2021) has provided provisional findings for arrivals between 1 August 2020 and 9 January 2021 from its Survey of New Zealand Arrivals which collects data on the characteristics and intentions of those arriving in Aotearoa New Zealand during the COVID-

19 border closures. The target population for the Survey is people over the age of 18 who arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand during the COVID-19 border closures who had been living overseas and intend to stay in New Zealand for more than three months. 5,014 of those arriving during this period participated in the Survey. Weighting of the data based on Stats NZ border arrival data ensures the results are representative of the 31,508 arrivals from this group during this period.

Who arrived in New Zealand?

- Male: 50.6%; Female: 49.3%; Gender diverse: 0.05%
- 18- 29 years: 27%; 30 - 39s: 28%; 40 - 49: 17%; 50 -64: 20%; over 65: 8%
- 20% arrived in New Zealand with children (Children were aged: under 5 years: 40%;

5 -10 years: 34%; 11 - 12 years: 11%; 13 to 17 years: 16%).

Where were they living before their arrival in New Zealand?

Australia: 32%; United Kingdom: 19%; Asia: 12%; USA: 10%; Europe: 4%
Had been living outside of New Zealand for more than 5 years: 38%; 1 - 5: 30%; less than 1 year: 19%; never lived in NZ: 13%.
COVID-19 was a factor in their decision to come to New Zealand: 51%.
New Zealand citizens: 72%; New Zealand resident: 16% Australian citizen: 6%; Australian resident: 2%. Of Māori descent: 9%.

Why did they come to New Zealand?

Their top 5 reasons for coming/returning to New Zealand at this time are: for family-related or compassionate reasons: 35%; always intended to come/return at this time: 33%; came here/returned sooner than intended: 29%; for the good lifestyle NZ offers: 21%; for employment-related reasons: 18%.

What connects them to New Zealand?

Most people had a strong sense of belonging to (8 to 10 out of 10): their family and whānau in New Zealand: 76%; New Zealand as a whole: 67%; their family outside of New Zealand: 53%. They rated the importance of Māori culture to them as: very important (Māori: 32%; Non-Māori: 10%) and quite important: Māori: 23%; Non-Māori: 18%; somewhat important: Māori: 32%; Non-Māori: 40% and not at all important: Māori: 9% Non-Māori: 22%. With don't know: Non-Māori: 10%. They rated how well they could speak Māori as: very well or well: Māori: 7%; Non-Māori: 0.1%; fairly well: Māori: 10%; Non-Māori: 1%; not very well: Māori: 23%; Non-Māori: 8%; not more than a few words or phrases: Māori: 48%; Non-Māori: 51%; not at all: Māori: 11%; Non-Māori: 39%.

What skills and experience do they have?

Their highest qualification is: post-graduate: 31%; bachelor’s degree or equivalent: 30%; tertiary certificate/diploma including trade qualifications: 18%; secondary school qualification: 15%; no formal qualification: 2%

Their current employment situation is that they: have a new job in NZ: 37%; are not working in paid employment: 35%; have an offshore job they can continue to work in from NZ: 13% returned to a job already held in NZ: 10%; have an offshore job they can take leave from: 3%. The top 5 industries they were last working in overseas: Health care and social assistance: 15%; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services: 11%; Education and Training: 10%; Information Media and Telecommunications: 7%; accommodation and Food: 7%

The top 5 industries they are in or intend to work in: Health care and social assistance: 16%; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services: 11%; Education and Training: 8%; Information Media and Telecommunications: 7%; Accommodation and Food: 6%. Top 10 occupations they were last working in overseas (and the top 10 occupations they are in or intend to work in) include: Registered Nurses; Chief Executives and Managing Directors; Advertising, PR and Sales Managers; Software and Applications Programmers; GP and Resident Medical Officers; General Clerks; General Managers; Management and Organisation Analysts; Sales Assistants (General); Contract, Program and Project Admin; Accountants; Construction Managers.

Key statistics

97% of arrivals speak English. French, Spanish, Mandarin and German were the next most common languages. 35% are not working in paid employment; 53% of people not working intend to seek work in New Zealand; 48% are working in a job based in New Zealand; 13% continue to work in an offshore job.

Where are they living? Northland: 3%; Auckland: 39%; Waikato: 6%; Bay of Plenty: 6%; Gisborne: 1%; Hawke's Bay: 3%; Taranaki: 2%; Manawatū-Whanganui: 4%; Wellington: 14%; Nelson and Tasman: 3%; Marlborough: 1%; West Coast: 0.4%; Canterbury: 10%; Otago: 5%; Southland: 1%

Do they plan to stay?

84% intend to stay in the region they are currently living in for 3 months or more; 24% would leave New Zealand if the global COVID-19 situation improved.

What is their NZ living situation?

They currently live in: a place owned by family or friends: 32%; a rental property: 27%; a place that they own/partly own: 21%; short-term accommodation: 16%; other: 5%. They are living: with their partner: 52%; with family/whānau/relatives: 32%; with their child/children: 24%; with flatmates/friends: 12%; n their own: 9%. 79% agree or strongly agree with the statement "My living situation is suitable for my needs". Of those who disagreed, the top reasons were that their place: had too many people living there, was too expensive, and was too small. 69% think they will not need financial or other government support in the next 6 months. 12% said they did not know. Of those who think they will need support, the top 3 needs were: accommodation, income & living expenses.

The *Kea* surveys add to these findings: in 2020 (n=15000+) and again in 2021 (n=2663), Kea surveyed New Zealanders living overseas about their intentions to return to New Zealand during the COVID-19 pandemic. The earlier 'Welcome Home' survey found that 7% of respondents had already returned to New Zealand, and 49% intended to do so. While the later survey found that 13% had already returned, and 31% were intending to return. More than half of these planning to return in the next one or two years. 43% of those said they were influenced by the pandemic, and 23% specifically by the New Zealand government's response. The top four reasons for returning were:

- to live close to friends/family;
- lifestyle/quality of living;

- a strong sense of home; and
- feeling proud to live in New Zealand.

Well-Being

Stats NZ has added some of the items - average ratings for overall life satisfaction, life worthwhile, and family wellbeing – formerly carried by the GSS but now borne by a supplement to the HLFS from mid-2020 through early 2021 quarters.

Table 4: Well-Being Indicators: Source: Stats NZ

Category	**June 2020 quarter**	**September 2020 quarter**	**December 2020 quarter**	**March 2021 quarter**
Overall life satisfaction	7.9	7.8	8.0	8.0
Life worthwhile	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.2
Family wellbeing	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8
Not enough money	6.4	7.2	7.6	7.3
Only just enough money	23.2	24.2	23.6	22.9
Enough/more than enough money	70.4	68.6	68.8	69.9
Proportion of people who felt lonely at least a little of the time in the last four weeks				
18-24	55.3	58.1	56.3	57
25-34	48.3	50.1	49.1	50.2
35-44	42.4	44.1	43.2	42
45-54	36.2	38.2	37.9	37.5
55-64	36.7	36.9	35.4	33.9
65+	37.5	38	33.6	33.8
Trust in the health system	**Ave ratings**			
European	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1
Māori	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.8
Pacific peoples	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.6
Asian	8	7.9	7.8	7.7
Total	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2

Deeper Studies

A few studies have been more reflective exercises (before the last outbreak):

- NZ Herald Life Style survey on effects of Covid
- DPMC study of how Covid has affected people’s lives
- UMR on post-Covid world.

Lifestyle Survey

The 2021 Lifestyle Survey (Wynn, 2021) was carried out by Colmar Brunton on behalf of NZME, publisher of the Herald. Between February 19 and March 5 2021, NZME surveyed 1000 New Zealanders to find out how Kiwis feel, shop, work, travel, keep fit and live. Wynn suggests New Zealand's response to the virus and our virtual elimination of community transmission has meant life here is very different than those living in more deeply affected countries.

Despite having more freedom post-lockdown compared with the rest of the world, Kiwis said they are still spending more time at home. There was more time for hobbies, exercise, home-cooked meals, and putting a teddy in the window. Nearly half watched more television online compared with last year. Younger Kiwis said they are still spending time watching TV/videos online, browsing the internet and scrolling through social media. For those over 50 gardening and reading were revealed as the go-to relaxation methods. The first lockdown in March 2020 was a novelty which New Zealanders approached with enthusiasm and baked bread, tried new recipes, and exercised. This slipped with successive lockdowns though, with many admitting to streaming and catching up on sleep. Those who fared best were the seven out of 10 who are active during their downtime - they said they are "doing well." People who used their downtime on their devices said they were feeling more worried and anxious.

Households added family members over 2020, with many seeking the comfort of a new pet. More than 40 per cent of New Zealanders are still working from home in some capacity. People were finding work more demanding, especially those in the 50-64 age group, and many feel frustrated, anxious and worried. Benefits to working from home though, including time and money saved on the commute. On average of 1.31 days per week were worked from home. But over a third are in a role where it is not possible to work from home due to the nature of the job. Thirteen per cent feel their job is more demanding than it was a year ago - especially for those aged 50-65 years. Only 2 per cent of Kiwis have lost their job. For those still in employment, people are finding our jobs more demanding - after the lockdown period people are returning to a bigger workload.

Lockdown shifted shopping habits. More New Zealanders plan ahead and do the supermarket or online shop once a week or fortnight. There are more visits to the local butcher and fruit and vege shop and pre-prepared meal kits such as My Food Bag, Hello Fresh and Woop have soared in popularity. Around a fifth of under-50s are using them more often than a year ago. New Zealanders were doing fewer shopping trips and embracing a more simple pantry cupboard. One in five are making fewer trips to the store because we are stocking up our pantries well in advance. 22 per cent of Kiwis are doing more bulk buying, which increases to 27 per cent for those aged 18-34. Although meal kits have risen in popularity, two-thirds have never ordered one; they are still the domain of the young and the affluent. Those aged 18-34 said they would order Uber Eats on a weekly basis and more than one in five prepare a ready-made meal kit weekly.

Compared with a year ago Kiwis are spending more time with streaming TV services such as Netflix and Disney+, as well as online news websites and social media. Younger audiences said they were reading printed newspapers in higher numbers. This was explained by the number of younger people returning to their family homes in lockdown and developing new habits. The survey found 18-34s were the age group most likely to have seen an increase in the frequency of newspaper reading. As well as reading news online and in print, 18-34s were also increasing their use of podcasts, social media, online music, and radio.

In levels 3 and 4 exercise was one of the few reasons to leave the house. Bike purchases soared, with some reports of a 12-month waiting list. For households with dogs, there were plenty of walks to be had in a day. The habit has stuck and over a third said they were exercising outdoors more than a year ago. Only a small number admitted to having stopped exercising completely. Online exercise routines using paid apps or videos are popular with young Kiwis, especially in Auckland and Wellington. Those with higher-income households were revealed as being more likely to be running, cycling or swimming in their spare time. One in five people surveyed revealed they were not feeling okay. Some people said they were anxious and actively avoiding life. They were feeling "less tolerant of other people". They said they couldn't see their way through the crisis, didn't know how the economy would recover and were concerned about the overall wellbeing of the nation. Despite New Zealand pulling through Covid-19 better than other countries, there are pockets of our society struggling, particularly the lower-earning 35-49 age group, who are trying to manage work and family life.

42 per cent felt that overall, things will improve in the next 12 months. Over half of the New Zealanders surveyed said they feel happier and were doing well. Those who said they were happier were less reliant on social media and were doing more free home activities.
82 per cent are interested in travelling overseas, although 73 per cent were concerned about companies not refunding deposits, airline and hotel cancellation policies and potential loss of income and being stuck overseas. The vaccine rollout and Cook Island travel bubble were described as a turning point for future travel. A quarter said they planned to travel overseas in the next 12 months, but a quarter were unsure. Young Aucklanders were revealed as the most likely to book first, with the 50-64s a little more hesitant. Australia and the Pacific Islands were revealed as the top destinations, with over half of those surveyed saying they were the most preferred places.

Overall people said they have come out of the Covid world mostly strong and happy.

DPMC: *Views on Covid and the world*
The DMPC's Covid-19 group has been carrying out a research programme on the wider aspects of Covid with research form The research Agency (TRA) with a nationally representative sample (n=1,853) of New Zealanders aged 16 years and over carried out from 12-27th May, 2021. Throughout this report key comparisons are made to a March 2021 research project which consisted of n=976 Aucklanders, ages 15 years and over with Fieldwork from March 7 to 17, after Auckland moved from Alert Level 3 to Alert Level 2.[2]

The survey looks at the top holistic priorities on New Zealanders minds, how they believe COVID-19 might impact this, sentiment towards COVID-19 and Unite Against COVID-19, as well as the key information and messaging requirements to keep people engaged with COVID-19 communications. The report also looks specifically at groups of interest that differ from the total market perspective in terms of how they are feeling and the needs they have of information and messaging (See Table 5).

[2] Key samples: Māori n=255; Pasifika n=112. The data was post weighted to be representative of the New Zealand population, in terms of age, gender, region and ethnicity. Comparisons are not made from the same sample base, so are indicative only.

Although the biggest group (44%) do not report more progress in their lives, nevertheless over one third do. The 19% that feel they are making less progress are significantly more likely to be: 55-64yrs, under $50k, Self-employed, Not in paid work. Intentions are friends and family centred including holidaying and securing financial circumstances. Worries were that time and finances might prevent their aspirations. Those who don't think COVID-19 will impact what they're looking forward to are significantly more likely to be: 65 years and over, New Zealand European.

In terms of sentiments neutrality was the largest emotion, but joy etc are prominent and negative feelings only stressed by minorities. Three-quarters thought the country was going in the right direction. Those who think we're going in the wrong direction are significantly more likely to be: Self-employed, Feel like their life is worse compared to before COVID-19, Feel like they're not being told all the information they need to know – they are more likely to worry about the vaccine, the borders opening and others not following the rules. Overall people believe they will either continue the progress trajectory they are on or will make even more progress in the next year. And in the future, people are looking forward to feeling even more balanced and content. What New Zealanders are you looking forward to feeling in the next 12 months? Less stressed 46%, Relaxed 45%, Secure 43%, and Content 40%.

Respondents are reasonably evenly divided into those feeling their lives were now (compared to 2 years ago) better, much the same or worse. Those who feel their life is at least a bit worse are significantly more likely to be: 55 years and over, particularly 55-64 years who are self-employed or part-time workers; Self-employed workers; not in paid work but seeking work. However, they remain complaint with the rules.

On travel and quarantine issues the population is broadly split across the three options. Those who are worried about the travel bubble with Australia make up 80% of those who are worried about the Cook Islands travel bubble. Significantly more likely to be: 55-64 years old, Female.

Concerns are a mix of health, economic and social issues. There is broad support for continuing to carry out protective behaviours, although those requiring technology can be challenging. Rationales for rule following was largely dutiful but also personally safeguarding. Only a small minority expect life post-Covid to return to the way it was before. New Zealanders mostly feel they are getting the right amount of information, and that it is of quality. But this positive assessment has weakened since March 2021. 83% of New Zealanders are getting at least some of their information from Government sources or healthcare professionals. Those who aren't getting any information from Government sources or healthcare professionals (17%) are more likely to be: Pasifika (27%), 16-17 years old (42%)

When it comes to influencers the Ministry of Health is increasing in their reach. The Unite Against COVID-19 brand performs well, but lacks relevance for some, and is lower in overall trust. Relevance is brought down by: Under 35s, Māori, students in paid work, $100k to $120k household income. Trust is brought down by: Māori. Trust is significantly higher for: 45-54 years; $140k to $160k household income; People who feel like they're being told all the information they need to know.

Finally, the study turns to some strategic groups (see appendix).

Table 5.1: Impacts of Covid. Source – TRA 2021

Q7 - Compared to two years ago, do you feel you're making ...	
About the same amount of progress	44
More progress in your life	37
Less progress in your life	19
Q10 - What are the things you're most looking forward to in the next 12 months?	
Catching up with friends and family	40
Family time	40
Going on a New Zealand holiday	39
Getting healthier	38
Paying the bills / being more financially secure	35
More income	34
Seeing the situation improve for those overseas	27
Going on an overseas holiday	23
Taking time out	20
Having family or friends visit from overseas	19
DO YOU HAVE ANY WORRIES THAT COVID-19 WILL IMPACT WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO?	
None of the above	23
Friends and Family time	33
Travel / Holiday	31
Financial	27
Seeing the situation improve for those overseas	19
Career / Personal Progress	12
Personal Milestone	12
Getting healthier	10
SENTIMENT TOWARDS THE COVID-19 SITUATION IN NZ	
Neutral	44
Joy	28
Sad	11
Proud	10
Anger	10
Fear	6
Disgust	6
Surprise	5
HOW DO YOU FEEL THE COUNTRY IS HANDLING THE IMPACT OF AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19?	
Right Direction	75
Wrong Direction	12
Not Sure	13
HOW DIFFERENT DO YOU FEEL YOUR LIFE IS NOW, COMPARED TO BEFORE COVID-19?	
At Least A Bit Worse	31
No Difference	39
At Least A Bit Better	27

Table 5.2 Quarantine and travel	Worried about it	Okay about it	Happy with it
Quarantine free travel to and from Australia	36	25	41
Quarantine free travel to and from Cook Is.	47	23	28
Allowing non-resident workers to come to New Zealand, no matter what country they live in	14	32	53
Quarantine free travel to and from other countries other than Australia and the Cook Islands	16	39	45

Sentiment On Stopping Travel From Very High Risk Countries	16		84

Table 5.3

Concerns about the Effects of Covid	
The effect on the New Zealand economy	51
New Zealand's vaccination plan and rollout	40
New COVID-19 variants	38
The effect on the mental health of New Zealanders	36
The Border/MIQ security	36
The financial impact it has on businesses	36
Not knowing when we will return to normal	29
FUTURE EXPECTATION OF COVID HEALTH BEHAVIOURS - Very willing happy to do my part + I do it all the time..	
Staying home if you're feeling sick or unwell, including staying off work	75
Coughing or sneezing into your elbow	84
Washing your hands with soap for at least 20s / sanitising	85
Contacting Healthline or your doctor if unwell with COVID-19 symptoms	80
Using a mask on public transport	79
Using the NZ COVID Tracer app to scan in	67
Turning on Bluetooth in the NZ COVID Tracer app	62
Not attending large gatherings and events	88
Staying home in their bubble (other than for essential personal movement)	89
Working from home	80
Restricting travel to other regions of New Zealand	87
Not visiting hospitality and retail outlets	86
COVID-19 GUIDELINE COMPLIANCE MOTIVATORS	
I think it's the right thing to follow the rules and laws	56
I don't want another lockdown	48
My sense of duty to NZ	46
The health concerns if I got COVID-19	43
I want to protect friends and whānau	42
I don't want the financial impact to keep on going	34
FUTURE EXPECTATION OF COVID HEALTH BEHAVIOURS post Vaccination Roll-out	
I expect to continue to undertake health behaviours	36
I expect there will be some differences in day to day life compared to pre-COVID-19	47
I expect everything to be back to the way it was pre COVID-19	9

Quality of Information	
I am not being told all the information I need to know	18
I am being told all the information I need to know	63
I am being told information I don't need to know	11
From everything you've seen or heard about COVID-19 do you agree that you have access to all the information you want and need?	
Disagree and strongly disagree	10
In between	25
Agree and strongly agree	62
Where are you getting information from to keep up to date about the New Zealand Government's public health COVID-19 response, including plans, Alert Level guidelines, et	
Media briefing	48
COVID-19 advertising	46
COVID-19 Website	41
Ministry of Health website	36
Your family doctor or a health care professional	17
Non-Government Information Sources	
Social media posts and pages	23
Searching for it on the internet	20
Overseas sources	5
Iwi /Māori groups	2

Friends and family	24
Faith/religious groups/ leaders	4
Community groups and networks	7
Articles in the news/media	48
Whose opinion do you listen to or seek out in regards to COVID-19 in New Zealand and what is being done?	
Dr Ashley Bloomfield	55
Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern	48
Ministry of Health	46
Unite Against COVID-19	26
Health officials	39
Friends and family	20
Politicians	11
No one	8
Employer	6
Other public figures	5
Community leaders	5
The Unite against Covid-19 Brand….	
is everywhere	54
Really stands for something	44
Is a brand I trust	42
Is making a difference	40
Is passionate about what they do	36
Is for people like me	34

UMR

The UMR survey (April-May 2020) asked New Zealanders what the world will look like post-Covid-**19** UMR Stephen Mills https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/27-06-2020/we-asked-new-zealanders-what-the-country-will-look-like-post-covid-19/. Responses showed New Zealanders expect to see the environment take a back seat to economic recovery, little change in fortune for low-paid essential workers, and a long wait for tourism to return to pre-Covid 19 levels**.** They seemed to expect a move to the left but were not convinced about Aotearoa's economic prospects or that the environmental movement would be strengthened.

- given a choice, 78% thought "Western governments will be much more involved in planning economies to ensure, for instance, the existence of a national airline and local supply of health equipment and pharmaceuticals"; while 22% thought "Western economies will stay open with governments leaving supply of almost all goods to private businesses"..
- Fifty-seven percent thought "the large number of New Zealanders having experience of the wage subsidy will increase support for a universal basic income, which is a payment made to all adult New Zealanders sufficient to cover the basics"; 35% thought "a universal basic income will still be seen as too expensive and reducing the incentive to work".
- A UBI has support from elements of both the right and left in politics but has been associated more with Labour in New Zealand. Labour voters (65%) were more likely to expect support for the UBI to increase than National voters (43%). Renters (63%) were also more likely to expect support to increase than those who own freehold homes (48%).
- On taxation and creating a more equal society, a majority expected no change. Forty-four percent went for the option that "the massive amount of taxpayer money that has been spent to rescue New Zealand businesses and help New Zealanders on high incomes will soften attitudes towards taxes such as wealth and capital gains taxes in order to reduce inequality"; 56% thought "there would still be overwhelming opposition to capital gains and wealth taxes". Fifty-two percent of Labour voters thought there would be more support for a CGT and wealth taxes (despite it being ruled out by the prime minister), compared to 30% of National voters.
- There was not much hope held for those in low-paid but essential pandemic occupations. Only 31% thought "people working in low-status and low-wage occupations such as cleaning and home care, who worked right through the outbreak, will get more credit and higher pay"; 69% thought "not much will change for them".
- On the international political front, more expected countries to turn inward. Forty-three percent thought "there will be a big lift in international cooperation to stop viruses spreading"; 57% thought "countries will become more nationalist and put their own needs first".
- When it came to the outlook for the New Zealand economy, there was some hope for food but not so much for tourism. Fifty-four percent went for the option that "there will be strong export demand for New Zealand food" and 46% for the option that "most of the world will retreat behind high tariff barriers and international trade will take a long time to recover". Older New Zealanders were more positive on this count than younger New Zealanders. Only 28% thought there will, when borders reopen, be a boom in tourism to New Zealand; 72% thought "it will be many years before international tourism to New Zealand returns to pre-Covid 19 levels"
- There's not much hope when it comes to the environment either. Thirty-eight percent thought "people all around the world have seen how quickly water and air quality improved while economies slowed and will therefore want to maintain that cleaner environment";

while 62% believed “people want economies to boom again and will not worry too much about the environmental consequences”.
- Most New Zealanders expected we would maintain that community spirit evident during the neighbourly walks of lockdown. Sixty-five percent thought “we will be more community minded and look out for people we don’t know”; while only 35% took the opposite view that “we will be more suspicious and intolerant of others in our community”.

Conclusions

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested the resilience of New Zealanders during an unprecedented time. New Zealand was quick to respond with a four-tier alert system and moving into lockdown in late March 2020. By early June 2020, there were no active cases of COVID-19 reported in the country. Although the pandemic had significant economic consequences, they were not as severe as first feared, with the economy also recovering faster than anticipated. However, there are still ongoing effects of the pandemic on New Zealanders. The pandemic has clearly had a major impact on the country, but most New Zealanders have remained resilient, although that resilience is slightly fading under the latest Covid onslaught.

The main heavy lifting of relevant social research has been carried out by Perceptive and UMR who in an exemplary way have covered all the main questions in relation to Covid, in UMR’s cases including the deployment of an extended set of social background variables. Other studies and firms have also made solid contributions and other published studies (not referred to here) have ‘thickened’ the picture. Different agencies differ in their turnaround of results: Perceptive. MOH, UMR and RNZ are to be particularly to be commended: MBIE processing of their Survey of Arrivals though seems particularly slow. The short-term, and even longer-term consequences from Covid have been probed. However, although extent of support for current policies has been investigated little has been examined on the question of which directions do NZers want to move forward on.

Acknowledgements
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Appendix: TRA (2021) Study groups

Maori: Despite feeling positive about their own lives, and that NZ is handling COVID-19 well, they are more likely to feel fear towards the COVID-19 situation in NZ. This stems from a worry that COVID-19 can impact their goals, particularly financial betterment.

Pasifika are feeling relatively positive about their own lives, and that NZ is handling COVID-19 well. But they have lower levels of compliance either because they just won't comply, or they aren't aware of the rules. They are motivated to protect their friends and family and want to travel overseas to see them - this is an opportunity for motivating compliance with this group.

Indians feel positive about their life, and feel New Zealand is handling COVID-19 well. They are compliant with health and Alert Level behaviours. But they are more motivated for the borders to re-open further, unlike the rest of the population. The job to do here is more about proactively managing expectations so that this group does not become disengaged.

Under 35 males feel positive about their life, and feel New Zealand is handling COVID-19 well. But they are less engaged and motivated towards COVID-19. This flows through to less compliant behaviours in comparison to the total population. We need to make communications and messaging feel more relevant to this group to increase their engagement and overall compliance