Research Note on Experiences and Attitudes Going Forward with and Beyond Delta (November)[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-19 regime and possible pivots to alternatives. As NZ hesitantly comes to develop its way of dealing with the Delta variant, the atitudinal and behavioural concomitants can be traced.

Keywords: New Zealand, Auckland, Covid-19, lockdowns. Border, mask-wearing, social distancing, stress, economic difficulties, surveys

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[1] Material is updated until the 26th November, with earlier 2021 material still covered.

During and from mid-August 2021 New Zealand has experienced an out-break of the Delta version of COVID-19 outbreak stemmed from a return flight organised to get Kiwis stuck in Sydney home as the trans-Tasman bubble was suspended. Vaccinations are around 85 percent of the eligible population having at least one dose 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 -22 September Upper Hauraki moved to a "bespoke" Alert Level 4 lockdown
21 September: Auckland & Upper Hauraki moved to Alert Level 3 at 11:59pm
25 September: Upper Hauraki moves to Alert Level 2 at 11:59pm
3 October: Waikato moved to Alert Level 3 at 11:59pm
5 October: Auckland Alert Level 3 eased
15 November: Waikato back to L2
2 December: NZ wide Traffic Light System to begin
15 December: Auckland boundary to be relaxed

The current (2021) 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 vu' inducing earlier on-setting 'Covid-19 fatigue'. Business support is mainly one-off. The MIQ system has been tweaked to allow access through a lottery mechanism, and this revealed that the demand to return to NZ is approximately 30,000.

Covid-19 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-19 as the main goal of New Zealand's strategy, since elimination is impossible given the constant threat of introduction from overseas: so 'zero tolerance' is thought to be better definition.

Currently (November 2021) as the delta variant infection begins to be brought under control (or at least plateauing) but beginning to spread throughout NZ. Auckland and NZ economy begin to fire up to full throttle, the media are alive with clamour as the discontents of Covid-19 continue to mount. Spokespeople for the business community pause in their clamour for the economy and borders to open, only to welcome lowering of alert 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-19 are abated. Each group appears to be loudly addressing the general public without much taking into account the views of the others. The questions underlying this study is to deploy public opinion (marred by respondent and methodological limitations) to bear on the key questions:

- How can we, and more particularly the government, continue to thread a way through these competing claims. Can mutually acceptable trade-offs be found?

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, 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-19 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 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
- Covid-19 positive families being moved to hospitals or MIQs
- The closed border, including isolating in MIQs or at home

Attitudes and behaviours in relation to each of these need 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.

Various reports and suggestions for long term planning have been issued – particularly that of the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group led by Professor Sir David Skegg (11 August, 2021: https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-releases-expert-advice-reconnecting-new-zealanders.)

The runs of Covid-19 infections in 2020 had spurred many research programmes, almost all of which fell away during the long period without Covid-19. 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 have 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-19 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.

A scatter of polling results have appeared in the media, some from regular polling operations which have included Covid-19-relevant items.

(1) BusinessNZ Survey

A *BusinessNZ* survey (2021 see also *Infometrics*, 2021 on similar findings) showed about 40 per cent of New Zealand businesses could not operate under Alert Level 4, suggested the Auckland proportion could be twice as high. Supply-chain issues stemming from difficulties in Auckland affect the rest of New Zealand. 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.

The Southern Cross Health Insurance – BusinessNZ Workplace Wellness Survey provides a picture of health and wellbeing in the workplace., based on 116 private and public employers [https://www.businessnz.org.nz/resources/surveys-and-statistics/wellness-in-the-workplace-survey/Southern-Cross-Health-Insurance-BusinessNZ-Workplace-Wellness-Report-2021.pdf]. The survey has previously shown how legislative changes, such as the 2015 Health and Safety at Work Act, have shown a gradual positive move by employers towards recognising the importance of addressing broader issues of health for their employees. The sudden emergence of COVID-19 in 2020 culminated in a swift step change to the daily working life of many New Zealanders. It also resulted in businesses having to consider vastly different aspects of employee wellbeing and provide additional support. Focuses continue to be absence rates, costs and drivers of absence but extended to include working from home. These findings show that the impacts of working from home on enterprises have been two-fold - While some employees feel isolated, it has also largely been viewed as a positive move.

(2) Household Labour Force Study (HLFS) Data

Several measures of workforce size from the HLFS show major impacts mid-2020.

Table 2-1: Employment

EMPLOYMENT	QUARTER (000)							
	Sep 19	**Dec 19**	**Mar 20**	**Jun 20**	**Sep 20**	**Dec 20**	**Mar 21**	**Jun 21**
Casual worker	98.8	106.7	116.1	82.2	99.3	108.6	109.7	100.4
Fixed-term and temp agency	58.5	61.4	57.5	49.2	65.4	57.6	64.5	69.7
Total temporary employees *	182.5	192.9	201.6	160.3	189	192.3	200.3	194.7
Permanent employee	2,003.6	2,020	2,012.8	2,011.4	1,959.8	1,993.5	1,987.9	2,005.6
Total employees *	2,195.8	2,220.4	2,221.1	2,181.6	2,159.9	2,196.1	2,196.8	2,213.4
Fixed-term/ temp agency	173.7	174.5	173.2	168.7	181.3	181.9	173.1	188.0
Self-employed	300.4	313.7	330.1	345.9	336.5	343.5	354.6	343.1
Total employed (main job) *	2,693.6	2,727.7	2,748.2	2,723.6	2,704.8	2,745.3	2,755.0	2,770.4

* Totals include other subcategories which are not separately presented

Table 2-2: Main reason for being away from work

MAIN REASON FOR BEING AWAY FROM WORK DURING REFERENCE WEEK (ALL JOBS)	QUARTER (000)							
	Sep 19	**Dec 19**	**Mar 20**	**Jun 20**	**Sep 20**	**Dec 20**	**Mar 21**	**Jun 21**
Holidays	66.7	141.6	222.9	19.4	45.7	56.9	197.1	41.3
Own sickness / illness / injury	25.4	22.7	25.9	26.5	26.1	29.2	26.5	28.0
Personal / family reasons	27.2	25.7	25.0	20.4	22.7	23.5	23.8	25.7
COVID-19 related reasons				220.8	22.0	3.5	9.8	
Other	21.0	15.4	16.2	13.7	21.8	14.4	15.9	18.9
Total away from work in reference week	140.6	205.4	290.1	300.7	138.6	127.4	273.4	114.5

* Totals include other subcategories which are not separately presented

Table 2-3: Main reason for working fewer hours

MAIN REASON FOR WORKING FEWER HOURS THAN USUAL IN REFERENCE WEEK (MAIN JOB)	QUARTER (000)							
	Sep 19	**Dec 19**	**Mar 20**	**Jun 20**	**Sep 20**	**Dec 20**	**Mar 21**	**Jun 21**
Holidays	73.7	184.6	259.8	103.0	82.0	163.2	274.3	268.5
Own sickness / illness / injury	63.4	46.9	40.9	31.0	52.7	47.7	53.3	63.6
Personal / family reasons	40.7	33.8	27.3	24.4	37.1	39.1	30.8	41.3
Not enough work available	47.7	38.5	46.1	57.6	68.8	48.9	58.3	50.9
Flexi time / shift work / rostered work	29.5	25.5	25.9	20.6	22.5	28.2	19.3	28.2
COVID-19 related reasons				341.2	57.0	4.9	21.4	1.4
Other	45.6	33.7	37.2	31.6	44.5	42.2	34.2	45.8
Total working fewer hours than usual	73.7	184.6	259.8	103.0	82.0	163.2	274.3	268.5

Table 2-4: Main reason for leaving last job

MAIN REASON FOR LEAVING LAST JOB	**QUARTER** (000)							
	Sep 19	**Dec 19**	**Mar 20**	**Jun 20**	**Sep 20**	**Dec 20**	**Mar 21**	**Jun 21**
Retired	115.3	74.6	52.8	70.5	35.3	58.2	32.4	33.5
Parental / family responsibilities	120.0	82.8	52.9	75.3	33.6	50.2	31.6	30.7
End of temporary / seasonal / contract job	117.5	82.7	60.2	71.0	39.4	54.4	34.0	29.9
Own sickness / illness / injury	127.5	88.2	59.3	74.3	51.2	61.5	31.3	27.6
Made redundant / laid off / business closed	123.8	78.0	55.5	74.9	63.5	60.3	33.0	28.4
Enrolled in education / training	121.1	80.4	52.7	73.0	59.8	49.1	31.7	25.1
Moved location	123.9	83.6	55.1	73.9	53.4	51.0	38.0	30.4
Dissatisfied with job / conditions	126.1	85.2	47.6	78.8	45.5	57.6	30.7	29.3
COVID-19 related reasons	115.3	74.6	52.8	70.5	35.3	58.2	32.4	33.5
Total who had a job within the last 5 years but are not currently working	120.0	82.8	52.9	75.3	33.6	50.2	31.6	30.7

A 2020 study of the housing situation of essential workers includes NZ estimates by Occupation and Industry – underlying data from (Saville-Smith & Mitchell, 2020).

Table 2-2: Essential Workers (2020)

Occupation/Industry	**Code**	**Numbers (000s)**
1. Occupation		
Checkout operators	631111	16k
Health carers	423	68k
Nurses and midwives	254	58k
Police officers	4413	11k
Rubbish & recyclers	8996 and 839918	1k
		156
2. Industry		
Supermarket & grocery	G411	83k
Health care	Q84 & Q85	153k
Residential care	Q86	7k
Police	O7711	13.5k
Waste management	D291	2k
		258.5k

MBIE (2021b) has provided a factsheet concerning essential workers, at levels three (presented here) and 4. Non-operating services are defined as those services which are specifically restricted from opening.

More recently there has been estimates of the proportion of the workforce which is likely to be caught up in vaccination mandates: some estimates as high as 40%.

Table 2-3: Workforce activity at Level 3.

	Operational service	Non-operating service	Total	%
Going to work	1,172,000	NA	1,172,000	44.3
Working from home	507,000	NA	507,000	19.2
Unable to work	829,000	137,000	966,000	36.5
Total	2,508,000	137,000	2,645,000	100

The largest essential workforce is in healthcare and social assistance, with just under 250,000 essential workers with 150,000workers working in their place of employment, with another 100,000 workers either working from home or unable to work. The second-biggest essential industry was agriculture, forestry and fishing with 150,000 essential workers, and the third-largest in manufacturing. Under alert level 4, only 70,000 workers would be able to work as usual, out of the 250,000 workers who are usually employed.

Southland has the largest percentage of essential workers, with more than 27 per cent of its workforce continuing to work in their place of employment under alert level 4, whereas Auckland has just under 15 per cent, and Wellington just over 15 per cent.

While there are more males than females employed in essential services. More females will work from their workplace under level 4 lock down restrictions, than males.

(3) "Mood of the Boardroom Report" NZ Herald

One-hundred and fifty Directors/CEOs were asked in September by NZ Herald (Sullivan, 2021) their views relating to New Zealand and Business. Only Covid-19-related results are covered here. Large issues were covered with a generally negative frame being shown, albeit more optimistic than a year previously, as business sees its interest in opening hard and fast, although Robertson and his handling of economic management has widespread support and employers are prepared to adopt vaccination mandates, and a range of other measures: especially high tech solutions but not so much low tech (e.g. masks). They are critical of many policy areas and Government units which are 'Covid-19-facing' were rated poorly.

Table 3-1: Mood of the Board Room

MOOD OF THE BOARD ROOM	%
Are you satisfied with the plan for reopening NZ?	
No	62
Yes	30
Unsure	8
Are you worried new variants might render vaccines ineffective?	
Extremely worried	33
Somewhat worried	58
Not at all worried	9
Will you join the Government's self-isolation pilot?	

MOOD OF THE BOARD ROOM	**%**
Yes	41
No	37
Unsure	22
Will higher inflation rates be baked in or transitory?	
Baked in	44
Largely transitory	31
Unsure	25
Has the Reserve Bank mishandled quantitative easing and fuelled an asset (house) boom?	
Yes	35
No	35
Unsure	30
Will employers require their staff to be vaccinated against Covid-19?	
Yes	74
No	12
Unsure	14
Do you have confidence in Robertson's management of the economy?	
Yes	71
No	12
Unsure	17

Table 3-2: Levels of optimism – Mean scores

Are you more optimistic than you were a year ago about….	**More Optimistic =5**
General business situation in your industry	3.2
Global economy	3.15
NZ economy	2.7
Concerns on business confidence in NZ Traditional concerns	**Extremely concerned =10**
Skills/labour shortages	9.18
Community transmission of Covid-19 (Delta)	**8.69**
Immigration restrictions	8.53
Border protection against Covid-19	**8.22**
International transport/ logistics	8.09
International trade environment	6.49
Housing unaffordability	7.27
Regulation	7.24
Labour productivity	6.83
Climate reduction policies	6.48

What are our best moves for the future of living with Covid-19? What more could the Government invest in to ensure New Zealand minimises the continuing economic impact of the coronavirus epidemic amidst an environment where new variants might emerge?

- Public-private partnerships for quarantine facilities where essential workers' can be quarantined at companies' cost — 73%
- Intensive contact tracing COVID-19 using 'best in class' technological capabilities i.e. mobile phone/EFTPOS tracking — 73%
- Mandatory vaccination certificates to enter restaurants and bars (once the initial vaccination period is finished) — 56%
- Mental health and individual wellbeing — 51%
- Declared air bridges with major trading partners (e.g. China, Australia, US) as they get their populations vaccinated and bring COVID-19 under control — 51%
- Public-private isolation facilities for international education students — 45%
- Separate Government operational agency to manage the future impact of the COVID-19 pandemic/subsequent pandemics instead of through Ministry of Health — 45%
- Intensive and regular batch testing for COVID-19 to catch the extent of community transmission early — 42%
- Attract foreign high-networthers to move to New Zealand and invest here to create jobs — 40%
- Public-private partnerships for quarantine facilities for international tourists — 36%
- Greater use of masks in public environments — 30%

What keeps CEOs awake at night?

- Sourcing and retaining skilled staff – 71%
- Managing the impact of Covid-19 – 58%
- Ensuring cyber-security – 26%
- Regulatory challenges – 24%
- Achieving top-line revenue growth – 24%
- Meeting customer expectations – 23%
- Impact of policy uncertainty on my business – 18%
- Improving operational efficiencies – 17%
- Managing profit expectations – 15%
- Changing organisational culture – 15%
- Competitive pressures – 10%
- Achieving cost reduction – 8%
- Digital disruption – 7%
- CEO: Board relationship – 3%
- Motivating key reports – 3%
- M&A[2] (threat) – 2%

Government performance in key areas ratings:

- Māori and Pasifika aspiration (3.43/5)
- Response to the Covid-19 pandemic (3.35/5)
- Strong international relations (3.27/5)
- Fiscal responsibility (2.88/5)
- International trade agreements (2.84/5)
- Climate change (2.71/5)
- Regional Development (2.7/5)

[2] Merger & Acquisition

- Managing appropriately Covid-19 fund (2.68/5)
- Mental health (2.47/5)
- Children's wellbeing (2.18/5)
- Infrastructure deficit (1.91/5)
- Policy execution (1.90/5)
- Economic transformation (1.87/5)
- Consultation with business (1.85/5)
- Transport constraints (1.82/5)
- Immigration (1.77/5)
- Housing shortage/affordability (1.7/5)

(4) 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 is only very slightly dented in 2021. See also Morrison et al 2021.

Table 4-1: 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
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	7.1640	.24034
	10	7.1284	.25922
	11	7.2026	.22617

(5) Neighbourhood Movement

Campbell et al (2021) evaluate the unequal societal effects of enforcing lockdowns using nationwide mobile phone movement data to quantify levels of population mobility by neighbourhood deprivation using an ecological study design. They then derive a mobility index using anonymised aggregated population counts for each neighbourhood (2253 Census Statistical Areas; mean population n=2086) of national hourly mobile phone location data (7.45 million records, 1 March 2020–20 July 2020). They find uneven results by deprivation level.

(6) Curia Poll

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-19-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 percent followed by economy at 15 percent. In terms of which party was seen best at managing COVID-19 response Labour was picked by 61 percent and National by 12 percent.

Table 6-1: Major voting issue

MAJOR VOTING ISSUE	Sept 21	Oct 21
Economy	14	9
Covid-19	17	32
Leaders	6	5
Policies	7	6
Environment	6	6
Housing	5	4
Poverty	4	3
Health	5	4

November results (n=1000) show further Labour dipping below 40 per cent, with National and ACT up slightly, and with concomitant changes in leadership popularities. Significantly for the Government however, marginally more people in this poll now think that the country is headed in the wrong direction (45%) rather than the right direction (44%). (In January, when the right direction/wrong direction question was in the Government's favour by 50 percentage points with over 70 per cent of the country thinking the country was headed in the right direction, compared to less than 20 per cent thinking it was not.

Ipsos, which asks this question in a number of countries round the world, found that there are only three other nations where the public thinks it is heading in the right direction: Australia, India and Saudi Arabia. For example the UK has a score of -20, and the United States was at -26.

(7) Colmar Brunton

In September 2021 Forty percent of Kiwis were unhappy with Government's management of MIQ, while More than half, 51 per cent said yes, and nine per cent don't know or refused to answer.

The majority of eligible New Zealand voters (61%) support mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for those aged 18+ (with the exception of those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons). However, voters are less comfortable with making them mandatory for those aged 12+; 44% support this. One in three voters (35%) are opposed to the idea of mandatory vaccinations for COVID-19, while 4% are unsure. The following groups of voters are more likely than average (61%) to support the idea of mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for New Zealanders aged 18+:

▪ Asian New Zealanders (74%)
▪ Those aged 70+ (71%)
▪ Labour party supporters (69%).

The following groups of voters are more likely than average (44%) to support the idea of mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for New Zealanders aged 12+:

▪ Those aged 70+ (59%)
▪ Those aged 60-69 (57%)
▪ Asian New Zealanders (54%)
▪ Labour party supporters (50%).

The following groups of voters are more likely than average (35%) to oppose the idea of mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations:

▪ Women aged 18-34 (48%)
▪ ACT party supporters (47%)
▪ New Zealand Europeans (39%).

In a poll (n=1001) 6-10 November The majority of eligible voters (74%) said that they support mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations for public-facing workforces, such as teachers and health care workers. Twenty percent are opposed to this idea, while 6% are unsure.
Those groups of eligible voters more likely to support mandatory vaccinations for certain workforces include:

- Labour Party supporters (86%)
- Those with a household income greater than $150,000 (85%)
- Those aged 55+ (81%).

Those groups of eligible voters more likely than average (20%) to oppose mandatory vaccinations for certain workforces include:

- Those living in Waikato (30%).

(8) Research NZ

Research NZ asked what New Zealand should be doing to manage COVID-19 – from easing all restrictions through to eliminating COVID-19 through lockdowns in a survey of 1,002 respondents between 17 and 20 September 2021 State of the nation Vaccination, lockdown, elimination or exasperation?

Almost three quarters (70%) support lockdowns to eliminate COVID-19, although most of this support (47%) is for lockdowns until the vaccination target has been reached. Significant differences occur across New Zealand, with the South Island (except Canterbury supporting lockdowns (82%) to a much greater extent than Canterbury (67%), Auckland (66%) and the North Island (excluding Wellington) (69%). Aucklanders were significantly more opposed to lockdowns (30%) than Mainlanders (17%), bar Cantabrians.

There was strong support for mandatory vaccination for certain essential workers and for international arrivals. Older New Zealanders (55+ years) were more likely to support wide-spread vaccination, e.g. 93 percent agreeing that vaccinations should be mandatory for health and quarantine frontline workers. A clear majority think our international borders should only be opened to those with vaccination passports and a recent negative test (79%). There is less support for rules that impinge on business and personal freedoms with more than one half thinking businesses should be able to make vaccination and testing compulsory for continued employment (57%), but more than one-quarter disagreeing (28%).

Table 8-1

	NZ %	**Auckland** %	**Wellington** %	**Canterbury** %	**Rest of the North Island** %	**Rest of the South Island** %
Aim to eliminate Covid-19 from New Zealand, with lockdowns, as required, until enough New Zealanders are vaccinated.	47	41	54	49	47	58
Aim to eliminate Covid-19 from New Zealand with lockdowns, as required, until Covid-19 is no longer a threat.	23	25	25	18	22	24
Stop having lockdowns, but continue having rules to manage the spread of Covid-19 (e.g. mask wearing, testing and quarantine).	19	21	16	25	16	12
Return to life as it was before Covid-19, with no lockdowns or rules around mask wearing, testing and quarantine.	7	9	5	3	8	4

Table 8-2: Vaccination should be mandatory

VACCINATION SHOULD BE MANDATORY (REQUIRED) FOR ALL…	Yes %	No %	Don't know %
Health and quarantine frontline workers	85	11	4
Emergency services (i.e. police, ambulance and fire)	82	13	5
Airline workers	81	13	7
Teachers and childcare workers	78	15	7
Postal workers and couriers	71	20	9
And whether...			
Our international borders should only be opened to those with vaccination passports and a recent negative test	79	12	8
Businesses should be able to decide whether to make vaccination and testing a requirement for continued employment	57	28	15
Restaurants and bars should only serve vaccinated patrons	50	32	18
People who are not vaccinated should not be disadvantaged in terms of where they can go and what they can do	34	46	21

In an earlier survey of 1,005 respondents between 2 and 5 July, 2021, Research NZ asked New Zealanders whether masks and scanning should be compulsory, and whether the public are following health guidelines for avoiding the spread of COVID-19 by hygienic mask use, physical distancing and staying home when sick.

Barely half of respondents (51%) were in agreement/strong agreement, that workplace mask wearing should be compulsory; while public transport (77%) and public places (61%) had much more support. A majority of respondents were in agreement/strong agreement on scanning, particularly on public transport (70%). Most respondents were not using facemasks consistently or correctly, or consistently practising physical distancing in public. Only 63 percent said they always stayed home while sick.

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Table 8-3:

STAYING SAFE FROM COVID-19 Face masks (or coverings) should be compulsory to wear at Covid-19 Alert Levels 2 and above ….	Strongly agree %	Agree %	Neutral %	Disagree %	Strongly disagree %
On public transport	46	31	9	5	7
In public places including bars and restaurants (except when eating or drinking)	32	32	18	10	9
In workplaces	24	27	23	14	10
Scanning (or signing in) should be compulsory at all times...					
On public transport	42	28	12	8	8

In public places including bars and restaurants (except when eating or drinking)	38	28	14	9	9
In workplaces	31	26	19	11	10
Do you currently do any of the following...?	**Always**	**Some-times**	**No, didn't think of it**	**No, I don't do this**	**Don't know N/A**
Wash (or sanitise) my hands before putting on a face mask	32	30	7	22	9
I keep my face mask in a clean place (e.g. plastic bag) between uses on one day	35	25	7	24	10
I practice physical distancing in public places (also known as social distancing)	35	46	3	15	2
I trash disposable masks or wash fabric masks after a day's use	39	23	5	21	12
I use hand sanitiser in public places	42	44	3	11	1
I stay home (away from public places) if I'm sick	63	27	2	5	2

(9) Perceptive

Perceptive's reactivated survey rounds (3 waves in 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 9-1). 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 9-1: Perceptive Results mid-2020 and late-2021 compares New Zealand (four weeks in 2021 – in August, September and October – compared to two weeks in 2020 – June and August, when the last polling was carried out) and New Zealand versus Auckland for three recent polling weeks (see Table 9-1). 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 percent on several moods with Aucklanders feeling more negative (or less happy), especially in the second survey week. There are similar changes with concerns, and to a lesser extent information adequacy.

Table 9-1: Perceptive Results mid-2020 and late-2021

REGION	***NEW ZEALAND***									**AUCKLAND**					
Year	2020		*2021*							2021					
Month	6	8	*8*	*9*	*9*	*10*	*10*	*11*	*11*	8	9	10	10	11	11
Day of Month	18	14	*31*	*17*	*30*	*15*	*25*	*5*	*22*	31	17	15	25	5	22
Number of Cases	1041	1107	*1051*	*1070*	*1034*	*1038*	*1047*	*1007*	*1028*	360	411	369	389	394	385
	Q Thinking back over the last week, how often did you feel (Often + Very Often)														
Loving	52	54	53	54	54	50	51	49	52	53	50	44	47	50	45
Happy	52	53	51	52	51	50	52	52	54	51	49	43	47	47	50
Positive	52	50	50	51	51	50	49	52	52	50	46	42	42	43	48
Content	46	48	47	48	46	48	44	48	49	47	43	41	39	41	44
Stressed	29	30	25	28	29	26	29	26	27	25	31	30	34	32	30
Joyful	38	38	36	36	36	35	38	38	40	36	35	31	36	35	38
Scared	13	14	9	9	12	10	11	10	10	9	10	12	14	14	12
Sad	17	18	15	15	17	16	16	17	16	15	17	18	19	21	16
Negative	18	18	17	18	17	18	19	19	18	17	21	22	25	24	23
Angry	14	14	15	14	13	13	16	15	14	15	17	17	20	18	15
	High Concern…														
With Covid-19	36	44	38	33	35	43	45	37	39	44	41	52	52	45	39
	Concern with Impact of Covid On….														
Other NZers health & WB	74	76	75	73	76	78	76	70	73	79	75	81	84	80	80
Globally Health & WB	88	88	85	85	86	86	83	81	81	84	82	85	81	75	75
International businesses	90	90	82	80	84	84	80	79	79	81	79	82	82	82	79
Local businesses	86	88	86	85	86	87	83	81	80	89	88	89	89	87	84
My children's education	22	22	24	24	22	25	22	22	24	31	29	31	31	32	28
My friends/families health	55	58	58	52	54	57	48	44	44	63	60	61	58	52	47
My friends/families mental health	55	59	60	52	56	58	51	47	48	69	60	65	61	56	52
My health	48	47	47	44	45	50	37	34	39	56	50	56	44	42	41
My mental health	48	52	47	46	50	51	43	39	40	55	52	58	54	51	48
My/your family's financial situation	55	58	50	48	49	54	43	40	41	58	55	61	52	49	45
The global economy	91	93	85	85	87	88	83	83	81	86	82	86	85	85	82
NZ economy	88	90	79	82	83	85	81	79	79	84	85	86	84	85	81
NZ healthcare system	73	74	76	76	79	83	80	77	79	79	77	82	80	78	78
	Information Adequacy														

Govt. I receive a lot but necessary	74	72	*70*	*65*	*62*	*56*	*58*	*54*	*56*	67	63	53	59	54	54
I receive a lot of information and am overwhelmed	15	14	*19*	*23*	*24*	*27*	*28*	*30*	*28*	20	25	28	26	29	29
I feel I'm not getting enough information and want more	9	8	*8*	*8*	*10*	*13*	*11*	*13*	*11*	10	6	16	12	15	12
I am not getting any and prefer it this way	.	.	*.*	*.*	*4*	*3*	*3*	*3*	*5*	3	3	4	2	2	4
Media: I receive a lot of information but necessary	60	59	*58*	*56.*	*53*	*50*	*53*	*46*	*47*	47	55	49	56	50	45
I receive a lot of information and am overwhelmed	31	28	*32*	*33.*	*34*	*36*	*34*	*39*	*9*	31	33	36	32	36	41
I feel I'm not getting enough information and want more	7	10	*7*	*7.*	*7*	*10*	*9*	*10*	*5*	9	7	11	10	11	9
I am not getting any and prefer in this way	.	2	*.*	*.*				*5*	*40*	3	.	4	3	3	4
	Government Action														
Yes: Is the government doing as much as they can	61	62	*60*	*55*	*45*	*34*	*43*	*40*	*41*	56	46	29	38	36	36
Yes but should do more	28	28	*25*	*28*	*31*	*39*	*31*	*23*	*33*	28	31	42	33	34	35
No, not enough	10	9	*13*	*4*	*18*	*23*	*22*	*31*	*21*	14	21	23	26	25	23
Don't know	.	.	*3*	*3*		*4*	*4*	*6*	*5*	3	3	6	3	5	5

Table 9-2: 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 9-3) amongst Aucklanders run at about an average of five weeks and this has not changed with successive weeks or in comparison to the rest of the North Island (let alone other parts of NZ).

Table 9-3: Time expectations

EXPECTED LENGTH OF LOCKDOWN	AUCKLAND				REST OF NORTH ISLAND	
	Survey Week 1	Survey Week 2	Survey Week 3	Survey Week 4	Survey Week 2	Survey Week 3
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under 1 week	0	2	29	0	12	12
1-2 weeks	8	12	35	8	29	29
3-4 weeks	30	30	15	30	35	35
5-6 weeks	23	24	5	23	15	15
7-8 weeks	20	16	3	20	5	5
2-3 months	13	10	1	13	3	3
3- months	4	6	29	4	1	1

Table 9-4: Concerns and Support of Government Activity by Social Background

SOCIAL CATEGORY	IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING AS MUCH AS THEY CAN				
	Yes	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 9-3) amongst Aucklanders run at about an average of five weeks and this has not changed with successive weeks, or in comparison to the rest of the North Island (let alone other parts of New Zealand).

In further unpublished tables Perceptive examined:

- Vaccination status
- Vaccination motives (for both those previously unsure and those still intending to remain unvaccinated)
- With the change in alert levels, what are you most concerned or apprehensive about?
- How do you feel about the government's response in placing New Zealand in a level 4 lockdown?
- Level of Concern with Covid-19.

These questions (and those published on their website) can be broken down by age, gender, region, industry and ethnicity (August-September 2021).

Table 9-5: Lockdown and Vaccination Questions

LOCKDOWN AND VACCINATION QUESTIONS	Responses
"How do you feel about the government's response in placing New Zealand in an Alert Level 4 lockdown?"	
I believe it is right option given the circumstance	79%
I believe it is too strict	13%
I believe it is not enough and stricter requirements are needed	6%
Unsure/Prefer not to answer	2%
Base	1046
"With the change in alert levels, what are you most concerned or apprehensive about?"	
A resurgence of the virus	56%
Economic conditions	44%
Disconnection from family/friends	43%
Social and community events/activities being cancelled	27%
My health and wellbeing	30%
My mental health	27%
Holidays being postponed/cancelled	21%
Unemployment/finding work/job security	24%
Education/exams/assignments being disrupted	22%
I am not concerned at all about the new lockdown situation	8%
Other (please specify)	6%
None of the above	1%
Base	1046
Vaccination status (Wave 2+3)	
Vaccinated or intending to	86%
Unsure or unlikely to get vaccinated	7%
Definitely won't get vaccinated	4%

LOCKDOWN AND VACCINATION QUESTIONS	Responses
Prefer not to answer	2%
Base	2090
"Would any of the options below, or anything that comes to mind, help convince you.."	
If I got paid	14%
If I needed a vaccine passport to travel	24%
If I got rewarded in some way	16%
To allow me to see my friends and family	18%
If someone I knew got Covid-19	12%
If I got Covid-19	13%
To stop lockdowns	14%
If I needed a vaccine passport to attend events	9%
To help with herd immunity	2%
Other (please specify)	16%
None of the above/Prefer not to answer	27%
Base: Those vaccinated who are unsure or unlikely to get vaccinated"	74
"What made you decide to get vaccinated?"	**56%**
For my family and friends health	42%
For my own health	35%
To help with herd immunity	34%
To stop lockdowns	31%
To ensure I can travel	19%
To ensure I can attend events	17%
Because I felt pressured into it	10%
Other (please specify)	1%
None of these/Prefer not to answer	254
Base: Those vaccinated who previously were unsure about getting the vaccine"	

Cross-tabulations showed that:

- There was a slight increase over time in concern: and Increased concern with age, Pacifica, Auckland, Gisborne/Hawkes bay, Taranaki while low in the South Island.
- There was support for the Government decision, although Indians thought it too strict and there are small age variations. Auckland support is slightly less, and from the construction industry higher, but manufacturing and professional services lower; also there is a slight fall in support between first and second waves
- Vaccination status showed no gender difference, with a very slight increase with age. Māori and Pacifica are lower and Asians slightly higher, and amongst regions Waikato is a holdout
- On reasoning re vaccination women tend to generate more reasons

In sum, there appeared to be three types of motive for vaccination (or not): Social/ personal/ pressured.

On 29 October Perceptive released the following further information.

Over half of New Zealanders (55%) indicated negativity towards the plan or suggested it needed improvement in certain areas. Meanwhile, over one-third (38%) gave a positive response to the plan. 64% of Kiwis know what they need to do personally for the plan to succeed. However, only half of New Zealanders say they understand the system and how it will work.

New Zealanders' emotions remain fairly unchanged since the last wave of tracking (see table). As we take into consideration the new protection framework, time will tell how Kiwis will respond to framework and how emotions will change as a result. Despite motivations to lift restrictions and return back to our 'normal', almost half of New Zealanders (47%) indicate they would feel uncomfortable seeing lockdown restrictions lifted if Covid-19 is in their community.

The prospect of New Zealanders achieving the double dose vaccination is looking positive with 90% of single dose vaccinated respondents indicating they plan to get the second jab. Communication around the wait time between doses has been strong with almost all (92%) single dose vaccinated respondents aware they only have to wait three weeks until the second jab.

Fully vaccinated children aged 12-17 years are also gaining in number. Parents with children in this age bracket have reported a significant increase in the full vaccination of their children since it has been made available to them.

- 25 October 2021: (49%)
- 15 October 2021: (38%)
- 30 September 2021: (11%)

Owners and decision makers for businesses will now have added responsibilities, with two-thirds (65%) being responsible for managing the vaccinations statuses of their employees and/or customers. Half of whom (52%) are concerned that it is their responsibility to ensure all their staff are vaccinated and the repercussions if they choose not to be.

There was a further update on 10th November

Fieldwork was conducted between Wednesday 3rd and Friday 5th of November

With Auckland entering its twelfth week of lockdown and the rest of New Zealand in either Level 2 or Level 3, lockdown fatigue is really setting in. However, concern for the virus itself is dropping, despite record case numbers. The feeling of disconnection from friends and family continues to be a growing concern among New Zealanders (48% vs. 43%: 25th October) and is even greater among Aucklanders (57%) as the lockdown continues. As the holiday period draws near, more New Zealanders are growing concerned about their holidays being postponed/cancelled (33% vs. 31%: 25th October). The concern is particularly felt among younger New Zealanders aged 18-34 years (35% vs. 28%: 25th October).

Aucklanders are far more optimistic about light level changes than the rest of New Zealand. They are far more confident that Auckland will move into the red level by December than non-Aucklanders are (57% compared to 43%). Response to the traffic light system remains fairly unchanged—there are still doubts and uncertainty with how it works. Just over half agree that they understand the system and how it works, with even fewer still agreeing it is a good plan (46%).

This week, more businesses are concerned about having limitations placed on them if they choose not to implement the vaccine certificate requirements (37% vs. 32%: 25th October), along with having to put things in place and monitor certificates of their customers (42% vs. 39%: 25th October).

On the 30th October the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in the US authorised the use of the Pfizer vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years old. Awareness of this announcement among parents with children this age is high (72%) and, positively, 59% of parents of 5-11 years olds are planning on getting them vaccinated when it becomes available; 44% of these have been swayed by the FDA announcement. With the indicative return to school date looming for kids in Years 0-8 living in Auckland and Waikato, there are mixed feelings among parents.

The 2nd November decision surrounding the alert level change for both areas of Northland was favourable among New Zealanders, with just under half of New Zealanders believing it was the right option given the circumstances. Agreement is even higher among Northlanders. Of Waikato residents, half (51%) agree it was the right alert level call while 37% believe the alert level should be lower or should not have changed. Aucklanders are most divided on lowering the alert level: 32% believe it is the right decision, while 25% think it should remain unchanged, 23% believe it should go even lower, and 12% believe it isn't enough and should be stricter. Aucklanders still feel the same towards the system and think the 90% vaccination target to move to red level is fair or should be reviewed depending on vaccination rates. For the rest of New Zealand this week, significantly more state that the 90% target is fair but believe it will need to be reviewed depending on the vaccination rates over time (33% vs. 27% 25th October).

The Majority of businesses are on board with the vaccination mandate for employees. For businesses where the government has made vaccination mandatory for their employees, the majority say they will enforce this (89%), although 1 in 10 businesses state that they will not enforce this. Whereas for businesses that sit outside of the employee vaccine mandate that have the ability to enforce their own rules, just under half say they will require all staff to be fully vaccinated (34%) or if they aren't, they will have to work from home (15%). For businesses requiring mandatory vaccination for customers, only two-thirds of business decision-makers say they will enforce this mandate, while 28% claim they won't and 5% are still yet to decide. This week, more businesses are concerned about having limitations placed on them if they choose not to implement the vaccine certificate requirements (37% vs. 32%: 25th October), along with having to put things in place and monitor certificates of their customers (42% vs. 39%: 25th October).

Awareness of the FDA announcement re vaccinating children among parents with children this age is high (72%) and positively the backing of the FDA has meant that more parents are now likely to consider getting their children vaccinated. Fifty-nine per cent of parents of 5-11 years olds are planning on getting them vaccinated when it becomes available; 44% of these have been swayed by the FDA announcement. Differing emotions are clearly demonstrated with only one-third of parents in Auckland or Waikato with children in Years 0-8 feeling comfortable about this indicative decision. Thirty-eight per cent feel uncomfortable and one-quarter are sitting on the fence with how they feel.

(10) UMR/Talbot Mills (Coughlan, 2021)

Talbot Mills have been polling monthly on Covid-19, more recently in conjunction with the NZ Herald. Only limited results are publically available.

The most recent poll (n=1209) showed that by early October, 83 per cent of people nationwide had either received a vaccine or said they would "definitely" get a vaccine, up 5 points on September 2021. Another 8 per cent sad they would "probably" get a vaccine, taking the total of those who had received the vaccine or would definitely/probably get it to 91 per cent. The number is also well up on June 2021 when just 59 per cent of people said they had either had or would have a vaccine. October is the first month the number of people who said they were erring towards getting a vaccine had topped 90 per cent. The number of people saying they would "probably" get a vaccine has shrunk over the past month from 11 per cent in June to 8 per cent in October, as people make up their minds to get a vaccine. There is a similar trend in the number of people who said they probably and definitely would not get a vaccine, which has fallen from 10 per cent in September to 7 per cent in October. Aucklanders are the most likely people to get a vaccine, with 88 per cent of Auckland respondents saying they had already had a jab or planned to get one.

Table 10-1: Vaccinations

VACCINATIONS	Have Received at Least 1	Definitely get	Probably get	Probably not get	Definitely not get	Unsure
	%	%	%	%	%	%
June	12	47	22	9	7	3
July	18	44	18	9	7	4
August	28	38	16	10	6	
September	56	22	11	5	5	
October	71	12	8	3	4	

The polling data shows a slight increase in the number of people who think that border restrictions should be relaxed as soon as everyone has had a reasonable chance of getting vaccinated from 26 percent in September to 31 percent in October. But the vast majority of people still believe that.

Table 10-2: Border restrictions

BORDER RESTRICTIONS	Sept	Oct
	%	%
Border restrictions should only be relaxed once we have "very high (90 per cent plus) levels of vaccination", and when there is low risk that infections among non-vaccinated people would overwhelm the health system,	64	62
Border restrictions should only be relaxed once reasonable chance to get vaccinated & if people haven't taken that chance it should be on their own heads.	26	31
Unsure	10	8
WHY might not /will not GET VACCINATED (Those not wanting to be vaccinated)		

Side effects/ not safe/ heard bad things	35	25
Not enough testing/too quickly developed	15	23
Don't trust/anti-vax	15	21
No need to/not worried/too lazy	15	11
My Choice	9	9
Not Effective	8	9
Have other health conditions/take other drugs	5	7
Unsure	2	7

People gave a number of reasons for not wanting to be vaccinated. The most common was a fear of side effects, or hearing bad things about the vaccine, which was selected by 25 percent of people who did not want to be vaccinated, down 10 points from September.

This was followed by concerns about the amount of testing undergone by the vaccine, and fears that it was developed too quickly with 23 percent of people selecting this option - up from 15 percent the month before.

Just over one half are concerned about catching Covid-19: especially those who are female, 30-44 years old, Auckland, other than NZ European, with dependent children, part-timers, mid-income, and renters (Table 9-5). 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 two-thirds 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 two 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 percent 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, and 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 10-3: 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-19 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-19 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

A leaked copy of the November Talbot Mills Research poll showed similar trends.

(11) Ministry of Health (MoH) NZHS data

The first three 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[3].

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-19, 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 pattern is a rise in stress and decline in happier items.

Table 11-1: Social background differences re concerns/attitude to Government

SOCIAL BACKGROUND DIFFERENCES RE CONCERNS AND ATTITUDE TO GOVERNMENT	2020 05 April	2020 12 April	2020 19 April	2020 26 April	2020 02 Aug	2021 19-31 Aug	2021 01-07 Sep	2021 08–14 Sep	2021 15-21 Sep	2021 22-28 Sep
Agree or strongly agree that their household is financially struggling (%)	5.6	6.5	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.3	8	8.6	5.3	7.7
Average family welfare (on a scale of 0-10)						7.8	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7
Completely or somewhat satisfied with life as a whole (%)			74.9	70.5	81.8	76.1	74.3	76.9	77.1	74.7
Lonely at least a little of the time in the past 7 days (%)						28.2	29.4	27.1	26.9	25.7
Has the household relied on foodbanks etc because there wasn't enough money for food, in the last 7 days (%)							3.6	3.4	1.5	2.1
Mean level of trust in most people							7.1	7.1	2	

3

Month	Year	No.	Month	Year	No.
1	2021	729	9	2020	798
2	2021	825	10	2020	1011
3	2021	881	11	2020	1089
4	2021	908	12	2020	797
5	2021	752			
6	2021	593			
9	2020	798			

Table 11-2: Alert Level Rules

ALERT LEVEL RULES	2020 05 April %	2020 12 April %	2020 19 April %	2020 26 April %	2020 02 Aug %	2021 19-31 Aug %	2021 01-07 Sep %	2021 08–14 Sep %	2021 15-21 Sep %	2021 22-28 Sep %
Finds the rules around Alert Levels clear, very clear or neither clear nor unclear	98.2	98.7	99.0	98.8	95.9	98.8	97.5	97.2	97.6	97.3
Finds the rules around Alert Levels easy, very easy or neither hard nor easy to follow	98.2	97.7	98.3	97.1	98.3	98.2	96.7	97.8	97.3	96.1

Table 11-3: Stress Indicators

STRESS	2020 05 April %	2020 12 April %	2020 19 April %	2020 26 April %	2020 02 Aug %	2021 19-31 Aug %	2021 01-07 Sep %	2021 08–14 Sep %	2021 15-21 Sep %	2021 22-28 Sep %
Strongly or somewhat feeling calm and relaxed right now	80.6	82.7	81.5	79.3	86.6	75.6	74.5	76.3	76.00	74.4
Strongly or somewhat feeling nervous right now	35.7	33.6	32.3	30.4	22.3	37	29.1	30	30.50	30.8
Strongly or somewhat feeling stressed about leaving home right now	25.6	24.4	20.4	18.9	3.7	20.1	15.4	14.9	12.40	13/1
Strongly or somewhat worried about the health of family members right now	66.9	59.4	60.9	56.5	40.4	58.1	49.4	48.7	44.80	44.7
Strongly or somewhat worried about the risk of getting COVID-19 right now	38.7	32.5	28.9	29.7	15.2	33.8	28.4	25.8	25.2	21.3
Either GAD-2 or PHQ-2 is at least 3 (very likely to have an anxiety or depression diagnosis)	13.4	11.7	10.6	11.4	6.8	15.1	13.7	13.3	12.4	10.3

A NZ population survey was conducted recently to identify people's views on the effectiveness of various strategies, and factors impacting on their capacity to follow physical distancing requirements during Alert Levels 4, 3, and 2 (April 24th–June 8th 2020). Respondents in the current survey had completed two past Ministry of Health surveys: most recently the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey (NZ-HWS) that commenced 30 March 2020 and prior to that, the annual New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS). The NZ-HWS (86% response rate) was designed to gather information to support the government's response to COVID-19 and included past participants in the NZHS who had consented to being contacted for future research (Ministry of Health 2020). The NZHS provides a snapshot of the health of New Zealanders that includes health behaviours, health status and access to health care. It uses a stratified, multi-stage sampling design (80% response rate), but with proportionately fewer Asian and Pacific respondents than the population and is limited to people who can speak English (Ministry of Health 2020).The current survey invited NZ-HWS participants to take part in an online extension survey: those who were interested were provided with a web-link to the current survey that allowed for data linkage back to demographic and health information collected in the NZ-HWS and NZHS. Respondents did not receive any incentives for taking part in the survey.

Questions in the current survey were drawn from several sources, including items devised by the study team, items from an international survey being carried out by Ipsos (a market and social research company) and items from the Ministry of Health. The survey included collection of demographic information, household composition, experience of symptoms and contact with COVID-19 cases. Respondents were also asked about their views towards measures implemented to slow the spread of infection, adherence to preventative measures, and factors impacting on the ability to practice physical distancing. Data on the use of, and views towards facemasks, contact cards and apps to assist with contact tracing were also collected. The contact survey asked participants to write the nickname of each other person in their household, as well as nicknames for people they interacted with outside the household. It then iterated through each contact and asked specific questions (e.g., demographics + context of interaction).

The majority of the 2407 participants were supportive of the public health measures implemented to promote physical distancing across Alert Levels. Few substantial differences were observed in relation to demographic characteristics, suggesting high overall levels of understanding and willingness to adhere to distancing requirements. Around half of the participants reported difficulties practicing physical distancing when in public. Reasons included being an essential worker and challenges related to the behaviour of others. These survey findings highlight the willingness of NZ's population to play their part in eliminating COVID-19 transmission, and the way in which behavioural change was rapidly adopted in line with government requirements.

(12) Ipsos

The June Issues Monitor (n=1003) doesn't ask directly about Covid-19 but includes it under the 'healthcare' issue. In terms of MIPs healthcare has continued to be important although far less than housing and at least up until mid-2021 slightly declining in concern, although with a small recent tick-up.

Table 12-1: Top Issues

Q: WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING NEW ZEALAND TODAY?	KEY FINDINGS – THE TOP ISSUES (N=1,003)							
	Mar 2020	May 2020	July 2020	Sept 2020	Nov 2020	Feb 2021	June 2021	Oct. 2021
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Housing	49	33	34	37	53	60	53	54
Healthcare / hospitals	30	25	27	27	26	23	27	35
Inflation / cost of living	25	23	23	22	23	24	27	31
Poverty / inequality	30	24	26	27	31	28	26	26
Economy	13	47	40	42	34	23	22	23
Crime/law	25	12	16	16	14	16	21	24

As a general rating of confidence in government there was an increase in support earlier on in the Covid-19 outbreak but a steady decline since. This question is likely to be answered within the lens of party preference.

Table 12-2: Confidence in Government

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT	Jul 2017	Sep 2017	Jul 2018	Oct 2018	Mar 2019	Apr 2019	Jul 2019	Nov 2019	Mar 2020	May 2020	Jul 2020	Sep 2020	Nov 2020	Feb 2020	Jun 2021	Oct 2021
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Top 4 (7–10)	26	31	38	42	41	60	43	44	45	75	72	70	70	63	58	54
Neutral (4–6)	47	40	36	35	32	24	34	35	34	17	17	19	18	23	24	25
Bottom 4 (0–3)	27	30	22	20	23	12	19	18	18	6	8	9	8	10	15	18
Don't know	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	2	4	3	3	2
Mean	*4.9*	*5.0*	*5.4*	*5.7*	*5.5*	*6.6*	*5.7*	*5.7*	*5.8*	*7.6*	*7.3*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*6.8*	*6.4*	*6.2*

Females (6.7) and those aged 18–34 years (6.7) are more likely to rate the government higher for its job in the past six months. More specifically another question asks which political party you believe is most capable of managing each of the following issue: Healthcare/Hospitals. The Labour Party has been a consistently highly rated issue since surveying began in February 2018. Despite a decrease over the last few waves in the proportion of those who see the Labour Party as most capable, a large gap remains between Labour and National.

Those aged 50+ years are more likely to be concerned about healthcare/hospitals (40% vs 17% of those under 50 years). Despite a decline, the Labour Party is still seen as most capable of managing healthcare issues.

Table 12-3:

	Feb 2018 %	Jul 2018 %	Oct 2018 %	Mar 2019 %	Apr 2019 %	Jul 2019 %	Nov 2019 %	Mar 2020 %	May 2020 %	Jul 2020 %	Sep 2020 %	Nov 2020 %	Feb 2021 %	Jun 2021 %
Trends	27	31	25	29	25	29	25	30	25	27	27	26	23	27
Labour Party	40	42	39	42	50	43	43	43	55	52	54	61	55	48
National Party	21	22	25	24	19	22	23	25	17	19	19	14	16	20
Don't know	20	19	19	17	13	16	16	16	13	14	14	11	12	11
None	11	10	9	8	8	9	7	7	4	5	4	4	5	8

(13) MoH (2021) COVID-19 Ministry of Health surveying vaccination side effects

The Ministry of Health is starting a survey of New Zealanders asking them to report any vaccination side effects. That was on top of existing monitoring through the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring, which works with Medsafe. The Ministry would start text messaging people who had their vaccinations six days ago, in a random sample, asking them to take part in the optional surveys.

Earlier 2021 Background Studies

Although they may not bear immediately on the current lockdown situation several other studies are relevant in covering the intervening period since the last Covid-19 outbreaks but also suggesting people's views on ways forward.

(14) 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 sixth 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 percent. 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 percent. Of those, 7 percent 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 percent, with another 9 percent 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.
- Fifty-five percent 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 percent 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
- Fifty-six percent 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 years 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%).
- Thirty percent of respondents believe they will be able to get vaccinated as soon the rollout for their group begins.
- Fifty-three percent of respondents believe the vaccine rollout timing will depend on the supply of the vaccine to New Zealand.
- Forty-four percent 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.
- Forty-four percent of respondents in Group 3 said they did not know how they would be offered a vaccine and 29 percent were not sure.
- Fifty percent of respondents in Group 3 said they did not know when they would be offered a vaccine and 26 percent were not sure.

Influencing uptake
- Ninety-nine percent of respondents who have already been vaccinated are prepared to recommend getting vaccinated to people they know, and 75 percent will "recommend it to everyone".
- Thirty-four percent 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 percent 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
- Seventy-seven percent of respondents believe people in New Zealand can choose whether or not to get vaccinated.
- Seventy-two percent 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 percent, with 32 percent 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%).

Croucher et al (2021) web-base surveyed n=1852 respondents in June-August 2021. The survey included the 14-item Vaccine Hesitancy Scale (Larson et al., 2018), a series of demographic questions, and questions about an individual's support for employers' mandating vaccines and being able to terminate those who do not get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Table 14-1

	A WORKPLACE'S RIGHT TO REQUIRE EMPLOYEES TO PROVE THEY HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19		WORKPLACE'S RIGHT TO TERMINATE EMPLOYEES WHO REFUSE TO GET VACCINATED	
	Agree/Strongly	Disagree/Strongly	Agree/Strongly	Disagree/Strongly
	%	%	%	%
Overall	46.4	23.2	34.8	56.7
Pākehā	46.2	32.3	25.5	54.5
Māori	51.9	33.3	23.8	56.5
Pacific	25	59.8	8	75

Other	58.6	18.6	29	44.8
Men	45.8	38.7	22.3	54.4
Women	46.9	31.7	23.9	58.6
National	32.8	54.2	16.5	69.6
Labour	52.2	27.3	27.1	53
Green	40.9	46.9	18.3	60.9
Māori	51.3	27	35.1	55.9
Other	32.2	30.3	15.3	64.4

(15) Life in Lockdown Survey

A more definitive study was published by Prickett et al (2021) which *s*ought 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 socio-demographic 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 socio-demographic predictors of vaccine hesitancy and reasons for likelihood/hesitancy. Overall, 70 percent 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 versus 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.

Their subsequent research notes analysis included 1,284 people trust in government may be a particularly salient factor influencing people’s vaccine intention. Combined with good support for New Zealand Covid-19 efforts, New Zealanders’ existing and increasingly high levels of trust in the government, including during the COVID-19 crisis (Chapple and Prickett, 2019), suggest that the population at large should be fairly amenable to information and guidance from the government about the vaccine. Despite this context, misinformation and conspiracy theories around the vaccine are significant features of the landscape (Menon and Thaker, 2020; Sharpe, 2021). Among the vaccine hesitant, those less trusting of the government were more likely to say they were unlikely to get seriously sick from COVID-19 and that the pandemic is being exaggerated. Among those who said they were unlikely to get the vaccine or unsure, the main reasons for being unlikely – worry about unknown future effects of the vaccine and about side effects – were cited at similar rates across the high and low trust groups. One prominent difference between high and low trust in government groups, however, was that low trust groups were far more likely to cite that the chances of them becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19 were low (22% vs 13% among those with high trust) and that they felt the impact of COVID-19 was being greatly exaggerated (18% vs 5%). Similar rates of the high and low trust groups cited that they did not trust vaccines generally (12–13%), suggesting that reasons for not getting the COVID-19 vaccine among those with high versus low trust in government were less about vaccination and more about potential misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic specifically.

Among those likely to get vaccinated, those more trusting of government were more likely to give pro-social reasons for getting the vaccine Among those who said they were likely to get vaccinated, high and low government trust groups both reported as the most popular reason for getting the vaccine was stopping themselves from catching COVID-19 or getting very sick from it (73% vs 71% respectively). The high and low trust groups differed most, however, on reasons to do with protecting the community, with helping to allow their community to get back to normal cited as a reason by 58 percent of those with high trust in government and 44 percent of those with low trust, and helping to protect other people from catching COVID-19 cited by 69 percent.

(16) Incoming/Returning Migrants

Lorna Thornber (2021) reports from the Stuff *NowNext* survey (N= >21,000) early in 2021 as trans-Tasman 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%) said they were pleased at the prospect, while 32 percent were neutral. Nearly 95 percent of those worried about international visitors returning said they were concerned about COVID-19 being transported to the country, while 36 percent worried about the environmental impact. A quarter (25%) 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 1st April 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. 9553 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 46,316 arrivals from this group during this period.

Who arrived in New Zealand?

- Male 51.7%; Female 48.1%; Gender diverse 0.05%
- 18- 29 years 27%; 30 – 39 years 28%; 40 – 49 years 17%; 50 -64 years 19%; over 65 years 8%
- 20% arrived in New Zealand with children (Children were aged: under 5 years 39%; 5 -10 years 35%; 11 - 12 years 10%; 13 to 17 years 15%)

Where were they living before their arrival in New Zealand?

- Australia 32%; United Kingdom 17%; Asia 17%; USA 9%; Europe 5%
- Had been living outside of New Zealand for more than 5 years 36%; 1 – 5 years 29%; less than 1 year 18%; never lived in NZ 17%
- COVID-19 was a factor in their decision to come to New Zealand: 48%
- New Zealand citizens 67%; New Zealand resident 17% 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 26%; 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 74%; New Zealand as a whole 65%; their family outside of New Zealand 55%. They rated the importance of Māori culture to them as: very important (Māori 35%; Non-Māori 11%) and quite important: Māori 23%; Non-Māori 18%; somewhat important: Māori 31%; Non-Māori 39% and not at all important: Māori 11% Non-Māori 20%. With don't know: Non-Māor: 12%. They rated how well they could speak Māori as very well or well: Māori 6%; Non-Māori 0.1%; fairly well: Māori 9%; Non-Māori 1%; not very well: Māori 25%; Non-Māori 7%; not more than a few words or phrases: Māori 47%; Non-Māori 47%; not at all: Māori 11%; Non-Māori 43%.

What skills and experience do they have?

Their highest qualification is: post-graduate 31%; bachelor's degree or equivalent 29%; tertiary certificate/diploma including trade qualifications 18%; secondary school qualification 16%; no formal qualification 2%.

Their current employment situation is that they: have a new job in NZ 35%; are not working in paid employment 38%; have an offshore job they can continue to work in from NZ 12% returned to a job already held in NZ 11%; have an offshore job they can take leave from 3%. The top five 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 five industries they are in or intend to work in: Health care and social assistance 16%; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services 11%; Education and Training 10%; Information Media and Telecommunications 7%; Accommodation and Food 7%. Top ten occupations they were last working in overseas (and the top ten 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
Ninety-four percent of arrivals speak English. French, Spanish, Mandarin and German were the next most common languages. Thirty-eight percent are not working in paid employment; 55% of people not working intend to seek work in New Zealand; 46% are working in a job based in New Zealand; 12% continue to work in an offshore job.

Where are they living? Northland 3%; Auckland 40%; Waikato 7%; Bay of Plenty 6%; Gisborne 1%; Hawke's Bay 3%; Taranaki 2%; Manawatū-Whanganui 4%; Wellington 13%; Nelson and Tasman 2%; Marlborough 1%; West Coast 0.3%; Canterbury 11%; Otago 5%; Southland 1%

Do they plan to stay?
Eighty-four percent intend to stay in the region they are currently living in for three months or more; 22% 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%; on their own 9%. Seventy-nine percent 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. Sixty-nine percent think they will not need financial or other government support in the next six months. Twelve percent said they did not know. Of those who think they will need support, the top three needs were: accommodation, income and 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 (see also Helen Clark Foundation, 2021). The earlier 'Welcome Home' survey found that 7 percent of respondents had already returned to New Zealand, and 49 percent intended to do so. While the later survey found that 13 percent had already returned, and 31 percent were intending to return. More than half of these planning to return in the next one or two years. Forty-three percent of those said they were influenced by the pandemic, and 23 percent 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
- Feeling proud to live in New Zealand.

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. MIQ lobby group Grounded Kiwis surveyed 2000 people in August, asking why people wanted a spot. Top of the list was visiting family and loved ones, followed by returning to New Zealand, and reuniting with families.

(17) Well-Being

Stats NZ has added some of the GSS items: average ratings for overall life satisfaction, life worthwhile, and family wellbeing as a supplement to the ongoing HLFS June 2020 to March 2021 quarter.

Table 17-1: Well-being Indicators

CATEGORY	June 2020 quarter	September 2020 quarter	December 2020 quarter	March 2021 quarter
Overall life satisfaction (0-10 scale, average ratings)	7.9	7.8	8	8
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 years	55.3	58.1	56.3	57
25-34 years	48.3	50.1	49.1	50.2
35-44 years	42.4	44.1	43.2	42
45-54 years	36.2	38.2	37.9	37.5
55-64 years	36.7	36.9	35.4	33.9
65+ years	37.5	38	33.6	33.8
Trust in the health system (average 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	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.7
Total	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2

(18) Vaccination Attitudes

Thacker has released several survey reports on Public Attitudes and Intentions for COVID-19 Vaccination. In New Zealand, about a quarter of the public are either hesitant or sceptical towards COVID-19 vaccination (Ministry of Health, 2021; Thaker, 2021a). Drawing on a national survey data (N = 1083), a recent report updates findings from a similar national survey conducted in June-July 2020 (Menon & Thaker, 2020). This includes new questions including measures to understand if exposure to social media misinformation on COVID-19 is associated with decline COVID-19 vaccine intentions (Loomba et al., 2021).

(19) Direction of Country

Wikipedia compiles polling information, with direction of the country being a blunt assessment of the public support for a government's programme (rather than necessarily voting or preferred P<MM support). Their compilation shows a drop-off from November 2021.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opinion_polling_for_the_next_New_Zealand_general_election

Date	Polling organisation	Sample size	Right direction	Wrong direction	Do not know	Lead
1–8 Nov 2021	Curia	1,000	44	**45**	11	**1**
27 Sep – 24 Oct 2021	Roy Morgan	929	**48**	38.5	13.5	**9.5**
28 Sep – 5 Oct	Talbot Mills	1,200	**63**	30	7	**33**
30 Aug – 26 Sep 2021	Roy Morgan	940	**57**	32	11	**25**
26 Jul – 22 Aug 2021	Roy Morgan	940	**52.5**	37.5	10	**15**
28 Jun – 25 Jul 2021	Roy Morgan	945	**55.5**	34.5	10	**21**
31 May – 27 Jun 2021	Roy Morgan	927	**57**	33	10	**24**
26 Apr – 23 May 2021	Roy Morgan	932	**62.5**	28.5	9	**34**
29 Mar – 25 Apr 2021	Roy Morgan	933	**62.5**	26.5	11	**36**
21–28 Mar 2021	Roy Morgan	924	**61.5**	26	12.5	**35.5**
25 Jan – 21 Feb 2021	Roy Morgan	924	**69.5**	20	10.5	**49.5**
4–24 Jan 2021	Roy Morgan	937	**71.5**	18.5	10	**53**
23 Nov – 13 Dec 2020	Roy Morgan	923	**71.5**	18	10.5	**53.5**
26 Oct – 22 Nov 2020	Roy Morgan	939	**69.5**	20	10.5	**49.5**

Deeper Studies

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

- NZ Herald Life Style survey on effects of Covid-19
- DPMC study of how Covid-19 has affected people's lives
- UMR on post-Covid-19 world
- Misinformation

(20) 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-ten 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, included 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 percent of Kiwis have lost their job. For those still in employment, people are finding their 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-50 year olds 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. Twenty-two percent of Kiwis are doing more bulk buying, which increases to 27 percent for those aged 18-34 years. 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 years 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 18-34 year olds 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, 18-34 year olds were also increasing their use of podcasts, social media, online music, and radio.

In Alert Levels 3 and 4, exercise was one of the few reasons to leave the house. Bike purchases soared, with some reports of a twelve 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.

Forty-two percent felt that overall, things will improve in the next twelve 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.

Eighty-two percent are interested in travelling overseas, although 73 percent 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 twelve months, but a quarter were unsure. Young Aucklanders were revealed as the most likely to book first, with the 50-64 year olds 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-19 world mostly strong and happy.

(21) Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC): Views on Covid-19 and the world

The DPMC's COVID-19 group has been carrying out a research programme on the wider aspects of Covid-19 with research from The Research Agency (TRA) with a nationally representative sample (n=1,853) of New Zealanders aged 16 years and over carried out from 12 to 27 May, 2021 and updated through to September. 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 2.4.

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).

Although the biggest group (44%) do not report more progress in their lives, nevertheless over one third do. The 19 percent that feel they are making less progress are significantly more likely to be: 55-64 years, 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 twelve months? Less stressed 46 percent, relaxed 45 percent, secure 43 percent, and content 40 percent.

Respondents are reasonably evenly divided into those feeling their lives were now (compared to two 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

[4] 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.

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 percent 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-19 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. Eighty-three percent 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 21-1: Impacts of Covid-19

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
Q - 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
Q - Sentiment towards the COVID-19 situation in New Zealand	
Neutral	44
Joy	28
Sad	11
Proud	10
Anger	10
Fear	6
Disgust	6
Surprise	5
Q - 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
Q - 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 21-2: Quarantine and travel

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 221-3: Effects of Covid-19

Concerns about the Effects of Covid-19	**%**
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-19 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-19 Tracer app to scan in	67
Turning on Bluetooth in the NZ COVID-19 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-19 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

Table 21-4: Information

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, etc	
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

(22) UMR NZ Post-Covid

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 percent 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 percent 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 percent 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 percent 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 percent of National voters.
- There was not much hope held for those in low-paid but essential pandemic occupations. Only 31 percent 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 percent 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 percent 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 percent 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 percent thought there will, when borders reopen, be a boom in tourism to New Zealand; 72 percent 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 percent 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 percent took the opposite view that "we will be more suspicious and intolerant of others in our community".

(23) Pew Survey

The Pew Research Center [https://www.pewresearch.org/] interestingly released the results of a survey (n=1000) of 17 countries[5], which for the first time included NZ. The 'sample' of countries in this study is relatively small. The surveys were carried out in the Northern Hemisphere Spring – March/April 2021. In addition, the respondent level results will be released in perhaps a year's time allowing further analyses: see also Crothers 2021.

The information is focused on some important issues relating to NZ (and other) societies and includes results relating to

- Covid (only area covered here)
- Diversity
- Climate.

NZers (although eclipsed by Swedes) accord their government particularly high score for respect of personal freedoms (82%). (NZers are more skeptical that the US Government observes similar respect for US citizens). NZers (closely followed by Singaporeans) ALSO ACCORD the government as 'very good' (74%) in its dealing with the Covid outbreak. Although similar to Taiwan few NZers see the Covid outbreak as having changed their life a great deal (12%). Although not so high as Singaporeans nevertheless a very high proportion of NZers (75%) think NZ is more united rather than more divided compared to before the outbreak. Few NZers wanted more restrictions (11%). A high proportion of NZers (69%) see its recovery as showing the strengths of its economic system. Moreover, there is considerable confidence of NZers that their health system is able to handle a future global health emergency. On all of the items, NZ is at the 'good' extreme, although not always the most satisfied country response pattern.

(24) Classification Office:

The Classification office (2021) conducted a nationally representative survey of 2,301 people aged 16 years and over (2,000 adults from online panels and a 'youth booster' of 301 young people) February/March 2021. This oversampling of the youth population – recruited via their parents or adult caregivers who are members of these online panels - allowed for a more adequate coverage of youth views. Data was weighted to reflect 2018 Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa census demographic data on age within gender, region, and ethnicity.

The majority (57%) believed they had come across misinformation in the past six months, and 21% said they noticed this daily or weekly.

• Most New Zealanders (82%) are 'somewhat' or 'very' concerned about the spread of misinformation in New Zealand, while just 2% were 'not concerned at all'.

• Most New Zealanders (81%) think misinformation is becoming more common over time, while just 4% think it is becoming less common.

• Most New Zealanders (90%) think misinformation is influencing people's views about public health, and 75% tended to think false information about Covid-19 is an urgent and serious threat.

(25) Growing Up in New Zealand

[5] Countries covered are United States, Canada, Belgium , France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan – 2 North American, 9 European, 2 Antipodean and 4 Asian.

Two Life During Lockdown reports were released in September - one focused on health and wellbeing and the other focused on education.
http://www.growingup.co.nz/sites/growingup.co.nz/files/documents/Wellbeing_Survey_Snapshot2-4b%20FINAL.pdf

Because the study could draw on baseline data gathered from children when they were eight years of age. The reports offer a unique insight into the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on children's lives

Unsurprisingly lockdown resulted in increased screentime for most children, but two-thirds of children continued to feel connected to their school or kura. Key findings from the Education Report include:

- Nearly three-quarters of children reported a decrease in school satisfaction during the Covid-19 restriction compared with school satisfaction scores at eight-years of age.
- More than two-thirds of children used devices every day for school or homework, with the average time spent in front of screens on weekdays being nearly five hours.
- YouTube was the most popular app used by children and there was a high use of apps with 13+ restrictions, even though the children were aged 10 and 11.
- More than 80% of children reported that people in their bubble were involved in their schoolwork several times a week or more.
- Engagement with a range of activities, both school-related and non-academic, were key to boosting children's enjoyment of virtual schooling.
- Most children stayed in virtual contact with others, with 86% saying they were moderately or more connected to those outside their bubbles.

Key findings from the Wellbeing Report include:

- Nearly 80% of children reported having a good time with their family in lockdown.
- Children living in a larger bubble (six or more people) during Alert Level 4 were more likely to experience better health and wellbeing.
- Around 40% of children displayed symptoms of depression and anxiety. These children were more likely to be:
    - Girls
    - Those worried about their family's financial situation
    - Those who had fewer positive experiences in Alert Level 4
    - Those with existing wellbeing and developmental concerns
- Māori and Pacific children recorded lower depression and anxiety scores, which researchers attributed to greater family connection.
- Children classified as obese at eight were more likely to record poorer physical and mental wellbeing during the Covid-19 lockdown

(25) GPs concerned about funding and guidance on COVID-at-home management – survey NZ Doctor (Martin Johnston). Monday 8 November 2021.

"No ventilated room to see people" Funding and guidance are the highest priority needs of GPs and general practices in managing COVID-19 cases.

(27) Online snapshot survey: Covid-19 vaccination in hospitality September feedback

The Restaurant Association of New Zealand conducted a survey in September 2021:

- 13% say have implemented a workplace vaccination policy for your employees in their business.
- 40% say they would consider putting in place a requirement to be vaccinated to work in their establishment.
- 42% say once NZ's vaccination strategy has progressed and more people are vaccinated they would have concerns about unvaccinated customers coming to your premises.
- 48% would support the introduction of a Covid-19 passport, showing a person has been vaccinated, to be used when a customer enters into hospitality venues and events.

(28) Skills Consulting Group

The poll of 100 workers by Skills Consulting Group found a third have recently either quit in a rage or are preparing to do so. This extends to managers too.

(29) The Work Futures Otago survey provides insights into working from home

An Otago Business School team is undertaking a five-question pulse survey to understand the current experiences of people able to work from home during this second national lockdown. To date, more than 2000 people have responded. The shift to working from home was relatively easy this lockdown, but some people are not coping as well as others. Although 63 per cent of respondents reportedly found it easy or extremely easy to work effectively, 30 per cent found it somewhat or extremely difficult. Respondents were also positive about productivity, with 71 per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing they would be productive during this lockdown. On the surface the shift to working from home appeared relatively easy, with 84 per cent finding it easy or somewhat easy. However, many people still have technology issues such as slow wi-fi and inadequate equipment, exacerbated by the speedy lockdown, leaving many with little chance to bring resources home. Organisations do appear to have learnt from previous alert level changes, with 43 per cent suggesting their organisation was very proactive, while only 8 per cent suggested their organisation was not. The survey also asked how happy people felt to be working from home, with 64 per cent of respondents saying they were happy or somewhat happy. Others spoke of a lack of motivation, which could be linked to uncertainty in lockdown length or more general COVID fatigue.

(30) AUT Care and Responsibility Under Lockdown (CARUL) study.

The survey of 940 people was completed by group of academics and covers from August 18 to August 25 2021. It reveals a high level of support for the stringent COVID-19 alert level 4 conditions - and just 4 percent of those surveyed said they "strongly opposed" the lockdown.

(31) Lord Ashcroft's New Zealand poll 'Living the Kiwi Dream?'

A three-month survey of 5000 New Zealanders by British pollster Lord Michael Ashcroft has revealed a growing frustration with a "sluggish" vaccine rollout after initial pride and wide governmental support for our Covid response. Ashcroft's poll found Ardern had wide support and her "go hard, go early" lockdowns were applauded. But Ashcroft's research also found a remarkable shift in Kiwi opinions regarding the Covid response from the initial outbreak in 2020 to the arrival of Delta in late August 2021. Most New Zealanders polled thought the Government had done a good job handling the pandemic, introducing restrictions at the right time, following the right scientific advice and communicating the rules clearly. After 18 months, many felt the authorities were using the same tools as they had at the beginning of the pandemic, while the approach in the rest of the world had evolved. Opinion was even stronger when it came to providing New Zealanders with a Covid vaccine.

(32) New Zealanders trust in the news erodes

The AUT research centre for Journalism, Media and Democracy (JMAD) has published its second Trust in News in New Zealand report which examines New Zealand citizens' trust in news, news brands, and journalism. Kiwis' trust in the news they use has fallen 7%. In 2021, 48% of New Zealanders trusted news in general (down 5% on April 2020 survey) and 55% trusted the news they consumed themselves (down 7% on April 2020). As in 2020, Radio New Zealand and Television New Zealand were the most trusted news brands and also the most trusted sources of information about Covid-19. Social media platforms were the least trusted sources for news and pandemic-related information. Newshub and Māori TV were, jointly, the third most trusted news brands. However, Newshub and Newstalk ZB news brands experienced a statistically significant decline in trust.

The news media has a bigger place in people's lives post-Covid, according to research commissioned by the Newspaper Publishers' Association (n= 1225 adults, conducted in early-to-mid March.). Just over half said they were engaging more with news websites and apps than they were a year ago. Seventy-two per cent said newspapers and news media were highly important to them in the wake of Covid and 67 per cent agreed they were an important element of the social fabric of New Zealand.

Conclusions

The 2021 Delta outbreak has not been accompanied by a strong mobilisation of survey research, at least from Government sources, apart from the *Horizon* vaccination attitude monitoring (sponsored by Ministry of Health) and the TRA survey programme (reported publically with a lag, sponsored by the DPMC). Several government-sponsored operations had wound down earlier in the year, and were not refreshed for the Delta outbreak. However, several 'private' survey operations stepped up: Perceptive, Talbot-Mills but also Colmar-Brunton, Research NZ, Curia, Ipsos. And, several studies carried out in 2020 have become available.

Table 20-1: Listing of Studies

NAME OF SURVEY/SPONSOR	Timing/ Periodicity (2021 unless specified)	N	Coverage
BusinessNZ	Sept quarterly	456	Business activity

NAME OF SURVEY/SPONSOR	Timing/ Periodicity (2021 unless specified)	N	Coverage
Infometrics	Episodic		Business activity
BNZ/NZHerald Mood of the Boardroom	Sept.	c150	Business activity
Gross National Happiness Index (Stats NZ)	Daily		Feelings
Curia/Taxpayer's Union poll	5-9 Sept.	1000	Bubble, vaccination
Stewart (2021)		30	Returnees
Grounded Kiwis	August	2000	Returnees
Colmar Brunton	Sept		MIQ management
Research NZ	17- 20 Sept. & 2- 5 July	1002 1005	Range
Perceptive	31 August 17 Sept 30 Sept	1051 1070 1034	Lockdown, Vaccinations feelings, Length expectations
UMR/Talbot Mills	June, July, Aug, Sept Oct	c1000 1209	Range
MOH health-and-wellbeing-survey, NZHS	Jan-July	c900 per month	Stress, Health, Ec. conditions
Stats NZ HLFS/GSS	March/ quarterly		
Ip**sos** Issues Monitor	June	1003	Health care
Earlier 2021 Background Studies			
Horizon/ Ministry of Health in association with Auckland University's School of Population Health.	Sept-2020 – June 6 waves	1234	Vaccination intentions
Life in Lockdown survey VUW	March 3rd wave	1284	Vaccination hesitancy etc.
MBIE Survey of New Zealand Arrivals	August 2020 - 9 Jan	5014	Settling intentions, returnees
The Kea surveys	2020 2021	15000 2663	Returnees
Thacker (MU) Public Attitudes and Intentions for COVID-19 Vaccination.	June-July 2020	1083	Vaccination intentions
Deeper Studies			
NZ Herald/CB Life Style survey on effects of Covid-19	Feb-March	1000	How Kiwis feel, shop, work, travel, keep fit and live
DPMC/TRA study of Views on Covid-19 and the world also Aucklanders	May March	1853 976	How Covid-19 has affected people's lives
UMR on post-Covid-19 world	April-May 2020	1000?	What the world will look like post-Covid-19-**19**
MOH vaccine monitoring survey	Ongoing	Open	Vaccine monitoring survey

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 level' 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-19 onslaught.

The main heavy lifting of relevant social research has been carried out by Perceptive and Talbot Mills/UMR who in an exemplary way have covered all the main questions in relation to Covid-19, in UMR's cases including the deployment of an extended set of social background variables. Perceptive's data is particularly publically available on their website but more is unpublished (including results by ethnicity and industry worked in). 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-19 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 New Zealanders want to move forward on.

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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.