



Australian  
National  
University

A survey of life in COVID times:

*Your hopes for the future and your views on the role of government*

Hello and thank you for considering our survey. We hope you decide to take part.

2020 was a year like no other, affecting people in many different ways. As Australians look to the future, we are asking about their views and experiences during COVID times. We would like to know how well you think communities and authorities have coped with the challenges of COVID and about your hopes and priorities for the future.

We would like to hear from people in all walks of life, including those who don't often get a chance to tell it like it is for them.

The survey is being sent to approximately 15,000 random addresses. We have no way of knowing which completed survey comes from which address so the results are completely anonymous.

We are asking people to complete the survey **in the next week** and return it in the Reply Paid envelope enclosed.

We would like the survey to be completed by the person in your household aged 18 years or over, who will have the next birthday. The enclosed Participant Information Sheet gives more detail about this survey.

We don't know who you are and we don't want you to tell us your name. All we ask is that you complete the survey as honestly as you can to help us understand how Australians are feeling and thinking about the future.

If you would like to know more about our research, please visit <http://valeriebraithwaite.com>

Thanks so much for helping us with this survey.

Kind regards,

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This research has been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval Number 2020/695).  
If you have any questions, please contact the committee at [human.ethics.officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics.officer@anu.edu.au)

## How to Answer the Questions

- Please remember that for the purposes of this survey, questions about opinions and feelings have no right or wrong answers – we are interested in your personal opinion.
- Most questions have answer categories. Please circle the number below the category which comes closest to your opinion.

### Example

How does your situation now compare with this time last year? Are you better off now, the same, or worse off?

	Much worse off now	A little worse off now	About the same now	A little better off now	Much better off now
a) amount of money you are making .....	1	2	<b>3</b>	4	5

If the amount of money you are making is about the same now compared with last year you would circle “3” as shown above.

- For some questions the answer should be written in rather than circled. Please be as specific as possible when answering these questions.

**We would like the survey to be completed by the person in your household aged 18 years or over, who will have the next birthday.**

### ABOUT COVID-19

1. When you FIRST HEARD about people catching COVID-19, how much did you agree or disagree with the following views? (*Please circle the number which comes closest to your opinion*)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree
a. This was just a bad case of the flu .....	1	2	3	4	5
b. This would not affect my life .....	1	2	3	4	5
c. I should be really careful to avoid catching this...	1	2	3	4	5
d. It was a media beat-up.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. I was concerned about its danger to health.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. I was concerned about the impact on jobs and the economy .....	1	2	3	4	5
g. I was personally scared about COVID.....	1	2	3	4	5

2. What do you think NOW?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree
a. This is just a bad case of the flu .....	1	2	3	4	5
b. This will not affect my life.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. I should be really careful to avoid catching this...	1	2	3	4	5
d. It is a media beat-up .....	1	2	3	4	5
e. I am concerned about its danger to health.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. I am concerned about the impact on jobs and the economy .....	1	2	3	4	5
g. I am personally scared about COVID .....	1	2	3	4	5

3. How stressful have the following been for you in COVID times? (Please circle a number)

	Not at all	A small amount	A medium amount	A large amount	Extremely
a. Keeping up social contacts.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. Finding meaning in life .....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Getting enough physical exercise and outside activity.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. Caring for loved ones.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. Adjusting your daily routine.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. Staying employed .....	1	2	3	4	5
g. Getting welfare support.....	1	2	3	4	5

4. Overall, how well do you feel you coped with the stress of COVID times?

Not at all well	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely well
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5. During COVID times, how much help have you personally received from...

	None	A little	A moderate amount	A great deal
a. neighbours, friends or relatives? .....	1	2	3	4
b. organisations such as schools, your workplace, health services, religious or welfare groups? .....	1	2	3	4
c. your local council? .....	1	2	3	4
d. your state government? .....	1	2	3	4
e. the federal government? .....	1	2	3	4

6. In stressful times it can be helpful to have people to talk to. During COVID, did you have ...

	Never	Sometimes	Most times	Always
a. someone you could share your innermost thoughts and feelings with? .....	1	2	3	4
b. someone who could take some of the load off you when you were stressed?.....	1	2	3	4
c. someone who would step in and try to stop you from doing something that you would later regret? .....	1	2	3	4

7. You may have been important in the lives of others. During COVID, did you ...

	Never	Sometimes	Most times	Always
a. have someone share their innermost thoughts and feelings with you? .....	1	2	3	4
b. help someone by taking some of the load off them when they were stressed? .....	1	2	3	4
c. step in and try to stop someone else from doing something that they would later regret? .....	1	2	3	4

8. Authorities have told us that we should follow COVID-safe behaviours. How consistent have you been in following these directions when COVID flared up in your state?

	<b>I never did this</b>					<b>I always did this</b>	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. Frequently washing hands .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. Wearing a face mask in public .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. Not touching your face .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. Using hand sanitizer before entering shops and public buildings.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e. Signing in or checking in to shops and public buildings.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f. Using hand sanitizer after touching surfaces in public places.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g. Social distancing or staying at least 1.5 metres from others.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
h. Staying away from large groups .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
i. Getting tested as soon as possible if you have symptoms or getting tested if you are asked to by the authorities.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

9. Where did you live during the time of the greatest COVID restrictions in your state?

**Suburb / town** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_

10. Decisions around managing COVID have involved considering public health on the one hand and the rights of individuals on the other. How do you judge the balance, based on your experience?

	<b>Too much importance on public health</b>		<b>Balance about right</b>			<b>Too much importance on individual rights</b>	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. Enforcing quarantine rules .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. Lockdowns to limit movement of people.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. Closing state borders .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. Letting citizens come home from overseas .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e. Negotiating with business / industry around lockdowns.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f. Changing the COVID rules with little notice.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g. Managing the economy .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

11. At this point in time, how realistic do you think it is for Australians to expect that...

	<b>Not at all realistic</b>					<b>Definitely realistic</b>	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. life will return to normal during 2021? .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. we will continue to have restrictions placed on our movements due to COVID? .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. we will develop technologies to quickly bring outbreaks under control? .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. we will learn better ways of controlling the harm of pandemics while enabling people to enjoy their lives?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

12. Overall, in your opinion how well have the following things been handled?

	Extremely poorly	Very poorly	Poorly	Neither poorly nor well	Well	Very well	Extremely well
a. Arranging exemptions for people to cross borders in emergencies (eg health or family emergency).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. Arranging exemptions for people to cross borders for work or business.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. COVID testing .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. Contact tracing .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e. Making quarantine arrangements COVID secure .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f. Protecting workers in essential services .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g. Being open with the public about COVID decision making .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

13. To what extent do you believe that the following things happened during COVID?

	Not at all	Very little	Some	A moderate amount	A great deal
a. Individuals or groups in the community were unfairly blamed for the spread of the virus .....	1	2	3	4	5
b. COVID rules were enforced more harshly in some groups in the community than in others.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Some groups of people were unfairly excluded from the financial support of Jobkeeper / Jobseeker.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. COVID testing and isolation rules unfairly disadvantaged some workers.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. COVID rules unfairly disadvantaged some businesses.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. Some people were allowed unfair travel privileges.....	1	2	3	4	5

14a. Overall, to what extent did you agree or disagree with the decisions made by the authorities to keep us COVID-safe?

Agreed strongly.....	1
Agreed .....	2
Neither agreed nor disagreed .....	3
Disagreed .....	4
Disagreed strongly .....	5

14b. If there were particular decisions that you did not agree with, please write these in the space below.

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15. Did you download the Commonwealth Government’s COVIDSafe contact tracing app to your mobile phone?

- Yes ..... 1
- No ..... 2
- Unsure..... 3

16. How much time and effort did you personally put into finding out about the following aspects of COVID?

	None	Not much	Some	A fair bit	A lot
a. Practical ways to protect yourself.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. Public health advice for the area where you live..	1	2	3	4	5
c. Restrictions that governments placed on you .....	1	2	3	4	5

17. The following are some questions about your personal experience with COVID.

a. Have you personally been tested for COVID? .....	No	Yes
b. Have you tested positive for COVID? .....	No	Yes
c. Do you personally know anyone who has been tested for COVID? .....	No	Yes
d. Do you personally know anyone who has tested positive for COVID?.....	No	Yes
e. Have you been asked to self-isolate because you were a contact of a known case, or a secondary contact of a known case? .....	No	Yes
f. Have you been quarantined because of COVID (either at home or elsewhere)?.....	No	Yes

18a. Imagine that you personally have been asked by the authorities to self-isolate at home for two weeks. How difficult would you find that?



18b. What, if anything, would make it difficult for you to self-isolate at home?

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19. How obligated do you feel to do the following when government requests you to...

	Not at all obligated <span style="float: right;">Strongly obligated</span>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. get tested if you have symptoms that might indicate COVID? .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. isolate while waiting for COVID test results? .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. stay at home and minimise contact with others if you are in a COVID hotspot?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. wear a face mask for protection in COVID outbreaks? .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e. sign or check in to shops and public buildings to help with contact tracing? .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

20. How likely are you to agree to have the COVID vaccine when it becomes available to you?

	Somewhat unlikely	Not sure	Somewhat likely	
Very unlikely				Very likely
1	2	3	4	5

**LOOKING FORWARD—YOUR HOPES AND PRIORITIES**

1. COVID has led many of us to rethink the way we spend our time. Do you now hope to do more or less of the following activities?

	Hope to do much less!	Hope to do less	Doing right amount now	Hope to do more	Hope to do much more!
a. Spend time with friends.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. Spend time with family .....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Spend time on recreational activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. Get out and have a good time.....	1	2	3	4	5

2. To what extent are the following objectives motivating forces in your life at the moment?

	Not at all	A little bit	Somewhat	A fair bit	Very much
a. Finding an interesting job.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. Finding a well paid job.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Finding a job of any kind .....	1	2	3	4	5
d. Doing further study eg. TAFE or university ...	1	2	3	4	5

3. Which of the following comes closest to your feelings about your income these days?

	2	3	4	5
1				
<b>Finding it very difficult on present income</b>	<b>Finding it difficult on present income</b>	<b>Just coping</b>	<b>Living comfortably on present income</b>	<b>Living very comfortably on present income</b>

4. How often do you feel **poor** these days, in the sense of not having enough money?

	2	3	4
1			
<b>Never feel poor</b>	<b>Every now and then</b>	<b>Often</b>	<b>Almost all the time</b>

5. How often do you feel financially **secure** these days?

	2	3	4
1			
<b>Never feel secure</b>	<b>Every now and then</b>	<b>Often</b>	<b>Almost all the time</b>

6. To what extent are you worried or concerned about the following at the moment...

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	A great deal
a. your relationships with others?.....	1	2	3	4
b. health issues (yourself or someone close to you)? .....	1	2	3	4
c. living arrangements? .....	1	2	3	4
d. the amount of debt you have? .....	1	2	3	4
e. caregiving responsibilities? .....	1	2	3	4
f. job security?.....	1	2	3	4

7. Below is a list of personal goals that different people use as guiding principles in their daily lives. Please indicate the extent to which you accept or reject each of these goals *as principles that you try to live by*.

	Reject	Inclined to reject	Neither reject nor accept	Inclined to accept	Accept as important	Accept as very important	Accept as of utmost importance
a. <b>Wisdom</b> (having a mature understanding of life) .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. <b>Ambition</b> (being eager to do well) .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. <b>Self-knowledge / Self-insight</b> (being more aware of what sort of person you are).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. <b>Authority</b> (having power to influence others and control decisions) .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e. <b>Recognition by the Community</b> (having high standing in the community).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f. <b>Inner Harmony</b> (feeling free of conflict within yourself).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g. <b>The Pursuit of Knowledge</b> (always trying to find out new things about the world) .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
h. <b>Economic Prosperity</b> (being financially well-off) .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
i. <b>Self-respect</b> (believing in your own worth).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
j. <b>Competition</b> (always trying to do better than others) .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
k. <b>Self Improvement</b> (striving to be a better person).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**HOW ARE YOU GOING? – MANAGING YOUR FINANCES**

1. In the last 12 months, have you ...

a. taken on extra jobs?.....	No	Yes
b. worked longer hours?.....	No	Yes
c. upgraded your skills? .....	No	Yes
d. accessed your super early?.....	No	Yes
e. borrowed money from friends or family to survive?.....	No	Yes
f. borrowed money to keep a business afloat? .....	No	Yes
g. borrowed money for investment?.....	No	Yes
h. put extra money into your superannuation scheme or retirement fund? .....	No	Yes
i. bought or sold shares, bonds or investment property?.....	No	Yes
j. relied on credit cards or buy now/pay later services? .....	No	Yes
k. relied on payday or fast cash loans?.....	No	Yes
l. relied on government payments to keep a job (eg. Jobkeeper)? .....	No	Yes
m. relied on community, church or welfare organisations (eg. Foodbank, Salvation Army, Family Support Services)? .....	No	Yes



2. Think of the last time things went badly for you financially. Please tell us, did you feel...

	Not at all	A little	A fair bit	A lot
a. ashamed of yourself?.....	1	2	3	4
b. angry with yourself for what you did? .....	1	2	3	4
c. bad about the harm and trouble it caused? .....	1	2	3	4
d. guilty? .....	1	2	3	4
e. angry with others? .....	1	2	3	4
f. bothered by thoughts that you were unfairly treated?.....	1	2	3	4
g. that you wanted to get even with others involved in the incident? .....	1	2	3	4
h. that you needed to settle the issue of blame? .....	1	2	3	4
i. relaxed that it was just life's ups and downs? .....	1	2	3	4

### HOW YOUR WORLD WORKS

1. How do you think of yourself and your future?

	Not like me at all	Not much like me	Not sure	Somewhat like me	Very like me
a. What happens to me in the future mostly depends on me.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. I can do just about anything I really set my mind to .....	1	2	3	4	5
c. I feel that I have control over the direction my life is taking.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. I often feel helpless in dealing with the problems of life .....	1	2	3	4	5
e. I have little control over the things that happen to me ....	1	2	3	4	5
f. There is really no way I can solve some of the problems I have .....	1	2	3	4	5

2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree
a. Winning is everything .....	1	2	3	4	5
b. It annoys me when other people perform better than I do....	1	2	3	4	5
c. It is not so important how one wins, but that one wins .....	1	2	3	4	5
d. I don't like to benefit at the expense of others .....	1	2	3	4	5
e. Humility is an important quality for all of us to have .....	1	2	3	4	5
f. It's important to avoid acting in ways that make life difficult for others .....	1	2	3	4	5

3. Below are some statements on how people see rules and regulations. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree
a. I do not care too much if other people think that I sometimes "bend" the rules.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. It feels good to bend the rules and get away with it .....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Even if I had the chance to cheat I wouldn't do so. It is morally wrong .....	1	2	3	4	5

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree
d. Sometimes you need to ignore the law and do what you want to.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. It is a good idea to keep your identity and your activities off government databases.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. I believe governments when they say “your personal information is protected and will not be shared for other purposes”.....	1	2	3	4	5

### OUR SOCIETY’S GOALS AND VALUES

1. Below are 16 goals that refer to our society, our nation and to people in general. Please indicate the extent to which you accept or reject each of the following as principles that guide your judgements and actions.

	Reject	Inclined to reject	Neither reject nor accept	Inclined to accept	Accept as important	Accept as very important	Accept as of utmost importance
a. <b>A Good Life for Others</b> (improving the welfare of all people in need).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. <b>Rule by the People</b> (involvement by all citizens in making decisions that affect their community).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. <b>International Cooperation</b> (having all nations working together to help each other).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. <b>Social Progress and Reform</b> (readiness to change our way of life for the better).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e. <b>National Greatness</b> (being a united, strong, independent and powerful nation).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f. <b>A World at Peace</b> (being free from war and conflict).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g. <b>A World of Beauty</b> (having the beauty of nature and the arts: music, literature, art, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
h. <b>Reward for Individual Effort</b> (letting individuals prosper through gains made by initiative and hard work).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
i. <b>Human Dignity</b> (allowing each individual to be treated as someone of worth).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
j. <b>National Security</b> (protection of your nation from enemies).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
k. <b>Equal Opportunity for All</b> (giving everyone an equal chance in life).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
l. <b>Freedom</b> (being able to live as you choose whilst respecting the freedom of others).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
m. <b>Greater Economic Equality</b> (lessening the gap between the rich and the poor).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
n. <b>The Rule of Law</b> (living by laws that everyone must follow).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
o. <b>National Economic Development</b> (having greater economic progress and prosperity for the nation).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
p. <b>Preserving the Natural Environment</b> (preventing the destruction of nature’s beauty and resources).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

## HOW IS THE COUNTRY GOING? – YOUR VIEWS ON AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

1. People have different views about how Australian democracy is going. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of these views by circling the number that is closest to what you think.

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
a. Democracy is a term which has lost much of its original meaning .....	1	2	3	4	5
b. In our democracy, we can hold our representatives accountable .....	1	2	3	4	5
c. In Australia the rich have virtually unlimited access to the legal system and the capacity to use it to achieve their own ends .....	1	2	3	4	5
d. You don't have to wait three years to say "I'm not happy with the government": You can apply pressure, and enough people writing to the local member can turn the situation around.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. I don't think we have enough input into legislation and the decisions that are important.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. Our government is attempting to mould our society to the needs of a profit-oriented market .....	1	2	3	4	5
g. I'm always cynical about government processes .....	1	2	3	4	5
h. Our form of democracy is not perfect, but it beats by a long shot any other alternative we've been shown.....	1	2	3	4	5

2. Think about how the federal government works – the decisions that are made by the parliament and how those decisions become the laws and rules that affect you.

Overall, I believe that the <u>federal</u> government...	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
a. acts in the interests of all people in Australia.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. turns its back on its responsibility to people in Australia.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. misleads the people in Australia.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. is trusted by me to administer the laws and rules fairly.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. takes advantage of people who are vulnerable .....	1	2	3	4	5
f. meets its obligations to the people in Australia .....	1	2	3	4	5
g. is open and honest in its dealings with citizens.....	1	2	3	4	5

3. Now think about how your state government works – the decisions that are made by your state parliament and how those decisions become the laws and rules that affect you.

Overall, I believe that my <u>state</u> government...	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
a. acts in the interests of all people in my state .....	1	2	3	4	5
b. turns its back on its responsibility to people in my state .....	1	2	3	4	5
c. misleads the people in my state .....	1	2	3	4	5
d. is trusted by me to administer the laws and rules fairly .....	1	2	3	4	5

Overall, I believe that my <u>state</u> government...	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
e. takes advantage of people who are vulnerable .....	1	2	3	4	5
f. meets its obligations to the people in my state.....	1	2	3	4	5
g. is open and honest in its dealings with citizens.....	1	2	3	4	5

4. The following is a list of different institutions or organisations. Please indicate how much you can trust each of them. By trust, we mean the trust you have in their ability to meet your needs and expectations.

	<b>Do not trust them at all</b>	<b>Trust them only a little</b>	<b>Trust them a fair bit</b>	<b>Trust them a lot</b>
a. Centrelink .....	1	2	3	4
b. Australian Taxation Office.....	1	2	3	4
c. Law courts .....	1	2	3	4
d. Police stations in your area .....	1	2	3	4
e. Fire stations in your area .....	1	2	3	4
f. State schools in your area .....	1	2	3	4
g. Hospitals in your city .....	1	2	3	4
h. Your local council.....	1	2	3	4
i. Banks .....	1	2	3	4
j. Internet sites that you follow.....	1	2	3	4
k. Newspapers, magazines, TV that you follow.....	1	2	3	4
l. Pharmaceutical companies.....	1	2	3	4
m. Australian medical experts.....	1	2	3	4

5. How much do you trust these people?

	<b>Do not trust them at all</b>	<b>Trust them only a little</b>	<b>Trust them a fair bit</b>	<b>Trust them a lot</b>
a. Family.....	1	2	3	4
b. Friends.....	1	2	3	4
c. People in your neighbourhood .....	1	2	3	4
d. People who work in the stores where you shop ...	1	2	3	4

### **HOW YOU DEAL WITH STATE GOVERNMENT**

1. In general, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about dealing with your state government?

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
a. State government officials are generally encouraging to those who have difficulty meeting their obligations through no fault of their own .....	1	2	3	4	5
b. I feel a moral obligation to do what the state government asks of me.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. I enjoy talking to friends about loopholes in the law .....	1	2	3	4	5
d. I don't care if I am not doing the right thing by the state government .....	1	2	3	4	5

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
e. If state government officials get tough with me, I will become uncooperative with them.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. State government officials are more interested in catching you for doing the wrong thing, than helping you do the right thing .....	1	2	3	4	5
g. I like the game of finding and using the grey area in the law.....	1	2	3	4	5
h. It's best to turn a blind eye to state government rules and regulations as much as you can .....	1	2	3	4	5
i. Overall, I do what the state government asks of me with goodwill .....	1	2	3	4	5
j. If you cooperate with state government officials, they are likely to be cooperative with you .....	1	2	3	4	5
k. I think of state government rules and regulations as protection for citizens.....	1	2	3	4	5
l. I don't take much notice of state government rules and regulations.....	1	2	3	4	5
m. Cooperating with state government officials is the right thing to do.....	1	2	3	4	5
n. I enjoy the challenge of weaving my way around state government rules and regulations .....	1	2	3	4	5
o. If you don't cooperate with state government officials, they will get tough with you.....	1	2	3	4	5
p. I do not take the authority of state government officials seriously .....	1	2	3	4	5
q. Complying with state government rules and regulations is a responsibility that should be willingly accepted by all Australians.....	1	2	3	4	5
r. Once you get on the wrong side of state government officials, they will never change their mind about you .....	1	2	3	4	5
s. Going along with the state government's rules and regulations is ultimately to everyone's advantage .....	1	2	3	4	5
t. As a society we need more people willing to take a stand against state government officials.....	1	2	3	4	5
u. State government departments may not be perfect, but they work well enough for most of us.....	1	2	3	4	5

2. The next few questions ask about what your state government has to do to earn or keep your trust.

How important is it that state government...	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Fairly Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Essential</b>
a. be accountable for its actions? .....	1	2	3	4	5
b. be efficient in its operations? .....	1	2	3	4	5
c. be predictable in the way it responds to people in the state?.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. keeps people informed? .....	1	2	3	4	5
e. consults widely with different groups? .....	1	2	3	4	5
f. understands the position of its citizens? .....	1	2	3	4	5

How important is it that state government...	Not at all	Somewhat Important	Fairly Important	Important	Very Important	Essential
g. treats people in the state with respect?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
h. has interest in the well-being of ordinary people in the state?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In this section we ask some background questions about you and your family. We ask these questions so we can understand how attitudes differ for people from different backgrounds.

1. Firstly, which of the following best describes your gender?

- Male ..... 1
- Female..... 2
- Other ..... 3

2. What is your age in years? \_\_\_\_\_ years

3. In what country were you born?

- Australia..... 1
- Other (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_ 2

4. Apart from weddings, funerals and baptisms, about how often do you attend religious services?

- At least once a week ..... 1
- At least once a month ..... 2
- Several times a year ..... 3
- At least once a year ..... 4
- Less than once a year ..... 5
- Never..... 6

5. What is your current marital status?

- Never married ..... 1
- Now married (including de facto relationship) ..... 2
- Widowed..... 3
- Divorced or separated ..... 4

6. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (*Please circle the highest number that applies to you.*)

- Did not have any or much formal schooling..... 01
- Primary School ..... 02
- Junior Secondary/ Intermediate/ Form 4/ Year 10..... 03
- Senior Secondary/ Leaving/ Form 6/ Year 12 ..... 04
- Certificate (Level I, II, III or IV) ..... 05
- Trade Certificate or Nursing Diploma ..... 06
- Diploma or Advanced Diploma ..... 07
- Bachelor Degree ..... 08
- Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma ..... 09
- Post-graduate Degree (eg. Masters or Doctorate)..... 10

7. How many children, aged under 18 years, do you have living with you at home?

- |          |          |          |          |              |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b>     |
| None     | One      | Two      | Three    | Four or more |

8. How many adults (persons aged 18 years or over) live in your household?

- |          |          |          |          |              |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b>     |
| One      | Two      | Three    | Four     | Five or more |

9. Now for some questions about your situation. Last week were you ... (please answer each question)

- a. working in, or on leave from, a regular full time job?  
(35 or more hrs per wk.) ..... **No** **Yes**
- b. working in, or on leave from, a regular part time job(s)?  
(under 35 hrs per wk.)..... **No** **Yes** → How many jobs? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. working in a regular casual job(s)? ..... **No** **Yes** → How many jobs? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. working in a “gig economy” job(s) using an online platform like Uber,  
Deliveroo, Airtasker, etc?..... **No** **Yes** → How many jobs? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. running your own business? ..... **No** **Yes**
- f. studying for a Certificate, Diploma or Degree qualification? ..... **No** **Yes**
- g. actively looking for work?..... **No** **Yes**
- h. caring full time in your home for a child under school age, an older  
person, or a person with a disability? ..... **No** **Yes**
- i. unable to work because of injury or illness? ..... **No** **Yes**
- j. receiving a government pension, benefit or allowance?..... **No** **Yes**
- k. retired from paid work? ..... **No** **Yes**
- l. in another situation? (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Think back to Feb 2020, just before COVID struck here in Australia. At that time were you...

- a. working in, or on leave from, a regular full time job?  
(35 or more hrs per wk.) ..... **No** **Yes**
- b. working in, or on leave from, a regular part time job(s)?  
(under 35 hrs per wk.)..... **No** **Yes** → How many jobs? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. working in a regular casual job(s)? ..... **No** **Yes** → How many jobs? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. working in a “gig economy” job(s) using an online platform like Uber,  
Deliveroo, Airtasker, etc?..... **No** **Yes** → How many jobs? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. running your own business? ..... **No** **Yes**
- f. studying for a Certificate, Diploma or Degree qualification? ..... **No** **Yes**
- g. actively looking for work? ..... **No** **Yes**
- h. caring full time in your home for a child under school age, an older  
person, or a person with a disability? ..... **No** **Yes**
- i. unable to work because of injury or illness? ..... **No** **Yes**
- j. receiving a government pension, benefit or allowance?..... **No** **Yes**
- k. retired from paid work? ..... **No** **Yes**
- l. in another situation? (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is the postcode where you live?     or Locality? \_\_\_\_\_

12. All in all, what was your own personal income last year, before tax – about how many thousand dollars?  
(Please circle a number closest to your income before tax.)

None    5    10    15    20    25    30    35    40    45    50    60    70    80    90    100    150    200    250+

13. Would you have filled in this survey if it was not completely anonymous?

- Yes, I would have filled it in anyway ..... **1**
- No, I would not have filled it in..... **2**

14. Where did you receive this survey?

- At a residential address ..... 1
- At a business address ..... 2
- At another type of address ..... 3

15. Are there any additional comments you would like to make?

**Thank you very much for completing the survey!**

Please put the survey in the Reply Paid envelope provided and mail it back to us as soon as possible.

If you have misplaced the envelope, the return address is:

ANU Hope and Trust in Government Survey

Reply Paid 83123

CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

and no stamp is required.

You can contact us about the survey at our email address, [hopetrustsurvey@anu.edu.au](mailto:hopetrustsurvey@anu.edu.au)

**Your time and cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thanks again.**