



Thursday, 10 September 2020

70% of Victorians approve of the way Premier Andrews is handling his job, but 76% say the Victorian Government should compensate small business

The third Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey on Victoria's Stage 4 restrictions shows 70% approval of Premier Daniel Andrews. However, a large majority (76%) of Victorians say the Victorian Government should provide compensation to all small businesses in Victoria forced to close by the Victorian Government's COVID restrictions - only 24% say they should not.

For the first time in three weeks of surveying a majority of Victorians 53% (up 6% in a week) say Melbourne residents should now be able to visit the homes of immediate family members.

A rising majority of 67% (up 10%) of older Victorians aged 65+, say Melburnians should be able to visit the homes of their immediate family. This is despite being the age group at the greatest risk during the pandemic.

Other groups, in which majorities say Melburnians should be able to visit their immediate families, include Melburnians (54%), Victorians aged under 35 (51%), aged 50-64 (54%), men (57%) and L-NP supporters (69%).

Melburnians are far more likely than Country Victorians to want to be able to travel more than 5km from their home, visit their families and for the night-time curfew in Melbourne to end.

Importantly, a slim majority of 51% of Melburnians now say they should be free to travel more than 5km from their home – up from 45% a week ago. This compares to only a third of people in Country Victoria (33%) who say the same. This is easily the largest gap between Melburnians and Country Victorians of any question.

Support for other restrictions including the night-time 9pm to 5am curfew and restricting restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes to take-away or food delivery only is largely unchanged on a week ago.

People surveyed were each asked three of the following six questions to determine their attitudes towards the current Victorian Government Stage 4 directives with **changes compared to a week ago**. There were also two new questions about the Approval/Disapproval of Premier Daniel Andrews' handling of his job and whether the Victorian Government should compensate small businesses forced to close during the lockdown.

- **Question 1:** "Melbourne residents are currently restricted from travelling more than 5km from their homes for exercise or buying essential items such as food. Should Melbourne residents now be free to travel more than 5km from their home?" Yes 46% (up 6%) cf. No 54% (down 6%).
- **Question 2:** "Melbourne's restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes are only allowed to offer take-away or food delivery services. Should Melbourne's restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes now be allowed to provide table service with proper social distancing?" Yes 37% (down 2%) cf. No 63% (up 2%).
- **Question 3:** "From Sunday night Melbourne is to have curfew from 9pm to 5am, should the curfew end or not?" Yes 37% (down 2%) cf. No 63% (up 2%).
- **Question 4:** "From Sunday night Melbourne residents will still be banned from visiting the homes of immediate family members with the exception of singles, delivering care or essential services. Should Melbourne residents now be able to visit their immediate families?" Yes 53% (up 6%) cf. No 47% (down 6%).
- **Question 5 (NEW):** "Do you agree all small businesses forced to close by the Victorian Government's COVID restrictions should receive compensation from the Victorian Government or not?" Yes 76% cf. No 24%.
- **Question 6 (NEW):** "Do you APPROVE or DISAPPROVE of the way Mr. Daniel Andrews is handling his job as Premier of Victoria?" Approve 70% cf. Disapprove 30%.

This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey was conducted with a Victoria-wide cross-section of 2,325 Victorians aged 18+ conducted on Tuesday September 8 – Wednesday September 9, 2020.

Just under two-fifths of Melburnians (38%) say the night-time curfew in Melbourne should end now – even though it is being shortened by an hour this Sunday – compared to only 31% of Country Victorians.

There is little difference between Melburnians and Country Victorians on the other questions:

- Only 37% of Melburnians and 38% of Country Victorians say Melbourne's restaurants/hotels/clubs/bars should now be able to provide table service with proper social distancing;
- Large majorities of both Melburnians (70%) and Country Victorians (71%) say they approve of Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews' handling of his job;
- Over three-quarters of both Melburnians (76%) and Country Victorians (76%) say that the Victorian Government should provide compensation to all small businesses forced to close by the Victorian Government's COVID restrictions.

The survey was conducted five weeks after the introduction of stringent Stage 4 restrictions in Melbourne and only days after Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews announced a two-week extension to the Stage 4 lockdown. The current restrictions will continue largely unchanged until the end of September and a longer roadmap going forward will keep many businesses closed throughout October and potentially into November.

Compensate all small businesses forced to close by the Victorian Government's COVID restrictions

Supporters of all political parties say the Victorian Government should compensate all small businesses forced to close by the Victorian Government's COVID restrictions led by 81% of L-NP supporters, 74% of ALP supporters and 65% of Greens supporters.

Unsurprisingly a large majority of ALP supporters (82%) approve of Premier Daniel Andrews' handling of his job but Andrews also has the approval of 81% of Greens supporters and 53% of supporters of Independents/Others. A sizeable minority of 43% of L-NP supporters also approve of his handling of the job.

L-NP supporters continue to favour ending three of the Stage 4 restrictions while ALP supporters and Greens supporters largely support the restrictions continuing.

- A majority of 69% (up 10%) of L-NP supporters say Melburnians should now be able to visit the homes of immediate families compared to 50% (up 6%) of ALP supporters but only 35% (down 5%) of Greens supporters.
- A narrower majority of 51% (down 3%) of L-NP supporters say Melbourne restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes should now be able to provide table service with proper social distancing compared to only 26% (down 15%) of ALP supporters and 34% (up 3%) of Greens supporters.
- In addition, a majority of 57% (up 3%) of L-NP supporters say Melbourne residents should now be able to travel more than 5km from their home compared to 46% (up 11%) of ALP supporters and just 35% (up 6%) of Greens supporters.

There is less of a political difference between supporters of the major parties when it comes to views on the Melbourne curfew *9pm to 5am* – with supporters of all major parties opposed to lifting the curfew. Just over two-fifths of L-NP supporters 41% (down 4%), and under a third of ALP supporters 32% (down 10%), say the Melbourne curfew should be ended compared to 30% (up 6%) of Greens supporters.

Roy Morgan CEO Michele Levine says Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews' announcement on the weekend that the Stage 4 lockdown for Melbourne would be extended for at least two more weeks didn't come as a huge surprise to many, with high numbers of daily cases still being announced:

"A third Roy Morgan SMS weekly survey of Victorians shows a large majority of 70% of Victorians approve of the way Premier Daniel Andrews is handling his job dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, although even more, 76% say the Victorian Government must compensate ALL small businesses

forced to close by the Victorian Government's COVID restrictions. So far all financial compensation has come from the Federal Government.

"Despite the challenges facing Victoria and the extension of Stage 4 lockdown for another two weeks and an extended lockdown for many businesses that may still be in place in late October or even November Premier Andrews has retained the approval of over two-thirds of Victorians – including over 80% of ALP supporters and Greens supporters.

"The movement in views over the last week has been in relation to people being allowed to visit their immediate families which is now the majority view of 53% of Victorians – up 6% on a week ago and the Melburnians being allowed to travel more than 5km from their homes for exercise and essential items now at 46% (up 6%).

Importantly – a majority of 51% of Melburnians now say they should be able to travel more freely around the city and outside the current limit of 5km from their homes.

"Views on other Stage 4 restrictions such as the re-opening of restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes and the night-time curfew are largely unchanged on a week ago – although it's worth mentioning that a majority of 51% of L-NP supporters say restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes should be allowed to offer tables service with proper social distancing."

For further comment or more information contact:

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About Roy Morgan

Roy Morgan is Australia's largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state, as well as in the U.S. and U.K. A full-service research organisation, Roy Morgan has over 78 years' experience collecting objective, independent information on consumers.

Margin of Error

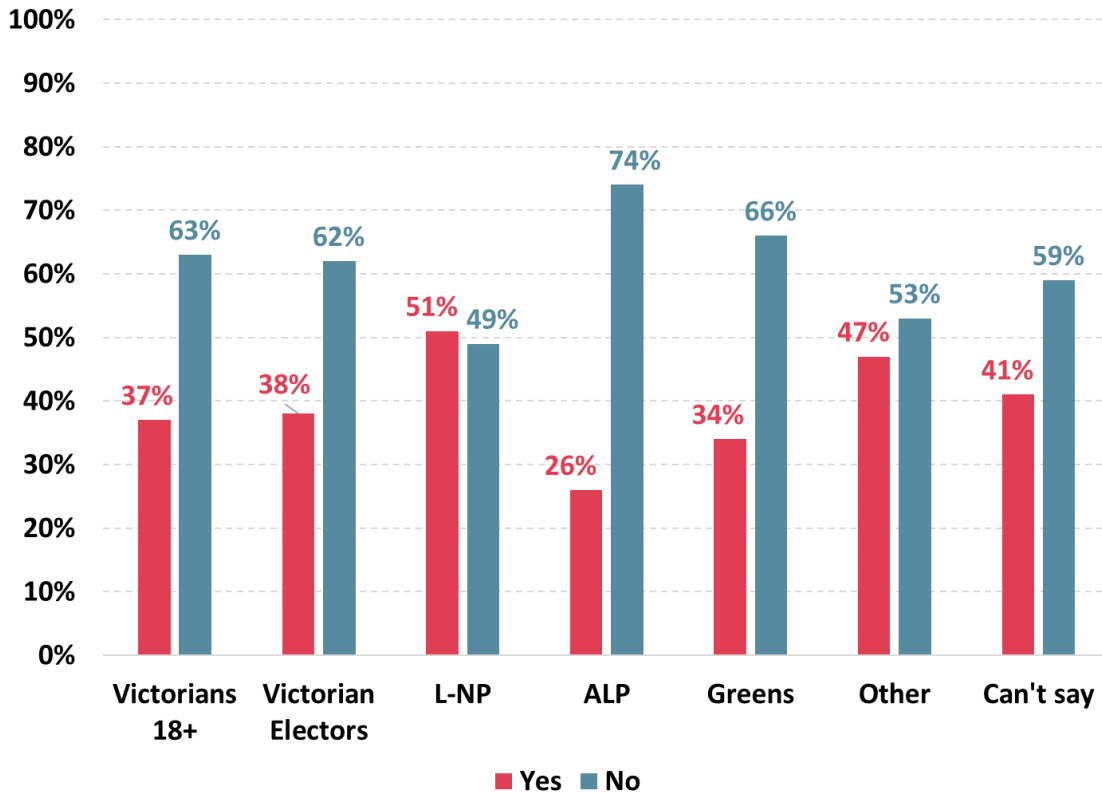
The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. Margin of error gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.0	±2.7	±1.9	±1.3
2,000	±2.1	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0



Question 1:

Should Melbourne restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes now be allowed to provide table service with proper social distancing? By Party Vote (Federal)



Source: Roy Morgan Special Snap SMS Poll of Victorians conducted on Tuesday September 8 to Wednesday September 9, 2020, n=2,325 with over 1,000 respondents each asked 3 questions. **Base:** Victorians aged 18+.

Question 1:

Should Melbourne restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes now be allowed to provide table service with proper social distancing? By Gender & Age

	Victorians 18+			Gender		Age			
	Aug. 25-26, 2020	Sep. 1-2, 2020	Sep. 8-9, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	25	39	37	39	34	29	35	46	44
No	75	61	63	61	66	71	65	54	56
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Should Melbourne restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes now be allowed to provide table service with proper social distancing? By Melbourne & Country Victoria

	Victorians 18+	Melbourne	Country Victoria
	%	%	%
Yes	37	37	38
No	63	63	62
TOTAL	100	100	100

Should Melbourne restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes now be allowed to provide table service with proper social distancing? By Party Vote (Federal)

	Victorian Electors	Party Vote				
		<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>Ind/Others</u>	<u>Can't say</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	38	51	26	34	47	41
No	62	49	74	66	53	59
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 2:

Should Melbourne residents now be free to travel more than 5km from their home? By Gender & Age

	Victorians 18+			Gender		Age			
	<u>Aug. 25-26, 2020</u>	<u>Sep. 1-2, 2020</u>	<u>Sep. 8-9, 2020</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Under 35</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	29	40	46	48	45	46	43	46	50
No	71	60	54	52	55	54	57	54	50
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Should Melbourne residents now be free to travel more than 5km from their home? By Melbourne & Country Victoria

	Victorians 18+	Melbourne & Country Victoria	
		<u>Melbourne</u>	<u>Country Victoria</u>
	%	%	%
Yes	46	51	33
No	54	49	67
TOTAL	100	100	100

Should Melbourne residents now be free to travel more than 5km from their home? By Party Vote (Federal)

	Victorian Electors	Party Vote				
		<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>Greens</u>	<u>Ind/Others</u>	<u>Can't say</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	49	57	46	35	53	57
No	51	43	54	65	47	43
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100



Question 3:

**From Sunday night Melbourne is to have a curfew from 9pm to 5am, should the curfew end or not?
By Gender & Age**

	Victorians 18+			Gender		Age			
	Aug. 25-26, 2020	Sep. 1-2, 2020	Sep. 8-9, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	28	39	37	44	31	43	33	33	36
No	72	61	63	56	69	57	67	67	64
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**From Sunday night Melbourne is to have a curfew from 9pm to 5am, should the curfew end or not?
By Melbourne & Country Victoria**

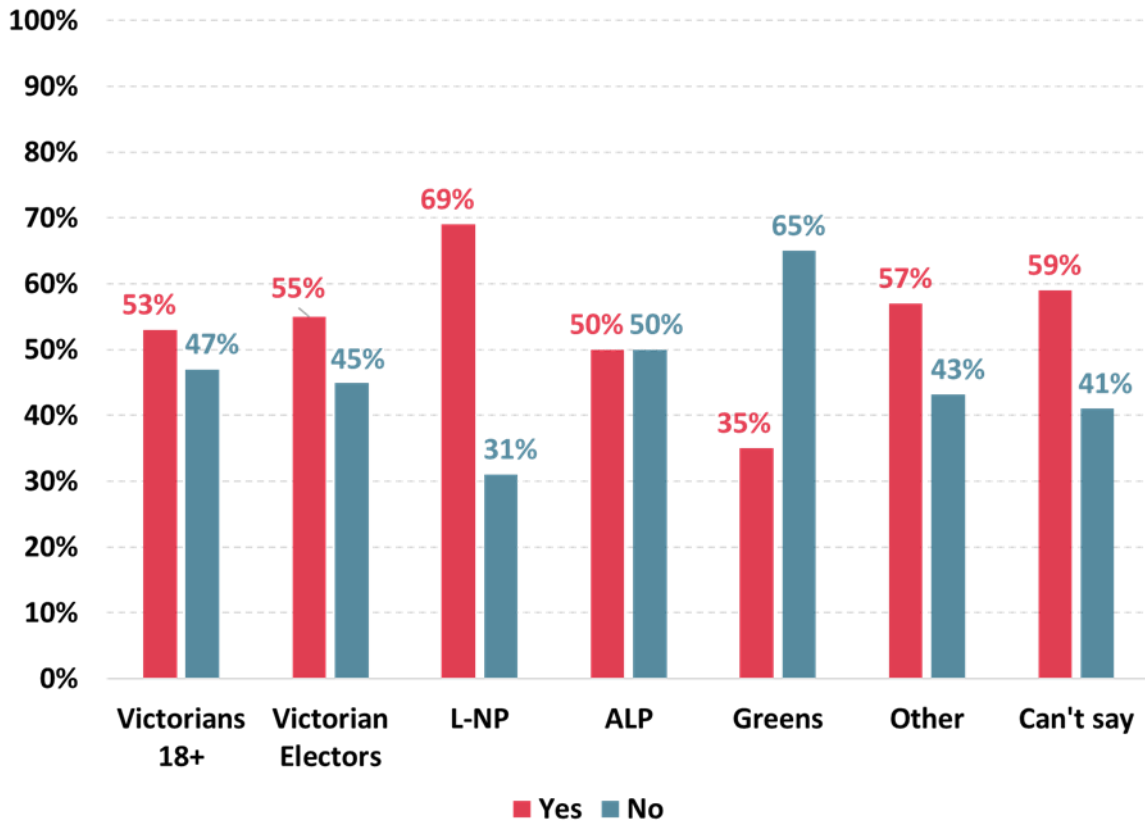
	Victorians 18+	Melbourne	Country Victoria
	%	%	%
Yes	37	38	31
No	63	62	69
TOTAL	100	100	100

**From Sunday night Melbourne is to have a curfew from 9pm to 5am, should the curfew end or not?
By Party Vote (Federal)**

	Victorian Electors	Party Vote				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	35	41	32	30	39	37
No	65	59	68	70	61	63
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 4:

**Should Melbourne residents now be able to visit the homes of their immediate families?
By Party Vote (Federal)**



Source: Roy Morgan Special Snap SMS Poll of Victorians conducted on Tuesday September 8 to Wednesday September 9, 2020, n=2,325 with over 1,000 respondents each asked 3 questions. **Base:** Victorians aged 18+.

**Should Melbourne residents now be able to visit the homes of their immediate families?
By Gender & Age**

	Victorians 18+			Gender		Age			
	Aug. 25-26, 2020	Sep. 1-2, 2020	Sep. 8-9, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	43	47	53	57	48	51	47	54	67
No	57	53	47	43	52	49	53	46	33
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Should Melbourne residents now be able to visit the homes of their immediate families?
By Melbourne & Country Victoria**

	Victorians 18+	Melbourne	Country Victoria
	%	%	%
Yes	53	54	48
No	47	46	52
TOTAL	100	100	100

**Should Melbourne residents now be able to visit the homes of their immediate families?
By Party Vote (Federal)**

	Victorian Electors	Party Vote				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	55	69	50	35	57	59
No	45	31	50	65	43	41
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 5 (NEW QUESTION):

Should small businesses forced to close by the Victorian Government's COVID restrictions receive compensation from the Victorian Government or not? By Gender & Age

	Victorians 18+ Sep. 8-9, 2020	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	76	74	78	80	71	70	82
No	24	26	22	20	29	30	18
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Should small businesses forced to close by the Victorian Government's COVID restrictions receive compensation from the Victorian Government or not? By Melbourne & Country Victoria

	Victorians 18+		
		Melbourne	Country Victoria
	%	%	%
Yes	76	76	76
No	24	24	24
TOTAL	100	100	100

Should small businesses forced to close by the Victorian Government's COVID restrictions receive compensation from the Victorian Government or not? By Party Vote (Federal)

	Victorian Electors	Party Vote				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	75	81	74	65	87	75
No	25	19	26	35	13	25
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 6 (NEW QUESTION):

Do you APPROVE or DISAPPROVE of the way Mr. Andrews is handling is job as Premier of Victoria? By Gender & Age

	Victorians 18+ Sep. 8-9, 2020 %	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes	70	66	73	80	67	62	62
No	30	34	27	20	33	38	38
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Do you APPROVE or DISAPPROVE of the way Mr. Andrews is handling is job as Premier of Victoria? By Melbourne & Country Victoria

	Victorians 18+ %	Melbourne	Country Victoria
		Yes	70
No	30	30	29
TOTAL	100	100	100

Do you APPROVE or DISAPPROVE of the way Mr. Andrews is handling is job as Premier of Victoria? By Party Vote (Federal)

	Victorian Electors %	Party Vote				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
Yes	67	43	82	81	53	60
No	33	57	18	19	47	40
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100