

Wednesday, 2 September 2020

Melbourne residents evenly divided on visiting family

A second Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey on six of Victoria's Stage 4 restrictions shows more Victorians than a week ago favour relaxing restrictions and Melbourne people are now evenly divided 50:50 on whether Melburnians should be able to visit the homes of immediate family members.

Of all Victorians, 47% (up 4% on a week ago) say Melburnians should be able to visit the homes of immediate family members rising to 50% of residents of Melbourne.

An increasing majority of 57% (up 5%) 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.

Support for other restrictions has reduced on a week ago but still attract majority support across the board.

An overwhelming majority of Victorians, 87% (down 2%), again say mask wearing should be compulsory in Victoria and over two-thirds 68% (down 6%) say schools and day care centres in Melbourne should not be re-opened to everyone.

Now just over three-fifths of Victorians 61% (down 14%) say Melbourne's restaurants/hotels/ clubs/cafes should not be able to provide table service with proper social distancing – the biggest change in views compared to a week ago.

In addition, 61% (down 11%) say the 8pm-5am curfew in Melbourne should not be ended and 60% (down 11%) say Melburnians' should not be able to travel more than 5km from their homes (71%).

People surveyed in Victoria 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**:

- **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 40% (up 11%) cf. No 60% (down 11%).
- **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 39% (up 14%) cf. No 61% (down 14%).
- **Question 3:** "At present Melbourne has a curfew from 8pm to 5am, should the curfew end now or not?" Yes 39% (up 11%) cf. No 61% (down 11%).
- **Question 4:** "Melbourne residents are currently banned from visiting the homes of immediate family members with the exception of delivering care or essential services. Should Melbourne residents now be able to visit the homes of their immediate families?" Yes 47% (up 4%) cf. No 53% (down 4%).
- **Question 5:** "Every person living in Victoria must wear a face covering such as a mask when leaving home. Should wearing masks be compulsory in Victoria or not?" Yes 87% (down 2%) cf. No 13% (up 2%).
- **Question 6:** "Only permitted workers are allowed to send their children to day care centres and schools. Should schools and day care centres in Melbourne be re-opened to everyone?" Yes 32% (up 8%) cf. No 68% (down 8%).

This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey was conducted with a Victoria-wide cross-section of 2,062 Victorians aged 18+ conducted on Tuesday September 1 – Wednesday September 2, 2020.

Melburnians are more likely than Country Victorians to want restrictions relaxed – especially the 5km limit on travel and visiting the home of their immediate family

The 'call' to make mask wearing compulsory is favoured more by residents of Melbourne 88% (down 2%) than people in Country Victoria 83% (down 4%) – though both are down on a week ago.

The biggest difference between how Melburnians and Country Victorians view the Stage 4 restrictions relates to travelling more than 5km from one's home. Nearly half of Melburnians 45% (up 14%) say they should be able to travel more than 5km from their home while only 25% (up 3%) of Country Victorians say the same about residents of Melbourne.

The second largest difference relates to being allowed to visit the homes of one's immediate family. Melburnians are evenly split with 50% (up 5%) say they should be able to visit the homes of their immediate family while a virtually unchanged 37% (down 1%) of Country Victorians say the same about residents of Melbourne – a difference of 13% points (up 6% points).

The survey was conducted four weeks after the introduction of stringent Stage 4 restrictions in Melbourne and as Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews this week convinced Parliament to grant him a 6 month extension to the declared State of Emergency due to expire in mid-September.

A majority of L-NP supporters favour ending three of the Stage 4 restrictions

There is a clear difference in views between supporters of different political parties with majorities of L-NP supporters in favour of ending three of the Stage 4 restrictions while majorities of ALP supporters and Greens supporters support all six restrictions continuing.

- A majority of 59% of L-NP supporters say Melburnians should now be able to visit the homes of immediate families compared to only 44% of ALP supporters and 40% of Greens supporters.
- A narrower majority of 54% 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 41% of ALP supporters and 31% of Greens supporters.
- In addition, a majority of 54% of L-NP supporters say Melbourne residents should now be able to travel more than 5km from their home compared to only 35% of ALP supporters and just 29% of Greens supporters.

Just under half of L-NP supporters (48%) say schools and day care centres should be re-opened to everybody compared to just 20% of ALP supporters and 21% 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 between 8pm-5am and the compulsory wearing of masks in Melbourne.

Nearly half of L-NP supporters (45%), and slightly fewer ALP supporters (42%), say the Melbourne curfew should be ended compared to only 24% of Greens supporters.

However, large majorities of supporters of all major political parties agree mask wearing should be compulsory in Melbourne led by 92% of ALP supporters, 87% of Greens supporters and 82% of L-NP supporters.

Roy Morgan CEO Michele Levine says the mood has begun to shift in Victoria over the last week with smaller majorities of Victorians supporting Stage 4 restrictions as new cases of COVID-19 drop and the stated end of restrictions approaches on Sunday September 13 (end of next week):

"A second Roy Morgan SMS weekly survey of Victorians shows majorities of Victorians support the continuation of Stage 4 restrictions – but support for each of the restrictions is down on a week ago and there are significant and important demographics now opposed to some of the restrictions.

"Residents of Melbourne are now split 50:50 on whether they should now be able to visit the homes of their immediate families. Importantly there are majorities of 59% of L-NP supporters and 57% of those aged 65+ who say Melburnians should now be able visit the homes of their immediate families.

“Melbourne’s hospitality industry will be buoyed that a majority of 54% of L-NP supporters say the city’s restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes should now be able to open with proper social distancing although only 41% of ALP supporters and 31% of Greens supporters agree.

“Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has promised that a road-map for the period after Stage 4 lockdown is set to end on Sunday September 13 will be announced this weekend on September 6. It is yet to be seen which restrictions will be relaxed and whether Victoria will move back to a Stage 3 ‘lockdown’ or different set of rules as new cases of COVID-19 continue to decline.

“Melburnians have now been under at least a Stage 3 lockdown for nearly two months since July 9 and the improving situation with regards to COVID-19 and the improving weather as we enter spring-time is increasing pressure on the Victorian Government to relax restrictions that have been amongst the harshest in the Western world.

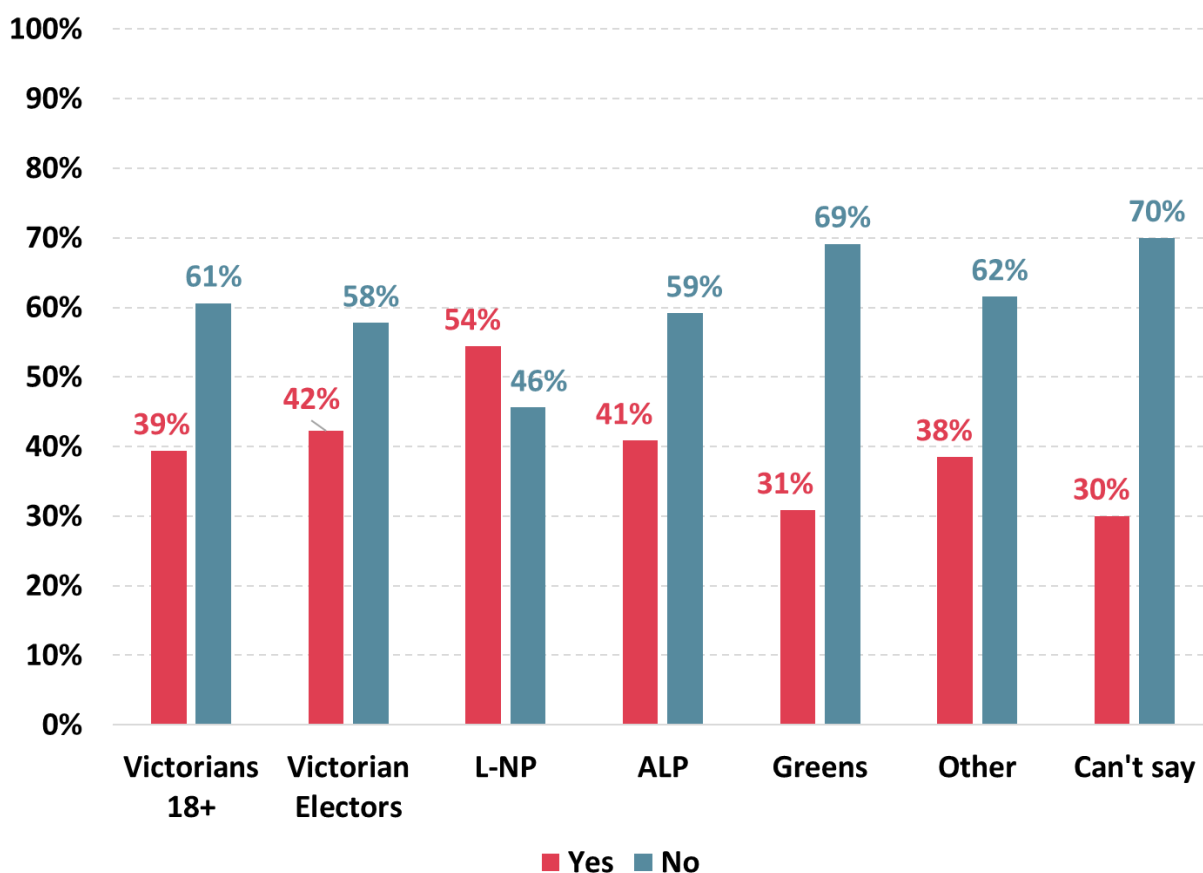
“Based on today’s special Roy Morgan SMS Poll Victorians are most keen to see restrictions around visiting their immediate families, the limited opening of restaurants/hotels/clubs/cafes in Melbourne and the 5km limit on travel from home relaxed.”

For further comment or more information contact:

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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 1 to Wednesday September 2, 2020, n=2,062 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	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	25	39	39	40	31	37	48	50
No	75	61	61	60	69	63	52	50
TOTAL	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	39	41	32
No	61	59	68
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				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	42	54	41	31	38	30
No	58	46	59	69	62	70
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			
	Aug. 25-26, 2020	Sep. 1-2, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	29	40	45	36	41	35	40	47
No	71	60	55	64	59	65	60	53
TOTAL	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
	%	%	%
Yes	40	45	25
No	60	55	75
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				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	
Yes	41	54	35	29	46	32
No	59	46	65	71	54	68
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 3:

**At present Melbourne has a curfew from 8pm to 5am, should the curfew end now or not?
By Gender & Age**

	Victorians 18+		Gender		Age			
	Aug. 25-26, 2020	Sep. 1-2, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	28	39	41	36	42	36	36	41
No	72	61	59	64	58	64	64	59
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**At present Melbourne has a curfew from 8pm to 5am, should the curfew end now or not?
By Melbourne & Country Victoria**

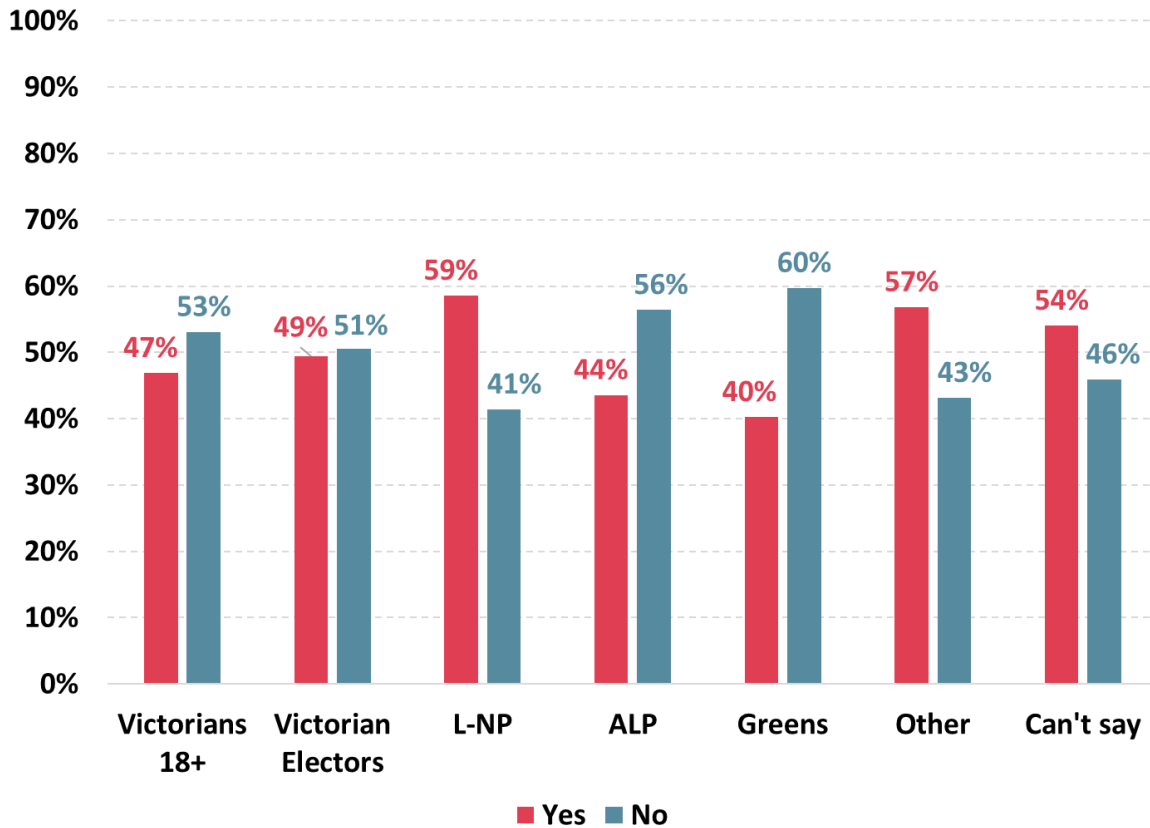
	Victorians 18+	Melbourne	Country Victoria
	%	%	%
Yes	39	41	31
No	61	59	69
TOTAL	100	100	100

**At present Melbourne has a curfew from 8pm to 5am, should the curfew end now or not?
By Party Vote (Federal)**

	Victorian Electors	Party Vote				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	
Yes	39	45	42	24	40	33
No	61	55	58	76	60	67
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 1 to Wednesday September 2, 2020, n=2,062 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	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	43	47	46	48	41	47	48	57
No	57	53	54	52	59	53	52	43
TOTAL	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	47	50	37
No	53	50	63
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	49	59	44	40	57	54
No	51	41	56	60	43	46
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 5:

**Should wearing masks in Victoria be compulsory or not?
By Gender & Age**

	Victorians 18+		Gender		Age			
	Aug. 25-26, 2020	Sep. 1-2, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	89	87	85	88	88	79	87	93
No	11	13	15	12	12	21	13	7
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Should wearing masks in Victoria be compulsory or not?
By Melbourne & Country Victoria**

	Victorians 18+	Melbourne		Country Victoria	
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	87	88	83		
No	13	12	17		
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

Should wearing masks in Victoria be compulsory or not? By Party Vote (Federal)

	Victorian Electors	Party Vote				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	86	82	92	87	80	74
No	14	18	8	13	20	26
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 6:

**Should schools and day care centres in Melbourne be re-opened to everybody?
By Gender & Age**

	Victorians 18+		Gender		Age			
	Aug. 25-26, 2020	Sep. 1-2, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	24	32	28	36	26	34	33	43
No	76	68	72	64	74	66	67	57
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Should schools and day care centres in Melbourne be re-opened to everybody?
By Melbourne & Country Victoria**

	Victorians 18+	Melbourne	Country Victoria
	%	%	%
Yes	32	34	26
No	68	66	74
TOTAL	100	100	100

**Should schools and day care centres in Melbourne be re-opened to everybody?
By Party Vote (Federal)**

	Victorian Electors	Party Vote				
		L-NP	ALP	Greens	Ind/Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	
Yes	31	48	20	21	37	39
No	69	52	80	79	63	61
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

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