



Thursday, 17 September 2020

Only 42% of Victorians rate the Victorian Police highly for their ethics and honesty

The fourth Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey on Victoria's Stage 4 restrictions shows only 42% of Victorians rate the Victorian Police either 'Very high' (11%) or 'High' (31%) for honesty and ethical standards. 25% rate the Police either 'Low' (13%) or 'Very low' (12%). A further 33% are in the middle and award the Police an Average rating for ethics and honesty.

Women rate the ethics and honesty of Victorian Police more highly than do men, with 46% of women rating Victorian Police either 'Very high' (12%) or 'High' (34%) compared to 38% of men rating either 'Very high' (11%) or 'High' (27%).

Older Victorians have a more positive view of the Victorian Police than their younger counterparts with 54% of 50-64 year olds, 45% of 35-49 year olds and people aged 65+ rating them either 'Very high' or 'High' compared to only 31% for those aged under 35.

This research on the view of Victorians on the ethics and honesty of Victorian Police was conducted after several videos involving people allegedly breaking State of Emergency laws throughout Victoria were publicised in the media, including the arrest of a pregnant woman in her home in Ballarat and a woman being forcibly removed from her car after refusing to provide her driver's license.

In the [Roy Morgan Image of Professions survey in 2017](#) Victorians rated Police as the 8th most trusted profession with 76% of respondents awarding the Police 'Very high' (27%) or 'High' (49%) marks. Police were behind only Nurses, Doctors, Pharmacists, School Teachers, Engineers, Dentists and State Supreme Court Judges.

An increasing majority of 55% of (up 2% in a week) say Melbourne residents should now be able to visit the homes of immediate family members. There are majorities of women (53%), men (58%), Melburnians (56%), Country Victorians (54%) and – for the first time – all age groups agree they should be able to visit.

Victorians are now evenly split on whether Melburnians should now be able to travel more than 5km from home with 50% saying yes (up 4% in a week) and 50% saying no (down 4%).

However, among Melbournians an increased majority of 53% say they should be free to travel more than 5 km from their home – up from 50% a week ago. This compares to slightly more than a third of people in Country Victoria (36%) who say Melburnians should now be able to travel more than 5km from home. This is again the largest gap between Melburnians and Country Victorians of any question.

People surveyed were each asked the following 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 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 the homes of their immediate families?" Yes 55% (up 2% from a week ago) cf. No 45% (down 2%).
- **Question 2:** "At present Melbourne has a curfew from 9pm to 5am, should the curfew end now or not?" Yes 35% (down 2%) cf. No 65% (up 2%).
- **Question 3:** "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 50% (up 4%) cf. No 50% (down 4%).
- **Question 4 (NEW QUESTION):** "From what you know or have heard, how would you rate Victorian Police for honesty and ethical standards?" Very High (11%), High (31%), Average (33%), Low (13%), Very Low (12%).

Support for the night-time curfew from 9pm to 5am remains strong with 65% of Victorians saying the curfew in Melbourne should not end compared to 35% who say it should.

This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS survey was conducted with a Victoria-wide cross-section of 2,278 Victorians aged 18+ conducted on Tuesday September 15 – Wednesday September 16, 2020.

The survey was conducted six weeks after the introduction of stringent Stage 4 restrictions in Melbourne and a week after Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews announced a two-week extension to the Stage 4 lockdown. The current restrictions are now due to end in just over two weeks' time although Country Victoria has scored a reprieve with restrictions wound back to Stage 2 level this week.

ALP & L-NP supporters have the same views on Victorian Police, but L-NP supporters want to be able to visit their immediate families, and the end of travel restrictions and the night-time curfew

Nearly half of ALP supporters (46%) and L-NP supporters (46%) rate the police either 'Very high' or 'High' for ethics and honesty compared to 41% of Greens supporters.

However, there are large gaps between L-NP supporters and ALP supporters when it comes to the Stage 4 restrictions including visiting their immediate families, ending travel restrictions and the night-time curfew.

- A large majority of 71% (up 2% in a week) of L-NP supporters say Melburnians should now be able to visit the homes of their immediate families compared to 46% (down 4%) of ALP supporters and 53% (up 18%) of Greens supporters;
- Two-thirds of L-NP supporters 66% (up 9%) say Melbourne residents should now be able to travel more than 5km from their home compared to 38% (down 8%) of ALP supporters and just 34% (down 1%) of Greens supporters;
- For the first time a slim majority of L-NP supporters 52% (up 11%) say the Melbourne night-time curfew from 9pm-5am should end now compared to just 27% (down 5%) of ALP supporters and only 24% (down 6%) of Greens supporters.

Roy Morgan CEO Michele Levine says Victorian Police have been attracting a degree of controversy in recent weeks in the wake of several videos highlighted by the media of alleged COVID-19 lawbreakers being subject to potentially 'heavy-handed' police action:

"The Victorian Police have been under the spotlight in recent weeks with videos circulating of a pregnant woman in Ballarat being arrested at home for a Facebook post, old ladies being confronted on park benches for not wearing masks, a woman being forcibly removed from her car after refusing to provide her driver's license and a man under arrest in Epping who appeared to have his head stomped by one of the arresting police officers and was subsequently put into an induced coma.

"It should be recognised that the police officer accused of stomping on the man under arrest in Epping has been suspended and is now under criminal investigation for the actions taken during the arrest by the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission.

"Given the media attention paid to these incidents in locked down Melbourne it is no surprise that fewer Victorians than three years ago rate the Police either 'Very high' or 'High' for ethics and honesty – now at 42%. This compares to a record high 76% in mid-2017 in the nationally conducted [Roy Morgan Image of Professions survey](#).

"Views on the Victorian Police are nearly identical for ALP and L-NP supporters, but younger Victorians are the least likely to rate the 'Police highly. Only 31% of Victorians aged under 35 rate the Police either 'Very high' (4%) or 'High' (27%) for ethics and honesty while 32% rate them either 'Low' (16%) or 'Very low' (16%) – easily the highest of any age group.

"When it comes to the Stage 4 restrictions the gap continues to widen between L-NP supporters and ALP supporters. A majority of L-NP supporters want to be able to visit the homes of their immediate family members (71%), travel freely around Melbourne (66%) and an end to the 9pm-5am night-time curfew (52%). Majorities of ALP supporters say all three of these restrictions should continue."

For further comment or more information contact:

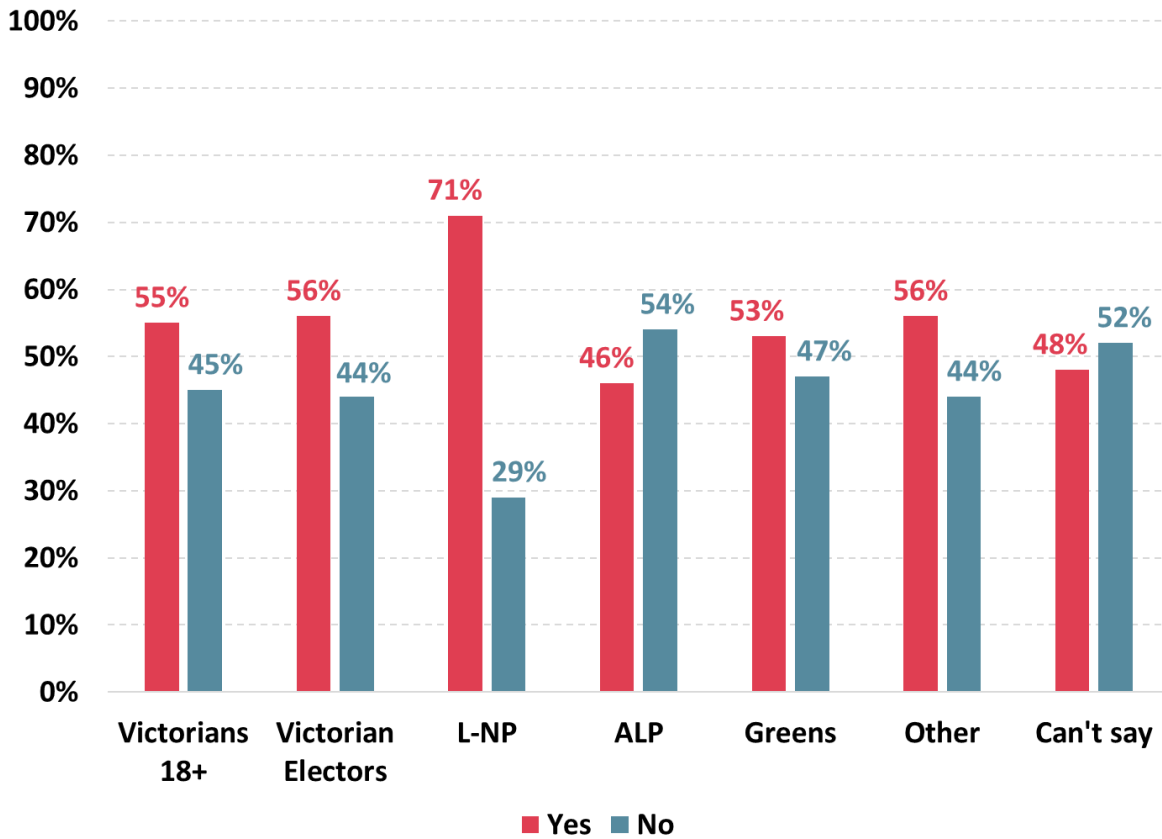
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Question 1:

**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 15 to Wednesday September 16, 2020, n=2,278 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	Sep 15-16, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	43	47	53	55	58	53	53	52	61	59
No	57	53	47	45	42	47	47	48	39	41
TOTAL	100	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	55	56	54
No	45	44	46
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	56	71	46	53	56	48
No	44	29	54	47	44	52
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 2:

**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	Sep 15-16, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	28	39	37	35	41	29	36	36	33	34
No	72	61	63	65	59	71	64	64	67	66
TOTAL	100	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+	Country	
		Melbourne	Country Victoria
	%	%	%
Yes	35	37	29
No	65	63	71
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	52	27	24	40	27
No	65	48	73	76	60	73
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100



Question 3:

**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	Sep 8-9, 2020	Sep 15-16, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	29	40	46	50	50	50	48	49	47	58
No	71	60	54	50	50	50	52	51	53	42
TOTAL	100	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**

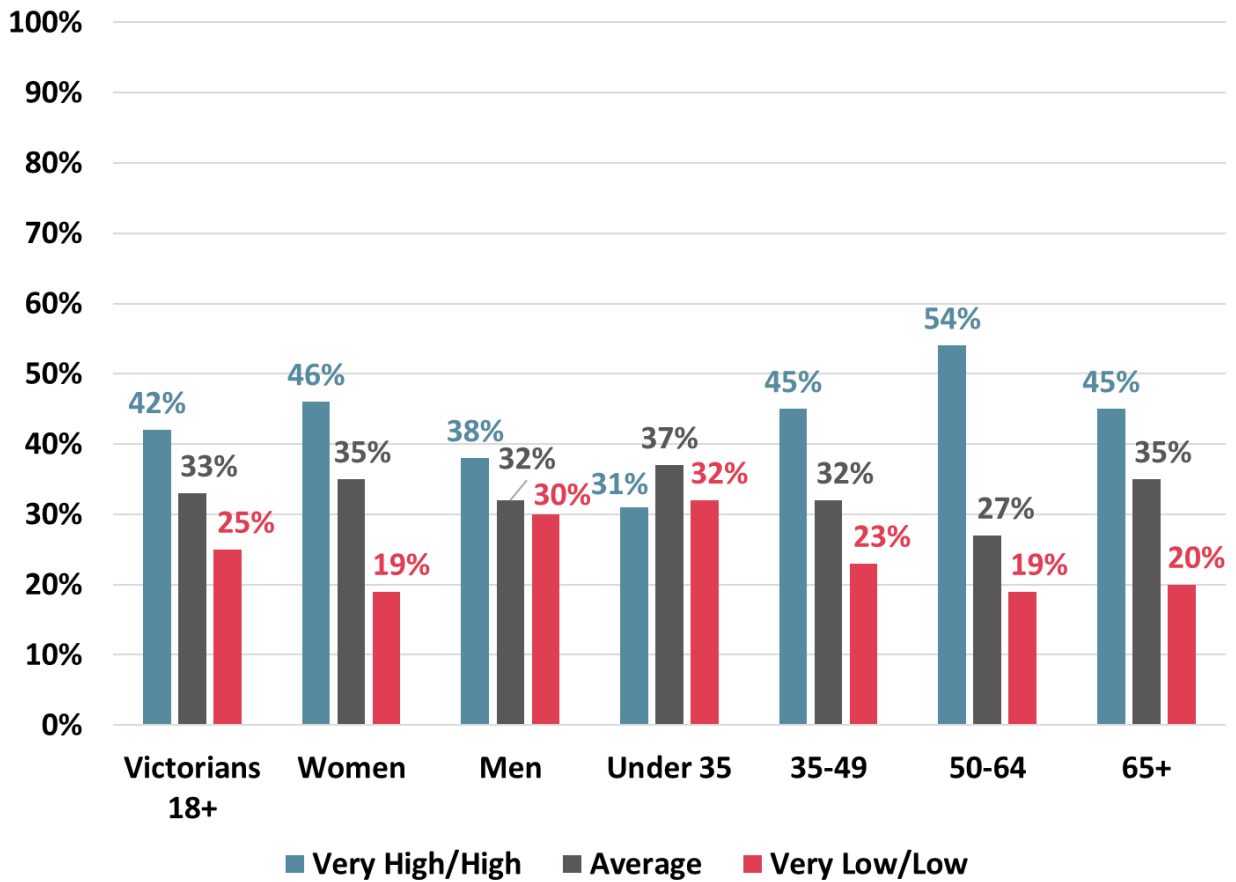
	Victorians 18+	Melbourne	Country Victoria
	%	%	%
Yes	50	53	36
No	50	47	64
TOTAL	100	100	100

**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	49	66	38	34	58	62
No	51	34	62	66	42	38
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Question 4:

Ratings of Victorian Police for honesty and ethical standards by Gender & Age



Source: Roy Morgan Special Snap SMS Poll of Victorians conducted on Tuesday September 15 to Wednesday September 16, 2020, n=2,278 with over 1,000 respondents each asked 3 questions. **Base:** Victorians aged 18+.

From what you know or have heard, how would you rate Victorian Police for honesty and ethical standards? By Gender & Age

	Victorians 18+	Gender		Age			
	Sep 15-16, 2020	Men	Women	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very High	11	11	12	4	14	20	13
High	31	27	34	27	31	34	32
TOTAL High or Very High	42	38	46	31	45	54	45
Average	33	32	35	37	32	27	35
Low	13	15	10	16	11	11	11
Very Low	12	15	9	16	12	8	9
TOTAL Low or Very Low	25	30	19	32	23	19	20
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

From what you know or have heard, how would you rate Victorian Police for honesty and ethical standards? By Melbourne & Country Victoria

	Victorians		
	18+	<u>Melbourne</u>	<u>Country Victoria</u>
	%	%	%
Very High	11	11	12
High	31	30	34
TOTAL High or Very High	42	41	46
Average	33	34	30
Low	13	13	13
Very Low	12	12	11
TOTAL Low or Very Low	25	25	24
TOTAL	100	100	100

From what you know or have heard, how would you rate Victorian Police for honesty and ethical standards? 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>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very High	13	15	14	9	7	7
High	32	31	32	32	39	36
TOTAL High or Very High	45	46	46	41	46	43
Average	31	32	30	31	35	27
Low	12	13	13	9	6	16
Very Low	12	9	11	19	13	14
TOTAL Low or Very Low	24	22	24	28	19	30
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
2,000	±2.1	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0