

COVID-19 RECOVERY TRACKER



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About the project

The **COVID-19 Recovery Tracker (CRT)** was implemented in April 2020, shortly after the COVID pandemic directly impacted Australian society, to measure both the acute impact and then track the speed and consistency of our recovery over coming months and years. The project was deliberately called the 'recovery' tracker for this reason, and questions deliberately written to be relevant both as the pandemic hit and long into the future.

The project aggregates data from multiple surveys to provide a comprehensive overview of how the Australian community is affected. There are two primary sources of data, with all responses combined into an overall database and population weighted results reported fortnightly and monthly:

- A core set of CRT questions appear as a module in a number of monthly national online tracking surveys (average monthly sample n=1,000)
- A larger dedicated online CRT survey is completed by a fortnightly structured sample of 200 people, plus any additional respondents who complete the publicly accessible version (see link below)

The CRT results are used to track and understand how the community is handling the experience and impact of the Pandemic, but also to create benchmarks that can be used to interpret other survey results when selected CRT questions are also included in them. CRT data is used for benchmarking survey respondents and target audiences, and in all cases where it has been used, there has been an interaction seen between key CRT indicators and the subject matter of the client surveys.

As of 11 June 2021, a total of 21,936 people have completed the core questions, with 7,431 who have completed the full extended survey.

This update contains a snapshot of the most current results. Current and historical updates can be found on the ORIMA website (see below).

CRT Links and resources

View or complete the full **online CRT questionnaire**: <https://research.orima.com.au/COVIDRecovery/>

Search and download **CRT Results and Updates** from the publications tab: <https://covidportal.orima.com.au/>

Use of this material

All published ORIMA CRT material can be freely referenced, shared and used for non-commercial purposes. Please attribute: ORIMA.com.au

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Methodology

Data sources:



Core Module in monthly national tracking surveys:

n=14,505



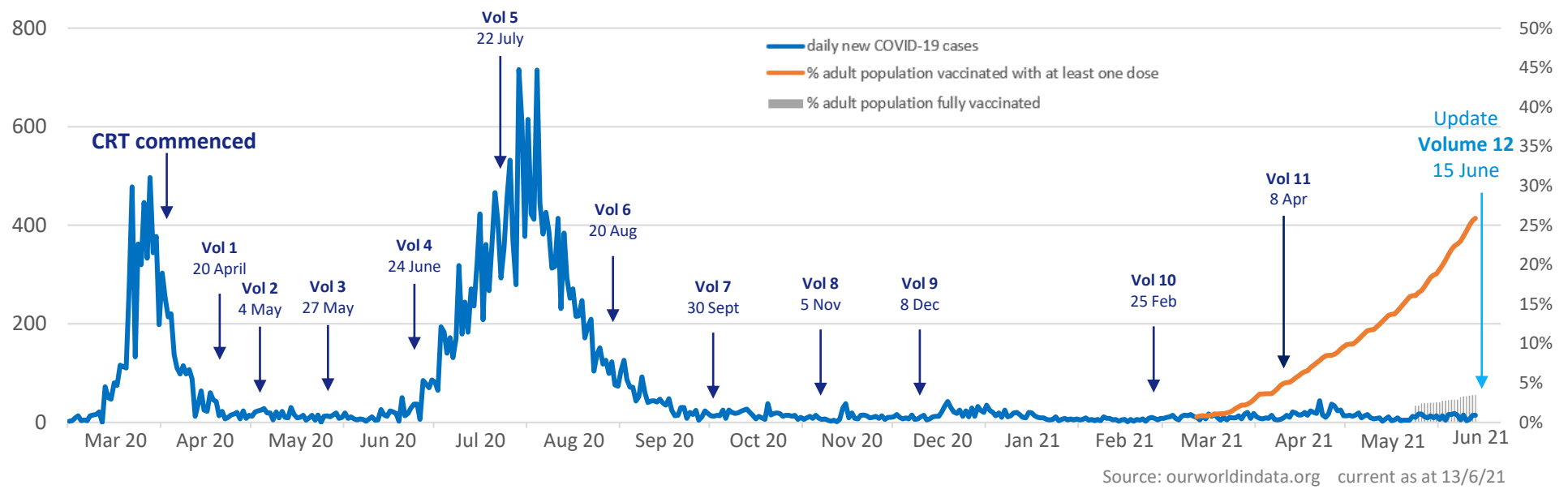
Extended online version with fortnightly samples:

n=7,431

Total

n=21,936

CRT Timeline mapped against daily COVID cases, and vaccination progress in Australia



What the current results are telling us



After a rocky start, vaccination intentions are cautiously on the rise again. Doubts about the immediate and long-term safety of the vaccine increased after the Government advised against using AstraZeneca for under 50s. However, while some remain concerned, the threat of the Delta variant appears to have convinced others that the risk may be worth taking, with vaccination rates and intentions increasing.



Among the unvaccinated, the Nett Vaccine Appeal index (*Accepters* minus *Resisters*) remains strongly positive, but has declined since February as people start getting vaccinated (+31%, down 15pp from +46% in February).



At the end of May, 4% of respondents were already fully vaccinated, and a further 14% had received the first dose of the vaccine. Among the unvaccinated, 53% intend to get vaccinated (26% ASAP, 27% when convenient or when they get around to it), 22% remain hesitant 'waiting and see how things go', and a further 22% do not intend to get the vaccine (13% at all, 9% unless they have to).



The negative impact of COVID-19 on individuals and the country continues to moderate – albeit very slowly, navigating set backs along way. As 2021 progresses, Australians increasingly feel our nation is on the road to recovery, while other countries around the globe make more limited progress.



However, controlling COVID is coming at a cost, slowing the pace of recovery. The data suggests that each circuit-breaker lockdown temporarily increases how negatively impacted people feel, with those affected reporting reduced levels of control, normality, energy and satisfaction with life in general.



Negative effects have recently been especially prominent among Western Australians, who have faced their first community transmission events.

Sections

Vaccines Page 6

Community Mood and Impact Page 11

Vaccines

At the end of May 2021, 4% of respondents were fully vaccinated, and another 14% had received one dose (broadly in line with official figures of 3%, and 16% respectively among the adult Australian population, dated 31/5/21).

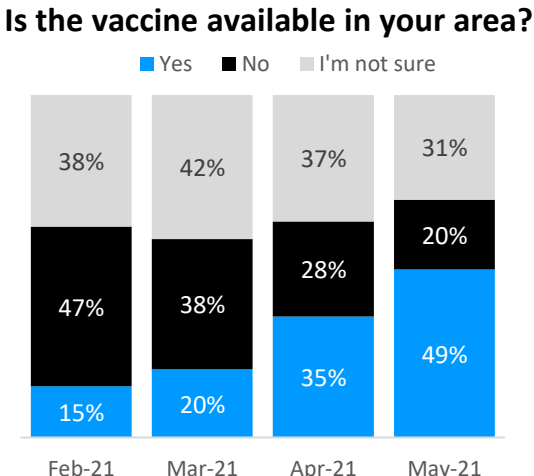
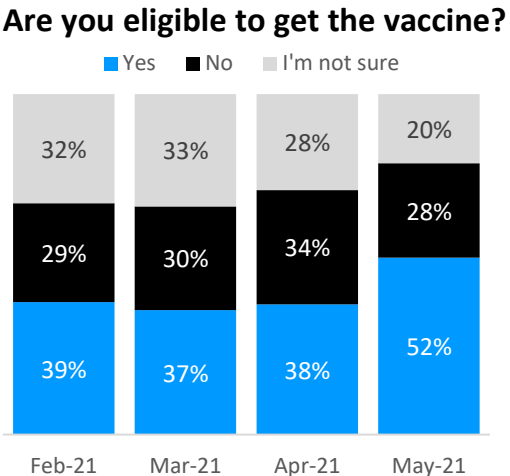
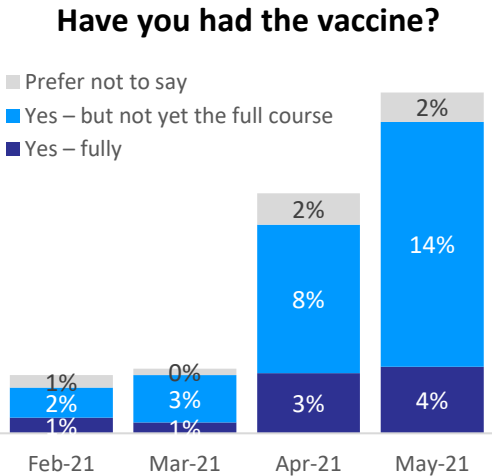
People may be reconsidering their vaccination intentions in light of changing perceptions of immediate personal risk posed by the vaccine vs the virus. Intentions declined after the AstraZeneca clot concerns came to light, but have since increased again, following the emergence of the Delta variant.

Among the unvaccinated, 53% of people currently intend to get vaccinated (26% ASAP, and 27% when it's convenient or when they get around to it). This represents a decline of 1pp from last month, and 7pp from 61% in February. Meanwhile, the proportion of resisters increased to 22% (13% don't intend to get vaccinated, and 9% will only get it if forced), up 2pp from 21% in April, 7pp from 15% in February). Average monthly levels of people who want to 'wait and see' have remained largely stable at around 22% since February, but this hides the notable fluctuations that have occurred week by week.

The Nett Vaccine Appeal index (*Accepters* minus *Resisters*) currently sits at +31% (down 3pp from +34% in April, and down 15pp from +46% in February).

At this early stage, it seems that Government action may have a greater impact on vaccine hesitancy than events happening around the world. The proportion of people saying they will 'wait and see how things go' before getting a vaccine did not increase until the Government changed its stance of offering the AstraZeneca vaccine to under 50s. Hesitancy levels have since declined, following the ban on return travellers from India and recent lockdowns.

CRT Vaccine Dashboard as of 31 May 2021



If unvaccinated, how do you feel about getting a vaccine?

	Apr 21	May 21	Change since Apr 21
Will make an effort to get it ASAP	29%	26%	-3%
When practical / convenient	19%	23%	+4%
When I get around to it	6%	5%	-2%
Wait and see	23%	22%	-1%
Only if I have to	8%	9%	+1%
Don't intend to	12%	13%	+1%
Prefer not to say	2%	2%	-
Nett Vaccine Appeal	+34%	+31%	-3%
<i>Accepters minus Resisters</i>			

Totally + Mostly believe vaccines will...

	Apr 21	May 21	Change since Apr 21
Be available in a fair way	46%	56%	+10%
Effective in preventing COVID-19	40%	43%	+3%
Be safe to take (minimal side effects)	39%	43%	+4%
Prove to be safe in the long term	41%	39%	-2%
Taken by enough to protect community	39%	45%	+7%
Let <u>your</u> life get back to normal	44%	45%	+1%

Source: ORIMA.com.au

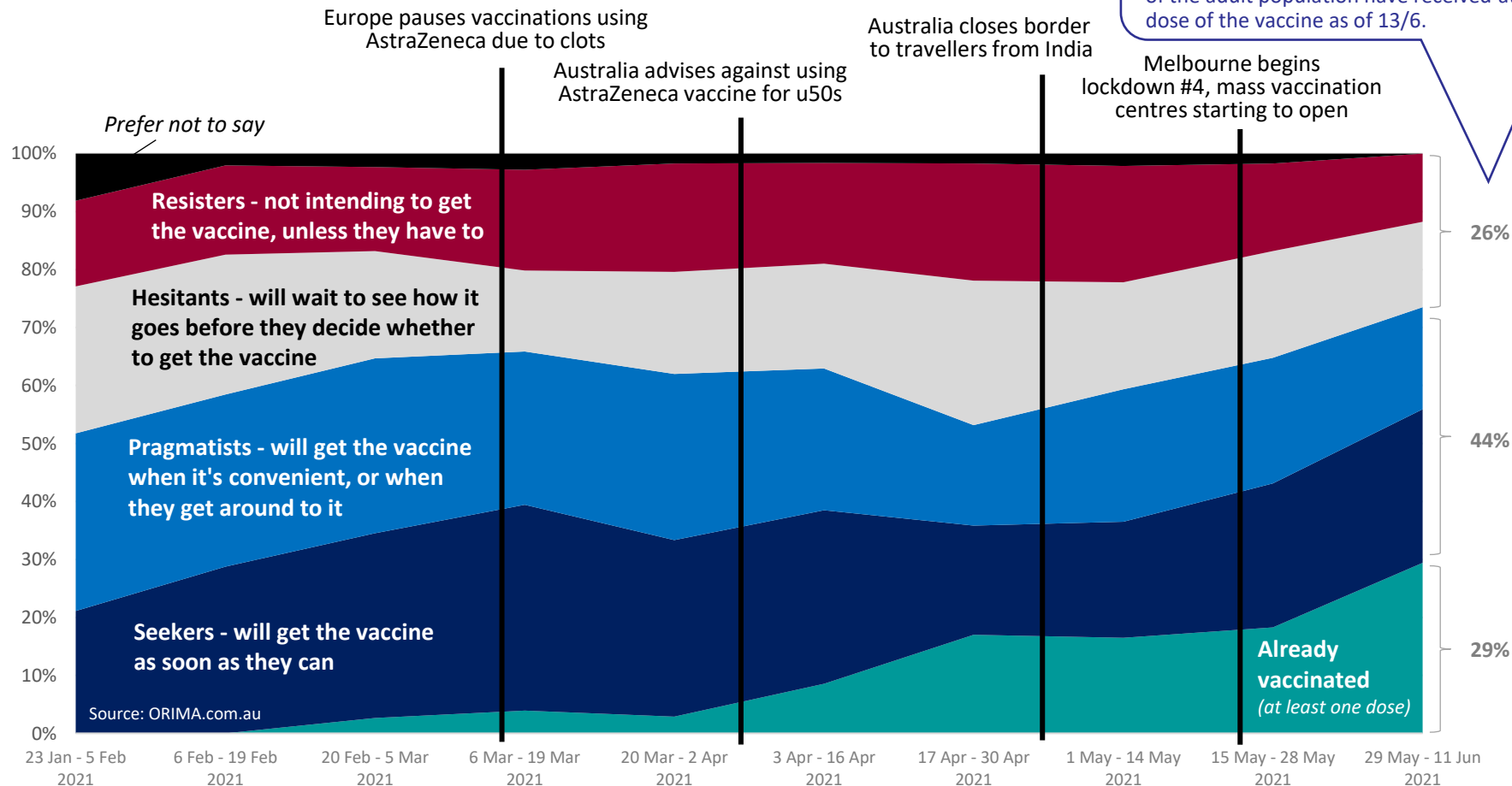
Perceptions of personal risk appear to be driving vaccination intentions – falling after clotting concerns over AstraZeneca vaccine raised, and rising again following the emergence of the Delta variant.

Vaccination Intentions – fortnightly data

How you feel about getting the COVID vaccine?

Base: All respondents

Reported vaccination rates have risen sharply in the first fortnight in June (29/5-11/6), as mass vaccination centres open across Australia. Official figures available also reflect this, indicating 26% of the adult population have received at least one dose of the vaccine as of 13/6.



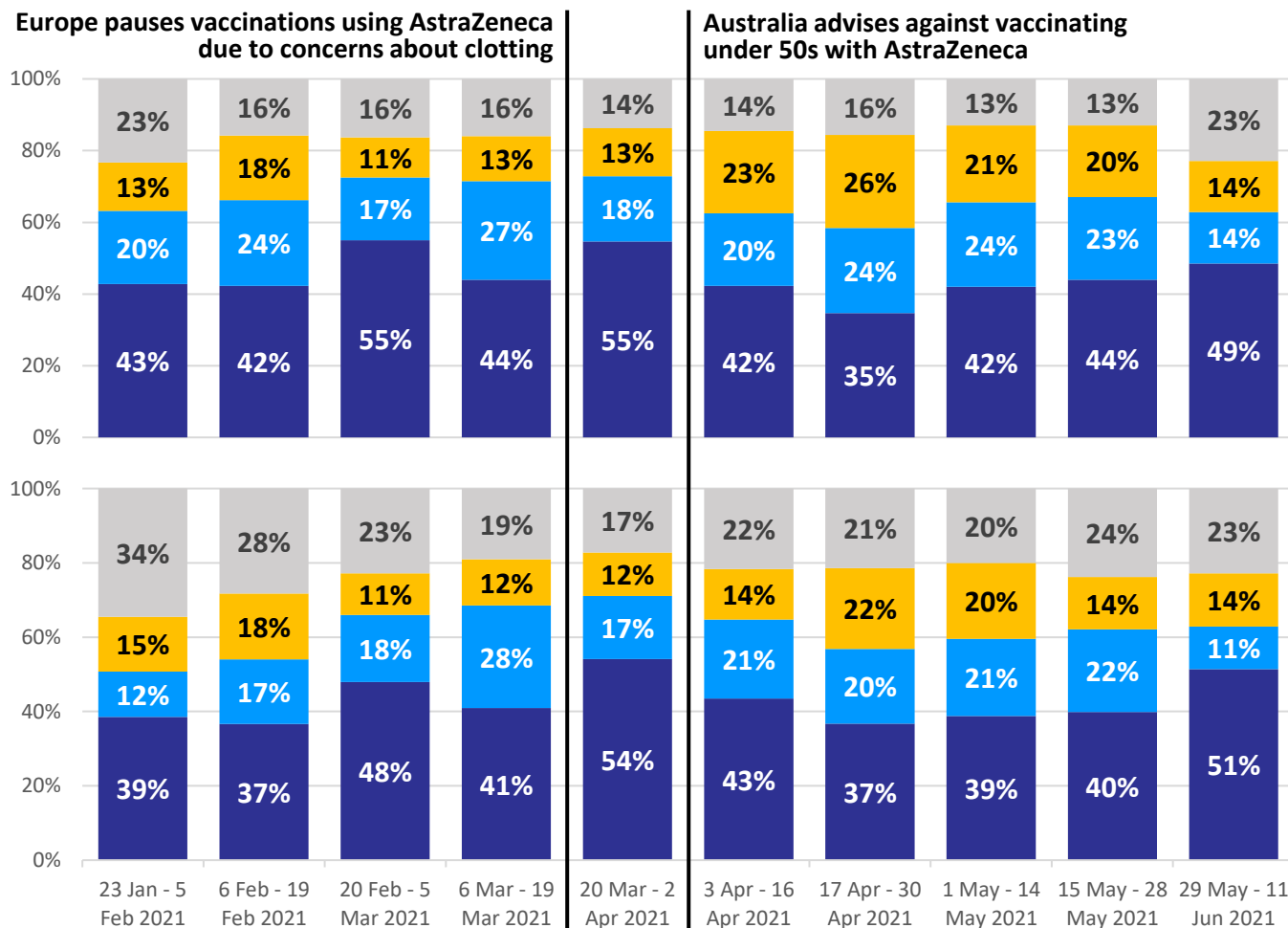
Note: Jan 2021 sample size very small (n=64) as vaccine questions were only added to the CRT just before the vaccination program began

Changes in the Government's stance on use of AstraZeneca in under 50s coincide with increases in immediate, and long-term safety concerns associated with COVID-19 vaccines

To what extent do you believe COVID-19 vaccines will... May 2021

... be safe to take
(i.e. minimal side
effects or risks)

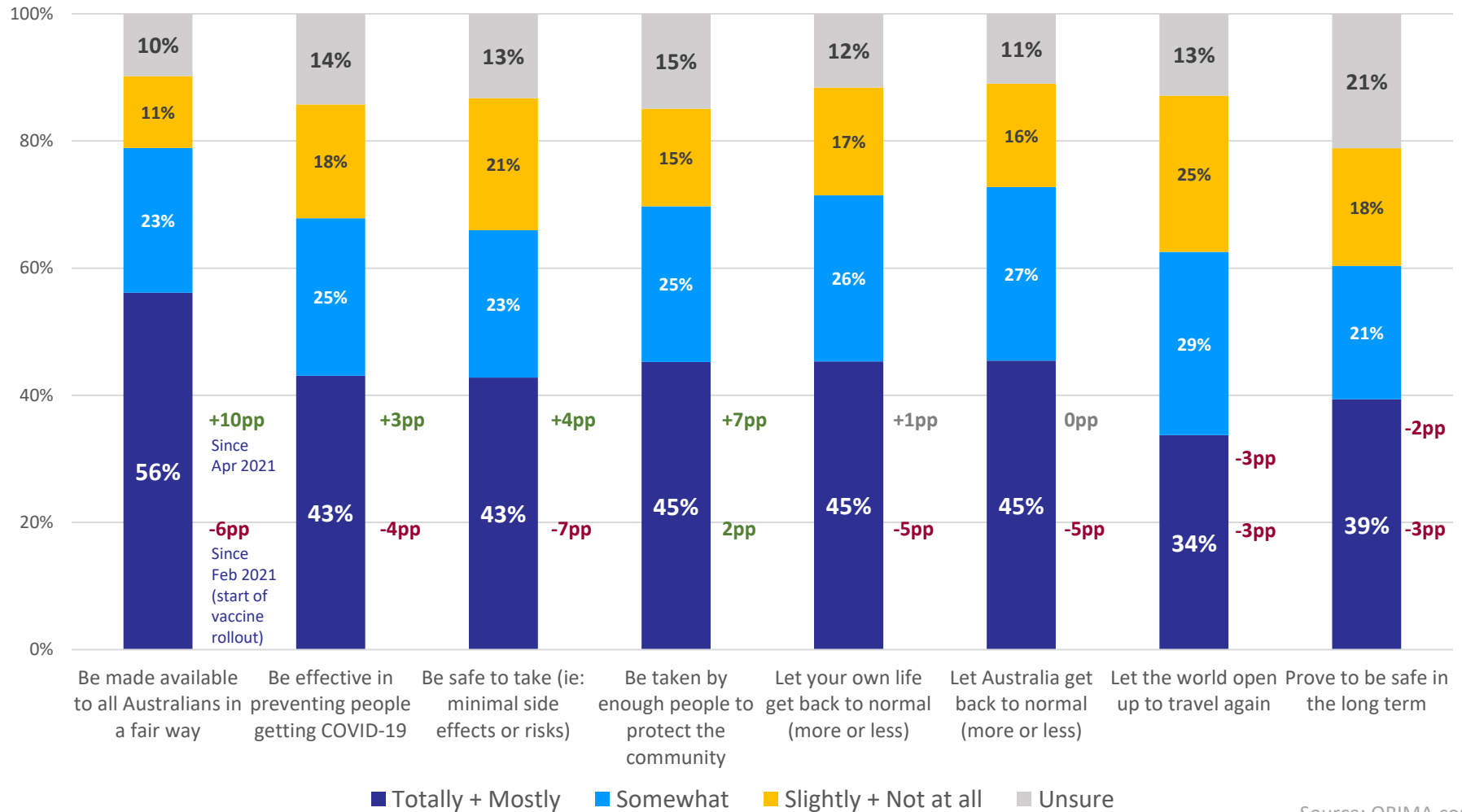
... prove to be safe
in the long term



■ Mostly / Totally ■ Somewhat ■ Not at all / slightly ■ Really can't say Source: ORIMA.com.au

Since the start of the vaccine roll out in February, positive perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccines have declined, but are on the increase again in May

To what extent do you believe COVID-19 vaccines will... May 2021



Source: ORIMA.com.au

Community Mood & Impact

In general, the perceived negative impact of COVID-19 on individuals and the country continues to moderate – albeit very slowly. Australians increasingly feel our nation is on the road to recovery, while other countries around the globe make more limited progress.

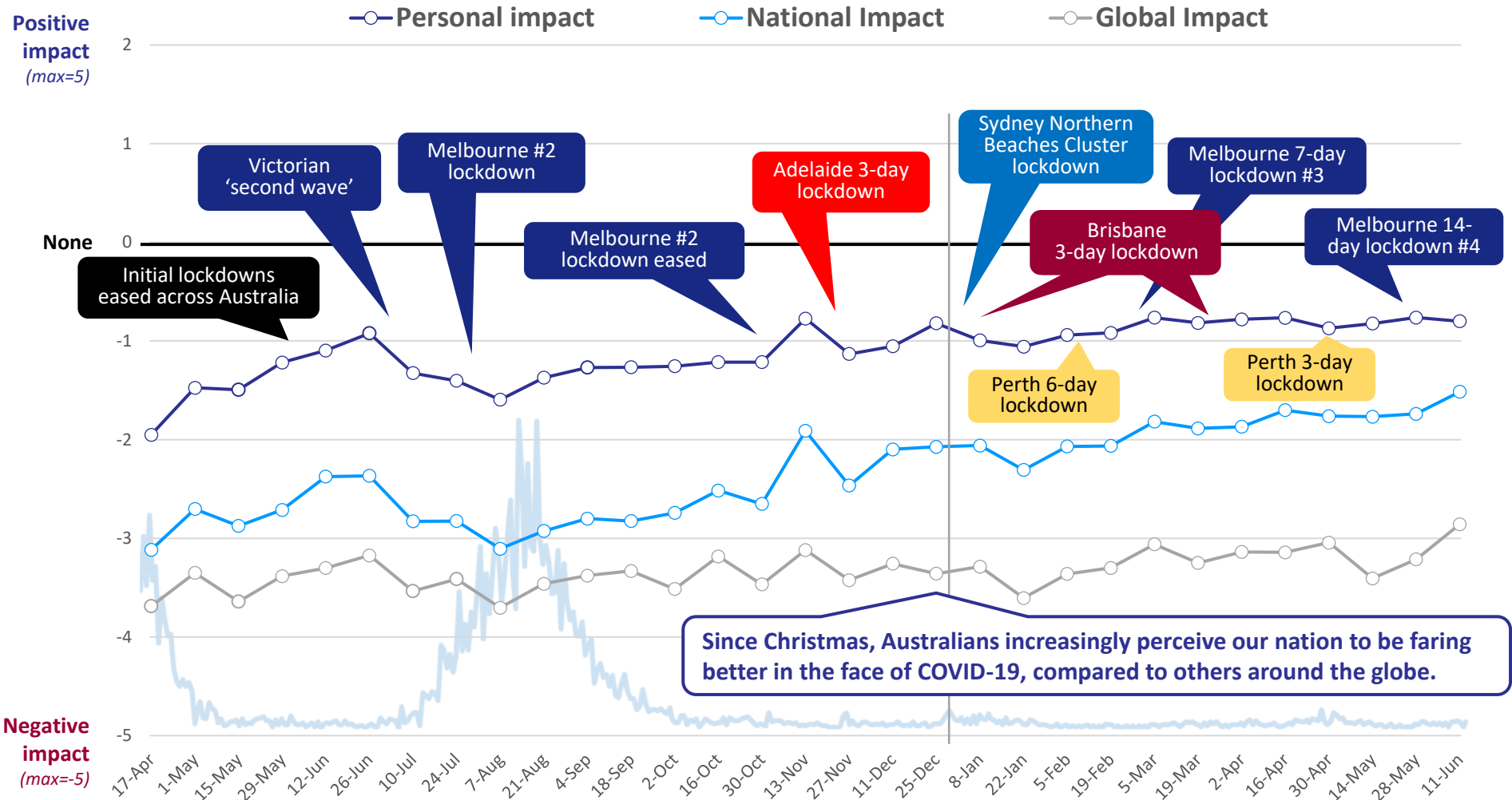
Most mood and impact indicators continue to tentatively improve throughout 2021, navigating set backs along the way. Perceptions of control and normalcy have stabilised for now, as responding to local outbreaks becomes routine.

However, controlling COVID is coming at a cost, and slowing the pace of recovery. Australians affected by each circuit-breaker lockdown report temporary increases in negative personal impact, and depleted levels of control, normalcy, energy and satisfaction with life in general. These effects are most prominent among Western Australians, who have faced their first community transmission events.

But there may be hope! For now at least, Victorians appear to be taking recent lockdowns in their stride, with mood and impact indicators largely unaffected – perhaps adapting to this new reality, or developing some resilience to it is possible.

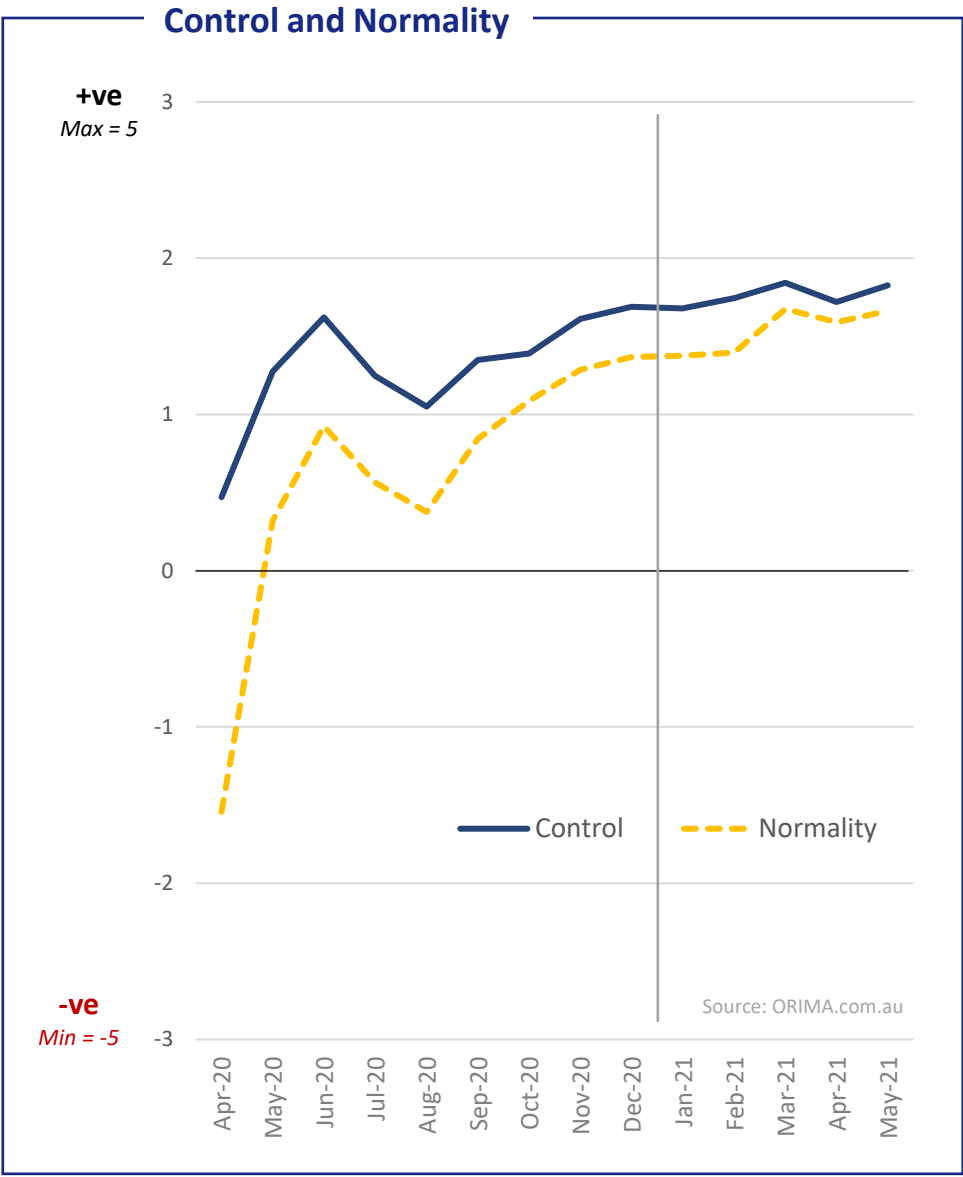
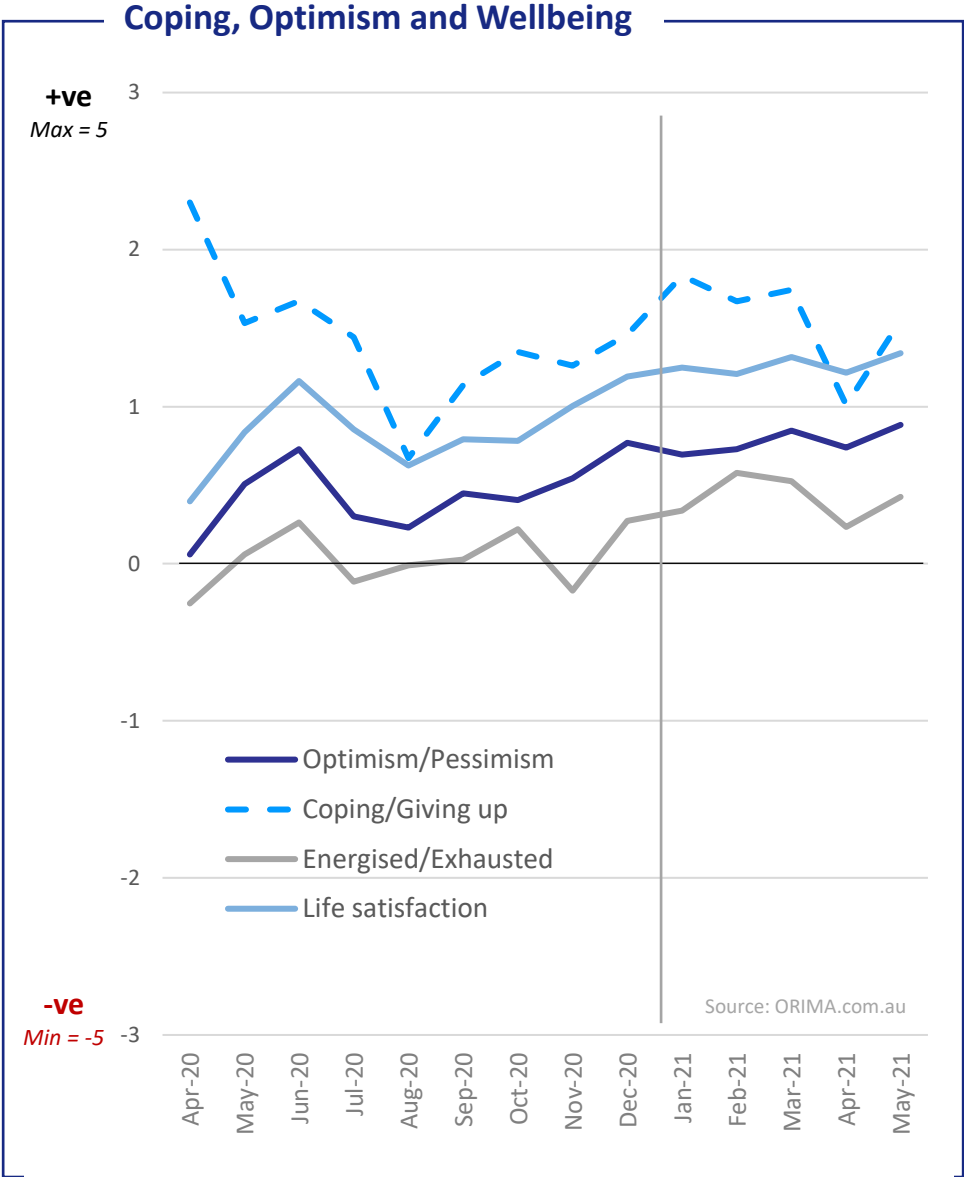
Perceived Impact of COVID

Right at the moment, what do you feel the impact of the COVID-19 situation is...



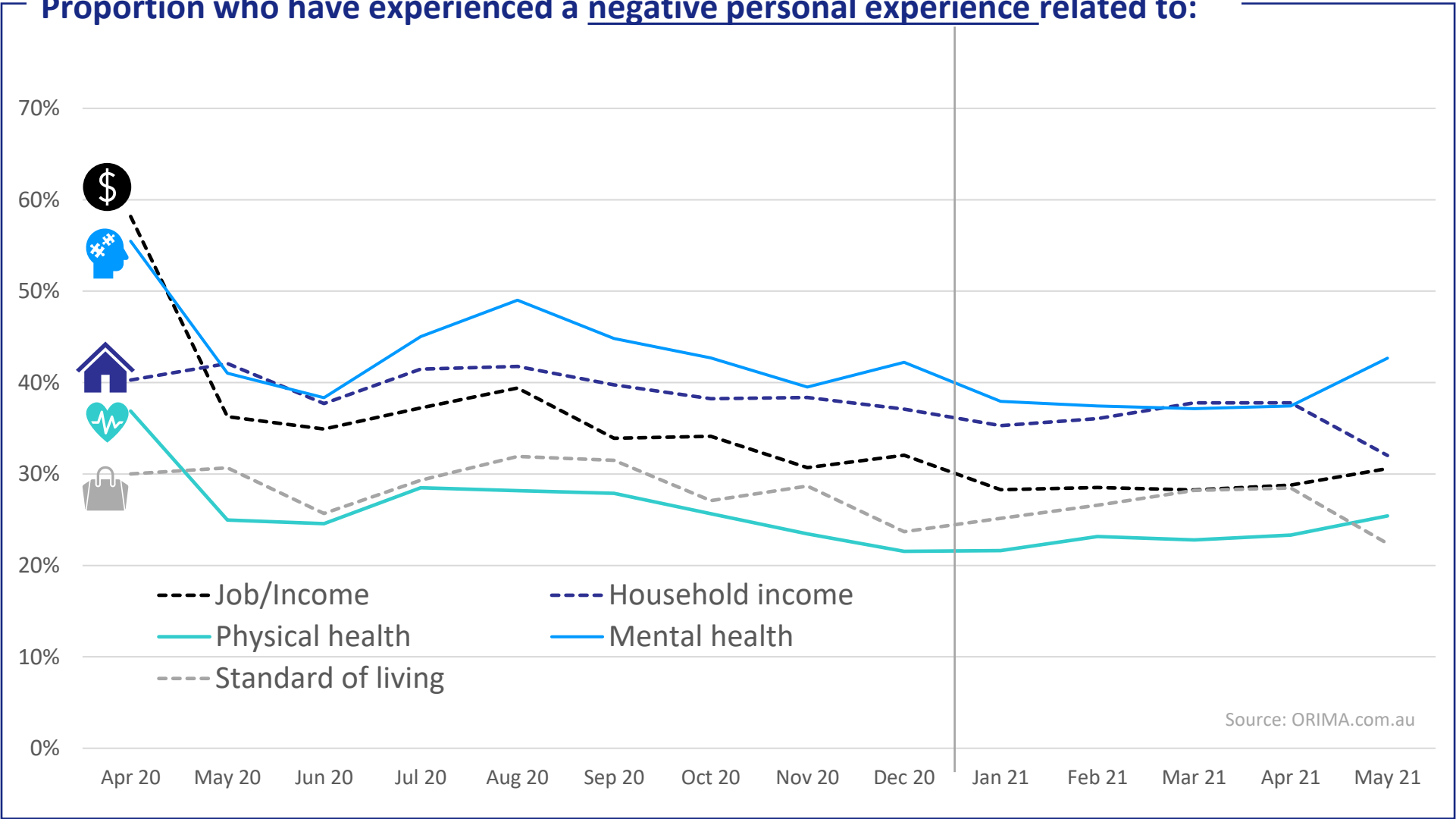
Source: ORIMA.com.au

At the national level, the recovery inches forward as responding to local COVID-19 outbreaks becomes normal



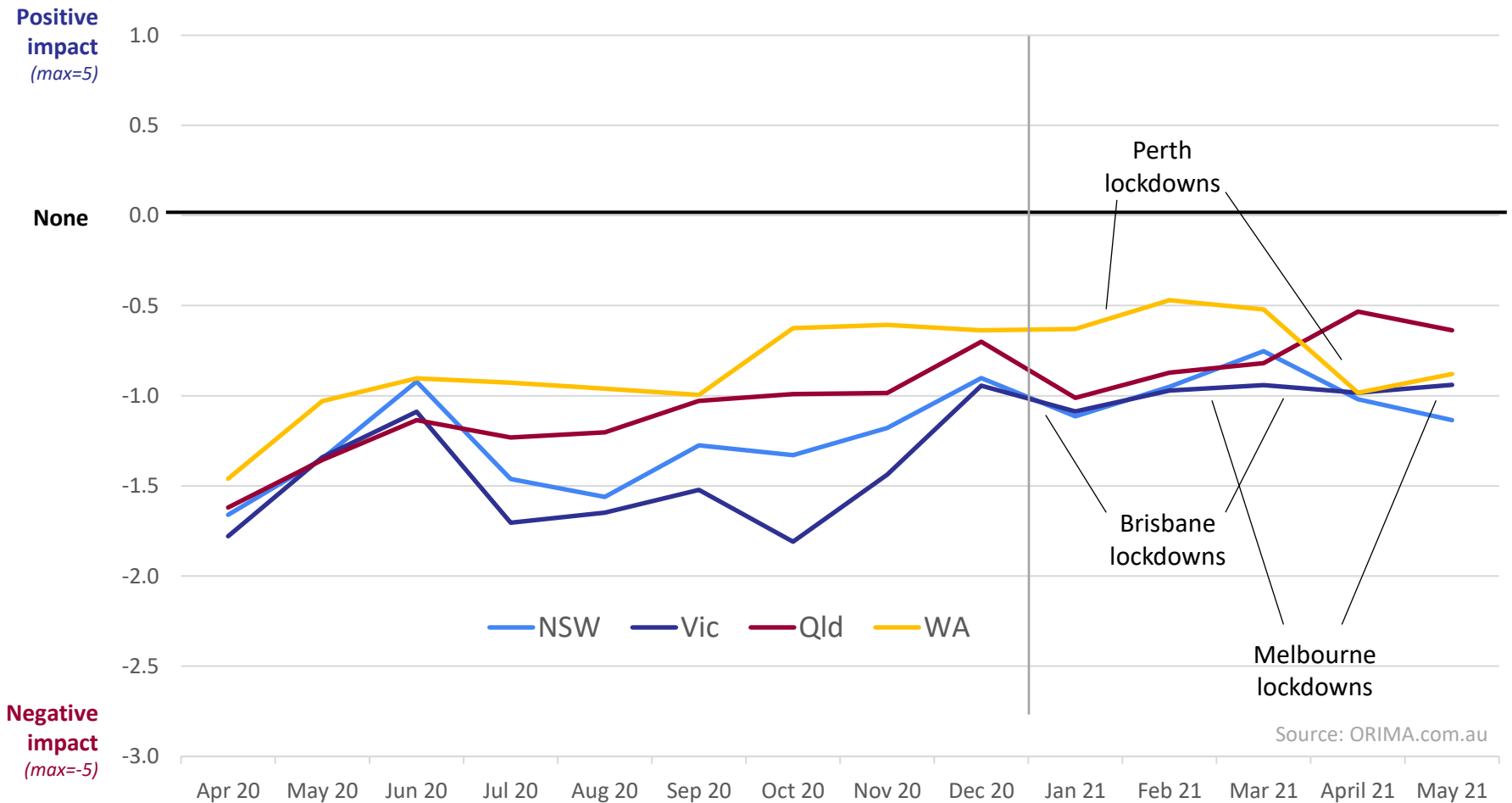
There is an uptick in people reporting negative impacts on their mental health, while things improve on the household income front, tracking in line with standard of living – a similar pattern was seen in December, and it’s too soon to tell if this is a sign of things to come, or just a bump on the uneven road to recovery.

Proportion who have experienced a negative personal experience related to:



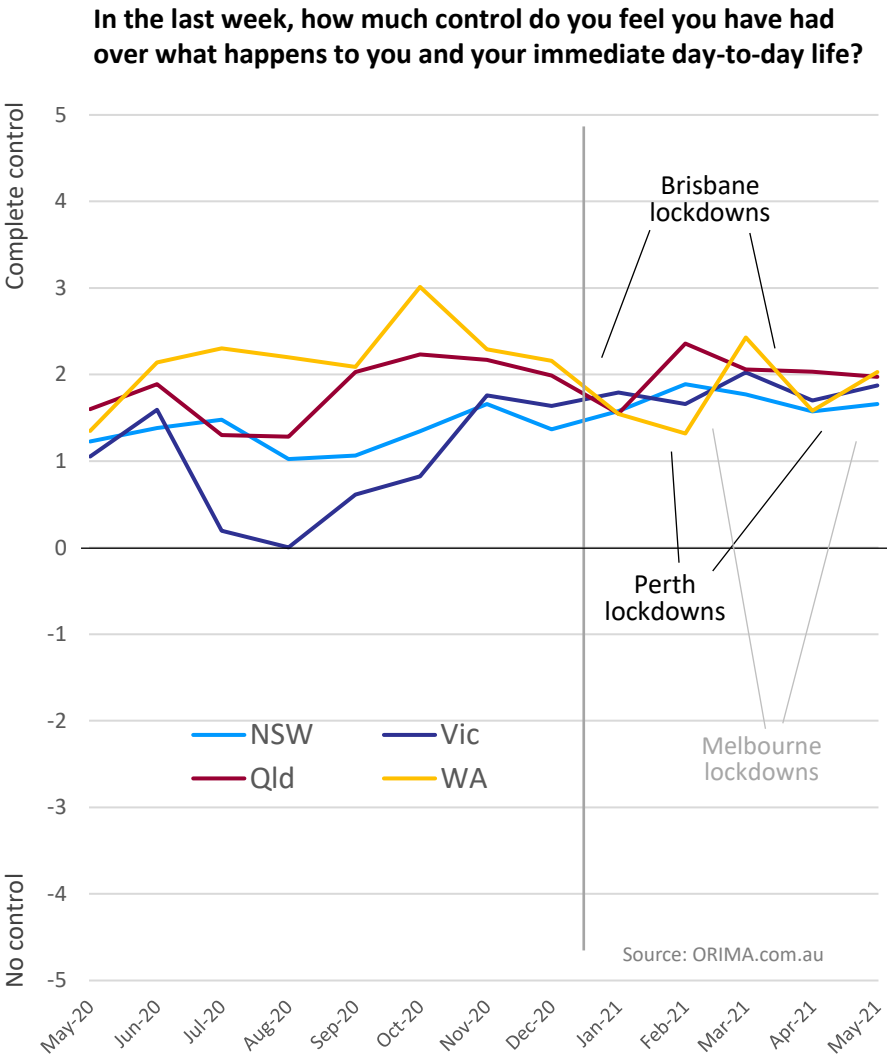
However, not everyone is coping equally well. The Western Australian bubble has finally burst, and the real threat of community transmission (and associated control measures) may be resulting in residents feeling negatively impacted. Queenslanders also appear to be impacted by the lockdowns, though the effect is less pronounced. Meanwhile, Victoria appears to have taken its third lockdown in its stride.

Current personal impact of the COVID-19 situation by State

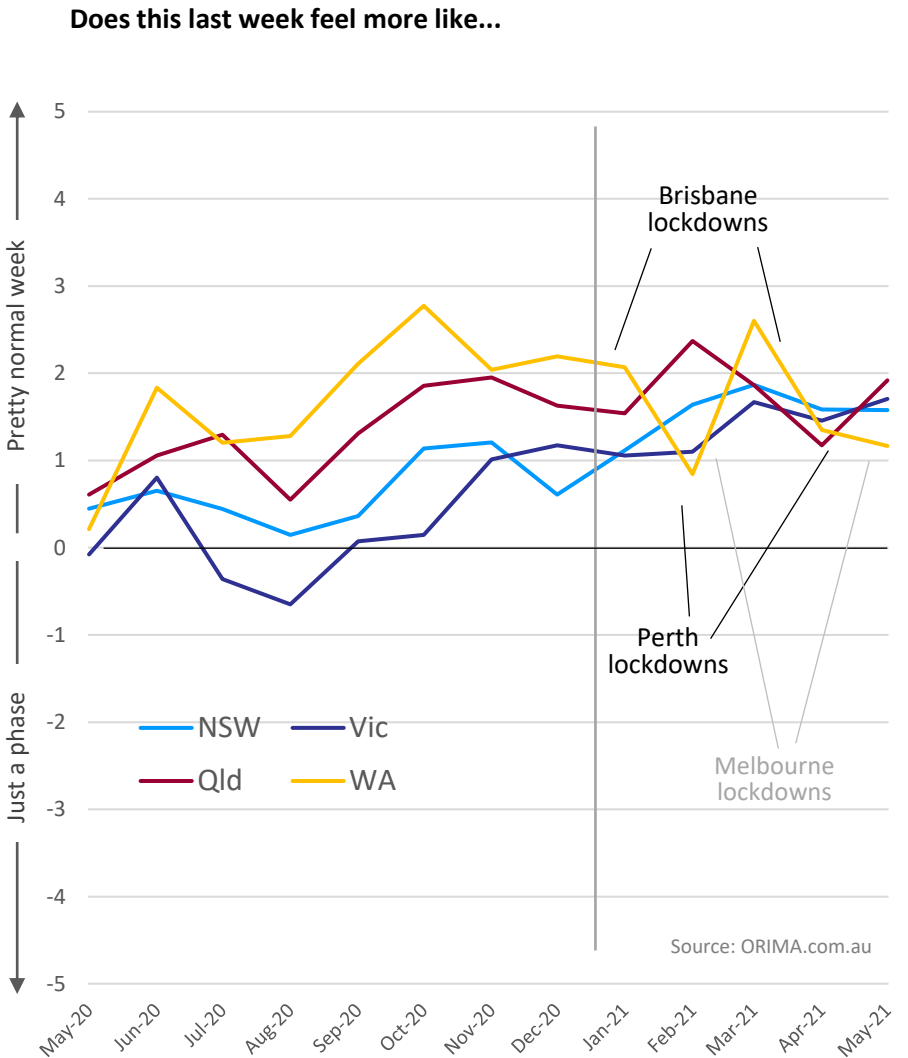


Western Australians report feeling their sense of control and normality falter, as the state responds to local outbreaks. Queenslanders also report similar ups and downs.

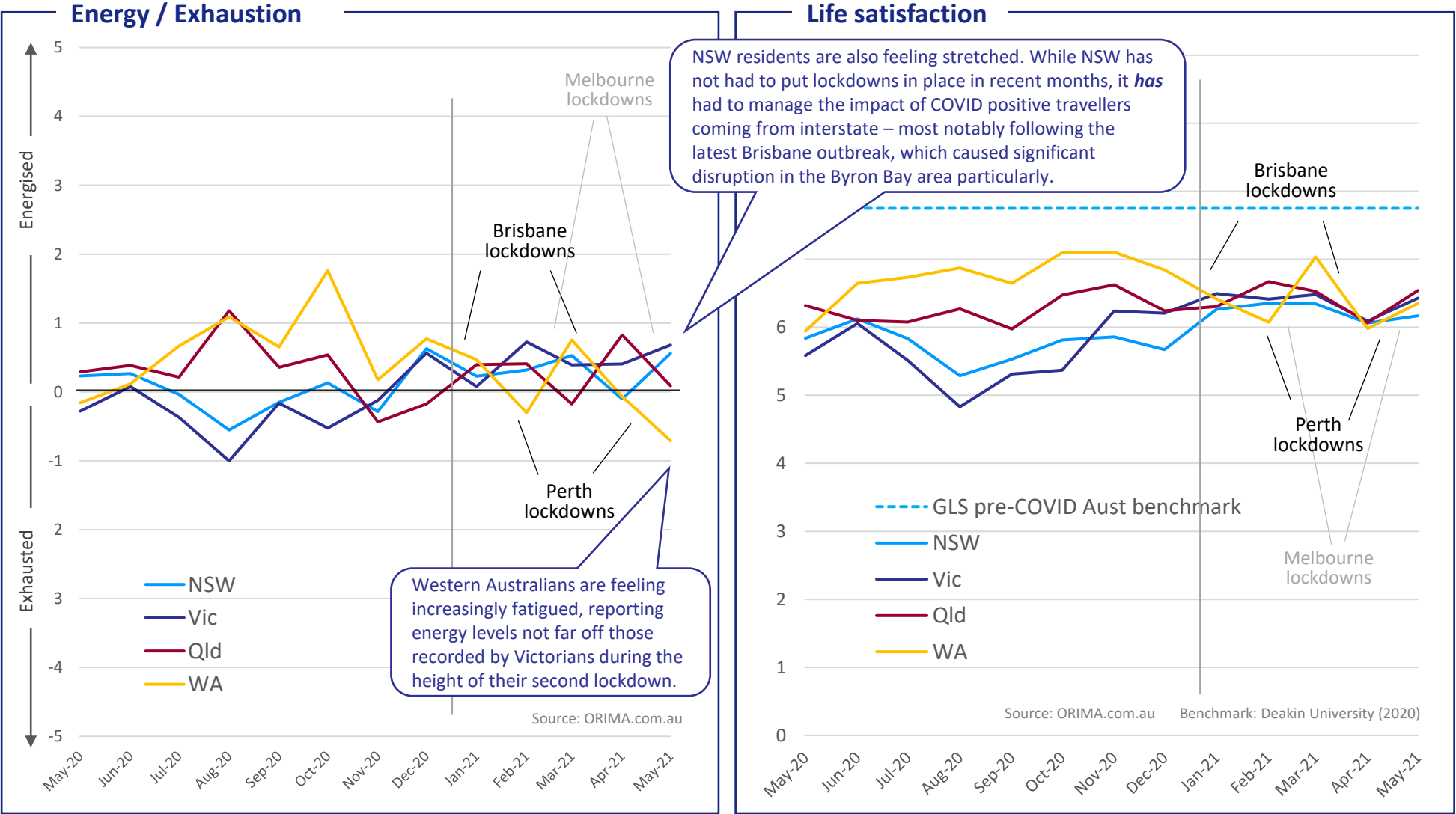
Control



Normality



... and that may be having a negative impact in other areas – WA residents report feeling drained of energy, and less satisfied with life. Further north, life satisfaction hasn’t changed much for Queenslanders over the past year – keeping COVID under control may be sapping them of the energy needed to move forward.



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Thank you

We would also like to acknowledge and thank all the research participants for their valuable contribution and input into this research.

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