

MEDIA RELEASE

9 September 2021



Majority of travellers back plan to reopen Australia

Four in five Australian travellers say border closures should not exist once the nation reaches 80% of double vaccinations according to new research commissioned by the Australian Airports Association (AAA).

The study has found 44% of respondents feel a double vaccination rate of 80% or higher would be required to bring an end to snap border closures with 35% suggesting a rate lower than this.

The survey completed by 500 Australians who have travelled in the past five years found around two thirds (64%) would support the slow opening of Australia's international border once 80% of the population had received two vaccine doses.

AAA Chief Executive James Goodwin said the research conducted last week showed the majority of travellers back the Australian Government's reopening plan.

"It is clear that as vaccination rates increase, Australians want to be able to reconnect with family, friends and get back to business, Mr Goodwin said.

"People have been frustrated by the constant lockdowns and state border closures which they've been forced to endure for more than a year-and-a-half.

"It's clear the Delta variant is here and it's here to stay. Australians need to get on with living their lives and looking at this research, the vast majority want the states and territories to open up so they can start travelling again with the confidence and certainty of a highly vaccinated community."

The AAA study found 70% of travellers were supportive of home quarantine pilot programs for fully vaccinated Australians returning from overseas.

Significantly higher proportions of travellers now say they'd travel internationally if they were not required to quarantine at both ends of the journey – 68% up from 61% when the same question was asked in April 2021. Meanwhile, backing for an international travel trial to be conducted prior to travelling themselves remains strong at 78%.

"This suggests Australians are looking forward to a less restricted but safe and steady form of international travel in the future," Mr Goodwin said.

The landscape for vaccine intentions has shifted significantly since April 2021 with the proportion who are not intending on being vaccinated in the future falling from 27% in April to 13% today, suggesting a reduction in vaccine hesitancy.

"Unsurprisingly confidence levels for Australians currently wanting to travel outside their local area has plummeted," Mr Goodwin said.

“Only 46% say they would leave the region they live in compared to 63% when asked the same question in April.

“The high proportion of Australians currently under lockdown or some form of COVID-19 restriction has driven a significant decline in willingness to and confidence in travelling domestically.

“Willingness to travel interstate has also seen a major decline, from 82% willing in April to just 59% in September.”

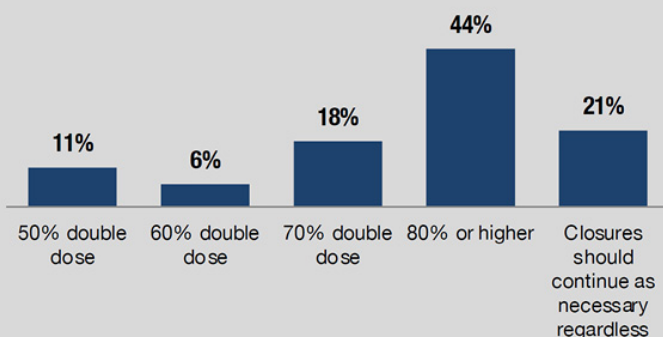
Consistent with findings in the previous two surveys, one in three travellers say their savings have deteriorated as a result of COVID-19 (34%), with almost one in four saying their savings levels have increased (22%).

Almost 80% of those whose savings have increased are planning on using these funds to go travelling when it's safe to do so.

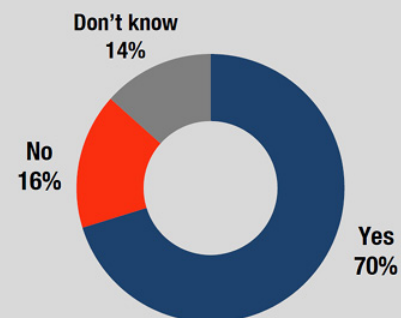
“We can see Australians are still looking forward to being able to travel in future and these results suggest travellers would back a plan for governments to support airports as the effects of the pandemic continue to place pressure on them,” Mr Goodwin said.

More than 70% of respondents say they would be concerned if their local airport was forced to close or operate at reduced hours due to financial challenges as result of the current lockdowns and border closures.

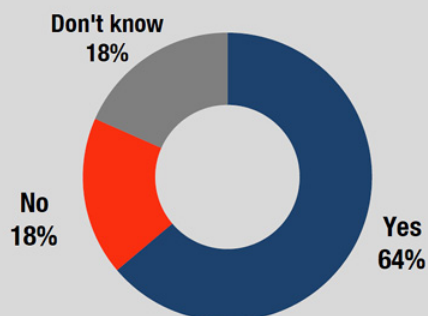
What level of Australia's population do you think needs to be vaccinated before sudden state/territory border closures should end?



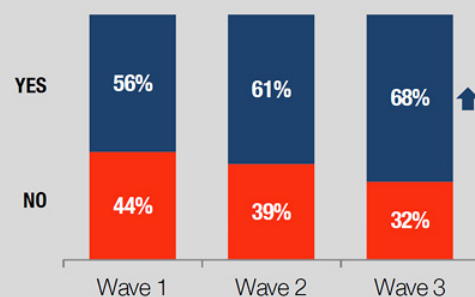
Do you support home quarantine pilot programs for vaccinated Australians arriving home from overseas?



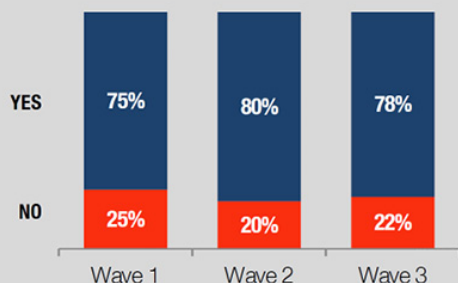
Do you agree with slowly opening Australia's international border once 80% of the eligible population has received two doses?



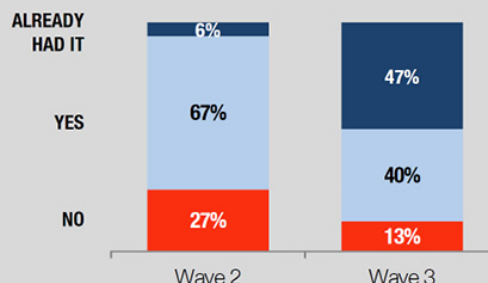
Would you travel internationally if you were not required to quarantine at both ends of the journey?



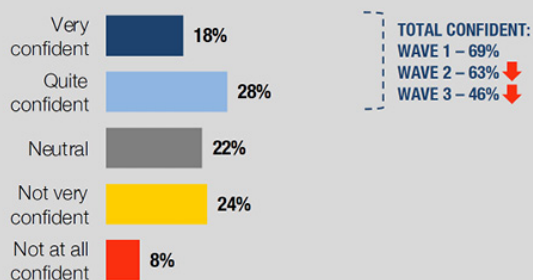
Would you like to see an international travel trial conducted before you would consider travelling abroad?



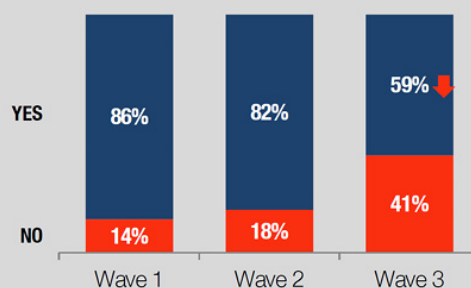
Are you intending on having the COVID-19 Vaccine when it's available for you?



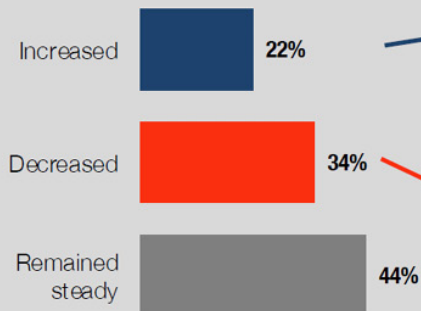
How confident are you to travel outside the place you live?



And would you be willing to travel interstate?

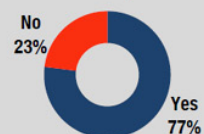


Due to COVID-19, has the level of your household savings...?



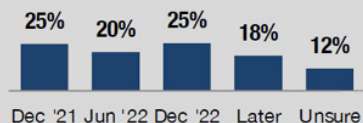
Around three in four of those whose savings have increased (77%) suggest they're planning on using these extra funds for travel. This is higher than results in both December '20 (69%) and April '21 (74%).

Are you planning on using increased savings to travel?



Among those whose savings have decreased, plans for future travel are spread between **December '21 to late next year.**

When do you think you'll next be able to travel?



Ends.

Media Contact: Hannah Maguire – 0429 920 254