

Media release

20 April 2020

Our nation dealing well with COVID-19, surveyed Australians say

On average Australians feel that Australia is dealing with COVID-19 better than the rest of the world, and most are coping with the situation.

ORIMA Research's analysis of data from new tracking surveys showed that while Australians overall feel a negative impact of COVID-19, there were also signs of resilience and a greater sense of being supported.

ORIMA Research Managing Director Szymon Duniec said early results from ORIMA's COVID-19 Recovery Tracker (CRT) indicated a sense of realism and optimism among Australians.

"We knew the community survey would show a lot of negative impacts on people right now.

"It was reassuring to see that even now we are not catastrophising the situation in Australia, and some people are even seeing some positive impacts for them and the community. It doesn't look much like what you would describe as panic."

ORIMA Research's COVID-19 Recovery Tracker collects data on the current and expected long-term impact of the pandemic, sense of control, mood and wellbeing in the Australian community.

Key results from the first CRT tracking included that Australians generally think:

- Australia is doing better than the rest of the world
- That they personally are doing better than the rest of Australia
- That things will get better in the longer term for themselves, Australia and the world

11% of the 501 people surveyed felt the impact of COVID-19 on themselves and on Australia has actually been positive, and 13% felt the long-term impact would be positive. The pattern of personal impacts showed the pandemic is touching parts of our lives differently.

"The early data shows where people's jobs, income, mental health and sense of safety have been impacted, it is almost always negatively," Mr Duniec said.

"However, more people feel a positive impact on their sense of support and ability to deal with stress or challenges than feel a negative impact."

The CRT is one of several projects ORIMA Research has implemented to help measure Australia's resilience in the face of the pandemic, and help guide response and recovery initiatives.

ORIMA Research is one of the largest providers of research to the Australian public sector, and is drawing on linked data from across many community and employee surveys to build a multi-faceted view of the impact and the expected recovery.

The CRT will continue to draw on data from questions included in community surveys for government and from a community survey open to everyone. This will be combined with data from employee and workforce surveys to generate a broad view of the country.

The open CRT survey lets people see at the end how their own feelings compare to the wider community. CRT results will be updated every 1 to 2 weeks to include the most current data.

Contact for interview or more information:

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Additional detail:

COVID-19 Recovery Tracker (CRT) results update (20 April 2020).

Key graphics included below, 4-page report attached, online version available at:

<https://research.orima.com.au/CovidRecovery/pages/View.php?source=main/Results>

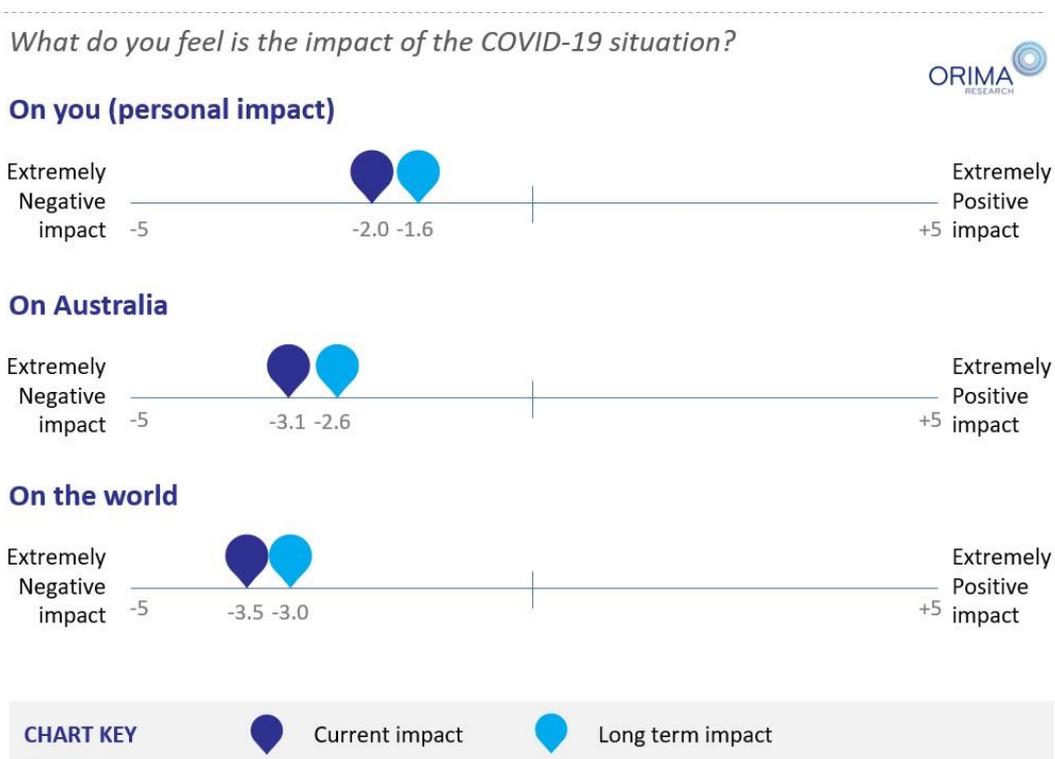
COVID-19 Recovery Tracker (CRT) open community survey

<https://research.orima.com.au/COVIDRecovery>

ORIMA Research website

www.orima.com.au

Current CRT results graphics [For publication or broadcast]



Overall community averages are from our nationally representative online surveys conducted between 1 April 2020 and 9 April 2020 (n=501).

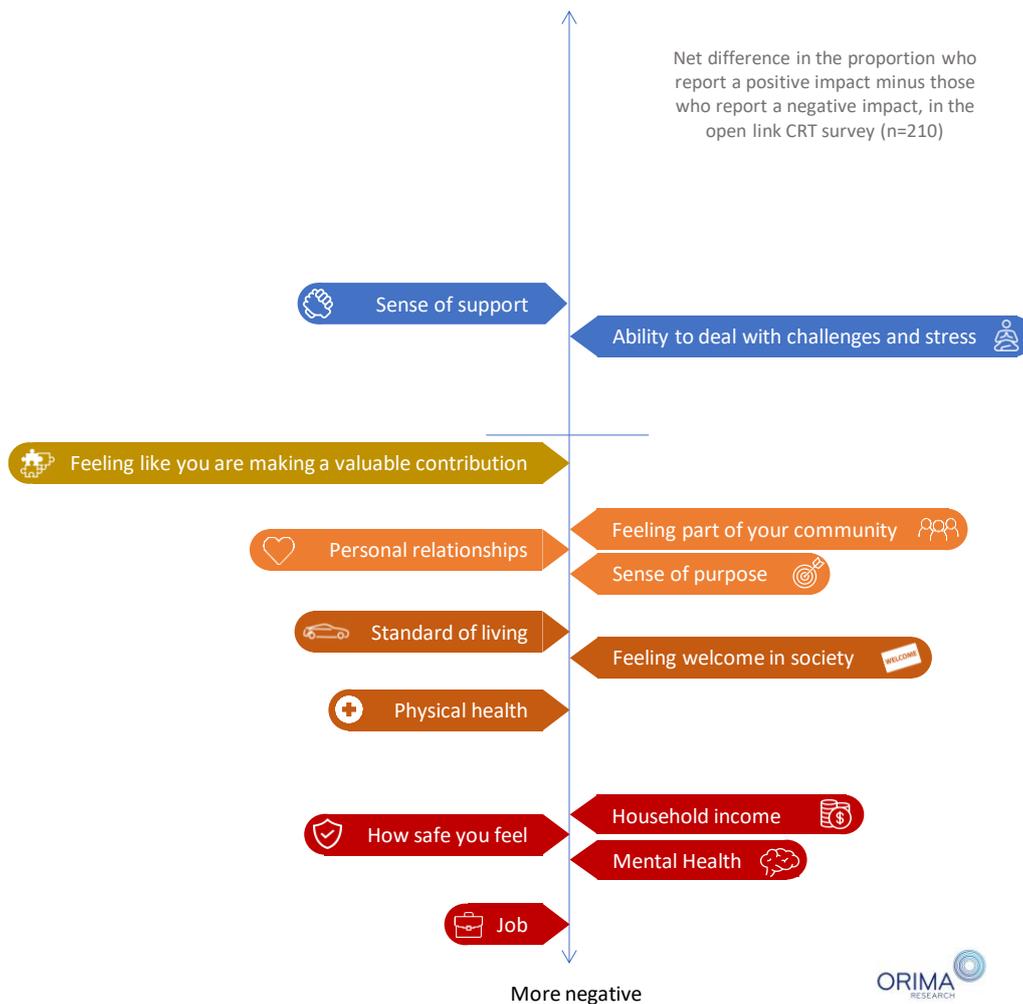
How do you feel at the moment?



Overall community averages are from our nationally representative online surveys conducted between 1 April 2020 and 9 April 2020 (n=501).

What has been the personal impact on you? More positive

Net difference in the proportion who report a positive impact minus those who report a negative impact, in the open link CRT survey (n=210)



Background on the COVID-19 Recovery Tracker (CRT)

ORIMA Research is an Australian owned market and social research company founded in Canberra more than 20 years ago. It is now one of the largest providers of research and related services to the Australian and Victorian governments, with more than 50 professional staff in four offices.

ORIMA probably conducts more surveys of client, employees and the general community for the government sector than any other organisation. Since the impact of COVID-19 began, ORIMA has been working with many agencies and organisations to adapt existing research programs to the circumstances and needs, and to develop new programs to meet new needs.

Two integrated strands of work are drawing on being involved in such a large number of surveys across different topics and audiences. The COVID-19 Recovery Tracker (CRT) is using common questions asked in many surveys to develop a picture of the impact of the pandemic on the Australian community. This will identify when the country moves into a recovery phase, and then the speed and consistency of the recovery.

For organisations ORIMA adapted existing workforce surveys to create a flexible Employee Pulse toolkit to help Senior Management teams to take stock of how well their people are coping and functioning. A specialised version for the human services sector is also being developed by the Disability Services Division.

Linked survey questions across the CRT and Employee Pulse surveys enable data from all contributing surveys to be collated into an integrated database, allowing a very broad and multi-faceted view of the impact of COVID-19. Benchmarks from the collated data are then used to assist interpreting individual survey results.