

Media release

5 May 2020

Survey results show improved community sentiment

New data from ORIMA's COVID-19 Recovery Tracker (CRT) survey confirms Australians are feeling less negatively impacted since Easter.

Before Easter the average negative personal impact was rated at 2.0 out of 5. In the week after Easter that dropped to just 1.5 out of 5.

The average national impact rating improved from 3.1 out of 5 to 2.5 in the same time. Australians continue to think that we are doing somewhat better than the rest of the world.

ORIMA Research Managing Director Szymon Duniec also noted that Australians are generally happy with the way their governments have responded to the crisis.

"Our representative surveys show less personal negative impact, and extra questions in the open community survey show high levels of positive ratings of government responses, for both state and territory governments and the federal government."

Positive ratings for government responses peaked in the week before Anzac Day, suggesting some people may be concerned about winding back restrictions.

This is reflected in the range of comments made by people doing the survey. Some said loosening restrictions was the most important thing governments could do in the next 3-6 months, but even more said the most important thing was to keep making decisions that protect the public.

"Keep listening to the experts on health advice and maintaining social distancing and other measures until the pandemic is well under control (i.e. not listening to popular calls to loosen restrictions too early)" one respondent wrote.

Other comments suggest that few people want Australia to go back to exactly how it was before the pandemic. Many want a more connected, equal and self-reliant community.

As one person said, "I'd like this sense of connection and community I'm currently experiencing to endure beyond this crisis. I hope going through this experience together will make us kinder and naturally think of the needs of our community, not make us more self-insular."

ORIMA Research is one of the largest providers of research to the Australian public sector. The CRT project draws on linked data from across many surveys to build a multi-faceted view of the impact and the expected recovery. An open community CRT survey lets anyone participate, and people can 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 (4 May 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

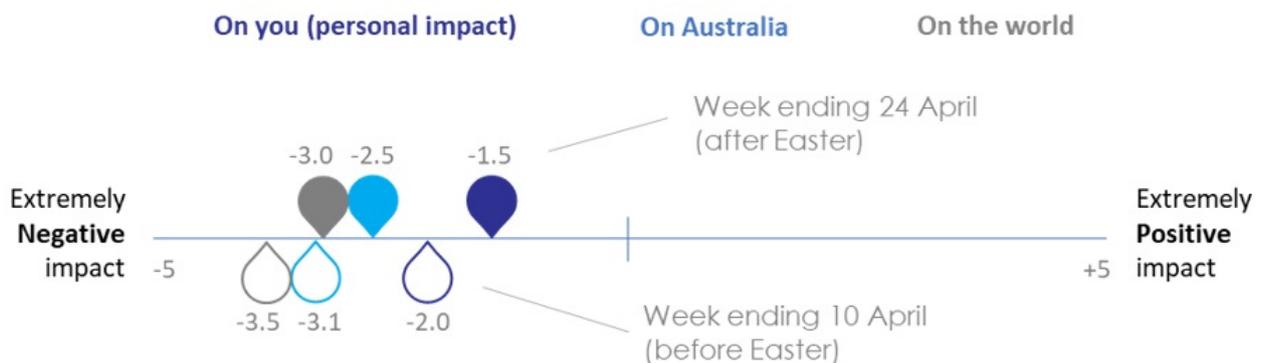
<https://research.orima.com.au/COVIDRecovery>

ORIMA Research website

www.orima.com.au

Current CRT results graphics [For publication or broadcast]

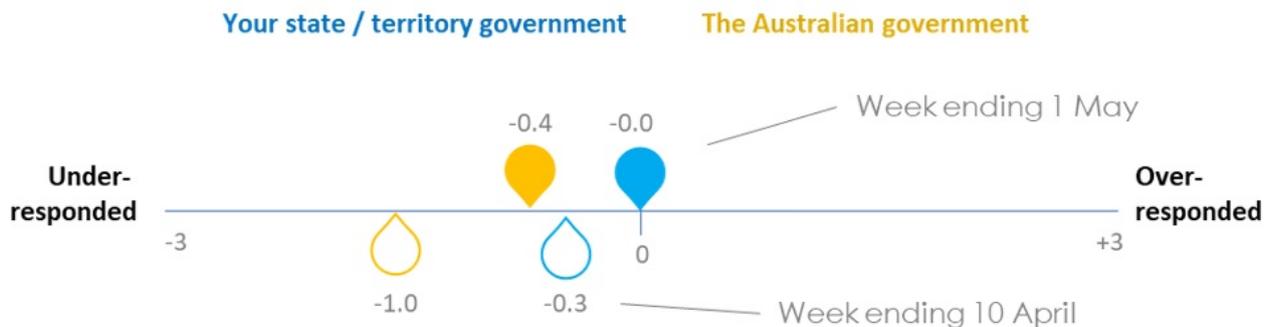
What do you feel is the current impact of the COVID-19 situation?



Data source: nationally representative surveys (n=500-501 / wave)

Source: ORIMA.com.au

Do you feel that each of the following over-responded, under-responded, or responded about right to the COVID-19 situation?

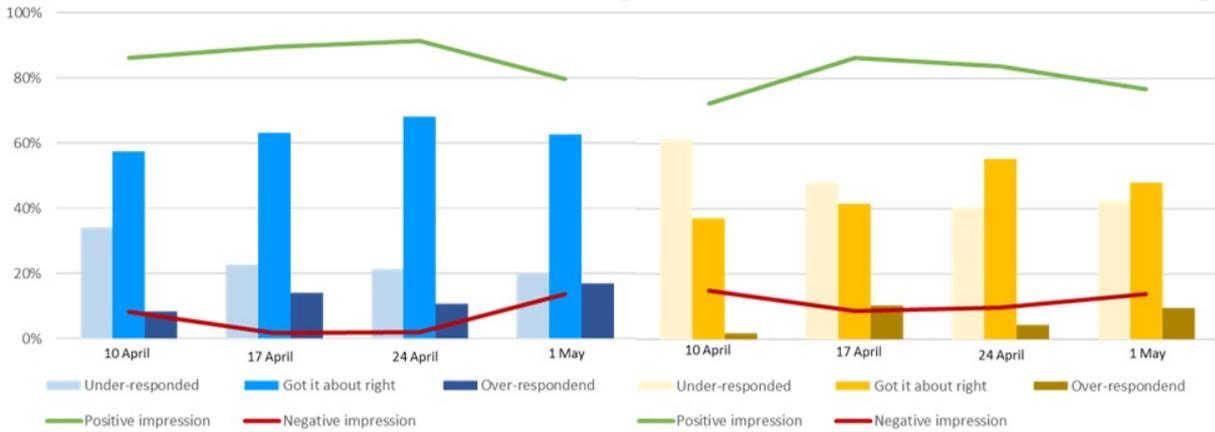


Data source: open-link community survey. Weekly samples n=94 to n=108.

Source: ORIMA.com.au

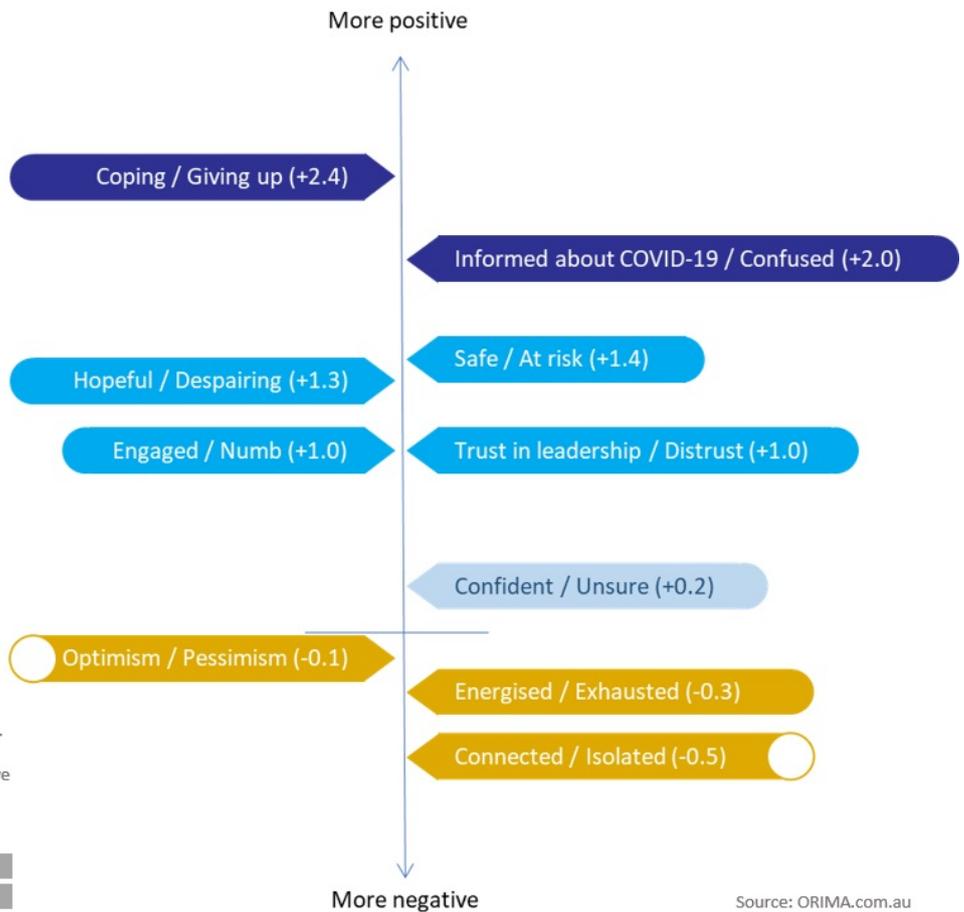
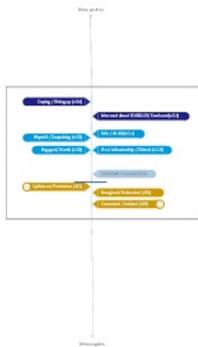
Perceptions of State / Territory Government Responses

Perceptions of Australian Government Responses



Data source: open-link community survey. Weekly samples n=58 to n=108.

Source: ORIMA.com.au



Responses given on a range from -5 to +5. Net scores shown, with positive scores indicating an average closer to the positive end of the scale.

Data source:

- Open-link community survey n=(127-158)
- Nationally representative surveys n=(500)

Source: ORIMA.com.au

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 has 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 has been developed by ORIMA's 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.