

2020

Public Opinion Poll on Health & Medical Research & Innovation

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RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

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FOREWORD

Last year we marked the centenary of the Spanish Flu pandemic. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic is front and centre in our lives. Some things about the pandemic one hundred years ago and COVID-19 are remarkably similar. Face masks and distancing have become common practice, quarantine has returned on a scale not seen for a century, and borders have been closed between nations and within.

However, many things are different due to the century of medical discovery and innovation that separates the two events. In 2020, we know the cause of the disease is a virus, and we are examining, at a cellular and molecular level, how the virus functions and how our body's immune system responds. We are using analysis of the genome of SARS-CoV-2 to track its spread back to individual clusters; a century ago we didn't know what a virus was, couldn't detect it, and certainly couldn't analyse its genome.

The capacity to share information and samples worldwide was severely limited, whereas today we can communicate with the other side of the world instantaneously. In 2020 we can model how the virus might spread and respond more appropriately to strengthen our defences and collaborate globally on the development of a vaccine. Our annual Consumer Poll, conducted in June, shows Australians believe that as a nation our response has been timely and effective, and we appreciate the way our political leadership and the leaders in our scientific community have worked together.

At this stage, at least, it looks like the current pandemic may not be as deadly as the Spanish Flu, despite the much larger world population and this largely because of medical advances in the last century. We also need to recognise that this pandemic has pushed millions of the world's most impoverished back into abject poverty, with all the implications this has for their health and wellbeing. In affluent countries like Australia, the pandemic is taking a heavy toll on people's livelihoods and mental health. These may yet be the pandemic's most lethal and lasting impact. While we are far better placed than the Spanish Flu, we still do not have a vaccine and there is much we still don't understand about how the virus interacts with the human body and our immune system.

Another major challenge for us has been the devastating bushfires that have brought the health effects of climate change into stark relief for many Australians. Our poll reveals support for giving a higher priority to research into these health effects. It also reveals the incredible generosity of Australians in support of bushfire relief; for some this has reduced their capacity to donate to health and medical research. Australians are also willing to support research in other ways; for example, through allowing researchers to have access to their de-identified health information to continue to build on the knowledge we need to live the healthiest lives possible at all stages

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has exposed serious deficiencies in how we care for older Australians in the 21st century, and the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us just how vulnerable the elderly are to illness and disease.

Against this backdrop, we are pleased to report that Australians recognise there is a greater role for research to support healthy ageing and the design and delivery of aged care services. When it comes to maintaining and improving our current health and remaining healthy as we age, Australians are looking for practical help and strategies, with a particular focus on mental health. Beyond individual decisions and behaviours, Australians support a range of initiatives in the community to promote healthy eating, more physical activity and improve mental health.

I trust you find this report informative and useful. As the national peak body, Research Australia's strategies and priorities continue to be shaped by the views and opinions of Australians, and the poll results are an important tool in our advocacy for the health and medical research and innovation sector.



Nadia Levin
Chief Executive Officer
Research Australia



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"Roy Morgan are proud to partner with Research Australia on this important research'. Each year Roy Morgan interviews 50,000 Australians in depth. We talk to them about all aspects of life and they share an incredible amount of information with us, from the (actual) state of their finances to their ambitions, fears and hopes.

We've been doing this for decades, gaining insights into the opinions, values and behaviour of more than one million Australians so far. We've seen a lot of changes over the years and we're accustomed to seeing some trends build and fade while other societal changes take root."



Michele Levine, CEO Roy Morgan Research

ROY MORGAN

AUSTRALIANS' TOP 10 PRIORITIES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

The Australian Government is responsible for funding so many of the services on which we rely. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the crucial role Government spending plays in supporting individuals, businesses and the economy. We asked people about their priorities for the Australian Government.

Respondents were shown 27 spending priorities for Australian Government action and asked to rank them from zero (not important) to 10 (extremely important).

THE TOP 10 ARE PROVIDED BELOW.

1. 87.5% Improving hospitals and the healthcare system
2. 86% Improving education standards and outcomes
3. 85.4% Improving employment opportunities
4. 84.3% Providing strong leadership
5. 83.7% Creating more skilled jobs and apprenticeships
6. 82.7% Keeping the national economy strong
7. 82.0% Improving national infrastructure, including roads, rail, ports, electricity, airports and water quality and supply
8. 82.0% Addressing domestic and family violence
9. 81.3% Increasing funding and programs for preventive health care
10. 81.1% More funding for health and medical research

Of the top 10 three are health related

- Improving hospitals and the healthcare system is No.1. and has been in every annual poll since 2003. It is no surprise that it remains the top priority in the middle of a pandemic.
- Increasing funding and programs for preventive healthcare is also in the top 10, at number 9.
- More funding for health and medical research is number 10.

Since Research Australia commenced its annual polling in 2003, more funding for health and medical research has always been in the top 10.

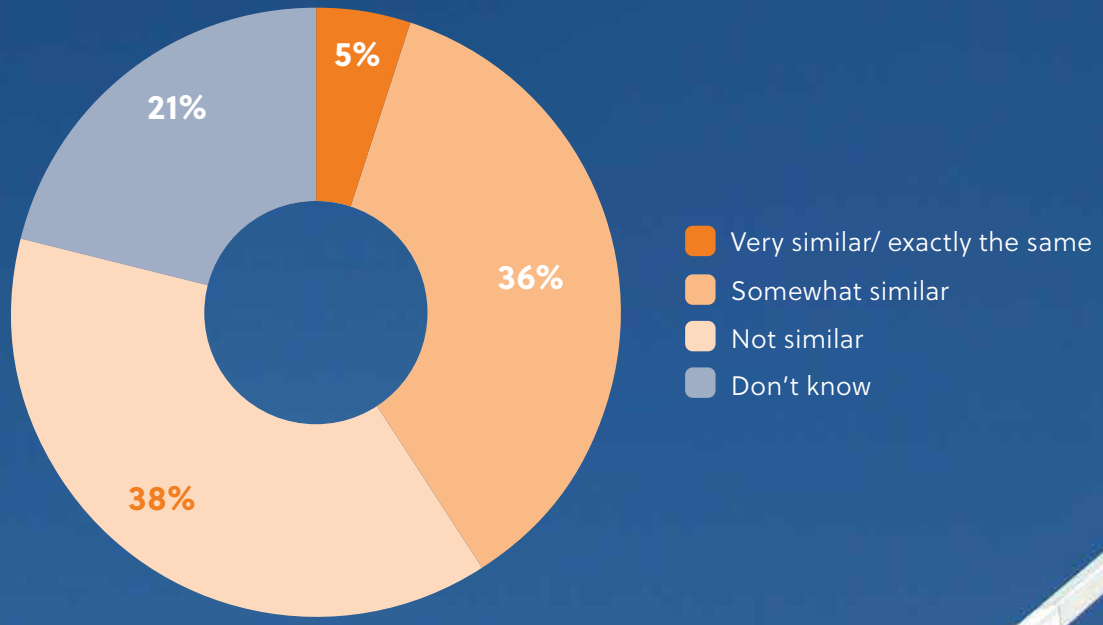
3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	9th	10th
2010 2003	2011 2009	2007 2006	2019 2018 2015 2013 2008 2005	2017 2016	2014 2012	2020

We asked how closely the Government's spending priorities were aligned to their own.

Only 5% reported their spending priorities were very similar to the Government's priorities with 36% saying they were somewhat similar. Priorities were not similar to the Government's priorities for 38% of respondents and 21% did not know.

This might seem strange when healthcare and education are big spending priorities for the Government and with the extra spending on health and employment in response to the pandemic.

Perhaps it has more to do with things that people consider low priorities but are important to the Australian Government. Lowering taxes and a budget surplus were priorities 25 and 27 respectively from a list of 27.



Note: All the survey questions and response options are provided on page 25.

AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH SYSTEM

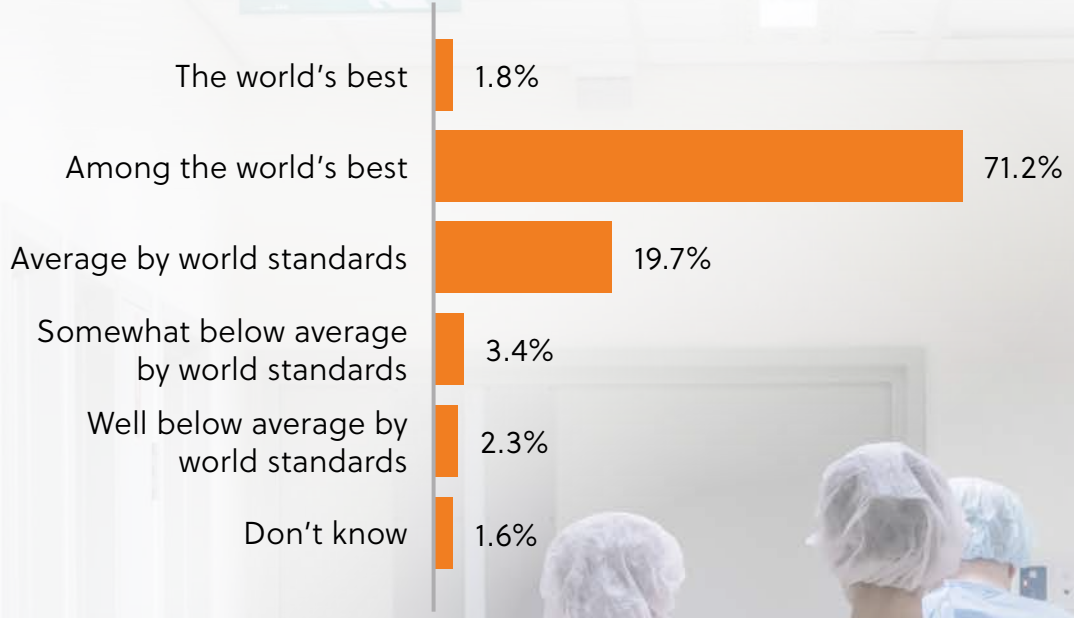
Australia's Health Minister has outlined a plan to make our health system the best in the world.[1] Research Australia believes this is a realistic goal and one worth pursuing. We were curious to know what the public think of our current health system.

While fewer than 2% rated our health system as already the world's best, the good news is that more than 7 in 10 think it is among the world's best. A further 1 in 5 believe the health system is average by world standards. Only a little more than 1 in 20 believe it is currently below average by world standards.

People aged 50 to 64 (75.8%) and Victorians (77.8%) were more likely to consider Australia's health system to be 'among the world's best.'

More women (22.1%) than men (17.1%) rate Australia's health system as average by world standards.

Australia's health system



1 Australian Government Department of Health, Australia's Long-Term National Health Plan to build the world's best health system, 2019

We also wanted to know what people thought should be done to improve our health system. This is what they told us.

Overall, the scores for these different proposals are similar – all are considered important.

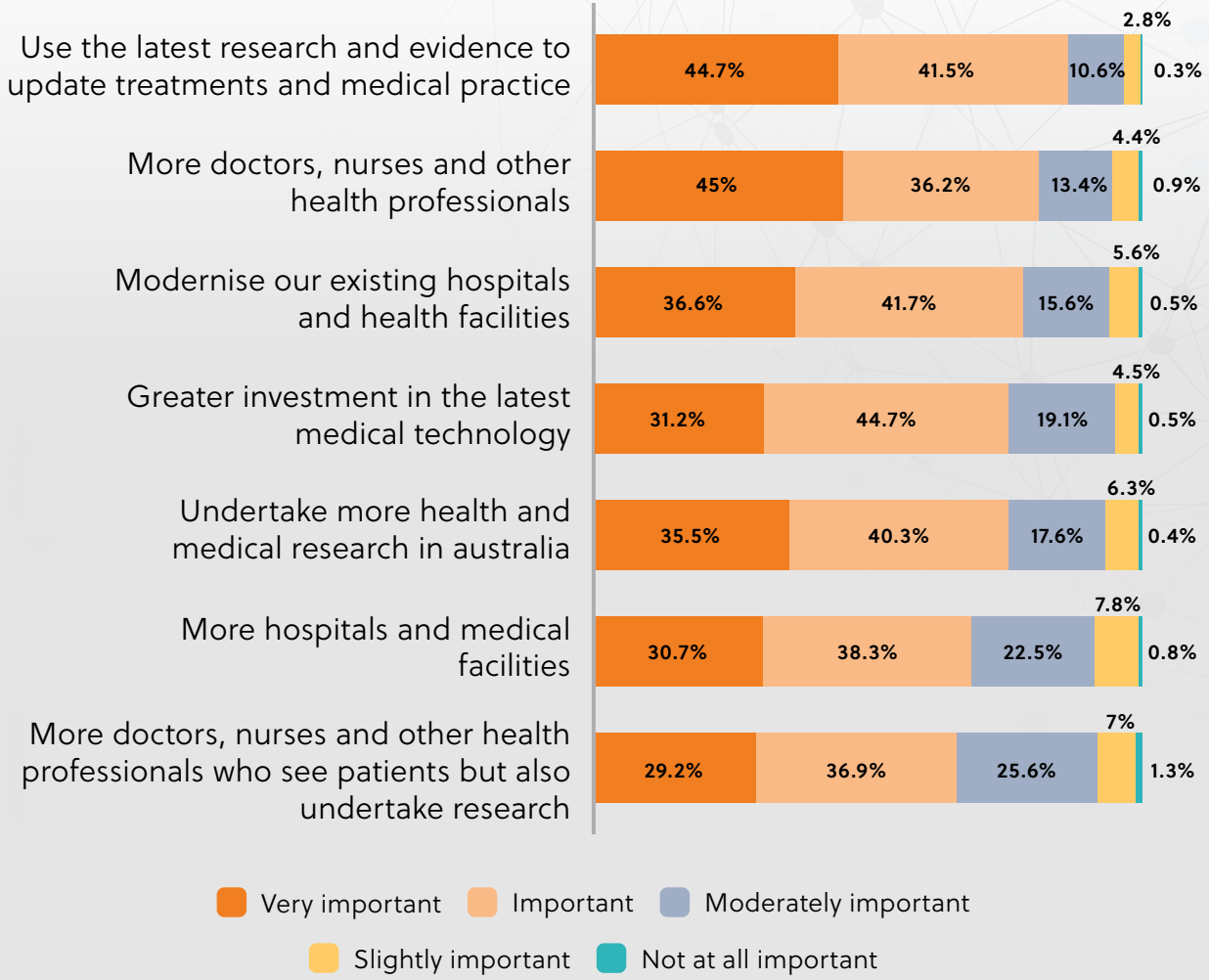
Using the latest evidence comes out on top, narrowly ahead of employing more doctors and nurses. Research Australia shares Australians' views about the importance of using the latest research. Embedding research in the health system is key to making Australia's health system better.

Modernising our hospitals is next, followed by investing in the latest medical technology. (Buying the latest technology is not the same as using the latest evidence.)

Undertaking more health and medical research in Australia is a critical way of ensuring we have research findings that meet our needs but also a key path to integrating the latest evidence into practice.

Last on the list is more 'research active' health professionals. From Research Australia's point of view (and there is evidence to support this), research active health professionals are critical to making our health system the world's best, suggesting we need to do more to explain and promote these roles to the Australian community.

What do we need to improve Australia's health system?



Note: All the survey questions and response options are provided on page 25.

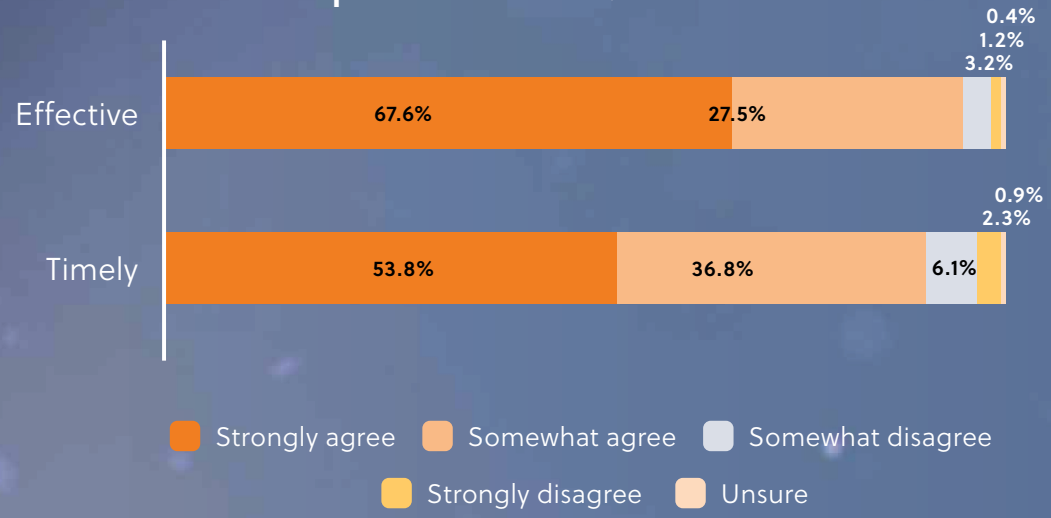
8 COVID-19 & RESEARCH

The COVID-19 pandemic has dominated the world in 2020 in a way that nothing else has for decades. Health and medical research is such a critical part of the world's response to the pandemic it was important our poll addressed it. We started asking how people rate Australia's response to the pandemic. It received a big tick of approval for being both timely and effective.

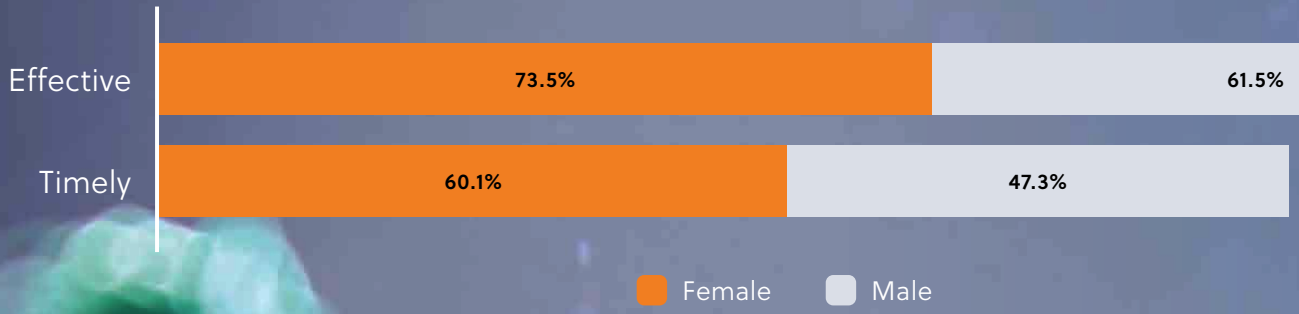
The strength of this positive response is not only a tribute to the relatively low numbers of deaths in Australia, for which Australia's governments must take significant credit, but to the way the response has been communicated and how our community has responded.

It must be noted that our poll was conducted in early June, at which time most of Australia was coming out of lockdown and the first wave looked to be under control.

Australia's overall response to COVID-19 has been....



Strongly agree Australia's response to COVID-19 has been....



Women were much more likely than men to strongly agree that Australia's response has been effective and timely.

Most of the time, health and medical research takes place in the background, however COVID-19 has changed this. Since the epidemic took off in late 2019, researchers from across Australia have been thrust into the spotlight. They have been helping explain what a virus is, the work being undertaken to detect, isolate and grow the virus; and how this helps develop tests, vaccines and treatments. More than eight in ten Australians reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has raised the profile of our health and medical researchers.

Researchers have also been helping governments, businesses and individuals plan their responses and make decisions.

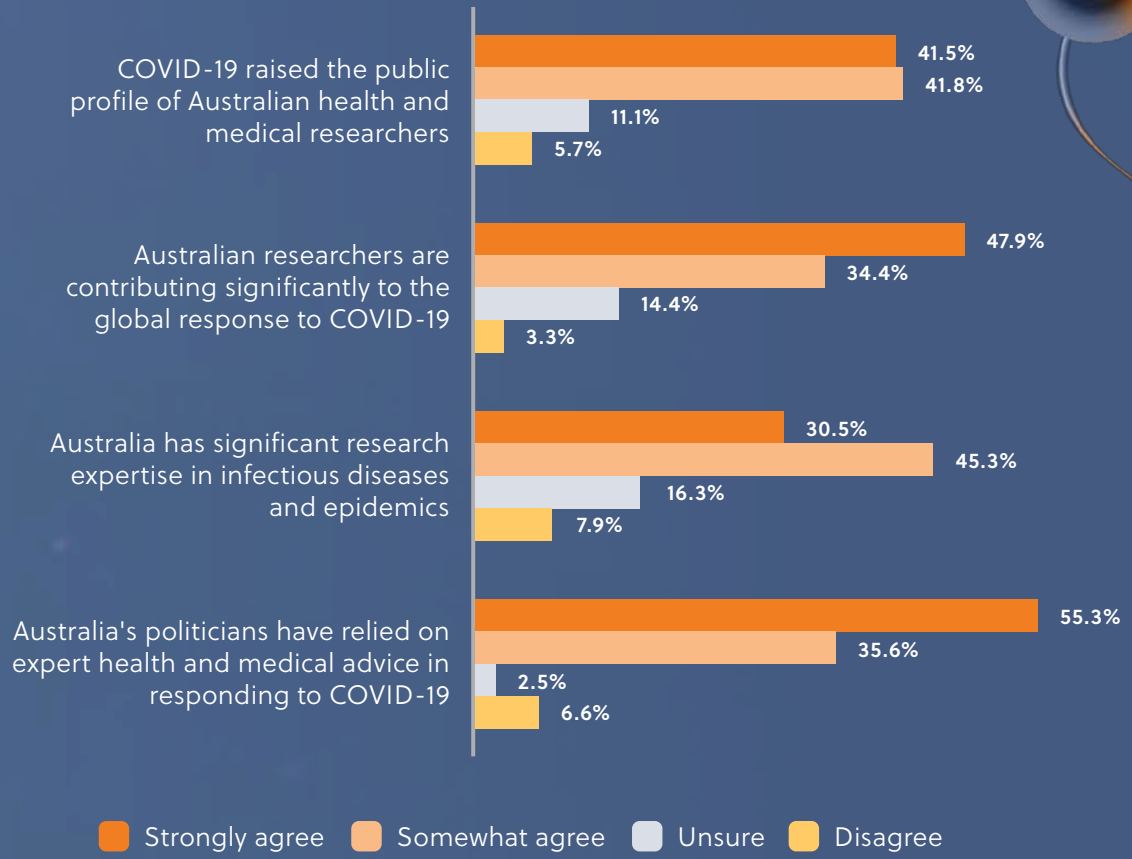
And while it is our leaders who need to make many of the big decisions, they are emphasising that they are acting on expert advice. It is clear that the Australian public has been paying attention, with over 90% agreeing that they are doing so.

Women (60.5%) were more likely than men (49.9%) to strongly agree with this proposition.

Reliance on expert advice is critical to our leaders' messaging and our confidence in them. As a community we expect a response that is evidence-based, rational and is guided by expert advice.

This expectation is based on a strong perception that our researchers have expertise in infectious diseases and pandemics, and that they are contributing to the global effort to combat COVID-19. Women are more likely than men to strongly support all the statements about COVID-19 and researchers on this page.

COVID-19 and researchers



Note: All the survey questions and response options are provided on page 25.

CLIMATE CHANGE & RESEARCH

Bushfires raged across Australia for much of the last bushfire season, starting well before summer. To a greater extent than before, public discussion linked bushfires to climate change.

The smoke that hung over our towns and cities for days also heightened concerns about the potential health effects of bushfires and other climate related events, such as the dust storms that darkened the skies across large parts of Australia. Research Australia wanted to find out about the attitude to climate change, its effect on human health and what should be done about it. The majority believe climate change is real and will affect how we live in the future.

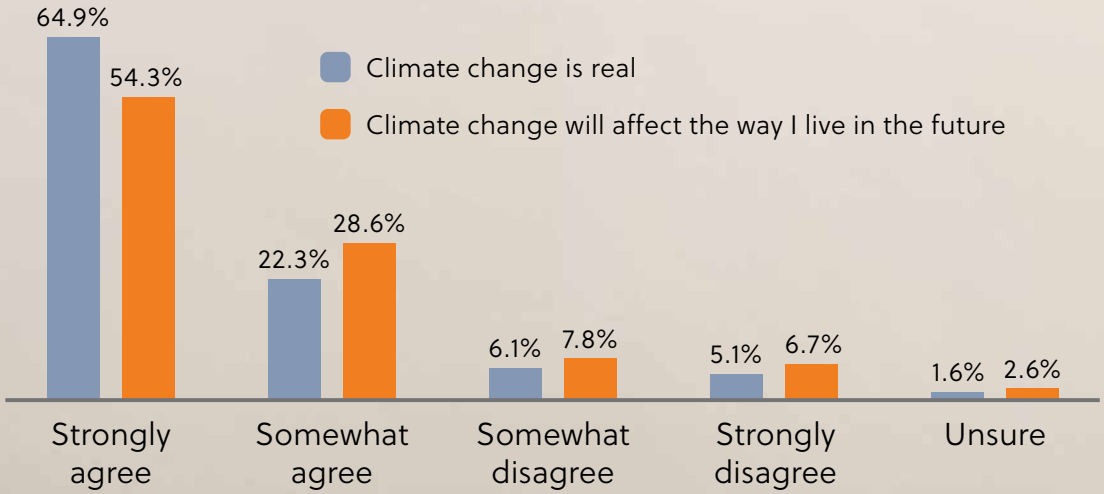
Nearly 2/3 of Australians strongly agree that climate change is real, with more than 1/5 somewhat agreeing. A little more than 1/10 disagree, and a tiny proportion (1.6%) are unsure.

More women (69.2%) strongly agree with the proposition than men (60.5%).

Support is also stronger among the younger age groups- 77.4% of 18 to 24 years olds and 72.4% of those aged 25 to 34 strongly agree; and those who live in inner metropolitan areas (72.3%).

When it comes to the impact of climate change, over half strongly agree that climate change will affect the way they live in the future, nearly 3 in 10 somewhat agree and only 2.6% are unsure.

Once again, support is stronger among the younger age groups, with 77.4% of 18 to 24 years olds and 62.6% of those aged 25 to 34 strongly agreeing.



MENTAL HEALTH MOST AT RISK WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

While the ways climate change might affect us in the future are many, including how and where we live, Research Australia is particularly interested in how Australians rate the health effects.

Smoke from bushfires and drought related dust storms have the potential to increase respiratory diseases[2]. Infectious diseases, particularly those prevalent in tropical areas like dengue fever, malaria and drug resistant TB, have the potential to infect new communities as the climate in parts of the world changes in ways that favour the spread of these diseases. Heatwave related illness is being increasingly reported as a cause of death, particularly among the elderly.[3]

We asked people to nominate which they thought would become greater health risks due to climate change.

Nearly three quarters nominated increased mental health issues associated with natural disasters like bushfires, cyclones, and floods.

The poll showed 6 in 10 nominated respiratory diseases as an increased risk, while just over half identified heatwaves as a health risk.

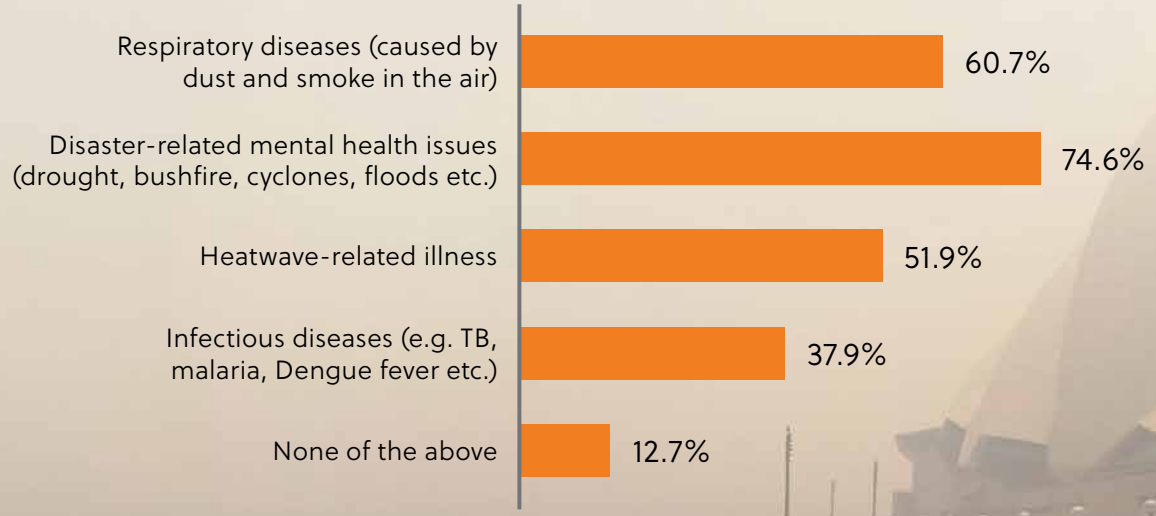
The link with infectious diseases was identified by more than a third.

Identification of all the health issues as risks was highest among 18-24 year olds.

12.7% of all respondents did not identify any of these as becoming greater health risks due to climate change, which is roughly the same as the number of people who disagreed that climate change is real (11.2%).

Men (17.4%) were more than twice as likely as women (8.2%) to nominate 'None of the above'.

Which of the following do you think will become greater health risks in the future due to climate change?



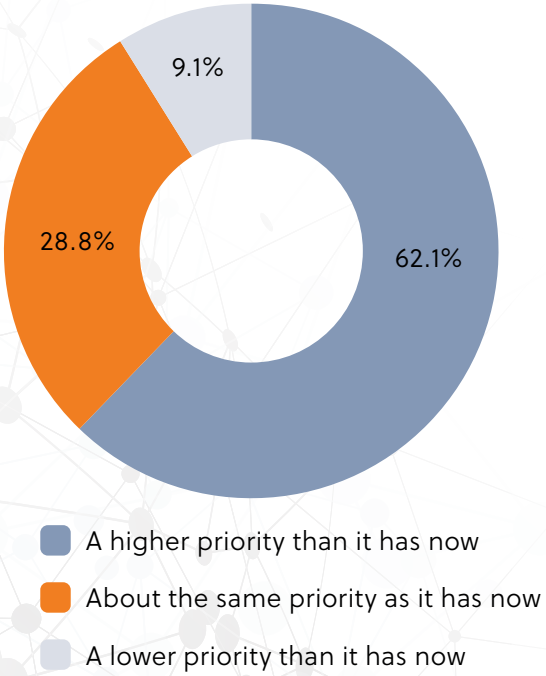
2 https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2020/01/28/air-pollution-impacts-can-be-heart-stopping-lancet-paper-finds.html
3 https://www.who.int/health-topics/heatwaves#tab=tab_1

CLIMATE CHANGE & RESEARCH cont.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESEARCH

At Research Australia, we believe research has a critical role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change, including the effects on human health. We also think it needs a higher priority than it currently has so we asked if this view was shared more broadly.

What priority should the Australian Government give to funding research in areas related to the impact of climate change on human health?

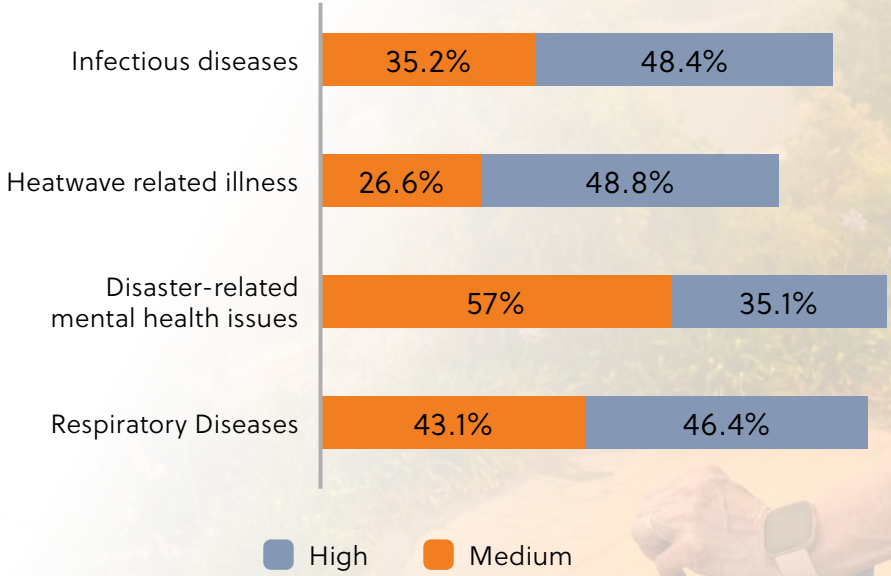


Nearly two thirds of respondents believe the Australian Government should give research into the effects of climate change on human health a higher priority. Men (12.1%) were nearly twice as likely as women (6.2%) to believe it should be given a lower priority.

Once again, mental health was most nominated as a high priority for more research, followed by respiratory diseases.

Infectious diseases and heatwave related illnesses were the third and fourth priorities respectively.

What priority do you think should be given to research in the following areas?



PATIENTS' MEDICAL RECORDS & RESEARCH

Patient records like the My Health Record are not only useful for our own health; they can provide useful information for research. For example, they help in understanding links between different medical conditions, or in assessing the effectiveness of new treatments.

We wanted to know if people supported patients' medical records being used for research purposes. We also wanted to know if privacy was a consideration, so we asked about the use of health information where the individual couldn't be identified, and also where identifying information was available to researchers but would not be published.

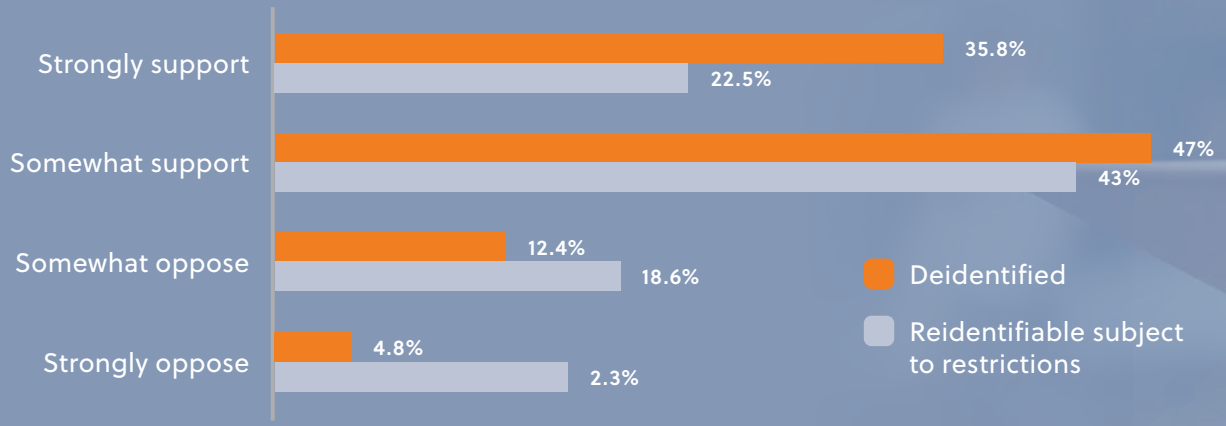
The use of deidentified medical records for research is strongly supported by more than one third (35.8%) and somewhat supported by 47%. Only 17.2% of people are opposed.

Support for the use of medical records where individuals can be identified is lower but still high. 22.5% strongly support this, and 43% somewhat support it. The total who are opposed is a little over one third (34.6%).

The strongest support for the use of medical records for research, whether deidentified or not, is among Australians aged over 65.

Research Australia has asked Australians a range of different questions over the years about their attitudes to the use of medical records for research; the majority of Australians have consistently indicated their support for doing so.

Support for use of patients' medical records for research



Note: All the survey questions and response options are provided on page 25.

PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

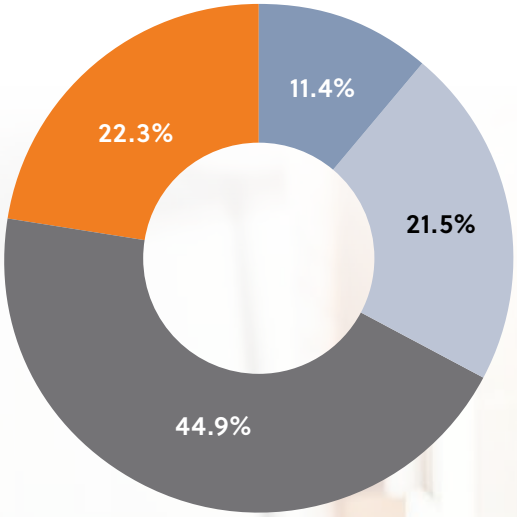
Information about our health and illnesses is important to our own wellbeing. Ensuring this information is available when we need it is the reason for the creation of the My Health Record (MHR), an electronic record developed by the Australian Government.

A MHR now exists for everyone except people who opted out. As it was created automatically, many people may have a MHR even if they have not used it. The MHR is still relatively new, having been implemented over the last couple of years; we were curious to know if people have been using it and how.

A little more than one fifth reported having used their MHR, while nearly half reported they had not accessed it.

A further 11.4% either didn't know if they had used or accessed their MHR or hadn't heard of it.

22.3% reported having opted out of the MHR, which is more than double the 9.9% reported by the Australian Digital Health Agency as having opted out.



Have you accessed and/or used your My Health Record?

- Have accessed and/or used my MHR
- Have not accessed and/or used my MHR
- I opted out
- I don't know/haven't heard of it.

TECHNOLOGY & HEALTH

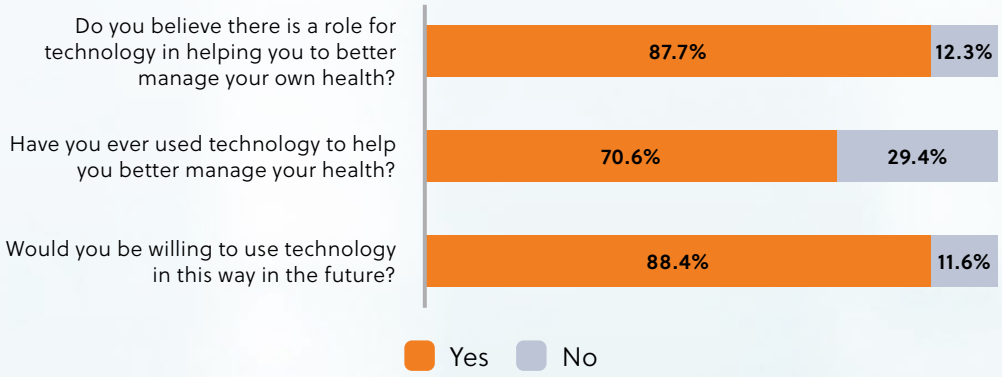
For several years now, Research Australia has included questions about technology and its relationship to our health in our annual Opinion Poll.

Technology can help people better manage their health, and is an area that attracts significant research and innovation. For example, activity trackers and smart watches encourage people to be active, apps can remind people to take their medications or help them make healthy choices when shopping, and there are devices for home use that can do things like measure heart rate or blood pressure.

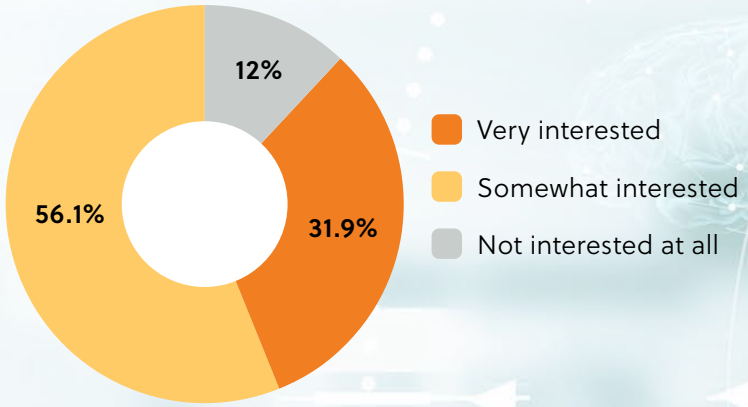
We asked Australians a series of questions about their attitude to technology and its role in managing their health; the response was overwhelmingly positive. More than 7 in 10 reported having used technology at some stage to better manage their health, with more women and people aged under fifty having done so. Nearly 9 in 10 believe there is a role for technology in helping manage their health, and a similar proportion are willing to use technology in this way in the future. This willingness was expressed relatively evenly among men and women and across age groups.

This willingness is matched by a desire to learn more about the possibilities. Nearly one third are very interested to learn more about how they can use technology to help them better manage their own health, and more than half are somewhat interested in doing so. This interest is again fairly evenly distributed across genders and age groups. These are stronger responses than when we asked about the role of apps and electronic devices to help with healthy food choices and to encourage physical activity as part of a range of different options for better physical health (see page 19).

A role for technology in managing health



Interested to learn more?



Note: All the survey questions and response options are provided on page 25.

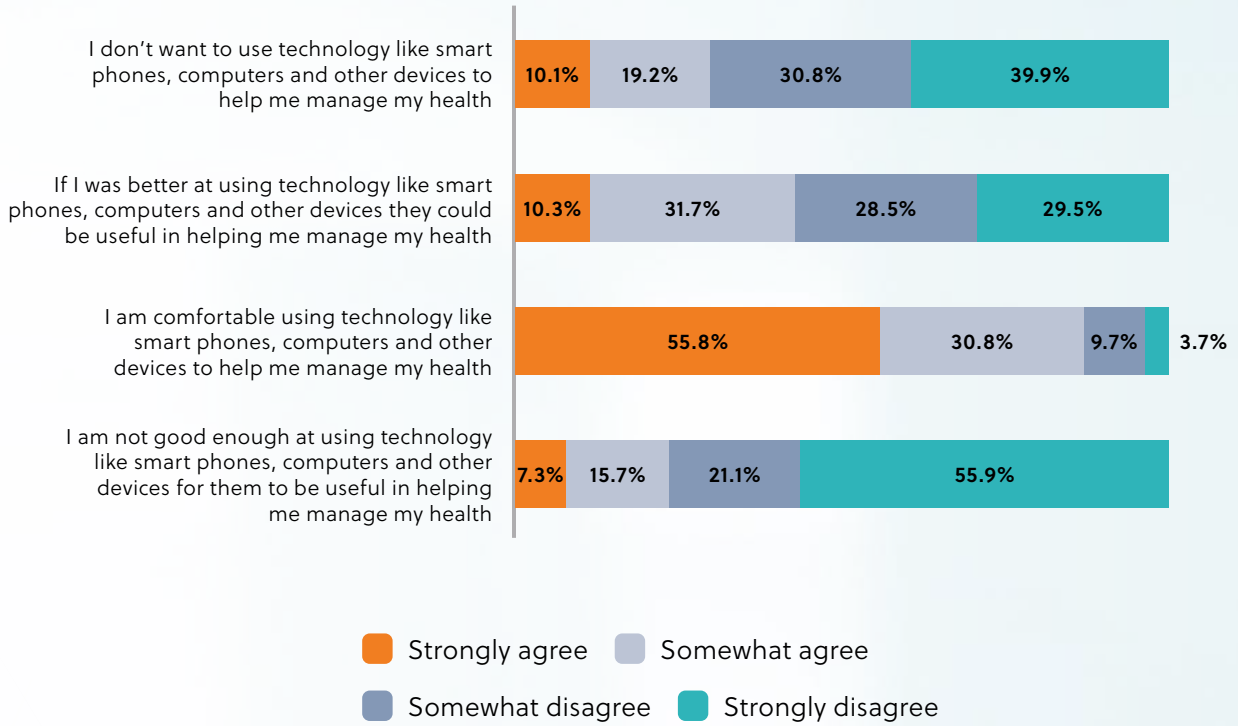
TECHNOLOGY & HEALTH cont.

We were also interested in learning what barriers there might be to using technology to manage heath, and asked a series of more specific questions about attitudes to using technology. While a large majority of people are comfortable using technology to manage their health, almost one third don't want to use technology in this way. This view was most prevalent among those aged between 50 and 64.

Only around 1 in 5 agreed that they weren't good enough at using technology to find it useful in managing their health, while around four in ten agreed that if they were better at using technology they be useful. This latter view was more prevalent among men.

Overall, the message appears to be that when it comes to using technology to manage their health, the majority are confident in their ability, have experience of doing so, and are interested in learning more. A significant minority aren't interested and/or lack the confidence and ability to do so. This group is at risk of becoming disadvantaged by a move to greater reliance on technology to deliver health benefits to individuals and the broader community, and may not benefit from developments like telehealth and digital health monitoring devices.

Using technology to manage my health

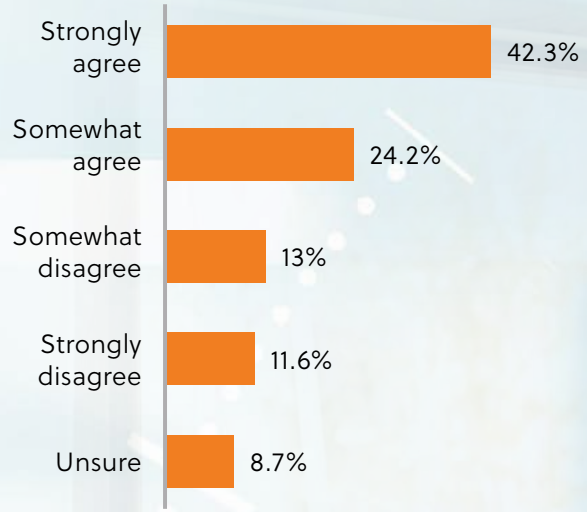


And, of course we can't talk about health apps in 2020 without mentioning the COVIDSafe App. Designed to help improve contact tracing when people have tested positive, reaction to the COVIDSafe app when it was released was mixed. Privacy concerns were raised about how the data would be collected, used and stored; there were early issues with its functionality; and there have been ongoing questions about its effectiveness.

Despite this, in responding to our around 4 in 10 strongly agreed Australians should download the app, and a further quarter somewhat agreed. A further quarter disagree, and nearly 1 in 10 are unsure. While support for downloading the COVIDSafe app is equally strong among men and women, support is strongest among older Australians. 48.7% of those aged 50-64 and 55.7% of those aged 65 and over strongly support downloading the app. Conversely, only 30% of 18-24 year olds are strongly supportive of doing so.

This opinion poll is undertaken over the internet, providing a bias towards respondents who have access to, and are familiar with, technology. Research Australia recognises that when it comes to health, the digital divide is real and is a potential source for greater health inequity in the future.

Australians should download the COVIDSAFE App



STAYING HEALTHY

We all know prevention is better than a cure, and that to a large extent our health is in our own hands. While most of us know what we need to do to live a healthy life- eat well, exercise more- acting on that information is not always easy. There is a growing body of evidence generated by researchers about what is important to good health and, crucially, about what supports us to change our behaviours and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

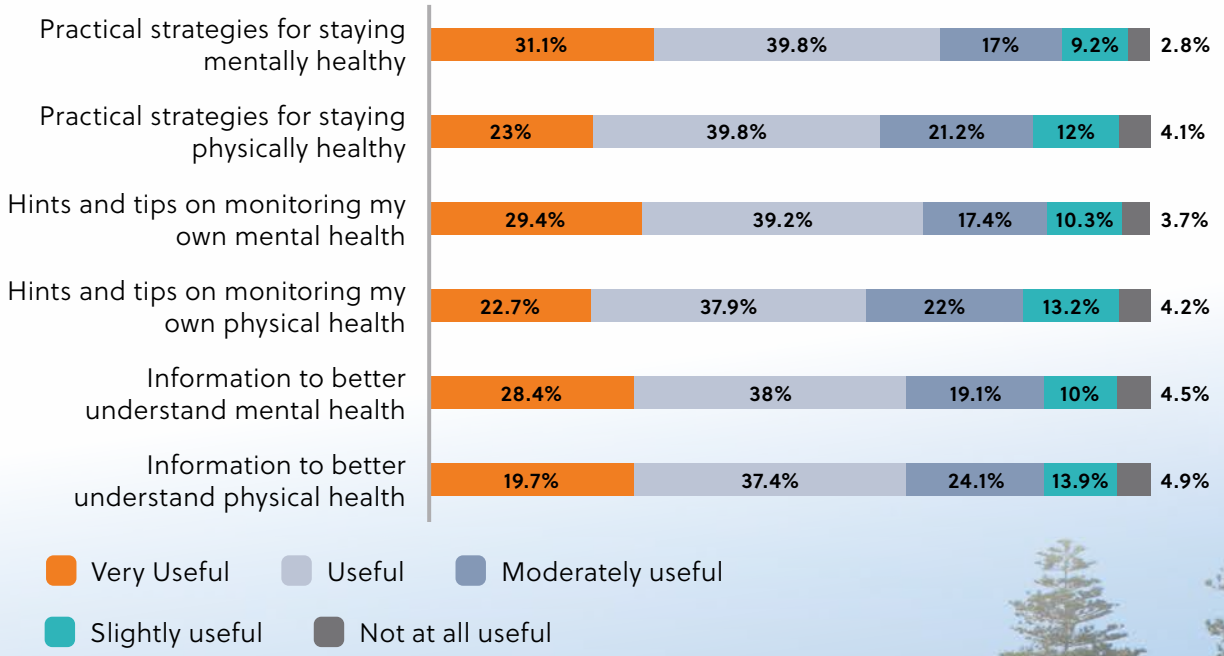
The majority of people are supportive of more information, tips and strategies to help them stay both physically and mentally healthy.

Overall, there is greatest interest in mental health.

The strongest support is for practical strategies for staying mentally and physically healthy.

These findings are consistent with last year's Opinion Poll.

Help with staying healthy





Following up on the idea that practical strategies are needed to promote good health, we sought opinions on a range of different measures that could be implemented in the community. Below are what people thought of how useful these would be. These are an important guide to areas where further research would be valued by the community.

The strongest support is for measures related to healthy eating, such as labelling and advertising of food.

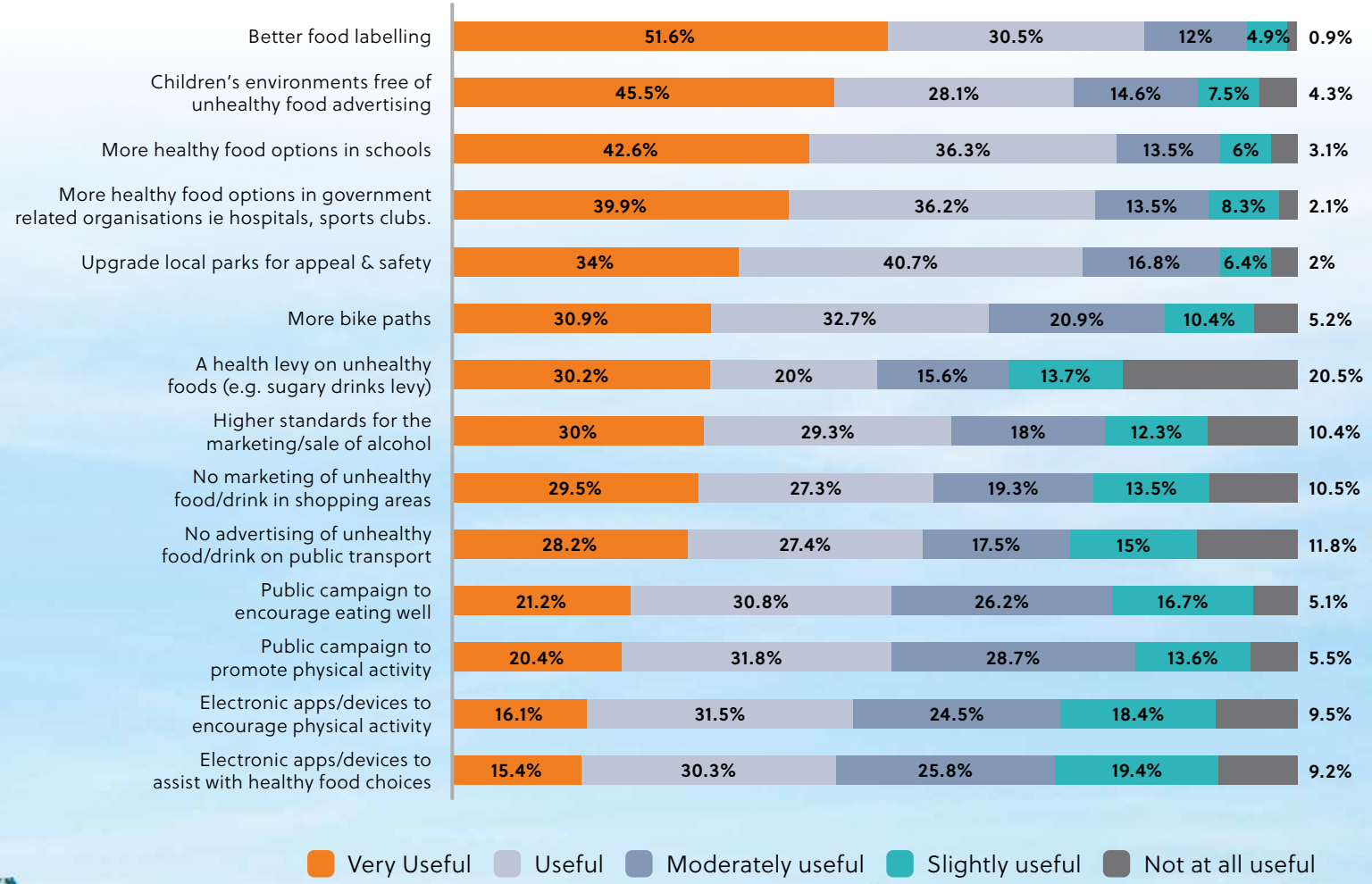
Upgrades to local parks and more bike paths are the most popular measures for increasing physical activity.

Public campaigns and electronic devices and apps are the least popular measures.

On the whole, more women than men were likely to score actions as 'very useful'.



Actions to improve Australians' physical health



Note: All the survey questions and response options are provided on page 25.

STAYING HEALTHY cont.

We asked people what they think would be most useful in helping them with their mental health.

There is strong support for all the proposals we asked people to rate.

Guidance on how to talk to someone you know when concerned about their mental health is top of the list.

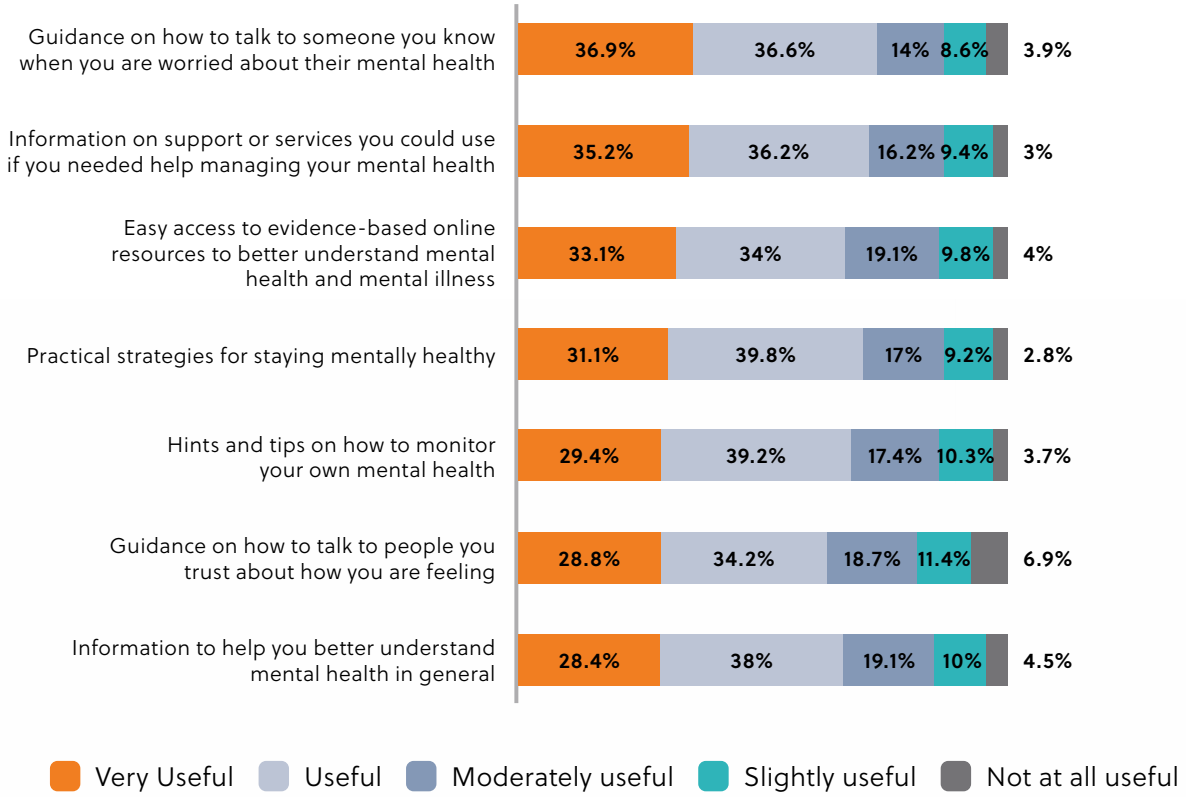
Information on where to get help and easy access to online services also rate highly.

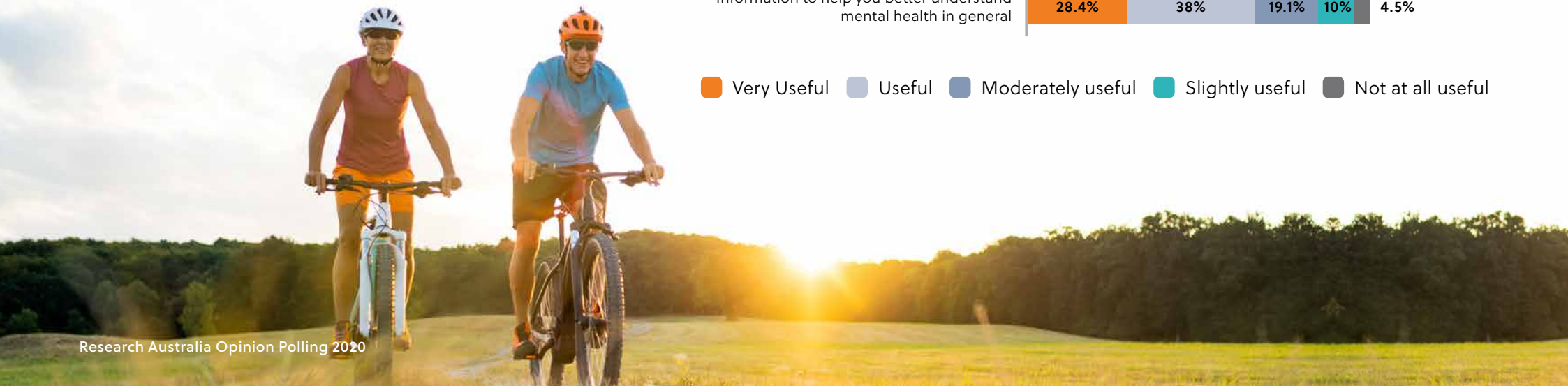
Information to help better understand mental health in general is last, but still considered useful to at least some extent by 85.5% of all respondents.

Clearly, there is a strong demand for services and information related to mental health.

One again, on the whole more women than men were likely to rate options as 'very useful'.

Supporting mental health





HEALTH & AGEING

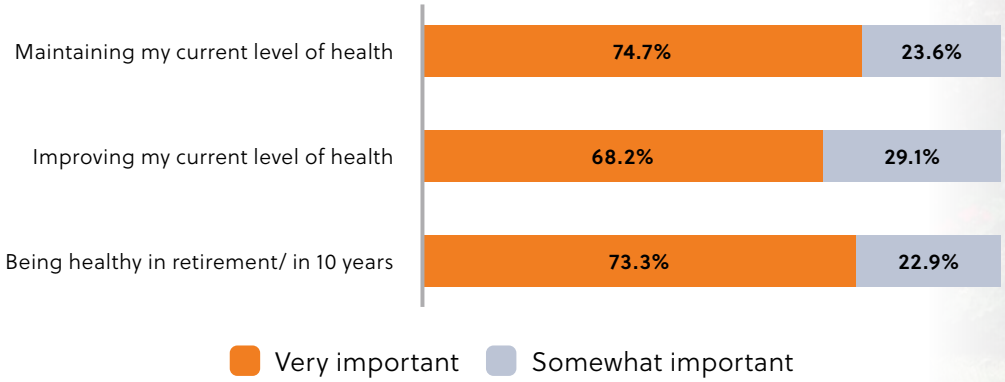
We have an ageing population and research related to older people, the ageing process and healthy ageing is an important and growing field. As in last year's poll, we included questions relating to health and ageing. How big a motivator is being healthy as we age?

Being healthy in retirement, or in 10 years' time if already retired, is as important to people as maintaining their current level of health.

Improving our current level of health is also important to almost everyone. Once again, these findings are consistent with last year's Opinion Poll.

With fewer than 4% reporting that any of these were not important at all, our health is something that we (nearly) all value. Women were more likely than men to rate each of these as very important.

Healthy Ageing





HEALTH & AGEING cont.

COVID-19 has highlighted how much more vulnerable the elderly are to illness, and the Royal Commission into Aged Care has shone a light on how and where we care for older Australians.

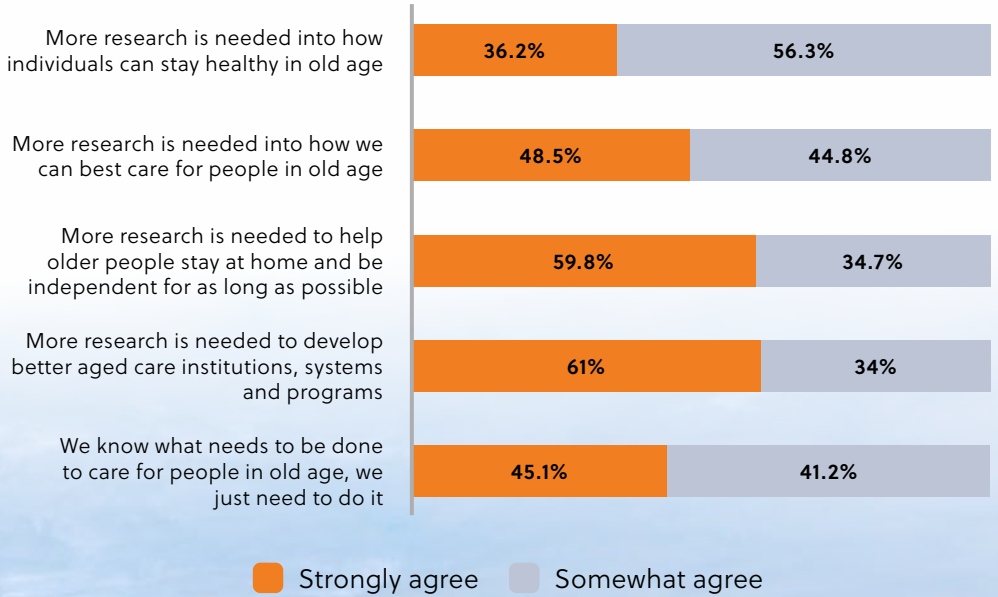
The Royal Commission has been hearing from researchers about the extent of some of the issues in the provision of aged care services, approaches taken in other countries, and new approaches and models of care that could improve aged care and support healthier ageing. We asked if the public was interested?

The answer is yes. Most people believe more research is needed in a rage of different areas related to ageing, including to develop better aged care systems and programs, and to help people stay healthy and independent for longer.

People are also of the view that 'we know what needs to be done to care for people in old age, we just need to do it.' Clearly, we need to better at doing what we know works, as well as developing new and better ways to support and care for older Australians.

Once again, more women than men strongly agreed with these statements, giving research in these areas a higher priority. Australians aged over 50 were also more likely to identify each of these a higher priority.

Priorities for research into ageing





PHILANTHROPIC GIVING

Donations are an important source of funding for health and medical research. Just as in many other areas, 2020 has been an extraordinary year when it comes to giving.

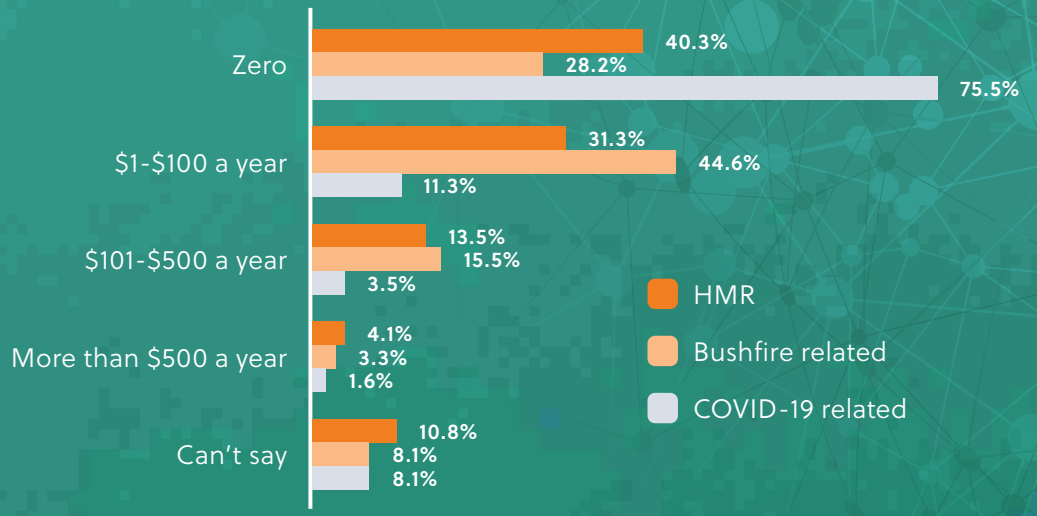
Australians responded with enormous generosity to bushfire related causes over the summer. While there aren't any official total figures we know that hundreds of millions were given along with goods and volunteer support.

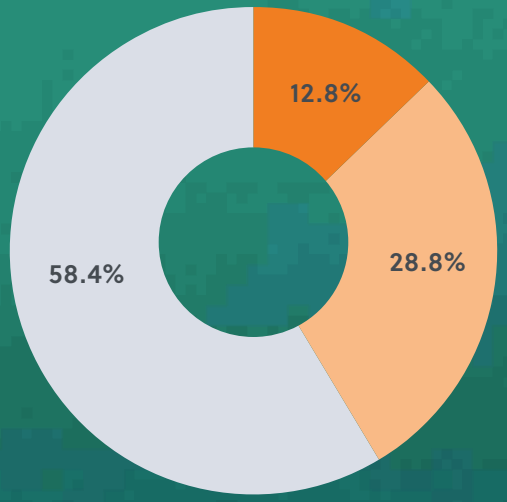
Then came COVID-19 with widespread job losses and a stock market crash, reducing the capacity of many to give just when the need to support our fellow Australians increased. To top it all off, lockdowns and social distancing led to the cancellation of many of the fundraising activities that health and medical research charities rely on to raise funds. In this extraordinary year, we wanted to get a sense of how many people were donating to which causes.

More people donated to bushfire related causes than to health and medical research or to COVID-19 related causes. In fact, more than two thirds reported having made a donation to support those affected by the bushfires. The biggest category of donations was amounts up to $100.

We also asked people who donated to bushfire or COVID-19 related causes if this reduced the amount they donated to health and medical research. For most the answer was no, but it did have an effect for some.

Donations in the last 12 months





Donations to health and medical research reduced by donations to bushfires and COVID-19 related causes

- Yes
- I don't donate to health and medical research
- No still donated about the same amount to health and medical research

Note: All the survey questions and response options are provided on page 25.

PHILANTHROPIC GIVING cont.

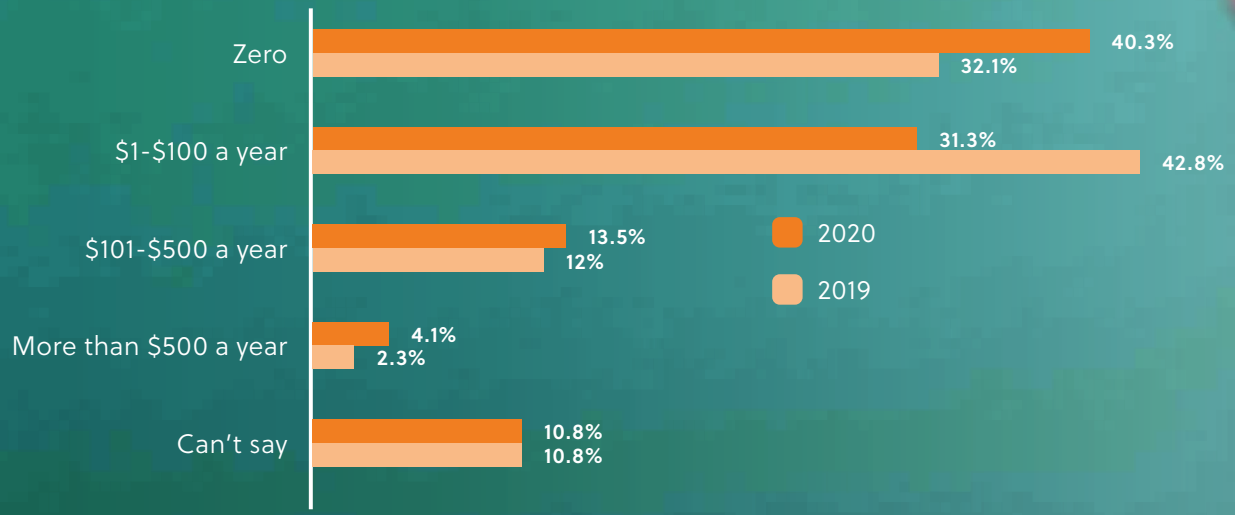
This effect on donations to health and medical research is evident when we compare the results of this year's opinion poll with last year.

59.7% of people reported donating to health and medical in the last 12 months, compared to 67.9% when we asked this question last year.

The good news is that compared to 2019, fewer people donated between $1 and $100, and relatively more donated in the higher categories with the biggest increase in donations of more than $500.



About how much money did you donate in total to health and medical research in the last 12 months?



OPINION POLL QUESTIONS

Page 4

Question: Firstly, please think about what priorities you think the Federal Government should be focusing on over the next 2–3 years. As you read through the following list of issues, please rate how important you personally think each issue is, as a priority for the Federal Government to be focusing on over the next 2–3 years.

Please use a 0 to 10 scale, where a 0 means that it is not important up to a 10 that means it is extremely important or a critical priority for the Federal Government to be focusing on over the next 2–3 years.

Page 5

Question: Do you think your top 10 priorities for Federal Government spending are the Government's top 10 priorities?

- They are very similar/exactly the same as mine.
- They are somewhat similar to mine.
- They are not similar to mine.
- Don't know.

Page 6

Question: How would you rate Australia's health system?

- The world's best
- Among the world's best
- Average by world standards
- Somewhat below average by world standards
- Well below average by world standards
- Don't know

Page 7

Question: What do we need to improve Australia's health system?

1. More doctors, nurses and other health professionals
2. More doctors, nurses and other health professionals who see patients but also undertake research
3. More hospitals and medical facilities
4. Modernise our existing hospitals and health facilities
5. Greater investment in the latest medical technology
6. Use the latest research and evidence to update treatments and medical practice
7. Undertake more health and medical research in Australia

Scale: Very important; Important, Moderately important, Slightly important; Not at all important

Page 8

Question: The coronavirus COVID-19 has spread rapidly around the world since it was first detected in late 2019. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about COVID-19?

- Australia's overall response to COVID-19 has been timely.
- Australia's overall response to COVID-19 has been effective.

Scale: Strongly agree; Somewhat agree; Somewhat disagree; Strongly disagree; Unsure

Page 9

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about COVID-19?

- Australia's overall response to COVID-19 has been timely.
- Australia's overall response to COVID-19 has been effective.
- Australia's politicians have relied on expert health and medical advice in deciding how to respond to COVID-19
- Australian researchers are contributing significantly to the global response to COVID-19
- Australia has significant research expertise in dealing with infectious diseases and epidemics in general
- COVID-19 has raised the public profile of Australian health and medical researchers

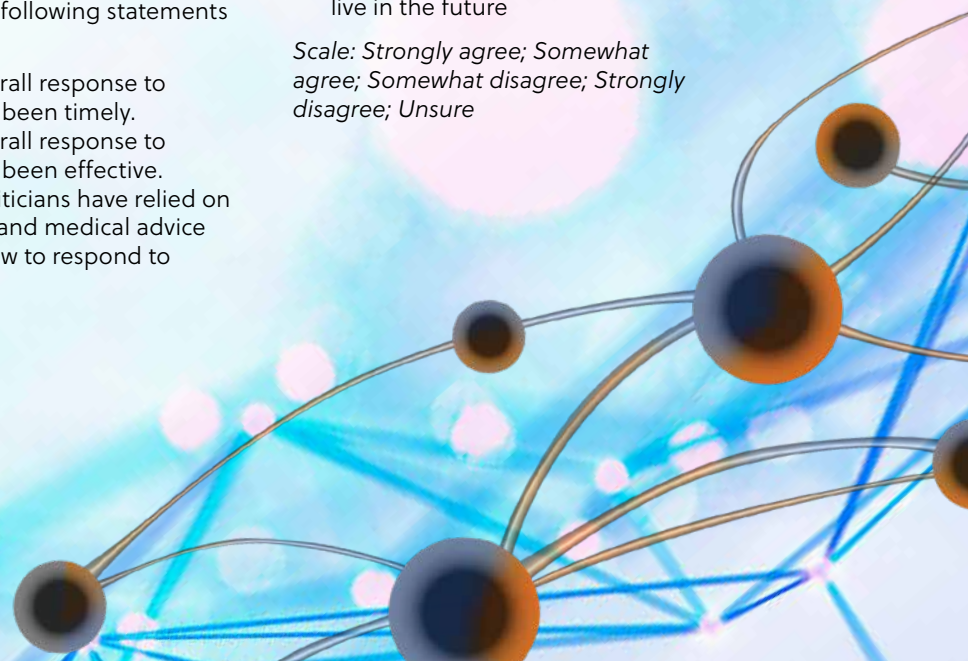
Scale: Strongly agree; Somewhat agree; Unsure; Disagree

Page 10

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about climate change?

- Climate change is real
- Climate change will affect the way I live in the future

Scale: Strongly agree; Somewhat agree; Somewhat disagree; Strongly disagree; Unsure



OPINION POLL QUESTIONS cont.

Page 11

Question: Which of the following do you think will become greater health risks in the future due to climate change?

Please select all that apply.

- Respiratory diseases (caused by dust and smoke in the air)
- Disaster-related mental health issues (drought, bushfire, cyclones, floods etc.)
- Heatwave-related illness
- Infectious diseases (e.g. TB, malaria, Dengue fever etc.)
- None of the above

Page 12

Question: What priority should the Australian Government give to funding research in areas related to the impact of climate change on human health?

- A higher priority than it has now
- About the same priority as it has now
- A lower priority than it has now

Question: What priority do you think should be given to research in the following areas?

- Respiratory Diseases (caused by dust and smoke in the air)
- Disaster-related mental health issues (drought, bushfire, cyclones, floods etc.)
- Heatwave-related illness
- Infectious diseases (e.g. TB, malaria, Dengue fever etc.)

Scale: High; Medium; Low; None

Page 13

Question: Information collected as part of My Health Record can also be useful to health and medical researchers. For example, it can help in understanding links between different medical conditions, or in assessing the effectiveness of new treatments. This information would be provided to researchers in de-identified form, so the researchers would not know the name or any other details that could identify the record holder. Do you support or oppose the use of patients' de-identified medical records by health and medical researchers for research purposes?

Scale: Strongly support; Somewhat support; Somewhat oppose; Strongly oppose

Question: Sometimes data which contains personal information is more useful for research purposes than de-identified data. Do you support or oppose the provision of data containing personal information to researchers if they are subject to strict confidentiality agreements, hold the data securely and cannot publish any identifying information

Scale: Strongly support; Somewhat support; Somewhat oppose; Strongly oppose

Page 14

Question: My Health Record is an online summary of your health information. It is available to you and your treating health professionals. Have you accessed and/or used your My Health Record?

- Yes
- I have a My Health Record but haven't used/accessed it.
- I don't have a My Health Record because I opted out
- I don't know/haven't heard of it before today.

Page 15

Question: Do you believe there is a role for technology in helping you to better manage your own health?

Question: Have you ever used technology to help you better manage your health? (This could include helping you exercise or diet, or manage medications, or something else.)

Question: Would you be willing to use technology in this way in the future?

Responses: Yes; No

Question: How interested are you in learning more about how you could use technology to help you better manage your health?

Scale: Very interested; Somewhat interested; Not interested at all.

Page 16

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- I am not good enough at using technology like smart phones, computers and other devices for them to be useful in helping me manage my health
- I am comfortable using technology like smart phones, computers and other devices to help me manage my health.
- If I was better at using technology like smart phones, computers and other devices they could be useful in helping me manage my health
- I don't want to use technology like smart phones, computers and other devices to help me manage my health

Scale: Strongly agree; Somewhat agree; Somewhat disagree; Strongly disagree

Page 17

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement about COVID-19?

- Australians should download the COVIDSafe app to speed up the tracking and tracing of contacts of people who have COVID-19, which otherwise has to be done manually.

Scale: Strongly agree; Somewhat agree; Somewhat disagree; Strongly disagree; Unsure

Page 18

Question: We are often told about things we can do to stay healthy, such as undertaking exercise, avoiding certain foods, giving up smoking, the warning signs of heart attack, and the link between skin cancer and too much exposure to the sun.

Please rate how useful the following would be in helping you to look after your physical health.

Please rate how useful the following would be in helping you to look after your mental health.

Scale: Very Useful; Useful; Moderately useful; Slightly useful; Not at all useful

Page 19

Question: Please rate how useful the following would be in helping improve the physical health of Australians in general:

Scale: Very Useful; Useful; Moderately useful; Slightly useful; Not at all useful

Page 20

Question: Please rate how useful the following would be in helping you to look after and improve your mental health

Scale: Very Useful; Useful; Moderately useful; Slightly useful; Not at all useful

Page 21

Question: How important are the following to you in the decisions you make now about your lifestyle?

Or if retired, How important are the following to you in the decisions you make now about your lifestyle?

Scale: Very important; Somewhat important; Not important

Page 22

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- More research is needed into how individuals can stay healthy in old age
- More research is needed into how we can best care for people in old age
- More research is needed to help older people stay at home and be independent for as long as possible
- More research is needed to develop better aged care institutions, systems and programs
- We know what needs to be done to care for people in old age, we just need to do it

Scale: Strongly agree; Somewhat agree; Somewhat disagree; Strongly disagree

Page 23

Question: About how much money did you donate in total to health and medical research in the last 12 months?

- Zero
- $1-$100 a year
- $101-$500 a year
- More than $500 a year
- Can't say

Question: About how much money did you donate in total to bushfire-related causes in the last 12 months?

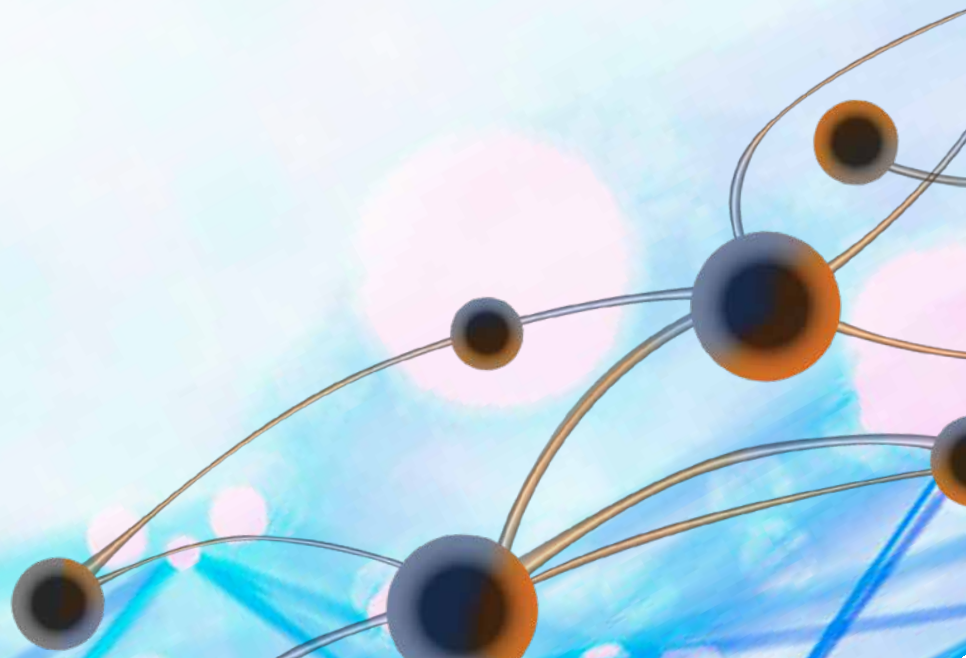
- Zero
- $1-$100
- $101-$500
- More than $500
- Can't say

Question: About how much money have you donated in total to COVID-19 related causes?

- Zero
- $1-$100
- $101-$500
- More than $500
- Can't say

Question: Do you think the money you have donated to COVID-19 related causes and/or bushfire related causes has reduced the amount you have donated to health and medical research in the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No – still donated about the same amount to health and medical research
- I don't donate to health and medical research



Research Australia is the national peak body represe



OUR ROLE

RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

CONNECTS
researchers, funders and consumers to increase investment in health and medical research from all sources

ENGAGES
Australia in a conversation about the health benefits and economic value of its investment in health and medical research

INFLUENCES
government policies that support effective health and medical research and its routine translation into evidence-based practices and better health outcomes

enting the entire health & medical research pipeline



OUR MEMBERS

Our members include leading research organisations, health providers and peak bodies, academic institutions, charities, community special interest groups, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, small businesses and corporate Australia. We convene leaders across the health and medical research sector to:

Advocate for smarter investment in health and medical research

Drive a policy environment that empowers research to thrive

Champion the role health and medical research plays in enabling a healthy population and healthy economy

METHODOLOGY

Research Overview

Statement of Compliance with International Standards:	This research project was carried out in compliance with ISO 9001 & ISO 20252
Client Name:	Research Australia
Research Service Provider Name(s):	Roy Morgan Research Ltd
Sub-contractor used:	None
Process sub-contracted:	None
Research Objectives:	This research was conducted to trend attitudes towards medical and health issues in Australia.

Quantitative Research

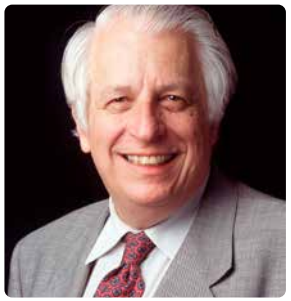
Target Group:	Australians 18 years and older
Proposed Sample Size:	1,000
Actual Sample Size:	1,013
Reason for Difference in Proposed to Actual Sample Size:	Slight over-recruitment in some age/gender/location cells due to some respondents having begun but not completed the online survey when the quota target was met (i.e. they are permitted to finish). This over-recruitment was subsequently corrected during the weighting process (see below)
Fieldwork Period:	Thursday 4 June to Tuesday 16 June, 2020
Sampling Method:	Members of Roy Morgan Research's Proprietary Online Panel, 18 years and older, living in Australia, were emailed an invitation to participate in the survey.
Data Collection Method:	Online survey (CAWI – Computer Assisted Web Interviewing)
Response Rate:	6.6%
Weighting Process:	Weighted proportional to population by age, sex and area, and projected to Australian 18+ population estimates
Estimation/Imputation Procedure:	No estimation/imputation processes used
Representatively of the Sample Population:	Sample is broadly representative of Australia's population by sex, age and area
Maximum Sampling Tolerance:	±3.1%
Incentive Type:	Points redeemable for cash

ABOUT RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

Research Australia is the national alliance representing the entire health and medical research pipeline from the laboratory through to the patient and the marketplace. The organisation uses its unique convening power to position health and medical research as a significant driver of a healthy population and contributor to a healthy economy.

RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

CONNECTING ▪ ENGAGING ▪ INFLUENCING



Sir Gustav Nossal AC CBE says – 'I am proud to be Patron of an organisation so uniquely placed to bring together the many pieces of such a complex system and I watch with great excitement the emerging opportunities and bold ideas that will transform healthcare for Australians.'

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