



YourSay Community Panel COVID-19 Round 9 Survey

June 2021





Background: The ACT Government conducted a ninth round of research with the YourSay Community Panel focusing on how coronavirus (COVID-19) is impacting Canberrans. The survey examined the perspectives of the community on the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out and related issues including overseas travel and influenza vaccination. The survey also continued to explore Canberrans' engagement in COVID-safe practices and perceptions of the community and Government response to the pandemic.

Purpose: The findings from the survey will help inform ACT Government public health messaging to encourage Canberrans to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out as well as continue to engage in COVID-safe behaviours.

Timeframe: The survey took place between **18 – 24 May 2021** (prior to Melbourne cases).

Sample: **1,911** YourSay Community Panel members completed the survey.

Weighting: The results have been weighted to reflect relative population proportions based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census figures.

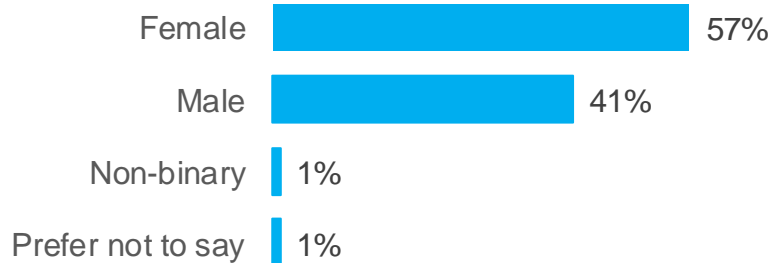
Rounding: In single choice questions, results may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Limitations: The methodology is biased towards those with internet and computer literacy.

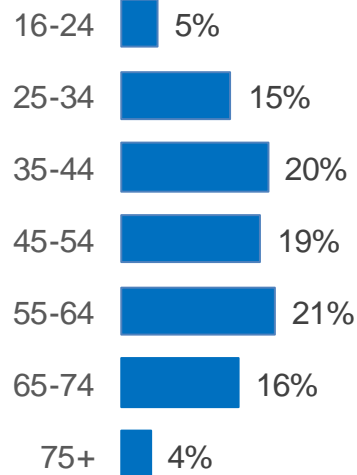


Sample profile (unweighted)

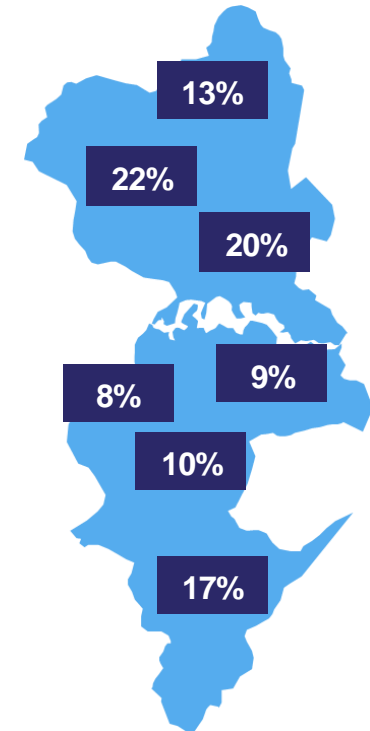
Gender



Age



Region





ACT
Government

YOURsay
Community panel

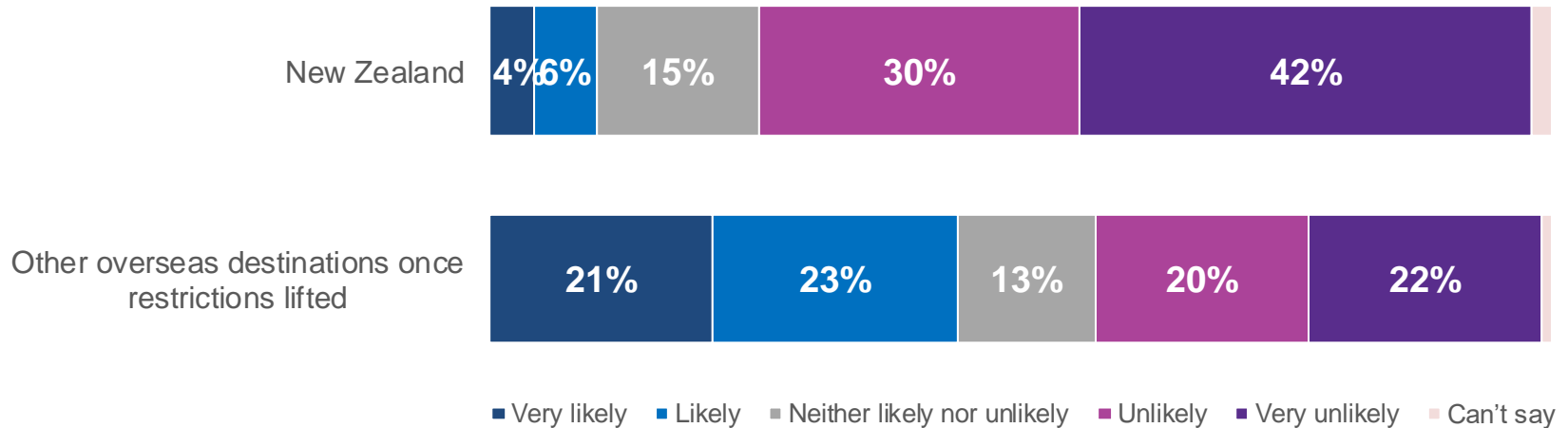
Overseas travel



One in ten Canberrans intend to go to New Zealand this year, while appetite for other overseas travel exists among four in ten

Q. How likely are you to travel to New Zealand this year?

Q. And how likely are you to travel to other overseas destinations once restrictions have been eased?



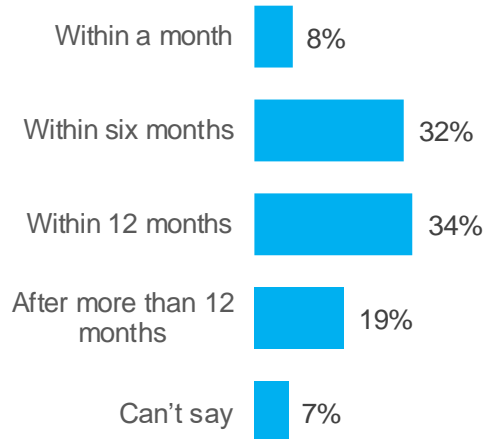


Many intend to travel overseas within a year of restrictions easing



When?

74% intend to go within a year of restrictions being eased



Where?

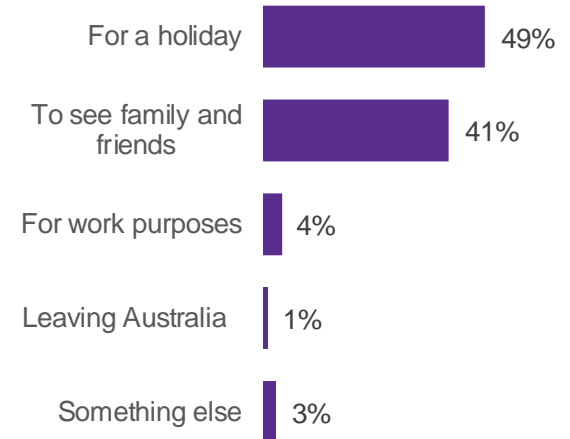
Most common destinations include...

Europe
SE Asia
UK
North America
Japan & Korea
Pacific Islands



Why?

Holidaying and seeing family & friends the main drivers





Wariness of COVID-19 is likely to act as a barrier to travel even after restrictions are eased

COVID-19 will remain a consideration for travel in the foreseeable future...

Will wait and watch carefully to see what happens

COVID-19 still likely to be a risk – mutations

Don't want to get stuck in another country

Personal circumstances also have a bearing on travel intent...

Financial reasons

Work / time to do it

Kids, family

Health reasons

It can also come down to personal preferences...

Just not interested, not a big traveller

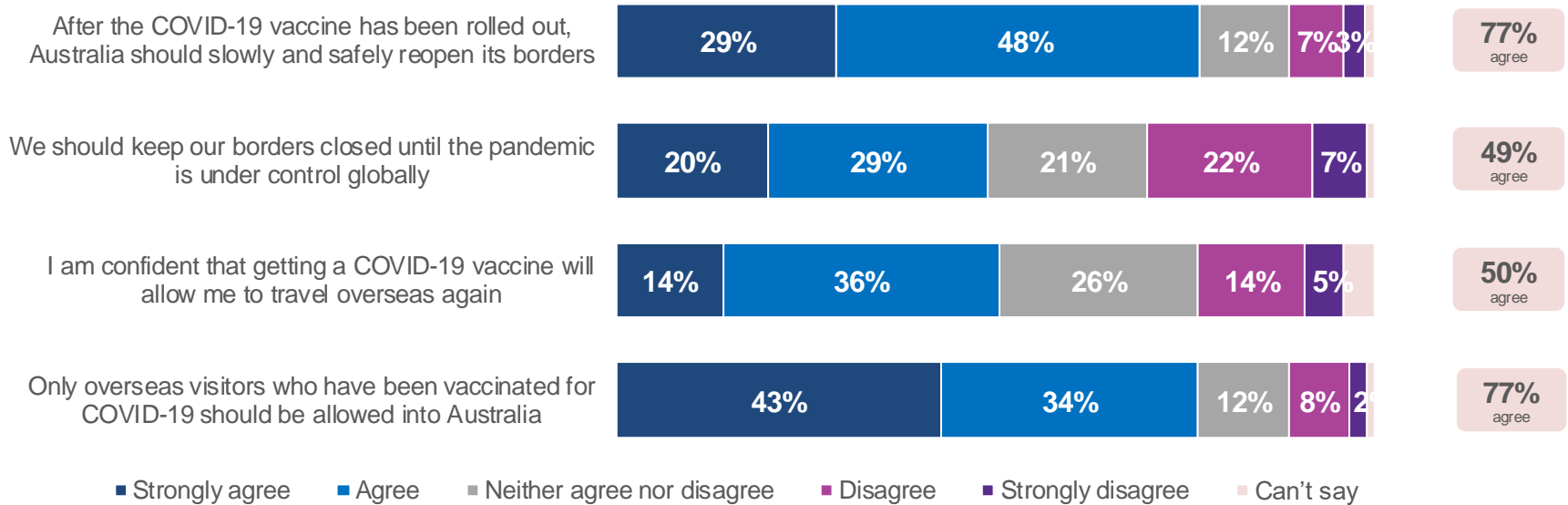
Prefer to travel in Australia

Emissions / carbon footprint



Support exists for re-opening of international borders contingent on vaccination progress at home and overseas

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the following?



Nationally, 73% of Australians believe borders should remain closed until the pandemic is under control globally*



ACT
Government

YOURsay
Community panel

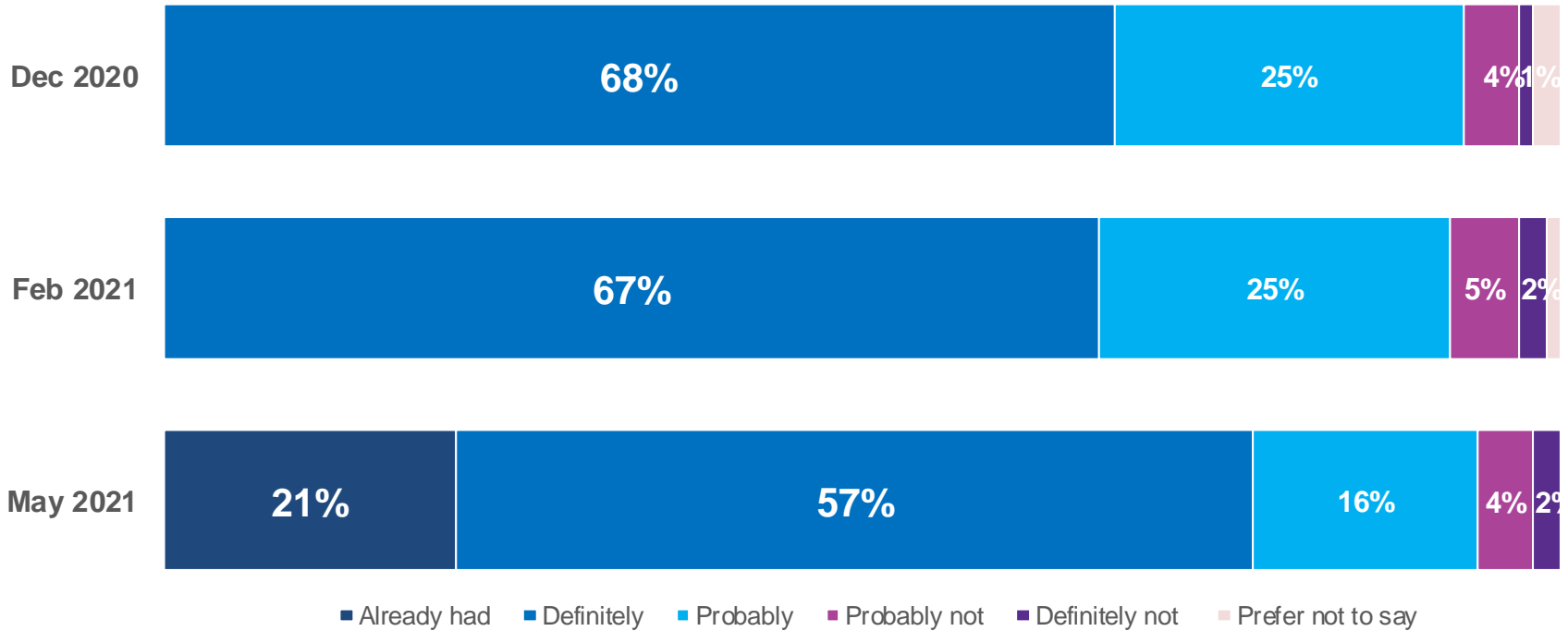


COVID-19 vaccine



Two in ten Canberrans report they have already had a COVID-19 vaccine, with almost six in ten indicating they will definitely get one

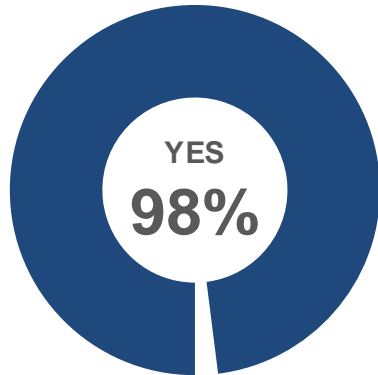
Q. When a COVID-19 vaccine is available to you, will you get it?





Among those who have had a vaccine, the experience is reported to have largely been positive

Q. Following your experience, would you recommend your friends/family get a COVID-19 vaccine?



Q. What was your experience getting a COVID-19 vaccine like?

Good, simple, quick and easy

Experienced some common side effects for a day or two

Well-organised, streamlined

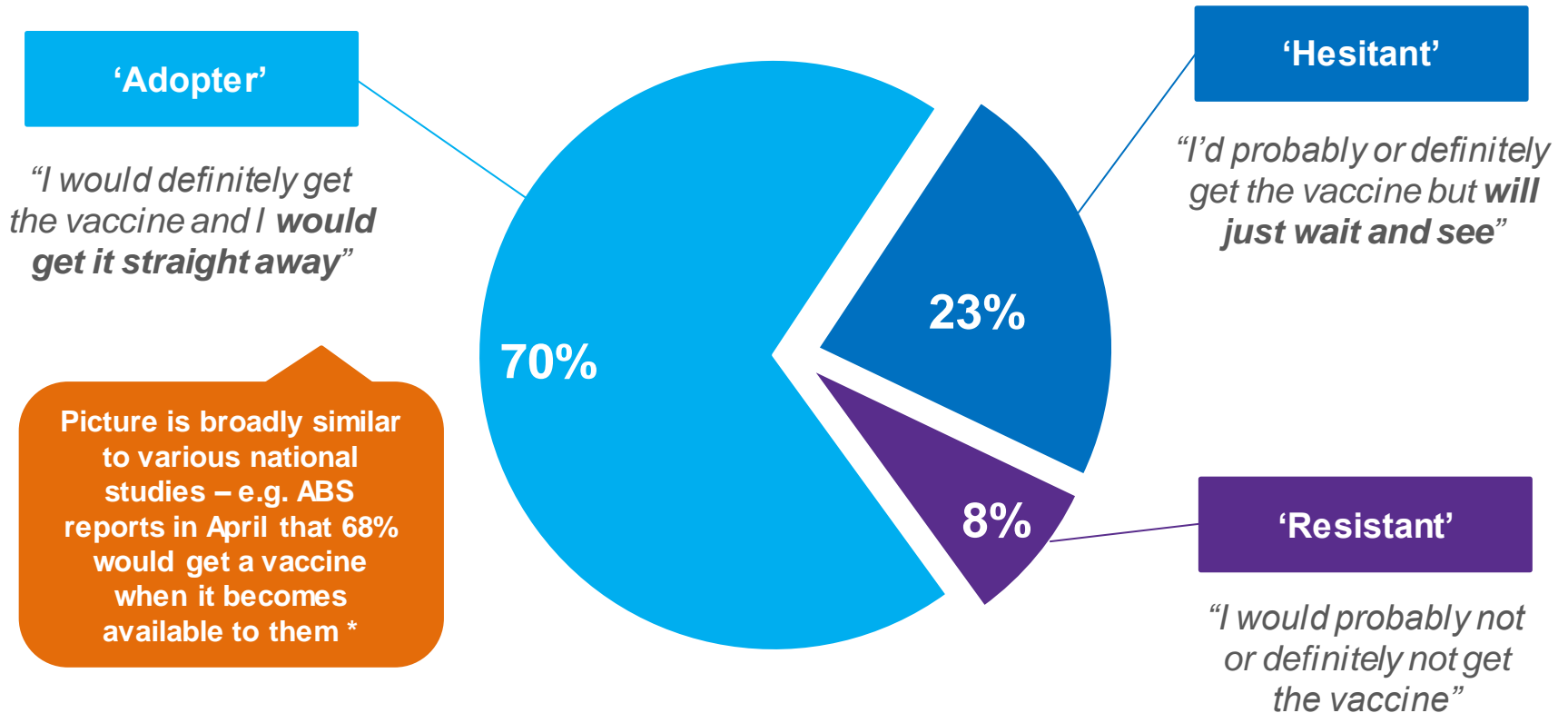
Took a while to organise and arrange – going round in circles

Friendly, professional staff

Unremarkable!



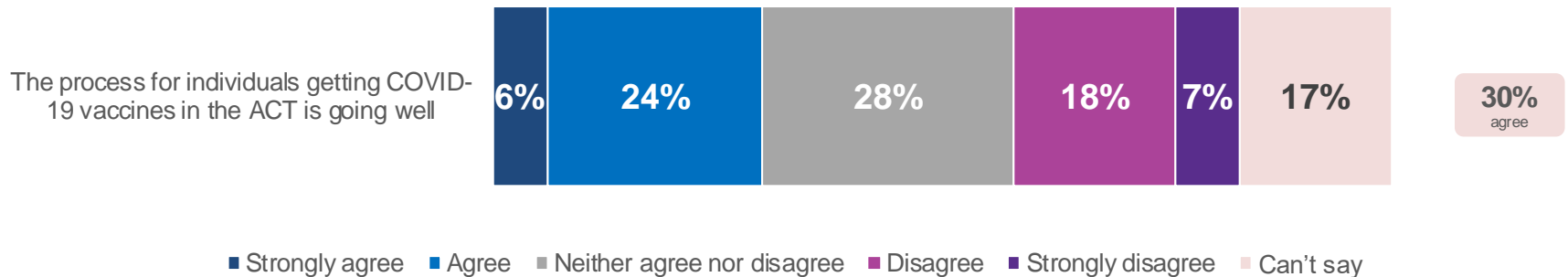
Of those yet to receive the vaccine, seven in ten indicate they would get this as soon as it is available to them





Community perceptions around the vaccine roll-out to date are mixed, with many uncertain how well it is going

Q. Overall, how much do you agree or disagree with the following?



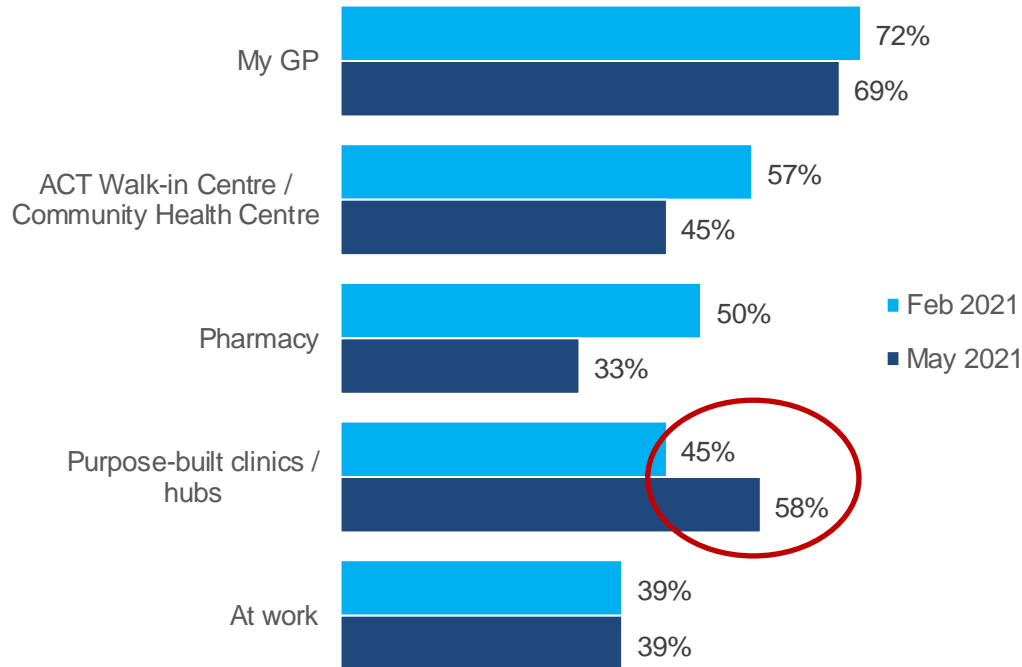
Findings reiterate national sentiment reported about the roll-out in Australia – for instance, ANU research observed that 43% of Australians considered the vaccine roll-out to be not going too well and a further 21% not well at all

Four per cent thought it was going very well and 33% somewhat well*



There is increasing preference for going to vaccine hubs to receive the vaccine

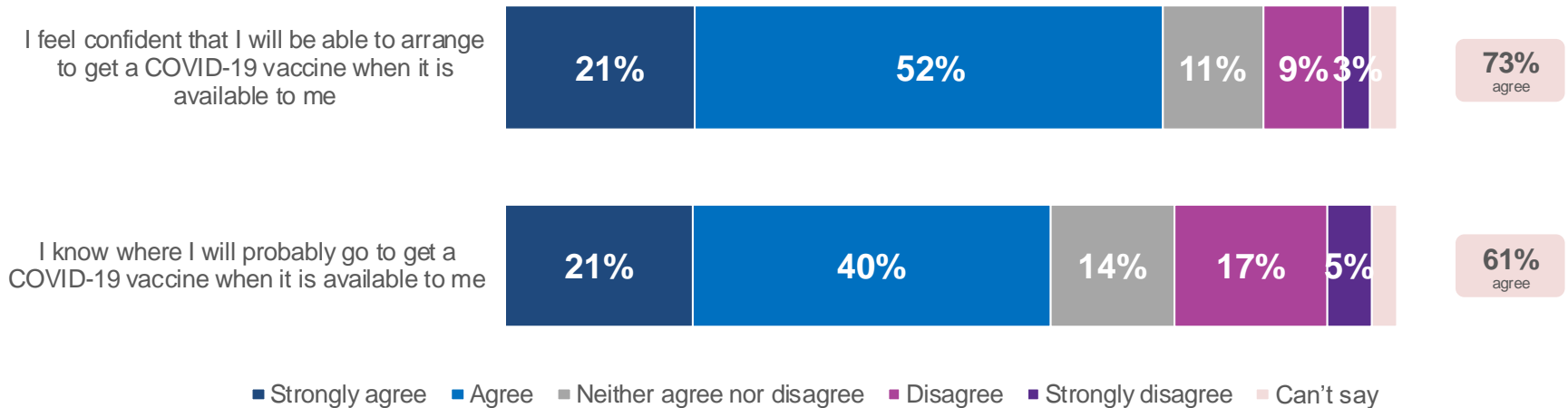
Q. What's your preferred place/s to get a COVID-19 vaccine?





Three-quarters are confident they'll be able to arrange getting a vaccine, though not everyone knows where they will go

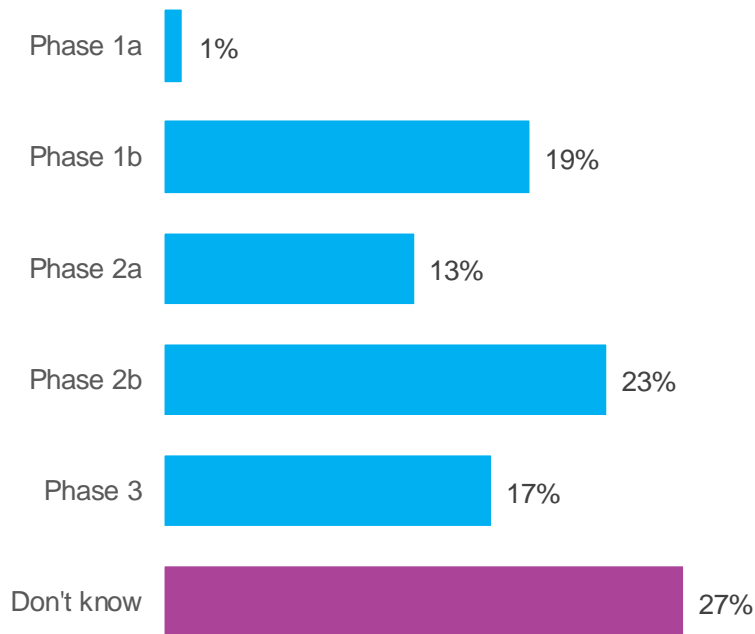
Q. Overall, how much do you agree or disagree with the following?





Meanwhile, a quarter of Canberrans still to get the vaccine do not know what phase they are in

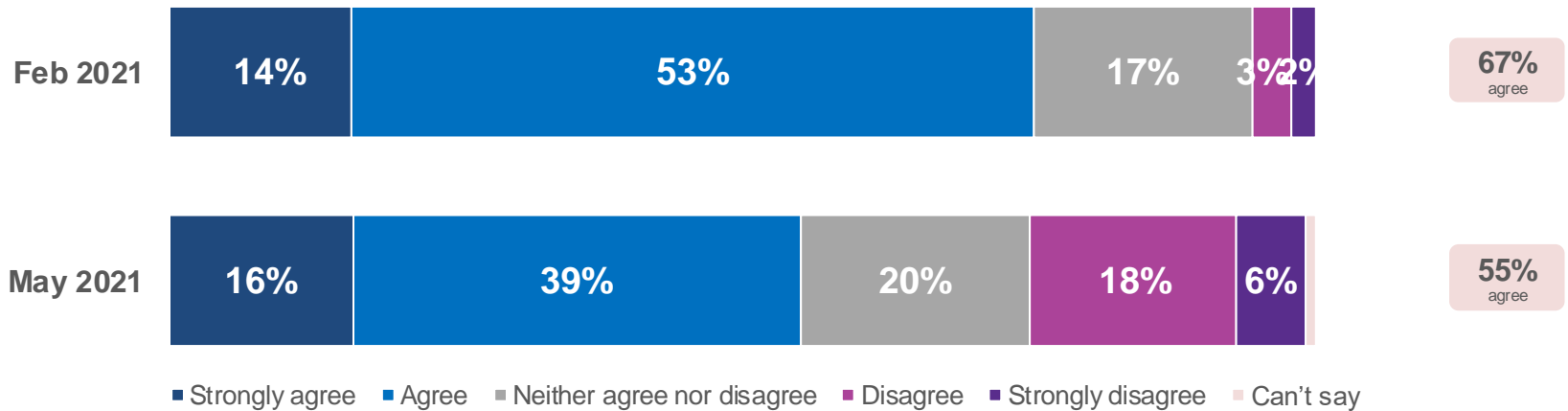
Q. COVID-19 vaccines will be available in phases. In which phase are you eligible to receive the vaccine?





Overall, most Canberrans feel informed about the vaccine roll-out, though this has dropped compared to pre roll-out

Q. Overall, how much do you agree or disagree... I feel well informed about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the ACT





Other comments and issues mentioned about the vaccine

Process has been confusing – when / where you can get it, how to book etc

Booking issues online / over the phone

Roll-out has been slow – hurry up!

Unclear what future plans are for other phases – when, where etc

Criticisms of national roll-out – e.g. supply, distribution, messaging, data

Phasing not working – people not turning up, open up to other groups

Accessibility issues for elderly, people with disability

AstraZeneca blood clots concern

Unequal, differences by jurisdiction (e.g. 40-50s in NSW)

Would like a choice of vaccine



ACT
Government

YOURsay
Community panel

Influenza vaccination

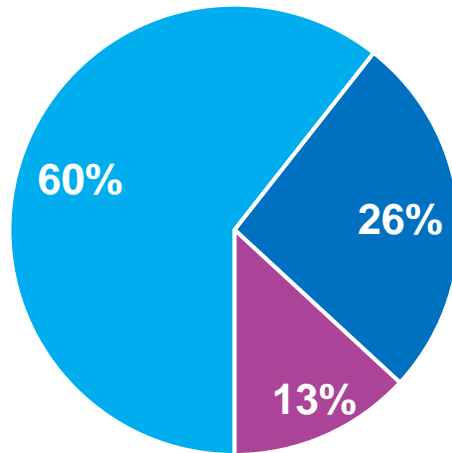


One in eight Canberrans are not considering getting an influenza vaccine in 2021

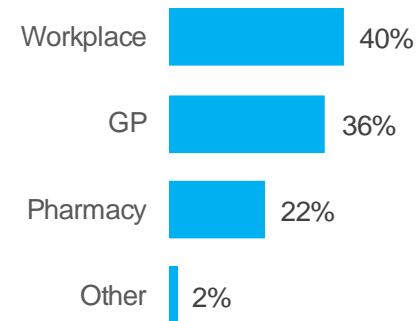
Q. Are you planning or have you already had the influenza vaccine in 2021?



If had vaccine
Q. Where did you get your flu vaccine in 2021?



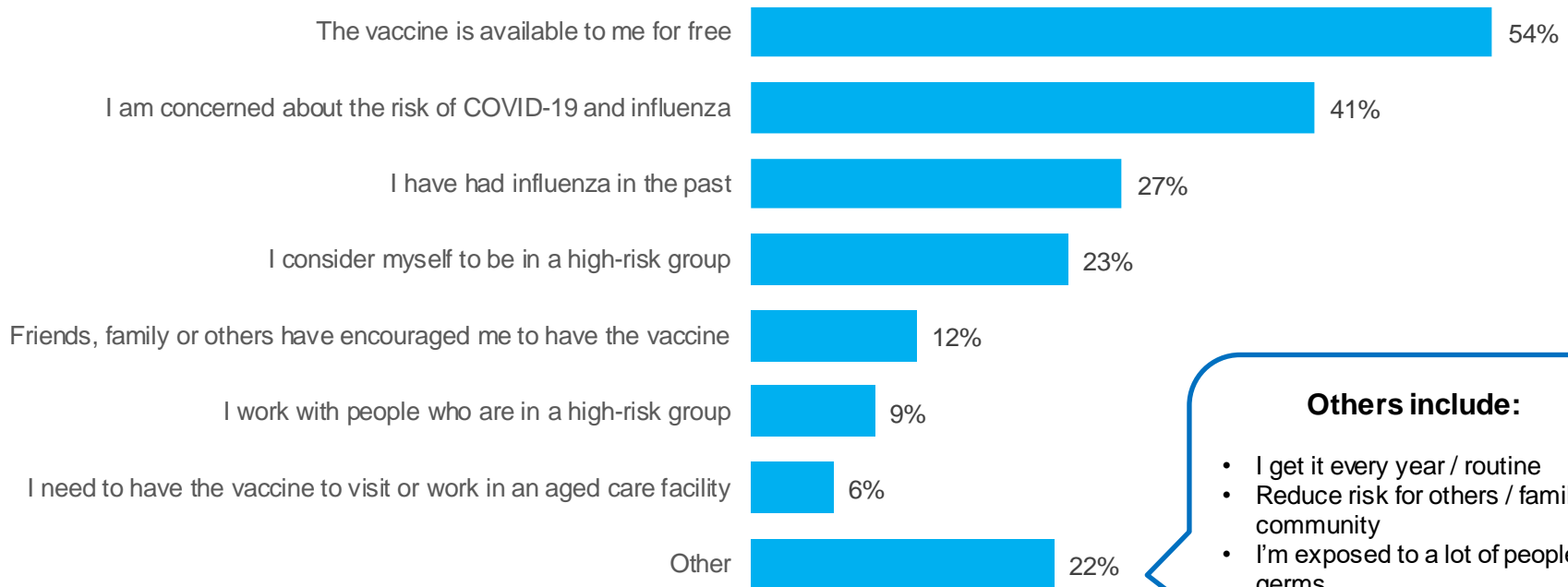
- Yes - had
- Yes - planning
- No





Availability of the flu vaccine for free is a key driver to uptake, while COVID-related concerns resonate for some

Q. What made you decide to get / plan to get the influenza vaccine in 2021?



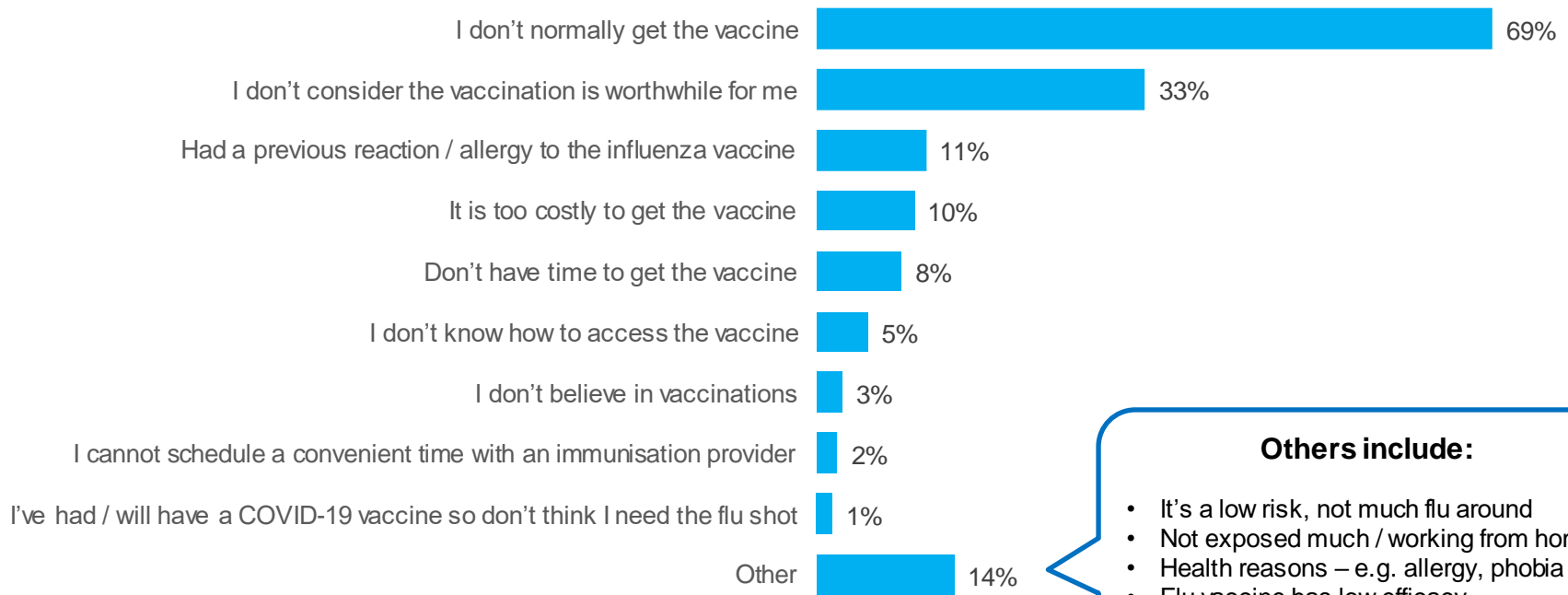
Others include:

- I get it every year / routine
- Reduce risk for others / family / community
- I'm exposed to a lot of people / germs
- Need it to visit elderly relatives



Barriers to flu vaccine uptake stem from norms and expectations around need

Q. Why have you decided not to get an influenza vaccine in 2021?



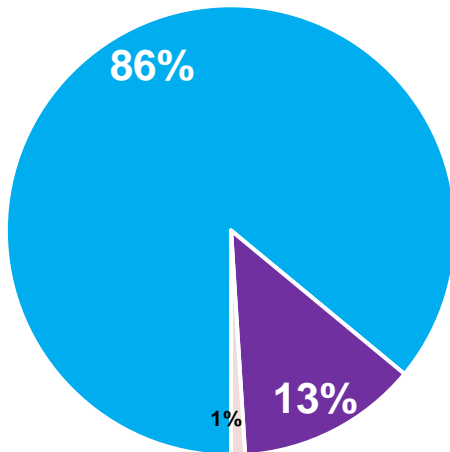


One in eight are unaware of advice regarding gap between COVID-19 and flu vaccines

Q. Before today, were you aware of advice to leave at least a two week gap between vaccinations for influenza and COVID-19?



5% had concerns relation to getting both a COVID-19 and flu vaccine this year



■ Yes ■ No ■ Can't say



ACT
Government

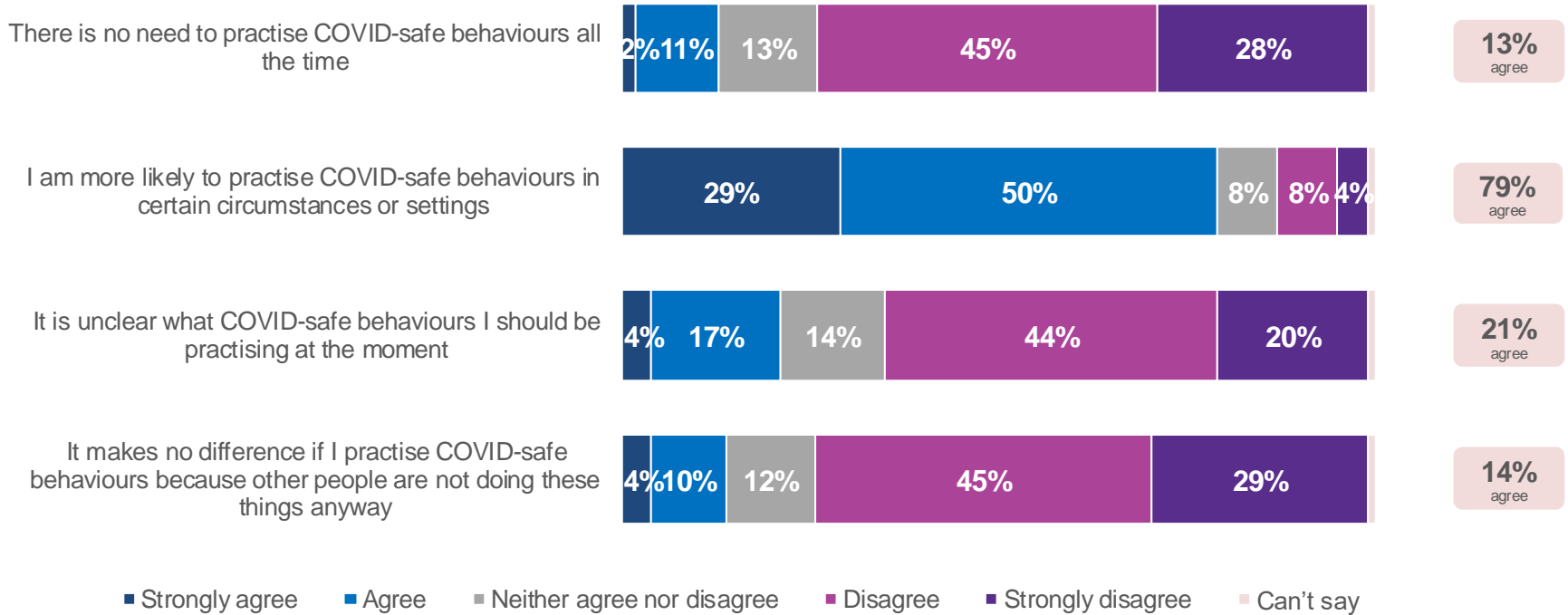
YOURsay
Community panel

COVID-safe behaviours



The majority of the community feel like they practise COVID-safe behaviours appropriately

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the following?





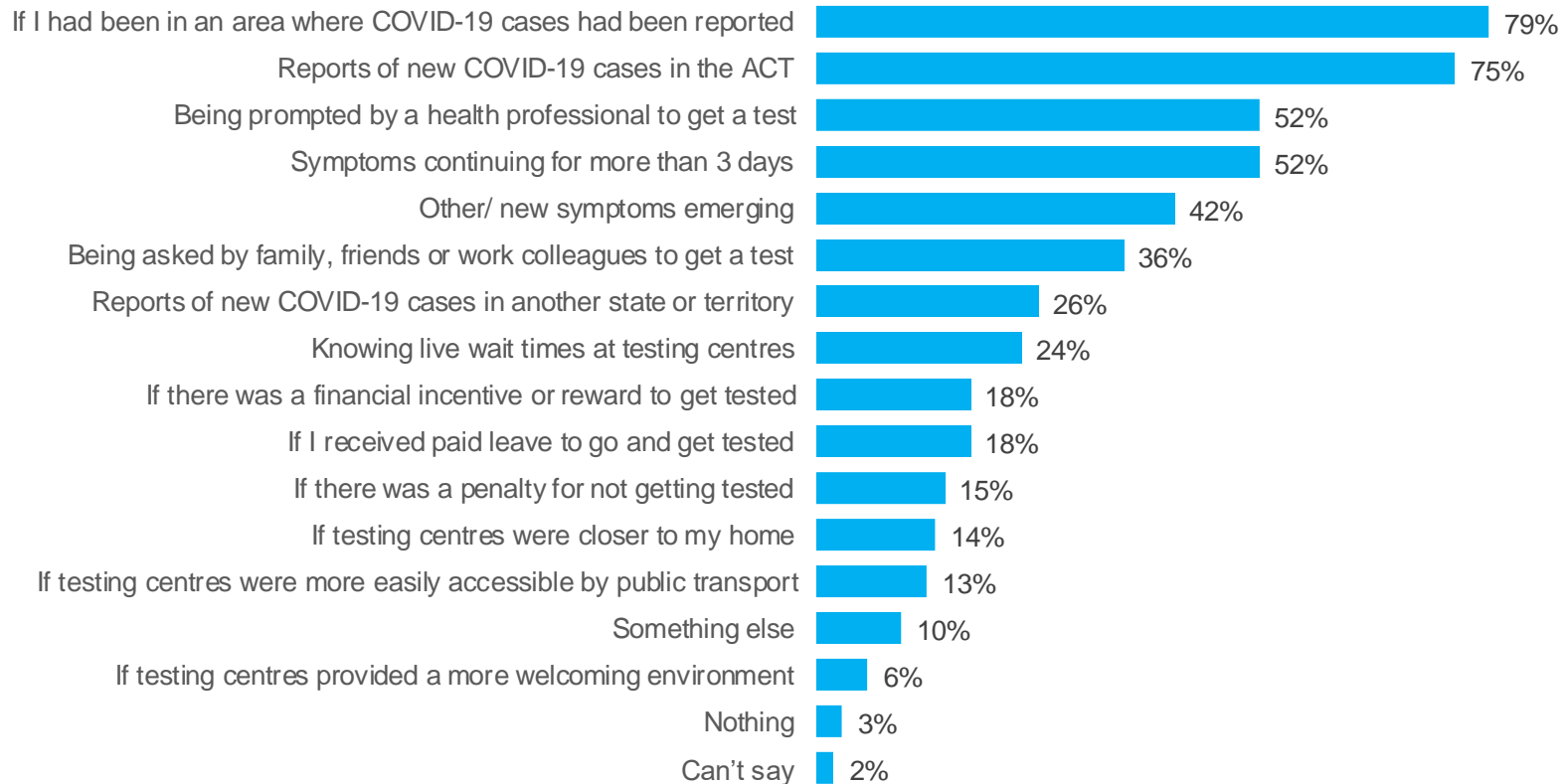
There has been a significant decline in many behaviours

	Did / likely to do (excl n/a) May 2021		Feb 2021	Dec 2020	Latest Australia comparison (Mar 2021)*
	LIKELY TO DO				
DID IN THE LAST WEEK					
Washed/sanitised hands more regularly	94%		95%	96%	(89%)
Signed in to venues using Check In CBR	94%	↑	87%	57%	
Kept physical distance from people	83%	↓	87%	88%	(66%)
Checked interstate travel / health advice	66%				
Tried not to touch my face	47%	↓	60%	64%	
Disinfected surfaces before using them	42%	↓	52%	51%	(48%)
Limited number of visitors to home	38%	↓	61%	57%	
Changed travel plans	28%				
Worn a face mask	27%	↓	31%	24%	(51%)
Hosted gathering outdoors/ with ventilation	25%	↓	48%	43%	
Asked someone to take precautions	17%				
Very likely/likely to get test if have mild symptoms	76%	↓	88%	86%	(72%)
Very likely/likely to seek medical advice if unwell	80%	↓	85%	85%	
Very likely/likely to stay at home if unwell	96%		96%	96%	



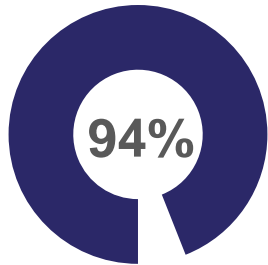
New outbreaks are more likely than anything else to prompt greater COVID-19 testing among those hesitant to get a test

Q. What, if anything, might make you more likely to get a COVID-19 test if you develop mild cold or flu-like symptoms?





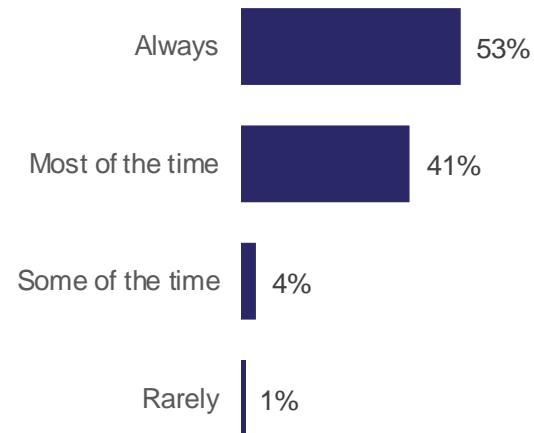
While use of Check In CBR is high, almost half of Canberrans do not use it on every occasion when visiting venues



94% of Canberrans used the Check In CBR app in the past week



Q. How frequently do you tend to use this to check in when visiting venues across Canberra?





ACT
Government

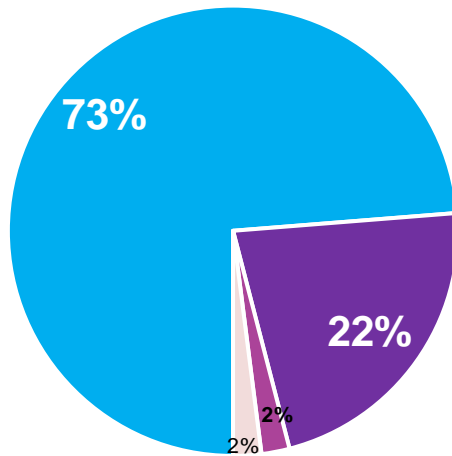
YOURsay
Community panel

Information and response



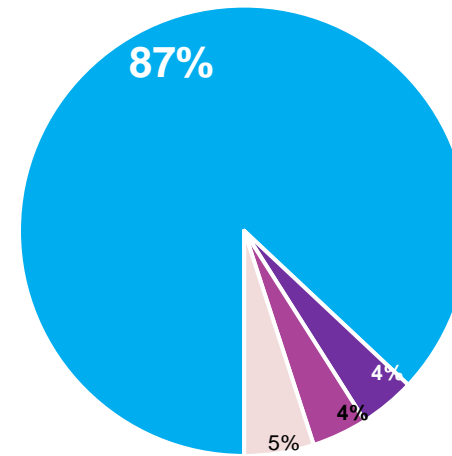
Majority consider community and ACT Government are responding appropriately to the COVID-19 pandemic

Q. Overall, how would you describe the Canberra community's response to COVID-19?



- Responding appropriately
- Not taking it seriously
- Over-reacting
- Can't say

Q. Overall, how would you describe the ACT Government's response to COVID-19?

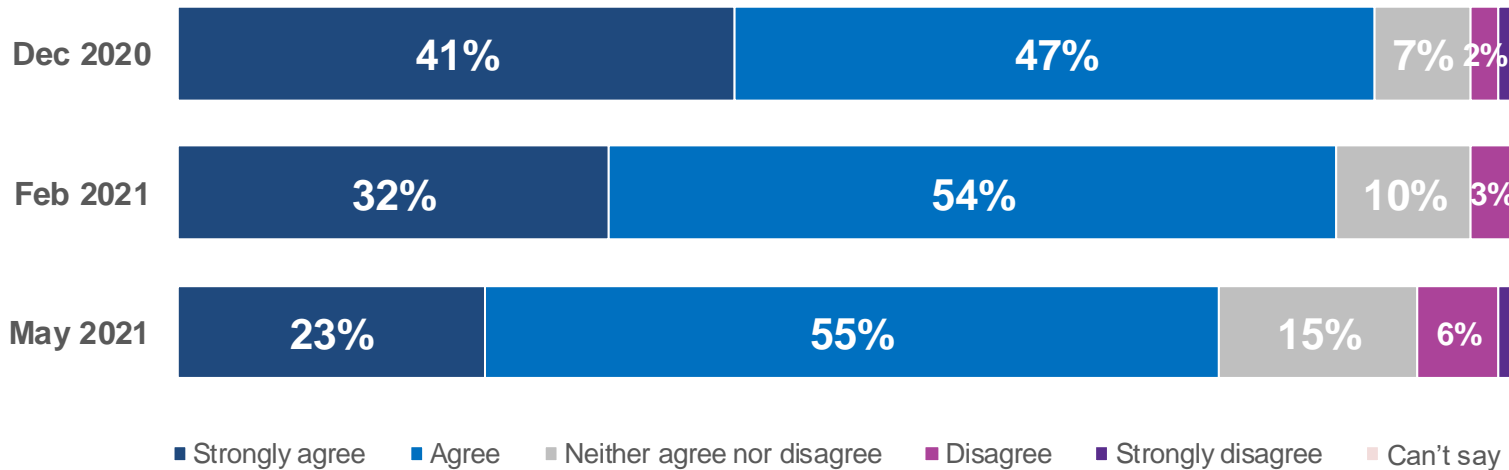


- Responding appropriately
- Not taking it seriously
- Over-reacting
- Can't say



Though still strong, there is a declining trend in Canberrans' sense of feeling informed, influenced by vaccine roll-out

Q. To what extent would you agree with the following statement? Overall, I feel I am being kept well informed about COVID-19 by the ACT Government





Further information needs reinforce desire for clearer vaccine roll-out details

More information about the **vaccine roll out** – when, where, who, how etc

Information on **virus variants** and efficacy of vaccine on these

Clarity around current requirements / rules – one place you can get these, not just updates

Need to inform myself – haven't done this so much lately

Vaccine roll-out stats, data – how are we tracking?

When **other vaccine brands** will arrive / be available

Improved / up-to date content and navigation on **ACT Gov websites**

Reminders / comms about **COVID-safe behaviours**

Greater information / data **transparency**



ACT
Government

Y **URsay**
Community panel

