

# COVID-19 Recovery Tracker

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# About the project

The **COVID-19 Recovery Tracker (CRT)** was implemented in April 2020, shortly after the COVID pandemic directly impacted Australian society, to measure the impact and then track the speed and consistency of our recovery over coming years. The project was deliberately called the ‘recovery’ tracker for this reason.

The project aggregates data from multiple surveys to provide a comprehensive overview of how the Australian community is affected. There are two primary sources of data, with all responses combined into an overall database and weighted results reported fortnightly and monthly:

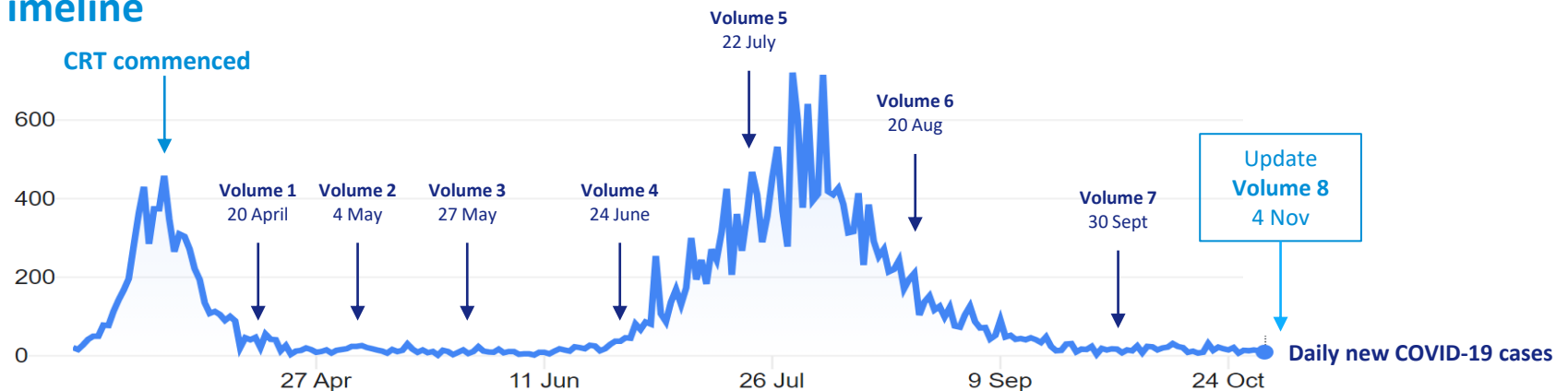
- A core set of CRT questions appear as a module in a number of monthly national online tracking surveys (average monthly sample n=1,000)
- A larger dedicated online CRT survey is completed by a fortnightly structured sample of 200 people, plus any additional respondents who complete the publicly accessible version (see the survey [here](#))

The CRT results are used to track and understand how the community is handling the experience and impact of the Pandemic, but also to create benchmarks that can be used to interpret other survey results when selected CRT questions are also included in them.

As of 30 October, since April 2020 a total of 11,526 people have completed the core questions, with 3,971 who have completed the whole extended survey.

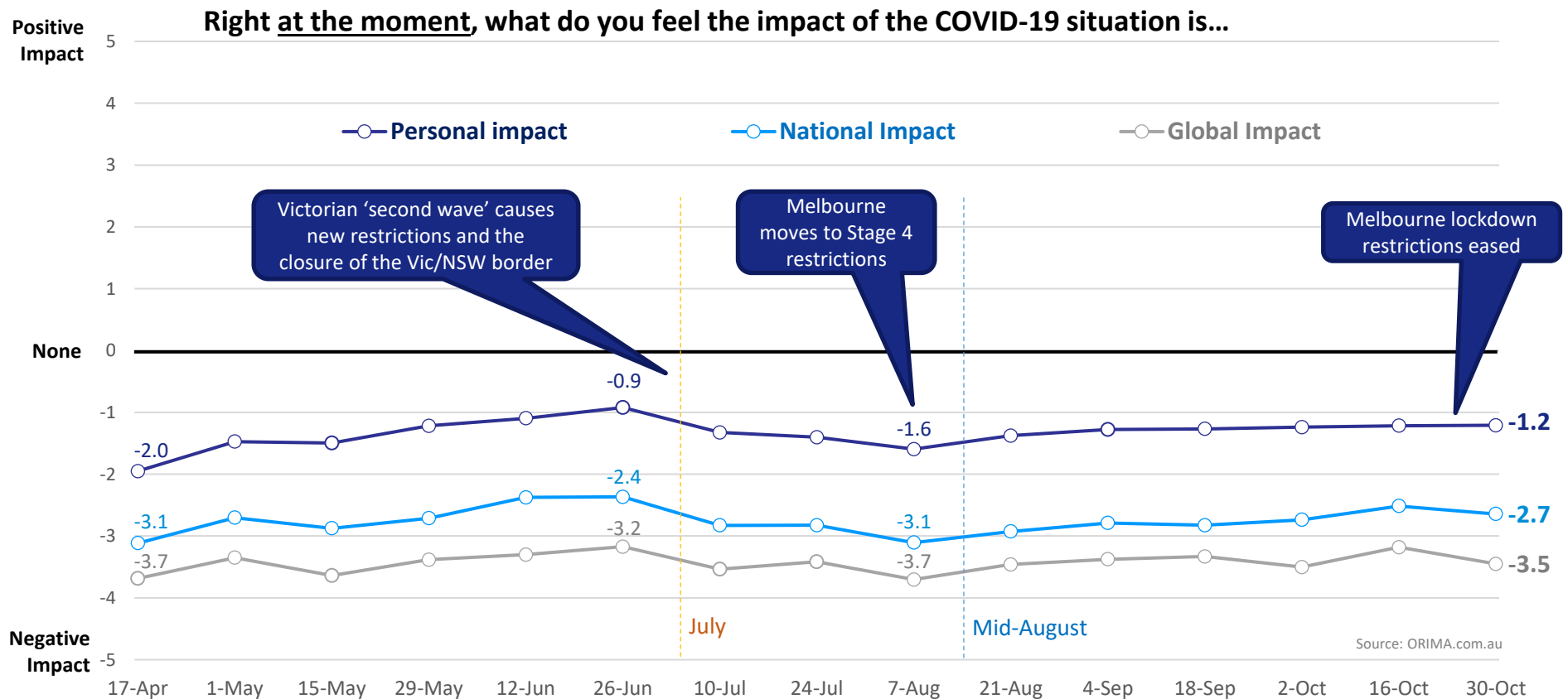
This update contains a snapshot of the most current results. Current and historical updates can be found on the ORIMA [website](#).

## CRT Timeline

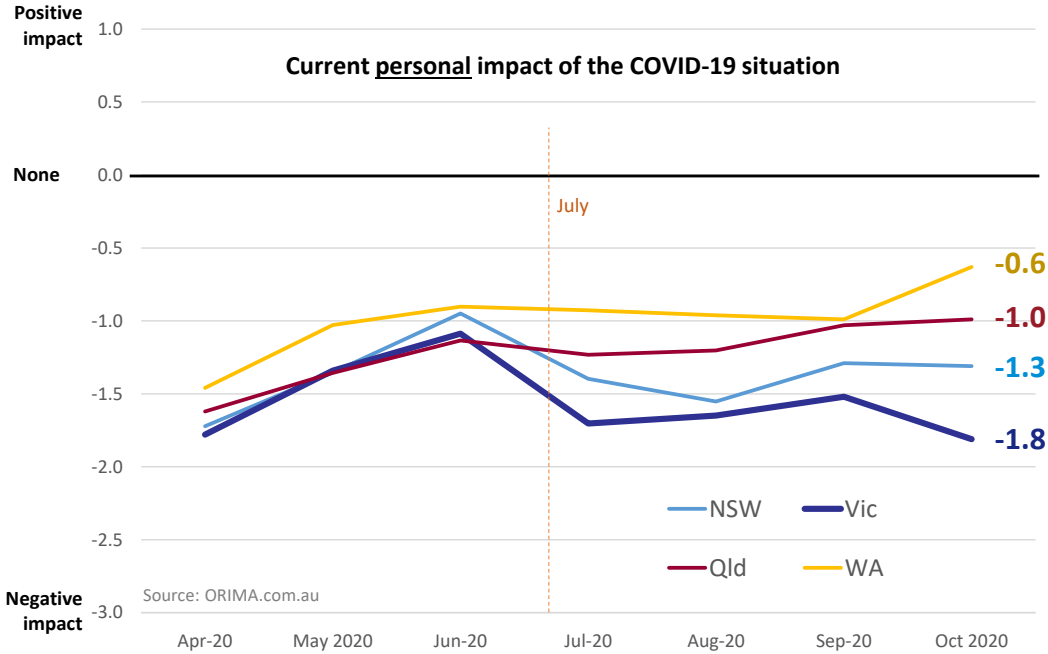


# Perceived impact of COVID-19

Perception of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cautiously improve from a low point at the peak of the Victorian ‘second wave’ in mid-August. The overall sense of personal impact at the end of October was  $-1.2_{/5}$ , the least negative impact since the end of June. National impact has also eased slightly since mid-August, but still sits at  $-2.6_{/5}$ , and remains considerably more negative than the personal experience individuals feel. Australians continue to feel the negative impact on the rest of the world is greater again.



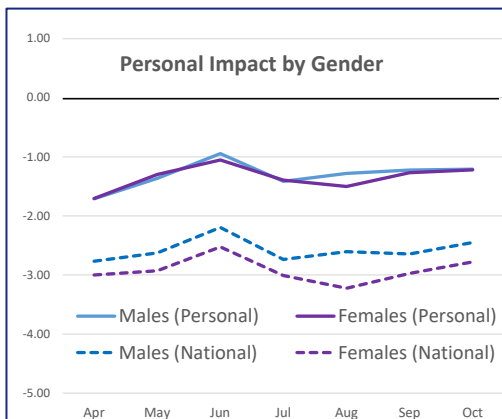
# Who is feeling the impact of COVID-19



From April to June, people across the country experienced the personal impact of COVID-19 in a fairly similar way. **Since July though, Australians in different states have felt the personal impact of the pandemic quite differently.**

As Victoria edged closer to being able to ease restrictions, which finally substantively happened in the last week of October, perceived personal impact for Victorians actually fell further, to the lowest score for the entire tracking period.

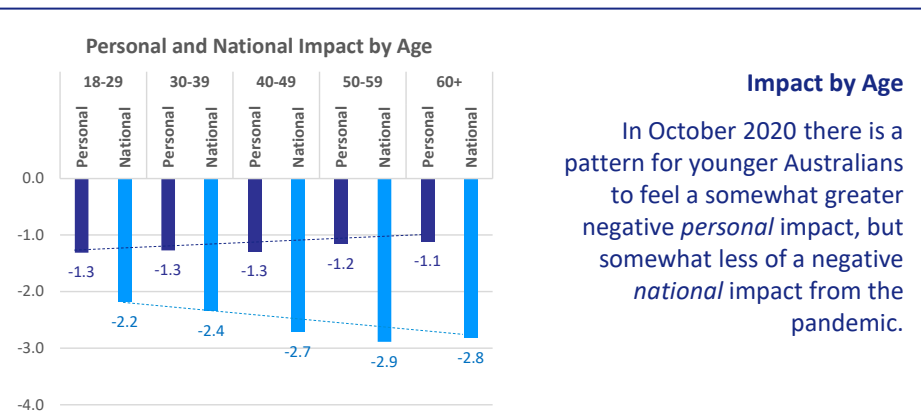
After largely plateauing from May to September, the impact of COVID-19 in WA eased further as the state moved to further reduce restrictions and discuss the opening of the hard border.



## Impact by Gender

For the majority of the pandemic men and women have felt a similar level of negative personal impact, though women have consistently felt a somewhat greater national impact.

In August women felt both types of impact more negatively than men – but this difference has so far been isolated to that one month.

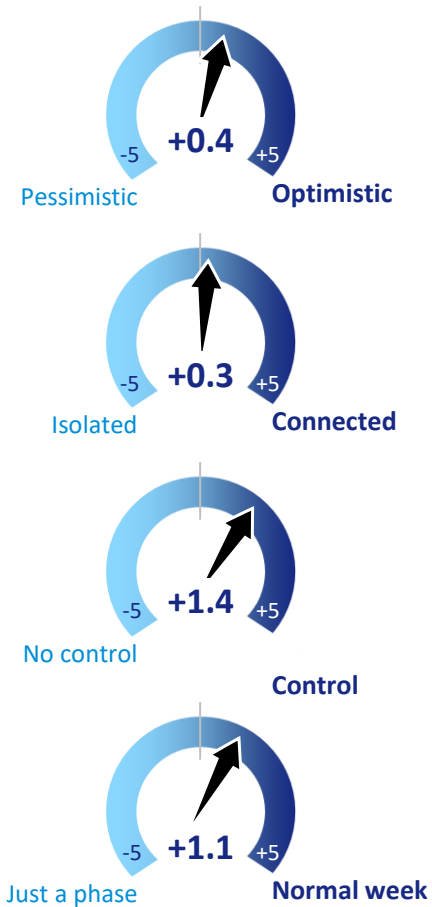


## Impact by Age

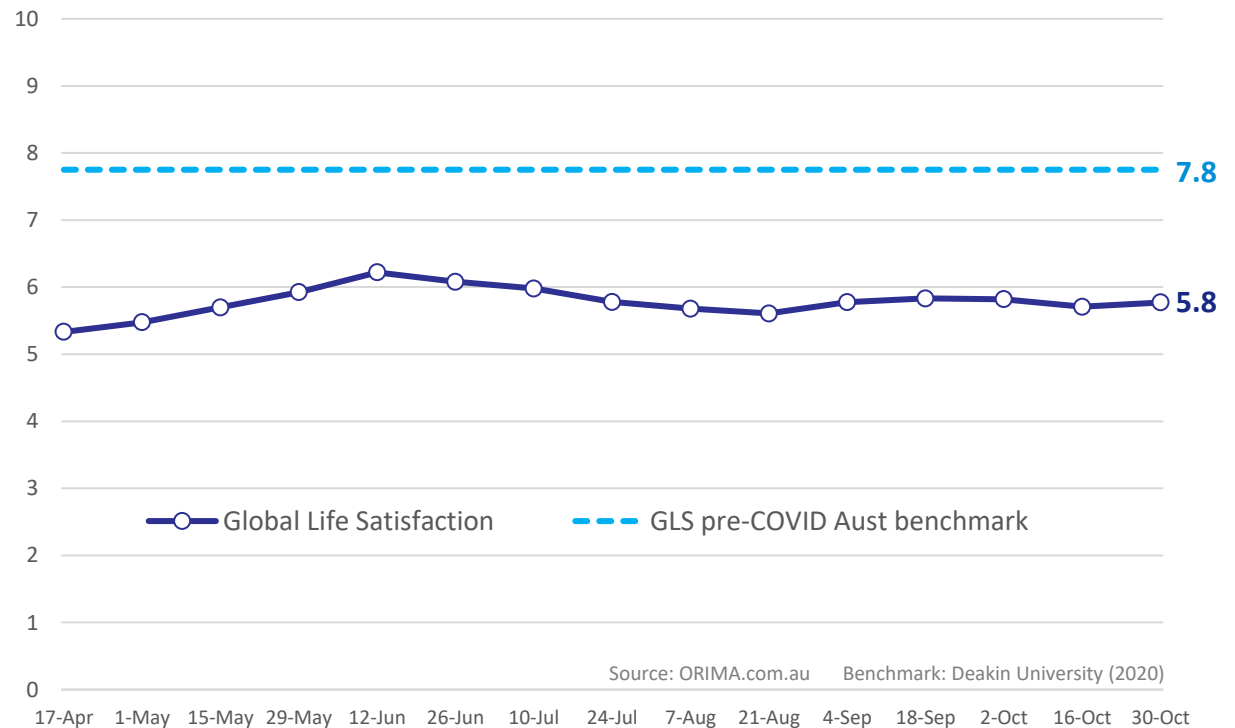
In October 2020 there is a pattern for younger Australians to feel a somewhat greater negative *personal* impact, but somewhat less of a negative *national* impact from the pandemic.

# Wellbeing and emotional indicators

Community emotional wellbeing remains substantially depressed from pre-COVID levels, but on average all indicators are sitting slightly above the mid-point of their scales. None of the indicators have shown any substantial recovery as yet, having been hovering in the middle of their range for most of the pandemic period. Overall wellbeing, measured using the single-item Global Life Satisfaction indicator is at 5.8/10 in October, remains much lower than the pre-COVID benchmark of 7.8/10. The sense of being a 'normal' week has been slightly positive since May, but clearly the sense of true normality remains some way off.

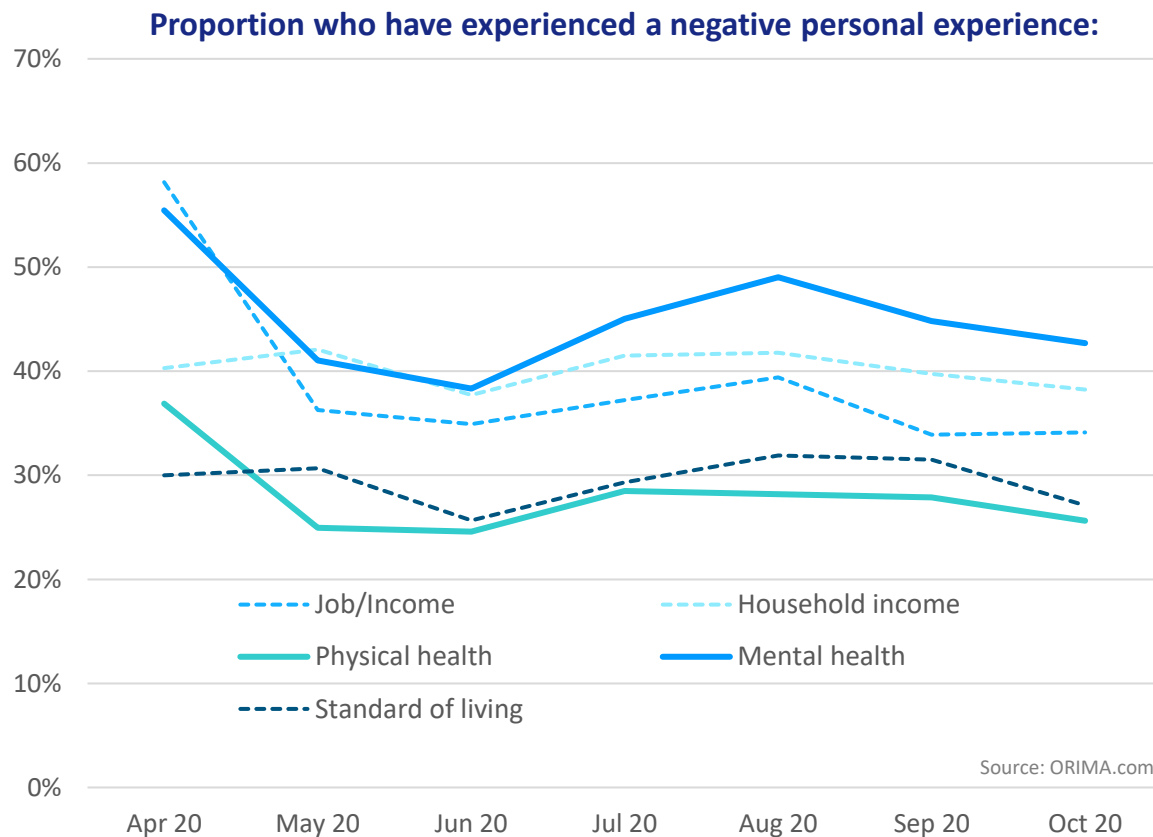


Overall, out of 10, how satisfied are you with life as a whole



# Experience of COVID

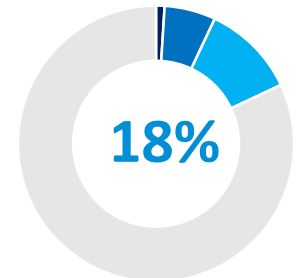
For the majority of Australians, COVID-19 continues to be more of a social and economic experience rather than one of physical health effects. By September and October, nearly 1-in-5 people knew of someone who had been diagnosed with the disease, though only 6% knew someone close to them who had been, and less than 1% reported having been diagnosed themselves. Since July the most common negative effect respondents report experiencing themselves has consistently been from a mental health perspective, though all personal negative experiences have been declining since the peak in August.



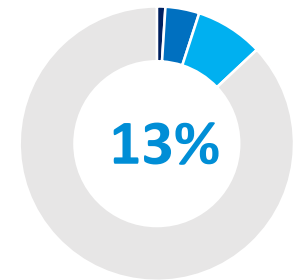
Source: ORIMA.com.

### Do you know anyone who...

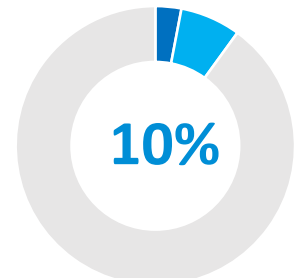
Has been diagnosed with COVID



Has been hospitalised or seriously unwell



Has died from COVID



Myself  
Someone close  
Someone I know of

Source: ORIMA.com.  
Sept + Oct 2020 data

This project was conducted in accordance with the international quality standard ISO 20252 and the Australian Privacy Principles contained in the Privacy Act 1988.

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