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Confidence in government, satisfaction with the direction of the country and voting intentions (April 2021)

ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

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14th May 2021

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank a number of people who were involved in the development of the ANUpoll questionnaires, including Diane Herz, Dr Benjamin Phillips, Dr Paul Myers, Matilda Page, Diana Nguyen, Anna Lethborg and Charles Dove from the Social Research Centre, and Professor Ian McAllister from the ANU. Financial support for the ANU COVID-19 Impact Monitoring Survey Program has been provided by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to summarise data from the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods COVID-19 impact monitoring survey program on three measures related to views on the broad political and government context – satisfaction with the direction of the country, confidence in key institutions, and voting intentions. Satisfaction and confidence slipped a bit between January and April 2021 with a particularly large drop in confidence in the Federal Government. These measures are still well above their pre-COVID rates though. There were also noticeable declines in the per cent of the sample who said they would vote for the Coalition. A person's own gender appears to affect views on sexual assault and harassment in the workplace. However, it is these views that have had the greatest impact on confidence in government and voting intentions rather than gender.

Executive summary

- The aim of this paper is to summarise data from the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods COVID-19 impact monitoring survey program on three measures related to Australian's views on the broad political and government context – satisfaction with the direction of the country, confidence in key institutions, and voting intentions.
- There was a statistically significant **decline in Australian's satisfaction with the direction of the country between January 2021 and April 2021** – from 78.9 per cent to 75.7 per cent.
 - While still far higher than pre-COVID, satisfaction with the direction of the country is lower than the peaks observed in May and November 2020.
 - Women, those born overseas, those who speak a language other than English, and those who live in the most disadvantaged of neighbourhoods are more likely to be satisfied with the direction of the country. Indigenous Australians, on the other hand, are far less likely to be satisfied
- There was a **very large decline in confidence in the 'Federal Government in Canberra'** between January 2021 and April 2021, from 54.3 per cent who said they had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in January 2021 to 45.4 per cent in April 2021.
 - There were also smaller declines in confidence in the Public Service (64.5 per cent to 60.5 per cent) and the State/Territory government in which the person lives (70.4 per cent to 67.2 per cent).
- There has been a **large decline in the per cent of respondents who say they would vote for the Coalition** (Liberal, National, or Liberal National Parties) between January 2021 and April 2021 – from 40.3 per cent to 37.3 per cent.
 - Most people do not change who they say they would vote for over such a short period, with 80.8 per cent of the sample grouped in the same category in April as they were in January. The most stable group of voters from January 2021 was Labor and Greens voters. The least stable were the 'Don't Know/Undecided' and 'Other' groups,
- Respondents to the April 2021 survey were asked 'When it comes to sexual harassment and sexual assault in the workplace today, how much of a problem, if at all, would you say the following are?'
 - **Australians are most likely to think that 'Men getting away with committing sexual harassment or assault' was a major problem (76.8 per cent).** More than two-thirds of Australians (71.6 per cent) were also likely to say that 'Women not being believed when they claim that they have experienced sexual harassment or assault' was a major problem. Belief that these are major issues were far higher in Australia in 2021 than in the US when the question was asked in 2018.
 - A significant minority of Australians (40.9 per cent and 41.9 per cent respectively) also thought that 'Employers firing men who have been accused of sexual harassment or assault before finding out all the facts' and 'Women claiming they have experienced sexual harassment or assault when it hasn't actually occurred' were a major problem. Australians are also more likely to think they are major issues than are Americans.
- There was a **greater decline in confidence in the Federal government for women**, as well as a greater decline for women in the probability of the respondent saying they would vote for the Coalition.
 - Differences by respondent gender are for the most part, explained by views the respondent has with regards to sexual assault and harassment in the workplace. **A person's own gender appears to affect views on sexual assault and harassment in the workplace. However, it is these views rather than gender itself that have had the greatest impact on confidence in government and voting intentions.**

1 Introduction and overview

Australia at the moment is in an enviable position with regards to health, economic, and social outcomes. Data from the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods COVID-19 Impact Monitoring Survey (and corroborated by data from similar sources), shows that life satisfaction in Australia has recovered to be at levels experienced prior to the pandemic, and average psychological distress is if anything lower than it was pre-COVID (Biddle and Gray 2021). While average levels of employment and hours worked are still below what they were in February 2020, they do not appear to have been overly impacted by the removal of JobKeeper and JobSeeker. Australia's vaccination rate is well below other comparable countries, but the vaccination rate is starting to increase and in many ways the slower rate of vaccination is not as serious an issue as it could have been because of the very low rates of infection and mortality in Australia and is starting to increase.

To a certain extent, public confidence of Australian governments reflects these very positive economic and social outcomes. Where there have been elections held during the pandemic (Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory), the incumbent party has won the election, often with an increased majority. At the national level, From April 2020 to February 2021, the Coalition led or was equal to Labor on a two-party preferred basis, according to the long running Newspoll series.¹

In the early part of 2021, however, there have been a several issues that facing governments that Australians have been concerned about. Some related to the response to COVID-19, and others on broader issues related to women's safety. In a previous paper in this series (Biddle, Edwards, et al. 2021) we documented the negative view held by many Australians towards the vaccine roll-out, and quite significant concerns about vaccine safety. There have also been ongoing challenges with quarantine, and substantial dissatisfaction amongst some about the closure of borders, including recently to and from India as the COVID-19 situation there has worsened.

Mostly unrelated to COVID-19, there has been what longstanding political journalist Michelle Grattan has labelled as the 'gender wars' becoming 'another partisan battlefield.'² This has partly been in response to two very high profile rape allegations (one involving a Cabinet Minister, the other a Coalition political staffer, but also reflects the views of some that governments have not been proactive enough in responding to a diverse range of policy issues affecting women including the gender pay gap, domestic and other violence against women, and representation of women in positions of power and influence in politics, policy making, business, and civil society.

In April 2021, alongside data collected on wellbeing measures (Biddle and Gray 2021), vaccination rates (Biddle, Edwards, et al. 2021), aged care and volunteering³, the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods collected information on satisfaction with the direction of the country, confidence in institutions, and voting intentions for a representative sample of Australian adults. These measures had been collected previously, and can therefore be analysed as a time series, as well as longitudinally at the individual level. In addition, in April 2021 four questions from the Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel series were asked, focusing on views on sexual assault and harassment in the workplace.⁴

This paper summarises the data from the questions on views on sexual assault and harassment, the confidence measures and voting intentions. The remainder of the paper is structured as

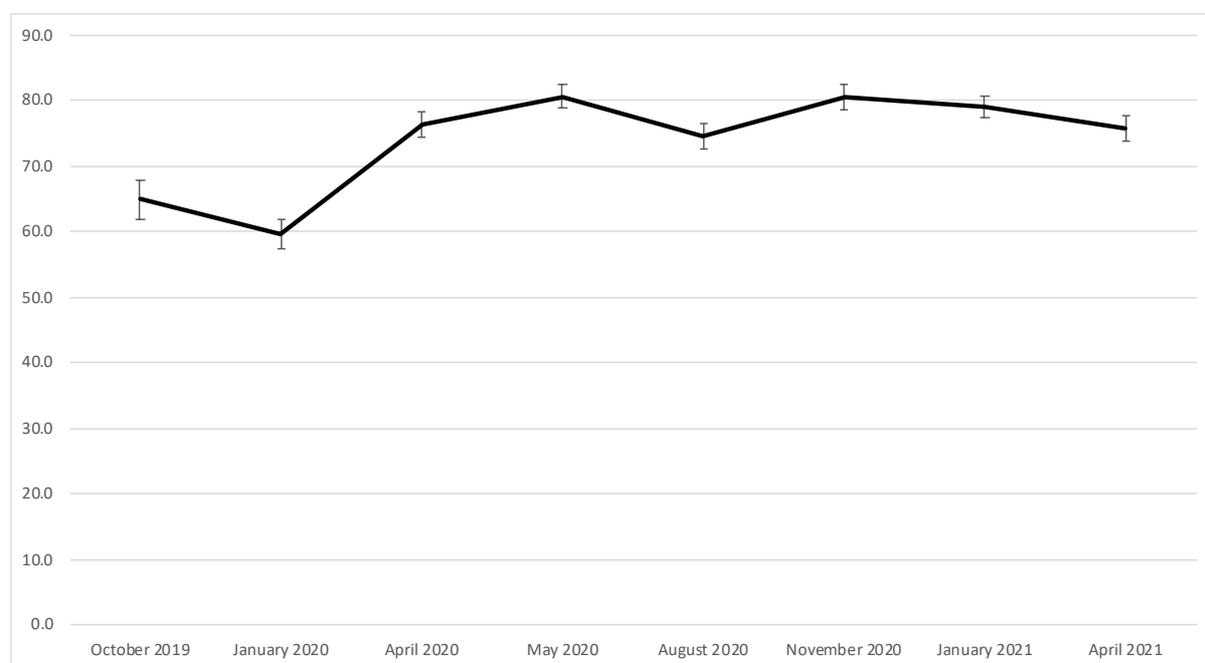
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follows. In the next section (Section 2), we document trends in satisfaction with the direction of the country. This is followed by a detailed analysis of confidence in institutions (Section 3), as well as an analysis of voting intentions (Section 4). The final section of the paper provides some concluding comments, whereas the data used in this paper is described in detail in Appendix 1 and tables of regression output are provided in Appendix 2.

2 Satisfaction with the direction of the country

There was a small but statistically significant decline in satisfaction with the direction of the country from 78.9 per cent in January 2021 to 75.7 per cent in April 2021 (Figure 1). While still far higher than pre-COVID satisfaction rate of 59.5 per cent in January 2020 during the Black Summer bushfires and 64.9 per cent in late 2019, satisfaction with the direction of the country is a little lower than the peaks observed in May and November 2020 (80.6 and 80.5 per cent respectively).

Figure 1 Per cent of Australians who were satisfied with the direction of the country, October 2019 to April 2021



Note: The “whiskers” on the bars indicate the 95 per cent confidence intervals for the estimate.

Source: ANUpoll, October 2019, January, April, May, August, November 2020, and January, April 2021.

In order to identify the factors associated with being satisfied with the direction of the country in April 2021 probit regression models are estimated. In the first model in Table 1 in the appendix, we control for demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic variables, and estimate across the entire sample. The second model focuses on respondents who were satisfied with the direction of the country in January 2021 which provides estimates of the factors associated with remaining satisfied with the direction of the country as compared to moving to being not satisfied with the direction of the country. Focussing on Model 1 which considers the factors associated with being satisfied with the direction of the country in April 2021. the estimates are that women, those born overseas, those who speak a language other than English, and those who live in the most disadvantaged of neighbourhoods are more likely to be satisfied with the direction of the country. Indigenous Australians, on the other hand, are far less likely

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to be satisfied.

There were slightly different associations when we consider the probability of staying satisfied. There were now no differences between men and women, whereas young Australians (aged 18 to 24 years) were now found to be more likely to have stayed satisfied. The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians has increased substantially, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who were satisfied in January 2021 far less likely to have remained so. Those who live in the most advantaged of areas were found to be less likely to have remained satisfied.

3 Confidence in institutions

Part of the reason for the decline in satisfaction of the direction of the country appears to be driven by views on the performance of the Federal Government, in particular. There was a very large decline in confidence in the 'Federal Government in Canberra' between January 2021 and April 2021. In January 2021, 54.3 per cent of Australians said they had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in January 2021 and by April 2021 this had fallen to 45.4 per cent (Figure 2a). This is lower than at any time during the COVID-19 period (with a peak value of 60.6 per cent in May 2020) but is still above the 27.3 per cent who reported confidence in the Federal Government in January 2020, during the height of the Black Summer bushfires.

While smaller and remaining at higher levels, there were also declines in confidence in the Public Service (64.5 per cent to 60.5 per cent) (Figure 2b) and the State/Territory government in which the person lives (70.4 per cent to 67.2 per cent) (Figures 2c). There were also statistically significant declines in confidence in Hospitals and the Health System (85.3 per cent to 77.0 per cent), but no significant decline in confidence in the police (78.1 per cent in January 2021 compared to 75.4 per cent in April 2021).

Figure 2a Per cent of Australians who had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the Federal Government, January 2020 to April 2021

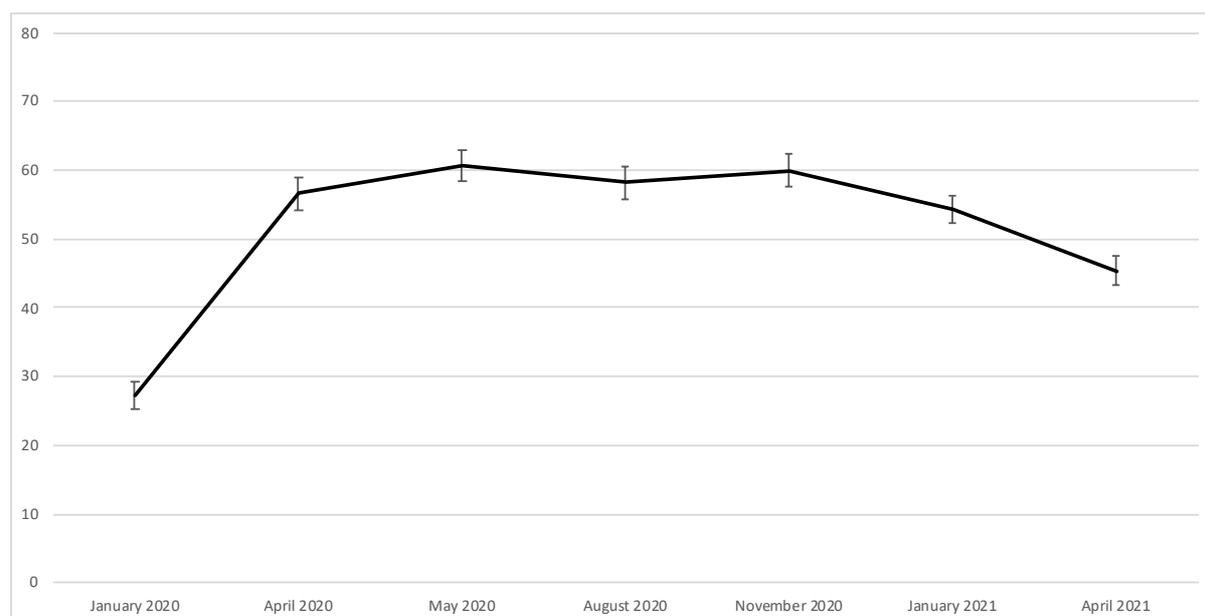


Figure 2b Per cent of Australians who had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the public service, January 2020 to April 2021

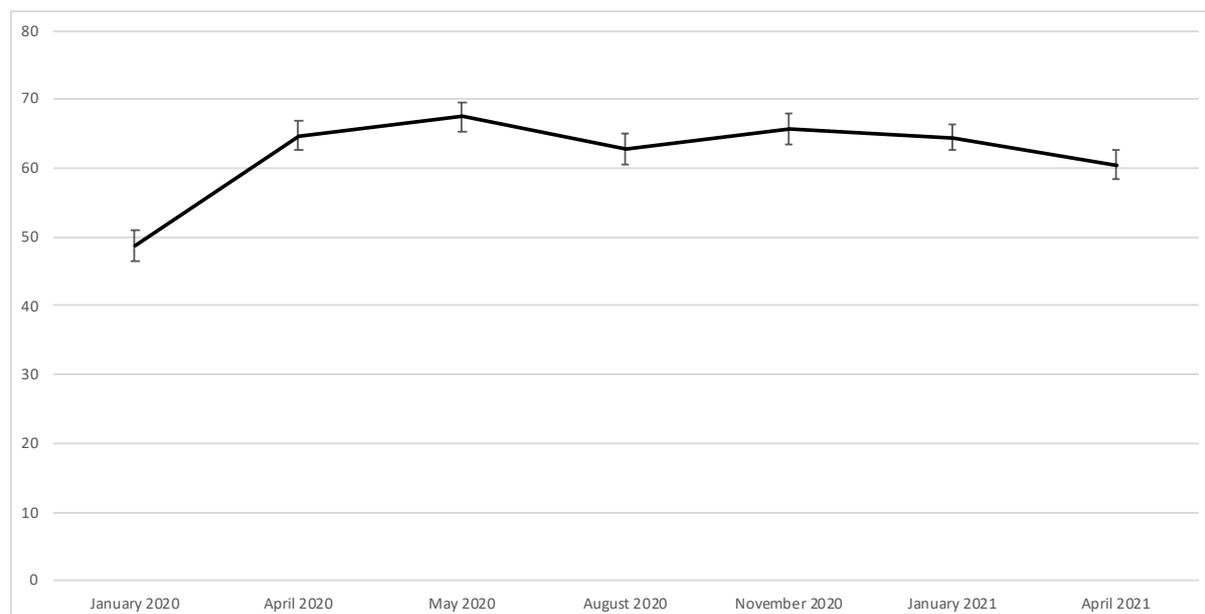
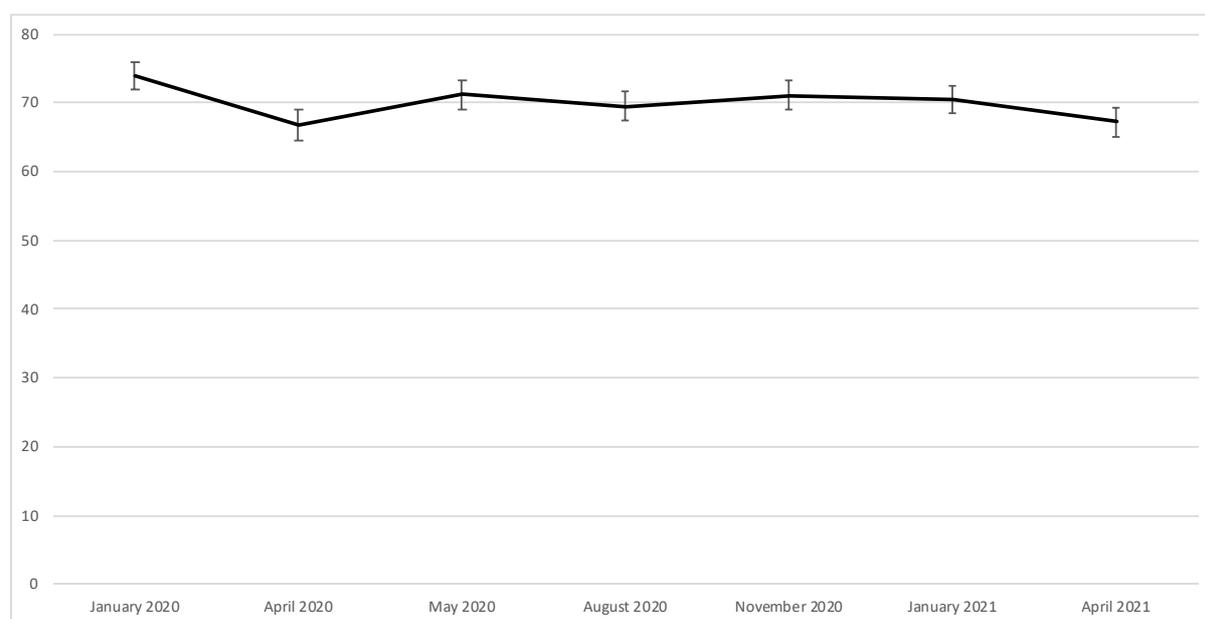


Figure 2c Per cent of Australians who had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in state/territory governments, January 2020 to April 2021



Note: The “whiskers” on the bars indicate the 95 per cent confidence intervals for the estimate.

Source: ANUpoll, January, April, May, August, November 2020, and January, April 2021.

3.1 Views on sexual assault and harassment

In mid-March 2021 tens of thousands of people across Australia marched across Australia, protesting against the sexual assault and harassment of women in Australia, with many calling for a greater and more effective government response, as well as increased representation of women in positions of power and influence.⁵ To measure Australian’s views about one aspect of the issues that these protests were about, the April 2021 survey asked ‘When it comes to sexual harassment and sexual assault in the workplace today, how much of a problem, if at all,

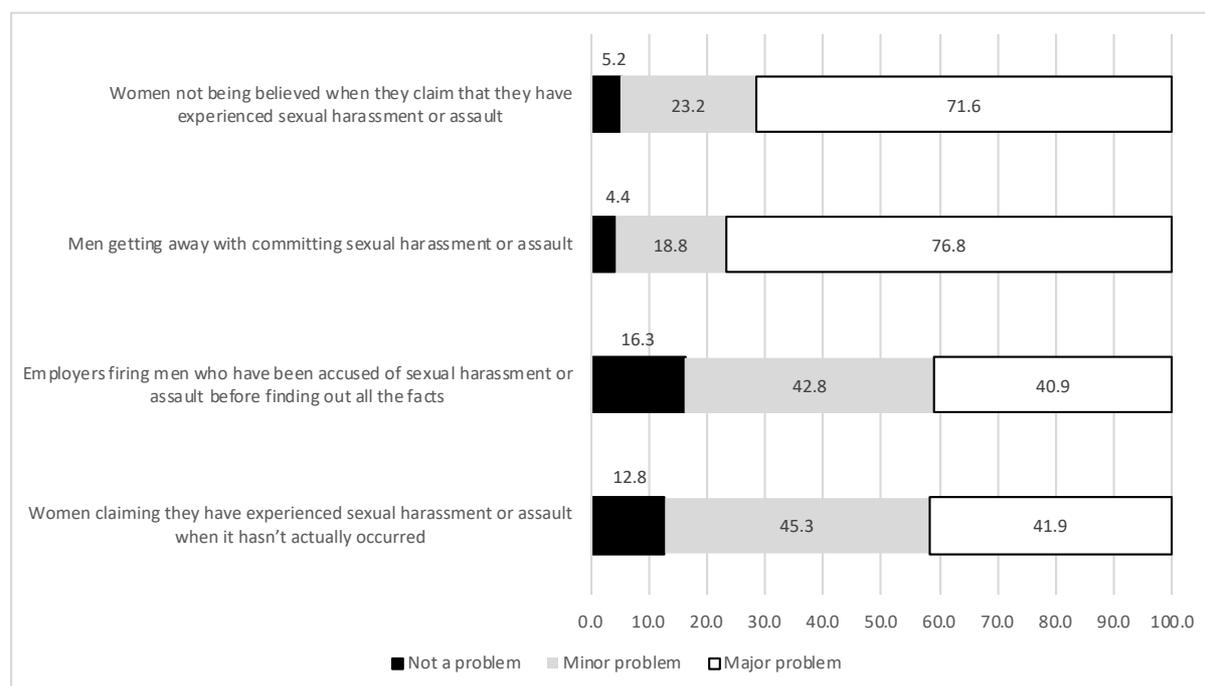
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would you say the following are?’ with four types of problems given (in a random order). These questions (and response options) were taken directly from the Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel, which was conducted in February/March 2018 in order to allow comparison of Australian’s views with the views of Americans.

About three-quarters (76.8 per cent) of Australians think that ‘Men getting away with committing sexual harassment or assault’ is a major problem (Figure 3). About seven-in-ten Australians (71.6 per cent) thought that ‘Women not being believed when they claim that they have experienced sexual harassment or assault’ was a major problem. Belief that these are major issues were far higher than in the US when the question was asked in 2018 (50 per cent and 46 per cent respectively).

A significant minority of Australians (40.9 per cent and 41.9 per cent respectively) also thought that ‘Employers firing men who have been accused of sexual harassment or assault before finding out all the facts’ and ‘Women claiming they have experienced sexual harassment or assault when it hasn’t actually occurred’ were a major problem. Responses to these questions were closer to views in the US (34 per cent and 31 per cent respectively), though Australians are still more likely to think they are major issues. Indeed, only 16.3 per cent of Australians thought that ‘Employers firing men...’ was not a problem, with even fewer (12.8 per cent) thinking that ‘Women claiming...’ was not a problem.

Figure 3 Views on extent to which aspects of sexual assault and harassment in the workplace are a major issue, April 2021



Source: ANUpoll, April 2021

After undertaking a factor analysis to identify the underlying constructs that impact on people’s views of these problems, there appears to be two separate constructs. The first of these (eigenvalue = 1.26) relates to issue salience, and is positively correlated with all four individual questions. When we undertook a cross tabulation of the issue that is considered by the highest proportion of people to be a major issue (‘Men getting away with...’) with the issue that was believed by the smallest proportion of people to be a major problem (‘Employers

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firing men...') the most common combined response was that both were a major issue, given by 35.0 per cent of Australians. Looking at this another way, of the more than three-quarters of Australians who think that 'Men getting away with...' is a major issue, 45.3 per cent think that 'Employers firing men...' is a major issue alongside 40.0 per cent who think that it is a minor issue. Only 14.8 per cent of this group think that 'Employers firing men...' is not a problem.

The second factor (eigenvalue = 0.70) relates to what we might consider views on support for or belief in men compared to women during sexual assault or harassment cases. It is positively correlated with the last two variables in Figure 3 but negatively correlated with the first two. We standardise the above two factors to both have a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one. We then undertook a linear regression model of these two standardised factors, controlling first for demographic, geographic, and socioeconomic variables (Table 2 in the Appendix).

Women were more likely to have high issue salience (report all the issues as being a major or a minor problem compared to not a problem), as do young Australians (particularly those aged 18 to 24 years) and older Australians (particularly those aged 75 years and over). None of the other demographic, geographic, or socioeconomic variables were significant

Women had significantly lower values for the 'belief in men' factor (effect size almost three times as large as for the 'issue salience' factor), whereas there were no differences across the age distribution. Those who had a degree also had less support for the 'belief in men' index. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, those born overseas in a non-English speaking country, those who spoke a language other than English at home, had not completed Year 12, had a Certificate III/IV, and lived outside of capital cities had significantly higher values for the belief in men factor.

Controlling for the above characteristics, a person's voting intentions in January 2021 were not associated with the issue salience factor. However, those who said they would have voted for the Coalition parties when asked in January 2021 and those who would have voted for an 'other' party had higher values for the belief in men factor than those who would have voted Greens, Labor, or don't know (in that order).

3.2 Relationship between gender and confidence in government

Perhaps because of the considerable focus on the role of women in the current Coalition government during the period between the January 2021 and April 2021 COVID Impact Monitoring surveys (including discussion on topic related to Figure 3), there was a slightly larger decline in confidence in the Federal Government between men and women over the period. In January 2021, 56.1 per cent of women said they had confidence in the Federal government, declining to 45.9 per cent in April 2021. For men, on the other hand, confidence declined from 53.3 per cent to 45.3 per cent.

There was, however, a much stronger relationship between change in confidence in the Federal Government and the 'belief in men' index with those with higher values reporting a relative improvement in confidence. These results were identified from an ordered probit model, controlling for confidence in January 2021, voting intentions in January 2021, and demographic, geographic, and socioeconomic variables (Table 3 in the Appendix), but can also be shown descriptively. Of those who in April 2021 said that 'Men getting away with committing sexual harassment or assault' is a major problem, 52.9 per cent had confidence in

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the Federal Government in January 2021, declining to 42.5 per cent in April 2021. For those who thought it was a minor issue, the decline was much less (from 60.4 per cent to 56.3 per cent) and for the small sample of Australians who thought it was not a problem at all, there was also a much smaller decline (from 57.8 per cent to 51.8 per cent).

One of the most important findings from the regression analysis is that, once views on sexual assault and harassment had been controlled for, women had become slightly more confident relative to men over the period. It would appear from the data that an individual's own gender has been less important over the period in explaining changes in confidence compared to a person's views on sexual assault and harassment in the workplace. This appears to have only impacted on the Federal government, however, as there was no association between the 'belief in men' variable and change in confidence in public services or State/Territory governments (the second and third set of columns in Table 3).

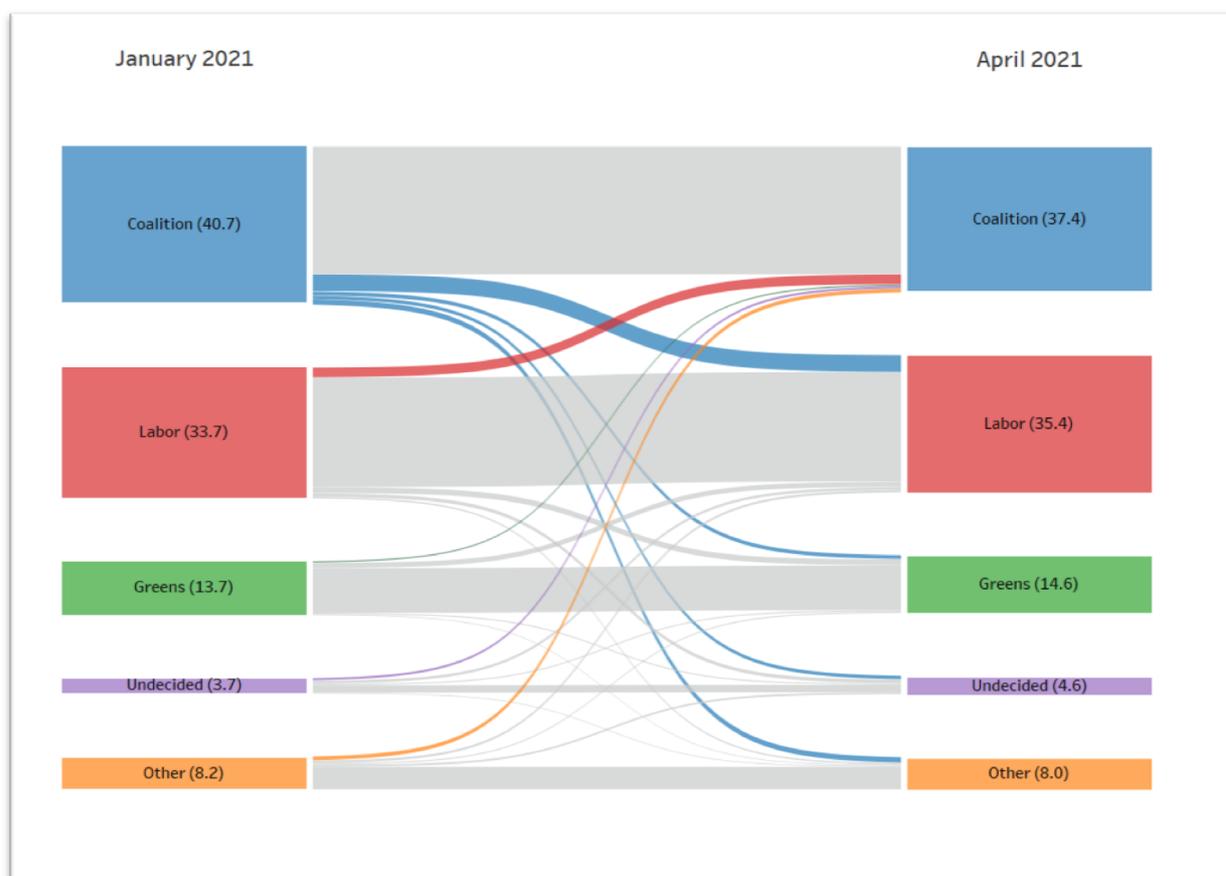
4 Voting intentions

From a public policy perspective, confidence in institutions is far more important than views on particular political parties. However, the intention to vote for the incumbent political party can be taken as an indication of how people view the current general policy settings. There has been a large decline in the per cent of respondents who say they would vote for the Coalition (Liberal, National, or Liberal National Parties) between January 2021 and April 2021 – from 40.3 per cent to 37.3 per cent. There has only been a small increase in voting intentions for Labor (33.8 per cent to 35.1 per cent) with much of the rest of the change in voting intentions going to Greens and the 'don't know' categories.

Figure 4 highlights these transitions. The nodes on the left and the right give the per cent of the linked January-April 2021 sample who said they would have voted for each of the groupings in January and April 2021 respectively. The 'ribbons' connecting those nodes are proportionate in size to the flows between the five nodes. Most people do not change who they say they would vote for over such a short period, with 80.8 per cent of the sample grouped in the same category in April as they were in January. The most stable group of voters from January 2021 was Labor and Greens voters, with 84.5 per cent of those two groups saying they would vote for the same party when asked again in April. The least stable were the 'Don't Know/Undecided' and 'Other' groups, with 50.8 and 71.1 per cent of the respective samples not changing their voting intentions between January and April.

In between these two sets of voters, Coalition voters were less stable than Labor/Greens voters over the period, with 81.2 per cent of those who said they would have voted Coalition in January also saying they would have voted Coalition when asked again in April. What's more, Figure 4 shows that there were more people changing **from** saying they would for the Coalition (the blue flows or ribbons) compared to changing **to** voting for the Coalition (the coloured flows).

Figure 4 Flows in voting intentions, January to April 2021



Source: ANUpoll, January and April 2021

There is some initial descriptive evidence that the drop in the Coalition voter is greater for women than men. In January 2021, 38.0 per cent of female respondents said they would have voted for the Coalition, compared to 34.4 per cent in April 2021. This is a drop of 3.6 percentage points. For men, on the other hand, the Coalition vote started higher and declined by less (from 42.0 per cent to 39.5 per cent). Regression results presented in Table 7 show that this, however, is mostly explained by other factors.

In order to understand the transitions away (and to) the Coalition over the period, we undertake a regression analysis with the probability of voting for the Coalition in April 2021 as the dependent variable. In the first model, we control for demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic characteristics only, and estimate the factors associated with voting for the Coalition across the entire sample. This is akin to a simple cross-sectional analysis. In the second model, we also include the index values for the two sexual assault and harassment in the workplace variables introduced in the previous section. The last two models split the sample into those who said they would have voted Coalition in January 2021 (that is, the probability of staying a Coalition voter) and separately those who said they would have voted for another party in January 2021 (that is, the probability of becoming a Coalition voter).

Looking at the simple cross-sectional analysis, women were less likely to vote for the Coalition when asked in April 2021, as were those born overseas in an English-speaking country. Older Australians were more likely to say they would have voted for the Coalition, with the conditional probability increasing as age increases (those aged 75 years and over have the

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highest probability). Those who speak a language other than English were also more likely to say they would have voted for the Coalition.

Some of these results change once views on sexual assault and harassment are controlled for. In particular, the differences in voting probabilities by a person's own gender is entirely explained by views with regards to sexual assault and harassment in the workplace. In particular, those who rate highly on issue salience are slightly more likely to say they would vote for the Coalition. Even more so though, a one-standard deviation increase in the 'belief in men' index is associated with a large increase in the probability of the person saying they would vote for the Coalition. Once these views are controlled for, the differences by gender are no longer statistically significant.

Looking at the last two estimations though, longitudinally women who said they would have voted for the Coalition in January 2021 were less likely to still say that they would have voted for the Coalition in April 2021. That is, women less likely to have stayed coalition voters over period. Views on sexual assault and harassment did not correlate with staying a Coalition voter. Looking at the opposite transition, and controlling for who a person would have voted for in January, women are slightly more likely to have become Coalition voters over the period, but the difference is not statistically significant. Combined, this implies that for women there has been more churn in voting patterns. There was also a very strong correlation with becoming a Coalition voter and views on sexual assault and harassment in terms of both the issue salience, and 'belief in men' variables. Finally, compared to Labor voters, Greens voters as of January 2021 were less likely to have become Coalition voters by April 2021, whereas 'Other' and 'Undecided' voters were more likely to have.

5 Concluding comments

For the most part, Australians are far more satisfied with the direction of the country, and far more confident in key institutions than they were prior to the pandemic. However, the levels of satisfaction and confidence slipped between January and April 2021, with a particularly large drop in confidence in the Federal Government. There were also noticeable declines in the proportion of Australians who said they would vote for the Coalition, if an election were to be held on the day of the interview. There has been a lot of speculation about the reasons for these declines, with competing hypotheses that voter gender was or was not important. We find some support for the hypothesis that gender does matter. There was a larger decline in confidence in the Federal government amongst women, as well as a greater decline amongst women in the proportion saying they would vote for the Coalition.

The gender differences, however, are for the most part explained by views the respondent has with regards to sexual assault and harassment in the workplace. In particular, respondents who were more likely to say that 'Men getting away with committing sexual harassment or assault' is a major issue or 'Women not being believed when they claim that they have experienced sexual harassment or assault' is a major issue compared to those who say that 'Women claiming they have experienced sexual harassment or assault when it hasn't actually occurred' is a major issue or that 'Employers firing men who have been accused of sexual harassment or assault before finding out all the facts' is a major issue. To put this another way, a person's own gender appears to affect views on sexual assault and harassment in the workplace. However, it is these views rather than gender itself that have had the greatest impact on confidence in government and voting intentions.

Appendix 1 About the survey

The primary source of data for this paper is the April 2021 ANUpoll. Data collection commenced on the 12th of April 2021 with a pilot test of telephone respondents. The main data collection commenced on the 13th of April and concluded on the 26th of April. The final sample size for the survey is 3,286 respondents. 54.7 per cent of the sample had completed the survey by the 15th of April and the average interview duration was 13.9 minutes. Of those who had completed the April 2021 survey, 94.6 per cent (N=3,109) had completed the January 2021 survey.

The Social Research Centre collected data online and through Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) in order to ensure representation from the offline Australian population. Around 5.1 per cent of interviews were collected via CATI. The contact methodology adopted for the online Life in Australia™ members is an initial survey invitation via email and SMS (where available), followed by multiple email reminders and a reminder SMS. Telephone non-response of panel members who have not yet completed the survey commenced in the second week of fieldwork and consisted of reminder calls encouraging completion of the online survey.

The contact methodology for offline Life in Australia™ members was an initial SMS (where available), followed by an extended call-cycle over a two-week period. A reminder SMS was also sent in the second week of fieldwork.

A total of 4,002 respondents were invited to take part in the survey, leading to a wave-specific completion rate of 82.1 per cent. Taking into account recruitment to the panel, the cumulative response rate for this survey is around 7.0 per cent.

Unless otherwise stated, data in the paper is weighted to population benchmarks. For Life in Australia™, the approach for deriving weights generally consists of the following steps:

1. Compute a base weight for each respondent as the product of two weights:
 - a. Their enrolment weight, accounting for the initial chances of selection and subsequent post-stratification to key demographic benchmarks
 - b. Their response propensity weight, estimated from enrolment information available for both respondents and non-respondents to the present wave.
2. Adjust the base weights so that they satisfy the latest population benchmarks for several demographic characteristics.

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (2014/241).

Appendix 2 Regression tables

Table 1 Factors associated with satisfaction with the direction of the country, April 2021

Explanatory variables	All Australians		Those satisfied in January 2021	
	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.
Female	0.188	***	0.069	
Aged 18 to 24 years	-0.108		0.456	*
Aged 25 to 34 years	-0.142		-0.129	
Aged 45 to 54 years	-0.004		-0.038	
Aged 55 to 64 years	-0.055		-0.081	
Aged 65 to 74 years	-0.027		-0.023	
Aged 75 years plus	0.011		-0.061	
Indigenous	-0.542	**	-0.829	***
Born overseas in a main English-speaking country	0.299	***	0.060	
Born overseas in a non-English speaking country	0.145		-0.010	
Speaks a language other than English at home	0.355	***	0.286	*
Has not completed Year 12 or post-school qualification	0.131		0.121	
Has a post graduate degree	-0.064		-0.040	
Has an undergraduate degree	0.025		0.048	
Has a Certificate III/IV, Diploma or Associate Degree	0.076		0.129	
Lives in the most disadvantaged areas (1st quintile)	0.186	*	0.095	
Lives in next most disadvantaged areas (2nd quintile)	-0.056		-0.104	
Lives in next most advantaged areas (4th quintile)	0.020		0.025	
Lives in the most advantaged areas (5th quintile)	-0.074		-0.266	*
Lives in a non-capital city	-0.039		-0.087	
Constant	0.507	***	1.204	***
Sample size	3,130		2,339	

Source: ANUpoll, January and April 2021

Notes: Probit Regression Model. The base case individual is female; aged 35 to 44 years; non-Indigenous; born in Australia; does not speak a language other than English at home; has completed Year 12 but does not have a post-graduate degree; lives in neither an advantaged or disadvantaged suburb (third quintile); and lives in a capital city. Coefficients that are statistically significant at the 1 per cent level of significance are labelled ***; those significant at the 5 per cent level of significance are labelled **, and those significant at the 10 per cent level of significance are labelled *.

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Table 2 Factors associated with indices of views on sexual assault and harassment in the workplace, April 2021

Explanatory variables	Issue salience index				Belief in men index			
	Model 1		Model 2		Model 1		Model 2	
	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.
Would have voted Labor in January 2021			-0.006				-0.392	***
Would have voted Greens in January 2021			-0.080				-0.898	***
Would have voted 'Other' party in January 2021			-0.030				0.084	
Undecided voter in January 2021			-0.090				-0.268	**
Female	0.112	**	0.103	**	-0.424	***	-0.366	***
Aged 18 to 24 years	0.618	***	0.615	***	-0.049		0.085	
Aged 25 to 34 years	0.283	***	0.282	***	-0.081		-0.037	
Aged 45 to 54 years	0.135		0.147		0.081		0.005	
Aged 55 to 64 years	0.273	***	0.247	***	0.044		-0.023	
Aged 65 to 74 years	0.391	***	0.372	***	-0.032		-0.127	*
Aged 75 years plus	0.560	***	0.523	***	0.105		-0.025	
Indigenous	0.095		0.057		0.333	**	0.233	
Born overseas in a main English-speaking country	-0.032		-0.025		-0.123	*	-0.114	*
Born overseas in a non-English speaking country	0.147		0.110		0.231	***	0.248	***
Speaks a language other than English at home	0.095		0.097		0.230	***	0.120	
Has not completed Year 12 or post-school qualification	-0.016		-0.046		0.303	***	0.189	**
Has a post graduate degree	-0.096		-0.110		-0.248	***	-0.196	***
Has an undergraduate degree	-0.106		-0.123		-0.123	*	-0.095	
Has a Certificate III/IV, Diploma or Associate Degree	0.001		-0.023		0.159	**	0.149	**
Lives in the most disadvantaged areas (1st quintile)	0.114		0.103		0.076		0.096	
Lives in next most disadvantaged areas (2nd quintile)	-0.113		-0.130		0.090		0.078	
Lives in next most advantaged areas (4th quintile)	-0.027		-0.038		0.040		0.025	
Lives in the most advantaged areas (5th quintile)	0.042		0.061		-0.034		-0.064	
Lives in a non-capital city	-0.037		-0.020		0.082	*	0.020	
Constant	-0.301	***	-0.240	**	0.101		0.414	***
Sample size	3,016		2,858		3,016		2,858	

Source: ANUpoll, January and April 2021

Notes: Linear Regression Model. The base case individual is female; aged 35 to 44 years; non-Indigenous; born in Australia; does not speak a language other than English at home; has completed Year 12 but does not have a post-graduate degree; lives in neither an advantaged or disadvantaged suburb (third quintile); and lives in a capital city. Coefficients that are statistically significant at the 1 per cent level of significance are labelled ***; those significant at the 5 per cent level of significance are labelled **, and those significant at the 10 per cent level of significance are labelled *.

Confidence in government and satisfaction with the direction of the country

Table 3 Factors associated with confidence in key institutions, April 2021

Explanatory variables	Federal Government		Public Service		State/Territory governments	
	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.
Quite a lot of confidence in January 2021	-1.147	***	-0.989	*	-1.136	***
Not very much confidence in January 2021	-2.532	***	-2.204		-2.459	***
No confidence at all in January 2021	-3.885	***	-3.280		-3.912	***
Sexual assault and harassment index – Issue salience	-0.051	*	0.055	***	0.020	
Sexual assault and harassment index – Belief in men	0.110	***	-0.047		-0.037	
Would have voted Labor in January 2021	-0.410	***	0.115		0.074	
Would have voted Greens in January 2021	-0.498	***	-0.254		0.035	
Would have voted 'Other' party in January 2021	-0.422	***	-0.359		-0.391	***
Undecided voter in January 2021	-0.553	***	-0.100	**	-0.013	
Female	0.132	**	-0.011		0.008	
Aged 18 to 24 years	0.098		-0.150	**	0.016	
Aged 25 to 34 years	-0.001		-0.032	**	0.127	
Aged 45 to 54 years	0.023		-0.206		-0.072	
Aged 55 to 64 years	0.051		-0.129		0.086	
Aged 65 to 74 years	0.072		-0.239		0.125	
Aged 75 years plus	-0.038		-0.251		-0.037	
Indigenous	-0.218		-0.305		0.241	
Born overseas in a main English-speaking country	-0.060		0.104		-0.021	
Born overseas in a non-English speaking country	-0.200	**	0.005		0.053	
Speaks a language other than English at home	0.374	***	0.010		-0.025	
Has not completed Year 12 or post-school qualification	0.162		-0.168		-0.010	
Has a post graduate degree	-0.112		-0.020		-0.051	
Has an undergraduate degree	-0.031		0.084		0.073	
Has a Certificate III/IV, Diploma or Associate Degree	-0.087		-0.130		0.069	
Lives in the most disadvantaged areas (1st quintile)	-0.033		0.061		-0.122	
Lives in next most disadvantaged areas (2nd quintile)	0.099		0.095	***	-0.117	
Lives in next most advantaged areas (4th quintile)	0.048		0.128		-0.064	
Lives in the most advantaged areas (5th quintile)	0.001		0.150		-0.039	
Lives in a non-capital city	-0.030		0.026		-0.044	
Cut-point 1	-3.697		-3.786		-3.754	
Cut-point 2	-1.719		-1.789		-1.977	
Cut-point 3	0.442		0.638		0.081	
Sample size	1,133		1,133		1,133	

Source: ANUpoll, January and April 2021.

Confidence in government and satisfaction with the direction of the country

Notes: Ordered Probit Regression Model. The base case individual is female; aged 35 to 44 years; non-Indigenous; born in Australia; does not speak a language other than English at home; has completed Year 12 but does not have a post-graduate degree; lives in neither an advantaged or disadvantaged suburb (third quintile); and lives in a capital city. Coefficients that are statistically significant at the 1 per cent level of significance are labelled ***; those significant at the 5 per cent level of significance are labelled **, and those significant at the 10 per cent level of significance are labelled *.

Confidence in government and satisfaction with the direction of the country

Table 4 Factors associated with respondent saying that they would vote Coalition in April 2021

Explanatory variables	All respondents				Voted Coalition in January 2021		Did not vote Coalition in January 2021	
	Model 1 Coeff.	Signif.	Model 2 Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.
Would have voted Greens in January 2021							-0.560	***
Would have voted 'Other' party in January 2021							0.398	**
Undecided voter in January 2021							0.558	***
Sexual assault and harassment index – Issue salience			0.048	*	0.040		0.112	**
Sexual assault and harassment index – Belief in men			0.342	***	0.081		0.186	***
Female	-0.130	**	-0.009		-0.250	**	0.205	
Aged 18 to 24 years	-0.219		-0.232		-0.128		0.327	
Aged 25 to 34 years	-0.040		-0.056		-0.304		0.455	**
Aged 45 to 54 years	0.397	***	0.339	***	0.045		0.241	
Aged 55 to 64 years	0.410	***	0.384	***	-0.074		0.257	
Aged 65 to 74 years	0.653	***	0.638	***	0.523	**	-0.083	
Aged 75 years plus	0.809	***	0.740	***	0.462	*	0.309	
Indigenous	-0.189		-0.247		-0.338		0.071	
Born overseas in a main English-speaking country	-0.157	*	-0.128		-0.350	**	-0.121	
Born overseas in a non-English speaking country	-0.024		-0.112		-0.341		0.168	
Speaks a language other than English at home	0.331	***	0.270	**	-0.063		0.345	*
Has not completed Year 12 or post-school qualification	0.163		0.100		-0.019		0.049	
Has a post graduate degree	-0.099		0.010		0.172		-0.055	
Has an undergraduate degree	-0.067		-0.010		0.318	*	-0.170	
Has a Certificate III/IV, Diploma or Associate Degree	0.040		0.007		0.088		0.100	
Lives in the most disadvantaged areas (1st quintile)	-0.044		-0.085		-0.142		0.258	
Lives in next most disadvantaged areas (2nd quintile)	-0.013		-0.037		-0.155		0.021	
Lives in next most advantaged areas (4th quintile)	0.008		-0.025		-0.153		0.181	
Lives in the most advantaged areas (5th quintile)	0.111		0.129		0.005		0.230	
Lives in a non-capital city	0.074		0.044		0.039		-0.153	
Constant	-0.611	***	-0.654	***	1.076	***	-2.120	***
Sample size	3,133		3,016		1,193		1,665	

Source: ANUpoll, April 2021.

Notes: Probit Regression Model. The base case individual is female; aged 35 to 44 years; non-Indigenous; born in Australia; does not speak a language other than English at home; has completed Year 12 but does not have a post-graduate degree; lives in neither an advantaged or disadvantaged suburb (third quintile); and lives in a capital city. Coefficients that are statistically significant at the 1 per cent level of significance are labelled ***; those significant at the 5 per cent level of significance are labelled **, and those significant at the 10 per cent level of significance are labelled *.

References

Biddle, B. and M. Gray (2021). 'Tracking wellbeing outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic (April 2021): Continued social and economic recovery and resilience.' COVID-19 Briefing Paper, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, Australian National University, Canberra.

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Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/newspoll>
- 2 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-19/gender-wars-becoming-another-partisan-battlefield/13260080>
- 3 The data on aged care and volunteering will be reported in papers to be released during May 2021.
- 4 <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2018/04/04/sexual-harassment-at-work-in-the-era-of-metoo/>
- 5 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-56397170>