

HORIZON RESEARCH – COVID-19 POLICY MANAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Information and questions used in ascertaining opinion on COVID-19 management policy options, omnibus survey, August 20 to 25 2020.

SCREEN ONE

How do you want COVID-19 managed?

Here's some background for you on the debate some are now having on whether or not New Zealand should change the way it is managing the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts.

Some are arguing New Zealand cannot afford the economic and other costs of periodically imposing restrictions when there is a new outbreak of community transmission of the virus.

Sweden's approach: trusting citizens to do the right things

They point to Sweden as a model, where citizens are trusted to keep a social distance and work from home if they can. Shops, banks, kindergartens and all schools are open to people up to age 16. Restaurants and bars are open. There is no quarantine for those who become infected, or for people entering the country.

At August 18, 2020, Sweden reported a total of **85,045 cases**, 2,541 were in intensive care and **5,787 deaths** (around half of them from care homes). Forecasts are for around another 10,000 deaths in the next 12 months. Unemployment is forecast to be 9.5% in the coming year.

Some say the Covid-19 death-to-population ratio in Sweden shows it has killed 0.06 percent of Swedes.

Others say a death rate of 0.06 percent of New Zealand's five million is 3,000 people - about 10 % of all the people who die in a given year in New Zealand.

New Zealand's approach: stamping it out, with community support

At August 18, 2020, there had been **1,631 cases** of COVID-19 infection in New Zealand, no-one was in intensive care and there had been **22 deaths**.

New Zealand has various alert levels resulting in almost-full to partial lockdown of the economy, to stamp out community infection. This resulted in elimination of community infection for 102 days until a new cluster was found originating in Auckland in August 2020.

Essential businesses and services may remain open during lockdowns, but non-essential services involving face-to-face dealings with people and who cannot offer contactless transactions are closed in Levels 3 and 4.

Only New Zealand citizens, permanent residents and some other categories of people are allowed to enter the country, all must go into government approved quarantine for 14 days and test COVID-19 free before re-entering the community.

The value of the economy (GDP) is expected to fall by 4.6% in the year to June 2020, then grow again from September 2021.

Unemployment is forecast to rise to peak at 9.8% in September 2020, then recover.

The Government created a \$50 billion Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund. This fund builds on top of the initial \$12.1 billion package, and the \$12 billion New Zealand Upgrade Programme announced in January. It has been paying wage and income benefits and introduced other programmes to support businesses, individuals, community and other organisations.

SCREEN TWO

Overall, which of these approaches do you think New Zealand should take from here?

Please tick the one you most agree with

- a. Change the policy to take a less restrictive approach, like Sweden, and allow COVID-19 transmission within the community to reduce economic costs and harm to the economy
- b. Continue imposing varying levels of restrictions to manage and eliminate outbreaks of infections in the community, and borrow and spend to reduce economic impacts and help with economic recovery
- c. No response given

Overall, which of these approaches do you believe will be better for the New Zealand economy long term?

Please select the one you most agree with

- a) Allowing COVID-19 to transmit within New Zealand
- b) Eliminating COVID-19 transmission within New Zealand
- c) I'm really not sure

Please note: These questions are the intellectual property of Horizon Research Ltd.

Information sources: NZ Government 2020 Budget and supporting forecasts, World Health Organisation, articles published in various mainstream news media, including the NZ Herald, Stuff and the National Business Review.