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Community panel



YourSay Community Panel COVID-19 Round 10 Survey

8 August 2021





Background: The ACT Government conducted a tenth round of research with the YourSay Panel focusing on how Coronavirus (COVID-19) is impacting Canberrans. The survey focused on community attitudes and behaviours in relation to face masks, vaccination and other COVID-safe behaviours, along with measures of community and government response.

Purpose: The findings from the survey will help inform ACT Government public health messaging to support mask-wearing, COVID-19 vaccination, and continue to engage in other COVID-safe behaviours as the situation across Australia evolves.

Timeframe: The survey took place between **2 – 6 July 2021**, during which masks were mandatory in certain settings in the ACT.

Sample: **2,130** 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.

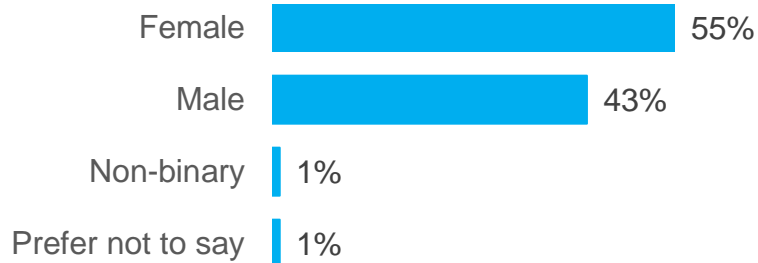
Rounding: In single choice questions, results may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

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

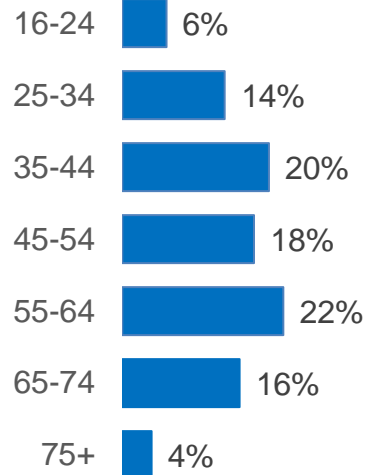


Round 10 sample profile (unweighted)

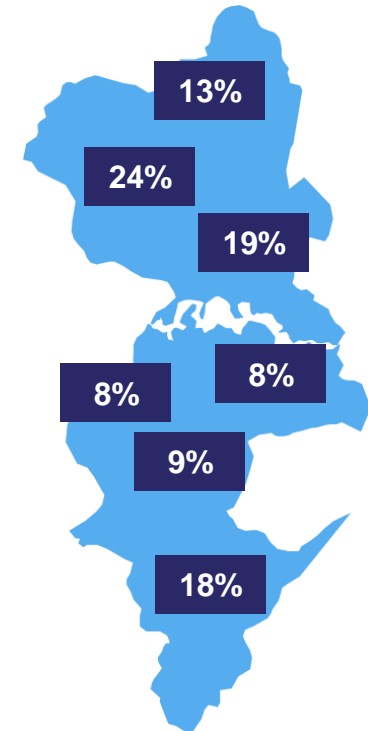
Gender



Age



Region





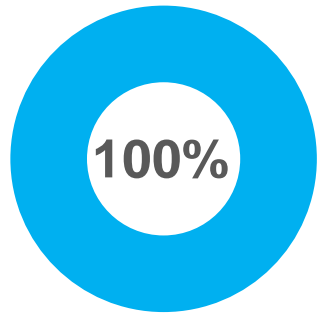
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Face masks



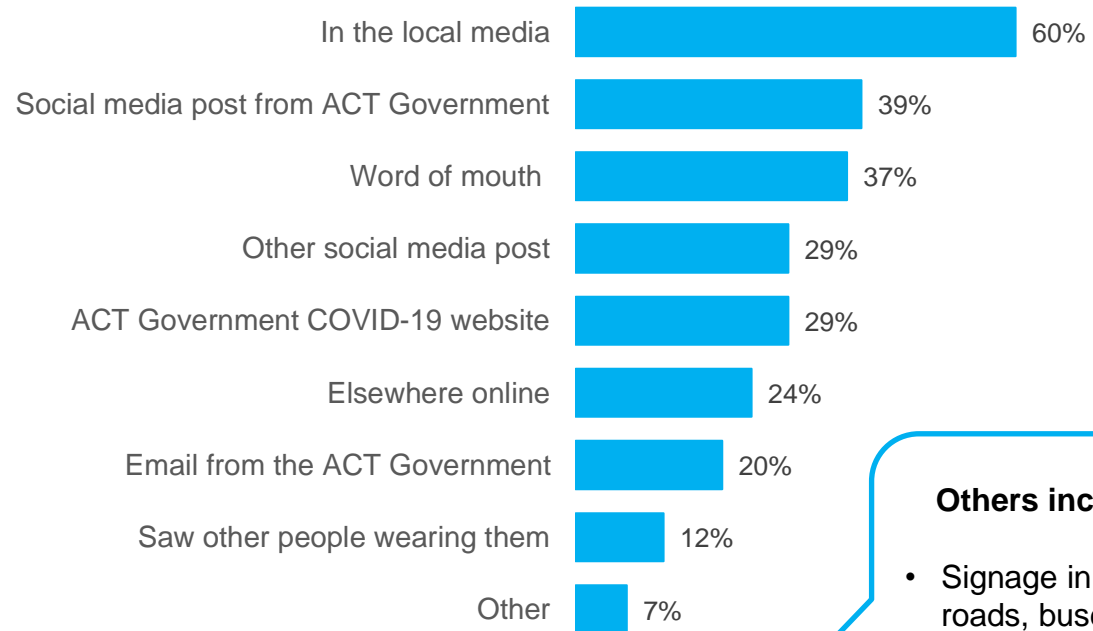
Canberrans are aware of the mask mandate, with many hearing about it via local media



of Canberrans are aware of the mask mandate for certain public settings



Q. How did you hear about it?



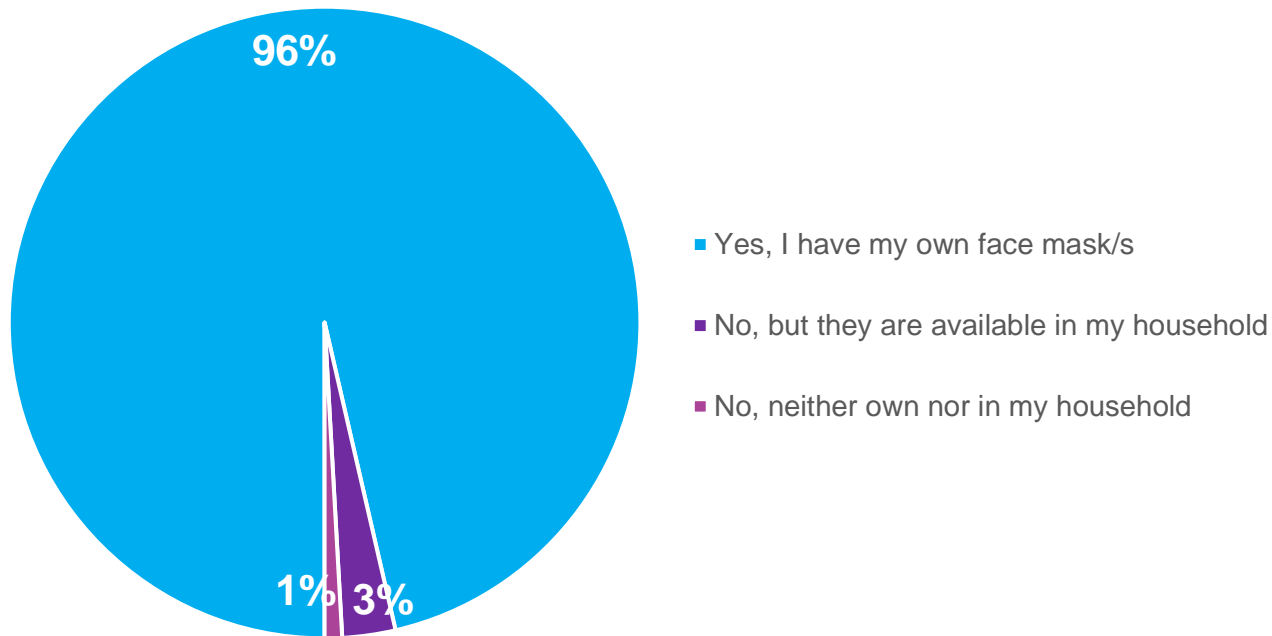
Others include:

- Signage in shops, roads, buses etc
- Work email



Almost all Canberrans have their own face masks

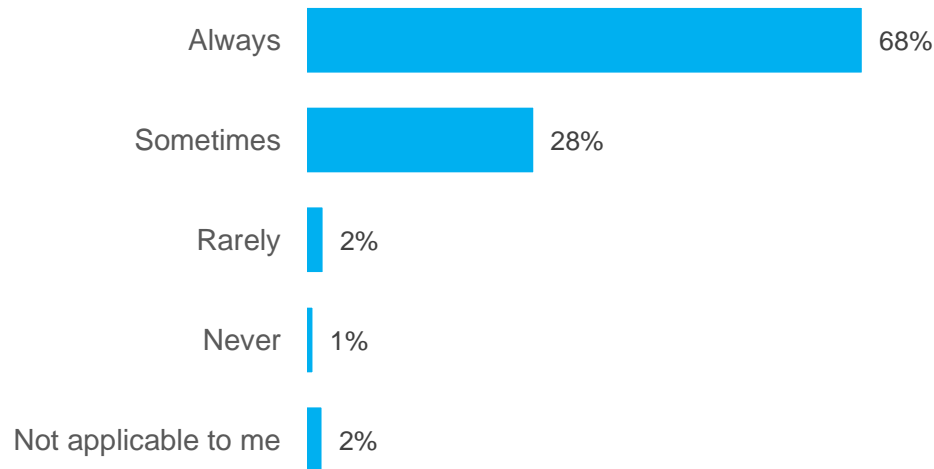
Q. Do you have your own face mask/s?





High reported compliance in mask-wearing, with seven in ten always wearing one outside of the home

Q. How often this week have you worn a face mask when outside your home?



Females are more likely to always wear a face mask outdoors than males

Those who say they are probably not or definitely not going to get a COVID-19 vaccine are also less likely to own and wear face masks



A large majority are confident in how to use a face mask correctly

Q. How confident are you that you know how to use a face mask correctly?



■ Extremely confident ■ Very confident ■ Somewhat confident ■ Not so confident ■ Not at all confident ■ Can't say

Confidence in correct face mask use appears higher than in August 2020, when 72% were extremely or very confident

Confidence tends to decrease with age, from 59% of 16-24 year olds saying they are extremely confident to 34% of those aged 75 or older



Nearly nine in ten feel well informed about when and where they should wear a face mask

*Q. To what extent would you agree with the following statement?
Overall, I feel well informed about when and where I must wear a face mask in the ACT.*



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Older groups of the population (55+) tend to feel more strongly informed about when and where to wear a face mask

Why not feeling informed?

- Contradictory advice / interpretation
- Uncertainty re outdoors / public places
- Not sure about when eating / drinking
- Too many venues - requirements lack simplicity
- Uncertainty around wearing in the workplace



Other comments and issues mentioned about face masks

Supportive of implementing this – a proactive step in light of outbreaks

Better than a lockdown

Happy to do it to stop the spread

Hopefully just a temporary thing

Rules are ambiguous, open to interpretation – e.g. public settings

Feel ostracised / singled out if not wearing outdoors, even when not required (e.g. going for a walk)

Some requirements seem counterintuitive – e.g. no masks working out in gyms, offices etc

Feels unnecessary, over-reaction

Question marks over efficacy of face masks

People are not wearing or using them correctly – need a refresher

Need better enforcement, staff at shops checking etc



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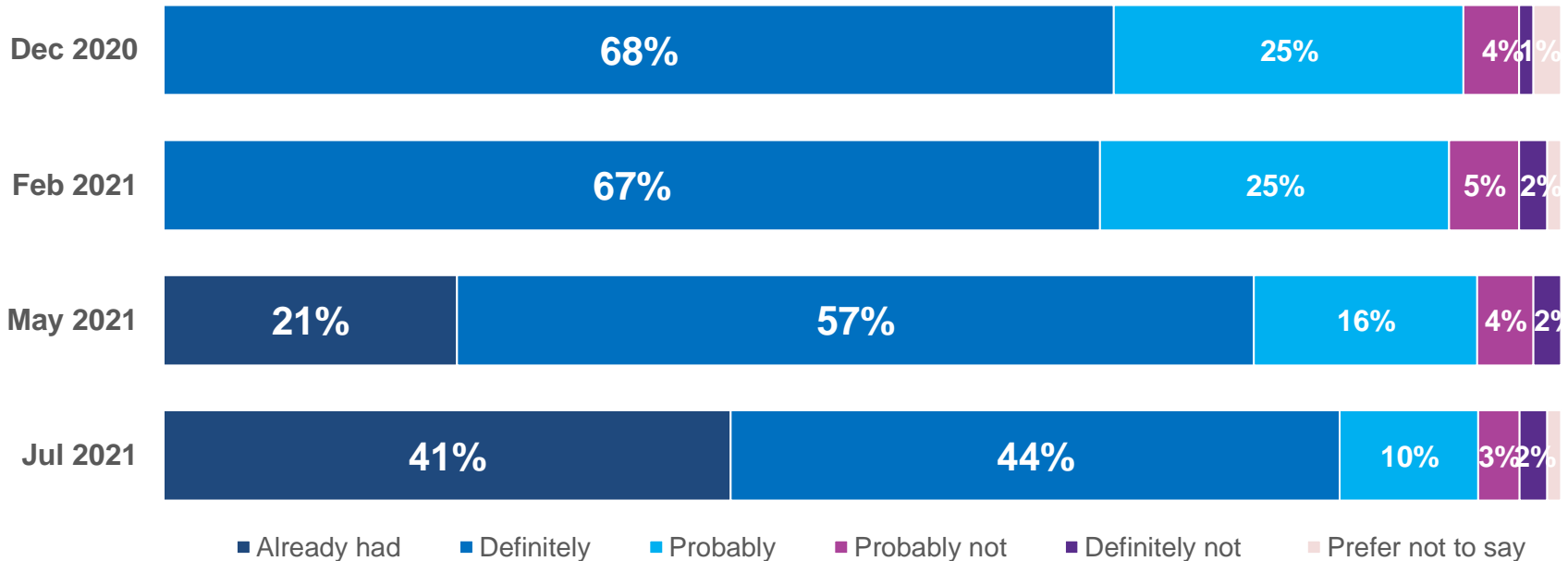


COVID-19 vaccine



Around four in ten Canberrans have had at least one shot, while a further 44% say they will definitely get one when they can

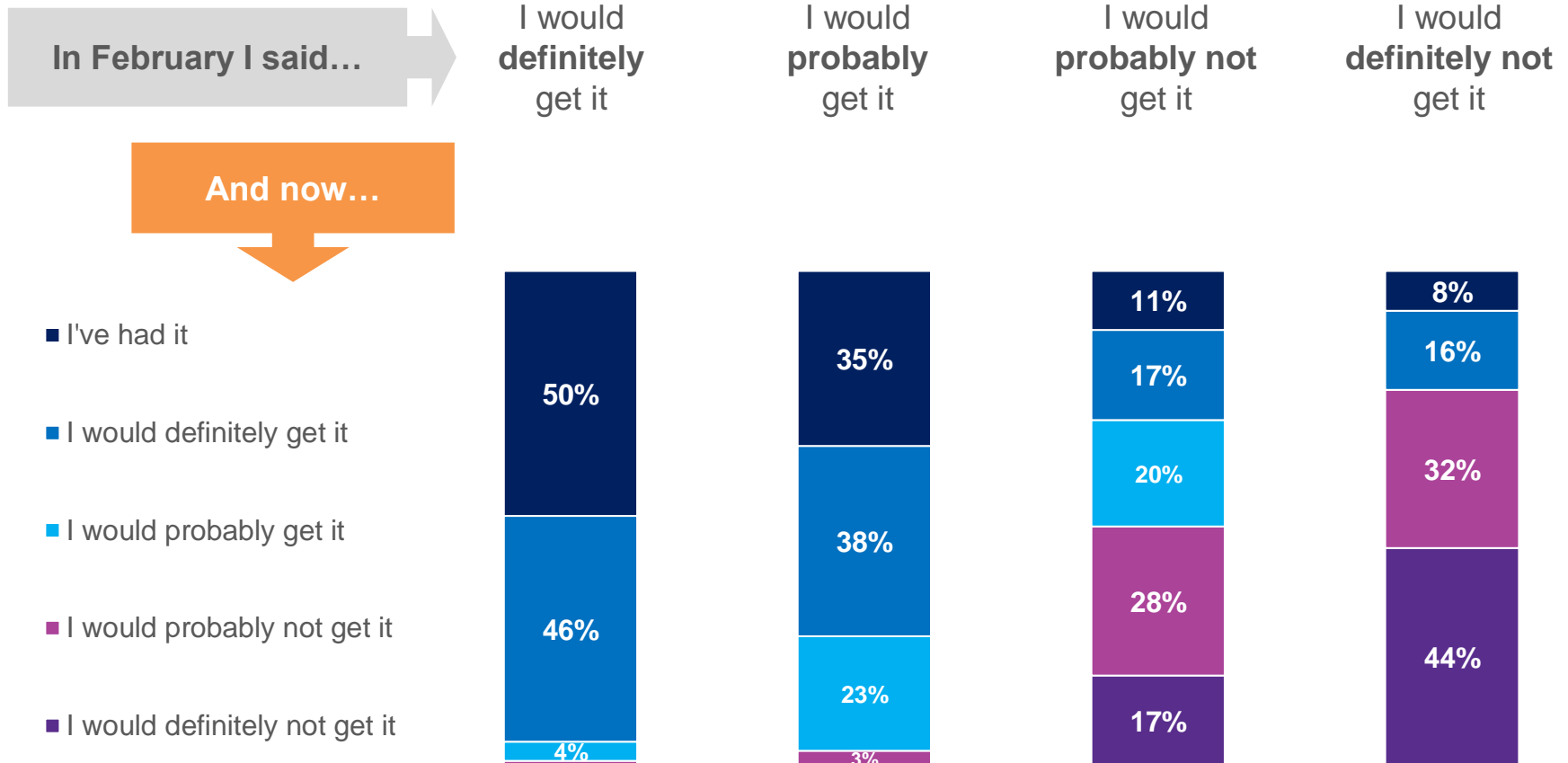
Q. When a COVID-19 vaccine is available to you, will you get it?



Federal Health Dept data (as of 5th July) reports 41.75% of Canberrans aged 16 or over have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine

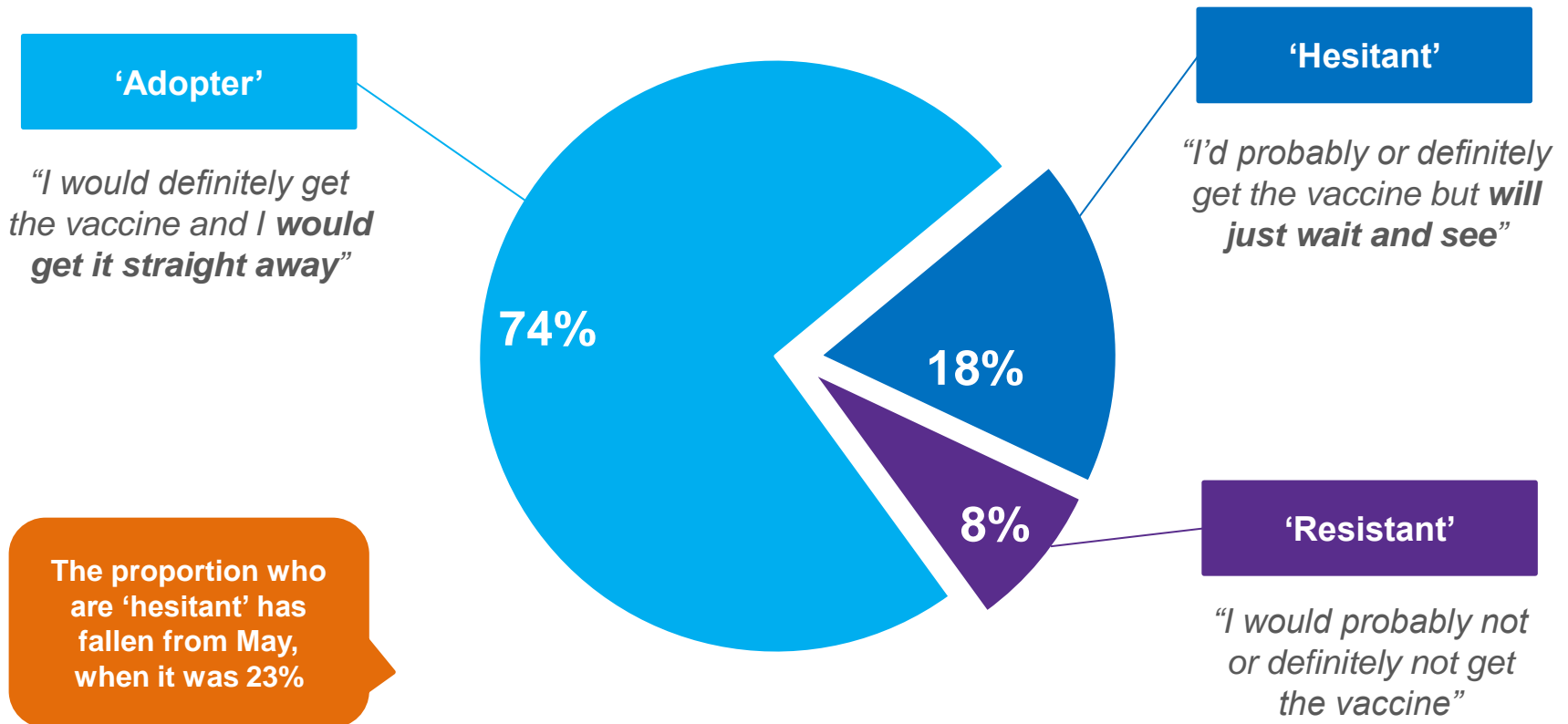


Longitudinal sample shows positive conversion to vaccine uptake





Of those yet to receive the vaccine, three-quarters indicate they would get this as soon as it is available to them





Education level is emerging as a distinguishing factor in relation to vaccine hesitancy

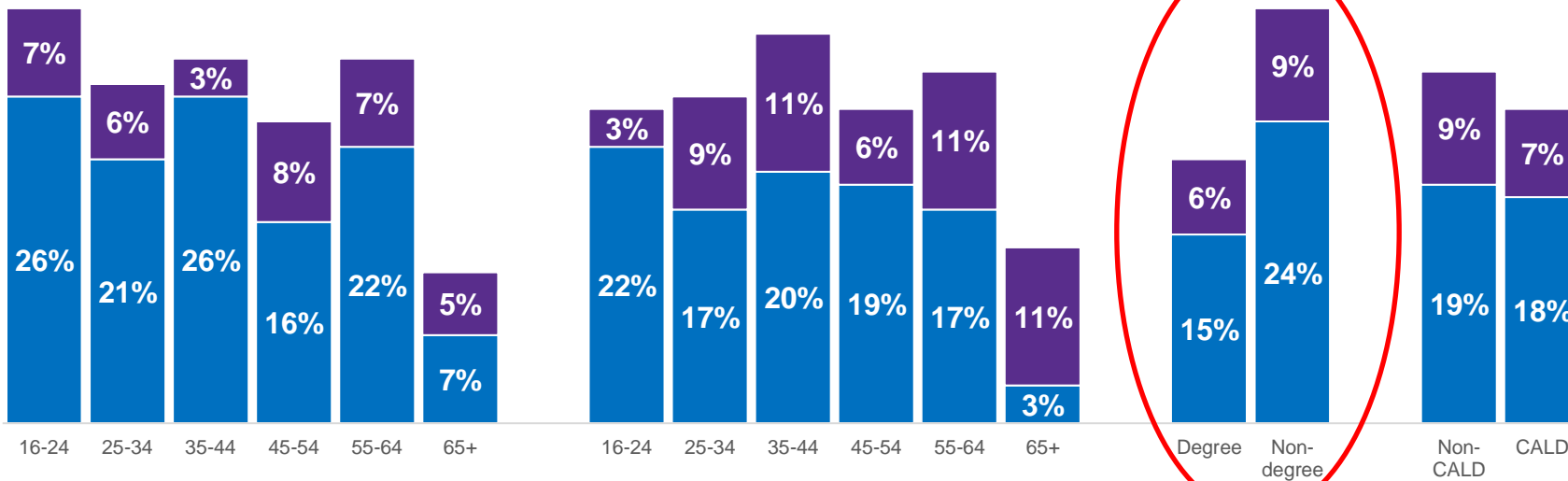
■ Resistant ■ Hesitant

MALE BY AGE

FEMALE BY AGE

EDUCATION

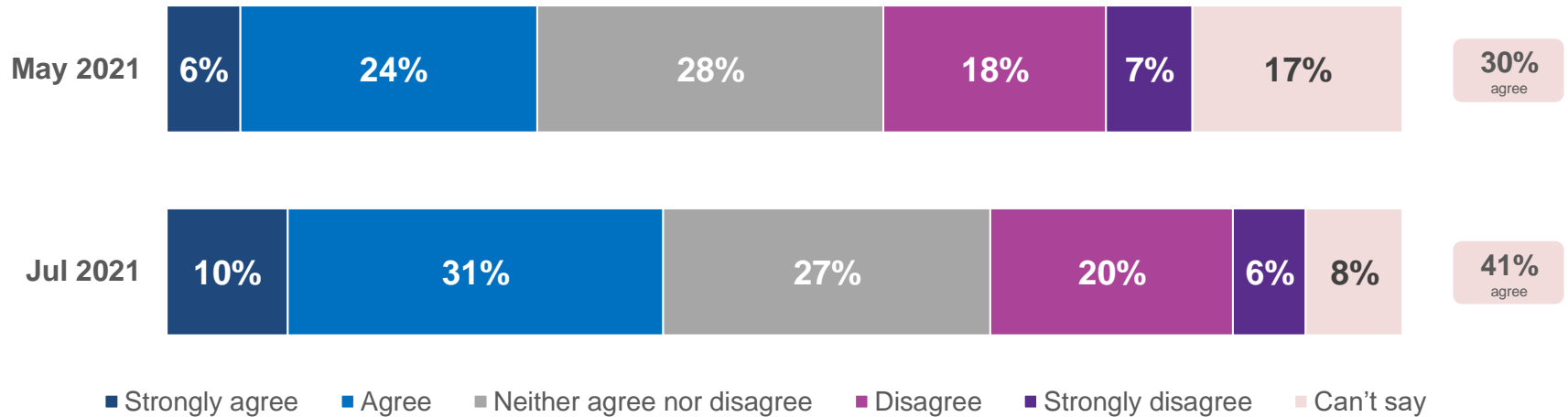
CALD





Perceptions of the roll-out process have improved since May, though a quarter still feel it is not going well

*Q. Overall, how much do you agree or disagree with the following?
The process for individuals getting COVID-19 vaccines in the ACT is going well*



Those who have had a vaccine are more likely to agree it is going well (51%), compared to those who haven't (33%)

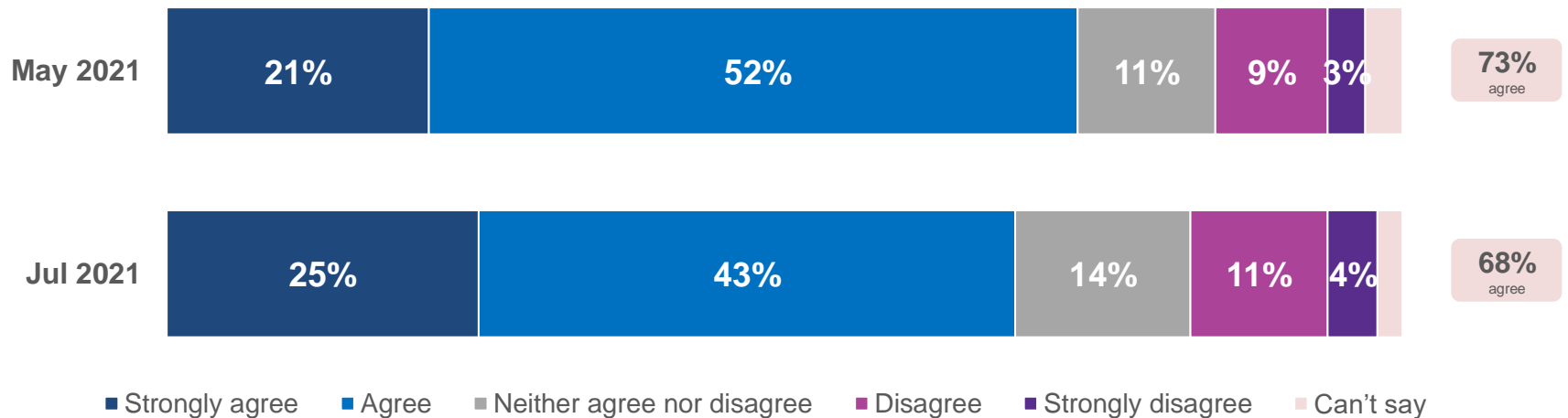
Around a third of Canberrans are neutral ('neither') or feel they 'can't say' how well the roll-out is going



About seven in ten Canberrans are confident that they will be able to arrange getting a vaccine

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

I feel confident that I will be able to arrange to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to me



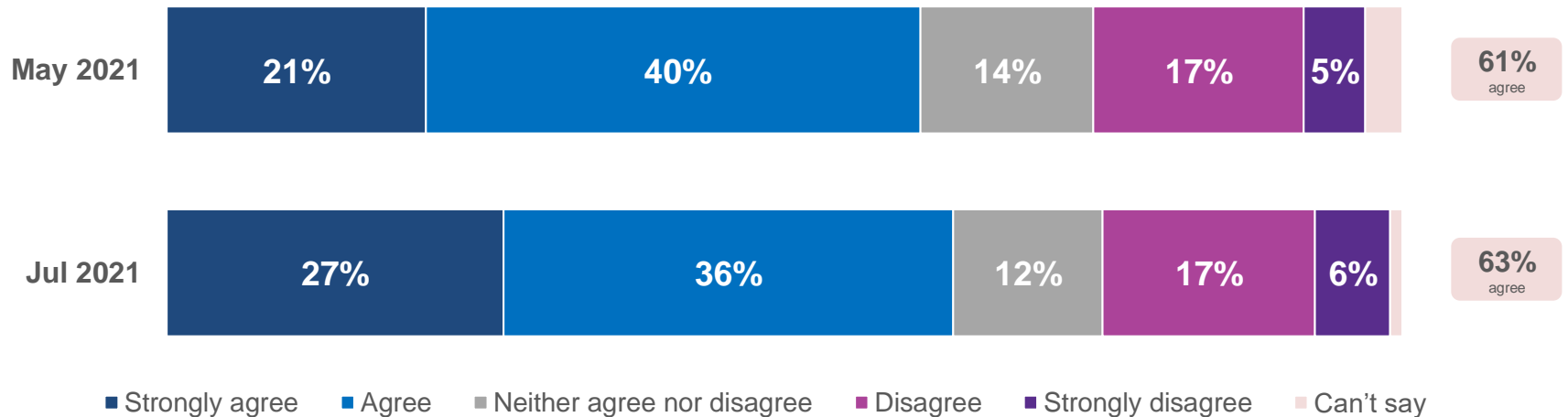
Confidence in being able to arrange is lowest for 25-34 year olds (59%)

CALD Canberrans and those with children in the household are slightly less confident in being able to arrange getting a vaccine



Nearly two-thirds know where they will go to get a vaccine, but uncertainty is higher among younger Canberrans

*Q. Overall, how much do you agree or disagree with the following?
I know where I will probably go to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to me*

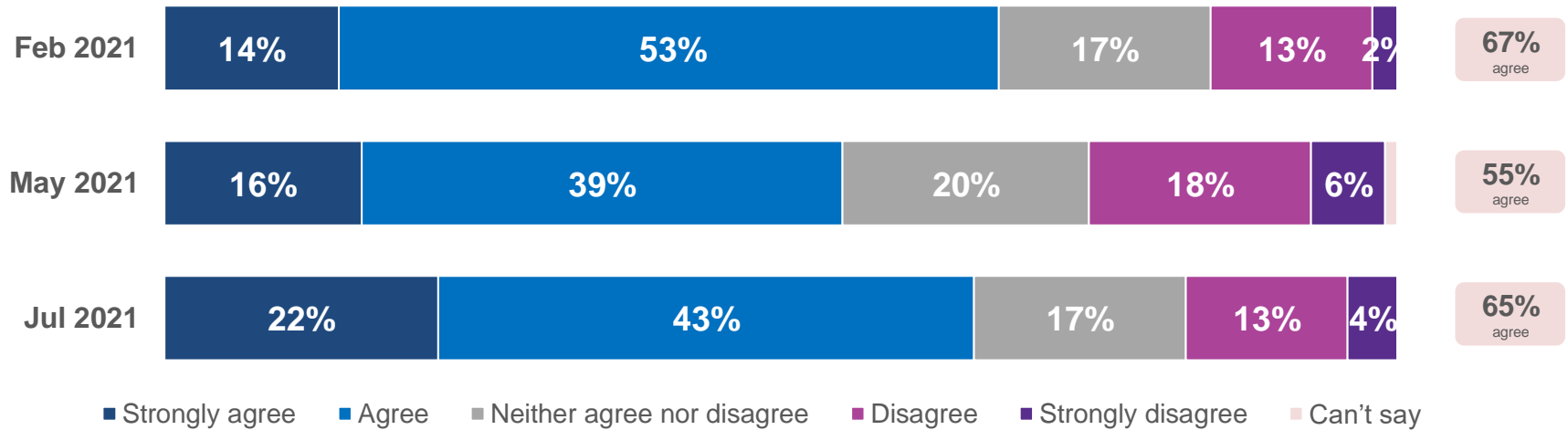


Uncertainty about where they will get a vaccine is higher among younger Canberrans (less than 35 years)



Increasing from May, two-thirds of Canberrans feel well informed about the vaccine roll-out in the ACT

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



Those who have had a vaccine are more likely to feel informed (78%) compared to those who have not (57%)

Young people (under 35) are less likely to say they feel informed about the roll-out



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COVID-safe behaviours



There has been a significant increase in COVID-safe behaviours

		Did / likely to do (excl n/a) Jul 2021		May 2021	Feb 2021	Dec 2020
LIKELY TO DO DID IN THE LAST WEEK	Worn a face mask*	99%	↑	27%	31%	24%
	Signed in to venues using Check In CBR	96%		94%	87%	57%
	Washed/sanitised hands more regularly	94%		94%	95%	96%
	Kept physical distance from people	92%	↑	83%	87%	88%
	Checked interstate travel / health advice	91%	↑	66%		
	Changed travel plans	66%	↑	28%		
	Tried not to touch my face	58%	↑	47%	60%	64%
	Limited number of visitors to home	52%	↑	38%	61%	57%
	Disinfected surfaces before using them	38%		42%	52%	51%
	Asked someone to take precautions	24%	↑	17%		
	Hosted gathering outdoors / with ventilation	23%		25%	48%	43%
	Very likely/likely to get test if have mild symptoms	82%	↑	76%	88%	86%
	Very likely/likely to seek medical advice if unwell	79%		80%	85%	85%
Very likely/likely to stay at home if unwell	95%		96%	96%	96%	



Who is less likely to engage in COVID-safe behaviours?

Less likely to have done this in the past week:

There is a strong relationship between vaccine intent and COVID-safe behaviours, with those unlikely to get a vaccine also less likely to engage in other protective actions

Meanwhile, there is no evidence in the data to suggest that those who have been vaccinated are less likely to engage in other protective behaviours following vaccination

Elsewhere, age is also a factor in terms of compliance, at both ends of the spectrum



Male
Those unlikely to get vaccine



16-24 year olds
Those unlikely to get vaccine



16-24 year olds
Those unlikely to get vaccine



65+ years
Those unlikely to get vaccine



65 years+
Those unlikely to get vaccine



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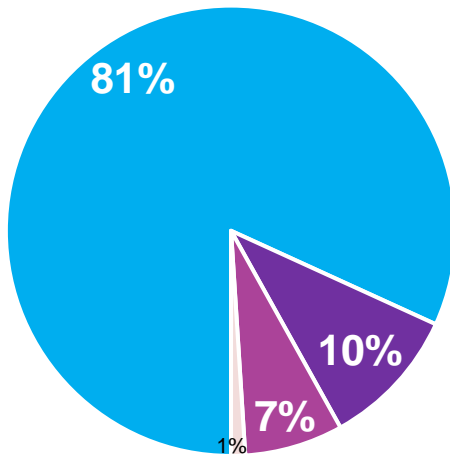
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Information and response



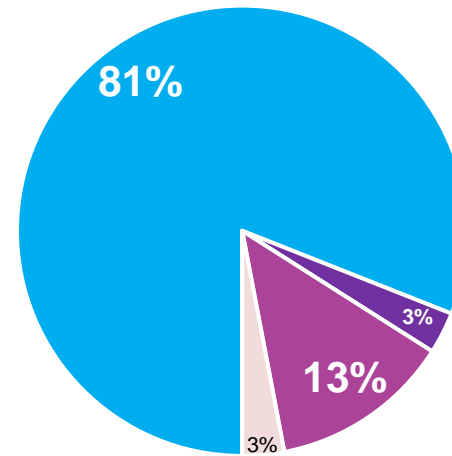
Majority feel community and ACT Government are responding appropriately to the COVID-19 pandemic

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

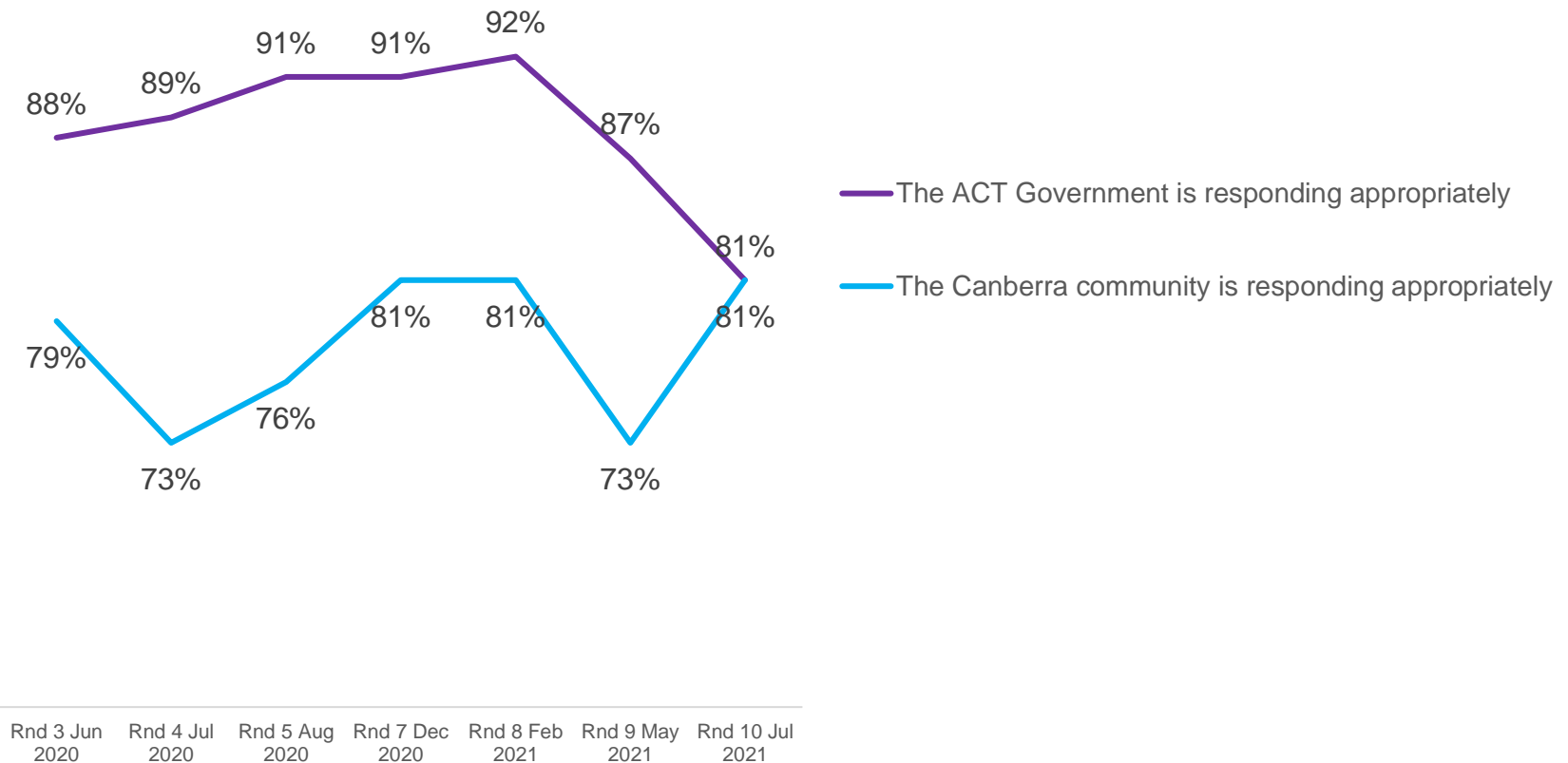
Q. Overall, how would you describe the ACT Government's response to COVID-19?



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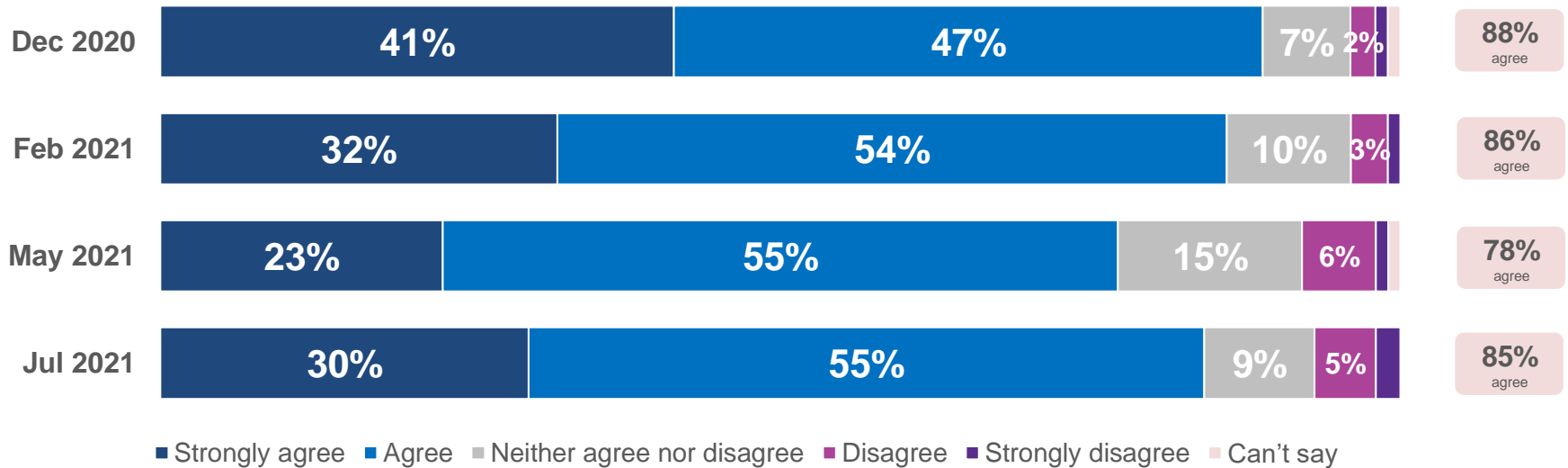
Perceptions of the Government response have dipped while perceptions of the community's response have improved





Canberrans' sense of feeling informed about COVID-19 by the ACT Government has recovered from a dip in May

*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*



There is a strong relationship between feeling informed about the vaccine roll-out and feeling informed overall



Many outstanding information needs relate to vaccination

Vaccine info

When and where available to under 40s

Whether can choose, wait for Pfizer

Clarity around eligibility for Astra Zeneca

Whether can mix doses

Options for earlier second dose of AZ

Side effects of vaccines

Eligibility for key workers, carers etc

Other info needs

Testing locations – when, where, wait times

Info on **different virus strains** – impact, advice, research, vaccine efficacy

Travel and rules for returning from hotspots

Channel improvements

COVID website – ease of access, simplify etc

Non-online access – e.g. phone, push notifications



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