[Wave 2] COVID-19: Australian and news and misinformation longitudinal study

SCREENING QUESTIONS (age, gender, region, education quota based on ABS Census)

S1. What is your gender?

Male
Female
Non-binary
Prefer not to disclose

S2. How old are you?

Pew Gen
Pre-Baby Boomers 74+
Baby Boomers 55-73
X 39-54
Y 23-38
Z 18-22

18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65+

S3. What is the postcode and suburb/place that you live in?

Major cities
Regional

S4. What is your highest level of education? If you are currently in full-time education please put your highest qualification to date.

I did not complete any formal education
Early childhood education
Primary education
Lower secondary education (Yr 10)
Upper secondary education (Yr 12, HSC, Baccalaureate or other Senior Secondary Certificate)
Post-secondary, non-tertiary education (VET, Certificate I-IV)
Post-secondary vocational education and training (Diploma, Advanced Diploma, TAFE)
Bachelor degree or equivalent
Masters degree or equivalent
PhD or equivalent

Low 1-4
Medium 5-7
High 8-10

Q1. On average, how often do you access news? *By news we mean national, international, regional/local news and other topical events accessed via any platform (radio, TV, newspaper or online).*

More than 20 times a day
Between 11 and 20 times a day
Between 6 and 10 times a day
Between 2 and 5 times a day
Once a day
4-6 days a week
2-3 days a week
Once a week
Less often than once a week
Less often than once a month
Never
Don't know

Light – up to once a day
Heavy
Excluded non-users (SYSMIS)

Q4. Which, if any, of the following have you used in the last week as a source of news? Please select all that apply.

Television news bulletins or programmes
24-hour news television channels
Radio news bulletins programmes
Printed newspapers
Printed magazines
Websites/apps of newspapers
Websites/apps of news magazines
Websites/apps of TV and Radio broadcasters
Websites/apps of online only news outlets
Social media
Podcasts
None of these

TV
Print
Online
Social
Podcast

[only show the ones selected above, do not show if only one is selected in Q4]
Q5. Which of the following would you say is your main source of news?

Television news bulletins or programmes
24-hour news television channels
Radio news bulletins programmes

Printed newspapers
Printed magazines
Websites/apps of newspapers
Websites/apps of news magazines
Websites/apps of TV and Radio broadcasters
Websites/apps of online only news outlets
Social media
Podcasts

TV
Print
Online
Social
Podcast

Q3. How concerned are you about COVID-19?

Extremely concerned
Very concerned
Somewhat concerned
Not very concerned
Not at all concerned
Don't know

High 1-2
Low 3-5
DK

Q6. Which, if any, of the following have you accessed in the last week as a source of news or information about COVID-19? Please select all that apply.

News media
Department of Health websites (health.gov.au)
State government websites
WHO website
Other health authority websites (i.e., CDC, NHS)
Health and lifestyle websites and blogs
Scientists, doctors or health experts
Politicians
Social media
Personal communication with people I know
Podcasts
None of these

[Among those who selected social media in Q6]
Q8. Thinking about what you are seeing on <u>social media</u>, which of the following sources are you getting news and information about COVID-19 from? Check all that apply.

Social media posts from official sources such as the government, WHO etc

Social media posts from news media such as the ABC, Sydney Morning Herald, news.com.au
Links forwarded/posted/shared from a person you know (family, friends, colleagues)
Opinions from a person you know (family, friends, colleagues)
Links forwarded/posted/shared from a person you don't know
Opinions from a person you don't know
Celebrities or social media influencers
I don't notice where the information is coming from *[if a respondent selects this option then they shouldn't be able to select any other option]*
None of the above

[Do not randomise the order of the platforms and show as displayed below]
NEW_Q6_1. Which, if any, of the following <u>social media or online platforms</u> have you used in the last week *for any purpose*?
Facebook
YouTube
Instagram
Snapchat
Pinterest
LinkedIn
Twitter
Reddit
TikTok
Parler
Google Search
Bing Search
Facebook Messenger
WhatsApp
WeChat
Google News
Apple News
Other social media or online platform: Specify
None of these *[Do not show to those who checked social media in Q4 or Q6]*

[only show the ones selected above]
NEW_Q7_1. Have you come across news or information about COVID-19 on any of the following <u>social media or online platforms</u> in the last week? Please select all that apply.

	I used it specifically to find news or information about COVID-19	Yes - I came across news or information about COVID-19 while I was on it for other reasons	Yes - I did not see news or information about COVID-19 on this social media or online platform
Facebook			
YouTube			
Instagram			
Snapchat			
Pinterest			
LinkedIn			

Twitter			
Reddit		5	
TikTok			
Parler			
Google Search			
Bing Search			
Facebook Messenger			
WhatsApp			
WeChat			
Google News			
Apple News			
Other social media or online platform - Please specify:			
None of these			

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about news and information provided about COVID-19?

I think I can trust most news organisations
I think I can trust the federal government
I think I can trust the state and territory government
I think I can trust health organisations
I think I can trust health and lifestyle websites and blogs
I think I can trust the scientists, doctors, or health experts
I think I can trust politicians
I think I can trust the news found on social media
I think I can trust people I know

Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Agree
Strongly agree

Disagree 1-2
Neither 3
Disagree 4-5

Q12. On average, how often have you come across news or information that you know or suspect to be false or misleading about COVID-19?

A great deal
A lot
Somewhat
Not so much
Not at all

Don't know

NEW_Q12_1. *This time, just thinking about <u>social media or online platforms</u>,* **how often have you come across news or information about COVID-19 that you know or suspect to be false or misleading?**

A great deal
A lot
Somewhat
Not so much
Not at all
Don't know

[Those who said a great deal, a lot, somewhat/ give all options/ do not randomise]
NEW_Q12_2. On which <u>social media or online platforms</u> did you come across false or misleading information about COVID-19? Check all that apply.

Facebook
YouTube
Instagram
Snapchat
Pinterest
LinkedIn
Twitter
Reddit
TikTok
Parler
Google Search
Bing Search
Facebook Messenger
WhatsApp
WeChat
Google News
Apple News
Other social media or online platform - Please specify:
None of these

Q14. When you came across the false or misleading news and information about COVID-19, what (if anything) did you do after seeing it? Check all that apply.

I searched different sources to see whether it was accurate
I started using more reputable information sources

I stopped using or blocked the source because I was unsure about the accuracy of the information
I discussed the information with other people I trust
I stopped paying attention to information shared on social media by people I don't trust
I forwarded or shared it with other people
I made a complaint to the information provider
Other (please specify)
Did nothing *[if a respondent selects this option then they shouldn't be able to select any other option]*

Q_NEW_MisinformationConcern. How concerned, if at all, are you about false or misleading information about COVID-19 on <u>social media or online platforms</u>?

Extremely concerned
Very concerned
Somewhat concerned
Not very concerned
Not at all concerned
Don't know

High 1-2
Low 3-5
DK

Q_New_misinformationbelief. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about COVID-19?

Wearing a mask does not significantly reduce your risk of infection or spreading the virus.
COVID-19 vaccines that are approved by the health authorities in Australia are safe. *<reversed>*
I am confident that official medical guidelines and treatment for COVID-19 in my State or Territory are based on evidence and best practice. *<reversed>*
The risks posed by COVID-19 are being exaggerated by people in power who want to take advantage of the situation.
In most cases COVID-19 can be prevented or treated by simple remedies such as taking vitamins and supplements or other over the counter medicines.

Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Agree
Strongly agree
Don't know

Disagree 1-2
Neither 3
Agree 4-5
DK

[do not randomise]
Q_NEW_flagging. Social media or online platforms have taken a variety of actions since March to reduce people's exposure to false or misleading news or information about COVID-19. Which of the following are you aware of, or have seen while on <u>social media or online platforms</u>?

	I am not aware of this	I am aware they are doing this	I have seen or experienced this while using social media or online platforms
Removal of content (i.e. Tweets, posts, videos)			
Labelling potentially false or misleading information			
Directing users to authoritative sources or information (i.e. fact-checking services, official sources)			
Providing users with the opportunity to report false or misleading information			
Making authoritative or official information more visible in my feed			
Directing users to information and resources hosted on the platform (i.e. a dedicated page or channel)			

Q_NEW_measures. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about who is responsible for reducing the exposure to false or misleading information about COVID-19?

Individuals should use common sense and learn to detect false or misleading information themselves.
Social media or online platforms should be doing more to reduce the amount of false or misleading information people see on these services.
It is the government's responsibility to make sure the public is not exposed to false or misleading information on social media or online platforms.
False or misleading information is unavoidable and it is just something we must live with.
It is not the job of social media or online platforms to decide what is or is not false or misleading information.

Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Agree
Strongly agree

Q16. Do you find yourself trying to avoid news about COVID-19?

Often
Sometimes
Occasionally
Never
Don't know

Avoid 1-2
Do not avoid 3-4
DK

[Those who said often, sometimes, occasionally]
Q17. You said that you find yourself trying to avoid news about the COVID-19. Which, if any of the following, are reasons why you try to avoid news? Please select all that apply.

I find it overwhelming
I am tired of hearing about it
I already know enough about it
I find it upsetting
I am practicing self-care
I can't rely on news to be true
I don't feel there is anything I can do about it
It is not important to me
I don't trust the news
Other: Specify
Don't know

Q21. What is your employment status?

Full-time work
Part-time work
Unemployed
Retired
Unpaid position (housework, volunteer or community service, military service, etc.)
Other
Don't know

Q22. What is your annual household income before tax?

Less than $40,000
$40,000 to less than $60,000

Q23. What is your current living situation? Please select all the people you are currently living with.

Parents
Grandparents
Partner/spouse
Adult children
Children under 18
Grandchildren
Housemate(s)
Living in a retirement community
Living in assisted living facility
Living alone