

Locking out the unvaccinated: Is there support for vaccine passports?

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Almost 70 percent of Australians surveyed in the [Take the Pulse of the Nation](#) (TTPN) survey agree that fully vaccinated people should be allowed greater freedoms to access public events without restrictions,

however between 16 to 23 percent disagree with the idea of excluding the unvaccinated from certain activities.

Established in 2020, TTPN surveys Australians every week to capture information about their [financial position](#), their job security, their attitudes towards government policy and their experiences dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Results are released monthly.

In addition to attitudes towards vaccination passports, the September findings of the survey found that one in four Australians don't believe that businesses have the right to deny services to the unvaccinated—however these views tend to come from the [vaccine](#) hesitant.

Of particular note, is the very high rate of [vaccine hesitancy](#) in the Construction and Utilities (35 percent) and Wholesale Trade, Transport, Postal and Warehousing sectors (29 percent).

"Navigating a path out of lockdowns for employees, with fewer restrictions for the vaccinated will be challenging and likely will need to be sector-specific. According to our survey, vaccine hesitancy for employees is on average, about 18 percent in September (down from about 30 percent in February), but this ranges from a high 35 percent in the Construction sector to a low 8 percent in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sectors," said University of Melbourne Professor Guay Lim, of the Melbourne Institute.

"This could be of particular concern given the current wave of transmission from the Construction sector, since these workers often work across sites, possibly spreading the virus across regions."

The [Vaccine Hesitancy Tracker](#), which takes data from the Take the Pulse of the Nation survey fortnightly, shows that hesitancy has fallen

across Australia from 20.3 percent on 20 August to 16.7 percent on 12 September.

While hesitancy rates continue to fall across all states and territories, the largest fall has been in Victoria from 20.2 percent to 14.4 percent in the same time frame.

"Vaccine hesitancy has fallen most among those aged 18 to 44, as well as those aged over 65, but has remained stable among those aged between 45 and 64 years old," said University of Melbourne Professor Anthony Scott.

"Interestingly, although women tended to be more hesitant than men in the past, currently there are no longer gender differences in [hesitancy](#)."

The data also shows that uptake among Australians aged 18 to 44 year has increased, as the rollout opens up to those groups.

Provided by University of Melbourne

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