



Ministry for
**Ethnic
Communities**
Te Tari Mātāwaka

A snapshot of Ethnic Communities' experiences in Aotearoa New Zealand during COVID-19 lockdown

**A Ministry for Ethnic Communities
COVID-19 Survey**

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all participants who took time to provide their information through the survey.

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The survey was run by the Office of Ethnic Communities (OEC) between 1 March 2021 and 23 April 2021. The Office of Ethnic Communities is the predecessor to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities which was established on 1 July 2021.

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Executive summary

Between March and April 2021, four hundred and twenty-five (425) people from ethnic communities shared their experiences in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic in New Zealand.

The Ministry for Ethnic Communities COVID-19 online survey conducted between 1 March 2021 and 23 April 2021 aimed to capture a snapshot of the experiences and concerns of ethnic communities in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic during and after the first COVID-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown in 2020. Through multiple channels, members of ethnic communities aged 16 and over were invited to complete the survey.

The results provide further evidence on the perspectives and concerns of diverse communities that could inform and shape the government's responses to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Key findings from the survey related to:

- Concern for family and friends overseas due to the closure of New Zealand borders, and without certainty about timelines for re-opening them; and relatives residing in countries with worsening COVID-19 situations
- Health and wellbeing were the second and third concern during and after the lockdown due to various reasons including concern for relatives overseas, uncertainties about how long the pandemic would persist, fear of contracting the virus, job losses, closure of businesses, and limited access to faith and other community resources
- Immigration concerns for those who were on temporary visas and were concerned about the implications for their status in New Zealand
- Experiences of racism during the initial lockdown period with more people reporting the experience after the lockdown.
- The consequential impact on family members for workers who have lost their jobs or had closed their businesses,
- Insufficient reliable information, particularly around vaccine safety and efficacy

COVID-19 Survey background

Problem definition

Reviews of social impacts undertaken as part of All of Government (AOG) activities show that, as seen in other pandemics, COVID-19 is likely to exacerbate inequalities that already exist in society.¹ While some of the immediate impacts are known; we wanted to gather through this survey, further details on perspectives and concerns of ethnic communities on COVID-19 to inform and shape the government's policy, and response and recovery plan for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes and objectives

Specifically, the survey results and analysis will be used to:

- identify emerging issues or the amplification of existing issues due to COVID-19 for ethnic communities,
- inform areas for policy initiatives for the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, as well as opportunities for the provision of, and access to wider Government services for ethnic communities; and
- inform the Ministry's engagement with other agencies on COVID-19 response and recovery.

Scope of the survey

The survey was designed by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry). The survey consisted of 27 questions, including demographic information, and took respondents 12-15 minutes to complete.

The survey questions covered the period from the first COVID-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown in 2020 to 23 April 2021, when the survey closed. A brief timeline of Alert Level changes was provided to help refresh the memory of respondents.

The questions focused on the immediate impact of COVID-19 for ethnic communities, respondents' awareness of and access to government support, including for business and employment, and anticipated or ongoing experiences as a result of COVID-19. The demographic information included ethnic group/ethnicity, age group, region, level of education, employment status, English language level and occupation.

¹ Ministry of Social Development *Rapid Evidence Review: The immediate and medium term social and psycho-social impacts of COVID-19 in New Zealand*, May 2020

Methodology

The survey was conducted using SurveyMonkey– an online survey tool – and the Ministry’s user account. Multiple communications channels, including emails and social media, flyers with QR code, and word of mouth, were used to invite respondents to complete the survey online.

Members of ethnic communities over the 16 years of age were invited to complete the survey. Ethnic communities include anyone in New Zealand who identifies their ethnicity as Middle Eastern, Latin American, African, Asian, and/or Continental European.

The survey was launched on 1 March 2021 and closed on 23 April 2021.

Confidentiality, use and security of the information provided by respondents

The information collected for the survey was anonymous and respondents were asked not to provide any information that might identify them or others.

Key Findings

Concern for family and friends overseas was top of mind for ethnic communities

Concerns for families and friends overseas was the biggest concern of ethnic communities during and after the initial lockdown. Some possible reasons why this is a going concern includes:

- The closure of New Zealand borders with no indication of reopening date within the survey period. This means the possibility of people to either have their families visit New Zealand or visit families back home, especially for those on temporary visas was limited.
- Respondents identified with ethnicities whose population resides in countries and regions like India, Brazil, Southern and sub-Saharan Africa which were experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases before and within the survey period.

Health and wellbeing were the second and third going concern for ethnic communities during and after the lockdown

The concerns of the respondents about health and wellbeing was due to several factors including the adjustments they must make to their daily lives because of restrictions and concerns over other family members overseas. It also revolves around the uncertainties as to how long the pandemic will persist and how people will cope with its impact. Other possible reasons that might have contributed to respondents' concern regarding their health and wellbeing includes:

- The possibility of continuous lockdown and the stress and the mental health challenges that comes with restricted movements as highlighted further by some respondents in questions 12 and 13.
- Others were worried about the possibility of contracting the COVID-19 as the country was experiencing some community outbreaks with Auckland been at Alert level three during the survey period.
- Limited access to faith resources and community during the lockdown, and
- Loss of job, business, reduced income was also a possibility.

Immigration concerns for those on temporary visas

Respondents' concerns over immigration was grounded in the fact that despite the extension of a number of visa categories, the processing of others like residency visas were suspended. Cumulatively, 18% out 262 respondents were on temporal visas including students, work and visitor visas. As the answers to questions 12 and 13 show, respondents were unsure of what will happen to them after their visas expire –noting within the survey period, Government was yet to announce its policy on immigration.

Some ethnic community members lost their job or closed their businesses

There a number of respondents who indicated they lost their jobs during and or post the lockdown. The impact of this jobs loses will be exacerbated for those who have dependents. Cumulatively 90% of respondents in this survey lived with a relation with 37% of these living with children under the age of 18 years.

Similarly, some respondents reported their businesses were closed during and or after the lockdown. There is a possibility of laying off workers, some whom may be community members and family members in the business owners' household.

Ethnic communities want more information on the COVID-19 vaccine

While the majority of respondents expressed the likelihood of taking the vaccine, they indicated they still needed more information and certainty around when the vaccine will be available, its safety and effectiveness. At the time of the survey, the rollout plan for vaccination had not yet been announced – this would explain why there are a few comments from respondents about when the vaccines will be available. Since vaccination ramped up, further information has been provided on the safety and the efficacy of the Pfizer vaccine, including meeting with ethnic community leaders and members and health officials and the translation of vaccination information in multiple languages.

Ethnic communities experience racism during and after lockdown

40% of respondents indicated they experienced racism during lockdown. As movements of persons were restricted during this period it is assumed that the majority of respondents experienced racism online.

With 44 % of respondents indicating they experienced racism post the lockdown – indicating a rise in cases – there is the need for more education for offenders and support for Asians especially Chinese communities who are mostly the targets of this abuse.

Ethnic communities access information through a wide variety of channels

Respondents told us that they accessed information about Government support through a wide variety of channels. The low use of traditional channels, such as radio, indicate that the delivery of information must be targeted to ensure it reaches every community.

Survey data and analysis

Findings of the survey are presented by question in this report.

Question 1: Consent to participate in survey

425 people participated in the OEC COVID-19 Survey, though not each participant answered every question. This means that for some questions, the totals do not add to 425.

Question 2: During the COVID-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown I was concerned about...

About 3 in 4 people were concerned about their family and friends abroad most of the time during the initial lockdown. Almost half were worried about their wellbeing most of the time.

227 (73%) out of a total of 313 respondents were mostly concerned about their families and friends in other countries. Respondents were equally concerned about their health and wellbeing, with 265 out of 313 respondents and 283 out of 310 respondents indicating they were mostly or sometimes concerned about their health and wellbeing respectively.

191 respondents out of 311 were concerned about losing their jobs with 32% (98) thinking about it most of the time and 30% (92) sometimes thinking about the possibility. 95 respondents out of 304 were also most or sometimes concerned about the survival of their businesses.

62% were concerned about losing their jobs with 32% (98) thinking about it most of the time when compared to 30% (92) who did sometimes.

While only 16% out of a total of 304 respondents were concerned most of the time about their immigration status, 32% out of 308 people were mostly and sometimes worried about the immigration status of people in their community.

Answer Choices	Most of the time	Sometimes	Never	Not relevant	Total
losing my job	98	93	67	53	311
if my business will survive	50	45	20	189	304
my education (or my child's/children's education)	80	71	25	128	304
my health	119	146	34	11	310
my wellbeing	147	136	24	5	312
how I can access government support (for example, financial support, food parcels)	62	97	63	86	308
my immigration status	49	38	55	162	304

the immigration status of people I know in my community	100	140	25	43	308
my family or friends overseas	227	71	4	11	313

316 respondents answered this question.

Question 3: Today I am concerned about...

Comparing data from question 2 with data from question 3, while the percentage of respondents who were mostly concerned about their families and friends overseas has dropped from 73% to 63%, the percentage of those who were sometimes concerned about the same issues have gone up from 23% to 32%.

Similarly, while the percentage of respondents who were most concerned about their health and wellbeing has dropped from 38% to 31% and 47% to 36% respectively, the percentage of those who are sometimes concerned about the same issues have gone up from 47% to 58% and 44 to 53% respectively.

Regarding immigration matters, the result was slightly different:

the concerns of respondents over their immigration status have increased in comparison between those who were mostly concerned during and post the lockdown by 1% -with that of those who sometimes were concerned dropping by 3%.

Concerns over the immigration status of other people within the community have dropped from 32% to 28% for those who think about it mostly, though that of those who are sometimes concerned has increased by a percentage (from 45% to 46%).

Answer Choices	Most of the time	Some-times	Never	Not relevant	Total
losing my job	65	116	69	56	306
if my business will survive	44	44	24	194	306
my education (or my child's/children's education)	57	90	38	120	305
my health	94	177	34	2	307
my wellbeing	110	164	31	4	309
how I can access government support (for example, financial support, food parcels)	48	92	78	86	304
my immigration status	51	32	63	159	305
the immigration status of people I know in my community	87	140	40	40	307
my family or friends overseas	196	101	5	11	313

315 respondents answered this question.

Question 4: During the Alert Level 4 lockdown...1 in 4 respondents said that they or someone they knew experienced racism during Alert Level 4.

During the 2020 lockdown, out of 281 respondents who answered the question of what actually happened during the period: 7% (19) indicated they lost their jobs, 6% (18) out of 283 closed their business, and 45% (127) out of 285 had reduced income or business revenue, while a further 7% out of 281 suspended their studies/education in order to work to support their families.

42% out of 286 people were eligible for government support services because of their immigration status (such as work visas, residency, and citizenship) as against 20% (57) who were not eligible and 14% (39) who did not know if they were eligible.

18% out of 283 people were eligible for non-government support services because of their immigration status (work, residency, and citizenship) as against 22% (67) who were not eligible. 25% (70) did not know if they were eligible.

35% (100) out of 283 respondents could access cultural and religious resources including ethnic food during the lockdown as against 33% (92) who could not.

40% (113) out of 284 respondents indicated they experienced or knew people who experienced racism.

Answer Choices	Yes	No	I don't know	Not relevant	Total
I was made redundant	19	167	13	82	281
I had to close my business	18	66	1	198	283
I had reduced income and/or business revenue	127	94	7	57	285
I suspended my education to work/support my family or household	21	102	5	153	281
I was eligible for government support services because of my status in New Zealand (Work Visa, Residency, Citizenship etc.)	121	57	39	69	286
I was eligible for non-governmental support services because of my status in New Zealand (Work Visa, Residency, Citizenship etc.)	50	63	70	100	283
I had access to an electronic device for educational resources	173	23	1	87	284
I could access cultural and religious resources (ethnic food, faith centres, etc.)	92	100	32	59	283
I experienced racism or people I know experienced racism	113	115	35	21	284

289 respondents answered this question.

Question 5: Alert Level 4 lockdown ended in New Zealand on 27 April 2020. Since the lockdown ended...

Almost the same proportion of respondents said they or people they knew experienced racism during the first lockdown (40%), and 44% said the same post-lockdown.

6% (16) out of 280 respondents were made redundant during the initial lockdown which ended on 27 April 2020. This is a percentage drop compared with those who were made redundant during the lockdown. 3%(8) out of 281 respondents closed their businesses post the lockdown, as against 6% who did the same during the lockdown.

Within the same period, 37% (108) out of 284 had reduced income or business revenue post the lockdown, down 8%, if compared with those who had the same experience during the lockdown.

Racism went up by 4 % post lockdown, with 44% out of 124 respondents indicating they have experienced or know people who have experienced racism.

38% out of 107 respondents were eligible for Government support service because of their immigration status post the lockdown, with 14% of these not knowing if they were eligible – the same as the percentage that did not know if they were entitled to Government support before lockdown

163 people out of 283 respondents, representing 58% of respondents, could access cultural and religious resources post the lockdown. This is against 35% (100) respondents who could not access the same resources during the lockdown.

The question on people suspending their education to work/support family or household was not relevant to most respondents because, as the demographic figures on the educational status of respondents suggests, only 8% and 7% out of 260 respondents were full-time students or studying part-time, respectively.

Answer Choices	Yes	No	I don't Know	Not relevant	Total
I have been made redundant	16	181	9	74	280
I had had to close my business	8	81	2	190	281
I have had reduced income and/or business revenue	106	120	3	55	284
I have suspended my education to work/support my family or household	15	127	3	136	281
I am eligible for government support services because of my status in New Zealand	107	59	39	80	285
I am eligible for non-government support services because of my status in New Zealand	60	69	62	92	283

I have access to an electronic device for educational resources	180	21	2	79	282
I can access cultural and religious resources	163	42	28	50	283
I have experienced racism or people I know experienced racism	124	124	18	17	283

290 respondents answered this question.

Question 6: What support have you heard of? Select all that apply.

Most respondents who answered this question had heard of the wage subsidy and its various extensions, possibly because most respondents were in paid employment.

A smaller number of respondents were aware of the COVID-19 income relief payments and the Small Business Cashflow Loan Scheme. This may also be underscored by the smaller number of respondents who own businesses or are self-employed –as the demographic information on the employment status of respondents shows, only 24 (9%) out of 263 respondents were self-employed.

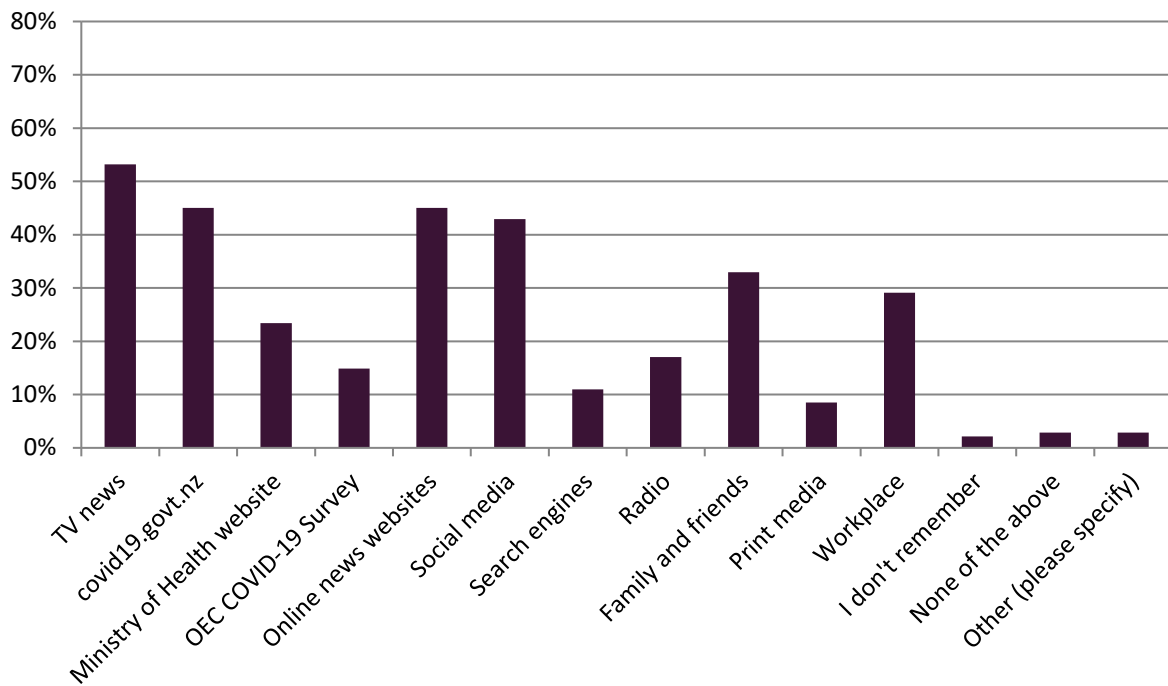
Answer Choices	Responses	
COVID-19 Wage subsidy	90%	253
COVID-19 Wage subsidy extension	69%	194
COVID-19 Leave payment	32%	89
Foreign Nationals Fund	12%	35
COVID-19 Income Relief Payment	27%	76
Other government financial support	0%	0
Emergency Benefit for Temporary Visa Holders	25%	69
Small business cash flow loan scheme	28%	80
Tax and ACC support	15%	43
Business debt hibernation	5%	14
Business finance guarantee scheme	6%	18
R&D loan scheme	4%	12
Financial support tool	9%	25
COVID-19 Consumer Travel Reimbursement Scheme	5%	13
Income Relief Payment	14%	38
Apprenticeship Support Programme	17%	47
Other		2
None of the above	7%	19

281 respondents answered this question.

Question 7: How did you hear about the support? Select all that apply.

The most common source of information on government support was either television, the COVID-19 online news website, and social media/online. Word of mouth (through family, friends, or community groups) and workplaces were also common channels through which respondents heard about Government supports during the period.

Significantly enough, %48 (17%) heard Government support through radio – a key source of Government communications.



Answer Choices	Responses	
TV news	53%	150
covid19.govt.nz	45%	127
Ministry of Health website (www.health.govt.nz)	23%	66
Office of Ethnic Communities (e.g. newsletter, website, Facebook, YouTube)	15%	42
Online news websites (e.g. NZ Herald, Stuff)	45%	127
Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)	43%	121
Search engines (e.g. Google)	11%	31
Radio	17%	48
Family, friends or community groups (e.g. ethnic, faith)	33%	93
Printed newspapers and magazines	9%	24
Workplace	29%	82
I don't remember	2%	6

Other (please specify)	3%	8
None of the above	3%	1

282 respondents answered this question.

Question 8: If you are an employee, have you applied, or has your employer applied on your behalf, for any of the government support mentioned in the previous question?

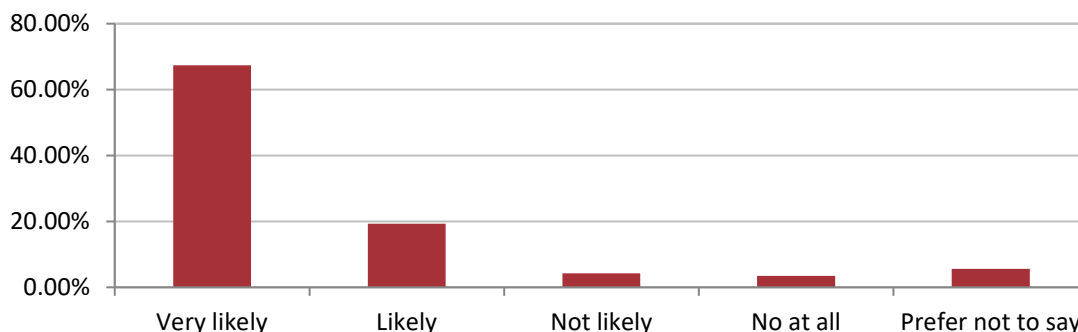
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	32%	90
No	32%	90
I don't know	9%	26
Not relevant to me	27%	78

284 respondents answered this question.

Question 9: The Government is rolling out a plan to provide COVID-19 vaccines for people in New Zealand. Vaccines will be free to the public. How likely are you to take the vaccine?

Generally, the majority of respondents indicated that they were very likely (67%) or likely (19%) to get the vaccine, although several respondents commented that further information on the efficacy and safety of the vaccine was needed. Key themes from the comments that respondents provided were:

- Concerns that the vaccine had been developed quickly and concerns about the side effects of the vaccine, as respondents had heard stories about people having an adverse reaction to the vaccine.
- There was a sense that people were receptive to getting the vaccine but wanted further information about the safety of the vaccine.
- The speed of the vaccine rollout compared to other countries was noted.
- Respondents did not seem to think temporary migrants were eligible for the vaccination or, at least, were unsure whether they were eligible.



285 respondents answered this question.

Question 10: We want to understand how COVID-19 has impacted your business. Which of the following best describes how your business operated during the Alert Level 4 lockdown?

The question on how COVID-19 has impacted businesses was not relevant to most of the respondents (62%) during and post the level 4 lockdown, as few were self-employed.

However, among respondents who owned businesses, 5% increased the capacity of their businesses, 10% made changes to their operating capacity, with 11 percent reducing their staff. In addition, 8% had almost or entirely closed their business, with 2% (6) shutting down permanently during the first lockdown.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Not relevant to me	62%	169
Increased capacity	5%	14
Very little or no change	3%	7
Operating at similar capacity but with some changes	10%	28
Operating at a reduced capacity, some staff not working	11%	29
Almost or entirely closed temporarily, no staff working	8%	21
Closed permanently	2%	6

274 respondents answered this question.

Question 11: How has the COVID-19 lockdown impacted the financial performance of your business? Please rate the following statements.

For business owners, the biggest impact on their financial performance was due to a loss of local or overseas client revenue. A majority, however, reported none or minimal negative impact, possibly due to the result of the question above where most respondents (62%) were not business owners or were conducting business activities.

The lockdown had negative impacts on the businesses respondents such as the loss of domestic customers and revenue (19%), supply chain delays and restrictions (10%), loss of overseas visitors and revenue (16%), and lack of staff (10%).

Answer Choices	No negative impact	A small negative impact	A major negative impact	Not relevant	Total
Loss of New Zealand domestic customers/revenue	14	26	50	176	266
Supply chain delays / restrictions	9	35	26	195	265
Loss of overseas visitors / revenue	9	16	43	199	267
Loss of overseas export customers / revenue	13	11	31	210	265
Lack of staff	14	32	27	192	265

271 respondents answered this question.

Question 12: Regarding the impacts of COVID-19, what do you think the New Zealand Government might do differently to improve support for ethnic communities?

By far, access to services and information was the most commonly reported one thing Government needed to improve to support ethnic communities.

Theme	Responses
Access to services and information (including communications)	74
Border Closure, Immigration and MIQ (including reunification)	40
Economy (including employment)	23
Inclusion	29
Wellbeing	12
Discrimination and Racism	6
Other	15

172 respondents answered this question.

This question had follow-up open-ended questions.

Access to services and information (including communications)

- Under this theme, most of the responses were focused on translating communication material and key messages into different languages and getting them through a range of different mediums including print, social media and ethnic media – particularly to target harder to reach communities and vulnerable groups.
- There were also suggestions of enabling communities themselves to communicate key messages and information.

Border Closure, Immigration and MIQ (including reunification)

- Under this theme, many responses were focused on family reunification for relatives stuck outside New Zealand, including the mental stress related to the uncertainty of visa requirements and when they could be reunited with family members.
- Respondents recommended that the Government provide greater immigration and emotional support for families who were apart due to the border closure.
- Some respondents noted that temporary visa holders felt like second class citizens, after supporting the country for many years and that the Government should make the pathway to residency easier for the migrants who are here during lockdowns.
- Some respondents noted that they should allow international students to enter (which has since happened, albeit slowly and still under consideration).
- Some responses wanted faster visa processing times.

Economy (including Employment)

- Many respondents noted the need to help people get into employment, especially those on work visas e on work visas, while others asked particularly, industries impacted by COVID-19 to be supported.
- There were also respondents asking for more government financial support than what was being offered.
- One response suggested allowing ethnic grocers to operate under level 4.

Inclusion

- Responses under this theme were diverse, but there were some comments which came up often, including:
 - Broadening support for ethnic communities to more than just food and shelter.
 - Engaging ethnic communities to understand their needs.
 - Government having a better understanding of the cultural needs of ethnic communities.

Wellbeing

- Under this theme, many responses noted that mental health has been negatively impacted due to border closures and family separation and that greater support is needed.
- There was one response that was concerned about family violence during lockdown.

Other

- A few responses noted the need for better data and disaggregation of data on ethnic communities (i.e. deeper than just MELAA).
- Many responses suggested empowering communities to support themselves and involving leaders.
- One response suggested making it easier for ethnic communities to access, use and report on grants and funding.
- Most responses in the other category also fell into other categories.

Question 13: Do you have any other comments or is there anything else that you would like to share with us?

Theme	Number of Responses
Access to service and information	19
Border closure and Immigration	21
Recovery, Economy, Business and Employment	18
Inclusion/Racism	16
Wellbeing	13
Vaccine	4
Education	4
Other	11

171 respondents answered this question.

Most of the themes for question 13 were similar to those expressed in question 12 regarding the impact of the COVID-19 and what respondents thought government could do differently to improve support for ethnic communities.

Access to services and information (including communications)

- Like question 12, most of the respondents asked for translated communications materials and key messages into different languages to help people know what kind of support is available. There was also a suggestion for follow ups to ensure messages have been received and understood.
- Some respondents ask for the Ministry for Ethnic Communities to be more visible and proactive in the communications.
- While some respondents appreciated Government, support including communications that far, they were of the view less attention was given to ethnic communities compared to other ethnicities.

Border Closure, Immigration and MIQ (including reunification)

- Like question 12 question, respondents expressed concern over how the boarder closure separated families and tarnish the international reputation of the country.
- Some respondents suggested the Government provides residency, relaxes residency process and in some instance grant visa extension to those who are on temporary visas including those work as frontline staff during the pandemic.
- Others expressed concerned over how the border closure has created uncertainty for many, especially those on temporary visas while others admonished the Government to disclose it plans on immigration post the pandemic.
- One person suggested to the Government to move quickly to get the population vaccinated to make way for the reopening of the borders.

Recovery and Economy (including Employment)

- Like question 12 many respondents suggested that more jobs are created for migrants, especially new graduates and those on work visas.
- Similarly, respondents asked for additional support for those on temporary visas who were not eligible for government support but have contributed to the development of the country through the payment of taxes.
- While some attributed job losses and business closure to the border closure including international education, others asked for further research to find out the impact of the COVID-19 on ethnic communities and a strategy/plan on reopening the borders.

Racism and Inclusion

- Unlike in question 12, respondents commented on more racism than inclusion.
- Some respondents noted that the inability of politicians to campaign against racism was reason for the rising rates of racism and the source of despondency among ethnic communities to report racial abuse. Whiles others claimed the rise racism was due to the announcement of the ethnicity or ethnicities that have contracted COVID-19.
- One respondent indicated they have not experience racism during the period and opined the integration of ethnic communities into the larger New Zealand society can help reduce it.
- Another respondent suggested more research into the issue of racism.
- On inclusion while some noted the lack of targeted support for ethnic communities including ethnic people with disability others suggested ethnic communities come together to present a common message to Government on the needs of ethnic communities during the period.
- There were also suggestions for ethnic communities to be empowered to support their communities.

Wellbeing

- Like question, many respondents noted the lack of specialised mental health for ethnic people and described how their mental health or those of others they known (including international students, trans gender people, people with families overseas and those whose visas have been refused) have been negatively impacted due to COVID-19.
- Others mental health was also impacted due to their inability to attend religious gathering and connect with their relations.

Vaccine

- On vaccines, a respondent was looking forward to a vaccination roll out plan while another suggested the introduce of a health passport for Covid-19 test results and vaccination

Education

- Respondents comments on education was mainly focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the international education sectors.
- One respondent suggested education institutions consider refunding some of the tuition paid by their students who were studying offshore because former was not providing face-face tuition. Another person described the difficulty faced by international students, especially those with families and suggested government extend help to those students.

Other

- Some respondents admonished the MEC increase its reach and visibility because they are communities that have not heard of their work
- One person called for improvements at quarantine facilities and border restrictions, while another claimed some employers abused the wage subsidy and call for investigations
- Most responses in the other category also fell into other categories.

Demographics analysis

Question 14: Alert level settings at the time of response

The survey was open for responses from 1 March 2021 to 23 April 2021. At the time the survey was undertaken, the COVID-19 alert levels in New Zealand was as follows:

- Survey opens on 1 March:
 - Auckland at Alert Level 3.
 - The rest of New Zealand at Alert Level 2.
- 7 March 2021:
 - Auckland moves to Alert Level 2.
 - The rest of New Zealand moves to Alert Level 1.
- 12 March 2021: All of New Zealand at Alert Level 1

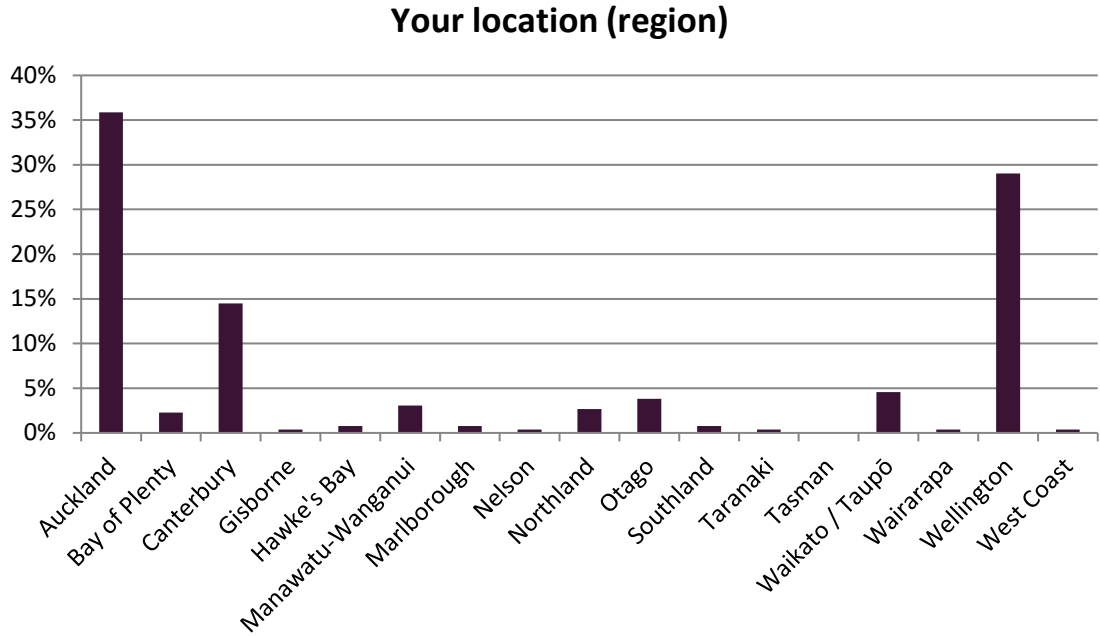
Around 60% percent of the responses were from people in areas at Alert Level 1.

28% of respondents were at Alert Level 2 and a further 12% said they were at Alert Level 3.

Question 15: Location of respondents

Almost 80 percent of the respondents were in one of three main regions:

- Auckland (36%of respondents)
- Wellington (29% of respondents)
- Canterbury (15% of respondents)



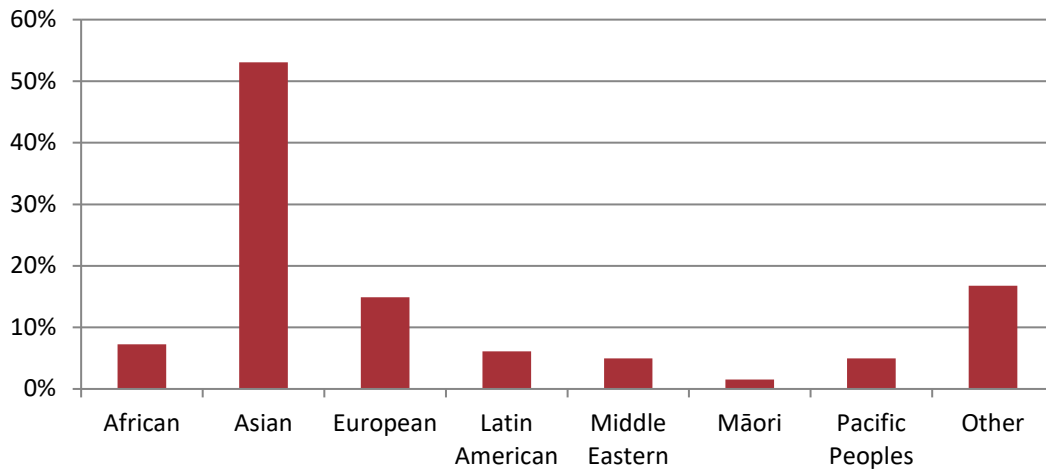
262 respondents answered this question.

Question 16: Ethnicity of respondents

In all, 262 respondents provided ethnicity information. Respondents could choose multiple ethnicities. Just over half of the respondents (53%) included Asian as part of their ethnicity. The other ethnic groupings were:

- European (15%)
- Other (17%)
- African (7%)

**What ethnic group or groups do you belong to?
Select all that apply.**

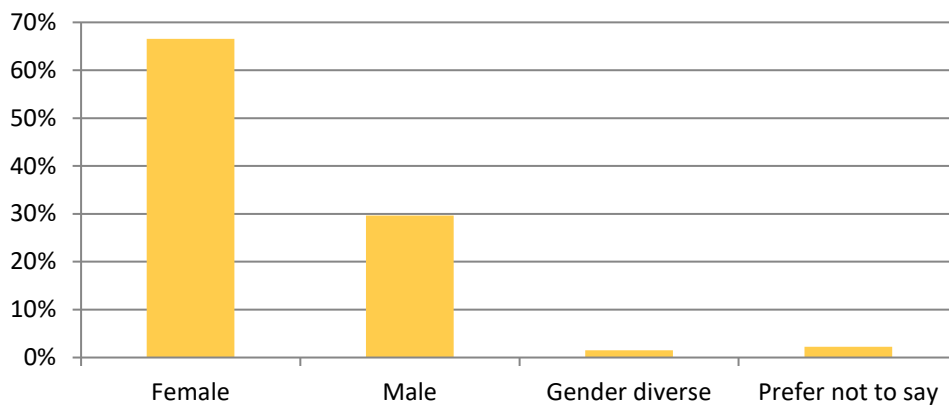


262 respondents answered this question.

Question 18: Gender of respondents

The majority of those who responded to the survey were female. In all, 67% of the respondents self-identified as female.

What gender do you identify as?



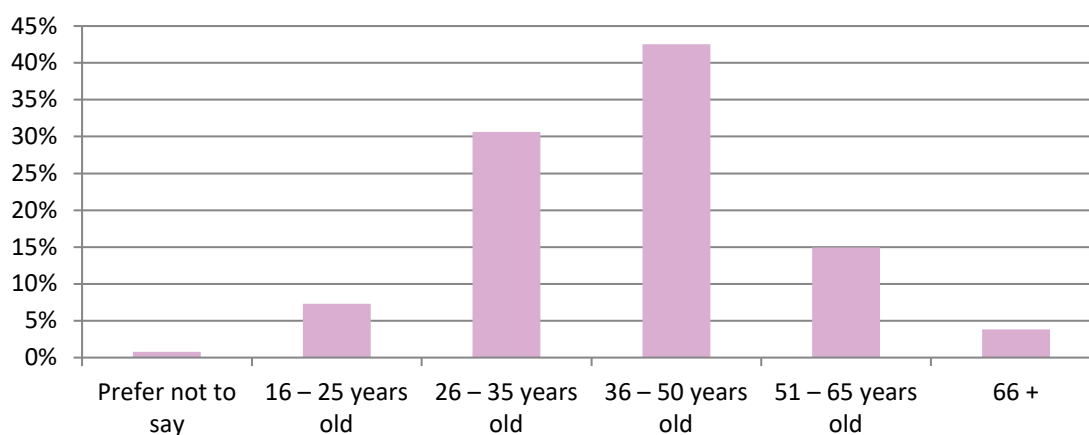
263 respondents answered this question.

Question 19: Age of respondents

Of the 261 respondents who provided their age group, over 70% were either 26-35 years old (31%) or 36-50 years old (43%).

Of note is the lower response rate from those aged 16-25, only 7% of this age group .

Which of these age groups do you belong to?



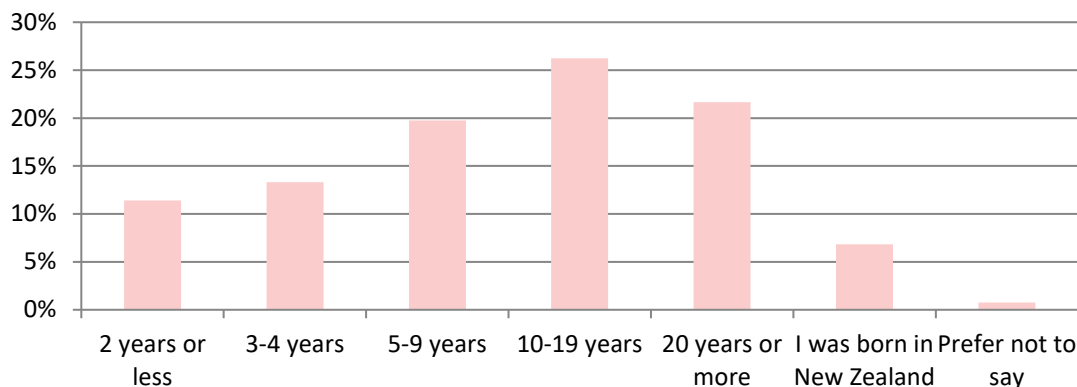
261 respondents answered this question.

Question 20: Length of time in New Zealand (Q)

Most respondents have lived in New Zealand for 5 years or more (75%). Of those who have lived in New Zealand for less than 5 years:

- 11% have been in New Zealand for two years or less
- 13% have been in New Zealand for 3-4 years.

How long have you been in New Zealand?



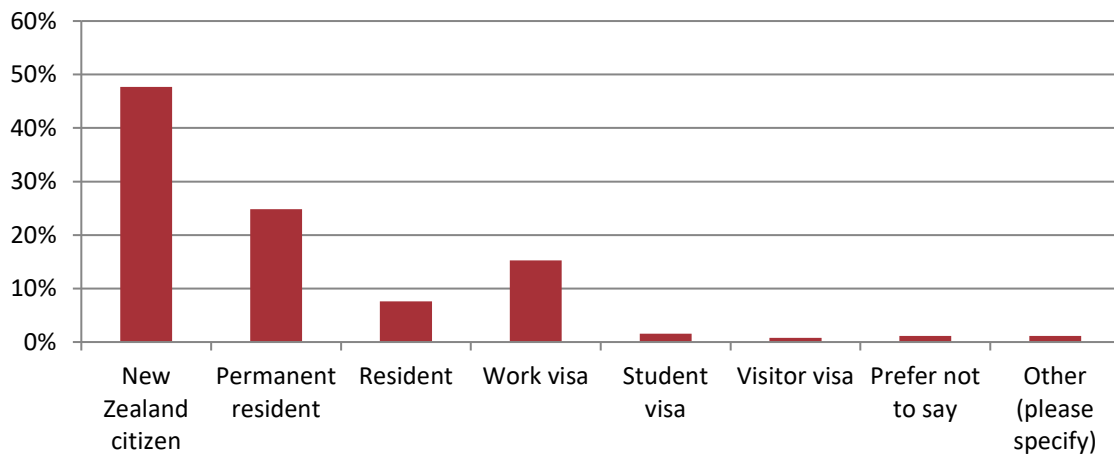
263 respondents answered this question.

Question 21: Status in New Zealand

Most respondents were either New Zealand citizens (48%) or Permanent Residents (25%).

Of those on visas, around 15% of respondents were on Work Visas with only a handful of respondents on Student or Visitor Visas.

What is your status in New Zealand?

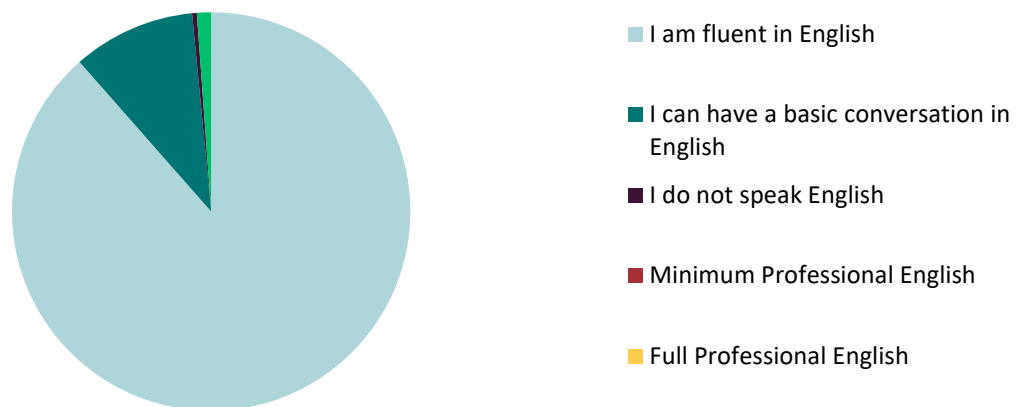


262 respondents answered this question.

Question 22: English language skills

Almost all respondents were either Fluent in English (89%) or stated they could have a basic conversation in English (10%). The survey was conducted in English.

Which of the following best describes your English language level?



261 respondents answered this question.

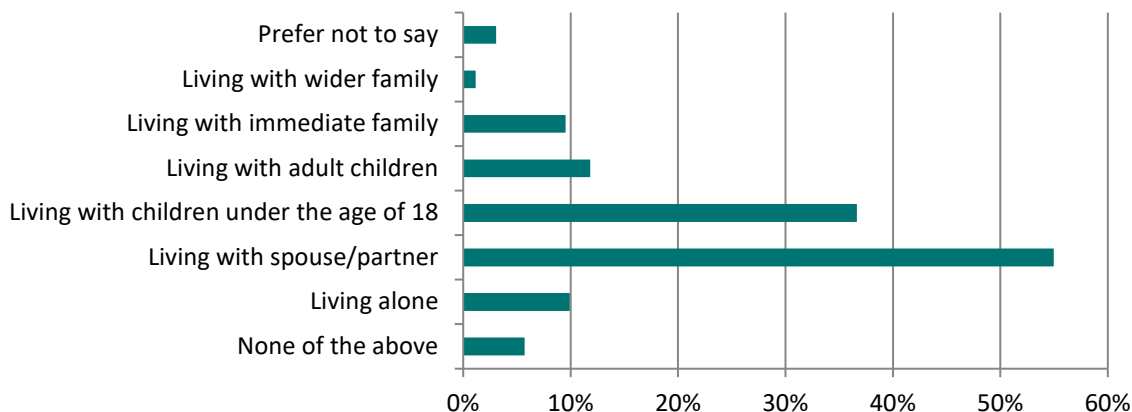
Question 23: Living situation

The most common responses to the living situation/household question were:

- Living with spouse/partner (55%)
- Living with children under the age of 18 (37%)
- Living with adult children (11%)

- Living alone (10%)
- Living with immediate family (e.g. sibling, parent/s) (10%)

**Which of the following describes your household?
Select all that apply.**

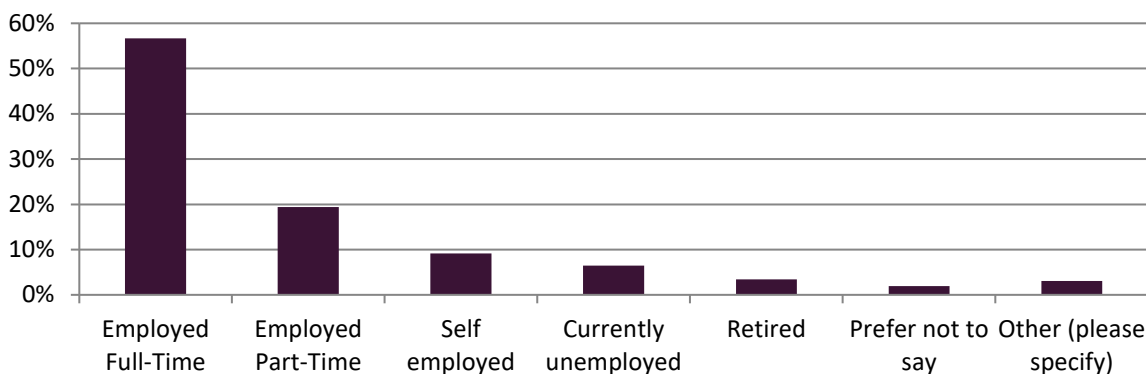


262 respondents answered this question.

Question 24: Employment status

Three-quarters of the respondents reported that they were either Employed Full-Time (57%) or Employed Part-Time (19%). A further 9 percent were self-employed, while a further 6% were Unemployed.

What is your current employment status?



263 respondents answered this question.

Question 25: Industry

Of those in employment (either full-time, part-time or self-employment), the most common industries worked in were:

- Healthcare & Social Assistance (22%)

- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (14%)
- Education & Training (13%)
- Public Administration & Safety (11%)
- Administrative & Support Services (10%)

247 respondents answered this question.

Question 26: Students

Only 8% of the respondents were full-time students while a further 7% were studying part-time.

260 respondents answered this question.

Question 27: Where did you hear about this survey?

Below is a breakdown of how respondents received information about/regarding the survey.

Answer Choices	No. of Response	% Responses
OEC Facebook	62	24%
OEC Ethnic Voices newsletter	14	5%
OEC Community Engagement Advisors	20	8%
OEC LinkedIn page	39	15%
Family, friends, or community group (e.g. ethnic, faith)	58	22%
Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities speech	8	3%
Radio	1	0%
Printed newspapers and magazines	0	0%
Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)	49	19%
Workplace	21	8%
Multilingual Information Network (MIN)	5	2%
Other (please specify)	22	8%
Total Responses	260	100%

260 respondents answered this question.