

The future of Australia's aviation sector,
in the context of COVID-19 and
conditions post pandemic
(Supplemental submission)

2nd July 2021



Australian Licenced Aircraft
Engineers Association

Update

We seek special permission to update this enquiry after recent developments. On 25 June 2021, the NSW Government issued health orders that relate to our members.¹ These orders take immediate effect and may have an adverse impact on Aviation.

Actions

The governing body of the Australian Licenced Aircraft Engineers Association considered the health orders. We focused on mandatory vaccination and its industrial implications. We concluded that all persons should have a choice to be or not be vaccinated. Details and reasoning are affixed as attachment 1.

Our decision was based on input from 1166 members who responded to the following survey question:

If offered an optional free vaccine today during work hours, would you take it?

Over 21% of members said no. All respondents were Aircraft Engineers who work in Australia. The survey was conducted over April and May 2021. A full copy of the survey is affixed as attachment 2.

Implications

Many Aircraft Engineers will not accept forced vaccination. If forced to decide between vaccination and their jobs, many will walk away from Aviation. That number could be as high as 21% of skilled professionals in our industry. If this number walk away, there will be insufficient Engineers to keep all aircraft flying. Industrial protections need to be developed and implemented to support the choice of persons working in our field.

Steve Purvinas

Australian Licenced Aircraft Engineers Association

Federal Secretary

¹ Public Health (COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine) Order (No 2) Amendment (Transportation Providers) Order 2021.

Attachment 1

2nd July 2021

❖ NOTICE ❖



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TO: ALL MEMBERS

RE: COVID EXECUTIVE MOTION

After considerable deliberation, the Federal Executive decided that:

We acknowledge that the pathway to normality must involve widespread vaccination. This is needed for aviation and wider community recovery. We call upon the Federal Government to set a pathway towards recovery with all Australians offered full vaccination by no later than July 2022. After that time, the economy and borders should be opened without restriction. The ALAEA also acknowledges the choice of persons to not be vaccinated. We support the adoption of employment protection for those exercising such choice.

This sets a platform for us to base all related representations and activities. We say it is a motion about choice. We support those who do not want to be exposed to Covid prior to being vaccinated. We also support those against vaccination. It is a call for Governments to plan for a day when we can return to normal. A plan none of them can outline as they focus on political point scoring.

Many want to return to normal now and think 12 months too long. Earlier would be preferable but unrealistic. At the current rate of vaccination, all Australian adults could not be vaccinated prior to April 2022. Arrangements then need to be made for minors. The option of choice goes both ways. You can choose not to be vaccinated now. You cannot choose to be vaccinated until it is offered. We would welcome any earlier supply and delivery of vaccines to bring the uncertainty to an end sooner.

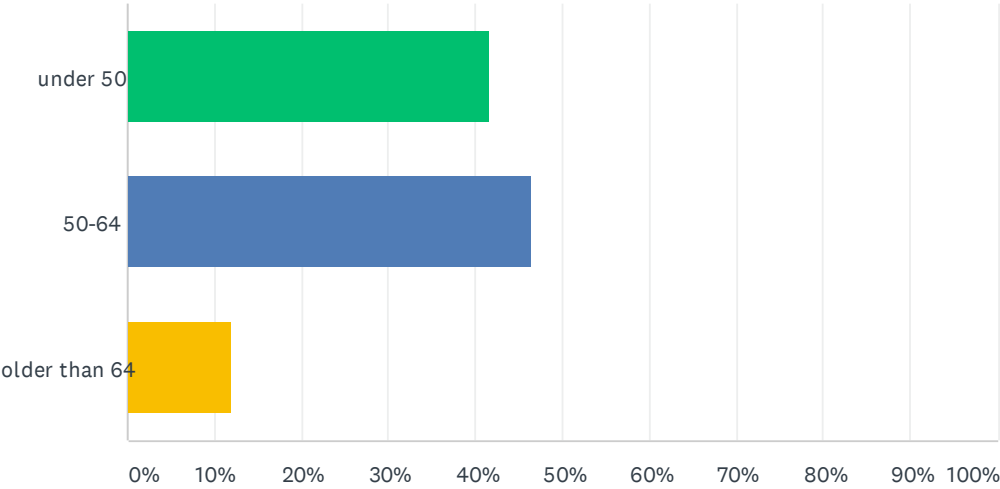
The level of support we can provide those who elect not to be vaccinated is out of our hands. Courtrooms and Governments decide these things. We will do all we can including lobbying, negotiating, mediating and where possible seeking arbitration, to protect your choice. The mandatory vaccination question is an evolving global one far greater than one union.

Steve Purvinas
Federal Secretary

Attachment 2

Q1 I am

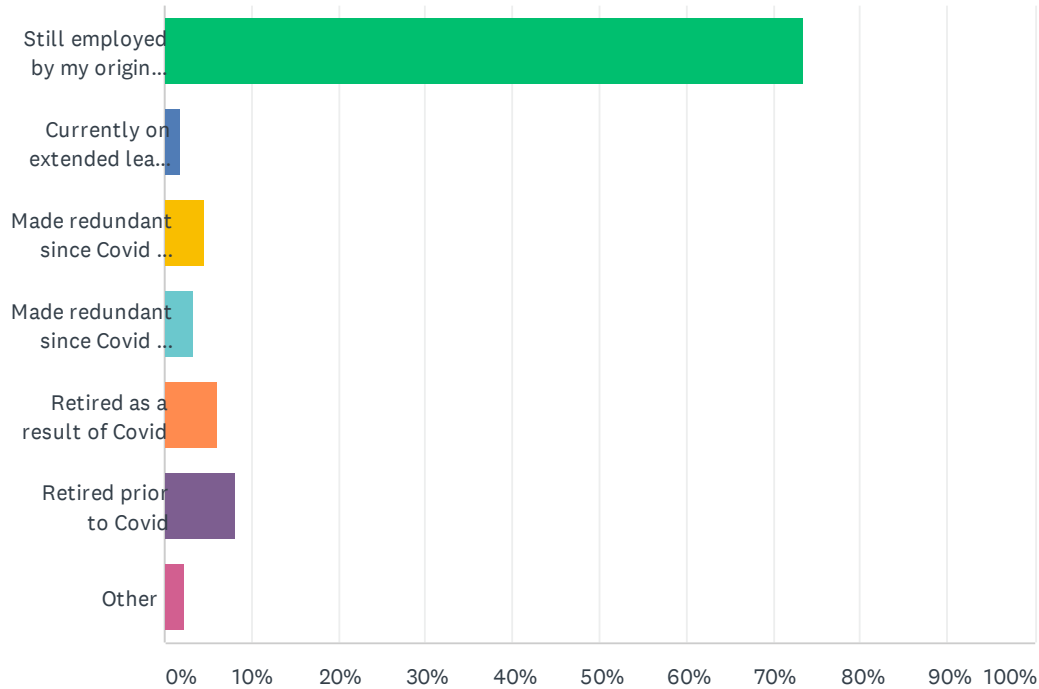
Answered: 1,184 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
under 50	41.64%	493
50-64	46.54%	551
older than 64	11.82%	140
TOTAL		1,184

Q2 My situation would be best described as -

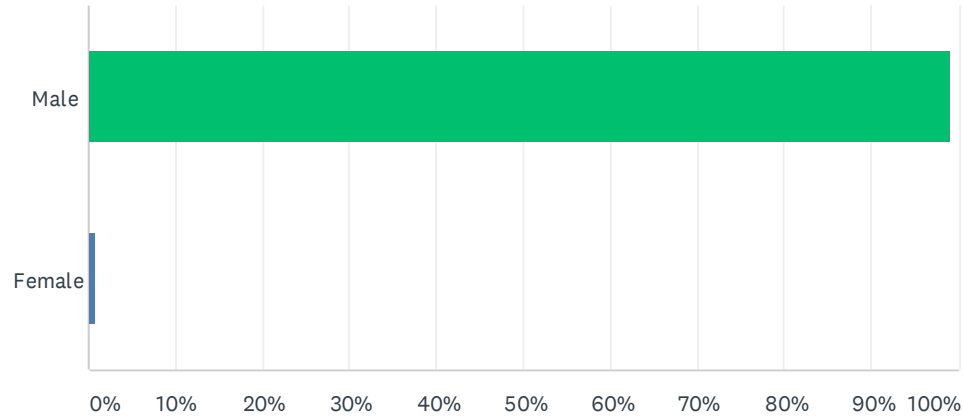
Answered: 1,187 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Still employed by my original employer	73.38%	871
Currently on extended leave or leave without pay	1.85%	22
Made redundant since Covid and now working/seeking work for another aviation company	4.63%	55
Made redundant since Covid and working/seeking work outside aviation	3.37%	40
Retired as a result of Covid	6.15%	73
Retired prior to Covid	8.26%	98
Other	2.36%	28
TOTAL		1,187

Q3 I am

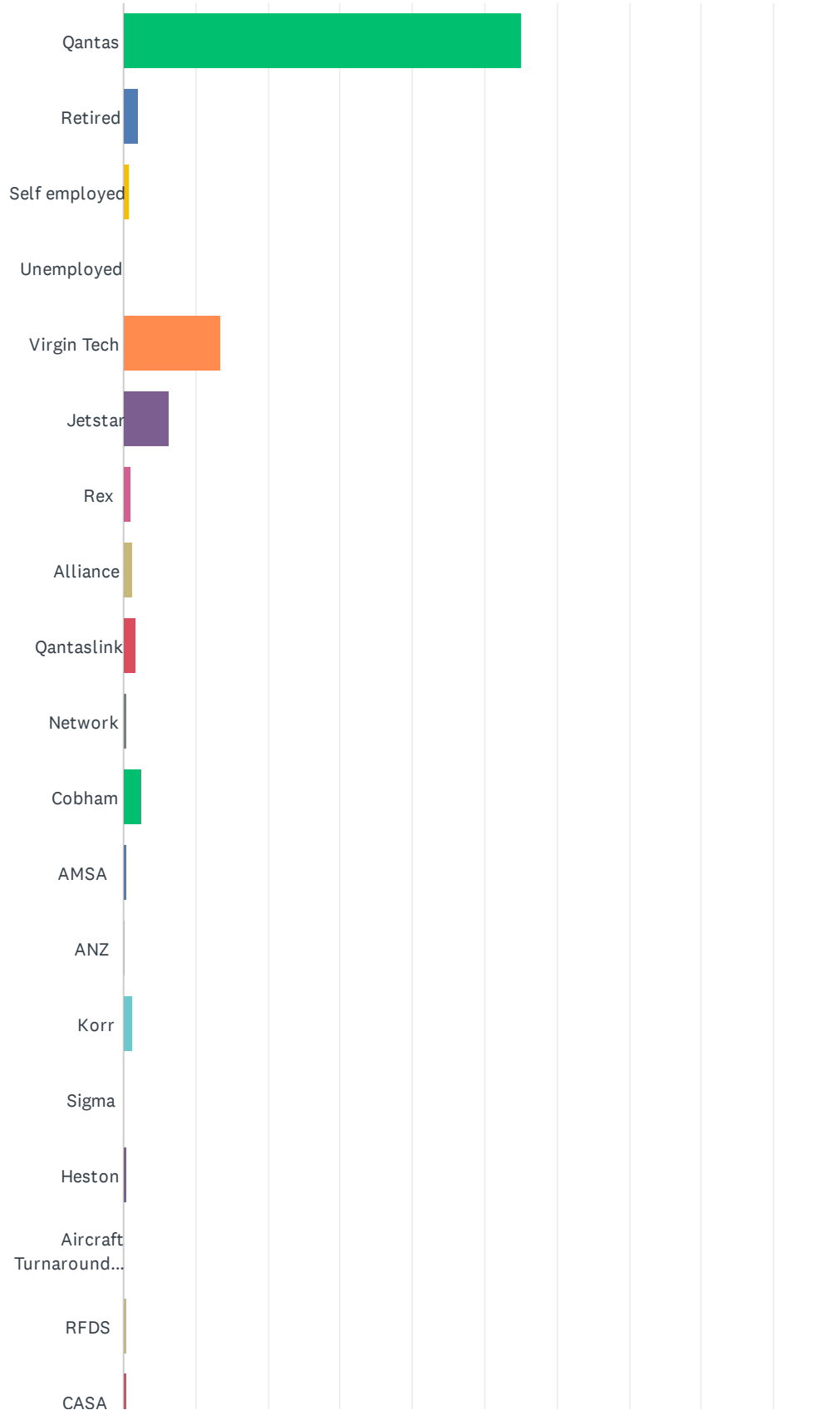
Answered: 1,187 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	99.16%	1,177
Female	0.84%	10
TOTAL		1,187

Q4 My main employer prior to Covid was:

Answered: 1,186 Skipped: 2



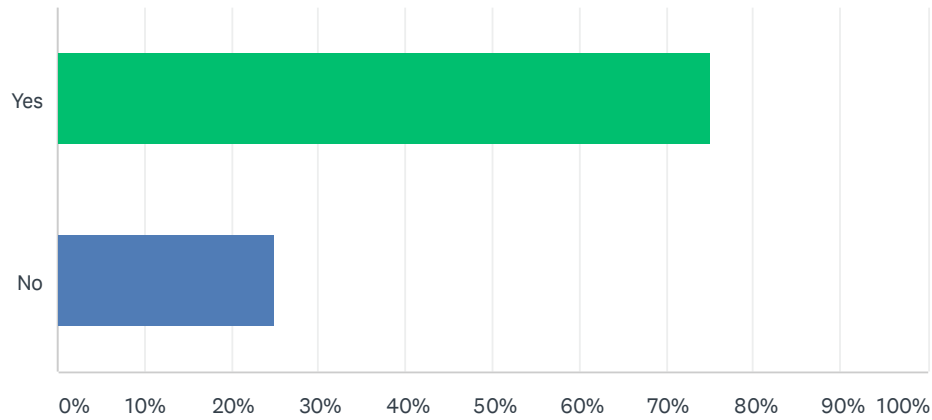


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Qantas	55.06%	653
Retired	2.02%	24
Self employed	0.93%	11
Unemployed	0.00%	0
Virgin Tech	13.49%	160
Jetstar	6.32%	75
Rex	1.01%	12
Alliance	1.26%	15
Qantaslink	1.60%	19
Network	0.51%	6
Cobham	2.61%	31
AMSA	0.34%	4
ANZ	0.17%	2
Korr	1.18%	14
Sigma	0.00%	0
Heston	0.51%	6
Aircraft Turnaround Engineers	0.08%	1
RFDS	0.51%	6
CASA	0.34%	4
CHC	1.77%	21
Bristow	0.08%	1
Aus Choppers	0.00%	0
Cathay	0.59%	7
Babcock	1.26%	15
United	0.25%	3
Fedex	0.17%	2
Nauru	0.00%	0
Toll	0.34%	4
Hawkers	0.42%	5
VARA	1.35%	16
Airwork	0.17%	2
Panasonic	0.25%	3

Other (please specify)	5.40%	64
TOTAL		1,186

Q5 Do you think Covid is as dangerous as we are being told?

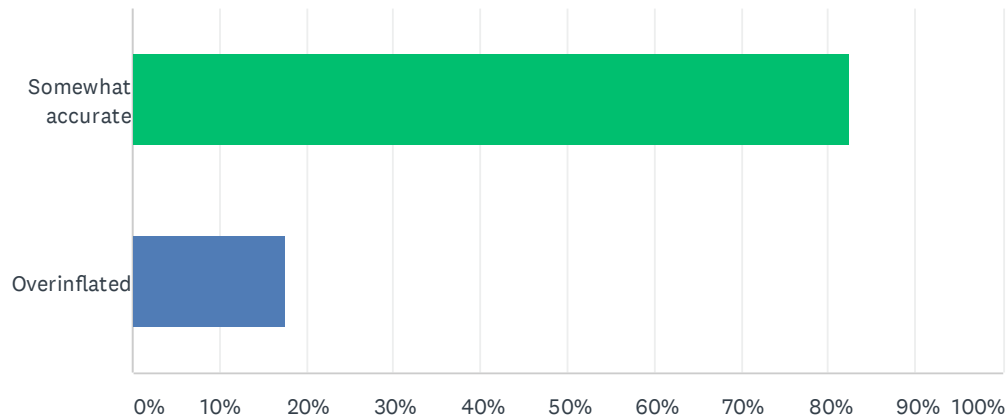
Answered: 1,164 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.09%	874
No	24.91%	290
TOTAL		1,164

Q6 There are a reported 3 million worldwide deaths attributed to Covid. Do you believe the reported death toll is:

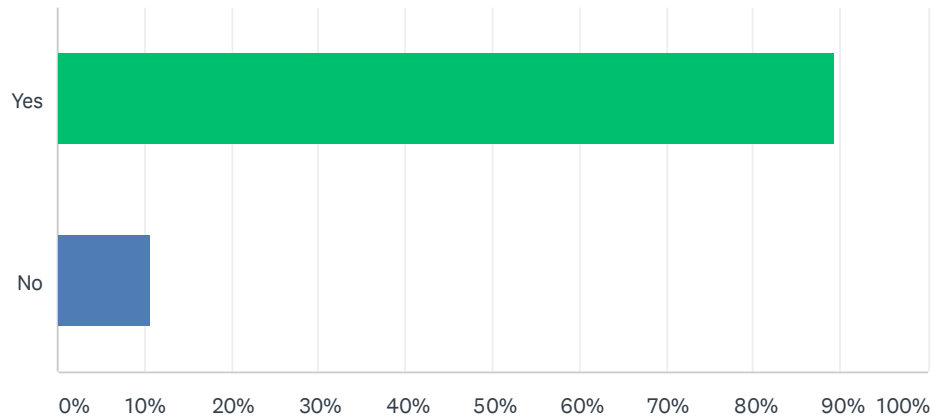
Answered: 1,166 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Somewhat accurate		82.50%	962
Overinflated		17.50%	204
TOTAL			1,166

Q7 Do you believe that masks can reduce the spread of Covid?

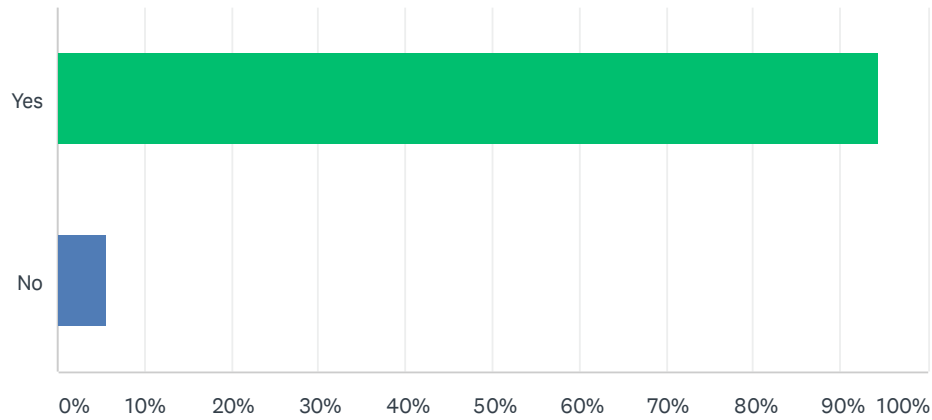
Answered: 1,168 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	89.38%	1,044
No	10.62%	124
TOTAL		1,168

Q8 Are you glad that vaccines have been developed?

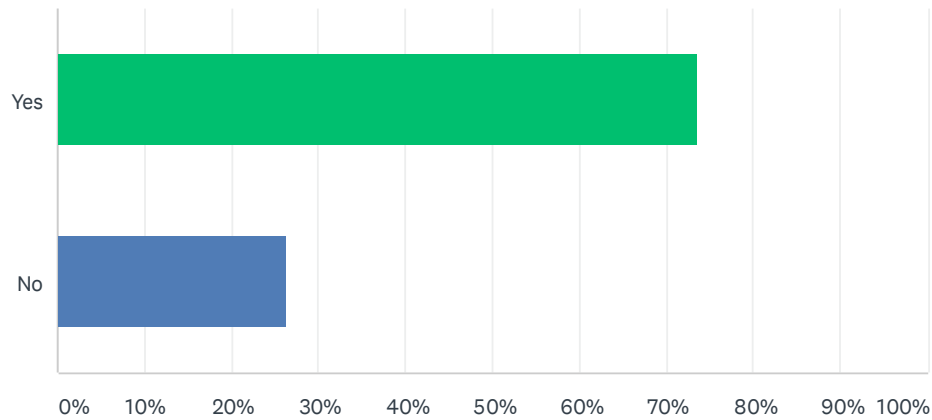
Answered: 1,168 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.35%	1,102
No	5.65%	66
TOTAL		1,168

Q9 Do you think Australia and our States have handled the Covid situation well?

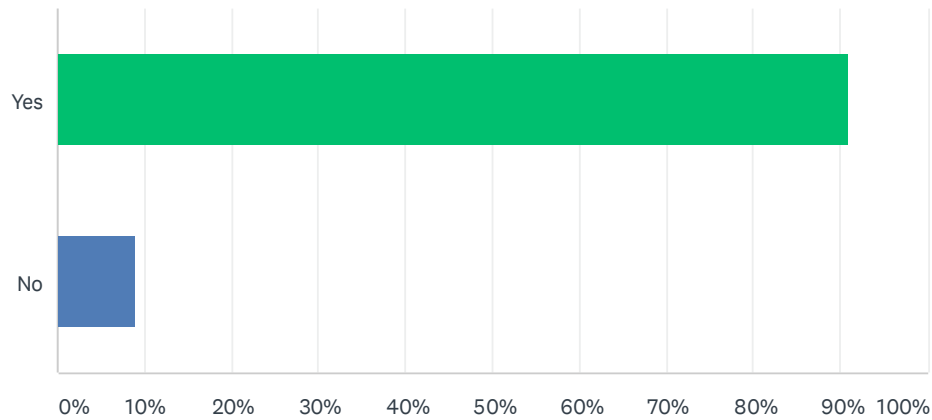
Answered: 1,168 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	73.63%	860
No	26.37%	308
TOTAL		1,168

Q10 Do you think we would be in a worse position now if our response to Covid was not so strict?

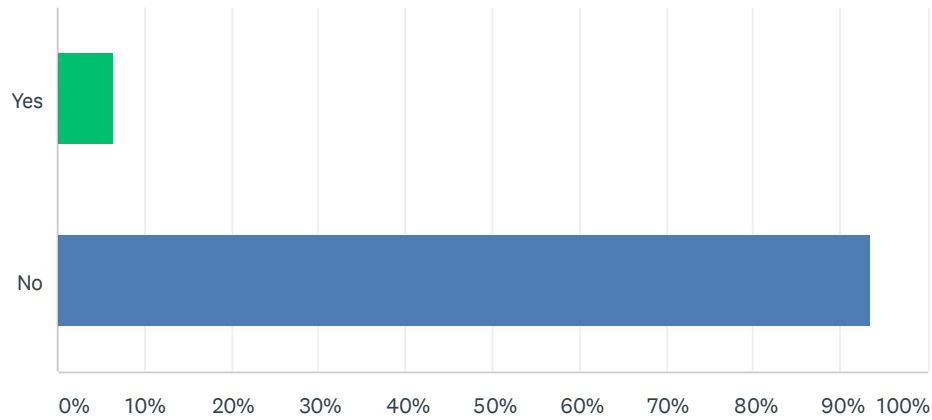
Answered: 1,167 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.92%	1,061
No	9.08%	106
TOTAL		1,167

Q11 Do you think International borders should be opened in full now?

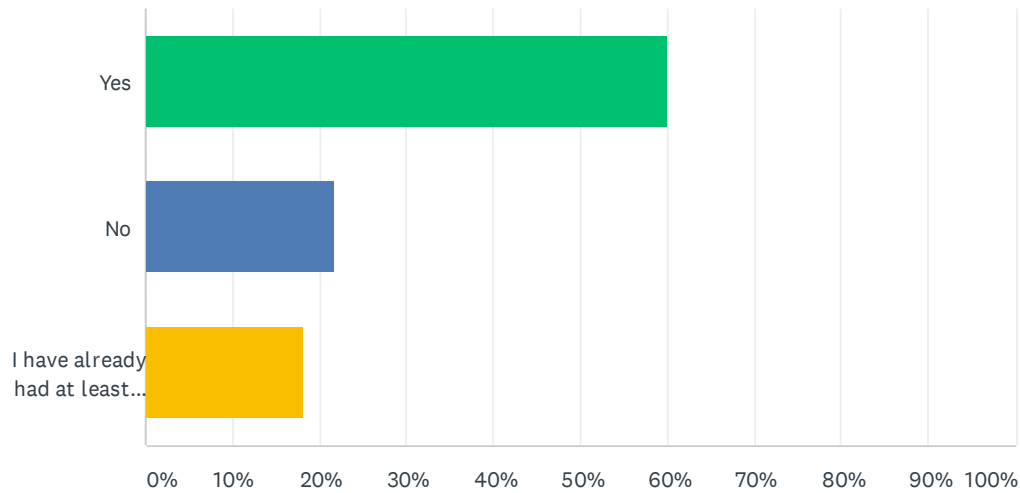
Answered: 1,167 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	6.51%	76
No	93.49%	1,091
TOTAL		1,167

Q12 If offered an optional free vaccine today during work hours, would you take it?

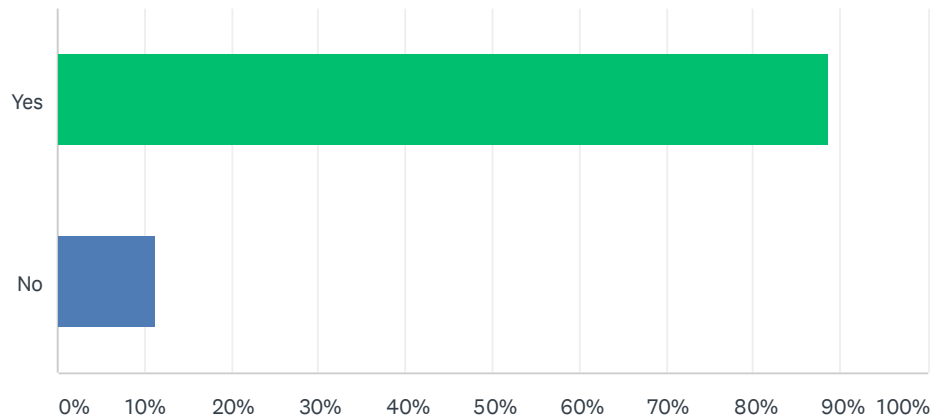
Answered: 1,166 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.03%	700
No	21.78%	254
I have already had at least one dose	18.18%	212
TOTAL		1,166

Q13 Are you concerned that if you caught Covid and had no symptoms, you may spread it to family and friends?

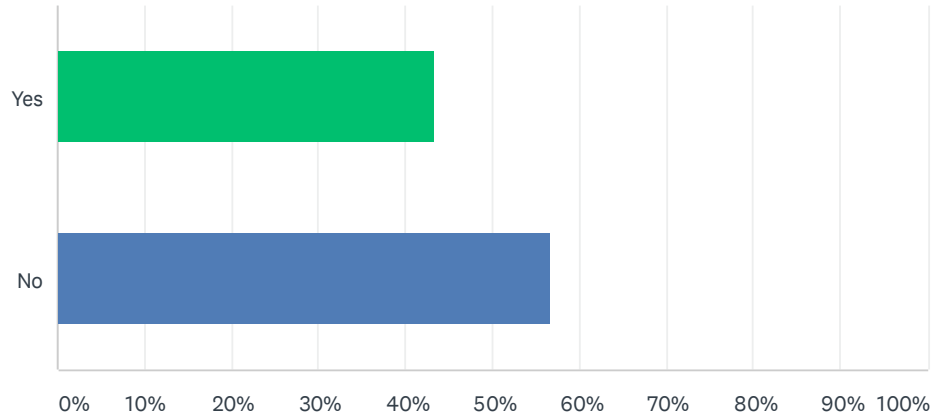
Answered: 1,169 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.62%	1,036
No	11.38%	133
TOTAL		1,169

Q14 Do you think mandatory employee Covid vaccinations (unless medically exempt) should be allowed?

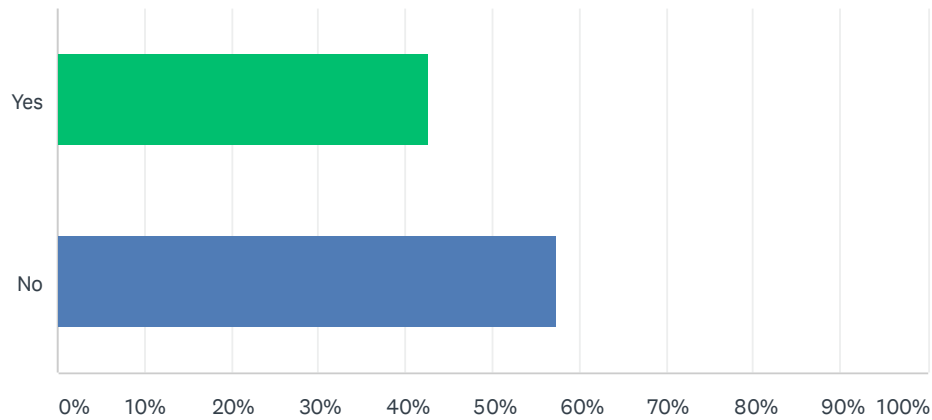
Answered: 1,139 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	43.37%	494
No	56.63%	645
TOTAL		1,139

Q15 Should the ALAEA rigorously oppose mandatory employee Covid vaccination?

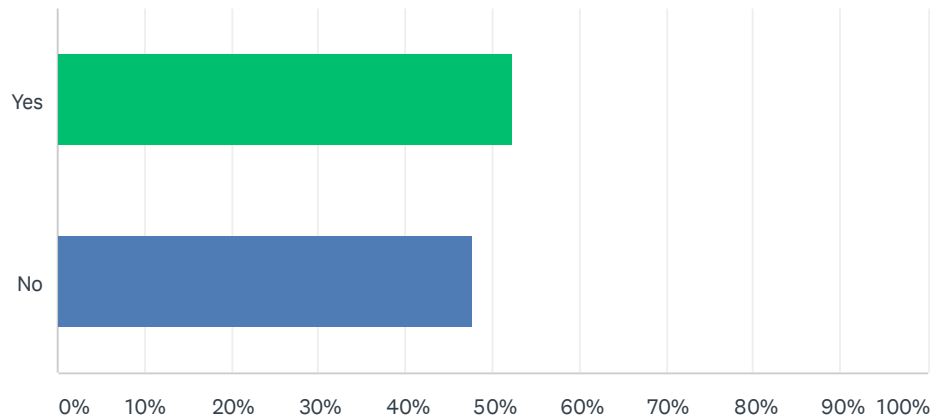
Answered: 1,141 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	42.68%	487
No	57.32%	654
TOTAL		1,141

Q16 Would mandatory vaccination be ok if those who opposed vaccination were offered the alternative of a VR package?

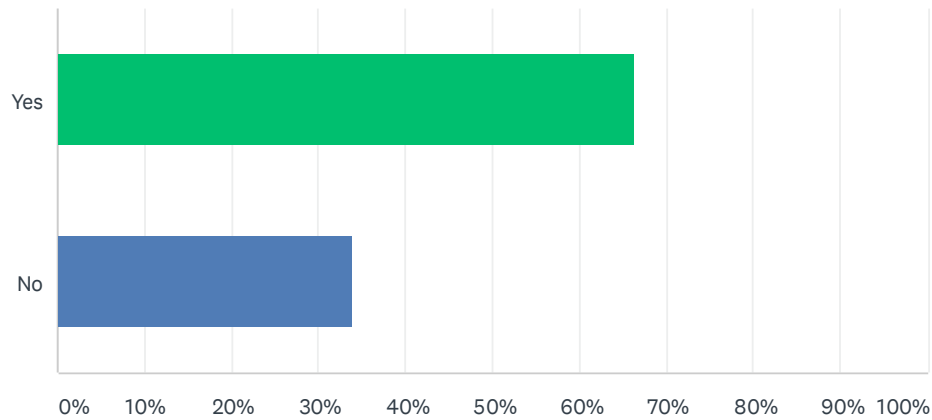
Answered: 1,139 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		52.33%	596
No		47.67%	543
TOTAL			1,139

Q17 Would mandatory vaccination be ok if you could choose which Covid vaccine you were given?

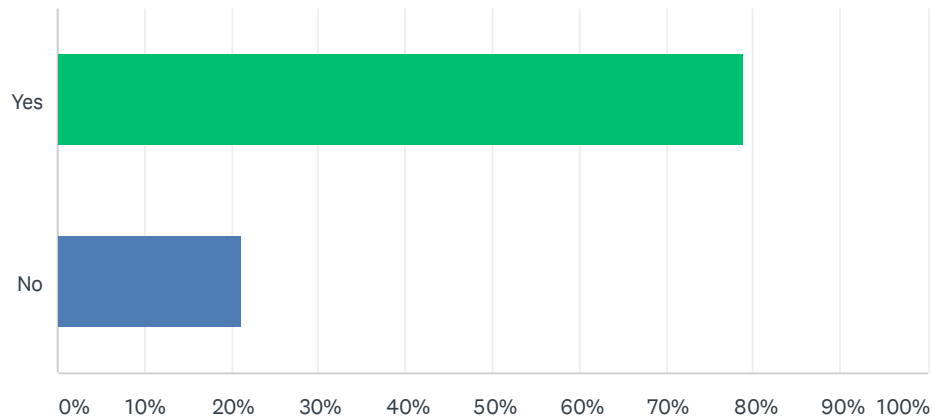
Answered: 1,137 Skipped: 51



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.23%	753
No	33.95%	386
Total Respondents: 1,137		

Q18 Should airlines have a policy of all international passengers needing to be fully vaccinated prior to travel?

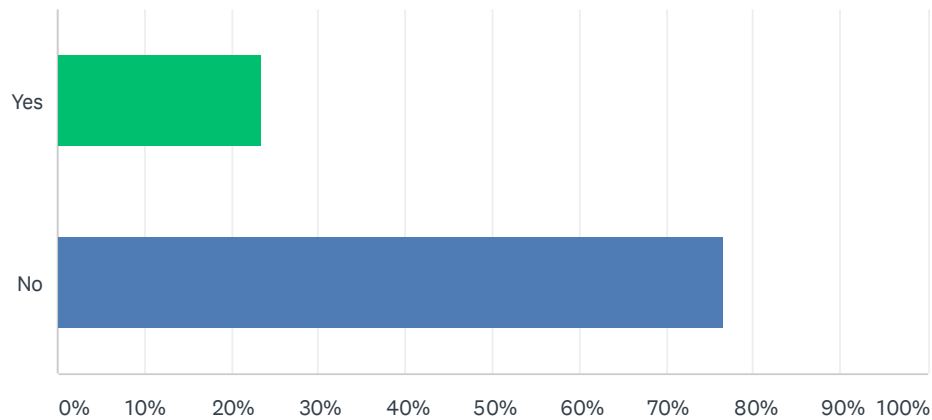
Answered: 1,139 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	78.93%	899
No	21.07%	240
TOTAL		1,139

Q19 A recent situation occurred where a state made the wearing of masks compulsory outside the home. At the workplace most staff wore a mask but some refused and continued to work. If masks are deemed mandatory, should some people be allowed to continue working without wearing them?

Answered: 1,140 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	23.42%	267
No	76.58%	873
TOTAL		1,140