

RAC Member Priorities Tracker

COVID-19, travel and social connectedness

In May 2020, 584 of our members¹ took part in a survey telling us about their experiences and how they moved around in April during the COVID-19 restrictions, as well as what they expect their travel to look like once restrictions are eased.

Travel frequency during COVID-19 restrictions

42% drove (or were a passenger in a vehicle) 5 or more days a week.



Down from **77%** in January

42% walked outside for more than 10 minutes 5 or more days a week.



Up from **37%** in January

20% rode a bicycle at least once a week



Up from **17%** in January

3% caught public transport at least once a week



Down from **14%** in January

Accessing work²

In a typical week in April 2020, during COVID-19 restrictions:



31% worked from home

Compared to just **5%** in January

15% of regional and **35%** of Perth members

The most significant changes in mode of travel to work³ were:



60% drove a car, down from **89%** in January



1% caught public transport, down from **18%** in January

Working from home in the future

Most members from Perth working from home⁴ would like to continue to on some basis once restrictions are lifted:

19% five days a week

3% four days a week

17% three days a week

18% twice a week

19% once a week

7% once a fortnight

13% never

2.2



is the average number days per week Perth members currently working from home would like to continue to do so in the future.

¹ 444 from the Perth and Peel region and 140 from regional WA. Age, gender and location sampling quotas were applied, and data has been post-weighted to be representative of RAC's membership (which is broadly consistent with the WA population profile) - the margin of error at total sample level is +/-4% at the 95% confidence level.

² Respondents could nominate more than one mode of travel. For instance, some members park and ride at train stations to get to work/study. Not all travel modes used by members have been included in this graphic. Figures only reflect responses from those who reported they were employed at the time of the surveys.

³ Members were asked how they accessed work, including working from home as an option.

⁴ 103 Perth members responded that they were working from home during COVID-19 restrictions. Other responses nominated by 3% of members have not been included in this graphic.



For the better

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Catching public transport



45%

are worried taking public transport may impact their health

In February only 2% identified hygiene as a reason for not using public transport more often



28%

expect to use public transport less often⁵

27% expect to drive more often



74%

support discounted fares for off-peak travel to assist social distancing

Using our road space differently

Members were asked their level of support for temporary trials to improve community connection and support social distancing:

48%

support converting road space to provide additional seating space for cafes and restaurants



28% oppose this⁶

53% of regular peak hour motorists⁷ supported this

46%

support limiting access to residential streets to 'local and emergency traffic only' to make it easier and safer to walk, cycle and play

24% oppose this⁶

44%

support converting road space to 'pop-up' bike paths along popular routes

29% oppose this⁶

Social connection during social distancing

34%



feel more connected to their neighbours/ local community now

17% disagree with this⁸

29%

expect to attend local community events more often in the future compared with before COVID-19

20% expect to attend less often⁸

22%

expect to contact friends and family through video/phone calls more often in the future

⁵ Compared with their lifestyle before COVID-19.

⁶ Remaining responses neither supported nor opposed the initiative.

⁷ Drove in peak hour 5 or more days a week during April. More than 1 in 5 respondents were regular peak hour motorists.

⁸ Remaining responses neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement.

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