



# Addressing poverty in New Zealand

Action Station

June 2021

# Methodology

- Results in this report are based upon questions asked in the UMR Research nation-wide omnibus survey. This is an online survey of a nationally representative sample of 1,191 New Zealanders aged 18 years and over. The data is compared to a similar question asked in late January, early February this year.
- The most recent fieldwork was conducted from the 26<sup>th</sup> of May to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.
- The margin of error for sample size of 1,191 for a 50% figure at the 95% confidence level is  $\pm 2.8\%$ .

## Note on rounding:

- *All numbers are shown rounded to zero decimal places. Hence specified totals are not always exactly equal to the sum of the specified sub-totals. The differences are seldom more than 1%.*
- *For example:  $47.7 + 47.7 = 95.4$  would appear:  $48 + 48 = 95$ .*

# Key findings

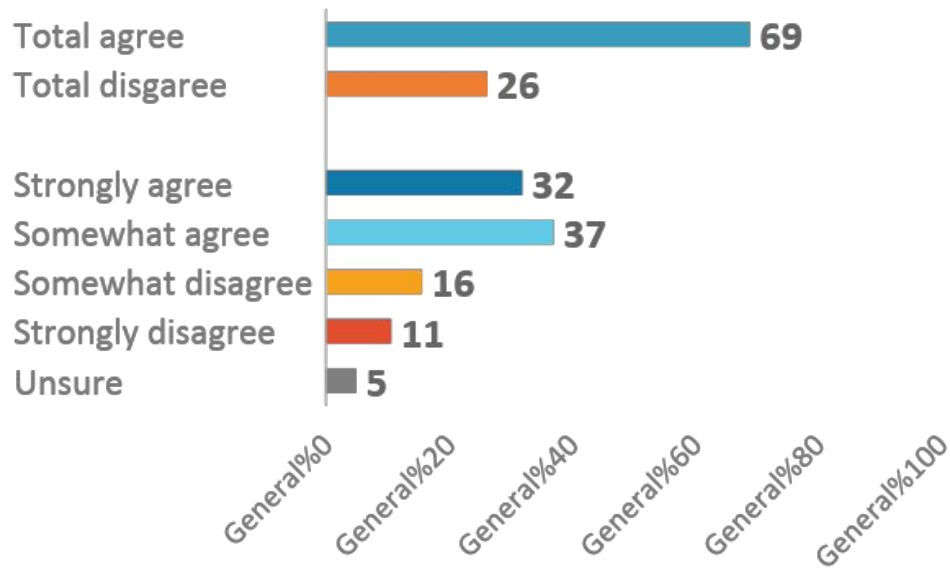
- In our most recent poll, respondents were informed about the increase in the amount of income support paid to those on low incomes and not in paid work which was announced in the Budget. (A similar question was asked in February 2021).
- 60% agreed that the government should further increase the amount of income support paid to those on low incomes and not in paid work, while just over one-third (35%) disagreed. This compares to the February 2021 result, where over two-thirds (69%) agreed that the government should increase the amount of income support paid to those on low incomes and not in paid work, while just over one-quarter (26%) disagreed.
- There was no longer a significant difference between those residing in a rural area versus those who don't. In June 2021, 65% of those residing in a rural area agreed that the government should further increase the amount of income support, while 59% of those who don't reside in a rural area agreed. (In February, results were 78% vs. 67%).
- However, there was still a significant difference between those renting versus those who don't. In June 2021, 72% of those renting agreed that the government should further increase the amount of income support, while 53% of those who own their own home with or without a mortgage agreed. (In February, results were 80% vs. 62%).
- In the February poll, there was a negative correlation between age and agreement, that is, as age increased, the percentage of agreement decreased – though the differences weren't significant. The same pattern existed in the most recent poll and again, wasn't significant.
- Likewise, in the February poll, there was a negative correlation between household income and agreement, that is, as income increased, the percentage of agreement decreased – though the differences weren't significant. However, in the most recent poll, 66% of those who declared their household income to be less than \$50k per year agreed, compared to 60% for All.

# 60% agreed that the government should further increase the amount of income support paid to those on low incomes and not in paid work

**Q** As you may be aware, an increasing number of child poverty experts and frontline support services have said that the government should increase the amount of income support paid in order to effectively address poverty in New Zealand.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the government should increase the amount of income support paid to those on low incomes and not in paid work?

February 2021 (prior to budget)

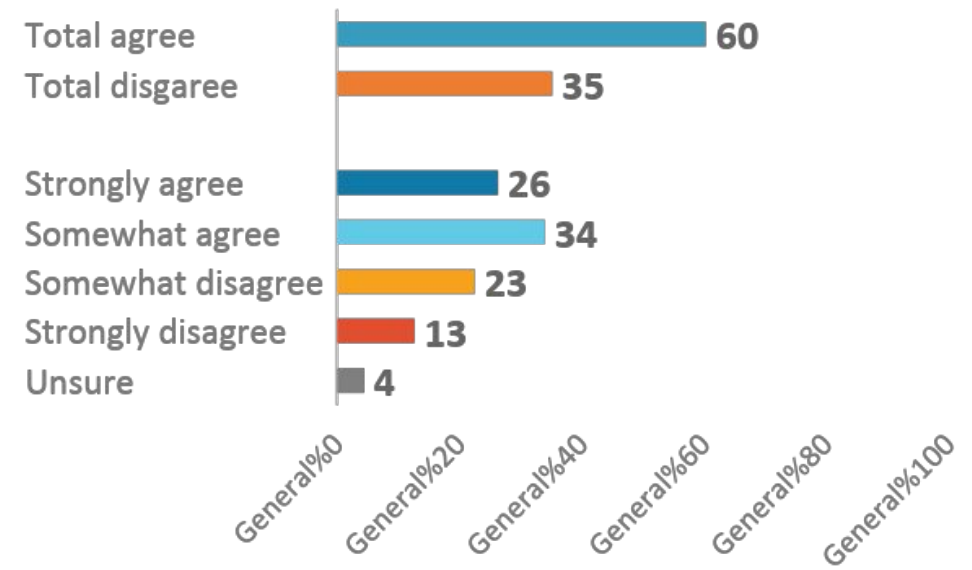


Base: n=1,158

**Q** As you may be aware, child poverty experts and frontline support services have said that the government needs to increase the amount of income support paid further than the \$20 to \$55 per week increase announced in the Budget last week to effectively address poverty in New Zealand.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the government should further increase the amount of income support paid to those on low incomes and not in paid work?

June 2021 (post budget)



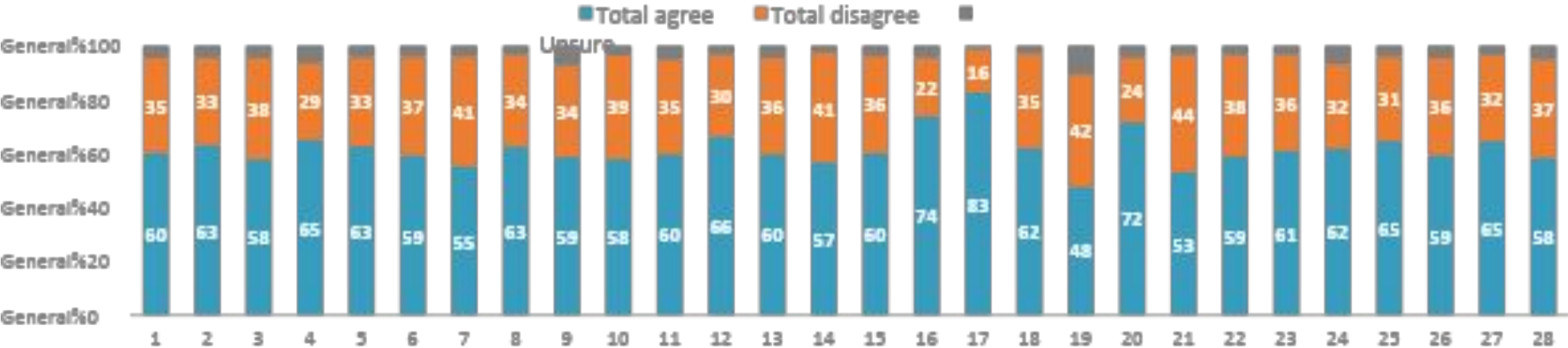
Base: n=1,191

# June results by demographics (post budget)



As you may be aware, child poverty experts and frontline support services have said that the government needs to increase the amount of income support paid further than the \$20 to \$55 per week increase announced in the Budget last week to effectively address poverty in New Zealand.


To what extent do you agree or disagree that the government should further increase the amount of income support paid to those on low incomes and not in paid work?



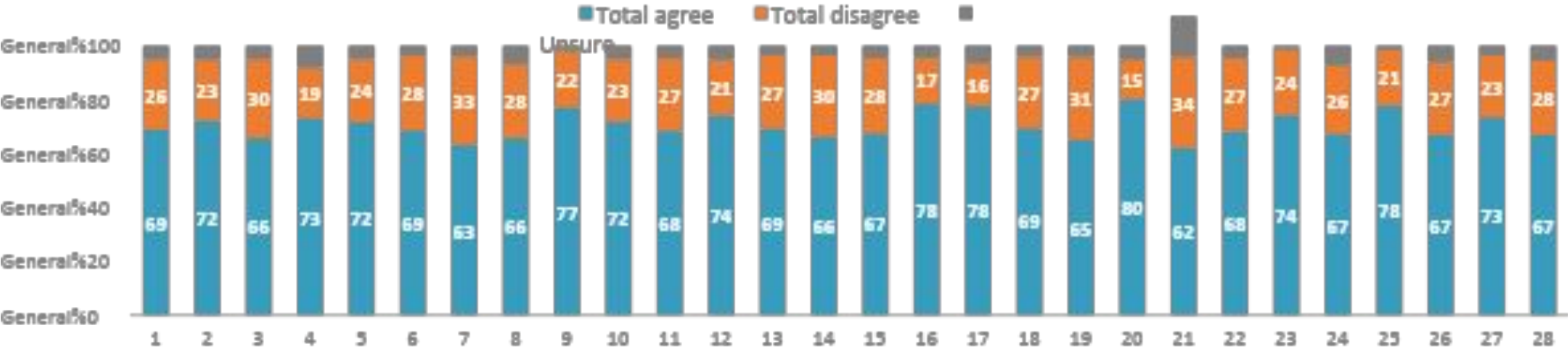
Base: n=1,191



# February results by demographics (prior to budget)

 As you may be aware, an increasing number of child poverty experts and frontline support services have said that the government should increase the amount of income support paid in order to effectively address poverty in New Zealand.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the government should increase the amount of income support paid to those on low incomes and not in paid work?



Base: n=1,158

