



**Health
Consumers
Tasmania**

Building a Consumers Health Voice in Tasmania

Media release Tasmanians have views on the lockdown – 3 May 2020

Tasmanians map a path out of the Coronavirus lockdown.

Tasmanians have expressed their views on what areas should remain in lockdown for a while longer and those areas that could be relaxed according to a recent survey of 435 people conducted last week by Health Consumers Tasmania, an independent community health advocacy organisation, with analysis undertaken by UTAS.

Health Consumers Tasmania asked respondents what restrictions should be lifted in your region after 15 May, the date the Premier indicated the Government may consider changes to the current suite of lockdowns and found that there are two clear areas that have strong community support to ease restrictions over the coming weeks.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of Health Consumers Tasmania, Bruce Levett, “Our community of interest has asked that more elective surgeries and access to parks and reserves should be considered first with both receiving strong support from the survey with over 70% stating they should be relaxed once it is safe to do so”.

“There is also an argument supporting the easing of restrictions with access to public beaches (58.1% - *yes to reduce*), family gatherings (51.9%), funerals and weddings (49.4%) and non-essential travel within your region (47.6%) with people slightly in favour of lifting restrictions in these areas”.

“Those who responded yes aren’t advocating the time is right to quickly move out of lock down but advocate a cautious approach and any easing of restrictions do require a level of community support to be effective”.

To quote those who completed the survey “Restrictions should be relaxed rather than removed in some cases”, and “I think some relaxation but carefully monitored and knowing it may need to change back again”.

According to Mr Levett, “On the other hand, there is little or no public support to ease restrictions for age care (18.4%), shopping – restaurants and cafes (18.6%), non-essential travel around Tasmania (22%), and group exercise / sport (26.1%)”.

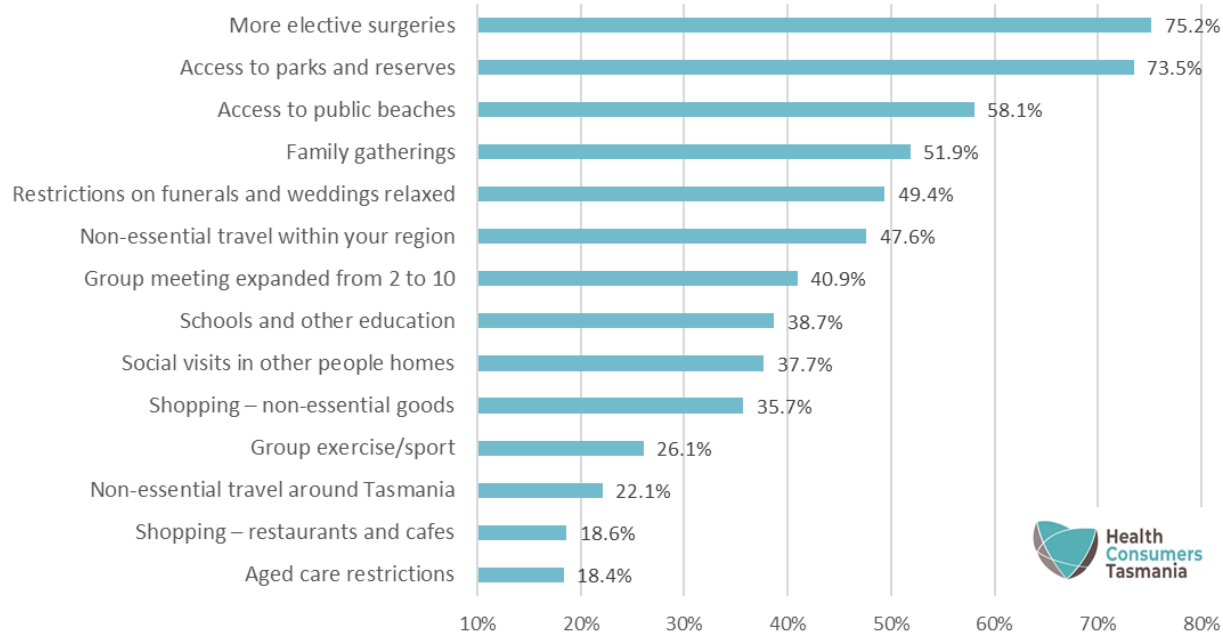
The survey also highlighted a significant amount of uncertainty about what to do with the restrictions in place for schools and other education (19.6% - *didn’t know*) and age care restrictions (16.4% didn’t know).

“Not surprisingly, these are the two areas where the community have received mixed messages from the different levels of Government and it appears to have only served to create more uncertainty within the community. For aged care at least, Tasmanians are of the firm view that there should be little change in the short term”.

“The community is also clearly divided on what to do with the restrictions for schools and other education services with a slightly greater number (41.7%) supporting the current restrictions compared to those who would like them eased (38.7%).

“The attached graph provides the State Government with a road map that outlines the order in which, once the experts believe the time is right, the community would be comfortable endorsing”.

Community support to ease restrictions - percent in favor



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