**Core message:**

As group 5, we’ve decided to tackle the hot topic of covid-19. Covid-19 as we all know can be lethal and potentially have long term neurological and immune system damages. With such ambiguity on how severe the virus is, it’s integral for governments to recognise the threat and take necessary precautions to minimise rate of infection.

**Describe the questions you and your group found interesting, and what motivated you to answer them.**

Our main interest in researching covid-19 moves beyond the direct symptomatic effects of covid-19, and instead looks at the externalities of these precautions. Precautions being flight bans, quarantines, lockdowns etc. Precautions like these do create significant economic and lifestyle changes for whole populations regardless if they were infected or not. Thus, we believe there’s a need to quantify the impacts of Covid-19 on countries and its people. To potentially allow for the creation of more precise social and economic policy to help households and the economy cope with the virus.

In terms of narrowing the scope of our project we had the choice of analysing at the global scale between countries or analysing within Australia. The other consideration was whether we wanted to look at financial effects, or psychological effects via survey data. In the end we were most keen on narrowing our scope towards the macro economy of Australia. As staying within Australia felt more relevant to us and the macro economy has more clean sources of data compared to household. More clearly, we ask what is the effect of Covid-19 on the Australian labour force and its sectors at state and territory level? We expect that covid-19 would negatively affect the labour force as a whole and generally decrease growth but depending on sector.

**Where did we find the data? How?**

To be able to answer our question we needed datasets that either measures covid, employment or industry growth. All over time and between states. The dataset that measures Covid was gathered from a GitHub repository hosted by John Hopkin’s Center for Systems Science and Engineering. The dataset is a time series that cumulatively counts new cases of the virus daily. From this we can calculate infection rate of covid in Australian states starting from January 2020 until now. We found the data source as it seems to be the only place that publicly publishes covid state at the state/providential level which was a requirement for us.

Labour force data was gathered from abs.gov. Which measures monthly and yearly change on labour force related statistics such as unemployment for each state.