



YOUTH SURVEY REPORT 2024

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**

CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS REPORT	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS	6
PERSONAL CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS.....	8
NATIONAL ISSUES.....	11
EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT.....	12
HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND FINANCIAL SITUATION	16
WELLBEING	19
SUPPORT AND CONNECTEDNESS.....	21
UNFAIR TREATMENT AND DISCRIMINATION	25
ALCOHOL AND DRUGS	26

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the **Australian Capital Territory (ACT)** sub-report of the Mission Australia *Youth Survey Report 2024*. It is based on the responses of 883 young people in **ACT** who completed the *Youth Survey 2024*.

The Mission Australia *Youth Survey Report 2024* presents key findings based on national level data and can be found [here](#). It contains the methodology, national executive summary, national key findings, and findings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. The report also includes commentary on the national findings that may assist in the interpretation of the data found within this sub-report.

This **ACT** sub-report is a state-based overview of the key findings from the *Youth Survey 2024*. The report includes detailed data tables comparing state-level findings against the national data. All state and national data in this report, including demographic information and base sizes, has been **weighted** by state, gender and socio-economic advantage/disadvantage by area. Please see the 'About the survey' section of the *Youth Survey Report 2024* for more information regarding our weighting method.

Care needs to be taken when interpreting and generalising some results due to variations in base sizes for different survey items. When weighted base sizes are under 100 and need to be read with caution, notes are included under the data tables. Care also needs to be taken when interpreting and generalising state-based gender breakdowns due to small base sizes. **ACT** gender breakdowns are included where weighted base size allows. Results have been excluded where weighted base sizes are under 30 respondents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of lands throughout Australia, and we pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the culture and dreams of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continual relationship with the land and we recognise the importance of the young people who are our future leaders.

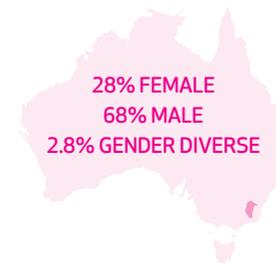
A special thank you to the young people who shared with us in the 2024 *Youth Survey*. We appreciate the views they shared on current issues and personal concerns, as well as their responses to questions relating to housing and finance, education and employment, community and supports, and mental health and wellbeing.

This report may be cited as: McHale, R., Brennan, N., Boon, B., Richardson, E., Rossetto, A. & Christie, R. (2024). *Youth Survey Report 2024: Australian Capital Territory sub-report*. Sydney, NSW: Mission Australia

Australian Capital Territory

KEY FINDINGS

Young people shared their perspectives and experiences across a range of topics.



Biggest personal challenge

- 1 School and study, **41%**
(43% in 2023, 43% in 2022)
- 2 Mental health, **17%**
(22% in 2023, 23% in 2022)
- 3 Personal relationships, **16%**
(21% in 2023, 11% in 2022)

Education and employment

81% of respondents were studying full time
97% planned to complete Year 12
After school, **52%** planned to go to university and **35%** planned to get a job
63% were in paid work

Housing, homelessness and financial situation

99% of young people lived with their parents or guardians
6.9% worried about having a safe place to stay in the past year
26% said that they and their families had to be careful with money

Wellbeing

59% of respondents reported feeling happy with their life
61% felt completely or mostly in control of their life
However, **15%** felt lonely all or most of the time in the past four weeks
15% were classified as having high psychological distress

Support and connectedness

65% of young people would go to friends and **62%** to parents/guardians for help with important issues in their lives
However, **24%** found it hard to turn to friends and family if they needed help
58% felt proud to be a part of their community
41% felt that young people in their community have a say on issues that matter to them

Unfair treatment and discrimination

25% of respondents reported being treated unfairly or discriminated against in the past year
Physical appearance (**41%**), race/cultural background (**30%**) and personal views (**28%**) were the top reasons for discrimination

Alcohol and drugs

50% of young people believed that alcohol and **61%** believed that drugs are a problem in Australia
15% reported that alcohol was a problem for their family or friends, **9.9%** for drugs
62% accessed information about the risk of alcohol or drug use from their teachers and schools, **40%** from social media and **36%** via news or advertising



Australian Capital Territory

KEY FINDINGS

Young people were asked to list the three most important issues in Australia today.



The open-ended responses were then thematically analysed and listed in order of frequency.

1

Cost of living, 60%
(32% in 2023, 26% in 2022)

2

Climate change and the environment, 28%
(44% in 2023, 59% in 2022)

3

Discrimination and inequality, 24%
(31% in 2023, 37% in 2022)

4

Violence, safety and crime, 24%
(13% in 2023, 4.6% in 2022)

"[The biggest personal challenge I faced in the past year was] being poor and having no money to buy anything."

Male, 16, Australian Capital Territory

"My farm, and childhood home was burnt in the 2020 bushfires, so I am very aware of the effects it [climate change] has on the community and how it can affect a family for years to come."

Female, 16, Australian Capital Territory



PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Gender

	ACT %	National %
Base	312	17212
Female	27.7	46.4
Male	68.5	49.5
Gender diverse [^]	2.8	3.0
Prefer not to say	1.1	1.1

[^]A-gender/non-gendered, non-binary gender, transgender and not listed are combined under the gender diverse reporting category.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	308	86	208	16917
Non-Indigenous	93.7	92.5	94.1	92.3
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	6.3	7.5	5.9	7.7
Aboriginal	6.0	7.0	5.7	6.0
Torres Strait Islander	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.8

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 3: Identify with a cultural or ethnic identity

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	309	86	209	16728
Yes	17.3	19.0	16.6	24.4
No	82.7	81.0	83.4	75.6

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 4: Spoke a language other than English

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	309	86	208	16710
Yes	17.7	21.5	16.3	22.9
No, English only	82.3	78.5	83.7	77.1

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 5: Identify as a person with disability

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	306	86	206	16572
Yes, I have disability	9.4	6.5	9.8	8.7
No	86.8	91.5	86.2	86.3
Prefer not to say	3.8	2.0	4.0	5.1

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 6: Identify as a person with a mental health condition

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	306	86	206	16506
Yes, I have a mental health condition	15.1	26.0	9.2	15.9
No	75.5	62.7	83.4	72.6
Prefer not to say	9.3	11.3	7.4	11.5

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

PERSONAL CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

Table 7: Biggest personal challenge experienced by young people

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	268	79	177	15052
School and study	41.3	40.7	43.1	44.7
Mental health	16.8	31.4	10.0	19.6
Personal relationships	15.7	21.3	13.5	20.6
Physical health	9.3	6.8	10.0	5.3
Finance and housing	3.7	5.7	3.0	5.6
Other (includes various low frequency challenges not listed above)	14.2	7.9	15.8	14.6
Not sure/no challenges identified	12.0	5.3	14.9	7.4

Note: Items based on content analysis of 100% of responses to this question. The percentages may not total 100% as responses can fall into multiple items. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 8: Top five supports when facing their challenge, by biggest personal challenge experienced in the past year

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
School and study challenge (Base)	110	32	76	6689
Being more organised	51.3	48.5	52.2	42.6
Sleeping	44.2	47.3	43.4	43.5
Taking a break	44.1	44.1	44.7	42.0
Studying	42.7	30.3	47.4	37.2
Entertainment and recreation	36.5	39.9	35.3	41.9
Mental health challenge (Base)	45*			2936
Entertainment and recreation	59.4			53.2
Distracting myself	48.8			48.4
Sleeping	45.7			45.2
Taking a break	42.8			40.3
Self-care	42.5			42.9
Personal relationships challenge (Base)	42*			3102
Distracting myself	54.0			49.1
Entertainment and recreation	49.6			49.9
Reaching out to friends	48.2			41.2
Sleeping	46.2			41.7
Self-care	37.6			36.6

Note: Sample sizes vary per challenge. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency within each challenge.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Female, male and gender diverse data is not included in some rows as sample size was less than 30.

Table 9: Issues of concern to young people in the past year (*extremely or very concerned*)

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Cost of living	32.1	35.1	29.7	34.0
School or study problems	31.4	49.0	24.4	34.5
Coping with stress	23.3	42.3	14.9	30.1
Mental health	21.6	38.6	14.6	28.0
Body image	18.2	37.8	10.5	25.3
Physical health	18.0	24.1	16.1	18.8
Climate change	16.1	19.5	14.2	15.9
Suicide	14.4	18.1	12.1	13.7
Global conflicts	13.6	17.5	11.5	16.5
Social media use	13.4	20.7	9.9	15.3
Discrimination	12.2	16.5	10.4	13.3
Artificial intelligence	9.4	8.3	9.2	10.2
LGBTIQ+^ issues	8.8	5.9	7.4	9.8
Domestic/family violence	8.6	10.1	7.5	10.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.4	14.3	5.9	12.4
Vaping/e-cigarettes	7.4	8.2	7.1	10.2
Personal safety	6.2	11.2	4.4	11.5
Alcohol and other drugs	4.9	5.2	4.2	7.5

^Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer, Asexual issues.

Note: Sample sizes vary per statement. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

NATIONAL ISSUES

Table 10: Top 10 most important issues in Australia today

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	277	79	186	15044
Cost of living	60.4	58.7	61.6	56.2
Climate change and the environment	27.5	33.8	25.2	26.6
Discrimination and inequality	24.4	25.5	25.0	21.7
Violence, safety and crime	23.8	32.3	21.0	25.3
Mental health	22.0	25.4	19.6	23.3
Alcohol and other drugs	18.2	14.4	20.3	16.7
Housing and homelessness	15.0	13.8	16.1	17.0
Global affairs	9.0	3.6	11.3	7.1
Australian politics	7.3	4.5	7.5	5.6
Education	6.2	10.5	4.7	7.5

Note: Respondents were able to write up to three issues. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency. Labels describing some issues have been updated in 2024 to better reflect contemporary language.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Table 11: Participation in education

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	314	86	213	17434
Studying full-time	80.6	88.7	77.6	80.8
Studying part-time	14.7	10.2	16.8	9.1
Not studying	4.7	1.1	5.7	10.1

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 12: Satisfaction with studies

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	299	85	201	15547
Very satisfied or satisfied	55.3	58.4	55.7	61.2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	33.7	33.1	33.0	29.4
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	11.0	8.5	11.4	9.4

Base: Respondents currently studying.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 13: Plan to complete Year 12

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	295	84	198	14807
Yes	96.9	94.7	97.7	95.2
No	3.1	5.3	2.3	4.8

Base: Respondents currently studying.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 14: Plans after leaving school

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	296	85	199	14913
Go to university	52.2	61.0	48.3	61.4
Get a job	35.1	38.0	33.5	36.7
Travel/gap year	26.1	25.8	26.1	26.6
Get an apprenticeship	15.3	9.2	17.6	12.8
Start a business	13.4	8.9	14.9	9.3
Join the defence force or emergency services	10.2	6.7	12.0	8.1
Go to TAFE or college	9.9	7.8	11.2	11.9
Become a professional athlete	8.9	4.3	10.6	7.1
Do something in the creative and/or performing arts	6.3	4.2	7.4	6.8
Other	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5
Not sure	11.2	14.9	9.9	7.7
No choices are available to me	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1

Base: Respondents currently studying at school or equivalent.

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 15: Are there any barriers to young people achieving study/work goals

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	295	85	198	14713
Yes	28.1	30.6	27.6	28.8
No	71.9	69.4	72.4	71.2

Base: Respondents currently studying at school or equivalent.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 16: Barriers to achieving study/work goals

	ACT %*	Male %*	National %
Base	81	53	4182
Lack of motivation	38.0	31.2	37.3
Mental health	32.2	21.9	33.4
Academic ability	30.2	31.4	26.7
Lack of confidence	29.1	26.8	31.2
Financial difficulties	18.3	16.3	29.3
Where you live	15.3	15.3	18.2
Admission/job requirements	13.3	12.0	10.4
Lack of information	13.2	11.1	11.7
Disability	11.2	12.1	8.9
Lack of school support	10.2	10.4	8.6
Physical health	10.0	7.3	8.5
Discrimination	8.0	9.6	5.4
Transport	7.6	7.8	13.3
Family responsibilities	7.2	4.5	12.3
Lack of jobs	6.1	5.8	10.5
Lack of family support	5.8	4.5	8.7
Cultural responsibilities	2.7	2.9	3.1
Lack of stable housing	1.4	0.9	5.7
Other	6.8	6.4	5.4

Base: Respondents who said there were barriers to achieving study/work goals.

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Female and gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 17: Participation in paid employment

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	314	86	214	17437
Permanent employee	6.7	5.3	7.2	4.3
Casual employee	56.4	64.7	53.2	47.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	26.5	19.7	29.6	28.9
Not in paid employment, not looking for work	10.4	10.3	10.0	19.2

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 18: Employment type

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	198	60	129	8953
Working full-time	0.6	0.2	0.5	1.9
Working part-time	99.4	99.8	99.5	98.1

Base: Respondents in paid employment.

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND FINANCIAL SITUATION

Table 19: Residential setting in the past three months

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	310	84	212	16975
A home owned or rented by me or someone I live with	97.4	97.2	98.0	90.5
Boarding school	0.6	1.6	0.3	4.0
Public/social housing	0.6	0.4	0.8	2.3
Out-of-home care	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.7
Somewhere else	1.2	0.9	0.7	2.5

Note: Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 20: Living with parents or somewhere else in the past three months

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	310	86	210	17032
Living with parent(s) or guardian(s)	98.8	98.8	98.9	94.6
Living somewhere else	1.2	1.2	1.1	5.4

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30. 'Living somewhere else in the past three months' table has not been included for ACT as the sample size was less than 30.

Table 21: No fixed address or lived in a refuge or transitional accommodation

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	312	86	212	16960
Yes, in the last year	1.2	1.4	1.1	3.0
Yes, but not in the last year	4.1	6.0	2.9	5.7
No	94.7	92.6	95.9	91.3

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 22: Spent time away from home because they felt they could not go back

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	312	86	212	16985
Yes, in the last year	6.6	9.9	4.3	7.4
Yes, but not in the last year	4.1	6.3	3.0	6.2
No	89.3	83.7	92.7	86.3

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 23: Worried about having a safe place to stay in the past year

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	312	85	212	17024
Yes	6.9	12.1	5.1	11.2
No	93.1	87.9	94.9	88.8

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 24: Financial concerns experienced in the past year by young person and/or their family

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	304	84	206	16647
Had to be careful with money	26.4	40.5	20.9	34.5
Had trouble paying for things	15.7	22.8	12.3	17.9
Sought financial help from family, friends or a charity	6.8	13.2	3.8	8.4
Could not afford school fees, supplies or excursions	5.6	10.2	3.5	6.5
Could not pay bills or car expenses	5.4	11.7	2.8	6.8
Went without essential goods or services (e.g. medical appointments, groceries)	4.3	10.9	1.6	5.7
Could not pay rent/mortgage	3.3	5.9	2.1	4.9
Went without a meal(s)	3.0	5.7	1.5	4.4
Other	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.0
I'm not sure	12.3	11.5	13.0	11.4
No, none of the above	58.6	46.7	63.1	49.4

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 25: Support/assistance received from a charity/foundation in the past year for young person and/or their family

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	295	84	197	16429
Yes, Mission Australia and/or a different charity or foundation (e.g. The Salvation Army, The Smith Family, Beyond Blue)	2.1	0.7	2.5	3.9
No, but I needed support or assistance	2.2	3.3	1.5	3.3
No, I did not need support or assistance from a charity or foundation	80.5	78.4	81.3	68.5
I'm not sure	15.3	17.7	14.7	24.2

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

WELLBEING

Table 26: Level of happiness with their life as a whole

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	308	83	211	17061
Very happy or happy (70-100)	58.8	53.2	62.3	57.0
Not happy or sad (40-60)	33.4	36.5	31.4	33.9
Sad or very sad (0-30)	7.8	10.3	6.3	9.0

Note: Respondents were asked to rate how happy they are with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes very happy or happy; 40-60 signifies not happy or sad; and 0-30 indicates sad or very sad.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 27: Level of control over their life

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	308	82	212	16889
Complete control	11.8	5.4	14.4	9.8
Mostly in control	49.0	46.9	51.7	46.6
Some control	29.7	35.0	26.8	33.2
Almost no control	7.9	11.4	5.4	8.3
No control	1.6	1.4	1.7	2.0

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 28: Level of loneliness in the past four weeks

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	309	83	212	16932
None of the time	27.8	16.3	32.1	21.5
A little of the time	28.3	31.8	27.7	29.2
Some of the time	28.4	33.0	26.7	28.5
Most of the time	13.1	16.2	11.7	15.8
All of the time	2.3	2.7	1.8	4.9

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 29: Feelings about the future

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	312	85	213	16930
Very positive or positive	42.5	38.4	44.7	47.1
Neither positive nor negative	37.9	40.7	36.6	34.2
Negative or very negative	19.5	20.9	18.7	18.7

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 30: Impact of climate change on thinking, feelings and/or behaviour

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	308	85	208	16764
Yes	20.7	25.2	18.3	19.7
No	53.4	41.1	58.4	53.5
I'm not sure	25.9	33.7	23.2	26.8

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 31: Level of psychological distress

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	304	85	205	16628
Low psychological distress	59.7	40.2	69.0	50.1
Moderate psychological distress	24.9	33.2	20.8	28.3
High psychological distress	15.4	26.5	10.3	21.6

Note: Cut-off scores for categories of psychological distress are as follows: low = 0 to 7, moderate = 8 to 12 and high = 13 to 24 (Hilton, M. F., Whiteford, H. A., Sheridan, J. S., Cleary, C. M., Chant, D. C., Wang, P. S., & Kessler, R. C. (2008). The prevalence of psychological distress in employees and associated occupational risk factors. *Journal of occupational and environmental medicine, 50(7)*, 746-757). These cut-off scores are used by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (Rioseco, P., Warren, D., & Daraganova, G. (2020). *Children's social-emotional wellbeing: The role of parenting, parents' mental health and health behaviours*. Southbank, Victoria: Australian Institute of Family Studies).

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

SUPPORT AND CONNECTEDNESS

Table 32: Where young people go for help with important issues

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	310	86	209	17126
Friend(s)	65.2	72.1	63.6	63.6
Parent(s) or guardian(s)	61.7	57.2	64.8	58.7
Brother/sister	33.9	32.5	34.0	32.9
Relative(s)	28.7	22.6	31.4	27.7
Pet(s)	23.6	28.3	21.2	23.7
Partner or significant other	20.7	31.0	17.1	21.1
Teacher/coach	19.7	17.1	21.8	16.9
Internet	16.7	16.9	16.2	20.2
GP or health professional	13.6	17.5	11.5	17.2
Social media	9.9	15.2	7.5	13.2
School counsellor	9.4	10.9	8.0	11.0
Mobile apps	5.7	9.1	3.9	8.1
Spiritual/religious mentor	4.4	2.7	5.0	6.4
Community service	1.7	2.7	1.1	5.0
Other	2.5	1.5	2.5	2.7
None of the above, I would keep the issue to myself	11.7	7.1	13.0	11.6

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 33: Family's ability to get along with one another

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	313	86	213	16958
Excellent	21.7	12.6	25.6	19.1
Very good	33.2	30.7	34.1	29.4
Good	24.0	25.4	24.3	25.2
Fair	12.7	14.0	11.6	16.3
Poor	8.5	17.3	4.5	9.9

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 34: Activities involved in during the past year

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	306	85	207	17012
Sports (as a participant)	68.3	64.8	70.0	61.8
Sports (as a spectator)	54.6	42.2	60.6	47.3
Volunteer work	40.2	51.2	36.1	39.0
Student leaderships groups/activities	18.8	17.5	19.9	26.8
Arts/cultural/music groups/activities	18.1	19.6	16.9	26.4
Youth groups/activities	16.0	14.7	17.1	20.4
Religious groups/activities	14.4	9.4	17.1	17.3
Environmental groups/activities	6.6	5.4	7.0	6.9
Political groups/activities	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.6
None of the above	13.0	14.7	12.0	14.4

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 35: Activities young people find hard to do

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	303	85	204	16612
Turn to friends and family if you need help?	24.5	35.0	20.0	29.5
Fit in and socialise with everyone? (<i>e.g., at school, work or socially</i>)	24.0	34.1	19.6	29.6
Make choices and feel independent?	18.2	30.5	12.5	22.5
Turn to services/organisations if you need help?	15.5	25.2	11.1	20.8
Do everyday activities as young people your age usually do?	13.3	21.0	9.7	20.0
Do things in public places with friends? (<i>e.g., go to shopping centres, sporting or music events</i>)	12.0	19.9	7.9	16.3
Travel around the community? (<i>e.g., using footpaths or public transport</i>)	7.6	14.7	4.3	9.9
None of the above	53.2	32.7	61.5	43.9

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 36: Feelings young people have about their community

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
I am proud to be part of my community (Base)	300	84	201	16119
Strongly agree/agree	57.9	52.0	62.3	51.5
Mixed feelings	35.4	41.4	31.9	37.3
Disagree/strongly disagree	6.8	6.5	5.9	11.3
Young people in my community have a say on issues that matter to them (Base)	301	85	202	16120
Strongly agree/agree	41.3	38.0	43.9	36.2
Mixed feelings	41.5	49.7	37.3	40.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	17.2	12.3	18.7	22.9
My community has the things that I need to have a positive and thriving future (Base)	300	85	201	16119
Strongly agree/agree	57.3	48.5	62.4	49.7
Mixed feelings	32.0	36.8	29.1	36.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	10.6	14.6	8.4	13.6

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 37: Whether young people have cultural and/or spiritual beliefs

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	310	86	210	16899
Yes – both spiritual and cultural beliefs	16.7	18.4	15.9	18.5
Yes – spiritual beliefs	17.5	20.1	16.3	19.9
Yes – cultural beliefs	11.5	12.2	11.8	11.7
No spiritual or cultural beliefs	54.3	49.3	56.1	50.0

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

UNFAIR TREATMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

Table 38: Unfair treatment or discrimination in the past year

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	309	86	209	17089
Yes	25.4	32.5	21.8	29.7
No	74.6	67.5	78.2	70.3

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 39: Reason(s) for being treated unfairly in the past year

	ACT %*	Male %*	National %
Base	78	45	4990
Physical appearance	41.2	41.3	37.5
Race/cultural background	30.4	31.9	33.4
Personal views	28.0	22.5	25.1
Mental health	19.2	11.2	22.5
Gender	15.9	8.4	25.6
Sexuality	14.6	13.3	17.1
Age	12.1	12.4	13.8
Disability	11.7	17.6	10.3
Religion	10.4	16.6	13.8
Financial background	7.4	2.5	6.8
Other	7.1	6.5	7.8
I'm not sure	12.0	11.6	8.7

Base: Respondents who reported they had been treated unfairly or faced discrimination.

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Female and gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Table 40: Feelings young people have about alcohol

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Alcohol is a problem in Australia (Base)	308	85	209	16940
Strongly agree/agree	50.2	57.6	48.1	54.5
Neither agree nor disagree	35.0	37.9	34.2	31.1
Disagree/strongly disagree	14.8	4.5	17.7	14.4
Alcohol is a problem in my community (Base)	308	85	209	16793
Strongly agree/agree	17.5	25.6	14.3	28.7
Neither agree nor disagree	44.9	50.1	43.8	37.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	37.7	24.4	41.9	33.5
Alcohol is a problem for my family/friends (Base)	309	86	209	16820
Strongly agree/agree	15.2	19.3	13.2	18.3
Neither agree nor disagree	23.1	29.1	21.8	23.2
Disagree/strongly disagree	61.7	51.6	65.0	58.5

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 41: Feelings young people have about drugs

	ACT	Female	Male	National
	%	%*	%	%
Drugs are a problem in Australia (Base)	309	86	209	16798
Strongly agree/agree	60.9	65.9	60.7	64.1
Neither agree nor disagree	26.2	27.9	24.8	25.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	12.9	6.2	14.6	10.1
Drugs are a problem in my community (Base)	305	82	209	16737
Strongly agree/agree	22.1	27.2	21.0	35.1
Neither agree nor disagree	37.8	41.5	36.5	32.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	40.1	31.3	42.6	32.1
Drugs are a problem for my family/friends (Base)	308	85	208	16718
Strongly agree/agree	9.9	11.4	9.9	13.3
Neither agree nor disagree	18.8	17.2	19.2	18.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	71.3	71.4	70.9	67.9

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 42: Sources of information about risk of alcohol or drug use in the last year

	ACT %	Female %*	Male %	National %
Base	298	85	199	16536
From my teachers or at school	61.8	67.6	59.6	59.6
Online, via social media	39.7	50.3	35.4	41.6
From my parent(s) or guardian(s)	38.2	39.9	37.5	40.0
In the media, via news or advertising	36.3	48.5	30.8	43.0
From my peers or friends	27.3	29.2	26.6	30.5
From other family members	25.4	26.3	25.4	24.7
Online, via websites	25.0	23.0	25.8	29.3
Via a public awareness campaign	19.1	20.2	19.1	25.4
From health professionals	16.0	17.2	14.9	19.7
Other	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.6
None of the above, I have not accessed information	22.8	14.4	26.4	18.1

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Thank you

This publication would not have been possible without the 17,480 young people who completed the Youth Survey in 2024. We extend our deepest gratitude to them, as well as to the staff of Mission Australia and the many schools and organisations that supported their involvement.

For further information about this report please contact

Centre for Evidence and Insights, Mission Australia
youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au
missionaustralia.com.au

Follow us at



facebook.com/missionaust



instagram.com/mission_aust



linkedin.com/company/mission-australia



x.com_company/missionaust

Who is Mission Australia?

Mission Australia is a national Christian charity motivated by a shared vision of an Australia where everyone has a safe home and can thrive. Since 1859, we've been standing alongside people in need across Australia, offering real hope that has lasting impact.

Backed by our supporters, churches, partners and funders, we work together for the long-term wellbeing of anyone who needs us, reflecting our values of respect, compassion, integrity, perseverance and celebration.

We collaborate with people experiencing homelessness or disadvantage to tackle the root causes of their challenges through providing access to safe, affordable homes and innovative, evidence-based support services.

Every day we deliver homelessness crisis and prevention services, provide social and affordable housing, assist struggling families and children, address mental health issues, fight substance dependencies, support people with disability and much more.

Mission Australia believes a person's circumstances shouldn't define their future and that given the right support, everyone can reach their full potential.

That's why we stand together with Australians in need, until they can stand for themselves.

If you are a young person and need someone to talk with, you can contact Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 (24/7) kidshelpline.com.au

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without obtaining prior written permission from Mission Australia. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to Mission Australia: attention Legal Department, Level 7, 580 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 or by contacting youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au.

National Office

Level 7
580 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: 1800 951 123

State and Territory Offices

Mission Australia NSW

Level 7
580 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: 1800 951 123

Mission Australia NT

1 Carey Street
Darwin NT 0800
Tel: (08) 8935 0900

Mission Australia QLD

Suite 1/47 Warner Street
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006
Tel: (07) 3394 8100

Mission Australia SA

80 Richmond Road
Keswick SA 5035
Tel: (08) 8218 2800

Mission Australia TAS

31 Bligh Street
Rosny Park TAS 7018
Tel: (03) 6225 8200

Mission Australia VIC

33 Princes Hwy
Dandenong VIC 3175
Tel: (03) 9213 2500

Mission Australia WA

275 Abernethy Road
Cloverdale WA 6105
Tel: (08) 9225 0400

