



YOUTH SURVEY REPORT 2024

NEW SOUTH WALES

**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	20
SUPPORT AND CONNECTEDNESS.....	22
UNFAIR TREATMENT AND DISCRIMINATION	26
ALCOHOL AND DRUGS	27

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the **New South Wales (NSW)** sub-report of the Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2024 . It is based on the responses of 3575 young people in **NSW** 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 **NSW** 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. **NSW** gender breakdowns are included where weighted base size allows. Results have been excluded where weighted base sizes are under 30 respondents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

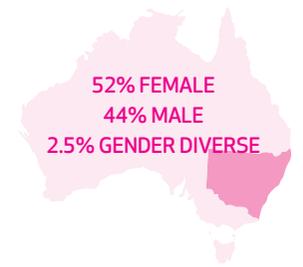
We acknowledge the traditional custodians of lands throughout Australia, and we pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the culture and dreams of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and 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: New South Wales sub-report* . Sydney, NSW: Mission Australia

New South Wales KEY FINDINGS

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



Biggest personal challenge

- 1 School and study, **46%**
(50% in 2023, 43% in 2022)
- 2 Personal relationships, **24%**
(23% in 2023, 19% in 2022)
- 3 Mental health, **20%**
(22% in 2023, 25% in 2022)

Education and employment

79% of respondents were studying full time
92% planned to complete Year 12
After school, **60%** planned to go to university and **39%** planned to get a job
53% were in paid work

Housing, homelessness and financial situation

96% of young people lived with their parents or guardians
Of those living elsewhere, **42%** lived at their boarding school and **13%** lived with friends
10% worried about having a safe place to stay in the past year
35% said that they and their families had to be careful with money

Wellbeing

58% of respondents reported feeling happy with their life
56% felt completely or mostly in control of their life
However, **21%** felt lonely all or most of the time in the past four weeks
22% were classified as having high psychological distress

Support and connectedness

64% of young people would go to friends and **58%** to parents/guardians for help with important issues in their lives
However, **30%** found it hard to turn to friends and family if they needed help
52% felt proud to be a part of their community
35% felt that young people in their community have a say on issues that matter to them

Unfair treatment and discrimination

29% of respondents reported being treated unfairly or discriminated against in the past year
Physical appearance (**38%**), race/cultural background (**32%**) and gender (**27%**) were the top reasons for discrimination

Alcohol and drugs

53% of young people believed that alcohol and **63%** believed that drugs are a problem in Australia
16% reported that alcohol was a problem for their family or friends, **12%** for drugs
62% accessed information about the risk of alcohol or drug use from their teachers and schools, **45%** via news or advertising and **42%** from social media



New South Wales 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, 55%
(32% in 2023, 23% in 2022)

2

Mental health, 28%
(33% in 2023, 34% in 2022)

3

Climate change and the environment, 24%
(35% in 2023, 46% in 2022)

4

Violence, safety and crime, 23%
(16% in 2023, 9.7% in 2022)

"[The biggest personal challenge I faced in the past year was that] I was homeless and wasn't getting enough money to sustain myself."

Male, 16, New South Wales

"[The biggest personal challenge I faced in the past year was] navigating my mental health struggles and relationship with my parents, because I have a lot of issues with depression and self-worth, especially since I put a lot of effort into my schoolwork and am trans in a non-accepting environment, and this gets exasperated by them being toxic to and around me."

Non-binary, 17, New South Wales



PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Gender

	NSW %	National %
Base	5175	17212
Female	52.2	46.4
Male	44.3	49.5
Gender diverse^	2.5	3.0
Prefer not to say	1.0	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

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5107	2633	2194	120	16917
Non-Indigenous	91.3	94.0	89.5	69.4	92.3
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	8.7	6.0	10.5	30.6	7.7
Aboriginal	7.3	5.4	8.5	23.4	6.0
Torres Strait Islander	1.0	0.5	1.3	5.1	0.9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.4	0.1	0.6	2.0	0.8

Table 3: Identify with a cultural or ethnic identity

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5030	2580	2173	121	16728
Yes	26.8	32.3	19.6	37.9	24.4
No	73.2	67.7	80.4	62.1	75.6

Table 4: Spoke a language other than English

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5038	2595	2171	114	16710
Yes	20.6	26.8	11.8	42.1	22.9
No, English only	79.4	73.2	88.2	57.9	77.1

Table 5: Identify as a person with disability

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5009	2572	2165	116	16572
Yes, I have disability	8.5	5.7	9.2	47.6	8.7
No	86.7	90.6	85.7	37.4	86.3
Prefer not to say	4.8	3.7	5.2	14.9	5.1

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

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4974	2560	2141	117	16506
Yes, I have a mental health condition	15.4	18.4	9.2	51.0	15.9
No	73.0	68.7	82.1	25.2	72.6
Prefer not to say	11.6	12.9	8.7	23.8	11.5

PERSONAL CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

Table 7: Biggest personal challenge experienced by young people

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4523	2386	1895	102	15052
School and study	46.2	51.5	41.4	22.7	44.7
Personal relationships	23.7	27.7	18.4	19.4	20.6
Mental health	20.2	27.3	10.7	28.4	19.6
Finance and housing	5.2	3.5	7.2	13.9	5.6
Physical health	4.2	4.1	4.2	7.9	5.3
Other (includes various low frequency challenges not listed above)	12.8	7.8	18.6	25.4	14.6
Not sure/no challenges identified	6.6	4.1	9.6	4.3	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 NSW frequency.

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

	NSW	Female	Male	National
	%	%	%	%
School and study challenge (Base)	2082	1228	778	6689
Sleeping	43.0	48.0	35.7	43.5
Taking a break	42.8	47.0	37.2	42.0
Entertainment and recreation	42.4	45.9	37.2	41.9
Being more organised	40.3	44.8	34.4	42.6
Studying	34.2	35.6	32.5	37.2
Personal relationships challenge (Base)	1070	661	346	3102
Entertainment and recreation	50.4	53.9	44.1	49.9
Distracting myself	49.8	52.2	45.3	49.1
Sleeping	41.6	45.8	34.4	41.7
Taking a break	39.3	41.6	37.6	36.0
Reaching out to friends	38.4	43.2	28.6	41.2
Mental health challenge (Base)	905	646	198	2936
Entertainment and recreation	53.5	54.7	47.7	53.2
Distracting myself	47.5	48.2	42.7	48.4
Self-care	46.8	50.3	36.4	42.9
Sleeping	45.3	48.5	35.7	45.2
Taking a break	40.9	42.1	37.3	40.3

Note: Sample sizes vary per challenge. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency within each challenge. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

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

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
School or study problems	36.3	49.7	19.9	43.9	34.5
Cost of living	33.9	35.2	29.2	73.4	34.0
Coping with stress	30.5	42.6	13.6	51.2	30.1
Mental health	27.8	35.8	15.7	57.6	28.0
Body image	27.0	37.5	13.4	41.3	25.3
Physical health	19.5	22.0	15.0	37.6	18.8
Global conflicts	17.6	20.7	11.0	50.5	16.5
Social media use	16.0	20.5	9.8	29.5	15.3
Climate change	14.0	15.5	9.3	49.7	15.9
Suicide	13.6	14.6	9.8	43.7	13.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	13.1	15.1	9.3	39.0	12.4
Discrimination	12.9	15.3	7.3	42.6	13.3
Personal safety	10.5	12.3	6.5	30.4	11.5
Vaping/e-cigarettes	9.9	8.5	10.4	23.5	10.2
Artificial intelligence	9.6	10.3	6.9	33.1	10.2
Domestic/family violence	9.6	10.4	6.9	33.0	10.1
LGBTIQA+^ issues	9.1	6.4	8.4	61.9	9.8
Alcohol and other drugs	7.2	7.2	6.1	17.6	7.5

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

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

NATIONAL ISSUES

Table 10: Top 10 most important issues in Australia today

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4505	2328	1930	110	15044
Cost of living	55.4	56.6	55.0	42.1	56.2
Mental health	28.3	35.4	20.7	5.7	23.3
Climate change and the environment	24.3	28.7	18.3	33.1	26.6
Violence, safety and crime	22.9	27.5	17.7	11.7	25.3
Discrimination and inequality	21.6	26.4	14.8	33.5	21.7
Housing and homelessness	16.6	14.9	19.3	13.8	17.0
Alcohol and other drugs	14.6	13.6	16.7	6.6	16.7
Education	8.9	9.5	8.7	4.5	7.5
Global affairs	6.7	6.0	7.5	11.4	7.1
Internet, social media and technology	6.4	7.8	5.0	2.9	6.2

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

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Table 11: Participation in education

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5284	2698	2291	128	17434
Studying full-time	79.1	87.1	70.2	69.0	80.8
Studying part-time	10.2	6.1	15.4	5.5	9.1
Not studying	10.7	6.8	14.4	25.5	10.1

Table 12: Satisfaction with studies

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	4681	2502	1946	92	15547
Very satisfied or satisfied	59.1	60.5	58.0	48.0	61.2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	30.7	30.0	31.7	29.6	29.4
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	10.2	9.5	10.2	22.5	9.4

Base: Respondents currently studying.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results.

Table 13: Plan to complete Year 12

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	4349	2405	1740	85	14807
Yes	92.0	97.4	84.5	91.3	95.2
No	8.0	2.6	15.5	8.7	4.8

Base: Respondents currently studying.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results.

Table 14: Plans after leaving school

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	4373	2421	1748	85	14913
Go to university	60.5	76.0	39.1	64.0	61.4
Get a job	38.9	42.2	34.1	47.4	36.7
Travel/gap year	28.8	32.1	23.4	33.9	26.6
Get an apprenticeship	16.2	5.2	32.2	9.9	12.8
Go to TAFE or college	12.0	10.2	14.2	19.0	11.9
Start a business	10.1	8.9	11.9	5.9	9.3
Join the defence force or emergency services	8.4	5.8	11.8	17.4	8.1
Do something in the creative and/or performing arts	6.6	8.5	3.4	13.7	6.8
Become a professional athlete	6.4	3.7	10.1	1.9	7.1
Other	1.8	1.0	2.6	2.9	1.5
Not sure	6.0	5.6	6.2	5.3	7.7
No choices are available to me	0.3	0.1	0.4	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 NSW frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results.

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

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	4298	2392	1705	81	14713
Yes	29.2	31.3	24.6	49.4	28.8
No	70.8	68.7	75.4	50.6	71.2

Base: Respondents currently studying at school or equivalent.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results.

Table 16: Barriers to achieving study/work goals

	NSW	Female	Male	Gender diverse	National
	%	%	%	%*	%
Base	1231	743	402	40	4182
Lack of motivation	37.5	40.9	31.5	38.7	37.3
Financial difficulties	33.1	35.0	30.0	29.3	29.3
Mental health	32.9	35.3	23.9	68.0	33.4
Lack of confidence	32.8	34.5	28.1	29.7	31.2
Academic ability	29.0	32.1	22.9	20.2	26.7
Where you live	23.0	19.3	29.2	22.5	18.2
Transport	15.5	12.2	19.7	15.6	13.3
Family responsibilities	13.1	11.6	17.2	6.1	12.3
Admission/job requirements	12.7	15.3	9.0	11.5	10.4
Lack of jobs	12.7	10.8	15.7	20.9	10.5
Lack of information	10.9	9.7	11.0	13.2	11.7
Lack of school support	9.5	9.1	10.4	13.8	8.6
Disability	7.8	4.9	8.1	44.9	8.9
Lack of family support	7.7	7.1	7.5	11.2	8.7
Physical health	6.5	6.0	6.9	18.7	8.5
Lack of stable housing	5.8	4.5	7.6	15.3	5.7
Discrimination	5.1	3.5	6.8	18.1	5.4
Cultural responsibilities	3.9	2.9	5.8	3.9	3.1
Other	4.5	3.5	5.7	13.2	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 NSW frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results.

Table 17: Participation in paid employment

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5284	2699	2291	128	17437
Permanent employee	4.2	2.8	5.3	10.7	4.3
Casual employee	48.8	50.6	47.7	34.4	47.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	26.8	23.0	31.1	21.6	28.9
Not in paid employment, not looking for work	20.2	23.6	15.9	33.4	19.2

Table 18: Employment type

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	2764	1428	1198	54	8953
Working full-time	1.6	0.2	2.5	12.6	1.9
Working part-time	98.4	99.8	97.5	87.4	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.

HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND FINANCIAL SITUATION

Table 19: Residential setting in the past three months

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5115	2649	2181	123	16975
A home owned or rented by me or someone I live with	92.5	93.5	92.6	77.5	90.5
Boarding school	3.1	3.8	2.2	2.6	4.0
Public/social housing	1.6	1.6	1.5	4.3	2.3
Out-of-home care	0.7	0.3	1.2	2.0	0.7
Somewhere else	2.1	0.8	2.6	13.5	2.5

Note: Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

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

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5133	2655	2191	123	17032
Living with parent(s) or guardian(s)	95.8	96.2	95.9	90.0	94.6
Living somewhere else	4.2	3.8	4.1	10.0	5.4

Table 21: Living somewhere else in the past three months

	NSW %	Female %	Male %*	National %
Base	212	101	85	906
Other students at my boarding school	41.5	62.7	22.4	41.0
Friend(s)	13.4	5.8	22.2	10.0
I live alone	12.3	2.5	15.5	11.5
Relatives/siblings	9.7	12.2	8.0	11.3
Partner or significant other	9.1	12.4	8.1	7.1
Non-related person(s) (e.g. share house)	5.1	3.8	8.1	9.8
Foster parent(s)	0.3	0.6	0.0	1.1
Other	8.5	0.0	15.6	8.2

Base: Respondents living somewhere else (not with parent(s) or guardian(s)).

Note: Items are listed in order of NSW 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 22: No fixed address or lived in a refuge or transitional accommodation

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5125	2648	2196	123	16960
Yes, in the last year	2.5	1.0	3.0	22.1	3.0
Yes, but not in the last year	5.6	5.1	6.0	15.1	5.7
No	91.9	94.0	91.0	62.8	91.3

Table 23: Spent time away from home because they felt they could not go back

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5119	2649	2191	123	16985
Yes, in the last year	7.1	6.7	6.0	28.8	7.4
Yes, but not in the last year	6.1	6.1	6.0	11.9	6.2
No	86.9	87.1	88.1	59.3	86.3

Table 24: Worried about having a safe place to stay in the past year

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5140	2647	2212	121	17024
Yes	10.3	8.5	10.9	27.2	11.2
No	89.7	91.5	89.1	72.8	88.8

Table 25: Financial concerns experienced in the past year by young person and/or their family

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5035	2612	2147	122	16647
Had to be careful with money	35.0	38.6	30.0	47.9	34.5
Had trouble paying for things	18.8	19.2	17.3	36.4	17.9
Sought financial help from family, friends or a charity	8.5	9.3	6.9	16.7	8.4
Could not afford school fees, supplies or excursions	7.0	8.1	4.8	16.7	6.5
Could not pay bills or car expenses	6.5	6.8	5.0	13.6	6.8
Went without essential goods or services (<i>e.g., medical appointments, groceries</i>)	4.8	4.2	4.3	19.0	5.7
Could not pay rent/mortgage	4.4	4.9	3.1	10.7	4.9
Went without a meal(s)	3.9	3.5	4.0	8.8	4.4
Other	0.9	0.4	1.3	3.8	1.0
I'm not sure	10.8	9.9	12.3	6.7	11.4
No, none of the above	48.4	47.8	49.8	32.0	49.4

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

Table 26: Support/assistance received from a charity/foundation in the past year for young person and/or their family

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4928	2557	2117	111	16429
Yes, Mission Australia and/or a different charity or foundation (e.g. <i>The Salvation Army, The Smith Family, Beyond Blue</i>)	3.2	2.5	3.9	6.2	3.9
No, but I needed support or assistance	3.0	3.1	2.6	7.6	3.3
No, I did not need support or assistance from a charity or foundation	68.2	74.3	61.6	64.3	68.5
I'm not sure	25.6	20.1	32.0	22.0	24.2

WELLBEING

Table 27: Level of happiness with their life as a whole

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5155	2641	2229	123	17061
Very happy or happy (70-100)	57.6	55.6	62.4	41.1	57.0
Not happy or sad (40-60)	33.4	36.3	29.6	17.7	33.9
Sad or very sad (0-30)	9.0	8.1	8.0	41.2	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.

Table 28: Level of control over their life

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5090	2627	2184	122	16889
Complete control	10.0	6.3	14.6	5.6	9.8
Mostly in control	46.0	47.8	46.2	20.8	46.6
Some control	33.5	35.9	30.2	32.5	33.2
Almost no control	7.8	8.4	6.0	22.7	8.3
No control	2.6	1.6	3.0	18.3	2.0

Table 29: Level of loneliness in the past four weeks

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5086	2623	2179	123	16932
None of the time	22.3	15.0	31.5	10.3	21.5
A little of the time	29.5	31.0	29.4	10.3	29.2
Some of the time	27.4	31.1	22.2	29.7	28.5
Most of the time	14.8	18.8	9.5	19.9	15.8
All of the time	6.0	4.0	7.4	29.8	4.9

Table 30: Feelings about the future

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5086	2628	2178	123	16930
Very positive or positive	47.4	48.3	47.9	24.0	47.1
Neither positive nor negative	34.3	33.8	35.1	35.9	34.2
Negative or very negative	18.3	17.9	17.0	40.1	18.7

Table 31: Impact of climate change on thinking, feelings and/or behaviour

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5033	2606	2152	122	16764
Yes	18.6	22.0	11.6	54.7	19.7
No	56.2	46.6	69.9	29.2	53.5
I'm not sure	25.2	31.3	18.5	16.1	26.8

Table 32: Level of psychological distress

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4991	2593	2126	119	16628
Low psychological distress	48.6	40.8	60.8	14.2	50.1
Moderate psychological distress	29.0	31.8	25.0	35.1	28.3
High psychological distress	22.4	27.4	14.2	50.7	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 (Riosco, 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).

SUPPORT AND CONNECTEDNESS

Table 33: Where young people go for help with important issues

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5178	2669	2224	123	17126
Friend(s)	63.8	72.3	54.3	59.5	63.6
Parent(s) or guardian(s)	57.8	63.7	53.4	16.5	58.7
Brother/sister	33.9	39.2	28.3	24.1	32.9
Relative(s)	29.5	31.3	27.9	18.2	27.7
Pet(s)	22.4	26.3	15.8	36.2	23.7
Partner or significant other	21.6	21.0	22.3	24.1	21.1
Internet	18.9	20.5	15.9	34.4	20.2
GP or health professional	16.9	20.2	12.2	28.0	17.2
Teacher/coach	16.1	16.2	16.3	14.9	16.9
Social media	13.9	15.6	10.9	29.9	13.2
School counsellor	10.9	11.5	9.4	18.7	11.0
Spiritual/religious mentor	8.2	8.9	7.7	7.5	6.4
Mobile apps	7.7	8.7	5.8	16.9	8.1
Community service	4.5	3.9	5.3	6.3	5.0
Other	2.6	1.7	3.0	12.0	2.7
None of the above, I would keep the issue to myself	12.3	7.7	17.8	14.2	11.6

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

Table 34: Family's ability to get along with one another

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5094	2633	2181	123	16958
Excellent	17.8	17.5	19.2	5.3	19.1
Very good	30.5	30.4	31.6	15.5	29.4
Good	25.6	24.0	27.8	22.0	25.2
Fair	16.2	18.4	13.1	19.0	16.3
Poor	9.8	9.7	8.4	38.2	9.9

Table 35: Activities involved in during the past year

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5141	2653	2201	123	17012
Sports (as a participant)	62.0	63.5	62.1	37.4	61.8
Sports (as a spectator)	47.4	45.0	51.5	42.7	47.3
Volunteer work	43.2	50.0	35.9	38.2	39.0
Student leaderships groups/activities	29.5	35.8	22.7	23.0	26.8
Arts/cultural/music groups/activities	27.7	34.8	17.4	42.5	26.4
Youth groups/activities	22.5	23.6	21.3	28.4	20.4
Religious groups/activities	21.7	24.9	18.5	16.6	17.3
Environmental groups/activities	6.4	7.2	5.2	8.5	6.9
Political groups/activities	2.9	2.3	3.1	8.8	3.6
None of the above	13.7	10.5	17.7	13.2	14.4

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

Table 36: Activities young people find hard to do

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4999	2605	2120	119	16612
Turn to friends and family if you need help?	29.6	35.2	21.5	47.5	29.5
Fit in and socialise with everyone? (<i>e.g., at school, work or socially</i>)	28.5	32.4	22.7	45.9	29.6
Make choices and feel independent?	22.3	27.3	14.6	36.7	22.5
Turn to services/organisations if you need help?	20.9	24.7	15.2	40.4	20.8
Do everyday activities as young people your age usually do?	20.4	22.9	15.9	43.9	20.0
Do things in public places with friends? (<i>e.g., go to shopping centres, sporting or music events</i>)	16.2	17.0	12.9	40.8	16.3
Travel around the community? (<i>e.g., using footpaths or public transport</i>)	8.5	8.4	8.3	16.2	9.9
None of the above	44.4	36.0	56.6	20.5	43.9

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

Table 37: Feelings young people have about their community

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
I am proud to be part of my community (Base)	4746	2492	1994	113	16119
Strongly agree/agree	52.4	56.4	49.4	28.5	51.5
Mixed feelings	36.3	35.0	37.9	30.6	37.3
Disagree/strongly disagree	11.3	8.5	12.7	40.9	11.3
Young people in my community have a say on issues that matter to them (Base)	4764	2498	2003	113	16120
Strongly agree/agree	35.5	37.6	33.8	22.1	36.2
Mixed feelings	40.0	40.9	39.2	23.4	40.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	24.5	21.5	26.9	54.5	22.9
My community has the things that I need to have a positive and thriving future (Base)	4764	2497	2005	114	16119
Strongly agree/agree	48.3	51.5	46.4	30.6	49.7
Mixed feelings	36.4	34.5	37.8	31.6	36.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	15.3	14.0	15.8	37.8	13.6

Table 38: Whether young people have cultural and/or spiritual beliefs

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5101	2632	2199	114	16899
Yes – both spiritual and cultural beliefs	20.4	25.2	15.1	19.3	18.5
Yes – spiritual beliefs	21.7	23.2	20.1	29.4	19.9
Yes – cultural beliefs	11.7	13.0	10.7	5.5	11.7
No spiritual or cultural beliefs	46.2	38.6	54.1	45.9	50.0

UNFAIR TREATMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

Table 39: Unfair treatment or discrimination in the past year

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	5162	2669	2211	123	17089
Yes	28.6	30.6	23.4	72.6	29.7
No	71.4	69.4	76.6	27.4	70.3

Table 40: Reason(s) for being treated unfairly in the past year

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1453	798	516	89	4990
Physical appearance	37.6	35.9	39.1	43.9	37.5
Race/cultural background	31.8	35.4	27.4	25.5	33.4
Gender	26.9	29.9	15.8	60.2	25.6
Personal views	25.0	24.0	25.7	29.7	25.1
Mental health	20.9	20.6	18.8	29.5	22.5
Religion	19.1	16.9	21.2	26.5	13.8
Sexuality	16.3	11.8	11.9	72.8	17.1
Age	14.1	13.2	12.3	20.4	13.8
Disability	8.7	4.4	9.8	40.6	10.3
Financial background	6.2	4.2	7.8	14.3	6.8
Other	7.8	6.6	9.5	12.0	7.8
I'm not sure	8.1	8.4	8.6	4.1	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 NSW frequency.

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Table 41: Feelings young people have about alcohol

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Alcohol is a problem in Australia (Base)	5100	2634	2187	122	16940
Strongly agree/agree	53.0	58.7	45.6	61.0	54.5
Neither agree nor disagree	32.4	34.1	30.9	22.2	31.1
Disagree/strongly disagree	14.7	7.2	23.5	16.8	14.4
Alcohol is a problem in my community (Base)	5033	2609	2153	122	16793
Strongly agree/agree	26.2	25.2	26.1	43.7	28.7
Neither agree nor disagree	39.0	42.4	35.7	23.7	37.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	34.8	32.5	38.2	32.6	33.5
Alcohol is a problem for my family/friends (Base)	5051	2619	2159	122	16820
Strongly agree/agree	16.1	15.4	15.9	30.2	18.3
Neither agree nor disagree	24.3	24.0	24.2	20.8	23.2
Disagree/strongly disagree	59.6	60.6	59.9	49.0	58.5

Table 42: Feelings young people have about drugs

	NSW	Female	Male	Gender diverse	National
	%	%	%	%	%
Drugs are a problem in Australia (Base)	5038	2608	2160	122	16798
Strongly agree/agree	62.8	65.3	60.3	58.0	64.1
Neither agree nor disagree	27.0	28.6	25.0	26.8	25.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	10.2	6.2	14.6	15.3	10.1
Drugs are a problem in my community (Base)	5019	2600	2150	122	16737
Strongly agree/agree	34.0	29.6	37.9	52.8	35.1
Neither agree nor disagree	33.4	36.6	30.4	15.2	32.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	32.6	33.9	31.7	32.0	32.1
Drugs are a problem for my family/friends (Base)	5005	2591	2148	121	16718
Strongly agree/agree	12.3	11.0	12.8	25.3	13.3
Neither agree nor disagree	19.7	17.6	22.4	7.4	18.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	68.0	71.4	64.8	67.3	67.9

Table 43: Sources of information about risk of alcohol or drug use in the last year

	NSW %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4948	2554	2129	118	16536
From my teachers or at school	61.6	70.4	51.7	51.5	59.6
In the media, via news or advertising	44.5	53.6	33.5	48.3	43.0
Online, via social media	42.0	49.7	32.9	50.8	41.6
From my parent(s) or guardian(s)	39.9	43.2	36.0	37.0	40.0
From my peers or friends	30.2	32.9	26.6	38.9	30.5
Online, via websites	29.5	32.3	25.6	35.1	29.3
Via a public awareness campaign	27.1	33.2	19.1	34.3	25.4
From other family members	25.2	24.4	25.9	20.1	24.7
From health professionals	20.0	20.3	18.8	29.2	19.7
Other	1.4	1.0	1.0	14.6	1.6
None of the above, I have not accessed information	18.3	12.7	24.9	13.2	18.1

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

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

