

YOUTH SURVEY REPORT 2024

NORTHERN TERRITORY

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the **Northern Territory (NT)** sub-report of the Mission Australia *Youth Survey Report 2024*. It is based on the responses of 205 young people in NT 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 **NT** 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. **NT** 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.

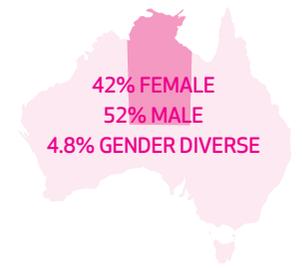
A special thank you to the young people who shared with us in the 2024 Youth Survey. We appreciate the views they shared on current issues and personal concerns, as well as their responses to questions relating to housing and finance, education and employment, community and supports, and mental health 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: Northern Territory sub-report*. Sydney, NSW: Mission Australia

Northern Territory

KEY FINDINGS

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



Biggest personal challenge

- 1 School and study, **47%**
(49% in 2023, 37% in 2022)
- 2 Personal relationships, **18%**
(18% in 2023, 23% in 2022)
- 3 Mental health, **16%**
(18% in 2023, 24% in 2022)

Housing, homelessness and financial situation

94% of young people lived with their parents or guardians
14% 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

Education and employment

78% of respondents were studying full time
96% planned to complete Year 12
After school, **49%** planned to go to university and **39%** planned to get a job
53% were in paid work

Wellbeing

53% of respondents reported feeling happy with their life
45% felt completely or mostly in control of their life
However, **25%** felt lonely all or most of the time in the past four weeks
22% were classified as having high psychological distress

Support and connectedness

57% of young people would go to friends and **50%** to parents/guardians for help with important issues in their lives
However, **34%** found it hard to turn to friends and family if they needed help
49% felt proud to be a part of their community
28% 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
Race/cultural background (**45%**), physical appearance (**33%**) and personal views (**31%**) were the top reasons for discrimination

Alcohol and drugs

73% of young people believed that alcohol and **80%** believed that drugs are a problem in Australia
22% reported that alcohol was a problem for their family or friends, **18%** for drugs
46% accessed information about the risk of alcohol or drug use from their teachers and schools, **44%** via news or advertising and **40%** from parents/guardians



Northern 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, 50%
(30% in 2023, 25% in 2022)

2

Violence, safety and crime, 33%
(32% in 2023, 14% in 2022)

3

Climate change and the environment, 21%
(36% in 2023, 42% in 2022)

4

Alcohol and other drugs, 20%
(17% in 2023, 12% in 2022)

"It [climate change] concerns me and I think about it as it is a real problem facing the globe, so I am in a school club to help the school become more environmentally friendly and I try to choose sustainable and environmentally friendly options in my personal life."

Female, 16, Northern Territory

"I think that the more we try and restrict young people from drugs and alcohol the more they want to do it. Because it is human nature for us to want what we can't have."

Male, 15, Northern Territory



PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Gender

	NT %	National %
Base	178	17212
Female	42.3	46.4
Male	51.8	49.5
Gender diverse [^]	4.8	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	181	74	90	16917
Non-Indigenous	73.2	75.0	75.5	92.3
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	26.8	25.0	24.5	7.7
Aboriginal	21.4	21.2	19.8	6.0
Torres Strait Islander	2.1	0.9	3.6	0.9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	3.3	3.0	1.2	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	174	73	86	16728
Yes	33.3	28.5	35.0	24.4
No	66.7	71.5	65.0	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	179	74	89	16710
Yes	24.5	20.9	26.5	22.9
No, English only	75.5	79.1	73.5	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	174	71	87	16572
Yes, I have disability	8.1	9.9	5.6	8.7
No	81.8	81.7	85.4	86.3
Prefer not to say	10.1	8.5	9.0	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	174	71	87	16506
Yes, I have a mental health condition	15.7	22.5	8.7	15.9
No	72.4	63.0	82.9	72.6
Prefer not to say	12.0	14.5	8.4	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	159	60	86	15052
School and study	47.1	54.1	43.2	44.7
Personal relationships	18.0	25.7	14.4	20.6
Mental health	15.6	23.6	9.8	19.6
Physical health	6.4	3.7	8.3	5.3
Finance and housing	6.4	10.1	4.7	5.6
Other (includes various low frequency challenges not listed above)	15.9	7.9	16.8	14.6
Not sure/no challenges identified	8.6	1.5	14.8	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 NT 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

	NT %*	Female %*	Male %*	National %
School and study challenge (Base)	75	32	37	6689
Sleeping	43.2	54.6	37.3	43.5
Taking a break	42.3	60.7	24.2	42.0
Entertainment and recreation	39.9	47.0	35.5	41.9
Distracting myself	35.7	53.3	21.5	28.1
Reaching out to friends	33.1	45.4	25.0	31.2

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

*Sample is less than 100, please use caution when interpreting results. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30. Top five supports for 'Personal relationships' and 'Mental health' challenges have not been included as sample size was less than 30.

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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
School or study problems	35.6	52.0	21.4	34.5
Cost of living	32.9	43.2	23.3	34.0
Mental health	29.6	38.6	21.0	28.0
Coping with stress	28.9	45.1	13.6	30.1
Body image	22.6	34.2	11.6	25.3
Physical health	18.9	19.0	16.9	18.8
Domestic/family violence	17.4	12.8	21.7	10.1
Global conflicts	16.9	18.1	14.5	16.5
Climate change	16.3	21.4	11.6	15.9
Personal safety	16.0	15.1	16.7	11.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	15.8	21.8	9.0	12.4
Suicide	15.6	18.2	11.8	13.7
Discrimination	14.6	12.8	15.9	13.3
Vaping/e-cigarettes	14.2	12.4	15.3	10.2
Alcohol and other drugs	14.1	13.2	15.4	7.5
Social media use	12.6	16.9	6.7	15.3
LGBTIQA+^ issues	8.7	6.5	5.4	9.8
Artificial intelligence	6.4	7.4	4.2	10.2

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

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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	166	68	84	15044
Cost of living	50.0	54.2	47.5	56.2
Violence, safety and crime	32.9	34.1	31.3	25.3
Climate change and the environment	21.2	26.9	17.4	26.6
Alcohol and other drugs	19.8	19.0	18.2	16.7
Discrimination and inequality	18.4	25.0	15.4	21.7
Mental health	17.1	25.7	10.9	23.3
Global affairs	14.8	7.6	20.4	7.1
Australian politics	12.2	5.0	18.3	5.6
Housing and homelessness	11.3	11.4	12.3	17.0
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters	5.9	1.9	8.3	2.6

Note: Respondents were able to write up to three issues. Items are listed in order of NT 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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	185	75	92	17434
Studying full-time	77.8	82.1	77.4	80.8
Studying part-time	13.1	15.3	9.8	9.1
Not studying	9.1	2.6	12.8	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	167	73	80	15547
Very satisfied or satisfied	54.0	48.9	57.2	61.2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	32.7	42.4	25.8	29.4
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	13.3	8.8	17.0	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	163	69	80	14807
Yes	96.4	97.9	95.3	95.2
No	3.6	2.1	4.7	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	163	71	79	14913
Go to university	49.3	59.4	42.1	61.4
Get a job	39.1	26.4	47.9	36.7
Travel/gap year	32.5	34.9	33.2	26.6
Get an apprenticeship	14.6	7.0	22.0	12.8
Join the defence force or emergency services	13.8	9.9	19.7	8.1
Start a business	13.2	7.6	17.7	9.3
Go to TAFE or college	8.6	6.6	11.5	11.9
Become a professional athlete	8.5	8.5	6.9	7.1
Do something in the creative and/or performing arts	5.9	5.3	5.6	6.8
Other	1.4	0.0	2.8	1.5
Not sure	9.5	13.9	6.1	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 NT 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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	160	69	78	14713
Yes	38.0	41.4	35.1	28.8
No	62.0	58.6	64.9	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

	NT %*	National %
Base	61	4182
Where you live	37.1	18.2
Financial difficulties	32.3	29.3
Lack of motivation	30.5	37.3
Lack of confidence	28.1	31.2
Mental health	23.0	33.4
Family responsibilities	19.9	12.3
Transport	17.8	13.3
Academic ability	16.0	26.7
Physical health	11.8	8.5
Lack of stable housing	9.0	5.7
Lack of family support	8.5	8.7
Lack of information	8.4	11.7
Lack of school support	7.9	8.6
Cultural responsibilities	5.8	3.1
Admission/job requirements	5.8	10.4
Discrimination	5.4	5.4
Lack of jobs	5.1	10.5
Disability	4.3	8.9
Other	11.7	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 NT frequency.

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

Table 17: Participation in paid employment

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	185	75	92	17437
Permanent employee	6.7	3.8	3.5	4.3
Casual employee	46.7	49.3	50.9	47.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	26.0	33.7	21.8	28.9
Not in paid employment, not looking for work	20.6	13.2	23.7	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

	NT %*	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	99	40	50	8953
Working full-time	3.7	1.6	2.2	1.9
Working part-time	96.3	98.4	97.8	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	180	75	89	16975
A home owned or rented by me or someone I live with	79.8	85.0	80.5	90.5
Boarding school	10.3	8.0	8.4	4.0
Public/social housing	3.6	2.5	4.3	2.3
Out-of-home care	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Somewhere else	6.3	4.6	6.8	2.5

Note: Items are listed in order of NT 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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	181	75	90	17032
Living with parent(s) or guardian(s)	94.4	91.5	98.8	94.6
Living somewhere else	5.6	8.5	1.2	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 NT as the sample size was less than 30.

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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	175	74	86	16960
Yes, in the last year	5.0	6.2	3.8	3.0
Yes, but not in the last year	6.0	5.7	6.3	5.7
No	89.1	88.1	89.9	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	178	74	90	16985
Yes, in the last year	8.0	13.3	2.5	7.4
Yes, but not in the last year	10.8	11.7	7.3	6.2
No	81.2	75.1	90.3	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	179	74	88	17024
Yes	13.9	12.1	10.9	11.2
No	86.1	87.9	89.1	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	175	72	88	16647
Had to be careful with money	34.8	42.1	29.7	34.5
Had trouble paying for things	19.4	18.9	21.5	17.9
Sought financial help from family, friends or a charity	11.5	11.5	12.1	8.4
Could not pay bills or car expenses	11.2	12.1	11.7	6.8
Could not pay rent/mortgage	7.3	5.3	8.8	4.9
Could not afford school fees, supplies or excursions	6.3	8.5	5.0	6.5
Went without essential goods or services (e.g. medical appointments, groceries)	5.6	6.2	3.7	5.7
Went without a meal(s)	4.7	5.7	2.5	4.4
Other	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.0
I'm not sure	17.6	10.2	20.1	11.4
No, none of the above	41.7	45.1	41.4	49.4

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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	172	71	88	16429
Yes, Mission Australia and/or a different charity or foundation (e.g. The Salvation Army, The Smith Family, Beyond Blue)	7.2	1.3	10.8	3.9
No, but I needed support or assistance	2.1	3.6	1.3	3.3
No, I did not need support or assistance from a charity or foundation	61.3	68.0	58.5	68.5
I'm not sure	29.4	27.1	29.4	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	182	75	91	17061
Very happy or happy (70-100)	53.1	41.2	62.2	57.0
Not happy or sad (40-60)	37.9	47.5	30.9	33.9
Sad or very sad (0-30)	8.9	11.3	6.9	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	178	73	91	16889
Complete control	10.4	3.9	13.5	9.8
Mostly in control	34.4	30.1	38.5	46.6
Some control	40.7	45.4	39.8	33.2
Almost no control	12.0	16.7	6.6	8.3
No control	2.5	3.9	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	180	73	91	16932
None of the time	25.8	13.6	35.0	21.5
A little of the time	15.3	17.2	11.3	29.2
Some of the time	34.3	43.4	30.4	28.5
Most of the time	19.7	22.3	17.8	15.8
All of the time	4.9	3.4	5.6	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	178	74	90	16930
Very positive or positive	48.6	35.6	58.5	47.1
Neither positive nor negative	27.7	39.5	19.8	34.2
Negative or very negative	23.7	24.9	21.7	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	175	72	89	16764
Yes	19.5	27.4	11.2	19.7
No	49.6	37.0	61.5	53.5
I'm not sure	30.9	35.6	27.3	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	173	70	90	16628
Low psychological distress	47.4	36.2	56.0	50.1
Moderate psychological distress	30.2	27.6	33.7	28.3
High psychological distress	22.4	36.2	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	183	75	92	17126
Friend(s)	56.6	60.5	55.0	63.6
Parent(s) or guardian(s)	50.4	53.3	52.2	58.7
Pet(s)	29.0	30.2	29.8	23.7
Brother/sister	28.8	29.5	27.8	32.9
Relative(s)	23.0	19.7	28.2	27.7
Partner or significant other	16.7	16.0	17.1	21.1
Teacher/coach	15.4	16.9	16.8	16.9
Internet	14.2	17.9	12.0	20.2
GP or health professional	13.2	17.3	10.6	17.2
Social media	9.8	13.2	7.9	13.2
School counsellor	9.7	13.3	7.7	11.0
Spiritual/religious mentor	9.4	10.5	10.1	6.4
Mobile apps	6.7	8.8	6.2	8.1
Community service	4.3	3.3	5.9	5.0
Other	4.4	0.0	6.4	2.7
None of the above, I would keep the issue to myself	19.4	20.0	17.5	11.6

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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	179	73	91	16958
Excellent	15.9	11.6	18.6	19.1
Very good	31.6	32.4	35.3	29.4
Good	28.8	26.1	28.1	25.2
Fair	12.8	18.8	7.3	16.3
Poor	10.8	11.0	10.7	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	181	74	91	17012
Sports (as a participant)	55.3	52.1	60.5	61.8
Sports (as a spectator)	45.3	45.1	46.6	47.3
Volunteer work	34.1	38.7	29.4	39.0
Youth groups/activities	28.1	21.6	31.9	20.4
Student leaderships groups/activities	23.9	20.2	28.0	26.8
Arts/cultural/music groups/activities	22.4	27.1	20.8	26.4
Religious groups/activities	19.0	17.3	21.2	17.3
Environmental groups/activities	6.7	9.1	5.1	6.9
Political groups/activities	6.0	2.5	8.3	3.6
None of the above	16.2	18.6	13.7	14.4

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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	176	72	88	16612
Turn to friends and family if you need help?	34.3	45.3	23.1	29.5
Fit in and socialise with everyone? (e.g., at school, work or socially)	30.6	39.3	26.6	29.6
Make choices and feel independent?	27.0	38.0	19.9	22.5
Turn to services/organisations if you need help?	24.2	27.4	21.5	20.8
Do everyday activities as young people your age usually do?	23.6	22.7	21.4	20.0
Travel around the community? (e.g., using footpaths or public transport)	23.6	32.9	18.5	9.9
Do things in public places with friends? (e.g., go to shopping centres, sporting or music events)	19.4	18.7	18.0	16.3
None of the above	32.2	14.3	46.1	43.9

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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
I am proud to be part of my community (Base)	168	70	84	16119
Strongly agree/agree	49.3	42.7	54.5	51.5
Mixed feelings	35.3	45.2	28.9	37.3
Disagree/strongly disagree	15.5	12.1	16.7	11.3
Young people in my community have a say on issues that matter to them (Base)	171	71	86	16120
Strongly agree/agree	27.6	23.3	32.0	36.2
Mixed feelings	47.7	48.1	48.2	40.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	24.8	28.6	19.7	22.9
My community has the things that I need to have a positive and thriving future (Base)	169	71	86	16119
Strongly agree/agree	41.3	33.1	47.7	49.7
Mixed feelings	39.3	41.8	37.2	36.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	19.4	25.1	15.2	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	180	74	91	16899
Yes – both spiritual and cultural beliefs	25.3	21.3	27.1	18.5
Yes – spiritual beliefs	21.6	18.9	22.5	19.9
Yes – cultural beliefs	10.3	10.7	10.5	11.7
No spiritual or cultural beliefs	42.9	49.1	39.9	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	182	74	91	17089
Yes	28.7	32.3	24.6	29.7
No	71.3	67.7	75.4	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

	NT %*	National %
Base	52	4990
Race/cultural background	45.3	33.4
Physical appearance	33.2	37.5
Personal views	30.7	25.1
Gender	29.3	25.6
Mental health	24.2	22.5
Age	21.1	13.8
Sexuality	19.1	17.1
Disability	10.6	10.3
Religion	9.5	13.8
Financial background	8.8	6.8
Other	7.5	7.8
I'm not sure	4.4	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 NT frequency.

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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Alcohol is a problem in Australia (Base)	180	75	89	16940
Strongly agree/agree	73.1	74.7	70.2	54.5
Neither agree nor disagree	19.2	22.9	18.5	31.1
Disagree/strongly disagree	7.7	2.5	11.3	14.4
Alcohol is a problem in my community (Base)	181	75	90	16793
Strongly agree/agree	61.7	68.9	55.4	28.7
Neither agree nor disagree	24.9	23.1	28.0	37.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	13.4	8.0	16.6	33.5
Alcohol is a problem for my family/friends (Base)	178	75	88	16820
Strongly agree/agree	21.6	23.6	20.9	18.3
Neither agree nor disagree	23.7	29.8	17.6	23.2
Disagree/strongly disagree	54.7	46.6	61.5	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Drugs are a problem in Australia (Base)	180	75	89	16798
Strongly agree/agree	79.8	77.0	83.2	64.1
Neither agree nor disagree	11.8	18.4	6.7	25.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	8.4	4.6	10.1	10.1
Drugs are a problem in my community (Base)	181	75	91	16737
Strongly agree/agree	59.2	60.9	57.8	35.1
Neither agree nor disagree	26.2	28.8	25.2	32.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	14.6	10.3	17.1	32.1
Drugs are a problem for my family/friends (Base)	178	73	91	16718
Strongly agree/agree	18.1	11.5	24.0	13.3
Neither agree nor disagree	16.5	25.3	8.4	18.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	65.4	63.2	67.6	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

	NT %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	173	71	88	16536
From my teachers or at school	46.3	42.0	51.5	59.6
In the media, via news or advertising	43.9	52.2	39.0	43.0
From my parent(s) or guardian(s)	40.2	47.9	36.6	40.0
Online, via social media	39.8	48.7	35.5	41.6
From other family members	33.8	36.0	34.3	24.7
From my peers or friends	29.6	39.1	23.9	30.5
Online, via websites	29.3	29.2	32.3	29.3
Via a public awareness campaign	26.1	25.7	28.9	25.4
From health professionals	25.6	23.9	27.2	19.7
Other	2.8	0.0	5.6	1.6
None of the above, I have not accessed information	20.4	21.3	20.3	18.1

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

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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

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