



YOUTH SURVEY REPORT 2024

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**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 **South Australian (SA)** sub-report of the Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2024 . It is based on the responses of 2828 young people in SA 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 **SA** 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. **SA** 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.

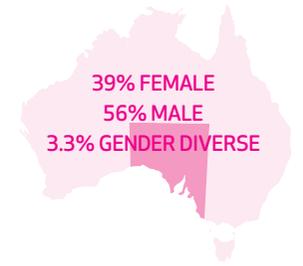
A special thank you to the young people who shared with us in the 2024 Youth Survey. We appreciate the views they shared on current issues and personal concerns, as well as their responses to questions relating to housing and finance, education and employment, community and supports, and mental health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

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South Australia

KEY FINDINGS

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



Biggest personal challenge

- 1 School and study, **46%**
(42% in 2023, 36% in 2022)
- 2 Personal relationships, **19%**
(19% in 2023, 18% in 2022)
- 3 Mental health, **16%**
(22% in 2023, 27% in 2022)

Education and employment

86% of respondents were studying full time
95% planned to complete Year 12
After school, **55%** planned to go to university and **35%** planned to get a job
44% were in paid work

Housing, homelessness and financial situation

93% of young people lived with their parents or guardians
Of those living elsewhere, **45%** lived at their boarding school and **15%** lived with relatives or siblings
11% worried about having a safe place to stay in the past year
32% said that they and their families had to be careful with money

Wellbeing

62% of respondents reported feeling happy with their life
61% felt completely or mostly in control of their life
However, **18%** felt lonely all or most of the time in the past four weeks
18% were classified as having high psychological distress

Support and connectedness

67% of young people would go to friends and **62%** to parents/guardians for help with important issues in their lives
However, **28%** found it hard to fit in and socialise with everyone
56% 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

26% of respondents reported being treated unfairly or discriminated against in the past year
Physical appearance (**43%**), race/cultural background (**31%**) and personal views (**27%**) were the top reasons for discrimination

Alcohol and drugs

52% of young people believed that alcohol and **61%** believed that drugs are a problem in Australia
16% reported that alcohol was a problem for their family or friends, **12%** for drugs
60% accessed information about the risk of alcohol or drug use from their teachers and schools, **42%** from social media and **41%** via news or advertising



South Australia

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, 54%
(31% in 2023, 23% in 2022)

2

Climate change and the environment, 31%
(40% in 2023, 42% in 2022)

3

Discrimination and inequality, 19%
(30% in 2023, 29% in 2022)

4

Housing and homelessness, 19%
(19% in 2023, 16% in 2022)

"I have faced a challenge of being discriminated at school, and this is affecting my home life and academics."

Male, 15, South Australia

"[The biggest personal challenge I faced in the past year was not] having a home and trying to get a job, I'm homeless. I need a stable income and housing."

Non-binary, 17, South Australia



PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Gender

	SA %	National %
Base	1219	17212
Female	39.1	46.4
Male	56.0	49.5
Gender diverse [^]	3.3	3.0
Prefer not to say	1.6	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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1193	466	647	40	16917
Non-Indigenous	95.1	94.7	95.8	92.8	92.3
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	4.9	5.3	4.2	7.2	7.7
Aboriginal	4.2	5.1	3.5	6.5	6.0
Torres Strait Islander	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.8	0.9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.8

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

Table 3: Identify with a cultural or ethnic identity

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1181	460	643	40	16728
Yes	18.5	18.8	18.0	19.4	24.4
No	81.5	81.2	82.0	80.6	75.6

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

Table 4: Spoke a language other than English

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1185	463	644	40	16710
Yes	20.6	23.1	18.5	14.9	22.9
No, English only	79.4	76.9	81.5	85.1	77.1

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

Table 5: Identify as a person with disability

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1179	462	640	38	16572
Yes, I have disability	9.2	7.1	8.4	36.7	8.7
No	85.9	88.7	86.7	47.5	86.3
Prefer not to say	5.0	4.1	4.8	15.8	5.1

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1177	460	638	39	16506
Yes, I have a mental health condition	16.0	19.8	10.6	54.4	15.9
No	74.2	69.0	82.0	20.8	72.6
Prefer not to say	9.8	11.2	7.3	24.8	11.5

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

PERSONAL CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

Table 7: Biggest personal challenge experienced by young people

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1082	426	586	37	15052
School and study	46.3	48.5	46.6	30.2	44.7
Personal relationships	19.0	25.1	14.6	19.6	20.6
Mental health	16.3	24.0	9.8	33.4	19.6
Finance and housing	6.3	6.4	6.4	8.0	5.6
Physical health	5.2	4.6	5.7	0.8	5.3
Other (includes various low frequency challenges not listed above)	14.6	10.4	16.2	27.3	14.6
Not sure/no challenges identified	9.1	5.5	11.4	8.7	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 SA frequency.

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	National %
School and study challenge (Base)	498	205	272	6689
Being more organised	45.1	46.2	45.5	42.6
Taking a break	39.6	46.9	34.4	42.0
Sleeping	39.2	45.3	34.9	43.5
Entertainment and recreation	37.3	42.1	33.2	41.9
Studying	35.8	33.7	38.3	37.2
Personal relationships challenge (Base)	206	107	86*	3102
Entertainment and recreation	48.9	50.3	49.0	49.9
Distracting myself	47.5	48.3	44.8	49.1
Reaching out to friends	46.7	49.4	46.0	41.2
Self-care	40.6	43.2	40.6	36.6
Taking a break	37.4	37.0	39.0	36.0
Mental health challenge (Base)	176	101	57*	2936
Distracting myself	51.7	55.1	42.1	48.4
Entertainment and recreation	50.9	51.8	51.3	53.2
Self-care	46.7	47.9	54.3	42.9
Sleeping	42.7	50.9	30.6	45.2
Taking a break	42.3	44.1	38.5	40.3

Note: Sample sizes vary per challenge. Items are listed in order of SA 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.

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Cost of living	32.1	34.6	28.5	58.6	34.0
School or study problems	29.6	39.3	22.2	37.1	34.5
Coping with stress	26.2	37.1	16.7	40.1	30.1
Mental health	23.4	33.5	13.7	55.2	28.0
Body image	21.7	33.9	11.9	38.8	25.3
Physical health	16.2	21.0	11.8	30.2	18.8
Climate change	15.8	17.6	12.3	37.6	15.9
Global conflicts	14.6	16.3	11.0	35.7	16.5
Social media use	12.7	14.7	10.9	11.7	15.3
Suicide	12.3	12.9	10.1	32.3	13.7
Discrimination	12.0	15.7	7.9	30.6	13.3
Personal safety	10.9	13.2	8.1	24.2	11.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	10.9	15.4	6.7	21.9	12.4
Artificial intelligence	9.6	9.6	8.4	21.4	10.2
Vaping/e-cigarettes	9.5	8.7	9.2	18.4	10.2
LGBTIQA+^ issues	9.0	6.9	6.4	57.2	9.8
Domestic/family violence	8.5	11.4	5.2	22.0	10.1
Alcohol and other drugs	7.1	7.8	6.1	14.1	7.5

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

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

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

NATIONAL ISSUES

Table 10: Top 10 most important issues in Australia today

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1044	400	575	35	15044
Cost of living	53.9	54.9	53.5	49.4	56.2
Climate change and the environment	31.3	35.2	28.4	27.7	26.6
Discrimination and inequality	19.4	21.1	17.9	22.1	21.7
Housing and homelessness	18.8	19.5	18.5	25.7	17.0
Violence, safety and crime	18.5	24.3	15.0	13.6	25.3
Mental health	16.8	24.6	12.1	13.2	23.3
Alcohol and other drugs	16.2	13.8	18.8	11.0	16.7
Global affairs	7.0	3.7	9.4	8.9	7.1
Societal matters	5.9	5.5	6.2	10.6	4.7
Employment	5.9	4.9	6.6	5.3	4.3

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

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Table 11: Participation in education

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1238	476	679	41	17434
Studying full-time	85.8	88.4	84.5	83.0	80.8
Studying part-time	7.1	5.9	7.6	9.2	9.1
Not studying	7.1	5.7	7.9	7.8	10.1

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

Table 12: Satisfaction with studies

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1142	445	621	38	15547
Very satisfied or satisfied	64.4	69.0	61.8	58.6	61.2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	28.5	25.2	31.0	25.1	29.4
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	7.1	5.8	7.2	16.3	9.4

Base: Respondents currently studying.

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

Table 13: Plan to complete Year 12

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1096	437	589	33	14807
Yes	95.2	97.0	94.5	91.3	95.2
No	4.8	3.0	5.5	8.7	4.8

Base: Respondents currently studying at school or equivalent.

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

Table 14: Plans after leaving school

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1116	441	603	35	14913
Go to university	55.3	64.7	49.1	44.3	61.4
Get a job	35.3	36.8	34.0	42.8	36.7
Travel/gap year	23.6	28.9	20.2	20.0	26.6
Get an apprenticeship	15.6	6.5	22.7	10.0	12.8
Go to TAFE or college	13.1	13.1	13.1	13.1	11.9
Start a business	9.9	7.5	11.9	6.9	9.3
Join the defence force or emergency services	7.3	3.8	10.2	9.2	8.1
Become a professional athlete	6.3	3.2	8.8	3.1	7.1
Do something in the creative and/or performing arts	5.9	6.8	4.4	20.6	6.8
Other	2.0	1.0	2.6	1.8	1.5
Not sure	8.9	8.5	8.8	16.9	7.7
No choices are available to me	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.1	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 SA 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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1102	433	598	34	14713
Yes	26.2	30.1	20.5	68.7	28.8
No	73.8	69.9	79.5	31.3	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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	285	128	121	4182
Lack of motivation	38.3	40.4	38.2	37.3
Mental health	34.6	39.2	21.5	33.4
Financial difficulties	28.8	29.5	26.7	29.3
Lack of confidence	28.7	32.0	22.4	31.2
Academic ability	21.9	25.5	19.7	26.7
Disability	14.5	9.4	15.3	8.9
Lack of information	12.7	14.9	12.0	11.7
Family responsibilities	11.2	12.8	8.4	12.3
Transport	10.9	11.9	9.1	13.3
Lack of family support	9.9	11.7	4.6	8.7
Physical health	9.9	11.8	6.1	8.5
Lack of jobs	9.5	8.8	8.7	10.5
Lack of school support	8.5	11.3	6.5	8.6
Admission/job requirements	8.0	9.1	7.4	10.4
Where you live	7.6	9.6	5.0	18.2
Lack of stable housing	7.2	6.8	6.2	5.7
Discrimination	4.3	3.5	2.9	5.4
Cultural responsibilities	2.2	2.7	2.1	3.1
Other	5.6	3.5	6.7	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 SA frequency. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 17: Participation in paid employment

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1235	475	679	40	17437
Permanent employee	3.1	3.0	3.2	4.5	4.3
Casual employee	41.3	48.1	38.3	22.2	47.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	33.5	28.4	36.3	36.6	28.9
Not in paid employment, not looking for work	22.1	20.5	22.2	36.7	19.2

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

Table 18: Employment type

	SA %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	545	241	280	8953
Working full-time	1.9	0.8	2.6	1.9
Working part-time	98.1	99.2	97.4	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. 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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1197	466	653	38	16975
A home owned or rented by me or someone I live with	88.4	89.4	88.3	84.2	90.5
Boarding school	5.3	7.4	4.2	0.0	4.0
Public/social housing	2.7	1.3	3.0	8.3	2.3
Out-of-home care	0.9	0.8	0.8	2.0	0.7
Somewhere else	2.8	1.1	3.7	5.5	2.5

Note: Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1203	470	655	40	17032
Living with parent(s) or guardian(s)	93.3	91.2	95.0	92.3	94.6
Living somewhere else	6.7	8.8	5.0	7.7	5.4

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

Table 21: Living somewhere else in the past three months

	SA %*	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	79	41	33	906
Other students at my boarding school	45.0	50.7	44.1	41.0
Relatives/siblings	15.2	12.8	20.5	11.3
Non-related person(s) (e.g., share house)	12.4	11.0	11.1	9.8
Partner or significant other	9.7	12.8	7.6	7.1
Friend(s)	9.2	6.8	11.7	10.0
I live alone	3.8	5.2	0.0	11.5
Foster parent(s)	2.3	0.7	2.0	1.1
Other	2.3	0.0	2.9	8.2

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

Note: Items are listed in order of SA 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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1199	471	649	40	16960
Yes, in the last year	2.5	2.3	2.1	8.0	3.0
Yes, but not in the last year	6.1	5.2	5.6	19.7	5.7
No	91.4	92.5	92.3	72.2	91.3

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1207	472	657	40	16985
Yes, in the last year	7.2	8.6	5.1	21.4	7.4
Yes, but not in the last year	6.3	6.3	5.4	18.1	6.2
No	86.5	85.0	89.5	60.5	86.3

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1209	470	659	40	17024
Yes	11.0	11.9	8.5	34.1	11.2
No	89.0	88.1	91.5	65.9	88.8

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1178	460	641	39	16647
Had to be careful with money	32.3	36.5	28.9	50.1	34.5
Had trouble paying for things	16.5	18.8	13.8	34.0	17.9
Sought financial help from family, friends or a charity	8.4	8.7	7.3	26.5	8.4
Could not pay bills or car expenses	5.5	6.4	3.9	19.4	6.8
Could not afford school fees, supplies or excursions	4.9	6.0	3.7	14.3	6.5
Went without essential goods or services (e.g. medical appointments, groceries)	4.0	4.3	2.9	20.9	5.7
Went without a meal(s)	3.9	4.3	3.1	12.7	4.4
Could not pay rent/mortgage	3.2	4.0	1.8	14.3	4.9
Other	0.7	0.3	0.8	1.6	1.0
I'm not sure	12.9	12.2	12.8	15.6	11.4
No, none of the above	51.1	49.1	54.5	24.6	49.4

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

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1172	459	638	37	16429
Yes, Mission Australia and/or a different charity or foundation (e.g. The Salvation Army, The Smith Family, Beyond Blue)	5.3	5.4	4.9	7.4	3.9
No, but I needed support or assistance	2.6	3.2	1.3	13.5	3.3
No, I did not need support or assistance from a charity or foundation	68.4	71.8	67.7	50.6	68.5
I'm not sure	23.7	19.5	26.1	28.5	24.2

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

WELLBEING

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1210	469	661	39	17061
Very happy or happy (70-100)	62.0	56.7	67.6	37.9	57.0
Not happy or sad (40-60)	30.7	36.6	26.8	33.2	33.9
Sad or very sad (0-30)	7.2	6.8	5.7	28.9	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.

Table 28: Level of control over their life

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1211	469	663	39	16889
Complete control	10.9	7.1	13.2	8.9	9.8
Mostly in control	50.3	49.9	52.5	32.7	46.6
Some control	30.3	33.4	28.3	27.4	33.2
Almost no control	6.5	8.6	4.0	21.4	8.3
No control	2.0	1.1	1.9	9.6	2.0

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

Table 29: Level of loneliness in the past four weeks

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1214	467	666	40	16932
None of the time	23.8	17.6	28.8	12.6	21.5
A little of the time	30.1	29.1	31.6	20.3	29.2
Some of the time	27.7	30.5	26.1	28.6	28.5
Most of the time	13.4	18.6	9.2	22.1	15.8
All of the time	4.9	4.3	4.3	16.4	4.9

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

Table 30: Feelings about the future

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1210	469	662	40	16930
Very positive or positive	48.3	44.5	52.9	26.9	47.1
Neither positive nor negative	35.1	40.5	32.1	29.7	34.2
Negative or very negative	16.6	15.0	15.0	43.5	18.7

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1188	462	646	39	16764
Yes	19.0	22.1	14.8	38.9	19.7
No	50.0	37.4	60.6	33.2	53.5
I'm not sure	31.0	40.4	24.5	27.9	26.8

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

Table 32: Level of psychological distress

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1181	459	646	38	16628
Low psychological distress	56.0	43.9	66.8	24.5	50.1
Moderate psychological distress	26.0	32.3	21.8	29.1	28.3
High psychological distress	18.0	23.8	11.4	46.4	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.

SUPPORT AND CONNECTEDNESS

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1219	473	664	40	17126
Friend(s)	67.0	71.1	65.1	61.1	63.6
Parent(s) or guardian(s)	61.6	62.8	62.8	40.7	58.7
Brother/sister	33.6	37.8	32.0	25.8	32.9
Relative(s)	30.0	32.4	29.8	18.6	27.7
Pet(s)	24.8	29.9	20.9	30.2	23.7
Teacher/coach	21.3	21.6	22.0	11.7	16.9
Partner or significant other	21.3	21.8	21.0	29.1	21.1
Internet	20.4	20.0	19.9	29.9	20.2
GP or health professional	16.1	19.3	12.7	38.9	17.2
School counsellor	14.3	17.7	11.6	23.8	11.0
Social media	12.6	15.3	10.6	14.0	13.2
Mobile apps	7.8	9.3	6.9	8.7	8.1
Community service	4.6	5.5	2.9	21.2	5.0
Spiritual/religious mentor	4.2	3.8	4.3	4.5	6.4
Other	3.2	1.1	4.0	14.0	2.7
None of the above, I would keep the issue to myself	9.6	8.6	10.3	9.5	11.6

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

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1213	467	665	40	16958
Excellent	19.7	17.5	21.2	6.5	19.1
Very good	30.6	30.3	32.5	13.4	29.4
Good	25.0	24.1	25.9	27.5	25.2
Fair	16.1	17.3	13.8	35.1	16.3
Poor	8.6	10.8	6.6	17.5	9.9

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

Table 35: Activities involved in during the past year

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1202	471	652	40	17012
Sports (as a participant)	61.5	57.6	67.6	24.3	61.8
Sports (as a spectator)	47.1	41.7	53.8	17.3	47.3
Volunteer work	34.6	38.0	32.8	24.5	39.0
Student leaderships groups/activities	19.7	24.6	17.5	7.6	26.8
Arts/cultural/music groups/activities	19.6	25.5	14.2	31.9	26.4
Youth groups/activities	15.3	15.4	15.2	19.4	20.4
Religious groups/activities	12.8	13.4	13.0	12.2	17.3
Environmental groups/activities	5.9	6.1	5.5	6.0	6.9
Political groups/activities	3.2	2.1	3.5	4.6	3.6
None of the above	17.3	19.9	14.5	35.1	14.4

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

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

Table 36: Activities young people find hard to do

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1179	460	641	39	16612
Fit in and socialise with everyone? (e.g., at school, work or socially)	28.1	34.2	20.1	70.9	29.6
Turn to friends and family if you need help?	25.4	31.2	18.9	57.0	29.5
Make choices and feel independent?	22.2	26.9	17.2	46.3	22.5
Do everyday activities as young people your age usually do?	18.7	22.3	12.8	58.5	20.0
Turn to services/organisations if you need help?	16.9	21.2	12.5	38.0	20.8
Do things in public places with friends? (e.g., go to shopping centres, sporting or music events)	16.0	17.8	12.6	42.0	16.3
Travel around the community? (e.g., using footpaths or public transport)	8.7	11.7	5.6	24.4	9.9
None of the above	49.8	40.7	59.0	15.8	43.9

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

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

Table 37: Feelings young people have about their community

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
I am proud to be part of my community (Base)	1148	449	623	38	16119
Strongly agree/agree	55.5	56.7	56.5	28.3	51.5
Mixed feelings	35.5	36.5	34.4	46.7	37.3
Disagree/strongly disagree	8.9	6.7	9.1	25.0	11.3
Young people in my community have a say on issues that matter to them (Base)	1151	447	630	37	16120
Strongly agree/agree	40.6	38.4	42.4	33.6	36.2
Mixed feelings	42.1	45.7	40.7	30.1	40.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	17.3	15.8	16.9	36.4	22.9
My community has the things that I need to have a positive and thriving future (Base)	1150	447	628	37	16119
Strongly agree/agree	54.6	53.9	56.5	39.2	49.7
Mixed feelings	35.3	35.4	35.0	35.8	36.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	10.1	10.7	8.6	25.0	13.6

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1191	468	646	40	16899
Yes – both spiritual and cultural beliefs	15.2	18.7	12.8	5.3	18.5
Yes – spiritual beliefs	17.5	18.1	16.7	26.6	19.9
Yes – cultural beliefs	8.6	8.1	9.0	4.2	11.7
No spiritual or cultural beliefs	58.7	55.1	61.5	64.0	50.0

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

UNFAIR TREATMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

Table 39: Unfair treatment or discrimination in the past year

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1204	468	656	40	17089
Yes	26.2	29.5	21.8	57.5	29.7
No	73.8	70.5	78.2	42.5	70.3

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	310	136	140	4990
Physical appearance	42.6	39.0	45.5	37.5
Race/cultural background	31.4	28.8	38.1	33.4
Personal views	27.2	27.6	24.7	25.1
Mental health	22.5	26.7	16.3	22.5
Gender	21.1	24.6	9.1	25.6
Sexuality	13.8	12.9	8.2	17.1
Disability	11.8	7.2	15.1	10.3
Religion	8.7	9.0	8.7	13.8
Age	8.1	11.8	4.7	13.8
Financial background	6.9	6.7	6.0	6.8
Other	6.2	5.0	6.7	7.8
I'm not sure	9.8	12.4	7.6	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 SA frequency.

Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Table 41: Feelings young people have about alcohol

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Alcohol is a problem in Australia (Base)	1202	468	655	40	16940
Strongly agree/agree	51.8	56.4	47.6	61.4	54.5
Neither agree nor disagree	32.2	35.2	31.5	16.8	31.1
Disagree/strongly disagree	16.0	8.4	20.9	21.8	14.4
Alcohol is a problem in my community (Base)	1198	467	652	39	16793
Strongly agree/agree	25.1	28.6	22.0	25.0	28.7
Neither agree nor disagree	38.2	42.7	35.5	36.0	37.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	36.7	28.7	42.5	39.0	33.5
Alcohol is a problem for my family/friends (Base)	1197	465	653	39	16820
Strongly agree/agree	16.2	19.0	13.3	25.7	18.3
Neither agree nor disagree	22.9	24.4	21.7	28.8	23.2
Disagree/strongly disagree	60.9	56.6	64.9	45.5	58.5

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

Table 42: Feelings young people have about drugs

	SA	Female	Male	Gender diverse	National
	%	%	%	%*	%
Drugs are a problem in Australia (Base)	1194	466	651	39	16798
Strongly agree/agree	61.1	63.3	59.5	70.0	64.1
Neither agree nor disagree	28.1	30.8	26.4	20.5	25.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	10.8	5.9	14.0	9.5	10.1
Drugs are a problem in my community (Base)	1191	462	651	39	16737
Strongly agree/agree	29.3	31.1	27.9	33.2	35.1
Neither agree nor disagree	34.4	38.2	31.3	38.5	32.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	36.3	30.6	40.9	28.3	32.1
Drugs are a problem for my family/friends (Base)	1191	464	650	39	16718
Strongly agree/agree	12.3	13.6	10.1	31.7	13.3
Neither agree nor disagree	19.7	20.3	19.0	20.0	18.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	68.0	66.1	70.8	48.3	67.9

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

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

	SA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1173	457	639	39	16536
From my teachers or at school	59.9	65.8	56.9	42.4	59.6
Online, via social media	42.0	45.3	39.2	48.3	41.6
In the media, via news or advertising	41.2	44.6	38.6	49.5	43.0
From my parent(s) or guardian(s)	40.7	40.1	41.8	30.9	40.0
From my peers or friends	31.2	31.7	31.0	31.9	30.5
Online, via websites	26.9	27.6	26.3	27.2	29.3
Via a public awareness campaign	25.3	27.9	23.9	22.1	25.4
From other family members	24.7	24.2	25.2	18.3	24.7
From health professionals	19.2	17.7	20.4	16.9	19.7
Other	1.6	0.6	1.6	11.0	1.6
None of the above, I have not accessed information	18.0	15.0	20.7	13.9	18.1

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

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

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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