



YOUTH SURVEY REPORT 2024

TASMANIA

MISSION
AUSTRALIA

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the **Tasmania (TAS)** sub-report of the *Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2024*. It is based on the responses of 569 young people in TAS 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 **TAS** 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. **TAS** 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.

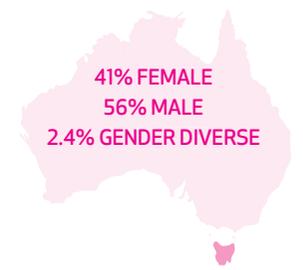
A special thank you to the young people who shared with us in the 2024 Youth Survey. We appreciate the views they shared on current issues and personal concerns, as well as their responses to questions relating to housing and finance, education and employment, community and supports, and mental health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

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Tasmania

KEY FINDINGS

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



Biggest personal challenge

- 1 School and study, **38%**
(40% in 2023, 34% in 2022)
- 2 Mental health, **22%**
(24% in 2023, 24% in 2022)
- 3 Personal relationships, **17%**
(18% in 2023, 22% in 2022)

Housing, homelessness and financial situation

93% of young people lived with their parents or guardians
12% worried about having a safe place to stay in the past year
31% said that they and their families had to be careful with money

Education and employment

84% of respondents were studying full time
92% planned to complete Year 12
After school, **49%** planned to go to university and **33%** planned to get a job
56% were in paid work

Wellbeing

56% of respondents reported feeling happy with their life
58% felt completely or mostly in control of their life
However, **25%** felt lonely all or most of the time in the past four weeks
24% were classified as having high psychological distress

Support and connectedness

60% of young people would go to friends and **60%** to parents/guardians for help with important issues in their lives
However, **32%** found it hard to fit in and socialise with everyone
49% felt proud to be a part of their community
34% felt that young people in their community have a say on issues that matter to them

Unfair treatment and discrimination

28% of respondents reported being treated unfairly or discriminated against in the past year
Physical appearance (**44%**), race/mental health (**30%**) and personal views (**29%**) were the top reasons for discrimination

Alcohol and drugs

55% of young people believed that alcohol and **68%** believed that drugs are a problem in Australia
19% reported that alcohol was a problem for their family or friends, **15%** for drugs
63% accessed information about the risk of alcohol or drug use from their teachers and schools, **40%** from social media and **38%** via news or advertising



Tasmania

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

2

Alcohol and other drugs, 26%
(12% in 2023, 13% in 2022)

3

Climate change and the environment, 22%
(43% in 2023, 45% in 2022)

4

Housing and homelessness, 21%
(26% in 2023, 20% in 2022)

"Society as a whole should not accept, condone or normalise alcohol and drug use as a coming of age ritual or necessary ingredient in social interactions for anyone (but specifically men or young adults or older people)."

Female, 17, Tasmania

"Climate change is making me concerned about the future. I feel responsible for the irresponsible actions of humanity and want to do as best as I can to help make an impact on the issue of climate change."

Male, 18, Tasmania



PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Gender

	TAS %	National %
Base	356	17212
Female	41.3	46.4
Male	56.0	49.5
Gender diverse [^]	2.4	3.0
Prefer not to say	0.3	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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	352	145	194	16917
Non-Indigenous	82.9	85.3	82.5	92.3
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	17.1	14.7	17.5	7.7
Aboriginal	16.0	13.8	17.3	6.0
Torres Strait Islander	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.8

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

Table 3: Identify with a cultural or ethnic identity

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	347	143	192	16728
Yes	15.8	11.4	17.1	24.4
No	84.2	88.6	82.9	75.6

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

Table 4: Spoke a language other than English

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	348	143	193	16710
Yes	10.4	10.9	8.2	22.9
No, English only	89.6	89.1	91.8	77.1

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

Table 5: Identify as a person with disability

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	342	141	187	16572
Yes, I have disability	11.5	8.0	12.0	8.7
No	83.1	87.5	82.1	86.3
Prefer not to say	5.5	4.5	5.9	5.1

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

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	343	139	191	16506
Yes, I have a mental health condition	21.2	28.8	14.1	15.9
No	66.5	59.1	73.9	72.6
Prefer not to say	12.3	12.1	12.1	11.5

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	316	128	176	15052
School and study	38.0	41.6	36.9	44.7
Mental health	22.0	28.2	17.6	19.6
Personal relationships	17.2	22.8	12.6	20.6
Finance and housing	6.4	4.1	7.5	5.6
Physical health	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.3
Other (includes various low frequency challenges not listed above)	15.4	12.6	15.9	14.6
Not sure/no challenges identified	8.5	5.3	10.9	7.4

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

	TAS %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
School and study challenge (Base)	119	53	64	6689
Being more organised	39.1	44.5	35.6	42.6
Studying	36.2	40.4	33.6	37.2
Sleeping	34.7	41.6	29.9	43.5
Entertainment and recreation	32.9	34.7	32.3	41.9
Taking a break	30.9	42.4	22.0	42.0
Mental health challenge (Base)	69*	36	31	2936
Entertainment and recreation	49.0	49.9	48.8	53.2
Self-care	48.0	51.1	45.3	42.9
Distracting myself	43.1	45.7	40.7	48.4
Sleeping	40.1	46.9	32.6	45.2
Reaching out to family	29.8	32.2	26.4	27.7
Personal relationships challenge (Base)	54*			3102
Distracting myself	52.3			49.1
Entertainment and recreation	50.8			49.9
Sleeping	40.9			41.7
Reaching out to friends	39.1			41.2
Self-care	36.1			36.6

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

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

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Cost of living	31.0	39.0	23.9	34.0
Coping with stress	29.3	37.8	21.2	30.1
Mental health	27.6	36.6	20.3	28.0
Body image	27.4	40.1	16.8	25.3
School or study problems	25.4	35.8	15.9	34.5
Physical health	17.2	17.4	17.0	18.8
Suicide	16.6	16.3	15.1	13.7
Climate change	15.2	18.9	10.3	15.9
Social media use	14.6	15.2	12.7	15.3
Global conflicts	14.4	17.1	10.4	16.5
Vaping/e-cigarettes	12.5	14.2	10.4	10.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	12.2	16.2	8.4	12.4
Discrimination	10.7	11.5	8.5	13.3
Personal safety	10.5	10.8	8.7	11.5
Domestic/family violence	10.3	11.9	8.0	10.1
Artificial intelligence	9.5	9.9	8.3	10.2
Alcohol and other drugs	9.4	9.5	8.6	7.5
LGBTIQA+^ issues	5.6	4.6	3.9	9.8

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

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	305	124	169	15044
Cost of living	55.2	62.2	51.1	56.2
Alcohol and other drugs	26.2	19.7	31.1	16.7
Climate change and the environment	22.0	27.6	19.0	26.6
Housing and homelessness	20.8	21.9	21.1	17.0
Mental health	19.3	24.5	16.5	23.3
Violence, safety and crime	16.8	21.5	14.3	25.3
Discrimination and inequality	13.9	14.4	13.3	21.7
Education	10.6	7.5	12.7	7.5
Global affairs	7.5	5.0	9.2	7.1
Transport	7.1	2.4	11.1	1.8

Note: Respondents were able to write up to three issues. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency. Labels describing some issues have been updated in 2024 to better reflect contemporary language. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Table 11: Participation in education

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	360	147	200	17434
Studying full-time	84.2	89.9	80.6	80.8
Studying part-time	9.4	7.0	10.8	9.1
Not studying	6.4	3.1	8.7	10.1

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

Table 12: Satisfaction with studies

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	335	141	182	15547
Very satisfied or satisfied	64.9	73.8	59.3	61.2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	27.1	19.7	33.1	29.4
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	8.0	6.6	7.6	9.4

Base: Respondents currently studying.

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

Table 13: Plan to complete Year 12

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	325	138	176	14807
Yes	92.1	97.0	88.6	95.2
No	7.9	3.0	11.4	4.8

Base: Respondents currently studying at school or equivalent.

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

Table 14: Plans after leaving school

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	328	139	178	14913
Go to university	49.0	65.9	36.5	61.4
Get a job	33.4	30.7	35.5	36.7
Travel/gap year	22.6	27.8	18.9	26.6
Get an apprenticeship	15.7	5.9	23.3	12.8
Go to TAFE or college	12.0	9.6	13.6	11.9
Join the defence force or emergency services	9.1	7.1	10.7	8.1
Start a business	8.2	3.9	11.0	9.3
Become a professional athlete	7.5	4.3	9.9	7.1
Do something in the creative and/or performing arts	5.7	4.1	4.9	6.8
Other	2.5	1.3	2.5	1.5
Not sure	9.5	10.1	8.9	7.7
No choices are available to me	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1

Base: Respondents currently studying at school or equivalent.

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

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	327	138	178	14713
Yes	29.2	30.9	26.3	28.8
No	70.8	69.1	73.7	71.2

Base: Respondents currently studying at school or equivalent.

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

Table 16: Barriers to achieving study/work goals

	TAS %*	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	95	43	46	4182
Lack of motivation	36.6	31.6	37.5	37.3
Financial difficulties	32.2	39.5	23.9	29.3
Where you live	30.8	23.1	39.7	18.2
Mental health	28.7	32.0	24.1	33.4
Academic ability	25.8	30.2	20.7	26.7
Lack of confidence	24.5	22.7	23.2	31.2
Transport	12.6	12.7	10.4	13.3
Lack of information	10.9	12.4	5.5	11.7
Admission/job requirements	10.5	9.4	9.2	10.4
Lack of stable housing	10.4	7.1	11.1	5.7
Physical health	9.6	8.5	7.9	8.5
Lack of jobs	9.0	7.8	7.6	10.5
Family responsibilities	8.9	7.1	7.9	12.3
Lack of family support	8.7	7.5	9.0	8.7
Lack of school support	6.7	6.2	6.1	8.6
Disability	6.6	9.0	1.0	8.9
Discrimination	4.0	0.0	2.5	5.4
Cultural responsibilities	3.2	0.0	2.5	3.1
Other	4.7	6.7	3.5	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 TAS 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 17: Participation in paid employment

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	359	146	200	17437
Permanent employee	7.5	5.7	8.6	4.3
Casual employee	48.8	59.3	41.5	47.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	28.1	22.8	32.6	28.9
Not in paid employment, not looking for work	15.6	12.2	17.4	19.2

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

Table 18: Employment type

	TAS %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	201	95	99	8953
Working full-time	2.9	0.0	3.3	1.9
Working part-time	97.1	100.0	96.7	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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	353	146	195	16975
A home owned or rented by me or someone I live with	90.0	89.6	92.2	90.5
Boarding school	4.1	5.3	3.3	4.0
Public/social housing	3.0	2.5	2.0	2.3
Out-of-home care	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Somewhere else	2.9	2.5	2.4	2.5

Note: Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.
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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	353	146	194	17032
Living with parent(s) or guardian(s)	92.7	92.4	94.0	94.6
Living somewhere else	7.3	7.6	6.0	5.4

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 TAS as the sample size was less than 30.

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	349	145	192	16960
Yes, in the last year	3.8	2.4	3.9	3.0
Yes, but not in the last year	2.6	3.6	2.1	5.7
No	93.6	94.1	94.0	91.3

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	353	145	196	16985
Yes, in the last year	8.2	9.9	6.2	7.4
Yes, but not in the last year	4.8	7.4	3.2	6.2
No	87.0	82.7	90.6	86.3

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	354	146	196	17024
Yes	12.0	10.3	12.6	11.2
No	88.0	89.7	87.4	88.8

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	341	142	185	16647
Had to be careful with money	31.1	39.0	24.1	34.5
Had trouble paying for things	16.3	23.0	10.4	17.9
Sought financial help from family, friends or a charity	6.8	9.4	3.5	8.4
Could not afford school fees, supplies or excursions	6.0	9.1	2.8	6.5
Went without essential goods or services (<i>e.g., medical appointments, groceries</i>)	5.7	7.1	3.5	5.7
Could not pay bills or car expenses	4.8	7.2	2.0	6.8
Could not pay rent/mortgage	3.5	5.6	0.7	4.9
Went without a meal(s)	3.2	3.2	2.1	4.4
Other	0.8	0.0	1.1	1.0
I'm not sure	14.4	13.1	15.9	11.4
No, none of the above	51.1	44.0	57.1	49.4

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	333	140	180	16429
Yes, Mission Australia and/or a different charity or foundation (<i>e.g., The Salvation Army, The Smith Family, Beyond Blue</i>)	3.4	4.3	2.5	3.9
No, but I needed support or assistance	3.9	3.8	3.5	3.3
No, I did not need support or assistance from a charity or foundation	66.8	64.8	69.2	68.5
I'm not sure	26.0	27.2	24.9	24.2

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	353	143	197	17061
Very happy or happy (70-100)	56.0	57.2	57.5	57.0
Not happy or sad (40-60)	32.5	35.1	30.3	33.9
Sad or very sad (0-30)	11.5	7.7	12.3	9.0

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

Table 27: Level of control over their life

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	351	143	194	16889
Complete control	14.0	8.6	18.1	9.8
Mostly in control	43.6	48.4	41.4	46.6
Some control	33.5	34.4	33.9	33.2
Almost no control	7.7	8.2	5.6	8.3
No control	1.2	0.4	1.0	2.0

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

Table 28: Level of loneliness in the past four weeks

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	351	142	196	16932
None of the time	20.6	16.8	23.3	21.5
A little of the time	33.8	31.1	37.0	29.2
Some of the time	21.0	28.8	15.7	28.5
Most of the time	19.2	20.2	17.9	15.8
All of the time	5.4	3.1	6.2	4.9

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

Table 29: Feelings about the future

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	351	144	194	16930
Very positive or positive	48.5	46.0	52.7	47.1
Neither positive nor negative	33.4	35.0	32.8	34.2
Negative or very negative	18.1	19.0	14.5	18.7

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	351	145	193	16764
Yes	18.1	22.7	14.3	19.7
No	55.6	41.6	66.5	53.5
I'm not sure	26.3	35.7	19.1	26.8

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

Table 31: Level of psychological distress

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	341	142	187	16628
Low psychological distress	53.6	41.6	64.7	50.1
Moderate psychological distress	22.1	31.5	15.1	28.3
High psychological distress	24.3	27.0	20.2	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).

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	356	147	196	17126
Friend(s)	60.4	69.2	54.6	63.6
Parent(s) or guardian(s)	60.3	63.4	59.3	58.7
Brother/sister	29.6	34.0	27.2	32.9
Relative(s)	28.5	29.3	28.9	27.7
Pet(s)	26.2	34.5	18.3	23.7
Partner or significant other	24.4	28.5	21.3	21.1
GP or health professional	23.6	30.6	18.8	17.2
Internet	21.5	22.3	20.9	20.2
Teacher/coach	19.5	21.4	19.3	16.9
Social media	11.8	13.1	11.1	13.2
School counsellor	11.5	15.4	8.5	11.0
Mobile apps	10.3	9.8	10.8	8.1
Spiritual/religious mentor	5.8	4.3	6.3	6.4
Community service	5.1	3.6	5.7	5.0
Other	5.2	2.5	7.1	2.7
None of the above, I would keep the issue to myself	13.0	6.5	17.1	11.6

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	353	143	197	16958
Excellent	18.3	17.7	17.7	19.1
Very good	31.6	26.1	37.2	29.4
Good	26.6	24.4	28.5	25.2
Fair	15.2	20.8	10.7	16.3
Poor	8.3	11.0	5.9	9.9

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

Table 34: Activities involved in during the past year

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	355	147	195	17012
Sports (as a participant)	60.1	56.7	65.1	61.8
Sports (as a spectator)	45.1	42.5	49.6	47.3
Volunteer work	38.4	45.4	34.4	39.0
Student leaderships groups/activities	24.8	30.4	19.8	26.8
Arts/cultural/music groups/activities	22.3	25.7	19.3	26.4
Youth groups/activities	18.4	16.0	19.5	20.4
Religious groups/activities	11.4	10.5	10.5	17.3
Environmental groups/activities	4.9	4.6	4.6	6.9
Political groups/activities	3.1	1.7	3.4	3.6
None of the above	18.3	19.2	16.9	14.4

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.
Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 35: Activities young people find hard to do

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	339	141	185	16612
Fit in and socialise with everyone? (<i>e.g., at school, work or socially</i>)	32.0	37.7	26.9	29.6
Turn to friends and family if you need help?	29.7	33.2	26.5	29.5
Do everyday activities as young people your age usually do?	22.1	21.4	21.6	20.0
Turn to services/organisations if you need help?	19.6	23.8	15.4	20.8
Make choices and feel independent?	18.5	19.4	15.6	22.5
Do things in public places with friends? (<i>e.g., go to shopping centres, sporting or music events</i>)	17.2	15.5	16.6	16.3
Travel around the community? (<i>e.g., using footpaths or public transport</i>)	11.5	12.8	7.5	9.9
None of the above	42.6	35.5	49.5	43.9

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency. Gender diverse data is not included as sample size was less than 30.

Table 36: Feelings young people have about their community

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
I am proud to be part of my community (Base)	334	136	187	16119
Strongly agree/agree	49.3	45.6	53.9	51.5
Mixed feelings	40.5	45.2	37.9	37.3
Disagree/strongly disagree	10.2	9.2	8.2	11.3
Young people in my community have a say on issues that matter to them (Base)	332	133	187	16120
Strongly agree/agree	34.4	33.8	35.7	36.2
Mixed feelings	42.9	44.1	42.4	40.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	22.7	22.0	21.9	22.9
My community has the things that I need to have a positive and thriving future (Base)	336	136	187	16119
Strongly agree/agree	43.2	39.7	47.4	49.7
Mixed feelings	41.7	44.4	40.5	36.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	15.1	15.9	12.1	13.6

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

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	348	146	190	16899
Yes – both spiritual and cultural beliefs	12.1	10.6	11.9	18.5
Yes – spiritual beliefs	18.6	22.7	14.7	19.9
Yes – cultural beliefs	3.8	3.0	4.4	11.7
No spiritual or cultural beliefs	65.5	63.7	69.1	50.0

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	356	147	196	17089
Yes	27.9	30.8	24.5	29.7
No	72.1	69.2	75.5	70.3

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

	TAS %*	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	99	45	48	4990
Physical appearance	43.7	37.2	47.8	37.5
Mental health	29.6	33.9	22.3	22.5
Personal views	28.6	26.2	27.6	25.1
Gender	24.8	37.6	5.9	25.6
Race/cultural background	20.6	18.2	16.0	33.4
Sexuality	18.0	16.5	11.2	17.1
Religion	15.3	6.5	20.5	13.8
Age	13.3	14.0	8.7	13.8
Disability	11.7	5.6	12.1	10.3
Financial background	10.2	5.2	11.1	6.8
Other	8.9	0.8	15.1	7.8
I'm not sure	6.3	9.7	3.9	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 TAS 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.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Table 40: Feelings young people have about alcohol

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Alcohol is a problem in Australia (Base)	349	144	192	16940
Strongly agree/agree	54.8	62.2	48.4	54.5
Neither agree nor disagree	31.4	33.0	31.7	31.1
Disagree/strongly disagree	13.8	4.8	20.0	14.4
Alcohol is a problem in my community (Base)	350	144	193	16793
Strongly agree/agree	30.4	33.0	27.4	28.7
Neither agree nor disagree	42.9	49.1	39.6	37.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	26.8	17.8	32.9	33.5
Alcohol is a problem for my family/friends (Base)	349	143	192	16820
Strongly agree/agree	19.2	20.2	17.6	18.3
Neither agree nor disagree	28.6	28.3	28.6	23.2
Disagree/strongly disagree	52.2	51.5	53.8	58.5

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

Table 41: Feelings young people have about drugs

	TAS	Female	Male	National
	%	%	%	%
Drugs are a problem in Australia (Base)	346	142	190	16798
Strongly agree/agree	68.3	72.2	66.3	64.1
Neither agree nor disagree	23.2	24.9	21.8	25.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	8.5	2.9	11.9	10.1
Drugs are a problem in my community (Base)	344	140	191	16737
Strongly agree/agree	40.7	43.7	38.4	35.1
Neither agree nor disagree	35.7	40.9	32.3	32.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	23.6	15.4	29.3	32.1
Drugs are a problem for my family/friends (Base)	343	142	188	16718
Strongly agree/agree	15.3	14.2	15.1	13.3
Neither agree nor disagree	25.0	26.2	24.0	18.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	59.7	59.6	60.9	67.9

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

	TAS %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	339	139	188	16536
From my teachers or at school	62.6	66.8	60.3	59.6
From my parent(s) or guardian(s)	42.2	48.3	39.2	40.0
Online, via social media	40.1	43.8	36.6	41.6
In the media, via news or advertising	38.4	46.6	33.4	43.0
From my peers or friends	31.2	34.3	29.2	30.5
Online, via websites	30.6	28.4	32.0	29.3
Via a public awareness campaign	25.9	31.0	22.6	25.4
From other family members	25.6	30.9	21.3	24.7
From health professionals	16.9	21.2	14.0	19.7
Other	2.8	0.9	3.1	1.6
None of the above, I have not accessed information	14.7	12.7	16.4	18.1

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