



YOUTH SURVEY REPORT 2024

VICTORIA

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the **Victoria (VIC)** sub-report of the Mission Australia *Youth Survey Report 2024*. It is based on the responses of 4642 young people in **VIC** 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 **VIC** 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. **VIC** 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.

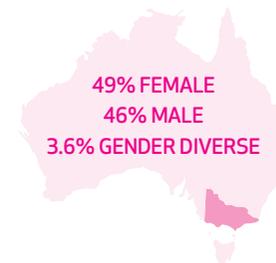
A special thank you to the young people who shared with us in the 2024 Youth Survey. We appreciate the views they shared on current issues and personal concerns, as well as their responses to questions relating to housing and finance, education and employment, community and supports, and mental health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

Victoria

KEY FINDINGS

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



Biggest personal challenge

- 1 School and study, **44%**
(46% in 2023, 37% in 2022)
- 2 Mental health, **21%**
(23% in 2023, 23% in 2022)
- 3 Personal relationships, **21%**
(20% in 2023, 17% in 2022)

Education and employment

86% of respondents were studying full time
97% planned to complete Year 12
After school, **70%** planned to go to university and **38%** planned to get a job
52% were in paid work

Housing, homelessness and financial situation

97% of young people lived with their parents or guardians
Of those living elsewhere, **30%** lived at their boarding school and **15%** lived with unrelated people, e.g. in a share house
8.7% 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

58% of respondents reported feeling happy with their life
58% felt completely or mostly in control of their life
However, **19%** felt lonely all or most of the time in the past four weeks
21% were classified as having high psychological distress

Support and connectedness

66% of young people would go to friends and **61%** to parents/guardians for help with important issues in their lives
However, **30%** found it hard to fit in and socialise with everyone
54% felt proud to be a part of their community
40% felt that young people in their community have a say on issues that matter to them

Unfair treatment and discrimination

29% of respondents reported being treated unfairly or discriminated against in the past year
Physical appearance (**35%**), race/cultural background (**33%**) and gender (**27%**) were the top reasons for discrimination

Alcohol and drugs

55% of young people believed that alcohol and **65%** believed that drugs are a problem in Australia
17% reported that alcohol was a problem for their family or friends, **12%** for drugs
62% accessed information about the risk of alcohol or drug use from their teachers and schools, **46%** via news or advertising and **45%** from social media



Victoria

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, 56%**
(31% in 2023, 23% in 2022)

2 **Climate change and the environment, 34%**
(47% in 2023, 47% in 2022)

3 **Violence, safety and crime, 27%**
(16% in 2023, 9.7% in 2022)

4 **Discrimination and inequality, 24%**
(31% in 2023, 32% in 2022)

"[The biggest personal challenge I faced in the past year was] a lot of financial things, the school is expensive and for further studies on university and everything costs a whole lot more."

Female, 17, Victoria

"[The biggest personal challenge I faced in the past year was] religious and racial discrimination, from students and teachers alike. For example, they push their own ideas and opinions and do not give me the option to share my own."

Male, 18, Victoria



PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Gender

	VIC %	National %
Base	4335	17212
Female	48.9	46.4
Male	46.2	49.5
Gender diverse^	3.6	3.0
Prefer not to say	1.3	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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4253	2069	1919	149	16917
Non-Indigenous	97.0	98.5	96.9	81.9	92.3
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	3.0	1.5	3.1	18.1	7.7
Aboriginal	2.1	1.2	2.3	9.9	6.0
Torres Strait Islander	0.5	0.3	0.6	3.7	0.9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.3	0.0	0.3	4.5	0.8

Table 3: Identify with a cultural or ethnic identity

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4229	2054	1909	151	16728
Yes	26.5	27.6	25.5	30.4	24.4
No	73.5	72.4	74.5	69.6	75.6

Table 4: Spoke a language other than English

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4212	2047	1899	150	16710
Yes	29.2	30.0	28.2	28.6	22.9
No, English only	70.8	70.0	71.8	71.4	77.1

Table 5: Identify as a person with disability

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4174	2033	1877	150	16572
Yes, I have disability	8.1	6.1	7.5	42.4	8.7
No	87.1	90.7	87.5	43.6	86.3
Prefer not to say	4.8	3.2	5.0	14.1	5.1

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4168	2028	1879	149	16506
Yes, I have a mental health condition	16.6	20.0	9.6	58.4	15.9
No	71.9	67.2	81.5	21.9	72.6
Prefer not to say	11.5	12.8	8.9	19.7	11.5

PERSONAL CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

Table 7: Biggest personal challenge experienced by young people

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	3716	1802	1683	133	15052
School and study	44.1	47.3	42.5	28.8	44.7
Mental health	21.3	27.9	12.4	36.9	19.6
Personal relationships	20.6	25.5	14.3	29.3	20.6
Physical health	6.3	5.0	7.5	7.6	5.3
Finance and housing	4.3	3.3	5.2	6.5	5.6
Other (includes various low frequency challenges not listed above)	13.9	10.3	16.9	20.2	14.6
Not sure/no challenges identified	7.8	5.6	10.6	1.9	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 VIC frequency.

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
School and study challenge (Base)	1632	850	712	38	6689
Taking a break	45.4	49.8	40.7	36.0	42.0
Sleeping	45.4	47.2	43.3	43.5	43.5
Being more organised	45.3	47.0	44.8	25.1	42.6
Entertainment and recreation	42.5	44.7	38.6	56.0	41.9
Studying	38.2	38.3	39.0	25.5	37.2
Mental health challenge (Base)	790	503	208	49	2936
Entertainment and recreation	55.0	54.1	55.5	60.2	53.2
Distracting myself	50.2	50.6	49.9	50.4	48.4
Sleeping	48.5	51.9	44.1	38.2	45.2
Self-care	44.9	49.1	37.2	39.3	42.9
Taking a break	42.0	44.8	38.9	28.8	40.3
Personal relationships challenge (Base)	762	459	240	39	3102
Entertainment and recreation	51.9	51.2	52.0	66.8	49.9
Distracting myself	50.5	52.8	46.0	62.2	49.1
Sleeping	45.6	49.6	37.9	50.7	41.7
Reaching out to friends	43.2	45.6	39.0	61.9	41.2
Self-care	40.2	44.5	32.5	40.3	36.6

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

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

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
School or study problems	37.4	45.6	27.4	48.1	34.5
Cost of living	33.2	34.4	29.3	60.3	34.0
Coping with stress	33.1	44.4	19.9	49.8	30.1
Mental health	31.6	38.9	20.9	62.7	28.0
Body image	25.9	36.7	12.9	50.0	25.3
Climate change	19.7	21.0	15.0	49.6	15.9
Physical health	19.5	21.0	16.8	34.0	18.8
Global conflicts	18.3	20.4	12.8	54.0	16.5
Social media use	16.3	19.6	12.4	18.6	15.3
Discrimination	14.5	15.9	9.5	51.7	13.3
Suicide	14.4	14.3	11.8	46.2	13.7
Personal safety	12.8	13.9	10.2	29.1	11.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	12.2	15.0	7.6	30.6	12.4
Artificial intelligence	11.3	11.2	8.3	42.2	10.2
Vaping/e-cigarettes	10.4	9.6	10.3	17.5	10.2
LGBTIQA+^ issues	10.2	8.2	7.5	59.5	9.8
Domestic/family violence	9.4	10.8	6.8	20.6	10.1
Alcohol and other drugs	7.5	6.4	7.4	21.1	7.5

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

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

NATIONAL ISSUES

Table 10: Top 10 most important issues in Australia today

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	3764	1819	1715	137	15044
Cost of living	56.3	54.1	58.4	54.5	56.2
Climate change and the environment	34.5	39.7	27.9	42.1	26.6
Violence, safety and crime	26.9	32.5	22.3	15.6	25.3
Discrimination and inequality	23.8	28.0	19.0	29.2	21.7
Mental health	22.5	27.2	17.9	20.8	23.3
Alcohol and other drugs	15.8	14.1	18.6	6.8	16.7
Housing and homelessness	12.8	11.2	14.3	11.3	17.0
Global affairs	7.7	6.1	8.7	15.2	7.1
Education	6.9	7.3	7.1	4.6	7.5
Internet, social media and technology	6.4	6.8	6.2	4.3	6.2

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

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Table 11: Participation in education

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4383	2111	1996	156	17434
Studying full-time	86.2	90.2	82.6	82.0	80.8
Studying part-time	7.5	5.5	9.8	6.3	9.1
Not studying	6.3	4.3	7.7	11.7	10.1

Table 12: Satisfaction with studies

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4077	2003	1832	137	15547
Very satisfied or satisfied	62.9	67.6	58.8	57.4	61.2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	27.8	25.5	30.6	16.8	29.4
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	9.2	7.0	10.6	25.8	9.4

Base: Respondents currently studying.

Table 13: Plan to complete Year 12

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	3951	1949	1773	127	14807
Yes	97.1	98.6	95.5	97.0	95.2
No	2.9	1.4	4.5	3.0	4.8

Base: Respondents currently studying at school or equivalent.

Table 14: Plans after leaving school

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	3982	1963	1791	127	14913
Go to university	69.6	77.6	61.1	65.1	61.4
Get a job	37.6	38.1	36.7	41.6	36.7
Travel/gap year	29.8	31.9	27.8	27.0	26.6
Start a business	9.0	4.8	13.5	8.8	9.3
Go to TAFE or college	8.8	8.1	8.9	16.0	11.9
Do something in the creative and/or performing arts	7.8	7.5	6.4	27.3	6.8
Become a professional athlete	7.5	3.5	11.7	9.2	7.1
Get an apprenticeship	6.8	3.5	10.7	7.9	12.8
Join the defence force or emergency services	6.5	3.5	9.5	9.7	8.1
Other	1.3	0.6	1.6	7.6	1.5
Not sure	8.8	7.0	10.9	8.0	7.7
No choices are available to me	0.0	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 VIC frequency.

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	3954	1948	1779	126	14713
Yes	27.6	26.6	25.8	58.9	28.8
No	72.4	73.4	74.2	41.1	71.2

Base: Respondents currently studying at school or equivalent.

Table 16: Barriers to achieving study/work goals

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1077	515	449	73	4182
Lack of motivation	39.0	40.9	35.0	49.4	37.3
Mental health	38.4	43.3	26.4	75.3	33.4
Lack of confidence	32.3	35.1	27.8	41.9	31.2
Academic ability	26.3	27.3	23.2	32.6	26.7
Financial difficulties	25.4	27.5	23.8	22.7	29.3
Where you live	15.9	15.9	14.9	24.7	18.2
Lack of information	12.9	10.8	13.1	26.1	11.7
Transport	12.3	12.2	11.4	20.3	13.3
Family responsibilities	10.8	13.7	7.1	13.8	12.3
Physical health	10.2	9.9	10.2	12.3	8.5
Disability	9.8	7.4	7.6	38.3	8.9
Admission/job requirements	9.3	8.3	10.2	9.1	10.4
Lack of jobs	9.1	8.0	10.1	13.1	10.5
Lack of school support	8.2	7.8	9.0	8.8	8.6
Lack of family support	8.1	8.6	7.3	11.5	8.7
Discrimination	5.4	2.9	5.7	19.5	5.4
Lack of stable housing	4.5	5.2	3.6	6.4	5.7
Cultural responsibilities	2.8	2.4	1.8	13.1	3.1
Other	6.0	4.6	7.9	6.9	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 VIC frequency.

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

Table 17: Participation in paid employment

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4388	2116	1999	154	17437
Permanent employee	4.7	5.4	3.9	8.3	4.3
Casual employee	47.7	47.9	48.2	41.1	47.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	27.6	27.7	27.2	27.9	28.9
Not in paid employment, not looking for work	20.0	19.1	20.7	22.7	19.2

Table 18: Employment type

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	2285	1121	1032	75	8953
Working full-time	0.7	0.2	0.6	8.0	1.9
Working part-time	99.3	99.8	99.4	92.0	98.1

Base: Respondents in paid employment.

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

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

HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND FINANCIAL SITUATION

Table 19: Residential setting in the past three months

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4256	2073	1914	152	16975
A home owned or rented by me or someone I live with	93.7	95.2	92.7	87.1	90.5
Public/social housing	1.8	1.4	2.3	1.7	2.3
Boarding school	1.6	1.7	1.4	0.9	4.0
Out-of-home care	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.7	0.7
Somewhere else	2.3	1.3	2.8	8.5	2.5

Note: Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4279	2078	1933	150	17032
Living with parent(s) or guardian(s)	97.4	97.5	97.9	90.9	94.6
Living somewhere else	2.6	2.5	2.1	9.1	5.4

Table 21: Living somewhere else in the past three months

	VIC %	Female %*	Male %*	National %
Base	112	52	40	906
Other students at my boarding school	29.8	50.3	12.3	41.0
Non-related person(s) (e.g., share house)	15.3	14.5	10.3	9.8
I live alone	13.5	1.8	14.8	11.5
Partner or significant other	10.2	13.2	11.4	7.1
Relatives/siblings	9.9	6.0	19.0	11.3
Friend(s)	8.8	4.3	15.7	10.0
Foster parent(s)	4.3	1.8	9.6	1.1
Other	8.3	8.0	6.9	8.2

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

Note: Items are listed in order of VIC 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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4264	2076	1920	149	16960
Yes, in the last year	2.1	1.6	1.9	8.2	3.0
Yes, but not in the last year	4.3	3.5	4.6	8.3	5.7
No	93.6	94.9	93.5	83.5	91.3

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4273	2077	1927	150	16985
Yes, in the last year	5.9	7.2	3.9	16.9	7.4
Yes, but not in the last year	4.7	4.8	3.9	13.6	6.2
No	89.3	88.0	92.1	69.5	86.3

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4286	2078	1937	151	17024
Yes	8.7	7.9	7.8	29.4	11.2
No	91.3	92.1	92.2	70.6	88.8

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4173	2036	1872	149	16647
Had to be careful with money	32.2	35.1	27.4	49.2	34.5
Had trouble paying for things	15.3	16.5	12.7	26.0	17.9
Sought financial help from family, friends or a charity	6.9	7.1	6.0	18.8	8.4
Could not pay bills or car expenses	5.7	5.5	5.4	12.9	6.8
Could not afford school fees, supplies or excursions	5.4	5.8	4.0	17.0	6.5
Went without essential goods or services (<i>e.g., medical appointments, groceries</i>)	4.7	5.2	3.4	14.7	5.7
Could not pay rent/mortgage	4.5	3.8	4.3	14.3	4.9
Went without a meal(s)	2.9	2.5	2.4	11.5	4.4
Other	1.3	0.8	1.6	2.7	1.0
I'm not sure	10.4	10.2	9.8	17.7	11.4
No, none of the above	53.8	52.6	58.2	27.2	49.4

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

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4177	2026	1885	150	16429
Yes, Mission Australia and/or a different charity or foundation (e.g. <i>The Salvation Army, The Smith Family, Beyond Blue</i>)	3.6	2.8	3.6	8.8	3.9
No, but I needed support or assistance	3.1	2.6	2.8	13.3	3.3
No, I did not need support or assistance from a charity or foundation	73.1	76.4	71.1	59.9	68.5
I'm not sure	20.3	18.2	22.5	18.0	24.2

WELLBEING

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4303	2088	1946	151	17061
Very happy or happy (70-100)	58.3	55.6	63.9	33.8	57.0
Not happy or sad (40-60)	33.4	36.5	29.5	36.7	33.9
Sad or very sad (0-30)	8.2	7.9	6.6	29.5	9.0

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

Table 28: Level of control over their life

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4275	2069	1936	152	16889
Complete control	9.0	5.5	13.1	6.5	9.8
Mostly in control	49.4	49.4	51.6	23.3	46.6
Some control	33.2	36.7	28.5	43.5	33.2
Almost no control	6.8	7.3	5.2	17.9	8.3
No control	1.7	1.0	1.7	8.7	2.0

Table 29: Level of loneliness in the past four weeks

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4287	2075	1942	151	16932
None of the time	20.5	15.4	27.0	10.2	21.5
A little of the time	29.9	30.9	30.0	16.9	29.2
Some of the time	30.4	32.0	28.6	28.2	28.5
Most of the time	15.4	18.0	11.1	34.9	15.8
All of the time	3.8	3.7	3.3	9.9	4.9

Table 30: Feelings about the future

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4280	2076	1937	152	16930
Very positive or positive	47.3	48.1	48.9	23.7	47.1
Neither positive nor negative	33.4	34.3	32.7	29.7	34.2
Negative or very negative	19.3	17.6	18.5	46.6	18.7

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4236	2059	1908	151	16764
Yes	24.6	27.7	18.5	51.2	19.7
No	49.1	41.7	60.3	20.6	53.5
I'm not sure	26.3	30.6	21.2	28.3	26.8

Table 32: Level of psychological distress

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4189	2028	1899	147	16628
Low psychological distress	49.9	40.1	63.3	19.9	50.1
Moderate psychological distress	29.3	33.6	25.1	21.5	28.3
High psychological distress	20.9	26.4	11.6	58.6	21.6

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

SUPPORT AND CONNECTEDNESS

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4307	2093	1943	153	17126
Friend(s)	66.3	71.5	60.9	66.7	63.6
Parent(s) or guardian(s)	61.1	63.9	60.1	39.8	58.7
Brother/sister	33.8	36.7	31.1	28.2	32.9
Relative(s)	26.9	27.9	26.5	19.4	27.7
Pet(s)	26.0	31.6	19.0	33.8	23.7
Internet	22.9	23.0	22.0	32.2	20.2
Partner or significant other	19.6	20.2	18.6	26.5	21.1
GP or health professional	19.0	23.9	12.1	37.6	17.2
Teacher/coach	17.4	16.7	18.5	13.0	16.9
Social media	15.4	16.9	13.1	23.6	13.2
School counsellor	10.7	11.5	9.4	21.3	11.0
Mobile apps	9.3	10.0	8.2	12.6	8.1
Spiritual/religious mentor	4.5	3.4	5.6	6.7	6.4
Community service	3.5	3.0	3.4	12.7	5.0
Other	2.2	1.0	3.1	7.8	2.7
None of the above, I would keep the issue to myself	10.5	7.1	14.4	7.8	11.6

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

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4287	2078	1941	152	16958
Excellent	21.2	18.3	25.9	6.5	19.1
Very good	30.5	30.3	32.1	16.7	29.4
Good	24.2	24.9	23.3	23.3	25.2
Fair	15.7	17.7	12.1	26.7	16.3
Poor	8.4	8.8	6.5	26.8	9.9

Table 35: Activities involved in during the past year

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4278	2071	1936	153	17012
Sports (as a participant)	66.0	61.2	75.0	30.4	61.8
Sports (as a spectator)	49.9	44.9	58.1	25.4	47.3
Volunteer work	36.6	38.9	34.1	44.8	39.0
Student leaderships groups/activities	26.9	30.4	23.4	30.6	26.8
Arts/cultural/music groups/activities	26.7	31.2	19.5	54.4	26.4
Youth groups/activities	17.2	15.8	17.5	35.7	20.4
Religious groups/activities	14.0	15.0	13.1	13.4	17.3
Environmental groups/activities	7.1	6.3	7.0	19.6	6.9
Political groups/activities	3.8	2.5	3.9	21.1	3.6
None of the above	12.6	14.0	10.0	14.9	14.4

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

Table 36: Activities young people find hard to do

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4173	2043	1870	150	16612
Fit in and socialise with everyone? (<i>e.g., at school, work or socially</i>)	30.0	35.1	21.2	64.2	29.6
Turn to friends and family if you need help?	29.8	34.1	23.0	52.3	29.5
Turn to services/organisations if you need help?	22.0	23.8	17.7	43.3	20.8
Make choices and feel independent?	21.7	25.3	16.2	33.8	22.5
Do everyday activities as young people your age usually do?	19.4	21.4	13.9	55.7	20.0
Do things in public places with friends? (<i>e.g., go to shopping centres, sporting or music events</i>)	15.9	16.1	13.4	41.7	16.3
Travel around the community? (<i>e.g., using footpaths or public transport</i>)	9.6	10.2	7.0	27.6	9.9
None of the above	43.3	37.5	52.6	12.2	43.9

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

Table 37: Feelings young people have about their community

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
I am proud to be part of my community (Base)	4126	2011	1850	149	16119
Strongly agree/agree	53.9	55.0	55.8	28.3	51.5
Mixed feelings	36.3	36.9	34.0	48.3	37.3
Disagree/strongly disagree	9.9	8.2	10.2	23.4	11.3
Young people in my community have a say on issues that matter to them (Base)	4117	2009	1846	147	16120
Strongly agree/agree	39.5	39.2	41.2	24.9	36.2
Mixed feelings	39.2	40.2	38.1	40.4	40.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	21.2	20.6	20.7	34.7	22.9
My community has the things that I need to have a positive and thriving future (Base)	4121	2011	1848	149	16119
Strongly agree/agree	54.8	55.0	57.0	29.9	49.7
Mixed feelings	33.9	34.9	32.5	37.8	36.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	11.3	10.1	10.5	32.3	13.6

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4251	2071	1916	151	16899
Yes – both spiritual and cultural beliefs	17.4	19.8	15.0	16.9	18.5
Yes – spiritual beliefs	17.8	17.5	17.6	23.6	19.9
Yes – cultural beliefs	12.7	12.5	13.0	9.5	11.7
No spiritual or cultural beliefs	52.2	50.2	54.4	50.0	50.0

UNFAIR TREATMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

Table 39: Unfair treatment or discrimination in the past year

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4294	2084	1941	151	17089
Yes	28.7	30.1	23.4	71.6	29.7
No	71.3	69.9	76.6	28.4	70.3

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	1213	616	450	107	4990
Physical appearance	34.6	32.4	35.9	40.2	37.5
Race/cultural background	32.9	29.0	39.3	31.1	33.4
Gender	26.7	28.3	14.0	65.7	25.6
Personal views	24.9	24.1	22.2	40.3	25.1
Mental health	21.7	22.9	14.8	45.7	22.5
Sexuality	19.8	15.7	13.8	64.0	17.1
Age	14.1	13.7	13.1	22.3	13.8
Religion	10.5	11.2	8.7	15.4	13.8
Disability	9.9	7.0	7.2	36.7	10.3
Financial background	5.6	3.2	6.7	15.0	6.8
Other	6.0	5.6	7.6	3.3	7.8
I'm not sure	9.0	10.9	7.7	4.2	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 VIC frequency.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Table 41: Feelings young people have about alcohol

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Alcohol is a problem in Australia (Base)	4272	2075	1929	152	16940
Strongly agree/agree	55.3	59.7	50.1	66.1	54.5
Neither agree nor disagree	31.1	32.2	30.9	18.2	31.1
Disagree/strongly disagree	13.6	8.2	19.0	15.7	14.4
Alcohol is a problem in my community (Base)	4233	2050	1918	150	16793
Strongly agree/agree	25.6	26.8	24.1	35.0	28.7
Neither agree nor disagree	38.3	40.6	35.3	39.0	37.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	36.1	32.5	40.7	26.1	33.5
Alcohol is a problem for my family/friends (Base)	4246	2063	1919	147	16820
Strongly agree/agree	16.6	17.4	14.6	32.4	18.3
Neither agree nor disagree	21.0	21.2	21.3	16.2	23.2
Disagree/strongly disagree	62.4	61.4	64.1	51.5	58.5

Table 42: Feelings young people have about drugs

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Drugs are a problem in Australia (Base)	4246	2062	1917	151	16798
Strongly agree/agree	65.1	68.3	62.2	63.2	64.1
Neither agree nor disagree	24.7	25.2	24.5	20.9	25.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	10.2	6.5	13.3	15.9	10.1
Drugs are a problem in my community (Base)	4224	2045	1915	149	16737
Strongly agree/agree	31.9	31.2	31.8	39.3	35.1
Neither agree nor disagree	32.9	35.4	30.3	34.7	32.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	35.2	33.3	37.9	26.0	32.1
Drugs are a problem for my family/friends (Base)	4229	2048	1915	150	16718
Strongly agree/agree	11.9	11.7	11.3	20.3	13.3
Neither agree nor disagree	15.8	14.7	17.1	17.1	18.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	72.3	73.6	71.6	62.6	67.9

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

	VIC %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %	National %
Base	4200	2038	1895	152	16536
From my teachers or at school	62.4	67.1	57.3	67.1	59.6
In the media, via news or advertising	45.8	49.8	41.5	49.1	43.0
Online, via social media	45.0	47.4	42.3	48.6	41.6
From my parent(s) or guardian(s)	42.8	43.8	42.5	41.2	40.0
From my peers or friends	33.9	34.9	32.9	36.8	30.5
Online, via websites	30.9	29.9	31.3	39.2	29.3
Via a public awareness campaign	26.5	28.0	23.9	39.1	25.4
From other family members	24.9	25.2	25.4	18.7	24.7
From health professionals	18.9	18.1	18.8	32.2	19.7
Other	1.1	0.7	1.3	3.3	1.6
None of the above, I have not accessed information	15.6	12.9	19.1	7.3	18.1

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

Thank you

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

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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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