



YOUTH SURVEY REPORT 2024

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the **Western Australia (WA)** sub-report of the Mission Australia *Youth Survey Report 2024*. It is based on the responses of 996 young people in **WA** 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 **WA** 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. **WA** 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.

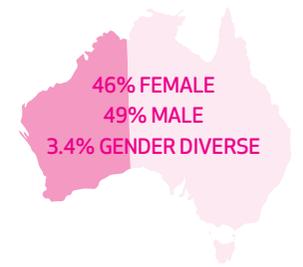
A special thank you to the young people who shared with us in the 2024 Youth Survey. We appreciate the views they shared on current issues and personal concerns, as well as their responses to questions relating to housing and finance, education and employment, community and supports, and mental health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

Western Australia

KEY FINDINGS

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



Biggest personal challenge

- 1 School and study, **37%**
(51% in 2023, 43% in 2022)
- 2 Mental health, **22%**
(23% in 2023, 25% in 2022)
- 3 Personal relationships, **17%**
(19% in 2023, 19% in 2022)

Housing, homelessness and financial situation

89% of young people lived with their parents or guardians

Of those living elsewhere, **22%** lived at their boarding school and **19%** lived alone

21% worried about having a safe place to stay in the past year

41% said that they and their families had to be careful with money

Education and employment

73% of respondents were studying full time

94% planned to complete Year 12

After school, **49%** planned to go to university and **38%** planned to get a job

46% were in paid work

Wellbeing

47% of respondents reported feeling happy with their life

50% felt completely or mostly in control of their life

However, **27%** felt lonely all or most of the time in the past four weeks

28% were classified as having high psychological distress

Support and connectedness

59% of young people would go to friends and **52%** to parents/guardians for help with important issues in their lives

However, **35%** found it hard to fit in and socialise with everyone

41% felt proud to be a part of their community

31% felt that young people in their community have a say on issues that matter to them

Unfair treatment and discrimination

39% of respondents reported being treated unfairly or discriminated against in the past year

Physical appearance (**40%**), race/cultural background (**35%**) and mental health (**29%**) were the top reasons for discrimination

Alcohol and drugs

61% of young people believed that alcohol and **66%** believed that drugs are a problem in Australia

28% reported that alcohol was a problem for their family or friends, **20%** for drugs

52% accessed information about the risk of alcohol or drug use from their teachers and schools, **37%** via news or advertising and **36%** from social media



Western 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, 57%
(28% in 2023, 23% in 2022)

"[The biggest personal challenge I faced in the past year was] the cost of living being too high making it difficult to afford basic necessities."

Female, 15, Western Australia

2

Housing and homelessness, 25%
(20% in 2023, 9.7% in 2022)

"Reach out for support, at first it could be confronting and feel distressing. I have reached out to youth support services, and it has helped me to be able to find temporary accommodation or support finding somewhere to stay."

Transgender, 17, Western Australia

3

Discrimination and inequality, 24%
(36% in 2023, 34% in 2022)

4

Climate change and the environment, 23%
(40% in 2023, 52% in 2022)



PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Gender

	WA %	National %
Base	1824	17212
Female	45.7	46.4
Male	49.4	49.5
Gender diverse [^]	3.4	3.0
Prefer not to say	1.5	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1794	813	864	61	16917
Non-Indigenous	90.1	91.3	89.3	83.7	92.3
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	9.9	8.7	10.7	16.3	7.7
Aboriginal	8.7	7.9	9.5	10.4	6.0
Torres Strait Islander	0.9	0.4	1.2	3.0	0.9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.3	0.5	0.0	3.0	0.8

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

Table 3: Identify with a cultural or ethnic identity

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1758	800	842	60	16728
Yes	23.9	26.7	21.8	17.9	24.4
No	76.1	73.3	78.2	82.1	75.6

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

Table 4: Spoke a language other than English

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1732	799	819	60	16710
Yes	24.2	25.8	23.3	13.2	22.9
No, English only	75.8	74.2	76.7	86.8	77.1

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

Table 5: Identify as a person with disability

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1704	796	796	59	16572
Yes, I have disability	10.6	7.0	9.9	56.3	8.7
No	84.1	88.8	84.3	35.9	86.3
Prefer not to say	5.3	4.2	5.8	7.7	5.1

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

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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1691	786	793	59	16506
Yes, I have a mental health condition	18.2	19.4	12.7	62.2	15.9
No	68.0	66.6	75.0	13.4	72.6
Prefer not to say	13.8	14.0	12.4	24.4	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1577	737	729	57	15052
School and study	37.3	42.0	34.1	27.9	44.7
Mental health	22.0	28.8	14.6	35.6	19.6
Personal relationships	17.5	18.6	15.1	28.7	20.6
Finance and housing	9.8	8.5	10.1	25.4	5.6
Physical health	5.4	6.9	4.1	1.4	5.3
Other (includes various low frequency challenges not listed above)	18.3	13.6	23.5	12.8	14.6
Not sure/no challenges identified	7.2	6.2	7.8	0.0	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 WA 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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	National %
School and study challenge (Base)	582	309	243	6689
Entertainment and recreation	44.4	45.3	44.5	41.9
Sleeping	40.2	40.8	39.7	43.5
Being more organised	39.6	42.1	39.0	42.6
Studying	37.8	38.6	39.6	37.2
Taking a break	37.3	43.6	30.6	42.0
Mental health challenge (Base)	343	211	104	2936
Entertainment and recreation	50.3	48.9	51.3	53.2
Distracting myself	45.6	47.2	42.6	48.4
Sleeping	40.3	40.3	41.6	45.2
Self-care	38.8	43.4	29.8	42.9
Reaching out to friends	37.3	35.1	38.9	36.2
Personal relationships challenge (Base)	276	137	110	3102
Entertainment and recreation	44.0	47.0	37.6	49.9
Reaching out to friends	38.8	40.3	33.6	41.2
Distracting myself	35.6	38.7	26.8	49.1
Sleeping	34.7	38.5	32.3	41.7
Self-care	24.7	29.0	18.9	36.6

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

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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Cost of living	39.5	41.6	34.4	71.2	34.0
School or study problems	33.1	41.8	23.9	39.8	34.5
Mental health	31.5	39.5	22.1	52.3	28.0
Coping with stress	30.8	43.0	17.9	41.8	30.1
Body image	27.6	36.7	17.2	46.4	25.3
Physical health	20.9	23.3	17.8	26.2	18.8
Climate change	17.9	21.1	12.9	28.7	15.9
Discrimination	17.9	20.0	13.7	41.9	13.3
Social media use	16.3	19.6	13.1	29.5	15.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	16.3	18.1	12.5	36.3	12.4
Domestic/family violence	16.3	20.7	10.3	37.7	10.1
Personal safety	16.3	16.8	13.9	39.5	11.5
Global conflicts	16.2	19.2	12.2	27.4	16.5
Suicide	15.4	17.5	11.2	32.9	13.7
Artificial intelligence	12.2	13.1	9.9	26.2	10.2
LGBTIQA+^ issues	11.7	10.0	9.4	63.5	9.8
Vaping/e-cigarettes	10.9	10.4	9.8	26.5	10.2
Alcohol and other drugs	9.2	9.7	8.4	18.7	7.5

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

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

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

NATIONAL ISSUES

Table 10: Top 10 most important issues in Australia today

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1526	711	715	49	15044
Cost of living	56.9	59.8	54.2	59.9	56.2
Housing and homelessness	24.7	22.0	27.2	35.0	17.0
Discrimination and inequality	23.7	26.1	19.5	39.9	21.7
Climate change and the environment	23.3	24.8	22.6	13.8	26.6
Mental health	21.1	26.7	14.0	33.4	23.3
Violence, safety and crime	19.9	24.0	16.2	9.1	25.3
Alcohol and other drugs	17.9	19.3	17.1	11.2	16.7
Education	8.1	7.7	8.7	10.7	7.5
Employment	7.0	4.9	8.5	11.2	4.3
Global affairs	6.1	4.9	8.2	0.0	7.1

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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1859	834	899	61	17434
Studying full-time	72.9	78.6	70.1	59.0	80.8
Studying part-time	9.2	7.2	9.5	11.7	9.1
Not studying	17.8	14.2	20.4	29.3	10.1

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

Table 12: Satisfaction with studies

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1514	712	712	42	15547
Very satisfied or satisfied	55.3	56.8	55.6	49.9	61.2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	34.2	32.5	35.1	33.5	29.4
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	10.4	10.7	9.3	16.6	9.4

Base: Respondents currently studying.

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

Table 13: Plan to complete Year 12

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1395	666	652	39	14807
Yes	93.6	97.8	90.4	88.6	95.2
No	6.4	2.2	9.6	11.4	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1404	670	655	39	14913
Go to university	48.8	63.0	35.5	40.7	61.4
Get a job	38.4	39.9	37.3	41.2	36.7
Travel/gap year	24.1	35.4	13.4	16.1	26.6
Go to TAFE or college	22.0	20.5	23.9	28.1	11.9
Get an apprenticeship	16.1	9.3	24.0	9.4	12.8
Join the defence force or emergency services	9.0	7.3	10.8	11.4	8.1
Do something in the creative and/or performing arts	8.0	9.4	4.9	25.1	6.8
Become a professional athlete	7.6	4.2	11.3	6.7	7.1
Start a business	7.5	8.7	6.8	0.0	9.3
Other	1.3	1.2	0.4	9.4	1.5
Not sure	10.2	5.6	13.6	11.4	7.7
No choices are available to me	0.5	0.0	1.0	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 WA 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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1359	656	635	33	14713
Yes	36.0	38.4	33.0	63.7	28.8
No	64.0	61.6	67.0	36.3	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	490	252	209	4182
Lack of motivation	37.7	40.3	34.1	37.3
Mental health	29.9	33.3	22.6	33.4
Lack of confidence	28.9	31.4	23.6	31.2
Academic ability	27.5	28.9	25.2	26.7
Financial difficulties	26.1	35.2	15.2	29.3
Transport	18.0	16.9	17.1	13.3
Family responsibilities	16.3	15.8	18.2	12.3
Where you live	15.4	14.3	16.2	18.2
Lack of information	13.6	14.3	11.5	11.7
Lack of jobs	11.7	14.4	9.2	10.5
Lack of family support	11.2	14.0	5.8	8.7
Physical health	10.0	9.4	10.7	8.5
Admission/job requirements	9.3	10.0	9.0	10.4
Discrimination	8.5	5.2	8.7	5.4
Lack of school support	7.8	11.0	2.6	8.6
Lack of stable housing	6.9	9.0	4.5	5.7
Disability	4.3	3.3	4.4	8.9
Cultural responsibilities	2.6	1.5	4.3	3.1
Other	6.9	6.4	7.6	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 WA frequency.

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

Table 17: Participation in paid employment

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1849	829	895	61	17437
Permanent employee	4.0	3.9	3.4	13.3	4.3
Casual employee	41.7	42.5	41.1	31.6	47.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.6	33.9	37.4	43.9	28.9
Not in paid employment, not looking for work	18.6	19.7	18.1	11.1	19.2

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

Table 18: Employment type

	WA %	Female %	Male %	National %
Base	826	381	382	8953
Working full-time	3.8	3.6	2.8	1.9
Working part-time	96.2	96.4	97.2	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1817	823	874	60	16975
A home owned or rented by me or someone I live with	84.8	84.7	84.8	83.3	90.5
Public/social housing	5.3	4.1	6.9	4.6	2.3
Boarding school	4.1	7.7	1.0	0.0	4.0
Out-of-home care	1.4	0.5	2.6	0.0	0.7
Somewhere else	4.3	3.0	4.7	12.1	2.5

Note: Items are listed in order of WA 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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1814	819	873	61	17032
Living with parent(s) or guardian(s)	89.3	86.6	93.3	64.6	94.6
Living somewhere else	10.7	13.4	6.7	35.4	5.4

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

Table 21: Living somewhere else in the past three months

	WA %	Female %	Male %*	National %
Base	195	110	59	906
Other students at my boarding school	21.6	32.5	10.9	41.0
I live alone	19.3	13.0	36.7	11.5
Non-related person e.g. share house	13.0	10.7	13.8	9.8
Friend(s)	12.1	8.4	13.8	10.0
Relatives/siblings	11.7	13.4	4.6	11.3
Partner or significant other	7.9	9.2	9.2	7.1
Foster parent(s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Other	14.3	12.8	11.2	8.2

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

Note: Items are listed in order of WA 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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1789	814	857	60	16960
Yes, in the last year	7.2	6.2	6.0	27.5	3.0
Yes, but not in the last year	7.6	7.7	7.3	16.5	5.7
No	85.2	86.1	86.7	56.0	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1793	816	857	60	16985
Yes, in the last year	12.9	14.0	9.5	46.9	7.4
Yes, but not in the last year	9.7	11.4	7.4	16.5	6.2
No	77.5	74.6	83.2	36.6	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1799	813	866	60	17024
Yes	20.9	20.9	17.5	43.8	11.2
No	79.1	79.1	82.5	56.2	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1783	819	844	61	16647
Had to be careful with money	41.3	44.2	36.7	68.1	34.5
Had trouble paying for things	25.0	27.5	20.5	51.9	17.9
Sought financial help from family, friends or a charity	13.8	13.5	12.1	41.7	8.4
Went without essential goods or services (<i>e.g., medical appointments, groceries</i>)	13.4	13.3	12.9	32.6	5.7
Could not pay bills or car expenses	13.4	14.6	11.1	26.8	6.8
Could not pay rent/mortgage	10.1	9.9	9.6	26.8	4.9
Went without a meal(s)	9.7	9.4	9.3	28.3	4.4
Could not afford school fees, supplies or excursions	9.0	7.4	8.9	35.7	6.5
Other	1.0	0.6	1.4	1.3	1.0
I'm not sure	12.5	8.7	16.2	4.3	11.4
No, none of the above	41.7	41.8	43.2	26.1	49.4

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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1706	781	807	61	16429
Yes, Mission Australia and/or a different charity or foundation (e.g. <i>The Salvation Army, The Smith Family, Beyond Blue</i>)	7.9	6.1	9.0	12.9	3.9
No, but I needed support or assistance	5.7	5.4	3.9	29.6	3.3
No, I did not need support or assistance from a charity or foundation	53.6	59.5	49.3	42.8	68.5
I'm not sure	32.8	29.0	37.7	14.6	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1786	812	855	61	17061
Very happy or happy (70-100)	47.1	45.7	50.7	24.7	57.0
Not happy or sad (40-60)	39.3	43.3	35.7	31.6	33.9
Sad or very sad (0-30)	13.6	11.1	13.6	43.7	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1737	792	827	61	16889
Complete control	9.8	7.0	13.1	8.7	9.8
Mostly in control	39.7	40.4	40.5	18.9	46.6
Some control	35.4	37.5	32.8	40.3	33.2
Almost no control	12.6	12.8	11.3	26.2	8.3
No control	2.4	2.4	2.4	5.9	2.0

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

Table 29: Level of loneliness in the past four weeks

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1751	798	837	61	16932
None of the time	16.4	11.9	21.5	8.6	21.5
A little of the time	27.4	26.6	28.5	23.3	29.2
Some of the time	28.9	34.0	24.8	24.7	28.5
Most of the time	20.4	22.4	17.4	27.3	15.8
All of the time	6.8	5.0	7.8	16.1	4.9

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

Table 30: Feelings about the future

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1762	802	846	58	16930
Very positive or positive	39.4	37.5	43.1	27.6	47.1
Neither positive nor negative	38.0	42.0	34.6	34.0	34.2
Negative or very negative	22.7	20.5	22.2	38.4	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1756	808	831	61	16764
Yes	19.4	22.4	15.2	28.4	19.7
No	49.6	42.5	58.7	39.2	53.5
I'm not sure	31.0	35.1	26.1	32.4	26.8

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

Table 32: Level of psychological distress

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1792	807	869	61	16628
Low psychological distress	42.9	32.9	54.5	16.1	50.1
Moderate psychological distress	29.2	33.6	25.7	27.2	28.3
High psychological distress	27.9	33.5	19.8	56.8	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1813	827	865	61	17126
Friend(s)	59.0	63.1	54.8	65.3	63.6
Parent(s) or guardian(s)	51.6	52.5	52.6	22.7	58.7
Brother/sister	32.4	37.3	30.6	8.5	32.9
Internet	21.7	16.8	25.2	36.0	20.2
Pet(s)	21.5	27.3	14.6	32.9	23.7
Relative(s)	21.3	22.2	22.1	4.4	27.7
Partner or significant other	19.0	20.5	16.6	33.3	21.1
GP or health professional	17.1	22.2	10.2	39.4	17.2
Community service	13.7	10.1	15.2	32.5	5.0
Teacher/coach	12.5	12.6	12.5	11.2	16.9
Social media	11.7	12.3	9.3	28.6	13.2
Mobile apps	9.1	8.5	8.2	23.4	8.1
School counsellor	8.1	7.7	7.8	16.1	11.0
Spiritual/religious mentor	7.8	7.7	7.1	10.4	6.4
Other	2.8	2.0	3.2	5.9	2.7
None of the above, I would keep the issue to myself	12.3	11.2	13.3	10.2	11.6

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

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

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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1764	800	848	60	16958
Excellent	15.7	13.9	19.0	6.1	19.1
Very good	22.1	21.6	23.0	5.7	29.4
Good	26.7	25.1	28.6	16.4	25.2
Fair	19.1	20.8	18.0	16.0	16.3
Poor	16.3	18.7	11.3	55.8	9.9

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

Table 35: Activities involved in during the past year

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1807	821	869	60	17012
Sports (as a participant)	47.7	51.1	47.7	21.8	61.8
Sports (as a spectator)	37.7	35.4	41.7	20.7	47.3
Volunteer work	28.0	33.9	21.9	23.2	39.0
Arts/cultural/music groups/activities	24.1	30.5	15.6	41.1	26.4
Youth groups/activities	22.4	20.6	23.2	40.3	20.4
Student leaderships groups/activities	19.1	26.5	12.9	13.3	26.8
Religious groups/activities	15.2	15.3	15.2	10.3	17.3
Environmental groups/activities	8.7	6.9	10.5	6.0	6.9
Political groups/activities	3.6	3.4	3.8	3.0	3.6
None of the above	23.0	18.0	27.6	28.1	14.4

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

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

Table 36: Activities young people find hard to do

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1775	818	836	61	16612
Fit in and socialise with everyone? (e.g., at school, work or socially)	34.8	38.2	28.0	65.6	29.6
Turn to friends and family if you need help?	33.7	41.1	24.9	58.1	29.5
Make choices and feel independent?	30.6	35.2	24.6	42.4	22.5
Do everyday activities as young people your age usually do?	25.2	29.2	18.1	56.8	20.0
Turn to services/organisations if you need help?	24.6	28.9	17.9	57.0	20.8
Do things in public places with friends? (e.g., go to shopping centres, sporting or music events)	20.3	19.0	20.3	33.8	16.3
Travel around the community? (e.g., using footpaths or public transport)	14.3	14.3	12.8	33.8	9.9
None of the above	35.5	26.8	46.1	21.7	43.9

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

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

Table 37: Feelings young people have about their community

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
I am proud to be part of my community (Base)	1674	774	786	60	16119
Strongly agree/agree	40.7	46.9	36.5	17.3	51.5
Mixed feelings	43.4	39.0	46.3	58.6	37.3
Disagree/strongly disagree	15.9	14.2	17.3	24.0	11.3
Young people in my community have a say on issues that matter to them (Base)	1661	771	775	60	16120
Strongly agree/agree	30.6	33.9	27.3	25.4	36.2
Mixed feelings	43.8	41.4	46.3	40.4	40.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	25.6	24.7	26.3	34.2	22.9
My community has the things that I need to have a positive and thriving future (Base)	1666	774	778	60	16119
Strongly agree/agree	36.4	40.7	33.2	23.7	49.7
Mixed feelings	44.4	40.8	48.1	44.9	36.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	19.2	18.5	18.7	31.4	13.6

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

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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1803	817	865	61	16899
Yes – both spiritual and cultural beliefs	16.2	19.2	13.4	8.8	18.5
Yes – spiritual beliefs	18.5	20.2	15.7	27.3	19.9
Yes – cultural beliefs	12.3	12.4	12.8	4.4	11.7
No spiritual or cultural beliefs	53.0	48.1	58.1	59.5	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1825	820	883	61	17089
Yes	39.0	42.0	32.9	79.6	29.7
No	61.0	58.0	67.1	20.4	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	697	340	280	49	4990
Physical appearance	39.9	37.6	39.0	54.9	37.5
Race/cultural background	35.5	37.2	37.5	14.6	33.4
Mental health	29.4	27.3	24.0	62.2	22.5
Gender	26.5	28.8	12.2	84.2	25.6
Personal views	26.0	20.7	26.8	54.8	25.1
Sexuality	18.7	15.0	11.8	75.2	17.1
Age	17.7	18.2	13.5	38.9	13.8
Religion	15.7	14.0	15.9	22.1	13.8
Disability	12.0	4.3	15.1	41.7	10.3
Financial background	11.2	9.7	12.2	13.0	6.8
Other	8.6	6.2	11.2	11.2	7.8
I'm not sure	8.6	10.4	7.5	0.0	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 WA frequency.

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

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Table 41: Feelings young people have about alcohol

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Alcohol is a problem in Australia (Base)	1808	820	869	61	16940
Strongly agree/agree	61.0	64.2	57.9	63.8	54.5
Neither agree nor disagree	27.2	28.5	26.1	20.2	31.1
Disagree/strongly disagree	11.9	7.3	16.0	16.0	14.4
Alcohol is a problem in my community (Base)	1792	815	860	60	16793
Strongly agree/agree	42.2	43.0	41.6	47.0	28.7
Neither agree nor disagree	34.8	35.8	33.7	31.1	37.9
Disagree/strongly disagree	23.0	21.2	24.6	21.9	33.5
Alcohol is a problem for my family/friends (Base)	1786	812	855	61	16820
Strongly agree/agree	28.3	29.4	25.9	40.8	18.3
Neither agree nor disagree	25.3	25.0	25.5	28.9	23.2
Disagree/strongly disagree	46.5	45.6	48.6	30.3	58.5

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

Table 42: Feelings young people have about drugs

	WA	Female	Male	Gender diverse	National
	%	%	%	%*	%
Drugs are a problem in Australia (Base)	1780	807	854	61	16798
Strongly agree/agree	66.2	69.6	62.5	68.5	64.1
Neither agree nor disagree	25.1	26.3	25.2	12.8	25.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	8.7	4.1	12.2	18.6	10.1
Drugs are a problem in my community (Base)	1776	803	854	61	16737
Strongly agree/agree	48.5	45.9	50.5	60.0	35.1
Neither agree nor disagree	28.1	29.3	28.1	17.3	32.8
Disagree/strongly disagree	23.3	24.8	21.4	22.8	32.1
Drugs are a problem for my family/friends (Base)	1775	807	851	61	16718
Strongly agree/agree	20.2	21.4	18.8	34.7	13.3
Neither agree nor disagree	21.6	20.8	21.3	39.4	18.7
Disagree/strongly disagree	58.2	57.7	59.9	26.0	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

	WA %	Female %	Male %	Gender diverse %*	National %
Base	1743	798	826	61	16536
From my teachers or at school	52.3	60.2	46.2	34.4	59.6
In the media, via news or advertising	37.0	43.1	30.6	39.3	43.0
Online, via social media	36.2	41.2	33.3	31.7	41.6
From my parent(s) or guardian(s)	33.6	40.1	29.1	14.3	40.0
Online, via websites	28.5	30.6	27.2	30.5	29.3
From my peers or friends	26.2	31.2	21.7	31.9	30.5
From other family members	22.8	25.7	20.9	13.0	24.7
Via a public awareness campaign	21.8	24.9	19.7	17.3	25.4
From health professionals	18.9	20.0	18.9	16.1	19.7
Other	3.4	2.9	4.0	5.9	1.6
None of the above, I have not accessed information	20.4	15.3	24.4	24.7	18.1

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