

"Better school counselling and less stressful workload in the senior school years of high school."

F, 15, SA

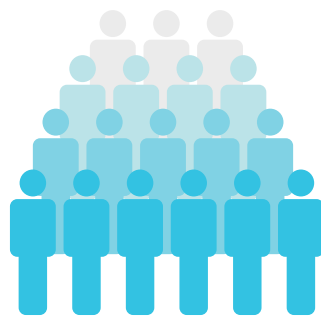
Youth Survey 2017

In 2017 Mission Australia conducted its 16th annual survey of young people aged 15-19. The survey is distributed nationally through schools and organisations and aims to identify young people's values and concerns.

24,055

respondents

aged 15-19 years



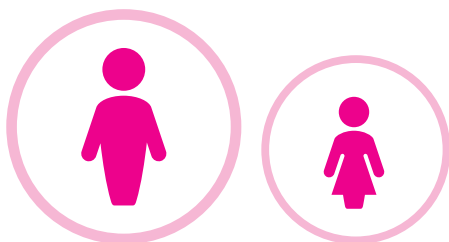
57.5% 

39.6% 

5.3% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



4 in 10 young people indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals with **9.7%** reporting that they were **extremely confident** and **30.5%** reporting that they were **very confident**.



A **higher proportion of males (45.4%)** than females (36.6%) feel confident that they can achieve their post-school goals.

Top issues identified in Australia today

all have **increased** since 2015



Mental health

33.7%



Alcohol and drugs

32.0%



Equity and discrimination

27.3%

From 2015 to 2017 the proportion of those indicating **mental health as a national concern** rose from

14.9% to **33.7%**

Top 3 barriers

Over half (51.6%) indicated that there would be barriers to achieving their study or work goals after school.



Academic ability

22.0%



Financial difficulty

14.2%



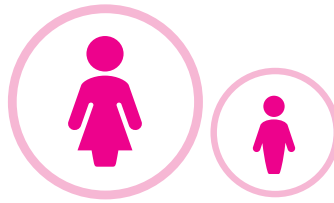
Mental health

13.2%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people provided similar responses in their levels of confidence and their perceived barriers compared to their non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peers.



the proportion of females (16.9%) than males (7.4%) indicated that **mental health** was a barrier to their achievements after school.



Twice the proportion of females (17.9%) compared to males (8.9%) indicated that **financial difficulty was a barrier** which may impact on their achievements after school.



Over 1 in 4 female respondents (26.2%) saw **academic ability** as a barrier which may impact on their achievements after school, compared to 16.3% of male respondents.

"Provide opportunities for me to have conversations with people I am comfortable talking to like close friends, trusted teachers or family."

M, 15, VIC

Young people need access to:

- ✓ Opportunities to re-engage with education
- ✓ Effective careers guidance and support to overcome barriers to employment
- ✓ Age appropriate mental health supports and drug and alcohol programs
- ✓ Safe and affordable accommodation
- ✓ Wraparound holistic support services

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](https://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

To download the report:  missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurveyreport