



national survey of young australians 2010

key and emerging issues

YOUNG PEOPLE

Contents

Foreword	1
Introduction	2
Executive summary	3
National summary	6
Indigenous young people summary	20
Australian Capital Territory summary	30
New South Wales summary	43
Northern Territory summary	56
Queensland summary	69
South Australia summary	83
Tasmania summary	96
Victoria summary	108
Western Australia summary	122
Acknowledgments	136

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Foreword

NATIONAL SURVEY OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS 2010

Mission Australia is very pleased to offer the 9th National Survey of Young Australians as a valuable information tool indicating the thinking of our young people.

The 2010 survey is a comprehensive resource which captures the thoughts of over 50,000 young Australians who have willingly shared their thoughts and feelings regarding a range of topics.

In my experience of working with young people in a Christian context I have always found them to be honest and forthright as they wrestle with issues impacting their lives and the environment surrounding them. This survey gives a grand overview of Australian young people's deep and serious thinking about very important topics that impact them, their friends and their families.

Mission Australia has a long and distinguished history working with young people and one of our guiding principles is to assist them to live in a mature and healthy way during these important years of their lives.

As you spend time considering the trends and themes that emerge in these pages I trust you will be better informed and more clearly focused in offering support to our wonderful Australian young people.

Bruce Eagles

National Chaplain



Introduction

INTRODUCTION

In 2010 Mission Australia conducted its ninth annual survey of young Australians. The primary purpose of the survey, as in previous years, was to identify both the values and issues of concern to young people. This year the latter included both the personal concerns of young people and the issues they identified for Australia as a whole. There was also a new question that asked young people how they felt about the future.

PARTICIPATION

50,240 young people aged 11 to 24 participated in the survey in 2010, the largest number of respondents in the survey's history. 7,577 completed the survey online, with the remainder being completed in hard copy.

AREAS OF FOCUS

The survey was deliberately kept brief (19 questions) in order to encourage a large response from a diversity of young people. Seven questions sought respondents' views on a variety of issues, such as what they value, their issues of concern, who they turn to for advice and support and what activities they are involved in. The remaining questions collected demographic information including age, gender, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification, state/territory location, postcode and disability status.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was distributed to a range of organisations, including all secondary schools and public and tertiary libraries in Australia. It was also distributed to all Mission Australia services as well as to a large network of other service providers, Commonwealth, State/Territory and local government departments, youth organisations, peak bodies and corporate partners. An online version of the survey was also available on a variety of websites.

The questions relating to what young people value, their personal concerns and their sources of advice presented respondents with a list of options which they were asked to rank in order of importance. The data reported for these questions are the proportion of respondents who ranked each item first, second or third. This methodology follows that of previous years and enables comparisons with previous survey results.

Three new questions were introduced in 2010. The first asked what young people thought were the three most important issues in Australia today and answers were categorised and reported in order of frequency. The second question asked respondents to indicate from a list of options how they felt about the future. The survey also asked what young people thought might be done about their major issue of concern. Responses from this question are not included in this report but will be analysed early in 2011.

THIS REPORT

This report contains an executive summary as well as summaries at the national level and for each state/territory. There is also a chapter that compares responses from Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents. Each of the chapters contains a breakdown of the key data by age and gender.



Executive summary

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Responses to the survey were received from 50,240 young people living in a range of communities across Australia. Around 60% were living in a capital city with the remainder in other areas of each state and territory. The largest proportion of respondents was aged 15 to 19 (51.0%), followed by those aged 11 to 14 (46.8%) and a small number of respondents aged 20 to 24 (2.3%). Slightly more females than males participated in the survey (53.9% compared with 46.1%). 2,381 surveys were returned by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and 7,979 from those who spoke a language other than English at home. 1,575 respondents indicated they had a disability.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE VALUE

Family relationships and *friendships* were the top two items valued by young people. This was the case for both genders and all age groups. About three quarters of respondents highly valued *family relationships* and about 60% valued *friendships*. *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by a third of respondents, while *school or study satisfaction* was valued by 29.3% of respondents, up from 22.0% in 2009. Young adults aged 20 to 24 were much more likely than those aged 11 to 19 to highly value *financial security* while males were much more likely than females to highly value *getting a job*.

ISSUES OF PERSONAL CONCERN

Nationally, the top three issues of personal concern were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*. Eight issues were of significant concern to at least one in five young people. Just under a third of respondents indicated *body image* was a major concern, with the proportion concerned about it increasing with age, from 28.1% of 11 to 14 year olds to 40.3% of 20 to 24 year olds. Over a quarter (27.3%) of respondents identified *coping with stress* as a major issue, well above the 2009 figure of 18.7%. One in five 11 to 14 year olds increasing to 44.8% of 20 to 24 year olds indicated it was a major concern.

Concern about *school or study problems* also rose this year, from 17.3% in 2009 to 25.5%. It was an issue for both genders and a particular concern for the 15 to 19 years group. Concern about *depression* was greatest amongst the young adult group with a third of them identifying it as a major concern. Males were much more likely than females to be concerned about *alcohol* and *drugs*. Concern about *drugs* was higher for the youngest age group than it was for older respondents.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA TODAY

This year a new question was introduced that asked young people to indicate three issues they thought were the most important in Australia today. *The environment* was by far the most frequently mentioned topic with 45.7% of respondents identifying it as a major issue. It was a top two issue for all age groups and both genders and was particularly important to 11 to 14 year olds (55.0%) and female respondents (50.8%).

The second top national issue was *alcohol and drugs* with 37.1% of young people indicating it was important. It was a top two issue for all ages and genders but was identified as important by a higher proportion of younger than older respondents (39.4% of 11 to 14 year olds compared with 25.1% of 20 to 24 year olds) and males than females (40.2% compared to 34.6%).

Around a fifth of respondents identified *crime, safety and violence*, *equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* as important issues facing Australia. Significant proportions of both genders and all age groups identified them as important.

WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE GO FOR ADVICE AND SUPPORT

The top three sources of advice and support for young people in 2010 were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* and this was true for all age groups and both genders. About 86% of respondents indicated *friends* were an important source of advice, while around three quarters identified *parents* and about 60% identified a *relative/family friend* as major sources of advice and support. The proportion identifying the *internet* continues to grow, with a quarter of all respondents indicating it was a top source of advice and support in 2010, up from one in ten in 2002. Around 40% of the young adult group identified the *internet* as a major source of advice.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Sports (as a participant), *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities* were the three most popular activities for respondents in 2010, with participation in all activities up from 2009 levels. Participation in *sports (as a participant)* declined with age, while the proportion taking part in *arts/cultural activities* and *volunteer work* increased with age. Close to half the young adult group was involved in *volunteer work*. Males were more likely than females to take part in *sports* activities and females more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural activities* and *volunteer work*.

THE FUTURE

The second new question in this year's survey asked young people how they felt about the future. Nearly two thirds of all respondents felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, and this was consistent across all age groups and genders. Less than one in ten young people felt either *negative* or *very negative* and around a quarter felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

SOME PRIORITY ISSUES

A number of priority issues emerged from this year's survey.

- 1. The environment:** *The environment* was clearly identified as a key national issue by a large proportion of young people. Qualitative responses indicate they believe urgent action is required on a number of fronts including: Australians of all ages taking personal responsibility for their behaviour and lifestyle and how it impacts on the environment; community and business awareness and action; and government leadership. Young people's responses urge for a whole of community approach.
- 2. Coping with stress:** The data indicates young people are juggling a range of competing demands and pressures. These often include relationships, education, employment and expectations from parents, peers, schools, the wider community as well as themselves, that they will achieve 'success' and increased independence and self-reliance. In combination, this can be stressful and is reflected in the increasing proportion of young people who identified *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *the economy and financial issues* as major issues. Many young people indicated they wanted to be able to manage their stress better, noting the potential negative consequences of not doing so, including a range of mental health issues. This highlights the need for equipping young people, including in early adolescence, with practical strategies to deal with stress when it occurs in their lives. Families, educational and youth organisations have a key role to play in this area. More broadly, the level of concern regarding this issue suggests there may be merit in a community discussion about the nature and source of stress that young people are experiencing.
- 3. Alcohol and drugs:** Young people identified *alcohol and drugs* as the second top issue facing Australia today. Areas for action include ensuring drug education programs are based on the evidence of what works and equip young people with the skills to effectively deal with this issue, if and when they come across drugs. While young people appear to identify *drugs* as a 'youth issue', their concern about *alcohol* appears to be broader and takes into account societal norms around its usage. Effective alcohol education campaigns need to engage not only young people but other key people in their lives as well as the wider community. Such campaigns need to be nuanced to reflect the different perspectives of young men and young women on this issue. The significant level of concern about *crime, safety and violence* reported by young people was often linked to *alcohol*, increasing the urgency for action in this area.

4. **Body image:** Young people's level of concern about this issue remains quite high, particularly among the young adult group who may have missed out on strategies more recently developed and implemented in schools to help young people develop a healthy body image. Initiatives such as those that promote young people's media literacy and self esteem were identified by young people as being important, with a stronger focus on young adults appearing warranted. Continued efforts to urge the media, fashion and advertising industries to help promote positive body messages are also recommended.
5. **Family:** The survey again confirms the importance of family to young people for both genders and all age groups continuing into young adulthood. *Family relationships* are what is most important to young people and they are major sources of advice and support when young people have a problem. It is not surprising then that young people also identified however that *family conflict* can have a profound influence on their wellbeing. Strategies that skill up parents, other family members and friends to openly communicate with young people, including through times of transition, family stress and change, are essential. A particular focus on early intervention, before conflict escalates, is important.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Over 50,000 young people from around Australia participated in the 2010 survey, providing unique insights on their values, personal concerns and the issues they see as important for the nation. As well as helping to inform governments, non government organisations and other institutions interested in the wellbeing of young people, these findings provide young Australians themselves with relevant information and opportunities for action and discussion in the contexts of their families, educational institutions, workplaces and communities. It is also hoped that the report will act as a stimulus for discussion for those closely involved in the lives of young people, such as parents, carers, friends and family members.



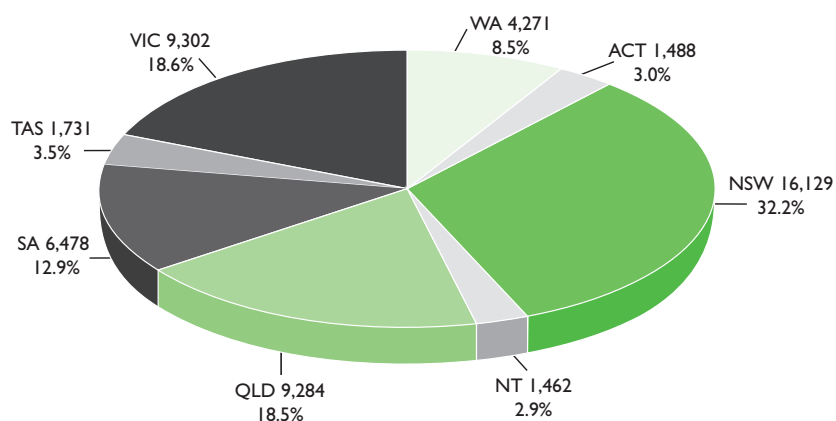
National summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

State and territory distribution

A total of 50,240 young people responded to Mission Australia's 2010 National Survey of Young Australians. Respondents came from across Australia and Figure 1 indicates the number and percentage of respondents received from each state/territory. There were 95 respondents who did not indicate which state/territory they lived in.

Figure 1: Percentage and number of respondents by state/territory



Age breakdown

The survey was open to young people aged 11 to 24 years and the results have been collated into three age groups. As Table 1 shows, the largest group was aged 15 to 19 years (51.0%), followed by those aged 11 to 14 (46.8%). As in previous years the smallest group of responses came from young adults aged 20 to 24 years (2.3%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	23,287	46.8
15-19 years	25,377	51.0
20-24 years	1,132	2.3
Total	49,796	100.0

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

A little over half of the respondents (53.9%) were female and 46.1% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

2,381 (4.8%) respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. As Table 2 shows, a slightly higher proportion (8.5%) of the young adult group identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	% of respondents	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	2,381	4.8	5.0	4.4	8.5
Non Indigenous	47,170	95.2	95.0	95.6	91.5

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 84% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 7,979 (15.9%) who indicated they spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 70 languages between them. The most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Arabic; Chinese; Vietnamese; Italian; Cantonese; Filipino/Tagalog; Greek; Spanish; Mandarin; French and Korean.

Disability

1,575 (3.2%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): learning disability; autism; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); physical disability; deafness or hearing impairment; blindness or vision impairment; and intellectual disability.

Where respondents were living

As in previous years, the vast majority of respondents (95.0%) lived *with family*. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

569 respondents were living in a *boarding school*, 217 were in *foster care* and a further 216 were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison*. 216 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* also participated in the survey.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	95.0	97.9	94.5	49.1
Share house	1.4	0.3	1.4	22.5
Boarding school	1.1	0.6	1.6	2.8
Alone	0.6	0.2	0.5	10.5
Foster care	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Homeless/insecure housing	0.4	0.2	0.5	2.1
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.4
Other	0.3	0.1	0.4	2.0
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.3	0.0	0.1	9.1

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, around 60% of respondents lived in a capital city. At least a third of respondents from each age group lived outside a capital city, rising to 43.4% of those aged 11 to 14 years.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	29,493	59.2	56.6	61.1	66.5
Not in capital city	20,355	40.8	43.4	38.9	33.5

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income for the majority of respondents (77.4%). Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. The main sources of income were very similar for male and female respondents.

Table 5: Main source of income

	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Parents/family	77.4	92.8	66.3	9.4	78.2	76.3
Employment	16.6	4.9	25.3	62.4	16.7	16.5
Government Allowance	4.6	0.6	7.2	26.4	4.2	5.0
Other	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.8	0.7	1.6
No income	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds have been excluded from this section, given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

As Table 6 shows 85.5% of respondents aged 15 to 24 years were *studying full time*. This compares with 74.1% of respondents in the 2009 National Survey. As might be expected, the 15 to 19 years age group were much more likely than the young adult group to be *studying full time* (87.6% compared to 40.5%). About 6% of the younger group compared to 17.1% of the young adult group were *studying part time*, while 42.5% of 20 to 24 year olds compared with 6.8% of 15 to 19 year olds were *not studying*. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time* (88.3% compared with 82.2%), while male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to be *not studying* (10.2% compared with 6.7%).

Table 6: Participation in education

	Total %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	85.5	87.6	40.5	88.3	82.2
Studying part time	6.2	5.7	17.1	4.9	7.6
Not studying	8.3	6.8	42.5	6.7	10.2

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Over one third (40.6%) of the young adult group were *working full time* compared with only 0.8% of the 15 to 19 years age group. About 44% of the younger age group, however, were *working part time* or had *casual or temporary work*. Participation rates for males and females were similar; although females (28.8%) were slightly more likely than males (23.0%) to have *casual or temporary work*, and males were slightly more likely than females to be *unemployed/looking for work* (32.9% compared with 27.4%).

Table 7: Participation in employment

	Total %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.5	0.8	40.6	3.2	1.7
Working part time	17.2	17.5	12.3	17.2	17.3
Casual or temporary work	26.2	26.4	20.2	28.8	23.0
Unemployed/looking for work	29.9	30.2	21.4	27.4	32.9
Too young to work or choose not to	24.2	25.1	5.4	23.4	25.1

DETAILED NATIONAL RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The data from this question has been very consistent across the nine years of the survey. In 2010, as in previous years, *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a large proportion of respondents and were clearly ranked first and second respectively. *Physical and mental health* was ranked third in 2010. *School or study satisfaction* was ranked fourth with a higher proportion of respondents, compared to previous years, indicating it was highly valued.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 78.8% and 60.9% of respondents respectively.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by a third of respondents.
- Around 30% of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, up from 22.0% in 2009.

Table 8: What young people value

	2010%	2009%	2008%	2007%
Family relationships	78.8	75.6	75.3	76.2
Friendships (other than family)	60.9	60.6	62.3	60.3
Physical and mental health	33.9	31.1	31.8	33.1
School or study satisfaction	29.3	22.0	21.0	19.5
Being independent	27.0	32.7	31.7	32.9
Feeling needed and valued	21.8	26.1	26.2	25.6
Getting a job	16.0	18.1	16.9	15.9
Spirituality/faith	13.6	12.8	14.0	14.5
Financial security	13.5	13.8	13.4	12.6
Making a difference in the community	6.2	8.2	7.8	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents

Age differences

Table 9 shows what young people valued across the three age groups. The top three items for all age groups were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*. Over 70% of respondents in each age group highly valued *family relationships*. Over 60% of those aged 11 to 19 years highly valued *friendships*, compared to around 45% of those in the young adult group. Around a third of respondents in all age groups highly valued *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* was ranked first by all age groups, with more than 70% of respondents in each age group indicating it was highly valued.
- Around 60% of young people aged 11 to 19 highly valued *friendships*, compared with 44.8% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- A third of young people in each age group highly valued *physical and mental health*.

Table 9: What young people value, by age.

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	81.4	77.0	70.4
Friendships (other than family)	62.1	60.7	44.8
Physical and mental health	33.8	33.9	35.2
School or study satisfaction	30.7	28.8	14.3
Being independent	23.9	29.4	33.9
Feeling needed and valued	21.6	21.7	25.3
Getting a job	16.6	15.3	16.6
Spirituality/faith	14.2	12.9	16.5
Financial security	10.5	15.4	31.9
Making a difference in the community	6.5	5.7	10.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

School or study satisfaction was highly valued by a much greater proportion of those aged 11 to 19 years compared to those aged 20 to 24 years. Conversely, young adults were more likely than their younger counterparts to highly value *financial security* and *being independent*.

- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by around 30% of those in the 11 to 19 years age group, compared with 14.3% of those aged 20 to 24.

- *Financial security* was highly valued by 31.9% of young adults, three times the proportion of young people aged 11 to 14 who valued it.
- A third (33.9%) of young adults highly valued *being independent* compared with about a quarter of 11 to 14 year olds.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 10, the top three items for both genders were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*. A higher proportion of females than males valued the top two items, while similar proportions of both genders valued the third item. A significant proportion of female and male respondents also highly valued *school or study satisfaction* and *being independent*.

- 83.0% of female respondents and 73.7% of male respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by nearly two thirds (65.2%) of female respondents and just over half (55.7%) of male respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by about a third of both male and female respondents.
- Around 30% of both genders highly valued *school or study satisfaction*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	83.0	73.7
Friendships (other than family)	65.2	55.7
Physical and mental health	32.3	35.8
School or study satisfaction	30.5	28.0
Being independent	25.4	28.9
Feeling needed and valued	22.1	21.4
Getting a job	11.1	22.0
Spirituality/faith	13.6	13.6
Financial security	11.9	15.5
Making a difference in the community	5.9	6.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main difference by gender was the proportion of each group who highly valued *getting a job*. Male respondents were twice as likely as female respondents to highly value this item.

- *Getting a job* was highly valued by 22.0% of male respondents compared with 11.1% of female respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues of personal concern to them from the list of options set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern to young people in 2010 were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*. The fourth ranked issue was *school or study problems*. The level of concern regarding *coping with stress* increased significantly from 2009, as did the proportion of young people who indicated *school or study problems* was a major issue.

- *Body image* was the top ranked issue in 2010, with 31.1% of respondents indicating that it was a major concern.
- 27.8% of young people indicated that *family conflict* was of major concern to them and it was the second top issue.
- *Coping with stress* was the third ranked issue of concern with 27.3% of respondents indicating it was a major concern, up from 18.7% in 2009.
- A quarter of young people indicated *school or study problems* was a major concern, up from one in five last year.

There were a number of other issues that were of concern to at least one in five respondents, reflecting the diversity of issues of concern to young people. These issues include: *personal safety*; *bullying/emotional abuse*; *alcohol*; and *drugs*.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	2010 %	2009 %	2008 %	2007 %
Body image	31.1	25.5	26.3	32.3
Family conflict	27.8	24.1	25.9	29.3
Coping with stress	27.3	18.7	20.4	26.9
School or study problems	25.5	17.3	18.6	25.4
Personal safety	23.5	22.2	22.9	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.0	23.4	22.6	22.7
Alcohol	22.2	23.0	20.9	20.5
Drugs	20.5	26.8	26.0	20.1
Suicide	19.6	26.3	24.6	23.9
Depression	19.1	18.7	17.8	19.6
The environment	16.6	16.7	18.4	23.4
Physical/sexual abuse	15.7	22.7	22.6	21.2
Self harm	11.3	13.3	13.7	14.7
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.9	11.4	12.2	9.6
Discrimination	10.0	11.7	12.6	12.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 shows that there were some substantial differences regarding respondents' concerns when they were broken down by age. The top issues for those aged 11 to 14 years were *body image*, *family conflict* and *bullying/emotional abuse* while for those aged 15 to 19 years they were *body image*, *coping with stress* and *school or study problems*. The top issues for the young adult group were *coping with stress*, *body image* and *depression*. The proportion of respondents who indicated *body image*, *coping with stress* and *depression* were major concerns increased with age. Conversely, concern about *family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *drugs* and *suicide* decreased with age.

- *Body image* was in the top three personal concerns for all three age groups, with 28.1% of 11 to 14 year olds, 33.3% of 15 to 19 year olds and 40.3% of the young adult group indicating it was a major concern.
- *Family conflict* was a major concern to a little over a quarter (28.0%) of respondents aged 11 to 19 years, compared with around one in five (19.6%) of their young adult counterparts.
- Close to a third of those aged 15 to 19 years and around 45% of the young adult group indicated *coping with stress* was a major concern. This compares with 20.7% of the youngest age group.
- *Bullying/emotional abuse* was the third ranked issue for 11 to 14 year olds with over a quarter (26.3%) indicating it was a major concern. This compares with 15.7% of the young adult group.
- A quarter of the 11 to 14 year old respondents indicated *drugs* was a major concern, compared to around one in ten of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- One in three young adults indicated *depression* was a significant concern, compared to 15.5% of the youngest group.

Table 12: Issues of personal concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Body image	28.1	33.3	40.3
Family conflict	28.0	28.0	19.6
Coping with stress	20.7	32.5	44.8
School or study problems	22.4	28.7	16.2
Personal safety	26.0	21.6	19.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	26.3	20.3	15.7
Alcohol	23.7	21.0	19.9
Drugs	24.5	17.3	11.6
Suicide	21.4	18.3	14.0
Depression	15.5	21.6	33.3
The environment	19.3	14.0	20.8
Physical/sexual abuse	16.7	14.8	14.3
Self harm	11.9	10.8	8.6
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.5	11.1	13.1
Discrimination	9.1	10.8	11.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

There were both differences and similarities in the issues of concern for males and females. Table 13 shows that for female respondents, the top concern was *body image*, followed by two equally ranked concerns, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*. The top three issues for males were *alcohol*, *body image* and *family conflict*. Male respondents were more likely than their female counterparts to be concerned about *alcohol* and *drugs*, while females were more likely than males to be concerned about *body image* and *physical/sexual abuse*.

- *Body image* was a top three issue for both genders and was a concern for a third of female and around a quarter of male respondents.
- *Alcohol* was the top ranked issue for male respondents and was a major concern to 28.5% of them compared with 17.2% of female respondents.
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for over a quarter of both genders.
- Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to indicate that *physical/sexual abuse* was a major concern (18.0% compared with 12.7%).
- 24.2% of males compared with 17.6% of females indicated that *drugs* were a major concern.

A number of items were of concern to similar proportions of male and female respondents, including *school or study problems*, *personal safety*, *depression* and *suicide*, all of which were of concern to at least one in five respondents from both genders.

Table 13: Issues of personal concern to young people, by age

	Female %	Male %
Body image	34.0	27.4
Family conflict	29.9	25.2
Coping with stress	29.9	24.1
School or study problems	26.4	24.4
Personal safety	24.0	23.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.3	25.1
Alcohol	17.2	28.5
Drugs	17.6	24.2
Suicide	19.7	19.5
Depression	20.5	17.3
The environment	15.7	17.7
Physical/sexual abuse	18.0	12.7
Self harm	11.2	11.3
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.2	12.9
Discrimination	9.0	11.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

As shown in Table 14, the sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time. The top three sources in 2010 were very clearly *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* as they have been in previous years. The fourth ranked item, the *internet*, has been identified as a key source of advice and support by an increasing proportion of young people over the years of the survey.

- *Friends*, *parents*, and *relative/family friend* were overwhelmingly the most important sources of advice for respondents in 2010, as they have been for each of the nine years of the survey.
- *Friends* were a major source of advice and support for 85.9% of respondents, and *parents* were an important source for almost three quarters (74.9%) of respondents.
- Three in five (60.9%) respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice.
- One quarter (25.5%) of respondents identified the *internet* as an important source of advice and support, up from 10.1% in 2002.

Table 14: Where young people turn to for advice and support

	2010 %	2009 %	2008 %	2007 %
Friends	85.9	84.5	85.1	86.0
Parents	74.9	73.4	74.1	73.6
Relative/family friend	60.9	60.8	61.0	63.3
Internet	25.5	22.5	20.3	19.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.7	12.5	11.1	11.6
Magazines	11.4	11.0	11.2	11.6
Teacher	10.7	11.0	11.4	10.5
School counsellor	9.1	10.8	11.5	10.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor; church minister	7.7	8.9	8.5	8.6
Telephone helpline	4.1	5.9	5.9	5.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of advice and support for all age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* as shown in Table 15. The proportions who identified *friends* remained fairly consistent across the age groups, while the proportions who identified *parents* and *relative/family friend* declined somewhat with age.

- *Friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice and support for all age groups.
- Over 83% of respondents in each age group identified *friends* as an important source of advice.
- Just over three quarters (78.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds identified *parents* as a major source of advice, as did 72.1% of 15 to 19 year olds and 67.8% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Relative/family friend* was an important source of advice for over half of respondents from each age group.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20- 24 yrs %
Friends	83.4	88.1	85.1
Parents	78.7	72.1	67.8
Relative/family friend	63.5	58.9	56.0
Internet	20.3	29.3	39.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.1	11.9	13.5
Magazines	11.2	11.6	11.0
Teacher	12.0	9.7	5.3
School counsellor	10.0	8.6	5.0
Someone else in your community eg doctor; church minister	7.2	7.8	14.1
Telephone helpline	4.6	3.6	4.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportion of each group who identified the *internet* and *someone else in your community* as key sources of advice and support increased with age.

- 39.3% of 20 to 24 year olds identified the *internet* as a top source of advice, compared with 20.3% of 11 to 14 year olds and 29.3% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- 14.1% of young adults identified *someone else in your community* as a major source of advice, compared to around 7% of those aged 11 to 19 years.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 16, the top three sources of advice and support were identical for both genders, namely *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. However a higher proportion of female than male respondents identified these as key sources of advice and support.

- *Friends* were identified as a top source of advice by 90.0% of female respondents and 80.8% of male respondents.
- Over 70% of both genders identified *parents* as a top source of advice and support (76.7% of female and 72.8% of male respondents).
- Close to two thirds (65.5%) of female respondents and 55.2% of male respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	90.0	80.8
Parents	76.7	72.8
Relative/family friend	65.5	55.2
Internet	20.9	31.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	8.2	16.0
Magazines	12.7	9.8
Teacher	9.2	12.5
School counsellor	8.5	9.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.4	9.2
Telephone helpline	3.1	5.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major differences by gender were in the proportions of each group who identified the *internet* and *community agencies* as key sources of advice, with males more likely than females to identify these items.

- The *internet* was an important source of advice and support for 31.1% of male respondents, compared with 20.9% of female respondents.
- Male respondents were twice as likely as female respondents to identify *community agencies* as a key source of advice (16.0% compared with 8.2%).

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey of Young Australians which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 17. The top three issues were *the environment*, *alcohol and drugs* and *crime, safety and violence*. A significant proportion of respondents also indicated *equity and discrimination*, and *the economy and financial matters* were important issues.

- Almost half (45.7%) of all respondents indicated that *the environment* was an important issue for Australia today.
- 37.1% of young people identified *alcohol and drugs* was a major issue.
- Around one in five respondents indicated *crime, safety and violence*, *equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* were important issues.

Table 17: Most important issues in Australia today

	Total %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
The environment	45.7	55.0	37.8	38.4	50.8	39.5
Alcohol and drugs	37.1	39.4	35.6	25.1	34.6	40.2
Crime, safety and violence	21.0	23.3	19.1	15.8	20.5	21.6
Equity and discrimination	20.6	16.2	24.7	21.8	22.9	17.9
The economy and financial matters	18.6	17.5	19.5	20.2	16.7	21.0
Health	15.8	14.6	16.8	19.5	17.1	14.2
Politics and societal values	13.3	12.7	14.0	9.8	10.6	16.6
Population issues	13.3	10.3	15.9	16.9	11.4	15.7
Mental health	11.6	10.4	12.5	18.3	13.8	8.9
Abuse	10.0	12.1	8.4	5.6	12.4	7.1
Bullying	10.0	13.1	7.6	3.3	11.8	7.8
Education	7.3	6.0	8.2	13.1	7.4	7.3
Homelessness/housing	5.7	5.2	5.7	14.1	6.9	4.2
Employment	5.2	3.9	6.1	13.5	4.8	5.8
Adolescence/youth	4.2	2.7	5.5	6.7	4.9	3.4
International relations	3.3	3.4	3.3	1.2	2.5	4.3
Poverty/disadvantage	3.0	3.3	2.7	3.2	3.7	2.2
Relationships	2.6	3.0	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.5
Sport	2.6	2.3	3.0	0.9	0.6	5.1
Body image	2.2	1.6	2.8	3.5	3.4	0.8

Age differences

Table 17 shows that the issues young people thought were the most important in Australia today were generally consistent across age groups, although the proportions identifying them varied. *The environment* and *alcohol and drugs* were the top issues for all three age groups, with those in the 11 to 14 years age group most likely to identify them as important issues. Issues such as *education*, *homelessness/housing*, *health*, *mental health* and *employment* were mentioned by fewer proportions of young people than the issues mentioned above, however it was the young adult group who was most likely to indicate these issues were important.

- All three age groups identified *the environment* as the top issue facing Australia, with 55.0% of those aged 11 to 14 years, 37.8% of those aged 15 to 19 years and 38.4% of the young adult group indicating it was an important issue.
- At least a quarter of respondents from each age group indicated *alcohol and drugs* was an important issue, with those aged 11 to 14 years most likely to indicate it was an issue (39.4%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 17 both genders indicated *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs* were very important issues for Australia, however; more females than males nominated the *environment*, whilst the converse was true for *alcohol and drugs*. Significant proportions of both male and female respondents identified *crime, safety and violence*, *equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* as important issues.

- Just over half (50.8%) of female respondents and around 40% of male respondents indicated *the environment* was a major issue facing Australia.
- 40.2% of male respondents and 34.6% of their female counterparts indicated *alcohol and drugs* was an important issue.
- Around a fifth of respondents of both genders indicated *crime, safety and violence* and *equity and discrimination* were major issues facing Australia.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for young people in 2010 were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*. Significant proportions of respondents also participated in *volunteer work*, *youth groups and clubs*, *student leadership activities* and *religious groups or activities*. Participation in all activities has increased since 2009, quite markedly in the case of some, such as *sports (as a spectator)* and *student leadership activities*. The latter may have been due to the broadening out of the category from *Student Representative Council* which was used in previous surveys.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities* were the three most popular activities for respondents in 2010.
- Almost three quarters (71.3%) of respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*, while over half (57.2%) indicated they were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*, up from 64.2% and 39.3% respectively in 2009.
- Nearly a third (31.2%) of respondents were participating in *arts/cultural activities*, up from 23.4% in 2009.
- At least a quarter of respondents participated in *volunteer work*, *youth groups and clubs*, *student leadership activities* and *religious groups or activities*.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	2010 %	2009 %	2008 %	2007 %
Sports (as a participant)	71.3	64.2	67.6	66.7*
Sports (as a spectator)	57.2	39.3	46.5	
Arts/cultural activities	31.2	23.4	44.1	42.8
Volunteer work	28.3	18.5	22.2	21.6
Youth groups and clubs	27.0	20.3	26.8	27.4
Student leadership activities	25.7	9.5	12.4	13.1
Religious groups or activities	25.5	20.0	25.9	24.7
Environmental groups or activities	13.3	9.8	14.3	13.2
Political groups or organisations**	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. * Appears as the single item *sports* prior to 2008. ** New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* remain the top two activities across all age groups, involvement in *sports (as a participant)* decreased with age. Conversely, involvement in *arts/cultural activities*, *volunteer work*, *environmental groups or activities* and *political groups or organisations* increased with age.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the top two activities across all age groups.
- Participation in *sports (as a participant)* was highest for 11 to 14 year olds (78.8%), declining to 65.5% for 15 to 19 year olds and 49.5% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Almost half (47.8%) of young adults were involved in *volunteer work*, compared to 23.7% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- A quarter of 11 to 19 year olds and a third of the young adult group participated in *youth groups and clubs*.
- A quarter of all age groups were involved in *student leadership activities* and *religious groups or activities*.
- Young adults were around twice as likely as 11 to 19 year olds to be involved in *environmental groups or activities* and three times as likely to be involved in *political groups or activities*.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	78.8	65.5	49.5
Sports (as a spectator)	56.8	57.8	51.0
Arts/cultural activities	29.8	32.1	40.2
Volunteer work	23.7	31.5	47.8
Youth groups and clubs	27.3	26.4	32.4
Student leadership activities	23.5	27.8	22.7
Religious groups or activities	26.1	24.8	25.3
Environmental groups or activities	12.7	13.4	22.4
Political groups or organisations	4.7	5.8	14.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a spectator)* and *sports (as a participant)*, though a larger proportion of males than females were involved in them. Participation in *youth groups and clubs* was the third most popular activity for males, while for females it was *arts/cultural activities*.

- 75.8% of male respondents and 67.5% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (62.8% compared with 52.5%).
- A third (36.5%) of female respondents were involved in *arts/cultural activities*, compared with a quarter (25.0%) of male respondents.
- A quarter of both genders participated in *youth groups and clubs* and it was the third most popular activity for males.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	67.5	75.8
Sports (as a spectator)	52.5	62.8
Arts/cultural activities	36.5	25.0
Volunteer work	31.7	24.2
Youth groups and clubs	26.2	27.8
Student leadership activities	27.8	23.3
Religious groups or activities	25.8	25.1
Environmental groups nor activities	13.6	13.0
Political groups or organisations	4.4	6.9

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question included for the first time in the 2010 National Survey asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 21 shows that almost two thirds of all respondents felt either *positive* or *very positive* when they thought about the future, and this was consistent across all age groups and both genders. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *negative* or *very negative*, with this increasing slightly with age. A little over a quarter of respondents felt neither *positive* nor *negative*.

- 64.3% of respondents indicated they felt *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- A quarter (27.0%) of respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 8.7% of young people felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	Total %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	21.2	21.2	21.4	17.6	18.5	24.5
Positive	43.1	42.6	43.6	44.7	44.6	41.4
Neither positive nor negative	27.0	28.2	26.2	24.4	28.7	25.0
Negative	5.5	5.1	5.7	9.2	5.8	5.0
Very negative	3.2	3.0	3.3	4.1	2.4	4.1



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The 2010 National Survey of Young Australians asked respondents whether they identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. 2,381 (4.8%) of respondents indicated they identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

State and territory distribution

The highest proportion of surveys from Indigenous respondents came from New South Wales (30.3%), which also had the highest proportion of survey responses overall (32.2%). A high proportion of responses came from Indigenous young people in the Northern Territory relative to the overall number of NT responses.

Table 1: Percentage of Indigenous respondents by state/territory

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Australian Capital Territory	2.6	3.0
New South Wales	30.3	32.3
Northern Territory	9.5	2.6
Queensland	21.4	18.4
South Australia	13.0	12.9
Tasmania	4.4	3.4
Victoria	9.4	19.0
Western Australia	9.4	8.4

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Age breakdown

There were similar response rates for Indigenous and non Indigenous young people across the three age groups. Just under half (48.7%) of surveys returned from Indigenous young people were from those aged 11 to 14, and close to the same proportion were from respondents aged 15 to 19 (47.3%). A small percentage, 4.1 %, were from young adults aged 20 to 24. Given the relatively small number of respondents aged 20 to 24, results for this group should be interpreted with caution.

Table 2: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of Indigenous	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
11 - 14 years	1,139	48.7	46.5
15 - 19 years	1,106	47.3	51.3
20 - 24 years	95	4.1	2.2
Total	2,340	4.8	95.2

Gender breakdown

Responses from Indigenous young people were evenly divided between the genders, with 50.6 % of surveys received from male respondents and 49.4 % from female respondents. Among non Indigenous respondents, there was a slightly higher proportion of female respondents than male respondents (54.2% compared with 45.8%).

Where respondents were living

The majority of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were living *with family*. However as Table 3 shows, the proportion of Indigenous respondents was lower than that of their non Indigenous counterparts (83.2% compared with 95.6%).

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %	Indigenous %		
			11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
With family	83.2	95.6	90.0	80.8	30.0
Boarding school	3.2	1.0	2.9	3.7	2.2
Juvenile justice centre/prison	2.8	0.3	1.8	3.3	10.0
Homeless/insecure housing	2.7	0.3	1.3	3.3	11.1
Alone	2.4	0.5	1.0	2.7	14.4
Share house	2.2	1.3	0.4	3.0	15.6
Foster care	2.1	0.4	2.6	1.5	3.3
Other	1.0	0.3	0.2	1.5	6.7
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	6.7

Living in or outside a capital city

Table 4 shows the proportion of respondents who were living in or outside a capital city. A higher proportion of Indigenous respondents (52.8%) than non Indigenous respondents (40.3%) lived outside the capital cities.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Live in capital city	47.2	59.7
Not in capital city	52.8	40.3

Table 5 shows that a higher proportion of Indigenous than non Indigenous respondents in all three age groups lived outside of the capital cities.

Table 5: Geographic location of respondents, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Live in capital city	41.9	52.0	51.1	57.2	61.5	67.8
Not in capital city	58.1	48.0	48.9	42.8	38.5	32.2

Main source of income

Table 6 shows that a majority of both Indigenous (69.1%) and non Indigenous (77.7%) respondents relied on *parents/family* as their main source of income. Around 15% of both groups indicated that *employment* was their main source of income. Indigenous respondents were somewhat more likely than non Indigenous respondents to identify *government allowance* as their main source of income (12.9% compared to 4.2%).

Table 6: Main source of income

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous%
Parents/family	69.1	77.7
Employment	15.2	16.8
Government Allowance	12.9	4.2
Other	2.3	1.0
No income	0.4	0.3

Study and work

The 2010 survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. The participation of 11 to 14 year olds was excluded from this section given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

Table 7 shows that 68.7% of Indigenous respondents were *studying full time*, substantially below the rate of their non Indigenous counterparts (86.4%). Conversely, Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be *studying part time* (12.3% compared with 5.8%). Nearly one fifth (19.1%) of Indigenous respondents were *not studying*, compared with less than one tenth (7.8%) of non Indigenous respondents.

Table 7: Participation in education

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous%
Studying full time	68.7	86.4
Studying part time	12.3	5.8
Not studying	19.1	7.8

Table 8 shows respondents' participation in employment. Indigenous respondents were slightly more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be *working full time* (6.7% compared with 2.3%). About 17% of both groups were *working part time*. Indigenous respondents (14.6%) were less likely than non Indigenous respondents (26.8%) to have *casual or temporary work*. Just over a third of Indigenous young people (36.5%) indicated that they were *unemployed/looking for work*, slightly above the proportion for their non Indigenous counterparts (29.5%).

Table 8: Participation in employment

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Working full time	6.7	2.3
Working part time	17.1	17.2
Casual or temporary work	14.6	26.8
Unemployed/looking for work	36.5	29.5
Too young to work or choose not to	25.2	24.1

Disability

Two hundred (8.6%) Indigenous respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); autism; learning disability; physical disability; Down Syndrome; and epilepsy.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 9. The top two items were the same for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents, namely *family relationships* and *friendships*, although the proportions highly valuing *friendships* varied between the groups. The third item for Indigenous respondents was *being independent*, while for non Indigenous respondents it was *physical and mental health*.

- Just over three quarters of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by just over half (52.4%) of Indigenous respondents, compared with 61.4 % of non Indigenous respondents.
- Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to highly value *being independent* (33.5% compared with 26.7%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by just over a quarter (27.4%) of Indigenous respondents and around a third (34.2%) of non Indigenous respondents.
- Close to 30% of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, an increase for both groups on previous years' results.

Table 9: What young people value

	Indigenous 2010 %	Non Indigenous 2010 %	Indigenous 2009 %	Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %
Family relationships	76.9	78.9	73.1	72.8	72.7
Friendships (other than family)	52.4	61.4	50.7	50.0	49.5
Being independent	33.5	26.7	39.6	38.7	38.9
School or study satisfaction	28.3	29.3	23.5	21.3	21.8
Physical and mental health	27.4	34.2	26.6	25.5	26.9
Getting a job	25.6	15.5	25.8	24.4	26.4
Feeling needed and valued	23.7	21.7	26.4	28.1	24.8
Financial security	14.4	13.5	13.7	15.2	15.6
Spirituality/faith	11.6	13.7	12.4	13.3	13.1
Making a difference in the community	8.2	6.1	10.7	10.8	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

As in previous years, the main difference between Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents was the proportion who highly valued *getting a job*. Indigenous respondents were much more likely than non Indigenous respondents to highly value this item.

- Around a quarter (25.6%) of Indigenous respondents highly valued *getting a job*, compared with 15.5 % of non Indigenous respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues of personal concern to them from the list of options set out in Table 10. There were a number of similarities as well as differences in responses from Indigenous and non Indigenous young people. *Body image* was the top issue for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents. *Alcohol* and *family conflict* were the second and third ranked items for Indigenous young people, while for non Indigenous respondents they were *family conflict* and *coping with stress*.

- *Body image* was the top issue of concern for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents, with over 30% of both groups indicating it was a major concern.
- Indigenous respondents were much more likely than non Indigenous respondents to identify *alcohol* as a major concern (31.7% compared with 21.8%).
- Just over a quarter of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents identified *family conflict* as an area of significant concern.
- One in five Indigenous respondents and one in four of their non Indigenous counterparts identified both *school or study problems* and *coping with stress* as major concerns.

Table 10: Issues of personal concern to young people

	Indigenous 2010 %	Non Indigenous 2010 %	Indigenous 2009 %	Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %
Body image	34.1	30.9	29.7	31.9	34.9
Alcohol	31.7	21.8	32.4	31.2	31.8
Family conflict	26.3	27.9	22.9	23.4	29.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	26.2	22.9	25.5	26.3	22.9
Drugs	23.1	20.3	27.5	24.4	21.4
School or study problems	21.0	25.7	16.6	16.0	22.3
Coping with stress	20.4	27.7	15.8	17.4	19.7
Suicide	19.6	19.6	24.7	23.2	21.4
Personal safety	18.9	23.7	18.5	18.5	N/A
Depression	16.6	19.2	15.8	14.8	15.6
The environment	16.3	16.6	14.9	18.3	25.1
Physical/sexual abuse	15.5	15.7	20.0	21.0	15.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.8	10.8	12.6	15.0	14.0
Discrimination	12.1	9.9	13.9	13.1	16.5
Self harm	11.8	11.2	12.3	14.6	13.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 11 provides a breakdown by age of issues of concern for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents. *Body image* was a top three concern for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents in all three age groups. *Alcohol* was a top three issue for all Indigenous age groups and they were much more likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to be concerned about this issue. Results for the 11 to 14 years age group were similar for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents on most other items. The major difference for the 15 to 19 years age groups were the proportions who identified *coping with stress* and *school or study problems*, with non Indigenous respondents much more likely than their Indigenous counterparts to indicate they were major issues. For the young adult group, both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents indicated *coping with stress* was a major concern but a much higher proportion of the latter group indicated it was an issue. Indigenous young adults were less likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to indicate *depression* was a major issue.

- *Body image* was among the top three issues of concern for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents across the three age groups.
- Close to a third of Indigenous respondents across each age group identified *alcohol* as a major concern, compared with around one fifth of their non Indigenous counterparts.
- Just over one fifth (21.8%) of Indigenous 15 to 19 year olds were significantly concerned about *school or study problems*, compared with 29.0 % of their non Indigenous counterparts.
- Indigenous 15 to 24 year olds were much less likely than their Indigenous counterparts to identify *coping with stress* as a major issue.
- Indigenous young adults were about half as likely as their non Indigenous counterparts to be significantly concerned about *depression* (19.5% compared with 34.6%).

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Body image	32.6	34.7	44.9	27.9	33.2	39.9
Alcohol	33.1	30.2	32.1	23.2	20.6	18.7
Family conflict	26.6	26.6	21.3	28.1	28.0	19.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	26.6	25.4	27.8	26.3	20.1	14.6
Drugs	24.2	22.5	17.9	24.5	17.1	10.8
School or study problems	21.2	21.8	12.5	22.5	29.0	16.5
Coping with stress	16.5	23.3	32.1	20.9	32.9	45.8
Suicide	21.9	17.7	16.3	21.3	18.3	13.9
Personal safety	20.0	18.5	12.5	26.3	21.7	20.1
Depression	14.1	18.9	19.5	15.6	21.7	34.6
The environment	18.4	14.6	12.5	19.3	14.0	21.5
Physical/sexual abuse	15.8	14.9	17.7	16.7	14.8	14.0
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	13.2	12.0	15.0	10.3	11.1	13.0
Discrimination	9.7	14.4	12.5	9.0	10.6	11.1
Self harm	12.7	11.5	6.3	11.9	10.7	8.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The top three sources of advice and support for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were identical, namely *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. However, as Table 12 shows, the proportions of Indigenous respondents who identified each were slightly lower than the proportions of non Indigenous respondents. The fourth ranked item for both groups was the *internet* with similar proportions identifying it as a major source of advice. Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to turn to *community agencies* for advice and support.

- *Friends, parents and relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents.
- Over 80% of both groups identified *friends* as a main source of advice and support.
- Two thirds (66.1%) of Indigenous respondents and three quarters (75.3%) of non Indigenous respondents identified *parents* as a top source of advice.
- *Relative/family friend* was a major source of advice for over half of both groups.
- Around a quarter of both groups identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support.
- One fifth (20.0%) of Indigenous respondents compared with around one in ten (11.3%) non Indigenous respondents identified *community agencies* as a main source of advice and support.

Table 12: Where young people turn for advice and support

	Indigenous 2010 %	Non Indigenous 2010 %	Indigenous 2009 %	Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %
Friends	80.4	86.2	79.2	79.3	77.9
Parents	66.1	75.3	62.6	61.5	63.3
Relative/family friend	56.9	61.1	55.2	52.3	56.7
Internet	25.7	25.5	26.0	25.1	21.6
Community agencies eg youth worker	20.0	11.3	22.2	24.1	23.1
Magazines	14.1	11.3	11.8	13.3	13.6
Teacher	11.4	10.6	13.5	12.3	11.0
School counsellor	11.3	9.0	12.3	11.7	12.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	10.6	7.5	11.8	12.3	11.4
Telephone helpline	6.3	4.0	8.2	10.1	9.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 13. The top three issues for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were *the environment*, *alcohol and drugs*, and *crime, safety and violence*. Significant proportions of both groups also identified *equity and discrimination* as an important issue.

- *The environment* was the top issue for both groups and considered important by 40.4 % of Indigenous respondents and 46.0 % of non Indigenous respondents.
- Over 35% of both groups identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue.
- *Crime, safety and violence* and *equity and discrimination* were considered important issues by around one fifth of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents.

Table 13: Most important issues in Australia today

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
The environment	40.4	46.0
Alcohol and drugs	38.7	36.9
Crime, safety and violence	21.1	20.9
Equity and discrimination	17.9	20.8
The economy and financial matters	15.9	18.8
Politics and societal values	12.3	13.3
Population issues	11.5	13.4
Health	11.4	16.0
Abuse	10.2	10.0
Mental health	8.4	11.8
Education	8.3	7.3
Bullying	8.0	10.1
Homelessness/housing	6.7	5.7
Employment	6.5	5.2
Relationships	5.0	2.5
Adolescence/youth	4.8	4.2
Sport	3.7	2.6
International relations	3.3	3.3

What activities are young people involved in?

Respondents were asked to select the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 14. The top three activities for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*. Similar proportions of both groups were involved in the first two activities while Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be involved in the last activity. Indigenous respondents were also somewhat more likely than non Indigenous respondents to participate in *youth groups and clubs*, *environmental groups or activities* and *political groups or organisations*.

- The most popular activity for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents was *sports (as a participant)* with about 70% of both groups involved in it.
- About 57% of both groups participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural activities* (42.7% compared with 30.7%).
- Just over a third (35.4%) of Indigenous respondents and around a quarter (26.5%) of non Indigenous respondents, were involved in *youth groups and clubs*.
- Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to indicate they were involved in *environmental groups or activities* (19.4% compared with 13.0%) and *political groups or organisations* (11.1% compared with 5.3%).

Table 14: Activities young people were involved in

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Sports (as a participant)	69.8	71.4
Sports (as a spectator)	57.5	57.3
Arts/cultural activities	42.7	30.7
Youth groups and clubs	35.4	26.5
Volunteer work	30.3	28.2
Student leadership activities	28.4	25.6
Religious groups or activities	26.5	25.3
Environmental groups or activities	19.4	13.0
Political groups or organisations*	11.1	5.3

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 15 provides a breakdown of activities for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents by age. *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the top two activities for all age groups of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents. Significant proportions of all age groups were also involved in *arts/cultural activities*, although higher proportions of Indigenous than non Indigenous young people participated in them. Substantial proportions of both Indigenous and non Indigenous young adults participated in *volunteer work* though it was a more common activity for the latter group.

- The proportions of young people involved in *sports (as a participant)* were similar between Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents across the age groups.
- Participation in *sports (as a spectator)* was similar for those aged 11 to 19 in both groups, but Indigenous young adults were more likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to indicate they were involved in this activity (62.4% compared with 50.3%).
- Indigenous respondents across the age groups were more likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to be involved in *arts/cultural activities*.
- Indigenous respondents aged 20 to 24 were slightly less likely than non Indigenous respondents of the same age to be involved in *volunteer work* (37.9% compared with 48.7%).

Table 15: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Sports (as a participant)	75.1	66.2	47.1	79.0	65.5	49.8
Sports (as a spectator)	55.0	59.7	62.4	57.0	57.8	50.3
Arts/cultural activities	44.0	40.9	45.5	29.0	31.7	39.6
Youth groups and clubs	37.3	33.1	37.9	26.8	26.1	31.8
Volunteer work	26.6	33.0	37.9	23.6	31.5	48.7
Student leadership activities	27.4	29.1	29.9	23.3	27.8	22.0
Religious groups or activities	29.6	23.4	26.4	25.8	24.8	24.9
Environmental groups or activities	21.5	16.6	24.1	12.3	13.2	22.2
Political groups or organisations	10.6	10.4	18.4	4.4	5.6	14.1

Note: Data is a tally of all Activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question included for the first time in the 2010 National Survey asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 16 shows that responses for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were similar:

- Over 60 % of Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents indicated they felt *very positive* or *positive* about the future.
- A quarter of both groups indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Around one in ten respondents from both groups reported feeling *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

Table 16: Feelings about the future

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Very positive	24.2	21.1
Positive	36.6	43.5
Neither positive nor negative	27.8	26.9
Negative	5.2	5.5
Very negative	6.1	3.0

Age differences

Table 17 shows the breakdown by age of respondents' feelings about the future. Results for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents across the age groups were generally quite similar. The main difference between in the groups was in the proportion of young adult respondents who reported feeling *positive* or *negative/very negative* about the future. A higher proportion of Indigenous young adults than their non Indigenous counterparts felt *negative* or *very negative*.

- Around 60% of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents aged 11 to 19 years indicated they felt *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- 20.9% of Indigenous young adults compared to 12.6% of their non Indigenous counterparts felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 17: Feelings about the future, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Very positive	24.8	24.1	15.1	21.0	21.2	18.0
Positive	36.9	36.5	34.9	42.9	43.9	45.6
Neither positive nor negative	27.7	28.0	29.1	28.1	26.1	23.8
Negative	5.4	4.7	9.3	5.1	5.7	9.2
Very negative	5.2	6.7	11.6	2.9	3.1	3.4



Australian Capital Territory summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

1,488 surveys were returned from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), which was 3.0% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

Table 1 shows the largest group of respondents from the ACT was aged 15 to 19 years (54.5%) followed by 11 to 14 years (43.8%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (25 or 1.7%) and therefore results for this group have been omitted from the age-specific tables in this chapter:

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	644	43.8
15-19 years	800	54.5
20-24 years	25	1.7
Total	1,469	3.0% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

50.2% of respondents from the ACT were female and 49.8% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

61 (4.2%) respondents from the ACT identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	ACT %*	National %*	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Indigenous	61	4.2	4.8	4.4	3.0
Non Indigenous	1,405	95.8	95.2	95.6	97.0

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 11 to 24 years.

Languages other than English spoken at home

72.4% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 415 (27.6%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 55 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): French; Chinese; Vietnamese; Greek; Spanish; Arabic; and Italian.

Disability

58 (4.0%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism; deafness or hearing impairment; physical disability; learning disability; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); acquired brain injury; epilepsy; and anxiety disorder.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from the ACT (95.6%) were living *with family*, similar to the national figure of 95.0%. 12 people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* participated in the survey. 10 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* also participated, as did nine who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	ACT %*	National %*	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	95.6	95.0	98.2	95.2
Share house	1.2	1.4	0.5	1.0
Alone	0.9	0.6	0.5	1.0
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.8	0.4	0.3	1.0
Homeless/insecure housing	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.5
Foster care	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.8
Boarding school	0.1	1.1	0.0	0.1
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 11 to 24 years.

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, most of the ACT respondents (94.9%) were living in the national capital, Canberra. This is unsurprising given the concentration of the population in the ACT. There was a more even spread nationally of respondents between those living in and outside of capital cities.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	ACT %*	National %*	11-14 yrs%	15-19 yrs%
Live in capital city	1,403	94.9	59.2	94.7	95.1
Not in capital city	76	5.1	40.8	5.3	4.9

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 11 to 24 years.

Main source of income

Table 5 shows *parents/family* were the main source of income identified by the majority (76.9%) of respondents from the ACT. Just under a fifth (19.3%) relied on *employment* as their main source of income, and a very small proportion (2.5%) relied on a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	ACT %*	National %*	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents/family	76.9	77.4	93.3	65.4
Employment	19.3	16.6	4.8	29.9
Government Allowance	2.5	4.6	0.3	3.8
Other	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.7
No income	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.3

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 11 to 24 years.

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

The vast majority (92.2%) of respondents from the ACT were *studying full time*, above the national figure of 85.5% for this age group. Females were more likely than males to be *studying full time* (95.3% compared to 89.0%), while males were slightly more likely than females to be *studying part time* (5.9% compared to 2.2%).

Table 6: Participation in education

	ACT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	92.2	85.5	95.3	89.0
Studying part time	4.0	6.2	2.2	5.9
Not studying	3.8	8.3	2.5	5.1

Note: All data in this table is for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. A very small proportion (2.3%) of ACT respondents were *working full time*, however half were *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Female respondents were more likely than their male counterparts to be in *casual or temporary work*, while a higher proportion of males than females were *unemployed/looking for work*.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	ACT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.0
Working part time	14.5	17.2	12.2	16.9
Casual or temporary work	35.2	26.2	40.4	30.1
Unemployed/looking for work	25.5	29.9	21.3	29.6
Too young to work or choose not to	22.5	24.2	23.3	21.5

Note: All data in this table is for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health* as they were nationally. The fourth ranked item for ACT respondents was *school or study satisfaction* with a much greater proportion indicating they highly valued it compared to 2009.

- Almost four in five (78.7%) ACT respondents highly valued *family relationships* and 60.8% highly valued *friendships*.
- About a third of ACT respondents indicated that they highly valued *physical and mental health* (33.1%).
- *School or study satisfaction* increased substantially from 2009, from just over one in five respondents (22.1%) to almost one in three (32.6%) indicating they highly valued it.

Table 8: What young people value

	ACT 2010 %	National 2010 %	ACT 2009 %	ACT 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Family relationships	78.7	78.8	74.6	74.1	74.4
Friendships (other than family)	60.8	60.9	63.4	64.0	66.5
Physical and mental health	33.1	33.9	29.2	32.1	34.7
School or study satisfaction	32.6	29.3	22.1	24.1	18.2
Being independent	30.4	27.0	31.2	29.1	34.8
Feeling needed and valued	24.6	21.8	27.5	29.3	33.1
Financial security	13.5	13.5	14.1	12.8	11.9
Getting a job	12.5	16.0	17.4	15.2	10.3
Spirituality/faith	8.8	13.6	12.2	10.9	7.2
Making a difference in the community	6.8	6.2	9.3	8.2	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Results for ACT respondents were quite similar across the two age groups. The top two items for both age groups were *family relationships* and *friendships*. *School or study satisfaction* was the third ranked item for 11 to 14 year olds, while for 15 to 19 year olds it was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by both age groups, with 82.4% of 11 to 14 year olds and 76.3% of 15 to 19 year olds valuing them highly.
- Just over 60% of both groups highly valued *friendships*.
- *Physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction* were highly valued by around a third of respondents from both age groups.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	82.4	76.3
Friendships (other than family)	61.6	61.2
Physical and mental health	31.8	34.3
School or study satisfaction	33.2	32.6
Being independent	26.6	33.0
Feeling needed and valued	27.0	22.3
Financial security	10.9	14.9
Getting a job	12.6	12.3
Spirituality/faith	9.1	7.9
Making a difference in the community	7.3	6.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

15 to 19 year olds were more likely than 11 to 14 year olds to highly value *being independent*. Significant proportions of both age groups identified *feeling needed and valued* as important.

- A third (33.0%) of the 15 to 19 years age group and a quarter (26.6%) of the 11 to 14 years age group indicated that they highly valued *being independent*.
- *Feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by 27.0% of 11 to 14 year old respondents and 22.3% of 15 to 19 year old respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows the similarities as well as the differences between the genders on what they valued. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for each group, but both were valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents. *School or study satisfaction* was the third top item for female respondents, whereas for males it was *physical and mental health*, though both items were valued by significant proportions of both genders.

- 83.8% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 73.2% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 67.4% of female respondents and 54.0% of male respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction* were highly valued by over 30% of respondents of both genders.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	83.8	73.2
Friendships (other than family)	67.4	54.0
Physical and mental health	31.7	34.7
School or study satisfaction	34.8	30.6
Being independent	27.5	33.1
Feeling needed and valued	26.1	22.8
Financial security	9.0	18.2
Getting a job	6.9	18.7
Spirituality/faith	8.1	9.6
Making a difference in the community	6.5	7.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Financial security and *getting a job* were both highly valued by a greater proportion of male than female respondents. Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to highly value *being independent*. Significant proportions of both genders highly valued *feeling needed and valued*.

- Male respondents were twice as likely as female respondents to highly value *financial security* (18.2% compared with 9.0%), and almost three times as likely to value *getting a job* (18.7% compared to 6.9%).
- A third of male respondents (33.1%) valued *being independent*, compared with just over a quarter of female respondents (27.5%).
- *Feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by around a quarter of both genders.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that were of personal concern to them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for ACT respondents were *family conflict*, *coping with stress* and *school or study problems* with the level of concern about the last two increasing significantly from 2009. *Body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress* were the top issues nationally.

- The top issue of concern for ACT respondents was *family conflict*, with 30.9% of respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- *Coping with stress* was the second ranked issue for ACT respondents with 30.1% indicating it was a major concern, up from 22.4% in 2009.
- 29.5% of respondents indicated *school or study problems* was a major issue, up from 21.1% last year.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	ACT 2010 %	National 2010 %	ACT 2009 %	ACT 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Family conflict	30.9	27.8	27.2	27.7	27.5
Coping with stress	30.1	27.3	22.4	21.2	30.9
School or study problems	29.5	25.5	21.1	19.4	22.3
Body image	27.0	31.1	25.0	21.9	30.0
Personal safety	22.6	23.5	20.5	23.1	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.4	23.0	23.8	22.8	25.3
The environment	21.3	16.6	19.1	23.0	23.1
Depression	21.1	19.1	21.5	16.9	26.6
Alcohol	20.2	22.2	22.5	19.6	19.1
Drugs	16.5	20.5	25.0	27.9	18.8
Suicide	15.9	19.6	23.9	25.2	21.1
Physical/sexual abuse	14.3	15.7	18.2	21.4	22.8
Discrimination	12.5	10.0	12.8	13.7	16.4
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.7	10.9	9.8	10.7	8.1
Self harm	10.3	11.3	11.2	13.9	11.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were a range of issues that were of major concern to ACT respondents with nine items being of concern to at least one in five young people. These included *body image*, *personal safety*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *the environment*, *depression* and *alcohol*.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups on issues of concern. *Family conflict* was the top issue for 11 to 14 year olds, and the third issue for 15 to 19 year olds. The two top issues for 15 to 19 year olds were *coping with stress* and *school of study problems* and the latter was ranked second by the younger group. 11 to 14 year olds ranked *body image* third.

- *Family conflict* was identified as a major issue of concern by over 30% of both groups and it was the top issue for 11 to 14 year olds.
- *Coping with stress* was of concern to over a third (34.7%) of 15 to 19 year olds, and a quarter (23.6%) of those aged 11 to 14 years. It was the top issue for the older group.
- Concern with *school of study problems* was a top three issue for both age groups with 30.9% of those aged 15 to 19 years and 27.8% of those aged 11 to 14 years indicating it was a major concern.
- *Body image* was a major concern for a quarter of both age groups.

Table 12: Issues of personal concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family conflict	33.0	30.2
Coping with stress	23.6	34.7
School or study problems	27.8	30.9
Body image	26.1	27.1
Personal safety	24.2	22.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.8	19.4
The environment	25.6	17.9
Depression	16.9	23.8
Alcohol	19.3	20.3
Drugs	19.8	13.7
Suicide	17.8	15.0
Physical/sexual abuse	15.0	14.0
Discrimination	11.9	13.3
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.1	11.2
Self harm	10.2	10.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportions of each group who were concerned about *the environment*, *depression* and *drugs* varied somewhat with the younger group more concerned than the older group about *the environment* and *drugs*. Those aged 15 to 19 years were more likely than those aged 11 to 14 to indicate *depression* was a major concern.

- Over a quarter (25.6%) of 11 to 14 year olds identified *the environment* as a top concern, compared with 17.9% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- *Drugs* was a concern for a greater proportion of 11 to 14 year olds than 15 to 19 year olds (19.8% compared with 13.7%).
- *Depression* was more likely to be an issue of concern for 15 to 19 year olds (23.8%) than 11 to 14 year olds (16.9%).

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that both *family conflict* and *school or study problems* were in the top three concerns for both genders, with a higher proportion of female than male respondents indicating *family conflict* was a major concern. *Alcohol* was the top issue for males. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *coping with stress* as a major concern while males were more likely than females to identify *alcohol* and *drugs* as major issues.

- *Family conflict* was the top issue for female respondents and was ranked third by male respondents. 34.1% of females and 27.3% of males indicated it was a major concern.
- Over a third (33.9%) of female respondents indicated *coping with stress* as a top issue of concern, as did just over a quarter (26.1%) of males. It was the second ranked item for females.
- *Alcohol* was the top issue for male respondents with 28.6% indicating it was a major concern, more than twice the proportion of female respondents who indicated it was an issue (12.5%).
- *School or study problems* were in the top three issues for both genders, with 30.5% of females and 28.4% of males indicating it was a major concern.
- *Drugs* was of concern to a larger proportion of male respondents than females, 20.8% compared to 12.9%.

Table 13: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male%
Family conflict	34.1	27.3
Coping with stress	33.9	26.1
School or study problems	30.5	28.4
Body image	29.1	24.6
Personal safety	22.2	23.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	19.6	23.3
The environment	19.9	22.6
Depression	22.1	19.1
Alcohol	12.5	28.6
Drugs	12.9	20.8
Suicide	17.1	14.7
Physical/sexual abuse	15.7	12.8
Discrimination	11.4	13.9
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.3	12.4
Self harm	11.0	9.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for ACT respondents when they have a problem were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they have been in previous years and were nationally.

- 87.3% of ACT respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 85.9%.
- *Parents* were identified by almost three quarters (72.9%) of respondents from the ACT as a major source of advice.
- Over half (56.6%) of ACT respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	ACT 2010 %	National 2010 %	ACT 2009 %	ACT 2008 %	ACT 2007%
Friend/s	87.3	85.9	84.0	85.8	90.3
Parents	72.9	74.9	72.9	76.2	76.0
Relative/family friend	56.6	60.9	60.9	62.6	60.8
Internet	30.1	25.5	21.8	18.6	24.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	13.2	11.7	12.9	10.2	8.8
Magazines	12.6	11.4	11.9	10.7	10.3
School counsellor	9.5	9.1	11.7	11.1	10.7
Teacher	9.3	10.7	10.5	12.6	10.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.3	7.7	8.9	6.9	6.7
Telephone helpline	4.0	4.1	6.6	5.4	4.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

As Table 15 shows, the top three sources of advice and support for both age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportion of each group who identified *friends* as a major source was very similar, while the proportions who identified *parents* and *relative/family friend* were slightly lower for 15 to 19 year olds than 11 to 14 year olds. Those aged 15 to 19 years were more likely than 11 to 14 year olds to identify the *internet* as a major source of advice.

- Almost nine in ten respondents from both age groups identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support.
- Over 70% of both age groups identified *parents* as a major source of advice.
- A *relative/family friend* was identified as a major source of support by about 60.4% of 11 to 14 year olds, and just over half (54.3%) of those aged 15 to 19 years.
- A third (33.1%) of the older group identified the *internet* as a top source of advice and support, compared with a quarter (25.2%) of the younger group.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Friend/s	86.6	88.4
Parent/s	76.3	70.5
Relative/family friend	60.4	54.3
Internet	25.2	33.1
Community agencies	11.8	13.6
Magazines	12.2	12.9
School counsellor	9.3	9.8
Teacher	10.3	8.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	5.8	6.6
Telephone helpline	4.0	3.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Similar proportions of both groups identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support, while females were more likely than males to indicate that *friends* or *relative/family friend* were important sources of advice. A higher proportion of males than females indicated that the *internet* and *community agencies* were major sources of advice.

- 82.5% of males and 91.6% of females identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for almost three quarters of both genders.
- 60.7% of female respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support, as did just over half (52.1%) of male respondents.
- The *internet* was a major source of advice for over a third (35.2%) of males, compared to a quarter (25.2%) of females.
- Males were more likely than females to identify *community agencies* as a source of advice (16.9% compared to 9.6%).

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friend/s	91.6	82.5
Parent/s	73.3	72.9
Relative/family friend	60.7	52.1
Internet	25.2	35.2
Community agencies	9.6	16.9
Magazines	14.7	10.3
School counsellor	9.8	9.2
Teacher	7.3	11.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor; church minister	5.6	7.2
Telephone helpline	3.2	5.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 17. The top two issues for respondents from the ACT were *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs*, as they were nationally. Significant proportions of ACT respondents also indicated *equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* were important issues.

- Over half (55.4%) of ACT respondents ranked *the environment* as one of the most important issues in Australia today.
- 28.0% of respondents considered *alcohol and drugs* to be an important issue.
- *Equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* were considered important issues by one in five respondents.

Age differences

Both age groups indicated that *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs* were top three issues for Australia today though a greater proportion of the younger age group than those aged 15 to 19 years identified them. The older group was much more likely than the younger group to indicate *equity and discrimination* was an important issue.

- 65.2% of 11 to 14 year olds and 48.8% of 15 to 19 year olds indicated *the environment* was a major issue for Australia today.
- A third of 11 to 14 year olds and a quarter of 15 to 19 year olds indicated *alcohol and drugs* was an important issue.
- A quarter of the older group compared to 13.6% of the younger group indicated *equity and discrimination* was a major issue.

Gender differences

The environment and *alcohol and drugs* were the top two issues for both genders though females were more likely than males to identify *the environment*. Females were also more likely than males to indicate *equity and discrimination* was an important issue, while males were more likely than females to indicate *the economy and financial matters*.

- 60.3% of females and 50.1% of males indicated *the environment* was an important issue.
- Over a quarter of both genders identified *alcohol and drugs* as major issue for Australia.
- *Equity and discrimination* was an important issue for a quarter of females and a fifth of males.
- 23.5% of males and 16.8% of females indicated *the economy and financial matters* was an important issue.

Table 17: Most important issues in Australia today

	ACT*	National*	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	55.4	45.7	65.2	48.8	60.3	50.1
Alcohol and drugs	28.0	37.1	32.6	25.4	26.2	29.7
Equity and discrimination	20.6	20.6	13.6	26.3	23.5	17.6
The economy and financial matters	19.9	18.6	18.6	21.0	16.8	23.5
Health	17.9	15.8	20.1	16.0	20.7	15.0
Politics and societal values	15.4	13.3	14.4	16.3	12.7	18.1
Population issues	13.7	13.3	9.3	17.0	14.4	13.0
Crime, safety and violence	13.5	21.0	19.7	8.4	12.2	15.0
Mental health	10.8	11.6	8.0	12.3	14.3	7.1
Education	9.9	7.3	8.0	11.4	9.6	10.2
Abuse	7.6	10.0	8.5	7.3	9.7	5.4
Bullying	7.5	10.0	11.0	4.9	9.1	5.9
Employment	5.7	5.2	3.8	7.0	5.7	5.7
Homelessness/housing	4.5	5.7	4.0	4.9	6.0	2.9
Adolescence/youth	3.9	4.2	3.0	4.6	4.1	3.8
International relations	3.6	3.3	2.8	4.3	2.8	4.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes the three items respondents indicated were important. *Includes data from respondents aged 11 to 24 years.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for ACT respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)*, and *arts/cultural activities*, the same rankings as nationally. Participation in all activities increased for ACT respondents compared to 2009.

- Over two thirds (69.8%) of respondents from the ACT participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did over half (51.7%) in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- 38.8% of ACT respondents indicated they participated in *arts/cultural activities*, up from 25.0% in 2009.
- Around a quarter of respondents participated in *volunteer work* (25.9%), *student leadership activities* (23.8%) and *religious groups or activities* (23.6%).

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	ACT 2010 %	National 2010%	ACT 2009 %	ACT 2008 %	ACT 2007%
Sports (as a participant)	69.8	71.3	58.4	68.6	71.5*
Sports (as a spectator)	51.7	57.2	30.3	41.5	
Arts/cultural activities	38.8	31.2	25.0	47.6	53.8
Volunteer work	25.9	28.3	13.5	19.1	29.0
Student leadership activities	23.8	25.7	6.4	8.5	10.2
Religious groups or activities	23.6	25.5	19.9	22.8	17.7
Youth groups and clubs	20.0	27.0	16.9	21.3	20.4
Environmental groups or activities	14.3	13.3	9.0	14.2	14.2
Political groups or organisations**	7.1	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. * Appears as the single items sports prior to 2008. ** New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 19 shows there were both similarities and differences in the range of activities the two age groups participated in. The top three activities for both groups were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*, although the proportion of those participating in both sports items varied somewhat with age. Participation rates in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* increased with age, while results for other activities were similar for the two age groups.

- Around three quarters (73.2%) of 11 to 14 year olds and around two thirds (67.8%) of 15 to 19 year olds indicated they participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Slightly more 15 to 19 year olds (56.1%) than 11 to 14 year olds (47.7%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Close to 40% of respondents from both age groups participated in *arts/cultural activities*.
- Over a quarter of 15 to 19 year olds reported that they participated in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities*, compared with around a fifth of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	73.2	67.8
Sports (as a spectator)	47.7	56.1
Arts/cultural activities	38.2	39.3
Volunteer work	21.9	28.9
Student leadership activities	18.6	27.9
Religious groups or activities	23.8	22.1
Youth groups and clubs	19.5	20.1
Environmental groups or activities	15.2	13.3
Political groups or organisations	4.7	8.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the differences as well as the similarities in the activities in which male and female respondents participated. *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were in the top three activities for both genders, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in them. *Arts/cultural activities* was the second most common activity for females and the third for males.

- Three quarters (75.5%) of male respondents and almost two thirds (64.2%) of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- 57.9% of males and 45.4% of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to indicate that they took part in *arts/cultural activities* (45.8% and 31.5% respectively).

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	64.2	75.5
Sports (as a spectator)	45.4	57.9
Arts/cultural activities	45.8	31.5
Volunteer work	28.7	22.8
Student leadership activities	25.9	21.4
Religious groups or activities	22.8	24.4
Youth groups and clubs	19.4	20.5
Environmental groups or activities	14.2	14.0
Political groups or organisations	5.7	8.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question included for the first time in the 2010 National Survey asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 21 shows that responses for young people from the ACT were very similar to their national counterparts, with over 60% feeling *very positive* or *positive* about the future and only a small proportion feeling *negative* or *very negative*. The data was fairly consistent across age groups and genders.

- Around 60% of ACT respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- A quarter of respondents felt *neither positive nor negative*.
- Around one in ten young people felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	ACT %*	National %*	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	20.2	21.2	20.4	20.5	19.3	21.2
Positive	41.6	43.1	37.6	44.2	43.3	40.0
Neither positive nor negative	27.0	27.0	29.0	26.2	28.0	25.9
Negative	6.8	5.5	7.6	6.0	6.4	7.1
Very negative	4.4	3.2	5.4	3.2	3.0	5.8

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 11 to 24 years.



New South Wales summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

16,129 surveys were returned from New South Wales (NSW), which was 32.2% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The largest group of respondents from NSW was aged 15 to 19 years (52.3%), followed by 11 to 14 years (46.2%) and 20 to 24 years (1.5%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11 - 14 years	7,394	46.2
15 - 19 years	8,371	52.3
20 - 24 years	238	1.5
Total	16,003	32.2% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

54.8% of respondents from NSW were female and 45.2% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

715 (4.5%) of respondents from NSW identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	715	4.5	4.8	5.0	3.9	7.6
Non Indigenous	15,237	95.5	95.2	95.0	96.1	92.4

Languages other than English spoken at home

78.9% of respondents from NSW indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 3,401 (21.1%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 65 languages between them. The most frequent languages spoken were (in order of frequency): Arabic; Vietnamese; Chinese; Cantonese; Filipino/Tagalog; Italian; Spanish; and Lebanese.

Disability

430 (2.7%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism; learning disability; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); deafness or hearing impairment; intellectual disability; blindness or vision impairment; physical disability; and diabetes.

Where respondents were living

As Table 3 shows, the vast majority of respondents from NSW were living *with family* (96.4%), similar to the national figure of 95.0%. 65 young people who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* participated in the survey, as did 60 who were *homeless or in insecure housing* and 53 who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	96.4	95.0	98.4	95.9	52.2
Share house	0.9	1.4	0.3	0.9	18.5
Boarding school	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.1	9.1
Alone	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	8.2
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.5	1.3
Homeless/insecure housing	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.9
Foster care	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Other	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.4	3.4
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	6.0

Living in or outside a capital city

Around two thirds of NSW respondents (64.4%) were living in the state capital, Sydney, as shown in Table 4. This proportion was lower among the 20 to 24 year olds compared to their younger counterparts, with just under half (45.6%) of the young adult group living in Sydney.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	10,315	64.4	59.2	61.9	67.1	45.6
Not in capital city	5,702	35.6	40.8	38.1	32.9	54.4

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main income source for around four in five (79.4%) respondents from NSW. Table 5 shows that respondents were less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. The NSW data was very similar to the national data for all income sources.

Table 5: Main source of income

	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	79.4	77.4	93.4	69.1	14.3
Employment	14.9	16.6	4.3	23.2	51.5
Government Allowance	4.3	4.6	0.6	6.5	33.8
Other	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.4
No income	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section due to the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

Respondents aged 15 to 19 were much more likely than those aged 20 to 24 to be *studying full time* (87.5% and 48.3% respectively). The older age group was much more likely than 15 to 19 year olds to be *not studying* (34.3% compared to 6.2%). Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time*, while male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to be *studying part time or not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	NSW %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	86.4	85.5	87.5	48.3	90.5	81.3
Studying part time	6.7	6.2	6.4	17.4	4.6	9.2
Not studying	6.9	8.3	6.2	34.3	4.8	9.5

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. 28.6% of 20 to 24 year old respondents were *working full time*, compared with only 0.5% of the 15 to 19 years age group. Around 40% of respondents from both age groups were working either *part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Participation rates in employment for both genders were quite similar. Around 30% of both age groups and genders reported being *unemployed/looking for work*.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	NSW %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	1.3	2.5	0.5	28.6	1.4	1.1
Working part time	15.7	17.2	15.7	14.1	15.0	16.5
Casual or temporary work	25.5	26.2	25.5	25.2	27.5	23.1
Unemployed/looking for work	29.1	29.9	29.2	28.2	27.1	31.7
Too young to work or choose not to	28.4	24.2	29.0	3.8	29.0	27.6

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for NSW respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*, as they were nationally. The fourth ranked item was *school or study satisfaction* with over a quarter of respondents indicating they highly valued it, up from one in five respondents in 2009.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 81.3% and 59.9% of NSW respondents respectively.
- A third (33.3%) of NSW respondents indicated that they highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- Over a quarter of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (28.5%), a substantial increase from the 21.2% recorded last year.

Table 8: What young people value

	NSW 2010%	National 2010%	NSW 2009%	NSW 2008%	NSW 2007%
Family relationships	81.3	78.8	77.2	77.0	78.7
Friendships (other than family)	59.9	60.9	60.7	62.9	61.3
Physical and mental health	33.3	33.9	31.3	32.2	33.4
School or study satisfaction	28.5	29.3	21.2	20.5	19.3
Being independent	27.8	27.0	32.3	31.7	32.3
Feeling needed and valued	22.7	21.8	26.3	26.2	25.8
Spirituality/faith	15.4	13.6	14.1	14.4	15.2
Getting a job	14.1	16.0	16.7	15.7	13.5
Financial security	12.9	13.5	13.6	12.7	11.3
Making a difference in the community	5.6	6.2	7.8	7.5	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows the similarities and differences in what was valued by different age groups of NSW respondents. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for all three age groups, although the proportion who valued them declined somewhat with age. *Being independent* was the third ranked item for 20 to 24 year olds, while it was *physical and mental health* for the two younger age groups.

- Around 80% of 11 to 19 year olds highly valued *family relationships* as did around 70% of the young adult group.
- Around 60% of young people aged under 20 years highly valued *friendships*, compared to 45.1% of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- Around a third of respondents in all age groups highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by 35.6% of 20 to 24 year olds, compared with 25.3% of 11 to 14 year olds, and 29.8% of 15 to 19 year olds.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Family relationships	83.6	79.6	69.2
Friendships (other than family)	60.8	59.6	45.1
Physical and mental health	32.3	34.2	32.1
School or study satisfaction	30.5	27.2	13.3
Being independent	25.3	29.8	35.6
Feeling needed and valued	22.0	22.9	32.6
Spirituality/faith	16.3	14.6	15.5
Getting a job	15.5	12.7	15.6
Financial security	9.7	15.3	31.1
Making a difference in the community	6.0	5.1	9.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were other differences among the age groups, particularly when comparing the responses of the young adult group with those aged 11 to 19 year olds. Unsurprisingly, *school or study satisfaction* was highly valued by substantially more 11 to 19 year olds compared with the 20 to 24 years age group. Conversely, *feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by a much larger proportion of young adults than those aged 11 to 19, as was *financial security*.

- Around 30% of respondents aged 11 to 19 highly valued *school and study satisfaction* compared with 13.3% of respondents aged 20 to 24.
- *Feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by a larger proportion of 20 to 24 year olds (32.6%) than 11 to 19 year olds (around 22%).
- Young adult respondents were much more likely than those aged under 20 years to highly value *financial security* (31.1% of 20 to 24 year olds compared with 9.7% of 11 to 14 year olds and 15.3% of 15 to 19 year olds).

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top three items for both genders were identical, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*. The proportion of male respondents who valued the top two items highly was less than for female respondents. Similar proportions of both genders highly valued *physical and mental health*. The major difference by gender was in the proportion of respondents who highly valued *getting a job*, with male respondents more than twice as likely as female respondents to identify this item.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 84.8% of female respondents and 76.9% of male respondents.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 64.3% of female respondents and 54.2% of male respondents.
- About a third of both genders valued *physical and mental health*.
- *Being independent* and *school or study satisfaction* were highly valued by over a quarter of respondents of both genders.
- *Getting a job* was valued by a much larger proportion of males than females (20.2% compared with 9.2%).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	84.8	76.9
Friendships (other than family)	64.3	54.2
Physical and mental health	32.8	33.9
School or study satisfaction	29.6	27.1
Being independent	25.9	30.3
Feeling needed and valued	22.5	22.9
Spirituality/faith	15.7	15.0
Getting a job	9.2	20.2
Financial security	11.4	14.9
Making a difference in the community	4.8	6.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that were of personal concern to them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for NSW respondents were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*. These were also the top three issues nationally. The fourth issue was *school or study problems* and compared to 2009 a higher proportion of respondents indicated this was a major concern. There were a range of issues that were of major concern to respondents, with seven items being of concern to at least one in five young people.

- *Body image* was the top concern for NSW respondents, with 31.4% indicating it was a major concern for them.
- Over a quarter of respondents indicated *family conflict* (28.9%) was a major issue.
- Concern about *coping with stress* increased from 19.3% in 2009 to 27.4% this year.
- *School or study problems* was of significant concern to a quarter (25.7%) of respondents this year, compared with 17.9% last year.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	NSW 2010 %	National 2010 %	NSW 2009 %	NSW 2008 %	NSW 2007 %
Body image	31.4	31.1	25.2	26.0	32.2
Family conflict	28.9	27.8	25.4	27.6	31.5
Coping with stress	27.4	27.3	19.3	21.6	28.4
School or study problems	25.7	25.5	17.9	19.0	26.2
Personal safety	24.2	23.5	23.5	24.0	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.3	23.0	23.2	22.2	23.1
Alcohol	22.3	22.2	21.8	19.7	18.5
Drugs	19.7	20.5	25.4	24.6	19.2
Suicide	19.7	19.6	25.8	24.4	22.4
Depression	18.6	19.1	19.1	17.9	20.4
Physical/sexual abuse	15.5	15.7	22.8	23.7	20.3
The environment	15.0	16.6	15.4	16.6	23.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.3	10.9	12.3	12.4	8.8
Self harm	11.1	11.3	13.0	13.6	14.2
Discrimination	10.3	10.0	12.3	13.1	14.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups on issues of concern. *Body image* was a top issue for all age groups with the young adult group most likely to identify it as a major concern. *Coping with stress* was the top issue for the 20 to 24 years age group and was ranked second by those aged 15 to 19 years. *Family conflict* was a top three issue for those aged 11 to 19 years.

- Concern with *body image* increased with age, with 28.2% of 11 to 14 year olds, 33.7% of 15 to 19 year olds, and 42.2% of 20 to 24 year olds indicating it was a major concern.
- Just under half (44.5%) of 20 to 24 year olds indicated *coping with stress* was an issue of significant concern, as did a third (33.1%) of 15 to 19 year olds, and one in five (20.2%) 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 12: Issues of personal concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Body image	28.2	33.7	42.2
Family conflict	28.2	29.8	19.8
Coping with stress	20.2	33.1	44.5
School or study problems	21.3	29.8	18.1
Personal safety	26.2	22.8	19.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	27.3	20.0	16.4
Alcohol	23.9	21.0	18.6
Drugs	24.5	15.9	6.4
Suicide	22.0	18.0	13.6
Depression	15.8	20.4	36.6
Physical/sexual abuse	16.8	14.3	12.7
The environment	17.2	13.0	19.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.0	11.5	14.4
Self harm	12.4	10.0	7.7
Discrimination	9.4	11.0	10.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Other differences among the age groups were the proportions who were concerned about *school or study problems*, *family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *drugs* and *depression*.

- A greater proportion of 15 to 19 year olds compared with the other two age groups expressed concern about *school or study problems* (around 30% compared to around 20%).
- Family conflict* was of concern to around 30% of 11 to 19 year olds, and around 20% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- A quarter (24.5%) of 11 to 14 year olds indicated *drugs* was a major concern, compared with just 6.4% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Concern with *bullying/emotional abuse* declined with age, with over a quarter (27.3%) of 11 to 14 year olds, a fifth (20.0%) of 15 to 19 year olds, and a sixth (16.4%) of 20 to 24 year olds, indicating it was a major issue.
- 36.6% of 20 to 24 year olds indicated *depression* was a significant concern compared with 15.8% of 11 to 14 year olds. It was the third ranked issue for the young adult group.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that there were some substantial differences between the genders on their issues of personal concern. The top three issues for male respondents were *alcohol*, *body image*, and *bullying/emotional abuse* while for female respondents they were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*.

- *Body image* was a top three item for both genders, with a third (33.3%) of female respondents and 28.8% of males indicating it was a major concern.
- *Alcohol* was the top issue for male respondents with 29.3% indicating it was a major concern, compared with 16.9% of female respondents.
- Almost a third (31.7%) of females indicated *family conflict* was a major concern as did a quarter (25.1%) of males.
- *Coping with stress* was of concern to a greater proportion of female than male respondents (30.4% compared with 23.7%).
- The third ranked issue for males was *bullying/emotional abuse* with a quarter of this group and one fifth of their female counterparts indicating it was a significant concern.

Table 13: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Body image	33.3	28.8
Family conflict	31.7	25.1
Coping with stress	30.4	23.7
School or study problems	27.3	23.7
Personal safety	24.9	23.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.4	25.7
Alcohol	16.9	29.3
Drugs	16.9	23.3
Suicide	19.7	19.7
Depression	20.0	16.9
Physical/sexual abuse	18.3	11.7
The environment	13.6	16.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.7	13.4
Self harm	10.9	11.2
Discrimination	11.7	9.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for NSW respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally. The *internet* was the fourth ranked item.

- 86.0% of NSW respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 85.9%.
- *Parents* were highly ranked as a source of advice by about three quarters (74.9%) of NSW respondents.
- 61.5% of NSW respondents indicated a *relative or family friend* was a major source of advice and support.
- 25.9% of respondents indicated the *internet* was a major source of advice, up from 10.8% in 2002.

Table 14: Where young people turn to for advice and support

	NSW 2010 %	National 2010 %	NSW 2009 %	NSW 2008 %	NSW 2007 %
Friends	86.0	85.9	84.9	86.0	86.9
Parents	74.9	74.9	74.9	75.6	75.8
Relative/family friend	61.5	60.9	62.0	62.5	64.9
Internet	25.9	25.5	22.6	19.8	18.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.7	11.7	11.6	9.6	10.5
Magazines	11.4	11.4	10.5	10.3	10.7
Teacher	10.1	10.7	10.3	11.3	10.3
School counsellor	8.5	9.1	10.0	11.3	10.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.8	7.7	9.0	8.7	8.4
Telephone helpline	3.9	4.1	5.6	5.2	5.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 15 shows the major sources of advice and support for all three age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Similar proportions of each age group selected *friends* among their top sources of advice, while older participants were somewhat less likely to select *parents* or *relative/family friend* compared to younger participants. The proportion of respondents who identified the *internet* as a major source of advice increased with age.

- More than four in five respondents in each age group identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- Close to 80% of 11 to 14 year olds identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support, as did 66.8% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Almost two thirds (64.6%) of 11 to 14 year olds, 59.1% of 15 to 19 year olds and just over half (55.1%) of 20 to 24 year olds indicated a *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice.
- 41.5% of the young adult group identified the *internet* as an important source of advice and support, compared to 20.0% of those aged 11 to 14 years.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	83.5	88.3	82.7
Parents	79.4	71.5	66.8
Relative/family friend	64.6	59.1	55.1
Internet	20.0	30.3	41.5
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.3	11.9	12.1
Magazines	11.0	11.7	13.0
Teacher	11.2	9.3	5.8
School counsellor	9.5	7.8	5.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.3	7.9	13.9
Telephone helpline	4.2	3.6	5.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportion of females who identified these items was higher than males in all three cases.

- 90.3% of female respondents and 80.5% of male respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- Over 70% of respondents of both genders indicated *parents* were an important source of advice.
- Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice (66.3% compared with 55.3%).

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	90.3	80.5
Parents	77.5	71.7
Relative/family friend	66.3	55.3
Internet	21.9	31.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.4	17.4
Magazines	12.4	10.1
Teacher	8.4	12.4
School counsellor	8.0	9.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.4	9.5
Telephone helpline	2.7	5.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify the *internet* and *community agencies* as major sources of advice and support.

- Just under a third (31.1%) of male respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice, compared to just over a fifth (21.9%) of female respondents.
- *Community agencies* were a main source of support for 17.4% of male respondents, compared with 7.4% of their female counterparts.

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 17. The top two issues for respondents from NSW were *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs*, as they were nationally. Significant proportions of respondents also indicated *equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* were important.

- Just under half (46.0%) of all NSW respondents indicated *the environment* was one of the most important issues in Australia today.
- Over a third (34.7%) of respondents considered *alcohol and drugs* to be an important issue.
- *Equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* were considered important issues by around one in five respondents.

Table 17: Most important issues in Australia today

	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	46.0	45.7	55.2	38.5	38.2	51.0	39.6
Alcohol and drugs	34.7	37.1	37.7	32.6	25.3	32.0	38.3
Equity and discrimination	22.6	20.6	17.3	26.8	28.6	25.3	19.0
The economy and financial matters	19.8	18.6	18.9	20.7	17.1	18.0	22.2
Crime, safety and violence	17.1	21.0	18.2	16.3	12.4	16.6	17.7
Health	16.5	15.8	15.3	17.4	17.1	17.8	14.7
Politics and societal values	14.4	13.3	14.4	14.5	8.3	11.7	17.8
Population issues	12.3	13.3	10.4	13.8	15.2	10.6	14.6
Mental health	11.0	11.6	9.0	12.2	24.4	13.2	8.1
Abuse	9.4	10.0	11.1	8.2	4.1	11.3	6.9
Bullying	9.3	10.0	12.9	6.5	4.6	10.9	7.4
Education	7.8	7.3	6.6	8.6	12.9	7.5	8.1
Homelessness/housing	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.6	10.1	6.4	4.4
Employment	4.9	5.2	3.5	5.8	13.4	4.5	5.3
Adolescence/youth	4.7	4.2	2.9	6.2	6.0	5.2	4.0
International relations	3.6	3.3	3.9	3.4	1.4	2.9	4.6
Poverty/disadvantage	3.3	3.0	3.6	3.0	4.1	3.9	2.5
Relationships	3.3	2.6	4.0	2.7	2.3	3.3	3.2
Sport	2.6	2.6	2.2	3.1	0.5	0.6	5.3
Body image	2.4	2.2	1.8	3.0	3.2	3.6	0.9

Age differences

The environment and alcohol and drugs were top three issues for all age groups though the proportions identifying them declined with age. The proportions indicating equity and discrimination and mental health were important increased with age.

- The environment was the top ranked issue for all three age groups with 55.2% of the youngest group and around 38% of those aged 15 to 24 years indicating it was an important issue.
- 37.7% of those aged 11 to 14 years compared with 25.3% of the young adult group indicated alcohol and drugs was a major issue.
- A quarter of those aged 15 to 24 years and a fifth of the youngest group identified equity and discrimination as an important issue.
- A quarter of young adults compared to one in ten 11 to 19 year olds indicated mental health was a major issue.

Gender differences

The environment and alcohol and drugs were the top two issues for both genders though the proportions identifying them varied somewhat. Significant proportions of both groups also indicated equity and discrimination and the economy and financial matters were important issues.

- 51.0% of females and 39.6% of males indicated the environment was an important issue.
- Over 30% of both genders identified alcohol and other drugs as a major issue for Australia.
- A least one in five respondents of both genders indicated equity and discrimination and the economy and financial matters were important issues.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for NSW respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities* and participation rates for all three were higher than in 2009. These were also the top three activities nationally. Significant proportions of NSW respondents also participated in *volunteer work* and *religious groups or activities*.

- 73.0% of respondents from NSW participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did 56.7% in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- A third (33.3%) of NSW respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural activities*.
- Around a third of NSW respondents participated in *volunteer work*, and *religious groups or activities*, up from 20.2 % and 23.5% respectively in 2009.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	NSW 2010 %	National 2010%	NSW 2009 %	NSW 2008 %	NSW 2007%
Sports (as a participant)	73.0	71.3	66.3	68.5	66.0*
Sports (as a spectator)	56.7	57.2	41.6	47.3	
Arts/cultural activities	33.3	31.2	24.9	44.3	44.5
Volunteer work	33.2	28.3	20.2	22.6	22.5
Religious groups or activities	30.8	25.5	23.5	27.4	27.4
Youth groups and clubs	28.1	27.0	22.0	27.5	27.4
Student leadership activities	27.6	25.7	10.2	11.8	12.6
Environmental groups or activities	14.6	13.3	11.0	13.6	12.9
Political groups or organisations**	6.4	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. * Appears as the single items sports prior to 2008. ** New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 19 shows there were both similarities and differences in the range of activities that respondents in different age groups participated in. *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* appeared in the top three activities for all age groups, although the participation rates declined somewhat with age. Conversely, participation in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural activities* and *political groups or organisations* increased with age, with *volunteer work* being the most common activity for 20 to 24 year olds.

- Over four in five (81.4%) respondents aged 11 to 14 years indicated they took part in *sports (as a participant)*, compared with two thirds (66.6%) of 15 to 19 year olds, and under half (46.8%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Participation rates in *sports (as a spectator)* were similar for 11 to 19 year olds (around 56%), with 20 to 24 year olds recording slightly lower levels of participation (46.7%).
- Almost half (47.0%) of 20 to 24 year olds participated in *volunteer work*, compared with 28.9% of 11 to 14 year olds, and 36.5% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- Almost half (46.6%) of the young adult group participated in *arts/cultural activities*, compared with around a third of the two younger age groups.
- Around one in five 20 to 24 year olds were involved in *political groups or organisations*, around three times the rate for those aged 11 to 19 years.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	81.4	66.6	46.8
Sports (as a spectator)	55.6	57.9	46.7
Arts/cultural activities	31.1	34.7	46.6
Volunteer work	28.9	36.5	47.0
Religious groups or activities	31.5	30.3	23.8
Youth groups and clubs	28.2	27.8	34.3
Student leadership activities	23.8	30.7	28.1
Environmental groups or activities	13.4	15.3	27.2
Political groups or organisations	5.5	6.8	18.3

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the differences as well as the similarities in the activities in which male and female respondents from NSW participated. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in these activities. The third top activity for females was *arts/cultural activities*, while for males it was *religious groups or activities*. Female respondents were more likely than males to be involved in *volunteer work*.

- Over three quarters (76.3%) of male respondents and 70.3% of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- 61.9% of males and 52.5% of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to indicate that they took part in *arts/cultural activities* (39.1% compared to 26.0%).
- Around 30% of both genders participated in *religious groups or activities*.
- 37.2% of female respondents and 28.0% of their male counterparts were involved in *volunteer work*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	70.3	76.3
Sports (as a spectator)	52.5	61.9
Arts/cultural activities	39.1	26.0
Volunteer work	37.2	28.0
Religious groups or activities	31.3	30.0
Youth groups and clubs	27.1	29.3
Student leadership activities	30.0	24.6
Environmental groups or activities	14.8	14.4
Political groups or organisations	4.9	8.3

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question included for the first time in the 2010 National Survey asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 21 shows that two thirds of NSW respondents felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future, which was comparable to the national figure. Only a small proportion of NSW respondents felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future. The data was fairly consistent across age groups and genders.

- Almost two thirds of NSW respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- Less than one in ten young people reported *negative* or *very negative* feelings about the future.
- A quarter of respondents indicated they felt neither *positive* nor *negative* about the future.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	22.2	21.2	22.4	22.0	16.4	18.9	26.3
Positive	42.7	43.1	42.7	42.7	44.0	44.7	40.2
Neither positive nor negative	26.4	27.0	27.2	25.9	28.4	28.1	24.2
Negative	5.4	5.5	4.7	5.9	7.8	5.8	4.8
Very negative	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.6	3.4	2.4	4.5



Northern Territory summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

1,462 surveys were returned from the Northern Territory (NT), which was 2.9% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

11 to 14 year olds formed the largest group of respondents from the NT (53.5%), followed by 15 to 19 year olds (34.4%). A small number (175) of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years and although they accounted for 12.1% of all NT responses, results for this group should be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11 - 14 years	774	53.5
15 - 19 years	497	34.4
20 - 24 years	175	12.1
Total	1,446	2.9

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

56.8% of respondents from the NT were female and 43.2% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 225 (15.6%) respondents from the NT identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	225	15.6	4.8	14.3	18.3	13.8
Non Indigenous	1,213	84.4	95.2	85.7	81.7	86.2

Languages other than English spoken at home

88.7% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 165 (11.3%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke 39 different languages between them. The most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Filipino/Tagalog; Indigenous languages; Kriol; Vietnamese; Chinese; German; and Indonesian.

Disability

54 (3.7%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently reported disabilities (in order of frequency) were: autism; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); blindness or vision impairment; physical disability; epilepsy; and psychiatric disability.

Where respondents were living

Table 3 shows that while the vast majority (85.6%) of respondents from the NT were living *with family*, this was lower than the national figure of 95.0%, reflecting in part the greater proportion of young adults who participated in the survey in the NT. 24 respondents from the NT were living in a *boarding school*. 11 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* participated, as did 10 who were in *foster care* and 8 who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	85.6	95.0	96.6	87.0	31.0
Share house	5.8	1.4	0.6	4.7	32.7
Alone	2.3	0.6	0.1	2.0	13.7
With spouse/partner and/or own children	2.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	17.3
Boarding school	1.7	1.1	1.0	3.0	0.6
Homeless/insecure housing	0.8	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.0
Foster care	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.0
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	3.0
Other	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.6	1.8

Living in or outside a capital city

Table 4 shows the majority of NT respondents (72.1%) were living in the capital city of Darwin. Nationally, 59.2% of respondents were living in a capital city.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs%	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	1,051	72.1	59.2	75.7	66.1	73.1
Not in capital city	406	27.9	40.8	24.3	33.9	26.9

Main source of income

The main source of income for the majority of respondents in the NT was *parents/family* (66.6%) as shown in Table 5. Over a quarter of all respondents relied on *employment* (28.1%) as their main source of income, compared with 16.6% nationally, reflecting the higher proportion of young adults amongst respondents from the Northern Territory.

Table 5: Main source of income

	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	66.6	77.4	89.5	54.4	4.0
Employment	28.1	16.6	6.7	38.3	90.2
Government Allowance	3.7	4.6	1.4	6.9	4.6
Other	1.4	1.1	2.1	0.2	1.1
No income	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

Table 6 indicates that just over half of all NT respondents (56.9%) were *studying full time*, which was substantially lower than the national figure of 85.5%. Females were less likely than males to be *studying full time* and were much more likely to be *not studying* at all.

Table 6: Participation in education

	NT %	National %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	56.9	85.5	72.9	11.4	51.8	65.3
Studying part time	14.9	6.2	11.5	24.6	15.9	13.3
Not studying	28.2	8.3	15.6	64.0	32.3	21.4

Table 7: Participation in employment

Table 7 shows that NT respondents had higher rates of participation in full time employment than their national counterparts (31.6% compared to 2.5% nationally). Females were much more likely than males to be *working full time* (41.2% compared to 15.2%) while males were more likely than females to be *working part time* (22.2% and 12.9% respectively). About one in five (19.1%) of all NT respondents were *unemployed/looking for work* which was substantially lower than the national rate of 29.9%.

	NT %	National %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
Working full time	31.6	2.5	12.1	86.2	41.2	15.2
Working part time	16.3	17.2	21.1	2.9	12.9	22.2
Casual or temporary work	17.2	26.2	21.8	4.6	17.3	17.3
Unemployed/looking for work	19.1	29.9	24.4	4.0	13.4	28.4
Too young to work or choose not to	15.7	24.2	20.5	2.3	15.1	16.9

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for the NT, as they were nationally. The third ranked item was *being independent* followed closely by *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*.

- Almost four in five (79.4%) NT respondents highly valued *family relationships* and over half (56.3%) valued *friendships*.
- The third ranked item was *being independent* and 30.4% of respondents highly valued it.
- Just over a quarter of respondents highly valued *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*.

Table 8: What young people value

	NT 2010 %	National 2010 %	NT 2009 %	NT 2008 %	NT 2007 %
Family relationships	79.4	78.8	77.5	77.8	75.3
Friendships (other than family)	56.3	60.9	56.4	61.7	55.4
Being independent	30.4	27.0	33.8	30.0	36.0
Physical and mental health	28.3	33.9	28.3	26.2	32.6
School or study satisfaction	27.8	29.3	25.0	21.8	23.1
Getting a job	20.5	16.0	18.6	17.3	15.6
Feeling needed and valued	20.2	21.8	23.1	25.3	24.6
Financial security	17.6	13.5	12.6	14.3	14.6
Spirituality/faith	14.2	13.6	15.3	15.7	13.2
Making a difference in the community	7.3	6.2	9.7	8.5	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows that there were both differences and similarities between the age groups in the items valued. *Family relationships* was the top item for all three age groups, with the second item for the two younger groups being *friendships* while for the young adult group it was *financial security*. *School and study satisfaction* was highly valued by a much larger proportion of the two younger groups than those aged 20 to 24 years. The proportion of respondents who highly valued *being independent* increased with age and it was the third ranked item for those aged 15 to 24 years.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by all age groups and more than 70% of each group highly valued them.
- 60.8% of 11 to 14 year olds valued *friendships* compared with 43.5% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- 20 to 24 year olds were much more likely than those aged 11 to 14 years to highly value *financial security* (44.4% compared to 9.0%).
- Around 30% of those aged 11 to 19 years highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, compared to 6.5% of young adults.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by 43.8% of 20 to 24 year olds compared with 25.0% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Family relationships	84.0	72.6	81.0
Friendships (other than family)	60.8	54.8	43.5
Being independent	25.0	33.5	43.8
Physical and mental health	29.2	27.6	27.2
School or study satisfaction	31.8	29.4	6.5
Getting a job	20.6	20.0	19.9
Feeling needed and valued	20.8	20.1	17.9
Financial security	9.0	20.6	44.4
Spirituality/faith	15.0	14.9	8.9
Making a difference in the community	6.2	8.6	7.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Significant proportions of respondents across the age groups highly valued *physical and mental health*, *getting a job*, and *feeling needed and valued*.

- One in four respondents in each age group highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- Around one in five respondents in each age group valued *getting a job* and *feeling needed and valued*.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for both genders, although a higher proportion of females than males highly valued these items. A significant proportion of both genders also valued *being independent*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*.

- 84.0% of females valued *family relationships*, as did 72.9% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 59.6% of females and 51.8% of males.
- Around 30% of both genders highly valued *being independent*.
- Around a third of males and a quarter of females highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- At least a quarter of both genders highly valued *school or study satisfaction*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	84.0	72.9
Friendships (other than family)	59.6	51.8
Being independent	29.0	32.3
Physical and mental health	25.3	32.7
School or study satisfaction	26.7	29.5
Getting a job	16.8	25.9
Feeling needed and valued	19.9	20.5
Financial security	17.9	17.1
Spirituality/faith	15.8	12.2
Making a difference in the community	6.9	8.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major difference by gender in what young people valued was the proportion who identified *getting a job*, with a higher proportion of males than females indicating it was highly valued.

- *Getting a job* was highly valued by 25.9% of males compared to 16.8% of females.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues of personal concern to them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues for NT respondents were *body image*, *alcohol* and *family conflict*. Nationally they were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*. *Coping with stress* was the fourth issue of concern for NT respondents.

- Around three in ten NT respondents were significantly concerned about *body image* (30.5%), up from 22.3% in 2009.
- *Alcohol* was identified as a major issue of concern by 27.6% of NT respondents, slightly higher than the national figure of 22.2%.
- *Family conflict* was of concern to 26.5% of NT respondents.
- One in four respondents from the NT indicated *coping with stress* was a major concern, up from one in five in 2009.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	NT 2010 %	National 2010 %	NT 2009 %	NT 2008 %	NT 2007 %
Body image	30.5	31.1	22.3	22.7	29.1
Alcohol	27.6	22.2	23.9	21.8	22.8
Family conflict	26.5	27.8	23.3	26.1	29.8
Coping with stress	25.4	27.3	19.0	19.3	26.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.6	23.0	25.9	22.3	22.3
Drugs	23.0	20.5	26.8	26.5	21.1
School or study problems	21.0	25.5	16.0	19.6	25.8
Suicide	21.0	19.6	27.3	23.7	21.2
The environment	20.4	16.6	19.5	19.9	26.2
Personal safety	20.0	23.5	20.2	23.1	N/A
Physical/sexual abuse	18.0	15.7	26.0	24.6	20.6
Depression	17.0	19.1	18.2	16.7	19.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.8	10.9	10.6	11.7	9.8
Discrimination	10.8	10.0	11.6	13.5	14.6
Self harm	9.3	11.3	11.5	13.9	13.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A number of other issues including *bullying/emotional abuse*, *drugs*, *school or study problems*, *suicide*, *the environment* and *personal safety* were of significant concern to at least one in five respondents from the Northern Territory.

Age differences

Table 12 shows there were a number of differences in the major issues of concern identified by each age group. The top three issues of concern for 11 to 14 year olds were *alcohol*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *drugs*, with the level of concern about these issues declining with age. The top issues for 15 to 19 year olds were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*, while for 20 to 24 year olds they were *coping with stress*, *body image* and *personal safety*.

- Concern about *body image* increased with age, with 44.0% of 20 to 24 year olds, 33.0% of those aged 15 to 19 years and 25.2% of 11 to 14 year olds indicating it was a major issue. It was a top three issue for both the older groups.
- 32.0% of 11 to 14 year olds were concerned about *alcohol* compared with 21.0% of 20 to 24 year olds. It was the top issue for the youngest group.
- *Coping with stress* was a concern for 44.3% of the young adult group, 25.9% of 15 to 19 year olds and 19.9% of 11 to 14 year olds. It was a top three issue for both the older groups.
- *Bullying/emotional abuse* was a major concern to 28.4% of 11 to 14 year olds compared with 13.3% of 20 to 24 year olds. It was ranked second by the youngest group.
- Around a quarter (26.1%) of 11 to 14 year olds were significantly concerned about *drugs* compared with 14.5% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Personal safety* was the third top issue for those aged 20 to 24 years with around a quarter of them indicating it was a major concern, as did around one in five respondents aged 11 to 19.

Table 12: Issues of personal concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Body image	25.2	33.0	44.0
Alcohol	32.0	24.3	21.0
Family conflict	25.8	29.3	20.7
Coping with stress	19.9	25.9	44.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	28.4	21.0	13.3
Drugs	26.1	22.1	14.5
School or study problems	21.5	23.0	13.9
Suicide	23.7	20.8	11.4
The environment	22.5	16.4	23.0
Personal safety	20.3	17.1	25.3
Physical/sexual abuse	18.0	17.1	20.6
Depression	15.1	18.1	21.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.0	12.6	12.0
Discrimination	8.3	14.6	9.0
Self harm	9.3	10.9	6.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Another difference in the issues of concern between the age groups was *suicide*, with a higher proportion of the younger age groups compared to the young adult group indicating it was a major concern.

- 23.7% of 11 to 14 year olds and 20.8% of those aged 15 to 19 indicated *suicide* was a major concern, compared to 11.4% of those aged 20 to 24 years.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows respondents' issues of concern by gender, with *body image* the only top three issue common to both males and females. The other top three issues for females were *family conflict* and *coping with stress* while for males they were *alcohol and drugs*.

- *Body image* was the top issue of concern for female respondents with 32.9% of them and 27.1% of their male counterparts indicating it was a major issue. It was ranked third by males.
- *Alcohol* was the top issue of concern for males with 34.8% indicating it was a concern compared with 22.7% of females.
- *Family conflict* was the second top issue for females with 29.3% of them indicating it was a major concern compared with 22.5% of males.
- 28.8% of male respondents indicated *drugs* was a major concern, compared to 19.0% of their female counterparts. It was the second top issue for males.
- 27.7% of female respondents, compared to 22.2% of male respondents were concerned about *coping with stress*. It was the third top issue for females.

Table 13: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Body image	32.9	27.1
Alcohol	22.7	34.8
Family conflict	29.3	22.5
Coping with stress	27.7	22.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.1	27.1
Drugs	19.0	28.8
School or study problems	21.2	20.4
Suicide	18.4	24.8
The environment	20.3	20.5
Personal safety	22.0	17.0
Physical/sexual abuse	20.8	14.0
Depression	20.8	11.4
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.5	13.8
Discrimination	10.1	11.9
Self harm	8.5	10.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Other differences by gender included the level of concern about *suicide*, *physical/sexual abuse* and *depression*.

- *Suicide* was a major concern to a greater proportion of males (24.8%) than females (18.4%).
- Females were more likely than males to be concerned about *physical/sexual abuse* (20.8% and 14.0% respectively) and *depression* (20.8% and 11.4% respectively).

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows the top three sources of support and advice for young people in the NT when they have a problem continue to be *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally. The fourth ranked item for NT respondents was the *internet*.

- More than eight in ten young people from the NT (84.9%) indicated *friends* were a major source of advice.
- Three quarters of young people (74.5%) identified *parents* as an important source of advice and support.
- A *relative/family friend* was a major source of support for over 60% of respondents.
- 25.1% of young people indicated the *internet* was a main source of advice, up from 8.1% in 2003.

Table 14: Where young people turn to for advice and support

	NT 2010 %	National 2010 %	NT 2009 %	NT 2008 %	NT 2007 %
Friends	84.9	85.9	84.8	85.2	84.0
Parents	74.5	74.9	73.8	74.0	73.8
Relative/family friend	60.8	60.9	64.6	62.3	65.3
Internet	25.1	25.5	21.7	15.4	18.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	13.4	11.7	10.5	9.7	11.7
Magazines	12.3	11.4	11.4	11.7	10.5
School counsellor	9.8	9.1	10.0	11.0	10.9
Teacher	9.6	10.7	8.3	10.9	10.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.8	7.7	9.4	9.9	9.6
Telephone helpline	4.0	4.1	7.0	6.8	6.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

As Table 15 shows, the top three sources of support and advice for all three age groups were *friends*, *parents* and a *relative/family friend*.

- *Friends* were a major source of advice and support for 81.8% of 11 to 14 year olds, 86.6% of 15 to 19 year olds, and 90.6% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice and support for around three quarters of respondents from each age group.
- Around six in ten respondents in each group indicated a *relative/family friend* was a major source of support.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs%	15-19 yrs%	20- 24 yrs %
Friends	81.8	86.6	90.6
Parents	75.9	71.6	76.9
Relative/family friend	62.8	59.2	59.0
Internet	21.1	25.5	37.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	15.5	11.7	9.0
Magazines	12.2	12.5	11.3
School counsellor	11.7	9.7	3.6
Teacher	10.0	11.6	3.1
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.0	8.8	8.4
Telephone helpline	4.2	4.9	1.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main difference by age was the proportions of respondents who indicated the *internet* or a *school counsellor* was an important source of advice. Young adults were more likely than their younger counterparts to indicate the *internet* was a major source of advice, while those aged 11 to 19 years were more likely than the oldest group to identify a *school counsellor*.

- The *internet* was a major source of advice for 37.1% of 20 to 24 year olds compared with 21.1% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- Around one in ten 11 to 19 year olds compared to 3.6% of the young adult group indicated a *school counsellor* was a major source of advice.

Gender differences

Table 16 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for both males and females were *friends*, *parents* and a *relative/family friend*. Males were slightly more likely than females to indicate the *internet* and *community agencies* were major sources of advice.

- 88.0% of females indicated *friends* were a major source of advice, as did 80.3% of males.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice and support for over 70% of both genders.
- 64.1% of females compared to 56.2% of males indicated a *relative/family friend* was a major source of advice.
- Males were more likely than females to rely on advice and support from the *internet* (28.1% compared to 22.9%) and *community agencies* (18.1% compared to 10.2%).

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	88.0	80.3
Parents	76.4	71.9
Relative/family friend	64.1	56.2
Internet	22.9	28.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.2	18.1
Magazines	13.1	11.0
School counsellor	8.9	11.1
Teacher	7.9	12.0
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.7	9.2
Telephone helpline	3.6	4.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 17. The top three issues for NT respondents and for respondents nationally, were *the environment*, *alcohol and drugs* and *crime, safety and violence*. Significant proportions of respondents from the NT also indicated *the economy and financial matters* were important.

- Approximately half of NT respondents (49.9%) identified *the environment* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Almost four in ten respondents in the NT (39.2%) considered *alcohol and drugs* to be a major issue.
- Around one in five NT respondents indicated *crime, safety and violence* and *the economy and financial matters* were important.

Table 17: Most important issues in Australia today

	NT	National	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
The environment	49.9	45.7	58.4	38.2	48.1	52.3	46.4
Alcohol and drugs	39.2	37.1	42.8	37.2	29.0	38.2	40.3
Crime, safety and violence	21.7	21.0	25.5	18.5	16.7	20.8	23.1
The economy and financial matters	18.5	18.6	13.9	22.7	25.9	16.3	21.6
Equity and discrimination	16.3	20.6	13.2	20.2	17.3	19.0	12.4
Health	14.4	15.8	12.6	16.5	16.7	15.1	13.0
Population issues	13.5	13.3	8.7	18.2	19.8	12.8	14.5
Abuse	10.2	10.0	12.2	8.1	8.0	13.8	5.0
Politics and societal values	9.5	13.3	8.8	12.6	4.9	7.7	12.2
Mental health	9.0	11.6	9.5	8.1	9.9	11.5	5.5
Homelessness/housing	8.9	5.7	7.5	8.4	16.0	9.9	7.6
Employment	8.6	5.2	4.8	11.1	16.7	7.6	10.1
Education	8.3	7.3	7.1	8.1	13.0	8.4	8.2
Bullying	5.5	10.0	7.1	4.4	1.2	7.0	3.4
Adolescence/youth	3.6	4.2	1.4	5.2	8.0	4.5	2.3
ATSI issues	3.4	1.6	1.0	5.9	6.2	3.2	3.8
International relations	3.3	3.3	4.4	2.2	1.2	3.2	3.4
Relationships	2.8	2.6	2.9	3.4	1.2	1.9	4.2
Sport	2.7	2.6	2.9	2.7	1.2	0.9	5.3
Animal rights and welfare	2.4	2.0	4.1	0.5	1.2	2.8	1.7
Poverty/disadvantage	2.2	3.0	3.4	0.7	1.9	2.5	1.9

Age differences

The environment and alcohol and drugs were the top two issues for all three age groups, though respondents in the youngest age group were more likely than the older groups to think they were important. People in the youngest age group were also more likely than young adults to indicate that crime, safety and violence was important. The young adult group was more likely than the youngest group to indicate that the economy and financial matters, population issues, homelessness/housing and employment were important issues in Australia.

- 58.4% of 11 to 14 year olds, 38.2% of 15 to 19 year olds and 48.1% of young adults indicated the environment was a major issue.
- 29.0% of 20 to 24 year olds and around 40% of 11 to 19 year olds indicated alcohol and drugs was an important issue.
- A quarter of 15 to 24 year olds compared to 13.9% of the youngest group identified the economy and financial matters as a major issue.

Gender differences

The top three issues for both genders were identical however, females were slightly more likely than males to indicate that the environment was an important issue in Australia.

- 52.3% of females and 46.4% of males indicated the environment was an important issue in Australia today.
- Around 40% of both genders indicated alcohol and drugs was a major issue.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to indicate the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top two activities respondents from the NT participated in were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Significant proportions of NT respondents were also involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural activities*, and *youth groups and clubs*. Participation in all activities was higher than for 2009.

- Over two thirds of respondents (67.9%) from the NT participated in *sports (as a participant)*, and over half (54.8%) were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Around 32% of all NT respondents were involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural activities* and *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	NT 2010 %	National 2010 %	NT 2009 %	NT 2008 %	NT 2007 %
Sports (as a participant)	67.9	71.3	58.6	69.3	63.6*
Sports (as a spectator)	54.8	57.2	32.5	45.3	
Volunteer work	32.4	28.3	18.8	27.1	23.0
Arts/cultural activities	32.0	31.2	24.0	43.0	36.0
Youth groups and clubs	31.6	27.0	27.3	28.7	27.5
Student leadership activities	25.7	25.7	11.4	13.0	10.9
Religious groups or activities	23.8	25.5	19.8	26.5	24.4
Environmental groups or activities	19.2	13.3	12.8	16.6	11.8
Political groups or organisations**	7.9	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. * Appears as the single items sports prior to 2008. ** New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the top two activities for all three age groups. Significant proportions of young people in each of the age groups also participated in *arts/cultural activities* and *volunteer work*, with participation in the latter increasing with age.

- Three quarters (75.1%) of respondents aged 11 to 14 were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with around 60% of 15 to 24 year olds.
- More than half of each age group were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Between a quarter and a third of young people from each age group participated in *arts/cultural activities*.
- 42.2% of 20 to 24 year olds were involved in *volunteer work* compared with around 31% of those aged 11 to 19 years.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	75.1	59.9	60.1
Sports (as a spectator)	52.5	56.5	59.1
Volunteer work	30.6	31.6	42.2
Arts/cultural activities	33.8	28.9	34.9
Youth groups and clubs	33.1	33.6	20.9
Student leadership activities	28.2	26.8	11.6
Religious groups or activities	24.5	26.6	13.5
Environmental groups or activities	21.0	15.0	24.6
Political groups or organisations	8.0	7.4	9.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the similarities as well as differences in the activities in which males and females participated. *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the top two activities for both genders, although males were more likely than females to be involved in them. Conversely, females were more likely than males to be involved in *volunteer work* and *arts/cultural activities*.

- Three quarters of males (74.1%) were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with just under two thirds of females (63.4%).
- Males (60.7%) were more likely to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* than females (50.7%).
- 37.7% of females participated in *volunteer work* compared with 25.1% of males.
- 36.8% of females participated in *arts/cultural activities* compared with 25.4% of males.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.4	74.1
Sports (as a spectator)	50.7	60.7
Volunteer work	37.7	25.1
Arts/cultural activities	36.8	25.4
Youth groups and clubs	31.2	32.2
Student leadership activities	24.2	27.6
Religious groups or activities	22.7	25.3
Environmental groups or activities	20.2	18.0
Political groups or organisations	6.4	10.0

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question in the 2010 National Survey asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 21 shows that 59.1% of NT respondents were *very positive* or *positive* about the future which is similar to the national figure of 64.3%. Just under 30% of young people from the NT were *neither positive nor negative* and around one in ten were *negative* or *very negative* about the future. Responses were quite similar by age and gender.

- 59.1% of NT respondents were *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- 29.9% of young people felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Only 11.0% of respondents from the NT reported feeling *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	21.3	21.2	22.8	21.2	16.2	19.9	23.4
Positive	37.8	43.1	35.4	37.7	48.6	38.7	36.5
Neither positive nor negative	29.9	27.0	31.6	29.0	24.3	31.2	27.9
Negative	6.1	5.5	5.3	6.7	8.1	6.5	5.6
Very negative	4.9	3.2	5.0	5.4	2.9	3.8	6.6



Queensland summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

9,284 surveys were received from Queensland (QLD), which was 18.5% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The largest group of respondents from Queensland was aged 15 to 19 years (51.7%) followed by 11 to 14 years (46.9%). Only a small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (127 or 1.4%) and results for this group should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11 - 14 years	4,320	46.9
15 - 19 years	4,769	51.7
20 - 24 years	127	1.4
Total	9,216	18.5% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

50.4% of respondents from QLD were female and 49.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

506 (5.5%) respondents from QLD identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	506	5.5	4.8	5.9	5.1	10.2
Non Indigenous	8,651	94.5	95.2	94.1	94.9	89.8

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 91% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. 840 (9.0%) respondents indicated they spoke a language other than English at home and the most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Chinese; Afrikaans; Mandarin; Samoan; Korean; Vietnamese; Filipino/Tagalog; and Cantonese.

Disability

297 (3.2%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); learning disability; physical disability; deafness or hearing impairment; blindness or vision impairment; diabetes; and intellectual disability.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from QLD (94.6%) were living *with family*, similar to the national figure of 95.0%. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house*, *with spouse/partner* or *alone*. 38 young people from Queensland who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* participated in the survey, as did 32 young people who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* and 51 who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	94.6	95.0	96.8	94.1	40.8
Boarding school	1.8	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.6
Share house	1.1	1.4	0.4	1.2	21.6
Foster care	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8
Alone	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.4	14.4
Homeless/insecure housing	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.8
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	2.4
Other	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.4	2.4
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	15.2

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, respondents from Queensland were more likely to come from outside the capital of Brisbane, with only 42.7% residing in the capital. Nationally 59.2% of respondents lived in a capital city. The proportion of respondents from Queensland living outside Brisbane varied with age, with close to two thirds (62.0%) of respondents aged 11 to 14 living outside the capital compared to about half (47.2%) of those aged 20 to 24.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	3,929	42.7	59.2	38.0	46.5	52.8
Not in capital city	5,283	57.3	40.8	62.0	53.5	47.2

Main source of income

As Table 5 shows, *parents/family* were identified as the main source of income by a majority of respondents (76.8%) from Queensland. This was close to the national figure of 77.4%. Respondents became much less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	76.8	77.4	91.7	65.2	5.6
Employment	18.7	16.6	6.5	28.3	76.2
Government Allowance	3.1	4.6	0.5	5.1	15.9
No income	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0
Other	0.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	2.4

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

84.1% of respondents from Queensland were *studying full time*, very close to the national figure of 85.5%. The proportion of respondents *studying full time* declined with age, with only a third of the young adult group involved in it. Females were slightly more likely than males to be *studying full time* (87.1% compared to 81.2%), while males were slightly more likely than females to be *studying part time* or *not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	QLD %	National %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	84.1	85.5	85.5	32.3	87.1	81.2
Studying part time	5.4	6.2	5.2	13.4	4.6	6.1
Not studying	10.5	8.3	9.3	54.3	8.3	12.7

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment, with participation varying significantly with age. Over half (52.0%) of young adults compared with only 0.4% of those aged 15 to 19 years were *working full time*. Just under half (47.4%) of the younger age group however, were *working part time* or were in *casual or temporary work*. Full time and part time employment participation rates for males and females were very similar: Males were slightly more likely than females to be *unemployed/looking for work* (33.3% compared with 29.3%), while females were more likely than males to be employed in *casual or temporary work* (33.6% compared with 22.4%).

Table 7: Participation in employment

	QLD %	National %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
Working full time	1.7	2.5	0.4	52.0	2.3	1.1
Working part time	18.9	17.2	19.2	10.2	19.5	18.5
Casual or temporary work	28.0	26.2	28.2	22.0	33.6	22.4
Unemployed/looking for work	31.3	29.9	31.7	15.0	29.3	33.3
Too young to work or choose not to	20.1	24.2	20.6	0.8	15.3	24.8

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for Queensland respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*, as they were nationally. Significant proportions of respondents from Queensland also highly valued *school or study satisfaction* and *being independent*, with the proportion identifying the former up significantly from 2009.

- Three quarters (75.8%) of Queensland respondents highly valued *family relationships* and 60.4% highly valued *friendships*.
- Around a third of Queensland respondents highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- 30.0% of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, up from 22.6% in 2009.
- One in four respondents indicated *being independent* was highly valued.

Table 8: What young people value

	QLD 2010%	National 2010%	QLD 2009%	QLD 2008%	QLD 2007%
Family relationships	75.8	78.8	74.5	74.3	74.5
Friendships (other than family)	60.4	60.9	62.2	61.5	59.0
Physical and mental health	32.3	33.9	30.0	28.8	32.9
School or study satisfaction	30.0	29.3	22.6	19.9	19.5
Being independent	26.3	27.0	32.0	31.8	33.6
Feeling needed and valued	21.7	21.8	25.3	26.7	25.7
Getting a job	19.0	16.0	20.2	17.6	16.3
Spirituality/faith	14.5	13.6	11.6	20.0	14.2
Financial security	14.0	13.5	14.3	13.7	14.4
Making a difference in the community	6.7	6.2	8.4	7.2	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 highlights both similarities and differences by age in what respondents valued. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top ranked items for all age groups, although the proportions who nominated *friendships* declined with age. 11 to 19 year olds ranked *physical and mental health* third, closely followed by *school or study satisfaction*. The third ranked item for 20 to 24 year olds was *financial security*, followed very closely by *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by all age groups, with more than 70% of each group valuing them highly.
- Around 60% of 11 to 19 year olds highly valued *friendships*, compared with 48.8% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Around 32% of 11 to 19 year olds highly valued *physical and mental health*, as did around 37% of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- *Financial security* was highly valued by 38.8% of young adults compared with 10.3% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- Around 30% of 11 to 19 year olds valued *school or study satisfaction*, around three times the proportion for young adults (9.9%).

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	78.9	73.3	73.6
Friendships (other than family)	61.3	60.0	48.8
Physical and mental health	32.9	31.8	37.2
School or study satisfaction	29.6	30.8	9.9
Being independent	23.4	28.7	25.6
Feeling needed and valued	23.3	19.9	29.8
Getting a job	19.7	18.7	12.4
Spirituality/faith	14.8	14.2	14.8
Financial security	10.3	16.5	38.8
Making a difference in the community	7.2	6.2	9.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top two items that respondents valued were identical for both genders, namely *family relationships* and *friendships*, although a lower proportion of male than female respondents highly valued these items. The third item for females was *school or study satisfaction* while for males it was *physical or mental health*.

- 81.4% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 69.8% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by almost two thirds (65.8%) of female respondents and just over half (54.7%) of male respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by over a third (36.9%) of male respondents and over a quarter (28.1%) of female respondents. It was ranked third by males.
- Around 30% of respondents of both genders highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, and it was ranked third by females.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	81.4	69.8
Friendships (other than family)	65.8	54.7
Physical and mental health	28.1	36.9
School or study satisfaction	31.7	28.2
Being independent	24.8	27.8
Feeling needed and valued	22.5	20.8
Getting a job	14.2	24.3
Spirituality/faith	14.4	14.5
Financial security	12.1	16.1
Making a difference in the community	6.0	7.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main difference by gender was the proportion who highly valued *getting a job*, with a much greater proportion of males than females indicating they valued this item.

- Almost one quarter (24.3%) of male respondents from Queensland compared with 14.2% of female respondents highly valued *getting a job*.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues of personal concern to them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues for Queensland respondents were *body image*, *coping with stress* and *family conflict*. These were also the top three issues nationally, although the order varied slightly. *School or study problems* was the fourth ranked issue in QLD with a much higher proportion of respondents indicating it was a significant concern in 2010 compared to 2009.

- The top issue of concern for Queensland respondents was *body image*, with 32.2% of respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- Over a quarter (28.3%) of respondents from Queensland identified *coping with stress* as a major issue, an increase from 19.2% in 2009.
- Around a quarter (27.3%) of respondents identified *family conflict* as a major concern.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 26.1% of respondents, up from 17.1% in 2009.

There were a range of other issues that were of concern to respondents from Queensland, with seven items being of major concern to at least one in five young people. These included *personal safety*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *alcohol*.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	QLD 2010%	National 2010%	QLD 2009 %	QLD 2008 %	QLD 2007%
Body image	32.2	31.1	25.6	28.8	33.0
Coping with stress	28.3	27.3	19.2	21.2	28.2
Family conflict	27.3	27.8	23.5	25.9	27.9
School or study problems	26.1	25.5	17.1	17.7	25.3
Personal safety	23.4	23.5	21.6	23.2	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.3	23.0	21.9	22.0	21.4
Alcohol	21.2	22.2	23.6	20.3	20.4
Suicide	19.6	19.6	27.0	25.6	24.5
Depression	18.9	19.1	17.8	17.8	20.3
Drugs	18.6	20.5	27.8	24.3	19.5
The environment	16.6	16.6	15.8	16.2	23.4
Physical/sexual abuse	15.4	15.7	23.0	22.5	21.8
Self harm	12.2	11.3	14.7	14.4	14.3
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.0	10.9	12.0	12.8	9.7
Discrimination	9.8	10.0	11.2	11.4	12.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 shows that there were a number of differences in the top three issues identified by each age group. The proportions of respondents identifying *coping with stress*, *body image* and *depression* as major issues increased with age. Conversely, the proportion of respondents aged 11 to 19 years identifying *bullying/emotional abuse*, *alcohol*, *drugs* and *suicide* was larger than the proportion of young adults who indicated these were major concerns. The top issues for the youngest group were *body image*, *family conflict* and *personal safety* while for those aged 15 to 19 years they were *body image*, *coping with stress*, and *school or study problems*. *Coping with stress*, *body image*, and *depression* were the top issues for the young adult group.

- *Body image* was a top three issue for all three age groups, with 30.4% of the youngest group and 39.3% of the oldest group indicating it was a major issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for over half (55.9%) of 20 to 24 year olds, a third of 15 to 19 year olds and a fifth of those aged 11 to 14 year olds (22.1%). It was a top three issue for both the older groups.
- Over a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds identified *family conflict* as a major issue, as did a fifth of young adults.
- The proportion of respondents identifying *depression* as a major concern increased from 14.7% of 11 to 14 year olds to around a third (34.7%) of young adults. It was the third ranked concern for the young adult group.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for close to 30% of 15 to 19 year olds, compared to 22.8% of the youngest group and 14.4% of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- Around one in five respondents aged 11 to 19 years compared to around one in ten of the young adult group indicated *alcohol* and *suicide* were major concerns.

Table 12: Issues of personal concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Body image	30.4	33.5	39.3
Coping with stress	22.1	33.0	55.9
Family conflict	26.9	27.9	21.4
School or study problems	22.8	29.2	14.4
Personal safety	25.7	21.2	28.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.3	19.9	14.4
Alcohol	22.2	20.6	11.1
Drugs	21.7	16.3	8.5
Suicide	21.3	18.3	10.2
Depression	14.7	22.1	34.7
The environment	20.3	13.3	16.1
Physical/sexual abuse	16.7	14.3	17.8
Self harm	13.1	11.4	9.3
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.7	12.3	11.9
Discrimination	9.2	10.4	5.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that *body image* and *coping with stress* were in the top three issues identified as concerns by both male and female respondents, although the proportions indicating them varied. *Family conflict* was also a top three issue for female respondents as was *alcohol* for their male counterparts. Females were more likely than males to identify *body image* as a major concern while males were more likely than females to identify *alcohol*.

- *Body image* was the top issue for both genders, however 35.7% of female respondents compared to 28.2% of male respondents indicated it was a major concern.
- *Coping with stress* was a top three issue for both genders with 30.5% of female respondents and 26.0% of males indicating it was a major concern.
- 29.9% of female respondents and 24.6% of their male counterparts identified *family conflict* as a significant concern. It was the third ranked concern for females.
- Males were much more likely than females to identify *alcohol* as a major concern (26.7% compared with 16.2%). It was ranked second by males.

Table 13: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Body image	35.7	28.2
Coping with stress	30.5	26.0
Family conflict	29.9	24.6
School or study problems	26.9	25.2
Personal safety	24.2	22.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	20.7	24.2
Alcohol	16.2	26.7
Drugs	16.2	21.4
Suicide	19.5	19.7
Depression	20.7	16.8
The environment	15.5	17.7
Physical/sexual abuse	18.2	12.2
Self harm	11.7	12.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.6	14.7
Discrimination	8.5	11.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A significant proportion of both genders indicated *school or study problems* and *personal safety* were major concerns. Female respondents were more likely than their male counterparts to indicate *physical/sexual abuse* was a major issue.

- A quarter of both genders indicated *school or study problems* and *personal safety* were of major concern.
- 18.2% of female respondents, compared with 12.2% of male respondents, identified *physical/sexual abuse* was a major concern.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for Queensland respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally, and have consistently been over the nine years of the survey. The *internet* was the fourth ranked item in 2010.

- 85.7% of Queensland respondents identified *friends* as an important source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 85.9%.
- *Parents* were identified by almost three quarters (74.0%) of respondents from Queensland as a major source of advice.
- Three in five (60.2%) Queensland respondents identified *relative/family friend* as an important source of support.
- 25.3% of respondents indicated the *internet* was a major source of advice, up from 8.9% in 2002.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	QLD 2010%	National 2010 %	QLD 2009 %	QLD 2008 %	QLD 2007 %
Friends	85.7	85.9	84.8	84.3	85.3
Parents	74.0	74.9	73.1	73.6	72.7
Relative/family friend	60.2	60.9	60.0	61.5	61.7
Internet	25.3	25.5	22.7	18.9	20.3
Magazines	11.8	11.4	11.3	10.6	12.7
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.6	11.7	12.5	11.6	11.8
Teacher	10.3	10.7	10.9	10.6	10.3
School counsellor	9.8	9.1	12.1	12.0	11.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.0	7.7	8.6	9.8	8.7
Telephone helpline	4.8	4.1	5.6	5.9	5.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

As Table 15 shows the top three sources of advice and support for all age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The *internet* was the fourth ranked item for all three age groups, although the proportion who identified it as a major source of advice and support increased with age.

- Over 80% of respondents from each age group identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support.
- *Parents* were identified as a major support by over 70% of all age groups.
- Around 60% all age groups identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice.
- The *internet* was identified as an important source of advice by 36.1% of young adults, compared to 21.5% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20- 24 yrs %
Friends	82.5	88.6	88.5
Parents	76.7	71.7	73.8
Relative/family friend	62.1	58.8	59.8
Internet	21.5	28.2	36.1
Magazines	12.2	11.7	3.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.3	11.8	11.5
Teacher	11.4	9.5	1.7
School counsellor	11.5	8.5	3.3
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.3	8.3	18.9
Telephone helpline	5.7	4.0	1.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The importance of *someone else in your community* as a major source of advice increased with age, whilst not surprisingly the importance of a *teacher* or *school counsellor* declined with age .

- *Someone else in your community* was an important source of advice for close to one in five young adults, compared to less than one in ten of those aged 11 to 19 years.
- A *teacher* or *school counsellor* was an important source of advice for around one in ten 11 to 19 year old respondents compared to less than 5% of those aged 20 to 24 years.

Gender differences

Table 16 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, although the proportions identifying each of these groups was higher for females than for their male counterparts.

- 90.3% of females and 80.7% of males identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for over 70% of both genders.
- Two thirds (66.1%) of female respondents, compared with 53.8% of male respondents, identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice and support.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	90.3	80.7
Parents	76.6	71.1
Relative/family friend	66.1	53.8
Internet	18.9	32.3
Magazines	12.9	10.5
Community agencies eg youth worker	8.2	15.5
Teacher	9.1	11.7
School counsellor	9.0	10.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.7	9.5
Telephone helpline	3.3	6.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents indicated that the *internet* and *community agencies* were key sources of advice and support.

- Almost a third (32.3%) of male respondents identified the *internet* as an important source of advice, compared with 18.9% of female respondents.
- 15.5% of male respondents identified *community agencies* as a major source of support, compared to 8.2% of female respondents.

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 17. The top two issues for respondents from Queensland were *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs*, as they were nationally. Significant proportions of respondents also indicated *the economy and financial matters*, *crime, safety and violence*, *health*, and *equity and discrimination* were important issues.

- Close to 40% of Queensland respondents indicated *the environment* was one of the top three issues of importance in Australia today.
- 37.5% of respondents indicated *alcohol and drugs* was one of the most important issues.
- *The economy and financial matters*, *crime, safety and violence*, *health*, and *equity and discrimination* were considered important issues by around one in five respondents.

Table 17: Most important issues in Australia today

	QLD	National	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
The environment	39.5	45.7	49.3	31.0	28.6	44.0	34.7
Alcohol and drugs	37.5	37.1	39.4	36.2	19.3	35.8	39.1
The economy and financial matters	20.2	18.6	17.6	22.5	22.7	17.6	23.0
Crime, safety and violence	19.3	21.0	22.3	16.5	19.3	18.6	19.9
Health	18.2	15.8	15.3	20.8	23.5	20.1	16.4
Equity and discrimination	17.5	20.6	13.4	21.1	17.6	19.4	15.4
Politics and societal values	14.2	13.3	12.3	16.0	14.3	10.7	17.9
Population issues	13.7	13.3	10.0	16.8	25.2	10.5	17.2
Abuse	12.8	10.0	15.6	10.3	7.6	16.2	8.9
Bullying	11.8	10.0	14.8	9.2	4.2	14.1	9.2
Mental health	11.5	11.6	10.4	12.3	23.5	13.6	9.2
Education	7.8	7.3	7.4	8.0	17.6	8.2	7.5
Employment	6.3	5.2	4.9	7.2	16.8	6.0	6.7
Homelessness/housing	5.1	5.7	4.9	5.1	7.6	6.0	4.1
Adolescence/youth	4.8	4.2	3.0	6.4	8.4	5.7	3.8
International relations	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.2	1.7	2.3	3.9
Relationships	3.0	2.6	3.8	2.2	2.5	3.0	2.8
Poverty/disadvantage	2.6	3.0	3.1	2.1	5.9	3.2	2.0
Body image	2.4	2.2	1.6	3.2	2.5	3.8	0.9
Sport	2.4	2.6	1.9	2.9	0.0	0.5	4.4

Age differences

The environment was an important issue for all three age groups, with the youngest group most likely to identify it as an important issue. Those aged 11 to 19 years were also more likely than those aged 20 to 24 years to indicate alcohol and drugs was a major issue in Australia today. The young adult group was more likely than the younger groups to indicate health, particularly mental health, population issues, education and employment as significant issues.

- The environment was a top three issue for all age groups with 49.3% of those aged 11 to 14 years and 28.6% of those aged 20 to 24 years indicating it was an important issue.
- Over a third of 11 to 19 year olds and a fifth of young adults identified alcohol and drugs as a major issue in Australia today.
- A quarter of young adults compared to one in ten 11 to 19 year olds indicated mental health was an important issue.
- Those aged 20 to 24 years were twice as likely as those aged 11 to 19 years to identify education and employment as major issues.

Gender differences

Significant proportions of both male and female respondents indicated the environment and alcohol and drugs were important issues facing Australia though a higher proportion of females than males identified the environment. Males were slightly more likely than females to indicate the economy and financial matters was an important issue. Conversely, females were more likely than males to indicate abuse was a major issue facing Australia. Significant proportions of both genders identified crime, safety and violence as an important issue.

- The environment was a top two issue for both genders with 44.0% of females and 34.7% of males indicating it was an important issue.

- Over 35% of both genders identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue in Australia.
- Between a quarter and a fifth of males and females indicated *the economy and financial matters* and *crime, safety and violence* were important issues.
- 16.2% of females compared to 8.9% of males identified *abuse* as a major issue.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for Queensland respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*, as they were nationally. Participation in all activities increased for Queensland respondents compared to 2009.

- Over two thirds (68.6%) of respondents from Queensland participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did over half (55.8%) in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- A third (34.1%) of Queensland respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural activities*, up from a quarter in 2009.
- Around a quarter of respondents participated in *youth groups and clubs*, *volunteer work*, *student leadership activities* and *religious groups or activities*.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	QLD 2010 %	National 2010 %	QLD 2009 %	QLD 2008 %	QLD 2007 %
Sports (as a participant)	68.6	71.3	62.4	65.3	67.1*
Sports (as a spectator)	55.8	57.2	38.2	45.0	
Arts/cultural activities	34.1	31.2	25.3	45.6	43.2
Youth groups and clubs	27.6	27.0	19.9	31.5	26.3
Volunteer work	26.7	28.3	17.7	21.7	20.1
Student leadership activities	24.6	25.7	8.3	10.9	11.4
Religious groups or activities	24.3	25.5	18.2	31.2	23.8
Environmental groups or activities	12.2	13.3	8.5	12.9	12.3
Political groups or organisations**	4.7	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. * Appears as the single items sports prior to 2008. ** New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that the top two activities for all three age groups were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* although the proportion involved in the former decreased with age. The third most popular activity for those aged 11 to 19 years was *arts/cultural activities* while for the young adult group it was *volunteer work*.

- Around three quarters of 11 to 14 year olds compared to just over half of 20 to 24 year olds indicated that they participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Over half of all age groups participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- At least a third of respondents from each age group participated in *art/cultural activities*, rising to 40.3% of the young adult group
- 46.3% of 20 to 24 year olds participated in *volunteer work*, twice the proportion of 11 to 14 year olds (23.1%).

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	74.2	63.9	51.2
Sports (as a spectator)	54.4	57.0	59.3
Arts/cultural activities	33.3	34.6	40.3
Youth groups and clubs	29.0	26.2	29.8
Volunteer work	23.1	29.3	46.3
Student leadership activities	22.7	26.6	15.4
Religious groups or activities	24.7	23.9	22.6
Environmental groups or activities	12.9	11.6	13.9
Political groups or organisations	4.2	4.9	12.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in these activities. The third most popular activity for female respondents was *arts/cultural activities*. For males, the third most popular activity was *youth groups and clubs*, although participation rates for this activity were similar for both genders.

- Three quarters (75.6%) of male respondents and 61.9% of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- 61.8% of males and 50.0% of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to indicate that they participated in *arts/cultural activities* (39.9% compared to 28.0%).
- Around a quarter of respondents of both genders participated in *youth groups and clubs*, *volunteer work*, *student leadership activities*, and *religious groups or activities*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	61.9	75.6
Sports (as a spectator)	50.0	61.8
Arts/cultural activities	39.9	28.0
Youth groups and clubs	26.9	28.3
Volunteer work	28.6	24.6
Student leadership activities	25.2	23.9
Religious groups or activities	24.8	23.7
Environmental groups or activities	12.2	12.2
Political groups or organisations	3.6	5.9

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question included for the first time in the 2010 National Survey asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 21 shows that over 60% of Queensland respondents felt *very positive* or *positive* about the future, very similar to responses nationally. Around a quarter of Queensland respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future and only a small proportion felt *negative* or *very negative*. Responses were quite similar by age and gender.

- Over 60% of Queensland respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- Around a quarter of young people in Queensland indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Less than one in ten respondents reported feeling *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	19.9	21.2	19.6	20.4	16.8	17.0	23.1
Positive	43.7	43.1	43.1	44.0	50.4	44.2	43.1
Neither positive nor negative	27.5	27.0	29.0	26.4	20.8	30.6	24.3
Negative	5.6	5.5	5.2	5.8	8.8	6.0	5.2
Very negative	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.2	2.3	4.3



South Australia summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

6,478 surveys were returned from South Australia (SA), which was 12.9% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The largest group of respondents from South Australia was aged 11 to 14 years (52.0%) followed by 15 to 19 years (44.5%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (3.5%) and results for this group should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11 - 14 years	3,346	52.0
15 - 19 years	2,861	44.5
20 - 24 years	228	3.5
Total	6,435	12.9% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

51.4% of respondents from South Australia were female and 48.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

307 (4.8%) respondents from South Australia identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	307	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.6	7.0
Non Indigenous	6,091	95.2	95.2	95.3	95.4	93.0

Languages other than English spoken at home

89.1% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 703 (10.9%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 55 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese; Italian; Chinese; Greek; German; Cantonese; Indigenous languages; and Spanish.

Disability

247 (3.9%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): learning disabilities; autism; physical disability; deafness or hearing impairment; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); and depression.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from South Australia (93.8%) were living *with family*, similar to the national figure of 95.0%. 36 people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* participated in the survey, as did 35 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* and 36 who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	93.8	95.0	98.2	92.4	50.2
Share house	1.7	1.4	0.2	1.8	21.3
Boarding school	1.2	1.1	0.5	2.0	1.3
Alone	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.8	12.4
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.0
Foster care	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.0
Homeless/insecure housing	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.8	3.6
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	9.8
Other	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	1.3

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, over half (59.8%) of respondents lived in the capital city of Adelaide, with the remaining 40.2% living in other areas of the state. The proportion of people living outside Adelaide declined with age and was lowest among the 20 to 24 years age group.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	3,852	59.8	59.2	60.4	58.3	70.9
Not in capital city	2,589	40.2	40.8	39.6	41.7	29.1

Main source of income

Parents/family was the main source of income identified by 76.0% of respondents from South Australia, similar to the national figure of 77.4%. As Table 5 shows respondents became much less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	76.0	77.4	92.7	62.0	6.4
Employment	16.1	16.6	4.7	26.2	59.6
Government Allowance	6.1	4.6	0.5	10.7	30.3
Other	1.5	1.1	1.8	1.0	3.7
No income	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

Table 6 shows that the vast majority (85.2%) of respondents from South Australia were *studying full time*, similar to the national figure of 85.5%. Respondents aged 15 to 19 years were much more likely than the young adult group to be *studying full time* (around 90% compared to around 40%) while the young adult group was much more likely than the younger group to be either *studying part time* or *not studying*. Responses by gender were very similar.

Table 6: Participation in education

	SA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	85.2	85.5	88.9	39.8	86.2	84.2
Studying part time	5.6	6.2	4.6	18.1	5.7	5.5
Not studying	9.1	8.3	6.5	42.0	8.2	10.3

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Close to 30% of the young adult group were *working full time*, compared to less than 1% of those aged 15 to 19 years. However, around 43% of the younger group was *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Nearly a third of South Australian respondents (33.4%) indicated they were *unemployed/looking for work*. Female and male respondents had similar rates for *working full time*, however males were more likely than females to be *unemployed/looking for work* (37.0% compared with 30.6%) while females were more likely than males to be in *casual or temporary work* (29.7% compared to 22.6%). Results for South Australia were fairly similar to the national results across most categories.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	SA %	National	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.9	2.5	0.7	29.9	3.1	2.7
Working part time	16.2	17.2	16.2	16.1	16.6	15.7
Casual or temporary work	26.5	26.2	26.4	26.8	29.7	22.6
Unemployed/looking for work	33.4	29.9	34.2	23.7	30.6	37.0
Too young to work or choose not to	21.0	24.2	22.4	3.6	20.0	22.1

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for South Australian respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*, as they were nationally. The fourth item in SA was *school or study satisfaction* with a higher proportion of respondents indicating it was highly valued in 2010 compared to 2009.

- Almost four in five (78.1%) SA respondents highly valued *family relationships*, and nearly two thirds (62.4%) highly valued *friendships*.
- About a third of SA respondents indicated that they highly valued *physical and mental health* (34.1%).
- 28.9% of respondents indicated *school or study satisfaction* was highly valued, up from 22.6% in 2009.

Table 8: What young people value

	SA 2010%	National 2010%	SA 2009%	SA 2008%	SA 2007%
Family relationships	78.1	78.8	73.0	73.6	75.1
Friendships (other than family)	62.4	60.9	55.9	62.3	60.0
Physical and mental health	34.1	33.9	30.4	32.9	33.1
School or study satisfaction	28.9	29.3	22.6	19.9	18.0
Being independent	26.0	27.0	34.2	33.3	34.0
Feeling needed and valued	20.3	21.8	26.3	24.0	23.9
Getting a job	17.8	16.0	21.5	19.8	18.7
Spirituality/faith	12.4	13.6	11.9	10.1	13.0
Financial security	14.3	13.5	15.6	15.1	13.5
Making a difference in the community	6.5	6.2	9.2	8.7	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Results for South Australia respondents were quite similar across the age groups. The top two items for all age groups were the same, namely *family relationships* and *friendships*, however the proportions who highly valued them varied somewhat with age. *Physical and mental health* was the third ranked item for all three age groups.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by all age groups, with 70% or more of respondents in each group indicating they highly valued them.
- Over 60% of 11 to 19 year old respondents highly valued *friendships* as did around half of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by one in three respondents aged 11 to 19 years and 38.9% of those in the young adult group.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Family relationships	80.2	76.3	70.0
Friendships (other than family)	62.4	63.2	50.7
Physical and mental health	34.3	33.6	38.9
School or study satisfaction	30.7	28.1	13.3
Being independent	24.0	28.2	27.5
Feeling needed and valued	20.9	19.5	21.8
Getting a job	17.4	18.3	17.1
Spirituality/faith	12.4	12.0	17.5
Financial security	12.2	15.5	30.7
Making a difference in the community	6.7	6.1	10.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

School or study satisfaction was highly valued by a greater proportion of those aged 11 to 19 years compared to those aged 20 to 24 years. Conversely *financial security* was highly valued by a greater proportion of the young adult group than those aged 11 to 19 years.

Significant proportions of respondents from each age group indicated they highly valued *being independent* and *feeling needed and valued*.

- Around 30% of those aged 11 to 19 years indicated they highly valued *school or study satisfaction* compared to 13.3% of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- 30.7% of the young adult respondents indicated *financial security* was highly valued, compared to 12.2% of those aged 11 to 14 years and 15.5% of those aged 15 to 19 years.
- Around a quarter of respondents in each age group indicated they highly valued *being independent* while around a fifth of each group indicated they valued *feeling needed and valued*.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows the breakdown of what young people valued by gender. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for each group, although both were valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents. *Physical and mental health* was ranked third by both genders.

- 82.4% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 73.4% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 66.6% of female respondents and 57.8% of male respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by over 30% of respondents of both genders.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	82.4	73.4
Friendships (other than family)	66.6	57.8
Physical and mental health	31.5	36.8
School or study satisfaction	29.9	27.9
Being independent	25.1	27.1
Feeling needed and valued	20.6	19.9
Getting a job	13.2	22.7
Spirituality/faith	12.3	12.5
Financial security	12.8	16.0
Making a difference in the community	6.2	6.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major difference by gender was the proportion of respondents who highly valued *getting a job*, with a much greater proportion of males than females indicating they valued this item.

- 22.7% of male respondents compared to 13.2% of their female counterparts indicated they highly valued *getting a job*.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that were of personal concern to them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues for South Australian respondents were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*, as they were nationally. The fourth ranked issue of concern for young people from South Australia was *school or study problems*, with the proportion indicating it was a major concern increasing significantly from 2009.

- The top issue of concern for South Australia respondents was *body image*, with 30.9% of respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- *Family conflict* and *coping with stress* were the second and third ranked issues for South Australia respondents with around 27% indicating both issues were major concerns. The level of concern about *coping with stress* increased from 17.3% last year.
- A quarter of respondents indicated *school or study problems* was a significant concern, up from 15.6% of respondents in 2009.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	SA 2010%	National 2010%	SA 2009 %	SA 2008 %	SA 2007%
Body image	30.9	31.1	27.3	24.6	34.6
Family conflict	27.6	27.8	22.1	24.2	26.0
Coping with stress	27.2	27.3	17.3	20.1	25.3
School or study problems	24.7	25.5	15.6	18.3	24.0
Alcohol	24.4	22.2	27.5	21.7	22.7
Drugs	24.1	20.5	28.7	29.5	21.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.7	23.0	25.7	22.1	21.7
Personal safety	22.7	23.5	20.3	21.3	N/A
Suicide	18.9	19.6	25.1	24.2	26.4
Depression	18.2	19.1	18.0	18.0	17.3
The environment	17.6	16.6	18.7	20.9	24.0
Physical/sexual abuse	15.5	15.7	20.8	21.7	21.4
Self harm	10.5	11.3	11.5	13.4	14.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.4	10.9	11.1	11.1	10.4
Discrimination	8.6	10.0	10.8	12.1	11.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were a range of other issues that were of major concern to respondents in South Australia, with eight items being of concern to at least one in four. These issues included *alcohol*, *drugs*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety*.

Age differences

Table 12 shows there were some significant differences between the age groups on issues of concern. *Body image* was a top three issue for all age groups, with the proportion of respondents indicating it was a concern increasing with age. *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern for those aged 15 to 24 years, while for those aged 11 to 14 years it was *family conflict*. *School or study problems* was a top three issue for those aged 11 to 19 years. The third ranked issue for the young adult group was *depression*.

- Over a quarter of those aged 11 to 14 years, as well as a third of those aged 15 to 19 years and over 40% of the young adult group indicated *body image* was a major issue of concern.
- Over a quarter of those aged 11 to 19 years and around a fifth of those aged 20 to 24 years identified *family conflict* was a major issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a significant issue for close to half (47.9%) of the young adult group and around a third (33.9%) of those aged 15 to 19 years.
- Around a quarter of those aged 11 to 19 years indicated *school or study problems* was a major issue, compared to 12.6% of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- Young adults were more than twice as likely as those aged 11 to 14 years to identify *depression* as a major concern (35.2% compared to 14.5%).

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Body image	28.1	33.2	41.5
Family conflict	28.8	26.7	20.6
Coping with stress	19.9	33.9	47.9
School or study problems	22.8	27.8	12.6
Alcohol	25.3	23.8	19.9
Drugs	27.5	21.0	11.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	26.4	21.1	19.0
Personal safety	26.1	19.4	14.2
Suicide	20.5	17.4	14.2
Depression	14.5	21.2	35.2
The environment	18.8	16.2	18.0
Physical/sexual abuse	17.1	14.1	11.1
Self harm	11.5	9.4	10.8
Sexuality	9.9	10.7	13.1
Discrimination	8.1	8.8	14.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A higher proportion of those aged 11 to 19 years compared to those in the young adult group indicated *drugs* was a major issue.

- *Drugs* was a major concern for 27.5% of 11 to 14 year olds, 21.0% of 15 to 19 year olds and 11.8% of 20 to 24 year olds.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that *body image*, *coping with stress* and *family conflict* were the top three concerns for females, while for males they were *alcohol*, *drugs* and *body image*. Male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to indicate *alcohol* and *drugs* were major issues. Female respondents were more likely than their male counterparts to indicate *body image* and *coping with stress* were major concerns, however significant proportions of both genders indicated these issues as well as *family conflict*, *school or study problems*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety* were significant concerns.

- *Body image* was the top ranked issue for female respondents and the third issue for their male counterparts. 34.7% of females compared to 26.4% of males indicated it was a major concern.
- *Alcohol* was the top issue for male respondents with 31.1% indicating it was a major concern. Less than a fifth (18.4%) of female respondents indicated it was a concern.
- 30.4% of female respondents indicated *coping with stress* was a top issue of concern, compared with just under a quarter (23.5%) of males.
- A larger proportion of male respondents than their female counterparts indicated *drugs* was a major issue (29.2% compared to 19.6%).
- *Family conflict*, *school or study problems*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety* were all of major concern to at least one in five respondents of both genders.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Body image	34.7	26.4
Family conflict	29.2	25.7
Coping with stress	30.4	23.5
School or study problems	25.4	23.9
Alcohol	18.4	31.1
Drugs	19.6	29.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.1	25.6
Personal safety	22.6	22.7
Suicide	20.0	17.6
Depression	20.0	16.1
The environment	16.9	18.3
Physical/sexual abuse	17.3	13.7
Self harm	11.0	10.1
Sexuality	9.5	11.3
Discrimination	7.5	9.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for South Australian respondents when they have a problem were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they have been in previous years and were nationally in 2010. The fourth most common source of advice was the *internet*.

- 85.8% of South Australian respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 85.9%.
- *Parents* were identified by almost three quarters (75.8%) of respondents from South Australia as a major source of advice.
- 61.6% of respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.
- 24.1% of young people indicated the *internet* was a major source of advice, up from 9.1% in 2002.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	SA 2010%	National 2010 %	SA 2009 %	SA 2008 %	SA 2007%
Friends	85.8	85.9	81.2	84.4	84.8
Parents	75.8	74.9	70.6	74.3	73.0
Relative/family friend	61.6	60.9	60.0	62.7	65.2
Internet	24.1	25.5	22.9	19.1	17.9
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.9	11.7	16.3	12.0	12.2
Teacher	11.1	10.7	12.5	10.2	8.7
Magazines	11.0	11.4	10.5	11.4	12.1
School counsellor	9.7	9.1	11.2	11.3	10.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.3	7.7	9.3	7.3	8.6
Telephone helpline	3.8	4.1	7.1	6.0	7.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

As Table 15 shows, the top three sources of advice and support for all age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportion of each group who identified *friends* was very similar, while the proportion who identified *parents* and *relative/family friend* declined somewhat with age. Conversely, the proportion of respondents who indicated the *internet* or *someone else in your community* were important sources of advice increased with age.

- Over 80% of all three age groups identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- Three quarters of 11 to 19 year olds and around two thirds of the young adult group identified *parents* as a major source of advice.
- A *relative/family friend* was identified as a major source of support by 63.3% 11 to 14 year olds and well over half of those aged 15 to 24 years.
- Over a third (38.3.1%) of the oldest group identified the *internet* as a top source of advice and support, compared with a fifth of those aged 11 to 14 years.
- The young adult group was twice as likely as those aged 11 to 19 years to use *someone else in your community* as a major source of support (17.7% compared to around 7%).

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20- 24 yrs %
Friends	83.2	88.6	88.2
Parents	78.7	73.2	64.2
Relative/family friend	63.3	59.9	54.4
Internet	19.5	28.3	38.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.5	12.1	15.3
Teacher	13.4	8.9	4.7
Magazines	10.1	11.8	13.1
School counsellor	10.7	8.9	4.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.6	7.2	17.7
Telephone helpline	4.3	3.2	4.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Similar proportions of both groups identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support, while females were more likely than males to indicate that *friends* or *relative/family friend* were important sources of advice. A higher proportion of males than females indicated that the *internet* was a major source of advice.

- Around 90% of female respondents and 80% of male respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for around three quarters of both genders.
- 65.4% of female respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support, as did well over half (57.4%) of male respondents.
- The *internet* was a major source of advice for around 30% of males, compared to about 20% of females.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male%
Friends	89.9	81.3
Parents	76.9	74.5
Relative/family friend	65.4	57.4
Internet	19.4	29.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.4	14.6
Teacher	8.9	13.5
Magazines	13.0	8.7
School counsellor	8.9	10.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.1	8.5
Telephone helpline	2.9	4.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 17. The top two issues for respondents from South Australia were *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs*, as they were nationally. Significant proportions of young people from South Australia, also indicated *crime, safety and violence*, *equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* were important issues.

- Over half (55.1%) of South Australian respondents indicated *the environment* was one of the most important issues in Australia today, as did 45.7% of respondents nationally.
- 40.5% of SA respondents considered *alcohol and drugs* to be an important issue.
- *Crime, safety and violence*, *equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* were each considered important issues by around one in five respondents.

Table 17: Most important issue in Australia today

	SA %	National	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
The environment	55.1	45.7	63.8	46.3	35.2	60.7	49.2
Alcohol and drugs	40.5	37.1	38.9	44.0	24.3	37.7	43.6
Crime, safety and violence	19.4	21.0	21.2	17.9	12.9	18.7	20.2
Equity and discrimination	18.7	20.6	17.0	20.8	18.6	20.1	17.3
The economy and financial matters	18.3	18.6	19.0	17.1	18.6	17.3	19.3
Health	14.3	15.8	14.8	13.3	19.5	15.4	13.1
Politics and societal values	12.8	13.3	11.6	14.2	10.5	9.4	16.4
Mental health	11.2	11.6	10.1	11.7	22.4	14.2	8.1
Population issues	10.9	13.3	9.4	12.6	12.9	8.4	13.6
Bullying	10.0	10.0	12.9	7.1	3.8	12.5	7.4
Abuse	8.9	10.0	10.5	7.2	5.7	11.3	6.4
Homelessness/housing	7.4	5.7	6.0	7.7	22.9	9.6	4.9
Education	6.7	7.3	5.4	7.7	11.0	6.5	6.9
Employment	6.4	5.2	4.6	7.6	17.6	7.0	5.8
Adolescence/youth	3.3	4.2	2.0	4.6	7.1	4.1	2.5
International relations	3.0	3.3	3.3	2.9	1.0	2.2	4.0
Sport	3.0	2.6	2.7	3.7	0.0	0.8	5.5
Poverty/disadvantage	2.9	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.4	3.7	2.2
Relationships	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.3	2.2
Animal rights and welfare	2.1	2.0	2.6	1.7	0.5	2.4	1.9
Body image	1.8	2.2	1.1	2.6	3.3	2.8	0.7

Age differences

The environment was the top issue for all three age groups with the youngest group most likely to indicate it was important. Alcohol and drugs was the second top issue for all ages, however the proportions identifying it varied. The young adult group was much more likely than the younger groups to indicate homelessness/housing was a major issue.

- The environment was the top issue for all age groups with 63.8% of 11 to 14 year olds, 46.3% of 15 to 19 year olds and 35.2% of 20 to 24 year olds indicating it was important.
- Around 40% of 11 to 19 year olds compared to 24.3% of young adults identified alcohol and drugs was a major issue.
- A quarter of the young adult group compared to less than one in ten 11 to 19 year olds indicated homelessness/housing was an important issue.

Gender differences

The environment and alcohol and drugs were the top issues of importance for both genders. A greater proportion of female respondents than males indicated the environment was important while the converse was true for alcohol and drugs. Significant proportions of both genders identified crime, safety and violence and equity and discrimination were major issues.

- 60.7% of females and 49.2% of males indicated the environment was an important issue in Australia today.
- Alcohol and drugs was a major issue for 43.6% of males and 37.7% of females.
- Around one in five male and female respondents indicated crime, safety and violence and equity and discrimination were important issues.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for South Australian respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)*, and *youth groups and clubs*. The top two items were the same nationally while the third activity was *arts/cultural activities*. Significant proportions of young people in SA were also involved in *arts/cultural activities*, *volunteer work*, *student leadership activities* and *religious groups or activities*. Participation in all activities increased for South Australian respondents compared to 2009.

- Over two thirds (71.2%) of respondents from South Australia participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did well over half (60.5%) in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- The third most popular activity was *youth groups and clubs*, closely followed by *arts/cultural activities*. A quarter of respondents participated in them.
- Around a quarter of respondents also participated in *volunteer work* (24.7%), *student leadership activities* (24.0%) and around a fifth participated in *religious groups or activities* (22.4%).

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	SA 2010 %	National 2010 %	SA 2009 %	SA 2008 %	SA 2007%
Sports (as a participant)	71.2	71.3	65.5	68.3	63.8*
Sports (as a spectator)	60.5	57.2	41.2	50.1	
Youth groups and clubs	26.2	27.0	19.2	22.3	25.8
Arts/cultural activities	26.0	31.2	17.6	35.4	35.2
Volunteer work	24.7	28.3	18.2	19.7	21.1
Student leadership activities	24.0	25.7	12.6	12.3	14.9
Religious groups or activities	22.4	25.5	18.3	20.3	19.8
Environmental groups or activities	11.5	13.3	8.7	11.8	11.7
Political groups or organisations**	4.6	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. * Appears as the single items sports prior to 2008. ** New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the top two activities for all three age groups, though the proportions participating in them declined with age. The third most popular activities for those aged 15 to 24 years was *volunteer work* while for the youngest group it was *youth groups and clubs*. Significant proportions of young people of all age groups participated in many of the activities listed.

- Around 80% of 11 to 14 year olds compared to just under half (47.9%) of those aged 20 to 24 years indicated they participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Around half of the young adult group and around 60% of those aged 11 to 19 years participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Participation in *volunteer work* significantly increased with age with 43.6% of the oldest group compared to around one of five of the youngest group involved in it.
- Around a quarter of those aged 11 to 19 years were involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *arts cultural activities* as were around 38% of those aged 20 to 24 years.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	79.7	62.9	47.9
Sports (as a spectator)	63.3	58.0	49.5
Youth groups and clubs	25.6	26.0	37.5
Arts/cultural activities	25.1	26.0	38.8
Volunteer work	19.9	28.7	43.6
Student leadership activities	23.7	24.6	21.1
Religious groups or activities	22.5	22.1	25.1
Environmental groups or activities	11.5	11.3	16.5
Political groups or organisations	4.0	4.6	14.7

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows that *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the top two activities for both genders, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in them. *Youth groups and clubs* was the third most popular activity for males, although similar proportions of both genders participated in them. *Arts/cultural activities* was the third most common activity for females.

- Three quarters (76.5%) of male respondents and almost two thirds (66.2%) of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- 64.9% of males and 56.3% of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to indicate that they took part in *arts/cultural activities* (29.8% compared to 21.9%).
- Around a quarter of both genders participated in *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	66.2	76.5
Sports (as a spectator)	56.3	64.9
Youth groups and clubs	26.6	25.8
Arts/cultural activities	29.8	21.9
Volunteer work	27.6	21.6
Student leadership activities	26.4	21.3
Religious groups or activities	23.3	21.6
Environmental groups or activities	12.5	10.5
Political groups or organisations	3.9	5.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question included for the first time in the 2010 National Survey asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 21 shows that over 60% of respondents from South Australia felt *very positive* or *positive* about the future, similar to their national counterparts. Around a quarter of respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* while only a small proportion indicated they felt *negative* or *very negative*. The data was fairly consistent across age groups and genders.

- Over 60% of South Australian respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- Around a quarter indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative*.
- Less than one in ten respondents reported feeling *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	20.4	21.2	20.5	20.1	21.5	18.3	22.6
Positive	42.8	43.1	41.4	44.4	42.9	44.1	41.3
Neither positive nor negative	28.6	27.0	30.3	27.1	24.2	30.3	26.9
Negative	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.3	8.2	5.5	5.3
Very negative	2.8	3.2	2.4	3.1	3.2	1.9	3.8



Tasmania summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

1,731 surveys were returned from Tasmania (TAS), which was 3.5% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The largest group of respondents from Tasmania was aged 15 to 19 years (61.3%) followed by 11 to 14 years (37.1%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (26 or 1.5%) and therefore results for this group have been omitted from the age-specific tables in this chapter.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11 - 14 years	637	37.1
15 - 19 years	1,052	61.3
20 - 24 years	26	1.5
Total	1,715	3.5% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

52.5% of respondents from Tasmania were female and 47.5% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

103 (6.0%) respondents from Tasmania identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Indigenous

	Total number	TAS %*	National %*	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Indigenous	103	6.0	4.8	6.5	5.5
Non Indigenous	1,611	94.0	95.2	93.5	94.5

Note: *Data is for respondents age 11 to 24 years.

Languages other than English spoken at home

93.5% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 112 (6.5%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 35 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Arabic; Italian; Chinese; Japanese; French; and Korean.

Disability

43 (2.5%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): physical disability; autism; learning disability; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); and diabetes.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from Tasmania (93.7%) were living *with family*, similar to the national figure of 95.0%. Nine young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* participated in the survey, as did eight people who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* and four who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	TAS %*	National %*	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	93.7	95.0	97.0	92.6
Boarding school	2.3	1.1	1.3	3.0
Share house	1.6	1.4	0.2	1.8
Alone	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.0
Homeless/insecure housing	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.7
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2
Foster care	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2
Other	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 11 to 24 years.

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, less than half (42.4%) of the Tasmanian respondents lived in the capital city, Hobart. Nationally, close to 60% of respondents lived in a capital city.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	TAS %*	National %*	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Live in capital city	729	42.4	59.2	40.1	42.7
Not in capital city	992	57.6	40.8	59.9	57.3

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 11 to 24 years.

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income identified by the majority (71.1%) of respondents from Tasmania. Just over a fifth of all respondents (20.9%) relied on *employment* as their main source of income, and a small proportion (6.9%), mainly in the age range 15 to 19 years, relied on a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	TAS %*	National %*	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents/family	71.1	77.4	93.6	58.7
Employment	20.9	16.6	3.8	30.4
Government Allowance	6.9	4.6	0.8	10.0
Other	1.0	1.1	1.4	0.8
No income	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 11 to 24 years.

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

The vast majority (89.4%) of respondents from Tasmania were *studying full time*, slightly above the national figure of 85.5%. Very high proportions of both genders were participating in full time education.

Table 6: Participation in education

	TAS %*	National %*	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	89.4	85.5	92.4	86.1
Studying part time	4.7	6.2	3.3	5.9
Not studying	6.0	8.3	4.3	8.0

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. A very small percentage (1.3%) of 15 to 24 year old respondents from Tasmania were *working full time*, however 52.0% were either *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Female respondents were more likely than males to be *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*, while a higher proportion of males than females were *unemployed/looking for work*.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	TAS %*	National %*	Female %	Male %
Working full time	1.3	2.5	1.2	1.4
Working part time	18.2	17.2	21.6	14.1
Casual or temporary work	33.8	26.2	35.8	31.9
Unemployed/looking for work	28.0	29.9	24.9	31.1
Too young to work or choose not to	18.7	24.2	16.4	21.5

Note: *Data is for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for Tasmanian respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*, as they were nationally.

- Over three quarters (76.2%) of Tasmanian respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- Two thirds (64.2%) of young people highly valued *friendships*.
- The third item was *physical and mental health* with about a third of (34.0%) Tasmanian respondents indicating that they highly valued it.

Table 8: What young people value

	TAS 2010 %	National 2010 %	TAS 2009 %	TAS 2008 %	TAS 2007 %
Family relationships	76.2	78.8	72.3	73.4	73.5
Friendships (other than family)	64.2	60.9	65.3	62.8	61.4
Physical and mental health	34.0	33.9	37.0	33.3	34.6
Being independent	28.1	27.0	33.6	35.6	32.6
School or study satisfaction	24.2	29.3	21.4	19.3	18.7
Feeling needed and valued	23.0	21.8	25.2	27.2	26.2
Getting a job	18.5	16.0	16.4	19.7	17.8
Financial security	14.6	13.5	14.7	13.5	13.8
Spirituality/faith	11.9	13.6	7.8	9.2	11.7
Making a difference in the community	5.7	6.2	7.2	7.0	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Around a quarter of respondents also indicated that they highly valued *being independent*, *school or study satisfaction* and *feeling needed and valued*.

Age differences

Results for Tasmanian respondents were quite similar across the age groups. The top three items for both groups were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by both groups, with 80.6% of 11 to 14 year olds and 73.9% of 15 to 19 year olds valuing them highly.
- Over 60% of both groups highly valued *friendships* (67.9% of 11 to 14 year olds and 62.5% of 15 to 19 year olds).
- *Physical and mental health* was considered very important by one third of both age groups.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	80.6	73.9
Friendships (other than family)	67.9	62.5
Physical and mental health	35.0	33.7
Being independent	22.6	31.3
School or study satisfaction	24.0	24.5
Feeling needed and valued	21.4	24.2
Getting a job	19.9	17.2
Spirituality/faith	11.7	11.8
Financial security	10.9	16.3
Making a difference in the community	6.0	5.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A significant proportion of both age groups highly valued *school or study satisfaction*. The major difference by age was in the proportion of respondents who indicated they highly valued *being independent* with a greater proportion of the older group indicating this item.

- A quarter of both age groups highly valued *school or study satisfaction*.
- Around a third (31.3%) of those aged 15 to 19 years compared to around a quarter (22.6%) of the younger age group highly valued *being independent*.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows the similarities as well as the differences by gender in what respondents valued. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for each group, but both were valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents. *Physical and mental health* was ranked third by both genders and similar proportions of respondents indicated they highly valued it.

- 80.0% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 71.8% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 68.4% of female respondents and 59.4% of male respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by around a third of respondents of both genders.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	80.0	71.8
Friendships (other than family)	68.4	59.4
Physical and mental health	32.1	36.2
Being independent	26.9	29.6
School or study satisfaction	26.4	22.0
Feeling needed and valued	23.8	22.3
Getting a job	13.5	24.1
Spirituality/faith	11.2	12.6
Financial security	12.3	17.5
Making a difference in the community	5.7	5.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major difference by gender was the proportion of respondents who indicated they highly valued *getting a job* with males much more likely than females to indicate this was very important to them.

- Male respondents were almost twice as likely as female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (24.1% compared to 13.5%).

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that were of personal concern to them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues for Tasmanian respondents were *body image*, *coping with stress* and *school or study problems*. The level of concern about the last two issues in particular increased significantly compared to 2009. Nationally the top three issues were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*.

- The top issue of concern for Tasmanian respondents was *body image*, with around a third identifying it as a major concern.
- Coping with stress* was a significant concern for 29.3% of respondents, up from 18.2% in 2009.
- Around a quarter (25.9%) of Tasmanian young people indicated *school or study problems* was a major issue, up from 16.5% last year.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	TAS 2010 %	National 2010 %	TAS 2009 %	TAS 2008 %	TAS 2007 %
Body image	32.8	31.1	25.0	27.1	32.4
Coping with stress	29.3	27.3	18.2	17.1	24.4
School or study problems	25.9	25.5	16.5	15.3	23.1
Family conflict	24.4	27.8	22.0	22.7	26.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.3	23.0	24.2	24.2	24.2
Personal safety	22.4	23.5	20.1	19.2	N/A
Depression	20.5	19.1	20.5	20.7	22.9
Alcohol	19.8	22.2	19.3	20.8	20.7
Suicide	19.4	19.6	25.9	25.9	27.6
Drugs	18.6	20.5	25.5	26.3	21.5
The environment	16.8	16.6	19.7	18.4	20.1
Physical/sexual abuse	15.8	15.7	27.1	27.4	23.2
Self harm	12.8	11.3	13.9	14.4	16.7
Discrimination	10.5	10.0	14.1	11.8	12.2
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.6	10.9	9.7	11.1	8.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were a number of other issues that were of major concern to at least one in five respondents from Tasmania and they included *family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *personal safety* and *depression*.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups on issues of concern. The top three concerns for respondents aged 11 to 14 years were *body image*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *family conflict* while for those aged 15 to 19 years they were *coping with stress*, *body image* and *school or study problems*.

- Almost a third of both age groups identified *body image* as a major issue of concern.
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for a quarter of the younger age group and one in five of the older group.
- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern for those aged 15 to 19 years and was a concern for a third of this group, compared to one in five of those aged 11 to 14 years.
- Close to 30% of the older group and around 22% of the younger indicated *school or study problems* was a major concern.
- 29.2% of those aged 11 to 14 years indicated *bullying/emotional abuse* was a major issue, as did 21.6% of those aged 15 to 19 years. It was ranked second by the younger group.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Body image	31.8	33.0
Coping with stress	22.0	33.2
School or study problems	21.7	28.5
Family conflict	27.4	22.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	29.2	21.6
Personal safety	25.6	20.7
Depression	16.6	22.4
Alcohol	19.0	20.1
Suicide	21.1	18.9
Drugs	20.6	17.5
The environment	20.8	13.9
Physical/sexual abuse	14.0	17.1
Self harm	13.8	12.4
Discrimination	9.4	10.9
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	8.4	10.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Other differences between the age groups included the proportions who were concerned about *the environment* and *depression*.

- *The environment* was a major concern for one in five (20.8%) 11 to 14 year olds, compared to 13.9% of those aged 15 to 19.
- One in five (22.4%) 15 to 19 year olds identified *depression* as a major concern, compared to 16.6% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that *body image*, *coping with stress* and *school and study problems* were top three concerns for both genders, but with a higher proportion of female than male respondents indicating they were issues. *Family conflict* was ranked equal third by female respondents.

- *Body image* was the top ranked issue for both genders with 36.7% of female respondents and 28.3% of male respondents indicating it was a major concern.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 33.2% of females and 24.9% of males and was a top three issue for both groups.
- Around a quarter of both genders indicated *school or study problems* was a major issue.

Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *family conflict* as an issue of concern while males were more likely than females to identify *alcohol* as a major concern.

- Around one in four (26.4%) females identified *family conflict* as a major concern, compared to one in five (22.2%) male respondents.
- Male respondents were more likely than females to indicate *alcohol* was a major concern (24.8% compared to 15.6%).

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Body image	36.7	28.3
Coping with stress	33.2	24.9
School or study problems	26.4	25.4
Family conflict	26.4	22.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.6	24.0
Personal safety	21.0	24.2
Depression	20.2	20.8
Alcohol	15.6	24.8
Suicide	20.6	18.0
Drugs	17.0	20.3
The environment	15.2	18.6
Physical/sexual abuse	16.2	15.3
Self harm	13.5	11.7
Discrimination	9.6	11.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	7.1	12.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for Tasmanian respondents when they have a problem were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they have been in previous years and were nationally. The fourth most common source of advice was the *internet*.

- 88.3% of Tasmanian respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 85.9%.
- *Parents* were identified by almost three quarters (74.9%) of respondents from Tasmania as a major source of advice.
- Close to 60% of respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.
- 24.0% of young people indicated the *internet* was a major source of advice, up from 10.8% in 2002.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	TAS 2010%	National 2010 %	TAS 2009 %	TAS 2008 %	TAS 2007 %
Friends	88.3	85.9	87.3	85.9	86.6
Parents	74.9	74.9	74.8	73.6	71.7
Relative/family friend	59.8	60.9	59.8	60.2	61.6
Internet	24.0	25.5	22.8	19.1	19.4
Teacher	12.2	10.7	11.1	10.6	10.6
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.4	11.7	10.0	10.9	12.7
Magazines	11.2	11.4	12.2	12.3	13.9
School counsellor	9.0	9.1	10.6	11.9	10.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.0	7.7	8.3	8.7	7.3
Telephone helpline	3.8	4.1	4.8	6.4	5.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

As Table 15 shows, the top three sources of advice and support for both age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportions of each group who identified them were similar; although a slightly lower proportion of the older group compared to those aged 11 to 14 years indicated *parents* as a major support.

- Almost nine in ten respondents in both age groups identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support.
- Around three quarters of both age groups (79.1% of 11 to 14 year olds and 72.9% of 15 to 19 year olds), identified *parents* as a major source of advice.
- A *relative/family friend* was identified by around 60% of respondents in both groups as a major source of support.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Friends	87.1	89.3
Parents	79.1	72.9
Relative/family friend	61.5	58.6
Internet	16.7	27.8
Teacher	15.2	10.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	12.0	11.0
Magazines	10.3	11.8
School counsellor	9.1	8.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.1	6.9
Telephone helpline	3.8	3.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major difference by age was the proportion of young people who indicated the *internet* was a major source of advice. A higher proportion of the older group compared to their younger counterparts indicated it was important.

- 27.8% of 15 to 19 year olds compared with 16.7% of 11 to 14 year olds identified the *internet* was a major source of advice.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Similar proportions of both groups identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support, while females were more likely than males to indicate that *friends* or *relative/family friend* were important sources of advice.

- 92.8% of females and 82.8% of males identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for around three quarters of both genders.
- 62.3% of female respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support, as did over half (57.1%) of male respondents.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	92.8	82.8
Parents	74.5	75.4
Relative/family friend	62.3	57.1
Internet	21.0	27.5
Teacher	12.0	12.6
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.2	13.8
Magazines	12.9	9.3
School counsellor	9.1	8.9
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	5.2	8.8
Telephone helpline	2.1	5.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A higher proportion of males than females indicated that the *internet* was a major source of advice.

- The *internet* was a major source of advice for over a quarter (27.5%) of males, compared to one in five (21.0%) females.

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 17. The top two issues for respondents from Tasmania were *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs*, as they were nationally. Significant proportions of Tasmanian respondents also indicated *health* and *equity and discrimination* were important issues in Australia.

- 42.6% of Tasmanian respondents indicated *the environment* was one of the most important issues in Australia today.
- 31.9% of respondents considered *alcohol and drugs* to be an important issue.
- *Health* and *equity and discrimination* were both considered important issues by one in five Tasmanian respondents.

Table 17: Most important issue in Australia today

	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs%	Female %	Male %
The environment	42.6	45.7	53.1	36.4	44.0	41.2
Alcohol and drugs	31.9	37.1	31.5	32.1	28.4	35.5
Health	21.1	15.8	18.2	23.0	23.4	18.5
Equity and discrimination	20.7	20.6	15.8	23.5	23.2	18.1
The economy and financial matters	17.8	18.6	18.5	17.1	15.4	20.5
Population issues	17.0	13.3	16.0	17.7	14.0	20.3
Crime, safety and violence	15.9	21.0	15.6	16.0	16.5	15.5
Politics and societal values	15.3	13.3	14.4	15.8	15.3	15.3
Mental health	14.0	11.6	13.5	14.6	14.9	13.2
Bullying	9.9	10.0	13.5	8.0	14.2	5.2
Abuse	9.3	10.0	11.8	7.7	11.2	7.2
Education	8.8	7.3	5.5	11.0	9.9	7.7
Homelessness/housing	6.8	5.7	6.2	7.1	8.2	5.2
Employment	5.2	5.2	3.8	6.0	3.7	6.9
Poverty/disadvantage	4.5	3.0	4.0	4.6	5.0	3.8
Adolescence/youth	3.9	4.2	4.4	3.6	5.7	1.9
International relations	3.7	3.3	4.2	3.5	3.1	4.2
Sport	3.5	2.6	4.2	3.2	0.8	6.7
Body image	2.8	2.2	3.6	2.1	4.8	0.6

Age differences

The top two issues for both age groups were *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs*, though a higher proportion of the younger group indicated the former was important. A greater proportion of those aged 15 to 19 compared to those aged 11 to 14 years indicated *equity and discrimination* was a major issue.

- 53.1% of 11 to 14 year olds and 36.4% of 15 to 19 year olds indicated *the environment* was an important issue.
- Around 31% of both groups identified *alcohol and drugs* was a major issue.
- 23.5% of the older group compared to 15.8% of the younger group indicated *equity and discrimination* was important.

Gender differences

Responses were quite similar by gender though a higher proportion of males than females indicated *alcohol and drugs* was an important issue.

- Over 40% of both genders identified *the environment* was an important issue.
- 35.5% of males compared to 28.4% of females indicated *alcohol and drugs* was a major issue. It was the second top issue for both groups.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for Tasmanian respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)*, and *arts/cultural activities*, as they were nationally. Significant proportions of Tasmanian respondents were also participating in *student leadership activities*, *youth groups and clubs* and *volunteer work*.

- Nearly three quarters (74.6%) of respondents from Tasmania participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did nearly two thirds (63.0%) in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- 30.7% of Tasmanian respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural activities*.
- A quarter of respondents participated in *student leadership activities*, *youth groups and clubs* and *volunteer work*.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	TAS 2010 %	National 2010 %	TAS 2009 %	TAS 2008 %	TAS 2007 %
Sports (as a participant)	74.6	71.3	74.0	69.9	71.5*
Sports (as a spectator)	63.0	57.2	44.4	46.1	
Arts/cultural activities	30.7	31.2	31.0	44.3	46.0
Student leadership activities	26.1	25.7	9.2	10.6	13.9
Youth groups and clubs	25.6	27.0	18.3	24.6	29.1
Volunteer work	25.0	28.3	21.9	20.0	21.3
Religious groups or activities	19.7	25.5	11.0	15.0	19.0
Environmental groups or activities	11.9	13.3	12.4	13.0	11.5
Political groups or organisations**	5.2	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. * Appears as the single items sports prior to 2008. ** New item in 2010

Age differences

Table 19 shows the top two activities for both groups were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third item for the younger group was *arts/cultural activities* while for the older group it was *student leadership activities*.

- Over 80% of 11 to 14 year olds and over 70% of 15 to 19 year olds indicated they participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Just over 60% of participants from both age groups participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Participation rates in *arts/cultural activities* was similar for both age groups at around 30% and it was the third most popular activity for those aged 11 to 14 years.
- 30.9% of 15 to 19 year olds participated in *student leadership activities*, compared with 18.2% of 11 to 14 year old respondents.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	81.7	70.9
Sports (as a spectator)	61.5	64.3
Arts/cultural activities	31.4	29.9
Student leadership activities	18.2	30.9
Youth groups and clubs	27.6	24.6
Volunteer work	18.3	28.4
Religious groups or activities	21.2	18.6
Environmental groups or activities	11.5	11.7
Political groups or organisations	4.3	5.5

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

The proportion of respondents participating in *volunteer work* increased significantly with age.

- 28.4% of those aged 15 to 19 years compared to 18.3% of those aged 11 to 14 years participated in *volunteer work*.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows that the two most popular activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, with higher proportions of male than female respondents involved in both. The third activity for females was *arts/cultural activities*, while for males two activities, *student leadership* and *youth groups and clubs*, were equally common.

- 79.2% of male respondents and 70.5% of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- 68.4% of males and 58.3% of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- A much higher proportion of females than males participated in *arts/cultural activities* (36.1% compared with 24.8%).
- Around a quarter of both genders participated in *student leadership* activities and *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	70.5	79.2
Sports (as a spectator)	58.3	68.4
Arts/cultural activities	36.1	24.8
Student leadership activities	26.8	25.1
Youth groups and clubs	26.0	25.1
Volunteer work	28.2	21.5
Religious groups or activities	21.0	18.1
Environmental groups or activities	12.2	11.7
Political groups or organisations	4.6	6.1

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question included for the first time in the 2010 National Survey asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 21 shows that just over 60% of Tasmanian respondents felt *very positive* or *positive* about the future, similar to their national counterparts. Only a small proportion of Tasmanian respondents felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future. The data was consistent across age groups and genders.

- 61.3% of Tasmanian respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- Around 30% of respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Less than one in ten young people reported feeling *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	17.7	21.2	17.6	18.0	14.2	21.4
Positive	43.6	43.1	42.9	43.9	46.2	40.7
Neither positive nor negative	29.3	27.0	30.0	29.2	31.6	26.9
Negative	6.0	5.5	6.3	5.5	6.0	6.2
Very negative	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.4	2.1	4.7



Victoria summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

9,302 surveys were returned from Victoria, which was 18.6% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The largest group of respondents from Victoria was aged 15 to 19 years (52.1%) followed by 11 to 14 years (46.6%). Only a small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (115 or 1.2%), and results for this group should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11 - 14 years	4,299	46.6
15 - 19 years	4,808	52.1
20 - 24 years	115	1.2
Total	9,222	18.6% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

58.4% of respondents from Victoria were female and 41.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

223 (2.4%) respondents from Victoria identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	223	2.4	4.8	2.3	2.4	3.5
Non Indigenous	8,976	97.6	95.2	97.7	97.6	96.5

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 82.9% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 1,587 (17.1%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 65 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Chinese; Vietnamese; Greek; Italian; Cantonese; Arabic; Mandarin; and Filipino/Tagalog.

Disability

175 (1.9%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): learning disability; autism; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); deafness and hearing impairment; physical disability; epilepsy; and blindness or vision impairment.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from Victoria (96.5%) were living *with family*, in line with the national figure of 95.0%. 78 young people who were living in a *boarding school* participated in the survey. 29 people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* also participated, as did 17 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* and 33 who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	96.5	95.0	98.7	95.6	52.2
Share house	1.1	1.4	0.3	1.3	23.9
Boarding school	0.8	1.1	0.3	1.4	0.9
Foster care	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0
Alone	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	13.3
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.9
Homeless/insecure housing	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	2.7
Other	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.9
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	5.3

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, just over half (54.4%) of Victorian respondents were living in the state capital, Melbourne, although the proportion varied with age. Approximately two thirds of those aged 20 to 24 years were living in the capital, compared with just over half of 11 to 14 year olds and 57.8% of 15 to 19 year olds.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	5,013	54.4	59.2	50.2	57.8	66.1
Not in capital city	4,210	45.6	40.8	49.8	42.2	33.9

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income identified by just over 80% of respondents from Victoria. Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	81.1	77.4	94.7	70.5	16.1
Employment	13.6	16.6	3.1	22.0	57.1
Government Allowance	4.1	4.6	0.6	6.7	24.1
Other	0.9	1.1	1.2	0.6	2.7
No income	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

As Table 6 shows nearly nine in ten (89.7%) respondents from Victoria were *studying full time*, slightly higher than the national figure of 85.5%. Females were more likely than males to be *studying full time* (92.9% compared with 85.0%), while males were slightly more likely than females to be *studying part time* or *not studying*. Respondents aged 15 to 19 years were much more likely than the young adult group to be *studying full time* (90.8% compared to 45.2%) and 37.4% of the older group were *not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	VIC %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	89.7	85.5	90.8	45.2	92.9	85.0
Studying part time	5.1	6.2	4.8	17.4	3.6	7.3
Not studying	5.2	8.3	4.4	37.4	3.5	7.7

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. A very small proportion (1.2%) of Victorian respondents was *working full time*, however around 43% were *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Of those *working full time*, the vast majority were aged 20 to 24 years (32.2% compared with 0.5% of respondents aged 15 to 19 years). Employment participation rates for males and females were quite similar.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	VIC %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	1.2	2.5	0.5	32.2	1.4	1.0
Working part time	18.8	17.2	18.9	13.0	18.9	18.6
Casual or temporary work	24.1	26.2	24.0	27.8	25.6	21.8
Unemployed/looking for work	29.6	29.9	29.8	21.7	27.6	32.6
Too young to work or choose not to	26.4	24.2	26.9	5.2	26.6	26.0

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for Victorian respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*, as they were nationally. The fourth item was *school or study satisfaction* with a much higher proportion of respondents identifying it as highly valued in 2010 than in previous years.

- Almost four in five (78.4%) Victorian respondents highly valued *family relationships* and nearly two thirds (63.4%) highly valued *friendships*.
- Slightly more than a third of Victorian respondents (35.7%) indicated that they highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- 30.8% of young people indicated that they highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, substantially higher than the figure for 2009 of 21.6%.

Table 8: What young people value

	VIC 2010 %	National 2010 %	VIC 2009 %	VIC 2008 %	VIC 2007 %
Family relationships	78.4	78.8	76.0	75.9	75.7
Friendships (other than family)	63.4	60.9	60.7	64.3	61.9
Physical and mental health	35.7	33.9	31.8	33.8	32.0
School or study satisfaction	30.8	29.3	21.6	22.7	20.6
Being independent	26.3	27.0	32.3	30.8	32.9
Feeling needed and valued	21.7	21.8	28.6	26.5	26.6
Getting a job	15.0	16.0	16.9	14.7	16.1
Spirituality/faith	10.1	13.6	11.4	10.6	12.8
Financial security	13.0	13.5	12.9	12.7	12.5
Making a difference in the community	6.4	6.2	8.2	7.6	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three items for all three age groups were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*. However, the proportion of respondents highly valuing these items varied across age groups, particularly for the young adult group.

- *Family relationships* was clearly ranked first by all age groups, with around 80% of those aged 11 to 19 years and 62.5% of the young adult group indicating they highly valued them.
- Around 64% of the two younger age groups compared with 42.5% of the oldest age group highly valued *friendships*.
- Over 35% of all three age groups highly valued *physical and mental health*.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Family relationships	80.3	77.2	62.5
Friendships (other than family)	63.8	63.5	42.5
Physical and mental health	36.0	35.3	41.2
School or study satisfaction	32.7	29.5	17.9
Being independent	23.2	28.8	34.5
Feeling needed and valued	20.1	23.0	29.5
Getting a job	16.0	13.9	17.0
Spirituality/faith	11.0	9.1	17.9
Financial security	11.1	14.4	22.1
Making a difference in the community	6.8	5.9	16.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

School or study satisfaction, not surprisingly, was highly valued by a larger proportion of those aged 11 to 19 years than those in the young adult group. Conversely a larger proportion of those aged 20 to 24 years than those aged 11 to 19 years highly valued *feeling needed and valued*, *financial security* and *being independent*.

- Around 30% of those aged 11 to 19 years highly valued *school or study satisfaction* compared to 17.9% of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- 29.5% of the young adult group compared to 20.1% of the youngest group highly valued *feeling needed and valued*.
- The young adult group was twice as likely as those aged 11 to 14 years to highly value *financial security* (22.2% compared to 11.1%).
- A quarter of 11 to 14 year olds compared to a third of 20 to 24 year olds highly valued *being independent*.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships* and *friendships* were the top items for both genders, but both were valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents. The third ranked item for both groups was *physical and mental health*, and it was valued by similar proportions of respondents.

- 82.2% of females highly valued *family relationships* as did 72.9% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 66.5% of female respondents and 58.7% of males.
- Around 36% of respondents of both genders highly valued *physical and mental health*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	82.2	72.9
Friendships (other than family)	66.5	58.7
Physical and mental health	35.5	36.0
School or study satisfaction	31.9	29.2
Being independent	24.7	28.5
Feeling needed and valued	22.3	21.1
Getting a job	9.8	22.6
Spirituality/faith	9.9	10.3
Financial security	11.8	14.8
Making a difference in the community	6.5	6.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The most significant difference between the genders was the proportions who highly valued *getting a job*. Male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to indicate that they highly valued this item.

- 22.6% of male respondents highly valued *getting a job*, more than twice the proportion of female respondents who highly valued this item (9.8%).

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that were of personal concern to them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues for Victorian respondents were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*, which were the top three concerns nationally. The proportion of Victorian respondents indicating *coping with stress* was a major issue increased significantly from 2009. The fourth ranked item in 2010 was *school or study problems* and a higher proportion of respondents than last year also indicated this was a major issue. There were a range of issues that were of concern to respondents from Victoria, with 10 items being of concern to at least one in five.

- The top issue for Victorian respondents was *body image*, with 31.0% identifying it as a major concern.
- Just over a quarter of respondents identified *family conflict* and *coping with stress* as issues of major concern with the level of concern about the latter issue up from 17.8% in 2009.
- A quarter of respondents also indicated *school or study problems* was a major issue, up from 16.3% last year.
- *Personal safety* and *bullying/emotional abuse* were major concerns to around one in four respondents.
- *Alcohol, drugs, depression* and *suicide* were all of significant concern to one in five young people.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	VIC 2010 %	National 2010 %	VIC 2009 %	VIC 2008 %	VIC 2007 %
Body image	31.0	31.1	25.1	26.0	31.8
Family conflict	26.8	27.8	23.0	25.3	29.7
Coping with stress	26.7	27.3	17.8	20.5	26.2
School or study problems	24.6	25.5	16.3	19.1	24.7
Personal safety	24.4	23.5	22.9	22.7	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.7	23.0	24.5	22.9	23.0
Alcohol	21.1	22.2	22.1	20.3	21.0
Drugs	21.0	20.5	26.6	26.2	20.8
Depression	20.5	19.1	19.3	18.3	18.8
Suicide	20.1	19.6	28.2	24.8	24.9
The environment	17.0	16.6	17.7	19.2	23.0
Physical/sexual abuse	15.5	15.7	22.8	21.3	21.0
Self harm	10.9	11.3	13.8	13.2	15.2
Discrimination	10.1	10.0	11.0	12.8	12.3
Sexuality	9.3	10.9	10.0	11.1	10.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups on their issues of concern. *Body image* was a top three issue for all groups, with the proportion of respondents indicating it was a major concern increasing with age. *Coping with stress* was a top three issue for those aged 15 to 24 years. *Family conflict* was ranked second by the youngest age group, with significant proportions of those aged 15 to 19 years also indicating it was a major issue. The second top issue for the young adult group was *depression*. The third issue for those aged 15 to 19 years was *school or study problems*, while for the youngest group it was *personal safety*. Significant proportions of respondents across all three age groups were concerned about *alcohol and suicide*.

- *Body image* was a top three issue for all age groups with around a quarter of those aged 11 to 14 years and a third of those aged 15 to 24 years indicating it was a major concern.
- Around a quarter of those aged 11 to 19 years identified *family conflict* as a major issue, compared with around one in five of the young adult group.
- Concern about *coping with stress* and *depression* increased with age, with around 38% of young adults being concerned about these issues compared to around one in five of those aged 11 to 14 years.
- A quarter of those aged 15 to 19 years indicated *school or study problems* was a major concern, as did one in five of those aged 11 to 14 years. This compares with around one in ten of the young adult group.
- At least one in five respondents from each age group identified *personal safety*, *alcohol* and *suicide* as major issues.

Table 12: Issues of personal concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Body image	28.0	33.5	34.5
Family conflict	27.9	26.2	17.0
Coping with stress	20.2	31.9	38.2
School or study problems	22.5	26.7	14.8
Personal safety	27.6	21.8	19.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	27.2	20.9	12.6
Alcohol	23.1	19.4	19.6
Drugs	23.9	18.6	12.6
Depression	16.6	23.3	37.8
Suicide	21.3	19.0	19.8
The environment	20.4	13.9	24.8
Physical/sexual abuse	15.7	15.4	13.8
Self harm	10.4	11.4	7.3
Discrimination	9.2	10.7	17.3
Sexuality	9.2	9.2	12.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that the top three issues for females were *body image*, *coping with stress* and *family conflict*, while for males they were *alcohol*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *drugs*. Significant proportions of respondents from both genders identified a range of issues as major concerns.

- *Body image* was the top issue of concern for female respondents with 34.7% indicating it was a major concern. A quarter of male respondents also identified it as a major issue.
- Males were much more likely than females to express concern about *alcohol* (27.2% compared with 17.1%) and *drugs* (26.0% compared with 17.6%). These items were ranked first and third respectively by males.
- *Bullying/emotional abuse* was the second top issue for males with one in four of them and one in five female respondents indicating it was a major concern.
- Around a quarter of male and female respondents identified *family conflict*, *school or study problems* and *personal safety* as major issues of concern.
- 28.8% of females and 23.5% of males indicated *coping with stress* was a major issue. It was the second top issue for females.
- *Suicide* and *depression* were of concern to around one in five respondents of both genders.

Table 13: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Body image	34.7	25.6
Family conflict	27.8	25.3
Coping with stress	28.8	23.5
School or study problems	25.5	23.2
Personal safety	25.0	23.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.0	26.2
Alcohol	17.1	27.2
Drugs	17.6	26.0
Depression	21.0	19.7
Suicide	19.7	20.6
The environment	16.8	17.1
Physical/sexual abuse	18.1	11.7
Self harm	10.9	11.0
Discrimination	9.6	10.8
Sexuality	7.7	11.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for Victorian respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they have been in previous years and were nationally in 2010. The fourth ranked item was the internet.

- 86.4% of Victorian respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support.
- *Parents* were identified by three quarters (75.3%) of respondents as a major source of advice.
- Three in five (61.1%) Victorian respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.
- A quarter of respondents indicated the *internet* was a major source of advice, up from 8.2% in 2002.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	VIC 2010 %	National 2010 %	VIC 2009 %	VIC 2008 %	VIC 2007 %
Friends	86.4	85.9	84.8	85.5	87.1
Parents	75.3	74.9	73.7	74.7	73.1
Relative/family friend	61.1	60.9	60.2	60.2	64.3
Internet	25.2	25.5	21.5	21.2	19.2
Teacher	11.6	10.7	12.3	12.8	12.2
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.7	11.7	11.7	9.8	10.6
Magazines	10.6	11.4	10.9	11.4	10.0
School counsellor	9.3	9.1	11.5	11.7	10.6
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.1	7.7	8.5	7.5	8.2
Telephone helpline	4.2	4.1	5.9	5.4	5.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three sources of advice and support for all age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportion of each group who identified *friends* as a major source of support was similar across the age groups, while the proportion identifying *parents* or *relative/family friend* declined somewhat with age.

- Over 80% of respondents from each age group identified *friends* as an important source of advice and support.
- Over 70% of respondents aged 11 to 19 years indicated *parents* were a major source of advice, as did just over 60% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Half of the young adult group and around 60% of those aged 11 to 19 years identified *relative/family friend* as an important source of advice and support.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	83.8	88.6	87.4
Parents	79.0	72.6	60.4
Relative/family friend	64.2	59.0	50.0
Internet	20.0	29.1	44.6
Teacher	12.9	10.5	4.5
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.8	11.0	21.1
Magazines	10.6	10.5	10.9
School counsellor	9.4	9.2	6.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.1	6.9	10.9
Telephone helpline	5.0	3.4	3.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportion of respondents who identified the *internet* as a major source of advice increased with age, as did the proportion of respondents seeking advice from *community agencies*.

- 20 to 24 year olds were twice as likely as those aged 11 to 14 to identify the *internet* as a main source of advice and support (44.6% compared to 20.0%).
- One in five young adult respondents compared to one in ten respondents aged 11 to 19 years indicated *community agencies* were a major source of advice.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, however; a higher proportion of female than male respondents identified each as an important source of advice.

- 90.0% of females and 81.0% of males identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for over 70% of respondents of both genders.
- Close to two thirds (65.2%) of female respondents and just over a half (55.0%) of male respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	90.0	81.0
Parents	76.6	73.3
Relative/family friend	65.2	55.0
Internet	20.8	31.7
Teacher	10.6	13.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.6	15.2
Magazines	11.8	8.9
School counsellor	8.9	9.9
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.0	8.7
Telephone helpline	3.4	5.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to turn to the *internet* and *community agencies* for advice and support.

- Three in ten male respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support compared with one in five female respondents.
- Male respondents were twice as likely as female respondents to indicate *community agencies* were main sources of advice and support (15.2% compared to 7.6%).

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 17. The top three issues identified by respondents from Victoria were *the environment*, *alcohol and drugs* and *crime, safety and violence*. These were also the top issues nationally, although a higher proportion of respondents from Victoria than nationally indicated the last issue was an important one. A significant proportion of Victorian respondents also indicated that *equity and discrimination* was an important issue.

- 45.9% of Victorian respondents identified *the environment* as one of the most important issues in Australia today, very similar to the national result of 45.7%.
- 38.2% of Victorian respondents considered *alcohol and drugs* to be an important issue.
- A larger proportion of Victorian respondents (31.6%) than nationally (21.0%), identified *crime, safety and violence* as one of the most important issues in Australia today.
- Around a quarter of respondents in Victoria indicated *equity and discrimination* was an important issue.

Table 17: Most important issues in Australia today

	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
The environment	45.9	45.7	53.0	39.7	44.6	51.9	37.0
Alcohol and drugs	38.2	37.1	42.2	35.2	18.8	34.5	43.7
Crime, safety and violence	31.6	21.0	34.2	29.6	26.8	30.6	33.4
Equity and discrimination	22.9	20.6	17.6	27.6	31.3	24.8	20.2
The economy and financial matters	15.2	18.6	14.6	15.9	10.7	13.8	17.4
Population issues	14.1	13.3	10.2	17.5	16.1	13.0	15.7
Mental health	13.7	11.6	12.7	14.6	15.2	15.2	11.3
Health	13.4	15.8	11.9	14.5	23.2	14.3	12.1
Bullying	11.4	10.0	14.3	9.1	0.9	12.7	9.4
Politics and societal values	10.1	13.3	9.7	10.7	7.1	8.2	13.0
Abuse	9.8	10.0	11.8	8.2	3.6	12.0	6.5
Education	5.6	7.3	4.4	6.3	14.3	5.6	5.4
Homelessness/housing	5.1	5.7	4.8	5.2	13.4	6.4	3.2
Employment	3.7	5.2	3.3	3.9	8.0	2.8	5.0
Adolescence/youth	3.6	4.2	2.8	4.3	5.4	4.4	2.4
Poverty/disadvantage	3.3	3.0	3.8	2.7	3.6	4.1	2.1
International relations	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.0	0.9	1.9	4.7
Sport	2.7	2.6	2.2	3.2	0.0	0.5	6.0
Body image	2.2	2.2	1.5	2.7	3.6	3.3	0.5

Age differences

The environment and crime, safety and violence were identified as top three issues across all age groups. The proportions of respondents who indicated alcohol and drugs declined significantly with age, while the proportions who indicated equity and discrimination and health were important increased with age.

- The environment was an important issue for 53.0% of 11 to 14 year olds, 39.7% of 15 to 19 year olds and 44.6% of young adults.
- 42.2% of the youngest group compared to 18.8% of 20 to 24 year olds indicated alcohol and drugs was a major issue in Australia today.
- At least a quarter of each age group indicated crime, safety and violence was a major issue.
- 31.3% of the young adult group compared to 17.6% of the youngest group identified equity and discrimination as an important issue.
- One in four young adults compared to one in ten 11 to 14 year olds indicated health was an issue.

Gender differences

The top three issues were the same for both genders, however a larger proportion of female than male respondents indicated *the environment* was an important issue, while a higher proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue. Similar proportions of both genders indicated *crime, safety and violence* was an important issue.

- 51.9% of female respondents and 37.0% of males identified *the environment* as one of the most important issues in Australia today.
- 43.7% of male respondents compared to 34.5% of females identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue.
- Over 30% of both female and male respondents indicated *crime, safety and violence* was an important issue.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to indicate what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for Victorian respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*, as they were nationally. Significant proportions of young people in Victoria also participated in *student leadership activities*, *volunteer work* and *youth groups and clubs*. The proportion of young people participating in all activities increased in 2010 compared to 2009.

- Seven in ten (71.7%) young people from Victoria participated in *sports (as a participant)* and 57.5% participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Just over a quarter (27.9%) of Victorian respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural activities*.
- Around a quarter of young people also participated in *student leadership activities*, *volunteer work* and *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	VIC 2010 %	National 2010 %	VIC 2009 %	VIC 2008 %	VIC 2007 %
Sports (as a participant)	71.7	71.3	66.6	69.6	64.8*
Sports (as a spectator)	57.5	57.2	39.7	48.4	
Arts/cultural activities	27.9	31.2	20.0	45.8	39.8
Student leadership activities	25.8	25.7	8.4	12.2	13.1
Volunteer work	24.0	28.3	16.5	22.4	19.8
Youth groups and clubs	23.3	27.0	17.7	22.2	25.6
Religious groups or activities	19.6	25.5	17.9	22.3	22.8
Environmental groups or activities	12.0	13.3	8.5	13.8	13.1
Political groups or organisations**	4.6	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: data is a tally of all activities listed. * Appears as the single items sports prior to 2008. ** New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were in the top three activities for all age groups, participation declined markedly with age. The most popular activity for the young adult group was *volunteer work*. The third most common activity for those aged 11 to 19 years was *arts/cultural activities*. Significant proportions of respondents from all age groups participated in *youth groups and clubs* and *student leadership activities*.

- Three quarters of 11 to 14 year olds were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared to 42.9% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- 49.5% of young adult respondents participated in *sports (as a spectator)* as did around 57% of those aged 11 to 19 years.
- *Volunteer work* was the most popular activity for those aged 20 to 24 years, with 52.3% indicating they participated in it.
- Participation in *arts/cultural activities* increased with age, from just over a quarter of 11 to 14 year olds to close to two in five (38.7%) 20 to 24 year olds.
- Around a quarter of respondents in each age group were involved in *student leadership activities*.
- A quarter of those aged 11 to 19 and a third of those aged 20 to 24 participated in *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	77.6	67.1	42.9
Sports (as a spectator)	56.8	58.6	49.5
Arts/cultural activities	25.9	29.2	38.7
Student leadership activities	23.7	27.6	27.3
Volunteer work	18.2	28.4	52.3
Youth groups and clubs	23.0	23.1	34.8
Religious groups or activities	20.9	18.2	19.8
Environmental groups or activities	10.8	12.7	20.9
Political groups or organisations	3.8	5.1	9.1

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows that the top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in them. The third top activity for females was *arts/cultural activities*, while for males it was *youth groups and clubs*. Female respondents were more likely than males to participate in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities*.

- Almost three quarters of male respondents (74.8%) and more than two thirds of female respondents (69.4%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Close to two thirds of males (64.7%) and just over half of females (52.5%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural activities* (32.5% compared with 21.2%).
- Around a quarter of both genders participated in *youth groups and clubs* and it was the third most popular activity for males.
- 27.7% of female respondents participated in *volunteer work* compared with 18.8% of their male counterparts.
- One in five (20.8%) male respondents were involved in *student leadership activities* as were 29.3% of female respondents.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	69.4	74.8
Sports (as a spectator)	52.5	64.7
Arts/cultural activities	32.5	21.2
Student leadership activities	29.3	20.8
Volunteer work	27.7	18.8
Youth groups and clubs	23.0	23.7
Religious groups or activities	19.8	19.3
Environmental groups or activities	12.1	11.9
Political groups or organisations	4.0	5.5

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question included for the first time in the 2010 National Survey asked respondents to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 21 shows that two thirds of Victorian respondents felt *very positive* or *positive* about the future, which was similar to their national counterparts. A quarter of Victorian respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* and less than one in ten felt *negative* or *very negative*. Responses were fairly consistent across genders, but differed slightly between age groups. The young adult group was more likely than the younger groups to report *feeling negative* or *very negative* about the future.

- Two thirds (66.0%) of Victorian respondents reported that they felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.
- A quarter of respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Fewer than one in ten (7.8%) respondents indicated they *felt negative* or *very negative* about the future.
- One in five respondents aged 20 to 24 years compared to less than one in ten aged 11 to 19 years reported feeling *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	VIC	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	21.6	21.2	21.1	22.2	12.2	19.2	25.1
Positive	44.4	43.1	44.5	44.7	40.9	45.6	42.7
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	27.0	27.5	24.9	26.1	27.1	24.7
Negative	5.3	5.5	4.4	5.8	15.7	5.9	4.4
Very negative	2.5	3.2	2.5	2.4	5.2	2.2	3.0



Western Australia summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

4,271 surveys were returned from Western Australia (WA), which was 8.5% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The largest group of respondents from WA was aged 15 to 19 years (51.9%), followed by respondents aged 11 to 14 years (43.5%). Only a small number (193 or 4.6%) of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years, and results for this group should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11 - 14 years	1,838	43.5
15 - 19 years	2,192	51.9
20 - 24 years	193	4.6
Total	4,223	8.5% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to one decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

Just over half (52.9%) of all respondents from Western Australia were females and 47.1% were males.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

222 (5.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Indigenous

	Total number	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	222	5.3	4.8	5.1	5.4	4.7
Non Indigenous	3,949	94.7	95.2	94.9	94.6	95.3

Languages other than English spoken at home

82.5% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 749 (17.5%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 60 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese; Chinese; Afrikaans; Arabic; Italian; Filipino/Tagalog; and Burmese.

Disability

141 (3.4%) respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): learning disability; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); autism; blindness or vision impairment; physical disability; and deafness and hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from WA were living *with family* (93.3%), comparable to the national figure of 95.0%. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

50 respondents from WA were living in a *boarding school*, and 24 were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison*. Surveys were also received from 34 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* and 18 who were living in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	93.3	95.0	97.0	92.8	63.5
Share house	2.3	1.4	0.3	2.5	19.6
Boarding school	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.6
Homeless/insecure housing	0.8	0.4	0.3	1.1	2.1
Alone	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.7	5.3
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.5
Other	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.6	2.1
Foster care	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	4.8

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, three quarters (74.7%) of Western Australian respondents lived in the capital, Perth. Nationally, 59.2% of respondents lived in a capital city. The proportion of WA respondents who lived in the capital increased with age (70.7% of 11 to 14 year olds and 86.5% of 20 to 24 year olds).

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	3,175	74.7	59.2	70.7	77.0	86.5
Not in capital city	1,073	25.3	40.8	29.3	23.0	13.5

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income for almost three quarters (71.0%) of WA respondents, slightly lower than the national figure of 77.4%. Table 5 shows respondents became much less financially reliant on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents or family	71.0	77.4	90.1	60.9	10.4
Employment	19.2	16.6	7.0	26.6	47.9
Government Allowance	8.0	4.6	0.9	10.7	40.1
Other	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.6
No income	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia. The vast majority of respondents from WA (81.7%) were *studying full time*. Not surprisingly, respondents aged 15 to 19 were more likely than those aged 20 to 24 to be *studying full time* (83.6% compared to 59.9%). Over a quarter (29.7%) of the young adult group were *not studying*, compared to 9.1% of 15 to 19 year olds. Responses by gender were similar.

Table 6: Participation in education

	WA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	81.7	85.5	83.6	59.9	83.1	80.1
Studying part time	7.5	6.2	7.2	10.4	6.7	8.3
Not studying	10.8	8.3	9.1	29.7	10.2	11.6

Table 7: Participation in employment

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Only 3.3% of respondents were *working full time*, however 42.9% were *working part time* or were in *casual or temporary work*. The proportion of those *working full time* was much greater for 20 to 24 year olds than 15 to 19 year olds (26.6% compared to 1.2%). Females were slightly more likely than males to be in *casual or temporary work*, while males were more likely than females to be *unemployed/looking for work*.

	WA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	3.3	2.5	1.2	26.6	4.1	2.5
Working part time	18.5	17.2	18.8	14.6	19.4	17.4
Casual or temporary work	24.4	26.2	25.1	16.1	27.7	21.0
Unemployed/looking for work	31.0	29.9	31.1	29.7	27.4	34.8
Too young to work or choose not to	22.9	24.2	23.8	13.0	21.4	24.4

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the items set out in Table 8. *Family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health* were the top three items in WA, as they were nationally. The fourth item for Western Australian respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, with a higher proportion of respondents indicating that they highly valued it, compared to 2009.

- Over three quarters (79.2%) of WA respondents highly valued *family relationships* and well over half (59.1%) valued *friendships*.
- Over a third (37.0%) of respondents highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- 29.9% of respondents valued *school and study satisfaction*, up from 23.2% in 2009.

Table 8: What young people value

	WA 2010%	National 2010%	WA 2009 %	WA2008%	WA 2007%
Family relationships	79.2	78.8	76.7	77.4	77.0
Friendships (other than family)	59.1	60.9	62.3	64.4	61.8
Physical and mental health	37.0	33.9	32.6	32.7	36.1
School or study satisfaction	29.9	29.3	23.2	20.2	18.2
Being independent	25.7	27.0	31.6	29.2	29.5
Feeling needed and valued	19.7	21.8	22.4	22.9	22.6
Spirituality/faith	16.9	13.6	15.5	18.4	19.7
Getting a job	14.8	16.0	16.5	15.7	14.5
Financial security	12.6	13.5	12.5	12.6	11.1
Making a difference in the community	6.2	6.2	7.5	7.3	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows the similarities and differences in what VWA respondents valued across the age groups. The top three items for all groups were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*, although the proportions valuing the first two varied with age.

- *Family relationships* was the top item for all three age groups, and was highly valued by around 80% of those aged 11 to 19 years and 67.4% of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- Almost two thirds (63.2%) of those aged 11 to 14 highly valued *friendships*, compared to 38.1% of respondents aged 20 to 24.
- Around 37% of respondents from each age group highly valued *physical and mental health*.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Family relationships	82.2	77.8	67.4
Friendships (other than family)	63.2	57.9	38.1
Physical and mental health	38.0	36.1	38.0
School or study satisfaction	30.3	30.0	24.0
Being independent	20.6	28.9	33.7
Feeling needed and valued	19.0	19.9	21.9
Spirituality/faith	18.1	15.5	23.3
Getting a job	12.9	16.0	16.1
Financial security	10.0	13.8	23.9
Making a difference in the community	6.3	5.6	11.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Significant proportions of respondents from all three age groups highly valued *school or study satisfaction*. The proportion of respondents who highly valued *being independent* and *financial security* increased with age.

- Around 30% of 11 to 19 year olds and 24.0% of the young adult group highly valued *school or study satisfaction*.
- About a third of respondents aged 20 to 24 years highly valued *being independent* compared to one in five of those aged 11 to 14 years.
- A quarter of young adults highly valued *financial security* compared to around one in ten respondents aged 11 to 19 years.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top three items for both genders were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*, although the proportions valuing them varied. A higher proportion of females than males highly valued *family relationships* and *friendships*, while a slightly higher proportion of males than females valued *physical and mental health*.

- 83.1% of females and 74.6% of males highly valued *family relationships*.
- Almost two thirds of females (62.6%) compared to just over half of males (55.1%) valued *friendships*.
- Males were somewhat more likely than females to highly value *physical and mental health* (39.7% compared with 34.7%).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	83.1	74.6
Friendships (other than family)	62.6	55.1
Physical and mental health	34.7	39.7
School or study satisfaction	30.5	29.3
Being independent	24.2	27.2
Feeling needed and valued	19.7	19.7
Spirituality/faith	17.3	16.6
Getting a job	10.0	20.3
Financial security	11.2	14.3
Making a difference in the community	7.0	5.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Males were much more likely than females to indicate that they highly valued *getting a job*. Similar proportions of both genders highly valued *school or study satisfaction*.

- Males were twice as likely as females to highly value *getting a job* (20.3% compared to 10.0%)
- Around 30% of both genders highly valued *school or study satisfaction*.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that were of personal concern to them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues for respondents from WA were *body image*, *family conflict* and *school or study problems*. Nationally, the top two issues were the same, while the third ranked item was *coping with stress*, which was ranked fourth in WA. The proportion of WA respondents indicating they were concerned about *school or study problems* and *coping with stress* significantly increased from 2009. Table 11 shows that respondents were concerned with a large number of issues, with nine being of major concern to a fifth or more of respondents.

- *Body image* was considered a major issue by over a quarter (28.9%) of WA respondents.
- *Family conflict* was an issue of concern for 27.8% of respondents.
- 26.9% of young people indicated *school or study problems* was a major issue, up from 18.6% in 2009.
- A quarter of respondents were concerned about *coping with stress*, up from 17.3% last year.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	WA 2010 %	National 2010 %	WA 2009 %	WA 2008 %	WA 2007 %
Body image	28.9	31.1	24.5	25.1	28.9
Family conflict	27.8	27.8	25.3	27.4	31.2
School or study problems	26.9	25.5	18.6	19.0	27.4
Coping with stress	25.5	27.3	17.3	18.5	26.0
Alcohol	23.0	22.2	21.6	19.7	19.2
Drugs	22.8	20.5	30.3	27.3	20.7
Personal safety	22.6	23.5	22.8	24.6	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	20.4	23.0	20.4	18.8	21.1
Suicide	20.2	19.6	26.8	23.8	24.8
Depression	18.7	19.1	17.8	15.9	17.5
The environment	17.5	16.6	16.1	19.3	24.9
Physical/sexual abuse	17.2	15.7	24.6	23.3	23.3
Self harm	12.4	11.3	14.1	13.7	15.3
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.7	10.9	10.3	13.7	10.0
Discrimination	10.2	10.0	10.9	12.3	11.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the issues of concern for WA respondents broken down by age, and there were quite a number of differences across the groups. *Drugs* was the top issue of concern for respondents aged 11 to 14 years but was not a top three issue for either of the other two age groups. *Body image* was the top issue for those aged 15 to 19 years and was ranked second by the young adult group. *Coping with stress* was ranked first by those aged 20 to 24 years, with *depression* their third issue. *Family conflict* was a top three issue for those aged 11 to 14 years and 15 to 19 years, with the younger group ranking *personal safety* third. *School or study problems* was ranked second by those aged 15 to 19 years.

- Around a third of respondents aged 15 to 24 compared to one in four respondents aged 11 to 14 indicated *body image* was a major concern.
- *Drugs* was a major issue for 29.8% of the youngest group, compared to 15.0% of the young adult group. It was the top issue for the youngest group.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 37.3% of those aged 20 to 24 years, 28.5% of those 15 to 19 years and 21.0% of those aged 11 to 14 years. It was the top issue for young adults.
- *Family conflict* was a concern for around 28% of those aged 11 to 19 years, compared to 18.5% of the oldest group.
- One in three young adults compared to 14.8% of those aged 11 to 14 years indicated *depression* was a major issue.
- A quarter of the youngest age group were concerned about *personal safety* and it was their third ranked issue.
- Close to 30% of those aged 15 to 19 years indicated *school or study problems* was a major issue, as did 24.4% of those aged 11 to 14 years and 19.1% of the young adult group.

Table 12: Issues of personal concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs%
Body image	23.4	32.7	36.8
Family conflict	28.0	28.6	18.5
School or study problems	24.4	29.8	19.1
Coping with stress	21.0	28.5	37.3
Alcohol	24.2	21.5	26.0
Drugs	29.8	17.8	15.0
Personal safety	24.9	21.2	16.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.7	19.7	14.6
Suicide	21.3	19.7	18.3
Depression	14.8	20.8	33.3
The environment	19.9	15.0	22.7
Physical/sexual abuse	19.0	16.1	14.5
Self harm	12.4	12.4	11.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.1	11.8	13.2
Discrimination	8.1	11.7	10.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that there were some differences between genders on their issues of concern. The top three issue for females were *body image*, *family conflict* and *coping with stress*, while for males they were *school or study problems*, *alcohol* and *family conflict*. The major difference by gender was in the proportions who identified *alcohol* as a major issue with a higher proportion of males than females indicating it was a concern.

- *Body image* was the top issue of concern for female respondents with 31.3% indicating it was a major issue. 25.9% of male respondents also identified it as a concern.
- *School or study problems* was the top issue for males with around a quarter of both genders indicating it was a major issue.
- *Family conflict* was a top three issue for both genders with around one in four male and female respondents identifying it as a concern.
- 27.3% of males compared to 19.4% of females indicated *alcohol* was a major issue. It was ranked second by male respondents.
- *Coping with stress* was ranked third by female respondents with around one in four respondents of both genders identifying it as a concern.

Table 13: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Body image	31.3	25.9
Family conflict	28.8	26.7
School or study problems	26.2	28.0
Coping with stress	27.5	23.2
Alcohol	19.4	27.3
Drugs	21.6	24.3
Personal safety	22.1	23.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	18.9	22.2
Suicide	20.6	19.6
Depression	20.9	16.0
The environment	16.6	18.7
Physical/sexual abuse	18.4	15.7
Self harm	13.0	11.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.4	13.2
Discrimination	9.3	11.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The top three sources of advice and support for WA respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally. The fourth ranked item was the *internet*.

- 83.7% of respondents identified *friends* as an important source of advice and support.
- Three quarters (75.9%) of respondents identified *parents* as major source of support, while nearly two thirds (60.3%) identified *relative/family friend*.
- The *internet* was an important source of advice for over one in four (26.1%) WA respondents, up from 13.2% in 2002.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	WA 2010 %	National 2010 %	WA 2009 %	WA 2008 %	WA 2007 %
Friends	83.7	85.9	86.1	87.2	86.8
Parents	75.9	74.9	75.4	76.6	76.7
Relative/family friend	60.3	60.9	63.3	64.0	65.2
Internet	26.1	25.5	20.4	19.7	15.9
Magazines	12.5	11.4	11.1	11.1	11.7
Community agencies eg youth worker	12.2	11.7	10.8	9.6	10.0
Teacher	10.7	10.7	9.8	8.7	8.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	9.0	7.7	8.5	7.7	8.6
School counsellor	8.2	9.1	9.3	9.3	10.8
Telephone helpline	3.7	4.1	5.8	5.6	6.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The three major sources of support and advice across the age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportion of respondents who identified *friends* as major source of support was similar across age groups, while the proportion who identified *parents* declined somewhat with age.

- *Friends* were a major source of advice and support for at least three quarters of all age groups.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for 81.7% of those aged 11 to 14, 72.5% of those aged 15 to 19 and 65.0% of the young adult group.
- Around 60% of all age groups indicated a *relative/family friend* was an important source of advice.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20- 24 yrs %
Friends	83.4	84.5	78.2
Parents	81.7	72.5	65.0
Relative/family friend	63.2	58.3	58.6
Internet	20.5	29.5	38.1
Magazines	12.3	12.6	10.6
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.3	14.2	12.8
Teacher	11.7	10.0	8.5
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.0	9.1	15.6
School counsellor	7.9	8.8	5.0
Telephone helpline	3.8	3.2	8.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportion of respondents identifying the *internet* as a major source of advice increased considerably with age.

- 38.1% of those aged 20 to 24 years, compared with 20.5% of those aged 11 to 14 years, indicated the *internet* was a major source of advice.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. A similar proportion of both genders indicated *parents* were a major source of support, while females were more likely than males to indicate *friends* or *relative family/friend* were important.

- 87.0% of female respondents and 79.6% of male respondents identified *friends* as a major source of support.
- Around three quarters of both genders identified *parents* as a major source of advice.
- 65.3% of females compared to 54.8% of males indicated a *relative/family friend* was a major source of advice.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	87.0	79.6
Parents	76.3	75.7
Relative/family friend	65.3	54.8
Internet	21.9	31.0
Magazines	14.3	10.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.0	15.8
Teacher	9.5	12.1
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.2	9.7
School counsellor	7.2	9.3
Telephone helpline	3.3	4.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate that the *internet* was a major source of support.

- 31.0% of male respondents compared to 21.9% of female respondents indicated the *internet* was an important source of advice.

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

A new question was introduced in the 2010 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 17. *Alcohol and drugs* and *the environment* were clearly identified as the top two major issues by WA respondents. Nationally these items were ranked second and first respectively. Significant proportions of respondents from Western Australia also indicated *crime, safety and violence*, *equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* were important issues.

- *Alcohol and drugs* was the most important issue identified by WA respondents with 41.6% indicating it was important.
- 39.9% of respondents indicated *the environment* was an important issue facing Australia today.
- Around one in five respondents identified *crime, safety and violence*, *equity and discrimination* and *the economy and financial matters* were important.

Table 17: Most important issues in Australia today

	WA	National	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs%	20-24 yrs%	Female %	Male %
Alcohol and drugs	41.6	37.1	43.9	40.8	32.2	41.2	41.9
The environment	39.9	45.7	51.1	31.0	35.5	46.0	32.9
Crime, safety and violence	21.5	21.0	25.3	18.9	14.2	20.6	22.7
Equity and discrimination	19.8	20.6	15.7	23.8	17.5	21.9	17.6
The economy and financial matters	19.4	18.6	17.1	20.5	25.1	17.1	21.9
Population issues	16.4	13.3	11.7	20.6	15.3	14.2	19.0
Politics and societal values	14.9	13.3	16.8	13.5	13.1	12.4	17.9
Health	13.6	15.8	14.3	12.3	19.1	14.9	12.2
Mental health	10.1	11.6	9.9	10.1	12.0	12.5	7.1
Abuse	9.8	10.0	12.0	8.4	6.0	11.7	7.5
Education	7.8	7.3	5.2	9.4	12.6	8.3	7.3
Bullying	7.5	10.0	9.2	6.6	2.7	8.5	6.2
Homelessness/housing	5.2	5.7	4.1	5.4	11.5	6.0	4.3
Adolescence/youth	4.8	4.2	3.1	6.1	6.0	5.5	3.9
Employment	4.5	5.2	2.4	5.8	7.7	3.4	5.7
International relations	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	1.1	2.6	4.1
Relationships	2.7	2.6	3.0	2.4	3.8	2.8	2.7
Aboriginal issues	2.6	1.6	1.4	2.8	10.9	2.4	2.8
Animal rights and welfare	2.3	2.0	3.6	1.4	0.0	2.9	1.6
Poverty/disadvantage	2.3	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.1	3.0	1.5
Body image	2.1	2.2	1.6	2.3	4.4	3.0	1.0

Age differences

Alcohol and drugs and *the environment* were identified as important issues by significant proportions of respondents across the three age groups with a higher proportion of the youngest group compared to the young adult group indicating they were important. The proportion of respondents indicating *crime, safety and violence* was an important issue declined with age, while the proportion who indicated *the economy and financial matters* was important increased with age.

- Over 40% of 11 to 19 year olds and 32.2% of young adults identified *alcohol and drugs* was an important issue.
- Half of those aged 11 to 14 years compared to just over 30% of those aged 15 to 24 indicated *the environment* was a major issue.
- A quarter of 11 to 14 year olds compared to 14.2% of the young adult group identified *crime, safety and violence* was an important issue.
- A quarter of 20 to 24 year olds and a fifth of 11 to 19 year olds indicated *the economy and financial matters* was a major issue.

Gender differences

Significant proportions of both genders indicated *alcohol and drugs* and *the environment* were major issues. Female respondents were more likely than their male counterparts to indicate *the environment* was a major issue, while the proportions identifying *alcohol and drugs* were similar:

- Around 42% of both genders indicated *alcohol and drugs* was an important issue.
- 46.0% of females and 32.9% of males indicated *the environment* was a major issue.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they were involved in from the list in Table 18. The three most popular activities for WA respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *youth groups and clubs*. Significant proportions of respondents also participated in *arts/cultural activities*, *volunteer work*, *religious groups or activities* and *student leadership activities*. Participation in all activities increased for WA respondents compared to 2009.

- More than two thirds (70.8%) of respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Over half (56.7%) of respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- A third of respondents participated in *youth groups and clubs*.
- Around 30% of young people from WA were involved in *arts/cultural activities*, *volunteer work* and *religious groups or activities* and around a quarter participated in *student leadership activities*.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	WA 2010 %	National 2010 %	WA 2009 %	WA 2008 %	WA 2007 %
Sports (as a participant)	70.8	71.3	61.6	67.6	71.4*
Sports (as a spectator)	56.7	57.2	37.1	44.6	
Youth groups and clubs	32.3	27.0	21.9	31.1	32.1
Arts/cultural activities	30.4	31.2	21.5	45.2	44.6
Volunteer work	29.8	28.3	19.4	21.4	21.8
Religious groups or activities	29.7	25.5	22.0	30.8	27.9
Student leadership activities	24.4	25.7	8.8	12.0	13.5
Environmental groups or activities	14.9	13.3	8.6	13.5	13.4
Political groups or organisations**	6.6	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. * Appears as the single item sports prior to 2008. ** New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were both in the top three most popular activities for all age groups, although the proportions participating in them declined with age. The third most popular activity for those aged 11 to 19 years was *youth groups and clubs* while the most popular activity for the oldest group was *volunteer work*.

- 82.8% of young people aged 11 to 14 compared to 50.8% of those aged 20 to 24 were involved in *sports (as a participant)*.
- 49.5% of respondents aged 20 to 24 years and over 55% of those aged 11 to 19 years participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- The most popular activity for the young adult group was *volunteer work*, with 58.5% participating in this activity.
- Over 30% of each age group participated in *youth groups and clubs* and it was the third most popular activity for the two younger age groups.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	82.8	62.5	50.8
Sports (as a spectator)	58.7	55.5	49.5
Youth groups and clubs	33.5	30.9	37.6
Arts/cultural activities	29.0	30.5	38.3
Volunteer work	25.7	30.3	58.5
Religious groups or activities	30.9	27.9	38.8
Student leadership activities	25.5	22.8	31.0
Environmental groups or activities	13.5	14.6	27.3
Political groups or organisations	5.2	6.5	17.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the two most popular activities for male and female respondents from WA were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although males were more likely than females to participate in these activities. Participation in *arts/cultural activities* was the third most popular activity for females, while for males it was *youth groups and clubs*.

- About three quarters of males (74.1%) and two thirds of females (67.9%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Just over 60% of males and half of all females (52.6%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to participate in *arts/cultural activities* (35.7% compared to 24.5%).
- 35.4% of male respondents and 29.7% of their female counterparts participated in *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	67.9	74.1
Sports (as a spectator)	52.6	61.6
Youth groups and clubs	29.7	35.4
Arts/cultural activities	35.7	24.5
Volunteer work	32.8	26.2
Religious groups or activities	28.8	30.8
Student leadership activities	24.7	24.0
Environmental groups or activities	15.2	14.5
Political groups or organisations	4.9	8.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Another new question included for the first time in the 2010 National Survey asked young people to indicate how they felt about the future. Table 21 shows that two thirds of WA respondents felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, which was comparable to the national figure. About a quarter of respondents felt *neither negative nor positive* about the future and less than one in ten felt *negative* or *very negative*. Responses were similar by age and gender:

- Two thirds of WA respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- Around a quarter (25.7%) of young people in WA indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Less than one in ten (8.3%) respondents reported feeling *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	22.6	21.2	22.2	22.8	22.3	19.7	25.7
Positive	43.4	43.1	43.9	43.1	42.6	44.8	42.0
Neither positive nor negative	25.7	27.0	25.3	26.3	22.9	26.5	24.8
Negative	5.0	5.5	5.5	4.5	6.9	5.6	4.3
Very negative	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.3	5.3	3.4	3.2

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- The Foundation for Young Australians
- The Frank Team
- The Rotary Club of North Hobart
- Uniting Care Moreland Hall
- University of Ballarat
- Victorian Applied Learning Association (VALA)
- www.slipprysirkus.org
- Young UNIFEM Australia Adelaide
- youthcentral (www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au) – the Victorian Government's website for young people
- Youthbeyondblue, part of beyondblue: the national depression initiative
- Youth Action and Policy Association (NSW)
- Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
- Youth Affairs Network of Queensland
- Youth & Family Focus Inc
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Youth Off The Streets
- Youth Justice Directorate, Department for Families and Communities (South Australia)
- Youth Network of Tasmania

About Mission Australia

Mission Australia is a Christian community service organisation that has been transforming the lives of Australians in need for more than 150 years.

Today we are one of the nation's leading community service organisations, operating more than 550 community and employment services from 350 sites in metropolitan, rural and regional Australia.

In 2009-10 our services transformed the lives of more than 300,000 Australians by providing a hand up, a way forward and hope for a better future.

By learning from others and sharing what works well for us, we are able to consistently deliver positive outcomes for individuals, families and communities. We strengthen families, empower youth, strive to solve homelessness and provide employment solutions.

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