



youth survey 2012

YOUNG PEOPLE

Contents

Foreword	1
Introduction	2
Executive summary	4
List of figures and tables	7
National summary	10
New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory	24
Northern Territory	37
Queensland	46
South Australia	59
Tasmania	72
Victoria	85
Western Australia	98
Acknowledgments	111

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Foreword

MISSION AUSTRALIA'S YOUTH SURVEY 2012

To have our society revealed to us through the eyes of our youth can offer us both a picture of beauty but also pain. The idealistic yet wide open eyes of the young see the potential of life and the hopes of the future. But on that journey they also identify the pressure they experience and the burdens they face.

Their voice must be welcomed for it is the voice of the younger generation that informs us of the changes and transformations we must seek for the better of our society, especially for those who are yet to reach adulthood.

Timothy, a follower of Jesus in Biblical times, was very young, but was encouraged by the Apostle Paul to not let anyone despise his youthfulness. Despite his age, his voice, like those of our youth of today, must be welcomed and heard.

Mission Australia is delighted to have the voices of the youth of our Australian society, heard through our *Youth Survey 2012*. This comprehensive report, produced by Research, captures the voices of thousands of young Australians for all to hear.

At Mission Australia we believe all young people should have the opportunity to successfully move into adulthood, well-prepared for life ahead. Navigating a successful youth experience often means naming the things that both help and hinder the journey. This survey provides a wealth of material for the purpose of assisting our youth.

I warmly commend this report for your careful consideration.

Robyn Richardson (Rev.)

Acting National Chaplain



Introduction

INTRODUCTION

In 2012, Mission Australia conducted its 11th annual survey of young people. As with past years, the survey aimed to identify both the values and issues of concern to young people. However, this year's survey has seen some substantial change. Following the release of the *National Survey of Young Australians 2011* report, Mission Australia felt that it was an opportune time to review the survey, its purpose and methodology.

As a result of this review, a number of changes were made to the survey this year. Specifically:

- The survey was renamed Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2012*.
- The number and complexity of questions was increased to expand upon and add depth to themes previously covered by the survey.
- The age range for participation was narrowed to young people aged 15-19 years. In previous years, responses were sought from young people aged 11-24 years. The younger age group (11-14 year olds) was excluded from this year's survey due to the increased length and complexity of the survey, while the older age group (20-24 year olds) was excluded due to a traditionally low response rate amongst this cohort.
- Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2012* was primarily promoted as an online survey, although hard copies were available upon request.

PARTICIPATION

In 2012, 15,351 young Australians aged 15-19 years participated in the survey. 11,302 respondents completed the survey online, with the remainder completing a hard copy.

AREAS OF FOCUS

As well as collecting valuable socio-demographic data, the *Youth Survey 2012* sought to capture the views and perspectives of young people on a broad range of issues. Topics covered by the survey included participation in education and employment, participation in community activities, subjective health and wellbeing, values and concerns, sources of information, advice and support, as well as feelings about the future.

METHODOLOGY

Following approval from State and Territory Education Departments to approach secondary school principals across Australia, information about Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2012* and an electronic link to an online version of the survey were distributed to secondary school principals. Information was also distributed to Mission Australia services, a network of other service providers, Commonwealth, State/Territory and local government departments, youth organisations, peak bodies and corporate partners.

Due to the narrower age group targeted by the survey this year, respondent numbers were not as high as in recent years, although they remained robust. In this report, Mission Australia has continued to provide breakdowns of key data by gender at a national level and across the majority of States and Territories. However, due to a smaller number of responses in the Northern Territory (NT) in 2012, data in the NT chapter was presented only at a Territory-wide level, with no gender breakdown. Similarly, due to lower respondent numbers in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) this year, the ACT and New South Wales (NSW) data has been combined for reporting purposes.

Changes in 2012

In 2012 a number of changes were made to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey*, including the addition of eighteen new questions and amendments to a number of existing questions. Some of the new quantitative questions are standardised instruments which will potentially allow for comparisons to be made across other studies undertaken both nationally and internationally. Other questions were developed specifically for the purpose of Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2012*.

The new questions added in 2012 included a range of quantitative and qualitative questions, covering country of birth, education and employment status of parents/guardians, future plans, level of satisfaction with work, education and household financial situation, level of happiness with life as a whole, level of non-specific psychological distress, and feelings of safety in the neighbourhood.

Amendments were made to seven existing questions in Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2012* to gather more detailed information on certain issues and/or to enable the comparison of results with other studies. The amendments were as follows:

- Respondents were asked about their paid work status. Despite a small change in the response options provided, comparisons to previous years' data can still be made with confidence.
- Respondents were asked whether they identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The response option '*prefer not to answer*' was added in 2012. This question remains sufficiently similar for comparisons to previous years' data to be made with caution.
- In 2012 respondents were asked about their participation in various activities/ groups *over the past year*. Previously young people were simply asked what activities/ groups they were involved in. This question remains sufficiently similar for comparisons to be made to previous years' data with caution.
- In all years respondents have been asked about what they value. In 2012 both the structure and list of items included in this question changed. In 2012 young people were asked to rate the importance, in the past year, of a shorter list of items on a scale from '*not at all important*' to '*extremely important*'. Significant change to the question means that direct comparisons to previous years' data should be made with caution.
- In all years respondents have been asked about where they go for advice and support. In 2012 both the structure and list of sources included in this question changed. In 2012, young people were asked to indicate whether they felt comfortable going to each source for *information, advice or support*. Significant change to the question means that direct comparisons to previous years' data should be made with caution.
- In all years respondents have been asked about issues of concern to them. In 2012 both the structure and list of items included in this question changed. In 2012, young people were asked to rate their level of concern, in the past year, about each item on a scale ranging from '*not at all concerned*' to '*extremely concerned*'. Significant change to the question means that direct comparisons to previous years' data should be made with caution.

Please note that not all questions asked in the survey have been presented in the current report. However, these questions will inform a number of more detailed research reports to be released throughout 2013.

THIS REPORT

This report contains an executive summary, a national summary and a summary for each State/Territory (except the ACT which has been combined with NSW this year). Each of the chapters contains a breakdown of the key data by gender (except the NT) and, where possible, comparisons with previous years' data (based on respondents aged 15 to 19 years).

In previous years the Youth Survey Report has included a chapter that compares data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents. This year Mission Australia has instead decided to conduct an in-depth analysis of the findings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents and will be releasing a detailed report on the comparative situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth in 2013.



Executive summary

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

15,351 young people aged 15-19 responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2012. The largest number of responses came from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (33.4%), Victoria (23.3%) and South Australia (15.5%). Over half of the respondents (61.1%) were female and 4.3% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The number of young people who spoke a language other than English at home rose from 19.4% in 2011 to 22.7% in 2012. The level of reported disability remained fairly constant between 2011 and 2012, at around 4%. The vast majority of respondents were studying full-time (93.9%), which is not surprising given the age range of the young people completing the survey. Almost four out of ten (38.9%) respondents were working part-time, and around one third (34.1%) were looking for work.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE VALUE

In 2012 young people were asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school and study satisfaction*. The responses were consistent with previous years, with *friendships* and *family relationships* ranked as the two most highly valued items. Almost three quarters of young people also placed a high value on *school and study satisfaction* and *mental health*. Additionally, over half of young people highly valued *financial security*.

ISSUES OF PERSONAL CONCERN

Young people were asked to rate how concerned they had been about 12 issues in the past year. Nationally, the top three issues of personal concern were *coping with stress*, *school and study problems* and *body image*, with over one in three respondents nominating each of these issues. *Family conflict* and *depression* were also a concern for over one in five respondents. Although males and females had the same top 3 issues of concern, the proportion of females concerned about these issues was considerably higher than males.

WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE TURN FOR ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Young people were asked whether they had someone who did not live with them to ask for support in a time of crisis. Nationally, the vast majority of respondents (88.3%) had someone (who did not live with them) to ask for support although, importantly, over one in ten did not. Additionally, young people were asked where they were comfortable going for *information*, *advice* and *support*. Whilst the *internet* was the major source of *information* for young people, *friend/s* and *parent/s* were the two main sources of *support* and *advice* for young people. Many respondents reported they were not comfortable using a *telephone hotline* (61.1%) or a *community agency* (47.4%) for *information*, *advice* or *support*.

HOW WELL DO YOUNG PEOPLE'S FAMILIES GET ALONG?

Young people were asked to consider how well they felt their family got along. The majority of responses were quite positive, with 27.1% rating their family's ability to get along as *excellent*, and 32.1% as *very good*. However, almost one in five did not have such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.4%) or *poor* (6.5%).

YOUNG PEOPLE AND HEALTH

Respondents were asked to rate their health. Eight out of ten respondents indicated that their health was either *good* (32.2%), *very good* (37.8%) or *excellent* (23.3%), with only 3.0% of respondents indicating their health was *poor*.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA TODAY

Young people were asked to write down three issues they considered important in Australia today. The top three issues identified in 2012 were *the economy and financial issues* (30.8%), *population issues* (27.6%) and *alcohol and drugs* (21.8%). These differed from 2011 and 2010 when the top 3 issues identified by young people were *the environment* (37.4%), *alcohol and drugs* (30.3%) and *equity and discrimination*. Both males and females ranked *the economy and financial matters* and *population issues* as the top two issues in Australia today. However, females identified *equity and discrimination* as the third most important issue, while males identified *politics and societal values*.

ACTIVITIES THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN

Sports (as a participant), *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the top three activities young people were involved in over the past year. Males were more likely to report participation in *sport (as a participant)* and *sport (as a spectator)* than females, whilst females were more likely to report participation in *volunteer work* and *arts and cultural activities*.

THE FUTURE

Respondents were asked to describe how optimistic they felt about the future. The results in 2012 were slightly more positive than in 2010 and 2011, with seven out of ten young people feeling either *positive* (49.8%) or *very positive* (20.8%) about the future. Despite this positive response, around one in twenty young people indicated that they felt *negative* (4.7%) or *very negative* (1.9%) about the future.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2012* provides us with some unique insights into some of the concerns facing young Australian's today. Consistent with the 2011 survey findings *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image* were among the top issues of concern, followed by *family conflict* and *depression*. Here we discuss some policy implications of the findings.

Coping with stress and school or study problems

As in 2011, *coping with stress* and *school or study problems* remained major concerns for respondents. Furthermore, in an open ended question about concerns, young people commonly identified the pressure around performing at school as a major source of stress. In particular, the fear of failure and the perceived lack of prospects as a result of poor grades in Year 12 were identified as major stressors for many young people. As well as coping with school, many young people were also trying to manage work, family and social commitments. The cumulative effect of these demands appears to be leaving many young people feeling overwhelmed and struggling to cope.

Families and teachers need to be aware of, and able to connect with, young people about the pressures they are facing. A whole of community approach including family, friends, teachers and counsellors is needed to ensure that young people, particularly those facing the pressure of year 12, have adequate support. School based programs to enable vulnerable young people to cope with stress may be one avenue through which young people can be taught strategies to deal effectively with stress. Young people also need to be exposed to, and made aware of, the range of study and work options available to them after completing high school, particularly if students do not achieve the mark they were striving for. As one respondent said, '*Bring back the reality of year 12. Sure it's a big year but it's not the end of your life if things don't go as planned, or if you do not achieve what you might have.*'

There are a number of existing policy initiatives that aim to enhance the educational outcomes and supports for young people such as the National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Under this agreement, specific initiatives such as the *Youth Connections* program is an effective means of providing targeted, individualised and flexible responses to young people experiencing significant challenges that may affect their educational outcomes. As the current National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions concludes at the end of 2012, important consideration will need to be given to shaping future policy to ensure it continues to prioritise the social and emotional wellbeing of young people.

Body image

As in previous years, the level of concern regarding *body image* among Australia's young people remains high. Since 2009, the Australian Government has introduced a number of initiatives to promote positive body image among young people in Australia. These include the Voluntary Industry Code of Conduct on Body Image and Positive Body Image Awards to guide the media, fashion and advertising industries to adopt more body image friendly practices and the expansion of the Butterfly Foundation's

'Free to Be' body image education services, of which it is estimated over 25,000 educators will receive new resources, with an expected reach of over 100,000 young people¹. All these initiatives focus on empowering individuals to recognise and counter damaging society and peer messages while simultaneously developing self-esteem and body acceptance. Careful evaluation of these initiatives is needed in order to understand their impact and inform future policy initiatives.

The *Youth Survey 2012* findings also highlight the need for ongoing support for interventions that focus on the development of young people's sense of autonomy, trust, self-esteem and identity. Mission Australia's *Body Talk* program is an example of just such support. The program recruits South Australian teenagers to be 'Body Image Ambassadors' to provide peer-to-peer mentoring to promote resilience to body image pressures.

Family conflict

Family relationships play an important role in young people's lives with 82% of young people indicating that they highly valued family relationships. The overwhelming majority (81.1%) of respondents to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2012* rated their family's ability to get along as either good, very good or excellent. Despite this largely positive view of family relationships, around 1 in 5 (22.9%) young people indicated that family relationships are of concern. To some extent this may reflect concern regarding more common day-to-day disagreements, but for some their family's ability to get along is a serious concern. In an open ended question, a number of young people indicated that they were struggling to cope with family conflict which was typically described as ongoing fighting between family members and the breakdown of family relationships. Overall, these findings indicate that for young people who are already attempting to cope with school and study pressures, the absence of a supportive family environment and the need to manage the additional stressors of family conflict can make life especially challenging. As one respondent said, *'I just need a bit of help or someone I can turn to when I get really overwhelmed with family issues.'* It is crucial that young people are aware of the various people (for example, school counsellors and teachers) and services (for example, community hotlines, online counselling services) available to them in school and in the wider community that they can turn to for support, to enable them cope with, rather than be overwhelmed by, family and other issues. Related to this there is a major role for experts and services to connect with young people via the internet.

The internet as a primary source of information for young people

The internet has fundamentally changed the way young people spend their time and the way they communicate with peers. Young Australian's aged 15-17 spent an average of almost 2 and ½ hours on the internet each day messaging, gaming, using social websites, emailing, doing homework and watching or listening to video clips². Research regarding 16-19 year olds in the UK also found that the internet was a key source of information for young people with 31% using the internet at least once a week to seek 'personal advice' on issues such as health, sexual matters, drugs and even financial advice³. In line with this finding is that for over three quarters of young people responding to the Mission Australia Youth Survey, the internet was nominated a primary source of information. The widespread use of the internet as a source of information has both positive and negative implications. On the positive side, the internet can provide young people with a quick, easy and anonymous avenue to obtain information on issues which they may feel too self-conscious or embarrassed to ask about in person. It also provides an easily accessible medium for organisations to provide reliable, evidence-based information and services to young people. However, a concern about young people using the internet as their primary source of information is that young people may not have the skills to critically evaluate the content of websites⁴. Navigating and trying to understand various sources of information, particularly if the information accessed is conflicting, may actually heighten a young person's anxiety about an issue. The findings from the *Youth Survey* point to the importance of improving young people's internet literacy so that they are better equipped to not only identify sites with reliable information but evaluate online information. It is therefore important to continue to resource internet literacy programs and development and updating of age appropriate and reliable websites.

¹ Butterfly Foundation 2012 Accessed at: <http://www.thebutterflyfoundation.org.au/>

² Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) (2008). Internet use and social networking by young people. Accessed at http://www.acma.gov.au/webwr/_assets/main/lib310665/no1_internet_use_social_networking_young_people.pdf

³ Livingstone, S., Bober, M., & Helsper, E.J. (2005). Active participation or just more information? Young people's take up of opportunities to act and interact on the internet. *Information, Communication and Society*, 8(3), 287-314.

⁴ *Ibid.*

Figures and tables

1. National Summary

Figure 1.1: Percentage of respondents by state/territory	10
Table 1.1: Where respondents were living	11
Table 1.2: Participation in education	11
Figure 1.2: Satisfaction with studies	12
Table 1.3: Participation in paid employment	12
Figure 1.3: What young people value	13
Table 1.4: What young people value, by gender	14
Figure 1.4: Issues of personal concern to young people	15
Table 1.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender	16
Figure 1.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support	17
Table 1.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender	18
Figure 1.6: Family's ability to get along	19
Figure 1.7: How young people feel about their health	19
Table 1.7: Most important issues in Australia today	20
Table 1.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year	21
Figure 1.8: How happy young people are	22
Table 1.9: Feelings about the future	23

2. New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory

Table 2.1: Where respondents were living	24
Table 2.2: Participation in education	25
Figure 2.1: Satisfaction with studies	25
Table 2.3: Participation in paid employment	26
Figure 2.2: What young people value	26
Table 2.4: What young people value, by gender	27

Figure 2.3: Issues of personal concern to young people	28
--	----

Table 2.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender	29
--	----

Figure 2.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support	30
---	----

Table 2.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender	31
---	----

Figure 2.5: Family's ability to get along	32
---	----

Figure 2.6: How young people feel about their health	32
--	----

Table 2.7: Most important issues in Australia today	33
---	----

Table 2.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year	34
--	----

Figure 2.7: How happy young people are	35
--	----

Table 2.9: Feelings about the future	36
--------------------------------------	----

3. Northern Territory

Table 3.1: Where respondents were living	37
--	----

Table 3.2: Participation in education	38
---------------------------------------	----

Figure 3.1: Satisfaction with studies	38
---------------------------------------	----

Table 3.3: Participation in paid employment	38
---	----

Figure 3.2: What young people value	39
-------------------------------------	----

Figure 3.3: Issues of personal concern to young people	40
--	----

Figure 3.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support	41
---	----

Figure 3.5: Family's ability to get along	42
---	----

Figure 3.6: How young people feel about their health	42
--	----

Table 3.4: Most important issues in Australia today	43
---	----

Table 3.5: Activities young people were involved in over the past year	44
--	----

Figure 3.7: How happy young people are	44
--	----

Table 3.6: Feelings about the future	45
--------------------------------------	----

4. Queensland

Table 4.1: Where respondents were living	46
Table 4.2: Participation in education	47
Figure 4.1: Satisfaction with studies	47
Table 4.3: Participation in paid employment	48
Figure 4.2: What young people value	48
Table 4.4: What young people value, by gender	49
Figure 4.3: Issues of personal concern to young people	50
Table 4.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender	51
Figure 4.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support	52
Table 4.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender	53
Figure 4.5: Family's ability to get along	54
Figure 4.6: How young people feel about their health	54
Table 4.7: Most important issues in Australia today	55
Table 4.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year	56
Figure 4.7: How happy young people are	57
Table 4.9: Feelings about the future	58

5. South Australia

Table 5.1: Where respondents were living	59
Table 5.2: Participation in education	60
Figure 5.1: Satisfaction with studies	60
Table 5.3: Participation in paid employment	61
Figure 5.2: What young people value	61
Table 5.4: What young people value, by gender	62
Figure 5.3: Issues of personal concern to young people	63
Table 5.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender	64
Figure 5.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support	65
Table 5.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender	66

Figure 5.5: Family's ability to get along	67
---	----

Figure 5.6: How young people feel about their health	67
--	----

Table 5.7: Most important issues in Australia today	68
---	----

Table 5.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year	69
--	----

Figure 5.7: How happy young people are	70
--	----

Table 5.9: Feelings about the future	71
--------------------------------------	----

6. Tasmania

Table 6.1: Where respondents were living	72
--	----

Table 6.2: Participation in education	73
---------------------------------------	----

Figure 6.1: Satisfaction with studies	73
---------------------------------------	----

Table 6.3: Participation in paid employment	74
---	----

Figure 6.2: What young people value	74
-------------------------------------	----

Table 6.4: What young people value, by gender	75
---	----

Figure 6.3: Issues of personal concern to young people	76
--	----

Table 6.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender	77
--	----

Figure 6.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support	78
---	----

Table 6.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender	79
---	----

Figure 6.5: Family's ability to get along	80
---	----

Figure 6.6: How young people feel about their health	80
--	----

Table 6.7: Most important issues in Australia today	81
---	----

Table 6.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year	82
--	----

Figure 6.7: How happy young people are	83
--	----

Table 6.9: Feelings about the future	84
--------------------------------------	----

7. Victoria

Table 7.1: Where respondents were living	85
--	----

Table 7.2: Participation in education	86
---------------------------------------	----

Figure 7.1: Satisfaction with studies	86
---------------------------------------	----

Table 7.3: Participation in paid employment	87
---	----

Figure 7.2: What young people value	87
-------------------------------------	----

Table 7.4: What young people value, by gender	88
Figure 7.3: Issues of personal concern to young people	89
Table 7.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender	90
Figure 7.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support	91
Table 7.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender	92
Figure 7.5: Family's ability to get along	93
Figure 7.6: How young people feel about their health	93
Table 7.7: Most important issues in Australia today	94
Table 7.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year	95
Figure 7.7: How happy young people are	96
Table 7.9: Feelings about the future	97

8. Western Australia

Table 8.1: Where respondents were living	98
Table 8.2: Participation in education	99
Figure 8.1: Satisfaction with studies	99
Table 8.3: Participation in paid employment	100
Figure 8.2: What young people value	100
Table 8.4: What young people value, by gender	101
Figure 8.3: Issues of personal concern to young people	102

Table 8.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender	103
Figure 8.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support	104
Table 8.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender	105
Figure 8.5: Family's ability to get along	106
Figure 8.6: How young people feel about their health	106
Table 8.7: Most important issues in Australia today	107
Table 8.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year	108
Figure 8.7: How happy young people are	109
Table 8.9: Feelings about the future	110

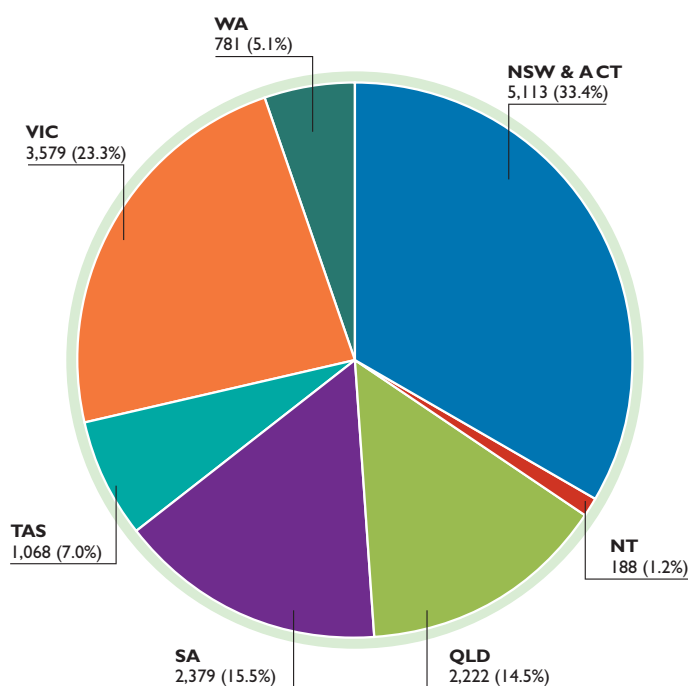
National summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

State and Territory Distribution

A total of 15,351 young people aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2012. Respondents came from across Australia and Figure 1.1 indicates the number and percentages from each state/territory. There were 21 respondents who did not indicate which state/territory they lived in.

Figure 1.1: Percentage of respondents by state/territory



Gender breakdown

Over half (61.1%) of the respondents were female and 38.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 643 (4.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (5.4% compared with 3.6%). Just over 4% of respondents preferred not to answer.

Language background other than English

2,180 (14.5%) respondents stated they were born overseas and 3,421 (22.7%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 70 languages spoken at home, the most common were (in order of frequency); Chinese, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Arabic, Italian, French, Greek, Spanish and Filipino/Tagalog.

Disability

A total of 715 (4.8%) respondents indicated they had a disability, with more males (6.3%) than females (3.9%) reporting a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities overall were (in order of frequency); physical disability, learning disability, blindness or vision impairment, autism and Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD).

Where respondents were living

Table 1.1 shows that, as in previous years, the vast majority of respondents (90.8%) lived *with family*. Around 4% of respondents lived in *boarding school* and a small number of young people indicated that they lived in a *juvenile justice centre/prison*, *homeless/insecure housing* or *foster care*.

Table 1.1: Where respondents were living

	National %	Female %	Male %
With family	90.8	91.2	90.2
Boarding school	3.9	4.5	3.0
Shared house	1.1	0.9	1.3
Alone	0.6	0.4	0.9
Juvenile justice centre / prison	0.6	0.3	1.1
Homeless / insecure housing	0.5	0.3	0.8
Foster care	0.3	0.2	0.4
Other	2.2	2.2	2.3

Education

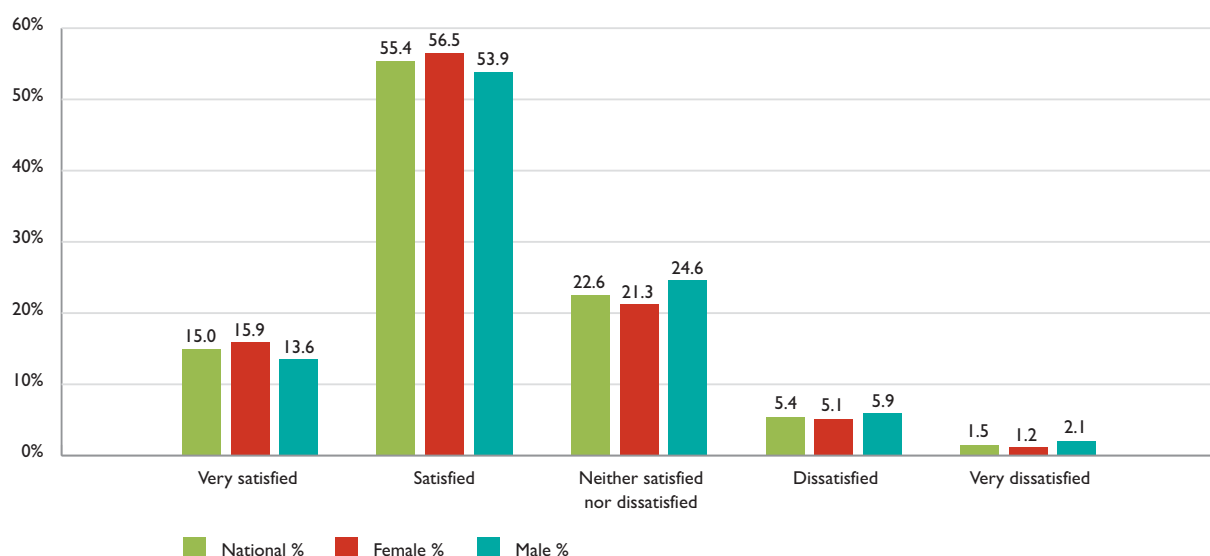
As indicated in Table 1.2, 93.9% of respondents were studying full-time, slightly higher than the 91.8% of respondents aged 15 to 19 in 2011. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (94.8% compared with 92.6%), while slightly more males (3.6%) than females (2.3%) were not studying. Of those who were still at school, 95.5% stated they intended to complete Year 12. Males were just over 3 times more likely to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (7.7% compared with 2.4% of females).

In 2012 we asked respondents who reported they were currently studying how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. Over two thirds of respondents reported they were either *very satisfied* (15.0%) or *satisfied* (55.4%) with their studies, while less than 1 in 10 were either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.5% and 5.4% respectively). As shown in Figure 1.2, males were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* (13.6% and 53.9% of males compared with 15.9% and 56.5% of females respectively).

Table 1.2: Participation in education

	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	93.9	94.8	92.6
Studying part time	3.2	2.9	3.8
Not studying	2.8	2.3	3.6

Figure 1.2: Satisfaction with studies



Employment

Respondents in 2012 who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 1.3 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Only 0.6% of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Almost 40% of respondents, the majority of whom were in full-time education, reported part-time employment. Over half of respondents reported they were not in paid employment, with 34.1% looking for work and 26.4% not looking for work.

Equal numbers of male and female respondents reported full-time employment (0.6%), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (41.6% compared with 34.7%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (39.0% compared with 30.9%).

Table 1.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.6	0.6
Employed part-time	38.9	41.6	34.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.1	30.9	39.0
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	26.4	27.0	25.6

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

DETAILED NATIONAL RESULTS

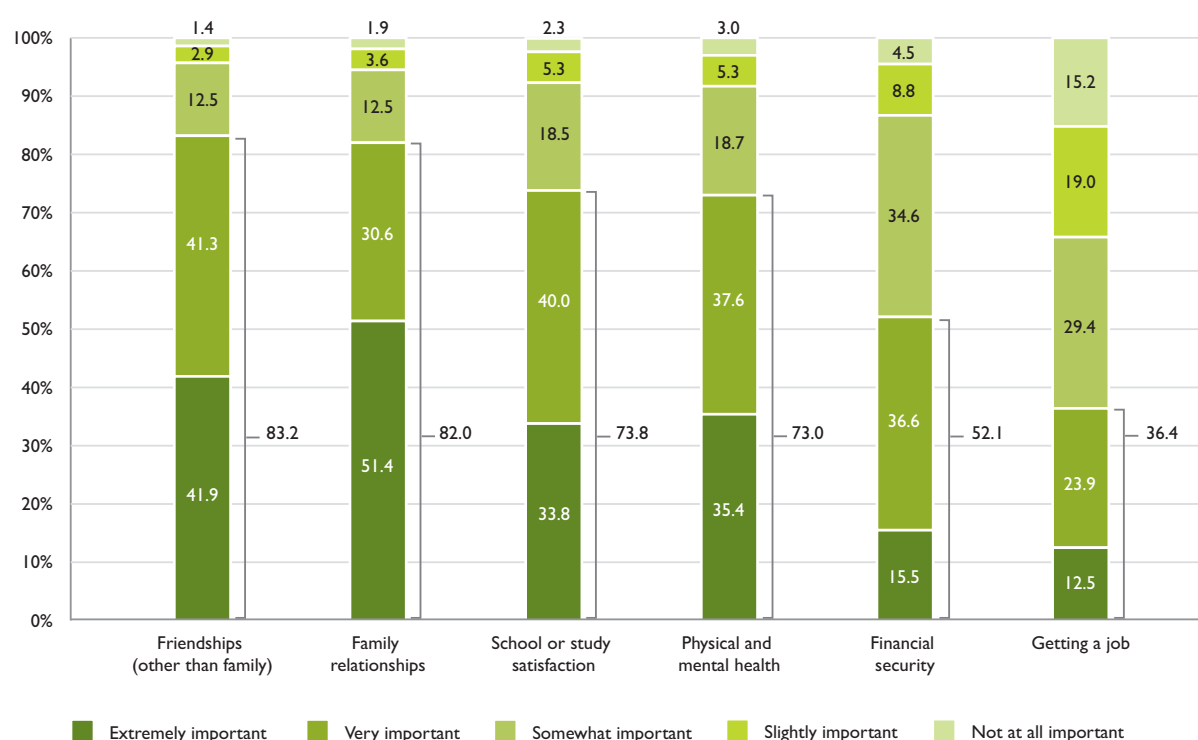
What do young people value?

In 2012 young people were asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 1.3 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In 2012 responses were consistent with previous years, with *friendships* and *family relationships* ranked as the two most highly valued items. Also consistent with past years is the high value placed on *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 83.2% (*extremely important*: 41.9%; *very important*: 41.3%) of respondents. *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 82.0% (*extremely important*: 51.4%; *very important*: 30.6%) of respondents.

- Over two thirds of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (extremely important: 33.8%; very important: 40.0%) and *physical and mental health* (extremely important: 35.4%; very important: 37.6%).
- Over half of the respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (extremely important: 15.5%; very important: 36.6%).

Figure 1.3: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Friendships and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females, as shown in Table 1.4. However, more female respondents highly valued *friendships* and *family relationships* than their male counterparts. For females, *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health* were the third and fourth most highly valued items; for males this order was reversed.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 86.0% of females (extremely important: 46.5%; very important: 39.5%) compared with 78.9% of males (extremely important: 34.7%; very important: 44.2%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 85.3% of females (extremely important: 57.2%; very important: 28.1%) compared with 76.8% of males (extremely important: 42.3%; very important: 34.5%).
- 79.5% of females (extremely important: 38.9%; very important: 40.6%) highly valued *school or study satisfaction* compared with 64.8% of males (extremely important: 25.9%; very important: 38.9%).
- *Financial security* was highly valued by around half of all females (extremely important: 15.4%; very important: 38.5%) and males (extremely important: 15.7%; very important: 33.7%).

Table 1.4: What young people value, by gender

	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Females					
Friendships (other than family)	46.5	39.5	10.5	2.4	1.1
Family relationships	57.2	28.1	10.2	2.9	1.5
School or study satisfaction	38.9	40.6	15.1	3.8	1.5
Physical and mental health	36.7	37.9	18.2	5.1	2.1
Financial security	15.4	38.5	34.3	8.1	3.7
Getting a job	11.3	24.4	29.4	19.2	15.6
Males					
Friendships (other than family)	34.7	44.2	15.7	3.7	1.8
Family relationships	42.3	34.5	16.0	4.6	2.6
School or study satisfaction	25.9	38.9	23.8	7.7	3.6
Physical and mental health	33.3	37.3	19.5	5.8	4.2
Financial security	15.7	33.7	34.9	10.0	5.7
Getting a job	14.5	23.0	29.3	18.6	14.6

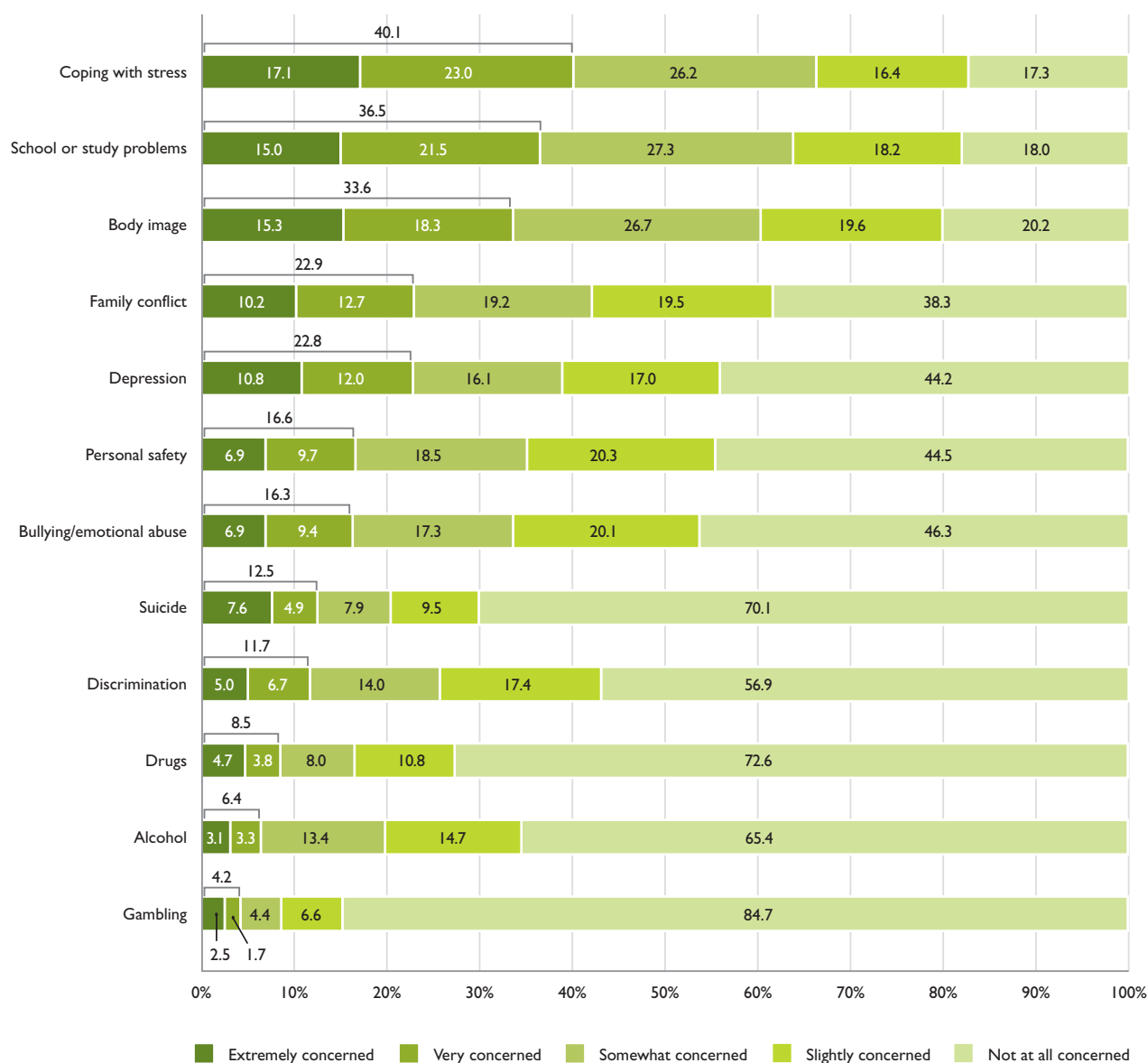
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of national importance.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 1.4. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with around 40% of respondents indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (17.1%) or *very concerned* (23.0%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 36.5% (*extremely concerned*: 15.0%; *very concerned*: 21.5%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern with 15.3% of respondents *extremely concerned* and 18.3% *very concerned*.
- Over one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 1.4: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

Coping with stress, *school or study problems* and *body image* were the top three issues of concern for both males and females as highlighted in Table 1.5. However, the proportion of females that were highly concerned about these three issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males..

- For 50.7% of females (*extremely concerned*: 22.5%; *very concerned*: 28.2%) *coping with stress* was a major concern, compared with 23.7% for males (*extremely concerned*: 8.7%; *very concerned*: 15.0%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school and study problems* with 42.9% (*extremely concerned*: 18.1%; *very concerned*: 24.8%) indicating this was a major concern, compared with 26.3% (*extremely concerned*: 9.9%; *very concerned*: 16.4%) for males.
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 43.0% (*extremely concerned*: 20.4%; *very concerned*: 22.6%) indicating *body image* was a major concern, compared with 18.6% (*extremely concerned*: 7.3%; *very concerned*: 11.3%) of males.
- For 27% of females (*extremely concerned*: 12.0%; *very concerned*: 15.0%) and 16.5% of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.5%; *very concerned*: 9.0%) *family conflict* was a major concern.

Table 1.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Females					
Coping with stress	22.5	28.2	26.8	13.4	9.1
School or study problems	18.1	24.8	28.6	16.9	11.6
Body image	20.4	22.6	28.2	16.9	11.9
Family conflict	12.0	15.0	21.0	19.8	32.2
Depression	13.4	14.1	17.6	17.5	37.4
Personal safety	7.0	10.8	19.9	20.9	41.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.8	11.4	19.2	20.6	41.1
Suicide	8.1	6.1	9.0	10.8	66.0
Discrimination	5.0	7.6	15.3	19.0	53.1
Drugs	4.2	4.0	8.6	11.5	71.7
Alcohol	2.5	3.4	15.1	16.0	63.0
Gambling	2.0	1.7	4.0	6.2	86.1
Males					
Coping with stress	8.7	15.0	25.2	21.0	30.1
School or study problems	9.9	16.4	25.3	20.3	28.1
Body image	7.3	11.3	24.4	23.9	33.2
Family conflict	7.5	9.0	16.5	19.0	47.9
Depression	6.7	8.6	13.7	16.1	54.8
Personal safety	6.7	8.0	16.2	19.5	49.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.5	6.2	14.3	19.4	54.6
Suicide	6.7	3.2	6.1	7.5	76.5
Discrimination	5.0	5.3	12.0	14.9	62.8
Drugs	5.6	3.6	7.3	9.7	73.9
Alcohol	4.1	3.2	11.0	12.8	68.9
Gambling	3.4	1.7	5.2	7.2	82.5

Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of national concern.

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

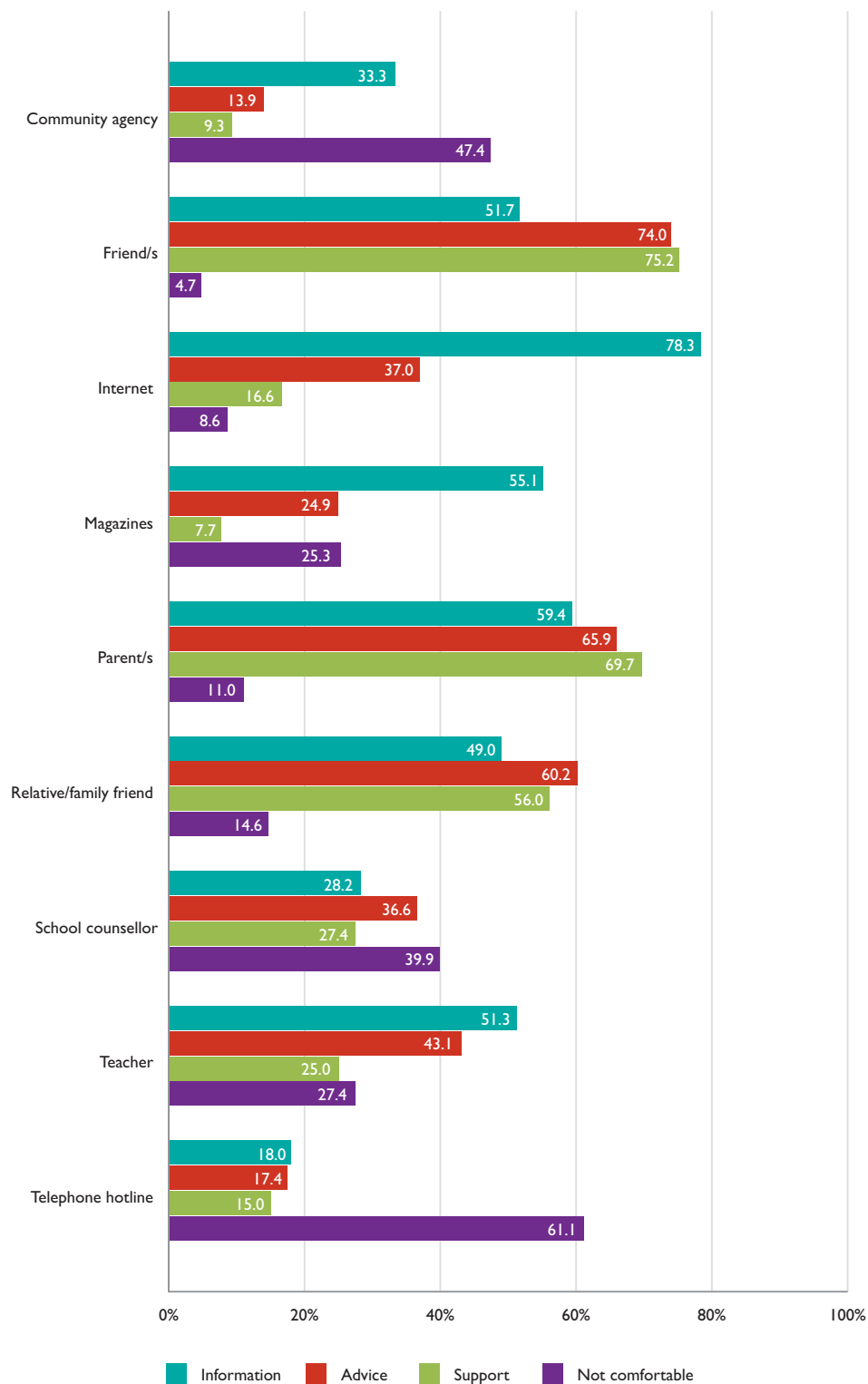
Young people were asked whether they had someone (who does not live with them) to ask for any support in a time of crisis. While the vast majority of respondents had someone they could ask for support in a time of crisis (88.3%), 11.7% felt they had no-one (who was not living with them) to seek support from.

Young people were also asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. The *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of information for young people (78.3%), followed by *parent/s* (59.4%) and *magazines* (55.1%).
- Respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (74.0%), *parent/s* (65.9%) and *relatives/family friends* (60.2%) for *advice*.

- *Friend/s* (75.2%) were the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (69.7%) and *relatives/family friends* (56.0%).
- Almost two thirds (61.1%) of young people indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline* for advice, support or information and 47.4% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 1.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

Males and females were broadly similar in terms of who they were comfortable going to for *information, advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (81.2%) and males (73.9%). *Parent/s* were also an important source of *information* for both females (60.3%) and males (58.2%). Females ranked *magazines* equally as important as *parent/s* (60.3%) as sources of *information* they felt comfortable going to, whilst males ranked *friend/s* (55.2%) third.
- Females were more likely to get *information* (60.3%) and *advice* (30.5%) from *magazines* than males (47.2% and 16.2% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (77.1%) and males (69.3%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also an important source of *advice* for both females (67.6% and 61.5% respectively) and males (63.4% and 58.4% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (81.1%) and males (66.3%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as an important source of *support* by both females (73.4% and 59.4% respectively) and males (63.9% and 50.7% respectively).

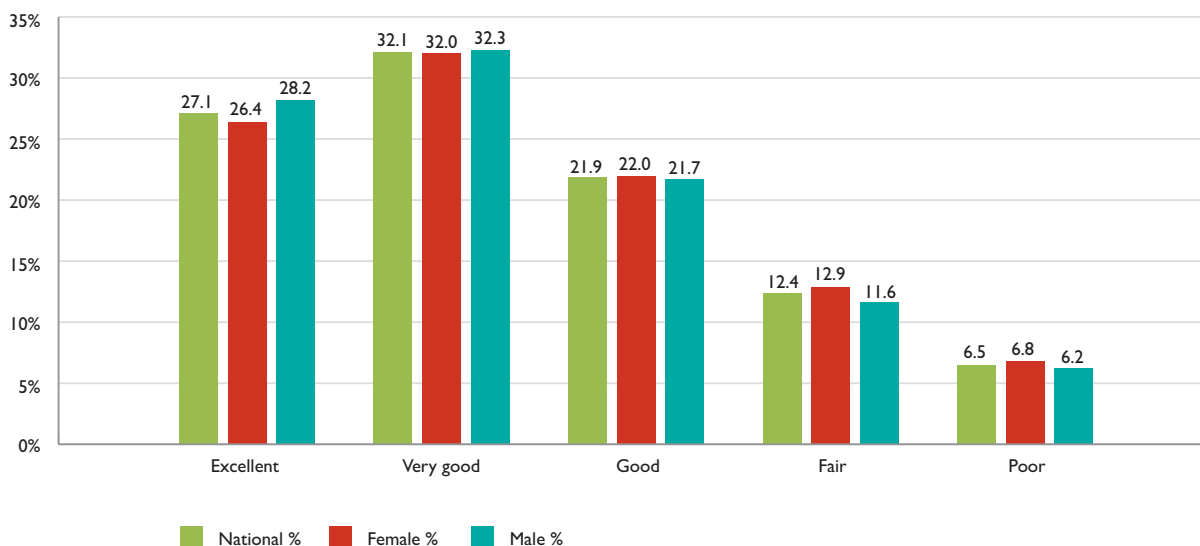
Table 1.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Females				
Community agency	34.2	12.6	8.4	48.9
Friend/s	49.5	77.1	81.1	3.9
Internet	81.2	36.3	14.6	7.4
Magazines	60.3	30.5	7.4	21.0
Parent/s	60.3	67.6	73.4	10.7
Relative/family friend	48.4	61.5	59.4	14.8
School counsellor	28.2	38.6	28.8	40.7
Teacher	52.0	44.3	26.7	28.0
Telephone hotline	19.1	19.2	16.5	61.5
Males				
Community agency	32.0	16.0	10.6	45.2
Friend/s	55.2	69.3	66.3	5.8
Internet	73.9	38.4	19.7	10.3
Magazines	47.2	16.2	8.0	32.1
Parent/s	58.2	63.4	63.9	11.4
Relative/family friend	49.9	58.4	50.7	14.2
School counsellor	28.0	33.7	24.9	38.7
Teacher	50.2	41.4	22.3	26.5
Telephone hotline	16.2	14.6	12.9	60.6

How well do young people feel their families get along?

In 2012 young people were asked about how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Overall, the majority of respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 27.1% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 32.1% that it was *very good*. However, 18.9% of young people did not have such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.4%) or *poor* (6.5%). Male and female respondents had very similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

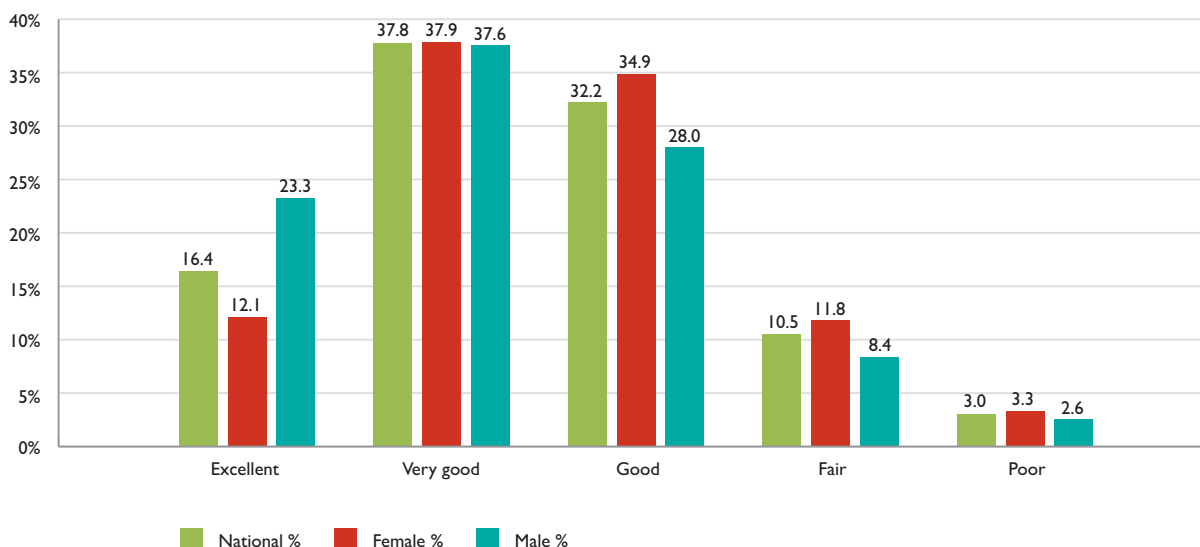
Figure 1.6: Family's ability to get along



How do young people feel about their health?

Respondents were asked to tell us how they felt about their health, with responses rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 1.7 shows that over 8 in 10 respondents felt their health was *good*, *very good* or *excellent* (32.2%, 37.8% and 16.4% respectively). Very few young people (3.0%) felt their health was *poor*. Male respondents were almost twice as likely as females to feel their health was *excellent* (23.3% compared with 12.1%), and slightly less likely to report their health was *fair* or *poor* (8.4% and 2.6% compared with 11.8% and 3.3%).

Figure 1.7: How young people feel about their health



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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 1.7. In 2012 the top three issues identified by young people were *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues* and *alcohol and drugs*.

- Almost one third (30.8%) of young people indicated that the *economy and financial matters* was an important issue in Australia today.
- Close to three in ten respondents (27.6%) identified *population issues* as a major issue.
- Around one in five young people indicated that *alcohol and drugs*, *politics and societal values*, and *equity and discrimination* were important issues.

Gender differences

There were both similarities and differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents. Consistent with the national results, *the economy and financial matters* and *population issues* were among the top three issues of importance for both male and female respondents. For female respondents *equity and discrimination* was identified as a top issue, while for male respondents *politics and societal values* was a top issue.

- Around one third of male and female respondents (34.1% and 28.8% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- Over a quarter of respondents from both genders identified *population issues* as a major issue.
- More females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (22.2% compared with 17.4%) as an important issue, while more males than females identified *politics and societal values* (28.6% compared with 15.4%) as an important issue.

Table 1.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2012 %	Female %	Male %	National 2011 %	National 2010 %
The economy and financial matters	30.8	28.8	34.1	21.3	19.5
Population issues	27.6	26.5	29.5	21.3	15.9
Alcohol and drugs	21.8	20.6	23.7	30.3	35.6
Politics and societal values	20.6	15.4	28.6	15.2	14.0
Equity and discrimination	20.2	22.2	17.4	22.0	24.7
The environment	17.5	19.7	14.1	37.4	37.8
Health	16.2	17.8	13.6	14.6	16.8
Crime, safety and violence	14.0	13.2	15.2	15.1	19.1
Mental health	12.7	16.3	7.1	10.7	12.5
Bullying	11.0	13.4	7.3	12.1	7.6
Education	10.9	11.2	10.4	7.7	8.2
Employment	8.5	7.6	9.9	5.8	6.1
Homelessness/housing	8.5	10.4	5.3	7.5	5.7
LGBT issues	5.9	7.6	3.4	2.2	1.0
Adolescence/youth	5.0	5.5	4.3	4.9	5.5

Note: Items are listed in order of national importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.

Do young people feel safe in their neighbourhood?

Crime, safety and violence was ranked as the eighth most important issue in Australia. In a separate question, respondents were asked how safe they felt in their neighbourhood. Although the overwhelmingly majority of young people (90.3%) indicated that they felt safe in their neighbourhood, around 1 in 10 did not feel safe in their neighbourhood.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 1.8. As in 2011, the top three activities for young people aged 15 to 19 years were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. However, significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people in 2012.
- Around one half of respondents indicated they had participated in *arts/cultural activities* (52.0%) and *student leadership activities* (47.4%).
- Over one third of young people participated in *youth groups and clubs* (38.2%) and *religious groups or activities* (37.8%).
- Over one quarter of young people (27.8%) participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 1.8 the top three activities for both males and females were consistent with national results, although a larger proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in the top two activities, *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be involved in *volunteer work*.

- 80.9% of male respondents and 76.8% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (76.6% compared with 70.7%).
- More female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural activities* and *student leadership activities* (65.8%, 59.4% and 51.3% compared with 52.0%, 40.0% and 41.0% respectively).

Table 1.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

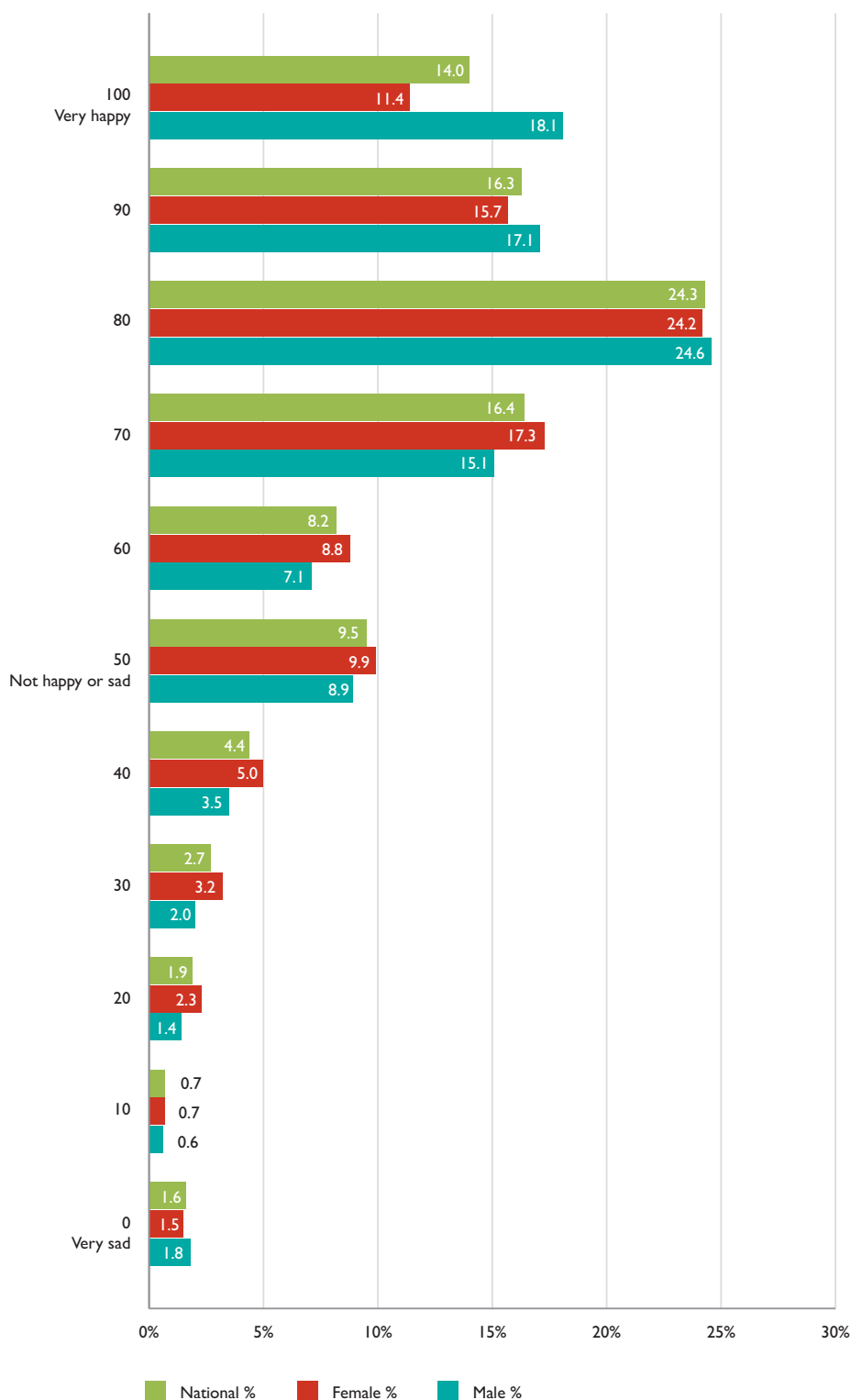
	National 2012 %	Female %	Male %	National 2011 %	National 2010 %
Sports (as a participant)	78.4	76.8	80.9	66.5	65.5
Sports (as a spectator)	73.0	70.7	76.6	54.2	57.8
Volunteer work	60.5	65.8	52.0	33.5	31.5
Arts/cultural activities	52.0	59.4	40.0	30.8	32.1
Student leadership activities	47.4	51.3	41.0	28.0	27.8
Youth groups and clubs	38.2	38.2	37.9	24.8	26.4
Religious groups or activities	37.8	40.3	34.0	23.2	24.8
Environmental groups or activities	27.8	29.6	24.9	12.4	13.4
Political groups or organisations	9.2	8.7	10.0	5.2	5.8

Note: Items are listed in order of national importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years. In 2012 respondents were asked "In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?" whereas in 2011 and 2010 respondents were asked "What activities are you involved in?"

How happy are young people?

In 2012 the survey asked young people to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question¹, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 1.8 shows, the vast majority of young people responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating they felt positive overall about their lives. Results were similar for both male and female respondents, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (18.1% compared with 11.4%).

Figure 1.8: How happy young people are



¹ Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 1.9 shows that results were similar to those in 2011, with more than two thirds of respondents feeling either *very positive* (20.8%) or *positive* (49.8%) about the future. Overall less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (49.8%) or *very positive* (20.8%) about the future.
- Around one fifth of respondents (22.7%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 4.7% of respondents felt *negative* about the future, and 1.9% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females were very similar in terms of their feelings about the future.

Table 1.9: Feelings about the future

	National 2012 %	Female %	Male %	National 2011 %	National 2010 %
Very positive	20.8	18.8	23.8	19.9	21.4
Positive	49.8	50.3	49.1	42.8	43.6
Neither positive nor negative	22.7	24.5	20.1	27.9	26.2
Negative	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.9	5.7
Very negative	1.9	1.8	2.3	3.5	3.3

Note: Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.



New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

In total, 5,113 young people from New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2012. The vast majority of responses came from NSW (5,044), with a much smaller number received from the ACT (69). Due to the small number of responses received from the ACT, the NSW and ACT data have been combined in this report. Comparisons to previous years' data (where applicable) reflect only NSW results. For comparisons with previous years' ACT data, please refer to the *Mission Australia National Survey of Young Australians 2011 Report*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (60.2%) of the respondents from NSW and the ACT were female and 39.8% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 246 (4.9%) respondents from NSW and the ACT identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (5.9% compared with 4.3%). Just under 4% of respondents preferred not to answer.

Language background other than English

A total of 695 (13.9%) respondents from NSW and the ACT stated they were born overseas and 1,278 (25.6%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 70 languages spoken at home in NSW and the ACT, the most common were (in order of frequency); Cantonese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Mandarin, Italian, French and Spanish.

Disability

239 (4.8%) respondents from NSW and the ACT indicated that they had a disability, with slightly more males (5.5%) than females (4.4%) reporting a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities in NSW and the ACT were (in order of frequency); physical disability, blindness or vision impairment, Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), learning disability and deafness or hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

Table 2.1 shows that, as per the national data, the vast majority of respondents from NSW and the ACT (92.4%) lived *with family*. Around 3% of respondents lived in *boarding school* and a small number of young people indicated that they lived in a *juvenile justice centre/prison, homeless/insecure housing or foster care*.

Table 2.1: Where respondents were living

	National %	NSW/ACT %	Female %	Male %
With family	90.8	92.4	93.3	90.9
Boarding school	3.9	2.8	3.0	2.5
Shared house	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2
Alone	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.1
Juvenile justice centre / prison	0.6	0.6	0.3	1.0
Homeless / insecure housing	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.8
Foster care	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5
Other	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.9

Education

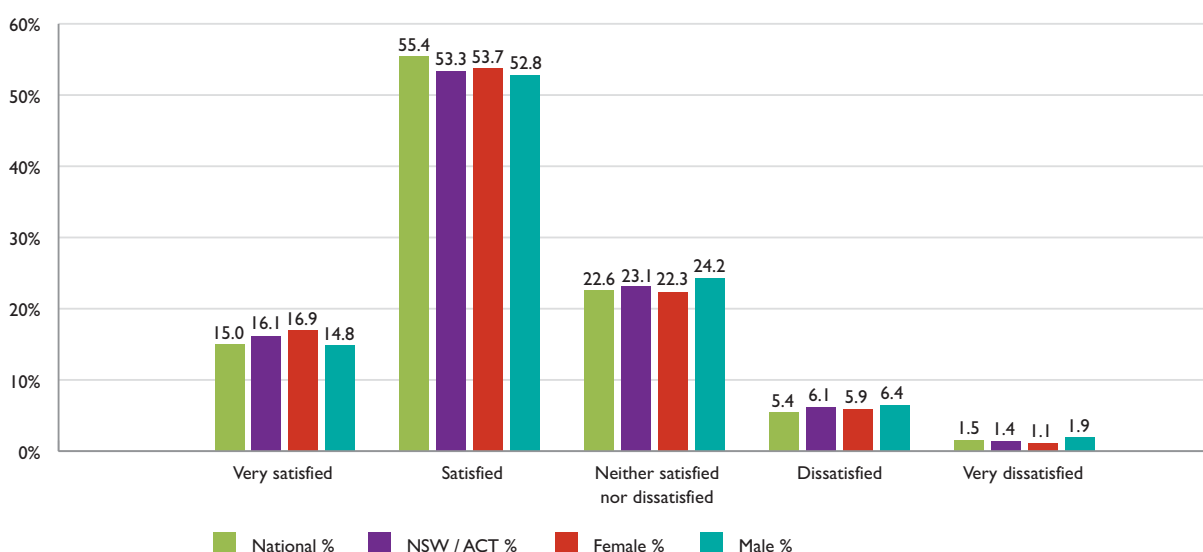
As indicated in Table 2.2, 94.2% of respondents from NSW and the ACT were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to report that they were studying full-time than male respondents (95.1% compared with 93.0%), while slightly more males (3.5%) than females (2.3%) were not studying. Of those who were still at school, 95.2% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were almost 3 times more likely to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (7.9% compared with 2.9% of females).

In 2012 we asked respondents who reported they were currently studying how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. Over two thirds of respondents from NSW and the ACT reported they were either *very satisfied* (16.1%) or *satisfied* (53.3%) with their studies, while less than 1 in 10 were either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.4% and 6.1% respectively). As shown in Figure 2.1, males were slightly less likely than females to report feeling either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* (14.8% and 52.8% of males compared with 16.9% and 53.7% of females).

Table 2.2: Participation in education

	National %	NSW/ACT %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.9	94.2	95.1	93.0
Studying part-time	3.2	3.0	2.6	3.5
Not studying	2.8	2.8	2.3	3.5

Figure 2.1: Satisfaction with studies



Employment

Respondents in 2012 who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 2.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst respondents from NSW and the ACT. In line with the national data, 0.8% of respondents who reported having paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Almost 40% of respondents, the majority of whom were in full-time education, reported part-time employment. Over half of respondents reported they were not in paid employment, with 33.7% looking for work and 27.4% not looking for work.

Female respondents from NSW and the ACT were slightly more likely to report full-time employment than male respondents (1.0% compared with 0.6%). Female respondents were also more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (41.9% compared with 32.6%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (38.6% compared with 30.4%).

Table 2.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NSW/ACT %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.6
Employed part-time	38.9	38.1	41.9	32.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.1	33.7	30.4	38.6
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	26.4	27.4	26.7	28.2

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

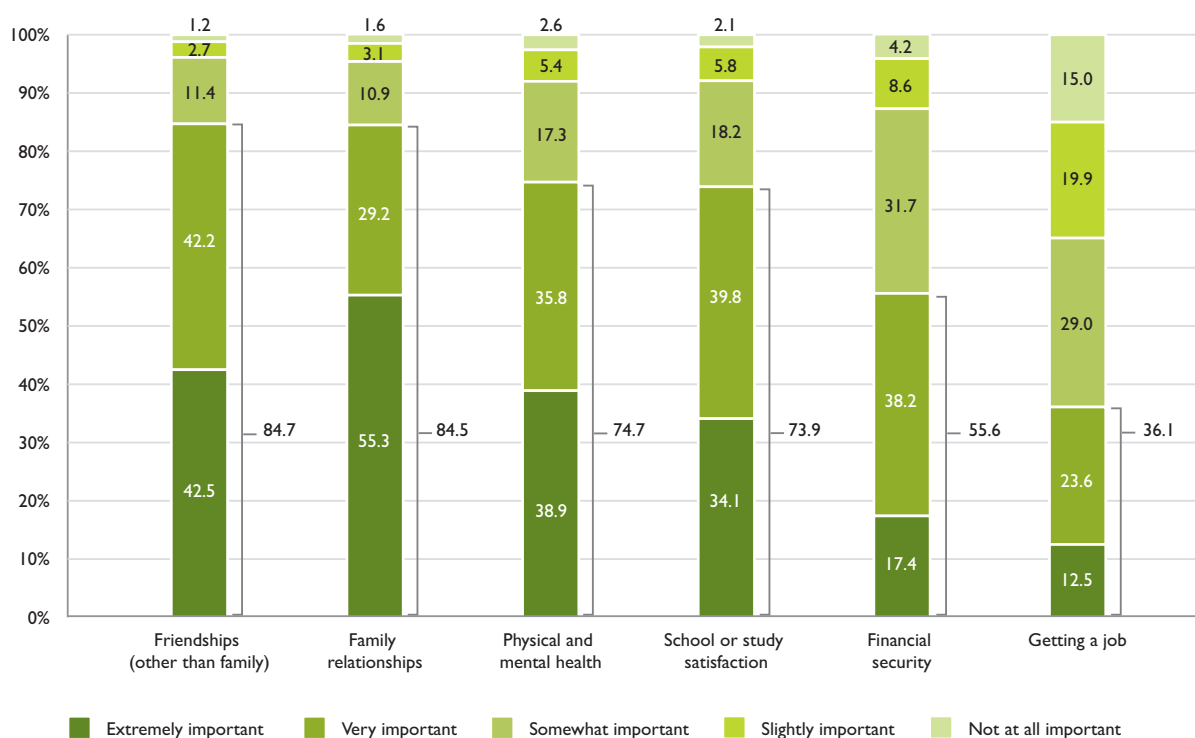
DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

In 2012 young people were asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 2.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. The two most highly valued items for NSW and ACT respondents were *friendships* and *family relationships*, consistent with the national data. The next most valued item for NSW and ACT respondents was *physical and mental health*, followed by *school or study satisfaction*, while at the national level the order of these two items was reversed.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 84.7% (*extremely important*: 42.5%; *very important*: 42.2%) of respondents. *Family relationships* were also valued very highly by 84.5% (*extremely important*: 55.3%; *very important*: 29.2%) of respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 38.9%; *very important*: 35.8%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 34.1%; *very important*: 39.8%) were highly valued by almost three quarters of NSW and ACT respondents.
- Over half of NSW and ACT respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 17.4%; *very important*: 38.2%).

Figure 2.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

While the top four most highly valued items were the same amongst both males and females from NSW and the ACT, the order in which they were ranked differed. Females nominated *family relationships* as most important, closely followed by *friendships*, *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*. Male respondents valued *friendships* the most, followed by *family relationships*, *physical and mental health* and then *school or study satisfaction*.

Both *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a greater proportion of females than males from NSW and the ACT. Similarly, *school or study satisfaction* was considerably more highly valued by females than by males.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 86.8% of females (*extremely important*: 47.3%; *very important*: 39.5%) compared with 81.4% of males (*extremely important*: 35.1%; *very important*: 46.3%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 87.2% of females (*extremely important*: 60.1%; *very important*: 27.1%) compared with 80.2% of males (*extremely important*: 47.8%; *very important*: 32.4%).
- 78.5% of females (*extremely important*: 38.5%; *very important*: 40.0%) highly valued *school or study satisfaction* compared with 66.7% of males (*extremely important*: 27.3%; *very important*: 39.4%).
- *Financial security* was highly valued by more than half of the females (*extremely important*: 17.3%; *very important*: 39.9%) and males (*extremely important*: 17.5%; *very important*: 35.5%) in NSW and the ACT.

Table 2.4: What young people value, by gender

	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Females					
Friendships (other than family)	47.3	39.5	9.8	2.3	1.1
Family relationships	60.1	27.1	9.2	2.4	1.1
Physical and mental health	40.5	36.0	16.3	5.2	2.0
School or study satisfaction	38.5	40.0	15.5	4.5	1.5
Financial security	17.3	39.9	31.6	7.8	3.4
Getting a job	11.4	24.3	29.3	20.7	14.4
Males					
Friendships (other than family)	35.1	46.3	13.9	3.2	1.5
Family relationships	47.8	32.4	13.4	4.1	2.4
Physical and mental health	36.4	35.3	19.0	5.9	3.5
School or study satisfaction	27.3	39.4	22.4	7.8	3.1
Financial security	17.5	35.5	32.0	9.7	5.4
Getting a job	14.2	22.3	28.6	19.1	15.8

Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State importance.

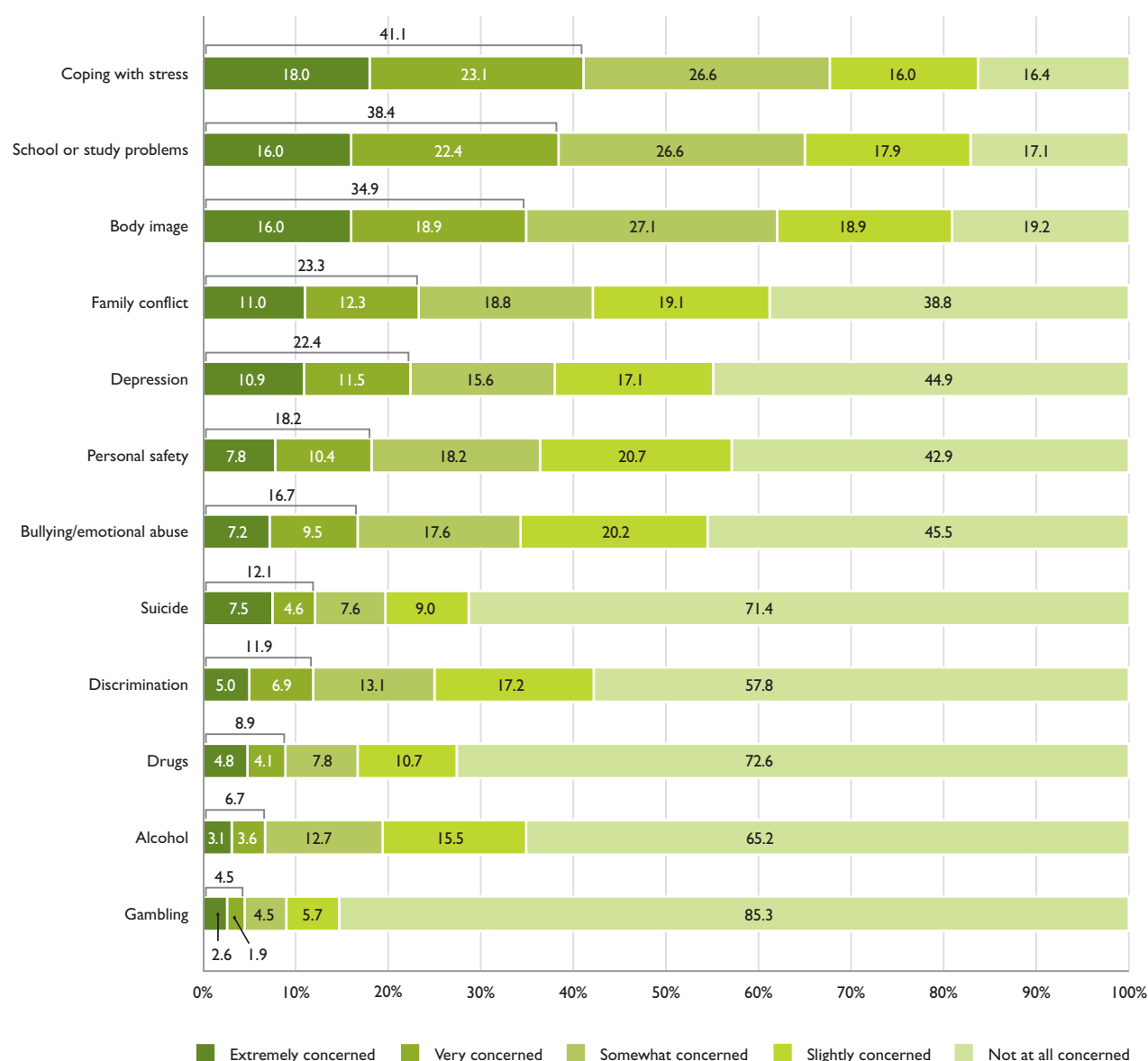
What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 2.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from NSW and the ACT were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*, as they were nationally.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 41.1% of respondents from NSW and the ACT indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (18.0%) or *very concerned* (23.1%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 38.4% (*extremely concerned*: 16.0%; *very concerned*: 22.4%) of young people from NSW and the ACT.

- *Body image* was also an important concern for just over one in three respondents (*extremely concerned*: 16.0%; *very concerned*: 18.9%).
- Over 20% of respondents from NSW and the ACT were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 2.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

Coping with stress, *school or study problems* and *body image* were the top three issues of concern for both males and females from NSW and the ACT as highlighted in Table 2.5. The order of the top two issues of concern differed, however; with females indicating *coping with stress* was their number one concern, while for males the top issue of concern was *school or study problems*. The proportion of females concerned about these top three issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For 51.9% of females (*extremely concerned*: 24.0%; *very concerned*: 27.9%) *coping with stress* was a major concern, compared with 24.7% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.7%; *very concerned*: 16.0%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school and study problems* with 45.1% (*extremely concerned*: 19.8%; *very concerned*: 25.3%) indicating this was a major concern, compared with 28.2% (*extremely concerned*: 10.3%; *very concerned*: 17.9%) of males.

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 44.2% (*extremely concerned*: 21.1%; *very concerned*: 23.1%) indicating *body image* was a major concern, compared with 20.3% (*extremely concerned*: 7.9%; *very concerned*: 12.4%) of males.
- For 27.1% of females (*extremely concerned*: 12.6%; *very concerned*: 14.5%) and 17.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.5%; *very concerned*: 8.9%) *family conflict* was a major concern.

Table 2.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Females					
Coping with stress	24.0	27.9	26.6	13.2	8.3
School or study problems	19.8	25.3	28.0	15.9	11.0
Body image	21.1	23.1	28.3	16.4	11.1
Family conflict	12.6	14.5	20.7	18.9	33.3
Depression	13.7	13.9	16.7	17.4	38.3
Personal safety	7.9	11.6	19.5	21.5	39.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.4	11.4	19.5	20.6	40.1
Suicide	7.9	5.7	8.7	10.4	67.3
Discrimination	5.2	7.8	13.8	19.2	54.1
Drugs	4.1	4.1	8.2	11.5	72.1
Alcohol	2.5	3.6	14.9	16.8	62.2
Gambling	2.0	1.8	4.0	5.3	86.9
Males					
Coping with stress	8.7	16.0	26.6	20.1	28.7
School or study problems	10.3	17.9	24.4	20.9	26.5
Body image	7.9	12.4	25.3	22.9	31.6
Family conflict	8.5	8.9	15.9	19.5	47.3
Depression	6.5	8.1	13.9	16.6	54.8
Personal safety	7.7	8.5	16.2	19.5	48.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.2	6.7	14.6	19.8	53.7
Suicide	6.9	2.9	5.9	6.9	77.4
Discrimination	4.6	5.7	12.3	13.9	63.4
Drugs	6.0	4.1	7.2	9.5	73.2
Alcohol	3.8	3.6	9.3	13.6	69.7
Gambling	3.4	2.1	5.4	6.4	82.8

Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State concern.

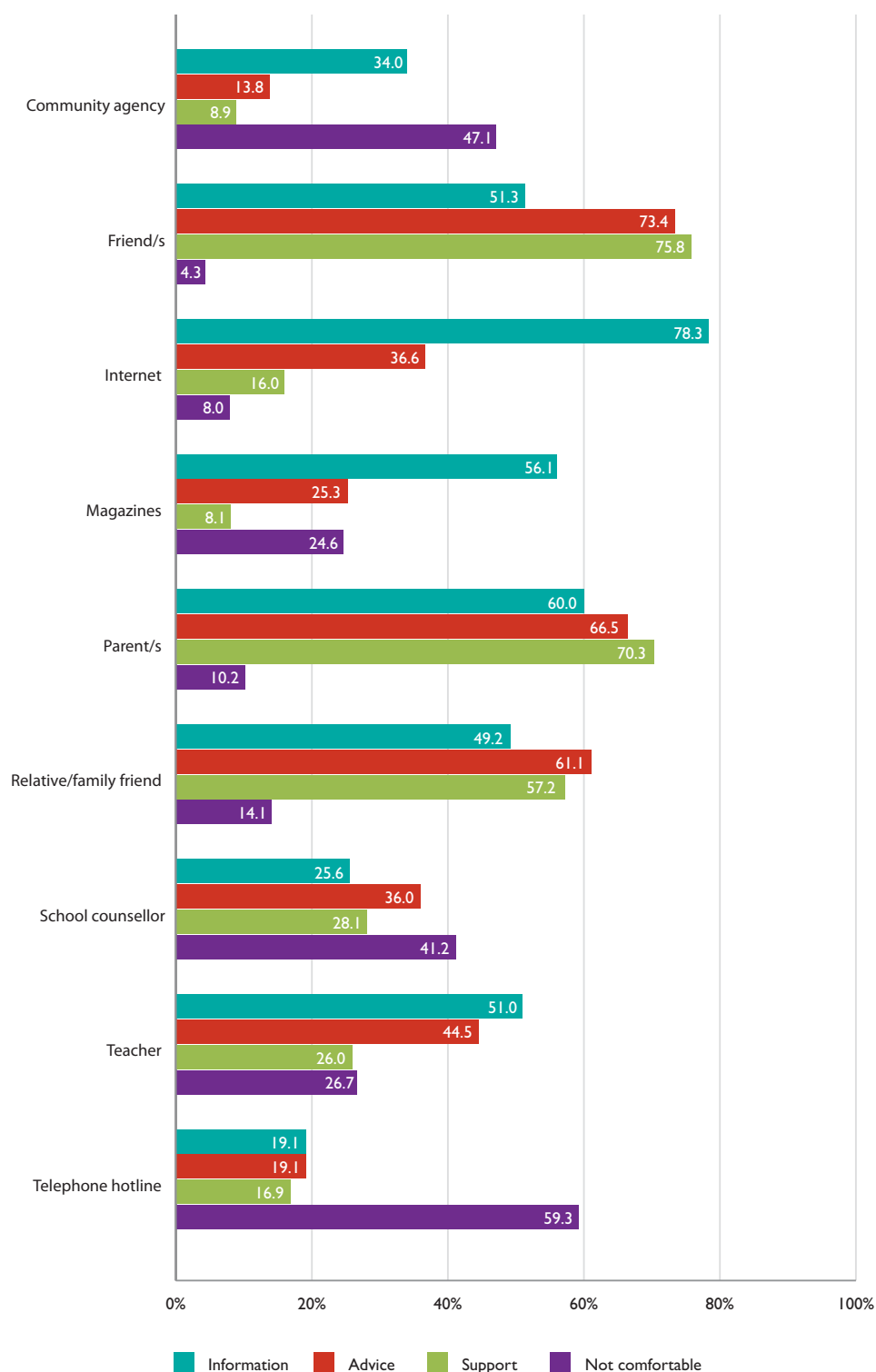
Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they had someone (who does not live with them) to ask for any support in a time of crisis. While the vast majority of respondents from NSW and the ACT had someone they could ask for support in a time of crisis (88.8%), 11.2% felt they had no-one (who was not living with them) to seek support from.

Young people were also asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people from NSW and the ACT, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for NSW and ACT respondents (78.3%), followed by *parents* (60.0%) and *magazines* (56.1%).
- NSW and ACT respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (73.4%), *parent/s* (66.5%) and *relatives/family friends* (61.1%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (75.8%) were also the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (70.3%) and *relatives/family friends* (57.2%).
- Over half of the respondents from NSW and the ACT (59.3%) were not comfortable using a *telephone hotline* for *advice*, *support* or *information*, and 47.1% were not comfortable contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 2.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

As per the national findings, males and females from NSW and the ACT were broadly similar in terms of who they were comfortable going to for *information, advice and support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (82.0%) and males (72.8%) from NSW and the ACT. *Parent/s* were also an important source of *information* for both females (60.2%) and males (59.7%).
- Females were more likely to get *information* (62.0%) and *advice* (31.6%) from *magazines* than males (47.3% and 15.9% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (76.4%) and males (69.0%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also an important source of *advice* for both females (68.1% and 62.3% respectively) and males (64.1% and 59.3% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were also the most highly ranked source of *support* for both females (82.1%) and males (66.5%). Similarly, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as an important source of *support* by both females (73.9% and 60.3% respectively) and males (64.8% and 52.8% respectively).

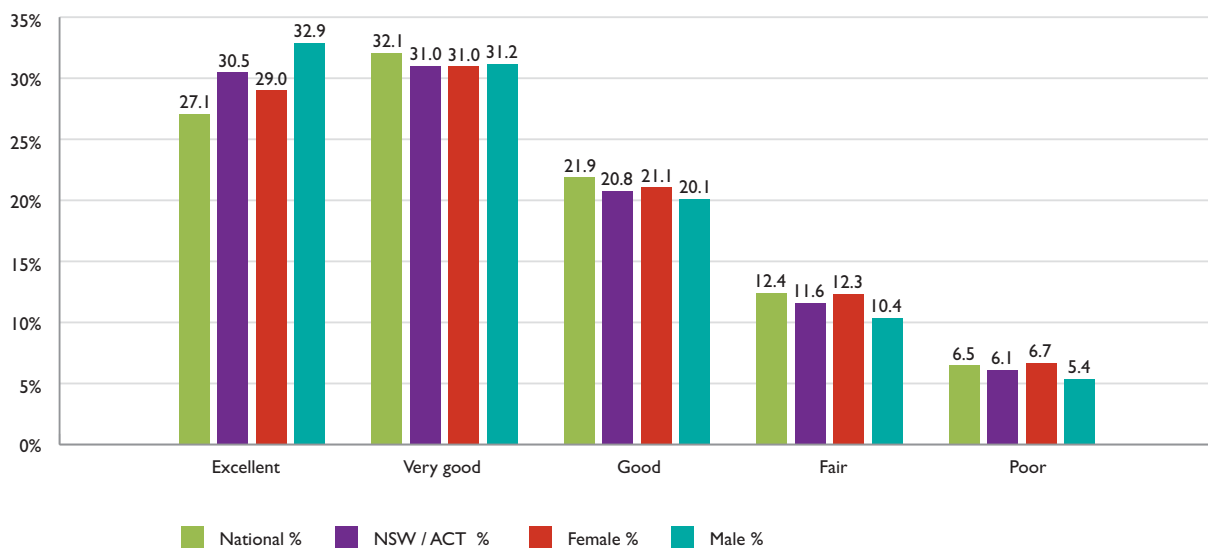
Table 2.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Females				
Community agency	34.7	12.4	7.9	49.6
Friend/s	49.9	76.4	82.1	3.6
Internet	82.0	35.7	14.4	6.6
Magazines	62.0	31.6	7.9	19.6
Parent/s	60.2	68.1	73.9	10.7
Relative/family friend	48.3	62.3	60.3	15.1
School counsellor	25.0	37.5	28.6	43.5
Teacher	51.9	46.3	27.9	27.3
Telephone hotline	20.9	21.2	18.0	60.2
Males				
Community agency	32.8	15.8	10.3	43.4
Friend/s	53.4	69.0	66.5	5.3
Internet	72.8	37.9	18.5	10.2
Magazines	47.3	15.9	8.3	32.1
Parent/s	59.7	64.1	64.8	9.6
Relative/family friend	50.6	59.3	52.8	12.6
School counsellor	26.5	34.0	27.3	37.9
Teacher	49.8	41.6	23.3	25.9
Telephone hotline	16.5	16.0	15.2	58.1

How well do young people feel their families get along?

In 2012 young people were asked about how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 2.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from NSW and the ACT rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 30.5% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent*, and 31.0% that it was *very good*. However, 17.7% of young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (11.6%) or *poor* (6.1%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings overall of their family's ability to get along.

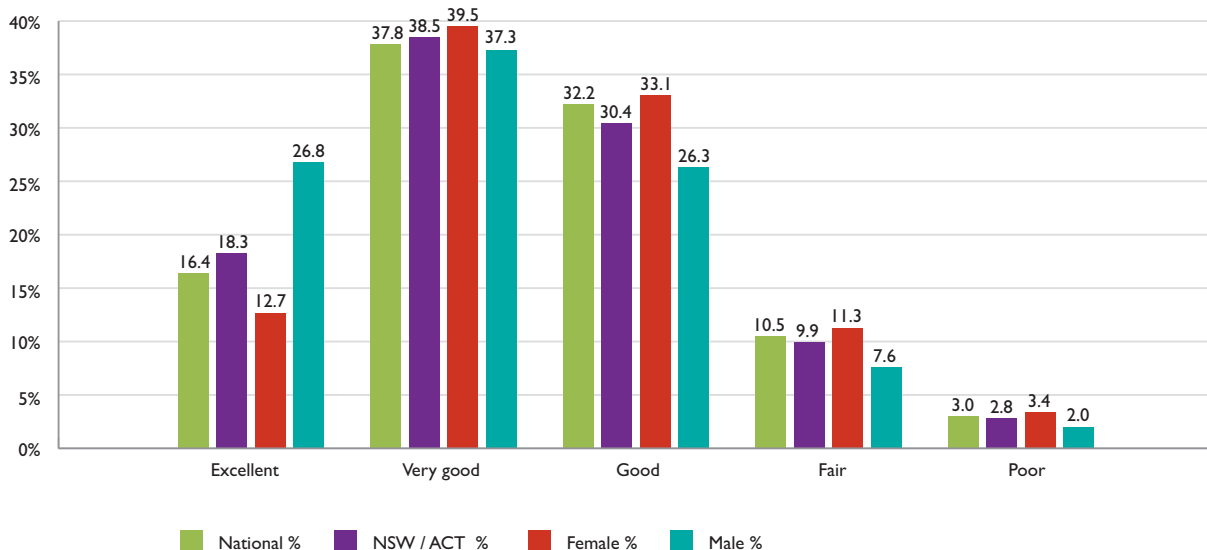
Figure 2.5: Family's ability to get along



How do young people feel about their health?

Respondents were asked to tell us how they felt about their health, with responses rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 2.6 shows that over 8 in 10 respondents from NSW and the ACT felt their health was *good*, *very good* or *excellent* (30.4%, 38.5% and 18.3% respectively). Only a very small minority of NSW and ACT respondents (2.8%) felt their health was *poor*. Male respondents were more than twice as likely as females to feel their health was *excellent* (26.8% compared with 12.7%) and slightly less likely to report their health was *poor* or *fair* (2.0% and 7.6% respectively, compared with 3.4% and 11.3%).

Figure 2.6: How young people feel about their health



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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 2.7. In 2012 the top three issues identified by young people from NSW and the ACT were *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues* and *alcohol and drugs*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally.

- Almost one third (30.2%) of young people from NSW and the ACT indicated that the *economy and financial matters* was an important issue in Australia today.
- Just over one quarter (26.5%) of NSW and ACT respondents identified *population issues* as a major issue.
- Around one in five young people from NSW and the ACT indicated *alcohol and drugs* (21.1%), *equity and discrimination* (21.0%) and *politics and societal values* (19.1%) were important issues.

Gender differences

There were both similarities and differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from NSW and the ACT. Consistent with national and state-wide results, *the economy and financial matters* and *population issues* were among the top three issues for both male and female respondents. For female respondents from NSW and the ACT however, *equity and discrimination* was identified as a top issue, while for male respondents *politics and societal values* was a top issue.

- While both male and female respondents from NSW and the ACT identified the *economy and financial matters* as the number one issue of importance in Australia today, the proportion of males nominating this issue as important was considerably higher than the proportion of females (36.0% compared to 26.3%).
- Over a quarter of both male and female respondents identified *population issues* as a major issue (27.7% and 25.7% respectively).
- More females than males identified *equity and discrimination* as an important issue (22.9% compared with 18.5%), while considerably more males than females from NSW and the ACT nominated *politics and societal values* as an important issue in Australia today (27.7% compared with 13.2%).

Table 2.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	NSW/ACT 2012 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2011 %	NSW 2010 %
The economy and financial matters	30.8	30.2	26.3	36.0	21.8	20.7
Population issues	27.6	26.5	25.7	27.7	21.7	13.8
Alcohol and drugs	21.8	21.1	21.0	21.2	27.1	32.6
Equity and discrimination	20.2	21.0	22.9	18.5	25.3	26.8
Politics and societal values	20.6	19.1	13.2	27.7	15.2	14.5
The environment	17.5	17.2	18.9	14.7	37.9	38.5
Health	16.2	16.8	17.6	15.5	15.4	17.4
Crime, safety and violence	14.0	14.2	14.4	14.0	13.8	16.3
Mental health	12.7	12.1	15.9	6.5	10.2	12.2
Education	10.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	8.8	8.6
Bullying	11.0	11.4	14.3	7.0	11.4	6.5
Homelessness/housing	8.5	10.1	12.9	5.7	7.3	5.6
Employment	8.5	8.0	6.7	10.0	5.5	5.8
Poverty/disadvantage	4.4	5.3	6.1	4.0	3.7	3.0
Adolescence/youth	5.0	5.2	6.1	3.9	5.2	6.2

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.

Do young people feel safe in their neighbourhood?

Crime, safety and violence was ranked by respondents from NSW and the ACT as the eighth most important issue in Australia. In a separate question, respondents were also asked how safe they felt in their neighbourhood. Although the overwhelming majority of young people from NSW and the ACT (90.8%) indicated that they felt safe in their neighbourhood, around 1 in 10 did not feel safe in their neighbourhood.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 2.8. The top three activities for young people from NSW and the ACT, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. These were also the top three activities for young people aged 15 to 19 years from NSW in 2011 and 2010. Significant proportions of young people from NSW and the ACT reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people from NSW and the ACT in 2012.
- Around half of NSW and ACT respondents indicated they had participated in *arts/cultural activities* (50.3%) and *student leadership activities* (49.0%).
- Around one in four young people from NSW and the ACT had participated in *religious groups or activities* (41.5%) and over one third had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (35.9%).
- Over one quarter of young people from NSW and the ACT participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 2.8 the top three activities for both males and females were consistent with the overall NSW and ACT results, although a larger proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in the top two activities, *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be involved in *volunteer work*.

- 82.1% of male respondents and 78.4% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (76.4% compared with 70.6%).
- More female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural activities* and *student leadership activities* (69.4%, 58.1% and 54.2% compared with 52.4%, 38.2% and 41.1%).

Table 2.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

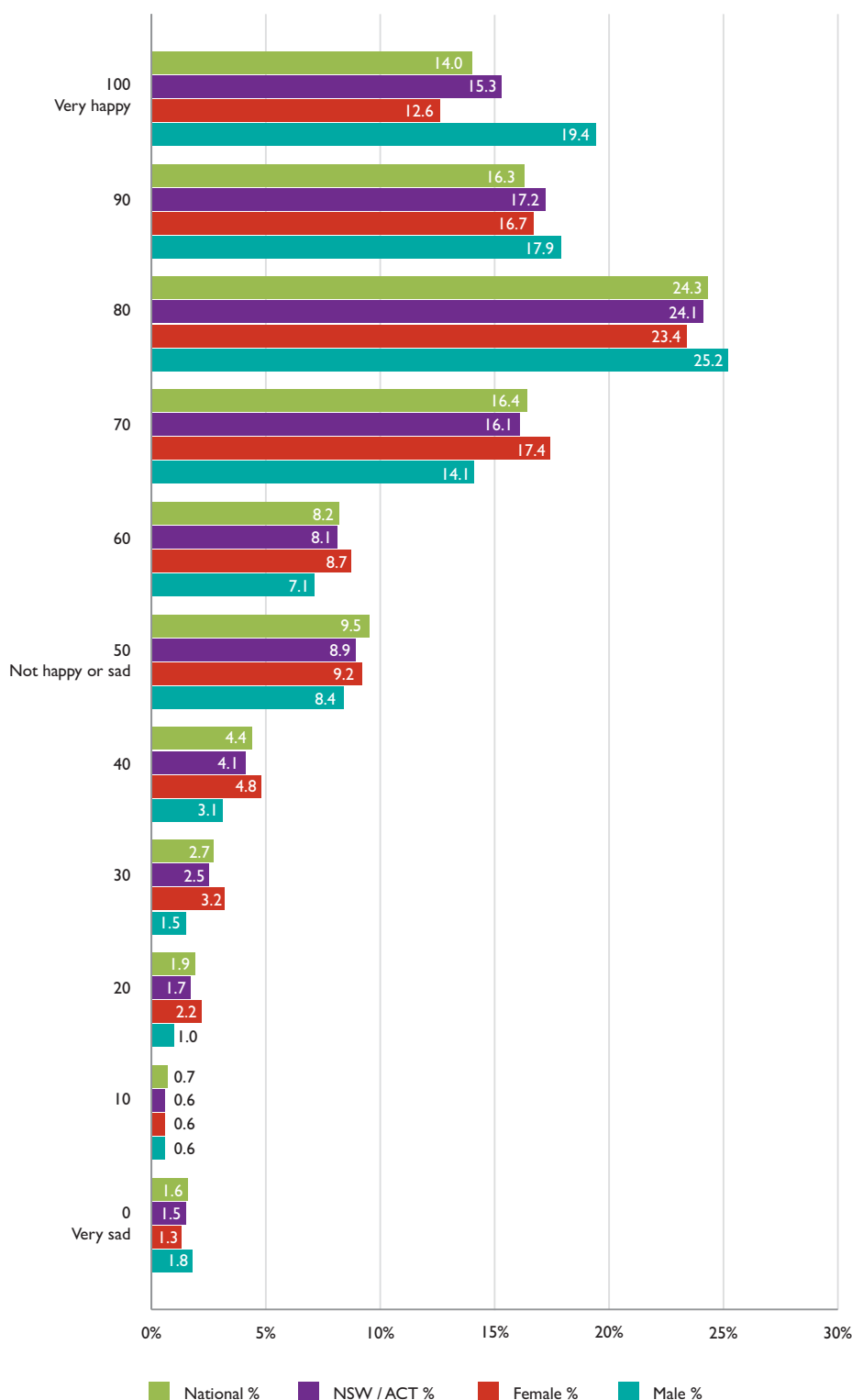
	National %	NSW/ACT 2012 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2011 %	NSW 2010 %
Sports (as a participant)	78.4	79.9	78.4	82.1	70.5	66.6
Sports (as a spectator)	73.0	72.9	70.6	76.4	56.6	57.9
Volunteer work	60.5	62.8	69.4	52.4	39.6	36.5
Arts/cultural activities	52.0	50.3	58.1	38.2	33.6	34.7
Student leadership activities	47.4	49.0	54.2	41.1	30.9	30.7
Religious groups or activities	37.8	41.5	44.3	37.2	29.0	30.3
Youth groups and clubs	38.2	35.9	35.1	36.8	26.3	27.8
Environmental groups or activities	27.8	28.1	30.5	24.5	14.0	15.3
Political groups or organisations	9.2	9.1	8.2	10.4	5.7	6.8

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years. In 2012 respondents were asked "In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?" whereas in 2011 and 2010 respondents were asked "What activities are you involved in?"

How happy are young people?

In 2012 the survey asked young people to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question¹, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 2.7 shows, the vast majority of young people from NSW and the ACT responded in the range 70 to 100 indicating they felt positive overall about their lives. Results were similar for both male and female respondents, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (19.4% compared with 12.6%).

Figure 2.7: How happy young people are



¹ Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 2.9 shows that, in line with the national data, more than two thirds of respondents from NSW and the ACT felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Almost three quarters of respondents from NSW and the ACT felt either *positive* (50.5%) or *very positive* (22.4%) about the future.
- Around one fifth of respondents (21.2%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 4.3% of respondents felt *negative* about the future, and 1.7% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females were similar in terms of their feelings about the future.

Table 2.9: Feelings about the future

	National %	NSW/ACT 2012 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2011 %	NSW 2010 %
Very Positive	20.8	22.4	20.5	25.2	20.4	22.0
Positive	49.8	50.5	50.5	50.7	42.8	42.7
Neither positive nor negative	22.7	21.2	22.9	18.6	27.4	25.9
Negative	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.0	5.8	5.9
Very Negative	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.6	3.6	3.6

Note: Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.



Northern Territory

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

In total, 188 young people from the Northern Territory (NT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2012. Due to the small number of NT respondents, Mission Australia is unable to provide breakdowns of the data by gender, as in other chapters. Instead, data is presented only at a Territory-wide level.

Gender breakdown

Over half (51.4%) of the respondents from the NT were female and 48.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 42 (23.0%) respondents from the NT identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, which was over five times the national percentage (4.3%). 8.2% of NT respondents preferred not to answer this question.

Language background other than English

A total of 31 respondents (16.9%) from the NT stated they were born overseas and 51 (27.7%) reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 15 languages spoken at home in the NT, the most common were (in order of frequency); Indigenous languages, Filipino/Tagalog and Spanish.

Disability

13 (7.7%) young people from the NT indicated that they had a disability.

Where respondents were living

Table 3.1 shows that the majority of respondents from the NT (77.4%) lived *with family*, although this was lower than reported at the national level (90.8%). Due to small numbers, other categories including *boarding school*, *homeless/insecure housing*, *juvenile justice centre/prison*, *shared house* and *alone* were collapsed into a category labelled *other*.

Table 3.1: Where respondents were living

	National %	NT %
With family	90.8	77.4
Other	9.2	22.7

Education

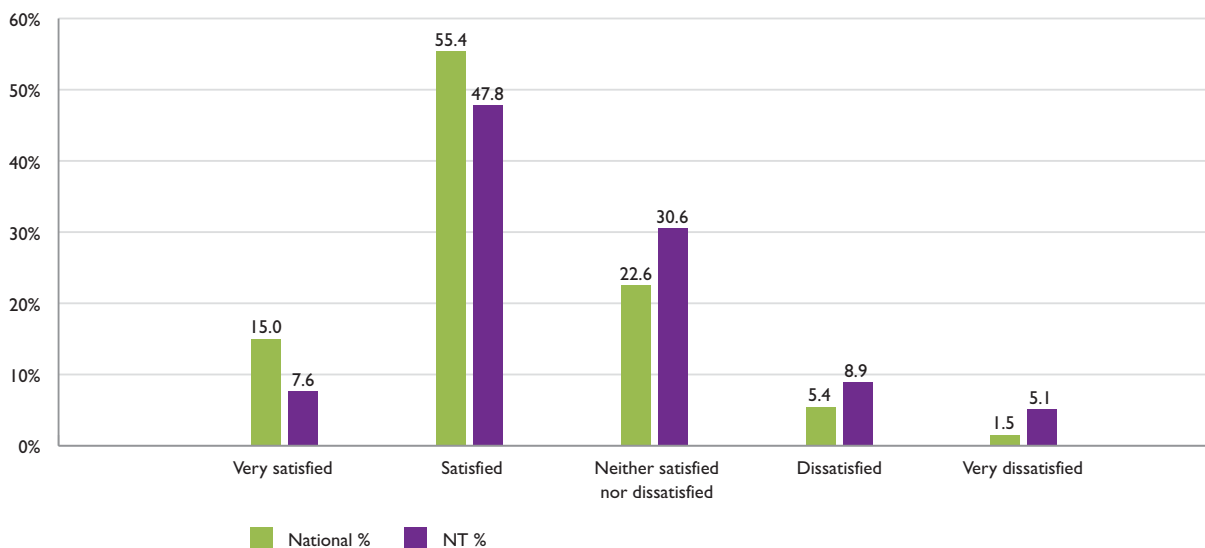
As indicated in Table 3.2, 74.3% of respondents from the NT were studying full-time, a considerably lower percentage than nationally (93.9%). Of those who were still at school, 90.4% stated they intended to complete Year 12.

In 2012 we asked respondents who reported they were currently studying how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As shown in Figure 3.1, over half of the respondents from the NT reported they were either *very satisfied* (7.6%) or *satisfied* (47.8%) with their studies, while 14.0% were either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (5.1% and 8.9% respectively).

Table 3.2: Participation in education

	National %	NT %
Studying full-time	93.9	74.3
Studying part-time	3.2	10.2
Not studying	2.8	15.5

Figure 3.1: Satisfaction with studies



Employment

Respondents in 2012 who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 3.3 shows NT respondents' participation in paid employment. Only 2.8% of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time, however, this is almost five times higher than the national figure. Over four in ten respondents, the majority of whom were in full-time education, reported part-time employment. Over half of NT respondents reported they were not in paid employment, with 37.8% looking for work and 17.8% not looking for work.

Table 3.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NT %
Employed full-time	0.6	2.8
Employed part-time	38.9	41.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.1	37.8
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	26.4	17.8

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

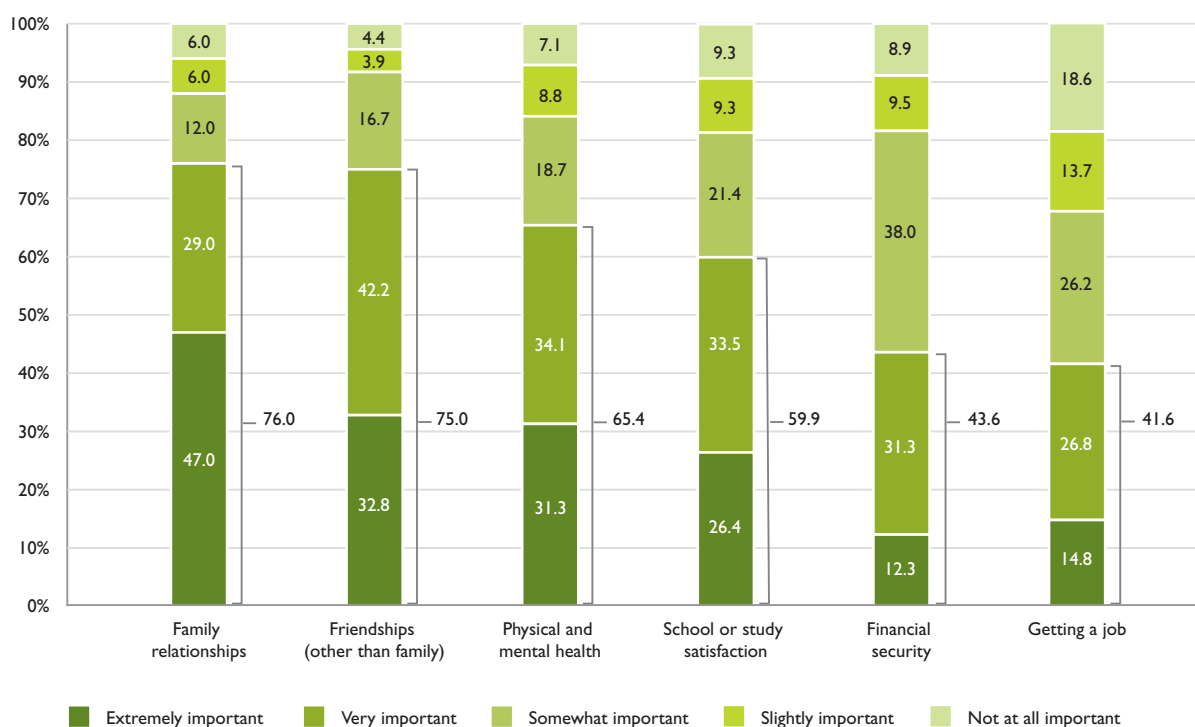
DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

In 2012 young people in the NT were asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 3.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Family relationships* and *friendships* ranked as the two most highly valued items for NT respondents, in line with the national data. The order of these items was reversed, however, with *family relationships* ranked first by NT respondents, while *friendships* were top of the list nationally. The third most important concern for respondents from the NT was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were valued highly by 76.0% (*extremely important*: 47.0%; *very important*: 29.0%) of NT respondents. *Friendships* were also highly valued by 75.0% (*extremely important*: 32.8%; *very important*: 42.2%) of respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by around two thirds of NT respondents (*extremely important*: 31.3%; *very important*: 34.1%).
- Around six in ten NT respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 26.4%; *very important*: 33.5%).
- Over four in ten young people from the NT highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 12.3%; *very important*: 31.3%).

Figure 3.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

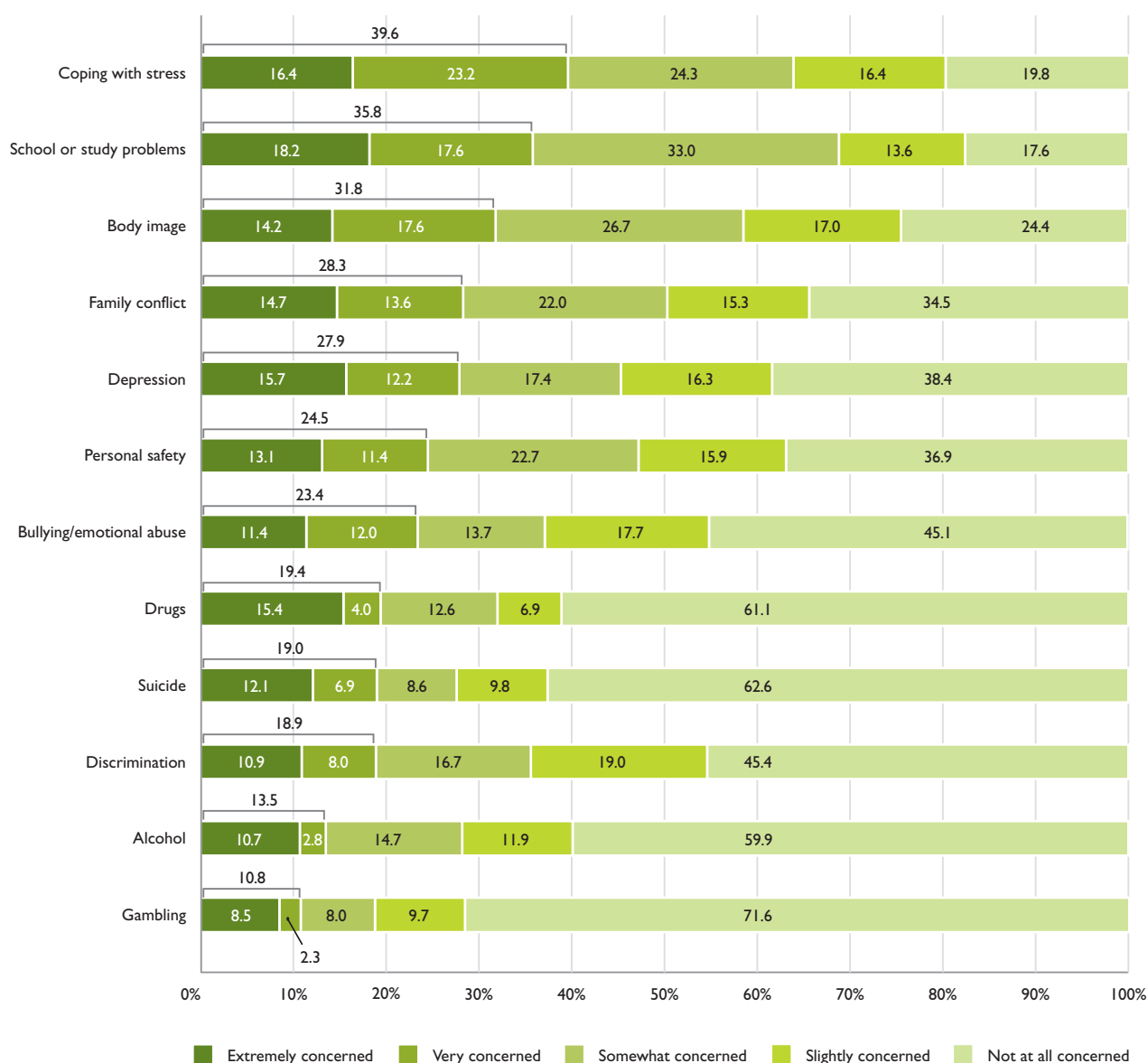
What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 3.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from the NT were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with around 40% of NT respondents indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (16.4%) or *very concerned* (23.2%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for over a third (*extremely concerned*: 18.2%; *very concerned*: 17.6%) of young people from the NT.

- *Body image* was a major concern for around one in three NT respondents (*extremely concerned*: 14.2%; *very concerned*: 17.6%).
- Over one quarter of NT respondents were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 3.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

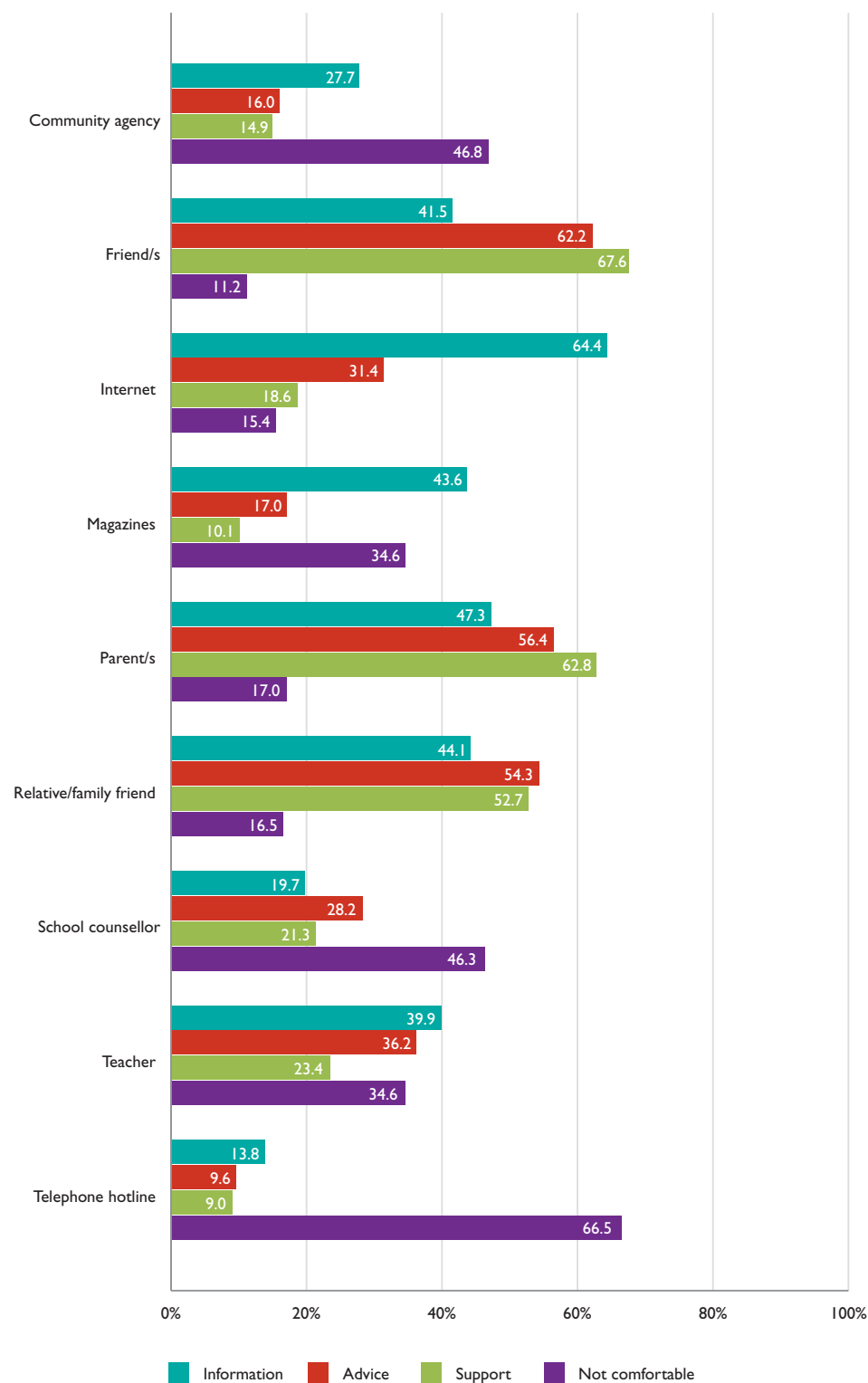
Young people were asked whether they had someone (who does not live with them) to ask for any support in a time of crisis. While the vast majority of respondents from the NT had someone they could ask for support in a time of crisis (80.8%), a considerably higher proportion of young people from the NT (19.2%) felt they had no-one (who was not living with them) to seek support from compared to the national figure (11.7%).

Young people were also asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people in the NT, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people in the NT (64.4%), followed by *parent/s* (47.3%) and *relatives/family friends* (44.1%).
- NT respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (62.2%), *parent/s* (56.4%) and *relatives/family friends* (54.3%) for *advice*.

- *Friend/s* (67.6%) were also the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (62.8%) and *relatives/family friends* (52.7%).
- Almost two thirds of young people from the NT did not feel comfortable using a *telephone hotline* for *advice, support* or *information*, and almost half were not comfortable contacting a *community agency* or *school counsellor*.

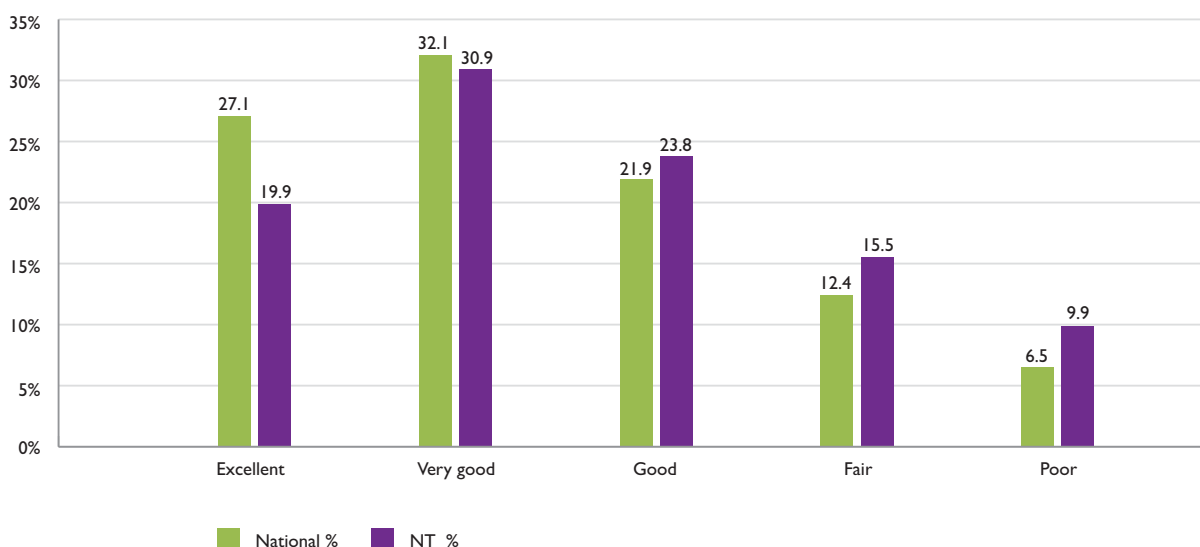
Figure 3.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



How well do young people feel their families get along?

In 2012 young people were asked about how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Overall, the majority of NT respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 19.9% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent*, and 30.9% that it was *very good*. However, over a quarter of young people from the NT did not have such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (15.5%) or *poor* (9.9%).

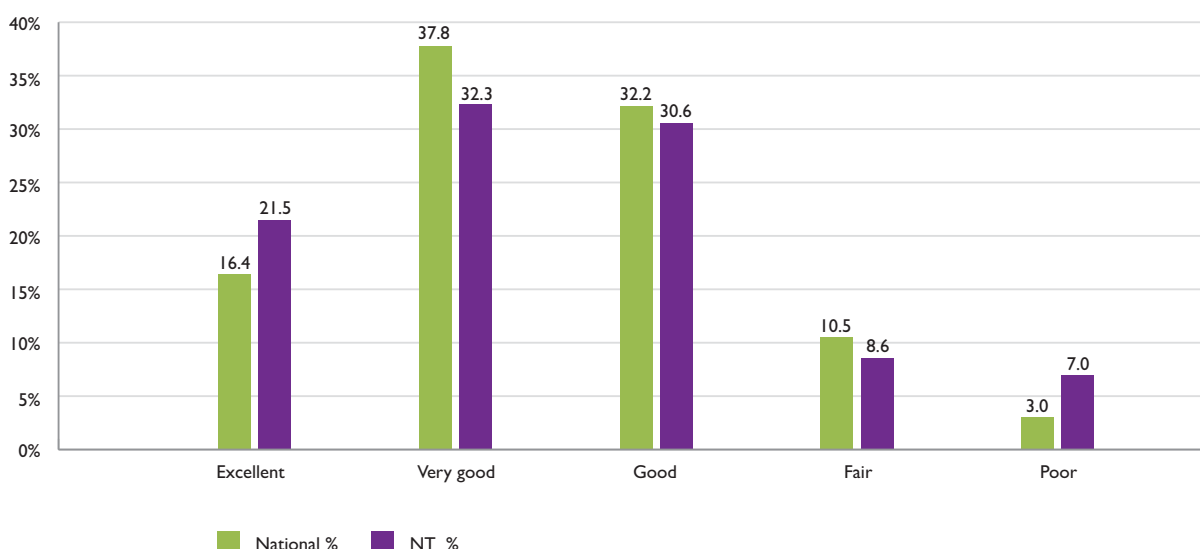
Figure 3.5: Family's ability to get along



How do young people feel about their health?

Respondents were asked to tell us how they felt about their health, with responses rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 3.6 shows that the majority of the NT respondents felt their health was *good*, *very good* or *excellent* (30.6%, 32.3% and 21.5% respectively). Only 7.0% of NT respondents felt their health was *poor*, although this was more than twice the national percentage (3.0%).

Figure 3.6: How young people feel about their health



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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 3.4. In 2012 the top two issues identified by young people in the NT were *alcohol and drugs* and *population issues*, while *the economy and financial matters* and *politics and societal values* were of equal concern in third place. *Alcohol and drugs* and *the economy and financial matters* also appeared among the top three issues for young people aged 15 to 19 from the NT in 2011 and 2010.

- Almost four in ten young people from the NT (39.6%) indicated that *alcohol and drugs* was an important issue in Australia today. This was considerably higher than the national percentage (21.8%).
- Almost a quarter of respondents (22.8%) identified *population issues* as important.
- Just over one in five young people from the NT identified *the economy and financial matters* and *politics and societal values* as important issues.

Table 3.4: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	NT 2012 %	NT 2011 %	NT 2010 %
Alcohol and drugs	21.8	39.6	31.7	37.2
Population issues	27.6	22.8	23.2	18.2
The economy and finance matters	30.8	20.1	26.1	22.7
Politics and societal values	20.6	20.1	13.4	12.6
Crime, safety and violence	14.0	18.8	15.5	18.5
Health	16.2	17.4	12.0	16.5
Equity and discrimination	20.2	14.8	13.4	20.2
The environment	17.5	13.4	35.9	38.2
Mental health	12.7	13.4	5.6	8.1

Note: Items are listed in order of Territory importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.

Do young people feel safe in their neighbourhood?

Crime, safety and violence was ranked as the fifth most important issue in Australia by NT respondents. Respondents were also asked how safe they felt in their neighbourhood. Although the majority of young people from the NT (72.9%) indicated that they felt safe in their neighbourhood, more than a quarter did not (27.1%). This was almost three times higher than the national figure.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 3.5. Consistent with national results, the top two activities for young people aged 15 to 19 years from the NT, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top two activities for young people aged 15 to 19 years from the NT in 2011 and 2010. *Youth groups and clubs* was ranked as the third top activity participated in by young people from the NT this year, while *volunteer work* was ranked as the third top activity nationally. Significant proportions of young people from the NT reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *youth groups and clubs* were the three most popular activities for young people from the NT in 2012.
- More than half of NT respondents indicated they had participated in *volunteer work* (55.9%), *religious groups or activities* (54.8%) and *arts/cultural activities* (52.4%).
- Around four in ten young people from the NT had participated in *student leadership activities*.
- Over one quarter of young people from the NT participated in *environmental groups or activities* in the past year.

Table 3.5: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

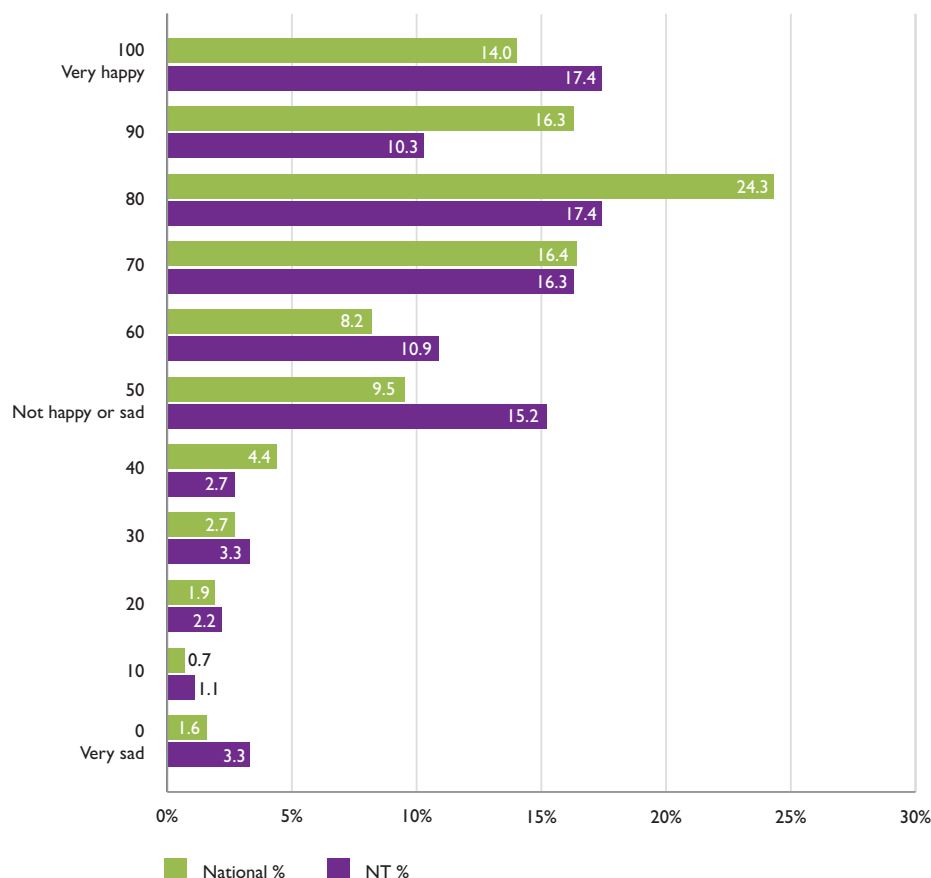
	National %	NT 2012 %	NT 2011 %	NT 2010 %
Sports (as a participant)	78.4	77.2	53.8	59.9
Sports (as a spectator)	73.0	65.6	46.0	56.5
Youth groups and clubs	38.2	57.7	27.1	33.6
Volunteer work	60.5	55.9	29.2	31.6
Religious groups or activities	37.8	54.8	15.9	26.6
Arts/cultural activities	52.0	52.4	30.1	28.9
Student leadership activities	47.4	41.0	20.5	26.8
Environmental groups or activities	27.8	27.0	15.5	15.0
Political groups or organisations	9.2	10.7	8.5	7.4

Note: Items are listed in order of Territory importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years. In 2012 respondents were asked "In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?" whereas in 2011 and 2010 respondents were asked "What activities are you involved in?"

How happy are young people?

In 2012 the survey asked young people to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 100, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 100 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question¹, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 3.7 shows, the majority of NT young people responded in the range 70 to 100 indicating they felt positive overall about their lives.

Figure 3.7: How happy young people are



¹ Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Almost two thirds of NT respondents felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, only 14.6% of young people from the NT felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Almost two thirds of NT respondents felt either *positive* (42.7%) or *very positive* (23.2%) about the future.
- Around one fifth of respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future (a considerably smaller proportion of NT respondents than in 2011 and 2010).
- 7.0% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 7.6% felt *very negative*. These percentages are notably higher than the national figures.

Table 3.6: Feelings about the future

	National %	NT 2012 %	NT 2011 %	NT 2010 %
Very positive	20.8	23.2	18.6	21.2
Positive	49.8	42.7	37.1	37.7
Neither positive nor negative	22.7	19.5	34.7	29.0
Negative	4.7	7.0	4.2	6.7
Very negative	1.9	7.6	5.4	5.4

Note: Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.



Queensland

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

In Queensland, a total of 2,222 young people aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2012.

Gender breakdown

Over half (60.9%) of the respondents were female and 39.1% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 76 (3.5%) respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (4.4% compared with 2.9%). Approximately 5% preferred not to answer the question.

Language background other than English

A total of 376 (17.1%) respondents stated they were born overseas and 406 (18.6%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 50 languages spoken at home in Queensland, the most common were (in order of frequency); Mandarin, Cantonese, French, German and Chinese.

Disability

99 (4.6%) respondents indicated they had a disability, with more males (6.5%) than females (3.3%) reporting a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities in Queensland were (in order of frequency); blindness or vision impairment, autism, Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), physical disability and deafness or hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

Table 4.1 shows that, as per the national data, the vast majority of respondents (84.4%) lived *with family*. 10.8% of respondents lived in *boarding school* (almost three times higher than the national results) and a small number of young people indicated that they lived in a *juvenile justice centre/prison*, *homeless/insecure housing* or *foster care*.

Table 4.1: Where respondents were living

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
With family	90.8	84.4	84.8	83.8
Boarding school	3.9	10.8	11.4	9.8
Shared house	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.9
Juvenile justice centre / prison	0.6	0.8	0.4	1.4
Alone	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.8
Homeless / insecure housing	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.6
Foster care	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4
Other	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4

Education

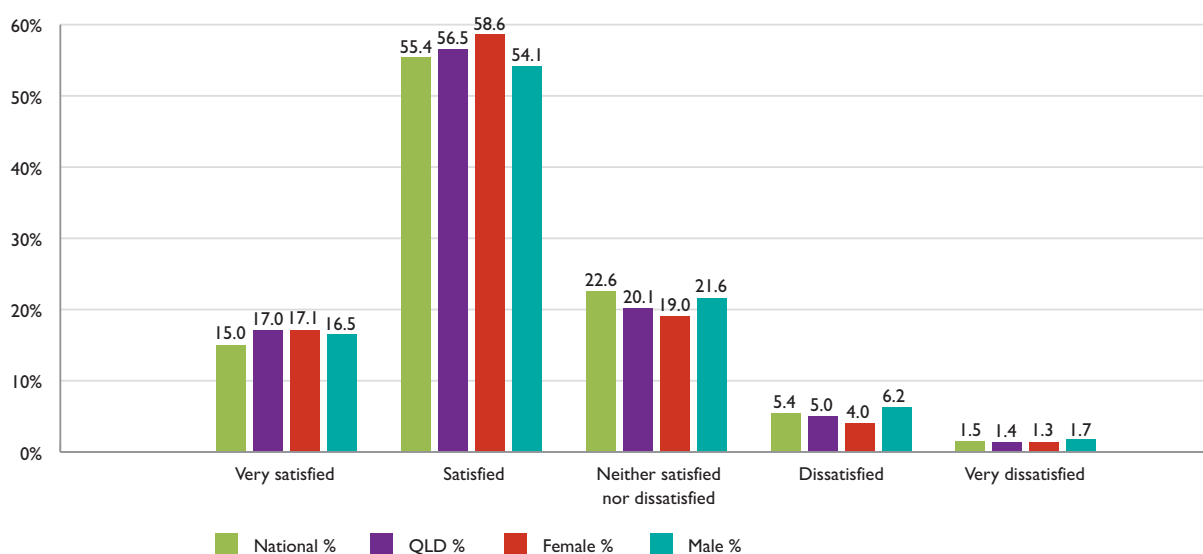
As indicated in Table 4.2, 93.5% of respondents were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (95.1% compared with 91.3%), while slightly more males (4.3%) than females (2.2%) were not studying. Of those who were still at school, 98.3% stated they intended to complete Year 12. Males were over four times more likely than females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (3.1% compared with 0.7%).

In 2012 we asked respondents who reported they were currently studying how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. Almost three quarters of respondents reported they were either *very satisfied* (17.0%) or *satisfied* (56.5%) with their studies, while less than 1 in 10 were either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.4% and 5.0% respectively). As shown in Figure 4.1, males were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* (16.5% and 54.1% of males compared with 17.1% and 58.6% of females respectively).

Table 4.2: Participation in education

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.9	93.5	95.1	91.3
Studying part-time	3.2	3.3	2.7	4.3
Not studying	2.8	3.1	2.2	4.3

Figure 4.1: Satisfaction with studies



Employment

Respondents in 2012 who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 4.3 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Only 0.3% of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just over 40% of respondents, the majority of whom were in full-time education, reported part-time employment. Over half of respondents reported they were not in paid employment, with 32.5% looking for work and 25.5% not looking for work.

Male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to report full-time employment (0.4% compared to 0.2%), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (43.7% compared with 38.4%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (35.3% compared with 30.9%), while around one quarter of both male and female respondents reported that they were not looking for work (25.9% of males and 25.2% of females).

Table 4.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4
Employed part-time	38.9	41.7	43.7	38.4
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.1	32.5	30.9	35.3
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	26.4	25.5	25.2	25.9

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

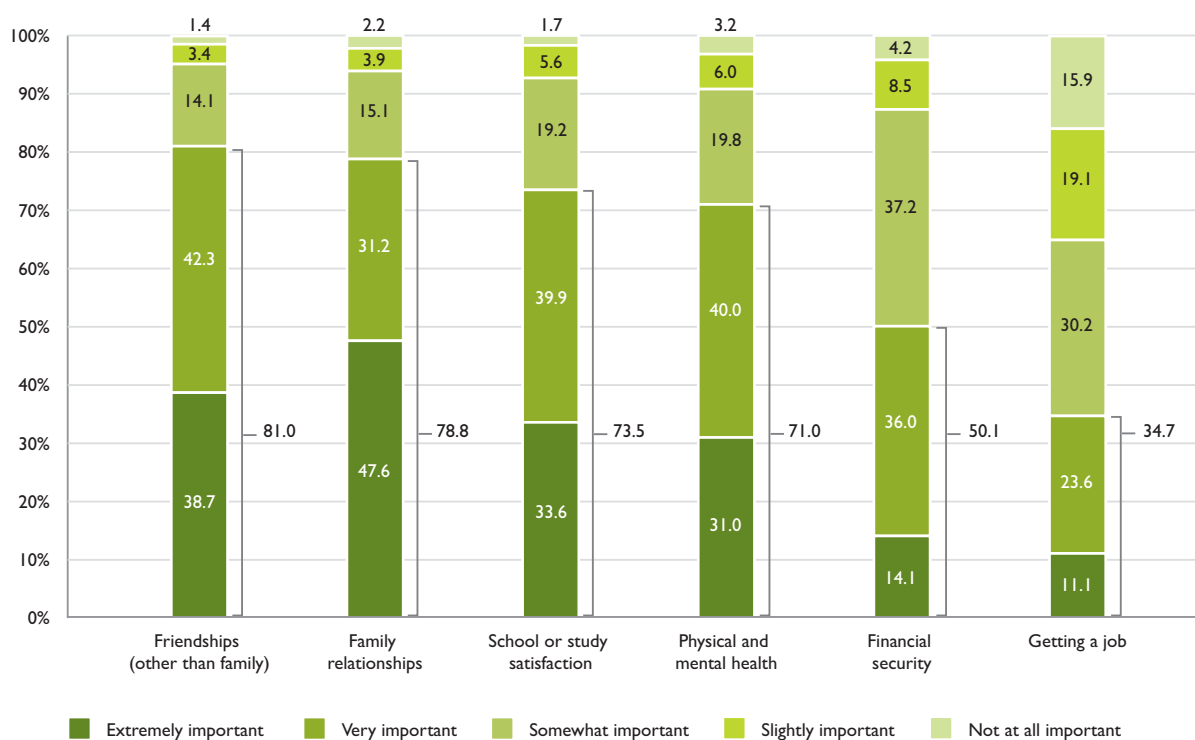
DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

In 2012 young people were asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 4.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In 2012 Queensland responses were consistent with the national data, with *friendships* and *family relationships* ranked as the two most highly valued items. Also consistent with past years is the high value placed on *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 81.0% (*extremely important*: 38.7%; *very important*: 42.3%) of Queensland respondents. *Family relationships* were also valued very highly by 78.8% (*extremely important*: 47.6%; *very important*: 31.2%) of respondents.
- Over two thirds of Queensland respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 33.6%; *very important*: 39.9%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 31.0%; *very important*: 40.0%).
- Just over half of Queensland respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 14.1%; *very important*: 36.0%).

Figure 4.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Friendships and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females, as shown in Table 4.4. However, more female respondents highly valued *friendships* and *family relationships* than their male counterparts. For females *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health* were the third and fourth most highly valued items; for males this order was reversed.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 84.0% of females (*extremely important*: 43.7%; *very important*: 40.3%) compared with 76.6% of males (*extremely important*: 31.1%; *very important*: 45.5%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 82.2% of females (*extremely important*: 54.0%; *very important*: 28.2%) compared with 73.3% of males (*extremely important*: 37.9%; *very important*: 35.4%).
- 79.3% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 38.9%; *very important*: 40.4%) compared with 64.9% of males (*extremely important*: 25.8%; *very important*: 39.1%).
- *Financial security* was highly valued by around half of both females (*extremely important*: 14.1%; *very important*: 38.1%) and males (*extremely important*: 14.3%; *very important*: 32.5%).

Table 4.4: What young people value, by gender

	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Females					
Friendships (other than family)	43.7	40.3	12.2	2.6	1.3
Family relationships	54.0	28.2	12.7	3.2	1.9
School or study satisfaction	38.9	40.4	16.1	3.8	0.8
Physical and mental health	31.9	39.9	20.4	5.6	2.1
Financial security	14.1	38.1	37.3	6.8	3.6
Getting a job	11.0	24.4	30.3	18.4	15.9
Males					
Friendships (other than family)	31.1	45.5	17.3	4.5	1.6
Family relationships	37.9	35.4	18.9	5.0	2.7
School or study satisfaction	25.8	39.1	23.7	8.2	3.2
Physical and mental health	29.6	40.5	18.6	6.6	4.7
Financial security	14.3	32.5	37.1	11.0	5.1
Getting a job	11.3	22.1	30.4	20.0	16.2

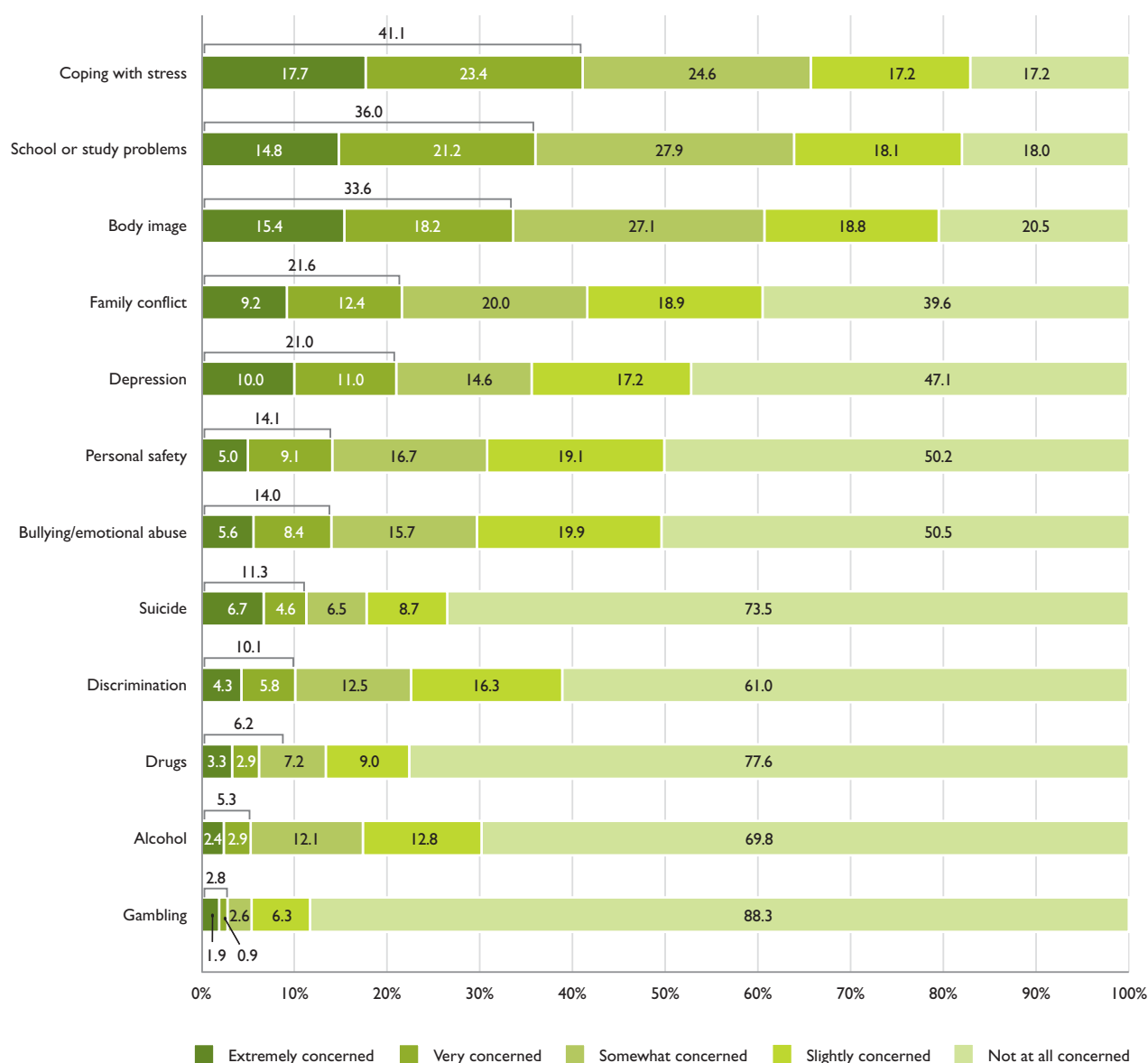
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State importance.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 4.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people in Queensland were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*, as they were nationally.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with around 40% of Queensland respondents indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (17.7%) or *very concerned* (23.4%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* were a major concern for 36.0% (*extremely concerned*: 14.8%; *very concerned*: 21.2%) of young people from Queensland.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 33.6% (*extremely concerned*: 15.4%; *very concerned*: 18.2%) of young people from Queensland.
- Over 20% of respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 4.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

Coping with stress, *school or study problems* and *body image* were the top three issues of concern for both males and females from Queensland as highlighted in Table 4.5. The order of the top two issues of concern differed, however; with females indicating that *coping with stress* was their number one concern, while males were most concerned about *school or study problems*. For each of the top three issues of concern, the proportion of females concerned about these issues was considerably higher than the proportion of males.

- For 52.4% of females (*extremely concerned*: 22.8%; *very concerned*: 29.6%), *coping with stress* was a major concern, compared with 23.6% for males (*extremely concerned*: 9.6%; *very concerned*: 14.0%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school and study problems* than males, with 42.7% (*extremely concerned*: 17.5%; *very concerned*: 25.2%) indicating this was a major concern, compared with 25.2% (*extremely concerned*: 10.3%; *very concerned*: 14.9%) of males.
- Concern about *body image* was considerably higher among females, with 42.7% (*extremely concerned*: 20.5%; *very concerned*: 22.2%) indicating *body image* was a major concern, compared with 19.3% (*extremely concerned*: 7.5%; *very concerned*: 11.8%) of males.
- For 25.9% of females (*extremely concerned*: 11.1%; *very concerned*: 14.8%) and 15.1% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.2%; *very concerned*: 8.9%) *family conflict* was a major concern.

Table 4.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Females					
Coping with stress	22.8	29.6	24.7	13.8	9.0
School or study problems	17.5	25.2	29.3	17.0	11.0
Body image	20.5	22.2	29.3	16.9	11.1
Family conflict	11.1	14.8	22.4	18.7	32.9
Depression	12.3	13.5	16.7	18.5	39.0
Personal safety	5.4	10.1	17.8	19.3	47.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.7	10.7	17.9	21.2	44.5
Suicide	7.3	5.7	7.5	10.2	69.3
Discrimination	3.6	6.3	15.0	17.3	57.8
Drugs	3.2	2.4	7.8	10.0	76.6
Alcohol	2.0	2.8	12.9	14.3	67.9
Gambling	1.1	0.8	2.7	5.7	89.7
Males					
Coping with stress	9.6	14.0	23.7	22.9	29.9
School or study problems	10.3	14.9	25.9	20.0	28.9
Body image	7.5	11.8	23.3	22.0	35.4
Family conflict	6.2	8.9	16.0	19.0	49.9
Depression	6.6	7.0	11.4	15.4	59.5
Personal safety	4.5	7.5	14.9	18.7	54.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.3	4.6	12.0	17.9	60.1
Suicide	6.0	3.0	4.8	6.3	80.0
Discrimination	5.5	5.1	8.3	15.0	66.0
Drugs	3.6	3.6	6.2	7.2	79.5
Alcohol	3.1	3.0	10.3	10.6	73.0
Gambling	3.1	1.1	2.6	7.4	85.9

Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State concern.

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

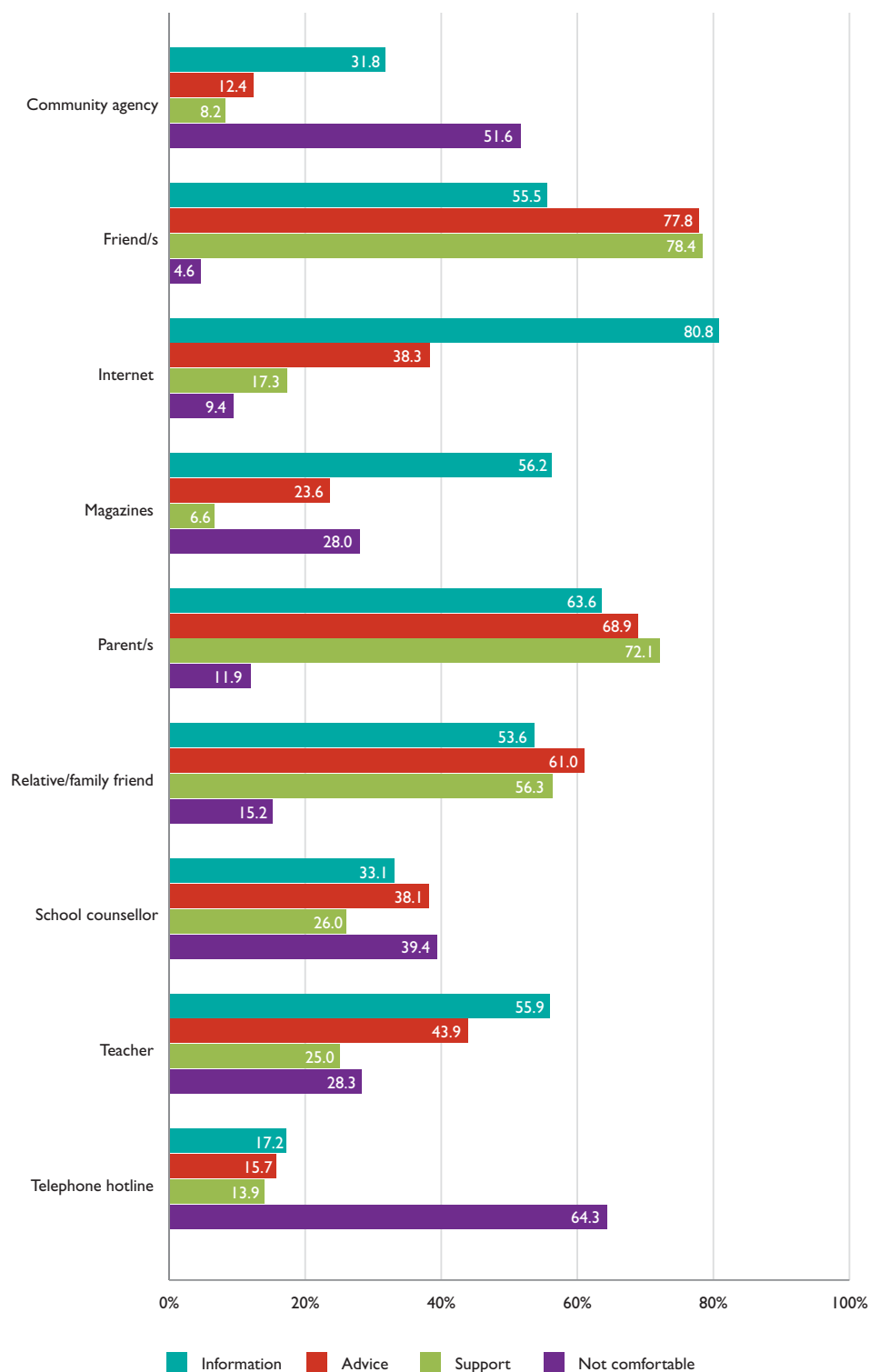
Young people were asked whether they had someone (who does not live with them) to ask for any support in a time of crisis. While the vast majority of respondents from Queensland had someone they could ask for support in a time of crisis (89.2%), 10.8% felt they had no-one (who was not living with them) to seek support from.

Young people were also asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. The *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people from Queensland, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*. These results were consistent with the national data.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for Queensland respondents (80.8%), followed by *parent/s* (63.6%) and *magazines* (56.2%).
- Young people from Queensland felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (77.8%), *parent/s* (68.9%) and *relatives/family friends* (61.0%) for *advice*.

- *Friend/s* (78.4%) were the primary source of *support* for young people from Queensland, followed by *parent/s* (72.1%) and *relatives/family friends* (56.3%).
- Almost two thirds (64.3%) of young people from Queensland did not feel comfortable using a *telephone hotline* and 51.6% were not comfortable contacting a *community agency* for *advice, support or information*.

Figure 4.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

Males and females from Queensland were broadly similar in terms of who they were comfortable going to for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (82.3%) and males (78.8%). *Parent/s* were also an important source of *information* for both females and males (65.0% and 61.6% respectively).
- Females were more likely to get *information* (60.7%) and *advice* (28.7%) from *magazines* than males (49.1% and 15.5% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (81.2%) and males (72.5%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also an important source of *advice* for both females (70.8% and 62.4% respectively) and males (66.3% and 58.8% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (83.8%) and males (69.9%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as an important source of *support* by both females (74.7% and 60.7% respectively) and males (67.9% and 49.8% respectively) from Queensland.

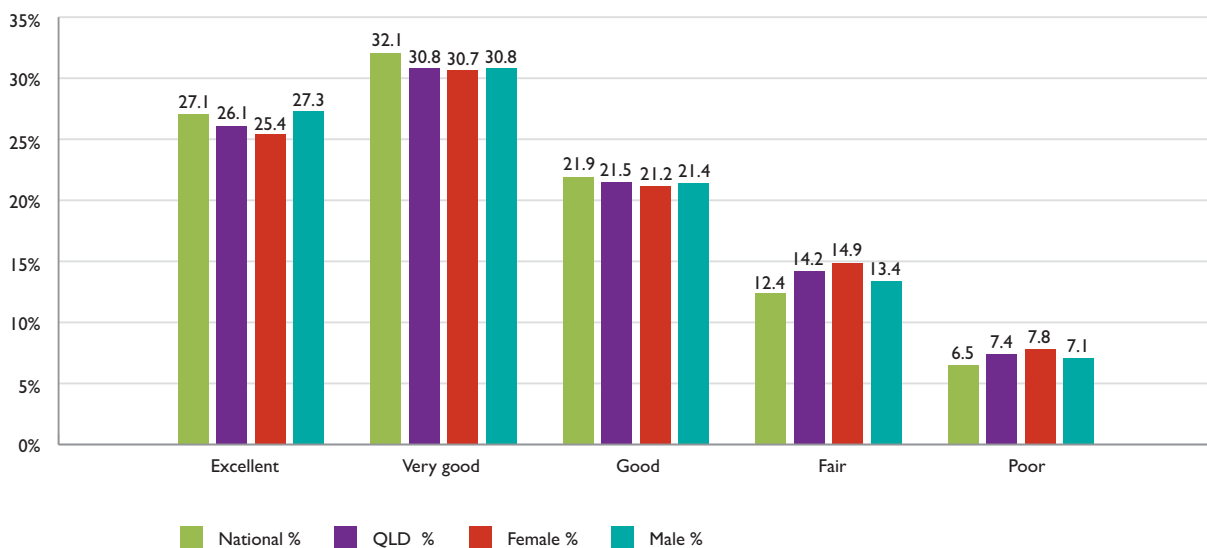
Table 4.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Females				
Community agency	32.1	10.7	7.2	53.3
Friend/s	51.2	81.2	83.8	4.4
Internet	82.3	37.7	15.0	8.8
Magazines	60.7	28.7	5.9	24.6
Parent/s	65.0	70.8	74.7	12.0
Relative/family friend	53.9	62.4	60.7	14.7
School counsellor	34.6	40.2	28.0	39.1
Teacher	55.7	44.9	26.6	29.4
Telephone hotline	18.4	17.6	15.3	64.5
Males				
Community agency	31.4	15.3	9.9	48.8
Friend/s	62.2	72.5	69.9	4.7
Internet	78.8	39.0	20.5	10.4
Magazines	49.1	15.5	7.1	33.5
Parent/s	61.6	66.3	67.9	12.0
Relative/family friend	53.2	58.8	49.8	16.0
School counsellor	30.7	34.9	22.6	39.6
Teacher	56.0	42.5	22.3	26.3
Telephone hotline	15.2	12.7	11.7	63.9

How well do young people feel their families get along?

In 2012 young people were asked about how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Overall, the majority of respondents from Queensland rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 26.1% indicating their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 30.8% reporting that it was *very good*. However, 21.6% of young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (14.2%) or *poor* (7.4%). Male and female respondents had very similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

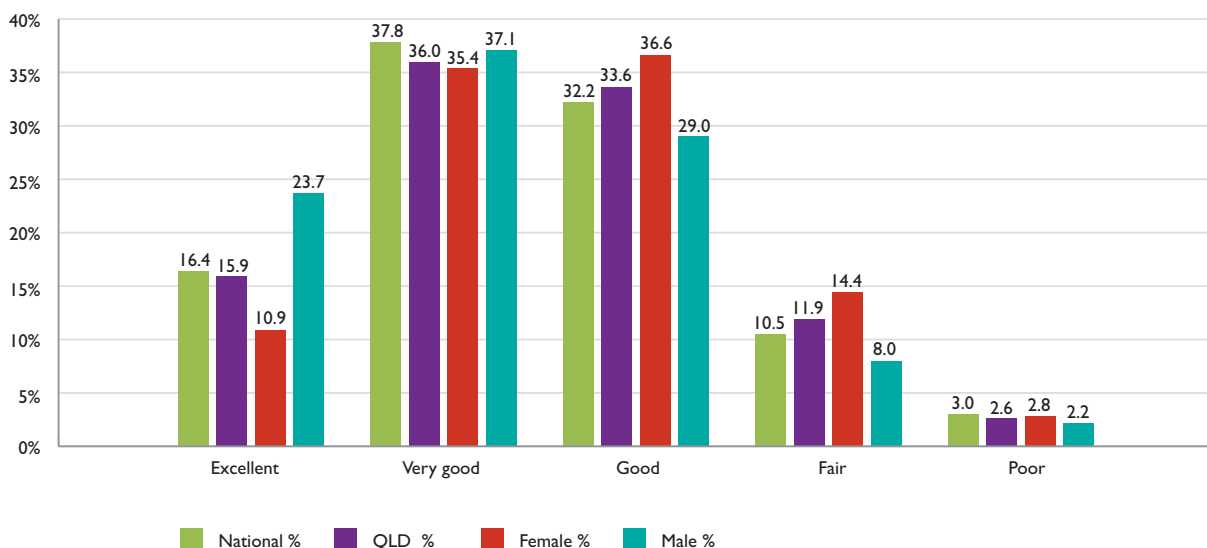
Figure 4.5: Family's ability to get along



How do young people feel about their health?

Respondents were asked to tell us how they felt about their health, with responses rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 4.6 shows that over 8 in 10 respondents from Queensland felt their health was *good*, *very good* or *excellent* (33.6%, 36.0% and 15.9% respectively). Very few young people from Queensland (2.6%) felt their health was *poor*. Male respondents were over twice as likely as females to feel their health was *excellent* (23.7% compared with 10.9%) and less likely to report their health was *fair* or *poor* (8.0% and 2.2% compared with 14.4% and 2.8%).

Figure 4.6: How young people feel about their health



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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 4.7. In 2012 the top three issues identified by young people from Queensland were the *economy and financial matters*, *politics and societal values* and *population issues*. The *economy and financial matters* and *population issues* were also among the top three issues nationally.

- Over one third (35.6%) of young people from Queensland identified the *economy and financial matters* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Over a quarter of Queensland respondents identified *politics and societal values* (27.0%) and *population issues* (26.2%) as major issues.
- Around one in five young people identified *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* as important issues.

Gender differences

Consistent with state-wide results, the *economy and financial matters*, *politics and societal values* and *population issues* were the top three issues of importance for both male and female respondents.

- Just over one third of both female and male respondents (35.9% and 35.3% respectively) identified the *economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- More males than females identified *population issues* as a major issue (32.6% compared with 22.2%). This was also the case for *politics and societal values* (34.2% compared with 22.7%).
- Slightly more males than females from Queensland identified *alcohol and drugs* (22.6% compared with 18.7%) as an important issue.

Table 4.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	QLD 2012 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2011 %	QLD 2010 %
The economy and financial matters	30.8	35.6	35.9	35.3	23.3	22.5
Politics and societal values	20.6	27.0	22.7	34.2	16.9	16.0
Population issues	27.6	26.2	22.2	32.6	17.7	16.8
Alcohol and drugs	21.8	20.3	18.7	22.6	30.0	36.2
Equity and discrimination	20.2	18.9	19.9	17.5	19.0	21.1
Health	16.2	17.3	20.5	12.3	16.3	20.8
Crime, safety and violence	14.0	15.8	14.6	17.4	16.0	16.5
The environment	17.5	14.4	16.1	11.9	33.4	31.0
Mental health	12.7	12.1	15.1	7.5	9.9	12.3
Education	10.9	10.5	11.3	8.8	8.8	8.0
Bullying	11.0	8.9	10.6	5.9	13.1	9.2
Employment	8.5	8.9	9.8	7.5	7.0	7.2
Homelessness/housing	8.5	5.7	6.7	3.6	5.1	5.1
Adolescence/youth	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.2	4.7	6.4

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.

Do young people feel safe in their neighbourhood?

Crime, safety and violence was ranked as the seventh most important issue in Australia by Queensland respondents. Respondents were also asked how safe they felt in their neighbourhood. Although the overwhelmingly majority of young people from Queensland (90.8%) indicated that they felt safe in their neighbourhood, almost 1 in 10 did not feel safe in their neighbourhood.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 4.8. Consistent with both the national and 2011 Queensland results, *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were among the top three activities for young people from Queensland aged 15 to 19 years. Significant proportions of young people from Queensland reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year:

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people from Queensland, consistent with the national data.
- Almost two thirds of Queensland respondents indicated they had participated in *arts/cultural activities* (63.6%) and over half indicated that they had participated in *student leadership activities* (55.1%).
- Around four in ten young people participated in *youth groups and clubs* (43.2%) and *religious groups or activities* (41.8%).
- Around one third of young people from Queensland participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 4.8, a larger proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in the top two activities, *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural activities* and *student leadership activities*.

- 80.9% of male respondents and 76.7% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (78.6% compared with 75.5%).
- More female than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural activities*, *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (71.0%, 68.3% and 58.6% compared with 51.5%, 59.4% and 50.0% respectively).

Table 4.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

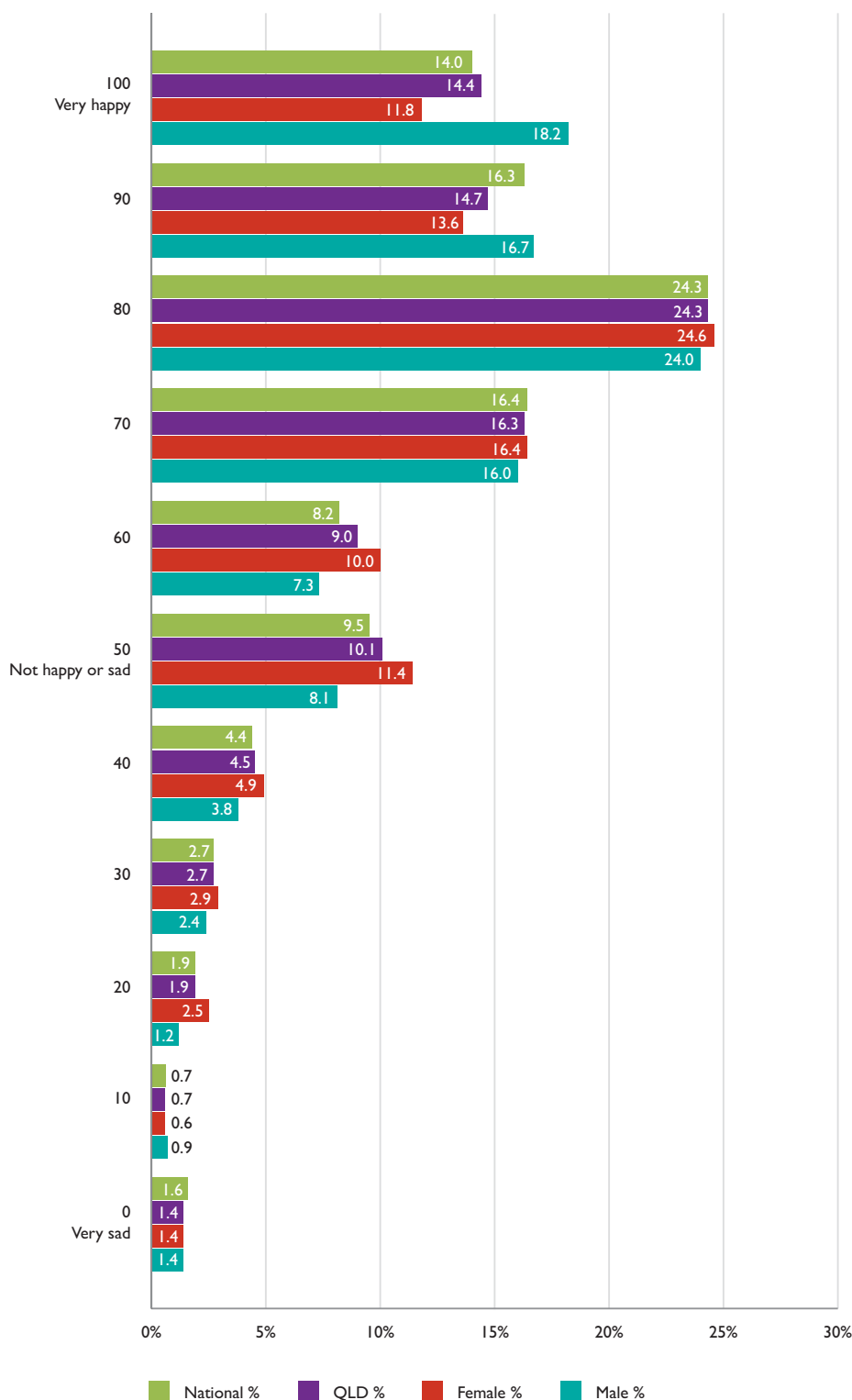
	National %	QLD 2012 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2011 %	QLD 2010 %
Sports (as a participant)	78.4	78.4	76.7	80.9	60.9	63.9
Sports (as a spectator)	73.0	76.7	75.5	78.6	48.7	57.0
Volunteer work	60.5	64.9	68.3	59.4	28.4	29.3
Arts/cultural activities	52.0	63.6	71.0	51.5	33.0	34.6
Student leadership activities	47.4	55.1	58.6	50.0	26.3	26.6
Youth groups and clubs	38.2	43.2	45.2	40.3	24.2	26.2
Religious groups or activities	37.8	41.8	45.1	36.6	21.3	23.9
Environmental groups or activities	27.8	32.0	33.8	28.8	12.4	11.6
Political groups or organisations	9.2	8.2	7.2	9.9	4.7	4.9

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years. In 2012 respondents were asked "In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?" whereas in 2011 and 2010 respondents were asked "What activities are you involved in?"

How happy are young people?

In 2012 the survey asked young people to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question¹, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 4.7 shows, the vast majority of young people responded in the range 70 to 100 indicating they felt positive overall about their lives. Results were similar for both male and female respondents, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (18.2% compared with 11.8%).

Figure 4.7: How happy young people are



¹ Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future. Consistent with national data, more than two thirds of respondents from Queensland felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall less than one in ten young people from Queensland felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future. Table 4.9 shows that results differ slightly to those in 2011, with more young people responding that they felt *positive* about the future in 2012.

- Over two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (48.5%) or *very positive* (21.3%) about the future.
- Almost one quarter of respondents (23.9%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 4.7% of respondents felt *negative* about the future, and 1.7% felt *very negative*.
- Males were more likely than females to feel *very positive* about the future (27.0% compared to 17.5%).

Table 4.9: Feelings about the future

	National %	QLD 2012 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2011 %	QLD 2010 %
Very positive	20.8	21.3	17.5	27.0	19.7	20.4
Positive	49.8	48.5	50.2	45.8	41.1	44.0
Neither positive nor negative	22.7	23.9	26.8	19.5	29.2	26.4
Negative	4.7	4.7	4.4	5.1	6.4	5.8
Very negative	1.9	1.7	1.1	2.6	3.6	3.4

Note: Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.



South Australia

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

In total, 2,379 young people from South Australia (SA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2012.

Gender breakdown

Over half (60.4%) of the respondents from SA were female and 39.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 74 (3.2%) respondents in SA identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (3.9% compared to 2.8%). Just over 4% of respondents preferred not to answer.

Language background other than English

A total of 214 (9.1%) SA respondents stated they were born overseas and 386 (16.5%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 50 languages spoken at home in SA, the most common were (in order of frequency); Italian, Vietnamese, Chinese, German and Spanish.

Disability

121 (5.3%) SA respondents indicated they had a disability, with more males (7.5%) than females (3.9%) reporting a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities in SA were (in order of frequency); learning disability, autism, physical disability, blindness or vision impairment and Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD).

Where respondents were living

Table 5.1 shows that, as per the national data, the vast majority of SA respondents (94.7%) lived *with family*. 1.0% of respondents lived in a *shared house* and a small number of young people indicated that they lived in a *juvenile justice centre/prison*, *homeless/insecure housing* or *foster care*.

Table 5.1: Where respondents were living

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
With family	90.8	94.7	94.7	94.9
Shared house	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
Alone	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.5
Boarding school	3.9	0.6	0.5	0.7
Juvenile justice centre / prison	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3
Homeless / insecure housing	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4
Foster care	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4
Other	2.2	2.0	2.2	1.7

Education

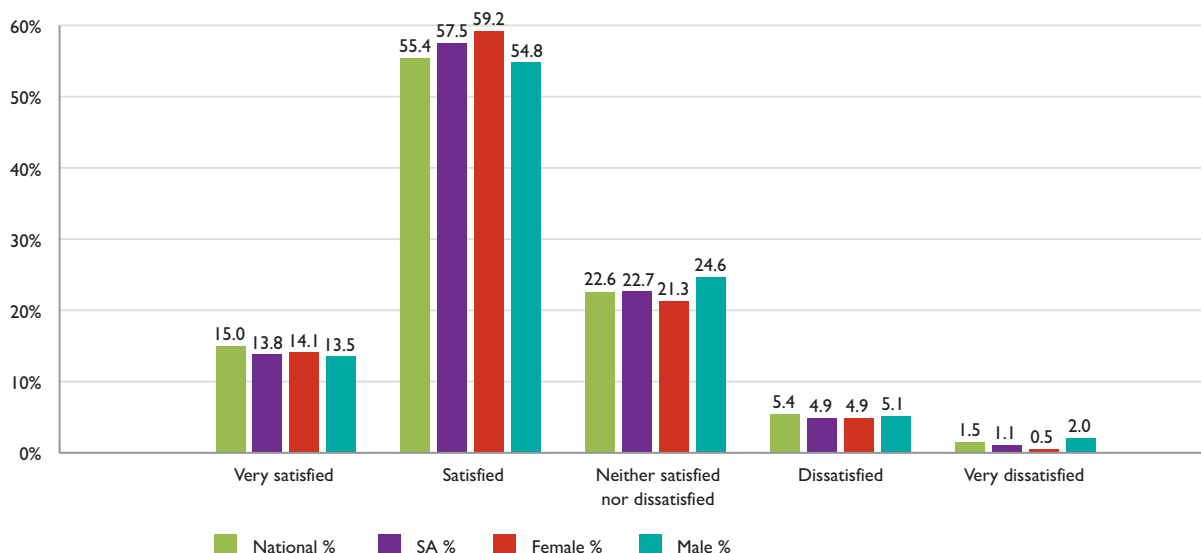
As indicated in Table 5.2, 94.2% of SA respondents were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to report that they were studying full-time than male respondents (94.5% compared with 93.5%), while slightly more males (3.1%) than females (2.5%) were not studying. Of those who were still at school, 95.5% stated they intended to complete Year 12. Males were over four times more likely to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (8.1% compared with 1.9% of females).

In 2012 we asked respondents who reported they were currently studying how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As shown in Figure 5.1, over two thirds of SA respondents reported they were either *very satisfied* (13.8%) or *satisfied* (57.5%) with their studies, while less than 1 in 15 were either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.1% and 4.9% respectively). Males were slightly less likely than females to report feeling either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* (13.5% and 54.8% of males compared with 14.1% and 59.2% of females respectively).

Table 5.2: Participation in education

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.9	94.2	94.5	93.5
Studying part-time	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.3
Not studying	2.8	2.7	2.5	3.1

Figure 5.1: Satisfaction with studies



Employment

Respondents in 2012 who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 5.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst SA respondents. Only 0.4% of SA respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just over 40% of SA respondents, the majority of whom were in full-time education, reported part-time employment. Over half of SA respondents reported they were not in paid employment, with 36.0% looking for work and 21.4% not looking for work.

Of the female respondents from SA, 0.3% reported full-time employment, compared to 0.6% of male respondents. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (44.7% compared with 38.4%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (38.9% compared with 34.1%).

Table 5.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.6
Employed part-time	38.9	42.2	44.7	38.4
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.1	36.0	34.1	38.9
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	26.4	21.4	20.9	22.2

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

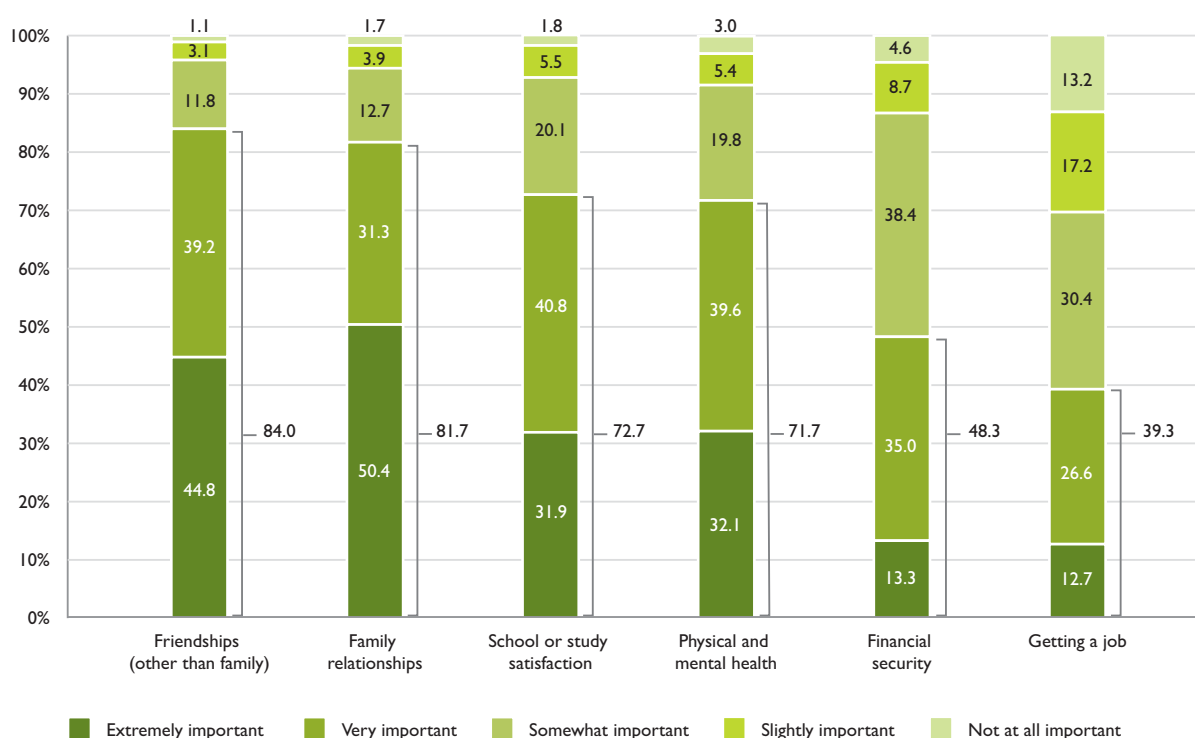
DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

In 2012 young people were asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 5.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In 2012 SA responses were consistent with the national data, with *friendships* and *family relationships* ranked as the two most highly valued items. Also consistent with the national data is the high value placed on *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 84.0% (*extremely important*: 44.8%; *very important*: 39.2%) of SA respondents. *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 81.7% (*extremely important*: 50.4%; *very important*: 31.3%) of respondents.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by over two thirds of respondents from SA (*extremely important*: 31.9%; *very important*: 40.8%), as was *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 32.1%; *very important*: 39.6%).
- 48.3% of SA respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 13.3%; *very important*: 35.0%).

Figure 5.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Amongst SA respondents *friendships* and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females, as shown in Table 5.4. However, *friendships* and *family relationships* were highly valued by a higher percentage of females than males. For females from SA, *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health* were the third and fourth most highly valued items; for males this order was reversed.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 87.6% of females (*extremely important*: 49.2%; *very important*: 38.4%) compared with 78.7% of males (*extremely important*: 38.2%; *very important*: 40.5%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 86.4% of females (*extremely important*: 57.5%; *very important*: 28.9%) compared with 74.5% of males (*extremely important*: 39.5%; *very important*: 35.0%).
- 79.8% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 38.3%; *very important*: 41.5%), compared with 61.9% of males (*extremely important*: 22.0%; *very important*: 39.9%).
- *Financial security* was highly valued by around half of females (*extremely important*: 13.2%; *very important*: 36.6%) and males (*extremely important*: 13.6%; *very important*: 32.7%) in SA.

Table 5.4: What young people value, by gender

	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Females					
Friendships (other than family)	49.2	38.4	9.0	2.3	1.0
Family relationships	57.5	28.9	8.6	3.6	1.3
School or study satisfaction	38.3	41.5	15.1	3.9	1.2
Physical and mental health	34.5	40.3	18.4	4.8	2.1
Financial security	13.2	36.6	38.4	8.1	3.7
Getting a job	11.8	28.0	31.7	14.7	13.8
Males					
Friendships (other than family)	38.2	40.5	15.9	4.2	1.2
Family relationships	39.5	35.0	18.9	4.4	2.2
School or study satisfaction	22.0	39.9	27.4	7.9	2.7
Physical and mental health	28.5	38.8	22.0	6.4	4.3
Financial security	13.6	32.7	38.1	9.7	5.9
Getting a job	14.3	24.5	28.3	20.5	12.4

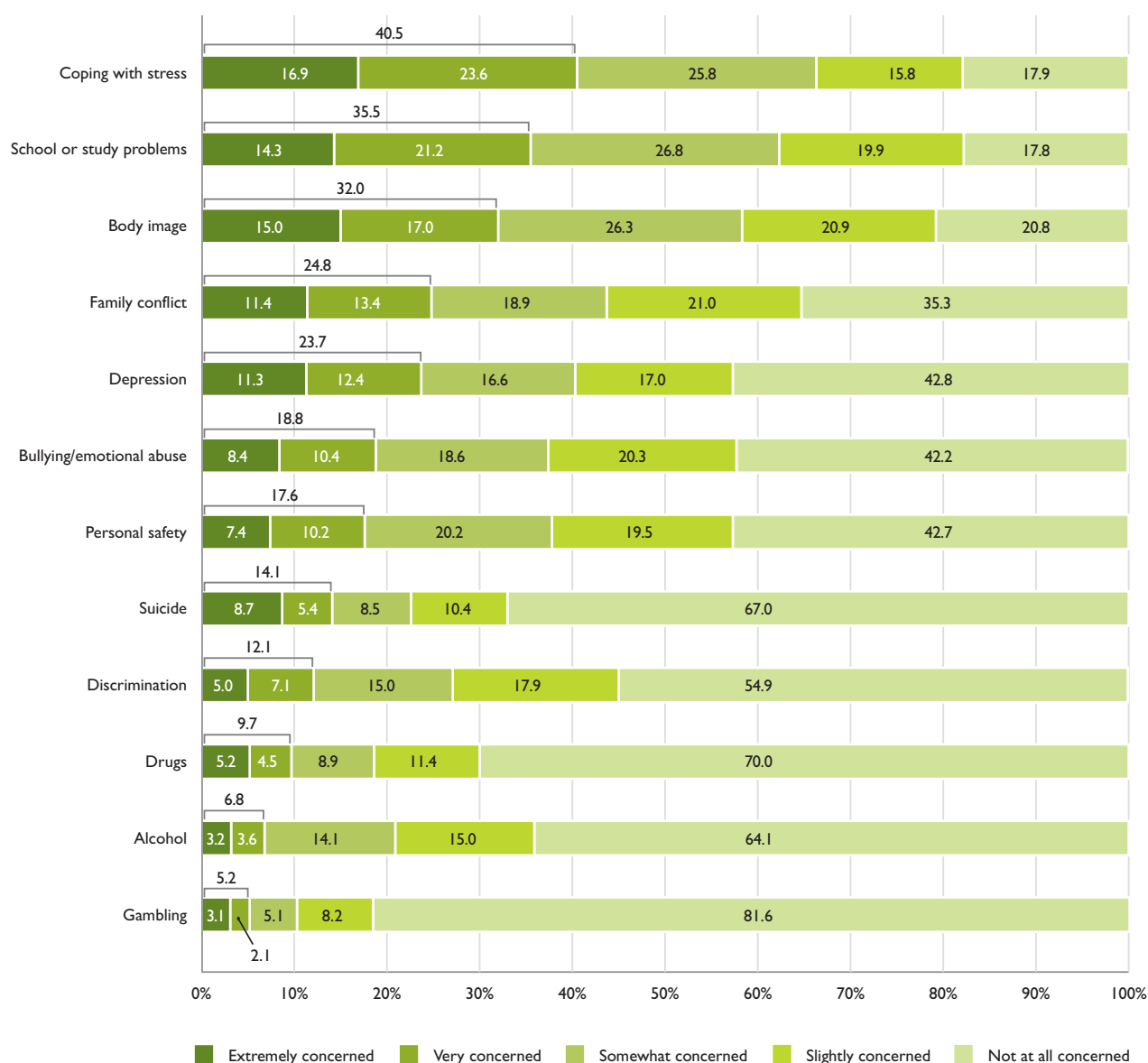
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State importance.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 5.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people in SA were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*, as they were nationally.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 40.5% of SA respondents indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (16.9%) or *very concerned* (23.6%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 35.5% (*extremely concerned*: 14.3%; *very concerned*: 21.2%) of young people from SA.
- *Body image* was a major concern for almost one in three SA respondents (*extremely concerned*: 15.0%; *very concerned*: 17.0%).
- Almost one quarter of SA respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 5.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

In SA, *coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were among the top three issues of concern for both males and females. However, the proportion of females that were concerned about these issues was much higher than the proportion of males. Females were also more concerned about *body image*, with this being their second top issue of concern, while *depression* was amongst the top three issues of concern for males.

- For 51.2% of females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 22.6%; *very concerned*: 28.6%), compared with 24.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.3%; *very concerned*: 15.9%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 41.8% (*extremely concerned*: 17.4%; *very concerned*: 24.4%) indicating this was a major concern, compared with 25.8% (*extremely concerned*: 9.6%; *very concerned*: 16.2%) of males.
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 43.6% (*extremely concerned*: 21.3%; *very concerned*: 22.3%) indicating *body image* was a major concern, compared with 14.0% (*extremely concerned*: 5.4%; *very concerned*: 8.6%) of males.
- Family conflict* was a major concern for almost one in three females (*extremely concerned*: 14.4%; *very concerned*: 15.5%), while fewer males (16.2%) considered this to be a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 6.7%; *very concerned*: 9.5%).
- For males *depression* was the third most commonly cited concern, being nominated by 17.0% (*extremely concerned*: 6.5%; *very concerned*: 10.5%). *Depression* was also a concern for 27.8% of females (*extremely concerned*: 14.5%; *very concerned*: 13.3%).

Table 5.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Females					
Coping with stress	22.6	28.6	26.4	12.7	9.7
School or study problems	17.4	24.4	27.8	18.4	12.0
Body image	21.3	22.3	26.6	17.5	12.2
Family conflict	14.4	15.5	19.4	21.8	28.9
Depression	14.5	13.3	17.8	16.4	37.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	10.0	13.3	19.9	19.6	37.2
Personal safety	8.0	11.8	22.2	19.2	38.8
Suicide	9.7	6.5	9.5	10.8	63.5
Discrimination	5.7	8.4	15.4	19.0	51.5
Drugs	5.1	5.1	9.6	11.7	68.5
Alcohol	2.9	3.7	16.0	16.2	61.2
Gambling	2.7	2.2	4.7	7.4	82.9
Males					
Coping with stress	8.3	15.9	24.3	20.7	30.8
School or study problems	9.6	16.2	25.2	22.0	26.9
Body image	5.4	8.6	26.1	25.8	34.1
Family conflict	6.7	9.5	18.3	20.0	45.5
Depression	6.5	10.5	14.7	17.3	51.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.9	5.9	16.8	21.5	50.0
Personal safety	6.1	7.6	17.3	19.8	49.2
Suicide	6.9	3.8	7.1	9.9	72.4
Discrimination	4.0	5.0	14.3	15.9	60.7
Drugs	5.3	3.4	7.8	10.8	72.6
Alcohol	3.7	3.2	11.4	13.2	68.5
Gambling	3.5	1.5	5.8	9.4	79.7

Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State concern.

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

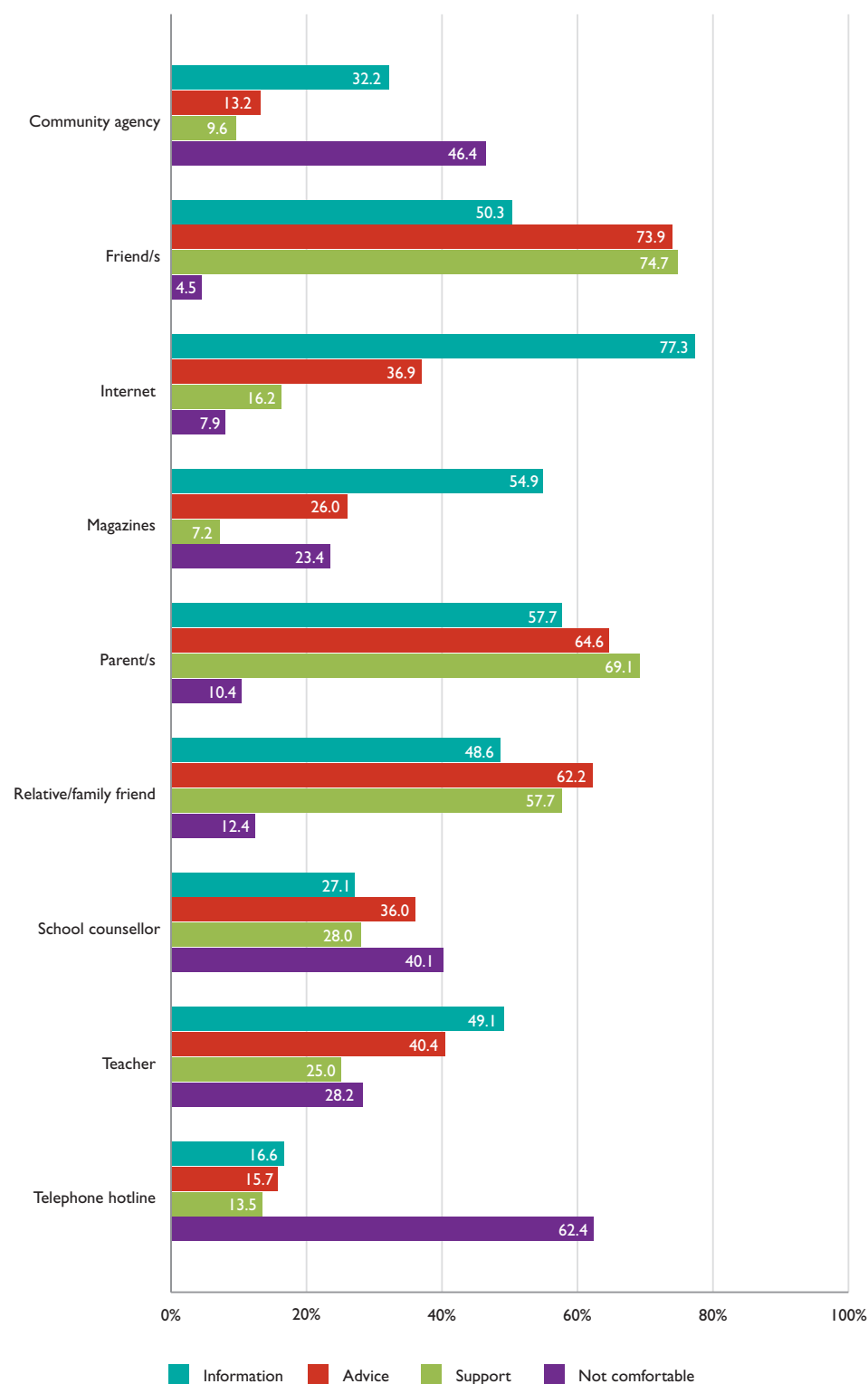
Young people were asked whether they had someone (who does not live with them) to ask for any support in a time of crisis. While the vast majority of SA respondents had someone they could ask for support in a time of crisis (89.7%), 10.3% felt they had no-one (who was not living with them) to seek support from.

Young people were also asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information, advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people in SA, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people in SA (77.3%), followed by *parent/s* (57.7%) and *magazines* (54.9%).
- SA respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (73.9%), *parent/s* (64.6%) and *relatives/family friends* (62.2%) for *advice*.

- *Friend/s* (74.7%) were also the primary source of *support*, followed by *parent/s* (69.1%) and *relatives/family friends* (57.7%).
- Almost two thirds of young people from SA were not comfortable using a *telephone hotline* for *advice, support or information* and almost half were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 5.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

SA males and females were broadly similar in terms of who they were comfortable going to for *information, advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (78.8%) and males (75.3%). *Parent/s* were also an important source of *information* for both females (58.0%) and males (57.3%) from SA.
- Females were more likely to get *information* (58.9%) and *advice* (32.6%) from *magazines* than males (48.7% and 16.1% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (76.4%) and males (70.4%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also an important source of *advice* for both females (65.8% and 64.7% respectively) and males (62.8% and 58.9% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *support* for both females (78.8%) and males (68.5%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as an important source of *support* by both females (72.6% and 61.2% respectively) and males (64.1% and 52.7% respectively) from SA.

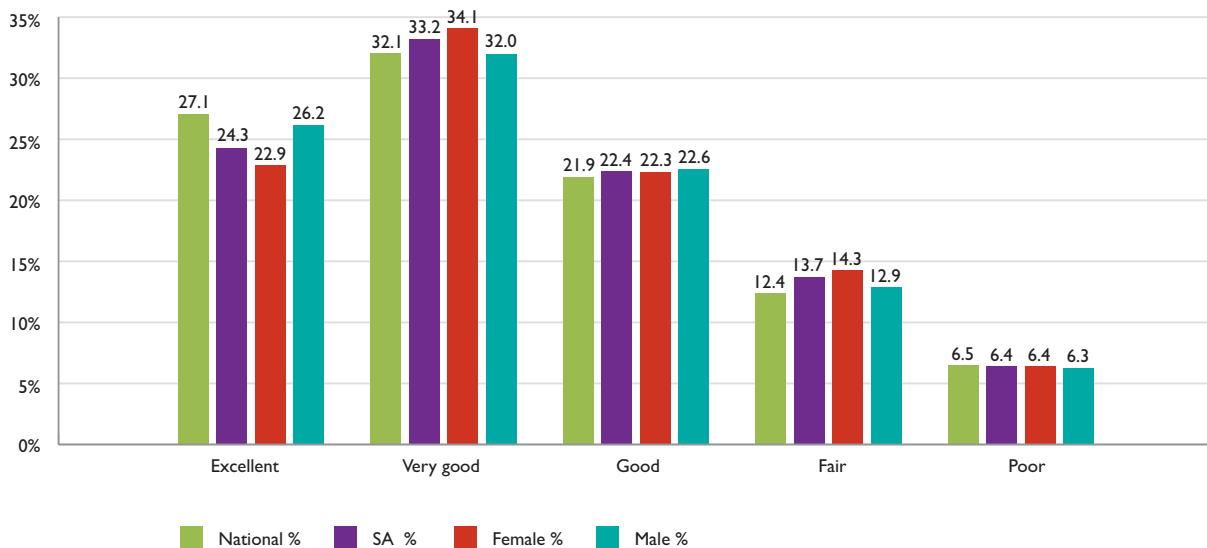
Table 5.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Females				
Community agency	31.8	11.2	8.5	47.7
Friend/s	46.6	76.4	78.8	4.1
Internet	78.8	35.9	13.8	7.4
Magazines	58.9	32.6	7.2	19.1
Parent/s	58.0	65.8	72.6	9.8
Relative/family friend	47.4	64.7	61.2	11.7
School counsellor	26.5	37.6	30.0	40.7
Teacher	48.3	42.0	26.8	29.1
Telephone hotline	16.7	16.7	14.7	62.9
Males				
Community agency	33.0	16.0	11.0	44.2
Friend/s	56.7	70.4	68.5	4.9
Internet	75.3	38.6	20.4	8.9
Magazines	48.7	16.1	7.3	30.4
Parent/s	57.3	62.8	64.1	11.0
Relative/family friend	50.8	58.9	52.7	13.2
School counsellor	27.9	33.5	25.0	39.2
Teacher	50.5	38.4	22.1	26.6
Telephone hotline	16.2	14.0	11.7	61.6

How well do young people feel their families get along?

In 2012 young people were asked about how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 5.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of SA respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 24.3% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 33.2% that it was *very good*. However, 20.1% of young people in SA did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (13.7%) or *poor* (6.4%). Male and female respondents gave very similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

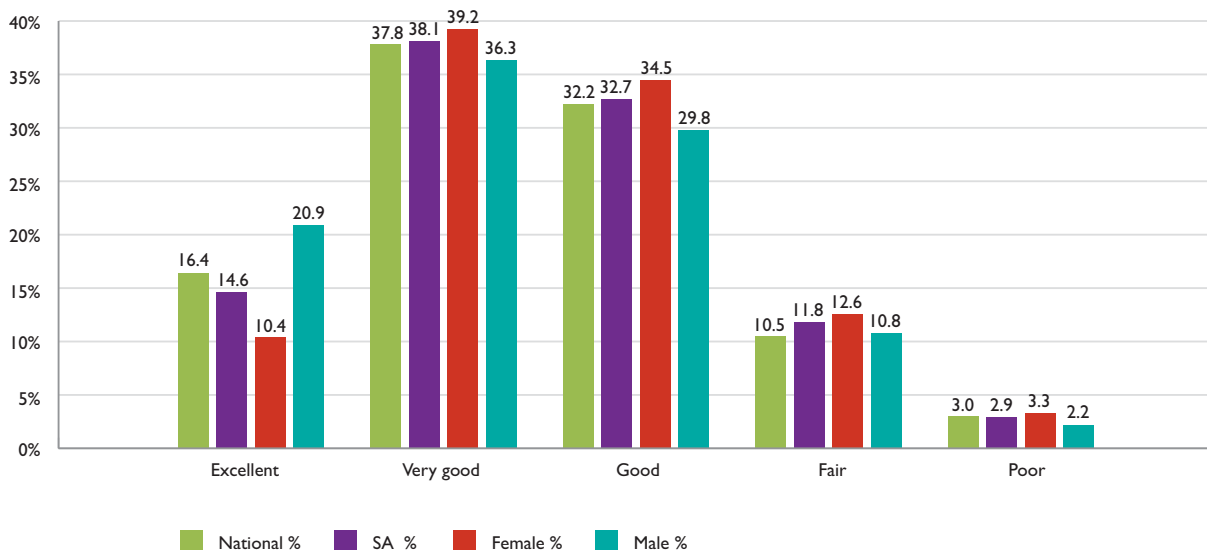
Figure 5.5: Family's ability to get along



How do young people feel about their health?

Respondents were asked to tell us how they felt about their health, with responses rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 5.6 shows that over 8 in 10 respondents felt their health was *good*, *very good* or *excellent* (32.7%, 38.1% and 14.6% respectively). Very few SA respondents (2.9%) felt their health was *poor*. Male respondents were twice as likely as females to rate their health as *excellent* (20.9% compared with 10.4%) and slightly less likely to report their health was *fair* or *poor* (10.8% and 2.2% compared with 12.6% and 3.3%).

Figure 5.6: How young people feel about their health



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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 5.7. In 2012 the top three issues identified by young people in SA were *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues* and *alcohol and drugs*, as they were nationally.

- Around three in ten SA respondents (30.3%) identified *the economy and financial matters* as an important issue in Australia today.
- One quarter of young people from SA nominated *alcohol and drugs* (25.4%) and *population issues* (25.3%) as important issues.
- Around one in five young people from SA identified *politics and societal values* (20.9%) and *equity and discrimination* (17.7%) as important issues.

Gender differences

There were both similarities and differences in the issues identified by male and female respondents from SA as the most important in Australia today. Consistent with national results, *the economy and financial matters* and *population issues* were among the top three issues for both male and female respondents from SA. For female respondents however, *alcohol and drugs* was identified as a top issue, while for male respondents *politics and societal values* was a top issue.

- Around one third of male and female respondents from SA (32.0% and 29.1% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- Over one fifth of respondents from both genders identified *population issues* as a major issue.
- Considerably more males than females identified *politics and societal values* as a major issue (30.5% compared with 14.4%).
- *Alcohol and drugs* was the second most frequently nominated issue of importance amongst females. Around one quarter of both male and female respondents identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (28.4% and 23.5% respectively).

Table 5.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	SA 2012 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2011 %	SA 2010 %
The economy and financial matters	30.8	30.3	29.1	32.0	21.0	17.1
Alcohol and drugs	21.8	25.4	23.5	28.4	31.7	44.0
Population issues	27.6	25.3	22.8	29.6	19.0	12.6
Politics and societal values	20.6	20.9	14.4	30.5	14.5	14.2
Equity and discrimination	20.2	17.7	20.1	14.2	22.1	20.8
The environment	17.5	17.2	19.2	14.2	41.2	46.3
Health	16.2	15.8	18.2	12.2	13.4	13.3
Bullying	11.0	14.4	17.9	9.2	14.2	7.1
Mental health	12.7	13.0	16.6	7.6	10.1	11.7
Crime, safety and violence	14.0	12.7	11.9	13.8	14.4	17.9
Education	10.9	10.5	11.2	9.5	6.6	7.7
Employment	8.5	9.0	8.7	9.5	6.0	7.6
Homelessness/housing	8.5	8.7	10.9	5.1	9.9	7.7

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.

Do young people feel safe in their neighbourhood?

Crime, safety and violence was ranked as the tenth most important issue in SA. Respondents were also asked how safe they felt in their neighbourhood. Although the overwhelming majority of young people from SA (90.4%) indicated that they felt safe in their neighbourhood, around 1 in 10 did not feel safe in their neighbourhood.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 5.8. The top three activities for young people from SA, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. These were also the top three activities for young people aged 15 to 19 years from SA in 2011 and 2010. Significant proportions of young people from SA reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year:

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people from SA in 2012.
- Just under half of SA respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural activities* (43.6%).
- Over one third had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (39.8%), *student leadership activities* (36.4%) or *religious groups or activities* (36.3%).
- Over one fifth of SA respondents had been involved in *environmental groups or activities* in the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 5.8 the top three activities for males and females were consistent with national and state-wide results, although a higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in the top two activities, *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents from SA to be involved in *volunteer work*.

- 78.9% of male respondents and 72.8% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to have been involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (76.0% compared with 68.8%).
- More female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work* and *arts/cultural activities* (64.4% and 50.1% compared with 52.2% and 33.8% respectively).

Table 5.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

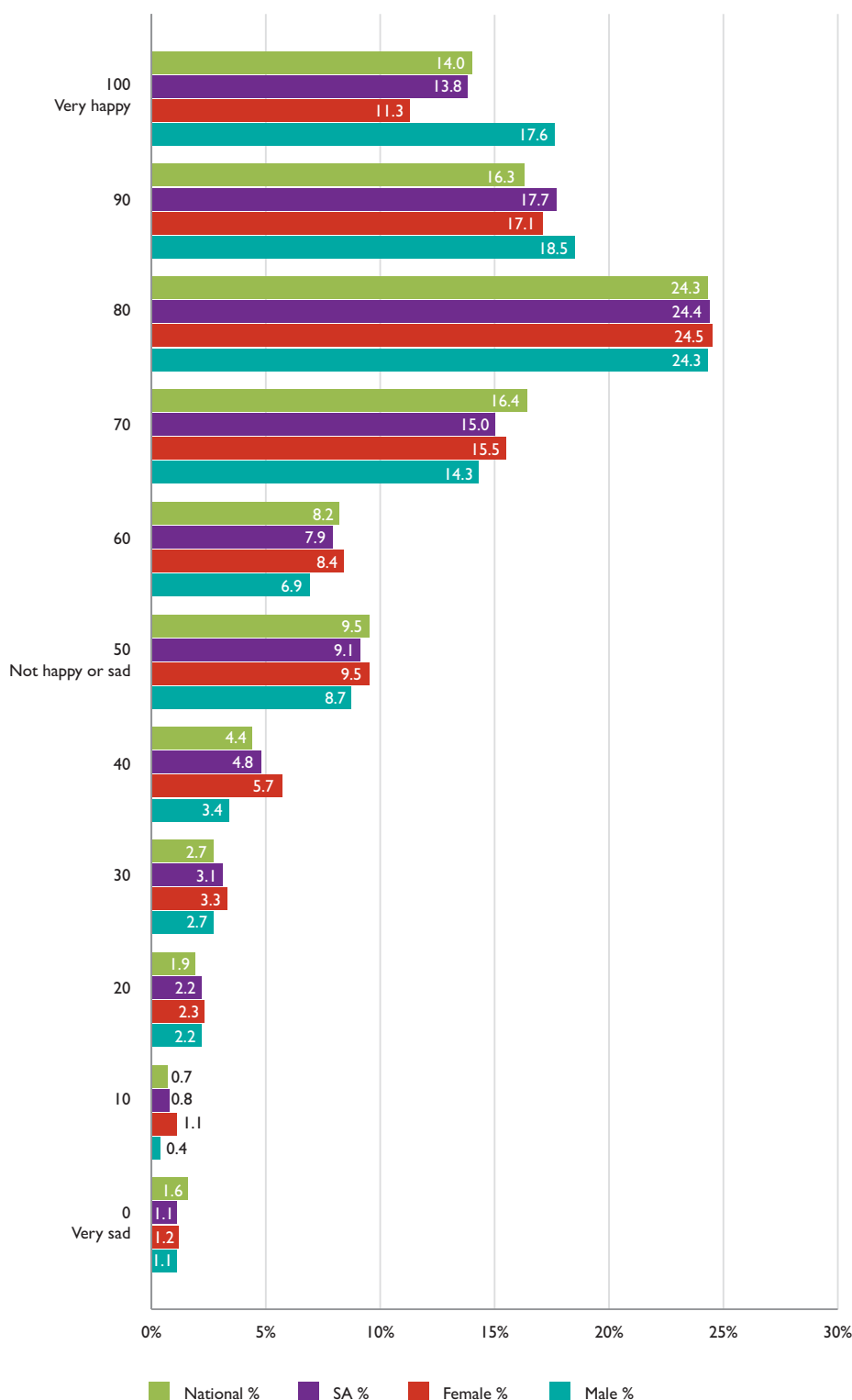
	National %	SA 2012 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2011 %	SA 2010 %
Sports (as a participant)	78.4	75.3	72.8	78.9	65.6	62.9
Sports (as a spectator)	73.0	71.8	68.8	76.0	57.2	58.0
Volunteer work	60.5	59.6	64.4	52.2	30.0	28.7
Arts/cultural activities	52.0	43.6	50.1	33.8	21.6	26.0
Youth groups and clubs	38.2	39.8	39.7	39.5	21.5	26.0
Student leadership activities	47.4	36.4	38.2	33.1	22.8	24.6
Religious groups or activities	37.8	36.3	39.5	31.3	18.1	22.1
Environmental groups or activities	27.8	21.0	21.3	20.2	10.1	11.3
Political groups or organisations	9.2	6.0	5.5	6.6	4.3	4.6

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years. In 2012 respondents were asked "In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?" whereas in 2011 and 2010 respondents were asked "What activities are you involved in?"

How happy are young people?

In 2012 the survey asked young people to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question¹, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 5.7 shows, the vast majority of young people from SA responded in the range 70 to 100 indicating they felt positive overall about their lives. Results were similar for both male and female respondents, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (17.6% compared with 11.3%).

Figure 5.7: How happy young people are



¹ Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 5.9 shows that, in line with the national data, more than two thirds of respondents from SA felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over two thirds of SA respondents felt either *positive* (50.4%) or *very positive* (19.6%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (23.2%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 5.2% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 1.6% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females were similar in terms of their feelings about the future.

Table 5.9: Feelings about the future

	National %	SA 2012 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2011 %	SA 2010 %
Very Positive	20.8	19.6	17.6	22.8	18.6	20.1
Positive	49.8	50.4	50.0	50.8	44.3	44.4
Neither positive nor negative	22.7	23.2	25.8	19.2	28.6	27.1
Negative	4.7	5.2	5.0	5.4	5.7	5.3
Very Negative	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.8	3.1

Note: Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.



Tasmania

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

In total, 1,068 young people from Tasmania (TAS) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2012.

Gender breakdown

Over half (53.0%) of the respondents from Tasmania were female and 47.0% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 75 (7.2%) respondents from Tasmania identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. A slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (7.5% compared with 6.8%). Just over 5% of respondents preferred not to answer.

Language background other than English

A total of 126 (11.9%) Tasmanian respondents stated they were born overseas and 139 (13.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 30 languages spoken at home in Tasmania, the most common were (in order of frequency); French, Chinese, German, Korean and Japanese.

Disability

54 (5.4%) Tasmanian respondents indicated they had a disability, with slightly more males (5.9%) than females (4.9%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in Tasmania were (in order of frequency); blindness or vision impairment, physical disability and learning disability.

Where respondents were living

Table 6.1 shows that, as per the national data, the vast majority of Tasmanian respondents (88.6%) lived *with family*. 2.0% of respondents lived in a *shared house* and a small number of young people indicated that they lived *alone*, in *homeless/insecure housing* or *foster care*.

Table 6.1: Where respondents were living

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
With family	90.8	88.6	89.0	87.9
Shared house	1.1	2.0	1.4	2.7
Juvenile justice centre / prison	0.6	1.7	0.9	2.7
Boarding school	3.9	1.3	1.6	1.0
Alone	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.2
Homeless / insecure housing	0.5	1.0	1.3	0.8
Foster care	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2
Other	2.2	3.9	4.3	3.5

Education

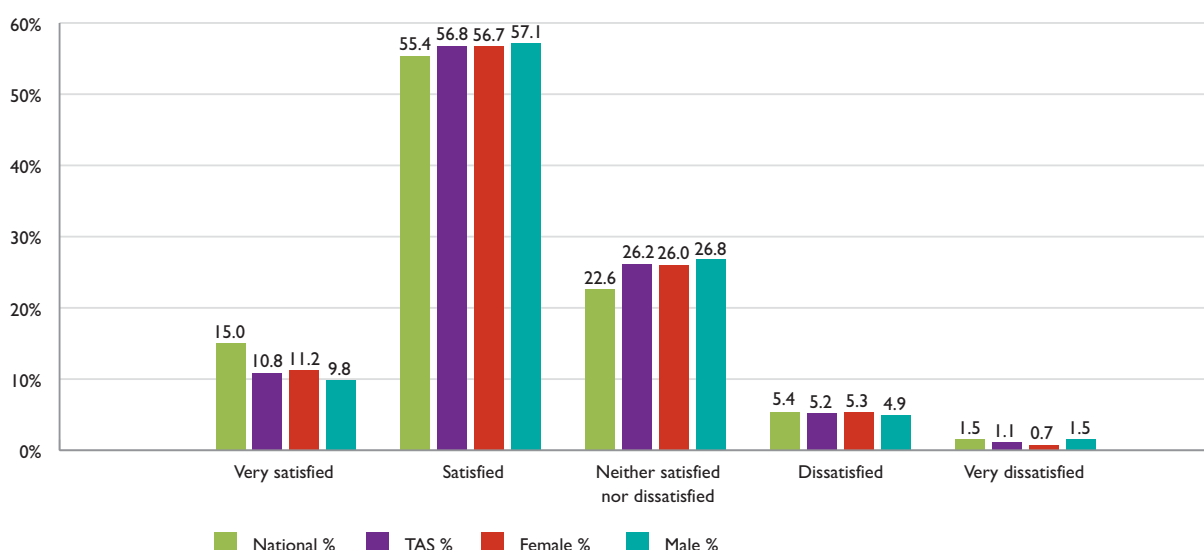
As indicated in Table 6.2, 94.7% of Tasmanian respondents were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (95.7% compared with 93.7%), while slightly more males (3.4%) than females (2.0%) were not studying. Of those who were still at school, 93.5% stated they intended to complete Year 12. Males were over twice as likely to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (9.1% compared with 4.0% of females).

In 2012 we asked respondents who reported they were currently studying how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As shown in Figure 6.1, over two thirds of Tasmanian respondents reported they were either *very satisfied* (10.8%) or *satisfied* (56.8%) with their studies, while less than 1 in 10 were either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.1% and 5.2% respectively). Males were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* (9.8% compared with 11.2%) with their studies.

Table 6.2: Participation in education

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.9	94.7	95.7	93.7
Studying part-time	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.8
Not studying	2.8	2.7	2.0	3.4

Figure 6.1: Satisfaction with studies



Employment

Respondents in 2012 who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 6.3 shows Tasmanian respondents' participation in paid employment. Only 0.4% of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just over 40% of respondents, the majority of whom were in full-time education, reported part-time employment. Over half of Tasmanian respondents reported they were not in paid employment, with 37.1% looking for work and 21.5% not looking for work.

No male respondents from Tasmania were in full-time employment, while 0.7% of females reported full-time employment. Female respondents were also more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (51.2% compared with 29.1%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (43.0% compared with 31.8%).

Table 6.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.4%	0.7%	0.0%
Employed part-time	38.9	41.0%	51.2%	29.1%
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.1	37.1%	31.8%	43.0%
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	26.4	21.5%	16.3%	27.8%

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

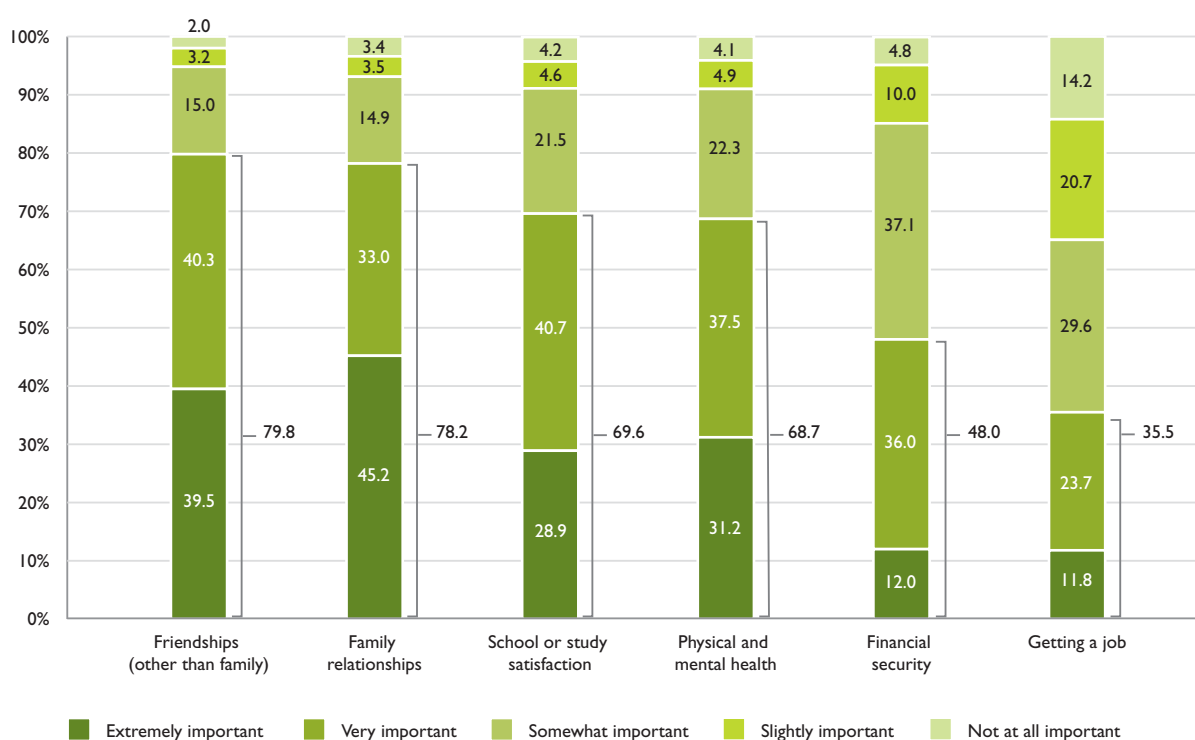
DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

In 2012 young people were asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 6.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In 2012 Tasmanian responses were consistent with the national data, with *friendships* and *family relationships* ranked as the two most highly valued items. Also consistent with the national data was the high value placed on *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 79.8% (*extremely important*: 39.5%; *very important*: 40.3%) of Tasmanian respondents. *Family relationships* were also valued very highly by 78.2% (*extremely important*: 45.2%; *very important*: 33.0%) of respondents.
- Over two thirds of Tasmanian respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 28.9%; *very important*: 40.7%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 31.2%; *very important*: 37.5%).
- Almost half of all Tasmanian respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 12.0%; *very important*: 36.0%).

Figure 6.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Friendships and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both male and female Tasmanians, as shown in Table 6.4. However, more female respondents highly valued *family relationships* and *friendships* than their male counterparts. For females from Tasmania, *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health* were the third and fourth most highly valued items; for males this order was reversed.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 84.2% of females (*extremely important*: 46.6%; *very important*: 37.6%) compared with 74.8% of males (*extremely important*: 30.9% *very important*: 43.9%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 84.3% of females (*extremely important*: 57.2%; *very important*: 27.1%) compared with 71.6% of males (*extremely important*: 32.1%; *very important*: 39.5%).
- 75.3% of females (*extremely important*: 34.5% *very important*: 40.8%) highly valued *school or study satisfaction* compared with 62.9% of males (*extremely important*: 22.3%; *very important*: 40.6%).
- *Financial security* was highly valued by around half of all Tasmanian females (*extremely important*: 11.9%; *very important*: 39.0%) and males (*extremely important*: 12.0%; *very important*: 32.8%).

Table 6.4: What young people value, by gender

	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Females					
Friendships (other than family)	46.6	37.6	11.7	3.1	1.1
Family relationships	57.2	27.1	10.9	2.3	2.5
School or study satisfaction	34.5	40.8	18.9	3.2	2.7
Physical and mental health	32.4	40.0	19.5	5.1	3.1
Financial security	11.9	39.0	37.0	7.9	4.2
Getting a job	11.2	28.1	28.5	20.5	11.7
Males					
Friendships (other than family)	30.9	43.9	18.6	3.5	3.1
Family relationships	32.1	39.5	19.4	4.7	4.3
School or study satisfaction	22.3	40.6	25.2	6.1	5.7
Physical and mental health	29.0	35.2	26.0	4.7	5.1
Financial security	12.0	32.8	37.1	12.4	5.8
Getting a job	12.9	18.0	31.1	21.1	17.0

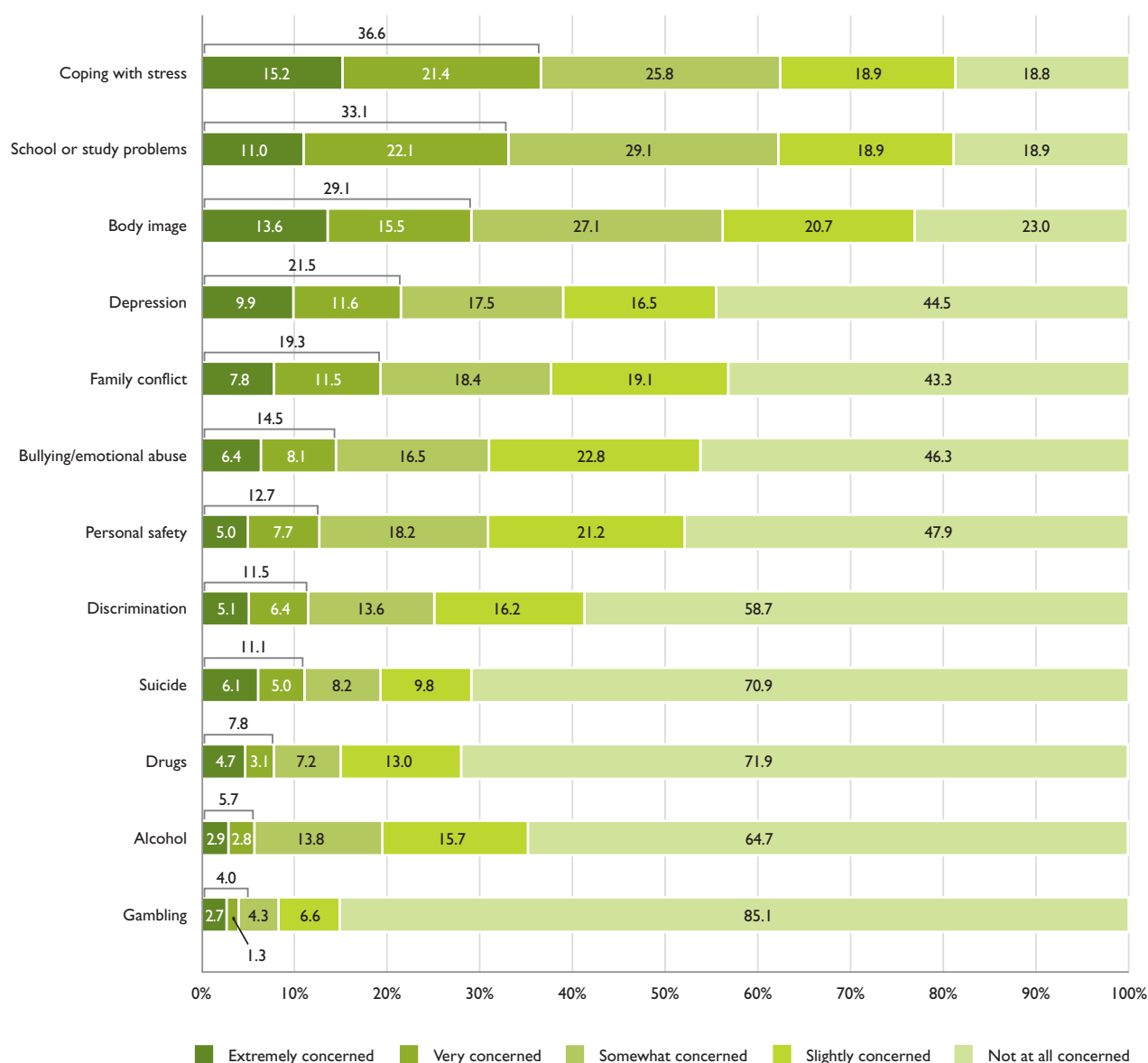
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State importance.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 6.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people in Tasmania were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*, as they were nationally.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 36.6% of respondents indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (15.2%) or *very concerned* (21.4%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 33.1% (*extremely concerned*: 11.0%; *very concerned*: 22.1%) of young people from Tasmania.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for almost three in ten Tasmanian respondents (13.6% of *extremely concerned* and 15.5% *very concerned*).
- Around one in five Tasmanian respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 6.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

In Tasmania, *coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were amongst the top three issues of concern for both males and females. *Body image* was the third top concern for females and *depression* was third for males as highlighted in Table 6.5. However, the proportion of Tasmanian females that were concerned about each of these issues was much higher than the proportion of Tasmanian males.

- For 50.8% of females (*extremely concerned*: 22.3%; *very concerned*: 28.5%) *coping with stress* was a major concern, compared with 20.0% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.7%; *very concerned*: 13.3%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school and study problems* with 41.5% (*extremely concerned*: 14.6%; *very concerned*: 26.9%) indicating this was a major concern, compared with 22.9% (*extremely concerned*: 6.7%; *very concerned*: 16.2%) of males.
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 43.1% (*extremely concerned*: 20.4%; *very concerned*: 22.7%) indicating this was a major concern, compared with 13.4% (*extremely concerned*: 6.5%; *very concerned*: 6.9%) of males.
- For 27.2% of females (*extremely concerned*: 14.5%; *very concerned*: 12.7%) *depression* was a major concern. For males, this was the third most commonly cited issue, with 14.6% indicating it was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 4.3%; *very concerned*: 10.3%).

Table 6.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Females					
Coping with stress	22.3	28.5	25.8	13.6	9.8
School or study problems	14.6	26.9	31.6	16.3	10.6
Body image	20.4	22.7	29.8	15.6	11.5
Depression	14.5	12.7	20.9	17.2	34.7
Family conflict	10.6	15.7	21.7	17.9	34.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.7	12.2	19.6	25.4	35.1
Personal safety	5.5	10.3	22.5	20.5	41.2
Discrimination	5.9	8.6	17.2	17.2	51.1
Suicide	6.8	6.4	10.4	11.2	65.3
Drugs	4.9	3.3	8.2	12.8	70.8
Alcohol	2.4	2.5	15.6	18.7	60.7
Gambling	1.8	1.8	3.1	7.5	85.7
Males					
Coping with stress	6.7	13.3	26.4	24.9	28.6
School or study problems	6.7	16.2	26.8	22.1	28.2
Body image	6.5	6.9	24.3	26.9	35.3
Depression	4.3	10.3	14.2	15.5	55.7
Family conflict	4.5	6.5	14.7	20.7	53.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.1	3.5	13.1	19.9	58.4
Personal safety	4.5	4.7	13.4	22.5	54.8
Discrimination	4.1	3.9	10.1	15.6	66.3
Suicide	5.1	3.5	5.9	8.2	77.3
Drugs	3.9	3.1	6.4	13.6	73.1
Alcohol	3.5	3.1	12.1	12.7	68.6
Gambling	3.5	0.8	5.5	5.7	84.4

Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State concern.

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

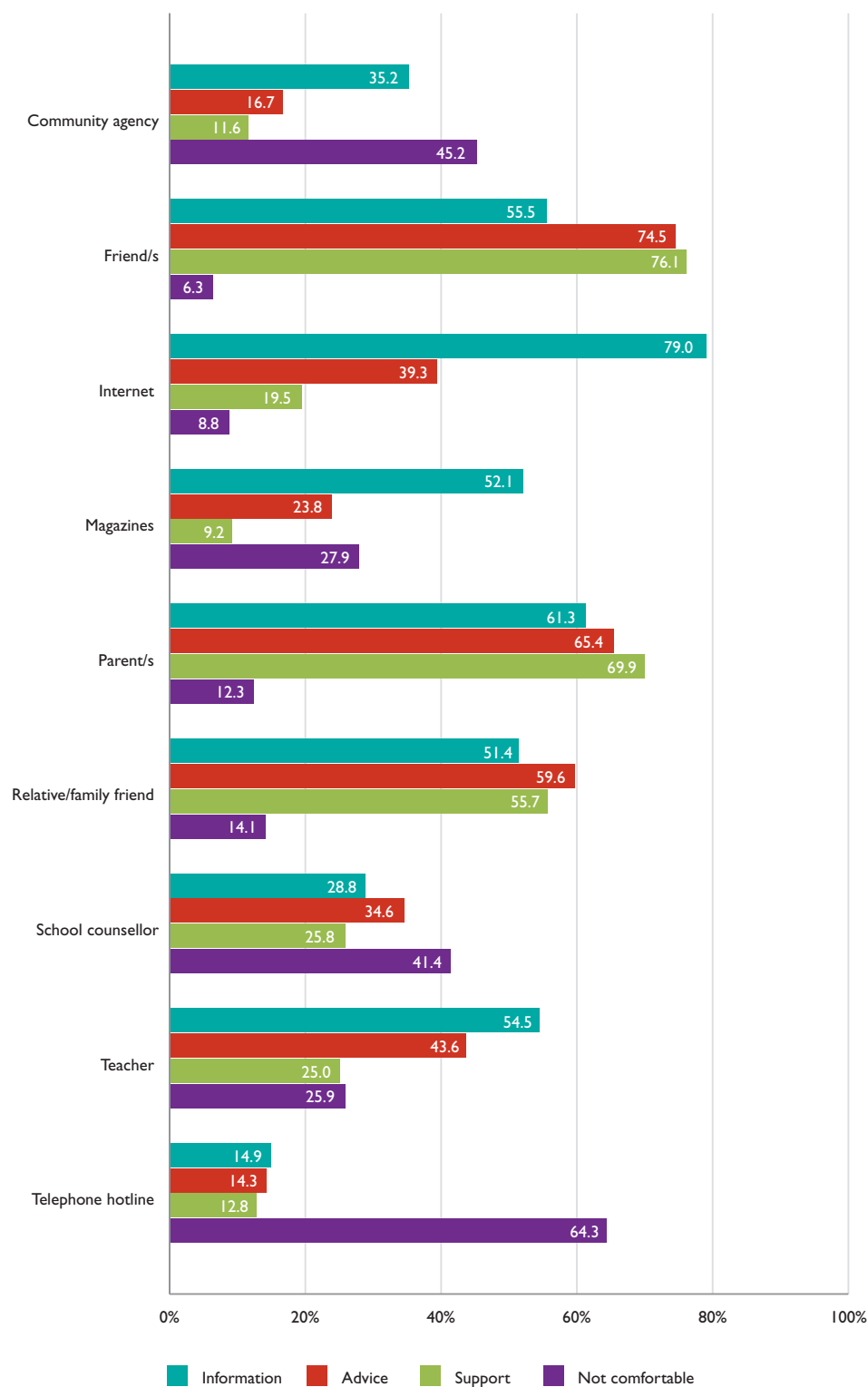
Young Tasmanians were asked whether they had someone (who does not live with them) to ask for any support in a time of crisis. While the vast majority of respondents from Tasmania had someone they could ask for support in a time of crisis (89.3%), 10.7% felt they had no-one (who was not living with them) to seek support from.

Young people were also asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people from Tasmania (79.0%), followed by *parent/s* (61.3%) and *friend/s* (55.5%).
- Tasmanian respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (74.5%) *parent/s* (65.4%) and *relatives/family friends* (59.6%) for *advice*.

- *Friend/s* (76.1%) were the primary source of support, followed by *parent/s* (69.9%) and *relatives/family friends* (55.7%).
- Almost two thirds of young people from Tasmania did not feel comfortable using a *telephone hotline* for advice, support or information and 45.2% were not comfortable contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 6.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

Tasmanian males and females were broadly similar in terms of who they were comfortable going to for *information, advice and support*.

- The *internet* was the most highly ranked source of *information* for both females (81.5%) and males (76.7%). *Parent/s* were also an important source of *information* for both females (61.6%) and males (61.5%).
- Females were more likely to get *information* (59.0%) and *advice* (30.6%) from *magazines* than males (44.5% and 16.2% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (77.4%) and males (72.3%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also an important source of *advice* for both females (66.5% and 60.4% respectively) and males (64.8% and 59.3% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *support* for both females (83.0%) and males (69.2%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as an important source of *support* by both females (72.9% and 60.0% respectively) and males (66.6% and 50.8% respectively) from Tasmania.

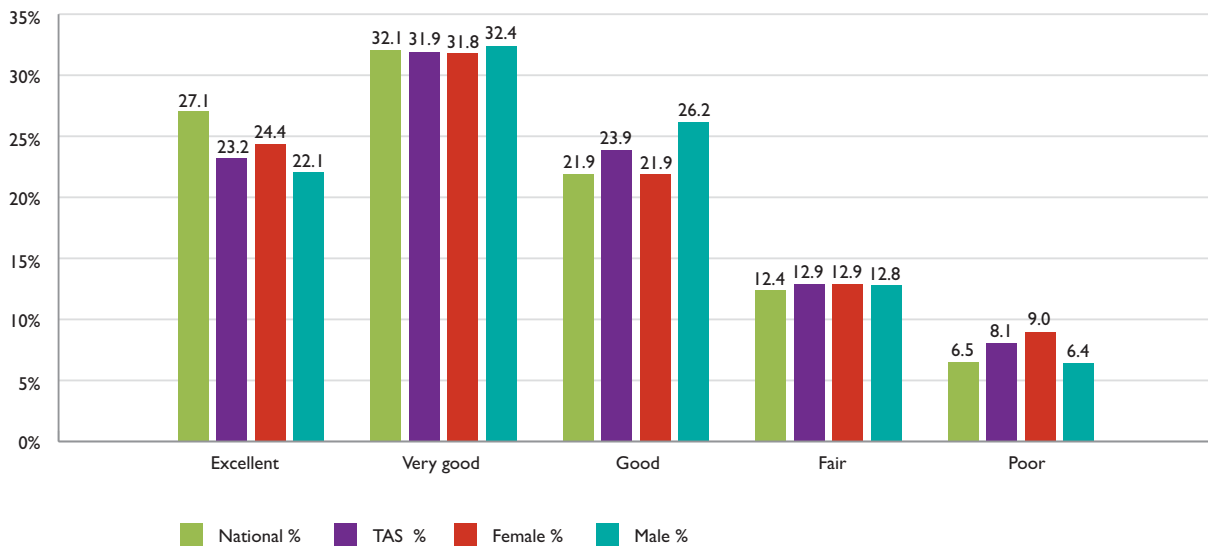
Table 6.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Females				
Community agency	37.8	14.3	10.4	45.2
Friend/s	52.5	77.4	83.0	3.9
Internet	81.5	37.8	17.2	7.0
Magazines	59.0	30.6	9.9	22.8
Parent/s	61.6	66.5	72.9	10.8
Relative/family friend	50.5	60.4	60.0	13.1
School counsellor	29.9	37.6	29.2	40.5
Teacher	55.9	41.8	26.5	25.3
Telephone hotline	15.8	15.8	15.1	64.2
Males				
Community agency	33.0	19.2	13.2	44.9
Friend/s	59.7	72.3	69.2	8.1
Internet	76.7	42.1	22.3	10.1
Magazines	44.5	16.2	8.5	33.4
Parent/s	61.5	64.8	66.6	14.0
Relative/family friend	52.6	59.3	50.8	15.2
School counsellor	27.3	30.6	21.7	42.7
Teacher	52.8	45.7	23.5	26.9
Telephone hotline	13.8	12.8	10.5	64.6

How well do young people feel their families get along?

In 2012 young people were asked about how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 6.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of Tasmanian respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 23.2% respondents indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.9% that it was *very good*. However, 21.0% of young people did not have such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.9%) or *poor* (8.1%). Male and female respondents gave very similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

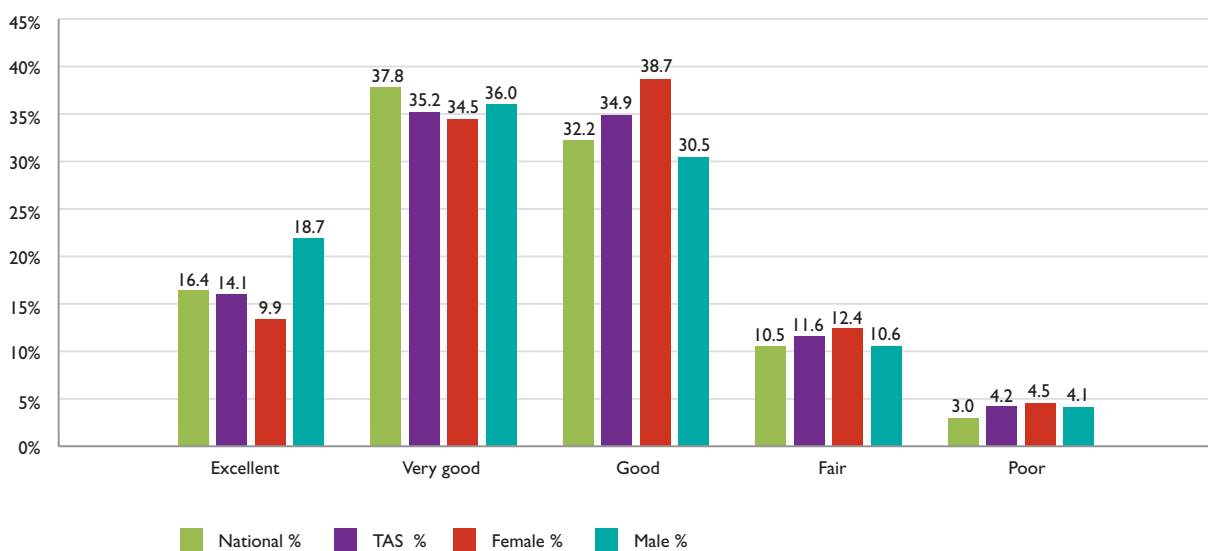
Figure 6.5: Family's ability to get along



How do young people feel about their health?

Respondents were asked to tell us how they felt about their health, with responses rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 6.6 shows that over eight in ten respondents from Tasmania felt their health was *good*, *very good* or *excellent* (34.9%, 35.2% and 14.1% respectively). Very few young Tasmanians (4.2%) felt their health was *poor*. Male respondents were almost twice as likely as females to feel their health was *excellent* (18.7% compared with 9.9%) and slightly less likely to report their health was *fair* or *poor* (10.6% and 4.1% respectively, compared with 12.4% and 4.5%).

Figure 6.6: How young people feel about their health



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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 6.7. In 2012 the top three issues identified by young Tasmanians were *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues* and *politics and societal issues*. *The economy and financial matters* and *population issues* were also among the top three issues nationally.

- Around one third (32.5%) of young Tasmanians indicated that *population issues* was an important issue in Australia.
- Over a quarter of respondents identified *the economy and financial matters* (27.7%) and *politics and societal values* (25.5%) as major issues.
- Around one in five young people indicated that *the environment, health, alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were important issues.

Gender differences

There were both similarities and differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from Tasmania. Consistent with the national and state-wide results, *population issues* and *the economy and financial matters* were among the top three issues of importance for both male and female respondents. Female respondents identified *health* as a top issue, while male respondents viewed *politics and societal values* as a top issue.

- Around one third of both female and male respondents (33.4% and 31.9% respectively) identified *population issues* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- Almost three in ten male and female respondents identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue.
- More females than males identified *health* as an important issue (23.9% compared with 15.0%), while more males than females identified *politics and societal values* as a major issue (30.0% compared with 21.7%).

Table 6.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	TAS 2012 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2011 %	TAS 2010 %
Population issues	27.6	32.5	33.4	31.9	21.2	17.7
The economy and financial matters	30.8	27.7	26.1	29.3	17.2	17.1
Politics and societal values	20.6	25.5	21.7	30.0	13.6	15.8
The environment	17.5	20.9	21.2	20.5	34.4	36.4
Health	16.2	20.0	23.9	15.0	19.1	23.0
Alcohol and drugs	21.8	19.1	18.1	20.5	34.8	32.1
Equity and discrimination	20.2	19.1	21.9	16.0	17.8	23.5
Education	10.9	11.1	11.5	9.5	7.8	11.0
LGBT issues	5.9	10.0	12.6	7.4	2.7	1.0
Bullying	11.0	8.9	13.7	4.0	14.1	8.0
Employment	8.5	8.7	7.7	9.3	11.5	6.0
Homelessness/housing	8.5	7.8	8.8	6.2	12.2	7.1
Mental health	12.7	7.6	12.2	2.9	10.5	14.6
Crime, safety and violence	14.0	7.4	7.1	7.9	9.9	16.0
Sport	3.1	6.7	2.0	11.9	1.3	3.2

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.

Do young people feel safe in their neighbourhood?

Crime, safety and violence was ranked as the fourteenth most important issue in Tasmania. In a separate question, respondents were asked how safe they felt in their neighbourhood. Although the overwhelmingly majority of young Tasmanians (91.7%) indicated that they felt safe in their neighbourhood, around 1 in 10 did not feel safe in their neighbourhood.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 6.8. The top three activities for young people from Tasmania, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. These were also the top three activities for young people aged 15 to 19 years from Tasmania in 2011. Significant proportions of young people from Tasmania reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year:

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young Tasmanians in 2012.
- Around half of Tasmanian respondents indicated they had participated in *arts/cultural activities* (49.2%) and *student leadership activities* (44.7%).
- Over one third of young Tasmanians had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (38.0%).
- Over one quarter of young people from Tasmania had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (26.8%) and *religious groups or activities* (25.7%) over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 6.8 the top three activities for both males and females were consistent with national results, although a larger proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in the top two activities, *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents from Tasmania to be involved in *volunteer work* and also *arts and cultural activities*.

- 80.8% of male respondents and 75.4% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to participate in *sports (as a spectator)* (77.3% compared with 70.8%).
- More female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural activities* and *student leadership activities* (57.6%, 57.4% and 48.1% compared with 44.4%, 40.1% and 39.9% respectively).

Table 6.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

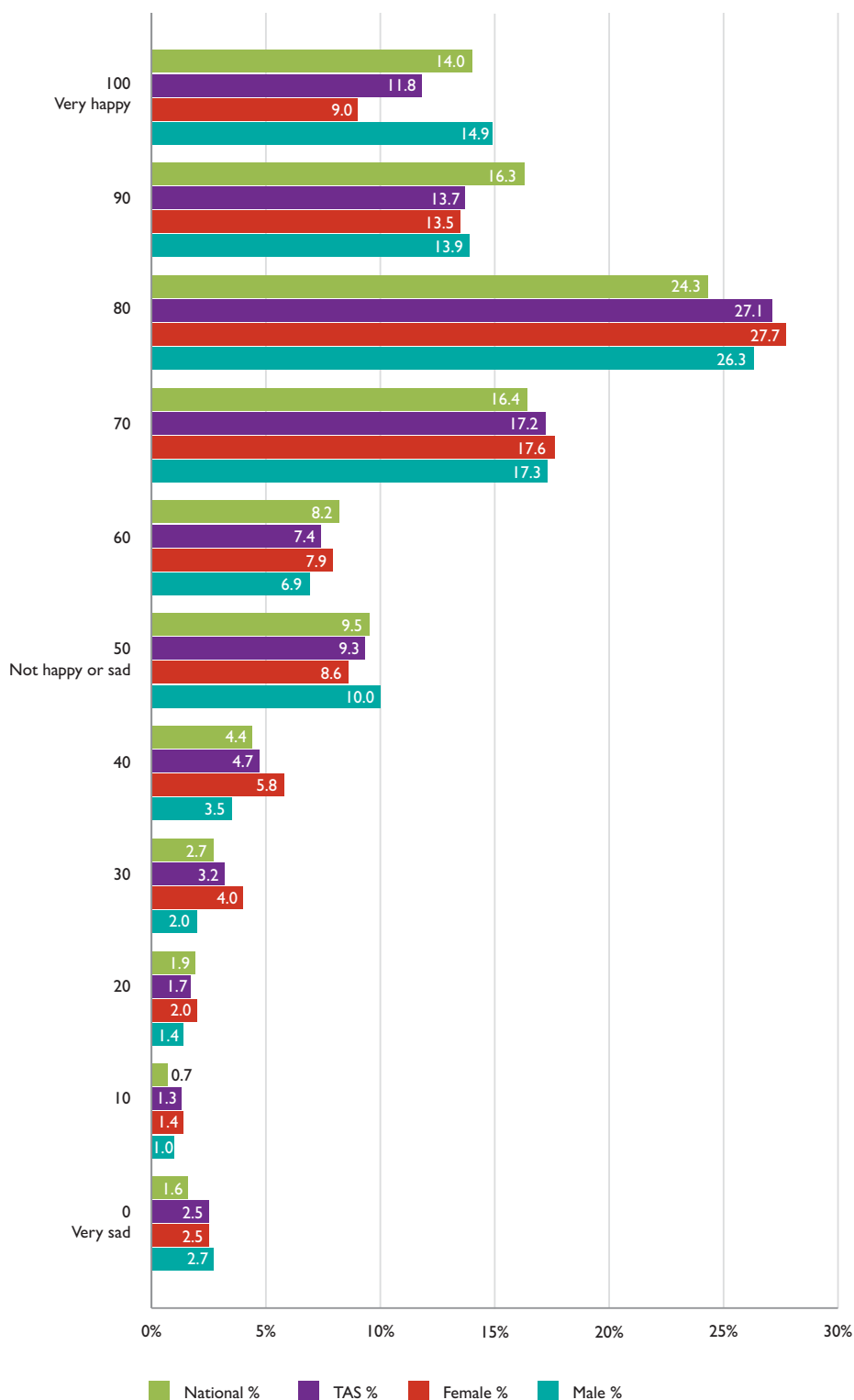
	National %	TAS 2012 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2011 %	TAS 2010 %
Sports (as a participant)	78.4	78.1	75.4	80.8	60.7	70.9
Sports (as a spectator)	73.0	73.8	70.8	77.3	52.5	64.3
Volunteer work	60.5	51.4	57.6	44.4	30.6	28.4
Arts/cultural activities	52.0	49.2	57.4	40.1	27.7	29.9
Student leadership activities	47.4	44.7	48.1	39.9	30.1	30.9
Youth groups and clubs	38.2	38.0	40.4	34.9	25.1	24.6
Environmental groups or activities	27.8	26.8	27.5	26.8	11.8	11.7
Religious groups or activities	37.8	25.7	27.3	23.8	17.9	18.6
Political groups or organisations	9.2	9.5	7.9	11.3	4.7	5.5

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years. In 2012 respondents were asked "In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?" whereas in 2011 and 2010 respondents were asked "What activities are you involved in?"

How happy are young people?

In 2012 the survey asked young people to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question¹, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 6.7 shows, the majority of young people from Tasmania responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating they felt positive overall about their lives. Results were similar for both male and female respondents, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (14.9% compared with 9.0%).

Figure 6.7: How happy young people are



¹ Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 6.9 shows that, in line with the national data, more than two thirds of respondents from Tasmania felt either *very positive* (17.0%) or *positive* (49.1%) about the future. Less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Around two thirds of Tasmanian respondents felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- Around one quarter of young people from Tasmania felt neither *positive* nor *negative* about the future.
- 4.4% of Tasmanian respondents felt *negative* about the future, and 3.0% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females were very similar in terms of their feelings about the future.

Table 6.9: Feelings about the future

	National %	TAS 2012 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2011 %	TAS 2010 %
Very positive	20.8	17.0	15.8	18.0	15.2	18.0
Positive	49.8	49.1	51.0	47.1	38.5	43.9
Neither positive nor negative	22.7	26.4	26.5	26.9	34.0	29.2
Negative	4.7	4.4	3.4	5.1	8.1	5.5
Very negative	1.9	3.0	3.3	2.9	4.2	3.4

Note: Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.



Victoria

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

In total, 3,579 young people from Victoria (VIC) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2012.

Gender breakdown

Just over two thirds (67.7%) of Victorian respondents were female and 32.3% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 90 (2.6%) Victorian respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (3.8% compared with 2.0%). Just fewer than 4% of respondents preferred not to answer this question.

Language background other than English

A total of 535 (15.2%) Victorian respondents stated they were born overseas and 943 (26.8%) young people from Victoria reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 60 languages spoken at home in Victoria, the most common were (in order of frequency); Chinese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Greek and Vietnamese.

Disability

147 (4.2%) respondents from Victoria indicated they had a disability, with almost twice as many males (6.3%) as females (3.2%) reporting a disability. The five most frequently reported disabilities in Victoria were (in order of frequency); physical disability, autism, learning disability, blindness or vision impairment and deafness or hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

Table 7.1 shows that, as per the national data, the vast majority of Victorian respondents (91.6%) lived *with family*. Around 5% of respondents lived in a *boarding school* and a small number of young people indicated that they lived in a *shared house*, *homeless/insecure housing*, *juvenile justice centre/prison*, *foster care* or *alone*.

Table 7.1: Where respondents were living

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
With family	90.8	91.6	90.6	93.4
Boarding school	3.9	4.7	6.2	1.7
Shared house	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.9
Homeless / insecure housing	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.8
Juvenile justice centre / prison	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.7
Foster care	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Alone	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4
Other	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.9

Education

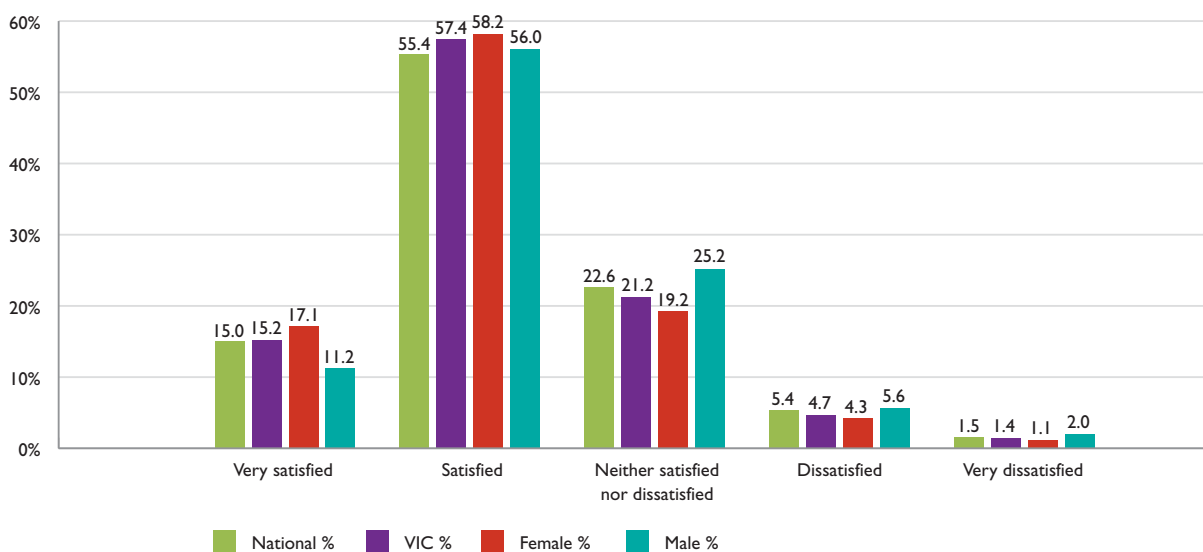
As indicated in Table 7.2, 95.4% of Victorian respondents were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (96.6% compared with 92.9% respectively), while slightly more males (3.2%) than females (1.2%) were not studying. Of those who were still at school, 95.5% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were over three times more likely to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (8.7% compared with 2.5% of females).

In 2012 we asked respondents who reported they were currently studying how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. Almost three quarters of respondents reported they were either *very satisfied* (15.2%) or *satisfied* (57.4%) with their studies, while just 6.1% were either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.4% and 4.7% respectively). As shown in Figure 7.1, males were less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* (11.2% and 56.0% of males compared with 17.1% and 58.2% of females respectively).

Table 7.2: Participation in education

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.9	95.4	96.6	92.9
Studying part-time	3.2	2.7	2.2	3.8
Not studying	2.8	1.9	1.2	3.2

Figure 7.1: Satisfaction with studies



Employment

Respondents in 2012 who indicated that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 7.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from Victoria. In line with national data, less than 1% of respondents who reported participation in paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just over one third (34.8%) of respondents reported part-time employment. Almost two thirds of respondents reported they were not in paid employment, with 33.0% looking for work and 31.8% not looking for work.

Male respondents were four times more likely to report full-time employment than female respondents from Victoria (0.8% compared to 0.2%). Male and female respondents were equally likely to be in part-time employment (34.9% and 34.8% respectively). However, male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (39.9% compared with 29.6%) and less likely to report they were not looking for work (24.5% and 35.4% respectively).

Table 7.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.8
Employed part-time	38.9	34.8	34.8	34.9
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.1	33.0	29.6	39.9
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	26.4	31.8	35.4	24.5

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

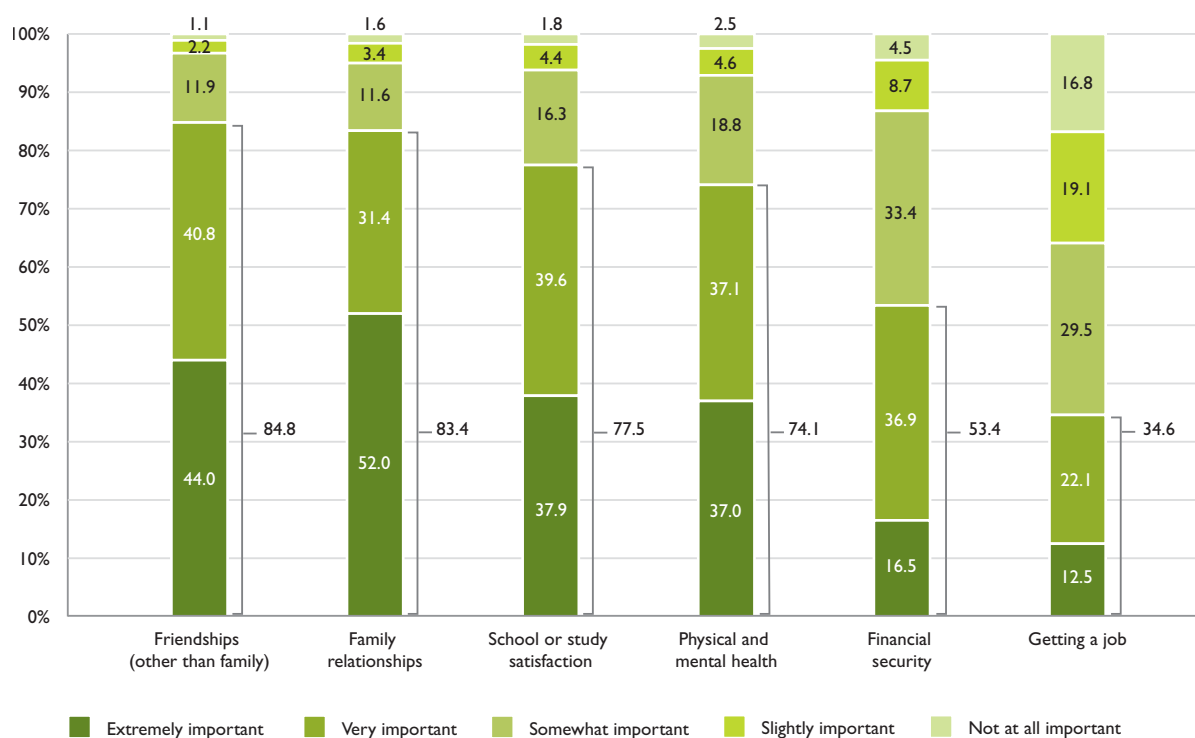
DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

In 2012 young people were asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 7.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. The most highly valued items for Victorians were *friendships*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*, consistent with the national data.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 84.8% (*extremely important*: 44.0%; *very important*: 40.8%) of respondents from Victoria. *Family relationships* were also highly valued by 83.4% (*extremely important*: 52.0%; *very important*: 31.4%) of respondents.
- *School or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 37.9%; *very important*: 39.6%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 37.0%; *very important*: 37.1%) were both highly valued by around three quarters of young people from Victoria.
- Over half of Victorian respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 16.5%; *very important*: 36.9%).

Figure 7.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Friendships and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females from Victoria, as shown in Table 7.4. However, a higher percentage of female respondents highly valued *family relationships* and *friendships* than males. For female respondents from Victoria, *school or study satisfaction* was the third most highly valued item, while for males it was *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 87.0% of females (*extremely important*: 47.4%; *very important*: 39.6%) and 80.0% of males (*extremely important*: 36.8%; *very important*: 43.2%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 85.5% of females (*extremely important*: 56.4%; *very important*: 29.1%) and 78.8% of males (*extremely important*: 42.5%; *very important*: 36.3%).
- 83.0% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 42.4%; *very important*: 40.6%) compared with 65.8% of males (*extremely important*: 28.6%; *very important*: 37.2%).
- 74.4% of females (*extremely important*: 37.6%; *very important*: 36.8%) and 73.2% of males (*extremely important*: 35.4%; *very important*: 37.8%) highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- *Financial security* was also highly valued by over half of both female (*extremely important*: 16.4%; *very important*: 38.4%) and male respondents (*extremely important*: 16.5%; *very important*: 33.9%).

Table 7.4: What young people value, by gender

	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Females					
Friendships (other than family)	47.4	39.6	10.2	2.0	0.9
Family relationships	56.4	29.1	10.2	2.9	1.4
School or study satisfaction	42.4	40.6	12.7	3.2	1.0
Physical and mental health	37.6	36.8	19.1	4.4	2.1
Financial security	16.4	38.4	32.6	8.7	3.8
Getting a job	10.7	21.0	28.2	20.9	19.2
Males					
Friendships (other than family)	36.8	43.2	15.7	2.8	1.5
Family relationships	42.5	36.3	14.6	4.5	2.1
School or study satisfaction	28.6	37.2	23.9	6.9	3.3
Physical and mental health	35.4	37.8	18.3	4.9	3.6
Financial security	16.5	33.9	34.9	8.7	6.1
Getting a job	16.1	24.6	32.1	15.5	11.8

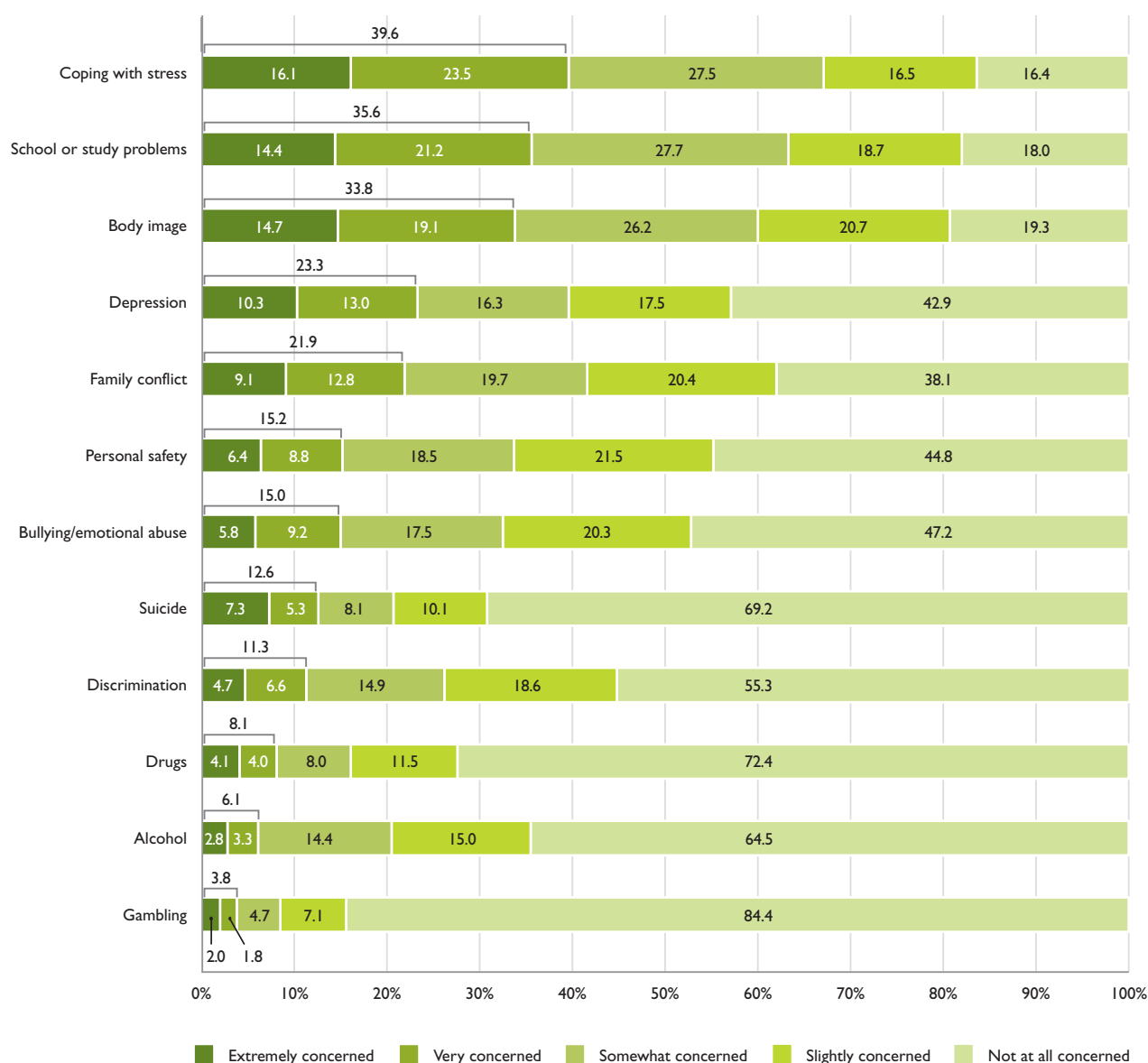
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State importance.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 7.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from Victoria were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*, as they were nationally.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with almost 40% of Victorian respondents indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (16.1%) or *very concerned* (23.5%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was also a major concern for 35.6% (*extremely concerned*: 14.4%; *very concerned*: 21.2%) of young people from Victoria.
- *Body image* was a major concern for just over one third of young Victorians, with 14.7% *extremely concerned* and 19.1% *very concerned* about this issue.
- Almost one quarter of Victorian respondents were either *extremely concerned* (10.3%) or *very concerned* (13.0%) about *depression*.

Figure 7.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

Coping with stress, *school or study problems* and *body image* were the top three issues of concern for both males and females from Victoria as highlighted in Table 7.5. However, as indicated in the table, the proportion of females that were concerned about these issues was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a concern for almost half of Victorian females (*extremely concerned*: 19.8%; *very concerned*: 27.9%) compared to slightly less than a quarter of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.4%; *very concerned*: 13.9%).
- *School or study problems* was also an important concern for 40.9% of females (*extremely concerned*: 17.2%; *very concerned*: 23.7%) but only 24.7% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.7%; *very concerned*: 16.0%).
- Concern about *body image* was considerably higher among females, with 40.8% (*extremely concerned*: 18.2%; *very concerned*: 22.6%) indicating *body image* was a major concern, compared with 19.0% for males (*extremely concerned*: 7.2%; *very concerned*: 11.8%).
- Over a quarter of female respondents were either *extremely concerned* (11.8%) or *very concerned* (14.7%) about *depression* compared to 16.3% of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.1%; *very concerned*: 9.2%). Similar differences between males (*extremely concerned*: 7.2%; *very concerned*: 9.2%) and females (*extremely concerned*: 10.0%; *very concerned*: 14.5%) were also identified for *family conflict*.

Table 7.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Females					
Coping with stress	19.8	27.9	29.0	13.9	9.3
School or study problems	17.2	23.7	29.0	17.8	12.3
Body image	18.2	22.6	28.1	18.0	13.0
Depression	11.8	14.7	18.1	18.6	36.8
Family conflict	10.0	14.5	20.8	21.7	33.1
Personal safety	6.3	9.3	19.4	22.4	42.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.3	10.0	19.1	20.1	44.5
Suicide	7.6	6.1	9.1	11.5	65.8
Discrimination	4.5	7.2	16.1	20.0	52.2
Drugs	3.6	3.9	8.3	12.4	71.7
Alcohol	2.2	3.4	15.2	16.0	63.2
Gambling	1.7	1.8	4.2	6.8	85.5
Males					
Coping with stress	8.4	13.9	24.4	22.0	31.2
School or study problems	8.7	16.0	24.3	20.9	30.1
Body image	7.2	11.8	22.4	26.4	32.1
Depression	7.1	9.2	12.6	15.4	55.7
Family conflict	7.2	9.2	17.4	18.0	48.2
Personal safety	6.6	7.6	16.5	20.0	49.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.9	7.5	13.9	20.8	53.0
Suicide	6.7	3.4	6.2	7.2	76.4
Discrimination	5.4	5.1	12.2	15.7	61.6
Drugs	5.3	4.0	7.5	9.5	73.8
Alcohol	4.2	2.9	12.9	13.0	67.0
Gambling	2.8	1.9	5.6	7.6	82.1

Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State concern.

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

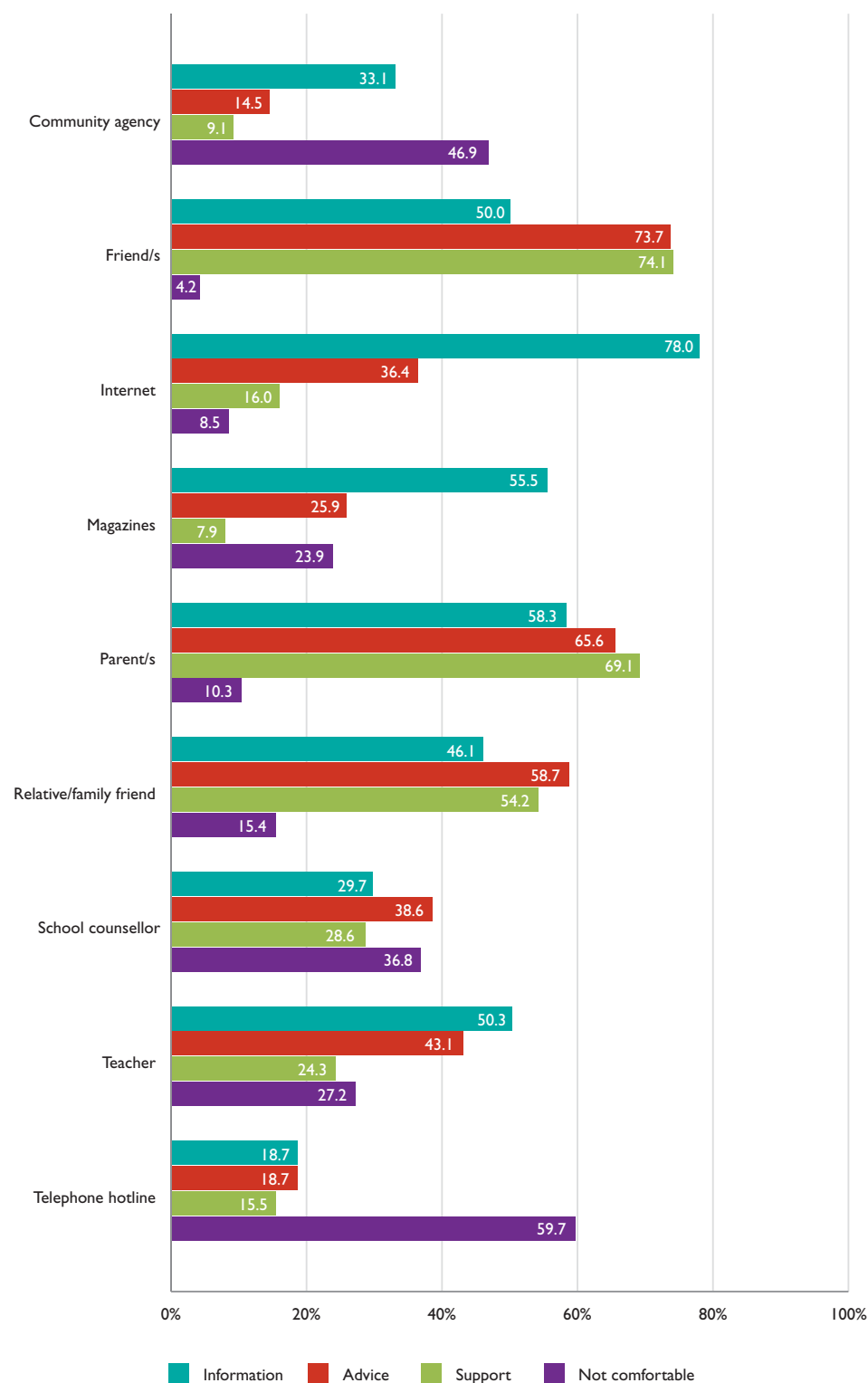
Young people were asked whether they had someone (who does not live with them) to ask for any support in a time of crisis. While the vast majority of respondents from Victoria had someone they could ask for support in a time of crisis (87.4%), 12.6% felt they had no-one (who was not living with them) to seek support from.

Young people were also asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. The *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people from Victoria, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*. These results were very much in line with the national data.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for Victorian young people (78.0%), followed by *parent/s* (58.3%) and *magazines* (55.5%).
- Victorian respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (73.7%), *parent/s* (65.6%) and *relatives/family friends* (58.7%) for *advice*.

- The top three sources of support for young people from Victoria were *friend/s* (74.1%), *parent/s* (69.1%) and *relatives/family friends* (54.2%).
- 59.7% of young people from Victoria indicated that they were not comfortable using a *telephone hotline* and 46.9% were not comfortable contacting a *community agency* for advice, support or information.

Figure 7.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

As per the national findings, Victorian males and females were broadly similar in terms of who they were comfortable going to for *information, advice and support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (81.3%) and males (71.0%). *Parent/s* were also an important source of *information* for both females (59.6%) and males (55.4%) from Victoria.
- Females were more likely to get *information* (60.0%) and *advice* (29.6%) from *magazines* than males (46.0% and 18.1% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (76.5%) and males (68.1%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also an important source of *advice* for both females (66.9% and 59.2% respectively) and males (62.8% and 57.7% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (79.6%) and males (62.6%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as an important source of *support* by both females (72.7% and 57.2% respectively) and males (61.3% and 47.9% respectively) from Victoria.

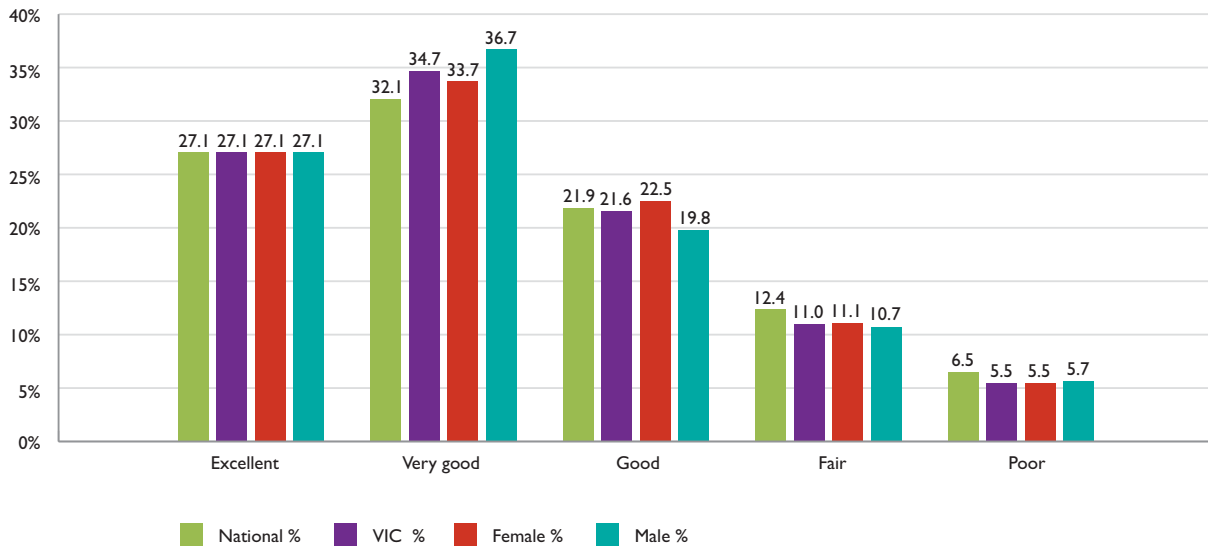
Table 7.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Females				
Community agency	34.5	13.8	8.6	47.6
Friend/s	48.9	76.5	79.6	3.2
Internet	81.3	36.0	14.3	7.4
Magazines	60.0	29.6	7.7	20.2
Parent/s	59.6	66.9	72.7	9.6
Relative/family friend	46.0	59.2	57.2	15.4
School counsellor	30.0	40.7	30.1	36.7
Teacher	51.5	43.6	25.7	27.7
Telephone hotline	19.7	20.0	16.7	59.2
Males				
Community agency	30.5	15.8	10.2	45.6
Friend/s	51.8	68.1	62.6	6.4
Internet	71.0	37.3	19.2	11.1
Magazines	46.0	18.1	8.4	31.7
Parent/s	55.4	62.8	61.3	11.9
Relative/family friend	45.9	57.7	47.9	15.3
School counsellor	29.0	33.9	25.3	37.1
Teacher	47.8	42.1	21.0	26.3
Telephone hotline	16.7	16.2	13.1	60.8

How well do young people feel their families get along?

In 2012 young people were asked about how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 7.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from Victoria rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with more than three in five respondents (61.8%) rating their family's ability to get along very positively (*excellent*: 27.1%; *very good*: 34.7%). However, 16.5% of young people had a less positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (11.0%) or *poor* (5.5%). Male and female respondents from Victoria gave similar ratings overall of their family's ability to get along.

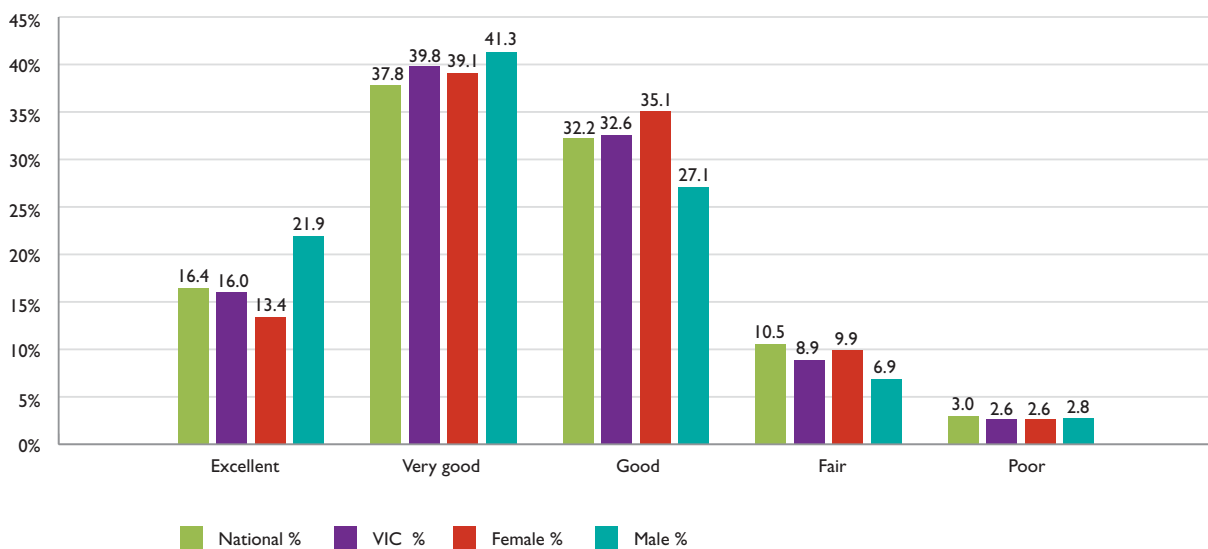
Figure 7.5: Family's ability to get along



How do young people feel about their health?

Respondents were asked to tell us how they felt about their health, with responses rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 7.6 shows that over eight in ten respondents rated their health as either *good*, *very good* or *excellent* (32.6%, 39.8% and 16.0% respectively). Very few young people (2.6%) felt their health was *poor*. Male respondents were more likely than female respondents from Victoria to report that their health was *excellent* (21.9% compared with 13.4%), and less likely to report their health was *fair* (6.9% compared with 9.9% for females).

Figure 7.6: How young people feel about their health



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

Young people were asked to nominate the top three issues they considered most important in Australia today. The information provided by young Victorians was categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 7.7. In 2012 the top three issues identified by young people were *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues* and *equity and discrimination*. The *economy and financial matters* and *population issues* were also among the top three issues nationally.

- Around three in ten young Victorians identified *the economy and financial matters* (31.4%) and *population issues* (30.4%) as major issues in Australia today.
- Around one in five respondents indicated *equity and discrimination* (21.4%), *alcohol and drugs* (20.7%) and *the environment* (18.6%) were important issues.

Gender differences

The economy and financial matters and *population issues* were the top two items for both male and female Victorian respondents, with *population issues* the top issue for females and *the economy and financial matters* the top issue for males. *Equity and discrimination* rounded out the top three concerns for Victorian females whereas *alcohol and drugs* featured in the top three issues for males.

- Slightly more male than female respondents identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today (35.6% and 29.5%).
- *Population issues* were identified as a major issue by 31.6% of females and 27.9% of males.
- More females than males identified *equity and discrimination* as an important issue (22.9% compared with 18.5%), while more males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* as an issue of importance (25.6% compared with 18.3%).

Table 7.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	VIC 2012 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2011 %	VIC 2010 %
The economy and financial matters	30.8	31.4	29.5	35.6	21.2	15.9
Population issues	27.6	30.4	31.6	27.9	25.2	17.5
Equity and discrimination	20.2	21.4	22.9	18.5	20.5	27.6
Alcohol and drugs	21.8	20.7	18.3	25.6	31.6	35.2
The environment	17.5	18.6	22.0	11.8	37.7	39.7
Politics and societal values	20.6	17.6	13.7	25.2	14.8	10.7
Health	16.2	15.0	15.9	12.9	13.4	14.5
Mental health	12.7	15.0	17.5	9.4	13.9	14.6
Crime, safety and violence	14.0	14.9	13.1	18.7	18.4	29.6
Bullying	11.0	11.0	12.2	8.5	12.1	9.1
Education	10.9	10.3	10.5	9.7	5.1	6.3
LGBT issues	5.9	9.2	12.3	3.0	2.7	0.7
Employment	8.5	8.8	7.1	12.3	4.2	3.9
Homelessness/housing	8.5	7.0	8.6	3.7	8.8	5.2

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.

Do young people feel safe in their neighbourhood?

Crime, safety and violence was ranked as the ninth most important issue in Australia by Victorian respondents. In a separate question, respondents were also asked how safe they felt in their neighbourhood. Although the overwhelming majority of young people from Victoria (91.5%) indicated that they felt safe in their neighbourhood, just under one in ten (8.5%) did not feel safe in their neighbourhood.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 7.8. As in 2011, the top three activities reported by young Victorians aged 15 to 19 years were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. This was consistent with the national data. Significant proportions of young people from Victoria reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people from Victoria in 2012.
- Around one half of Victorian respondents indicated they had participated in *arts/cultural activities* (53.3%) and *student leadership activities* (49.4%).
- Over one third of young people from Victoria participated in *youth groups and clubs* (35.8%) and *religious groups or activities* (33.0%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 7.8 the top three activities for both males and females' were consistent with the overall Victorian results, although a larger proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in the top two activities, *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be involved in *volunteer work*.

- *Sport (as a participant)* and *sport (as a spectator)* were reported by a slightly higher percentage of males than females (82.2% compared with 78.0%, and 77.9% compared with 69.9% respectively).
- *Volunteer work* was reported by a higher percentage of females than males (62.4% compared to 47.9% respectively).
- Females also reported higher rates of participation than males in *arts/cultural activities* (59.6% compared with 39.8%) and *student leadership activities* (52.8% compared with 42.3%).

Table 7.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

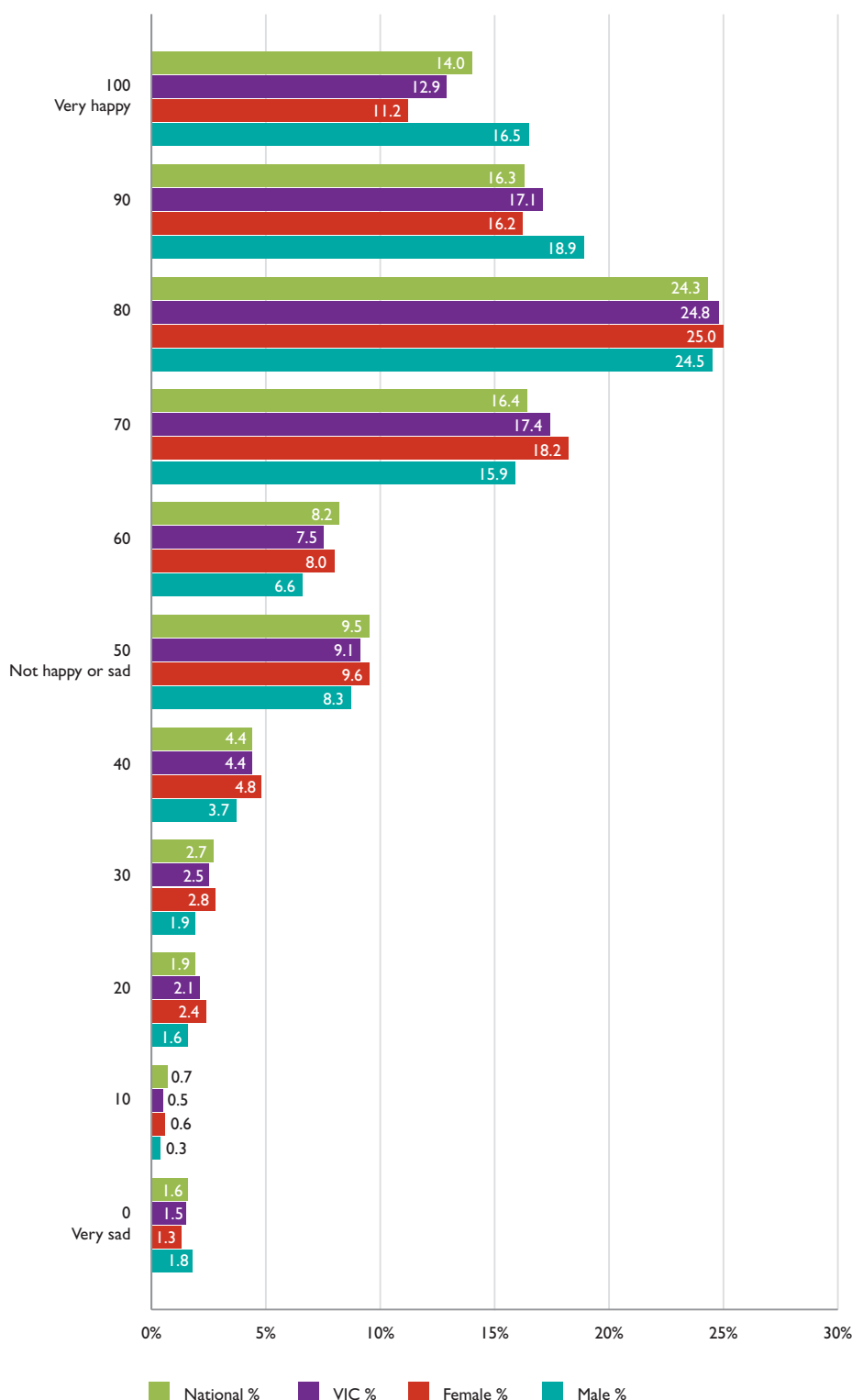
	National %	VIC 2012 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2011 %	VIC 2010 %
Sports (as a participant)	78.4	79.4	78.0	82.2	67.0	67.1
Sports (as a spectator)	73.0	72.5	69.9	77.9	54.6	58.6
Volunteer work	60.5	57.9	62.4	47.9	30.1	28.4
Arts/cultural activities	52.0	53.3	59.6	39.8	27.5	29.2
Student leadership activities	47.4	49.4	52.8	42.3	27.8	27.6
Youth groups and clubs	38.2	35.8	35.1	37.5	22.5	23.1
Religious groups or activities	37.8	33.0	34.7	30.1	17.5	18.2
Environmental groups or activities	27.8	28.7	30.5	25.1	10.7	12.7
Political groups or organisations	9.2	11.6	12.1	10.8	4.5	5.1

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years. In 2012 respondents were asked "In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?" whereas in 2011 and 2010 respondents were asked "What activities are you involved in?"

How happy are young people?

In 2012 the survey asked young people to rate how happy they are with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. Based on the recommendations from the authors of this question¹, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. Figure 7.7 shows that the vast majority of young people from Victoria responded in the range 70 to 100 indicating they felt positive overall about their lives. Although results were similar for both male and female respondents, male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate they felt very happy with their lives as a whole (16.5% compared with 11.2%).

Figure 7.7: How happy young people are



¹ Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 7.9 shows that, in line with the national data, more than two thirds of respondents from Victoria felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over two thirds (70.1%) of Victorian respondents felt either *positive* (50.3%) or *very positive* (19.8%) about the future.
- Almost a quarter (23.0%) of young people from Victoria felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

Table 7.9: Feelings about the future

	National %	VIC 2012 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2011 %	VIC 2010 %
Very positive	20.8	19.8	18.5	22.7	20.8	22.2
Positive	49.8	50.3	50.7	49.3	45.0	44.7
Neither positive nor negative	22.7	23.0	24.3	20.5	25.8	24.9
Negative	4.7	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.8
Very negative	1.9	1.8	1.5	2.4	3.0	2.4

Note: Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.



Western Australia

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

In total 781 young people from Western Australia (WA) aged 15 to 19 responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2012.

Gender breakdown

Just over half of the respondents from WA (52.0%) were female and 48.0% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 39 respondents (5.1%) from WA identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (6.5% compared with 3.8%). 4.7% of respondents preferred not to answer.

Language background other than English

A total of 198 respondents (26.1%) from WA stated they were born overseas and 208 (27.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 40 languages spoken at home in WA, the most common were (in order of frequency); Filipino/Tagalog, Hindi, Indonesian, Arabic, Chinese, Dari and French.

Disability

41 respondents (5.5%) from WA indicated they had a disability, with more males (6.7%) than females (4.1%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency); physical disability, deafness or hearing impairment and Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD).

Where respondents were living

Table 8.1 shows that, as per the national data, the vast majority of respondents from WA (89.8%) lived with family. 2.3% of respondents lived in a shared house and a small number of young people indicated that they lived in homeless/insecure housing, foster care or juvenile justice centre/prison.

Table 8.1: Where respondents were living

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
With family	90.8	89.8	91.4	87.8
Shared house	1.1	2.3	2.0	2.8
Alone	0.6	1.3	0.8	1.9
Boarding school	3.9	1.2	0.5	1.9
Homeless / insecure housing	0.5	0.9	0.8	1.1
Foster care	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6
Juvenile justice centre / prison	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.8
Other	2.2	3.6	4.3	3.1

Education

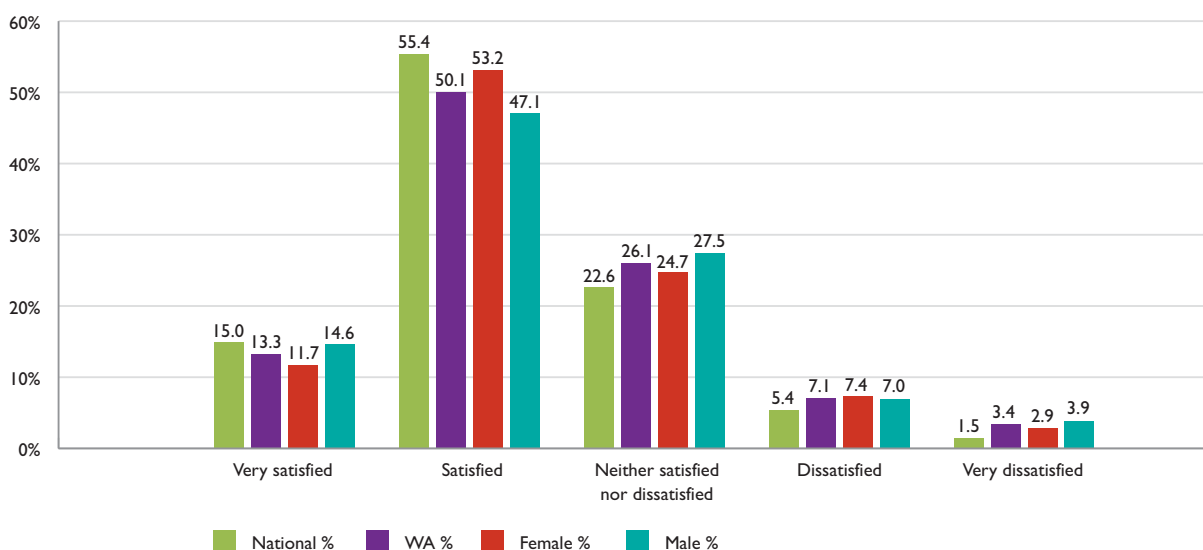
As indicated in Table 8.2, 89.3% of respondents from WA were studying full-time. Male respondents were more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than female respondents (92.9% compared with 86.2%), while slightly more females (5.3%) than males (2.2%) were not studying. Of those who were still at school, 93.0% stated they intended to complete Year 12. Males were over three times more likely to indicate they did not intend to complete Year 12 (11.1% compared with 2.9% of females).

In 2012 we asked respondents who reported they were currently studying how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As shown in Figure 8.1, almost two thirds of respondents from WA reported they were either *very satisfied* (13.3%) or *satisfied* (50.1%) with their studies, while just over one in ten were either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (3.4% and 7.1% respectively). Males were slightly more likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* (14.6% compared with 11.7%), but slightly less likely to report feeling *satisfied* (47.1% compared with 53.2%) with their studies.

Table 8.2: Participation in education

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.9	89.3	86.2	92.9
Studying part-time	3.2	6.8	8.5	4.9
Not studying	2.8	3.9	5.3	2.2

Figure 8.1: Satisfaction with studies



Employment

Respondents in 2012 who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 8.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from WA. Only 1.4% of respondents who reported having paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Over 40% of respondents, the majority of whom were in full-time education, reported part-time employment. Over half of respondents reported they were not in paid employment, with 35.3% looking for work and 22.1% not looking for work.

Female respondents from WA were slightly more likely to report full-time employment than male respondents (2.1% compared with 0.8%). Female respondents were also more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (47.4% compared with 34.3%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (42.9% compared with 28.5%) and slightly less likely to report they were not looking for work (21.9% and 22.1% respectively).

Table 8.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	1.4	2.1	0.8
Employed part-time	38.9	41.2	47.4	34.3
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.1	35.3	28.5	42.9
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	26.4	22.1	22.1	21.9

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

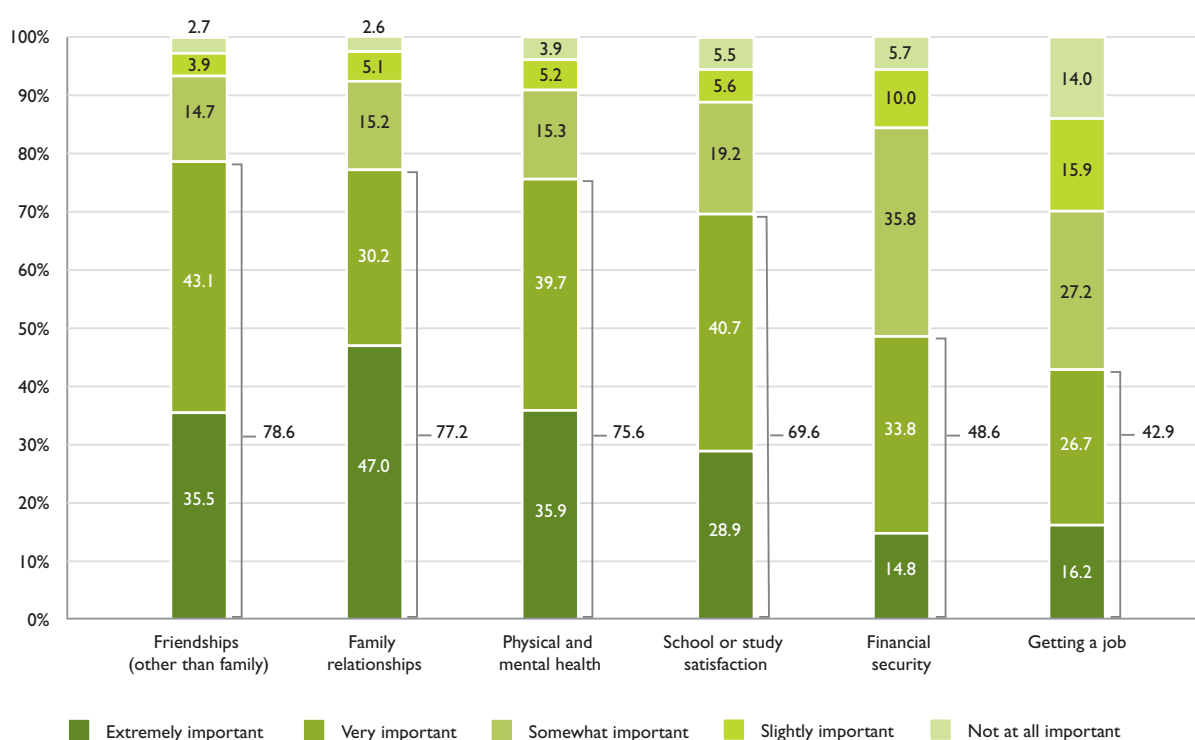
DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

In 2012 young people were asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 8.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. The two most highly valued items for WA respondents were *friendships* and *family relationships*, consistent with the national data. The next most valued item for WA respondents was *physical and mental health*, followed by *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 78.6% (*extremely important*: 35.5%; *very important*: 43.1%) of WA respondents. *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 77.2% (*extremely important*: 47.0%; *very important*: 30.2%) of respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by just over three quarters (75.6%) of respondents (*extremely important*: 35.9%; *very important*: 39.7%).
- More than two thirds (69.6%) of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 28.9%; *very important*: 40.7%).
- Around half of respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 14.8%; *very important*: 33.8%).

Figure 8.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

The three most highly valued items for both males and females were *friendships*, *family relationships* and *physical and mental health*. However, as shown in Table 8.4 *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a higher proportion of females than males. *School or study satisfaction* was also highly valued by both females and males.

- *Friendships* was highly valued by 81.5% of females (*extremely important*: 39.1%; *very important*: 42.4%) compared with 75.2% of males (*extremely important*: 31.4%; *very important*: 43.8%).
- *Family relationships* was highly valued by 78.7% of females (*extremely important*: 50.1%; *very important*: 28.6%) compared with 75.4% of males (*extremely important*: 43.7%; *very important*: 31.7%).
- 76.1% of females (*extremely important*: 35.9%; *very important*: 40.2%) highly valued *physical and mental health* compared with 74.5% of males (*extremely important*: 35.3%; *very important*: 39.2%).

Table 8.4: What young people value, by gender

	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Females					
Friendships (other than family)	39.1	42.4	12.9	3.0	2.5
Family relationships	50.1	28.6	14.9	3.5	2.8
Physical and mental health	35.9	40.2	16.3	5.3	2.3
School or study satisfaction	33.1	40.8	16.9	4.1	5.1
Financial security	12.7	38.1	34.7	9.8	4.7
Getting a job	13.7	27.1	30.6	15.7	12.9
Males					
Friendships (other than family)	31.4	43.8	16.8	5.0	3.0
Family relationships	43.7	31.7	15.3	6.8	2.5
Physical and mental health	35.3	39.2	14.5	5.2	5.8
School or study satisfaction	24.8	40.2	21.8	7.2	6.1
Financial security	16.9	29.9	35.7	10.5	6.9
Getting a job	18.8	26.6	23.0	16.6	15.0

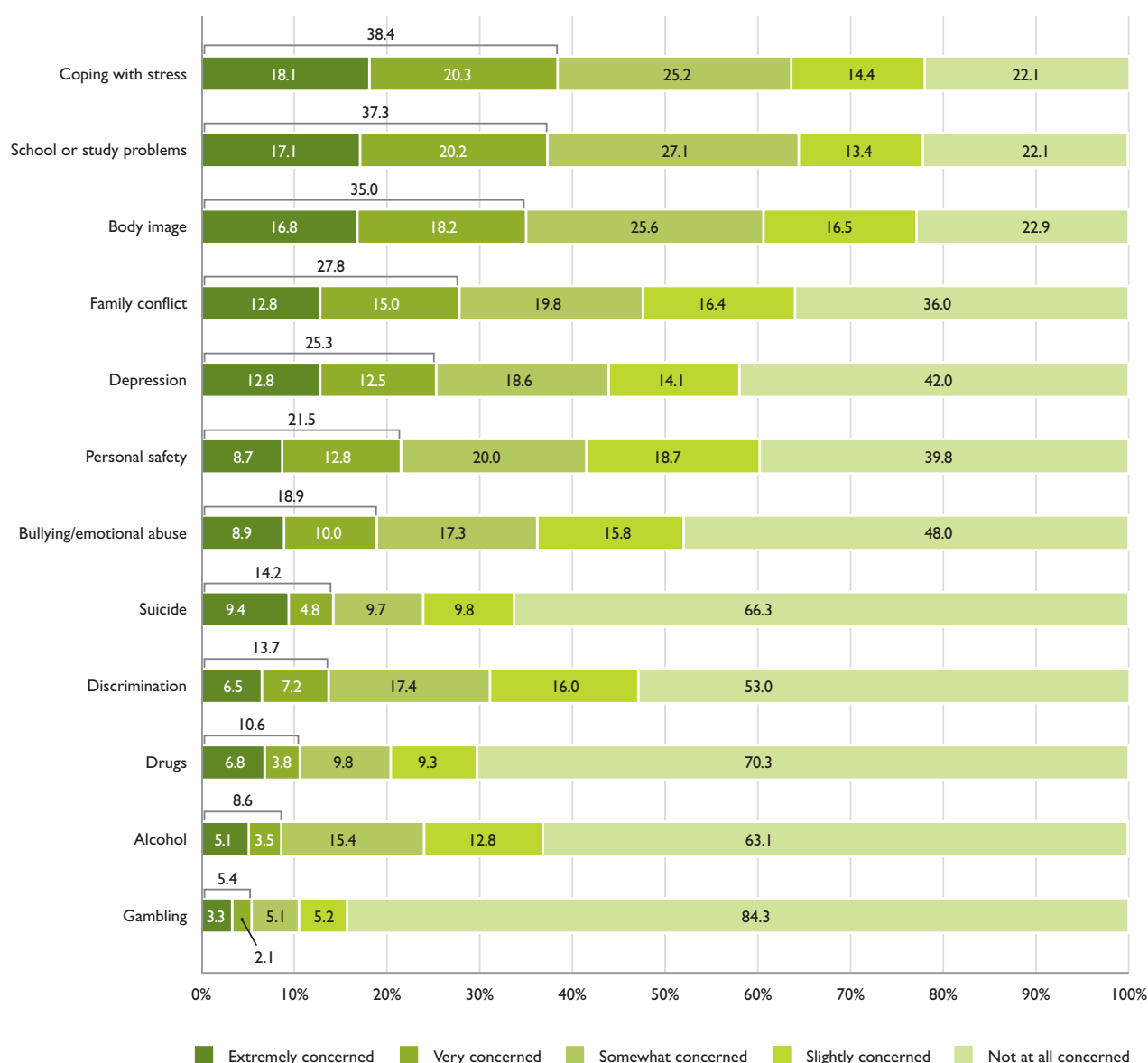
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State importance.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 8.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from WA were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*, as they were nationally.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 38.4% of respondents indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (18.1%) or *very concerned* (20.3%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 37.3% (*extremely concerned*: 17.1%; *very concerned*: 20.2%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important concern for just over one in three respondents (*extremely concerned*: 16.8%; *very concerned*: 18.2%).
- Around a quarter of respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 8.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

Coping with stress and *school or study problems* were highly ranked by both males and females from WA, as highlighted in Table 8.5. The proportion of females concerned about these issues was considerably higher than males. The top three concerns for females were *coping with stress*, *body image* and *school or study problems*, while the top three concerns for males were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *personal safety*.

- For 51.1% of females (*extremely concerned*: 25.4%; *very concerned*: 25.7%) *coping with stress* was a major concern, compared with 24.8% of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.3%; *very concerned*: 14.5%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school and study problems* with 45.6% (*extremely concerned*: 20.7%; *very concerned*: 24.9%) indicating this was a major concern, compared with 29.1% of males (*extremely concerned*: 13.6%; *very concerned*: 15.5%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 47.8% (*extremely concerned*: 25.3%; *very concerned*: 22.5%) indicating *body image* was a major concern, compared with 22.0% (*extremely concerned*: 7.8%; *very concerned*: 14.2%) of males.
- For 34.9% of females (*extremely concerned*: 14.7%; *very concerned*: 20.2%) and 21.1% of males (*extremely concerned*: 11.1%; *very concerned*: 10.0%) *family conflict* was a major concern.
- Personal safety* was a top three concern for WA males (*extremely concerned*: 9.8%; *very concerned*: 13.4%).

Table 8.5: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender

	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Females					
Coping with stress	25.4	25.7	24.4	12.9	11.6
School or study problems	20.7	24.9	25.9	14.2	14.2
Body image	25.3	22.5	27.1	13.6	11.5
Family conflict	14.7	20.2	22.0	16.3	26.9
Depression	16.6	18.4	20.4	12.0	32.7
Personal safety	7.8	12.7	20.9	20.4	38.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	10.8	13.6	19.8	18.3	37.5
Suicide	11.1	7.0	11.9	12.9	57.2
Discrimination	6.7	8.8	20.4	17.5	46.6
Drugs	5.6	5.4	11.7	9.4	67.9
Alcohol	3.3	4.3	17.8	13.5	61.2
Gambling	2.8	2.1	4.4	3.9	86.8
Males					
Coping with stress	10.3	14.5	26.3	15.4	33.5
School or study problems	13.6	15.5	28.0	12.2	30.7
Body image	7.8	14.2	23.6	19.2	35.3
Family conflict	11.1	10.0	17.5	16.4	44.8
Depression	8.7	6.5	17.2	16.1	51.5
Personal safety	9.8	13.4	19.0	16.8	40.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.2	6.4	14.7	12.5	59.2
Suicide	7.9	2.3	7.6	6.8	75.4
Discrimination	6.2	5.6	14.6	14.1	59.4
Drugs	8.3	2.2	8.1	9.2	72.2
Alcohol	7.2	2.8	13.4	12.0	64.6
Gambling	4.0	2.3	5.9	6.5	81.4

Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State concern.

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

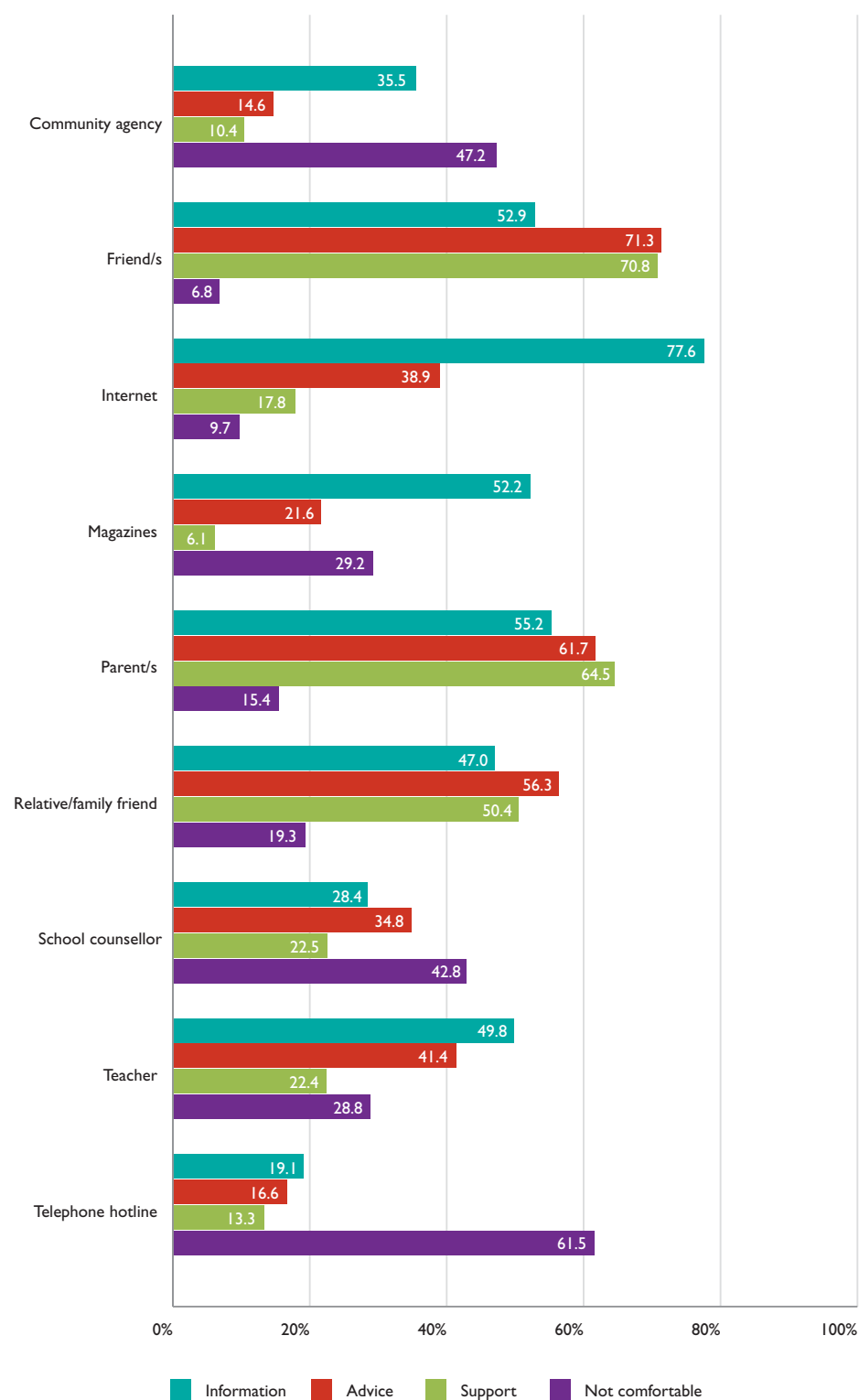
Young people were asked whether they had someone (who does not live with them) to ask for any support in a time of crisis. While the vast majority of respondents from WA had someone they could ask for support in a time of crisis (83.8%), 16.2% felt they had no-one (who was not living with them) to seek support from.

Young people were also asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people in WA, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people (77.6%), followed by *parent/s* (55.2%) and *friend/s* (52.9%).
- WA respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (71.3%), *parent/s* (61.7%) and *relatives/family friends* (56.3%) for advice.
- *Friend/s* (70.8%) were the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (64.5%) and *relatives/family friends* (50.4%).

- Almost two thirds of young people were not comfortable using a *telephone hotline* for advice, support or information and 47.2% were not comfortable contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 8.4: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

Males and females from WA were broadly similar in terms of who they were comfortable going to for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (81.8%) and males (74.0%) from WA. *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also important sources of *information* for both females (58.8% and 47.3% respectively) and males (52.0% and 47.2% respectively).
- Females were more likely to get *information* (57.0%) and *advice* (28.0%) from *magazines* than males (47.7% and 14.6% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (77.5%) and males (65.3%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also an important source of *advice* for both females (66.3% and 58.5% respectively) and males (57.5% and 54.5% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (79.3%) and males (62.6%). Similarly, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as an important source of *support* by both females (72.5% and 54.5% respectively) and males (56.6% and 46.3% respectively).

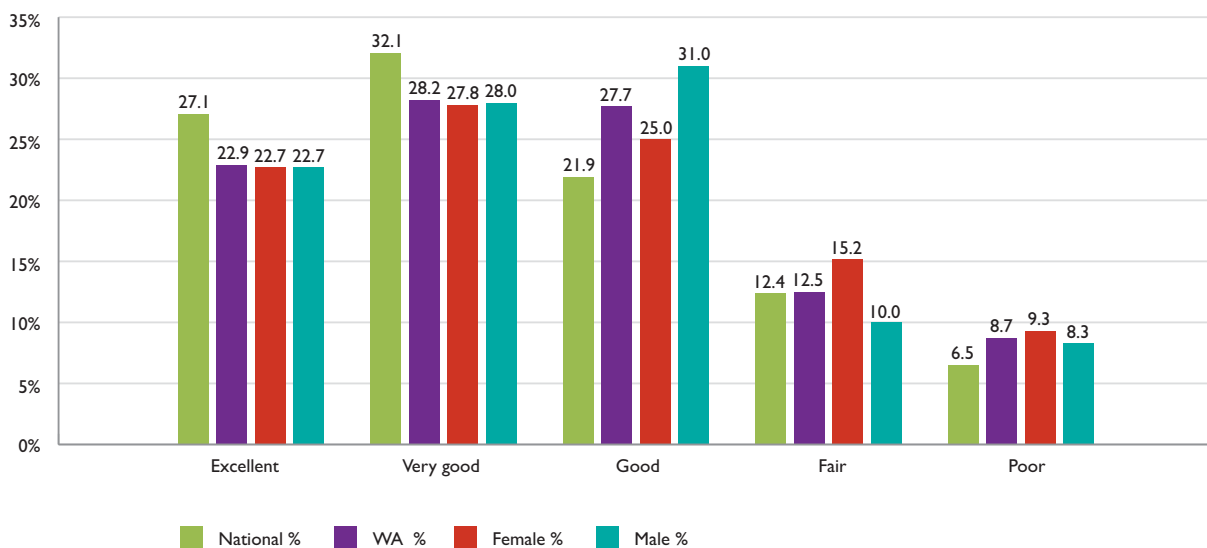
Table 8.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Females				
Community agency	39.3	13.3	10.8	47.5
Friend/s	53.3	77.5	79.3	6.3
Internet	81.8	40.3	16.5	7.5
Magazines	57.0	28.0	5.8	26.0
Parent/s	58.8	66.3	72.5	15.3
Relative/family friend	47.3	58.5	54.5	21.5
School counsellor	27.5	35.3	23.8	46.0
Teacher	55.0	43.3	23.8	29.0
Telephone hotline	19.0	20.0	17.8	64.0
Males				
Community agency	31.4	16.0	10.0	47.2
Friend/s	53.4	65.3	62.6	7.0
Internet	74.0	38.2	19.2	11.4
Magazines	47.7	14.6	6.8	32.5
Parent/s	52.0	57.5	56.6	15.2
Relative/family friend	47.2	54.5	46.3	16.5
School counsellor	29.8	35.0	21.4	38.8
Teacher	44.4	39.8	20.9	28.7
Telephone hotline	19.5	13.0	8.7	58.3

How well do young people feel their families get along?

In 2012 young people were asked about how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 8.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from WA rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 22.9% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 28.2% reporting that it was *very good*. However, 21.2% of young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.5%) or *poor* (8.7%). Overall, male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

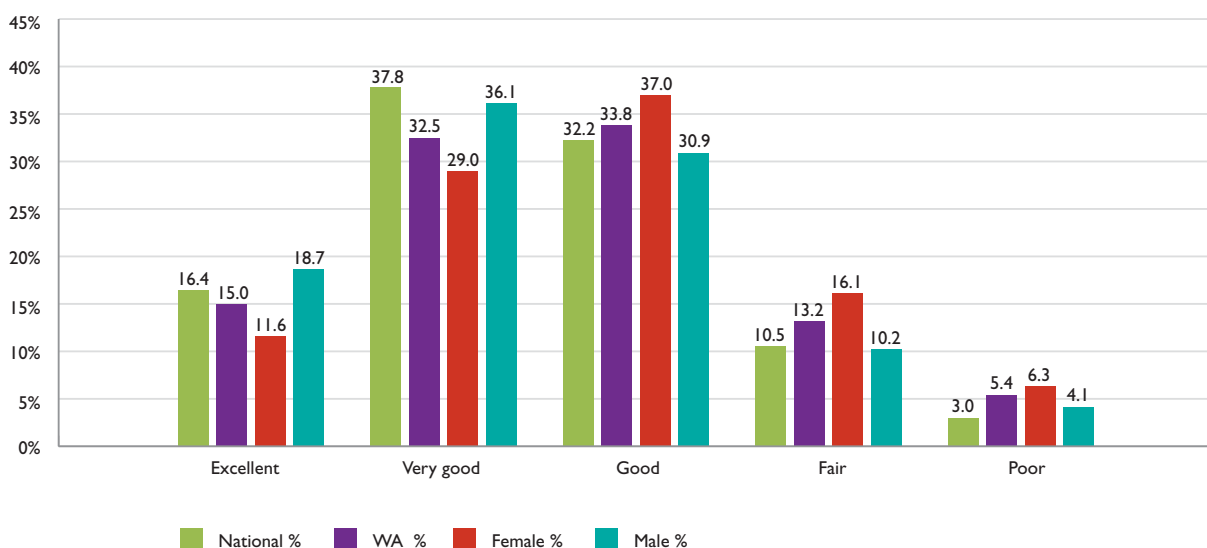
Figure 8.5: Family's ability to get along



How do young people feel about their health?

Respondents were asked to tell us how they felt about their health, with responses rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 8.6 shows that over eight in ten respondents from WA felt their health was *good*, *very good* or *excellent* (33.8%, 32.5% and 15.0% respectively). Only a very small minority of WA respondents (5.4%) felt their health was *poor*. Male respondents were more likely than females to report their health was *excellent* (18.7% compared with 11.6%) and slightly less likely to report their health was *fair* or *poor* (10.2% and 4.1% respectively, compared with 16.1% and 6.3%).

Figure 8.6: How young people feel about their health



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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 8.7. In 2012 the top three issues identified by young people from WA were *population issues*, *the economy and financial matters* and *alcohol and drugs*. These were consistent with the top 3 issues identified nationally.

- Over a quarter of WA respondents (27.4%) identified *population issues* as a major issue.
- Over a quarter (27.0%) of young people indicated that *the economy and financial matters* was an important issue in Australia today.
- Around a quarter of young people in WA identified *alcohol and drugs* (25.6%), and *equity and discrimination* (24.1%) as important issues.

Gender differences

There were both similarities and differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from WA. Consistent with national and state-wide results, *the economy and financial matters* was among the top three issues for both male and female respondents. For female respondents from WA, *equity and discrimination* was rated as their top issue, while for male respondents *population issues* was rated as the most important issue.

- While both male and female respondents from WA identified *the economy and financial matters* as one of their top three issues of importance, the proportion of males nominating this issue as important was higher than the proportion of females (30.0% compared with 24.6%).
- *Equity and discrimination* was ranked as the top issue for females (29.8%), while for males (18.2%) it ranked as the sixth most important issue.
- *Population issues* was ranked as the top issue for males (33.2%), while for females (21.9%) it ranked fifth.
- *Alcohol and drugs* was ranked in the top three issues for females but not for males, while *politics and societal values* was ranked in the top three for males but not females.

Table 8.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	WA 2012 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2011 %	WA 2010 %
Population issues	27.6	27.4	21.9	33.2	24.1	20.6
The economy and financial matters	30.8	27.0	24.6	30.0	17.2	20.5
Alcohol and drugs	21.8	25.6	26.9	22.8	38.7	40.8
Equity and discrimination	20.2	24.1	29.8	18.2	21.2	23.8
The environment	17.5	19.5	24.0	15.0	31.8	31.0
Politics and societal values	20.6	18.5	13.7	24.4	13.0	13.5
Crime, safety and violence	14.0	16.1	12.9	19.2	19.0	18.9
Mental health	12.7	14.4	19.9	8.8	9.0	10.1
Homelessness/housing	8.5	12.1	12.9	11.1	5.4	5.4
Education	10.9	11.1	10.2	11.4	7.4	9.4
Health	16.2	10.6	10.8	10.4	10.6	12.3
Bullying	11.0	8.6	9.6	7.8	10.2	6.6
Employment	8.5	8.2	6.4	10.1	4.9	5.8
Adolescence/youth	5.0	5.9	7.6	4.2	5.5	6.1

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.

Do young people feel safe in their neighbourhood?

Crime, safety and violence was ranked by respondents from WA as the seventh most important issue in WA. In a separate question, respondents were also asked how safe they felt in their neighbourhood. Although the overwhelming majority of young people from WA (83.6%) indicated that they felt safe in their neighbourhood, almost one in five did not feel safe in their neighbourhood.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 8.8. Consistent with both the national and 2011 results, the top three activities for WA were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. Significant proportions of young people from WA reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year:

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people from WA in 2012.
- Almost one half of respondents indicated they had participated in *arts/cultural activities* (49.2%).
- Around 40% of young people indicated they participated in *student leadership activities* (40.6%), *religious groups or activities* (40.5%) and *youth groups and clubs* (40.1%).
- Three in ten young people participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 8.8 the top three activities for both males and females were consistent with overall WA results, although a higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be involved in *volunteer work*.

- 76.0% of male respondents and 72.8% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male and female respondents were equally likely to participate in *sports (as a spectator)* (69.7% and 69.2% respectively).
- More female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural activities* and *student leadership activities* (65.9%, 60.9% and 45.3% compared with 53.6%, 36.1% and 34.6%).

Table 8.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

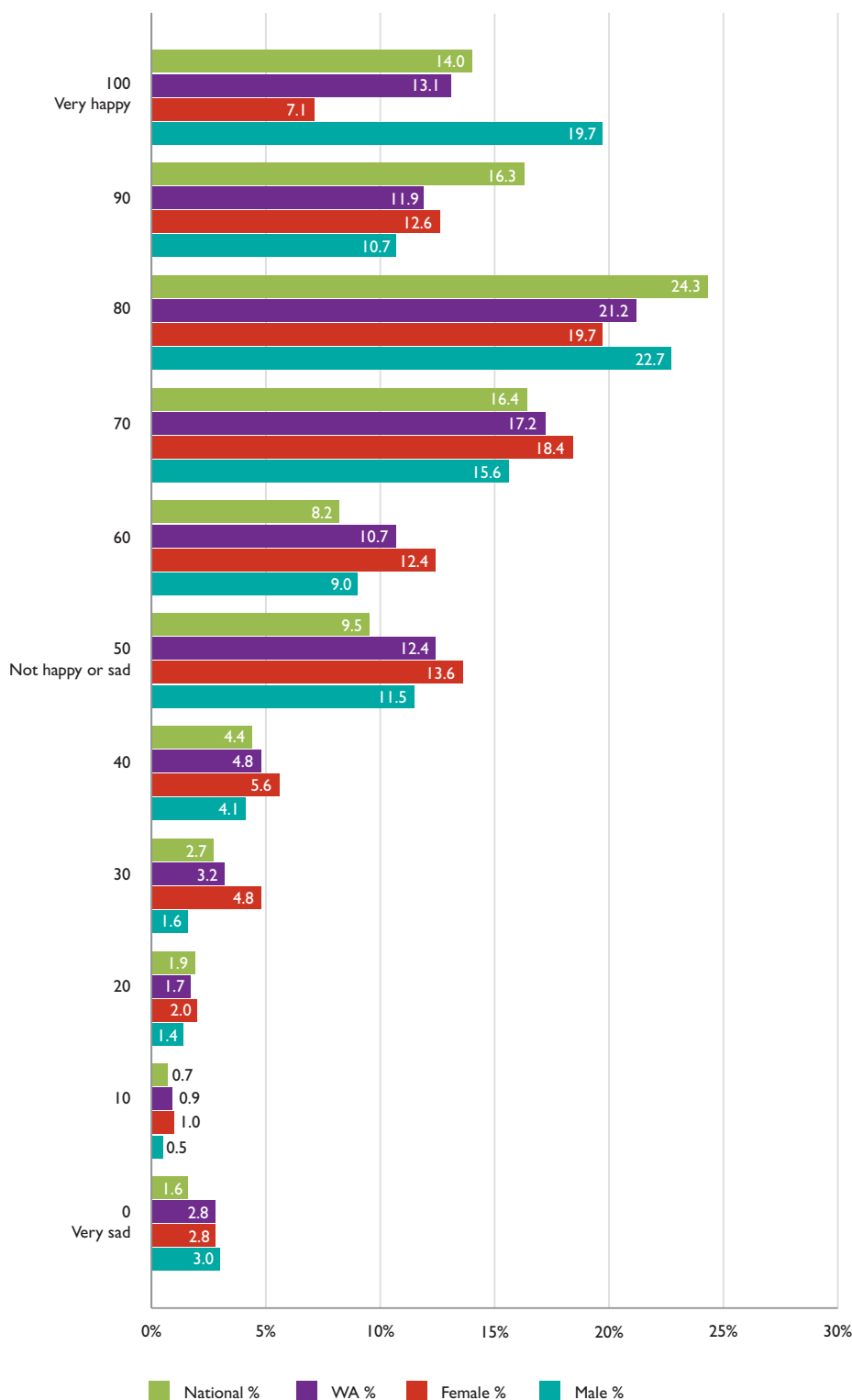
	National %	WA 2012 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2011 %	WA 2010 %
Sports (as a participant)	78.4	74.4	72.8	76.0	63.5	62.5
Sports (as a spectator)	73.0	69.5	69.2	69.7	51.3	55.5
Volunteer work	60.5	60.5	65.9	53.6	34.7	30.3
Arts/cultural activities	52.0	49.2	60.9	36.1	32.7	30.5
Student leadership activities	47.4	40.6	45.3	34.6	25.7	22.8
Religious groups or activities	37.8	40.5	43.4	37.1	29.4	27.9
Youth groups and clubs	38.2	40.1	44.4	35.1	35.5	30.9
Environmental groups or activities	27.8	29.7	32.9	26.3	15.0	14.6
Political groups or organisations	9.2	9.9	9.0	10.5	6.0	6.5

Note: Items are listed in order of State importance. Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years. In 2012 respondents were asked "In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?" whereas in 2011 and 2010 respondents were asked "What activities are you involved in?"

How happy are young people?

In 2012 the survey asked young people to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question¹, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 8.7 shows, the vast majority of young people from WA responded in the range 70 to 100 indicating they felt positive overall about their lives. Results were similar for both male and female respondents, although male respondents were almost three times as likely as female respondents to indicate they felt very happy with their lives as a whole (19.7% compared with 7.1%).

Figure 8.7: How happy young people are



¹ Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 8.9 shows that results are very similar to those in 2011, with more than two thirds of respondents feeling either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over two thirds of respondents from WA felt either *positive* (48.6%) or *very positive* (21%) about the future.
- Around one fifth of respondents (22.3%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 5.0% of respondents felt *negative* about the future, and 3.1% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females were very similar in terms of their feelings about the future.

Table 8.9: Feelings about the future

	National %	WA 2012 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2011 %	WA 2010 %
Very Positive	20.8	21.0	20.5	21.7	21.5	22.8
Positive	49.8	48.6	48.4	48.9	39.5	43.1
Neither positive nor negative	22.7	22.3	22.0	22.5	28.0	26.3
Negative	4.7	5.0	5.8	3.9	6.3	4.5
Very Negative	1.9	3.1	3.3	3.1	4.6	3.3

Note: Data for 2010 and 2011 were based on the 15 to 19 year old cohorts for these years.

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- Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
- Youth Affairs Network Queensland
- Youth Network of Tasmania

Mission Australia would also like to acknowledge the many organisations and individuals who promoted the survey via social media.

About Mission Australia

Mission Australia is a non-denominational 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 services organisations, operating hundreds of community and employment services across urban, rural and remote locations.

In 2011-12, our services assisted more than 300,000 Australians by providing a hand up, a way forward and hope for the future.

We work towards creating a fairer Australia by advocating for people in need and helping them to get back on their feet. We strengthen families, empower youth, strive to solve homelessness and provide employment solutions.

Thank you

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