

In 2018 Mission Australia conducted its 17th annual survey of young people aged 15-19. The survey is distributed nationally through schools and organisations and aims to identify young people's values, aspirations and concerns.

28,286

RESPONDENTS

aged 15-19 years



55% 

42% 

6% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Top 3 personal concerns:

1. Coping with stress 43%
2. School or study problems 34%
3. Mental health 31%




Almost half were extremely confident or very confident in their ability to achieve their study/work goals



A higher proportion of males (55%) than females (44%) feel confident that they can achieve their post-school goals

Top issues identified in Australia today

 **Mental health**
43%

 **Alcohol and drugs**
29%

 **Equity and discrimination**
23%

The % of young people identifying **mental health as an issue of national importance** has **DOUBLED** in the past 3 years **21% to 43%**

"People need to be more aware it is okay to have issues with mental health and they should be spoken about" Female, 15, Vic

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were **barriers which may impact upon them finding work and moving out of home**

Top 3 barriers to finding work



School responsibilities 20%



Lack of skills/experience 15%



Lack of jobs 12%

Top 3 barriers to moving out of home



Housing costs 70%



Financial stability 63%



Availability of housing 42%



Nearly 4 in 10 young people felt that there are **barriers impacting upon them finding work**



A greater proportion of females than males reported **the presence of barriers to finding work**



Twice the proportion of females (28%) compared to males (14%) reported **security/safety as a potential barrier** to moving out of home

"I am concerned about my financial security because I think I will be unable to get a job in the future. For this to be resolved, I think I need more opportunities for jobs." Female, 16, SA

We recommend that governments and organisations:

- ✓ Expand programs to support young people to re-engage with education and provide resources to prepare young people for future work
- ✓ Provide evidence-based universal mental health prevention and intervention programs in schools
- ✓ Increase Youth Allowance and rent assistance payments and boost investment in affordable and appropriate accommodation for young people
- ✓ Expand online and face-to-face services and resources for young people and their support networks including family and friends

If you are a young person and need someone to talk with, you can contact Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 (24/7) kidshelpline.com.au

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