

GENDER GAPS: FINDINGS FROM THE YOUTH SURVEY 2018

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**

Gender differences between the responses of females and males who took part in the Youth Survey 2018

28,286
RESPONDENTS
aged 15-19 years

55% female
42% male

EDUCATION AND WORK



More females planned to go to university after finishing school 73% compared with 59% of males



More than four times the proportion of males planned to get an apprenticeship after finishing school 16% compared with 4% of females



A higher proportion of males reported feeling extremely/very confident in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school 55% compared with 44% of females

WELLBEING



Compared with females, males reported feeling much happier with their lives overall 68% compared with 59% **and more positive about the future** 67% compared with 60%

PERSONAL CONCERNS

Females much more concerned than males about:



coping with stress 56% compared with 26%



body image 42% compared with 15%



school or study problems 42% compared with 23%



mental health 39% compared with 20%



social media 21% compared with 10%

KEY DIFFERENCES



More females identified mental health 49% compared with 36%



and equity and discrimination 25% compared with 21% **as important issues facing Australia today**



Conversely, more males reported alcohol and drugs as a key national issue 32% compared with 26%

**TOP ISSUES
IN AUSTRALIA**

SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY



Males feel more comfortable using public spaces 71% compared with 63% of females



More than twice the proportion of females reported feeling unsafe or very unsafe walking alone after dark 47% compared with 18%



Females were more likely to report feeling extremely/very concerned about personal safety 22% compared with 14% **and bullying/emotional abuse** 19% compared with 11%



Double the proportion of females reported security/safety was a barrier to moving out of home in the future 28% compared with 14% of males

KEY DIFFERENCES

“Some people might not want to leave their house because they don’t feel safe. Make sure people are feeling secure where they are and who they’re surrounded by.”

F, 17, VIC

Personally, I am concerned of my safety and the safety of other young women around me when it comes to walking in the street alone and doing other every-day activities as there is the prolonged fear that we will be raped, abused, and murdered...”

F, 18, VIC

We recommend that governments and organisations:

- ➔ Improve access to evidence-based mental health prevention and intervention programs
- ➔ Prioritise place-based approaches to improve feelings of community safety
- ➔ Address social pressures contributing to mental health, stress and body image concerns
- ➔ Co-design and trial policies and programs with young people



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

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