

Young, Willing and Able

Youth Survey Disability Report 2019

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**

Out of a total sample of 25,126 Youth Survey 2019 respondents:

1,623
respondents



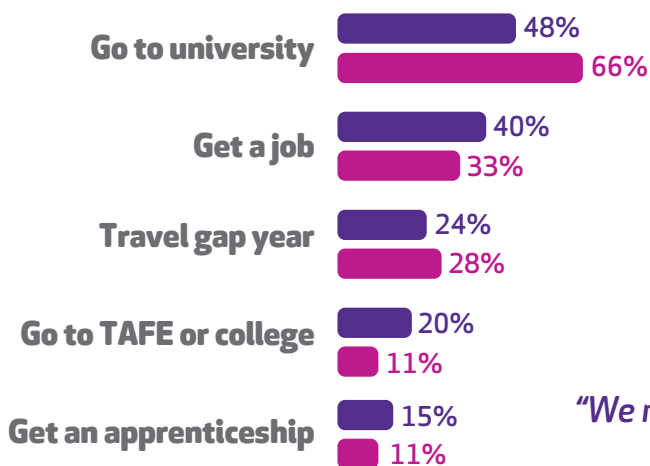
reported having a disability

The most cited disabilities were:

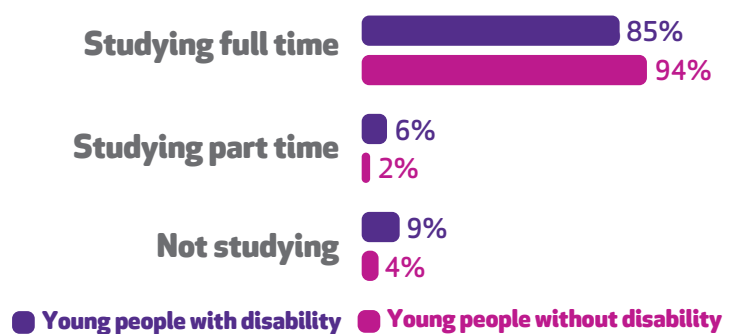
autism, learning disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), physical disability and anxiety disorder.

Key differences

POST SCHOOL PLANS



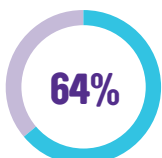
EDUCATION



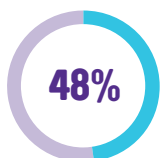
"We need more 'classroom talk' around not discriminating against people with disabilities." Male, 15

POST SCHOOL GOALS

Barriers impacting upon the achievement of their post-school goals:



With disability



Without disability

Top barriers to achieving post-school goals for young people with disability:



mental health

28% compared with 16% of young people without disability



academic ability

25% compared with 20%



financial difficulties

13% compared with 21%



physical health

12% compared with 4%

PERSONAL CONCERNS

Young people with disability were much more concerned* about:



mental health

46% compared with 32%



suicide

26% compared with 14%



bullying/ emotional abuse

26% compared with 14%

* Compared with respondents without disability

SUPPORT



Young people with disability were less likely than

respondents without disability to turn to close personal connections for help for support with important issues, particularly their friend/s (72%), parent/s or guardian/s (64%) or a relative/family friend (48%) (compared with 84%, 76% and 58%).

A higher proportion of young people with disability indicated they would turn to a community agency (20%) or a GP or health professional (51%) for help with important issues (compared with 12% and 45% of respondents without disability).

BULLYING

2x the proportion of young people with disability reported*

that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months (43% compared with 19%).

* Compared with respondents without disability.

Higher proportions of young people with disability who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this at home or in my neighbourhood (28% and 15% compared with 17% and 5% of respondents without disability).

Higher proportions of young people with disability who had experienced bullying reported that they had experienced:



physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching) (34% compared with 20% of respondents without disability)



cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments) (42% compared with 36%)

DISABILITY

The community supports people who are living with a disability:

young people with disability

68% agree

young people without disability

83% agree

People living with a disability are treated unfairly because of their disability:

young people with disability

62% agree

young people without disability

50% agree

WELLBEING

More than **2x** the proportion of young people with disability felt very sad/sad with life as a whole: 24% of young people with disability compared with 10% of young people without disability.

FAMILY

More than **2x** the proportion of respondents with disability rated their family's ability to get along as poor: 14% of young people with disability compared with 7% of young people without disability.

Key policy recommendations

In consultation and collaboration with young people with disability Governments should:

- Develop a National Education Strategy; increase awareness about the Disability Standards for Education; and increase flexible learning options.
- Develop a National Jobs Plan; improve employment services for young people with disability; and develop a national advertising campaign to promote employment of people with disability.
- Implement a national campaign to prevent bullying of young people including young people with disability.
- Ensure public spaces are more accessible for people with disability.
- Embed voices of young people with disability in the next National Disability Strategy.