



Australian Government  
Australian Institute of  
Family Studies



**Building a  
New Life  
in Australia**

The Longitudinal Study  
of Humanitarian Migrants

# Building a New Life in Australia: 10 years of humanitarian settlement outcomes

Youth Module Addendum

November 2024

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*Australian Institute of Family Studies*





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## Overview

This addendum to the *Building a New Life in Australia: 10 Years of Humanitarian Settlement Outcomes* report provides an overview of results from the BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module (YM) survey. The Wave 6 YM collected data from 133 respondents aged 15–24 years who had previously been involved in the Wave 3 Child Module survey. Data were collected through an English-only online survey between February and July 2023. The data are analysed and presented under the key settlement domains of language and education, economic participation, social connections, self-agency, and health and wellbeing. Taking into account the small sample size, the focus of this report is to describe the results from the Wave 6 survey on key settlement domains and identify indicative differences in outcomes by age and gender.

### Key messages

- Overall, the data from the Wave 6 YM survey showed that this cohort of humanitarian migrants was settling well into life in Australia, with the majority of participants reporting positive outcomes.
- Given the age range of the cohort (15–24 years at Wave 6) there were distinct groups at very different stages of life. A large percentage were still at school and/or living with their parents, while others had undertaken further studies and were in the labour force.
- There was evidence of higher rates of better outcomes for males. For example, a lower percentage of males reported mental health difficulties compared with females. In addition, 83% of males reported ‘feeling part of the Australia community’ most of the time/always compared with 67% of females.
- Many of the observations raised in this report were not able to be fully explored due to the small sample size. Further research with a larger cohort is required.

## Introduction

This report provides an overview of results from the Wave 6 Building a New Life in Australia (BNLA) Youth Module (YM). It has been prepared as an addendum to the *Building a New Life in Australia: 10 Years of Humanitarian Settlement Outcomes* report, which details results from all 6 waves of the BNLA. This addendum focuses on the Wave 6 YM and matters affecting humanitarian migrants aged 15–24 years. For a fuller understanding of the results, this report should be considered alongside the main report, which contains more detailed coverage of the broader humanitarian migration environment in which the study has been conducted, as well as overall BNLA methodological issues, which are not covered in detail here. Considering the small sample size, the focus of this report is to describe the results from the Wave 6 survey on key settlement domains and show indicative differences in outcomes by age and gender.

The material covered in this report is limited to the following areas of humanitarian settlement:

- Language and education
- Economic participation
- Social connections
- Self-agency
- Health and wellbeing, including physical and mental health.

This addendum is not intended to be comprehensive in nature nor in-depth in its analysis or explanation of relationships. Rather, it provides a high-level descriptive overview of data from the YM survey with brief analysis of selected topics. Given the much smaller sample sizes involved in the YM, the potential scope for analysis is more limited than for the main study sample. It will nevertheless provide an important reference point for understanding how this cohort of younger humanitarian migrants are faring in Australia 10 years after their arrival.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This applies to the vast majority of participants in the YM who arrived through the offshore migration stream but those who arrived through the onshore migration stream may have been in Australia for longer.

## Background and methodology

Child and youth humanitarian migrants form a major component of all humanitarian arrivals to Australia. Data from the 2021 Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Database (ACMID) indicate that 31% of all permanent humanitarian visa holders who had arrived in the previous decade were aged under 15 years at the time of arrival in Australia, and a further 20% were aged 15 to 24 years (Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], 2023a).

Understanding the settlement experiences of this large cohort is of interest to policy makers and researchers, particularly given they are likely to have different experiences compared to older arrivals. Findings using BNLA data from earlier waves of the study indicate that a younger age at arrival is significantly positively correlated with multiple integration outcomes (e.g. younger arrivals tend to have better mental health, more diverse social networks and better knowledge of their rights) (Wong & Edwards, 2023).

Nevertheless, while younger migrants may be more able to adjust to new experiences and ways of living, they may also experience challenges not faced by their older family members. For example, Lau and colleagues (2018) examined the overall social-emotional adjustment among young refugees and found better adjustment levels than generally seen in the community but reported greater instances of peer difficulties. The Wave 6 YM provides new insights into the settlement experiences of young people 10 years into their settlement journey.

### Wave 3 Child Module

Given the interest in better understanding settlement outcomes of younger humanitarian migrants, a child module (CM) was incorporated into the BNLA study as part of the Wave 3 data collection in 2015–16. This component of the study was possible due to additional funding from the Australian Centre for Post-traumatic Mental Health (ACPMH) (now called Phoenix Australia). The purpose of the CM was to explore the settlement experiences of children of humanitarian migrants, with a particular focus on parenting and intergenerational trauma.

The Wave 3 CM involved first identifying the existing BNLA participant households in which eligible humanitarian migrant children were present (i.e. aged 5–17 years and had arrived in Australia as part of an existing BNLA migrating unit) and then randomly selecting a maximum of 2 children from each household for inclusion in the CM component of the study. There were 2 distinct elements of the CM data collection process:

1. The first consisted of existing BNLA participants who were the primary carer of the children (usually their mother) being invited to answer questions about those children. These questions covered how the child or children were doing at school, whether they were making friends, their health and wellbeing and how they were adjusting to life in Australia. The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) – a brief behavioural screening questionnaire – was also included as part of this set of questions.<sup>2</sup>
2. The second component involved a child self-report questionnaire, which consisted of those children aged 11–17 years being invited to complete a 2-page pen-and-paper questionnaire. This questionnaire contained some of the same questions asked of their parents as well as material specific to this instrument. The SDQ, health status and trauma issues were covered in both the parent-complete and child-complete questionnaires, while children only were asked to reflect on their antisocial behaviour, physical activity, academic and sporting achievements, and awards received.

More information related to the Wave 3 CM including some limited results and analysis has been published by the Department of Social Services (DSS) in their report detailing results from the first 3 waves of the BNLA study (DSS, 2017).<sup>3</sup>

### Wave 6 Youth Module

In the 2023 Wave 6 data collection, recontact was attempted for all children for whom data were obtained in Wave 3<sup>4</sup> and who were now aged between 15 and 24 years to administer a short self-completed survey. This

<sup>2</sup> The SDQ was developed by Goodman (2001) and permission to use it in the BNLA study was obtained from [www.youthinmind.com](http://www.youthinmind.com). For more information about the SDQ see: [www.sdqinfo.org](http://www.sdqinfo.org).

<sup>3</sup> Several other publications have also detailed results from the Wave 3 CM including but not limited to: Bryant et al., 2018; Guo et al., 2023; Lau et al., 2018.

<sup>4</sup> The child module was only collected in Wave 3 and was not implemented in any other BNLA waves.

component of the Wave 6 BNLA data collection is known as the Youth Module (YM) and was completed by 133 young people.<sup>5</sup>

The methodology implemented for the YM differed to that used for the main cohort due to the target group having spent a large portion of their life in Australia, including attending school. It was assumed that their English proficiency would be sufficient to not require translations of materials to other languages and that they would likely have high levels of digital literacy. Therefore, the Wave 6 YM survey was offered in English only and available via a Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI). The questionnaire was also shorter than that offered for the main cohort and designed to take approximately 15 minutes. A \$15 gift voucher was used as an incentive.<sup>6</sup>

The YM questionnaire was a shortened version of the main cohort's Wave 6 instrument but also included some relevant content from the Wave 3 CM questionnaire. Topics covered were:

- demographics and housing arrangements
- English proficiency and language use
- education and training
- employment and income
- health (mental and physical)
- social-emotional wellbeing (SDQ)
- anti-social behaviours
- self-sufficiency
- community support
- life satisfaction.

Some questions in the Wave 6 YM were asked only of participants of certain ages. These were:

- marital status and having children (18 years or older)
- current school enrolment year level (15–18 years)
- highest level of completed education (18 years or older)
- social-emotional wellbeing and anti-social behaviours (including the SDQ; 15–17 years)
- driver's licence (16 years or older).

The Wave 6 YM data collection was conducted in parallel to the main cohort data collection. In part this was because direct contact details for the eligible YM participants were not available to the fieldwork team. Most recruitment of YM participants needed to be undertaken via their parents or primary caregivers. This approach proved challenging with many parents not willing to provide direct contact details for their children, which had a large impact on response rates.<sup>7</sup>

## Analytical approach

The analysis and reporting in this addendum largely adhere to the model used in the main report in terms of addressing 5 core domains of successful settlement. The domains are:

1. **Language and education:** both of which are particularly vital for young humanitarian migrants who may not have completed their education prior to arriving.
2. **Economic participation:** refers to both income generation and the skills to achieve long-term financial stability (and avoid financial hardship).
3. **Social connections:** can provide emotional and material stability for humanitarian migrants during settlement – enabled by English language skills – and increase migrants' knowledge about Australian institutions and cultures (Fozdar & Hartley, 2013).
4. **Self-agency:** refers to the ability of an individual or household to meet their essential needs sustainably and 'with dignity', and to reduce their vulnerability after migration and dependence on outside forms of support (UNHCR, 2001).

<sup>5</sup> Three participants only partially completed the survey and are therefore missing in a number of questions.

<sup>6</sup> The incentive was increased to \$20 later during the fieldwork period.

<sup>7</sup> Forty-nine per cent of the YM sample for whom direct contact details were provided went on to complete a survey as compared to 15% for whom all communication was via their parents.

5. **Health and wellbeing:** incorporates individual health, mental health and life satisfaction in the destination setting (Hernández-Plaza et al., 2010).

Each of the above is expanded upon in the following chapters but more in-depth discussion of each domain is available in the main report. In line with the scope presented above and in the main report, the following research question is addressed in the YM addendum:

- How are young people faring across these 5 domains of successful settlement? Does this differ by socio-demographic characteristics including age and gender?

The outcome measures included in the analysis represent key settlement indicators in each of the domains of successful settlement. The selected indicators also represent facilitators, social factors and personal factors as described in the Department of Home Affairs' *Refugee and Humanitarian Entrant Settlement and Integration Outcomes Framework* (Home Affairs, 2023).

The analysis involved a description of the settlement outcomes in 2023 for this cohort of young BNLA participants. This analysis used Wave 6 YM data, including a summary of results for the selected items with group comparisons presented by gender and age. Given the small sample sizes, the capacity to cross-tabulate was limited at times and was usually only undertaken when subgroup sample sizes were sufficiently large for meaningful analysis ( $n \geq 20$ ).

Descriptive statistics for continuous variables comprise means and standard deviations, whereas for categorical variables they comprise frequencies. Respondents who answered, 'don't know', 'prefer not to say', or 'does not apply' to a particular item were generally excluded from the analysis. For items where the proportion of these responses was greater than 5%, these were included in the reporting. A 5% alpha is used to identify statistically significant differences ( $p$ -value  $< 0.05$ ).

**Table 1: Outcomes included in the analysis**

Domain	Outcomes measured	Notes
<b>Participant characteristics</b> (Chapter 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Sex</li> <li>• Whether partnered</li> <li>• Household structure</li> <li>• Highest level of education completed</li> <li>• Area-level disadvantage</li> </ul>	Highest level of education asked of those aged 18 years and over
<b>Language and education</b> (Chapter 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English language proficiency</li> <li>• Studied English in Australia</li> <li>• Study or job training in Australia</li> <li>• Provided interpreting assistance to family</li> </ul>	English language proficiency is a self-reported aggregation of how well respondents speak, read, write and understand spoken English
<b>Economic participation</b> (Chapter 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid work and labour force status</li> <li>• Looking for work</li> </ul>	Includes some coverage of education engagement given many are still in school
<b>Social connections</b> (Chapter 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed sources of friends</li> <li>• Integration in local community</li> <li>• Use of English and family's language</li> <li>• Sporting and cultural activities</li> </ul>	Integration in the local community is based on 'sense of belonging' and whether they 'feel part of the Australian community'
<b>Self-agency</b> (Chapter 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing moves and housing tenure</li> <li>• Feels safe in the neighbourhood</li> <li>• Experiencing financial hardship</li> <li>• Driver's licence</li> <li>• Self-sufficiency (score)</li> <li>• Difficulty getting help from services</li> </ul>	Driver's licence asked of those aged 16 years and over
<b>Health and wellbeing</b> (Chapter 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical activity</li> <li>• Overall self-rated health</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Post-traumatic stress disorder</li> <li>• Received professional help for emotional problems</li> <li>• Life satisfaction</li> </ul>	

# 1. Participant characteristics

The Wave 3 CM collected data from 426 existing BNLA participants who were the primary carers of 694 children aged 5–17 years. Of these children, 427 aged 11–17 years completed a pen-and-paper interview (PAPI).<sup>8</sup> The in-scope population for the Wave 6 YM was CM participants who were aged 15–24 years before the start of the fieldwork period.<sup>9</sup>

## 1.1 Wave 6 sample

Table 2 provides a summary of the final outcomes for CM and YM participants. Of the 133 respondents in Wave 6 (the YM sample), 85 had previously completed a Wave 3 PAPI questionnaire while 48 were only present in the Wave 3 CM dataset through responses provided by their primary carer.

**Table 2:** BNLA Child/Youth Module sample characteristics

	Wave 3	Wave 6
Data collection period	Oct 2015–Feb 2016	Feb 2023–July 2023
Number of children ( <i>n</i> )	694 (100%)	133 (100%)
Child self-report	427 (61.5%)	85 (63.9%)
Primary carer only	267 (38.5%)	48 (36.1%)

**Notes:** Wave 3 ‘Child self-report’ data also include data obtained from their primary carer. Wave 3 ‘Primary carer only’ data only have data obtained from their primary carer.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 3 Child Module and Wave 6 Youth Module

## 1.2 Demographics

The mean age of the YM cohort fell close to the middle of the age range at 19.4 years (19.5 for females and 19.3 for males). The cohort was diverse with close to a 50/50 split on gender and a relatively uniform distribution across the age groups (Table 3). As is the case in the main BNLA cohort, Iraq and Afghanistan were the 2 major source countries (as recorded by the primary carer’s birthplace), with all ‘other’ countries making up only 19% of the cohort combined. Given the age range, it was not surprising to find that most participants were still living with their parents, and most did not report being married or having a partner. Over 90% of YM participants lived in major cities and 83% lived in areas with a high level of socio-economic disadvantage.

**Table 3:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module demographic characteristics

Variables	Sample	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	65	48.9
Male	68	51.1
<b>Age group</b>		
15–17	40	30.1
18–21	46	34.6
22–24	47	35.3
<b>Birthplace of primary carer</b>		
Iraq	74	55.6
Afghanistan	34	25.6
Other	25	18.8

<sup>8</sup> There were 12 children who completed a Wave 3 PAPI but whose primary carer did not complete the CM section of the questionnaire. As such it was not possible to link these children to their carer’s responses and so their responses could not be used.

<sup>9</sup> This resulted in a final eligible total of 549 potential participants who were initiated for contact in Wave 6.

Variables	Sample	%
<b>Household structure</b>		
Lives with parents	111	83.5
Does not live with parents	9	6.8
Not stated	13	9.8
<b>Has partner/married</b>		
No	123	92.5
Yes	10	7.5
<b>SEIFA IRSD</b>		
High	110	82.7
Med	12	9.0
Low	11	8.3
<b>Remoteness area</b>		
Regional	10	7.5
Major city	123	92.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Participants recorded as 'Not stated' for 'Household structure' indicated they did not live alone but then did not specify who they lived with. SEIFA IRSD is Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas – Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage. High SEIFA IRSD = high relative socio-economic disadvantage (ABS, 2023b).

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 2. Language and education

Language and education are 2 of the most important issues for young humanitarian migrants settling into a new country. Both are crucial for many other dimensions of settlement such as establishing social networks, securing employment and engaging with the economy as they get older. Numerous authors have pointed to the centrality of English language proficiency for successful settlement in Australia (e.g. Blake et al., 2019; Khoo, 2010). For younger settlers, education is also central to both short- and long-term settlement outcomes (Matthews, 2008; Molla, 2021) and being proficient in English is critical to achieving good educational outcomes.

### Key findings

1. After 10 years of settlement, almost all Wave 6 YM participants (over 96%) reported having high levels of English proficiency.<sup>10</sup>
2. Almost all (97%) reported having studied English since arriving in Australia, and just over half (52%) were still studying English.
3. Almost all (94%) reported having provided interpreting assistance for family members at least once, with females being more likely than males to have done so regularly.
4. All participants had undertaken some form of study other than English classes since arriving in Australia, with 38% still completing their school studies.
5. Three-quarters of participants who were no longer attending school had undertaken further study in Australia.
6. Of those who had undertaken further study, 56% had done so at university level, with a further 31% studying a trade or technical level qualification.

<sup>10</sup> Noting that the survey was only offered in English and so may not have been completed by those less confident in their English proficiency.

## 2.1 English language proficiency

The majority of this cohort had spent a large proportion of their lives in Australia including attending school for much of that time. As such, it is not surprising that most participants in the Wave 6 YM assessed their English proficiency as high. To measure English proficiency, participants were asked to rank their proficiency in 4 domains with the question: *Thinking about your English, how well do you ...*

- *understand spoken English?*
- *speak English?*
- *read English?*
- *write English?*

Response options for each domain were 'Very well', 'Well', 'Not well' or 'Not at all'.

Few respondents selected 'not at all' or 'not well' for any of the English language proficiency domains (less than 4%), with the vast majority reporting a high proficiency (i.e. they responded 'well' or 'very well') across all 4 domains (Table 4).

**Table 4:** English language proficiency, Wave 6

	Not at all/not well %	Well %	Very well %	Total % (N = 133)
Understand spoken English	2.3	23.3	74.4	100.0
Speak English	2.3	24.1	73.7	100.0
Read English	2.3	26.3	71.4	100.0
Write English	3.8	30.1	66.2	100.0

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

For the analysis of proficiency by demographics, the English-speaking domain was used, and the results split into 2 groups ('Not at all/not well/well' and 'Very well') given the very small sample sizes in the 'Not at all/not well' category. Over 70% of the cohort reported speaking English very well. There were no statistically significant differences by age or gender (Table 5).

**Table 5:** English speaking proficiency by demographics, Wave 6

	Not at all/not well/well %	Very well %	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Female	29.4	70.6	68	0.410
Male	23.1	76.9	65	
<b>Age group</b>				
15-17	20.0	80.0	40	0.415
18-21	32.6	67.4	46	
22-24	25.5	74.5	47	
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>133</b>	

Notes: Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 2.2 Studied English in Australia

Just over half (52%) of Wave 6 YM participants reported they were currently studying English at the time of the interview (Table 6). A further 45% had studied English in the past, since arriving in Australia, with only 3% never having done so since arrival.

**Table 6:** Has studied English in Australia, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Yes - I am currently studying	68	51.9
Yes - but I am no longer studying	59	45.0
No	4	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

Unsurprisingly, there was a statistically significant relationship for age, with over 92% of those aged 15–17 years currently studying English, followed by 48% of 18–20 year olds and 19% of 21–24 year olds (Table 7). Younger respondents were more likely than older participants to still be enrolled at school, which is where they were likely to be studying English. When asked where they had studied English, 97% of those aged 15–17 years reported that they had studied English at school. There were no statistically significant differences by gender.

**Table 7:** Has studied English in Australia by demographics, Wave 6

	No (%)	Yes, currently studying (%)	Yes, but no longer studying (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	5.9	50.0	44.1	68	0.737
Female	3.1	52.3	44.6	65	
<b>Age</b>					
15–17	2.5	92.5	5.0	40	0.000
18–20	4.3	47.8	47.8	46	
21–24	6.4	19.1	74.5	47	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>133</b>	

Notes: Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 2.3 Provided interpreting assistance to family

Almost all of the respondents in the Wave 6 YM reported providing interpreting assistance at least occasionally, with only 6% reporting that they 'never' do this (Table 8). Almost half of respondents said that they provide such assistance 'often' (16%) or 'very often' (32%).

**Table 8:** Frequency provided interpreting assistance to family, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Never	7	5.5
Rarely	10	7.9
Sometimes	49	38.6
Often	20	15.7
Very often	41	32.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: Six participants selected 'Prefer not to say' or 'Don't know' and are excluded from this analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

Females were more likely to have provided interpreting assistance to family more often than males, with over 57% reporting that they had done so often or very often compared to 39% of males. There were no statistically significant differences by age (Table 9).

**Table 9:** Frequency provided interpreting assistance to family by demographics, Wave 6

	Never/rarely/ sometimes (%)	Often/very often (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	60.9	39.1	64	0.044
Female	42.9	57.1	63	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	50.0	50.0	38	0.499
18-20	46.5	53.5	43	
21-24	58.7	41.3	46	
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>127</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Six participants selected 'Prefer not to say' or 'Don't know' and are excluded from this analysis.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 2.4 Study or job training in Australia

All of the Wave 6 YM participants had undertaken some job training or study (including school) since arriving in Australia. Almost 2 in 5 (38%) participants were still studying at secondary school at the time of the survey and almost half (47%) had undertaken some form of study or job training other than schooling (Table 10). Only 15% of the cohort at Wave 6 were no longer at school and had not undertaken any studies or training since finishing school.

**Table 10:** Study or job training status, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Currently at school	44	37.6
Not at school (has not done study or training)	18	15.4
Not at school (has done study or training)	55	47.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** These data are derived from answers to several questions related to current education, past education and highest completed level of education. Due to either not completing the survey in full, or answering 'Don't know', 'Prefer not to say' or 'Does not apply' to one or more of these questions, it was not possible to derive a status for 16 participants.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

Of those who had left school, 75% had undertaken some form of post-school education or training in Australia. Specifically, 56% reported university as their highest level of education and 16% reported trade/technical studies (Table 11).

**Table 11:** Highest level of study or job training undertaken in Australia, Wave 6

	Sample	%
University study	31	56.4
Trade/technical	9	16.4
Short course/work experience	12	21.8
Other	3	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** This table includes only those participants identified as 'Not at school (has done study or training)' in Table 10. When asked to nominate the level of study they had undertaken, 3 participants selected 'Other' but without any further details provided. Total percentage may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 2.5 Highest level of completed education

Given that those still undertaking their school studies are at a different stage of life to those who have left school, the remainder of the analysis in this section focuses on the 73 participants who were known to be no longer studying at school, that is 55 respondents who had done further study or training and 18 who had not (see Table 10). Of this group, when asked to specify their highest level of completed education, just over half (57%) indicated that they had completed their full 12 years of school or more and a further 32% had secured some form of post-school qualification since leaving school (Table 12).

**Table 12: Highest level of completed education, Wave 6**

	Sample	%
7-11 years of schooling	8	11.1
12 or more years of schooling	41	56.9
Trade or technical qualification beyond school	8	11.1
University degree	15	20.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: One eligible respondent is missing in this question.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

Overall, 75% of respondents who had left school had undertaken non-school study or job training. There were no statistically significant differences by age or gender (Table 13).

**Table 13: Has done non-school study/job training in Australia by demographics, Wave 6**

	No (%)	Yes (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	30.8	69.2	39	0.201
Female	17.6	82.4	34	
<b>Age</b>				
15-20	30.8	69.2	39	0.201
21-24	17.6	82.4	34	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>73</b>	

Notes: Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. The age categories were reduced to a binary (15-20 and 21-24) for this analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 2.6 Summary

The English language data presented in this chapter have revealed that the Wave 6 YM cohort were highly proficient in English. This is not surprising given that many of them have spent the majority of their lives in Australia and most have completed large portions of their schooling in the Australian system. This was a key reason for offering the Wave 6 YM survey only in English. It should be noted, however, that one implication of this approach may have been that those eligible to respond but who were not confident in their English proficiency may have chosen not to participate.

Given the age range of the cohort, there were a variety of outcomes in terms of their study and education. Just under one-third (30%) were still of secondary school age and, therefore, have not undertaken any training or studies beyond that. Of those who had left school, the majority have undertaken some form of further study or job training (75%) with university level studies being most common (56%).

### 3. Economic participation

While paid employment may not initially be seen as important to younger humanitarian migrants (in comparison to education and language proficiency), it is well recognised that young humanitarian migrants and their families often have high aspirations for their future employment (Centre for Multicultural Youth, 2014). Besides being important for young people to eventually secure employment for their financial wellbeing, meaningful and sustainable employment can also affect other dimensions of settlement such as sense of identity, health and social networks (Ziersch et al., 2023). Employment can often give young people a sense of value and influence how they see themselves within the wider community (Centre for Multicultural Youth, 2014).

Some research (e.g. Correa-Velez et al., 2017) has indicated that those arriving at a younger age have a greater future potential for secure employment than those who arrive later in life. But it is also well recognised that during their early years of settlement, younger arrivals are at the intersection of 2 vulnerable groups in the labour market – namely that their youth and immigrant status could present challenges in the short-term for securing employment (Nunn et al., 2014).

The age range of the cohort in the Wave 6 YM meant that the economic participation status of participants was diverse. Some young people were not and had never been in the labour market, while others had completed further education courses and secured full-time employment. As such, although the material in this chapter focuses on employment and related issues, it also includes some coverage of educational factors within the context of employment.

#### Key findings

1. Just over 2 in 5 of the Wave 6 YM participants (42%) reported being in paid employment over the previous 7 days. Not being in paid work may be due in part to study commitments, with around one-third (34%) of the cohort reported as studying (either at school or post school).
2. Almost 1 in 6 participants (16%), mostly above school age, were found to be neither working nor studying.
3. Respondents aged 18–20 years were more likely than their younger and older counterparts to have sought work in the previous 4 weeks.

#### 3.1 Paid work and labour force status

Just over 2 in 5 (42%) of the Wave 6 YM cohort reported being in paid employment during the 7 days prior to completing the survey (Table 14). These results are not surprising given previous analysis and discussion highlighting that many of the cohort were still in school and/or undertaking some form of further education. As such, their focus at this time may not have been on securing employment but on improving their capacity to secure employment in the future.

**Table 14:** Paid work in the previous 7 days, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Yes	56	42.1
No	62	46.6
Not stated	15	11.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** 'Not stated' includes participants who commenced the survey but stopped before this question and those who selected 'Prefer not to say' or 'Don't know'.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

However, being enrolled in school or further education does not necessarily mean that securing employment is not possible or of interest. Rather, in the broader community it is common for students (including those still at school) to also have jobs while they are undertaking their studies. When the Wave 6 YM cohort was split into categories to incorporate their current school status (Table 15), it was evident that most of those who were still

at school were not working (67%), whereas most of those who had left school were working (33% were working only and a further 23% were also studying).

However, there remained a group who were not at school and were not currently working or studying (26% of the 'not at school group' or 16% of the total cohort). It is important to note that caring responsibilities and health concerns were not included in this analysis and these may at least partially explain why some young people were not currently working or studying.

**Table 15: Paid work and study status by school status, Wave 6**

	At school		Not at school		Total	
	Obs.	%	Obs.	%	Obs.	%
Working only	n/a	n/a	23	33.3	23	20.5
Working and studying	14	32.6	16	23.2	30	26.8
Studying only	29	67.4	12	17.4	41	36.6
Not working or studying	n/a	n/a	18	26.1	18	16.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** The 21 participants for whom it was not possible to determine whether they were currently working, attending school or doing some other study are all excluded from the analysis. Total percentage may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

Participants who were older were significantly more likely to be in paid employment than their younger counterparts (Table 16). Two-thirds of respondents aged 21–24 years reported being in paid work, decreasing to 47% for those aged 18–20 years and 26% for those aged 15–17 years. There were no statistically significant differences by gender.

**Table 16: Paid work in the previous 7 days by demographics, Wave 6**

	Yes (%)	No (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.3	51.7	58	0.862
Female	46.7	53.3	60	
<b>Age</b>				
15–17	26.3	73.7	38	0.002
18–20	47.4	52.6	38	
21–24	66.7	33.3	42	
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>118</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. The 15 participants classified as 'Not stated' in Table 14 are excluded from this analysis.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

When the 2 'studying' categories from Table 15 were combined to create a larger study group for analysis purposes, it was evident that the largest proportion of all socio-demographic groups falls within this 'studying' category (Table 17). For those reporting 'working only', as would be expected, the largest proportion was for those aged 21–24 years (38%), followed by those aged 18–20 years (26%). None of the young participants aged 15–17 years were 'working only'. There were no statistically significant differences by gender.

**Table 17: Paid work and study status by demographics, Wave 6**

	Working only (%)	Studying (incl. work/study) (%)	Not working or studying (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	20.7	55.2	24.1	58	0.213
Female	23.3	65.0	11.7	60	
<b>Age</b>					
15-17	0.0	97.4	2.6	38	0.000
18-20	26.3	47.4	26.3	38	
21-24	38.1	38.1	23.8	42	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>118</b>	

Notes: Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. The 15 participants classified as 'Not stated' in Table 14 are excluded from this analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

In terms of the labour force status of respondents at Wave 6, almost half were employed (48%), with a further 17% unemployed but looking for work. Noting that a number of young people in the sample were still studying, just over one-third reported not being employed or looking for work (36%) (Table 18).

**Table 18: Labour force status,<sup>11</sup> Wave 6**

	Sample	%
Not in labour force	42	35.6
Unemployed	20	16.9
Employed	56	47.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: The 15 participants classified as 'Not stated' in Table 14 are excluded from this analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

As would be expected, when the cohort was split by demographic characteristics, there was a clear statistically significant difference by age (Table 19). Older participants (21–24 years) were more likely to be employed. Of those not employed and looking for work, the largest proportion was for those aged 18–20 years (26%). While the age group with the largest proportion not looking for work was those aged 15–17 years (61%). There were no statistically significant differences by gender.

**Table 19: Labour force status by demographics, Wave 6**

	Not in labour force (%)	Unemployed (%)	Employed (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	27.6	24.1	48.3	58	0.066
Female	43.3	10.0	46.7	60	
<b>Age</b>					
15-17	60.5	13.2	26.3	38	0.001
18-20	26.3	26.3	47.4	38	
21-24	21.4	11.9	66.7	42	
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>118</b>	

Notes: Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. The 15 participants classified as 'Not stated' in Table 14 are excluded from this analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

<sup>11</sup> Labour force has been derived from whether the respondent reported being in paid work in the last 7 days (employed), whether they looked for work in the last 4 weeks (unemployed), or neither (not in the labour force).

## 3.2 Looking for work

Respondents were asked 2 questions to understand whether they were actively seeking work. The first asks: 'In the last 12 months, have you looked for paid work?' If they answered yes to this question, they were also asked: 'Have you looked for paid work at any time during the last 4 weeks?' Around one-quarter of responding participants had looked for work in the previous 4 weeks and one-quarter had looked during the previous 12 months. Taking into account that many participants were studying, around half had not actively looked for work during the period in question (Table 20). When considering looking for work by demographics, there were no statistically significant differences (Table 21).

**Table 20:** Has looked for work in the previous 12 months/4 weeks, Wave 6

	Sample	%
No	60	50.4
Yes - last 12 months	30	25.2
Yes - last 4 weeks	29	24.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Participants who selected 'Does not apply' to the 12-month question are included in the 'No' category. Participants who selected 'Does not apply' to the 4-week question are included in the 'Yes - last 12 months' category. Fourteen participants responded with 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or commenced the survey but stopped before the job-seeking question. These participants are excluded from this analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Table 21:** Has looked for work in the previous 12 months/4 weeks by demographics, Wave 6

	No (%)	Yes - last 12 months (%)	Yes - last 4 weeks (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	44.6	21.4	33.9	56	0.076
Female	55.6	28.6	15.9	63	
<b>Age</b>					
15-17	53.8	33.3	12.8	39	0.151
18-20	43.9	19.5	36.6	41	
21-24	53.8	23.1	23.1	39	
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>119</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Participants who selected 'Does not apply' to the 12-month question are included in the 'No' category. Participants who selected 'Does not apply' to the 4-week question are included in the 'Yes - last 12 months' category. Fourteen participants responded with 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or commenced the survey but stopped before the job-seeking question. These participants are excluded from this analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 3.3 Summary

The results presented here indicate that participants in the Wave 6 YM had diverse economic engagement. Younger participants were less likely to be employed, less likely to be looking for work, and less likely to be in the labour market overall. This is to be expected given that many of the cohort were completing their education at this stage of their lives in Australia.

Nevertheless, there were some findings that may warrant further examination in future research. One is the finding that just under 1 in 6 young participants (16%), mostly older than school age, were neither working nor studying. Further research to help understand more about this group and the factors that have influenced their current labour force status would be useful.

## 4. Social connections

Migrants' ability to build and maintain social connections in their new environment is likely to be a major determining factor in their ability to successfully settle in Australia. This could include connections with people from their own ethnic community but particularly with the majority ethnic groups in the settlement location (Fozdar & Hartley, 2014; Pittaway et al., 2009). Such connections can contribute to people's sense of wellbeing, as well as enable access to knowledge about Australian services, systems, values and cultural practices (Fozdar & Hartley, 2013). However, there can also be conflicting values between the family and host community cultures, resulting in young people feeling like they don't quite fit into either (Hunter et al., 2016).

### Key findings

1. After 10 years of settlement, the majority of Wave 6 YM participants had developed strong social connections. Three-quarters reported they mostly or always 'feel part of the community' and two-thirds reported having friends from ethnic communities other than their own.
2. However, some young people showed weaker social connections. One-third of participants reported they mostly had friends from their own ethnic community and just over one-quarter (27%) reported not participating in any sporting or cultural activities.
3. Some gender differences were observed in social connectedness. Males (85%) were more likely than females (67%) to report feeling part of the Australian community, and males (84%) were more likely than females (63%) to participate in any sporting or cultural activity.

### 4.1 Mixed sources of friends

Using earlier waves of BNLA data, Wong & Edwards (2023) identified that younger humanitarian migrants were more likely than older arrivals to establish friendship networks that went beyond their immediate cultural, ethnic and religious networks. Data from the Wave 6 BNLA YM shows that around two-thirds of respondents reported having a friendship network that consisted of persons from ethnic communities other than their own or from a mixed range of communities (Table 22). There were no statistically significant differences by gender or age (Table 23).

**Table 22: Source of friends, Wave 6**

	Sample	%
No friends/mostly from own ethnic community	39	33.1
Mixed/mostly from other ethnic communities	79	66.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Participants who selected 'Does not apply' are included in the 'No friends/mostly from own ethnic community' category. Fifteen respondents are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Table 23:** Source of friends by demographics, Wave 6

	Mostly own ethnic community (%)	Mixed/other communities (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	27.1	72.9	59	0.175
Female	39.0	61.0	59	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	35.1	64.9	37	0.878
18-20	30.0	70.0	40	
21-24	34.1	65.9	41	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>118</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Fifteen participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 4.2 Feeling part of the Australian community

In their study of young refugees settling in Melbourne, Correa-Velez and colleagues (2010) identified that the key factors strongly associated with wellbeing are those related to belonging – the most important being subjective social status in the broader Australian community. Sense of belonging is measured in BNLA by the question, 'How often do you feel part of the Australian community?' Around three-quarters (76%) of respondents indicated they mostly or always felt part of the community (Table 24).

**Table 24:** Feels part of the Australian community, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Hardly ever/never	5	4.2
Some of the time	24	20.2
Most of the time	40	33.6
Always	50	42.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Note:** Fourteen participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know', 'Does not apply', or commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

The proportion of young participants feeling part of the Australian community most of the time or always was significantly different for gender but not for age (Table 25). Males (85%) were more likely than females (67%) to report feeling part of the Australian community most of the time or always.

**Table 25:** Feels part of the Australian community by demographics, Wave 6

	Never/hardly/some of the time (%)	Most of the time/always (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	15.5	84.5	58	0.031
Female	32.8	67.2	61	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	16.2	83.8	37	0.061
18-20	37.5	62.5	40	
21-24	19.0	81.0	42	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>119</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Fourteen participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know', 'Does not apply', or commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

### 4.3 Use of English/family language

The extent to which migrants are able to learn and use English in their daily lives is an important factor associated with successful settlement. When asked about the language they used to communicate in Wave 3, 78% of children 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that they often used English and 57% 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that they often used the language of their family, suggesting that the children were making the shift to English (Department of Social Services [DSS], 2017).

In Wave 6, three-quarters of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they often use English for communication, and 71% agreed or strongly agreed that they often use their family language for communicating (Table 26). Interestingly, 19% of respondents disagreed that they frequently use English for communication and a further 6% neither agreed nor disagreed.

**Table 26:** Frequently use English or family language for communication, Wave 6

	Sample	%
<b>English</b>		
Strongly disagree/disagree	24	18.6
Neither disagree nor agree	8	6.2
Agree/strongly agree	97	75.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Family language</b>		
Strongly disagree/disagree	19	14.6
Neither disagree nor agree	19	14.6
Agree/strongly agree	92	70.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Four participants responded 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or 'Does not apply' to the English question. Three participants selected 'Prefer not to say' or 'Don't know' to the family language question. They are excluded from the relevant analysis.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

There were no significant differences when comparing frequency of English communication by gender or age (Table 27). This indicates that those who disagreed that they use English frequently were relatively uniformly distributed across the cohort rather than concentrated amongst any particular group. This was similar when comparing frequency of family language by age and gender (Table 28).

**Table 27:** Frequently use English for communication by demographics, Wave 6

	Strongly disagree/ disagree/neither (%)	Agree/strongly agree (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	24.6	75.4	65	0.960
Female	25.0	75.0	64	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	20.0	80.0	40	0.687
18-20	27.9	72.1	43	
21-24	26.1	73.9	46	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>129</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Four participants are excluded from the analysis because they responded 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or 'Does not apply'.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Table 28:** Frequently use family language for communication by demographics, Wave 6

	Strongly disagree/ disagree/neither (%)	Agree/strongly agree (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	30.8	69.2	65	0.701
Female	27.7	72.3	65	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	33.3	66.7	39	0.385
18-20	33.3	66.7	45	
21-24	21.7	78.3	46	
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>130</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Three participants are excluded from the analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say' or 'Don't know'.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 4.4 Sporting and cultural activities

Participation in sport and other community activities has been identified as a key forum through which community belonging can be established, particularly for younger migrants. For example, Spaaij (2012, 2015) in his work with Somali youth in Melbourne identified community sport as an area where refugee youth negotiate belonging. The author notes that this is not always a straightforward process and can have different outcomes across groups.

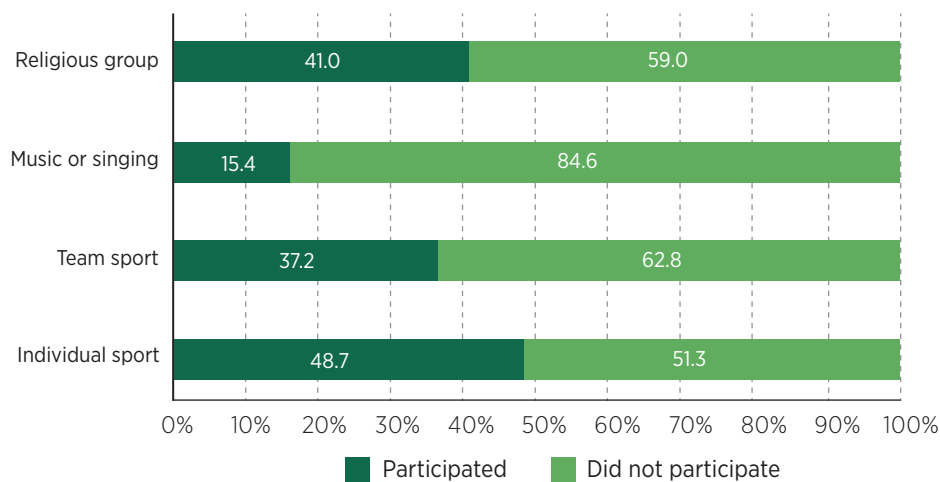
Almost three-quarters (73%) of respondents to the Wave 6 YM reported participating in at least one sporting or cultural activity ( ). The most common activities selected of those on offer were 'Individual sport' (49%), 'Religious activities' (41%) and 'Team sport' (37%) (Figure 1).

**Table 29:** Number of sporting and cultural activities participated in, Wave 6

	Sample	%
None	29	27.1
One	49	45.8
Two or more	29	27.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: Twenty-six participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or they commenced the survey but stopped before this question. Twenty-nine participants selected 'Does not apply' and all are included in the 'None' category.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Figure 1:** Individual sporting and cultural activities participated in, Wave 6

Notes:  $N = 107$ . Twenty-six participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or they commenced the survey but stopped before this question. Twenty-nine participants selected 'Does not apply' and all are included in the 'Did not participate' category.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

When considering participation in activities by gender and age, the 3 categories have been collapsed into 2 ('none' and 'one or more') to ensure sufficient sample sizes in these subgroups (Table 30). Females (37%) were more likely than males (16%) to report no activities. There were no statistically significant differences by age.

**Table 30:** Number of sporting and cultural activities participated in by demographics, Wave 6

	None (%)	One or more (%)	Obs.	<i>p</i> -value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	16.0	84.0	50	0.018
Female	36.8	63.2	57	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	33.3	66.7	33	0.511
18-20	21.1	78.9	38	
21-24	27.8	72.2	36	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>107</b>	

Notes: Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Twenty-six participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or they commenced the survey but stopped before this question. Twenty-nine participants selected 'Does not apply' and all are included in the 'None' category.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 4.5 Summary

The results presented in this chapter indicate that the Wave 6 BNLA YM participants as a group have positive outcomes in the various social connection indicators measured. Around two-thirds had friendship networks extending beyond their immediate cultural groups, around three-quarters felt a part of the Australian community most or all of the time, three-quarters agreed that they often use English to communicate while around 7 in 10 agreed they often use their home language, and almost three-quarters had participated in at least one type of community sporting or cultural activity in the previous 6 months.

However, there remained a substantial minority for whom there may still be some social connection difficulties (around one-third to one-quarter of respondents across outcomes).

## 5. Self-agency

Self-agency in the settlement context is about migrants having an ability to influence and take responsibility for outcomes, including the services allocated to support their needs, goals and aspirations (Home Affairs, 2023). It can also be understood as an ability to operate in society without assistance from others (DSS, 2017). As Khoo (2012) notes, having the capacity to function in society (i.e. through knowledge, skills and accessibility) is necessary to attain successful settlement. In the BNLA study, Wave 6 YM participants were asked questions designed to gauge their level of competence and confidence in undertaking what for many non-migrants may be considered everyday tasks.

For young people, many of these issues and tasks may not be relevant until they have left school and/or become independent (such as finding somewhere to live or seeking employment). As such, there was likely to be a diversity of outcomes in the Wave 6 YM data partly dependent upon the respondents' age and stage of life at the time of the survey. Those still living at home with their parents and attending school may have a lower level of self-agency than those who have completed post-school education and secured employment. For this reason, the demographic analysis in this chapter included a different binary variable that considers whether respondents were or were not living with their parents.

### Key findings

1. After 10 years of settlement, almost all YM participants were in stable housing, with just over 4 in 5 (82%) reporting not having moved houses in the previous 12 months.
2. Almost all participants (96%) agreed they felt safe in their neighbourhood.
3. Around two-thirds of participants (66%) did not report any indicators of financial hardship. However, 21% flagged 1 or 2 hardships and 13% more than 2.
4. Overall, responses to items about self-sufficiency indicated that many of the cohort were still learning how to navigate the various services and structures with which they will need to engage as adults in Australia. For example, around one-third of respondents said they would know a little or not at all how to find out about government services/benefits or their rights.

## 5.1 Housing

Housing is an important factor in the settlement journey of humanitarian migrants. For various reasons, many new humanitarian arrivals find themselves in relatively precarious housing in less advantaged neighbourhoods. Research has found precarious housing can have a negative influence on mental health (Martino et al., 2022) and living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods may not provide an environment in which they can be close to services and feel safe (Ziersch et al., 2017). For younger migrants housing is potentially an important factor in their schooling, particularly if regular moves between neighbourhoods result in them needing to change schools.

When asked how many times they had moved homes in the previous 12 months, just over 4 in 5 (82%) indicated they had not moved at all (Table 31). The second most common response was 'once' with 13% of respondents, and a further 5% said they had moved more than once. There were no statistically significant differences by gender, age or whether living with parents or not (Table 32).

**Table 31:** Number of housing moves in previous 12 months, Wave 6

	Sample	%
None	104	81.9
Once	17	13.4
More than once	6	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Six participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say' or 'Don't know'.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Table 32:** Number of housing moves in previous 12 months by demographics, Wave 6

	None (%)	Once or more (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	76.2	23.8	63	0.102
Female	87.5	12.5	64	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	85.0	15.0	40	0.712
18-20	78.0	22.0	41	
21-24	82.6	17.4	46	
<b>Household structure</b>				
Living with parents	81.1	18.9	106	0.621
Not living with parents/not stated	85.7	14.3	21	
<b>Total</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>127</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Six participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say' or 'Don't know'.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

The Wave 6 YM cohort was relatively evenly split in terms of the tenure of their housing at the time of the survey, with 36% in long-term rental situations, 32% in ownership/mortgage arrangements and 32% in temporary/short-term rental or other (Table 33). There were no statistically significant differences by gender, age or whether living with parents or not (Table 34).

**Table 33:** Housing tenure, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Temporary or short-term rental/other	34	31.5
Long-term rental	39	36.1
Own home or paying mortgage	35	32.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Twenty-five participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or 'Does not apply'.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Table 34:** Housing tenure by demographics, Wave 6

	Temporary, short-term rental or other (%)	Long-term rental or ownership (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	33.9	66.1	56	0.573
Female	28.8	71.2	52	
<b>Age</b>				
15–17	28.1	71.9	32	0.507
18–20	38.9	61.1	36	
21–24	27.5	72.5	40	
<b>Household structure</b>				
Living with parents	34.0	66.0	94	0.142
Not living with parents/not stated	14.3	85.7	14	
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>108</b>	

Notes: Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Twenty-five participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or 'Does not apply'.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 5.2 Feels safe in the neighbourhood

Over 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe in their neighbourhoods (Table 35). Given the very small numbers of persons in the 2 disagree categories, no further demographic analysis is presented for this particular question.

**Table 35:** Feels safe in the neighbourhood, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Strongly agree	39	31.5
Agree	80	64.5
Disagree/ strongly disagree	5	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: Nine participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Don't know' or 'Does not apply'.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 5.3 Financial hardship

Financial hardship was measured by asking participants whether *'in the last 12 months, any of the following happened to you because you didn't have enough money?'*

- Could not pay gas, electricity or telephone bills on time
- Could not pay the rent or mortgage payments on time
- Went without meals
- Were unable to heat or cool your home
- Pawned or sold something because you needed cash
- Needed help from a welfare or community organisation.

Almost two-thirds (66%) of the 119 who responded to this question did not select any of the financial hardship items (Table 36). Just over 1 in 5 (21%) selected one or two items and 13% selected 3 or more. The most common items selected were 'Could not pay bills on time', noted by 19% of respondents, followed by 'Pawned or sold something' (15%) and 'Went without meals' (13%) (Figure 2).

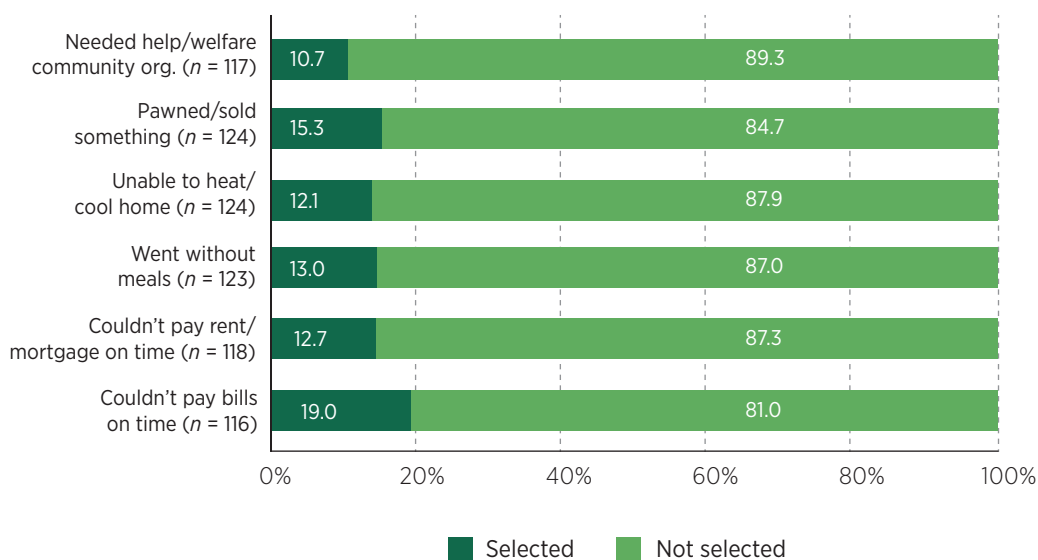
**Table 36:** Number of financial hardship items selected, Wave 6

	Sample	%
None	78	65.5
One or two	25	21.0
Three or more	16	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** A total score was calculated only when at least 5 of the 6 items were answered as either 'Yes' or 'No'. Fourteen participants either stopped the survey before this question or answered 'Don't know', 'Prefer not to say' or 'Does not apply' to more than one item and all are excluded from the analysis. Total percentage does not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Figure 2:** Individual financial hardship items, Wave 6



**Notes:** Participants who selected 'Does not apply' to specific items are counted as 'Not selected' on that item. Between 9 and 17 participants selected either 'Don't know', 'Prefer not to say' or stopped the survey before this question. They are excluded from the analysis.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

For the statistical analysis incorporating demographic characteristics of respondents, the number of hardship items has been converted to a binary variable to ensure sufficient sample sizes for analysis. There was a statistically significant result for age with the number of financial hardship items selected increasing with age ( ). This ranged from 14% of 15–17 year olds selecting any items, rising to 37% for 18–20 year olds and rising again to 49% for 21–24 year old participants. This result for the oldest age group was the highest across all the subgroups analysed here. This may reflect that more of this group had circumstances whereby they were needing to be more self-sufficient than their younger counterparts who may have still been heavily supported by their parents.

As indicated in Table 38, there was a statistically significant relationship between the number of financial hardship indicators selected and whether the respondent's main source of income was their parents or not. For those for whom their parents were not their main source of income, 45% reported at least one hardship indicator as compared to only 19% of those who still largely relied on their parents' income.

**Table 37:** Number of financial hardship items by demographics, Wave 6

	None (%)	One or more (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	67.8	32.2	59	0.611
Female	63.3	36.7	60	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	85.7	14.3	35	0.007
18-20	63.4	36.6	41	
21-24	51.2	48.8	43	
<b>Household structure</b>				
Living with parents	64.6	35.4	99	0.648
Not living with parents/not stated	70.0	30.0	20	
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>119</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. A total score was calculated only when at least 5 of the 6 items were answered as either 'Yes' or 'No'. Fourteen participants either stopped the survey before this question or answered 'Don't know', 'Prefer not to say' or 'Does not apply' to more than one item and all are excluded from the analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Table 38:** Number of financial hardship items by main source of income, Wave 6

	None (%)	One or more (%)	Obs.	p-value
Parents are main source of income	80.8	19.2	26	0.027
Parents are not main source of income	55.4	44.6	65	
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>91</b>	

**Notes:** Forty-two participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know', 'Does not apply' or they commenced the survey but stopped before one or more of the questions included in this analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 5.4 Driver's licence

Having a driver's licence allows young people to increase their independence and their access to employment, education, training and health care (NSW Government, 2024). Research has identified that obtaining a driver's licence can be a challenge for young humanitarian migrants (Refugee Council of Australia [RCOA], 2009). In the YM, the vast majority (87%) of respondents aged 16 years or over reported holding a licence<sup>12</sup> (Table 39). There were no statistically significant differences by gender, age or whether living with parents or not (Table 40).

**Table 39:** Holds a driver's licence, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Doesn't have a licence	15	13.3
Has a licence	98	86.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Twelve participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

<sup>12</sup> Respondents were not asked to nominate whether their licence was open, provisional or learners. Asked of participants aged 16 years or over.

**Table 40:** Holds a driver's licence by demographics, Wave 6

	Doesn't have a licence (%)	Has a licence (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	14.0	86.0	57	0.811
Female	12.5	87.5	56	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	19.4	80.6	31	0.499
18-20	10.3	89.7	39	
21-24	11.6	88.4	43	
<b>Household structure</b>				
Living with parents	13.8	86.2	94	0.701
Not living with parents/not stated	10.5	89.5	19	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>113</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Twelve participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know', or commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 5.5 Self-sufficiency

Self-sufficiency in the BNLA study is measured via a series of questions which ask participants: *'If you had to, would you know how to ...?'* for a variety of everyday tasks they may need to undertake in Australia. Results indicate that two-thirds or more of young participants were confident in their ability to undertake the tasks, reporting knowing how very or fairly well (Table 41). However, there was a substantial minority who were not confident in their ability to undertake some of the tasks. For example, around one-third of respondents said they would 'Know a little' or 'Wouldn't know at all' how to find out about government services/benefits or their rights.

**Table 41:** Individual self-sufficiency items, Wave 6

	Wouldn't know at all/would know a little (%)	Would know fairly well (%)	Would know very well (%)	Total (%)	Obs. (N)
<b>Knows how to ...</b>					
Look for a job	16.0	36.1	47.9	100.0	119
Use bank services	26.5	27.4	46.2	100.0	117
Find out about government services/benefits	32.7	31.0	36.2	100.0	116
Find out about rights	32.5	31.6	35.9	100.0	117
Access health services and/or information about health services	20.7	40.5	38.8	100.0	116

**Notes:** Four respondents are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Does not apply' to all items or commenced the survey but stopped before this question. Between 6 and 9 participants selected 'Don't know' and between 3 and 5 selected 'Prefer not to say' for specific items. Total percentage may not add to exactly 100.0 due to rounding.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

In order to examine overall levels of self-sufficiency and compare it across groups, responses to each self-sufficiency item were aggregated.<sup>13</sup> The average self-sufficiency score across the cohort was 10.7 (out of 15), with no significant differences by gender, age or whether living with parents or not (Table 42).

<sup>13</sup> A score of 0 was assigned to response option 'Wouldn't know at all' through to 3 for 'Would know very well'. These scores were aggregated across the 5 items for a total score out of 15. A mean score was then calculated for specific groups of participants.

**Table 42:** Mean aggregate self-sufficiency score, Wave 6

	Mean self-sufficiency score	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	10.96	55	0.42
Female	10.38	55	
<b>Age</b>			
15-17	10.03	32	0.36
18-20	10.59	41	
21-24	11.32	37	
<b>Household structure</b>			
Living with parents	10.81	90	0.41
Not living with parents/Not stated	10.05	20	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.67</b>	<b>110</b>	

**Notes:** Four respondents are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Does not apply' to all items or commenced the survey but stopped before this question. Between 6 and 9 participants selected 'Don't know' and between 3 and 5 selected 'Prefer not to say' for specific items. Statistically significant differences were assessed using T-tests for gender and household structure, and one-way ANOVA for age groups.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 5.6 Difficulty getting help from government services

Around 7 in 10 Wave 6 YM participants reported having used government services in the previous 12 months (Table 43) with around 3 in 5 reporting they experienced difficulties when getting help from these services (Table 44).

**Table 43:** Has used government services, Wave 6

	Sample	%
No	30	29.7
Yes	71	70.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Thirty-two participants are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Don't know' or 'Prefer not to say' or commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Table 44:** Has had difficulty getting help from government services, Wave 6

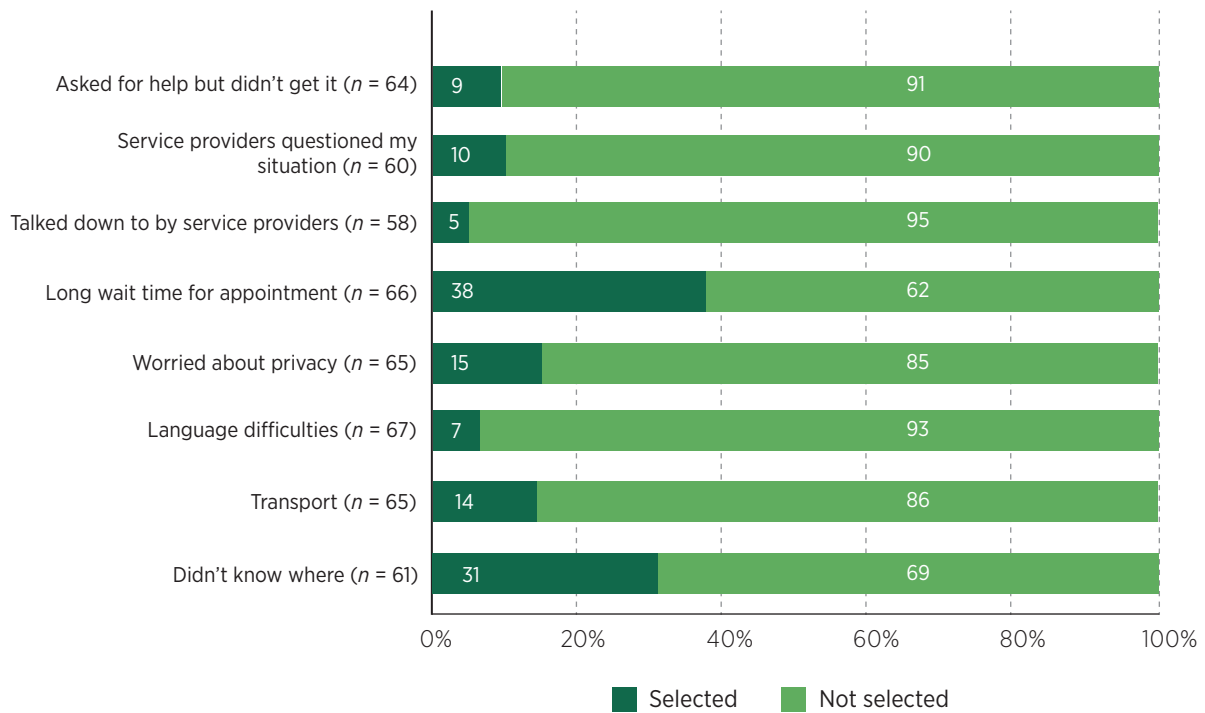
	Sample	%
No	27	38.0
Yes	44	62.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Only participants who answered 'yes' to having used government services are included in this analysis.

Source: BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

Of those who had accessed government services, the most common barriers identified were long wait times for appointments (38%), not knowing where to go for help (31%) and concerns about privacy (15%) (Figure 3: Barriers getting help from government services, Wave 6).

**Figure 3: Barriers getting help from government services, Wave 6**



**Notes:** Fifty-nine participants were not asked this question because they had not used government services in the previous 12 months. Between 5 and 13 participants answered either 'Does not apply' or 'Prefer not to say' for specific items.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 5.7 Summary

This chapter shows diverse outcomes in relation to participants' self-agency. For example, it was found that the majority (87%) hold a driver's licence and almost all (96%) reported feeling safe in their neighbourhood. Additionally, more than 4 in 5 were in stable housing situations. However, around one-third of the cohort reported some level of financial hardship and similarly one-third reported knowing either a little or not at all how to find out about government services/benefits or their rights. Of those reporting accessing government services, just under two-thirds reported difficulties accessing these services.

## 6. Health and wellbeing

The mental and physical health of humanitarian migrants is well recognised as a crucial factor in the ability to settle successfully in a new community. Many humanitarian migrants arrive in Australia with significant health issues encompassing both physical and mental health conditions. Such health issues can include infectious diseases, disabilities, nutritional deficiencies, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) possibly linked to torture and trauma experienced in their home or transition countries (Hadgkiss et al., 2014; Harris & Zwar, 2005). Poor health has been identified as a factor influencing numerous settlement outcomes including financial hardship (Torlinska et al., 2020) and employment (Ziersch et al., 2022). With respect to young people, research has also identified that the mental health of parents can impact the health and wellbeing of their children (Bryant et al., 2018; Reid & Berle, 2020).

### Key findings

1. After 10 years of settlement, almost 9 in 10 Wave 6 YM participants (88%) rated their overall health as good or better.
2. The majority of participants did not report symptoms associated with mental health concerns, with 62% classified as low risk of mental health disorders and 79% not meeting the criteria for PTSD.
3. However, there were differences by gender, with females more likely than males to have higher psychological distress and more likely to meet the criteria for PTSD.

### 6.1 Overall self-rated health

Almost 9 in 10 (88%) of the Wave 6 YM participants rated their overall health as 'good' or above with 29% in the top category of 'excellent' (Table 45). None rated their health as 'very poor' and 16 rated their health as 'poor' or 'fair'.

**Table 45: Self-rated health, Wave 6**

	Sample	%
Poor/fair	16	12.2
Good	41	31.3
Very good	36	27.5
Excellent	38	29.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Two participants commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

For the analysis by demographic group, self-rated health is classified into 3 categories: 'excellent', 'very good' and 'poor/fair/good'. There were no statistically significant differences by age or gender (Table 46).

**Table 46:** Self-rated health by demographics, Wave 6

	Poor/fair/good (%)	Very good (%)	Excellent (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	34.8	27.3	37.9	66	0.055
Female	52.3	27.7	20.0	65	
<b>Age</b>					
15-17	41.0	28.2	30.8	39	0.935
18-20	42.2	31.1	26.7	45	
21-24	46.8	23.4	29.8	47	
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>131</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Two participants commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 6.2 Physical activity

With regards to physical activity, participants in the Wave 6 YM were asked to nominate 'How many days in the previous week they had spent at least 60 minutes in some form of physical activity that was enough to increase their breathing rate?' More than half of the participants who answered the question did not provide a numerical response instead selecting either 'Don't know' (35%), 'Prefer not to say' (12%) or 'Does not apply' (9%) (Table 47). Amongst those who did provide a number, the distribution was relatively uniform with responses across the spectrum from 0 to 7. Given the large numbers of non-response, no further analysis of physical activity is presented.

**Table 47:** Number of days of physical activity (60 minutes or more) in previous week, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Prefer not to say	15	11.5
Don't know	45	34.6
Does not apply	12	9.2
0 days	9	6.9
1 day	6	4.6
2 days	8	6.2
3 days	11	8.5
4 days	6	4.6
5 days	11	8.5
6 days/7 days	7	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Three participants commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 6.3 Psychological distress

Psychological distress is measured in the Wave 6 YM using the Kessler 6 scale. The Kessler 6 is a widely used series of 6 questions that ask participants how often in the last 4 weeks they felt:

- nervous
- hopeless
- restless or fidgety
- that everything was an effort

- so sad that nothing could cheer you up
- worthless.

Answers are given on a 5-point scale ranging from 'none of the time' through to 'all of the time' with each scored and aggregated to identify whether the respondent is potentially experiencing symptoms of serious mental illness or a moderate mental disorder.

Not all of the Wave 6 YM participants provided answers to all Kessler 6 questions, meaning a score could not be calculated for everyone. Of the 108 for whom a score was possible, 62% were identified as being in the low-risk group, where a mental disorder was unlikely (Table 48). However, 24% were identified as experiencing moderate mental distress and a further 14% scored high, indicating that a serious mental illness was likely. By way of a comparison, a national survey of over 19,000 15-19 year olds in 2023 found 25% to be in the high group and a further 29% in the moderate group (McHale et al., 2023).

**Table 48: Kessler 6 scale of psychological distress, Wave 6**

	Sample	%
Low (Mental disorder unlikely)	67	62.0
Moderate (Mental disorder possible)	26	24.1
High (Probable serious mental illness)	15	13.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** This analysis only includes participants who provided a valid response to all 6 of the Kessler items.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

Examination of the Kessler 6 results by gender and age showed a statistically significant difference by gender (Table 49). Females were more likely than males to potentially be experiencing mental disorders, with around half of female respondents experiencing moderate or high distress compared to one-quarter of males. Comparable results from the previously cited national youth survey also revealed a wide disparity between males and females, with 64% of females in the moderate or high range compared to 38% of males (McHale et al., 2023).

**Table 49: Kessler 6 scale of psychological distress by demographics, Wave 6**

	Low (Mental disorder unlikely) (%)	Moderate (Mental disorder possible) (%)	High (Probable serious mental illness) (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	75.5	17.0	7.5	53	0.018
Female	49.1	30.9	20.0	55	
<b>Age</b>					
15-17	56.2	31.2	12.5	32	0.752
18-20	62.5	20.0	17.5	40	
21-24	66.7	22.2	11.1	36	
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>108</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. This analysis only includes participants who provided a valid response to all 6 of the Kessler items.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 6.4 Post-traumatic stress disorder

Examination of data from the 8-item post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) scale indicates that the majority of Wave 6 YM participants (79%) scored in the low range and so were unlikely to be experiencing PTSD (Table 50). However, 21% were identified as meeting criteria for PTSD, with the rate for females (29%) more than double the rate for males (13%). There were no statistically significant differences by age (Table 51).

**Table 50:** Post-traumatic stress disorder, Wave 6

	Sample	%
Unlikely to have PTSD	90	78.9
May have PTSD	24	21.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Note:** This analysis only includes participants who provided a valid response to all 8 of the PTSD items.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Table 51:** Post-traumatic stress disorder by demographics, Wave 6

	Unlikely to have PTSD (%)	May have PTSD (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	87.3	12.7	55	0.038
Female	71.2	28.8	59	
<b>Age</b>				
15-17	83.3	16.7	36	0.734
18-20	76.3	23.7	38	
21-24	77.5	22.5	40	
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>114</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. This analysis only includes participants who provided a valid response to all 8 of the PTSD items.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 6.5 Received professional help for emotional problems

When asked if they had received professional help for emotional problems in the previous 12 months, almost three-quarters of respondents (74%) reported they had not needed such help (Table 52). For the rest, 18% reported they had received help and 9% reported they needed help but were unable to get it.

**Table 52:** Has received professional help for emotional problems, Wave 6

	Sample	%
No, haven't needed	84	73.7
No, needed help but couldn't get it	10	8.8
Yes	20	17.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Five participants selected 'Does not apply' to this question. Their responses have been included in the 'No, haven't needed' category. Nineteen respondents are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

Females were more likely than males to have needed and received or needed and not received professional help for emotional problems ( ). Amongst the female respondents, 25% said they had received such help, compared to 10% of males, and a further 13% said they had needed help but could not get it, compared to 5% of males.

Further, around 1 in 5 (21%) respondents aged 18–20 years reported needing professional help and not being able to get it, compared to only 3% of the other 2 age groups. The group that had the highest rate of needing and receiving such help was those aged 15–17 years (29%).

**Table 53:** Has received professional help for emotional problems by demographics, Wave 6

	No, haven't needed (%)	No, needed help but couldn't get it (%)	Yes (%)	Obs.	p-value
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	84.5	5.2	10.3	58	0.031
Female	62.5	12.5	25.0	56	
<b>Age</b>					
15-17	68.4	2.6	28.9	38	0.004
18-20	65.8	21.1	13.2	38	
21-24	86.8	2.6	10.5	38	
<b>Total</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>114</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Five participants selected 'Does not apply' to this question. Their responses have been included in the 'No, haven't needed' category. Nineteen respondents are excluded from this analysis because they selected 'Prefer not to say', 'Don't know' or commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 6.6 Life satisfaction

When asked to rate their current life satisfaction on a scale from 0 (Completely dissatisfied) to 10 (Completely satisfied), the majority of participants in the Wave 6 YM responded in the upper end of the scale (Table 54). Only 10 of 130 participants gave a score below 5, while nearly half scored 8 or higher. When assessing these results by gender or age, there were no statistically significant differences (Table 55).

**Table 54:** Life satisfaction score, Wave 6

	Sample	%
1 (Low) to 4	10	7.7
5	20	15.4
6	15	11.5
7	23	17.7
8	27	20.8
9	18	13.8
10 (High)	17	13.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Three participants commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

**Table 55:** Life satisfaction category by demographics, Wave 6

	Low (0–5) (%)	Moderate (6–8) (%)	High (9–10) (%)	Obs.	<i>p</i> -value
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	18.5	47.7	33.8	65	0.165
Female	27.7	52.3	20.0	65	
<b>Age</b>					
15–17	15.4	56.4	28.2	39	0.144
18–20	36.4	38.6	25.0	44	
21–24	17.0	55.3	27.7	47	
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>130</b>	

**Notes:** Observations (Obs.) represent the number of participants responding to the item. Three participants commenced the survey but stopped before this question.

**Source:** BNLA Wave 6 Youth Module

## 6.7 Summary

The results of this chapter have highlighted several areas of considerable interest from the Wave 6 YM data. While most respondents appear to be of good physical and mental health, some groups were identified as being more likely to report poorer wellbeing than others. As was the case in the 'Social Connections' chapter, females have emerged as a cohort that appear to experience, or be at risk of experiencing, poorer mental health outcomes than their male counterparts with higher scores on the Kessler 6 and PTSD scales.

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