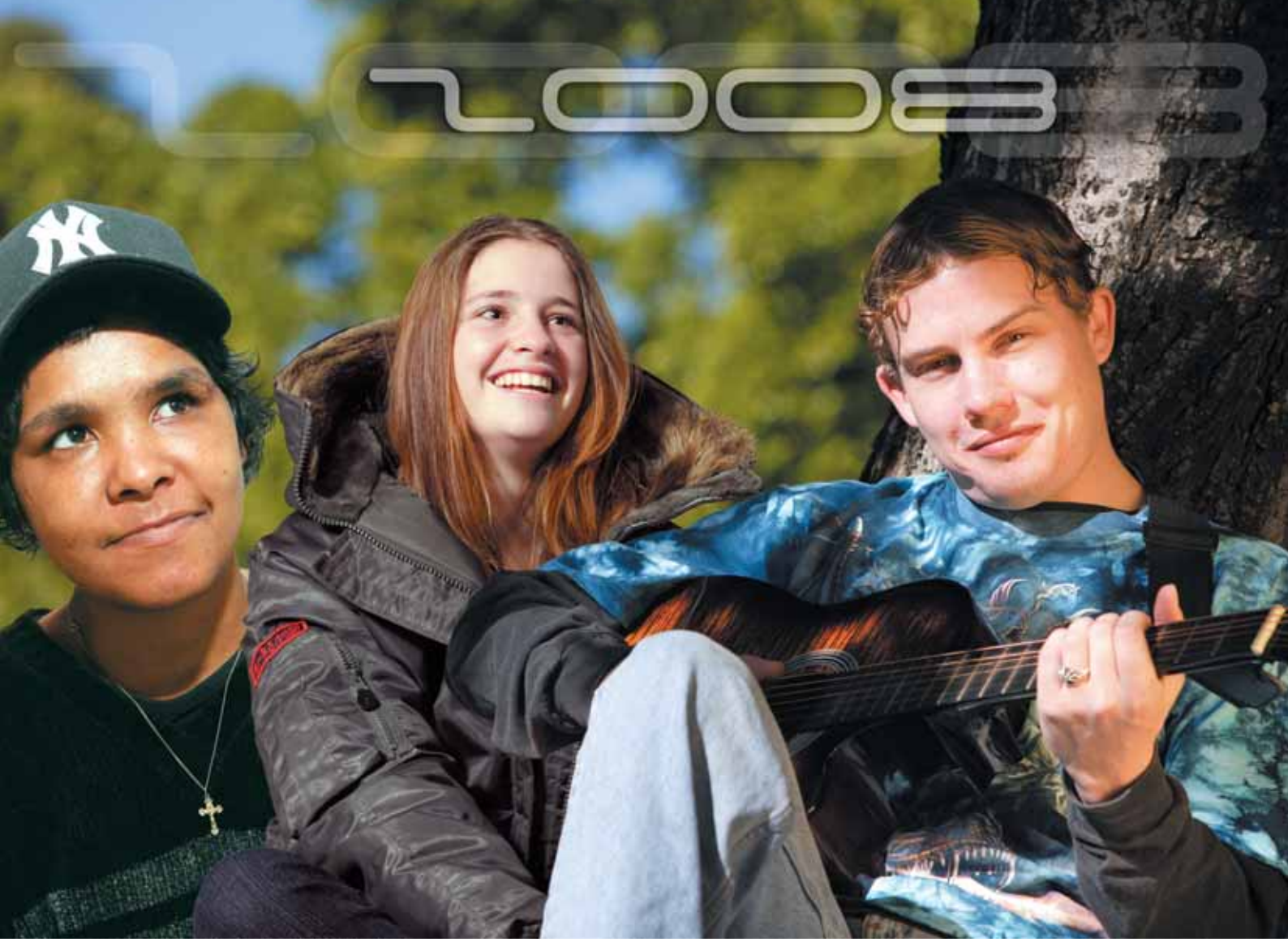

national survey of young australians 2008

key and emerging issues

Mission Australia

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ISBN 978-0-9804550-2-1
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Foreword

National Survey of Young Australians 2008

The seventh National Survey of Young Australians gives Mission Australia a clearer sense of the times we are in and the challenges faced by young people. Our vision – to see a fairer Australia by enabling people to find pathways to a better life – is constantly informed by the findings revealed in this annual survey. When we know clearly what is happening and what matters to young people, we are better placed to develop programs and services to support them.

Our founding purpose implies a passion to nurture human transformation. We work to reveal the love of God. Our core values – compassion, integrity, respect, perseverance and celebration – inspire us as we build partnerships with others in response to perceived need.

In light of this survey we are challenged to think wisely and discern carefully the realities faced by many young Australians. This survey is a valuable tool for us as we engage in the constant process of discerning the way ahead.

My hope is that you find this seventh National Survey of Young Australians a valuable resource and that you might feel inspired to work with us to see a fairer Australia.

Keith Mascord
National Chaplain

Introduction

Introduction

In 2008 Mission Australia conducted its seventh consecutive annual survey of young Australians. The primary purpose of the survey, as in previous years, was to identify both the values and issues of concern to young people.

Participation

45,558 young people aged 11 to 24 participated in the survey in 2008, including 3,700 who completed their survey online. The response rate increased by more than 50% between 2007 and 2008.

Areas of focus

The survey was deliberately kept brief (15 questions) in order to encourage a large response from a diversity of young people. Seven questions sought respondents' views on a variety of issues such as what they value, their issues of concern, who they turn to for advice and support, what activities they are involved in, and who they admire. The remaining questions collected demographic data including age, gender, state/territory location, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification and disability status.

Methodology

The survey was distributed to a wide range of organisations, including all secondary schools and public and tertiary libraries in Australia. It was also distributed to all Mission Australia services as well as a large network of other service providers, Commonwealth, state/territory and local government departments, youth organisations, peak bodies and corporate partners. An online version of the survey was also available, which contained an additional free text question inviting respondents to elaborate on their issues of concern.

The questions relating to what young people value, their concerns, and their sources of advice presented respondents with a list of options which they were asked to rank in order of importance. The data reported for these questions are the proportions of respondents who ranked each item first, second or third. This methodology follows that of previous years and enables comparisons with previous survey results.

The survey questions have remained largely unchanged since 2002, primarily to enable comparisons over time. There have, however, been some changes to the list of options provided for some questions based on responses to previous surveys, as well as ongoing feedback from young people, youth workers and researchers.

This report

This report contains an executive summary as well as summaries at the national level and for each state/territory. There is also a chapter that compares responses from Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents. Each of the chapters contains a breakdown of the key data by age and gender. It is anticipated that an additional publication exploring the qualitative responses of the online participants will be released in 2009.

Executive summary

Demographic information

Responses were received from 45,558 young people around the country. Young people in each state and territory participated, with the largest proportion (31.7%) coming from New South Wales. Respondents came from diverse communities across Australia, with about 60% living in a capital city and the remainder in other areas of each state and territory. About half of the surveys were received from respondents aged between 11 and 14, a further 47.5% from respondents aged 15 to 19 and a small proportion (2.3%) from those aged 20 to 24. Just over half of the surveys (56.6%) were completed by females and 43.4% by males. About 2,500 responses were received from Indigenous young people and about 6,800 from young people who spoke a language other than English at home. About 2,350 respondents indicated they had a disability.

Key questions

As in previous years, there was a great deal of consistency around what young people value, where they go for advice and support and who they admire, namely their *family* and *friends*. A more complex picture has emerged from the data around young people's issues of concern.

What young people value

Family relationships and *friendships* are clearly the two main items valued by all age groups and both genders. Nationally, about three quarters of respondents indicated that they highly valued *family relationships*, and about 62% highly valued *friendships*. Around a third of respondents nationally highly valued *physical and mental health* and *being independent*. Of continuing interest is the significant difference between the proportions of young men and young women who highly value *getting a job* (22.8% and 11.9% respectively).

Issues of concern

Nationally, *body image*, *drugs* and *family conflict* were the top three issues for respondents, with just over a quarter identifying each as being a major concern. The proportion of respondents who identified *body image* declined from around one in three in 2007 to one in four in 2008. Conversely, the proportion who identified *drugs* as a major concern increased from one in five to one in four in 2008. A number of issues were of concern, with nine being of significant concern to at least one in five respondents. This included the new item *personal safety*.

Results varied considerably by age and gender. *Drugs* was clearly the top issue of concern for 11 to 14 year olds, who were much more likely to identify it as a significant concern than respondents aged 15 to 24. The proportion of 11 to 14 year olds who identified *drugs* as an important issue rose from 22.9% in 2007 to 31.2% in 2008. Male respondents (29.3%) were also more likely than female respondents (23.5%) to be very concerned about *drugs*.

Concern about *body image* increased with age and it was the top issue for young adult respondents of whom about a third identified it as an issue of serious concern. One fifth of male respondents and one quarter of female respondents were significantly concerned about *body image*.

The second and third top issues for the young adult group were *depression* and *coping with stress*. Although the proportion of young adults who identified these issues has declined since 2007, they were both of significant concern to about 30% of the young adult group this year.

Physical/sexual abuse was an important concern for over a quarter (26.7%) of female respondents, who were much more likely than male respondents (17.5%) to identify it as a major concern.

A number of issues were of significant concern to respondents regardless of gender or age. *Family conflict, suicide, personal safety* and *bullying/emotional abuse* were all identified as important concerns by around a fifth or more of respondents across all age and gender groups.

Where young people go for advice and support

The top three responses on where young people go for advice and support when they have a personal problem continue to be *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*. Nationally, *friends* were an important source of advice and support for about 85% of respondents. Three quarters of respondents identified *parents* as a major source of support and around 60% identified *relative/family friend*. These were the top three responses for all age groups and both genders, both nationally and for respondents from each of the states and territories. The *internet* was identified as an important source of advice and support by about a fifth of respondents nationally. Close to 84% of respondents indicated they had enough information on issues that concerned them.

Community participation

The 2008 survey shows that young Australians were participating in a variety of activities. About two thirds of respondents were participating in *sports*, while about 44% were involved in *arts/cultural* activities. About a quarter of respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs* or *religious* activities. Participation in *sports* and *arts/cultural* activities declined with age, however, young adults were much more likely than 11 to 19 year olds to be involved in *volunteer* activities. In 2008, males were more likely than females to be involved in *sports* activities and females more likely than males to be involved in *arts/cultural* activities.

Who young people admire

As in previous years, the top two responses to this question were clearly *family* and *friends*. *Sports figures, entertainers, international aid organisations* and *community agencies helping disadvantaged people* were also popular responses.

Some priority issues

Some of the priority issues to emerge from this year's survey suggest more nuanced strategies by both age and gender are required. These priority issues include:

1. **Drugs:** The increased level of concern around *drugs*, especially for 11 to 14 year olds and male respondents, supports the need for enhanced education programs and strategies that take account of age and gender.

2. **Stress and depression:** Young adults continue to be particularly concerned about *coping with stress* and *depression*, and there is an ongoing need to put strategies in place to assist young adults with these issues.

3. **Body image:** Perhaps contrary to expectations, concern about *body image* increased with age. This suggests the need for strategies targeting young people into early adulthood including through their workplaces, community groups, higher educational institutions, online and the media.

4. **Personal safety:** The level of concern around the new item *personal safety* was consistent for all age groups and both genders and was higher than expected. Ensuring the safety of young people in the range of environments in which they engage should be a national priority. This will require concerted efforts from a diversity of individuals and institutions including families, educational institutions, governments and the broader community.

Where to from here?

Around 45,600 young people from across the country took the time to participate in this survey. Their responses have contributed to a report that aims to help inform policy and program development for young Australians at the national, state/territory and local levels, and to influence the broader community's understanding of young people. It is hoped that this report will act as a stimulus and resource for discussions and action involving young people in the context of their families, educational institutions, workplaces and communities across Australia. It provides valuable information for governments at all levels and for all those concerned about the wellbeing of young Australians.

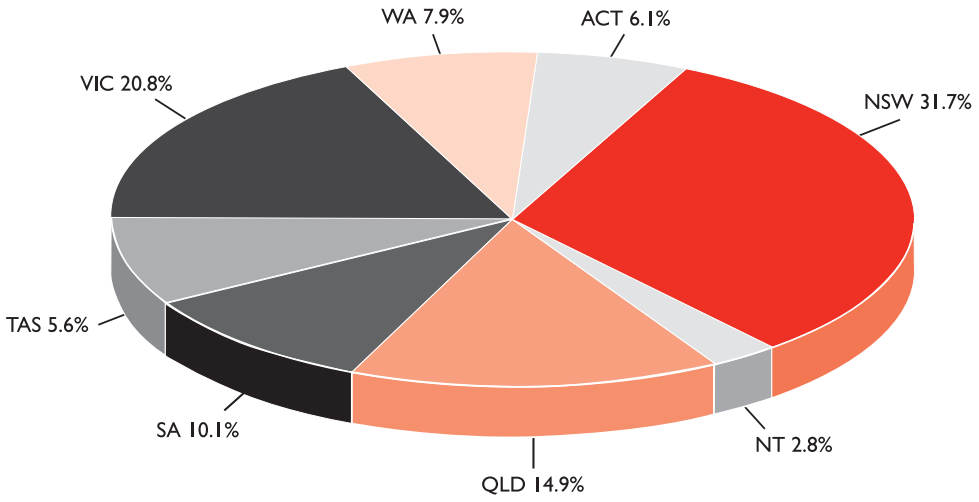
National summary

Profile of respondents

State and territory distribution

A total of 45,558 young people responded to Mission Australia's 2008 National Survey of Young Australians. Respondents came from every state and territory, including 13,334 from New South Wales, 8,763 from Victoria, 6,286 from Queensland, 4,260 from South Australia, 3,307 from Western Australia, 2,558 from the Australian Capital Territory, 2,377 from Tasmania and 1,197 from the Northern Territory. Around 3,450 respondents did not indicate which state/territory they lived in.

Figure 1: Percentage of respondents by state/territory



Age breakdown

The survey was open to young people aged between 11 and 24 years and the results have been collated into three age groups. The largest group was aged 11 to 14 years (50.2%), followed by those aged 15 to 19 years (47.5%). As in previous years, the smallest group of responses came from young adults aged 20 to 24 years (2.3%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	21,479	50.2
15-19 years	20,341	47.5
20-24 years	967	2.3
Total	42,787	100.0

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

Just over half of the responses (56.6%) were completed by females and 43.4% by males.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

2,459 (5.7%) respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	% of respondents	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	2,459	5.7	4.9	4.7	8.2
Non Indigenous	40,924	94.3	95.1	95.3	91.8

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 85% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 6,759 (14.8%) who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 75 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Chinese; Italian; Vietnamese; French; Filipino/Tagalog; Spanish; Cantonese; Arabic; Greek; German; and Afrikaans.

Disability

2,353 (5.4%) respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); dyslexia; hearing impairment; mental illness; learning disability; and Asperger's syndrome.

Where respondents were living

As in previous years, the vast majority of respondents (92.9%) lived *with family*. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

Overall, 906 respondents were living in a *boarding school*, 467 were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* and a further 375 respondents indicated that they were *homeless* or in *insecure housing*. 135 young people in *foster care* also participated.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	92.9	96.4	92.7	58.4
Boarding school	2.1	1.4	2.8	0.4
Share house	1.5	0.5	1.4	22.1
Juvenile justice centre/prison	1.1	0.7	1.0	2.3
Homeless/insecure housing	0.9	0.5	0.7	2.2
Other	0.7	0.3	0.8	4.9
Alone	0.5	0.1	0.4	9.6
Foster care	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, around 60% of respondents lived in a capital city. The proportion of young people living outside a capital city was lowest among the 20 to 24 year age group, of whom just over a third (34.8%) did not live in a capital city.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	26,201	59.4	59.8	59.0	65.2
Not in capital city	17,931	40.6	40.2	41.0	34.8

Main source of income

Parents/family, as in previous surveys, were the main source of income for a majority of respondents (72.0%). Table 5 shows that respondents become less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. The main sources of income were very similar for male and female respondents.

Table 5: Main source of income

	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Parents/family	72.0	87.5	59.3	9.5	73.7	70.5
Employment	22.9	10.1	34.3	66.5	22.0	23.9
Government allowance	3.7	1.0	5.3	22.9	3.3	3.8
No income	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.4
Other	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Three quarters (74.4%) of respondents aged 15 to 24 years were *studying full time*. As might be expected, the 15 to 19 year age group were much more likely than the young adult group to be *studying full time* (76.2% compared with 36.4%). Nearly 20% of 20 to 24 year olds were *studying part time*, compared with 13.9% of 15 to 19 year olds. Just over two fifths (43.8%) of 20 to 24 year olds were *not studying*, compared with less than one in ten (9.8%) 15 to 19 year olds. Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time* (79.0% compared with 68.5%) while male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to be *studying part time* or *not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	Total %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	74.4	76.2	36.4	79.0	68.5
Studying part time	14.2	13.9	19.8	12.1	16.9
Not studying	11.4	9.8	43.8	8.9	14.6

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. About two fifths (41.0%) of the young adult group were *working full time* compared with only 1.5% of the 15 to 19 year age group. About half of the younger age group, however, were *working part time* or had *casual or temporary work*. Participation rates for male and female respondents were similar.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	Total %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	3.3	1.5	41.0	3.6	2.8
Working part time	21.1	21.4	16.8	21.4	20.8
Casual or temporary work	28.7	29.2	18.1	30.2	26.7
Unemployed/looking for work	26.2	26.6	18.4	24.3	28.8
Too young to work or choose not to	20.7	21.4	5.7	20.5	20.9

Detailed national results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while *peer acceptance* was removed as an option.

The data from this question has been very consistent across the seven years of the survey. In 2008, as in previous years, *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a large proportion of respondents and were clearly ranked first and second respectively. *Physical and mental health* was ranked third in 2008 as in 2007, but *being independent* was valued highly by nearly the same percentage of respondents.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 75.3% and 62.3% respectively of respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* and *being independent* were each valued highly by about a third of respondents.

Table 8: What young people value

	2008 %	2007 %	2006 %	2005 %
Family relationships	**75.3**	**76.2**	**72.3**	**73.3**
Friendships (other than family)	**62.3**	**60.3**	**66.8**	**68.3**
Physical and mental health	**31.8**	**33.1**	N/A	N/A
Being independent	31.7	32.9	**35.2**	**36.0**
Feeling needed and valued	26.2	25.6	29.3	30.7
School or study satisfaction	21.0	19.5	24.9	22.1
Getting a job	16.9	15.9	20.3	17.6
Spirituality/faith	14.0	14.5	13.9	15.3
Financial security	13.4	12.6	16.2	16.1
Making a difference in the community	7.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	9.8	12.2	12.5
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	8.9	8.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 highlights the similarities as well as the differences in what young people valued across the age groups. The top two items for all age groups were *family relationships* and *friendships*, with 70% or more in each of the age groups highly valuing *family relationships*. The proportion of young adults who highly valued *friendships* was considerably lower than for those under 20 years of age. Around one third of respondents in all age groups highly valued *physical and mental health* and *being independent*.

- *Family relationships* was ranked first by all three age groups, with 70% or more of respondents in each age group indicating it was highly valued.
- About 63% of young people aged 11 to 19 years highly valued *friendships*, compared with 44.6% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- About a third of respondents in each age group highly valued *physical and mental health* and *being independent*.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	**77.4**	**73.9**	**70.0**
Friendships (other than family)	**63.2**	**63.9**	**44.6**
Physical and mental health	**31.5**	32.6	29.0
Being independent	29.0	**34.1**	**33.5**
Feeling needed and valued	25.7	25.9	33.2
School or study satisfaction	23.1	19.3	11.2
Getting a job	18.2	14.9	18.6
Spirituality/faith	13.9	13.6	18.6
Financial security	11.7	14.1	29.3
Making a difference in the community	7.9	7.2	11.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Feeling needed and valued was ranked highly by a quarter of those aged under 20 and one third of the young adult group. *School or study satisfaction* was valued highly by a higher proportion of those in the 11 to 19 year age groups than by young adults. Conversely, a much higher proportion of young adults than those aged 11 to 19 highly valued *financial security*.

- Close to a quarter of respondents aged 11 to 19 highly valued *feeling needed and valued*, compared with one third (33.2%) of young adults.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 23.1% of 11 to 14 year olds, more than twice the proportion of 20 to 24 year olds (11.2%).
- *Financial security* was highly valued by 29.3% of young adults, compared with 11.7% of those in the 11 to 14 year age group and 14.1% of those aged 15 to 19.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top two items for both female and male respondents were identical, namely *family relationships* and *friendships*. About a third of both genders highly valued *physical and mental health* and *being independent*.

- Just under 80% of female respondents compared with just over 70% of male respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by two thirds (67.6%) of female respondents and 56.7% of male respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* and *being independent* were each highly valued by about a third of male and female respondents.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	**79.8**	**70.1**
Friendships (other than family)	**67.6**	**56.7**
Physical and mental health	30.4	**34.0**
Being independent	**30.6**	32.8
Feeling needed and valued	27.3	24.4
School or study satisfaction	21.3	20.7
Getting a job	11.9	22.8
Spirituality/faith	13.8	14.0
Financial security	11.2	16.0
Making a difference in the community	7.3	8.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Responses from males and females were similar on a number of items, with the main difference being the proportion of each group who valued *getting a job*. Young males were almost twice as likely as young females to value this highly.

- *Getting a job* was highly valued by 22.8% of male respondents compared with 11.9% of female respondents.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity)*.

Table 11 shows that the top three issues of concern for young people in 2008 were *body image, drugs* and *family conflict*, with about a quarter of respondents being concerned about each of them. The data shows there was no one 'standout' issue, with nine issues being of major concern to at least one in five respondents.

- *Body image* was of major concern to around a quarter (26.3%) of respondents. It was also the top ranked issue last year, when a higher proportion (32.3%) of respondents identified it as a major concern.
- *Drugs* and *family conflict* were also each of concern to around a quarter of respondents (26.0% and 25.9% respectively). In 2007 one in five respondents indicated *drugs* was a major issue.
- The new item, *personal safety,* was of major concern to just over one fifth (22.9%) of respondents.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	2008 %	2007 %	2006 %	2005 %
Body image	**26.3**	**32.3**	**28.1**	N/A
Drugs	**26.0**	20.1	N/A	N/A
Family conflict	**25.9**	**29.3**	**28.6**	**34.8**
Suicide	24.6	23.9	28.0	**41.3**
Personal safety	22.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.6	22.7	27.5	31.4
Physical/sexual abuse	22.6	21.2	27.9	**37.5**
Alcohol	20.9	20.5	N/A	N/A
Coping with stress	20.4	**26.9**	27.6	32.1
School or study problems	18.6	25.4	26.4	24.9
The environment	18.4	23.4	N/A	N/A
Depression	17.8	19.6	25.8	33.6
Self harm	13.7	14.7	21.5	N/A
Discrimination	12.6	12.9	18.4	19.9
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.2	9.6	13.3	12.0
Alcohol and other drug issues	N/A	N/A	**28.2**	33.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The clustering of issues in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows that some issues such as *body image, coping with stress* and *depression* were significant concerns for a higher proportion of young adults than those aged 11 to 19. *Drugs* was a major concern for a much larger proportion of 11 to 14 year olds than those aged 15 to 24.

Some issues such as *personal safety* and *physical/sexual abuse* were of major concern to similar proportions of respondents across each of the age groups. Both of these were identified as being of significant concern by over one fifth of respondents in each of the age groups.

- *Body image* was of major concern to about a quarter (23.6%) of 11 to 14 year olds compared with one third (32.1%) of 20 to 24 year olds. It was the top issue of concern for the young adult group.
- *Drugs* were about twice as likely to be of major concern to 11 to 14 year olds (31.2%) than 20 to 24 year olds (16.6%). In 2007, 22.9% of 11 to 14 year olds indicated *drugs* were a significant issue.
- *Coping with stress* was an issue of major concern for 30.7% of young adults, compared with 17.0% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- *Depression* was a major concern for 28.8% of 20 to 24 year olds, compared with 14.8% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- *Personal safety* and *physical/sexual abuse* were both of significant concern to at least one fifth of respondents from all three age groups.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Body image	23.6	**28.1**	**32.1**
Drugs	**31.2**	20.9	16.6
Family conflict	**26.4**	**26.2**	20.4
Suicide	**25.3**	**24.2**	20.6
Personal safety	23.3	22.9	21.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.7	20.7	18.0
Physical/sexual abuse	23.0	22.6	24.6
Alcohol	22.7	17.7	18.9
Coping with stress	17.0	23.7	**30.7**
School or study problems	17.4	20.3	12.6
The environment	20.1	16.4	18.6
Depression	14.8	20.6	**28.8**
Self harm	13.3	14.3	10.9
Discrimination	11.5	13.8	12.2
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.8	12.1	14.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Family conflict was of concern to a slightly higher proportion of those aged under 20 years than the young adult group.

- Just over a quarter of respondents aged 11 to 19 years and about a fifth (20.4%) of young adult respondents identified *family conflict* as a major concern.

Gender differences

There were both differences and similarities in the issues of concern for males and females. *Body image* was the top ranked issue for female respondents, and whilst over a fifth of male respondents also indicated it was a major concern it was not one of the top three issues for this group. A higher proportion of young women than young men also nominated *physical/sexual abuse* as a major concern. *Drugs* and *alcohol* were major concerns for higher proportions of male respondents than female respondents.

- *Body image* was a major concern for 28.8% of female respondents compared with 22.2% of male respondents. This compares with 34.9% and 27.9% respectively in 2007.
- *Drugs* was a major concern for 29.3% of male respondents compared with 23.5% of female respondents.
- A quarter (24.4%) of male respondents identified *alcohol* as a major concern compared with 17.3% of female respondents.
- *Physical/sexual abuse* was a major concern for 26.7% of female respondents compared with 17.5% of male respondents.
- *Sexuality* was identified as a major concern by a relatively small proportion of both male and female respondents, but was more likely to be of significant concern to males (15.0%) than females (9.8%).

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Body image	**28.8**	22.2
Drugs	23.5	**29.3**
Family conflict	**26.9**	**25.0**
Suicide	24.9	24.2
Personal safety	23.3	22.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.9	22.8
Physical/sexual abuse	**26.7**	17.5
Alcohol	17.3	**24.4**
Coping with stress	21.2	19.4
School or study problems	18.6	18.6
The environment	17.6	19.3
Depression	18.8	16.6
Self harm	13.9	13.4
Discrimination	12.4	12.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.8	15.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Almost all of the remaining items were of major concern to very similar proportions of male and female respondents. About a quarter of both genders were concerned about *family conflict* and *suicide*, while over a fifth of both genders were concerned about *personal safety* and *bullying/emotional abuse*.

- *Family conflict* was a top three issue for both genders, with around a quarter of female and male respondents indicating it was a major concern.
- *Suicide* and *personal safety* were major concerns for around a quarter of male and female respondents.
- *Bullying/emotional abuse* was a major concern for around one in five female and male respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time as shown in Table 14. The top three sources of advice were very clearly *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*. The fourth ranked item, the *internet*, has been identified as a key source of advice and support by an increasing proportion of respondents over the years of the survey, increasing from 10.1% in 2002 to 20.3% in 2008.

- *Friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* were overwhelmingly the most important sources of advice for respondents in 2008, as they have been for each of the seven years of the survey.
- *Friends* were a major source of advice for 85.1% of respondents, while *parents* were a main source of advice for 74.1% of respondents.
- One in five (20.3%) respondents identified the *internet* as an important source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	2008 %	2007 %	2006 %	2005 %
Friends	**85.1**	**86.0**	**86.4**	**87.3**
Parents	**74.1**	**73.6**	**74.2**	**75.7**
Relative/family friend	**61.0**	**63.3**	**64.0**	**64.9**
Internet	20.3	19.1	16.8	15.7
School counsellor	11.5	10.8	11.6	10.8
Teacher	11.4	10.5	9.3	9.9
Magazines	11.2	11.6	13.5	12.7
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.1	11.6	9.3	9.9
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.5	8.6	8.6	9.0
Telephone helpline	5.9	5.8	6.2	5.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of support and advice for all age groups were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend.* The proportions who identified *friends* and *relative/family friend* were consistent across the age groups, while the proportion who identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support declined with age.

- *Friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice and support for all age groups.
- Over 83% of respondents in all three age groups identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- 78.9% of 11 to 14 year olds identified *parents* as an important source of advice, as did 71.3% of 15 to 19 year olds and 64.9% of 20 to 24 year olds.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	**83.2**	**87.8**	**86.3**
Parents	**78.9**	**71.3**	**64.9**
Relative/family friend	**63.3**	**60.2**	**59.5**
Internet	15.2	23.7	30.2
School counsellor	12.6	10.5	6.7
Teacher	12.7	10.0	6.2
Magazines	10.4	11.8	9.7
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.9	10.4	14.0
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.5	8.9	14.5
Telephone helpline	6.5	4.7	6.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportion of respondents who identified the *internet* as a key source of advice and support increased with age.

- 30.2% of young adults identified the *internet* as a major source of advice, compared with 15.2% of 11 to 14 year olds and 23.7% of 15 to 19 year olds.

Gender differences

Responses on where young males and females turn for advice and support have been very consistent over the years of the survey. The top three items in 2008 were identical for both genders, namely *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend.* However, a much higher proportion of female than male respondents identified *friends* and *relative/family friend* as major sources, of advice, while similar proportions of both genders identified parents.

- *Friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice and support for both female and male respondents.
- 89.6% of female respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice, compared with 79.7% of male respondents.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for around three quarters of each gender.
- *Relative/family friend* was identified as a major source of advice and support by 65.3% of female respondents and 56.9% of male respondents.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	**89.6**	**79.7**
Parents	**76.2**	**73.0**
Relative/family friend	**65.3**	**56.9**
Internet	16.3	24.3
School counsellor	11.0	12.0
Teacher	9.9	13.3
Magazines	12.2	9.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.5	14.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.2	9.9
Telephone helpline	4.9	6.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified the *internet* as a key source of advice and support. Male respondents were also more likely to identify *community agencies* as a source of advice and support.

- The *internet* was an important source of advice and support for 24.3% of male respondents compared with 16.3% of female respondents.
- 14.2% of male respondents identified *community agencies* as a major source of advice and support, about twice the proportion (7.5%) of female respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

Around 84% of all respondents indicated they had enough information on issues that concerned them. This is similar to the figure for 2007 which was 82.9%. As in previous years and shown in Table 17, the proportion who indicated they did not have enough information was larger for respondents aged 20 to 24 than for those aged 11 to 19. A quarter (24.5%) of the young adult group wanted more information, compared to 14.9% of respondents aged 11 to 14 years. The responses for males and females were similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2008						2007
	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	All ages %
Enough information	83.7	85.1	83.9	75.5	83.3	85.4	82.9
Not enough information	16.3	14.9	16.1	24.5	16.7	14.6	17.1

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about. A number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; sexuality and sex education; adolescence and youth-related issues; environmental issues; depression; suicide and self harm; stress and anxiety; school and study; sexual abuse; bullying; and global issues including terrorism, war and politics.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. There was one change to the list provided in 2008. *Sports* was divided into two categories: *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

The results shown in Table 18 indicate that *sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities were the top three activities for respondents in 2008. *Youth groups and clubs* was the fourth ranked activity. These results are similar to previous years, when *sports, arts/cultural* and *youth groups and clubs* were routinely the top three responses.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities were the three most popular activities for respondents in 2008.
- Two thirds of respondents (67.6%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*, followed by 46.5% who participated in *sports (as a spectator)* and 44.1% who participated in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Just over a quarter of respondents participated in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities (26.8% and 25.9% respectively).
- Over one fifth of respondents (22.2%) participated in *volunteer* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	Number 2008	2008 %	2007 %	2006 %	2005 %
Sports (as a participant)	**30,782**	**67.6**	**66.7***	**68.2***	**64.5***
Sports (as a spectator)	**21,189**	**46.5**			
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**20,072**	**44.1**	**42.8**	**43.0**	**40.7**
Youth groups and clubs	12,199	26.8	**27.4**	**27.1**	**30.8**
Religious	11,800	25.9	24.7	23.6	20.6
Volunteer	10,109	22.2	21.6	21.4	21.3
Environmental	6,522	14.3	13.2	11.0	6.5
Student Representative Council	5,633	12.4	13.1	13.6	11.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* had the highest levels of involvement for all three age groups, participation declined with age. Conversely, participation in *volunteer* activities increased with age.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest among 11 to 14 year olds (73.8%), declining to 63.6% for 15 to 19 year olds and 42.8% for 20 to 24 year olds.
- Involvement in *sports (as a spectator)* remained steadier across the age groups, at just under half of those aged 11 to 19 and around two fifths of the young adult group.
- Around two fifths (38.4%) of 20 to 24 year olds were involved in *volunteer* activities, compared with 17.8% of 11 to 14 year olds and 25.1% of 15 to 19 year olds.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.8**	**63.6**	**42.8**
Sports (as a spectator)	**45.4**	**48.3**	**39.1**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**47.3**	**41.4**	32.5
Youth groups and clubs	26.1	26.4	30.3
Religious	25.9	25.0	25.1
Volunteer	17.8	25.1	**38.4**
Environmental	13.3	13.7	13.4
Student Representative Council	10.0	13.2	9.7

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top three activities for both male and female respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although the rankings were different. As in previous years, a higher proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports* activities, while a higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.

- 73.0% of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with 64.5% of female respondents.
- A higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (52.3% compared with 42.4%).
- A much higher proportion of female respondents (52.7%) than male respondents (33.0%) was involved in *arts/cultural* activities.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	**64.5**	**73.0**
Sports (as a spectator)	**42.4**	**52.3**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**52.7**	**33.0**
Youth groups and clubs	25.9	27.1
Religious	25.6	25.4
Volunteer	23.6	19.6
Environmental	13.2	14.0
Student Representative Council	11.2	12.3

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Substantial proportions of both genders were also involved in *youth groups and clubs*, *religious* activities and *volunteer* activities.

- About a quarter of respondents of both genders were involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.
- About a quarter (23.6%) of female respondents and a fifth (19.6%) of male respondents were involved in *volunteer* activities.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were most commonly listed and comprised about 30% of the responses given. The second most common response was *friends*. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	**31,096**	**30.2**
Friends	**18,233**	**17.7**
Sports teams, players and coaches	**6,928**	**6.7**
Entertainers	6,341	6.2
International aid organisations	6,022	5.8
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	4,983	4.8
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	3,489	3.4
Schools and their staff	2,734	2.7
Animal protection groups	2,683	2.6
Businesses and business people	2,485	2.4
Environmental groups	2,227	2.2
Religious figures	2,149	2.1
Telephone helplines	1,514	1.5
Political organisations and figures	1,463	1.4
Protection agencies	1,397	1.4
Youth organisations and leaders	1,356	1.3
Medical professionals and hospitals	1,237	1.2
Myself	818	0.8
Organisations and research supporting mental health	679	0.7
Historical figures	581	0.6
Volunteers/donors	378	0.4
Pets and other animals	216	0.2
Community groups/organisations	202	0.2
Dance/music/ballet teachers outside school	160	0.2
Confident/successful/hardworking people	144	0.1
Scientists and scientific organisations	117	0.1
Sick and disabled people, those in difficult times	117	0.1

Indigenous young people summary

The 2008 National Survey of Young Australians asked respondents whether they identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. 2,459 or 5.7% of respondents indicated they identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

State and territory distribution

The highest proportion of surveys from Indigenous respondents came from New South Wales (31.8%), which also had the highest proportion of survey responses overall (31.7%). A high proportion of responses came from Indigenous young people in the Northern Territory relative to the overall number of NT responses.

Table 1: Percentage of Indigenous respondents by state/territory

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Australian Capital Territory	4.7	6.0
New South Wales	31.8	31.5
Northern Territory	9.5	2.5
Queensland	16.4	14.9
South Australia	8.0	10.2
Tasmania	9.0	5.5
Victoria	10.8	21.5
Western Australia	9.3	7.8
Total	99.5	99.9

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Age breakdown

There were similar response rates for Indigenous and non Indigenous young people across all three age groups. Indigenous young people aged 11 to 14 years were the largest age group to participate and returned 50.2% of surveys from Indigenous respondents, almost the same as their non Indigenous contemporaries (49.9%). 45.9% of Indigenous respondents were aged 15 to 19 years, and nearly 4% were aged 20 to 24 years.

Table 2: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of Indigenous	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
11-14 years	1,020	50.2	49.9
15-19 years	933	45.9	47.9
20-24 years	79	3.9	2.2

Gender breakdown

52.2% of Indigenous respondents were female and 47.8% were male. This compares with 57.2% female and 42.8% male for non Indigenous respondents.

Where respondents were living

A substantial majority of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were living *with family*, however, the proportion of Indigenous respondents was nearly 18% lower than their non Indigenous counterparts (76.3% compared to 93.9%).

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %	Indigenous % 11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
With family	76.3	93.9	89.0	74.9	42.7
Juvenile justice centre/prison	6.1	0.7	3.0	6.0	13.3
Homeless/insecure housing	4.9	0.6	2.0	3.3	9.3
Boarding school	4.8	1.9	2.3	8.3	0.0
Share house	3.1	1.5	1.3	2.9	21.3
Other	1.9	0.7	0.7	2.0	6.7
Alone	1.6	0.5	0.4	1.3	6.7
Foster care	1.3	0.2	1.2	1.2	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

Table 4 shows the proportion of respondents who were living in or outside a capital city. A higher proportion of Indigenous respondents (51.7%) than non Indigenous respondents (40.3%) lived outside the capital cities.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Live in capital city	48.3	59.7
Not in capital city	51.7	40.3

As Table 5 shows, a higher proportion of Indigenous respondents than non Indigenous respondents in all three age groups lived outside of a capital city. Both Indigenous and non Indigenous young adults were more likely to live in a capital city than the younger groups.

Table 5: Geographic location of respondents, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Live in capital city	47.8	45.8	53.2	60.1	59.4	66.4
Not in capital city	52.2	54.2	46.8	39.9	40.6	33.6

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income for a substantial proportion of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents (66.4% and 72.2% respectively). About one fifth of respondents in both groups indicated that *employment* was their main source of income. Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to identify *government allowance* as their main source of income although the proportions were relatively small for both groups.

Table 6: Main source of income

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Parents/family	66.4	72.2
Employment	20.7	23.1
Government allowance	9.7	3.4
No income	2.5	1.0
Other	0.7	0.3

Study and work

The 2008 survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. The participation of 11 to 14 year olds was excluded from this section as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Table 7 shows that whilst around three in five (59.6%) Indigenous respondents were *studying full time*, this was substantially below the figure of 75.4% for non Indigenous respondents. Conversely, Indigenous respondents were slightly more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be *studying part time* (16.5% compared with 13.9%). Nearly one quarter (24.0%) of Indigenous respondents were *not studying*, compared with 10.7% of non Indigenous respondents.

Table 7: Participation in education

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Studying full time	59.6	75.4
Studying part time	16.5	13.9
Not studying	24.0	10.7

Table 8 shows respondents' participation in employment. Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be *working full time* and less likely to have *casual or temporary work*. Results on the other items were similar for both groups.

Table 8: Participation in employment

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Working full time	7.9	3.1
Working part time	23.4	21.0
Casual or temporary work	17.3	29.3
Unemployed/looking for work	29.2	26.0
Too young to work or choose not to	22.2	20.6

Disability

556 (23.4%) Indigenous respondents indicated they had a disability, although only 250 stated which disability they had. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); mental illness; intellectual disability; dyslexia; autism spectrum disorder; and learning disability.

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from the list of options set out in Table 9. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while *peer acceptance* was removed as an option.

The top two items were the same for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents, namely *family relationships* and *friendships*. *Being independent* was the third ranked item for Indigenous respondents, while for non Indigenous respondents it was *physical and mental health*.

- The top two items for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were *family relationships* and *friendships*.
- Close to three quarters of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents highly valued *family relationships* (72.8% and 75.6% respectively).
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 50.0% of Indigenous respondents and 63.2% of non Indigenous respondents.
- Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to highly value *being independent* (38.7% compared with 31.3%).
- Indigenous respondents were less likely than non Indigenous respondents to highly value *physical and mental health* (25.5% compared with 32.1%).

Table 9: What young people value

	Indigenous 2008 %	Non Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %	Indigenous 2006 %
Family relationships	**72.8**	**75.6**	**72.7**	**63.9**
Friendships (other than family)	**50.0**	**63.2**	**49.5**	**53.3**
Being independent	**38.7**	31.3	**38.9**	**41.5**
Feeling needed and valued	28.1	26.2	24.8	26.1
Physical and mental health	25.5	**32.1**	26.9	N/A
Getting a job	24.4	16.3	26.4	33.1
School or study satisfaction	21.3	21.1	21.8	23.0
Financial security	15.2	13.3	15.6	17.1
Spirituality/faith	13.3	13.9	13.1	14.4
Making a difference in the community	10.8	7.6	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	10.7	12.9
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

As in previous years, one of the main differences was in the proportion of respondents who highly valued *getting a job*. Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to highly value this item. On other items, results were very similar for the two groups.

- A higher proportion of Indigenous respondents (24.4%) than non Indigenous respondents (16.3%) highly valued *getting a job*.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 10. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity)*.

The top three issues of concern for Indigenous respondents were *body image, alcohol* and *bullying/emotional abuse*. The top issue for non Indigenous respondents was *family conflict*, with *body image* and *drugs* ranked equal second. As in previous years, a higher proportion of Indigenous respondents than non Indigenous respondents identified *alcohol* as a major concern. The new item, *personal safety,* was an important concern for a slightly higher proportion of non Indigenous than Indigenous respondents.

- *Body image* was in the top three responses for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents, but a higher proportion of Indigenous respondents identified it as a major concern (31.9% compared with 25.9%).
- *Alcohol* was more likely to be identified as a major concern by Indigenous (31.2%) than non Indigenous (20.1%) respondents.
- *Personal safety* was a major concern for a slightly higher proportion of non Indigenous than Indigenous respondents (23.2% compared with 18.5%).
- *Bullying/emotional abuse* was the third ranked issue for Indigenous respondents, with about a quarter (26.3%) indicating that it was an issue of major concern. It was also an issue for just over one in five (22.2%) non Indigenous respondents.

Table 10: Issues of concern to young people

	Indigenous 2008 %	Non Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %	Indigenous 2006 %
Body image	**31.9**	**25.9**	**34.9**	**35.1**
Alcohol	**31.2**	20.1	**31.8**	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	**26.3**	22.2	22.9	**26.7**
Drugs	24.4	**25.9**	21.4	N/A
Family conflict	23.4	**26.1**	**29.3**	**30.5**
Suicide	23.2	24.6	21.4	23.8
Physical/sexual abuse	21.0	22.7	15.8	23.7
Personal safety	18.5	23.2	N/A	N/A
The environment	18.3	18.3	25.1	N/A
Coping with stress	17.4	20.6	19.7	23.3
School or study problems	16.0	18.7	22.3	24.9
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	15.0	11.9	14.0	13.3
Depression	14.8	18.0	15.6	22.9
Self harm	14.6	13.7	13.2	23.4
Discrimination	13.1	12.6	16.5	18.1
Alcohol and other drug issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 11 breaks down responses by age for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents. Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be concerned about *alcohol* across each of the age groups. Conversely, they were less likely than non Indigenous respondents to be concerned about *personal safety* across each of the age groups. Among the young adults, Indigenous respondents were less likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to identify *coping with stress* while just as likely to nominate *depression* as a major concern. About a third of young adults in both groups identified *body image* as an important concern.

- Across each of the age groups, Indigenous respondents were more likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to be concerned about *alcohol*. This was particularly the case for those aged 11 to 19.
- Across each of the age groups Indigenous respondents were less likely than non Indigenous respondents to identify *personal safety* as a major concern.

- Both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents aged 11 to 14 were much more likely than their older counterparts to identify *drugs* as a major concern.
- *Depression* was a major concern for nearly three in ten respondents in both the Indigenous and non Indigenous young adult groups (29.9% and 28.8% respectively).
- 31.3% of non Indigenous 20 to 24 year olds were concerned about *coping with stress*, compared with 24.7% of Indigenous respondents in the same age group.
- *Body image* was a major concern for nearly a third of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents in the young adult group.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Body image	**28.4**	**30.9**	**31.6**	23.4	**28.0**	**31.9**
Alcohol	**29.0**	**27.3**	21.3	22.4	17.2	18.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.4	22.6	15.8	23.6	20.6	18.2
Drugs	**28.6**	21.6	17.3	**31.3**	20.7	16.5
Family conflict	24.3	**26.8**	18.4	**26.6**	**26.1**	20.5
Suicide	23.3	25.1	25.7	**25.3**	**24.3**	20.3
Physical/sexual abuse	25.8	18.8	**26.7**	22.9	22.8	24.5
Personal safety	18.5	20.6	16.0	23.6	23.1	22.2
The environment	21.2	16.6	11.1	20.0	16.4	19.2
Coping with stress	14.3	19.9	24.7	17.2	23.8	**31.3**
School or study problems	15.2	17.1	5.3	17.5	20.4	13.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	14.5	14.9	16.0	11.6	12.0	14.1
Depression	13.7	15.8	**29.9**	14.8	20.9	**28.8**
Self harm	14.0	15.7	17.1	13.3	14.3	10.3
Discrimination	12.0	14.9	14.5	11.5	13.8	11.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The top three sources of advice for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were identical, namely *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*. However, as Table 12 shows, the proportions of Indigenous respondents who identified each were lower than the proportions of non Indigenous respondents. Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to turn to *community agencies* for advice and support.

- *Friends* and *parents* were the top two sources of advice for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents, although the proportions for both were lower for Indigenous respondents.
- Non Indigenous respondents were much more likely to nominate *parents* as a top source of advice and support than Indigenous respondents (75.0% compared with 61.5%).
- Indigenous respondents were more than twice as likely as non Indigenous respondents to identify *community agencies* as an important source of advice and support (24.1% compared with 10.2%).
- About a quarter (25.1%) of Indigenous respondents indicated the *internet* was a major source of advice and support, compared with one in five (19.9%) non Indigenous respondents.
- One in ten (10.1%) Indigenous respondents identified *telephone helplines* as a source of advice and support compared with one in twenty (5.6%) non Indigenous respondents.

Table 12: Where young people turn for advice and support

	Indigenous 2008 %	Non Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %	Indigenous 2006 %
Friends	**79.3**	**85.5**	**77.9**	**78.8**
Parents	**61.5**	**75.0**	**63.3**	**63.9**
Relative/family friend	**52.3**	**61.6**	**56.7**	**56.9**
Internet	25.1	19.9	21.6	20.2
Community agencies eg youth worker	24.1	10.2	23.1	21.7
Magazines	13.3	11.1	13.6	14.5
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	12.3	8.2	11.4	13.1
Teacher	12.3	11.3	11.0	11.9
School counsellor	11.7	11.4	12.7	12.7
Telephone helpline	10.1	5.6	9.7	8.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

About three quarters (76.9%) of Indigenous respondents indicated they had enough information on issues that concerned them, compared with 84.1% of non Indigenous respondents. The Indigenous figure is comparable with the 2007 figure which was 78.4%.

Table 13: Access to enough information

	Indigenous 2008 %	Non Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %
Enough information	76.9	84.1	78.4
Not enough information	23.1	15.9	21.6

The most commonly mentioned issues that Indigenous respondents wanted more information about were (in order of frequency): sexuality and sex education; alcohol and drugs; adolescence and youth-related issues; suicide and self harm; sexual abuse; physical abuse; and environmental issues.

What activities are young people involved in?

Respondents were asked about their involvement in activities and as Table 14 shows the most popular activities for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were identical, namely *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities.

- Similar proportions of Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* (67.5% and 68.2% respectively).
- Indigenous respondents (51.6%) were slightly more likely to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* than non Indigenous respondents (46.8%).
- Indigenous respondents were also more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural* activities (49.7% compared with 44.2%).
- About a third of Indigenous respondents participated in each of *youth groups and clubs* (38.3%), *religious* activities (34.1%) and *volunteer* activities (32.3%).

Table 14: Activities young people were involved in

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Sports (as a participant)	**67.5**	**68.2**
Sports (as a spectator)	**51.6**	**46.8**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**49.7**	**44.2**
Youth groups and clubs	38.3	26.2
Religious	34.1	25.5
Volunteer	32.3	21.8
Environmental	28.0	13.4
Student Representative Council	25.1	11.5

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Age differences

Table 15 provides a breakdown of activities for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents by age. As in 2007, the results indicate that Indigenous young adults were more likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to remain involved in a number of activities such as *sports* and *arts/cultural* activities. Young adults in both groups were heavily involved in *volunteer* activities.

- There were similar rates of participation in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents aged 11 to 19 years.
- Indigenous young adults were much more likely than non Indigenous young adults to be involved in *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities. 57.0% of Indigenous young adults were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with 41.4% of their non Indigenous counterparts.
- Around two in five Indigenous and non Indigenous young adults were involved in *volunteer* activities (43.0% and 37.7% respectively).
- Indigenous young adults were more than twice as likely as their non Indigenous counterparts to be involved in *environmental* activities (30.4% compared with 11.7%).

Table 15: Activities young people are involved in, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Sports (as a participant)	**70.0**	**63.9**	**57.0**	**74.1**	**63.6**	**41.4**
Sports (as a spectator)	**46.6**	**50.7**	**63.3**	**45.5**	**48.3**	**36.8**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**48.3**	**46.4**	51.9	**47.6**	**41.2**	30.6
Youth groups and clubs	34.1	33.1	**53.2**	25.7	26.1	28.3
Religious	29.2	29.9	36.7	25.8	24.7	23.8
Volunteer	24.7	30.2	43.0	17.5	24.9	**37.7**
Environmental	20.6	24.8	30.4	12.8	13.1	11.7
Student Representative Council	16.9	22.3	27.8	9.6	12.7	7.8

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were most commonly listed by both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents and comprised about 30% of cases for each group. The second most common response for both groups was *friends*. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 16.

Table 16: People and organisations young people admire

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Family	**30.7**	**30.1**
Friends	**22.2**	**17.5**
Sports teams, players and coaches	**7.6**	**6.6**
Entertainers	6.7	6.1
Schools and their staff	3.5	2.6
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	3.4	5.0
Businesses and business people	3.1	2.4
International aid organisations	2.5	6.1
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	2.1	3.5
Myself	1.8	0.7
Animal protection groups	1.5	2.7
Religious figures	1.5	2.1
Youth organisations and leaders	1.4	1.3
Political organisations and figures	1.2	1.4
Environmental groups	1.2	2.2
Protection agencies	1.0	1.4
Telephone helplines	1.0	1.5

Australian Capital Territory summary

Profile of respondents

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) returned 2,558 surveys, or around 6.1% of the total number of responses that indicated which state/territory they came from. This was more than three times the number received from the ACT in 2007. This is the second time responses from the ACT have been provided separately, as prior to 2007 they were included in a combined chapter on New South Wales and the ACT.

Age breakdown

The largest group of respondents from the ACT was aged 11 to 14 years (74.8%) followed by 15 to 19 years (24.2%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (1.1%) and therefore results for this group have been omitted from the age-specific tables in this chapter.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	1,869	74.8
15-19 years	604	24.2
20-24 years	27	1.1
Total	2,500	6.1% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

53.2% of respondents from the ACT were female and 46.8% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

93 or 3.9% of respondents from the ACT identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Indigenous	93	3.9	5.7	3.4	4.0
Non Indigenous	2,320	96.1	94.3	96.6	96.0

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around four in five (80.5%) respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 500 (19.5%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 50 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): French; Chinese; Spanish; Vietnamese; Afrikaans; and Arabic.

Disability

149 or 6.0% of ACT respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); Asperger's syndrome; dyslexia; autism spectrum disorder; visual impairment; and hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from the ACT (96.5%) were living *with family*, which was similar to the national figure of 92.9%.

15 people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* participated in the survey. Nine young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* also participated, as did seven who were in *boarding school* and six who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	96.5	92.9	97.8	96.8
Share house	1.3	1.5	0.7	1.0
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.6	1.1	0.7	0.2
Other	0.5	0.7	0.3	1.0
Homeless/insecure housing	0.4	0.9	0.2	0.5
Boarding school	0.3	2.1	0.3	0.2
Alone	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.0
Foster care	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, most respondents from the ACT were living in the national capital of Canberra. This is not surprising given the concentration of the population in the ACT. By contrast, there was a much more even spread nationally between those living in and outside capital cities.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Live in capital city	2,430	96.5	59.4	96.6	97.0
Not in capital city	89	3.5	40.6	3.4	3.0

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income for a large majority of respondents from the ACT (80.0%). Just under a fifth (17.3%) relied on *employment* as their main source of income, and a very small proportion (1.1%) relied on a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents/family	80.0	72.0	87.1	61.8
Employment	17.3	22.9	10.4	36.1
Government allowance	1.1	3.7	0.7	1.2
No income	1.5	1.1	1.8	0.7
Other	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

82.5% of respondents aged 15 to 24 from the ACT were *studying full time,* compared with 74.4% nationally. Participation in education was similar for male and female respondents from the ACT.

Table 6: Participation in education

	ACT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	82.5	74.4	84.7	80.0
Studying part time	7.8	14.2	6.1	9.8
Not studying	9.7	11.4	9.2	10.2

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Results from the ACT were very similar to national results across all categories. Nearly one third (30.3%) of respondents from the ACT indicated that they had *casual or temporary work* and nearly one fifth (17.3%) were *working part time*. Just under 4% (3.6%) were *working full time*. Employment participation rates for females and males were similar, although females were more likely than males to have *casual or temporary work* (34.1% compared with 26.1%).

Table 7: Participation in employment

	ACT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.9
Working part time	17.3	21.1	18.6	16.1
Casual or temporary work	30.3	28.7	34.1	26.1
Unemployed/looking for work	28.7	26.2	26.6	30.7
Too young to work or choose not to	20.1	20.7	17.3	23.2

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while *peer acceptance* was removed as an option.

Responses were very similar for ACT respondents and their national counterparts, with the top three items for both being *family relationships, friendships* and *physical and mental health*. *Physical and mental health*, *feeling needed and valued* and *being independent* were all highly valued by about 30% of respondents.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 74.1% and 64.0% of ACT respondents respectively.
- About 30% of ACT respondents indicated that they highly valued *physical and mental health* (32.1%), *feeling needed and valued* (29.3%) and *being independent* (29.1%).

Table 8: What young people value

	ACT 2008 %	National 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Family relationships	**74.1**	**75.3**	**74.4**
Friendships (other than family)	**64.0**	**62.3**	**66.5**
Physical and mental health	**32.1**	**31.8**	34.7
Feeling needed and valued	29.3	26.2	33.1
Being independent	29.1	31.7	**34.8**
School or study satisfaction	24.1	21.0	18.2
Getting a job	15.2	16.9	10.3
Financial security	12.8	13.4	11.9
Spirituality/faith	10.9	14.0	7.2
Making a difference in the community	8.2	7.8	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	9.5
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 highlights both the similarities and differences in responses to this question across the age groups. The top two items for both age groups were *family relationships* and *friendships*. About a third of both groups highly valued *physical and mental health*, and it was the third ranked item for the 11 to 14 year age group. For the 15 to 19 year olds the third ranked item was *being independent*.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by both age groups, with 75.0% of those aged 11 to 14 and 70.7% of those aged 15 to 19 valuing them highly.
- Nearly two thirds of both age groups highly valued *friendships*.
- *Physical and mental health* was valued highly by about a third of each group.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by just over a third (34.7%) of those aged 15 to 19, compared with just over a quarter (27.3%) of those aged 11 to 14 years.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	**75.0**	**70.7**
Friendships (other than family)	**64.7**	**63.4**
Physical and mental health	**31.7**	33.1
Feeling needed and valued	28.8	30.2
Being independent	27.3	**34.7**
School or study satisfaction	24.6	23.0
Getting a job	16.8	10.4
Financial security	12.2	14.1
Spirituality/faith	10.7	9.5
Making a difference in the community	8.3	7.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that both genders highly valued *family relationships* and *friendships*. However, the proportion of male respondents who highly valued each was around 10% lower than female respondents. *Feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by close to 30% of both genders, and it was the third top item for females. The third top item for males was *physical and mental health.*

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 78.5% of female respondents and 68.7% of male respondents.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 69.9% of female respondents compared with 57.1% of male respondents.
- About 30% of both male and female respondents highly valued *feeling needed and valued.*
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to highly value *physical and mental health* (35.9% compared with 29.2%).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	**78.5**	**68.7**
Friendships (other than family)	**69.9**	**57.1**
Physical and mental health	29.2	**35.9**
Feeling needed and valued	**30.1**	28.2
Being independent	28.3	29.7
School or study satisfaction	24.6	23.4
Getting a job	11.1	20.0
Financial security	9.8	16.2
Spirituality/faith	10.4	11.5
Making a difference in the community	8.2	8.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A significant difference was the proportion who highly valued *getting a job*, with a much greater proportion of male respondents indicating it was important.

- Male respondents were nearly twice as likely as female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (20.0% of males compared with 11.1% of females).

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity).*

Table 11 shows that the top three items of concern to ACT respondents were *drugs, family conflict* and *suicide*. *Drugs* and *family conflict* were also in the top three nationally. Table 11 also shows that there was a spread of issues that were of major concern to respondents from the ACT, with nine issues being of concern to at least one in five. The new issue, *personal safety,* was of major concern to nearly a quarter of ACT respondents.

- The top issue of concern for ACT respondents was *drugs*, with 27.9% indicating that it was a major concern for them. This was a large increase on the 2007 figure of 18.8%.
- Just over a quarter (27.7%) of respondents indicated that *family conflict* was a major concern, similar to the national figure of 25.9%.
- The third ranked issue in the ACT was *suicide*, with around one quarter of respondents (25.2%) also indicating it was a major concern.
- Nearly a quarter (23.1%) of ACT respondents identified *personal safety* as a major concern, very similar to the national figure of 22.9%.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	ACT 2008 %	National 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Drugs	**27.9**	**26.0**	18.8
Family conflict	**27.7**	**25.9**	**27.5**
Suicide	**25.2**	**24.6**	21.1
Personal safety	23.1	22.9	N/A
The environment	23.0	18.4	23.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.8	22.6	25.3
Body image	21.9	**26.3**	**30.0**
Physical/sexual abuse	21.4	22.6	22.8
Coping with stress	21.2	20.4	**30.9**
Alcohol	19.6	20.9	19.1
School or study problems	19.4	18.6	22.3
Depression	16.9	17.8	26.6
Self harm	13.9	13.7	11.8
Discrimination	13.7	12.6	16.4
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.7	12.2	8.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The ACT results were similar to the national results, although ACT respondents were slightly more likely than their national counterparts to be concerned about *the environment*, and less likely than their national counterparts to be concerned about *body image*. The proportions of ACT respondents who identified *body image, coping with stress* and *depression* as important concerns were lower in 2008 than they were in 2007.

- 23.0% of ACT respondents indicated that *the environment* was an issue of major concern, compared with 18.4% of respondents nationally.
- *Body image* was identified as a major concern by 21.9% of ACT respondents, a large decrease from the 2007 figure of 30.0%.
- *Coping with stress* was an important concern for just over one fifth (21.2%) of ACT respondents in 2008 compared with 30.9% in 2007.

The clustering of issues shown in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows that some issues, such as *suicide, personal safety* and *the environment*, were of concern to similar levels of young people of both age groups. However, it also shows that there were some significant differences between the age groups on other issues. A much higher proportion of 11 to 14 year old respondents than those aged 15 to 19 identified *drugs* as a major concern. *Alcohol* was also more likely to be of major concern to those aged 11 to 14 year, than those aged 15 to 19 years. Conversely, 15 to 19 year olds were more likely than the younger group to be concerned about *body image* and *physical/sexual abuse*.

- 11 to 14 year olds were nearly twice as likely as respondents aged 15 to 19 to indicate that *drugs* was an issue of major concern (31.6% compared with 17.3%).
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for over a quarter of both age groups (27.9% of 11 to 14 year olds and 27.8% of 15 to 19 year olds).
- About a quarter of respondents in both age groups identified *suicide* as an issue of major concern, while about a fifth of both groups identified *the environment*.
- Just over a quarter (25.7%) of 15 to 19 year olds were concerned about *body image* compared with about one fifth (20.5%) of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Drugs	**31.6**	17.3
Family conflict	**27.9**	**27.8**
Suicide	**25.3**	25.2
Personal safety	23.0	23.5
The environment	23.1	22.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.6	20.0
Body image	20.5	**25.7**
Physical/sexual abuse	20.0	**26.2**
Coping with stress	20.7	21.4
Alcohol	20.4	15.4
School or study problems	18.9	21.6
Depression	15.6	20.0
Self harm	13.1	17.0
Discrimination	13.8	14.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.0	13.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows there were similarities as well as a number of differences in the issues of concern for male and female respondents. *Family conflict* was the only item to appear in the top three issues of concern for both genders, though similar proportions of both groups were concerned about *suicide*. Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify *drugs, alcohol* and *depression* as issues of major concern. Conversely, female respondents were more likely than male respondents to indicate that *body image, physical/sexual abuse* and *bullying/emotional abuse* were of significant concern to them.

- Around a quarter of both groups were concerned about *family conflict* and *suicide*.
- 31.8% of male respondents indicated that *drugs* were an issue of major concern, compared with 24.7% of female respondents.
- *Depression* was a major concern for 25.3% of male respondents compared with 18.1% of female respondents.
- Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be concerned about *body image* (25.1% and 18.0% respectively), as well as *physical/sexual abuse* (24.1% and 18.3% respectively).

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Drugs	24.7	**31.8**
Family conflict	**28.7**	**26.6**
Suicide	**25.6**	24.8
Personal safety	22.8	23.6
The environment	22.1	24.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.5	20.9
Body image	**25.1**	18.0
Physical/sexual abuse	24.1	18.3
Coping with stress	22.4	19.9
Alcohol	16.2	23.5
School or study problems	18.9	20.0
Depression	18.1	**25.3**
Self harm	14.3	13.5
Discrimination	12.9	14.7
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	8.7	12.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the sources of advice and support for young people in the ACT when they have a problem were very clearly *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally. The *internet* was the fourth ranked item for respondents from the ACT, with nearly one fifth indicating it was a major source of advice and support.

- 85.8% of ACT respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 85.1%.
- Just over three quarters (76.2%) of respondents from the ACT indicated *parents* were a major source of advice and support.
- 62.6% of ACT respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	ACT 2008 %	National 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Friends	**85.8**	**85.1**	**90.3**
Parents	**76.2**	**74.1**	**76.0**
Relative/family friend	**62.6**	**61.0**	**60.8**
Internet	18.6	20.3	24.0
Teacher	12.6	11.4	10.8
School counsellor	11.1	11.5	10.7
Magazines	10.7	11.2	10.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.2	11.1	8.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.9	8.5	6.7
Telephone helpline	5.4	5.9	4.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both age groups were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*. A higher proportion of 15 to 19 year olds than 11 to 14 year olds indicated that the *internet* was an important source of advice.

- *Friends* were an important source of advice and support for 85.0% or more of both age groups.
- 78.6% of 11 to 14 year olds and 70.3% of 15 to 19 year olds identified *parents* as an important source of advice and support.
- About a quarter (26.1%) of 15 to 19 year olds indicated that the *internet* was an important source of advice, compared with 15.8% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Friends	**85.0**	**88.4**
Parents	**78.6**	**70.3**
Relative/family friend	**63.8**	**59.1**
Internet	15.8	26.1
Teacher	12.9	11.4
School counsellor	11.4	10.7
Magazines	9.7	14.6
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.3	11.5
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.9	6.7
Telephone helpline	5.9	3.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Similar proportions of both groups identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support, while females were more likely than males to indicate that *friends* or *relative/family friend* were important sources of advice.

- 90.0% of female respondents and 80.9% of male respondents indicated that *friends* were an important source of advice and support.
- About three quarters of both genders identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support.
- *Relative/family friend* was an important source of advice for 66.4% of female respondents and 58.3% of male respondents.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	**90.0**	**80.9**
Parents	**77.8**	**74.6**
Relative/family friend	**66.4**	**58.3**
Internet	14.7	23.0
Teacher	10.6	15.1
School counsellor	11.0	11.2
Magazines	11.8	9.4
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.5	13.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	5.5	8.6
Telephone helpline	5.2	5.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Table 16 shows that male respondents were more likely than female respondents to turn to the *internet*, a *teacher* or *community agencies*.

- 23.0% of male respondents compared with 14.7% of female respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to identify a *teacher* as an important source of advice and support (15.1% compared with 10.6%).
- Male respondents (13.2%) were about twice as likely as female respondents (7.5%) to identify *community agencies* as a key source of advice and support.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

82.9% of respondents from the ACT indicated that they had enough information available to them on the issues that concerned them. This was similar to the national figure of 83.7%. The responses by age and gender were similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2008						2007
	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %	ACT %
Enough information	82.9	83.7	83.3	82.7	82.6	83.5	84.0
Not enough information	17.1	16.3	16.7	17.3	17.4	16.5	16.0

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about. A number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): environmental issues; adolescence and youth-related issues; sexuality and sex education; alcohol and drugs; stress and anxiety; bullying; and depression.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. There was one change to the list provided in 2008. *Sports* was divided into two categories: *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

The top three responses for the ACT were *sports (as a participant)*, *arts/cultural* activities and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top three responses nationally although the rankings were slightly different. Around one fifth of ACT respondents also participated in *religious* activities, *youth groups and clubs*, and *volunteer* activities.

- 68.6% of ACT respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, similar to the national figure of 67.6%.
- 47.6% of ACT respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Around a fifth of respondents were involved in *religious* activities, *youth groups and clubs* and *volunteer* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	ACT 2008 %	National 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Sports (as a participant)	**68.6**	**67.6**	**71.5***
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**47.6**	**44.1**	**53.8**
Sports (as a spectator)	**41.5**	**46.5**	**71.5***
Religious	22.8	25.9	17.7
Youth groups and clubs	21.3	26.8	20.4
Volunteer	19.1	22.2	**29.0**
Environmental	14.2	14.3	14.2
Student Representative Council	8.5	12.4	10.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that there were some differences in the activities that respondents were involved in across the age groups. Participation in some activities such as *sports (as a participant)* decreased with age, while it increased slightly for *youth groups and clubs* and *volunteer* activities.

- Nearly three quarters (72.4%) of respondents in the 11 to 14 years age group were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with just over half (56.6%) of those aged 15 to 19.
- Involvement in *arts/cultural* activities also decreased with age from 49.2% for 11 to 14 year olds to 42.7% for 15 to 19 year olds.
- 22.4% of 15 to 19 year olds and 17.2% of 11 to 14 year olds were involved in *volunteer* activities.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	**72.4**	**56.6**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**49.2**	**42.7**
Sports (as a spectator)	**42.1**	**40.2**
Religious	23.8	17.7
Youth groups and clubs	20.4	22.4
Volunteer	17.2	22.4
Environmental	14.3	12.6
Student Representative Council	7.9	8.8

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows that the top three activities were the same for both genders, namely *sports (as a participant), arts/cultural* activities and *sports (as a spectator)*, although the rankings were slightly different. Females were less likely than males to be involved in either *sports (as a participant)* or *sports (as a spectator)*, but were more likely than males to be involved in *arts/cultural* activities. Responses for other activities were similar for both groups.

- 72.6% of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with 65.2% of female respondents.
- Male respondents (46.5%) were also more likely than female respondents (36.9%) to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Conversely, female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural* activities (56.6% compared with 37.2%).

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	**65.2**	**72.6**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**56.6**	**37.2**
Sports (as a spectator)	**36.9**	**46.5**
Religious	23.5	21.6
Youth groups and clubs	20.1	22.4
Volunteer	20.4	17.0
Environmental	15.1	12.8
Student Representative Council	7.8	8.8

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in 2007, *family* members were most commonly listed and comprised about 30% of the responses given. The second most common response was *friends*. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	**1,707**	**30.2**
Friends	**919**	**16.3**
Sports teams, players and coaches	**388**	**6.9**
Entertainers	345	6.1
International aid organisations	273	4.8
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	256	4.5
Animal protection groups	238	4.2
Businesses and business people	196	3.5
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	176	3.1
Schools and their staff	162	2.9
Environmental groups	161	2.9
Political organisations and figures	89	1.6
Telephone helplines	84	1.5
Myself	76	1.3
Medical professionals and hospitals	75	1.3
Protection agencies	74	1.3
Religious figures	72	1.3
Youth organisations and leaders	52	0.9
Historical figures	48	0.8
Volunteers/donors	27	0.5
Organisations and research supporting mental health	21	0.4

New South Wales summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

13,334 surveys were returned from New South Wales (NSW), which was 31.7% of the total number of responses that indicated which state/territory they came from. This was the largest number of returns from any state/territory. The largest group of respondents from NSW was aged 15 to 19 years (52.5%) followed by 11 to 14 years (45.3%) and 20 to 24 years (2.2%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	5,918	45.3
15-19 years	6,864	52.5
20-24 years	285	2.2
Total	13,067	31.7% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

58.2% of the surveys from NSW were completed by female respondents and 41.8% by male respondents.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

633 or 4.9% of respondents from NSW identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	633	4.9	5.7	5.3	4.3	3.5
Non Indigenous	12,234	95.1	94.3	94.7	95.7	96.5

Languages other than English spoken at home

83.7% of respondents from NSW indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 2,173 (16.3%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 70 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Chinese; Filipino/Tagalog; Arabic; Italian; Spanish; Cantonese; French; Korean; Lebanese; and German.

Disability

602 or 4.6% of respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); dyslexia; visual impairment; hearing impairment; mental illness; and acquired brain injury.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from NSW were living *with family* (94.0%), as they were nationally (92.9%). Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

282 surveys were received from people living in a *boarding school*. Surveys were also received from 116 young people in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison*, 80 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* and 35 young people in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	94.0	92.9	96.2	93.7	66.0
Boarding school	2.2	2.1	1.7	2.7	0.0
Share house	1.2	1.5	0.4	1.0	20.2
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.9	1.1	0.5	1.0	1.1
Homeless/insecure housing	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	1.1
Other	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.6	4.3
Alone	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.2	7.4
Foster care	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, respondents from NSW were slightly more likely to be living in the capital Sydney, than in other areas of NSW. The proportion of young people living outside Sydney declined with age, with 47.3% of 11 to 14 year olds living outside the capital compared with 35.9% of 20 to 24 year olds.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	7,287	55.6	59.4	52.7	57.2	64.1
Not in capital city	5,827	44.4	40.6	47.3	42.8	35.9

Main source of income

As in previous years, *parents/family* were the main source of income for a large majority (72.3%) of respondents from NSW. Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. About two thirds (69.6%) of young adults cited *employment* as their main source of income, with a further 20.0% relying on a *government allowance*. The NSW data was very similar to the national data for all income sources.

Table 5: Main source of income

	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	72.3	72.0	88.4	61.0	9.3
Employment	23.0	22.9	9.3	33.1	69.6
Government allowance	3.3	3.7	0.9	4.6	20.0
No income	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7
Other	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Respondents aged 15 to 19 (72.1%) were much more likely than those aged 20 to 24 (38.5%) to be *studying full time*. Young adults were, however, slightly more likely than the 15 to 19 year olds to be *studying part time* (21.6% compared with 16.8%). They were also more likely than 15 to 19 year olds to be *not studying* (39.9% compared with 11.1%). Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time*, while male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be *studying part time* or *not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	NSW %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	70.8	74.4	72.1	38.5	76.2	63.5
Studying part time	17.0	14.2	16.8	21.6	14.6	20.2
Not studying	12.2	11.4	11.1	39.9	9.2	16.3

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Just over 40% of the young adult group were *working full time* compared with less than 2% (1.4%) of the 15 to 19 year age group. Around half of the 15 to 19 year age group was *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Participation rates in employment for both genders were quite similar.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	NSW %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	3.0	3.3	1.4	41.5	3.1	2.8
Working part time	20.1	21.1	20.2	17.7	20.9	18.9
Casual or temporary work	28.4	28.7	28.8	19.1	30.3	25.8
Unemployed/looking for work	26.3	26.2	26.8	15.5	24.7	28.6
Too young to work or choose not to	22.2	20.7	22.9	6.1	21.1	23.9

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while *peer acceptance* was removed as an option from this question.

The results for this question have been very consistent across the seven years of the survey, both for respondents from NSW and nationally. The top two items were clearly *family relationships* and *friendships*. About one third of NSW respondents highly valued *physical and mental health* and *being independent*.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 77.0% and 62.9% of NSW respondents respectively.
- 32.2% of respondents from NSW highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by 31.7% of respondents.

Table 8: What young people value

	NSW 2008 %	National 2008 %	NSW 2007 %	NSW 2006 %	NSW 2005 %
Family relationships	**77.0**	**75.3**	**78.7**	**73.6**	**75.1**
Friendships (other than family)	**62.9**	**62.3**	**61.3**	**68.5**	**69.9**
Physical and mental health	**32.2**	**31.8**	**33.4**	N/A	N/A
Being independent	31.7	31.7	32.3	**36.0**	**33.6**
Feeling needed and valued	26.2	26.2	25.8	30.6	32.3
School or study satisfaction	20.5	21.0	19.3	23.4	21.3
Getting a job	15.7	16.9	13.5	17.9	14.6
Spirituality/faith	14.4	14.0	15.2	15.0	17.7
Financial security	12.7	13.4	11.3	14.8	14.9
Making a difference in the community	7.5	7.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	9.5	12.1	13.9
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.0	7.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows the similarities and differences in what NSW respondents valued across the age groups. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for all three age groups, although the proportion who valued *friendships* significantly declined with age. *Physical and mental health* was the third ranked item for those under 20 years, while *being independent* and *feeling needed and valued* were ranked equal third by the 20 to 24 year age group.

- 70% or more of respondents in each age group highly valued *family relationships*.
- 46.8% of young adults highly valued *friendships* compared with over 60% of 11 to 19 year olds.
- Around 30% of respondents in all age groups highly valued *being independent*.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by about a third of 11 to 19 year olds and just over a quarter (26.1%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by about a third (32.9%) of young adults compared with about a quarter of those aged under 20.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	**79.5**	**75.3**	**70.0**
Friendships (other than family)	**62.8**	**64.1**	**46.8**
Physical and mental health	**30.9**	**33.8**	26.1
Being independent	29.6	33.4	**32.9**
Feeling needed and valued	25.8	26.0	**32.9**
School or study satisfaction	22.7	18.8	11.5
Getting a job	17.3	14.2	16.8
Spirituality/faith	14.3	14.0	24.4
Financial security	11.2	13.4	27.1
Making a difference in the community	7.9	6.9	11.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were differences among the age groups on some items, particularly when comparing the responses of the young adult group with the 11 to 19 year olds. Perhaps not surprisingly there were quite large differences in the proportions who highly valued *financial security* and *school or study satisfaction*. *Spirituality/faith* was highly valued by a much larger proportion of young adults than those aged 11 to 19.

- Around one in five respondents aged 11 to 19 highly valued *school and study satisfaction* compared with about one in ten of those aged 20 to 24.
- Conversely, young adult respondents were much more likely than those aged under 20 years to highly value *financial security* (27.1% compared with 11.2% of 11 to 14 year olds and 13.4% of 15 to 19 year olds).
- *Spirituality/faith* was highly valued by a larger proportion of 20 to 24 year olds (24.4%) than 11 to 19 year olds (about 14%).

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top three items for both genders were identical, namely *family relationships, friendships* and *physical and mental health*. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were ranked first and second respectively by both genders, but in both cases the proportion of male respondents who valued them highly was about 10% less than for female respondents.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 81.0% of female respondents and 71.5% of male respondents.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 67.1% of female respondents and 57.3% of male respondents.
- About one third of both genders highly valued *physical and mental health* and *being independent.*

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	**81.0**	**71.5**
Friendships (other than family)	**67.1**	**57.3**
Physical and mental health	**31.2**	**33.7**
Being independent	30.5	33.4
Feeling needed and valued	27.2	24.7
School or study satisfaction	20.7	20.0
Spirituality/faith	14.3	14.6
Getting a job	11.5	21.6
Financial security	10.7	15.6
Making a difference in the community	7.2	7.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

On most items, responses from males and females were very similar, with the major exception being *getting a job* which was valued highly by a much greater proportion of male than female respondents. These results were similar to the national figures.

- Male respondents were about twice as likely as female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (21.6% compared with 11.5%).

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option, and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity).*

Table 11 shows that the top three issues of concern to NSW respondents were *family conflict, body image* and *drugs*. These were the same top three issues nationally although the rankings were different. Table 11 also shows that there was a spread of issues that were of concern to NSW respondents, with ten of the items being of major concern to around one fifth or more of respondents.

- *Family conflict* was the top issue of concern for NSW respondents, with 27.6% of respondents indicating that it was a major concern for them.

- *Body image* was a major concern for around one in four (26.0%) NSW respondents, a decline from one in three (32.2%) in 2007.
- *Drugs* was a major concern for around a quarter (24.6%) of NSW respondents, up from about one in five (19.2%) in 2007.
- *Suicide*, the new item *personal safety*, and *physical/sexual abuse* were each of major concern to just under one quarter of respondents from NSW.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	NSW 2008 %	National 2008 %	NSW 2007 %	NSW 2006 %	NSW 2005 %
Family conflict	**27.6**	**25.9**	**31.5**	**29.3**	**35.6**
Body image	**26.0**	**26.3**	**32.2**	**28.9**	N/A
Drugs	**24.6**	**26.0**	19.2	N/A	N/A
Suicide	24.4	24.6	22.4	**29.0**	**42.7**
Personal safety	24.0	22.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Physical/sexual abuse	23.7	22.6	20.3	27.9	**39.2**
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.2	22.6	23.1	26.7	31.1
Coping with stress	21.6	20.4	**28.4**	28.2	30.7
Alcohol	19.7	20.9	18.5	N/A	N/A
School or study problems	19.0	18.6	26.2	26.1	25.0
Depression	17.9	17.8	20.4	25.3	31.4
The environment	16.6	18.4	23.1	N/A	N/A
Self harm	13.6	13.7	14.2	21.9	N/A
Discrimination	13.1	12.6	14.2	18.1	21.7
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.4	12.2	8.8	12.3	11.2
Alcohol and other drugs	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.2	32.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The clustering of issues shown in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences in issues of concern across the age groups. The top three items were quite different for each age group, with concern about some of these issues increasing with age (for example, *body image*) and others declining (for example, *drugs*). As in the national results, the top three issues for the 20 to 24 year age group were very clearly *body image*, *coping with stress* and *depression*. There were similar levels of concern across the age groups on issues such as *suicide*, *physical/sexual abuse* and *personal safety*.

- The proportion of respondents concerned about *body image* increased with age, with one in three (33.0%) 20 to 24 year olds indicating it was a major concern compared with around one in five (22.7%) 11 to 14 year olds.
- 20 to 24 year olds were also more likely than 11 to 14 year olds to be concerned about *coping with stress* (31.7% compared with 17.7%) and *depression* (28.6% compared with 14.7%).
- *Drugs* was of particular concern to the 11 to 14 age group, with about one third (31.5%) of this group indicating it was a major concern compared with less than 20% of 15 to 24 year olds.
- About 28% of respondents aged under 20 indicated that *family conflict* was an area of major concern, compared with around one in five (21.1%) of the young adult group.
- *Personal safety* was of concern to a similar proportion of respondents across the age groups, with more than one in five from each indicating that it was an area of major concern.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family conflict	**27.5**	**28.1**	21.1
Body image	22.7	**28.4**	**33.0**
Drugs	**31.5**	18.9	14.1
Suicide	**24.9**	23.8	24.4
Personal safety	23.3	**24.9**	21.4
Physical/sexual abuse	24.0	23.5	23.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.5	20.3	17.3
Coping with stress	17.7	24.7	**31.7**
Alcohol	22.7	16.9	18.7
School or study problems	17.2	21.0	11.4
Depression	14.7	20.2	**28.6**
The environment	19.0	14.4	16.7
Self harm	12.9	14.3	10.2
Discrimination	12.1	13.9	13.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.1	12.3	17.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three items for female respondents in NSW were clearly *family conflict, body image* and *physical/sexual abuse*. *Family conflict* was also a top three issue for male respondents, as were *drugs* and *suicide*. Responses were similar for both genders on a number of items, including *personal safety, bullying/emotional abuse* and *coping with stress*.

- 28.8% of female respondents were highly concerned about *family conflict*, as were 26.0% of male respondents.
- Around a quarter (28.2%) of female respondents and about a fifth (22.7%) of male respondents identified *body image* as a major concern.
- *Drugs* were a major concern for a higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents (27.2% compared with 22.7%).

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family conflict	**28.8**	**26.0**
Body image	**28.2**	22.7
Drugs	22.7	**27.2**
Suicide	24.7	**23.9**
Personal safety	24.2	23.8
Physical/sexual abuse	**27.9**	17.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.6	22.9
Coping with stress	22.1	21.0
Alcohol	17.0	23.3
School or study problems	19.1	18.9
Depression	18.4	17.2
The environment	15.3	18.2
Self harm	13.6	13.7
Discrimination	13.0	13.2
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.2	15.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main difference between the genders on issues of concern was around *physical/sexual abuse*, which female respondents were more likely to identify as a major issue than male respondents.

- *Physical/sexual abuse* was a major concern for 27.9% of female respondents compared with 17.8% of male respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time as shown in Table 14. The top three sources of advice and support for NSW respondents were clearly *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally. Results for each item on the list were very similar for NSW and national respondents.

- 86.0% of NSW respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 85.1%.
- *Parents* were a source of advice and support for about three quarters (75.6%) of respondents from NSW.
- 62.5% of respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	NSW 2008 %	National 2008 %	NSW 2007 %	NSW 2006 %	NSW 2005 %
Friends	**86.0**	**85.1**	**86.9**	**86.7**	**87.3**
Parents	**75.6**	**74.1**	**75.8**	**74.7**	**79.4**
Relative/family friend	**62.5**	**61.0**	**64.9**	**64.4**	**66.7**
Internet	19.8	20.3	18.3	16.3	14.0
School counsellor	11.3	11.5	10.2	11.8	10.6
Teacher	11.3	11.4	10.3	9.3	10.0
Magazines	10.3	11.2	10.7	13.2	11.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.6	11.1	10.5	9.5	8.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.7	8.5	8.4	9.2	8.2
Telephone helpline	5.2	5.9	5.2	5.8	5.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of advice and support for all three age groups were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend.* The proportion of respondents who identified the *internet* as a major source of advice increased with age, while not surprisingly the proportion who identified *school counsellor* or *teacher* decreased with age.

- More than 80% of respondents in each age group identified *friends* as a main source of advice and support.
- 80.2% of 11 to 14 year olds identified *parents* as a major source of advice, as did 64.3% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- One third (33.3%) of those in the 20 to 24 year age group identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support, more than twice the proportion of the 11 to 14 year age group (14.0%).

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	**82.6**	**89.0**	**89.4**
Parents	**80.2**	**72.4**	**64.3**
Relative/family friend	**64.6**	**61.2**	**57.4**
Internet	14.0	23.8	33.3
School counsellor	13.8	9.6	6.0
Teacher	12.3	10.6	4.3
Magazines	9.6	10.9	10.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.3	9.2	13.1
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.8	9.1	13.9
Telephone helpline	6.5	3.9	7.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice for both genders were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend.* The proportion who identified *parents* as a key source of advice was about the same for both groups, while the proportion of male respondents who identified *friends* or *relative/family friend* was about 10% less than the proportion of female respondents in each case.

- 90.0% of female respondents and 80.4% of male respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- About three quarters of both genders identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support.
- Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice (66.6% compared with 56.9%).

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	**90.0**	**80.4**
Parents	**76.7**	**74.2**
Relative/family friend	**66.6**	**56.9**
Internet	16.5	24.3
School counsellor	10.4	12.8
Teacher	10.0	13.1
Magazines	11.4	8.7
Community agencies eg youth worker	6.8	13.3
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.7	9.9
Telephone helpline	4.5	6.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were two significant differences between the results for male and female respondents, with males more likely than females to identify the *internet* or *community agencies* as major sources of advice and support.

- 24.3% of male respondents compared with 16.5% of female respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice.
- *Community agencies* were a major source of advice for 13.3% of male respondents and 6.8% of female respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

Nearly 85% of respondents from NSW indicated they had enough information on issues that concerned them. This is in line with both the 2008 national results and the NSW results for 2007. As in previous years, the proportion who indicated they did not have enough information increased with age, from 14.5% of 11 to 14 year olds to 27.7% of 20 to 24 year olds. Responses for females and males were similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2008							2007
	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	NSW %
Enough information	84.6	83.7	85.5	84.6	72.3	84.0	85.5	82.3
Not enough information	15.4	16.3	14.5	15.4	27.7	16.0	14.5	17.7

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about. A number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; environmental issues; sexuality and sex education; adolescence and youth-related issues; depression; school and study; stress and anxiety; and global issues including terrorism, war and politics.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. There was one change to the list provided in 2008. *Sports* was divided into two categories: *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

The top three activities for NSW respondents were *sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities. These were also the top activities nationally. More than a quarter of NSW respondents were also involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities, and a fifth were involved in *volunteer* activities.

- 68.5% of respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* and 47.3% were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- 44.3% of respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- About 27% of respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs* or *religious* activities, and 22.6% were involved in *volunteer* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	NSW 2008 %	National 2008 %	NSW 2007 %	NSW 2006 %	NSW 2005 %
Sports (as a participant)	**68.5**	**67.6**	**66.0***	**68.8***	**71.0***
Sports (as a spectator)	**47.3**	**46.5**			
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**44.3**	**44.1**	**44.5**	**44.2**	**44.4**
Youth groups and clubs	27.5	26.8	**27.4**	**26.8**	**30.8**
Religious	27.4	25.9	**27.4**	26.2	24.6
Volunteer	22.6	22.2	22.5	21.8	21.0
Environmental	13.6	14.3	12.9	10.7	6.0
Student Representative Council	11.8	12.4	12.6	13.7	10.1

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 highlights that participation in *sports (as a participant)* and *arts/cultural* activities by NSW respondents declined with age. However, participation in *volunteer* activities increased with age for NSW respondents as it did nationally.

- Around three quarters (73.5%) of respondents aged 11 to 14 were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with around two fifths (41.8%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- 47.1% of 11 to 14 year olds were involved in *arts/cultural* activities compared with 34.7% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Just over one third (35.1%) of young adults were involved in *volunteer* activities, compared with 17.9% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.5**	**65.8**	**41.8**
Sports (as a spectator)	**44.0**	**50.5**	**39.6**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**47.1**	**42.4**	34.7
Youth groups and clubs	27.0	27.9	28.8
Religious	27.7	27.0	30.2
Volunteer	17.9	26.0	**35.1**
Environmental	12.9	14.0	10.5
Student Representative Council	9.9	13.3	8.1

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top three activities for male and female respondents from NSW were the same, although the rankings were slightly different. As in previous years, male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports* activities, while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural* activities. In other activities participation rates were similar for both genders.

- Nearly three quarters (73.9%) of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with 65.0% of female respondents.
- More than half of female respondents from NSW were involved in *arts/cultural* activities, compared with around one third of male respondents (53.4% and 31.9% respectively).
- More than one quarter of both male and female respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	**65.0**	**73.9**
Sports (as a spectator)	**42.2**	**54.4**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**53.4**	**31.9**
Youth groups and clubs	27.1	28.1
Religious	28.3	26.1
Volunteer	24.0	20.4
Environmental	12.9	14.2
Student Representative Council	11.4	12.1

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were most commonly listed and comprised about 30% of the responses given. The second most common response was *friends* at 16.9%. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	**9,297**	**30.4**
Friends	**5,164**	**16.9**
International aid organisations	**2,011**	**6.6**
Entertainers	1,971	6.4
Sports teams, players and coaches	1,739	5.7
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	1,726	5.6
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	1,008	3.3
Schools and their staff	832	2.7
Animal protection groups	729	2.4
Environmental groups	720	2.4
Businesses and business people	683	2.2
Religious figures	671	2.2
Telephone helplines	493	1.6
Political organisations and figures	482	1.6
Youth organisations and leaders	469	1.5
Protection agencies	428	1.4
Medical professionals and hospitals	345	1.1
Myself	194	0.6
Historical figures	178	0.6
Organisations and research supporting mental health	136	0.4

Northern Territory summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

1,197 surveys were returned from the Northern Territory (NT), which was 2.8% of the total number of responses that indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group from the NT was aged 11 to 14 years (51.6%) followed by 15 to 19 years (43.1%) and 20 to 24 years (5.3%). Only a small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years and results for this group should be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	598	51.6
15-19 years	500	43.1
20-24 years	62*	5.3
Total	1,160	2.8% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.
*Results for this group should be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size.

Gender breakdown

57.1% of NT respondents were female and 42.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

190 or 16.3% of NT respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This was much higher that the national figure of 5.7%.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	190	16.3	5.7	11.3	20.7	18.0
Non Indigenous	975	83.7	94.3	88.7	79.3	82.0

Languages other than English spoken at home

86.0% of respondents from the NT indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 167 (14.0%) who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 35 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Kriol; Filipino/Tagalog; Spanish; Vietnamese; French; Indonesian; and Italian.

Disability

66 or 5.6% of NT respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); Asperger's syndrome; dyslexia; depression; and hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

The majority of NT respondents were living *with family* (87.0%), which was just below the national rate of 92.9%. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

56 respondents were living in a *boarding school* and 19 were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison*. 12 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* participated in the survey, as did four who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	87.0	92.9	95.1	84.9	43.3
Boarding school	4.8	2.1	1.7	9.2	0.0
Share house	2.9	1.5	1.2	1.4	33.3
Juvenile justice centre/prison	1.6	1.1	0.3	1.2	5.0
Other	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.2	6.7
Alone	1.1	0.5	0.0	1.0	11.7
Homeless/insecure housing	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.0
Foster care	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, a significant majority of respondents from the NT lived in the capital city, Darwin, although about a quarter (25.5%) lived in other parts of the Territory. The proportion of those living in Darwin was lowest among the 15 to 19 year age group, of whom about two thirds (66.0%) lived in the capital.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total Number	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	885	74.5	59.4	81.5	66.0	85.5
Not in capital city	303	25.5	40.6	18.5	34.0	14.5

Main source of income

Parents/family, as in previous surveys, were the main source of income for a majority (65.6%) of NT respondents. Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they got older and found *employment* or became eligible for a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	65.6	72.0	83.0	53.9	5.0
Employment	30.2	22.9	14.2	41.3	86.7
Government allowance	2.8	3.7	1.4	3.9	8.3
No income	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.0
Other	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Around two thirds (66.1%) of NT respondents were *studying full time* compared with three quarters (74.4%) of respondents nationally. Respondents in the 15 to 19 year age group were much more likely than the young adult group to be *studying full time* (72.2% compared with 16.4%). 15.1% of 15 to 19 year olds and 27.9% of 20 to 24 year olds were *studying part time*. More than half of the 20 to 24 year age group were *not studying*, compared with just over one tenth (12.7%) of the 15 to 19 year age group. Female respondents were slightly more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time*, while male respondents were more likely than females to be *not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	NT %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	66.1	74.4	72.2	16.4	68.3	62.7
Studying part time	16.5	14.2	15.1	27.9	17.5	15.2
Not studying	17.4	11.4	12.7	55.7	14.2	22.1

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. 12.9% of NT respondents were *working full time*, about four times the national figure of 3.3%. The 20 to 24 year age group were much more likely than the 15 to 19 year age group to be *working full time* (77.0% compared with 4.8%). Around half of the younger group were either *working part time* or had *casual or temporary work*. Responses by gender were fairly similar.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	NT %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	12.9	3.3	4.8	77.0	15.2	9.7
Working part time	22.7	21.1	24.5	8.2	21.7	23.1
Casual or temporary work	24.7	28.7	26.6	9.8	25.1	24.5
Unemployed/looking for work	19.0	26.2	21.0	3.3	17.6	21.3
Too young to work or choose not to	20.7	20.7	23.1	1.6	20.4	21.3

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while *peer acceptance* was removed as an option.

In 2008, as in previous years, *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a large proportion of respondents and were ranked first and second respectively. *Being independent* was the third top item (30.0%) and *physical and mental health* the fourth (26.2%). Nationally, the ranking of these two items was reversed.

- *Family relationships* were valued highly by more than three quarters (77.8%) of NT respondents.
- *Friendships* were valued highly by 61.7% of NT respondents, very similar to the national figure of 62.3%.
- 30.0% of NT respondents highly valued *being independent*.
- About a quarter of respondents highly valued *physical and mental health* (26.2%) and *feeling needed and valued* (25.3%).

Table 8: What young people value

	NT 2008 %	National 2007 %	NT 2007 %	NT 2006 %	NT 2005 %
Family relationships	**77.8**	**75.3**	**75.3**	**73.0**	**69.9**
Friendships (other than family)	**61.7**	**62.3**	**55.4**	**57.8**	**46.4**
Being independent	**30.0**	31.7	**36.0**	**40.3**	**47.4**
Physical and mental health	26.2	**31.8**	32.6	N/A	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	25.3	26.2	24.6	26.8	21.1
School or study satisfaction	21.8	21.0	23.1	25.2	8.8
Getting a job	17.3	16.9	15.6	23.0	28.1
Spirituality/faith	15.7	14.0	13.2	18.2	21.4
Financial security	14.3	13.4	14.6	17.4	40.4
Making a difference in the community	8.5	7.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	9.2	9.5	10.7
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.9	10.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows that there were both similarities and differences across the age groups. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for all age groups, although the proportion who highly valued *friendships* decreased with age. *Physical and mental health* was the third ranked item for the 11 to 14 year olds, whilst for the 15 to 19 year olds it was *being independent*. *Being independent* and *financial security* were ranked equal third by 20 to 24 year old respondents.

- Over three quarters of each age group highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were valued highly by nearly two thirds (around 63%) of 11 to 19 year olds, compared with just under half (47.5%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Just over a quarter (27.2%) of 11 to 14 year olds compared with about a fifth (20.3%) of 20 to 24 year olds highly valued *feeling needed and valued*.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	**79.3**	**75.8**	**78.0**
Friendships (other than family)	**63.5**	**62.9**	**47.5**
Being independent	27.1	**32.7**	**33.9**
Physical and mental health	**29.4**	22.7	30.5
Feeling needed and valued	27.2	22.5	20.3
School or study satisfaction	20.7	24.6	8.5
Getting a job	18.2	16.6	18.6
Spirituality/faith	15.2	16.2	13.8
Financial security	11.4	15.4	**33.9**
Making a difference in the community	6.9	9.5	15.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major difference was in the proportion of respondents who highly valued *financial security*. 20 to 24 year olds were much more likely than 11 to 19 year olds to value this item.

- *Financial security* was highly valued by a third (33.9%) of young adults, about three times the rate of the 11 to 14 year age group (11.4%).

Gender differences

Family relationships and *friendships* were the top two items for both genders, although in both cases the proportion of male respondents who highly valued them was over 12% lower than the proportion of female respondents. *Being independent* was the third ranked item for female respondents, while for male respondents it was *physical and mental health*.

- 83.1% of female respondents highly valued *family relationships* compared with 70.7% of male respondents.
- A greater proportion of female than male respondents highly valued *friendships* (68.6% compared with 53.0%).
- One in three male respondents (32.1%) highly valued *physical and mental health* compared with one in five (22.0%) female respondents.
- About 30% of respondents of both genders highly valued *being independent*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	**83.1**	**70.7**
Friendships (other than family)	**68.6**	**53.0**
Being independent	**28.5**	31.8
Physical and mental health	22.0	**32.1**
Feeling needed and valued	26.7	23.1
School or study satisfaction	22.5	20.8
Getting a job	13.0	22.7
Spirituality/faith	13.6	18.8
Financial security	13.2	15.5
Making a difference in the community	8.0	9.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Another difference between the genders was the proportion of each who highly valued *getting a job*.

- Over a fifth (22.7%) of male respondents highly valued *getting a job* compared with 13.0% of female respondents.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity)*.

Table 11 shows that the top three issues of concern for NT respondents were *drugs*, *family conflict* and *physical/sexual abuse*, each of which were of major concern to around a quarter of NT respondents. These were similar to the top three items nationally, although in the national responses *body image* featured rather than *physical/sexual abuse*. Table 11 also shows that there was a spread of issues that were of significant concern to NT respondents, with 11 issues being of major concern to around one in five or more of them.

- *Drugs* was the top issue of concern for respondents from the NT, with more than a quarter (26.5%) identifying it as a major concern, an increase from one in five (21.1%) in 2007.
- *Family conflict* and *physical/sexual abuse* were both major concerns for around a quarter of NT respondents (26.1% and 24.6% respectively).
- The new item, *personal safety*, was an issue of significant concern for just under a quarter (23.1%) of NT respondents.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	NT 2008 %	National 2008 %	NT 2007%	NT 2006 %	NT 2005 %
Drugs	**26.5**	**26.0**	21.1	N/A	N/A
Family conflict	**26.1**	**25.9**	**29.8**	**35.6**	33.9
Physical/sexual abuse	**24.6**	22.6	20.6	27.1	29.8
Suicide	23.7	24.6	21.2	25.8	31.6
Personal safety	23.1	22.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Body image	22.7	**26.3**	**29.1**	26.7	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.3	22.6	22.3	20.3	26.3
Alcohol	21.8	20.9	22.8	N/A	N/A
The environment	19.9	18.4	**26.2**	N/A	N/A
School or study problems	19.6	18.6	25.8	29.6	17.9
Coping with stress	19.3	20.4	26.0	**31.0**	**43.9**
Depression	16.7	17.8	19.8	26.5	**45.6**
Self harm	13.9	13.7	13.8	22.8	N/A
Discrimination	13.5	12.6	14.6	15.2	24.6
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.7	12.2	9.8	9.9	7.0
Alcohol and other drugs	N/A	N/A	N/A	**31.1**	**42.1**

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The clustering of issues shown in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows a complex picture of the issues of concern for the three age groups. While there were some items that concerned similar proportions of respondents across the age groups, such as *the environment*, others such as *drugs*, *family conflict* and *depression* varied considerably with age. 11 to 19 year olds were more likely than 20 to 24 year olds to identify *drugs* and *family conflict* as major concerns, while 20 to 24 year olds were more likely than 11 to 19 year olds to identify *depression* as a key concern. Unlike young adults nationally, whose top three issues of concern were *body image*, *coping with stress* and *depression*, young adults in the NT identified *physical/sexual abuse*, *personal safety* and *bullying/emotional abuse* as their top three issues of concern.

- *Drugs* were of major concern to just under 30% (29.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds, compared with 13.1% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Around a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds were significantly concerned about *family conflict*, compared with around one in ten young adults.
- Around one in five 11 to 19 year olds and 30.0% of 20 to 24 year olds identified *personal safety* as a major concern.
- *Physical/sexual abuse* was identified as a significant concern by about one in four (27.5%) 11 to 14 year olds, one in five (21.7%) 15 to 19 year olds and one in three (31.7%) 20 to 24 year olds.
- A higher proportion of respondents aged 20 to 24 than those aged 11 to 19 identified *depression* as a major concern (25.0% compared with around 16%).

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Drugs	**29.7**	23.8	13.1
Family conflict	25.7	**28.5**	13.1
Physical/sexual abuse	**27.5**	21.7	**31.7**
Suicide	**26.9**	20.8	21.3
Personal safety	23.1	22.2	**30.0**
Body image	21.1	**25.3**	19.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.2	20.6	**27.9**
Alcohol	22.8	20.8	14.8
The environment	20.3	18.3	21.3
School or study problems	16.6	**24.8**	8.5
Coping with stress	15.3	23.4	26.2
Depression	15.0	17.2	25.0
Self harm	12.9	15.2	16.7
Discrimination	12.6	14.6	13.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.6	11.2	11.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

There were both similarities and differences in the items identified as issues of major concern by male and female respondents. Some issues, such as *family conflict, suicide*, and *personal safety* were major concerns for similar proportions of both genders. Male respondents were more likely than females to identify *drugs* and *alcohol* as issues of concern, while female respondents were more likely than males to identify *physical/sexual abuse* and *body image* as major concerns.

- *Drugs* were identified as a major concern by 30.2% of male respondents and 24.0% of female respondents.
- Nearly twice the proportion of female respondents (30.0%) as male respondents (17.5%) identified *physical/sexual abuse* as a major concern.
- Over one fifth of both genders identified *suicide, personal safety* and *bullying/emotional abuse* as significant issues of concern.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Drugs	24.0	**30.2**
Family conflict	**27.4**	**24.5**
Physical/sexual abuse	**30.0**	17.5
Suicide	23.8	23.6
Personal safety	23.8	21.9
Body image	**24.8**	19.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.7	23.2
Alcohol	19.7	**24.9**
The environment	19.2	20.5
School or study problems	19.4	19.7
Coping with stress	20.3	17.8
Depression	18.4	14.3
Discrimination	13.6	13.3
Self harm	12.8	15.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	7.9	16.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time as shown in Table 14. The top three sources of advice in 2008 were clearly *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Responses from the NT were very similar to national responses across most items, although NT respondents were slightly less likely than their national counterparts to identify the *internet* as a major source of advice.

- 85.2% of NT respondents identified *friends* as an important source of advice and support, almost identical to the national figure of 85.1%.
- Nearly three quarters (74.0%) identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support.
- Just under two thirds (62.3%) of respondents from the NT indicated that a *relative/family friend* was an important source of advice when they had a personal problem.
- 15.4% of NT respondents compared with 20.3% of national respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	NT 2008 %	National 2008 %	NT 2007%	NT 2006 %	NT 2005 %
Friends	**85.2**	**85.1**	**84.0**	**86.8**	**89.3**
Parents	**74.0**	**74.1**	**73.8**	**75.2**	**64.3**
Relative/family friend	**62.3**	**61.0**	**65.3**	**68.5**	**66.7**
Internet	15.4	20.3	18.3	12.7	7.3
Magazines	11.7	11.2	10.5	8.5	3.6
School counsellor	11.0	11.5	10.9	13.7	1.8
Teacher	10.9	11.4	10.7	9.7	13.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	9.9	8.5	9.6	10.4	20.8
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.7	11.1	11.7	11.2	26.8
Telephone helpline	6.8	5.9	6.3	4.7	7.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

As Table 15 shows, the top three responses for each of the age groups were very clearly *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, and the proportions of respondents identifying these items were similar for each group. The proportion of 20 to 24 year olds in the NT who identified the *internet* as a top source of advice was half the rate of their national counterparts (15.0% compared with 30.2%).

- Over 83% of respondents in each age group indicated that *friends* were a major source of advice and support.
- At least 72% of each of the age groups identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support, with about 81% of young adults indicating they were significant.
- A *relative/family friend* was identified as an important source of advice by just under two thirds (about 63%) of each age group.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	**86.4**	**83.7**	**87.1**
Parents	**76.2**	**72.1**	**80.6**
Relative/family friend	**62.7**	**63.4**	**62.9**
Internet	13.2	17.3	15.0
Magazines	12.3	11.9	6.6
School counsellor	11.8	11.4	3.4
Teacher	12.8	8.9	8.3
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.5	9.9	14.5
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.0	8.1	6.8
Telephone helpline	6.0	7.8	1.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice for both genders in the NT were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend.* The proportion who turned to *parents* was about the same for both groups, while the proportion of males who turned to *friends* or *relative/family friend* was about 10% lower than the proportion of females in each case. Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify the *internet* as an important source of advice.

- 89.5% of female respondents and 79.4% of male respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- About three quarters of both genders identified *parents* as a major source of advice.
- Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice and support (67.0% compared with 56.3%).
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify the *internet* as a major source of advice (19.2% and 12.3% respectively).

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	**89.5**	**79.4**
Parents	**74.4**	**74.3**
Relative/family friend	**67.0**	**56.3**
Internet	12.3	19.2
Magazines	14.3	8.2
School counsellor	10.2	11.7
Teacher	9.0	13.1
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.8	13.8
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.0	12.8
Telephone helpline	6.2	7.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

81.3% of all respondents from the NT indicated that they had enough information on issues that concerned them. This is in line with both the 2008 national figure (83.7%) and the NT figure for 2007 (80.0%). As in previous years and shown in Table 17, the proportion who indicated they did not have enough information increased slightly with age, from 17.9% of 11 to 14 year olds to 24.2% of 20 to 24 year olds. A slightly higher proportion of females than males said they did not have enough information on issues of concern (20.8% compared with 15.6%).

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2008							2007
	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	NT %
Enough information	81.3	83.7	82.1	81.5	75.8	79.2	84.4	80.0
Not enough information	18.7	16.3	17.9	18.5	24.2	20.8	15.6	20.0

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about. A number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; environmental issues; sexuality and sex education; sexual abuse; physical abuse; depression; global issues including terrorism, war and politics; emotional abuse; adolescence and youth-related issues; and suicide and self harm.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. There was one change to the list provided in 2008. *Sports* was divided into two categories: *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

The top three activities that NT respondents were involved in were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities. These activities were also the top three nationally. Over a quarter of NT respondents also participated in *youth groups and clubs*, *volunteer* activities and *religious* activities.

- 69.3% of NT respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* and 45.3% were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Just over two fifths (43.0%) of respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Respondents from the NT were slightly more likely to be involved in *volunteer* activities than respondents nationally (27.1% compared with 22.2%).

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	NT 2008 %	National 2008 %	NT 2007%	NT 2006 %	NT 2005 %
Sports (as a participant)	**69.3**	**67.6**	**63.6***	**70.4***	**58.0***
Sports (as a spectator)	**45.3**	**46.5**			
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**43.0**	**44.1**	**36.0**	**42.7**	19.4
Youth groups and clubs	28.7	26.8	**27.5**	**35.7**	**41.9**
Volunteer	27.1	22.2	23.0	25.2	**33.3**
Religious	26.5	25.9	24.4	28.4	31.0
Environmental	16.6	14.3	11.8	12.7	9.8
Student Representative Council	13.0	12.4	10.9	13.8	17.1

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 highlights that while *sports (as a participant)* had the highest level of involvement for all three age groups, participation significantly declined with age. Conversely, participation increased with age for involvement in *youth groups and clubs* and *volunteer* activities.

- About three quarters (74.6%) of 11 to 14 year old respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with just over a half (56.5%) of 20 to 24 year olds. However, the latter is well above the national figure of 42.8% for this age group.
- Around 43% of 11 to 19 year olds were involved in *arts/cultural* activities compared with one in three (33.9%) young adults.
- Young adults were involved in *volunteer* activities at twice the rate of those aged 11 to 14 (46.8% compared with 23.2%).

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	**74.6**	**64.2**	**56.5**
Sports (as a spectator)	**44.5**	**45.8**	37.1
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**43.5**	**43.4**	33.9
Youth groups and clubs	25.4	30.0	**38.7**
Volunteer	23.2	27.6	**46.8**
Religious	24.7	27.2	25.8
Environmental	14.9	16.4	19.4
Student Representative Council	13.4	11.0	11.3

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top three activities were the same for both male and female respondents, namely *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities. However, the rankings were slightly different and there were substantial differences by gender in the proportions of young people participating in these activities. Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports* activities, while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural* activities.

- Around three quarters (73.6%) of male respondents compared with two thirds (65.9%) of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*.
- About half (50.6%) of female respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities compared with about a third (33.1%) of male respondents.
- Close to 30% of both male and female respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	**65.9**	**73.6**
Sports (as a spectator)	**42.4**	**49.1**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**50.6**	**33.1**
Youth groups and clubs	27.7	30.2
Volunteer	29.2	24.1
Religious	23.1	30.6
Environmental	15.7	17.6
Student Representative Council	11.6	14.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were most commonly listed and comprised about 29% of the responses given. The second most common response was *friends*. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	**828**	**28.8**
Friends	**570**	**19.9**
Sports teams, players and coaches	**204**	**7.1**
International aid organisations	143	5.0
Entertainers	141	4.9
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	130	4.5
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	106	3.7
Animal protection groups	85	3.0
Businesses and business people	80	2.8
Environmental groups	76	2.6
Schools and their staff	73	2.5
Protection agencies	51	1.8
Youth organisations and leaders	46	1.6
Religious figures	41	1.4
Medical professionals and hospitals	32	1.1
Political organisations and figures	32	1.1
Telephone helplines	29	1.0
Organisations and research supporting mental health	20	0.7

Queensland summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

6,286 surveys were returned from Queensland (QLD), which was 14.9% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from Queensland was aged 11 to 14 years (50.2%), followed by those aged 15 to 19 years (46.9%) and 20 to 24 years (2.9%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	3,109	50.2
15-19 years	2,902	46.9
20-24 years	179	2.9
Total	6,190	14.9% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

Approximately 58% (57.9%) of Queensland respondents were female and 42.1% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

326 or 5.3% of respondents from Queensland identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	326	5.3	5.7	4.8	5.1	7.9
Non Indigenous	5,808	94.7	94.3	95.2	94.9	92.1

Languages other than English spoken at home

90.0% of respondents from Queensland indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 627 (10.0%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 60 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Afrikaans; Chinese; Filipino/Tagalog; Italian; Japanese; German; French; and Spanish.

Disability

317 or 5.1% of Queensland respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); visual impairment; dyslexia; autism spectrum disorder; depression; hearing impairment; and mental illness.

Where respondents were living

The majority of respondents from Queensland were living *with family* (92.5%) which was very close to the national figure of 92.9%. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

148 surveys were received from young people in a *boarding school*. 55 young people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* and 54 who were either *homeless* or in *insecure housing* also participated in the survey. 18 responses were received from young people in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	92.5	92.9	95.1	92.5	56.7
Boarding school	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.9	0.6
Share house	1.6	1.5	0.4	1.7	21.3
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.5	1.7
Homeless/insecure housing	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6
Other	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.9	9.0
Alone	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.4	10.1
Foster care	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, respondents from Queensland were much more likely to come from outside the capital of Brisbane, with only about one third (34.0%) of respondents residing in the capital. Nationally, about 60% of respondents lived in a capital city. The proportion of respondents from Queensland living outside Brisbane varied with age, with close to a half of those aged 20 to 24 living outside the capital compared to about two thirds of those aged 11 to 19.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	2,104	34.0	59.4	35.8	31.1	50.3
Not in capital city	4,084	66.0	40.6	64.2	68.9	49.7

Main source of income

Parents/family, as in previous surveys, were the main source of income for about two thirds (67.1%) of respondents from Queensland in 2008. This was slightly less than the national figure of 72.0%. Table 5 shows that respondents became much less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. Nearly three quarters (72.1%) of young adults identified *employment* as their main source of income, with about one fifth (19.8%) relying on a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	67.1	72.0	83.4	53.4	7.0
Employment	28.1	22.9	14.1	40.6	72.1
Government allowance	3.2	3.7	1.1	4.5	19.8
No income	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.2
Other	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Just over two thirds (68.2%) of respondents from Queensland were *studying full time*, compared with about three quarters (74.4%) nationally. Respondents aged 15 to 19 were much more likely than those aged 20 to 24 to be *studying full time* (71.0% compared with 22.5%). About one quarter (23.0%) of the young adult group were *studying part time* while just over half (54.5%) were *not studying*. Nationally, 43.8% of young adults were *not studying*. Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time* (72.1% compared with 62.2%), while male respondents were slightly more likely than females to be *studying part time* or *not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	QLD % %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	68.2	74.4	71.0	22.5	72.1	62.2
Studying part time	16.3	14.2	15.9	23.0	14.7	18.9
Not studying	15.5	11.4	13.0	54.5	13.2	18.9

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Just under 5% (4.5%) of Queensland respondents were *working full time*, while over half were either *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Unsurprisingly, young adults were much more likely than those aged 15 to 19 years to be *working full time* (46.3% compared with 1.9%). However, close to 60% of 15 to 19 year olds were *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*, compared to around 30% of young adults. Responses were fairly similar for males and females.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	QLD %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	4.5	3.3	1.9	46.3	5.3	3.1
Working part time	24.9	21.1	25.4	16.6	24.5	25.6
Casual or temporary work	31.9	28.7	33.0	12.6	33.2	29.9
Unemployed/looking for work	23.1	26.2	23.4	19.4	21.1	26.3
Too young to work or choose not to	15.6	20.7	16.3	5.1	16.0	15.1

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while peer acceptance was removed as an option.

Responses to this question have been very similar across the years of the survey. The top two items for Queensland respondents were *family relationships* and *friendships*, as they were nationally. The third ranked item for Queensland respondents was *being independent*, while nationally it was *physical and mental health*. More than a quarter of respondents from Queensland highly valued *physical and mental health* and *feeling needed and valued*. Queensland respondents were more likely than their national counterparts to highly value *spirituality/faith*.

- About three quarters (74.3%) of Queensland respondents highly valued *family relationships*. This was very similar to the national figure of 75.3%.
- 61.5% of respondents from Queensland highly valued *friendships*.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by nearly one third (31.8%) of respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* and *feeling needed and valued* were both highly valued by more than a quarter of Queensland respondents (28.8% and 26.7% respectively).
- One fifth of respondents (20.0%) from Queensland highly valued *spirituality/faith*, compared with 14.0% nationally.

Table 8: What young people value

	QLD 2008 %	National 2008 %	QLD 2007 %	QLD 2006 %	QLD 2005 %
Family relationships	**74.3**	**75.3**	**74.5**	**74.1**	**70.9**
Friendships (other than family)	**61.5**	**62.3**	**59.0**	**67.6**	**65.6**
Being independent	**31.8**	31.7	**33.6**	31.1	**38.3**
Physical and mental health	28.8	**31.8**	32.9	N/A	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	26.7	26.2	25.7	**31.2**	29.7
Spirituality/faith	20.0	14.0	14.2	13.8	14.1
School or study satisfaction	19.9	21.0	19.5	27.7	19.2
Getting a job	17.6	16.9	16.3	18.7	21.6
Financial security	13.7	13.4	14.4	16.2	19.8
Making a difference in the community	7.2	7.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	10.0	12.0	11.1
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.3	10

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 highlights both the similarities and differences between the age groups on what they value. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for each age group, although the proportion who nominated each varied with age. *Being independent* was the third ranked item for the 15 to 19 year olds, while for the 11 to 14 year olds it was *physical and mental health*. For young adults, *being independent* and *financial security* were ranked equal third.

- *Family relationships* was the top ranked item for all three age groups, although the proportion who valued it highly declined with age (from 77.0% of 11 to 14 year olds to 65.9% of 20 to 24 year olds).
- *Friendships* were highly valued by about 62% of those aged 11 to 19, compared with less than half (43.8%) of the young adult group.
- Just over a third of those aged 15 to 24 highly valued *being independent*, compared with around a quarter (28.8%) of respondents aged 11 to 14.
- Close to 30% of each age group highly valued *physical and mental health*.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	**77.0**	**71.9**	**65.9**
Friendships (other than family)	**61.9**	**62.5**	**43.8**
Being independent	28.8	**34.8**	**34.1**
Physical and mental health	**30.2**	27.5	29.0
Feeling needed and valued	26.2	26.9	33.0
Spirituality/faith	20.1	20.0	16.7
School or study satisfaction	22.2	18.3	8.5
Getting a job	17.5	17.2	20.5
Financial security	11.3	14.9	**34.1**
Making a difference in the community	6.7	7.4	10.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major differences in what young people valued were in the areas of *school or study satisfaction* and *financial security*. Not surprisingly, the proportion of respondents who highly valued *school or study satisfaction* decreased with age, while the proportion of those who highly valued *financial security* increased with age.

- Around a fifth of 11 to 19 year old respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction,* compared with less than one in ten (8.5%) 20 to 24 year olds.
- The young adult group was about three times as likely as respondents aged 11 to 14 to highly value *financial security* (34.1% compared with 11.3%).

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top three items that both genders valued were identical, namely *family relationships, friendships* and *being independent.* The proportion of male respondents who valued *family relationships* and *friendships* highly was about 10% less than the proportion of female respondents in each case. Responses from both genders were very similar for a number of items, with more than a quarter of both genders highly valuing *physical and mental health* and *feeling needed and valued.* Both *spirituality/faith* and *school or study satisfaction* were highly valued by about one fifth of male and female respondents.

- More than three quarters (78.0%) of female respondents and nearly 70% (69.2%) of male respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- About two thirds (66.1%) of female respondents and 55.0% of male respondents highly valued *friendships*.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by about a third of both male and female respondents.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	**78.0**	**69.2**
Friendships (other than family)	**66.1**	**55.0**
Being independent	**30.9**	**33.2**
Physical and mental health	27.4	30.8
Feeling needed and valued	27.4	25.6
Spirituality/faith	20.8	19.0
School or study satisfaction	20.1	19.5
Getting a job	13.0	24.0
Financial security	11.7	16.6
Making a difference in the community	6.5	8.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main difference between male and female respondents was the proportion of each who highly valued *getting a job*. Males were nearly twice as likely as females to highly value this item.

- Nearly a quarter (24.0%) of male respondents from Queensland compared with just over one in ten (13.0%) of female respondents highly valued *getting a job*.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option, and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity)*.

Table 11 shows that the top three issues of concern for Queensland respondents in 2008 were *body image*, *family conflict* and *suicide*. These were similar to the top three issues nationally, although in the national responses *drugs* featured rather than *suicide*. Table 11 also shows that there was a spread of issues that were of concern to Queensland respondents, with nine issues being of major concern to at least one in five of them. The new issue, *personal safety*, was one of those.

- *Body image* was the top issue of concern for respondents from Queensland in 2008, with 28.8% indicating it was a major concern. This was a slight decrease from the 2007 figure of 33.0%.
- *Family conflict* (25.9%) and *suicide* (25.6%) were ranked second and third respectively.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	QLD 2008 %	National 2008 %	QLD 2007 %	QLD 2006 %	QLD 2005 %
Body image	**28.8**	**26.3**	**33.0**	27.7	N/A
Family conflict	**25.9**	**25.9**	**27.9**	28.3	**35.1**
Suicide	**25.6**	24.6	24.5	25.2	41
Drugs	24.3	**26.0**	19.5	N/A	N/A
Personal safety	23.2	22.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Physical/sexual abuse	22.5	22.6	21.8	**28.8**	**38.0**
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.0	22.6	21.4	26.4	32.2
Coping with stress	21.2	20.4	**28.2**	**29.6**	32.6
Alcohol	20.3	20.9	20.4	N/A	N/A
Depression	17.8	17.8	20.3	27.2	29.5
School or study problems	17.7	18.6	25.3	**29.3**	23.5
The environment	16.2	18.4	23.4	N/A	N/A
Self harm	14.4	13.7	14.3	19.4	N/A
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.8	12.2	9.7	15.1	14.4
Discrimination	11.4	12.6	12.3	18.7	19.9
Alcohol and other drugs	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.7	**35.4**

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The clustering of issues shown in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows that *body image* was a top three issue for each age group. There were, however, some differences by age in the issues of major concern. A much higher proportion of young adults compared to 11 to 19 year olds were concerned about *coping with stress* and *depression*. Conversely, a higher proportion of those aged under 20 than young adults identified *family conflict*, *suicide* and *alcohol* as issues of major concern. *Drugs* was the top ranked issue for 11 to 14 year olds and much more likely to be of concern to this group than to older respondents. *Personal safety* was of major concern to a substantial proportion of respondents from each age group.

- Around 30% of respondents in all age groups identified *body image* as an area of concern.
- Just over a quarter of respondents aged under 20 (about 26%) identified *suicide* and *family conflict* as areas of major concern, compared with less than a fifth of 20 to 24 year olds.

- *Coping with stress* was identified as a major concern by more than a third (36.6%) of the young adult group, twice the proportion of 11 to 14 year olds (18.2%).
- The young adult group was also about twice as likely as those aged 11 to 14 to identify *depression* as an issue of major concern (29.1% and 14.4% respectively).
- Over a quarter (27.9%) of 11 to 14 year olds identified *drugs* as a major concern, compared with 20.9% of 15 to 19 year olds and 17.3% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Personal safety* was a major concern for about a fifth of 15 to 24 year olds and a quarter (24.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Body image	**27.0**	**30.1**	**32.0**
Family conflict	**26.0**	**26.3**	19.4
Suicide	25.8	**26.0**	17.7
Drugs	**27.9**	20.9	17.3
Personal safety	24.7	21.9	20.6
Physical/sexual abuse	23.4	21.6	27.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.8	20.1	15.9
Coping with stress	18.2	23.6	**36.6**
Alcohol	22.8	17.6	13.8
Depression	14.4	20.6	**29.1**
School or study problems	16.5	19.3	15.5
The environment	17.6	14.8	16.2
Self harm	13.3	16.0	11.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.8	12.8	13.6
Discrimination	10.2	12.8	9.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

There were both similarities and differences in the issues of concern for males and females as shown in Table 13. Similar proportions of respondents from both genders identified some issues as being of major concern, such as *family conflict, suicide* and *personal safety*. *Body image* was a top three issue for both genders although a higher proportion of female than male respondents indicated it was a major concern. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *physical/sexual abuse* as a major concern. Male respondents were more likely than their female counterparts to identify *drugs* or *alcohol* as issues of major concern.

- *Body image* was a top three issue of concern for both genders with 30.8% of female respondents and 25.6% of male respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- *Family conflict* and *suicide* were both issues of major concern for about a quarter of female and male respondents.
- More than a fifth of respondents from both groups identified the new item, *personal safety*, as an issue of major concern.
- Over a quarter (27.5%) of male respondents identified *drugs* as an issue of major concern, compared with 21.9% of female respondents. Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to identify *alcohol* as a major concern (24.8% compared to 16.9%).
- About a quarter (25.7%) of female respondents identified *physical/sexual abuse* as an issue of major concern, as did just under a fifth (18.1%) of male respondents.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Body image	**30.8**	**25.6**
Family conflict	**26.6**	24.9
Suicide	**25.7**	**25.5**
Drugs	21.9	**27.5**
Personal safety	24.4	21.7
Physical/sexual abuse	**25.7**	18.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	20.9	23.7
Coping with stress	22.7	19.0
Alcohol	16.9	24.8
Depression	19.2	15.8
School or study problems	18.3	17.0
The environment	14.9	18.1
Self harm	14.8	14.0
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.5	16.2
Discrimination	11.2	11.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The top sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time, as shown in Table 14. The top three sources of advice for young Queenslanders in 2008 were very clearly *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family* friend, as they were nationally.

- *Friends* were a major source of advice for 84.3% of respondents from Queensland in 2008.
- About three quarters (73.6%) identified *parents* as an important source of advice and support.
- Over 60% (61.5%) of respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice.
- Nearly one in five (18.9%) Queensland respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	QLD 2008 %	National 2008 %	QLD 2007 %	QLD 2006 %	QLD 2005 %
Friends	**84.3**	**85.1**	**85.3**	**87.6**	**87.3**
Parents	**73.6**	**74.1**	**72.7**	**75.3**	**75.4**
Relative/family friend	**61.5**	**61.0**	**61.7**	**64.7**	**61.5**
Internet	18.9	20.3	20.3	15.5	16.4
School counsellor	12.0	11.5	11.4	11.3	9.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.6	11.1	11.8	8.6	12.5
Magazines	10.6	11.2	12.7	14.0	14.4
Teacher	10.6	11.4	10.3	9.1	9.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	9.8	8.5	8.7	7.6	9.6
Telephone helpline	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.7	6.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of advice for all age groups were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportion of each group who identified *friends* and *relative/family friend* was consistent across the age groups, while the proportion of respondents who identified *parents* declined with age.

- More than 82% of respondents in each age group identified *friends* as an important source of advice and support.
- *Parents* were a major source of advice and support for just over three quarters (76.9%) of 11 to 14 year olds and two thirds (66.9%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- 60% or more of respondents in each age group identified *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice and support.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	**82.5**	**86.5**	**87.6**
Parents	**76.9**	**70.8**	**66.9**
Relative/family friend	**63.0**	**60.0**	**65.5**
Internet	15.2	21.6	28.8
School counsellor	13.4	11.0	4.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.1	11.9	10.9
Magazines	9.8	11.3	10.2
Teacher	11.5	9.9	3.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	9.1	10.5	11.9
Telephone helpline	6.5	5.2	4.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main differences in the sources of advice and support for young Queenslanders were in the proportions who identified the *internet* or *teacher* as important sources of advice.

- Young adults were about twice as likely as those aged 11 to 14 to identify the *internet* as a key source of advice and support (28.8% compared with 15.2%).
- About one in ten 11 to 19 year olds identified a *teacher* as an important source of advice, compared with 3.4% of the young adult group.

Gender differences

Responses on where young males and females turn for advice and support have been very consistent across the years of the survey. The top three items were identical for both genders, namely *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*. However, a higher proportion of female than male respondents identified each as an important source of advice and support.

- *Friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* were the top three responses for both genders in 2008.
- Around 90% (89.1%) of female respondents and 77.8% of male respondents identified *friends* as a key source of advice and support.
- Three quarters (75.0%) of female respondents and 71.8% of male respondents identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support.
- Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to identify a *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice (66.1% and 55.1% respectively).

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	**89.1**	**77.8**
Parents	**75.0**	**71.8**
Relative/family friend	**66.1**	**55.1**
Internet	15.1	24.0
School counsellor	11.9	12.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	8.9	15.6
Magazines	11.6	9.0
Teacher	8.8	13.1
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.9	12.6
Telephone helpline	4.9	7.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A much higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents indicated that the *internet* was a key source of advice and support.

- Nearly a quarter (24.0%) of male respondents identified the *internet* as an important source of advice, compared with 15.1% of female respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

83.7% of respondents from Queensland indicated that they had enough information available to them on issues of concern. This is the same figure as for their national counterparts and in line with the 2007 figure for Queensland of 84.9%. As shown in Table 17, the proportion who indicated they did not have enough information increased slightly with age. About one in five (20.1%) young adults wanted more information on issues that concerned them, compared with 14.9% of 11 to 14 year olds. The proportions of female and male respondents who wanted more information was similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2008							2007
	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	QLD %
Enough information	83.7	83.7	85.1	82.9	79.9	82.1	86.0	84.9
Not enough information	16.3	16.3	14.9	17.1	20.1	17.9	14.0	15.1

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about. A number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; sexuality and sex education; adolescence and youth-related issues; environmental issues; depression; suicide and self harm; school and study; stress and anxiety; and family conflict.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. There was one change to the list provided in 2008. *Sports* was divided into two categories: *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

The top three activities for Queensland respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *arts/cultural* activities and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top three nationally although the second and third ranked items were reversed. About 30% of respondents from Queensland were also involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.

- Nearly two thirds (65.3%) of respondents from Queensland were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, and 45.0% were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- 45.6% of respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Just over 30% of Queensland respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs* or *religious* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	QLD 2008 %	National 2008 %	QLD 2007 %	QLD 2006 %	QLD 2005 %
Sports (as a participant)	**65.3**	**67.6**	**67.1***	**67.2***	**60.5***
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**45.6**	**44.1**	**43.2**	**44.8**	**38.6**
Sports (as a spectator)	**45.0**	**46.5**	**67.1***	**67.2***	**60.5***
Youth groups and clubs	31.5	26.8	**26.3**	**25.9**	**32.4**
Religious	31.2	25.9	23.8	23.1	17.0
Volunteer	21.7	22.2	20.1	21.9	25.1
Environmental	12.9	14.3	12.3	9.9	7.6
Student Representative Council	10.9	12.4	11.4	12.3	11.8

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that participation in some activities, such as *sports (as a participant)* and *arts/cultural* activities, declined substantially with age. Conversely, participation in *volunteer* activities was higher among those aged 20 to 24 than those under 20, as it was nationally.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest among those aged 11 to 14 (71.1%), declining to around a third (36.3%) of young adults.
- Involvement in *arts/cultural* activities also declined with age, from around a half (48.6%) of 11 to 14 year olds to just over a quarter (28.5%) of young adults.
- Young adults were twice as likely as those aged 11 to 14 to be involved in *volunteer* activities (33.0% and 17.1% respectively).

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	**71.1**	**60.8**	**36.3**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**48.6**	**43.5**	28.5
Sports (as a spectator)	**42.2**	**48.1**	**38.5**
Youth groups and clubs	31.3	31.7	27.9
Religious	31.8	30.8	22.9
Volunteer	17.1	25.5	**33.0**
Environmental	12.3	13.1	11.2
Student Representative Council	8.3	13.2	11.7

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top three activities in which both males and females participated were *sports (as a participant), arts/cultural* activities and *sports (as a spectator),* although the rankings were slightly different and the proportion participating in each varied considerably by gender. Higher proportions of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, while a higher proportion of females than males were involved in *arts/cultural* activities. Participation rates for other activities were similar by gender.

- Nearly three quarters (72.3%) of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with 60.2% of female respondents.

- Around half (49.9%) of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*, as were just over two fifths (41.4%) of female respondents.
- Over half (54.4%) of female respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities, compared with about a third (33.5%) of male respondents.
- Around a third of both male and female respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	**60.2**	**72.3**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**54.4**	**33.5**
Sports (as a spectator)	**41.4**	**49.9**
Youth groups and clubs	30.7	32.6
Religious	31.3	31.0
Volunteer	23.4	19.0
Environmental	11.9	14.0
Student Representative Council	9.8	12.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were most commonly listed and comprised about 31% of the responses given. The second most common response was *friends* at 17.7%. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	**4,563**	**30.7**
Friends	**2,626**	**17.7**
Sports teams, players and coaches	**809**	**5.5**
Entertainers	797	5.4
International aid organisations	768	5.2
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	689	4.6
Religious figures	524	3.5
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	456	3.1
Schools and their staff	421	2.8
Animal protection groups	414	2.8
Businesses and business people	391	2.6
Environmental groups	359	2.4
Telephone helplines	263	1.8
Youth organisations and leaders	250	1.7
Protection agencies	225	1.5
Medical professionals and hospitals	200	1.3
Political organisations and figures	162	1.1
Myself	131	0.9
Historical figures	78	0.5

South Australia summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

South Australia (SA) returned 4,260 surveys or 10.1% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from SA was aged 15 to 19 years (51.4%), followed closely by 11 to 14 years (46.2%), with 2.3% aged 20 to 24 years.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	1,934	46.2
15-19 years	2,151	51.4
20-24 years	98	2.3
Total	4,183	10.1% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

The proportions of female and male respondents were very similar, at 50.2% and 49.8% respectively.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

160 (3.9%) respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	160	3.9	5.7	4.0	3.6	5.1
Non Indigenous	3,976	96.1	94.3	96.0	96.4	94.9

Languages other than English spoken at home

90.0% of respondents from South Australia indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 426 (10.0%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 50 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Italian; Greek; Chinese; Afrikaans; German; Spanish; French; Cantonese; and Filipino/Tagalog.

Disability

203 (4.9%) respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): dyslexia; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); learning disability; hearing impairment; and visual impairment.

Where respondents were living

The majority of respondents from SA were living *with family* (93.0%), which was almost identical to the national rate of 92.9%. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

99 surveys were received from young people in a *boarding school* and 42 from young people in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison*. A further 30 young people who were either *homeless* or in *insecure housing* also participated in the survey. 16 surveys were received from young people living in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	93.0	92.9	98.0	90.6	58.8
Boarding school	2.4	2.1	0.6	4.1	0.0
Share house	1.2	1.5	0.2	1.4	14.4
Juvenile justice centre/prison	1.0	1.1	0.4	1.4	3.1
Other	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.9	7.2
Homeless/insecure housing	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.7	5.2
Alone	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.4	11.3
Foster care	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows around two thirds (64.9%) of SA respondents lived in the capital city Adelaide, with the remaining third (35.1%) living in other areas of the state. The proportion of young people living outside Adelaide was lowest among the 20 to 24 year age group, of whom just one fifth (19.6%) lived outside the capital city, less than half the proportion of 11 to 14 year olds (43.1%).

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	2,730	64.9	59.4	56.9	71.2	80.4
Not in capital city	1,478	35.1	40.6	43.1	28.8	19.6

Main source of income

Parents/family, as in previous surveys, were the main source of income for a significant majority (69.5%) of respondents. Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. The results for SA were similar to the national results.

Table 5: Main source of income

	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	69.5	72.0	87.9	56.0	6.4
Employment	23.8	22.9	10.3	34.9	52.1
Government allowance	5.7	3.7	0.9	8.2	39.4
No income	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.1
Other	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.1

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds are excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

83.5% of SA respondents were *studying full time*, which was above the national rate of 74.4%. As might be expected, respondents aged 15 to 19 years were much more likely than the young adult group to be *studying full time* (85.3% compared to 43.2%). Around one in five (18.9%) of the young adult group were *studying part time* and close to two in five (37.9%) were *not studying*. As was the case nationally, female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time* (87.2% compared to 80.0%) while males were slightly more likely than females to be *studying part time* or *not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	SA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	83.5	74.4	85.3	43.2	87.2	80.0
Studying part time	8.6	14.2	8.1	18.9	6.7	10.4
Not studying	7.9	11.4	6.6	37.9	6.1	9.6

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Around a quarter (26.8%) of the 20 to 24 year age group were *working full time*, compared to just 1.0% of 15 to 19 year olds. However, about half (51.0%) of the younger group were either *working part time* or had *casual or temporary work*. Results for male and female respondents were quite similar.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	SA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.1	3.3	1.0	26.8	2.8	1.5
Working part time	23.0	21.1	23.5	13.4	23.8	22.3
Casual or temporary work	27.2	28.7	27.5	20.6	28.8	25.5
Unemployed/looking for work	28.6	26.2	28.4	33.0	26.6	30.6
Too young to work or choose not to	19.1	20.7	19.7	6.2	18.0	20.2

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while *peer acceptance* was removed as an option.

The data from this question has been very consistent across the seven years of the survey. In 2008, as in previous years, *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a large proportion of respondents and were clearly ranked first and second respectively. In SA the third ranked item was *being independent* (33.3%) closely followed by *physical and mental health* (32.9%). Nationally, the third and fourth rankings were reversed.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 73.6% and 62.3% respectively of respondents.
- *Being independent* and *physical and mental health* were each highly valued by around one third of respondents from South Australia.

Table 8: What young people value

	SA 2008 %	National 2008 %	SA 2007 %	SA 2006 %	SA 2005 %
Family relationships	**73.6**	**75.3**	**75.1**	**70.9**	**70.1**
Friendships (other than family)	**62.3**	**62.3**	**60.0**	**65.7**	**63.2**
Being independent	**33.3**	31.7	**34.0**	**36.1**	**39.1**
Physical and mental health	32.9	**31.8**	33.1	N/A	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	24.0	26.2	23.9	25.2	29.4
School or study satisfaction	19.9	21.0	18.0	26.3	24.4
Getting a job	19.8	16.9	18.7	23.2	16.0
Financial security	15.1	13.4	13.5	18.0	19.3
Spirituality/faith	10.1	14.0	13.0	11.8	15.0
Making a difference in the community	8.7	7.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	11.1	12.2	12.4
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.0	11.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 highlights the similarities as well as the differences in what young people value across the age groups. The top two items for all age groups were *family relationships* and *friendships*, although the proportion of respondents highly valuing each declined for the 20 to 24 year age group. Around one third of respondents in each age group highly valued *being independent*. *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by a third of respondents aged 11 to 19 and about a quarter of young adults.

- *Family relationships* was ranked first by each age group and was highly valued by around three quarters of 11 to 19 year olds and about two thirds (64.8%) of young adults.
- About 63% of respondents aged 11 to 19 years highly valued *friendships* compared to 44.9% of those aged 20 to 24 years.
- Close to a third of respondents in each age group highly valued *being independent*.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by a third (33.0%) of 11 to 19 year olds, compared with just over a quarter (27.0%) of 20 to 24 year olds.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	**75.6**	**72.2**	**64.8**
Friendships (other than family)	**63.7**	**62.5**	**44.9**
Being independent	31.1	**34.8**	**36.3**
Physical and mental health	**33.0**	33.0	27.0
Feeling needed and valued	23.5	23.8	29.2
School or study satisfaction	21.1	19.1	13.3
Getting a job	21.1	18.0	23.1
Financial security	13.6	15.8	30.0
Spirituality/faith	10.0	10.0	18.0
Making a difference in the community	9.1	8.1	13.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main differences were in the area of *financial security* and *school or study satisfaction*. The former was highly valued by twice the proportion of young adults as 11 to 19 year olds, whilst the proportion of respondents who highly valued *school or study satisfaction* declined with age.

- 30.0% of the young adult group highly valued *financial security*, compared with about 15% of 11 to 19 year olds.
- About one in five 11 to 19 year olds compared with just over one in ten (13.3%) 20 to 24 year olds highly valued *school or study satisfaction*.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top two items for both female and male respondents were identical, namely *family relationships* and *friendships*. In both cases, however, the proportion of male respondents who valued them highly was less than for female respondents. *Being independent* and *physical and mental health* were each highly valued by around a third of both genders.

- Around 80% of female respondents compared to around 70% of male respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were valued highly by 69.4% of female respondents and 55.1% of male respondents.
- Close to a third of respondents of both genders highly valued *being independent* and *physical and mental health*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	**78.0**	**69.4**
Friendships (other than family)	**69.4**	**55.1**
Being independent	**33.7**	32.6
Physical and mental health	31.1	**34.7**
Feeling needed and valued	24.4	23.2
School or study satisfaction	19.8	20.0
Getting a job	13.5	26.0
Financial security	12.9	17.3
Spirituality/faith	10.8	9.5
Making a difference in the community	8.6	8.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Responses from male and female respondents were similar on most items, with the main difference being the proportion of each who valued *getting a job*. Young males were almost twice as likely as young females to value this highly.

- *Getting a job* was highly valued by 26.0% of male respondents compared with 13.5% of female respondents.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option, and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity)*.

Table 11 shows that the top two issues of concern in SA were *drugs* and *body image*, with *family conflict* and *suicide* ranked equal third. Nationally, the top three issues were *body image, drugs* and *family conflict*. Table 11 also shows that there was a spread of issues of concern, with ten issues being of major concern to at least one in five respondents.

- The top issue of concern in 2008 was *drugs*, with 29.5% of respondents indicating it was a significant concern, an increase on the 2007 figure of 21.5%.
- *Body image* (24.6%), *family conflict* (24.2%) and *suicide* (24.2%) were each of significant concern to about a quarter of SA respondents. The 2007 figure for *body image* was 34.6%.
- The new item, *personal safety*, was of major concern to just over one fifth (21.3%) of respondents.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	SA 2008 %	National 2008 %	SA 2007 %	SA 2006 %	SA 2005 %
Drugs	**29.5**	**26.0**	21.5	N/A	N/A
Body image	**24.6**	**26.3**	**34.6**	27.1	N/A
Family conflict	**24.2**	**25.9**	**26.0**	27.3	32.4
Suicide	**24.2**	24.6	**26.4**	**28.7**	**43.7**
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.1	22.6	21.7	**28.5**	31.4
Alcohol	21.7	20.9	22.7	N/A	N/A
Physical/sexual abuse	21.7	22.6	21.4	27.0	**39.3**
Personal safety	21.3	22.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
The environment	20.9	18.4	24.0	N/A	N/A
Coping with stress	20.1	20.4	25.3	26.6	32.9
School or study problems	18.3	18.6	24.0	25.6	22.4
Depression	18.0	17.8	17.3	26.1	**36.8**
Self harm	13.4	13.7	14.8	21.3	N/A
Discrimination	12.1	12.6	11.5	17.9	14.7
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.1	12.2	10.4	12.0	13.6
Alcohol and other drugs	N/A	N/A	N/A	**33.5**	33.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The clustering of issues shown in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows that there were a number of differences between the age groups, although *drugs* appeared as one of the top three issues for each group and was clearly ranked first by 11 to 14 year old respondents. *Body image* was the top issue for the 15 to 19 year old group whereas the top issue of concern for the young adult group was *depression.*

- *Drugs* were of concern to over a third (35.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds and about a quarter of 15 to 24 year olds.
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for about a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds, compared with 15.6% of the young adult group.
- Close to a quarter of respondents aged 11 to 19 identified *suicide* as a key concern, as did just over a fifth (21.3%) of young adult respondents.
- *Depression* was an issue of major concern for just under a third (30.2%) of young adults, compared with less than one in five 11 to 19 year old respondents.
- Over a quarter of respondents aged 15 to 19 identified *body image* as an issue of major concern, compared with around one in five of the two other age groups.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Drugs	**35.7**	**24.2**	**26.0**
Body image	21.9	**27.0**	22.9
Family conflict	**24.9**	24.0	15.6
Suicide	**25.2**	23.6	21.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.2	21.3	15.8
Alcohol	**24.9**	18.6	20.8
Physical/sexual abuse	22.1	21.1	**27.7**
Personal safety	19.7	22.4	24.0
The environment	22.6	19.1	21.5
Coping with stress	15.4	**24.5**	20.8
School or study problems	16.7	19.9	14.9
Depression	15.7	19.8	**30.2**
Self harm	13.0	13.6	10.4
Discrimination	10.5	13.3	13.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.5	11.7	10.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

There were both similarities and differences in the issues of concern for females and males as shown in Table 13. Similar proportions of male and female respondents were concerned about issues such as *family conflict*, *suicide* and *bullying/emotional abuse*. Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify *drugs* as an issue of concern, while female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to identify *body image* or *physical/sexual abuse*.

- Just under a third (32.8%) of male respondents identified *drugs* as an issue of major concern, compared with about a quarter (26.5%) of female respondents.
- *Body image* was an issue of major concern for about 30% (29.8%) of female respondents, compared with around one in five (18.9%) male respondents.
- *Physical/sexual abuse* was an issue of concern for one in four (26.8%) female respondents and one in six (16.3%) male respondents.
- About a quarter of both genders identified *family conflict* and *suicide* as issues of major concern.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Drugs	**26.5**	**32.8**
Body image	**29.8**	18.9
Family conflict	24.1	**24.2**
Suicide	23.8	**24.6**
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.8	21.3
Alcohol	19.9	23.1
Physical/sexual abuse	**26.8**	16.3
Personal safety	20.9	21.6
The environment	20.7	20.9
Coping with stress	20.8	19.4
School or study problems	16.8	19.8
Depression	19.2	17.0
Self harm	13.5	13.2
Discrimination	11.4	12.9
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.3	13.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time as shown in Table 14. The top three sources of advice were very clearly *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend,* as they were nationally.

- *Friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* were overwhelmingly the most important sources of advice for respondents in 2008, as they have been each year.
- *Friends* were a major source of advice for 84.4% of SA respondents, very similar to the national figure of 85.1%.
- About a quarter (74.3%) of respondents from South Australia identified *parents* as a key support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	SA 2008 %	National 2008 %	SA 2007 %	SA 2006 %	SA 2005 %
Friends	**84.4**	**85.1**	**84.8**	**85.5**	**87.0**
Parents	**74.3**	**74.1**	**73.0**	**76.3**	**72.8**
Relative/family friend	**62.7**	**61.0**	**65.2**	**64.9**	**62.8**
Internet	19.1	20.3	17.9	17.0	18.8
Community agencies eg youth worker	12.0	11.1	12.2	9.8	9.1
Magazines	11.4	11.2	12.1	12.4	15.5
School counsellor	11.3	11.5	10.2	12.0	10.9
Teacher	10.2	11.4	8.7	9.1	8.5
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.3	8.5	8.6	7.8	10.7
Telephone helpline	6.0	5.9	7.0	6.1	4.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of support and advice for all age groups were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend.* The proportion of respondents who identified *friends* as important was fairly consistent across the three groups, whilst the proportion who identified *parents* and *relative/family friend* declined with age.

- *Friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice and support for all age groups.
- Over 78% of respondents in all three age groups identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- About four in five (80.1%) respondents aged 11 to 14 identified *parents* as a key source of advice and support, as did 70.3% of 15 to 19 year olds and 60.9% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- At least half of the respondents from all age groups identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	**82.4**	**86.4**	**78.5**
Parents	**80.1**	**70.3**	**60.9**
Relative/family friend	**65.3**	**61.3**	**52.7**
Internet	14.6	22.2	30.4
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.7	12.4	20.2
Magazines	11.3	11.6	7.7
School counsellor	11.9	11.1	11.1
Teacher	10.6	9.8	13.3
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	5.9	8.0	15.4
Telephone helpline	5.9	5.7	11.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major differences by age were the proportions of respondents who identified the *internet* and *community agencies* as major sources of advice and support.

- Young adult respondents were twice as likely as 11 to 14 year olds to identify the *internet* as an important source of advice (30.4% and 14.6% respectively).
- Young adults (20.2%) were also more likely than 11 to 19 year olds (about one in ten) to identify *community agencies* as a main source of advice and support.

Gender differences

Responses on where young males and females turn for advice and support have also been very consistent over the years of the survey. The top three items in 2008 were identical for both genders, namely *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportion who turned to *parents* was similar for both groups, while the proportion of male respondents who turned to *friends* or *relative/family friend* was about 10% less than the proportion of female respondents in each case.

- *Friends, parents and relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice and support for both female and male respondents.
- 90.4% of female respondents and 78.3% of male respondents identified *friends* as a key source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for about three quarters of both male and female respondents.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	**90.4**	**78.3**
Parents	**76.1**	**73.0**
Relative/family friend	**67.7**	**58.1**
Internet	14.9	23.2
Community agencies eg youth worker	8.4	15.4
Magazines	13.1	9.4
School counsellor	10.6	12.2
Teacher	7.7	12.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.2	8.2
Telephone helpline	5.0	6.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify the *internet* or *community agencies* as major sources of advice.

- Nearly a quarter (23.2%) of male respondents compared with 14.9% of female respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to identify *community agencies* as a major source of advice (15.4% compared with 8.4%).

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

Just under 86% (85.7%) of all respondents from SA indicated they had enough information on issues that concerned them. This is in line with the 2008 national figure of 83.7% and very close to the SA figure for 2007 (85.6%). As in previous years and as shown in Table 17, the proportion who indicated they did not have enough information increased with age. Around a quarter (22.9%) of the young adult group wanted more information, compared with 12.6% of respondents aged 11 to 14 years. A slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents indicated they wanted more information on issues of concern.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2008							2007
	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	SA %
Enough information	85.7	83.7	87.4	85.0	77.1	83.9	87.9	85.6
Not enough information	14.3	16.3	12.6	15.0	22.9	16.1	12.1	14.4

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about, and a number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; environmental issues; sexuality and sex education; suicide and self harm; depression; bullying; and sexual abuse.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. There was one change to the list provided in 2008. *Sports* was divided into two categories: *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

The results in Table 18 show that *sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities were the top three activities for respondents from South Australia, as they were nationally.

- Just over two thirds (68.3%) of SA respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, and half (50.1%) were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Just over a third (35.4%) of respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- About one fifth of South Australian respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs*, and *religious* and *volunteer* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	SA 2008 %	National 2008 %	SA 2007 %	SA 2006 %	SA 2005 %
Sports (as a participant)	**68.3**	**67.6**	**63.8***	**70.3***	**61.2***
Sports (as a spectator)	**50.1**	**46.5**			
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**35.4**	**44.1**	**35.2**	**40.1**	**33.9**
Youth groups and clubs	22.3	26.8	**25.8**	**24.8**	**32.0**
Religious	20.3	25.9	19.8	19.9	16.5
Volunteer	19.7	22.2	21.1	19.4	20.7
Student Representative Council	12.3	12.4	14.9	13.9	13.2
Environmental	11.8	14.3	11.7	10.1	7.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that involvement in *sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities declined with age. Conversely, participation in *volunteer* activities and *youth groups and clubs* increased with age.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest among 11 to 14 year olds (76.5%) declining to 63.2% for 15 to 19 year olds and 30.6% for 20 to 24 year olds.
- About half of the respondents aged 11 to 19 were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*, compared with just under a third (30.6%) of the young adult group.
- About a third of young adults were involved in *youth groups and clubs* or *volunteer* activities, compared with about one fifth of 11 to 19 year olds.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	**76.5**	**63.2**	**30.6**
Sports (as a spectator)	**52.7**	**48.8**	**30.6**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**40.1**	**31.5**	23.5
Youth groups and clubs	21.8	22.4	**31.6**
Religious	20.4	20.4	16.3
Volunteer	16.7	22.0	**33.7**
Student Representative Council	11.0	13.8	6.1
Environmental	12.0	11.4	11.2

* Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top three activities that both male and female respondents were participating in were *sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities. As in previous years, a higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports* activities, while a higher proportion of female respondents than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities. Participation in other activities was similar for both genders.

- Just under three quarters (72.6%) of male respondents compared with about two thirds (64.4%) of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*.
- More than half (54.4%) of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*, compared with 45.9% of female respondents.
- A much higher proportion of female respondents than male respondents was involved in *arts/cultural* activities (41.8% and 28.7% respectively).

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	**64.4**	**72.6**
Sports (as a spectator)	**45.9**	**54.4**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**41.8**	**28.7**
Youth groups and clubs	21.7	22.8
Religious	21.0	19.4
Volunteer	21.7	17.7
Student Representative Council	13.4	11.1
Environmental	11.0	12.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were the most commonly listed and comprised about 30% of the responses given, with *friends* as the second most common response. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	**2,925**	**30.4**
Friends	**1,768**	**18.4**
Sports teams, players and coaches	**1,005**	**10.4**
Entertainers	643	6.7
International aid organisations	380	3.9
Community agencies helping the disadvantaged	365	3.8
Organisations and research supporting the seriously ill	365	3.8
Animal protection groups	241	2.5
Environmental groups	216	2.2
Businesses and business people	208	2.2
Schools and their staff	197	2.0
Religious figures	155	1.6
Protection agencies	147	1.5
Medical professionals and hospitals	123	1.3
Political organisations and figures	115	1.2
Telephone helplines	96	1.0
Youth organisations and leaders	87	0.9

Tasmania summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

2,377 surveys were returned from Tasmania, which was 5.6% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from Tasmania was aged 11 to 14 years (49.5%) followed by 15 to 19 years (48.6%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (44 or 1.9%) and therefore results for this group have been omitted from the age-specific tables in this chapter.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	1,160	49.5
15-19 years	1,140	48.6
20-24 years	44	1.9
Total	2,344	5.6% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

57.0% of the responses were completed by females and 43.0% by males.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

179 or 7.7% of respondents from Tasmania identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Indigenous	179	7.7	5.7	8.1	6.9
Non Indigenous	2,134	92.3	94.3	91.9	93.1

Languages other than English spoken at home

93.3% of respondents from Tasmania indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 160 (6.7%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 40 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Japanese; French; German; Italian; Afrikaans; Chinese; Hindu; Indonesian; Mandarin; and Spanish.

Disability

123 (5.3%) respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); mental illness; intellectual disability; dyslexia; diabetes; hearing impairment; and visual impairment.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from Tasmania were living *with family* (93.8%), as they were nationally (92.9%). 26 surveys were received from young people in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* and 25 from young people living in a boarding school. 24 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* also participated in the survey, as did seven who were living in foster care.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	93.8	92.9	97.9	91.9
Share house	1.6	1.5	0.2	1.7
Juvenile justice centre/prison	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.1
Boarding school	1.1	2.1	0.3	1.9
Homeless/insecure housing	1.0	0.9	0.3	1.5
Other	0.6	0.7	0.1	1.0
Alone	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.8
Foster care	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, respondents from Tasmania were almost equally likely to be living in the capital Hobart as in other areas of Tasmania (49.3% and 50.7% respectively). Nationally, about 60% of respondents were living in a capital city.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Live in capital city	1,160	49.3	59.4	47.0	51.5
Not in capital city	1,195	50.7	40.6	53.0	48.5

Main source of income

As in previous years, *parents/family* were the main source of income for a majority (71.1%) of Tasmanian respondents. About a fifth (21.5%) of respondents from Tasmania relied on *employment* as their main source of income, and 6.5% relied on *government allowance*. 15 to 19 year olds were much more likely than 11 to 14 year olds to rely on *employment* or *government allowance* as their main source of income, and less likely to rely on *parents/family*. The results for Tasmania were very similar to the results nationally for all income sources.

Table 5: Main source of income

	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents/family	71.1	72.0	88.7	56.1
Employment	21.5	22.9	9.6	31.9
Government allowance	6.5	3.7	0.6	11.2
No income	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.6
Other	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

The results for Tasmania were very similar to the national results. About three quarters (76.2%) of respondents from Tasmania were *studying full time*, and 13.6% were *studying part time*. Around one in ten (10.3%) were *not studying*. Females were much more likely than males to be *studying full time* (81.3% compared with 69.8%).

Table 6: Participation in education

	TAS %	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	76.2	74.4	81.3	69.8
Studying part time	13.6	14.2	11.9	15.9
Not studying	10.3	11.4	6.8	14.3

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. A small proportion (2.7%) were *working full time*, while nearly half were either *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. About a third (33.1%) were *unemployed/looking for work* which was slightly higher than the national rate of around a quarter (26.2%). One in five (19.2%) reported that they were *too young to work or chose not to*. Participation rates for male and female respondents were similar.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	TAS %	National %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.7	3.3	3.1	2.3
Working part time	15.9	21.1	16.7	14.8
Casual or temporary work	29.1	28.7	31.0	26.7
Unemployed/looking for work	33.1	26.2	33.0	33.3
Too young to work or choose not to	19.2	20.7	16.2	22.8

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while *peer acceptance* was removed as an option.

The data for this question has been very consistent across the years from both Tasmania and nationally. In 2008, as in previous years, *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a very significant proportion of respondents and were clearly ranked first and second respectively. *Being independent* and *physical and mental health* were both highly valued by around a third of respondents.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 73.4% and 62.8% of Tasmanian respondents respectively.
- *Being independent* and *physical and mental health* were both highly valued by around one third of respondents from Tasmania.
- *Feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by just over one quarter (27.2%) of respondents.

Table 8: What young people value

	TAS 2008 %	National 2008 %	TAS 2007 %	TAS 2006 %	TAS 2005 %
Family relationships	**73.4**	**75.3**	**73.5**	**67.7**	**67.2**
Friendships (other than family)	**62.8**	**62.3**	**61.4**	**64.3**	**66.9**
Being independent	**35.6**	31.7	32.6	**39.5**	**35.9**
Physical and mental health	33.3	**31.8**	**34.6**	N/A	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	27.2	26.2	26.2	27.8	32.2
Getting a job	19.7	16.9	17.8	31.5	23.8
School or study satisfaction	19.3	21.0	18.7	21.5	19.8
Financial security	13.5	13.4	13.8	16.8	14.9
Spirituality/faith	9.2	14.0	11.7	8.9	19.1
Making a difference in the community	7.0	7.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	10.8	12.1	11.4
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.0	9.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 highlights both the similarities as well as some of the differences between the age groups in what young people valued. The top two items for both age groups were *family relationships* and *friendships*. A third of respondents from both age groups highly valued *physical and mental health* and it was the third top item for 11 to 14 year olds. The third item for 15 to 19 year olds was *being independent.*

- *Family relationships* was the top ranked item for both age groups, with 75.8% of 11 to 14 year olds and 71.8% of 15 to 19 year olds indicating it was highly valued.
- Close to two thirds of both age groups highly valued *friendships*.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by nearly two fifths (38.9%) of 15 to 19 year olds compared to about a third (32.0%) of 11 to 14 year olds.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by a third of each age group.
- Just over a quarter of respondents in both age groups highly valued *feeling needed and valued.*

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	**75.8**	**71.8**
Friendships (other than family)	**64.5**	**62.4**
Being independent	32.0	**38.9**
Physical and mental health	**33.3**	33.5
Feeling needed and valued	26.7	27.7
Getting a job	21.9	17.0
School or study satisfaction	22.3	16.2
Financial security	10.9	15.6
Spirituality/faith	8.5	9.7
Making a difference in the community	6.9	6.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were also some small differences between the age groups, including the proportion of respondents who highly valued *school or study satisfaction* and *financial security.*

- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by just over one fifth (22.3%) of 11 to 14 year olds, compared with 16.2% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- *Financial security* was highly valued by 15.6% of 15 to 19 year olds and 10.9% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top three items female and male respondents valued were identical, namely *family relationships, friendships* and *being independent. Family relationships* and *friendships* were ranked first and second respectively by both genders, but in each case the proportion of male respondents who valued them highly was smaller than the proportion of female respondents.

- Over three quarters (78.7%) of female respondents highly valued *family relationships,* as did two thirds (66.3%) of male respondents.
- *Friendships* were valued highly by 68.8% of female respondents and 54.8% of male respondents.
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to highly value *being independent* (38.5% and 33.5% respectively) and *physical and mental health* (37.5% and 30.3% respectively).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	**78.7**	**66.3**
Friendships (other than family)	**68.8**	**54.8**
Being independent	**33.5**	**38.5**
Physical and mental health	30.3	37.5
Feeling needed and valued	28.2	25.7
Getting a job	15.2	25.7
School or study satisfaction	20.1	18.2
Financial security	10.8	17.3
Spirituality/faith	9.3	9.1
Making a difference in the community	6.5	7.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were fairly large differences between the genders in the proportions of each who highly valued *getting a job* and *financial security*.

- About a quarter (25.7%) of male respondents highly valued *getting a job,* compared with 15.2% of female respondents.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to highly value *financial security* (17.3% compared with 10.8%).

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option, and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity).*

Table 11 shows that the top three issues of concern for Tasmanian respondents in 2008 were *physical/sexual abuse, body image* and *drugs*, with the three of them each being of significant concern to around a quarter of respondents. Nationally, the top three issues of concern were *body image, drugs* and *family conflict.* The 2008 Tasmanian data shows that there was a spread of issues that were of concern, with eight being of major concern to at least one in five respondents.

- The top issue of concern for Tasmanian respondents was *physical/sexual abuse,* with over one quarter (27.4%) indicating it was a major concern. This was slightly higher than the 2008 national figure of 22.6% and the 2007 Tasmanian figure of 23.2%.
- One in four Tasmanian respondents (27.1%) indicated that *body image* was an issue of major concern, a decline from one in three in 2007.
- The third ranked issue, *drugs*, was of major concern to 26.3% of Tasmanian respondents, very similar to the national figure of 26.0%.
- The new item, *personal safety,* was of concern to around one fifth (19.2%) of respondents.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	TAS 2008 %	National 2008 %	TAS 2007 %	TAS 2006 %	TAS 2005 %
Physical/sexual abuse	**27.4**	22.6	23.2	25.9	**38.7**
Body image	**27.1**	**26.3**	**32.4**	27.5	N/A
Drugs	**26.3**	**26.0**	21.5	N/A	N/A
Suicide	25.9	24.6	**27.6**	26.1	**41.5**
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.2	22.6	24.2	**31.9**	31.6
Family conflict	22.7	**25.9**	**26.1**	22.7	31.5
Alcohol	20.8	20.9	20.7	N/A	N/A
Depression	20.7	17.8	22.9	**27.6**	**37.4**
Personal safety	19.2	22.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
The environment	18.4	18.4	20.1	N/A	N/A
Coping with stress	17.1	20.4	24.4	24.4	32.5
School or study problems	15.3	18.6	23.1	19.9	25.1
Self harm	14.4	13.7	16.7	23.9	N/A
Discrimination	11.8	12.6	12.2	23.1	17.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.1	12.2	8.0	17.2	12.9
Alcohol and other drugs	N/A	N/A	N/A	**31.5**	32.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The clustering of issues shown in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 highlights both the similarities as well as some of the differences in what respondents from Tasmania in the two age groups were concerned about in 2008. *Physical/sexual abuse* and *body image* were in the top three issues for both age groups. *Drugs* was the top issue for 11 to 14 year olds, whilst *body image* was the top concern for 15 to 19 year olds.

- *Physical/sexual abuse* was identified as a major concern by about 28% of respondents in both age groups.
- Just over a quarter of respondents in both age groups indicated *body image* was a significant concern.
- 30.6% of 11 to 14 year olds compared with 22.4% of 15 to 19 year olds indicated *drugs* was a major concern.
- About a quarter of respondents in both age groups identified *suicide* as an area of concern, and it was the third ranked item for the 15 to 19 year age group.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Physical/sexual abuse	**28.1**	**27.6**
Body image	**25.8**	**28.5**
Drugs	**30.6**	22.4
Suicide	25.5	**26.5**
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.9	23.4
Family conflict	25.7	19.8
Alcohol	21.4	20.4
Depression	16.6	24.7
Personal safety	21.0	17.2
The environment	17.9	18.5
Coping with stress	13.1	20.5
School or study problems	16.1	14.8
Self harm	14.5	14.6
Discrimination	11.0	12.6
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.9	10.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were differences between the age groups on a number of items, including *family conflict, depression* and *coping with stress.*

- *Family conflict* was a major concern for just over a quarter (25.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds compared with about a fifth (19.8%) of 15 to 19 year olds.
- Respondents aged 15 to 19 were much more likely than those aged 11 to 14 to identify *depression* as an area of significant concern (24.7% compared with 16.6%).
- 15 to 19 year olds were also more likely than 11 to 14 year olds to identify *coping with stress* as a major concern (20.5% compared to 13.1%).

Gender differences

There were some significant differences in the issues of concern for males and females as shown in Table 13, with no common items in the top three issues for each group. The top three issues for female respondents were *physical/sexual abuse, body image* and *suicide*, whilst for male respondents they were *drugs, alcohol* and *family conflict.*

- About a third (32.2%) of female respondents identified *physical/sexual abuse* as a major concern, compared with around a fifth (21.3%) of male respondents. This compares with 26.7% and 17.5% nationally.
- Female respondents were also more likely than male respondents to identify *body image* as an area of significant concern (30.8% compared with 21.8%).
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify *drugs* (29.0% compared with 24.4%) and *alcohol* (25.9% compared with 16.9%) as issues of major concern.
- About 23% of both genders identified *family conflict* as a major concern, and it was the third ranked item for male respondents.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Physical/sexual abuse	**32.2**	21.3
Body image	**30.8**	21.8
Drugs	24.4	**29.0**
Suicide	**27.9**	23.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.8	23.0
Family conflict	22.3	**23.4**
Alcohol	16.9	**25.9**
Depression	22.0	19.0
Personal safety	18.1	20.6
The environment	18.7	17.7
Coping with stress	17.4	16.7
School or study problems	14.1	17.0
Self harm	15.8	12.7
Discrimination	12.2	11.2
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	8.5	14.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time as shown in Table 14. The top three sources of advice were very clearly *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally.

- *Friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* were overwhelmingly the most important sources of advice for respondents in 2008, as they have been each year.
- *Friends* were a major source of advice for 85.9% of respondents, while *parents* were a major source for 73.6% of respondents.
- Around one in five respondents identified the *internet* as a source of advice.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	TAS 2008 %	National 2008 %	TAS 2007 %	TAS 2006 %	TAS 2005 %
Friends	**85.9**	**85.1**	**86.6**	**83.8**	**88.7**
Parents	**73.6**	**74.1**	**71.7**	**70.0**	**72.7**
Relative/family friend	**60.2**	**61.0**	**61.6**	**61.4**	**65.3**
Internet	19.1	20.3	19.4	22.1	14.1
Magazines	12.3	11.2	13.9	13.8	10.5
School counsellor	11.9	11.5	10.7	13.1	10.6
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.9	11.1	12.7	14.6	12.4
Teacher	10.6	11.4	10.6	9.2	9.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.7	8.5	7.3	7.9	11.3
Telephone helpline	6.4	5.9	5.8	5.4	5.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of support and advice for both age groups were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* as shown in Table 15. The proportions identifying *friends* and *relative/family friend* were consistent across the age groups, while the proportion identifying *parents* as a major source of support decreased with age. Conversely, the use of the *internet* as a significant source of advice and support increased with age.

- *Friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice and support for both age groups.
- Over 84% of respondents in both age groups identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- 78.9% of 11 to 14 year olds identified *parents* as a source of advice, as did 69.0% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- Close to a quarter (23.3%) of 15 to 19 year olds used the *internet* as a major source of advice and support, compared with 14.5% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Friends	**84.5**	**87.7**
Parents	**78.9**	**69.0**
Relative/family friend	**60.9**	**59.5**
Internet	14.5	23.3
Magazines	11.5	12.9
School counsellor	13.0	10.5
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.6	12.0
Teacher	12.4	8.9
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.0	10.0
Telephone helpline	7.2	5.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Responses on where young males and females turn for advice and support have been very consistent over the years of the survey. Table 16 shows that the top three items were identical for both genders, namely *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*. However, a higher proportion of female respondents than male respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice. The proportions identifying *parents* or *relative/family friend* as significant were similar for both genders.

- *Friends, parents* and *relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice and support for both male and female respondents.
- Female respondents (89.4%) were slightly more likely than male respondents (81.4%) to identify *friends* as a key source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for over 70% of both male and female respondents.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	**89.4**	**81.4**
Parents	**75.3**	**71.4**
Relative/family friend	**61.7**	**58.0**
Internet	16.1	23.1
Magazines	14.0	10.0
School counsellor	12.4	11.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.8	15.0
Teacher	10.4	11.0
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.6	10.3
Telephone helpline	5.7	7.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that the *internet* or *community agencies* were key sources of advice and support.

- Close to a quarter (23.1%) of male respondents identified the *internet* as an important source of advice and support, compared with 16.1% of female respondents.
- 15.0% of male respondents identified *community agencies* as a main source of advice, compared to 7.8% of females.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

Table 17 shows that 81.7% of all respondents from Tasmania indicated they had enough information on issues that concerned them. This is in line with the 2007 Tasmanian figure of 81.1% and the 2008 national figure of 83.7%. Around 18% of respondents indicated that they would like more information on issues that concerned them. A slightly higher proportion of females than males indicated that they did not have enough information available to them (20.3% compared with 15.4%).

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2008						2007
	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %	TAS %
Enough information	81.7	83.7	81.8	82.0	79.7	84.6	81.1
Not enough information	18.3	16.3	18.2	18.0	20.3	15.4	18.9

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about. A number of issues featured on the list they provided. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; sexuality and sex education; environmental issues; depression; suicide and self harm; and global issues including terrorism, war and politics.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. There was one change to the list provided in 2008. *Sports* was divided into two categories: *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

Table 18 shows that *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities were the top three activities for Tasmanian respondents in 2008, as they were nationally.

- Just over two thirds (69.9%) of respondents from Tasmania were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, and 46.1% were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- 44.3% of Tasmanian respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Around a quarter (24.6%) of respondents participated in *youth groups and clubs* and a fifth (20.0%) were involved in *volunteer* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	TAS 2008 %	National 2008 %	TAS 2007 %	TAS 2006 %	TAS 2005 %
Sports (as a participant)	**69.9**	**67.6**	**71.5***	**61.4***	**61.2***
Sports (as a spectator)	**46.1**	**46.5**			
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**44.3**	**44.1**	**46.0**	**38.4**	**39.2**
Youth groups and clubs	24.6	26.8	**29.1**	**28.1**	**36.1**
Volunteer	20.0	22.2	21.3	22.3	18.3
Religious	15.0	25.9	19.0	13.8	19.8
Environmental	13.0	14.3	11.5	12.2	6.4
Student Representative Council	10.6	12.4	13.9	13.9	10.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* had the highest levels of involvement for both age groups, participation declined with age.

- Just over three quarters (75.9%) of 11 to 14 year olds were involved in *sports (as a participant),* compared with around two thirds (64.6%) of 15 to 19 year olds.
- Similar proportions of both age groups were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (47.3% of 11 to 14 year olds and 45.3% of 15 to 19 year olds).
- Just under a half (48.1%) of 11 to 14 year olds and two fifths (40.6%) of 15 to 19 year olds were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Around a quarter of both age groups participated in *youth groups and clubs*, and close to a fifth participated in *volunteer* activities.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.9**	**64.6**
Sports (as a spectator)	**47.3**	**45.3**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**48.1**	**40.6**
Youth groups and clubs	25.3	23.2
Volunteer	17.8	20.9
Religious	15.7	13.9
Environmental	12.1	13.4
Student Representative Council	8.2	12.8

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top three activities were the same for both male and female respondents, namely *sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities. However, the rankings were different as were the proportions of respondents participating in each. A higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Conversely, a much higher proportion of females than males participated in *arts/cultural* activities.

- Just under three quarters (73.4%) of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant),* compared with around two thirds (67.3%) of female respondents.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (50.5% compared with 42.9%).
- A much higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities (52.2% and 34.1% respectively).

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	**67.3**	**73.4**
Sports (as a spectator)	**42.9**	**50.5**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**52.2**	**34.1**
Youth groups and clubs	23.6	25.8
Volunteer	21.2	18.6
Religious	15.6	14.2
Environmental	14.0	11.7
Student Representative Council	9.8	11.5

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years *family* members were the most commonly listed and comprised 28.0% of the Tasmanian responses. The second most common response was *friends* at 18.8%. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	**1,558**	**28.0**
Friends	**1,044**	**18.8**
Sports teams, players and coaches	**390**	**7.0**
Entertainers	330	5.9
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	329	5.9
International aid organisations	303	5.4
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	259	4.7
Animal protection groups	152	2.7
Schools and their staff	133	2.4
Businesses and business people	130	2.3
Political organisations and figures	110	2.0
Environmental groups	107	1.9
Youth organisations and leaders	83	1.5
Medical professionals and hospitals	77	1.4
Protection agencies	77	1.4
Organisations and research supporting mental health	62	1.1
Religious figures	60	1.1
Telephone helplines	60	1.1
Myself	43	0.8
Historical figures	31	0.6

Victoria summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

8,763 surveys were returned from Victoria, which was 20.8% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from Victoria was aged 11 to 14 years (49.5%), followed by 15 to 19 years (48.7%) and 20 to 24 years (1.8%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	4,269	49.5
15-19 years	4,193	48.7
20-24 years	155	1.8
Total	8,617	20.8% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

57.2% of the surveys from Victoria were completed by females and 42.8% by males.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

216 (2.5%) respondents from Victoria identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	216	2.5	5.7	2.7	2.0	3.9
Non Indigenous	8,361	97.5	94.3	97.3	98.0	96.1

Languages other than English spoken at home

78.2% of respondents from Victoria indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 1,913 (21.8%) who spoke a language other than English at home spoke 70 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Chinese; Vietnamese; Cantonese; Greek; Italian; French; Spanish; Filipino/Tagalog; and Mandarin.

Disability

325 or 3.8% of respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); hearing impairment; visual impairment; Asperger's syndrome; acquired brain injury; dyslexia; mental illness; and learning disability.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of Victorian respondents were living *with family* (95.0%), which was slightly above the national figure of 92.9%. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

105 respondents were living in a *boarding school*, while 78 were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison*. 44 surveys were received from young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing*, and a further 20 from young people who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	95.0	92.9	97.7	94	60.6
Share house	1.3	1.5	0.4	1.3	23.2
Boarding school	1.2	2.1	0.4	2.0	0.6
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.0
Homeless/insecure housing	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.5	1.3
Alone	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.4	11.6
Other	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.7	2.6
Foster care	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, Victorian respondents were more likely to be living in the capital Melbourne (65.0%) than elsewhere in Victoria (35.0%). Results were similar across the age groups.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	5,631	65.0	59.4	66.8	64.3	63.2
Not in capital city	3,027	35.0	40.6	33.2	35.7	36.8

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income for Victorian respondents (76.9%), followed by *employment* (18.4%). Table 5 shows respondents became less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. About three in five (61.1%) young adults identified *employment* as their main source of income, while a quarter (24.2%) identified *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	76.9	72.0	91.6	64.1	14.8
Employment	18.4	22.9	5.6	30.1	61.1
Government allowance	3.5	3.7	1.2	5.0	24.2
No income	1.1	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.0
Other	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

About four in five (82.6%) respondents from Victoria were *studying full time*, which was higher than the national rate of 74.4%. Unsurprisingly, respondents aged 15 to 19 were more likely than those aged 20 to 24 to be *studying full time* (83.7% and 51.6% respectively). The older group was much more likely than the younger group to be *not studying* (31.6% compared with 5.8%). Female respondents (87.1%) were much more likely than male respondents (75.6%) to be *studying full time.*

Table 6: Participation in education

	VIC %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	82.6	74.4	83.7	51.6	87.1	75.6
Studying part time	10.7	14.2	10.5	16.8	8.4	14.3
Not studying	6.7	11.4	5.8	31.6	4.5	10.1

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Just under 30% (28.5%) of 20 to 24 year olds were *working full time* compared with only 1.1% of 15 to 19 year olds. About half of both age groups were either *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Participation rates in employment were similar by gender.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	VIC %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.0	3.3	1.1	28.5	1.8	2.4
Working part time	21.0	21.1	20.9	23.2	20.7	21.4
Casual or temporary work	27.8	28.7	27.9	23.8	28.1	27.2
Unemployed/looking for work	25.4	26.2	25.7	17.9	23.5	28.5
Too young to work or choose not to	23.8	20.7	24.4	6.6	25.9	20.6

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while *peer acceptance* was removed as an option.

The results for this question have been consistent across the seven years of the survey, both for respondents from Victoria and nationally. In 2008, as in previous years, *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by very significant proportions of respondents and were clearly ranked first and second respectively.

- About three quarters (75.9%) of respondents from Victoria highly valued *family relationships*, very similar to the national figure of 75.3%.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by around two thirds (64.3%) of Victorian respondents.
- About a third of respondents highly valued *physical and mental health* (33.8%) and *being independent* (30.8%).

Table 8: What young people value

	VIC 2008 %	National 2008 %	VIC 2007 %	VIC 2006 %	VIC 2005 %
Family relationships	**75.9**	**75.3**	**75.7**	**70.0**	**71.5**
Friendships (other than family)	**64.3**	**62.3**	**61.9**	**66.0**	**66.9**
Physical and mental health	**33.8**	**31.8**	32.0	N/A	N/A
Being independent	30.8	31.7	**32.9**	**38.1**	**40.4**
Feeling needed and valued	26.5	26.2	26.6	31.0	32.0
School or study satisfaction	22.7	21.0	20.6	24.7	24.9
Getting a job	14.7	16.9	16.1	20.4	18.9
Financial security	12.7	13.4	12.5	15.8	16.7
Spirituality/faith	10.6	14.0	12.8	10.5	10.5
Making a difference in the community	7.6	7.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	9.2	13.2	10.0
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	8.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows the similarities and differences in what Victorian respondents valued across the age groups. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for all three age groups. *Physical and mental health* was the third ranked item for 11 to 19 year olds, while *feeling needed and valued* was the third item for the 20 to 24 year age group.

- About three quarters of respondents in each age group highly valued *family relationships*.
- Around two thirds of respondents aged 11 to 19 highly valued *friendships*, compared with 45.1% of young adults.
- About a third of respondents in each age group highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- Just over a third (35.5%) of young adult respondents highly valued *feeling needed and valued,* compared with about a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	**77.2**	**75.0**	**75.2**
Friendships (other than family)	**63.4**	**66.5**	**45.1**
Physical and mental health	**32.6**	**34.9**	31.1
Being independent	28.0	33.6	30.1
Feeling needed and valued	25.3	27.1	**35.5**
School or study satisfaction	25.2	20.6	15.7
Getting a job	18.1	11.2	15.0
Financial security	11.3	13.6	26.1
Spirituality/faith	11.1	9.9	18.5
Making a difference in the community	8.3	6.9	7.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were differences by age on some items, particularly in the areas of *financial security, school or study satisfaction* and *spirituality/faith.*

- Respondents aged 20 to 24 were much more likely to highly value *financial security* than those aged 11 to 19 years (26.1% compared to around 12%).
- About one quarter (25.2%) of 11 to 14 year olds highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, compared with 15.7% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Spirituality/faith* was highly valued by a larger proportion of 20 to 24 year olds (18.5%) than 11 to 19 year olds (about 10%).

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that both genders had the same top three items, namely *family relationships, friendships*, and *physical and mental health. Family relationships* and *friendships* were ranked first and second respectively by both genders, but in each case the proportion of male respondents who valued them highly was about 10% less than that of female respondents.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 80.0% of female respondents and 70.6% of male respondents.
- Just over two thirds (68.8%) of female respondents highly valued *friendships*, as did 58.2% of male respondents.
- About one third of both genders highly valued *physical and mental health.*

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	**80.0**	**70.6**
Friendships (other than family)	**68.8**	**58.2**
Physical and mental health	**32.8**	**35.3**
Being independent	29.7	32.0
Feeling needed and valued	28.8	23.4
School or study satisfaction	22.8	22.7
Financial security	10.8	15.4
Getting a job	9.9	21.3
Spirituality/faith	9.7	11.9
Making a difference in the community	7.1	8.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The most significant difference by gender was in the proportions who highly valued *getting a job.* Male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to highly value this item.

- The proportion of male respondents who highly valued *getting a job* was more than twice that of female respondents (21.3% and 9.9% respectively).

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option, and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity).*

Table 11 shows that the top three issues of concern for Victorian respondents in 2008 were *drugs, body image* and *family conflict.* These were also the top three issues nationally although the rankings were different. Table 11 shows that a range of issues were of significant concern to Victorian respondents, with nine being a major concern to at least one in five respondents.

- *Drugs* was the top concern for Victorian respondents, with 26.2% of respondents indicating it was a major concern for them. This is similar to the 2008 national figure of 26.0%, and an increase on the 2007 Victorian figure of 20.8%.
- *Body image* was a major concern for 26.0% of Victorian respondents, a decline on the 2007 figure of 31.8%.

- *Family conflict* and *suicide* were both issues of major concern to about a quarter of respondents from Victoria.
- The new issue, *personal safety,* was of significant concern to 22.7% of Victorian respondents.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	VIC 2008 %	National 2008 %	VIC 2007 %	VIC 2006 %	VIC 2005 %
Drugs	**26.2**	**26.0**	20.8	N/A	N/A
Body image	**26.0**	**26.3**	**31.8**	27.5	N/A
Family conflict	**25.3**	**25.9**	**29.7**	27.9	31.9
Suicide	24.8	24.6	24.9	**28.9**	**39.9**
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.9	22.6	23.0	**30.2**	31.1
Personal safety	22.7	22.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Physical/sexual abuse	21.3	22.6	21.0	26.7	**34.4**
Coping with stress	20.5	20.4	**26.2**	26.4	34.1
Alcohol	20.3	20.9	21.0	N/A	N/A
The environment	19.2	18.4	23.0	N/A	N/A
School or study problems	19.1	18.6	24.7	25.0	23.2
Depression	18.3	17.8	18.8	26.8	**42.0**
Self harm	13.2	13.7	15.2	20.6	N/A
Discrimination	12.8	12.6	12.3	18.7	21.0
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.1	12.2	10.0	13.8	11.6
Alcohol and other drugs	N/A	N/A	N/A	**28.1**	31.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The clustering of issues shown in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences in the issues of concern across the age groups. While there were similar results on some issues including *family conflict, bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety*, there were also differences on a number of items, including *drugs, body image, suicide, coping with stress* and *depression*.

- About a quarter of respondents in each age group identified *family conflict* as an issue of major concern.
- Over a fifth of respondents in each age group identified *bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety* as major concerns.
- Around a third (32.2%) of 11 to 14 year olds compared with 13.9% of 20 to 24 year olds identified *drugs* as a major concern.
- The proportion of respondents who identified *body image* as a major concern increased with age, from just under a quarter (23.1%) of 11 to 14 year olds to more than two fifths (41.4%) of young adults. This is well above the proportion of young adults nationally (32.1%) who identified *body image* as a major concern.
- *Suicide* was an issue of major concern for about a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds, compared with 16.0% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- About twice the proportion of young adults as 11 to 14 year olds identified *coping with stress* as a major concern (34.0% compared with 16.4%).
- Young adults were also about twice as likely as 11 to 14 year olds to identify *depression* as a major concern (29.5% compared with 14.3%).

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Drugs	**32.2**	20.6	13.9
Body image	23.1	**28.3**	**41.4**
Family conflict	**25.0**	**25.6**	26.3
Suicide	**26.3**	23.8	16.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.1	21.5	21.2
Personal safety	23.7	22.0	21.9
Physical/sexual abuse	21.8	20.8	23.3
Coping with stress	16.4	**24.3**	**34.0**
Alcohol	22.6	17.3	21.2
The environment	21.2	17.4	19.6
School or study problems	17.9	20.7	13.8
Depression	14.3	21.9	**29.5**
Self harm	13.7	12.9	10.0
Discrimination	11.2	14.6	12.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.0	11.3	8.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three items for female respondents in Victoria were *body image*, *family conflict* and *suicide*, whereas for males they were *drugs*, *alcohol* and *suicide*. Similar proportions of respondents of both genders were concerned about a number of issues, including *family conflict*, *suicide*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety*.

- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify *drugs* or *alcohol* as areas of concern (30.1% and 23.5%, and 25.7% and 16.2% respectively).
- Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to identify *physical/sexual abuse* as a major issue of concern (24.9% compared with 16.5%).
- A higher proportion of females (28.9%) than males (21.9%) identified *body image* as a major concern.
- *Suicide* was a major concern for about a quarter of both genders.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Drugs	23.5	**30.1**
Body image	**28.9**	21.9
Family conflict	**26.2**	23.9
Suicide	**25.2**	**24.4**
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.9	24.1
Personal safety	23.2	22.3
Physical/sexual abuse	24.9	16.5
Coping with stress	21.6	19.1
Alcohol	16.2	**25.7**
The environment	19.2	19.3
School or study problems	19.7	18.4
Depression	19.5	16.6
Self harm	13.7	12.6
Discrimination	13.0	12.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	8.9	14.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time as shown in Table 14. The top three sources of advice and support for Victorian respondents were clearly *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally. Results on all items were very similar for Victorian and national respondents.

- 85.5% of respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- *Parents* were identified as a major source of advice by about three quarters (74.7%) of Victorian respondents.
- 60.2% of respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice and support.
- Just over a fifth (21.2%) of Victorian respondents indicated that the *internet* was a main source of advice.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	VIC 2008 %	National 2008 %	VIC 2007 %	VIC 2006 %	VIC 2005 %
Friends	**85.5**	**85.1**	**87.1**	**86.9**	**88.1**
Parents	**74.7**	**74.1**	**73.1**	**71.1**	**68.1**
Relative/family friend	**60.2**	**61.0**	**64.3**	**62.4**	**61.1**
Internet	21.2	20.3	19.2	18.2	20.7
Teacher	12.8	11.4	12.2	9.9	11.3
School counsellor	11.7	11.5	10.6	11.2	12.2
Magazines	11.4	11.2	10	14.2	12.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.8	11.1	10.6	11.6	11.9
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.5	8.5	8.2	8.2	9.7
Telephone helpline	5.4	5.9	5.3	6.8	6.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of advice and support for all three age groups were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend.* The proportion who identified *friends* as a major source of advice remained fairly consistent with age whilst the proportion who identified *parents* declined with age. The proportion of respondents who identified the *internet* or *someone else in the community* as major sources of advice and support increased with age.

- At least 82% of respondents in each age group identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- Four in five (79.0%) 11 to 14 year olds identified *parents* as a major source of advice, as did two thirds (64.0%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Relative/family friend* was a major source of advice and support for around 60% of the respondents in each age group.
- More than a quarter of respondents aged 15 to 24 identified the *internet* as a major source of advice, compared with 16.2% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- The proportion of respondents aged 20 to 24 who identified *someone else in the community* as major source of advice was around three times the proportion of respondents aged 11 to 19 (20.4% compared with around 7%).

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	**82.8**	**88.6**	**84.1**
Parents	**79.0**	**70.8**	**64.0**
Relative/family friend	**61.9**	**59.0**	**57.8**
Internet	16.2	25.8	28.1
Teacher	15.5	9.8	10.1
School counsellor	12.0	11.5	10.9
Magazines	10.6	12.6	8.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.3	9.6	14.5
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.8	7.7	20.4
Telephone helpline	6.4	4.1	6.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice for both genders were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend.* However, a higher proportion of female than male respondents identified *friends* and *relative/family friend* as major sources of advice. The proportions who identified *parents* as significant were similar for both genders.

- *Friends* were identified as a main source of advice and support by 89.7% of female respondents and 79.7% of male respondents.
- Around three quarters of both genders identified *parents* as a major source of advice.
- 62.6% of female respondents and 57.0% of male respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice and support.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	**89.7**	**79.7**
Parents	**76.6**	**72.3**
Relative/family friend	**62.6**	**57.0**
Internet	17.9	25.5
Teacher	11.3	14.8
School counsellor	11.6	11.9
Magazines	12.4	10.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.1	13.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.6	8.7
Telephone helpline	4.2	6.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were two notable differences between the results for male and female Victorian respondents, with male respondents more likely than female respondents to identify the *internet* or *community agencies* as major sources of advice and support.

- About a quarter (25.5%) of male respondents identified the *internet* as a main source of advice compared with 17.9% of female respondents.
- *Community agencies* were identified as a major source of advice and support by 13.2% of male respondents, about twice the proportion of female respondents (7.1%).

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

85.3% of respondents from Victoria indicated they had enough information on issues that concerned them. This is in line with the 2008 national results (83.7%) and the Victorian results for 2007 (83.3%). The proportion who indicated they did not have enough information increased with age from 13.5% of 11 to 14 year olds to nearly a quarter (23.5%) of 20 to 24 year olds. Responses for females and males were very similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2008							2007
	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	VIC %
Enough information	85.3	83.7	86.5	84.7	76.5	84.9	85.8	83.3
Not enough information	14.7	16.3	13.5	15.3	23.5	15.1	14.2	16.7

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about. A number of issues featured in their responses and included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; adolescence and youth-related issues; sexuality and sex education; environmental issues; depression; suicide and self harm; and stress and anxiety.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. There was one change to the list provided in 2008. Sports was divided into two categories: *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

The top three activities for Victorian respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities. They were also the top activities nationally. More than one fifth of respondents were also involved in *volunteer* activities, *religious* activities and *youth groups and clubs*.

- More than two thirds (69.6%) of respondents from Victoria were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, and just under half (48.4%) in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- 45.8% of Victorian respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people are involved in

	VIC 2008 %	National 2008 %	VIC 2007 %	VIC 2006 %	VIC 2005 %
Sports (as a participant)	**69.6**	**67.6**	**64.8***	**70.4***	**58.1***
Sports (as a spectator)	**48.4**	**46.5**			
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**45.8**	**44.1**	**39.8**	**39.8**	**36.5**
Volunteer	22.4	22.2	19.8	18.9	25.4
Religious	22.3	25.9	22.8	19.7	16.0
Youth groups and clubs	22.2	26.8	25.6	24.4	30.6
Environmental	13.8	14.3	13.1	8.7	7.3
Student Representative Council	12.2	12.4	13.1	12.0	12.5

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 highlights that the proportion of respondents involved in the top three activities was lower among 20 to 24 year olds than 11 to 19 year olds, particularly in the case of *sports (as a participant)*. However, participation in *volunteer* activities significantly increased with age for Victorian respondents, as it did nationally.

- Three quarters (75.2%) of respondents aged 11 to 14 were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, compared with 45.2% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Just under half (48.5%) of 11 to 14 year olds were involved in *arts/cultural* activities compared with about a third (31.0%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Two fifths (40.6%) of 20 to 24 year old respondents were involved in *volunteer* activities, more than twice the rate of 11 to 14 year olds (17.0%).

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.2**	**65.1**	**45.2**
Sports (as a spectator)	**48.0**	**48.9**	**41.9**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**48.5**	**43.7**	31.0
Volunteer	17.0	26.9	**40.6**
Religious	23.2	21.2	22.6
Youth groups and clubs	21.5	22.2	27.7
Environmental	13.3	14.1	12.9
Student Representative Council	10.5	13.6	10.3

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top three activities for male and female respondents from Victoria were the same, namely *sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although the rankings were different. As in previous years, male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports* activities, while female respondents were more likely than males to be involved in *arts/cultural* activities.

- Nearly three quarters (73.9%) of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* compared with two thirds (66.4%) of female respondents.
- More than half of female respondents from Victoria were involved in *arts/cultural* activities, compared with just over one third of male respondents (54.2% and 34.6% respectively).

- Female respondents (25.1%) were more likely than male respondents (18.6%) to be involved in *volunteer* activities.
- More than one fifth of both male and female respondents were involved in *religious* activities and in *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	**66.4**	**73.9**
Sports (as a spectator)	**44.0**	**54.3**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**54.2**	**34.6**
Volunteer	25.1	18.6
Religious	20.7	24.3
Youth groups and clubs	21.6	22.9
Environmental	14.0	13.4
Student Representative Council	11.9	12.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were the most commonly listed and comprised 30.5% of the responses given. The second most common response was *friends* at 16.7%. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	**6,218**	**30.5**
Friends	**3,399**	**16.7**
International aid organisations	**1,562**	**7.7**
Sports teams, players and coaches	1,428	7.0
Entertainers	1,196	5.9
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	998	4.9
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	761	3.7
Schools and their staff	575	2.8
Animal protection groups	474	2.3
Businesses and business people	434	2.1
Environmental groups	338	1.7
Telephone helplines	331	1.6
Political organisations and figures	302	1.5
Organisations and research supporting mental health	286	1.4
Religious figures	272	1.3
Medical professionals and hospitals	263	1.3
Protection agencies	245	1.2
Youth organisations and leaders	208	1.0
Myself	119	0.6
Historical figures	114	0.6

Western Australia summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

3,307 surveys were returned from Western Australia (WA), which was 7.9% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from Western Australia was aged 11 to 14 years (54.9%) followed by 15 to 19 years (42.5%) and 20 to 24 years (2.6%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	1,785	54.9
15-19 years	1,382	42.5
20-24 years	86	2.6
Total	3,253	7.9% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

59.0% of the surveys from Western Australia were completed by female respondents and 41.0% by male respondents.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islander

186 (5.8%) respondents from Western Australia identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	186	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.5	9.3
Non Indigenous	3,036	94.2	94.3	94.6	94.5	90.7

Languages other than English spoken at home

85.0% of respondents from Western Australia indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 497 (15.0%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 50 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Italian; Afrikaans; Chinese, French; Vietnamese; Cantonese; Spanish; Filipino/Tagalog; and Mandarin.

Disability

151 (4.6%) respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); dyslexia; visual impairment; learning disability; mental illness; hearing impairment; and asthma.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from Western Australia were living *with family* (92.2%), as they were nationally (92.9%). Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

116 respondents from WA were living in a *boarding school,* and 27 were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison.* Surveys were received from 16 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing*, and five who were living in *foster care.*

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	92.2	92.9	94.0	92.6	58.8
Boarding school	3.6	2.1	4.4	2.6	1.2
Share house	1.7	1.5	0.3	2.1	23.5
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.2
Other	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.9	2.4
Alone	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.3	11.8
Homeless/insecure housing	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.5	1.2
Foster care	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, respondents from Western Australia were much more likely to be living in the capital Perth than in other areas of the state. About three quarters (76.6%) of respondents from WA were living in Perth, compared with 59.4% of respondents living in capital cities nationally. The proportion of respondents living in the capital was similar across the age groups.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	2,511	76.6	59.4	74.9	79.4	72.1
Not in capital city	769	23.4	40.6	25.1	20.6	27.9

Main source of income

As in previous surveys, *parents/family* were the main source of income for a large majority (69.1%) of respondents from Western Australia. Table 5 shows that respondents became much less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. Almost three quarters (72.0%) of young adults cited employment as their main source of income, with 15.9% relying on a *government allowance.*

Table 5: Main source of income

	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	69.1	72.0	83.0	54.7	9.8
Employment	26.9	22.9	14.5	40.3	72.0
Government allowance	2.6	3.7	0.8	3.9	15.9
No income	1.1	1.1	1.3	0.8	2.4
Other	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Not surprisingly, respondents aged 15 to 19 were much more likely than those aged 20 to 24 to be *studying full time* (72.6% compared with 32.6%). Over half (54.7%) of the young adult group was *not studying,* compared with just over one in ten (12.4%) of the 15 to 19 year age group. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time* (74.4% compared with 65.5%).

Table 6: Participation in education

	WA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	70.2	74.4	72.6	32.6	74.4	65.5
Studying part time	14.8	14.2	15.0	12.8	11.9	18.5
Not studying	14.9	11.4	12.4	54.7	13.7	16.0

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. About two fifths (44.2%) of the young adult group were *working full time*, compared with only 1.8% of those in the 15 to 19 year age group. Over half (53.5%) of the 15 to 19 year age group, however, was either *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Participation rates in employment were quite similar for both genders.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	WA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	4.3	3.3	1.8	44.2	5.7	2.6
Working part time	20.8	21.1	21.1	16.3	20.7	21.1
Casual or temporary work	31.7	28.7	32.4	19.8	33.4	29.7
Unemployed/looking for work	24.3	26.2	24.9	15.1	22.0	27.1
Too young to work or choose not to	18.9	20.7	19.8	4.7	18.3	19.6

Detailed national results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they valued from a list of options set out in Table 8. There were two changes made to the options provided in 2008. *Making a difference in the community* was a new inclusion, while *peer acceptance* was removed as an option.

The results for this question have been consistent across the seven years of the survey, both for respondents from Western Australia and nationally, with the top two items clearly *family relationships* and *friendships*. About a third of Western Australian respondents also highly valued *physical and mental health* and *being independent*. The data for Western Australia was very similar to the national data.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 77.4% and 64.4% of Western Australian respondents respectively.
- 32.7% of respondents from Western Australia highly valued *physical and mental health.*
- *Being independent* was highly valued by 29.2% of respondents.

Table 8: What young people value

	WA 2008 %	National 2008 %	WA 2007 %	WA 2006 %	WA 2005 %
Family relationships	**77.4**	**75.3**	**77.0**	**74.1**	**77.6**
Friendships (other than family)	**64.4**	**62.3**	**61.8**	**68.0**	**72.8**
Physical and mental health	**32.7**	**31.8**	**36.1**	N/A	N/A
Being independent	29.2	31.7	29.5	**32.7**	**34.4**
Feeling needed and valued	22.9	26.2	22.6	27.4	28.3
School or study satisfaction	20.2	21.0	18.2	23.8	25.0
Spirituality/faith	18.4	14.0	19.7	16.4	12.1
Getting a job	15.7	16.9	14.5	20.2	16.4
Financial security	12.6	13.4	11.1	17.1	14.2
Making a difference in the community	7.3	7.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	9.6	11.7	11.5
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.0	8.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows the similarities and differences in what Western Australian respondents valued across the age groups. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for all three age groups. The third ranked item was different for each group, with *physical and mental health* being the third item for 11 to 14 year olds, *being independent* for the 15 to 19 year olds, and *feeling needed and valued* for the 20 to 24 year olds.

- 74% or more of respondents in each age group highly valued *family relationships*.
- Two thirds of respondents aged 11 to 19 years highly valued *friendships* compared with around two fifths of young adult respondents (around 65% compared with 42.4%).
- About one third of respondents in all age groups highly valued *physical and mental health*.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	**79.7**	**74.4**	**75.3**
Friendships (other than family)	**65.9**	**64.7**	**42.4**
Physical and mental health	**33.6**	32.1	31.8
Being independent	26.2	**32.7**	31.8
Feeling needed and valued	23.5	21.1	**38.8**
School or study satisfaction	22.3	18.3	3.5
Spirituality/faith	18.0	18.8	15.3
Getting a job	14.4	17.1	20.0
Making a difference in the community	7.8	6.2	9.4
Financial security	11.2	12.9	31.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were significant differences among the age groups on some items such as *feeling needed and valued, school or study satisfaction* and *financial security,* particularly when comparing responses for the young adult group with those for 11 to 19 year olds. A much higher proportion of young adults than those aged under 20 highly valued *feeling needed and valued* and *financial security*. Conversely, 11 to 19 year old respondents were much more likely than their 20 to 24 year old counterparts to highly value *school or study satisfaction.*

- Almost two fifths (38.8%) of respondents aged 20 to 24 highly valued *feeling needed and valued,* compared with just over one fifth of 11 to 19 year olds.
- Young adults were almost three times more likely to highly value *financial security* than were respondents aged 11 to 19 (31.8% compared to around 12%).
- About one fifth of respondents aged 11 to 19 highly valued *school or study satisfaction* compared with 3.5% of those aged 20 to 24.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top three items for both genders were identical, namely *family relationships, friendships* and *physical and mental health. Family relationships* and *friendships* were ranked first and second respectively by both genders, but in each case the proportion of males who valued them highly was smaller than the proportion of females.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 81.2% of female respondents and 71.7% of male respondents.
- Around two thirds (67.1%) of female respondents highly valued *friendships*, as did 60.9% of male respondents.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by over 30% of both genders.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	**81.2**	**71.7**
Friendships (other than family)	**67.1**	**60.9**
Physical and mental health	**30.7**	**35.8**
Being independent	28.8	29.6
Feeling needed and valued	24.5	20.5
School or study satisfaction	20.4	19.9
Spirituality/faith	18.9	17.7
Getting a job	11.6	21.6
Making a difference in the community	7.3	7.4
Financial security	11.3	14.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

On most other items responses from males and females were very similar, with the exception of *getting a job*. A much higher proportion of male than female respondents highly valued this item.

- Male respondents were almost twice as likely as female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (21.6% compared with 11.6%).

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. There were two changes to the list provided in 2008. *Personal safety* was added as an option and *sexuality* was expanded to read *sexuality (relationships, health, identity).*

Table 11 shows that the top three issues of concern to Western Australian respondents were *family conflict, drugs* and *body image*. These were also the top three issues nationally, although the rankings were different. Table 11 also shows that a range of issues were of concern to Western Australian respondents, with nine of the items being of major concern to around one fifth or more of the respondents.

- *Family conflict* was the top issue of concern for Western Australian respondents, with 27.4% indicating it was a major concern for them.
- A similar proportion (27.3%) were significantly concerned about *drugs*, an increase on the 2007 figure of 20.7%.
- 25.1% of WA respondents indicated that *body image* was an issue of major concern.
- *Personal safety, suicide* and *physical/sexual abuse* were each of major concern to just under one quarter of respondents from Western Australia.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	WA 2008 %	National 2008 %	WA 2007 %	WA 2006 %	WA 2005 %
Family conflict	**27.4**	**25.9**	**31.2**	**29.6**	**37.6**
Drugs	**27.3**	**26.0**	20.7	N/A	N/A
Body image	**25.1**	**26.3**	**28.9**	25.5	N/A
Personal safety	24.6	22.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Suicide	23.8	24.6	24.8	**29.9**	**40.3**
Physical/sexual abuse	23.3	22.6	23.3	**31.1**	**36.1**
Alcohol	19.7	20.9	19.2	N/A	N/A
The environment	19.3	18.4	24.9	N/A	N/A
School or study problems	19.0	18.6	**27.4**	26.6	28.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	18.8	22.6	21.1	27.7	30.9
Coping with stress	18.5	20.4	26.0	25.6	32.0
Depression	15.9	17.8	17.5	23.6	33.4
Self harm	13.7	13.7	15.3	23.2	N/A
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	13.7	12.2	10.0	13.3	9.8
Discrimination	12.3	12.6	11.7	18.5	17.8
Alcohol and other drugs	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.3	34.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The clustering of issues shown in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences in issues of concern across the age groups. The top three items were quite different for each group, although there were similar results for some issues including *personal safety* and *physical/sexual abuse*. A higher proportion of 11 to 19 year olds than 20 to 24 year olds indicated that *family conflict* was a major concern, whereas 20 to 24 year olds were more likely than 11 to 19 year olds to identify *body image* as a major concern. Similar to the national results, *drugs* was a significant concern for a higher proportion of 11 to 14 year olds than 15 to 24 year olds.

- Around one in four 11 to 19 year old respondents compared with around one in six (17.6%) young adults indicated *family conflict* was a major concern.
- *Drugs* was a major concern for close to 30% (29.9%) of 11 to 14 year olds and around a quarter of 15 to 24 year olds.
- *Body image* was an issue of major concern for a third (32.9%) of young adults, compared with around a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds.
- 20 to 24 year olds were much more likely than the younger groups to be concerned about *depression* (32.9% compared with 13.4% of 11 to 14 year olds and 18.1% of 15 to 19 year olds).

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family conflict	**28.8**	**26.5**	17.6
Drugs	**29.9**	24.4	23.5
Body image	24.8	**24.9**	**32.9**
Personal safety	**25.6**	23.6	21.2
Suicide	23.3	**24.7**	18.8
Physical/sexual abuse	22.8	24.0	**25.9**
Alcohol	21.3	17.4	21.4
The environment	21.0	17.0	17.6
School or study problems	18.9	20.0	8.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	19.9	17.3	11.9
Coping with stress	16.9	20.2	24.7
Self harm	13.7	13.8	10.6
Depression	13.4	18.1	**32.9**
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	13.3	14.4	16.5
Discrimination	10.8	14.4	12.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There was a significant level of concern across all age groups about *personal safety* and *physical/sexual abuse*. Not surprisingly a higher proportion of 11 to 19 years olds than the young adult group indicated *school or study problems* was a major issue.

- 21.2% of young adults and around a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds identified *personal safety* as a significant issue.
- About a quarter of 15 to 24 year old respondents and just over a fifth of 11 to 14 year old respondents identified *physical/sexual abuse* as a major concern.
- One in five 11 to 19 year old respondents compared with one in ten 20 to 24 year olds indicated *school or study problems* was a major concern.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows the similarities and differences between the genders on issues that concerned them. Results for Western Australia were similar for both genders on a number of items including *family conflict, personal safety* and *suicide*. Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify *drugs* and *alcohol* as major concerns. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *body image* and *physical/sexual abuse* as major issues.

- About 27% of both genders were highly concerned about *family conflict.*
- *Drugs* was a major concern for a higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents (31.2% compared with 24.6%) as was *alcohol* (22.8% compared with 17.5%).
- A quarter of female respondents (27.6%) and a fifth of male respondents (21.4%) identified *body image* as a major concern.
- *Physical/sexual abuse* was identified as a major issue by over a quarter of female respondents (27.1%), compared with 17.8% of male respondents.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family conflict	**27.7**	**27.2**
Drugs	24.6	**31.2**
Body image	**27.6**	21.4
Personal safety	24.9	**24.0**
Suicide	23.9	23.9
Physical/sexual abuse	**27.1**	17.8
Alcohol	17.5	22.8
The environment	19.2	19.5
School or study problems	18.6	19.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	18.5	18.8
Coping with stress	18.7	18.2
Self harm	14.3	12.9
Depression	16.8	14.5
Discrimination	11.9	12.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.5	17.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time as shown in Table 14. The top three sources of advice and support for Western Australian respondents were clearly *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally. The results were very similar for Western Australian and national respondents.

- 87.2% of respondents from Western Australia identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support, similar to the national figure of 85.1%.
- *Parents* were a major source of advice and support for about three quarters (76.6%) of respondents from Western Australia.
- Nearly two thirds (64.0%) of respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice and support.
- About a fifth (19.7%) of WA respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support, similar to the national figure of 20.3%.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	WA 2008 %	National 2008 %	WA 2007 %	WA 2006 %	WA 2005 %
Friends	**87.2**	**85.1**	**86.8**	**87.9**	**88.0**
Parents	**76.6**	**74.1**	**76.7**	**75.0**	**75.3**
Relative/family friend	**64.0**	**61.0**	**65.2**	**65.7**	**67.1**
Internet	19.7	20.3	15.9	17.6	14.9
Magazines	11.1	11.2	11.7	13.6	14.5
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.6	11.1	10.0	8.2	8.0
School counsellor	9.3	11.5	10.8	9.8	11.4
Teacher	8.7	11.4	8.4	8.2	9.5
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.7	8.5	8.6	8.9	7.7
Telephone helpline	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.5	5.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of advice and support for all three age groups were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend,* and the proportions who identified each were similar across the groups. The proportion of respondents in Western Australia who identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support increased with age.

- More than 85% of respondents in each age group identified *friends* as a main source of advice and support.
- About three quarters of respondents in each age group identified *parents* as a major source of advice, and around two thirds identified *relative/family friend.*
- Just under a third (31.4%) of respondents in the 20 to 24 age group identified the *internet* as a source of advice and support, more than twice the proportion of those aged 11 to 14 (14.8%).

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	**85.9**	**88.6**	**90.7**
Parents	**79.8**	**73.4**	**74.4**
Relative/family friend	**65.6**	**62.3**	**68.6**
Internet	14.8	25.1	31.4
Magazines	10.8	11.8	7.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.4	9.2	9.5
School counsellor	10.5	8.2	3.6
Teacher	9.6	7.6	2.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.0	8.5	9.3
Telephone helpline	6.1	5.2	2.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends, parents* and *relative/family friend.* The proportion identifying *parents* was about the same for both groups, while a lower proportion of male respondents than female respondents identified *friends* or *relative/family friends.*

- 90.3% of female respondents and 82.3% of male respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- About three quarters of both genders identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support.
- Two thirds (66.6%) of female respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice, as did 60.4% of male respondents.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	**90.3**	**82.3**
Parents	**77.2**	**76.2**
Relative/family friend	**66.6**	**60.4**
Internet	15.9	25.2
Magazines	13.2	8.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.2	12.6
School counsellor	9.1	9.6
Teacher	8.2	9.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.0	10.1
Telephone helpline	5.2	6.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify the *internet* as a source of advice and support.

- About a quarter (25.2%) of male respondents compared with 15.9% of female respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

82.7% of respondents from Western Australia indicated they had enough information on issues that concerned them. This is in line with both the national results for 2008 and the Western Australian results for 2007. Responses were similar across the age and gender groups.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2008							2007
	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	WA %
Enough information	82.7	83.7	83.1	82.5	80.2	81.3	84.7	83.1
Not enough information	17.3	16.3	16.9	17.5	19.8	18.7	15.3	16.9

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about and a number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; adolescence and youth-related issues; sexuality and sex education; environmental issues; depression; suicide and self harm; school and study; and bullying.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. There was one change to the list provided in 2008. *Sports* was divided into two categories: *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

The top three activities for Western Australian respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *arts/cultural* activities and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top activities nationally although the rankings were slightly different. A substantial proportion of respondents from Western Australia were also involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.

- Two thirds (67.6%) of WA respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, and 44.6% were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- 45.2% of respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- About 30% of WA respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	WA 2008 %	National 2008 %	WA 2007 %	WA 2006 %	WA 2005 %
Sports (as a participant)	**67.6**	**67.6**	**71.4***	**64.8***	**64.1***
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**45.2**	**44.1**	**44.6**	**43.0**	**44.9**
Sports (as a spectator)	**44.6**	**46.5**	**71.4***	**64.8***	**64.1***
Youth groups and clubs	31.1	26.8	**32.1**	**30.5**	**29.3**
Religious	30.8	25.9	27.9	25.0	20.5
Volunteer	21.4	22.2	21.8	21.7	20.5
Environmental	13.5	14.3	13.4	12.0	6.2
Student Representative Council	12	12.4	13.5	14.0	12.7

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2007.

Age differences

Table 19 highlights that participation in the top three activities for young Western Australians declined with age, particularly in the case of *sports (as a participant)*. However, participation in *volunteer* activities increased with age for Western Australian respondents, as it did nationally.

- Around three quarters (75.5%) of respondents aged 11 to 14 were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, compared with about two fifths (39.5%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- About half (50.2%) of 11 to 14 year olds were involved in *arts/cultural* activities compared with just under 40% of 15 to 24 year olds.
- Almost two fifths (38.4%) of young adults were involved in *volunteer* activities, about twice the proportion of the 11 to 14 age group (18.4%).

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.5**	**59.5**	**39.5**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**50.2**	**39.2**	37.2
Sports (as a spectator)	**45.2**	**43.9**	**41.9**
Youth groups and clubs	32.8	29.2	23.3
Religious	30.4	31.5	19.8
Volunteer	18.4	23.7	**38.4**
Environmental	13.4	13.3	10.5
Student Representative Council	11.2	13.1	1.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top three activities for male and female respondents from Western Australia were identical, namely *sports (as a participant)*, *arts/cultural* activities and *sports (as a spectator)*, although the rankings were slightly different. Male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports* activities, while female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural* activities. In other activities participation rates were similar for both genders.

- Male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a participant)* (70.7% compared with 65.5%) and *sports (as a spectator)* (47.7% compared with 42.4%).
- More than half (54.6%) of the female respondents from Western Australia were involved in *arts/cultural* activities compared with just under one third (31.7%) of male respondents.
- Over 30% of both female and male respondents from Western Australia were involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	**65.5**	**70.7**
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	**54.6**	**31.7**
Sports (as a spectator)	**42.4**	**47.7**
Youth groups and clubs	31.3	30.6
Religious	31.1	30.3
Volunteer	22.2	20.2
Environmental	13.2	13.7
Student Representative Council	11.4	12.6

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years *family* members were the most commonly listed and comprised 30.5% of the Western Australian responses. The second most common response was *friends* at 18.2%. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	**2,470**	**30.5**
Friends	**1,473**	**18.2**
Sports teams, players and coaches	**587**	**7.3**
Entertainers	539	6.7
International aid organisations	436	5.4
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	309	3.8
Religious figures	263	3.2
Animal protection groups	259	3.2
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	233	2.9
Schools and their staff	219	2.7
Environmental groups	179	2.2
Businesses and business people	175	2.2
Youth organisations and leaders	122	1.5
Political organisations and figures	106	1.3
Protection agencies	90	1.1
Telephone helplines	77	1.0
Medical professionals and hospitals	75	0.9
Myself	67	0.8
Historical figures	46	0.6

Acknowledgments

Mission Australia would like to thank the many educational institutions, libraries, youth and community organisations, government agencies, corporates, philanthropic organisations and others who helped with the 2008 National Survey of Young Australians. These include:

- Association for the Blind of WA Guide Dogs WA
- Australian Council for Educational Leaders
- Australian Catholic University
- Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies – AYIN discussion list and Youth Field Express
- Australian Local Government Association
- Bayer Australia Limited
- Centacare Catholic Family Services – Wagga Wagga
- Charles Sturt University
- Christian Schools Australia
- Country Health SA – Mid North Cluster
- CREATE Foundation
- Department for Communities' Office for Youth, WA
- Department for Families and Communities – Families SA – Youth Justice Directorate
- Girl Guides Australia
- Glenorchy City Council – Youth and Community Safety Program
- Infoxchange Youth News – www.youth.infoxchange.net.au
- Inspire Foundation – www.inspire.org.au
- Local Government Association of Queensland
- Macquarie Group Foundation
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Middle Years of Schooling Association Inc.
- National Children's & Youth Law Centre
- Office of Youth Affairs, Department of Health and Families, Northern Territory Government
- Philanthropy Australia
- PricewaterhouseCoopers Foundation
- Rotary Club of North Hobart
- Social Ventures Australia
- The Benevolent Society
- The FRANK Team
- The Mirabel Foundation
- The Reach Foundation
- UnitingCare Moreland Hall
- UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania
- Westpac Banking Corporation
- www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au – The Victorian Government's web initiative for young people
- Youth Action & Policy Association (NSW)
- Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
- Youth Affairs Network of Queensland
- Youth Network of Tasmania

About Mission Australia

Mission Australia is a national non-denominational Christian community service organisation that has been transforming the lives of Australians in need for 150 years.

We operate more than 450 services across metropolitan, rural and regional Australia – in every state and territory.

This year we assisted more than 350,000 people.

We are committed to creating a fairer Australia by eliminating disadvantage and transforming lives. Through our programs and services, we seek to eradicate homelessness, strengthen families and empower youth. We deliver entry level training and help unemployed people find permanent work.

Thank you

This publication would not have been possible without the 45,600 young people who completed the Mission Australia 2008 National Survey of Young Australians. Our special thanks to them and the staff of Mission Australia and the many other organisations who supported their involvement.

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The Macquarie Group is a diversified international provider of banking, financial, advisory and investment services. Through the Macquarie Group Foundation, Macquarie supports a wide range of community organisations. The Foundation has formed a major partnership with Mission Australia, to enhance its research into key social issues. This research guides Mission Australia's policy development and advocacy, ensuring its employment programs and community services continue to deliver to those most in need.

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ACN 000 002 522 CFN 11994