

youth survey report 2019



MISSION
AUSTRALIA

Youth Survey Report 2019:

Comparing major cities and regional areas

Background

In 2019, a total of 25,126 young people aged 15-19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey*. This brief report compares the responses of young people in terms of their location, which was measured by their place of usual residence at the time of completing the survey. Each respondent was grouped according to whether they resided in a major city or a regional area, as determined by the remoteness levels developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (see Appendix).

Key points

- Of the 25,126 young people who responded to the *Youth Survey 2019*, a total of 15,360 respondents were living in major cities (57.3% females, 39.9% males) and a total of 8,817 respondents were living in regional areas (54.1% females, 42.7% males).
- More than twice the proportion of young people from regional areas identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (10.5% compared with 4.1% of major cities respondents).
- Almost twice the proportion of respondents from major cities stated that they were born overseas (17.1% compared with 9.2% of young people from regional areas) and spoke a language other than English at home (21.4% compared with 11.3%).
- Seven in ten (69.2%) young people from major cities reported that they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies, which was higher than regional areas (64.7%).
- Of those that were still at school, 96.9% of young people from major cities stated that they planned to complete Year 12. This was marginally higher than for young people from regional areas (93.7%).
- A greater proportion of respondents from major cities than regional areas were planning to *go to university* after finishing school (69.2% compared with 56.3%).
- Higher proportions of young people from regional areas reported *travel/gap year plans* after finishing school (31.1% compared with 26.5% of major cities respondents) and plans to *get an apprenticeship* (14.0% compared with 9.9%).
- For young people from both major cities and regional areas, the top two most commonly cited barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals were *academic ability* and *mental health*. The third top barrier for young people from major cities was *financial difficulty*, whereas for respondents from regional areas it was *where you live*.
- Nearly three times the proportion of young people from regional areas cited *where you live* (13.9% compared with 4.9% of respondents from major cities) as a barrier to achieving their goals after school.
- Close to half of respondents from regional areas reported working part-time (47.3% compared with 41.3% of respondents from major cities). A slightly higher proportion of young people from major cities reported they were currently looking for work (35.6% compared with 32.1% of respondents from regional areas).
- The three most highly valued items for young people from both major cities and regional areas were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*.

- The top three issues of personal concern for young people from both major cities and regional areas were *coping with stress, school or study problems* and *mental health*. The next most personally concerning issues for both cohorts of young people were *body image* and *physical health*.
- Nearly one quarter of young people from regional areas reported they had experienced bullying over the past year (24.5% compared with 19.0% of respondents from major cities).
- A much higher proportion of females from regional areas reported they had experienced bullying over the past year (26.8% compared with 19.1% of females from major cities, and compared with 20.4% and 17.7% of males respectively).
- Of those respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year: around eight in ten respondents from major cities (80.4%) and regional areas (78.9%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. Nearly four in ten respondents from regional areas indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media* (37.2% compared with 31.9% of respondents from major cities).
- Of those respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year: around seven in ten young people from regional areas (73.0%) and major cities (70.7%) reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. *name calling, teasing*). A higher proportion of respondents from regional areas reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. *hurtful messages, pictures or comments*) (39.5% compared with 34.8% of respondents from major cities).
- The top three methods of dealing with bullying for young people from major cities and regional areas were *ignoring it, removing myself from the situation* and *talking to close friends or family*.
- Over half (52.9%) of young people from regional areas reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months (compared with 45.0% of respondents from major cities).
- Of those who had witnessed bullying take place, more than 5 in 6 reported this occurred *at school/TAFE/university* (85.6% of respondents from regional areas and 85.0% of respondents from major cities).
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from both major cities and regional areas.
- For young people from major cities, the three most important issues in Australia were *mental health, the environment* and *equity and discrimination*. For young people from regional areas, the top three most important issues in Australia were *mental health, the environment* and *alcohol and drugs*.
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from major cities reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has increased fivefold from 6.8% to 34.6%. Similarly, the proportion of those from regional areas reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has more than tripled from 8.7% to 33.5%.
- Over half of young people from major cities (52.4%) and regional areas (51.9%) felt they have a say *none of the time in public affairs*.
- Close to three in ten young people from regional areas (29.6%) and major cities (28.3%) felt they have a say *none of the time while at school/TAFE/university*.
- The top three activities for young people from major cities and regional areas were *sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*.
- The majority of young people from major cities and regional areas reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their life as a whole and *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

Youth Survey Report 2019:

Comparing major cities and regional areas

Demographic profile of respondents

- Of the 25,126 young people who responded to the *Youth Survey 2019*, a total of 15,360 respondents were living in major cities (57.3% females, 39.9% males) and a total of 8,817 respondents were living in regional areas (54.1% females, 42.7% males).
- More than twice the proportion of young people from regional areas identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (10.5% compared with 4.1% of respondents from major cities).
- Almost twice the proportion of respondents from major cities stated that they were born overseas (17.1% compared with 9.2% of young people from regional areas) and spoke a language other than English at home (21.4% compared with 11.3%).
- The three most identified languages other than English spoken at home in major cities were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Chinese and Arabic. The three most reported languages other than English spoken at home in regional areas were: Filipino/Tagalog, Afrikaans and Chinese.
- Similar proportions of respondents from major cities and regional areas identified as living with a disability (6.5% compared with 6.2% respectively). The three most frequently reported disabilities for both major cities and regional areas were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

15,360 respondents to the *Youth Survey 2019* lived in major cities and **8,817** lived in regional areas

Study and training

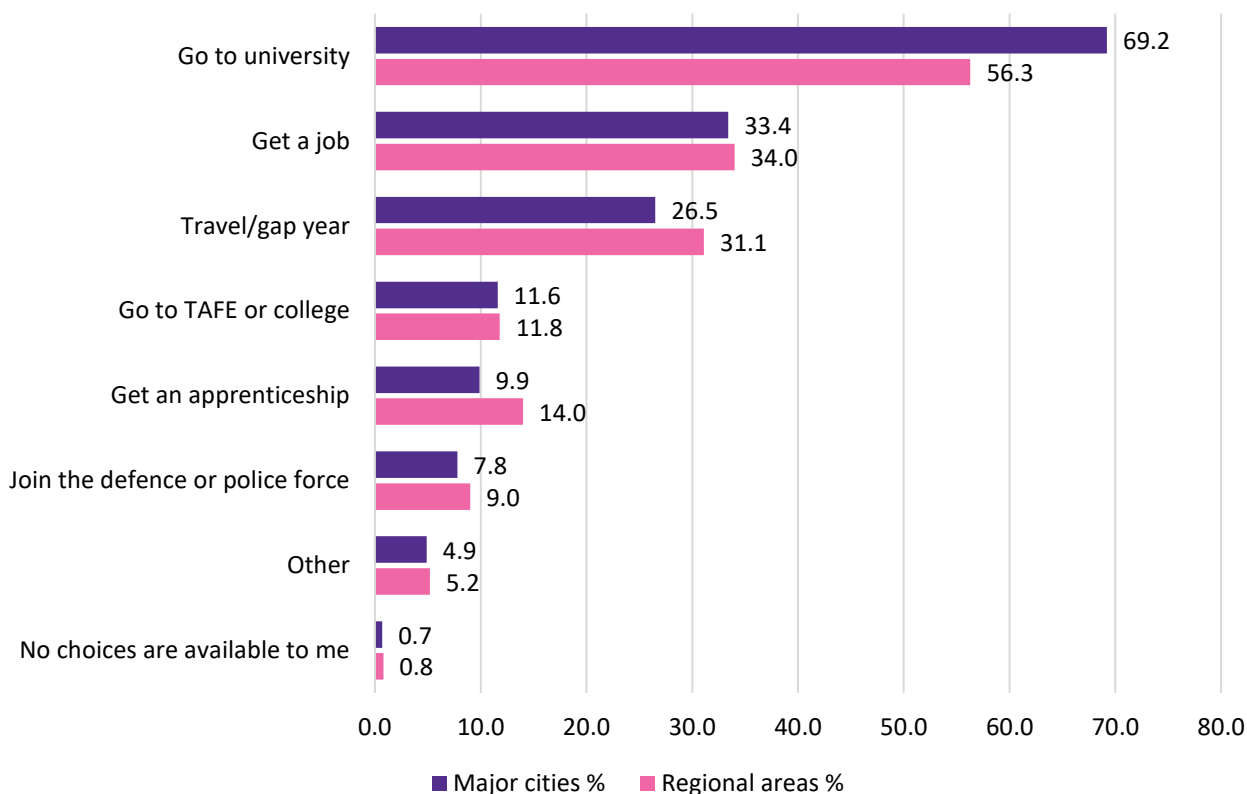
- A marginally higher proportion of respondents from major cities indicated that they were studying full-time (94.1% compared with 92.0% of respondents from regional areas). Conversely, a marginally higher proportion of young people from regional areas reported that they were not studying (4.9% compared with 3.5% of major cities respondents).
- Seven in ten (69.2%) young people from major cities reported that they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies, which was higher than regional areas (64.7%).
- Similar proportions of young people from regional areas (8.0%) major cities (7.2%) indicated they felt *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* with their studies.

Table 1. Young people's satisfaction with studies

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
Very satisfied	13.1	10.8
Satisfied	56.1	53.9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	23.6	27.4
Dissatisfied	5.7	5.6
Very dissatisfied	1.5	2.4

- Of those that were still at school, 96.9% of young people from major cities stated that they planned to complete Year 12. This was marginally higher than for young people from regional areas (93.7%). Twice the proportion of respondents from regional areas did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.3% compared with 3.1% of major cities respondents).

Figure 1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency among major cities respondents.

- Go to university* was the most frequently chosen option for young people from both major cities and regional areas in 2019. However, a greater proportion of respondents from major cities than from regional areas indicated that they planned to do so (69.2% compared with 56.3%).
- Around one third of young people from regional areas (34.0%) and major cities (33.4%) indicated plans to *get a job* after school.
- Higher proportions of young people from regional areas reported *travel/gap year plans* after finishing school (31.1% compared with 26.5% of respondents from major cities) and plans to *get an apprenticeship* (14.0% compared with 9.9%).
- A marginally higher proportion of major cities respondents reported feeling *extremely or very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school (47.9% compared with 45.6% of respondents from regional areas).
- Around one in ten respondents from regional areas (11.1%) and major cities (10.6%) indicated they felt *slightly or not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their post-school goals.

Table 2. Confidence in achieving study/work goals

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
Extremely confident	10.4	9.3
Very confident	37.5	36.3
Somewhat confident	41.5	43.5
Slightly confident	7.9	8.6
Not at all confident	2.7	2.5

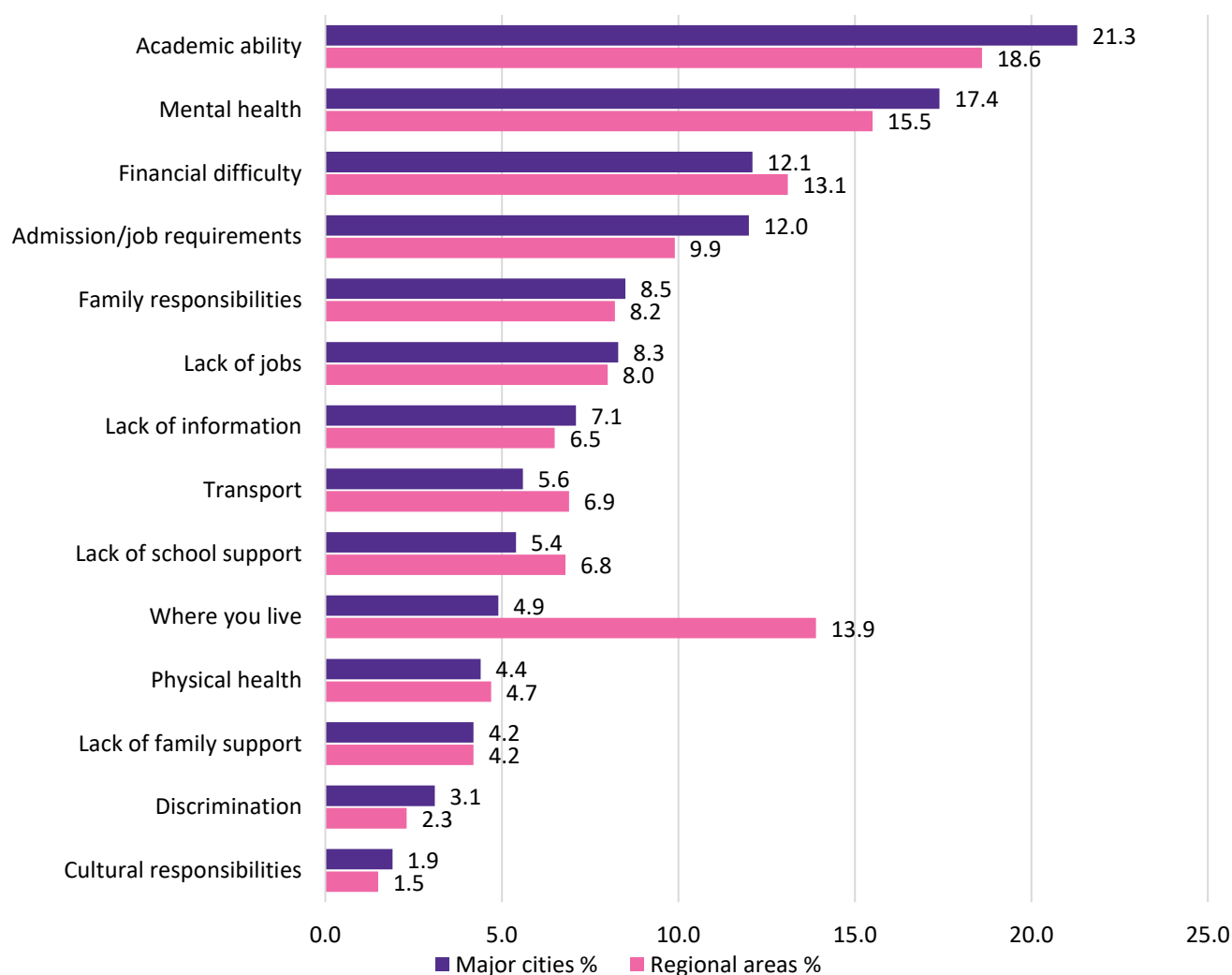
Barriers to the achievement of young people's study/work goals

In 2019, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Nearly half of respondents from regional areas (49.8%) and major cities (48.3%) indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals. Notably greater proportions of females from both major cities (53.9% compared with 39.7% of males) and regional areas (55.6% compared with 41.8% of males) reported the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 2 shows the percentage of respondents from major cities and regional areas who reported each item was a barrier.

- For young people from both major cities and regional areas, the top two most commonly cited barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals were *academic ability* and *mental health*. The third top barrier for young people from major cities was *financial difficulty*, whereas for respondents from regional areas it was *where you live*.
- Nearly three times the proportion of young people from regional areas cited *where you live* (13.9% compared with 4.9% of respondents from major cities) as a barrier to achieving their goals after school.
- Slightly higher proportions of respondents from major cities cited *academic ability* (21.3% compared with 18.6% of respondents from regional areas) and *admission/job requirements* (12.0% compared with 9.9%) as barriers impacting the achievement of their study/work goals after school.

Figure 2: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency among major cities respondents.

Employment

- Close to half of respondents from regional areas reported working part-time (47.3% compared with 41.3% of respondents from major cities).
- A slightly higher proportion of young people from major cities reported they were currently looking for work (35.6% compared with 32.1% of respondents from regional areas). Around one in five respondents from major cities (22.6%) and regional areas (19.5%) indicated they were neither working nor looking for work.

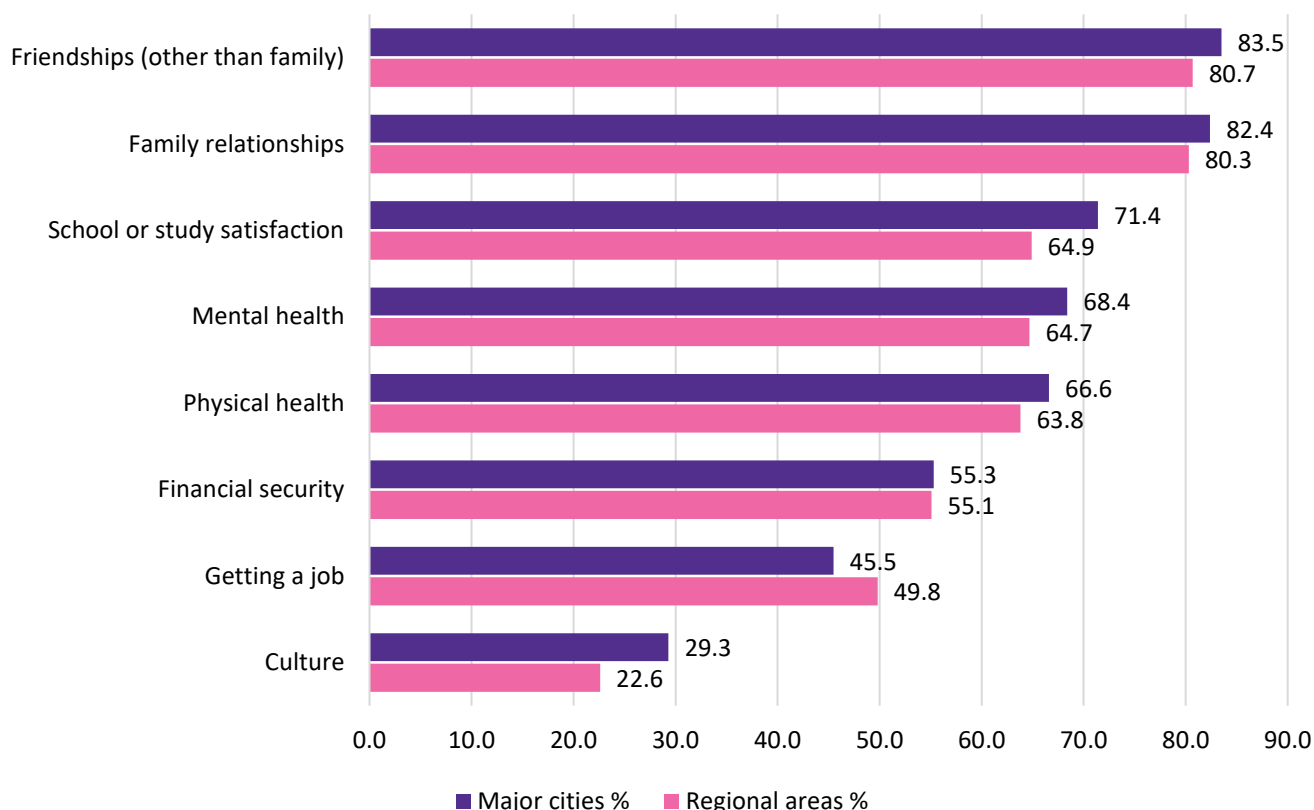
What do young people value?

Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 3, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

- The three most highly valued items for young people from both major cities and regional areas were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*.

- Slightly higher proportions of young people from major cities rated *school or study satisfaction* (71.4% compared with 64.9% of respondents from regional areas) and *mental health* (68.4% compared with 64.7%) as *extremely or very important* to them.
- Conversely, a higher proportion of young people from regional areas reported *getting a job* (49.8% compared with 45.5% of respondents from major cities) was *extremely or very important*.

Figure 3: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency among major cities respondents.

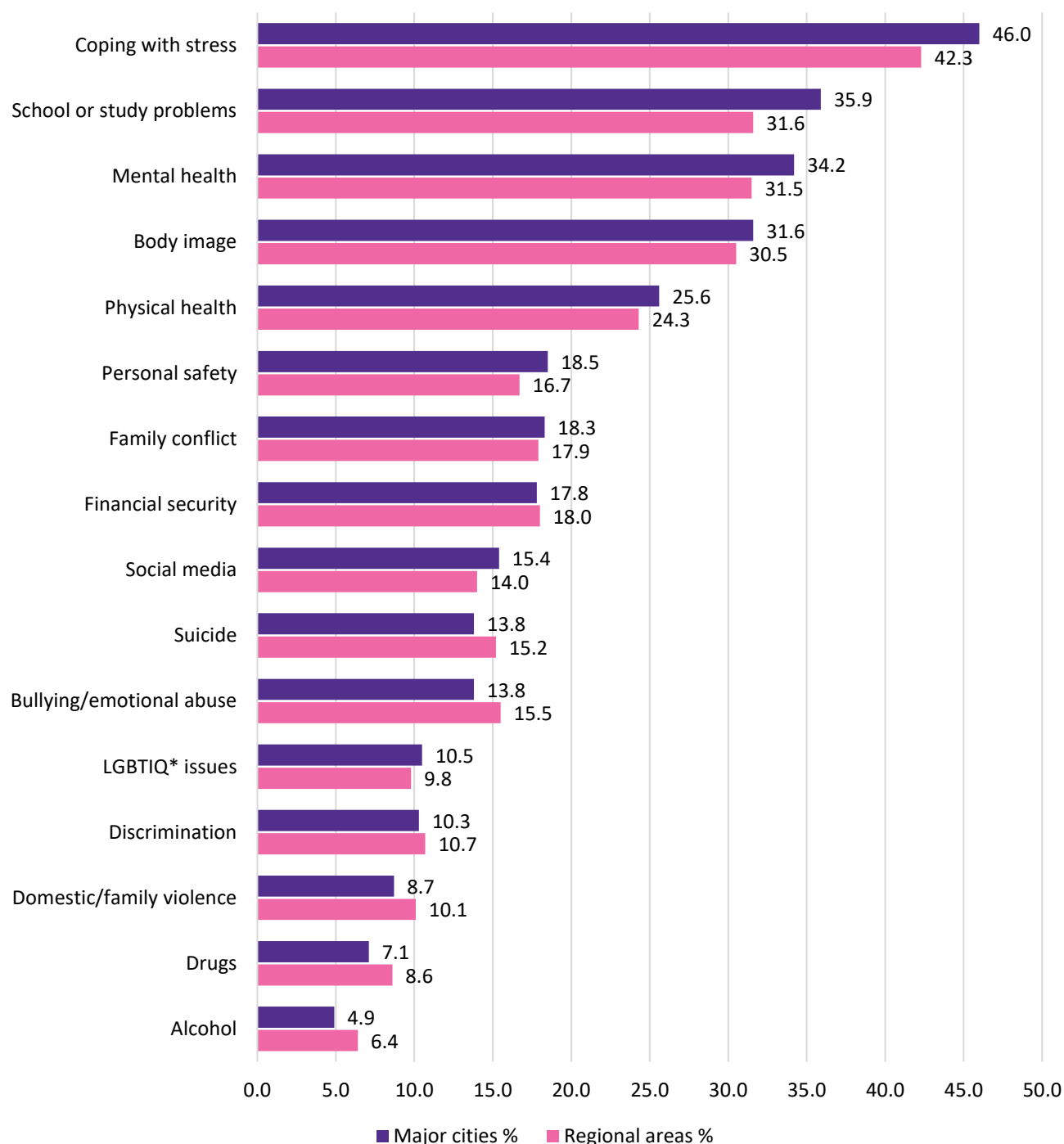
What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 4. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people from both major cities and regional areas were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. The next most personally concerning issues for both cohorts of young people were *body image* and *physical health*.

- Slightly higher proportions of young people living in major cities reported they were *extremely or very concerned* about *school or study problems* (35.9% compared with 31.6% of respondents from regional areas) and *coping with stress* (46.0% compared with 42.3%).
- Conversely, a marginally higher proportion of respondents from regional areas indicated they were *extremely or very concerned* about *bullying/emotional abuse* (15.5% compared with 13.8% of respondents from major cities).

Figure 4: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency among major cities respondents. *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

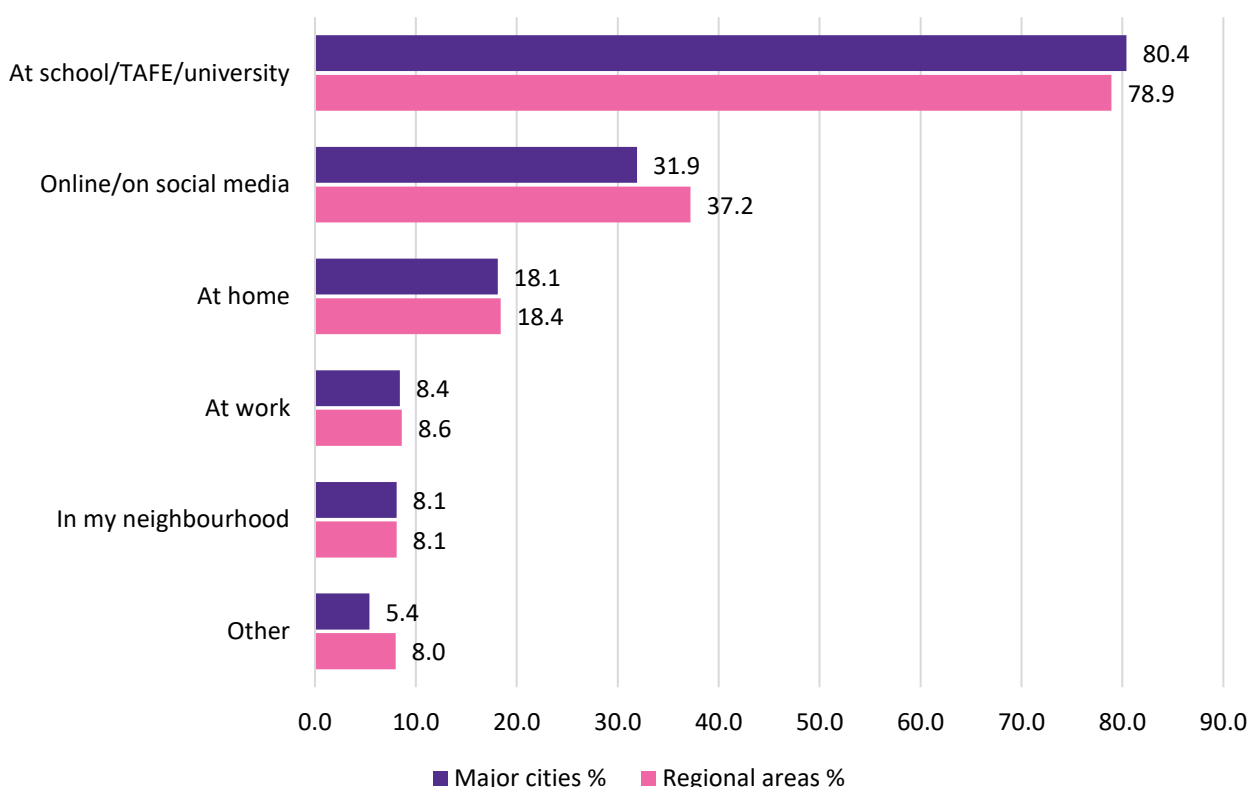
Young people's experiences of bullying

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Nearly one quarter of young people from regional areas reported they had experienced bullying over the past year (24.5% compared with 19.0% of respondents from major cities), with a much higher proportion of females from regional areas reporting they had experienced bullying over the past year (26.8% compared with 19.1% of females from major cities, and compared with 20.4% and 17.7% of males respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested items where the bullying took place. Of those respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Around eight in ten respondents from major cities (80.4%) and regional areas (78.9%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*.
- Nearly four in ten respondents from regional areas indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media* (37.2% compared with 31.9% of respondents from major cities).
- Just under one in five respondents from regional areas (18.4%) and major cities (18.1%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*.

Figure 5: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of those respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Around seven in ten young people from regional areas (73.0%) and major cities (70.7%) reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing).
- Six in ten respondents from major cities (61.8%) and regional areas (60.6%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded).
- A higher proportion of respondents from regional areas reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments) (39.5% compared with 34.8% of respondents from major cities).
- Just over one in five young people from regional areas (22.6%) and major cities (21.0%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching).

Table 3: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
Verbal (e.g. name calling, teasing)	70.7	73.0
Social (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)	61.8	60.6
Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)	34.8	39.5
Physical (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.0	22.6
Other	5.7	5.6

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

What helped young people to deal with their experience of bullying?

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about the ways that helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown Table 4. For those respondents who had been bullied in the past year:

- The top three methods of dealing with bullying for young people from major cities and regional areas were *ignoring it*, *removing myself from the situation* and *talking to close friends or family*.
- Around one third of respondents from major cities (33.6%) and regional areas (31.5%) indicated they dealt with bullying by *distracting myself through other activities*.
- Around one in five respondents from major cities (21.0%) and regional areas (18.8%) reported *confronting the bully/ies* was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying.
- Nearly one in seven respondents from regional areas (13.8%) and major cities (13.2%) stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

Table 4: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
Ignoring it	46.8	45.1
Removing myself from the situation	38.1	35.8
Talking to close friends or family	35.2	33.3
Distracting myself through other activities	33.6	31.5
Confronting the bully/ies	21.0	18.8
Talking to a support person	17.9	17.3
Nothing helped me	13.2	13.8
Other	6.8	6.1

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Over half (52.9%) of young people from regional areas reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months (compared with 45.0% of respondents from major cities). Around half of females and

males from regional areas reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (54.5% and 50.3% compared with 44.3% and 45.9% of respondents from major cities, respectively).

Young people who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested items where they witnessed the bullying take place. Of those respondents who had witnessed bullying take place in the past year:

- More than five in six young people from regional areas (85.6%) and major cities (85.0%) reported that they witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*.
- Over four in ten respondents from regional areas (43.5%) and major cities (41.8%) indicated they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media*.

Table 5: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
At school/TAFE/university	85.0	85.6
Online/on social media	41.8	43.5
At work	7.6	8.4
At home	7.3	7.4
In my neighbourhood	6.7	7.2
Other	4.9	4.4

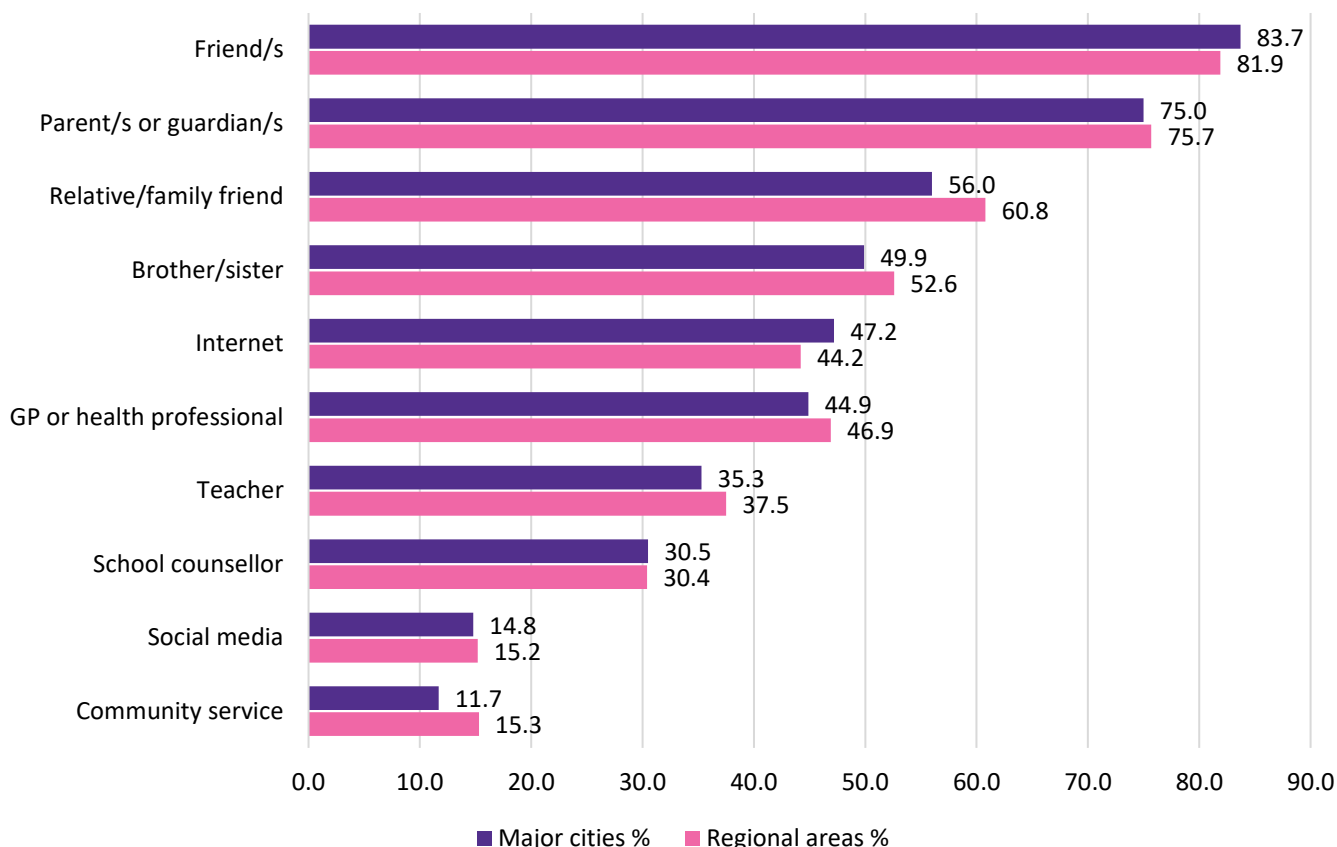
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 6 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from both major cities and regional areas.
- Around half of respondents from regional areas (52.6%) and major cities (49.9%) reported they would turn to their *brother/sister* for support.
- Higher proportions of young people from regional areas indicated they would turn to a *relative/family friend* (60.8% compared with 56.0% of respondents from major cities) or a *community agency* (15.3% compared with 11.7%) for support with important issues in their lives.
- Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of young people from major cities would turn to the *internet* (47.2% compared with 44.2% of respondents from regional areas) as a source of help with important issues.

Figure 6: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Items are listed in order of frequency among major cities respondents.

What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 6.

In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people from major cities were *mental health*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination*. For young people from regional areas, the top three most important issues in Australia were *mental health*, *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs*.

- Close to four in ten young people from major cities (36.7%) and regional areas (35.3%) reported *mental health* is an important issue in Australia today.
- Around one third of respondents from major cities (34.6%) and regional areas (33.5%) reported that *the environment* (34.2%) is an important national issue.
- A higher proportion of young people from major cities indicated *equity and discrimination* is a key issue (26.6% compared with 21.9% of respondents from regional areas). Conversely, a higher proportion of young people from regional areas reported *alcohol and drugs* is an important issue (23.1% compared with 19.7% of respondents from major cities).
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from major cities reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has increased fivefold from 6.8% to 34.6%.
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from regional areas reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has more than tripled from 8.7% to 33.5%.

Table 6: Most important issues in Australia

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
Mental health	36.7	35.3
The environment	34.6	33.5
Equity and discrimination	26.6	21.9
Alcohol and drugs	19.7	23.1
The economy and financial matters	15.1	13.4
Crime, safety and violence	11.9	12.9
Bullying	11.5	12.1
Politics	10.7	11.5
Education	8.6	9.8
Population issues	8.4	7.3

Note: Items are listed in order of frequency among major cities respondents.

Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were ranked on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*.

- Over four in ten young people from regional areas (44.6%) and major cities (44.0%) felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my family*.
- A slightly higher proportion of respondents from major cities reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* while *with my friends* (46.4% compared with 43.4% of respondents from regional areas).
- Just over one in seven young people from both major cities (15.1%) and regional areas (14.7%) felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university*, while less than one in ten from both regional areas (7.8%) and major cities (7.0%) felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs*.
- Over half of young people from major cities (52.4%) and regional areas (51.9%) felt they have a say *none of the time* in *public affairs*.
- Close to three in ten young people from regional areas (29.6%) and major cities (28.3%) felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 7: Young people's voice on important issues

Major cities	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.0	45.9	10.1
With my friends	46.4	46.8	6.9
At school/TAFE/university	15.1	56.6	28.3
In public affairs	7.0	40.6	52.4

Regional areas	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.6	45.0	10.4
With my friends	43.4	49.1	7.5
At school/TAFE/university	14.7	55.7	29.6
In public affairs	7.8	40.2	51.9

“Young people feel that people in power i.e. our schools, teachers, principals, governments are not listening to them. Governments don’t listen to our concern for climate change. Many young people I converse with feel helpless on the issue. That also reduces our mental health because our future seems bleak. To improve this we need people who seem to represent to us to empower to speak on our own behalf and feel listened to.”

(F, 18, Regional VIC)

“Strong climate change policies need to be put in place and single use plastic usage needs to be cut down drastically.”

(F, 17, Regional QLD)

“The drought and how it is effecting our rural economy.”

(F, 17, Regional NSW)

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 8.

- The top three activities for young people from major cities and regional areas were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*.
- More than four in ten respondents from major cities (43.5%) and regional areas (41.0%) reported that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year.
- Around one third of young people from major cities (33.3%) and regional areas (32.7%) were involved in *student leadership activities*.
- A higher proportion of young people from regional areas took part in *sports (as a spectator)* in the past year (59.1% compared with 55.1% of respondents from major cities).
- Conversely, a higher proportion of respondents from major cities were involved in *religious groups/activities* (26.1% compared with 19.4% of respondents from regional areas).

Table 8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
Sports (as a participant)	68.4	68.6
Sports (as a spectator)	55.5	59.1
Volunteer work	46.9	46.6
Arts/cultural/music activities	43.5	41.0
Student leadership activities	33.3	32.7
Youth groups/activities	30.0	30.0
Religious groups/activities	26.1	19.4
Environmental groups	13.3	14.4
Political groups/organisations	7.2	7.5

How do young people rate their family's ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family's ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Table 9 shows that the majority of respondents from both cohorts rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 55.2% of respondents from major cities rated their family relationships as *excellent* or *very good*, while 53.2% of respondents from regional areas reported their family relationships were *excellent* or *very good*. However, more than one in five young people from regional areas (22.6%) and major cities (21.1%) indicated their family's ability to get along was either *fair* or *poor*.

Table 9: Family's ability to get along

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
Excellent	22.6	22.8
Very good	32.6	30.4
Good	23.7	24.2
Fair	13.8	14.3
Poor	7.3	8.3

How happy are young people and how do they feel about the future?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*.

- Around six in ten young people from major cities (61.4%) and regional areas (59.7) indicated feeling *happy/very happy* with their life as a whole.
- Around one in ten respondents from regional areas (11.6%) and major cities (10.7%) reported feeling *very sad/sad*.

Table 10: How happy young people are

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	61.4	59.7
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.9	28.7
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.7	11.6

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 11 shows that the majority of young people from both major cities and regional areas felt *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Nearly six in ten young people from major cities (59.0%) and regional areas (57.6%) reported feeling *very positive* or *positive* about the future.
- Close to one in eight respondents from major cities (12.5%) and regional areas (11.7%) reported feeling *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 11: Feelings about the future

	Major cities %	Regional areas %
Very positive	13.5	13.2
Positive	45.5	44.4
Neither positive nor negative	28.6	30.7
Negative	9.3	8.1
Very negative	3.2	3.6

“We need more jobs for young people in regional/rural areas.”
(M, 17, Regional VIC)

“Socioeconomic disparity between rural and urban regions.”
(M, 18, Regional TAS)

“Delivery/accessibility of healthcare services to remote or rural areas.”
(F, 18, Metro VIC)

“More job opportunities for young people in smaller towns and cities with more secure options. Not just casual but permanent positions.”
(F, 17, Regional TAS)

Appendix

The data categorisation for major cities/regional areas used in this report was defined via the Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Statistical Geographical Standard (ASGS) for Remoteness Areas. The 'major cities' classification employed in this report aligns with the 'Major Cities of Australia' remoteness area, while the 'regional areas' classification is derived from the combined total of the 'Inner Regional Australia', 'Outer Regional Australia', 'Remote Australia' and 'Very Remote Australia' remoteness areas. The capital cities of Darwin and Hobart have been classified under 'Inner Regional Australia' as per the remoteness area classification for these regions. Respondents to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018* were classified into these remoteness areas according to the postcode provided when completing the survey.

The comparisons between postcode data and the ABS ASGS remoteness areas utilised the geographical correspondences tool made available by the ABS for 2012 postcode regions and 2011 remoteness areas. Correspondences are a method for reassigning data from one geographical region to another. Although correspondences are not always exact (e.g. a postcode region may be split into different remoteness areas if the boundary for a remoteness area crosses that postcode region), converting smaller geographic units to larger units usually results in a relatively more accurate data conversion than when converting larger units to smaller areas or between areas of similar size. As postcode regions are smaller than remoteness areas, relative to each level of remoteness, correspondences utilised within this report are relatively exact. The correspondence tables used in this report can be accessed at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1270.0.55.006July%202011?OpenDocument>

Youth Survey Report 2019:

Comparing major cities and regional areas

Policy recommendations:

- Young people should be supported to remain engaged in education and to transition to further education and employment;
- Investment is required in improved mental health supports for young people with a focus on prevention and early intervention;
- Family supports are required to build cohesion and prevent homelessness;
- Schools need to be resourced to prevent and combat bullying;
- Young people's voices need to be included when forming evidence-based policies and in the co-design of programs for young people; and
- Policy responses should build on the strengths of and address the challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, including the higher levels of bullying experienced.



Who is Mission Australia?

Mission Australia is a non-denominational Christian community service organisation, with more than 155 years of experience in standing together with Australians in need on their journey to independence.

Our evidence-based, client-centred services are focused on reducing homelessness and strengthening communities across Australia. Our services are tailored to the needs and preferences of the clients and communities we serve. Our programs range from early intervention to intensive wrap-around services. They include services targeting homelessness; providing integrated family support; parenting programs; early childhood education; mental health services; residential drug and alcohol programs; youth programs; access to safe and secure housing; and programs to build capacity, resilience and opportunity for local communities.

We work in partnership with others to achieve our goal. This includes communities, supporters, government, businesses and other organisations. We measure our impact, collecting evidence of what works to inform our service design and delivery, and to advocate for change.

We stand together with Australians in need until they can stand for themselves.

For further information about this report please contact:

Research and Evaluation, Mission Australia



1800 88 88 68



youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au



missionaustralia.com.au



[@MissionAust](https://twitter.com/MissionAust)



facebook.com/MissionAust

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA** | together
we stand