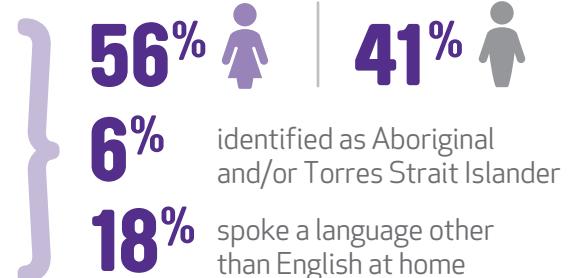


Mission Australia conducted its 18th annual survey of young people aged 15-19 in 2019.

The survey aims to identify young people's values, aspirations and concerns. This year's survey had a special focus on young people's voice, experiences of bullying, and disability.

**25,126
RESPONDENTS
aged 15-19 years**



Nearly half (49%) felt there were barriers that would impact upon them achieving their study/work goals after finishing school. A much greater proportion of females (55%) than males (41%) reported the presence of barriers.

Top 3 barriers to achieving post-school goals:

1. Academic ability 20%
2. Mental health 17%
3. Financial difficulty 12%

Top 3 personal concerns:

1. Coping with stress 45%
2. School or study problems 34%
3. Mental health 33%



More than double the proportion of females were extremely/very concerned about coping with stress (58% compared with 26% of males)

Top 3 most important issues in Australia today:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----|
| | Mental health | 36% |
| | The environment | 34% |
| | Equity and discrimination | 25% |

The % of young people identifying the **ENVIRONMENT** as an issue of national importance has **NEARLY QUADRUPLED** since 2018
9% to 34%

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked if they have enough of a say about important issues. Less than one in ten (7%) felt they have a say all of the time in public affairs.

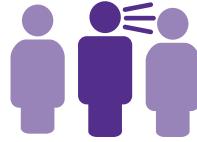
"Young people feel that people in power i.e. our schools, teachers, principals and governments are not listening to them. Governments don't seem to listen to our concern for climate change. Many young people I converse with feel helpless on the issue. That also reduces our mental health because our future seems so bleak." **F, 18, VIC**

"Politicians need to take action and young people need to be reminded their voice is powerful and therefore needs to be listened to." **F, 17, NSW**

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked about their experiences of bullying. In the past year:



**Experienced
bullying**
21%



**Witnessed
bullying take place**
48%

30% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people experienced bullying compared with 20% of non-Indigenous respondents

Of those who experienced bullying in the past year:



80%
said it happened at
school/TAFE/university



34%
experienced it
online/on social media

Kinds of bullying experienced:

71% were verbally bullied

61% were socially bullied

37% were cyberbullied

22% were physically bullied

"Bullying in schools and outside of schools. It is making young children take their own lives!" **M, 16, VIC**

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.

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

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