

Economic Disadvantage

Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2020 Sub-Report

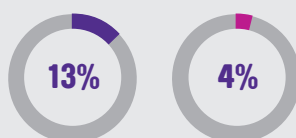
Out of a total sample of 24,436 Youth Survey 2020 respondents:

1,125 ^(5%)
young people

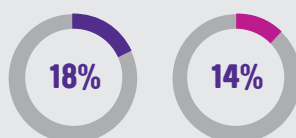


reported that neither of their parent/s or guardian/s were currently in paid work

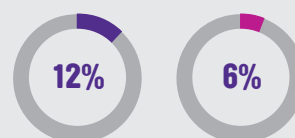
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander



Born
overseas



Living with
disability



■ Young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work

■ Young people with parent/s or guardian/s in paid work

Key differences

EDUCATION

Studying full-time ■ 78%
■ 88%

Studying part-time ■ 10%
■ 6%

Not studying ■ 12%
■ 6%

EMPLOYMENT

Working part-time ■ 28%
■ 42%

Looking for work ■ 43%
■ 34%

■ Young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work

■ Young people with parent/s or guardian/s in paid work

"The biggest issue that I have been dealing with is my family's financial security and the conflict that occurs because of this. I am not sure what I can do about it as it mainly concerns my parents however it makes me stressed." Female, 17, SA

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

Much higher proportions of young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work had experienced:

Not being able to pay bills ■ 31%
■ 10%

Seeking assistance from welfare organisations ■ 28%
■ 7%

Not being able to pay for petrol or car expenses ■ 26%
■ 7%

Much higher proportions of young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work had gone without experiencing:

A holiday with family ■ 49%
■ 28%

A meal out with family once a month ■ 35%
■ 16%

Going out with friends ■ 33%
■ 15%

■ Young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work

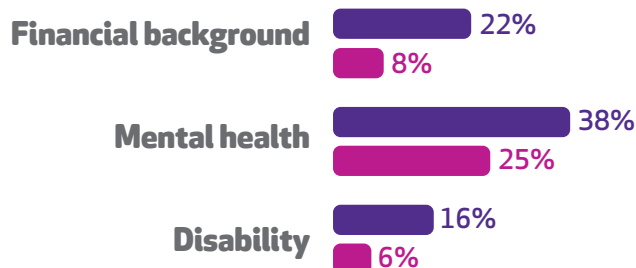
■ Young people with parent/s or guardian/s in paid work

Key differences

UNFAIR TREATMENT

More than 1/3 of young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work experienced unfair treatment in the past twelve months: 36% compared with 26% of respondents with parent/s or guardian/s in paid work.

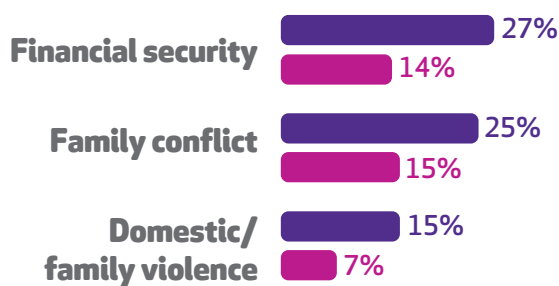
Much higher proportions of young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work experienced unfair treatment due to:



- Young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work
- Young people with parent/s or guardian/s in paid work

PERSONAL CONCERNS

Young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work experienced much higher levels of personal concern about:



- Young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work
- Young people with parent/s or guardian/s in paid work

"My family is struggling financially and sometimes I don't have the time to complete schoolwork because problems occur. I feel like sometimes teachers don't understand the stresses kids deal with at home with parents and siblings." Male, 15, SA

FAMILY

More than 1/3 of young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair or poor*: 35% compared with 21%*.

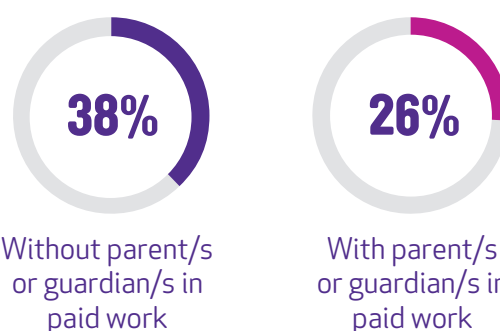
WELLBEING

More than 1 in 5 young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work felt *Very sad/sad with life as a whole*: 21% compared with 10%*. *Very negative/negative about the future*: 21% compared with 13%*.

"Financial stress at home has been one of the most significant issues. I live in a nice area with a relatively comfortable life. However, my parents' income is unsustainably low and has been for quite some time. It feels quite hopeless to even dream of owning a nice home in where I live..." Male, 19, NSW

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Young people without parent/s or guardian/s in paid work experience psychological distress at a much higher rate



* Compared with respondents with parent/s or guardian/s in paid work

Key policy recommendations

Governments have a key role to play in addressing disadvantage among young people in Australia, and should act to:

- Develop a whole-of-society approach to improving outcomes for young people, led by the Federal Government.
- Fund and replicate evidence-based programs with proven success in supporting young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to remain engaged with education.
- Fund, evaluate and replicate alternative education pathways that address the complex needs of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Develop a national youth employment strategy.
- Ensure that all households in Australia have access to adequate income through decent, stable work options or adequate income support payments during periods of unemployment.
- Ensure that all schools have developed and implemented an evidence-based strategy to address bullying, harassment and discrimination.
- Fund free or low-cost school-based and community mental health supports.
- Fully fund the Reconnect program to ensure it meets demand.
- Fund specific therapeutic interventions for children and young people who are victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

The business sector also already plays a role and could expand this even further, through:

- Making recruitment decisions based on the strengths of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, including their high personal motivation.
- Investing in training and skills development programs that provide a pathway to employment.
- Provide mentoring programs.
- Invest in peer networking, mentoring programs and paid cadetships to keep young people employed over the long term.

Philanthropic organisations can also draw on the Youth Survey as a data source to inform their investment in addressing complex social issues through evidence-based approaches.

