



national survey of young australians 2011

key and emerging issues

YOUNG PEOPLE

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Foreword

NATIONAL SURVEY OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS 2011

Mission Australia is delighted to bring you the results of our 10th National Survey of Young Australians. This comprehensive report, produced by our Research and Social Policy team, captures the thoughts of thousands of young Australians.

Our vision as an organisation is very clear and every one of our more than 3000 staff align themselves and the work they do to this vision. In essence, we seek to assist people to a better quality of life by providing pathways to that end.

One of our declared pathways is “pathways through a successful youth”. Navigating a successful youth experience means, among other things, naming the things that both help and hinder the journey. This survey provides an abundance of material in this regard.

Mission Australia will continue to work with the youth of our nation with passion and compassion. Clearly many young people need help during these vital years and we're confident the material contained in this report will assist those who have a heart to help.

I warmly commend this report for your careful consideration.

Bruce Eagles

National Chaplain



Introduction

INTRODUCTION

In 2011 Mission Australia conducted its tenth annual National 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. This year we have adjusted one of our questions to link sources of advice and support to the main issues of concern for young people.

PARTICIPATION

45,916 young people aged 11 to 24 participated in the survey in 2011. 9,903 (21.6%) completed the survey online, with the remainder being completed in hard copy.

AREAS OF FOCUS

The survey was deliberately kept brief (19 questions) in order to encourage a large response from a diversity of young people. Seven questions sought respondent's views on a variety of issues, such as what they value, their issues of concern and who they turn to for advice and support on their main issue of concern, and what activities they are involved in. The remaining questions collected demographic information including age, gender, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification, language spoken at home, state/territory location, disability status, education and employment participation, living arrangements, and postcode.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was distributed to a 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 to 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 on a variety of websites.

Each year Mission Australia provides breakdowns of key data by age and gender. The 11 to 14 age group data on study and work have been excluded because secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age. In some states/territories we find there are very small numbers of respondents in the 20 to 24 age group and in these cases we have not provided a breakdown of the data for this age group.

Changes in 2011

The question regarding employment was adjusted in 2011 and became a two-part question. We first asked whether young people had paid work, and for those who responded 'yes', we asked how many hours they worked in an average week. Part time employment was defined as less than 35 hours/week while full time employment was defined as 35 hour/week or more.

An additional response category was added to the question about main source of income. In addition to the options 'employment', 'government allowance', 'parents/family' and 'other' included in previous years, a 'no income' response category was included in 2011.

The questions relating to what young people value, their personal concerns and their sources of advice and support presented respondents with a list of options. 2011 respondents were asked to provide rankings for their top 3 items only in order of importance, whereas respondents in previous years were asked to rank all items.

A new question was introduced in the 2011 National Survey which asked respondents to indicate whether they had somewhere they could go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. Respondents who answered 'yes' to this question were then asked to complete a question regarding the sources they turn to for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. This 'advice and support' question contained identical items to the 'advice and support' question in previous years, but is now linked to respondents' main issue of concern.

These changes in the 2011 survey need to be taken into consideration when interpreting the results and comparing responses across years.

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 comparing data between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people (within this document Aboriginal is the reference used to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people). Each of the chapters contains a breakdown of the key data by age and gender.



Executive summary

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Responses to the 2011 survey were received from 45,916 young people living in a range of communities across Australia. Around 58% were living in a capital city and the remainder in other areas of each state and territory. The largest proportion of responses came from New South Wales (32.5%), Queensland (22.8%) and Victoria (16.7%). Half of the participants (49.9%) were aged 15 to 19 years, 47.9% were aged 11 to 14, and 2.1% were aged 20 to 24 years. A little over half of respondents were female (54%). Compared to 2010, there was a slight increase in the number of responses from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (5.8% compared to last year's figure of 4.8%), young people who spoke a language other than English at home (19.4% compared to 15.9% last year), and young people with a disability (4.0% compared to 3.2% last year). The largest proportion of participants were studying full time (89.7%, up from 85.5% in 2010). Almost four in ten respondents (38.2%, a decrease from 45.9% last year) were in paid employment, the majority in part time work.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE VALUE

In 2011, as in previous years, *family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items valued by young people (74.3% and 59.0% of respondents respectively). *School or study satisfaction* was the third top issue, highly valued by 36.9% of respondents, a considerable increase from last year's figure of 29.3%. A greater proportion of females and of respondents aged 11 to 14 years highly valued these top three items. *Physical and mental health* was also ranked highly by almost a third of respondents. There was a substantial increase in the proportion of young people valuing *getting a job* (22.7% compared with 16.0% in 2010). Respondents aged 20 to 24 highly valued *financial security* (39.0%).

ISSUES OF PERSONAL CONCERN

Young people were asked to rank their top three personal concerns from a list of 15 items. Nationally, the top three issues of concern were *school or study problems* (37.3% of respondents, up from last year's figure of 25.5%), *coping with stress* (35.4% compared with 27.3% in 2010), and *body image* (33.1% compared with 31.1% last year). Respondents aged 20 to 24 were more likely to be concerned about *coping with stress*, *body image* and *depression* than the younger respondents. Concerns about *family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *personal safety*, *drugs*, *alcohol* and *suicide* decreased with age. Female participants were more likely than males to be concerned about *coping with stress* and *body image*, while males were more likely to be concerned about *drugs* and *alcohol* than females.

WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE TURN FOR ADVICE AND SUPPORT ON THEIR MAIN ISSUE OF CONCERN

This year young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere to go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. Over 20% of respondents stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support. The older age group (20 to 24 years), and male respondents, were more likely to report that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support. As in previous years of the survey, *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* were the three main sources of advice and support, and these were so for all issues of concern, all age groups, and both genders. The *internet* was ranked highly as a source of advice and support for over one in five respondents concerned about *sexuality*, *the environment*, *discrimination*, *body image*, *depression*, and *self harm*.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA TODAY

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. In 2011, the top three issues identified by young people were *the environment* (44.7%, a slight decrease from 45.7% last year), *alcohol and drugs* (31.7%, down from last year's figure of 37.1%), and *the economy and financial matters* (20.3%, up from 18.6% in 2010). *Population issues* was identified by 19.1% of respondents in 2011, compared with 13.3% last year. Participants aged 11 to 14 were more likely to identify *the environment*, *alcohol and drugs*, and *crime and safety*, while the 20 to 24 age group were more likely to identify *the economy and financial matters* and *mental health*. Compared to males, female respondents were more likely to identify *the environment*, *equity and discrimination*, *bullying* and *mental health*, while males were more likely to identify *alcohol and drugs*, *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues*, *crime, safety and violence*, and *politics and societal values* than females.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Sports (as a participant), *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities* were the three most popular activities young people were involved in. Overall, there was a slight decrease in participation rates across all activities from 2010 levels. Participation in *sports (as a participant)* decreased with age while participation in *arts/cultural activities*, *volunteer work*, and *youth groups and clubs* increased with age. Males were more likely than females to participate in *sports* (both *as a participant* and *as a spectator*) while females were more likely to participate in *arts/cultural activities*, *volunteer work*, and *student leadership activities*.

THE FUTURE

Respondents were asked to describe how positive or negative they felt about the future. The results were very similar to those in 2010, with almost two thirds of respondents feeling either *positive* or *very positive* about the future and less than one in ten young people feeling *negative* or *very negative*. The proportion of young people who felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future increased with age.

SOME PRIORITY ISSUES

A number of priority issues emerged from this year's survey:

- 1. Coping with stress:** This year's survey has shown a greater number of young people concerned about *coping with stress* (an 8% increase from 2010 and a 17% increase from 2009). The data indicate that young people are dealing with a range of competing demands and pressures. As more respondents were engaged in full time education (a 5% increase from last year), the value that young people place on *school or study satisfaction* increased (up 8% from 2010), as did young people's concern about *school or study problems* (a 12% increase from last year). This year's survey has also found fewer respondents in paid employment (down 8% from 2010) and a greater proportion of young people who highly value *getting a job* (a 7% increase from last year). For young people, *the economy and financial matters* remains as one of the most important issues in Australia today. In addition to the pressures of education, lack of job opportunities and financial difficulties, a substantial proportion of young people deal with *family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *mental health* and *drug and alcohol* issues. Given the negative impact of long-term stress on both mental and physical health, there is clearly a need for not only providing young people with practical strategies to deal with everyday stress, but most importantly for a whole-of-community preventative approach to the issue.
- 2. Body image:** As in previous years, young people's level of concern with *body image* remains high, particularly among females and the young adult group. We welcome the latest initiatives announced by the Australian Government such as the "Respect Every Body" learning resources for schools, and the "Positive Body Image Awards" for organisations and products that promote positive body image and self confidence. However, more efforts and resources are required to promote young people's media literacy, self esteem and healthy body image.
- 3. Family issues:** Once again, the survey shows the crucial role that the family environment plays on young people's lives. *Family relationships* were highly valued by three in four respondents, *parents* and *relatives* were major sources of advice and support for all issues of concern, and *family conflict* was an issue of personal concern for a third of young people who participated in the survey. These findings support the need for evidence-based integrated programs and services that promote loving and nurturing home environments and support parents and carers, vulnerable families in particular, to develop high quality parenting and nurturing relationships with children¹.

¹ Western Australia Commissioner for Children and Young People (2010) Speaking out about wellbeing: Children and young people speak out about families. CCYP: Subiaco WA

4. **Advice and support on issues of concern:** The fact that one in five young people in the survey stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support on their number one issue of concern is worrying. Given the growing evidence of the positive association between social support and mental health this finding highlights the need to increase our efforts as a society to reach others in the community including our relatives, neighbours, classmates, and work colleagues. Young people who report they have no-one to talk to are at higher risk of depression². Belonging to a social network has a powerful protective effect on health³.
5. **The environment:** As in 2010, *the environment* was identified by respondents as the most important issue in Australia today. This demonstrates that young people are not disconnected from issues of national interest. As young people are likely to live longer with the consequences of current decisions about environmental issues, their concerns and opinions should inform public debate and policy-making. More effective strategies that encourage participation of young people in environmental protection are required.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The 2011 survey provides a unique insight into the values and concerns of almost 46,000 young people across Australia. The picture that emerges is of young people who are positive about the future, committed to improving their educational and employment opportunities, and aware of those issues that are important to the nation. These young people, however, are juggling a range of competing demands and pressures, including *coping with stress*, *school or study problems*, *body image* and *family issues*. These findings should continue to inform policy-making and service provision relevant to young people's wellbeing at both local and national levels.

² Glover, S. Burns, J. Butler, H. & Patton, G. (1998), "Social Environments and the Emotional Wellbeing of Young People" *Family Matters* No 49 Australian Institute of Family Studies.

³ Mental Health & Wellbeing Unit (2005) Social inclusion as a determinant of mental health and wellbeing. Research Summary 2. VicHealth: Melbourne.



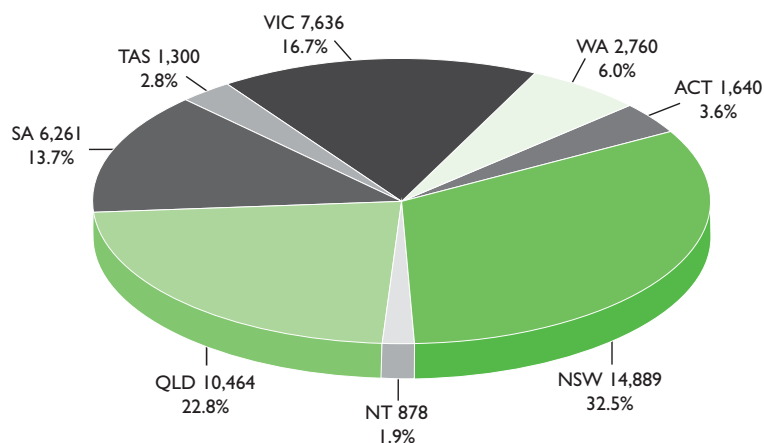
National summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

State and Territory Distribution

A total of 45,916 young people responded to Mission Australia's 2011 National Survey of Young Australians. Respondents came from across Australia and Figure 1 indicates the number and percentage of respondents received from each state/territory. There were 88 respondents who 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 11 to 24 years and the results have been collated into three age groups. As Table 1 shows, the largest group was aged 15 to 19 years (49.9%). As in previous years, the smallest group of responses came from young adults aged 20 to 24 years (2.1%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	21,505	47.9
15-19 years	22,388	49.9
20-24 years	961	2.1
Total	44,854	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

A little over half (53%) of respondents were female and 47% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

2,634 (5.8%) respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. As Table 2 shows, a slightly higher proportion (7.7%) of the young adult group 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 %
Aboriginal respondents	2,634	5.8	6.1	5.1	7.7
Non Aboriginal respondents	42,537	94.2	93.9	94.9	92.3

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 80% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 8,840 (19.4%) who indicated they spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 70 languages between them. The ten most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Filipino/Tagalog, Cantonese, Italian, Greek, Mandarin, Korean, and Samoan.

Disability

1,806 (4.0%) respondents indicated they had a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): learning disability, Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), autism, physical disability; and deafness or hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

As in previous years, the vast majority of respondents (94.5%) lived *with family*. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

653 young people were living in a *boarding school*, 262 were in *foster care* and a further 272 were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison*. 209 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* also participated.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	Total %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	94.5	97.7	93.4	52.1
Boarding school	1.4	0.6	2.3	1.3
Share house	1.3	0.5	1.2	21.4
Foster care	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.1
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.6	0.3	0.8	2.0
Alone	0.5	0.1	0.5	9.9
Homeless/insecure housing	0.5	0.2	0.6	2.8
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.2	0.0	0.1	7.7
Other	0.4	0.2	0.5	2.7

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows around 58% of respondents lived in a capital city. With the exception of young adults, about two in five young people lived outside a capital city.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	Total %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	26,514	58.2	57.9	58.3	67.7
Not in capital city	19,023	41.8	42.1	41.7	32.3

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income for the majority of respondents (61.9%). Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they become 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

	Total %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Parents/family	61.9	71.7	55.1	7.5	65.0	58.4
Employment	16.0	4.3	25.3	61.4	16.2	15.7
Government Allowance	4.4	0.5	7.1	24.6	4.1	4.7
Other	0.7	0.7	0.6	2.7	0.4	0.9
No income	17.1	22.8	11.9	3.7	14.2	20.3

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds have been excluded from this section, given secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age.

As Table 6 shows, 89.7% of respondents aged 15 to 24 years were *studying full time*, slightly higher than the 85.5% of respondents in the 2010 National Survey. As might be expected, the 15 to 19 years age group were much more likely than the young adult group to be *studying full time* (91.8% compared to 40.1%). 2.7% of the younger group compared to 20.1% of the young adult group were *studying part time*, while 39.8% of 20 to 24 year olds compared with 5.5% of 15 to 19 year olds were *not studying*. Female respondents were slightly more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time* (almost 91% compared to 88.4%), while male respondents were slightly more likely than females to be *not studying* (8% compared with almost 6%).

Table 6: Participation in education

	Total %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	89.7	91.8	40.1	90.9	88.4
Studying part time	3.4	2.7	20.1	3.3	3.6
Not studying	6.9	5.5	39.8	5.8	8.0

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

The employment question was adjusted in the 2011 National Survey and asked respondents to indicate whether they had paid work. Respondents who answered 'yes' this question were then asked to state how many hours they worked in an average week.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Almost two thirds (61.8%) of respondents were *not in paid employment*, while more than a third (36.4%) were *employed part-time* and 1.8% were *employed full-time*. As might be expected, the young adult group were more likely to be in paid employment than those aged 15 to 19 years (70.3% compared to 36.8%) and more likely to be *employed full-time* (31% compared to 0.5%). The employment status of females and males was quite similar; although slightly more males than females were *not in paid employment* (66.7% compared to 61.8%), and slightly more females than males were *employed part-time* (36.4% compared with 32.1%).

Table 7: Participation in paid employment

	Total %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Employed full time	1.8	0.5	31.0	1.8	1.2
Employed part time	36.4	36.3	39.3	36.4	32.1
Not in paid employment	61.8	63.2	29.7	61.8	66.7

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full time is 35 hours or more.

DETAILED NATIONAL RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank the top three items they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. The data from this question have been very consistent across the ten years of the survey. In 2011, as in previous years, *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a large proportion of respondents and were clearly the top two values. *School or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health* were also considered by many young people to be very important.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 74.3% and 59.0% of respondents respectively.
- *School or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health* were highly valued by around a third of respondents.
- Around 23% of respondents valued *getting a job*, up from 16.0% in 2010.

Table 8: What young people value

	2011 %	2010 %	2009 %	2008 %
Family relationships	74.3	78.8	75.6	75.3
Friendships (other than family)	59.0	60.9	60.6	62.3
School or study satisfaction	36.9	29.3	22.0	21.0
Physical and mental health	32.0	33.9	31.1	31.8
Getting a job	22.7	16.0	18.1	16.9
Being independent	21.6	27.0	32.7	31.7
Feeling needed and valued	13.8	21.8	26.1	26.2
Financial security	11.6	13.5	13.8	13.4
Spirituality/faith	9.6	13.6	12.8	14.0
Making a difference in the community	6.6	6.2	8.2	7.8

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows what young people value across the three age groups. The top two items for those aged 11 to 19 were *family relationships* and *friendships*, while for the 20 to 24 year olds these were *family relationships*, and *financial security*. *School or study satisfaction* was also highly valued by young people aged 11 to 19 years. Young people across all age groups indicated that *physical and mental health* was highly valued.

- *Family relationships* was the top issue for all age groups, with more than 60% of respondents in each age group indicating it was highly valued.
- Around 60% of young people aged 11 to 19 highly valued *friendships* compared with 36.5% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by close to a third of all age groups.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by over a third of those aged 11 to 19 years, compared with 14.4% of those aged 20 to 24.
- *Financial security* was highly valued by almost 40% of young adults, more than five times the proportion of those aged 11 to 14 years who valued it.
- More than one fifth of young adults highly valued *making a difference in the community* compared with just 6.0% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	77.9	71.5	63.1
Friendships (other than family)	62.3	57.3	36.5
School or study satisfaction	38.9	36.4	14.4
Physical and mental health	31.2	32.9	35.0
Getting a job	24.2	20.9	15.0
Being independent	17.4	25.3	28.5
Feeling needed and valued	12.8	14.4	22.8
Financial security	6.8	15.3	39.0
Spirituality/faith	9.6	9.5	13.1
Making a difference in the community	6.0	6.5	22.3

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 10, the top two items valued by both genders were *family relationships* and *friendships*. There were some differences in the proportion of males and females who value each item, such as seen for *family relationships*, *friendships*, *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*.

- 78.6% of female respondents and 69.5% of male respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 61.8% of female respondents and just over half (55.9%) of male respondents.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 40.8% of female respondents and 32.6% of male respondents.
- Close to one third of both genders highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- Male respondents were twice as likely as female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (31.0% of male respondents compared with 15.6% of female respondents).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	78.6	69.5
Friendships (other than family)	61.8	55.9
School or study satisfaction	40.8	32.6
Physical and mental health	30.0	34.4
Getting a job	15.6	30.8
Being independent	21.3	22.0
Feeling needed and valued	15.9	11.4
Financial security	10.6	12.8
Spirituality/faith	10.3	8.8
Making a difference in the community	7.5	5.5

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank their top three personal concerns from the list of options set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern to young people in 2011 were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *body image*, followed by *family conflict* and *bullying/emotional abuse*. The level of concern about *school or study problems* and *coping with stress* increased since 2010.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern in 2011, with 37.3% of respondents indicating that it was of major concern, up from 25.5% in 2010.
- 35.4% of young people indicated that *coping with stress* was of major concern to them, up from 27.3% in 2010.
- *Body image* was the third ranked issue of concern (33.1% of respondents).
- Over a quarter of young people indicated that *family conflict* was of major concern.

There were a number of other issues that were of concern to at least one in five respondents, including *bullying and emotional abuse* and *personal safety*.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	2011 %	2010 %	2009 %	2008 %
School or study problems	37.3	25.5	17.3	18.6
Coping with stress	35.4	27.3	18.7	20.4
Body image	33.1	31.1	25.5	26.3
Family conflict	28.1	27.8	24.1	25.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.8	23.0	23.4	22.6
Personal safety	20.3	23.5	22.2	22.9
Depression	18.1	19.1	18.7	17.8
The environment	17.7	16.6	16.7	18.4
Drugs	16.9	20.5	26.8	26.0
Alcohol	15.2	22.2	23.0	20.9
Suicide	9.9	19.6	26.3	24.6
Discrimination	8.8	10.0	11.7	12.6
Physical/sexual abuse	8.5	15.7	22.7	22.6
Self harm	6.4	11.3	13.3	13.7
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	6.4	10.9	11.4	12.2

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 shows what young people were concerned about across the three age groups. The top three issues (not necessarily in order) for those aged 11 to 19 years were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *body image*. The top issues for the young adult group differed slightly. While they shared concern about *coping with stress* and *body image* with the younger groups, their third issue of concern was *depression*. As in 2010, the proportion of young people who indicated *coping with stress*, *body image* and *depression* were of major concern increased with age. Conversely, concern about *family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *personal safety*, *the environment*, *drugs*, *alcohol* and *suicide* decreased with age.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for young people aged 11 to 19 years, with a third (33.5%) of 11 to 14 year olds and 41.8% of 15 to 19 year olds indicating it was of major concern, compared with just 19.8% of young adults.
- *Coping with stress* was a top three personal concern for all three age groups and concern about this increased with age, with 27.4% of 11 to 14 years olds, 42.6% of 15 to 19 year olds and 52.2% of the young adult group indicating it was of major concern.
- *Body image* was a major concern for all age groups and increased with age from 30.4% of 11 to 14 year olds to 41.1% of young adults.
- A top concern for young adults was *depression*, with 35.1% of this group indicating it was of major concern.
- Over one quarter of those aged 11 to 19 indicated *family conflict* was of major concern, compared to 18.7% of young adults.

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

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
School or study problems	33.5	41.8	19.8
Coping with stress	27.4	42.6	52.2
Body image	30.4	35.5	41.1
Family conflict	28.5	28.0	18.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	28.3	18.1	12.7
Personal safety	24.3	17.1	14.0
Depression	14.6	20.9	35.1
The environment	20.1	15.4	18.5
Drugs	20.2	13.9	11.4
Alcohol	15.6	14.6	13.0
Suicide	11.0	8.8	7.2
Discrimination	7.2	10.1	13.0
Physical/sexual abuse	9.6	7.5	8.4
Self harm	6.7	6.1	5.4
Sexuality	5.6	7.0	8.0

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

There were both differences and similarities in the issues of concern for females and males. For females, *body image* was the top issue of concern, followed by *coping with stress* and *school or study problems*. The top three issues for males were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *family conflict*. As in 2010, males were more likely to be concerned about *drugs* and *alcohol* than females, while females were more likely to be concerned about *body image*, *coping with stress*, and *family conflict*.

- *School or study problems* was a top concern for over a third of both genders.
- *Coping with stress* was a top issue of concern for both males and females, although females were more likely than males to indicate this was of major concern (39.4% compared with 30.6%).
- *Body image* was the top concern of female respondents (42.5%).
- 26.6% of male respondents identified *family conflict* as a top three concern.
- More male respondents than female respondents indicated that *alcohol* was of major concern (19.8% compared to 11.4%).

A number of items were of concern to similar proportions of male and female respondents, including *school or study problems*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *personal safety* and *the environment*.

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

	Female %	Male %
School or study problems	37.3	37.3
Coping with stress	39.4	30.6
Body image	42.5	21.9
Family conflict	29.4	26.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.7	22.9
Personal safety	19.1	21.8
Depression	19.7	16.2
The environment	17.0	18.5
Drugs	12.2	22.5
Alcohol	11.4	19.8
Suicide	8.8	11.1
Discrimination	7.5	10.3
Physical/sexual abuse	9.8	6.9
Self harm	6.3	6.5
Sexuality	5.5	7.3

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

This year young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere to go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. Over 20% of respondents stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. Table 14 shows the main sources of advice and support among those respondents who felt they had somewhere to go. As in previous years of the survey, *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* were the three main sources of advice or support, and these were so for all issues of concern. Additionally, this year the survey shows that:

- *Friends* were the number one source of advice for almost all issues, for 87.2% of respondents concerned about *body image* at the highest, through to 76.2% of respondents concerned about *drugs*.
- The proportion of respondents who turned to *parents* for advice and support varied across the issues, from 83.9% of respondents concerned about *personal safety* at the highest, through to 57.1% of respondents concerned about *self harm*.
- *Relative/family friend* was a source of advice and support for around half of respondents across the different issues of concern.
- *The internet* was ranked highly as a source of advice and support for concerns about *sexuality* (28.4% of respondents), *the environment* (26.6%), *discrimination* (23.2%), *body image* (21.4%), *depression* (21.1%), and *self harm* (20.6%).
- *School counsellors* were relatively highly ranked for concerns about *bullying/emotional abuse* (24.1% of respondents), *depression* (23.4%), *suicide* (21.6%), *self harm* (20.1%), and *drugs* (19.9%).
- *Teachers* were a source of advice and support for concerns about *school or study problems* (33.9%), *bullying/emotional abuse* (24.4%), *coping with stress* (18.8%), *the environment* (18.5%), and *personal safety* (16.8%).
- About one in ten respondents used *magazines* for advice and support when concerned about *body image* and *self harm*.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

	Community Agencies %	Friend/s %	Internet %	Magazines %	Parent/s %	Relative/Family Friend %	School counsellor %	Someone else in your community %	Teacher %	Telephone Helpline %
School or study problems	3.2	81.2	16.4	3.0	79.3	47.3	13.1	4.5	33.9	1.5
Coping with stress	4.9	86.2	17.0	4.3	78.9	50.4	14.2	7.0	18.8	1.7
Body image	5.2	87.2	21.4	11.1	70.0	50.0	13.5	7.2	10.0	2.7
Family conflict	6.6	84.7	11.3	4.2	64.6	62.7	18.7	7.5	12.9	3.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.4	77.0	10.3	4.4	76.7	49.9	24.1	5.2	24.4	3.6
Personal safety	4.8	81.8	13.7	3.7	83.9	57.3	14.3	6.9	16.8	2.6
Depression	14.3	77.8	21.1	4.8	58.4	44.0	23.4	12.6	11.5	5.9
The environment	8.2	77.6	26.6	7.2	73.7	46.3	10.7	6.5	18.5	2.8
Drugs	8.9	76.2	16.4	3.9	75.3	49.8	19.9	9.3	16.3	4.9
Alcohol	13.1	78.1	17.4	6.3	70.8	47.4	15.7	8.7	14.7	4.3
Suicide	10.8	78.6	17.1	4.5	67.9	48.3	21.6	10.0	13.3	9.0
Discrimination	9.0	80.7	23.2	5.9	74.1	48.3	14.4	10.2	14.6	4.0
Physical/sexual abuse	9.1	84.1	14.2	5.6	71.8	51.9	18.7	8.2	13.0	6.5
Self harm	8.9	81.5	20.6	10.1	57.1	44.1	20.1	10.3	11.8	6.7
Sexuality	7.7	83.6	28.4	7.7	59.1	46.6	13.9	8.2	13.2	2.3

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

Age differences

The older age group (20 to 24 years) were more likely to report that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support on their number one issue of concern (28.5% of respondents), followed by the 11 to 14 year olds (21.9%) and the 15 to 19 year olds (20.7%). Table 15 shows where young people turn for advice and support on the top six issues of concern, by age. The 20 to 24 year olds respondents are excluded due to low numbers.

- Overall, the main sources of advice and support for the two age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*.
- While the 11 to 14 year old respondents ranked parents as the top source of advice and support for concerns about *school or study problems*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, and *personal safety*, the 15 to 19 year olds ranked *friends* as their top source of advice and support for these issues of concern.
- Both age groups ranked *internet* as the fourth source of advice and support when concerned about their *body image*.
- Compared to the 11 to 14 year olds, older respondents were more likely to seek advice and support from the *internet* when concerned about *personal safety* and *coping with stress*.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern, by age

Issue of Concern	Age Group	Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)					
		Parents	Friends	Relative/Family Friend	Teacher	Internet	School Counsellor
School or study problems	11-14	82.1	76.3	50.0	13.3	13.3	13.2
	15-19	84.5	77.7	45.6	35.3	18.3	13.0
Coping with stress	11-14	82.4	81.1	55.3	16.8	15.1	11.3
	15-19	88.3	78.6	48.3	20.5	19.3	14.0
Body image	11-14	84.0	73.1	54.0	16.1	14.4	11.8
	15-19	90.0	68.6	47.3	25.0	13.1	10.6
Family conflict	11-14	81.6	69.7	64.7	18.0	13.3	9.1
	15-19	88.5	60.8	60.1	20.0	13.2	13.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	11-14	79.7	74.6	51.7	26.8	24.0	7.9
	15-19	81.1	72.6	47.1	24.9	20.7	13.9
Personal safety	11-14	86.2	81.0	59.4	18.7	14.5	10.9
	15-19	83.3	80.8	53.6	18.0	14.4	14.3

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

Gender differences

Males were more likely than females to report that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support on their number one issue of concern (26.2% compared to 17.5%). The main sources of advice and support on the top six issues of concern by gender are shown in Table 16.

- Overall, the major sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*.
- Both genders ranked *the internet* as the fourth source of advice and support when concerned about their *body image*.
- Males were more likely than females to seek advice and support from the *internet* when concerned about *coping with stress*, *family conflict*, and *personal safety*.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern, by gender

Issue of Concern	Gender	Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)					
School or or study problems	Female	Friends 85.0	Parent/s 80.5	Relative/Family Friend 50.4	Teacher 24.4	Internet 13.2	School Counsellor 12.3
	Male	Parent/s 78.0	Friends 77.4	Relative/Family Friend 44.2	Teacher 33.4	Internet 19.6	School Counsellor 14.0
Coping with stress	Female	Friends 88.3	Parent/s 79.6	Relative/Family Friend 51.2	Teacher 19.1	Internet 15.6	School Counsellor 13.8
	Male	Friends 82.6	Parent/s 77.6	Relative/Family Friend 49.1	Internet 20.3	Teacher 18.3	School Counsellor 15.2
Body image	Female	Friends 89.5	Parent/s 70.1	Relative/Family Friend 50.6	Internet 20.0	School Counsellor 13.8	Magazines 13.1
	Male	Friends 79.5	Parent/s 69.9	Relative/Family Friend 47.8	Internet 26.3	Teacher 12.9	School Counsellor 12.6
Family conflict	Female	Friends 88.2	Relative/Family Friend 63.2	Parent/s 62.5	School Counsellor 18.8	Teacher 13.4	Internet 10.1
	Male	Friends 79.8	Parent/s 67.4	Relative/Family Friend 62.0	School Counsellor 18.7	Internet 13.0	Teacher 12.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	Female	Friends 81.5	Parent/s 77.3	Relative/Family Friend 52.9	School Counsellor 24.3	Teacher 21.3	Internet 7.7
	Male	Friends 71.5	Parent/s 2.8	Relative/Family Friend 46.2	Teacher 28.3	School Counsellor 23.9	Internet 13.6
Personal safety	Female	Parent/s 85.2	Friends 84.0	Relative/Family Friend 61.1	Teacher 15.2	School Counsellor 13.7	Internet 10.7
	Male	Parent/s 82.3	Friends 79.0	Relative/Family Friend 52.5	Teacher 18.8	Internet 17.4	School Counsellor 15.1

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 17. In 2011 the top three issues identified by young people were *the environment*, *alcohol and drugs* (as in 2010), followed by *the economy and financial matters*.

- 44.7% of all respondents indicated that *the environment* was an important issue for Australia today.
- Almost a third (31.7%) of young people identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue.
- Around one in five young people indicated *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues* and *crime, safety and violence* were important issues.

Table 17: Most important issues in Australia today

	2011 %	2010 %
The environment	44.7	45.7
Alcohol and drugs	31.7	37.1
The economy and financial matters	20.3	18.6
Population issues	19.1	13.3
Crime, safety and violence	18.4	21.0
Equity and discrimination	16.9	20.6
Bullying	14.9	10.0
Politics and societal values	14.5	13.3
Health	14.3	15.8
Mental health	9.9	11.6
Abuse	7.7	10.0
Homelessness/housing	7.3	5.7
Education	6.7	7.3
International relations	5.0	3.3
Employment	4.9	5.2
Adolescence/youth	4.0	4.2
Poverty/disadvantage	3.0	3.0
Animal rights and welfare	2.3	2.0
Relationships	2.0	2.6

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

Age differences

There were both similarities and differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by young people across the age groups. *The environment* was the top issue of concern across all age groups, although young people aged 11 to 14 were more likely to identify this as a concern than older groups. *Alcohol and drugs* was identified by those aged 11 to 19 as a top issue, while for 15 to 24 year olds *the economy and financial matters* was identified as a top issue.

- All three age groups identified *the environment* as the top issue facing Australia, with 52.8% of 11 to 14 year olds, 37.4% of those aged 15 to 19 years and 39.0% of those aged 20 to 24 years indicating it was an important issue.
- Close to one third of young people aged 11 to 19 years indicated *alcohol and drugs* was an important issue.
- 11 to 14 year olds were more likely to indicate *crime, safety and violence* as an important concern than older age groups (22.1% compared with 15.1% of the 15-19 year olds and 10.8% of the young adult group).
- Almost one in four respondents aged 20 to 24 years rated *mental health* as an important issue compared to about one in ten respondents in the younger age groups.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 18, results for both genders are quite similar. Both genders identified the most important issues facing Australia today as *the environment, alcohol and other drugs* and *the economy and financial matters*. However, more female than male respondents identified *the environment, bullying* and *health* while more males than females identified *alcohol and drugs, the economy and financial matters, population issues, crime, safety and violence* and *politics and societal values*.

- One half (50.1%) of female respondents and over one third (38.3%) of male respondents identified *the environment* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- Close to a third (34.5%) of male respondents and 29.3% of female respondents identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue.

Table 18: Most important issues in Australia today, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	52.8	37.4	39.0	50.1	38.3
Alcohol and drugs	33.6	30.3	20.1	29.3	34.5
The economy and financial matters	19.1	21.3	24.8	18.5	22.5
Population issues	16.7	21.3	21.9	17.0	21.6
Crime, safety and violence	22.1	15.1	10.8	16.8	20.2
Equity and discrimination	11.6	22.0	18.2	18.2	15.2
Bullying	18.1	12.1	5.7	17.1	12.2
Politics and societal values	13.9	15.2	14.0	11.5	18.1
Health	14.0	14.6	14.5	15.6	12.7
Mental health	8.5	10.7	22.5	12.0	7.3
Abuse	8.8	6.8	3.7	9.4	5.6
Homelessness/housing	6.8	7.5	13.4	8.8	5.5
Education	5.5	7.7	10.9	6.7	6.8
International relations	5.2	5.0	3.6	3.8	6.6
Employment	3.6	5.8	12.7	4.5	5.4
Adolescence/youth	2.9	4.9	6.5	5.0	2.8
Poverty/disadvantage	2.9	3.1	4.7	3.5	2.5
Animal rights and welfare	3.0	1.7	1.2	2.9	1.5
Relationships	2.2	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list shown in Table 19. As in previous years, the top three activities for young people were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*. Significant proportions also participated in *volunteer work, youth groups and clubs, student leadership activities* and *religious groups or activities*.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities* were the three most popular activities for young people in 2011.
- More than two thirds (70.7%) of respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*, while over half 51.9% indicated they were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Close to one third (30.2%) of respondents were participating in *arts/cultural activities*.
- At least one in five respondents participated in *volunteer work, youth groups and clubs, student leadership activities* and *religious groups or activities*.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in

	2011 %	2010 %	2009 %	2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	70.7	71.3	64.2	67.6
Sports (as a spectator)	51.9	57.2	39.3	46.5
Arts/cultural activities	30.2	31.2	23.4	44.1
Volunteer work	27.9	28.3	18.5	22.2
Youth groups and clubs	25.0	27.0	20.3	26.8
Student leadership activities	24.4	25.7	9.5	12.4
Religious groups or activities	23.2	25.5	20.0	25.9
Environmental groups or activities	11.7	13.3	9.8	14.3
Political groups or organisations*	4.7	5.6	N/A	N/A

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed; *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 20 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* remain the top two activities across all age groups in 2011, involvement in *sports (as a participant)* declines with age. Conversely, involvement in *volunteer work*, *environmental groups and activities* and *political groups or organisations* increased with age.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the top two activities across all age groups.
- Participation in *sports (as a participant)* was highest for 11 to 14 year olds (76.6%), declining to 66.5% of 15 to 19 year olds and 40.7% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Close to one half (47.4%) of young adults were involved in *volunteer work*, compared with one third (33.5%) of 15 to 19 year olds and 21.0 % of 11 to 14 year olds.
- Around a quarter or more of all age groups were involved in *youth groups and clubs*.

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

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	76.6	66.5	40.7
Sports (as a spectator)	50.0	54.2	41.7
Arts/cultural activities	29.3	30.8	34.8
Volunteer work	21.0	33.5	47.4
Youth groups and clubs	24.8	24.8	30.1
Student leadership activities	20.9	28.0	17.0
Religious groups or activities	23.3	23.2	22.1
Environmental groups or activities	10.7	12.4	16.4
Political groups or organisations	3.4	5.2	13.4

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 21, the top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a larger proportion of males than females were involved in both these activities. Participation in *arts/cultural activities* was the third most popular activity for females, while for males it was *youth groups and clubs*.

- 74.6% of male respondents and 67.3% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (58.5% compared to 46.2%).
- More than one third (35.6%) of female respondents were involved in *arts/cultural activities*, compared to 23.6% of male respondents.
- More female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work* (30.4% compared to 24.8%).

Table 21: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	67.3	74.6
Sports (as a spectator)	46.2	58.5
Arts/cultural activities	35.6	23.6
Volunteer work	30.4	24.8
Youth groups and clubs	24.2	25.9
Student leadership activities	26.5	21.8
Religious groups or activities	23.1	23.3
Environmental groups or activities	11.8	11.7
Political groups or organisations	3.9	5.5

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Respondents were asked to describe how positive or negative they felt about the future. Table 22 shows that results are very similar to those in 2010, and almost two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* or *very positive* when they thought about the future. Overall, less than one in 10 young people felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

- Almost two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* or *very positive* when they thought about the future.
- Over a quarter (28.1%) of respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Less than one in 10 young people felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 22: Feelings about the future

	2011 %	2010 %
Very Positive	20.4	21.2
Positive	42.7	43.1
Neither	28.1	27.0
Negative	5.6	5.5
Very Negative	3.3	3.2

Age differences

Table 23 shows how young people feel about the future across the three age groups. There is a slight decrease in respondents who felt *very positive* as age increases, and at the same time, there is a slight increase in respondents who felt *positive*, *negative* or *very negative* about the future as age increases.

- More 11 to 19 year olds felt *very positive* about the future than 20 to 24 year olds (around 20% compared to 15%).
- The proportion of respondents who felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future increased from 7.9% of 11 to 14 year olds, to 9.4% of 15 to 19 year olds and 14.2% of 20 to 24 year olds.

Gender differences

Table 23 shows that males were slightly more likely to feel *very positive* about the future than females, while females were slightly more likely to express neutral feelings compared with males.

- 64.9% of males felt *positive* or *very positive* about the future, compared to 61.5% of female respondents.
- 30.2% of female respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future, compared to 25.7% of males.

Table 23: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very Positive	20.9	19.9	15.0	17.5	23.8
Positive	42.8	42.8	44.2	44.0	41.1
Neither positive nor negative	28.4	27.9	26.7	30.2	25.7
Negative	5.0	5.9	9.3	5.6	5.5
Very Negative	2.9	3.5	4.9	2.7	3.9



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The 2011 National Survey of Young Australians asked respondents whether they identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (referred to within this document as Aboriginal). 2,634 (5.8%) respondents indicated they identified as Aboriginal.

State and Territory distribution

As shown in Table 1, the highest proportion of surveys from Aboriginal respondents came from New South Wales (31.4%), which also had the highest proportion of responses overall (32.5%). A high proportion of responses came from Aboriginal young people in the Northern Territory relative to the overall number of Northern Territory responses.

Table 1: Percentage of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents by state/territory

	Aboriginal respondents %	Non Aboriginal respondents %
Australian Capital Territory	1.4	3.7
New South Wales	31.4	32.5
Northern Territory	8.3	1.5
Queensland	24.5	22.7
South Australia	11.0	13.9
Tasmania	5.4	2.7
Victoria	6.8	17.4
Western Australia	11.2	5.7

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 are for those who responded.

Age breakdown

The proportion of responses received from Aboriginal and non Aboriginal young people across the three age groups were similar (Table 2). A little over half (51.9%) of responses received from Aboriginal young people were from those aged 11 to 14, while 45.1% were from respondents aged 15 to 19. A small percentage (3.0%) were from young adults aged 20 to 24. Given the small number of respondents aged 20 to 24, results from this age group have not been included in age breakdowns in this chapter.

Table 2: Age profile of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents

Age in years	Number of Aboriginal respondents	Aboriginal respondents %	Non Aboriginal respondents %
11-14 years	1,298	51.9	47.5
15-19 years	1,128	45.1	50.3
20-24 years	74	3.0	2.1
Total	2,500	5.8	94.2

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 are for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

Responses from Aboriginal young people were quite evenly divided between the genders, with 51.9% of surveys received from male respondents and 48.1% from female respondents. Among non Aboriginal respondents, there was a slightly higher proportion of female respondents than male respondents (53.3% compared with 46.7%).

Languages other than English spoken at home

There was a similar proportion of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents who indicated that they spoke a language other than English at home (20.0% compared with 19.2%). Of these, 22.4% of Aboriginal respondents spoke Aboriginal languages at home, and 6.6% spoke Kriol.

Disability

285 (11.0%) Aboriginal respondents indicated they had a disability. This was a higher proportion than for non Aboriginal respondents, of which 3.5% indicated they had a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), learning disability, physical disability, Down syndrome, autism.

Where respondents were living

The majority of both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents were living *with family*. However, as Table 3 shows, the proportion of Aboriginal respondents living *with family* was lower than that of their non Aboriginal counterparts (82.9% compared with 95.2%). In contrast, a much higher proportion (5.0%) of Aboriginal respondents were living in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* compared with their non Aboriginal counterparts (0.3%). A higher proportion of Aboriginal respondents aged 11 to 14 than those aged 15 to 19 were living *with family* (90.4% compared with 78.8%), while the number of Aboriginal young people in *juvenile justice centre/prison* increased with age (1.7% of 11 to 14 year olds compared with 7.6% of 15 to 19 year olds).

Table 3: Where Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents were living

	Aboriginal respondents %	Non Aboriginal respondents %	Aboriginal respondents %		Non Aboriginal respondents %	
			11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs
With family	82.9	95.2	90.4	78.8	98.2	94.2
Juvenile Justice centre/prison	5.0	0.3	1.7	7.6	0.2	0.4
Share house	2.6	1.2	1.2	3.5	0.4	1.1
Homeless/insecure housing	2.5	0.3	1.6	2.9	0.1	0.4
Boarding school	2.3	1.4	2.0	2.5	0.5	2.3
Foster care	1.8	0.5	1.7	1.6	0.3	0.6
Alone	1.6	0.4	0.6	1.6	0.1	0.4
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Other	1.2	0.4	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.5

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 Aboriginal respondents (50.2%) than non Aboriginal respondents (41.2%) lived outside the capital cities.

Table 4: Geographic location of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents

	Number of Aboriginal respondents	Aboriginal respondents %	Non Aboriginal respondents %
Live in capital city	1,284	49.8	58.8
Not in capital city	1,296	50.2	41.2

Table 5 shows that a higher proportion of Aboriginal than non Aboriginal respondents in the two age groups lived outside of capital cities.

Table 5: Geographic location of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents, by age

	Aboriginal respondents %		Non Aboriginal respondents %	
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs
Live in capital city	50.7	47.8	58.3	58.9
Not in capital city	49.3	52.2	41.7	41.1

Main source of income

Table 6 shows that more than half of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents relied on *parents or family* as their main source of income. Slightly more Aboriginal than non Aboriginal respondents indicated that they had *no income* (19.1% compared with 16.9%) or that their main source of income was a *government allowance* (11.2% compared with 4%). As age increases, fewer Aboriginal respondents report that they rely upon *parents or family* or have *no income*, while more respondents report their main source of income is *employment* or *government allowance*.

Table 6: Main source of income reported by Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents

	Aboriginal respondents %	Non Aboriginal respondents %	Aboriginal respondents %		Non Aboriginal respondents %	
			11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs
Parents or family	54.7	62.3	68.0	42.4	72.0	55.7
Employment	13.1	16.2	4.2	21.8	4.3	25.6
Government Allowance	11.2	4.0	3.0	19.2	0.3	6.4
Other	1.9	0.6	1.2	1.8	0.6	0.5
No income	19.1	16.9	23.5	14.9	22.7	11.8

Study and work

The 2011 survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds have been excluded from this section, given secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age.

Table 7 shows that 73.9% of Aboriginal respondents were *studying full time*, substantially less than their non Aboriginal counterparts (90.6%), however this is an increase since 2010 (68.7%). Conversely, Aboriginal respondents were more likely to be *studying part time* (9.1% compared with 3.1%). 16.9% of Aboriginal respondents were *not studying*, compared with 6.3% of non Aboriginal respondents.

Table 7: Participation in education among Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents

	Aboriginal respondents %	Non Aboriginal respondents %
Studying full time	73.9	90.6
Studying part time	9.1	3.1
Not studying	16.9	6.3

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 8 shows respondents participation in employment. Aboriginal respondents were slightly more likely than their non Aboriginal counterparts to be *employed full time* (2.2% compared with 1.8%) or *not in paid employment* (68.9% compared with 61.3%). Aboriginal young people were slightly less likely to be *employed part time* than non Aboriginal young people (28.8% compared with 36.9%).

Table 8: Participation in paid employment among Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents

	Aboriginal respondents %	Non Aboriginal respondents %
Employed full time	2.2	1.8
Employed part time	28.8	36.9
Not in paid employment	68.9	61.3

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full time is 35 hours or more.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do Aboriginal young people value?

Young people were asked to rank the top three items they value from the list of options set out in Table 9. The top two items have been quite consistent over the years and were the same for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents, namely *family relationships* and *friendships*, although the proportion of young people who highly valued *friendships* varied between the groups. The third item for Aboriginal respondents was *getting a job*, while for non Aboriginal respondents it was *school or study satisfaction*.

- Almost three quarters of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by almost half (47.0%) of Aboriginal respondents compared with 59.8% of non Aboriginal respondents.
- Aboriginal respondents were more likely than non Aboriginal respondents to highly value *getting a job* (36.2% compared with 21.7%). There was an increase in the proportion of Aboriginal respondents who valued this item from last year's figure of 25.6%.
- Over a third (34.9%) of young Aboriginal respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, an increase since 2010.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by almost a quarter (23.9%) of Aboriginal respondents, compared with almost a third (32.6%) of non Aboriginal respondents.

Table 9: What Aboriginal and non Aboriginal young people value

	Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Non Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Aboriginal respondents 2010 %	Aboriginal respondents 2009 %	Aboriginal respondents 2008 %
Family relationships	72.3	74.4	76.9	73.1	72.8
Friendships (other than family)	47.0	59.8	52.4	50.7	50.0
Getting a job	36.2	21.7	25.6	25.8	24.4
School or study satisfaction	34.9	37.0	28.3	23.5	21.3
Being independent	24.7	21.5	33.5	39.6	38.7
Physical and mental health	23.9	32.6	27.4	26.6	25.5
Feeling needed and valued	11.0	14.0	23.7	26.4	28.1
Financial security	9.4	11.8	14.4	13.7	15.2
Making a difference in the community	8.3	6.5	8.2	10.7	10.8
Spirituality/faith	7.9	9.7	11.6	12.4	13.3

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 10 provides a breakdown by age of what young people value for both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two values for both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents in both age groups and there was a decrease in proportion as age increased. However, the proportion of young people who valued these items was smaller for Aboriginal respondents than non Aboriginal respondents. For the 11 to 14 year olds in both groups, a top three value was *school or study satisfaction*, however results differed for the 15 to 19 year olds where the top three value for young Aboriginal respondents was *getting a job*, whilst for non Aboriginal respondents, this was *school or study satisfaction*. Results on most other items were similar for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents across both age groups.
- 11 to 14 year olds in both groups highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, with almost identical proportions of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents (38.7 and 38.8 respectively).
- *Getting a job* was highly valued by over a third of Aboriginal young people in both age groups, compared with less than a quarter of non Aboriginal respondents.
- Non Aboriginal respondents were more likely to value *physical and mental health* compared with Aboriginal respondents (around one third compared to one quarter).
- Aboriginal respondents in both age groups were slightly more likely to highly value *being independent* compared with their non Aboriginal counterparts.

Table 10: What Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people value, by age

	Aboriginal respondents %		Non Aboriginal respondents %	
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs
Family relationships	76.3	69.6	78.0	71.6
Friendships (other than family)	53.5	42.5	62.9	58.1
Getting a job	35.9	35.8	23.4	20.1
School or study satisfaction	38.7	32.7	38.8	36.6
Being independent	20.5	28.3	17.3	25.2
Physical and mental health	22.6	26.2	31.8	33.4
Feeling needed and valued	9.4	12.4	13.1	14.6
Financial security	5.3	13.3	6.9	15.4
Making a difference in the community	7.8	8.1	5.9	6.4
Spirituality/faith	6.7	8.5	9.8	9.6

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to Aboriginal young people?

Young people were asked to rank the top three issues of personal concern to them from the list of items set out in Table 11. The top issue of concern for both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents in 2011 was *school or study problems*. The second top issue of concern was *body image* for Aboriginal respondents and *coping with stress* for non Aboriginal respondents, while the third issue was *family conflict* for Aboriginal respondents and *body image* for non Aboriginal young people.

- Over 30% of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents were concerned about *school or study problems*, the top issue of concern for both groups in 2011. For young Aboriginal respondents this is a large increase since 2010.
- *Body image* was a top issue of concern for 28.4% of Aboriginal respondents and 33.3% of non Aboriginal respondents.
- Over one quarter of both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents identified *family conflict* as an issue of concern.
- Aboriginal respondents were more likely to be concerned about *alcohol* and *drugs* than their non Aboriginal counterparts.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to Aboriginal and non Aboriginal young people

	Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Non Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Aboriginal respondents 2010 %	Aboriginal respondents 2009 %	Aboriginal respondents 2008 %
School or study problems	31.9	37.7	21.0	16.6	16.0
Body image	28.4	33.3	34.1	29.7	31.9
Family conflict	27.6	28.1	26.3	22.9	23.4
Alcohol	26.4	14.5	31.7	32.4	31.2
Coping with stress	24.4	36.1	20.4	15.8	17.4
Drugs	23.4	16.4	23.1	27.5	24.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.7	22.8	26.2	25.5	26.3
Depression	17.2	18.2	16.6	15.8	14.8
Personal safety	17.2	20.5	18.9	18.5	18.5
The environment	14.4	17.9	16.3	14.9	18.3
Suicide	10.9	9.8	19.6	24.7	23.2
Discrimination	9.6	8.8	12.1	13.9	13.1
Physical/sexual abuse	8.3	8.5	15.5	20.0	21.0
Self harm	7.8	6.3	11.8	12.3	14.6
Sexuality	7.2	6.3	12.8	12.6	15.0

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 provides a breakdown by age of issues of personal concern to Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents. *School or study problems* and *body image* were in the top three concerns for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents across both age groups. Aboriginal respondents were more likely to indicate *alcohol* as an issue of major concern, particularly among the 15 to 19 year age group, than their non Aboriginal counterparts. Non Aboriginal young people were more likely than their Aboriginal counterparts to identify *coping with stress* as a major issue of concern, and concern about this increased with age across both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents. Results were similar on most other issues of concern among each age group for both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents.

- *School or study problems* and *body image* were top issues of concern for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents across both age groups, and concern about these issues increased with age.
- Around one quarter of Aboriginal respondents were concerned about *alcohol*, compared with slightly more than one in ten non Aboriginal respondents.
- Among non Aboriginal respondents, 27.9% of 11 to 14 years olds and 43.4% of 15 to 19 year olds were concerned about *coping with stress*, compared to 19.5% and 30.2% of Aboriginal respondents.
- Over one in five (23.5%) Aboriginal respondents aged 15 to 19 years were concerned about *drugs*, compared to 13.3% of non Aboriginal respondents in this age group.

Table 12: Issues of personal concern to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people, by age

	Aboriginal respondents %		Non Aboriginal respondents %	
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs
School or study problems	31.5	34.1	33.7	42.3
Body image	28.4	28.8	30.5	35.8
Family conflict	27.1	30.1	28.7	28.0
Alcohol	24.1	28.6	15.1	13.9
Coping with stress	19.5	30.2	27.9	43.4
Drugs	23.8	23.5	19.9	13.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	28.0	17.4	28.3	18.1
Depression	15.2	19.7	14.6	21.0
Personal safety	18.5	15.7	24.7	17.2
The environment	16.4	12.8	20.3	15.6
Suicide	11.4	10.1	11.0	8.8
Discrimination	7.5	11.6	7.2	10.1
Physical/sexual abuse	9.0	7.0	9.6	7.5
Self harm	8.2	6.7	6.6	6.0
Sexuality	6.7	7.4	5.5	6.9

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do Aboriginal young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

In 2011 young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere they could go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. 26.6% of Aboriginal respondents stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern, compared with 21.2% of non Aboriginal respondents, while about seven in ten Aboriginal (73.4%) and over three quarters (78.8%) of non Aboriginal respondents stated that they had somewhere they could go. Table 13 below shows the five issues of concern most frequently rated number one among Aboriginal respondents, and the top five sources of advice that respondents felt they could go to regarding these issues. The top three sources of advice were consistent across the different issues of concern, being *friends*, *parents*, and *relative/family friend*. Other sources of advice differed between the different issues of concern.

- *Friends* was the top source of advice for all five issues, for 82.8% of those concerned with *body image* to 72.3% of those concerned with *school or study problems*.
- *Parents* was also a top source of advice for all issues, from the highest 76.2% of respondents concerned with *coping with stress*, to 58.7% of those concerned with *family conflict*.
- Around one half or more respondents sought advice and support on these issues from a *relative/family friend*.
- Almost one quarter (24.1%) of respondents concerned about *school or study problems* and one in five (19.9%) concerned about *coping with stress* sought advice and support from teachers.
- *Community agencies* were a source of advice and support for around one in five respondents concerned about *alcohol*.
- *School counsellors* were important sources of advice and support on issues such as *school or study problems*, *family conflict*, *alcohol* and *coping with stress*.

Table 13: Where young Aboriginal people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

Number one concern		Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)			
School or study problems	Friend/s 72.3	Parent/s 70.5	Relative/Family Friend 58.2	Teacher 24.1	School Counsellor 19.1
Body image	Friend/s 82.8	Parent/s 64.1	Relative/Family Friend 46.9	Internet 20.6	Teacher 18.7
Family conflict	Friend/s 82.0	Relative/Family Friend 66.3	Parent/s 58.7	Teacher 17.4	School Counsellor 16.3
Alcohol	Friend/s 73.4	Parent/s 62.5	Relative/Family Friend 47.9	Community Agencies 19.8	School Counsellor 18.2
Coping with stress	Friend/s 79.5	Parent/s 76.2	Relative/Family Friend 51.0	Teacher 19.9	Internet/School Counsellor 13.9

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 14. The two most important issues in Australia today, for both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents, were *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs* (although in a different order). For Aboriginal respondents, *crime, safety and violence* was the third most important issue, whilst for non Aboriginal respondents, *the economy and financial matters* was ranked third.

- Around four in ten Aboriginal respondents and three in ten non Aboriginal respondents considered *alcohol and drugs* to be a top issue.
- *The environment* was a top issue for over 35.0% of Aboriginal and 45.0% of non Aboriginal respondents.
- *Crime, safety and violence* was a top issue for over one in five (22.2%) Aboriginal respondents, compared to 18.1% of non Aboriginal respondents.

Table 14: Most important issues in Australia today for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents

	Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Non Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Aboriginal respondents 2010 %
Alcohol and drugs	40.8	31.2	38.7
The environment	35.7	45.2	40.4
Crime, safety and violence	22.2	18.1	21.1
The economy and financial matters	16.3	20.5	15.9
Population issues	15.1	19.3	11.5
Equity and discrimination	14.1	17.1	17.9
Bullying	13.6	14.9	8.0
Politics and societal values	12.5	14.7	12.3
Health	10.8	14.5	11.4
Abuse	8.4	7.6	10.2
Mental health	8.1	10.0	8.4
Education	7.6	6.7	8.3
Homelessness/housing	6.4	7.3	6.7
Employment	5.2	4.9	6.5
International relations	4.1	5.1	3.3
Adolescence/youth	4.0	4.0	4.8
Relationships	3.9	1.9	5.0
Sex	2.7	1.0	2.1
Aboriginal issues	2.7	1.7	2.7
Poverty/disadvantage	2.4	3.1	2.6
Sport	2.0	1.4	3.7

Note: Open-ended responses were coded and aggregated to include all three issues.

Age differences

As shown in Table 15, *alcohol and drugs* were clearly the top issue identified as important to Australia today by Aboriginal young people, while *the environment* was the top issue identified by non Aboriginal respondents, with some variations across age groups. Concern about *alcohol and drugs*, *the environment*, *crime, safety and violence*, and *bullying* declined with age for both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents.

- *Alcohol and drugs* was identified as an issue by 43.7% of Aboriginal respondents and 33.1% of non Aboriginal respondents aged 11 to 14 years, and declined to 37.7% and 29.9% of respondents aged 15 to 19.
- More than one in five (21.3%) Aboriginal respondents aged 15 to 19 identified *crime, safety, and violence*, compared to just 14.8% of non Aboriginal respondents aged 15 to 19 years.
- Aboriginal respondents were less likely to identify *population issues* as an issue facing Australia today than non Aboriginal respondents (12.8% and 18.1% compared with 17.0% and 21.5%).

Table 15: Most important issues in Australia today for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents, by age

	Aboriginal respondents %		Non Aboriginal respondents %	
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs
Alcohol and drugs	43.7	37.7	33.1	29.9
The environment	44.5	27.0	53.3	37.9
Crime, safety and violence	23.8	21.3	22.0	14.8
The economy and financial matters	15.0	18.2	19.4	21.5
Population issues	12.8	18.1	17.0	21.5
Equity and discrimination	10.8	18.1	11.7	22.2
Bullying	17.0	10.8	18.2	12.2
Politics and societal values	11.5	14.0	14.0	15.3
Health	10.7	11.2	14.2	14.8
Abuse	9.7	7.6	8.8	6.7
Mental health	6.9	9.3	8.6	10.7
Education	5.2	10.2	5.6	7.6
Homelessness/housing	5.9	6.3	6.9	7.6
Employment	3.7	6.6	3.6	5.7
International relations	4.4	3.6	5.3	5.0
Adolescence/youth	3.6	4.7	2.9	5.0
Relationships	4.3	3.4	2.1	1.7
Sex	2.2	2.9	0.7	1.2
Aboriginal issues	1.0	3.4	1.1	2.3
Poverty/disadvantage	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.2
Sport	2.2	1.5	1.2	1.6

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are Aboriginal young people involved in?

Respondents were asked to select the activities they are involved in from the list shown in Table 16. The top three activities for both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*. The proportions of young people from both groups that were involved in the first two activities were quite similar; while Aboriginal respondents were more likely to be involved in *arts/cultural activities* than non Aboriginal respondents. Aboriginal respondents were also more likely to be involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *environmental groups or activities* than non Aboriginal respondents.

- Around 70% of both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Over one half of both groups were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Aboriginal respondents were more likely than non Aboriginal respondents to participate in *arts/cultural activities* (42% compared with 29.5%).
- One third of Aboriginal respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs*, compared to one quarter of non Aboriginal respondents.

Table 16: Activities Aboriginal and non Aboriginal young people were involved in

	Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Non Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Aboriginal respondents 2010 %	Aboriginal respondents 2009 %	Aboriginal respondents 2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	71.8	70.6	69.8	58.6	67.5
Sports (as a spectator)	53.6	51.9	57.5	38.3	51.6
Arts/cultural activities	42.0	29.5	42.7	31.3	49.7
Youth groups and clubs	34.0	24.5	35.4	26.8	38.3
Volunteer work	28.3	27.8	30.3	19.9	32.3
Student leadership activities	26.6	24.2	28.4	12.3	25.1
Religious groups or activities	26.4	23.0	26.5	20.8	34.1
Environmental groups or activities	18.0	11.4	19.4	14.6	28.0
Political groups or organisations*	8.6	4.4	11.1	NA	NA

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 17 shows a breakdown of activities by age for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents. *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* are the top activities for all age groups of both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents. Significant proportions of all age groups were also involved in *arts/cultural activities*, although higher proportions of Aboriginal than non Aboriginal respondents participated in them. A substantial proportion of young people from all ages and both groups were involved in *volunteer work*, and participation in this activity increased with age.

- Participation in *sport (as a participant)* decreased with age for both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents, while participation in *sports (as a spectator)* increased with age across both groups.
- Around two in five Aboriginal respondents were involved in *arts/cultural activities* compared to around 30.0% of non Aboriginal respondents.
- Around one third of Aboriginal respondents across both age groups were involved in *youth groups and clubs*, compared to around one quarter of their non Aboriginal counterparts.

Table 17: Activities Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people were involved in, by age

	Aboriginal respondents %		Non Aboriginal respondents %	
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs
Sports (as a participant)	75.9	69.4	76.6	66.3
Sports (as a spectator)	50.8	56.6	50.0	54.2
Arts/cultural activities	42.2	40.8	28.4	30.2
Youth groups and clubs	35.0	31.6	24.2	24.4
Volunteer work	23.6	32.4	20.9	33.5
Student leadership activities	22.4	30.1	20.7	27.9
Religious groups or activities	24.9	26.3	23.1	22.9
Environmental groups or activities	15.8	18.5	10.4	12.1
Political groups or organisations	6.6	8.4	3.2	5.1

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do Aboriginal young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe how *positive* or *negative* they felt about the future. Table 18 shows that around three in five Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, consistent with responses from 2010. The main difference was that Aboriginal respondents were slightly more likely than their non Aboriginal counterparts to report feeling *very positive* or *very negative* and less likely to report feeling *positive*.

- Around 60% of both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents reported feeling either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- A little over one quarter of respondents in both groups felt *neither positive nor negative*.
- Around one in ten respondents from both groups indicated they felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 18: Feelings about the future as reported by Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents

	Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Non Aboriginal respondents 2011 %	Aboriginal respondents 2010 %
Very positive	24.8	20.1	24.2
Positive	35.6	43.1	36.6
Neither positive nor negative	26.7	28.2	27.8
Negative	5.2	5.6	5.2
Very negative	7.7	3.0	6.1

Age differences

Table 19 shows the breakdown by age of respondents' feelings about the future. Results for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents across the age groups were quite similar. As respondents age increased, both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents were slightly less likely to feel *very positive* and slightly more likely to feel *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 19: Feelings about the future as reported by Aboriginal and non Aboriginal respondents, by age

	Aboriginal respondents %		Non Aboriginal respondents %	
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs
Very positive	26.2	22.5	20.5	19.8
Positive	36.8	35.1	43.2	43.2
Neither positive nor negative	25.2	29.2	28.6	27.8
Negative	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.9
Very negative	6.7	7.6	2.6	3.3



Australian Capital Territory summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

1,640 surveys were returned from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), which was 3.6% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The age profile of respondents is shown in Table 1. The largest group of respondents from ACT was aged 15-19 years (53.7%) followed closely by 11-14 years (44.5%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (29, or 1.8%) 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	708	44.5
15-19 years	855	53.7
20-24 years	29	1.8
Total	1,592	3.6% 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 are for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

70.3% of respondents from the ACT were female and 29.7% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

As Table 2 shows, 36 or 2.2% 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 %
Aboriginal respondents	36	2.2	5.8	2.3	1.9
Non Aboriginal respondents	1,571	97.8	94.2	97.7	98.1

Languages other than English spoken at home

73.8% of respondents from the ACT indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 425 (26.2%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 50 languages between them. The 10 most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): French, Chinese, Vietnamese, Greek, Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Croatian, and Hindi.

Disability

41 (2.6%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The two most frequently cited disabilities were, in order, physical disability and learning disability.

Where respondents were living

As shown in Table 3, the vast majority of respondents from the ACT (95.4%) were living *with family*, in line with the national figure of 94.5%. 10 young people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* participated in the survey, as did 7 who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	95.4	94.5	98.0	93.2
Boarding school	2.4	1.4	0.7	3.8
Juvenile Justice centre/prison	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
Alone	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.7
Homeless/insecure housing	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.7
Share house	0.2	1.3	0.0	0.4
Foster care	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.2
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Other	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, most of the ACT respondents (95.9%) were living in the national capital, Canberra. This figure is unsurprising given the concentration of the population in the ACT. There was a more even spread nationally of respondents between those living in and outside of capital cities.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Live in capital city	1,561	95.9	58.2	96.2	96.2
Not in capital city	67	4.1	41.8	3.8	3.8

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income identified by the majority of respondents from the ACT (69.8%), as shown in Table 5. Just under one sixth (16.2%) relied on *employment* as their main source of income, and a very small proportion (1.6%) relied on a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents/family	69.8	61.9	81.2	60.3
Employment	16.2	16.0	3.2	27.1
Government Allowance	1.6	4.4	0.6	2.4
Other	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.4
No income	12.0	17.1	14.7	9.8

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, given secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age.

As Table 6 shows, the vast majority (96.4%) of respondents from the ACT were *studying full time*, higher than the national figure of 89.7%. Females were more likely than males to be *studying full time*, while males were more likely than females to be *studying part time*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	ACT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	96.4	89.7	97.0	95.2
Studying part time	1.4	3.4	1.3	1.5
Not studying	2.3	6.9	1.6	3.3

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. A little under half of respondents from the ACT (44.0%) were *employed part-time*, and a small proportion (0.9%) were *employed full-time*. Employment rates were similar among male and female respondents.

Table 7: Participation in paid employment

	ACT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.9	1.8	1.1	0.4
Employed part-time	44.0	36.4	44.3	43.6
Not in paid employment	55.1	61.8	54.7	56.0

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full time is 35 hours or more.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for ACT respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*, as they were nationally. The fourth item was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 72.0% and 61.9% of ACT respondents respectively.
- Two in five (40.9%) of ACT respondents indicated that they highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, a substantial increase from the figure for 2010 of 32.6%.
- Just under one third (31.7%) of young people highly valued *physical or mental health*, a similar proportion to last year (33.1%).

Table 8: What young people value

	ACT 2011 %	National 2011 %	ACT 2010 %	ACT 2009 %	ACT 2008 %
Family relationships	72.0	74.3	78.7	74.6	74.1
Friendships (other than family)	61.9	59.0	60.8	63.4	64.0
School or study satisfaction	40.9	36.9	32.6	22.1	24.1
Physical and mental health	31.7	32.0	33.1	29.2	32.1
Being independent	23.6	21.6	30.4	31.2	29.1
Feeling needed and valued	15.9	13.8	24.6	27.5	29.3
Getting a job	13.9	22.7	12.5	17.4	15.2
Financial security	13.4	11.6	13.5	14.1	12.8
Making a difference in the community	8.1	6.6	6.8	9.3	8.2
Spirituality/faith	7.6	9.6	8.8	12.2	10.9

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows the data were quite similar across the age groups. The top three items for both age groups were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by both age groups, with 76.5% of 11 to 14 year olds and 70.0% of 15 to 19 year olds valuing these highly.
- Over six in ten respondents of both groups highly valued *friendships* (63.5% of 11 to 14 year olds and 62.1% of 15 to 19 year olds).
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by more than two in five respondents of both age groups (42.4% of 11 to 14 year olds and 40.5% of 15 to 19 year olds).

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	76.5	70.0
Friendships (other than family)	63.5	62.1
School or study satisfaction	42.4	40.5
Physical and mental health	31.3	32.2
Being independent	20.1	26.2
Feeling needed and valued	14.2	17.1
Getting a job	16.1	11.2
Financial security	10.3	15.1
Making a difference in the community	8.9	7.4
Spirituality/faith	6.7	7.6

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships*, *friendships*, and *school or study satisfaction* were the top three items for both genders. All of these items were highly valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents.

- 75.6% of females highly valued *family relationships* as did 63.6% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 64.6% of female respondents and 55.4% of males.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 43.6% of females, and 34.4% of males.
- More than twice as many male respondents (25.1%) as female respondents (9.3%) highly valued *getting a job*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	75.6	63.6
Friendships (other than family)	64.6	55.4
School or study satisfaction	43.6	34.4
Physical and mental health	31.4	32.7
Being independent	23.2	24.2
Feeling needed and valued	16.9	13.2
Getting a job	9.3	25.1
Financial security	13.2	13.6
Making a difference in the community	9.1	5.4
Spirituality/faith	7.5	7.8

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for ACT respondents were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems*, and *body image*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally. There were a range of issues that were of concern to respondents, with five items being of concern to at least one in five young people.

- The top issue for ACT respondents was *coping with stress*, with 45.3% of respondents identifying it as a major concern, up from 30.1% in 2010, and greater than the national figure of 35.4%.
- *School or study problems* was of high concern for more than two in five (43.3%) respondents, compared with 29.5% last year.
- *Body image* (34.7%) rounded out the top three concerns for ACT respondents, again an increase on last year's figure of 27.0%.
- Around a quarter of respondents identified *family conflict* and *the environment* as issues of concern.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	ACT 2011 %	National 2011 %	ACT 2010 %	ACT 2009 %	ACT 2008 %
Coping with stress	45.3	35.4	30.1	22.4	21.2
School or study problems	43.3	37.3	29.5	21.1	19.4
Body image	34.7	33.1	27.0	25.0	21.9
Family conflict	24.2	28.1	30.9	27.2	27.7
The environment	22.4	17.7	21.3	19.1	23.0
Depression	18.5	18.1	21.1	21.5	16.9
Personal safety	18.0	20.3	22.6	20.5	23.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	15.8	22.8	21.4	23.8	22.8
Alcohol	12.5	15.2	20.2	22.5	19.6
Drugs	12.1	16.9	16.5	25.0	27.9
Discrimination	8.6	8.8	12.5	12.8	13.7
Suicide	7.2	9.9	15.9	23.9	25.2
Sexuality	6.5	6.4	10.7	9.8	10.7
Physical/sexual abuse	6.3	8.5	14.3	18.2	21.4
Self harm	5.9	6.4	10.3	11.2	13.9

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 compares issues of concern between the age groups. *Coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image* were among the top three items for both age groups, though there were greater levels of concern evident among the older age group for these issues. The younger respondents were more likely to be highly concerned about *the environment*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety* than the 15 to 19 year olds.

- Over half of respondents (54.7%) aged 15 to 19 years were highly concerned with *coping with stress*, as were over a third (34.3%) of 11 to 14 year olds.
- *School or study problems* was of high concern to almost half (47.7%) of 15 to 19 year olds, and almost two in five (38.8%) 11 to 14 year olds. This was the highest ranked issue for the younger age group.
- *Body image* was of high concern to 38.6% of 15 to 19 year olds, and 29.9% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- Younger respondents were more likely than 15 to 19 year olds to be highly concerned with *the environment* (27.6% compared with 17.9%), *bullying/emotional abuse* (24.1% compared with 9.3%) and *personal safety* (21.5% compared with 15.4%).
- More than one in five respondents of both age groups were concerned about *family conflict* (22.9 % of 11 to 14 year olds, 25.0% of 15 to 19 year olds).

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

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Coping with stress	34.3	54.7
School or study problems	38.8	47.7
Body image	29.9	38.6
Family conflict	22.9	25.0
The environment	27.6	17.9
Depression	14.6	21.4
Personal safety	21.5	15.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.1	9.3
Alcohol	13.1	11.5
Drugs	15.1	9.8
Discrimination	9.0	8.5
Suicide	7.8	7.2
Sexuality	5.3	7.7
Physical/sexual abuse	6.9	6.0
Self harm	7.0	5.4

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 compares issues of personal concern between the genders. *School or study problems* was highly ranked by both genders in the ACT, with this being the top concern for males. *Coping with stress* was the top-ranked concern for females, with fewer males indicating this was a concern. *Body image* was a highly ranked concern for female respondents, but was of lesser concern to male respondents.

- *Coping with stress* was of high concern for half of all female respondents (50.1%) and one third of male respondents (33.6%).
- *School or study problems* was of high concern to 45.8% of females, and 37.3% of males.
- Females were more than twice as likely as males to rank *body image* as a personal concern (41.1% compared with 18.8%).
- Over one in five respondents of both genders ranked *family conflict* and *the environment* as being of high concern.
- *Drugs* and *alcohol* were of greater concern for males than females

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

	Female %	Male %
Coping with stress	50.1	33.6
School or study problems	45.8	37.3
Body image	41.1	18.8
Family conflict	25.3	22.0
The environment	23.3	20.1
Depression	20.1	14.6
Personal safety	16.7	21.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	14.7	18.5
Alcohol	9.4	19.9
Drugs	8.6	20.4
Discrimination	7.6	11.1
Suicide	5.9	10.4
Sexuality	4.8	10.6
Physical/sexual abuse	6.0	6.7
Self harm	5.8	6.3

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

In 2011 young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere they could go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. More than one in seven (14.7%) ACT respondents stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern, while 85.3% of respondents in the ACT stated that they had somewhere they could go. Table 14 shows the five issues of concern most frequently rated number one among those respondents, and the top five sources of advice that respondents felt they could go to regarding these issues.

Parents and friends were the top sources of advice for all five issues, though the proportion of respondents who nominated each of these as a source of advice differed between the issues. *Relative/family friend* was also within the top 3 for all issues. Other sources of advice differed considerably between the different issues of concern.

- *Friends* were the number one source of advice for *coping with stress* (88.6%), *body image* (87.2%), and *family conflict* (88.8%), and equal first for *the environment* (78.5%).
- The proportion of respondents who turned to *parents* for advice and support varied between the issues, from 83.1% of respondents concerned about *school or study problems* at the highest, through to 61.2% of respondents concerned about *family conflict*.
- *Relative/family friend* was a source of advice and support for between one third and one half of respondents, being highest for *family conflict* (53.1%) and lowest for *body image* (37.2%).
- *Teachers* were a source of advice for almost two in five (39.0%) respondents concerned with *school or study problems*, and one in five (21.0%) respondents concerned with *coping with stress*.
- *The internet* was among the top five sources of advice for all main issues of concern, nominated by over one quarter (28.2%) of respondents concerned with *body image*, and about one fifth of respondents concerned with *the environment* and *coping with stress*.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

Number one concern	Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)				
Coping with stress	Friend/s 88.6	Parent/s 77.6	Relative/Family Friend 40.8	Teacher 21.0	Internet 19.5
School or study problems	Parent/s 83.1	Friend/s 82.6	Relative/Family Friend 44.1	Teacher 39.0	Internet 13.3
Body Image	Friend/s 87.2	Parent/s 64.1	Relative/Family Friend 37.2	Internet 28.2	Magazines 19.2
Family conflict	Friend/s 88.8	Parent/s 61.2	Relative/Family Friend 53.1	School Counsellor 16.3	Internet 14.3
The environment	Friend/s 78.5	Parent/s 78.5	Relative/Family Friend 41.8	Internet 21.5	Teacher 16.5

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 15. The top issues for respondents from the ACT were *the environment*, *alcohol and drugs*, and *population issues*.

- Over half (57.3%) of all ACT respondents listed *the environment* as one of the most important issues in Australia today, a similar proportion to last year (55.4%), and much higher than the national figure of 44.7%.
- *Alcohol and drugs* was listed by 29.0% of respondents, a similar proportion as was recorded last year (28.0%).
- *Population issues* was considered to be one of the most important issues by over one fifth of respondents (22.4), a large increase from last year's figure of 13.7%.
- Just under one fifth of respondents listed *the economy and financial matters* and *equity and discrimination* among the most important issues.

Table 15: Most important issues in Australia today

	ACT 2011 %	National 2011 %	ACT 2010 %
The environment	57.3	44.7	55.4
Alcohol and drugs	29.0	31.7	28.0
Population issues	22.4	19.1	13.7
The economy and financial matters	19.7	20.3	19.9
Equity and discrimination	18.1	16.9	20.6
Politics and societal values	17.7	14.5	15.4
Health	12.5	14.3	17.9
Bullying	9.5	14.9	7.5
Crime, safety and violence	9.5	18.4	13.5
Mental health	9.0	9.9	10.8
Education	8.4	6.7	9.9
International relations	7.1	5.0	3.6
Homelessness/housing	7.0	7.3	4.5
Aboriginal issues	6.4	1.8	2.7
Abuse	4.8	7.7	7.6
Adolescence/youth	4.1	4.0	3.9
Employment	3.6	4.9	5.7
Poverty/disadvantage	2.9	3.0	2.0

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

Age differences

The environment was clearly the most commonly identified issue in Australia by ACT respondents of both age groups, as shown in Table 16. Alcohol and drugs was the next most commonly identified issue among both age groups. Population issues was the third-most commonly identified issue among 15 to 19 year olds, as was the economy and financial matters among 11 to 14 year olds.

- The environment was identified as an issue in Australia by almost two thirds of those aged 11 to 14 (65.3%), and over half those aged 15 to 19 (51.4%).
- Alcohol and drugs was listed as a concern by similar proportions of 11 to 14 year olds (29.4%) and 15 to 19 year olds (29.9%).
- One quarter (25.3%) of 15 to 19 year olds identified population issues as an issue in Australia, compared with 19.3% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- Equity and discrimination was identified by over one fifth (22.0%) of 15 to 19 year olds, compared with 13.2% 11 to 14 year olds.
- The economy and financial matters was considered an issue in Australia by over one fifth (22.1%) of respondents aged 11 to 14 years and just under one fifth (17.8%) of the older age group.

Gender differences

Table 16 also compares the most important issues in Australia that were identified by male and female respondents in the ACT. The environment was the most commonly identified issue for both genders. Alcohol and drugs was the second-most commonly identified issue among females, while for males it was the economy and financial matters.

- The environment was identified as an issue in Australia by almost six in ten (59.9%) female respondents, and half of male respondents (50.0%).
- A higher proportion of females (31.3%) than males (23.2%) indicated alcohol and drugs were an issue in Australia, contrary to the gender differences for this issue recorded nationally.
- Almost three in ten males (28.1%) identified the economy and financial matters as an issue in Australia, compared with 16.5% of female respondents.
- Population issues were identified as an issue in Australia by over one fifth of respondents of both genders.

Table 16: Most important issues in Australia today, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	65.3	51.4	59.9	50.0
Alcohol and drugs	29.4	29.9	31.3	23.2
Population issues	19.3	25.3	22.7	21.9
The economy and financial matters	22.1	17.8	16.5	28.1
Equity and discrimination	13.2	22.0	18.1	17.8
Politics and societal values	19.0	16.1	15.9	22.7
Health	12.0	13.2	13.4	10.1
Bullying	13.3	6.3	10.0	8.2
Crime, safety and violence	13.0	6.4	9.0	10.7
Mental health	7.5	10.1	10.8	4.4
Education	7.4	8.8	8.9	7.4
International relations	7.7	6.8	6.9	7.7
Homelessness/housing	7.9	6.1	8.2	3.8
Aboriginal issues	5.5	7.3	8.0	1.9
Abuse	6.2	3.8	5.4	3.3
Adolescence/youth	3.2	4.7	4.4	3.0
Employment	3.1	3.7	2.5	6.6
Poverty/disadvantage	2.1	3.6	2.8	3.0

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 17. The top three activities for ACT respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*, as they were nationally. Just under one third of ACT respondents also participated in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities*.

- More than three quarters (77.8%) of young people from ACT participated in *sports (as a participant)* and over half (52.8%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, slightly higher than the national figures.
- More than four in ten (44.3%) respondents indicated they participated in *arts/cultural activities*, far higher than the national rate of 30.2%.
- Just under one third of respondents indicated that they participated in *volunteer work* (31.7%) and *student leadership activities* (31.5%).
- In general, rates of participation in activities among ACT respondents were higher than the figures recorded nationally.

Table 17: Activities young people were involved in

	ACT 2011 %	National 2011 %	ACT 2010 %	ACT 2009 %	ACT 2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	77.8	70.7	69.8	58.4	68.6
Sports (as a spectator)	52.8	51.9	51.7	30.3	41.5
Arts/cultural activities	44.3	30.2	38.8	25.0	47.6
Volunteer work	31.7	27.9	25.9	13.5	19.1
Student leadership activities	31.5	24.4	23.8	6.4	8.5
Religious groups or activities	25.5	23.2	23.6	19.9	22.8
Youth groups and clubs	22.4	25.0	20.0	16.9	21.3
Environmental groups or activities	12.1	11.7	14.3	9.0	14.2
Political groups or organisations*	8.1	4.7	7.1	N/A	N/A

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 18 shows that the top three activities were the same for both age groups, being *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*. Participation rates in other activities differed among the age groups. Participation in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* were notably higher among the 15 to 19 year olds, compared with the 11 to 14 year olds.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was higher among 11 to 14 year olds (82.9%) than among 15 to 19 year olds (76.2%).
- Conversely, involvement in *sports (as a spectator)* was higher among 15 to 19 year olds (59.7%) than among 11 to 14 year olds (46.4%).
- More than four in ten respondents of both age groups participated in *arts/cultural activities*.
- Rates of participation in *volunteer work* were twice as high among 15 to 19 year olds (40.8%) than among the 11 to 14 year olds (19.7%).
- Participation in *student leadership activities* was also higher among the older age group (39.3%) than the younger age group (22.2%).
- Around one quarter of participants of both age groups participated in *religious groups or activities*.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	82.9	76.2
Sports (as a spectator)	46.4	59.7
Arts/cultural activities	43.9	45.0
Volunteer work	19.7	40.8
Student leadership activities	22.2	39.3
Religious groups or activities	27.2	24.4
Youth groups and clubs	22.4	21.2
Environmental groups or activities	11.2	12.6
Political groups or organisations	5.3	9.8

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 19 compares the activities young people were involved in between male and female respondents. The top three activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)*, and *arts/cultural activities*. Participation rates were higher among females than males for most activities.

- More than three quarters of respondents of both genders participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Slightly more males (56.1%) than females (51.5%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural activities* (49.5% compared with 30.8%), *volunteer work* (36.7% compared with 18.9%), and *student leadership activities* (34.2% compared with 24.3%).
- Around one quarter of respondents of both genders participated in *religious groups or activities*.

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

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	78.9	75.5
Sports (as a spectator)	51.5	56.1
Arts/cultural activities	49.5	30.8
Volunteer work	36.7	18.9
Student leadership activities	34.2	24.3
Religious groups or activities	26.1	24.1
Youth groups and clubs	21.5	24.7
Environmental groups or activities	13.3	9.3
Political groups or organisations	8.2	7.9

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Respondents were asked to describe how *positive* or *negative* they felt about the future. Table 20 shows that the majority of respondents from the ACT felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, similar to national figures and consistent with responses from 2010.

- Over six in ten ACT respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future (61.9%).
- Less than one in ten young people reported *negative* or *very negative* feelings about the future (8.5%).

Table 20: Feelings about the future

	ACT 2011 %	National 2011 %	ACT 2010 %
Very positive	19.3	20.4	20.2
Positive	42.6	42.7	41.6
Neither positive nor negative	29.6	28.1	27.0
Negative	5.1	5.6	6.8
Very negative	3.4	3.3	4.4

Age differences

Table 21 shows that around one in five 11 to 14 year olds and 15 to 19 year olds expressed *very positive* feelings about the future. 15 to 19 year old participants were more likely to feel *positive* about the future than 11 to 14 year olds, while the younger age group, in contrast, were more likely to express neutral feelings (33.5% compared with 25.7%).

Gender differences

Also shown in Table 21 are responses by gender. The proportion of respondents who expressed *positive* or *very positive* feelings about the future were similar between the genders. Males were slightly more likely than females to express *negative* or *very negative feelings* (10.3% compared with 7.6%).

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	19.8	19.2	17.9	22.8
Positive	39.2	46.1	44.1	39.3
Neither positive nor negative	33.5	25.7	30.4	27.6
Negative	4.8	5.2	4.7	5.9
Very negative	2.7	3.8	2.9	4.4



New South Wales summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

14,889 surveys were returned from New South Wales (NSW), which was 32.5% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The age profile of respondents is shown in Table 1. The largest group of respondents from NSW was aged 15-19 years (49.7%) followed closely by 11-14 years (48.6%). Only 1.7% of respondents were aged 20-24 years.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	7,089	48.6
15-19 years	7,245	49.7
20-24 years	244	1.7
Total	14,578	32.5% 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 are for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

49.7% of respondents from NSW were female and 50.3% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

As Table 2 shows, 821 or 5.6% 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 %
Aboriginal respondents	821	5.6	5.8	6.1	4.8	5.3
Non Aboriginal respondents	13,803	94.4	94.2	93.9	95.2	94.7

Languages other than English spoken at home

75.2% of respondents from NSW indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 3,659 respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 70 languages between them. The 10 most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Arabic, Chinese, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Samoan, Mandarin, Filipino/Tagalog, Lebanese, and Greek.

Disability

548 (3.7%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), learning disability, physical disability, autism, and deafness or hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

As shown in Table 3, the vast majority of respondents from NSW (95.0%) were living *with family*, in line with the national figure of 94.5%. 76 young people who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* participated in the survey, as did 73 who were *homeless or in insecure housing* and 61 who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	95.0	94.5	97.9	93.7	53.1
Boarding school	1.5	1.4	0.5	2.5	1.6
Share house	1.1	1.3	0.6	1.1	16.5
Juvenile Justice centre / prison	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.6	1.6
Alone	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	13.2
Homeless/insecure housing	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	3.3
Foster care	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.0
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	6.6
Other	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.4	4.1

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, about two-thirds (66.0%) of NSW respondents were living in the state capital, Sydney. This proportion was lower among the 20 to 24 year olds compared to their younger counterparts, with just over half (55.7%) of the young adult group living in Sydney.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	9742	66.0	58.2	67.3	65.1	55.7
Not in capital city	5025	34.0	41.8	32.7	34.9	44.3

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income identified by just under two thirds of respondents (63.2%). Table 5 shows that respondents were less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. The NSW data were 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	63.2	61.9	70.9	57.9	7.4
Employment	14.1	16.0	4.6	21.8	61.3
Government Allowance	4.0	4.4	.6	6.3	27.2
Other	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8
No income	18.1	17.1	23.2	13.4	3.3

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, given secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age.

As Table 6 shows, over nine in ten (91.2%) respondents from NSW were *studying full time*, slightly higher than the national figure of 89.7%. Respondents aged 15 to 19 years were much more likely than those aged 20 to 24 years to be *studying full time* (93.0% compared with 38.9%). The older age group was much more likely than the younger age group to be *not studying* (36.9% compared with 5.2%). Education participation rates for male and female respondents were quite similar.

Table 6: Participation in education

	NSW %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	91.2	89.7	93.0	38.9	91.8	90.6
Studying part time	2.5	3.4	1.8	24.2	2.6	2.5
Not studying	6.2	6.9	5.2	36.9	5.6	6.9

Note: all data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Around one third of respondents from NSW (33.8%) were *employed part-time*, and a small proportion (1.2%) were *employed full time*. Participation in paid employment was far greater among 20 to 24 year olds than 15 to 19 year olds, with the difference in *full time employment* rates particularly marked (30.6% compared with 0.2%). Females were more likely to be employed than males (40.4% overall, compared with 29.9%).

Table 7: Participation in paid employment

	NSW %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Employed full time	1.2	1.8	0.2	30.6	1.7	0.8
Employed part time	33.8	36.4	33.7	38.9	38.7	29.1
Not in paid employment	64.9	61.8	66.1	30.6	59.6	70.1

Note: all data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full time is 35 hours or more.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for NSW respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*, as they were nationally. The fourth item was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 76.3% and 58.6% of NSW respondents respectively.
- Over one third (36.5%) of NSW respondents indicated that they highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, a substantial increase from the figure for 2010 of 28.5%.
- Just under one third (31.1%) of young people highly valued *physical or mental health*, a similar proportion to last year (33.3%).

Table 8: What young people value

	NSW 2011 %	National 2011 %	NSW 2010 %	NSW 2009 %	NSW 2008 %
Family relationships	76.3	74.3	81.3	77.2	77.0
Friendships (other than family)	58.6	59.0	59.9	60.7	62.9
School or study satisfaction	36.5	36.9	28.5	21.2	20.5
Physical and mental health	31.1	32.0	33.3	31.3	32.2
Being independent	21.9	21.6	27.8	32.3	31.7
Getting a job	20.9	22.7	14.1	16.7	15.7
Feeling needed and valued	13.6	13.8	22.7	26.3	26.2
Financial security	11.8	11.6	12.9	13.6	12.7
Spirituality/faith	11.0	9.6	15.4	14.1	14.4
Making a difference in the community	6.2	6.6	5.6	7.8	7.5

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 compares what was valued by different age groups of NSW respondents. The top three items for those aged 11 to 14 years and those aged 14 to 19 years were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The responses of those aged 20 to 24 were notably different to the younger age groups, though they also ranked *family relationships* first.

- *Family relationships* was clearly ranked first by all age groups, though the relative importance of this item declined slightly with age (79.7%, 73.8%, and 64.4%, from youngest to oldest).
- A majority of the two younger age groups highly valued *friendships* (62.4% and 56.4%), compared with 31.4% of the young adult group.
- *Financial security* (40.2%) was the second most highly valued item for those aged 20-24 years, a far greater proportion than among younger respondents.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by almost two in five (38.7%) of those aged 11 to 14 years, and over a third (35.3%) of those aged 15 to 19 years.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	79.7	73.8	64.4
Friendships (other than family)	62.4	56.4	31.4
School or study satisfaction	38.7	35.3	14.6
Physical and mental health	28.5	33.8	29.7
Being independent	18.5	24.9	31.4
Getting a job	22.7	18.7	18.0
Feeling needed and valued	12.0	15.0	23.4
Financial security	7.0	15.7	40.2
Spirituality/faith	10.7	11.2	15.9
Making a difference in the community	6.0	5.8	21.8

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships*, *friendships*, and *school or study satisfaction* were the top three items for both genders. All of these items were highly valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents

- 79.8% of females highly valued *family relationships* as did 72.9% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 61.4% of female respondents and 55.7% of males.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 39.4% of females, and 33.5% of males.
- Almost twice as many male respondents (27.1%) highly valued *getting a job* than females (14.7%).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	79.8	72.9
Friendships (other than family)	61.4	55.7
School or study satisfaction	39.4	33.5
Physical and mental health	29.9	32.3
Being independent	22.2	21.7
Getting a job	14.7	27.1
Feeling needed and valued	15.7	11.5
Financial security	10.7	12.9
Spirituality/faith	11.2	10.8
Making a difference in the community	7.1	5.3

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for NSW respondents were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress*, and *body image*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally. There were a range of issues that were of concern to respondents, with six items being of concern to at least one in five young people.

- The top issue for NSW respondents was *school or study problems*, with 38.1% of respondents identifying it as a major concern, up from 25.7% in 2010.
- *Coping with stress* was of high concern for over one third (36.1%) of respondents, compared with 27.4% last year.
- *Body image* (32.4%) rounded out the top three concerns for NSW respondents, a similar figure to last year.
- Around a quarter of respondents identified *family conflict* and *bullying/emotional abuse* as issues of concern.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	NSW 2011 %	National 2011 %	NSW 2010 %	NSW 2009 %	NSW 2008 %
School or study problems	38.1	37.3	25.7	17.9	19.0
Coping with stress	36.1	35.4	27.4	19.3	21.6
Body image	32.4	33.1	31.4	25.2	26.0
Family conflict	28.0	28.1	28.9	25.4	27.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.0	22.8	23.3	23.2	22.2
Personal safety	21.8	20.3	24.2	23.5	24.0
Depression	17.7	18.1	18.6	19.1	17.9
The environment	17.4	17.7	15.0	15.4	16.6
Drugs	16.3	16.9	19.7	25.4	24.6
Alcohol	14.8	15.2	22.3	21.8	19.7
Discrimination	9.8	9.9	10.3	12.3	13.1
Suicide	9.3	8.8	19.7	25.8	24.4
Physical/sexual abuse	8.2	8.5	15.5	22.8	23.7
Sexuality	6.7	6.4	11.3	12.3	12.4
Self harm	6.0	6.4	11.1	13.0	13.6

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 compares issues of concern between the age groups. *School or study problems* was the top-ranked item for 11 to 14 year olds and 15 to 19 year olds. *Coping with stress* was clearly the top concern for 20 to 24 year olds, and was also highly ranked by 15 to 19 year olds. *Body image* was of similar relative concern for all three age groups. Responses to other issues, such as *bullying/emotional abuse*, *personal safety*, and *depression*, varied with age.

- Concern with *coping with stress* increased with age, with over one quarter (28.2%) of 11 to 14 year olds, two in five (43.4%) of 15 to 19 year olds, and half (51.3%) of 20 to 24 year olds indicating it was a major concern.
- *School or study problems* was of greatest concern to 15 to 19 year olds (43.5%), and was also highly ranked by the 11 to 14 year olds (33.3%).
- Around one third of respondents in each age group ranked *body image* as a major concern.
- *Depression* was the second highest concern for 20 to 24 year olds (36.3%), a far higher proportion than for younger respondents.
- *Bullying or emotional abuse* was the third highest concern for 11 to 14 year olds (28.7%), but was of lesser concern to older respondents.
- *Personal safety*, *drugs* and *the environment* were of greater concern among the 11-14 year olds compared to older respondents

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

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
School or study problems	33.3	43.5	21.7
Coping with stress	28.2	43.4	51.3
Body image	29.6	35.3	35.0
Family conflict	27.9	28.4	22.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	28.7	18.2	13.8
Personal safety	26.0	18.2	14.6
Depression	14.5	20.2	36.3
The environment	20.4	14.8	13.8
Drugs	19.5	13.1	12.9
Alcohol	15.3	14.1	15.4
Discrimination	8.1	11.3	13.3
Suicide	10.4	8.1	6.3
Physical/sexual abuse	9.2	7.1	9.2
Sexuality	6.4	6.9	4.6
Self harm	6.6	5.5	4.2

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 compares issues of personal concern between the genders. *School or study problems* was highly ranked by both genders in NSW, with this being the top concern for males. *Body image* was the top-ranked concern for females, with far fewer males indicating this was a concern. *Coping with stress* was highly ranked by both genders.

- *Body image* was of concern to over two in five (41.1%) female respondents, compared with under one quarter (23.4%) of males.
- *School or study problems* was of concern to just under two in five young people of both genders.
- *Coping with stress* was of higher concern for females (39.5%) than males (32.5%).
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for similar numbers of females (29.6%) and males (26.5%).
- *Drugs and alcohol* were of greater concern for males than females.

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

	Female %	Male %
School or study problems	37.7	38.7
Coping with stress	39.5	32.5
Body image	41.1	23.4
Family conflict	29.6	26.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.3	22.8
Personal safety	21.0	22.7
Depression	18.9	16.5
The environment	17.1	17.7
Drugs	11.7	20.9
Alcohol	11.0	18.7
Discrimination	7.7	11.9
Suicide	8.8	9.8
Physical/sexual abuse	9.9	6.4
Sexuality	5.8	7.5
Self harm	6.2	5.9

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

In 2011 young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere they could go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. Over 20% of respondents stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern, while about eight in ten respondents in NSW (79.2%) stated that they had somewhere they could go.

Table 14 shows the five issues of concern most frequently rated number one among those respondents, and the top five sources of advice that respondents felt they could go to regarding these issues. The top three sources of advice were consistent across the different issues of concern, being *friends*, *parents*, and *relative/family friend*. Other sources of advice differed considerably between the different issues of concern.

- *Friends* were the number one source of advice for almost all issues, for 87.5% of respondents concerned about body image, through to 80.7% of respondents concerned with *school or study problems*. Slightly fewer (75.7%) respondents concerned with *bullying/emotional abuse* turned to *friends* for advice.
- The proportion of respondents who turned to *parents* for advice and support varied between the issues, from 80.7% of respondents concerned about *school or study problems* at the highest, through to 68.4% of respondents concerned about *family conflict*.

- *Relative/family friend* were a source of advice and support for around one half of respondents across the different issues of concern.
- *Teachers* were a source of advice for around a third (34.3%) of respondents concerned with *school or study problems*, and one quarter (24.8%) of respondents concerned with *bullying/emotional abuse*.
- *School counsellors* were a relatively highly ranked source of advice for the issues of *family conflict* (18.1%) and *bullying/emotional abuse* (22.2%).
- *Internet* and *magazines* were relatively highly ranked sources of advice for respondents concerned with *body image*, at 22.9% and 12.2% respectively.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

Number one concern	Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)				
School or study problems	Friend/s 80.7	Parent/s 80.7	Relative/Family Friend 48.3	Teacher 34.3	Internet 16.4
Coping with stress	Friend/s 85.2	Parent/s 79.8	Relative/Family Friend 52.7	Teacher 20.3	Internet 16.7
Body Image	Friend/s 87.5	Parent/s 73.4	Relative/Family Friend 51.8	Internet 22.9	Magazines 12.2
Family conflict	Friend/s 84.5	Parent/s 68.4	Relative/Family Friend 63.3	School Counsellor 18.1	Teacher 12.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	Parent/s 78.5	Friend/s 75.7	Relative/Family Friend 51.0	Teacher 24.8	School Counsellor 22.2

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 15. The top issue for respondents from NSW were *the environment, alcohol and drugs*, and *the economy and financial matters*, as they were nationally.

- Just under one half (46.7%) of all NSW respondents listed *the environment* as one of the most important issues in Australia today, a similar proportion to last year (46.0%).
- *Alcohol and drugs* was listed by 29.0% of respondents, a slight drop from last year's figure of 34.7%.
- *The economy and financial matters* and *equity and discrimination* were among the most important issues listed by around one fifth of respondents.
- *Population issues* was also considered to be one of the most important issues by around a fifth of respondents (19.2%), a large increase from last year's figure of 12.3%.

Table 15: Most important issues in Australia today

	NSW 2011 %	National 2011 %	NSW 2010 %
The environment	46.7	44.7	46.0
Alcohol and drugs	29.0	31.7	34.7
The economy and financial matters	20.9	20.3	19.8
Equity and discrimination	19.4	16.9	22.6
Population issues	19.2	19.1	12.3
Crime, safety and violence	16.2	18.4	17.1
Politics and societal values	15.2	14.5	14.4
Health	14.3	14.3	16.5
Bullying	14.2	14.9	9.3
Mental health	9.0	9.9	11.0
Education	7.4	6.7	7.8
Homelessness/housing	7.0	7.3	5.5
Abuse	6.8	7.7	9.4
International relations	5.2	5.0	3.6
Employment	4.8	4.9	4.9
Adolescence/youth	4.0	4.0	4.7
Poverty/disadvantage	3.6	3.0	3.3
Relationships	2.3	2.0	3.3
Animal rights and welfare	2.1	2.3	2.0

Note: Participants provided three open-ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

Age differences

The environment was clearly the top most commonly identified issue in Australia for all age groups, as shown in Table 16. *Alcohol and drugs* and the *economy and financial matters* were also among the top issues for all age groups.

- *The environment* was identified as an issue in Australia by over one half of those aged 11 to 14 (56.8%), over one third of those aged 15 to 19 (37.9%), and just under one third of the young adults (32.0%).
- The proportion of respondents who listed *alcohol and drugs* as an issue in Australia declined slightly with age, with 31.2% for 11-14 year olds, 27.1% for 15 to 19 year olds, and 22.2% for 20-24 year olds.
- One quarter (25.3%) of 15 to 19 year olds identified *equity and discrimination* as an issue in Australia, compared with 17.8% for the young adults, and 13.4% for 11 to 14 year olds.
- *The economy and financial matters* were considered an issue in Australia by around one fifth of respondents in all age groups.
- Young adults identified a broader spread of issues compared with the younger age groups, including *mental health* and *population issues*.

Gender differences

Table 16 also compares the most important issues in Australia that were identified by male and female respondents. *The environment* and *alcohol and drugs* were the top two most commonly identified issue for both genders. *The economy and financial matters* rounded out the top three issues for males, as did *equity and discrimination* for females.

- *The environment* was identified as an issue in Australia by over half (54.8%) of all female respondents, and just under two in five males (38.4%).
- A higher proportion of males (32.5%) than females (25.6%) indicated *alcohol and drugs* were an issue in Australia.
- Around a fifth of respondents of both genders identified *the economy and financial matters* and *equity and discrimination* as issues in Australia.

Table 16: Most important issues in Australia today, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	56.8	37.9	32.0	54.8	38.4
Alcohol and drugs	31.2	27.1	22.2	25.6	32.5
The economy and financial matters	19.9	21.8	22.2	19.0	22.8
Equity and discrimination	13.4	25.3	17.8	19.6	19.1
Population issues	16.4	21.7	22.7	18.0	20.5
Crime, safety and violence	19.2	13.8	8.4	14.4	18.1
Politics and societal values	15.5	15.2	13.3	11.9	18.6
Health	13.1	15.4	14.2	15.6	12.9
Bullying	17.3	11.4	6.2	16.2	12.1
Mental health	7.4	10.2	22.2	10.8	7.2
Education	5.8	8.8	12.0	6.9	8.0
Homelessness/housing	6.5	7.3	14.7	8.4	5.5
Abuse	8.1	5.6	4.0	8.7	4.9
International relations	5.2	5.3	3.6	4.3	6.2
Employment	3.7	5.5	13.8	4.3	5.4
Adolescence/youth	2.7	5.2	7.1	5.1	2.9
Poverty/disadvantage	3.4	3.7	5.3	4.3	2.9
Relationships	2.7	1.8	0.9	2.1	2.5
Animal rights and welfare	2.8	1.5	1.8	2.9	1.2

Note: Participants provided three open-ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 17. The top three activities for NSW respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*, as they were nationally. Just under one third of NSW respondents also participated in *volunteer work*.

- Almost three quarters (74.1%) of young people from NSW participated in *sport (as a participant)* and over one half (53.1%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, slightly higher than the national figures.
- Around one third of respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural activities* (33.4%) and *volunteer work* (31.8%).
- In general, rates of participation in these activities were similar to those reported by 2010 respondents.

Table 17: Activities young people were involved in

	NSW 2011 %	National 2011 %	NSW 2010 %	NSW 2009 %	NSW 2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	74.1	70.7	73.0	66.3	68.5
Sports (as a spectator)	53.1	51.9	56.7	41.6	47.3
Arts/cultural activities	33.4	30.2	33.3	24.9	44.3
Volunteer work	31.8	27.9	33.2	20.2	22.6
Religious groups or activities	28.2	23.2	30.8	23.5	27.4
Youth groups and clubs	25.9	25.0	28.1	22.0	27.5
Student leadership activities	26.2	24.4	27.6	10.2	11.8
Environmental groups or activities	13.6	11.7	14.6	11.0	13.6
Political groups or organisations*	5.0	4.7	6.4	N/A	N/A

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 18 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* was in the top three activities for all age groups, participation declined markedly with age. Participation rates in other activities also differed among the age groups. Participation in *volunteer work* was highest among the young adult group, and participation in *student leadership activities* was highest among the 15 to 19 year olds.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest among 11 to 14 year olds (78.9%), declining to 42.5% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Over one half of 11 to 19 year olds participated in *sports (as a spectator)* compared with around two in five of the young adult group.
- Around one third of respondents across all age groups participated in *arts/cultural activities*.
- Participation in *volunteer work* increased with age. The young adult group was almost twice as likely as 11 to 14 year olds to indicate that they were involved (44.6% compared with 23.0%).

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	78.9	70.5	42.5
Sports (as a spectator)	49.6	56.6	41.6
Arts/cultural activities	32.9	33.6	37.2
Volunteer work	23.0	39.6	44.6
Religious groups or activities	27.3	29.0	25.5
Youth groups and clubs	25.2	26.3	31.3
Student leadership activities	21.5	30.9	19.0
Environmental groups or activities	12.8	14.0	17.7
Political groups or organisations	3.9	5.7	9.9

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 19 compares the activities young people were involved in between male and female respondents. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in each. The third top activity for females was *arts/cultural activities*, while for males it was *volunteer work*. Similar proportions of male and female respondents participated in *religious groups or activities*.

- More than three quarters of male respondents (76.9%) and almost three quarters of female respondents (71.3%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Six in ten males (59.5%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, compared with just under one half of females (46.6%).
- Females were more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural activities* (40.4% compared with 26.0%) and *student leadership activities* (28.9% compared with 23.5%).
- Around three in ten respondents of both genders participated in *volunteer work* and *religious groups or activities*.

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

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	71.3	76.9
Sports (as a spectator)	46.6	59.5
Arts/cultural activities	40.4	26.0
Volunteer work	33.8	29.7
Religious groups or activities	27.3	28.9
Youth groups and clubs	24.7	27.1
Student leadership activities	28.9	23.5
Environmental groups or activities	13.5	13.6
Political groups or organisations	3.9	6.2

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Respondents were asked to describe how positive or negative they felt about the future. Table 20 shows that over six in ten respondents from NSW felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, similar to national figures and consistent with responses from 2010.

- Almost two thirds of NSW respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future (63.4%).
- Less than one in ten young people reported *negative* or *very negative* feelings about the future (9.2%).
- Just over one quarter of respondents indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future (27.3%).

Table 20: Feelings about the future

	NSW 2011 %	National 2011 %	NSW 2010 %
Very positive	21.0	20.4	22.2
Positive	42.4	42.7	42.7
Neither positive nor negative	27.3	28.1	26.4
Negative	5.7	5.6	5.4
Very negative	3.5	3.3	3.4

Age differences

Table 2I shows that similar proportions of respondents felt *positive* or *very positive* among the three age groups. The 20 to 24 year old age group were slightly more likely to express negative feelings, and less likely to express neutral feelings, than their younger counterparts.

Gender differences

Table 2I also compares responses from male and female respondents. Male respondents were slightly more likely to feel *positive* or *very positive* about the future than females, while females were slightly more likely to express neutral feelings compared with males.

Table 2I: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	21.6	20.4	18.3	17.9	24.2
Positive	42.3	42.8	45.4	43.9	41.0
Neither positive nor negative	27.6	27.4	21.7	29.5	25.2
Negative	5.4	5.8	10.8	5.9	5.5
Very negative	3.2	3.6	3.8	2.8	4.1



Northern Territory summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

878 surveys were returned from the Northern Territory (NT), which was 1.9% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The age profile of NT respondents is shown in Table 1. The largest group of respondents were the 11 to 14 year olds (73.4%), followed by the 15 to 19 year olds (22.1%). Only 4.5% of NT respondents were aged 20 to 24 years 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	614	73.4
15-19 years	185	22.1
20-24 years	38	4.5
Total	837	1.9% 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 are for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

Females represented 50.6% of NT respondents and 49.4% of respondents were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

As shown in Table 2, 217 or 25.2% of respondents from NT identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Aboriginal respondents	217	25.2	5.8	25.3	23.5
Non Aboriginal respondents	643	74.8	94.2	74.7	76.5

Languages other than English spoken at home

Almost three quarters of respondents from the NT indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 231 respondents (26.5%) who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 30 languages between them. The five most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Filipino/Tagalog, Chinese, Greek, Indonesian and Vietnamese.

Disability

37 (4.3%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The three most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism, deafness or hearing impairment, and learning disability.

Where respondents were living

As shown in Table 3, the vast majority of respondents from NT (93.2%) were living *with family*, in line with the national figure of 94.5%. Among respondents there were 9 young people who were in *foster care* who participated in the survey, 7 who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* and 7 who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	93.2	94.5	96.7	81.3
Boarding school	2.3	1.4	1.2	6.0
Foster care	1.1	0.6	0.8	2.2
Share house	1.0	1.3	0.2	3.8
Homeless/insecure housing	0.9	0.5	0.3	2.7
Juvenile Justice centre / prison	0.9	0.6	0.7	1.6
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.3	0.2	0.0	1.1
Alone	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.5
Other	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.5

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, over three quarters (77.5%) of NT respondents were living in the territory capital, Darwin, a greater proportion than the national figure of 58.2% who were living in a capital city. Four in five of those aged 11 to 14 years were living in Darwin.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Live in capital city	672	77.5	58.2	80.8	68.7
Not in capital city	195	22.5	41.8	19.2	31.3

Main source of income

Parents and family were the main source of income for almost 70% of respondents. Table 5 shows that respondents were less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for *government allowance*. Compared with the national data, *parents/family* was the main source of income for a greater proportion of NT respondents, while the proportion of respondents for whom *government allowance* was the main source of income was smaller in NT.

Table 5: Main source of income

	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents or family	69.3	61.9	75.1	50.0
Employment	14.1	16.0	8.7	32.0
Government Allowance	1.7	4.4	0.7	5.1
Other	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6
No income	14.4	17.1	15.0	12.4

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds have been excluded from this section, given secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age.

As Table 6 shows, almost eight in ten (78%) respondents in the NT were *studying full time*, lower than the national figure of 89.7%. Overall, females were less likely than males to be studying and males were slightly more likely than females to be *studying full time*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	NT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	78.0	89.7	75.1	80.8
Studying part time	6.7	3.4	6.5	7.0
Not studying	15.3	6.9	18.5	12.2

Note: all data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Over half of the 223 respondents aged 15 years and above, were *not in paid employment* (51.5%), about one third (30.9%) were *employed part time*, and 17.5% were in *full time employment*, a far greater proportion than the national figure of 1.8%. Females were more likely to be in paid employment than males (52.7% compared with 42.8%).

Table 7: Participation in paid employment

	NT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Employed full time	17.5	1.8	22.7	10.7
Employed part time	30.9	36.4	30.0	32.1
Not in paid employment	51.5	61.8	47.3	57.1

Note: all data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full time is 35 hours or more.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for NT respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*, as they were nationally. The fourth item was *getting a job* followed closely by *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by almost eight in ten (78.6%) respondents while *friendships* were valued by half of the NT young people who participated in the survey.
- Almost four in ten respondents (38.5%) indicated that they highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, an increase from the figure of 27.8% in 2010.
- Almost one third of respondents highly valued *getting a job* and *physical and mental health* respectively. The proportion of young people who valued *getting a job* increased from 20.5% in 2010 to 29.8% this year.

Table 8: What young people value

	NT 2011 %	National 2011 %	NT 2010 %	NT 2009 %	NT 2008 %
Family relationships	78.6	74.3	79.4	77.5	77.8
Friendships (other than family)	51.1	59.0	56.3	56.4	61.7
School or study satisfaction	38.5	36.9	27.8	25.0	21.8
Getting a job	29.8	22.7	20.5	18.6	17.3
Physical and mental health	26.9	32.0	28.3	28.3	26.2
Being independent	23.2	21.6	30.4	33.8	30.0
Feeling needed and valued	10.8	13.8	20.2	23.1	25.3
Financial security	8.9	11.6	17.6	12.6	14.3
Making a difference in the community	6.0	6.6	7.3	9.7	8.5
Spirituality/faith	5.6	9.6	14.2	15.3	15.7

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 compares what was valued between the 11 to 14 and the 15 to 19 year olds respondents living in the NT. The top three items for both age groups were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. However, the 15 to 19 year olds also ranked *being independent* among the top items.

- *Family relationships* was clearly ranked first by those aged 11 to 19, though the relative importance of this item declined with age (80.1% to 75.6%, from youngest to oldest)
- About one half of the two age groups highly valued *friendships*.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by about four in ten (43.4%) of the 11 to 14 year olds, and three in ten (31.3%) of the 15 to 19 year olds.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by one third (31.3%) of the 15 to 19 year olds, a greater proportion than among the younger respondents (20.6%).

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	80.1	75.6
Friendships (other than family)	52.2	50.6
School or study satisfaction	43.4	31.3
Getting a job	31.6	26.1
Physical and mental health	26.5	26.1
Being independent	20.6	31.3
Feeling needed and valued	8.8	15.9
Financial security	5.4	13.1
Making a difference in the community	4.1	7.4
Spirituality/faith	6.1	4.5

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for both genders and these items were highly valued by a greater proportion of female than male respondents.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 82.4% of females and 75.2% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 52.9% of females and 49.1% of males.
- A greater proportion of females than males highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (44.3% compared with 32.4%).
- The third item most highly valued by males was *getting a job* (36.4%), a far greater proportion than among females (23.3%).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	82.4	75.2
Friendships (other than family)	52.9	49.1
School or study satisfaction	44.3	32.4
Getting a job	23.3	36.4
Physical and mental health	25.2	29.0
Being independent	23.1	23.1
Feeling needed and valued	11.4	10.1
Financial security	9.5	8.4
Making a difference in the community	8.6	3.4
Spirituality/faith	5.7	5.4

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for NT respondents were *school or study problems*, *body image* and *family conflict*. Compared to the national data, a smaller percentage of NT respondents were concerned about *school or study problems*, *body image* and *coping with stress*, but a greater proportion were concerned about *drugs* and *alcohol*. Overall, seven items were of concern to at least one in five young people from the NT.

- The top issue for NT respondents was *school or study problems*, with one third (33.0%) identifying it as a major concern, up from 21.0% in 2010.
- *Body image* and *family conflict* were of high concern to about three in ten respondents.
- *Coping with stress* (23.4%) decreased slightly from last year (25.4%) among the NT respondents. A substantially smaller percentage of NT young people (23.4%) indicated that *coping with stress* was an issue of concern compared to the national figure of 35.4%.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	NT 2011 %	National 2011 %	NT 2010 %	NT 2009 %	NT 2008 %
School or study problems	33.0	37.3	21.0	16.0	19.6
Body image	28.6	33.1	30.5	22.3	22.7
Family conflict	28.1	28.1	26.5	23.3	26.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.2	22.8	23.6	25.9	22.3
Drugs	25.0	16.9	23.0	26.8	26.5
Coping with stress	23.4	35.4	25.4	19.0	19.3
Alcohol	20.7	15.2	27.6	23.9	21.8
Personal safety	18.1	20.3	20.0	20.2	23.1
The environment	17.9	17.7	20.4	19.5	19.9
Depression	15.6	18.1	17.0	18.2	16.7
Suicide	10.9	9.9	21.0	27.3	23.7
Physical/sexual abuse	9.9	8.5	18.0	26.0	24.6
Self harm	8.7	6.4	9.3	11.5	13.9
Sexuality	7.4	6.4	11.8	10.6	11.7
Discrimination	7.2	8.8	10.8	11.6	13.5

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 compares issues of concern between the 11 to 14 and the 15 to 19 year olds. *School or study problems* was the top ranked issue of concern among both age groups. *Coping with stress* was highly ranked by the 15 to 19 year olds and not by the younger age group. *Drugs* were highly ranked by those age 11 to 14 years.

- *School or study problems* were of concern for about one third of respondents from both age groups.
- Concern with *coping with stress* increased with age, with less than two in ten (18.4%) of those aged 11 to 14 years, and over a third (35.4%) of respondents aged 15 to 19 years indicating it was a major concern.
- *Body image* and *family conflict* were major issues of concern for almost three in ten young people from both age groups.
- *Bullying/emotional abuse* was of concern for about a quarter of respondents from both age groups.
- *Drugs* and *alcohol* were of far greater concern for the 11 to 14 year olds than for those aged 15 to 19 years. *Depression* was of greater concern for the 15 to 19 year olds.

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

	11- 14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
School or study problems	33.6	36.0
Body image	27.6	28.0
Family conflict	28.9	28.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	26.5	25.0
Drugs	28.0	17.1
Coping with stress	18.4	35.4
Alcohol	21.7	16.5
Personal safety	19.7	14.6
The environment	17.6	19.5
Depression	13.2	20.1
Suicide	11.9	8.5
Physical/sexual abuse	10.6	9.1
Self harm	9.6	6.7
Sexuality	6.3	7.9
Discrimination	5.0	11.0

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 compares issues of personal concern across gender groups. *School or study problems* were highly ranked by both genders in NT, with this being the top concern for males. *Body image* was the top-ranked concern for females, with far fewer males indicating this was a concern. *Drugs* was highly ranked by males.

- *School or study problems* were of concern for about one third of respondents from both genders.
- *Body image* was of concern for almost four in ten females (38.8%), compared with fewer than two in ten males (17.3%).
- *Bullying/emotional abuse* was of concern for a greater proportion of males than females (27.6% compared with 23.2%).
- *Drugs* and *alcohol* were of far greater concern for males than for females.
- *Coping with stress* and *depression* were of greater concern for females than for males.

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

	Female %	Male %
School or study problems	34.6	31.8
Body image	38.8	17.3
Family conflict	28.6	27.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.2	27.6
Drugs	19.5	31.2
Coping with stress	26.4	20.3
Alcohol	16.5	25.6
Personal safety	17.5	18.9
The environment	18.8	17.3
Depression	18.0	12.5
Suicide	9.9	11.7
Physical/sexual abuse	12.1	7.0
Self harm	8.4	8.6
Sexuality	6.7	8.1
Discrimination	4.9	9.7

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

In 2011, young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere they could go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. In the NT, 24.1% of respondents stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support (21.6% nationally). Table 14 shows the five issues of concern most frequently rated number one among the 75.9% of respondents who indicated that they had somewhere they could go for advice and support, and the top five sources of advice that respondents felt they could go regarding these issues.

The top three sources of advice were consistent across the different issues of concern, being *friends*, *parents*, and *relative/family friend*. Other sources of advice varied across the different issues of concern.

- *Friends* were the number one source of advice and support for four of the five top issues of concern. The proportion of respondents who sought *friends* for advice ranged from 92.6% of those concerned about *body image*, through 61.2% of those concerned about *bullying/emotional abuse*.
- A similar proportion of respondents (about seven in ten) turned to *parents* for advice and support when concerned about *school or study problems*, *body image*, *family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, and *drugs*.
- *Relative/family friend* was a source of advice and support for about six in ten respondents concerned about *body image* and *family conflict*, and for about half of those concerned about *school or study problems*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, and *drugs*.
- The *internet* was a relatively common source of advice and support for concerns about *drugs* (25.5% of respondents), *school or study problems* (17.6%), *body image* (16.7%), and *family conflict* (12.5%).
- *Teachers* were a source of advice for those respondents concerned with *school or study problems* (30.6%), *bullying/emotional abuse* (23.9%), *drugs* (21.6%) and *family conflict* (12.5%). *School counsellors* were sought for concerns about *bullying/emotional abuse* (31.3%), *body image* (13.0%) and *family conflict* (12.5%).

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

Number one concern	Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)				
School or study problems	Friend/s 76.5	Parent/s 71.8	Relative/Family Friend 52.9	Teacher 30.6	Internet 17.6
Body image	Friend/s 92.6	Parent/s 70.4	Relative/Family Friend 59.3	Internet 16.7	School Counsellor 13.0
Family conflict	Friend/s 90.0	Parent/s 70.0	Relative/Family Friend 60.0	Internet 12.5	School Counsellor 12.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	Parent/s 68.7	Friend/s 61.2	Relative/Family Friend 49.3	School Counsellor 31.3	Teacher 23.9
Drugs	Friend/s 82.4	Parent/s 70.6	Relative/Family Friend 49.0	Internet 25.5	Teacher 21.6

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 15. The top issues for respondents from the NT were *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs* (as they were nationally), and *crime, safety and violence* (which was rated lower in the national count).

- *The environment* was listed by 44.2% of respondents from the NT as one of the most important issues in Australia today, a slightly lower proportion to last year (49.9%).
- *Alcohol and drugs* was listed by two in five young people (39.8%), a similar percentage to last year (39.2%).
- *Crime, safety and violence* was listed by almost one quarter (23.8%) of NT respondents, a slight increase from last year's figure of 21.7%.
- *Bullying* and *population* issues reported an increase from last year.

Table 15: Most important issues in Australia today

	NT 2011 %	National 2011 %	NT 2010 %
The environment	44.2	44.7	49.9
Alcohol and drugs	39.8	31.7	39.2
Crime, safety and violence	23.8	18.4	21.7
Population issues	18.8	19.1	13.5
The economy and financial matters	17.5	20.3	18.5
Bullying	12.9	14.9	5.5
Equity and discrimination	12.0	16.9	16.3
Abuse	10.4	7.7	10.2
Politics and societal values	9.5	14.5	9.5
Homelessness/housing	9.2	7.3	8.9
Health	9.1	14.3	14.4
Education	8.3	6.7	8.3
Mental health	6.3	9.9	9.0
Employment	4.0	4.9	8.6
Adolescence/youth	3.6	4.0	3.6
Relationships	3.2	2.0	2.8
Animal rights and welfare	2.8	2.3	2.4
Aboriginal issues	2.6	1.8	3.4
International relations	2.6	5.0	3.3

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

Age differences

As shown in Table 16, *the environment* and *alcohol and drugs* were clearly the top most commonly identified issues in Australia for the 11 to 14 and the 15 to 19 year olds from the NT. *Crime, safety and violence* was a top issue for those aged 11 to 14 years, while *the economy and financial matters* were commonly identified by the 15 to 19 year olds.

- *The environment* was identified by almost one half of those aged 11 to 14 years (47.9%) and over one third of those aged 15 to 19 years (35.9%).
- *Alcohol and drugs* were of greater concern by the 11 to 14 year olds (42.5%) compared with the older age group (31.7%).
- *Crime, safety and violence* was identified by almost twice as many respondents aged 11 to 14 compared to those aged 15 to 19 years.
- About one quarter of the 15 to 19 year olds identified *the economy and financial matters* and *population issues* compared with 14.1% and 16.9% of respondents aged 11 to 14 years respectively.

Gender differences

Table 16 below also compares the most important issues in Australia that were identified by male and female respondents from the NT. *The environment*, *alcohol and drugs*, and *crime, safety and violence* were the top three most commonly identified issues for both genders.

- *The environment* was identified as an issue by a greater proportion of female (49.7%) than male (38.5%) respondents.
- About two in five respondents from each gender identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue in Australia today.
- *Crime, safety and violence* was identified by about a quarter of both female and male respondents.
- *Population issues*, *the economy and financial matters*, and *politics* were identified by a greater proportion of males, while *bullying*, *equity and discrimination*, *abuse*, and *homelessness/housing* were more commonly identified by females.

Table 16: Most important issues in Australia today, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	47.9	35.9	49.7	38.5
Alcohol and drugs	42.5	31.7	39.0	40.6
Crime, safety and violence	28.4	15.5	24.1	23.8
Population issues	16.9	23.2	17.1	21.0
The economy and financial matters	14.1	26.1	13.7	22.0
Bullying	13.4	11.3	17.4	8.0
Equity and discrimination	11.0	13.4	14.6	8.4
Abuse	11.7	8.5	13.7	6.3
Politics and societal values	8.9	13.4	6.7	12.9
Homelessness/housing	6.1	13.4	11.9	5.9
Health	8.0	12.0	8.2	9.4
Education	7.3	10.6	8.8	7.7
Mental health	5.2	5.6	7.9	4.5
Employment	3.1	5.6	3.4	4.9
Adolescence/youth	2.8	5.6	5.2	1.7
Relationships	4.2	0.7	2.1	4.5
Animal rights and welfare	3.1	1.4	1.8	3.8
Aboriginal issues	0.9	6.3	2.4	2.8
International relations	2.8	2.1	2.1	3.1

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 17. The top three activities for NT respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*, as they were nationally.

- Two thirds (65.1%) of young people from the NT participated in *sports (as a participant)* and 47.0% participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, slightly lower than the national figures (70.7% and 51.9% respectively).
- About one third of respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural activities* and three in ten participated in *volunteer work* (29.1%).
- With the exception of *arts/cultural activities*, rates of participation across all other activities declined slightly from those reported in 2010.

Table 17: Activities young people were involved in

	NT 2011 %	National 2011 %	NT 2010 %	NT 2009 %	NT 2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	65.1	70.7	67.9	58.6	69.3
Sports (as a spectator)	47.0	51.9	54.8	32.5	45.3
Arts/cultural activities	34.0	30.2	32.0	24.0	43.0
Volunteer work	29.1	27.9	32.4	18.8	27.1
Youth groups and clubs	27.4	25.0	31.6	27.3	28.7
Student leadership activities	22.6	24.4	25.7	11.4	13.0
Religious groups or activities	19.9	23.2	23.8	19.8	26.5
Environmental groups or activities	14.7	11.7	19.2	12.8	16.6
Political groups or organisations*	7.1	4.7	7.9	N/A	N/A

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 18 shows that *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as spectator)*, and *arts/cultural activities* were the top three activities for both the 11 to 14 and the 15 to 19 year olds. The rate of participation in *sports (as a participant)* and *arts/cultural activities* declined with age. Participation rates in other activities also varied across the two age groups.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was greater among the 11 to 14 year olds (69.1%) than among those aged 15 to 19 years (53.8%).
- A similar proportion of respondents from both age groups participated in *sports (as spectator)*.
- A slightly greater percentage of respondents aged 11 to 14 years (34.8%) participated in *arts/cultural activities* compared with the 15 to 19 year olds (30.1%).
- Rates of participation in *volunteer work* and *youth groups and clubs* were similar between the two age groups.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	69.1	53.8	57.8	72.7
Sports (as a spectator)	45.2	46.0	40.1	54.1
Arts/cultural activities	34.8	30.1	38.4	28.6
Volunteer work	28.4	29.2	30.3	27.7
Youth groups and clubs	26.2	27.1	25.0	29.6
Student leadership activities	23.9	20.5	21.3	23.9
Religious groups or activities	21.2	15.9	16.9	23.3
Environmental groups or activities	14.1	15.5	14.9	14.3
Political groups or organisations	5.2	8.5	4.7	9.4

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 19 compares the activities young people were involved in between female and male respondents in the NT. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third most frequently identified activity was *arts/cultural activities* for females and *youth groups and clubs* for males.

- Around seven in ten males (72.7%) and six in ten females (57.8%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- A greater proportion of males (54.1%) than females (40.1%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to participate in *arts/cultural activities* (38.4% compared with 28.6%) and *volunteer work* (30.3% compared with 27.7%).
- Males were more likely than females to participate in *youth groups and clubs* (29.6% compared with 25.0%), *student leadership activities* (23.9% compared with 21.3%), and *religious groups or activities* (23.3% compared with 16.9%).

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

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	57.8	72.7
Sports (as a spectator)	40.1	54.1
Arts/cultural activities	38.4	28.6
Volunteer work	30.3	27.7
Youth groups and clubs	25.0	29.6
Student leadership activities	21.3	23.9
Religious groups or activities	16.9	23.3
Environmental groups or activities	14.9	14.3
Political groups or organisations	4.7	9.4

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe how positive or negative they felt about the future. Table 20 shows that six in ten respondents from the NT felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, similar to national figures and consistent with responses from 2010.

- Almost a quarter of respondents (23.1%) indicated they felt *very positive* about the future. More than one third (36.8%) felt positive.
- Less than one in ten young people reported *negative* or *very negative* feelings about the future (9.4%).
- About three in ten respondents indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future (30.7%)

Table 20: Feelings about the future

	NT 2011 %	National 2011 %	NT 2010 %
Very positive	23.1	20.4	21.3
Positive	36.8	42.7	37.8
Neither positive nor negative	30.7	28.1	29.9
Negative	5.3	5.6	6.1
Very negative	4.1	3.3	4.9

Age differences

Table 21 compares feeling about the future between the 11 to 14 and 15 to 19 year olds. A greater proportion of respondents (60.8%) from the younger age group (11 to 14) felt *positive/very positive* about the future compared with those aged 15 to 19 years (55.7%). The older age group was more likely to express neutral feelings about the future (34.7% compared with 29.6%).

Gender differences

Table 21 also shows that a greater proportion of male respondents (64.9%) than females (55.7%) felt *positive/very positive* about the future. Females were more likely than males to have neutral feeling about the future (34.8% compared with 26.2%).

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	24.1	18.6	18.9	27.9
Positive	36.7	37.1	36.8	37.0
Neither positive nor negative	29.6	34.7	34.8	26.2
Negative	5.6	4.2	5.8	4.7
Very negative	4.0	5.4	3.8	4.2



Queensland summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

10,464 surveys were returned from Queensland (QLD), which was 22.8% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The age profile of Queensland respondents is shown in Table 1. The largest group of respondents were the 11 to 14 year olds (49.9%), followed closely by the 15 to 19 year olds (48.7%). Only 1.4% of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	5,089	49.9
15-19 years	4,967	48.7
20-24 years	146	1.4
Total	10,202	22.8% 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 are for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

52.4% of respondents from Queensland were female and 47.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

As shown in Table 2, 639 or 6.2% 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 %
Aboriginal respondents	639	6.2	5.8	6.0	6.1	9.6
Non Aboriginal respondents	9,646	93.8	94.2	94.0	93.9	90.4

Languages other than English spoken at home

87.3% of respondents from Queensland indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 1,323 respondents (12.7%) who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 65 languages between them. The 10 most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Samoan, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Japanese, Maori, Afrikaans, Spanish, German, and Mandarin.

Disability

387 (3.7%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism, Attention Deficit Disorder/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), learning disability, physical disability, and deafness or hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

As shown in Table 3, the vast majority of respondents from Queensland (95.5%) were living *with family*, in line with the national figure of 94.5%. 88 young people who were in *foster care* participated in the survey, as did 44 who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* and 37 who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	95.5	94.5	97.6	95.2	35.9
Share house	1.4	1.3	0.6	1.3	31.7
Foster care	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.7
Boarding school	0.6	1.4	0.6	0.7	1.4
Homeless/insecure housing	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	4.8
Alone	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.4	10.3
Juvenile Justice centre/prison	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	1.4
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	10.3
Other	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.4	3.4

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, over one third (35.7%) of Queensland respondents were living in the state capital, Brisbane. This is in contrast with the national figure of 58.2% who were living in a capital city. Over two thirds of the young adult group were living in Brisbane.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	3,696	35.7	58.2	33.6	36.8	68.5
Not in capital city	6,665	64.3	41.8	66.4	63.2	31.5

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income for 60% of the respondents. Table 5 shows that respondents were less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for *government allowance*. The Queensland data were very similar to the national data for all income sources.

Table 5: Main source of income

	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents or family	60.1	61.9	69.9	51.7	6.8
Employment	17.6	16.0	4.7	29.8	60.3
Government Allowance	3.3	4.4	0.5	5.4	24.0
Other	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.4	3.4
No income	18.6	17.1	24.5	12.7	5.5

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, given secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age.

As Table 6 shows, almost nine in ten (87.5%) respondents in Queensland were *studying full time*, slightly lower than the national figure of 89.7%. Respondents aged 15 to 19 years were much more likely than those in the older age group to be *studying full time* (89.0% compared with 37.7%). Young adults were much more likely than the younger age group to be *not studying* (42.5% compared with 7.4%). Education participation rates were quite similar for both genders.

Table 6: Participation in education

	QLD %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	87.5	89.7	89.0	37.7	88.7	86.4
Studying part time	4.1	3.4	3.6	19.9	4.0	4.1
Not studying	8.4	6.9	7.4	42.5	7.3	9.5

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Over one third of respondents were *employed part-time*, and a small proportion (1.6%) were *employed full time*. Participation in paid employment was far greater among the 20 to 24 year olds than 15 to 19 year olds, with the difference in full time employment rates particularly marked (36.2% compared with 0.5%). Females were more likely to be employed than males (43.8% overall, compared with 33.7%).

Table 7: Participation in paid employment

	QLD %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Employed full time	1.6	1.8	0.5	36.2	2.2	0.9
Employed part time	37.4	36.4	37.6	33.3	41.6	32.8
Not in paid employment	61.0	61.8	61.9	30.5	56.2	66.3

Note: all data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full time is 35 hours or more.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for Queensland respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*, as they were nationally. The fourth item was *physical and mental health* followed closely by *getting a job*.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 71.3% and 59.1% of Queensland respondents respectively.
- More than one third (38.6%) of Queensland respondents indicated that they highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, a substantial increase from the figure of 30.0% in 2010.
- About one quarter of young people highly valued *physical and mental health* and *getting a job*. The proportion of young people who valued getting a job increased from 19.0% in 2010 to 26.8% this year.

Table 8: What young people value

	QLD 2011 %	National 2011 %	QLD 2010 %	QLD 2009 %	QLD 2008 %
Family relationships	71.3	74.3	75.8	74.5	74.3
Friendships (other than family)	59.1	59.0	60.4	62.2	61.5
School or study satisfaction	38.6	36.9	30.0	22.6	19.9
Physical and mental health	28.9	32.0	32.3	30.0	28.8
Getting a job	26.8	22.7	19.0	20.2	17.6
Being independent	21.4	21.6	26.3	32.0	31.8
Feeling needed and valued	12.5	13.8	21.7	25.3	26.7
Financial security	11.4	11.6	14.0	14.3	13.7
Spirituality/faith	9.5	9.6	14.5	11.6	20.0
Making a difference in the community	6.3	6.6	6.7	8.4	7.2

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 compares what was valued by different age groups of Queensland respondents. The top three items for those aged 11 to 14 years and those aged 15 to 19 years were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The responses of those aged 20 to 24 were notably different to the other younger age groups, though they also ranked *family relationships* first.

- *Family relationships* was clearly ranked first by all age groups, though the relative importance of this item declined with age (76.0%, 66.8%, and 66.2%, from youngest to oldest).
- A majority of the two younger age groups highly valued *friendships* (62.4% and 56.8%), compared with 35.2% of the young adult group.
- *Financial security* (39.4%) was the second most highly valued item for those aged 20 to 24 years, a far greater proportion than among the younger respondents.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by almost two in five of those aged 11 to 14 years and those aged 15 to 19 years (39.6% and 38.6% respectively).

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	76.0	66.8	66.2
Friendships (other than family)	62.4	56.8	35.2
School or study satisfaction	39.6	38.6	16.9
Physical and mental health	28.3	29.5	34.5
Getting a job	28.1	25.1	15.5
Being independent	16.0	27.1	28.9
Feeling needed and valued	12.8	11.9	23.2
Financial security	6.4	15.8	39.4
Spirituality/faith	9.3	9.7	9.2
Making a difference in the community	5.8	6.3	23.2

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for both genders and these items were highly valued by a greater proportion of female than male respondents.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 76.6% of females and 65.4% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 63.2% of females and 54.5% of males.
- A greater proportion of females than males valued *school or study satisfaction* (43.3% compared with 33.4%).
- The third item most highly valued by males was *getting a job* (35.1%), a far greater proportion than among females (19.3%).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	76.6	65.4
Friendships (other than family)	63.2	54.5
School or study satisfaction	43.3	33.4
Physical and mental health	25.2	33.0
Getting a job	19.3	35.1
Being independent	21.3	21.6
Feeling needed and valued	14.0	10.8
Financial security	10.1	12.9
Spirituality/faith	10.9	7.9
Making a difference in the community	7.0	5.5

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for Queensland respondents were *school or study problems*, *body image*, and *coping with stress*. Compared to the national data, a slightly greater proportion of young people in Queensland were concerned about *body image* (34.8% compared with 33.1%). There were a range of issues that were of concern to respondents, with five items being of concern to at least one in five young people.

- The top issue for Queensland respondents was *school or study problems*, with 38.3% of respondents identifying it as a major concern, up from 26.1% in 2010.
- *Body image* was of high concern for over one third (34.8%) of respondents, compared with 32.2% last year.
- *Coping with stress* (34.0%) rounded out the top three concerns for Queensland respondents, up from 28.3% in 2010.
- *Family conflict* and *bullying/emotional abuse* were of concern to about one third and one quarter of Queensland respondents respectively.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	QLD 2011 %	National 2011 %	QLD 2010 %	QLD 2009 %	QLD 2008 %
School or study problems	38.3	37.3	26.1	17.1	17.7
Body image	34.8	33.1	32.2	25.6	28.8
Coping with stress	34.0	35.4	28.3	19.2	21.2
Family conflict	29.8	28.1	27.3	23.5	25.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.7	22.8	22.3	21.9	22.0
Personal safety	18.4	20.3	23.4	21.6	23.2
Depression	17.6	18.1	18.9	17.8	17.8
The environment	16.5	17.7	16.6	15.8	16.2
Drugs	16.0	16.9	18.6	27.8	24.3
Alcohol	14.2	15.2	21.2	23.6	20.3
Suicide	9.4	9.9	19.6	27.0	25.6
Physical/sexual abuse	8.6	8.5	15.4	23.0	22.5
Discrimination	8.0	8.8	9.8	11.2	11.4
Sexuality	7.1	6.4	12.0	12.0	12.8
Self harm	6.7	6.4	12.2	14.7	14.4

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 compares issues of concern between the age groups. *School or study problems* was the top ranked item for 11 to 14 year olds and 15 to 19 year olds. *Coping with stress* was clearly the top concern for 20 to 24 year olds, and was also highly ranked by 15 to 19 year olds. *Body image* was of similar relative concern for those aged 11 to 14 years and 15 to 19 years, but of greater relative concern for the young adult group. Responses to other issues, such as *family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *depression*, varied with age.

- Concern with *coping with stress* increased with age, with over a quarter (26.6%) of 11 to 14 year olds, two in five (41.1%) of the 15 to 19 year olds, and almost three in five of 20 to 24 year olds indicating it was a major concern.
- *School or study problems* was of greatest concern to 15 to 19 year olds (42.8%), and was also highly ranked by those aged 11 to 14 years (34.7%).
- *Body image* is a major concern for all age groups, but of greater concern to those aged 20 to 24 years (48.6%).
- *Depression* was the third highest concern for 20 to 24 year olds (39.3%), a far greater proportion than for younger respondents.
- Almost one third of respondents aged 11 to 14 years and 15 to 19 years were concerned about *family conflict*.
- Concern about *bullying/emotional abuse* decreased with age.

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

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
School or study problems	34.7	42.8	17.9
Body image	34.0	35.6	48.6
Coping with stress	26.6	41.1	57.1
Family conflict	30.2	29.9	15.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	27.7	17.9	13.6
Personal safety	21.3	15.7	12.1
Depression	14.8	19.9	39.3
The environment	18.2	15.1	13.6
Drugs	18.8	13.1	8.6
Alcohol	14.0	14.2	9.3
Suicide	10.6	8.2	7.9
Physical/sexual abuse	9.9	7.4	6.4
Discrimination	6.7	9.0	14.3
Sexuality	6.3	8.0	7.1
Self harm	6.8	6.4	5.7

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 compares issues of personal concern between the genders. *School or study problems* was highly ranked by both genders in Queensland, with this being the top concern for males. *Body image* was the top ranked concern for females, with far fewer males indicating this was a concern. *Coping with stress* was highly ranked by both genders.

- *School or study problems* was of concern to just under two in five young people of both genders.
- *Body image* was of concern to over two in five (43.8%) female respondents, compared with under a quarter (24.2%) of males.
- A higher percentage of females than males were concerned about *coping with stress* (37.1% compared with 30.3%).
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for a slightly higher proportion of females (32.0%) than males (27.2%).
- *Drugs* and *alcohol* were of greater concern for males than females.

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

	Female %	Male %
School or study problems	38.1	38.6
Body image	43.8	24.2
Coping with stress	37.1	30.3
Family conflict	32.0	27.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.6	22.9
Personal safety	17.5	19.4
Depression	19.3	15.6
The environment	15.3	17.9
Drugs	12.1	20.6
Alcohol	10.8	18.2
Suicide	8.4	10.6
Physical/sexual abuse	10.0	7.0
Discrimination	7.3	9.0
Sexuality	6.4	7.8
Self harm	6.4	7.0

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

In 2011 young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere they could go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. In Queensland, 22.8% of respondents in Queensland stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support (21.6% nationally). Table 14 shows the five issues of concern most frequently rated number one among the 77.2% of respondents who indicated that they had somewhere they could go for advice and support, and the top five sources of advice that respondents felt they could go regarding these issues.

The top three sources of advice were consistent across the different issues of concern, being *friends*, *parents*, and *relative/family friend*. Other sources of advice differed across the different issues of concern.

- *Friends* were the number one source of advice and support for all top five issues of concern; for 86.3% of respondents concerned about *coping with stress*, through to 77.4% of respondents concerned with *bullying/emotional abuse*.
- The proportion of respondents who turned to parents for advice and support varied between the issues, from 77.7% of respondents concerned about *coping with stress* at the highest, through to 61.7% of respondents concerned about *family conflict*.
- *Relative/family friend* was a source of advice and support for around half of respondents concerned about *body image*, *coping with stress* and *bullying/emotional abuse*. About two-thirds of respondents sought advice from *relative/family friend* when concerned about *family conflict*.
- *The internet* was a source of advice for concerns about *body image* (18.8% of respondents), *school or study problems* (17.3%), and *coping with stress* (16.9%).
- *School counsellors* were a relatively highly ranked source of advice and support for the issues of *bullying/emotional abuse* (23.7%), *family conflict* (20.5%), and *body image* (12.9%).
- *Teachers* were a source of advice for one third of respondents concerned about *school or study problems*, and for one in five respondents concerned about *bullying/emotional abuse*.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

Number one concern	Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)				
School or study problems	Friend/s 79.6	Parent/s 77.1	Relative/Family Friend 45.8	Teacher 33.7	Internet 17.3
Body image	Friend/s 86.0	Parent/s 68.4	Relative/Family Friend 51.4	Internet 18.8	School Counsellor 12.9
Coping with stress	Friend/s 86.3	Parent/s 77.7	Relative/Family Friend 50.7	Internet 16.9	Teacher 16.4
Family conflict	Friend/s 84.0	Relative/Family Friend 63.8	Parent/s 61.7	School Counsellor 20.5	Teacher 13.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	Friend/s 77.4	Parent/s 75.0	Relative/Family Friend 51.0	School Counsellor 23.7	Teacher 21.5

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 15. The top issues for respondents from Queensland were *the environment*, *alcohol and drugs*, and *the economy and financial matters*, as they were nationally.

- About two in five respondents (41.0%) in Queensland listed *the environment* as one of the most important issues in Australia today, a similar proportion to last year (39.5%).
- *Alcohol and drugs* was listed by 30.9% of respondents, a decrease from last year's figure of 37.5%.
- *The economy and financial matters* and crime, safety and violence were among the most important issues listed by around one in five respondents.
- *Bullying* was listed by 16.1% of Queensland respondents, an increase from last year's figure of 11.8%.

Table 15: Most important issues in Australia today

	QLD 2011 %	National 2011 %	QLD 2010 %
The environment	41.0	44.7	39.5
Alcohol and drugs	30.9	31.7	37.5
The economy and financial matters	21.6	20.3	20.2
Crime, safety and violence	19.3	18.4	19.3
Health	16.4	14.3	18.2
Bullying	16.1	14.9	11.8
Population issues	16.0	19.1	13.7
Politics and societal values	15.6	14.5	14.2
Equity and discrimination	14.4	16.9	17.5
Mental health	9.4	9.9	11.5
Abuse	9.1	7.7	12.8
Education	7.2	6.7	7.8
Homelessness/housing	6.0	7.3	5.1
Employment	5.5	4.9	6.3
International relations	5.0	5.0	3.0
Adolescence/youth	3.8	4.0	4.8
Relationships	2.4	2.0	3.0
Animal rights and welfare	2.3	2.3	2.1
Poverty/disadvantage	2.3	3.0	2.6

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

Age differences

The environment was clearly the top most commonly identified issue in Australia for all age groups, as shown in Table 16. Alcohol and drugs were also among the top issues for the 11 to 14 year olds and 15 to 19 year olds, while the economy and financial matters and populations issues were commonly identified by those respondents aged 20 to 24 years.

- The environment was identified as an issue in Australia by almost half of those aged 11 to 14 (48.4%), and a third of those aged 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 years.
- The proportion of Queensland respondents who listed alcohol and drugs as an issue in Australia declined with age, with 32.1% for 11 to 14 year olds, 30.0% for 15 to 19 year olds, and 17.4% for 20 to 24 year olds.
- About a quarter of the 15 to 19 year olds (23.3%) and 20 to 24 year olds (26.1%) identified the economy and financial matters as an issue in Australia.
- Population issues were listed by a quarter (26.1%) of respondents aged 20 to 24 years, compared with 14.1% of the 11 to 14 year olds and 17.7% of the 15 to 19 year olds.
- Crime, safety and violence was identified as an important issue in Australia by 22.7% of respondents aged 11 to 14 years, while mental health was listed by 21.0% of young adults.

Gender differences

Table 16 also compares the most important issues in Australia that were identified by male and female respondents in Queensland. The environment, alcohol and drugs and the economy and financial matters were the top three most commonly identified issues for both genders.

- The environment was identified as an issue in Australia by 44.6% of female respondents and 36.9% of males.
- Almost a third of both females (30.0%) and males (31.9%) identified alcohol and drugs as an important issue in Australia.
- One in five females (19.9%) and around one in four males (23.6%) listed the economy and financial matters as an important issue.
- Bullying was more commonly identified as an issue by females (19.4%) than by males (12.5%).
- Population issues and politics and societal values were more commonly identified as important issues by males than by females.

Table 16: Most important issues in Australia today, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	48.4	33.4	33.3	44.6	36.9
Alcohol and drugs	32.1	30.0	17.4	30.0	31.9
The economy and financial matters	19.9	23.3	26.1	19.9	23.6
Crime, safety and violence	22.7	16.0	9.4	18.9	19.7
Health	17.0	16.3	13.8	18.1	14.6
Bullying	19.3	13.1	4.3	19.4	12.5
Population issues	14.1	17.7	26.1	12.2	20.5
Politics and societal values	14.4	16.9	15.2	12.7	19.0
Equity and discrimination	10.0	19.0	18.1	15.8	12.7
Mental health	8.5	9.9	21.0	11.8	6.5
Abuse	9.9	8.6	3.6	11.1	6.7
Education	5.6	8.8	12.3	7.6	6.8
Homelessness/housing	6.6	5.1	15.9	7.0	4.8
Employment	3.7	7.0	15.9	5.0	5.9
International relations	5.4	4.7	0.7	3.5	6.7
Adolescence/youth	2.9	4.7	7.2	5.0	2.4
Relationships	2.7	2.1	2.9	2.3	2.5
Animal rights and welfare	2.9	1.7	0.7	3.0	1.4
Poverty/disadvantage	2.7	1.7	5.1	2.4	2.1

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 17. The top three activities for Queensland respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*, as they were nationally.

- Two thirds (66.1%) of young people from Queensland participated in *sports (as a participant)* and almost half (47.0%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, slightly lower than the national figures.
- Around one third of respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural activities* (30.9%) and a quarter in *volunteer work* (24.0%).
- In general, rates of participation across all activities declined slightly from those reported in 2010.

Table 17: Activities young people were involved in

	QLD 2011 %	National 2011 %	QLD 2010 %	QLD 2009 %	QLD 2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	66.1	70.7	68.6	62.4	65.3
Sports (as a spectator)	47.0	51.9	55.8	38.2	45.0
Arts/cultural activities	30.9	30.2	34.1	25.3	45.6
Volunteer work	24.0	27.9	26.7	17.7	21.7
Youth groups and clubs	23.8	25.0	27.6	19.9	31.5
Student leadership activities	21.5	24.4	24.6	8.3	10.9
Religious groups or activities	20.9	23.2	24.3	18.2	31.2
Environmental groups or activities	10.5	11.7	12.2	8.5	12.9
Political groups or organisations*	4.0	4.7	4.7	N/A	N/A

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 18 shows that *sports (as a participant)* was in the top three activities for the younger age groups, but not for the young adult group. The rate of participation in this activity declined with age. Participation rates in other activities also differed across the age groups.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest among 11 to 14 year olds (72.2%), declining to 35.5% among 20 to 24 year olds.
- Almost half of 15 to 19 year olds participated in *sports (as a spectator)* compared with around two in five of the young adult group.
- Around one third of respondents in all age groups participated in *arts/cultural activities*; rates of participation in this activity increased slightly with age.
- Participation in *volunteer work* increased with age. The young adult group was twice as likely as the 11 to 14 year olds to indicate that they were involved (44.6% compared with 19.3%)

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	72.2	60.9	35.5
Sports (as a spectator)	46.1	48.7	37.7
Arts/cultural activities	28.7	33.0	36.7
Volunteer work	19.3	28.4	44.6
Youth groups and clubs	23.5	24.2	25.0
Student leadership activities	17.2	26.3	18.1
Religious groups or activities	20.5	21.3	23.7
Environmental groups or activities	8.5	12.4	13.8
Political groups or organisations	2.9	4.7	12.9

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 19 compares the activities young people were involved in between female and male respondents in Queensland. The top three activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*, although a higher proportion of males participated in *sports* (both *as participant* and *as spectator*) while a greater proportion of females participated in *arts/cultural activities*.

- Around seven in ten males (71.7%) and six in ten females (61.0%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Over half of males (53.7%) and two in five females (41.1%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to participate in *arts/cultural activities* (36.1% compared with 24.6%), *volunteer work* (26.2% compared with 21.3%), and *student leadership activities* (23.0% compared with 19.7%).
- Around one in five respondents of both genders participated in *religious groups or activities*.

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

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	61.0	71.7
Sports (as a spectator)	41.1	53.7
Arts/cultural activities	36.1	24.6
Volunteer work	26.2	21.3
Youth groups and clubs	24.1	23.4
Student leadership activities	23.0	19.7
Religious groups or activities	21.5	20.0
Environmental groups or activities	10.1	10.9
Political groups or organisations	2.9	5.3

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Respondents were asked to describe how positive or negative they felt about the future. Table 20 shows that over six in ten respondents from Queensland felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, similar to national figures and consistent with responses from 2010.

- Almost two thirds of Queensland respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future (61.6%).
- Less than one in ten young people reported *negative* or *very negative* feelings about the future (8.9%).
- About three in ten respondents indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future (29.5%).

Table 20: Feelings about the future

	QLD 2011 %	National 2011 %	QLD 2010 %
Very positive	20.1	20.4	19.9
Positive	41.5	42.7	43.7
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	28.1	27.5
Negative	5.6	5.6	5.6
Very negative	3.3	3.3	3.3

Age differences

Table 21 shows that a similar proportion of respondents among the three age groups felt *positive* about the future, but a smaller proportion of the 20 to 24 year olds felt *very positive* compared to the two younger groups. The young adult group was more likely to express negative feelings about the future than their younger counterparts.

Gender differences

Table 21 also shows that around six in ten males and females felt either *positive* or *very positive* while less than one in ten of both genders expressed negative feelings about the future. Females were slightly more likely than males to express neutral feelings.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	20.4	19.7	13.1	17.2	23.4
Positive	42.3	41.1	42.1	43.1	39.8
Neither positive nor negative	29.8	29.2	29.0	31.6	27.1
Negative	4.6	6.4	11.0	5.5	5.7
Very negative	2.9	3.6	4.8	2.6	4.0



South Australia summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

6,261 surveys were returned from South Australia (SA), which was 13.7% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The age profile of respondents is shown in Table 1. The largest group of respondents from SA was aged 15 to 19 years (55.5%) followed closely by 11 to 14 years (41.3%). Only 3.2% of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	2,541	41.3
15-19 years	3,410	55.5
20-24 years	195	3.2
Total	6,146	13.7% 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 are for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

52.9% of respondents from SA were female and 47.1% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

As Table 2 shows, 287 or 4.6% of respondents from SA 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 %
Aboriginal respondents	287	4.6	5.8	5.5	3.6	5.7
Non Aboriginal respondents	5,892	95.4	94.2	94.5	96.4	94.3

Languages other than English spoken at home

84.1% of respondents from SA indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 986 respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 60 languages between them. The 10 most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian, Greek, Filipino/Tagalog, German, French, Cantonese, Dari and Hindi.

Disability

286 (4.6%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Learning disability; Attention Deficit Disorder/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), autism, physical disability, and blindness or vision impairment.

Where respondents were living

As shown in Table 3, the vast majority of respondents from SA (93.5%) were living *with family*, in line with the national figure of 94.5%. 25 young people who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* participated in the survey, as did 29 that were *homeless or in insecure housing* and 47 who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	93.5	94.5	97.4	92.3	66.0
Boarding school	2.3	1.4	0.7	3.6	0.0
Share house	1.4	1.3	0.4	1.3	17.0
Foster care	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.0
Alone	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.5	8.2
Homeless/insecure housing	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5	3.1
Juvenile Justice centre/prison	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.5	1.0
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	4.1
Other	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.5

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, just over half (56.9%) of SA respondents were living in the state capital, Adelaide. This proportion was higher among the 20 to 24 year olds compared to their younger counterparts, with three quarters (76.9%) of the young adult group living in Adelaide.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	3,543	56.9	58.2	46.3	64.2	76.9
Not in capital city	2,686	43.1	41.8	53.7	35.8	23.1

Main source of income

Parents/family was the main source of income identified by just over one half of respondents (58.9%). Table 5 shows that respondents were less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. The SA data were very similar to the national data for all income sources.

Table 5: Main source of income

	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents or family	58.9	61.9	69.6	54.2	6.3
Employment	17.7	16.0	3.9	25.6	60.7
Government Allowance	6.5	4.4	0.5	9.5	28.3
Other	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.7	1.0
No income	16.0	17.1	24.8	10.0	3.7

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds have been excluded from this section, given secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age.

As Table 6 shows, over nine in ten (91.1%) respondents from SA were *studying full time*, slightly higher than the national figure of 89.7%. Respondents aged 15 to 19 years were much more likely than those aged 20 to 24 years to be *studying full time* (93.6% compared with 46.4%). The older age group was much more likely than the younger age group to be *not studying* (38.7% compared with 3.6%). Education participation rates for male and female respondents were quite similar.

Table 6: Participation in education

	SA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	91.1	89.7	93.6	46.4	92.0	89.8
Studying part time	3.5	3.4	2.8	14.9	3.2	3.9
Not studying	5.4	6.9	3.6	38.7	4.8	6.3

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Around one third of respondents from SA (36.6%) were *employed part-time*, and a small proportion (2.0%) were *employed full time*. Participation in paid employment was far greater among 20 to 24 year olds than 15 to 19 year olds, with the difference in full time employment rates particularly marked (25.3% compared with 0.7%). Females were more likely to be employed than males (42.1% overall, compared with 34.4%).

Table 7: Participation in paid employment

	SA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Employed full time	2.0	1.8	0.7	25.3	2.3	1.7
Employed part time	36.6	36.4	36.2	43.0	39.8	32.7
Not in paid employment	61.4	61.8	63.1	31.7	58.0	65.6

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full time is 35 hours or more.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank the top three items they valued from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for SA respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*, as they were nationally. The fourth item was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 75.5% and 59.2% of SA respondents respectively.
- Around one third (35.3%) of SA respondents indicated that they highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, an increase from the figure for 2010 of 28.9%
- Just over one third (34.0%) of young people highly valued *physical or mental health*, a similar proportion to last year (34.1%)

Table 8: What young people value

	SA 2011 %	National 2011 %	SA 2010 %	SA 2009 %	SA 2008 %
Family relationships	75.5	74.3	78.1	73.0	73.6
Friendships (other than family)	59.2	59.0	62.4	55.9	62.3
School or study satisfaction	35.3	36.9	28.9	22.6	19.9
Physical and mental health	34.0	32.0	34.1	30.4	32.9
Getting a job	24.0	22.7	17.8	21.5	19.8
Being independent	21.2	21.6	26.0	34.2	33.3
Feeling needed and valued	14.6	13.8	20.3	26.3	24.0
Financial security	12.4	11.6	14.3	15.6	15.1
Spirituality/faith	7.0	9.6	12.4	11.9	10.1
Making a difference in the community	6.7	6.6	6.5	9.2	8.7

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 compares what was valued by different age groups of SA respondents. The top three items for those aged 11 to 14 years and those aged 15 to 19 years were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The responses of those aged 20 to 24 were different to the younger age groups, though they also ranked *family relationships* first.

- *Family relationships* was clearly ranked first by all age groups, though the relative importance of this item declined slightly with age (78.7%, 73.7%, and 64.9%, from youngest to oldest).
- A majority of the two younger age groups highly valued *friendships* (63.5% and 57.6%), compared with 39.2% of the young adult group.
- *Physical and mental health* (36.6%) was the third most highly valued item for those aged 20 to 24 years
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by over one third of the 11 to 14 and 15 to 19 (35.0% and 36.8% respectively) year olds.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	78.7	73.7	64.9
Friendships (other than family)	63.5	57.6	39.2
School or study satisfaction	35.0	36.8	14.9
Physical and mental health	33.1	34.9	36.6
Getting a job	26.8	21.0	17.5
Being independent	18.1	23.0	26.3
Feeling needed and valued	14.1	14.8	23.7
Financial security	6.7	15.5	35.6
Spirituality/faith	6.8	6.9	11.9
Making a difference in the community	6.1	6.3	20.6

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships*, and *friendships* were the top two items for both genders. While females highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, *physical and mental health* was third ranked for males.

- 80.4% of females highly valued *family relationships* as did 69.9% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 60.9% of female respondents and 57.3% of males.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 40.6% of females, and 29.3% of males.
- Almost twice as many male respondents (32.6%) highly valued *getting a job* than females (16.4%).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	80.4	69.9
Friendships (other than family)	60.9	57.3
School or study satisfaction	40.6	29.3
Physical and mental health	30.8	37.7
Getting a job	16.4	32.6
Being independent	20.5	22.0
Feeling needed and valued	16.9	12.0
Financial security	11.2	13.8
Spirituality/faith	7.5	6.3
Making a difference in the community	7.8	5.6

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank their top three personal concerns from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for SA respondents were *school or study problems*, *body image* and *coping with stress*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally. There were a range of issues that were of concern to respondents, with six items being of concern to at least one in five young people.

- The top issue for SA respondents was *school or study problems*, with 36.0% of respondents identifying it as a major concern, up from 24.7% in 2010.
- *Body image* (33.8%) was equal second of the concerns for SA respondents, which is higher than last year (30.9%).
- *Coping with stress* was of high concern for over a third (33.8%) of respondents, compared with (27.2%) last year.
- Around a quarter of respondents identified family conflict and *bullying/emotional abuse* as issues of concern.
- *Suicide* was seen as an issue of concern for 11.0% of respondents in 2011, compared to 18.9% in 2010.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	SA 2011 %	National 2011 %	SA 2010 %	SA 2009 %	SA 2008 %
School or study problems	36.0	37.3	24.7	15.6	18.3
Body image	33.8	33.1	30.9	27.3	24.6
Coping with stress	33.8	35.4	27.2	17.3	20.1
Family conflict	26.0	28.1	27.6	22.1	24.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.8	22.8	23.7	25.7	22.1
Personal safety	20.8	20.3	22.7	20.3	21.3
Depression	19.0	18.1	18.2	18.0	18.0
Drugs	18.5	16.9	24.1	28.7	29.5
The environment	17.6	17.7	17.6	18.7	20.9
Alcohol	16.6	15.2	24.4	27.5	21.7
Suicide	11.0	9.9	18.9	25.1	24.2
Physical/sexual abuse	8.9	8.5	15.5	20.8	21.7
Discrimination	8.1	8.8	10.8	12.1	11.5
Self harm	6.4	6.4	10.5	11.5	13.4
Sexuality	5.2	6.4	10.4	11.1	11.1

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 compares issues of concern between the age groups. *Bullying* was the top-ranked item for 11 to 14 year olds as was *school or study problems* for 15 to 19 year olds. *Coping with stress* was clearly the top concern for 20 to 24 year olds, and was also highly ranked by 15 to 19 year olds. *Body image* was a concern for nearly half the 20 to 24 year olds. Responses to other issues, such as *bullying/emotional abuse*, *personal safety*, and *depression*, varied with age.

- *Bullying or emotional abuse* was the highest concern for 11 to 14 year olds (32.1%), but was of lesser concern, relatively, to older respondents.
- Concern with *coping with stress* increased with age, with over one quarter (23.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds, two in five (40.3%) of 15 to 19 year olds, and half (53.8%) of 20 to 24 year olds indicating it was a major concern.
- *School or study problems* was of greatest concern to 15 to 19 year olds (40.8%), and was also highly ranked by the 11 to 14 year olds (30.6%).
- Around one third of respondents in the 11 to 14 and 15 to 19 age groups ranked *body image* as a major concern compared to 46.2% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Personal safety* was a concern for one quarter of 11 to 14 years olds.
- *Depression* was a concern for over one third of the 20 to 24 year olds, much higher than the other age groups.

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

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
School or study problems	30.6	40.8	24.2
Body image	29.2	36.5	46.2
Coping with stress	23.7	40.3	53.8
Family conflict	27.9	25.3	15.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	32.1	18.6	8.1
Personal safety	25.0	18.2	14.0
Depression	13.9	21.6	36.6
Drugs	23.9	15.0	11.3
The environment	19.5	16.0	22.6
Alcohol	19.0	14.7	14.5
Suicide	11.6	10.7	9.1
Physical/sexual abuse	9.9	8.4	6.5
Discrimination	5.9	9.5	11.3
Self harm	6.8	6.2	5.4
Sexuality	3.6	6.3	5.9

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 compares issues of personal concern between the genders. *School or study problems* was highly ranked by both genders in SA, with this being the top concern for males. *Body image* was the top-ranked concern for females (45.9%), with far fewer males indicating this was a concern. *Coping with stress* was highly ranked by both genders.

- *Body image* was of concern to over two in five (45.9%) female respondents, compared with 19.7% of males.
- *School or study problems* was of concern to just under two in five young people of both genders.
- *Coping with stress* was of higher concern for female (38.0%) than male respondents (28.9%).
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for similar numbers of females (26.1%) and males (25.9%).
- *Drugs* and *alcohol* were of greater concern to males than females

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

	Female %	Male %
School or study problems	35.2	37.0
Body image	45.9	19.7
Coping with stress	38.0	28.9
Family conflict	26.1	25.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.9	23.7
Personal safety	19.7	22.2
Depression	21.6	16.0
Drugs	13.8	24.0
The environment	15.1	20.4
Alcohol	12.7	21.2
Suicide	9.5	12.8
Physical/sexual abuse	10.3	7.3
Discrimination	7.4	8.9
Self harm	6.2	6.6
Sexuality	4.5	6.0

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

In 2011 young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere they could go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. Over 20% of respondents stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern, while almost eight in ten respondents in SA (77.4%) stated that they had somewhere they could go. Table 14 shows the five issues of concern most frequently rated number one among those respondents, and the top five sources of advice that these respondents felt they could go to regarding these issues.

The top three sources of advice were consistent across the different issues of concern, being *friends*, *parents*, and *relative/family friend*. Other sources of advice differed between the different issues of concern.

- *Friends* were the number one source of advice for almost all issues, for 89.9% of respondents concerned about *body image*, through to 83.4% of respondents concerned with *school or study problems*. Slightly fewer respondents (76.1%) concerned with *bullying/emotional abuse* turned to *friends* for advice.
- The proportion of respondents who turned to *parents* for advice and support varied between the issues, from 79.8% of respondents concerned about *coping with stress* at the highest, through to 60.1% of respondents concerned about *family conflict*.
- *Relative/family friend* were a source of advice and support for around half of respondents across the different issues of concern.
- *School counsellors* were a relatively highly ranked source of advice for the issues of *bullying/emotional abuse* (27.0%), *family conflict* (17.5%) and *body image* (15.3%).
- *Teacher* was also ranked relatively highly across most of the main concerns, ranging from *school or study problems* (34.1%) to *family conflict* (13.3%).

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

Number one concern		Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)			
School or study problems	Friend/s 83.4	Parent/s 76.5	Relative/Family Friend 49.5	Teacher 34.1	Internet 15.4
Body image	Friend/s 89.9	Parent/s 69.4	Relative/Family Friend 50.4	Internet 21.6	School Counsellor 15.3
Coping with stress	Friend/s 87.0	Parent/s 79.8	Relative/Family Friend 51.5	Teacher 19.0	Internet 18.2
Family conflict	Friend/s 87.3	Relative/Family Friend 65.9	Parent/s 60.1	School Counsellor 17.5	Teacher 13.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	Parent/s 76.6	Friend/s 76.1	Relative/Family Friend 49.5	School Counsellor 27.0	Teacher 26.4

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 15. The top issue for respondents from SA were *the environment, alcohol and drugs*, and *the economy and financial matters*, as they were nationally.

- Just under one half (46.7%) of all SA respondents listed *the environment* as one of the most important issues in Australia today, a smaller proportion than last year (55.1%).
- *Alcohol and drugs* was listed by 33.0% of respondents, a drop from last year's figure of 40.5%.
- *The economy and financial matters* and *equity and discrimination* were among the most important issues listed by around a fifth of respondents.
- *Population issues* was also considered to be one of the most important issues by around a fifth of respondents (19.6%), up from last year's figure of 10.9%.

Table 15: Most important issues in Australia today

	SA 2011 %	National 2011 %	SA 2010 %
The environment	46.7	44.7	55.1
Alcohol and drugs	33.0	31.7	40.5
The economy and financial matters	20.2	20.3	18.3
Population issues	19.6	19.1	10.9
Crime, safety and violence	17.4	18.4	19.4
Equity and discrimination	17.3	16.9	18.7
Bullying	16.4	14.9	10.0
Politics and societal values	13.3	14.5	12.8
Health	12.9	14.3	14.3
Mental health	9.7	9.9	11.2
Homelessness/housing	9.1	7.3	7.4
Abuse	7.3	7.7	8.9
Education	6.0	6.7	6.7
Employment	5.3	4.9	6.4
International relations	4.3	5.0	3.0
Adolescence/youth	4.1	4.0	3.3
Poverty/disadvantage	3.7	3.0	2.9
Animal rights and welfare	2.0	2.3	2.1

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

Age differences

The environment was clearly the top most commonly identified issue in Australia for all age groups, as shown in Table 16. *Alcohol and drugs* and *the economy and financial matters* were also among the top issues for all age groups.

- The environment was identified as an issue in Australia by over one half of those aged 11 to 14 (54.0%), over one third of those aged 15 to 19 (41.2%) and 46.2% of young adults.
- The proportion of respondents who listed *alcohol and drugs* as an issue in Australia declined slightly with age, with 35.3% for 11 to 14 year olds, 31.7% for 15 to 19 year olds, and 19.2% for 20 to 24 year olds.
- Just under one quarter (22.1%) of 15 to 19 year olds identified *equity and discrimination* as an issue in Australia, compared with 17.6% for the young adults, and 11.0% for 11 to 14 year olds.
- The economy and financial matters were considered an issue in Australia by around one fifth of respondents in all age groups.
- Young adults identified a broader spread of issues compared with the younger age groups, including *mental health* and *population issues*.

Gender differences

Table 16 below also compares the most important issues in Australia that were identified by male and female respondents. The environment and *alcohol and drugs* were the top two most commonly identified issue for both genders. The economy and financial matters rounded out the top three issues for males, as did *equity and discrimination* for females.

- The environment was identified as an issue in Australia by over half (51.3%) of all female respondents, and around two in five males (41.2%).
- A higher proportion of males (35.4%) than females (31.0%) indicated *alcohol and drugs* were an issue in Australia.
- Around one fifth of respondents of both genders identified *the economy and financial matters* as an issue in Australia.

Table 16: Most important issues in Australia today, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	54.0	41.2	46.2	51.3	41.2
Alcohol and drugs	35.3	31.7	19.2	31.0	35.4
The economy and financial matters	18.9	21.0	27.5	18.7	22.0
Population issues	20.3	19.0	24.2	16.6	23.1
Crime, safety and violence	22.2	14.4	7.7	16.0	18.9
Equity and discrimination	11.0	22.1	17.6	19.5	14.8
Bullying	19.9	14.2	7.1	19.0	13.3
Politics and societal values	11.9	14.5	9.3	9.2	18.1
Health	12.3	13.4	13.2	14.2	11.3
Mental health	8.2	10.1	24.7	12.0	7.1
Homelessness/housing	7.6	9.9	12.1	11.5	6.4
Abuse	7.9	7.2	1.1	8.8	5.6
Education	5.0	6.6	9.3	6.0	6.0
Employment	3.5	6.0	13.7	4.9	5.7
International relations	4.4	4.2	6.0	2.6	6.2
Adolescence/youth	3.1	4.8	6.6	4.9	3.3
Poverty/disadvantage	3.2	4.1	4.4	4.2	3.1
Animal rights and welfare	3.0	1.4	1.6	2.5	1.6

Note: Participants provided three open ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they were involved in from the list set out in Table 17. The top three activities for SA respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. Just under a quarter of SA respondents also participated in *arts and cultural activities*.

- Over two thirds (68.8%) of young people from SA participated in *sports (as a participant)* and over one half (55.4%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Around one quarter of respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural activities* (23.5%) and *volunteer work* (26.7%).
- In general, rates of participation in most activities declined slightly from last year's figures.

Table 17: Activities young people were involved in

	SA 2011 %	National 2011 %	SA 2010 %	SA 2009 %	SA 2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	68.8	70.7	71.2	65.5	68.3
Sports (as a spectator)	55.4	51.9	60.5	41.2	50.1
Volunteer work	26.7	27.9	24.7	18.2	19.7
Arts/cultural activities	23.5	30.2	26.0	17.6	35.4
Student leadership activities	22.6	24.4	24.0	12.6	12.3
Youth groups and clubs	21.9	25.0	26.2	19.2	22.3
Religious groups or activities	19.1	23.2	22.4	18.3	20.3
Environmental groups or activities	10.5	11.7	11.5	8.7	11.8
Political groups or organisations*	4.1	4.7	4.6	N/A	N/A

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 18 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* was a major activity for all age groups, participation declined markedly with age. Participation rates in other activities also differed among the age groups. Participation in *volunteer work* was highest among the young adult group.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest among 11 to 14 year olds (74.9%), declining to 45.7% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Over one half of 11 to 19 year olds participated in *sports (as a spectator)*
- Around one quarter of respondents across all age groups participated in *arts/cultural activities*.
- Participation in *volunteer work* increased with age. The young adult group was twice as likely as 11 to 14 year olds to indicate that they were involved (45.9% compared with 20.5%)

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	74.9	65.6	45.7
Sports (as a spectator)	54.3	57.2	42.1
Volunteer work	20.5	30.0	45.9
Arts/cultural activities	25.4	21.6	27.1
Student leadership activities	22.7	22.8	14.8
Youth groups and clubs	21.9	21.5	23.4
Religious groups or activities	20.1	18.1	17.6
Environmental groups or activities	10.4	10.1	14.8
Political groups or organisations	3.0	4.3	12.6

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 19 compares the activities young people were involved in between male and female respondents. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in each. The third top activity for females and males was *volunteer work*. Similar proportions of male and female respondents participated in *religious groups or activities*.

- Nearly three quarters of male respondents (73.0%) and almost two thirds of female respondents (65.0%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Six in ten males (60.4%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, compared with around one half of females (51.0%).
- Females were more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural activities* (26.7% compared with 19.6%) and *student leadership activities* (24.1% compared with 20.9%).
- Around three in ten females and two in ten males participated in *volunteer work*, while approximately one in five respondents from both genders participated in *religious groups or activities*.

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

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	65.0	73.0
Sports (as a spectator)	51.0	60.4
Volunteer work	30.4	22.4
Arts/cultural activities	26.7	19.6
Student leadership activities	24.1	20.9
Youth groups and clubs	21.5	22.2
Religious groups or activities	18.9	19.2
Environmental groups or activities	10.9	9.9
Political groups or organisations	3.9	4.3

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Respondents were asked to describe how positive or negative they felt about the future. Table 20 shows that over six in ten respondents from SA felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, similar to national figures and consistent with responses from 2010.

- Almost two thirds of SA respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future (63.2%). This was similar to 2010 data.
- Less than one in ten young people reported *negative* or *very negative* feelings about the future (8.2%).
- Just over a quarter of respondents indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future (28.6%).

Table 20: Feelings about the future

	SA 2011 %	National 2011 %	SA 2010 %
Very positive	18.8	20.4	20.4
Positive	44.4	42.7	42.8
Neither positive nor negative	28.6	28.1	28.6
Negative	5.4	5.6	5.4
Very negative	2.8	3.3	2.8

Age differences

Table 2I shows that similar proportions of respondents felt *positive* or *very positive* among the three age groups. The 20 to 24 year old age group were slightly more likely to express *very negative* feelings, and more likely to express neutral feelings, than their younger counterparts.

Gender differences

Table 2I also compares data for male and female respondents. Males were slightly more likely to feel *very positive* about the future than female respondents, while females were slightly more likely to express neutral feelings compared with males.

Table 2I: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	19.0	18.6	14.4	15.7	22.2
Positive	45.1	44.3	41.2	45.9	42.7
Neither positive nor negative	28.3	28.6	34.5	30.3	26.8
Negative	5.1	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.2
Very negative	2.5	2.8	4.1	2.5	3.1



Tasmania summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

1,300 surveys were returned from Tasmania, which was 2.8% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The age profile of respondents is shown in Table 1. The largest group of respondents from Tasmania was aged 11 to 14 years (50.8%) followed closely by 15 to 19 years (46.1%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (39, or 3.1%) 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	647	50.8
15-19 years	587	46.1
20-24 years	39	3.1
Total	1,273	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 are for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

57.1% of respondents from Tasmania were female and 42.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

As Table 2 shows, 142 or 11.1% of respondents from Tasmania identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; a greater proportion than the national figure of 5.8%.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Aboriginal respondents	142	11.1	5.8	11.9	9.0
Non Aboriginal respondents	1,138	88.9	94.2	88.1	91.0

Languages other than English spoken at home

90.3% of respondents from Tasmania indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 126 respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 35 languages between them. The five most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): French, Italian, Indonesian, Japanese, and Chinese.

Disability

72 (5.6%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism, physical disability, blindness or vision impairment, Down syndrome, and deafness or hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

As shown in Table 3, the vast majority of respondents from Tasmania (94.1%) were living *with family*, in line with the national figure of 94.5%. Eight young people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* participated in the survey, as did seven who were *homeless or in insecure housing* and six who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	94.1	94.5	97.2	90.8
Share house	1.6	1.3	0.2	3.3
Homeless/insecure housing	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.9
Alone	0.7	0.5	0.2	1.4
Foster care	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.3
Juvenile Justice centre/prison	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.7
Boarding school	0.4	1.4	0.2	0.7
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.5
Other	1.0	0.4	0.5	1.5

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, about half (50.4%) of Tasmanian respondents were living in the state capital, Hobart. A greater proportion of 11 to 14 year olds live in Hobart than 15 to 19 year olds.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Live in capital city	652	50.4	58.2	56.3	43.4
Not in capital city	641	49.6	41.8	43.7	56.6

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income identified by just under two thirds of respondents (62.6%). Table 5 shows that respondents were less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. Overall, the Tasmanian data were similar to the national data for most income sources.

Table 5: Main source of income

	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents or family	62.6	61.9	72.9	51.1
Employment	13.2	16.0	3.5	24.0
Government Allowance	7.9	4.4	0.5	16.2
Other	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.2
No income	15.3	17.1	22.4	7.4

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, given secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age.

As Table 6 shows, over four in five (85.7%) respondents from Tasmania were *studying full time*, slightly lower than the national figure of 89.7%. *Full time* education participation rates were lower for males than for females.

Table 6: Participation in education

	TAS %	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	85.7	89.7	89.8	80.3
Studying part time	5.0	3.4	3.7	6.8
Not studying	9.4	6.9	6.5	13.0

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Over a third of respondents from Tasmania (37.6%) were *employed part time*, and a small proportion (2.3%) were *employed full time*. Females were more likely to be employed than males (42.8% overall, compared with 35.9%).

Table 7: Participation in paid employment

	TAS %	National %	Female %	Male %
Employed full time	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.7
Employed part time	37.6	36.4	40.6	33.2
Not in paid employment	60.1	61.8	57.2	64.2

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full time is 35 hours or more.

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. The top three items for Tasmanian respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*, as they were nationally. The fourth item was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 67.8% and 58.9% of Tasmanian respondents respectively.
- Over one third (34.3%) of Tasmanian respondents indicated that they highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, a substantial increase from the 2010 figure of 24.2%.
- Just under one third (32.7%) of young people highly valued *physical or mental health*, a similar proportion to last year (34.0%).
- *Getting a job* increased to 25.3% from 18.5% in 2010.

Table 8: What young people value

	TAS 2011 %	National 2011 %	TAS 2010 %	TAS 2009 %	TAS 2008 %
Family relationships	67.8	74.3	76.2	72.3	73.4
Friendships (other than family)	58.9	59.0	64.2	65.3	62.8
School or study satisfaction	34.3	36.9	24.2	21.4	19.3
Physical and mental health	32.7	32.0	34.0	37.0	33.3
Getting a job	25.3	22.7	18.5	16.4	19.7
Being independent	22.6	21.6	28.1	33.6	35.6
Feeling needed and valued	15.8	13.8	23.0	25.2	27.2
Financial security	11.8	11.6	14.6	14.7	13.5
Spirituality/faith	10.5	9.6	11.9	7.8	9.2
Making a difference in the community	9.3	6.6	5.7	7.2	7.0

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 compares what was valued by different age groups of Tasmanian respondents. The top two items for those aged 11 to 14 years and those aged 14 to 19 years were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. *School or study satisfaction* was the third item for the 15 to 19 year olds, while for 11 to 14 year olds it was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* was clearly ranked first by all age groups, though the relative importance of this item declined slightly with age (70.3% and 67.4%), from youngest to oldest.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by both age groups (64.6% and 55.5%)
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by four in ten of the 15 to 19 year olds (39.3%) and around one third of those aged 11 to 14 (31.6%).

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	70.3	67.4
Friendships (other than family)	64.6	55.5
School or study satisfaction	31.6	39.3
Physical and mental health	34.3	30.9
Getting a job	27.5	23.4
Being independent	19.2	25.0
Feeling needed and valued	16.1	14.5
Financial security	6.1	16.4
Spirituality/faith	11.1	9.1
Making a difference in the community	8.0	9.1

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for both genders. *Physical and mental health* was a top item, for males, as was *school or study satisfaction* for females.

- 71.9% of females highly valued *family relationships* as did 62.4% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 60.9% of female respondents and 56.4% of males.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 38.8% of females, and 28.2% of males.
- One third of male respondents (32.8%) highly valued *getting a job* compared to one in five (19.5%) female respondents.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	71.9	62.4
Friendships (other than family)	60.9	56.4
School or study satisfaction	38.8	28.2
Physical and mental health	29.8	36.3
Getting a job	19.5	32.8
Being independent	21.3	24.5
Feeling needed and valued	18.2	12.5
Financial security	9.9	14.4
Spirituality/faith	11.1	9.8
Making a difference in the community	9.8	8.5

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank their top three personal concerns from the list of options set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for Tasmanian respondents were *body image*, *coping with stress*, and *school or study problems*, these were also the top three issues identified nationally (though in a different order). There were a range of issues that were of concern to respondents, with five items being of concern to at least one in five young people.

- The top two issues for Tasmanian respondents were *body image* and *coping with stress*, with 33.7% identifying them as a major concern.
- *School or study problems* were of high concern for over one third (32.1%) of respondents, up from 25.9% last year.
- Around one quarter of respondents identified *family conflict* and *bullying/emotional abuse* as issues of concern respectively.
- *Suicide* was noted as an issue of concern for 9.7% of respondents compared to 19.4% the previous year.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	TAS 2011 %	National 2011 %	TAS 2010 %	TAS 2009 %	TAS 2008 %
Body image	33.7	33.1	32.8	25.0	27.1
Coping with stress	33.7	35.4	29.3	18.2	17.1
School or study problems	32.1	37.3	25.9	16.5	15.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	28.5	22.8	24.3	24.2	24.2
Family conflict	28.0	28.1	24.4	22.0	22.7
Personal safety	19.6	20.3	22.4	20.1	19.2
Depression	19.3	18.1	20.5	20.5	20.7
The environment	18.1	17.7	16.8	19.7	18.4
Drugs	18.0	16.9	18.6	25.5	26.3
Alcohol	16.4	15.2	19.8	19.3	20.8
Physical/sexual abuse	10.1	8.5	15.8	27.1	27.4
Suicide	9.7	9.9	19.4	25.9	25.9
Discrimination	9.0	8.8	10.5	14.1	11.8
Self harm	6.8	6.4	12.8	13.9	14.4
Sexuality	4.8	6.4	9.6	9.7	11.1

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 compares issues of concern between the age groups. *Coping with stress* was the top ranked item for 15 to 19 year olds (42.7%) and *bullying/emotional abuse* (33.3%) for 11 to 14 year olds. *Body image* was of concern to both age groups. Responses to other issues, such as *the environment*, *personal safety*, and *depression*, varied with age.

- Concern about *coping with stress* increased with age, with one quarter (24.5%) of 11 to 14 year olds and four in five (42.7%) 15 to 19 year olds reporting this as a concern.
- Concern about *body image* increased with age, however, it was a top issue of concern to both 11 to 14 year olds (31.2%) and 15 to 19 year olds (36.4%).
- *Family conflict* was a concern for over a quarter of respondents in both age groups (28.5% 11 to 14 year olds and 28.9% 15 to 19 year olds).
- *Personal safety*, *drugs* and *the environment* were of greater concern among the 11 to 14 year olds compared to older respondents

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

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Body image	31.2	36.4
Coping with stress	24.5	42.7
School or study problems	28.3	37.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	33.3	23.8
Family conflict	28.5	28.9
Personal safety	24.2	15.2
Depression	17.7	21.4
The environment	21.4	14.7
Drugs	20.8	15.2
Alcohol	15.5	16.6
Physical/sexual abuse	11.6	8.6
Suicide	11.4	8.4
Discrimination	6.9	11.2
Self harm	7.2	6.5
Sexuality	3.9	5.1

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 compares issues of personal concern between the genders. *School or study problems* was highly ranked by both genders in Tasmania, with this being the top concern for males. *Body image* was the top ranked concern for females. *Coping with stress*, *bullying and emotional abuse* as well as *family conflict* all ranked highly for both genders.

- *Body image* was of concern to over two in five (42.0%) female respondents, compared with under one quarter (22.2%) of males.
- *School or study problems* was of concern to just under one third of young people of both genders.
- *Coping with stress* was of higher concern for females (38.0%) than males (27.9%).
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for similar numbers of females (28.2%) and males (28.1%).
- *Drugs* and *alcohol* were nearly twice as important for males as for females.

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

	Female %	Male %
Body image	42.0	22.2
Coping with stress	38.0	27.9
School or study problems	32.9	31.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	30.2	26.2
Family conflict	28.2	28.1
Personal safety	18.5	21.0
Depression	20.2	18.2
The environment	18.9	17.0
Drugs	12.2	26.0
Alcohol	13.4	20.7
Physical/sexual abuse	11.3	8.4
Suicide	8.1	11.9
Discrimination	8.0	10.3
Self harm	6.8	6.3
Sexuality	3.3	6.9

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

In 2011 young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere they could go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. One quarter (25.1%) of respondents stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern, while about three quarters of respondents in Tasmania (74.9%) stated that they had somewhere they could go. Table 14 below shows the five issues of concern most frequently rated number one among those respondents, and the top five sources of advice and support that respondents felt they could go to regarding these issues.

The top three sources of advice were consistent across the different issues of concern, being *friends*, *parents*, and *relative/family friend*. Other sources of advice differed between the different issues of concern.

- *Friends* were the number one source of advice for almost all issues, for 89.6% of respondents concerned about *coping with stress*, through to 79.4% of respondents concerned with *bullying/emotional abuse*.
- The proportion of respondents who turned to *parents* for advice and support varied between the issues, from 82.5% of respondents concerned about *school or study problems* at the highest, through to 61.8% of respondents concerned about *family conflict*.
- *Relative/family friend* was a source of advice and support for around half, of respondents across the different issues of concern.
- *School counsellors* were a relatively highly ranked source of advice for the issues of *bullying/emotional abuse* (28.4%) and *family conflict* (20.2%).
- *Teachers* were an important source of advice and support for *school or studying* (34.2), *bullying/emotional abuse* (24.5%) and *body image* (21.6%).
- *The internet* was a source of advice and support for *school or study problems* (20.2%), *body image* (19.0%), and *coping with stress* (16.5%).

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

Number one concern	Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)				
Body Image	Friend/s 86.2	Parent/s 63.8	Relative/Family Friend 44.8	Teacher 21.6	Internet 19.0
Coping with stress	Friend/s 89.6	Parent/s 65.2	Relative/Family Friend 49.6	Internet 16.5	School Counsellor 16.5
School or study problems	Parent/s 82.5	Friend/s 79.8	Relative/Family Friend 50.9	Teacher 34.2	Internet 20.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	Friend/s 79.4	Parent/s 79.4	Relative/Family Friend 54.9	School Counsellor 28.4	Teacher 24.5
Family conflict	Friend/s 92.1	Relative/Family Friend 62.9	Parent/s 61.8	School Counsellor 20.2	Teacher 14.6

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 15. The top issues for respondents from Tasmania were *the environment*, *alcohol and drugs*, and *population issues*.

- Less than half (41.6%) of all Tasmanian respondents listed *the environment* as one of the most important issues in Australia today, a similar proportion to last year (42.6%).
- *Alcohol and drugs* was listed by 33.6% of respondents, a slight increase from last year's figure of 31.9%.
- *Population issues* and the *economy and financial matters* were among the most important issues, listed by around one fifth of respondents.
- *Health* was also considered to be one of the most important issues by around one in six respondents (17.5%).

Table 15: Most important issues in Australia today

	TAS 2011 %	National 2011 %	TAS 2010 %
The environment	41.6	44.7	42.6
Alcohol and drugs	33.6	31.7	31.9
Population issues	18.9	19.1	17.0
The economy and financial matters	18.3	20.3	17.8
Health	17.5	14.3	21.1
Politics and societal values	15.2	14.5	15.3
Bullying	15.1	14.9	9.9
Crime, safety and violence	14.1	18.4	15.9
Equity and discrimination	13.4	16.9	20.7
Mental health	9.9	9.9	14.0
Homelessness/housing	9.8	7.3	6.8
Employment	8.9	4.9	5.2
Education	8.4	6.7	8.8
Abuse	8.1	7.7	9.3
Adolescence/youth	7.2	4.0	3.9
International relations	5.7	5.0	3.7
Poverty/disadvantage	3.3	3.0	4.5
Animal rights and welfare	2.7	2.3	1.5

Note: Participants provided three open-ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

Age differences

As shown in Table 16, *the environment* was the top most commonly identified issue in Australia for Tasmanians aged 11 to 14 years, while *alcohol and drugs* was the top issue for the 15 to 19 years olds (followed closely by *the environment*). *The economy and financial matters* and *population issues* were also among the top issues for both age groups.

- *The environment* was identified as an issue by around half of those aged 11 to 14 (48.5%) and over one third of those aged 15 to 19 (34.4%).
- The proportion of respondents who listed *alcohol and drugs* as an issue was similar for both age groups (33.7% for the 11 to 14 and 34.8% for the 15 to 19 year olds).
- *The economy and financial matters* were considered an issue in Tasmania by just under one fifth of respondents in both age groups.

Gender differences

Table 16 below also compares the most important issues in Australia that were identified by male and female respondents. *The environment* and *alcohol and drugs* were the top two most commonly identified issues for both genders. *Population issues* rounded out the top three issues for males, as did *health* for females.

- *The environment* was identified as an issue by 46.0% of female respondents, and over one third of males (35.3%).
- A higher proportion of males (39.7%) than females (29.3%) indicated *alcohol and drugs* were an issue in Australia.
- Around one fifth of respondents of both genders identified the *population issues* and *the economy and financial matters* as issues important in Australia today.

Table 16: Most important issues in Australia today, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	48.5	34.4	46.0	35.3
Alcohol and drugs	33.7	34.8	29.3	39.7
Population issues	17.4	21.2	17.0	21.5
The economy and financial matters	18.1	17.2	18.8	17.7
Health	15.5	19.1	20.2	13.8
Politics and societal values	15.8	13.6	12.6	18.8
Bullying	16.5	14.1	17.9	11.1
Crime, safety and violence	17.4	9.9	10.1	19.8
Equity and discrimination	9.7	17.8	15.5	10.6
Mental health	8.7	10.5	11.3	7.9
Homelessness/housing	8.5	12.2	10.2	9.4
Employment	6.4	11.5	9.0	8.6
Education	8.7	7.8	8.4	8.4
Abuse	8.5	8.0	9.9	5.6
Adolescence/youth	5.4	9.4	8.7	5.2
International relations	7.1	4.4	3.9	7.9
Poverty/disadvantage	3.5	2.9	4.4	1.9
Animal rights and welfare	3.8	1.7	3.2	2.1

Note: Participants provided three open-ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 17. The top three activities for Tasmanian respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *youth groups and clubs*. A quarter of Tasmanian respondents also participated in *arts and cultural activities*.

- Almost two thirds (66.3%) of young people from Tasmania participated in *sports (as a participant)* and over half (51.8%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Around one quarter of respondents indicated that they participated in *youth groups and clubs* (27.7%), *arts/cultural activities* (26.6%) and *volunteer work* (25.7%).
- In general, rates of participation in activities were lower than those reported by 2010 respondents.

Table 17: Activities young people were involved in

	TAS 2011 %	National 2011 %	TAS 2010 %	TAS 2009 %	TAS 2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	66.3	70.7	74.6	74.0	69.9
Sports (as a spectator)	51.8	51.9	63.0	44.4	46.1
Youth groups and clubs	27.7	25.0	25.6	18.3	24.6
Arts/cultural activities	26.6	30.2	30.7	31.0	44.3
Volunteer work	25.7	27.9	25.0	21.9	20.0
Student leadership activities	22.5	24.4	26.1	9.2	10.6
Religious groups or activities	19.0	23.2	19.7	11.0	15.0
Environmental groups or activities	13.0	11.7	11.9	12.4	13.0
Political groups or organisations*	4.3	4.7	5.2	N/A	N/A

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 18 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* was in the top three activities for both age groups, participation decreased with age. Participation rates in other activities also differed slightly among the age groups. Participation in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* was highest among the 15 to 19 year olds.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest among 11 to 14 year olds (73.0%) declining to 60.7% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- Over half of 11 to 19 year olds participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Around one quarter of respondents in both age groups participated in *arts/cultural activities*.
- Participation in *volunteer work* increased with age, rising from 20.1% of 11 to 14 year olds to 30.6% of 15 to 19 year olds.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	73.0	60.7
Sports (as a spectator)	51.7	52.5
Youth groups and clubs	29.3	25.1
Arts/cultural activities	25.0	27.7
Volunteer work	20.1	30.6
Student leadership activities	15.3	30.1
Religious groups or activities	20.0	17.9
Environmental groups or activities	13.5	11.8
Political groups or organisations	2.7	4.7

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 19 compares the activities young people were involved in between male and female respondents. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in each. The third top activity for females was *arts/cultural activities*, while for males it was *youth groups and clubs*.

- Around two thirds of male respondents (69.9%) and female respondents (63.6%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Almost six in ten males (58.4%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, compared with just under half of females (46.7%).
- Females were more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural activities* (30.7% compared with 20.8%). Over one quarter of females participated in *student leadership activities* (25.8%) compared with 17.5% of males.

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

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.6	69.9
Sports (as a spectator)	46.7	58.4
Youth groups and clubs	26.7	28.8
Arts/cultural activities	30.7	20.8
Volunteer work	26.9	23.9
Student leadership activities	25.8	17.5
Religious groups or activities	20.3	16.9
Environmental groups or activities	13.2	12.6
Political groups or organisations	3.9	4.6

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Respondents were asked to describe how *positive* or *negative* they felt about the future. Table 20 shows that almost six in ten respondents from Tasmania felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.

- 57.2% of Tasmanian respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, compared with the national figure of 63.1%.
- A little over one in ten young people reported *negative* or *very negative* feelings about the future (11.3%).
- Almost one third of respondents indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future (31.5%).

Table 20: Feelings about the future

	TAS 2011 %	National 2011 %	TAS 2010 %
Very positive	16.7	20.4	17.7
Positive	40.5	42.7	43.6
Neither positive nor negative	31.5	28.1	29.3
Negative	6.5	5.6	6.0
Very negative	4.8	3.3	3.4

Age differences

Table 21 shows that respondents aged 11 to 14 were slightly more likely to feel *positive* or *very positive* about the future than 15 to 19 year olds. The 15 to 19 year olds were more likely than those aged 11 to 14 years to report feeling either *negative* or *neutral* about the future.

Gender differences

Table 21 also shows that males were slightly more likely to feel *positive* or *very positive* about the future than females, while females were slightly more likely to express neutral feelings compared with males.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	17.8	15.2	14.9	19.4
Positive	43.4	38.5	39.5	42.0
Neither positive nor negative	29.1	34.0	35.0	26.5
Negative	5.2	8.1	7.0	6.0
Very negative	4.5	4.2	3.6	6.2



Victoria summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

A total of 7,636 surveys were returned from Victoria, representing 16.7% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

As shown in Table 1, almost half of the respondents from Victoria were aged 15 to 19 years (49.6%), closely followed by 11 to 14 years (48.4%). Given only a small number of respondents in this state were aged 20 to 24 years (151 or 2.0%) the results from this age group should be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	3,623	48.4
15-19 years	3,715	49.6
20-24 years	151	2.0
Total	7,489	16.7% 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 are for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

57.7% of respondents from Victoria were female and 42.3% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Just 177, or 2.3%, of respondents from Victoria identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, significantly lower than the national figure of 5.8% (Table 2).

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Aboriginal respondents	177	2.3	5.8	2.4	2.0	4.7
Non Aboriginal respondents	7,379	97.7	94.2	97.6	98.0	95.3

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 81.2% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. Of the 1,432 (18.8%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home, a total of 68 languages were spoken between them. The 10 most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Italian, Greek, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Filipino/Tagalog, Spanish, Arabic and French.

Disability

A total of 280 (3.7%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): learning disability, autism, Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), physical disability, and intellectual disability.

Where respondents were living

As Table 3 shows, the vast majority of respondents from Victoria (95.9%) were living *with family*, in line with the national figure of 94.5%. 105 young people who were living in a *boarding school* participated in the survey, as did 23 young people living in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison*, 22 who were in *foster care*, and 13 who stated they were *homeless* or in *insecure housing*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	95.9	94.5	98.6	95.0	55.6
Boarding school	1.4	1.4	0.6	2.2	1.3
Share house	1.0	1.3	0.2	0.9	24.5
Alone	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.4	6.6
Juvenile Justice centre/prison	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.0
Foster care	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.0
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	9.3
Homeless/insecure housing	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.7
Other	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	2.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, just under two thirds (62.9%) of Victorian respondents were living in the state capital, Melbourne, although this proportion varied somewhat with age. Over two thirds (68.6%) of the 11 to 14 year olds, 62.3% of 20 to 24 year olds and 57.9% of the 15 to 19 year olds were living in Melbourne.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	4780	62.9	58.2	68.6	57.9	62.3
Not in capital city	2816	37.1	41.8	31.4	42.1	37.7

Main source of income

Parents or family were the main source of income identified by 64.5% of respondents. Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on *parents or family* as they got older and they either found *employment* or became eligible for a *government allowance*. The Victorian data were similar to the national data across the various income sources.

Table 5: Main source of income

	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents or family	64.5	61.9	75.2	56.4	12.0
Employment	14.4	16.0	2.0	25.1	52.0
Government Allowance	4.5	4.4	0.2	7.5	31.3
Other	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	3.3
No income	15.9	17.1	22.1	10.5	1.3

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, given the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia.

As Table 6 shows, over nine in ten (92.2%) respondents from Victoria were *studying full time*, slightly higher than the national figure of 89.7%. Females were more likely than males to be *studying full time* (94.0% compared to 89.5%) whereas males were more likely to be *studying part time* or *not studying*.

Respondents aged 15 to 19 years were much more likely than the young adult group to be *studying full time* (94.1% compared to 45.7%). Conversely the young adult group was much more likely than 15 to 19 year olds to be *studying part time* (17.9% compared to 1.9%) or *not studying* (36.4% compared to 4.0%).

Table 6: Participation in education

	VIC %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	92.2	89.7	94.1	45.7	94.0	89.5
Studying part time	2.5	3.4	1.9	17.9	2.0	3.3
Not studying	5.3	6.9	4.0	36.4	4.0	7.3

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. While a very small proportion (1.1%) of Victorian respondents was working *full time*, some 38.5% were *employed part time*. Of those working *full time*, the vast majority were in the 20 to 24 years group (20.3% compared with 0.3% of respondents aged 15 to 19 years). Female respondents were more likely to be *employed part time* than males (40.1% compared to 36.1%).

Table 7: Participation in paid employment

	VIC %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Employed full time	1.1	1.8	0.3	20.3	1.1	1.1
Employed part time	38.5	36.4	38.3	44.8	40.1	36.1
Not in paid employment	60.4	61.8	61.4	35.0	58.7	62.8

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week while full time is 35 or more.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for Victorian respondents were the same as those identified nationally: *family relationships*, *friendships*, and *school or study satisfaction*. The fourth item identified by young Victorians was *physical and mental health*.

- Three quarters (74.8%) of Victorian respondents highly valued *family relationships* with almost two thirds (62.3%) highly valuing *friendships*.
- Almost two in five (39.0%) Victorian respondents indicated that they highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, substantially higher than the 30.8% figure in 2010.
- Over a third (36.6%) of young people highly valued *physical or mental health*, a similar proportion to that of last year (35.7%).

Table 8: What young people value

	VIC 2011 %	National 2011 %	VIC 2010 %	VIC 2009 %	VIC 2008 %
Family relationships	74.8	74.3	78.4	76.0	75.9
Friendships (other than family)	62.3	59.0	63.4	60.7	64.3
School or study satisfaction	39.0	36.9	30.8	21.6	22.7
Physical and mental health	36.6	32.0	35.7	31.8	33.8
Being independent	20.3	21.6	26.3	32.3	30.8
Getting a job	19.2	22.7	15.0	16.9	14.7
Feeling needed and valued	15.4	13.8	21.7	28.6	26.5
Financial security	11.0	11.6	13.0	12.9	12.7
Spirituality/faith	7.2	9.6	10.1	11.4	10.6
Making a difference in the community	6.3	6.6	6.4	8.2	7.6

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top two ranked items for all three age groups were *family relationships* and *friendships*; however, the proportion of respondents highly valuing these items reduced with age. Table 9 indicates what was valued by the different age groups of Victorian respondents.

- *Family relationships* was ranked first by all age groups, though their relative importance declined with age (78.5% for 11 to 14 year olds, 71.7% for 15 to 19 year olds and 62.3% for 20 to 24 year olds).
- Almost two thirds of the two younger age groups (64.4% and 61.4%) highly valued *friendships* compared to just 39.7% of the young adult group.
- Over a third of all three 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	78.5	71.7	62.3
Friendships (other than family)	64.4	61.4	39.7
School or study satisfaction	42.1	37.4	16.6
Physical and mental health	38.1	35.2	37.1
Being independent	16.0	24.2	24.5
Getting a job	20.1	18.1	13.2
Feeling needed and valued	14.1	16.5	23.2
Financial security	6.7	14.3	35.1
Spirituality/faith	6.6	7.4	14.6
Making a difference in the community	5.2	6.7	23.8

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

School or study satisfaction was more highly valued by those aged 11 to 19 years than those in the oldest age group, which is not surprising given the current level of involvement in study among the younger age groups. Items such as *financial security*, *being independent* and *feeling needed and valued* became increasingly valued as the age of respondents increased.

- Around two in five of those aged 11 to 19 years highly valued *school or study satisfaction* compared to just 16.6% of those aged 20 to 24.
- Almost one in four (23.2%) of the young adult group highly valued *feeling needed and valued* compared to just 14.1% of the youngest group.
- The young adult group was over five times more likely than those aged 11 to 14 years to highly value *financial security* (35.1% compared to 6.7% respectively).
- While 16% of the 11 to 14 year olds highly valued *being independent*, this rose to almost one in four for both the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 year old groups (24.2% and 24.5%).
- The value placed on *spirituality/faith* and *making a difference in the community* also increased with age.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships* and *friendships* were the top items for both genders but both were valued by a higher proportion of female respondents. There was a difference in gender in relation to the next most commonly ranked item, with females indicating *school or study satisfaction* and males indicating *physical and mental health*.

- 78.8% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 69.2% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 63.5% of female respondents and 60.9% of males.
- More than twice as many male respondents (29.4%) highly valued *getting a job* than females (11.9%).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	78.8	69.2
Friendships (other than family)	63.5	60.9
School or study satisfaction	41.7	35.2
Physical and mental health	35.4	38.3
Being independent	19.4	21.5
Getting a job	11.9	29.4
Feeling needed and valued	18.1	11.8
Financial security	9.9	12.4
Spirituality/faith	8.5	5.3
Making a difference in the community	7.5	4.7

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that were of concern to them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues for Victorian respondents were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems*, and *body image*, reflecting the top three issues identified nationally. The proportion of Victorian respondents indicating that *coping with stress* was a major issue has increased substantially for the second year in a row. Concern about *school or study problems* also increased in 2011. There were a number of issues that were of concern to respondents, and six items were indicated as an area of concern to at least one in five young people.

- The top issue for Victorian respondents was *coping with stress*, with 38.4% of respondents identifying it as a major concern, up in the last two years from 26.7% in 2010 and 17.8% in 2009.
- *School or study problems* were a major concern for over a third (37.1%) of respondents, a significant rise from the 24.6% reported last year.
- *Body image* remained a top three concern in 2011 with a third (33.2%) of Victorian respondents identifying it as an issue of concern.
- *Family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety* were also of concern to just over one in five respondents.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	VIC 2011 %	National 2011 %	VIC 2010 %	VIC 2009 %	VIC 2008 %
Coping with stress	38.4	35.4	26.7	17.8	20.5
School or study problems	37.1	37.3	24.6	16.3	19.1
Body image	33.2	33.1	31.0	25.1	26.0
Family conflict	27.9	28.1	26.8	23.0	25.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.6	22.8	23.7	24.5	22.9
Personal safety	21.1	20.3	24.4	22.9	22.7
The environment	19.0	17.7	17.0	17.7	19.2
Depression	18.8	18.1	20.5	19.3	18.3
Drugs	16.2	16.9	21.0	26.6	26.2
Alcohol	13.9	15.2	21.1	22.1	20.3
Suicide	10.4	9.9	20.1	28.2	24.8
Discrimination	8.6	8.8	10.1	11.0	12.8
Physical/sexual abuse	8.5	8.5	15.5	22.8	21.3
Self harm	6.0	6.4	10.9	13.8	13.2
Sexuality	5.5	6.4	9.3	10.0	11.1

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the three age groups on their issues of concern. *Coping with stress* was a top two issue for all age groups, with the proportion of respondents indicating it was a major concern increasing with age. *School or study problems* was ranked as the highest concern for 11 to 14 year olds and the second highest for 15 to 19 year olds, although the proportion of 15 to 19 year old respondents that reported it as an issue of concern was higher overall. *Body image* was the third major concern for 11 to 19 year olds and the second major concern for the young adult group. Responses to other issues varied with age.

- Concern about *coping with stress* increased with age, with nearly a third (31.3%) of 11 to 14 year olds, over two in five (45.1%) 15 to 19 year olds, and half (50.3%) of 20 to 24 year olds indicating it was a major concern to them.
- *School or study problems* was ranked as the issue of greatest concern to the 11 to 14 year olds, and second highest concern for 15 to 19 year olds.
- Concern about *body image* increased with the age of respondents from 29.1% of 11 to 14 year olds to 40.0% of young adults.
- *Depression* was the third highest concern for 20 to 24 year olds (31.0%), over twice the proportion reported by 11 to 14 year olds (14.6%).
- While concern about *bullying/emotional abuse*, *personal safety*, *drugs* and *alcohol* reduced with age, concerns about *coping with stress*, *depression*, *discrimination* and *sexuality* increased.

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

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Coping with stress	31.3	45.1	50.3
School or study problems	34.1	40.7	20.0
Body image	29.1	36.9	40.0
Family conflict	28.5	27.5	23.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	27.2	18.7	13.1
Personal safety	26.2	16.8	13.8
The environment	21.2	16.9	21.4
Depression	14.6	22.5	31.0
Drugs	19.8	12.8	9.0
Alcohol	14.9	13.0	7.6
Suicide	12.0	9.0	6.9
Discrimination	7.1	9.9	15.9
Physical/sexual abuse	9.6	7.4	9.7
Self harm	5.6	6.2	5.5
Sexuality	4.4	6.0	13.8

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that *coping with stress*, *body image* and *school or study problems* were the three most commonly reported issues of concern among female respondents. The top three concerns for males were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *family conflict*.

- *Body image* was of major concern to over two in five (42.6%) female respondents, compared to less than one in five males (19.7%).
- *Coping with stress* was of higher concern for females (43.5%) than males (31.1%).
- Males were almost twice as likely as females to express concern about *drugs* (24.0% compared to 10.7%) and *alcohol* (19.3% compared to 10.1%).
- *School or study problems* were a major concern for a similar proportion of female (37.7%) and male (36.1%) respondents.
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for a similar proportion of female (28.9%) and male (26.6%) respondents.

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

	Female %	Male %
Coping with stress	43.5	31.1
School or study problems	37.7	36.1
Body image	42.6	19.7
Family conflict	28.9	26.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.9	23.7
Personal safety	19.2	23.8
The environment	18.5	19.6
Depression	20.0	17.2
Drugs	10.7	24.0
Alcohol	10.1	19.3
Suicide	9.0	12.4
Discrimination	7.7	10.0
Physical/sexual abuse	9.6	6.9
Self harm	5.7	6.4
Sexuality	4.4	6.9

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

In 2011 young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere they could go for advice and support on their main issue of concern. One in five Victorian respondents (20%, or 1471 respondents) stated that they did not have somewhere to go for advice and support on their main issue of concern, while 80% stated they had somewhere to go.

Table 14 shows the five issues of concern most frequently rated number one among those respondents, and the top five sources of advice that respondents felt they could go to regarding these issues. The top three sources of advice were consistent across the different issues of concern, with *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* consistently identified as important sources of advice and support. *Teachers*, *school counsellors* and the *internet* were the only other sources of advice and support in the top five sources.

- *Friends* were the number one source of advice for all issues and were identified as the primary source by more than four in five respondents regardless of the issue. This ranged from 81.3% turning to their friends in relation to concerns about *bullying/emotional abuse*, up to 87.3% of respondents concerned about *body image*.
- *Parents* were the second most commonly identified source of advice and support across all five issues. The proportion of respondents who turned to parents depended on the issue of concern rising from 63.8% of respondents concerned about *family conflict* to 81.3% for *school or study problems*.
- *Relative/family friend* were the third most common source of advice and support, with a range of 44.7% to 60.5% of respondents relying on this form of advice and support for their main issues of concern.
- *Teachers* were identified as an important source of advice and support for those concerned about *coping with stress* (19.6%), *bullying/emotional abuse* (26.4%) and *school or study problems* (33.4%).
- *School counsellors* were important sources of advice and support in relation to four of the five main concerns with respondents only turning to the *internet* for advice and support regarding concerns around *body image*, *school or study problems*, and *family conflict*.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

Number one concern	Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)				
Coping with stress	Friend/s 87.1	Parent/s 80.3	Relative/Family Friend 47.8	Teacher 19.6	School Counsellor 17.4
School or study problems	Friend/s 84.0	Parent/s 81.3	Relative/Family Friend 46.2	Teacher 33.4	Internet 16.2
Body image	Friend/s 87.3	Parent/s 69.6	Relative/Family Friend 48.5	Internet 21.7	School Counsellor 17.0
Family conflict	Friend/s 82.7	Parent/s 63.8	Relative/Family Friend 60.5	School Counsellor 22.5	Internet 14.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	Friend/s 81.3	Parent/s 75.6	Relative/Family Friend 44.7	Teacher 26.4	School Counsellor 24.8

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to indicate what they thought were the three most important issues in Australia today. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 15. The top three issues identified by respondents from Victoria were the *environment*, *alcohol and drugs*, and *crime, safety and violence*, as in 2010.

- The *environment* was identified as one of the most important issues in Australia today by 44.6% of Victorian respondents, almost identical to the national rate of 44.7%.
- A third (33.5%) of Victorian respondents considered *alcohol and drugs* to be an important issue, slightly higher than the national figure of 31.7%.
- A larger proportion of Victorian respondents identified *crime, safety and violence* as an issue than was the case nationally (23.2% compared to 18.4% respectively).
- *Population issues* and *the economy and financial matters* were also identified by about one in five respondents (21.5% and 19.8% respectively), a substantial increase from the 14.1% and 15.2% who nominated these issues in 2010.

Table 15: Most important issues in Australia today

	VIC 2011 %	National 2011 %	VIC 2010 %
The environment	44.6	44.7	45.9
Alcohol and drugs	33.5	31.7	38.2
Crime, safety and violence	23.2	18.4	31.6
Population issues	21.5	19.1	14.1
The economy and financial matters	19.8	20.3	15.2
Equity and discrimination	16.1	16.9	22.9
Bullying	15.3	14.9	11.4
Health	13.4	14.3	13.4
Politics and societal values	13.3	14.5	10.1
Mental health	12.8	9.9	13.7
Homelessness/housing	7.7	7.3	5.1
Abuse	7.6	7.7	9.8
International relations	5.4	5.0	3.1
Education	4.7	6.7	5.6
Employment	3.7	4.9	3.7
Adolescence/youth	3.4	4.0	3.6
Animal rights and welfare	3.1	2.3	1.7
Poverty/disadvantage	3.1	3.0	3.3
Aboriginal issues	2.2	1.8	1.4
Body image	2.1	1.9	2.2

Note: Participants provided three open-ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

Age differences

The environment was the most commonly identified issue across all three age groups. Table 16 demonstrates that the proportion of respondents who cited *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue reduced as the age of respondents increased while the proportions identifying the *economy and financial matters* and *equity and discrimination* increased with age.

- The environment was an important issue in Australia for 52.0% of 11 to 14 year olds, 37.7% of 15 to 19 year olds and 42.4% of young adults.
- The proportion of respondents who identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue halved with age from 36.0% of 11 to 14 year olds to 18.7% of the 20 to 24 year olds.
- The proportion who considered the *economy and financial matters* to be an important issue rose from just under one in five (18.3%) for 11 to 14 year olds to one in four (25.2%) for young adults.
- Young adults were more likely to identify *equity and discrimination*, *health* and *mental health* as the most important issues in Australia than the younger age groups.

Gender differences

The top three issues were the same for both genders although the proportion varied between the groups. A larger proportion of female respondents nominated the environment as an important issue, as shown in Table 16. Males, however, were more likely than females to identify *alcohol and drugs* and *crime, safety and violence* as the issues they thought were the most important in Australia today. Male respondents were also more likely to indicate *population issues*, and *economy and financial matters* than females whereas female respondents nominated *equity and discrimination* and *bullying* in greater proportions than males.

- The environment was identified as an important issue in Australia by almost half (49.2%) of the female respondents and just under two in five (38.0%) males.
- A higher proportion of males (38.3%) than females (30.2%) indicated *alcohol and drugs* were an important issue in Australia today.
- Around a fifth of females and a quarter of males identified *crime, safety and violence* and *population issues* as important.

Table 16: Most important issues in Australia today, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
The environment	52.0	37.7	42.4	49.2	38.0
Alcohol and drugs	36.0	31.6	18.7	30.2	38.3
Crime, safety and violence	27.8	18.4	18.0	21.1	26.3
Population issues	17.9	25.2	20.1	19.5	24.3
The economy and financial matters	18.3	21.2	25.2	17.9	22.5
Equity and discrimination	11.5	20.5	20.9	18.4	12.8
Bullying	19.1	12.1	4.3	16.5	13.5
Health	13.5	13.4	16.5	14.4	12.0
Politics and societal values	11.8	14.8	16.5	10.9	16.6
Mental health	11.3	13.9	21.6	14.7	10.0
Homelessness/housing	6.5	8.8	11.5	9.3	5.4
Abuse	9.2	6.3	4.3	9.1	5.6
International relations	5.4	5.5	3.6	3.9	7.7
Education	4.2	5.1	6.5	4.8	4.5
Employment	2.9	4.2	10.1	3.6	3.9
Adolescence/youth	2.6	4.0	5.0	3.9	2.6
Animal rights and welfare	3.5	2.7	1.4	3.8	2.0
Poverty/disadvantage	2.5	3.5	5.0	3.7	2.2
Aboriginal issues	1.4	2.9	5.0	3.1	0.9
Body image	1.3	3.0	2.2	3.3	0.4

Note: Participants provided three open-ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to indicate what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 17. The top three activities for Victorian respondents were the same as those reported nationally, namely: *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural activities*. Significant proportions of young people in Victoria also participated in *student leadership activities*, *volunteer work*, and *youth groups and clubs*.

- Over seven in ten (72.5%) young people in Victoria participated in *sport (as a participant)* and over half (53.9%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*. These are slightly higher than the national figures.
- A quarter of Victorian respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural activities* (25.4%) and *volunteer work* (25.0%) with only slightly fewer involved in *youth groups and clubs* (22.3%).
- In general, rates of participation in the most commonly reported activities were similar to those reported by 2010 respondents.

Table 17: Activities young people were involved in

	VIC 2011 %	National 2011 %	VIC 2010 %	VIC 2009 %	VIC 2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	72.5	70.7	71.7	66.6	69.6
Sports (as a spectator)	53.9	51.9	57.5	39.7	48.4
Arts/cultural activities	25.4	30.2	27.9	20.0	45.8
Student leadership activities	25.1	24.4	25.8	8.4	12.2
Volunteer work	25.0	27.9	24.0	16.5	22.4
Youth groups and clubs	22.3	25.0	23.3	17.7	22.2
Religious groups or activities	17.8	23.2	19.6	17.9	22.3
Environmental groups or activities	9.5	11.7	12.0	8.5	13.8
Political groups or organisations*	3.9	4.7	4.6	N/A	N/A

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 18 shows that although *sports (as a spectator)* was listed in the top three activities for all age groups, *sports (as a participant)* wasn't a top three activity for young adults. Rates of involvement in sport either as a participant or spectator also varied and generally declined with age. The most common activity for the young adult group was *volunteer work* and involvement in *youth groups and clubs* was also highest among this group.

- Four in five (79.7%) 11 to 14 year olds were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, compared with just 36.1% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Over half of 11 to 19 year olds participated in *sports (as a spectator)* compared with just over two in five of the young adult group.
- *Volunteer work* was the most popular activity for those aged 20 to 24, with three times as many young adults involved in this activity as 11 to 14 year olds (56.6% and 18.6% respectively).
- Participation in *arts/cultural activities*, *environmental groups* and *political groups* also increased with age.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	79.7	67.0	36.1
Sports (as a spectator)	53.8	54.6	44.8
Arts/cultural activities	22.8	27.5	34.0
Student leadership activities	22.8	27.8	16.9
Volunteer work	18.6	30.1	56.6
Youth groups and clubs	21.1	22.5	37.1
Religious groups or activities	17.7	17.5	23.4
Environmental groups or activities	7.8	10.7	16.1
Political groups or organisations	2.7	4.5	16.1

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 19 shows there was no difference between genders in terms of their top two activities; however, male respondents participated at somewhat higher rates in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for females was *arts/cultural activities*, while for males it was *youth groups and clubs*. Female respondents were more likely than males to participate in *student leadership activities* and *volunteer work*.

- More than three quarters of male respondents (76.5%) and more than two thirds of female respondents (69.7%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Three fifths of male respondents (62.5%) and almost one half of female respondents (47.8%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Almost a quarter (23.2%) of males participated in *youth groups and clubs*, and it was the third most popular activity for this group.
- Females were more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural activities* (30.7% compared with 17.5%), *student leadership activities* (28.2% compared with 20.6%) and *volunteer work* (27.9% compared to 20.8%).

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

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	69.7	76.5
Sports (as a spectator)	47.8	62.5
Arts/cultural activities	30.7	17.5
Student leadership activities	28.2	20.6
Volunteer work	27.9	20.8
Youth groups and clubs	21.6	23.2
Religious groups or activities	19.0	16.2
Environmental groups or activities	10.0	8.7
Political groups or organisations	3.7	4.2

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Respondents were asked to describe how positive or negative they felt about the future. Table 20 shows that two thirds of Victorian respondents felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, which is broadly consistent with both the national figures for 2011 and the Victorian responses in 2010.

- Two thirds (66.0%) of respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future.
- Just over a quarter (26.4%) of respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Fewer than one in ten (7.7%) indicated they felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future.

Table 20: Feelings about the future

	VIC 2011 %	National 2011 %	VIC 2010 %
Very positive	21.1	20.4	21.6
Positive	44.9	42.7	44.4
Neither positive nor negative	26.4	28.1	26.1
Negative	5.1	5.6	5.3
Very negative	2.6	3.3	2.5

Age differences

Table 21 shows that almost two thirds of respondents across the three age groups reported that they felt *positive* or *very positive*. 20 to 24 year olds were somewhat less likely to report feeling *neither positive nor negative*, and more than twice as likely to express feeling *negative* or *very negative* as their younger counterparts.

Gender differences

Table 21 also shows that although males were more likely to report feeling *very positive* about the future than females, there was little difference when positive feelings about the future were combined (64.6% of females and 67.8% of males felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future). Males were slightly more likely than females to report negative feelings (8.5% compared to 7.1%) and were also less likely to express neutral feelings.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	21.8	20.8	10.2	18.4	24.8
Positive	44.7	45.0	55.1	46.2	43.0
Neither positive nor negative	26.9	25.8	19.0	28.3	23.7
Negative	4.7	5.3	11.6	5.0	5.3
Very negative	1.9	3.0	4.1	2.1	3.2



Western Australia summary

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

2,760 surveys were returned from Western Australia (WA), which was 6.0% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from.

Age breakdown

The age profile of WA respondents is shown in Table 1. The largest group of respondents were the 15 to 19 year olds (52.1%), followed by the 11 to 14 year olds (43.6%). The remaining 4.3% were aged 20 to 24 year olds.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	1,164	43.6
15-19 years	1,392	52.1
20-24 years	115	4.3
Total	2,671	6.0% of the 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 are for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

49.9% of respondents from WA were female and 50.1% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

As Table 2 shows, 293 or 10.8% of respondents from WA 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 %
Aboriginal respondents	293	10.8%	5.8	8.7%	12.6%	5.2%
Non Aboriginal respondents	2415	89.2%	94.2	91.3%	87.4%	94.8%

Languages other than English spoken at home

76.6% of respondents from WA indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 624 respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 57 languages between them. The 10 most frequently spoken languages were (in order of frequency): Afrikaans, Chinese, Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese, French, Italian, Indonesian, Arabic, and Hindi.

Disability

138 (5.0%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The five most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), learning disability, autism, physical disability, and blindness or vision impairment.

Where respondents were living

As shown in Table 3, the vast majority of respondents from WA (89.4%) were living *with family*, slightly lower than the national figure of 94.5%. 75 young people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* participated in the survey, as did 25 who were in *foster care* and 18 who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	89.4	94.5	96.6	86.5	53.0
Juvenile Justice centre/prison	2.8	0.6	0.6	4.5	2.6
Share house	2.0	1.3	0.5	1.5	22.6
Boarding school	1.9	1.4	0.6	3.1	0.9
Foster care	0.9	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.0
Alone	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.6	7.8
Homeless/insecure housing	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.0
With spouse/partner and/or own children	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.2	12.2
Other	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.5	0.9

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, about two thirds (67.1%) of WA respondents were living in the state capital, Perth. This proportion was higher among the 20 to 24 year olds compared to their younger counterparts, with 83.5% of the young adult group living in Perth.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	1,837	67.1	58.2	63.3	68.4	83.5
Not in capital city	900	32.9	41.8	36.7	31.6	16.5

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income identified by just under six in ten respondents from WA (57.0). Table 5 shows that respondents were less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. The WA data were similar to the national data for all income sources.

Table 5: Main source of income

	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents or family	57.0	61.9	69.8	50.8	6.1
Employment	20.2	16.0	7.3	26.7	73.0
No income	16.1	17.1	20.7	13.0	4.3
Government Allowance	5.7	4.4	1.1	8.8	12.2
Other	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.7	4.3
No income	16.1	17.1	20.7	13.0	4.3

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds have been excluded from this section, given secondary education in Australia is compulsory at this age.

As Table 6 shows, over eight in ten (80.7%) respondents from WA were *studying full time*, lower than the national figure of 89.7%. Respondents aged 15 to 19 years were much more likely than those aged 20 to 24 years to be *studying full time* (85.0% compared with 28.7%). The older age group was much more likely than the younger age group to be *not studying* (53.0% compared with 8.5%). Education participation rates for male and female respondents were quite similar.

Table 6: Participation in education

	WA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	80.7	89.7	85.0	28.7	82.3	78.8
Studying part time	7.4	3.4	6.5	18.3	7.2	7.7
Not studying	11.9	6.9	8.5	53.0	10.5	13.5

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Over a third of respondents from WA (35.9%) were *employed part time*, and a small proportion (4.6%) were *employed full time*. Participation in paid employment was far greater among 20 to 24 year olds than 15 to 19 year olds, with the difference in *full time employment* rates particularly marked (44.5% compared with 1.2%). Females were more likely to be employed than males (47.5% overall, compared with 33.1%).

Table 7: Participation in paid employment

	WA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Employed full time	4.6	1.8	1.2	44.5	6.8	2.2
Employed part time	35.9	36.4	36.2	32.7	40.7	30.9
Not in paid employment	59.5	61.8	62.7	22.7	52.6	66.9

Note: All data in this table are for respondents aged 15 to 24 years. Part time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full time is 35 hours or more.

DETAILED RESULTS

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top two items for WA respondents were *family relationships* and *friendships*, as they were nationally. The third item was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 73.9% and 52.4% of WA respondents respectively.
- One third (33.0%) of WA respondents indicated that they highly valued *physical or mental health*, a slight decline from last year's figure of 37.0%.
- Three in ten (30.0%) of young people highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, lower than the national figure of 36.9%.
- *Getting a job* was valued by one quarter of respondents (25.0%), an increase from last year's figure of 14.8%.

Table 8: What young people value

	WA 2011 %	National 2011 %	WA 2010 %	WA 2009 %	WA 2008 %
Family relationships	73.9	74.3	79.2	76.7	77.4
Friendships (other than family)	52.4	59.0	59.1	62.3	64.4
Physical and mental health	33.0	32.0	37.0	32.6	32.7
School or study satisfaction	30.0	36.9	29.9	23.2	20.2
Getting a job	25.0	22.7	14.8	16.5	15.7
Being independent	23.3	21.6	25.7	31.6	29.2
Spirituality/faith	17.6	9.6	16.9	15.5	18.4
Feeling needed and valued	11.8	13.8	19.7	22.4	22.9
Financial security	11.3	11.6	12.6	12.5	12.6
Making a difference in the community	7.9	6.6	6.2	7.5	7.3

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 compares what was valued by different age groups of WA respondents. The top two items for those aged 11 to 14 years and those aged 15 to 19 years were the same, namely *family relationships*, and *friendships*. The responses of those aged 20 to 24 were notably different to the younger age groups, though they also ranked *family relationships* first.

- *Family relationships* was clearly the top ranked item for all age groups, though the relative importance of this item declined slightly with age (76.9%, 72.4%, and 63.5%, from youngest to oldest).
- About one half of respondents from the two younger age groups highly valued *friendships* (55.4% and 51.3%), compared with 42.6% of the young adult group.
- *Physical and mental health* was a top three item for all age groups, and was particularly highly valued by 20 to 24 year olds (44.3%, compared with around one third of the two younger age groups).
- *Financial security* (46.1%) was highly valued by those aged 20 to 24 years, a far greater proportion than among younger respondents.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	76.9	72.4	63.5
Friendships (other than family)	55.4	51.3	42.6
Physical and mental health	34.5	31.1	44.3
School or study satisfaction	34.5	27.8	9.6
Being independent	15.6	29.2	28.7
Getting a job	23.4	27.6	10.4
Feeling needed and valued	10.2	12.7	20.0
Financial security	5.9	13.3	46.1
Spirituality/faith	22.3	14.5	9.6
Making a difference in the community	6.7	8.3	17.4

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that *family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for both genders. Both of these items were highly valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents. *Physical and mental health* rounded out the top three for males, while *school or study satisfaction* was the third highest ranked item for females.

- 79.2% of females highly valued *family relationships* as did 68.6% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 55.7% of female respondents and 49.0% of males.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by over one third (35.9%) of males, and three in ten (30.0%) females.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by one third (33.3%) of females, and just over one quarter (26.7%) of males.
- More than twice as many male respondents (33.8%) as female respondents (16.4%) highly valued *getting a job*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	79.2	68.6
Friendships (other than family)	55.7	49.0
Physical and mental health	30.0	35.9
School or study satisfaction	33.3	26.7
Being independent	22.1	24.5
Getting a job	16.4	33.8
Feeling needed and valued	14.3	9.4
Financial security	10.8	11.8
Spirituality/faith	19.4	15.9
Making a difference in the community	8.7	7.1

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for WA respondents were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress*, and *family conflict*, though the proportions of respondents who nominated *school or study problems* and *coping with stress* were slightly lower than national figures. There were a range of issues that were of concern to respondents, with seven items being of concern to at least one in five young people.

- The top issue for WA respondents was *school or study problems*, with 33.0% of respondents identifying it as a major concern, up from 26.9% in 2010.
- *Coping with stress* was of high concern for one in three (30.4%) respondents, compared with 25.5% last year.
- *Family conflict* (29.3%) rounded out the top three concerns for WA respondents, a similar figure to last year.
- Almost three in ten (28.5%) respondents identified *body image* as an issue of concern, a similar figure to last year.
- *Drugs*, *alcohol*, and *bullying/emotional abuse* were each identified as an issue of concern by over one in five respondents.

Table 11: Issues of personal concern to young people

	WA 2011 %	National 2011 %	WA 2010 %	WA 2009 %	WA 2008 %
School or study problems	33.0	37.3	26.9	18.6	19.0
Coping with stress	30.4	35.4	25.5	17.3	18.5
Family conflict	29.3	28.1	27.8	25.3	27.4
Body image	28.5	33.1	28.9	24.5	25.1
Drugs	22.1	16.9	22.8	30.3	27.3
Alcohol	20.7	15.2	23.0	21.6	19.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	20.1	22.8	20.4	20.4	18.8
Personal safety	19.1	20.3	22.6	22.8	24.6
Depression	18.8	18.1	18.7	17.8	15.9
The environment	16.6	17.7	17.5	16.1	19.3
Suicide	11.5	9.9	20.2	26.8	23.8
Physical/sexual abuse	9.0	8.5	17.2	24.6	23.3
Discrimination	8.8	8.8	10.2	10.9	12.3
Self harm	7.9	6.4	12.4	14.1	13.7
Sexuality	7.5	6.4	11.7	10.3	13.7

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 12 compares issues of concern between the age groups. *School or study problems* was the top-ranked item for 11 to 14 year olds and 15 to 19 year olds, but was highly ranked by far fewer 20 to 24 year olds. *Coping with stress* was clearly the top concern for 20 to 24 year olds, and was also highly ranked by 15 to 19 year olds. Concern with *body image* was relatively common among all three age groups. Responses to other issues, such as *depression*, *family conflict*, and *bullying/emotional abuse* varied with age.

- Concern with *coping with stress* increased with age, with under one quarter (23.1%) of 11 to 14 year olds, over one third (35.1%) of 15 to 19 year olds, and more than half (52.2%) of 20 to 24 year olds indicating it was a major concern.
- *School or study problems* was of high concern to around one third of the two younger age groups, but just one in ten (10.4%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Family conflict* was of high concern to almost three in ten respondents in the two younger age groups, and one in six (16.5%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Concern with *body image* was highest among 20 to 24 year olds (39.1%), and was also common among the two younger age groups (27.8% for 11 to 14 year olds, and 28.3% for 15 to 19 year olds).
- *Depression* was the third highest concern for 20 to 24 year olds (37.4%), a far higher proportion than for younger respondents.
- *Bullying or emotional abuse* and *personal safety* were of high concern for almost a quarter of 11 to 14 year old respondents, a far higher proportion than among the two older age groups.
- *Alcohol* and *drugs* were of high concern to around one in five respondents among the two younger age groups.

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

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
School or study problems	33.4	34.5	10.4
Coping with stress	23.1	35.1	52.2
Family conflict	29.8	29.8	16.5
Body image	27.8	28.3	39.1
Drugs	23.0	22.2	13.9
Alcohol	18.0	23.7	11.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.3	17.2	13.0
Personal safety	23.0	15.9	16.5
Depression	14.7	20.9	37.4
The environment	20.6	12.6	21.7
Suicide	12.7	10.9	8.7
Physical/sexual abuse	10.4	7.8	10.4
Discrimination	6.7	10.6	10.4
Self harm	8.1	7.6	7.0
Sexuality	6.8	7.7	10.4

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 compares issues of personal concern between the genders. *School or study problems* was highly ranked by both genders in WA, with this being the top concern for males. *Body image* was the top-ranked concern for females, with far fewer males indicating this was a concern. *Coping with stress* was of high concern to both genders.

- *Body image* was of concern to almost two in five (38.9%) female respondents, compared with around one in six (17.6%) of males.
- *School or study problems* was of concern to around one third of respondents of both genders.
- *Coping with stress* was of higher concern for females (33.7%) than males (26.9%).
- *Family conflict* was a major concern for slightly more females (31.7%) than males (26.9%).
- *Drugs and alcohol* were of concern to more than one quarter of male respondents, compared with less than one in six females.

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

	Female %	Male %
School or study problems	32.1	34.2
Coping with stress	33.7	26.9
Family conflict	31.7	26.9
Body image	38.9	17.6
Drugs	16.6	27.8
Alcohol	15.1	26.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.4	18.6
Personal safety	17.0	21.2
Depression	21.1	16.3
The environment	15.5	17.7
Suicide	10.5	12.5
Physical/sexual abuse	9.4	8.4
Discrimination	7.7	10.0
Self harm	7.9	8.1
Sexuality	7.7	7.2

Note: Data are aggregated and include items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern?

In 2011 young people were asked whether or not they had somewhere they could go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern. Over 20% of respondents stated that they did not have anywhere to go for advice and support about their number one issue of concern, while almost eight in ten respondents in WA (75.6%) stated that they had somewhere they could go. Table 14 shows the five issues of concern most frequently rated number one among those respondents, and the top five sources of advice that respondents felt they could go to regarding these issues.

Parents and friends were the top sources of advice for all five issues, though the proportion of respondents who nominated each of these as a source of advice differed between the issues. *Relative/family friend* was also within the top 3 for all issues. Other sources of advice differed considerably between the different issues of concern.

- *Friends* were the number one source of advice for almost all issues, for 83.8% of respondents concerned about *body image*, through to 72.1% of respondents concerned with *drugs*.
- The proportion of respondents who turned to *parents* for advice and support varied between the issues, from 78.5% of respondents concerned about *school or study problems* at the highest, through to 69.0% of respondents concerned about *family conflict*.
- *Relative/family friend* were a source of advice and support for around half of respondents, being highest for *family conflict* (61.5%) and lowest for *school or study problems* (43.0%).
- *Teacher* was a source of advice for three in ten (30.4%) respondents concerned with *school or study problems* and one in six respondents concerned about *coping with stress* and *drugs*.
- The *internet* was a relatively important source of advice for respondents concerned about *body image* (20.7%), *coping with stress* (19.3%) and *school or study problems* (16.5%).

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support on their main issue of concern

Number one concern	Top Sources of Advice and Support (%)				
School or study problems	Parent/s 78.5	Friend/s 77.6	Relative/Family Friend 43.0	Teacher 30.4	Internet 16.5
Coping with stress	Friend/s 82.8	Parent/s 78.1	Relative/Family Friend 51.9	Internet 19.3	Teacher 16.3
Family conflict	Friend/s 83.0	Parent/s 69.0	Relative/Family Friend 61.5	Someone else in your community 15.5	Teacher 11.5
Body Image	Friend/s 83.8	Parent/s 70.2	Relative/Family Friend 46.5	Internet 20.7	School Counsellor 12.6
Drugs	Parent/s 74.8	Friend/s 72.1	Relative/Family Friend 53.7	Teacher 16.3	School Counsellor 15.6

Note: The percentages given are based on all respondents who ranked that issue as being of greatest concern to them, and stated that they had somewhere they could go for advice about the issue. 'Advice and Support' data were aggregated to include items ranked one, two or three by these respondents.

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

Young people were asked to write down the three issues they considered were most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 15. The top issue for respondents from WA were *alcohol and drugs*, *the environment*, and *crime, safety and violence*, as they were in 2010.

- Around four in ten (39.0%) WA respondents listed *alcohol and drugs*, higher than the national figure of 31.7%.
- *The environment* was listed by 38.1% of respondents, lower than the figure of 44.7% recorded nationally.
- *Crime, safety and violence* and *population issues* were among the most important issues, listed by around one fifth of respondents.

Table 15: Most important issues in Australia today

	WA 2011 %	National 2011 %	WA 2010 %
Alcohol and drugs	39.0	31.7	41.6
The environment	38.1	44.7	39.9
Crime, safety and violence	20.4	18.4	21.5
Population issues	19.9	19.1	16.4
The economy and financial matters	16.4	20.3	19.4
Equity and discrimination	16.0	16.9	19.8
Health	13.0	14.3	13.6
Bullying	12.7	14.9	7.5
Politics and societal values	12.7	14.5	14.9
Mental health	9.2	9.9	10.1
Abuse	8.5	7.7	9.8
Education	6.8	6.7	7.8
Homelessness/housing	6.3	7.3	5.2
Employment	4.6	4.9	4.5
Adolescence/youth	4.3	4.0	4.8
International relations	4.2	5.0	3.2
Relationships	2.8	2.0	2.7
Animal rights and welfare	2.3	2.3	2.3
Poverty/disadvantage	2.1	3.0	2.3

Note: Participants provided three open-ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

Age differences

Table 16 compares the issues in Australia identified by respondents across the three age groups. *The environment* was the most commonly identified issue in Australia for 11 to 14 and 20 to 24 year old respondents. The most commonly identified issue among 15 to 19 year olds was *alcohol and drugs*.

- *The environment* was identified as an issue in Australia by almost half of those aged 11 to 14 (44.6%) and those aged 20 to 24 years (45.5%).
- The proportion of respondents who listed *alcohol and drugs* as an issue in Australia declined with age, with 41.6% for 11 to 14 year olds, 38.7% for 15 to 19 year olds, and 18.2% for 20 to 24 year olds.
- The proportion of respondents who listed *crime, safety and violence* as an issue also declined with age, with 22.6% of 11 to 14 year olds, 19.0% of 15 to 19 year olds, and 11.8% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Almost one quarter (24.1%) of 15 to 19 year olds identified *population issues* as an issue in Australia, compared with 20.0% of the young adults, and 15.9% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- *The economy and financial matters* was considered an issue in Australia by over a quarter (25.5%) of 20 to 24 year olds, and around one in six of their younger counterparts.

Gender differences

Table 16 also compares the most important issues in Australia that were identified by male and female respondents in WA. *Alcohol and drugs* was the most commonly identified issue for males, while for females it was *the environment*. *Crime, safety and violence* rounded out the top three issues for male respondents, as did *equity and discrimination* for females.

- A higher proportion of males (42.5%) than females (35.7%) indicated *alcohol and drugs* was an issue in Australia.
- *The environment* was identified as an issue in Australia by four in ten (40.4%) of female respondents, and over one third of males (35.3%).
- *Crime, safety and violence* was identified as an issue by just under one quarter (23.8%) of males, and around one in six (17.3%) of females.
- Around one fifth of both female and male respondents identified *population issues* as an issue in Australia today.

Table 16: Most important issues in Australia today, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Alcohol and drugs	41.6	38.7	18.2	35.7	42.5
The environment	44.6	31.8	45.5	40.4	35.3
Crime, safety and violence	22.6	19.0	11.8	17.3	23.8
Population issues	15.9	24.1	20.0	18.7	21.2
The economy and financial matters	15.2	17.2	25.5	14.4	18.2
Equity and discrimination	9.6	21.2	19.1	19.5	12.4
Health	15.8	10.6	15.5	15.4	10.4
Bullying	16.1	10.2	4.5	15.7	9.5
Politics and societal values	11.5	13.0	20.0	9.7	15.7
Mental health	7.7	9.0	23.6	12.1	6.2
Abuse	10.0	7.6	6.4	11.0	6.0
Education	5.5	7.4	12.7	6.8	6.8
Homelessness/housing	7.0	5.4	11.8	7.7	4.9
Employment	3.7	4.9	9.1	4.2	5.0
Adolescence/youth	2.8	5.5	5.5	6.6	1.9
International relations	4.7	3.9	4.5	2.8	5.8
Relationships	2.3	3.3	0.9	2.7	2.9
Animal rights and welfare	3.5	1.1	0.9	2.9	1.8
Poverty/disadvantage	2.2	1.9	3.6	2.5	1.6

Note: Participants provided three open-ended responses, which were coded and aggregated.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they were involved in from the list set out in Table 17. The top three activities for WA respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *youth groups and clubs*. Just under one third of WA respondents also participated in *religious activities* and *arts/cultural activities*.

- Just over two thirds (68.8%) of young people from WA participated in *sport (as a participant)* and over half (51.0%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, slightly lower than the national figures.
- Almost four in ten respondents (39.1%) indicated that they participated in *youth groups and clubs*, far higher than the quarter (25.0%) recorded nationally.
- Just under one third of respondents indicated that they participated in *religious groups or activities* (32.6%), *arts/cultural activities* (32.4%) and *volunteer work* (30.9%).

Table 17: Activities young people were involved in

	WA 2011 %	National 2011 %	WA 2010 %	WA 2009 %	WA 2008 %
Sports (as a participant)	68.8	70.7	70.8	61.6	67.6
Sports (as a spectator)	51.0	51.9	56.7	37.1	44.6
Youth groups and clubs	39.1	25.0	32.3	21.9	31.1
Religious groups or activities	32.6	23.2	29.7	22.0	30.8
Arts/cultural activities	32.4	30.2	30.4	21.5	45.2
Volunteer work	30.9	27.9	29.8	19.4	21.4
Student leadership activities	24.4	24.4	24.4	8.8	12.0
Environmental groups or activities	14.8	11.7	14.9	8.6	13.5
Political groups or organisations*	5.8	4.7	6.6	N/A	N/A

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed. *New item in 2010.

Age differences

Table 18 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* was in the top three activities for all age groups, participation declined markedly with age. Participation rates in other activities also differed among the age groups. Participation in *youth groups or clubs* was highest among the 11 to 14 year olds, while participation in *arts/cultural activities* was highest among the young adult group.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest among 11 to 14 year olds (77.3%), declining to 43.8% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Over half of 11 to 19 year olds participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, as did just under half of the young adult group.
- Participation in *youth groups or clubs* declined with age. Just under half of the 11 to 14 year olds (44.5%) participated in this, compared with one third (35.5%) of the 15 to 19 year olds, and one quarter (26.5%) of the 20 to 24 year olds.
- Participation in *religious groups or activities* also declined with age. The 11 to 14 year olds were far more likely than the young adult group to indicate that they were involved (37.5% compared with 21.2%).
- Older respondents were more likely to be participating in *volunteer work*, with rates of a little under one half (45.0%) of 20 to 24 year olds, one third (34.7%) of 15 to 19 year olds, and just under one quarter (24.4%) of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	77.3	63.5	43.8
Sports (as a spectator)	50.2	51.3	45.6
Youth groups and clubs	44.5	35.5	26.5
Religious groups or activities	37.5	29.4	21.2
Arts/cultural activities	30.9	32.7	41.6
Volunteer work	24.4	34.7	45.0
Student leadership activities	24.2	25.7	11.6
Environmental groups or activities	13.7	15.0	17.4
Political groups or organisations	4.0	6.0	14.4

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 19 compares the involvement of female and male respondents in activities. The top three activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)*, and *youth groups and clubs*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in each. Female respondents were more likely than males to be participating in *arts or cultural activities* and *volunteer work*.

- Almost three quarters of male respondents (74.3%) participated in *sports (as a participant)*, compared with just under two thirds (63.3%) of female respondents.
- Almost six in ten males (57.4%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, compared with less than half of females (44.7%).
- Females were more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural activities* (36.7% compared with 28.0%) and *volunteer work* (34.6% compared with 26.8%).
- Just under a third of respondents of both genders participated in *religious groups or activities*.

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

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.3	74.3
Sports (as a spectator)	44.7	57.4
Youth groups and clubs	37.8	40.3
Religious groups or activities	32.7	32.3
Arts/cultural activities	36.7	28.0
Volunteer work	34.6	26.8
Student leadership activities	23.4	25.4
Environmental groups or activities	14.2	15.5
Political groups or organisations	5.0	6.7

Note: Data are a tally of all activities listed.

How do young people feel about the future?

Respondents were asked to describe how *positive* or *negative* they felt about the future. Table 20 shows that the majority of respondents from WA felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future, similar to national figures and consistent with responses from 2010.

- Over six in ten WA respondents indicated that they felt either *positive* or *very positive* about the future (61.9%).
- Just over one in ten young people reported *negative* or *very negative* feelings about the future (10.3%), slightly higher than last year's figure of 8.3%.
- Just over a quarter of respondents indicated they felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future (27.9%).

Table 20: Feelings about the future

	WA 2011 %	National 2011 %	WA 2010 %
Very positive	21.1	20.4	22.6
Positive	40.8	42.7	43.4
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	28.1	25.7
Negative	6.3	5.6	5.0
Very negative	4.0	3.3	3.3

Age differences

Table 21 shows that similar proportions of respondents felt *positive* or *very positive* among the three age groups. The 20 to 24 year old age group were slightly less likely to express *positive* or *very positive* feelings about the future (57.5%, compared with over 60% of the younger age groups). One in six young adults expressed *negative* or *very negative feelings* (16.8%), compared with under one in ten respondents aged 11 to 19 years.

Gender differences

Table 21 also shows that males were slightly more likely to feel *very positive* about the future than females, while females were slightly more likely to express neutral feelings.

Table 21: Feelings about the future, by age and gender

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Very positive	20.8	21.5	15.9	17.8	24.4
Positive	42.1	39.5	41.6	41.8	40.0
Neither positive nor negative	28.4	28.0	25.7	30.9	24.9
Negative	5.8	6.3	10.6	5.9	6.5
Very negative	2.8	4.6	6.2	3.6	4.3

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- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
- Youth Affairs Network of Queensland
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Youth Justice Directorate, Department for Families and Communities (South Australia)
- Youth Network of Tasmania
- Youth Off The Streets
- youth.gov.au, Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
- youthcentral (www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au) - the Victorian Government's website for young people

About Mission Australia

Mission Australia is a Christian community service organisation that has been transforming the lives of Australians in need for more than 150 years.

Today we are one of the nation's leading community services organisations, operating more than 550 community and employment services from 350 sites in metropolitan, rural and regional Australia.

In 2010-11, our services assisted more than 300,000 Australians by providing a hand up, a way forward and hope for the future.

We work towards creating a fairer Australia by advocating for people in need and helping them to get back on their feet. We strengthen families, empower youth, strive to solve homelessness and provide employment solutions.

Thank you

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For further information about this report please contact:

Research and Social Policy, Mission Australia

Telephone: (02) 9219 2000

Email: youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au

www.mayouthsurvey.com.au

www.youareprobablywrong.com.au

National Office

Level 7, 580 George Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9219 2000

State and Territory Offices

NSW-ACT State Office

Level 14, 97 Bathurst Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9641 5000

NT State Office

Level 1, 6 Francis Drive

Palmerston NT 0830

Tel: (08) 8935 0900

QLD State Office

11 Cleveland Street

Stones Corner QLD 4120

Tel: (07) 3847 8411

SA State Office

60 Halifax Street

Adelaide SA 5000

Tel: (08) 8218 2800

TAS State Office

Hobart Centre, Suite 4, Level 1

175 Collins Street

Hobart TAS 7000

Tel: (03) 6234 3240

VIC State Office

Level 5, 136 Exhibition Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

Tel: (03) 8615 2200

WA State Office

Suite 2, 34 Hasler Road

Osborne Park WA 6017

Tel: (08) 9225 0400



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