

"Better school counselling and less stressful workload in the senior school years of high school."

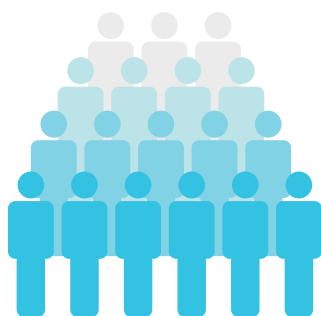
F, 15, SA

## Youth Survey 2017

In 2017 Mission Australia conducted its 16<sup>th</sup> annual survey of young people aged 15-19. The survey is distributed nationally through schools and organisations and aims to identify young people's values and concerns.

**24,055**  
respondents

aged 15-19 years



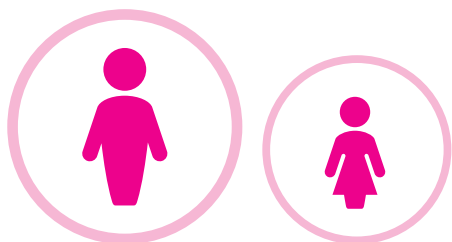
**57.5%** 

**39.6%** 

**5.3%** identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



**4 in 10** young people indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals with **9.7%** reporting that they were **extremely confident** and **30.5%** reporting that they were **very confident**.



A **higher proportion of males (45.4%)** than females (36.6%) feel confident that they can achieve their post-school goals.

### Top issues identified in Australia today

all have **increased** since 2015



**Mental health**

33.7%



**Alcohol and drugs**

32.0%



**Equity and discrimination**

27.3%

From 2015 to 2017 the proportion of those indicating **mental health as a national concern** rose from

**14.9% to 33.7%**

## Top 3 barriers

**Over half** (51.6%) indicated that there would be barriers to achieving their study or work goals after school.



**Academic  
ability**

**22.0%**



**Financial  
difficulty**

**14.2%**



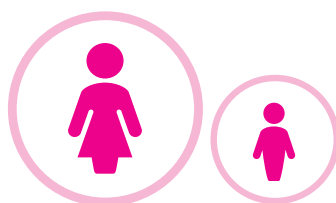
**Mental  
health**

**13.2%**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people** provided similar responses in their levels of confidence and their perceived barriers compared to their non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peers.



**the proportion of females** (16.9%) than males (7.4%) indicated that **mental health** was a barrier to their achievements after school.



**Twice the proportion of females** (17.9%) compared to males (8.9%) indicated that **financial difficulty was a barrier** which may impact on their achievements after school.



**Over 1 in 4 female** respondents (26.2%) saw **academic ability** as a barrier which may impact on their achievements after school, compared to 16.3% of male respondents.

*"Provide opportunities for me to have conversations with people I am comfortable talking to like close friends, trusted teachers or family."  
M, 15, VIC*

## Young people need access to:

- ✓ Opportunities to re-engage with education
- ✓ Effective careers guidance and support to overcome barriers to employment
- ✓ Age appropriate mental health supports and drug and alcohol programs
- ✓ Safe and affordable accommodation
- ✓ Wraparound holistic support services

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

**To download the report:**  [missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurveyreport](https://missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurveyreport)