

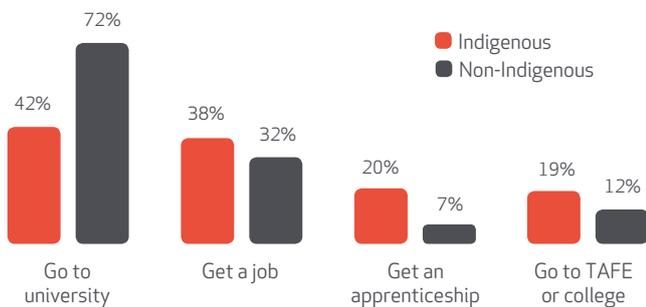
# MISSION AUSTRALIA

## National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Report: Youth Survey 2017

Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2017 captured the views, concerns, experiences and aspirations of 24,055 young people, 1,265 of whom identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous).

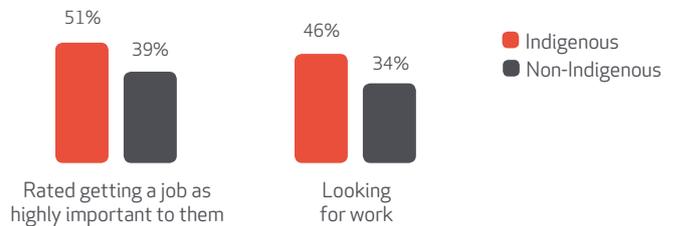
### Key findings

#### POST SCHOOL PLANS



#### EMPLOYMENT

Just over half of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people indicated challenges to the achievement of their study/work goals



#### HOUSING



#### HAPPINESS

The majority of Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people indicated feeling positive overall about their lives but just under

**1 in 10** Indigenous young people indicated their happiness with life as a whole was a '0' out of 10

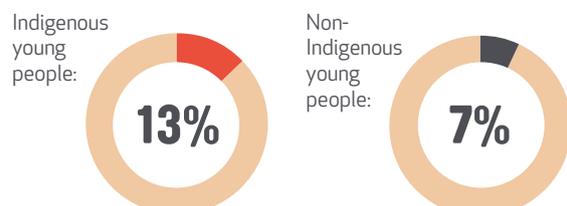


compared to 1 in 50 non-Indigenous young people

#### FAMILY

**74%** of Indigenous young people rated family relationships as extremely or very important to them\*

The majority of Indigenous young people rated their family's ability to get along as good to excellent but almost twice the proportion of Indigenous young people rated their family's ability to get along as poor



\*nearly 3/4

### Issues of concern

Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people rated coping with stress, school or study problems and body image as their top 3 personal concerns.

Indigenous young people were more likely than non-Indigenous young people to be extremely/very concerned about:



#### Drugs

17% concerned compared to 6%



#### Personal safety

24% concerned compared to 15%



#### Alcohol

14% concerned compared to 6%



#### Bullying/ emotional abuse

25% concerned compared to 15%



#### Discrimination

20% concerned compared to 11%



#### Suicide

20% concerned compared to 13%

### Key policy recommendations

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people should be at the centre of policy and practice with solutions designed, developed and led by the young people and their representative community organisations.**

In order that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are supported to thrive and reach their full potential there needs to be a focus on:

- Supporting educational engagement and addressing challenges to further study in culturally appropriate ways.
- Providing employment and training programs that are Indigenous-led, flexible and responsive.
- Identifying the deeper, structural causes of mental health difficulties and building on a strong sense of social, cultural and emotional wellbeing.

- Reducing the high rates of homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people as a national priority.
- Designing services that take into consideration the cultural connections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and communities.
- Taking a holistic approach to service design that works across the domains of education, employment, health, housing and social inclusion and combats intergenerational disadvantage.

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](http://kidshelpline.com.au) or headspace: 1800 650 890, [headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au)

For more information:  [researchandpolicy@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:researchandpolicy@missionaustralia.com.au)

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