

# Youth Survey 2014



**MISSION**  
**AUSTRALIA** | together  
we stand

## Contents

CEO's message	2
Introduction	3
About the survey	10
National summary	11
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary	29
Australian Capital Territory	49
New South Wales	62
Northern Territory	80
Queensland	93
South Australia	111
Tasmania	129
Victoria	147
Western Australia	165
Acknowledgements	184

ISBN 978-0-9874487-6-7

©Mission Australia 2014

This report may be cited as: Fildes, J., Robbins, A., Cave, L., Perrens, B. and Wearing, A. 2014, Mission Australia's 2014 Youth Survey Report, Mission Australia.

# CEO's message

## Empowering young people to achieve their dreams

The hopes and dreams of today's youth are a window to our nation's future. When young people dream big and believe they can achieve those dreams, the possibilities for our country are endless.

But when our youth feel their dreams are out of reach and limit their goals for adulthood, Australia's future prosperity is at risk.

With our nation continuing to grapple with high youth unemployment rates, significant structural changes in the labour market, and as our higher education system faces potentially costly reforms for students, there has never been a more important time to consider the concerns and aspirations of Australian youth.

It is this generation who will be most affected by the decisions made today; therefore understanding their concerns will allow planning ahead for the challenges of tomorrow.

For 13 years, Mission Australia's annual *Youth Survey* has been providing the vital insight we need to unearth the views, hopes and fears of young Australians. With a special focus on aspirations, the 2014 *Youth Survey* results highlight a concerning gap between what young people aspire to and what they believe they can actually achieve.

When we asked young people what was most important to them personally, achieving career success and being financially independent came out on top, followed by owning their own home – all rating above having their own family or feeling part of their community. Yet when young people who placed high importance on these aspirations were asked which they felt they were likely to achieve, only around 60 per cent believed career success or financial independence were actually attainable.

At the same time, the issue of greatest personal concern for young people in 2014 was coping with stress, and the economy and financial matters were again considered among the most important issues facing the nation. The economic outlook is clearly playing on the minds of our youth, while they are all too aware of the impact it will have on the opportunities available to them in the future.

These results raise serious questions about how we are supporting our young people to navigate their way into adulthood, particularly the most disadvantaged youth. The added fact that the majority of young people are turning to their friends and family when they need help also tells us we need to do more to educate and strengthen those personal support networks.

We should also question what it means if greater proportions of our youth place importance on their career and financial aspirations than on aspirations for family and community connection. We know that strong community networks and positive family relationships are vital to the health of our nation and will in fact give young people a far greater chance of a happy, healthy and fulfilling future. So we need to build that sense of community in young Australians and ensure their dreams encompass social wellbeing, not just financial wellbeing.

It is essential we listen to the voices of youth, so we can identify the gaps in supports for young people, consider areas where we need to boost awareness and education, and develop new ways to build the aspirations and resilience of young people in changing circumstances.

As a leading community organisation, Mission Australia is focused on standing together with Australians in need, until they can stand for themselves. We want to support our young people to gain independence and lead productive, fulfilling lives.

This year's survey provides us with a clear snapshot of the issues weighing on the minds of our youth, and offers us the opportunity to act on their concerns so we can ensure they have every chance at a strong future.

Young Australians still have big dreams, but they need our support to ensure these are achievable, especially for those facing major challenges and disadvantage.

### Catherine Yeomans

Mission Australia CEO



# Introduction

## Demographic profile of respondents

A total of 13,600 young people aged 15-19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014*. The largest number of responses came from New South Wales (28.4%), Victoria (22.9%) and Queensland (20.4%). Over half of the respondents (61.2%) were female and 5.6% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The percentage of young people who spoke a language other than English at home was 19.7%, similar to results in 2013 (22.1%). The level of reported disability remained fairly constant again between 2014 (4.4%) and 2013 (4.3%). The vast majority of respondents were studying full-time (93.8%), slightly lower than the 95.2% in 2013. Over one third (35.9%) of respondents were working part-time and 35.4% were looking for work, again consistent with previous years.

## Young people's aspirations

The *Youth Survey 2014* asked young people about the importance and achievability of a number of personal aspirations. Over eight in ten young people indicated that *achieving career success* (87.4%) and *being financially independent* (86.1%) were either *extremely important* or *very important* to them, while around seven in ten indicated that *owning your own home* (72.6%) and *having your own family* (67.5%) were *extremely important* or *very important*. Four in ten respondents (41.0%) stated that *feeling part of your community* was *extremely important* or *very important* to them.

Interestingly, while significant proportions of young people indicated that these items were important to them, fewer felt that these would be achievable. Of those that highly valued these items, seven in ten felt either *extremely likely* or *very likely* to be able to achieve *owning your own home* (71.0%) while around two thirds felt that *feeling part of your community* (66.3%) and *being financially independent* (65.5%) were highly likely to be achievable. *Achieving career success* was felt to be either *extremely likely* or *very likely* to be achievable by around six in ten (59.9%) respondents.

Overall, a greater proportion of male respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve career success, financial independence, and home ownership than female respondents.

## What young people think will influence their career opportunities

In 2014, young people were asked to indicate from a number of items which they thought would influence their career opportunities in the future. Nationally, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* (80.4%) and *hard work* (77.3%). Almost six in ten respondents felt that *talent* (56.9%) would influence their future career opportunities and just under half felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *where you live* (48.4%) and *personal connections (friends/school)* (47.8%). Around one

Interestingly, while significant proportions of young people indicated that these items were important to them, fewer felt that these would be achievable.

quarter of female respondents (25.1%) felt that *gender* would influence their career opportunities in the future, compared to 17.8% of male respondents.

## Young people and plans for study and training

Young people were asked about their future plans for education and training following school. Of those who were at school, 96.0% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were more than twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.4% compared with 2.5% respectively). When asked what they were planning to do after school, going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both males and females (65.1%), although females were far more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (71.9% compared with 54.4%). Many planned to get a job (28.5%) or to travel or go on a gap year (26.2%) after school, while 11.6% planned to attend TAFE or college and 9.0% planned to undertake an apprenticeship.

## What young people value

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. The responses were consistent with previous years, with *friendships* and *family relationships* ranked as the two most highly valued items. Also consistent with past years was the high value placed on *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*. Around one third of respondents placed a high value on *financial security* and *getting a job*.

## Issues of personal concern

Young people were asked to rank how concerned they had been about a number of issues in the past year. Nationally, the top three issues of concern were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*, with over four in ten respondents indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about the top two issues and three in ten indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *body image*. Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*. The proportion of females concerned about each of these issues was much higher than the proportion of males.

## Where young people go for help with important issues

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. The top three sources of help for young people were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* (87.7%, 76.2% and 66.9% respectively). Over half (53.7%) of respondents indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues and over one third indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues (36.2% and 33.5% respectively).

## How well do young people's families get along?

Young people were asked how well they thought their family got along. The majority of respondents were positive, with 25.7% rating their family's ability to get along as *excellent*, and 31.0% as *very good*. However, one in five did not have such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.7%) or *poor* (7.6%).

## Most important issues in Australia today

Young people were asked to write down the three issues that they considered were the most important in Australia today. The top three issues identified in 2014 were *politics and societal values* (28.0%), *the economy and financial matters* (27.1%) and *alcohol and drugs* (23.2%). These compare to the top three issues in 2013 of *the economy and financial matters* (26.2%), *politics and societal values* (24.6%) and *equity and discrimination* (24.1%). Since 2012, *mental health*, *education* and *politics and societal values* have all been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *population issues*, *the environment* and *crime, safety and violence* have declined over this period.

There were notable differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents. While *the economy and financial matters* featured in the top three most important issues for both males and females, the other issues that made up their top three differed. For females, the top issue facing the nation this year was *the economy and financial matters*, followed by *equity and discrimination* and *mental health*. For males, the top issue was *politics and societal values*, followed by *the economy and financial matters* and *alcohol and drugs*.

## Activities that young people are involved in

As in previous years, the top three activities for young people were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. Males were more likely to report participation in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* than females, while females were more likely to have participated in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural/music activities* and *student leadership activities* in the past year.

Respondents were also asked how much time they spent on average, per week, on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Just over half (52.4%) indicated spending less than 10 hours a week on social networking sites, while one third reported spending between 10 and 29 hours, and 14.2% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites. Compared to the 2013 results, respondents in 2014 reported spending more time on social networking sites in an average week.

## The future

Young people were asked to rate how positive they felt about the future. Compared to 2013 and 2012 there has been a slight decrease in those feeling *very positive* about the future and a slight increase in those feeling *neither positive nor negative* about the future. Despite this, around two thirds of respondents reported feeling either *very positive* or *positive* about the future and less than one in ten young people felt either *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

## Policy implications

Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014* provides us with important insights into some of the challenges facing young Australians today. The concerns raised by young people this year with regard to achieving career aspirations, housing and financial independence all underscore the need to ensure we support young people in both developing their aspirations and understanding how to achieve them.

While the majority of young people are optimistic about the future and aspire to achieve the jobs, houses and families that they have witnessed in earlier generations, their confidence has ebbed. Many young people feel under pressure.

Young people recognise the economic and financial challenges facing Australia, and rate these amongst their most serious concerns. They know getting work is important, but two in five young people also question whether they'll have a successful career. And while they believe education is of growing importance to their job prospects and most intend to pursue further education after school, coping with stress and school and study problems are also their most common personal concerns.

Increasingly, a number of young people are also concerned about alcohol and drugs (now approaching a quarter) while the number concerned or very concerned about depression has reached one in five and those citing mental health as a key issue for the nation has grown since 2012.

Supporting young people to be resilient and ensuring they have access to opportunities for education, training, career guidance and alternative pathways to achieve their aspirations is important, particularly given significant changes in the labour market, family structures and persistent housing pressures.

While earlier generations have relied on home ownership to provide a financial buttress to their adult life and retirement, young people's ability to access the significant benefits from owning property will be tested in the coming years.

It is in Australia's interests for today's young people to thrive and lead healthy, productive lives. The investment we make today to support their successful transition into adulthood will pay significant dividends in years to come and underpin the future prosperity of the nation.

### **Employment: ensuring that hard work and education really do pay off**

Over eight in ten young people indicated that achieving career success was extremely or very important to them, but over 40% of those respondents felt that career success was only somewhat likely, slightly likely or not at all likely to be achievable.

It's clear that young people are concerned about their future employment, training and career opportunities. Across Australia around three in ten 15-19 year-olds are not fully engaged in work, school or training.<sup>1</sup> Despite the comparative strength of the Australian economy, we still have rates of youth unemployment above 12% for 15-24 year-olds, and above 20% in some particularly disadvantaged areas.<sup>2</sup>

For young people, the labour market hasn't picked up since the global financial crisis, leaving this generation at risk of being stuck in a high unemployment/underemployment limbo. The 'scarring' that occurs when someone is out of work for a lengthy period can have negative impacts on the person's health and reduces the likelihood of future employment.

The International Monetary Fund has explored the "scarring effects" of early unemployment and noted that "those who experience unemployment early in their life are more likely to be unemployed again in later years. Moreover, they are likely to earn less over their working life than are their peers who find jobs more easily. ... Those scarring effects are the result of such factors as deterioration of skills and forgone work experience. But they can also come from potential employers' belief that these workers will not be productive."<sup>3</sup>

In addition to concerns around achieving career aspirations, young people are increasingly identifying education amongst the most important issues in Australia today, with 15.8% of respondents identifying education as an important issue (up from 10.9% two years ago).

Young people have told us – and the evidence supports this – that there is a need for a greater focus and investment in youth education, training and employment for young people. There are significant economic and social benefits that flow over many

**Young people recognise the economic and financial challenges facing Australia, and rate these amongst their most serious concerns.**

years from participation in the workforce and improving the participation of young people, and we need to support young people in the transition from school to work, school to training or from training to work.

A range of policy responses should be considered:

- Funding arrangements between governments should ensure that young people can access fully-funded education or training until they have acquired their year 12 or equivalent qualification, regardless of the setting.
- Youth programs that build links between education, training and employment for young people must continue. These programs ensure that young people can successfully navigate this period of change and support the aspirations of particularly disadvantaged young people.
- The Youth Connections program, which provides support to around 30,000 disadvantaged young people each year to re-engage with education or employment, has been an important program of support for young people at a difficult time of transition. A program of equivalent scale and purpose is needed to address the persistent high unemployment amongst youth.
- Programs designed to meet the needs of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people such as the Remote Jobs and Communities Program and Indigenous Youth Careers Pathways (IYCP) need to continue along with demand-led initiatives.
- Recent moves to focus funding on regional areas are important, but there also needs to be resourcing to address levels of disadvantage, needs, and high unemployment in metropolitan areas.
- Demand side initiatives should be pursued. There is a need to review and potentially increase the number of incentives available to employers to hire young people, as well as in-work supports and mentoring to ensure young people acquire the skills to maintain a job.
- Opportunities for meaningful work experience for young people are needed.<sup>4</sup> Demand for low-skilled labour has declined, reducing the number of entry level job opportunities – this has a disproportionate effect on young people who have lower skills and qualifications.

<sup>1</sup> ABS (2013) *Education and Work, Australia, May 2013*. Cat. no. 6227.0. Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> ABS (2013) *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, Aug 2014*. Cat. no. 6291.0.55.003. Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

<sup>3</sup> Morsy, H. (2012) *Scarred Generation*. *Finance & Development*, 49 (1), International Monetary Fund. Available at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2012/03/morsy.htm>

<sup>4</sup> The work of Anthony Mann on employer engagement in the United Kingdom is instructive here. For example, Anthony Mann & Christian Percy, *Employer engagement in British secondary education: wage earning outcomes experienced by young adults*, Education and Employers Taskforce, Research and Policy, London, UK, 25 February 2013.

- Expanded training and apprenticeship programs also need to reflect growth industries and sectors in demand, such as aged care and early childhood education, and not be limited to traditional trades.
- Work for the Dole must be provided in real and relevant work situations with personal support and training – particularly given the unmet demand in some locations.
- Specialist youth co-ordinators could be introduced in Australia's priority employment areas to work with local employers and the local school community. These co-ordinators could help identify young people at risk of leaving school early or of unemployment and secure and promote employment opportunities for these young people, smoothing their transition from school.

The *Youth Survey 2014* also reveals differences between young men and women in their perceived ability to meet their aspirations for work and achieve their career goals. A greater proportion of male respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve career success than female respondents. We need to further explore the reasons behind this difference, but consideration should also be given to responses to the question on factors influencing future career opportunities, with more than half of males and females identifying talent as impacting on career, almost half identifying where you live and personal connections, and a quarter of female respondents feeling that gender would influence their career opportunities.

Additionally, further consideration should be given to the impacts of discrimination and caring responsibilities (particularly caring for children but also older parents or ill or disabled family members) on young women's career aspirations.

### **Housing: ensuring young Australians can achieve the 'Great Australian Dream'**

Home ownership is widely seen as desirable by young Australians, with around three quarters of young people attributing high importance to owning their own home in the future. Around seven in ten of those respondents also felt that this aspiration was extremely or very likely to be achieved. This is an interesting result given the declining share of the population achieving home ownership and the lack of affordable housing in Australia, with particular implications for young people.

Despite the aspirations of young people, home ownership amongst 25 to 34 year-olds has fallen from 56% in 1991 to 47% in 2011 according to Census data.<sup>5</sup>

For those who have managed to enter the housing market, the levels of financial stress are also rising and disproportionately impact on younger Australians. As NATSEM reports:

*Generationally, it is the young who experience the most housing stress. Stress levels decline with age and we find that those over 65 years of age face very little housing*

*stress. A concerning result is that First Home Buyers (FHBs) have by far the greatest stress of any group. Sixty per cent of FHB households pay more than 30 per cent of their after-tax income on housing. Seventeen per cent spend more than 50 per cent and 11 per cent fall into the 30/40 rule. This is the group that has been hit the hardest by the recent escalation in house prices. They have been forced to buy into a red hot housing market and crystallised the housing gains of the older generation.<sup>6</sup>*

Significant policy reform and investment are needed if home ownership is to be a reality for young Australians today and into the future. If young people are unable to access sustainable, affordable housing either through home ownership or the rental market, and this remains unavailable into the long-term, housing stress will place an increasing strain on young people's lives. The following policy responses address these concerns:

- Development of a national plan to address the growing housing affordability crisis, co-ordinating roles across governments including planning controls, land release, development charges, and inclusive zoning.
- Recognising in housing policy and planning decisions the significant role of adequate and affordable housing in contributing to people's health and wellbeing, and its positive impact on other areas of government expenditure as well as its influence on people's ability to participate in employment by being able to live in or access transport to areas of high labour demand.
- Continuing the investment in affordable housing at both the federal and state levels to address the growing need for affordable, stable housing, particularly for low income and disadvantaged families and individuals.
- Tackling the inadequacy of Commonwealth Rental Assistance and reform of taxation arrangements related to land and housing.
- Providing ongoing support of the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) including its expansion over time to support access to affordable housing for key workers and to promote vibrant, diverse communities.
- Unlocking private financing with targeted government support through new instruments such as housing supply bonds and limited government backed credit enhancements.
- Reviewing tax concessions and means-test exemptions applied to housing that increase costs without providing any commensurate community benefit.

<sup>5</sup> Eslake, S. (2013) Australian Housing Policy: 50 Years of Failure, Submission to the Senate Economics References Committee, December.

<sup>6</sup> Phillips, B. (2011) The Great Australian Dream – Just a dream? Housing affordability trends for Australia and our largest cities. *AMP & NATSEM Income and Wealth Report*, Issue 29, July. Available at: [http://www.natsem.canberra.edu.au/storage/AMP\\_NATSEM\\_29.pdf](http://www.natsem.canberra.edu.au/storage/AMP_NATSEM_29.pdf)

## Alcohol, drugs and mental health: concern is increasing rather than decreasing

The *Youth Survey 2014* reveals persistent and growing levels of concern amongst young people in relation to alcohol and drugs and mental health issues.

Almost a quarter of young people identified alcohol and drugs (23.2%) as an important issue, an increase on the previous two years and making alcohol and drugs one of the top three most important issues in Australia today identified by young people.

Of further concern is the persistent increase in levels of concern regarding mental health and depression amongst young Australians. In terms of personal concerns, around one in five respondents were either extremely concerned or very concerned about depression and since 2012 mental health has increasingly been identified as a key issue facing the nation, increasing for the last three years from 12.7% of respondents in 2012 to 18.3% in 2014.

Given these ongoing concerns, there is a range of policy responses required:

- Further research is needed to identify trends in the prevalence of mental illness among young people, whether these mirror levels of concern and likely causes of any changes over time.
- There is a need to address the level and adequacy of funding for mental health, drug and alcohol services in Australia. Funding cuts are occurring at various levels of government despite increasing demand for services, and impacts of these decisions must be considered.
- Funding and services need to promote a client centred approach that assists young people in the context of their social, family and individual circumstances.
- Young people will often not seek out help. For this reason, schools are the universal platform where young people connect up with professionals, and where those professionals care for their wellbeing. Strengthening early intervention strategies in this environment can have positive results, especially when we see that so many young people experience school related stress.

As in 2013, Mission Australia will conduct further analysis of young people's responses to the questions regarding their own mental health, and will release more detailed findings on these results in 2015.

## Body image: new strategies are needed for a persistent concern

As in previous years, the level of concern regarding body image among Australia's young people remains high. Concern about body image was considerably higher among females, with 41.1% indicating body image was a major concern, compared with 13.5% of males. Body image also appeared amongst the top responses to the question of 'most important issue in Australia

**There is a need to address the level and adequacy of funding for mental health, drug and alcohol services in Australia.**

today'. This level of concern over body image suggests that young people's sense of identity, confidence and their physical health remains a challenge.

Body image has been identified by respondents as amongst their top three personal concerns since 2012. The persistence of this concern suggests that the strategies being developed to address this issue are inadequate in the face of intense social and cultural pressures. While a number of initiatives have been introduced to promote positive body image among young people in Australia, careful evaluation of these initiatives is needed in order to understand their impact and inform future policy initiatives.

## Supporting the aspirations of young Australians

The *Youth Survey 2014* results suggest a gap exists between the aspirations of young Australians and what is perceived as achievable. The divergence in aspirations and achievability suggests a need to both support young people in the pursuit of their aspirations, but also a need to build resilience and life skills in young people to respond to an increasingly competitive environment.

### *Developing aspirations amongst young Australians is critical*

Aspirations that are formed in adolescence towards future employment and education play a critical role in helping young people transition from school into work, training and higher education.<sup>7</sup> The development of aspirations is a highly significant process for young people as it has been found to encourage greater engagement when transitioning from school to work and further study, and can ultimately aid the realisation of those aspirations.<sup>8</sup>

Mission Australia's research has revealed that young people who are exposed to opportunities and pathways that lead into further education or employment, and who are encouraged to believe that these opportunities are available to them regardless of their background, are well placed to both discover and achieve their imagined futures.<sup>9</sup>

It is critical that the aspirations of young people are supported and developed early. Family, community and the area in which a young person grows and develops have all been revealed to

<sup>7</sup> Strand, S. & Winston, J. (2008) Educational aspirations in inner city schools. *Educational Studies*, 34 (4) pp. 249-267.

<sup>8</sup> Homel, J. & Ryan, C. (2014) Educational outcomes: the impact of aspirations and the role of student background characteristics, LSAY research report no. 65. NCVER, Adelaide.

<sup>9</sup> Indigenous Aspirations Report, August 2014, Mission Australia.



impact on the development of aspirations.<sup>10</sup> For the first time the *Youth Survey 2014* asked if where you lived would influence their career opportunities, and 48.4% of respondents noted they felt it would.

Ensuring families, schools and communities are equipped to support the development of aspirations remains critical, as does the perception of opportunities being available to all young people regardless of where they live. This includes a role for families, schools, mentors and community leaders to provide a range of opportunities and role models for young people to engage with.

### *Investing in services and supports is necessary to help young people to achieve their aspirations*

In addition to fostering the development of aspirations there is a need to support young people to achieve those aspirations. Navigating the opportunities available to them can be challenging, and ensuring there is awareness of the supports, education and training opportunities available to young people is important.

Raising awareness of the opportunities and supports available to young people involves investing in educational networks such as youth programs and career guidance counsellors in schools, TAFE and universities.

There is also a need for greater mentoring of young people to promote awareness of the pathways into further education and employment. This includes pre- and post-employment mentoring, where support for young people once placed in work can improve longer term outcomes.

The National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions included programs that prioritised the social and emotional wellbeing of young people. Given the concerns and pressures identified by young people, it is critical that programs designed to support those experiencing significant challenges continue into the future.

Programs such as Youth Connections and IYCP have also achieved outcomes for disadvantaged young people in ensuring their continued connection to education and work. These programs have helped improve school retention, increase access to mentors, work experience and training, and other programs of this nature need to be continued. A strength of these approaches is the ability to work with families – the impact of family support cannot be under-estimated.

Ensuring access to the level of education necessary to fulfil aspirations is also critical. The *Youth Survey 2014* revealed an increasing level of concern around education in Australia. Ensuring access to affordable and quality education will be critical not only to support the achievement of young people's aspirations but also to equip young people for the workforce needs of the future. As one respondent stated 'the cost of university needs to be lowered to help accommodate those students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. University needs to be equitable for all who wish to continue their studies'

As education reforms are contemplated that could increase the cost to students of attending university, the overall levels of debt young people face could rise further. Combined with rising levels of housing debt, increasing financial literacy will be important to assist young people to make the decisions necessary to achieve financial security, a concern identified by over a third of young people as extremely or very important.

Encouraging young people to develop aspirations for the future and equipping them with the knowledge to achieve these aspirations is crucial and takes the ongoing commitment of governments, schools, communities, business and civil society.

### *Ensuring young people are resilient and achieve their aspirations*

The challenge of ensuring young people both develop and achieve their aspirations is also part of building their resilience and their ability to cope with change. The *Youth Survey 2014* again reveals high levels of concern amongst young people about coping with stress and school and study problems, which continues to emphasise the need for supports for young people dealing with change in their lives and also their outlook for work, education and other aspirations. As one respondent said 'I have been working very hard at school, [but] I need support from my family and friends and I would like to have more resources to help make good decisions for the future'

As in 2013, coping with stress and school or study problems remained major concerns for respondents: 41.6% of respondents indicated they were extremely or very concerned about coping with stress and 40.8% responded that school or study problems were a major concern. As another respondent suggested, 'there needs to be more done on picking up on problems that people, especially students going through stressful situations, are going through. More support should also be given to all students to deal particularly with stresses'. Looking ahead, combining these pressures with the challenges of achieving aspirations around career and home ownership in a changing labour and housing market means building the resilience of young people is as important as ever.

Family relationships play an important role in young people's lives and building resilience. Despite a largely positive view of family relationships in the *Youth Survey 2014*, one in five (20.0%) young people indicated that they were either extremely concerned or very concerned about family conflict. For young people who are already attempting to cope with school and study pressures, the absence of a supportive family environment and the need to manage the additional stressors of family conflict can make life especially challenging, and limit their ability to achieve their aspirations.

It is important that programs work with young people and their families. Building the capacity for strong and supportive family relationships is particularly necessary, given the role these relationships can play in ultimately supporting young people. Many programs lack the funding to address the broader needs of young people in the family context. Without family support, Mission Australia has found that wider issues and challenges can arise in vulnerable young people, including issues with housing, mental health and security which necessitate much higher levels of external support.

<sup>10</sup> Marjoribanks, K. (2005) Family background, adolescents' educational aspirations, and Australian young adults' educational attainment. *International Educational Journal*, 6, pp. 104-122.

Resilience can come from strong family relationships and a sense of community inclusion.<sup>11</sup> Given that respondents placed greater personal value on their career and financial aspirations than they did on aspirations for community connectedness, actively supporting more engagement with family and community will be important in supporting the capacity of young people to deal with future challenges. We know that strong community networks and positive family relationships are important, and programs designed to engage family and community continue to be needed.

It is crucial that young people are aware of the various staff (for example, school counsellors and teachers) and services (for example, community agencies, telephone hotlines and online counselling services) available to them in school and the wider community that they can turn to for support to enable them to cope with, rather than be overwhelmed by, family and other issues. With just one in ten (10.1%) respondents indicating that they would go to a telephone hotline for help with important issues and over half indicating that they would go to the internet (53.7%), there is a major role for experts and services to connect with young people online. At the same time, online counselling websites were only identified by 15.9% of respondents as a source for help with important issues in their life, suggesting more innovative and engaging online support is required.

With friends and parents being identified as the top two sources of help for young people (87.7% and 76.2% respectively), there is a need to educate parents and young people on ways to identify and respond to concerns and to connect young people with information about the range of support services available. Young people's reliance on their friends as well as increasing use of online social networks and the internet as a source of information suggests that it is also important to develop peer-lead programs which build young people's capacity to support each other and to be able to effectively help their friends to access appropriate specialised and professional services when it's needed.

There is also an important role for 'trusted advisors' – the aunt or family friend who can play a significant role in supporting a young person where their immediate family may be unable to do so.

Family relationship breakdown is a significant factor in youth homelessness, along with contact with the justice system and substance abuse. Services that act to support families prior to crisis point are invaluable. Re-establishing support networks is equally important to the success of many youth programs.

Ongoing investment in programs designed to help youth deal with stress, stay connected to school or work, and supporting family and communities in this work, remain critical to supporting Australia's young people to build and achieve their own aspirations.

**Services that act to support families prior to crisis point are invaluable. Re-establishing support networks is equally important to the success of many youth programs.**

<sup>11</sup> Wise, M., Bennett, D., Alperstein, G., & Chown, P. (2003) *Better futures for young people (A Discussion Paper): The Children's Hospital at Westmead*, NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health (CAAH).

# About the survey

## Survey background

In 2014, Mission Australia conducted its 13th annual survey of young people. As in previous years, the survey aimed to identify both the values and issues of concern to young people. A small number of amendments were made to the survey this year. Most notably, new questions were added to explore young people's aspirations in key areas including home ownership, financial independence and career success as well as perceptions surrounding the influences on young people's career opportunities in the future.

## Participation

In 2014, 13,600 young Australians aged 15-19 years participated in the survey. Of these, 12,365 (90.9%) respondents completed the survey online, with the remainder completing a hard copy.

## Areas of focus

As well as collecting valuable socio-demographic data, the *Youth Survey 2014* sought to capture the views and perspectives of young people on a broad range of issues. Topics covered by the survey this year included education and employment, participation in community activities, time spent on social networking sites, general wellbeing, aspirations, values and concerns, preferred sources of support, as well as feelings about the future.

## Methodology

Following approval from State and Territory Education Departments, as well as Catholic Education Offices, to approach secondary school principals across Australia, information about Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014* and an electronic link to the online version of the survey were distributed. Information was also distributed to Mission Australia services, networks of other service providers, Commonwealth, State/Territory and local government departments, youth organisations and peak bodies.

## Changes in 2014

As mentioned earlier, some changes were made to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey* this year, including the removal of a number of questions asked in 2013 and the addition of some new questions. Minor amendments were also made to a small number of questions. Details for these changes to the survey have been outlined below.

- As in previous years, respondents were asked which sources they were comfortable approaching for help. In the 2014 survey, the structure of this question was changed significantly, from asking where young people would go for *information, advice* and *support* to where they would go for *help* with important issues in their lives. The response to this question was then

simplified to a dichotomous yes/no response for each potential source of assistance as opposed to a 'select all that apply' format. This significant change to the question means that direct comparisons to previous year's data should not be made.

- For the first time in 2014 we asked young people about their aspirations for the future and listed five items which they were able to rank on a five point scale from *not at all important* to *extremely important*. These five items included *owning your own home, feeling part of your community, being financially independent, achieving career success* and *having your own family*. A supplementary question was then asked about the likelihood of achieving these in the future.
- Also for the first time in 2014, respondents were asked to indicate from a number of items which they felt would influence their career opportunities in the future. Responses to this question were structured in a 'select all that apply' format.

Please note that not all questions asked in the survey are presented in the current report. These questions will inform other research publications to be released throughout 2015.

## This report

This report contains an executive summary, a national summary and a summary for each State or Territory. In 2013 and 2012 the Australian Capital Territory's (ACT) results were combined with NSW, however, due to an increase in the number of respondents from the ACT in 2014, results are now presented in a separate chapter. As in 2013, the results for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are again included in a chapter within this report. In this chapter, the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents are compared to those of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents.

Each of the chapters contains a breakdown of key data by gender and, where applicable, comparisons with previous years' data. The two exceptions are the ACT and the Northern Territory (NT) chapters where, due to a modest number of responses, data is presented at only a Territory-wide level, with no gender breakdown.

Please note that throughout the report percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to one decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data presented for each question are for those who responded.

# National summary



## Profile of respondents

### State and territory distribution

A total of 13,600 young people aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014*. Respondents came from across Australia and Figure 1.1 indicates the number and percentages from each state/territory. There were 7 respondents who did not indicate which state/territory they lived in.

### Gender breakdown

Over half (61.2%) of respondents were female and 38.8% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 747 (5.6%) respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 600 (4.5%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 77 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.5% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (7.2% compared with 4.6%).

### Language background other than English

A total of 2,047 (15.3%) respondents stated that they were born overseas and 2,603 (19.7%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 70 languages spoken at home, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Filipino/Tagalog, Cantonese, Italian, Mandarin, Hindi, Spanish and French.

### Disability

A total of 584 (4.4%) respondents indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (6.2%) than females (3.3%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities overall were (in order of frequency): learning disability, autism, Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), physical disability and deafness or hearing impairment.

## Detailed national results

### Education

As indicated in Table 1.1, 93.8% of respondents were studying full-time, a slightly lower percentage than the 95.2% of respondents in 2013. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (95.0% compared with 91.9%), while a slightly greater proportion of males (4.4%) than females (2.9%) reported not studying at all.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in 2013 and 2012, the majority of respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (15.3%) or *satisfied* (55.9%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.5% and 5.0% respectively). As shown in Table 1.2, males were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (14.2% and 53.5% of males compared with 15.9% and 57.3% of females respectively).

Figure 1.1: Percentage of respondents by state/territory

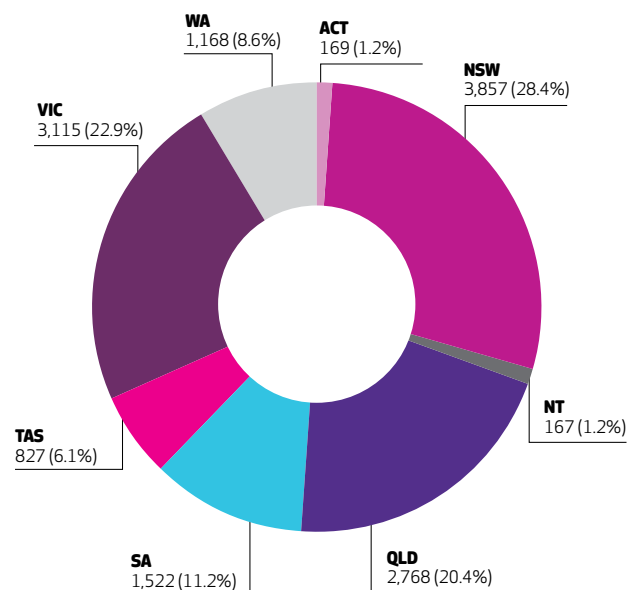


Table 1.1: Participation in education

	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.8	95.0	91.9
Studying part-time	2.7	2.1	3.6
Not studying	3.5	2.9	4.4

Table 1.2: Satisfaction with studies

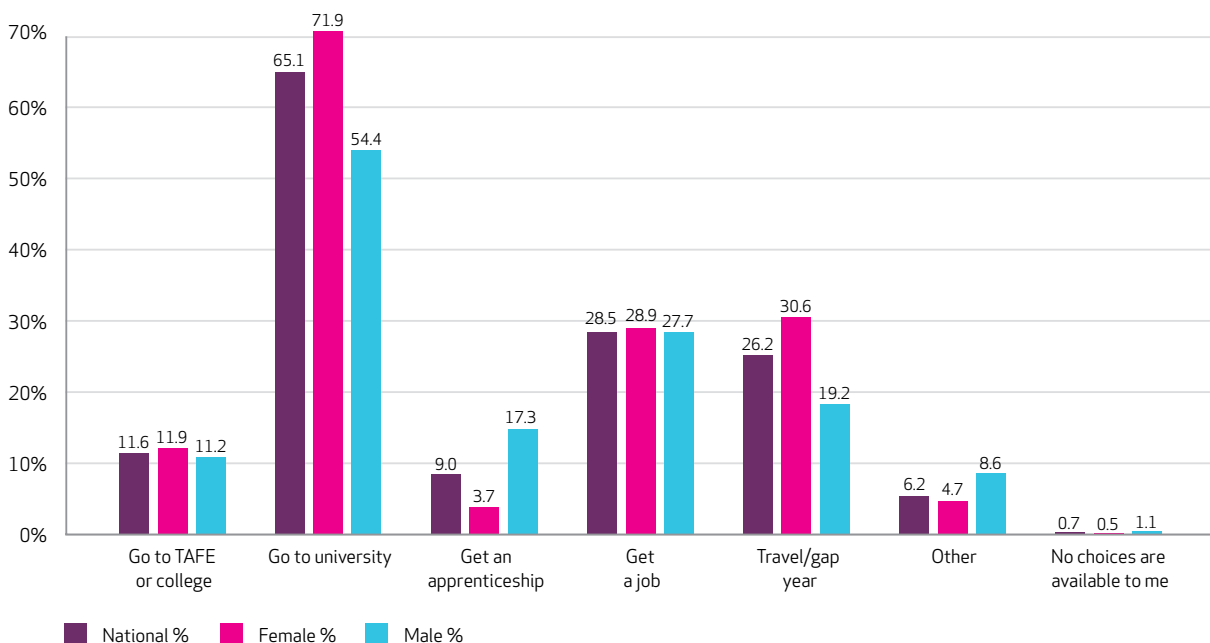
	National 2014 %	Female %	Male %	National 2013 %	National 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	15.9	14.2	17.0	15.0
Satisfied	55.9	57.3	53.5	55.7	55.4
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	20.6	25.1	21.2	22.6
Dissatisfied	5.0	4.9	5.2	4.4	5.4
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.3	1.9	1.6	1.5

Of those who were still at school, 96.0% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were more than twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.4% compared with 2.5% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 1.2 shows that nearly two thirds of respondents planned to go to university after school (65.1%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (28.5%) and to travel or go on a gap year (26.2%) after school. Overall, 11.6% planned to attend TAFE or college and 9.0% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (0.7%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

As seen in 2013, while going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both male and female respondents, females were far more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (71.9% compared with 54.4% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (30.6% compared with 19.2% of males). Males were much more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (17.3% compared with 3.7% of females).

Figure 1.2: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 1.3 shows respondents' participation in paid employment. Only 1.2% of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Over one third (35.9%) of respondents, the majority of whom were in full-time education, reported part-time employment. Over six in ten respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 35.4% looking for work and 27.5% not looking for work.

Males were slightly more likely than females to report full-time employment (1.4% compared with 1.0%), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (37.6% compared with 33.3%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (39.3% compared with 32.9%).

Table 1.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	1.2	1.0	1.4
Employed part-time	35.9	37.6	33.3
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.4	32.9	39.3
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.5	28.5	26.0

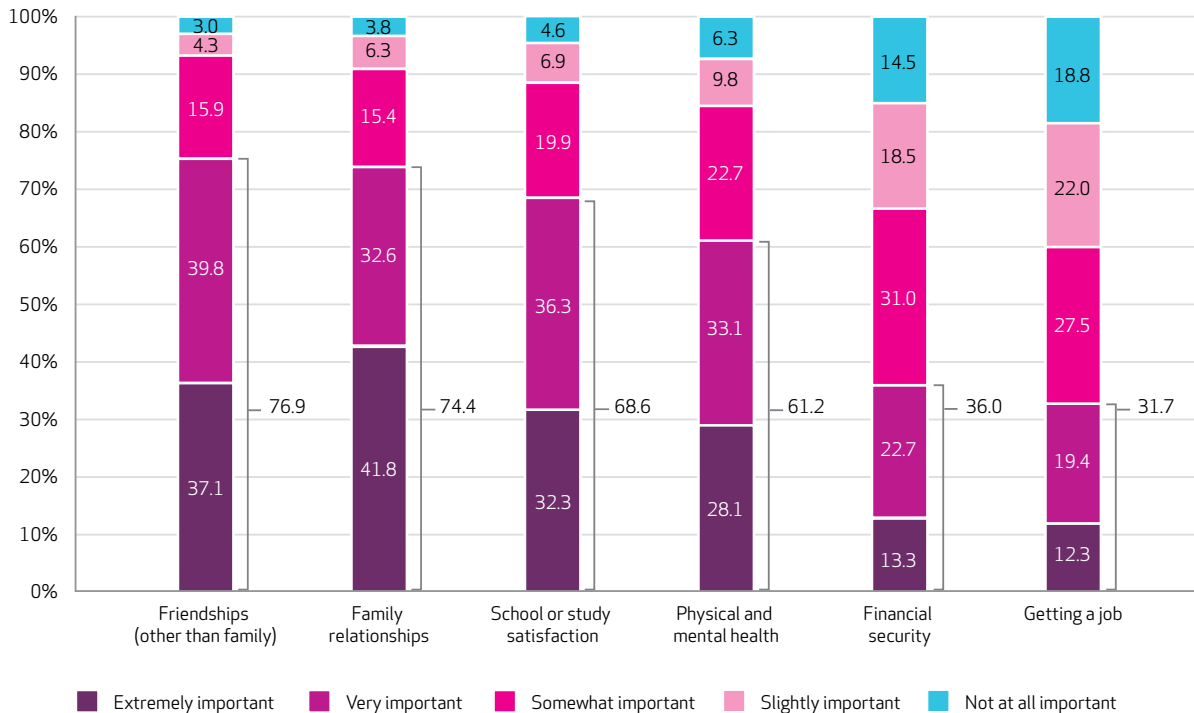
Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 1.3 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In 2014 responses were consistent with previous years, with *friendships* and *family relationships* ranked as the two most highly valued items. Also consistent with past years is the high value placed on *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 76.9% of respondents (*extremely important*: 37.1%; *very important*: 39.8%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 74.4% of respondents (*extremely important*: 41.8%; *very important*: 32.6%).
- Over two thirds of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 32.3%; *very important*: 36.3%) and around six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 28.1%; *very important*: 33.1%).
- Around one third of respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 13.3%; *very important*: 22.7%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 12.3%; *very important*: 19.4%).

Figure 1.3: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

Consistent with last year's findings, *friendships*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction* were again ranked as the three most highly valued items by both males and females, as shown in Table 1.4. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and many of the other items, was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 79.9% of females (*extremely important*: 40.4%; *very important*: 39.5%) compared with 72.0% of males (*extremely important*: 31.8%; *very important*: 40.2%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 77.9% of females (*extremely important*: 46.0%; *very important*: 31.9%) compared with 68.9% of males (*extremely important*: 35.1%; *very important*: 33.8%).
- 75.4% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 38.4%; *very important*: 37.0%) compared with 57.8% of males (*extremely important*: 22.7%; *very important*: 35.1%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by just under two thirds of all females (*extremely important*: 30.5%; *very important*: 33.5%) and by over half of all males (*extremely important*: 24.3%; *very important*: 32.6%).

Table 1.4: What young people value by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>39.5</b>	14.2	3.8	2.1
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>31.9</b>	13.7	5.6	2.7
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>37.0</b>	16.8	4.9	2.8
Physical and mental health	30.5	33.5	22.0	9.1	4.9
Financial security	13.4	24.2	31.3	18.1	12.9
Getting a job	11.2	19.0	28.1	22.2	19.4
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>40.2</b>	18.4	5.1	4.5
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>33.8</b>	18.2	7.3	5.6
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>35.1</b>	24.8	10.0	7.3
Physical and mental health	24.3	32.6	23.7	11.0	8.4
Financial security	13.0	20.4	30.7	19.0	16.9
Getting a job	13.9	20.0	26.4	21.8	17.9

Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

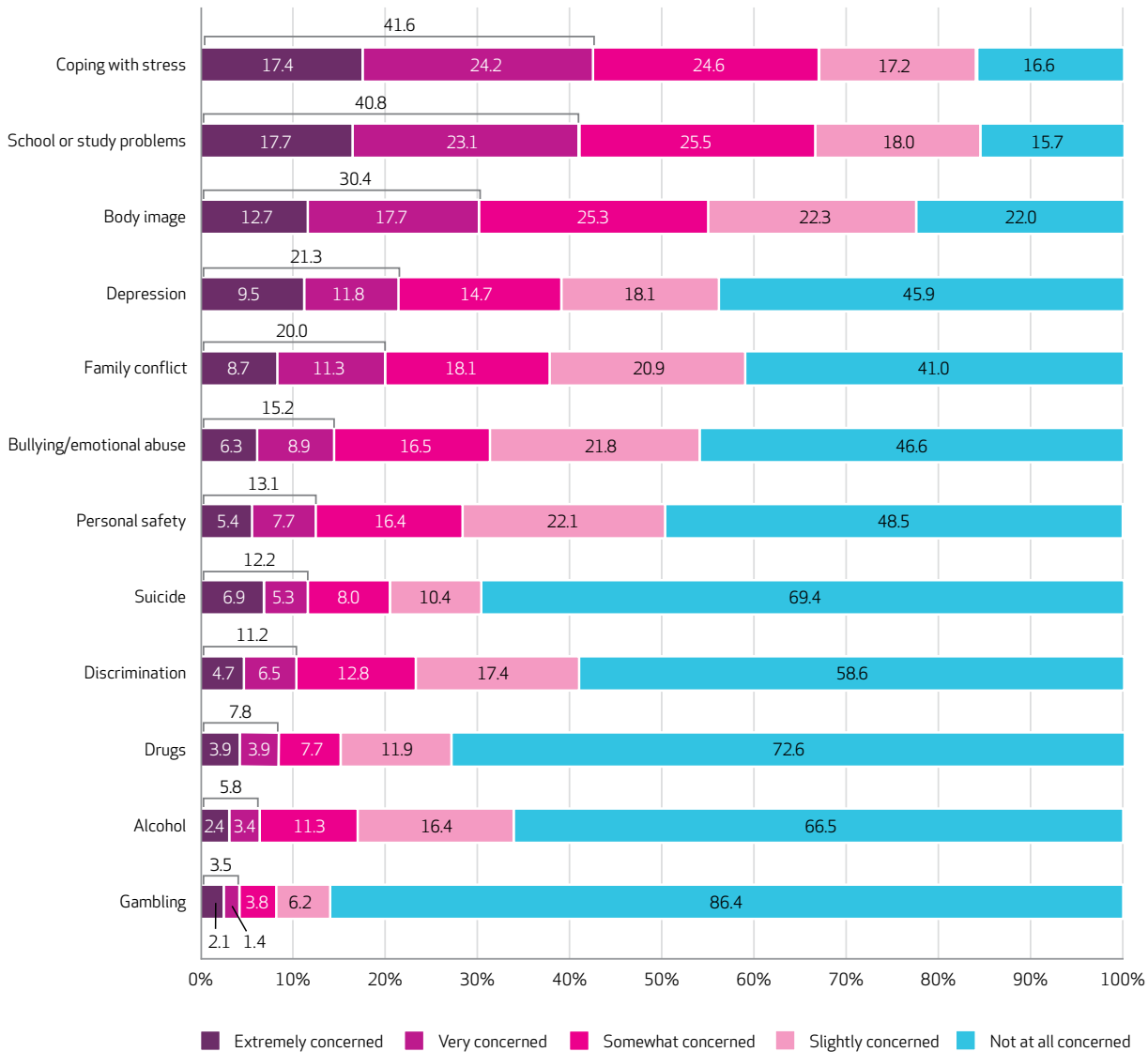
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 1.4. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*. Compared to the results from 2013 and 2012, the top three issues of concern remain unchanged.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 41.6% of respondents indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (17.4%) or *very concerned* (24.2%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 40.8% (*extremely concerned*: 17.7%; *very concerned*: 23.1%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 30.4% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.7%; *very concerned*: 17.7%).
- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.



Figure 1.4: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were the top two issues of concern for both males and females as highlighted in Table 1.5. The order of the top two issues of concern differed, however, with males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. The third highest issue of concern for females was *body image*, while for males the number three issue was *depression*. The proportion of females concerned about all of these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For over half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 23.3%; *very concerned*: 30.4%), compared with around one fifth of all males (*extremely concerned*: 8.0%; *very concerned*: 14.5%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school and study problems*, with 49.8% (*extremely concerned*: 22.4%; *very concerned*: 27.4%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 26.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.2%; *very concerned*: 16.2%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 41.1% (*extremely concerned*: 17.7%; *very concerned*: 23.4%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 13.5% (*extremely concerned*: 4.9%; *very concerned*: 8.6%) of males.
- For 26.2% of females (*extremely concerned*: 11.5%; *very concerned*: 14.7%) and 13.7% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.5%; *very concerned*: 7.2%), *depression* was a major concern.

Table 1.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>30.4</b>	25.1	13.5	7.7
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>27.4</b>	25.2	15.7	9.4
<b>Body image</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>23.4</b>	27.7	19.7	11.6
Depression	11.5	14.7	16.5	18.9	38.4
Family conflict	10.4	13.7	20.4	21.5	34.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.2	10.5	19.0	23.5	39.8
Personal safety	5.5	9.2	18.6	23.8	42.9
Suicide	7.7	6.6	9.4	11.9	64.4
Discrimination	5.0	7.6	14.1	19.2	54.1
Drugs	3.0	4.2	8.3	12.9	71.6
Alcohol	2.0	3.9	12.5	18.1	63.5
Gambling	1.4	1.4	3.3	5.9	87.9
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>14.5</b>	23.7	23.2	30.7
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>	26.2	21.6	25.8
Body image	4.9	8.6	21.6	26.5	38.4
<b>Depression</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.2</b>	11.9	16.7	57.8
Family conflict	6.0	7.6	14.5	19.8	52.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.8	6.3	12.4	19.1	57.3
Personal safety	5.3	5.3	12.7	19.3	57.3
Suicide	5.7	3.3	5.7	8.1	77.2
Discrimination	4.4	4.8	10.6	14.5	65.7
Drugs	5.3	3.4	6.8	10.2	74.3
Alcohol	2.9	2.7	9.3	13.7	71.4
Gambling	3.3	1.3	4.6	6.6	84.1

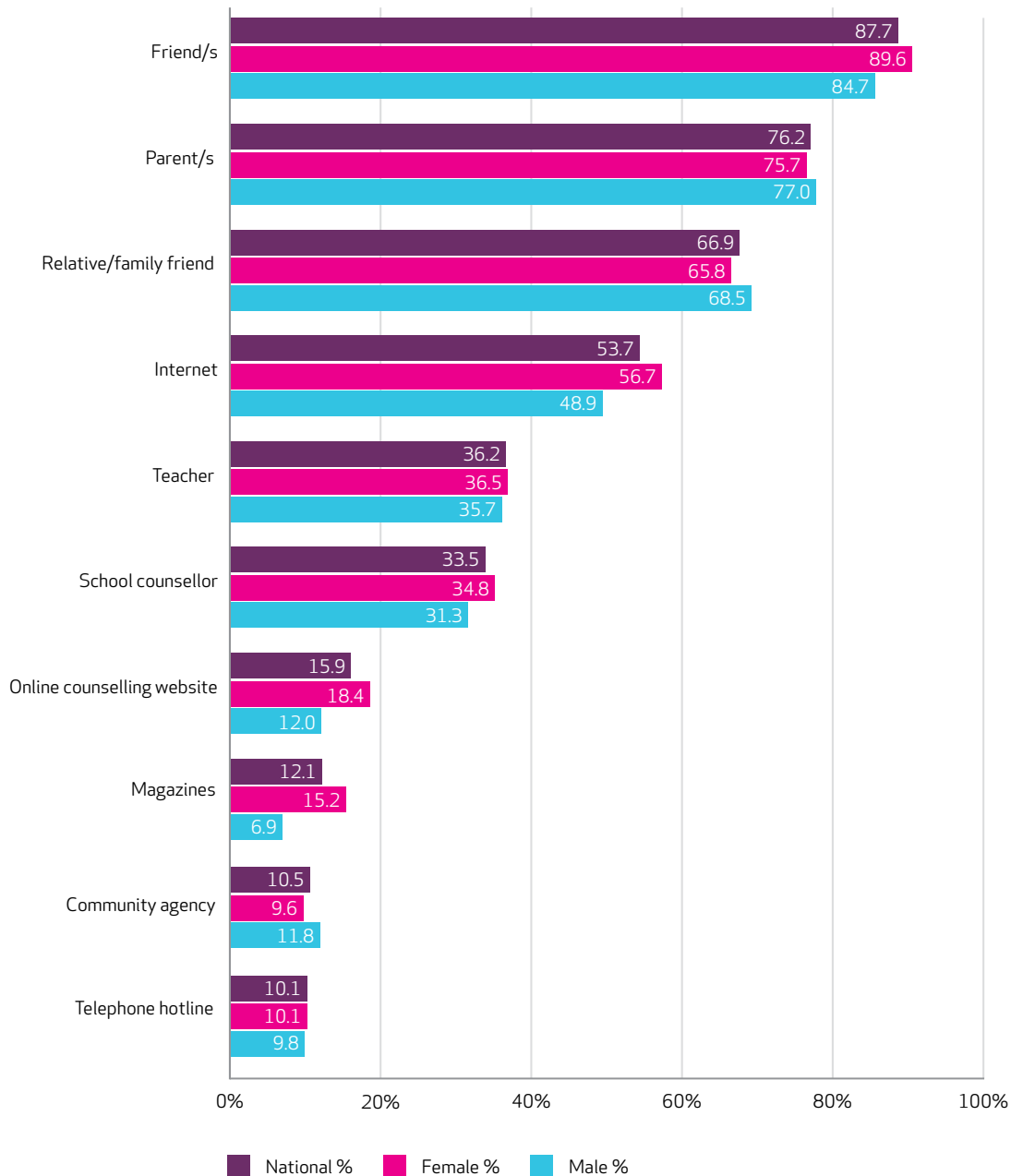
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 1.5 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for young people were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- *Friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (87.7%, 76.2% and 66.9% respectively).
- Over half of respondents indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Over one third of respondents indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 1.5: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

### Gender differences

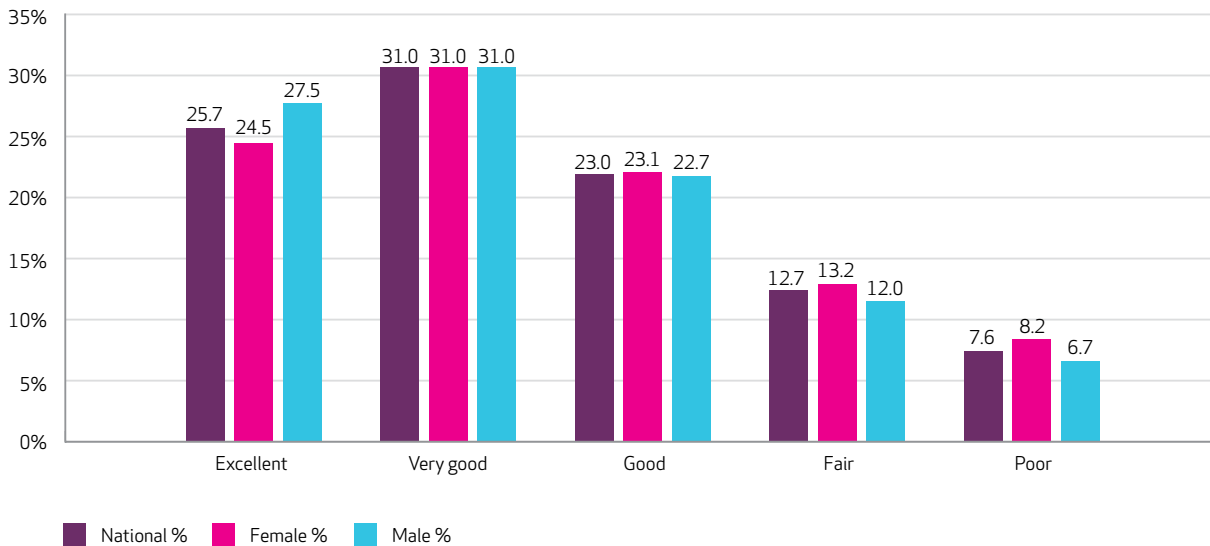
As shown in Figure 1.5 the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with national results, although a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues, while slightly higher proportions of males would go to *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- Nine in ten (89.6%) female respondents and 84.7% of male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.
- Male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to go to *parent/s* (77.0% compared with 75.7%) and *relatives/family friends* (68.5% compared with 65.8%) for help.
- Females were more likely than males to go to the *internet* (56.7% compared with 48.9%), *online counselling websites* (18.4% compared with 12.0%) and *magazines* (15.2% compared with 6.9%) for help with important issues in their lives.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked about how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Overall, the majority of respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 25.7% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.0% that it was *very good*. However, around one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.7%) or *poor* (7.6%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 1.6: Family's ability to get along



## 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 1.6. In 2014 the top three issues identified by young people were *politics and societal values*, *the economy and financial matters* and *alcohol and drugs*.

- Around one quarter of young people identified *politics and societal values* (28.0%), *the economy and financial matters* (27.1%) and *alcohol and drugs* (23.2%) as the most important issues in Australia today.
- Compared to the past two years, identification of *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue has increased among respondents.
- Close to one in five respondents identified *equity and discrimination* (21.3%) and *mental health* (18.3%) as major issues.
- Since 2012, *mental health*, *education* and *politics and societal values* have all been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *population issues*, *the environment* and *crime, safety and violence* have declined over this period.

### Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents. While *the economy and financial matters* featured in the top three most important issues for both males and females, the other issues that made up their top three differed. For females, the top issue facing the nation this year was *the economy and financial matters*, followed by *equity and discrimination* and *mental health*. For males, the top issue was *politics and societal values*, with *the economy and financial matters* as their number two issue and *alcohol and drugs* third.

- Over one quarter of male and female respondents (28.3% and 26.5% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (36.7% compared with 22.6%) and *alcohol and drugs* (25.8% compared with 21.6%) as important national issues.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (23.4% compared with 17.8%) and *mental health* (23.2% compared with 10.1%) as important issues.

Table 1.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2014 %	Female %	Male %	National 2013 %	National 2012 %
<b>Politics and societal values</b>	<b>28.0</b>	22.6	<b>36.7</b>	<b>24.6</b>	20.6
<b>The economy and financial matters</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>30.8</b>
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	<b>23.2</b>	21.6	<b>25.8</b>	19.9	<b>21.8</b>
Equity and discrimination	21.3	<b>23.4</b>	17.8	<b>24.1</b>	20.2
Mental health	18.3	<b>23.2</b>	10.1	15.2	12.7
Population issues	16.8	16.4	17.5	22.2	<b>27.6</b>
Education	15.8	16.9	14.0	14.6	10.9
Bullying	14.5	16.6	11.2	10.9	11.0
Health	14.1	14.8	13.1	11.6	16.2
The environment	12.3	13.0	11.2	14.5	17.5
Employment	11.3	9.9	13.4	14.0	8.5
Crime, safety and violence	10.7	10.0	11.8	11.2	14.0
Homelessness/housing	7.5	8.5	5.7	7.8	8.5
LGBT issues	6.2	7.7	3.6	6.7	5.9
Adolescence/youth	6.1	6.6	5.3	5.0	5.0
Body image	5.7	8.3	1.6	3.4	3.6

Note: Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 1.7. As in previous years, the top three activities for young people were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. However, significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people in 2014.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (53.0%).
- Around four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (41.9%), one third had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (32.4%), three in ten had participated in *religious groups or activities* (29.3%) and around one quarter had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (23.7%) over the past year.

## Gender differences

As shown in Table 1.7 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with national results, although a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for males was *volunteer work*, while for females it was *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 76.4% of male respondents and 72.6% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (72.5% compared with 64.6%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking higher up the list for male respondents, overall a greater proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural/music activities* and *student leadership activities* (58.8%, 61.4% and 46.6% compared with 44.8%, 39.5% and 34.3% respectively).

Table 1.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National 2014 %	Female %	Male %	National 2013 %	National 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>78.4</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>73.0</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>53.4</b>	58.8	<b>44.8</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>60.5</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.0	<b>61.4</b>	39.5	53.8	52.0
Student leadership activities	41.9	46.6	34.3	43.0	47.4
Youth groups and clubs	32.4	32.6	31.9	33.9	38.2
Religious groups or activities	29.3	30.9	26.8	32.6	37.8
Environmental groups or activities	23.7	25.6	20.8	24.7	27.8
Political groups or organisations	8.5	8.5	8.4	7.8	9.2

Note: Wording of the 'arts/cultural activities' item was expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

As in 2013, respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from 2 hours or less to 40 hours or more. The majority of respondents (52.4%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (2 hours or less: 20.4%; 3-9 hours: 32.0%). One third reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (10-19 hours: 21.5%; 20-29 hours: 11.9%) and 14.2% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (30-39 hours: 5.5%; 40 hours or more: 8.7%). Compared to the 2013 results, respondents in 2014 reported spending more time on social networking sites in an average week. Overall, males tended to report spending less time on social networking sites in an average week than females.

Table 1.8: Time spent on social networking sites

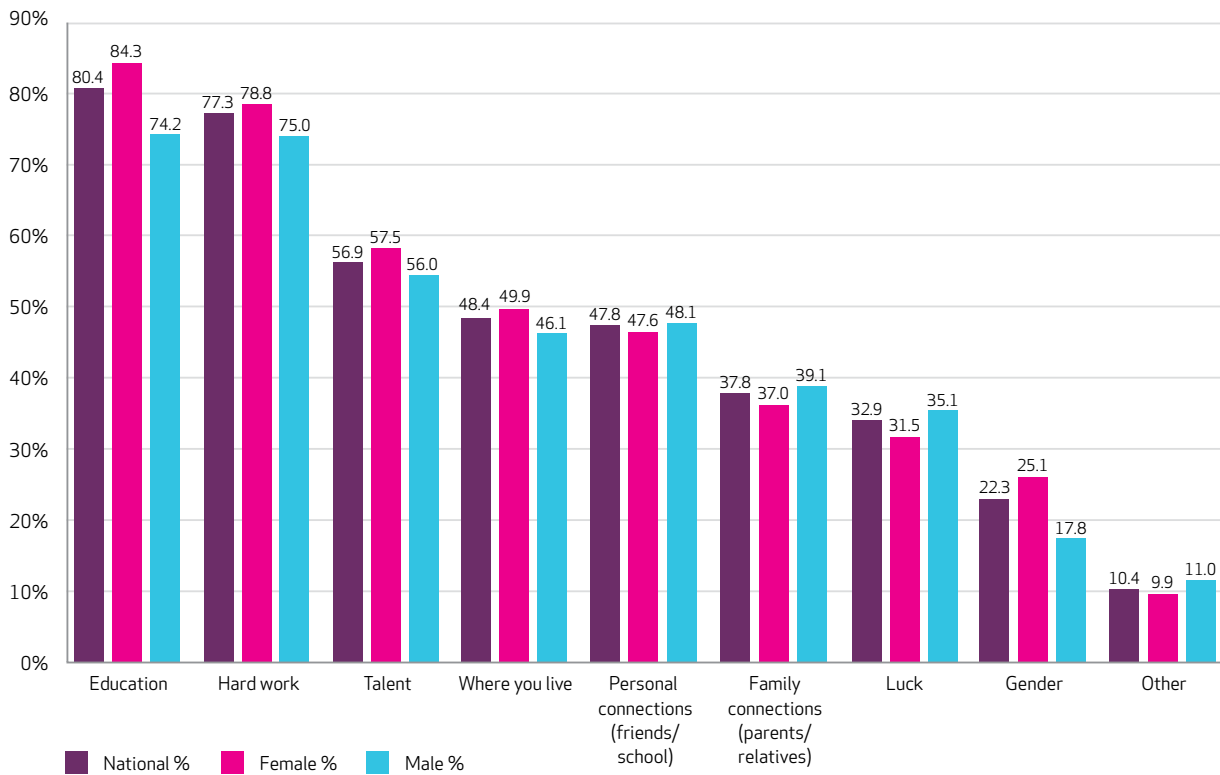
	National 2014 %	Female %	Male %	National 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.4	16.6	26.5	28.2
3 - 9 hours	32.0	31.6	32.7	31.6
10 - 19 hours	21.5	22.5	19.8	18.9
20 - 29 hours	11.9	13.5	9.2	9.4
30 - 39 hours	5.5	6.6	3.8	4.3
40 hours or more	8.7	9.2	8.0	7.6

## What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 1.7. Nationally, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Over three quarters of respondents felt that *education* (80.4%) and *hard work* (77.3%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Nearly six in ten respondents felt that *talent* (56.9%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Around half felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *where you live* (48.4%) and *personal connections (friends/school)* (47.8%).

Figure 1.7: Influences on career opportunities in the future



Note: Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## Gender differences

As shown in Figure 1.7, there were some differences in what male and female respondents felt would influence their career opportunities in the future.

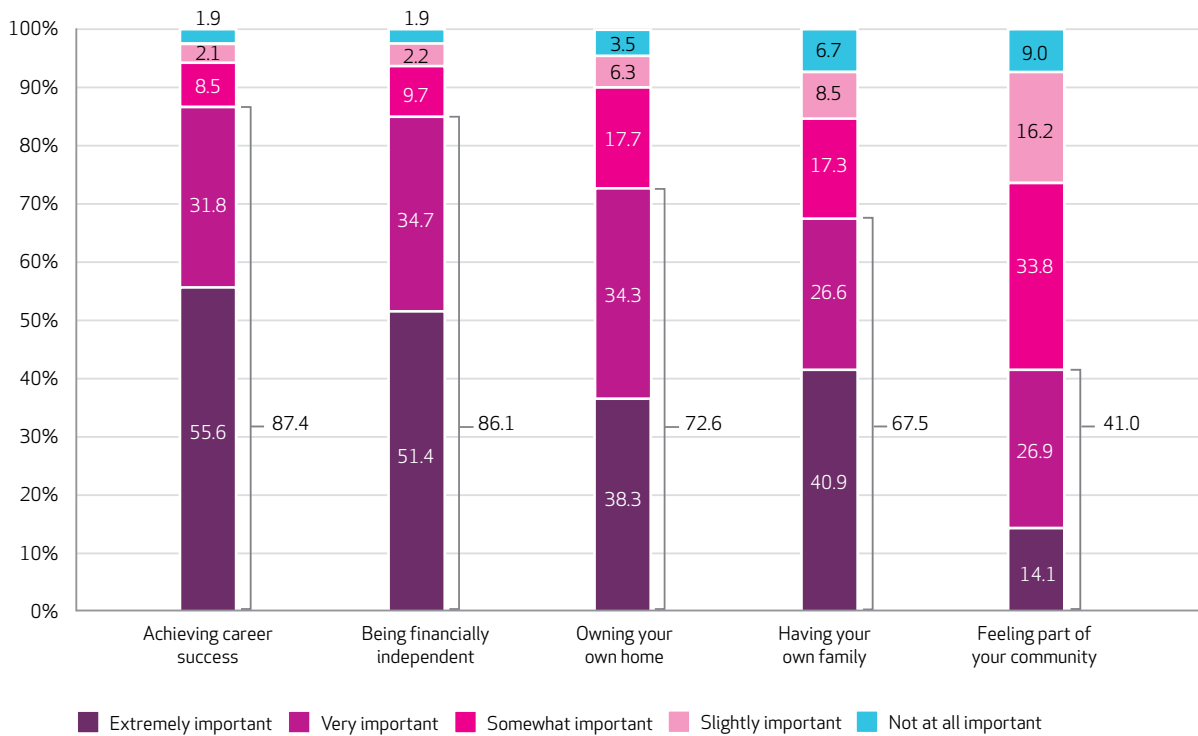
- The two most commonly cited influences on future career opportunities among both males and females were *education* and *hard work*. The order of these items differed, however, with females indicating that they felt *education* was the top influence on their career opportunities in the future (84.3% compared with 74.2% for males), while among males the top influence was *hard work* (75.0% compared with 78.8% for females).
- The third most commonly cited influence on future career opportunities among both females and males was felt to be *talent* (57.5% and 56.0% respectively).
- Around one quarter of female respondents (25.1%) felt that *gender* would influence their career opportunities in the future, compared to 17.8% of male respondents

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 1.8 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Achieving career success* and *being financially independent* were ranked as the two most important items. The next most important item among respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Achieving career success* was of high importance to 87.4% of respondents (*extremely important*: 55.6%; *very important*: 31.8%). *Being financially independent* was also of high importance to 86.1% of respondents (*extremely important*: 51.4%; *very important*: 34.7%).
- Around three quarters of respondents placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 38.3%; *very important*: 34.3%) and two thirds placed high importance on *having your own family* (*extremely important*: 40.9%; *very important*: 26.6%).
- Just over four in ten respondents indicated that *feeling part of your community* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 14.1%; *very important*: 26.9%).

Figure 1.8: Young people's aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

The two most important items for both males and females were *achieving career success* and *being financially independent*, as shown in Table 1.9. However, the proportion of female respondents placing high importance on these and all other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Achieving career success* was highly important to 89.1% of females (*extremely important*: 58.4%; *very important*: 30.7%) compared with 84.8% of males (*extremely important*: 51.4%; *very important*: 33.4%).
- *Being financially independent* was highly important to 88.6% of females (*extremely important*: 55.0%; *very important*: 33.6%) compared to 82.2% of males (*extremely important*: 45.9%; *very important*: 36.3%).
- 73.3% of females placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 38.7%; *very important*: 34.6%) compared with 71.3% of males (*extremely important*: 37.6%; *very important*: 33.7%).
- For 69.5% of females (*extremely important*: 43.2%; *very important*: 26.3%) and 64.2% of males (*extremely important*: 37.3%; *very important*: 26.9%) *having your own family* was of high importance.



Table 1.9: Young people's aspirations by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>30.7</b>	7.5	1.9	1.4
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>33.6</b>	8.0	2.0	1.4
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>34.6</b>	17.2	6.5	2.9
Having your own family	43.2	26.3	16.1	8.5	5.9
Feeling part of your community	15.3	28.8	34.2	15.5	6.3
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>33.4</b>	10.1	2.5	2.7
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>36.3</b>	12.4	2.7	2.7
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>33.7</b>	18.4	5.9	4.4
Having your own family	37.3	26.9	19.2	8.6	8.0
Feeling part of your community	12.2	23.9	33.3	17.3	13.3

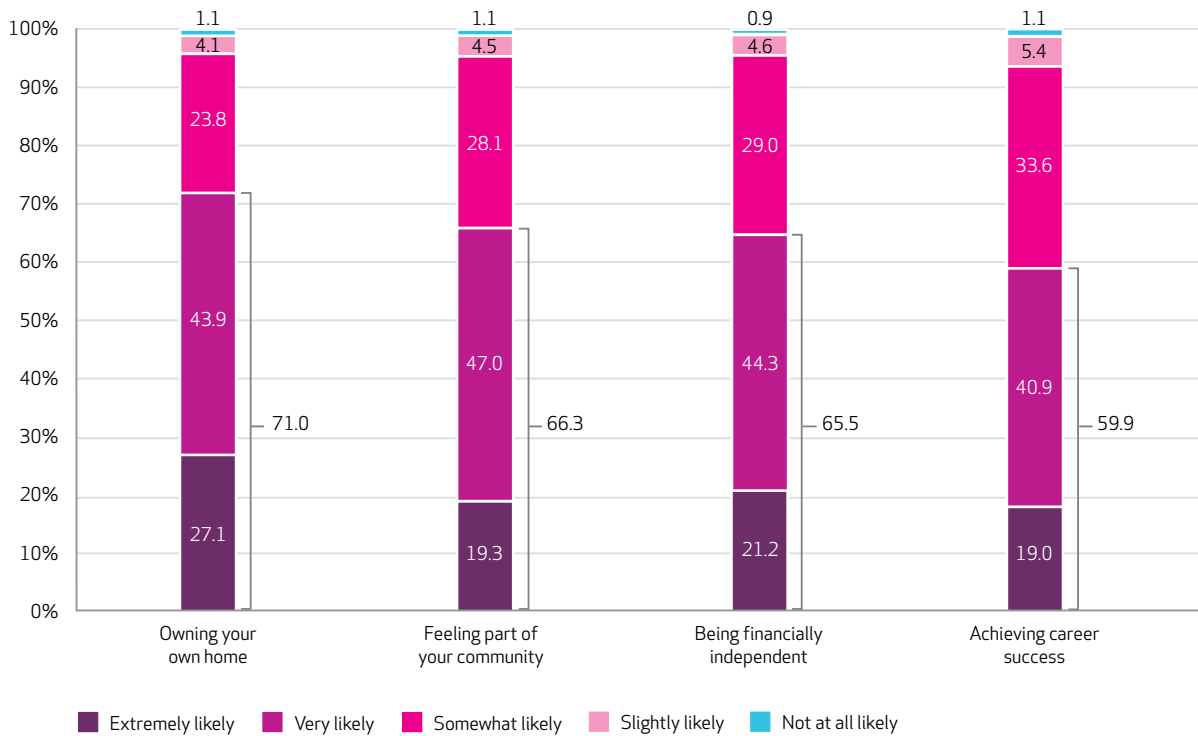
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 1.9 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*.

- Around seven in ten respondents (71.0%) felt that *owning your own home* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 27.1%; *very likely*: 43.9%).
- Around two thirds of respondents felt that *feeling part of your community* (*extremely likely*: 19.3%; *very likely*: 47.0%) and *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 21.2%; *very likely*: 44.3%) were highly likely to be achievable.
- Six in ten respondents felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 19.0%; *very likely*: 40.9%).

Figure 1.9: Likelihood of achieving aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.

### Gender differences

Both males and females indicated that they felt *owning your own home* was the most achievable item, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*. Overall, a greater proportion of male respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve each of the items than female respondents.

- *Owning your own home* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 73.4% of males (*extremely likely*: 30.2%; *very likely*: 43.2%) compared with 69.6% of females (*extremely likely*: 25.3%; *very likely*: 44.3%).
- 70.4% of males felt that *feeling part of your community* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 22.4%; *very likely*: 48.0%) compared with 64.2% of females (*extremely likely*: 17.8%; *very likely*: 46.4%).
- *Being financially independent* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 68.7% of males (*extremely likely*: 24.5%; *very likely*: 44.2%) compared with 63.6% of females (*extremely likely*: 19.4%; *very likely*: 44.2%).
- Almost two thirds of males felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 22.0%; *very likely*: 42.0%), while over half of all females (*extremely likely*: 17.2%; *very likely*: 40.2%) felt that this was highly likely to be achievable.

Table 1.10: Likelihood of achieving aspirations by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely likely %</b>	<b>Very likely %</b>	<b>Somewhat likely %</b>	<b>Slightly likely %</b>	<b>Not at all likely %</b>
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>44.3</b>	24.4	4.8	1.2
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>46.4</b>	29.8	5.0	1.0
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>44.2</b>	30.4	5.1	0.9
Achieving career success	17.2	40.2	35.4	6.1	1.1
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely likely %</b>	<b>Very likely %</b>	<b>Somewhat likely %</b>	<b>Slightly likely %</b>	<b>Not at all likely %</b>
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>43.2</b>	22.7	2.9	1.0
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>48.0</b>	25.0	3.5	1.2
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>44.2</b>	26.6	3.8	0.9
Achieving career success	22.0	42.0	30.7	4.4	1.0

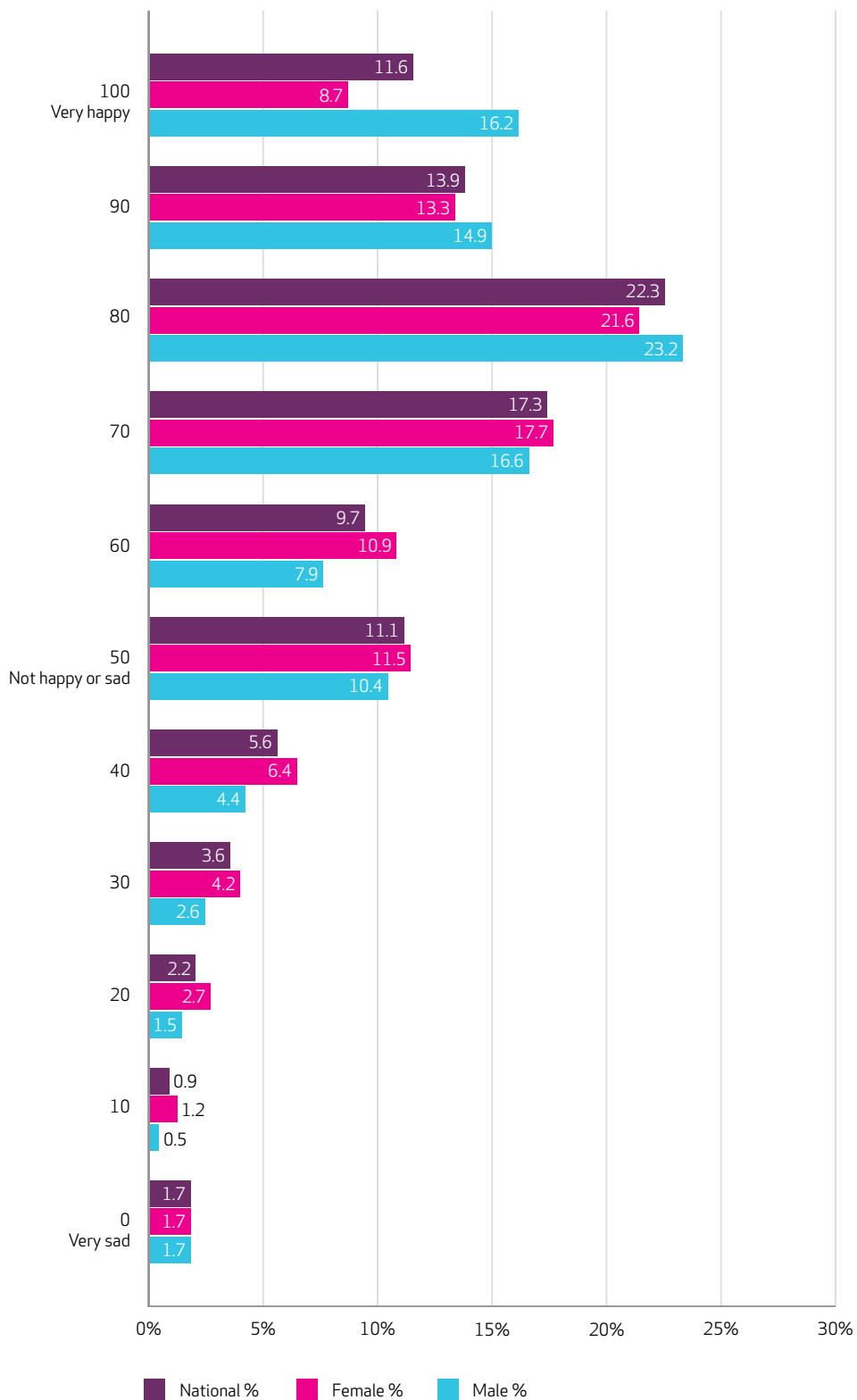
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 1.10 shows, the majority of young people (65.1%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the 2013 and 2012 results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (16.2% compared with 8.7%).

<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

Figure 1.10: How happy young people are



## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 1.11 shows that compared to 2013 and 2012 there has been a slight decrease in those feeling *very positive* about the future and a slight increase in those feeling *neither positive nor negative* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Around two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (48.0%) or *very positive* (15.8%) about the future.
- Over one quarter of respondents (26.8%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 6.9% of respondents felt *negative* about the future, and 2.5% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (18.9% compared to 13.8%).

Table 1.11: Feelings about the future

	National 2014 %	Female %	Male %	National 2013 %	National 2012 %
Very positive	15.8	13.8	18.9	18.7	20.8
Positive	48.0	47.7	48.5	48.8	49.8
Neither positive nor negative	26.8	28.5	24.0	24.4	22.7
Negative	6.9	7.5	6.0	5.6	4.7
Very negative	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	1.9

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary



## Profile of respondents

In total, 747 (5.6%) respondents to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014* identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 600 (4.5%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 77 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.5% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (7.2% compared with 4.6%).

### Gender breakdown

Around half (50.1%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were female and 49.9% were male.

### Language background other than English

35 (4.7%) respondents reported speaking an Indigenous language at home and 10 (1.3%) respondents stated that they spoke Kriol.

### Disability

A total of 76 (11.0%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they had a disability.

## Detailed results

### Education

As indicated in Table 2.1, 75.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were studying full-time (compared to 94.9% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were slightly more likely than young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females to report not studying at all (16.1% compared with 13.7%).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. Over six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (15.3%) or *satisfied* (46.9%) with their studies. Around one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (5.8% and 3.9% respectively). Compared to 2013 results, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated a greater level of satisfaction with their studies overall this year. As shown in Table 2.2, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were slightly less likely than females to report feeling either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (13.6% and 44.4% of males compared with 17.0% and 49.0% of females respectively).

Table 2.1: Participation in education

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
Studying full-time	94.9	75.7	76.2	75.2
Studying part-time	2.3	9.5	10.1	8.7
Not studying	2.8	14.8	13.7	16.1

Table 2.2: Satisfaction with studies

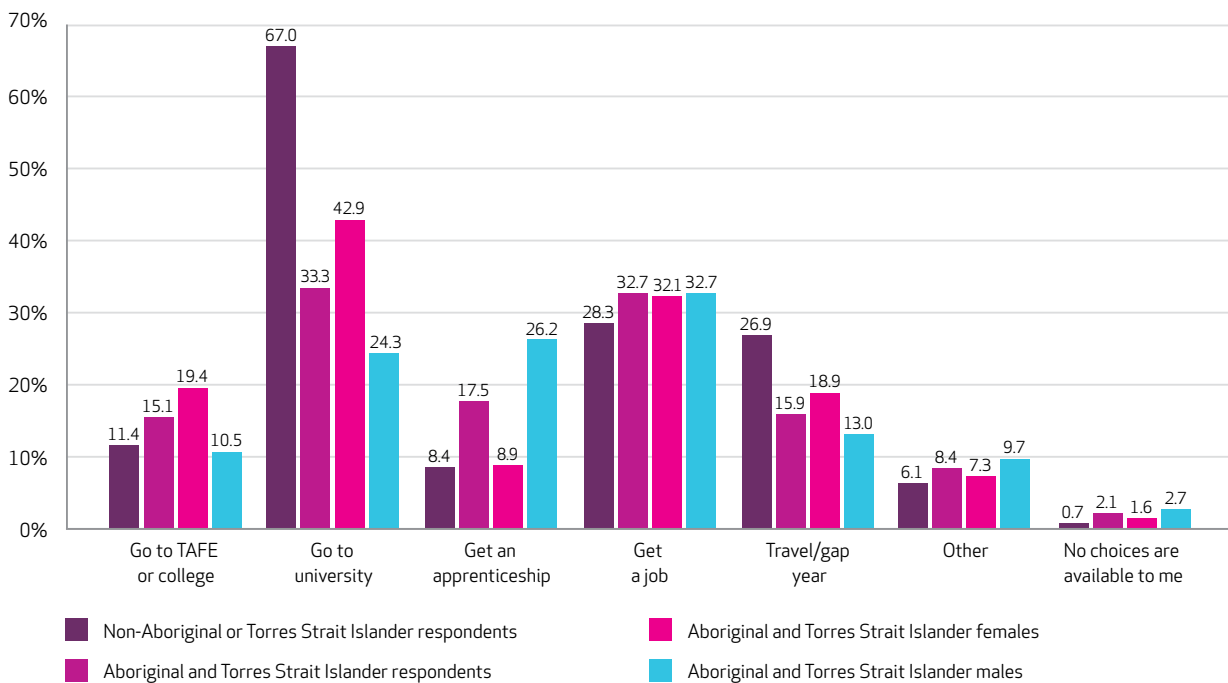
	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2014 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	15.3	17.0	13.6	11.7	14.2
Satisfied	56.4	46.9	49.0	44.4	44.5	49.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.9	28.1	27.2	29.5	30.1	28.1
Dissatisfied	5.0	3.9	2.6	5.0	6.7	4.4
Very dissatisfied	1.3	5.8	4.2	7.6	7.1	3.8

Of those who were still at school, 87.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents stated that they intended to complete Year 12 (compared to 96.5% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (17.0% compared with 8.5% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 2.1 shows notable differences in the reported plans of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents compared to non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents. While the most common plan among both groups of respondents was to go to university, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were only half as likely to indicate intentions to do so as non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents (33.3% compared to 67.0% respectively). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were also less likely than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents to be planning to travel or go on a gap year (15.9% compared to 26.9%) after school. Conversely, however, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were more likely than their non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander counterparts to indicate plans to get a job (32.7% compared to 28.3%), to get an apprenticeship (17.5% compared to 8.4%) or to attend TAFE or college (15.1% compared to 11.4%). A small minority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (2.1%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were much more likely than males to report plans to go to university after school (42.9% compared with 24.3% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to go to TAFE or college (19.4% compared with 10.5%) or to travel or go on a gap year (18.9% compared with 13.0%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were much more likely than females to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (26.2% compared with 8.9%). Similar proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females indicated plans to get a job (32.7% compared with 32.1%) after leaving school.

Figure 2.1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 2.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents. Only a small minority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (2.7%) and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents (1.1%) were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Close to three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported part-time employment (27.6% compared to 36.5% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they were currently looking for work compared to non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents (46.8% compared with 34.7%). Around one quarter (22.9%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were not employed and not looking for work.

Similar proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males reported full-time employment (2.9% compared with 2.6% respectively), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (31.4% compared with 23.8%). Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were more likely than females to be looking for work (50.1% compared with 43.1%).

Table 2.3: Participation in paid employment

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
Employed full-time	1.1	2.7	2.9	2.6
Employed part-time	36.5	27.6	31.4	23.8
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	46.8	43.1	50.1
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.7	22.9	22.6	23.5

Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

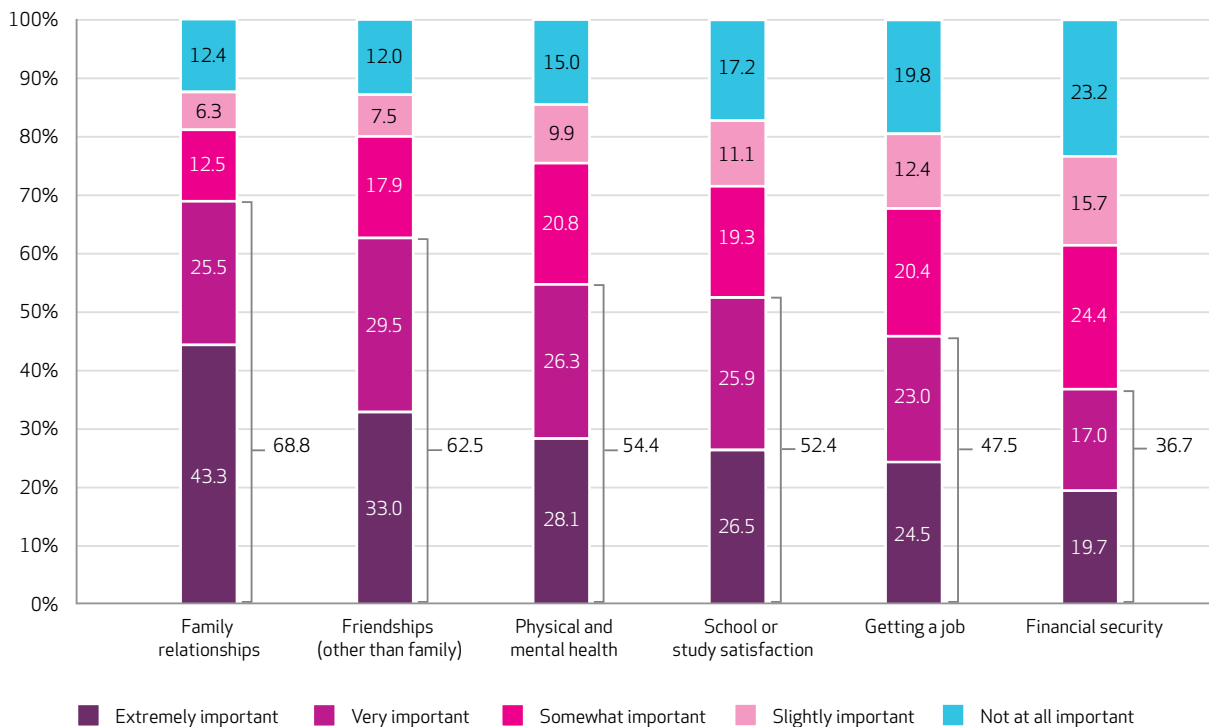


## What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 2.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. The two most highly valued items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents this year were *family relationships* and *friendships*. These were the same top two items as in 2013, although the order of the items was reversed. The next most valued item among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents was *physical and mental health*, followed by *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 68.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely important*: 43.3%; *very important*: 25.5%). *Friendships* were also valued highly by 62.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely important*: 33.0%; *very important*: 29.5%).
- Over half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents highly valued both *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 28.1%; *very important*: 26.3%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 26.5%; *very important*: 25.9%).
- Just under half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 24.5%; *very important*: 23.0%) and over one third highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 19.7%; *very important*: 17.0%).

Figure 2.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

Family relationships and friendships were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females, as shown in Table 2.4. However, the proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and many of the other items, was slightly higher than the proportion of males. The third most valued item among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females this year was school or study satisfaction, whereas among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males it was physical and mental health.

- Family relationships were highly valued by 73.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (extremely important: 48.1%; very important: 25.4%) compared with 64.1% of males (extremely important: 38.4%; very important: 25.7%).
- Friendships were highly valued by 65.3% of females (extremely important: 33.3%; very important: 32.0%) compared with 59.3% of males (extremely important: 32.0%; very important: 27.3%).
- 58.5% of females highly valued school or study satisfaction (extremely important: 30.9%; very important: 27.6%) compared with 45.9% of males (extremely important: 21.7%; very important: 24.2%).
- Physical and mental health was highly valued by over half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (extremely important: 28.1%; very important: 26.5%) and females (extremely important: 27.6%; very important: 26.2%).

Table 2.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>25.4</b>	12.0	6.0	8.5
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>32.0</b>	18.5	6.9	9.4
Physical and mental health	27.6	26.2	24.6	9.4	12.2
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>27.6</b>	21.0	9.1	11.3
Getting a job	24.9	23.0	22.7	11.5	17.8
Financial security	18.1	19.2	26.0	15.3	21.5
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>25.7</b>	13.0	6.4	16.6
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>27.3</b>	17.4	8.3	14.9
<b>Physical and mental health</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>26.5</b>	16.7	10.6	18.1
School or study satisfaction	21.7	24.2	17.5	13.1	23.4
Getting a job	23.8	22.7	18.0	13.5	22.1
Financial security	20.7	14.8	23.0	16.5	25.0

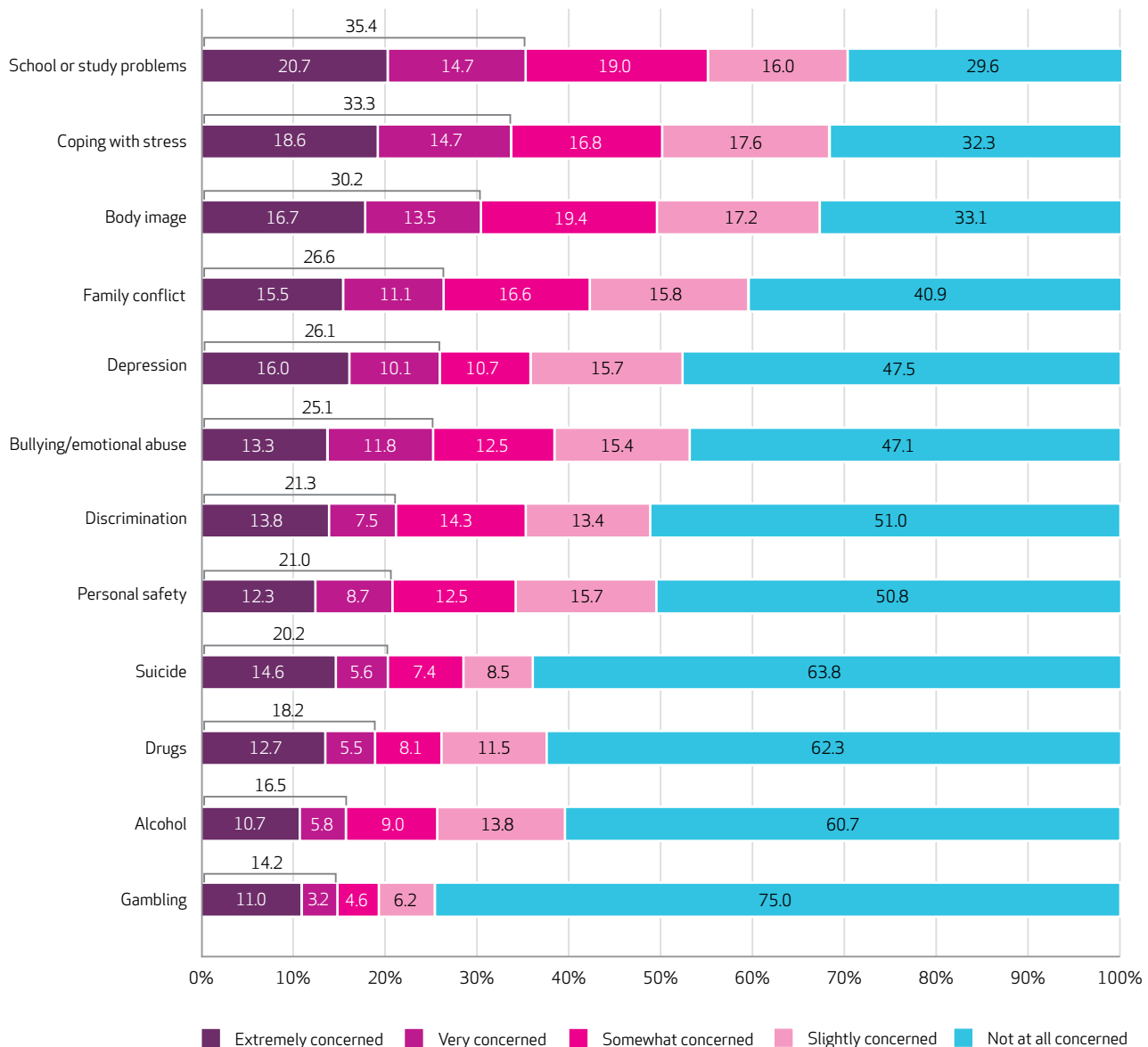
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for extremely important and very important for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 2.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents in 2013.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents, with 35.4% indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (20.7%) or *very concerned* (14.7%) about this issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 33.3% (*extremely concerned*: 18.6%; *very concerned*: 14.7%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 30.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely concerned*: 16.7%; *very concerned*: 13.5%).
- Around one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict*, *depression* and *bullying/emotional abuse*.

Figure 2.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

## Gender differences

School or study problems and coping with stress were among the top three issues of concern for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females, as highlighted in Table 2.5. The third top concern among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females this year was *body image*, whereas among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males it was *family conflict*. The proportion of females concerned about all of these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For just under half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females *school or study problems* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 25.9%; *very concerned*: 19.2%), compared with around one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (*extremely concerned*: 15.8%; *very concerned*: 10.2%).
- Females were also more concerned about *coping with stress*, with 44.3% (*extremely concerned*: 23.5%; *very concerned*: 20.8%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 22.5% of males (*extremely concerned*: 13.6%; *very concerned*: 8.9%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 42.5% (*extremely concerned*: 21.7%; *very concerned*: 20.8%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 18.1% (*extremely concerned*: 11.7%; *very concerned*: 6.4%) of males.
- For 31.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely concerned*: 15.3%; *very concerned*: 16.1%) and 22.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 16.1%; *very concerned*: 6.1%) *family conflict* was a major concern.

Table 2.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>19.2</b>	19.5	16.7	18.7
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>20.8</b>	20.8	15.0	19.9
<b>Body image</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>20.8</b>	20.8	16.7	20.0
Family conflict	15.3	16.1	20.3	17.2	31.1
Depression	16.8	14.0	14.6	18.2	36.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	14.6	15.7	14.0	17.4	38.4
Discrimination	13.3	10.2	16.7	15.8	44.1
Personal safety	11.7	10.9	14.2	20.4	42.7
Suicide	15.0	8.3	10.3	9.2	57.2
Drugs	11.1	5.8	8.9	11.6	62.6
Alcohol	9.1	6.6	12.1	14.3	58.0
Gambling	8.9	3.9	5.0	5.9	76.3

Table 2.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>10.2</b>	18.6	14.7	40.7
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>8.9</b>	12.8	20.3	44.4
Body image	11.7	6.4	17.8	17.5	46.5
<b>Family conflict</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	13.0	14.4	50.4
Depression	15.2	6.4	6.6	13.3	58.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	12.3	7.5	10.6	13.6	56.0
Discrimination	14.5	5.0	12.0	10.9	57.7
Personal safety	13.1	6.7	10.9	9.8	59.5
Suicide	13.9	3.1	4.7	7.8	70.6
Drugs	14.2	4.9	7.4	11.2	62.2
Alcohol	12.2	5.0	5.8	13.3	63.6
Gambling	13.3	2.5	4.2	6.4	73.6

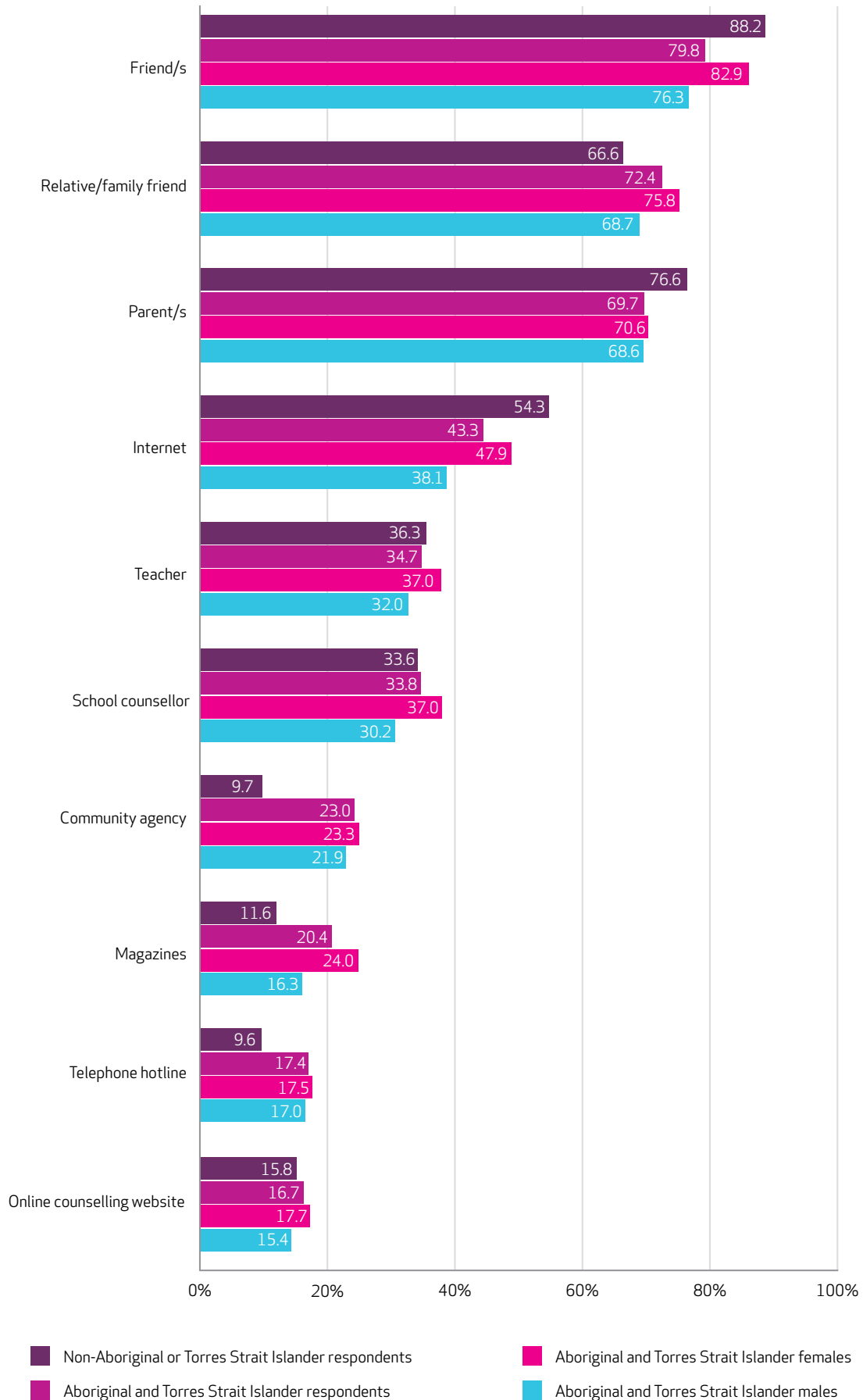
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 2.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people were *friend/s*, *relatives/family friends* and *parent/s*. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were more likely than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents, however, to go to *relatives/family friends* for help, while non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents were more likely to go to *parent/s*.

- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people were most likely to go to *friend/s* (79.8% compared with 88.2%), *relatives/family friends* (72.4% compared with 66.6%) and *parent/s* (69.7% compared with 76.6%) for help.
- Over four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives (43.3% compared with 54.3% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents).
- Around one third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 2.4: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## Gender differences

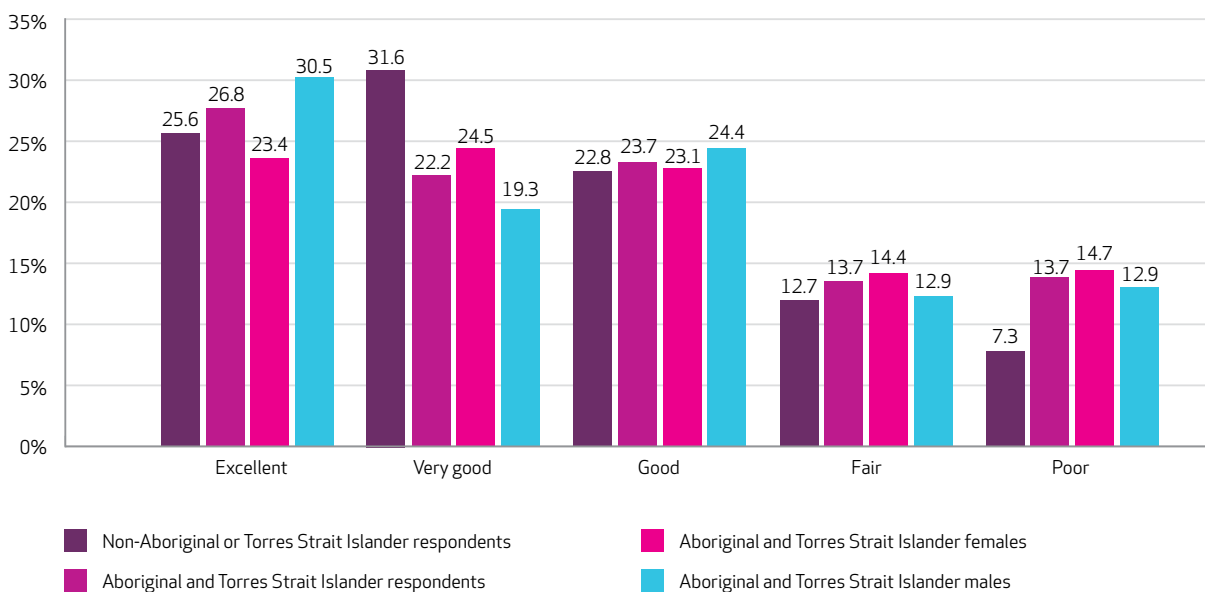
As shown in Figure 2.4, the top three sources of help for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were *friend/s*, *relatives/family friends* and *parent/s*. However, a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to each of the sources listed for help.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were more likely than males to go to *friend/s* (82.9% compared with 76.3%) and *relatives/family friends* (75.8% compared to 68.7%) for help with important issues.
- 70.6% of female respondents and 68.6% of male respondents indicated that they would go to *parent/s* for help with important issues.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were also more likely than males to go to the *internet* (47.9% compared with 38.1%), their *teacher* (37.0% compared with 32.0%) and *school counsellor* (37.0% compared with 30.2%) for help with important issues in their lives.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 2.5 shows that the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents rated their family's ability to get along positively, with 26.8% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent*, 22.2% that it was *very good* and 23.7% that it was *good*. However, just over one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (13.7%) or *poor* (13.7%). Compared with non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were almost twice as likely to rate their family's ability to get along as *poor* (13.7% compared with 7.3%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were more likely than females to rate their families ability to get along as *excellent* (30.5% compared with 23.4%).

Figure 2.5: Family's ability to get along



## 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 2.6. In 2014 the top three issues identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *alcohol and drugs*, *politics and societal values* and *the economy and financial matters*. These were also the top three issues identified this year by non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents, although the order of these issues differed.

- Close to one third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue in Australia today (32.3% compared with 22.7% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents).
- Just over one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people identified *politics and societal values* (26.9%) and around one in five identified *the economy and financial matters* (21.7%) as important issues.

- Compared to the past two years, identification of *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue has increased among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.
- Since 2012, *employment, education and mental health* have all been increasingly identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *the economy and financial matters, equity and discrimination and the environment* have declined over this period.

## Gender differences

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females identified the same top three issues as the most important in Australia today, although the order of these issues differed. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males identified *politics and societal values* (33.3%) as the top issue facing the nation, closely followed by *alcohol and drugs* (32.7%) and then *the economy and financial matters* (22.0%). Comparatively, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females identified *alcohol and drugs* (31.5%) as the top issue, followed by *the economy and financial matters* (21.2%) and then *politics and societal values* (20.6%) and *bullying* (20.6%) in equal third position.

- Close to one third of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male and female respondents (32.7% and 31.5% respectively) identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- Just over one in five male and female respondents (22.0% and 21.2% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as an important issue.
- A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females identified *politics and societal values* (33.3% compared with 20.6%) and *employment* (19.7% compared with 14.5%) as important national issues.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *bullying* (20.6% compared with 5.7%), *equity and discrimination* (19.0% compared with 11.7%) and *mental health* (17.4% compared with 9.3%) as important issues.

Table 2.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2014 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2012 %
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>25.5</b>
<b>Politics and societal values</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>33.3</b>	20.9	21.5
<b>The economy and financial matters</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>25.5</b>
Employment	11.0	17.0	14.5	19.7	15.7	11.0
Equity and discrimination	21.6	15.2	19.0	11.7	19.5	19.7
Education	15.9	14.3	14.8	13.7	9.5	9.3
Crime, safety and violence	10.6	13.8	14.8	13.0	13.7	17.0
Bullying	14.6	13.5	<b>20.6</b>	5.7	8.0	9.7
Mental health	18.6	13.5	17.4	9.3	10.5	8.9
Health	14.3	10.7	10.9	10.3	9.5	14.9
Population issues	17.2	10.4	8.4	12.7	<b>23.2</b>	<b>22.2</b>
Homelessness/housing	7.4	9.4	10.6	7.7	8.5	9.9
The environment	12.6	6.3	6.4	6.3	13.2	14.5
Poverty/disadvantage	4.6	6.2	7.1	5.3	3.0	4.8
Relationships	2.8	5.2	4.8	4.7	3.5	4.1

Note: Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.



## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 2.7. The top three activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural/music activities*. Comparatively, the top three activities identified by non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents this year and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents in 2013 were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. Significant proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural/music activities* were the three most popular activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in 2014.
- Just under half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work* (46.1%).
- Around four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported participation in *youth groups and clubs* (39.8%) and *student leadership activities* (37.5%) and close to three in ten had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (29.1%) or *religious groups or activities* (27.3%).
- Twice as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they had participated in *political groups or organisations* over the past year compared with non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents (16.2% compared with 8.0%).

### Gender differences

As shown in Table 2.7 the top three activities for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were the same, although a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Conversely, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were more likely to report participation in *arts/cultural/music activities* than males.

- 75.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and 69.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (68.6% compared with 63.1%).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were much more likely than males to be involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (60.4% compared with 42.9%) and *volunteer work* (53.3% compared with 39.3%).

Table 2.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2014 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>77.6</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>72.3</b>
<b>Arts/cultural/music activities</b>	53.2	<b>51.6</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>42.9</b>	47.8	<b>56.5</b>
Volunteer work	<b>53.8</b>	46.1	53.3	39.3	<b>49.4</b>	52.8
Youth groups and clubs	31.9	39.8	42.0	38.1	39.6	41.3
Student leadership activities	42.1	37.5	44.5	30.6	42.5	42.7
Environmental groups or activities	23.4	29.1	29.2	29.1	31.2	30.4
Religious groups or activities	29.4	27.3	30.4	24.6	30.6	38.2
Political groups or organisations	8.0	16.2	15.8	16.5	15.8	14.2

Note: Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

In 2014 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. Around half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (49.6%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 23.4%; *3-9 hours*: 26.2%). Around three in ten reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 16.6%; *20-29 hours*: 11.7%) and 22.1% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 5.2%; *40 hours or more*: 16.9%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported spending similar amounts of time on social networking sites in both 2013 and 2014. Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were slightly more likely than females to report spending less than 10 hours a week on social networking sites. Compared to non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people tended to report spending slightly more time on social networking sites in an average week.

Table 2.8: Time spent on social networking sites

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2014 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.2	23.4	20.4	26.5	22.6
3 - 9 hours	32.3	26.2	23.7	28.1	23.2
10 - 19 hours	21.8	16.6	17.1	16.4	16.7
20 - 29 hours	11.9	11.7	13.2	10.0	10.4
30 - 39 hours	5.5	5.2	7.7	2.8	4.3
40 hours or more	8.2	16.9	17.9	16.2	22.8

## What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 2.6. The top two items that both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Just under two thirds (63.1%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt that *education* would influence their future career opportunities, compared to 81.9% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents.
- Almost six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt that *hard work* (57.4%) would influence their future career opportunities, compared to 78.9% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents.
- Around four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *where you live* (42.0%) and *talent* (38.8%), compared to 49.1% and 58.3% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents respectively.

Figure 2.6: Influences on career opportunities in the future



Note: Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 2.6, there were some differences in what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females felt would influence their career opportunities in the future.

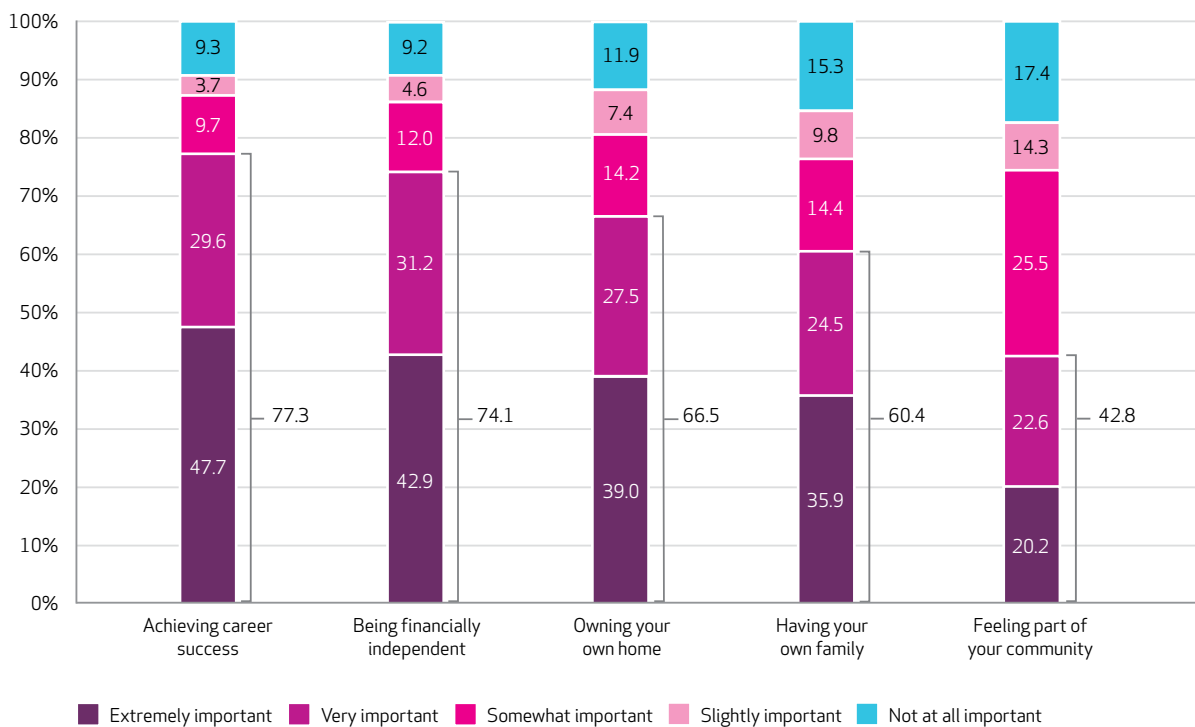
- The two most commonly cited influences on future career opportunities among both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males were *education* (71.4% compared with 54.6% respectively) and *hard work* (60.9% compared with 54.1% respectively).
- The third most commonly cited influence on future career opportunities among females was *where you live* (46.9% compared with 37.3% of males), while among males it was felt to be *talent* (39.2% compared with 38.8% of females).
- Just under one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (22.9%) felt that *gender* would influence their career opportunities in the future, compared to 18.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males.

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 2.7 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Achieving career success* and *being financially independent* were ranked as the two most important items among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. The next most important item among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Achieving career success* was of high importance to 77.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely important*: 47.7%; *very important*: 29.6%). *Being financially independent* was also of high importance to around three quarters of respondents (*extremely important*: 42.9%; *very important*: 31.2%).
- Two thirds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 39.0%; *very important*: 27.5%) and six in ten placed high importance on *having your own family* (*extremely important*: 35.9%; *very important*: 24.5%).
- Over four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that *feeling part of your community* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 20.2%; *very important*: 22.6%).

Figure 2.7: Young people's aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

The two most important items for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were *achieving career success* and *being financially independent*, as shown in Table 2.9. However, the proportion of female respondents placing high importance on these and most other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Achieving career success* was highly important to 81.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely important*: 51.7%; *very important*: 30.1%) compared with 72.4% of males (*extremely important*: 43.4%; *very important*: 29.0%).
- *Being financially independent* was highly important to 79.0% of females (*extremely important*: 48.6%; *very important*: 30.4%) compared to 69.0% of males (*extremely important*: 36.8%; *very important*: 32.2%).
- 68.6% of females placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 39.7%; *very important*: 28.9%) compared with 64.2% of males (*extremely important*: 38.1%; *very important*: 26.1%).
- For 60.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (*extremely important*: 37.2%; *very important*: 23.6%) and 59.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely important*: 34.5%; *very important*: 25.4%) *having your own family* was of high importance.

Table 2.9: Young people's aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>30.1</b>	6.5	3.1	8.7
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>30.4</b>	9.5	3.6	7.8
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>28.9</b>	12.9	7.7	10.7
Having your own family	34.5	25.4	14.6	11.9	13.5
Feeling part of your community	20.8	24.4	26.3	15.0	13.6
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>29.0</b>	13.2	4.3	10.1
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>32.2</b>	14.5	5.7	10.8
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>26.1</b>	15.3	7.1	13.4
Having your own family	37.2	23.6	14.1	7.8	17.3
Feeling part of your community	19.3	20.5	25.0	13.9	21.3

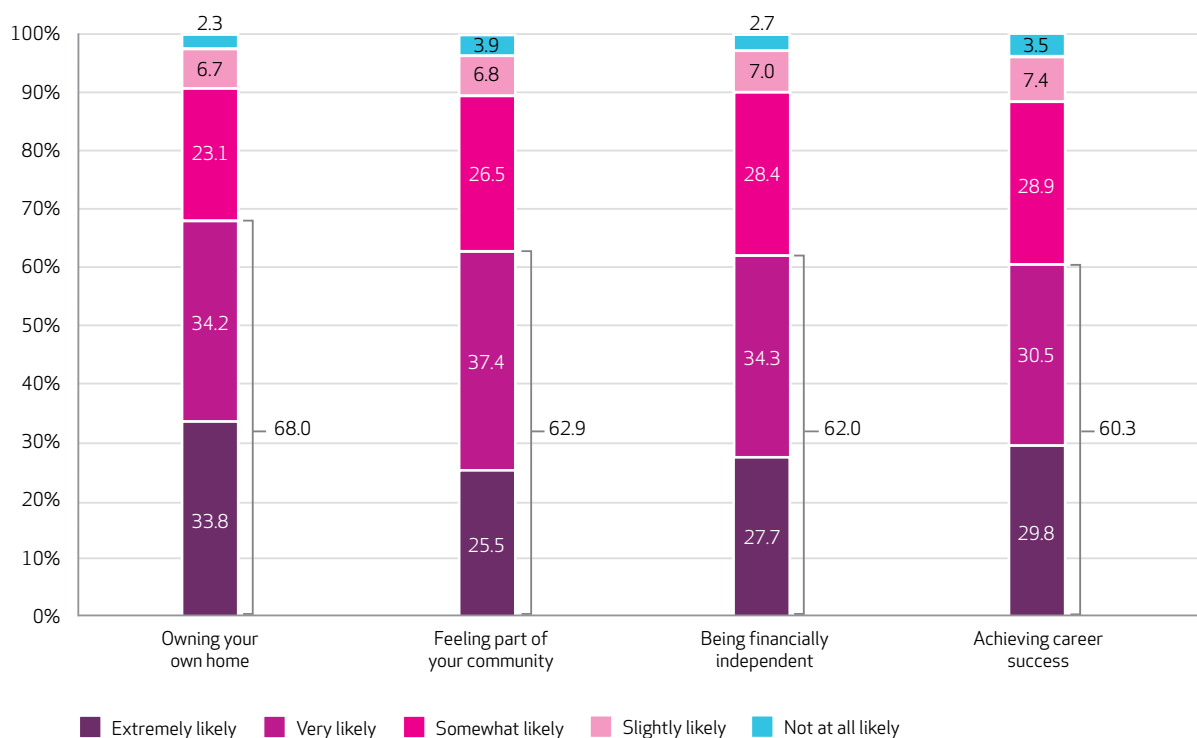
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 2.8 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*.

- Around seven in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (68.0%) felt that *owning your own home* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 33.8%; *very likely*: 34.2%).
- Over six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt that *feeling part of your community* (*extremely likely*: 25.5%; *very likely*: 37.4%), *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 27.7%; *very likely*: 34.3%) and *achieving career success* (*extremely likely*: 29.8%; *very likely*: 30.5%) were highly likely to be achievable.

Figure 2.8: Likelihood of achieving aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.

## Gender differences

Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females indicated that they felt *owning your own home* was the most achievable item. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, the next most achievable item was felt to be *being financially independent*, while males felt it was *feeling part of your community*. Overall, a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve many of the items than female respondents.

- *Owning your own home* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 70.1% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (*extremely likely*: 38.4%; *very likely*: 31.7%) compared with 65.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely likely*: 29.3%; *very likely*: 36.5%).
- 66.0% of males felt that *feeling part of your community* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 30.5%; *very likely*: 35.5%) compared with 60.0% of females (*extremely likely*: 21.2%; *very likely*: 38.8%).
- *Being financially independent* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 62.1% of males (*extremely likely*: 30.0%; *very likely*: 32.1%) compared with 61.3% of females (*extremely likely*: 25.4%; *very likely*: 35.9%).
- 61.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 31.3%; *very likely*: 30.1%) compared with 59.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely likely*: 28.3%; *very likely*: 30.7%).

Table 2.10: Likelihood of achieving aspirations by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely likely %</b>	<b>Very likely %</b>	<b>Somewhat likely %</b>	<b>Slightly likely %</b>	<b>Not at all likely %</b>
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>36.5</b>	25.7	6.8	1.6
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>38.8</b>	31.5	6.7	1.8
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>35.9</b>	28.2	8.1	2.5
Achieving career success	28.3	30.7	30.3	8.3	2.4
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely likely %</b>	<b>Very likely %</b>	<b>Somewhat likely %</b>	<b>Slightly likely %</b>	<b>Not at all likely %</b>
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>31.7</b>	20.1	6.7	3.1
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>35.5</b>	20.6	7.1	6.4
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>32.1</b>	29.2	5.8	2.9
Achieving career success	31.3	30.1	27.3	6.4	4.8

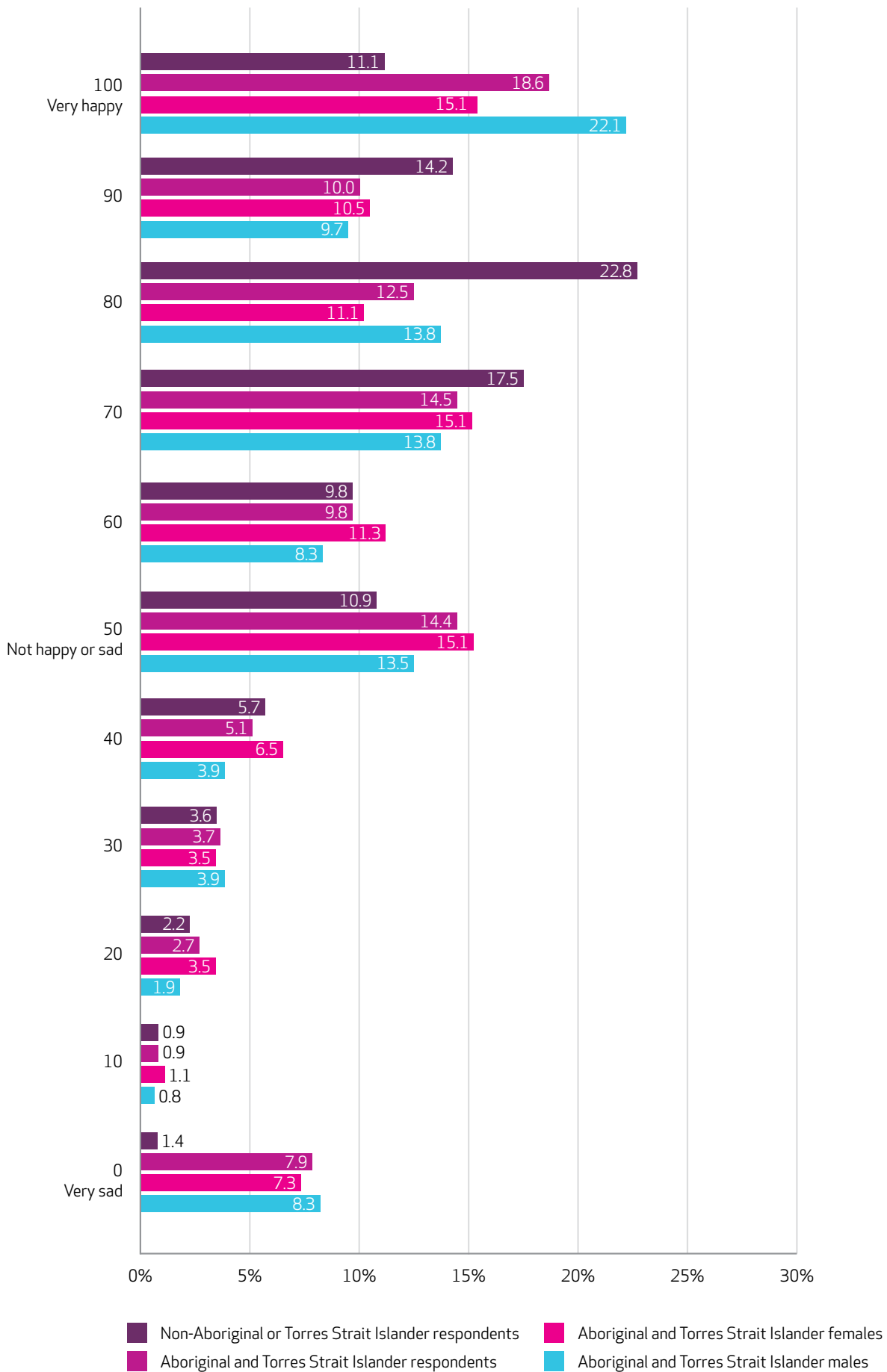
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 2.9 shows, over half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (55.6%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives (compared to around two thirds of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). Responses were similar for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (22.1% compared with 15.1%).

<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

Figure 2.9: How happy young people are





## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 2.11 shows that compared to 2013 and 2012 there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents feeling *very positive* or *positive* about the future and a slight increase in those feeling *neither positive nor negative* about the future. A minority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (15.7%) felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Just over half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt either *positive* (35.2%) or *very positive* (18.1%) about the future.
- Around three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (31.0%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 6.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt *negative* about the future and 8.9% felt *very negative*.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were much more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (22.1% compared with 13.9%).

Table 2.11: Feelings about the future

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2014 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2012 %
Very positive	15.6	18.1	13.9	22.1	20.2	22.8
Positive	48.7	35.2	35.4	35.0	38.6	44.5
Neither positive nor negative	26.6	31.0	35.4	26.3	26.3	21.7
Negative	6.9	6.8	6.8	7.0	4.7	4.7
Very negative	2.1	8.9	8.4	9.5	10.2	6.3

# Australian Capital Territory



## Profile of respondents

In total, 169 young people from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014*. Comparisons with ACT data in 2013 and 2012 reflect combined results from both NSW and the ACT. Due to the smaller number of responses received from the ACT in these years, NSW and the ACT were combined in the 2013 and 2012 reports. Due to the small number of ACT respondents, Mission Australia is unable to provide breakdowns of the data by gender, as in other chapters. Instead, data is presented only at a Territory-wide level.

### Gender breakdown

Over eight in ten (85.6%) respondents from the ACT were female and 14.4% were male

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 10 (6.0%) respondents from the ACT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 5 (3.0%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 1 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 2.4% identified as both).

### Language background other than English

30 (18.0%) respondents from the ACT stated that they were born overseas and 17 (10.9%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home.

### Disability

A total of 12 (7.4%) respondents from the ACT indicated that they had a disability.

## Detailed results

### Education

As indicated in Table 3.1, 97.6% of respondents from the ACT were studying full-time.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in the 2013 and 2012 NSW/ACT results, the majority of respondents from the ACT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (25.0%) or *satisfied* (45.7%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.8% and 6.1% respectively), as shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.1: Participation in education

	National %	ACT %
Studying full-time	93.8	97.6
Studying part-time	2.7	0.6
Not studying	3.5	1.8

Table 3.2: Satisfaction with studies

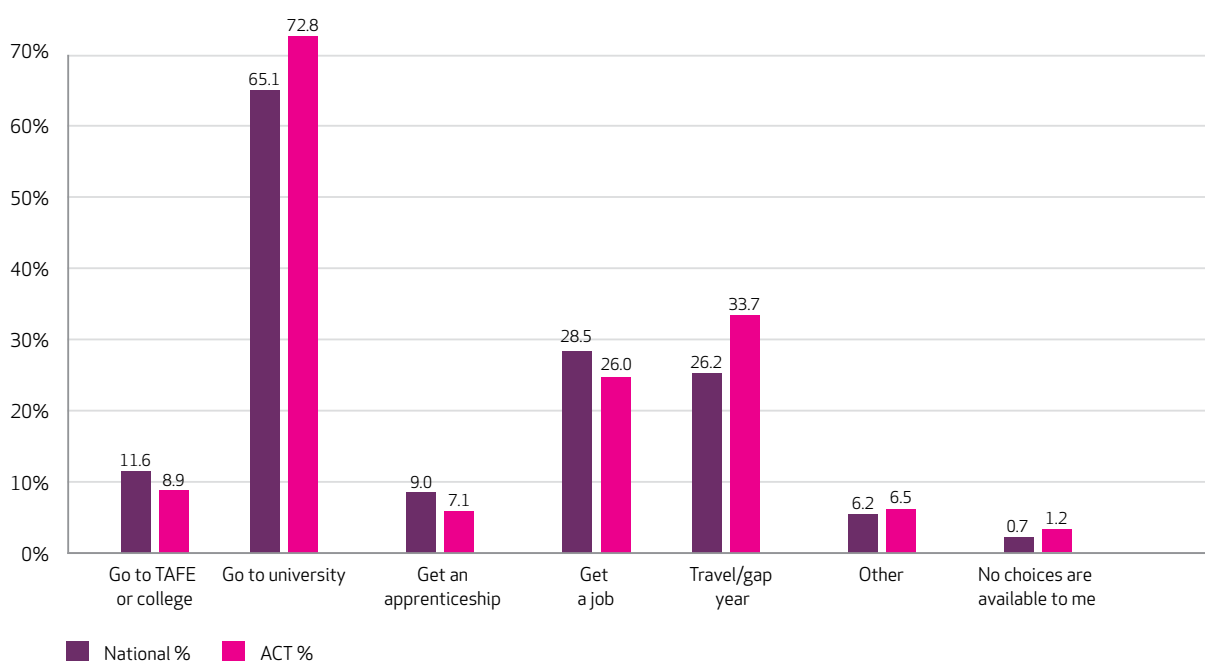
	National %	ACT 2014 %	NSW/ACT 2013 %	NSW/ACT 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	25.0	15.6	16.1
Satisfied	55.9	45.7	56.1	53.3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	21.3	21.9	23.1
Dissatisfied	5.0	6.1	4.7	6.1
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.4

Note: Data for 2013 and 2012 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from those years.

Of those who were still at school in the ACT, 98.1% stated that they intended to complete Year 12.

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 3.1 shows that almost three quarters of respondents from the ACT planned to go to university after school (72.8%). Many respondents also indicated plans to travel or go on a gap year (33.7%) and to get a job (26.0%) after school. Overall, 8.9% of young people from the ACT planned to attend TAFE or college and 7.1% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (1.2%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

Figure 3.1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 3.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst respondents from the ACT. No respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Around one third (36.6%) of respondents from the ACT reported part-time employment. Around two thirds of ACT respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 27.4% looking for work and 36.0% not looking for work.

Table 3.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	ACT %
Employed full-time	1.2	0.0
Employed part-time	35.9	36.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.4	27.4
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.5	36.0

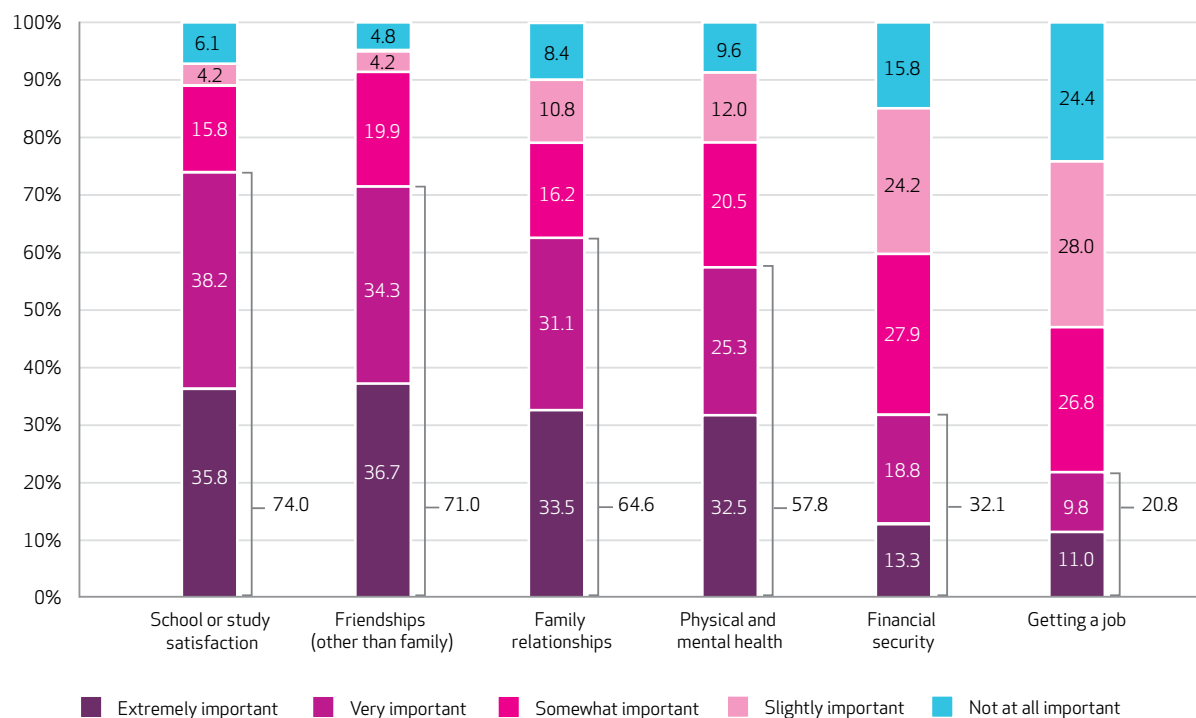
Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 3.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. The two most highly valued items for respondents from the ACT this year were *school or study satisfaction* and *friendships*. The next most valued item for ACT respondents was *family relationships*, followed by *physical and mental health*.

- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 74.0% of respondents from the ACT (*extremely important*: 35.8%; *very important*: 38.2%). *Friendships* were also valued highly by 71.0% of respondents (*extremely important*: 36.7%; *very important*: 34.3%).
- Around two thirds of respondents highly valued *family relationships* (*extremely important*: 33.5%; *very important*: 31.1%) and around six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 32.5%; *very important*: 25.3%).
- Over three in ten ACT respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 13.3%; *very important*: 18.8%) and around one in five respondents highly valued *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 11.0%; *very important*: 9.8%).

Figure 3.2: What young people value



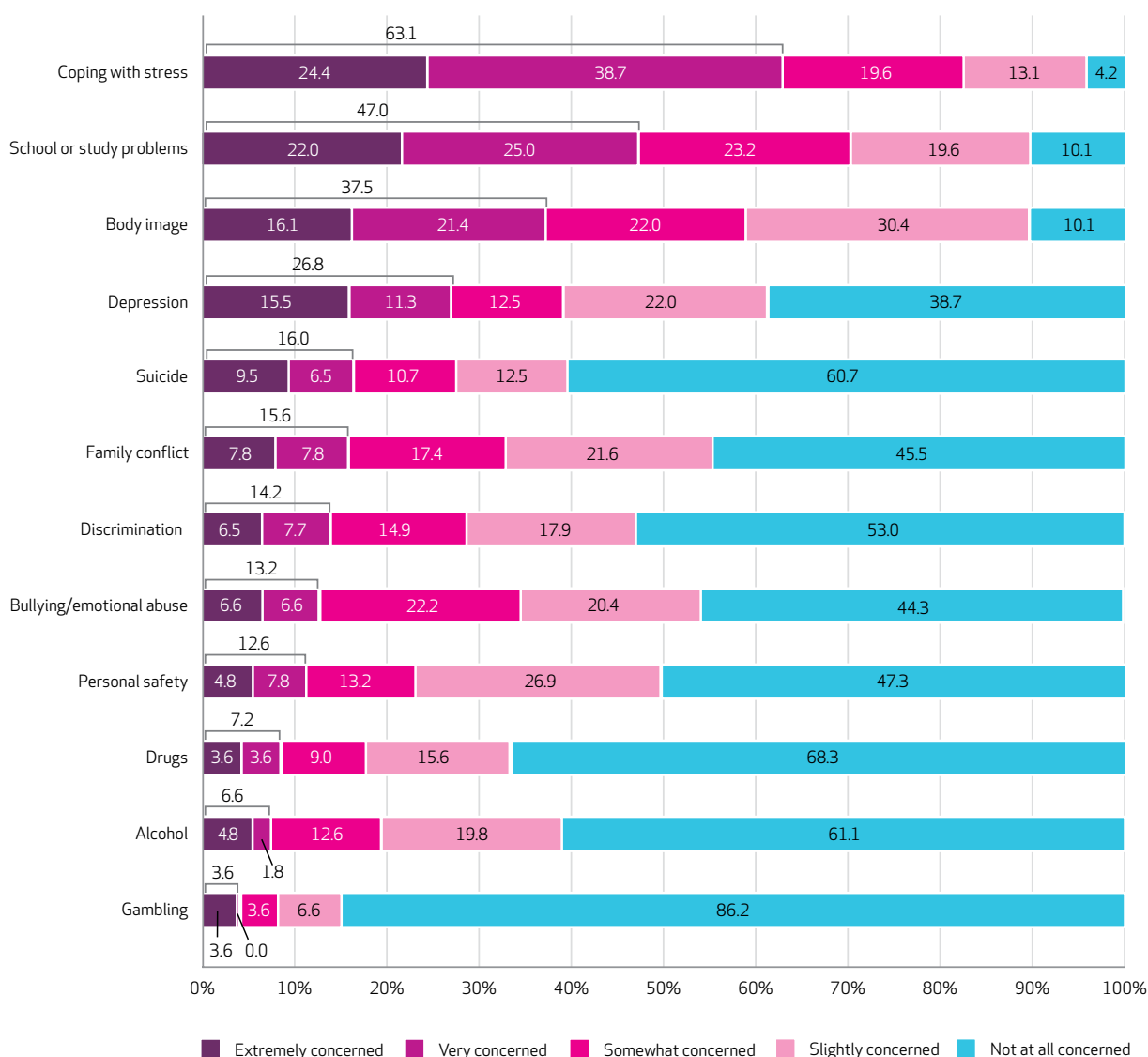
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 3.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from the ACT were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 63.1% of respondents from the ACT indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (24.4%) or *very concerned* (38.7%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 47.0% (*extremely concerned*: 22.0%; *very concerned*: 25.0%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 37.5% (*extremely concerned*: 16.1%; *very concerned*: 21.4%).
- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *suicide*.

Figure 3.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



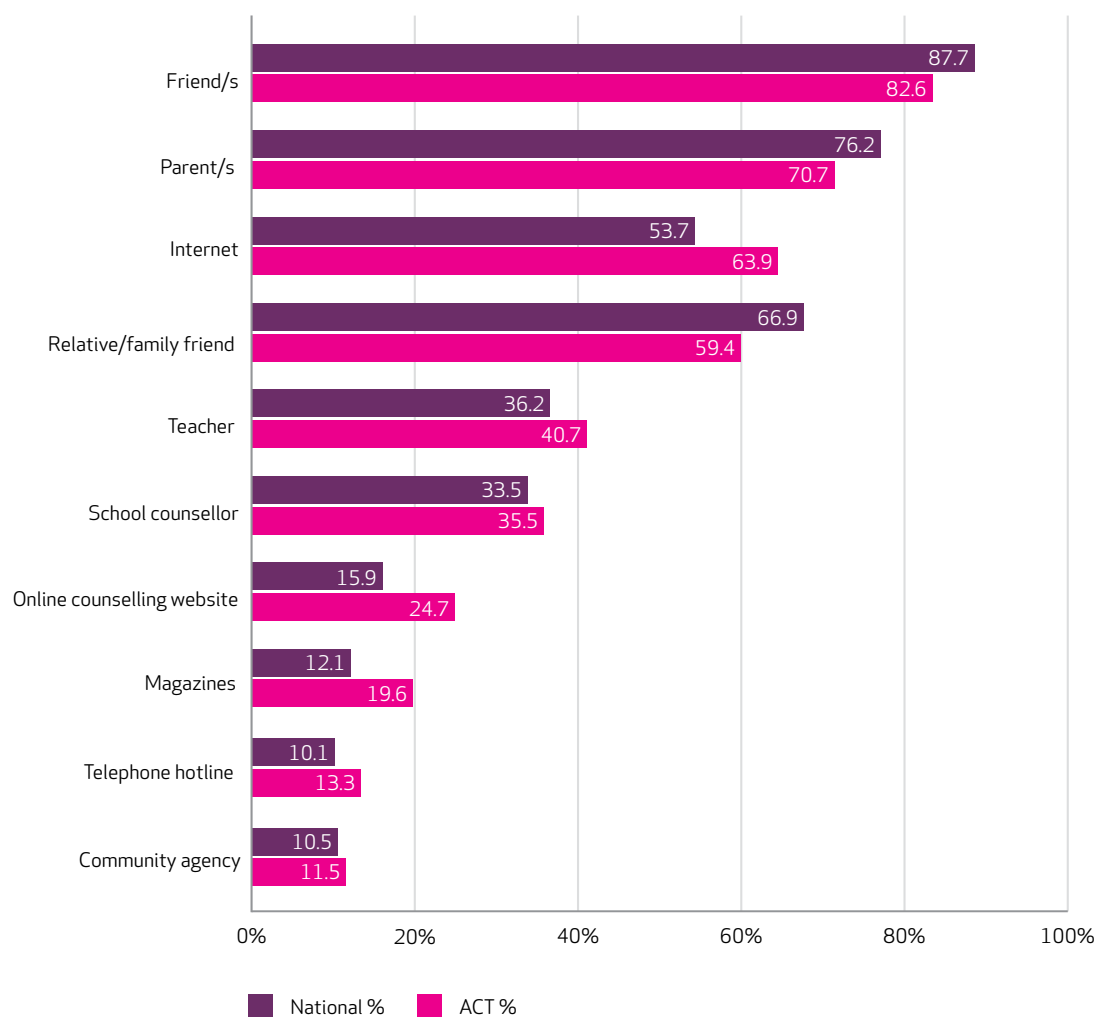
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 3.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for young people in the ACT were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and the *internet*. The top two sources of help were consistent with national results, while *relatives/family friends* was the third source listed nationally.

- *Friend/s*, *parent/s* and the *internet* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (82.6%, 70.7% and 63.9% respectively).
- Almost six in ten respondents from the ACT indicated that they would go to *relatives/family friends* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around one in four respondents indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 3.4: Where young people go for help with important issues

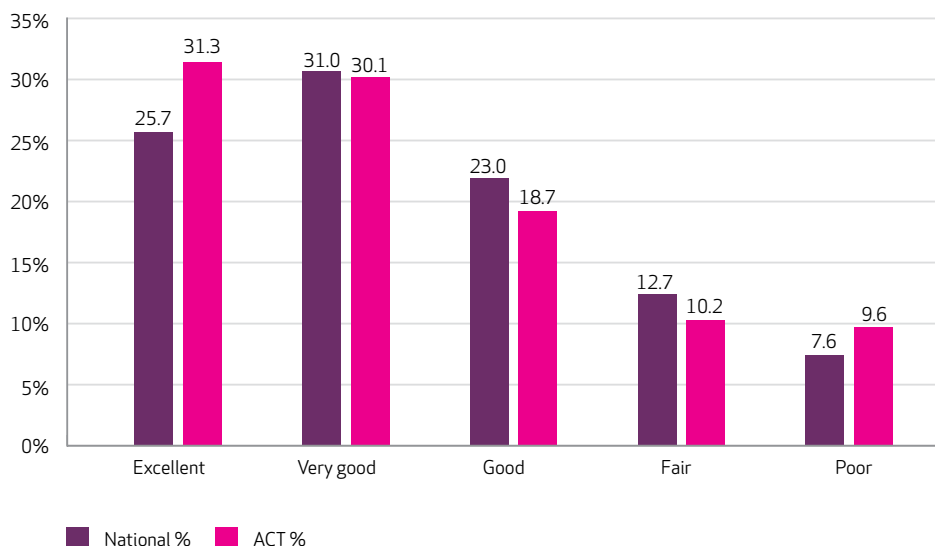


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 3.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from the ACT rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 31.3% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 30.1% that it was *very good*. However, almost one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (10.2%) or *poor* (9.6%).

Figure 3.5: Family's ability to get along



## 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 3.4. In 2014 the top three issues identified by young people from the ACT were *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues* and *politics and societal values*. *The economy and financial matters* and *politics and societal values* were also among the top three issues identified nationally.

- Around three in ten young people from the ACT identified *the economy and financial matters* (30.7%), and *population issues* (27.9%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Around one quarter of respondents identified *politics and societal values* (26.4%) and *equity and discrimination* (25.0%) as major issues.
- Since 2012, *politics and societal values*, *equity and discrimination*, *education*, *mental health* and *LGBT issues* have been increasingly identified by young people as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *alcohol and drugs*, *crime*, *safety and violence* and *homelessness/housing* have declined over this period.

Table 3.4: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	ACT 2014 %	NSW/ACT 2013 %	NSW/ACT 2012 %
<b>The economy and financial matters</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>30.2</b>
<b>Population issues</b>	16.8	<b>27.9</b>	22.0	<b>26.5</b>
<b>Politics and societal values</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>25.2</b>	19.1
Equity and discrimination	21.3	25.0	<b>22.7</b>	21.0
Education	15.8	17.1	16.7	11.9
Mental health	18.3	17.1	15.5	12.1
The environment	12.3	16.4	15.3	17.2
Alcohol and drugs	<b>23.2</b>	15.0	17.2	<b>21.1</b>
Health	14.1	14.3	11.9	16.8
Employment	11.3	11.4	13.6	8.0
LGBT issues	6.2	8.6	5.1	4.8
Crime, safety and violence	10.7	7.1	9.4	14.2
Homelessness/housing	7.5	7.1	7.8	10.1
Poverty/disadvantage	4.7	7.1	4.8	5.3
Adolescence/youth	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.2
Body image	5.7	5.0	3.7	4.5

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Data for 2013 and 2012 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from those years.

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 3.5. The top three activities for young people from the ACT were *sports (as a participant)*, *volunteer work* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top three activities identified nationally, although the order of the second and third top activities was reversed. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *volunteer work* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the three most popular activities for young people from the ACT in 2014.
- Almost seven in ten respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (69.0%).
- Over six in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (62.7%) and around one third had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (34.0%) and *religious groups or activities* (31.5%).
- Around one quarter of young people from the ACT (26.4%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.



Table 3.5: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	ACT 2014 %	NSW/ACT 2013 %	NSW/ACT 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>79.9</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>62.8</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>72.9</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.0	69.0	53.7	50.3
Student leadership activities	41.9	62.7	44.8	49.0
Youth groups and clubs	32.4	34.0	34.7	35.9
Religious groups or activities	29.3	31.5	35.9	41.5
Environmental groups or activities	23.7	26.4	23.9	28.1
Political groups or organisations	8.5	15.2	7.3	9.1

Note: Data for 2013 and 2012 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from those years. Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

In 2014 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents from the ACT (52.1%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 19.8%; *3-9 hours*: 32.3%). Over one third reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 17.4%; *20-29 hours*: 18.0%) and 12.6% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 6.0%; *40 hours or more*: 6.6%). Compared to the 2013 results from NSW/ACT, ACT respondents in 2014 reported spending slightly more time on social networking sites in an average week.

Table 3.6: Time spent on social networking sites

	National %	ACT 2014 %	NSW/ACT 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.4	19.8	27.6
3 - 9 hours	32.0	32.3	31.4
10 - 19 hours	21.5	17.4	19.0
20 - 29 hours	11.9	18.0	10.3
30 - 39 hours	5.5	6.0	4.4
40 hours or more	8.7	6.6	7.5

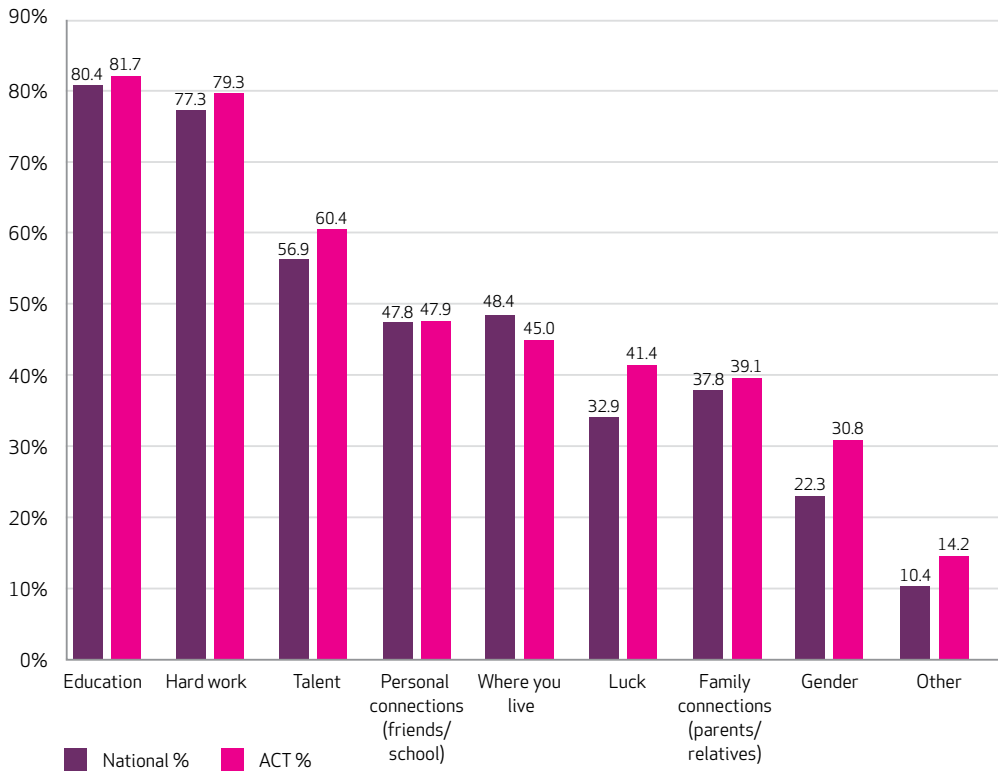
Note: Data for 2013 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from that year.

## What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 3.6. In the ACT, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Around eight in ten respondents felt that *education* (81.7%) and *hard work* (79.3%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Over six in ten respondents from the ACT felt that *talent* (60.4%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Around half felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *personal connections (friends/school)* (47.9%) and *where you live* (45.0%).

Figure 3.6: Influences on career opportunities in the future



Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 3.7 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Being financially independent* and *achieving career success* were ranked as the two most important items in the ACT. The next most important item among respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Being financially independent* was of high importance to 84.9% of ACT respondents (*extremely important*: 54.2%; *very important*: 30.7%). *Achieving career success* was also of high importance to 84.1% of respondents (*extremely important*: 51.8%; *very important*: 32.3%).
- Around two thirds of respondents placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 37.3%; *very important*: 32.5%) and *having your own family* (*extremely important*: 35.2%; *very important*: 28.5%).
- Over four in ten respondents from the ACT indicated that *feeling part of your community* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 13.9%; *very important*: 30.7%).

Figure 3.7: Young people's aspirations



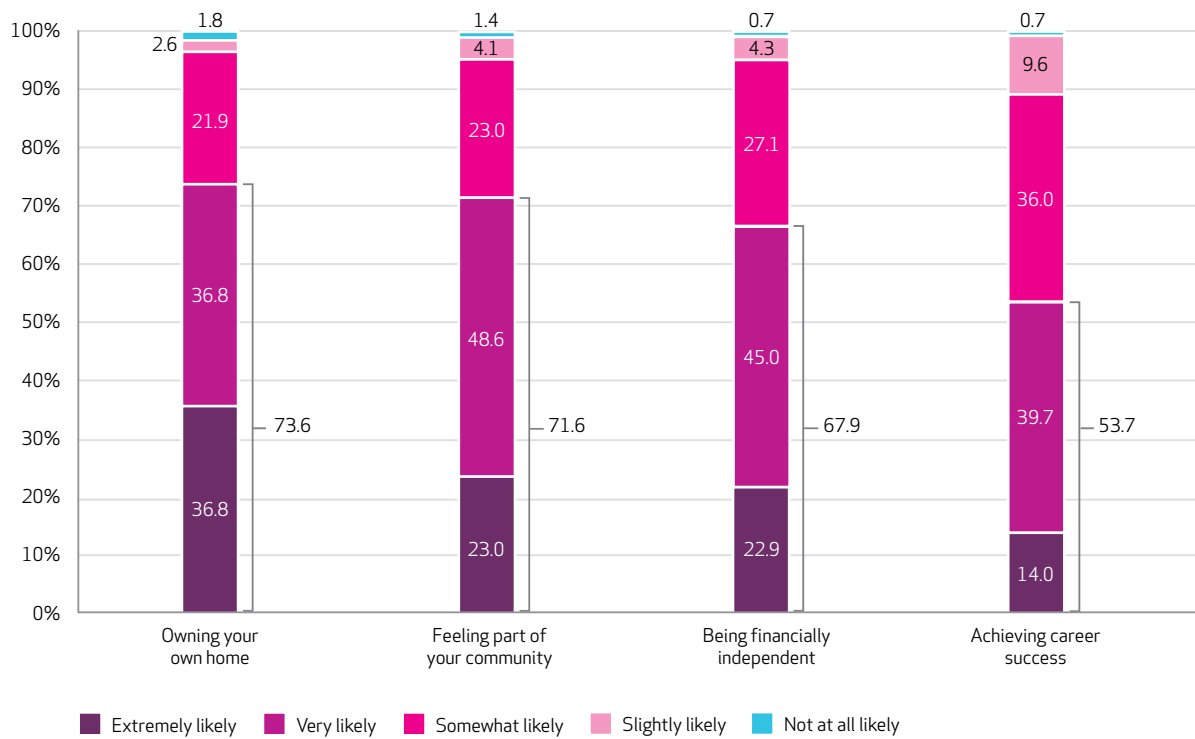
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 3.8 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item by respondents from the ACT, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*.

- Just under three quarters of respondents in the ACT (73.6%) felt that *owning your own home* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 36.8%; *very likely*: 36.8%).
- Around seven in ten respondents felt that *feeling part of your community* (*extremely likely*: 23.0%; *very likely*: 48.6%) and *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 22.9%; *very likely*: 45.0%) were highly likely to be achievable.
- Just over half of respondents from the ACT felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 14.0%; *very likely*: 39.7%).

Figure 3.8: Likelihood of achieving aspirations

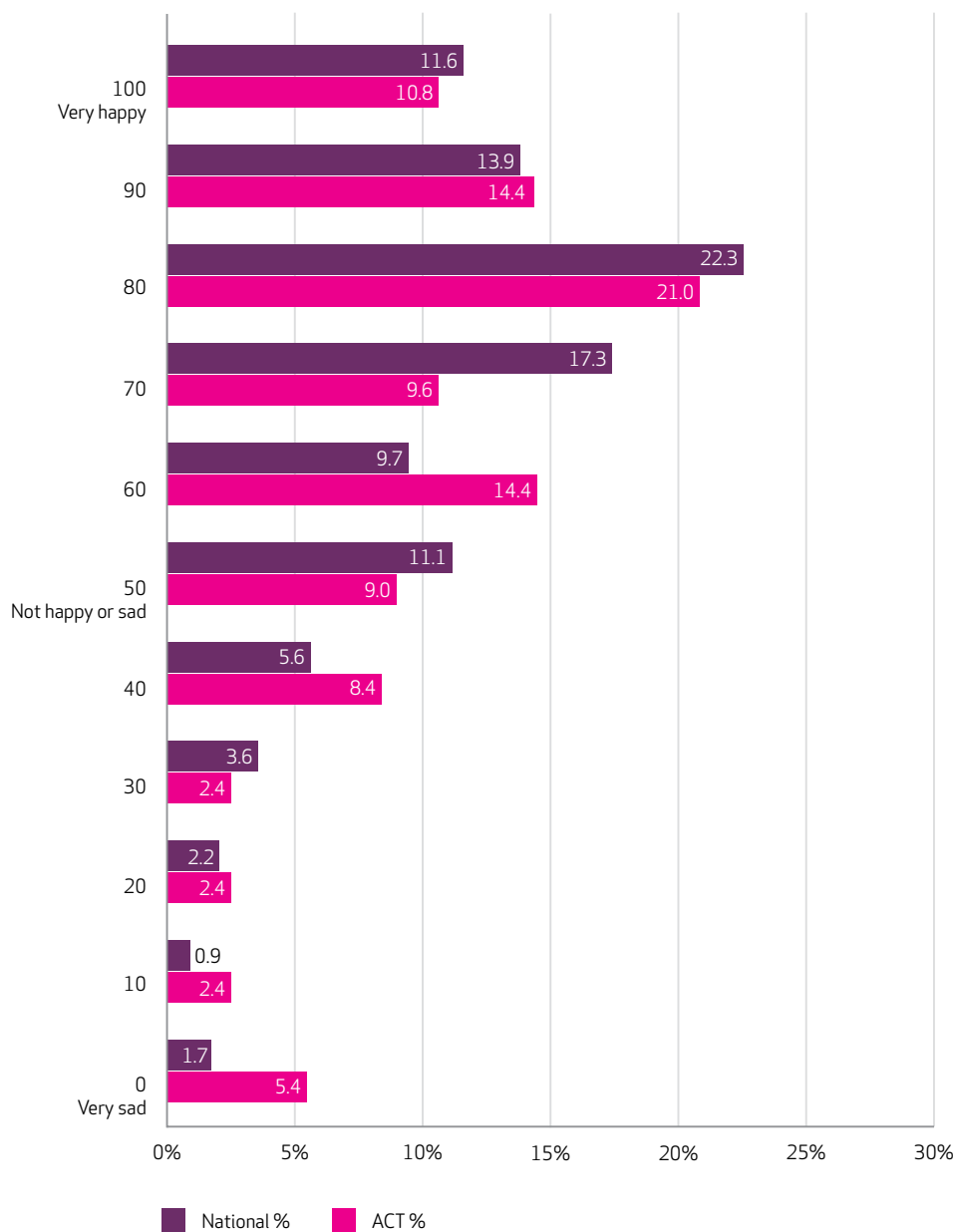


Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 3.9 shows, the majority of young people from the ACT (55.8%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results.

Figure 3.9: How happy young people are



<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 3.7 shows that compared to the 2013 and 2012 NSW/ACT results there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of ACT respondents feeling *very positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in five young people from the ACT felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Just under two thirds of respondents from the ACT felt either *positive* (49.4%) or *very positive* (13.9%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (22.3%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 7.8% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 6.6% felt *very negative*.

Table 3.7: Feelings about the future

	National %	ACT %	NSW/ACT 2013 %	NSW/ACT 2012 %
Very positive	15.8	13.9	19.3	22.4
Positive	48.0	49.4	49.3	50.5
Neither positive nor negative	26.8	22.3	23.8	21.2
Negative	6.9	7.8	5.4	4.4
Very negative	2.5	6.6	2.3	1.7

Note: Data for 2013 and 2012 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from those years.

# New South Wales



## Profile of respondents

In total, 3,857 young people from New South Wales (NSW) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014*. Comparisons with NSW data in 2013 and 2012 reflect combined results from both NSW and the ACT. Due to the small number of responses received from the ACT in these years, NSW and the ACT were combined in the 2013 and 2012 reports.

### Gender breakdown

Over half (61.8%) of the respondents from NSW were female and 38.2% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 172 (4.5%) respondents from NSW identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 142 (3.7%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 20 (0.5%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.3% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (6.2% compared to 3.4%).

### Language background other than English

596 (15.7%) respondents from NSW stated that they were born overseas and 978 (26.1%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 60 languages spoken at home in NSW, the most common were (in order of frequency): Arabic, Filipino/Tagalog, Chinese, Vietnamese and Cantonese.

### Disability

A total of 167 (4.4%) respondents from NSW indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (5.7%) than females (3.6%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in NSW were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), autism and learning disability.

## Detailed results

### Education

As indicated in Table 4.1, 94.8% of respondents from NSW were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (96.4% compared with 92.2%), while a slightly higher proportion of males (4.0%) than females (2.2%) reported not studying at all.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in the 2013 and 2012 NSW/ACT results, the majority of respondents from NSW reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.3%) or *satisfied* (54.0%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.7% and 5.9% respectively). As shown in Table 4.2, males from NSW were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (12.5% and 51.9% of males compared with 15.5% and 55.1% of females respectively).

Table 4.1: Participation in education

	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.8	94.8	96.4	92.2
Studying part-time	2.7	2.3	1.4	3.8
Not studying	3.5	2.9	2.2	4.0

Table 4.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	NSW 2014 %	Female %	Male %	NSW/ACT 2013 %	NSW/ACT 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	14.3	15.5	12.5	15.6	16.1
Satisfied	55.9	54.0	55.1	51.9	56.1	53.3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	24.0	21.7	28.0	21.9	23.1
Dissatisfied	5.0	5.9	6.2	5.4	4.7	6.1
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.6	1.4

Note: Data for 2013 and 2012 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from those years.

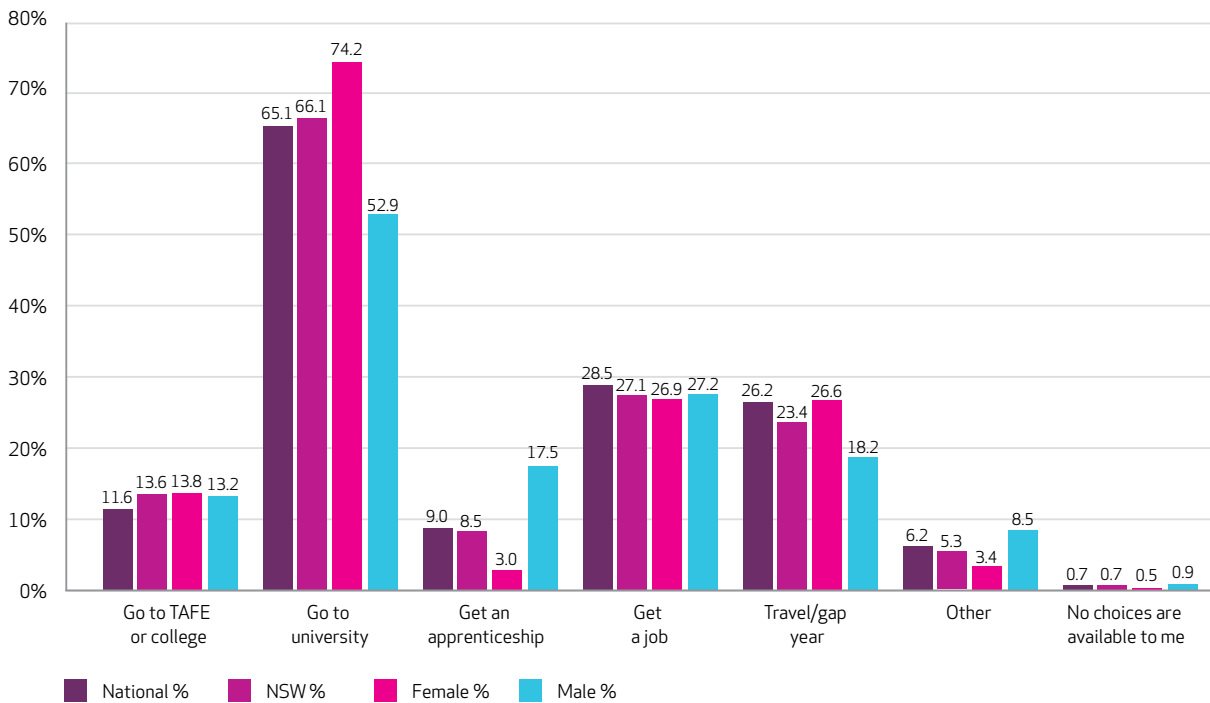
Of those who were still at school in NSW, 96.1% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were around three times as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.7% compared with 2.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 4.1 shows that almost two thirds of respondents from NSW planned to go to university after school (66.1%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (27.1%) and to travel or go on a gap year (23.4%) after school. Overall, 13.6% of young people from NSW planned to attend TAFE or college and 8.5% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (0.7%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

While going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both male and female respondents from NSW, females were far more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (74.2% compared with 52.9% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (26.6% compared with 18.2%). Males were much more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (17.5% compared with 3.0% of females).



Figure 4.1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 4.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst respondents from NSW. In line with the national data, only a tiny minority (1.0%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Around three in ten (30.9%) respondents from NSW reported part-time employment. Over two thirds of NSW respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 35.6% looking for work and 32.5% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from NSW reported full-time employment (1.1% compared with 0.9% respectively), while male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to be employed part-time (31.7% compared with 30.6%). Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (39.5% compared with 33.1%).

Table 4.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.1
Employed part-time	35.9	30.9	30.6	31.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.4	35.6	33.1	39.5
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.5	32.5	35.5	27.7

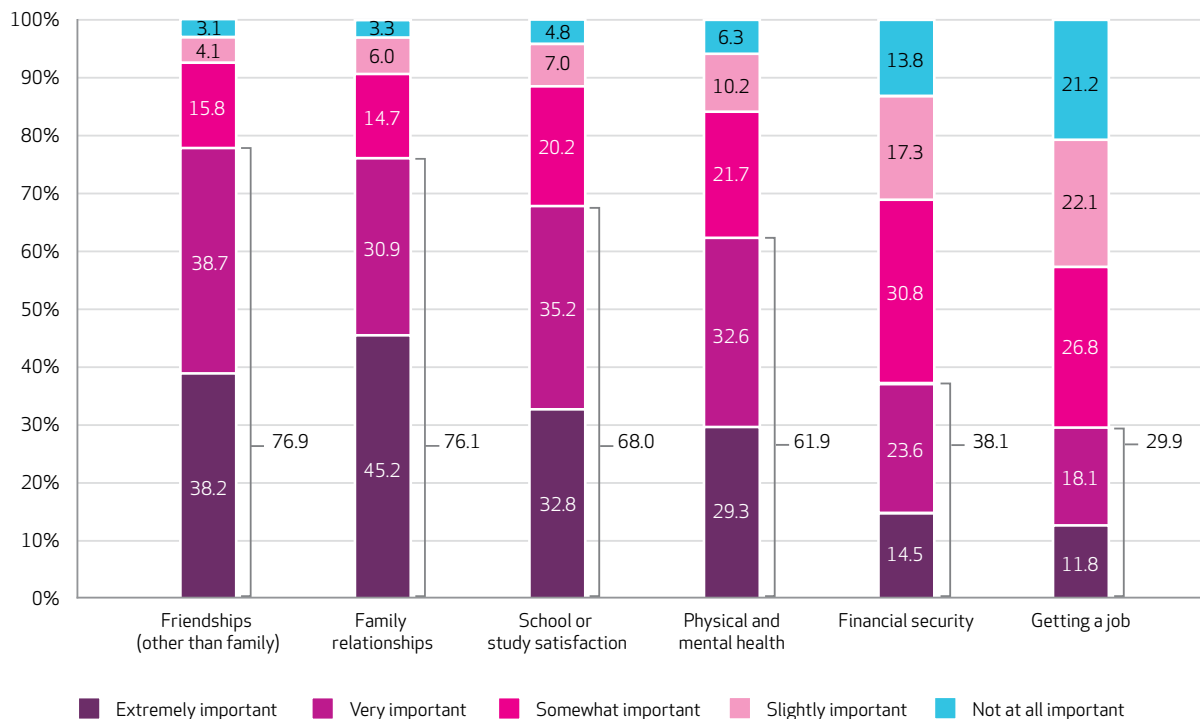
Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 4.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In line with both the national data and 2013 NSW/ACT findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from NSW this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for NSW respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 76.9% of respondents from NSW (*extremely important*: 38.2%; *very important*: 38.7%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 76.1% of respondents (*extremely important*: 45.2%; *very important*: 30.9%).
- Around two thirds of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 32.8%; *very important*: 35.2%) and around six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 29.3%; *very important*: 32.6%).
- Around four in ten NSW respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 14.5%; *very important*: 23.6%) and three in ten respondents highly valued *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 11.8%; *very important*: 18.1%).

Figure 4.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

*Friendships* was ranked as the most highly valued item by males in NSW, while *family relationships* was ranked as the most highly valued item by females, as shown in Table 4.4. The second and third most valued items for male respondents were *family relationships* and *physical and mental health*. For females, the second and third most valued items were *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and many of the other items, was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 79.0% of females (*extremely important*: 49.0%; *very important*: 30.0%) compared with 71.3% of males (*extremely important*: 38.9%; *very important*: 32.4%).
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 78.8% of females (*extremely important*: 40.4%; *very important*: 38.4%) compared with 74.2% of males (*extremely important*: 34.9%; *very important*: 39.3%).
- 74.5% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 38.3%; *very important*: 36.2%) compared with 57.7% of males (*extremely important*: 24.0%; *very important*: 33.7%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 63.9% of females (*extremely important*: 31.6%; *very important*: 32.3%) and 58.4% of males (*extremely important*: 25.4%; *very important*: 33.0%) in NSW.

Table 4.4: What young people value by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>38.4</b>	14.8	3.9	2.4
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>	13.1	5.4	2.5
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>36.2</b>	17.1	5.3	3.1
Physical and mental health	31.6	32.3	20.7	10.2	5.1
Financial security	14.5	25.0	30.5	17.1	13.0
Getting a job	10.9	17.2	26.5	22.6	22.8
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>39.3</b>	17.1	4.4	4.3
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>32.4</b>	17.1	7.0	4.6
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>33.7</b>	25.1	9.8	7.5
Physical and mental health	25.4	33.0	23.3	10.2	8.1
Financial security	14.4	21.2	31.6	17.8	15.0
Getting a job	13.3	19.8	27.0	21.5	18.4

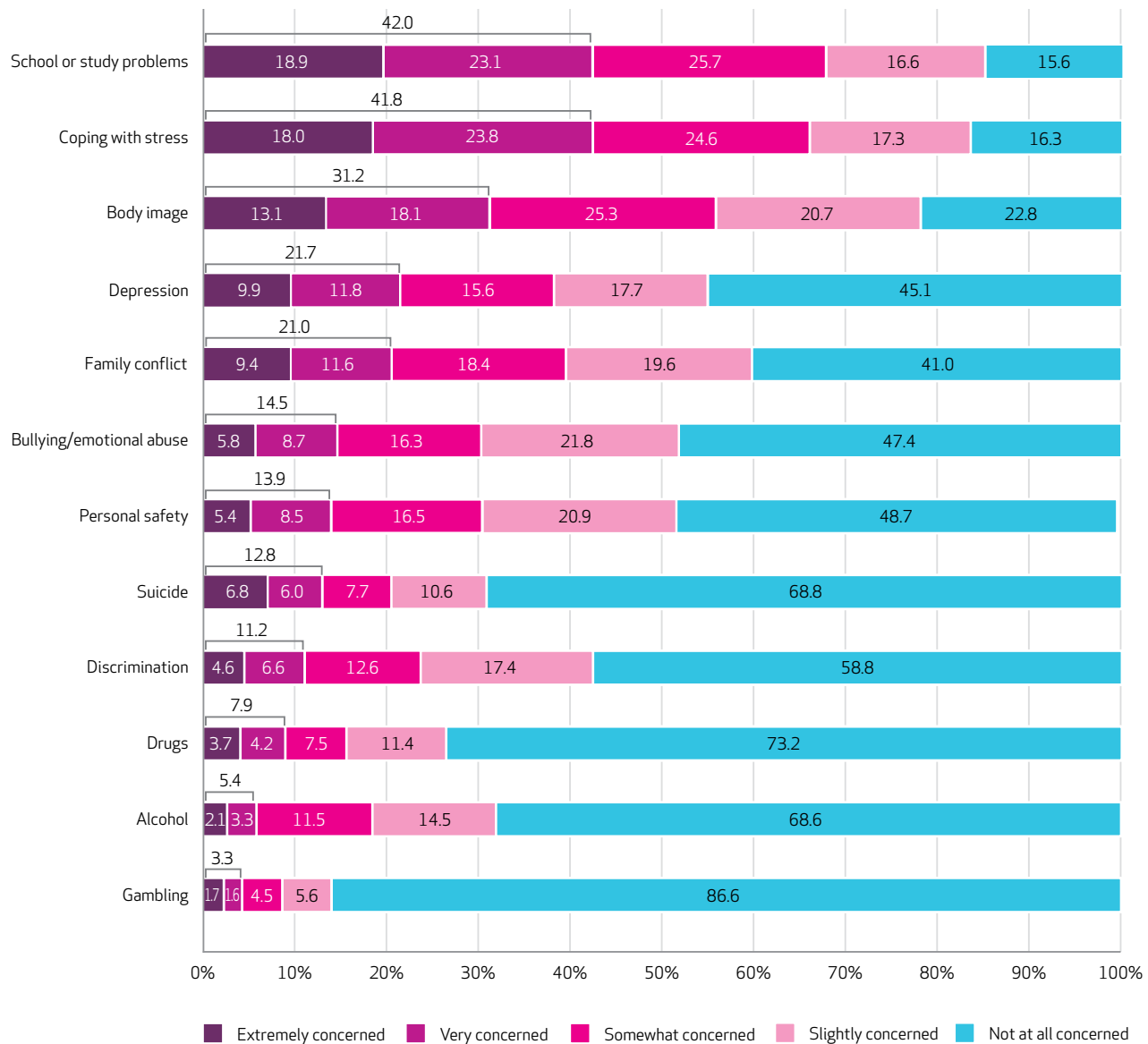
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 4.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from NSW were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level, although the order of the first two items was reversed.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern, with 42.0% of respondents from NSW indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (18.9%) or *very concerned* (23.1%) about this issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 41.8% (*extremely concerned*: 18.0%; *very concerned*: 23.8%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 31.2% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 13.1%; *very concerned*: 18.1%).
- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 4.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

## Gender differences

*School or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *body image* were the top three issues of concern for both males and females in NSW, as highlighted in Table 4.5. The order of the top two issues of concern differed, however, with males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. The proportion of females concerned about these three (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For over half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 23.6%; *very concerned*: 29.5%), compared with around one quarter of all males (*extremely concerned*: 8.9%; *very concerned*: 14.6%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 51.1% (*extremely concerned*: 23.4%; *very concerned*: 27.7%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 27.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 11.7%; *very concerned*: 15.7%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 41.6% (*extremely concerned*: 17.9%; *very concerned*: 23.7%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 14.3% (*extremely concerned*: 5.2%; *very concerned*: 9.1%) of males.
- For 26.3% of females (*extremely concerned*: 11.8%; *very concerned*: 14.5%) and 14.1% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.7%; *very concerned*: 7.4%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 4.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>27.7</b>	24.6	15.1	9.1
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>29.5</b>	25.5	13.3	8.1
<b>Body image</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>23.7</b>	26.8	19.1	12.5
Depression	11.8	14.5	16.9	19.0	37.8
Family conflict	11.4	13.6	20.2	20.6	34.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.2	10.5	19.3	22.8	41.2
Personal safety	5.1	10.7	18.8	22.2	43.3
Suicide	7.2	7.7	9.0	12.1	63.9
Discrimination	4.7	7.7	14.2	19.6	53.8
Drugs	3.1	4.8	7.8	12.7	71.7
Alcohol	1.7	4.1	12.6	16.2	65.4
Gambling	1.1	1.8	4.2	4.8	88.2
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>15.7</b>	27.5	19.1	26.0
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>14.6</b>	23.2	23.8	29.5
<b>Body image</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>9.1</b>	23.0	23.2	39.5
Depression	6.7	7.4	13.3	15.6	57.0
Family conflict	6.1	8.4	15.6	18.2	51.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.1	5.8	11.6	20.3	57.3
Personal safety	6.0	5.0	12.7	18.8	57.4
Suicide	6.0	3.1	5.7	8.3	76.8
Discrimination	4.5	4.7	9.9	14.0	66.8
Drugs	4.7	3.1	7.0	9.6	75.5
Alcohol	2.7	1.9	9.8	11.6	74.0
Gambling	2.9	1.2	5.0	7.0	84.0

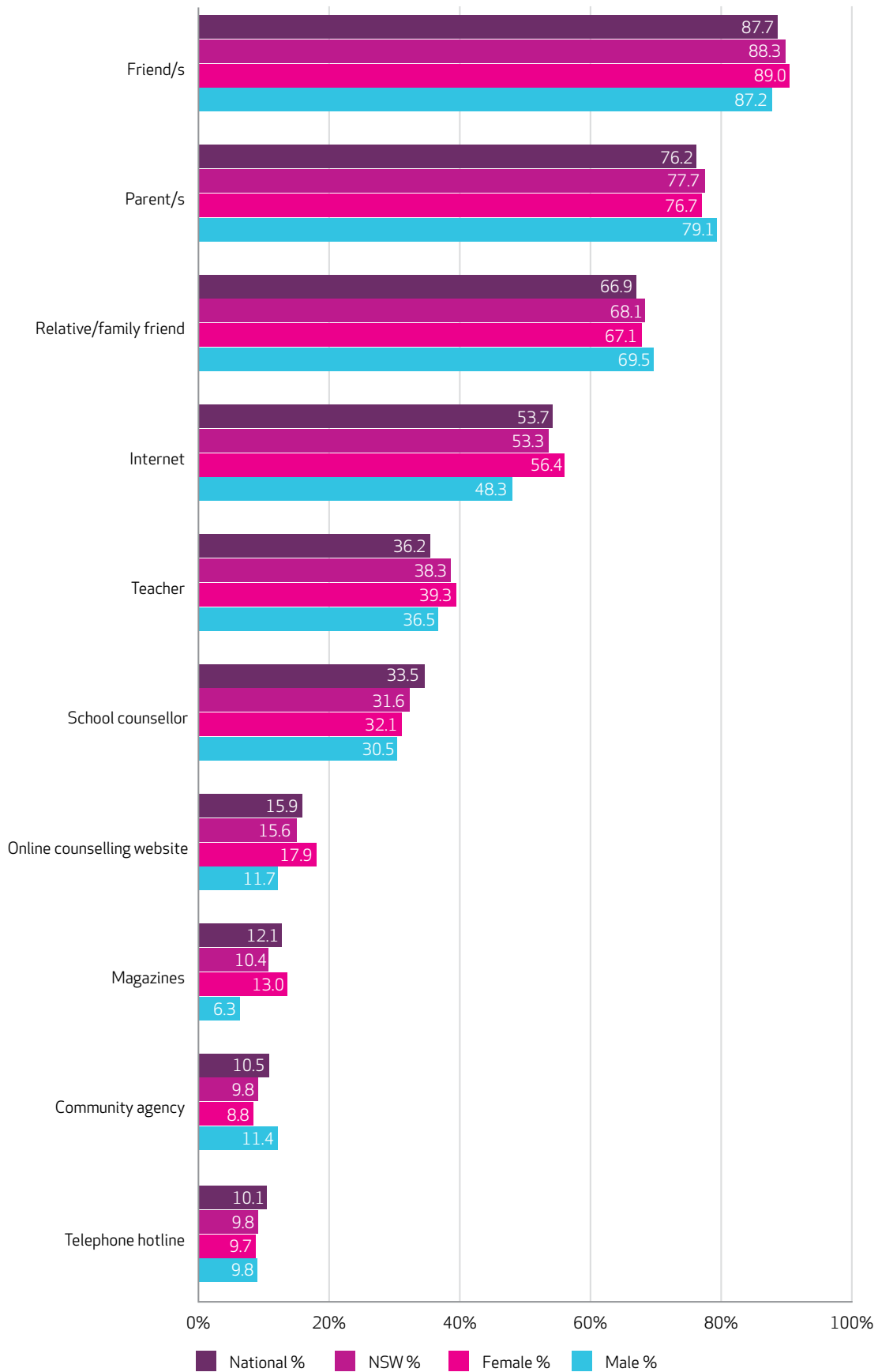
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 4.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for young people in NSW were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- *Friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (88.3%, 77.7% and 68.1% respectively).
- Over half of respondents from NSW indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around one third of respondents indicated that they would go to their *teacher or school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 4.4: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Gender differences

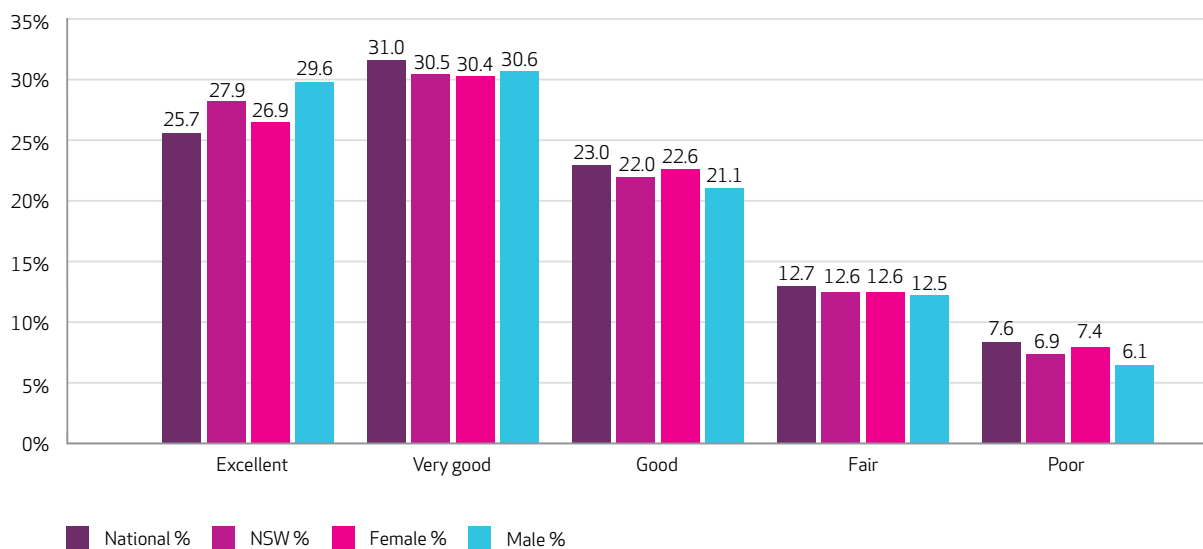
As shown in Figure 4.4, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with NSW and national results. However, a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues, while greater proportions of males would go to *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- Around nine in ten (89.0%) female respondents and 87.2% of male respondents in NSW indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to go to *parent/s* (79.1% compared with 76.7%) and *relatives/family friends* (69.5% compared with 67.1%) for help.
- Females from NSW were more likely than males to go to the *internet* (56.4% compared with 48.3%), *online counselling websites* (17.9% compared with 11.7%) and *magazines* (13.0% compared with 6.3%) for help with important issues in their lives.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 4.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from NSW rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 27.9% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 30.5% that it was *very good*. However, almost one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.6%) or *poor* (6.9%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 4.5: Family's ability to get along



## 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 4.6. In 2014 the top three issues identified by young people from NSW were *the economy and financial matters*, *politics and societal values* and *alcohol and drugs*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally, although the order of the top two issues was reversed.

- Around one quarter of young people from NSW identified *the economy and financial matters* (28.3%), *politics and societal values* (26.1%) and *alcohol and drugs* (22.4%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Compared to the past two years, identification of *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue has increased among respondents.
- Close to one in five respondents identified *equity and discrimination* (22.1%) and *mental health* (18.4%) as major issues.
- Since 2012, *mental health* and *politics and societal values* have been increasingly identified by young people as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *population issues* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

## Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from NSW. While *the economy and financial matters* was identified as one of the top three issues by both males and females, the other

issues that made up their top three differed. For females, *the economy and financial matters* was the number one issue, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *mental health*. For males the top issue this year was *politics and societal values*, followed by *the economy and financial matters* and then *alcohol and drugs*.

- Close to three in ten male and female respondents from NSW (29.5% and 27.5% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (34.8% compared with 21.0%) and *alcohol and drugs* (24.7% compared with 21.0%) as important national issues.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (23.3% compared with 20.2%) and *mental health* (22.2% compared with 12.1%) as important issues.

Table 4.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	NSW 2014 %	Female %	Male %	NSW/ACT 2013 %	NSW/ACT 2012 %
<b>The economy and financial matters</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>30.2</b>
<b>Politics and societal values</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>26.1</b>	21.0	<b>34.8</b>	<b>25.2</b>	19.1
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>22.4</b>	21.0	<b>24.7</b>	17.2	<b>21.1</b>
Equity and discrimination	21.3	22.1	<b>23.3</b>	20.2	<b>22.7</b>	21.0
Mental health	18.3	18.4	<b>22.2</b>	12.1	15.5	12.1
Education	15.8	16.3	17.3	14.8	16.7	11.9
Population issues	16.8	15.8	16.4	14.9	22.0	<b>26.5</b>
Bullying	14.5	15.2	17.3	11.8	11.0	11.4
The environment	12.3	12.6	13.6	10.9	15.3	17.2
Health	14.1	12.3	13.5	10.3	11.9	16.8
Employment	11.3	10.7	9.5	12.8	13.6	8.0
Crime, safety and violence	10.7	10.5	9.4	12.4	9.4	14.2
Homelessness/housing	7.5	8.5	10.1	5.7	7.8	10.1
Adolescence/youth	6.1	6.8	7.5	5.7	5.5	5.2
Body image	5.7	6.7	9.1	2.5	3.7	4.5
Poverty/disadvantage	4.7	5.6	6.3	4.4	4.8	5.3

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Data for 2013 and 2012 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from those years.

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 4.7. The top three activities for young people from NSW, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. These were also the top three activities for young people from NSW and the ACT in 2013 and 2012. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people from NSW in 2014.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (53.0%).
- Over four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (45.0%) and over one third had participated in *religious groups or activities* (37.8%) and *youth groups and clubs* (36.0%).
- Around one quarter of young people from NSW (23.6%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.



## Gender differences

As shown in Table 4.7 the top activity for both genders was consistent with NSW and national results, although a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*. The second top activity for females in NSW was *arts/cultural/music activities* followed by *sports (as a spectator)*, while the second top activity for males from NSW was *sports (as a spectator)* followed by *volunteer work*.

- 75.9% of male respondents and 72.0% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (73.9% compared with 60.9%).
- Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (61.8% compared with 38.5%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking higher up the list for male respondents, overall a greater proportion of female than male respondents from NSW were involved in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (60.8% and 51.1% compared with 50.1% and 34.9% respectively).

Table 4.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	NSW 2014 %	Female %	Male %	NSW/ACT 2013 %	NSW/ACT 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>79.9</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>72.9</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>56.8</b>	60.8	<b>50.1</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>62.8</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.0	53.0	<b>61.8</b>	38.5	53.7	50.3
Student leadership activities	41.9	45.0	51.1	34.9	44.8	49.0
Religious groups or activities	29.3	37.8	39.6	34.9	35.9	41.5
Youth groups and clubs	32.4	36.0	36.3	35.4	34.7	35.9
Environmental groups or activities	23.7	23.6	25.9	19.9	23.9	28.1
Political groups or organisations	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	7.3	9.1

Note: Data for 2013 and 2012 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from those years. Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

In 2014 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents from NSW (54.2%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 21.2%; *3-9 hours*: 33.0%). Around three in ten reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 21.2%; *20-29 hours*: 10.6%) and 13.9% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 5.0%; *40 hours or more*: 8.9%). Compared to the 2013 results from NSW/ACT, NSW respondents in 2014 reported spending more time on social networking sites in an average week. Overall, males tended to report spending less time on social networking sites in an average week than females.

Table 4.8: Time spent on social networking sites

	National %	NSW 2014 %	Female %	Male %	NSW/ACT 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.4	21.2	17.2	27.9	27.6
3 - 9 hours	32.0	33.0	33.7	31.8	31.4
10 - 19 hours	21.5	21.2	22.4	19.1	19.0
20 - 29 hours	11.9	10.6	12.1	8.3	10.3
30 - 39 hours	5.5	5.0	5.9	3.7	4.4
40 hours or more	8.7	8.9	8.7	9.2	7.5

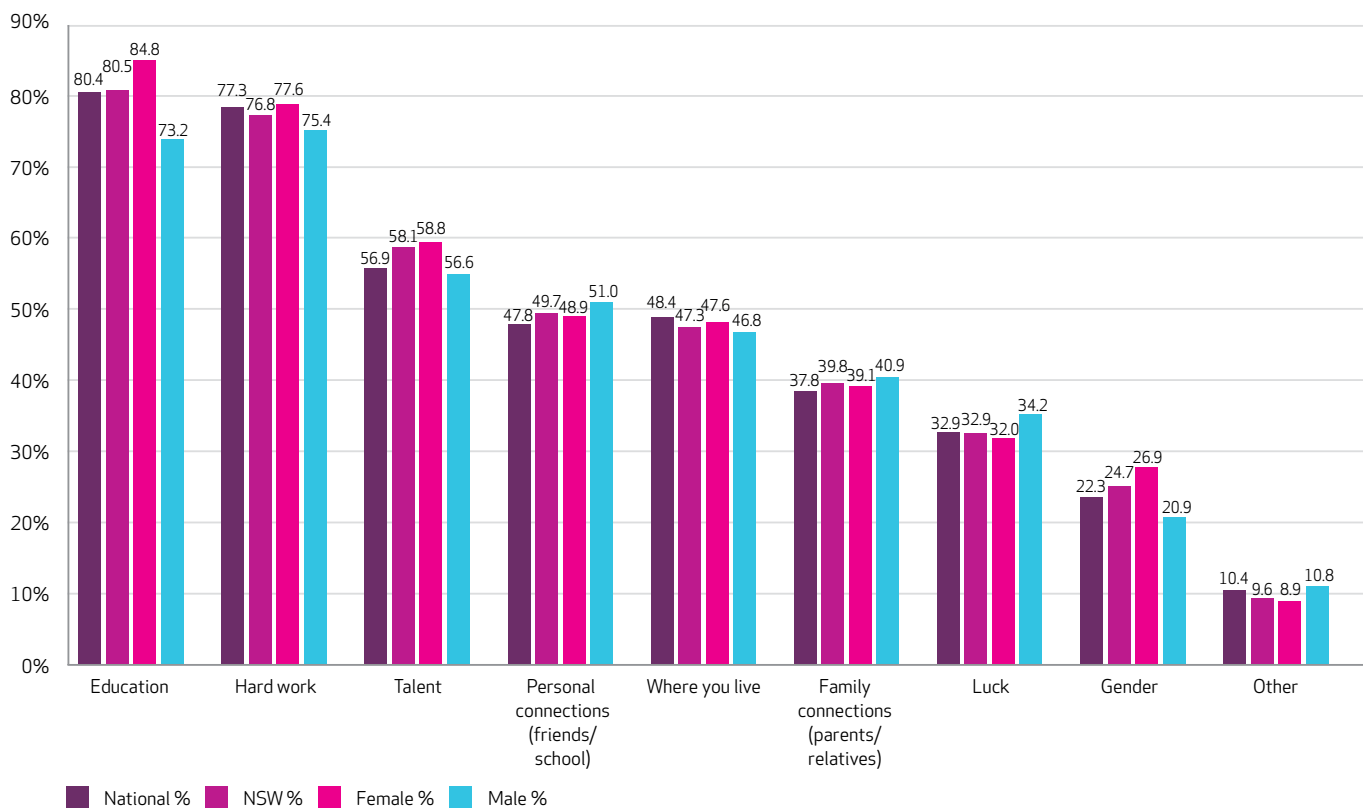
Note: Data for 2013 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from that year.

### What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 4.6. In NSW, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Around eight in ten respondents felt that *education* (80.5%) and *hard work* (76.8%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Almost six in ten respondents from NSW felt that *talent* (58.1%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Around half felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *personal connections (friends/school)* (49.7%) and *where you live* (47.3%).

Figure 4.6: Influences on career opportunities in the future



Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Gender differences

As shown in Figure 4.6, there were some differences in what male and female respondents from NSW felt would influence their career opportunities in the future.

- The two most commonly cited influences on future career opportunities among both males and females in NSW were *education* and *hard work*. The order of these items differed, however, with females indicating that they felt *education* was the top influence on their career opportunities in the future (84.8% compared with 73.2% for males), while among males the top influence was *hard work* (75.4% compared with 77.6% for females).
- The third most commonly cited influence on future career opportunities among both females and males was felt to be *talent* (58.8% and 56.6% respectively).
- Around one quarter of female respondents from NSW (26.9%) felt that *gender* would influence their career opportunities in the future, compared to 20.9% of male respondents.

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 4.7 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Achieving career success* and *being financially independent* were ranked as the two most important items in NSW. The next most important item among respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Achieving career success* was of high importance to 87.3% of NSW respondents (*extremely important*: 55.4%; *very important*: 31.9%). *Being financially independent* was also of high importance to 86.8% of respondents (*extremely important*: 52.7%; *very important*: 34.1%).
- Around three quarters of respondents placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 40.6%; *very important*: 32.6%) and *having your own family* (*extremely important*: 45.4%; *very important*: 25.4%).
- Over four in ten respondents from NSW indicated that *feeling part of your community* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 15.1%; *very important*: 28.6%).

Figure 4.7: Young people's aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

The two most important items for both males and females from NSW were *achieving career success* and *being financially independent*, as shown in Table 4.9. However, the proportion of female respondents placing high importance on these and all other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Achieving career success* was highly important to 89.0% of females (*extremely important*: 58.8%; *very important*: 30.2%) compared with 84.7% of males (*extremely important*: 49.9%; *very important*: 34.8%).
- *Being financially independent* was highly important to 89.3% of females (*extremely important*: 56.2%; *very important*: 33.1%) compared to 82.8% of males (*extremely important*: 47.1%; *very important*: 35.7%).
- 73.5% of females placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 40.9%; *very important*: 32.6%) compared with 73.1% of males (*extremely important*: 40.4%; *very important*: 32.7%).
- For 72.9% of females (*extremely important*: 47.1%; *very important*: 25.8%) and 67.7% of males in NSW (*extremely important*: 43.0%; *very important*: 24.7%) *having your own family* was of high importance.

Table 4.9: Young people's aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>30.2</b>	8.4	1.7	0.9
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>33.1</b>	7.5	2.3	0.9
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>32.6</b>	17.1	6.9	2.6
Having your own family	47.1	25.8	14.3	8.0	4.8
Feeling part of your community	17.1	29.9	32.6	14.4	5.9
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>34.8</b>	9.8	2.7	2.8
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>35.7</b>	12.3	2.5	2.5
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>32.7</b>	16.5	6.0	4.3
Having your own family	43.0	24.7	16.8	8.3	7.2
Feeling part of your community	11.9	26.4	32.7	16.9	12.2

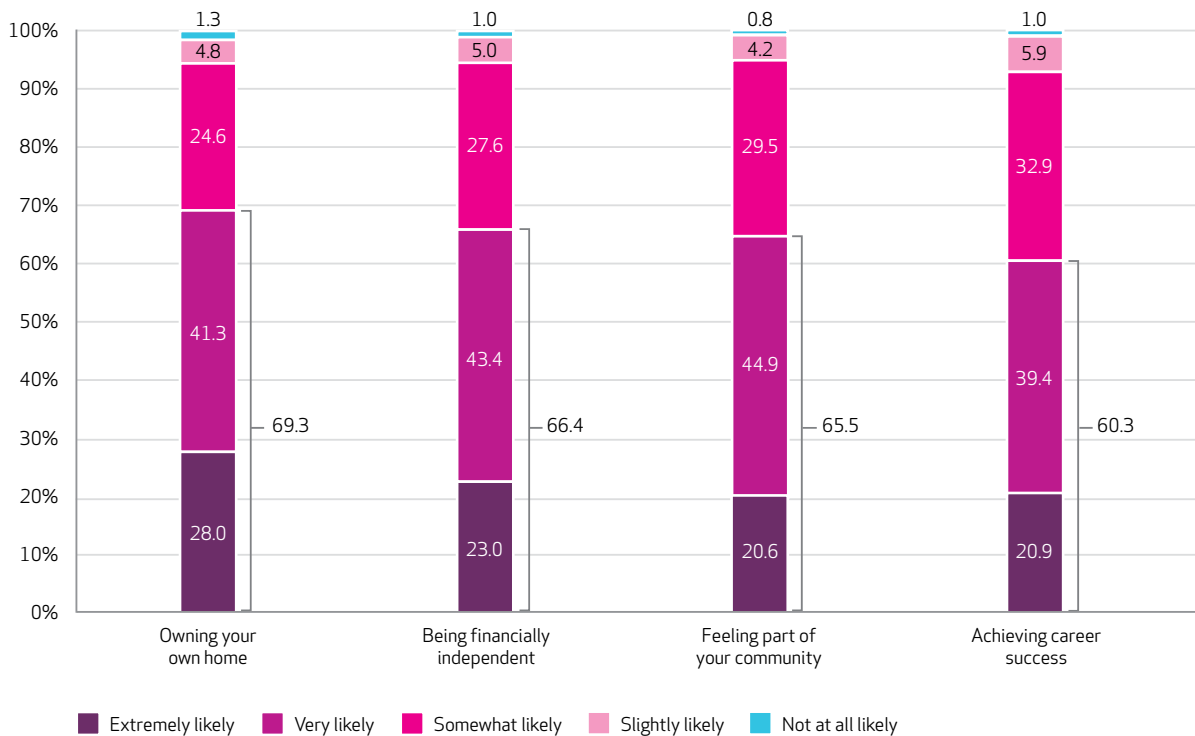
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 4.8 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item by respondents from NSW, followed by *being financially independent*, *feeling part of your community* and *achieving career success*.

- Around seven in ten respondents in NSW (69.3%) felt that *owning your own home* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 28.0%; *very likely*: 41.3%).
- Around two thirds of respondents felt that *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 23.0%; *very likely*: 43.4%) and *feeling part of your community* (*extremely likely*: 20.6%; *very likely*: 44.9%) were highly likely to be achievable.
- Six in ten respondents from NSW felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 20.9%; *very likely*: 39.4%).

Figure 4.8: Likelihood of achieving aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.

### Gender differences

Both males and females from NSW indicated that they felt *owning your own home* was the most achievable item, followed by *being financially independent*, *feeling part of your community* and *achieving career success*. For males, *being financially independent* and *feeling part of your community* were felt to be equally achievable. Overall, a greater proportion of male respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve each of the items than female respondents.

- *Owning your own home* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 72.3% of males (*extremely likely*: 30.8%; *very likely*: 41.5%) compared with 67.5% of females in NSW (*extremely likely*: 26.4%; *very likely*: 41.1%).
- 70.0% of males felt that *being financially independent* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 26.0%; *very likely*: 44.0%) compared with 64.3% of females (*extremely likely*: 21.4%; *very likely*: 42.9%).
- *Feeling part of your community* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 70.0% of males (*extremely likely*: 22.9%; *very likely*: 47.1%) compared with 63.1% of females (*extremely likely*: 19.5%; *very likely*: 43.6%).
- Almost two thirds of males from NSW felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 23.7%; *very likely*: 40.5%) while over half of all females (*extremely likely*: 19.2%; *very likely*: 38.6%) felt that this was highly likely to be achievable.

Table 4.10: Likelihood of achieving aspirations by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely likely %</b>	<b>Very likely %</b>	<b>Somewhat likely %</b>	<b>Slightly likely %</b>	<b>Not at all likely %</b>
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>41.1</b>	26.0	5.2	1.3
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>42.9</b>	29.6	5.1	1.0
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>43.6</b>	31.3	4.8	0.7
Achieving career success	19.2	38.6	34.8	6.5	1.0
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely likely %</b>	<b>Very likely %</b>	<b>Somewhat likely %</b>	<b>Slightly likely %</b>	<b>Not at all likely %</b>
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>41.5</b>	22.2	4.1	1.3
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	24.0	5.0	1.0
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>47.1</b>	26.1	3.0	0.9
Achieving career success	23.7	40.5	29.9	4.9	0.9

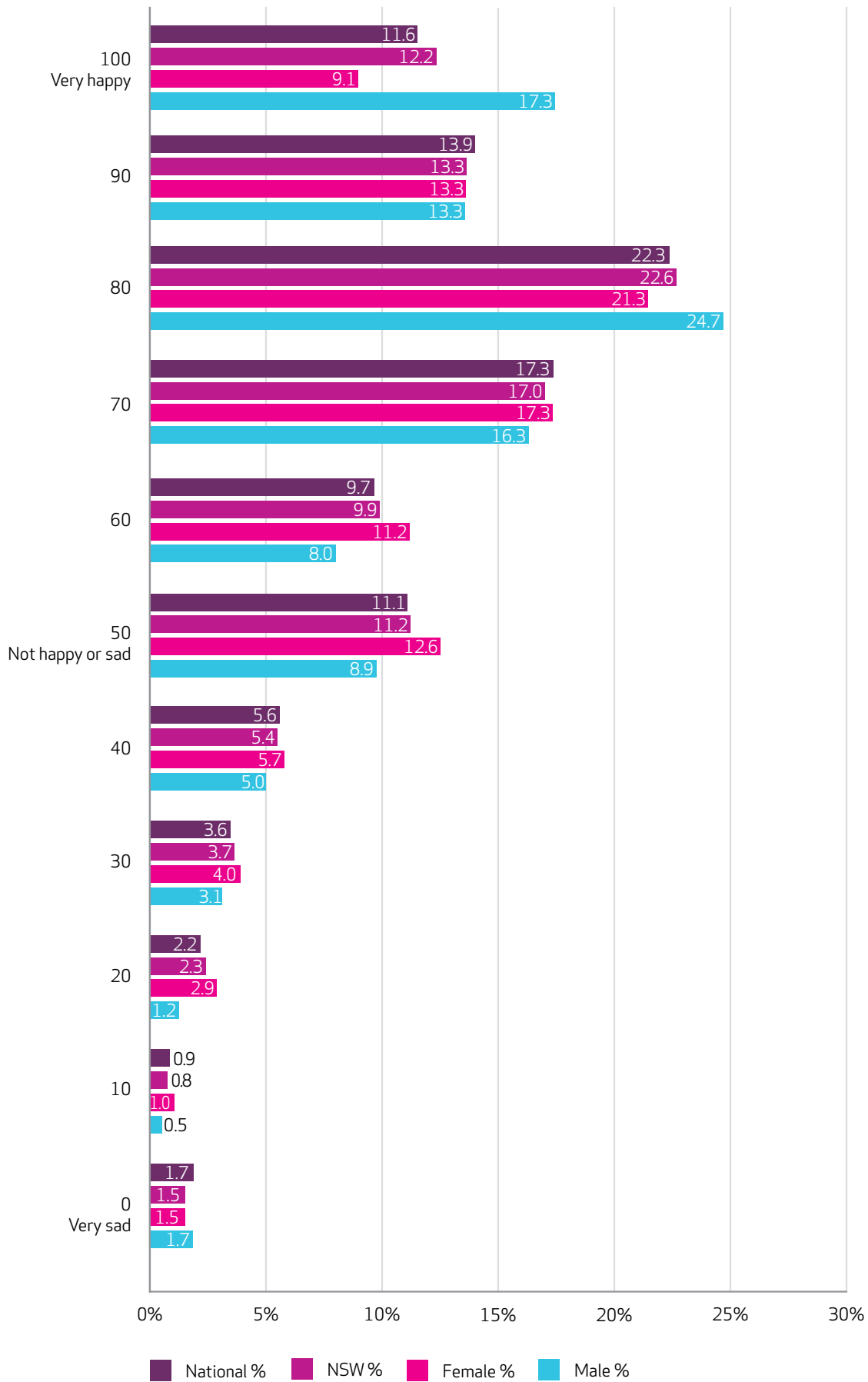
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 4.9 shows, the majority of young people from NSW (65.1%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (17.3% compared with 9.1%).

<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

Figure 4.9: How happy young people are



## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 4.11 shows that compared to the 2013 and 2012 NSW/ACT results there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of NSW respondents feeling *very positive* or *positive* about the future and a slight increase in those feeling *neither positive nor negative* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people from NSW felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Just under two thirds of respondents from NSW felt either *positive* (47.3%) or *very positive* (15.6%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (28.0%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 6.7% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.4% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from NSW were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (19.4% compared with 13.3%).

Table 4.11: Feelings about the future

	National %	NSW 2014 %	Female %	Male %	NSW/ACT 2013 %	NSW/ACT 2012 %
Very positive	15.8	15.6	13.3	19.4	19.3	22.4
Positive	48.0	47.3	47.0	47.9	49.3	50.5
Neither positive nor negative	26.8	28.0	29.8	24.8	23.8	21.2
Negative	6.9	6.7	7.3	5.6	5.4	4.4
Very negative	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	1.7

Note: Data for 2013 and 2012 was based on combined NSW and ACT results from those years.



# Northern Territory



## Profile of respondents

In total, 167 young people from the Northern Territory (NT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014*. Due to the small number of NT respondents, Mission Australia is unable to provide breakdowns of the data by gender, as in other chapters. Instead, data is presented only at a Territory-wide level.

### Gender breakdown

Over half (60.2%) of the respondents from the NT were female and 39.8% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 73 (43.7%) respondents from the NT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 56 (33.5%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 4 (2.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 7.8% identified as both).

### Language background other than English

38 (22.9%) respondents from the NT stated that they were born overseas and 48 (30.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Among NT respondents who spoke a language other than English at home, 25.6% spoke Indigenous languages.

### Disability

A total of 8 (5.1%) respondents from the NT indicated that they had a disability.

## Detailed results

### Education

As indicated in Table 5.1, 70.8% of respondents from the NT were studying full-time.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. Just under two thirds of respondents from the NT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (18.8%) or *satisfied* (45.3%) with their studies. Around one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.3% and 7.8% respectively). Compared to 2013 and 2012 results, NT respondents indicated a greater level of satisfaction with their studies overall this year.

Table 5.1: Participation in education

	National %	NT %
Studying full-time	93.8	70.8
Studying part-time	2.7	9.9
Not studying	3.5	19.3

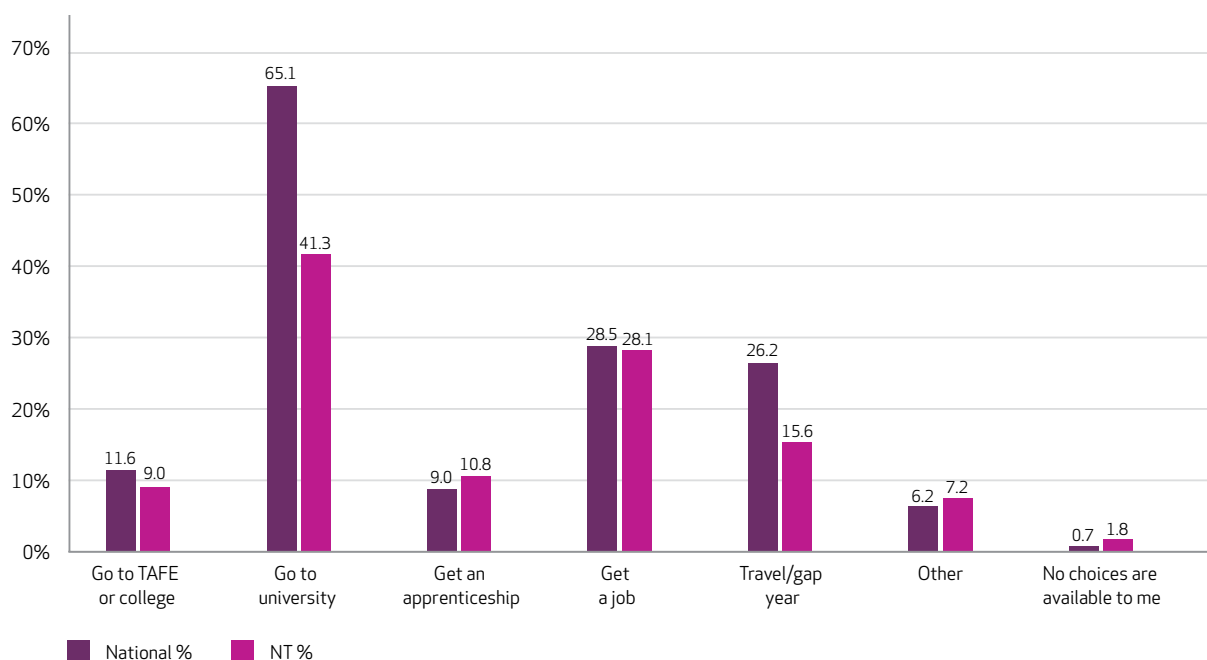
Table 5.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	NT 2014 %	NT 2013 %	NT 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	18.8	13.6	7.6
Satisfied	55.9	45.3	42.0	47.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	25.8	27.3	30.6
Dissatisfied	5.0	7.8	9.1	8.9
Very dissatisfied	1.5	2.3	8.0	5.1

Of those who were still at school in the NT, 90.3% stated that they intended to complete Year 12.

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 5.1 shows that around four in ten respondents from the NT planned to go to university after school (41.3%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (28.1%) and to travel or go on a gap year (15.6%) after school. Overall, 10.8% of young people from the NT planned to undertake an apprenticeship and 9.0% reported plans to attend TAFE or college. A small minority of respondents (1.8%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

Figure 5.1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 5.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst respondents from the NT. Although higher than the national percentage, only a minority (8.7%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. Given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education, however, this is not surprising. Around one in three (30.2%) respondents from the NT reported part-time employment. Over six in ten NT respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 43.0% looking for work and 18.1% not looking for work.

Table 5.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NT %
Employed full-time	1.2	8.7
Employed part-time	35.9	30.2
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.4	43.0
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.5	18.1

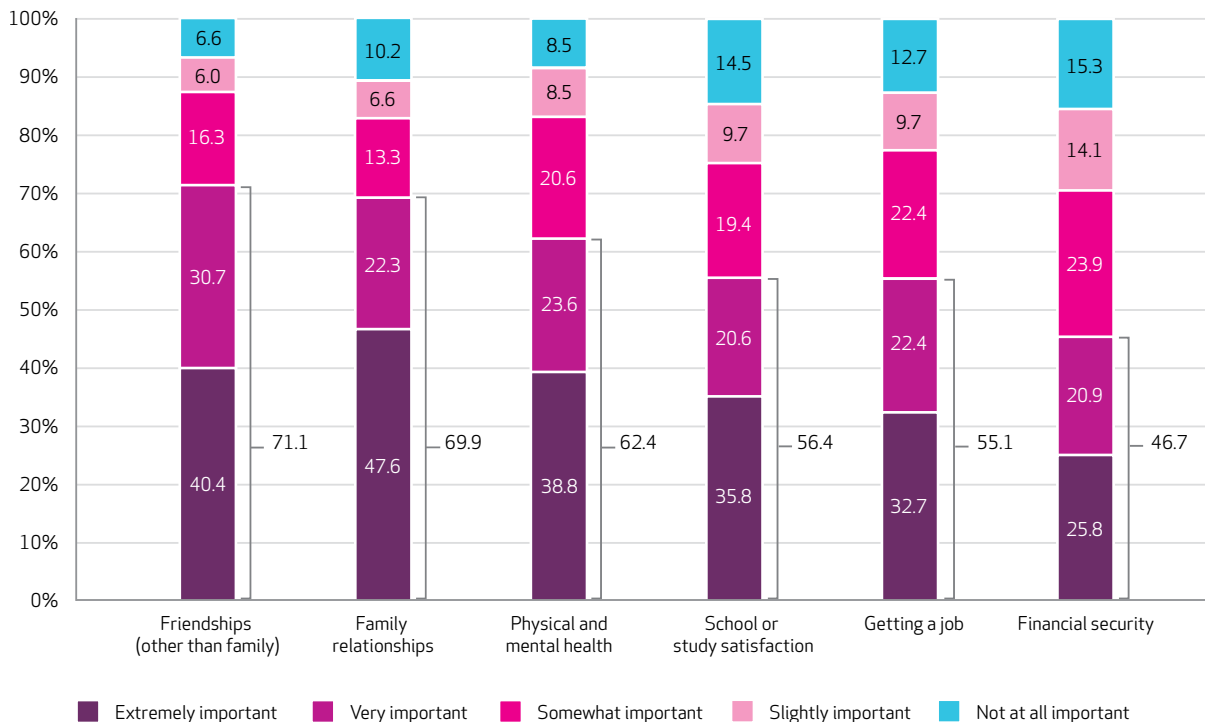
Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 5.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In line with both the national data and 2013 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from the NT this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for NT respondents was *physical and mental health*, followed by *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 71.1% of respondents from the NT (*extremely important*: 40.4%; *very important*: 30.7%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 69.9% of respondents (*extremely important*: 47.6%; *very important*: 22.3%).
- Around six in ten respondents highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 38.8%; *very important*: 23.6%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 35.8%; *very important*: 20.6%).
- Around half of all NT respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 32.7%; *very important*: 22.4%) and *financial security* (*extremely important*: 25.8%; *very important*: 20.9%).

Figure 5.2: What young people value



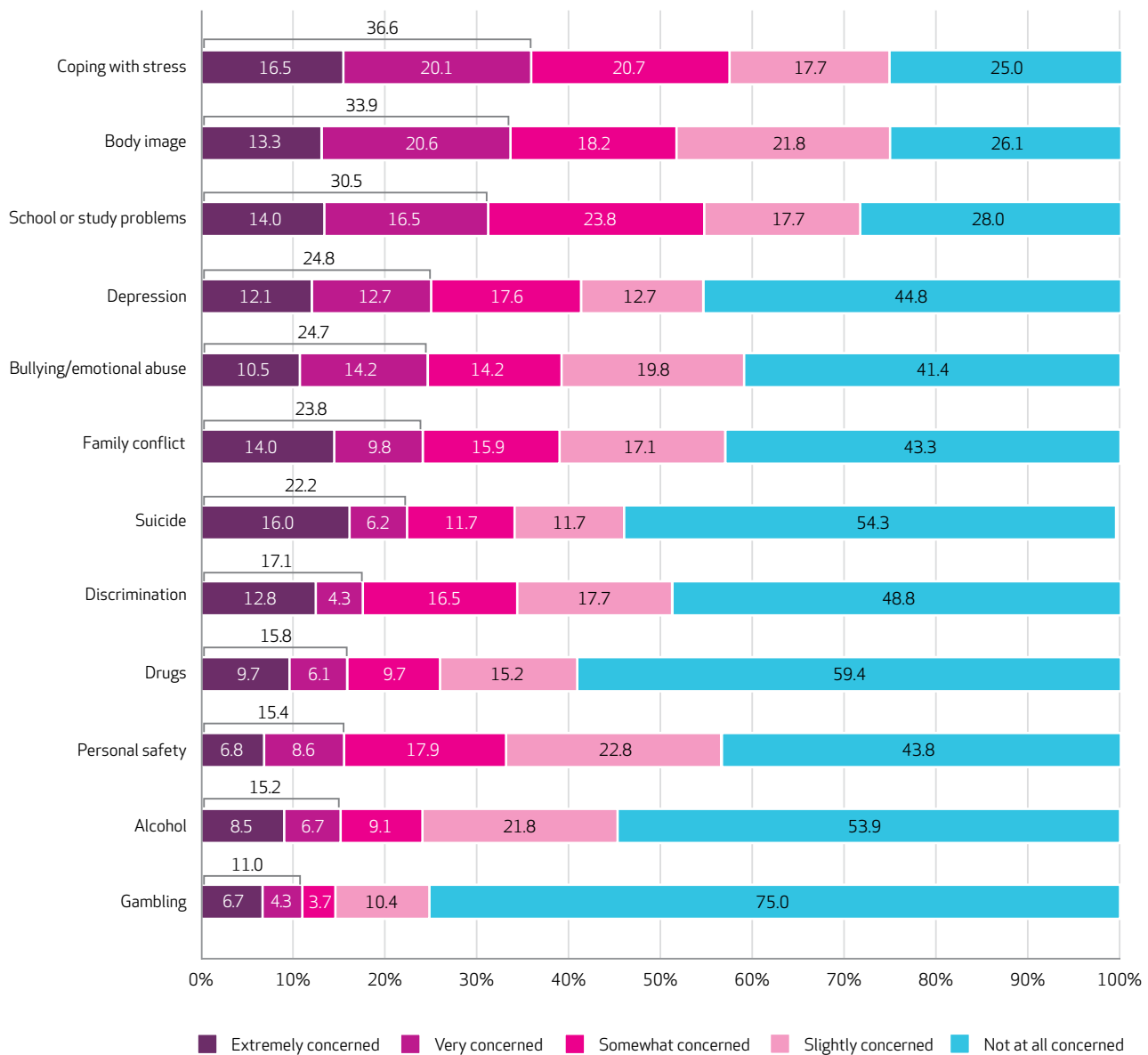
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 5.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from the NT were *coping with stress*, *body image* and *school or study problems*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level, although the order of the second and third items was reversed.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 36.6% of respondents from the NT indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (16.5%) or *very concerned* (20.1%) about this issue.
- *Body image* was a major concern for 33.9% (*extremely concerned*: 13.3%; *very concerned*: 20.6%) of young people.
- *School or study problems* was also an important issue of concern for 30.5% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 14.0%; *very concerned*: 16.5%).
- Around one quarter of respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *family conflict*.

Figure 5.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



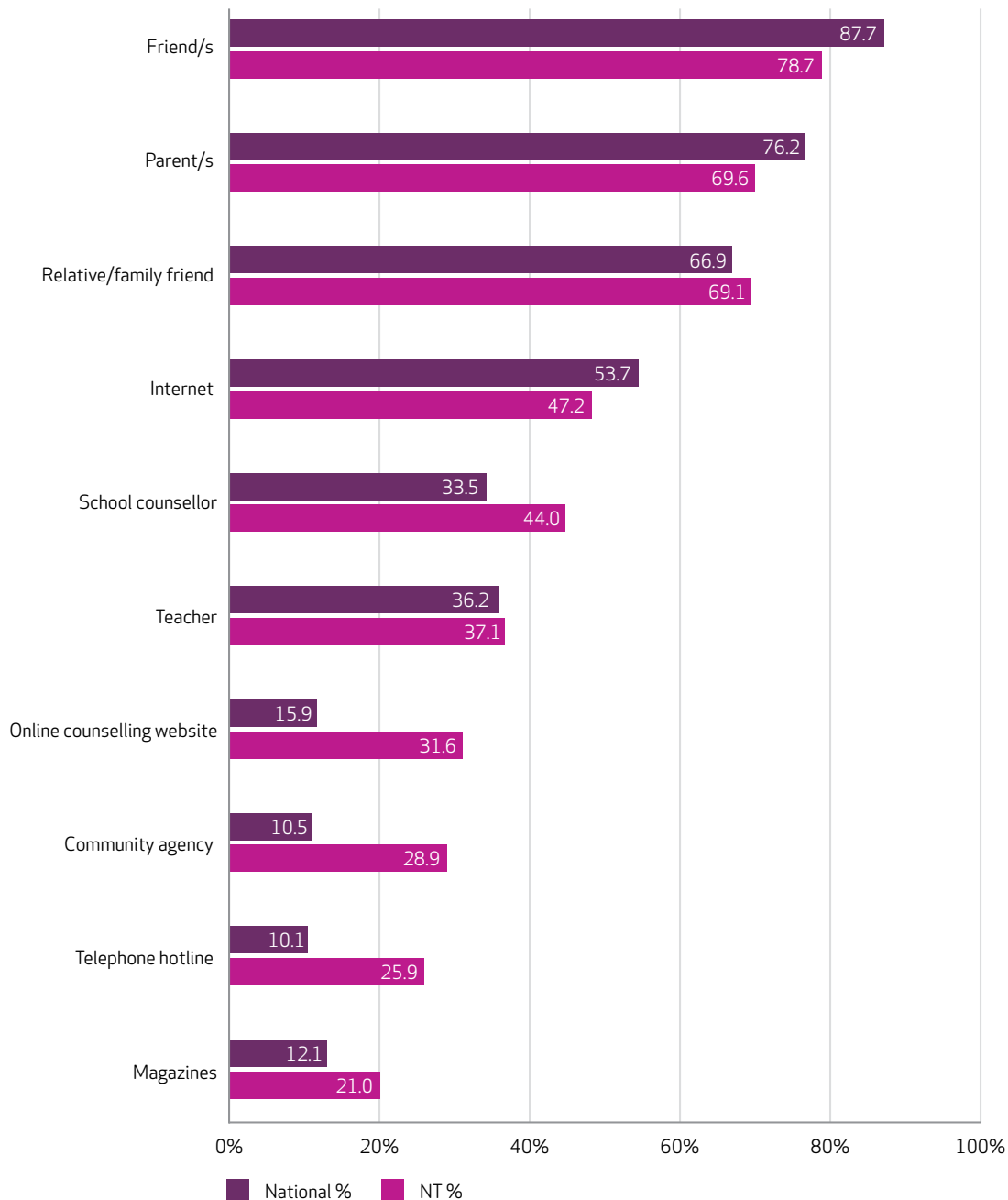
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 5.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for young people in the NT were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- *Friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (78.7%, 69.6% and 69.1% respectively).
- Just under half of respondents from the NT indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around four in ten respondents indicated that they would go to their *school counsellor* or *teacher* for help with important issues.

Figure 5.4: Where young people go for help with important issues

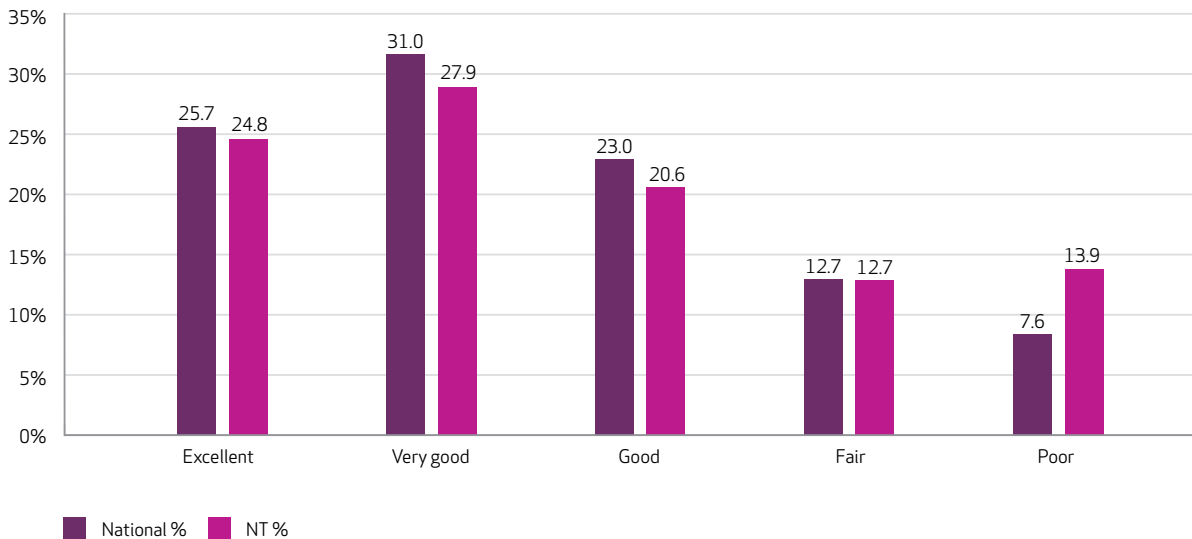


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 5.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from the NT rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 24.8% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 27.9% that it was *very good*. However, over one quarter of young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.7%) or *poor* (13.9%).

Figure 5.5: Family's ability to get along



## 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 5.4. In 2014 the top three issues identified by young people from the NT were *alcohol and drugs*, *mental health* and *education*.

- Over one third of young people from the NT identified *alcohol and drugs* (37.6%) as an important issue in Australia today.
- Around one quarter of respondents identified *mental health* (24.2%) and just over one in five identified *education* (21.5%) as major issues.
- Since 2012, *mental health*, *education*, *employment* and *bullying* have been increasingly identified by young people from the NT as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *the environment*, *crime*, *safety and violence* and *health* have declined over this period.

Table 5.4: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	NT 2014 %	NT 2013 %	NT 2012 %
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>39.6</b>
<b>Mental health</b>	18.3	<b>24.2</b>	<b>22.9</b>	13.4
<b>Education</b>	15.8	<b>21.5</b>	16.7	6.0
Politics and societal values	<b>28.0</b>	16.8	21.9	<b>20.1</b>
Employment	11.3	15.4	12.5	5.4
Homelessness/housing	7.5	15.4	5.2	9.4
Equity and discrimination	21.3	14.1	11.5	14.8
The economy and financial matters	<b>27.1</b>	12.1	21.9	<b>20.1</b>
Population issues	16.8	12.1	<b>22.9</b>	<b>22.8</b>
Relationships	2.9	12.1	2.1	2.0
Bullying	14.5	10.7	9.4	8.1
The environment	12.3	10.1	11.5	13.4
Adolescence/youth	6.1	8.7	3.1	8.7
Crime, safety and violence	10.7	8.7	9.4	18.8
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues	1.2	6.0	12.5	4.7
Health	14.1	5.4	11.5	17.4

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 5.5. The top two activities for young people from the NT, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top two activities for young people from the NT in 2013 and 2012. The third most popular activity for NT respondents this year was *youth groups and clubs*. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator) and youth groups and clubs* were the three most popular activities for young people from the NT in 2014.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work* (52.3%).
- Around half of all young people reported participation in *arts/cultural/music activities* (51.0%) and *student leadership activities* (45.2%), and over one third had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (34.5%).
- Around one quarter of NT respondents had participated in *religious groups or activities* (24.1%) and *political groups or organisations* (23.7%) over the past year.

Table 5.5: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	NT 2014 %	NT 2013 %	NT 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>77.2</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>65.6</b>
<b>Youth groups and clubs</b>	32.4	<b>53.1</b>	42.2	<b>57.7</b>
Volunteer work	<b>53.4</b>	52.3	54.9	55.9
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.0	51.0	<b>59.0</b>	52.4
Student leadership activities	41.9	45.2	52.4	41.0
Environmental groups or activities	23.7	34.5	32.7	27.0
Religious groups or activities	29.3	24.1	31.3	54.8
Political groups or organisations	8.5	23.7	16.8	10.7

Note: Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

### How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

In 2014 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents from the NT (53.1%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 23.8%; *3-9 hours*: 29.3%). Around one quarter reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 16.5%; *20-29 hours*: 9.1%) and 21.3% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 7.9%; *40 hours or more*: 13.4%). Compared to the 2013 results, NT responses in 2014 were more in line with the national results.

Table 5.6: Time spent on social networking sites

	National %	NT 2014 %	NT 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.4	23.8	21.9
3 - 9 hours	32.0	29.3	27.6
10 - 19 hours	21.5	16.5	10.5
20 - 29 hours	11.9	9.1	12.4
30 - 39 hours	5.5	7.9	3.8
40 hours or more	8.7	13.4	23.8

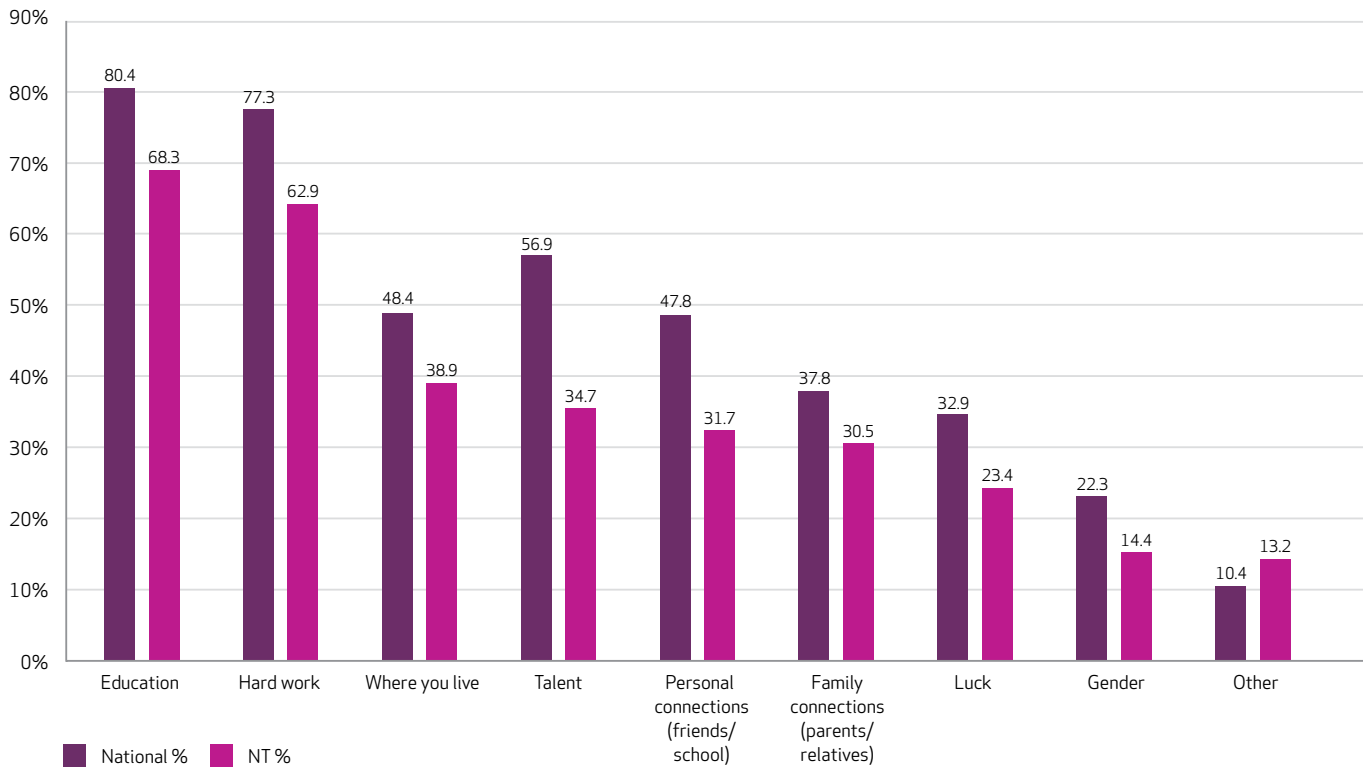


## What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 5.6. In the NT, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Around two thirds of respondents felt that *education* (68.3%) and *hard work* (62.9%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Almost four in ten respondents from the NT felt that *where you live* (38.9%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Over three in ten felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *talent* (34.7%), *personal connections (friends/school)* (31.7%) and *family connections (parents/relatives)* (30.5%).

Figure 5.6: Influences on career opportunities in the future



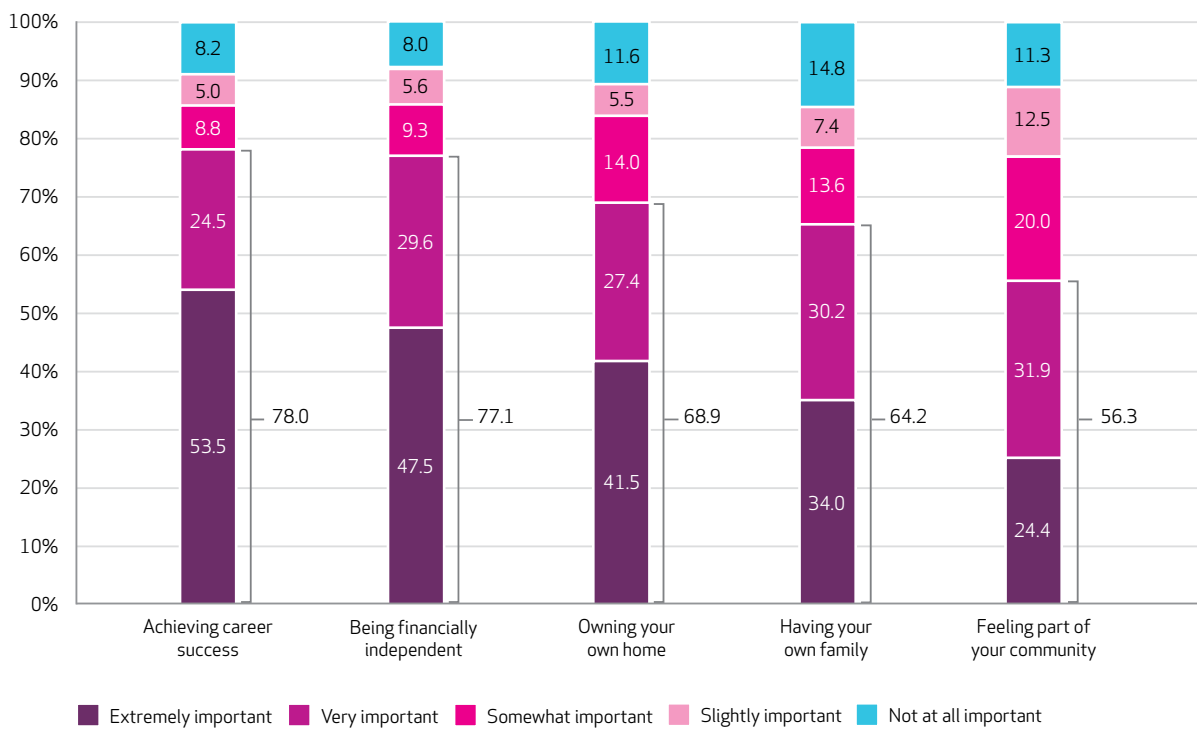
Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 5.7 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Achieving career success* and *being financially independent* were ranked as the two most important items in the NT. The next most important item among respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Achieving career success* was of high importance to 78.0% of NT respondents (*extremely important*: 53.5%; *very important*: 24.5%). *Being financially independent* was also of high importance to 77.1% of respondents (*extremely important*: 47.5%; *very important*: 29.6%).
- Around two thirds of respondents placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 41.5%; *very important*: 27.4%) and *having your own family* (*extremely important*: 34.0%; *very important*: 30.2%).
- Over half of all respondents from the NT indicated that *feeling part of your community* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 24.4%; *very important*: 31.9%).

Figure 5.7: Young people's aspirations



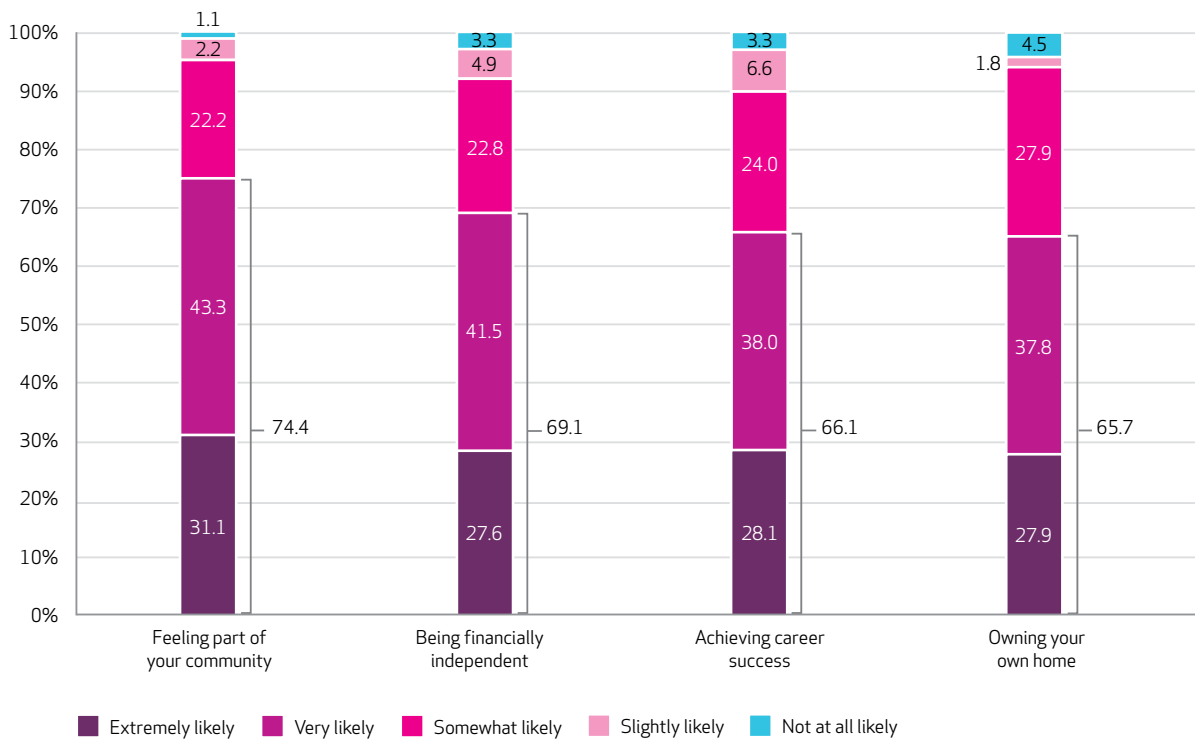
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 5.8 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Feeling part of your community* was felt to be the most achievable item by respondents from the NT, followed by *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *owning your own home*.

- Just under three quarters of respondents in the NT (74.4%) felt that *feeling part of your community* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 31.1%; *very likely*: 43.3%).
- Around two thirds of respondents felt that *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 27.6%; *very likely*: 41.5%), *achieving career success* (*extremely likely*: 28.1%; *very likely*: 38.0%) and *owning your own home* (*extremely likely*: 27.9%; *very likely*: 37.8%) were highly likely to be achievable.

Figure 5.8: Likelihood of achieving aspirations

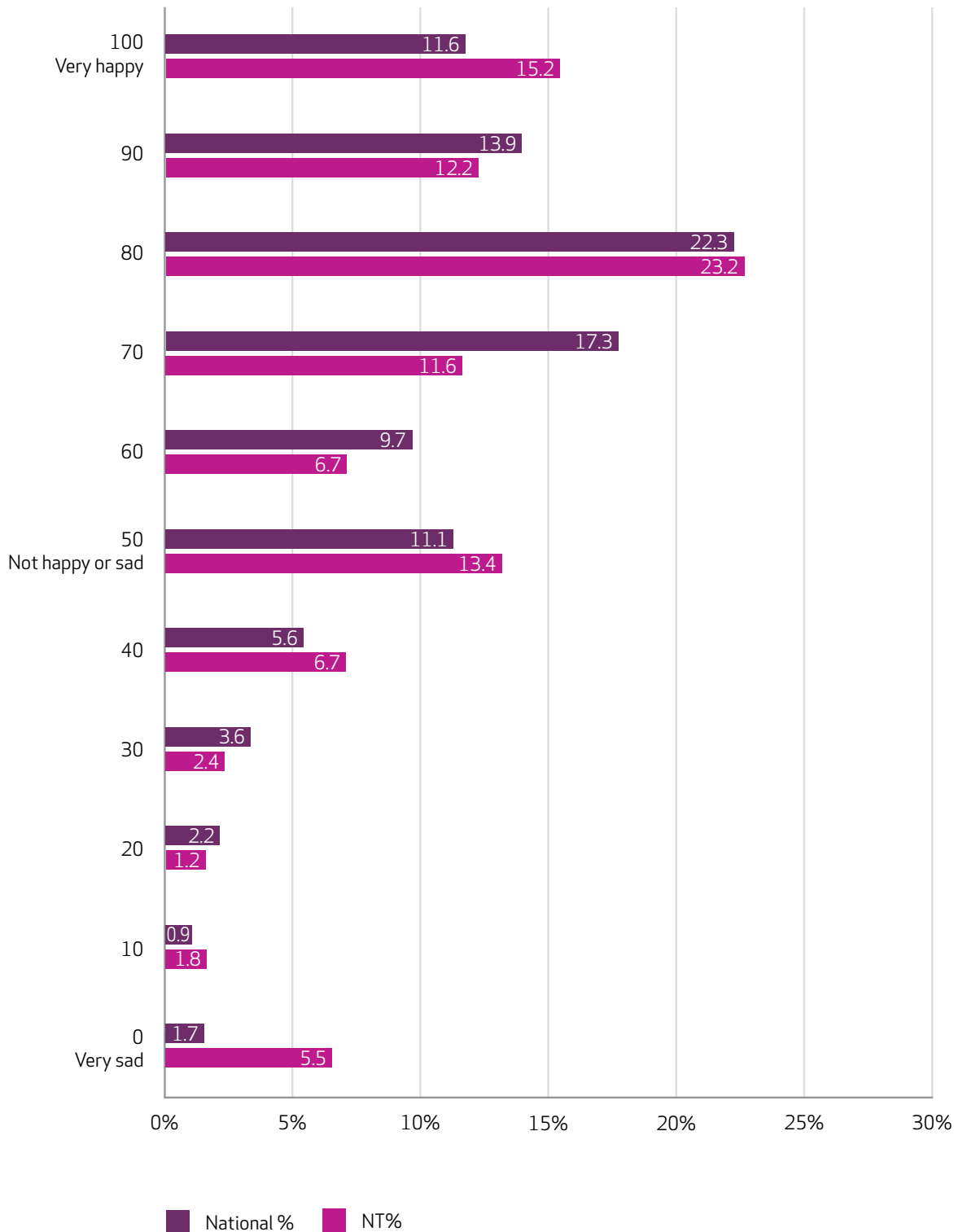


Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 5.9 shows, the majority of young people from the NT (62.2%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results.

Figure 5.9: How happy young people are



<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition

## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 5.7 shows that compared to 2013 and 2012 there has been a slight decrease in those feeling *very positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in five respondents from the NT felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future (compared to less than one in ten at the national level).

- Just under six in ten respondents from the NT felt either *positive* (43.0%) or *very positive* (15.8%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (24.2%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 9.7% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 7.3% felt *very negative*.

Table 5.7: Feelings about the future

	National %	NT 2014 %	NT 2013 %	NT 2012 %
Very positive	15.8	15.8	22.4	23.2
Positive	48.0	43.0	40.2	42.7
Neither positive nor negative	26.8	24.2	18.7	19.5
Negative	6.9	9.7	2.8	7.0
Very negative	2.5	7.3	15.9	7.6

# Queensland



## Profile of respondents

In total, 2,768 young people from Queensland (QLD) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014*.

### Gender breakdown

Over half (60.7%) of the respondents from Queensland were female and 39.3% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 147 (5.4%) respondents from Queensland identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 117 (4.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 16 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.5% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (6.2% compared with 4.8%).

### Language background other than English

313 (11.5%) respondents from Queensland stated that they were born overseas and 274 (10.1%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 40 languages spoken at home in Queensland, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Cantonese, Afrikaans, German and Mandarin.

### Disability

A total of 91 (3.4%) respondents from Queensland indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (4.6%) than females (2.6%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in Queensland were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disability and mental illness or psychiatric disability.

## Detailed results

### Education

As indicated in Table 6.1, 94.4% of respondents from Queensland were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (95.7% compared with 92.4%), while slightly more males (3.6%) than females (2.8%) were not studying at all.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in 2013 and 2012, the majority of respondents from Queensland reported that they were either *very satisfied* (16.9%) or *satisfied* (59.7%) with their studies. Less than one in twenty were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (0.8% and 3.4% respectively). As shown in Table 6.2, males from Queensland were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (15.7% and 56.5% of males compared with 17.8% and 61.6% of females respectively).

Table 6.1: Participation in education

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.8	94.4	95.7	92.4
Studying part-time	2.7	2.5	1.6	4.0
Not studying	3.5	3.1	2.8	3.6

Table 6.2: Satisfaction with studies

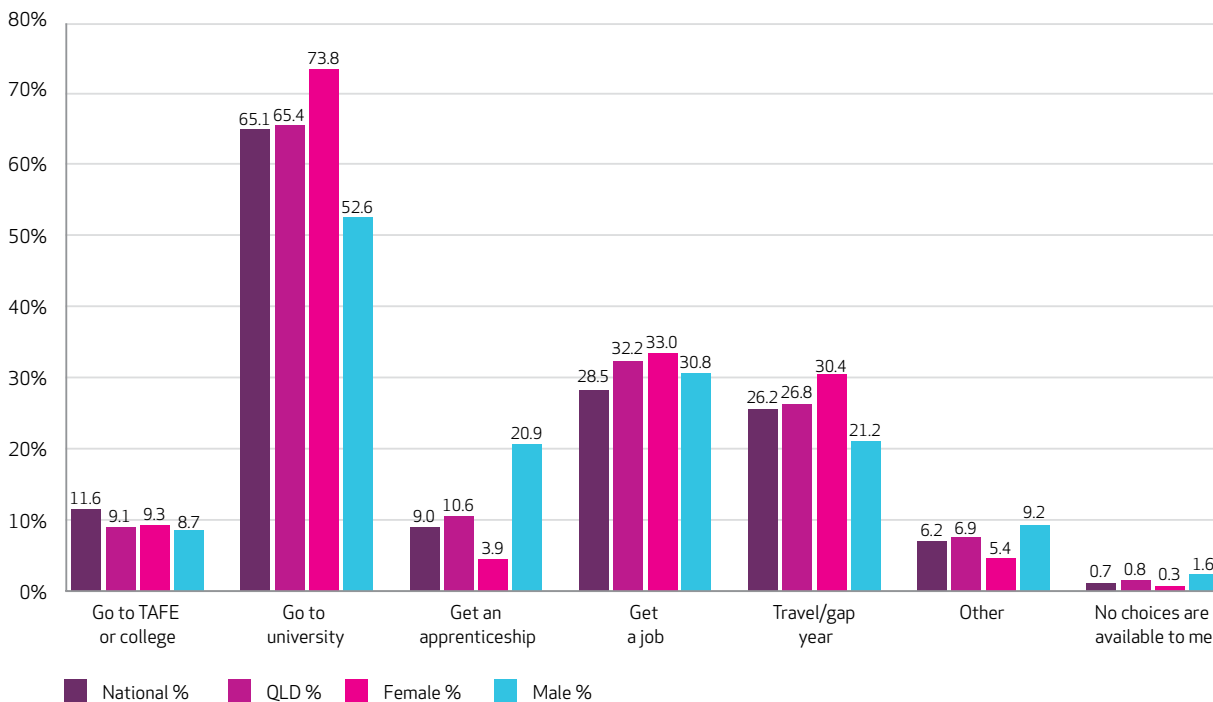
	National %	QLD 2014 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2013 %	QLD 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	16.9	17.8	15.7	22.6	17.0
Satisfied	55.9	59.7	61.6	56.5	55.5	56.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	19.1	16.8	22.9	18.6	20.1
Dissatisfied	5.0	3.4	3.2	3.9	2.8	5.0
Very dissatisfied	1.5	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.6	1.4

Of those who were still at school in Queensland, 98.5% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were around twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (2.2% compared with 1.0% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 6.1 shows that around two thirds of respondents from Queensland planned to go to university after school (65.4%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (32.2%) and to travel or go on a gap year (26.8%) after school. Overall, 10.6% of young people from Queensland planned to undertake an apprenticeship and 9.1% reported plans to attend TAFE or college. A small minority of respondents (0.8%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

While going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both male and female respondents from Queensland, females were far more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (73.8% compared with 52.6% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (30.4% compared with 21.2%). Males were much more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (20.9% compared with 3.9% of females).

Figure 6.1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 6.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst respondents from Queensland. In line with the national data, only a tiny minority (1.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just under four in ten (38.3%) respondents from Queensland reported part-time employment. Around six in ten Queensland respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 34.6% looking for work and 25.8% not looking for work.

More than twice as many male as female respondents from Queensland reported full-time employment (2.2% compared with 0.8% respectively), while female respondents were slightly more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (38.9% compared with 37.2%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (39.5% compared with 31.5%).

Table 6.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	1.2	1.4	0.8	2.2
Employed part-time	35.9	38.3	38.9	37.2
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.4	34.6	31.5	39.5
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.5	25.8	28.8	21.2

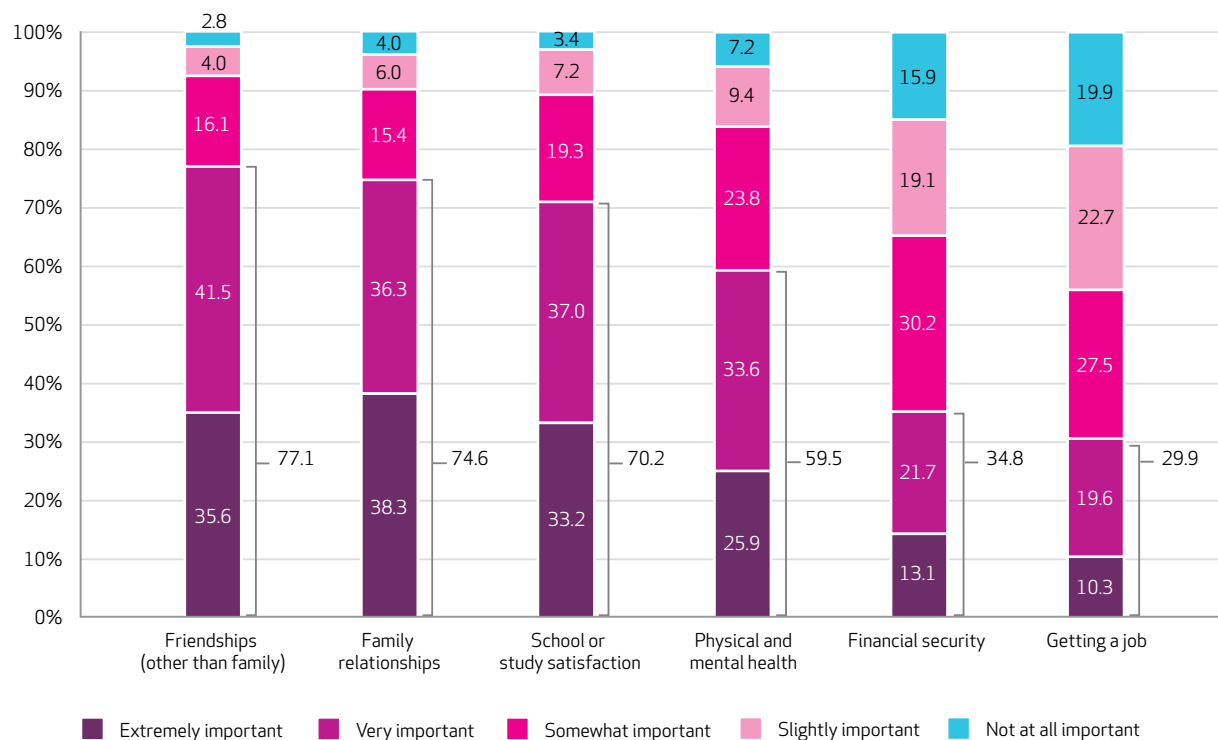
Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

### What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 6.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In line with both the national data and 2013 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from Queensland this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for Queensland respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 77.1% of respondents from Queensland (*extremely important*: 35.6%; *very important*: 41.5%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 74.6% of respondents (*extremely important*: 38.3%; *very important*: 36.3%).
- Around seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 33.2%; *very important*: 37.0%) and around six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 25.9%; *very important*: 33.6%).
- Just over one third of Queensland respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 13.1%; *very important*: 21.7%) and three in ten respondents highly valued *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 10.3%; *very important*: 19.6%).

Figure 6.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.



## Gender differences

*Friendships* was ranked as the most highly valued item by both males and females in Queensland, as shown in Table 6.4. The second and third most valued items for male and female respondents were *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and many of the other items, was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 80.6% of females (*extremely important*: 39.0%; *very important*: 41.6%) compared with 71.6% of males (*extremely important*: 30.2%; *very important*: 41.4%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 78.7% of females (*extremely important*: 43.4%; *very important*: 35.3%) compared with 68.3% of males (*extremely important*: 30.5%; *very important*: 37.8%).
- 78.6% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 41.4%; *very important*: 37.2%) compared with 57.2% of males (*extremely important*: 20.6%; *very important*: 36.6%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 62.5% of females (*extremely important*: 28.1%; *very important*: 34.4%) and 55.0% of males (*extremely important*: 22.6%; *very important*: 32.4%) in Queensland.

Table 6.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>41.6</b>	14.0	4.0	1.5
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>35.3</b>	13.8	5.1	2.4
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>37.2</b>	14.5	5.0	1.8
Physical and mental health	28.1	34.4	23.1	8.6	5.8
Financial security	13.4	24.1	29.5	18.5	14.6
Getting a job	8.4	18.3	28.1	23.2	22.1
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>41.4</b>	19.4	4.1	4.9
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>37.8</b>	17.9	7.1	6.6
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>36.6</b>	26.4	10.5	5.9
Physical and mental health	22.6	32.4	24.8	10.8	9.4
Financial security	12.6	18.3	31.4	19.8	17.9
Getting a job	13.3	21.6	26.5	22.0	16.7

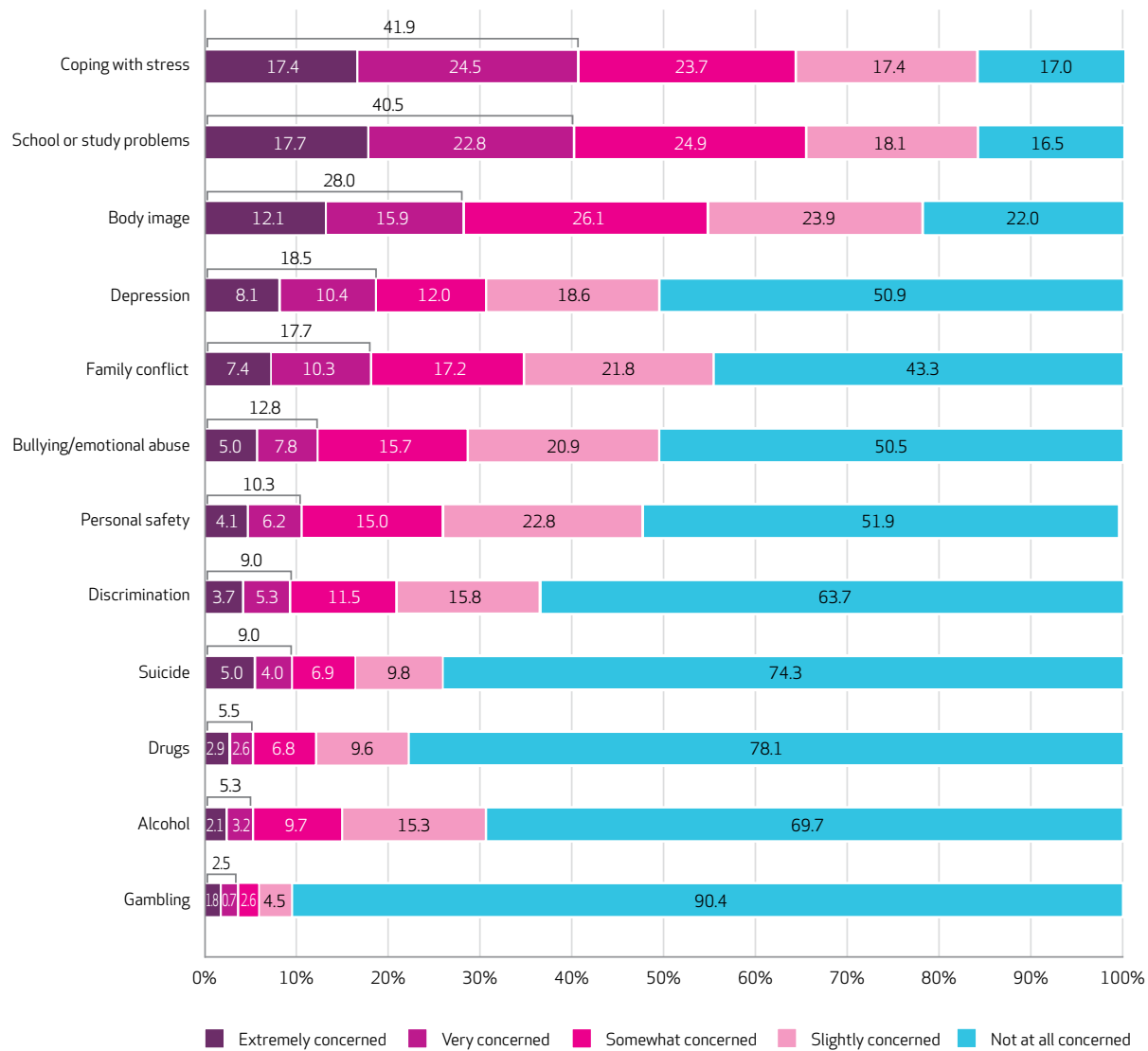
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 6.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from Queensland were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 41.9% of respondents from Queensland indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (17.4%) or *very concerned* (24.5%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 40.5% (*extremely concerned*: 17.7%; *very concerned*: 22.8%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 28.0% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.1%; *very concerned*: 15.9%).
- Almost one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 6.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image* were the top three issues of concern for both males and females in Queensland, as highlighted in Table 6.5. The order of the top two issues of concern differed, however, with males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. The proportion of females concerned about these three (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For over half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 24.5%; *very concerned*: 31.5%), compared with around one in five males (*extremely concerned*: 6.4%; *very concerned*: 13.7%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 51.0% (*extremely concerned*: 23.5%; *very concerned*: 27.5%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 24.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.0%; *very concerned*: 15.4%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 38.7% (*extremely concerned*: 17.4%; *very concerned*: 21.3%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 11.9% (*extremely concerned*: 4.2%; *very concerned*: 7.7%) of males.
- For 23.2% of females (*extremely concerned*: 10.4%; *very concerned*: 12.8%) and 11.3% of males (*extremely concerned*: 4.5%; *very concerned*: 6.8%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 6.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>31.5</b>	24.1	12.8	7.2
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	24.3	15.0	9.7
<b>Body image</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>21.3</b>	28.3	21.7	11.3
Depression	10.4	12.8	13.9	19.0	43.9
Family conflict	8.7	13.2	19.5	23.1	35.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.4	8.9	18.1	23.0	43.5
Personal safety	4.3	7.0	16.7	25.6	46.3
Discrimination	4.5	5.8	12.8	16.5	60.4
Suicide	5.6	4.7	8.5	11.1	70.1
Drugs	2.4	2.4	7.0	10.2	78.0
Alcohol	2.2	3.7	10.2	16.8	67.1
Gambling	1.2	0.6	2.0	4.2	92.0
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>13.7</b>	23.1	24.7	32.1
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>15.4</b>	25.8	22.8	27.0
<b>Body image</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>7.7</b>	22.6	27.4	38.1
Depression	4.5	6.8	9.1	17.8	61.7
Family conflict	5.4	5.9	13.4	19.9	55.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.0	6.1	12.2	17.7	61.0
Personal safety	3.9	4.8	12.3	18.5	60.5
Discrimination	2.2	4.6	9.5	14.8	68.8
Suicide	4.1	2.9	4.5	7.6	80.9
Drugs	3.8	3.0	6.6	8.4	78.2
Alcohol	1.9	2.4	9.0	13.0	73.7
Gambling	2.8	0.8	3.4	5.0	87.9

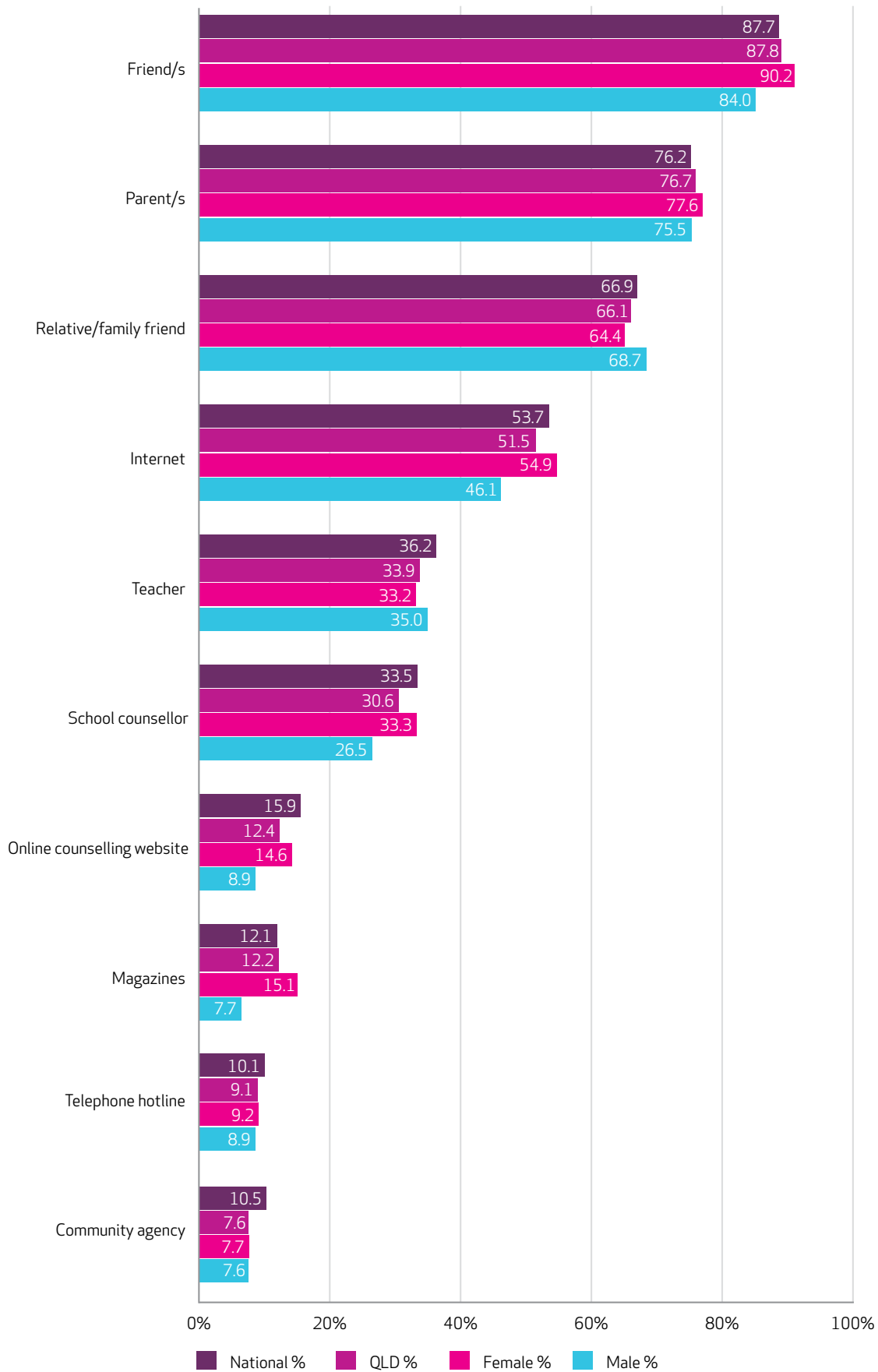
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 6.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for young people in Queensland were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- *Friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (87.8%, 76.7% and 66.1% respectively).
- Over half of all respondents from Queensland indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around one third of respondents indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 6.4: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Gender differences

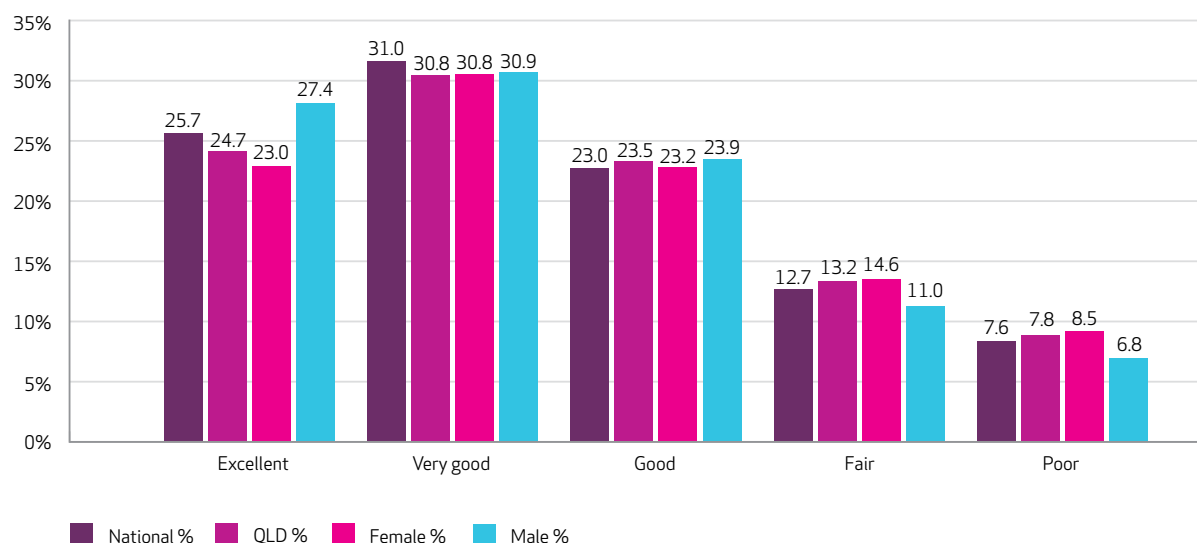
As shown in Figure 6.4, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with Queensland and national results. However, a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* and *parent/s* for help with important issues, while a greater proportion of males would go to *relatives/family friends*.

- Around nine in ten (90.2%) female respondents and 84.0% of male respondents in Queensland indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.
- Females were more likely than males to go to *parent/s* (77.6% compared with 75.5%) for help, while males were more likely than females to go to *relatives/family friends* (68.7% compared with 64.4%).
- Females from Queensland were more likely than males to go to the *internet* (54.9% compared with 46.1%), *magazines* (15.1% compared with 7.7%) and *online counselling websites* (14.6% compared with 8.9%) for help with important issues in their lives.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 6.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from Queensland rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 24.7% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 30.8% that it was *very good*. However, around one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (13.2%) or *poor* (7.8%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 6.5: Family's ability to get along



## 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 6.6. In 2014 the top three issues identified by young people from Queensland were *the economy and financial matters*, *politics and societal values* and *equity and discrimination*. The first two of these were also the top issues identified nationally, although their order was reversed.

- Close to three in ten young people from Queensland identified *the economy and financial matters* (29.7%) and around one quarter identified *politics and societal values* (26.3%) and *equity and discrimination* (23.3%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Close to one in five respondents identified *alcohol and drugs* (21.3%) and *health* (18.0%) as major issues.
- Since 2012, *education* and *bullying* have been increasingly identified by young people from Queensland as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *population issues* and *crime, safety and violence* have declined over this period.

## Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from Queensland. While *the economy and financial matters* and *politics and societal values* were identified among the top three issues by both males and females, the other issues that made up their top three differed. For females, *the economy and financial matters* was the number one issue, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *politics and societal values*. For males, the top issue this year was *politics and societal values*, followed by *the economy and financial matters* and then *alcohol and drugs*.

- Close to three in ten male and female respondents from Queensland (30.5% and 29.3% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (34.6% compared with 21.1%) and *alcohol and drugs* (25.7% compared with 18.6%) as important national issues.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (26.2% compared with 18.6%) and *health* (18.7% compared with 16.9%) as important issues.

Table 6.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	QLD 2014 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2013 %	QLD 2012 %
<b>The economy and financial matters</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>Politics and societal values</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>34.6</b>	19.8	<b>27.0</b>
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	21.3	<b>23.3</b>	<b>26.2</b>	18.6	<b>24.3</b>	18.9
Alcohol and drugs	<b>23.2</b>	21.3	18.6	<b>25.7</b>	<b>21.7</b>	20.3
Health	14.1	18.0	18.7	16.9	13.7	17.3
Population issues	16.8	16.0	14.5	18.4	17.3	<b>26.2</b>
Education	15.8	15.3	17.6	11.7	13.7	10.5
Mental health	18.3	14.6	17.4	10.2	16.5	12.1
Bullying	14.5	14.4	16.3	11.4	12.5	8.9
The environment	12.3	13.4	14.3	11.9	12.6	14.4
Crime, safety and violence	10.7	11.9	11.3	12.9	12.9	15.8
Employment	11.3	10.6	9.5	12.1	16.6	8.9
Adolescence/youth	6.1	6.2	7.1	4.7	5.9	5.3
Homelessness/housing	7.5	5.9	6.3	5.2	8.8	5.7
LGBT issues	6.2	5.9	8.1	2.2	8.0	4.7
Body image	5.7	5.2	7.8	1.1	5.7	3.3

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 6.7. The top two activities for young people from Queensland, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top two activities for young people from Queensland in 2013 and 2012. The third most common activity for respondents from Queensland this year was *volunteer work*, as it was nationally. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people from Queensland in 2014.
- Over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (55.9%).
- Almost half of young people from Queensland reported participation in *student leadership activities* (47.5%) and around one quarter had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (27.9%), *environmental groups or activities* (24.2%) and *religious groups or activities* (23.9%) over the past year.

### Gender differences

As shown in Table 6.7 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with Queensland and national results, although a slightly greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for males from Queensland was *volunteer work*, while for females it was *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 77.7% of male respondents and 76.2% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (73.6% compared with 71.1%).
- Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (69.0% compared with 35.3%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking higher up the list for male respondents, a greater proportion of female than male respondents from Queensland were involved in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (65.5% and 54.3% compared with 46.3% and 37.0% respectively).

Table 6.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	QLD 2014 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2013 %	QLD 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>78.4</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>76.7</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>58.0</b>	65.5	<b>46.3</b>	63.8	<b>64.9</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.0	55.9	<b>69.0</b>	35.3	<b>63.9</b>	63.6
Student leadership activities	41.9	47.5	54.3	37.0	48.7	55.1
Youth groups and clubs	32.4	27.9	29.2	25.6	34.4	43.2
Environmental groups or activities	23.7	24.2	28.3	18.1	25.1	32.0
Religious groups or activities	29.3	23.9	25.0	22.1	35.3	41.8
Political groups or activities	8.5	7.1	7.8	5.8	6.6	8.2

Note: Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

In 2014 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents from Queensland (55.3%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 21.2%; *3-9 hours*: 34.1%). Around three in ten reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 21.4%; *20-29 hours*: 10.7%) and 12.6% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 4.9%; *40 hours or more*: 7.7%). Compared to the 2013 results, Queensland respondents in 2014 reported spending slightly more time on social networking sites in an average week. Overall, males tended to report spending slightly less time on social networking sites in an average week than females.

Table 6.8: Time spent on social networking sites

	National %	QLD 2014 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.4	21.2	17.9	26.2	30.7
3 - 9 hours	32.0	34.1	34.2	34.0	32.5
10 - 19 hours	21.5	21.4	22.6	19.6	18.8
20 - 29 hours	11.9	10.7	12.7	7.6	8.3
30 - 39 hours	5.5	4.9	5.8	3.7	4.4
40 hours or more	8.7	7.7	6.8	8.9	5.3

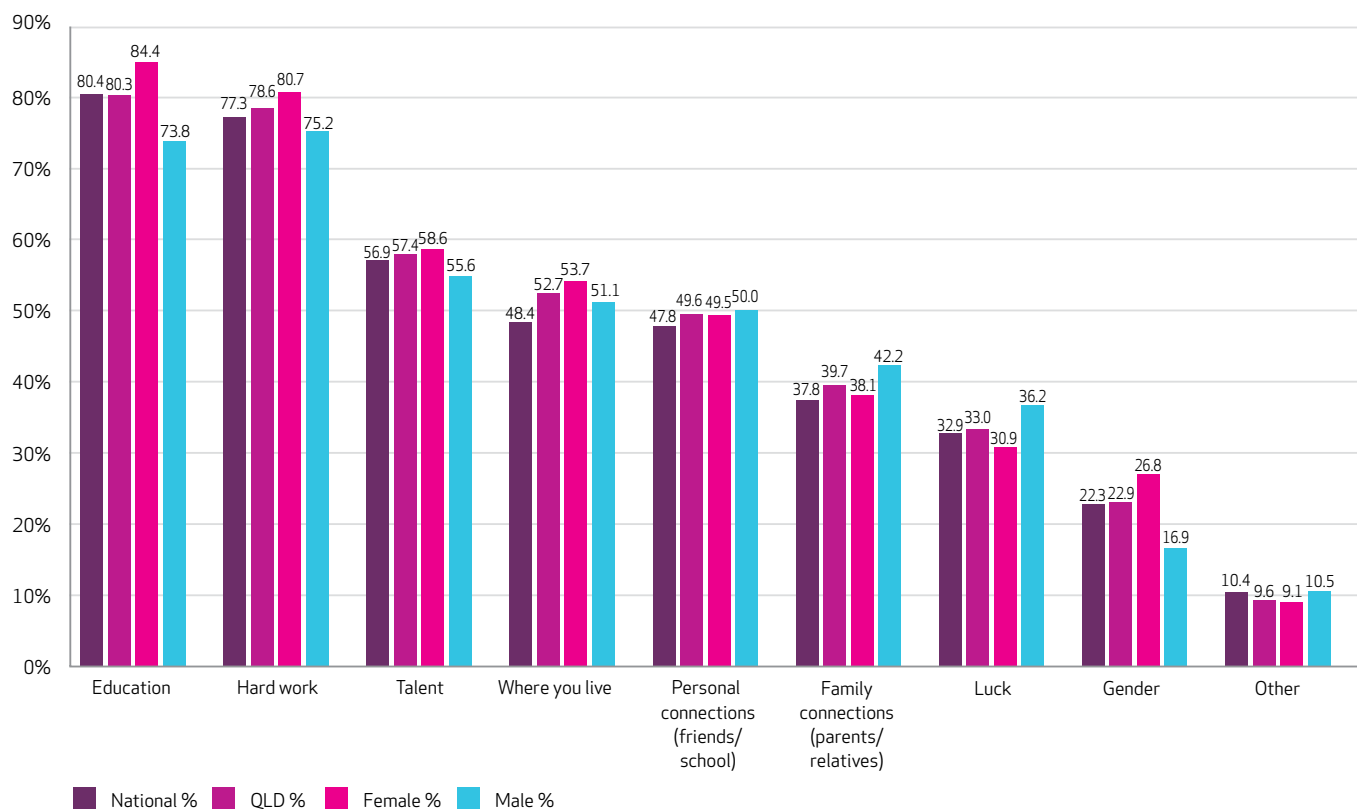
## What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 6.6. In Queensland, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Over three quarters of respondents felt that *education* (80.3%) and *hard work* (78.6%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Almost six in ten respondents from Queensland felt that *talent* (57.4%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Around half felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *where you live* (52.7%) and *personal connections (friends/school)* (49.6%).



Figure 6.6: Influences on career opportunities in the future



Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 6.6, there were some differences in what male and female respondents from Queensland felt would influence their career opportunities in the future.

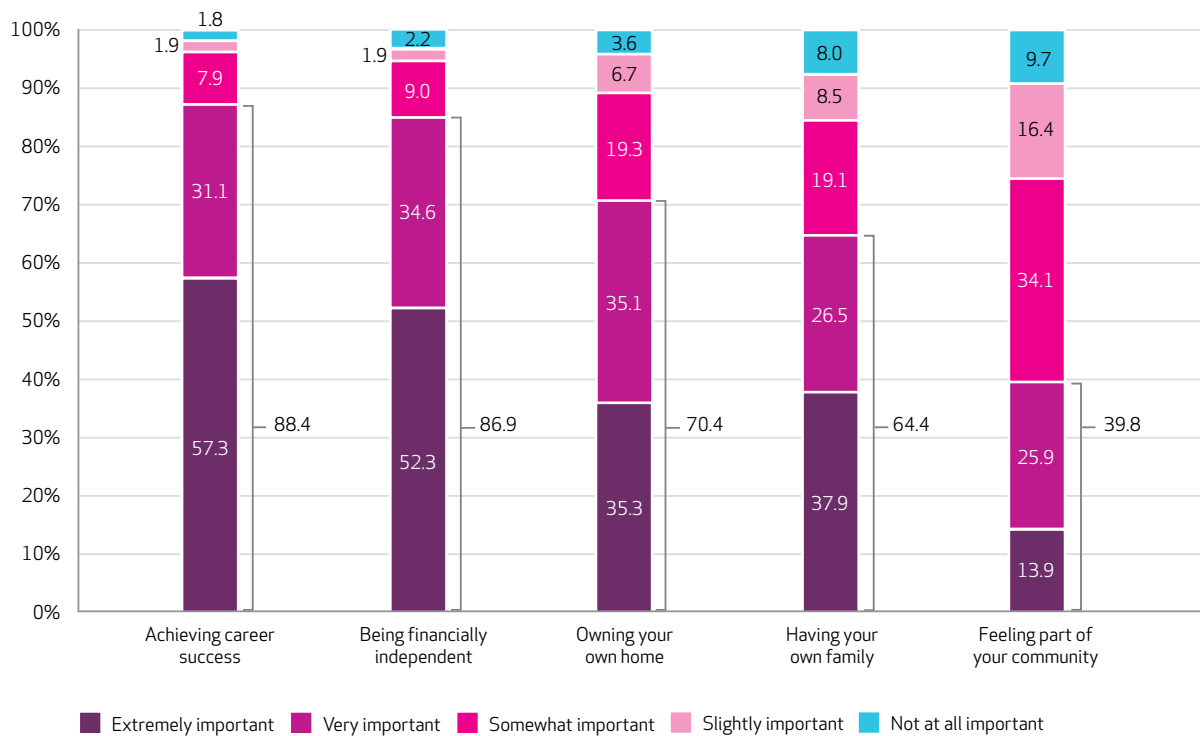
- The two most commonly cited influences on future career opportunities among both males and females in Queensland were *education* and *hard work*. The order of these items differed, however, with females indicating that they felt *education* was the top influence on their career opportunities in the future (84.4% compared with 73.8% for males), while among males the top influence was *hard work* (75.2% compared with 80.7% for females).
- The third most commonly cited influence on future career opportunities among both females and males was felt to be *talent* (58.6% and 55.6% respectively).
- Around one quarter of female respondents from Queensland (26.8%) felt that *gender* would influence their career opportunities in the future, compared to 16.9% of male respondents.

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 6.7 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Achieving career success* and *being financially independent* were ranked as the two most important items in Queensland. The next most important item among respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Achieving career success* was of high importance to 88.4% of Queensland respondents (*extremely important*: 57.3%; *very important*: 31.1%). *Being financially independent* was also of high importance to 86.9% of respondents (*extremely important*: 52.3%; *very important*: 34.6%).
- Around seven in ten respondents placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 35.3%; *very important*: 35.1%) and 64.4% indicated that *having your own family* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 37.9%; *very important*: 26.5%).
- Around four in ten respondents from Queensland placed high importance on *feeling part of your community* (*extremely important*: 13.9%; *very important*: 25.9%).

Figure 6.7: Young people's aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

The two most important items for both males and females from Queensland were *achieving career success* and *being financially independent*, as shown in Table 6.9. However, the proportion of female respondents placing high importance on these and all other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Achieving career success* was highly important to 90.3% of females (*extremely important*: 60.3%; *very important*: 30.0%) compared with 85.5% of males (*extremely important*: 52.6%; *very important*: 32.9%).
- *Being financially independent* was highly important to 89.0% of females (*extremely important*: 56.3%; *very important*: 32.7%) compared to 83.5% of males (*extremely important*: 46.2%; *very important*: 37.3%).
- 72.1% of females placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 35.9%; *very important*: 36.2%) compared with 67.8% of males (*extremely important*: 34.3%; *very important*: 33.5%).
- For 67.0% of females (*extremely important*: 40.4%; *very important*: 26.6%) and 60.4% of males in Queensland (*extremely important*: 34.0%; *very important*: 26.4%) *having your own family* was of high importance.

Table 6.9: Young people's aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>30.0</b>	6.1	2.2	1.3
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>32.7</b>	7.9	1.5	1.5
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>36.2</b>	18.2	6.7	3.0
Having your own family	40.4	26.6	17.8	8.4	6.8
Feeling part of your community	14.3	29.2	34.8	15.7	6.1
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>32.9</b>	10.6	1.4	2.5
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>37.3</b>	10.8	2.5	3.3
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>33.5</b>	21.1	6.4	4.6
Having your own family	34.0	26.4	21.0	8.8	9.8
Feeling part of your community	13.3	20.9	33.1	17.4	15.3

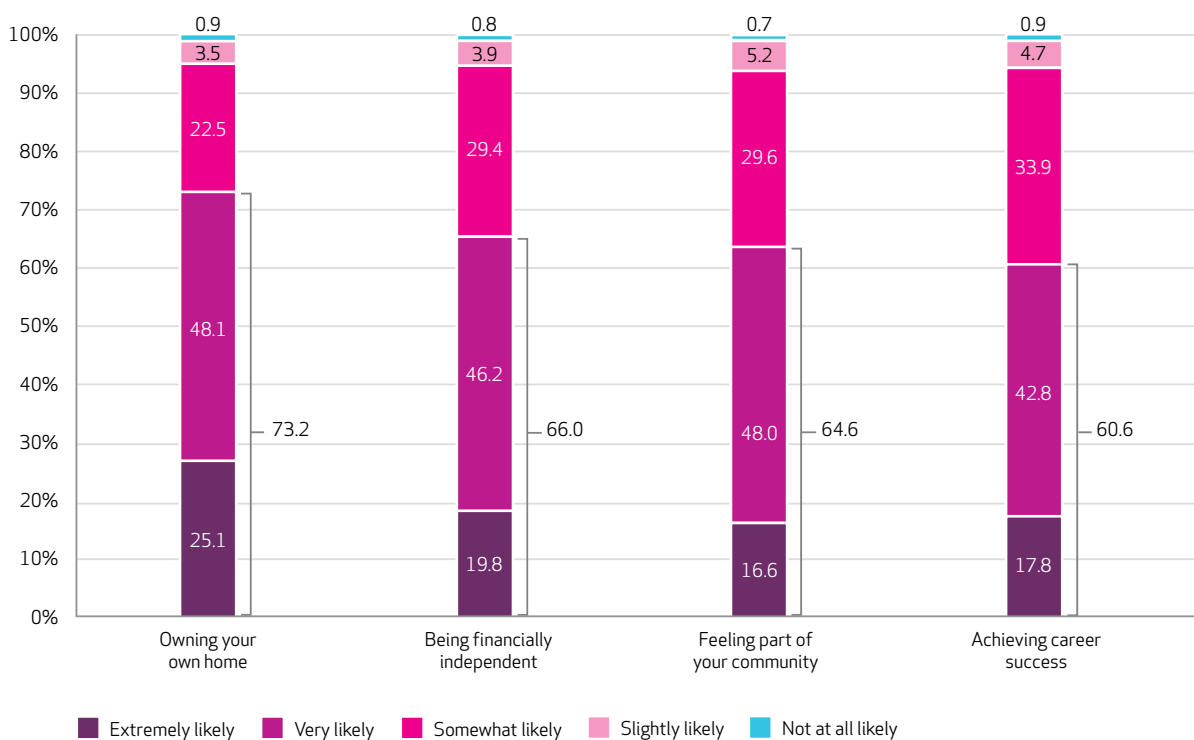
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 6.8 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item by respondents from Queensland, followed by *being financially independent*, *feeling part of your community* and *achieving career success*.

- Around three quarters of respondents in Queensland (73.2%) felt that *owning your own home* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 25.1%; *very likely*: 48.1%).
- Around two thirds of respondents felt that *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 19.8%; *very likely*: 46.2%) and *feeling part of your community* (*extremely likely*: 16.6%; *very likely*: 48.0%) were highly likely to be achievable.
- Six in ten respondents from Queensland felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 17.8%; *very likely*: 42.8%).

Figure 6.8: Likelihood of achieving aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.

### Gender differences

Both males and females from Queensland indicated that they felt *owning your own home* was the most achievable item. For females, the next most achievable item was felt to be *being financially independent*, while males felt it was *feeling part of your community*. Overall, a greater proportion of male respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve each of the items than female respondents.

- *Owning your own home* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 75.1% of males (*extremely likely*: 27.8%; *very likely*: 47.3%) compared with 71.9% of females in Queensland (*extremely likely*: 23.3%; *very likely*: 48.6%).
- 68.2% of males felt that *being financially independent* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 21.2%; *very likely*: 47.0%) compared with 64.6% of females (*extremely likely*: 18.9%; *very likely*: 45.7%).
- *Feeling part of your community* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 68.3% of males (*extremely likely*: 20.7%; *very likely*: 47.6%) compared with 62.7% of females (*extremely likely*: 14.5%; *very likely*: 48.2%).
- Almost two thirds of males from Queensland felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 20.0%; *very likely*: 44.7%) while almost six in ten females (*extremely likely*: 16.4%; *very likely*: 41.8%) felt that this was highly likely to be achievable.

Table 6.10: Likelihood of achieving aspirations by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely likely %</b>	<b>Very likely %</b>	<b>Somewhat likely %</b>	<b>Slightly likely %</b>	<b>Not at all likely %</b>
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>48.6</b>	23.2	3.9	0.9
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>45.7</b>	29.7	4.9	0.8
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>48.2</b>	30.9	5.5	0.8
Achieving career success	16.4	41.8	35.5	5.5	0.7
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely likely %</b>	<b>Very likely %</b>	<b>Somewhat likely %</b>	<b>Slightly likely %</b>	<b>Not at all likely %</b>
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>47.3</b>	21.3	2.6	1.0
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>47.0</b>	28.8	2.2	0.8
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>47.6</b>	26.6	4.8	0.3
Achieving career success	20.0	44.7	30.8	3.4	1.1

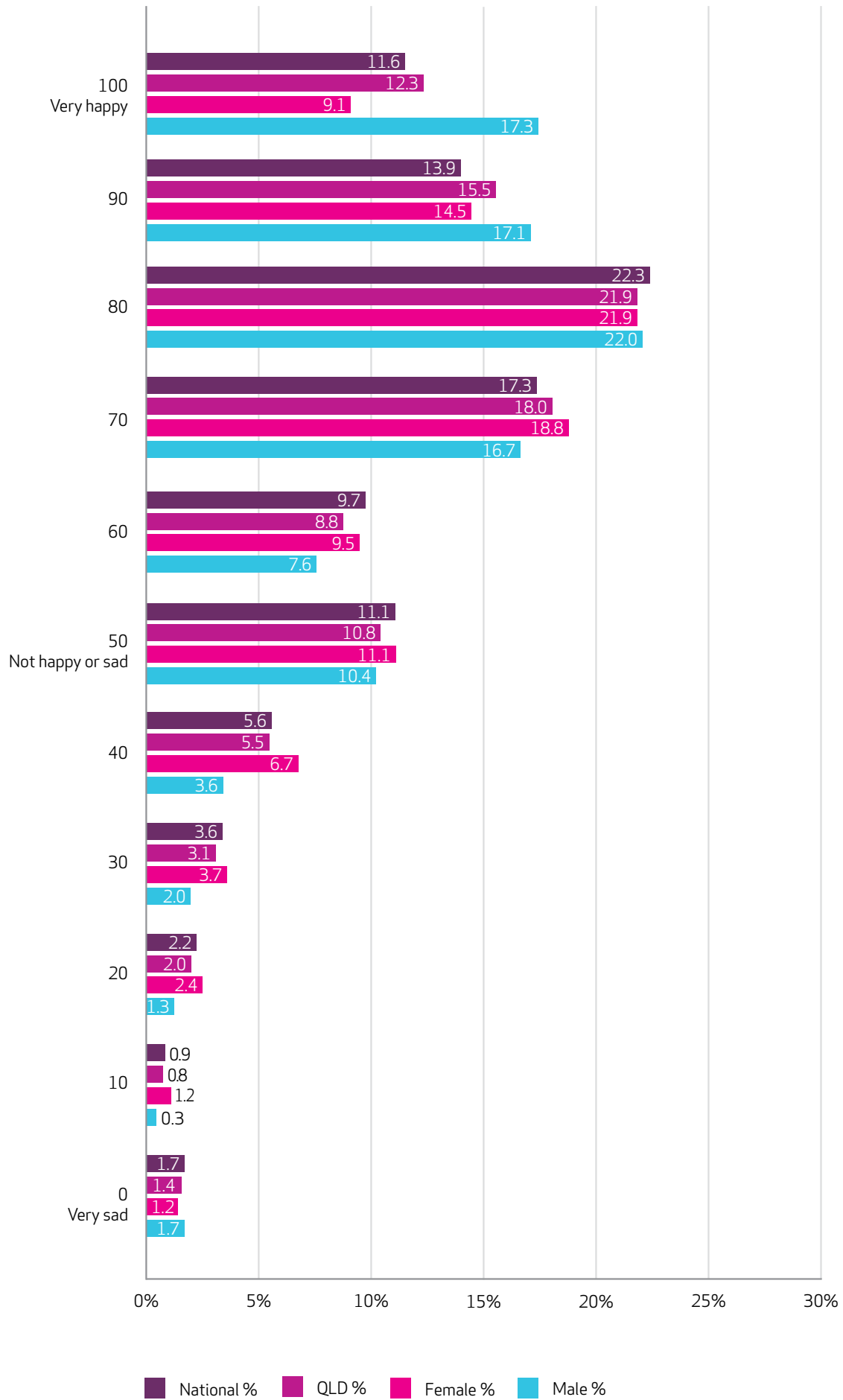
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 6.9 shows, the majority of young people from Queensland (67.7%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (17.3% compared with 9.1%).

<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

Figure 6.9: How happy young people are



## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 6.11 shows that compared to 2013 and 2012 there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of Queensland respondents feeling *very positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people from Queensland felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Just over two thirds of respondents from Queensland felt either *positive* (51.1%) or *very positive* (16.4%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (24.1%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 6.4% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.0% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from Queensland were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (18.3% compared with 15.3%).

Table 6.11: Feelings about the future

	National %	QLD 2014 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2013 %	QLD 2012 %
Very positive	15.8	16.4	15.3	18.3	20.0	21.3
Positive	48.0	51.1	51.3	50.8	48.7	48.5
Neither positive nor negative	26.8	24.1	24.9	22.9	24.5	23.9
Negative	6.9	6.4	7.0	5.3	5.3	4.7
Very negative	2.5	2.0	1.6	2.7	1.5	1.7

# South Australia



## Profile of respondents

In total, 1,522 young people from South Australia (SA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2014.

### Gender breakdown

Over half (61.0%) of the respondents from SA were female and 39.0% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 71 (4.8%) respondents from SA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 61 (4.1%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 6 (0.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.3% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (6.3% compared to 3.7%).

### Language background other than English

172 (11.5%) respondents from SA stated that they were born overseas and 255 (17.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 40 languages spoken at home in SA, the most common were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Italian, Khmer, Filipino/Tagalog and German.

### Disability

A total of 76 (5.1%) respondents from SA indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (8.6%) than females (3.0%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in SA were (in order of frequency): learning disability and Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), followed by autism and physical disability (both at equal levels).

## Detailed results

### Education

As indicated in Table 7.1, 91.8% of respondents from SA were studying full-time. Female respondents were more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (94.1% compared with 88.3%), while more than twice as many males as females reported not studying at all (5.6% compared with 2.6%).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in 2013 and 2012, the majority of respondents from SA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.9%) or *satisfied* (54.9%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.7% and 4.9% respectively). As shown in Table 7.2, males from SA were less likely than females to report feeling *satisfied* with their studies (51.1% of males compared with 57.3% of females respectively).

Table 7.1: Participation in education

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.8	91.8	94.1	88.3
Studying part-time	2.7	4.4	3.3	6.1
Not studying	3.5	3.8	2.6	5.6



Table 7.2: Satisfaction with studies

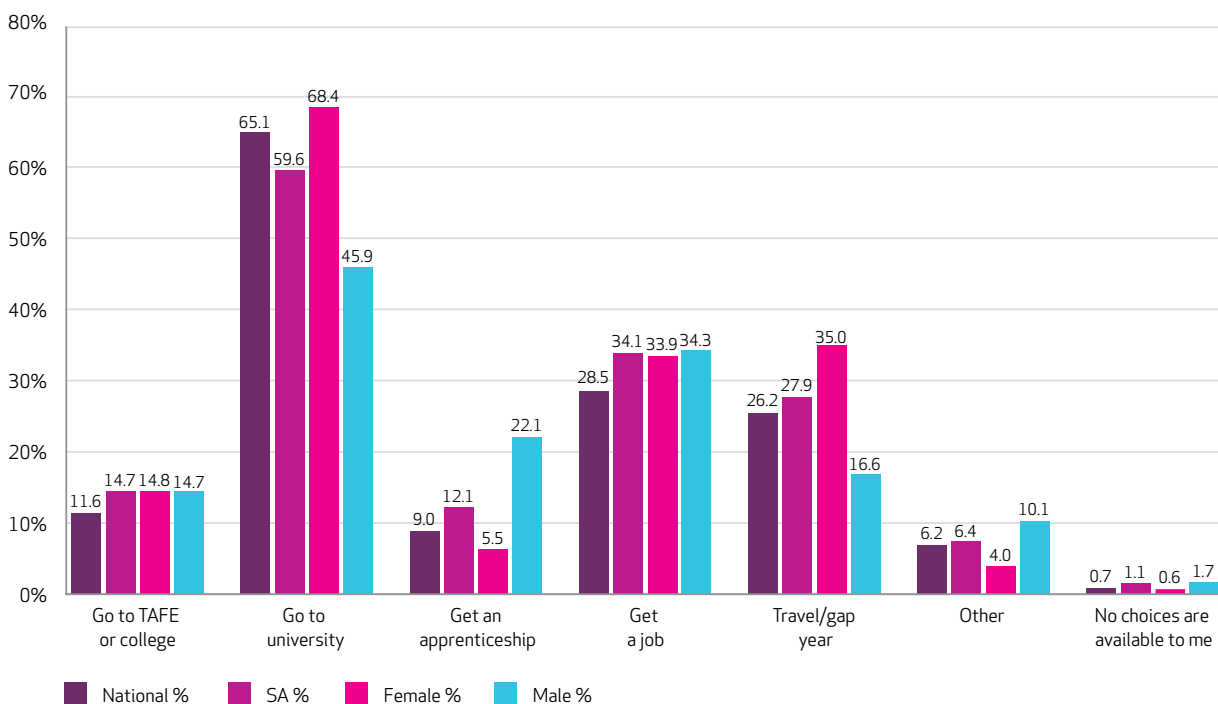
	National %	SA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2013 %	SA 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	14.9	14.8	14.8	15.3	13.8
Satisfied	55.9	54.9	57.3	51.1	55.1	57.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	23.6	21.3	27.5	23.0	22.7
Dissatisfied	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.9
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.1	1.1

Of those who were still at school in SA, 93.9% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were more than three times as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (10.6% compared with 3.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 7.1 shows that almost six in ten respondents from SA planned to go to university after school (59.6%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (34.1%) and to travel or go on a gap year (27.9%) after school. Overall, 14.7% of young people from SA planned to attend TAFE or college and 12.1% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (1.1%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

While going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both male and female respondents from SA, females were far more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (68.4% compared with 45.9% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (35.0% compared with 16.6%). Males were much more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (22.1% compared with 5.5% of females).

Figure 7.1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 7.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst respondents from SA. In line with the national data, only a tiny minority (0.8%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Over one third (36.3%) of respondents from SA reported part-time employment. Around six in ten SA respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 39.1% looking for work and 23.8% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from SA reported full-time employment (0.7% compared with 0.9% respectively), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (39.2% compared with 31.9%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (42.6% compared with 36.7%).

Table 7.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.7
Employed part-time	35.9	36.3	39.2	31.9
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.4	39.1	36.7	42.6
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.5	23.8	23.2	24.8

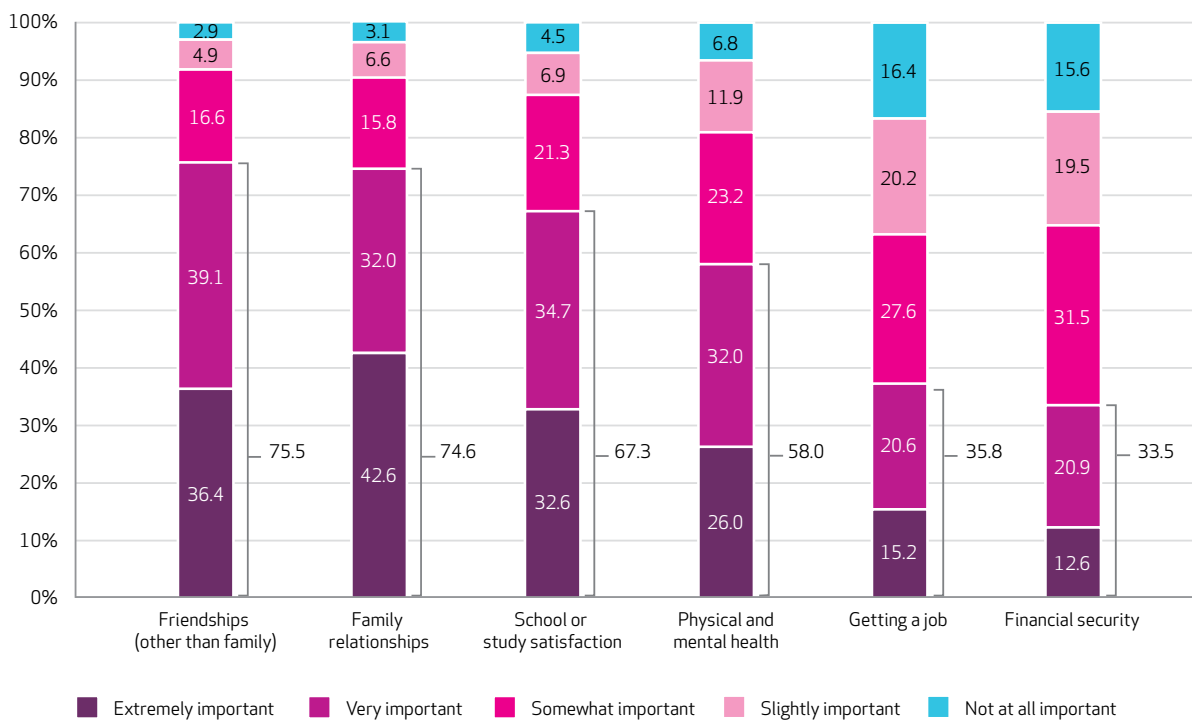
Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

### What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 7.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In line with both the national data and 2013 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from SA this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for SA respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 75.5% of respondents from SA (*extremely important*: 36.4%; *very important*: 39.1%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 74.6% of respondents (*extremely important*: 42.6%; *very important*: 32.0%).
- Around two thirds of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 32.6%; *very important*: 34.7%) and around six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 26.0%; *very important*: 32.0%).
- Around one third of SA respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 15.2%; *very important*: 20.6%) and *financial security* (*extremely important*: 12.6%; *very important*: 20.9%).

Figure 7.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

Friendships was ranked as the most highly valued item by males in SA, while *family relationships* was ranked as the most highly valued item by females, as shown in Table 7.4. The second and third most valued items for female respondents were *friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. For males, *family relationships* was the second most valued item, followed by *physical and mental health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 78.1% of females (*extremely important*: 45.4%; *very important*: 32.7%) compared with 68.6% of males (*extremely important*: 37.9%; *very important*: 30.7%).
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 78.0% of females (*extremely important*: 39.9%; *very important*: 38.1%) compared with 71.4% of males (*extremely important*: 30.4%; *very important*: 41.0%).
- 75.8% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 39.3%; *very important*: 36.5%) compared with 53.7% of males (*extremely important*: 21.9%; *very important*: 31.8%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 59.9% of females (*extremely important*: 28.3%; *very important*: 31.6%) and 55.0% of males (*extremely important*: 22.4%; *very important*: 32.6%) in SA.

Table 7.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>38.1</b>	16.3	3.7	2.0
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>32.7</b>	14.4	5.7	1.8
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>36.5</b>	17.4	4.5	2.3
Physical and mental health	28.3	31.6	23.3	11.3	5.5
Getting a job	14.6	19.9	28.0	22.1	15.3
Financial security	13.6	20.7	32.1	20.1	13.6
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>41.0</b>	17.3	6.7	4.5
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>30.7</b>	18.1	8.1	5.2
School or study satisfaction	21.9	31.8	27.4	10.8	8.0
<b>Physical and mental health</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>32.6</b>	23.1	13.0	9.0
Getting a job	16.2	21.6	26.9	17.2	18.1
Financial security	11.1	21.1	30.5	18.6	18.8

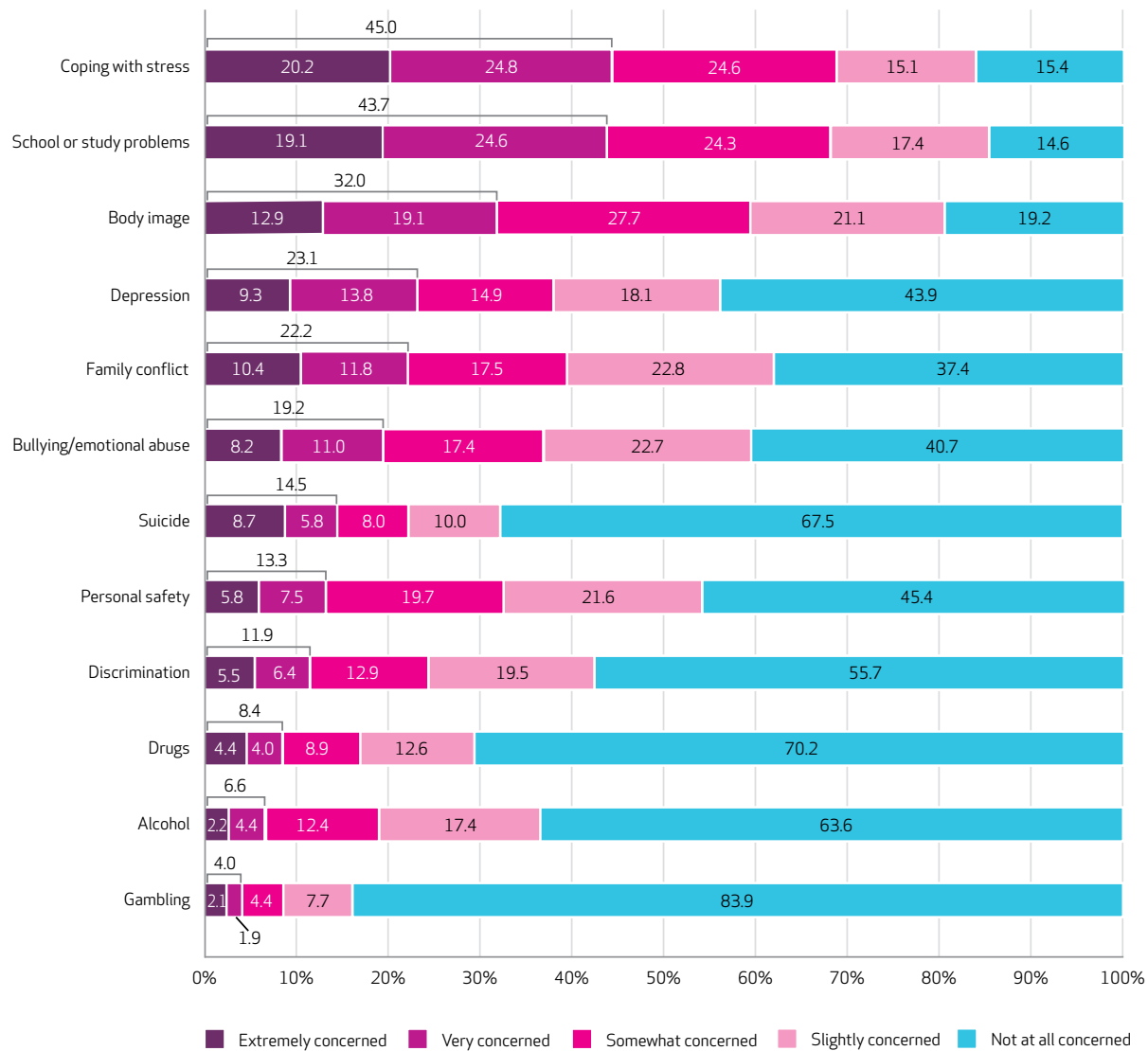
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 7.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from SA were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 45.0% of respondents from SA indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (20.2%) or *very concerned* (24.8%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 43.7% (*extremely concerned*: 19.1%; *very concerned*: 24.6%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 32.0% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.9%; *very concerned*: 19.1%).
- Over one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 7.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were the top two issues of concern for both males and females in SA, as highlighted in Table 7.5. The order of the top two issues of concern differed, however, with males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. The third top issue for females was *body image* and for males the number three issue was *depression*. The proportion of females concerned about these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For almost six in ten females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 27.5%; *very concerned*: 31.5%), compared with around one quarter of all males (*extremely concerned*: 8.5%; *very concerned*: 14.5%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 54.2% (*extremely concerned*: 24.3%; *very concerned*: 29.9%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 26.8% of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.9%; *very concerned*: 15.9%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 44.1% (*extremely concerned*: 18.1%; *very concerned*: 26.0%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 12.9% (*extremely concerned*: 4.7%; *very concerned*: 8.2%) of males.
- For 28.3% of females (*extremely concerned*: 11.4%; *very concerned*: 16.9%) and 15.0% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.0%; *very concerned*: 9.0%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 7.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>31.5</b>	23.8	11.7	5.5
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>29.9</b>	23.6	14.1	8.1
<b>Body image</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>26.0</b>	31.2	16.2	8.5
Depression	11.4	16.9	16.6	19.6	35.5
Family conflict	12.6	14.4	19.4	22.9	30.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	10.2	12.3	19.8	25.0	32.7
Suicide	9.5	7.5	9.2	11.9	61.9
Personal safety	6.2	9.0	23.3	23.0	38.4
Discrimination	5.9	7.6	14.6	21.9	50.0
Drugs	3.1	4.4	10.1	14.1	68.3
Alcohol	1.7	4.8	14.3	20.8	58.4
Gambling	1.2	2.0	3.6	8.4	84.8
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	25.4	20.4	31.1
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>15.9</b>	25.4	22.8	25.0
Body image	4.7	8.2	22.1	28.7	36.3
<b>Depression</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	12.3	15.7	57.0
Family conflict	6.9	7.6	14.2	22.7	48.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.9	8.8	13.5	19.2	53.6
Suicide	7.3	3.1	5.9	7.1	76.6
Personal safety	5.1	5.2	13.6	19.2	57.0
Discrimination	4.5	4.7	10.4	15.6	64.9
Drugs	6.4	3.1	6.8	10.1	73.6
Alcohol	2.8	3.8	9.1	12.0	72.3
Gambling	3.3	1.6	5.8	6.6	82.7

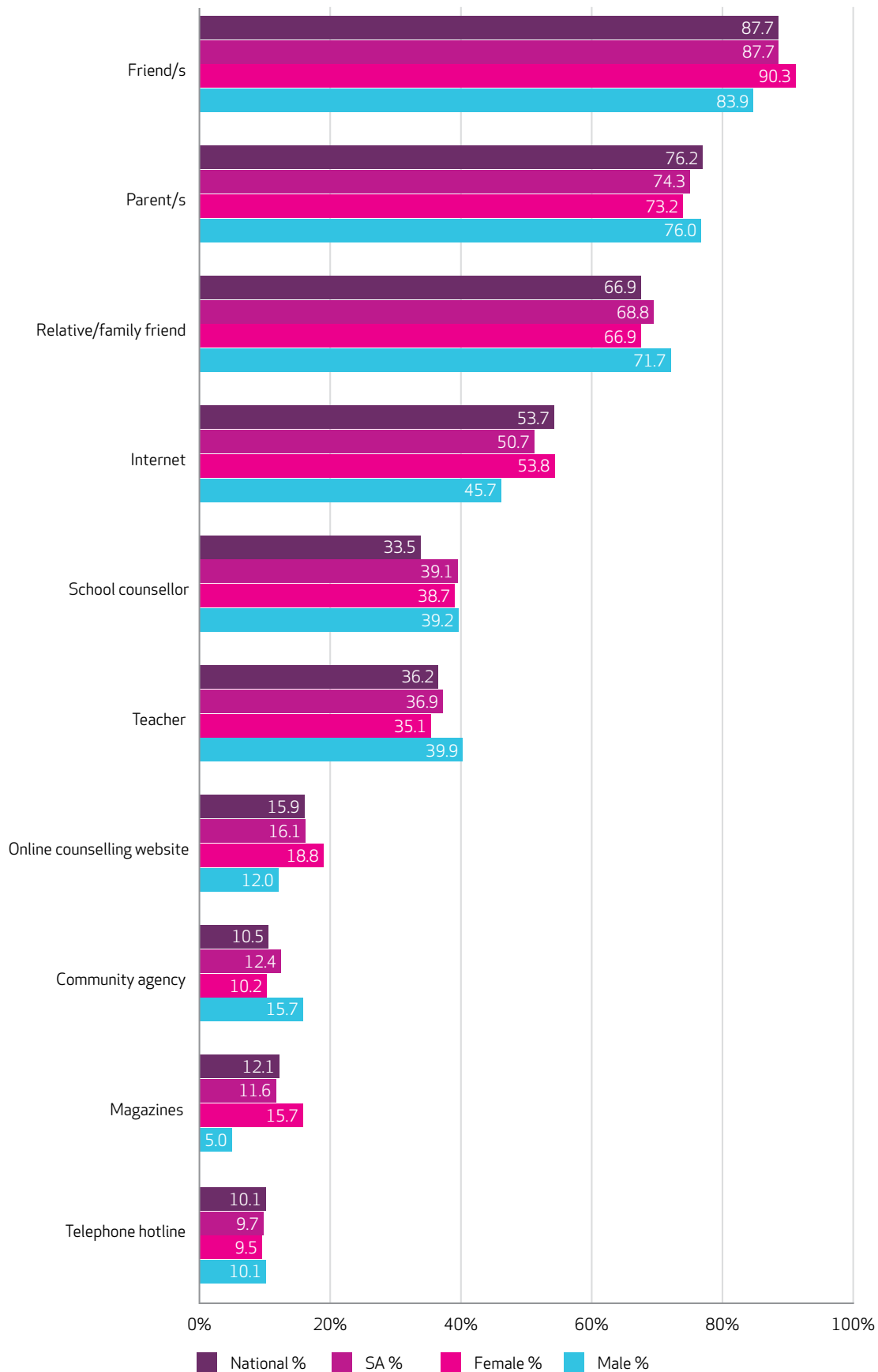
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 7.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for young people in SA were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- *Friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (87.7%, 74.3% and 68.8% respectively).
- Just over half of respondents from SA indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Just under four in ten respondents indicated that they would go to their *school counsellor* or *teacher* for help with important issues.

Figure 7.4: Where young people go for help with important issues



## Gender differences

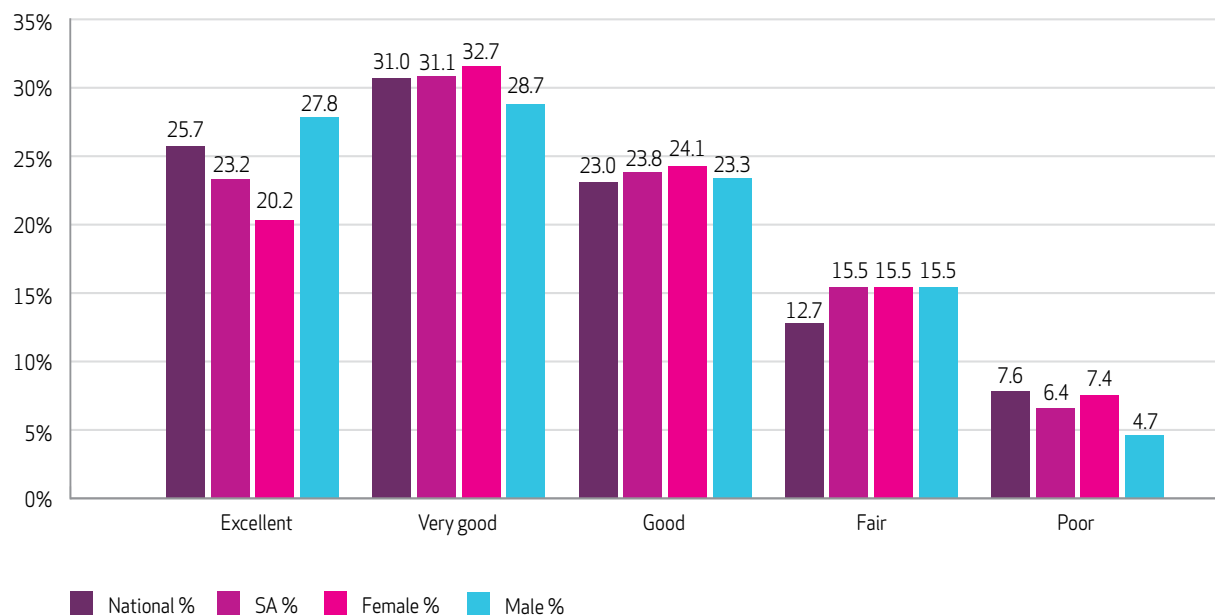
As shown in Figure 7.4, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with SA and national results. However, a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues, while greater proportions of males would go to *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- Over nine in ten (90.3%) female respondents and 83.9% of male respondents in SA indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to go to *parent/s* (76.0% compared with 73.2%) and *relatives/family friends* (71.7% compared with 66.9%) for help.
- Females from SA were more likely than males to go to the *internet* (53.8% compared with 45.7%), *online counselling websites* (18.8% compared with 12.0%) and *magazines* (15.7% compared with 5.0%) for help with important issues in their lives.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 7.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from SA rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 23.2% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.1% that it was *very good*. However, around one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (15.5%) or *poor* (6.4%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along, although males were more likely than females to indicate that it was *excellent*.

Figure 7.5: Family's ability to get along



## 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 7.6. In 2014 the top three issues identified by young people from SA were *politics and societal values*, *the economy and financial matters* and *alcohol and drugs*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally.

- Around one third of young people from SA identified *politics and societal values* (34.1%) as an important issue in Australia today.
- Around one quarter of respondents identified *the economy and financial matters* (26.1%) and *alcohol and drugs* (23.0%) as major issues.
- Close to one in six respondents identified *mental health* (17.7%) and *equity and discrimination* (16.9%) as major issues.
- Since 2012, *politics and societal values* and *poverty/disadvantage* have been increasingly identified by young people from SA as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *population issues* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

## Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from SA. While both males and females identified *politics and societal values* and *the economy and financial matters* as their top two issues, the third top issue for female respondents was *mental health*, while for males it was *alcohol and drugs*.

- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (43.2% compared with 28.5%) and *alcohol and drugs* (24.6% compared with 22.1%) as important national issues.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *the economy and financial matters* (26.6% compared with 25.2%) and particularly *mental health* (23.9% compared with 8.0%) as important national issues.
- *Equity and discrimination* was identified by around one in five females (19.1%) and 13.5% of males as a major issue facing Australia today.

Table 7.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	SA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2013 %	SA 2012 %
<b>Politics and societal values</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>25.0</b>	20.9
<b>The economy and financial matters</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>30.3</b>
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>23.0</b>	22.1	<b>24.6</b>	21.3	<b>25.4</b>
Mental health	18.3	17.7	<b>23.9</b>	8.0	11.8	13.0
Equity and discrimination	21.3	16.9	19.1	13.5	21.4	17.7
Bullying	14.5	16.6	19.7	11.3	12.7	14.4
Employment	11.3	14.6	12.6	17.8	16.2	9.0
Population issues	16.8	14.1	12.8	15.8	<b>21.8</b>	<b>25.3</b>
Education	15.8	13.3	13.0	13.9	13.7	10.5
Health	14.1	12.8	13.6	11.7	9.7	15.8
Crime, safety and violence	10.7	11.6	10.5	13.5	11.2	12.7
The environment	12.3	10.2	9.8	10.5	15.4	17.2
Homelessness/housing	7.5	10.0	11.9	6.8	7.7	8.7
Body image	5.7	7.1	11.2	0.6	1.6	3.3
Adolescence/youth	6.1	6.0	6.7	4.9	4.4	4.9
Poverty/disadvantage	4.7	5.9	5.6	6.4	4.6	4.5

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.



## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 7.7. The top two activities for young people from SA, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top two activities for young people from SA in 2013 and 2012. The third most common activity for respondents from SA this year was *arts/cultural/music activities*, while nationally it was *volunteer work*. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural/music activities* were the three most popular activities for young people from SA in 2014.
- 44.5% of respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work*.
- Around three in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (30.5%) and *youth groups and clubs* (27.7%) in SA.

### Gender differences

As shown in Table 7.7 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with SA and national results. In contrast to the national data however, very similar proportions of males and females from SA were involved in *sports (as a participant)*. However, a greater proportion of males than females were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for females from SA was *arts/cultural/music activities*, while for males it was *volunteer work*.

- 68.1% of female respondents and 67.6% of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (63.5% compared with 60.2%).
- Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (51.5% compared with 37.1%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking higher up the list for male respondents, overall a greater proportion of female than male respondents from SA were involved in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (48.6% and 34.1% compared with 38.3% and 24.7% respectively).

Table 7.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	SA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2013 %	SA 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>75.3</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>71.8</b>
<b>Arts/cultural/music activities</b>	53.0	<b>46.0</b>	<b>51.5</b>	37.1	46.2	43.6
Volunteer work	<b>53.4</b>	44.5	48.6	<b>38.3</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>59.6</b>
Student leadership activities	41.9	30.5	34.1	24.7	34.0	36.4
Youth groups and clubs	32.4	27.7	27.8	27.6	30.7	39.8
Religious groups or activities	29.3	23.1	25.1	19.8	25.1	36.3
Environmental groups or activities	23.7	18.0	18.5	17.2	22.4	21.0
Political groups or organisations	8.5	7.1	6.5	7.8	6.4	6.0

Note: Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

In 2014 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. Just under half of respondents from SA (49.6%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 20.2%; *3-9 hours*: 29.4%). Around one third reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 21.3%; *20-29 hours*: 13.0%) and 16.0% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 5.5%; *40 hours or more*: 10.5%). Compared to the 2013 results, SA respondents in 2014 reported spending slightly more time on social networking sites in an average week. Overall, males tended to report spending less time on social networking sites in an average week than females.

Table 7.8: Time spent on social networking sites

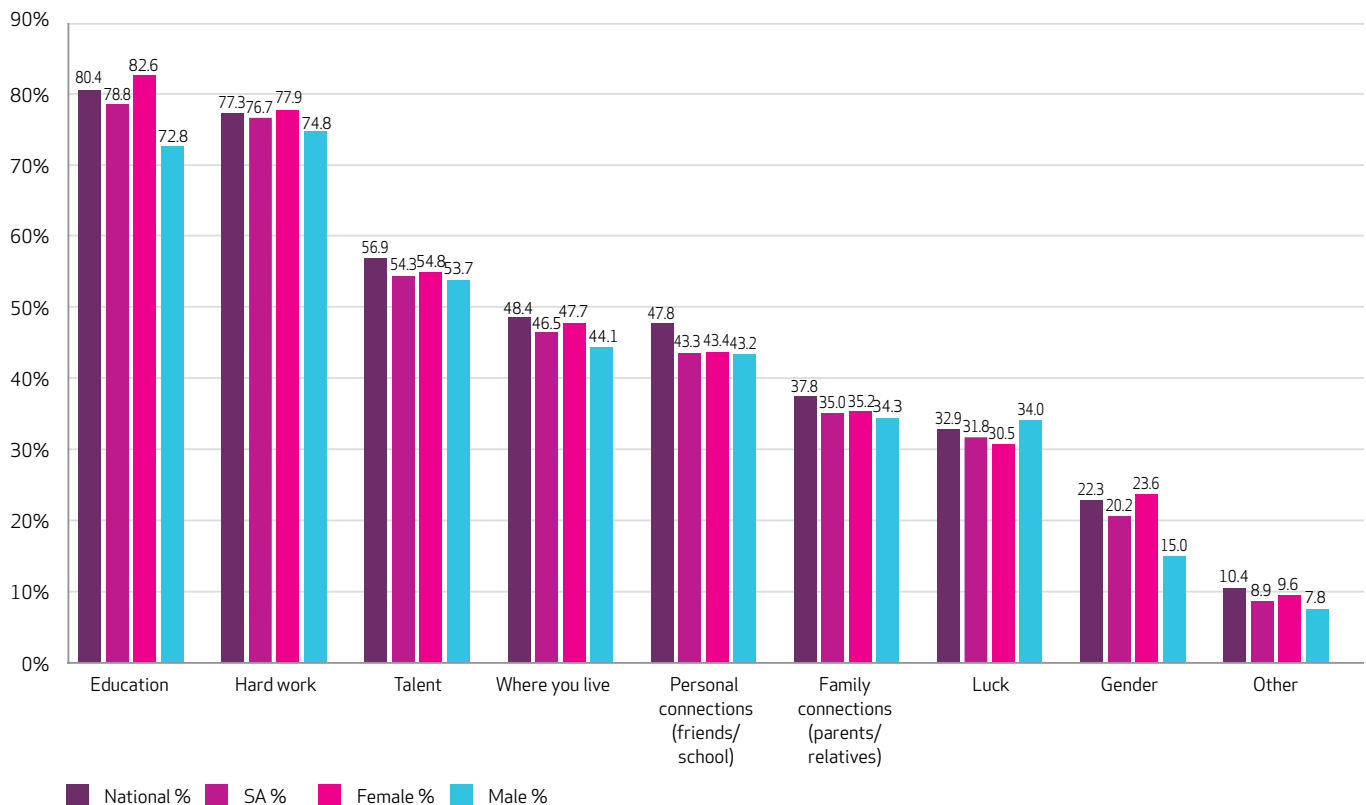
	National %	SA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.4	20.2	14.0	29.7	27.4
3 - 9 hours	32.0	29.4	29.5	29.6	28.9
10 - 19 hours	21.5	21.3	21.9	20.3	19.3
20 - 29 hours	11.9	13.0	15.5	9.3	10.5
30 - 39 hours	5.5	5.5	6.6	3.8	4.9
40 hours or more	8.7	10.5	12.5	7.4	9.0

## What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 7.6. In SA, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Over three quarters of respondents felt that *education* (78.8%) and *hard work* (76.7%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Over half of respondents from SA felt that *talent* (54.3%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Over four in ten felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *where you live* (46.5%) and *personal connections (friends/school)* (43.3%).

Figure 7.6: Influences on career opportunities in the future



Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 7.6, there were some differences in what male and female respondents from SA felt would influence their career opportunities in the future.

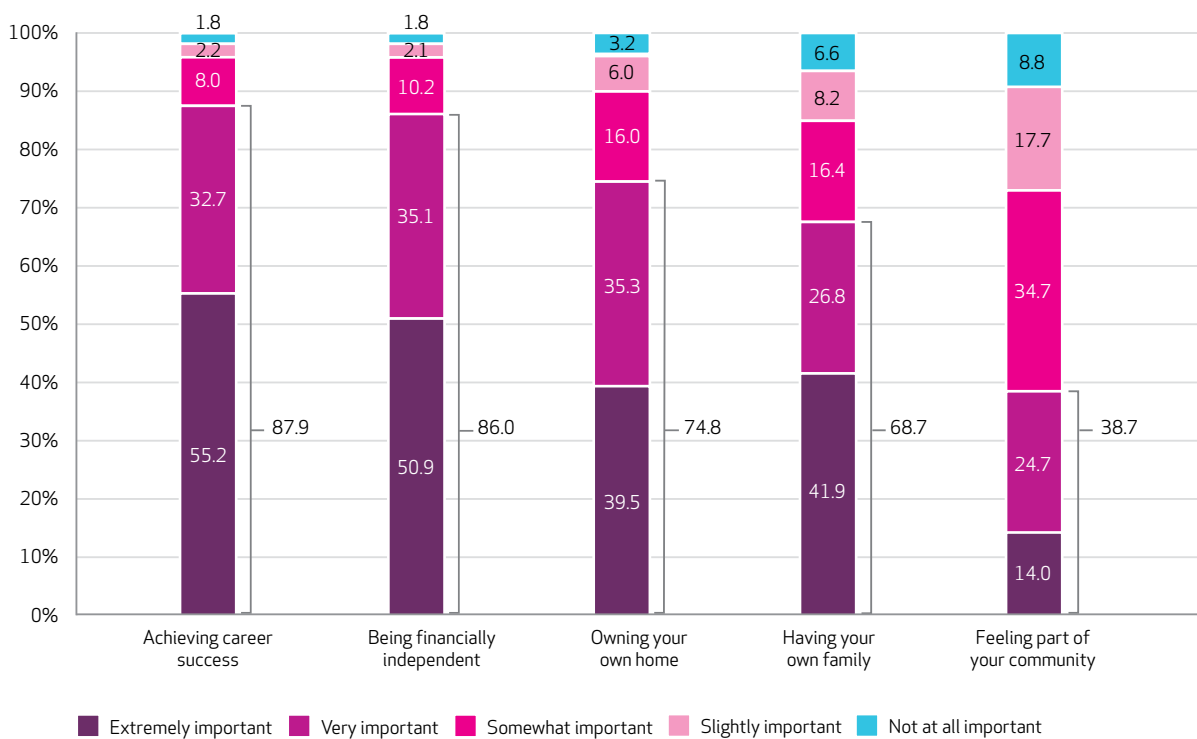
- The two most commonly cited influences on future career opportunities among both males and females in SA were *education* and *hard work*. The order of these items differed, however, with females indicating that they felt *education* was the top influence on their career opportunities in the future (82.6% compared with 72.8% for males), while among males the top influence was *hard work* (74.8% compared with 77.9% for females).
- The third most commonly cited influence on future career opportunities among both females and males was felt to be *talent* (54.8% and 53.7% respectively).
- Around one quarter of female respondents from SA (23.6%) felt that *gender* would influence their career opportunities in the future, compared to 15.0% of male respondents.

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 7.7 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Achieving career success* and *being financially independent* were ranked as the two most important items in SA. The next most important item among respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Achieving career success* was of high importance to 87.9% of SA respondents (*extremely important*: 55.2%; *very important*: 32.7%). *Being financially independent* was also of high importance to 86.0% of respondents (*extremely important*: 50.9%; *very important*: 35.1%).
- Around seven in ten respondents placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 39.5%; *very important*: 35.3%) and *having your own family* (*extremely important*: 41.9%; *very important*: 26.8%).
- Almost four in ten respondents from SA indicated that *feeling part of your community* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 14.0%; *very important*: 24.7%).

Figure 7.7: Young people's aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

The two most important items for both males and females from SA were *achieving career success* and *being financially independent*, as shown in Table 7.9. However, the proportion of female respondents placing high importance on these and all other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Achieving career success* was highly important to 90.4% of females (*extremely important*: 58.9%; *very important*: 31.5%) compared with 83.8% of males (*extremely important*: 49.0%; *very important*: 34.8%).
- *Being financially independent* was highly important to 88.8% of females (*extremely important*: 53.0%; *very important*: 35.8%) compared to 81.4% of males (*extremely important*: 47.3%; *very important*: 34.1%).
- 74.9% of females placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 38.7%; *very important*: 36.2%) compared with 74.8% of males (*extremely important*: 40.6%; *very important*: 34.2%).
- For 71.7% of females (*extremely important*: 45.1%; *very important*: 26.6%) and 63.7% of males in SA (*extremely important*: 36.6%; *very important*: 27.1%) *having your own family* was of high importance.

Table 7.9: Young people's aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>31.5</b>	6.5	2.1	1.0
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>35.8</b>	8.3	1.8	1.2
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>36.2</b>	16.9	5.7	2.4
Having your own family	45.1	26.6	14.0	8.2	6.1
Feeling part of your community	14.3	25.7	36.6	17.1	6.3
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>34.8</b>	10.5	2.5	3.2
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>34.1</b>	13.4	2.6	2.6
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>34.2</b>	14.4	6.3	4.6
Having your own family	36.6	27.1	20.3	8.4	7.5
Feeling part of your community	13.6	22.9	32.0	18.7	12.9

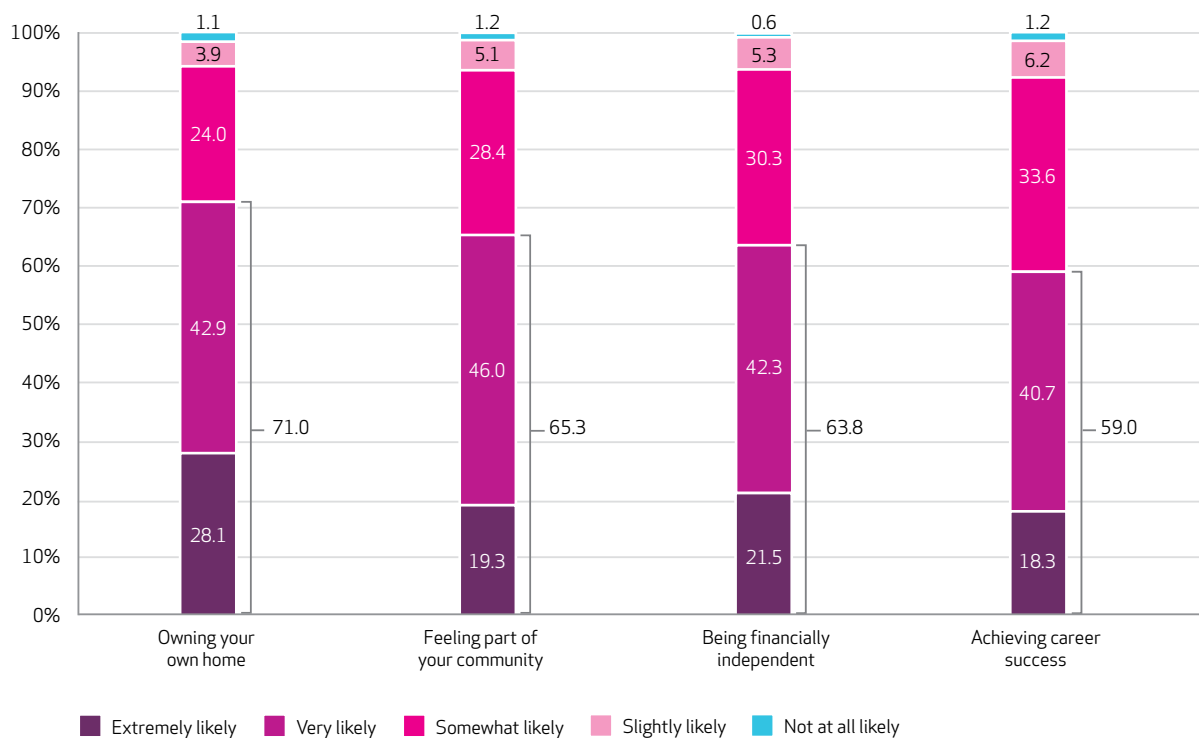
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 7.8 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item by respondents from SA, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*.

- Around seven in ten respondents in SA (71.0%) felt that *owning your own home* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 28.1%; *very likely*: 42.9%).
- Just under two thirds of respondents felt that *feeling part of your community* (*extremely likely*: 19.3%; *very likely*: 46.0%) and *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 21.5%; *very likely*: 42.3%) were highly likely to be achievable.
- Around six in ten respondents from SA felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 18.3%; *very likely*: 40.7%).

Figure 7.8: Likelihood of achieving aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.

## Gender differences

Both males and females from SA indicated that they felt *owning your own home* was the most achievable item, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*. Overall, a greater proportion of male respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve each of the items than female respondents.

- *Owning your own home* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 72.0% of males (*extremely likely*: 29.4%; *very likely*: 42.6%) compared with 70.3% of females in SA (*extremely likely*: 27.2%; *very likely*: 43.1%).
- 70.0% of males felt that *feeling part of your community* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 25.6%; *very likely*: 44.4%) compared with 62.5% of females (*extremely likely*: 15.7%; *very likely*: 46.8%).
- *Being financially independent* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 66.6% of males (*extremely likely*: 26.5% *very likely*: 40.1%) compared with 62.2% of females (*extremely likely*: 18.7%; *very likely*: 43.5%).
- Almost two thirds of males from SA felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 21.7%; *very likely*: 42.6%) while over half of all females (*extremely likely*: 16.3%; *very likely*: 39.6%) felt that this was highly likely to be achievable.

Table 7.10: Likelihood of achieving aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely likely %	Very likely %	Somewhat likely %	Slightly likely %	Not at all likely %
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>43.1</b>	23.7	4.7	1.3
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>46.8</b>	30.3	5.8	1.4
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>43.5</b>	31.6	5.7	0.5
Achieving career success	16.3	39.6	36.0	6.7	1.3
Males	Extremely likely %	Very likely %	Somewhat likely %	Slightly likely %	Not at all likely %
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>42.6</b>	24.7	2.6	0.7
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>44.4</b>	25.1	3.9	1.0
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>40.1</b>	28.1	4.6	0.7
Achieving career success	21.7	42.6	29.6	5.3	0.9

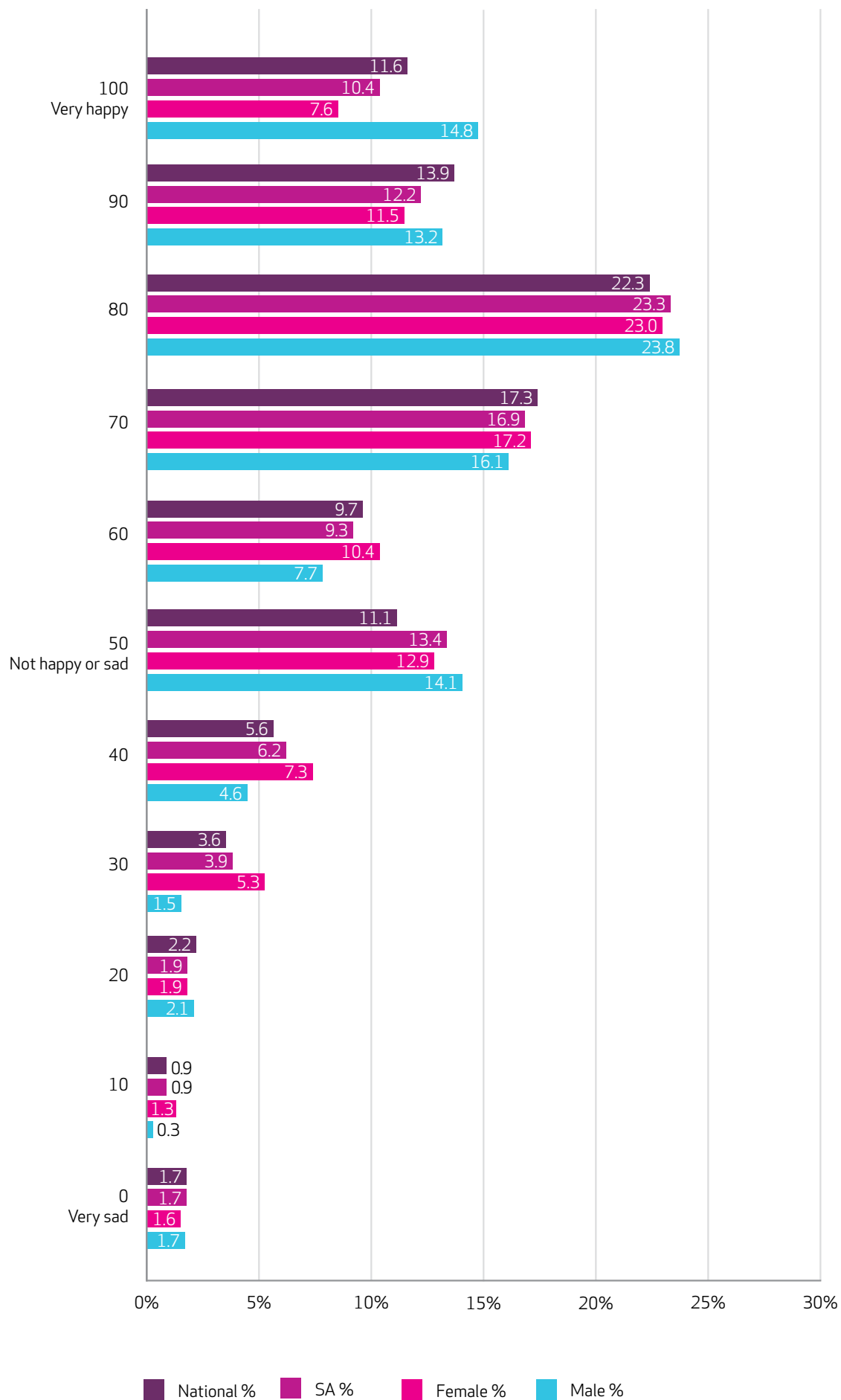
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 7.9 shows, the majority of young people from SA (62.8%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (14.8% compared with 7.6%).

<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

Figure 7.9: How happy young people are





## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 7.11 shows that compared to 2013 and 2012 there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of SA respondents feeling *very positive* about the future and a slight increase in those feeling *neither positive nor negative* about the future. Overall, around one in ten young people from SA felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Around six in ten respondents from SA felt either *positive* (46.0%) or *very positive* (14.1%) about the future.
- Almost three in ten respondents (29.9%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 7.3% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.8% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from SA were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (18.1% compared with 11.6%).

Table 7.11: Feelings about the future

	National %	SA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2013 %	SA 2012 %
Very positive	15.8	14.1	11.6	18.1	17.9	19.6
Positive	48.0	46.0	46.0	45.5	46.6	50.4
Neither positive nor negative	26.8	29.9	32.8	25.5	27.2	23.2
Negative	6.9	7.3	7.0	7.8	5.9	5.2
Very negative	2.5	2.8	2.6	3.1	2.4	1.6

# Tasmania



## Profile of respondents

In total, 827 young people from Tasmania (TAS) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014*.

### Gender breakdown

Over half (59.6%) of the respondents from Tasmania were male and 40.4% were female.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 88 (10.8%) respondents from Tasmania identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 72 (8.8%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 4 (0.5%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 1.5% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (11.8% compared to 10.0%).

### Language background other than English

70 (8.6%) respondents from Tasmania stated that they were born overseas and 59 (7.4%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home.

### Disability

A total of 56 (7.1%) respondents from Tasmania indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (8.1%) than females (5.6%) reporting a disability.

## Detailed results

### Education

As indicated in Table 8.1, 94.3% of respondents from Tasmania were studying full-time. Male respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than female respondents (95.3% compared with 92.7%), while a higher proportion of females (3.3%) than males (1.4%) reported studying part-time.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in 2013 and 2012, the majority of respondents from Tasmania reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.7%) or *satisfied* (60.8%) with their studies. Just over one in twenty were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.9% and 3.4% respectively). As shown in Table 8.2, males from Tasmania were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* with their studies (13.6% of males compared with 16.6% of females).

Table 8.1: Participation in education

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.8	94.3	92.7	95.3
Studying part-time	2.7	2.2	3.3	1.4
Not studying	3.5	3.5	4.0	3.3

Table 8.2: Satisfaction with studies

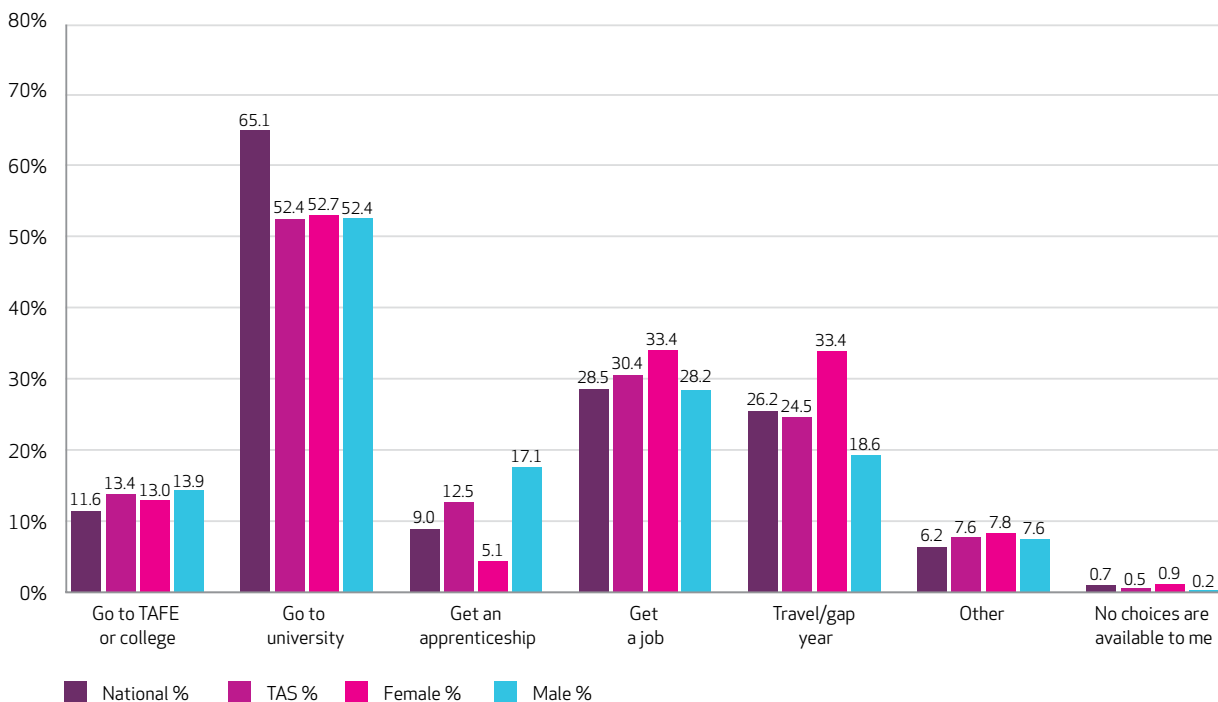
	National %	TAS 2014 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2013 %	TAS 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	14.7	16.6	13.6	19.1	10.8
Satisfied	55.9	60.8	59.6	61.3	56.4	56.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	19.1	18.5	19.8	18.9	26.2
Dissatisfied	5.0	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.2	5.2
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.4	1.1

Of those who were still at school in Tasmania, 93.9% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were more than twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (8.1% compared with 3.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 8.1 shows that just over half of all respondents from Tasmania planned to go to university after school (52.4%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (30.4%) and to travel or go on a gap year (24.5%) after school. Overall, 13.4% of young people from Tasmania planned to attend TAFE or college and 12.5% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (0.5%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

Going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both male and female respondents from Tasmania, with similar proportions of females and males indicating plans to do so (52.7% compared with 52.4% respectively). Female respondents were more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (33.4% compared with 18.6%). Males were much more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (17.1% compared with 5.1% of females).

Figure 8.1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 8.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst respondents from Tasmania. In line with the national data, only a tiny minority (1.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Around four in ten (39.7%) respondents from Tasmania reported part-time employment. Almost six in ten Tasmanian respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 36.3% looking for work and 22.6% not looking for work.

Around twice as many male as female respondents from Tasmania reported full-time employment (1.7% compared with 0.9% respectively), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (46.5% compared with 35.3%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (39.0% compared with 31.7%).

Table 8.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.7
Employed part-time	35.9	39.7	46.5	35.3
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.4	36.3	31.7	39.0
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.5	22.6	20.9	24.0

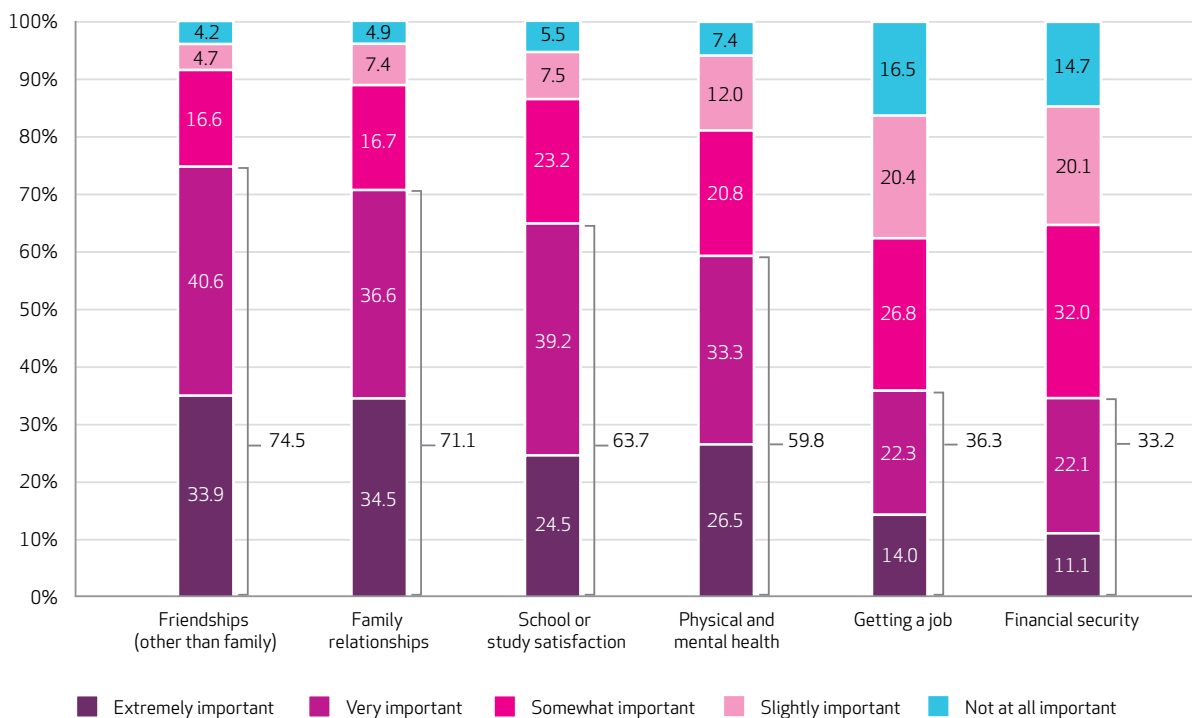
Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 8.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In line with both the national data and 2013 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from Tasmania this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for Tasmanian respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 74.5% of respondents from Tasmania (*extremely important*: 33.9%; *very important*: 40.6%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 71.1% of respondents (*extremely important*: 34.5%; *very important*: 36.6%).
- Around six in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 24.5%; *very important*: 39.2%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 26.5%; *very important*: 33.3%).
- Around one third of Tasmanian respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 14.0%; *very important*: 22.3%) and *financial security* (*extremely important*: 11.1%; *very important*: 22.1%).

Figure 8.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

Consistent with the 2013 results, *friendships* and *family relationships* were again ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females in Tasmania, as shown in Table 8.4. The third most valued item for male respondents was *physical and mental health*, while for female respondents it was *school or study satisfaction*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and all of the other items, was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 77.8% of females (*extremely important*: 40.1%; *very important*: 37.7%) compared with 72.4% of males (*extremely important*: 29.9%; *very important*: 42.5%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 75.5% of females (*extremely important*: 37.9%; *very important*: 37.6%) compared with 67.9% of males (*extremely important*: 32.1%; *very important*: 35.8%).
- 71.8% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 30.1%; *very important*: 41.7%) compared with 58.3% of males (*extremely important*: 20.5%; *very important*: 37.8%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 61.2% of females (*extremely important*: 31.4%; *very important*: 29.8%) and 58.9% of males (*extremely important*: 23.1%; *very important*: 35.8%) in Tasmania.

Table 8.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>37.7</b>	14.2	4.3	3.7
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>37.6</b>	12.2	7.6	4.6
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>41.7</b>	20.2	4.6	3.4
Physical and mental health	31.4	29.8	22.2	9.8	6.8
Getting a job	13.9	24.4	27.8	18.2	15.7
Financial security	11.3	27.5	33.4	17.2	10.6
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>42.5</b>	18.0	5.0	4.6
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>35.8</b>	19.7	7.2	5.2
School or study satisfaction	20.5	37.8	25.5	9.1	7.1
<b>Physical and mental health</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>35.8</b>	20.0	13.3	7.9
Getting a job	13.9	20.8	26.0	22.0	17.3
Financial security	10.6	18.6	31.3	22.1	17.3

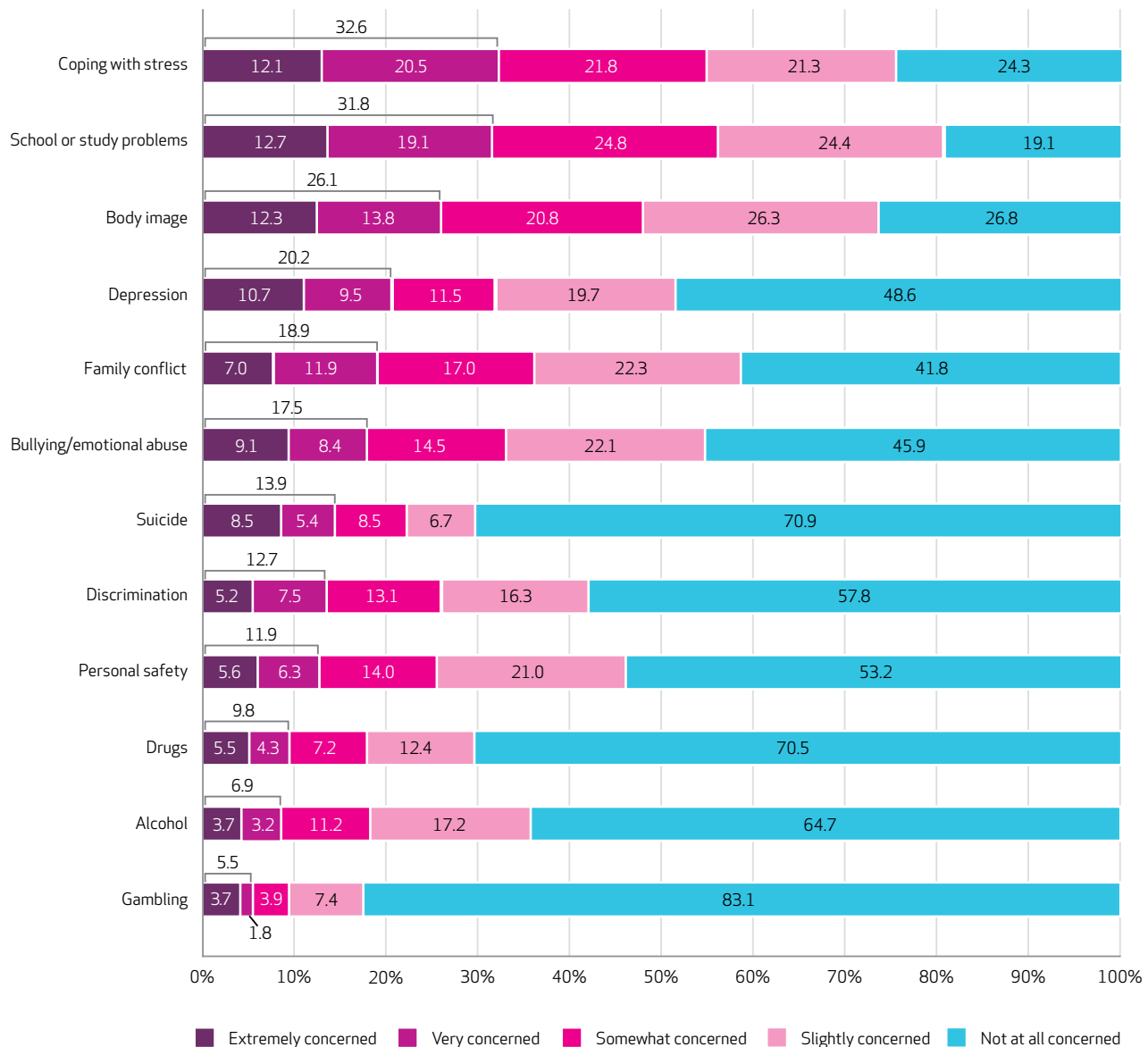
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 8.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from Tasmania were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 32.6% of respondents from Tasmania indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (12.1%) or *very concerned* (20.5%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 31.8% (*extremely concerned*: 12.7%; *very concerned*: 19.1%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 26.1% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.3%; *very concerned*: 13.8%).
- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 8.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were the top two issues of concern for both males and females in Tasmania, as highlighted in Table 8.5. The order of the top two issues of concern differed, however, with males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. The third top issue for females was *body image*, while for males it was *depression*. The proportion of females concerned about all of these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For over half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 18.5%; *very concerned*: 32.2%), compared with around one in five males (*extremely concerned*: 7.9%; *very concerned*: 12.4%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 46.8% (*extremely concerned*: 19.6%; *very concerned*: 27.2%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 21.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.5%; *very concerned*: 13.7%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 41.8% (*extremely concerned*: 20.3%; *very concerned*: 21.5%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 15.3% (*extremely concerned*: 7.0%; *very concerned*: 8.3%) of males.
- For 27.1% of females (*extremely concerned*: 15.7%; *very concerned*: 11.4%) and 15.7% of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.4%; *very concerned*: 8.3%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 8.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>32.2</b>	22.2	17.6	9.4
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>27.2</b>	22.9	20.5	9.8
<b>Body image</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>21.5</b>	26.7	20.6	10.9
Depression	15.7	11.4	15.7	24.3	32.9
Family conflict	11.3	17.2	20.6	21.2	29.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	12.3	11.4	19.4	23.7	33.2
Suicide	12.0	8.3	9.8	8.3	61.5
Discrimination	4.3	11.5	16.1	20.8	47.2
Personal safety	7.4	6.8	17.3	22.8	45.7
Drugs	4.6	4.6	9.8	14.1	67.0
Alcohol	3.6	4.2	13.0	17.2	61.9
Gambling	3.7	2.8	3.7	8.3	81.5
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>12.4</b>	21.7	24.0	34.1
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>13.7</b>	26.4	26.8	25.6
Body image	7.0	8.3	16.8	30.2	37.7
<b>Depression</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	8.9	16.3	59.1
Family conflict	4.1	8.3	14.5	23.0	50.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.1	6.2	11.2	21.2	54.3
Suicide	6.2	3.5	7.7	5.6	77.0
Discrimination	5.8	5.0	11.2	13.1	64.9
Personal safety	4.4	6.0	11.9	19.3	58.4
Drugs	6.2	4.1	5.6	11.2	72.8
Alcohol	3.7	2.5	10.2	17.0	66.6
Gambling	3.5	1.2	4.2	6.9	84.2

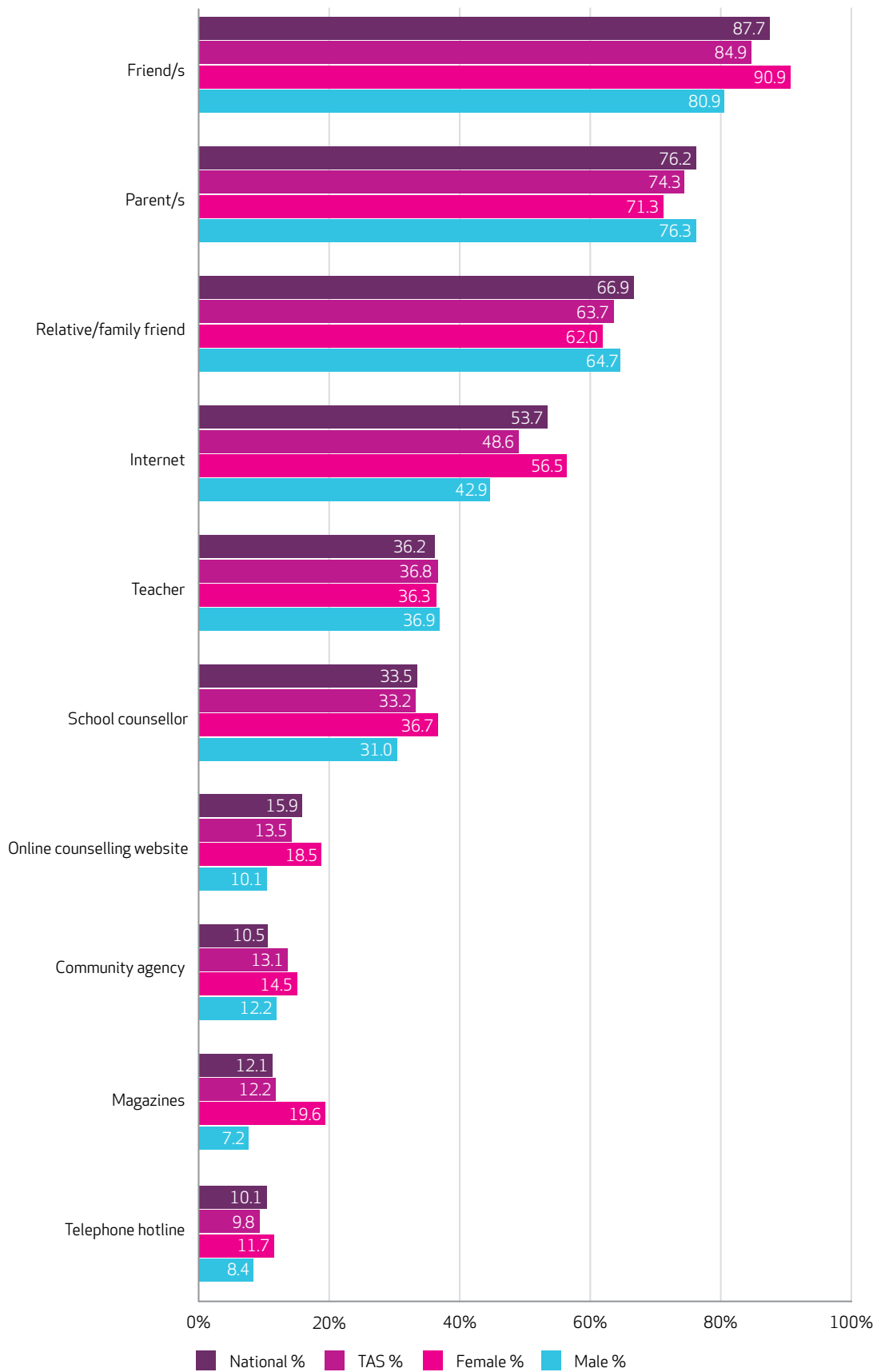
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 8.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for young people in Tasmania were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- *Friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (84.9%, 74.3% and 63.7% respectively).
- Just under half of respondents from Tasmania indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around one third of respondents indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 8.4: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.



## Gender differences

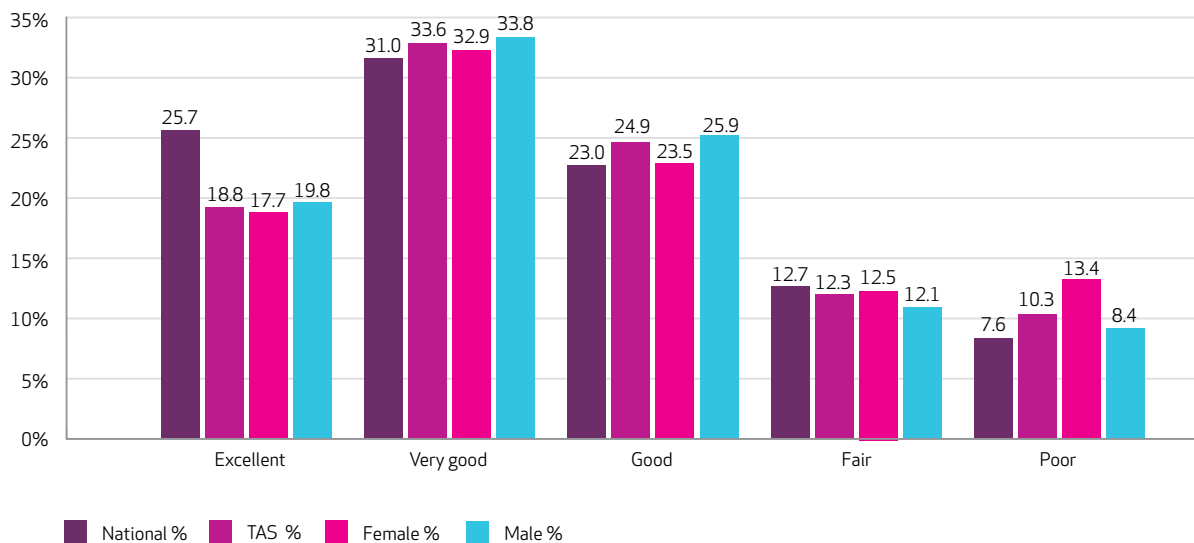
As shown in Figure 8.4, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with Tasmanian and national results. However, a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues, while greater proportions of males would go to *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- Around nine in ten (90.9%) female respondents and 80.9% of male respondents in Tasmania indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to go to *parent/s* (76.3% compared with 71.3%) and *relatives/family friends* (64.7% compared with 62.0%) for help.
- Females from Tasmania were more likely than males to go to the *internet* (56.5% compared with 42.9%), *magazines* (19.6% compared with 7.2%) and *online counselling websites* (18.5% compared with 10.1%) for help with important issues in their lives.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 8.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from Tasmania rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 18.8% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 33.6% that it was *very good*. However, more than one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.3%) or *poor* (10.3%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 8.5: Family's ability to get along



## 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 8.6. In 2014 the top three issues identified by young people from Tasmania were *politics and societal values*, *the economy and financial matters* and *employment*. The first two of these were also the top issues identified nationally.

- Three in ten young people from Tasmania identified *politics and societal values* (31.3%) and around one quarter identified *the economy and financial matters* (24.2%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Close to one in five respondents identified *employment* (21.8%), *health* (19.9%), *alcohol and drugs* (19.5%) and *population issues* (19.5%) as major issues.
- While at relatively minor levels, mentions of *international relations* and *technology* as key issues facing the nation have increased among young people from Tasmania since 2012. Conversely, mentions of *population issues* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

## Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from Tasmania. While *employment* was identified among the top three issues by both males and females, the other issues that made up their top three differed. For females *the economy and financial matters* was the number one issue, followed by *employment* and *mental health* (in equal second position). For males the top issue this year was *politics and societal values*, followed by *alcohol and drugs* and then *employment*.

- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (39.0% compared with 20.4%) and *alcohol and drugs* (23.9% compared with 13.4%) as important national issues.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *the economy and financial matters* (30.6% compared with 19.8%) and *mental health* (22.9% compared with 8.4%) as important issues.
- Over one in five female and male respondents from Tasmania (22.9% and 20.7% respectively) identified *employment* as a major issue facing Australia today.

Table 8.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	TAS 2014 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2013 %	TAS 2012 %
<b>Politics and societal values</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>31.3</b>	20.4	<b>39.0</b>	21.1	<b>25.5</b>
<b>The economy and financial matters</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>30.6</b>	19.8	16.9	<b>27.7</b>
<b>Employment</b>	11.3	<b>21.8</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>22.8</b>	8.7
Health	14.1	19.9	22.5	18.1	16.6	20.0
Alcohol and drugs	<b>23.2</b>	19.5	13.4	<b>23.9</b>	14.5	19.1
Population issues	16.8	19.5	20.4	19.0	<b>28.2</b>	<b>32.5</b>
Equity and discrimination	21.3	16.7	16.2	17.1	<b>28.5</b>	19.1
Bullying	14.5	15.4	18.3	13.0	8.0	8.9
Mental health	18.3	14.4	<b>22.9</b>	8.4	15.4	7.6
Education	15.8	12.4	12.0	12.8	14.8	11.1
The environment	12.3	10.7	11.6	10.1	12.2	20.9
Crime, safety and violence	10.7	9.3	9.5	9.2	6.2	7.4
Homelessness/housing	7.5	9.0	10.9	7.7	11.0	7.8
International relations	3.4	6.4	3.2	8.7	5.0	3.3
Technology	4.1	5.8	4.6	6.7	1.2	0.7
Adolescence/youth	6.1	5.4	7.0	4.3	2.4	4.0
LGBT issues	6.2	5.3	7.0	4.1	11.9	10.0

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 8.7. The top three activities for young people from Tasmania, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. These were also the top three activities for young people from Tasmania in 2013 and 2012. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people from Tasmania in 2014.
- 45.0% of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities*.
- Around one in three young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (34.7%) and *youth groups and clubs* (30.0%).
- Over one in five young people from Tasmania had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (23.6%) and *religious groups or activities* (21.7%) over the past year.

### Gender differences

As shown in Table 8.7 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with Tasmanian and national results, although a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for males was *volunteer work*, while for females it was *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 75.5% of male respondents and 61.6% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (71.4% compared with 56.2%).
- Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (54.6% compared with 38.4%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking higher up the list for male respondents, a greater proportion of female than male respondents from Tasmania were involved in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (52.0% and 37.2% compared with 40.6% and 33.4% respectively).

Table 8.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	TAS 2014 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2013 %	TAS 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>78.1</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>73.8</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>45.2</b>	52.0	<b>40.6</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>51.4</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.0	45.0	<b>54.6</b>	38.4	53.1	49.2
Student leadership activities	41.9	34.7	37.2	33.4	49.9	44.7
Youth groups and clubs	32.4	30.0	30.0	30.2	28.8	38.0
Environmental groups or activities	23.7	23.6	28.0	20.5	30.7	26.8
Religious groups or activities	29.3	21.7	23.5	20.4	26.2	25.7
Political groups or organisations	8.5	9.3	13.2	6.7	9.7	9.5

Note: Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

In 2014 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. Around half of respondents from Tasmania (49.5%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 17.3%; *3-9 hours*: 32.2%). Just over one third reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 21.4%; *20-29 hours*: 14.2%) and 15.0% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 4.8%; *40 hours or more*: 10.2%). Compared to the 2013 results, Tasmanian respondents in 2014 reported spending more time on social networking sites in an average week. Overall, males tended to report spending less time on social networking sites in an average week than females.

Table 8.8: Time spent on social networking sites

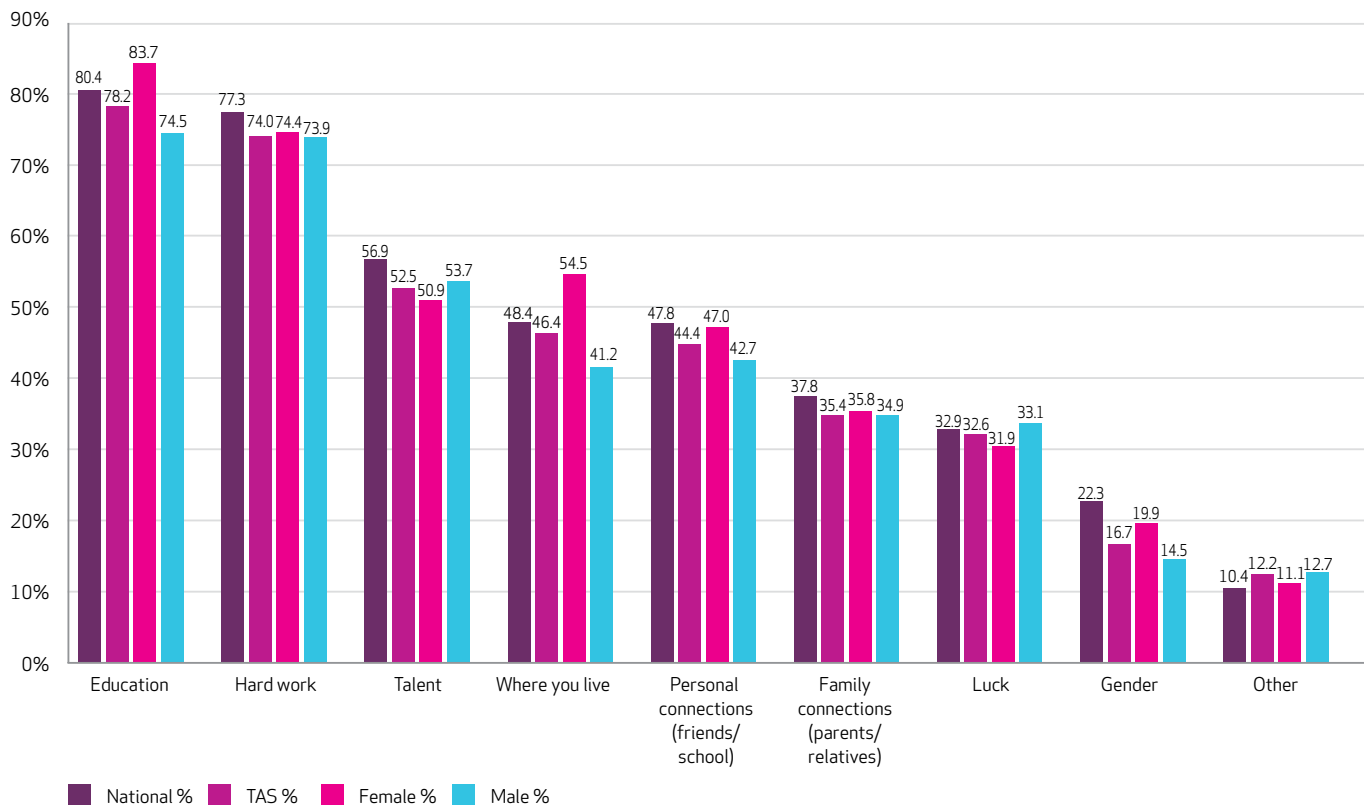
	National %	TAS 2014 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.4	17.3	9.8	22.5	26.6
3 - 9 hours	32.0	32.2	31.2	32.8	33.1
10 - 19 hours	21.5	21.4	23.5	19.8	21.2
20 - 29 hours	11.9	14.2	15.6	13.2	7.0
30 - 39 hours	5.5	4.8	6.4	3.7	3.6
40 hours or more	8.7	10.2	13.5	8.0	8.5

## What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 8.6. In Tasmania, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Around three quarters of respondents felt that *education* (78.2%) and *hard work* (74.0%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Over half of all respondents from Tasmania felt that *talent* (52.5%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Over four in ten felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *where you live* (46.4%) and *personal connections (friends/school)* (44.4%).

Figure 8.6: Influences on career opportunities in the future



Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 8.6, there were some differences in what male and female respondents from Tasmania felt would influence their career opportunities in the future.

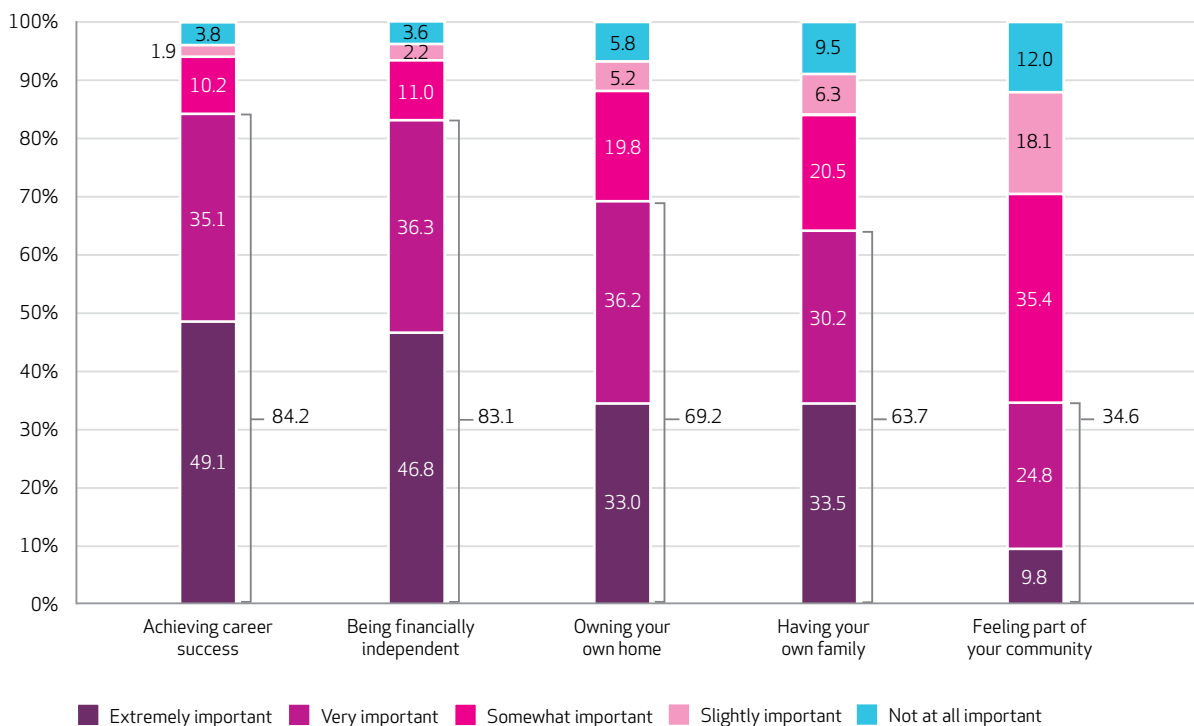
- The two most commonly cited influences on future career opportunities among both females and males in Tasmania were *education* (83.7% and 74.5% respectively) and *hard work* (74.4% and 73.9% respectively).
- The third most commonly cited influence on future career opportunities among males was felt to be *talent* (53.7% compared with 50.9% for females), while among females it was *where you live* (54.5% compared with 41.2% for males).
- Around one in five female respondents from Tasmania (19.9%) felt that *gender* would influence their career opportunities in the future, compared to 14.5% of male respondents.

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 8.7 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Achieving career success* and *being financially independent* were ranked as the two most important items in Tasmania. The next most important item among respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Achieving career success* was of high importance to 84.2% of Tasmanian respondents (*extremely important*: 49.1%; *very important*: 35.1%). *Being financially independent* was also of high importance to 83.1% of respondents (*extremely important*: 46.8%; *very important*: 36.3%).
- Around two thirds of respondents placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 33.0%; *very important*: 36.2%) and *having your own family* (*extremely important*: 33.5%; *very important*: 30.2%).
- Around one third of respondents from Tasmania indicated that *feeling part of your community* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 9.8%; *very important*: 24.8%).

Figure 8.7: Young people's aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

The two most important items for both males and females from Tasmania were *achieving career success* and *being financially independent*, as shown in Table 8.9. However, the proportion of female respondents placing high importance on these items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Achieving career success* was highly important to 85.8% of females (*extremely important*: 51.8%; *very important*: 34.0%) compared with 82.8% of males (*extremely important*: 47.4%; *very important*: 35.4%).
- *Being financially independent* was highly important to 85.7% of females (*extremely important*: 53.2%; *very important*: 32.5%) compared to 81.5% of males (*extremely important*: 42.6%; *very important*: 38.9%).
- 69.7% of females placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 33.9%; *very important*: 35.8%) compared with 68.6% of males (*extremely important*: 32.4%; *very important*: 36.2%).
- For 64.9% of females (*extremely important*: 34.1%; *very important*: 30.8%) and 62.8% of males in Tasmania (*extremely important*: 33.0%; *very important*: 29.8%) *having your own family* was of high importance.

Table 8.9: Young people's aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>34.0</b>	9.2	0.9	4.0
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>32.5</b>	8.8	1.5	4.0
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>35.8</b>	18.8	5.5	6.1
Having your own family	34.1	30.8	19.3	6.3	9.4
Feeling part of your community	10.9	24.8	36.7	17.9	9.7
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>35.4</b>	10.9	2.5	3.8
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>38.9</b>	12.4	2.7	3.4
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>36.2</b>	20.7	5.0	5.6
Having your own family	33.0	29.8	21.2	6.3	9.7
Feeling part of your community	8.9	24.7	34.6	18.1	13.7

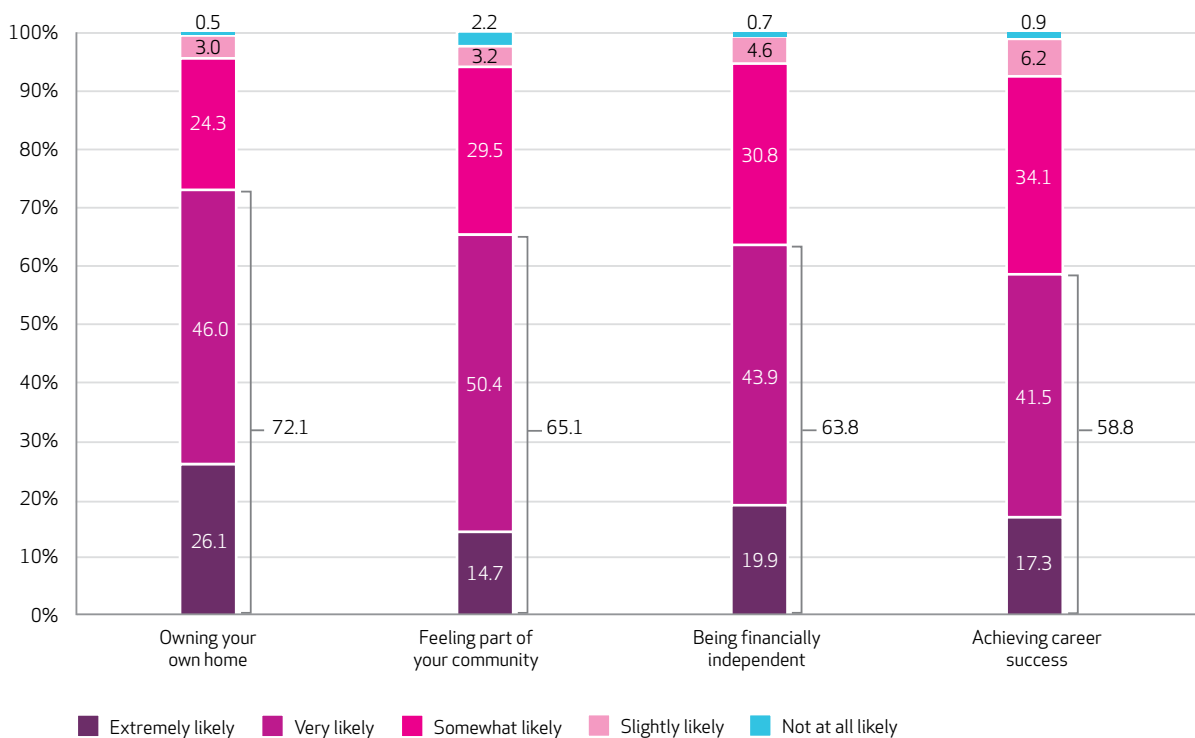
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 8.8 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item by respondents from Tasmania, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*.

- Around seven in ten respondents in Tasmania (72.1%) felt that *owning your own home* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 26.1%; *very likely*: 46.0%).
- Around two thirds of respondents felt that *feeling part of your community* (*extremely likely*: 14.7%; *very likely*: 50.4%) and *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 19.9%; *very likely*: 43.9%) were highly likely to be achievable.
- Almost six in ten respondents from Tasmania felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 17.3%; *very likely*: 41.5%).

Figure 8.8: Likelihood of achieving aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.



## Gender differences

Both males and females from Tasmania indicated that they felt *owning your own home* was the most achievable item. For females, the next most achievable item was felt to be *feeling part of your community*, while males felt it was *being financially independent*. Overall, a greater proportion of male respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve each of the items than female respondents.

- *Owning your own home* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 74.1% of males (*extremely likely*: 29.0%; *very likely*: 45.1%) compared with 69.7% of females in Tasmania (*extremely likely*: 22.5%; *very likely*: 47.2%).
- 67.1% of males felt that *feeling part of your community* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 12.0%; *very likely*: 55.1%) compared with 61.8% of females in Tasmania (*extremely likely*: 18.6%; *very likely*: 43.2%).
- *Being financially independent* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 67.9% of males (*extremely likely*: 23.1%; *very likely*: 44.8%) compared with 58.5% of females (*extremely likely*: 15.8%; *very likely*: 42.7%).
- Almost two thirds of males from Tasmania felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 19.9%; *very likely*: 44.6%) while just over half of all females (*extremely likely*: 13.5%; *very likely*: 37.4%) felt that this was highly likely to be achievable.

Table 8.10: Likelihood of achieving aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely likely %	Very likely %	Somewhat likely %	Slightly likely %	Not at all likely %
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>47.2</b>	26.0	3.0	1.3
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>43.2</b>	32.2	5.1	0.8
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>42.7</b>	34.8	6.1	0.7
Achieving career success	13.5	37.4	40.9	7.5	0.7
Males	Extremely likely %	Very likely %	Somewhat likely %	Slightly likely %	Not at all likely %
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>45.1</b>	23.5	2.4	0.0
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>55.1</b>	27.8	1.9	3.2
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>44.8</b>	28.2	3.1	0.8
Achieving career success	19.9	44.6	29.6	5.1	0.8

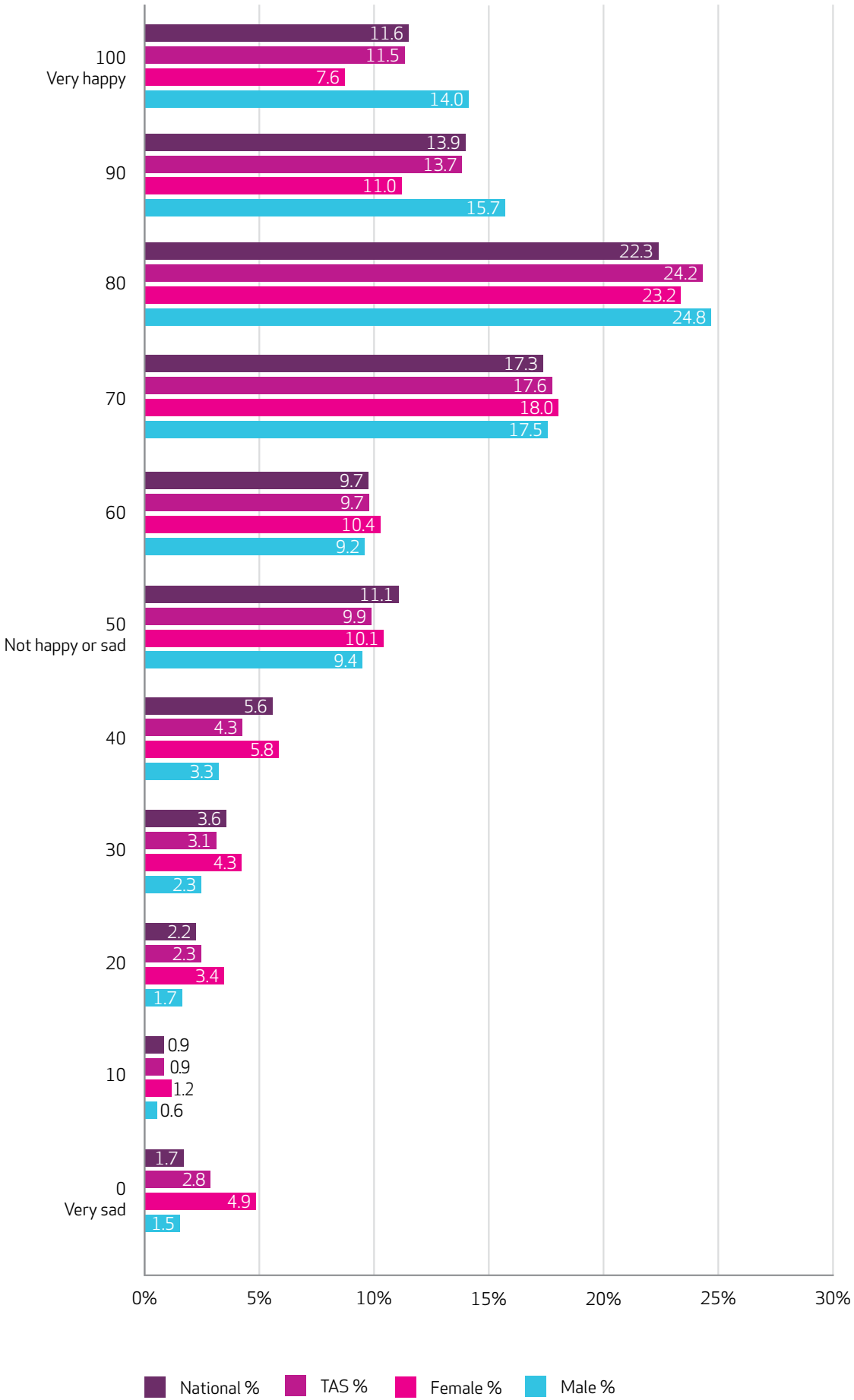
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 8.9 shows, the majority of young people from Tasmania (67.0%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were almost twice as likely as female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (14.0% compared with 7.6%).

<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

Figure 8.9: How happy young people are



## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 8.11 shows that the majority of Tasmanian respondents indicated feeling either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people from Tasmania felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Around two thirds of respondents from Tasmania felt either *positive* (48.0%) or *very positive* (17.4%) about the future.
- Just over one quarter of respondents (26.8%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 4.9% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.8% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from Tasmania were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (20.0% compared with 13.7%).

Table 8.11: Feelings about the future

	National %	TAS 2014 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2013 %	TAS 2012 %
Very positive	15.8	17.4	13.7	20.0	15.6	17.0
Positive	48.0	48.0	45.6	50.0	48.9	49.1
Neither positive nor negative	26.8	26.8	30.7	23.7	21.9	26.4
Negative	6.9	4.9	5.2	4.8	7.1	4.4
Very negative	2.5	2.8	4.9	1.5	6.5	3.0

# Victoria



## Profile of respondents

In total, 3,115 young people from Victoria (VIC) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014*.

### Gender breakdown

Almost two thirds (63.9%) of the respondents from Victoria were female and 36.1% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 66 (2.2%) respondents from Victoria identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 45 (1.5%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 15 (0.5%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.2% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (2.6% compared to 1.9%).

### Language background other than English

541 (17.5%) respondents from Victoria stated that they were born overseas and 742 (24.4%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 60 languages spoken at home in Victoria, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Singhalese and Mandarin.

### Disability

A total of 116 (3.8%) respondents from Victoria indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (5.4%) than females (3.0%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in Victoria were (in order of frequency): learning disability, physical disability and autism.

## Detailed results

### Education

As indicated in Table 9.1, 96.4% of respondents from Victoria were studying full-time. Very similar proportions of males and females reported that they were studying full-time (96.8% and 96.2% respectively), while females were slightly more likely than males to report studying part-time (2.3% compared with 1.3%).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in 2013 and 2012, the majority of respondents from Victoria reported that they were either *very satisfied* (15.5%) or *satisfied* (56.1%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.5% and 5.3% respectively). As shown in Table 9.2, males from Victoria were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *satisfied* with their studies (52.4% of males compared with 58.1% of females respectively).

Table 9.1: Participation in education

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.8	96.4	96.2	96.8
Studying part-time	2.7	2.0	2.3	1.3
Not studying	3.5	1.6	1.5	1.9

Table 9.2: Satisfaction with studies

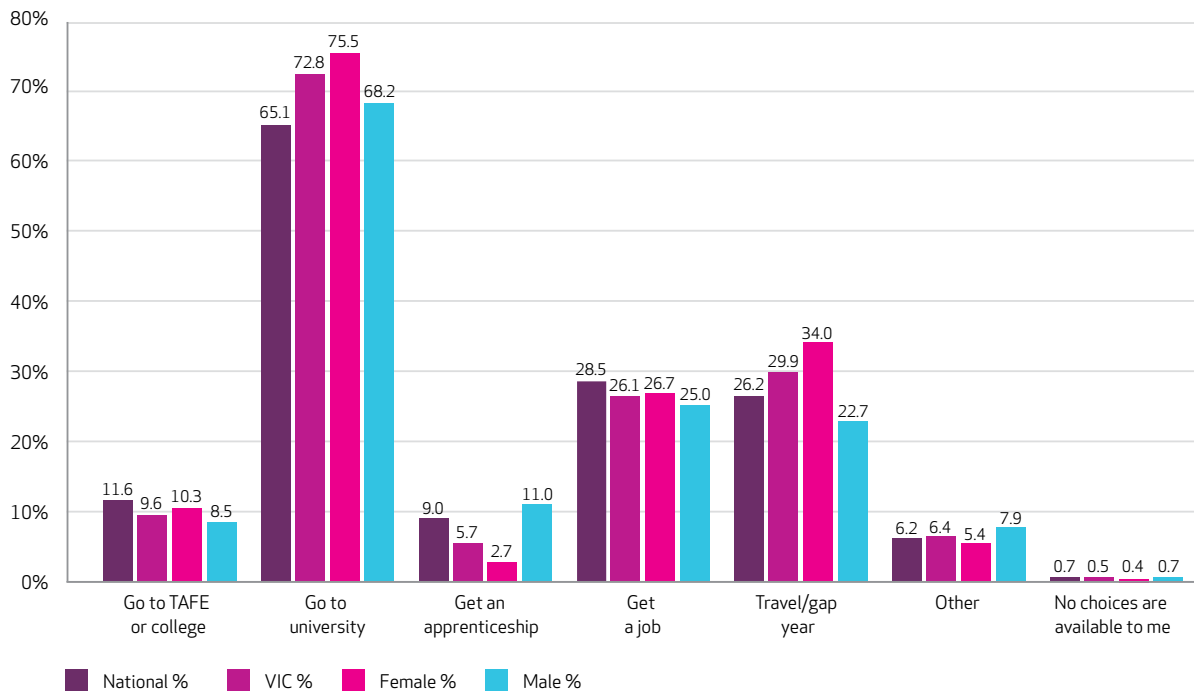
	National %	VIC 2014 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2013 %	VIC 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	15.5	15.0	16.3	18.5	15.2
Satisfied	55.9	56.1	58.1	52.4	56.6	57.4
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	21.7	20.9	23.0	19.4	21.2
Dissatisfied	5.0	5.3	4.7	6.3	4.5	4.7
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.9	1.1	1.4

Of those who were still at school in Victoria, 96.2% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were almost twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (5.3% compared with 3.0% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 9.1 shows that almost three quarters of respondents from Victoria planned to go to university after school (72.8%). Many respondents also indicated plans to travel or go on a gap year (29.9%) or to get a job (26.1%) after school. Overall, 9.6% of young people from Victoria planned to attend TAFE or college and 5.7% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (0.5%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

While going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both male and female respondents from Victoria, females were more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (75.5% compared with 68.2% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (34.0% compared with 22.7%). Males were much more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (11.0% compared with 2.7% of females).

Figure 9.1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 9.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst respondents from Victoria. In line with the national data, only a tiny minority (0.5%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Around four in ten (40.6%) respondents from Victoria reported part-time employment. Almost six in ten Victorian respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 33.8% looking for work and 25.1% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of female and male respondents from Victoria reported full-time employment (0.6% compared with 0.5% respectively), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (44.5% compared with 33.6%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (36.8% compared with 32.2%).

Table 9.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.5
Employed part-time	35.9	40.6	44.5	33.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.4	33.8	32.2	36.8
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.5	25.1	22.8	29.1

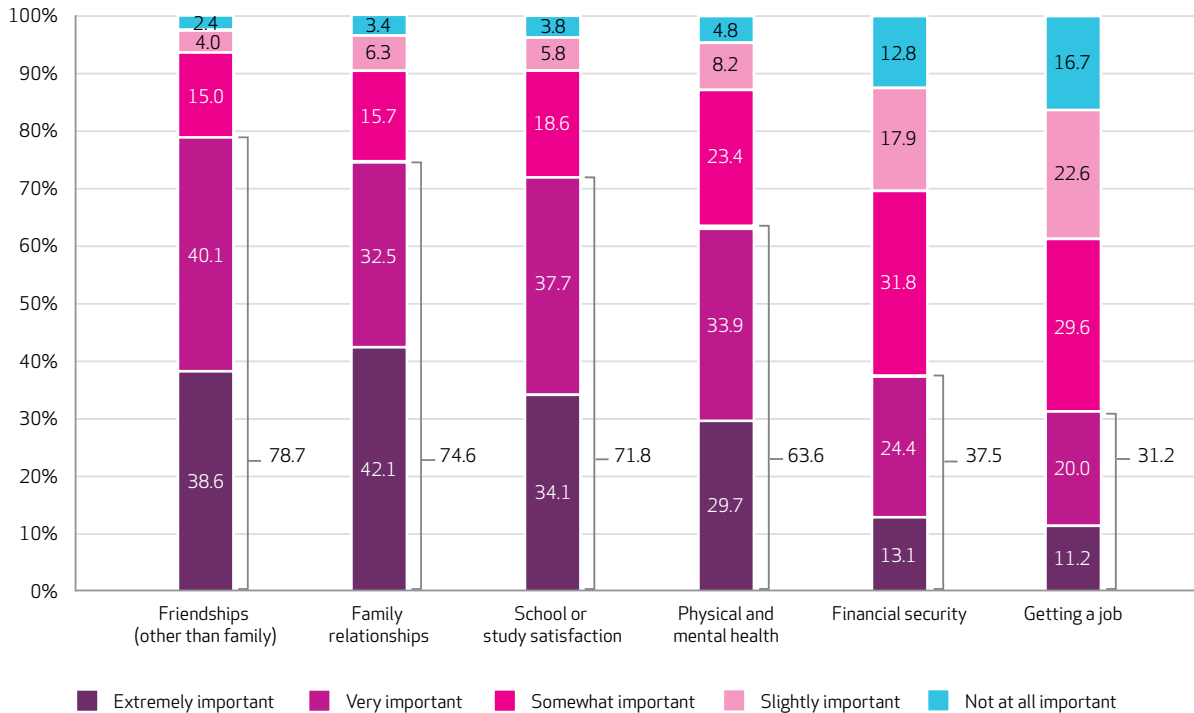
Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 9.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In line with both the national data and 2013 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from Victoria this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for Victorian respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 78.7% of respondents from Victoria (*extremely important*: 38.6%; *very important*: 40.1%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 74.6% of respondents (*extremely important*: 42.1%; *very important*: 32.5%).
- Over seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 34.1%; *very important*: 37.7%) and around two thirds highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 29.7%; *very important*: 33.9%).
- Around four in ten Victorian respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 13.1%; *very important*: 24.4%) and three in ten respondents highly valued *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 11.2%; *very important*: 20.0%).

Figure 9.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

Consistent with the 2013 results, *friendships* and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females in Victoria, as shown in Table 9.4. The third most valued item by both males and females in Victoria this year was *school or study satisfaction*, also in line with the 2013 results. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and all of the other items, was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 82.3% of females (*extremely important*: 42.4%; *very important*: 39.9%) compared with 72.1% of males (*extremely important*: 31.9%; *very important*: 40.2%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 77.9% of females (*extremely important*: 46.6%; *very important*: 31.3%) compared with 68.7% of males (*extremely important*: 34.0%; *very important*: 34.7%).
- 76.9% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 40.0%; *very important*: 36.9%) compared with 62.8% of males (*extremely important*: 23.8%; *very important*: 39.0%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 67.4% of females (*extremely important*: 32.3%; *very important*: 35.1%) and 57.0% of males (*extremely important*: 25.2%; *very important*: 31.8%) in Victoria.

Table 9.4: What young people value by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>39.9</b>	12.9	3.3	1.5
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>31.3</b>	14.0	5.6	2.5
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>36.9</b>	16.5	4.0	2.5
Physical and mental health	32.3	35.1	22.0	7.4	3.2
Financial security	12.8	26.1	33.0	17.1	10.9
Getting a job	10.8	21.4	30.9	21.5	15.5
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>40.2</b>	18.9	5.3	3.8
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>34.7</b>	18.9	7.5	4.9
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>39.0</b>	22.3	9.0	5.9
Physical and mental health	25.2	31.8	25.8	9.6	7.6
Financial security	13.7	21.3	29.7	19.2	16.1
Getting a job	12.0	17.5	27.2	24.7	18.5

Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

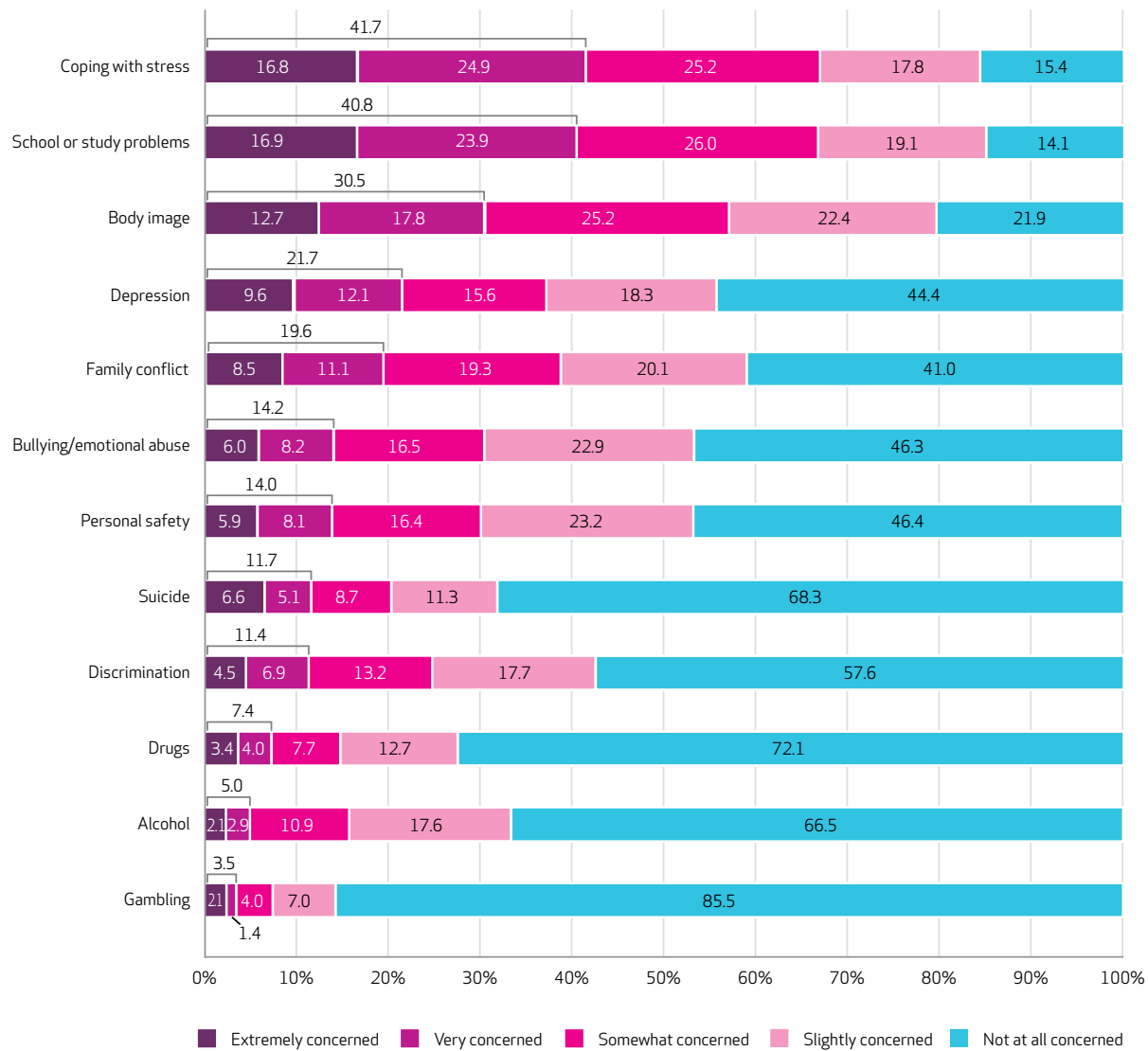
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 9.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from Victoria were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 41.7% of respondents from Victoria indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (16.8%) or *very concerned* (24.9%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 40.8% (*extremely concerned*: 16.9%; *very concerned*: 23.9%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 30.5% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.7%; *very concerned*: 17.8%).
- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.



Figure 9.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were the top two issues of concern for both males and females in Victoria, as highlighted in Table 9.5. The order of these top two issues of concern differed, however, with males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. The third top issue of concern for females from Victoria this year was *body image*, while for males it was *depression*. The proportion of females concerned about all of these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For over half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 22.0%; *very concerned*: 29.8%), compared with around one quarter of all males (*extremely concerned*: 7.5%; *very concerned*: 16.1%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 47.8% (*extremely concerned*: 20.6%; *very concerned*: 27.2%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 28.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.5%; *very concerned*: 17.9%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 40.5% (*extremely concerned*: 17.5%; *very concerned*: 23.0%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 12.6% (*extremely concerned*: 4.2%; *very concerned*: 8.4%) of males.
- For 26.5% of females (*extremely concerned*: 10.9%; *very concerned*: 15.6%) and 13.3% of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.4%; *very concerned*: 5.9%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 9.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>29.8</b>	25.8	14.3	8.0
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>27.2</b>	26.1	16.8	9.2
<b>Body image</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>23.0</b>	26.9	19.7	12.9
Depression	10.9	15.6	17.1	18.4	38.0
Family conflict	10.0	13.5	21.8	20.8	33.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.9	9.8	18.5	24.7	40.1
Personal safety	5.9	9.5	18.9	24.8	40.8
Suicide	7.4	6.3	10.4	12.5	63.3
Discrimination	4.6	8.3	14.0	19.0	54.1
Drugs	2.3	4.4	8.1	13.4	71.8
Alcohol	1.6	3.1	12.2	19.0	64.0
Gambling	1.3	1.3	3.6	6.9	86.8
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>16.1</b>	24.1	23.9	28.4
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>17.9</b>	25.8	23.0	22.8
Body image	4.2	8.4	22.1	27.3	38.0
<b>Depression</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	12.9	18.0	55.8
Family conflict	5.9	6.8	14.8	19.0	53.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.5	5.4	12.9	19.7	57.5
Personal safety	5.8	5.7	11.9	20.2	56.4
Suicide	5.3	3.1	5.6	9.0	77.0
Discrimination	4.3	4.5	11.7	15.4	64.0
Drugs	5.5	3.4	7.0	11.5	72.6
Alcohol	2.9	2.6	8.6	15.0	70.8
Gambling	3.5	1.5	4.8	7.2	82.9

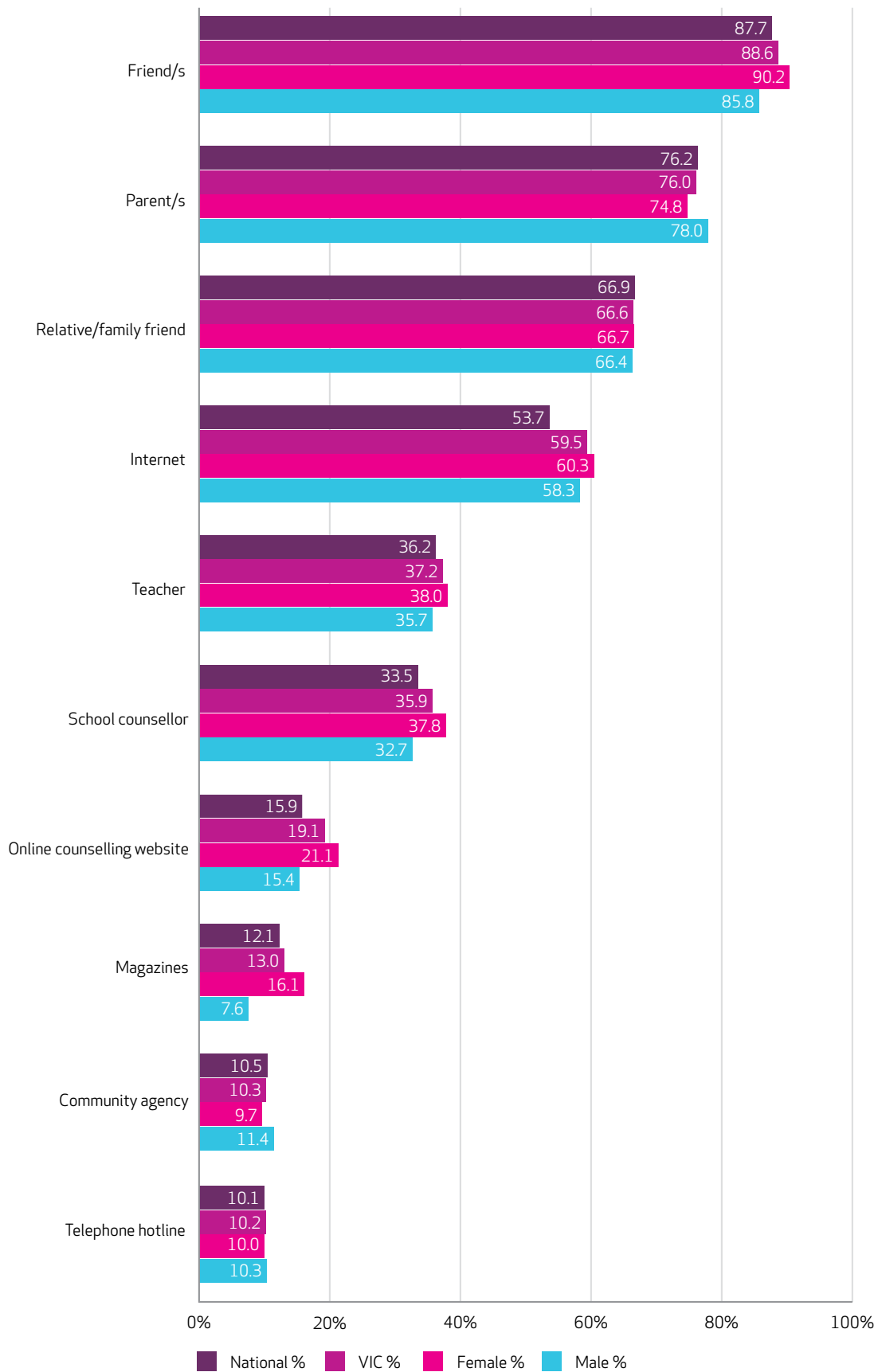
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 9.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for young people in Victoria were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- *Friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (88.6%, 76.0% and 66.6% respectively).
- Around six in ten respondents from Victoria indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Over one third of respondents indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 9.4: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Gender differences

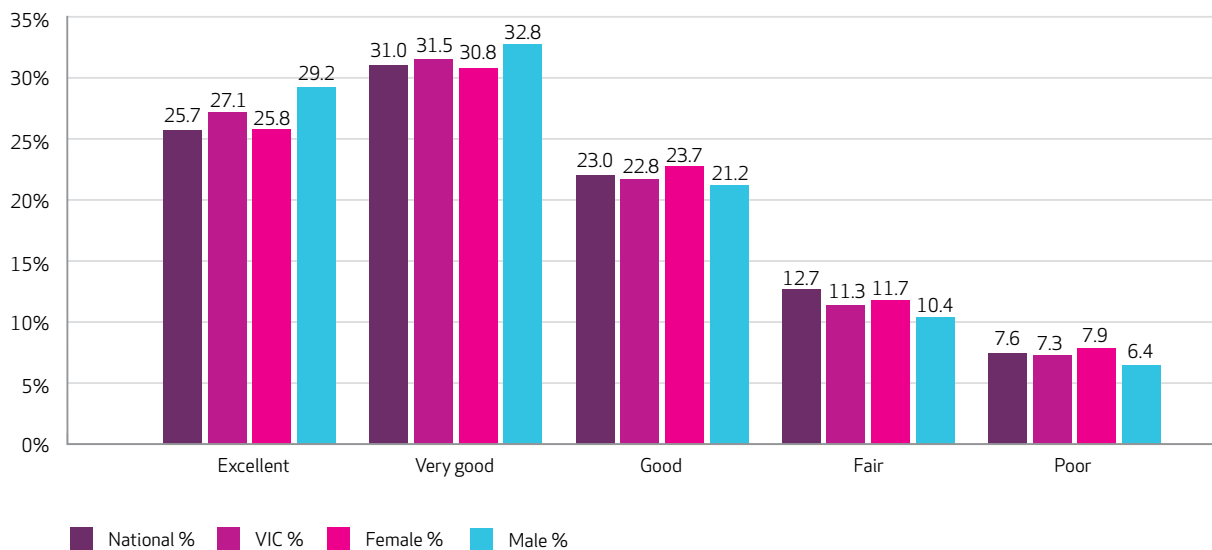
As shown in Figure 9.4, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with Victorian and national results. However, a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues, while a greater proportion of males would go to *parent/s*.

- Nine in ten (90.2%) female respondents and 85.8% of male respondents in Victoria indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to go to *parent/s* (78.0% compared with 74.8%) for help.
- Around two thirds of both females and males indicated that they would go to *relatives/family friends* (66.7% and 66.4% respectively).
- Females from Victoria were more likely than males to go to a *school counsellor* (37.8% compared with 32.7%), *online counselling websites* (21.1% compared with 15.4%) and *magazines* (16.1% compared with 7.6%) for help with important issues in their lives.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 9.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from Victoria rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 27.1% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.5% that it was *very good*. However, almost one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (11.3%) or *poor* (7.3%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 9.5: Family's ability to get along



## 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 9.6. In 2014 the top three issues identified by young people from Victoria were *politics and societal values*, *the economy and financial matters* and *alcohol and drugs*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally.

- Around three in ten young people from Victoria identified *politics and societal values* (30.9%) and *the economy and financial matters* (27.9%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Compared to the past two years, identification of *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue has increased among respondents (now at 23.4%).
- Close to one in five respondents identified *equity and discrimination* (21.8%), *mental health* (20.7%) and *population issues* (19.7%) as major issues.
- Since 2012, *politics and societal values*, *mental health* and *education* have been increasingly identified by young people from Victoria as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *population issues*, *the environment* and *crime, safety and violence* have declined over this period.

## Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from Victoria. While *politics and societal values* and *the economy and financial matters* were identified among the top three issues by both males and females, the other issues that made up their top three differed. For females, *mental health* was the number one issue, followed by *politics and societal values* and then *the economy and financial matters*. For males, the top issue this year was *politics and societal values*, followed by *the economy and financial matters* and then *alcohol and drugs*.

- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (40.7% compared with 25.5%), *the economy and financial matters* (32.8% compared with 25.2%) and *alcohol and drugs* (24.6% compared with 22.9%) as important national issues.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *mental health* (26.8% compared with 9.4%) and *equity and discrimination* (24.0% compared with 17.8%) as important issues.
- Around one in five of both male and female respondents from Victoria identified *population issues* as a major issue facing Australia today (20.4% compared with 19.3%).

Table 9.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	VIC 2014 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2013 %	VIC 2012 %
<b>Politics and societal values</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>27.8</b>	17.6
<b>The economy and financial matters</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	22.8	<b>31.4</b>
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>23.4</b>	22.9	<b>24.6</b>	19.2	20.7
Equity and discrimination	21.3	21.8	24.0	17.8	<b>29.1</b>	<b>21.4</b>
Mental health	18.3	20.7	<b>26.8</b>	9.4	15.4	15.0
Population issues	16.8	19.7	19.3	20.4	<b>25.1</b>	<b>30.4</b>
Education	15.8	16.9	18.1	14.8	12.5	10.3
The environment	12.3	13.4	13.6	13.1	14.9	18.6
Bullying	14.5	13.2	15.4	9.3	8.9	11.0
Health	14.1	13.0	13.6	11.9	11.2	15.0
Crime, safety and violence	10.7	9.7	9.8	9.7	12.5	14.9
LGBT issues	6.2	8.9	10.4	6.1	9.0	9.2
Employment	11.3	8.6	7.7	10.1	11.7	8.8
Homelessness/housing	7.5	5.8	6.4	4.7	7.0	7.0
Body image	5.7	5.7	7.9	1.7	2.7	3.2
Adolescence/youth	6.1	5.6	5.8	5.3	4.2	4.6

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 9.7. The top two activities for Victorian young people, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top two activities for young people from Victoria in 2013 and 2012. The third most common activity for Victorian respondents this year was *arts/cultural/music activities*, while nationally it was *volunteer work*. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the two most popular activities for young people from Victoria in 2014.
- 54.1% of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* and half (49.9%) indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work*.

- Four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (40.0%) and around three in ten had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (31.1%) and *religious groups or activities* (27.9%).
- Around one quarter of young people from Victoria (25.6%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

## Gender differences

As shown in Table 9.7 the top three activities for both genders were consistent with Victorian results, although a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

- 81.9% of male respondents and 73.4% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (76.8% compared with 65.6%).
- Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (58.4% compared with 46.2%).
- A greater proportion of female than male respondents from Victoria were also involved in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (54.8% and 42.0% compared with 40.9% and 36.4% respectively).

Table 9.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	VIC 2014 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2013 %	VIC 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>79.4</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>72.5</b>
<b>Arts/cultural/music activities</b>	53.0	<b>54.1</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>53.9</b>	53.3
Volunteer work	<b>53.4</b>	49.9	54.8	40.9	53.2	<b>57.9</b>
Student leadership activities	41.9	40.0	42.0	36.4	42.7	49.4
Youth groups and clubs	32.4	31.1	31.9	29.6	30.3	35.8
Religious groups or activities	29.3	27.9	30.5	23.2	28.1	33.0
Environmental groups or activities	23.7	25.6	25.3	26.2	25.3	28.7
Political groups or organisations	8.5	8.9	8.3	9.8	9.1	11.6

Note: Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

In 2014 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. Around half of Victorian respondents (49.1%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 18.6%; *3-9 hours*: 30.5%). Just over one third reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 22.8%; *20-29 hours*: 12.9%) and 15.2% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 7.0%; *40 hours or more*: 8.2%). Compared to the 2013 results, Victorian respondents in 2014 reported spending more time on social networking sites in an average week. Overall, males tended to report spending less time on social networking sites in an average week than females.

Table 9.8: Time spent on social networking sites

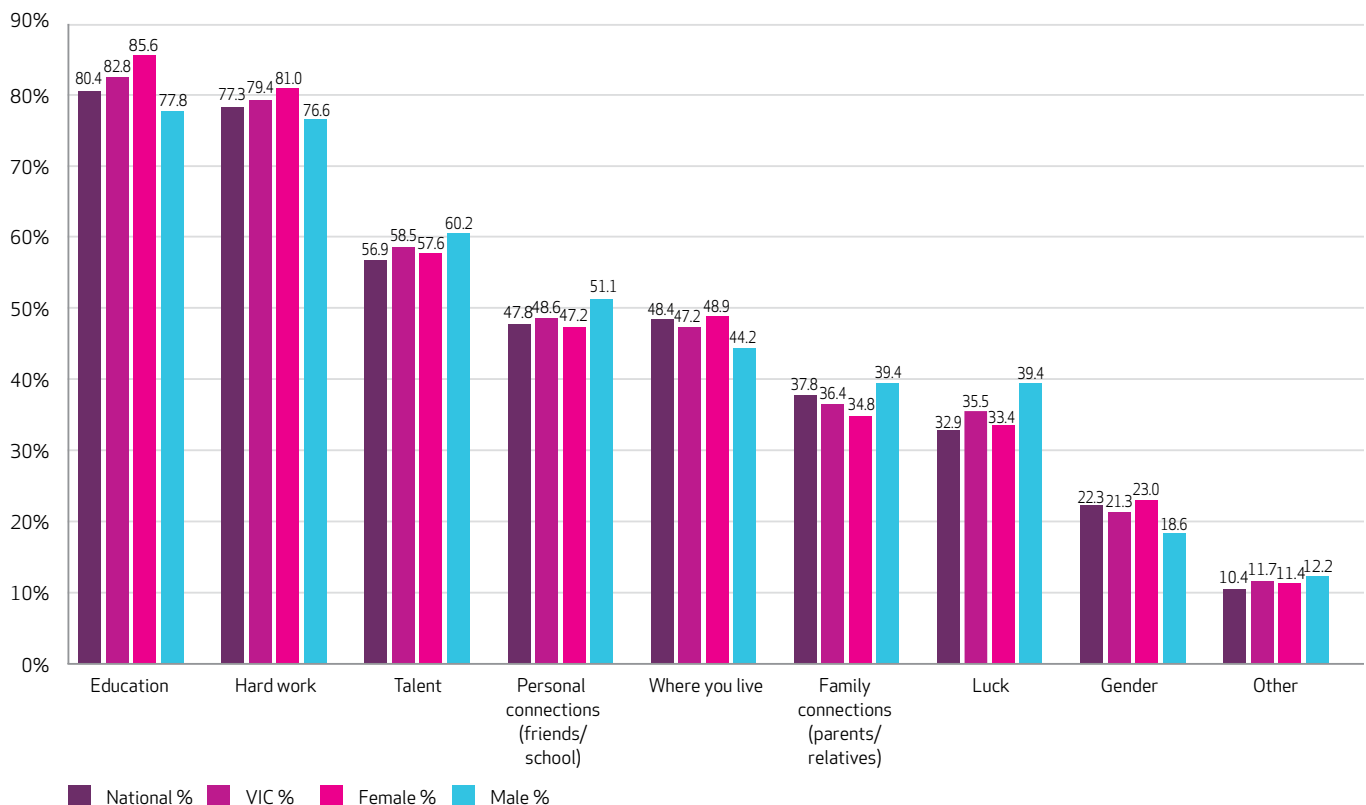
	National %	VIC 2014 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.4	18.6	16.3	22.4	27.3
3 - 9 hours	32.0	30.5	27.8	35.6	33.9
10 - 19 hours	21.5	22.8	23.3	21.9	19.4
20 - 29 hours	11.9	12.9	14.1	10.7	8.0
30 - 39 hours	5.5	7.0	8.7	3.9	4.1
40 hours or more	8.7	8.2	9.8	5.5	7.3

### What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 9.6. In Victoria, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Around eight in ten respondents felt that *education* (82.8%) and *hard work* (79.4%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Almost six in ten Victorian respondents felt that *talent* (58.5%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Around half felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *personal connections (friends/school)* (48.6%) and *where you live* (47.2%).

Figure 9.6: Influences on career opportunities in the future



Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Gender differences

As shown in Figure 9.6, male and female respondents from Victoria had similar perceptions of what they felt would influence their career opportunities in the future, both identifying *education*, *hard work* and *talent* as the top three.

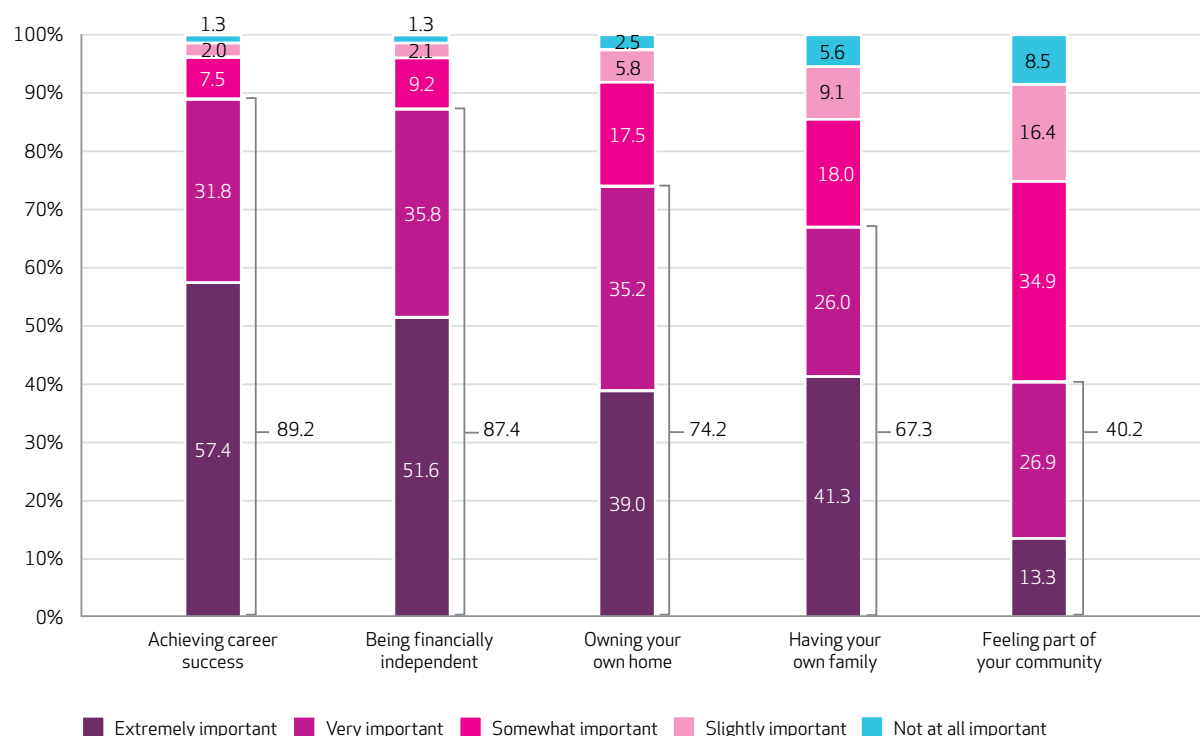
- The three most commonly cited influences on future career opportunities among both males and females from Victoria were *education*, *hard work* and *talent*.
- A greater proportion of females than males, however, felt that *education* and *hard work* would influence their career opportunities in the future (85.6% and 81.0% compared with 77.8% and 76.6% of males respectively).
- The third most commonly cited influence on future career opportunities among both males and females was felt to be *talent* (60.2% and 57.6% respectively).
- Around one quarter of female respondents from Victoria (23.0%) felt that *gender* would influence their career opportunities in the future, compared to 18.6% of male respondents.

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 9.7 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Achieving career success* and *being financially independent* were ranked as the two most important items in Victoria. The next most important item among respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Achieving career success* was of high importance to 89.2% of Victorian respondents (*extremely important*: 57.4%; *very important*: 31.8%). *Being financially independent* was also of high importance to 87.4% of respondents (*extremely important*: 51.6%; *very important*: 35.8%).
- Around three quarters of respondents placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 39.0%; *very important*: 35.2%) and two thirds placed high importance on *having your own family* (*extremely important*: 41.3%; *very important*: 26.0%).
- Four in ten respondents from Victoria indicated that *feeling part of your community* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 13.3%; *very important*: 26.9%).

Figure 9.7: Young people's aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.



## Gender differences

The two most important items for both males and females from Victoria were *achieving career success* and *being financially independent*, as shown in Table 9.9. However, the proportion of female respondents placing high importance on these and all other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Achieving career success* was highly important to 90.1% of females (*extremely important*: 59.2%; *very important*: 30.9%) compared with 87.9% of males (*extremely important*: 54.5%; *very important*: 33.4%).
- *Being financially independent* was highly important to 89.5% of females (*extremely important*: 55.0%; *very important*: 34.5%) compared to 83.9% of males (*extremely important*: 45.8%; *very important*: 38.1%).
- Three quarters (75.2%) of females placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 39.4%; *very important*: 35.8%) compared with 72.6% of males (*extremely important*: 38.7%; *very important*: 33.9%).
- For 69.0% of females (*extremely important*: 44.3%; *very important*: 24.7%) and 64.3% of males in Victoria (*extremely important*: 36.1%; *very important*: 28.2%) *having your own family* was of high importance.

Table 9.9: Young people's aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>30.9</b>	7.0	1.8	1.1
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>34.5</b>	7.4	2.0	1.1
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>35.8</b>	16.7	6.0	2.2
Having your own family	44.3	24.7	16.6	8.9	5.5
Feeling part of your community	14.3	28.5	34.9	15.9	6.3
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>33.4</b>	8.2	2.3	1.7
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>38.1</b>	12.2	2.2	1.7
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>33.9</b>	18.9	5.5	3.0
Having your own family	36.1	28.2	20.5	9.4	5.9
Feeling part of your community	11.6	24.0	34.9	17.2	12.3

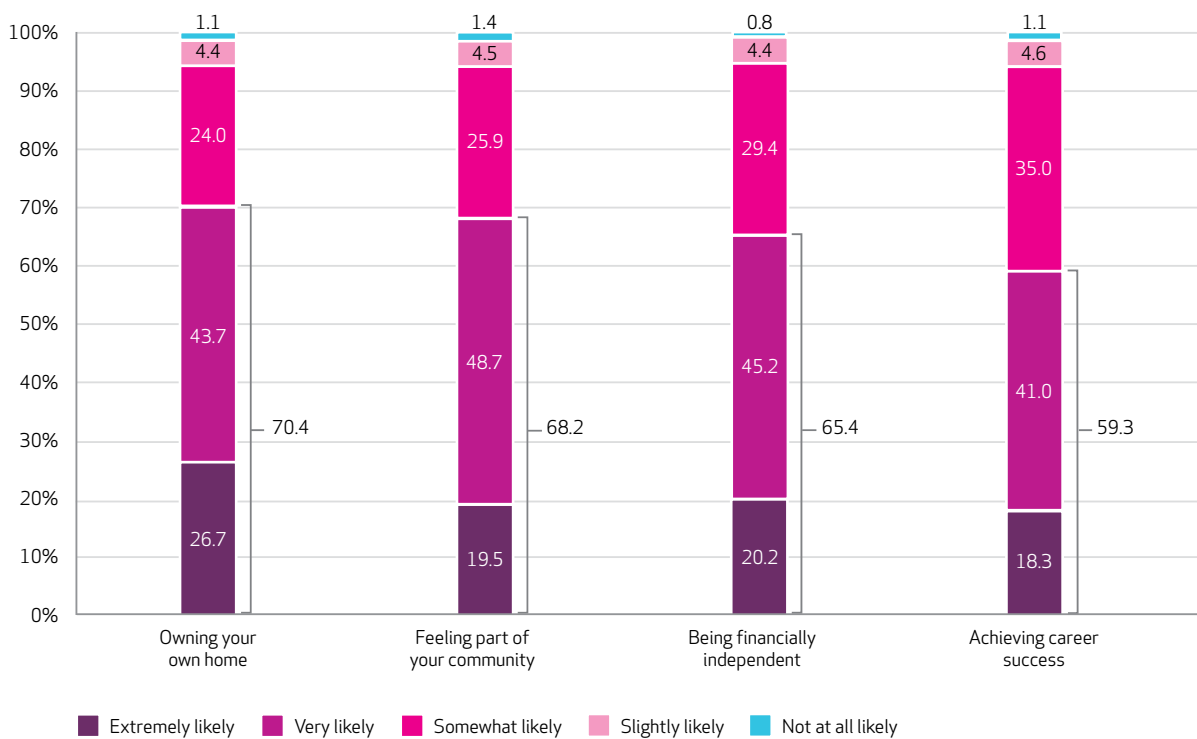
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 9.8 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item by respondents from Victoria, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*.

- Around seven in ten respondents from Victoria (70.4%) felt that *owning your own home* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 26.7%; *very likely*: 43.7%).
- Around two thirds of respondents felt that *feeling part of your community* (*extremely likely*: 19.5%; *very likely*: 48.7%) and *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 20.2%; *very likely*: 45.2%) were highly likely to be achievable.
- Six in ten respondents from Victoria felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 18.3%; *very likely*: 41.0%).

Figure 9.8: Likelihood of achieving aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.

## Gender differences

Both males and females from Victoria indicated that they felt *owning your own home* was the most achievable item, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*. Overall, a greater proportion of male respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve each of the items than female respondents.

- *Owning your own home* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 74.0% of males (*extremely likely*: 31.2%; *very likely*: 42.8%) compared with 68.4% of females from Victoria (*extremely likely*: 24.3%; *very likely*: 44.1%).
- 72.5% of males felt that *feeling part of your community* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 23.8%; *very likely*: 48.7%) compared with 66.0% of females (*extremely likely*: 17.5%; *very likely*: 48.5%).
- *Being financially independent* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 70.0% of males (*extremely likely*: 24.1%; *very likely*: 45.9%) compared with 63.0% of females (*extremely likely*: 18.2%; *very likely*: 44.8%).
- 61.8% of males from Victoria felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 21.6%; *very likely*: 40.2%) compared with 58.0% of females (*extremely likely*: 16.6%; *very likely*: 41.4%).

Table 9.10: Likelihood of achieving aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely likely %	Very likely %	Somewhat likely %	Slightly likely %	Not at all likely %
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>44.1</b>	24.4	5.9	1.2
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>48.5</b>	27.7	4.9	1.4
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>44.8</b>	31.3	5.0	0.8
Achieving career success	16.6	41.4	36.0	4.8	1.2
Males	Extremely likely %	Very likely %	Somewhat likely %	Slightly likely %	Not at all likely %
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>42.8</b>	23.4	1.6	1.0
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>48.7</b>	22.3	3.8	1.3
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>45.9</b>	25.9	3.3	0.9
Achieving career success	21.6	40.2	33.2	4.2	0.8

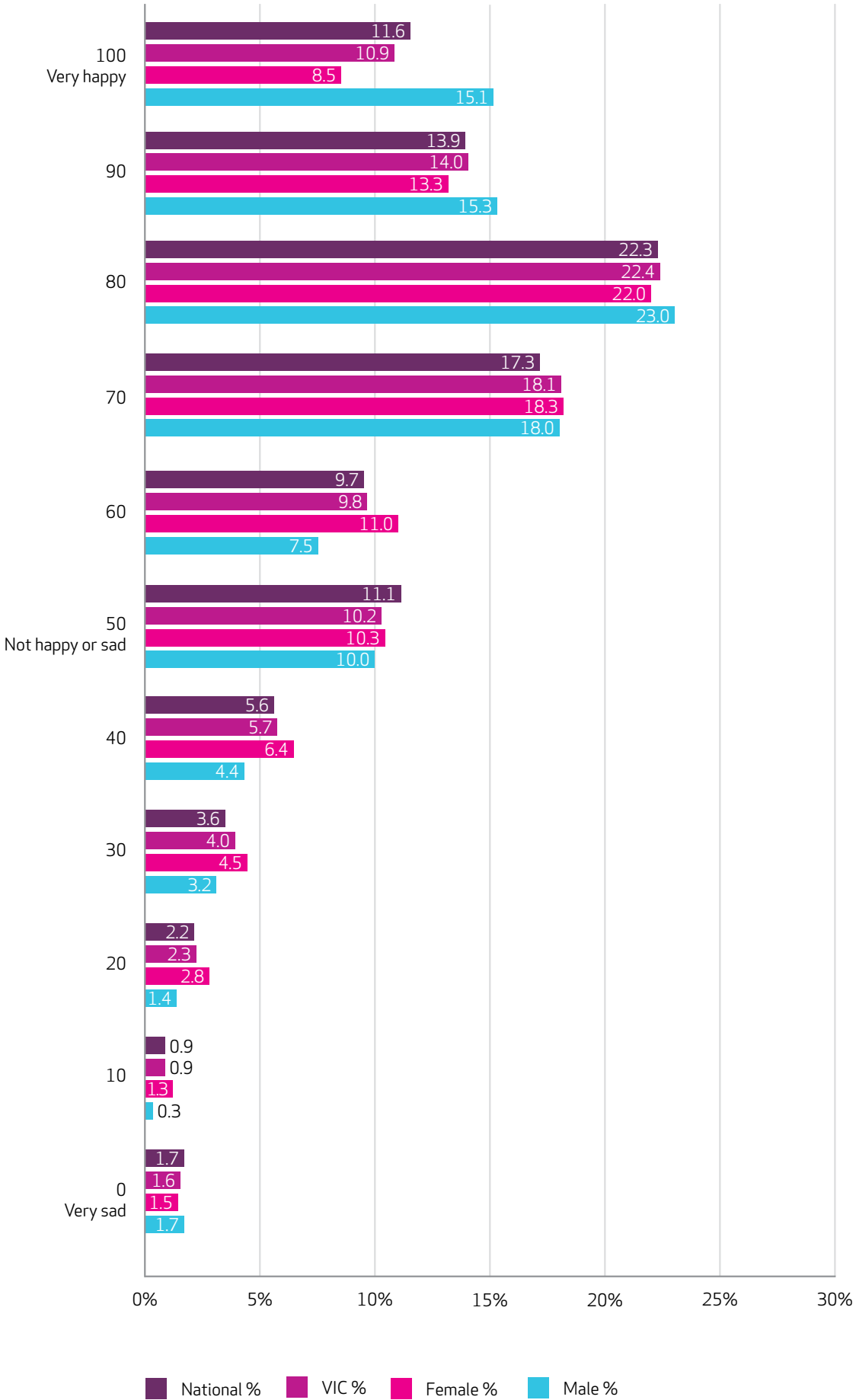
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 9.9 shows, the majority of young people from Victoria (65.4%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (15.1% compared with 8.5%).

<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

Figure 9.9: How happy young people are



## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 9.11 shows that compared to 2013 and 2012 there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of Victorian respondents feeling *very positive* about the future and a slight increase in those feeling *neither positive nor negative* about the future. Overall, around one in ten young people from Victoria felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Just under two thirds of respondents from Victoria felt either *positive* (47.2%) or *very positive* (16.2%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (26.2%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 7.9% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.4% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from Victoria were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (19.2% compared with 14.6%).

Table 9.11: Feelings about the future

	National %	VIC 2014 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2013 %	VIC 2012 %
Very positive	15.8	16.2	14.6	19.2	17.7	19.8
Positive	48.0	47.2	46.7	48.2	50.7	50.3
Neither positive nor negative	26.8	26.2	28.0	22.7	23.7	23.0
Negative	6.9	7.9	8.1	7.5	5.8	5.1
Very negative	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.8

# Western Australia



## Profile of respondents

In total, 1,168 young people from Western Australia (WA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2014.

### Gender breakdown

Around two thirds (65.0%) of the respondents from WA were female and 35.0% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 120 (10.5%) respondents from WA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 102 (8.9%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 11 (1.0%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.6% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (14.6% compared to 8.0%).

### Language background other than English

287 (25.0%) respondents from WA stated that they were born overseas and 230 (20.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 40 languages spoken at home in WA, the most common were (in order of frequency): Afrikaans, Filipino/Tagalog and French, followed by Chinese, Maori and Vietnamese (all at equal levels).

### Disability

A total of 57 (5.0%) respondents from WA indicated that they had a disability, with twice as many males (7.2%) as females (3.6%) reporting a disability.

## Detailed results

### Education

As indicated in Table 10.1, 86.9% of respondents from WA were studying full-time. Female respondents were more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (90.1% compared with 81.0%), while a higher proportion of males (12.2%) than females (7.7%) reported not studying at all.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in 2013 and 2012, the majority of respondents from WA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (12.7%) or *satisfied* (52.8%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.5% and 5.8% respectively). As shown in Table 10.2, males from WA were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (10.0% and 50.6% of males compared with 14.2% and 53.8% of females respectively).

Table 10.1: Participation in education

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	93.8	86.9	90.1	81.0
Studying part-time	2.7	3.8	2.1	6.7
Not studying	3.5	9.3	7.7	12.2

Table 10.2: Satisfaction with studies

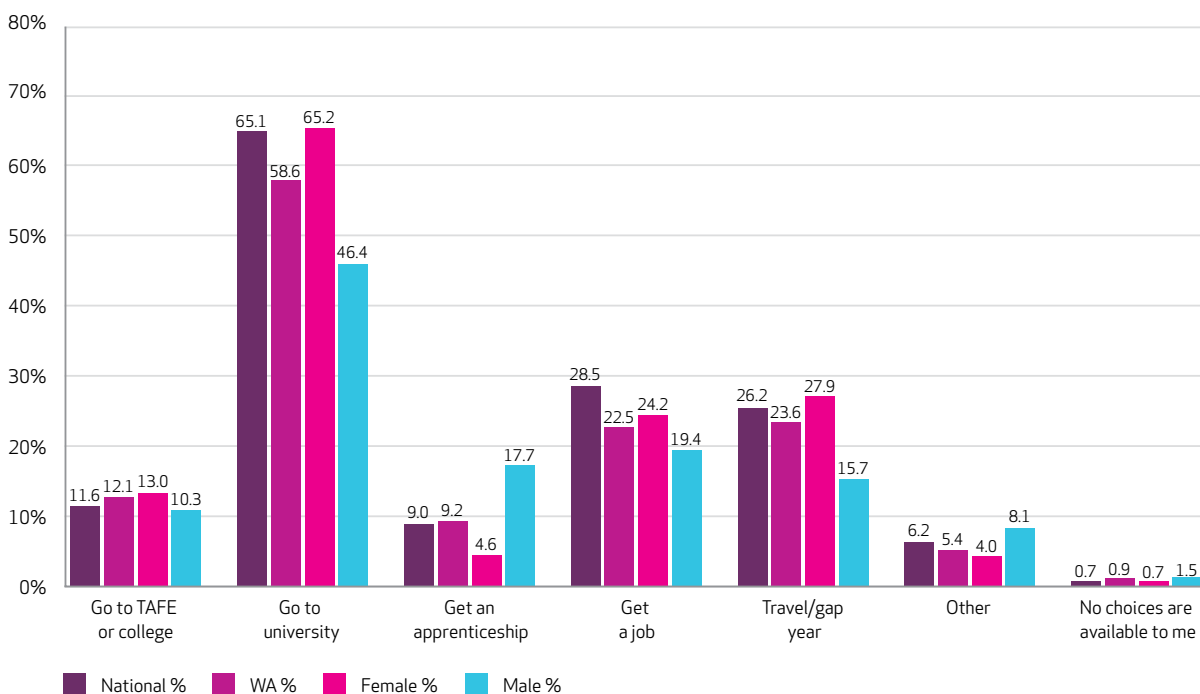
	National %	WA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2013 %	WA 2012 %
Very satisfied	15.3	12.7	14.2	10.0	14.2	13.3
Satisfied	55.9	52.8	53.8	50.6	53.9	50.1
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	26.2	24.8	29.1	24.5	26.1
Dissatisfied	5.0	5.8	5.0	7.1	4.9	7.1
Very dissatisfied	1.5	2.5	2.2	3.1	2.5	3.4

Of those who were still at school in WA, 93.5% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were more than twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (10.7% compared with 4.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 10.1 shows that around six in ten respondents from WA planned to go to university after school (58.6%). Many respondents also indicated plans to travel or go on a gap year (23.6%) and to get a job (22.5%) after school. Overall, 12.1% of young people from WA planned to attend TAFE or college and 9.2% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (0.9%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

While going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both male and female respondents from WA, females were far more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (65.2% compared with 46.4% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (27.9% compared with 15.7%). Males were much more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (17.7% compared with 4.6% of females).

Figure 10.1: Plans after leaving school



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they had paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 10.3 shows participation in paid employment amongst respondents from WA. In line with the national data, only a small minority (2.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Around one third (32.0%) of respondents from WA reported part-time employment. Almost two thirds of WA respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 35.4% looking for work and 30.2% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from WA reported full-time employment (2.6% compared with 2.3% respectively), while male respondents were slightly less likely than female respondents to be employed part-time (29.5% compared with 33.4%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (38.2% compared with 34.1%).

Table 10.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	1.2	2.4	2.3	2.6
Employed part-time	35.9	32.0	33.4	29.5
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.4	35.4	34.1	38.2
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	27.5	30.2	30.1	29.7

Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week and full-time is 35 hours or more.

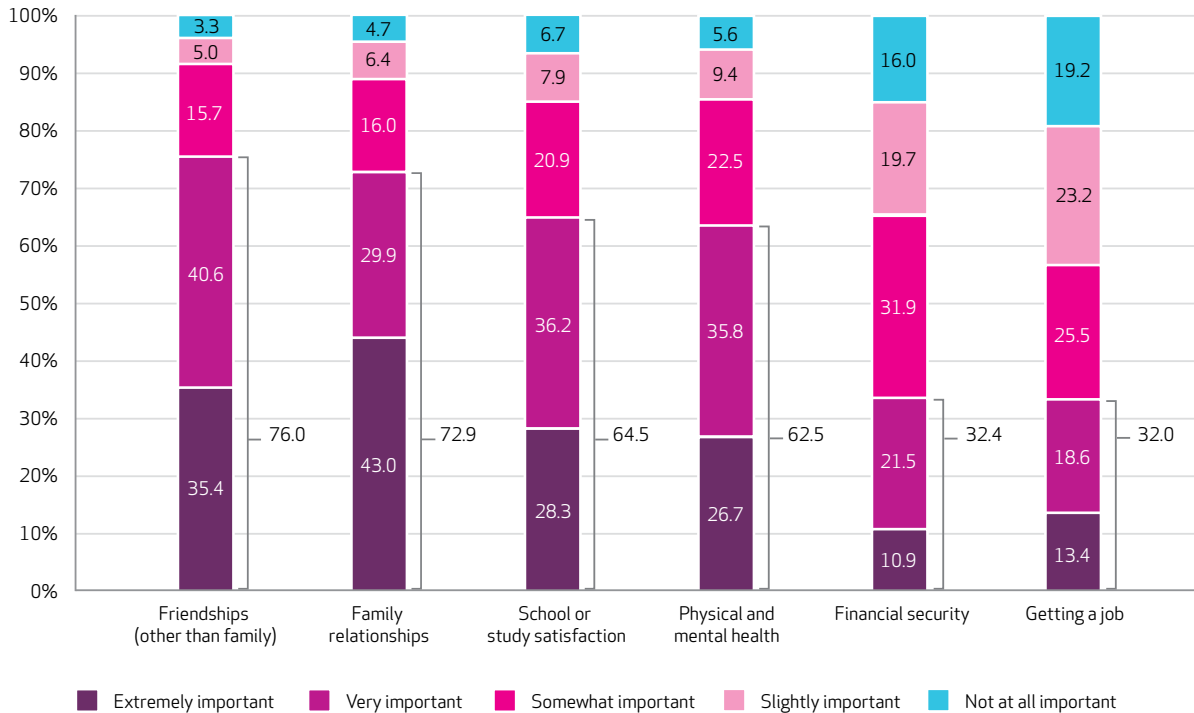
## What do young people value?

In 2014 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 10.2 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. In line with both the national data and 2013 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from WA this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for WA respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 76.0% of respondents from WA (*extremely important*: 35.4%; *very important*: 40.6%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 72.9% of respondents (*extremely important*: 43.0%; *very important*: 29.9%).
- Around two thirds of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 28.3%; *very important*: 36.2%) and around six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 26.7%; *very important*: 35.8%).
- Around one third of WA respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 10.9%; *very important*: 21.5%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 13.4%; *very important*: 18.6%).



Figure 10.2: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Friendships* and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females in WA, as shown in Table 10.4. The third most valued item for male respondents was *physical and mental health*, while for female respondents it was *school or study satisfaction*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued each of these items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 80.1% of females (*extremely important*: 38.1%; *very important*: 42.0%) compared with 68.1% of males (*extremely important*: 29.9%; *very important*: 38.2%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 76.7% of females (*extremely important*: 46.2%; *very important*: 30.5%) compared with 65.7% of males (*extremely important*: 36.6%; *very important*: 29.1%).
- 69.8% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 30.4%; *very important*: 39.4%) compared with 54.8% of males (*extremely important*: 24.3%; *very important*: 30.5%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 65.1% of females (*extremely important*: 27.7%; *very important*: 37.4%) and 57.6% of males (*extremely important*: 24.8%; *very important*: 32.8%) in WA.

Table 10.4: What young people value by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	13.5	3.9	2.6
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>30.5</b>	14.2	5.8	3.3
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>39.4</b>	19.7	6.2	4.3
Physical and mental health	27.7	37.4	22.3	8.2	4.5
Financial security	10.9	20.9	33.2	20.5	14.3
Getting a job	12.0	18.1	26.1	23.8	20.0
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>38.2</b>	20.1	7.0	4.8
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>29.1</b>	19.7	7.5	7.2
School or study satisfaction	24.3	30.5	23.0	11.3	11.0
<b>Physical and mental health</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>32.8</b>	23.3	11.8	7.5
Financial security	10.4	22.7	29.8	17.9	19.2
Getting a job	16.0	19.7	24.4	22.4	17.5

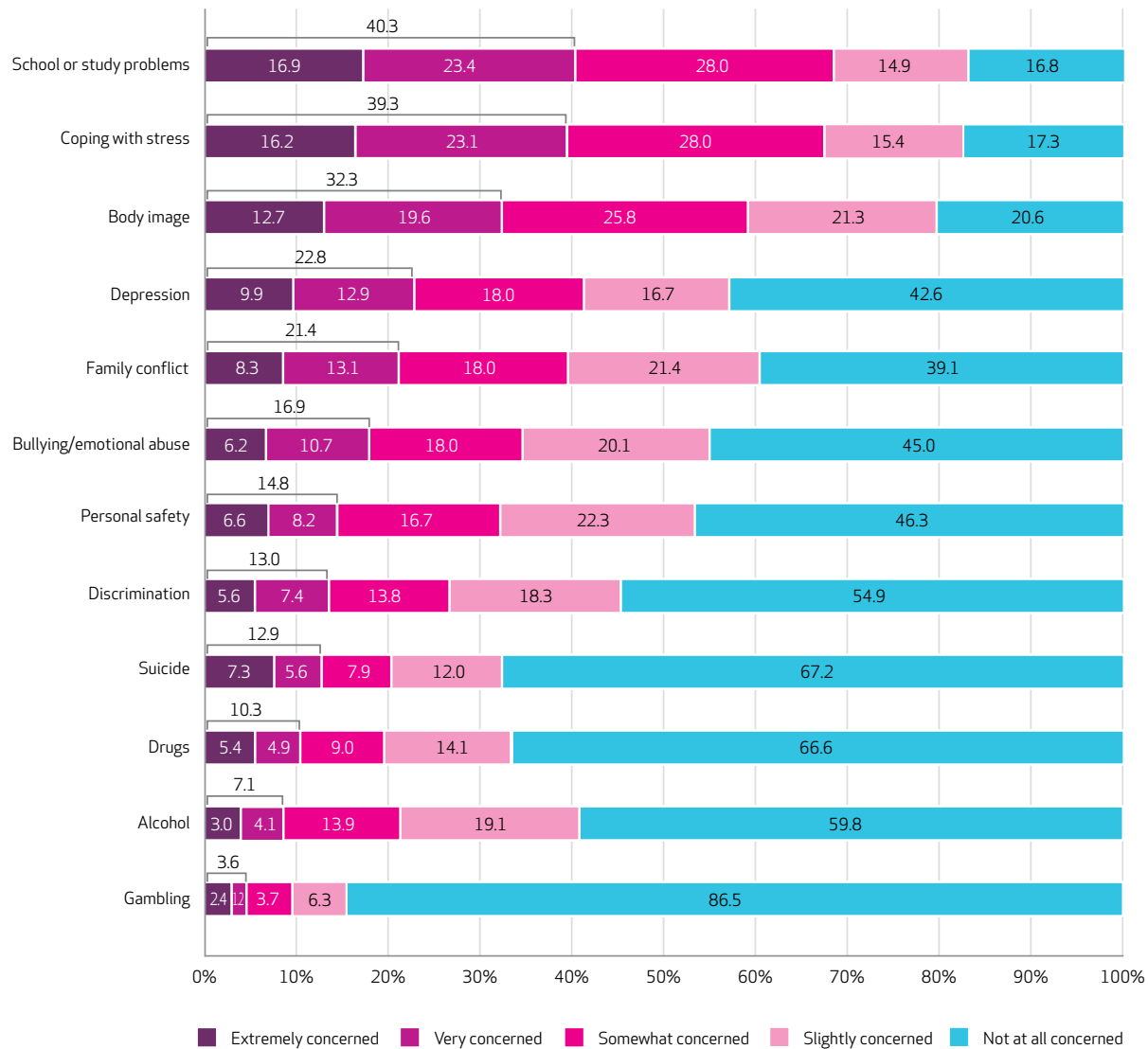
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 10.3. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from WA were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level, although the order of the first two items was reversed.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern, with 40.3% of respondents from WA indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (16.9%) or *very concerned* (23.4%) about this issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 39.3% (*extremely concerned*: 16.2%; *very concerned*: 23.1%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 32.3% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.7%; *very concerned*: 19.6%).
- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 10.3: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

## Gender differences

*Coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were the top two issues of concern for both males and females in WA, as highlighted in Table 10.5. The order of these issues of concern differed, however, with males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. The third top concern for male respondents from WA was *family conflict*, while for female respondents it was *body image*. The proportion of females concerned about all of these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For just under half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 19.9%; *very concerned*: 28.4%), compared with around one quarter of all males (*extremely concerned*: 9.0%; *very concerned*: 13.5%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 45.8% (*extremely concerned*: 20.3%; *very concerned*: 25.5%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 30.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.6%; *very concerned*: 19.6%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 41.8% (*extremely concerned*: 16.5%; *very concerned*: 25.3%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 14.8% (*extremely concerned*: 5.5%; *very concerned*: 9.3%) of males.
- For 23.2% of females (*extremely concerned*: 9.3%; *very concerned*: 13.9%) and 18.0% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.5%; *very concerned*: 11.5%) *family conflict* was a major concern.

Table 10.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>25.5</b>	29.7	14.2	10.2
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>28.4</b>	29.6	13.1	9.0
<b>Body image</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>25.3</b>	29.6	19.4	9.3
Depression	11.2	15.9	20.4	17.4	35.0
Family conflict	9.3	13.9	20.5	23.0	33.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.6	12.5	19.9	23.3	37.6
Personal safety	6.5	9.6	17.1	23.6	43.2
Discrimination	5.4	8.5	14.5	21.0	50.5
Suicide	8.0	6.1	8.9	13.5	63.6
Drugs	4.5	4.7	9.7	15.8	65.3
Alcohol	2.3	4.0	16.1	20.3	57.3
Gambling	1.3	1.1	2.8	6.1	88.7
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely concerned %</b>	<b>Very concerned %</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned %</b>	<b>Slightly concerned %</b>	<b>Not at all concerned %</b>
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>19.6</b>	24.9	16.1	28.9
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>13.5</b>	25.1	20.1	32.3
Body image	5.5	9.3	18.8	25.3	41.1
Depression	7.3	7.3	13.4	15.4	56.6
<b>Family conflict</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	13.8	18.5	49.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.5	7.5	14.6	14.3	58.0
Personal safety	6.8	5.5	16.1	19.8	51.8
Discrimination	6.0	5.3	12.6	13.1	63.0
Suicide	5.8	4.8	6.3	9.3	73.9
Drugs	6.9	5.3	7.6	10.9	69.3
Alcohol	4.0	4.3	10.0	17.3	64.5
Gambling	4.3	1.5	5.3	6.8	82.2

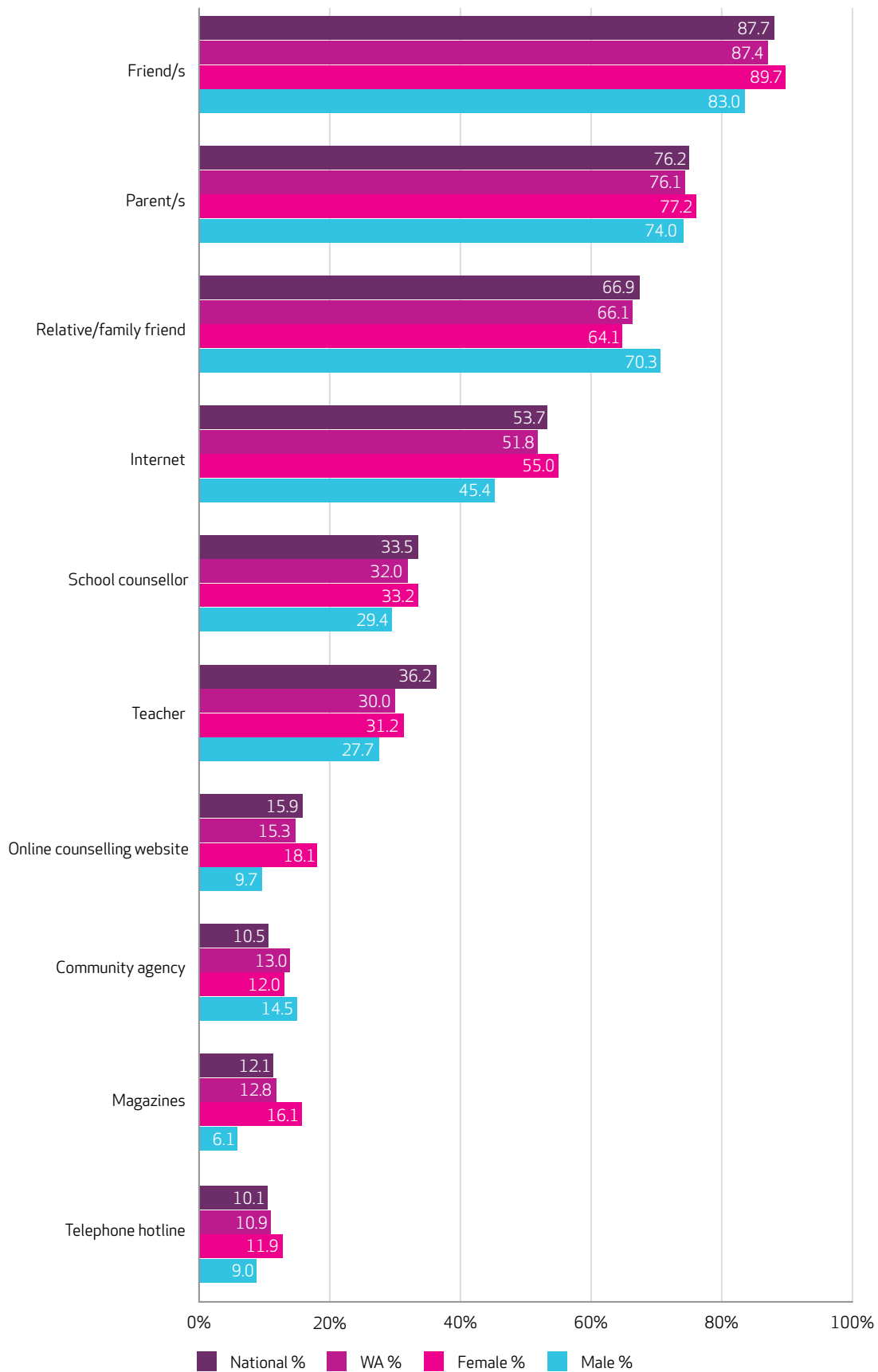
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 10.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to each source. The top three sources of help for young people in WA were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*.

- *Friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (87.4%, 76.1% and 66.1% respectively).
- Over half of respondents from WA indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around three in ten respondents indicated that they would go to their *school counsellor* or *teacher* for help with important issues.

Figure 10.4: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Gender differences

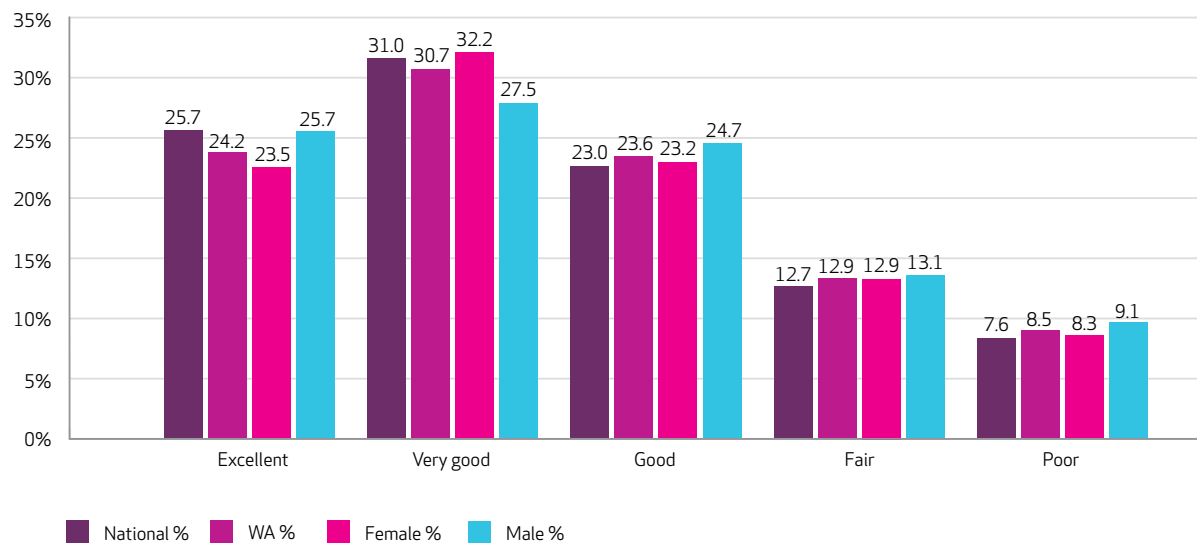
As shown in Figure 10.4, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with WA and national results. However, a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* and *parent/s* for help with important issues, while a greater proportion of males would go to *relatives/family friends*.

- Around nine in ten (89.7%) female respondents and 83.0% of male respondents in WA indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.
- Females were more likely than males to go to *parent/s* (77.2% compared with 74.0%) for help, while males were more likely than females to go to *relatives/family friends* (70.3% compared with 64.1%).
- Females from WA were more likely than males to go to the *internet* (55.0% compared with 45.4%), *online counselling websites* (18.1% compared with 9.7%) and *magazines* (16.1% compared with 6.1%) for help with important issues in their lives.

## How well do young people feel their families get along?

Respondents were asked how well they thought their family got along. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 10.5 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of respondents from WA rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 24.2% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 30.7% that it was *very good*. However, around one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.9%) or *poor* (8.5%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 10.5: Family's ability to get along



## 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 10.6. In 2014 the top three issues identified by young people from WA were *alcohol and drugs*, *mental health* and *politics and societal values*.

- Around three in ten young people from WA identified *alcohol and drugs* (31.2%) as an important issue in Australia today.
- Over one in five respondents identified *mental health* (22.3%), *politics and societal values* (22.2%), *equity and discrimination* (21.6%) and *the economy and financial matters* (20.6%) as major issues.
- Since 2012, *alcohol and drugs*, *mental health*, *politics and societal values*, *education* and *bullying* have been increasingly identified by young people from WA as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues*, *crime*, *safety and violence* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

## Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from WA. While *alcohol and drugs* was identified as the top issue by both males and females, the other issues that made up their top three differed. For females, *mental health* was the number two issue, followed by *equity and discrimination*. For males, the number two issue this year was *politics and societal values*, followed by *the economy and financial matters*.

- Around three in ten male and female respondents from WA (35.2% and 29.2% respectively) identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- A far greater proportion of females than males identified *mental health* (28.9% compared with 9.7%) and *equity and discrimination* (24.3% compared with 16.8%) as important national issues.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (27.8% compared with 19.3%) and *the economy and financial matters* (22.2% compared with 19.6%) as important issues.

Table 10.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	WA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2013 %	WA 2012 %
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>25.6</b>
<b>Mental health</b>	18.3	<b>22.3</b>	<b>28.9</b>	9.7	16.1	14.4
<b>Politics and societal values</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>22.2</b>	19.3	<b>27.8</b>	21.6	18.5
Equity and discrimination	21.3	21.6	<b>24.3</b>	16.8	<b>21.9</b>	24.1
The economy and financial matters	<b>27.1</b>	20.6	19.6	<b>22.2</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>27.0</b>
Education	15.8	16.4	16.7	15.9	12.9	11.1
Population issues	16.8	15.1	14.5	16.2	21.1	<b>27.4</b>
Bullying	14.5	14.9	16.7	11.6	11.3	8.6
Health	14.1	12.3	11.9	13.4	9.7	10.6
Crime, safety and violence	10.7	11.3	10.1	13.6	15.1	16.1
Employment	11.3	10.1	8.0	13.6	10.4	8.2
The environment	12.3	9.4	10.2	7.7	12.5	19.5
LGBT issues	6.2	7.9	8.3	7.1	5.9	3.8
Homelessness/housing	7.5	6.9	8.0	4.8	7.7	12.1
Body image	5.7	5.2	7.4	1.1	3.9	1.8
Adolescence/youth	6.1	5.1	4.6	6.3	5.6	5.9

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 10.7. The top two activities for young people from WA, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top two activities for young people from WA in 2013 and 2012. The third most common activity for WA respondents this year was *arts/cultural/music activities*, while nationally it was *volunteer work*. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural/music activities* were the three most popular activities for young people from WA in 2014.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work* (54.7%).
- Around four in ten young people reported participation in *youth groups and clubs* (39.3%) and *student leadership activities* (39.1%) and just under one third had participated in *religious groups or activities* (31.9%).
- Around one quarter of young people from WA (23.0%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

### Gender differences

As shown in Table 10.7 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with WA and national results. In contrast to the national data however, very similar proportions of males and females from WA were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* this year. The third top activity for males from WA was *youth groups and clubs*, while for females it was *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 73.9% of female respondents and 73.1% of male respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Around two thirds of both female and male respondents reported involvement in *sports (as a spectator)* (67.2% compared with 66.6%).
- Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (64.4% compared with 39.2%) and *volunteer work* (59.8% compared with 45.0%).
- Conversely, a greater proportion of male than female respondents from WA were involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious groups or activities* (47.4% and 38.3% compared with 35.0% and 28.5% respectively).

Table 10.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	WA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2013 %	WA 2012 %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>74.4</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>69.5</b>
<b>Arts/cultural/music activities</b>	53.0	<b>55.8</b>	<b>64.4</b>	39.2	<b>52.4</b>	49.2
Volunteer work	<b>53.4</b>	54.7	59.8	45.0	52.0	<b>60.5</b>
Youth groups and clubs	32.4	39.3	35.0	<b>47.4</b>	44.5	40.1
Student leadership activities	41.9	39.1	42.7	32.7	40.0	40.6
Religious groups or activities	29.3	31.9	28.5	38.3	39.5	40.5
Environmental groups or activities	23.7	23.0	25.5	18.3	27.0	29.7
Political groups or organisations	8.5	9.6	8.5	11.5	8.8	9.9

Note: Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was also expanded slightly in 2013 and 2014 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.



## How much time do young people spend on social networking sites?

In 2014 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents from WA (54.4%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 22.9%; *3-9 hours*: 31.5%). Around one third reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 20.3%; *20-29 hours*: 12.3%) and 13.0% reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 4.3%; *40 hours or more*: 8.7%). Compared to the 2013 results, WA respondents in 2014 reported spending more time on social networking sites in an average week. Overall, males tended to report spending slightly less time on social networking sites in an average week than females.

Table 10.8: Time spent on social networking sites

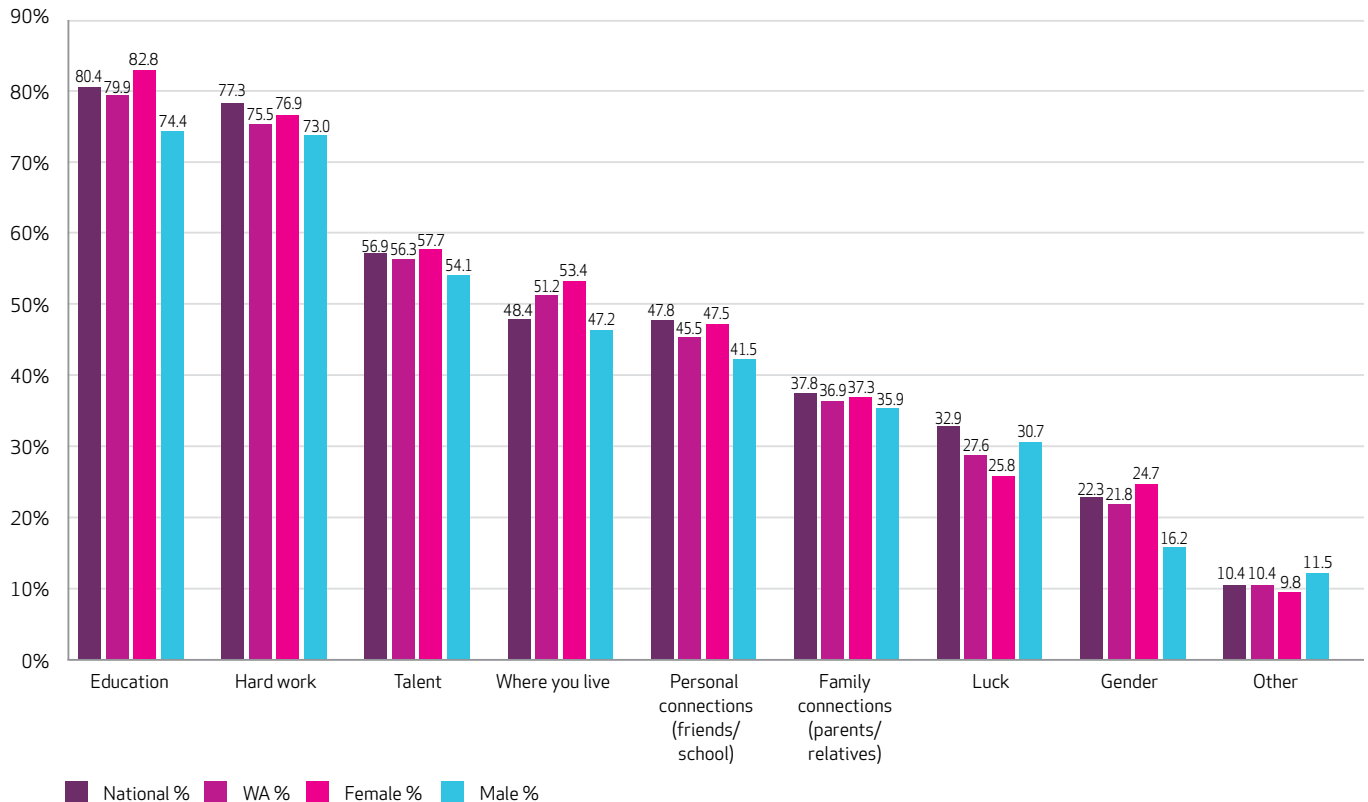
	National %	WA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2013 %
2 hours or less	20.4	22.9	17.4	33.4	32.4
3 - 9 hours	32.0	31.5	33.2	28.1	30.3
10 - 19 hours	21.5	20.3	22.2	16.8	17.3
20 - 29 hours	11.9	12.3	14.1	8.8	8.7
30 - 39 hours	5.5	4.3	4.4	4.3	3.7
40 hours or more	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.5	7.6

## What do young people think will influence their career opportunities in the future?

In 2014 young people were asked to indicate from a number of options which they thought would influence their future career opportunities. The items were listed in order of frequency in Figure 10.6. In WA, the top two items that young people thought would influence their career opportunities were *education* and *hard work*.

- Over three quarters of respondents felt that *education* (79.9%) and *hard work* (75.5%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Over half of the respondents from WA felt that *talent* (56.3%) would influence their future career opportunities.
- Around half felt that their career opportunities would be influenced by *where you live* (51.2%) and *personal connections (friends/school)* (45.5%).

Figure 10.6: Influences on career opportunities in the future



Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 10.6, male and female respondents from WA had similar perceptions of what they felt would influence their career opportunities in the future, both identifying *education*, *hard work* and *talent* as the top three.

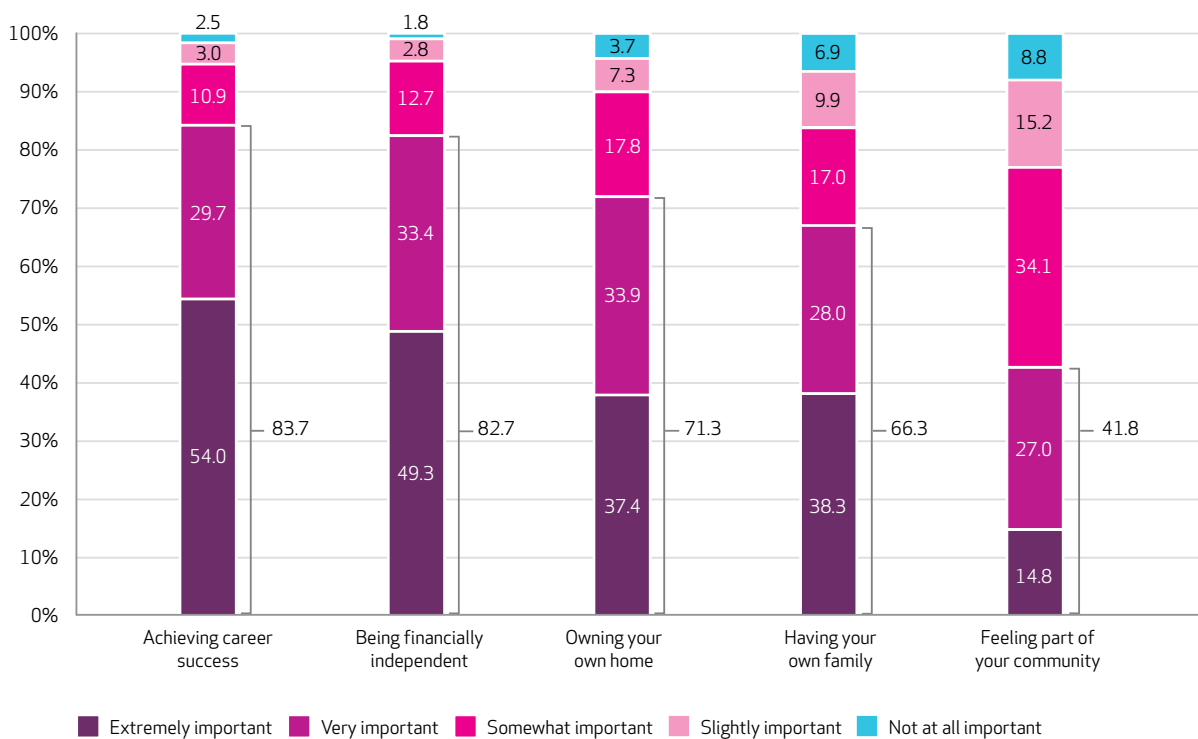
- The three most commonly cited influences on future career opportunities among both males and females from WA were *education*, *hard work* and *talent*.
- A greater proportion of females than males, however, felt that *education* and *hard work* would influence their career opportunities in the future (82.8% and 76.9% compared with 74.4% and 73.0% of males respectively).
- The third most commonly cited influence on future career opportunities among both females and males was felt to be *talent* (57.7% and 54.1% respectively).
- Around one quarter of female respondents from WA (24.7%) felt that *gender* would influence their career opportunities in the future, compared to 16.2% of male respondents..

## What do young people aspire to?

Young people in 2014 were asked how important *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent*, *achieving career success* and *having your own family* were to them personally. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 10.7 the items were ranked in order of importance by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely important* or *very important* for each item. *Achieving career success* and *being financially independent* were ranked as the two most important items in WA. The next most important item among respondents was *owning your own home*, followed by *having your own family*.

- *Achieving career success* was of high importance to 83.7% of WA respondents (*extremely important*: 54.0%; *very important*: 29.7%). *Being financially independent* was also of high importance to 82.7% of respondents (*extremely important*: 49.3%; *very important*: 33.4%).
- Around seven in ten respondents placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 37.4%; *very important*: 33.9%) and *having your own family* (*extremely important*: 38.3%; *very important*: 28.0%).
- Over four in ten respondents from WA indicated that *feeling part of your community* was of high importance (*extremely important*: 14.8%; *very important*: 27.0%).

Figure 10.7: Young people's aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

The two most important items for both males and females from WA were *achieving career success* and *being financially independent*, as shown in Table 10.9. However, the proportion of female respondents placing high importance on these and many of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Achieving career success* was highly important to 85.6% of females (*extremely important*: 53.9%; *very important*: 31.7%) compared with 80.1% of males (*extremely important*: 54.3%; *very important*: 25.8%).
- *Being financially independent* was highly important to 85.0% of females (*extremely important*: 51.3%; *very important*: 33.7%) compared to 78.5% of males (*extremely important*: 45.8%; *very important*: 32.7%).
- 72.1% of females placed high importance on *owning your own home* (*extremely important*: 37.6%; *very important*: 34.5%) compared with 69.7% of males (*extremely important*: 37.0%; *very important*: 32.7%).
- For 66.5% of males (*extremely important*: 37.1%; *very important*: 29.4%) and 66.0% of females in WA (*extremely important*: 38.7%; *very important*: 27.3%) *having your own family* was of high importance.

Table 10.9: Young people's aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>31.7</b>	9.7	2.4	2.3
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>33.7</b>	11.2	2.2	1.6
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>34.5</b>	16.9	7.8	3.2
Having your own family	38.7	27.3	17.3	10.0	6.6
Feeling part of your community	15.7	29.1	34.4	15.0	5.9
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>25.8</b>	13.3	3.8	2.8
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>32.7</b>	15.4	4.1	2.0
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>32.7</b>	19.6	6.1	4.6
Having your own family	37.1	29.4	16.2	9.9	7.4
Feeling part of your community	12.9	22.8	34.0	15.7	14.5

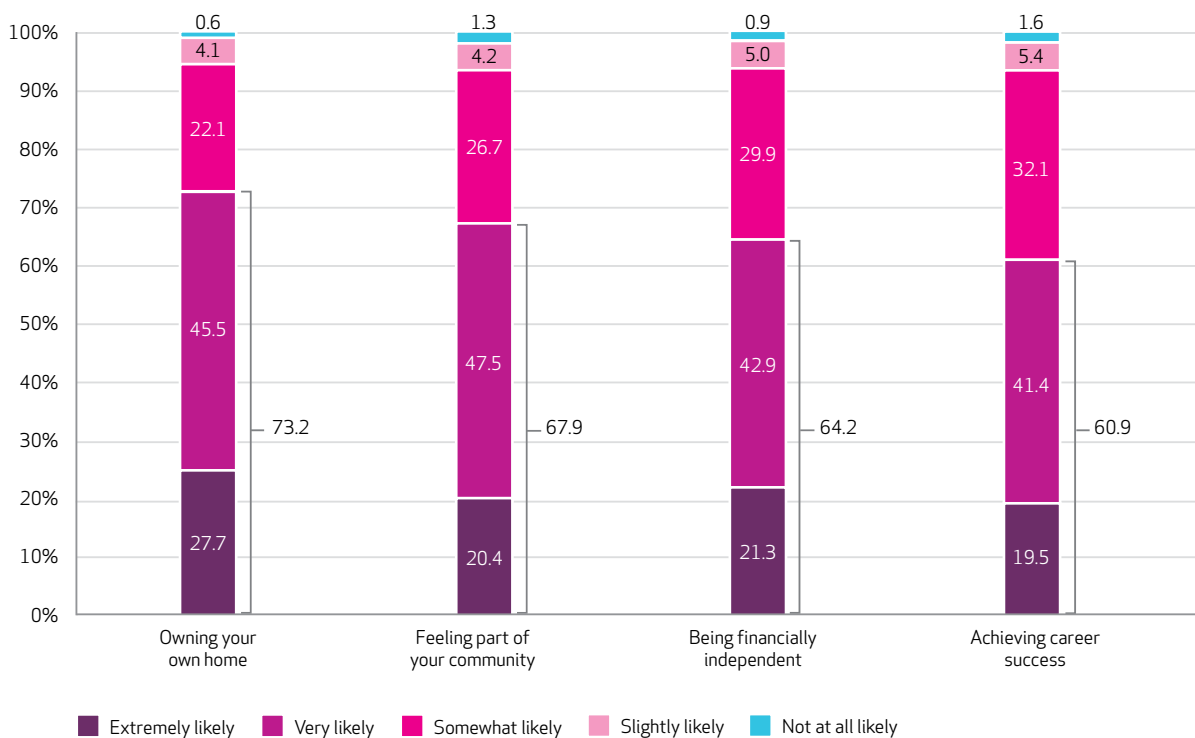
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## Do young people feel that their aspirations are achievable?

In 2014, young people who rated *owning your own home*, *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and/or *achieving career success* as either *extremely important* or *very important* to them were also asked how likely they thought it was that they would be able to achieve these. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely likely* to *not at all likely*. In Figure 10.8 the items were ranked in order of likelihood by summing together the number of respondents who selected either *extremely likely* or *very likely* for each item. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item by respondents from WA, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*.

- Almost three quarters of respondents from WA (73.2%) felt that *owning your own home* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 27.7%; *very likely*: 45.5%).
- Around two thirds of respondents felt that *feeling part of your community* (*extremely likely*: 20.4%; *very likely*: 47.5%) and *being financially independent* (*extremely likely*: 21.3%; *very likely*: 42.9%) were highly likely to be achievable.
- Six in ten respondents from WA felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 19.5%; *very likely*: 41.4%).

Figure 10.8: Likelihood of achieving aspirations



Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item.

## Gender differences

There were some differences in the items felt to be achievable by male and female respondents from WA. *Owning your own home* was felt to be the most achievable item for females from WA, followed by *feeling part of your community*, *being financially independent* and *achieving career success*. For males, *feeling part of your community* was felt to be the most achievable item, followed by *owning your own home*, *achieving career success* and *being financially independent*. Overall, a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents indicated that they felt likely to be able to achieve many of the items.

- *Owning your own home* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 73.0% of females (*extremely likely*: 25.0%; *very likely*: 48.0%) compared with 73.7% of males in WA (*extremely likely*: 33.2%; *very likely*: 40.5%).
- 75.4% of males felt that *feeling part of your community* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 26.1%; *very likely*: 49.3%) compared with 64.8% of females in WA (*extremely likely*: 18.3%; *very likely*: 46.5%).
- *Being financially independent* was felt to be highly likely to be achievable by 65.2% of males (*extremely likely*: 28.2%; *very likely*: 37.0%) compared with 63.7% of females (*extremely likely*: 17.9%; *very likely*: 45.8%).
- Around two thirds of males from WA felt that *achieving career success* was highly likely to be achievable (*extremely likely*: 24.7%; *very likely*: 41.7%) while almost six in ten females (*extremely likely*: 16.7%; *very likely*: 41.3%) felt that this was highly likely to be achievable.

Table 10.10: Likelihood of achieving aspirations by gender

Females	Extremely likely %	Very likely %	Somewhat likely %	Slightly likely %	Not at all likely %
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>48.0</b>	22.5	3.9	0.6
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>46.5</b>	29.4	4.5	1.2
<b>Being financially independent</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>45.8</b>	29.8	5.6	1.0
Achieving career success	16.7	41.3	33.7	6.8	1.6
Males	Extremely likely %	Very likely %	Somewhat likely %	Slightly likely %	Not at all likely %
<b>Owning your own home</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>40.5</b>	21.2	4.4	0.7
<b>Feeling part of your community</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>49.3</b>	19.7	3.5	1.4
Being financially independent	28.2	37.0	30.2	3.9	0.6
<b>Achieving career success</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>41.7</b>	29.5	2.6	1.6

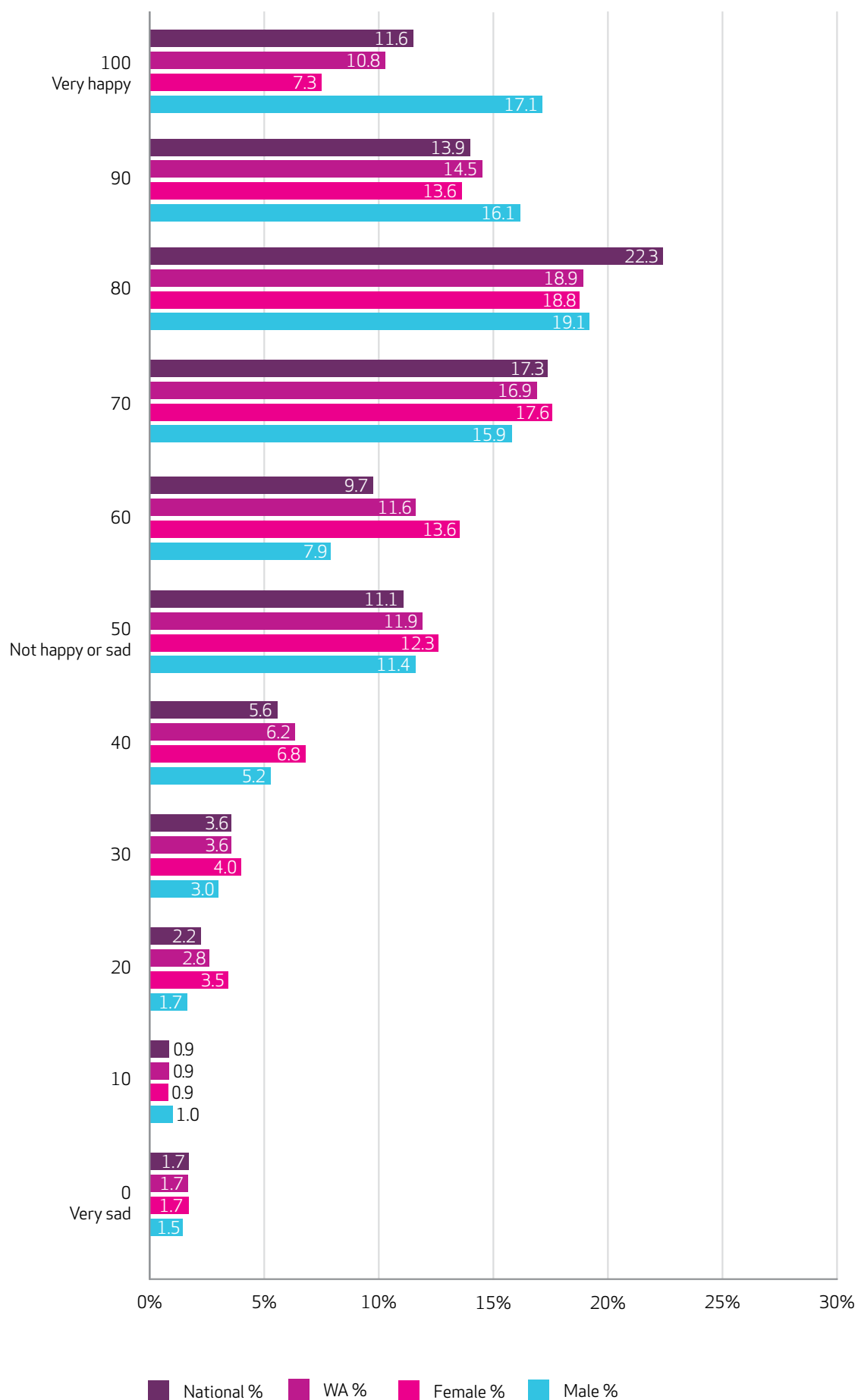
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely likely* and *very likely* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being *very sad*, 5 *not happy or sad* and 10 *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question<sup>1</sup>, responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 10.9 shows, the majority of young people from WA (61.1%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were more than twice as likely as female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (17.1% compared with 7.3%).

<sup>1</sup> Cummins, R.A., & Lau, A.L.D., 2005, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, Manual, 3rd Edition.

Figure 10.9: How happy young people are



## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 10.11 shows that compared to 2013 and 2012 there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of WA respondents feeling *very positive* about the future and a slight increase in those feeling *neither positive nor negative* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people from WA felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over six in ten respondents from WA felt either *positive* (48.4%) or *very positive* (14.5%) about the future.
- Around three in ten respondents (28.1%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 6.8% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.1% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from WA were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (16.6% compared with 13.3%).

Table 10.11: Feelings about the future

	National %	WA 2014 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2013 %	WA 2012 %
Very positive	15.8	14.5	13.3	16.6	19.1	21.0
Positive	48.0	48.4	48.0	49.4	46.9	48.6
Neither positive nor negative	26.8	28.1	29.2	26.2	24.6	22.3
Negative	6.9	6.8	8.0	4.5	6.0	5.0
Very negative	2.5	2.1	1.5	3.3	3.3	3.1



## Acknowledgements

Mission Australia would like to thank the many educational institutions, youth and community organisations, government agencies, corporates, philanthropic organisations and others who helped to distribute the Youth Survey 2014.

These include:

- The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies
- Banyule City Council
- Bass Coast Shire Council
- Brisbane City Council
- Bucaan Community House
- Catholic Education Offices nationally
- Centacare South West NSW
- Department of Social Services
- Future Leaders Influencing our Community (Bass Coast)
- Glenorchy City Council Youth and Community Safety Program
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Northern Territory Youth Affairs Network
- Office of Youth Affairs, Department of the Chief Minister, Northern Territory Government
- Rural Health Tasmania
- Shire of Nillumbik
- State and Territory Education Departments
- Wyndham City Council – Youth Services
- Youth Action & Policy Association NSW
- Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
- Youth Affairs Network Queensland
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Youth Network of Tasmania

Mission Australia would also like to acknowledge the many organisations and individuals who promoted the survey via social media.

## Who is Mission Australia?

Mission Australia is a non-denominational Christian community service organisation that has been helping people regain their independence for over 150 years.

Independence is something we all strive for, but life rarely turns out as planned. We've learnt the reasons behind a loss of independence and the paths to getting it back are different for everyone.

This informs how we help people, through early learning and youth services, family support and homelessness initiatives, employment and skills development, to provision of affordable housing.

Our nationwide team of over 3,500 staff applies different approaches, inspired by Christian values. We are joined by government, our corporate partners and everyday Australians who provide generous support.


We all share a single objective – to stand together with Australians in need, until they can stand for themselves.

## Thank you


This publication would not have been possible without the more than 13,000 young people who completed Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2014*. Our special thanks to them, the staff of Mission Australia and the many other organisations who supported their involvement.

### For further information about this report please contact:

#### Research and Social Policy, Mission Australia

 1800 88 88 68

 youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au

 missionaustralia.com.au

 @MissionAust

 facebook.com/MissionAust

*This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without obtaining prior written permission from Mission Australia. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to Mission Australia: attention Legal Department, Level 7, 580 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000.*

## National Office

HSBC Building, Level 7  
580 George Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: (02) 9219 2000

## State and Territory Office

### Mission Australia ACT

E Block, CIT Campus  
Ainsworth Street  
Phillip, ACT 2606  
Tel: (02) 6129 6100

### Mission Australia NSW

HSBC Building, Level 6  
580 George Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: (02) 9219 2000

### Mission Australia NT

Level 1, 6 Frances Drive  
Palmerston NT 0830  
Tel: (08) 8935 0900

### Mission Australia QLD

11 Cleveland Street  
Stones Corner QLD 4120  
Tel: (07) 3847 8411

### Mission Australia SA

60 Halifax Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
Tel: (08) 8218 2800

### Mission Australia TAS

Suite 2, Level 1  
175 Collins Street  
Hobart TAS 7000  
Tel: (03) 6225 8200

### Mission Australia VIC

Level 2, 164-180 Kings Way  
Melbourne VIC 3206  
Tel: (03) 8615 2200

### Mission Australia WA

Suite 2, 34 Hasler Road  
Osborne Park WA 6017  
Tel: (08) 9225 0400

**MISSION  
AUSTRALIA** | together  
we stand