MISSION AUSTRALIA

youth survey report 2016

Contents

CEO's message

Welcome to Mission Australia's 15th Youth Survey. The 2016 Survey gives us an important insight into the lives of young Australians; their hopes, fears and ambitions for themselves, their communities and Australia at large.

Presenting results from the biggest Australian survey of its kind, this well-respected report provides parents, policymakers, advocates and teachers with a greater understanding of our young people.

It's important that we give young people a voice and that we advocate for their concerns to be included in the policy making process. Young people are our future, their hopes and dreams are our hopes and dreams. It is only right that we make sure we are supporting them on their journey to independence and as they transition from childhood to adulthood.

2016 Results

While we see consistent themes across the years there are always new trends and issues emerging.

Young people continue to nominate coping with stress, school or study problems and body image as their top three issues of personal concern. Mental health was also identified as a personal concern for young people, with a larger proportion nominating this than in previous years.

It concerns me that mental health continues to grow as an issue of concern for Australia. There are some wonderful youth mental health programs and a range of support services. We must ensure these continue to be funded, adequately supported and accessible.

It is imperative that we provide appropriate and timely supports for young people across a continuum of needs. The old adage 'prevention is better than cure' is key when we consider the issues that young people face, especially in terms of mental health issues, as they commonly occur during this developmental period.

Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016* included focus questions on equity and discrimination that we had not included previously. Just over one quarter of young people indicated that they had experienced some form of unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months.

I was greatly saddened, but perhaps not surprised, to see that the leading causes of discrimination were gender (39.1%) and race/cultural background (30.8%), with almost half of females who reported discrimination indicating that this was on the basis of gender.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who responded to the *Youth Survey 2016* were almost twice as likely to have experienced discrimination on the basis of race or cultural background than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people (54.7% compared to 28.3%).

These levels are simply unacceptable and we must ask ourselves what we can all do to change that.

Political and social leadership is required to help change some of these pervasive attitudes. We have to challenge stereotypes and explicit discrimination when we see it. This needs to be addressed by governments, as well as in the media and at schools.

I would like to thank those young people who took the time to complete the *Youth Survey*. This year is our biggest yet with nearly 22,000 respondents. It's important that we listen to their voices and act on what they have told us.

Catherine Yeomans
CEO, Mission Australia

Introduction

Demographic profile of respondents

A total of 21,846 young people aged 15-19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*. The largest number of responses came from New South Wales (32.5%), Queensland (20.0%) and Victoria (19.1%). Over half of the respondents (55.0%) were female and 6.1% identified as Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander. The percentage of young people who spoke a language other than English at home was 18.3%, slightly lower than results in 2015 (21.9%). The level of reported disability in 2016 was 3.8%. The vast majority of respondents were studying full-time (94.6%), consistent with the 94.0% in 2015. Around four in ten (38.5%) respondents were working part-time and 35.1% were looking for work, again consistent with previous years.

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 still at school, 96.7% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Around twice the proportion of males indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (4.7% compared with 1.9% of females). One in five (20.0%) respondents indicated that they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or that they had done so in the past. Similar proportions of both males and females indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (20.9% compared with 19.2% respectively).

When asked what they were planning to do after school, going to university was the most frequently chosen option (68.7%), although a greater proportion of females than males indicated that they planned to do so (74.4% compared with 62.5%). Many planned to get a job (32.7%) or to travel or go on a gap year (29.4%) after school, while 12.5% planned to attend TAFE or college and 8.9% planned to undertake an apprenticeship.

Unfair treatment or discrimination

For the first time in 2016, young people were asked whether they had *experienced* any unfair treatment or discrimination and whether they had *witnessed* any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. Just over one quarter (26.6%) of young people indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination while around twice as many (50.6%) indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. Overall, greater proportions of female than male respondents reported that they had experienced and/or witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination.

> **More than twice the proportion of female than male respondents reported that *gender* was a reason they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination**

Respondents who indicated that they had experienced and/or witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the reasons for this from a list of items. Nationally, the top three reasons indicated by young people for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *gender* (39.1%), *race/cultural background* (30.8%) and *age* (22.1%). More than twice the proportion of female than male respondents reported that *gender* was a reason they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (48.4% compared with 19.5%), while a much greater proportion of male than female respondents reported that *race/cultural background* was a reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had experienced (40.7% compared with 25.1%).

The top three reasons cited for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents were *race/cultural background* (57.5%), *sexuality* (41.4%) and *physical health or ability* (35.3%). Around six in ten of both male and female respondents reported that *race/cultural background* was a reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed (59.6% compared with 56.7%).

Influences on post-school plans

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents who were studying at school were asked to indicate from a list of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. *Parents* (83.1%), *other family members* (72.0%) and the *internet* (69.4%) were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans. Just under two thirds (65.7%) of respondents indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans while around half (51.7%) indicated that their *teacher* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

Similar proportions of both females and males indicated that they saw *parents* and *other family members* influencing their post-school plans, while a greater proportion of females than males indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

What young people value

In 2016 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, family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction* ranked as the three most highly valued items. Also consistent with past years was the high value placed on *physical and mental health*. Around four in ten 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 around four in ten respondents indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *coping with stress* and *school or study problems*, and three in ten highly 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* (82.9%, 76.1% and 61.4% respectively). Around half of respondents indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (52.2%) and the *internet* (46.4%) for help with important issues and around one third indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help (36.1% and 31.2% 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 28.1% rating their family's ability to get along as *excellent*, and 31.3% 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* (12.1%) or *poor* (6.8%).

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 2016 were *alcohol and drugs* (28.7%), *equity and discrimination* (27.0%) and *mental health* (20.6%). These compare to the top three issues in 2015 of *alcohol and drugs* (27.0%), *equity and discrimination* (25.0%) and *the economy and financial matters* (18.9%). Since 2014, *international relations* and *crime, safety and violence* have been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *the economy and financial matters, politics* and *education* have declined over this period.

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

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 *arts/cultural/music activities, volunteer work* and *student leadership* activities in the past year.

The future

Young people were asked to rate how positive they felt about the future. Results in 2016 are similar to those from previous years, with around two thirds of respondents feeling either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Just over one quarter of young people felt *neither positive nor negative* and around one in ten young people felt either *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

Mission Australia Youth Survey

It is important to understand young people's journeys to independence in order to determine the types of support they may require. The following discussion of findings and policy recommendations from Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016* has been structured according to Mission Australia's outcomes framework.

This framework contains the range of outcome areas that all Mission Australia services strive to address with the individuals, families and communities we work alongside. With the expectation that progress can be made towards independence, Mission Australia provides services that aim to achieve the following outcomes for young people:

1 Developing and achieving – young people need to be skilled and confident, in education and with access to tertiary education, training or employment. All young people should have the best foundation for learning and development and be able to participate as valued members of society.

2 Economic wellbeing – young people should have access to the essentials in life and have good financial management skills. They should have pathways to economic participation, fulfilling employment and independent living.

3 Healthy – being healthy is a significant contributor to overall wellbeing, and this includes participating in activities such as sport. Health incorporates both physical and mental health. Mission Australia believes that for young people to transition successfully into adulthood all aspects of health are important.

4 Housed – a supportive and stable home environment is a particularly important aspect of a young person's life; it is essential for good physical and mental health and has positive impacts on educational outcomes. Stable housing also provides a platform for other supports in the community, through schools or neighbours.

5 Inclusive and cohesive – having a strong sense of being included, having mutual support and feeling you have someone to call on at a time of need are critically important for young people. Having bonds with the people around them plays an important part in transitioning to adulthood. Diversity needs to be respected and supported, with the benefits of this being seen as both strength building and protective.

6 Connected and participating – it is important that young people have a sense of belonging, feel part of the community and are given opportunities to participate in activities and events that allow them to develop relationships with others. Young people should have their voices heard and be actively involved in decisions affecting their lives.

7 Safe – keeping young people safe, and feeling safe, is a responsibility of the whole of society. Young people need to feel safe in their families, communities and schools. All young people should have a safe, secure and stable home and be protected from bullying and discrimination at school and in their community.

8 Supported and resourced – young people and those around them such as their peers, family and relatives must have access to services to meet their needs. Mission Australia believes support is essential for young people whether this be universal or more targeted support. Services need to be high quality, holistic and improve outcomes over time. Services should produce evidence which helps improve service delivery. This includes listening to young people and including their opinions in service development.

Policy Context

Young people have strong hopes and concerns about their own lives and about the society they live in.

Young people generally turn to family and friends for the support and advice they need, however some face complex challenges and require additional supports to reach their goals.

As a society we need to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to work towards a future that matches their goals. To do this we need to make sure that age-appropriate and culturally sensitive supports are available to them.

Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016* included new focus questions on vocational education and training, career advice and equity and discrimination.

The results show that young people experience and witness discrimination at alarmingly high levels for a range of reasons including age, gender, mental health, physical health or ability, race/cultural background, religion and sexuality.

Young people continue to nominate alcohol and drugs (28.7%) and equity and discrimination (27.0%) as the top two issues facing Australia today, with mental health (20.6%) entering the top three for the first time.

As seen in previous years, young people nominated coping with stress, school or study problems and body image as their top three issues of personal concern. Depression was also identified as a personal concern for young people, with a larger proportion nominating this than in recent years.

Commonwealth, state and local governments all have important roles to play in facilitating successful youth transitions and addressing these broader societal issues, so that young people have a firm foundation to transition into adulthood.

We must ensure young people are supported to make successful moves into further education, training and employment, that they are healthy, safe and housed, feel included and connected within their communities, and have the necessary supports to combat the challenges that arise in their lives.

As mentioned, young people responding to the *Youth Survey 2016* had personal concerns about stress, school and study problems and body image; as well as national concerns about alcohol and drugs, equity and discrimination and mental health. For this reason it is imperative that young people have appropriate and timely access to support services across the continuum of needs including:

- Providing young people with skills to cope with stress when it arises.

- Providing universal awareness programs through schools on mental health, discrimination and drugs and alcohol that encourage help-seeking and provide pathways to support.

- Ensuring mental health services and drug and alcohol services are both age and culturally appropriate and offer comorbid support for younger age groups.

- Combating discrimination more broadly through political leadership and programs at the organisational and community level to ensure an inclusive society.

- Equipping friends, family and other important people in young people's lives to provide effective support in times of need.

Developing and achieving

Low educational attainment is the most important driver of disengagement from education, employment and training and young people with less education are more likely to be disengaged from employment and training for longer.[1] In 2015, 6.1% of 15-19 years olds were not engaged in any kind of employment or study and 11.8% were not fully engaged in study or employment.[2]

Additionally, a lack of jobs in remote locations contributes to disengagement for many young people; with young people from disadvantaged families more likely to be disengaged from education, training and employment.[3] Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are also more at risk of disengagement from education and employment.[4]

Vocational education and apprenticeships

One in five respondents to the *Youth Survey 2016* were undertaking or had undertaken a vocational education and training (VET) course, with similar proportions of males and females engaged in VET.

High quality vocational education that includes practical training can provide a positive alternative for young people who are at risk of disengaging from academically focussed schools and provide valuable pre-employment skills.

Research has shown that schools which offer apprenticeships or traineeships for young people from Year 10 onwards can improve rates of retention.[5]

Young males responding to the *Youth Survey 2016* were more likely to include apprenticeships in their post school plans. Apprenticeships have grown significantly over recent decades, however VET completion rates remain low by international standards and the system can often be complex for young people to navigate.

Institutions offering VET courses and apprenticeships to vulnerable young people or those from disadvantaged backgrounds need to have resources to help provide the additional support and guidance that these young people need. One study found extra support greatly increased the success rates of apprentices and these should become part of the delivery model.[6]

[1] OECD, 2016, *Investing in Youth: Australia.*

[2] ABS, 2015, *Education and Work, Australia, May 2015.*

[3] OECD, 2016, *Investing in Youth: Australia.*

[4] The Smith Family, 2014, *Young people's successful transition to work: What are the pre-conditions?*

[5] Polidano, C., Hanel, B. & Buddelmeyer, H., 2012, *Explaining the SES School Completion Gap*, Melbourne Institute Working Paper Series: Working Paper No. 16/12. Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne.

[6] Buchanan, J., Raffaele, C., Glozier, N. & Kanagaratnam, A., 2016, *Beyond mentoring: social support structures for young Australian carpentry apprentices*, NCVER, Adelaide.

Synergy Repairs is a Mission Australia social enterprise based in North Melbourne that offers customers a full suite of smash repair services, while providing on-the-job training and work experience for marginalised youth; notably young people who have had trouble with the law. The program harnesses participants' interest in cars and aims to help them build a career in a field that matches their interests. It offers an apprenticeship and additional wrap-around supports to boost engagement.

An evaluation of the first two years found the program was effective and all participants agreed that Synergy had given them a strong basis from which to grow the skills needed to make them employable within the automotive industry. Both participants and staff felt that the program had a transformative effect on those involved. Synergy Repairs is an innovative model and has the opportunity to offer long-term positive outcomes for participants, with the aim of helping get young people 'back on track'. [7]

Young people need the skills that are in demand to be able to compete in today's changing workplace. Expanded apprenticeship and traineeship programs should reflect growth industries like aged care and child care, not just traditional trades, as the job market restructures to a more service oriented rather than trade-based economy.

Alternative education

Some young people need access to alternative education options, ideally before they disengage from mainstream schooling, with wrap-around social supports to enable continued educational engagement.

Programs like Flexible Learning Options (FLO) in South Australia can go some way towards bridging this gap. However, existing programs do not meet the level of need, particularly in regional areas, and should also be expanded to include primary age supports.

Foundational and non-cognitive skills

Many young people who disengage from education, training and employment also lack skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, social skills, persistence, creativity, and self-control. Specialist youth services can help build these skills and assist young people to remain in or re-engage with education and training and employment.

Young people who are not engaged in employment, education or training (NEET) often lack the literacy and numeracy skills required to enable them to make successful transitions. This is particularly true for young people who are recent migrants. Programs such as the Department of Education and Training funded Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) provide valuable support to these young people forming a bridge to employment.

Skills for Education and Employment (SEE)

SEE helps jobseekers to improve their language, literacy and numeracy skills to actively participate in their community and in training and employment. SEE offers training for between 10 to 25 hours per week in short or long courses designed to address local skills shortages. People develop learning and problem solving strategies, gain entry-level vocational competencies, overcome employment and training barriers (such as writing applications and gaining a driver's licence) and build communication skills for job interviews and social inclusion. Learning projects help people gain information about local employment and training opportunities.

Mentoring and information provision

Building aspirations for higher education, training and employment are all important in supporting youth as they transition to adulthood. In particular, young people from jobless families benefit from mentoring in the pathways to further education and employment as they often lack these role models in their day to day lives.

Successful mentoring programs such as the discontinued Indigenous Youth and Careers Pathways (IYCP) program could be used as a model for young people requiring support and advice to navigate post-school pathways.

Economic wellbeing

Young people value getting a job but are worried about a lack of future economic opportunities.

Employment has benefits for young people beyond income generation and independence, with less reliance on social programs, less criminality, more engagement in civil society and greater general wellbeing.

However, youth unemployment is more than double the general unemployment rate – at around 13 per cent[8] – and is much more pronounced in some areas than others, such as Cairns, Launceston and southeast Melbourne.[9]

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people face particular challenges, especially in remote and very remote areas where there are limited job opportunities for young people.

Most respondents to the *Youth Survey 2016* were either employed or looking for work while engaged in full-time study. Worryingly, over a third of young people were not in paid employment and were looking for work.

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[7] Thielking, M., Pfeifer, J.E., Nolan, K., & Boyce, C. 2016, *Synergy Automotive Repairs Program: Process Evaluation Report*. Melbourne, Victoria.

[8] ABS, 2016, *Labour Force, Australia, Aug 2016*, Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

[9] ABS, 2016, *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery, Aug 2016*, Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Working while at school not only provides young people with some independent means of income but also improves their employment prospects and is highly valued by employers.[10]

Youth employment programs

The Government has introduced several new youth employment measures over the last two budgets, providing additional supports to help young people into the job market.

Transitions to Work commenced in 2016, with the Youth Jobs PaTH (Prepare-Trial-Hire) initiative due to commence in 2017. These programs provide opportunities for young people to develop employability skills and undertake real world work experience, improving their prospects of getting a job. Such initiatives are a good start but require rigorous evaluation to ensure they are supporting young people most in need to successfully transition into employment, particularly those from disadvantaged areas.

The Government's Try Test and Learn Fund will provide modest support for program innovation to identify effective responses in assisting young parents, carers and students move from welfare into sustainable employment.

Concerningly, there is a gap in employment supports for the most disadvantaged young people with the most complex needs that previously had been addressed by the well-targeted Youth Connections program.

There is a need for complementary programs to support disadvantaged and vulnerable young people in order to avoid the scarring effects of long-term unemployment which may otherwise occur. Young people who experience greater difficulty finding work both during and after secondary school often experience specific barriers, including problems with housing, child care or mental health. Evidence shows that we need to work with young people in addressing the barriers they face alongside their employment needs.[11]

Nuanced place-based approaches can be utilised to link young people to local industries and to provide a more coordinated approach that is responsive to local needs. Demand driven approaches with a commitment from employers can leverage local opportunities in regions of high growth potential such as Western Sydney.

The Industry Employment Initiative Youth Pilot is working directly with national employers to train, place and support long-term unemployed young people into sustainable employment, and demonstrate the effectiveness of demand-led employment.[12]

Disability employment services

Young people who are living with a disability are more likely than other young people to be NEET.[13]

Work can often provide economic freedom, particularly for young people with a disability, and can also provide a source of social connections, self-esteem and dignity, as well as lessening dependency on health and welfare systems. As such, it is important to address the needs of young people with a disability in the workforce to support their continued employment.[14]

Young people with a disability can be better engaged through active, inclusive employment practices founded on a positive policy framework. The NDIS tailored employment programs and commitments from employers have the potential to significantly boost employment opportunities for young people with a disability.

Child care

Access to affordable, quality child care and flexible working arrangements boosts the educational engagement and employment prospects of young parents, and care should be provided to young and vulnerable parents as a priority.

Healthy

Physical and mental health are critical to the wellbeing of young people, their ability to pursue future ambitions and to successfully navigate their transition into adulthood.

It is important that young people have access to age-appropriate physical and mental health services and that they have the opportunity to participate in health-promoting activities such as sports.

Alcohol and drugs

Alcohol and drugs was the top issue of national concern for the second year in a row, with close to three in ten (28.7%) young people identifying it as an important issue in Australia today. Additionally, almost 10% of young people indicated a high personal concern about drugs and alcohol.

Mission Australia's Drug and Alcohol Youth Service (DAYS) in Western Australia is a 24 hour residential rehabilitation service for young people aged 12 to 19 years that provides a 3 month structured rehabilitation program that is evidence based and, where possible, client directed. Clients have access to a range of integrated services allowing a continuum of care throughout their stay and post-treatment. This includes mentoring, family counselling, transitional housing and community casework.

[10] Department of Employment, 2014, *Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences – combined data for all regions surveyed in the 2013-2014 financial year.*

[11] Oxenbridge, S. & Evesson, J., 2012, *Young people entering work: A review of the research, Ref: 18/12,* Employment Research Australia.

[12] De Almeida, A., n.d., *Approximately half a million people in Australia have been out of work for over a year,* Social Ventures Australia. Available at: www.socialventures.com.au/work/iei.

[13] OECD, 2016, *Investing in Youth: Australia.*

[14] Commonwealth of Australia, 2011, *National Disability Strategy 2010-2020,* Canberra.

Young people may also be exposed to the harmful drinking and drug-taking behaviours of others. This includes alcohol and drug related violence at home or in public places, parental and peer drinking or substance use and the risk-taking behaviours of others, including driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Continued and targeted public health messaging around harm minimisation is required to reduce alcohol-related harm at all ages across Australia.

When substance abuse is a problem for young people, effective youth-focussed detox, rehabilitation and after care services are required. In response to the Government's Ice Taskforce and based on our service experience, Mission Australia has advocated for more youth specific detox facilities to specifically address the ice epidemic and other drug addictions among young people.

Mental health

Mental health was among the top three national concerns this year and is an issue at the top of young people's minds.

Coping with stress, school or study problems and body image have continued to be the top three issues of personal concern for young people. In addition, around one quarter of young people indicated that depression was an issue of concern for them, while just over one in ten highlighted that suicide was also a concern.

Adolescence can be a challenging, stressful and confusing time for many young people and for some young people more serious mental health concerns can arise.

One in four young people are living with a mental disorder and 9% of young people (16-24 years old) experience high to very high levels of psychological distress.[15] Mission Australia's *Youth Survey* found the prevalence of those reporting a probable serious mental illness increased between 2012 and 2014, particularly for young females.[16] Models of holistic and broad-based mental health care are required for these young people.

Young people need the skills to cope with stress when it arises and schools are the universal platform for mental health awareness and encouraging help-seeking.

Complementary services should be provided, including evidence based online supports as well as face-to-face services. This should occur as part of a stepped model of care which offers a spectrum of services and supports ranging in intensity according to young people's needs and responsiveness to interventions.[17] Online self-help and mental health apps can help break down barriers to young people seeking assistance through providing free, easily accessible and confidential support.[18]

Navigating the often complex pathways into mental health support services for young people can present barriers to service access, particularly where young people or their families have limited resources or a lack of familiarity with the healthcare system. Online tools and apps are being developed which address this knowledge gap and should continue to be supported.[19]

Young people should be involved in the design and development of youth friendly services and programs to ensure their applicability and likelihood of use.[20] Moreover, given that *Youth Survey* respondents indicated that they were most likely to go to friends, family and relatives/family friends for help with important issues in their lives, these individuals also need to be equipped to provide appropriate support.

headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds, along with assistance in promoting young peoples' wellbeing. This covers four core areas: mental health, physical health, work and study support and alcohol and other drug services.

Body image

Body image was again among the top three personal concerns for respondents to the *Youth Survey 2016* and was a concern for a higher proportion of young women than young men.

Many young people also highlighted discrimination on the basis of their appearance in comments when indicating discrimination on 'other' grounds.

Negative body image can result in isolation or destructive behaviours. Risk factors such as bullying, peer pressure and perfectionism need to be reduced and protective factors such as self-esteem, social support, healthy eating and respect for diversity need to be increased to combat negative body image. In some cases young people may need to access professional support to help change negative beliefs and behaviours.[21] The Butterfly Foundation's National Support Line and Web Counselling Service can offer a gateway to such professional support.

[15] ABS, 2008, *National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Summary of Results, 2007*, Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

[16] Mission Australia 2015 Young people's mental health over the years Youth Survey 2012-14.

[17] Vogl G., Ratnaike D., Ivancic L., Rowley A. & Chandy V. 2016. *One Click Away? Insights into Mental Health Digital Self-help by Young Australians*. Sydney: EY and ReachOut Australia.

[18] E.g. Australian National University *MoodGYM & E-couch*; Black Dog Institute *myCompass*; Reach Out *WorryTime & Breathe*.

[19] E.g. ReachOut *NextStep*.

[20] Vogl G., Ratnaike D., Ivancic L., Rowley A. & Chandy V. 2016, *One Click Away? Insights into Mental Health Digital Self-help by Young Australians*. Sydney: EY and ReachOut Australia.

[21] Butterfly Foundation, n.d., *What is Body image?* Available at: www. thebutterflyfoundation.org.au/understand-eating-disorders/body-image.

Housed

Only 7.5% of young people recognised homelessness and housing as one of the most important issues facing Australia today.

However, alcohol and drugs and mental health were among the top three national concerns of young people. Additionally, nearly one in four young people reported family conflict as an issue of personal concern. All of these are risk factors and indicators of future homelessness, which often starts with couch surfing during adolescence.

Family reconciliation initiatives such as the Department of Social Services Reconnect program have proven to be effective in family reconciliation and educational retention for young people at risk of educational disengagement and homelessness. Mission Australia has called on the Commonwealth to continue funding this cost effective early intervention service for another 5 years.

Early intervention is particularly crucial for young people as it can prevent them from making a transition to permanent and intractable homelessness and should be a key funding priority. Mission Australia's *Homelessness Action Plan* has called for the halving of youth homelessness by 2020.

The Ryde Project is a joint initiative between schools and local agencies which assists young people who need support or who are experiencing difficulties to better engage with school. This program quickly identifies young people and their families who could benefit from additional support through a voluntary survey of every student in participating secondary schools. The school and a local agency then make an offer of support to each identified student and their family and a support plan containing specific goals is developed for each student to work towards.

The Ryde Project is a continuation of a proven early intervention model first developed as The Geelong Project which recognises that the best outcomes for young people can be achieved if difficulties are identified, and support provided, as soon as possible.[22]

Young people also have to deal with an unaffordable housing rental market in many parts of Australia. Together with high levels of youth unemployment, a poor supply of affordable housing options poses a significant issue.

Young people receiving Youth Allowance live on incomes below the poverty line and are not able to afford adequate housing through the private rental market. Measures to extend the age of eligibility for Newstart from 22 to 25 years are likely to increase the risk of homelessness for young people unable to find employment.

Inclusive and cohesive

Discrimination

This year, the *Youth Survey 2016* considered in more detail the discrimination experienced and witnessed by young people, as equity and discrimination has been an increasing national concern for young people over recent years.

The proportion of young people concerned about equity and discrimination continues to increase and it remains the second top issue nationally in 2016.

Just over one quarter of young people indicated that they had experienced some form of unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months.

The top two reasons young people cited for their experience of discrimination were gender (39.1%) and race/cultural background (30.8%). Of those who reported experiencing discrimination, females reported particularly high levels of gender discrimination (48.4% compared to 19.5% of males). Males reported higher levels of discrimination based on race/cultural background (40.7% compared to 25.1% of females).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were almost twice as likely to report having experienced discrimination on the basis of race or cultural background compared to non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people (54.7% compared to 28.3%). These respondents were also more likely to experience unfair treatment or discrimination on the basis of mental health, age, physical health or ability, sexuality, religion and other reasons than their non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peers.

We also know racial discrimination is a reality for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds and can be experienced in education, employment, sport, public transport and in interactions with the police.[23]

In addition, half of young people surveyed had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. The discrimination they witnessed was most commonly on the basis of race/cultural background (57.5%) and sexuality (41.4%).

Findings from the *Youth Survey 2016* add the perspective of young Australians to other recent research which found similar levels of discrimination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.[24] This suggests that unfair treatment or discrimination is obvious to young people, even when they are not personally experiencing it and the effects of this are felt more broadly throughout the community, detracting from feelings of inclusion and cohesion.

These high levels of unfair treatment and discrimination experienced and witnessed by young people are unacceptable and it is particularly concerning that they are occurring at such a young age.

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[22] Available at: www.thegeelongproject.com.au.

[23] Centre for Multicultural Youth, 2014, *Everyday Reality: Racism and Young People*. CMY: Melbourne.

[24] Markus, A., 2015, *Mapping Social Cohesion*, Caulfield East: Monash University.

While many young people show great resilience in the face of discrimination, studies have shown that discrimination can have a negative impact on mental health, with effects including increased psychological distress, depression and anxiety. [25]

Gender discrimination has also been linked to domestic and family violence, which is the major driver of homelessness for women and children. Promoting gender equality is a critical part of violence prevention.

Many effective awareness raising campaigns are operating in communities to combat discrimination and efforts at all levels need to be continued. Investment is needed in community, organisational and media interventions to influence broader society and the behaviour of adults as role models. Education initiatives are also needed to address the attitudes and behaviours of young people directly.

beyondblue's *Invisible Discriminator* campaign highlights the impact of racism on the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This campaign encourages everyone in Australia to do something about his or her behaviour.[26]

Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning is designed to support the 21,000+ early learning services, primary and secondary schools in Australia to develop environments that foster a higher level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.

Participating schools and early learning services will be assisted to find meaningful ways to increase respect; reduce prejudice and strengthen relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.[27]

Racism it stops with me is a campaign from the Australian Human Rights Commission which engages with organisations and communities to develop anti-racism activities, materials and educational tools to support change.

This campaign has received support from more than 350 organisations.[28]

Connected and participating

Non-school activities are an important avenue for young people to develop non-cognitive skills and build networks and are particularly important for vulnerable young people. Positively, significant proportions of respondents to the *Youth Survey 2016* indicated involvement in a range of activities over the past year. Three quarters (75.7%) of young people had been involved in *sports (as a participant)*, 67.0% had been involved in *sports (as a spectator)* and over half had participated in *volunteer work* (53.5%) or *arts/cultural/music activities* (52.7%).

It is important that all young people have access to a range of activities to build skills and confidence including sport, arts, culture and mentoring activities.

Spin 180 Youth Sailing Program in Darwin provides an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged between 12-21 who are experiencing issues with homelessness, drug and alcohol misuse or anti-social behaviour to participate in a nationally accredited beginner's sailing course. The program equips young people in areas of critical thinking, problem solving and conflict resolution; builds resilience, self-confidence, self-esteem and courage; builds and strengthens leadership skills, communication skills and team-work capabilities; and engages young people in a positive, interactive and practical environment to learn new things.

Safe

Compared to the past two years, crime, safety and violence has risen as an issue of national concern among respondents. Additionally, close to one in five young people also indicated high levels of personal concern about personal safety and bullying/emotional abuse.

Place-based approaches to improve community safety are required and should involve young people in their design.

Bullying can lead to school avoidance, poorer educational outcomes and reduced psychological wellbeing as well as long-term negative mental health outcomes.[29] Vulnerable children who are more at risk of bullying include homeless young people, young people with a disability, same sex attracted young people and young people from racial, ethnic and religious minorities.[30]

Positive family relationships and support from friends can reduce the negative consequences of being bullied.[31] It is pleasing that

25 Vogl G., Ratnaike D., Ivancic L., Rowley A. & Chandy V., 2016, *One Click Away? Insights into Mental Health Digital Self-help by Young Australians*. Sydney: EY and ReachOut Australia; Ferdinand, A., Paradies, Y. & Kelaher, M., 2012, *Mental Health Impacts of Racial Discrimination in Victorian Aboriginal Communities: The Localities Embracing and Accepting Diversity (LEAD) Experiences of Racism Survey*, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne.

26 Beyond Blue, n.d., *Discrimination stops with you*. Available at: www.beyondblue.org.au/who-does-it-affect/the-invisible-discriminator.

27 Reconciliation Australia, n.d. Available at: www.reconciliation.org.au/schools.

28 Available at: https://itstopswithme.humanrights. gov.au/.

29 NSW CCYP, 2014, *Young People Speak Out: Bullying and Cyberbullying* www.acyp.nsw.gov.au.

30 NSW CCYP, 2014, *Young People Speak Out: Bullying and Cyberbullying* www.acyp.nsw.gov.au.

31 NSW CCYP, 2014, *Young People Speak Out: Bullying and Cyberbullying* www.acyp.nsw.gov.au.

so many respondents reported their family's ability to get along was excellent (28.1%) or very good (31.3%). Of concern, 6.8% and 12.1% reported that their family relationships were either poor or fair.

Anti-bullying programs and online safety programs have been implemented in many schools and by some community groups. These programs need to be informed by the best available evidence and subject to monitoring and evaluation that includes young people's perspectives to improve outcomes.

The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence (NDA) is Australia's largest anti-bullying event for schools and provides an opportunity for schools and students to promote their own anti-bullying messages and programs to their community.

By participating in the NDA, schools, students, teachers and parents can proactively:

- support the key message that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time;

- run their own activities that foster respectful inclusive school communities; and

- utilise lesson plans and other resources provided on the Bullying. No Way! website.[32]

Supported and resourced

In relation to their post-school plans, family and friends stood out as important sources of support and an important influence on young people's choices. Respondents to the *Youth Survey 2016* were mostly influenced by parents, other family members, the internet and friends.

Over half of all young people indicated that their teacher had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after they left school, while close to three in ten reported that a mentor/coach had helped in their decision-making.

Friends (82.9%), parents (76.1%), and relatives/family friends (61.4%) were again the three most reported sources of help for young people. Around one third of young people reported accessing their teacher or school counsellor for help with important issues. However, only 15.7% reported accessing an online counselling website and around one in ten reported that they would access a telephone hotline or community agency for help.

It is important that young people are aware of all the sources of help that are available to them at school and in the community. It is also important that those around young people including families, teachers and school counsellors have the relevant information and resources to support and guide young people as they transition towards independence.

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[32] Available at: www.bullyingnoway.gov.au.

About the survey

Survey background

In 2016, Mission Australia conducted its 15th 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 perceptions surrounding unfair treatment and discrimination, as well as exploring the resources that helped young people make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

Participation

In 2016, 21,846 young Australians aged 15-19 years participated in the survey. Of these, 20,318 (93.0%) 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 2016* 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, influences on post-school plans, participation in community activities, perceptions of discrimination, general wellbeing, 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 2016* 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 2016

As previously mentioned, some changes were made to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey* this year. Each year the *Youth Survey* features a number of focus questions that change every year. In 2015, the focus questions explored young people's confidence in achieving post-school study/work goals and the barriers young people perceived as impacting on the achievement of these goals. These questions were removed in 2016 and replaced by questions exploring discrimination and influences on post-school plans. Minor amendments were also made to a small number of questions.

Details for these changes to the survey have been outlined below.

- For the first time in 2016, young people were asked whether they had experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination and whether they had witnessed any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. If young people responded 'yes' to either of these questions, they were prompted to indicate from a list of items what the reasons were for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had experienced and/or witnessed. The items included *age, gender, mental health, physical health or ability, race/cultural background, religion, sexuality* and *other*.

- Also for the first time in 2016, respondents who were studying at school were asked to indicate from a list of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. The items included *career advisor, career fair or expo, friends, internet, mentor/coach, other family members, parent/s, part-time work, teacher, traineeship, vocational education and training (VET) course, work experience/internship* and *year advisor/other school staff*.

- This year an additional item was added to the question asking respondents to indicate from of a list of items which they would go to for help with important issues in their lives. The item *brother/sister* was added as an option alongside *community agency, friend/s, internet, magazines, parent/s, relative/family friend, school counsellor, teacher, telephone hotline* and *online counselling website*.

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 2017.

This report

This report contains an executive summary, a national summary and a summary for each State or Territory. 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.

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 21,846 young people aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey* 2016. Respondents came from across Australia and Figure 1.1 indicates the number and percentage from each state/territory. There were 22 respondents who did not indicate which state/territory they lived in.

Gender breakdown

Over half (55.0%) of respondents were female and 45.0% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 1,298 (6.1%) respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 1,013 (4.7%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 166 (0.8%) 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 (6.4% compared with 4.9%).

Language background other than English

A total of 3,026 (14.1%) respondents stated that they were born overseas and 3,923 (18.3%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 100 languages spoken at home, the most common were (in order of frequency); Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Mandarin and Italian.

Figure 1.1: Percentage of respondents by state/territory

Disability

A total of 792 (3.8%) respondents indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (4.2%) than females (3.0%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities overall were (in order of frequency); autism, learning disability, physical disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and anxiety disorder.

Detailed national results

Education

As indicated in Table 1.1, 94.6% of respondents were studying full-time, similar to the 94.0% of respondents in 2015. A slightly greater proportion of female than male respondents reported that they were studying full-time (95.8% compared with 94.0% respectively), while a slightly greater proportion of males (3.7%) than females (2.2%) reported not studying at all.

Respondents who reported 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 previous years, the majority of respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (16.0%) or *satisfied* (55.9%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.5% and 4.2% respectively). As shown in Table 1.2, a slightly higher proportion of females than males reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (15.4% and 58.4% of females compared with 16.9% and 54.2% of males respectively).

Table 1.1: Participation in education

	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.6	95.8	94.0
Studying part-time	2.2	2.0	2.3
Not studying	3.2	2.2	3.7

Table 1.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2016 %	Female %	Male %	National 2015 %	National 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.0	15.4	16.9	16.0	15.3
Satisfied	55.9	58.4	54.2	56.7	55.9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	21.2	23.3	21.5	22.3
Dissatisfied	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.4	5.0
Very dissatisfied	1.5	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.5

Of those who were still at school, 96.7% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Around twice the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (4.7% compared with 1.9% respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. One in five (20.0%) respondents indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course. Similar proportions of both males and females indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (20.9% compared with 19.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 1.2 shows that close to seven in ten respondents planned to go to university after school (68.7%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (32.7%) and to travel or go on a gap year (29.4%) after school. Overall, 12.5% planned to attend TAFE or college and 8.9% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. 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, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (74.4% compared with 62.5% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (34.2% compared with 23.6% of males). A much larger proportion of males indicated that they were planning to undertake an apprenticeship (14.9% compared with 3.8% of females).

Figure 1.2: Plans after leaving school
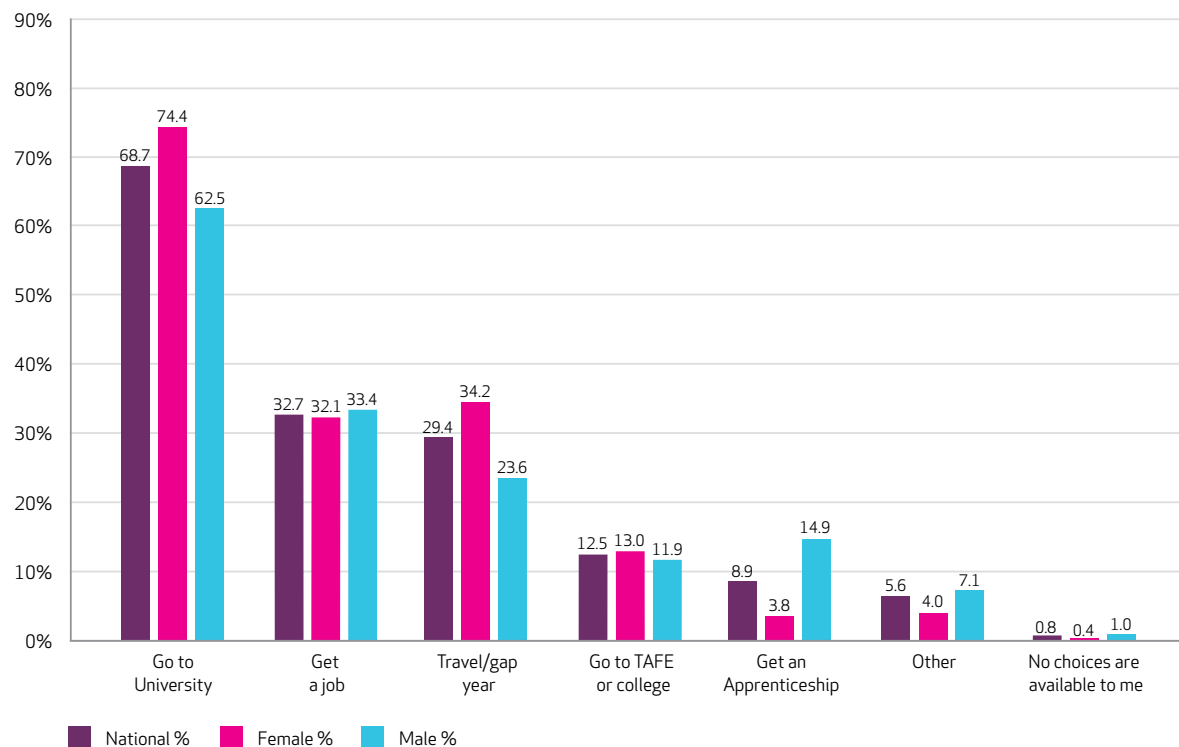
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 1.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item as being an influence. Nationally, the top three influences on young people's post-school plans were *parents*, *other family members* and the *internet*.

- *Parents*, *other family members* and the *internet* were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans (83.1%, 72.0% and 69.4% respectively).

- Just under two thirds (65.7%) of respondents indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans while around half (51.7%) indicated that their *teacher* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school).

Figure 1.3: Influences on post-school plans

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 1.3, the top three influences which both genders identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans were consistent with national results. Similar proportions of both females and males indicated that they saw *parents* and *other family members* influencing their post-school plans, while a greater proportion of females than males indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.
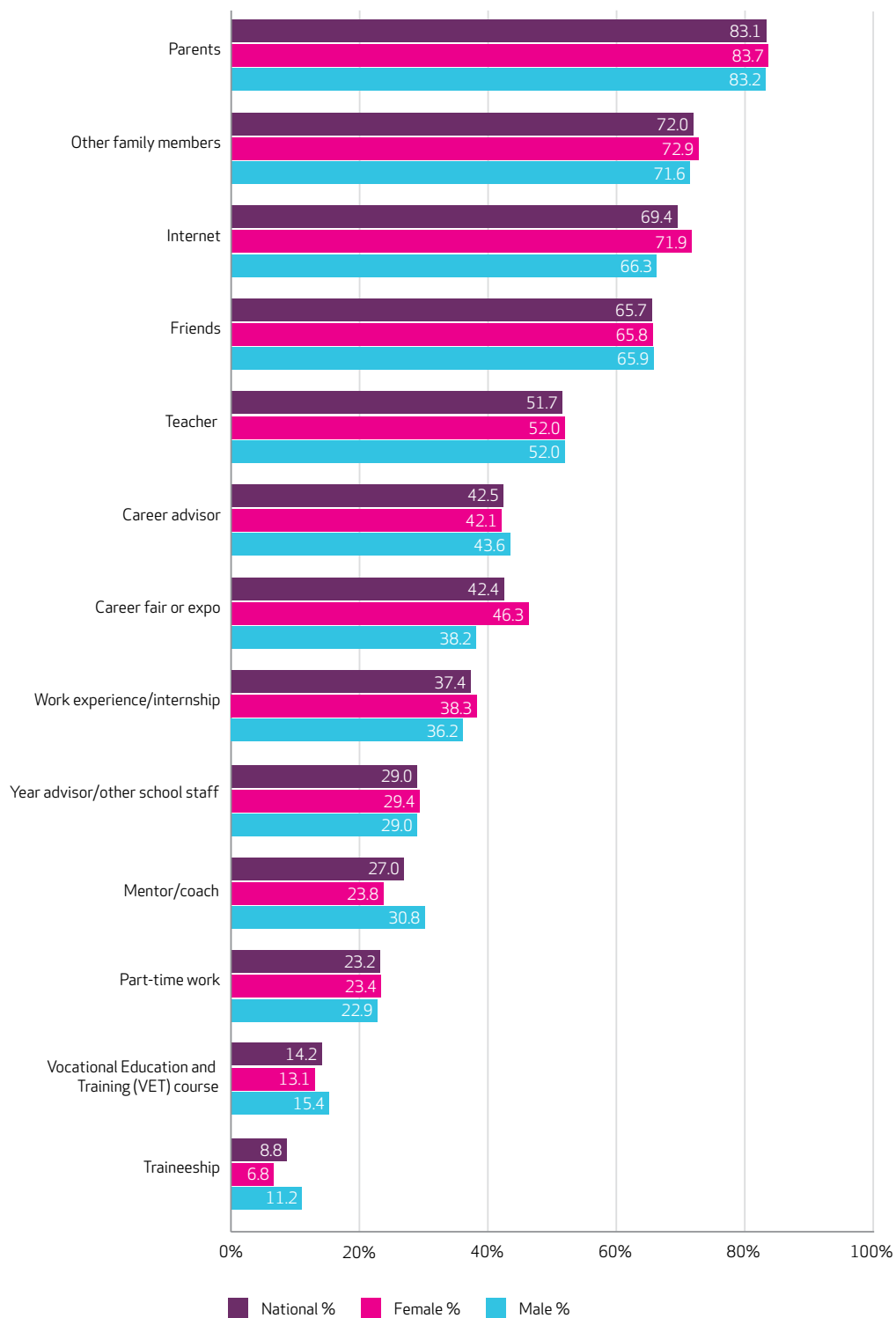
- Just over eight in ten female and male respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (83.7% of females compared with 83.2% of males) and just over seven in ten respondents from both genders indicated that *other family members* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school (72.9% of females compared with 71.6% of males).

- A slightly greater proportion of female (71.9%) than male (66.3%) respondents indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their post-school plans).

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 0.6% of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Almost four in ten (38.5%) respondents, the majority of whom were still at school, reported part-time employment. Six in ten respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 35.1% looking for work and 25.8% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents reported full-time employment (0.8% compared with 0.3% respectively), while a higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (44.4% compared with 31.7% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male than female respondents were looking for work (37.7% compared with 32.8% respectively).

Table 1.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.3	0.8
Employed part-time	38.5	44.4	31.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.1	32.8	37.7
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	25.8	22.5	29.8

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 2016 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 1.4 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 2016 responses were consistent with previous years, with *friendships, family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction* ranked as the three most highly valued items. Also consistent with past years is the high value placed on *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 80.7% of respondents (*extremely important*: 39.9%; *very important*: 40.8%). *Family relationships* were also valued very highly by 80.6% of respondents (*extremely important*: 48.5%; *very important*: 32.1%).

- Around seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 33.7%; *very important*: 39.2%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 37.8%; *very important*: 34.5%).

- Around four in ten respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 15.9%; *very important*: 29.4%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 14.6%; *very important*: 24.5%).

Figure 1.4: What young people value
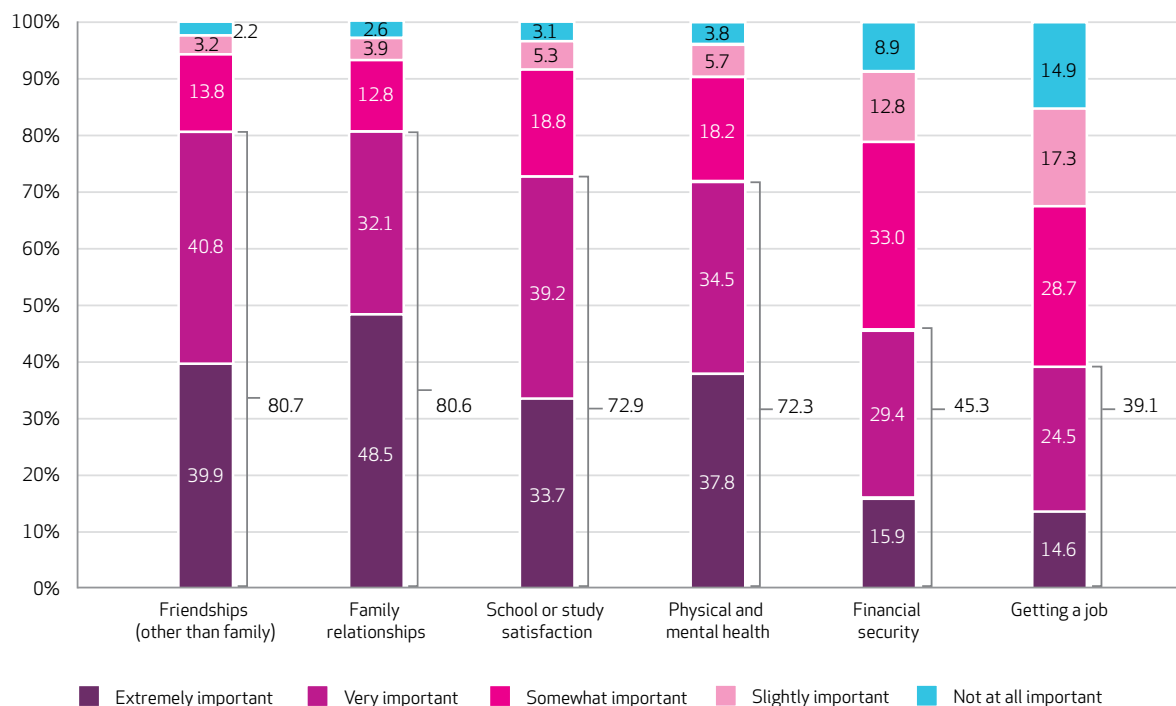
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Friendships and *family relationships* were the two most highly valued items by both males and females, as shown in Table 1.4. The order of these items differed however, with females indicating that *family relationships* was the most highly valued item, while for males the most highly valued item was *friendships*. The third top item for females was *school or study satisfaction* while for males it was *physical and mental health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these and all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 84.1% of females (*extremely important*: 53.7%; *very important*: 30.4%) compared with 78.3% of males (*extremely important*: 43.4%; *very important*: 34.9%).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 82.7% of females (*extremely important*: 43.4%; *very important*: 39.3%) compared with 79.8% of males (*extremely important*: 36.0%; *very important*: 43.8%).

- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 78.5% of females (*extremely important*: 38.8%; *very important*: 39.7%) compared with 67.5% of males (*extremely important*: 27.9%; *very important*: 39.6%).

- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by around three quarters of all females (*extremely important*: 41.2%; *very important*: 34.7%) and by almost seven in ten of all males (*extremely important*: 33.9%; *very important*: 35.3%).

Table 1.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**43.4**	**39.3**	13.1	2.9	1.3
Family relationships	**53.7**	**30.4**	10.7	3.7	1.5
School or study satisfaction	**38.8**	**39.7**	16.0	4.1	1.4
Physical and mental health	41.2	34.7	16.8	5.1	2.2
Financial security	16.2	31.0	34.2	12.0	6.6
Getting a job	13.9	26.5	29.7	16.6	13.2
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**36.0**	**43.8**	14.4	3.4	2.4
Family relationships	**43.4**	**34.9**	15.0	3.9	2.8
School or study satisfaction	27.9	39.6	22.0	6.8	3.7
Physical and mental health	**33.9**	**35.3**	20.1	6.3	4.5
Financial security	15.1	28.1	32.1	13.9	10.8
Getting a job	14.9	22.6	28.0	18.5	16.1

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 1.5. 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 previous years, the top three issues of concern remain unchanged.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 44.4% of respondents indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (20.1%) or *very concerned* (24.3%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 37.8% (*extremely concerned*: 15.3%; *very concerned*: 22.5%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 30.6% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 13.0%; *very concerned*: 17.6%).

- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 1.5: 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 as highlighted in Table 1.5. The proportion of females concerned about all of these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- Just under six in ten females indicated that *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 28.2%; *very concerned*: 30.1%), compared with around one quarter of all males (*extremely concerned*: 9.8%; *very concerned*: 17.9%).

- Females were also more concerned about *school and study problems* with 46.7% (*extremely concerned*: 19.8%; *very concerned*: 26.9%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 27.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.5%; *very concerned*: 17.7%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 41.4% (*extremely concerned*: 18.0%; *very concerned*: 23.4%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 17.0% (*extremely concerned*: 6.1%; *very concerned*: 10.9%) of males.

- For 29.0% of females (*extremely concerned*: 13.8%; *very concerned*: 15.2%) and 16.1% of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.3%; *very concerned*: 8.8%), *depression* was a major concern.

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

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**28.2**	**30.1**	23.5	10.9	7.4
School or study problems	**19.8**	**26.9**	27.3	14.9	11.1
Body image	**18.0**	**23.4**	29.0	17.0	12.6
Depression	13.8	15.2	18.7	17.8	34.5
Family conflict	11.4	16.0	21.7	19.7	31.3
Personal safety	8.6	12.5	21.3	20.4	37.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.2	11.8	19.9	20.9	39.3
Discrimination	6.5	9.5	16.9	18.4	48.8
Suicide	8.4	6.6	10.0	12.2	62.8
Drugs	3.7	4.4	8.9	11.2	71.9
Alcohol	2.3	4.0	15.4	15.2	63.1
Gambling	1.6	1.8	4.3	6.5	85.7

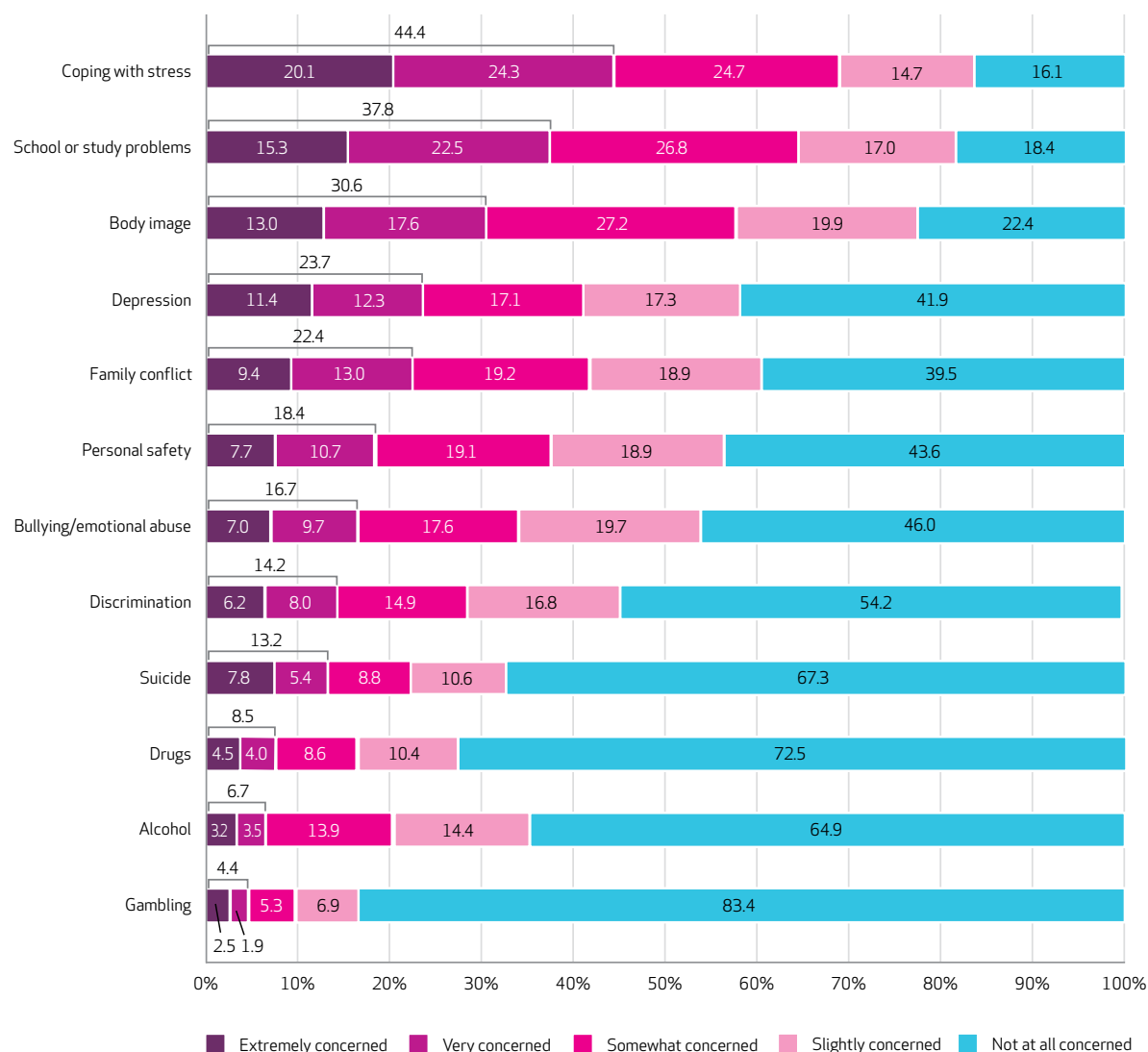| Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**9.8**	**17.9**	26.7	19.8	25.8
School or study problems	**9.5**	**17.7**	26.6	20.0	26.2
Body image	**6.1**	**10.9**	25.6	23.8	33.5
Depression	7.3	8.8	15.4	17.1	51.3
Family conflict	6.4	9.5	16.3	18.4	49.4
Personal safety	6.1	8.7	16.7	17.3	51.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.8	7.3	14.9	18.7	54.2
Discrimination	4.8	5.9	12.7	15.4	61.1
Suicide	6.0	3.7	7.3	8.7	74.2
Drugs	4.6	3.6	8.2	9.5	74.1
Alcohol	3.5	3.0	12.4	13.7	67.3
Gambling	2.8	1.9	6.3	7.3	81.7

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 1.6 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.
- Around half of respondents indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* and 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 1.6: Where young people go for help with important issues
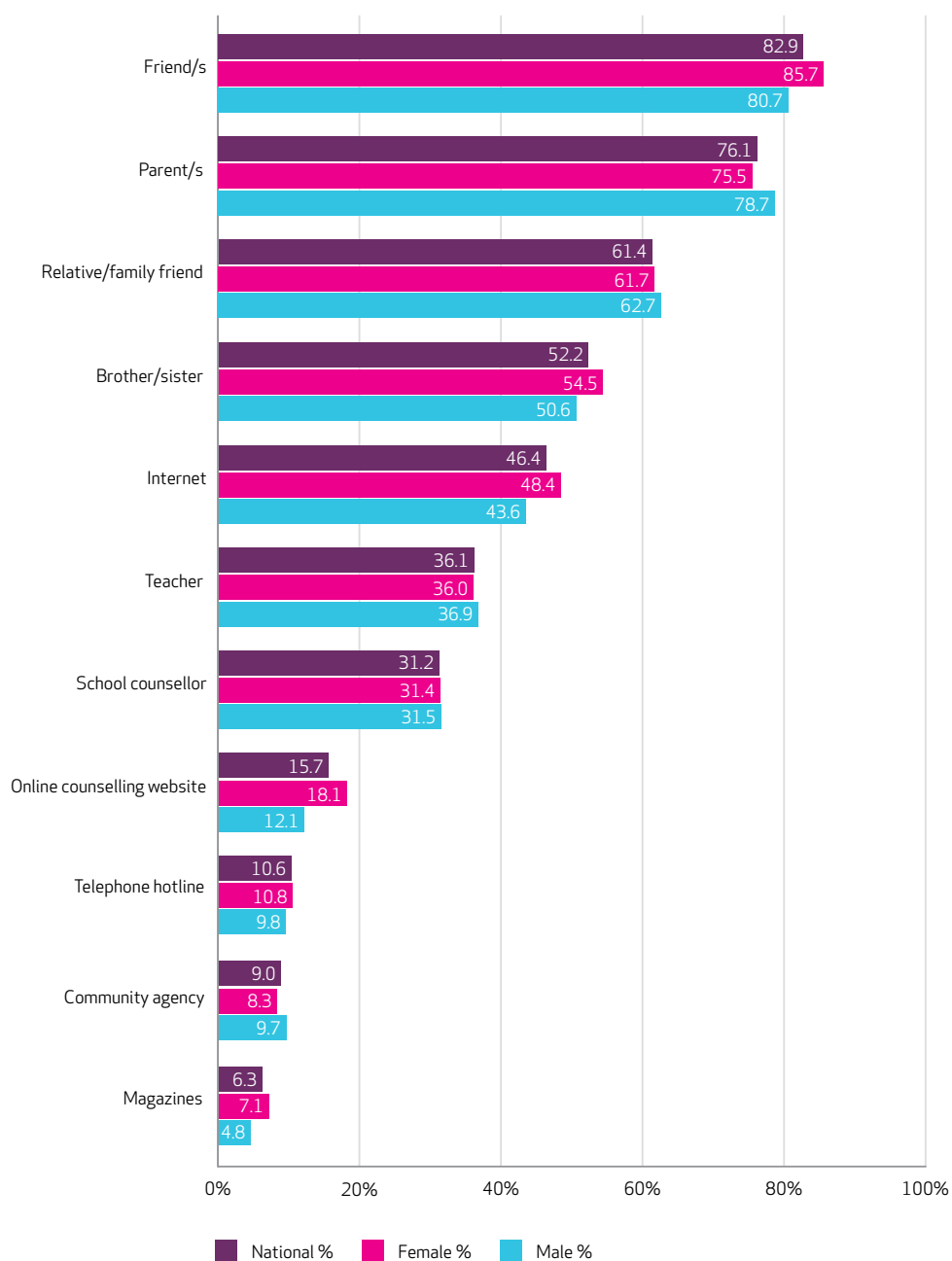
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 1.6 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*.

- Around eight in ten female and male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (85.7% compared with 80.7% respectively).

- A higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated they would go to *parent/s* (78.7% compared with 75.5%) and *relatives/family friends* (62.7% compared with 61.7%) for help.

- A greater proportion of females than males would go to their *brother/sister* (54.5% compared with 50.6%), the *internet* (48.4% compared with 43.6%) and *online counselling websites* (18.1% compared with 12.1%) 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 28.1% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.3% 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* (12.1%) or *poor* (6.8%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 1.7: Family's ability to get along
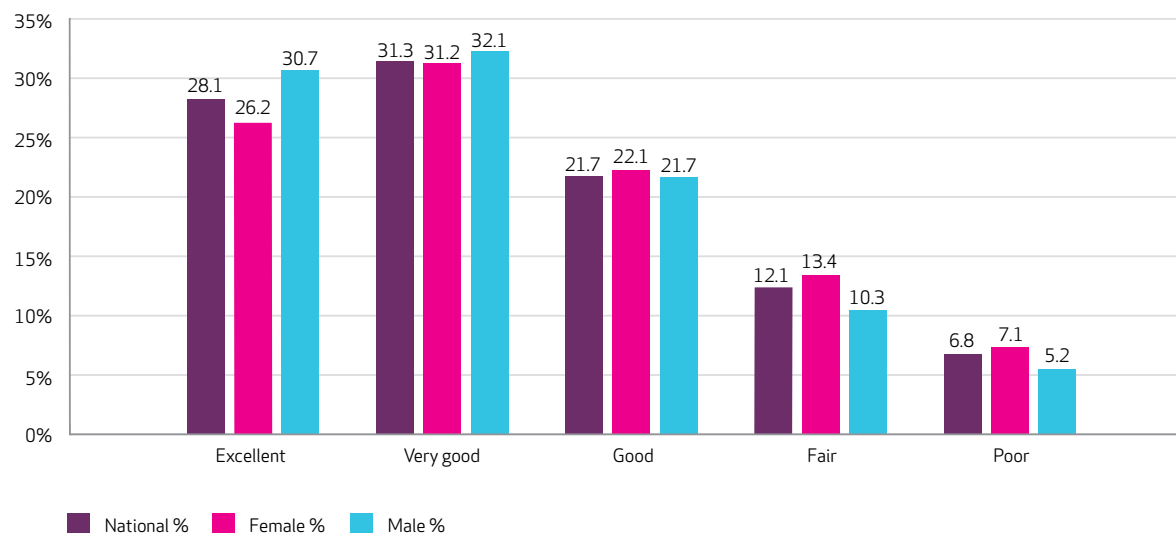
What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

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 2016 the top three issues identified by young people were *alcohol and drugs*, *equity and discrimination* and *mental health*.

- Just over one quarter of young people identified *alcohol and drugs* (28.7%) and *equity and discrimination* (27.0%) as important issues in Australia today.

- One in five respondents identified *mental health* (20.6%) as a major issue.

- Compared to the past two years, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* have risen as issues of national concern among respondents.

- Since 2014, *international relations* and *crime, safety and violence* have been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *the economy and financial matters*, *politics* and *education* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

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

- Around one quarter of female and male respondents (29.5% and 24.4% respectively) identified *equity and discrimination* as a major issue facing Australia today.

- A greater proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* (31.1% compared with 26.9%) and *international relations* (17.7% compared with 15.2%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *mental health* (26.2% compared with 14.1%) as an important issue.

Table 1.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2016 %	Female %	Male %	National 2015 %	National 2014 %
Alcohol and drugs	**28.7**	**26.9**	**31.1**	**27.0**	**22.1**
Equity and discrimination	**27.0**	**29.5**	**24.4**	**25.0**	19.1
Mental health	**20.6**	**26.2**	14.1	14.9	16.3
International relations	16.2	15.2	**17.7**	13.4	3.3
Population issues	16.0	15.9	16.1	15.3	16.1
The economy and financial matters	14.7	13.2	16.6	**18.9**	**25.1**
Crime, safety and violence	12.8	14.0	11.6	10.1	10.1
Politics	12.8	10.5	15.6	16.1	**23.5**
Education	11.6	11.9	11.5	12.2	15.0
The environment	11.5	12.3	10.9	12.8	11.6
Health	10.3	10.4	10.2	9.5	13.4
Bullying	10.1	12.3	7.8	9.3	14.3
Employment	9.9	8.5	11.8	12.7	11.1
Homelessness/housing	7.5	8.9	6.1	7.8	7.4
LGBT issues	7.4	9.9	4.2	13.2	6.1

Note: Items are listed in order of national frequency.

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. Nationally, just over one quarter (26.6%) of young people indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (29.7% of females compared with 20.8% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 1.8. The top three reasons indicated by young people for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *gender, race/cultural background* and *age*.

- *Gender, race/cultural background* and *age* were the three most commonly cited reasons for young people's reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (39.1%, 30.8% and 22.1% respectively).

- Around one in five young people indicated that *physical health or ability* (22.0%) and *mental health* (19.5%) were reasons for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

Figure 1.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced
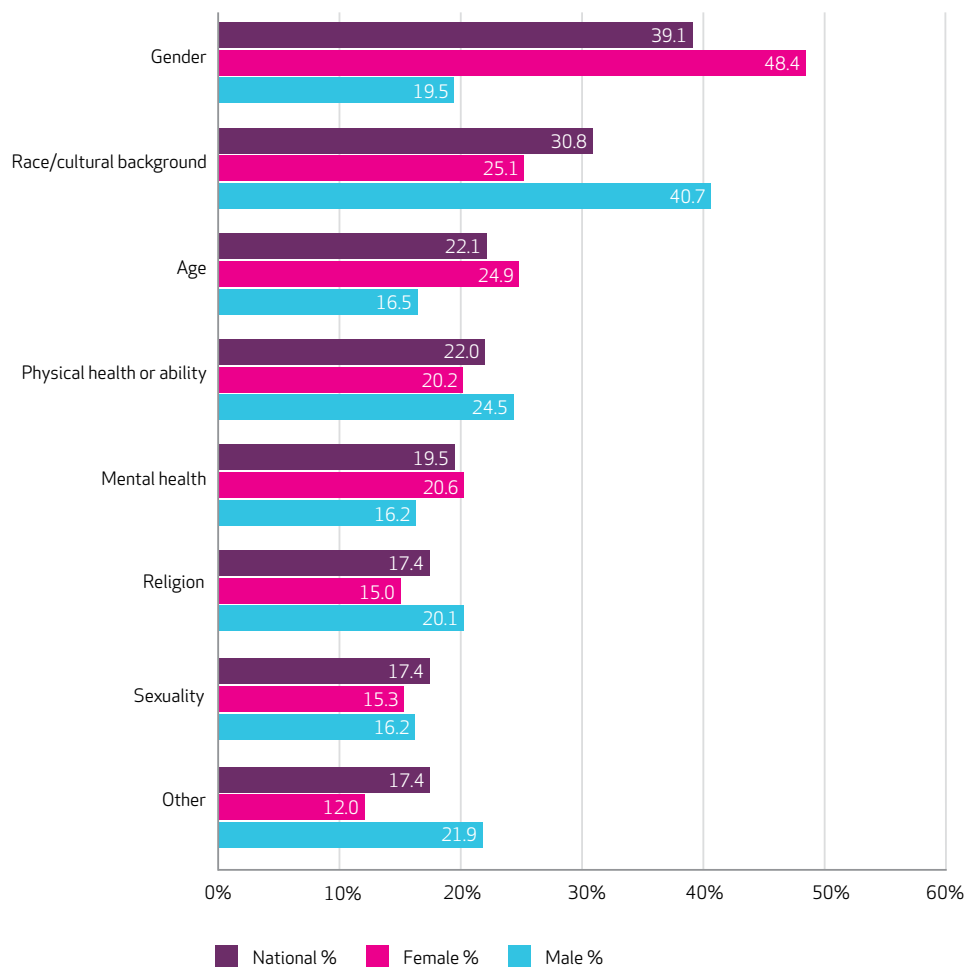
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by male and female respondents, as shown in Figure 1.8. While the top three reasons identified by females were consistent with national results, the three reasons most commonly cited by males differed, with males indicating that *race/cultural background* was the number one reason, followed by *physical health or ability* and then *other* reasons.

- Close to half (48.4%) of female respondents and around one in five (19.5%) male respondents indicated that *gender* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Four in ten (40.7%) males and one quarter (25.1%) of females indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A greater proportion of female (24.9%) than male (16.5%) respondents indicated that *age* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, while a greater proportion of males (24.5%) than females (20.2%) indicated that *physical health or ability* was a perceived reason.

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Overall, half (50.6%) of young people nationally indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (54.1% of females compared with 45.8% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 1.9. The top three reasons cited for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents were *race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *physical health or ability*.

- *Race/cultural background, sexuality* and *physical health or ability* were the three most commonly cited reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by young people (57.5%, 41.4% and 35.3% respectively).

- Just over one third of young people indicated that *gender* (35.2%) and *religion* (34.0%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

Figure 1.9: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed
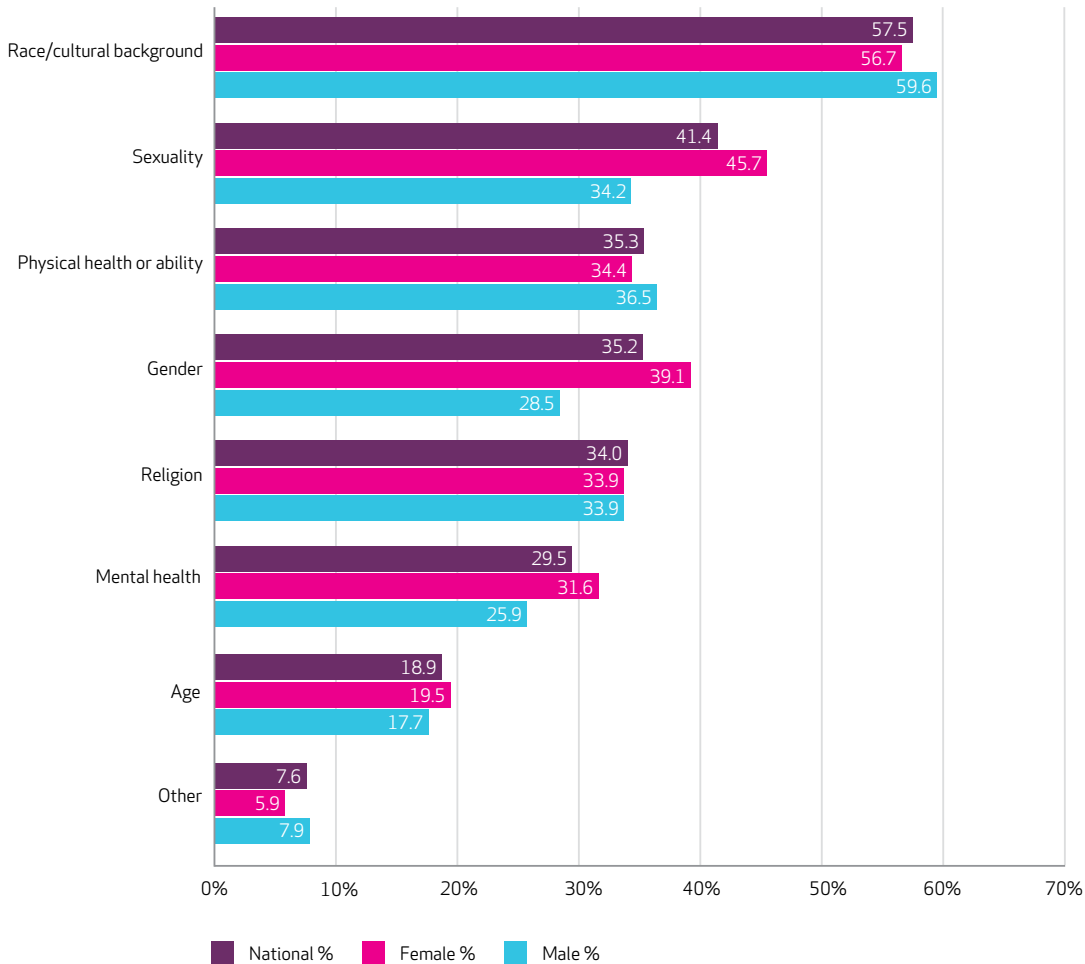
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 1.9, the top reason identified for unfair treatment or discrimination as witnessed by both genders was *race/cultural background*, consistent with national results. For females, the second top reason cited was *sexuality*, followed by *gender*. Conversely, for males the number two reason was *physical health or ability*, followed by *sexuality*.

- Six in ten (59.6%) male respondents and 56.7% of female respondents indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

- 45.7% of females and just over one third (34.2%) of males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.

- A greater proportion of female (39.1%) than male (28.5%) respondents indicated that *gender* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed, while a greater proportion of males (36.5%) than females (34.4%) indicated that *physical health or ability* was a reason.

## 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 aged 15 to 19 years were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. However, significant proportions of young people reported involvement in almost all activities 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 2016.
- Around half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (52.7%).
- Around four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (42.5%), three in ten had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (30.6%) and around one quarter had participated in *religious groups or activities* (28.7%) and *environmental groups or activities* (24.6%) 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 greater proportions 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*.

- 80.1% of male respondents and 72.8% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (73.0% compared with 62.7%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking higher up the list for male respondents, overall a greater proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities*, *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (59.8%, 59.1% and 46.7% compared with 44.0%, 47.4% and 37.9% respectively).

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

	National 2016 %	Female %	Male %	National 2015 %	National 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.7**	**72.8**	**80.1**	**74.3**	**74.1**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.0**	**62.7**	**73.0**	**67.4**	**67.6**
Volunteer work	**53.5**	59.1	**47.4**	**51.3**	**53.4**
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	**59.8**	44.0	50.7	53.0
Student leadership activities	42.5	46.7	37.9	40.0	41.9
Youth groups and clubs	30.6	32.0	28.9	33.1	32.4
Religious groups or activities	28.7	31.2	25.5	30.8	29.3
Environmental groups or activities	24.6	25.5	23.3	22.0	23.7
Political groups or organisations	8.7	8.1	8.6	7.7	8.5

Note: 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[1] , responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 1.10 shows, the majority of young people (65.8%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the 2015 and 2014 results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (16.6% compared with 9.7%).

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[1] 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
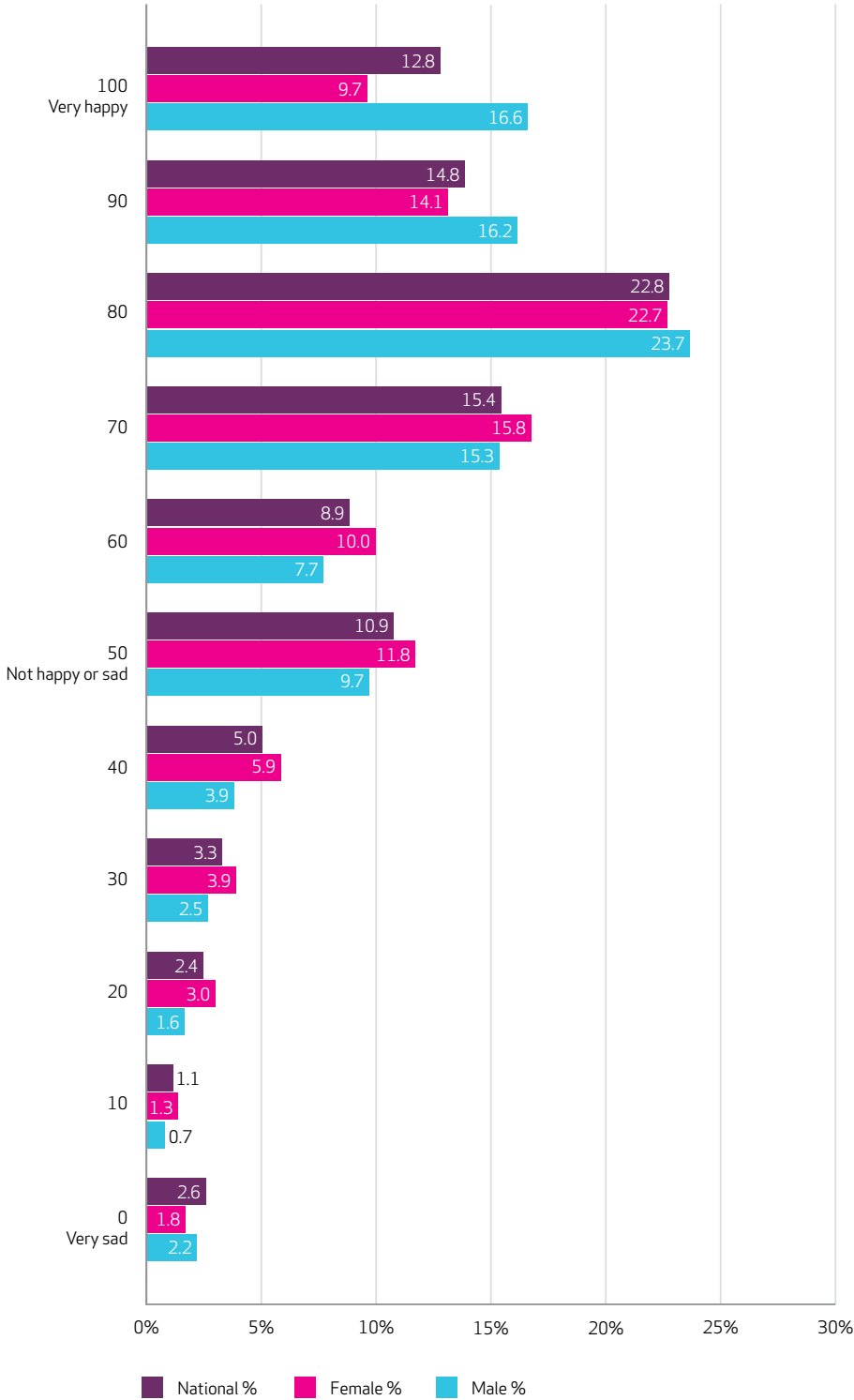
	National %	Female %	Male %
100 Very happy	12.8	9.7	16.6
90	14.8	14.1	16.2
80	22.8	22.7	23.7
70	15.4	15.8	15.3
60	8.9	10.0	7.7
50 Not happy or sad	10.9	11.8	9.7
40	5.0	5.9	3.9
30	3.3	3.9	2.5
20	2.4	3.0	1.6
10	1.1	1.3	0.7
0 Very sad	2.6	1.8	2.2

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 1.8 shows that results are similar to those in 2015 and 2014, with around two thirds of respondents feeling either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

*   Just under two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (47.1%) or *very positive* (17.3%) about the future.

*   Around one quarter of respondents (26.1%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

*   6.5% of respondents felt *negative* about the future, and 3.0% felt *very negative*.

*   Males and females were very similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A higher proportion of males than females indicated feeling *very positive* (19.9% compared with 15.1% for females).

Table 1.8: Feelings about the future

	National 2016 %	Female %	Male %	National 2015 %	National 2014 %
Very positive	17.3	15.1	19.9	15.0	15.8
Positive	47.1	47.3	48.3	46.8	48.0
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	28.3	23.4	28.2	26.8
Negative	6.5	7.1	5.7	7.5	6.9
Very negative	3.0	2.1	2.8	2.5	2.5

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary

Profile of respondents

In total, 1,298 (6.1%) respondents to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey* 2016 identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 1,013 (4.7%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 166 (0.8%) 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 (6.4% compared with 4.9%).

Gender breakdown

Around half (51.6%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were male and 48.4% were female.

Language background other than English

48 (3.7%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported speaking an Indigenous language at home.

Disability

A total of 101 (9.1%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they had a disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 2.1, 84.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were studying full-time (compared to 95.3% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). A slightly higher proportion of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females reported that they were not studying at all (9.2% compared with 6.9%).

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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.2%) or *satisfied* (49.9%) with their studies. Around one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (5.2% and 4.0% respectively). As shown in Table 2.2, a slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported feeling either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (12.7% and 54.6% of females compared with 15.0% and 50.9% of males 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	95.3	84.5	88.4	85.7
Studying part-time	2.0	5.1	4.7	5.1
Not studying	2.7	10.4	6.9	9.2

Table 2.2: Satisfaction with studies

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2016 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2015 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.1	14.2	12.7	15.0	16.2	15.3
Satisfied	56.4	49.9	54.6	50.9	48.2	46.9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.9	26.6	27.8	26.6	26.2	28.1
Dissatisfied	4.2	4.0	2.9	3.8	5.6	3.9
Very dissatisfied	1.3	5.2	2.0	3.8	3.7	5.8

Of those who were still at school, 92.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents stated that they intended to complete Year 12 (compared to 97.1% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males who indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 was more than twice that of female respondents (9.8% compared with 3.9% respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. Three in ten (29.6%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course (compared to 19.3% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). Slightly greater proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (32.7% compared with 27.1% 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, a higher proportion of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated intentions to do so (70.3% compared with 45.8% respectively).

A higher proportion of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents were also planning to travel or go on a gap year after school (29.7% compared with 26.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents). Greater proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated plans to get a job (40.3% compared with 32.4%), to get an apprenticeship (17.7% compared with 8.3%) and to attend TAFE or college (16.5% compared with 12.3%). A tiny minority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (1.8%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

A greater proportion of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males reported plans to go to university after school (51.8% compared with 40.3% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to go travel or go on a gap year (29.9% compared with 22.2%) or to go to TAFE or college (20.2% compared with 12.8%). Conversely, however, a much greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship (26.1% compared with 9.5%) and a slightly greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females indicated plans to get a job (42.9% compared with 39.0%) after leaving school.

Figure 2.1: Plans after leaving school
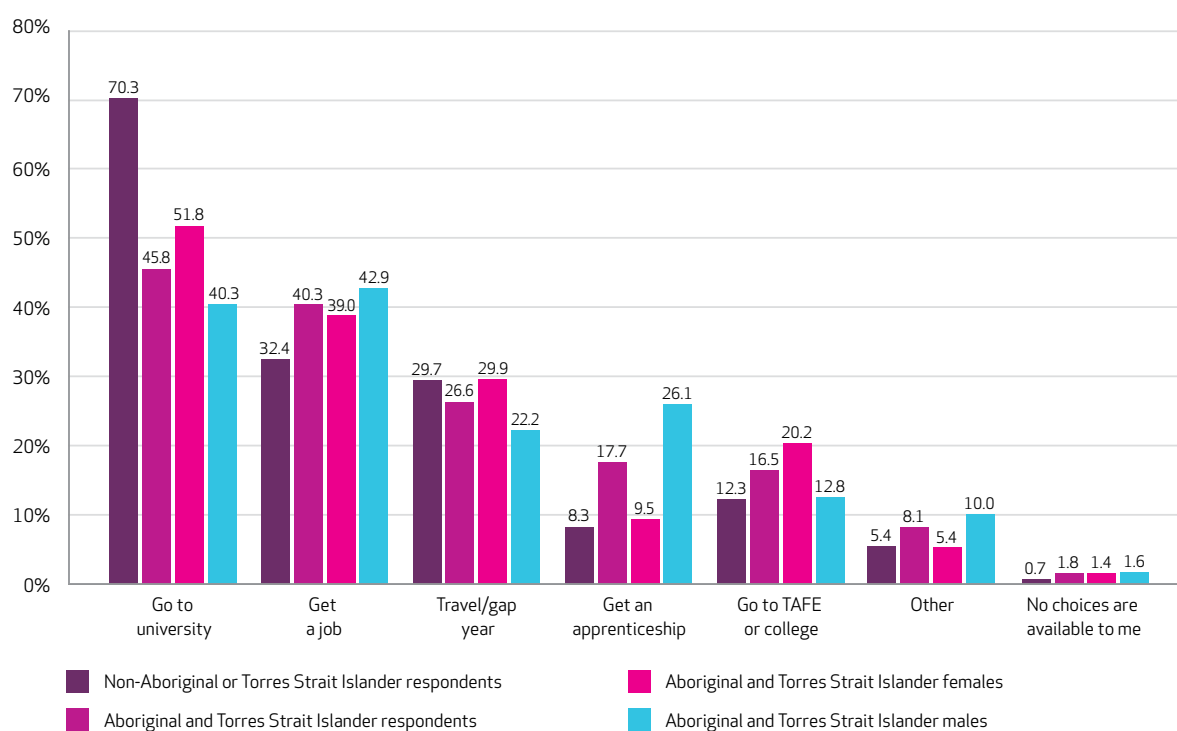
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 2.2 shows the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who indicated each item as being an influence. The top three influences on young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's post-school plans were *parents, other family members* and *friends*. While the top two influences were consistent for non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people, the third top influence for these respondents was the *internet*.

- A greater proportion of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that *parents* were an influence on their post-school plans (83.4% compared with 80.1%).

- Conversely, a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that *other family members* and *friends* were influences on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school (73.9% and 69.4% compared with 71.9% and 65.4% respectively).

- Around seven in ten (69.6%) non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents and just under two thirds (65.7%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their post-school plans.

Figure 2.2: Influences on post-school plans

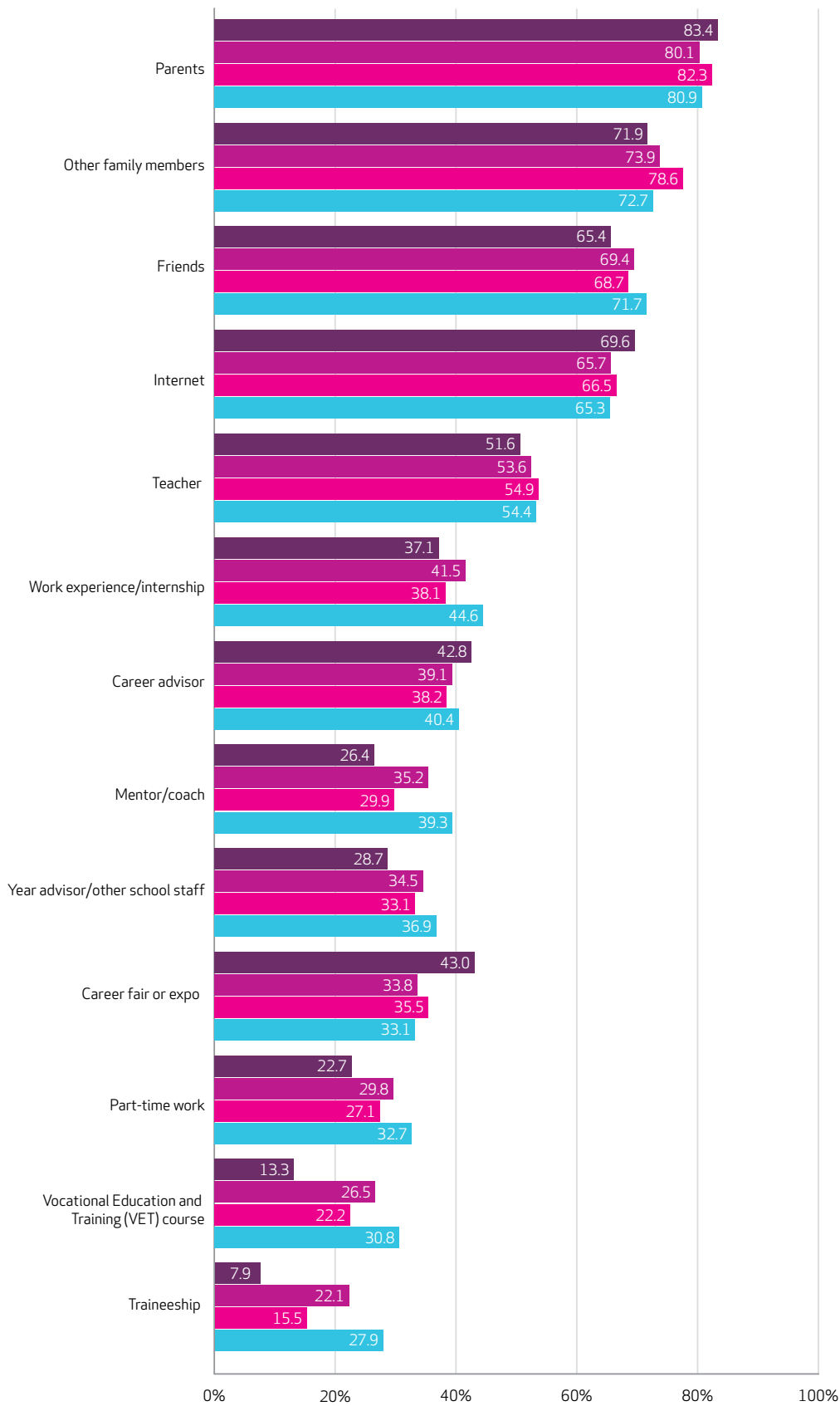|	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males
Parents	83.4	80.1	82.3	80.9
Other family members	71.9	73.9	78.6	72.7
Friends	65.4	69.4	68.7	71.7
Internet	69.6	65.7	66.5	65.3
Teacher	51.6	53.6	54.9	54.4
Work experience/internship	37.1	41.5	38.1	44.6
Career advisor	42.8	39.1	38.2	40.4
Mentor/coach	26.4	35.2	29.9	39.3
Year advisor/other school staff	28.7	34.5	33.1	36.9
Career fair or expo	43.0	33.8	35.5	33.1
Part-time work	22.7	29.8	27.1	32.7
Vocational Education and Training (VET) course	13.3	26.5	22.2	30.8
Traineeship	7.9	22.1	15.5	27.9

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 2.2, the top three influences which both genders identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans were consistent with national results. Slightly greater proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males indicated that they saw *parents* and *other family members* influencing their post-school plans, while a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females indicated that *friends* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

- Around eight in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female and male respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (82.3% of females compared with 80.9% of males).

- Close to eight in ten females and around seven in ten males indicated that *other family members* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school (78.6% of females compared with 72.7% of males).

- A slightly greater proportion of male (71.7%) than female (68.7%) respondents indicated that *friends* were an influence on their post-school plans.

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 (1.9%) and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents (0.5%) were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Around three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported part-time employment (29.2% compared to 39.2% 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 (46.4% compared with 34.2%). Around one in five (22.5%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were not employed and not looking for work.

Similar proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females reported full-time employment (1.3% compared with 1.1% respectively), while a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents reported part-time employment (31.5% compared with 27.1%). A slightly higher proportion of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males reported that they were looking for work (49.4% compared with 47.9%).

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	0.5	1.9	1.1	1.3
Employed part-time	39.2	29.2	31.5	27.1
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.2	46.4	49.4	47.9
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	26.1	22.5	17.9	23.8

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 2016 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 2.3 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. The three most highly valued items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents this year were *family relationships, friendships* and *physical and mental health*. The next most valued item among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents was *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 71.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely important*: 45.5%; *very important*: 26.2%). *Friendships* were also valued highly by 67.1% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely important*: 32.1%; *very important*: 35.0%).

- Around six in ten of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents highly valued both *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 33.6%; *very important*: 28.8%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 30.3%; *very important*: 30.0%).

- Just under half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 23.4%; *very important*: 25.1%) and just over four in ten highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 19.3%; *very important*: 22.6%).

Figure 2.3: 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, friendships and *physical and mental health* were ranked as the three most highly valued items by both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females, as shown in Table 2.4. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction* were in equal third position. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and all of the other items, was slightly higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 79.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely important*: 50.4%; *very important*: 28.8%) compared with 73.5% of males (*extremely important*: 46.2%; *very important*: 27.3%).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 72.8% of females (*extremely important*: 32.9%; *very important*: 39.9%) compared with 68.8% of males (*extremely important*: 33.1%; *very important*: 35.7%).

- 69.7% of females highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 36.4%; *very important*: 33.3%) compared with 60.9% of males (*extremely important*: 32.3%; *very important*: 28.6%).

- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by around seven in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely important*: 34.1%; *very important*: 35.6%) and just under six in ten males (*extremely important*: 28.3%; *very important*: 28.8%).

Table 2.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	**50.4**	**28.8**	12.2	6.2	2.4
Friendships (other than family)	**32.9**	**39.9**	16.9	6.6	3.7
Physical and mental health	**36.4**	**33.3**	19.1	6.6	4.6
School or study satisfaction	34.1	35.6	19.2	6.8	4.4
Getting a job	22.8	28.6	25.4	14.5	8.7
Financial security	18.5	27.3	31.6	13.6	9.0
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	**46.2**	**27.3**	12.8	6.1	7.6
Friendships (other than family)	**33.1**	**35.7**	17.7	5.6	7.9
Physical and mental health	**32.3**	**28.6**	20.0	8.2	10.9
School or study satisfaction	28.3	28.8	21.9	9.7	11.3
Getting a job	23.1	26.4	22.9	12.8	14.8
Financial security	18.2	21.4	30.1	15.6	14.7

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 2.4. 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *coping with stress, school or study problems* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents in 2015.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents, with 38.0% indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (20.9%) or *very concerned* (17.1%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 33.0% (*extremely concerned*: 17.7%; *very concerned*: 15.3%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 31.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely concerned*: 17.7%; *very concerned*: 13.9%).

- Just under three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 2.4: Issues of personal concern to young people

Issue	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned	Sum (extremely + very)
Coping with stress	20.9	17.1	21.5	14.3	26.2	38.0
School or study problems	17.7	15.3	25.0	14.6	27.4	33.0
Body image	17.7	13.9	22.2	15.8	30.4	31.6
Family conflict	15.6	12.6	19.3	15.9	36.5	28.2
Depression	17.2	10.5	16.8	13.7	41.8	27.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	14.4	10.6	16.3	14.4	44.3	25.0
Personal safety	14.7	9.8	17.7	15.5	42.3	24.5
Discrimination	13.6	8.4	17.1	14.7	46.3	22.0
Suicide	16.2	5.5	10.8	8.1	59.3	21.7
Drugs	11.9	6.2	11.6	9.4	60.9	18.1
Alcohol	11.1	4.3	14.1	13.1	57.3	15.4
Gambling	9.1	2.7	8.9	8.2	71.1	11.8

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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females, as highlighted in Table 2.5. The order of the top two issues of concern differed, however, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one issue of concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, *body image* and *family conflict* were in equal third position. The proportion of females concerned about all of these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For around half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 26.8%; *very concerned*: 24.5%), compared with around one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (*extremely concerned*: 13.1%; *very concerned*: 11.7%).

- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 43.3% (*extremely concerned*: 20.3%; *very concerned*: 23.0%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 25.0% of males (*extremely concerned*: 14.0%; *very concerned*: 11.0%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 43.0% (*extremely concerned*: 21.4%; *very concerned*: 21.6%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 19.9% (*extremely concerned*: 11.0%; very concerned: 8.9%) of males.

- For 35.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely concerned*: 15.6%; *very concerned*: 20.0%) and 19.9% of males (*extremely concerned*: 12.2%; *very concerned*: 7.7%) *family conflict* was a major concern.

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

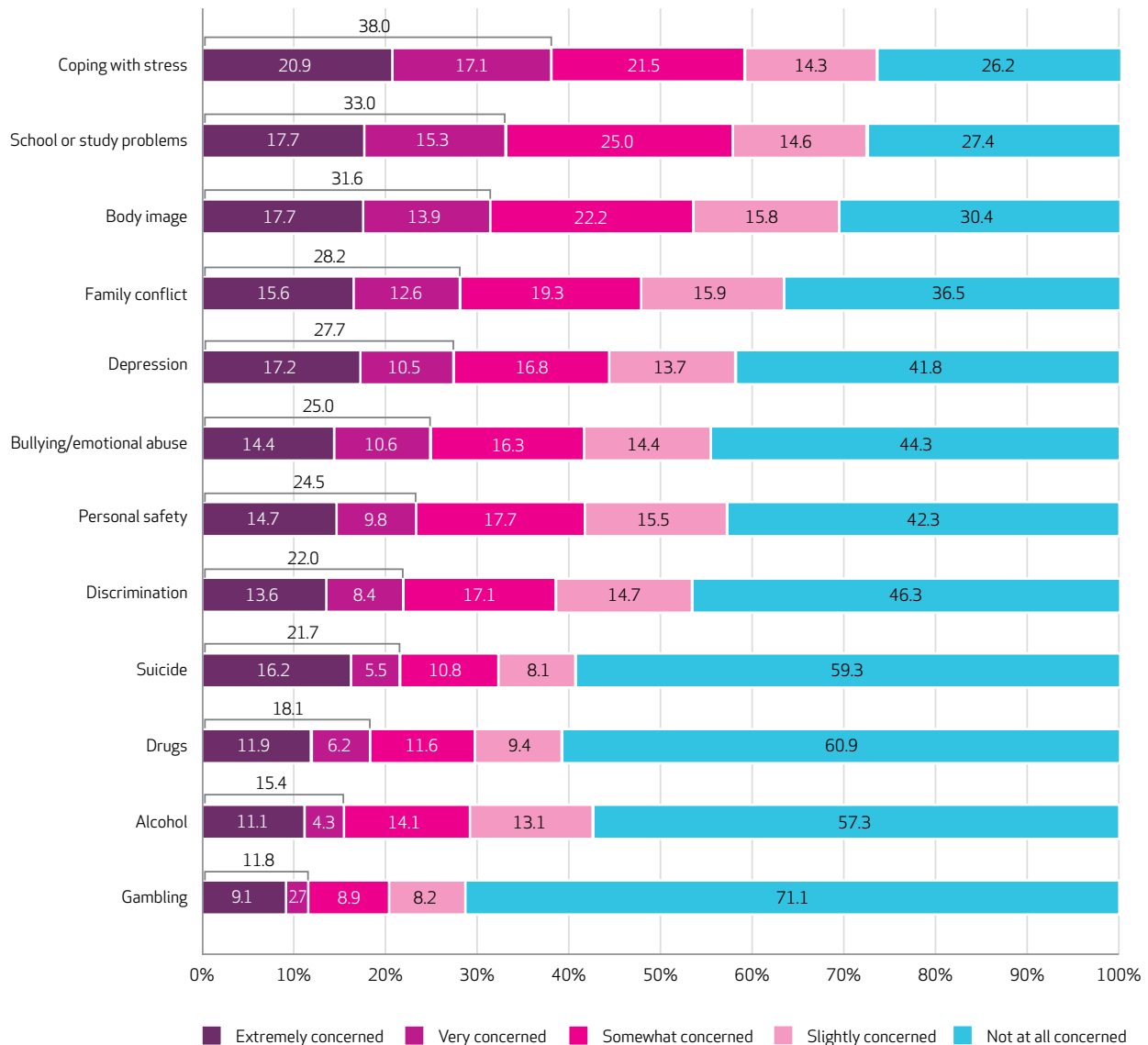| Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**26.8**	**24.5**	24.5	13.1	11.1
School or study problems	**20.3**	**23.0**	26.9	15.4	14.4
Body image	**21.4**	**21.6**	23.8	15.7	17.6
Family conflict	15.6	20.0	22.6	18.9	22.8
Depression	19.3	15.8	18.5	16.3	30.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	15.6	13.9	19.4	16.5	34.6
Personal safety	14.3	12.7	23.2	17.6	32.2
Discrimination	12.4	11.1	22.4	17.6	36.4
Suicide	15.1	8.3	11.9	11.2	53.5
Drugs	7.5	7.4	11.6	10.5	63.1
Alcohol	5.5	4.2	16.3	17.6	56.3
Gambling	4.4	2.9	6.4	9.7	76.6
Males	**Extremely concerned %**	**Very concerned %**	**Somewhat concerned %**	**Slightly concerned %**	**Not at all concerned %**
Coping with stress	**13.1**	**11.7**	22.3	17.3	35.6
School or study problems	**14.0**	**11.0**	27.4	14.7	33.0
Body image	**11.0**	**8.9**	24.6	16.8	38.7
Family conflict	**12.2**	**7.7**	19.1	14.9	46.2
Depression	10.5	7.0	17.5	12.9	52.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	9.8	8.9	14.9	14.9	51.6
Personal safety	12.2	9.0	15.3	15.0	48.5
Discrimination	10.7	6.1	14.2	15.1	53.9
Suicide	12.3	3.3	10.4	6.3	67.7
Drugs	10.4	5.8	12.6	8.9	62.3
Alcohol	10.1	4.5	14.7	11.1	59.6
Gambling	7.5	2.5	11.6	7.9	70.5

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 2.5 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, parent/s* and *relatives/ family friends*.

- The top source of help reported by both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people was *friend/s* (74.8% compared with 83.4%), followed by *parents* (69.1% compared with 76.6%) and then *relatives/family friends* (64.1% compared with 61.2%).

- Over half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for help with important issues in their lives (56.0% compared with 51.8% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents).

- Around four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they would go to the *internet* and their *teacher* for help with important issues.

Figure 2.5: Where young people go for help with important issues
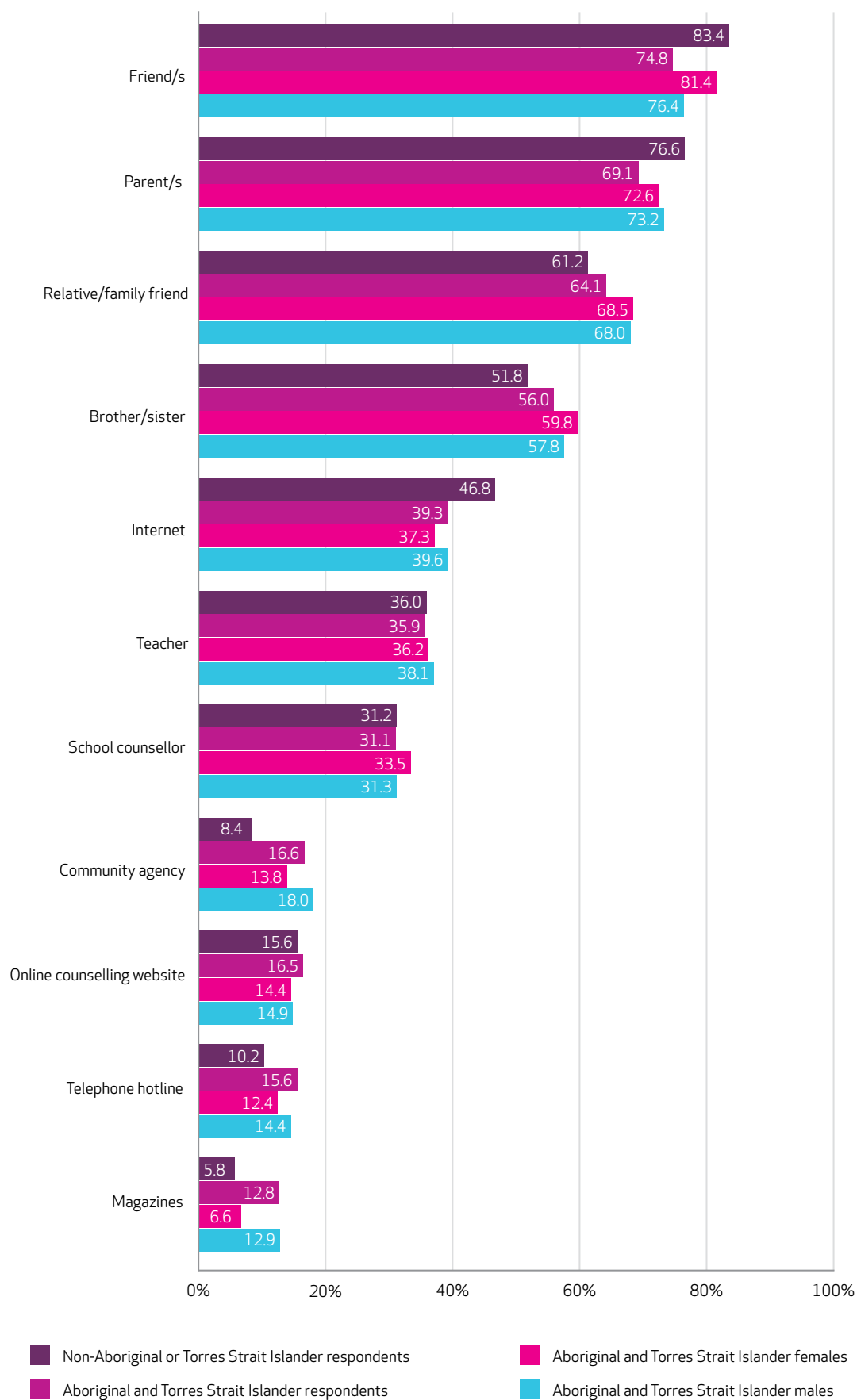
	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males
Friend/s	83.4	74.8	81.4	76.4
Parent/s	76.6	69.1	72.6	73.2
Relative/family friend	61.2	64.1	68.5	68.0
Brother/sister	51.8	56.0	59.8	57.8
Internet	46.8	39.3	37.3	39.6
Teacher	36.0	35.9	36.2	38.1
School counsellor	31.2	31.1	33.5	31.3
Community agency	8.4	16.6	13.8	18.0
Online counselling website	15.6	16.5	14.4	14.9
Telephone hotline	10.2	15.6	12.4	14.4
Magazines	5.8	12.8	6.6	12.9

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 2.5, the top three sources of help for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends*. Similar proportions of female and male respondents indicated that they would go to each of the sources listed for help.

- A slightly greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males indicated that they would go to *friend/s* (81.4% compared with 76.4%) for help, while similar proportions of males and females indicated that they would go to *parent/s* (73.2% compared with 72.6%) for help with important issues.

- Similar proportions of both female and male respondents indicated that they would go to *relatives/family friends* (68.5% compared with 68.0%) for help with important issues.

- Slightly higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (59.8% compared with 57.8%) and their *school counsellor* (33.5% compared with 31.3%) for help with important issues in their lives.

- Conversely, greater proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females indicated that they would go to the *internet* (39.6% compared with 37.3%), their *teacher* (38.1% compared with 36.2%) or a *community agency* (18.0% compared with 13.8%).

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 2.6 shows that the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents rated their family's ability to get along positively, with 25.0% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent*, 24.2% that it was *very good* and 21.6% that it was *good*. However, around three in ten 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* (14.3%) or *poor* (14.9%). Compared with non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents, more than twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents rated their family's ability to get along as *poor* (14.9% compared with 6.3%). A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females rated their families ability to get along as *excellent* (30.2% compared with 19.5%).

Figure 2.6: Family's ability to get along
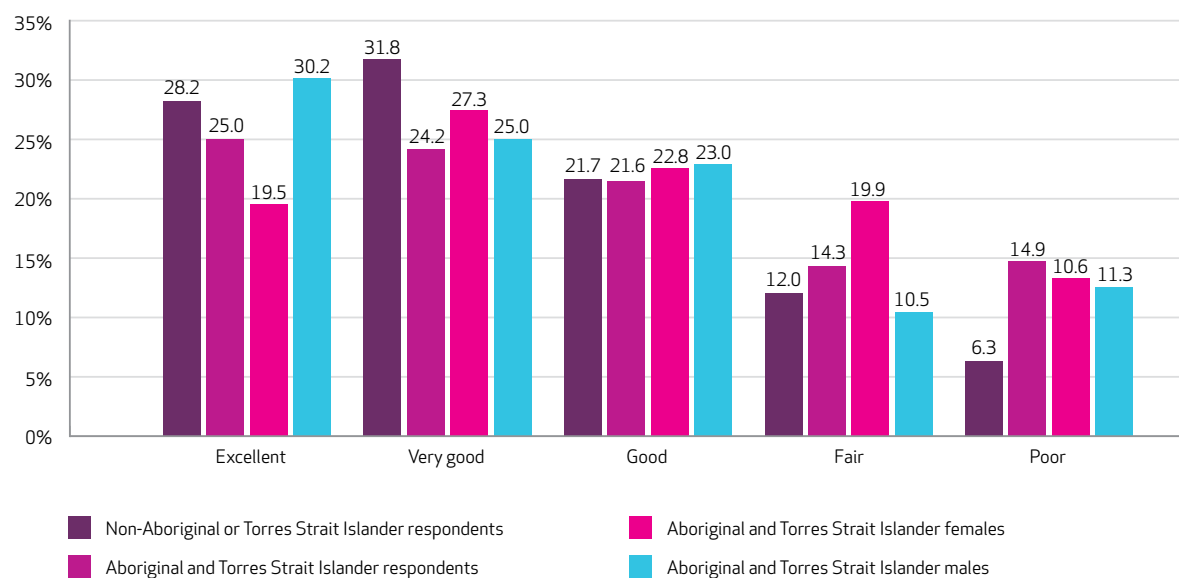
What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

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 2.6. In 2016 the top three issues identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *alcohol and drugs*, *equity and discrimination* and *mental health*. These were the same top three issues identified this year by non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents.

- Around three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue in Australia today (30.9% compared with 28.6% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents).

- Just over one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people identified *equity and discrimination* (21.5%) and 14.4% identified *mental health* as important issues.

- Since 2014, *international relations* and *the environment* have 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*, *politics*, *employment* and *education* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females identified the same top two issues as the most important in Australia today. The third top issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females was *mental health*, while for males it was *politics*.

- Around one third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and three in ten female respondents (34.1% and 29.8% respectively) identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue facing Australia today.

- Around three in ten female respondents and just under one in five male respondents (29.1% and 17.8% respectively) identified *equity and discrimination* as an important issue.

- A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males identified *mental health* (21.7% compared with 9.9%) and *bullying* (17.6% compared with 9.3%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females identified *politics* (13.6% compared with 8.8%) and *population issues* (13.4% compared with 8.3%) as important national issues.

Table 2.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2016 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2015 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2014 %
Alcohol and drugs	**28.6**	**30.9**	**29.8**	**34.1**	**32.2**	**30.8**
Equity and discrimination	**27.4**	**21.5**	**29.1**	**17.8**	**24.8**	14.6
Mental health	**21.0**	**14.4**	**21.7**	9.9	10.7	11.2
The economy and financial matters	14.7	13.9	15.2	12.4	15.8	**20.1**
Crime, safety and violence	12.9	12.5	13.4	12.4	11.2	12.3
International relations	16.5	12.0	11.8	12.0	11.3	2.6
Bullying	10.0	11.6	17.6	9.3	10.4	13.3
Population issues	16.3	11.6	8.3	13.4	9.2	9.6
Politics	12.9	11.5	8.8	**13.6**	**16.6**	**21.6**
Employment	9.8	10.5	10.2	12.6	15.1	16.9
Education	11.8	10.3	12.5	9.3	10.9	12.8
Health	10.5	8.2	9.0	7.4	6.7	10.2
The environment	11.7	8.0	8.3	8.5	7.1	6.0
Homelessness/housing	7.6	7.7	11.8	5.2	10.5	9.4

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

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. Around four in ten (41.4%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and one quarter (25.6%) of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (39.2% of females compared with 35.9% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 2.7. The top three reasons indicated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *race/cultural background*, *gender* and *mental health*. For non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people, the top reason was *gender*, followed by *race/cultural background* and then *age* and *physical health or ability* in equal third position.

- Almost twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (54.7% compared with 28.3%). A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents also indicated that *mental health* was a reason (28.5% compared with 18.6%).

- Conversely, a slightly greater proportion of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated that *gender* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (39.5% compared with 35.7%).

- Just less than three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated that *other* reasons (27.7%) and *age* (27.5%) were reasons for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

Figure 2.7: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced
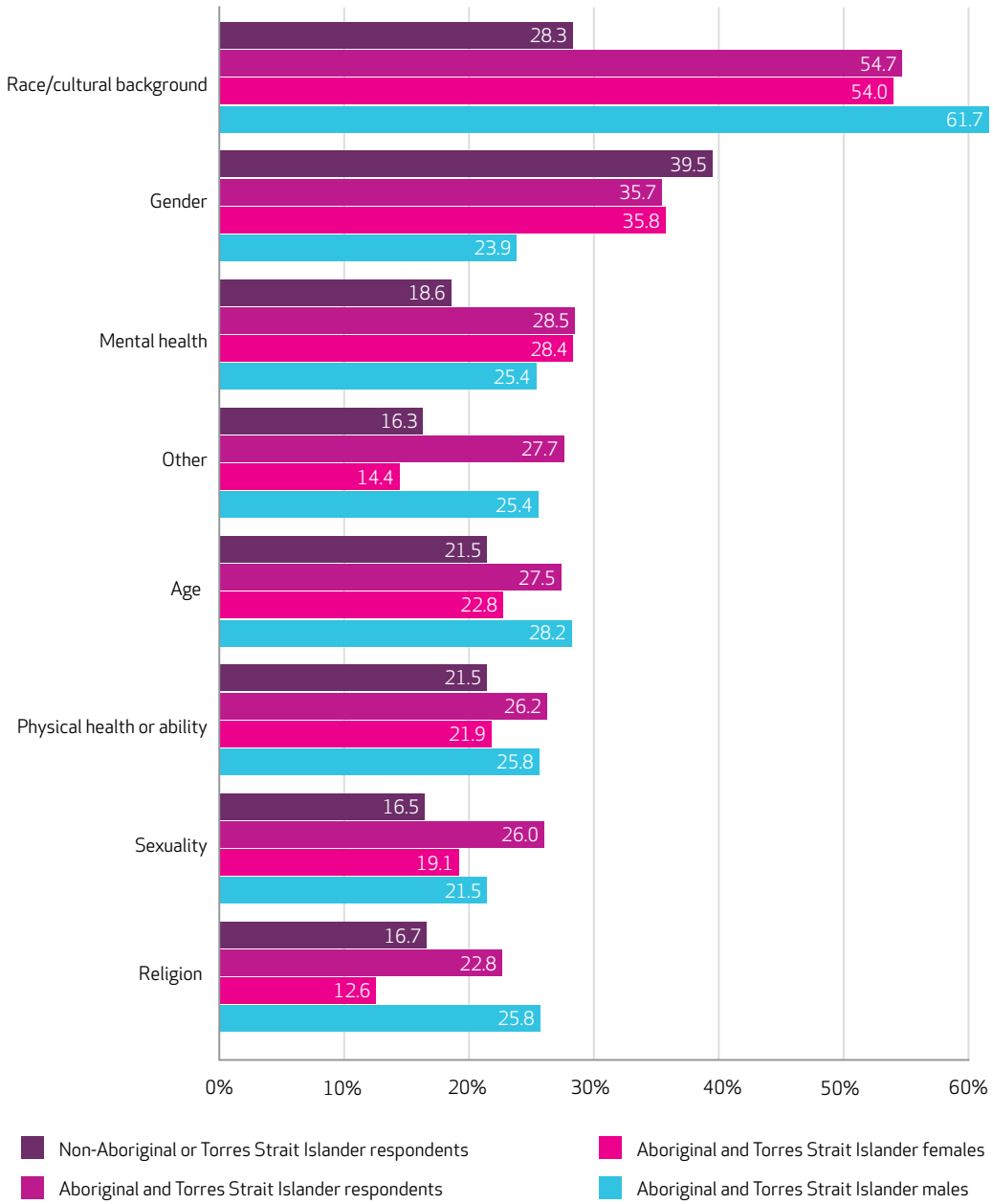
	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males
Race/cultural background	28.3	54.7	54.0	61.7
Gender	39.5	35.7	35.8	23.9
Mental health	18.6	28.5	28.4	25.4
Other	16.3	27.7	14.4	25.4
Age	21.5	27.5	22.8	28.2
Physical health or ability	21.5	26.2	21.9	25.8
Sexuality	16.5	26.0	19.1	21.5
Religion	16.7	22.8	12.6	25.8

■ 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

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

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male and female respondents, as shown in Figure 2.7. While the top three reasons identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were consistent with those identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people overall, the three reasons most commonly cited by males differed. The number one reason cited by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males was *race/cultural background* followed by *age*, with *physical health or ability* and *religion* in equal third position.

- Around six in ten (61.7%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male respondents and just over half (54.0%) of female respondents indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Just over one third (35.8%) of females and around one quarter (23.9%) of males indicated that *gender* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Just less than three in ten (28.4%) female respondents and one quarter (25.4%) of male respondents indicated that *mental health* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male than female respondents indicated that *age, physical health or ability* and *religion* were reasons why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (28.2%, 25.8% and 25.8% compared with 22.8%, 21.9% and 12.6% respectively).

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Overall, around half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (53.5% compared with 50.5%). A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (58.3% of females compared with 47.2% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 2.8. The top three reasons cited for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were *race/cultural background, sexuality* and *physical health or ability*. These were also the top two reasons for non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents, with the third top reason for these respondents being *gender*.

- A slightly greater proportion of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that *race/cultural background* (57.7% compared with 55.6%) and *sexuality* (41.5% compared with 39.0%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

- Conversely, a slightly greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that *physical health or ability* was a reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed (36.1% compared with 35.2%).

- Just less than one third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated that *gender* (32.9%) and *mental health* (31.1%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

Figure 2.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed
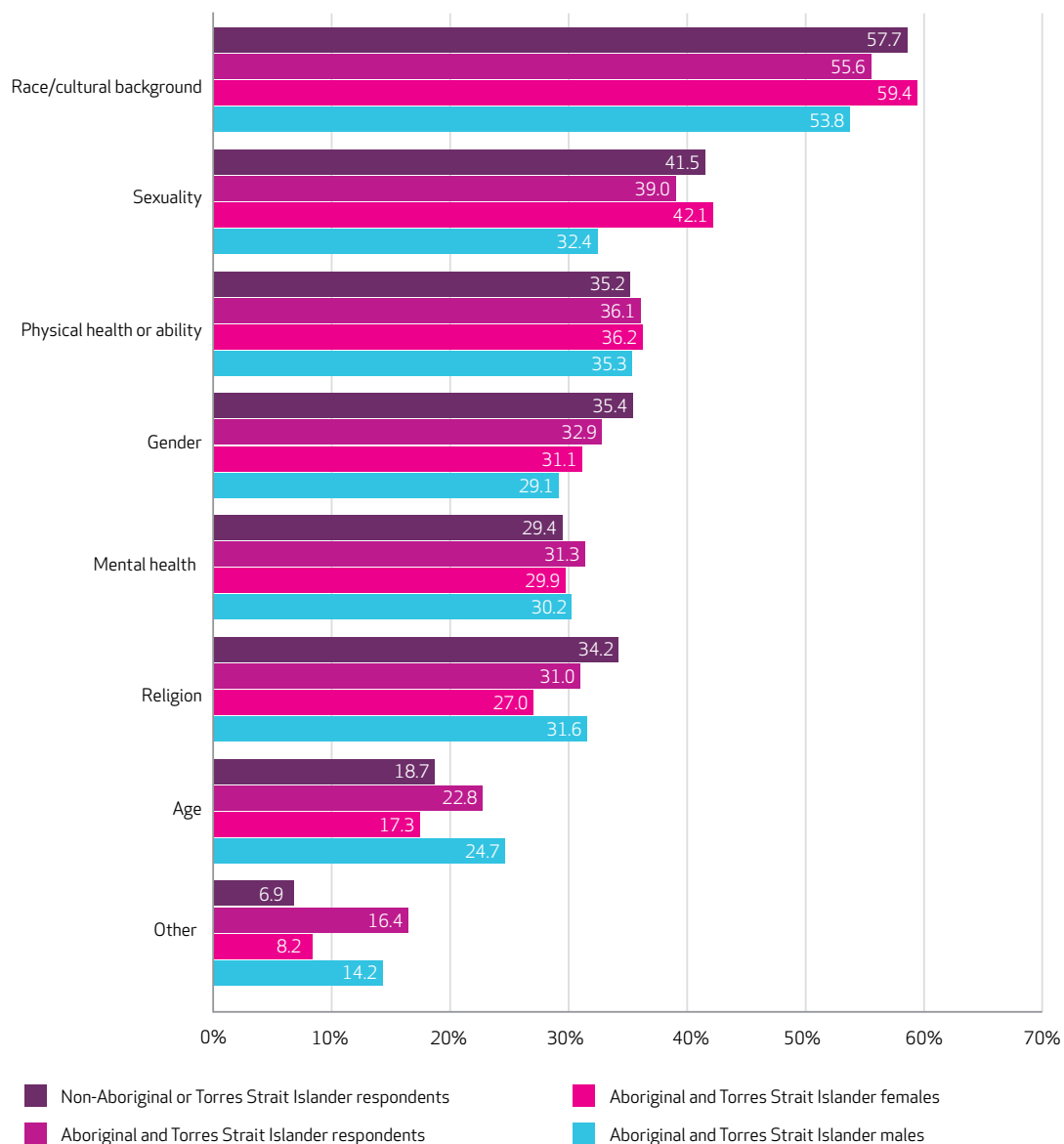
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 2.8, the top three reasons identified by both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were among those identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people overall. The order of the second and third top reasons differed between genders however, with *sexuality* and *physical health or ability* being the second and third most commonly cited reasons for females, while for males this order was reversed.

- Six in ten (59.4%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female respondents and 53.8% of male respondents indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

- Just over four in ten (42.1%) females and around one third (32.4%) of males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.

- Slightly greater proportions of female than male respondents indicated that *physical health or ability* (36.2% compared with 35.3%) and *gender* (31.1% compared with 29.1%) were perceived reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

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*. These were also the top three activities identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in 2015 and 2014. Comparatively, the top three activities identified by non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents this year 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 2016.
- Just less than half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work* (46.7%).
- Around four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (40.8%) and *youth groups and clubs* (37.0%) and three in ten had participated in *religious groups or activities* (30.4%) and *environmental groups or activities* (30.0%).
- Nearly 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 (14.3% compared with 8.3%).

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, a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males reported participation in *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 78.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and 70.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (73.4% compared with 58.2%).
- Conversely, a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males were involved with *arts/cultural/music activities* (58.0% compared with 49.7%) and volunteer work (51.1% compared with 42.8%).

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 2016 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2015 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.8**	**72.9**	**70.3**	**78.8**	**74.4**	**72.6**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.2**	**65.0**	**58.2**	**73.4**	**66.6**	**66.0**
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	**52.9**	**58.0**	**49.7**	**53.7**	**51.6**
Volunteer work	**54.0**	46.7	51.1	42.8	45.2	46.1
Student leadership activities	42.6	40.8	42.0	40.5	38.9	37.5
Youth groups and clubs	30.1	37.0	35.4	38.6	36.5	39.8
Religious groups or activities	28.6	30.4	27.9	30.0	29.3	27.3
Environmental groups or activities	24.2	30.0	28.2	30.0	28.5	29.1
Political groups or organisations	8.3	14.3	9.6	14.0	13.1	16.2

Note: 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[1], 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 (53.5%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives (compared to two thirds of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). Around twice the proportion of male respondents than female respondents indicated that they felt *very happy* (20.4% compared with 12.0%) or *very sad* (9.8% compared with 4.5%) about their lives as a whole.

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[1] 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

	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
100 Very happy	12.5	16.4	12.0	20.4
90	15.1	9.7	10.1	10.8
80	23.3	15.2	17.0	17.1
70	15.7	12.2	11.4	14.2
60	9.0	8.1	10.9	6.5
50 Not happy or sad	10.8	13.6	16.5	12.5
40	5.1	4.8	7.2	2.7
30	3.3	3.5	4.3	3.1
20	2.3	3.0	4.2	2.1
10	1.1	1.5	1.8	0.9
0 Very sad	1.9	12.0	4.5	9.8

Legend:
- 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

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 2.8 shows that results are similar to those in 2015 and 2014 with just over half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents feeling either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Close to one in five (17.7%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Just over half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt either *positive* (36.0%) or *very positive* (18.4%) about the future.

- Around three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (27.9%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

- 6.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt *negative* about the future and 11.4% felt *very negative*.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A slightly greater proportion of males than females, however, indicated that they felt *very positive* about the future (19.6% compared with 16.7% for females).

Table 2.8: Feelings about the future

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2016 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2015 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2014 %
Very positive	17.1	18.4	16.7	19.6	18.4	18.1
Positive	47.9	36.0	37.5	40.2	40.7	35.2
Neither positive nor negative	26.0	27.9	33.6	25.8	27.8	31.0
Negative	6.6	6.3	7.6	5.2	7.2	6.8
Very negative	2.4	11.4	4.5	9.2	6.0	8.9

Australian Capital Territory

Profile of respondents

In total, 475 young people from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*.

Gender breakdown

Seven in ten (70.0%) respondents from the ACT were female and 30.0% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 28 (5.9%) respondents from the ACT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 19 (4.0%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 3 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 1.3% identified as both).

Language background other than English

A total of 72 (15.3%) respondents from the ACT stated that they were born overseas and 95 (20.3%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 10 languages spoken at home in the ACT, the most common were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Chinese and Filipino/Tagalog.

Disability

A total of 18 (4.0%) respondents from the ACT indicated that they had a disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 3.1, 95.4% of respondents from the ACT were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female respondents reported that they were studying full-time than male respondents (96.8% compared with 94.8%), while a slightly greater proportion of males (2.2%) than females (0.6%) reported studying part-time.

Respondents who reported 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 previous years, the majority of respondents from the ACT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (16.2%) or *satisfied* (49.8%) with their studies. Around one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.9% and 7.5% respectively). As shown in Table 3.2, a higher proportion of females than males from the ACT reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (18.2% and 51.7% of females compared with 10.9% and 50.4% of males respectively).

Table 3.1: Participation in education

	National %	ACT %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.6	95.4	96.8	94.8
Studying part-time	2.2	1.3	0.6	2.2
Not studying	3.2	3.4	2.6	3.0

Table 3.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	ACT 2016 %	Female %	Male %	ACT 2015 %	ACT 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.0	16.2	18.2	10.9	14.7	25.0
Satisfied	55.9	49.8	51.7	50.4	58.0	45.7
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	23.7	21.9	27.1	20.7	21.3
Dissatisfied	4.2	7.5	7.3	7.0	3.3	6.1
Very dissatisfied	1.5	2.9	1.0	4.7	3.3	1.8

Of those who were still at school in the ACT, 97.7% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. While still a minority, almost five times the proportion of males indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (4.8% compared with 1.0% respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. Around one in five (21.3%) respondents from the ACT indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course. A higher proportion of males than females indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (28.4% compared with 17.3% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 3.1 shows that around seven in ten respondents from the ACT planned to go to university after school (68.5%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (37.8%) and to travel or go on a gap year (36.0%) after school. Overall, 15.7% of young people from the ACT planned to attend TAFE or college and 7.9% 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 the ACT, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (72.0% compared with 63.2% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (39.5% compared with 27.2%). A much larger proportion of males indicated that they were planning to go to TAFE or college (21.6% compared with 12.8% of females) or to undertake an apprenticeship (15.2% compared with 4.1% of females).

Figure 3.1: Plans after leaving school
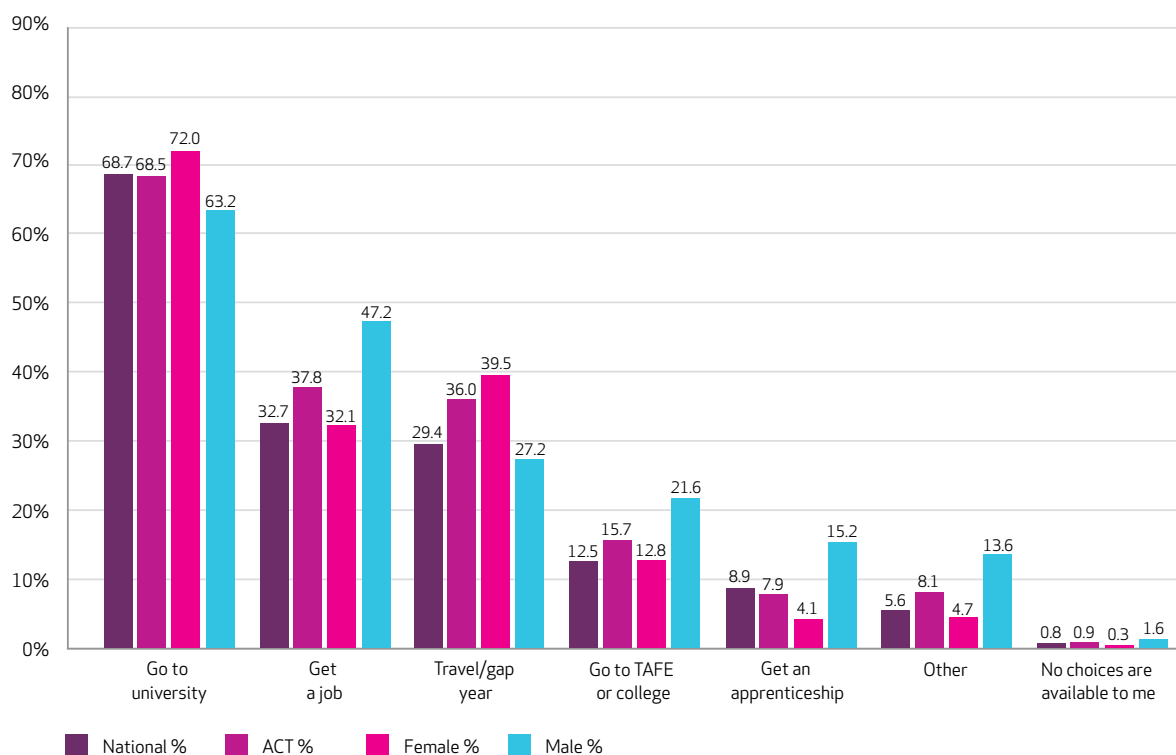
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 3.2 shows the percentage of respondents from the ACT who indicated each item as being an influence. In the ACT, the top three influences on young people's post-school plans were *parents*, *other family members* and the *internet*.

- *Parents*, *other family members* and the *internet* were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans (78.2%, 63.5% and 62.8% respectively).

- Just over six in ten (62.3%) respondents indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans while around half (53.3%) indicated that a *career fair or expo* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

Figure 3.2: Influences on post-school plans

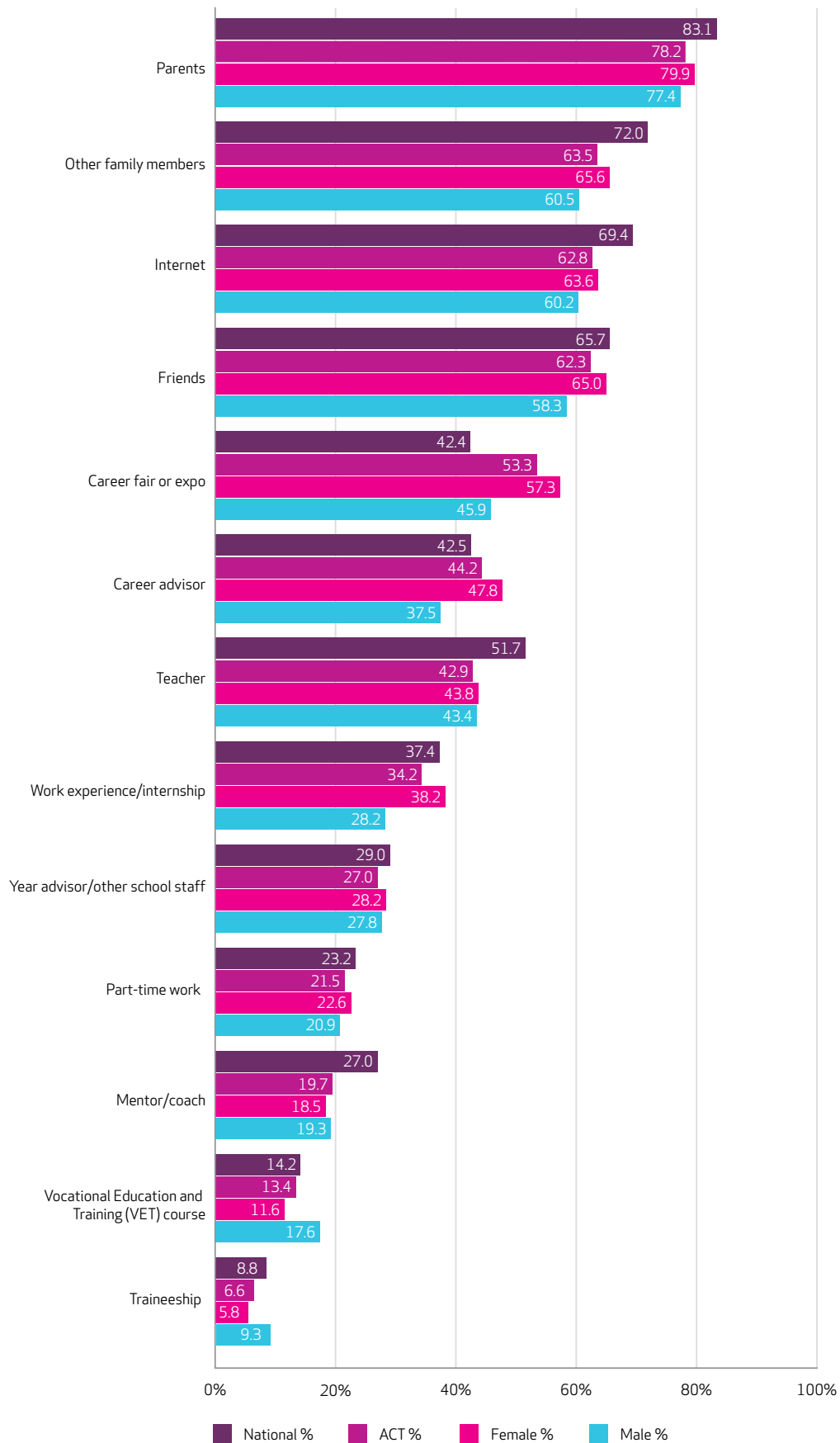| Influence	National %	ACT %	Female %	Male %
Parents	83.1	78.2	79.9	77.4
Other family members	72.0	63.5	65.6	60.5
Internet	69.4	62.8	63.6	60.2
Friends	65.7	62.3	65.0	58.3
Career fair or expo	42.4	53.3	57.3	45.9
Career advisor	42.5	44.2	47.8	37.5
Teacher	51.7	42.9	43.8	43.4
Work experience/internship	37.4	34.2	38.2	28.2
Year advisor/other school staff	29.0	27.0	28.2	27.8
Part-time work	23.2	21.5	22.6	20.9
Mentor/coach	27.0	19.7	18.5	19.3
Vocational Education and Training (VET) course	14.2	13.4	11.6	17.6
Traineeship	8.8	6.6	5.8	9.3

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 3.2, the top two influences which both genders identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans were consistent with the ACT and national results. For males however, the *internet* was in third position, while for females *friends* was the third top influence. Similar proportions of both females and males indicated that they saw *parents* and the *internet* influencing their post-school plans, while a greater proportion of females than males indicated that *other family members* and *friends* were influences on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

- Around eight in ten female and male respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (79.9% of females compared with 77.4% of males) and just over six in ten respondents from both genders indicated that *other family members* and the *internet* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school (65.6% and 63.6% of females compared with 60.5% and 60.2% of males respectively).

- A greater proportion of female (65.0%) than male (58.3%) respondents indicated that *friends* were an influence on their post-school plans.

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. In line with national results, only a tiny minority (1.1%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Just under half (48.1%) of respondents from the ACT reported part-time employment. Around half of ACT respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 31.3% looking for work and 19.4% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of female and male respondents from the ACT reported full-time employment (1.3% compared with 0.8% respectively), while there was a higher proportion of female respondents employed part-time (52.0% compared with 42.7%). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (37.1% compared with 28.1%).

Table 3.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	ACT %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	1.1	1.3	0.8
Employed part-time	38.5	48.1	52.0	42.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.1	31.3	28.1	37.1
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	25.8	19.4	18.5	19.4

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 2016 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 3.3 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. The three most highly valued items for respondents from the ACT this year were *friendships, family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most valued item for ACT respondents was *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 81.1% of respondents from the ACT (*extremely important*: 39.7%; *very important*: 41.4%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 74.9% of respondents (*extremely important*: 40.9%; *very important*: 34.0%).

- Around seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 34.3%; *very important*: 38.1%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 38.2%; *very important*: 31.6%).

- Just over four in ten ACT respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 14.2%; *very important*: 29.2%) and *financial security* (*extremely important*: 14.7%; *very important*: 28.2%).

Figure 3.3: What young people value
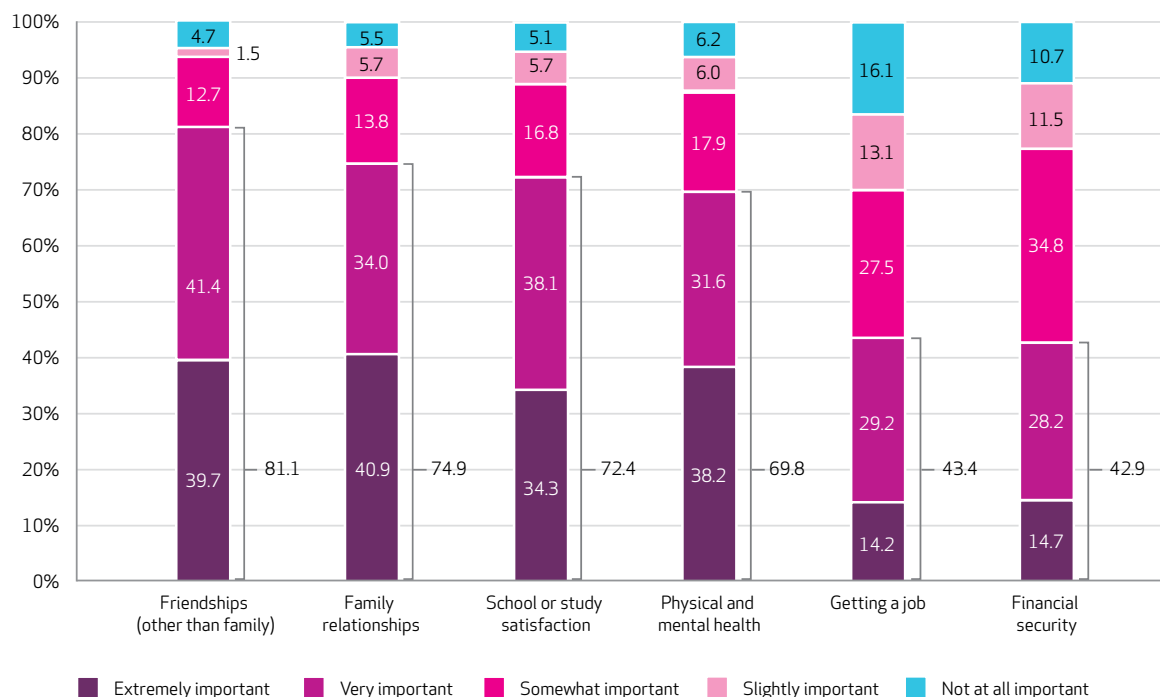
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Friendships, family relationships and *school or study satisfaction* were ranked as the three most highly valued items by both males and females in the ACT, as shown in Table 3.4. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and the majority of the other items, was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 85.4% of females (*extremely important*: 41.6%; *very important*: 43.8%) compared with 76.2% of males (*extremely important*: 37.7%; *very important*: 38.5%).

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 79.2% of females (*extremely important*: 41.9%; *very important*: 37.3%) compared with 70.0% of males (*extremely important*: 41.4%; *very important*: 28.6%).

- Just over three quarters (77.0%) of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 35.4%; *very important*: 41.6%) compared with 67.7% of males (*extremely important*: 34.6%; *very important*: 33.1%).

- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 73.5% of females (*extremely important*: 40.2%; *very important*: 33.3%) and 64.7% of males (*extremely important*: 34.6%; *very important*: 30.1%) in the ACT.

Table 3.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**41.6**	**43.8**	10.7	1.9	1.9
Family relationships	**41.9**	**37.3**	13.0	5.5	2.3
School or study satisfaction	**35.4**	**41.6**	15.9	5.8	1.3
Physical and mental health	40.2	33.3	17.3	5.9	3.3
Getting a job	11.8	32.4	26.5	13.7	15.7
Financial security	13.4	29.3	36.8	11.1	9.4
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**37.7**	**38.5**	17.7	0.8	5.4
Family relationships	**41.4**	**28.6**	16.5	6.0	7.5
School or study satisfaction	**34.6**	**33.1**	18.8	5.3	8.3
Physical and mental health	34.6	30.1	18.8	7.5	9.0
Getting a job	18.3	24.4	33.6	11.5	12.2
Financial security	15.9	28.8	34.1	11.4	9.8

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 3.4. 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 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 55.1% of respondents from the ACT indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (28.5%) or *very concerned* (26.6%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 44.1% (*extremely concerned*: 18.8%; *very concerned*: 25.3%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 39.3% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 20.4%; *very concerned*: 18.9%).

- Around three in ten respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression*.

Figure 3.4: Issues of personal concern to young people
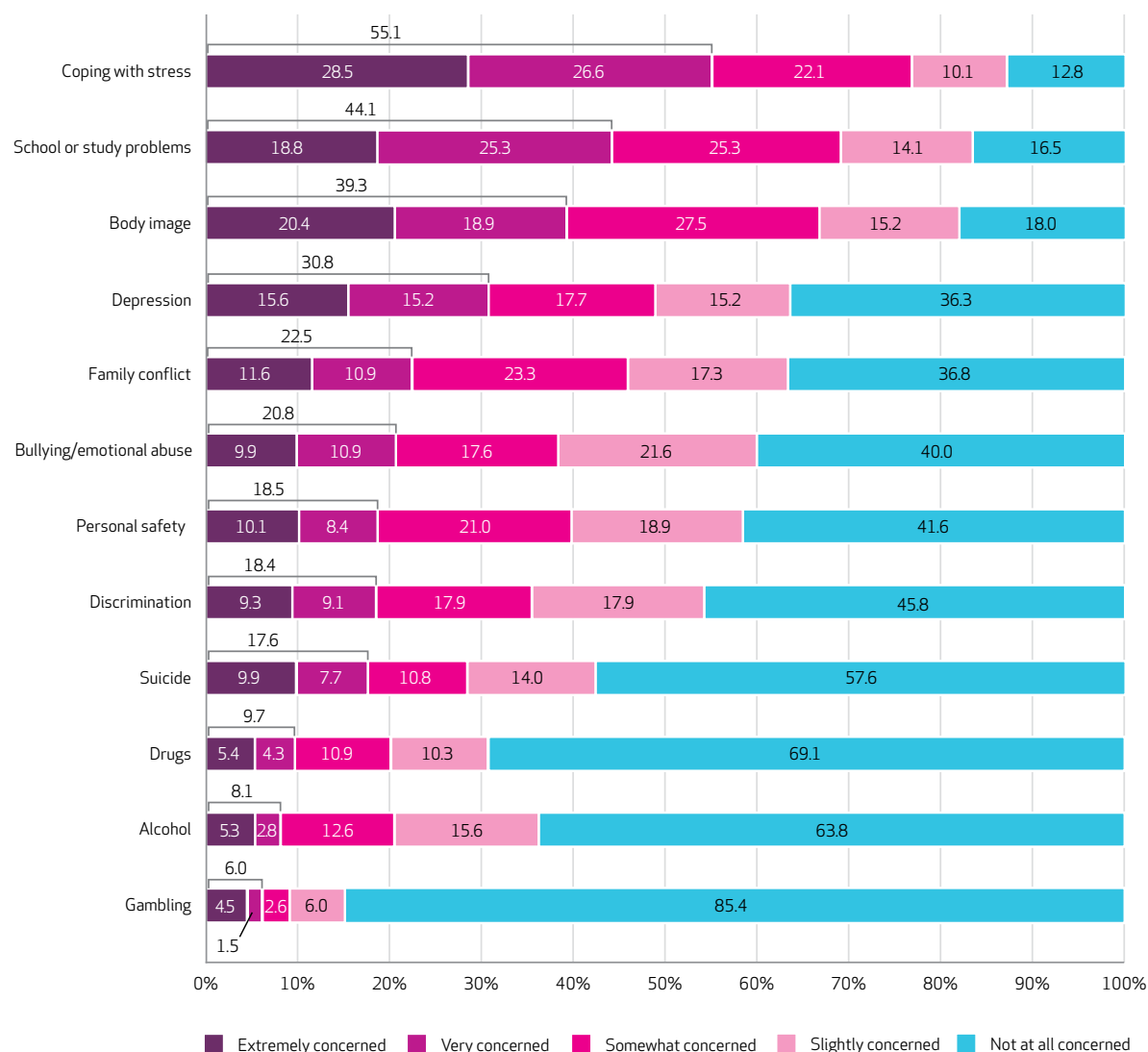
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

Coping with stress, school or study problems and *body image* were among the top three issues of concern for both males and females in the ACT, as highlighted in Table 3.5. 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 around two thirds of females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 33.3%; *very concerned*: 32.0%), compared with around one third of all males (*extremely concerned*: 18.7%; *very concerned*: 14.9%).

- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 48.2% (*extremely concerned*: 19.9%; *very concerned*: 28.3%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 37.5% of males (*extremely concerned*: 18.0%; *very concerned*: 19.5%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 45.8% (*extremely concerned*: 21.9%; *very concerned*: 23.9%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 24.8% (*extremely concerned*: 15.0%; *very concerned*: 9.8%) of males.

- For 35.3% of females (*extremely concerned*: 16.7%; *very concerned*: 18.6%) and 19.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 11.9%; *very concerned*: 7.5%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 3.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**33.3**	**32.0**	20.6	10.1	3.9
School or study problems	**19.9**	**28.3**	27.0	14.3	10.4
Body image	**21.9**	**23.9**	29.7	15.0	9.5
Depression	16.7	18.6	21.2	15.4	28.1
Family conflict	11.4	12.4	28.8	16.3	31.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.2	11.1	21.6	23.5	35.6
Personal safety	7.9	8.2	24.6	20.3	39.0
Discrimination	7.6	10.2	20.1	21.8	40.3
Suicide	7.2	8.2	12.8	15.5	56.3
Drugs	3.6	4.6	10.2	12.1	69.5
Alcohol	2.6	2.9	14.3	18.6	61.6
Gambling	1.6	1.3	1.6	7.2	88.2

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**18.7**	**14.9**	26.1	11.2	29.1
School or study problems	**18.0**	**19.5**	21.1	15.0	26.3
Body image	**15.0**	**9.8**	26.3	15.0	33.8
Depression	11.9	7.5	11.9	14.9	53.7
Family conflict	11.2	8.2	14.2	20.9	45.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	11.2	9.7	10.4	19.4	49.3
Personal safety	14.2	7.5	16.4	16.4	45.5
Discrimination	11.4	6.1	14.4	12.9	55.3
Suicide	14.2	6.0	6.0	11.9	61.9
Drugs	8.2	3.7	11.9	8.2	67.9
Alcohol	10.4	2.2	9.0	9.0	69.4
Gambling	8.2	1.5	4.5	3.7	82.1

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 3.5 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 *relatives/family friends*.

- *Friend/s, parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people (79.2%, 68.5% and 51.9% respectively).

- Close to half of respondents from the ACT indicated that they would go to the *internet* and around four in ten indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for help with important issues in their lives.

- Around one third indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 3.5: Where young people go for help with important issues
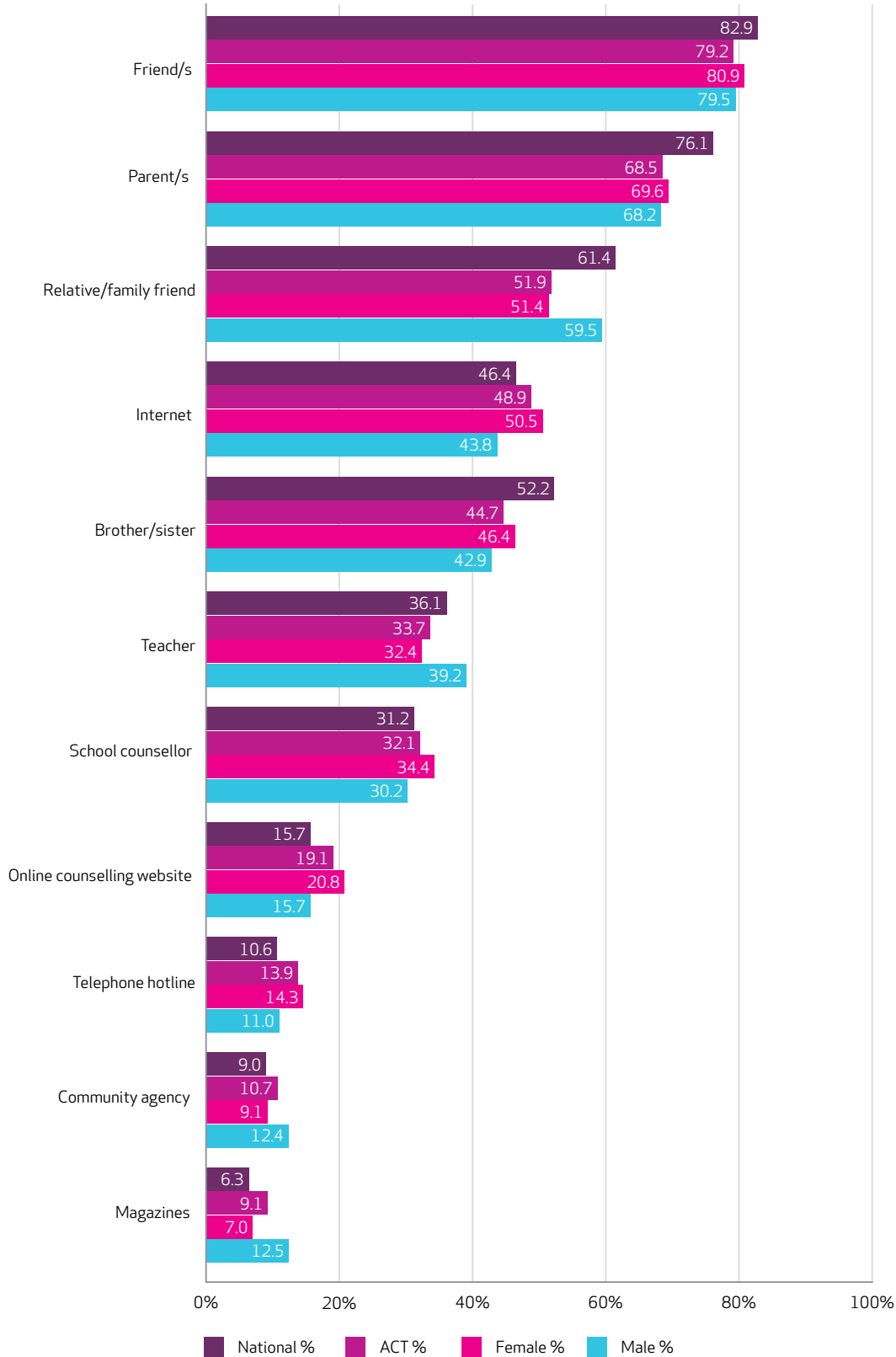
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 3.5, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with the ACT and national results. However, a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents indicated that they would go to *relatives/family friends* for help with important issues.

- Around eight in ten female and male respondents from the ACT (80.9% and 79.5% respectively) indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues. Similarly, around seven in ten respondents from both genders indicated that they would go to *parent/s* for help (69.6% of females compared to 68.2% of males).

- A higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated they would go to *relatives/family friends* (59.5% compared with 51.4%) for help.

- A greater proportion of females than males from the ACT would go to the *internet* (50.5% compared with 43.8%) or their *brother/sister* (46.4% compared with 42.9%) 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 3.6 shows that, in line with national results, just over half of respondents from the ACT rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 23.6% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 28.9% that it was *very good*. However, almost 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* (13.4%) or *poor* (10.4%). A greater proportion of male than female respondents rated their family's ability to get along as *excellent* (29.3% compared with 20.7%).

Figure 3.6: Family's ability to get along
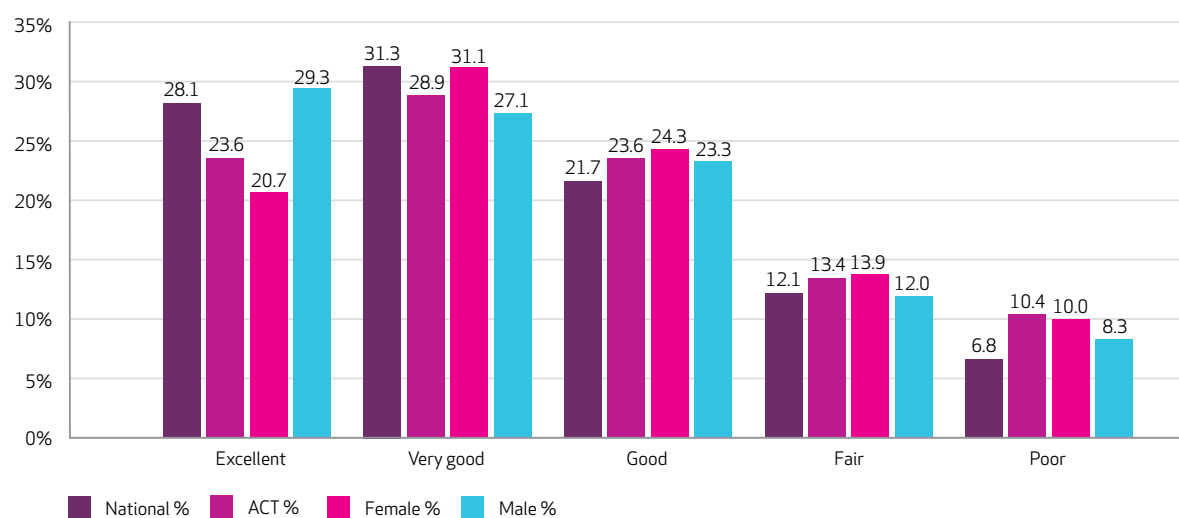
What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

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 3.6. In 2016 the top three issues identified by young people from the ACT were *mental health*, *equity and discrimination* and *alcohol and drugs*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally, although the order was reversed.

- Just over one quarter of young people from the ACT identified *mental health* (26.3%) as an important issue in Australia today.

- Around one in five respondents identified *equity and discrimination* (22.4%) and *alcohol and drugs* (21.9%) as major issues.

- Since 2014, *crime, safety and violence*, *international relations* and *bullying* have been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation among respondents from the ACT. Conversely, mentions of *population issues* and *politics* 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 the ACT. While *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were identified among the top three issues by both males and females, the other issue making up their top three differed. For females, *mental health* was the number one issue, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *alcohol and drugs*. For males the top issue this year was *alcohol and drugs*, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *the economy and financial matters*.

- Close to one third (32.3%) of female respondents and 15.9% of male respondents from the ACT identified *mental health* as a major issue facing Australia.

- A greater proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* (26.2% compared with 21.5%) and *the economy and financial matters* (17.8% compared with 13.8%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (23.5% compared with 20.6%) as an important issue.

Table 3.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	ACT 2016 %	Female %	Male %	ACT 2015 %	ACT 2014 %
Mental health	**20.6**	**26.3**	**32.3**	15.9	10.4	15.7
Equity and discrimination	**27.0**	**22.4**	**23.5**	**20.6**	**23.9**	**23.6**
Alcohol and drugs	**28.7**	**21.9**	**21.5**	**26.2**	**29.9**	14.3
The environment	11.5	16.6	19.2	12.1	20.9	16.4
Population issues	16.0	15.1	16.2	11.2	**22.4**	**26.4**
The economy and financial matters	14.7	14.5	13.8	**17.8**	11.9	**27.9**
Crime, safety and violence	12.8	13.8	15.4	12.1	7.5	6.4
International relations	16.2	12.0	11.9	11.2	11.2	4.3
Education	11.6	11.2	11.5	12.1	7.5	17.1
Politics	12.8	11.0	11.5	9.3	11.9	22.9
Health	10.3	10.2	11.5	6.5	3.0	14.3
Homelessness/housing	7.5	10.2	11.5	6.5	11.9	7.1
Bullying	10.1	9.7	10.8	9.3	4.5	4.3
LGBT issues	7.4	8.9	11.5	2.8	17.9	8.6
Employment	9.9	7.7	6.2	11.2	6.7	11.4

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. In the ACT, just over one third (34.9%) of young people indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (35.3% of females compared with 27.3% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 3.7. The top three reasons indicated by respondents in the ACT for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *gender*, followed by *age* and *mental health* (at equal levels).

- *Gender, age* and *mental health* were the three most commonly cited reasons for young people's reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (47.3%, 29.1% and 29.1% respectively).

- Just over one quarter of respondents from the ACT indicated that *race/cultural background* and *sexuality* (both at 26.7%) were reasons for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

Figure 3.7: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced
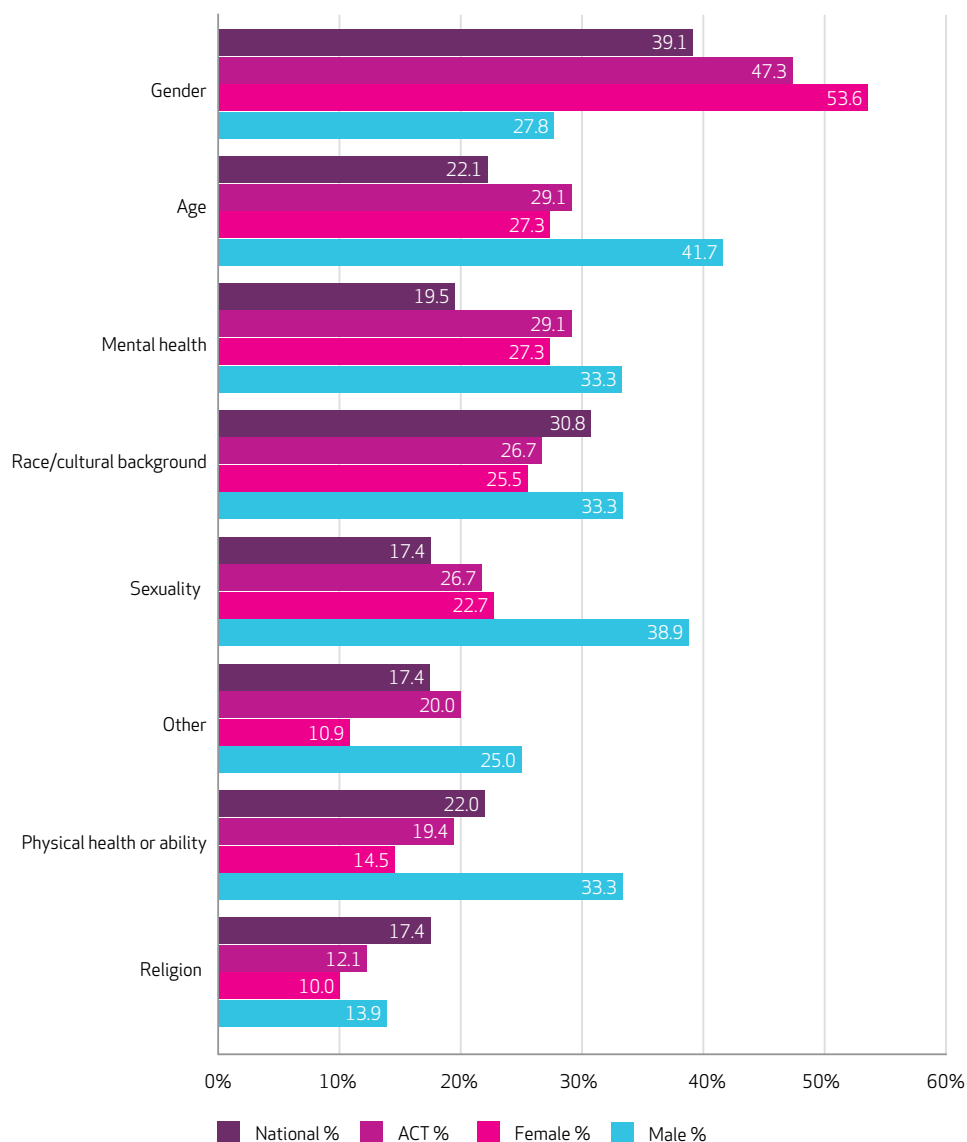
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by male and female respondents in the ACT, as shown in Figure 3.7. The top three reasons identified by females were consistent with the ACT results, however, the three reasons most commonly cited by males differed, with males indicating that *age* was the number one reason, followed by *sexuality* and then *mental health, race/cultural background* and *physical health or ability* (all at equal levels).

- Just over half (53.6%) of female respondents and around one quarter (27.8%) of male respondents from the ACT indicated that *gender* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Just over four in ten (41.7%) males and around one quarter (27.3%) of females indicated that *age* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A greater proportion of male (38.9%) than female (22.7%) respondents from the ACT indicated that *sexuality* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. Similarly, greater proportions of males than females indicated that reasons included *mental health, race/cultural background* and *physical health or ability*.

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were also asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Overall, close to six in ten (59.0%) of young people in the ACT indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. A slightly greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (59.6% of females compared with 56.8% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 3.8. The top three reasons cited for unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents in the ACT were *race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *gender*.

- *Race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *gender* were the three most commonly cited reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by young people in the ACT (51.6%, 47.3% and 42.7% respectively).

- Close to four in ten (36.9%) respondents from the ACT indicated that *physical health or ability* was a reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed and just over one third (34.4%) indicated that *mental health* was a reason.

Figure 3.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed
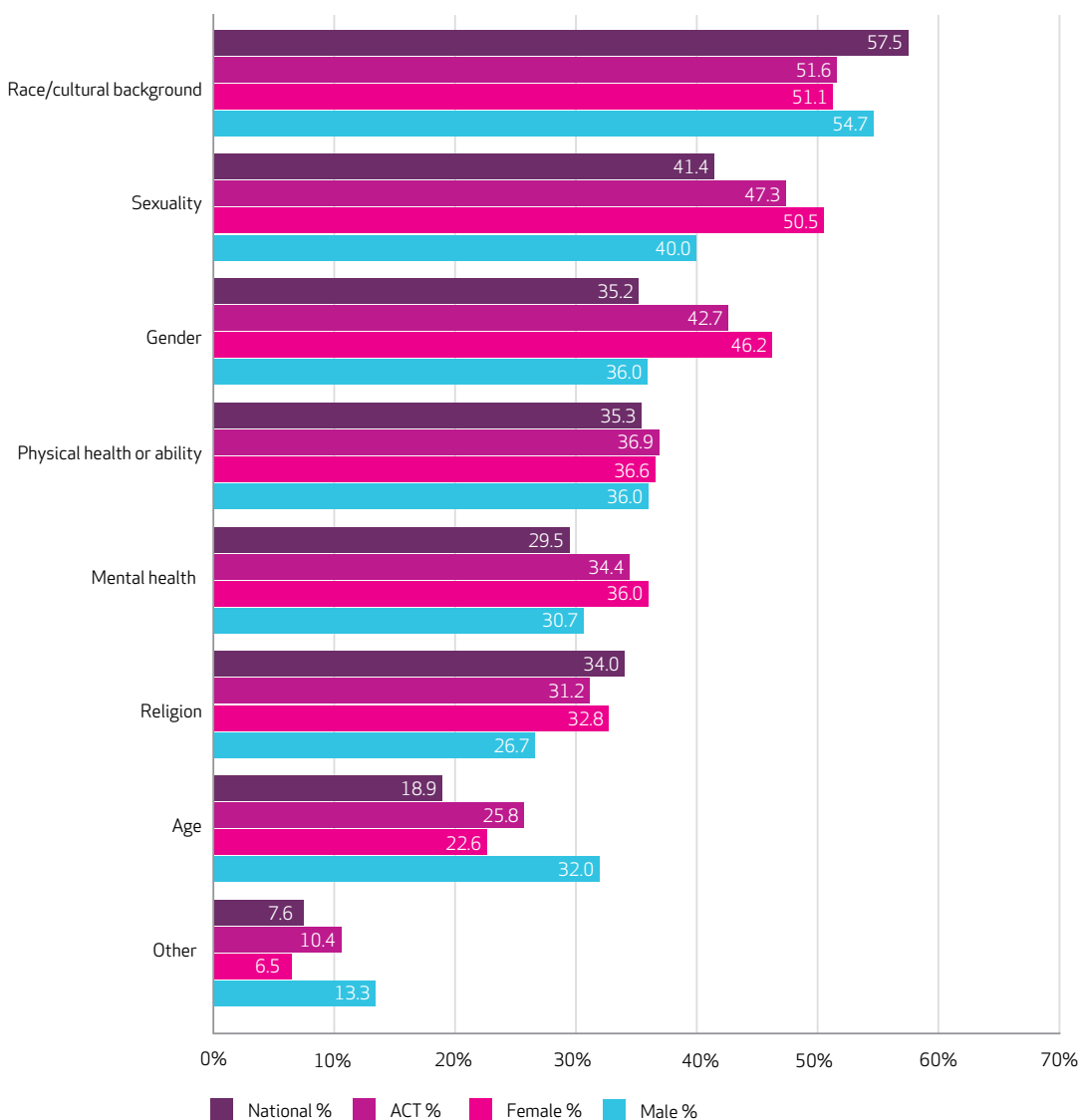
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 3.8, the top three reasons identified for unfair treatment or discrimination as witnessed by both genders were consistent with the ACT results, although *gender* and *physical health or ability* were cited by males in equal third position.

- Just over half of all male and female respondents from the ACT (54.7% and 51.1% respectively) indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.
- Around half (50.5%) of females and four in ten (40.0%) males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.
- A greater proportion of female (46.2%) than male (36.0%) respondents from the ACT indicated that *gender* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed, while similar proportions of females (36.6%) and males (36.0%) indicated that *physical health or ability* was a reason.

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 3.7. The top three activities for young people from the ACT, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were also the top two activities for ACT respondents in 2015. 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 the ACT in 2016.
- Just over half of all respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (54.7%).
- Around four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (42.1%).
- Around one quarter of young people had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (25.3%) and just over one in five had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (22.3%) and *religious groups or activities* (21.7%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 3.7, there were some notable gender differences in the top three activities young people had been involved in. The top three activities that female respondents were involved in were *sports (as a participant)*, *arts/cultural/music activities*, and *volunteer work*. Comparatively, the top three activities for males were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*.

- 75.6% of male respondents and 70.2% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A much larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (71.4% compared with 54.2%).
- A higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved with *arts/cultural/music activities* (63.1% compared with 36.9%).
- Overall a greater proportion of female than male respondents from the ACT were involved in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (62.8% and 47.3% compared with 46.8% and 34.1% respectively).

Table 3.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	ACT 2016 %	Female %	Male %	ACT 2015 %	ACT 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.7**	**71.0**	**70.2**	**75.6**	**72.0**	**83.8**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.0**	**59.2**	54.2	**71.4**	**70.0**	**72.2**
Volunteer work	**53.5**	**56.8**	**62.8**	**46.8**	37.0	**75.5**
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	54.7	**63.1**	36.9	**46.8**	69.0
Student leadership activities	42.5	42.1	47.3	34.1	42.4	62.7
Youth groups and clubs	30.6	25.3	23.8	29.5	29.8	34.0
Environmental groups or activities	24.6	22.3	23.6	19.2	26.9	26.4
Religious groups or activities	28.7	21.7	21.5	20.0	26.5	31.5
Political groups or organisations	8.7	11.1	11.4	10.0	11.8	15.2

Note: 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[1], responses were standardised on a scale of 0 – 100, with 100 being the happiest. As Figure 3.9 shows, close to six in ten young people from the ACT (58.0%) 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 a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they felt either *very happy* (13.4% compared with 8.7%) or *very sad* (7.5% compared with 2.9%) about their lives as a whole.

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

Figure 3.9: How happy young people are
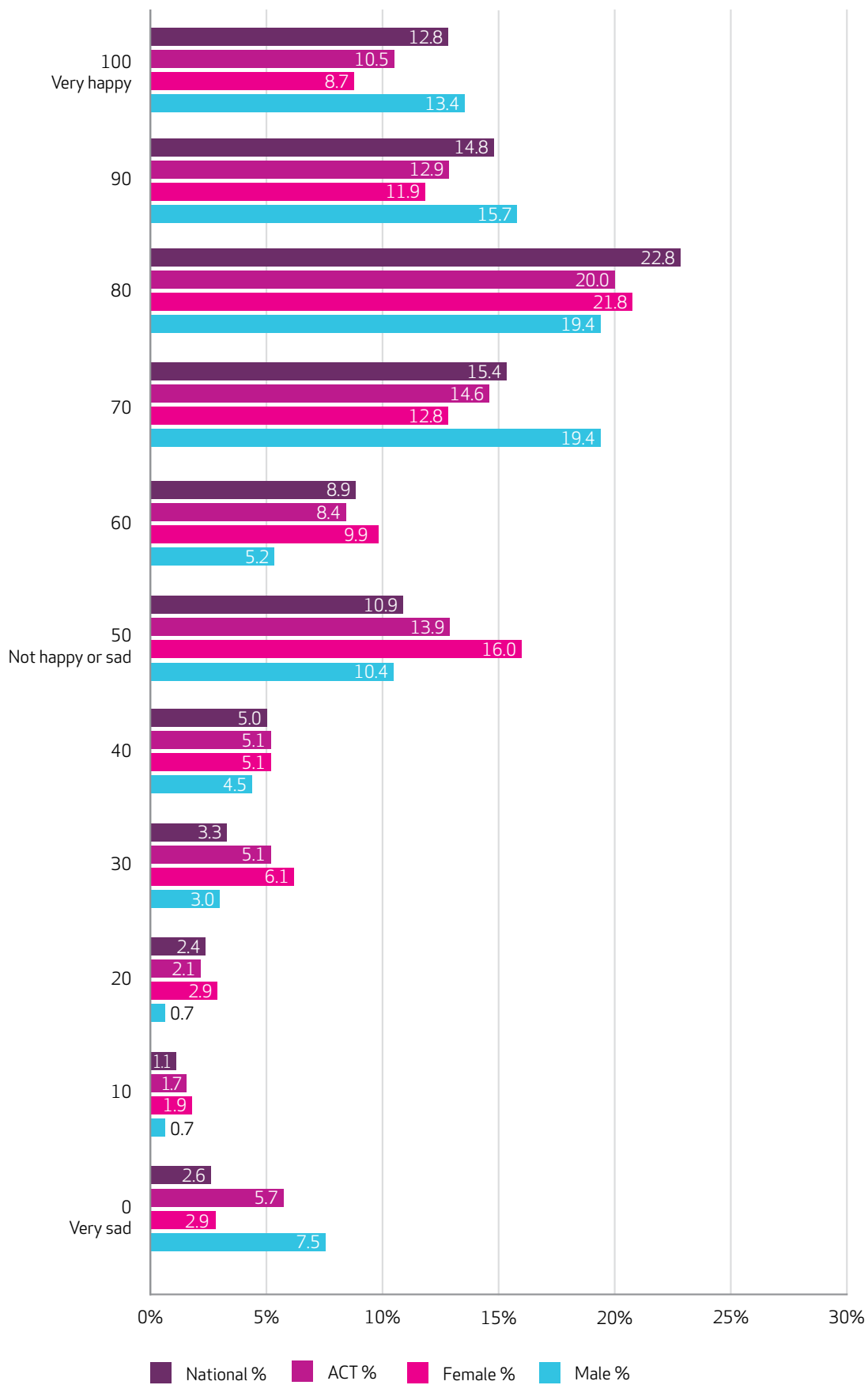
100 Very happy	National %	12.8
	ACT %	10.5
	Female %	8.7
	Male %	13.4
90	National %	14.8
	ACT %	12.9
	Female %	11.9
	Male %	15.7
80	National %	22.8
	ACT %	20.0
	Female %	21.8
	Male %	19.4
70	National %	15.4
	ACT %	14.6
	Female %	12.8
	Male %	19.4
60	National %	8.9
	ACT %	8.4
	Female %	9.9
	Male %	5.2
50 Not happy or sad	National %	10.9
	ACT %	13.9
	Female %	16.0
	Male %	10.4
40	National %	5.0
	ACT %	5.1
	Female %	5.1
	Male %	4.5
30	National %	3.3
	ACT %	5.1
	Female %	6.1
	Male %	3.0
20	National %	2.4
	ACT %	2.1
	Female %	2.9
	Male %	0.7
10	National %	1.1
	ACT %	1.7
	Female %	1.9
	Male %	0.7
0 Very sad	National %	2.6
	ACT %	5.7
	Female %	2.9
	Male %	7.5

Legend: National %, ACT %, Female %, Male %

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 3.8 shows that, in line with the national results, over half of respondents from the ACT felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Close to one in six young people from the ACT felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over half of all respondents from the ACT felt either *positive* (39.4%) or *very positive* (16.0%) about the future.

- Almost three in ten respondents (28.9%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

- 9.6% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 6.2% felt *very negative*.

- Males and females from the ACT were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A slightly larger proportion of male than female respondents, however, indicated feeling *very negative* (7.6% compared with 3.5% for females).

Table 3.8: Feelings about the future

	National %	ACT 2016 %	Female %	Male %	ACT 2015 %	ACT 2014 %
Very positive	17.3	16.0	15.5	15.9	20.0	13.9
Positive	47.1	39.4	40.6	38.6	38.7	49.4
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	28.9	30.0	30.3	29.0	22.3
Negative	6.5	9.6	10.3	7.6	7.7	7.8
Very negative	3.0	6.2	3.5	7.6	4.5	6.6

New South Wales

Profile of respondents

In total, 7,087 young people from New South Wales (NSW) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (54.1%) of respondents from NSW were female and 45.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 359 (5.1%) respondents from NSW identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 302 (4.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 34 (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 (5.1% compared with 4.7%).

Language background other than English

A total of 830 (11.9%) respondents from NSW stated that they were born overseas and 1,476 (21.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 80 languages spoken at home in NSW, the most common were (in order of frequency): Arabic, Chinese, Italian, Spanish and Mandarin.

Disability

A total of 240 (3.5%) respondents from NSW indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (3.7%) than females (3.0%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in NSW were (in order of frequency): physical disability, autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD).

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 4.1, 95.3% of respondents from NSW were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female respondents reported that they were studying full-time than male respondents (96.5% compared with 94.4%), while a slightly greater proportion of males (3.8%) than females (2.1%) reported not studying at all.

Respondents who reported 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 previous years, the majority of respondents from NSW reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.3%) or *satisfied* (55.1%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.8% and 4.5% respectively). As shown in Table 4.2, a slightly higher proportion of females than males from NSW reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (13.9% and 57.0% of females compared with 14.8% and 53.8% of males respectively).

Table 4.1: Participation in education

	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.6	95.3	96.5	94.4
Studying part-time	2.2	1.7	1.4	1.8
Not studying	3.2	3.0	2.1	3.8

Table 4.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	NSW 2016 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2015 %	NSW 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.0	14.3	13.9	14.8	14.4	14.3
Satisfied	55.9	55.1	57.0	53.8	54.9	54.0
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	24.1	23.7	24.6	23.9	24.0
Dissatisfied	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.8	5.2	5.9
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.8	1.2	2.0	1.6	1.7

Of those who were still at school in NSW, 96.4% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Around twice the proportion of males indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (5.0% compared with 2.1% of females respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. Around one in five (18.3%) respondents from NSW indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course. A slightly higher proportion of males than females indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (19.7% compared with 16.9% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 4.1 shows that around seven in ten respondents from NSW planned to go to university after school (71.3%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (31.6%) and to travel or go on a gap year (30.4%) after school. Overall, 13.0% of young people from NSW planned to attend TAFE or college and 8.7% 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, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (76.0% compared with 66.4% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (36.5% compared with 23.3%). A much larger proportion of males indicated that they were planning to undertake an apprenticeship (14.7% compared with 3.7% of females).

Figure 4.1: Plans after leaving school
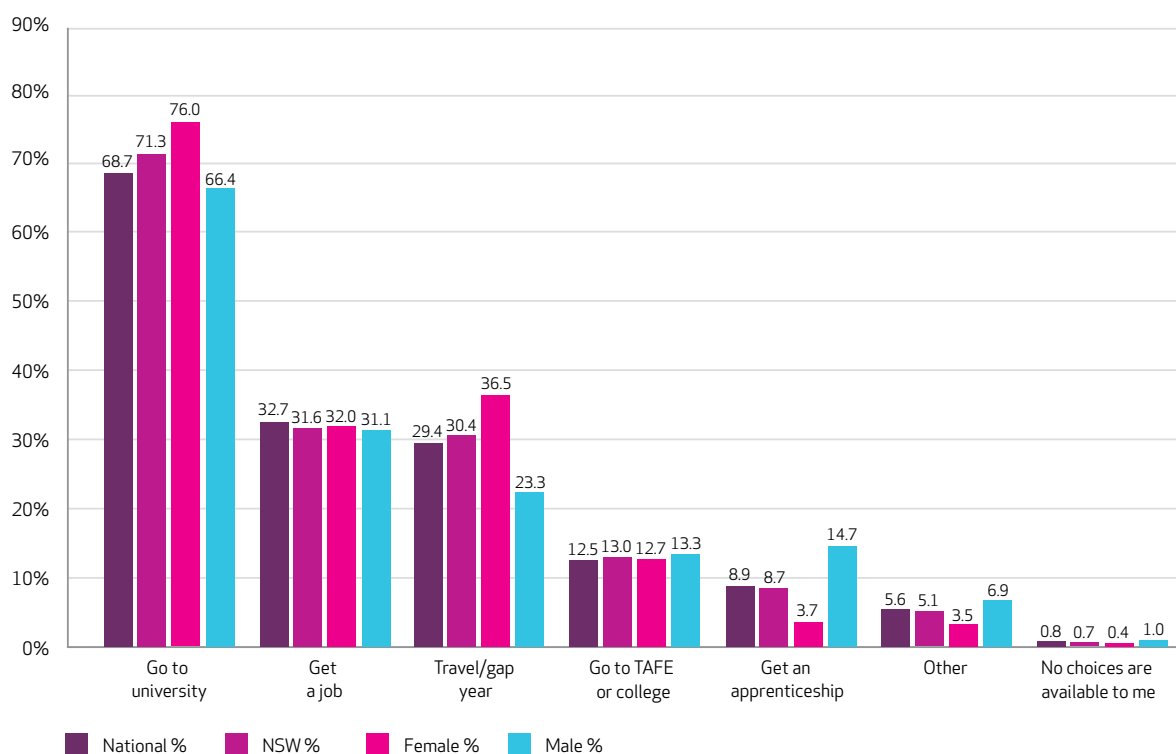
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 4.2 shows the percentage of respondents from NSW who indicated each item as being an influence. In NSW, the top three influences on young people's post-school plans were *parents*, *other family members* and the *internet*.

- *Parents*, *other family members* and the *internet* were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans (84.3%, 74.2% and 69.0% respectively).

- Just under two thirds (65.1%) of respondents indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans, while around half (50.1%) indicated that their *teacher* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

Figure 4.2: Influences on post-school plans

Parents
- 83.1
- 84.3
- 84.5
- 84.4

Other family members
- 72.0
- 74.2
- 74.7
- 74.1

Internet
- 69.4
- 69.0
- 71.9
- 65.4

Friends
- 65.7
- 65.1
- 65.1
- 65.4

Teacher
- 51.7
- 50.1
- 49.9
- 50.9

Career advisor
- 42.5
- 44.1
- 42.6
- 46.4

Career fair or expo
- 42.4
- 40.1
- 41.3
- 39.0

Work experience/internship
- 37.4
- 34.1
- 33.3
- 35.2

Year advisor/other school staff
- 29.0
- 32.3
- 32.3
- 32.6

Mentor/coach
- 27.0
- 27.2
- 23.4
- 31.7

Part-time work
- 23.2
- 22.2
- 22.4
- 21.7

Vocational Education and Training (VET) course
- 14.2
- 13.1
- 11.8
- 14.9

Traineeship
- 8.8
- 8.5
- 6.0
- 11.3

Legend: National % | NSW % | Female % | Male %

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

Gender differences

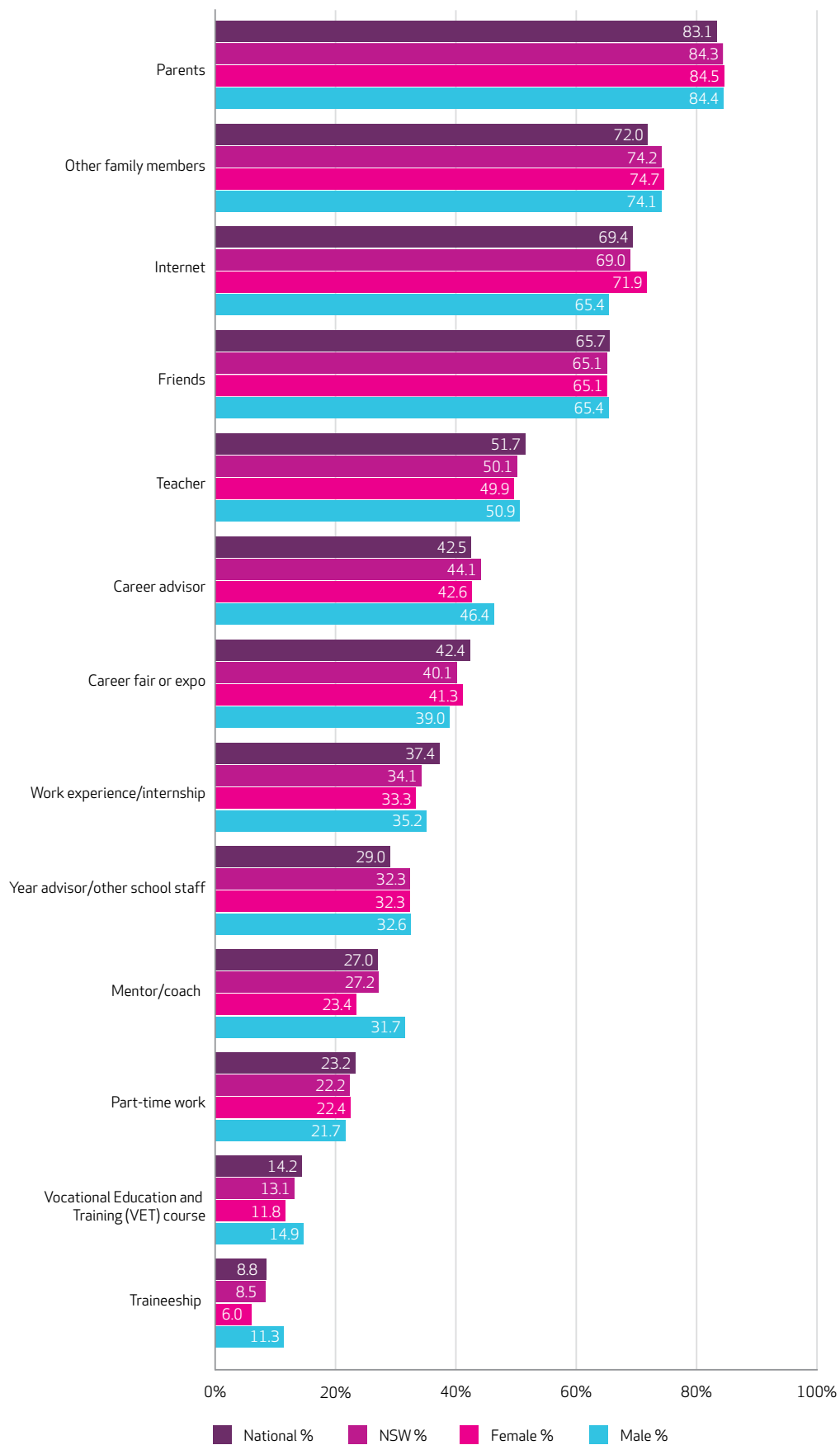As shown in Figure 4.2, the top three influences which both genders identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans were consistent with NSW and national results. For males however, the *internet* and *friends* were in equal third position. Similar proportions of both females and males indicated that they saw *parents* and *other family members* influencing their post-school plans, while a greater proportion of females than males indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

- Just over eight in ten female and male respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (84.5% of females compared with 84.4% of males) and just under three quarters of respondents from both genders indicated that *other family members* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school (74.7% of females compared with 74.1% of males).

- A greater proportion of female (71.9%) than male (65.4%) respondents indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their post-school plans.

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 national results, only a tiny minority (0.6%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Around one third (36.9%) of respondents from NSW reported part-time employment. Just over six in ten NSW respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 33.7% looking for work and 28.9% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from NSW reported full-time employment (1.0% compared with 0.3% respectively), while there was a higher proportion of female respondents employed part-time (43.0% compared with 29.8%). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (35.7% compared with 31.4%).

Table 4.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.6	0.3	1.0
Employed part-time	38.5	36.9	43.0	29.8
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.1	33.7	31.4	35.7
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	25.8	28.9	25.3	33.5

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 2016 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 4.3 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. The three most highly valued items for respondents from NSW this year were *family relationships, friendships* and *physical and mental health*. The next most valued item for NSW respondents was *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 82.9% of respondents from NSW (*extremely important*: 52.3%; *very important*: 30.6%). *Friendships* were also valued highly by 82.4% of respondents (*extremely important*: 41.9%; *very important*: 40.5%).

- Just under three quarters of respondents highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 40.3%; *very important*: 34.3%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 33.7%; *very important*: 38.6%).

- Around four in ten NSW respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 16.3%; *very important*: 29.6%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 14.2%; *very important*: 23.1%).

Figure 4.3: What young people value
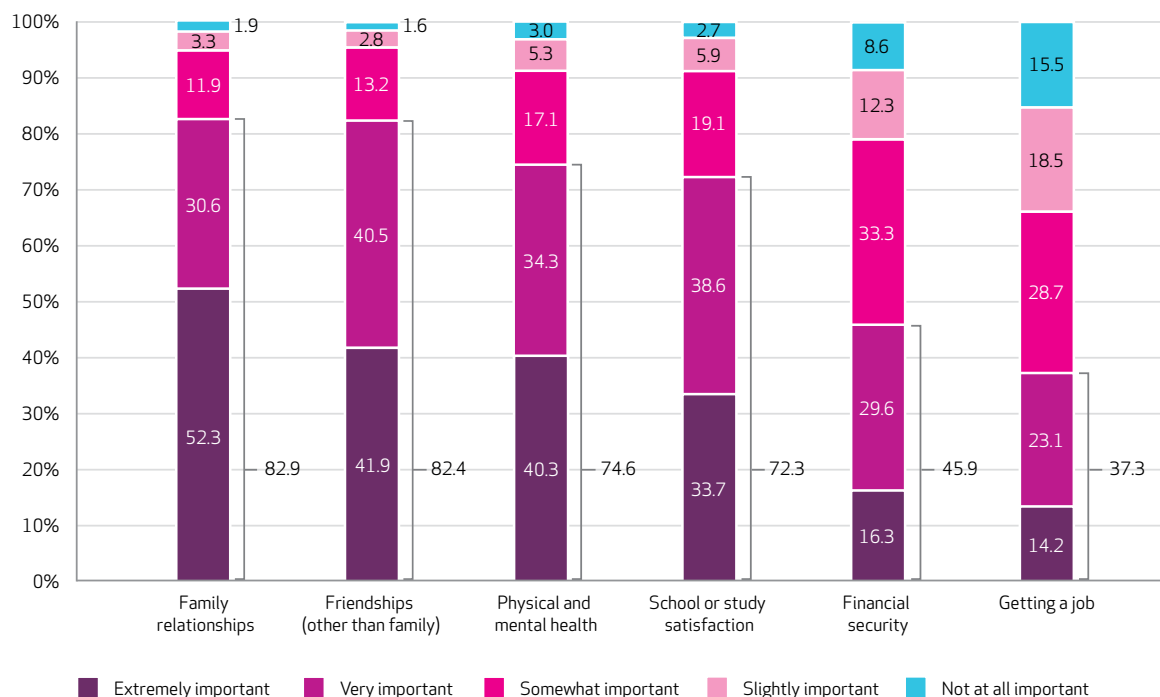
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Family relationships, friendships and *physical and mental health* were ranked as the three most highly valued items by both males and females in NSW, as shown in Table 4.4. The order of the top two items differed, however, with *friendships* being the most highly valued item for males, while for females *family relationships* were valued most highly. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and all of the other items, was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 84.8% of females (*extremely important*: 55.9%; *very important*: 28.9%) compared with 82.0% of males (*extremely important*: 48.8%; *very important*: 33.2%).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 83.4% of females (*extremely important*: 44.9%; *very important*: 38.5%) compared with 82.4% of males (*extremely important*: 38.6%; *very important*: 43.8%).

- Just over three quarters (77.2%) of females highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 42.2%; *very important*: 35.0%) compared with 72.4% of males (*extremely important*: 38.0%; *very important*: 34.4%).

- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 76.8% of females (*extremely important*: 38.0%; *very important*: 38.8%) and 68.2% of males (*extremely important*: 28.8%; *very important*: 39.4%) in NSW.

Table 4.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	55.9	28.9	10.7	3.4	1.1
Friendships (other than family)	44.9	38.5	13.0	2.6	1.1
Physical and mental health	42.2	35.0	16.2	4.6	2.0
School or study satisfaction	38.0	38.8	16.9	4.8	1.5
Financial security	15.7	30.3	34.5	12.4	7.0
Getting a job	12.7	24.6	30.1	17.7	14.9

Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	48.8	33.2	13.1	2.8	2.2
Friendships (other than family)	38.6	43.8	13.0	2.8	1.8
Physical and mental health	38.0	34.4	18.2	6.0	3.5
School or study satisfaction	28.8	39.4	21.4	7.0	3.4
Financial security	16.3	29.2	32.3	12.2	10.0
Getting a job	15.3	21.5	27.3	19.8	16.0

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 4.4. 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 from NSW 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 44.5% of respondents from NSW indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (20.0%) or *very concerned* (24.5%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 39.9% (*extremely concerned*: 15.6%; *very concerned*: 24.3%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 30.6% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.6%; *very concerned*: 18.0%).

- Around one in four respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 4.4: Issues of personal concern to young people
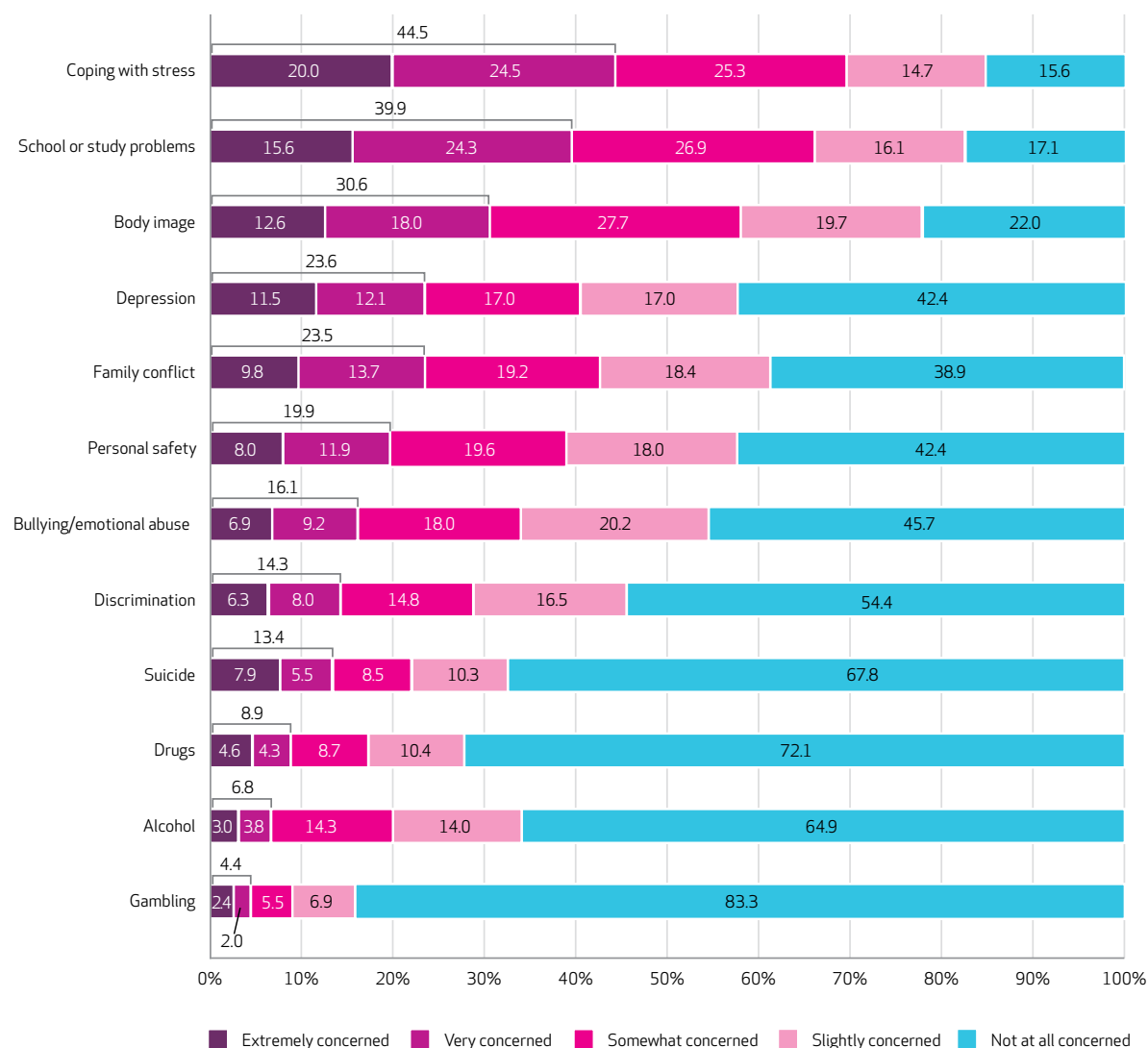
Issue	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned	Top sum
Coping with stress	20.0	24.5	25.3	14.7	15.6	44.5
School or study problems	15.6	24.3	26.9	16.1	17.1	39.9
Body image	12.6	18.0	27.7	19.7	22.0	30.6
Depression	11.5	12.1	17.0	17.0	42.4	23.6
Family conflict	9.8	13.7	19.2	18.4	38.9	23.5
Personal safety	8.0	11.9	19.6	18.0	42.4	19.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.9	9.2	18.0	20.2	45.7	16.1
Discrimination	6.3	8.0	14.8	16.5	54.4	14.3
Suicide	7.9	5.5	8.5	10.3	67.8	13.4
Drugs	4.6	4.3	8.7	10.4	72.1	8.9
Alcohol	3.0	3.8	14.3	14.0	64.9	6.8
Gambling	2.4	2.0	5.5	6.9	83.3	4.4

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 among the top three issues of concern for both males and females 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 around six in ten females, *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 28.1%; *very concerned*: 30.4%), compared with just under three in ten males (*extremely concerned*: 10.0%; *very concerned*: 17.9%).

- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 48.3% (*extremely concerned*: 20.6%; *very concerned*: 27.7%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 30.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.6%; *very concerned*: 20.6%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 41.3% (*extremely concerned*: 17.6%; *very concerned*: 23.7%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 17.8% (*extremely concerned*: 6.2%; *very concerned*: 11.6%) of males.

- For 30.0% of females (*extremely concerned*: 14.4%; *very concerned*: 15.6%) and 15.5% of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.4%; *very concerned*: 8.1%) *depression* was a major concern.

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

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**28.1**	**30.4**	23.6	10.6	7.2
School or study problems	**20.6**	**27.7**	27.4	14.2	10.1
Body image	**17.6**	**23.7**	29.8	16.5	12.4
Depression	14.4	15.6	18.1	17.2	34.7
Family conflict	12.1	16.4	21.4	18.8	31.2
Personal safety	9.2	13.4	21.7	19.1	36.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.5	11.0	19.9	21.1	39.6
Discrimination	6.6	9.1	17.1	17.6	49.6
Suicide	8.8	7.0	9.7	12.4	62.1
Drugs	4.0	4.7	8.9	11.4	71.0
Alcohol	2.5	4.1	15.9	14.9	62.5
Gambling	1.6	1.8	4.9	6.7	85.1

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**10.0**	**17.9**	27.8	19.6	24.8
School or study problems	**9.6**	**20.6**	26.7	18.9	24.2
Body image	**6.2**	**11.6**	25.7	24.0	32.5
Depression	7.4	8.1	15.5	17.2	51.8
Family conflict	6.9	10.5	16.8	18.1	47.7
Personal safety	6.2	10.2	17.4	17.0	49.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.8	7.1	15.9	19.4	52.8
Discrimination	5.6	6.5	12.1	15.5	60.3
Suicide	6.1	3.6	7.0	7.7	75.5
Drugs	4.9	3.7	8.3	9.2	73.9
Alcohol	3.1	3.4	12.6	13.0	67.9
Gambling	2.7	2.1	6.0	7.3	81.9

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 4.5 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 (84.0%, 78.3% and 64.0% respectively).

- Over half of all respondents from NSW indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for help with important issues in their lives.

- Close to half of all respondents indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help and around four in ten indicated that they would go to their *teacher* for help with important issues.

Figure 4.5: Where young people go for help with important issues
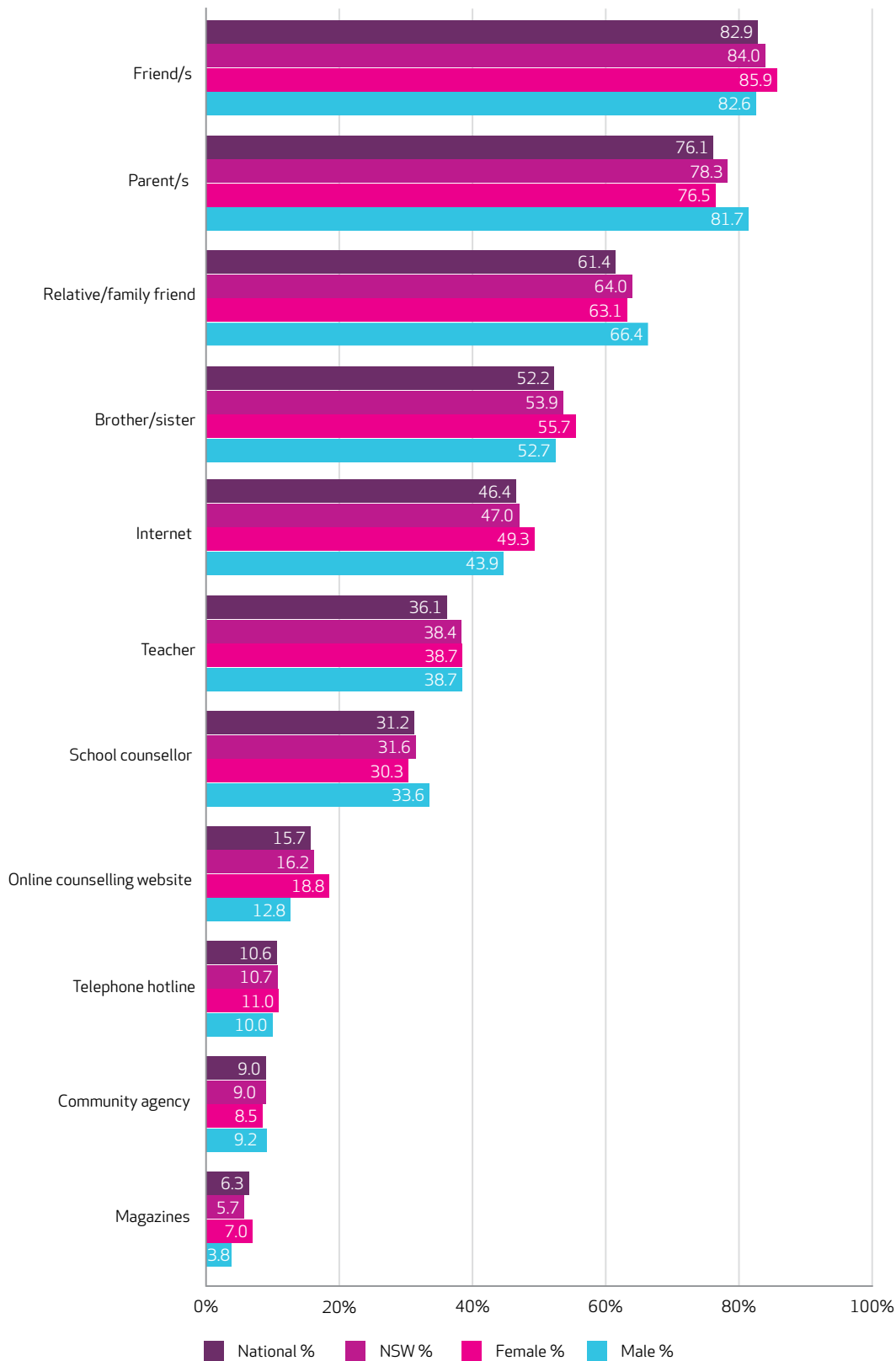
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 4.5, 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*.

- Just under nine in ten (85.9%) female respondents and 82.6% of male respondents in NSW indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.

- A higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they would go to *parent/s* (81.7% compared with 76.5%) and *relatives/family friends* (66.4% compared with 63.1%) for help.

- Greater proportions of females than males from NSW would go to their *brother/sister* (55.7% compared with 52.7%), the *internet* (49.3% compared with 43.9%), *online counselling websites* (18.8% compared with 12.8%) and *magazines* (7.0% compared with 3.8%) 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 4.6 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from NSW rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 30.0% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.2% 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* (11.4%) or *poor* (6.1%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 4.6: Family's ability to get along
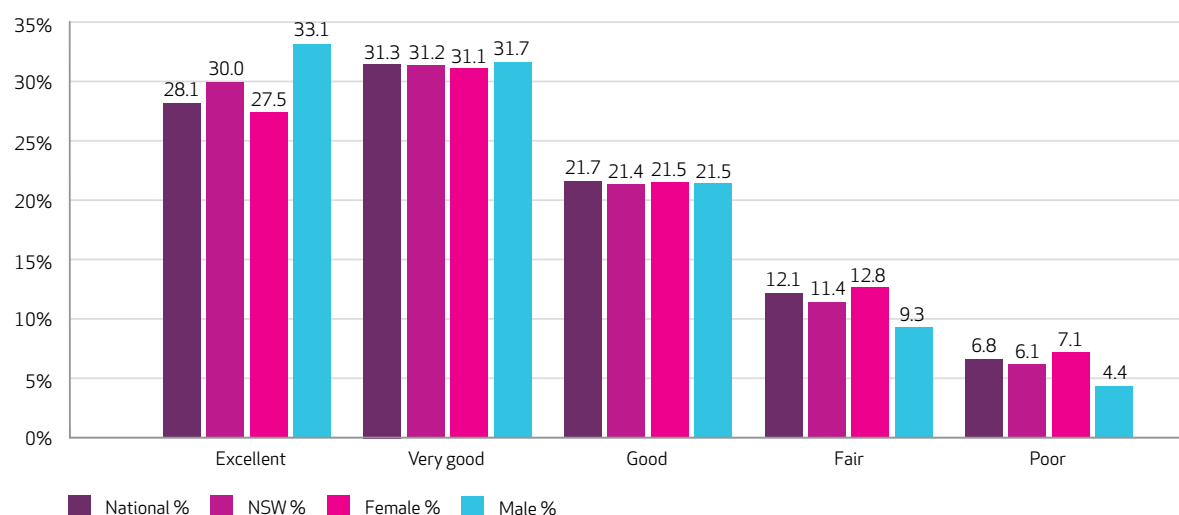
Legend: National %, NSW %, Female %, Male %

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 2016 the top three issues identified by young people from NSW were *alcohol and drugs*, *equity and discrimination* and *mental health*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally.

- Close to three in ten young people from NSW identified *alcohol and drugs* (28.2%) and *equity and discrimination* (27.9%) as important issues in Australia today.

- Around one in five respondents identified *mental health* (22.6%) and *international relations* (18.9%) as major issues.

- Compared to the past two years, *alcohol and drugs*, *equity and discrimination* and *mental health* have all risen as issues of national concern among NSW respondents.

- Since 2014, *international relations*, *crime, safety and violence* and *homelessness/housing* have been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation among respondents from NSW. Conversely, mentions of *the economy and financial matters*, *politics*, *education*, *the environment* and *employment* 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 *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were identified in the top three issues by both males and females, the other issue making up their top three differed. For females, *equity and discrimination* was the number one issue, followed by *mental health* and then *alcohol and drugs*. For males, the top issue this year was *alcohol and drugs*, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *international relations*.

- Around three in ten male respondents and just over one quarter of female respondents from NSW (30.8% and 26.0% respectively) identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue facing Australia today.

- Greater proportions of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (29.5% compared with 26.4%) and *mental health* (28.6% compared with 15.6%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, a slightly greater proportion of males than females identified *international relations* (19.8% compared with 18.5%) as an important issue.

Table 4.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	NSW 2016 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2015 %	NSW 2014 %
Alcohol and drugs	**28.7**	**28.2**	**26.0**	**30.8**	**25.8**	16.3
Equity and discrimination	**27.0**	**27.9**	**29.5**	**26.4**	**24.1**	20.3
Mental health	**20.6**	**22.6**	**28.6**	15.6	17.2	13.6
International relations	16.2	18.9	18.5	**19.8**	15.4	2.5
Population issues	16.0	16.1	15.9	16.3	15.6	**21.0**
The economy and financial matters	14.7	14.5	13.4	15.8	**19.9**	**25.4**
Politics	12.8	12.9	10.1	16.0	15.5	**22.9**
Crime, safety and violence	12.8	12.8	13.5	12.1	9.3	8.9
Education	11.6	12.4	12.2	12.6	13.3	16.3
The environment	11.5	11.0	11.8	10.4	12.5	14.3
Health	10.3	10.7	9.8	11.6	9.9	11.5
Bullying	10.1	10.4	12.6	8.0	9.4	10.8
Homelessness/housing	7.5	8.3	9.8	6.6	7.9	7.7
Employment	9.9	7.0	5.8	8.5	11.0	13.4
LGBT issues	7.4	6.1	8.6	3.1	12.1	5.0

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. Consistent with national results, just over one quarter (26.5%) of young people from NSW indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (29.4% of females compared with 21.7% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 4.7. The top three reasons indicated by respondents in NSW for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *gender*, *race/cultural background* and *physical health or ability*.

- *Gender*, *race/cultural background* and *physical health or ability* were the three most commonly cited reasons for young people's reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (36.5%, 32.8% and 20.6% respectively).

- Around one in five respondents from NSW indicated that *age* (19.5%) and *religion* (19.5%) were reasons for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

Figure 4.7: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced
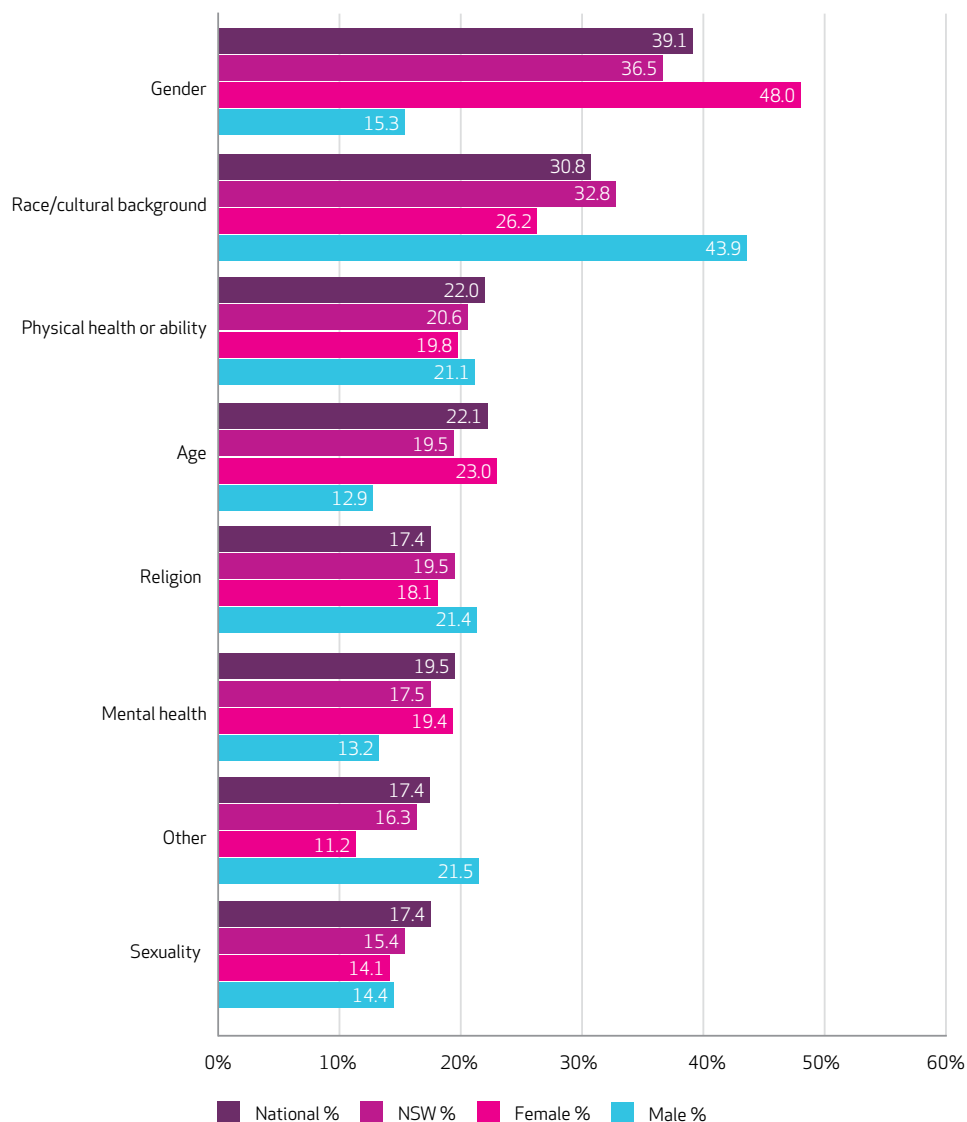
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by male and female respondents in NSW, as shown in Figure 4.7. The top two reasons identified by females were consistent with NSW results, while the third top reason identified by females was *age*. The three reasons most commonly cited by males differed, however, with males indicating that *race/cultural background* was the number one reason, followed by *other* reasons and then *religion*.

- Close to half (48.0%) of female respondents and 15.3% of male respondents from NSW indicated that *gender* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Just over four in ten (43.9%) males and around one quarter (26.2%) of females indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A greater proportion of female (23.0%) than male (12.9%) respondents from NSW indicated that *age* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, while greater proportions of males than females indicated that *other* reasons and *religion* were the perceived causes (21.5% and 21.4% compared with 11.2% and 18.1% respectively).

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were also asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Consistent with national results, around half (51.4%) of young people in NSW indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (54.3% of females compared with 47.6% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 4.8. The top three reasons cited for unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents in NSW were *race/cultural background, sexuality* and *physical health or ability.*

- *Race/cultural background, sexuality* and *physical health or ability* were the three most commonly cited reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by young people in NSW (59.5%, 38.3% and 36.0% respectively).

- Around one third of respondents from NSW indicated that *religion* (35.3%) and *gender* (33.6%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

Figure 4.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed
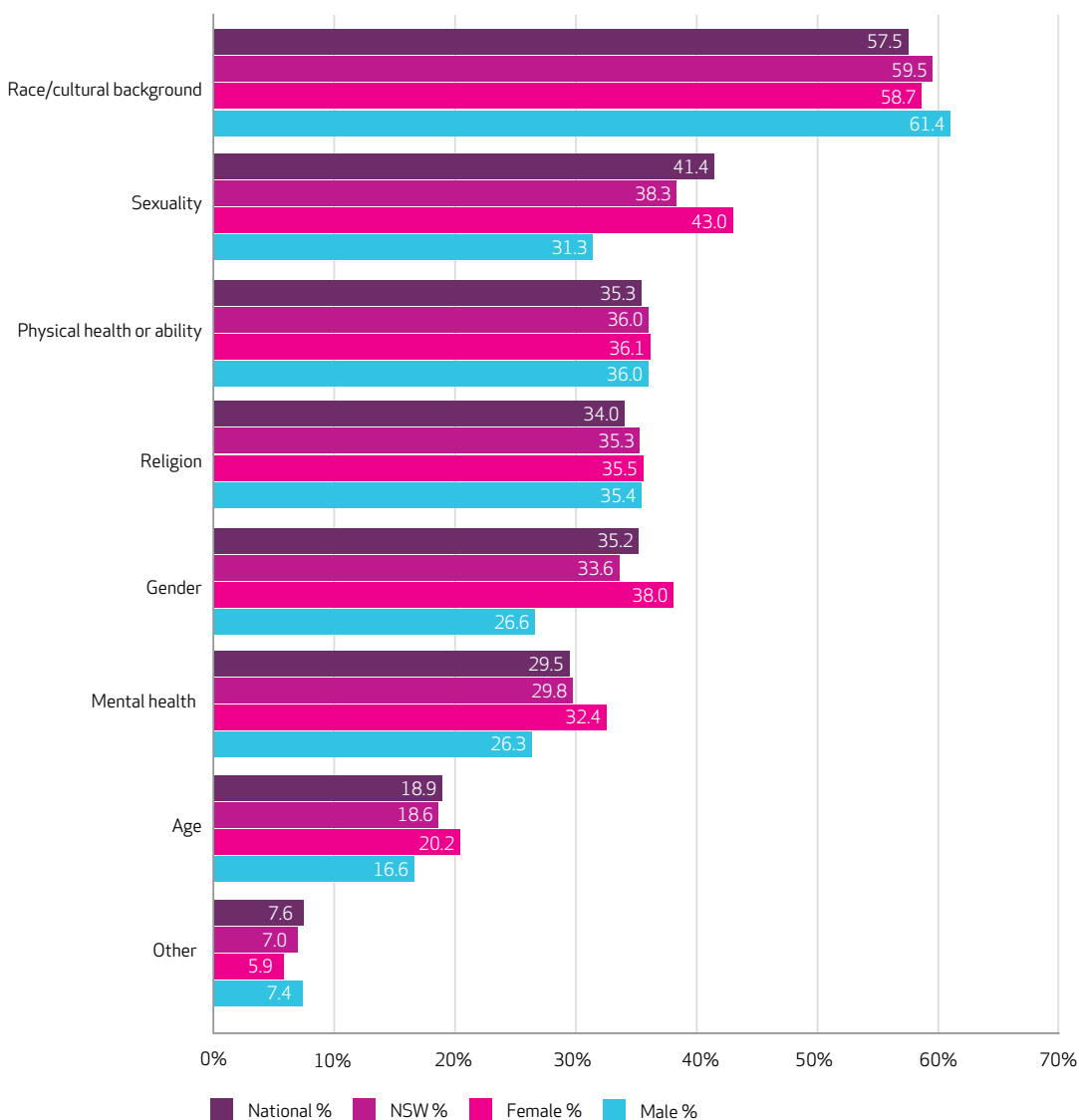
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 4.8, the top reason identified for unfair treatment or discrimination as witnessed by both genders was consistent with national and NSW results. For females, the second top reason cited was *sexuality*, followed by *gender*. Conversely, for males the number two reason was *physical health or ability*, followed by *religion*.

- Six in ten (61.4%) male respondents and 58.7% of female respondents from NSW indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

- Just over four in ten (43.0%) females and around three in ten (31.3%) males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.

- A greater proportion of female (38.0%) than male (26.6%) respondents from NSW indicated that *gender* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed, while similar proportions of females and males indicated that *physical health or ability* (36.1% compared with 36.0%) and *religion* (35.5% compared with 35.4% respectively) were reasons.

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 in 2015 and 2014. 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 2016.

- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (52.9%).

- Over four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (44.2%) and around three in ten had participated in *religious groups or activities* (32.6%) and *youth groups and clubs* (31.1%).

- Around one quarter of young people from NSW (25.2%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 4.7 the top three activities for both genders were consistent with NSW and national results, although greater proportions of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, and *sports (as a spectator)*.

- 82.6% of male respondents and 74.6% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.

- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (73.4% compared with 63.5%).

- A higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work* (63.0% compared with 47.7%).

- Overall, greater proportions of female than male respondents from NSW were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* and *student leadership activities* (59.4% and 49.2% compared with 45.2% and 38.7% respectively).

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

	National %	NSW 2016 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2015 %	NSW 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.7**	**78.1**	**74.6**	**82.6**	**74.6**	**73.5**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.0**	**68.1**	**63.5**	**73.4**	**66.8**	**65.9**
Volunteer work	**53.5**	**56.0**	**63.0**	**47.7**	**53.2**	**56.8**
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	52.9	59.4	45.2	52.1	53.0
Student leadership activities	42.5	44.2	49.2	38.7	44.4	45.0
Religious groups or activities	28.7	32.6	35.0	30.0	34.8	37.8
Youth groups and clubs	30.6	31.1	32.5	29.7	36.1	36.0
Environmental groups or activities	24.6	25.2	26.1	23.8	21.1	23.6
Political groups or organisations	8.7	8.3	7.7	8.6	8.3	8.4

Note: 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[1], 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 (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 a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (17.4% compared with 10.3%).

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[1] 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
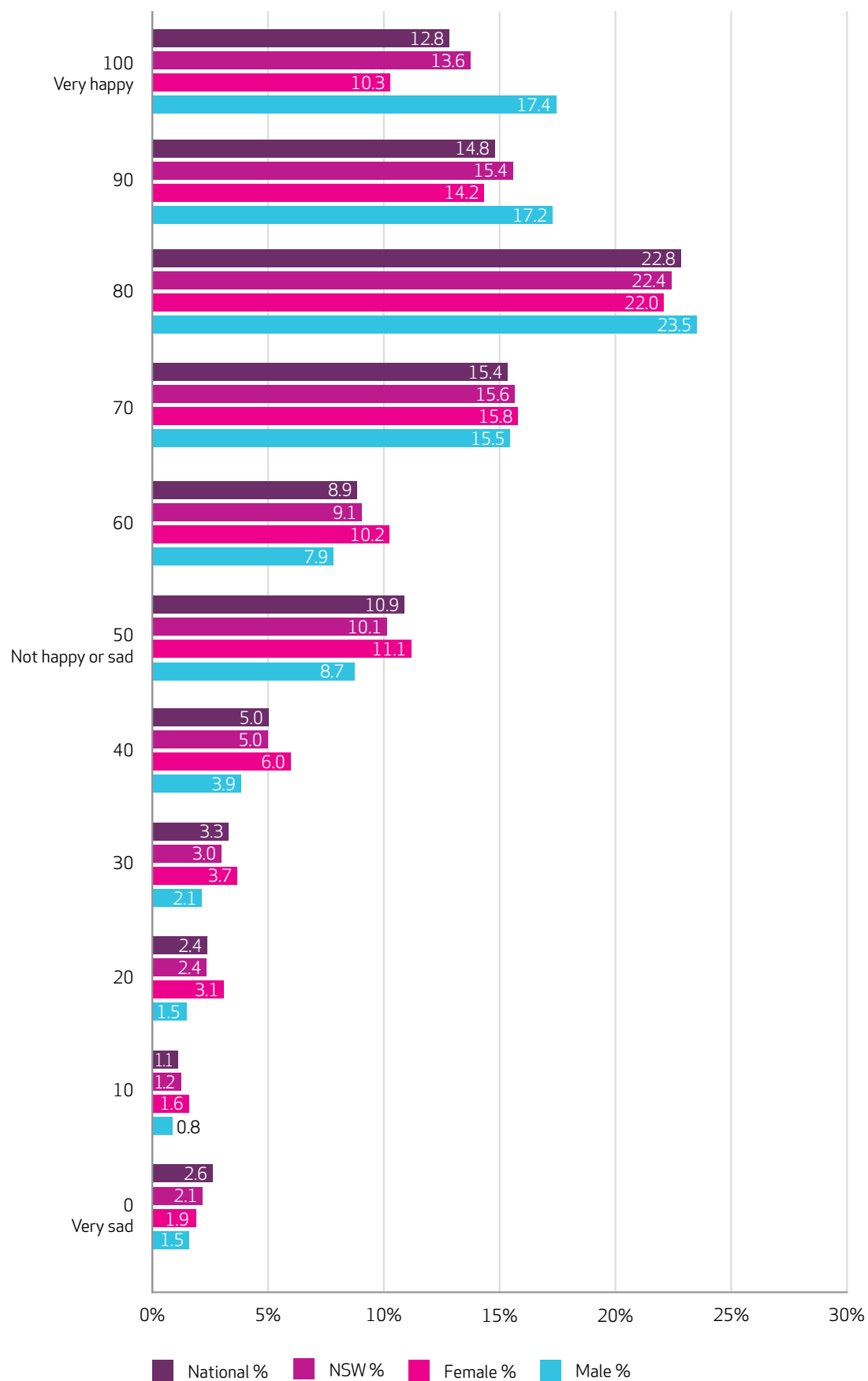
	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
100 Very happy	12.8	13.6	10.3	17.4
90	14.8	15.4	14.2	17.2
80	22.8	22.4	22.0	23.5
70	15.4	15.6	15.8	15.5
60	8.9	9.1	10.2	7.9
50 Not happy or sad	10.9	10.1	11.1	8.7
40	5.0	5.0	6.0	3.9
30	3.3	3.0	3.7	2.1
20	2.4	2.4	3.1	1.5
10	1.1	1.2	1.6	0.8
0 Very sad	2.6	2.1	1.9	1.5

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 4.8 shows that, in line with the national results, around two thirds of respondents from NSW felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people from NSW felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

• Around two thirds of respondents from NSW felt either *positive* (47.2%) or *very positive* (17.9%) about the future.

• Around one quarter of respondents (25.9%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

• 6.5% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.5% felt *very negative*.

• Males and females from NSW were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A larger proportion of male than female respondents, however, indicated feeling *very positive* (20.5% compared with 15.7% for females).

Table 4.8: Feelings about the future

	National %	NSW 2016 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2015 %	NSW 2014 %
Very positive	17.3	17.9	15.7	20.5	15.2	15.6
Positive	47.1	47.2	47.2	48.2	46.8	47.3
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	25.9	27.6	23.8	28.5	28.0
Negative	6.5	6.5	7.4	5.2	7.5	6.7
Very negative	3.0	2.5	2.1	2.3	1.9	2.4

Northern Territory

Profile of respondents

In total, 242 young people from Northern Territory (NT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (54.0%) of respondents from the NT were male and 46.0% were female.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 59 (24.9%) respondents from the NT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 44 (18.6%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 10 (4.2%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 2.1% identified as both). A higher proportion of female than male respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (24.7% compared with 20.0%).

Language background other than English

A total of 57 (24.4%) respondents from the NT stated that they were born overseas and 68 (29.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 10 languages spoken at home in NT, the most common were (in order of frequency): Indigenous languages, Filipino/Tagalog and Spanish.

Disability

A total of 4 (2.0%) respondents from the NT indicated that they had a disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 5.1, 85.9% of respondents from the NT were studying full-time. A higher proportion of female respondents reported that they were studying full-time than male respondents (93.9% compared with 85.1%), while a greater proportion of males (9.6%) than females (4.1%) reported not studying at all.

Respondents who reported 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 previous years, the majority of respondents from the NT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (11.6%) or *satisfied* (48.1%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (5.1% and 4.6% respectively). As shown in Table 5.2, a slightly higher proportion of females than males from the NT reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (12.8% and 52.1% of females compared with 8.8% and 47.1% of males respectively).

Table 5.1: Participation in education

	National %	NT %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.6	85.9	93.9	85.1
Studying part-time	2.2	4.1	2.0	5.3
Not studying	3.2	10.0	4.1	9.6

Table 5.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	NT 2016 %	Female %	Male %	NT 2015 %	NT 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.0	11.6	12.8	8.8	17.7	18.8
Satisfied	55.9	48.1	52.1	47.1	58.1	45.3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	30.6	29.8	34.3	15.2	25.8
Dissatisfied	4.2	4.6	5.3	4.9	6.6	7.8
Very dissatisfied	1.5	5.1	0.0	4.9	2.5	2.3

Of those who were still at school in the NT, 92.7% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Around twice the proportion of males indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (8.2% compared with 4.4% respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. 15.8% respondents from the NT indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course. Twice the proportion of males than females indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (20.4% compared with 10.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 5.1 shows that almost six in ten respondents from the NT planned to go to university after school (57.7%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (32.7%) and to travel or go on a gap year (32.2%) after school. Overall, 13.9% of young people from the NT planned to undertake an apprenticeship and 5.3% reported plans to attend TAFE or college. A small minority of respondents (1.9%) 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 the NT, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (66.7% compared with 51.0% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (37.8% compared with 26.0%) and to get a job (36.7% compared with 31.0%). A much greater proportion of males indicated that they were planning to undertake an apprenticeship (23.0% compared with 5.6% of females).

Figure 5.1: Plans after leaving school
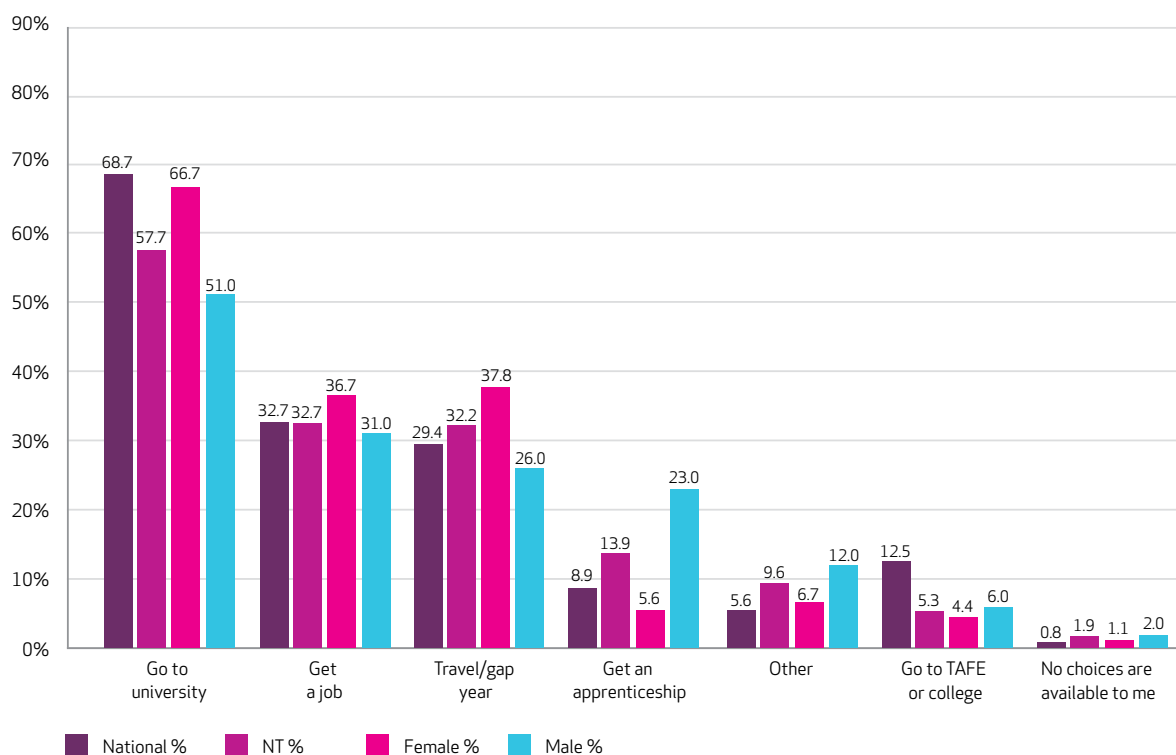
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 5.2 shows the percentage of respondents from the NT who indicated each item as being an influence. In the NT, the top three influences on young people's post-school plans were *parents, other family members* and the *internet*.

- *Parents*, *other family members* and the *internet* were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans (79.2%, 69.5% and 67.1% respectively).

- Just under two thirds (65.5%) of respondents indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans while just less than half (45.7%) indicated that their *teacher* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

Figure 5.2: Influences on post-school plans

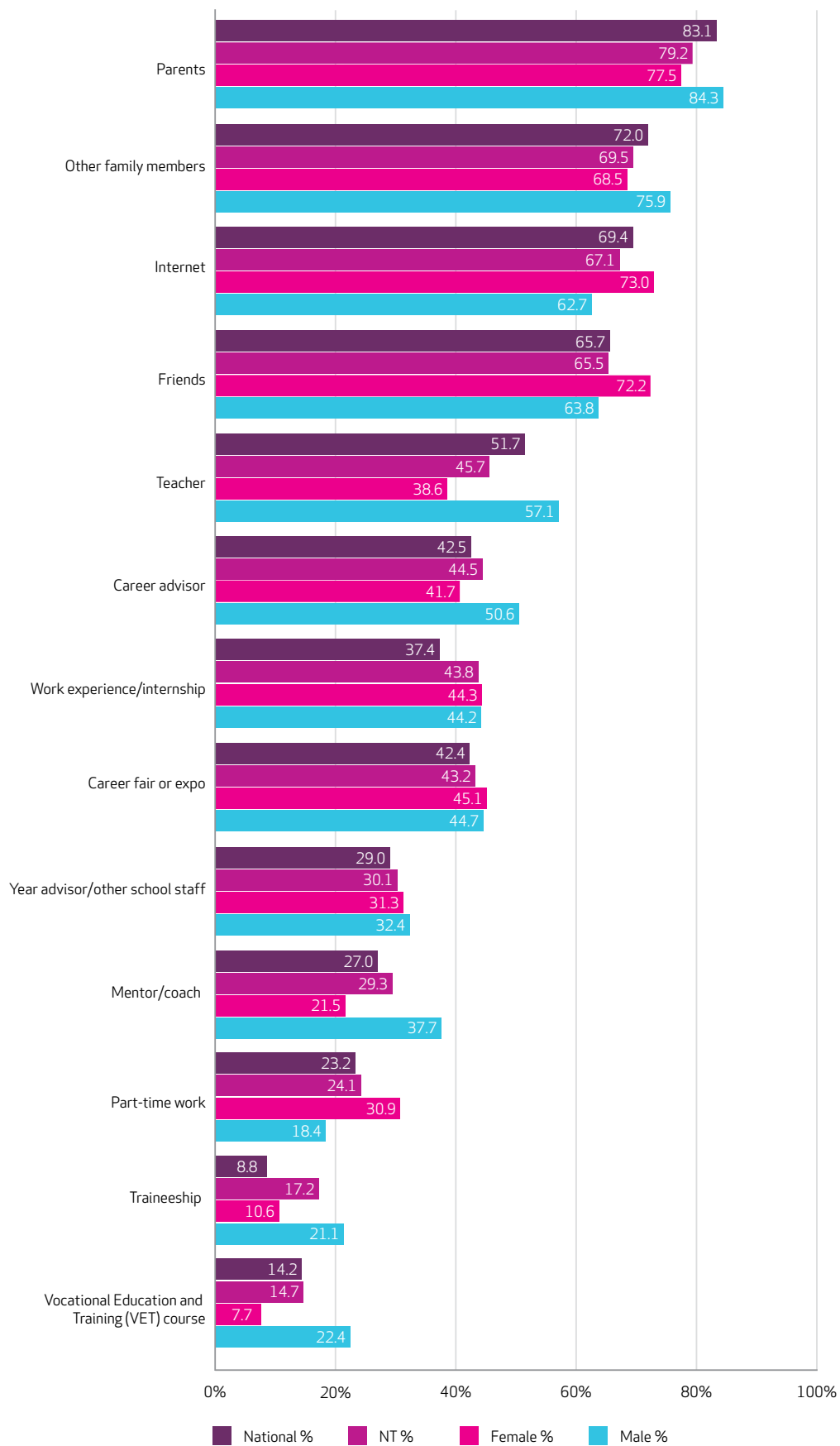|	Parents	Other family members	Internet	Friends	Teacher	Career advisor	Work experience/internship	Career fair or expo	Year advisor/other school staff	Mentor/coach	Part-time work	Traineeship	Vocational Education and Training (VET) course
National %	83.1	72.0	69.4	65.7	51.7	42.5	37.4	42.4	29.0	27.0	23.2	8.8	14.2
NT %	79.2	69.5	67.1	65.5	45.7	44.5	43.8	43.2	30.1	29.3	24.1	17.2	14.7
Female %	77.5	68.5	73.0	72.2	38.6	41.7	44.3	45.1	31.3	21.5	30.9	10.6	7.7
Male %	84.3	75.9	62.7	63.8	57.1	50.6	44.2	44.7	32.4	37.7	18.4	21.1	22.4

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 5.2, there were some notable differences in the top three influences each gender identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans. For females, the number one influence was *parents*, followed by the *internet* and then *friends*, while for males the top influence was *parents*, followed by *other family members* and then *friends*. A greater proportion of males than females indicated that they saw *parents* and *other family members* as influencing their post-school plans, while a greater proportion of females than males indicated that the *internet* and *friends* were influences on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

- Around eight in ten male and female respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (84.3% of males compared with 77.5% of females). Three quarters (75.9%) of males and close to seven in ten (68.5%) females indicated that *other family members* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

- Close to three quarters (73.0%) of females and just over six in ten (62.7%) males indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their post-school plans.

- A greater proportion of female (72.2%) than male (63.8%) respondents indicated that *friends* were an influence on their post-school plans.

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. In line with national results, only a tiny minority (1.8%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Four in ten (40.1%) respondents from the NT reported part-time employment. Just under six in ten NT respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 30.4% looking for work and 27.8% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from the NT reported full-time employment (1.9% compared with 1.1% respectively), while there was a higher proportion of female respondents employed part-time (47.3% compared with 33.0%). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (35.8% compared with 28.0%).

Table 5.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NT %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	1.8	1.1	1.9
Employed part-time	38.5	40.1	47.3	33.0
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.1	30.4	28.0	35.8
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	25.8	27.8	23.7	29.2

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 2016 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 5.3 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. The three most highly valued items for respondents from NT this year were *family relationships, friendships* and *physical and mental health*. The next most valued item for NT respondents was *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 73.9% of respondents from the NT (*extremely important*: 44.1%; *very important*: 29.8%). *Friendships* were also valued highly by 66.4% of respondents (*extremely important*: 31.9%; *very important*: 34.5%).

- Close to two thirds of respondents highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 33.9%; *very important*: 30.1%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 26.6%; *very important*: 36.7%).

- Around four in ten NT respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 14.8%; *very important*: 28.7%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 18.6%; *very important*: 20.3%).

Figure 5.3: 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 was the most highly valued item by both males and females in the NT, as shown in Table 5.4. The second most highly valued item for females was *friendships*, followed by *school or study satisfaction*, while the second most highly valued item for males was *physical and mental health*, followed by *friendships*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 84.7% of females (*extremely important*: 51.0%; *very important*: 33.7%) compared with 71.5% of males (*extremely important*: 41.1%; *very important*: 30.4%).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 80.6% of females (*extremely important*: 39.8%; *very important*: 40.8%) compared with 56.2% of males (*extremely important*: 24.1%; *very important*: 32.1%).

- Around three quarters (75.3%) of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 28.9%; *very important*: 46.4%) compared with 55.8% of males (*extremely important*: 24.8%; *very important*: 31.0%).

- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 67.4% of females (*extremely important*: 33.7%; *very important*: 33.7%) and 63.9% of males (*extremely important*: 34.2%; *very important*: 29.7%) in the NT.

Table 5.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	**51.0**	**33.7**	8.2	7.1	0.0
Friendships (other than family)	**39.8**	**40.8**	16.3	1.0	2.0
Physical and mental health	33.7	33.7	21.4	7.1	4.1
School or study satisfaction	**28.9**	**46.4**	18.6	5.2	1.0
Financial security	8.2	36.1	32.0	15.5	8.2
Getting a job	8.2	28.9	26.8	18.6	17.5

Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	**41.1**	**30.4**	17.0	2.7	8.9
Friendships (other than family)	**24.1**	**32.1**	28.6	6.3	8.9
Physical and mental health	**34.2**	**29.7**	14.4	11.7	9.9
School or study satisfaction	24.8	31.0	23.0	7.1	14.2
Financial security	17.0	27.7	25.0	14.3	16.1
Getting a job	24.1	13.4	29.5	15.2	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 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 5.4. 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 from the NT 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 top two issues was reversed.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern, with 40.2% of respondents from the NT indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (16.9%) or *very concerned* (23.3%) about this issue.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 39.9% (*extremely concerned*: 19.7%; *very concerned*: 20.2%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 30.4% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 15.4%; *very concerned*: 15.0%).

- Around one quarter of respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 5.4: Issues of personal concern to young people
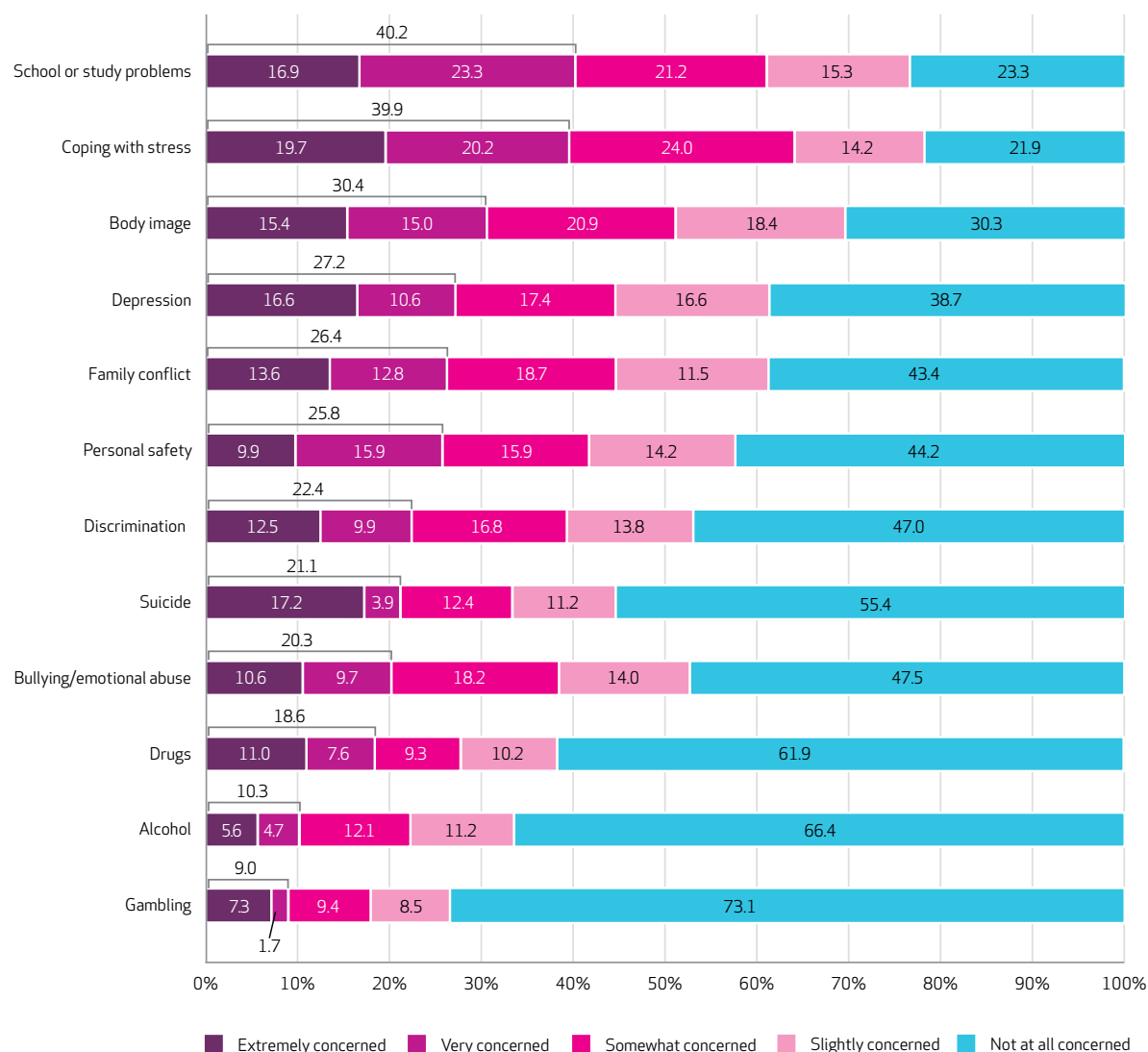
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

School or study problems and *coping with stress* were among the top two issues of concern for both males and females in the NT, as highlighted in Table 5.5. 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 *personal safety*.

- For almost six in ten females from the NT *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 24.7%; *very concerned*: 33.0%), compared with around one quarter of all males (*extremely concerned*: 12.1%; *very concerned*: 12.1%).

- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 53.1% (*extremely concerned*: 18.4%; *very concerned*: 34.7%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 32.1% of males (*extremely concerned*: 13.8%; *very concerned*: 18.3%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 46.4% (*extremely concerned*: 23.7%; *very concerned*: 22.7%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 13.9% (*extremely concerned*: 5.6%; *very concerned*: 8.3%) of males.

- For 27.8% of females (*extremely concerned*: 8.2%; *very concerned*: 19.6%) and 23.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.3%; *very concerned*: 13.9%) *personal safety* was a major concern.

Table 5.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
School or study problems	**18.4**	**34.7**	23.5	11.2	12.2
Coping with stress	**24.7**	**33.0**	23.7	13.4	5.2
Body image	**23.7**	**22.7**	21.6	21.6	10.3
Depression	14.4	16.5	25.8	16.5	26.8
Family conflict	12.4	20.6	20.6	15.5	30.9
Personal safety	8.2	19.6	23.7	12.4	36.1
Discrimination	9.5	11.6	20.0	20.0	38.9
Suicide	17.5	5.2	14.4	13.4	49.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.1	12.2	21.4	17.3	41.8
Drugs	7.1	7.1	11.2	8.2	66.3
Alcohol	2.1	5.2	10.4	15.6	66.7
Gambling	4.1	0.0	9.2	8.2	78.6

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
School or study problems	**13.8**	**18.3**	20.2	20.2	27.5
Coping with stress	**12.1**	**12.1**	25.2	17.8	32.7
Body image	5.6	8.3	23.1	17.6	45.4
Depression	13.6	5.5	14.5	16.4	50.0
Family conflict	10.1	7.3	20.2	9.2	53.2
Personal safety	**9.3**	**13.9**	12.0	16.7	48.1
Discrimination	9.2	8.3	16.5	10.1	56.0
Suicide	13.1	1.9	11.2	9.3	64.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	9.1	7.3	18.2	12.7	52.7
Drugs	9.2	9.2	7.3	11.9	62.4
Alcohol	2.8	3.7	15.0	8.4	70.1
Gambling	5.6	3.7	9.3	11.1	70.4

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 5.5 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 (75.0%, 66.8% and 59.2% respectively).

- Around half of respondents from the NT indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for help with important issues in their lives.

- Four in ten respondents indicated that they would go to the *internet* and one third indicated that they would go to their *teacher* for help with important issues.

Figure 5.5: Where young people go for help with important issues
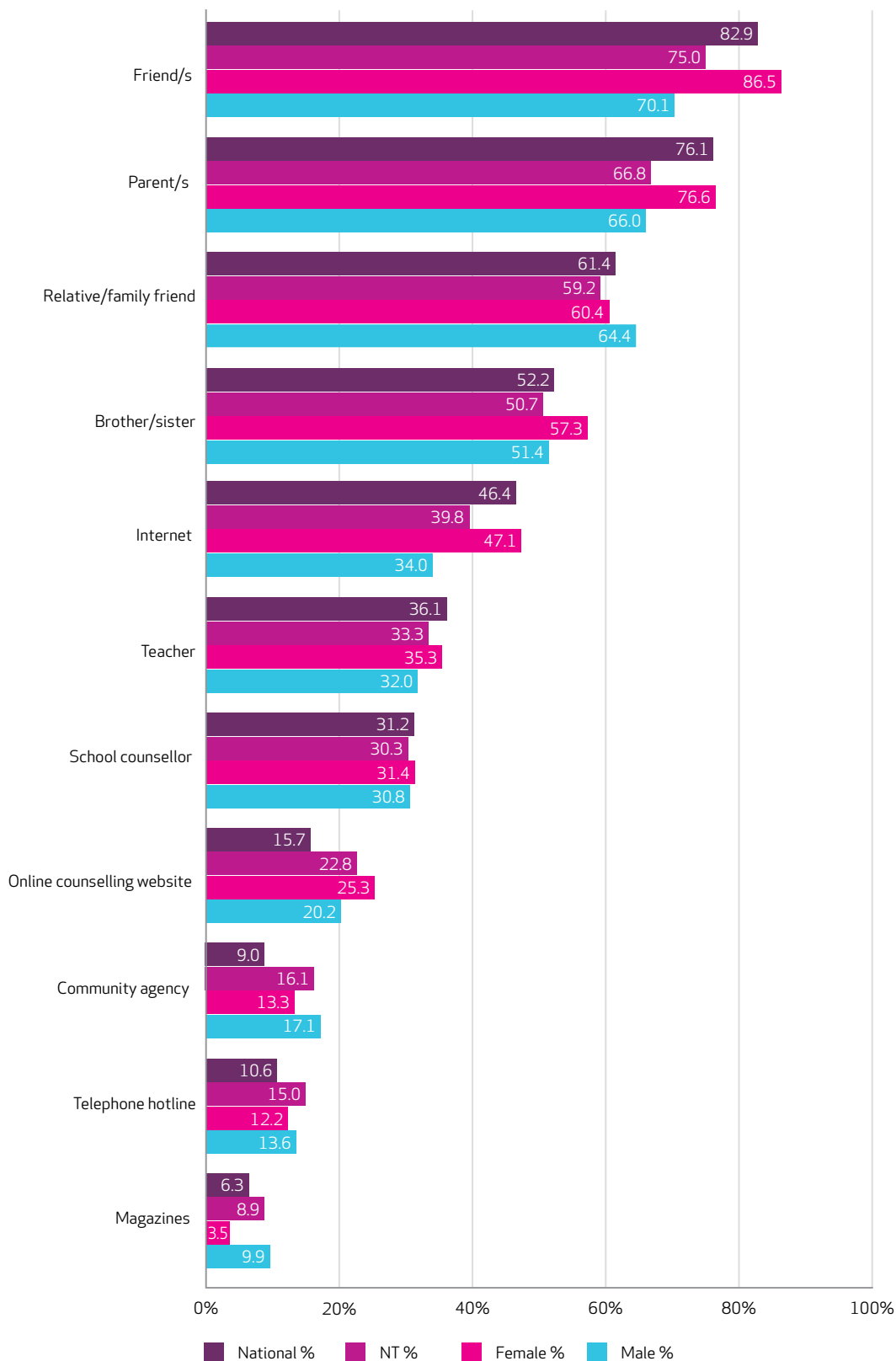
	National %	NT %	Female %	Male %
Friend/s	82.9	75.0	86.5	70.1
Parent/s	76.1	66.8	76.6	66.0
Relative/family friend	61.4	59.2	60.4	64.4
Brother/sister	52.2	50.7	57.3	51.4
Internet	46.4	39.8	47.1	34.0
Teacher	36.1	33.3	35.3	32.0
School counsellor	31.2	30.3	31.4	30.8
Online counselling website	15.7	22.8	25.3	20.2
Community agency	9.0	16.1	13.3	17.1
Telephone hotline	10.6	15.0	12.2	13.6
Magazines	6.3	8.9	3.5	9.9

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 5.5, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with NT and national results. However, greater proportions 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*.

- Close to nine in ten (86.5%) female respondents and seven in ten (70.1%) male respondents in the NT indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.

- A higher proportion of female than male respondents indicated they would go to *parent/s* (76.6% compared with 66.0%), while a higher proportion of males indicated that they would go to *relatives/family friends* (64.4% compared with 60.4%) for help.

- A greater proportion of females than males from NT would go to their *brother/sister* (57.3% compared with 51.4%), the *internet* (47.1% compared with 34.0%) and *online counselling websites* (25.3% compared with 20.2%).

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 5.6 shows that, in line with national results, most respondents from the NT rated their family's ability to get along positively, with 26.5% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 22.7% that it was *very good*. However, close to three in ten young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (13.9%) or *poor* (13.4%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 5.6: Family's ability to get along
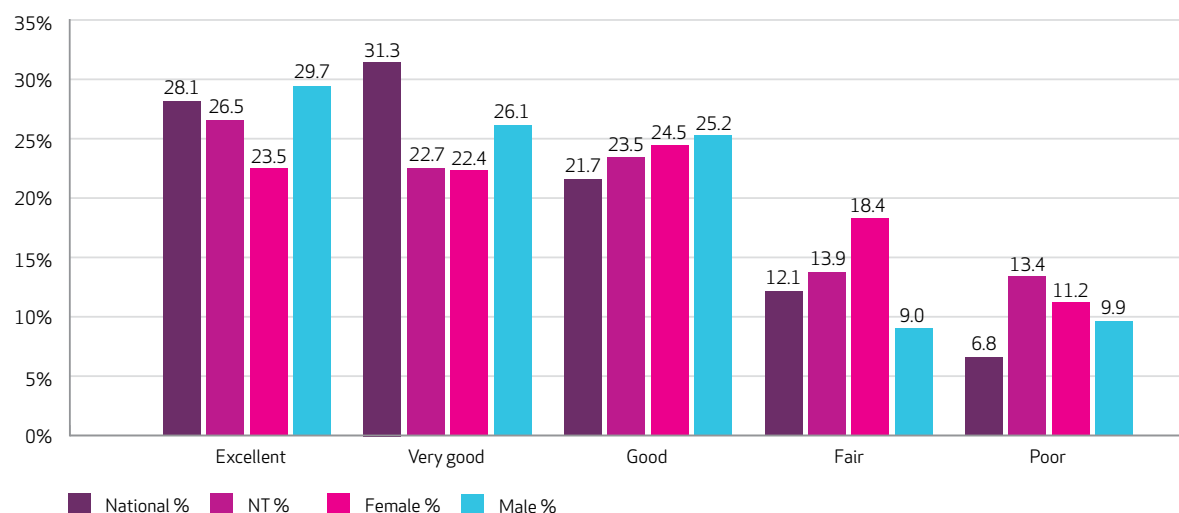
National % | NT % | Female % | Male %

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 5.6. In 2016 the top three issues identified by young people from the NT were *alcohol and drugs, equity and discrimination* and *mental health*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally.

- Just over one third of young people from the NT identified *alcohol and drugs* (35.8%) as an important issue in Australia today.

- Around one in five respondents identified *equity and discrimination* (21.6%) and 16.8% identified *mental health* as major issues.

- Since 2014, *equity and discrimination, population issues* and *abuse* have been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation among respondents from the NT. Conversely, mentions of *bullying* and *education* 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 the NT. While *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were among the top issues for both males and females, the other issue making up their top three differed. For females, the number one issue was *alcohol and drugs*, followed by *mental health* and then *equity and discrimination*. For males, *alcohol and drugs* was the number one issue, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *politics*.

- Around four in ten male and female respondents from the NT (41.9% and 36.7% respectively) identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue facing Australia today.

- A greater proportion of females than males identified *mental health* (29.1% compared with 9.3%) and *equity and discrimination* (24.1% compared with 19.8%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, a greater proportion of males than females identified *politics* (15.1% compared with 10.1%) as an important issue.

Table 5.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	NT 2016 %	Female %	Male %	NT 2015 %	NT 2014 %
Alcohol and drugs	**28.7**	**35.8**	**36.7**	**41.9**	**40.8**	**36.2**
Equity and discrimination	**27.0**	**21.6**	**24.1**	**19.8**	**20.6**	12.1
Mental health	**20.6**	**16.8**	**29.1**	9.3	**19.7**	**23.5**
Population issues	16.0	14.2	19.0	7.0	12.4	12.1
The environment	11.5	13.7	20.3	9.3	6.9	8.7
Crime, safety and violence	12.8	11.6	11.4	11.6	14.2	7.4
Politics	12.8	11.6	10.1	**15.1**	12.8	12.8
The economy and financial matters	14.7	11.1	10.1	10.5	11.5	11.4
Bullying	10.1	9.5	8.9	10.5	10.6	10.7
Education	11.6	8.4	8.9	7.0	13.8	**19.5**
International relations	16.2	7.4	1.3	14.0	8.7	0.7
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues	3.4	6.3	3.8	7.0	7.8	6.0
Abuse	3.7	5.8	8.9	3.5	2.3	1.3
Health	10.3	5.8	6.3	5.8	7.3	5.4
Technology	1.9	5.8	2.5	8.1	0.9	3.4

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. In the NT, four in ten (39.6%) young people indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (42.9% of females compared with 31.5% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 4.7. The top three reasons indicated by respondents in the NT for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *race/cultural background*, *gender* and *religion*.

- *Race/cultural background*, *gender* and *religion* were the three most commonly cited reasons for young people's reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (50.5%, 46.2% and 31.2% respectively).

- Around three in ten respondents from the NT indicated that *age* (29.0%) was the reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

Figure 5.7: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced
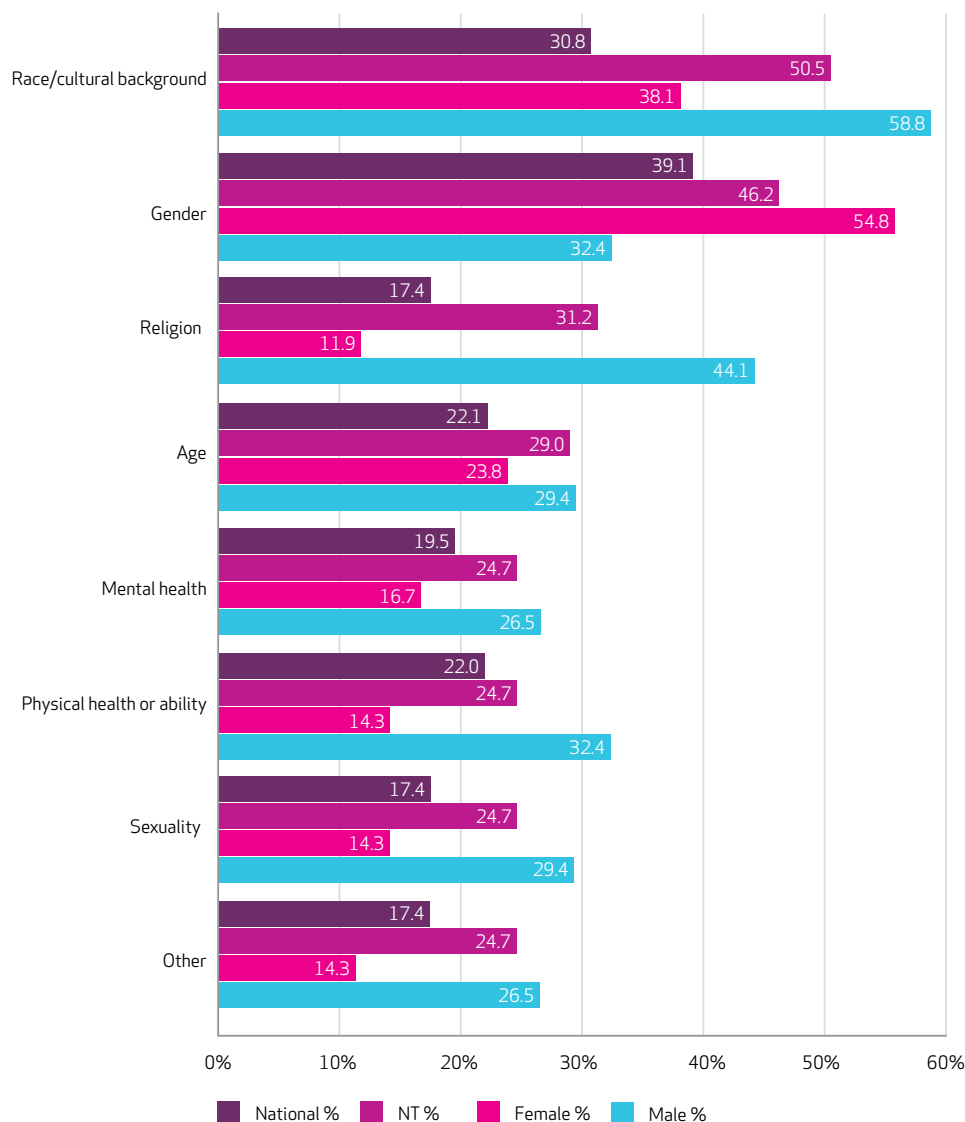
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by male and female respondents in the NT, as shown in Figure 5.7. The top reason identified by males was *race/cultural background*, followed by *religion* and then *gender* and *physical health or ability* in equal third position. The top reason identified by females was *gender*, followed by *race/cultural background* and then *age*.

- Close to six in ten (58.8%) male respondents and around four in ten (38.1%) female respondents from the NT indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Just over half (54.8%) of females and close to one third (32.4%) of males indicated that *gender* was a reason for their reported experienced of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A greater proportion of male than female respondents from the NT indicated that *religion* and *physical health or ability* were reasons why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (44.1% and 32.4% compared with 11.9% and 14.3% respectively). Despite ranking higher up the list for female respondents, a greater proportion of males than females also indicated that *age* was a perceived reason (29.4% compared with 23.8%).

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were also asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Overall, close to six in ten (56.5%) young people in the NT indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (62.2% of females compared with 50.9% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 5.8. The top three reasons cited for unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents in the NT were *race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *gender*.

- *Race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *gender* were the three most commonly cited reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by young people in the NT (65.7%, 42.5% and 39.6% respectively).

- Around four in ten respondents from the NT indicated that *physical health or ability* (38.8%) and *religion* (37.3%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

Figure 5.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed
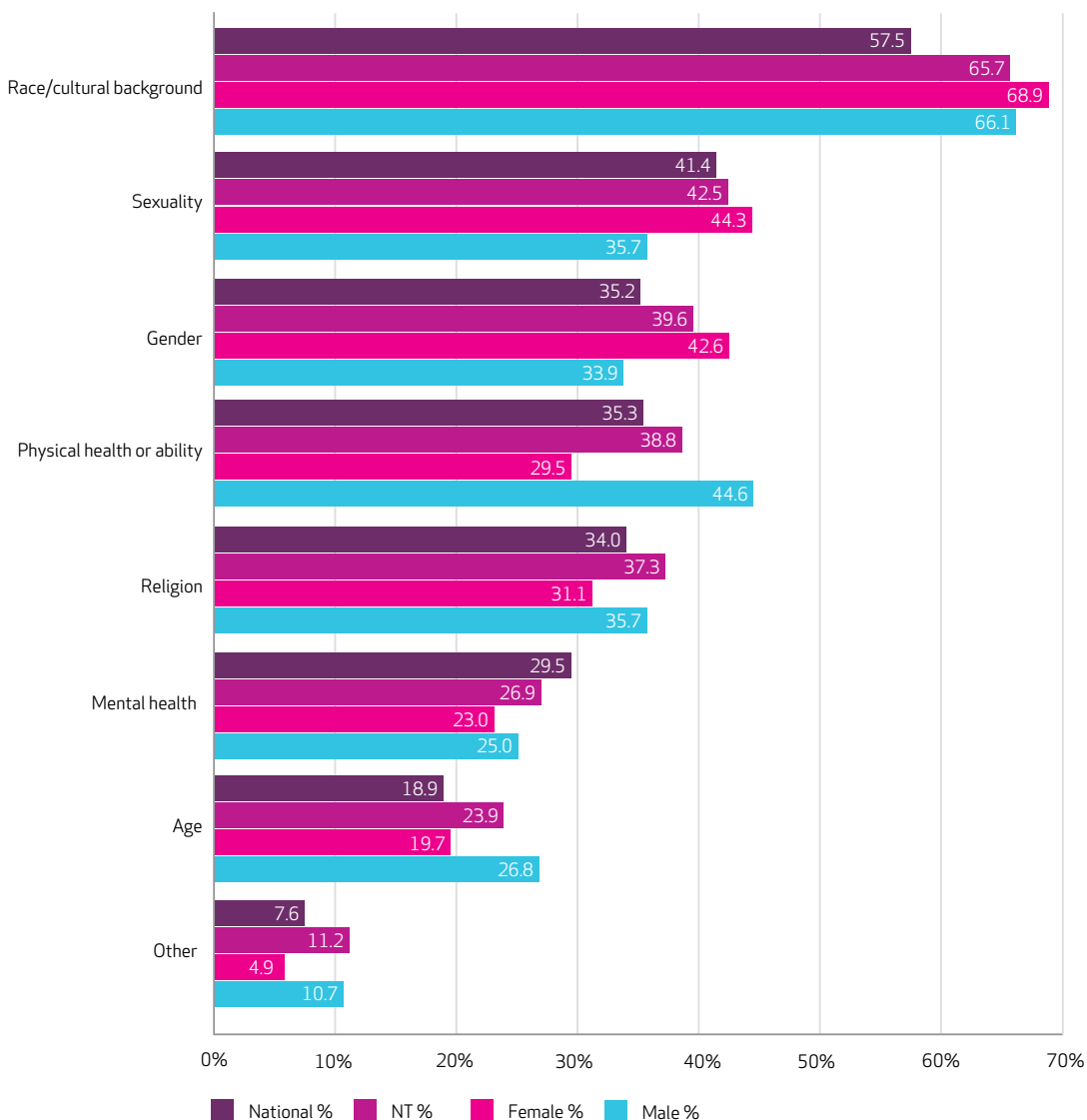
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 5.8, the top reason identified for unfair treatment or discrimination as witnessed by both genders was consistent with national results. For males the second top reason was *physical health or ability*, followed by *sexuality* and *religion* in equal third position. For females, the second top reason was *sexuality*, followed by *gender*.

- Around two thirds of female and male respondents from the NT indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed (68.9% and 66.1% respectively).
- Just over four in ten (44.6%) males and three in ten (29.5%) females indicated that *physical health or ability* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.
- 44.3% females and just over one third (35.7%) of males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.
- A greater proportion of female (42.6%) than male (33.9%) respondents from the NT indicated that *gender* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

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 5.7. The top two activities for young people from the NT, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. 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 the NT in 2016.
- Just over half (53.8%) of respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work*.
- Just over one third of young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (36.8%) and *youth groups and clubs* (35.2%).
- Around three in ten young people from the NT had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (31.7%) and *religious groups or activities* (28.8%) over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 5.7 *sports (as a participant)* was the top activity for both genders. For females, the second top activity was *volunteer work*, followed by *arts/cultural/music activities*. For males, the second top activity was *sports (as a spectator)*, followed by *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 78.8% of male respondents and 71.6% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A greater proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (66.0% compared with 62.8%).
- Overall, a higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved with *volunteer work* (70.9% compared with 44.3%) and *arts/cultural/music activities* (68.5% compared with 51.5%).

Table 5.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	NT 2016 %	Female %	Male %	NT 2015 %	NT 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.7**	**71.4**	**71.6**	**78.8**	**69.8**	**66.2**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.0**	**60.8**	62.8	**66.0**	**60.6**	**62.8**
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	**56.4**	**68.5**	**51.5**	**61.6**	51.0
Volunteer work	**53.5**	53.8	**70.9**	44.3	60.2	52.3
Student leadership activities	42.5	36.8	50.0	30.3	48.1	45.2
Youth groups and clubs	30.6	35.2	39.8	35.0	45.3	**53.1**
Environmental groups or activities	24.6	31.7	35.8	28.1	33.0	34.5
Religious groups or activities	28.7	28.8	27.2	29.2	34.3	24.1
Political groups or organisations	8.7	10.5	11.5	8.5	17.1	23.7

Note: 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[1], 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 (57.1%) 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 a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they felt *very happy* (19.6% compared with 8.2%) or *very sad* (8.9% compared with 2.1%) with their lives as a whole.

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

Figure 5.9: How happy young people are
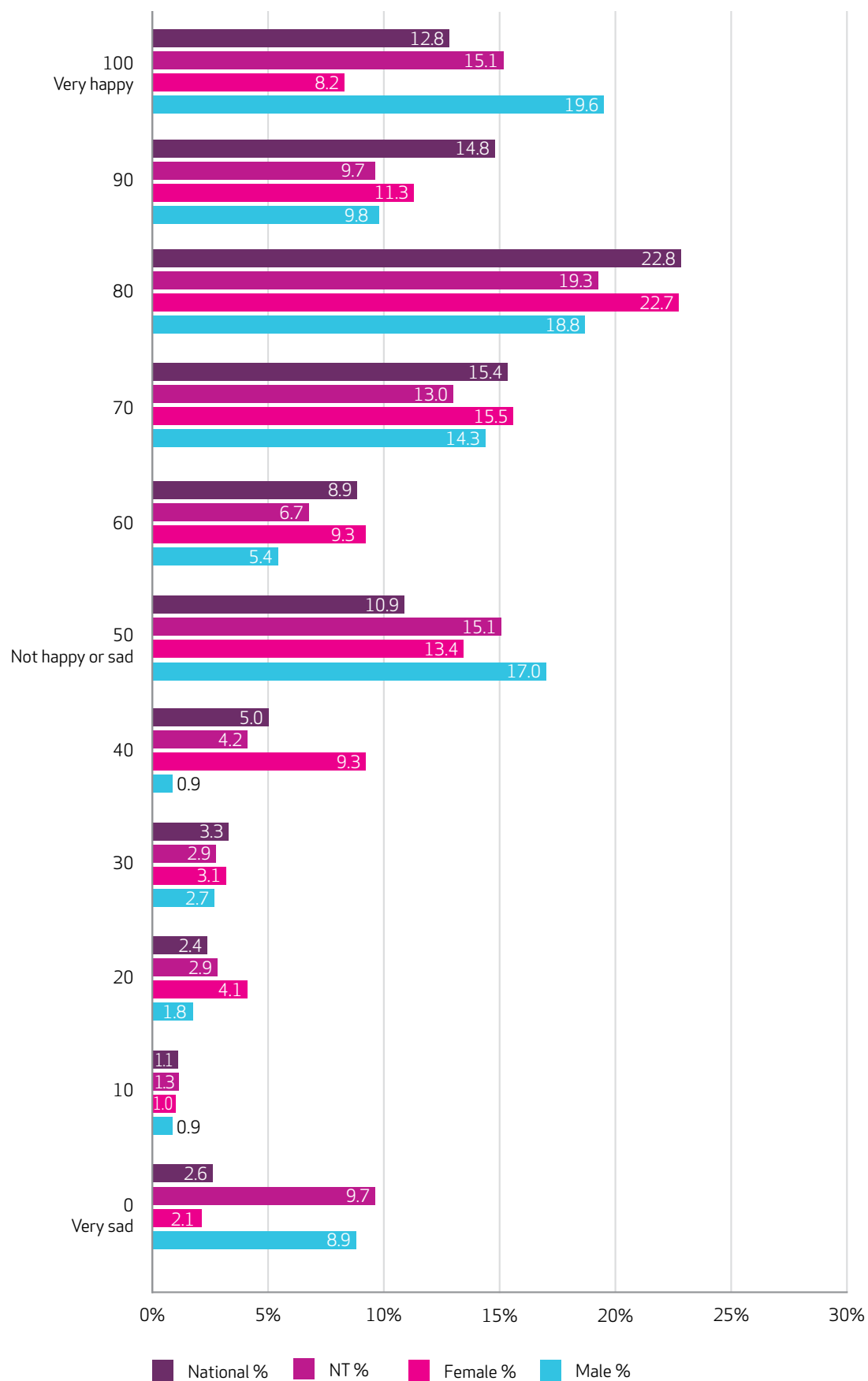
Figure 5.9: How happy young people are

	National %	NT %	Female %	Male %
100 Very happy	12.8	15.1	8.2	19.6
90	14.8	9.7	11.3	9.8
80	22.8	19.3	22.7	18.8
70	15.4	13.0	15.5	14.3
60	8.9	6.7	9.3	5.4
50 Not happy or sad	10.9	15.1	13.4	17.0
40	5.0	4.2	9.3	0.9
30	3.3	2.9	3.1	2.7
20	2.4	2.9	4.1	1.8
10	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.9
0 Very sad	2.6	9.7	2.1	8.9

National %   NT %   Female %   Male %

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 5.8 shows that, in line with the national results, around six in ten respondents from the NT felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, around one in ten young people from the NT felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Around six in ten respondents from the NT felt either *positive* (35.9%) or *very positive* (19.8%) about the future.

- Three in ten respondents (30.4%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

- 6.3% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 7.6% felt *very negative*.

- Males and females from the NT were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A larger proportion of male than female respondents, however, indicated feeling *positive* or *very positive* (42.3% and 19.8% compared with 35.1% and 18.6% respectively).

Table 5.8: Feelings about the future

	National %	NT 2016 %	Female %	Male %	NT 2015 %	NT 2014 %
Very positive	17.3	19.8	18.6	19.8	13.1	15.8
Positive	47.1	35.9	35.1	42.3	47.6	43.0
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	30.4	36.1	25.2	28.8	24.2
Negative	6.5	6.3	7.2	6.3	6.1	9.7
Very negative	3.0	7.6	3.1	6.3	4.4	7.3

Queensland

Profile of respondents

In total, 4,361 young people from Queensland (QLD) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*.

Gender breakdown

Around half (52.1%) of respondents from Queensland were female and 47.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 302 (7.0%) respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 221 (5.1%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 52 (1.2%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.7% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (7.1% compared with 6.4%).

Language background other than English

A total of 614 (14.3%) respondents from Queensland stated that they were born overseas and 556 (12.9%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 70 languages spoken at home in Queensland, the most common were (in order of frequency): French, Samoan, Vietnamese, Chinese and Filipino/Tagalog.

Disability

A total of 150 (3.6%) respondents from Queensland indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (4.1%) than females (2.6%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in Queensland were (in order of frequency): autism, physical disability and learning disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 6.1, 94.4% of respondents from Queensland were studying full-time. A slightly greater proportion of female than male respondents reported that they were studying full-time (95.5% compared with 93.8% respectively), while a slightly greater proportion of males (4.0%) than females (2.9%) reported not studying at all.

Respondents who reported 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 previous years, the majority of respondents from Queensland reported that they were either *very satisfied* (16.1%) or *satisfied* (58.8%) with their studies. Less than one in twenty were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.2% and 3.1% respectively). As shown in Table 6.2, similar proportions of females and males from Queensland reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (15.9% and 61.5% of females and 16.5% and 57.3% of males respectively).

Table 6.1: Participation in education

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.6	94.4	95.5	93.8
Studying part-time	2.2	1.9	1.6	2.2
Not studying	3.2	3.7	2.9	4.0

Table 6.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	QLD 2016 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2015 %	QLD 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.0	16.1	15.9	16.5	17.9	16.9
Satisfied	55.9	58.8	61.5	57.3	57.6	59.7
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	20.8	18.8	22.4	19.6	19.1
Dissatisfied	4.2	3.1	3.2	2.8	3.9	3.4
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.8

Of those who were still at school in Queensland, 98.1% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Twice the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (2.4% compared with 1.3% respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. Around one in five (21.8%) respondents from Queensland indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course. A slightly greater proportion of males than females indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (22.8% compared with 20.5% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 6.1 shows that close to two thirds of respondents from Queensland planned to go to university after school (65.9%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (33.8%) and to travel or go on a gap year (26.1%) after school. Overall, 10.8% of young people from Queensland planned to undertake an apprenticeship and 10.4% reported plans to attend TAFE or college. A small proportion 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 Queensland, a much greater proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (72.5% compared with 59.4% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (30.6% compared with 21.4%). A much greater proportion of males indicated that they were planning to undertake an apprenticeship (17.9% compared with 4.0% of females).

Figure 6.1: Plans after leaving school
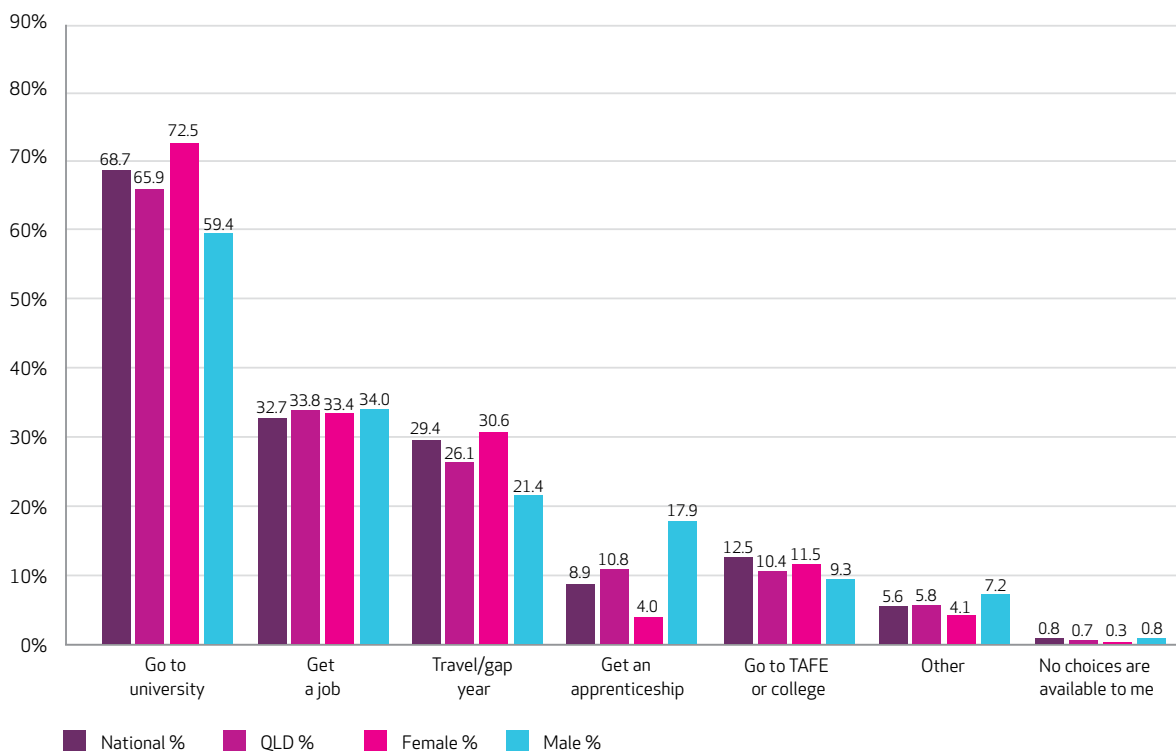
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 6.2 shows the percentage of respondents from Queensland who indicated each item as being an influence. In Queensland, the top three influences on young people's post-school plans were *parents*, *other family members* and the *internet*.

- *Parents*, *other family members* and the *internet* were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans (82.6%, 70.3% and 67.4% respectively).

- Just over six in ten (63.8%) respondents indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans while around half (48.4%) indicated that their *teacher* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

Figure 6.2: Influences on post-school plans

Parents
- 83.1
- 82.6
- 82.4
- 83.6

Other family members
- 72.0
- 70.3
- 71.3
- 69.8

Internet
- 69.4
- 67.4
- 70.0
- 64.6

Friends
- 65.7
- 63.8
- 63.7
- 64.1

Teacher
- 51.7
- 48.4
- 49.0
- 48.3

Career fair or expo
- 42.4
- 40.3
- 46.7
- 33.9

Career advisor
- 42.5
- 39.2
- 39.8
- 39.3

Work experience/internship
- 37.4
- 36.6
- 35.9
- 37.3

Mentor/coach
- 27.0
- 26.1
- 23.2
- 29.4

Year advisor/other school staff
- 29.0
- 25.1
- 25.4
- 25.1

Part-time work
- 23.2
- 24.7
- 24.8
- 24.7

Vocational Education and Training (VET) course
- 14.2
- 13.6
- 12.2
- 14.7

Traineeship
- 8.8
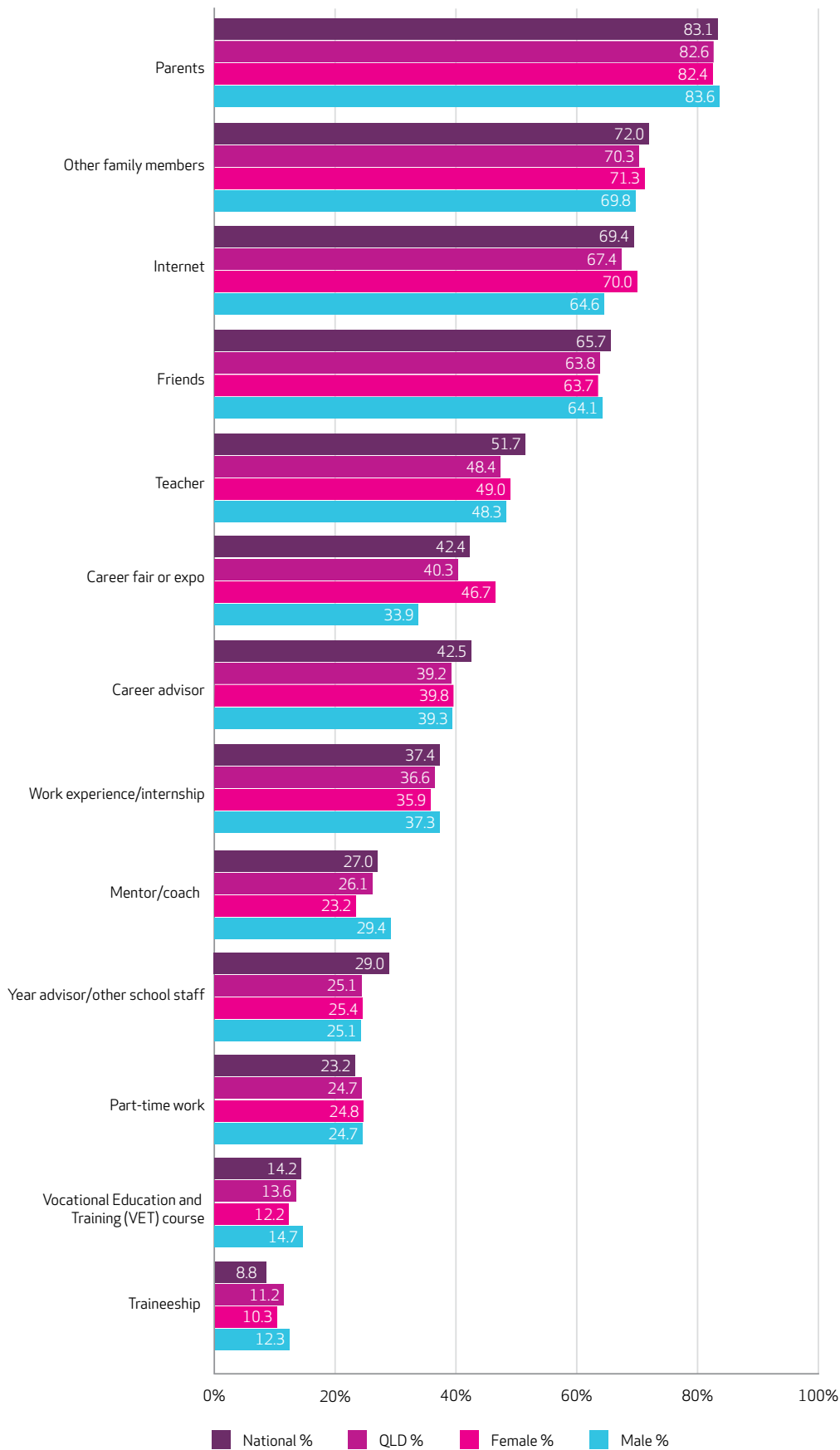- 11.2
- 10.3
- 12.3

Legend: National % QLD % Female % Male %

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 6.2, the top three influences which both genders identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans were consistent with Queensland and national results. Similar proportions of both females and males indicated that they saw *parents* and *other family members* influencing their post-school plans, while a greater proportion of females than males indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

- Just over eight in ten male and female respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (83.6% of males compared with 82.4% of females) and around seven in ten respondents from both genders indicated that *other family members* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school (71.3% of females compared with 69.8% of males).

- A greater proportion of female (70.0%) than male (64.6%) respondents indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their post-school plans.

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 national results, only a small proportion (0.5%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Almost four in ten (38.6%) respondents from Queensland reported part-time employment. Six in ten Queensland respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 39.4% looking for work and 21.5% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from Queensland reported full-time employment (0.8% compared with 0.2% respectively), while a greater proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (42.9% compared with 34.1%). Conversely, a slightly greater proportion of male than female respondents were looking for work (41.0% compared with 38.3%).

Table 6.3: Participation in paid employment

|	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.8
Employed part-time	38.5	38.6	42.9	34.1
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.1	39.4	38.3	41.0
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	25.8	21.5	18.5	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 2016 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 6.3 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 line with national results, the three most highly valued items for respondents from Queensland this year were *family relationships, friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most valued item for Queensland respondents was *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 79.2% of respondents from Queensland (*extremely important*: 47.1%; *very important*: 32.1%). *Friendships* were also valued highly by 78.4% of respondents (*extremely important*: 37.0%; *very important*: 41.4%).

- Around seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 33.5%; *very important*: 38.6%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 35.2%; *very important*: 34.1%).

- Around four in ten Queensland respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 15.1%; *very important*: 29.3%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 16.1%; *very important*: 27.0%).

Figure 6.3: What young people value
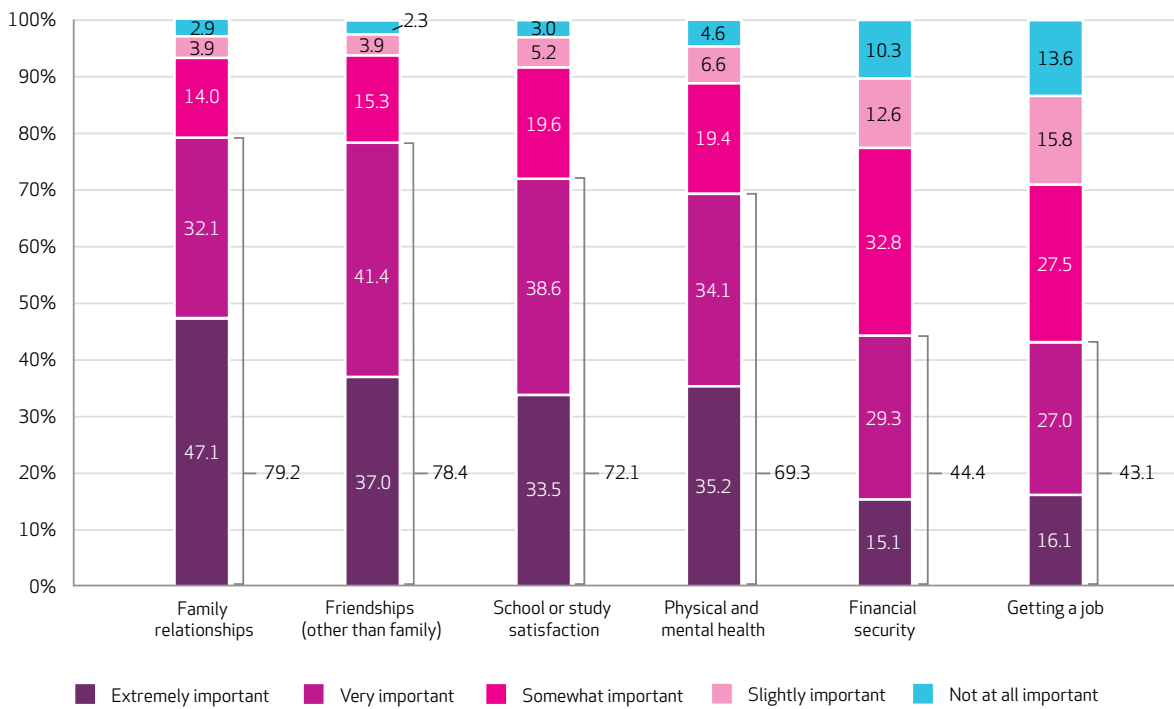
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Family relationships, friendships and *school or study satisfaction* were among the three most highly valued items by both males and females in Queensland, as shown in Table 6.4. However, the order of these items differed between genders. The most highly valued item for females from Queensland this year was *family relationships*, followed by *friendships* and then *school or study satisfaction*. Comparatively, the most highly valued item for males was *friendships*, followed by *family relationships* and then *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health* in equal third position.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 83.2% of females (*extremely important*: 53.0; *very important*: 30.2%) compared with 76.5% of males (*extremely important*: 41.5%; *very important*: 35.0%).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 80.5% of females (*extremely important*: 40.8%; *very important*: 39.7%) compared with 77.5% of males (*extremely important*: 33.2%; *very important*: 44.3%).

- 78.6% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 40.1%; *very important*: 38.5%) compared with 66.3% of males (*extremely important*: 26.7%; *very important*: 39.6%).

- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 72.9% of females (*extremely important*: 39.3%; *very important*: 33.6%) and 66.3% of males (*extremely important*: 30.7%; *very important*: 35.6%) in Queensland.

Table 6.4: What young people value by gender

| Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	**53.0**	**30.2**	11.2	3.5	2.1
Friendships (other than family)	**40.8**	**39.7**	14.2	3.9	1.4
School or study satisfaction	**40.1**	**38.5**	16.2	3.6	1.5
Physical and mental health	39.3	33.6	17.6	6.4	3.1
Financial security	15.9	31.1	34.0	11.1	8.0
Getting a job	16.0	28.1	28.3	16.2	11.4
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Family relationships	**41.5**	**35.0**	16.6	4.3	2.7
Friendships (other than family)	**33.2**	**44.3**	16.1	3.9	2.5
School or study satisfaction	**26.7**	**39.6**	23.2	6.9	3.6
Physical and mental health	**30.7**	**35.6**	21.5	6.9	5.4
Financial security	14.0	27.6	31.9	14.4	12.0
Getting a job	16.0	26.3	27.0	15.8	14.9

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.

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 6.4. 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 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 42.9% of respondents from Queensland indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (19.9%) or *very concerned* (23.0%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 37.4% (*extremely concerned*: 15.2%; *very concerned*: 22.2%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 29.5% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.7%; *very concerned*: 16.8%).

- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 6.4: Issues of personal concern to young people
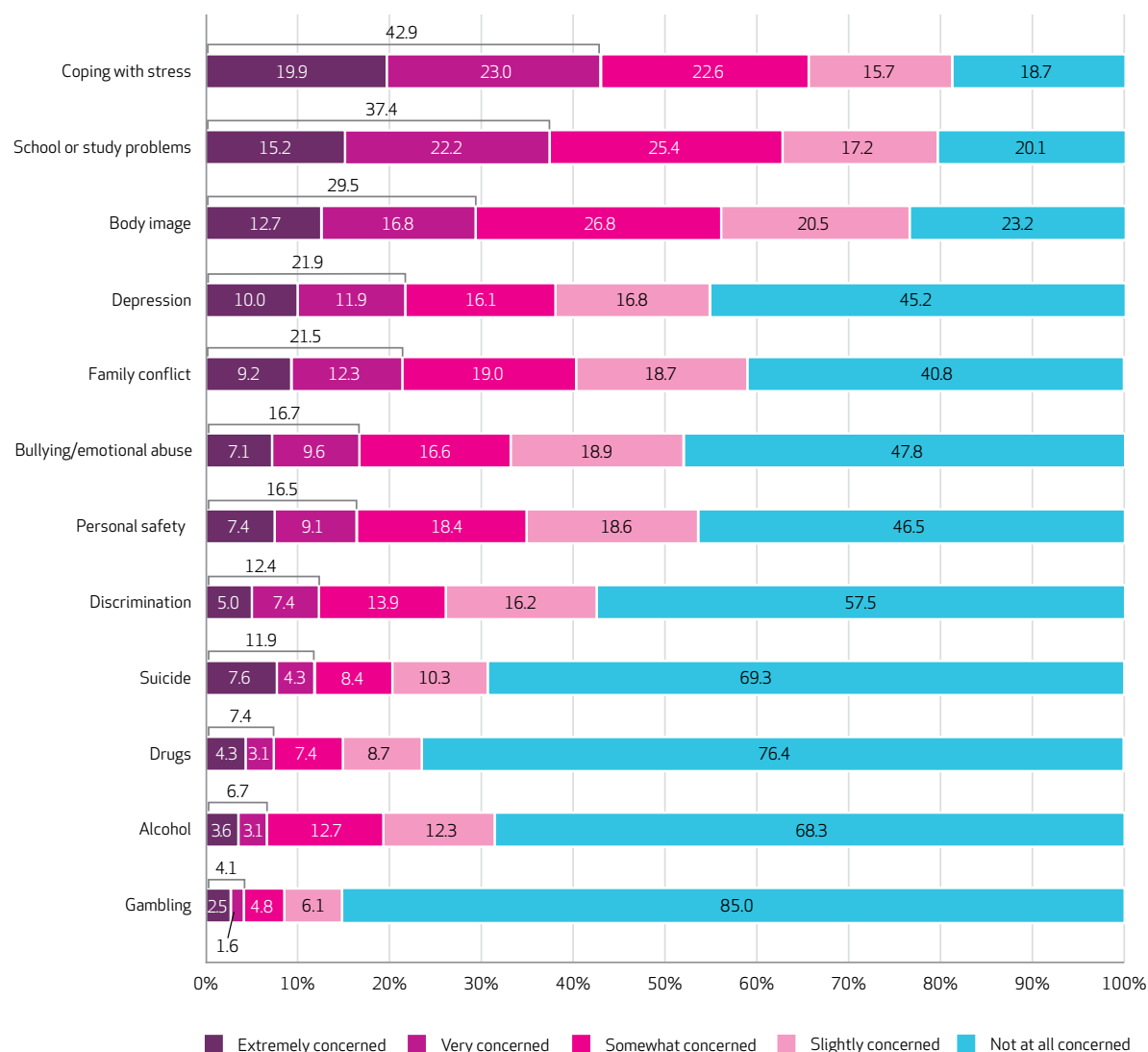
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

Coping with stress, school or study problems and *body image* were the top three issues of concern for both males and females, as highlighted in Table 6.5. The proportion of females concerned about all of these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For close to six in ten females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 29.6%; *very concerned*: 28.7%), compared with around one quarter of all males (*extremely concerned*: 9.1%; *very concerned*: 17.2%).

- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 48.2% (*extremely concerned*: 20.3%; *very concerned*: 27.9%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 25.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.0%; *very concerned*: 16.4%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 41.1% (*extremely concerned*: 18.1%; *very concerned*: 23.0%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 16.4% (*extremely concerned*: 5.9%; *very concerned*: 10.5%) of males.

- For 27.2% of females (*extremely concerned*: 12.5%; *very concerned*: 14.7%) and 15.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.1%; *very concerned*: 9.1%) *depression* was a major concern.

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

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**29.6**	**28.7**	21.6	11.4	8.7
School or study problems	**20.3**	**27.9**	25.2	15.0	11.6
Body image	**18.1**	**23.0**	27.7	18.6	12.6
Depression	12.5	14.7	18.1	17.4	37.2
Family conflict	11.9	15.6	21.5	19.5	31.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.8	12.2	19.7	20.2	39.1
Personal safety	8.1	11.2	20.4	20.5	39.8
Discrimination	5.4	9.4	15.3	18.4	51.5
Suicide	8.4	5.4	10.2	12.1	63.9
Drugs	3.3	3.5	7.5	9.9	75.9
Alcohol	2.4	3.6	13.6	13.4	67.0
Gambling	1.5	1.6	3.7	5.3	87.9

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**9.1**	**17.2**	24.1	20.9	28.7
School or study problems	**9.0**	**16.4**	25.9	20.0	28.6
Body image	**5.9**	**10.5**	26.3	23.1	34.2
Depression	6.1	9.1	14.2	16.6	53.9
Family conflict	5.8	8.8	16.3	18.0	51.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.7	7.0	13.4	18.0	56.8
Personal safety	6.3	7.0	16.6	16.8	53.4
Discrimination	3.8	5.0	12.4	14.4	64.4
Suicide	5.8	3.1	6.0	8.8	76.3
Drugs	4.7	2.7	7.2	7.7	77.6
Alcohol	4.1	2.4	11.8	11.6	70.1
Gambling	2.8	1.5	5.7	6.9	83.1

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 6.5 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 (81.4%, 75.7% and 61.6% respectively).

- Just over half of respondents from Queensland indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for help with important issues in their lives.

- Four in ten respondents indicated that they would go the *internet* and around three in ten respondents indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 6.5: Where young people go for help with important issues
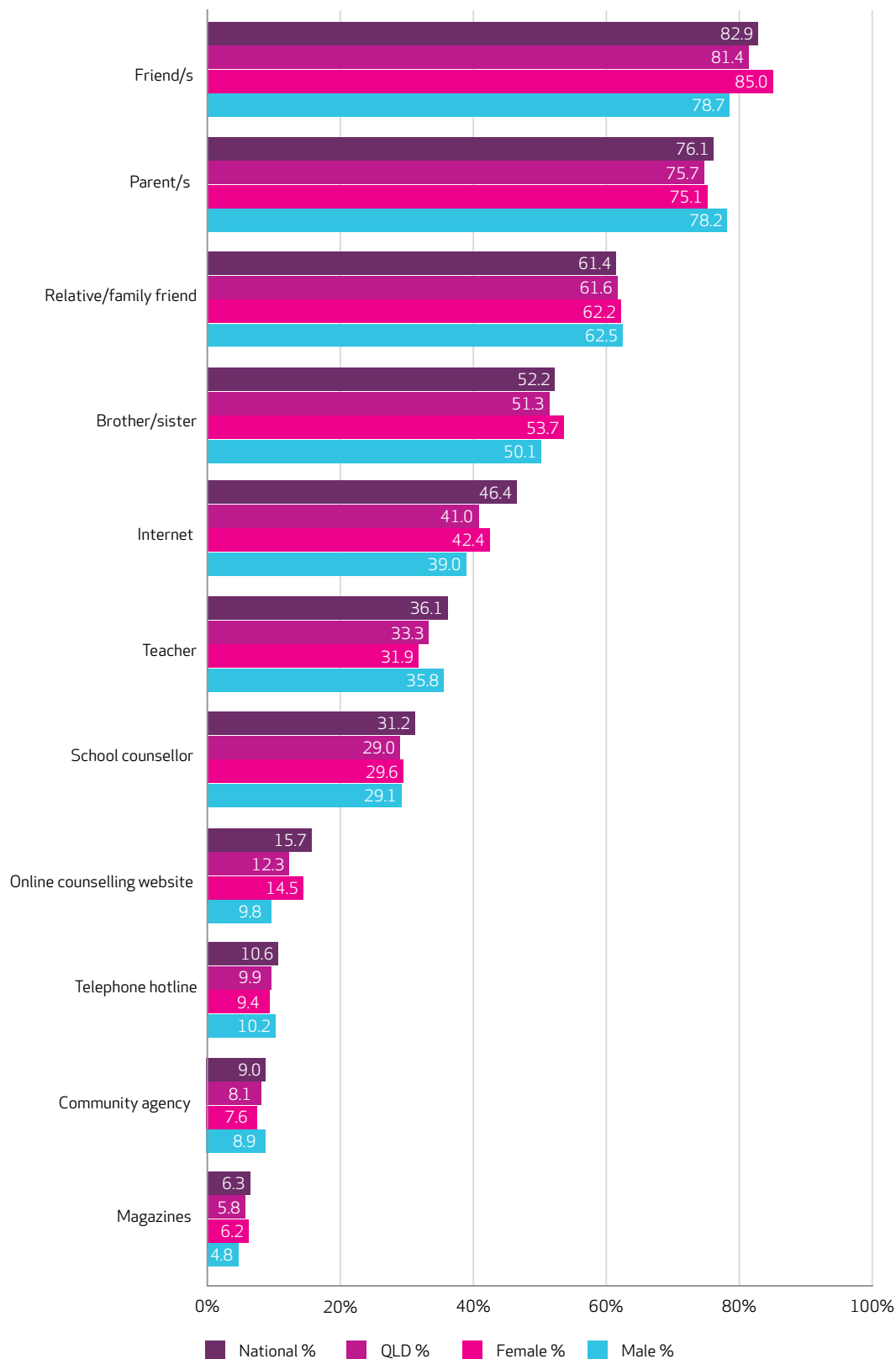
	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Friend/s	82.9	81.4	85.0	78.7
Parent/s	76.1	75.7	75.1	78.2
Relative/family friend	61.4	61.6	62.2	62.5
Brother/sister	52.2	51.3	53.7	50.1
Internet	46.4	41.0	42.4	39.0
Teacher	36.1	33.3	31.9	35.8
School counsellor	31.2	29.0	29.6	29.1
Online counselling website	15.7	12.3	14.5	9.8
Telephone hotline	10.6	9.9	9.4	10.2
Community agency	9.0	8.1	7.6	8.9
Magazines	6.3	5.8	6.2	4.8

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 6.5, 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* for help with important issues, while a greater proportion of males would go to their *parent/s*.

- Around eight in ten female and male respondents in Queensland indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (85.0% compared with 78.7%).

- A higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated they would go to *parent/s* (78.2% compared with 75.1%), while a similar proportion of both males and females indicated they would go to *relatives/family friends* (62.5% compared with 62.2%) for help.

- A slightly greater proportion of females than males from Queensland would go to their *brother/sister* (53.7% compared with 50.1%), the *internet* (42.4% compared with 39.0%) and *online counselling websites* (14.5% compared with 9.8%) 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 6.6 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from Queensland rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 26.6% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.0% that it was *very good*. However, 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* (6.8%). A higher proportion of male respondents reported their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (29.6% compared with 23.9% for females).

Figure 6.6: Family's ability to get along
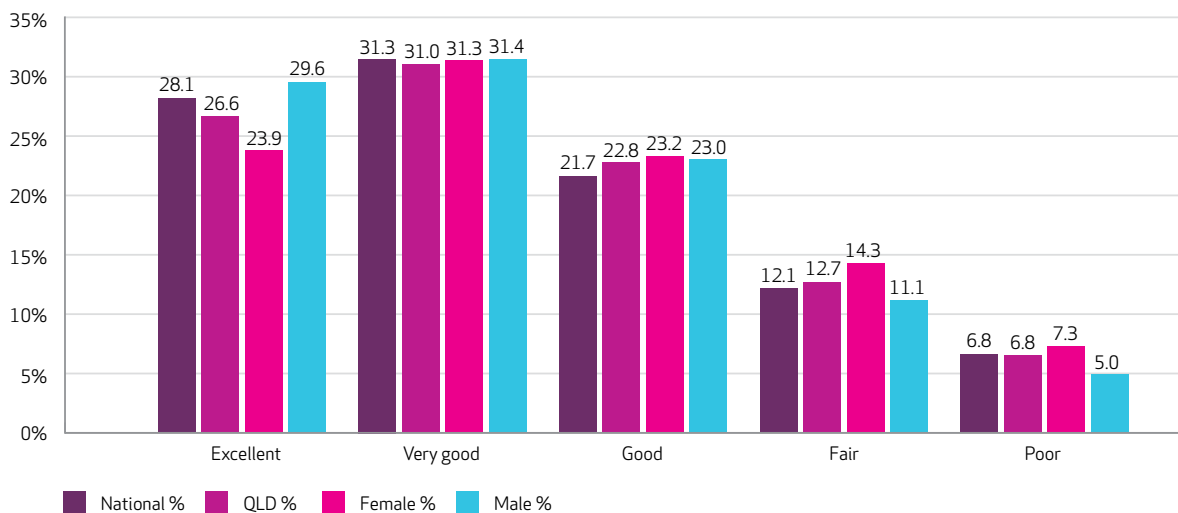
What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

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 6.6. In 2016 the top three issues identified by young people from Queensland were *alcohol and drugs*, *equity and discrimination* and *mental health*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally.

- Around three in ten young people from Queensland identified *alcohol and drugs* (31.6%) as an important issue in Australia today.

- Around one quarter (25.9%) of respondents identified *equity and discrimination* and just over one in five (21.8%) identified *mental health* as major issues.

- Compared to the past two years, *alcohol and drugs*, *equity and discrimination* and *mental health* have risen as issues of national concern among Queensland respondents.

- Since 2014, *international relations* has been increasingly identified by young people from Queensland as a key issue facing the nation among respondents from Queensland. Conversely, mentions of *the economy and financial issues*, *politics*, *education* and *population issues* have all 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 *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were identified as the top two issues by both males and females, the other issue making up their top three differed. For females, the third top issue was *mental health*, while for males the third top issue was *international relations*.

- Around three in ten male and female respondents from Queensland (33.7% and 29.5% respectively) identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue facing Australia today.

- A greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (28.2% compared with 23.6%) and *mental health* (27.9% compared with 15.9%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, greater proportions of males than females identified *international relations* (17.9% compared with 13.7%) and *the economy and financial matters* (17.2% compared with 14.4%) as important issues.

Table 6.6: Most important issues in Australia today

|	National %	QLD 2016 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2015 %	QLD 2014 %
Alcohol and drugs	**28.7**	**31.6**	**29.5**	**33.7**	**25.1**	**20.6**
Equity and discrimination	**27.0**	**25.9**	**28.2**	**23.6**	**24.9**	**20.6**
Mental health	**20.6**	**21.8**	**27.9**	15.9	15.1	13.3
International relations	16.2	15.7	13.7	**17.9**	12.7	3.7
The economy and financial matters	14.7	15.7	14.4	17.2	**18.2**	**27.2**
Politics	12.8	13.2	10.7	16.1	14.8	**22.2**
Crime, safety and violence	12.8	13.1	15.5	10.9	9.8	11.1
Health	10.3	11.3	11.8	11.0	10.5	17.1
Employment	9.9	11.1	9.5	13.2	12.1	10.4
Education	11.6	11.0	10.7	11.2	12.2	14.5
Population issues	16.0	11.0	11.3	10.6	14.7	15.5
Bullying	10.1	10.7	12.6	9.2	9.4	14.0
The environment	11.5	9.2	9.8	8.6	14.0	12.8
LGBT issues	7.4	5.9	7.9	3.5	15.5	5.8
Homelessness/housing	7.5	5.6	6.8	4.5	7.6	5.8

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. Consistent with national results, just over one quarter (26.2%) of young people from Queensland indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (30.2% of females compared with 19.9% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 6.7. The top three reasons indicated by respondents in Queensland for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *gender, race/cultural background* and *physical health or ability*.

- *Gender, race/cultural background* and *physical health or ability* were the three most commonly cited reasons for young people's reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (40.8%, 28.4% and 24.2% respectively).

- Around one in five respondents from Queensland indicated that *age* (22.9%) and *mental health* (21.3%) were reasons for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

Figure 6.7: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced
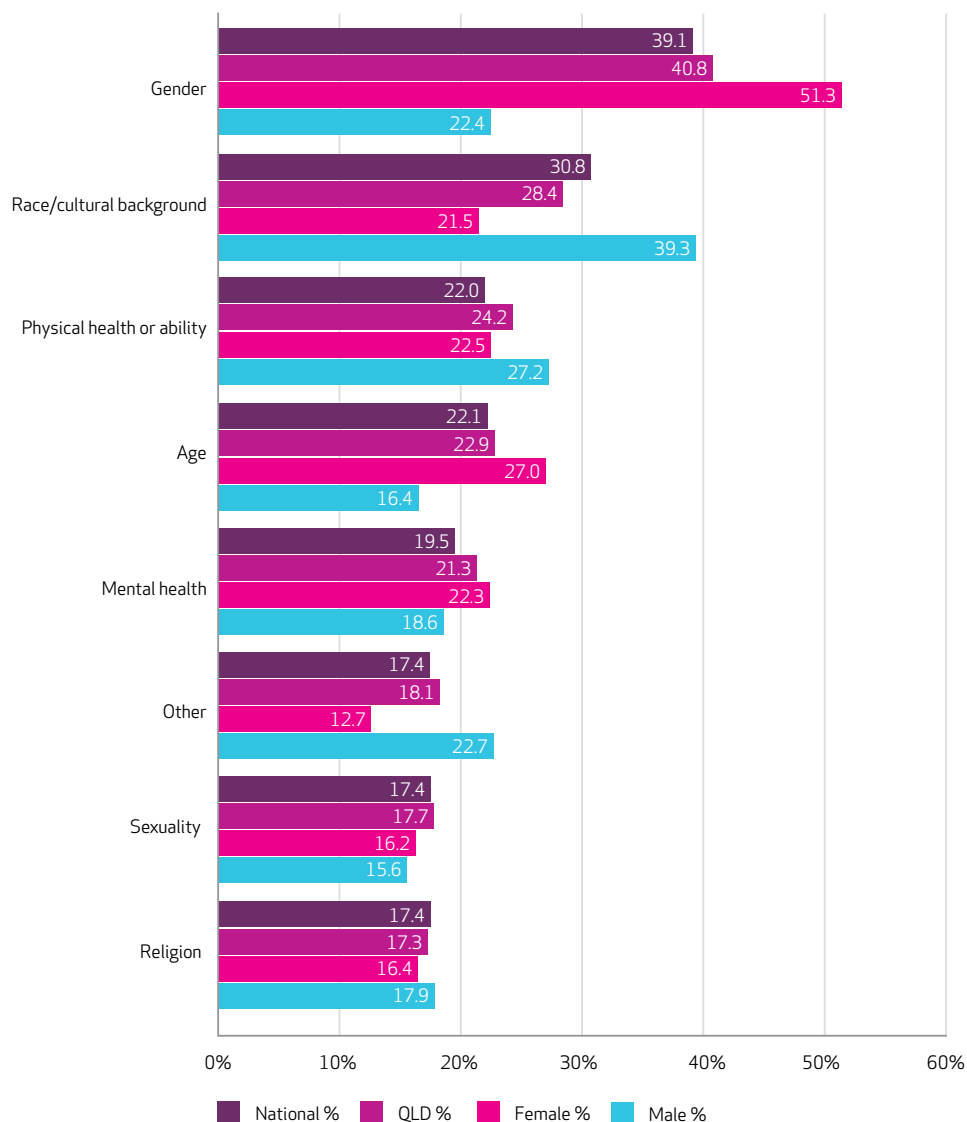
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by male and female respondents in Queensland, as shown in Figure 6.7. The number one reason identified by females was *gender*, followed by *age* and then *physical health or ability*. For males, *race/cultural background* was the number one reason, followed by *physical health or ability* and then *other* reasons.

- Just over half (51.3%) of female respondents and around one in five (22.4%) male respondents from Queensland indicated that *gender* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Around four in ten (39.3%) males and just over one in five (21.5%) females indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A greater proportion of male (27.2%) than female (22.5%) respondents from Queensland indicated that *physical health or ability* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, while a greater proportion of females than males indicated that *age* was a perceived reason (27.0% compared with 16.4%).

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were also asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Overall, half (50.3%) of young people in Queensland indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (54.3% of females compared with 45.2% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 6.8. The top three reasons cited for unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents in Queensland were *race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *physical health or ability*.

- *Race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *physical health or ability* were the three most commonly cited reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by young people in Queensland (58.0%, 41.6% and 37.2% respectively).

- Around one third of respondents from Queensland indicated that *gender* (35.1%) and *religion* (33.6%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

Figure 6.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed
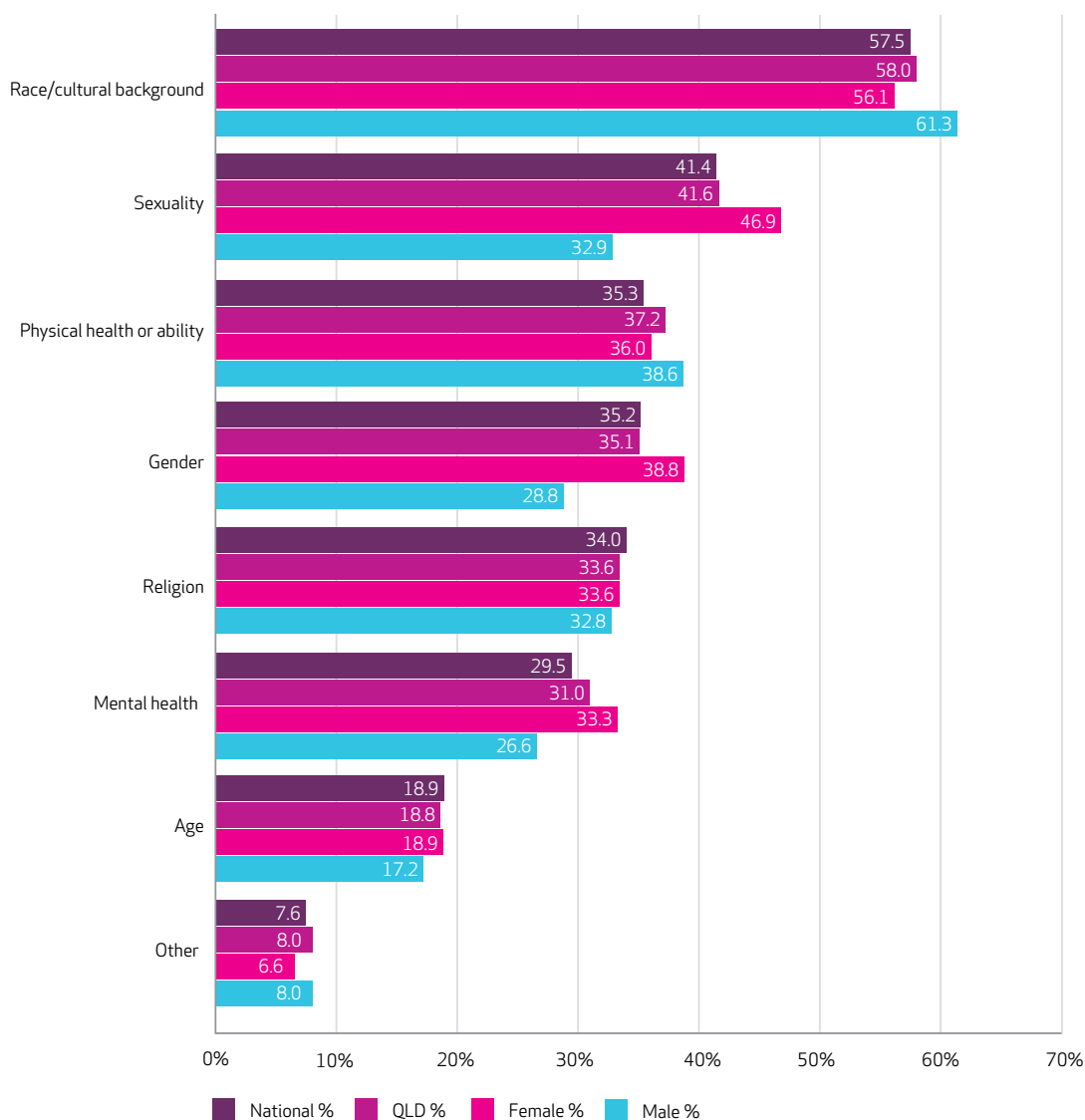
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 6.8, the top reason identified for unfair treatment or discrimination as witnessed by both genders was *race/cultural background*, consistent with national results. For females, the second top reason cited was *sexuality*, followed by *gender*. Conversely, for males the number two reason was *physical health or ability*, followed by *sexuality*.

- Six in ten (61.3%) male respondents and 56.1% of female respondents from Queensland indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

- Around half (46.9%) of females and one third (32.9%) of males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.

- A greater proportion of female (38.8%) than male (28.8%) respondents from Queensland indicated that *gender* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed, while a slightly greater proportion of males (38.6%) than females (36.0%) indicated that *physical health or ability* was a reason.

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 three activities for young people from Queensland, 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 Queensland in 2015. 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 2016.

- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (53.8%).

- Close to half of young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (47.3%) and around three in ten had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (31.7%) and *religious groups or activities* (30.0%).

- Around one quarter of young people from Queensland (26.2%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* 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 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 females in Queensland was *arts/cultural/music activities*, while the third top activity for males from Queensland was *volunteer work*.

- 80.4% of male respondents and 73.6% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.

- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (74.3% compared with 63.9%).

- A much higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved with *arts/cultural/music activities* (62.0% compared with 45.0%).

- Despite *volunteer work* ranking higher up the list for male respondents, overall a greater proportion of female than male respondents from Queensland were involved in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (58.1% and 51.3% compared with 53.9% and 44.0% respectively).

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

	National %	QLD 2016 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2015 %	QLD 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.7**	**76.3**	**73.6**	**80.4**	**74.2**	**76.8**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.0**	**68.5**	**63.9**	**74.3**	**70.0**	**72.0**
Volunteer work	**53.5**	**55.6**	58.1	**53.9**	**54.8**	**58.0**
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	53.8	**62.0**	45.0	53.3	55.9
Student leadership activities	42.5	47.3	51.3	44.0	45.2	47.5
Youth groups and clubs	30.6	31.7	35.3	27.9	31.4	27.9
Religious groups or activities	28.7	30.0	33.5	25.9	30.5	23.9
Environmental groups or activities	24.6	26.2	28.0	24.2	23.1	24.2
Political groups or organisations	8.7	8.9	8.4	8.4	7.5	7.1

Note: 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[1], 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 (66.4%) 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 a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (17.8% compared with 10.4%).

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[1] 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
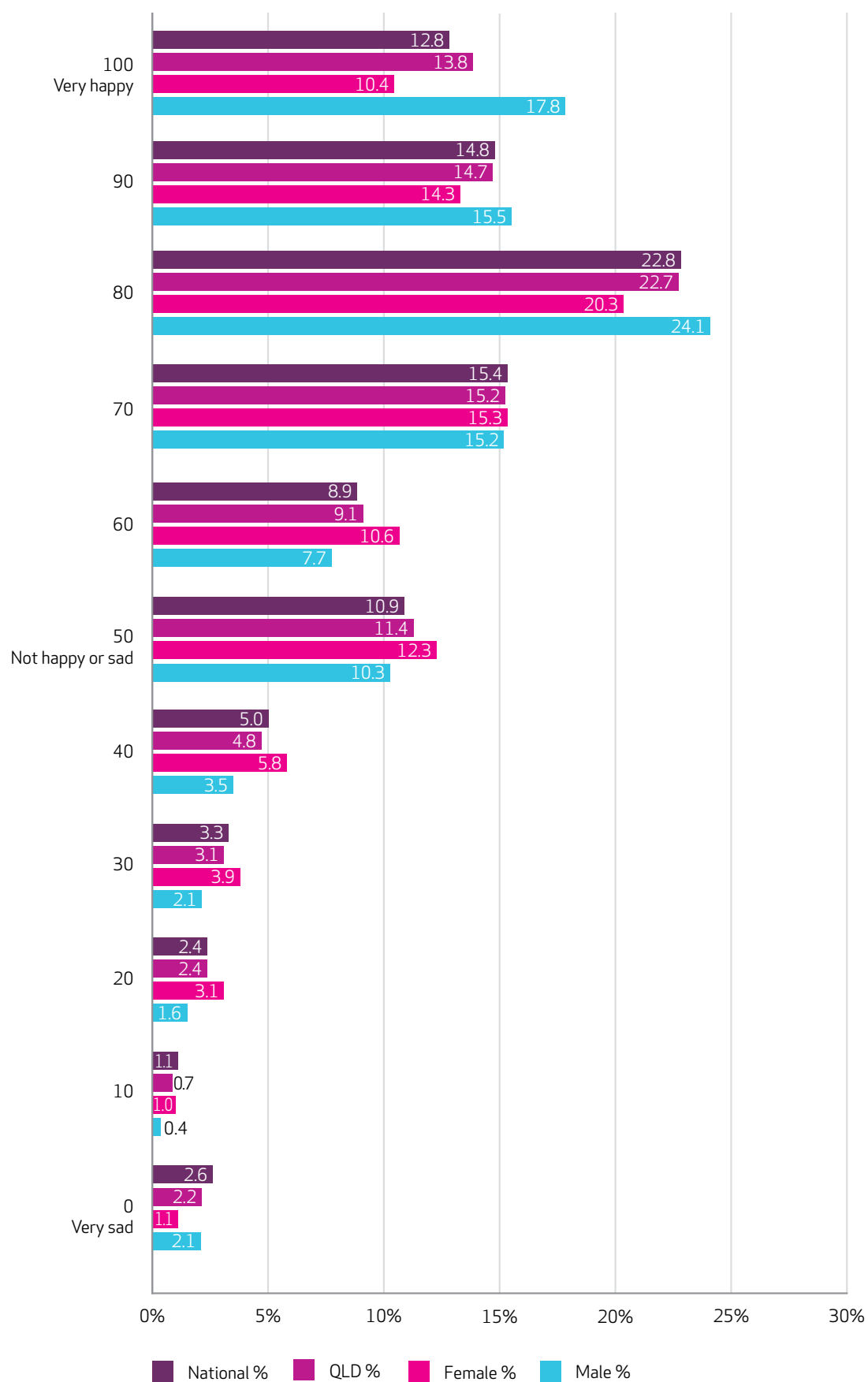
	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
100 Very happy	12.8	13.8	10.4	17.8
90	14.8	14.7	14.3	15.5
80	22.8	22.7	20.3	24.1
70	15.4	15.2	15.3	15.2
60	8.9	9.1	10.6	7.7
50 Not happy or sad	10.9	11.4	12.3	10.3
40	5.0	4.8	5.8	3.5
30	3.3	3.1	3.9	2.1
20	2.4	2.4	3.1	1.6
10	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.4
0 Very sad	2.6	2.2	1.1	2.1

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 6.8 shows that, in line with the national results, two thirds of respondents from Queensland felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people from Queensland felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Two thirds of respondents from Queensland felt either *positive* (48.8%) or *very positive* (17.8%) about the future.

- One quarter of respondents (25.1%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

- 5.6% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.8% felt *very negative*.

- Males and females from Queensland were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A larger proportion of male than female respondents, however, indicated feeling *very positive* (19.5% compared with 16.4% for females).

Table 6.8: Feelings about the future

	National %	QLD 2016 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2015 %	QLD 2014 %
Very positive	17.3	17.8	16.4	19.5	15.6	16.4
Positive	47.1	48.8	48.5	50.5	47.1	51.1
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	25.1	27.2	22.5	27.6	24.1
Negative	6.5	5.6	6.2	4.8	7.5	6.4
Very negative	3.0	2.8	1.8	2.7	2.2	2.0

South Australia

Profile of respondents

In total, 2,358 young people from South Australia (SA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (53.4%) of respondents from SA were female and 46.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 119 (5.1%) respondents from SA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 98 (4.2%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 13 (0.6%) 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 (5.5% compared with 3.9%).

Language background other than English

A total of 260 (11.2%) respondents from SA stated that they were born overseas and 353 (15.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 60 languages spoken at home in SA, the most common were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Italian, Filipino/Tagalog, German and Chinese.

Disability

A total of 131 (5.7%) respondents from SA indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (6.8%) than females (4.7%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in SA were (in order of frequency): learning disability, autism and anxiety disorder.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 7.1, 90.4% of respondents from SA were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female respondents reported that they were studying full-time than male respondents (92.1% compared with 89.3%), while a greater proportion of males (5.2%) than females (2.2%) reported not studying at all.

Respondents who reported 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 previous years, the majority of respondents from SA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (18.7%) or *satisfied* (53.7%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.4% and 4.5% respectively). As shown in Table 7.2, a slightly higher proportion of females than males from SA reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (19.3% and 55.6% of females compared with 18.0% and 52.2% of males respectively).

Table 7.1: Participation in education

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.6	90.4	92.1	89.3
Studying part-time	2.2	5.6	5.7	5.5
Not studying	3.2	4.0	2.2	5.2

Table 7.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	SA 2016 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2015 %	SA 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.0	18.7	19.3	18.0	16.2	14.9
Satisfied	55.9	53.7	55.6	52.2	56.2	54.9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	21.7	19.5	24.0	22.0	23.6
Dissatisfied	4.2	4.5	4.8	3.9	4.2	4.9
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.8	1.3	1.7

Of those who were still at school in SA, 95.4% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Around twice the proportion of males indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.0% compared with 3.1% of females respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. Just over one in five (21.5%) respondents from SA indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course. A slightly higher proportion of females than males indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (22.7% compared with 20.1% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 7.1 shows that around two thirds of respondents from SA planned to go to university after school (65.3%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (37.3%) and to travel or go on a gap year (26.3%) after school. Overall, 15.4% of young people from SA planned to attend TAFE or college and 8.7% 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, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (69.9% compared with 60.5% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (32.7% compared with 18.8%). A much larger proportion of males indicated that they were planning to undertake an apprenticeship (13.6% compared with 4.3% of females).

Figure 7.1: Plans after leaving school
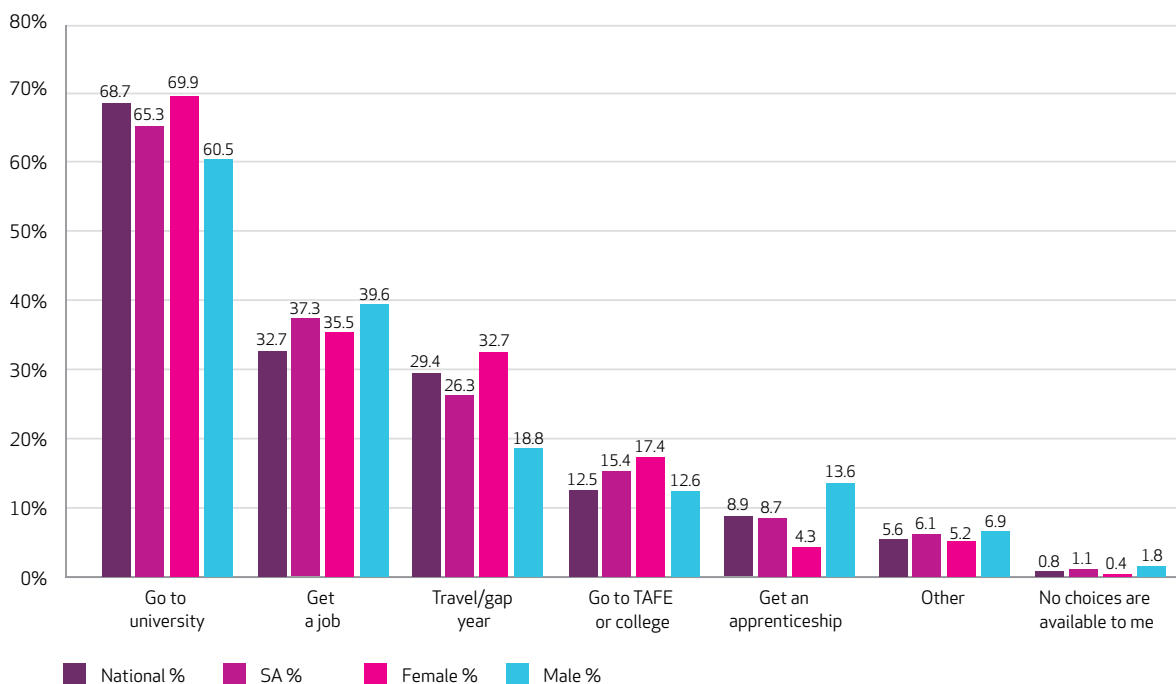
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 7.2 shows the percentage of respondents from SA who indicated each item as being an influence. In SA, the top three influences on young people's post-school plans were *parents*, *other family members* and the *internet*.

- *Parents*, *other family members* and the *internet* were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans (81.9%, 72.2% and 70.5% respectively).

- Around two thirds (67.9%) of respondents indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans, while just under six in ten (57.9%) indicated that their *teacher* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.
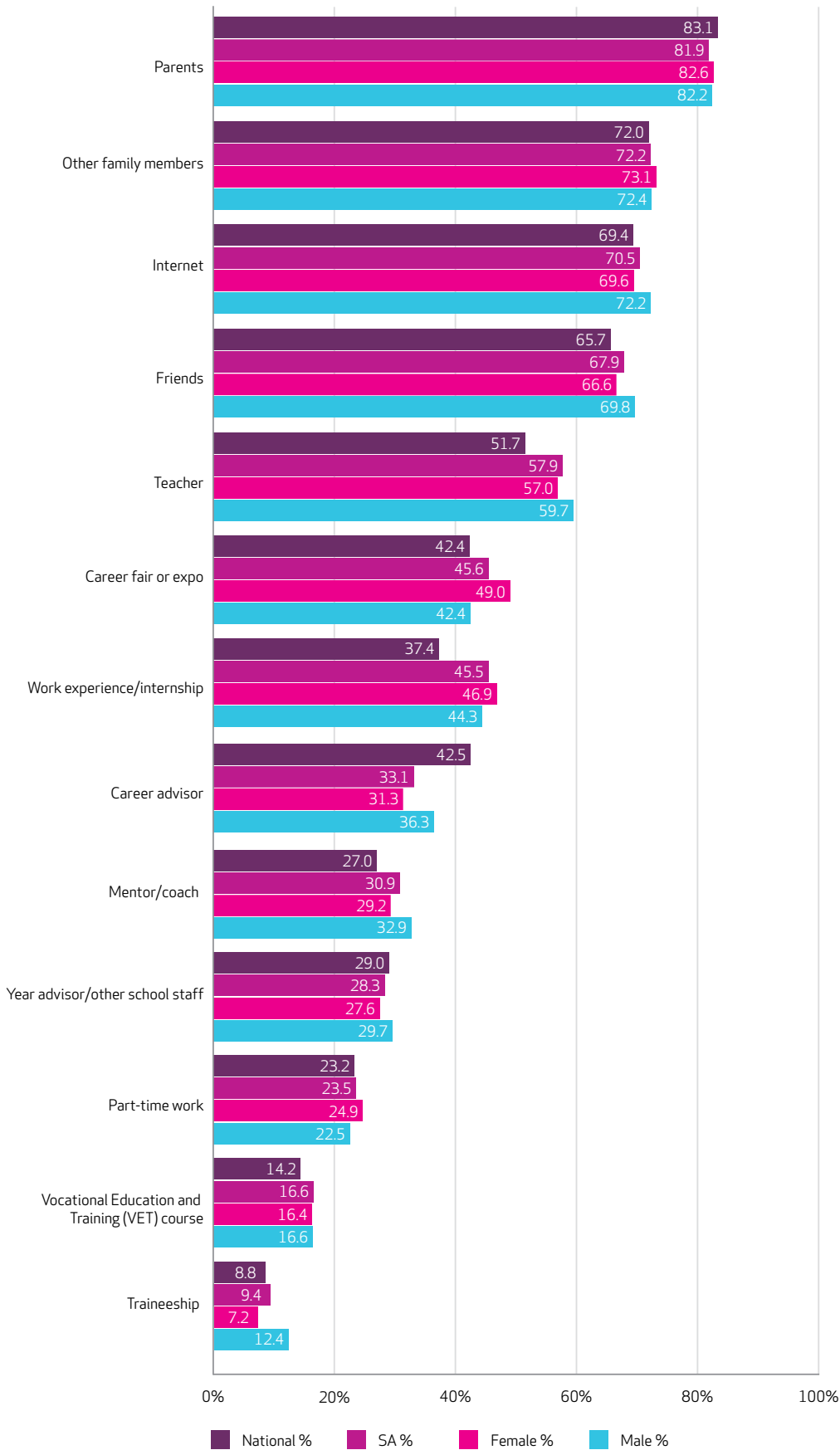
Figure 7.2: Influences on post-school plans

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 7.2, the top three influences which both genders identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans were consistent with SA and national results. Similar proportions of both females and males indicated that they saw *parents* and *other family members* influencing their post-school plans, while slightly greater proportions of males than females indicated that the *internet* and *friends* were influences on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

- Just over eight in ten female and male respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (82.6% of females compared with 82.2% of males) and just over seven in ten respondents from both genders indicated that *other family members* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school (73.1% of females compared with 72.4% of males).

- Slightly greater proportions of male than female respondents indicated that the *internet* (72.2% compared with 69.6%) and *friends* (69.8% compared with 66.6% respectively) were influences on their post-school plans.

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 national results, only a tiny minority (0.7%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Around one third (34.3%) of respondents from SA reported part-time employment. Almost two thirds of SA respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 38.3% looking for work and 26.8% not looking for work.

The same proportion of male and female respondents from SA reported full-time employment (0.6%), while there was a higher proportion of female respondents employed part-time (40.6% compared with 27.6% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (41.0% compared with 36.0% of females).

Table 7.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
Employed part-time	38.5	34.3	40.6	27.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.1	38.3	36.0	41.0
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	25.8	26.8	22.8	30.7

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 2016 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 7.3 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. The three most highly valued items for respondents from SA this year were *family relationships, friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most valued item for SA respondents was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 79.6% of respondents from SA (*extremely important*: 47.0%; *very important*: 32.6%). *Friendships* were also valued highly by 78.5% of respondents (*extremely important*: 38.7%; *very important*: 39.8%).

- Just over seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 35.4%; *very important*: 37.2%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 36.0%; *very important*: 35.1%).

- Around four in ten SA respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 15.4%; *very important*: 28.5%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 16.2%; *very important*: 21.5%).

Figure 7.3: What young people value
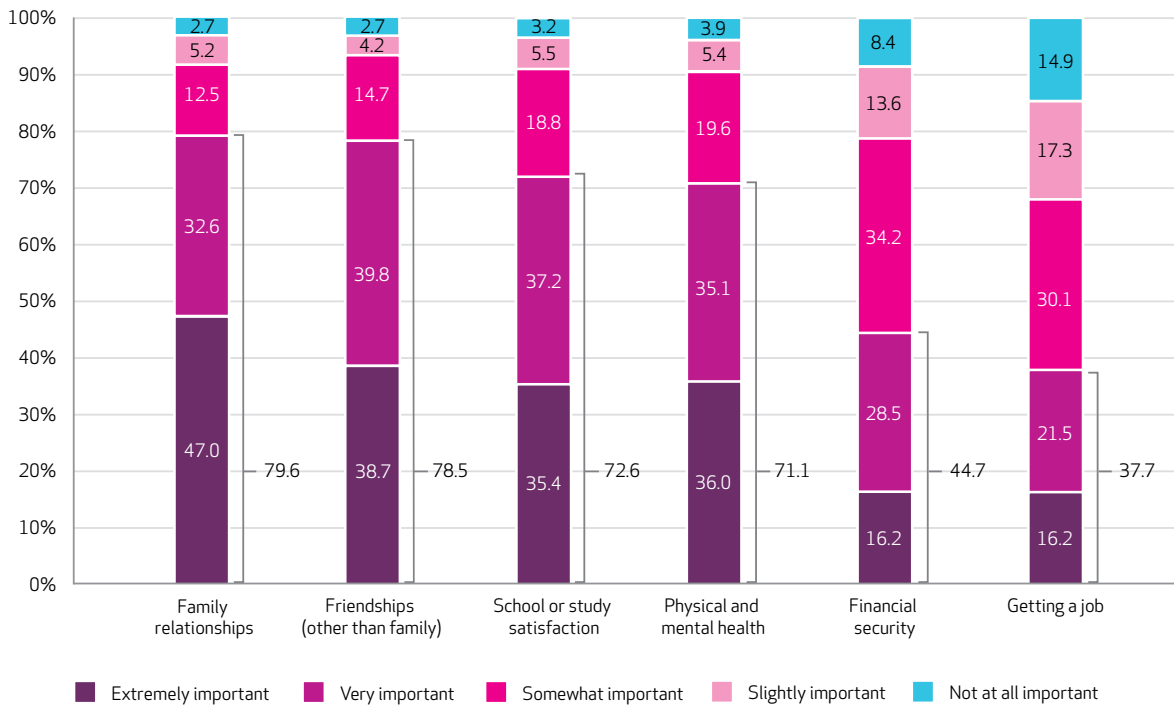
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Family relationships, friendships were ranked among the three most highly valued items by both males and females in SA, as shown in Table 7.4, although the order of these items differed. In line with the overall SA results, the top three most valued items for females were *family relationships*, followed by *friendships* and then *school or study satisfaction*. Comparatively, the most valued items for males were *friendships*, followed by *family relationships* and then *physical and mental health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and all of the other items, was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 83.0% of females (*extremely important*: 52.4%; *very important*: 30.6%) compared with 77.1% of males (*extremely important*: 42.2%; *very important*: 34.9%).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 79.9% of females (*extremely important*: 41.5%; *very important*: 38.4%) compared with 77.8% of males (*extremely important*: 35.6%; *very important*: 42.2%).

- Almost eight in ten (78.2%) females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 42.5%; *very important*: 35.7%) compared with 67.1% of males (*extremely important*: 28.0%; *very important*: 39.1%).

- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 74.0% of females (*extremely important*: 39.0%; *very important*: 35.0%) and 68.6% of males (*extremely important*: 32.6%; *very important*: 36.0%) in SA.

Table 7.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	**52.4**	**30.6**	10.3	5.0	1.6
Friendships (other than family)	**41.5**	**38.4**	14.3	4.2	1.7
School or study satisfaction	**42.5**	**35.7**	16.3	4.6	1.0
Physical and mental health	39.0	35.0	18.6	5.4	2.0
Financial security	16.2	31.0	34.1	12.2	6.6
Getting a job	16.5	22.9	30.8	16.1	13.7

Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	**42.2**	**34.9**	14.8	5.1	3.1
Friendships (other than family)	**35.6**	**42.2**	15.1	4.3	2.9
School or study satisfaction	28.0	39.1	22.0	6.4	4.4
Physical and mental health	**32.6**	**36.0**	21.2	5.2	4.9
Financial security	14.5	25.9	34.7	15.4	9.6
Getting a job	15.8	20.0	29.7	18.8	15.7

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 6.4. 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 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 47.8% of respondents from SA indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (21.4%) or *very concerned* (26.4%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 37.4% (*extremely concerned*: 16.8%; *very concerned*: 20.6%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 30.0% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 13.6%; *very concerned*: 16.4%).

- Around one quarter of respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 7.4: Issues of personal concern to young people
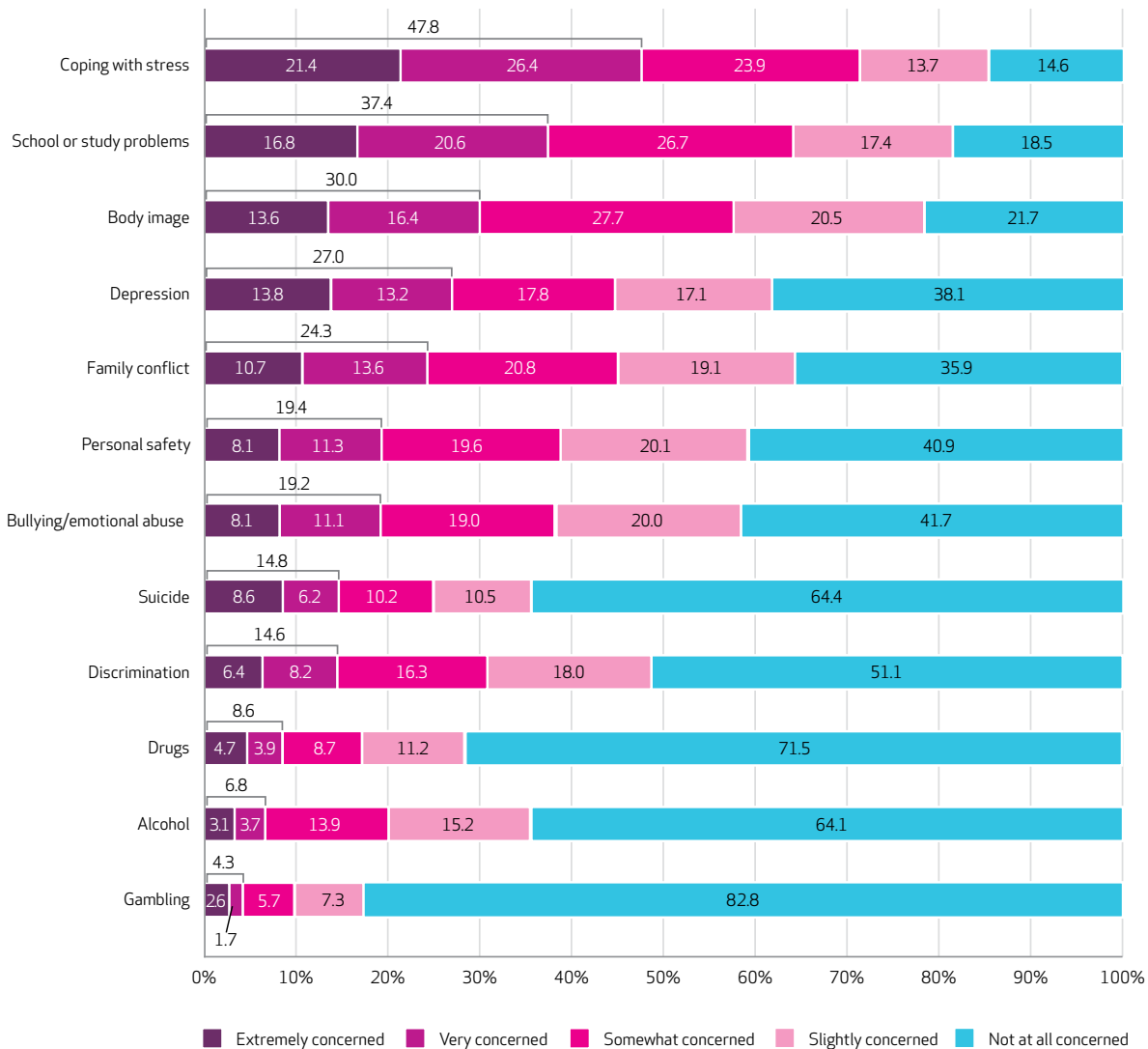
Issue	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned	Top two total
Coping with stress	21.4	26.4	23.9	13.7	14.6	47.8
School or study problems	16.8	20.6	26.7	17.4	18.5	37.4
Body image	13.6	16.4	27.7	20.5	21.7	30.0
Depression	13.8	13.2	17.8	17.1	38.1	27.0
Family conflict	10.7	13.6	20.8	19.1	35.9	24.3
Personal safety	8.1	11.3	19.6	20.1	40.9	19.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.1	11.1	19.0	20.0	41.7	19.2
Suicide	8.6	6.2	10.2	10.5	64.4	14.8
Discrimination	6.4	8.2	16.3	18.0	51.1	14.6
Drugs	4.7	3.9	8.7	11.2	71.5	8.6
Alcohol	3.1	3.7	13.9	15.2	64.1	6.8
Gambling	2.6	1.7	5.7	7.3	82.8	4.3

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 other issue making up their top three differed, however, with females indicating *body image* was their third top concern, while for males it was *depression*. The proportion of females concerned about these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For around six in ten females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 30.8%; *very concerned*: 32.2%), compared with around three in ten males (*extremely concerned*: 10.3%; *very concerned*: 20.3%).

- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 46.3% (*extremely concerned*: 22.7%; *very concerned*: 23.6%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 27.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.7%; *very concerned*: 17.5%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 41.8% (*extremely concerned*: 19.5%; *very concerned*: 22.3%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 16.4% (*extremely concerned*: 6.2%; *very concerned*: 10.2%) of males.

- For 33.6% of females (*extremely concerned*: 17.4%; *very concerned*: 16.2%) and 19.3% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.1%; *very concerned*: 10.2%) *depression* was a major concern.

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

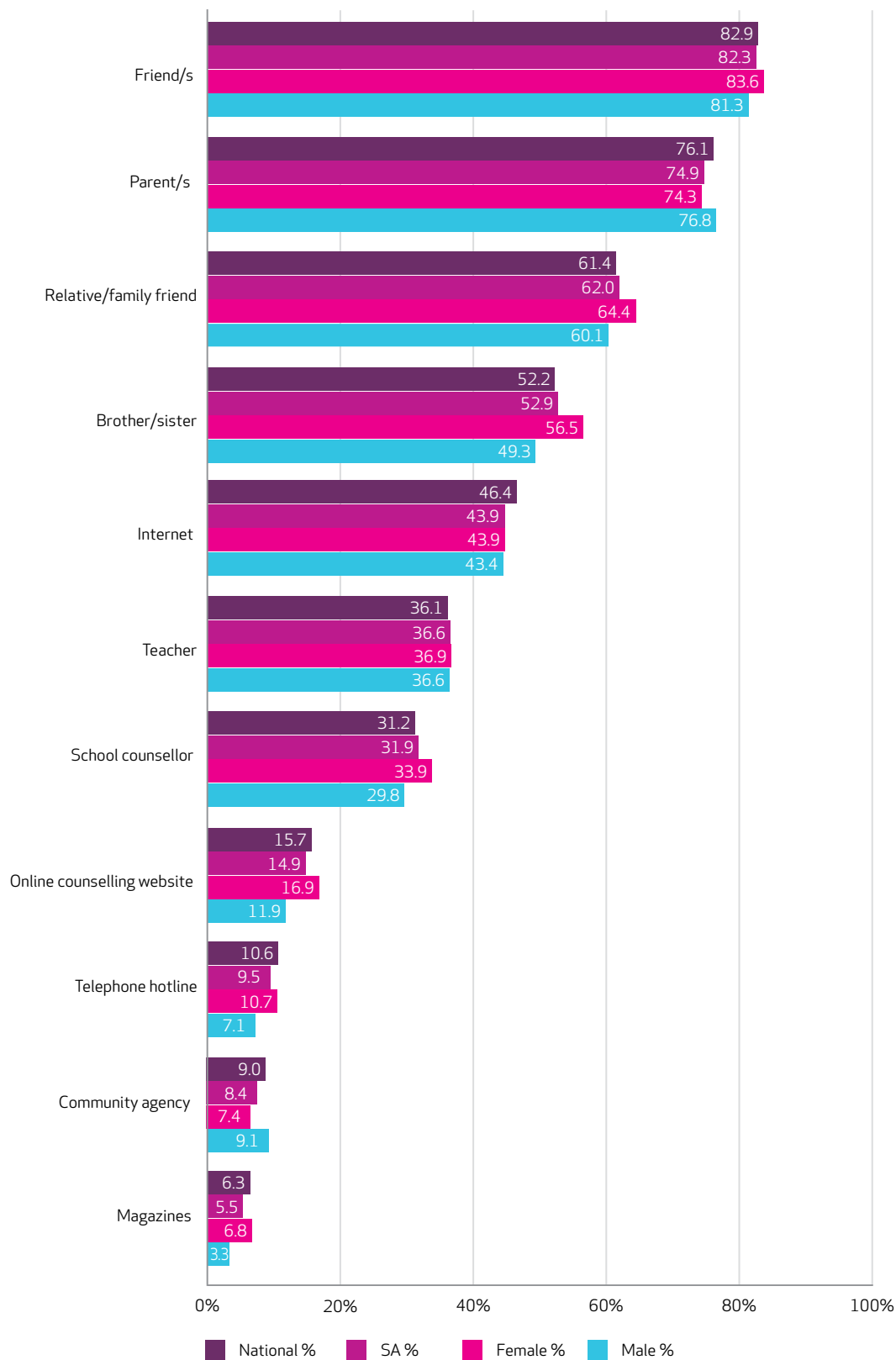| Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**30.8**	**32.2**	20.7	9.8	6.6
School or study problems	**22.7**	**23.6**	26.9	14.7	12.1
Body image	**19.5**	**22.3**	29.2	16.4	12.6
Depression	17.4	16.2	18.3	18.7	29.4
Family conflict	13.4	17.4	23.0	19.7	26.4
Personal safety	9.8	13.0	21.2	22.4	33.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	10.9	13.2	21.5	21.4	33.0
Suicide	10.1	7.8	10.6	11.4	60.0
Discrimination	7.2	9.4	18.4	19.9	45.2
Drugs	4.0	3.6	8.9	13.3	70.2
Alcohol	2.6	4.0	15.6	16.5	61.2
Gambling	1.7	1.6	3.8	7.6	85.3
Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**10.3**	**20.3**	28.0	18.6	22.8
School or study problems	**9.7**	**17.5**	27.1	20.9	24.7
Body image	6.2	10.2	26.3	25.8	31.6
Depression	**9.1**	**10.2**	17.2	15.8	47.6
Family conflict	7.3	9.4	18.3	18.8	46.2
Personal safety	5.9	9.5	17.7	17.6	49.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.5	9.0	16.3	18.7	51.4
Suicide	6.4	4.3	10.0	9.3	70.1
Discrimination	4.7	6.9	14.4	16.4	57.7
Drugs	5.0	4.3	8.2	8.8	73.7
Alcohol	3.4	3.5	11.9	14.2	67.1
Gambling	3.0	1.7	8.0	7.1	80.2

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 7.5 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 (82.3%, 74.9% and 62.0% respectively).

- Just over half of all respondents from SA indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for help with important issues in their lives.

- Just over four in ten respondents indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help and around one third indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 7.5: Where young people go for help with important issues

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Friend/s	82.9	82.3	83.6	81.3
Parent/s	76.1	74.9	74.3	76.8
Relative/family friend	61.4	62.0	64.4	60.1
Brother/sister	52.2	52.9	56.5	49.3
Internet	46.4	43.9	43.9	43.4
Teacher	36.1	36.6	36.9	36.6
School counsellor	31.2	31.9	33.9	29.8
Online counselling website	15.7	14.9	16.9	11.9
Telephone hotline	10.6	9.5	10.7	7.1
Community agency	9.0	8.4	7.4	9.1
Magazines	6.3	5.5	6.8	3.3

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 7.5, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with SA and national results. However, slightly greater proportions of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* and *relatives/family friends* for help with important issues, while a slightly greater proportion of males than females would go to *parent/s*.

- Around eight in ten female and male respondents in SA (83.6% and 81.3% respectively) indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.

- A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated they would go to *parent/s* (76.8% compared with 74.3%) for help.

- Slightly greater proportions of females than males from SA would go to their *relative/family friend* (64.4% compared with 60.1%), *brother/sister* (56.5% compared with 49.3%), *school counsellor* (33.9% compared with 29.8%), *online counselling websites* (16.9% compared with 11.9%), *telephone hotlines* (10.7% compared with 7.1%) and *magazines* (6.8% compared with 3.3%) 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 7.6 shows that, in line with national results, over half of all respondents from SA 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 31.4% 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* (14.2%) or *poor* (7.7%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along, however, a greater proportion of males than females indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (27.4% compared with 22.7%).

Figure 7.6: Family's ability to get along
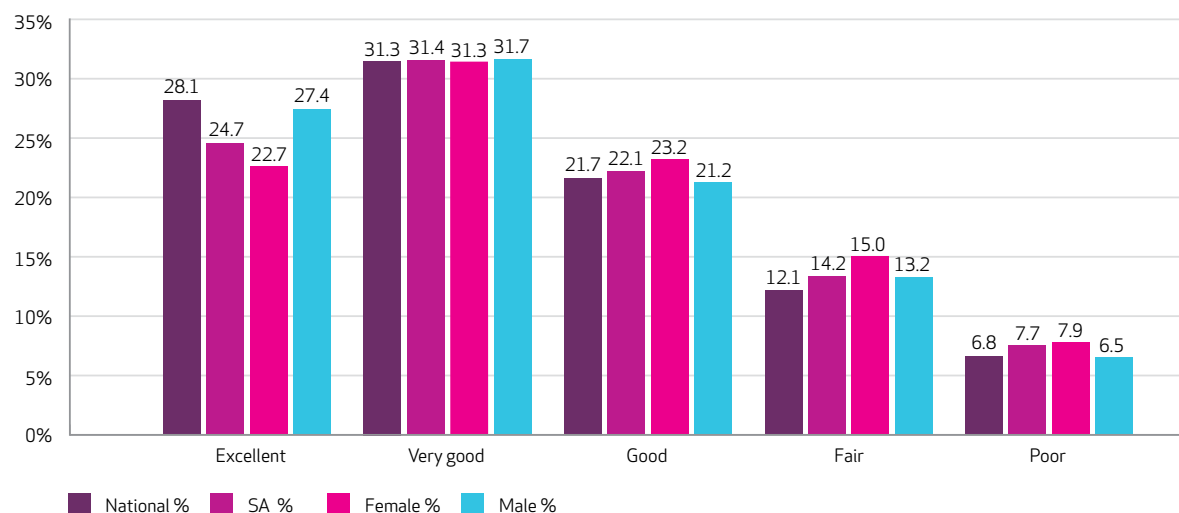
What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

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 7.6. In 2016 the top three issues identified by young people from SA were *alcohol and drugs*, *equity and discrimination* and *population issues*.

- Close to three in ten young people from SA identified *alcohol and drugs* (28.5%) as an important issue in Australia today.

- Around one in five respondents identified *equity and discrimination* (21.5%) and *population issues* (18.5%) as major issues.

- Compared to the past two years, *alcohol and drugs* and *population issues* have risen as issues of national concern among SA respondents.

- Since 2014, *international relations* has been increasingly identified as a key issue facing the nation among respondents from SA. Conversely, mentions of *the economy and financial matters*, *politics* and *education* 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 *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were identified among the top three issues by both males and females, the other issue making up their top three differed. For females, *alcohol and drugs* was the number one issue, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *mental health*. For males, the top issue this year was *alcohol and drugs*, followed by *population issues* and then *equity and discrimination*.

- Around three in ten male and female respondents from SA (30.2% and 27.3% respectively) identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue facing Australia today.

- Greater proportions of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (23.4% compared with 20.1%) and *mental health* (22.2% compared with 11.2%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, a greater proportion of males than females identified *population issues* (20.6% compared with 16.8%) as an important issue.

Table 7.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	SA 2016 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2015 %	SA 2014 %
Alcohol and drugs	**28.7**	**28.5**	**27.3**	**30.2**	**24.3**	**22.0**
Equity and discrimination	**27.0**	**21.5**	**23.4**	**20.1**	**21.7**	15.5
Population issues	16.0	**18.5**	16.8	**20.6**	16.5	13.8
Employment	9.9	17.7	17.4	18.8	19.7	14.2
The economy and financial matters	14.7	17.6	16.7	19.0	**22.3**	**24.1**
Mental health	**20.6**	17.0	**22.2**	11.2	15.0	15.6
International relations	16.2	15.9	14.3	18.0	11.3	2.0
Politics	12.8	13.7	10.4	17.5	20.8	**28.6**
Education	11.6	11.6	13.2	10.1	12.2	12.6
Crime, safety and violence	12.8	11.0	11.2	10.5	8.3	10.9
Bullying	10.1	10.0	14.1	5.7	9.8	16.2
The environment	11.5	9.6	9.9	9.5	12.5	9.9
Health	10.3	9.0	9.5	8.4	8.9	12.1
LGBT issues	7.4	7.8	10.3	5.2	11.6	4.3
Homelessness/housing	7.5	6.9	8.8	5.0	6.6	9.9

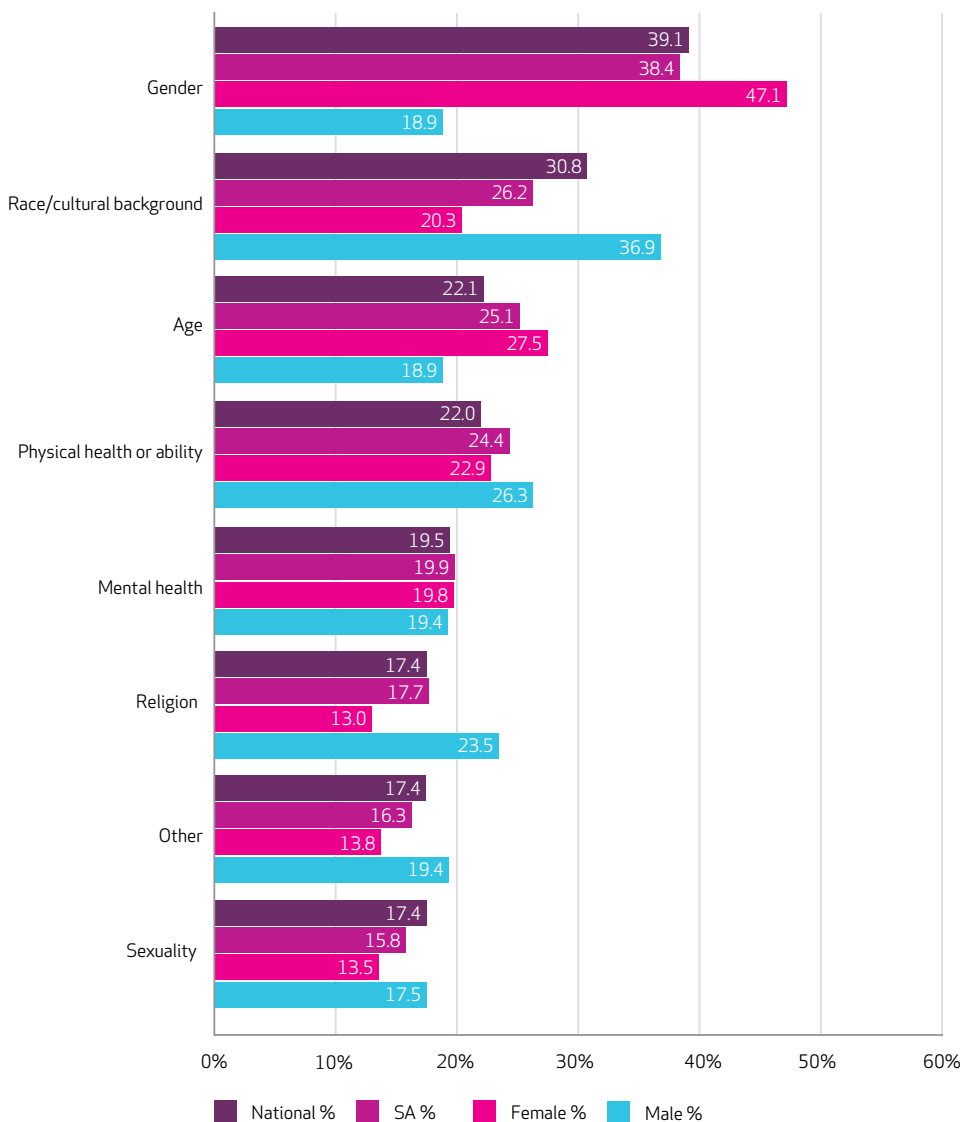Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. Overall, close to three in ten (28.2%) young people from SA indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (33.9% of females compared with 20.7% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 7.7. The top three reasons indicated by respondents in SA for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *gender*, *race/cultural background* and *age*.

- *Gender*, *race/cultural background* and *age* were the three most commonly cited reasons for young people's reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (38.4%, 26.2% and 25.1% respectively).

- Around one quarter of respondents from SA indicated that *physical health or ability* (24.4%) was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination, while one in five indicated that *mental health* (19.9%) was a reason.

Figure 7.7: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced

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

Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by male and female respondents in SA, as shown in Figure 7.7. For females, the most commonly cited reason was *gender*, followed by *age* and then *physical health or ability*, while for males, *race/cultural background* was the number one reason, followed by *physical health or ability* and then *religion*.

- Close to half (47.1%) of female respondents and around one in five (18.9%) male respondents from SA indicated that *gender* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Just under four in ten (36.9%) males and one in five (20.3%) females indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A greater proportion of female (27.5%) than male (18.9%) respondents from SA indicated that *age* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, while greater proportions of males than females indicated that *physical health or ability* and *religion* were the perceived reasons (26.3% and 23.5% compared with 22.9% and 13.0% respectively).

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were also asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Consistent with national results, half (50.0%) of young people in SA indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (56.1% of females compared with 42.4% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 7.8. The top three reasons cited for unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents in SA were *race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *gender*.

- *Race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *gender* were the three most commonly cited reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by young people in SA (53.1%, 43.3% and 37.0% respectively).

- Around one third of respondents from SA indicated that *physical health or ability* (34.1%) and *religion* (33.4%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

Figure 7.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed
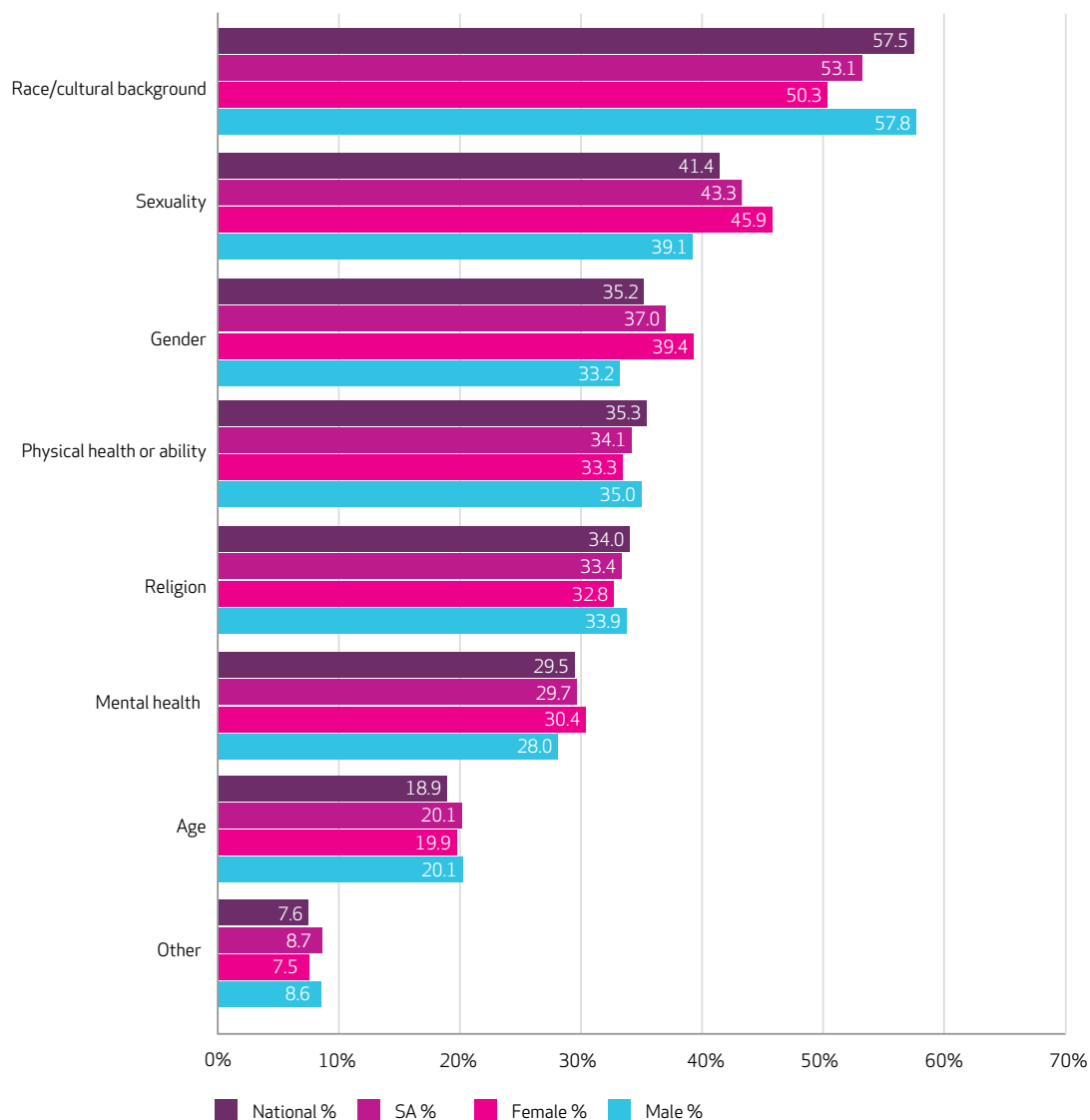
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 7.8, the top two reasons identified for unfair treatment or discrimination as witnessed by both genders was consistent with national results. For females, the third top reason cited was *gender*, while for males the third top reason was *physical health or ability*.

- Close to six in ten (57.8%) male respondents and half (50.3%) of female respondents from SA indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

- Just less than half (45.9%) of females and around four in ten (39.1%) males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.

- A greater proportion of female (39.4%) than male (33.2%) respondents from SA indicated that *gender* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed, while a slightly greater proportion of males (35.0%) than females (33.3%) indicated that *physical health or ability* was a reason.

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 three activities for young people from SA, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *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 *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people from SA in 2016.
- Close to half of all respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (49.4%).
- Just under four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (36.9%) and around three in ten had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (32.8%) and *religious groups or activities* (29.8%).
- Around one in five young people from SA (20.2%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 7.7, the top three activities for both genders were consistent with SA 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)*.

- 73.8% of male respondents and 67.5% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (68.1% compared with 59.0%).
- A higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work* (56.0% compared with 48.7%).
- Overall, greater proportions of female than male respondents from SA were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* and *student leadership activities* (55.5% and 41.7% compared with 41.8% and 31.2% respectively).

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

	National %	SA 2016 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2015 %	SA 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.7**	**70.1**	**67.5**	**73.8**	**69.8**	**68.0**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.0**	**63.2**	**59.0**	**68.1**	**63.5**	**61.5**
Volunteer work	**53.5**	**52.4**	**56.0**	**48.7**	51.1	44.5
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	49.4	55.5	41.8	**51.5**	**46.0**
Student leadership activities	42.5	36.9	41.7	31.2	33.9	30.5
Youth groups and clubs	30.6	32.8	33.4	31.8	38.0	27.7
Religious groups or activities	28.7	29.8	31.0	28.1	32.2	23.1
Environmental groups or activities	24.6	20.2	20.1	20.1	20.4	18.0
Political groups or organisations	8.7	7.0	6.6	6.9	8.0	7.1

Note: 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[1], 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 (61.8%) 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 a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (13.3% compared with 8.0%).

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[1] 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
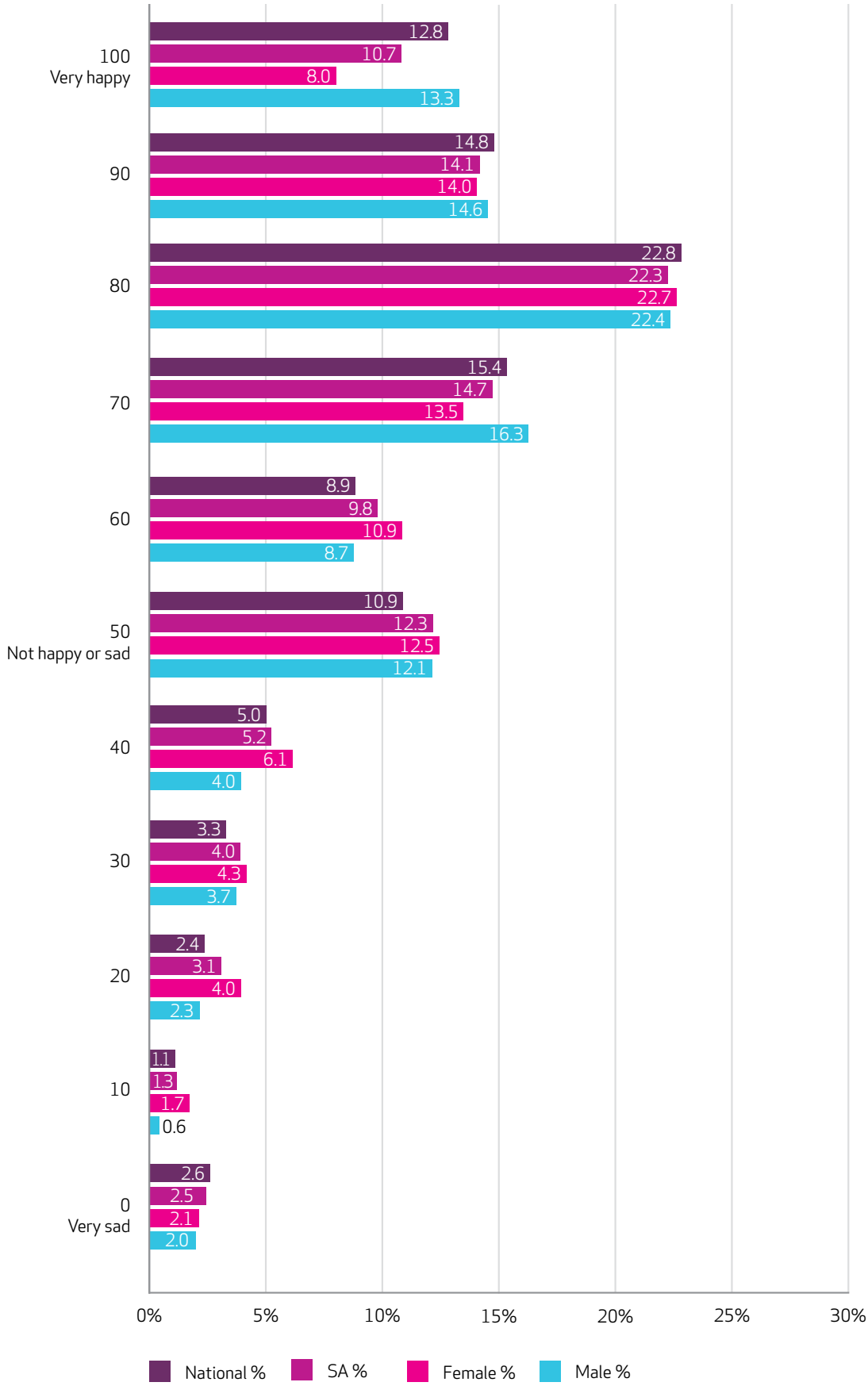
	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
100 Very happy	12.8	10.7	8.0	13.3
90	14.8	14.1	14.0	14.6
80	22.8	22.3	22.7	22.4
70	15.4	14.7	13.5	16.3
60	8.9	9.8	10.9	8.7
50 Not happy or sad	10.9	12.3	12.5	12.1
40	5.0	5.2	6.1	4.0
30	3.3	4.0	4.3	3.7
20	2.4	3.1	4.0	2.3
10	1.1	1.3	1.7	0.6
0 Very sad	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.0

National %　SA %　Female %　Male %

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 7.8 shows that, around six in ten respondents from SA felt either *very positive* or *positive* 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* (45.2%) or *very positive* (15.9%) about the future.

- Close to three in ten respondents (27.7%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

- 7.9% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 3.2% felt *very negative*.

- Males and females from SA were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A larger proportion of male than female respondents, however, indicated feeling *very positive* (17.1% compared with 14.8%).

Table 7.8: Feelings about the future

	National %	SA 2016 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2015 %	SA 2014 %
Very positive	17.3	15.9	14.8	17.1	12.4	14.1
Positive	47.1	45.2	46.0	45.5	45.5	46.0
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	27.7	29.5	26.2	31.0	29.9
Negative	6.5	7.9	7.5	8.1	8.3	7.3
Very negative	3.0	3.2	2.3	3.1	2.8	2.8

Tasmania

Profile of respondents

In total, 1,950 young people from Tasmania (TAS) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (52.1%) of respondents from Tasmania were male and 47.9% were female.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 217 (11.3%) respondents from Tasmania identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 165 (8.6%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 27 (1.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 1.3% identified as both). Similar proportions of male and female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (10.6% and 10.3% respectively).

Language background other than English

A total of 185 (9.6%) respondents from Tasmania stated that they were born overseas and 211 (11.0%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 40 languages spoken at home in Tasmania, the most common were (in order of frequency): French, Chinese, German, Greek and Spanish.

Disability

A total of 75 (4.0%) respondents from Tasmania indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (4.1%) than females (3.1%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in Tasmania were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disability and physical disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 8.1, 94.5% of respondents from Tasmania were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of male respondents reported that they were studying full-time than female respondents (95.8% compared with 94.7%), while similar proportions of both males and females reported not studying at all (2.8% compared with 2.1%).

Respondents who reported 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 previous years, the majority of respondents from Tasmania reported that they were either *very satisfied* (17.0%) or *satisfied* (58.0%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.0% and 4.3% respectively). As shown in Table 8.2, similar proportions of females and males from Tasmania reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (15.7% and 60.7% of females compared with 18.3% and 57.7% of males).

Table 8.1: Participation in education

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.6	94.5	94.7	95.8
Studying part-time	2.2	2.3	3.1	1.4
Not studying	3.2	3.2	2.1	2.8

Table 8.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	TAS 2016 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2015 %	TAS 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.0	17.0	15.7	18.3	15.0	14.7
Satisfied	55.9	58.0	60.7	57.7	58.0	60.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	19.8	19.7	19.2	21.3	19.1
Dissatisfied	4.2	4.3	3.5	4.1	4.4	3.4
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.7	1.3	1.9

Of those who were still at school in Tasmania, 95.8% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. A slightly higher proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.0% compared with 2.0% respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. Around one in five (21.4%) respondents from Tasmania indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course. A slightly higher proportion of females than males indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (22.6% compared with 20.1% 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 less than six in ten respondents from Tasmania planned to go to university after school (56.4%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (35.8%) and to travel or go on a gap year (32.3%) after school. Overall, 17.7% of young people from Tasmania planned to attend TAFE or college and 11.6% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (0.6%) 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 Tasmania, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (59.8% compared with 53.4% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (36.1% compared with 29.6%). More than twice the proportion of males than females indicated that they were planning to undertake an apprenticeship (15.8% compared with 6.8% respectively).

Figure 8.1: Plans after leaving school
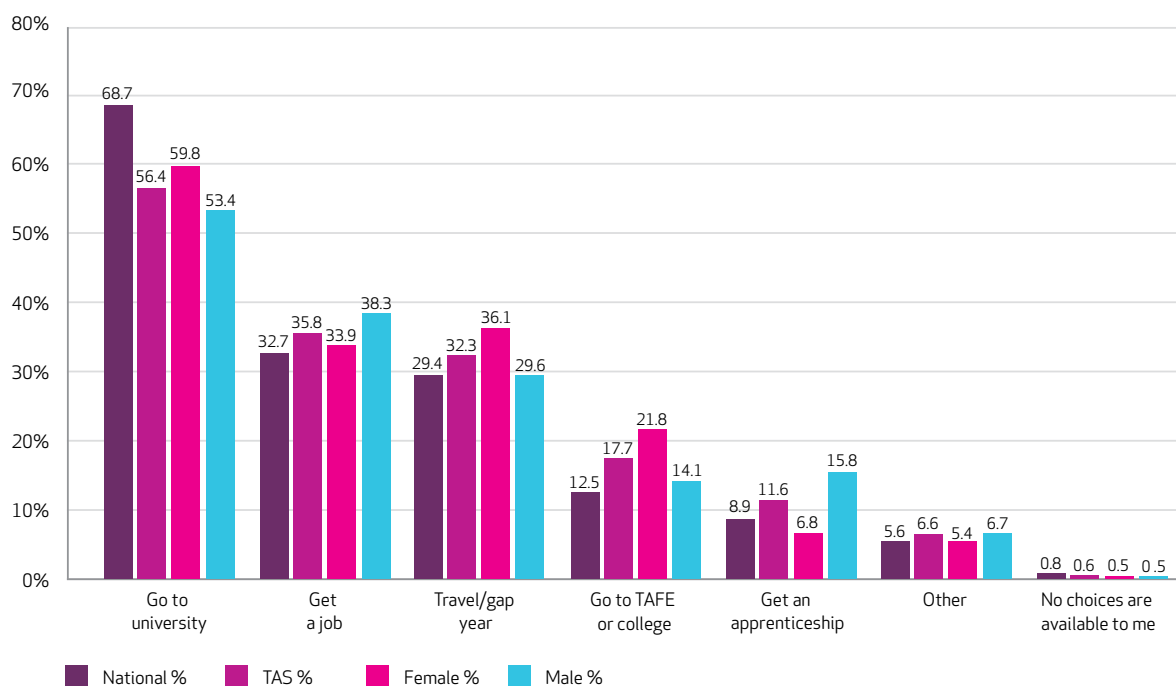
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 8.2 shows the percentage of respondents from Tasmania who indicated each item as being an influence. In Tasmania, the top three influences on young people's post-school plans were *parents*, *other family members* and the *internet*.

- *Parents*, *other family members* and the *internet* were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans (80.7%, 70.4% and 66.3% respectively).

- Close to two thirds (65.7%) of respondents indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans while around half (55.0%) indicated that their *teacher* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

Figure 8.2: Influences on post-school plans

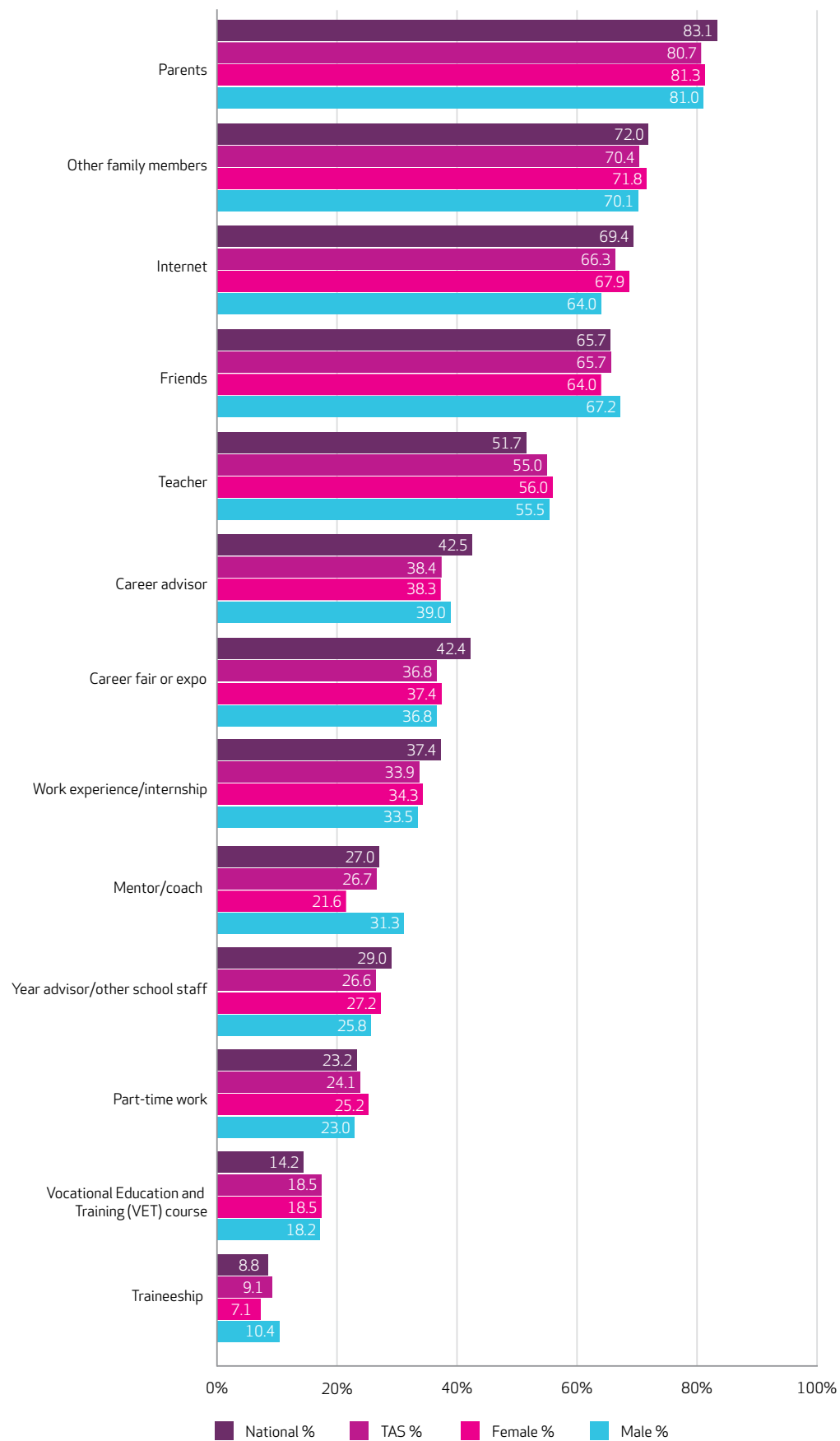|	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Parents	83.1	80.7	81.3	81.0
Other family members	72.0	70.4	71.8	70.1
Internet	69.4	66.3	67.9	64.0
Friends	65.7	65.7	64.0	67.2
Teacher	51.7	55.0	56.0	55.5
Career advisor	42.5	38.4	38.3	39.0
Career fair or expo	42.4	36.8	37.4	36.8
Work experience/internship	37.4	33.9	34.3	33.5
Mentor/coach	27.0	26.7	21.6	31.3
Year advisor/other school staff	29.0	26.6	27.2	25.8
Part-time work	23.2	24.1	25.2	23.0
Vocational Education and Training (VET) course	14.2	18.5	18.5	18.2
Traineeship	8.8	9.1	7.1	10.4

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 8.2, the top two influences which both genders identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans were consistent with Tasmanian and national results. For males, the third top influence was *friends*, while for females it was the *internet*. Similar proportions of both females and males indicated that they saw *parents* influencing their post-school plans, while a slightly greater proportion of females than males indicated that *other family members* and the *internet* were influences on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

- Just over eight in ten female and male respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (81.3% of females compared with 81.0% of males) and around seven in ten respondents from both genders indicated that *other family members* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school (71.8% of females compared with 70.1% of males).

- A greater proportion of female than male respondents indicated that the *internet* was an influence (67.9% compared with 64.0%), while a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that *friends* were an influence on their post-school plans (67.2% compared with 64.0%).

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 national results, only a tiny minority (0.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Just over four in ten (43.1%) of respondents from Tasmania reported part-time employment. Close to six in ten Tasmania respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 35.6% looking for work and 20.8% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from Tasmania reported full-time employment (0.3% compared with 0.1% respectively), while there was a higher proportion of female respondents employed part-time (54.2% compared with 33.9%). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (38.0% compared with 33.0%).

Table 8.3: Participation in paid employment

|	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.3
Employed part-time	38.5	43.1	54.2	33.9
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.1	35.6	33.0	38.0
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	25.8	20.8	12.6	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 2016 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 8.3 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. The top three most highly valued items for respondents from Tasmania this year were *friendships, family relationships* and *physical and mental health*. The next most valued item for Tasmania respondents was *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 79.8% of respondents from Tasmania (*extremely important*: 36.7%; *very important*: 43.1%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 76.1% of respondents (*extremely important*: 41.5%; *very important*: 34.6%).

- Around seven in ten respondents highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 35.3%; *very important*: 35.5%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 29.2%; *very important*: 39.6%).

- Just over four in ten Tasmanian respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 14.7%; *very important*: 29.3%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 16.2%; *very important*: 27.2%).

Figure 8.3: What young people value
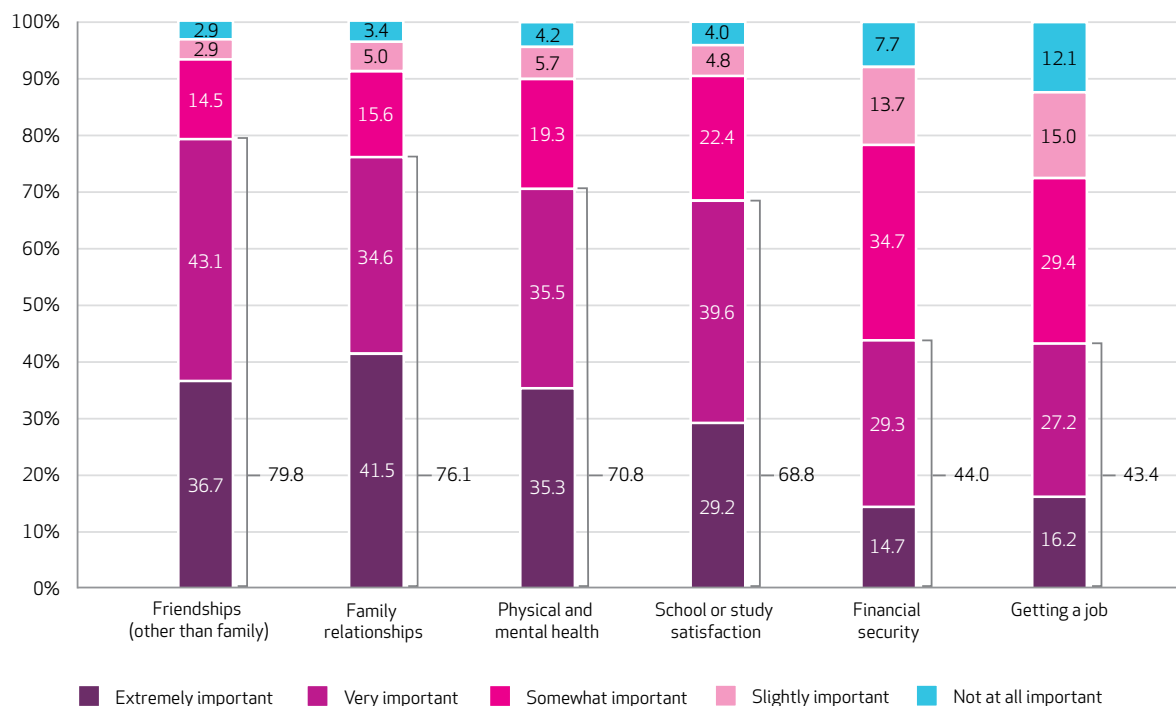
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Family relationships, friendships were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females in Tasmania, as shown in Table 8.4. The third most highly valued item for males was *physical and mental health*, while for females 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 82.7% of females (*extremely important*: 39.3%; *very important*: 43.4%) compared with 79.2% of males (*extremely important*: 35.1%; *very important*: 44.1%).

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 82.2% of females (*extremely important*: 47.3%; *very important*: 34.9%) compared with 73.4% of males (*extremely important*: 37.3%; *very important*: 36.1%).

- Three quarters (75.9%) of females highly valued *school or study problems* (*extremely important*: 33.5%; *very important*: 42.4%) compared with 65.0% of males (*extremely important*: 26.0%; *very important*: 39.0%).

- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 75.6% of females (*extremely important*: 38.4%; *very important*: 37.2%) and 68.0% of males (*extremely important*: 32.6%; *very important*: 35.4%) in Tasmania.

Table 8.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**39.3**	**43.4**	13.1	2.7	1.4
Family relationships	**47.3**	**34.9**	11.9	4.2	1.7
Physical and mental health	38.4	37.2	17.2	5.1	2.1
School or study satisfaction	**33.5**	**42.4**	19.2	3.4	1.5
Financial security	13.9	31.9	37.5	12.1	4.6
Getting a job	18.0	32.5	29.0	13.6	6.9

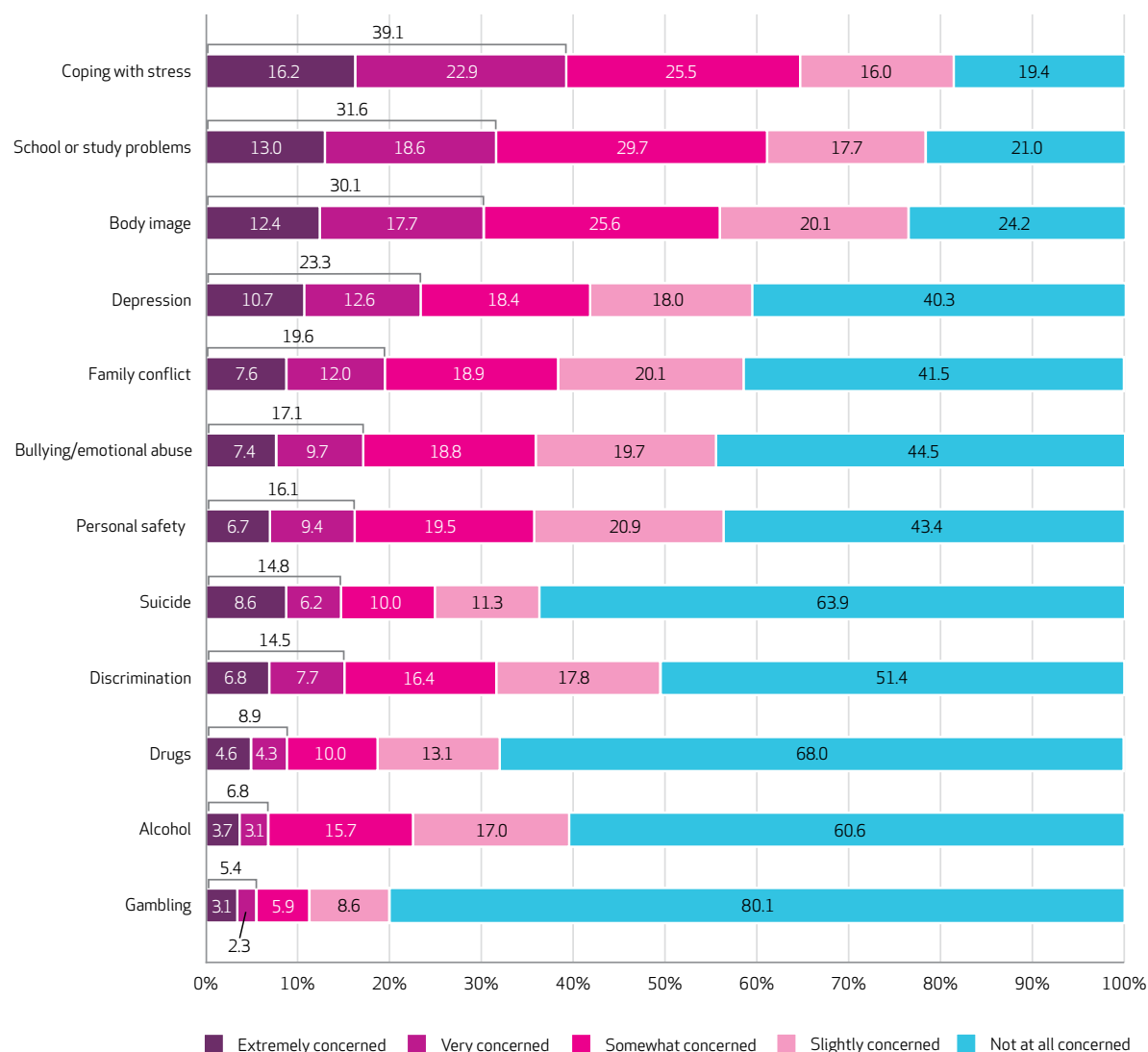| Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**35.1**	**44.1**	15.5	3.1	2.1
Family relationships	**37.3**	**36.1**	18.6	5.3	2.7
Physical and mental health	**32.6**	**35.4**	21.5	6.1	4.4
School or study satisfaction	26.0	39.0	25.2	6.3	3.6
Financial security	14.4	27.8	33.6	15.4	8.8
Getting a job	14.0	23.3	30.9	16.6	15.2

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.

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 6.4. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. 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 39.1% of respondents from Tasmania indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (16.2%) or *very concerned* (22.9%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 31.6% (*extremely concerned*: 13.0%; *very concerned*: 18.6%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 30.1% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.4%; *very concerned*: 17.7%).

- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 8.4: Issues of personal concern to young people

Issue	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned
Coping with stress	16.2	22.9	25.5	16.0	19.4
School or study problems	13.0	18.6	29.7	17.7	21.0
Body image	12.4	17.7	25.6	20.1	24.2
Depression	10.7	12.6	18.4	18.0	40.3
Family conflict	7.6	12.0	18.9	20.1	41.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.4	9.7	18.8	19.7	44.5
Personal safety	6.7	9.4	19.5	20.9	43.4
Suicide	8.6	6.2	10.0	11.3	63.9
Discrimination	6.8	7.7	16.4	17.8	51.4
Drugs	4.6	4.3	10.0	13.1	68.0
Alcohol	3.7	3.1	15.7	17.0	60.6
Gambling	3.1	2.3	5.9	8.6	80.1

Sum of *extremely concerned* and *very concerned*: Coping with stress 39.1; School or study problems 31.6; Body image 30.1; Depression 23.3; Family conflict 19.6; Bullying/emotional abuse 17.1; Personal safety 16.1; Suicide 14.8; Discrimination 14.5; Drugs 8.9; Alcohol 6.8; Gambling 5.4.

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 among the top three issues of concern for both males and females in Tasmania, as highlighted in Table 8.5. For females, the number one issue of concern was *coping with stress*, followed by *body image* and then *school or study problems*. For males, the top issue was *coping with stress*, followed by *school or study problems* and then *depression*. The proportion of females concerned about these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For just over half of females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 23.8%; *very concerned*: 27.7%), compared with close to three in ten males (*extremely concerned*: 8.2%; *very concerned*: 19.5%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 44.4% (*extremely concerned*: 18.3%; *very concerned*: 26.1%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 16.7% (*extremely concerned*: 5.8%; *very concerned*: 10.9%) of males.

- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 39.5% (*extremely concerned*: 16.8%; *very concerned*: 22.7%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 24.0% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.5%; *very concerned*: 15.5%).

- For 28.7% of females (*extremely concerned*: 12.5%; *very concerned*: 16.2%) and 16.8% of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.2%; *very concerned*: 9.6%) *depression* was a major concern.

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

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**23.8**	**27.7**	26.9	13.7	7.9
School or study problems	**16.8**	**22.7**	32.3	16.0	12.1
Body image	**18.3**	**26.1**	28.4	15.7	11.5
Depression	12.5	16.2	20.5	18.0	32.7
Family conflict	8.7	16.0	23.5	21.1	30.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.8	12.5	22.0	22.0	34.8
Personal safety	6.9	12.0	22.6	23.0	35.5
Suicide	9.4	8.3	11.5	12.5	58.3
Discrimination	8.2	9.3	19.2	20.0	43.3
Drugs	4.1	4.3	10.7	13.9	66.9
Alcohol	1.1	3.7	18.7	17.4	59.0
Gambling	2.2	2.6	4.7	8.8	81.7

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**8.2**	**19.5**	25.5	18.6	28.2
School or study problems	**8.5**	**15.5**	28.5	20.3	27.2
Body image	5.8	10.9	24.4	24.5	34.4
Depression	**7.2**	**9.6**	17.1	19.2	46.9
Family conflict	5.0	8.6	15.3	20.2	51.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.0	7.1	16.6	18.3	52.9
Personal safety	5.2	7.3	17.8	19.5	50.2
Suicide	5.9	4.2	9.0	10.2	70.7
Discrimination	3.9	6.1	14.1	17.1	58.8
Drugs	3.7	4.1	9.8	13.0	69.4
Alcohol	4.8	2.6	13.7	17.5	61.4
Gambling	2.5	1.9	7.2	8.5	79.9

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 8.5 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 (82.6%, 75.4% and 58.3% respectively).

- Around half of respondents from Tasmania indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for help with important issues in their lives.

- Close to half of respondents indicated that they would go to the *internet* for help and just over one third indicated that they would go to their *teacher* for help with important issues.

Figure 8.5: Where young people go for help with important issues
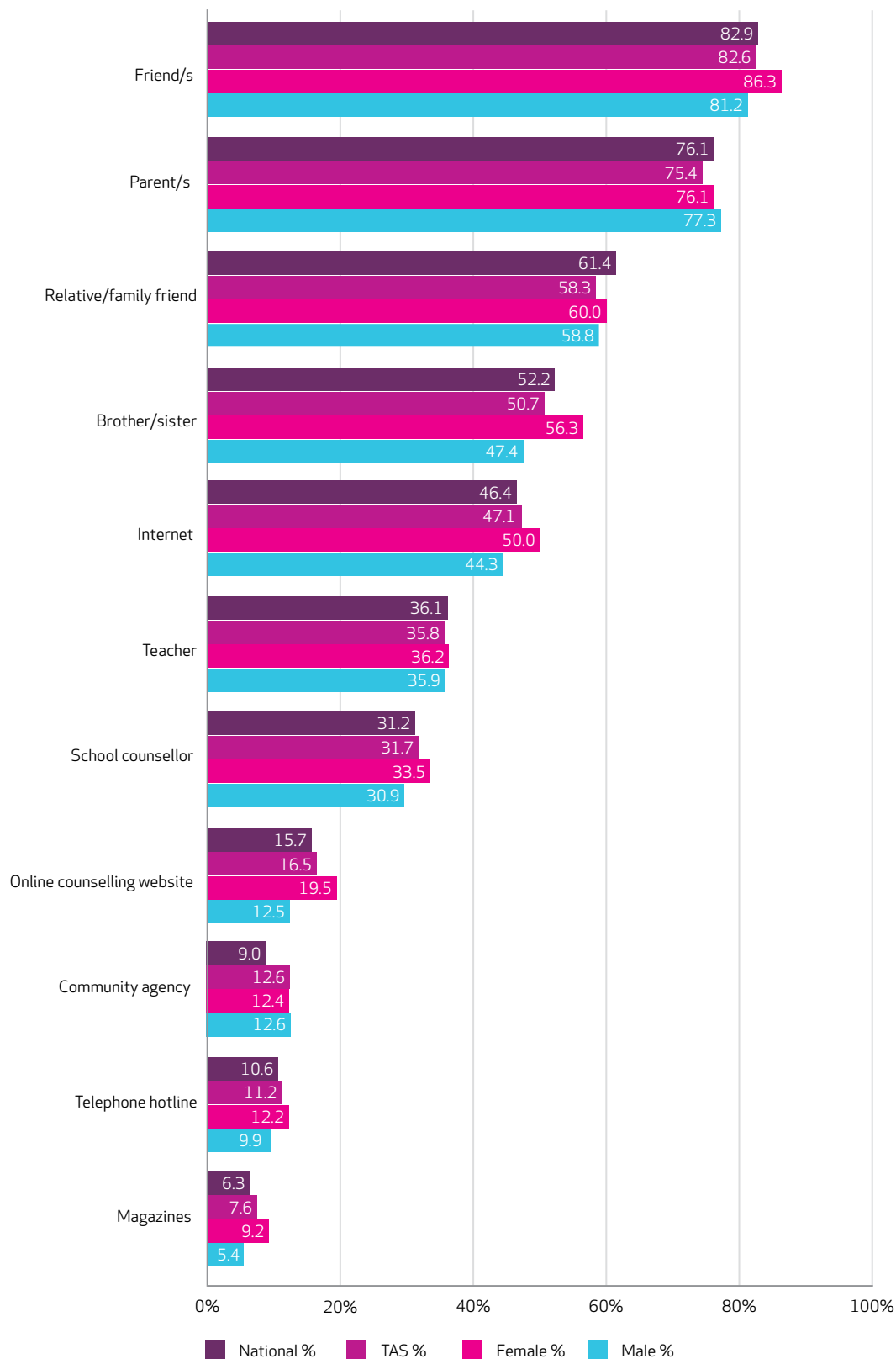
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 8.5, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with Tasmanian and the national results. However, a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents indicated that they would go to *friend/s* and *relatives/family friends* for help with important issues, while a slightly greater proportion of males would go to *parent/s.*

- Close to nine in ten (86.3%) female respondents and 81.2% of male respondents in Tasmania indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.

- A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated they would go to *parent/s* (77.3% compared with 76.1%), while a slightly higher proportion of females than males would go to *relatives/family friends* (60.0% compared with 58.8%) for help.

- A greater proportion of females than males from Tasmania would go to their *brother/sister* (56.3% compared with 47.4%), the *internet* (50.0% compared with 44.3%), *online counselling websites* (19.5% compared with 12.5%) and *magazines* (9.2% compared with 5.4%) 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 8.6 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from Tasmania 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 31.4% 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* (13.4%) or *poor* (7.8%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 8.6: Family's ability to get along
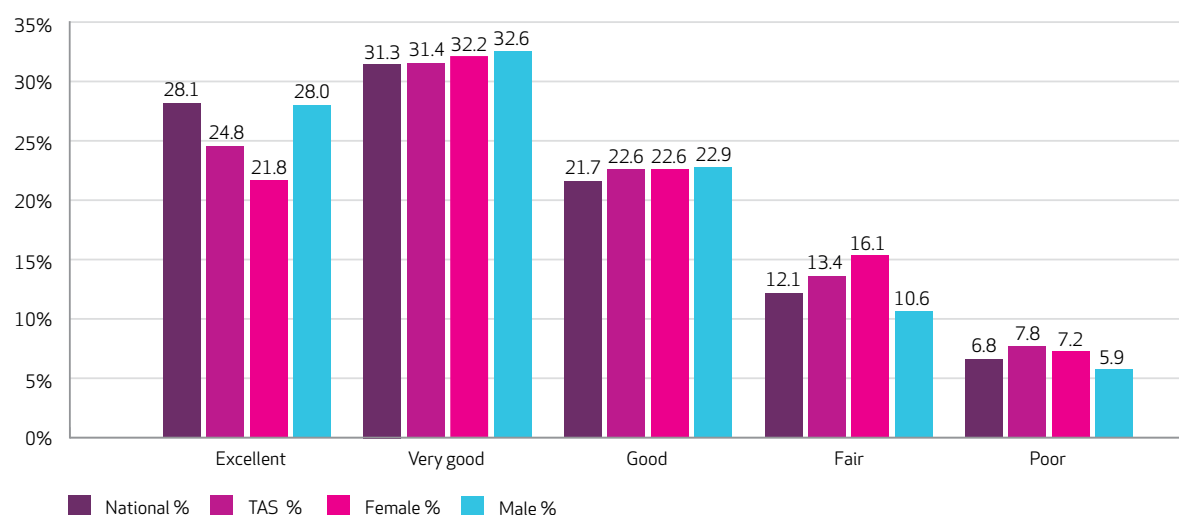
What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

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 8.6. In 2016 the top three issues identified by young people from Tasmania were *equity and discrimination, alcohol and drugs* and *population issues.*

- Just over one quarter of young people from Tasmania identified *equity and discrimination* (27.9%) and *alcohol and drugs* (26.7%) as important issues in Australia today.

- Close to one in five respondents identified *population issues* (17.2%) and *mental health* (17.1%) as major issues.

- Compared to the past two years, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* have risen as issues of national concern among Tasmanian respondents.

- Since 2014, *mental health* and *the environment* have been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation among respondents from Tasmania. Conversely, mentions of *politics, the economy and financial matters, health, employment* and *homelessness/housing* 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 *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were identified among the top two issues by both males and females, the other issue making up their top three differed. For females, *equity and discrimination* was the number one issue, followed by *alcohol and drugs* and then *mental health*. For males, the top issue this year was *alcohol and drugs*, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *population issues*.

- Around three in ten female and male respondents from Tasmania (29.9% and 27.2% respectively) identified *equity and discrimination* as a major issue facing Australia today.

- A greater proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* (29.4% compared with 24.2%) and *population issues* (18.7% compared with 16.1%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *mental health* (23.0% compared with 12.4%) as an important national issue.

Table 8.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	TAS 2016 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2015 %	TAS 2014 %
Equity and discrimination	**27.0**	**27.9**	**29.9**	**27.2**	**25.7**	15.5
Alcohol and drugs	**28.7**	**26.7**	24.2	**29.4**	**26.1**	18.7
Population issues	16.0	**17.2**	16.1	**18.7**	15.7	18.1
Mental health	**20.6**	17.1	**23.0**	12.4	14.6	12.4
The environment	11.5	14.1	14.8	14.2	12.3	10.0
Politics	12.8	13.9	11.3	16.0	**17.7**	**27.1**
The economy and financial matters	14.7	13.8	12.1	15.9	17.6	**22.8**
Health	10.3	13.4	15.4	11.7	13.7	17.7
Employment	9.9	13.1	11.8	14.2	16.6	**21.2**
Education	11.6	12.4	13.7	11.5	10.1	12.0
International relations	16.2	12.0	9.9	13.5	14.3	6.4
Crime, safety and violence	12.8	10.6	11.0	9.8	8.1	9.1
Bullying	10.1	10.4	14.0	7.9	7.6	14.7
LGBT issues	7.4	10.3	14.1	6.9	15.2	5.3
Homelessness/housing	7.5	7.8	9.3	7.1	8.9	9.0

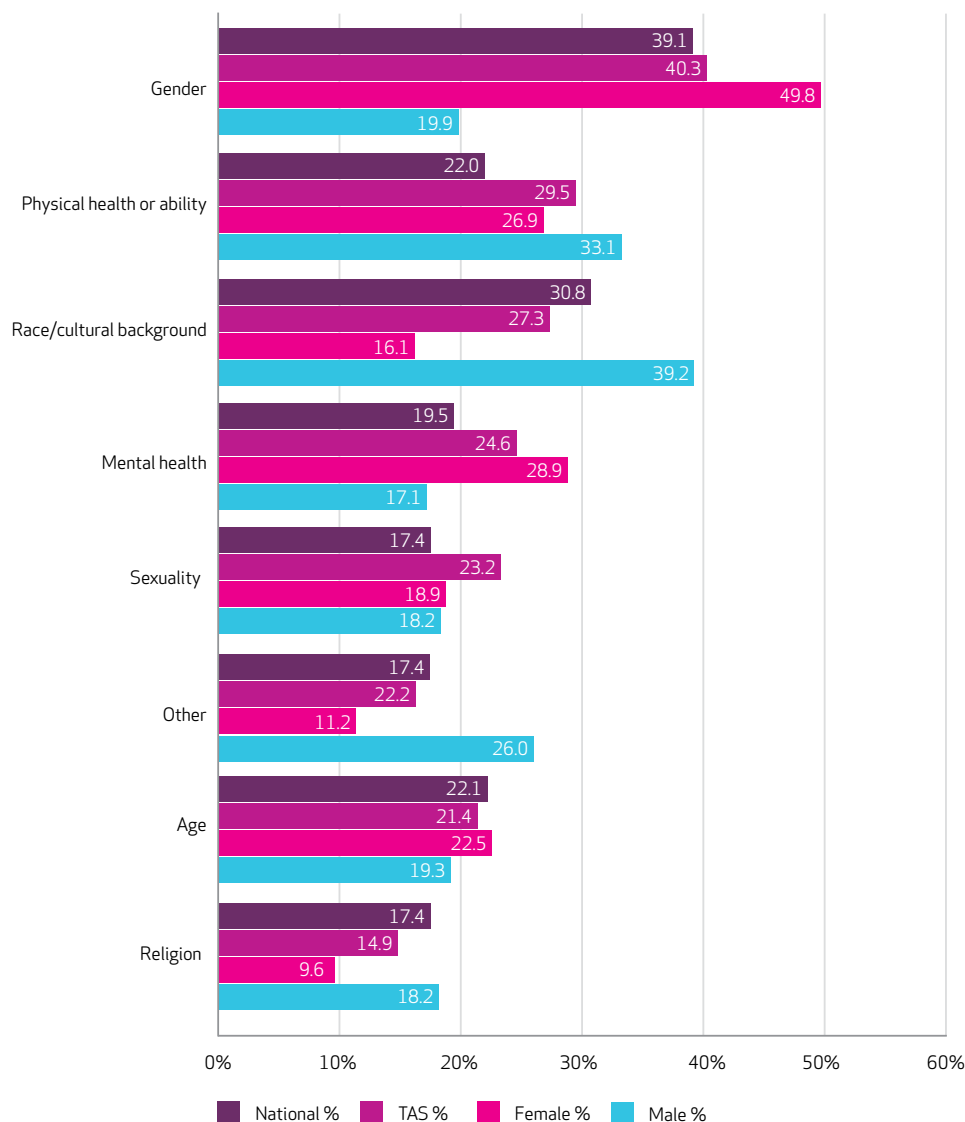Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. Consistent with national results, around one quarter (25.6%) of young people from Tasmania indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (28.3% of females compared with 19.1% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 8.7. The top three reasons indicated by respondents in Tasmania for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *gender*, *physical health or ability* and *race/cultural background*.

- *Gender*, *physical health or ability* and *race/cultural background* were the three most commonly cited reasons for young people's reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (40.3%, 29.5% and 27.3% respectively).

- Around one quarter of respondents from Tasmania indicated that *mental health* (24.6%) and *sexuality* (23.2%) were reasons for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

Figure 8.7: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Gender	39.1	40.3	49.8	19.9
Physical health or ability	22.0	29.5	26.9	33.1
Race/cultural background	30.8	27.3	16.1	39.2
Mental health	19.5	24.6	28.9	17.1
Sexuality	17.4	23.2	18.9	18.2
Other	17.4	22.2	11.2	26.0
Age	22.1	21.4	22.5	19.3
Religion	17.4	14.9	9.6	18.2

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

Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by male and female respondents in Tasmania, as shown in Figure 8.7. The top three reasons identified by females were *gender, mental health* and *physical health or ability.* The three reasons most commonly cited by males were *race/cultural background, physical health or ability* and *other* reasons.

- Half (49.8%) of female respondents and one in five (19.9%) male respondents from Tasmania indicated that *gender* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Close to four in ten (39.2%) males and 16.1% of females indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A greater proportion of female (28.9%) than male (17.1%) respondents from Tasmania indicated that *mental health* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, while a greater proportion of males than females indicated that *other* reasons were the perceived cause (26.0% compared with 11.2% respectively).

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were also asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Consistent with national results, just over half (52.9%) of young people in Tasmania indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (55.1% of females compared with 50.0% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 8.8. The top three reasons cited for unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents in Tasmania were *race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *physical health or ability*.

- *Race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *physical health or ability* were the three most commonly cited reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by young people in Tasmania (53.7%, 46.9% and 39.4% respectively).

- Around one third of respondents from Tasmania indicated that *gender* (34.6%) and *religion* (31.8%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

Figure 8.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed
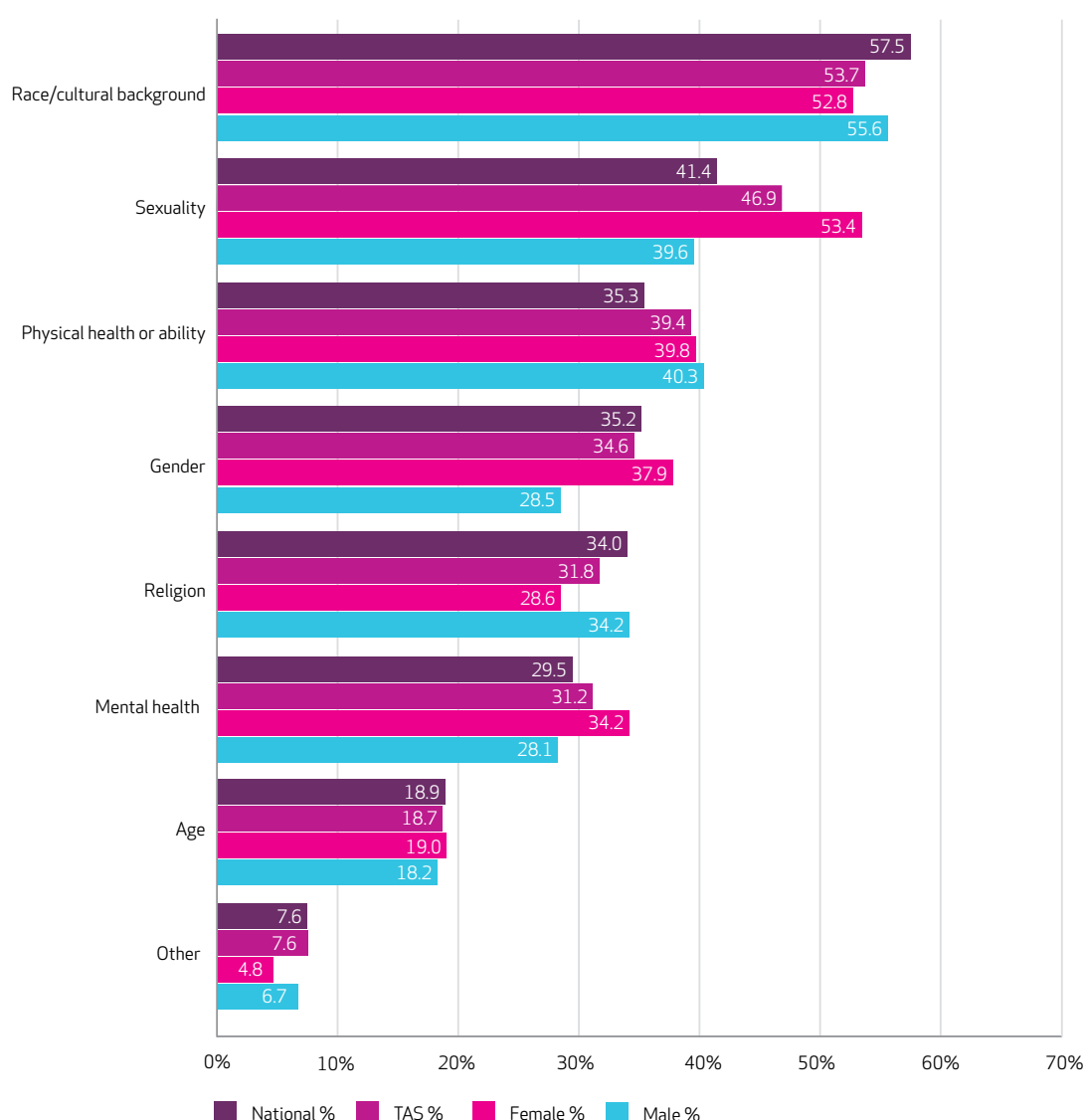
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 8.8, *race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *physical health or ability* were among the top three reasons identified for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by both genders, however the order of these items differed between genders. For females, *sexuality* was the number one reason, followed by *race/cultural background* and then *physical health or ability*. For males, the top reason was *race/cultural background*, followed by *physical health or ability* and then *sexuality*.

- Just over half of both male and female respondents from Tasmania indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed (55.6% and 52.8% respectively).

- Just over half (53.4%) of females and four in ten (39.6%) males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.

- Similar proportions of both male and female respondents from Tasmania indicated that *physical health or ability* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed (40.3% compared with 39.8%).

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*. 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 2016.

- Close to half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (48.1%).

- Four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (40.9%) and three in ten had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (29.3%).

- Around one quarter of young people from Tasmania (24.7%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

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

- 77.9% of male respondents and 67.5% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.

- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (72.6% compared with 61.6%).

- A higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved with *volunteer work* (55.8% compared with 41.5%).

- Overall, greater proportions of female than male respondents from Tasmania were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* and *student leadership activities* (54.6% and 42.6% compared with 41.5% and 39.4% respectively).

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

	National %	TAS 2016 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2015 %	TAS 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.7**	**72.0**	**67.5**	**77.9**	**75.8**	**69.8**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.0**	**66.5**	**61.6**	**72.6**	**70.0**	**65.3**
Volunteer work	**53.5**	**48.4**	**55.8**	**41.5**	47.1	**45.2**
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	48.1	54.6	**41.5**	**47.2**	45.0
Student leadership activities	42.5	40.9	42.6	39.4	39.1	34.7
Youth groups and clubs	30.6	29.3	31.5	26.3	28.5	30.0
Environmental groups or activities	24.6	24.7	25.1	24.1	21.0	23.6
Religious groups or activities	28.7	19.3	20.0	17.5	23.6	21.7
Political groups or organisations	8.7	8.6	8.5	7.6	8.7	9.7

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.
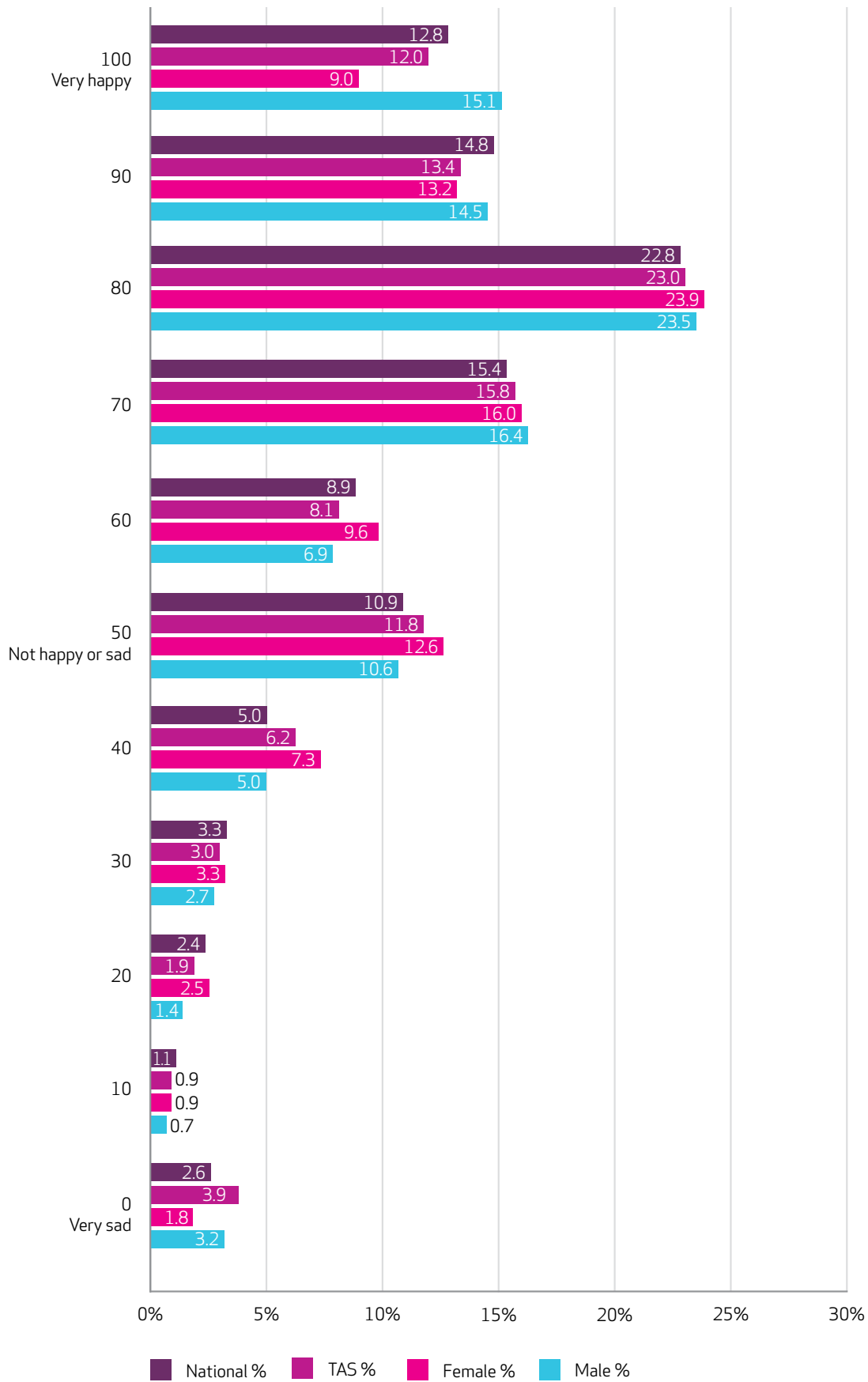
How happy are young people?

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[1], 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 (64.2%) 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 a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (15.1% compared with 9.0%).

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[1] 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

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
100 Very happy	12.8	12.0	9.0	15.1
90	14.8	13.4	13.2	14.5
80	22.8	23.0	23.9	23.5
70	15.4	15.8	16.0	16.4
60	8.9	8.1	9.6	6.9
50 Not happy or sad	10.9	11.8	12.6	10.6
40	5.0	6.2	7.3	5.0
30	3.3	3.0	3.3	2.7
20	2.4	1.9	2.5	1.4
10	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7
0 Very sad	2.6	3.9	1.8	3.2

National %   TAS %   Female %   Male %

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 8.8 shows that, in line with the national results, around six in ten respondents from Tasmania felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, only one in ten young people from Tasmania felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Six in ten respondents from Tasmania felt either *positive* (45.8%) or *very positive* (15.7%) about the future.

- Close to three in ten respondents (28.2%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

- 6.6% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 3.6% felt *very negative*.

- Males and females from Tasmania were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A larger proportion of male than female respondents, however, indicated feeling *very positive* (19.6% compared with 12.2% for females).

Table 8.8: Feelings about the future

	National %	TAS 2016 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2015 %	TAS 2014 %
Very positive	17.3	15.7	12.2	19.6	14.4	17.4
Positive	47.1	45.8	46.4	46.9	44.6	48.0
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	28.2	32.8	24.3	29.4	26.8
Negative	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	8.5	4.9
Very negative	3.0	3.6	2.2	2.7	3.2	2.8

Victoria

Profile of respondents

In total, 4,178 young people from Victoria (VIC) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*.

Gender breakdown

Around six in ten (62.9%) respondents from Victoria were female and 37.1% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 81 (2.0%) respondents from Victoria identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 59 (1.4%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 15 (0.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.2% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (2.7% compared with 0.8%).

Language background other than English

A total of 626 (15.2%) respondents from Victoria stated that they were born overseas and 902 (22.0%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 80 languages spoken at home in Victoria, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese and Italian.

Disability

A total of 119 (2.9%) respondents from Victoria indicated that they had a disability, with a slightly greater proportion of males (3.5%) than females (2.2%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in Victoria were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disability and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD).

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 9.1, 96.9% of respondents from Victoria were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female respondents reported that they were studying full-time than male respondents (97.6% compared with 96.3%), while a slightly greater proportion of males (2.4%) than females (1.3%) 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 previous years, the majority of respondents from Victoria reported that they were either *very satisfied* (18.9%) or *satisfied* (57.0%) with their studies. Only one in twenty were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.2% and 3.8% respectively). As shown in Table 9.2, around three quarters of both females and males from Victoria reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (16.4% and 60.0% of females compared with 23.5% and 52.9% of males respectively).

Table 9.1: Participation in education

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.6	96.9	97.6	96.3
Studying part-time	2.2	1.2	1.1	1.3
Not studying	3.2	1.9	1.3	2.4

Table 9.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	VIC 2016 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2015 %	VIC 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.0	18.9	16.4	23.5	17.3	15.5
Satisfied	55.9	57.0	60.0	52.9	57.9	56.1
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	19.0	18.7	18.9	19.8	21.7
Dissatisfied	4.2	3.8	4.2	3.0	3.7	5.3
Very dissatisfied	1.5	1.2	0.7	1.7	1.2	1.5

Of those who were still at school in Victoria, 98.2% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Three times the proportion of males indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (3.0% compared with 1.0% of females respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. Around one in five (17.4%) respondents from Victoria indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course. Similar proportions of both males and females indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (17.7% compared with 17.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 9.1 shows that around eight in ten respondents from Victoria planned to go to university after school (78.4%). Many respondents also indicated plans to travel or go on a gap year (30.6%) or to get a job (28.6%) after school. Overall, 7.6% of young people from Victoria planned to attend TAFE or college and 4.8% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (0.6%) 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, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (83.0% compared with 71.3% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (33.1% compared with 26.6%). A larger proportion of males indicated that they were planning to undertake an apprenticeship (9.2% compared with 2.2% of females).
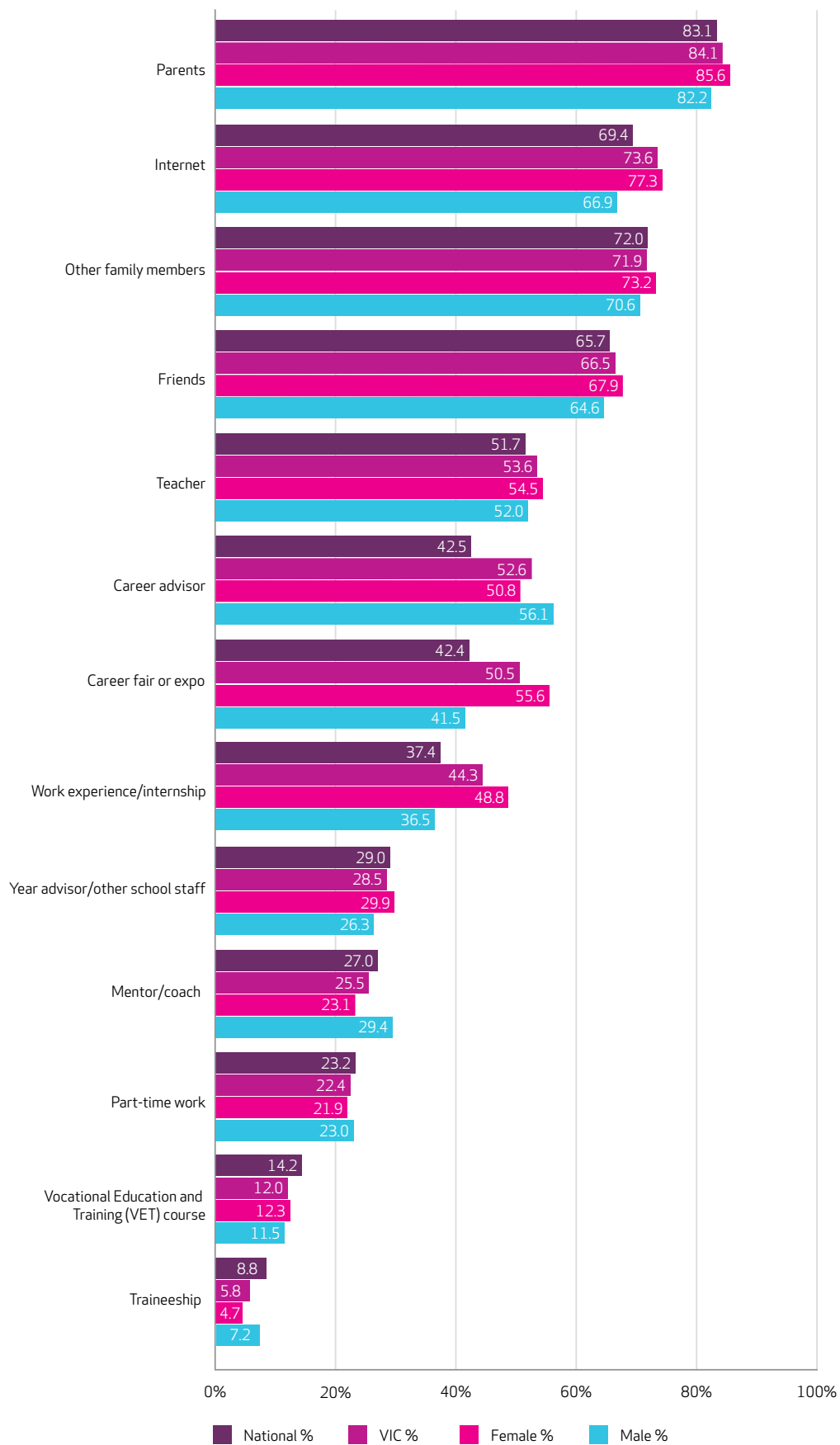
Figure 9.1: Plans after leaving school
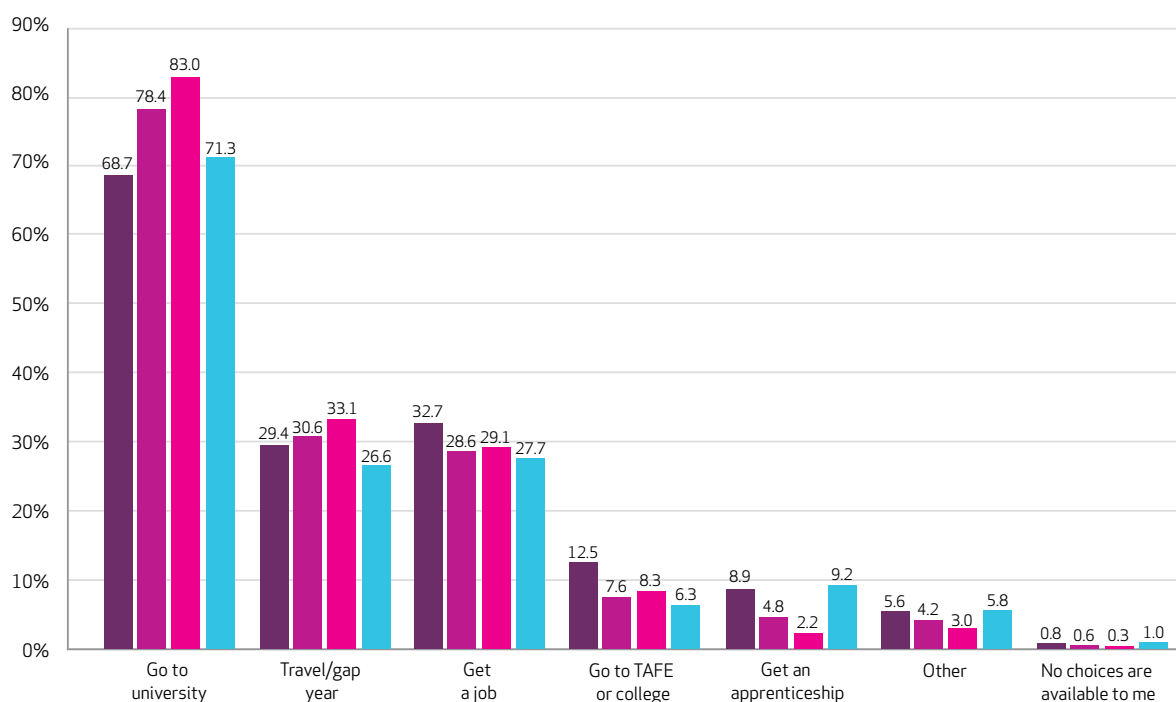
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 9.2 shows the percentage of respondents from Victoria who indicated each item as being an influence. In Victoria, the top three influences on young people's post-school plans were *parents*, the *internet* and *other family members*.

- *Parents*, the *internet* and *other family members* were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans (84.1%, 73.6% and 71.9% respectively).

- Two thirds (66.5%) of respondents indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans while around half indicated that their *teacher* (53.6%), *career advisor* (52.6%) or a *career fair or expo* (50.5%) were influences on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

Figure 9.2: Influences on post-school plans

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Parents	83.1	84.1	85.6	82.2
Internet	69.4	73.6	77.3	66.9
Other family members	72.0	71.9	73.2	70.6
Friends	65.7	66.5	67.9	64.6
Teacher	51.7	53.6	54.5	52.0
Career advisor	42.5	52.6	50.8	56.1
Career fair or expo	42.4	50.5	55.6	41.5
Work experience/internship	37.4	44.3	48.8	36.5
Year advisor/other school staff	29.0	28.5	29.9	26.3
Mentor/coach	27.0	25.5	23.1	29.4
Part-time work	23.2	22.4	21.9	23.0
Vocational Education and Training (VET) course	14.2	12.0	12.3	11.5
Traineeship	8.8	5.8	4.7	7.2

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 9.2, the top three influences which both genders identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans were consistent with Victorian and national results. For males however, the order of the second and third top influences was reversed. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that each of the top three influences impacted on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

• Over eight in ten female and male respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (85.6% of females compared with 82.2% of males).

• Just over three quarters (77.3%) of female respondents and around two thirds (66.9%) of male respondents indicated that the *internet* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

• A greater proportion of female (73.2%) than male (70.6%) respondents indicated that *other family members* were an influence on their post-school plans.

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 national results, only a tiny minority (0.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Around four in ten (40.4%) respondents from Victoria reported part-time employment. Close to six in ten Victorian respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 30.4% looking for work and 28.8% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from Victoria reported full-time employment (0.7% compared with 0.1% respectively), while there was a higher proportion of female respondents employed part-time (45.2% compared with 32.9%). Conversely, a slightly greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (32.1% compared with 29.0%) or were not in paid employment and not looking for work (34.3% compared with 25.7%).

Table 9.3: Participation in paid employment

|	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.7
Employed part-time	38.5	40.4	45.2	32.9
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.1	30.4	29.0	32.1
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	25.8	28.8	25.7	34.3

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 2016 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 9.3, 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 line with both national results and 2015 Victorian findings, the three most highly valued items for respondents from Victoria this year were *friendships, family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most valued item for Victorian respondents was *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

• *Friendships* were highly valued by 84.3% of respondents from Victoria (*extremely important*: 43.7%; *very important*: 40.6%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 82.8% of respondents (*extremely important*: 49.5%; very important: 33.3%).

• Around three quarters of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 36.1%; *very important*: 41.7%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 39.2%; *very important*: 35.8%).

• Just under half of all Victorian respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 17.3%; *very important*: 29.9%) and around one third highly valued *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 11.5%; *very important*: 23.8%).

Figure 9.3: What young people value
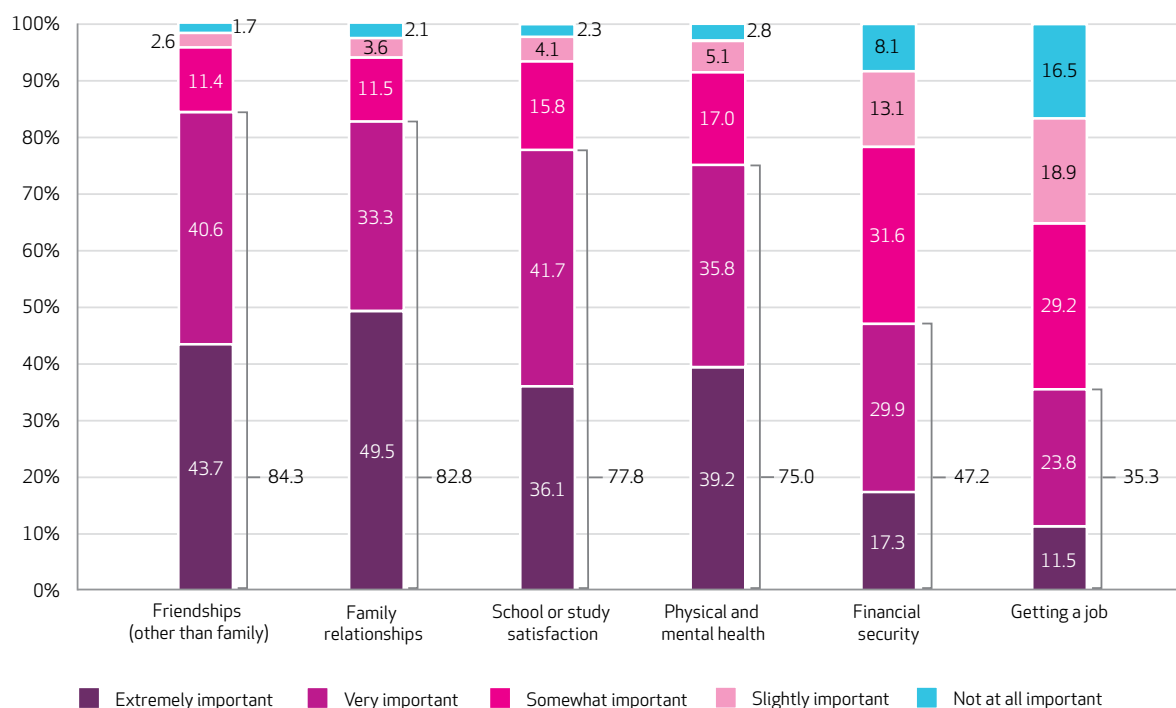
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Friendships, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction* were ranked among the three most highly valued items by both males and females in Victoria, as shown in Table 9.4. The order of the top two most highly valued items differed however, with the most highly valued item for females being *family relationships*, while for males it was *friendships*. 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 86.4% of females (*extremely important*: 55.9%; *very important*: 30.5%) compared with 79.1% of males (*extremely important*: 40.5%; *very important*: 38.6%).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 86.0% of females (*extremely important*: 47.6%; *very important*: 38.4%) compared with 82.7% of males (*extremely important*: 37.6%; *very important*: 45.1%).

- Around eight in ten (82.6%) females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 40.6%; *very important*: 42.0%) compared with 71.8% of males (*extremely important*: 29.5%; *very important*: 42.3%).

- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 79.0% of females (*extremely important*: 43.6%; *very important*: 35.4%) and 69.5% of males (*extremely important*: 32.6%; *very important*: 36.9%) in Victoria.

Table 9.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**47.6**	**38.4**	11.0	2.1	0.9
Family relationships	**55.9**	**30.5**	9.3	3.3	1.0
School or study satisfaction	**40.6**	**42.0**	13.5	2.7	1.2
Physical and mental health	43.6	35.4	15.2	4.3	1.5
Financial security	18.0	32.0	33.0	12.1	4.9
Getting a job	11.5	26.6	30.6	17.4	13.9
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**37.6**	**45.1**	11.5	3.6	2.2
Family relationships	**40.5**	**38.6**	14.2	3.7	3.0
School or study satisfaction	**29.5**	**42.3**	18.9	6.3	3.0
Physical and mental health	32.6	36.9	20.5	6.0	3.9
Financial security	15.9	27.3	29.0	14.7	13.0
Getting a job	11.2	19.6	26.8	22.0	20.4

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.
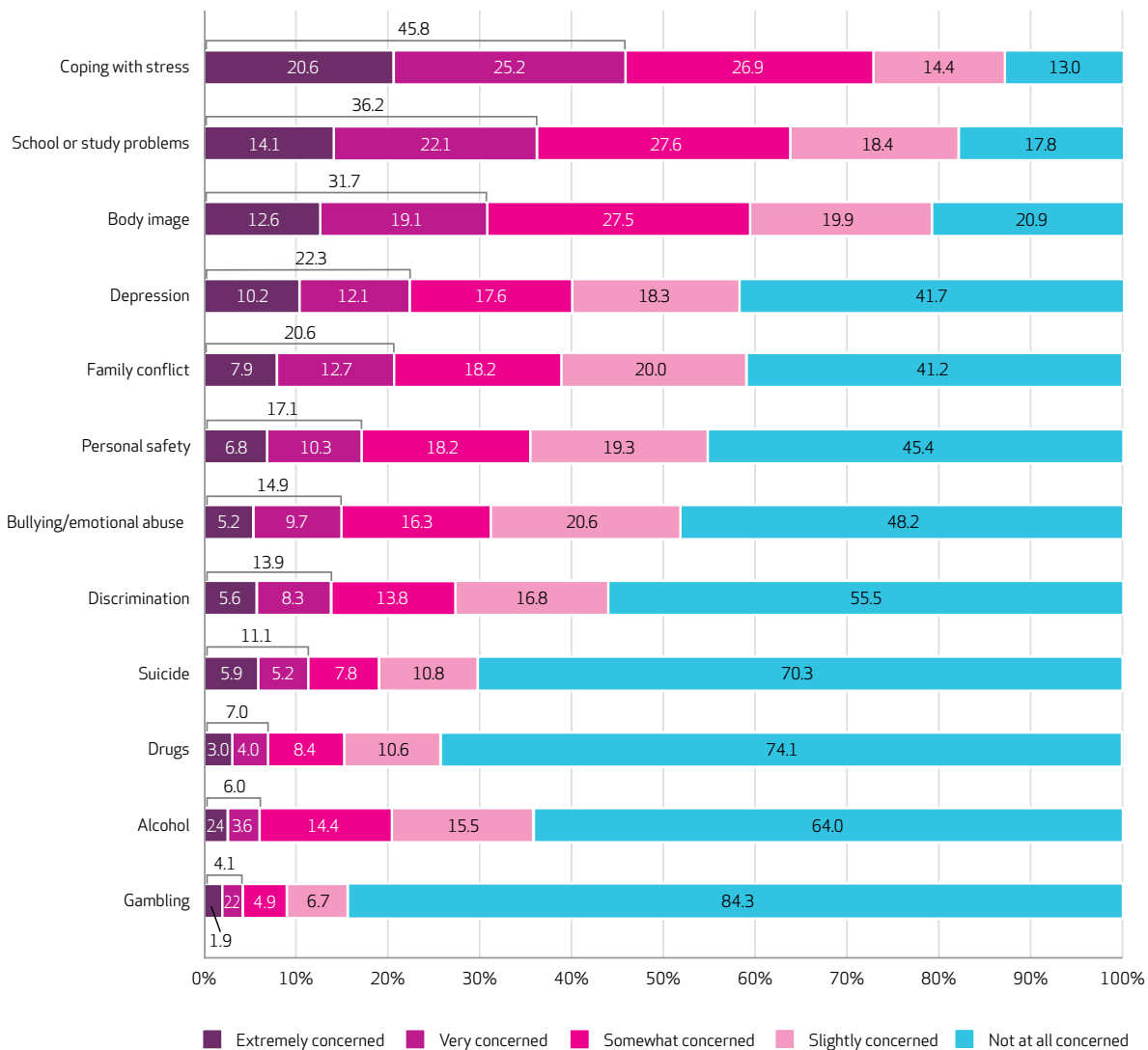
What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 6.4. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. 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 45.8% of respondents from Victoria indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (20.6%) or *very concerned* (25.2%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 36.2% (*extremely concerned*: 14.1%; *very concerned*: 22.1%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 31.7% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.6%; *very concerned*: 19.1%).

- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 9.4: Issues of personal concern to young people

	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned	Sum
Coping with stress	20.6	25.2	26.9	14.4	13.0	45.8
School or study problems	14.1	22.1	27.6	18.4	17.8	36.2
Body image	12.6	19.1	27.5	19.9	20.9	31.7
Depression	10.2	12.1	17.6	18.3	41.7	22.3
Family conflict	7.9	12.7	18.2	20.0	41.2	20.6
Personal safety	6.8	10.3	18.2	19.3	45.4	17.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.2	9.7	16.3	20.6	48.2	14.9
Discrimination	5.6	8.3	13.8	16.8	55.5	13.9
Suicide	5.9	5.2	7.8	10.8	70.3	11.1
Drugs	3.0	4.0	8.4	10.6	74.1	7.0
Alcohol	2.4	3.6	14.4	15.5	64.0	6.0
Gambling	1.9	2.2	4.9	6.7	84.3	4.1

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 Victoria, as highlighted in Table 9.5. The proportion of females concerned about these (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For just under six in ten females, *coping with stress* was a *major concern* (*extremely concerned*: 26.3%; *very concerned*: 30.4%), compared with around one quarter of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.0%; *very concerned*: 17.1%).

- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 43.7% (*extremely concerned*: 17.0%; *very concerned*: 26.7%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 23.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.7%; *very concerned*: 14.5%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 40.2% (*extremely concerned*: 16.6%; *very concerned*: 23.6%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 16.6% (*extremely concerned*: 5.1%; *very concerned*: 11.5%) of males.

- For 25.5% of females (*extremely concerned*: 12.0%; *very concerned*: 13.5%) and 15.5% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.3%; *very concerned*: 9.2%) *depression* was a major concern.

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

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**26.3**	**30.4**	25.8	10.4	7.2
School or study problems	**17.0**	**26.7**	28.4	15.9	12.0
Body image	**16.6**	**23.6**	29.2	17.6	12.9
Depression	12.0	13.5	19.3	18.8	36.4
Family conflict	9.3	15.0	20.1	20.8	34.8
Personal safety	7.7	12.5	19.9	20.3	39.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.6	11.6	18.5	20.8	43.5
Discrimination	5.9	9.9	15.4	17.6	51.2
Suicide	6.4	5.8	8.3	12.0	67.6
Drugs	2.7	4.4	9.0	10.2	73.7
Alcohol	2.0	4.0	15.3	15.5	63.3
Gambling	1.2	2.2	4.4	6.0	86.2

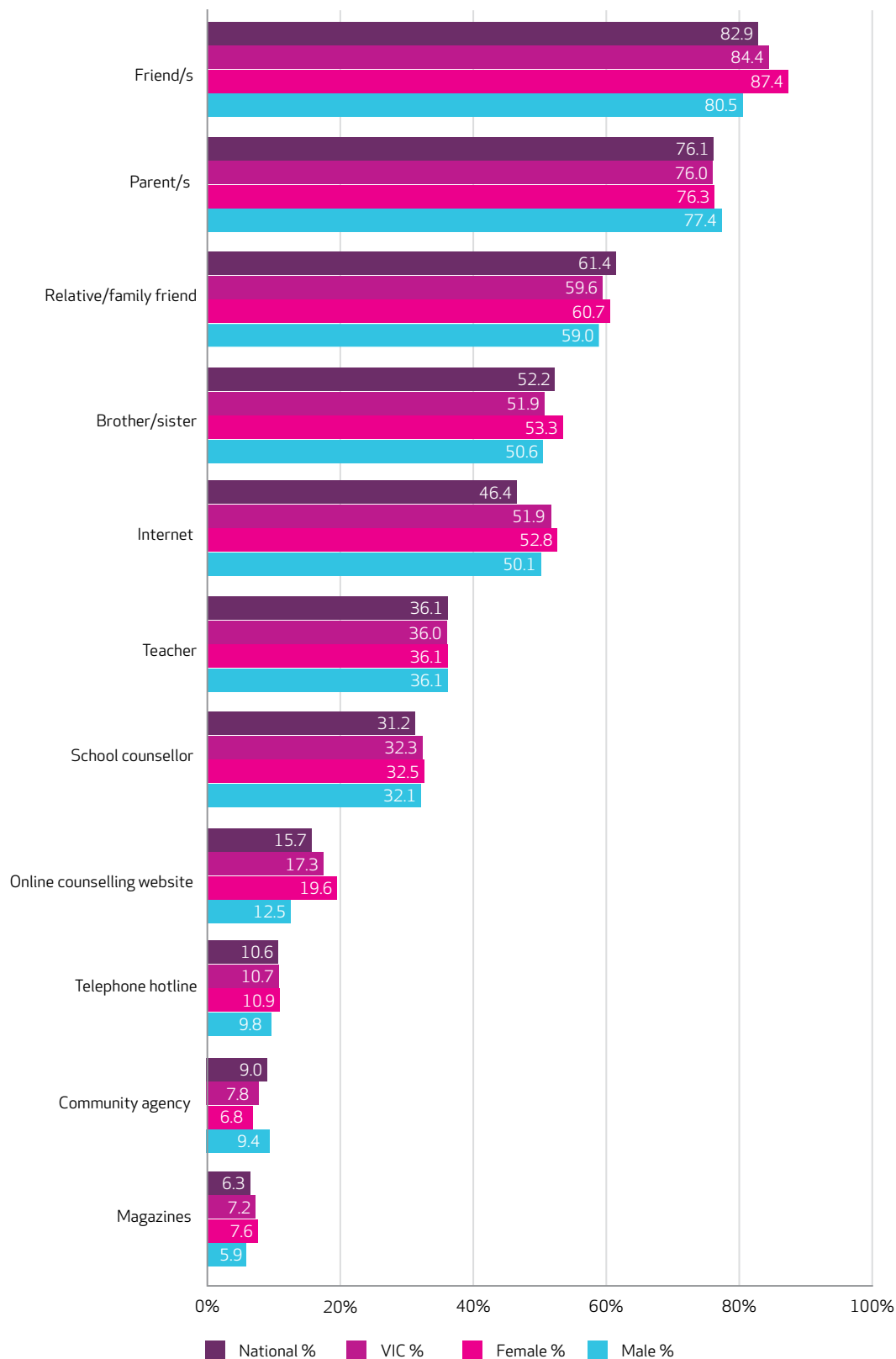| Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**10.0**	**17.1**	29.2	21.2	22.4
School or study problems	**8.7**	**14.5**	26.9	22.2	27.6
Body image	**5.1**	**11.5**	24.6	24.2	34.6
Depression	6.3	9.2	15.0	18.1	51.4
Family conflict	4.8	8.6	14.9	18.8	52.9
Personal safety	4.6	7.0	15.0	17.5	55.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.8	6.4	12.5	20.5	56.7
Discrimination	4.2	5.3	11.1	15.6	63.8
Suicide	3.8	4.1	6.7	8.7	76.8
Drugs	2.6	3.1	7.2	10.7	76.3
Alcohol	2.1	2.8	13.1	16.0	66.0
Gambling	2.3	2.0	5.7	7.0	83.0

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 9.5 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 (84.4%, 76.0% and 59.6% respectively).

- Just over half of all respondents from Victoria indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* or the *internet* for help with important issues in their lives.

- Around one third of respondents indicated that they would go to their *teacher* or their *school counsellor* for help with important issues.

Figure 9.5: Where young people go for help with important issues

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Friend/s	82.9	84.4	87.4	80.5
Parent/s	76.1	76.0	76.3	77.4
Relative/family friend	61.4	59.6	60.7	59.0
Brother/sister	52.2	51.9	53.3	50.6
Internet	46.4	51.9	52.8	50.1
Teacher	36.1	36.0	36.1	36.1
School counsellor	31.2	32.3	32.5	32.1
Online counselling website	15.7	17.3	19.6	12.5
Telephone hotline	10.6	10.7	10.9	9.8
Community agency	9.0	7.8	6.8	9.4
Magazines	6.3	7.2	7.6	5.9

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 9.5, 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.

- Close to nine in ten (87.4%) female respondents and eight in ten (80.5%) male respondents in Victoria indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.

- Similar proportions of both females and males indicated they would go to *parent/s* (76.3% compared with 77.4%) or *relatives/ family friends* (60.7% compared with 59.0%) for help.

- Slightly greater proportions of females than males from Victoria would go to their *brother/sister* (53.3% compared with 50.6%), the *internet* (52.8% compared with 50.1%) or to *online counselling websites* (19.6% compared with 12.5%) 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 9.6 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from Victoria rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 31.2% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 32.4% that it was *very good*. However, just less 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* (10.5%) or *poor* (5.6%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 9.6: Family's ability to get along
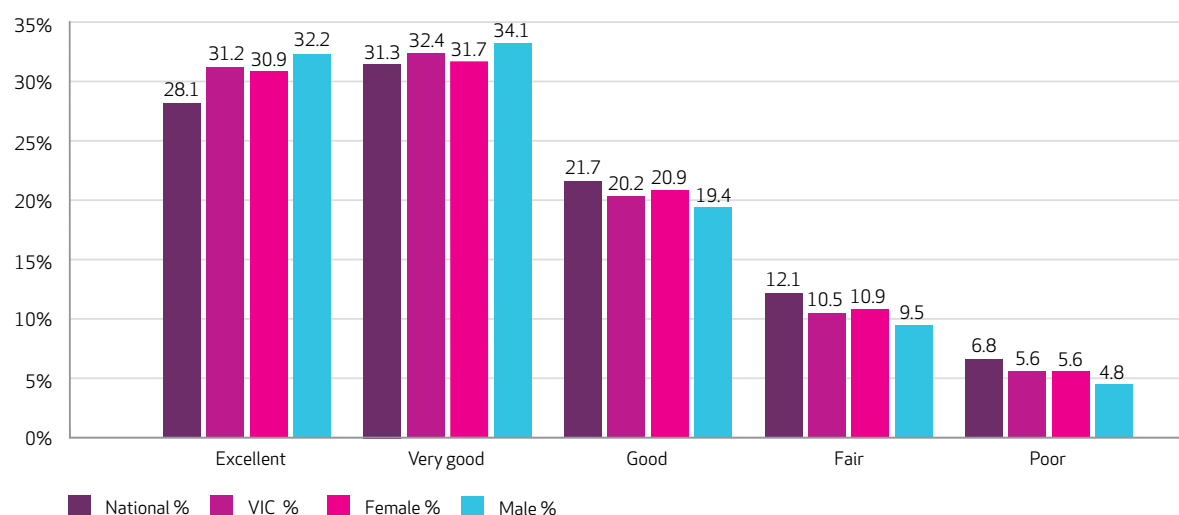
What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

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 9.6. In 2016 the top three issues identified by young people from Victoria were *equity and discrimination*, *alcohol and drugs* and *population issues*.

- Three in ten young people from Victoria identified *equity and discrimination* (30.6%) as an important issue in Australia today.

- One quarter of respondents identified *alcohol and drugs* (25.3%) and around one in five identified *population issues* (20.7%) as major issues.

- Compared to the past two years, identification of *equity and discrimination* as an important issue has increased among Victorian respondents.

- Since 2014, *international relations*, *crime, safety and violence*, *the environment* and *homelessness/housing* have been increasingly identified by young people from Victoria as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *the economy and financial matters*, *politics*, *education* and *health* 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 *equity and discrimination* and *alcohol and drugs* were identified among the top two issues by both males and females, the other issue making up their top three differed. For females, *equity and discrimination* was the number one issue, followed by *alcohol and drugs* and then *mental health*. For males, the top issue this year was *alcohol and drugs*, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *population issues*.

- Just over one third of female respondents and around one quarter of male respondents from Victoria (34.7% and 24.3% respectively) identified *equity and discrimination* as a major issue facing Australia today.

- Slightly greater proportions of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* (27.1% compared with 24.2%) and *population issues* (21.6% compared with 20.4%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, a greater proportion of females than males identified *mental health* (22.4% compared with 11.8%) as an important issue.

Table 9.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	VIC 2016 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2015 %	VIC 2014 %
Equity and discrimination	**27.0**	**30.6**	**34.7**	**24.3**	**27.3**	19.8
Alcohol and drugs	**28.7**	**25.3**	**24.2**	**27.1**	**28.8**	**22.2**
Population issues	16.0	**20.7**	20.4	**21.6**	15.1	18.7
Mental health	**20.6**	18.4	**22.4**	11.8	11.9	18.3
International relations	16.2	16.4	15.6	17.8	13.4	3.1
Crime, safety and violence	12.8	15.6	16.4	14.4	12.6	9.3
The environment	11.5	13.8	14.4	13.5	13.2	12.8
The economy and financial matters	14.7	13.3	10.8	17.4	**17.6**	**25.4**
Politics	12.8	12.2	10.7	14.7	16.2	**25.7**
Education	11.6	10.3	10.2	10.6	11.4	16.2
LGBT issues	7.4	10.1	12.5	5.9	14.1	8.9
Homelessness/housing	7.5	8.9	9.8	7.4	7.9	5.8
Bullying	10.1	8.8	10.7	6.2	8.8	13.1
Health	10.3	8.7	9.4	7.9	8.9	12.6
Employment	9.9	7.4	6.1	9.5	11.5	8.6

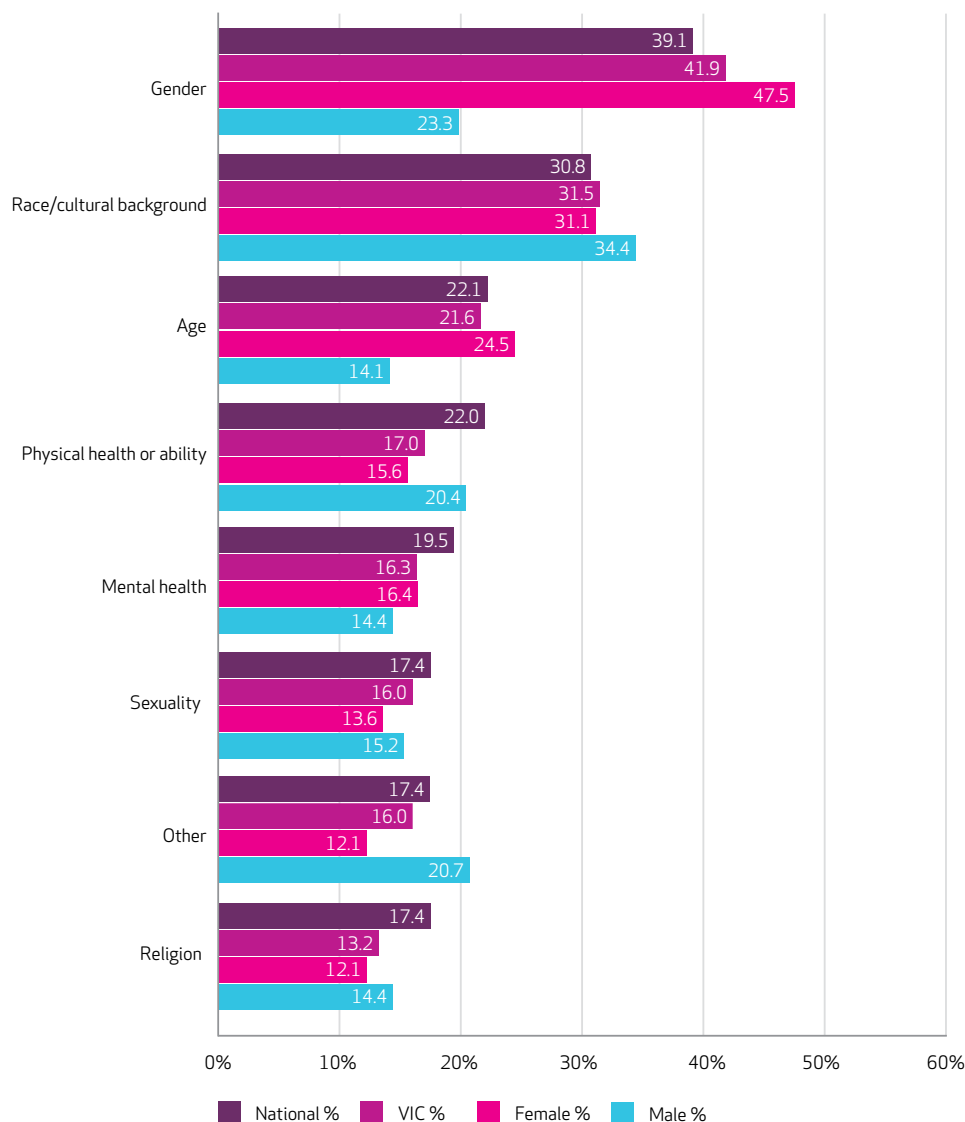Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. Consistent with national results, around one quarter (23.5%) of young people from Victoria indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (25.5% of females compared with 18.2% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 9.7. The top three reasons indicated by respondents in Victoria for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *gender*, *race/cultural background* and *age*.

- *Gender*, *race/cultural background* and *age* were the three most commonly cited reasons for young people's reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (41.9%, 31.5% and 21.6% respectively).

- Just under one in five respondents from Victoria indicated that *physical health or ability* (17.0%), *mental health* (16.3%), *sexuality* (16.0%) and *other* reasons (16.0%) were causes of their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

Figure 9.7: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced

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

Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by male and female respondents in Victoria, as shown in Figure 9.7. The top three reasons identified by females were consistent with Victorian results. The three reasons most commonly cited by males differed, however, with males indicating that *race/cultural background* was the number one reason, followed by *gender* and then *other* reasons.

- Close to half (47.5%) of female respondents and around one quarter (23.3%) of male respondents from Victoria indicated that *gender* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Around one third (34.4%) of males and just over three in ten (31.1%) females indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A greater proportion of female (24.5%) than male (14.1%) respondents from Victoria indicated that *age* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, while a greater proportion of males than females indicated that *other* reasons was the perceived cause (20.7% compared with 12.1%).

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Consistent with national results, around half (46.1%) of young people in Victoria indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (49.5% of females compared with 39.5% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 9.8. The top three reasons cited for unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents in Victoria were *race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *gender*.

* *Race/cultural background*, *sexuality* and *gender* were the three most commonly cited reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by young people in Victoria (56.9%, 41.3% and 36.3% respectively).

* Around three in ten respondents from Victoria indicated that *religion* (32.5%) and *physical health or ability* (29.0%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

Figure 9.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed
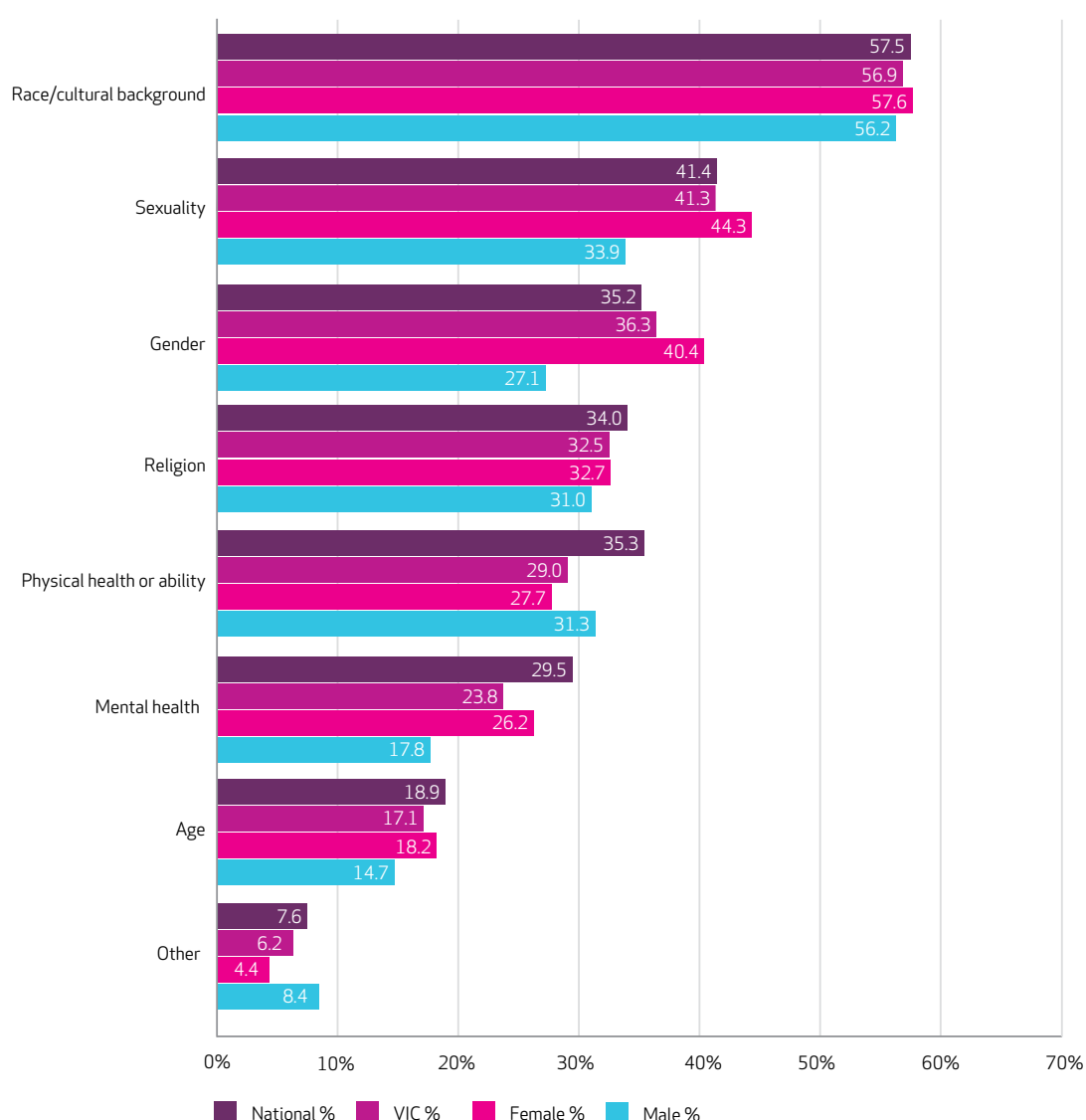
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 9.8, the top two reasons identified for unfair treatment or discrimination as witnessed by both genders were consistent with national results. For females, the third top reason cited was *gender*. Conversely, for males the number three reason was *physical health or ability*.

- Close to six in ten female (57.6%) and male (56.2%) respondents from Victoria indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.
- Just over four in ten (44.3%) females and around one third (33.9%) of males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.
- A greater proportion of female (40.4%) than male (27.1%) respondents from Victoria indicated that *gender* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed, while a slightly greater proportion of males (31.3%) than females (27.7%) indicated that *physical health or ability* was a reason.

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 young people from Victoria, 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 2015 and 2014. The third top activity for young Victorians in 2016 was *arts/cultural/music activities*. 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 Victoria in 2016.
- Around half of all respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work* (53.2%).
- Around four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (41.9%) and close to three in ten reported participation in *youth groups and clubs* (28.4%).
- Around one quarter of young people from Victoria had participated in *religious groups or activities* (27.1%) and *environmental groups or activities* (25.0%) over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 9.7 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with Victorian 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 females was *arts/cultural/music activities*, while for males it was *volunteer work*.

- Just over eight in ten (83.9%) male respondents and around three quarters (76.0%) of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (78.5% compared with 64.2%).
- A much higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved with *arts/cultural/music activities* (62.5% compared with 45.3%).
- Overall, a greater proportion of female than male respondents from Victoria were involved in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (58.2% and 45.5% compared with 45.5% and 36.4% respectively).

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

	National %	VIC 2016 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2015 %	VIC 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.7**	**78.7**	**76.0**	**83.9**	**75.6**	**76.4**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.0**	**69.2**	**64.2**	**78.5**	**67.7**	**69.7**
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	**55.9**	**62.5**	45.3	**48.5**	**54.1**
Volunteer work	**53.5**	53.2	58.2	**45.5**	46.3	49.9
Student leadership activities	42.5	41.9	45.5	36.4	36.5	40.0
Youth groups and clubs	30.6	28.4	29.0	27.2	26.9	31.1
Religious groups or activities	28.7	27.1	30.6	21.4	26.5	27.9
Environmental groups or activities	24.6	25.0	25.7	24.0	22.1	25.6
Political groups or organisations	8.7	9.9	8.5	11.3	7.1	8.9

Note: 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[1], 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 (69.0%) 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 a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (16.4% compared with 10.2%).

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[1] 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
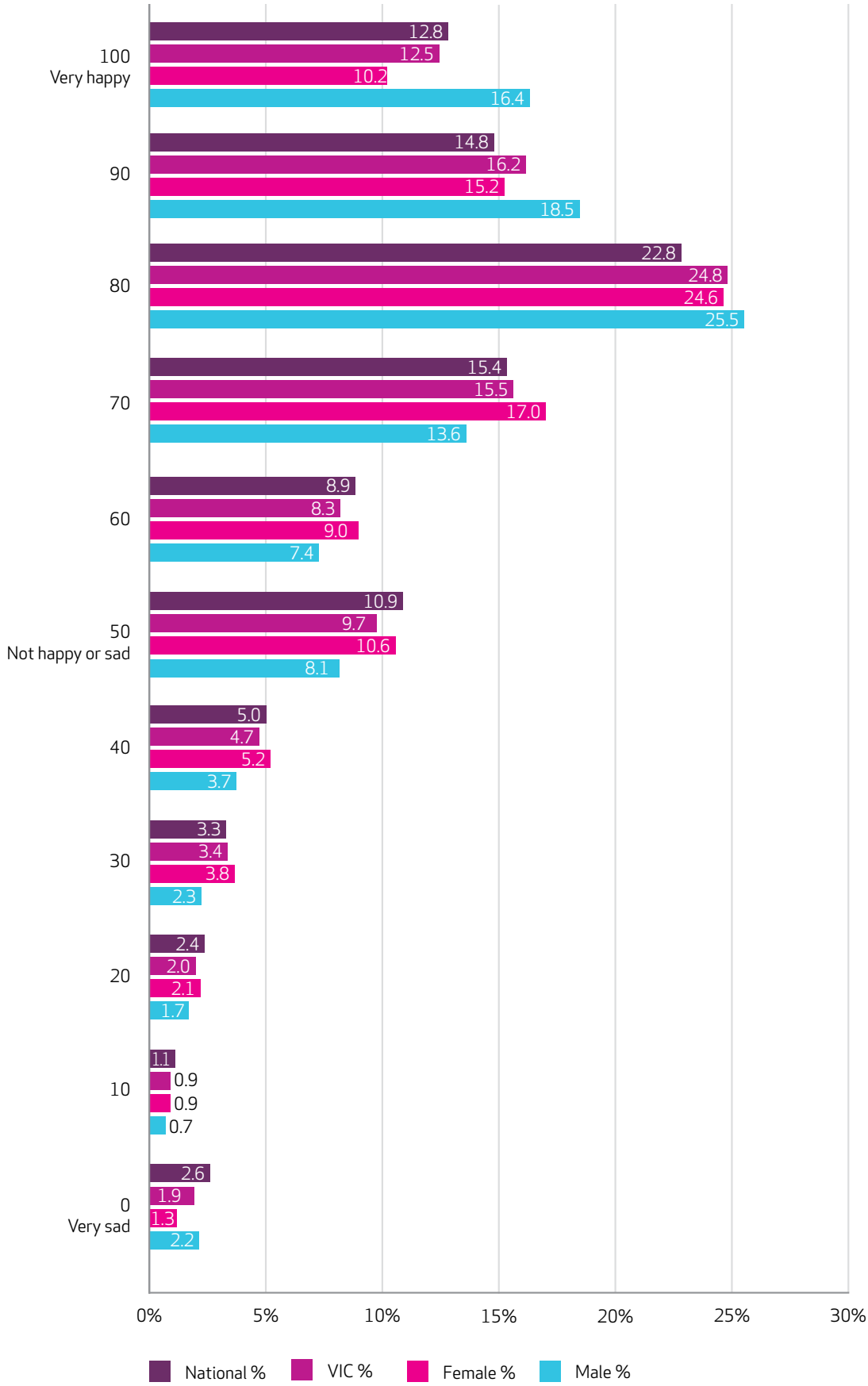
	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
100 Very happy	12.8	12.5	10.2	16.4
90	14.8	16.2	15.2	18.5
80	22.8	24.8	24.6	25.5
70	15.4	15.5	17.0	13.6
60	8.9	8.3	9.0	7.4
50 Not happy or sad	10.9	9.7	10.6	8.1
40	5.0	4.7	5.2	3.7
30	3.3	3.4	3.8	2.3
20	2.4	2.0	2.1	1.7
10	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7
0 Very sad	2.6	1.9	1.3	2.2

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 9.8 shows that, in line with the national results, around two thirds of respondents from Victoria felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people from Victoria felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

• Around two thirds of respondents from Victoria felt either *positive* (49.3%) or *very positive* (17.9%) about the future.

• Around one quarter of respondents (24.4%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

• 6.3% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.2% felt *very negative*.

• Males and females from Victoria were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A larger proportion of male than female respondents, however, indicated feeling *very positive* (22.8% compared with 14.9% for females).

Table 9.8: Feelings about the future

	National %	VIC 2016 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2015 %	VIC 2014 %
Very positive	17.3	17.9	14.9	22.8	16.5	16.2
Positive	47.1	49.3	49.7	49.8	47.4	47.2
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	24.4	27.0	19.7	26.5	26.2
Negative	6.5	6.3	6.6	5.6	7.0	7.9
Very negative	3.0	2.2	1.7	2.1	2.6	2.4

Western Australia

Profile of respondents

In total, 1,173 young people from Western Australia (WA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*.

Gender breakdown

Just over half (52.8%) of all respondents from WA were female and 47.2% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 132 (11.7%) respondents from WA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 105 (9.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 12 (1.1%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 1.3% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (11.8% compared with 9.6%).

Language background other than English

A total of 380 (33.6%) respondents from WA stated that they were born overseas and 260 (22.9%) 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): Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Mandarin, Afrikaans and Indigenous languages.

Disability

A total of 55 (5.0%) respondents from WA indicated that they had a disability, with a slightly greater proportion of males (5.3%) than females (4.4%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in WA were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disability and physical disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 10.1, 92.9% of respondents from WA were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female respondents reported that they were studying full-time than male respondents (94.3% compared with 92.8%), while a slightly greater proportion of males than females reported studying part-time (3.2% compared with 2.4%) or not studying at all (4.0% compared with 3.4%).

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 previous years, the majority of respondents from WA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (9.7%) or *satisfied* (51.5%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.0% and 5.9% respectively). As shown in Table 10.2, males and females from WA reported similar levels of satisfaction with their studies, although a greater proportion of females reported feeling *satisfied* with their studies (55.7% compared with 48.6% of males).

Table 10.1: Participation in education

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.6	92.9	94.3	92.8
Studying part-time	2.2	2.7	2.4	3.2
Not studying	3.2	4.3	3.4	4.0

Table 10.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	WA 2016 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2015 %	WA 2014 %
Very satisfied	16.0	9.7	8.0	10.9	12.4	12.7
Satisfied	55.9	51.5	55.7	48.6	56.2	52.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.3	31.0	28.6	33.4	25.0	26.2
Dissatisfied	4.2	5.9	5.9	5.9	4.9	5.8
Very dissatisfied	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.2	1.4	2.5

Of those who were still at school in WA, 92.8% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Almost three times the proportion of males indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (10.8% compared with 3.7% of females respectively). In 2016, respondents were asked whether they were currently completing a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. Close to three in ten (28.7%) respondents from WA indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course. A higher proportion of males than females indicated that they had previously been or were currently involved in a VET course (32.0% compared with 26.6% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 10.1 shows that close to six in ten respondents from WA planned to go to university after school (57.8%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (34.9%) or to travel or go on a gap year (29.1%) after school. Overall, 21.3% of young people from WA planned to attend TAFE or college and 12.4% 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 WA, a notably higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (67.0% compared with 47.7% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (35.4% compared with 21.7%). A much larger proportion of males indicated that they were planning to undertake an apprenticeship (21.3% compared with 4.7% of females). Males from WA were also more likely to report plans to get a job (38.2% compared with 32.2% of females) after school.

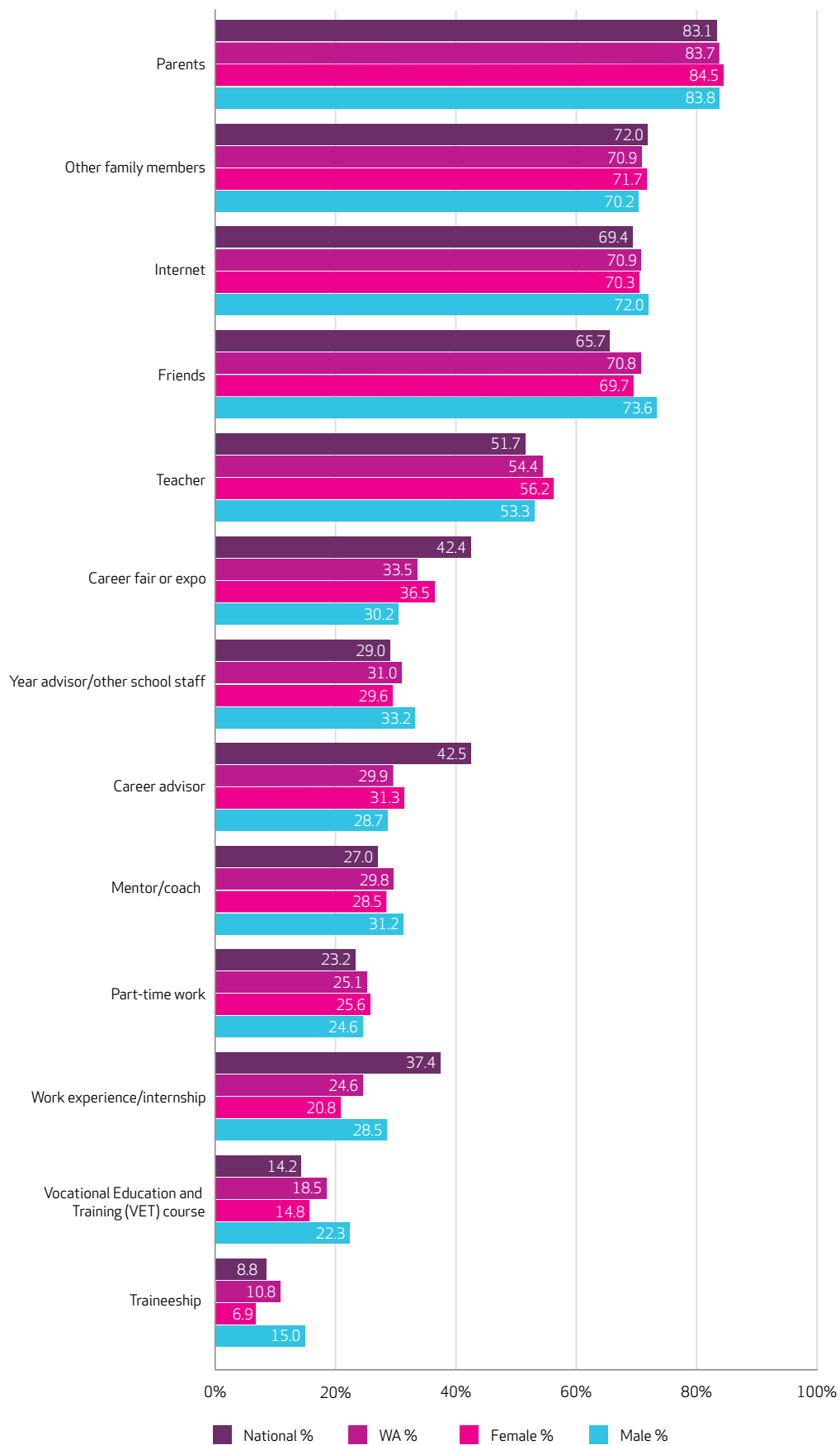Figure 10.1: Plans after leaving school
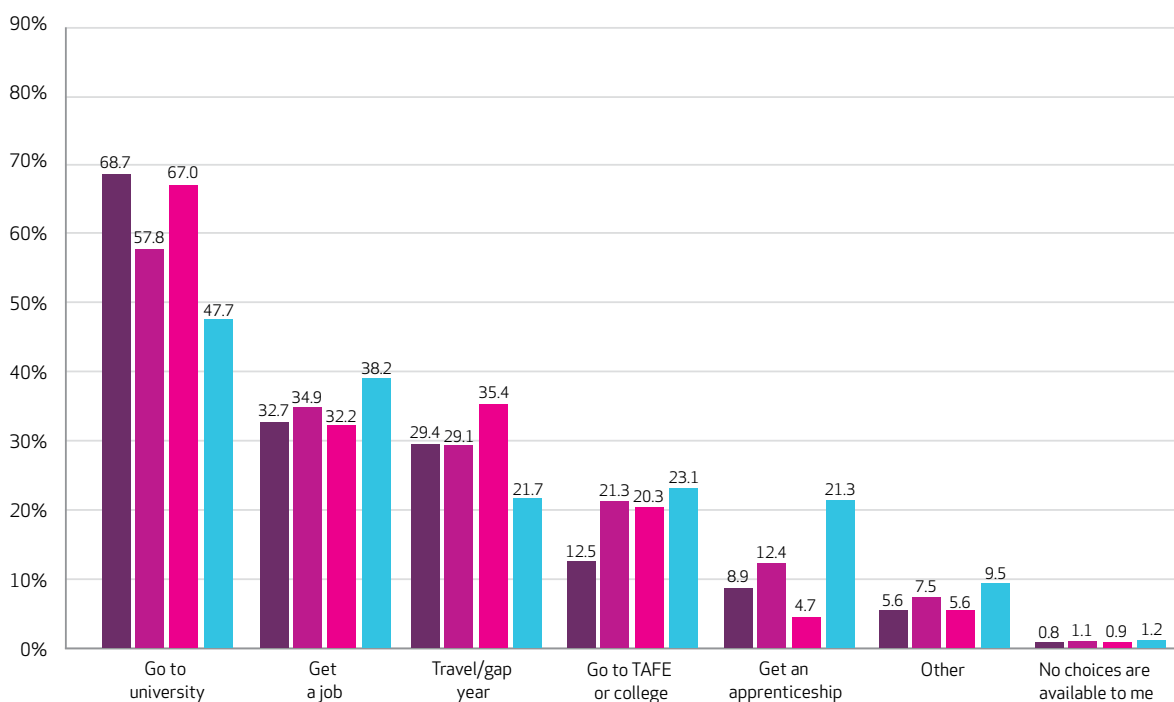
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Influences on post-school plans

In 2016, respondents who were still at school were asked to indicate from a number of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 10.2 shows the percentage of respondents from WA who indicated each item as being an influence. In WA, the top three influences on young people's post-school plans were *parents*, followed by *other family members* and the *internet* (in equal proportions).

- *Parents*, *other family members* and the *internet* were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans (83.7%, 70.9% and 70.9% respectively).

- Around seven in ten (70.8%) respondents also indicated that *friends* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans, while just over half (54.4%) indicated that their *teacher* was an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

Figure 10.2: Influences on post-school plans

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Parents	83.1	83.7	84.5	83.8
Other family members	72.0	70.9	71.7	70.2
Internet	69.4	70.9	70.3	72.0
Friends	65.7	70.8	69.7	73.6
Teacher	51.7	54.4	56.2	53.3
Career fair or expo	42.4	33.5	36.5	30.2
Year advisor/other school staff	29.0	31.0	29.6	33.2
Career advisor	42.5	29.9	31.3	28.7
Mentor/coach	27.0	29.8	28.5	31.2
Part-time work	23.2	25.1	25.6	24.6
Work experience/internship	37.4	24.6	20.8	28.5
Vocational Education and Training (VET) course	14.2	18.5	14.8	22.3
Traineeship	8.8	10.8	6.9	15.0

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 10.2, the top influence which both genders identified as helping them make a decision about their post-school plans was *parents*, consistent with WA and national results. For females, the second top influence on their decision making was *other family members*, followed by the *internet*. Comparatively, males indicated that *friends* were the second top influence on their post-school plans, followed again by the *internet*. Similar proportions of both females and males indicated that they saw *parents*, *other family members* and the *internet* influencing their post-school plans, while a slightly greater proportion of males than females indicated that *friends* were an influence on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

- Just over eight in ten female and male respondents indicated that their *parents* helped them make a decision about their post-school plans (84.5% compared with 83.8% respectively) and around seven in ten respondents from both genders indicated that *other family members* and the *internet* were influences on their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school (71.7% and 70.3% of females, compared with 70.2% and 72.0% of males).

- A greater proportion of male (73.6%) than female (69.7%) respondents indicated that *friends* were an influence on their post-school plans.

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 national results, only a tiny minority (0.6%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were still at school this is not surprising. Just under four in ten (38.6%) respondents from WA reported part-time employment. Around six in ten WA respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 38.9% looking for work and 21.9% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of female and male respondents from WA reported full-time employment (0.5% compared with 0.4% respectively), while there was a higher proportion of female respondents employed part-time (44.6% compared with 32.1%). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (46.2% compared with 33.5%).

Table 10.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4
Employed part-time	38.5	38.6	44.6	32.1
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.1	38.9	33.5	46.2
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	25.8	21.9	21.3	21.3

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 2016 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 10.3 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. The three most highly valued items for respondents from WA this year were *family relationships, friendships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most valued item for WA respondents was *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 77.8% of respondents from WA (*extremely important*: 46.1%; *very important*: 31.7%). *Friendships* were also valued highly by 75.8% of respondents (*extremely important*: 34.7%; *very important*: 41.1%).

- Around seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 30.0%; *very important*: 39.8%) and *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 36.7%; *very important*: 32.4%).

- Just under half of all WA respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 16.3%; *very important*: 29.4%) and around four in ten highly valued *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 15.3%; *very important*: 26.6%).
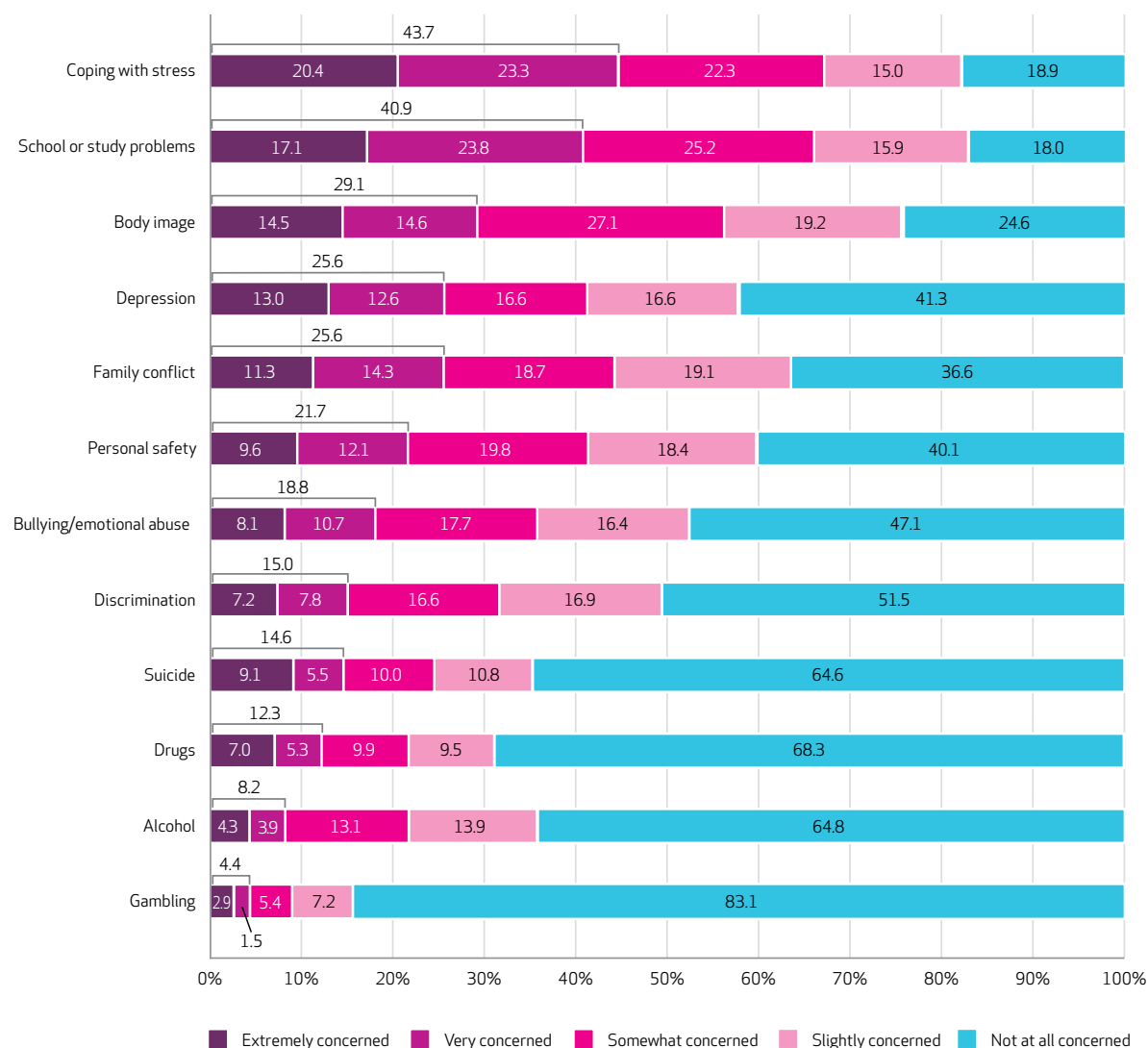
Figure 10.3: What young people value
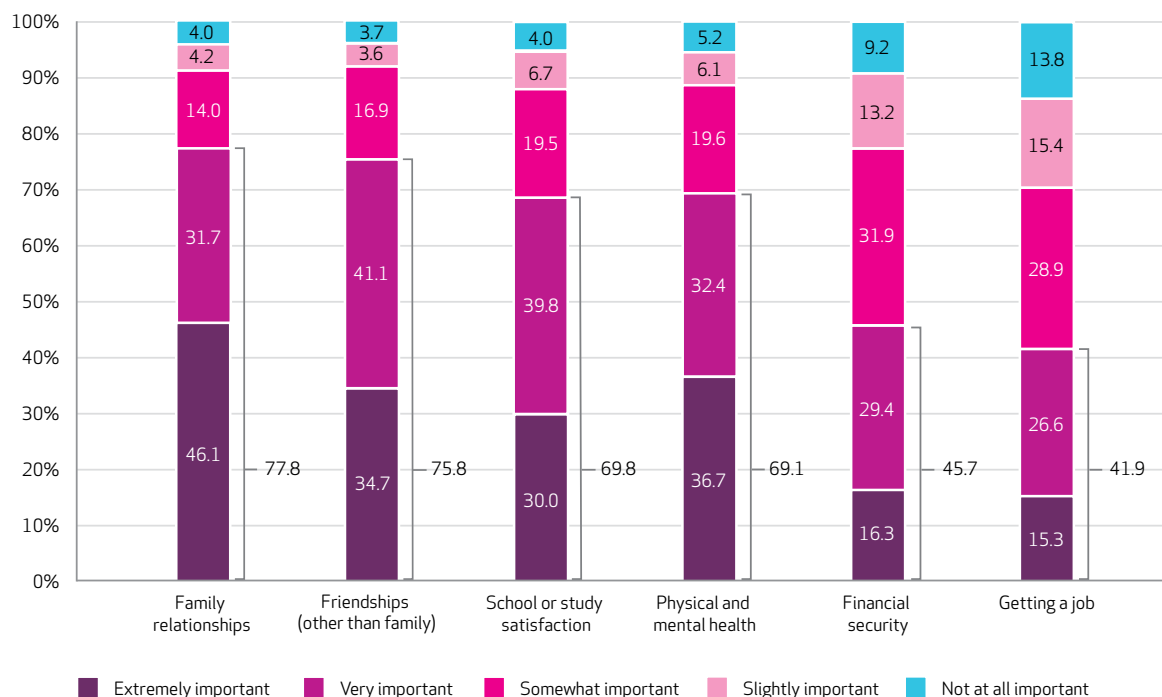
Note: Items were ranked by summing the responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

Gender differences

Family relationships and *friendships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females in WA, as shown in Table 10.4. However, females ranked *school or study satisfaction* as their third most highly valued item, while the third most highly valued item among males was *physical and mental health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these, and most of the other items, was higher than the proportion of males..

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 81.6% of females (*extremely important*: 51.6%; *very important*: 30.0%) compared with 75.9% of males (*extremely important*: 41.4%; *very important*: 34.5%).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 78.9% of females (*extremely important*: 38.4%; *very important*: 40.5%) compared with 75.0% of males (*extremely important*: 31.4%; *very important*: 43.6%).

- Just over three quarters (77.3%) of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 35.1%; *very important*: 42.2%) compared with 63.4% of males (*extremely important*: 24.5%; *very important*: 38.9%).

- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 73.8% of females (*extremely important*: 42.8%; *very important*: 31.0%) and 65.1% of males (*extremely important*: 30.0%; *very important*: 35.1%) in WA.

Table 10.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	**51.6**	**30.0**	12.9	3.3	2.2
Friendships (other than family)	**38.4**	**40.5**	15.9	3.3	1.9
School or study satisfaction	**35.1**	**42.2**	15.3	5.9	1.5
Physical and mental health	42.8	31.0	18.2	5.0	2.9
Financial security	18.8	30.0	31.9	12.5	6.8
Getting a job	15.4	26.6	29.6	15.1	13.3
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Family relationships	**41.4**	**34.5**	16.0	5.2	2.9
Friendships (other than family)	**31.4**	**43.6**	18.0	4.1	2.9
School or study satisfaction	24.5	38.9	24.3	8.1	4.2
Physical and mental health	**30.0**	**35.1**	22.0	7.2	5.7
Financial security	11.9	30.5	33.5	14.5	9.6
Getting a job	15.0	28.2	28.5	16.1	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.

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 6.4. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The top three issues of concern for young people from WA 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 43.7% of respondents from WA indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (20.4%) or *very concerned* (23.3%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 40.9% (*extremely concerned*: 17.1%; *very concerned*: 23.8%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 29.1% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 14.5%; *very concerned*: 14.6%).

- Around one quarter of respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 10.4: Issues of personal concern to young people

Issue	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned
Coping with stress	20.4	23.3	22.3	15.0	18.9
School or study problems	17.1	23.8	25.2	15.9	18.0
Body image	14.5	14.6	27.1	19.2	24.6
Depression	13.0	12.6	16.6	16.6	41.3
Family conflict	11.3	14.3	18.7	19.1	36.6
Personal safety	9.6	12.1	19.8	18.4	40.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.1	10.7	17.7	16.4	47.1
Discrimination	7.2	7.8	16.6	16.9	51.5
Suicide	9.1	5.5	10.0	10.8	64.6
Drugs	7.0	5.3	9.9	9.5	68.3
Alcohol	4.3	3.9	13.1	13.9	64.8
Gambling	2.9	1.5	5.4	7.2	83.1

Summed *extremely concerned* + *very concerned*: Coping with stress 43.7; School or study problems 40.9; Body image 29.1; Depression 25.6; Family conflict 25.6; Personal safety 21.7; Bullying/emotional abuse 18.8; Discrimination 15.0; Suicide 14.6; Drugs 12.3; Alcohol 8.2; Gambling 4.4.

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, although the order of these concerns differed. The number one concern among females was *coping with stress*, followed by *school or study problems* and then *body image*. Comparatively, the top concern among males was *school or study problems*, followed by *coping with stress* and then *family conflict*. The proportion of females concerned about these (and many of the other issues) was notably higher than the proportion of males.

- For six in ten females, *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 30.0%; *very concerned*: 29.9%), compared with around one quarter of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.3%; *very concerned*: 16.6%).

- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 52.1% (*extremely concerned*: 22.9%; *very concerned*: 29.2%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 29.0% of males (*extremely concerned*: 11.1%; *very concerned*: 17.9%).

- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 39.5% (*extremely concerned*: 19.5%; *very concerned*: 20.0%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 17.1% (*extremely concerned*: 8.0%; *very concerned*: 9.1%) of males.

- For 32.3% of females (*extremely concerned*: 15.1%; *very concerned*: 17.2%) and 16.6% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.7%; *very concerned*: 7.9%) *depression* was a major concern.

- For three in ten females (*extremely concerned*: 13.1%; *very concerned*: 17.0%) and one in five males (*extremely concerned*: 8.2%; *very concerned*: 12.0%) *family conflict* was a major concern.

Table 10.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**30.0**	**29.9**	21.8	10.8	7.5
School or study problems	**22.9**	**29.2**	24.1	14.4	9.4
Body image	**19.5**	**20.0**	29.8	15.3	15.3
Depression	15.1	17.2	18.2	17.8	31.7
Family conflict	13.1	17.0	21.8	21.0	27.1
Personal safety	10.7	12.7	23.9	20.8	31.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.9	12.5	19.6	18.7	40.2
Discrimination	7.0	10.1	19.1	19.1	44.7
Suicide	8.6	6.9	12.4	11.7	60.4
Drugs	5.7	6.5	9.6	10.2	68.0
Alcohol	2.9	5.0	14.5	15.4	62.2
Gambling	1.4	1.4	4.0	6.4	86.9

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	**9.3**	**16.6**	23.4	20.3	30.5
School or study problems	**11.1**	**17.9**	26.3	18.9	25.7
Body image	8.0	9.1	25.2	23.7	34.0
Depression	8.7	7.9	15.3	15.3	52.8
Family conflict	**8.2**	**12.0**	15.1	18.1	46.6
Personal safety	7.4	11.9	15.4	16.2	49.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.8	9.2	15.4	14.4	55.2
Discrimination	6.0	5.0	14.0	15.5	59.4
Suicide	8.2	3.9	7.2	9.7	71.0
Drugs	7.0	4.1	10.1	9.3	69.5
Alcohol	4.4	2.9	11.6	13.2	67.9
Gambling	3.3	1.8	6.6	8.8	79.6

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 10.5 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 (80.9%, 74.0% and 60.4% respectively).

- Around half of all respondents from WA indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* or 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 10.5: Where young people go for help with important issues
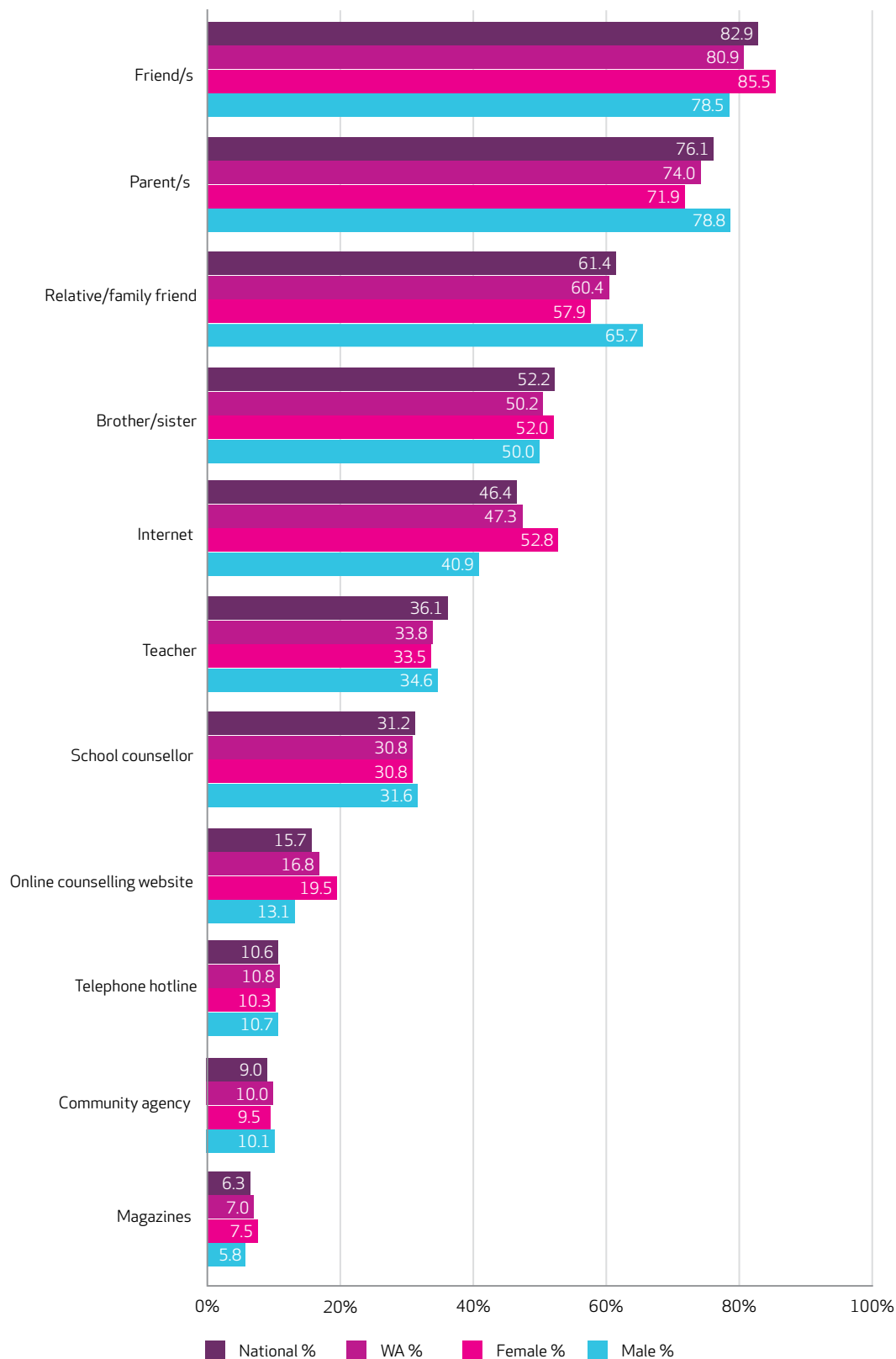
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 10.5, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with WA and national results. The order of the top two sources differed, however, with females indicating *friend/s* were their number one source of help, followed by *parent/s*, while for males, *parent/s* were the top source of help, closely followed by *friend/s*. 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*.

- Close to nine in ten (85.5%) female respondents and around eight in ten (78.5%) male respondents in WA indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues.

- Higher proportions of male than female respondents indicated they would go to *parent/s* (78.8% compared with 71.9%) and *relatives/family friends* (65.7% compared with 57.9%) for help.

- A greater proportion of females than males from WA would go to their *brother/sister* (52.0% compared with 50.0%), the *internet* (52.8% compared with 40.9%), *online counselling websites* (19.5% compared with 13.1%) and *magazines* (7.5% compared with 5.8%) 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 10.6 shows that, in line with national results, just under six in ten respondents from WA rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 25.1% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.5% 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* (13.1%) or *poor* (8.7%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 10.6: Family's ability to get along
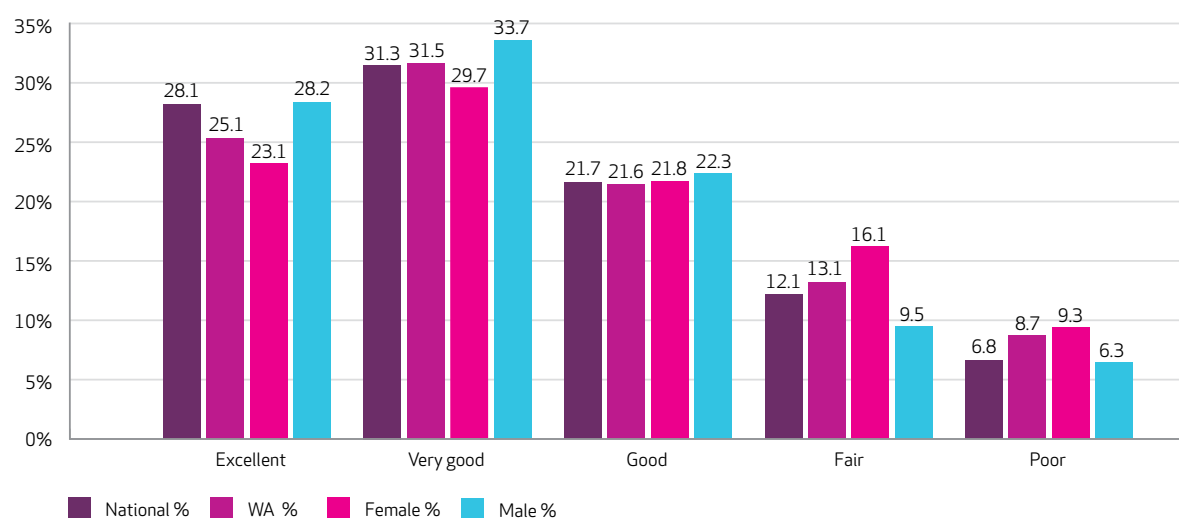
What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

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 10.6. In 2016, the top three issues identified by young people from WA were *alcohol and drugs, equity and discrimination* and *mental health*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally.

- Close to four in ten young people from WA identified *alcohol and drugs* (38.0%) as an important issue in Australia today.

- One quarter (24.8%) of respondents identified *equity and discrimination* and just over one in five (22.0%) identified *mental health* as major issues.

- Compared to the past two years, *alcohol and drugs* has risen as an issue of national concern among WA respondents.

- Since 2014, *the environment* has been increasingly identified as a key issue facing the nation among respondents from WA. Conversely, mentions of *the economy and financial matters, population issues* and *politics* 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* and *equity and discrimination* were identified among the top three issues by both males and females, the other issue making up their top three differed. For females, *alcohol and drugs* was the number one issue, followed by *mental health* and then *equity and discrimination*. For males the top issue this year was *alcohol and drugs*, followed by *equity and discrimination* and then *employment*.

- Around four in ten female and male respondents from WA (38.9% and 38.4% respectively) identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue facing Australia today.

- A greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (28.4% compared with 21.0%) and *mental health* (29.2% compared with 13.7%) as important national issues.

- Conversely, a greater proportion of males than females identified *employment* (16.7% compared with 11.1%) as an important issue.

Table 10.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	WA 2016 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2015 %	WA 2014 %
Alcohol and drugs	**28.7**	**38.0**	**38.9**	**38.4**	**32.7**	**29.9**
Equity and discrimination	**27.0**	**24.8**	**28.4**	**21.0**	**28.1**	**19.6**
Mental health	**20.6**	**22.0**	**29.2**	13.7	15.5	19.0
Education	11.6	14.1	16.5	12.0	12.3	15.7
Employment	9.9	13.2	11.1	**16.7**	9.6	9.9
The economy and financial matters	14.7	13.2	13.1	13.4	**18.6**	**19.5**
International relations	16.2	12.1	11.1	12.7	12.7	1.7
Population issues	16.0	11.5	12.3	9.7	13.7	14.9
The environment	11.5	11.2	10.9	12.0	9.8	9.2
Politics	12.8	10.7	9.9	11.6	13.3	18.8
Bullying	10.1	10.0	10.9	9.4	9.9	14.8
Crime, safety and violence	12.8	9.5	9.9	9.0	9.1	10.6
Health	10.3	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.4	11.6
Homelessness/housing	7.5	5.8	6.9	5.0	8.1	6.9
LGBT issues	7.4	5.6	7.3	2.8	10.3	7.9

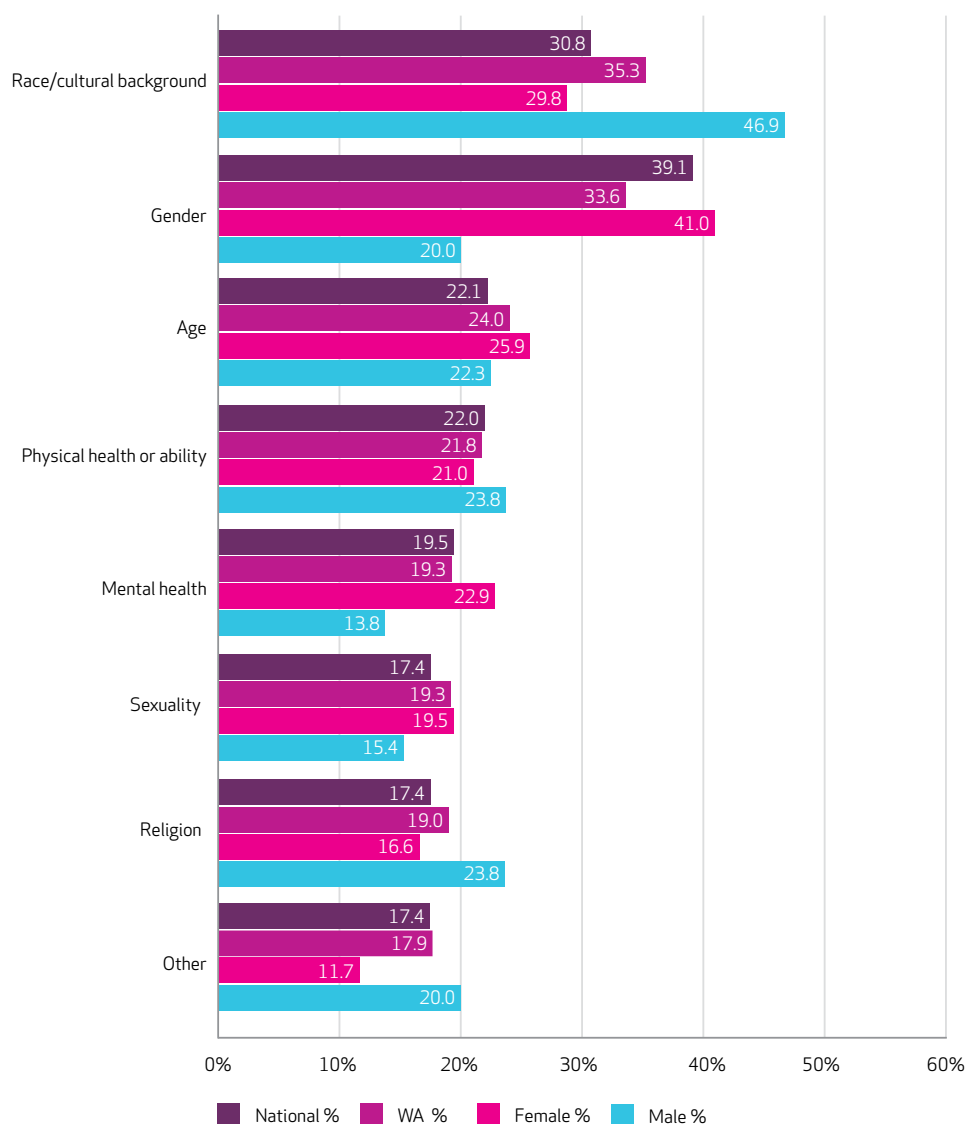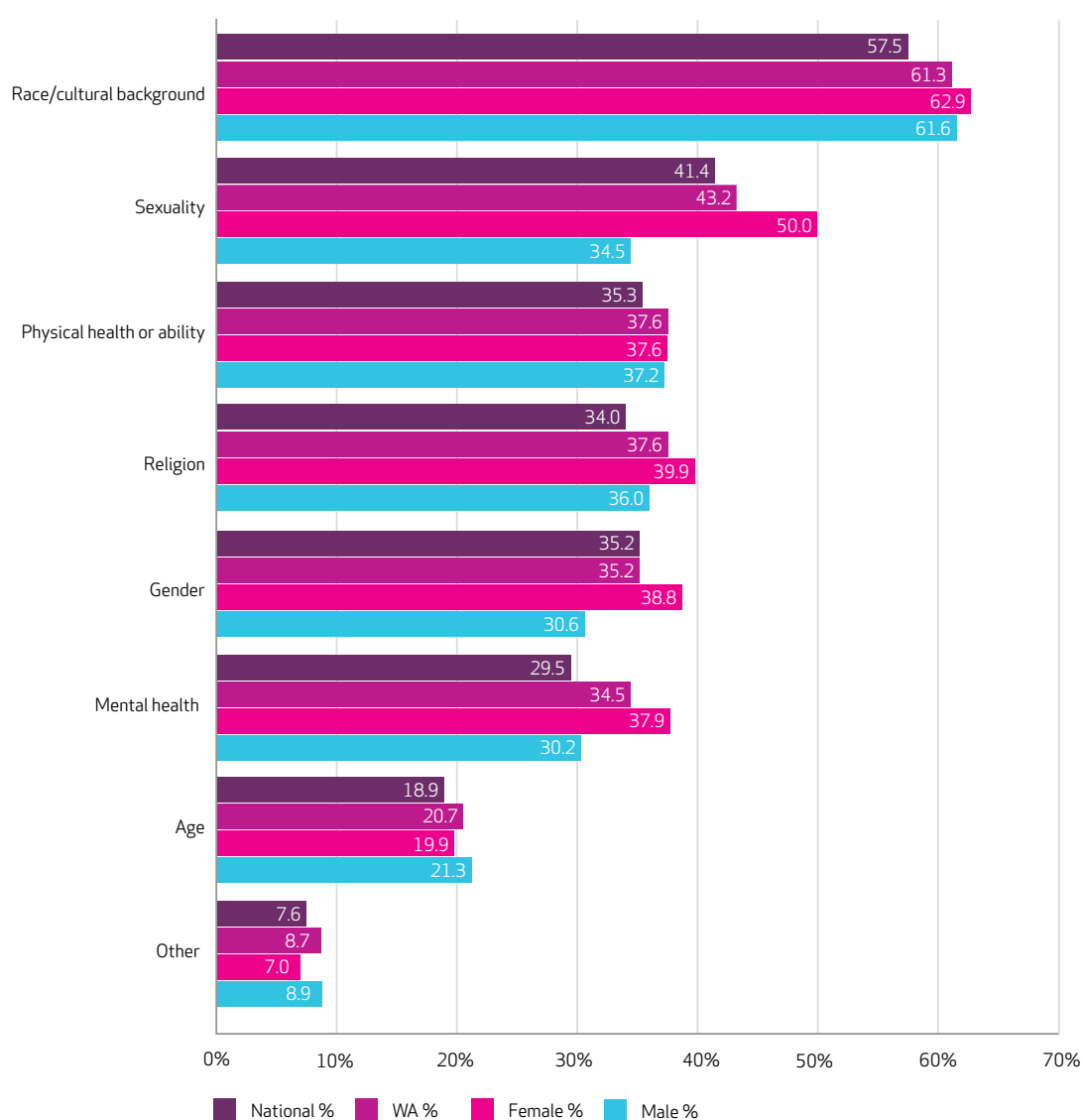Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Have young people experienced unfair treatment or discrimination?

For the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months. In WA, just over three in ten (31.8%) young people indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (35.1% of females compared with 25.6% of males).

Young people who stated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 10.7. The top three reasons indicated by respondents in WA for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination were *race/cultural background*, *gender* and *age*.

- *Race/cultural background*, *gender* and *age* were the three most commonly cited reasons for young people's reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (35.3%, 33.6% and 24.0% respectively).

- Around one in five respondents from WA indicated that *physical health or ability* (21.8%), *mental health* (19.3%), *sexuality* (19.3%) and *religion* (19.0%) were reasons for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

Figure 10.7: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: experienced

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

Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the reasons cited for the reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination by male and female respondents in WA, as shown in Figure 10.7. The top three reasons identified by females were consistent with WA results, although the order of the top two items was reversed. The three reasons most commonly cited by males differed, however, with *race/ cultural background* being cited as the number one reason, followed by *physical health or ability* and *religion* (at equal levels).

- Close to half (46.9%) of male respondents and three in ten (29.8%) female respondents from WA indicated that *race/cultural background* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.

- Around four in ten (41.0%) females and one in five (20.0%) males indicated that *gender* was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination.

- A slightly greater proportion of female (25.9%) than male (22.3%) respondents from WA indicated that *age* was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, while a slightly greater proportion of males than females indicated that *physical health or ability* and *religion* were the reasons (23.8% and 23.8% compared with 21.0% and 16.6% respectively).

Have young people witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination?

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents were asked whether they had witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last twelve months. Around six in ten (56.8%) young people in WA indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination. A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination (61.2% of females compared with 51.2% of males).

Young people who stated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the perceived reason for this discrimination from a number of items, listed in Figure 10.8. The top reasons cited for unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by respondents in WA were *race/cultural background*, followed by *sexuality* and then *physical health or ability* and *religion* (both at equal levels).

- *Race/cultural background, sexuality, physical health or ability* and *religion* were the most commonly cited reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by young people in WA (61.3%, 43.2%, 37.6% and 37.6% respectively).

- Just over one third of respondents from WA indicated that *gender* (35.2%) and *mental health* (34.5%) were reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

Figure 10.8: Perceived reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination: witnessed

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

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 10.8, the top reason identified for unfair treatment or discrimination as witnessed by both genders was consistent with national results. For females, the second top reason cited was *sexuality*, followed by *religion*. Comparatively, for males the number two reason was *physical health or ability*, followed by *religion*.

- Around six in ten female and male respondents from WA (62.9% and 61.6% respectively) indicated that *race/cultural background* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

- Half (50.0%) of all females and around one third (34.5%) of males indicated that *sexuality* was a perceived reason for the unfair treatment or discrimination witnessed by them.

- Close to four in ten females and males indicated that *religion* (39.9% and 36.0% respectively) and *physical health or ability* (37.6% and 37.2% respectively) were perceived reasons for the unfair treatment or discrimination they had witnessed.

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 2015 and 2014. The third top activity for young people from WA in 2016 was *arts/cultural/music activities*. 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 2016.

- Just over four in ten WA respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work* (41.6%).

- Around three in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (31.0%) and *youth groups and clubs* (29.5%).

- Just over one in five young people from WA had participated in *religious groups or activities* (22.4%) and *environmental groups or activities* (21.2%) over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 10.7 the top three activities for both genders were consistent with WA results, although a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*.

- 71.1% of male respondents and 65.5% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.

- A slightly larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (61.5% compared with 59.7%).

- A higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (55.9% compared with 38.4%).

- Overall, a greater proportion of female than male respondents from WA were involved in *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (48.1% and 33.8% compared with 35.0% and 27.3% respectively).

Table 10.7: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	WA 2016 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2015 %	WA 2014 %
Sports (as a participant)	**75.7**	**67.9**	**65.5**	**71.1**	**77.4**	**73.8**
Sports (as a spectator)	**67.0**	**60.3**	**59.7**	**61.5**	**68.3**	**66.9**
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.7	**47.9**	**55.9**	**38.4**	45.8	**55.8**
Volunteer work	**53.5**	41.6	48.1	35.0	**53.5**	54.7
Student leadership activities	42.5	31.0	33.8	27.3	33.1	39.1
Youth groups and clubs	30.6	29.5	29.5	29.9	38.7	39.3
Religious groups or activities	28.7	22.4	23.6	19.6	33.6	31.9
Environmental groups or activities	24.6	21.2	23.2	19.0	23.0	23.0
Political groups or organisations	8.7	8.1	7.6	7.1	5.9	9.6

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency.
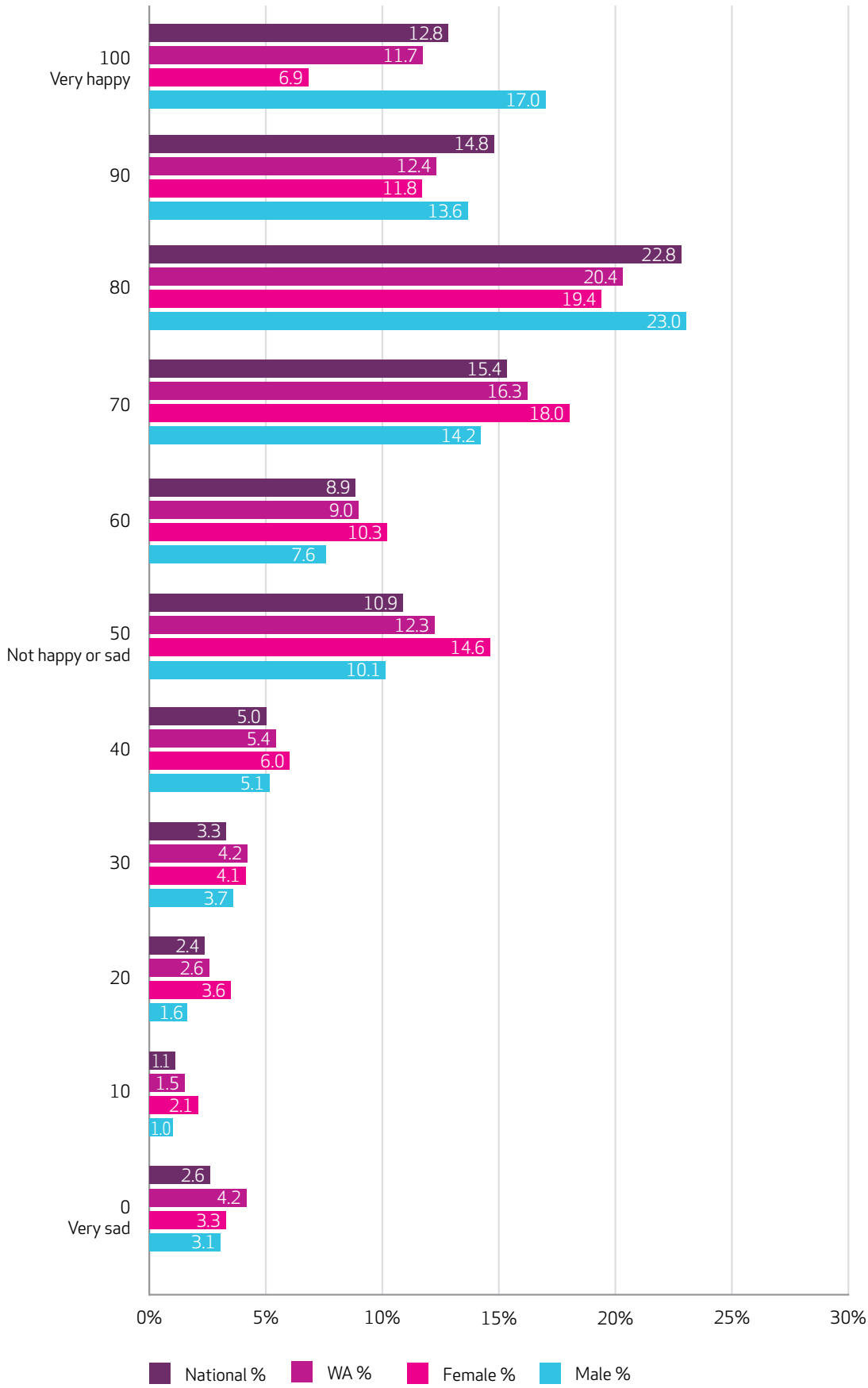
How happy are young people?

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[1], 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 (60.8%) 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 a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (17.0% compared with 6.9%).

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[1] 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

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
100 Very happy	12.8	11.7	6.9	17.0
90	14.8	12.4	11.8	13.6
80	22.8	20.4	19.4	23.0
70	15.4	16.3	18.0	14.2
60	8.9	9.0	10.3	7.6
50 Not happy or sad	10.9	12.3	14.6	10.1
40	5.0	5.4	6.0	5.1
30	3.3	4.2	4.1	3.7
20	2.4	2.6	3.6	1.6
10	1.1	1.5	2.1	1.0
0 Very sad	2.6	4.2	3.3	3.1

National %   WA %   Female %   Male %

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 10.8 shows that, in line with the national results, close to six in ten respondents from WA felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Just over one in ten young people from WA felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Around six in ten respondents from WA felt either *positive* (44.7%) or *very positive* (14.3%) about the future.

- Close to three in ten respondents (28.5%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.

- 7.2% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 5.4% felt *very negative*.

- Males and females from WA were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. A larger proportion of male than female respondents, however, indicated feeling *very positive* (16.6% compared with 11.7%).

Table 10.8: Feelings about the future

	National %	WA 2016 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2015 %	WA 2014 %
Very positive	17.3	14.3	11.7	16.6	13.2	14.5
Positive	47.1	44.7	43.9	47.7	48.5	48.4
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	28.5	31.9	25.2	28.4	28.1
Negative	6.5	7.2	8.7	5.3	6.7	6.8
Very negative	3.0	5.4	3.8	5.1	3.2	2.1

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- Australian Red Cross
- Banyule City Council
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- Cessnock Community and Youth Development Project
- City of Charles Sturt
- City of Holdfast Bay
- City of Marion
- City of Moonee Valley
- City of Whittlesea
- Liverpool City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Marist 180 (Formally Marist Youth Care)
- MidCoast Council
- Northern Territory Youth Affairs Network
- Royal Darwin Hospital – Women, Children and Youth Division
- Save the Children
- Scouts Australia
- Shire of Nillumbik
- State and Territory Education Departments
- TAFE South Australia
- TAFE Queensland SkillsTech
- Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation
- Victorian Student Representative Council
- Whitehorse City Council
- YMCA of Brisbane
- 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 Futures WA
- Youth Network of Tasmania
- Youth Services Hobsons Bay City Council

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, with more than 155 years of experience in standing together with Australians in need on their journey to independence.

Our evidence-based, client-centred services are focused on reducing homelessness and strengthening communities across Australia. Our services are tailored to the needs and preferences of the clients and communities we serve. Our programs range from early intervention to intensive wrap-around services. They include services targeting homelessness; providing integrated family support; parenting programs; early childhood education; mental health services; residential drug and alcohol programs; youth programs; access to safe and secure housing; and programs to build capacity, resilience and opportunity for local communities.

We work in partnership with others to achieve our goal. This includes communities, supporters, government, businesses and other organisations. We measure our impact, collecting evidence of what works to inform our service design and delivery, and to advocate for change.

We stand together with Australians in need until they can stand for themselves.

Thank you

This publication would not have been possible without the almost 22,000 young people who completed Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2016*. Our special thanks to them, the staff of Mission Australia and the many other organisations who supported their involvement.

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