Youth Survey 2013

MISSION AUSTRALIA together we stand

Contents

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ISBN 978-0-9874487-2-9

CEO's message

Creating meaningful opportunities for generation next

A litmus test for the state of a nation's future is the hope, opportunity and recognition it gives to the next generation to meaningfully participate in society.

For young people today 'hope for' and 'access to' meaningful employment is a cornerstone of ensuring a fair, productive and successful Australia. That is why the findings of this year's *Youth Survey* - Mission Australia's twelfth annual *Youth Survey* - are so important.

With a special focus on employment, the 2013 survey results highlight the growing concern among young people about their ability to get a job and achieve their career goals.

More than a quarter of the young people surveyed this year fear there simply won't be sufficient employment and training opportunities in their local community when they finish school. When it comes to pursuing a career in the industry they actually desire, only half think it will be possible in the area they live.

Couple this with the fact that the economy and financial matters remains their number one issue of national importance and it's clear, today's young people are worried about how they will make a living and prosper in a tight labour market.

We know that youth unemployment is the 'canary in the coal mine' for Australia's future wellbeing and productivity. For young people, the labour market hasn't really picked up since the global financial crisis and we're already seeing the impact. Youth unemployment across the country is now three times greater than the average unemployment rate, and in some particularly disadvantaged areas it's approaching 40 per cent. Any slowing of the economy now will only make the situation worse.

What this year's survey results show is our next generation of workers are all too aware of this rapidly growing problem, and very few believe they will be immune to the consequences when they finish their secondary or tertiary education.

These findings again underscore the importance of providing young people with the opportunity to have a voice, and for that voice to be heard.

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

The annual Mission Australia *Youth Survey* taps into the minds of young people across the country, providing unique insight into their aspirations and concerns for the future. The survey continues to provide a valuable reflection on political and social issues confronting the nation, through the eyes of young Australians.

Thankfully, there is still much optimism among young Australians, with the majority of those surveyed expressing a positive outlook about the future in general.

If we take this opportunity to listen to their voices and act on their concerns, there remains great hope for the future of our country and the next generation of Australians who will lead it.

Toby Hall

Mission Australia CEO

Foreword

Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2013

For over a decade Mission Australia has committed to discovering what concerns young people on a personal and national level, what they value and where they turn for help. The annual Youth Survey report presents the collective voice of the youth of Australia, providing a glimpse into the future, a reflection of our past and insights into what we need to consider today.

For the **future**, it uncovers the concerns that lie beneath the surface of our nation's greatest resource, our youth.

For the **present**, it provides up-to-date research that informs practice and influences government policies needed now.

For the **past**, it is an opportunity for us to celebrate our triumphs and to learn from our past failings.

Inspired by our founding purpose of meeting human need and spreading the love of God, we recognise the need for all voices to be heard. The survey is open to all Australians aged between 15 and 19, with thousands of teenagers from cities, towns, rural and remote areas taking part. This comprehensive report aims to represent our nation's diversity; culturally, geographically and socio-economically.

Our hope is that the *Youth Survey 2013* will be an invaluable resource for you in developing solutions and uncovering new possibilities for every young Australian.

I warmly commend this report for your careful consideration.

Paul Molyneux

Mission Australia National Chaplain

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Introduction

Young people and employment opportunities

The *Youth Survey 2013* asked young people whether or not they thought there were enough opportunities for further study and employment in their local area following high school. Three quarters of young people (75.4%) indicated that there were enough opportunities for *study after high school* available in their local area and over seven in ten indicated that there were sufficient local opportunities for *job training after high school* (71.8%) and *employment generally* (71.0%). While encouraging, this reveals that at least one in four respondents did not feel there were enough opportunities for future study and employment available locally. When asked about employment in the job or occupation they would like to have, just over half (50.4%) indicated that they felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

At least one in four respondents did not feel there were enough opportunities for future study and employment available locally.

Young people and plans for study and training

Young people were asked about their future plans for education and training following school. Of those who were at school, 95.9% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were more than twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.4% compared with 2.4% respectively). When asked what they were planning to do after school, going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both males and females (65.3%), although females were more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (71.1% compared with 57.0%). Many planned to get a job (29.8%) or to travel or go on a gap year (26.6%) after school, while 13.1% planned to attend TAFE or college and 8.9% planned to undertake an apprenticeship.

What young people value

In 2013 young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships*, *getting a job*, *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. The responses were consistent with previous years, with *friendships* and *family relationships* ranked as the two most highly valued items. Also consistent with past years was the high value placed on *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*. Around one third of respondents placed a high value on *financial security* and *getting a job*.

Issues of personal concern

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

Where young people turn for information, advice and support

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. Consistent with last year's findings, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people (72.8%), while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*. Almost two thirds (64.1%) of young people were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline*, 59.7% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 49.2% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

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 quite positive, with 26.3% rating their family's ability to get along as *excellent*, and 30.7% 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* (12.6%) or *poor* (7.5%).

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 2013 were *the economy and financial matters* (26.2%), *politics and societal values* (24.6%) and *equity and discrimination* (24.1%). These compare to the top three issues in 2012 of *the economy and financial matters* (30.8%), *population issues* (27.6%) and *alcohol and drugs* (21.8%). Since 2011, *mental health*, *education and employment* have all been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *alcohol and drugs* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

There were notable differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents. While the *economy and financial matters* was identified as the second most important issue for both males and females, for females the top issue facing the nation this year was *equity and discrimination*, with *mental health* third. For males the top issue was *politics and societal values*, with *population issues* coming in at number three.

Activities that young people are involved in

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

For the first time in 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent on average, per week, on social networking sites such as Facebook. The majority (59.8%) indicated spending less than 10 hours a week on social networking sites, while almost three in ten reported spending between 10 and 29 hours, and close to one in eight reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites.

The future

Young people were asked to rate how positive they felt about the future. The results were similar to those in 2012, with more than two thirds of respondents feeling either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Despite this positive response, 5.6% of respondents felt *negative* and a further 2.5% felt *very negative* about the future.

Demographic profile of respondents

A total of 14,461 young people aged 15-19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013*. The largest number of responses came from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (38.7%), Victoria (21.9%) and South Australia (15.1%). Over half of the respondents (59.1%) were female and 3.8% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The percentage of young people who spoke a language other than English at home was 22.1%, consistent with results in 2011 (19.4%) and in 2012 (22.7%). The level of reported disability also remained fairly constant again between 2012 and 2013, at around 4%. The vast majority of respondents were studying full-time (95.2%), slightly higher than the 93.9% in 2012. Just over one third (34.8%) of respondents were working part-time and 35.6% were looking for work.

Policy implications

Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013* provides us with unique insights into some of the challenges facing young Australians today. The concerns raised by young people this year regarding job availability and employment opportunities underscore the need for significant policy reform. Greater investment in youth employment, education and training, particularly in disadvantaged communities, improved funding arrangements for alternative education and training programs and a more youth-centred and responsive employment service model are key components in securing the employment outcomes of young people.

The survey findings also raise a range of policy challenges for supporting young people coping with stress, school or study problems, body image issues and family conflict, as well as a variety of other concerns.

Employment and training opportunities

One in four young people expressed concern that there will not be enough jobs or training opportunities in their local community when they finish school. When it comes to finding a job in the industry they want to work in, only half of the young people surveyed believe there are sufficient opportunities available locally. When we consider that the economy and financial matters remain amongst the top issues identified of national importance, it's clear young people are concerned about their future employment and training opportunities.

Across Australia around one in four 18-19 year olds are not fully engaged in work, school or training.[1] Despite the comparative strength of the Australian economy, we still have rates of youth unemployment above 30 per cent, and 40 per cent in some particularly disadvantaged areas.[2] For young people the labour market hasn't picked up since the global financial crisis. Our future generations are at risk of being stuck in high unemployment limbo.

Young people have told us – and the evidence supports – that there is a need for a greater focus and investment in youth education, training and employment, particularly in communities where there is entrenched disadvantage. There are significant economic and social benefits that flow over many years from improving the participation of young people and we need to ensure that young adults do not fall through the cracks while trying to transition from school to work, school to training or from training to work.

There are many areas of reform that could improve opportunities and outcomes for young job seekers; some require significant investment while others involve just a slight shift to current policy and operational focus. Consideration must be given to the role and responsibility of governments at the federal, state and territory levels for improving the outcomes achieved by young people – including addressing the gaps in mainstream education delivery, particularly in relation to job readiness and employment.

1 Robinson, L. & Lamb, S. (2012). *How young people are faring*. Melbourne: The Foundation for Young Australians.

2 ABS (2013). *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, Aug 2013*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003. Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Funding arrangements between governments should ensure that young people can access fully-funded education or training until they have acquired their year 12 or equivalent qualification, regardless of the setting. Funding should be portable, so that their education is guaranteed whether they are learning in the school system, TAFE, or as part of a support program with a community services or alternative education provider. Outcomes for young people need to be tracked and funding moved to successful programs.

While the previous federal government extended the Youth Connections funding contained in the National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions for 12 months until the end of 2014, funding certainty for these programs in the longer-term is required. Programs like Youth Connections are essential for providing the level of personal support needed to help particularly disadvantaged young people re-engage with education or employment.

Youth programs play a vital role in creating links between the education, training and employment sectors to ensure that young people can successfully navigate these paths. These need to continue, although there are also opportunities for improvement, to enhance and build on existing programs.

Specialist youth co-ordinators could be introduced in Australia's priority employment areas to work with local employers and the local school community to help identify young people at risk of leaving school early or unemployment, secure and promote employment opportunities for young people, and smooth the transition from school.

With the highly localised nature of job markets, consideration needs to be given as to what supports are necessary to allow young people to move further afield to access education and work where the local services and job market simply can't support them in the short term. More broadly, community development policies targeting not only young people but disadvantaged communities as a whole will ultimately provide longer term solutions.

While young people have real concerns about the availability of training and employment, we should also examine demand side initiatives. There is a need to review and potentially increase the number of incentives available to employers to hire young people, as well as in-work supports and mentoring to ensure young people acquire the skills to maintain a job. Consideration should be given to reintroducing the youth focus for subsidised traineeships and offering increased opportunities for apprenticeships. Further gains could be made from a one-stop shop to streamline apprenticeship support services to assist employers in taking on and managing apprentices.

Opportunities for meaningful work experience for young people, including through the increased use of intermediate labour market programs and social enterprise, should be expanded. Demand for low-skilled labour has declined, reducing the number of entry level job opportunities for job seekers with

Consideration should be given to reintroducing the youth focus for subsidised traineeships and offering increased opportunities for apprenticeships.

limited education and employment experience – this has a disproportionate effect on young people who have lower skills, qualifications and/or work experience compared to the general population. Work experience must be provided in real and relevant work situations with personal support and training – particularly given the unmet demand in some locations.

A better, more efficient and responsive employment service model is needed. The current Job Services Australia (JSA) model is not sufficiently youth-centred, and at-risk young people are not being adequately assisted by JSA services to address their barriers to employment. The JSA model needs to refine its service offer for young people to improve their employment outcomes – such as classifying young people in a way that allows them to register with a JSA provider up to 6 months prior to leaving school (regardless of their Centrelink entitlement) to increase the likelihood of young people moving seamlessly between school and employment.

With the number of long-term unemployed job seekers growing, ensuring young people are engaged in work, school or training is critical to their long term employment outlook. The longer a person is unemployed the more likely it is that they will remain without a job, so there is a need to offer intensive training and support early. Highly vulnerable young people should be entitled to intensive, individualised and holistic case management. This should involve in-depth assessment to understand the barriers the young person faces, as well as the provision of strong one-on-one supports for a minimum of 12 months.

Youth transitions is a multifaceted area of policy, but there are a number of well-designed and successful youth education and transitions programs that can be further expanded to improve employment outcomes, particularly in disadvantaged areas, but also to meet growing demand for a skilled Australian workforce. In Mission Australia's own experience we've seen alternative education programs that have been evaluated and shown promise, including the ICAN (Innovative Community Action Networks) model in South Australia. Aboriginal young people have benefited significantly from the Indigenous Youth Careers Pathways Program, with the national Access Program being another useful example of an initiative to provide job seekers with pre-vocational training and assistance prior to taking on an apprenticeship.

Supporting the aspirations of young men and women

The *Youth Survey 2013* reveals differences in the challenges facing young men and women in meeting their aspirations for work and achieving their goals. For males, who were more than twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12, ensuring out of school learning opportunities, including greater investment in TAFE and apprenticeships, will be important to their having access to ongoing education and training. Further, with a significantly lower share of young males than females indicating plans to go to university, encouraging young men to pursue higher education and training will be crucial to meeting their career needs as well as the needs of Australia's future workforce.

Young women are more concerned than ever before about equity and discrimination, with over one in four (26.6%) believing it's among the top three issues facing the country. While results of previous surveys have shown that responses to this question are influenced by public debate at the time of the survey, there is clearly strong sentiment amongst young women that there are major impediments to equality for people from different genders, cultural groups and backgrounds. This stands as an important reminder that major legal reforms around discrimination over several decades have not eliminated the need for further initiatives to promote equity within the workplace and the community.

Coping with stress and school or study problems

As in 2012, coping with stress and school or study problems remained major concerns for respondents. 38.3% of respondents indicated they were extremely concerned or very concerned about coping with stress and 37.4% responded that school or study problems were a major concern. In open ended questions, young people commonly identified a fear of failure and a perceived lack of prospects as a result of poor grades in Year 12. As well as coping with school, many young people were also trying to manage work, family and social commitments. The cumulative effect of these demands appears to be leaving many young people feeling overwhelmed and struggling to cope.

Young people need to be exposed to, and made aware of, the range of study and work options available to them after completing high school, particularly if students do not achieve the mark they were striving for. As one respondent said '*there is way too much pressure nowadays on students to exceed exceptionally in the HSC. For a lot of people, we feel as if we are defined by our ATAR [Australian Tertiary Admission Rank]. A NUMBER! If we do not do well, we become extremely disappointed in ourselves and feel worthless…*'

School based programs to enable vulnerable young people to cope with stress may be one avenue through which young people can be taught strategies to deal effectively with stress. As another respondent insightfully said, '*there are many ways to achieve what you want to do in life, less emphasis on where you are ranked within the school and more about achieving your personal best*'.

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

Mission Australia is also conducting further analysis of young people's responses to the questions regarding their own mental health, and would expect more detailed findings in the future about the best responses to these pressures.

Body image

As in previous years, the level of concern regarding body image among Australia's young people remains high. Concern about body image was considerably higher among females with 42.1% indicating body image was a major concern, compared with 14.4% of males. While a number of initiatives have been introduced to promote positive body image among young people in Australia, careful evaluation of these initiatives is needed in order to understand their impact and inform future policy initiatives.

Family conflict

Family relationships play an important role in young people's lives, with 75.7% of young people indicating that they highly valued family relationships. Despite a largely positive view of family relationships, around one in five (19.7%) young people indicated that they were either extremely concerned or very concerned about family conflict, a finding that raises significant challenges for the community services sector, government and families.

To some extent this may reflect concern regarding common day-to-day disagreements, but for some their family's ability to get along is a more serious concern. In an open-ended question a number of students indicated they were struggling to cope with family conflict, relationship breakdown and school pressures. As one respondent said '*I think my parents need to make more of an effort and not leave me with as many responsibilities because I need to focus on my schoolwork and shouldn't have to be responsible for my brother at this age*'. For young people who are already attempting to cope with school and study pressures, the absence of a supportive family environment and the need to manage the additional stressors of family conflict can make life especially challenging.

It is crucial that young people are aware of the various people (for example, school counsellors and teachers) and services (for example, community agencies, telephone hotlines and online counselling services) available to them in school and in the wider community that they can turn to for support, to enable them cope with, rather than be overwhelmed by, family and other issues. With almost two thirds (64.1%) of respondents indicating that they were not comfortable using a telephone hotline for advice, support or information, there is a major role for experts and services to connect with young people via the internet. With friends and parents being identified as the primary sources of support for young people (70.2% and 62.7% respectively), there is a need to educate parents and young people on ways to identify and respond to concerns and to connect young people with information, advice and the range of support services available. There is also an important role for 'trusted advisors' – the aunt or family friend who can play a significant role in supporting a young person where their immediate family may be unable to do so.

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

The role of media and social media in shaping the views of young people

The *Youth Survey 2013* results also highlight the influence national political debate and media commentary has on the views and concerns of young people. The increased concern amongst respondents regarding politics and societal values and equity and discrimination reflects, at least in part, the public discussion prevailing at the time of the survey. This includes debate surrounding the then Prime Minister Julia Gillard, the role of gender in politics, asylum seekers and also discussion about marriage equality, all of which featured throughout responses to open ended questions in the survey.

Consistent with last year's findings, the internet was ranked as the main source of information for young people (72.8%). Further, with around one in five (21.3%) young people reporting that they are spending at least 20 hours a week on social networking sites, and close to one in eight (11.9%) spending more than 30 hours, social media is clearly a significant source of information and communication amongst young people.

The widespread use of the internet and social media as sources of information has both positive and negative implications. On the positive side, the internet can provide young people with a quick, easy and anonymous avenue to obtain information on issues which they may feel too self-conscious or embarrassed to ask about in person. It also provides an easily accessible medium for organisations to provide reliable, evidence-based information and services to young people. However, a concern about young people using the internet as their primary source of information is that young people may not have the skills to critically evaluate

Young women are more concerned than ever before about equity and discrimination, with over one in four (26.6%) believing it's among the top three issues facing the country.

the content of websites.[3] Navigating and trying to understand various sources of information, particularly if the information accessed is conflicting, may actually heighten a young person's anxiety about an issue.

The findings from the *Youth Survey 2013* point to the importance of improving young people's internet literacy and engagement with diverse sources of information, so that they are better equipped to not only identify sites with reliable information but evaluate information. It is therefore important to continue to resource school based internet literacy programs and the development and updating of age appropriate and reliable websites.

The emerging issue of cyber-bullying also poses risks as young people spend more time online. The technology gap between parents and their children will require greater sophistication in the way that policies evolve to deal with bullying more broadly, and to ensure that young people, and their parents, have skills to manage these situations.

[3] Livingstone, S., Bober, M., & Helsper, E.J. (2005). Active participation or just more information? Young people's take up of opportunities to act and interact on the internet. *Information, Communication and Society*, 8(3), 287-314.

About the survey

Survey background

In 2013, Mission Australia conducted its 12th 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 current industry of employment, career aspirations and perceptions regarding the availability of study and work opportunities in their local area.

Participation

In 2013, 14,461 young Australians aged 15-19 years participated in the survey. Of these, 10,379 (71.8%) 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 2013* sought to capture the views and perspectives of young people on a broad range of issues. Topics covered by the survey this year included education and employment, participation in community activities, time spent on social networking sites, general wellbeing, values and concerns, sources of information, advice and support, as well as feelings about the future.

Methodology

Following approval from State and Territory Education Departments to approach secondary school principals across Australia, information about Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013* and an electronic link to the online version of the survey were distributed to secondary school principals. Information was also distributed to Mission Australia services, a network of other service providers, Commonwealth, State/Territory and local government departments, youth organisations, peak bodies and corporate partners.

Changes in 2013

As mentioned earlier, some changes were made to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey* this year, including the removal of a number of questions asked in 2012 and the addition of some new questions. Additions to the 2013 survey included both quantitative and qualitative questions. Minor amendments were also made to a small number of questions. The implications of these amendments are outlined below.

- Respondents were asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Previously respondents had been asked what choices they felt were available to them after school. Significant change to this question means that direct comparisons to the 2012 data should not be made.
- As in 2012, respondents were asked what activities or groups they had been involved in during the past year. The wording of the 'arts/cultural activities' item was expanded to explicitly note the inclusion of 'music' activities in this category. The item is now listed as 'arts/cultural/music activities'. Comparisons to previous years' data can still be made with caution.
- Respondents were again asked where they feel comfortable going for information, advice and support. In the 2013 survey, online counselling website was added to the list of possible sources. Comparisons to the 2012 data for all other sources can still be made.
- As in previous years, respondents were asked whether they were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. There was a minor change made to the question wording this year, allowing respondents to specify whether they identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or both. In previous years, data was not broken down into these categories. The question remains sufficiently similar for overall comparisons to previous years' data to be made.

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 2014.

This report

This report contains an executive summary, a national summary and a summary for each State or Territory (except the Australian Capital Territory which, due to a relatively small number of responses from this location, has been combined with NSW again this year). In 2012, the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were presented in a separate report. This year the results for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are 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 possible, comparisons with previous years' data (based on respondents aged 15 to 19 years). The one exception is the Northern Territory (NT) chapter where, due to a modest number of responses this year, data is presented at only a Territory-wide level, with no gender breakdown.

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

Figures and tables

1. National summary

2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary

3. New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory

4. Northern Territory

5. Queensland

6. South Australia

7. Tasmania

8. Victoria

9. Western Australia

National summary

Profile of respondents

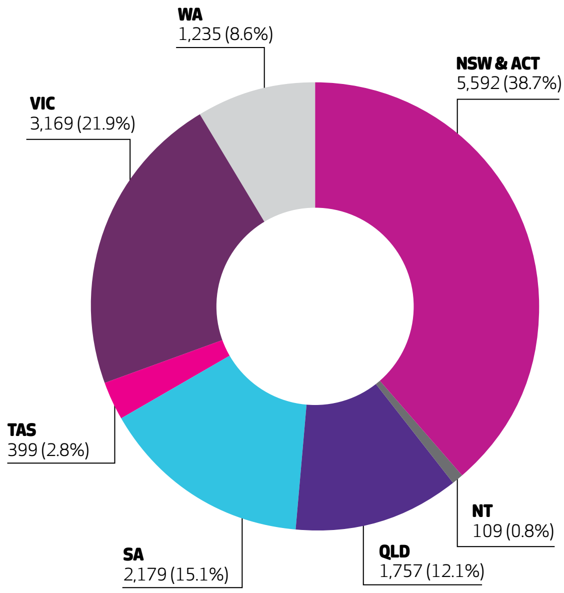
State and territory distribution

A total of 14,461 young people aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013*.

Respondents came from across Australia and Figure 1.1 indicates the number and percentages from each state/territory.

There were 21 respondents who did not indicate which state/territory they lived in.

Figure 1.1: Percentage of respondents by state/territory



Gender breakdown

Over half (59.1%) of respondents were female and 40.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 534 (3.8%) respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 434 (3.1%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 56 (0.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.3% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (4.8% compared with 3.1%).

Language background other than English

2,129 (15.0%) respondents stated that they were born overseas and 3,099 (22.1%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 70 languages spoken at home, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog, Greek and French.

Disability

A total of 601 (4.3%) respondents indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (5.8%) than females (3.3%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities overall were (in order of frequency): learning disability, autism, physical disability, Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD) and blindness or vision impairment.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 1.1, 95.2% of respondents were studying full-time, slightly higher than the 93.9% of respondents aged 15 to 19 in 2012. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (96.2% compared with 93.8%), while a slightly greater proportion of males (4.0%) than females (2.4%) 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*. The majority of respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (17.0%) or *satisfied* (55.7%) with their studies, similar to the 2012 findings (15.0% and 55.4% respectively). Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.6% and 4.4% respectively, compared to 1.5% and 5.4% in 2012). As shown in Table 1.2, males were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (14.5% and 54.6% of males compared with 18.8% and 56.5% of females respectively).

Table 1.1: Participation in education

	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	95.2	96.2	93.8
Studying part-time	1.8	1.4	2.3
Not studying	3.0	2.4	4.0

Table 1.2: Satisfaction with studies

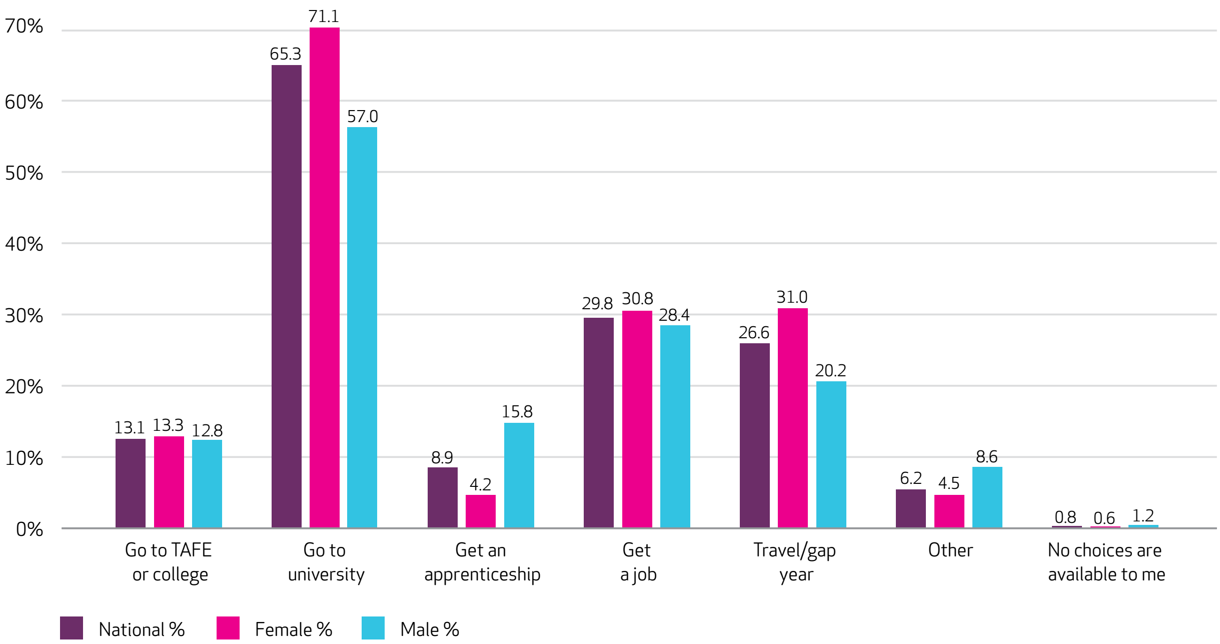
	National 2013 %	Female %	Male %	National 2012 %
Very satisfied	17.0	18.8	14.5	15.0
Satisfied	55.7	56.5	54.6	55.4
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.2	19.4	23.9	22.6
Dissatisfied	4.4	4.1	4.9	5.4
Very dissatisfied	1.6	1.2	2.1	1.5

Of those who were still at school, 95.9% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were more than twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.4% compared with 2.4% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 1.2 shows that nearly two thirds of respondents planned to go to university after school (65.3%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (29.8%) and to travel or go on a gap year (26.6%) after school. Overall, 13.1% 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, females were more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (71.1% compared with 57.0% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (31.0% compared with 20.2% of males). Males were more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (15.8% compared with 4.2% of females).

Figure 1.2: Plans after leaving school



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

Employment

Respondents 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 0.8% of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just over one third (34.8%) of respondents, the majority of whom were in full-time education, reported part-time employment. Over half of respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 35.6% looking for work and 28.8% not looking for work.

Males were slightly more likely than females to report full-time employment (1.1% compared with 0.6%), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (38.1% compared with 30.0%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (39.5% compared with 32.9%).

Table 1.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.6	1.1
Employed part-time	34.8	38.1	30.0
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.6	32.9	39.5
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	28.8	28.4	29.4

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

In 2013 young people who reported currently having paid work were asked to write down which industry they work in. The information provided by respondents was categorised and the top responses are listed in order of frequency in Table 1.4. The two dominant industries that respondents reported working in were *retail and consumer products* and *hospitality and tourism*.

- Similar proportions of young people (almost four in ten) reported working in either the *retail and consumer products* industry (41.2%) or the *hospitality and tourism* industry (39.8%).
- Other industries of note were *trades and services* (6.4%) and *sport and recreation* (4.8%). A wide range of other industries of employment were cited by a minority of respondents.

Gender differences

Males and females were broadly similar in terms of the industries they were currently employed in.

- The *retail and consumer products* industry was the most commonly cited employer of both female and male respondents who reported having paid work (employing 43.1% and 38.1% respectively). This was closely followed by the *hospitality and tourism* industry, which was cited as employing 41.0% of young females and 38.0% of young males.
- The *trades and services* industry was the third most common employer of both female and male respondents. A greater proportion of males than females, however, reported current employment in this industry (9.0% compared with 4.9% respectively).

Table 1.4: Current industry of paid employment

	National %	Female %	Male %
Retail and consumer products	**41.2**	**43.1**	**38.1**
Hospitality and tourism	**39.8**	**41.0**	**38.0**
Trades and services	**6.4**	**4.9**	**9.0**
Sport and recreation	4.8	3.9	6.1
Education and training	2.9	3.8	1.3

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

Respondents were also asked in 2013 if they had decided on what type of job or occupation they would like to have in the future and, if so, to specify their choice. This information was categorised according to industry and the top responses are displayed in Table 1.5. Overall, 59.7% of young people indicated knowing what type of work they wanted in the future. Males were slightly more likely than females to have decided on a job or occupation (61.7% compared with 58.4%).

- The top industry that young people expressed a desire to work in was the *healthcare and medical* industry (nominated by 21.9%).
- Other popular choices nominated by around one in ten respondents included roles in *advertising, arts and media* (11.5%), *education and training* (10.9%) and *trades and services* (10.0%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 1.5, there were notable differences in male and female respondents' desired industries of future employment.

- The most popular industry among female respondents, nominated by three in ten, was the *healthcare and medical* industry (30%).
- Employment in the *education and training* industry was the second most common choice for females (15.2%), closely followed by *advertising, arts and media* (13.3%).
- The most common preference among males was for employment in the *trades and services* industry (17.8%).
- Male respondents' second and third choices for future employment were roles in *engineering* (11.2%) or *government and defence* (10.8%).

Table 1.5: Desired industry of future employment

	National %	Female %	Male %
Healthcare and medical	**21.9**	**30.0**	10.5
Advertising, arts and media	**11.5**	**13.3**	9.0
Education and training	**10.9**	**15.2**	5.0
Trades and services	10.0	4.5	**17.8**
Government and defence	6.9	4.1	**10.8**
Engineering	5.7	1.8	**11.2**
Farming, animals and conservation	5.2	6.9	2.9
Legal	5.2	6.4	3.5
Design and architecture	4.9	5.1	4.6
Sports and recreation	4.1	2.4	6.4

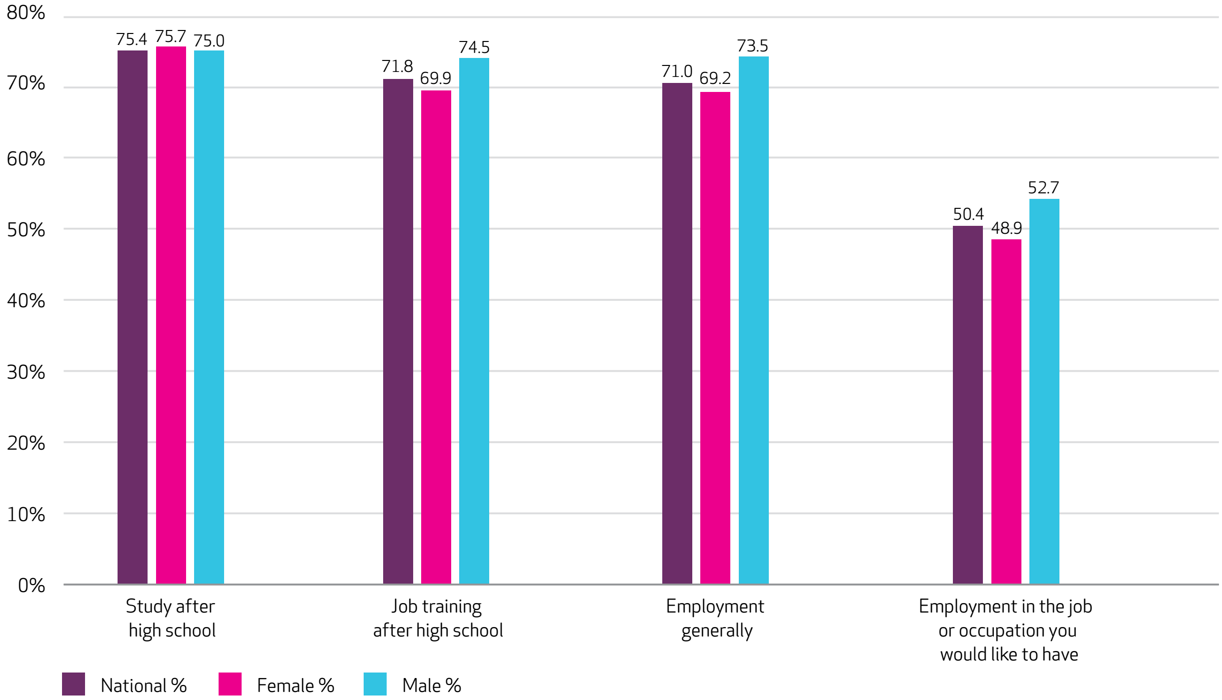
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

In 2013 the survey also asked young people whether or not they thought there were enough opportunities in their local area for *study after high school*, *job training after high school*, *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*. Figure 1.3 shows the percentage of respondents who perceived the level of local opportunities to be sufficient.

Three quarters of young people (75.4%) indicated that they felt there were enough opportunities for *study after high school* available in their local area. A majority of respondents (over seven in ten) also suggested that there were sufficient local opportunities for *job training after high school* (71.8%) and *employment generally* (71.0%). While encouraging, this also means that at least one in four respondents did not feel that there were enough opportunities for future study and employment available locally. When asked specifically about *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*, young people were divided in their views, with only half (50.4%) indicating that they felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

Overall, males and females indicated broadly similar views regarding the adequacy of opportunities in their local area. Male respondents were slightly more optimistic than female respondents, however, about the level of job-related opportunities available locally.

Figure 1.3: Perceived sufficiency of opportunities in the local area

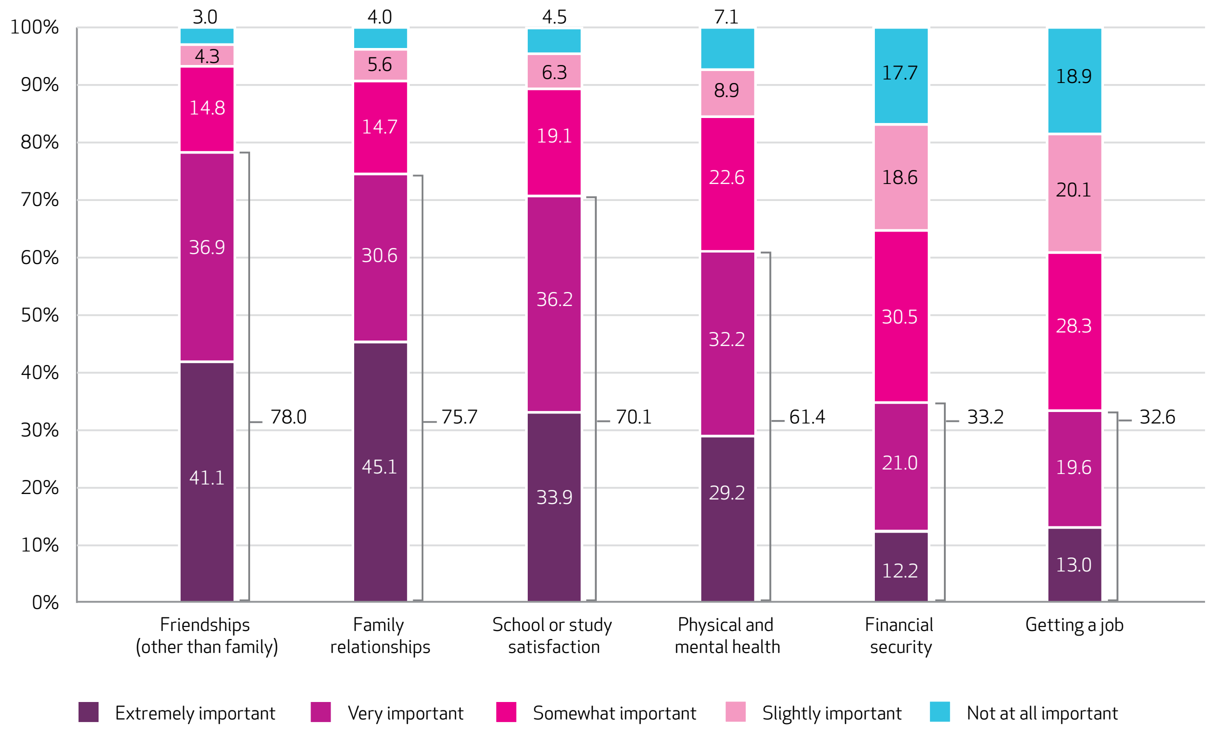


What do young people value?

In 2013 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 2013 responses were consistent with previous years, with *friendships* and *family relationships* ranked as the two most highly valued items. Also consistent with past years was the high value placed on *school or study satisfaction* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 78.0% of respondents (*extremely important*: 41.1%; *very important*: 36.9%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 75.7% of respondents (*extremely important*: 45.1%; *very important*: 30.6%).
- Seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 33.9%; *very important*: 36.2%) and six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 29.2%; *very important*: 32.2%).
- Around one third of respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 12.2%; *very important*: 21.0%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 13.0%; *very important*: 19.6%).

Figure 1.4: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Consistent with last year's findings, *friendships* and *family relationships* were again ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females, as shown in Table 1.6. However, a greater proportion of female respondents highly valued *friendships* and *family relationships* than their male counterparts. The third most valued item by both males and females this year was *school or study satisfaction*. This is consistent with the 2012 results for females, whereas males in 2012 valued *physical and mental health* more highly.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 82.6% of females (*extremely important*: 46.6%; *very important*: 36.0%) compared with 71.2% of males (*extremely important*: 33.1%; *very important*: 38.1%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 80.2% of females (*extremely important*: 50.6%; *very important*: 29.6%) compared with 69.2% of males (*extremely important*: 37.0%; *very important*: 32.2%).
- 77.4% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 39.8%; *very important*: 37.6%) compared with 59.6% of males (*extremely important*: 25.4%; *very important*: 34.2%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by around two thirds of all females (*extremely important*: 31.2%; *very important*: 33.4%) and by over half of all males (*extremely important*: 26.3%; *very important*: 30.4%).

Table 1.6: What young people value, by gender

Females	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**46.6**	**36.0**	12.1	3.5	1.7
Family relationships	**50.6**	**29.6**	12.3	5.0	2.6
School or study satisfaction	**39.8**	**37.6**	15.3	4.7	2.7
Physical and mental health	31.2	33.4	21.9	8.2	5.3
Financial security	12.2	22.3	31.1	18.5	15.9
Getting a job	12.3	20.5	28.8	20.2	18.3
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**33.1**	**38.1**	18.7	5.3	4.7
Family relationships	**37.0**	**32.2**	18.3	6.4	6.0
School or study satisfaction	**25.4**	**34.2**	24.6	8.6	7.2
Physical and mental health	26.3	30.4	23.6	9.9	9.8
Financial security	12.2	19.3	29.7	18.6	20.2
Getting a job	14.3	18.4	27.6	20.1	19.7

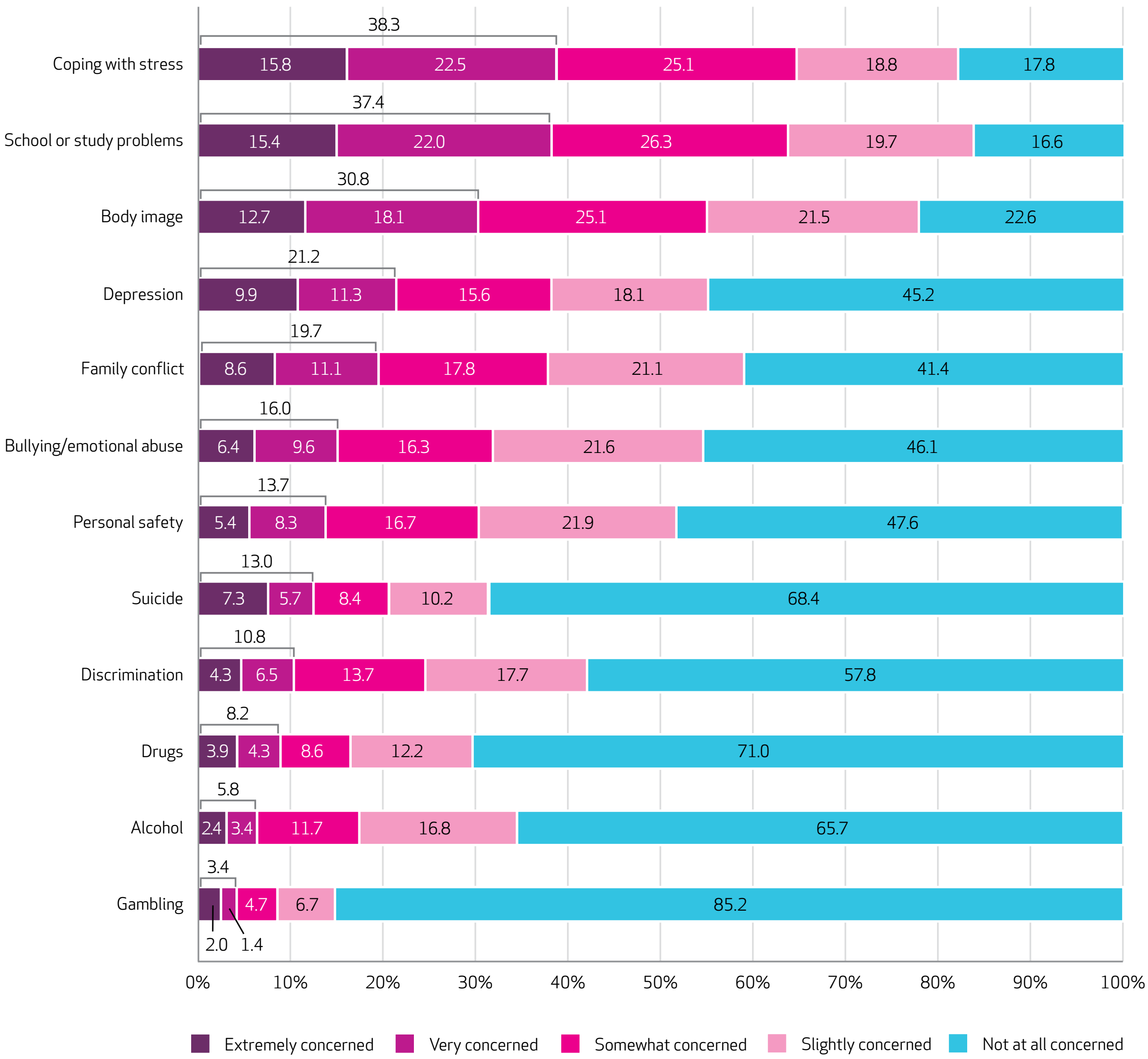
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

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 2012, the top three issues of concern remain unchanged.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 38.3% of respondents indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (15.8%) or *very concerned* (22.5%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 37.4% (*extremely concerned*: 15.4%; *very concerned*: 22.0%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern with 12.7% of respondents *extremely concerned* and 18.1% *very concerned*.
- 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 over 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 1.7. 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 half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 21.4%; *very concerned*: 28.4%), compared with around one fifth of all males (*extremely concerned*: 7.8%; *very concerned*: 13.9%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 45.1% (*extremely concerned*: 19.2%; *very concerned*: 25.9%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 26.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.8%; *very concerned*: 16.4%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 42.1% (*extremely concerned*: 18.0%; *very concerned*: 24.1%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 14.4% (*extremely concerned*: 5.0%; *very concerned*: 9.4%) of males.
- For 26.1% of females (*extremely concerned*: 12.3%; *very concerned*: 13.8%) and 13.9% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.3%; *very concerned*: 7.6%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 1.7: 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	**21.4**	**28.4**	26.2	15.3	8.7
School or study problems	**19.2**	**25.9**	26.3	18.2	10.4
Body image	**18.0**	**24.1**	26.8	19.3	11.8
Depression	12.3	13.8	17.9	18.8	37.1
Family conflict	10.2	13.4	20.0	21.6	34.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.6	11.5	18.6	22.9	39.4
Personal safety	5.7	9.7	18.9	24.0	41.7
Suicide	8.2	7.1	10.1	11.9	62.8
Discrimination	4.3	7.4	15.7	19.4	53.2
Drugs	3.4	4.8	9.4	13.1	69.3
Alcohol	1.9	3.9	13.0	18.3	62.9
Gambling	1.2	1.4	4.3	6.8	86.3
Males	**Extremely concerned %**	**Very concerned %**	**Somewhat concerned %**	**Slightly concerned %**	**Not at all concerned %**
Coping with stress	**7.8**	**13.9**	23.5	24.0	30.8
School or study problems	**9.8**	**16.4**	26.3	22.0	25.5
Body image	**5.0**	**9.4**	22.6	24.7	38.2
Depression	6.3	7.6	12.2	17.0	56.9
Family conflict	6.4	7.6	14.7	20.4	50.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.6	6.7	13.2	19.7	55.9
Personal safety	5.0	6.3	13.7	18.9	56.1
Suicide	5.9	3.6	6.1	7.9	76.5
Discrimination	4.3	5.3	10.8	15.3	64.4
Drugs	4.5	3.7	7.4	10.9	73.5
Alcohol	3.1	2.6	9.8	14.6	69.9
Gambling	3.2	1.5	5.2	6.6	83.5

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

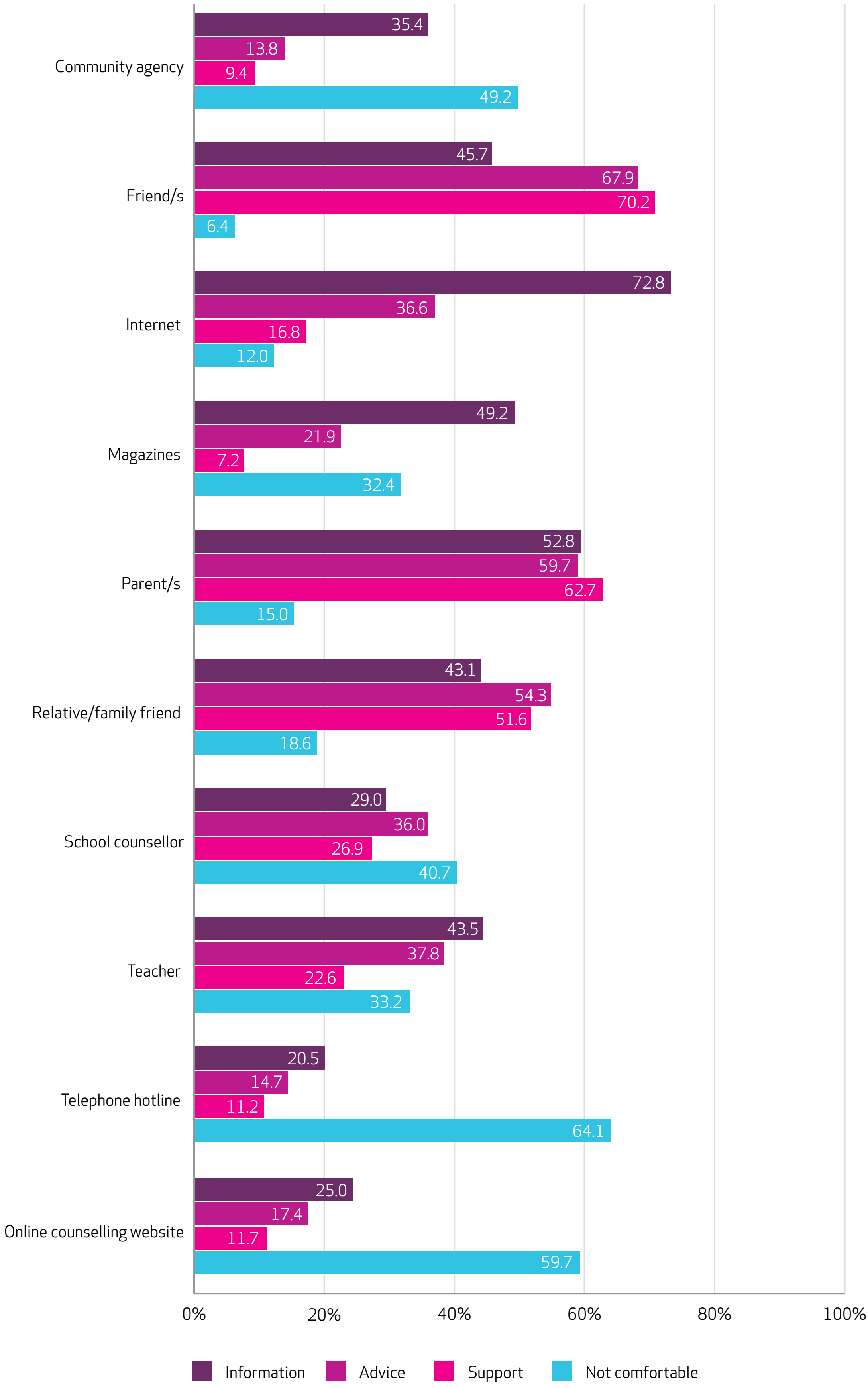
Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. Consistent with last year's findings, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people (72.8%), followed by *parent/s* (52.8%) and *magazines* (49.2%).
- Respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (67.9%), *parent/s* (59.7%) and *relatives/family friends* (54.3%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (70.2%) were again the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (62.7%) and *relatives/family friends* (51.6%).

- Almost two thirds (64.1%) of young people indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline* for *advice*, *support* or *information*, 59.7% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 49.2% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 1.6: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

Males and females were broadly similar in terms of where they were comfortable going for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (75.5%) and males (69.0%). *Parent/s* were also important sources of *information* for both female (52.1%) and male (53.9%) respondents. Females ranked *magazines* highly as a source of *information* they felt comfortable going to (just above *parent/s* this year, at 53.6%). Males instead preferred *friend/s* as an *information* source, ranking them in third position (49.9%).
- Females were much more likely to get *information* (53.6%) and *advice* (27.4%) from *magazines* than males (42.9% and 13.9% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (71.5%) and males (62.7%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also important sources of *advice* for both females (61.3% and 55.4% respectively) and males (57.5% and 52.7% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were also the most highly ranked source of support for females (77.4%) and males (59.9%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as important sources of *support* by both females (66.1% and 54.8% respectively) and males (57.9% and 47.0% respectively).

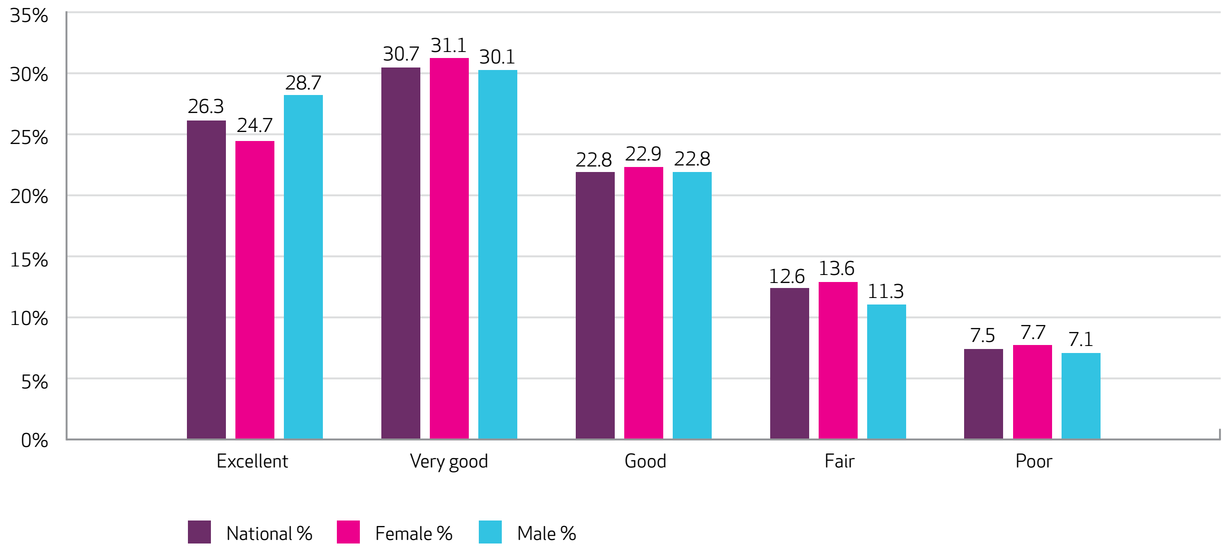
Table 1.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

Females	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	35.0	12.6	9.0	**51.5**
Friend/s	42.8	**71.5**	**77.4**	5.2
Internet	**75.5**	37.8	16.1	10.8
Magazines	**53.6**	27.4	7.0	28.0
Parent/s	**52.1**	**61.3**	**66.1**	15.5
Relative/family friend	40.6	**55.4**	**54.8**	19.5
School counsellor	28.4	38.2	28.2	42.1
Teacher	42.4	38.3	23.8	35.1
Telephone hotline	20.4	16.0	11.8	**65.7**
Online counselling website	26.3	19.8	12.9	**59.6**
Males	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	35.9	15.5	9.8	**46.0**
Friend/s	**49.9**	**62.7**	**59.9**	8.1
Internet	**69.0**	34.8	17.9	13.8
Magazines	42.9	13.9	7.4	39.0
Parent/s	**53.9**	**57.5**	**57.9**	14.1
Relative/family friend	46.8	**52.7**	**47.0**	17.2
School counsellor	29.8	32.8	24.9	38.9
Teacher	45.2	37.1	20.7	30.5
Telephone hotline	20.7	12.8	10.3	**61.7**
Online counselling website	23.2	13.9	9.9	**60.0**

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*. Overall, the majority of respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 26.3% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 30.7% that it was *very good*. However, around one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.6%) or *poor* (7.5%). 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 1.9. In 2013 the top three issues identified by young people were *the economy and financial matters*, *politics and societal values* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Around one quarter of young people identified *the economy and financial matters* (26.2%), *politics and societal values* (24.6%) and *equity and discrimination* (24.1%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Close to one in five respondents identified *population issues* (22.2%) and *alcohol and drugs* (19.9%) as major issues.
- Since 2011, *mental health*, *education and employment* have all been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *alcohol and drugs* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

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

- Around one quarter of male and female respondents (28.2% and 24.9% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- A greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (26.6% compared with 20.4%) and *mental health* (20.6% compared with 7.2%) as important issues.
- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (32.2% compared with 19.5%) and *population issues* (25.6% compared with 19.9%) as important national issues.

Table 1.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2013 %	Female %	Male %	National 2012 %	National 2011 %
The economy and financial matters	**26.2**	**24.9**	**28.2**	**30.8**	21.3
Politics and societal values	**24.6**	19.5	**32.2**	20.6	15.2
Equity and discrimination	**24.1**	**26.6**	20.4	20.2	**22.0**
Population issues	22.2	19.9	**25.6**	**27.6**	21.3
Alcohol and drugs	19.9	19.0	21.2	**21.8**	**30.3**
Mental health	15.2	**20.6**	7.2	12.7	10.7
Education	14.6	15.6	13.1	10.9	7.7
The environment	14.5	16.0	12.2	17.5	**37.4**
Employment	14.0	12.6	16.0	8.5	5.8
Health	11.6	12.8	9.8	16.2	14.6
Crime, safety and violence	11.2	11.2	11.2	14.0	15.1
Bullying	10.9	13.5	6.9	11.0	12.1
Homelessness/housing	7.8	9.3	5.6	8.5	7.5
LGBT issues	6.7	7.9	4.9	5.9	2.2
Adolescence/youth	5.0	5.8	3.9	5.0	4.9

Note: Items are listed in order of national frequency. Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 1.10. 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 each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the three most popular activities for young people in 2013.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (53.8%).
- Around four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (43.0%), one third had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (33.9%) and *religious groups or activities* (32.6%) and one quarter had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (24.7%) over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 1.10 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with national results, although a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for males was *volunteer work*, while for females it was *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 75.6% of male respondents and 72.7% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (72.1% compared with 66.7%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking more highly up the list for male respondents, overall a greater proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural/music activities* and *student leadership activities* (60.5%, 62.0% and 46.8% compared with 48.3%, 41.6% and 37.3% respectively).

Table 1.10: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National 2013 %	Female %	Male %	National 2012 %	National 2011 %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.9**	**72.7**	**75.6**	**78.4**	**66.5**
Sports (as a spectator)	**68.9**	**66.7**	**72.1**	**73.0**	**54.2**
Volunteer work	**55.6**	60.5	**48.3**	**60.5**	**33.5**
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.8	**62.0**	41.6	52.0	30.8
Student leadership activities	43.0	46.8	37.3	47.4	28.0
Youth groups and clubs	33.9	33.9	33.7	38.2	24.8
Religious groups or activities	32.6	34.3	30.0	37.8	23.2
Environmental groups or activities	24.7	25.4	23.6	27.8	12.4
Political groups or organisations	7.8	7.1	8.8	9.2	5.2

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year. In 2013 and 2012 respondents were asked "*In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?*" whereas in 2011 respondents were asked "*What activities are you involved in?*" Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was also expanded slightly in 2013 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

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

In 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents (59.8%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 28.2%; *3-9 hours*: 31.6%). Almost three in ten reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 18.9%; *20-29 hours*: 9.4%) and close to one in eight reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 4.3%; *40 hours or more*: 7.6%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate spending only *2 hours or less* a week on social networking sites (32.4% compared with 25.4%).

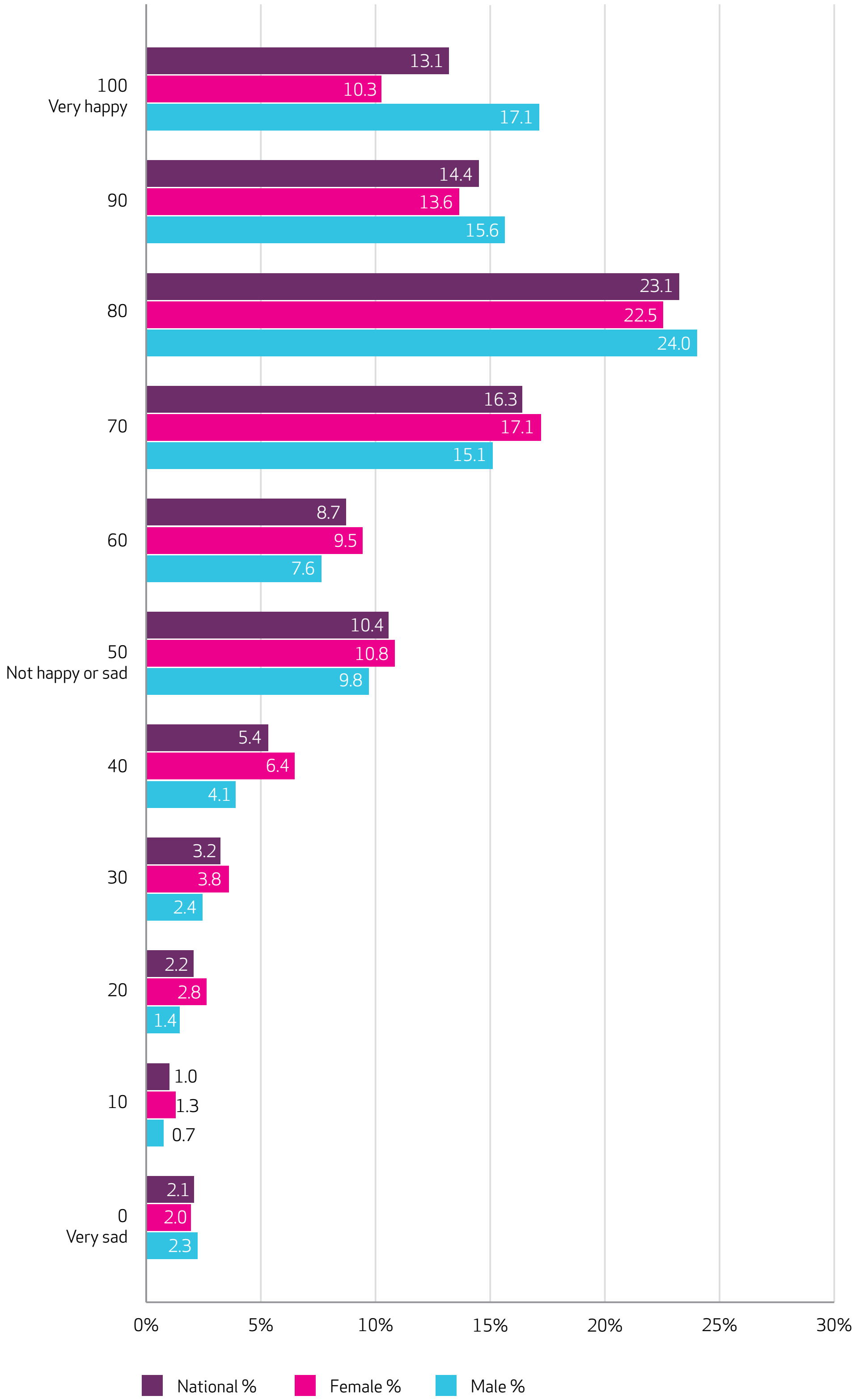
Table 1.11: Time spent on social networking sites

	National %	Female %	Male %
2 hours or less	28.2	25.4	32.4
3 - 9 hours	31.6	31.4	31.9
10 - 19 hours	18.9	19.9	17.5
20 - 29 hours	9.4	10.5	7.7
30 - 39 hours	4.3	5.1	3.2
40 hours or more	7.6	7.6	7.3

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 1.8 shows, the majority of young people (66.9%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the 2012 results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (17.1% compared with 10.3%).

Figure 1.8: How happy young people are



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

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 1.12 shows that results are similar to those in 2012, with more than two thirds of respondents feeling either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (48.8%) or *very positive* (18.7%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (24.4%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 5.6% of respondents felt *negative* about the future, and 2.5% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were slightly more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (21.5% compared with 16.9%).

Table 1.12: Feelings about the future

	National 2013 %	Female %	Male %	National 2012 %	National 2011 %
Very positive	18.7	16.9	21.5	20.8	19.9
Positive	48.8	48.6	49.1	49.8	42.8
Neither positive nor negative	24.4	26.1	21.8	22.7	27.9
Negative	5.6	6.1	4.9	4.7	5.9
Very negative	2.5	2.3	2.7	1.9	3.5

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary

Profile of respondents

In total, 534 (3.8%) respondents to the *Youth Survey 2013* identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 434 (3.1%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 56 (0.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.3% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (4.8% compared with 3.1%).

Gender breakdown

Around half (48.8%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were female and 51.2% were male.

Language background other than English

16 (3.2%) respondents reported speaking an Indigenous language at home and 13 (2.6%) respondents stated that they spoke Kriol.

Disability

A total of 62 (13.1%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they had a disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 2.1, 87.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were studying full-time (compared to 95.7% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were slightly less likely to respond that they were studying full-time than young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (85.9% compared with 88.1%), while slightly more females (11.3%) than males (7.4%) were not studying at all.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. Over half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (11.7%) or *satisfied* (44.5%) with their studies. These levels of satisfaction are slightly down from the 2012 findings (*very satisfied*: 14.2%; *satisfied*: 49.5%) and are also below those of their non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander counterparts (*very satisfied*: 17.3%; *satisfied*: 56.3%). Almost one in seven Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported feeling *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* with their studies (7.1% and 6.7% respectively, compared to 3.8% and 4.4% in 2012). As shown in Table 2.2, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were slightly more likely than males to report feeling either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* with their studies overall (15.5% of females compared with 11.8% of males).

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	95.7	87.2	85.9	88.1
Studying part-time	1.7	3.6	2.7	4.4
Not studying	2.7	9.2	11.3	7.4

Table 2.2: Satisfaction with studies

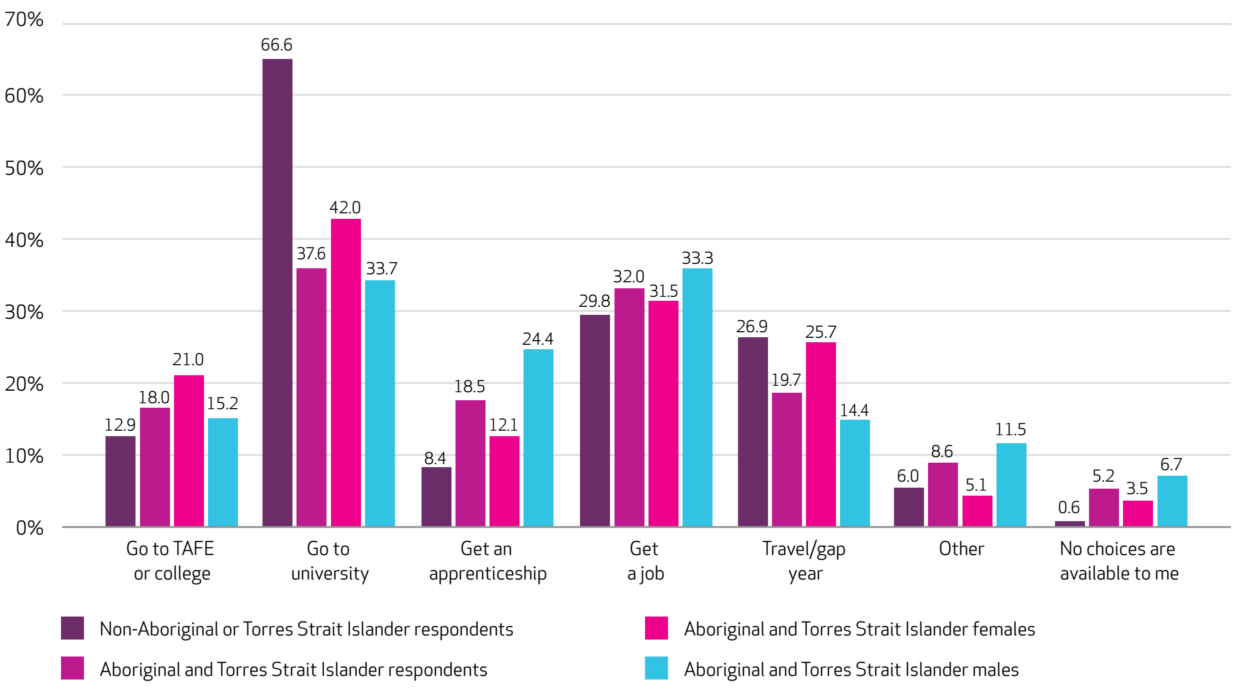
	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2012 %
Very satisfied	17.3	11.7	11.1	12.6	14.2
Satisfied	56.3	44.5	45.6	43.5	49.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	20.8	30.1	27.9	32.1	28.1
Dissatisfied	4.4	6.7	9.3	4.5	4.4
Very dissatisfied	1.2	7.1	6.2	7.3	3.8

Of those who were still at school, 86.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents stated that they intended to complete Year 12 (compared to 96.4% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were more likely than females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (16.2% compared with 10.7% 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, significantly fewer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated intentions to do so (37.6% compared to 66.6% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). Around one third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated plans to get a job (32.0%) and close to one in five planned to either travel or go on a gap year (19.7%), get an apprenticeship (18.5%) or attend TAFE or college (18.0%) after school. A minority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (5.2%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school. While a relatively small proportion, this is comparatively much higher than the proportion of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents who indicated feeling this way (0.6%).

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were more likely than males to say that they planned to go to university after school (42.0% compared with 33.7% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year (25.7% compared with 14.4% of males) or to go to TAFE or college (21.0% compared with 15.2%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were more likely than females to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (24.4% compared with 12.1%). Males were also more likely than females to feel that no choices were available to them (6.7% compared with 3.5%).

Figure 2.1: Plans after leaving school



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

Employment

Respondents 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 (3.4%) and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents (0.6%) were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Around three in ten (30.5%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported part-time employment. Over half reported that they were not in paid employment. 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 (41.5% compared with 35.3%). Around one quarter (24.6%) of 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 (3.2% compared with 3.7% respectively) or part-time employment (29.9% compared with 30.9%). Likewise, a similar proportion of both male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were looking for work (42.2% compared with 40.7% respectively).

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	0.6	3.4	3.7	3.2
Employed part-time	35.1	30.5	30.9	29.9
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.3	41.5	40.7	42.2
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	29.0	24.6	24.8	24.7

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

In 2013 young people who reported currently having paid work were asked to write down which industry they work in. The information provided by respondents was categorised and the top responses are listed in order of frequency in Table 2.4. The two dominant industries that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported working in were *retail and consumer products* and *hospitality and tourism*.

- Equal proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (just over one in three) reported working in either the *retail and consumer products* industry or the *hospitality and tourism* industry (both employing 34.9%).
- Another industry of note was the *trades and services* industry (employing 9.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents compared with 6.3% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). A wide range of other industries of employment were cited by a minority of respondents.

Gender differences

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male and female respondents were broadly similar in terms of the industries they were currently employed in.

- The *hospitality and tourism* and *retail and consumer products* industries were the most commonly cited employers of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females. Females were equally likely to work in either the *retail and consumer products* or *hospitality and tourism* industries (both employing 37.2%). The split amongst males was also very similar, with 33.3% reporting work in the *retail and consumer products* industry and 32.3% working in the *hospitality and tourism* industry.
- The *trades and services* industry was the third most common employer of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (employing 10.8%), while females were more likely to be employed in *administration and office support* (employing 8.5%).

Table 2.4: Current industry of 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 %
Retail and consumer products	**41.5**	**34.9**	**37.2**	**33.3**
Hospitality and tourism	**40.0**	**34.9**	**37.2**	**32.3**
Trades and services	**6.3**	**9.0**	7.4	**10.8**
Sport and recreation	4.8	4.8	1.1	8.6
Administration and office support	1.2	4.2	**8.5**	-

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

Respondents were also asked in 2013 if they had decided on what type of job or occupation they would like to have in the future and, if so, to specify their choice. This information was categorised according to industry and the top responses are displayed in Table 2.5. Overall, 64.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they knew what type of work they wanted in the future, with this proportion very similar across both males (64.9%) and females (64.0%).

- The top industry that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents expressed a desire to work in was the *trades and services* industry (nominated by 23.5%).
- Other popular choices nominated by around one in ten respondents included roles in the *healthcare and medical* industry (11.9%), *education and training* (10.5%), *advertising, arts and media* (9.5%) and *government and defence* (8.8%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 2.5, there were notable differences in responses to this question among male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

- The most popular industry among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, nominated by one in five, was the *healthcare and medical* industry (20.1%).
- Employment in the *education and training* industry was the second most common choice for females (17.4%), followed by *advertising, arts and media* (11.1%).
- The most common preference among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males was for employment in the *trades and services* industry (35.8%).
- Male respondents' next most popular choices were roles in *government and defence* (10.8%) and *advertising, arts and media* (8.1%).

Table 2.5: Desired industry of future 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 %
Trades and services	9.4	**23.5**	10.4	**35.8**
Healthcare and medical	**22.4**	**11.9**	**20.1**	4.1
Education and training	**10.9**	**10.5**	**17.4**	4.1
Advertising, arts and media	**11.6**	9.5	**11.1**	**8.1**
Government and defence	6.8	8.8	6.9	**10.8**
Sport and recreation	4.0	6.8	6.3	7.4
Hospitality and tourism	3.1	6.1	6.9	5.4
Farming, animals and conservation	5.3	5.1	5.6	4.7

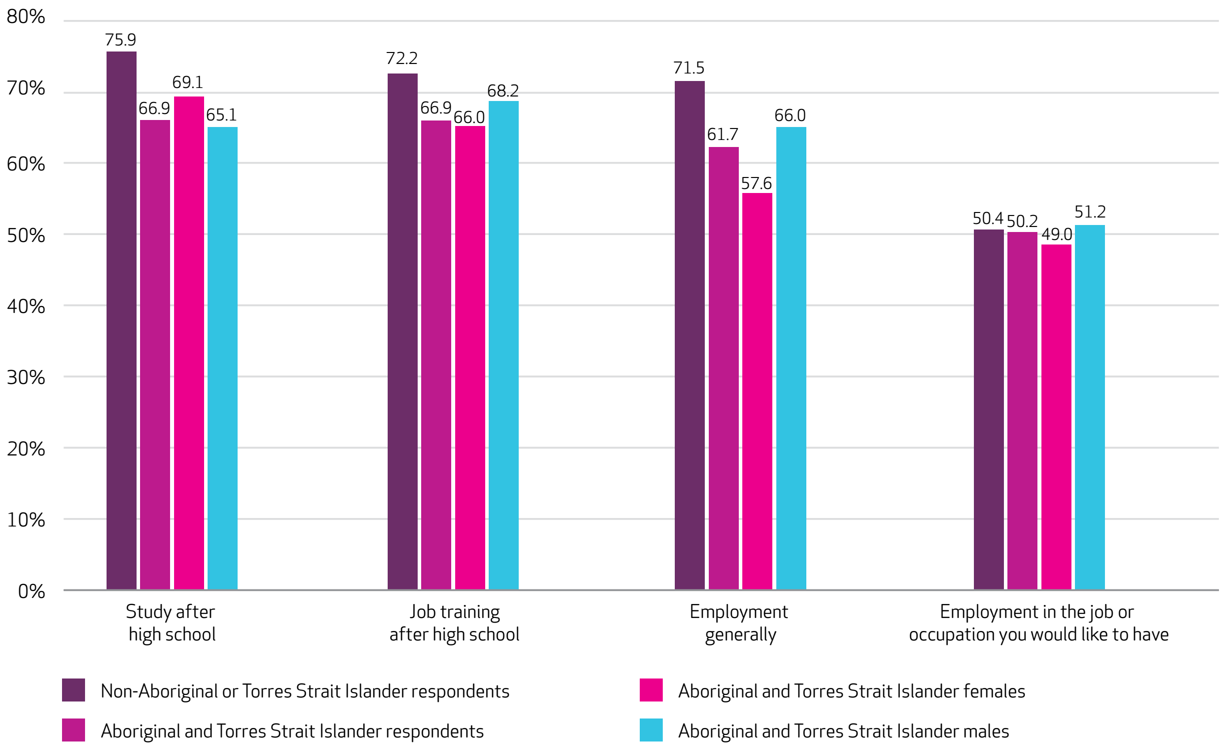
Note: Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents. Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

In 2013 the survey also asked young people whether or not they thought there were enough opportunities in their local area for *study after high school*, *job training after high school*, *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*. Figure 2.2 shows the percentage of respondents who perceived the level of local opportunities to be sufficient.

Two thirds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they felt there were enough opportunities for *study after high school* and *job training after high school* available in their local area (both at 66.9%). Just over six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (61.7%) suggested that there were sufficient local opportunities for *employment generally*. While encouraging, this means that at least one third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents did not feel that there were enough opportunities for future study and employment available locally. When asked specifically about *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were divided in their views, with only half (50.2%) indicating that they felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females indicated broadly similar views regarding the adequacy of opportunities in their local area. Male respondents were more optimistic, however, about the availability of local opportunities for *employment generally*.

Figure 2.2: Perceived sufficiency of opportunities in the local area

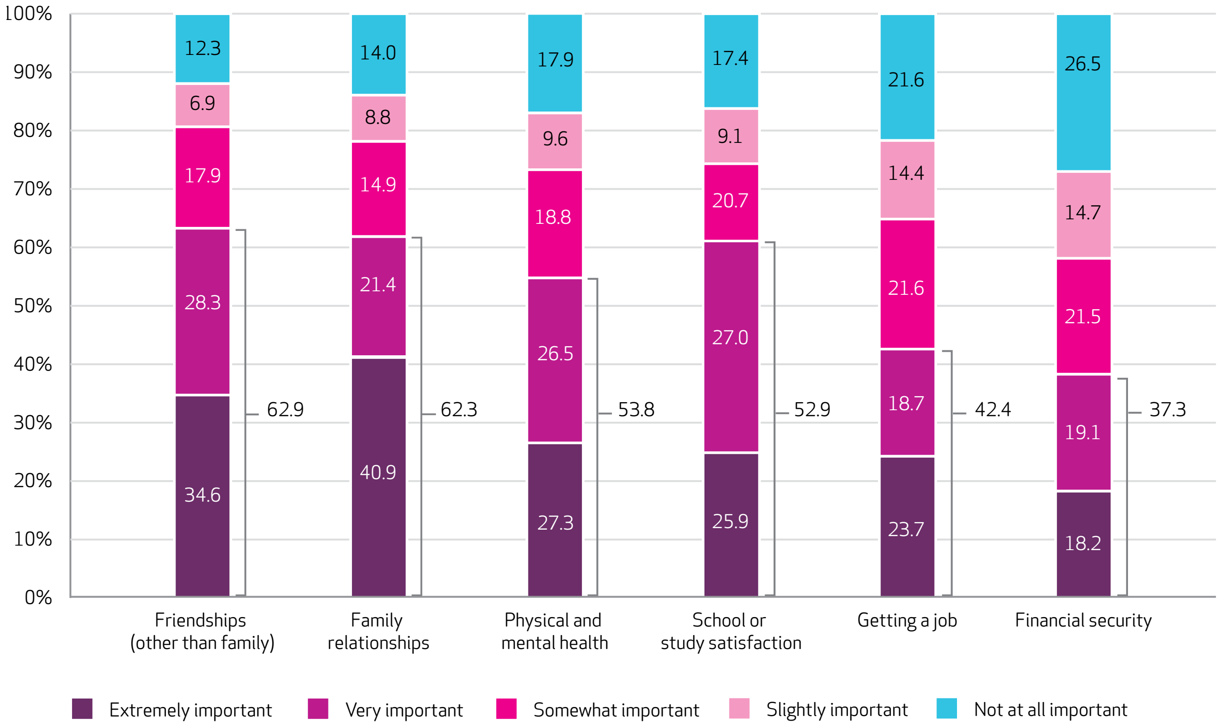


What do young people value?

In 2013 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 two most highly valued items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents was *physical and mental health*, followed by *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 62.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely important*: 34.6%; *very important*: 28.3%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 62.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely important*: 40.9%; *very important*: 21.4%).
- Over half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 27.3%; *very important*: 26.5%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 25.9%; *very important*: 27.0%).
- Over four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 23.7%; *very important*: 18.7%) and over one third highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 18.2%; *very important*: 19.1%).

Figure 2.3: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Friendships and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females, as shown in Table 2.6. However, more female respondents highly valued *friendships* and *family relationships* than their male counterparts. The third most valued item among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females this year was *school or study satisfaction*, whereas among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males it was *physical and mental health*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 69.3% of females (*extremely important*: 36.2%; *very important*: 33.1%) compared with 56.9% of males (*extremely important*: 32.7%; *very important*: 24.2%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 67.2% of females (*extremely important*: 44.3%; *very important*: 22.9%) compared with 57.4% of males (*extremely important*: 36.9%; *very important*: 20.5%).
- 58.3% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 27.2%; *very important*: 31.1%) compared with 47.5% of males (*extremely important*: 24.5%; *very important*: 23.0%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by over half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely important*: 28.1%; *very important*: 28.9%) and males (*extremely important*: 26.4%; *very important*: 24.9%).

Table 2.6: What young people value, by gender

Females	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**36.2**	**33.1**	18.5	5.1	7.1
Family relationships	**44.3**	**22.9**	15.4	9.1	8.3
Physical and mental health	28.1	28.9	21.7	7.1	14.2
School or study satisfaction	**27.2**	**31.1**	19.7	8.3	13.8
Getting a job	25.6	21.6	22.4	14.8	15.6
Financial security	18.3	23.1	24.3	14.3	19.9
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**32.7**	**24.2**	17.3	8.8	16.9
Family relationships	**36.9**	**20.5**	14.8	8.7	19.0
Physical and mental health	**26.4**	**24.9**	16.5	11.1	21.1
School or study satisfaction	24.5	23.0	22.2	10.1	20.2
Getting a job	22.1	16.3	20.9	14.3	26.4
Financial security	17.4	15.4	19.3	15.1	32.8

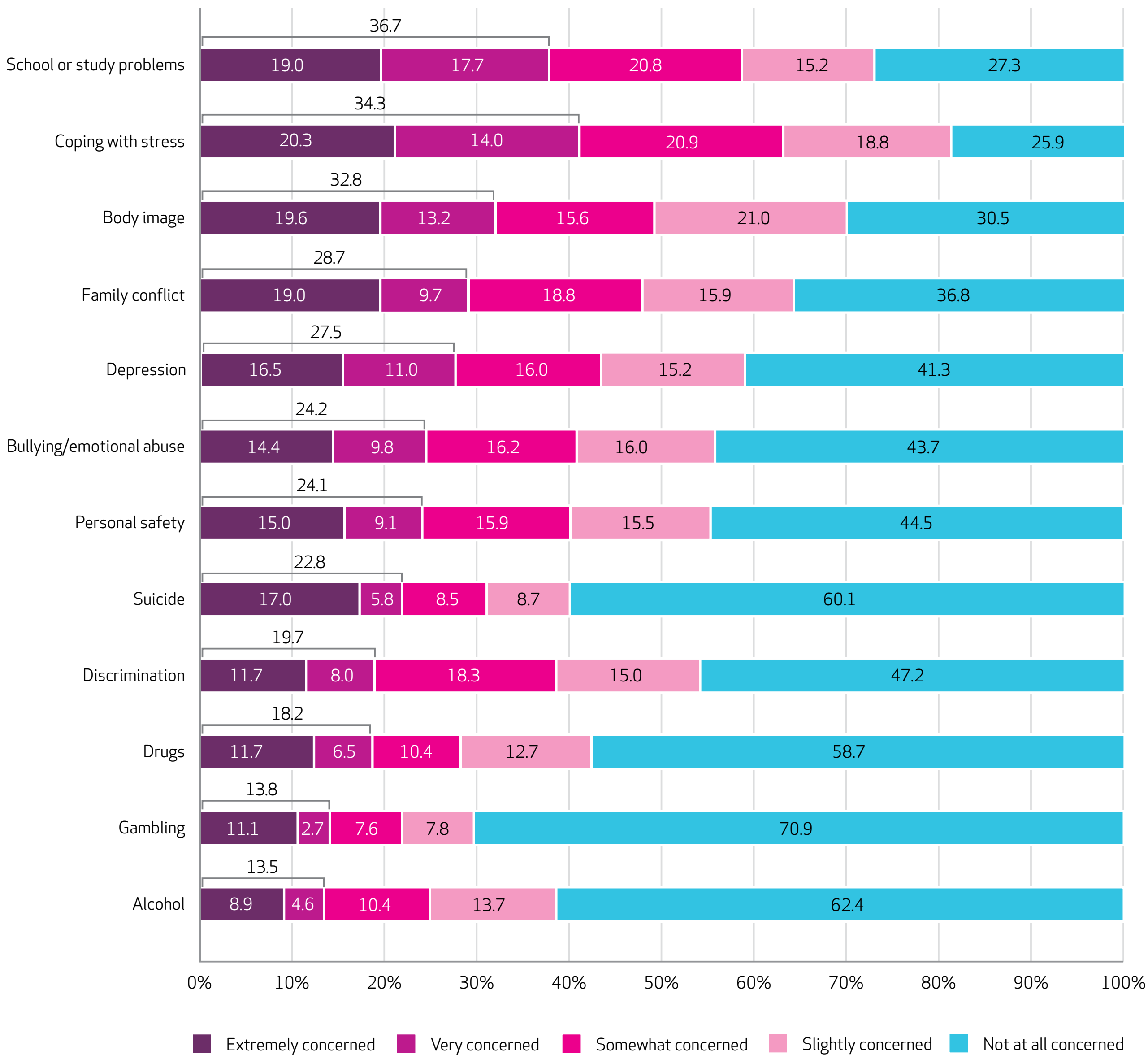
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

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 *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *body image*.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents, with 36.7% indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (19.0%) or *very concerned* (17.7%) about this issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 34.3% (*extremely concerned*: 20.3%; *very concerned*: 14.0%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern with 19.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents *extremely concerned* and 13.2% *very concerned*.
- Over one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 2.4: Issues of personal concern to young people



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

Gender differences

School or study problems and *coping with stress* were among the top three issues of concern for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females, as highlighted in Table 2.7. Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, however, the number one issue of personal concern this year was *body image*, followed by *coping with stress* and *school or study problems*. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, the number one issue of concern was *school or study problems*, followed by *coping with stress* and *family conflict*. Despite these differences, the proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the others) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For almost half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 27.8%; *very concerned*: 18.7%), compared with just over one fifth of all males (*extremely concerned*: 13.0%; *very concerned*: 9.9%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 44.4% (*extremely concerned*: 23.0%; *very concerned*: 21.4%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 29.9% of males (*extremely concerned*: 15.3%; *very concerned*: 14.6%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 46.8% (*extremely concerned*: 27.6%; *very concerned*: 19.2%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 19.5% (*extremely concerned*: 11.7%; *very concerned*: 7.8%) of males.
- For 37.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely concerned*: 22.9%; *very concerned*: 14.5%) and 20.3% of males (*extremely concerned*: 14.9%; *very concerned*: 5.4%) *family conflict* was a major concern.

Table 2.7: 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	**23.0**	**21.4**	22.2	14.7	18.7
Coping with stress	**27.8**	**18.7**	23.4	15.5	14.7
Body image	**27.6**	**19.2**	17.2	19.6	16.4
Family conflict	22.9	14.5	17.7	18.9	26.1
Depression	20.4	15.6	20.0	12.8	31.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	16.3	13.1	20.3	16.7	33.5
Personal safety	17.6	11.6	15.6	15.6	39.6
Suicide	16.3	9.1	11.1	9.9	53.6
Discrimination	10.5	10.9	21.4	15.7	41.5
Drugs	11.1	9.1	13.0	11.5	55.3
Gambling	10.0	4.0	7.6	6.8	71.5
Alcohol	9.1	6.0	12.7	16.3	56.0

Table 2.7: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender (continued)

Males	**Extremely concerned %**	**Very concerned %**	**Somewhat concerned %**	**Slightly concerned %**	**Not at all concerned %**
School or study problems	**15.3**	**14.6**	19.2	16.1	34.9
Coping with stress	**13.0**	**9.9**	19.1	22.1	35.9
Body image	11.7	7.8	14.4	23.0	43.2
Family conflict	**14.9**	**5.4**	20.3	13.0	46.4
Depression	12.9	6.5	12.5	17.5	50.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	12.2	6.8	12.5	15.6	52.9
Personal safety	11.6	7.0	16.3	15.9	49.2
Suicide	16.9	2.7	5.8	7.7	66.9
Discrimination	11.9	5.4	15.8	14.6	52.3
Drugs	10.7	4.2	8.0	14.2	62.8
Gambling	11.6	1.5	7.7	8.5	70.7
Alcohol	7.7	3.4	8.4	11.5	69.0

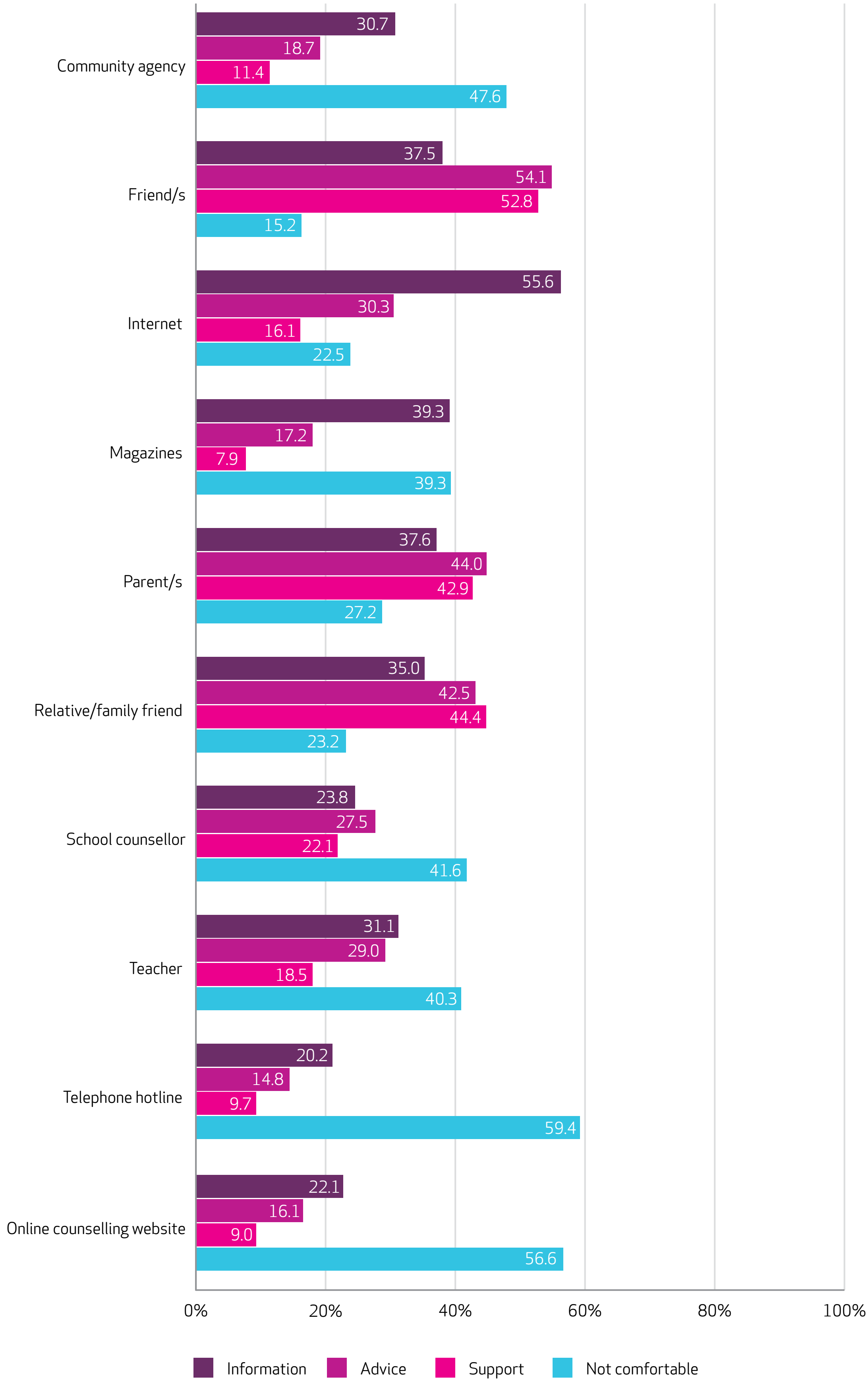
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. The *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (55.6%), followed by *magazines* (39.3%) and *parent/s* (37.6%).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (54.1%), *parent/s* (44.0%) and *relatives/ family friends* (42.5%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (52.8%) were again the primary source of *support* for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, followed by *relatives/family friends* (44.4%) and *parent/s* (42.9%).
- Around six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (59.4%) indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline* for *advice*, *support* or *information*, 56.6% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 47.6% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 2.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were broadly similar in terms of where they were comfortable going for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (56.8%) and males (53.7%). *Magazines* were the second most highly ranked source of *information* for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (42.0%), whereas *parent/s* were the second most highly ranked source for males (38.9%). *Friend/s* were also important sources of *information* for both female (36.6%) and male (37.4%) respondents.
- Females were more likely to get *information* (42.0%) and *advice* (19.1%) from *magazines* than males (35.6% and 15.6% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (57.6%) and males (51.5%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also important sources of *advice* for both females (45.5% and 46.7% respectively) and males (43.3% and 39.6% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were also the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (62.3%) and males (44.8%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as important sources of *support* by both females (47.5% and 50.2% respectively) and males (38.9% and 39.6% respectively).

Table 2.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

Females	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	30.4	17.9	10.5	**49.8**
Friend/s	**36.6**	**57.6**	**62.3**	12.8
Internet	**56.8**	30.0	14.4	23.3
Magazines	**42.0**	19.1	5.8	39.7
Parent/s	35.4	**45.5**	**47.5**	26.1
Relative/family friend	33.1	**46.7**	**50.2**	21.8
School counsellor	19.8	30.0	23.0	44.4
Teacher	28.8	30.4	18.3	42.0
Telephone hotline	16.0	14.0	8.6	**64.2**
Online counselling website	21.0	14.4	8.2	**59.9**

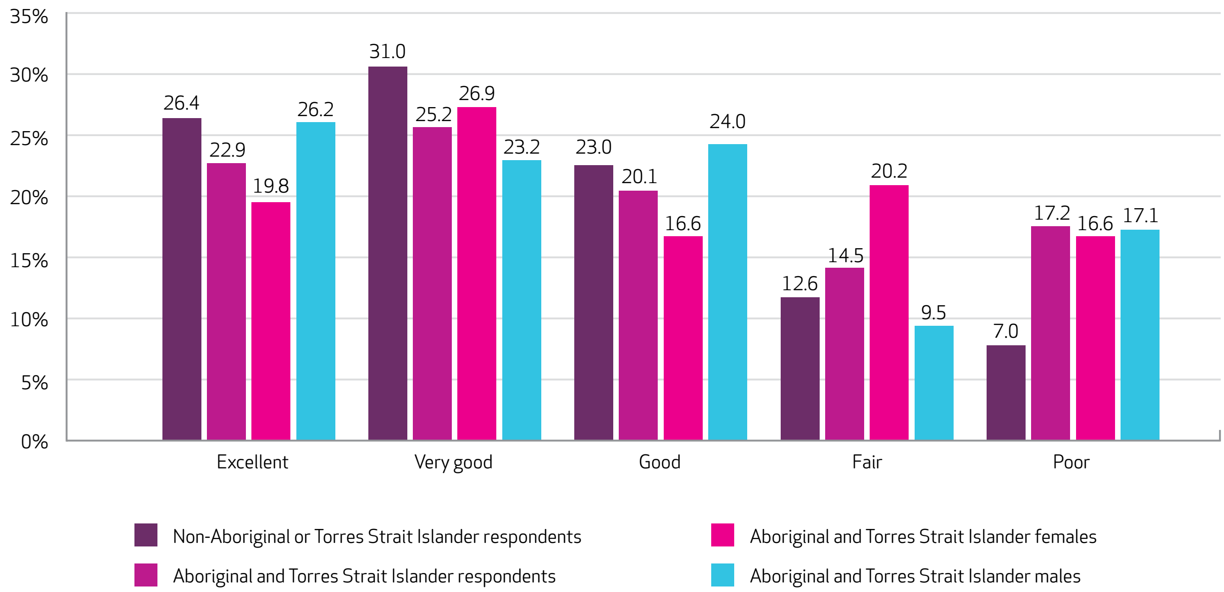
Table 2.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender (continued)

Males	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Community agency	31.1	19.6	12.6	**45.6**
Friend/s	**37.4**	**51.5**	**44.8**	17.4
Internet	**53.7**	30.7	18.1	22.2
Magazines	35.6	15.6	10.0	39.6
Parent/s	**38.9**	**43.3**	**38.9**	28.5
Relative/family friend	36.3	**39.6**	**39.6**	24.8
School counsellor	26.3	25.9	21.1	39.6
Teacher	32.2	28.1	18.9	38.9
Telephone hotline	23.3	15.9	11.1	**55.6**
Online counselling website	22.2	18.1	10.0	**54.1**

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 22.9% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent*, 25.2% that it was *very good* and 20.1% that it was *good*. However, just over 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* (14.5%) or *poor* (17.2%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were more likely than males to rate their family's ability to get along as only *fair* (20.2% compared with 9.5%). Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents rated their family's ability to get along less positively than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents.

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 2.9. In 2013 the top three issues identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *the economy and financial matters*, *population issues* and *alcohol and drugs*.

These were also the top three issues identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents in 2012. In comparison, the top three issues identified by non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people were *the economy and financial matters*, *politics and societal values* and *equity and discrimination*.

- An equal proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (23.2%) identified *the economy and financial matters* and *population issues* as important issues in Australia today.
- Just less than one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents also identified *alcohol and drugs* as a key issue (22.7%).
- Around one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents identified *politics and societal values* (20.9%) and *equity and discrimination* (19.5%) as major issues.
- Since 2011, *employment* has been increasingly identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people as a key issue facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *alcohol and drugs*, *crime, safety and violence* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

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

- Just less than one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females (23.0% and 23.2% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- More females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (25.8% compared with 13.7%) as an important issue.
- More males than females identified *population issues* (29.9% compared with 16.5%) and *politics and societal values* (23.5% compared with 18.6%) as important national issues.

Table 2.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2012 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2011 %
The economy and financial matters	**26.4**	**23.2**	**23.2**	23.0	**25.5**	18.2
Population issues	22.1	**23.2**	16.5	**29.9**	**22.2**	18.1
Alcohol and drugs	19.8	**22.7**	**21.6**	**24.0**	**25.5**	**37.7**
Politics and societal values	**24.6**	20.9	18.6	**23.5**	21.5	14.0
Equity and discrimination	**24.4**	19.5	**25.8**	13.7	19.7	18.1
Employment	14.0	15.7	16.0	15.7	11.0	6.6
Crime, safety and violence	11.2	13.7	13.4	14.2	17.0	**21.3**
The environment	14.6	13.2	17.5	8.8	14.5	**27.0**
Mental health	15.5	10.5	15.5	5.9	8.9	9.3
Education	14.8	9.5	9.3	9.8	9.3	10.2
Health	11.7	9.5	7.2	11.8	14.9	11.2
Homelessness/housing	7.8	8.5	10.3	6.9	9.9	6.3
Bullying	11.0	8.0	14.9	1.5	9.7	10.8
Adolescence/youth	5.0	6.0	8.8	3.4	3.1	4.7
LGBT issues	6.7	5.2	4.1	6.4	4.6	1.8

Note: Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents. Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 2.10. The top three activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *sports (as a participant), sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. These were also the top three activities for non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people. Significant proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in 2013.
- Just under half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (47.8%).
- Around four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (42.5%) and *youth groups and clubs* (39.6%).
- Around three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (31.2%) and *religious groups or activities* (30.6%) over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 2.10 the top three activities for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were the same, although a larger proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *(sports as a spectator)*. Conversely, a larger proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males were involved in *volunteer work*.

- 75.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and 61.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (72.9% compared with 60.4%).
- A larger proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males were involved in *volunteer work* (52.5% compared with 46.5%) and *arts/cultural/music activities* (52.0% compared with 43.6%).

Table 2.10: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2012 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2011 %
Sports (as a participant)	**74.1**	**68.7**	**61.9**	**75.2**	**77.6**	**69.4**
Sports (as a spectator)	**69.0**	**66.8**	**60.4**	**72.9**	**72.3**	**56.6**
Volunteer work	**56.0**	**49.4**	**52.5**	**46.5**	52.8	32.4
Arts/cultural/music activities	54.1	47.8	52.0	43.6	**56.5**	**40.8**
Student leadership activities	43.1	42.5	42.6	42.4	42.7	30.1
Youth groups and clubs	33.5	39.6	40.2	38.4	41.3	31.6
Environmental groups or activities	24.3	31.2	31.7	30.3	30.4	18.5
Religious groups or activities	32.6	30.6	30.4	30.4	38.2	26.3
Political groups or organisations	7.3	15.8	13.7	17.5	14.2	8.4

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year. In 2013 and 2012 respondents were asked "*In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?*" whereas in 2011 respondents were asked "*What activities are you involved in?*" Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was also expanded slightly in 2013 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

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

In 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. Just under half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (45.8%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 22.6%; *3-9 hours*: 23.2%). Over one quarter reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 16.7%; *20-29 hours*: 10.4%) and, similarly, around one quarter reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 4.3%; *40 hours or more*: 22.8%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were slightly more likely than females to indicate spending only *2 hours or less* a week on social networking sites (24.9% compared with 20.3%). Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported spending more time on average on social networking sites than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents.

Table 2.11: Time spent on social networking sites

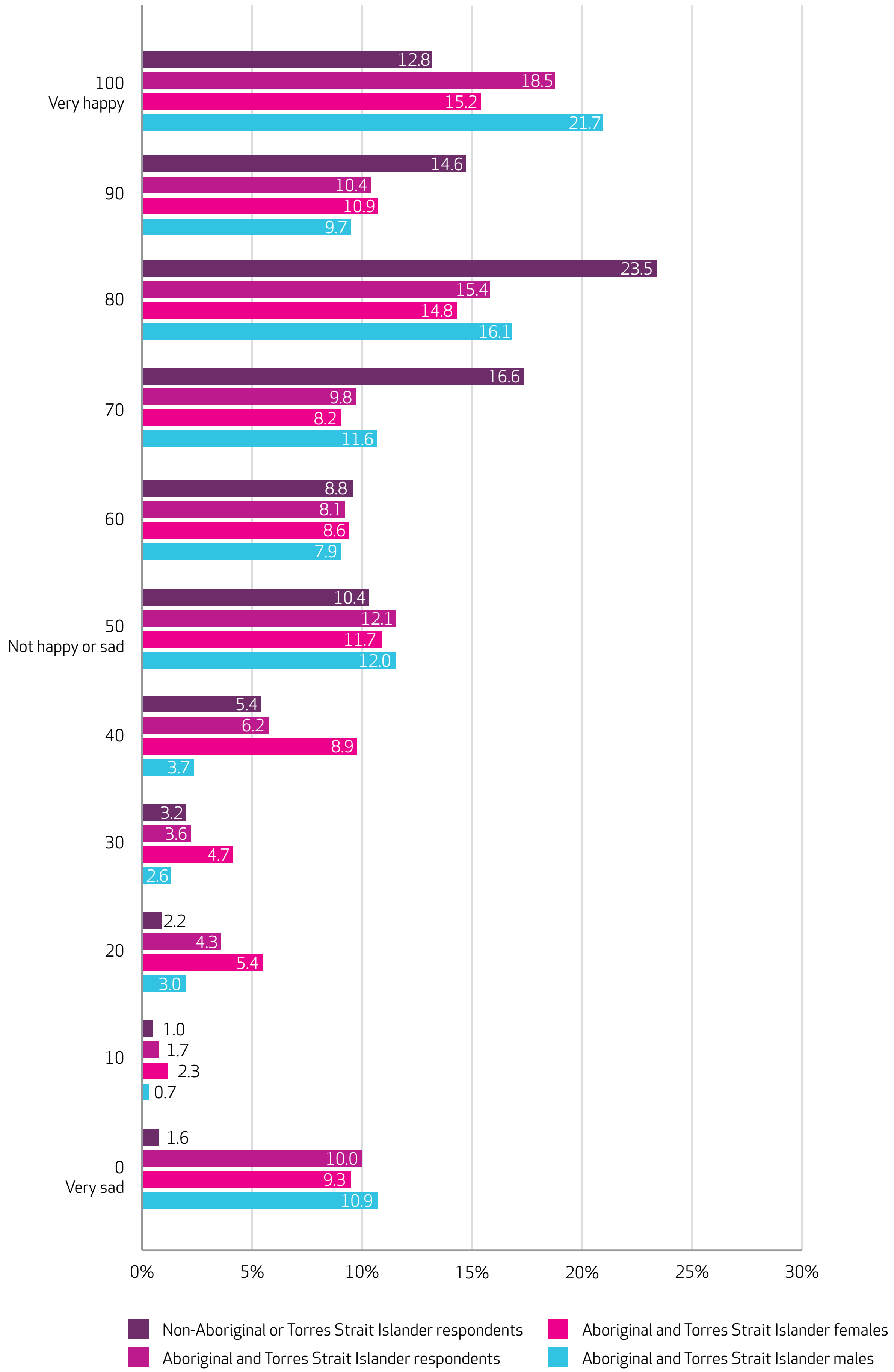
	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
2 hours or less	28.4	22.6	20.3	24.9
3 - 9 hours	32.1	23.2	20.7	25.7
10 - 19 hours	19.1	16.7	17.5	16.3
20 - 29 hours	9.3	10.4	13.8	7.0
30 - 39 hours	4.3	4.3	5.3	3.5
40 hours or more	6.8	22.8	22.4	22.6

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 2.7 shows, over half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives (compared to around two thirds of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (21.7% compared with 15.2%).

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

Figure 2.7: How happy young people are



How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 2.12 shows that around six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future (58.8% compared to 67.9% of non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents). A minority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (around one in seven) felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Around six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt either *positive* (38.6%) or *very positive* (20.2%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (26.3%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 4.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people felt *negative* about the future and 10.2% felt *very negative*.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were broadly similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely than females, however, to indicate feeling *very negative* about the future (12.1% compared with 7.4%).

Table 2.12: Feelings about the future

	Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2013 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2012 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2011 %
Very positive	18.6	20.2	20.2	20.4	22.8	22.5
Positive	49.3	38.6	37.7	40.4	44.5	35.1
Neither positive nor negative	24.4	26.3	28.8	23.4	21.7	29.2
Negative	5.7	4.7	5.8	3.8	4.7	5.6
Very negative	2.0	10.2	7.4	12.1	6.3	7.6

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory

Profile of respondents

In total, 5,592 young people from New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013*. The vast majority of responses came from NSW (5,513), with only 79 received from the ACT. Due to the small number of responses received from the ACT, the NSW and ACT data have been combined in this report (as was also the case in 2012). Comparisons to 2011 data (where applicable) reflect only NSW results. For comparisons with 2011 ACT data, please refer to the *Mission Australia National Survey of Young Australians 2011 Report*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (57.7%) of the respondents from NSW and the ACT were female and 42.3% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 182 (3.3%) respondents from NSW and the ACT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 153 (2.8%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 23 (0.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.1% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (4.2% compared to 2.7%).

Language background other than English

706 (12.9%) respondents from NSW and the ACT stated that they were born overseas and 1,332 (24.6%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 60 languages spoken at home in NSW and the ACT, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Cantonese, Arabic, Mandarin and Spanish.

Disability

A total of 203 (3.8%) respondents from NSW and the ACT indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (5.1%) than females (2.8%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in NSW and the ACT were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), physical disability and autism.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 3.1, 96.3% of respondents from NSW and the ACT were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (96.8% compared with 95.6%), while a slightly higher proportion of males (3.1%) than females (2.3%) 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*. The majority of respondents from NSW and the ACT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (15.6%) or *satisfied* (56.1%) with their studies, compared to 16.1% and 53.3% respectively in 2012. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.6% and 4.7% respectively, compared to 1.4% and 6.1% in 2012). As shown in Table 3.2, males from NSW and the ACT were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (13.1% and 54.7% of males compared with 17.5% and 57.2% of females respectively).

Table 3.1: Participation in education

	National %	NSW / ACT %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	95.2	96.3	96.8	95.6
Studying part-time	1.8	1.1	0.8	1.4
Not studying	3.0	2.7	2.3	3.1

Table 3.2: Satisfaction with studies

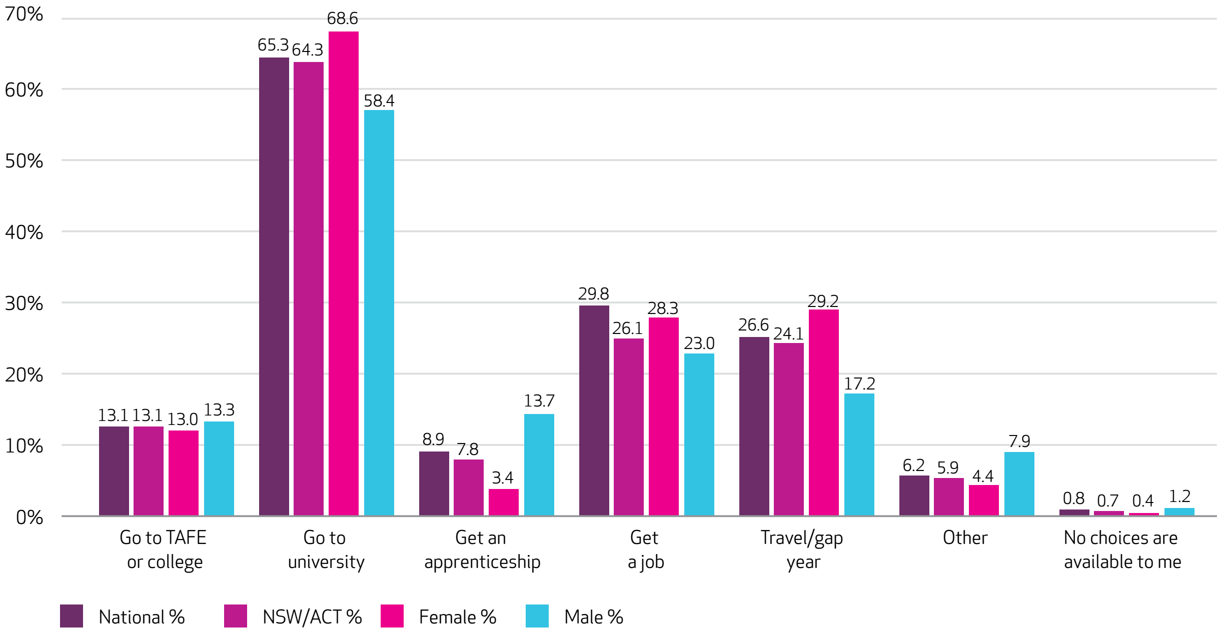
	National %	NSW / ACT 2013 %	Female %	Male %	NSW / ACT 2012 %
Very satisfied	17.0	15.6	17.5	13.1	16.1
Satisfied	55.7	56.1	57.2	54.7	53.3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.2	21.9	19.7	24.8	23.1
Dissatisfied	4.4	4.7	4.5	5.2	6.1
Very dissatisfied	1.6	1.6	1.2	2.2	1.4

Of those who were still at school in NSW and the ACT, 96.5% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were more than twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (5.7% compared with 1.9% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 3.1 shows that nearly two thirds of respondents from NSW and the ACT planned to go to university after school (64.3%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (26.1%) and to travel or go on a gap year (24.1%) after school. Overall, 13.1% of young people from NSW and the ACT planned to attend TAFE or college and 7.8% 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 and the ACT, females were more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (68.6% compared with 58.4% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (29.2% compared with 17.2%) or to get a job (28.3% compared with 23.0%). Males were more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (13.7% compared with 3.4% of females).

Figure 3.1: Plans after leaving school



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

Employment

Respondents 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 NSW and the ACT. In line with the national data, only a tiny minority (0.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just over one third (35.7%) of respondents from NSW and the ACT reported part-time employment. Over half of NSW and ACT respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 34.4% looking for work and 29.4% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from NSW and the ACT reported full-time employment (0.5% compared with 0.3% respectively), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (38.5% compared with 31.7%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (38.4% compared with 31.6%).

Table 3.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NSW / ACT %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.5
Employed part-time	34.8	35.7	38.5	31.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.6	34.4	31.6	38.4
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	28.8	29.4	29.5	29.4

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

In 2013 young people who reported currently having paid work were asked to write down which industry they work in. The information provided by respondents was categorised and the top responses are listed in order of frequency in Table 3.4. The two dominant industries that respondents from NSW and the ACT reported working in were *hospitality and tourism* and *retail and consumer products*.

- Similar proportions of young people from NSW and the ACT (around four in ten) reported working in either the *hospitality and tourism* industry (41.2%) or the *retail and consumer products* industry (37.3%).
- Other industries of note were *trades and services* (7.0%) and *sport and recreation* (5.3%). A wide range of other industries of employment were cited by a minority of respondents.

Gender differences

Males and females from NSW and the ACT were broadly similar in terms of the industries they were currently employed in.

- The *hospitality and tourism* industry was the most commonly cited employer of both female and male respondents who reported having paid work (employing 41.0% and 41.6% respectively). This was closely followed by the *retail and consumer products* industry, which was cited as employing 39.3% of young females and 34.5% of young males from NSW and the ACT.
- The *trades and services* industry was the third most common employer of both female and male respondents (employing 7.8% compared with 6.4% respectively).

Table 3.4: Current industry of paid employment

	National %	NSW / ACT %	Female %	Male %
Hospitality and tourism	**39.8**	**41.2**	**41.0**	**41.6**
Retail and consumer products	**41.2**	**37.3**	**39.3**	**34.5**
Trades and services	**6.4**	**7.0**	**6.4**	**7.8**
Sport and recreation	4.8	5.3	4.0	7.4
Education and training	2.9	4.7	6.1	2.3

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

Respondents were also asked in 2013 if they had decided on what type of job or occupation they would like to have in the future and, if so, to specify their choice. This information was categorised according to industry and the top responses are displayed in Table 3.5.

Overall, 57.5% of young people from NSW and the ACT indicated knowing what type of work they wanted in the future. Males were slightly more likely than females to have decided on a job or occupation (59.1% compared with 56.4%).

- The top industry that young people in NSW and the ACT expressed a desire to work in was the *healthcare and medical* industry (nominated by 19.1%).
- Other popular choices nominated by around one in ten respondents included roles in *education and training* (12.5%), *advertising, arts and media* (11.8%) and *trades and services* (8.5%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 3.5, there were notable differences in responses to this question between male and female respondents from NSW and the ACT.

- The most popular industry among female respondents, nominated by one in four, was the *healthcare and medical* industry (25.2%).
- Employment in the *education and training* industry was the second most common choice for females (17.9%), closely followed by *advertising, arts and media* (14.6%).
- The most common preference among males was for employment in the *trades and services* industry (15.1%).
- Male respondents' next most popular choices were roles in *engineering* or *government and defence* (both at 11.8%).

Table 3.5: Desired industry of future employment

	National %	NSW / ACT %	Female %	Male %
Healthcare and medical	**21.9**	**19.1**	**25.2**	11.0
Education and training	**10.9**	**12.5**	**17.9**	5.4
Advertising, arts and media	**11.5**	**11.8**	**14.6**	8.0
Trades and services	10.0	8.5	3.5	**15.1**
Government and defence	6.9	7.3	3.9	**11.8**
Engineering	5.7	6.0	1.7	**11.8**
Legal	5.2	5.3	6.3	3.9
Farming, animals and conservation	5.2	4.8	6.8	2.1

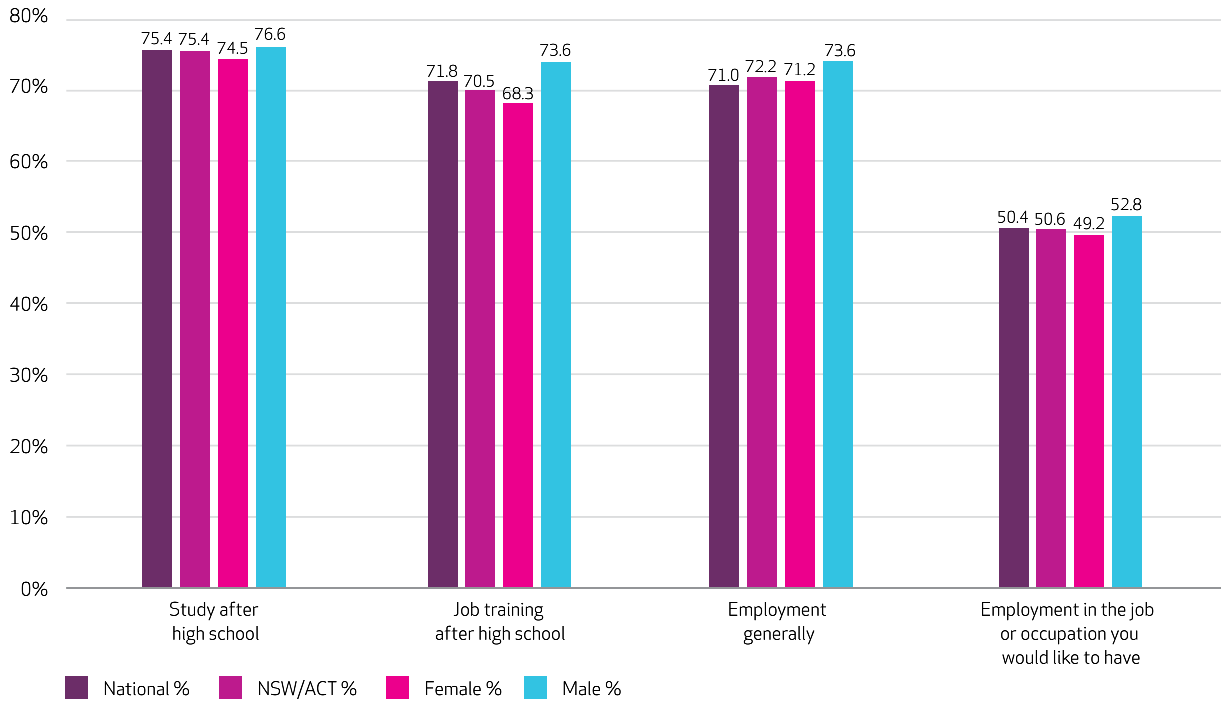
Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

In 2013 the survey also asked young people whether or not they thought that there were enough opportunities in their local area for *study after high school*, *job training after high school*, *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*. Figure 3.2 shows the percentage of respondents who perceived the level of local opportunities to be sufficient.

In line with the national results, three quarters of young people from NSW and the ACT (75.4%) indicated that they felt there were enough opportunities for *study after high school* available in their local area. A majority of respondents (around seven in ten) also suggested that there were sufficient local opportunities for *job training after high school* (70.5%) and *employment generally* (72.2%). While encouraging, this means that close to three in ten respondents from NSW and the ACT did not feel that there were enough opportunities for future study and employment available locally. When asked specifically about *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*, young people were divided in their views, with only half (50.6%) indicating that they felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

Overall, males and females from NSW and the ACT indicated broadly similar views regarding the adequacy of opportunities in their local area. Male respondents, however, tended to be slightly more optimistic than females, particularly about the availability of local opportunities for *job training after high school*.

Figure 3.2: Perceived sufficiency of opportunities in the local area

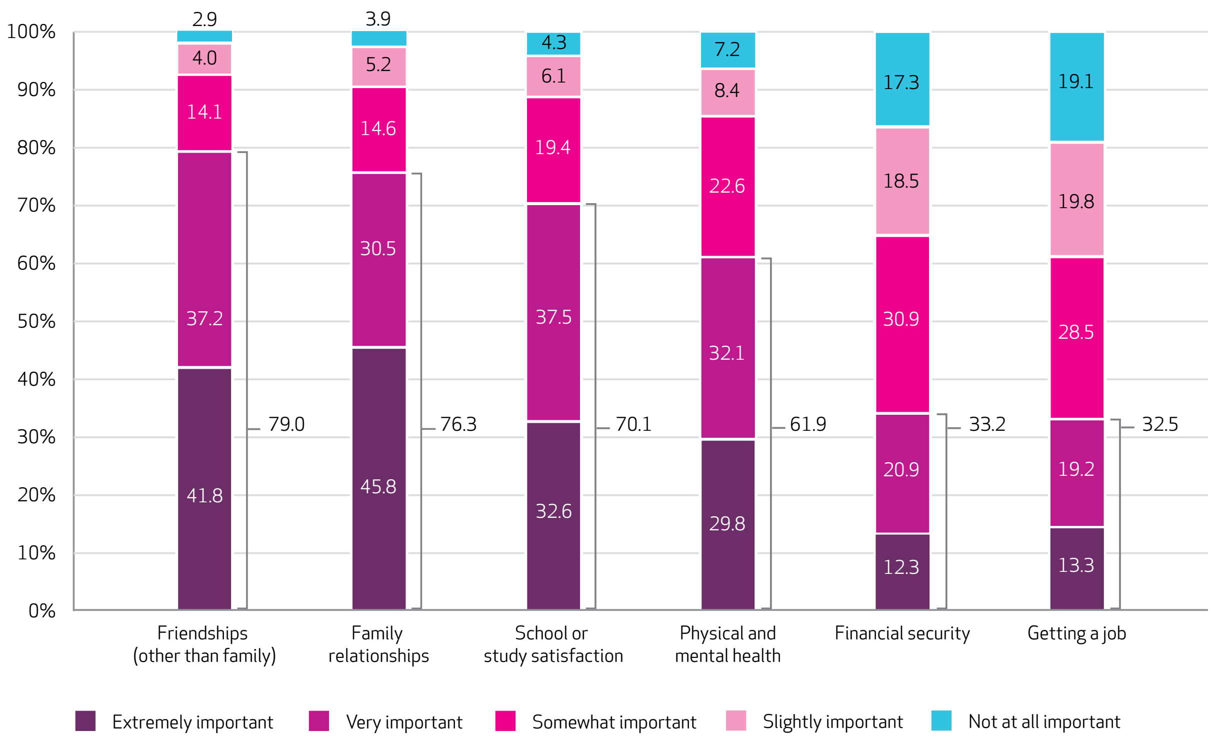


What do young people value?

In 2013 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. In line with both the national data and 2012 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from NSW and the ACT this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for NSW and ACT respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 79.0% of respondents from NSW and the ACT (*extremely important*: 41.8%; *very important*: 37.2%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 76.3% of respondents (*extremely important*: 45.8%; *very important*: 30.5%).
- Seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 32.6%; *very important*: 37.5%) and six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 29.8%; *very important*: 32.1%).
- Around one third of NSW and ACT respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 12.3%; *very important*: 20.9%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 13.3%; *very important*: 19.2%).

Figure 3.3: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Friendships and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females in NSW and the ACT, as shown in Table 3.6. However, a greater proportion of female respondents highly valued *friendships* and *family relationships* than their male counterparts. The third most valued item by both males and females in NSW and the ACT this year was *school or study satisfaction*. This is consistent with the 2012 results for females, whereas males in 2012 valued *physical and mental health* more highly.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 83.8% of females (*extremely important*: 47.8%; *very important*: 36.0%) compared with 72.3% of males (*extremely important*: 33.4%; *very important*: 38.9%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 80.9% of females (*extremely important*: 51.5%; *very important*: 29.4%) compared with 70.0% of males (*extremely important*: 38.0%; *very important*: 32.0%).
- 77.5% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 37.8%; *very important*: 39.7%) compared with 60.0% of males (*extremely important*: 25.4%; *very important*: 34.6%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by around two thirds of all females (*extremely important*: 32.0%; *very important*: 33.4%) and by over half of all males (*extremely important*: 26.5%; *very important*: 30.3%) in NSW and the ACT.

Table 3.6: What young people value, by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**47.8**	**36.0**	11.4	3.1	1.7
Family relationships	**51.5**	**29.4**	11.8	4.6	2.7
School or study satisfaction	**37.8**	**39.7**	15.1	4.7	2.7
Physical and mental health	32.0	33.4	21.5	7.8	5.2
Financial security	12.8	21.7	31.6	18.3	15.6
Getting a job	12.4	20.0	28.8	19.7	19.1

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

Table 3.6: What young people value, by gender (continued)

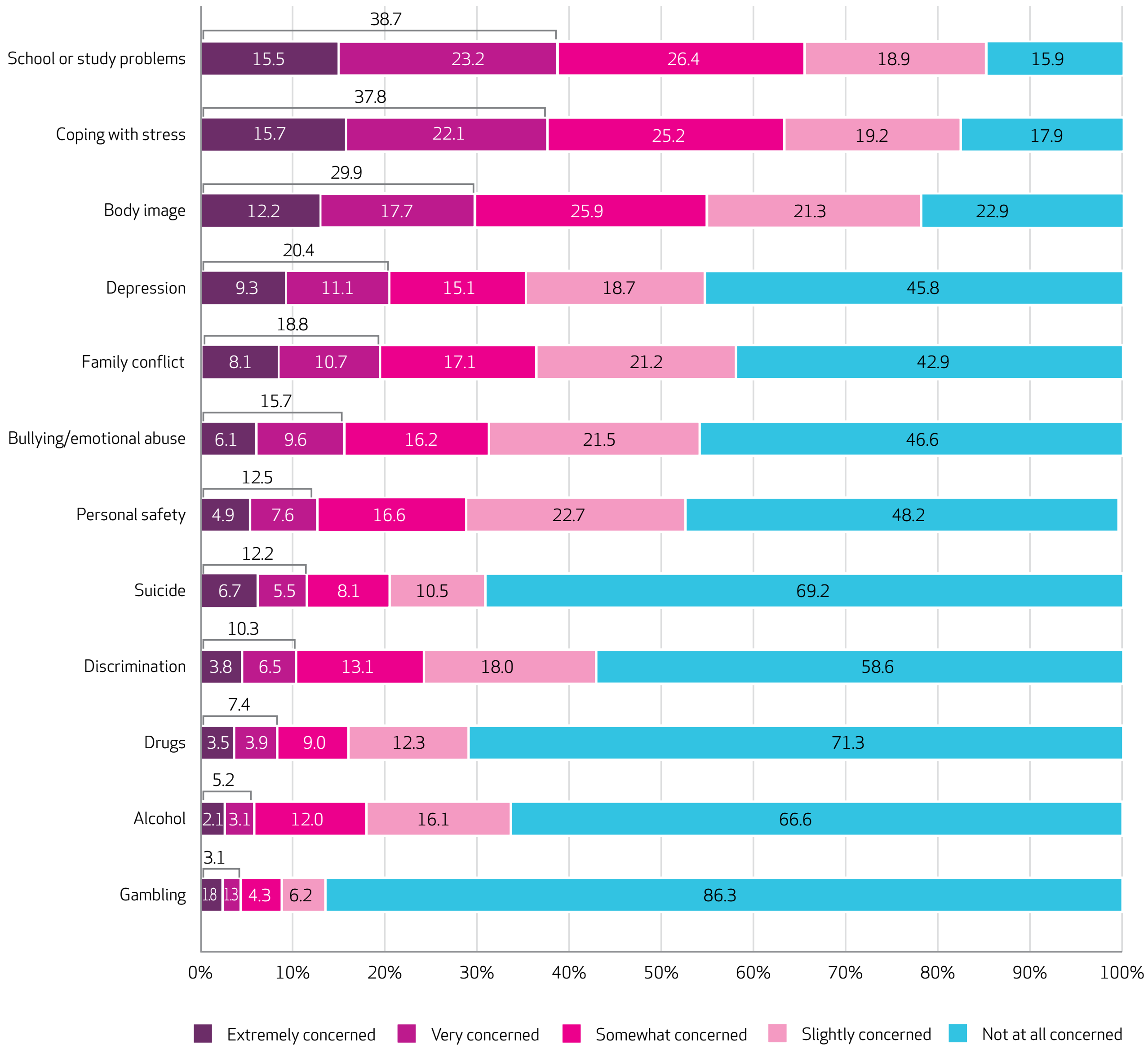
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**33.4**	**38.9**	17.9	5.3	4.5
Family relationships	**38.0**	**32.0**	18.4	6.1	5.5
School or study satisfaction	**25.4**	**34.6**	25.4	8.0	6.6
Physical and mental health	26.5	30.3	24.1	9.3	9.9
Financial security	11.6	20.0	30.1	18.7	19.6
Getting a job	14.6	18.2	28.0	20.0	19.2

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 NSW and the ACT were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level, although the order of the first two items was reversed.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern, with 38.7% of respondents from NSW and the ACT indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (15.5%) or *very concerned* (23.2%) about this issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 37.8% (*extremely concerned*: 15.7%; *very concerned*: 22.1%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern with 12.2% of respondents *extremely concerned* and 17.7% *very concerned*.
- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 3.4: Issues of personal concern to young people



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

Gender differences

School or study problems, *coping with stress* and *body image* were the top three issues of concern for both males and females in NSW and the ACT, as highlighted in Table 3.7. 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 half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 21.3%; *very concerned*: 27.9%), compared with around one in five males (*extremely concerned*: 8.0%; *very concerned*: 13.8%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 46.4% (*extremely concerned*: 19.7%; *very concerned*: 26.7%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 28.2% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.7%; *very concerned*: 18.5%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 41.1% (*extremely concerned*: 17.5%; *very concerned*: 23.6%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 14.7% (*extremely concerned*: 5.0%; *very concerned*: 9.7%) of males.
- For 25.6% of females (*extremely concerned*: 12.0%; *very concerned*: 13.6%) and 13.5% of males (*extremely concerned*: 5.7%; *very concerned*: 7.8%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 3.7: 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	**19.7**	**26.7**	26.2	17.5	9.9
Coping with stress	**21.3**	**27.9**	26.2	15.8	8.7
Body image	**17.5**	**23.6**	28.0	19.3	11.6
Depression	12.0	13.6	17.7	19.9	36.8
Family conflict	10.0	13.4	19.2	21.7	35.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.4	12.1	18.5	23.2	38.7
Personal safety	5.2	9.4	19.0	25.1	41.3
Suicide	7.7	7.0	9.8	12.5	63.0
Discrimination	3.8	7.8	15.2	20.1	53.1
Drugs	3.0	4.6	9.8	13.9	68.7
Alcohol	1.5	3.8	13.3	17.4	64.0
Gambling	1.0	1.5	4.3	6.5	86.7
Males	**Extremely concerned %**	**Very concerned %**	**Somewhat concerned %**	**Slightly concerned %**	**Not at all concerned %**
School or study problems	**9.7**	**18.5**	26.7	21.1	24.0
Coping with stress	**8.0**	**13.8**	23.8	24.0	30.4
Body image	**5.0**	**9.7**	22.9	24.2	38.2
Depression	5.7	7.8	11.4	16.9	58.2
Family conflict	5.4	7.0	14.2	20.5	52.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.3	6.1	13.1	18.9	57.5
Personal safety	4.6	5.1	13.4	19.4	57.5
Suicide	5.4	3.4	5.8	7.8	77.6
Discrimination	3.8	4.8	10.1	15.1	66.2
Drugs	4.1	3.0	7.9	10.1	74.9
Alcohol	2.9	2.2	10.2	14.4	70.4
Gambling	2.9	1.1	4.2	5.8	85.9

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

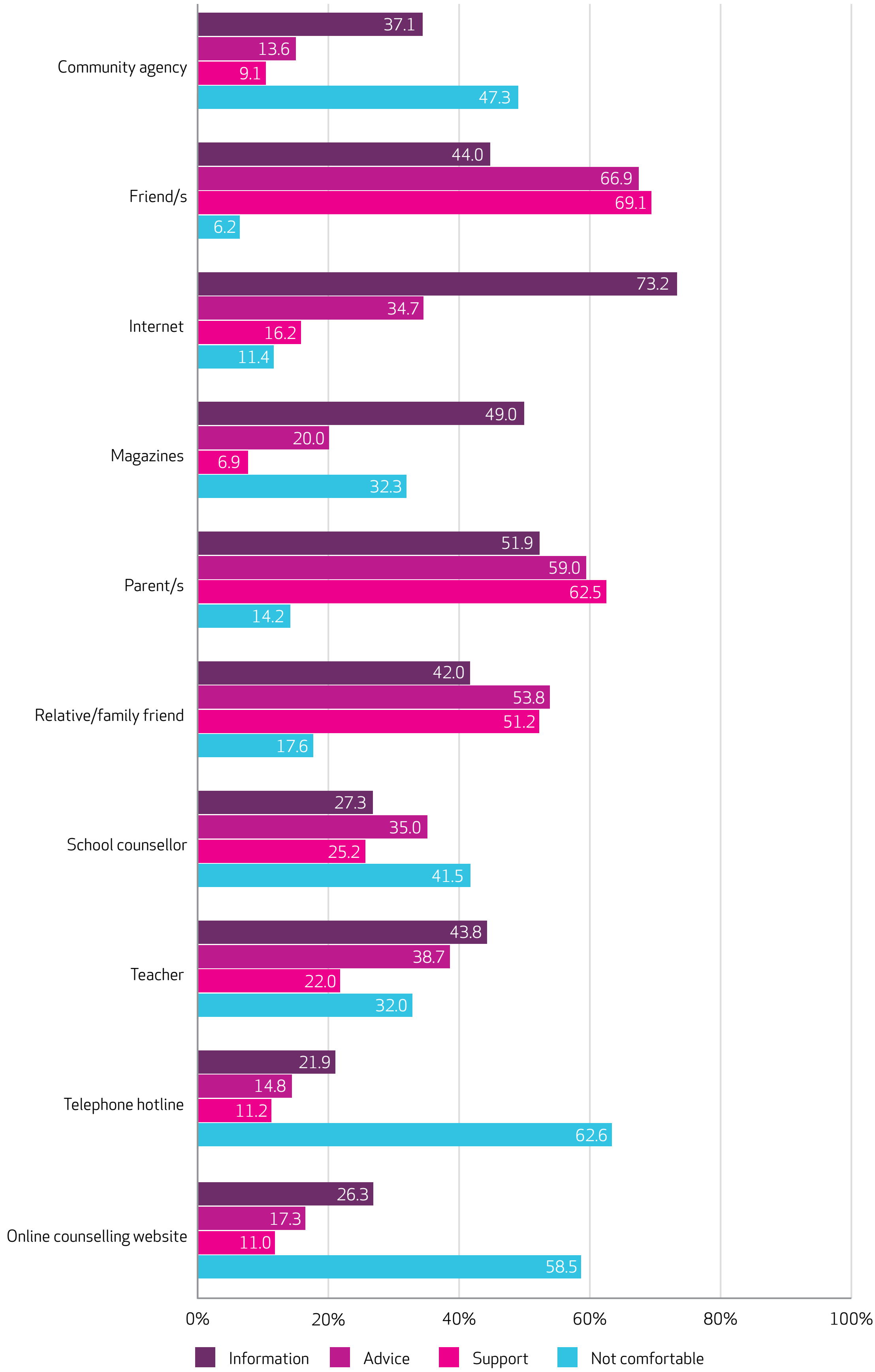
Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people from NSW and the ACT, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people (73.2%), followed by *parent/s* (51.9%) and *magazines* (49.0%).
- Respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (66.9%), *parent/s* (59.0%) and *relatives/family friends* (53.8%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (69.1%) were again the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (62.5%) and *relatives/family friends* (51.2%).

- Over six in ten young people from NSW and the ACT (62.6%) indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline* for *advice*, *support* or *information*, 58.5% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 47.3% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 3.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

As per the national findings, males and females from NSW and the ACT were broadly similar in terms of where they were comfortable going for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (75.8%) and males (69.7%) from NSW and the ACT. *Parent/s* were also important sources of *information* for both female (50.6%) and male (53.6%) respondents. Females ranked *magazines* highly as a source of *information* they felt comfortable going to (just above *parent/s* this year, at 52.7%). Males instead preferred *friend/s* as an *information* source, ranking them in third position (48.3%).
- Females were much more likely to get *information* (52.7%) and *advice* (25.6%) from *magazines* than males (43.9% and 12.4% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (70.2%) and males (62.3%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also important sources of *advice* for both females (60.4% and 55.0% respectively) and males (57.2% and 52.1% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were also the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (76.7%) and males (58.8%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as important sources of *support* by both females (66.0% and 54.6% respectively) and males (57.7% and 46.5% respectively).

Table 3.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

Females	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Community agency	35.4	12.2	9.0	**50.1**
Friend/s	40.9	**70.2**	**76.7**	5.0
Internet	**75.8**	36.0	15.4	9.9
Magazines	**52.7**	25.6	6.7	28.0
Parent/s	**50.6**	**60.4**	**66.0**	14.6
Relative/family friend	39.7	**55.0**	**54.6**	18.4
School counsellor	25.2	35.9	26.0	44.1
Teacher	42.2	39.2	24.1	33.7
Telephone hotline	21.1	15.7	11.9	**64.9**
Online counselling website	27.3	20.1	12.7	**58.0**

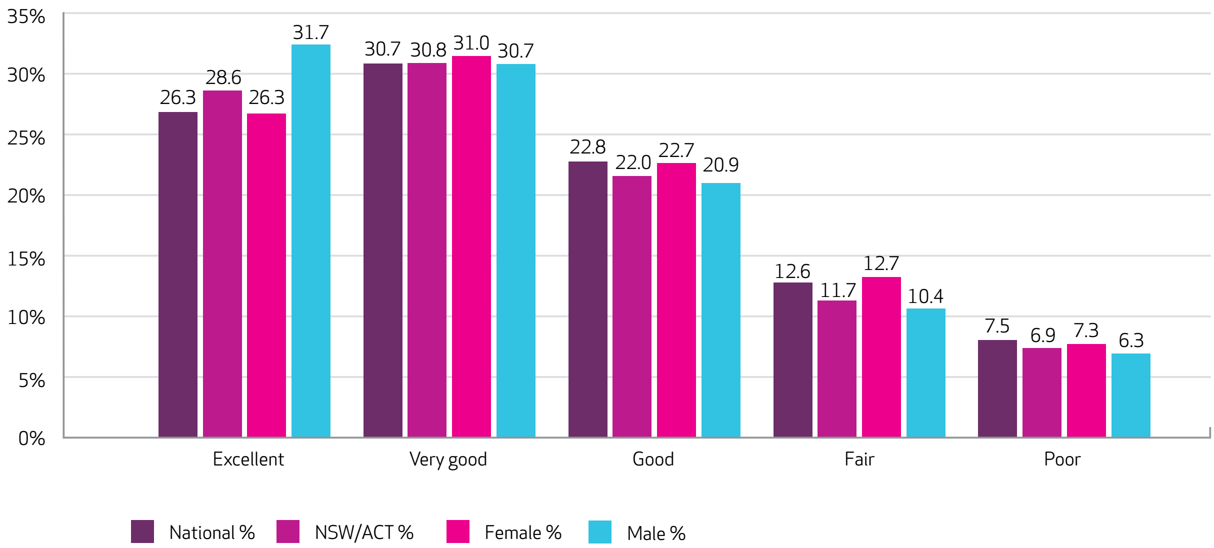
Table 3.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender (continued)

Males	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Community agency	39.2	15.6	9.2	**43.5**
Friend/s	**48.3**	**62.3**	**58.8**	7.7
Internet	**69.7**	33.0	17.3	13.5
Magazines	43.9	12.4	7.2	38.3
Parent/s	**53.6**	**57.2**	**57.7**	13.7
Relative/family friend	45.1	**52.1**	**46.5**	16.5
School counsellor	29.9	33.8	24.2	38.1
Teacher	46.0	38.0	19.1	29.6
Telephone hotline	23.0	13.6	10.4	**59.4**
Online counselling website	24.6	13.4	8.7	**59.3**

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 the national data, the majority of respondents from NSW and the ACT rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 28.6% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 30.8% 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* (11.7%) or *poor* (6.9%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

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 3.9. In 2013 the top three issues identified by young people from NSW and the ACT were *the economy and financial matters*, *politics and societal values* and *equity and discrimination*. These were also the top three issues identified nationally.

- Around one quarter of young people from NSW and the ACT identified *the economy and financial matters* (27.1%) and *politics and societal values* (25.2%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Just over one in five respondents identified *equity and discrimination* (22.7%) and *population issues* (22.0%) as major issues.
- Since 2011, *education*, *mental health and employment* have all been increasingly identified by young people from NSW and the ACT as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *alcohol and drugs* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

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

- Over one quarter of male and female respondents from NSW and the ACT (29.0% and 25.8% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- More females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (25.3% compared with 19.2%) and *mental health* (21.3% compared with 7.2%) as important issues.
- More males than females identified *politics and societal values* (31.9% compared with 20.3%) and *population issues* (25.9% compared with 19.3%) as important national issues.

Table 3.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	NSW / ACT 2013 %	Female %	Male %	NSW / ACT 2012 %	NSW / ACT 2011 %
The economy and financial matters	**26.2**	**27.1**	**25.8**	**29.0**	**30.2**	21.8
Politics and societal values	**24.6**	**25.2**	20.3	**31.9**	19.1	15.2
Equity and discrimination	**24.1**	**22.7**	**25.3**	19.2	21.0	**25.3**
Population issues	22.2	22.0	19.3	**25.9**	**26.5**	21.7
Alcohol and drugs	19.9	17.2	16.6	18.1	**21.1**	**27.1**
Education	14.6	16.7	17.5	15.6	11.9	8.8
Mental health	15.2	15.5	**21.3**	7.2	12.1	10.2
The environment	14.5	15.3	17.6	12.2	17.2	**37.9**
Employment	14.0	13.6	12.6	16.0	8.0	5.5
Health	11.6	11.9	13.0	10.3	16.8	15.4
Bullying	10.9	11.0	13.8	7.0	11.4	11.4
Crime, safety and violence	11.2	9.4	8.7	10.3	14.2	13.8
Homelessness/housing	7.8	7.8	9.4	5.6	10.1	7.3
Adolescence/youth	5.0	5.5	6.2	4.6	5.2	5.2

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

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 3.10. The top three activities for young people from NSW and the ACT, 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 aged 15-19 years from NSW and the ACT in 2012 and from NSW in 2011. 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 and the ACT in 2013.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (53.7%).
- Over four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (44.8%) and over one third had participated in *religious groups or activities* (35.9%) and *youth groups and clubs* (34.7%).
- Around one quarter of young people from NSW and the ACT (23.9%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 3.10 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with NSW/ACT and national results, although a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for males from NSW and the ACT was *volunteer work*, while for females it was *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 75.1% of male respondents and 72.1% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (73.3% compared with 64.8%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking higher up the list for male respondents, a greater proportion of female than male respondents from NSW and the ACT were involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural/music activities* and *student leadership activities* (62.5%, 63.5% and 48.4% compared with 50.4%, 39.9% and 39.5% respectively).

Table 3.10: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	NSW / ACT 2013 %	Female %	Male %	NSW / ACT 2012 %	NSW / ACT 2011 %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.9**	**73.4**	**72.1**	**75.1**	**79.9**	**70.5**
Sports (as a spectator)	**68.9**	**68.4**	**64.8**	**73.3**	**72.9**	**56.6**
Volunteer work	**55.6**	**57.5**	62.5	**50.4**	**62.8**	**39.6**
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.8	53.7	**63.5**	39.9	50.3	33.6
Student leadership activities	43.0	44.8	48.4	39.5	49.0	30.9
Religious groups or activities	32.6	35.9	38.3	32.7	41.5	29.0
Youth groups and clubs	33.9	34.7	35.4	33.7	35.9	26.3
Environmental groups or activities	24.7	23.9	25.3	21.8	28.1	14.0
Political groups or organisations	7.8	7.3	6.6	8.3	9.1	5.7

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year. In 2013 and 2012 respondents were asked "*In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?*" whereas in 2011 respondents were asked "*What activities are you involved in?*" Wording of the arts/cultural activities item was also expanded slightly in 2013 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

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

In 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents from NSW and the ACT (59.0%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 27.6%; *3-9 hours*: 31.4%). Almost three in ten reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 19.0%; *20-29 hours*: 10.3%) and close to one in eight reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 4.4%; *40 hours or more*: 7.5%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate spending only *2 hours or less* a week on social networking sites (32.2% compared with 24.3%).

Table 3.11: Time spent on social networking sites

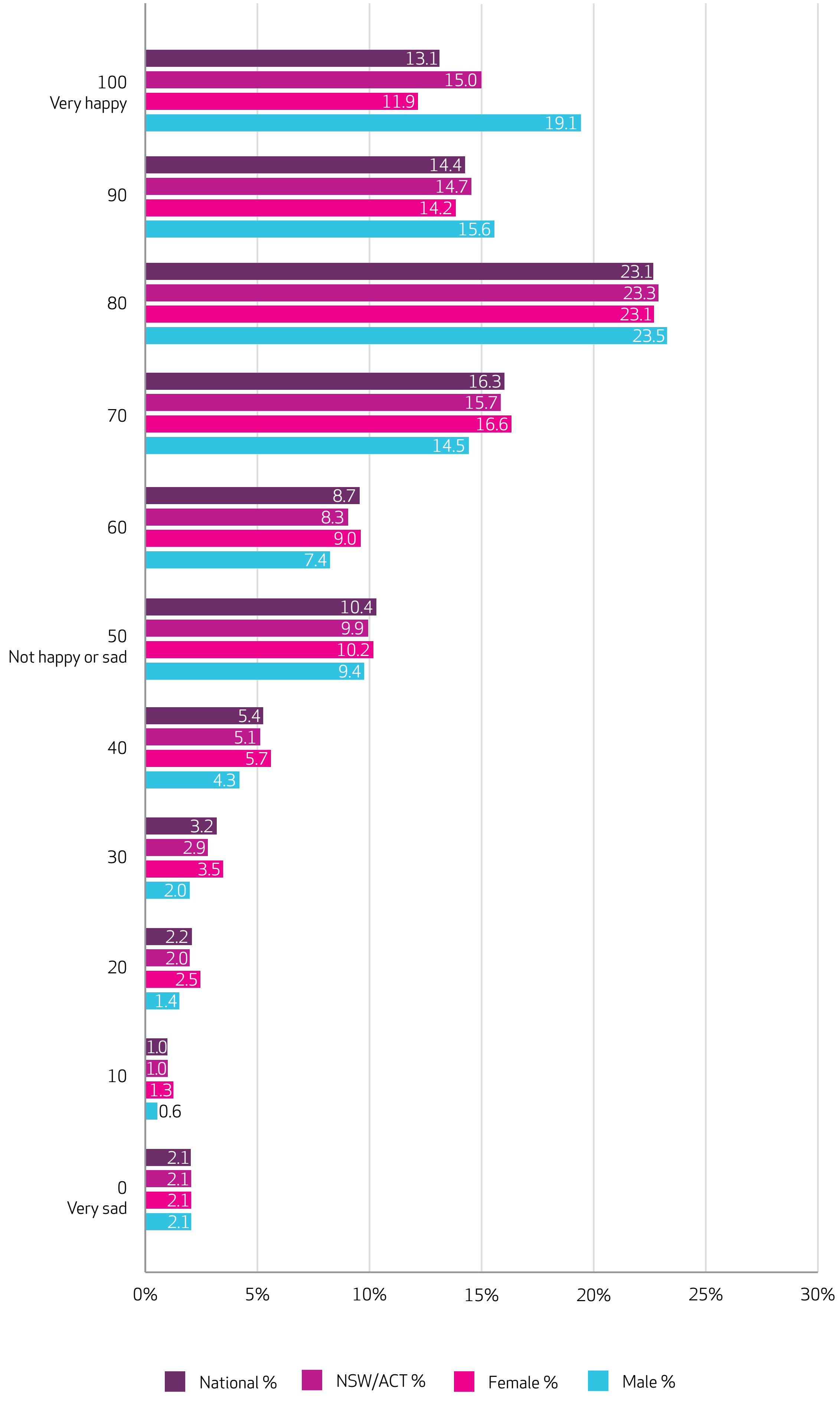
	National %	NSW / ACT %	Female %	Male %
2 hours or less	28.2	27.6	24.3	32.2
3 - 9 hours	31.6	31.4	31.3	31.5
10 - 19 hours	18.9	19.0	20.2	17.3
20 - 29 hours	9.4	10.3	11.2	8.8
30 - 39 hours	4.3	4.4	5.4	2.9
40 hours or more	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.3

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 3.7 shows, the majority of young people from NSW and the ACT (68.7%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (19.1% compared with 11.9%).

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

Figure 3.7: How happy young people are



How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 3.12 shows that, in line with the national and 2012 results, more than two thirds of respondents from NSW and the ACT felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (49.3%) or *very positive* (19.3%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (23.8%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 5.4% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.3% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from NSW and the ACT were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were slightly more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (21.5% compared with 17.7%).

Table 3.12: Feelings about the future

	National %	NSW / ACT 2013 %	Female %	Male %	NSW / ACT 2012 %	NSW / ACT 2011 %
Very positive	18.7	19.3	17.7	21.5	22.4	20.4
Positive	48.8	49.3	48.5	50.3	50.5	42.8
Neither positive nor negative	24.4	23.8	25.5	21.3	21.2	27.4
Negative	5.6	5.4	5.9	4.6	4.4	5.8
Very negative	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.7	3.6

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

Northern Territory

Profile of respondents

In total, 109 young people from the Northern Territory (NT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013*. Due to the small number of NT respondents, Mission Australia is unable to provide breakdowns of the data by gender, as in other chapters. Instead, data is presented only at a Territory-wide level.

Gender breakdown

Just over half (50.5%) of respondents from the NT were female and 49.5% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 35 (36.9%) respondents from the NT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, which was almost ten times the national percentage (3.8%). Of this total, 27 (28.4%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 3 (3.2%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 5.3% identified as both).

Language background other than English

27 (25.0%) respondents from the NT stated that they were born overseas and 34 (35.8%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home.

Disability

A total of 10 (11.0%) respondents from the NT indicated that they had a disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 4.1, 74.3% of respondents from the NT were studying full-time.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. Over half of respondents from the NT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (13.6%) or *satisfied* (42.0%) with their studies, compared to 7.6% and 47.8% respectively in 2012. Almost one in five were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (8.0% and 9.1% respectively, compared to 5.1% and 8.9% in 2012).

Table 4.1: Participation in education

	National %	NT %
Studying full-time	95.2	74.3
Studying part-time	1.8	9.2
Not studying	3.0	16.5

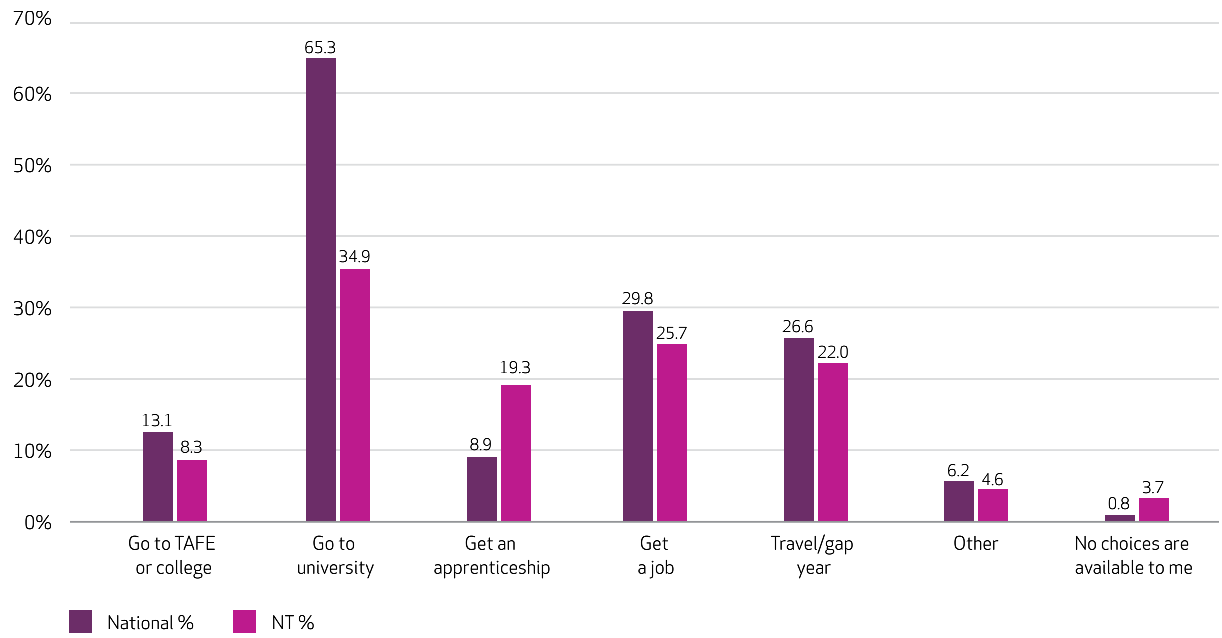
Table 4.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	NT 2013 %	NT 2012 %
Very satisfied	17.0	13.6	7.6
Satisfied	55.7	42.0	47.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.2	27.3	30.6
Dissatisfied	4.4	9.1	8.9
Very dissatisfied	1.6	8.0	5.1

Of those who were still at school in the NT, 85.4% stated that they intended to complete Year 12.

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 4.1 shows that around one third of respondents from the NT planned to go to university after school (34.9%), much lower than the national figure of 65.3%. Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (25.7%), to travel or go on a gap year (22.0%) or to undertake an apprenticeship (19.3%) after school. Just less than one in ten young people from the NT planned to attend TAFE or college (8.3%). A small minority of respondents (3.7%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

Figure 4.1: Plans after leaving school



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

Employment

Respondents 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 the NT. Although higher than the national percentage, only a minority (7.6%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. Given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education, however, this is not surprising. Over one quarter (28.6%) of respondents from the NT reported part-time employment. Almost two thirds of respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 38.1% looking for work and 25.7% not looking for work.

Table 4.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NT %
Employed full-time	0.8	7.6
Employed part-time	34.8	28.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.6	38.1
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	28.8	25.7

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

In 2013 young people who reported currently having paid work were asked to write down which industry they work in. The information provided by respondents was categorised and the top responses are listed in order of frequency in Table 4.4. The two dominant industries that respondents from the NT reported working in were *hospitality and tourism* and *retail and consumer products*.

- Around one third of NT respondents reported working in either the *hospitality and tourism* (34.2%) or *retail and consumer products* (31.6%) industries.
- 13.2% of respondents indicated working in the *trades and services* industry.

Table 4.4: Current industry of paid employment

	National %	NT %
Hospitality and tourism	**39.8**	**34.2**
Retail and consumer products	**41.2**	**31.6**
Trades and services	**6.4**	**13.2**

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

Respondents were also asked in 2013 if they had decided on what type of job or occupation they would like to have in the future and, if so, to specify their choice. This information was categorised according to industry and the top responses are displayed in Table 4.5. Overall, 69.7% of young people from the NT indicated that they knew what type of work they wanted in the future.

- The top industry that young people in the NT expressed a desire to work in was the *trades and services* industry (nominated by 17.6%).
- Equally popular for around one in seven respondents were roles in *advertising, arts and media, government and defence* and the *healthcare and medical* industry (all at 14.7%).

Table 4.5: Desired industry of future employment

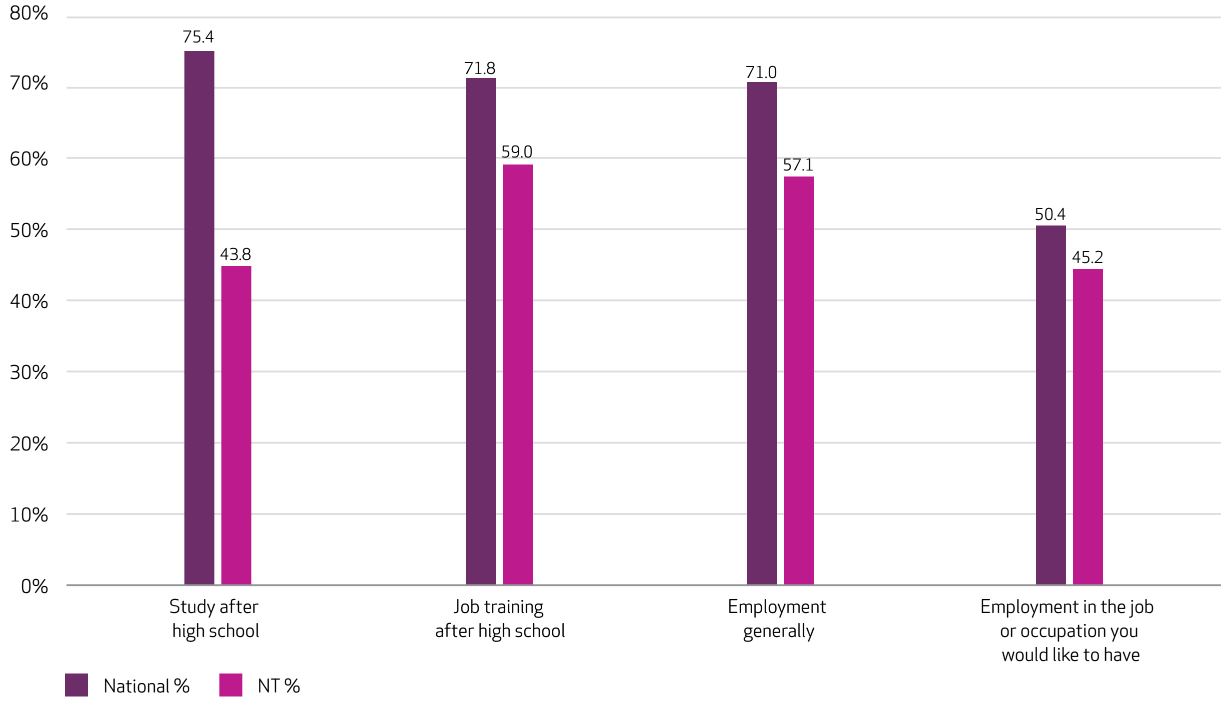
	National %	NT %
Trades and services	10.0	**17.6**
Advertising, arts and media	**11.5**	**14.7**
Government and defence	6.9	**14.7**
Healthcare and medical	**21.9**	**14.7**
Community services and development	2.3	8.8
Hospitality and tourism	3.2	8.8
Education and training	**10.9**	5.9
Sport and recreation	4.1	5.9

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

In 2013 the survey also asked young people whether or not they thought that there were enough opportunities in their local area for *study after high school*, *job training after high school*, *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*. Figure 4.2 shows the percentage of respondents who perceived the level of local opportunities to be sufficient.

Less than half of young people from the NT (43.8%) indicated that they felt there were enough opportunities for *study after high school* available in their local area, much lower than the national response of 75.4%. Around six in ten suggested that there were sufficient local opportunities for *job training after high school* (59.0%) and *employment generally* (57.1%). When asked specifically about *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*, young people were again divided in their views, with just less than half (45.2%) indicating that they felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

Figure 4.2: Perceived sufficiency of opportunities in the local area

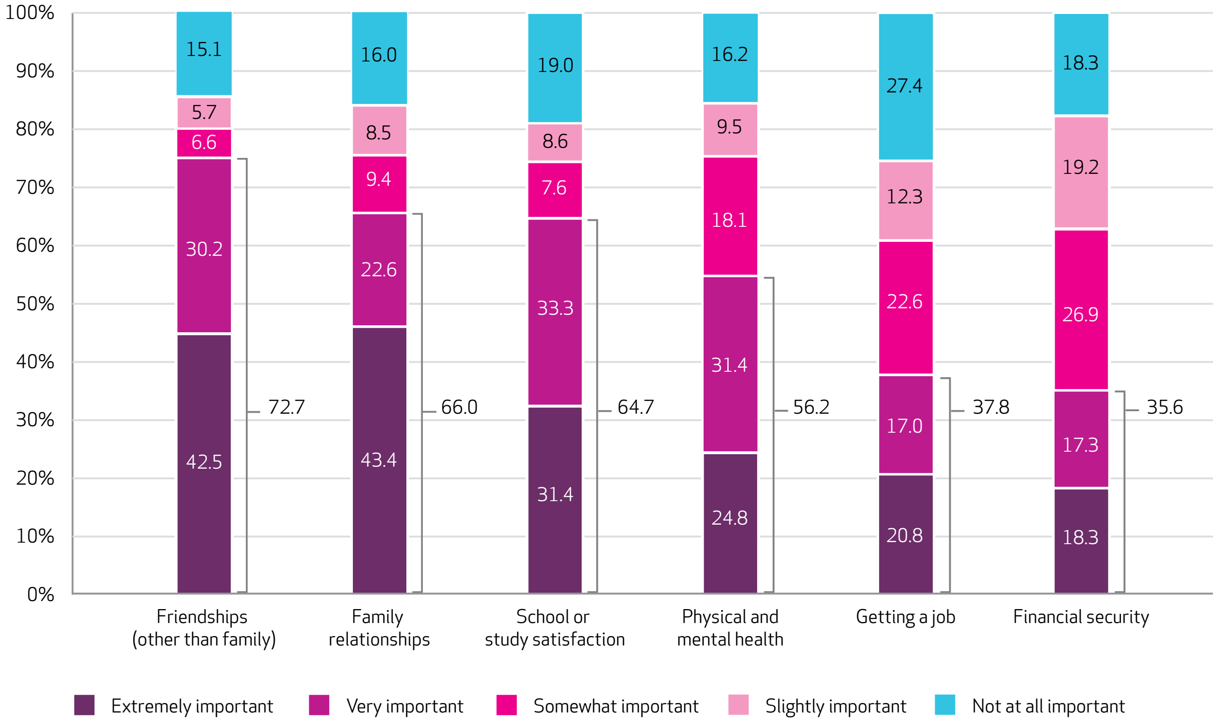


What do young people value?

In 2013 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. In line with both the national data and 2012 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from the NT this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for NT respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 72.7% of NT respondents (*extremely important*: 42.5%; *very important*: 30.2%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 66.0% of respondents from the NT (*extremely important*: 43.4%; *very important*: 22.6%).
- Close to two thirds of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 31.4%; *very important*: 33.3%) and almost six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 24.8%; *very important*: 31.4%).
- Over one third of NT respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 20.8%; *very important*: 17.0%) and *financial security* (*extremely important*: 18.3%; *very important*: 17.3%).

Figure 4.3: What young people value



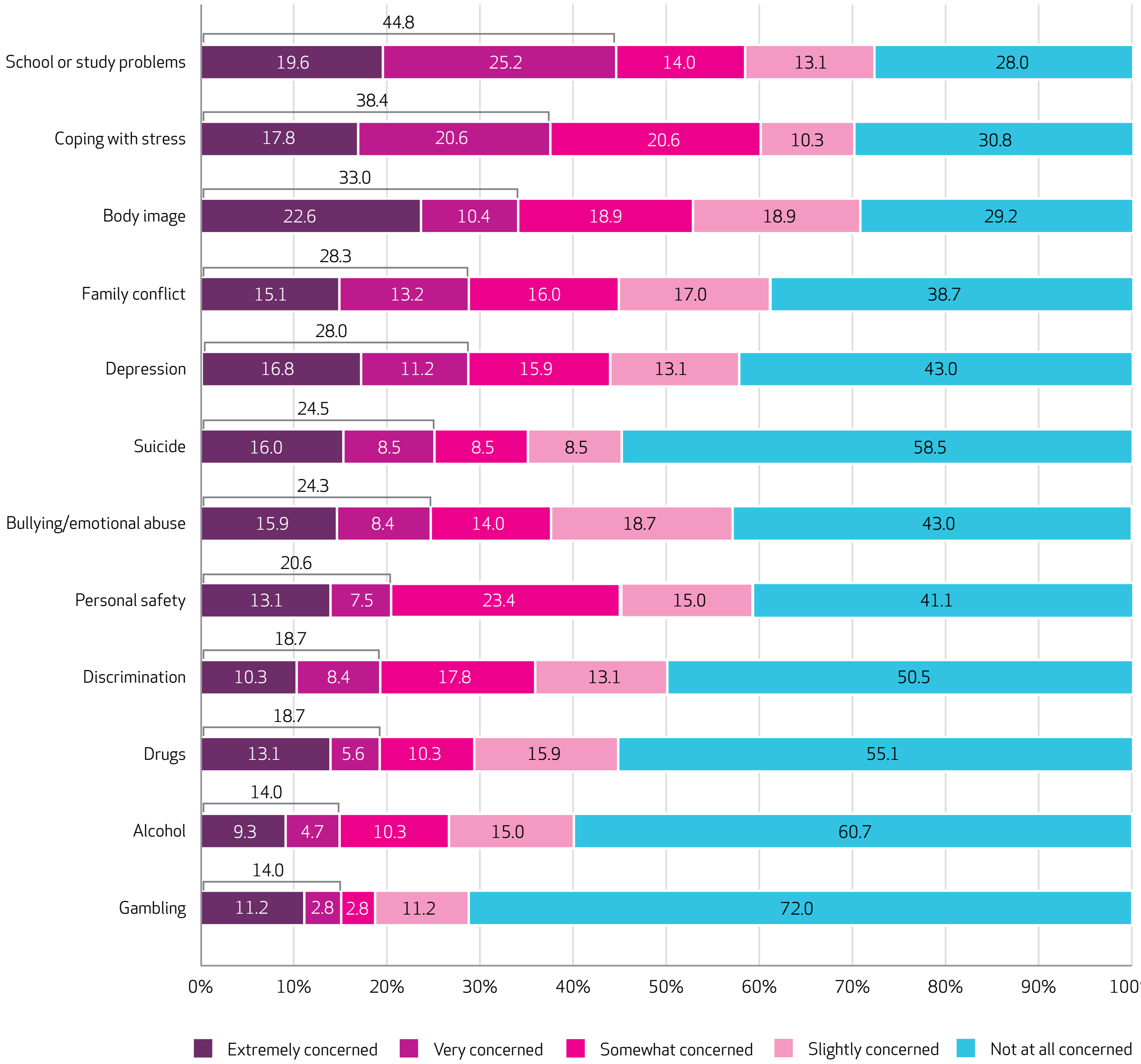
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 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 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 first two items was reversed.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern, with 44.8% of respondents from the NT indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (19.6%) or *very concerned* (25.2%) about this issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 38.4% (*extremely concerned*: 17.8%; *very concerned*: 20.6%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern with 22.6% of respondents *extremely concerned* and 10.4% *very concerned*.
- Over one quarter of respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* and *depression*.

Figure 4.4: Issues of personal concern to young people



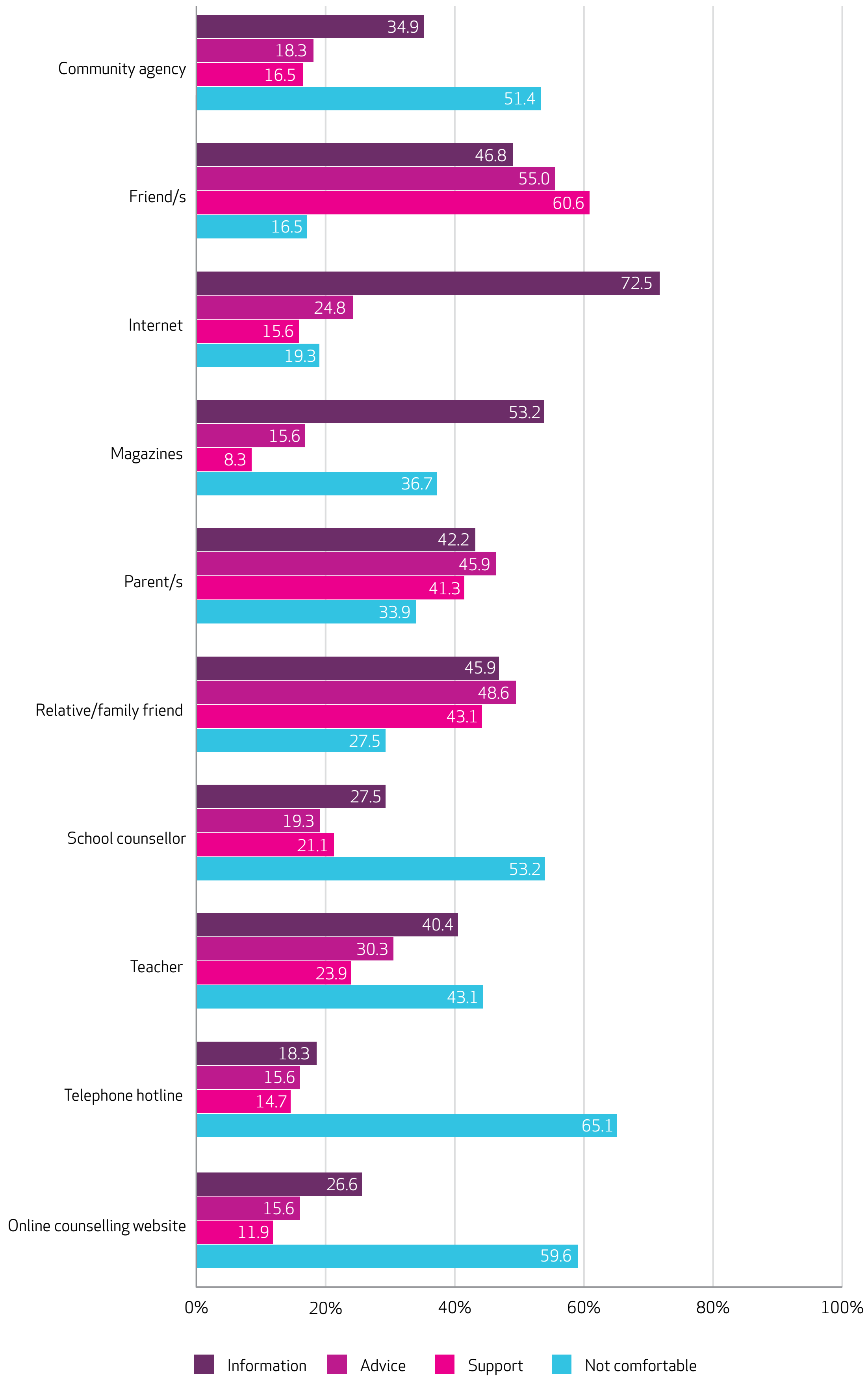
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item..

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people from the NT, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people (72.5%), followed by *magazines* (53.2%) and *friend/s* (46.8%).
- Respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (55.0%), *relatives/family friends* (48.6%) and *parent/s* (45.9%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (60.6%) were again the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *relatives/family friends* (43.1%) and *parent/s* (41.3%).
- Almost two thirds of young people from the NT (65.1%) indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline* for *advice*, *support* or *information*, 59.6% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 53.2% were *not comfortable* talking to a *school counsellor*.

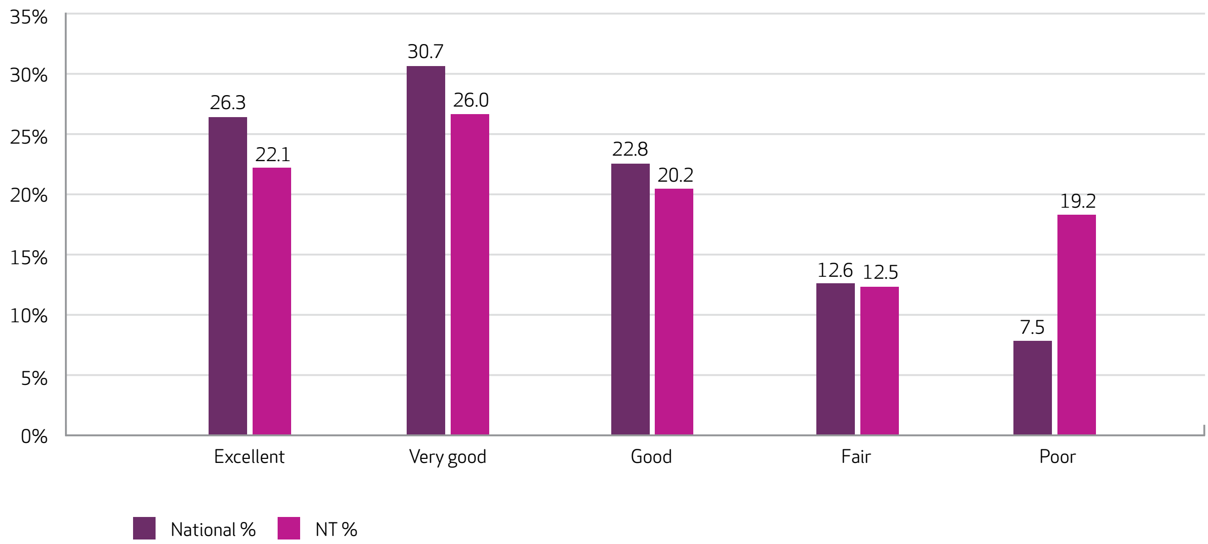
Figure 4.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



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*. Figure 4.6 shows that, in line with the national findings, the majority of respondents from the NT rated their family's ability to get along positively, with 22.1% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent*, 26.0% that it was *very good* and 20.2% that it was *good*. However, almost one third of NT young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.5%) or *poor* (19.2%).

Figure 4.6: 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 4.6. In 2013 the top three issues identified by young people from the NT were *alcohol and drugs*, *mental health* and *population issues*.

- Around one quarter of young people from the NT identified *alcohol and drugs* (24.0%) as an important issue in Australia today.
- Just over one in five respondents identified *mental health* (22.9%), *population issues* (22.9%), *the economy and financial matters* (21.9%) and *politics and societal values* (also 21.9%) as major issues.
- Since 2011, *mental health* and *politics and societal values* have both been increasingly identified by young people from the NT as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *the environment* and *homelessness/housing* have declined over this period.

Table 4.6: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	NT 2013 %	NT 2012 %	NT 2011 %
Alcohol and drugs	19.9	**24.0**	**39.6**	**31.7**
Mental health	15.2	**22.9**	13.4	5.6
Population issues	22.2	**22.9**	**22.8**	23.2
The economy and financial matters	**26.2**	21.9	**20.1**	**26.1**
Politics and societal values	**24.6**	21.9	**20.1**	13.4
Education	14.6	16.7	6.0	10.6
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues	1.9	12.5	4.7	6.3
Employment	14.0	12.5	5.4	5.6
The environment	14.5	11.5	13.4	**35.9**
Equity and discrimination	**24.1**	11.5	14.8	13.4
Health	11.6	11.5	17.4	12.0
Bullying	10.9	9.4	8.1	11.3
Crime, safety and violence	11.2	9.4	18.8	15.5
Animal rights and welfare	1.1	6.3	2.0	1.4
Body image	3.4	5.2	5.4	2.8
Homelessness/housing	7.8	5.2	9.4	13.4

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 4.7. The top two activities for young people from the NT, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top two activities for young people aged 15-19 years from the NT in 2012 and 2011. The third most popular activity for NT respondents this year 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 the NT in 2013.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work* (54.9%) and *student leadership activities* (52.4%).
- Around four in ten young people reported participation in *youth groups and clubs* (42.2%).
- Around three in ten NT respondents had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (32.7%) and *religious groups or activities* (31.3%) over the past year.

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

	National %	NT 2013 %	NT 2012 %	NT 2011 %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.9**	**63.4**	**77.2**	**53.8**
Sports (as a spectator)	**68.9**	**60.4**	**65.6**	**46.0**
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.8	**59.0**	52.4	**30.1**
Volunteer work	**55.6**	54.9	55.9	29.2
Student leadership activities	43.0	52.4	41.0	20.5
Youth groups and clubs	33.9	42.2	**57.7**	27.1
Environmental groups or activities	24.7	32.7	27.0	15.5
Religious groups or activities	32.6	31.3	54.8	15.9
Political groups or organisations	7.8	16.8	10.7	8.5

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year. In 2013 and 2012 respondents were asked "*In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?*" whereas in 2011 respondents were asked "*What activities are you involved in?*" Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was also expanded slightly in 2013 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

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

In 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. Around half of respondents from the NT (49.5%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 21.9%; *3-9 hours*: 27.6%). Just over one in five reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 10.5%; *20-29 hours*: 12.4%) and over a quarter reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 3.8%; *40 hours or more*: 23.8%), well above national levels.

Table 4.8: Time spent on social networking sites

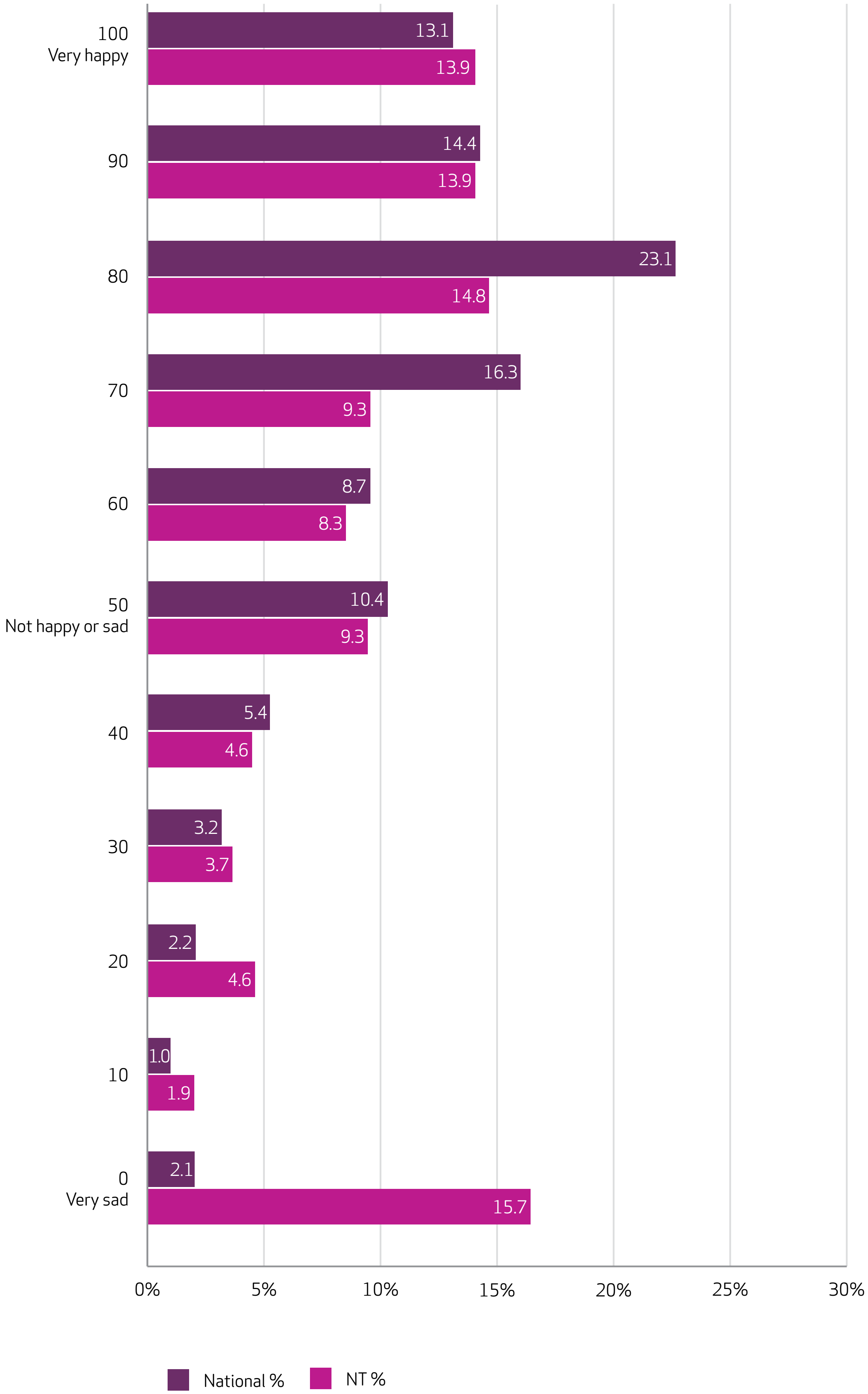
	National %	NT %
2 hours or less	28.2	21.9
3 - 9 hours	31.6	27.6
10 - 19 hours	18.9	10.5
20 - 29 hours	9.4	12.4
30 - 39 hours	4.3	3.8
40 hours or more	7.6	23.8

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 4.7 shows, just over half of young people from the NT (51.9%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. Compared to the national data, however, NT respondents were more likely to indicate feeling *very sad* about their lives.

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

Figure 4.7: How happy young people are



How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 4.9 shows that, in line with the national and 2012 results, around two thirds of respondents from the NT felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, almost one in five NT young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future (compared to less than one in ten at the national level).

- Almost two thirds of NT respondents felt either *positive* (40.2%) or *very positive* (22.4%) about the future.
- Around one in five respondents (18.7%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 2.8% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 15.9% felt *very negative*.

Table 4.9: Feelings about the future

	National %	NT 2013 %	NT 2012 %	NT 2011 %
Very positive	18.7	22.4	23.2	18.6
Positive	48.8	40.2	42.7	37.1
Neither positive nor negative	24.4	18.7	19.5	34.7
Negative	5.6	2.8	7.0	4.2
Very negative	2.5	15.9	7.6	5.4

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

Queensland

Profile of respondents

In total, 1,757 young people from Queensland (QLD) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013*.

Gender breakdown

Three quarters (74.9%) of the respondents from Queensland were female and 25.1% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 48 (2.7%) respondents from Queensland identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 33 (1.9%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 4 (0.2%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.6% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (3.3% compared with 2.6%).

Language background other than English

232 (13.4%) respondents from Queensland stated that they were born overseas and 211 (12.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 40 languages spoken at home in Queensland, the most common were (in order of frequency): Cantonese, Chinese, Mandarin, German and Japanese.

Disability

A total of 68 (3.9%) respondents from Queensland indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (4.7%) than females (3.7%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in Queensland were (in order of frequency): learning disability, autism and physical disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 5.1, 95.3% of respondents from Queensland were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (96.8% compared with 90.6%), while a higher proportion of males (6.2%) than females (1.8%) 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*. The majority of respondents from Queensland reported that they were *very satisfied* (22.6%) or *satisfied* (55.5%) with their studies, compared to 17.0% and 56.5% respectively in 2012. Less than one in twenty were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (0.6% and 2.8% respectively, compared to 1.4% and 5.0% in 2012). As shown in Table 5.2, males from Queensland were less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* with their studies (15.9% of males compared with 24.8% of females).

Table 5.1: Participation in education

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	95.2	95.3	96.8	90.6
Studying part-time	1.8	1.9	1.5	3.2
Not studying	3.0	2.9	1.8	6.2

Table 5.2: Satisfaction with studies

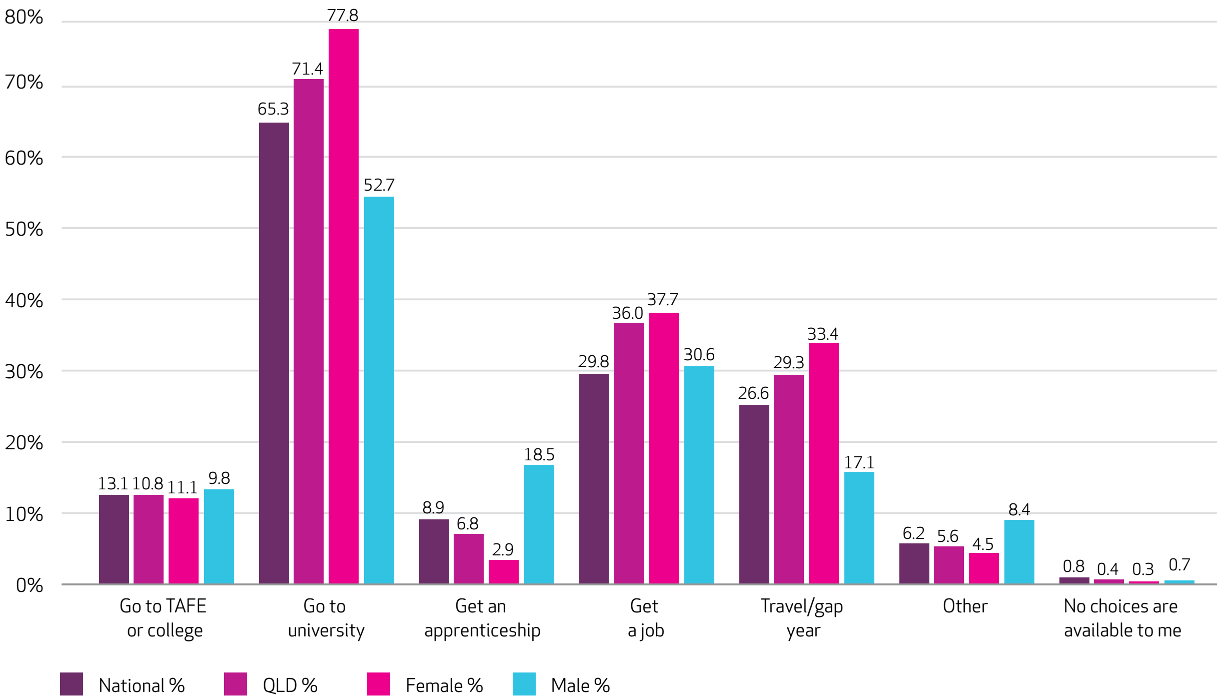
	National %	QLD 2013 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2012 %
Very satisfied	17.0	22.6	24.8	15.9	17.0
Satisfied	55.7	55.5	54.8	57.4	56.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.2	18.6	17.3	22.5	20.1
Dissatisfied	4.4	2.8	2.7	3.2	5.0
Very dissatisfied	1.6	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.4

Of those who were still at school in Queensland, 98.5% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were more than three times as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (3.5% compared with 0.9% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 5.1 shows that over seven in ten respondents from Queensland planned to go to university after school (71.4%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (36.0%) and to travel or go on a gap year (29.3%) after school. Overall, 10.8% of young people from Queensland planned to attend TAFE or college and 6.8% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (0.4%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

While going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both male and female respondents from Queensland, females were much more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (77.8% compared with 52.7% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (33.4% compared with 17.1% of males) or to get a job (37.7% compared with 30.6%). Males were much more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (18.5% compared with 2.9% of females).

Figure 5.1: Plans after leaving school



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

Employment

Respondents 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 Queensland. In line with the national data, only a small minority (1.0%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. More than one third (37.8%) of respondents from Queensland reported part-time employment. Over half of respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 32.1% looking for work and 29.0% not looking for work.

A greater proportion of male than female respondents from Queensland reported full-time employment (3.5% compared with 0.2% respectively), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (38.5% compared with 35.5%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (37.6% compared with 30.5%).

Table 5.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.8	1.0	0.2	3.5
Employed part-time	34.8	37.8	38.5	35.5
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.6	32.1	30.5	37.6
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	28.8	29.0	30.8	23.4

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

In 2013 young people who reported currently having paid work were asked to write down which industry they work in. The information provided by respondents was categorised and the top responses are listed in order of frequency in Table 5.4. The two dominant industries that respondents from Queensland reported working in were *retail and consumer products* and *hospitality and tourism*.

- Similar proportions of young people from Queensland (around four in ten) reported working in either the *retail and consumer products* industry (42.6%) or the *hospitality and tourism* industry (39.5%).
- Another industry of note was the *trades and services* industry (employing 7.5%). A wide range of other industries of employment were cited by a minority of respondents.

Gender differences

Males and females from Queensland were broadly similar in terms of the industries they were currently employed in.

- The *retail and consumer products* industry was the most commonly cited employer of both female and male respondents who reported having paid work (employing 44.6% and 36.8% respectively). This was closely followed by the *hospitality and tourism* industry, which was cited as employing 40.6% of young females and 36.3% of young males from Queensland.
- The *trades and services* industry was the third most common employer of both female and male respondents. A greater proportion of males than females, however, reported working in this industry (15.8% compared with 4.6% respectively).

Table 5.4: Current industry of paid employment

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Retail and consumer products	**41.2**	**42.6**	**44.6**	**36.8**
Hospitality and tourism	**39.8**	**39.5**	**40.6**	**36.3**
Trades and services	**6.4**	**7.5**	**4.6**	**15.8**
Sport and recreation	4.8	2.8	3.2	1.8
Administration and office support	1.2	2.4	3.0	0.6

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

Respondents were also asked in 2013 if they had decided on what type of job or occupation they would like to have in the future and, if so, to specify their choice. This information was categorised according to industry and the top responses are displayed in Table 5.5. Overall, 61.2% of young people from Queensland indicated that they knew what type of work they wanted in the future. Males were more likely than females to have decided on a job or occupation (70.6% compared with 57.9%).

- The top industry that young people in Queensland expressed a desire to work in was the *healthcare and medical* industry (nominated by 26.7%).
- Other popular choices nominated by around one in ten respondents included roles in *advertising, arts and media* (12.9%), *trades and services* (9.4%) and *education and training* (8.7%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 5.5, there were notable differences in responses to this question among male and female respondents from Queensland.

- The most popular industry among female respondents, nominated by one third, was the *healthcare and medical* industry (33.7%).
- Employment in the *advertising, arts and media* industry was the second most common choice for females (14.2%), closely followed by *education and training* (11.1%).
- The most common preference among males was for employment in the *trades and services* industry (22.1%).
- Male respondents' next most popular choices were roles in *engineering* or *government and defence* (12.8% and 11.4% respectively).

Table 5.5: Desired industry of future employment

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Healthcare and medical	**21.9**	**26.7**	**33.7**	9.7
Advertising, arts and media	**11.5**	**12.9**	**14.2**	8.7
Trades and services	10.0	**9.4**	4.3	**22.1**
Education and training	**10.9**	8.7	**11.1**	2.7
Farming, animals and conservation	5.2	6.7	7.4	5.0
Government and defence	6.9	6.1	3.9	**11.4**
Legal	5.2	6.1	7.2	3.7
Engineering	5.7	5.6	2.8	**12.8**

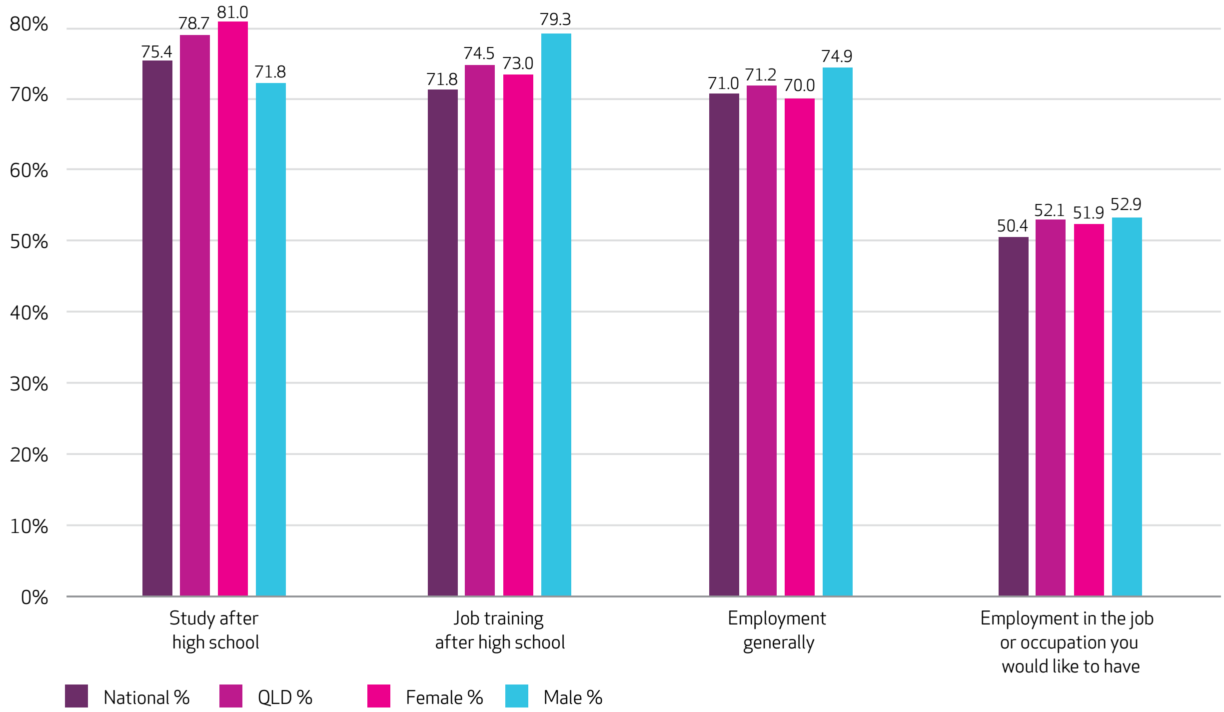
Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

In 2013 the survey also asked young people whether or not they thought there were enough opportunities in their local area for *study after high school*, *job training after high school*, *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*. Figure 5.2 shows the percentage of respondents who perceived the level of local opportunities to be sufficient.

In line with the national results, around three quarters of young people from Queensland (78.7%) indicated that they felt there were enough opportunities for *study after high school* available in their local area. A majority of respondents (over seven in ten) also suggested that there were sufficient local opportunities for *job training after high school* (74.5%) and *employment generally* (71.2%). While encouraging, this means that around one quarter of respondents from Queensland did not feel that there were enough opportunities for future study and employment available locally. When asked specifically about *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*, young people were divided in their views, with only around half (52.1%) indicating that they felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

Overall males and females from Queensland indicated broadly similar views regarding the adequacy of opportunities in their local area. Male respondents, however, tended to be slightly more optimistic about job related opportunities, while female respondents were more positive about the availability of local opportunities for *study after high school*.

Figure 5.2: Perceived sufficiency of opportunities in the local area



What do young people value?

In 2013 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. In line with both the national data and 2012 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from Queensland this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for Queensland respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 80.2% of respondents from Queensland (*extremely important*: 44.0%; *very important*: 36.2%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 76.4% of respondents (*extremely important*: 46.9%; *very important*: 29.5%).
- Over seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 38.6%; *very important*: 36.2%) and around six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 28.2%; *very important*: 33.0%).
- Around one third of Queensland respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 11.8%; *very important*: 20.9%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 11.5%; *very important*: 18.9%).

Figure 5.3: What young people value

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

Gender differences

Friendships were ranked as the most highly valued item by both males and females in Queensland, as shown in Table 5.6. The second and third most valued items for male respondents were *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. These items were the same for females, although the order was reversed.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 83.5% of females (*extremely important*: 48.3%; *very important*: 35.2%) compared with 70.2% of males (*extremely important*: 31.4%; *very important*: 38.8%).
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 80.4% of females (*extremely important*: 42.9%; *very important*: 37.5%) compared with 58.8% of males (*extremely important*: 25.8%; *very important*: 33.0%).
- 79.6% of females highly valued *family relationships* (*extremely important*: 51.4%; *very important*: 28.2%) compared with 66.5% of males (*extremely important*: 32.9%; *very important*: 33.6%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by just under two thirds of all females (*extremely important*: 29.1%; *very important*: 34.0%) and by over half of all males (*extremely important*: 25.6%; *very important*: 30.0%) in Queensland.

Table 5.6: What young people value, by gender

Females	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**48.3**	**35.2**	12.3	3.4	0.9
Family relationships	**51.4**	**28.2**	13.5	4.7	2.2
School or study satisfaction	**42.9**	**37.5**	13.1	4.5	2.1
Physical and mental health	29.1	34.0	23.2	8.4	5.3
Financial security	11.6	21.6	29.4	19.3	18.2
Getting a job	9.7	18.3	27.5	24.0	20.4

Table 5.6: What young people value, by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**31.4**	**38.8**	20.0	6.3	3.5
Family relationships	**32.9**	**33.6**	20.6	7.4	5.3
School or study satisfaction	**25.8**	**33.0**	26.0	8.6	6.5
Physical and mental health	25.6	30.0	27.7	8.6	8.1
Financial security	12.3	19.1	30.7	19.3	18.6
Getting a job	16.9	21.1	28.0	18.1	16.0

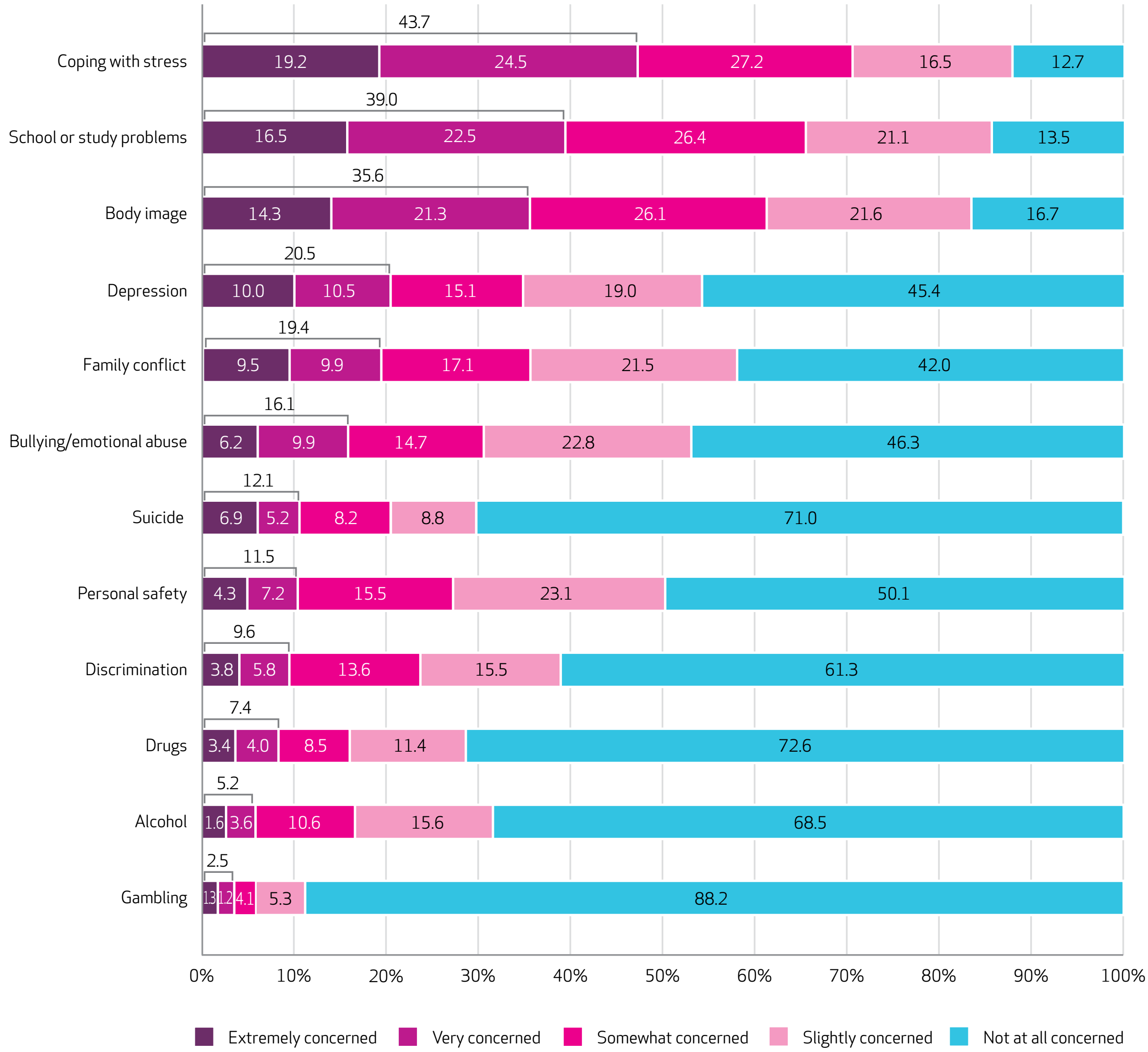
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

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. In line with the national data, the top three issues of concern for young people from Queensland were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 43.7% of respondents from Queensland indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (19.2%) or *very concerned* (24.5%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 39.0% (*extremely concerned*: 16.5%; *very concerned*: 22.5%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern with 14.3% of respondents *extremely concerned* and 21.3% *very concerned*.
- Around one in five 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 over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

Gender differences

Coping with stress, *school or study problems* and *body image* were the top three issues of concern for both males and females in Queensland, as highlighted in Table 5.7. 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 half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 23.0%; *very concerned*: 28.3%), compared with around one in five males (*extremely concerned*: 7.9%; *very concerned*: 12.7%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 44.1% (*extremely concerned*: 19.2%; *very concerned*: 24.9%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 24.6% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.7%; *very concerned*: 15.9%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 42.4% (*extremely concerned*: 17.3%; *very concerned*: 25.1%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 15.5% (*extremely concerned*: 5.8%; *very concerned*: 9.7%) of males.
- For 23.6% of females (*extremely concerned*: 11.4%; *very concerned*: 12.2%) and 11.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 5.8%; *very concerned*: 5.6%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 5.7: 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	**23.0**	**28.3**	27.3	14.0	7.4
School or study problems	**19.2**	**24.9**	26.0	20.5	9.4
Body image	**17.3**	**25.1**	27.1	20.6	10.0
Depression	11.4	12.2	16.3	18.5	41.6
Family conflict	10.9	10.5	18.3	21.6	38.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.6	10.6	15.5	23.8	43.4
Suicide	7.2	5.9	8.8	9.3	68.8
Personal safety	4.1	7.8	16.5	24.5	47.1
Discrimination	3.9	5.9	14.1	15.6	60.6
Drugs	3.1	4.3	8.5	11.9	72.3
Alcohol	1.7	4.2	10.5	16.6	66.9
Gambling	0.9	1.0	3.5	5.2	89.4
Males	**Extremely concerned %**	**Very concerned %**	**Somewhat concerned %**	**Slightly concerned %**	**Not at all concerned %**
Coping with stress	**7.9**	**12.7**	27.3	23.6	28.6
School or study problems	**8.7**	**15.9**	27.4	22.3	25.7
Body image	**5.8**	**9.7**	23.5	24.2	36.9
Depression	5.8	5.6	11.9	20.0	56.7
Family conflict	5.1	8.3	13.7	21.5	51.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.3	8.1	12.2	19.8	54.6
Suicide	5.8	3.0	6.3	7.7	77.3
Personal safety	4.8	5.1	12.5	18.9	58.7
Discrimination	3.7	5.6	12.0	15.5	63.2
Drugs	4.6	3.2	8.6	10.4	73.1
Alcohol	1.4	1.8	11.1	12.7	73.0
Gambling	2.3	1.6	6.0	5.3	84.7

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

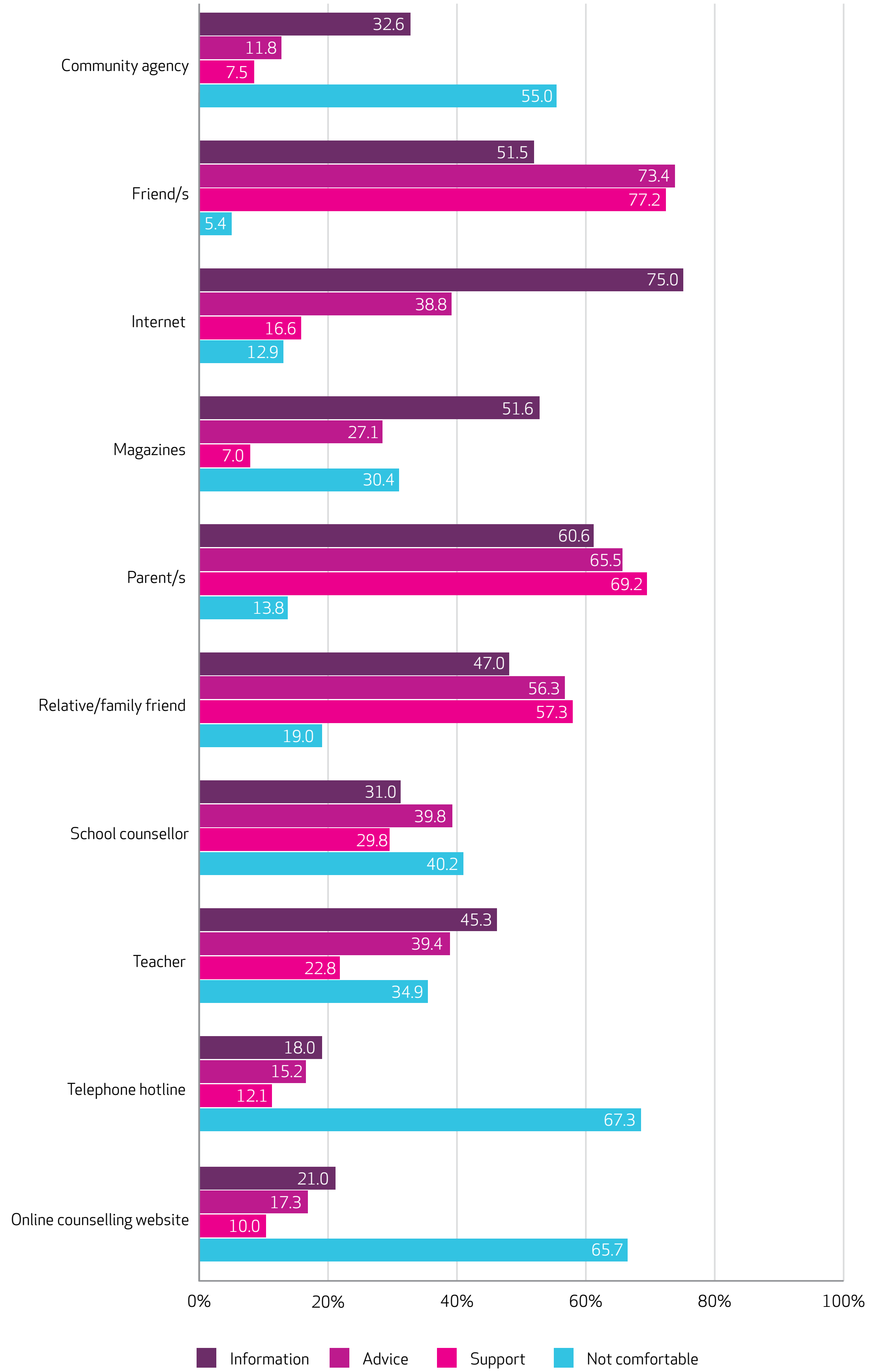
Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people from Queensland, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people (75.0%), followed by *parent/s* (60.6%) and *magazines* (51.6%).
- Respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (73.4%), *parent/s* (65.5%) and *relatives/family friends* (56.3%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (77.2%) were again the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (69.2%) and *relatives/family friends* (57.3%).

- Over two thirds of young people from Queensland (67.3%) indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline* for *advice*, *support* or *information*, 65.7% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 55.0% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 5.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

Males and females from Queensland were broadly similar in terms of where they were comfortable going for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (77.4%) and males (68.3%) from Queensland. *Parent/s* were also important sources of *information* for both female (60.5%) and male (60.5%) respondents. Females ranked *magazines* highly as a source of *information* they felt comfortable going to (54.4%). Males instead preferred *friend/s* as an *information* source, ranking them in third position (55.0%).
- Females were much more likely to get *information* (54.4%) and *advice* (31.3%) from *magazines* than males (43.4% and 14.4% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (75.6%) and males (66.7%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also important sources of *advice* for both females (66.7% and 56.8% respectively) and males (61.2% and 54.3% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were also the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (81.1%) and males (65.5%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as important sources of *support* by both females (71.3% and 57.9% respectively) and males (62.6% and 55.0% respectively).

Table 5.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

Females	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Community agency	32.1	10.9	7.6	**56.4**
Friend/s	50.1	**75.6**	**81.1**	4.7
Internet	**77.4**	40.1	16.3	11.8
Magazines	**54.4**	31.3	7.4	27.3
Parent/s	**60.5**	**66.7**	**71.3**	13.9
Relative/family friend	44.7	**56.8**	**57.9**	20.2
School counsellor	31.1	42.4	32.1	39.6
Teacher	45.6	40.0	22.4	35.7
Telephone hotline	18.5	16.6	13.4	**67.0**
Online counselling website	22.0	18.6	11.1	**65.1**

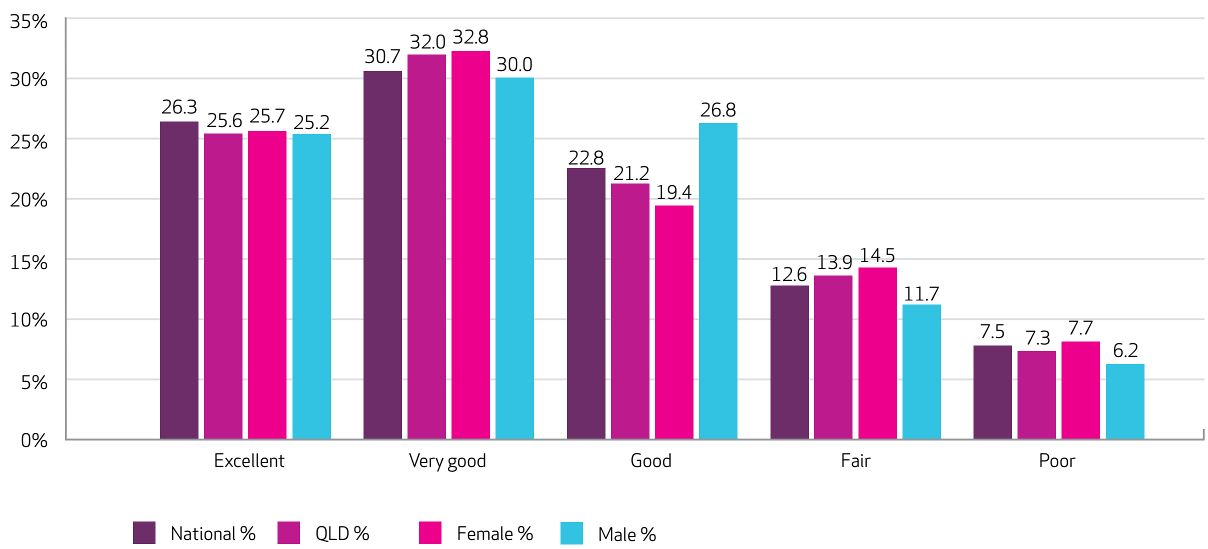
Table 5.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender (continued)

Males	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Community agency	33.8	13.9	6.4	**50.9**
Friend/s	**55.0**	**66.7**	**65.5**	7.3
Internet	**68.3**	34.5	17.6	16.2
Magazines	43.4	14.4	5.7	40.4
Parent/s	**60.5**	**61.2**	**62.6**	13.5
Relative/family friend	53.4	**54.3**	**55.0**	16.0
School counsellor	30.8	31.7	22.6	42.2
Teacher	44.7	37.4	23.5	32.6
Telephone hotline	16.4	10.5	7.8	**68.7**
Online counselling website	18.0	13.2	6.6	**67.6**

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 the national data, the majority of respondents from Queensland rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 25.6% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 32.0% that it was *very good*. However, around one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (13.9%) or *poor* (7.3%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

Figure 5.6: 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 5.9. In 2013 the top three issues identified by young people from Queensland were *the economy and financial matters, equity and discrimination* and *alcohol and drugs*.

- Around three in ten young people from Queensland identified *the economy and financial matters* (29.6%) as an important issue in Australia today.

- Around one quarter of respondents identified *equity and discrimination* (24.3%) as an important issue, while close to one in five respondents identified *alcohol and drugs* (21.7%) and *politics and societal values* (19.8%) as major issues.
- Since 2011, *employment*, *mental health* and *education* have all been increasingly identified by young people from Queensland as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *the environment* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

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

- Around one in three male and female respondents from Queensland (31.7% and 29.0% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- A greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (25.5% compared with 20.6%) and *mental health* (19.4% compared with 7.7%) as important issues.
- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (29.0% compared with 16.7%) and *alcohol and drugs* (26.6% compared with 20.0%) as important national issues.

Table 5.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	QLD 2013 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2012 %	QLD 2011 %
The economy and financial matters	**26.2**	**29.6**	**29.0**	**31.7**	**35.6**	**23.3**
Equity and discrimination	**24.1**	**24.3**	**25.5**	20.6	18.9	19.0
Alcohol and drugs	19.9	**21.7**	**20.0**	**26.6**	20.3	**30.0**
Politics and societal values	**24.6**	19.8	16.7	**29.0**	**27.0**	16.9
Population issues	22.2	17.3	16.5	19.8	**26.2**	17.7
Employment	14.0	16.6	15.9	18.7	8.9	7.0
Mental health	15.2	16.5	19.4	7.7	12.1	9.9
Education	14.6	13.7	14.6	11.3	10.5	8.8
Health	11.6	13.7	14.0	12.9	17.3	16.3
Crime, safety and violence	11.2	12.9	12.6	13.7	15.8	16.0
The environment	14.5	12.6	13.6	9.8	14.4	**33.4**
Bullying	10.9	12.5	13.4	9.8	8.9	13.1
Homelessness/housing	7.8	8.8	9.8	5.8	5.7	5.1
LGBT issues	6.7	8.0	8.9	5.3	4.7	2.0
Adolescence/youth	5.0	5.9	6.3	4.7	5.3	4.7
Body image	3.4	5.7	6.9	1.8	3.3	2.1
Poverty/disadvantage	4.4	5.3	6.2	2.6	4.1	1.7

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 5.10. The top two activities for young people from Queensland, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top two activities for young people aged 15-19 years from Queensland in 2012 and 2011. *Arts/cultural/music activities* was the third most popular activity for young people from Queensland, closely followed by *volunteer work*. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural/music activities* were the three most popular activities for young people from Queensland in 2013.
- Nearly two thirds of respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work* (63.8%).
- Almost half of respondents reported participation in *student leadership activities* (48.7%) and over one third had participated in *religious groups or activities* (35.3%) and *youth groups and clubs* (34.4%).
- Around one quarter of young people from Queensland (25.1%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 5.10 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with Queensland and national results. In contrast to the national data, however, a larger proportion of female respondents than male respondents were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* this year. The third top activity for males from Queensland was *volunteer work*, while for females it was *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 75.7% of male respondents and 80.2% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Female respondents were also more likely than male respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (74.1% compared with 71.1%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking more highly up the list for male respondents, a greater proportion of female than male respondents from Queensland were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities*, *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (72.4%, 67.8% and 51.8% compared with 37.3%, 51.6% and 39.0% respectively).

Table 5.10: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	QLD 2013 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2012 %	QLD 2011 %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.9**	**79.1**	**80.2**	**75.7**	**78.4**	**60.9**
Sports (as a spectator)	**68.9**	**73.3**	**74.1**	**71.1**	**76.7**	**48.7**
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.8	**63.9**	**72.4**	37.3	63.6	**33.0**
Volunteer work	**55.6**	63.8	67.8	**51.6**	**64.9**	28.4
Student leadership activities	43.0	48.7	51.8	39.0	55.1	26.3
Religious groups or activities	32.6	35.3	35.9	33.2	41.8	21.3
Youth groups and clubs	33.9	34.4	32.9	38.8	43.2	24.2
Environmental groups or activities	24.7	25.1	25.8	23.0	32.0	12.4
Political groups or organisations	7.8	6.6	6.2	8.1	8.2	4.7

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year. In 2013 and 2012 respondents were asked "*In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?*" whereas in 2011 respondents were asked "*What activities are you involved in?*" Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was also expanded slightly in 2013 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

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

In 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents from Queensland (63.2%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 30.7%; *3-9 hours*: 32.5%). Almost three in ten reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 18.8%; *20-29 hours*: 8.3%) and close to one in ten reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 4.4%; *40 hours or more*: 5.3%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate spending only *2 hours or less* a week on social networking sites (35.0% compared with 29.3%).

Table 5.11: Time spent on social networking sites

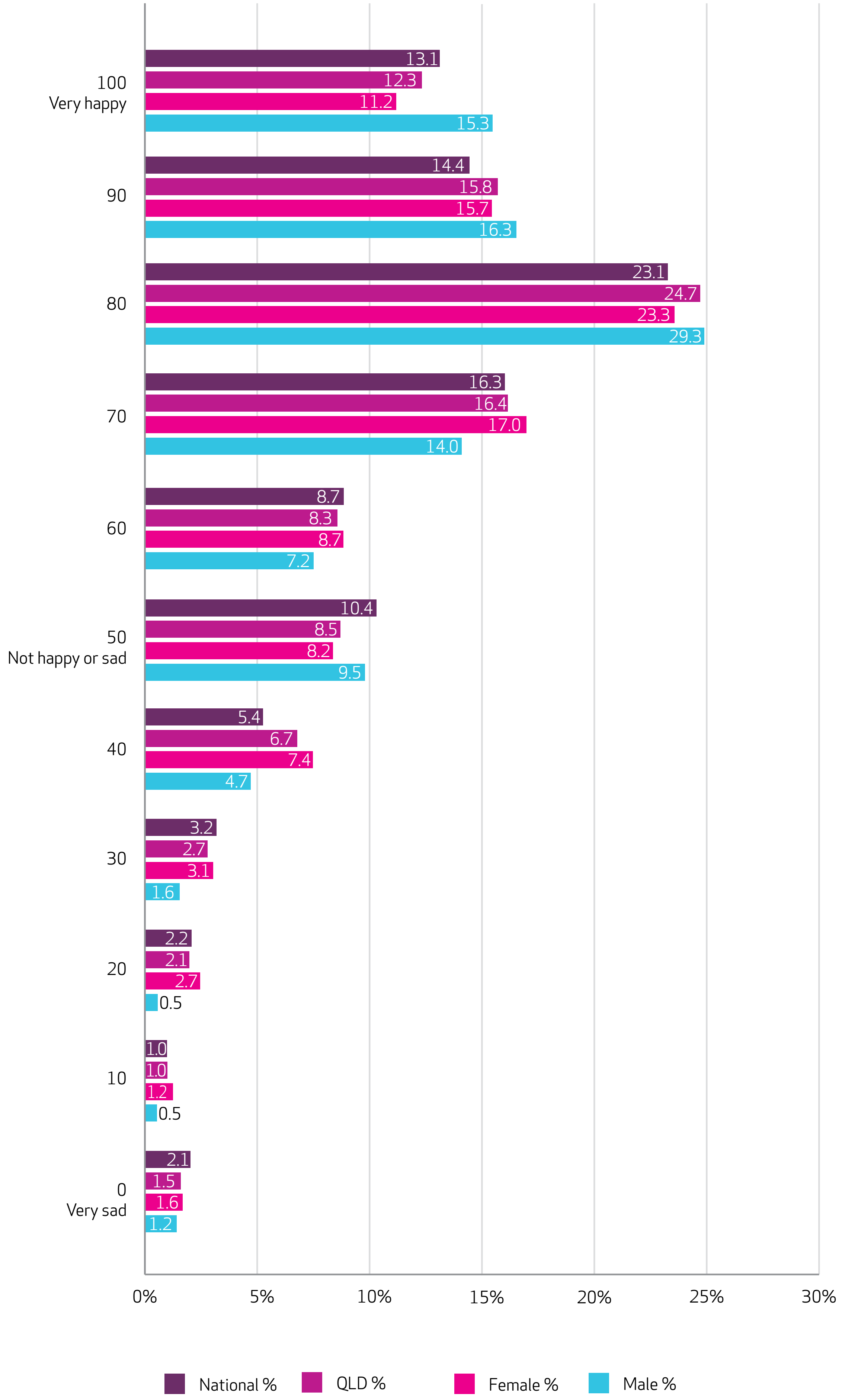
	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
2 hours or less	28.2	30.7	29.3	35.0
3 - 9 hours	31.6	32.5	33.5	29.4
10 - 19 hours	18.9	18.8	18.7	18.7
20 - 29 hours	9.4	8.3	8.4	7.9
30 - 39 hours	4.3	4.4	4.7	3.7
40 hours or more	7.6	5.3	5.4	5.1

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 5.7 shows, the majority of young people from Queensland (69.2%) 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 male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (15.3% compared with 11.2%).

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

Figure 5.7: How happy young people are



How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 5.12 shows that, in line with the national and 2012 results, more than two thirds of respondents from Queensland felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (48.7%) or *very positive* (20.0%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (24.5%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 5.3% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 1.5% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from Queensland were similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were slightly more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (23.2% compared with 19.0%).

Table 5.12: Feelings about the future

	National %	QLD 2013 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2012 %	QLD 2011 %
Very positive	18.7	20.0	19.0	23.2	21.3	19.7
Positive	48.8	48.7	48.3	49.8	48.5	41.1
Neither positive nor negative	24.4	24.5	25.6	20.9	23.9	29.2
Negative	5.6	5.3	5.7	4.4	4.7	6.4
Very negative	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.7	3.6

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

South Australia

Profile of respondents

In total, 2,179 young people from South Australia (SA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013*.

Gender breakdown

Just over half (52.1%) of the respondents from SA were female and 47.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 106 (5.0%) respondents from SA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 91 (4.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 11 (0.5%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.2% identified as both). A similar proportion of male and female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (5.1% of males compared to 4.8% of females).

Language background other than English

290 (13.6%) respondents from SA stated that they were born overseas and 450 (21.4%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 50 languages spoken at home in SA, the most common were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Italian and Filipino/Tagalog.

Disability

A total of 114 (5.4%) respondents from SA indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (7.6%) than females (3.3%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in SA were (in order of frequency): learning disability, autism and blindness or visual impairment.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 6.1, 92.4% of respondents from SA were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (93.5% compared with 91.5%), while a higher proportion of males (4.9%) than females (2.8%) 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*. The majority of respondents from SA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (15.3%) or *satisfied* (55.1%) with their studies, compared to 13.8% and 57.5% respectively in 2012. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.1% and 4.6% respectively, compared to 1.1% and 4.9% in 2012). As shown in Table 6.2, males from SA were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* with their studies (13.8% of males compared with 16.7% of females).

Table 6.1: Participation in education

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	95.2	92.4	93.5	91.5
Studying part-time	1.8	3.8	3.8	3.6
Not studying	3.0	3.8	2.8	4.9

Table 6.2: Satisfaction with studies

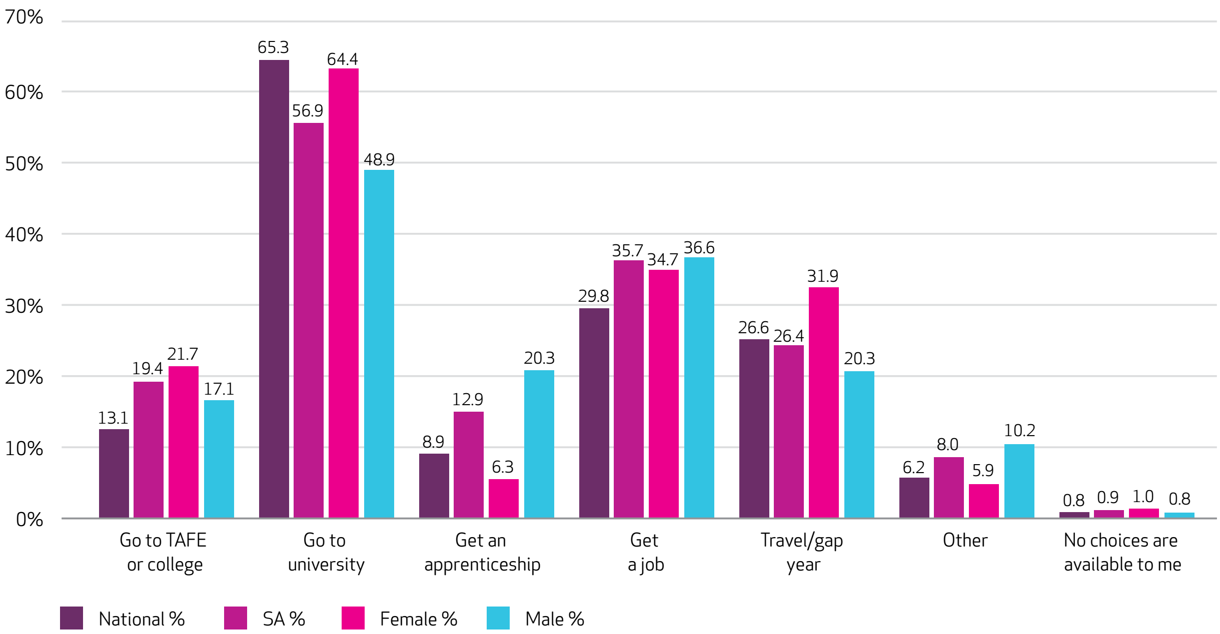
	National %	SA 2013 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2012 %
Very satisfied	17.0	15.3	16.7	13.8	13.8
Satisfied	55.7	55.1	55.0	55.3	57.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.2	23.0	22.6	23.3	22.7
Dissatisfied	4.4	4.6	4.0	5.1	4.9
Very dissatisfied	1.6	2.1	1.7	2.5	1.1

Of those who were still at school in SA, 93.5% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were around twice as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (8.7% compared with 4.3% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 6.1 shows that over half of respondents from SA planned to go to university after school (56.9%). Just over one third indicated plans to get a job (35.7%) and just over one quarter had plans to travel or go on a gap year (26.4%) after school. Overall, 19.4% of young people from SA planned to attend TAFE or college and 12.9% 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 SA, females were much more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (64.4% compared with 48.9% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (31.9% compared with 20.3% of males). Males were much more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (20.3% compared with 6.3% of females).

Figure 6.1: Plans after leaving school



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

Employment

Respondents 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 SA. In line with the national data, only a very small percentage (0.9%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just under one third (31.9%) of respondents from SA reported part-time employment. Around two thirds of respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 43.5% looking for work and 23.7% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from SA reported full-time employment (1.2% compared with 0.7% respectively), while female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (38.6% compared with 24.4%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (46.5% compared with 40.9%).

Table 6.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.2
Employed part-time	34.8	31.9	38.6	24.4
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.6	43.5	40.9	46.5
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	28.8	23.7	19.8	27.8

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

In 2013 young people who reported currently having paid work were asked to write down which industry they work in. The information provided by respondents was categorised and the top responses are listed in order of frequency in Table 6.4. The two dominant industries that respondents from SA reported working in were *retail and consumer products* and *hospitality and tourism*.

- Just under half of SA respondents reported working in the *retail or consumer products* industry (47.1%), while almost four in ten reported working in the *hospitality and tourism* industry (38.3%).
- Other industries of note were *trades and services* (6.3%) and *sport and recreation* (4.0%). A wide range of other industries of employment were cited by a minority of respondents.

Gender differences

Males and females from SA were broadly similar in terms of the industries they were currently employed in.

- The *retail and consumer products* industry was the most commonly cited employer of both female and male respondents who reported having paid work (employing 50.0% and 42.1% respectively). This was closely followed by the *hospitality and tourism* industry, which was cited as employing 40.6% of young females and 35.0% of young males from SA.
- The *trades and services* industry was the third most common employer of both female and male respondents. A greater proportion of males than females, however, reported working in this industry (10.4% compared with 3.7% respectively).

Table 6.4: Current industry of paid employment

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Retail and consumer products	**41.2**	**47.1**	**50.0**	**42.1**
Hospitality and tourism	**39.8**	**38.3**	**40.6**	**35.0**
Trades and services	**6.4**	**6.3**	**3.7**	**10.4**
Sport and recreation	4.8	4.0	2.6	6.4
Advertising, arts and media	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.8

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

Respondents were also asked in 2013 if they had decided on what type of job or occupation they would like to have in the future and, if so, to specify their choice. This information was categorised according to industry and the top responses are displayed in Table 6.5. Overall, 64.5% of young people from SA indicated that they knew what type of work they wanted in the future. Very similar proportions of females and males suggested that they had decided on a job or occupation (64.7% and 64.5% respectively).

- The top industry that young people in SA expressed a desire to work in was the *healthcare and medical* industry (nominated by 21.3%).
- Other popular choices included roles in *trades and services* (14.7%), *education and training* (12.7%) and *advertising, arts and media* (9.9%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 6.5, there were notable differences in responses to this question among male and female respondents from SA.

- The most popular industry among female respondents, nominated by around one third, was the *healthcare and medical* industry (32.3%).
- Employment in the *education and training* industry was the second most common choice for females (17.9%), followed by *advertising, arts and media* (10.8%).
- The most common preference among males was for employment in the *trades and services* industry (21.7%).
- Male respondents' next most popular choices were roles in *government and defence* (12.9%) or *engineering* (10.2%).

Table 6.5: Desired industry of future employment

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Healthcare and medical	**21.9**	**21.3**	**32.3**	8.9
Trades and services	10.0	**14.7**	8.3	**21.7**
Education and training	**10.9**	**12.7**	**17.9**	6.7
Advertising, arts and media	**11.5**	9.9	**10.8**	9.0
Government and defence	6.9	8.2	4.1	**12.9**
Engineering	5.7	5.3	1.1	**10.2**
Farming, animals and conservation	5.2	4.7	6.5	2.9
Design and architecture	4.9	4.1	4.2	4.0

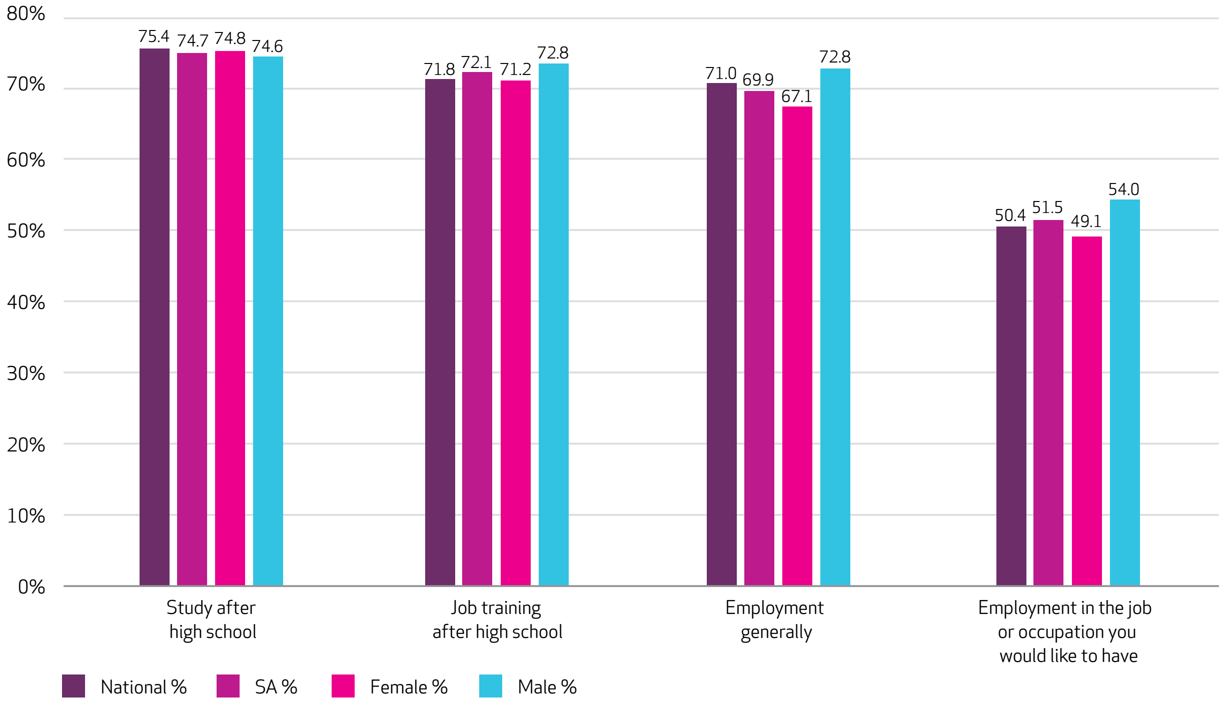
Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

In 2013 the survey also asked young people whether or not they thought there were enough opportunities in their local area for *study after high school*, *job training after high school*, *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*. Figure 6.2 shows the percentage of respondents who perceived the level of local opportunities to be sufficient.

In line with the national results, three quarters of young people from SA (74.7%) indicated that they felt there were enough opportunities for *study after high school* available in their local area. A majority of respondents (around seven in ten) also suggested that there were sufficient local opportunities for *job training after high school* (72.1%) and *employment generally* (69.9%). While encouraging, this means that at least one in four respondents from SA did not feel that there were enough opportunities for future study and employment available locally. When asked specifically about *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*, young people were divided in their views, with only around half (51.5%) indicating that they felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

Overall males and females from SA indicated broadly similar views regarding the adequacy of opportunities in their local area. Male respondents, however, tended to be slightly more optimistic about the availability of local opportunities for *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*.

Figure 6.2: Perceived sufficiency of opportunities in the local area

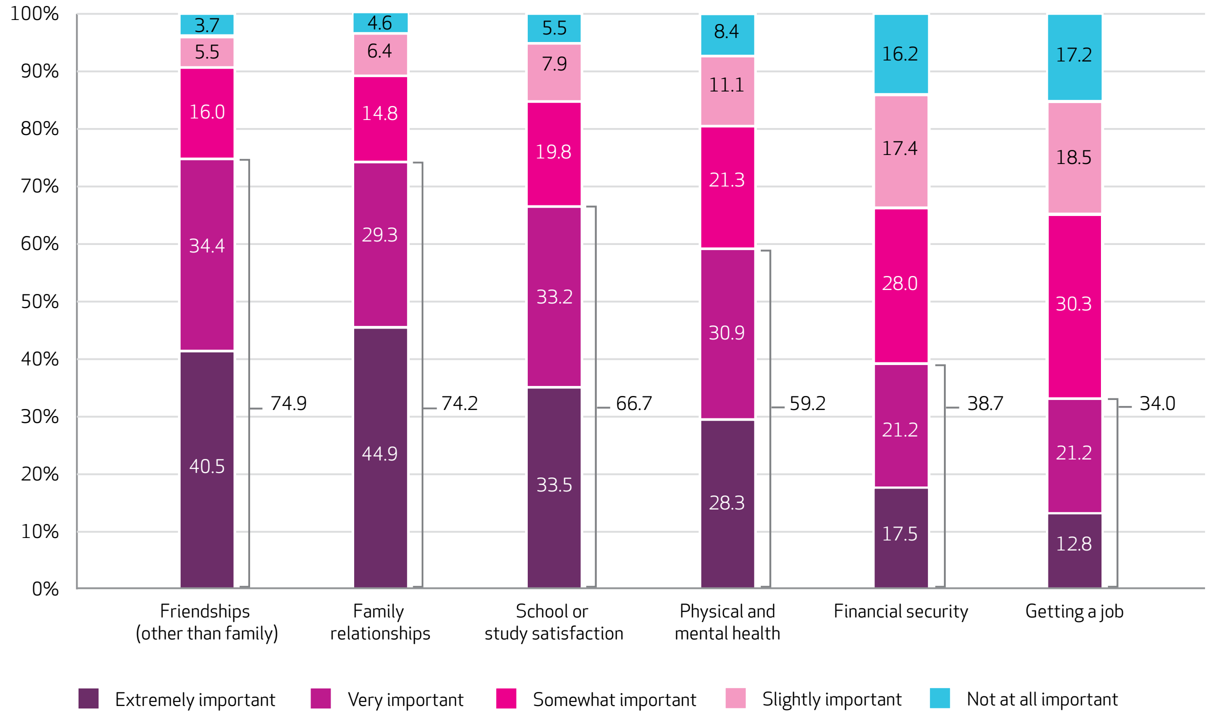


What do young people value?

In 2013 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 both the national data and 2012 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from SA this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for SA respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 74.9% of respondents from SA (*extremely important*: 40.5%; *very important*: 34.4%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 74.2% of respondents (*extremely important*: 44.9%; *very important*: 29.3%).
- Around two thirds of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 33.5%; *very important*: 33.2%) and nearly six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 28.3%; *very important*: 30.9%).
- Nearly four in ten SA respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important* 17.5%; *very important*: 21.0%) and over one third highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important* 12.8%; *very important*: 21.2%).

Figure 6.3: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Friendships and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females in SA, as shown in Table 6.6. However, a greater proportion of female respondents highly valued *friendships* and *family relationships* than their male counterparts. The third most valued item by both males and females in SA this year was *school or study satisfaction*. This is consistent with the 2012 results for females, whereas males in 2012 valued *physical and mental health* more highly.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 79.9% of females (*extremely important*: 46.6%; *very important*: 33.3%) compared with 69.3% of males (*extremely important*: 34.0%; *very important*: 35.3%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 80.5% of females (*extremely important*: 50.9%; *very important*: 29.6%) compared with 67.3% of males (*extremely important*: 38.3%; *very important*: 29.0%).
- 73.5% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 41.0%; *very important*: 32.5%) compared with 59.1% of males (*extremely important*: 25.3%; *very important*: 33.8%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by almost two thirds of all females (*extremely important*: 29.6%; *very important*: 33.6%) and by over half of all males (*extremely important*: 27.0%; *very important*: 28.1%) in SA.

Table 6.6: What young people value, by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**46.6**	**33.3**	13.6	5.0	1.5
Family relationships	**50.9**	**29.6**	10.5	6.4	2.7
School or study satisfaction	**41.0**	**32.5**	18.3	5.5	2.6
Physical and mental health	29.6	33.6	20.4	10.1	6.4
Getting a job	17.6	22.1	30.2	15.7	14.4
Financial security	12.6	23.7	31.6	18.1	14.1
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**34.0**	**35.3**	18.5	6.2	6.1
Family relationships	**38.3**	**29.0**	19.6	6.4	6.7
School or study satisfaction	**25.3**	**33.8**	21.8	10.4	8.7
Physical and mental health	27.0	28.1	22.1	12.1	10.6
Getting a job	17.4	19.8	25.5	19.4	17.9
Financial security	13.0	18.3	29.0	19.1	20.7

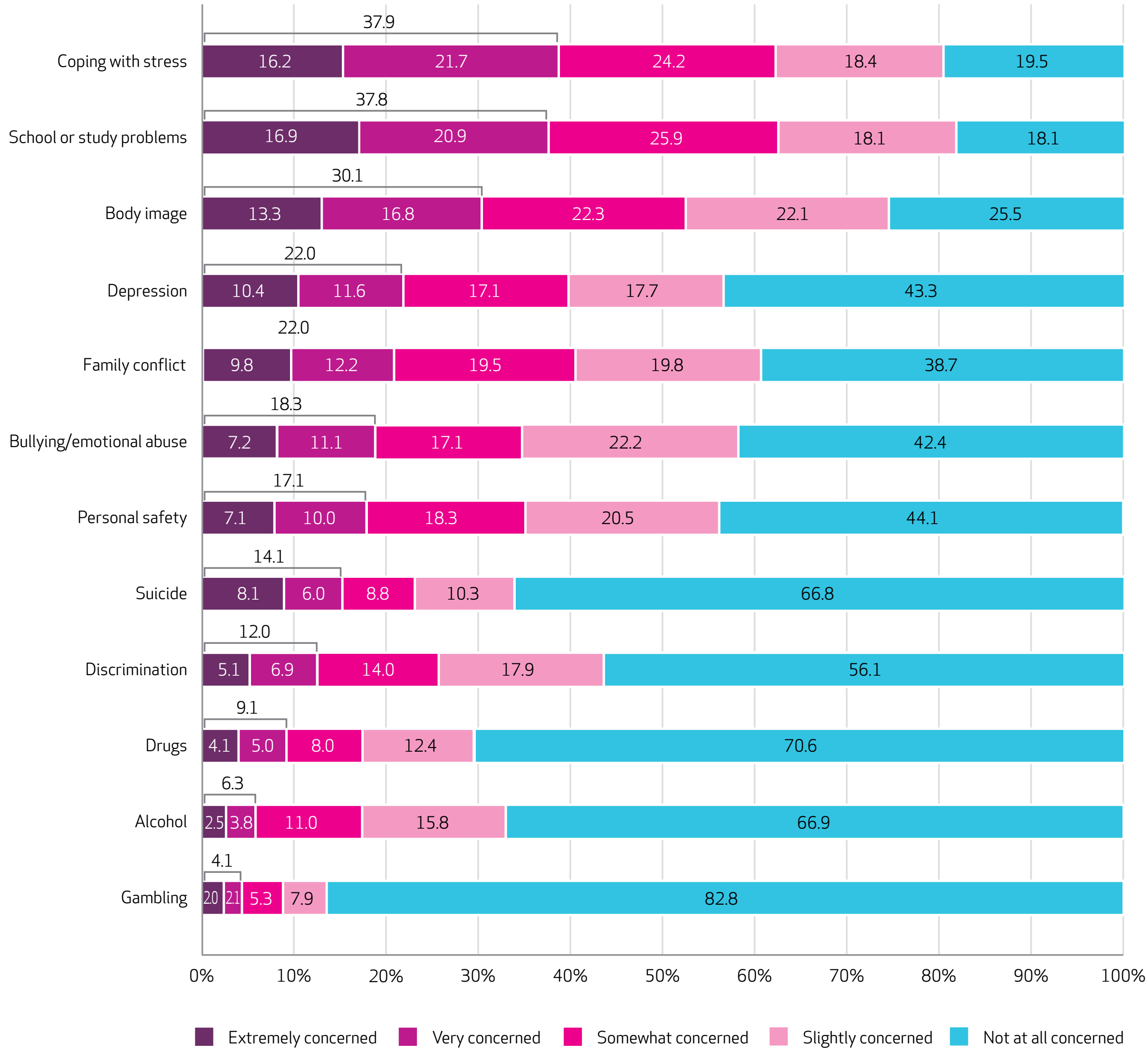
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

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. In line with the national data, the top three issues of concern for young people from SA were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 37.9% of respondents from SA indicating they were either *extremely concerned* (16.2%) or *very concerned* (21.7%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 37.8% (*extremely concerned*: 16.9%; *very concerned*: 20.9%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern, with 13.3% of respondents *extremely concerned* and 16.8% *very concerned*.
- Over 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 over 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 6.7. The order of these issues of concern differed, however, with males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. The third highest issue of concern for females was *body image*, while the third highest issue for males was *family conflict*. The proportion of females indicating a high level of concern about the top three issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- For over half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 22.8% *very concerned*: 29.6%), compared with around one in five males (*extremely concerned*: 8.6 *very concerned*: 13.4%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 48.6% (*extremely concerned*: 21.5%; *very concerned*: 27.1%) indicating this was a major concern, compared with 26.3% of males (*extremely concerned*: 11.9%; *very concerned*: 14.4%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 45.4% (*extremely concerned*: 21.5%; *very concerned*: 23.9%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 13.3% (*extremely concerned*: 4.2%; *very concerned*: 9.0%) of males.
- For 28.5% of females (*extremely concerned*: 13.5%; *very concerned*: 15.0%) and 14.8% of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.8%; *very concerned*: 8.0%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 6.7: 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	**22.8**	**29.6**	24.4	13.8	9.4
School or study problems	**21.5**	**27.1**	25.0	15.3	11.1
Body image	**21.5**	**23.9**	22.1	20.2	12.2
Depression	13.5	15.0	20.0	17.3	34.3
Family conflict	11.5	15.9	21.8	20.4	30.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	9.2	13.4	20.9	23.0	33.5
Personal safety	7.6	11.7	20.8	22.6	37.3
Suicide	9.9	7.7	11.4	11.9	59.1
Discrimination	5.2	8.5	17.1	18.9	50.3
Drugs	4.2	5.2	9.0	13.0	68.6
Alcohol	2.2	4.5	13.0	18.3	62.0
Gambling	1.2	2.2	5.2	8.1	83.3
Males	**Extremely concerned %**	**Very concerned %**	**Somewhat concerned %**	**Slightly concerned %**	**Not at all concerned %**
Coping with stress	**8.6**	**13.4**	23.8	23.4	30.8
School or study problems	**11.9**	**14.4**	27.0	21.3	25.5
Body image	4.2	9.0	22.7	23.9	40.2
Depression	6.8	8.0	13.9	18.2	53.2
Family conflict	**8.0**	**7.8**	17.0	19.3	47.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.9	8.6	12.8	21.5	52.2
Personal safety	6.4	7.9	15.5	18.5	51.7
Suicide	6.0	4.0	6.0	8.6	75.3
Discrimination	4.8	5.1	10.7	16.5	62.8
Drugs	3.9	4.5	6.8	11.5	73.2
Alcohol	2.8	2.8	8.8	12.9	72.5
Gambling	2.7	1.9	5.3	7.6	82.5

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

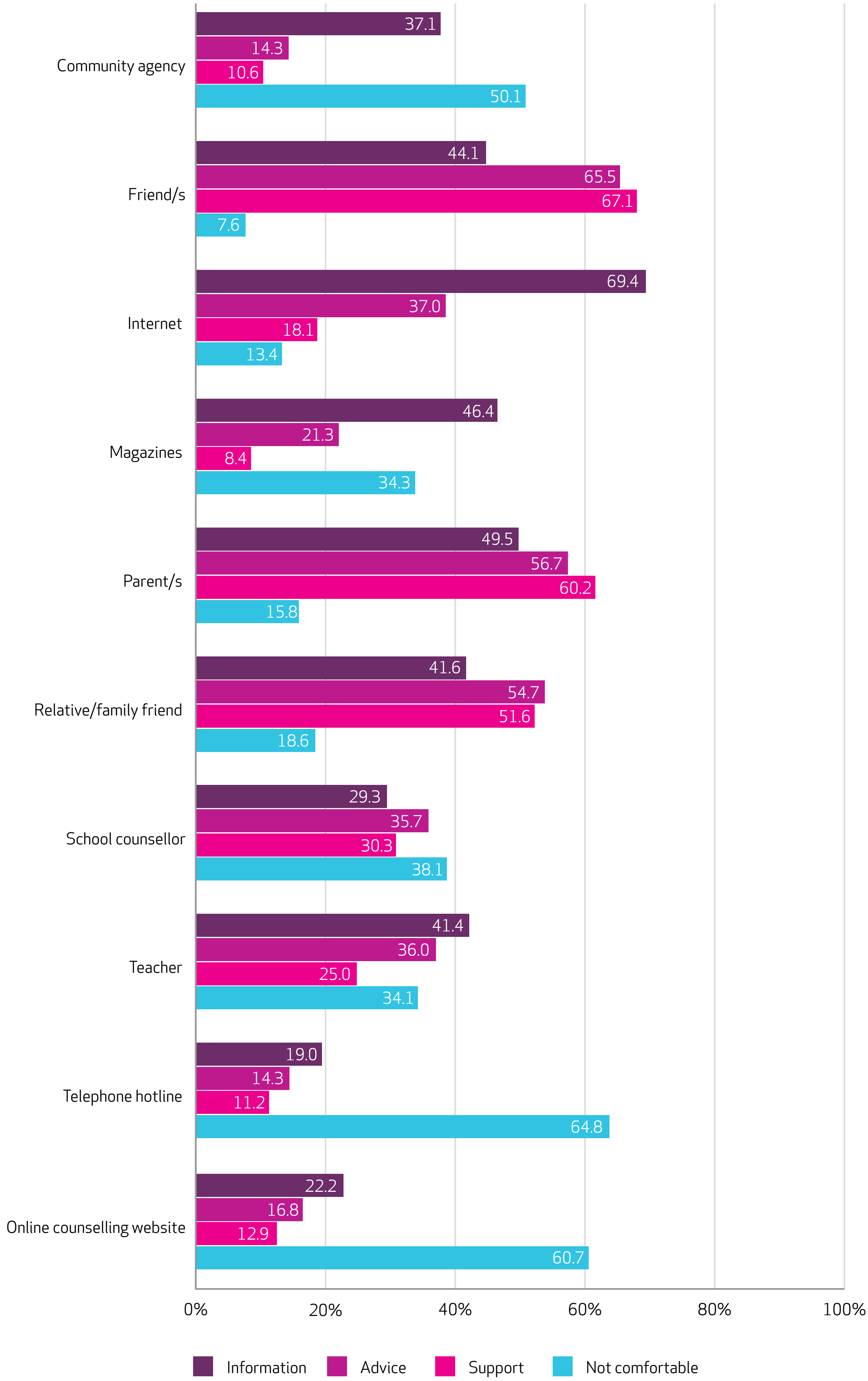
Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people from SA, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people (69.4%), followed by *parent/s* (49.5%) and *magazines* (46.4%).
- Respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (65.5%), *parent/s* (56.7%) and *relatives/family friends* (54.7%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (67.1%) were again the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (60.2%) and *relatives/family friends* (51.6%).

- Almost two thirds of young people from SA (64.8%) indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline for advice*, *support* or *information*, 60.7% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 50.1% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 6.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

Males and females from SA were broadly similar in terms of where they were comfortable going for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (71.4%) and males (67.3%) from SA. *Parent/s* were also important sources of *information* for both female (47.0%) and male (52.5%) respondents. Females ranked *magazines* highly as a source of *information* they felt comfortable going to (just above *parent/s* this year, at 51.7%). Males instead preferred *friend/s* as an *information* source, ranking them in third position (49.2%).
- Females were much more likely to get *information* (51.7%) and *advice* (27.9%) from *magazines* than males (40.4% and 14.3% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (69.0%) and males (61.9%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also important sources of *advice* for both females (57.8% and 55.0% respectively) and males (55.8% and 54.8% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were also the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (74.2%) and males (59.8%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as important sources of *support* by both females (63.1% and 54.4% respectively) and males (57.2% and 48.6% respectively).

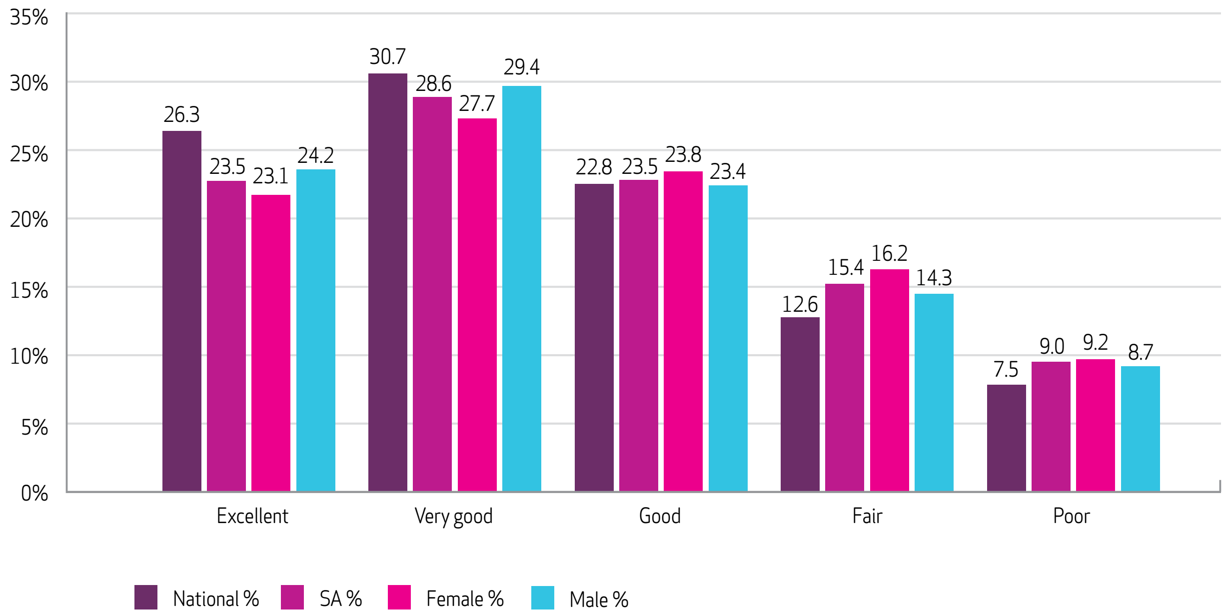
Table 6.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

Females	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	32.0	12.9	9.1	**52.6**
Friend/s	39.6	**69.0**	**74.2**	6.1
Internet	**71.4**	38.2	16.7	12.0
Magazines	**51.7**	27.9	8.7	28.2
Parent/s	**47.0**	**57.8**	**63.1**	17.0
Relative/family friend	37.4	**55.0**	**54.4**	20.1
School counsellor	29.5	38.6	32.8	39.2
Teacher	40.0	35.9	25.8	36.3
Telephone hotline	19.7	16.1	11.6	**65.9**
Online counselling website	24.6	20.3	14.5	**59.1**
Males	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	31.5	15.9	12.2	**47.5**
Friend/s	**49.2**	**61.9**	**59.8**	9.3
Internet	**67.3**	35.6	19.8	14.9
Magazines	40.4	14.3	8.1	41.1
Parent/s	**52.5**	**55.8**	**57.2**	14.4
Relative/family friend	46.4	**54.8**	**48.6**	17.1
School counsellor	29.2	32.7	27.4	37.0
Teacher	43.1	36.4	24.0	31.7
Telephone hotline	18.4	12.5	10.8	**63.6**
Online counselling website	19.8	13.1	11.2	**62.5**

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 the national data, the majority of respondents from SA rated their family's ability to get along positively, with 23.5% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent*, 28.6% that it was *very good* and 23.5% that it was *good*. However, around one in four young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (15.4%) or *poor* (9.0%). Male and female respondents gave similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

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 6.9. In 2013 the top three issues identified by young people from SA were *the economy and financial matters*, *politics and societal values* and *population issues*.

- Just under one third of young people from SA identified *the economy and financial matters* (30.5%) as an important issue in Australia today.
- One quarter of SA respondents identified *politics and societal values* (25.0%) as an important issue, while just over one in five identified *population issues* (21.8%), *equity and discrimination* (21.4%) and *alcohol and drugs* (21.3%) as major issues.
- Since 2011, *politics and societal values*, *employment* and *education* have all been increasingly identified by young people from SA as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *alcohol and drugs* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

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

- Around one in three male and female respondents from SA (32.1% and 29.1% respectively) identified *the economy and financial matters* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- A greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (25.6% compared with 16.7%) as an important issue.
- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (33.4% compared with 17.8%) and *population issues* (27.3% compared with 17.1%) as important national issues.
- Despite *alcohol and drugs* ranking higher up the order of issues for females, a greater proportion of males (22.7%) than females (19.9%) identified this as a key issue in Australia today.

Table 6.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	SA 2013 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2012 %	SA 2011 %
The economy and financial matters	**26.2**	**30.5**	**29.1**	**32.1**	**30.3**	20.1
Politics and societal values	**24.6**	**25.0**	17.8	**33.4**	20.9	14.5
Population issues	22.2	**21.8**	17.1	**27.3**	**25.3**	19.0
Equity and discrimination	**24.1**	21.4	**25.6**	16.7	17.7	**22.1**
Alcohol and drugs	19.9	21.3	**19.9**	22.7	**25.4**	**31.7**
Employment	14.0	16.2	14.6	17.9	9.0	6.0
The environment	14.5	15.4	17.3	12.9	17.2	**41.2**
Education	14.6	13.7	14.3	12.8	10.5	6.6
Bullying	10.9	12.7	17.3	7.3	14.4	14.2
Mental health	15.2	11.8	16.5	6.7	13.0	10.1
Crime, safety and violence	11.2	11.2	11.5	10.6	12.7	14.4
Health	11.6	9.7	10.8	8.7	15.8	13.4
Homelessness/housing	7.8	7.7	8.7	6.7	8.7	9.9
LGBT issues	6.7	5.7	8.1	3.2	3.8	2.9

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 6.10. 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*. These were also the top three activities for young people aged 15-19 years from SA in 2012 and 2011. 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 2013.
- Just under half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (46.2%).
- Around one third reported participation in *student leadership activities* (34.0%) and *youth groups and clubs* (30.7%) and one quarter had participated in *religious groups or activities* (25.1%).
- Around one fifth of young people from SA (22.4%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 6.10 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with SA and national results, although a greater proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for males from SA was *volunteer work*, while for females it was *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 69.5% of male respondents and 62.9% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (66.9% compared with 59.4%).
- Similar proportions of male and female respondents indicated having participated in *volunteer work* over the past year (47.9% and 49.4% respectively).
- More female than male respondents from SA were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (52.4% compared with 39.4%) and *student leadership activities* (37.1% compared with 30.7%).

Table 6.10: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	SA 2013 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2012 %	SA 2011 %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.9**	**66.1**	**62.9**	**69.5**	**75.3**	**65.6**
Sports (as a spectator)	**68.9**	**63.0**	**59.4**	**66.9**	**71.8**	**57.2**
Volunteer work	**55.6**	**48.6**	49.4	**47.9**	**59.6**	**30.0**
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.8	46.2	**52.4**	39.4	43.6	21.6
Student leadership activities	43.0	34.0	37.1	30.7	36.4	22.8
Youth groups and clubs	33.9	30.7	29.6	31.6	39.8	21.5
Religious groups or activities	32.6	25.1	24.4	26.0	36.3	18.1
Environmental groups or activities	24.7	22.4	22.6	22.2	21.0	10.1
Political groups or organisations	7.8	6.4	6.1	6.7	6.0	4.3

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year. In 2013 and 2012 respondents were asked "*In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?*" whereas in 2011 respondents were asked "*What activities are you involved in?*" Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was also expanded slightly in 2013 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

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

In 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. Over half of respondents from SA (56.3%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 27.4%; *3-9 hours*: 28.9%). Around three in ten reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 19.3%; *20-29 hours*: 10.5%) and almost one in seven reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 4.9%; *40 hours or more*: 9.0%). Overall, male respondents from SA reported spending less time on social networking sites than their female counterparts.

Table 6.11: Time spent on social networking sites

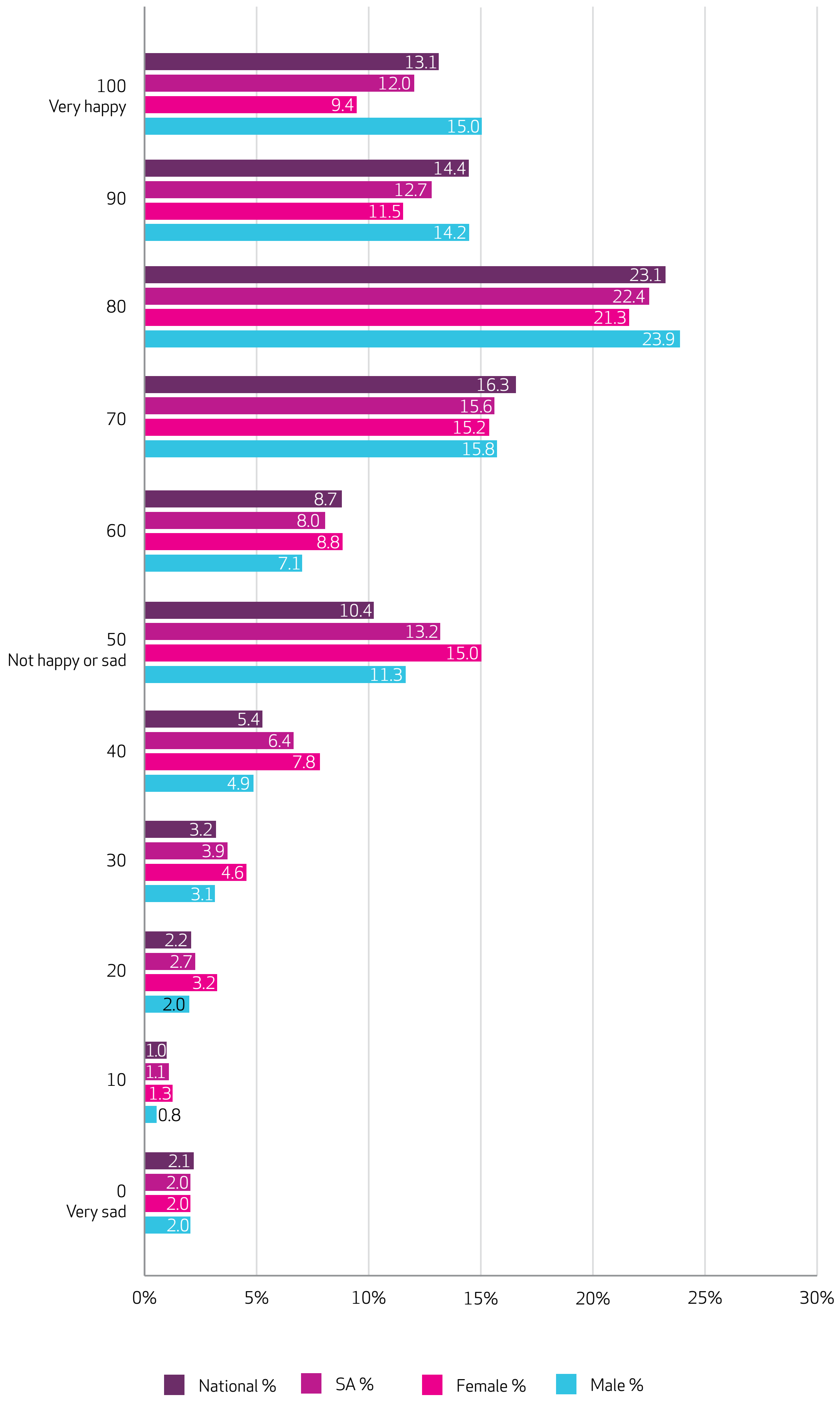
	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
2 hours or less	28.2	27.4	24.4	30.9
3 - 9 hours	31.6	28.9	26.8	31.1
10 - 19 hours	18.9	19.3	21.4	16.9
20 - 29 hours	9.4	10.5	13.0	7.9
30 - 39 hours	4.3	4.9	5.3	4.5
40 hours or more	7.6	9.0	9.1	8.7

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 6.7 shows, the majority of young people from SA (62.7%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (15.0% compared with 9.4%).

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

Figure 6.7: How happy young people are



How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 6.12 shows that, in line with the national and 2012 results, around two thirds of respondents from SA felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Around two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (46.6%) or *very positive* (17.9%) about the future.
- Just over one quarter of respondents (27.2%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 5.9% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.4% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from SA were broadly similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were slightly more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (20.1% compared with 16.1%).

Table 6.12: Feelings about the future

	National %	SA 2013 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2012 %	SA 2011 %
Very positive	18.7	17.9	16.1	20.1	19.6	18.6
Positive	48.8	46.6	45.9	47.3	50.4	44.3
Neither positive nor negative	24.4	27.2	29.5	24.9	23.2	28.6
Negative	5.6	5.9	6.5	5.1	5.2	5.7
Very negative	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.6	1.6	2.8

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

Tasmania

Profile of respondents

In total, 399 young people from Tasmania (TAS) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013*.

Gender breakdown

Around three fifths (61.7%) of the respondents from Tasmania were female and 38.3% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 33 (8.5%) respondents from Tasmania identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 26 (6.7%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 2 (0.5%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 1.3% identified as both). Around three times as many male as female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (15.0% compared to 4.6%).

Language background other than English

49 (12.5%) respondents from Tasmania stated that they were born overseas and 48 young people reported speaking a language other than English at home.

Disability

A total of 21 (5.6%) respondents from Tasmania indicated that they had a disability, with similar proportions of males (5.8%) and females (5.5%) reporting a disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 7.1, 92.2% of respondents from Tasmania were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to report that they were studying full-time than male respondents (93.5% compared with 90.1%), while a slightly higher proportion of males (5.9%) than females (4.5%) were not studying at all.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. The majority of respondents from Tasmania reported that they were either *very satisfied* (19.1%) or *satisfied* (56.4%) with their studies, compared to 10.8% and 56.8% respectively in 2012. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.4% and 3.2% respectively, compared to 1.1% and 5.2% in 2012). As shown in Table 7.2, males from Tasmania were more likely than females to report feeling *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* with their studies (4.2% and 4.9% of males compared with 2.6% and 0.9% of females respectively).

Table 7.1: Participation in education

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	95.2	92.2	93.5	90.1
Studying part-time	1.8	2.8	2.0	3.9
Not studying	3.0	5.0	4.5	5.9

Table 7.2: Satisfaction with studies

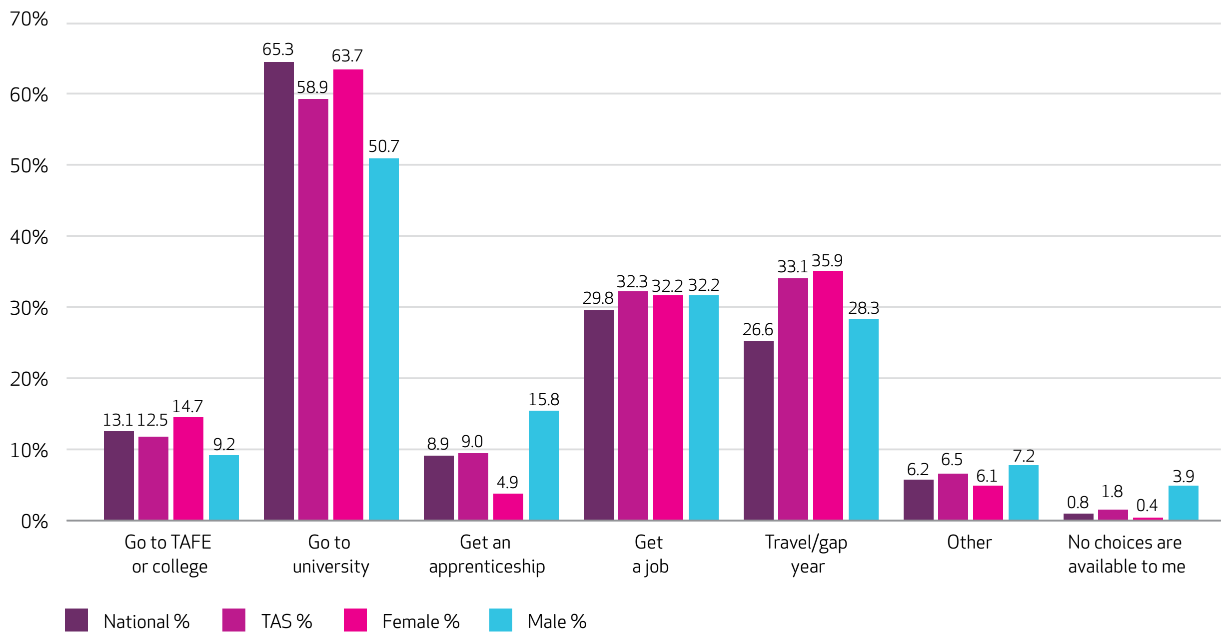
	National %	TAS 2013 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2012 %
Very satisfied	17.0	19.1	19.4	19.0	10.8
Satisfied	55.7	56.4	57.8	54.2	56.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.2	18.9	19.4	17.6	26.2
Dissatisfied	4.4	3.2	2.6	4.2	5.2
Very dissatisfied	1.6	2.4	0.9	4.9	1.1

Of those who were still at school in Tasmania, 95.6% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were almost four times as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (8.1% compared with 2.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 7.1 shows that close to six in ten respondents from Tasmania planned to go to university after school (58.9%). Around one third of respondents indicated plans to travel or go on a gap year (33.1%) or to get a job (32.3%) after school. Overall, 12.5% of young people from Tasmania planned to attend TAFE or college and 9.0% reported plans to undertake an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (1.8%) indicated that they felt no choices were available to them after they left school.

While going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both male and female respondents from Tasmania, females were much more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (63.7% compared with 50.7% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely than males to report plans to travel or go on a gap year (35.9% compared with 28.3%) or to go to TAFE or college (14.7% compared with 9.2%) after school. Males were more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (15.8% compared with 4.9% of females).

Figure 7.1: Plans after leaving school



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

Employment

Respondents 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 Tasmania. In line with the national data, only a small minority (1.3%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Around four in ten respondents (41.3%) from Tasmania reported part-time employment. Over half of respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 34.1% looking for work and 23.3% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from Tasmania reported full-time employment (1.4% compared with 1.2% respectively), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (47.3% compared with 31.8%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (36.5% compared with 32.4%).

Table 7.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.8	1.3	1.2	1.4
Employed part-time	34.8	41.3	47.3	31.8
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.6	34.1	32.4	36.5
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	28.8	23.3	19.1	30.4

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

In 2013 young people who reported currently having paid work were asked to write down which industry they work in. The information provided by respondents was categorised and the top responses are listed in order of frequency in Table 7.4. The two dominant industries that respondents from Tasmania reported working in were *retail and consumer products* and *hospitality and tourism*.

- Similar proportions of young people from Tasmania reported working in either the *retail and consumer products* industry (46.1%) or the *hospitality and tourism* industry (45.5%).
- Other industries of note were *trades and services* (4.8%) and *sport and recreation* (4.2%). A wide range of other industries of employment were cited by a minority of respondents.

Gender differences

Males and females from Tasmania were broadly similar in terms of the industries they were currently employed in.

- The *retail and consumer products* industry was the most commonly cited employer of both female and male respondents who reported having paid work (employing half of each). This was closely followed by the *hospitality and tourism* industry, which was cited as employing 44.0% of young females and 36.0% of young males from Tasmania.
- The *trades and services* industry was the third most common employer of male respondents (employing 10.0%), while the *sport and recreation* industry was the third most common employer of female respondents (employing 4.3%).

Table 7.4: Current industry of paid employment

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Retail and consumer products	**41.2**	**46.1**	**50.0**	**50.0**
Hospitality and tourism	**39.8**	**45.5**	**44.0**	**36.0**
Trades and services	**6.4**	**4.8**	2.6	**10.0**
Sport and recreation	4.8	4.2	**4.3**	4.0

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

Respondents were also asked in 2013 if they had decided on what type of job or occupation they would like to have in the future and, if so, to specify their choice. This information was categorised according to industry and the top responses are displayed in Table 7.5. Overall, around two thirds (67.1%) of young people from Tasmania indicated that they knew what type of work they wanted in the future. A similar proportion of males and females had decided on a job or occupation (67.1% compared with 66.7%).

- The top industry that young people in Tasmania expressed a desire to work in was the *healthcare and medical* industry (nominated by 24.7%).
- Other popular choices nominated by around one in ten respondents included roles in *education and training* (11.2%), *advertising, arts and media* (9.0%) and *trades and services* (8.6%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 7.5, there were notable differences in responses to this question among male and female respondents from Tasmania.

- The most popular industry among female respondents, nominated by around one third, was the *healthcare and medical* industry (31.8%).
- Employment in the *education and training* industry was the second most common choice for females (16.2%), closely followed by *advertising, arts and media* (11.0%).
- The most popular industries among males were the *trades and services* and *healthcare and medical* industries (both nominated by 18.5%).
- Male respondents' next most popular choice was employment in *government and defence* (10.9%), followed closely by roles in the *design and architecture* and *engineering* industries (both at 9.8%).

Table 7.5: Desired industry of future employment

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Healthcare and medical	**21.9**	**24.7**	**31.8**	**18.5**
Education and training	**10.9**	**11.2**	**16.2**	5.4
Advertising, arts and media	**11.5**	**9.0**	**11.0**	7.6
Trades and services	10.0	8.6	3.9	**18.5**
Government and defence	6.9	8.2	7.1	**10.9**
Design and architecture	4.9	7.1	6.5	9.8
Engineering	5.7	3.7	0.6	9.8
Legal	5.2	3.7	5.8	1.1

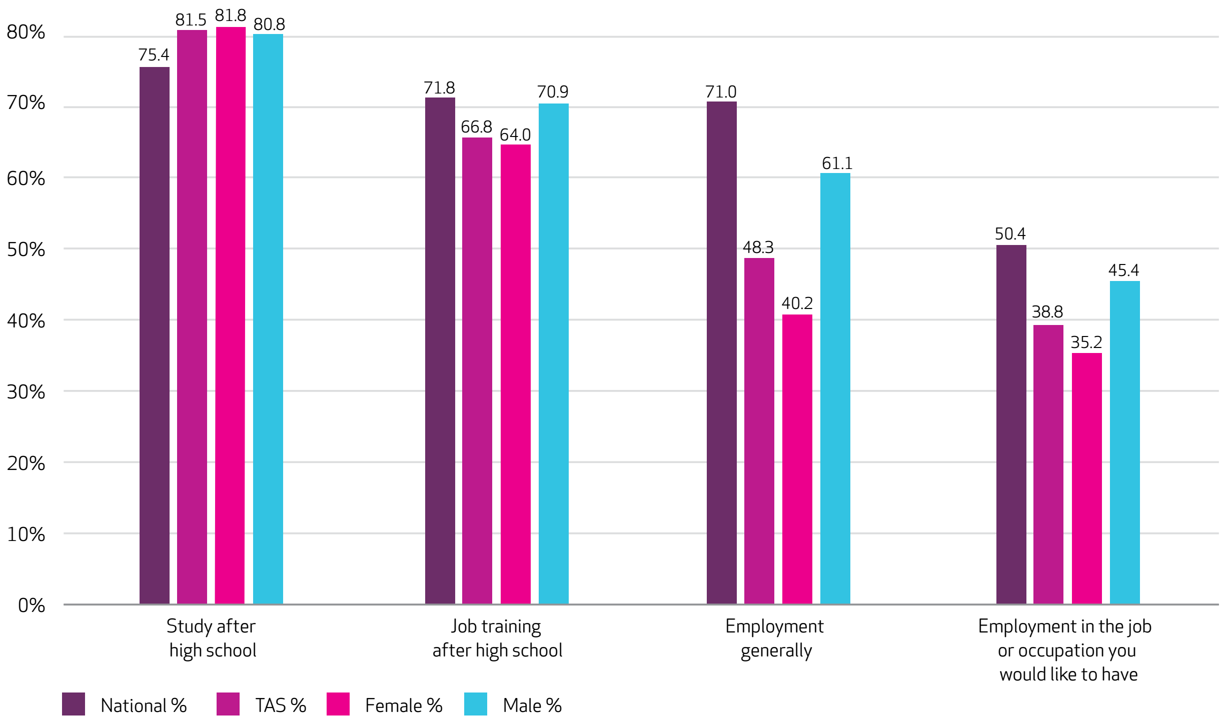
Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

In 2013 the survey also asked young people whether or not they thought there were enough opportunities in their local area for *study after high school*, *job training after high school*, *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*. Figure 7.2 shows the percentage of respondents who perceived the level of local opportunities to be sufficient.

In line with the national results, over three quarters of young people from Tasmania (81.5%) indicated that they felt there were enough opportunities for *study after high school* available in their local area. A majority of respondents (around two thirds) also suggested that there were sufficient local opportunities for *job training after high school* (66.8%). Just under half indicated that they felt there were enough local opportunities for *employment generally* (48.3%) and when asked specifically about *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*, less than four in ten (38.8%) indicated that they felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

There were some differences in perceptions between males and females from Tasmania regarding the adequacy of opportunities in their local area. While similar proportions of both male and female respondents felt that there were sufficient opportunities for *study after high school*, female respondents tended to be more pessimistic than males about the availability of local job related opportunities. In particular, female respondents were much less likely than males to perceive the level of opportunities for *employment generally* to be sufficient (40.2% compared with 61.1%).

Figure 7.2: Perceived sufficiency of opportunities in the local area

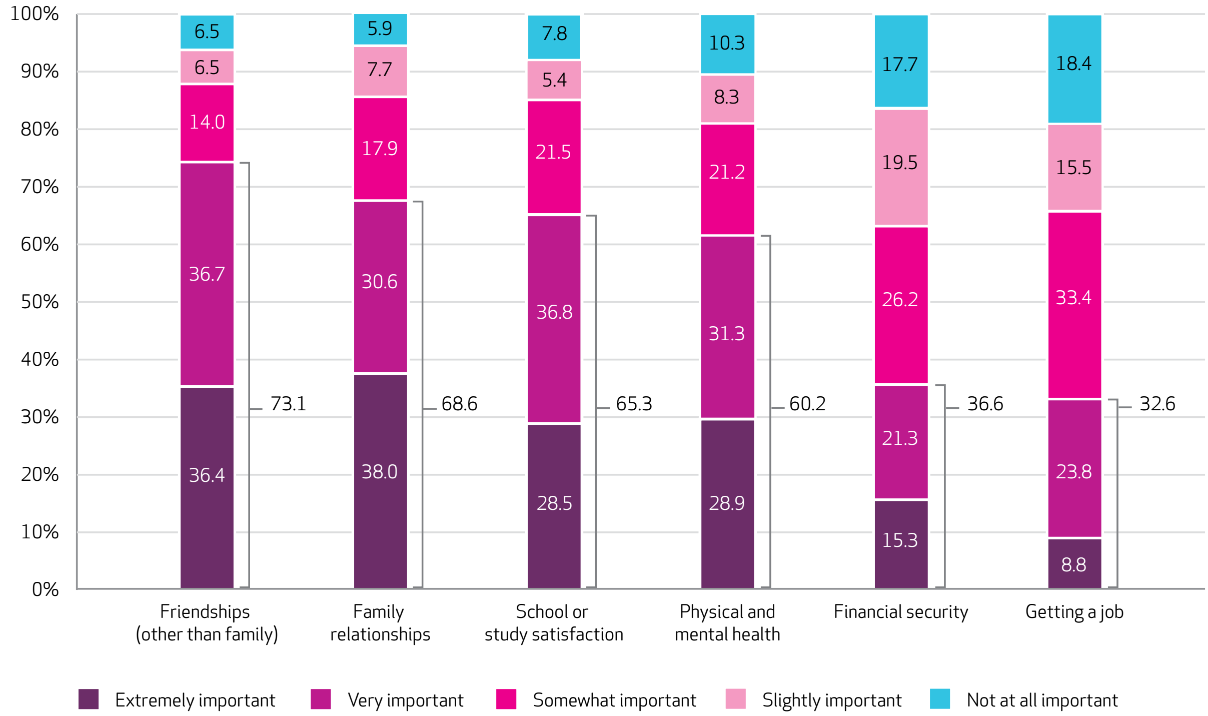


What do young people value?

In 2013 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. In line with both the national data and 2012 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from Tasmania this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for Tasmanian respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 73.1% of respondents from Tasmania (*extremely important*: 36.4%; *very important*: 36.7%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 68.6% of respondents (*extremely important*: 38.0%; *very important*: 30.6%).
- Around two thirds of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 28.5%; *very important*: 36.8%) and six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 28.9%; *very important*: 31.3%).
- Around one third of Tasmanian respondents placed a high value on *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 15.3%; *very important*: 21.3%) and *financial security* (*extremely important*: 8.8%; *very important*: 23.8%).

Figure 7.3: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Friendships were ranked as the most highly valued item by both males and females from Tasmania, as shown in Table 7.6. The second and third most valued items for male respondents were *family relationships* and *physical and mental health*. For females, the second and third most valued items were *school or study satisfaction* and *family relationships*.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 75.4% of females (*extremely important*: 40.0%; *very important*: 35.4%) compared with 69.6% of males (*extremely important*: 31.0%; *very important*: 38.6%).
- 72.3% of females highly valued *family relationships* (*extremely important*: 44.2%; *very important*: 28.1%) compared with 63.5% of males (*extremely important*: 28.4%; *very important*: 35.1%).
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 73.3% of females (*extremely important*: 32.5%; *very important*: 40.8%) compared with 52.8% of males (*extremely important*: 22.2%; *very important*: 30.6%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by around two thirds of all females (*extremely important*: 30.2%; *very important*: 33.5%) and by over half of all males (*extremely important*: 27.3%; *very important*: 27.3%) in Tasmania.

Table 7.6: What young people value, by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	**40.0**	**35.4**	14.6	5.4	4.6
Family relationships	**44.2**	**28.1**	18.2	5.8	3.7
School or study satisfaction	**32.5**	**40.8**	18.3	4.6	3.8
Physical and mental health	30.2	33.5	24.4	5.8	6.2
Financial security	8.8	24.2	36.3	15.8	15.0
Getting a job	14.1	24.5	28.6	19.5	13.3
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**31.0**	**38.6**	13.1	8.3	9.0
Family relationships	**28.4**	**35.1**	16.9	10.8	8.8
School or study satisfaction	22.2	30.6	26.4	6.9	13.9
Physical and mental health	**27.3**	**27.3**	16.1	12.6	16.8
Financial security	9.0	23.4	29.0	15.2	23.4
Getting a job	17.6	16.2	22.5	19.0	24.6

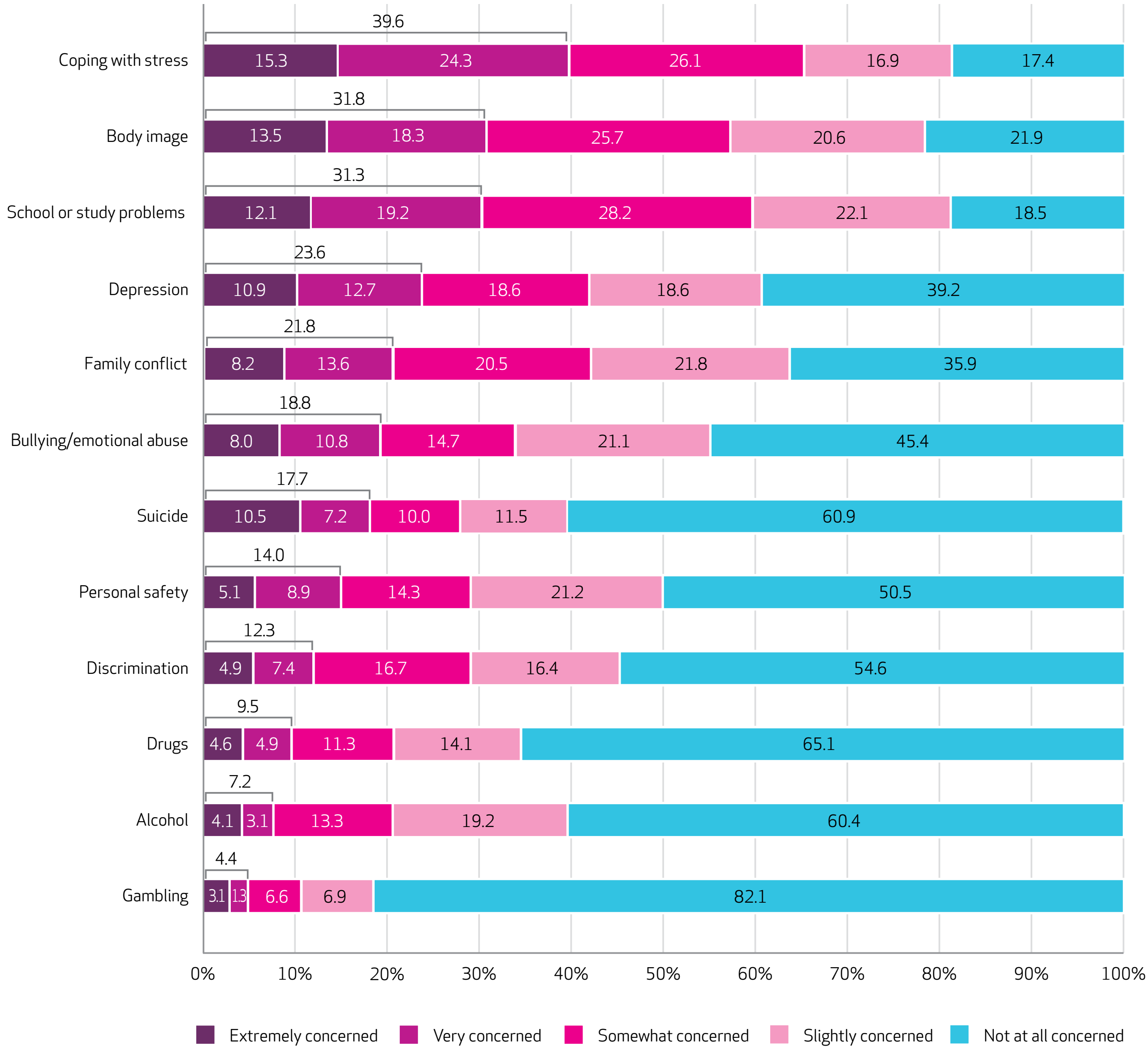
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 7.4. 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 Tasmania were *coping with stress*, *body image* and *school or study problems*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level, however, the order of the second and third items was reversed.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 39.6% of respondents from Tasmania indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (15.3%) or *very concerned* (24.3%) about this issue.
- *Body image* was a major concern for 31.8% (*extremely concerned*: 13.5%; *very concerned*: 18.3%) of young people, closely followed by *school or study problems*, with 31.3% either *extremely concerned* (12.1%) or *very concerned* (19.2%).
- Around one in five respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 7.4: Issues of personal concern to young people



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

Gender differences

Coping with stress was the top concern for both males and females in Tasmania, as highlighted in Table 7.7. For females, the second biggest personal concern was *school or study problems*, closely followed by *body image*. The second and third top concerns for male respondents were *body image* and *bullying/emotional abuse*. The proportion of females concerned about these (and many other issues) was notably higher than the proportion of males.

- For around half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 20.0%; *very concerned*: 31.7%), compared with around one in five males (*extremely concerned*: 8.1%; *very concerned*: 12.8%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 41.3% (*extremely concerned*: 16.7%; *very concerned*: 24.6%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 15.5% of males (*extremely concerned*: 4.7%; *very concerned*: 10.8%).
- While *body image* featured as a major concern for males, levels of concern among females were considerably higher, with 41.1% (*extremely concerned*: 17.0%; *very concerned*: 24.1%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 17.3% (*extremely concerned*: 8.0%; *very concerned*: 9.3%) of males. Similarly, *bullying/emotional abuse* was reported as a concern by a greater proportion of females (*extremely concerned*: 9.2%; *very concerned*: 11.8%) than males (*extremely concerned*: 6.1%; *very concerned*: 9.5%).
- For 30.3% of females (*extremely concerned*: 14.9%; *very concerned*: 15.4%) and 13.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 4.7%; *very concerned*: 8.7%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 7.7: 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	**20.0**	**31.7**	25.0	14.2	9.2
Body image	**17.0**	**24.1**	30.3	16.2	12.4
School or study problems	**16.7**	**24.6**	27.9	19.2	11.7
Depression	14.9	15.4	19.1	18.7	32.0
Family conflict	8.8	17.5	25.0	18.8	30.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	9.2	11.8	17.2	21.8	39.9
Suicide	12.5	8.8	10.8	13.8	54.2
Personal safety	3.7	11.6	17.8	24.1	42.7
Discrimination	5.4	7.5	18.8	17.9	50.4
Drugs	3.3	5.4	12.0	14.1	65.1
Alcohol	2.9	4.2	14.6	22.9	55.4
Gambling	2.5	0.8	6.2	7.9	82.6
Males	**Extremely concerned %**	**Very concerned %**	**Somewhat concerned %**	**Slightly concerned %**	**Not at all concerned %**
Coping with stress	**8.1**	**12.8**	27.5	21.5	30.2
Body image	**8.0**	**9.3**	18.7	27.3	36.7
School or study problems	4.7	10.8	28.4	26.4	29.7
Depression	4.7	8.7	18.0	18.0	50.7
Family conflict	7.4	7.4	12.8	27.0	45.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	**6.1**	**9.5**	10.8	19.6	54.1
Suicide	6.7	4.7	8.7	7.4	72.5
Personal safety	7.4	4.7	8.7	16.8	62.4
Discrimination	4.1	7.4	12.8	13.5	62.2
Drugs	6.8	4.1	9.5	14.3	65.3
Alcohol	6.0	1.3	11.4	13.4	67.8
Gambling	4.1	2.0	7.5	5.4	81.0

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

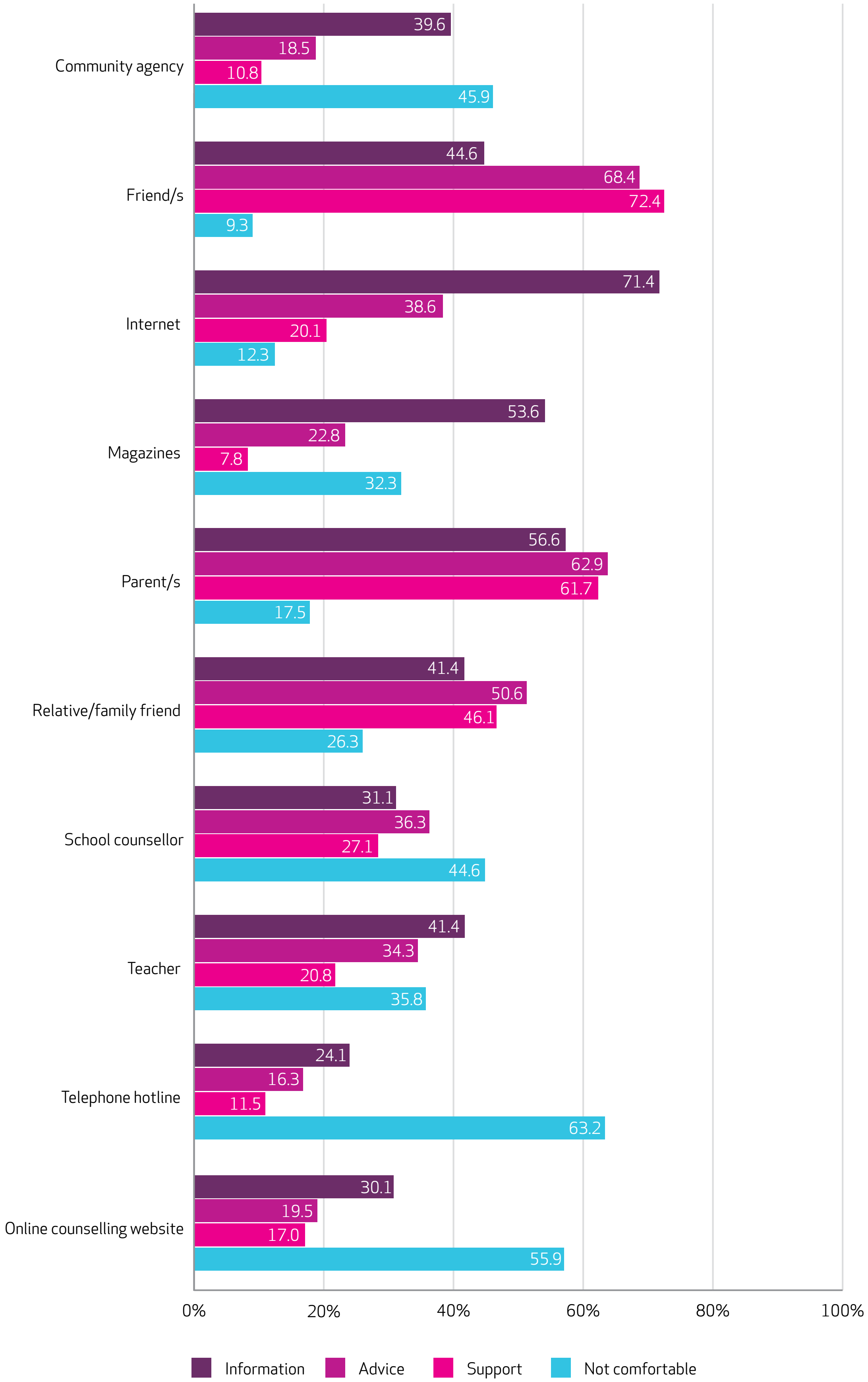
Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people from Tasmania, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people (71.4%), followed by *parent/s* (56.6%) and *magazines* (53.6%).
- Respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (68.4%), *parent/s* (62.9%) and *relatives/family friends* (50.6%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (72.4%) were again the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (61.7%) and *relatives/family friends* (46.1%).

- Over six in ten young people from Tasmania (63.2%) indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline* for *advice*, *support* or *information*, 55.9% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 45.9% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 7.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

Males and females from Tasmania were broadly similar in terms of where they were comfortable going for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (73.9%) and males (67.1%) from Tasmania. *Parent/s* were also important sources of *information* for both female (55.9%) and male (58.6%) respondents. Females ranked *magazines* highly as a source of *information* they felt comfortable going to (just above *parent/s* this year, at 59.6%). Males instead preferred *friend/s* as an *information* source, ranking them in third position (52.0%).
- Females were much more likely to get *information* (59.6%) and *advice* (27.3%) from *magazines* than males (44.1% and 15.8% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (70.6%) and males (65.1%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also important sources of *advice* for both females (63.7% and 53.1% respectively) and males (61.8% and 46.7% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were also the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (78.8%) and males (62.5%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as important sources of *support* by both females (64.5% and 48.6% respectively) and males (57.9% and 42.1% respectively).

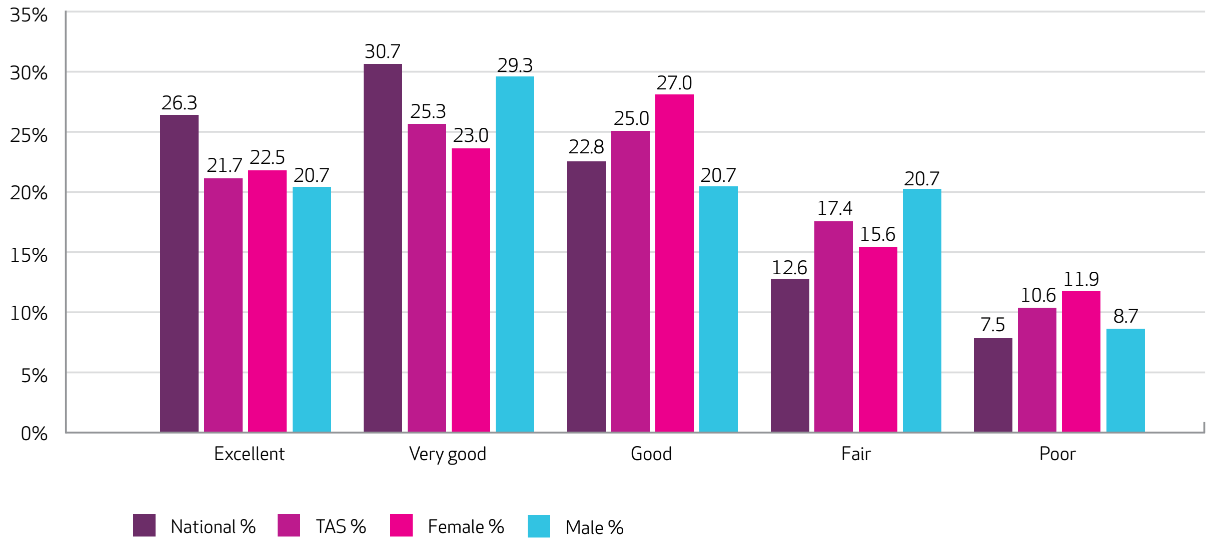
Table 7.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

Females	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	39.2	18.0	10.2	47.3
Friend/s	40.0	**70.6**	**78.8**	9.0
Internet	**73.9**	37.1	20.4	12.2
Magazines	**59.6**	27.3	8.6	29.4
Parent/s	**55.9**	**63.7**	**64.5**	18.4
Relative/family friend	38.8	**53.1**	**48.6**	26.1
School counsellor	29.4	37.1	30.2	**48.2**
Teacher	39.6	37.1	23.3	39.2
Telephone hotline	24.9	20.0	13.5	**64.9**
Online counselling website	32.7	22.9	18.0	**57.1**
Males	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	40.1	19.7	11.8	**43.4**
Friend/s	**52.0**	**65.1**	**62.5**	9.9
Internet	**67.1**	40.1	18.4	12.5
Magazines	44.1	15.8	6.6	36.8
Parent/s	**58.6**	**61.8**	**57.9**	15.8
Relative/family friend	46.1	**46.7**	**42.1**	26.3
School counsellor	34.2	35.5	22.4	38.2
Teacher	44.7	30.3	17.1	29.6
Telephone hotline	23.0	10.5	8.6	**59.9**
Online counselling website	26.3	14.5	15.8	**53.3**

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 the national data, the majority of respondents from Tasmania rated their family's ability to get along positively, with 21.7% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent*, 25.3% that it was *very good* and 25.0% that it was *good*. However, more than one in four young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (17.4%) or *poor* (10.6%). Male and female respondents gave broadly similar ratings of their family's ability to get along.

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 7.9. In 2013 the top three issues identified by young people from Tasmania were *equity and discrimination*, *population issues* and *employment*.

- Around three in ten young people from Tasmania identified *equity and discrimination* (28.5%) and *population issues* (28.2%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Just over one in five respondents identified *employment* (22.8%) and *politics and societal values* (21.1%) as major issues.
- Since 2011, *equity and discrimination* and *education* have both been increasingly identified by young people from Tasmania as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *alcohol and drugs* and *the environment* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

There were some differences in the issues identified as the most important in Australia today by male and female respondents from Tasmania. While *population issues* and *equity and discrimination* were identified in the top three issues by male and female Tasmanians, the other issue that made up their top three differed. For females, *equity and discrimination* was the number one issue, followed by *population issues* and then *employment*. For males, the top issue this year was *politics and societal values*, followed by *population issues* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Around three in ten male and female respondents from Tasmania (28.3% and 28.4% respectively) identified *population issues* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- A greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (31.2% compared with 23.3%) and *employment* (23.7% compared with 20.8%) as important issues.
- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (35.8% compared with 12.6%) as an important national issue.

Table 7.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	TAS 2013 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2012 %	TAS 2011 %
Equity and discrimination	**24.1**	**28.5**	**31.2**	**23.3**	19.1	17.8
Population issues	22.2	**28.2**	**28.4**	**28.3**	**32.5**	**21.2**
Employment	14.0	**22.8**	**23.7**	20.8	8.7	11.5
Politics and societal values	**24.6**	21.1	12.6	**35.8**	**25.5**	13.6
The economy and financial matters	**26.2**	16.9	17.2	15.8	**27.7**	17.2
Health	11.6	16.6	17.7	15.0	20.0	19.1
Mental health	15.2	15.4	20.5	6.7	7.6	10.5
Education	14.6	14.8	20.5	5.0	11.1	7.8
Alcohol and drugs	19.9	14.5	15.8	12.5	19.1	**34.8**
The environment	14.5	12.2	11.2	14.2	20.9	**34.4**
LGBT issues	6.7	11.9	11.6	11.7	10.0	2.7
Homelessness/housing	7.8	11.0	14.0	5.8	7.8	12.2
Bullying	10.9	8.0	9.8	5.0	8.9	14.1
Crime, safety and violence	11.2	6.2	7.0	5.0	7.4	9.9
International relations	2.8	5.0	3.3	8.3	3.3	4.4

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 7.10. The top three activities for young people from Tasmania, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work*. These were also the top three activities for young people aged 15-19 years from Tasmania in 2012 and 2011. 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 2013.
- Around half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (53.1%) or *student leadership activities* (49.9%).
- Nearly one third had participated in *environmental groups or activities* (30.7%) and *youth groups and clubs* (28.8%).
- Around one quarter of young people from Tasmania (26.2%) had participated in *religious groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 7.10 the top three activities for both genders were consistent with Tasmanian and national results. A larger proportion of male respondents than female respondents, however, were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, while females were much more likely to report participation in *volunteer work* than males.

- 75.2% of male respondents and 70.7% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (70.6% compared with 66.8%).
- A greater proportion of female than male respondents from Tasmania were involved in *volunteer work*, *arts/cultural/music activities* and *student leadership activities* (66.8%, 57.0% and 54.0% compared with 48.6%, 46.9% and 43.0% respectively).

Table 7.10: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	TAS 2013 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2012 %	TAS 2011 %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.9**	**72.3**	**70.7**	**75.2**	**78.1**	**60.7**
Sports (as a spectator)	**68.9**	**68.2**	**66.8**	**70.6**	**73.8**	**52.5**
Volunteer work	**55.6**	**59.9**	**66.8**	**48.6**	**51.4**	**30.6**
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.8	53.1	57.0	46.9	49.2	27.7
Student leadership activities	43.0	49.9	54.0	43.0	44.7	30.1
Environmental groups or activities	24.7	30.7	30.0	31.7	26.8	11.8
Youth groups and clubs	33.9	28.8	27.6	31.4	38.0	25.1
Religious groups or activities	32.6	26.2	27.0	25.4	25.7	17.9
Political groups or organisations	7.8	9.7	9.5	10.2	9.5	4.7

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year. In 2013 and 2012 respondents were asked "*In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?*" whereas in 2011 respondents were asked "*What activities are you involved in?*" Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was also expanded slightly in 2013 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

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

In 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents from Tasmania (59.7%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 26.6%; *3-9 hours*: 33.1%). Almost three in ten reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 21.2%; *20-29 hours*: 7.0%) and around one in eight reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 3.6%; *40 hours or more*: 8.5%). Male respondents from Tasmania were almost twice as likely as females to report spending *40 hours or more* a week on social networking sites (12.3% compared with 6.3%).

Table 7.11: Time spent on social networking sites

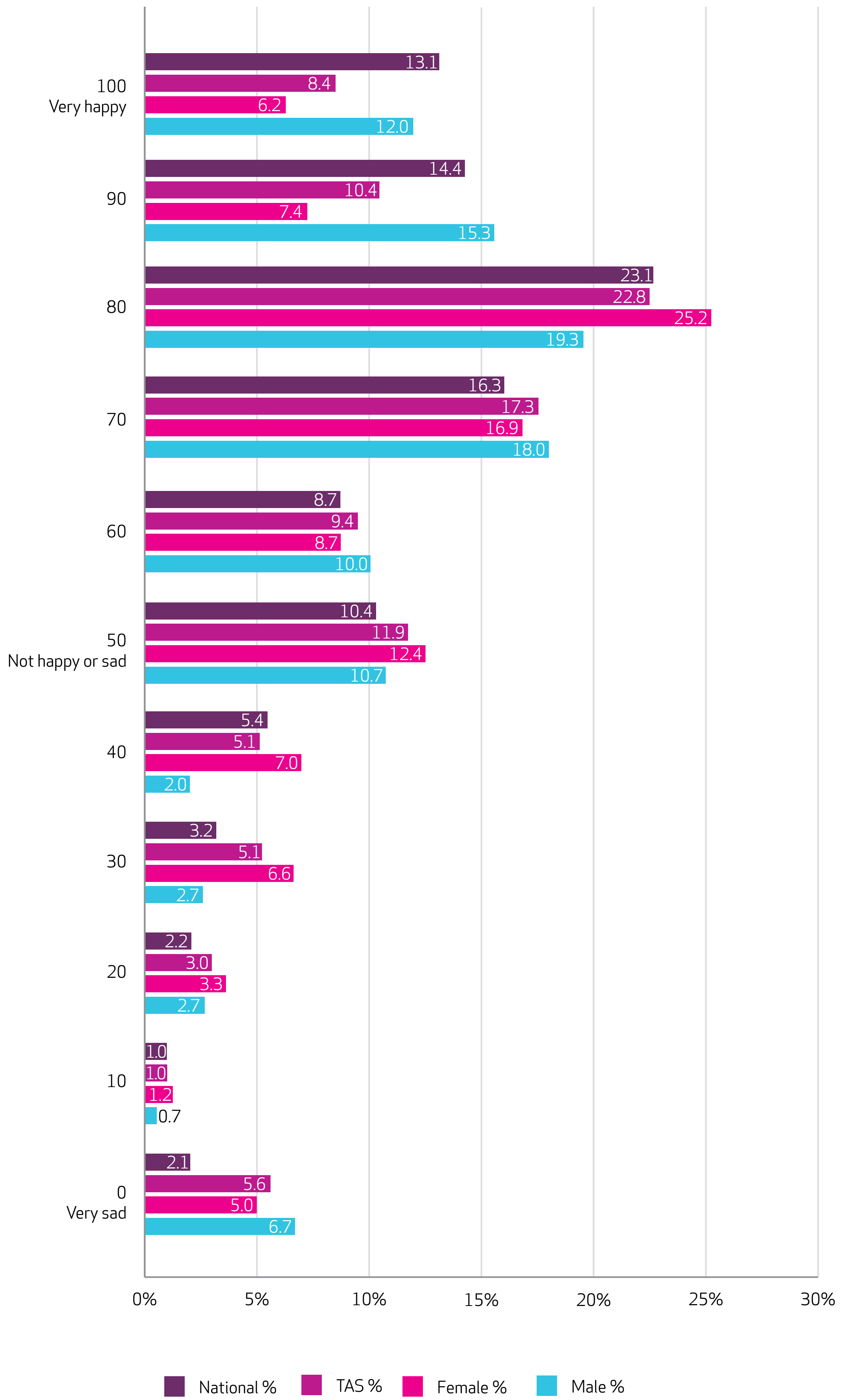
	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
2 hours or less	28.2	26.6	24.7	29.5
3 - 9 hours	31.6	33.1	33.1	32.9
10 - 19 hours	18.9	21.2	23.8	17.1
20 - 29 hours	9.4	7.0	7.5	6.2
30 - 39 hours	4.3	3.6	4.6	2.1
40 hours or more	7.6	8.5	6.3	12.3

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 7.7 shows, the majority of young people from Tasmania (58.9%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were almost twice as likely as female respondents to indicate they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (12.0% compared with 6.2%).

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

Figure 7.7: How happy young people are



How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 7.12 shows that, in line with the national and 2012 results, around two thirds of respondents from Tasmania felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Slightly less than one in seven young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Around two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (48.9%) or *very positive* (15.6%) about the future.
- Around one fifth of respondents (21.9%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 7.1% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 6.5% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from Tasmania were broadly similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (19.9% compared with 13.1%) or *very negative* (9.9% compared to 4.5%).

Table 7.12: Feelings about the future

	National %	TAS 2013 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2012 %	TAS 2011 %
Very positive	18.7	15.6	13.1	19.9	17.0	15.2
Positive	48.8	48.9	50.0	47.0	49.1	38.5
Neither positive nor negative	24.4	21.9	26.2	14.6	26.4	34.0
Negative	5.6	7.1	6.1	8.6	4.4	8.1
Very negative	2.5	6.5	4.5	9.9	3.0	4.2

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

Victoria

Profile of respondents

In total, 3,169 young people from Victoria (VIC) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013*.

Gender breakdown

Three fifths (60.2%) of Victorian respondents were female and 39.8% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 51 (1.7%) Victorian respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 38 (1.2%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 5 (0.2%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.3% identified as both). Similar proportions of male and female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (2.2% compared to 1.4%).

Language background other than English

453 (14.5%) Victorian respondents stated that they were born overseas and 695 (22.4%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 60 languages spoken at home in Victoria, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Italian and Greek.

Disability

A total of 108 (3.5%) Victorian respondents indicated that they had a disability, with more males (4.5%) than females (2.8%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in Victoria were (in order of frequency): learning disability, autism and physical disability.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 8.1, 97.6% of respondents from Victoria were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to report that they were studying full-time than male respondents (98.4% compared with 96.5%), while slightly more males (2.0%) than females (1.1%) were not studying at all.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. The majority of respondents from Victoria reported that they were either *very satisfied* (18.5%) or *satisfied* (56.6%) with their studies, compared to 15.2% and 57.4% respectively in 2012. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.1% and 4.5% respectively, compared to 1.4% and 4.7% in 2012). As shown in Table 8.2, Victorian males were slightly less likely than females to report feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (17.2% and 54.0% of males compared with 19.3% and 58.3% of females respectively).

Table 8.1: Participation in education

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	95.2	97.6	98.4	96.5
Studying part-time	1.8	1.0	0.6	1.5
Not studying	3.0	1.4	1.1	2.0

Table 8.2: Satisfaction with studies

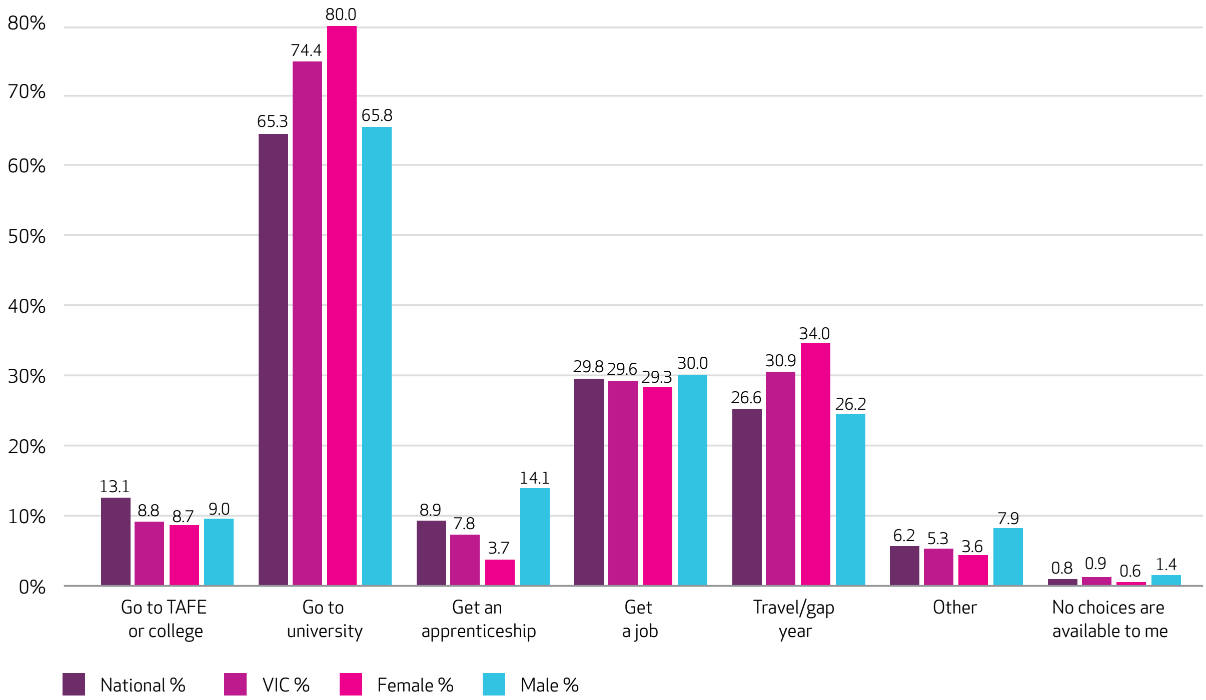
	National %	VIC 2013 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2012 %
Very satisfied	17.0	18.5	19.3	17.2	15.2
Satisfied	55.7	56.6	58.3	54.0	57.4
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.2	19.4	16.9	23.1	21.2
Dissatisfied	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.7
Very dissatisfied	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.4

Of those who were still at school in Victoria, 96.3% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were around three times as likely as females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.1% compared with 2.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 8.1 shows that nearly three quarters of respondents from Victoria planned to go to university after school (74.4%). Around three in ten respondents indicated plans to travel or go on a gap year (30.9%) or to get a job (29.6%) after school. Overall, 8.8% of Victorian young people planned to attend TAFE or college and 7.8% 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 Victoria, females were much more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (80.0% compared with 65.8% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year after school (34.0% compared with 26.2% of males). Males were more likely to be planning to undertake an apprenticeship (14.1% compared with 3.7% of females).

Figure 8.1: Plans after leaving school



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

Employment

Respondents 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 Victorian respondents. In line with the national data, only a tiny minority (0.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just over one third (34.5%) of respondents from Victoria reported part-time employment. Almost two thirds of respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 34.5% looking for work and 30.5% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from Victoria reported full-time employment (0.4% compared with 0.3% respectively), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (36.3% compared with 31.9%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (37.2% compared with 32.9%).

Table 8.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.4
Employed part-time	34.8	34.5	36.3	31.9
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.6	34.5	32.9	37.2
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	28.8	30.5	30.5	30.5

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

In 2013 young people who reported currently having paid work were asked to write down which industry they work in. The information provided by respondents was categorised and the top responses are listed in order of frequency in Table 8.4. The two dominant industries that Victorian respondents reported working in were *retail and consumer products* and *hospitality and tourism*.

- Similar proportions of young people from Victoria (around four in ten) reported working in either the *retail and consumer products* industry (42.8%) or the *hospitality and tourism* industry (40.2%).
- Other industries of note were *sport and recreation* (5.6%) and *trades and services* (5.3%). A wide range of other industries of employment were cited by a minority of respondents.

Gender differences

Males and females from Victoria were broadly similar in terms of the industries they were currently employed in.

- The *retail and consumer products* and *hospitality and tourism* industries were the two dominant employers of both male and female respondents from Victoria. The *retail and consumer products* industry was cited as the top employer of young males (43.9%) and the second largest employer of young females (42.2%) from Victoria, while the *hospitality and tourism* industry was the top employer of female respondents (43.2%) and the second largest employer of males (35.8%).
- The *sport and recreation* industry was the third most common employer of female respondents (employing 5.5% of females compared with 5.7% of males).
- The *trades and services* industry was the third biggest employer of males (employing 6.6% of males and 4.4% of females).

Table 8.4: Current industry of paid employment

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Retail and consumer products	**41.2**	**42.8**	**42.2**	**43.9**
Hospitality and tourism	**39.8**	**40.2**	**43.2**	**35.8**
Sport and recreation	4.8	**5.6**	**5.5**	5.7
Trades and services	**6.4**	5.3	4.4	**6.6**
Education and training	2.9	2.3	3.3	0.7

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

Respondents were also asked in 2013 if they had decided on what type of job or occupation they would like to have in the future and, if so, to specify their choice. This information was categorised according to industry and the top responses are displayed in Table 8.5. Overall, 57.5% of Victorian young people indicated that they knew what type of work they wanted in the future. Males were slightly more likely than females to have decided on a job or occupation (59.7% compared with 56.1%).

- The top industry that young people in Victoria expressed a desire to work in was the *healthcare and medical* industry (nominated by 24.5%).
- Other popular choices nominated by around one in ten respondents included roles in *advertising, arts and media* (11.9%), *education and training* (9.7%) and *trades and services* (8.6%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 8.5, there were notable differences in responses to this question between male and female respondents from Victoria.

- The most popular industry among female respondents, nominated by around one third, was the *healthcare and medical* industry (34.0%).
- Employment in the *education and training* industry was the second most common choice for females (12.9%), closely followed by *advertising, arts and media* (12.3%).
- The most common preference among males was for employment in the *trades and services* industry (15.3%).
- Male respondents' next most popular choices were roles in *advertising, arts and media* (11.2%) and the *healthcare and medical* industry (10.3%).

Table 8.5: Desired industry of future employment

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Healthcare and medical	**21.9**	**24.5**	**34.0**	**10.3**
Advertising, arts and media	**11.5**	**11.9**	**12.3**	**11.2**
Education and training	**10.9**	**9.7**	**12.9**	4.9
Trades and services	10.0	8.6	4.1	**15.3**
Legal	5.2	6.7	7.7	5.2
Design and architecture	4.9	6.6	6.4	6.9
Government and defence	6.9	5.5	3.5	8.6
Farming, animals and conservation	5.2	5.4	6.7	3.4
Engineering	5.7	5.3	1.9	10.2

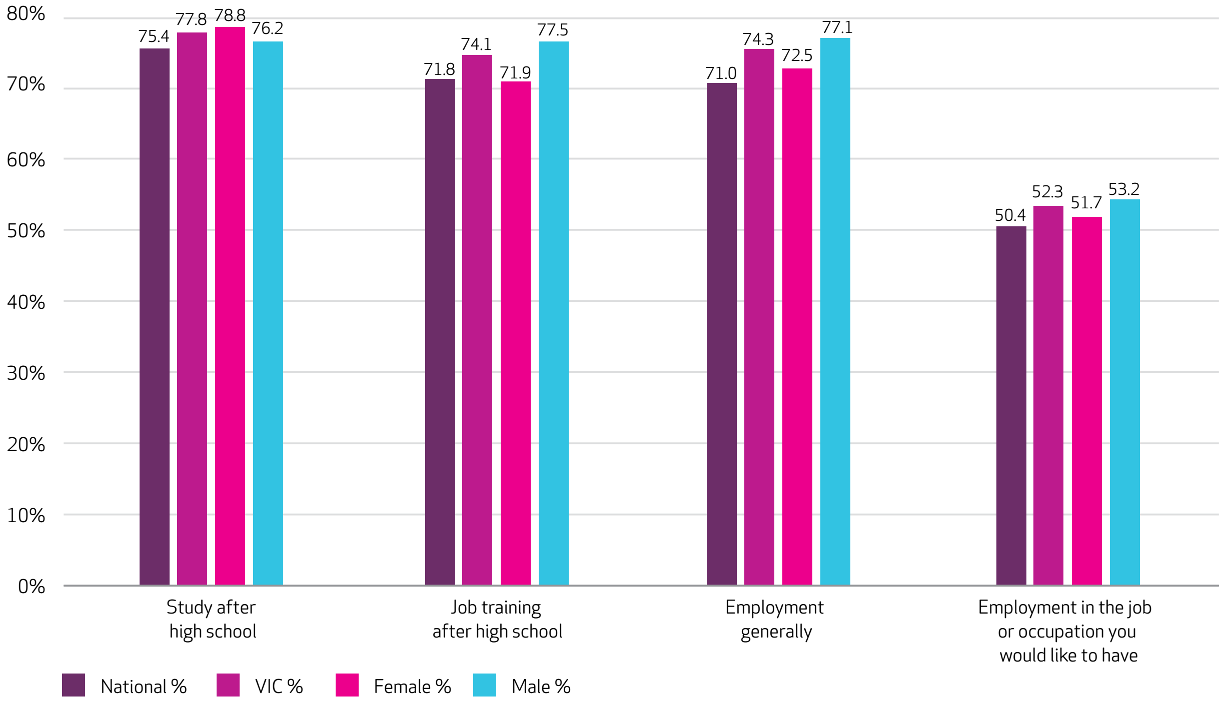
Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

In 2013 the survey also asked young people whether or not they thought that there were enough opportunities in their local area for *study after high school*, *job training after high school*, *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*. Figure 8.2 shows the percentage of respondents who perceived the level of local opportunities to be sufficient.

In line with the national results, around three quarters of Victorian young people indicated that they felt there were enough opportunities available in their local area for *study after high school* (77.8%), *job training after high school* (74.1%) and *employment generally* (74.3%). While encouraging, this means that around one quarter of Victorian respondents did not feel that there were enough opportunities for future study, training and employment available locally. When asked specifically about *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*, young people were divided in their views, with only around half (52.3%) indicating that they felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

Overall, males and females from Victoria indicated broadly similar views regarding the adequacy of opportunities in their local area. Males tended to be more optimistic than females, however, about the availability of local job related opportunities, particularly in relation to *job training after high school* (77.5% compared with 71.9%) and *employment generally* (77.1% compared with 72.5%).

Figure 8.2: Perceived sufficiency of opportunities in the local area



What do young people value?

In 2013 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. In line with both the national data and 2012 findings, the two most highly valued items for respondents from Victoria this year were *friendships* and *family relationships*. The next most valued item for Victorian respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (again consistent with the national results).

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 79.9% of respondents from Victoria (*extremely important*: 40.7%; *very important*: 39.2%). *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 76.5% of respondents (*extremely important*: 44.6%; *very important*: 31.9%).
- Around seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 35.6%; *very important*: 35.9%) and just over six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 29.6%; *very important*: 32.4%).
- Around three in ten Victorian respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 11.7%; *very important*: 21.0%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 10.2%; *very important*: 19.3%).

Figure 8.3: What young people value

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

Gender differences

Friendships and *family relationships* were ranked as the two most highly valued items by both males and females in Victoria, as shown in Table 8.6. However, more female respondents highly valued *friendships* and *family relationships* than their male counterparts. The third most valued item by both males and females in Victoria this year was *school or study satisfaction*. This is consistent with the 2012 results for females, whereas in 2012 males valued *physical and mental health* more highly.

- *Friendships* were highly valued by 84.2% of females (*extremely important*: 46.7%; *very important*: 37.5%) compared with 73.3% of males (*extremely important*: 31.7%; *very important*: 41.6%).
- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 81.3% of females (*extremely important*: 51.2%; *very important*: 30.1%) compared with 69.3% of males (*extremely important*: 34.6%; *very important*: 34.7%).
- 78.6% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 42.1%; *very important*: 36.5%) compared with 60.8% of males (*extremely important*: 25.7%; *very important*: 35.1%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by around two thirds of all females (*extremely important*: 32.1%; *very important*: 32.2%) and over half of all males (*extremely important*: 26.0%; *very important*: 32.8%) in Victoria.

Table 8.6: What young people value, by gender

Females	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**46.7**	**37.5**	11.0	3.3	1.5
Family relationships	**51.2**	**30.1**	12.0	5.0	1.8
School or study satisfaction	**42.1**	**36.5**	15.1	4.0	2.3
Physical and mental health	32.1	32.2	23.5	8.1	4.1
Financial security	11.2	23.0	30.9	18.8	16.1
Getting a job	10.2	20.8	28.9	22.2	17.9
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Friendships (other than family)	**31.7**	**41.6**	19.5	4.0	3.2
Family relationships	**34.6**	**34.7**	18.6	6.4	5.6
School or study satisfaction	**25.7**	**35.1**	25.4	8.2	5.6
Physical and mental health	26.0	32.8	24.2	9.4	7.6
Financial security	12.3	18.2	30.9	17.6	21.0
Getting a job	10.2	17.2	29.5	22.4	20.7

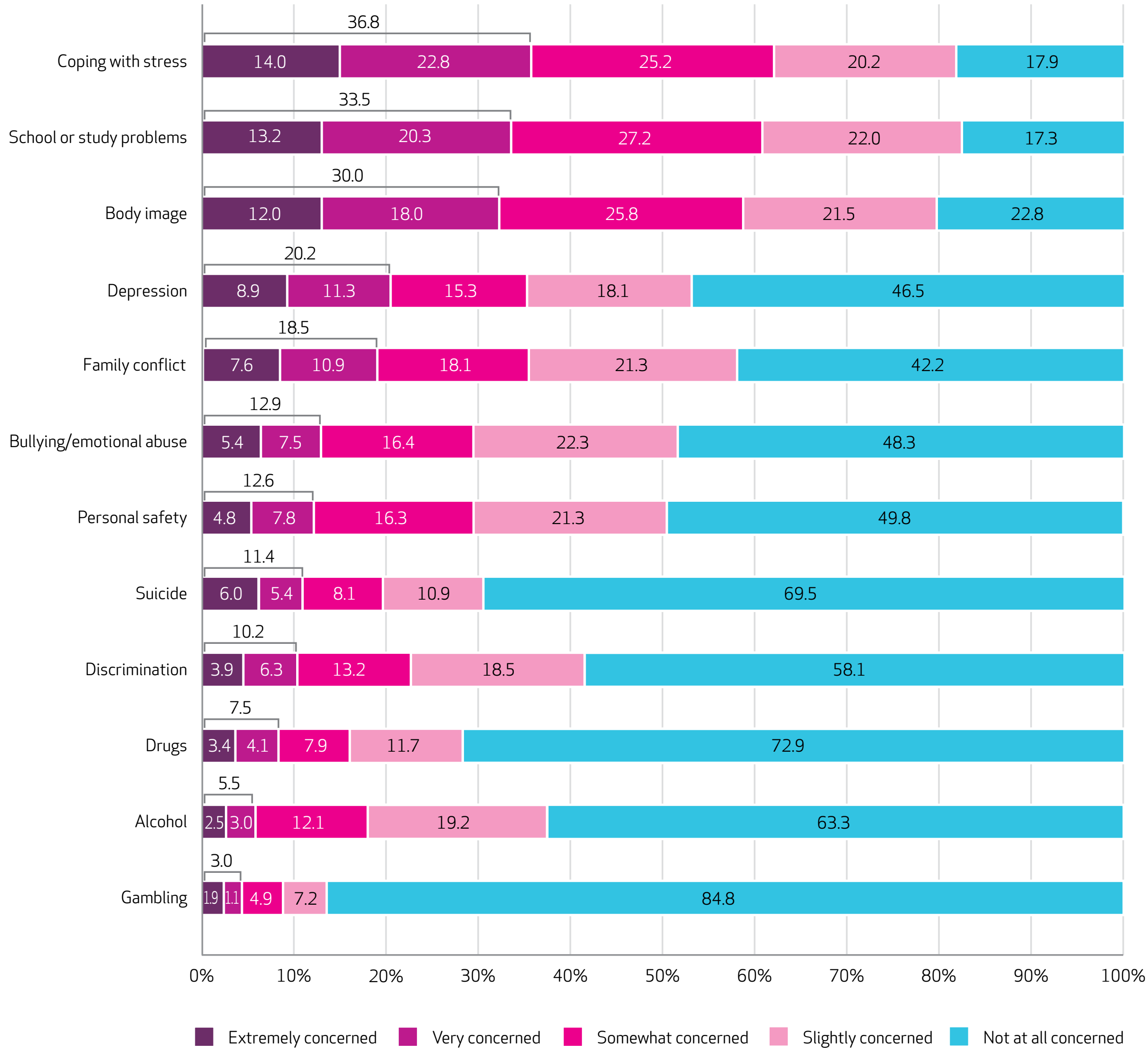
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 8.4. 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 Victorian young people 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 36.8% of respondents from Victoria indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (14.0%) or *very concerned* (22.8%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 33.5% (*extremely concerned*: 13.2%; *very concerned*: 20.3%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern with 12.0% of respondents *extremely concerned* and 18.0% *very concerned*.
- 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



Note: Items were ranked by summing over 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 Victoria, although the order of these issues of concern differed, as highlighted in Table 8.7. For females, the number one concern was *coping with stress*, followed by *body image* and then *school or study problems*. For males, the top issue of concern 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 just under half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 19.1%; *very concerned*: 28.4%), compared with around one in five males (*extremely concerned*: 6.4%; *very concerned*: 14.5%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems* with 40.4% (*extremely concerned*: 16.4%; *very concerned*: 24.0%) indicating that this was a major concern, compared with 23.3% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.5%; *very concerned*: 14.8%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 40.7% (*extremely concerned*: 16.6%; *very concerned*: 24.1%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 13.7% (*extremely concerned*: 5.0%; *very concerned*: 8.7%) of males.
- *Family conflict* was the third highest issue of concern for males, with 14.2% indicating that it was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 6.4%; *very concerned*: 7.8%) compared with 21.4% of females (*extremely concerned*: 8.5%; *very concerned*: 12.9%).
- For 24.9% of females (*extremely concerned*: 11.1%; *very concerned*: 13.8%) and 13.1% of males (*extremely concerned*: 5.6%; *very concerned*: 7.5%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 8.7: 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	**19.1**	**28.4**	28.2	16.2	8.1
School or study problems	**16.4**	**24.0**	28.2	20.6	10.9
Body image	**16.6**	**24.1**	27.5	19.4	12.4
Depression	11.1	13.8	18.0	19.3	37.8
Family conflict	8.5	12.9	20.6	21.5	36.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.6	9.1	18.6	23.5	42.3
Personal safety	5.7	9.5	18.0	23.5	43.3
Suicide	6.7	6.7	9.9	13.1	63.7
Discrimination	4.1	6.7	15.2	21.0	53.0
Drugs	3.0	4.3	8.9	12.6	71.1
Alcohol	2.1	2.9	14.0	20.6	60.5
Gambling	1.2	1.1	4.2	7.5	86.1
Males	**Extremely concerned %**	**Very concerned %**	**Somewhat concerned %**	**Slightly concerned %**	**Not at all concerned %**
Coping with stress	**6.4**	**14.5**	20.6	26.0	32.4
School or study problems	**8.5**	**14.8**	25.9	23.9	26.9
Body image	5.0	8.7	23.1	24.8	38.4
Depression	5.6	7.5	11.3	16.4	59.3
Family conflict	**6.4**	**7.8**	14.3	20.8	50.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.7	5.1	13.3	20.6	57.3
Personal safety	3.6	5.2	13.8	18.0	59.4
Suicide	5.0	3.5	5.5	7.8	78.2
Discrimination	3.6	5.8	10.1	14.8	65.7
Drugs	3.9	3.9	6.5	10.3	75.4
Alcohol	3.0	3.3	9.2	17.1	67.4
Gambling	3.1	1.3	5.9	6.8	82.8

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

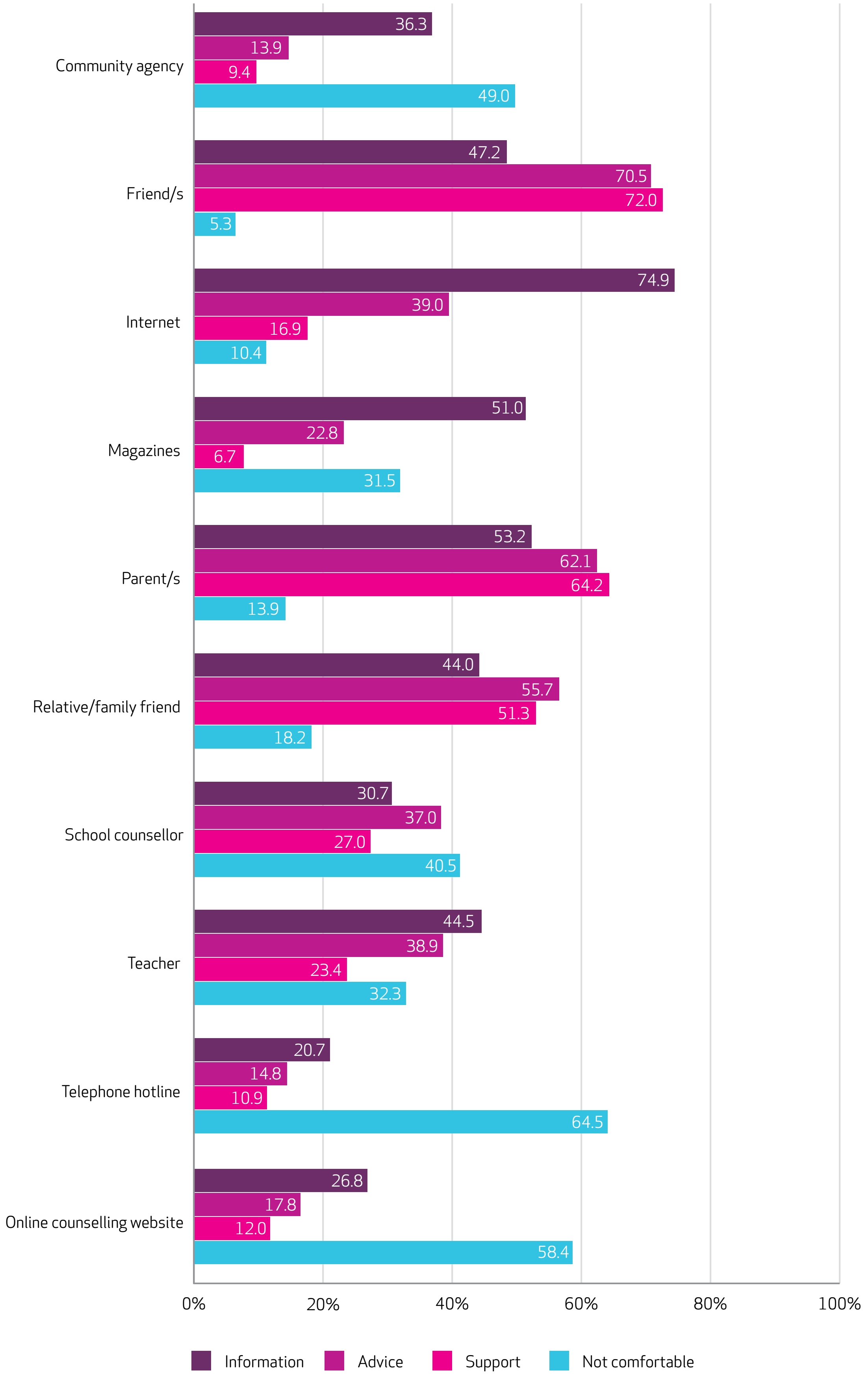
Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for Victorian young people, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people (74.9%), followed by *parent/s* (53.2%) and *magazines* (51.0%).
- Respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (70.5%), *parent/s* (62.1%) and *relatives/family friends* (55.7%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (72.0%) were again the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (64.2%) and *relatives/family friends* (51.3%).

- Almost two thirds of Victorian young people (64.5%) indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline* for *advice*, *support* or *information*, 58.4% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 49.0% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 8.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

As per the national findings, males and females from Victoria were broadly similar in terms of where they were comfortable going for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (77.4%) and males (71.1%) from Victoria. *Parent/s* were also important sources of *information* for both female (53.0%) and male (53.7%) respondents. Females ranked *magazines* highly as a source of *information* they felt comfortable going to (just above *parent/s* this year, at 56.0%). Males instead preferred *friend/s* as an *information* source, ranking them in third position (52.7%).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (73.8%) and males (65.4%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also important sources of *advice* for both females (63.3% and 56.5% respectively) and males (60.4% and 54.5% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were also the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (78.8%) and males (61.9%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as important sources of *support* by both females (67.4% and 54.9% respectively) and males (59.4% and 45.9% respectively).

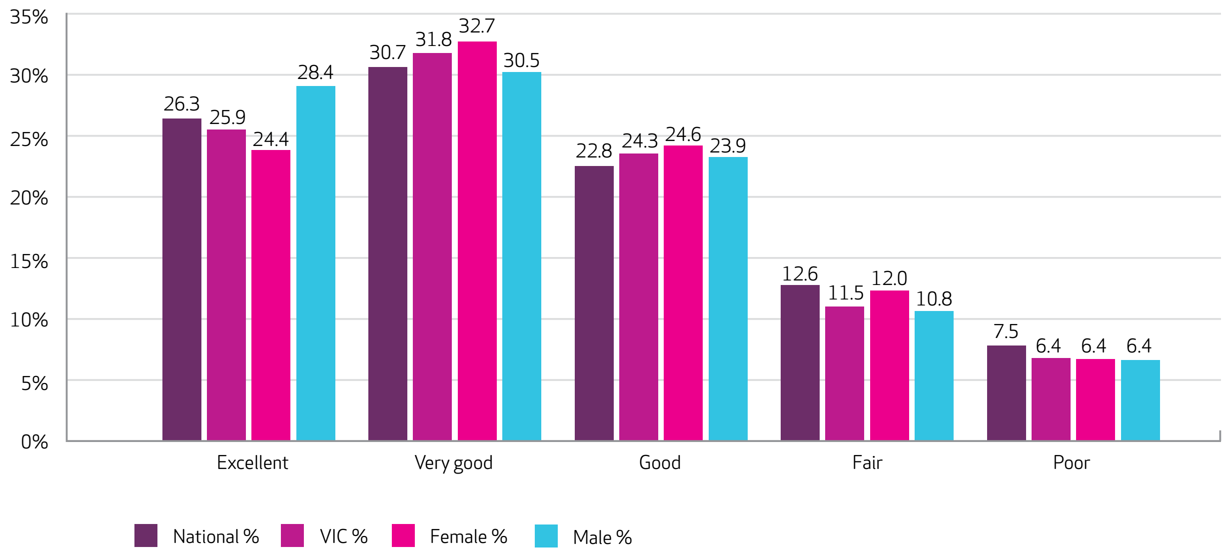
Table 8.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

Females	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	37.4	13.8	9.5	**50.1**
Friend/s	43.6	**73.8**	**78.8**	4.4
Internet	**77.4**	40.7	16.6	9.4
Magazines	**56.0**	28.3	6.0	27.1
Parent/s	**53.0**	**63.3**	**67.4**	14.8
Relative/family friend	41.1	**56.5**	**54.9**	19.1
School counsellor	31.3	40.5	28.4	40.5
Teacher	43.3	38.9	25.0	34.4
Telephone hotline	21.0	16.3	11.5	**65.7**
Online counselling website	28.2	19.9	12.6	**58.7**
Males	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	34.4	13.9	9.2	**47.5**
Friend/s	**52.7**	**65.4**	**61.9**	6.8
Internet	**71.1**	36.5	17.3	12.1
Magazines	43.6	14.6	7.6	38.2
Parent/s	**53.7**	**60.4**	**59.4**	12.6
Relative/family friend	48.6	**54.5**	**45.9**	16.9
School counsellor	29.7	31.8	24.8	40.7
Teacher	46.6	39.1	21.0	29.3
Telephone hotline	20.3	12.5	9.9	**62.7**
Online counselling website	24.6	14.5	11.0	**58.2**

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 8.6 shows that, in line with the national data, the majority of Victorian respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively, with 25.9% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.8% 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* (11.5%) or *poor* (6.4%). 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 8.9. In 2013 the top three issues identified by Victorian young people were *equity and discrimination*, *politics and societal values* and *population issues*.

- Around three in ten young people from Victoria identified *equity and discrimination* (29.1%) as the most important issue in Australia today.
- Just over one quarter of respondents identified *politics and societal values* (27.8%) and *population issues* (25.1%) as major issues.
- Since 2011, *equity and discrimination*, *politics and societal values*, *mental health*, *education* and *employment* have all been increasingly identified by Victorian young people as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *alcohol and drugs*, *the environment* and *crime, safety and violence* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

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

- A greater proportion of females than males identified *equity and discrimination* (31.5% compared with 25.7%) and *mental health* (20.8% compared with 7.5%) as important national issues.
- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* as a major issue facing Australia today (34.6% compared with 23.1%).
- Females identified *population issues* as their second most important issue (24.8% compared with 25.6% of males), while for males *the economy and financial matters* ranked in second position (26.9% compared with 20.1% of females).

Table 8.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	VIC 2013 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2012 %	VIC 2011 %
Equity and discrimination	**24.1**	**29.1**	**31.5**	**25.7**	**21.4**	20.5
Politics and societal values	**24.6**	**27.8**	**23.1**	**34.6**	17.6	14.8
Population issues	22.2	**25.1**	**24.8**	25.6	**30.4**	**25.2**
The economy and financial matters	**26.2**	22.8	20.1	**26.9**	**31.4**	21.2
Alcohol and drugs	19.9	19.2	18.8	19.7	20.7	**31.6**
Mental health	15.2	15.4	20.8	7.5	15.0	13.9
The environment	14.5	14.9	16.3	12.7	18.6	**37.7**
Crime, safety and violence	11.2	12.5	13.1	11.6	14.9	18.4
Education	14.6	12.5	14.0	10.5	10.3	5.1
Employment	14.0	11.7	9.5	15.0	8.8	4.2
Health	11.6	11.2	13.2	8.3	15.0	13.4
LGBT issues	6.7	9.0	11.1	6.0	9.2	2.7
Bullying	10.9	8.9	11.6	4.8	11.0	12.1
Homelessness/housing	7.8	7.0	8.6	4.7	7.0	8.8

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 8.10. The top two activities for Victorian young people, as they were nationally, were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. These were also the top two activities for young people aged 15-19 years from Victoria in 2012 and 2011. The third most common activity for Victorian respondents this year was *arts/cultural/music activities*, closely followed by *volunteer work*. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the two most popular activities for young people from Victoria in 2013.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (53.9%) and *volunteer work* (53.2%).
- Over four in ten young people reported participation in *student leadership activities* (42.7%) and around three in ten had participated in *youth groups and clubs* (30.3%) and *religious groups or activities* (28.1%).
- Around one quarter of Victorian young people (25.3%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 8.10 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with Victorian and national results, although a larger proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for Victorian males was *volunteer work*, while for females it was *arts/cultural/music activities*.

- 80.5% of male respondents and 76.3% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (76.7% compared with 69.7%).
- Despite *volunteer work* ranking more highly up the list for male respondents, a greater proportion of females than males from Victoria were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities*, *volunteer work* and *student leadership activities* (60.0%, 58.6% and 47.1% compared with 44.7%, 45.1% and 36.0% respectively).

Table 8.10: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	VIC 2013 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2012 %	VIC 2011 %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.9**	**78.0**	**76.3**	**80.5**	**79.4**	**67.0**
Sports (as a spectator)	**68.9**	**72.5**	**69.7**	**76.7**	**72.5**	**54.6**
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.8	**53.9**	**60.0**	44.7	53.3	27.5
Volunteer work	**55.6**	53.2	58.6	**45.1**	**57.9**	**30.1**
Student leadership activities	43.0	42.7	47.1	36.0	49.4	27.8
Youth groups and clubs	33.9	30.3	31.2	29.0	35.8	22.5
Religious groups or activities	32.6	28.1	31.8	22.6	33.0	17.5
Environmental groups or activities	24.7	25.3	25.1	25.5	28.7	10.7
Political groups or organisations	7.8	9.1	8.2	10.5	11.6	4.5

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year. In 2013 and 2012 respondents were asked "*In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?*" whereas in 2011 respondents were asked "*What activities are you involved in?*" Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was also expanded slightly in 2013 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

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

In 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of Victorian respondents (61.2%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 27.3%; *3-9 hours*: 33.9%). Over one quarter reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 19.4%; *20-29 hours*: 8.0%) and more than one in ten reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 4.1%; *40 hours or more*: 7.3%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate spending only *2 hours or less* a week on social networking sites (31.3% compared with 24.7%).

Table 8.11: Time spent on social networking sites

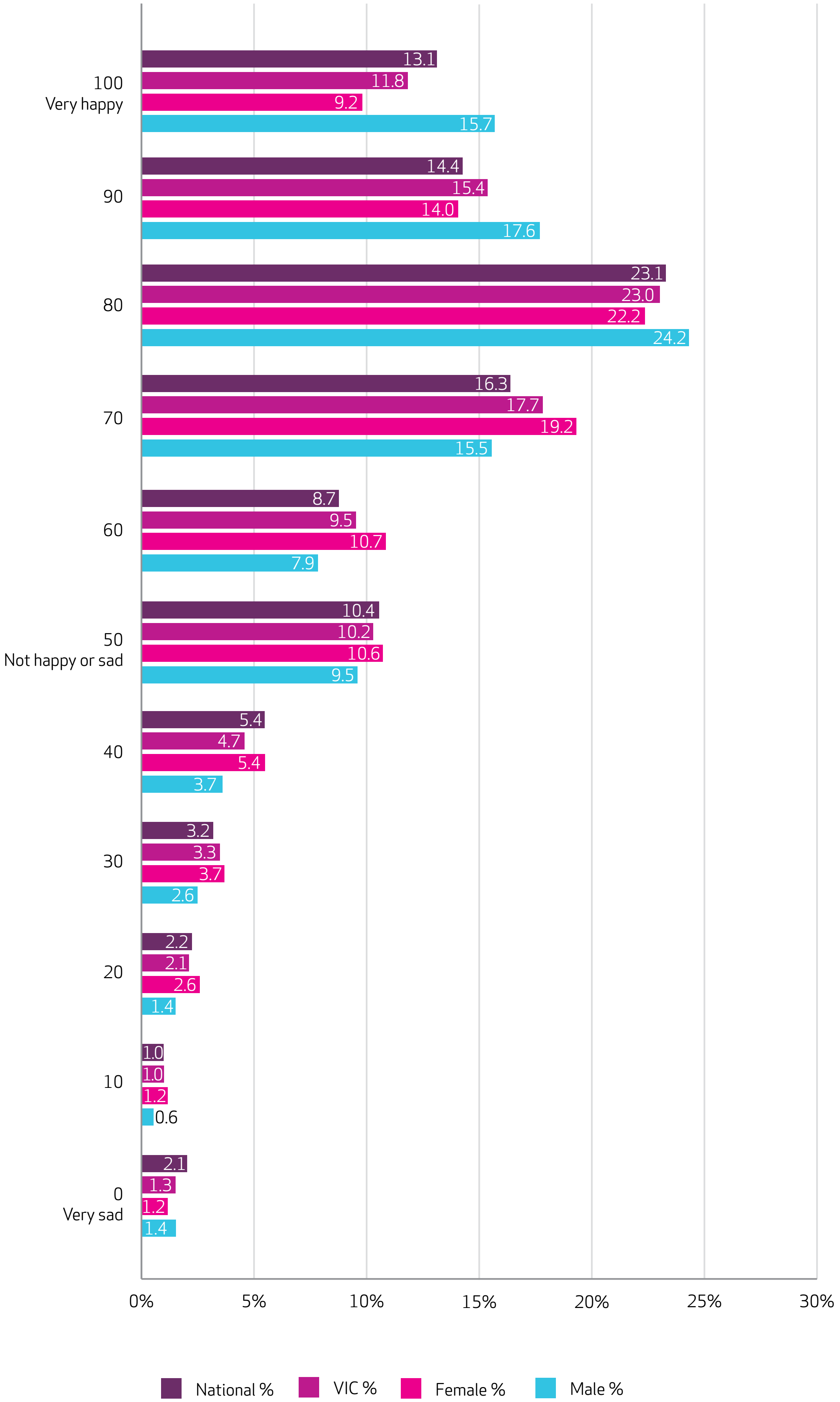
	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
2 hours or less	28.2	27.3	24.7	31.3
3 - 9 hours	31.6	33.9	33.4	34.5
10 - 19 hours	18.9	19.4	19.8	18.8
20 - 29 hours	9.4	8.0	9.2	6.1
30 - 39 hours	4.3	4.1	5.1	2.7
40 hours or more	7.6	7.3	7.7	6.5

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 8.7 shows, the majority of Victorian young people (67.9%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were similar for both males and females, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (15.7% compared with 9.2%).

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

Figure 8.7: How happy young people are



How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 8.12 shows that, in line with the national and 2012 results, more than two thirds of Victorian respondents felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Over two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (50.7%) or *very positive* (17.7%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (23.7%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 5.8% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 2.1% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from Victoria were broadly similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (21.4% compared with 15.2%).

Table 8.12: Feelings about the future

	National %	VIC 2013 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2012 %	VIC 2011 %
Very positive	18.7	17.7	15.2	21.4	19.8	20.8
Positive	48.8	50.7	50.7	50.6	50.3	45.0
Neither positive nor negative	24.4	23.7	25.4	21.1	23.0	25.8
Negative	5.6	5.8	6.4	4.9	5.1	5.3
Very negative	2.5	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.8	3.0

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

Western Australia

Profile of respondents

In total, 1,235 young people from Western Australia (WA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2013*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (53.1%) of the respondents from WA were female and 46.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 78 (6.6%) respondents from WA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 66 (5.6%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 8 (0.7%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.3% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (8.0% compared to 5.4%).

Language background other than English

368 (30.8%) respondents from WA stated that they were born overseas and 323 (27.4%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 50 languages spoken at home in WA, the most common were (in order of frequency): Afrikaans, Chinese, Indonesian, French and Arabic.

Disability

A total of 73 (6.2%) respondents from WA indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (7.4%) than females (5.1%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in WA were (in order of frequency): learning disability, Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD) and autism.

Detailed results

Education

As indicated in Table 9.1, 91.8% of respondents from WA were studying full-time. Female respondents were slightly more likely to respond that they were studying full-time than male respondents (93.2% compared with 90.1%), while a slightly greater proportion of males (6.6%) than females (5.1%) were not studying at all.

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. The majority of respondents from WA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.2%) or *satisfied* (53.9%) with their studies, compared to 13.3% and 50.1% respectively in 2012. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.5% and 4.9% respectively, compared to 3.4% and 7.1% in 2012). As shown in Table 9.2, males and females from WA reported similar levels of satisfaction with their studies.

Table 9.1: Participation in education

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	95.2	91.8	93.2	90.1
Studying part-time	1.8	2.4	1.7	3.3
Not studying	3.0	5.8	5.1	6.6

Table 9.2: Satisfaction with studies

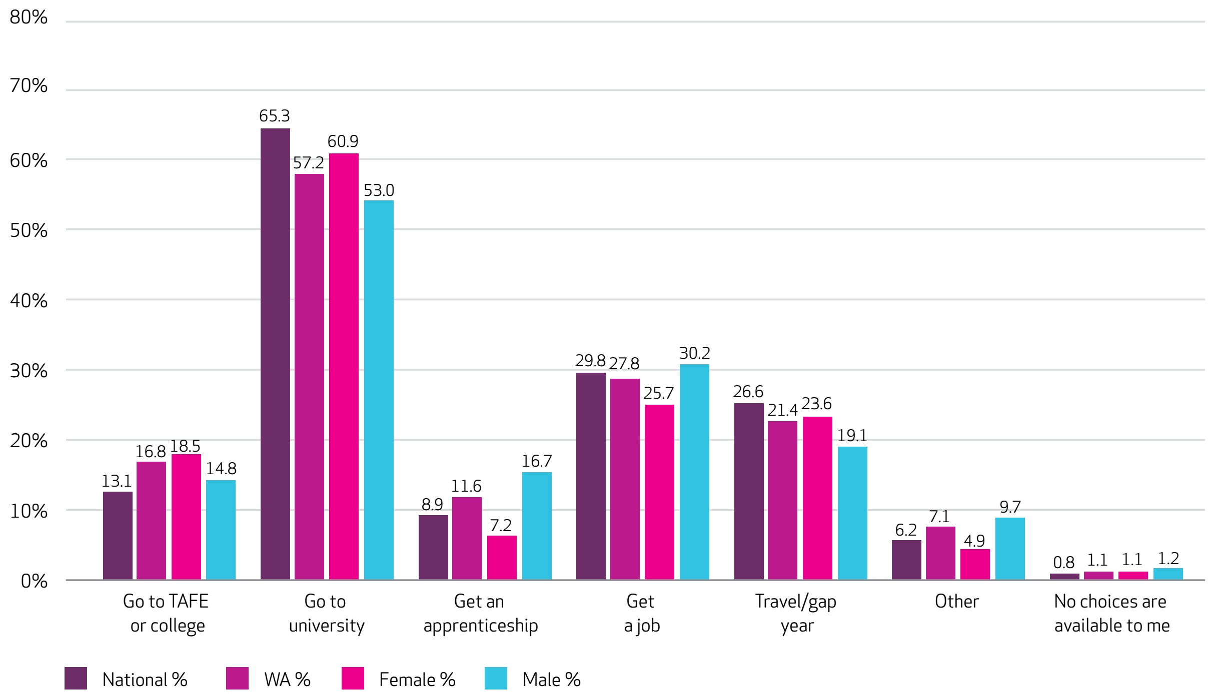
	National %	WA 2013 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2012 %
Very satisfied	17.0	14.2	14.7	13.5	13.3
Satisfied	55.7	53.9	55.0	52.8	50.1
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.2	24.5	22.8	26.5	26.1
Dissatisfied	4.4	4.9	4.8	5.1	7.1
Very dissatisfied	1.6	2.5	2.8	2.1	3.4

Of those who were still at school in WA, 94.2% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Males were slightly more likely than females to indicate that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.7% compared with 5.1% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they were planning to do after leaving school. Figure 9.1 shows that over half of respondents from WA planned to go to university after school (57.2%). Many respondents also indicated plans to get a job (27.8%) and to travel or go on a gap year (21.4%) after school. Overall, 16.8% of young people from WA planned to attend TAFE or college and 11.6% 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, females were more likely than males to say that they planned to do so (60.9% compared with 53.0% respectively). Female respondents were also more likely to report plans to travel or go on a gap year (23.6% compared with 19.1% of males) or go to TAFE or college (18.5% compared with 14.8%) after school. Males were more likely to be planning to get a job (30.2% compared with 25.7%) or to undertake an apprenticeship (16.7% compared with 7.2% of females).

Figure 9.1: Plans after leaving school



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

Employment

Respondents 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 WA. In line with the national data, only a small minority (2.0%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, given the percentage of respondents who were in full-time education this is not surprising. Just over three in ten (31.3%) respondents from WA reported part-time employment. Around two thirds of respondents reported that they were not in paid employment, with 34.2% looking for work and 32.6% not looking for work.

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from WA reported full-time employment (1.7% compared with 2.3% respectively), while female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be employed part-time (36.6% compared with 25.5%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be looking for work (37.5% compared with 30.9%).

Table 9.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.8	2.0	2.3	1.7
Employed part-time	34.8	31.3	36.6	25.5
Not in paid employment, looking for work	35.6	34.2	30.9	37.5
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	28.8	32.6	30.2	35.3

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

In 2013 young people who reported currently having paid work were asked to write down which industry they work in. The information provided by respondents was categorised and the top responses are listed in order of frequency in Table 9.4. The two dominant industries that respondents from WA reported working in were *retail and consumer products* and *hospitality and tourism*.

- Around four in ten young people from WA reported working in the *retail and consumer products* industry (42.9%) and one third reported working in the *hospitality and tourism* industry (33.3%).
- Other industries of note were *trades and services* (5.7%) and *sport and recreation* (4.5%). A wide range of other industries of employment were cited by a minority of respondents.

Gender differences

Males and females from WA were broadly similar in terms of the industries they were currently employed in.

- The *retail and consumer products* industry was the most commonly cited employer of both female and male respondents who reported having paid work (employing 48.7% and 34.3% respectively). This was closely followed by the *hospitality and tourism* industry, which was cited as employing 33.7% of young males and 32.8% of young females from WA.
- The *trades and services* industry was the third most common employer of male respondents (employing 10.3% compared with 2.6% of females), while the *education and training* industry was the third most common employer of female respondents (employing 4.5% compared with 0.6% of males).

Table 9.4: Current industry of paid employment

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Retail and consumer products	**41.2**	**42.9**	**48.7**	**34.3**
Hospitality and tourism	**39.8**	**33.3**	**32.8**	**33.7**
Trades and services	**6.4**	**5.7**	2.6	**10.3**
Sport and recreation	4.8	4.5	3.4	6.3
Farming, animals and conservation	1.5	3.6	1.9	6.3
Education and training	2.9	2.9	**4.5**	0.6

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

Respondents were also asked in 2013 if they had decided on what type of job or occupation they would like to have in the future and, if so, to specify their choice. This information was categorised according to industry and the top responses are displayed in Table 9.5. Overall, 61.4% of young people from WA indicated that they knew what type of work they wanted in the future. Males and females were almost equally likely to have decided on a job or occupation (61.8% and 61.2% respectively).

- The top industry that young people in WA expressed a desire to work in was the *healthcare and medical* industry (nominated by 20.6%).
- Other popular choices nominated by around one in ten respondents included roles in *trades and services* (11.7%) and *advertising, arts and media* (11.1%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 9.5, there were notable differences in responses to this question between male and female respondents from WA.

- The most popular industry among female respondents, nominated by around three in ten, was the *healthcare and medical* industry (29.4%).
- Employment in *advertising, arts and media* was the second most common choice for females (12.8%), closely followed by *education and training* (11.5%).
- The most common preference among males was for employment in the *trades and services* industry (20.3%).
- Male respondents' next most popular choices were roles in *engineering* (12.6%) or the *healthcare and medical* industry (10.6%).

Table 9.5: Desired industry of future employment

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Healthcare and medical	**21.9**	**20.6**	**29.4**	**10.6**
Trades and services	10.0	**11.7**	4.2	**20.3**
Advertising, arts and media	**11.5**	**11.1**	**12.8**	9.4
Education and training	**10.9**	7.4	**11.5**	2.9
Engineering	5.7	7.0	2.1	**12.6**
Sport and recreation	4.1	6.2	4.4	7.9
Farming, animals and conservation	5.2	6.1	8.1	3.8
Government and defence	6.9	5.9	4.7	7.4

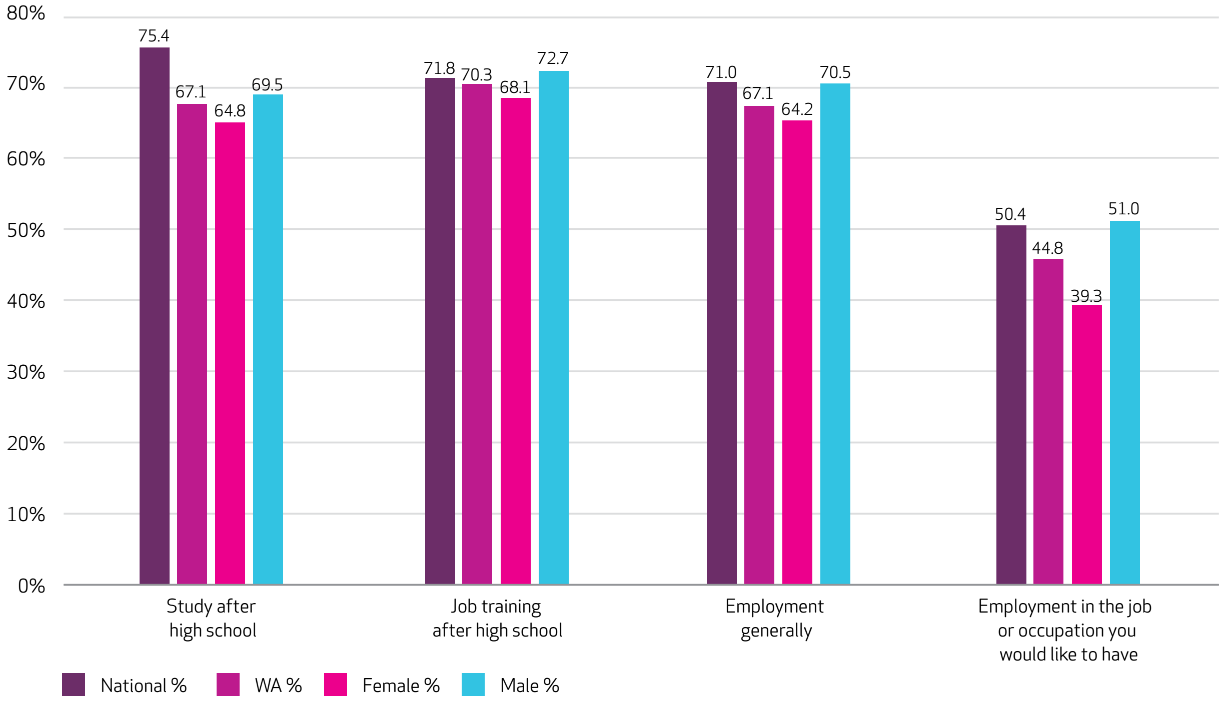
Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

In 2013 the survey also asked young people whether or not they thought that there were enough opportunities in their local area for *study after high school*, *job training after high school*, *employment generally* and *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*. Figure 9.2 shows the percentage of respondents who perceived the level of local opportunities to be sufficient.

Just over two thirds of young people from WA (67.1%) indicated that they felt there were enough opportunities for *study after high school* available in their local area, somewhat less than the 75.4% nationally. A majority of respondents also suggested that there were sufficient local opportunities for *job training after high school* (70.3%) and *employment generally* (67.1%). While encouraging, this means that around three in ten respondents from WA did not feel that there were enough opportunities for future study and employment available locally. When asked specifically about *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have*, less than half (44.8%) of WA young people felt the level of local opportunities was sufficient.

Overall, males and females from WA reported broadly similar views regarding the adequacy of opportunities in their local area. Male respondents, however, tended to be slightly more optimistic, particularly about the availability of local opportunities for *employment in the job or occupation you would like to have* (with 51.0% indicating there were enough opportunities compared to only 39.3% of females).

Figure 9.2: Perceived sufficiency of opportunities in the local area

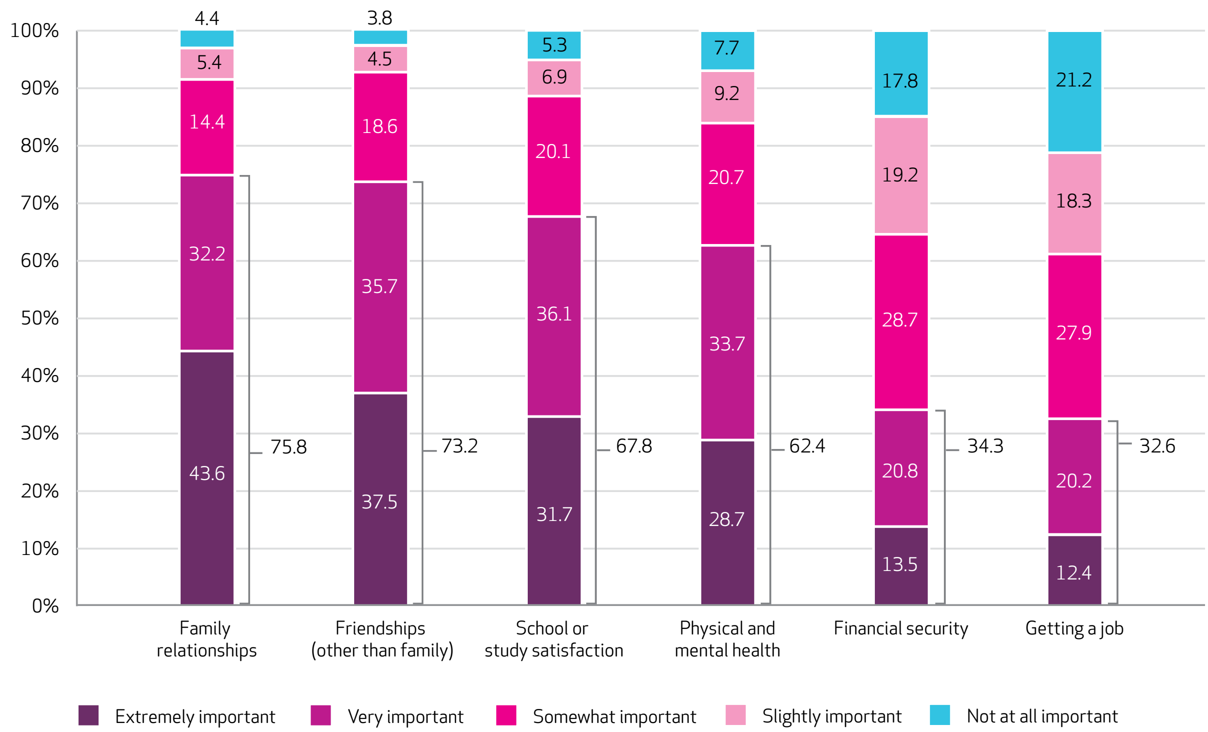


What do young people value?

In 2013 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. The two most highly valued items for respondents from WA this year were *family relationships* and *friendships*. These were the same top two items identified nationally and in 2012, although the order of the items was reversed (with *friendships* ranked more highly than *family relationships* both last year and at a national level). The next most valued item for WA respondents was *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *physical and mental health* (consistent with the national results).

- *Family relationships* were valued highly by 75.8% of respondents (*extremely important*: 43.6%; *very important*: 32.2%). *Friendships* were also valued highly by 73.2% of respondents from WA (*extremely important*: 37.5%; *very important*: 35.7%).
- Just over two thirds of respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 31.7%; *very important*: 36.1%) and six in ten highly valued *physical and mental health* (*extremely important*: 28.7%; *very important*: 33.7%).
- Around one third of WA respondents placed a high value on *financial security* (*extremely important*: 13.5%; *very important*: 20.8%) and *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 12.4%; *very important*: 20.2%).

Figure 9.3: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked by summing over 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 9.6. However, more female respondents highly valued *family relationships* and *friendships* than their male counterparts. The third most valued item by both males and females in WA this year was *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 77.7% of females (*extremely important*: 45.5%; *very important*: 32.2%) compared with 73.6% of males (*extremely important*: 41.4%; *very important*: 32.2%).
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 77.8% of females (*extremely important*: 40.3%; *very important*: 37.5%) compared with 68.1% of males (*extremely important*: 34.5%; *very important*: 33.6%).
- 75.2% of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 37.9%; *very important*: 37.3%) compared with 59.3% of males (*extremely important*: 24.6%; *very important*: 34.7%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by around two thirds of all females (*extremely important*: 32.1%; *very important*: 35.2%) and by over half of all males (*extremely important*: 24.9%; *very important*: 31.8%) in WA.

Table 9.6: What young people value, by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	**45.5**	**32.2**	13.9	4.7	3.6
Friendships (other than family)	**40.3**	**37.5**	15.5	3.6	3.1
School or study satisfaction	**37.9**	**37.3**	15.5	5.4	3.9
Physical and mental health	32.1	35.2	18.5	8.2	6.0
Financial security	13.5	21.6	29.3	19.1	16.5
Getting a job	12.7	21.9	29.0	17.1	19.4
Males	**Extremely important %**	**Very important %**	**Somewhat important %**	**Slightly important %**	**Not at all important %**
Family relationships	**41.4**	**32.2**	14.6	6.3	5.4
Friendships (other than family)	**34.5**	**33.6**	21.7	5.6	4.5
School or study satisfaction	**24.6**	**34.7**	25.2	8.6	6.8
Physical and mental health	24.9	31.8	23.2	10.3	9.8
Financial security	13.6	19.6	28.0	19.5	19.3
Getting a job	12.3	18.2	26.8	19.5	23.2

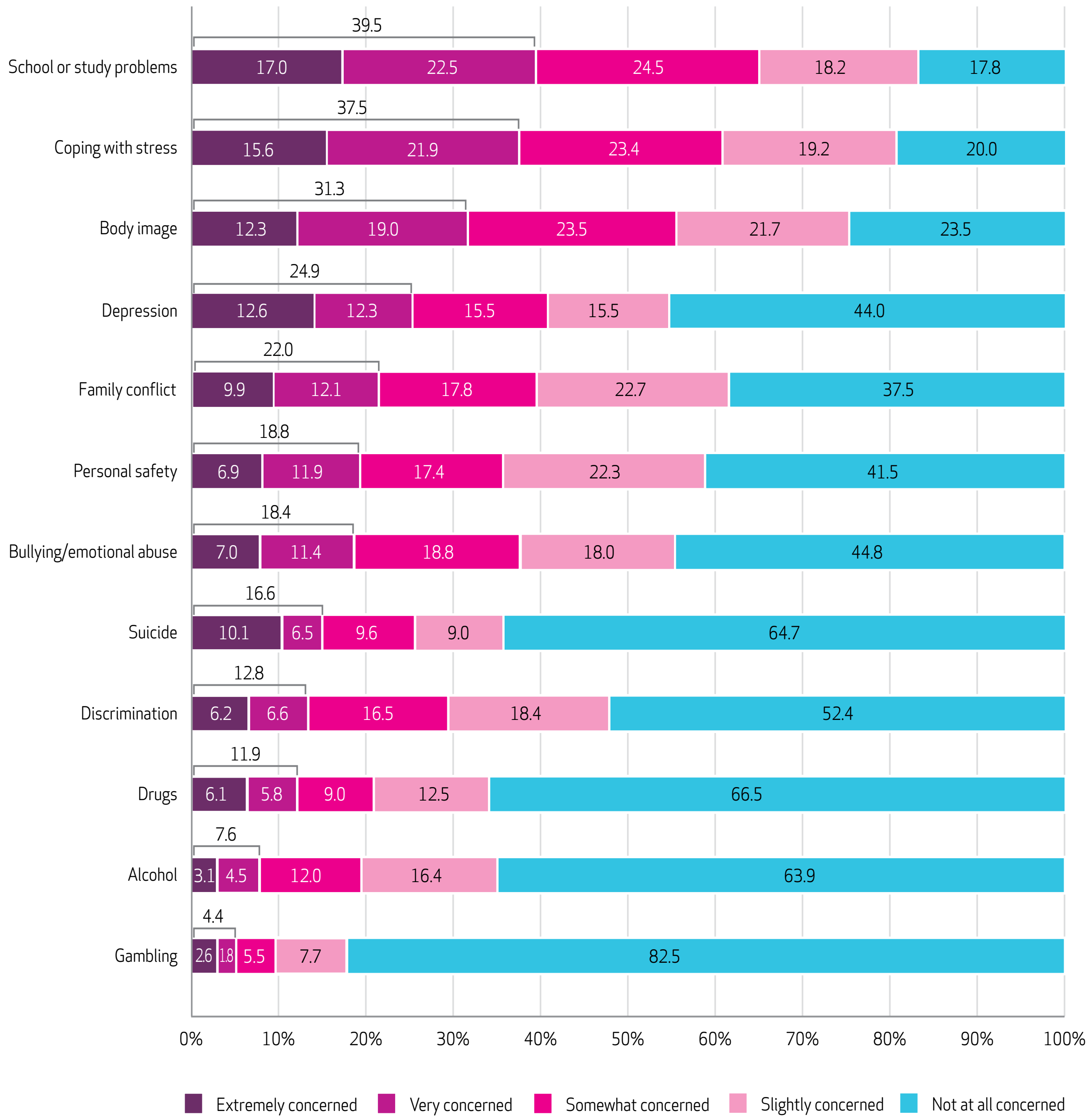
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 9.4. 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 WA were *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *body image*. These were the same top three issues identified at the national level and in WA in 2012, although the order of the first two items was reversed.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern, with 39.5% of respondents from WA indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (17.0%) or *very concerned* (22.5%) about this issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 37.5% (*extremely concerned*: 15.6%; *very concerned*: 21.9%) of young people.
- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern with 12.3% of respondents *extremely concerned* and 19.0% *very concerned*.
- Around one quarter of respondents were either *extremely concerned* or *very concerned* about *depression* and *family conflict*.

Figure 9.4: Issues of personal concern to young people



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

Gender differences

As highlighted in Table 9.7, *school or study problems* and *coping with stress* were the top two issues of concern for males and females from WA. The order of these issues of concern differed, however, with males indicating that *school or study problems* was their number one concern, while for females the top issue of concern was *coping with stress*. Females' third top concern was *body image*, while for males the third top concern was *personal safety*. The proportion of females concerned about these (and many of the other issues) was higher than the proportion of males.

- For around half of all females *coping with stress* was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 22.8%; *very concerned*: 28.1%), compared with around one in five males (*extremely concerned*: 7.4%; *very concerned*: 14.9%).
- Females were also more concerned about *school or study problems*, with 49.6% (*extremely concerned*: 22.9%; *very concerned*: 26.7%) indicating that this was a major concern compared with 27.7% of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.0%; *very concerned*: 17.7%).
- Concerns about *body image* were considerably higher among females, with 45.4% (*extremely concerned*: 19.7%; *very concerned*: 25.7%) indicating that *body image* was a major concern, compared with 14.9% (*extremely concerned*: 3.8%; *very concerned*: 11.1%) of males.
- *Personal safety* was the third highest issue of concern for males, with 17.9% indicating that it was a major concern (*extremely concerned*: 5.6%; *very concerned*: 12.3%) compared with 19.6% of females (*extremely concerned*: 8.0%; *very concerned*: 11.6%).
- For 31.9% of females (*extremely concerned*: 16.1%; *very concerned*: 15.8%) and 17.0% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.8%; *very concerned*: 8.2%) *depression* was a major concern.

Table 9.7: 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	**22.9**	**26.7**	24.9	15.2	10.3
Coping with stress	**22.8**	**28.1**	22.5	16.2	10.5
Body image	**19.7**	**25.7**	25.6	16.2	12.8
Depression	16.1	15.8	18.5	16.0	33.5
Family conflict	12.3	14.7	20.3	25.0	27.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	9.3	14.6	22.2	18.9	34.9
Suicide	11.8	8.4	11.8	10.6	57.4
Personal safety	8.0	11.6	21.9	22.9	35.6
Discrimination	6.3	7.8	19.4	21.1	45.5
Drugs	5.5	6.9	10.0	12.5	65.1
Alcohol	2.3	5.5	13.6	17.8	60.8
Gambling	1.7	1.1	4.2	6.7	86.3

Table 9.7: Issues of personal concern to young people, by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
School or study problems	**10.0**	**17.7**	24.3	21.6	26.3
Coping with stress	**7.4**	**14.9**	24.5	22.7	30.5
Body image	3.8	11.1	21.3	28.0	35.9
Depression	8.8	8.2	12.3	15.0	55.7
Family conflict	7.2	9.1	14.8	19.9	49.0
Suicide	8.2	4.3	7.2	7.3	72.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.5	7.7	15.0	17.1	55.8
Personal safety	**5.6**	**12.3**	12.4	21.3	48.5
Discrimination	6.1	5.0	13.3	15.3	60.3
Drugs	7.0	4.5	8.0	12.7	67.9
Alcohol	4.1	3.4	10.3	15.1	67.1
Gambling	3.6	2.5	6.8	8.9	78.3

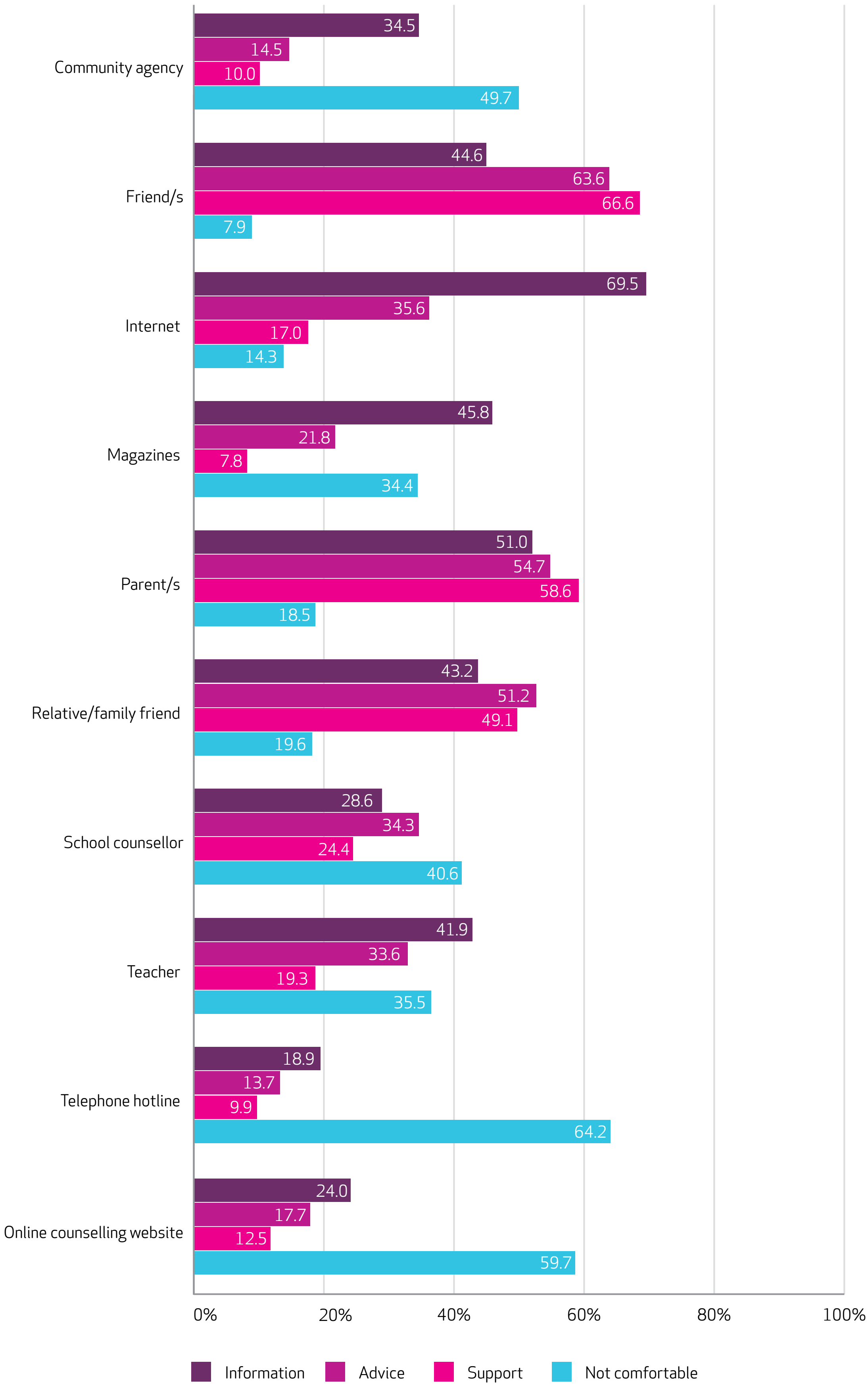
Note: Items were ranked by summing over responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

Where do young people turn for information, advice and support?

Young people were asked whether they were comfortable going to or asking for *information*, *advice* or *support* from a number of sources. In line with the national data, the *internet* was ranked as the main source of *information* for young people from WA, while *friend/s*, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were found to be the main sources of *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for young people (69.5%), followed by *parent/s* (51.0%) and *magazines* (45.8%).
- Respondents felt most comfortable going to *friend/s* (63.6%), *parent/s* (54.7%) and *relatives/family friends* (51.2%) for *advice*.
- *Friend/s* (66.6%) were again the primary source of *support* for young people, followed by *parent/s* (58.6%) and *relatives/family friends* (49.1%).
- Almost two thirds of young people from WA (64.2%) indicated that they were *not comfortable* using a *telephone hotline* for *advice*, *support* or *information*, 59.7% were *not comfortable* using an *online counselling website* and 49.7% were *not comfortable* contacting a *community agency*.

Figure 9.5: Where young people turn for information, advice and support



Gender differences

As per the national findings, males and females from WA were broadly similar in terms of where they were comfortable going for *information*, *advice* and *support*.

- The *internet* was the primary source of *information* for both females (72.9%) and males (65.5%) from WA. *Parent/s* were also important sources of *information* for both female (48.5%) and male (53.5%) respondents. Females ranked *magazines* highly as a source of *information* they felt comfortable going to (just above *parent/s* this year, at 50.8%). Males instead preferred *friend/s* as an *information* source, ranking them in third position (47.2%).
- Females were more likely to get *information* (50.8%) and *advice* (26.3%) from *magazines* than males (40.5% and 16.5% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were the most highly ranked source of *advice* for both females (67.7%) and males (58.7%). *Parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were also important sources of *advice* for both females (54.5% and 52.7% respectively) and males (54.3% and 49.3% respectively).
- *Friend/s* were also the most highly ranked source of *support* for females (74.1%) and males (58.0%). Again, *parent/s* and *relatives/family friends* were viewed as important sources of *support* by both females (60.0% and 52.4% respectively) and males (56.8% and 45.5% respectively).

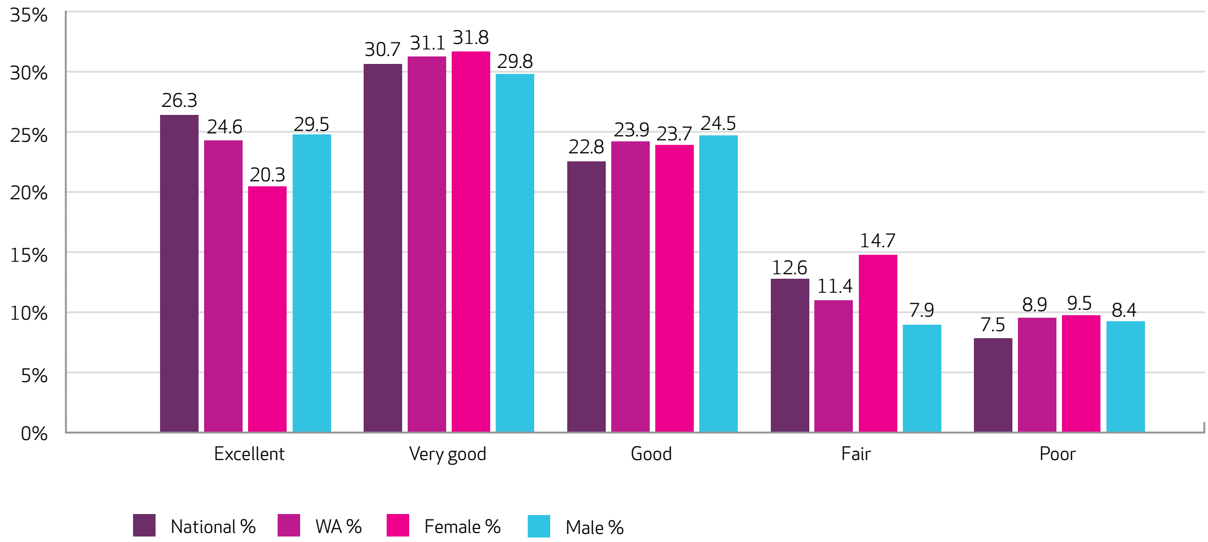
Table 9.8: Where young people turn for information, advice and support, by gender

Females	Information %	Advice %	Support %	Not comfortable %
Community agency	34.9	11.0	9.3	**52.4**
Friend/s	42.1	**67.7**	**74.1**	6.3
Internet	**72.9**	34.0	15.6	14.1
Magazines	**50.8**	26.3	7.7	30.0
Parent/s	**48.5**	**54.5**	**60.0**	20.5
Relative/family friend	41.2	**52.7**	**52.4**	20.8
School counsellor	27.9	35.8	22.8	43.5
Teacher	39.2	33.8	18.8	39.1
Telephone hotline	18.8	14.2	8.7	**67.2**
Online counselling website	25.1	18.4	13.8	**60.8**
Males	**Information %**	**Advice %**	**Support %**	**Not comfortable %**
Community agency	34.2	18.2	10.9	**46.5**
Friend/s	**47.2**	**58.7**	**58.0**	9.5
Internet	**65.5**	37.2	18.6	14.6
Magazines	40.5	16.5	8.0	39.2
Parent/s	**53.5**	**54.3**	**56.8**	16.3
Relative/family friend	45.3	**49.3**	**45.5**	18.2
School counsellor	29.5	32.5	26.4	37.3
Teacher	44.6	33.5	19.8	31.6
Telephone hotline	19.1	13.0	11.3	**60.6**
Online counselling website	22.7	16.7	10.9	**58.3**

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 the national data, the majority of respondents from WA rated their family's ability to get along positively, with 24.6% indicating that their family's ability to get along was *excellent*, 31.1% that it was *very good* and 23.9% that it was *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* (11.4%) or *poor* (8.9%). Male and female respondents gave broadly similar ratings of their family's ability to get along, although males were more likely to rate it as *excellent* (29.5% compared with 20.3% of females).

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 9.9. In 2013 the top three issues identified by young people from WA were *alcohol and drugs*, *the economy and financial matters* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Three in ten young people from WA identified *alcohol and drugs* (30.1%) as an important issue in Australia today.
- Just over one in five respondents identified *the economy and financial matters* (22.5%) and *equity and discrimination* (21.9%) as major issues.
- Since 2011, *politics and societal values*, *mental health*, *education* and *employment* have all been increasingly identified by young people from WA as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, mentions of *the environment* and *crime, safety and violence* have declined over this period.

Gender differences

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

- Around three in ten male and female respondents from WA (32.8% and 27.9% respectively) identified *alcohol and drugs* as a major issue facing Australia today.
- A greater proportion of females than males identified *mental health* (25.1% compared with 5.3%), *the economy and financial matters* (24.0% compared with 20.8%) and *equity and discrimination* (23.0% compared with 20.6%) as important issues.
- A greater proportion of males than females identified *politics and societal values* (27.1% compared with 17.1%) and *population issues* (26.2% compared with 16.8%) as important national issues.

Table 9.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National %	WA 2013 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2012 %	WA 2011 %
Alcohol and drugs	19.9	**30.1**	**27.9**	**32.8**	**25.6**	**38.7**
The economy and financial matters	**26.2**	**22.5**	**24.0**	20.8	**27.0**	17.2
Equity and discrimination	**24.1**	**21.9**	23.0	20.6	24.1	21.2
Politics and societal values	**24.6**	21.6	17.1	**27.1**	18.5	13.0
Population issues	22.2	21.1	16.8	**26.2**	**27.4**	**24.1**
Mental health	15.2	16.1	**25.1**	5.3	14.4	9.0
Crime, safety and violence	11.2	15.1	16.0	14.0	16.1	19.0
Education	14.6	12.9	13.7	12.2	11.1	7.4
The environment	14.5	12.5	12.9	11.5	19.5	**31.8**
Bullying	10.9	11.3	13.1	9.1	8.6	10.2
Employment	14.0	10.4	9.1	12.0	8.2	4.9
Health	11.6	9.7	10.0	9.3	10.6	10.6
Homelessness/housing	7.8	7.7	9.3	5.5	12.1	5.4
LGBT issues	6.7	5.9	6.6	5.1	3.8	1.7
Adolescence/youth	5.0	5.6	6.9	4.0	5.9	5.5

Note: Items are listed in order of State frequency. Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they have been involved in over the past year from the list shown in Table 9.10. 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 aged 15-19 years from WA in 2012 and 2011. The third most common activity for WA respondents this year was *arts/cultural/music activities*, closely followed by *volunteer work*. Significant proportions of young people reported involvement in each of the activities listed over the past year.

- *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the two most popular activities for young people from WA in 2013.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (52.4%) and *volunteer work* (52.0%).
- Around four in ten young people reported participation in *youth groups and clubs* (44.5%), *student leadership activities* (40.0%) and *religious groups or activities* (39.5%).
- Around one quarter of young people from WA (27.0%) had participated in *environmental groups or activities* over the past year.

Gender differences

As shown in Table 9.10 the top two activities for both genders were consistent with the WA results, although a larger proportion of male respondents than female respondents were involved in both *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third top activity for males from WA was *arts/cultural/music activities*, while for females it was *volunteer work*.

- 78.1% of male respondents and 68.8% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Male respondents were also more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (68.7% compared with 64.8%).
- Despite *arts/cultural/music activities* ranking more highly up the list for male respondents, overall a greater proportion of female than male respondents from WA were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities*, *volunteer work* and *youth groups and clubs* (58.0%, 58.6% and 45.4% compared with 46.0%, 44.4% and 43.4% respectively).

Table 9.10: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	WA 2013 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2012 %	WA 2011 %
Sports (as a participant)	**73.9**	**73.2**	**68.8**	**78.1**	**74.4**	**63.5**
Sports (as a spectator)	**68.9**	**66.7**	**64.8**	**68.7**	**69.5**	**51.3**
Arts/cultural/music activities	53.8	**52.4**	58.0	**46.0**	49.2	32.7
Volunteer work	**55.6**	52.0	**58.6**	44.4	**60.5**	34.7
Youth groups and clubs	33.9	44.5	45.4	43.4	40.1	**35.5**
Student leadership activities	43.0	40.0	41.5	38.3	40.6	25.7
Religious group or activities	32.6	39.5	38.5	40.5	40.5	29.4
Environmental groups or activities	24.7	27.0	28.1	25.7	29.7	15.0
Political groups or organisations	7.8	8.8	8.7	8.9	9.9	6.0

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year. In 2013 and 2012 respondents were asked "*In the past year have you been involved in the following activities/groups?*" whereas in 2011 respondents were asked "*What activities are you involved in?*" Wording of the *arts/cultural activities* item was also expanded slightly in 2013 to specify the inclusion of music in this category. Items are listed in order of State frequency.

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

In 2013 respondents were asked how much time they spent in an average week on social networking sites such as Facebook. Responses to this question were categorised on a scale ranging from *2 hours or less* to *40 hours or more*. The majority of respondents from WA (62.7%) indicated spending less than 10 hours on social networking sites in an average week (*2 hours or less*: 32.4%; *3-9 hours*: 30.3%). Around one quarter reported spending between 10 and 29 hours on social networking sites (*10-19 hours*: 17.3%; *20-29 hours*: 8.7%) and more than one in ten reported spending at least 30 hours on these sites per week (*30-39 hours*: 3.7%; *40 hours or more*: 7.6%). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate spending only *2 hours or less* a week on social networking sites (37.9% compared with 27.4%).

Table 9.11: Time spent on social networking sites

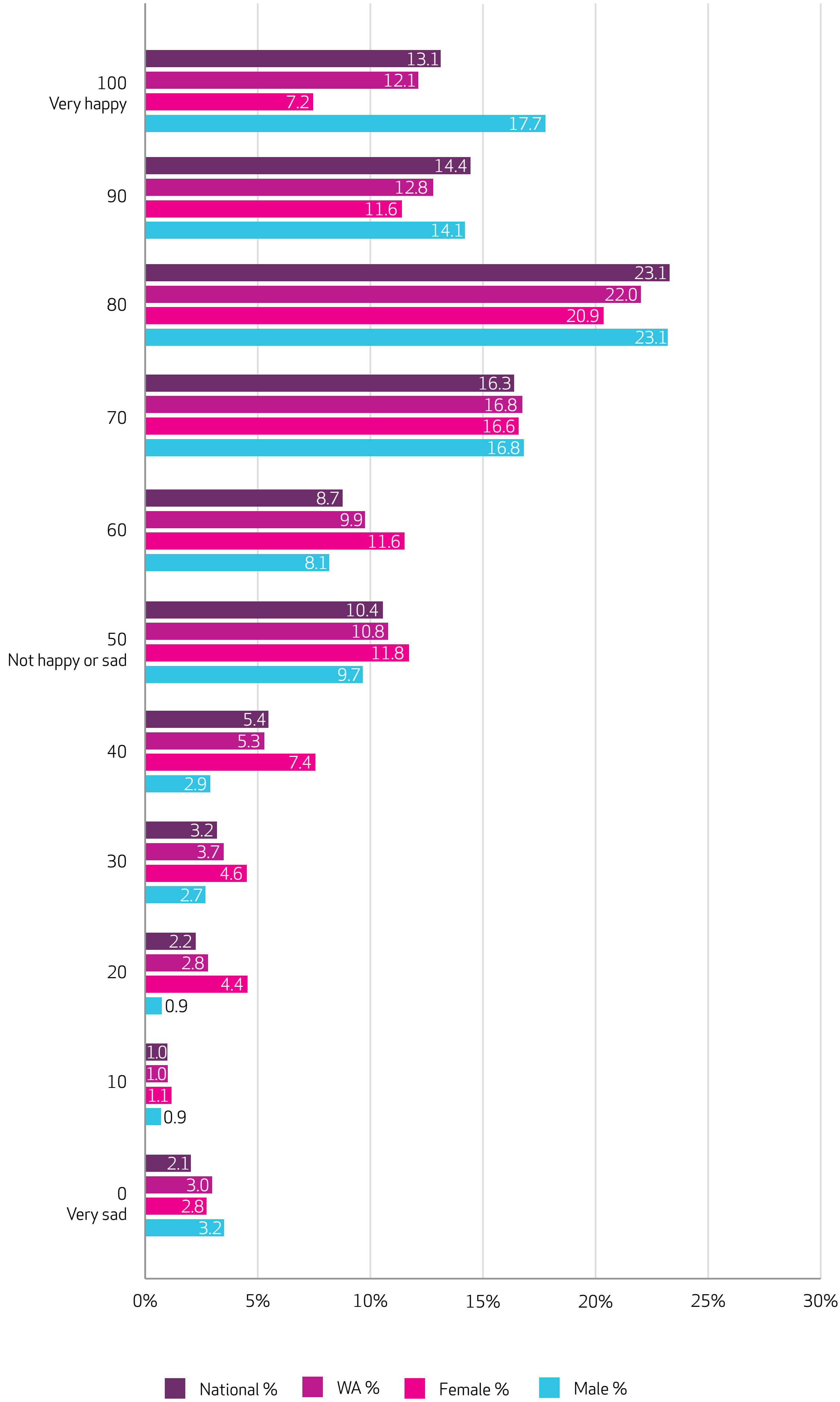
	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
2 hours or less	28.2	32.4	27.4	37.9
3 - 9 hours	31.6	30.3	29.8	30.9
10 - 19 hours	18.9	17.3	17.4	17.3
20 - 29 hours	9.4	8.7	11.3	5.9
30 - 39 hours	4.3	3.7	4.8	2.6
40 hours or more	7.6	7.6	9.4	5.5

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 9.7 shows, the majority of young people from WA (63.7%) responded in the range 70 to 100, indicating that they felt positive overall about their lives. This is consistent with the national results. Responses were broadly similar for both males and females, although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate that they felt *very happy* with their lives as a whole (17.7% compared with 7.2%).

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

Figure 9.7: How happy young people are



How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future, with responses rated on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 9.12 shows that, in line with the national and 2012 results, around two thirds of respondents from WA felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Overall, less than one in ten young people felt *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

- Two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (46.9%) or *very positive* (19.1%) about the future.
- Around one quarter of respondents (24.6%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- 6.0% of respondents felt *negative* about the future and 3.3% felt *very negative*.
- Males and females from WA were broadly similar in terms of their feelings about the future. Males were more likely, however, to indicate feeling *very positive* (22.8% compared with 15.8%).

Table 9.12: Feelings about the future

	National %	WA 2013 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2012 %	WA 2011 %
Very positive	18.7	19.1	15.8	22.8	21.0	21.5
Positive	48.8	46.9	48.0	45.6	48.6	39.5
Neither positive nor negative	24.4	24.6	26.3	23.0	22.3	28.0
Negative	5.6	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.0	6.3
Very negative	2.5	3.3	3.8	2.9	3.1	4.6

Note: Data for 2011 was based on the 15 to 19 year old cohort for that year.

Acknowledgements

Mission Australia would like to thank the many educational institutions, youth and community organisations, government agencies, corporates, philanthropic organisations and others who helped to distribute the Youth Survey 2013.

These include:

- The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies
- Centacare South West NSW
- Glenorchy City Council Youth and Community Safety Program
- Northern Territory Youth Affairs Network
- Office of Youth Affairs, Department of the Chief Minister, Northern Territory Government
- State and Territory Education Departments
- Youth Action & Policy Association NSW
- Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
- Youth Affairs Network Queensland
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Youth Network of Tasmania

Mission Australia would also like to acknowledge the many organisations and individuals who promoted the survey via social media.

Who is Mission Australia?

Mission Australia is a non-denominational Christian community service organisation that has been helping people regain their independence for over 150 years.

Independence is something we all strive for, but life rarely turns out as planned. We've learnt the reasons behind a loss of independence and the paths to getting it back are different for everyone.

This informs how we help people, through early learning and youth services, family support and homelessness initiatives, employment and skills development, to provision of affordable housing.

Our nationwide team of over 3,500 staff applies different approaches, inspired by Christian values. We are joined by government, our corporate partners and everyday Australians who provide generous support.

We all share a single objective – to stand together with Australians in need, until they can stand for themselves.

Thank you

This publication would not have been possible without the more than 14,000 young people who completed Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2013. Our special thanks to them, the staff of Mission Australia and the many other organisations who supported their involvement.

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